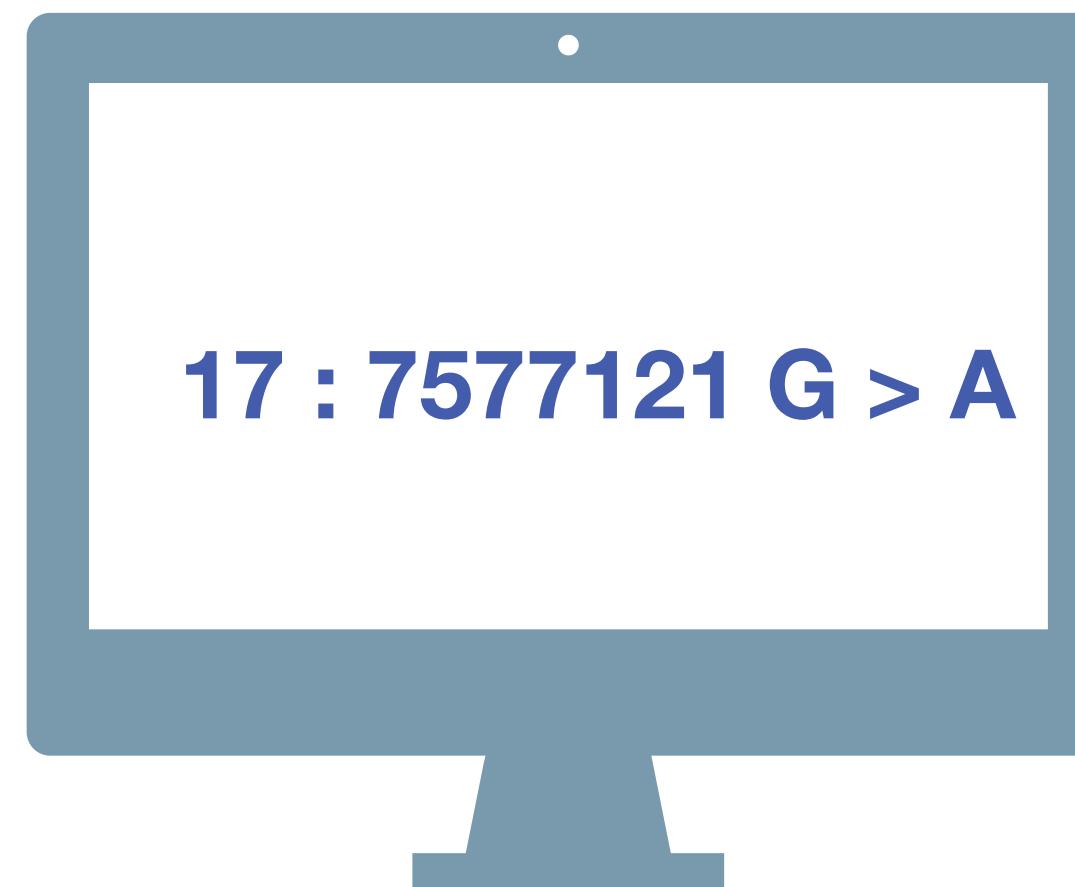




# hCNV data and the Progenetix Beacon

Implementing a cancer hCNV reference  
resource on top of Beacon v2

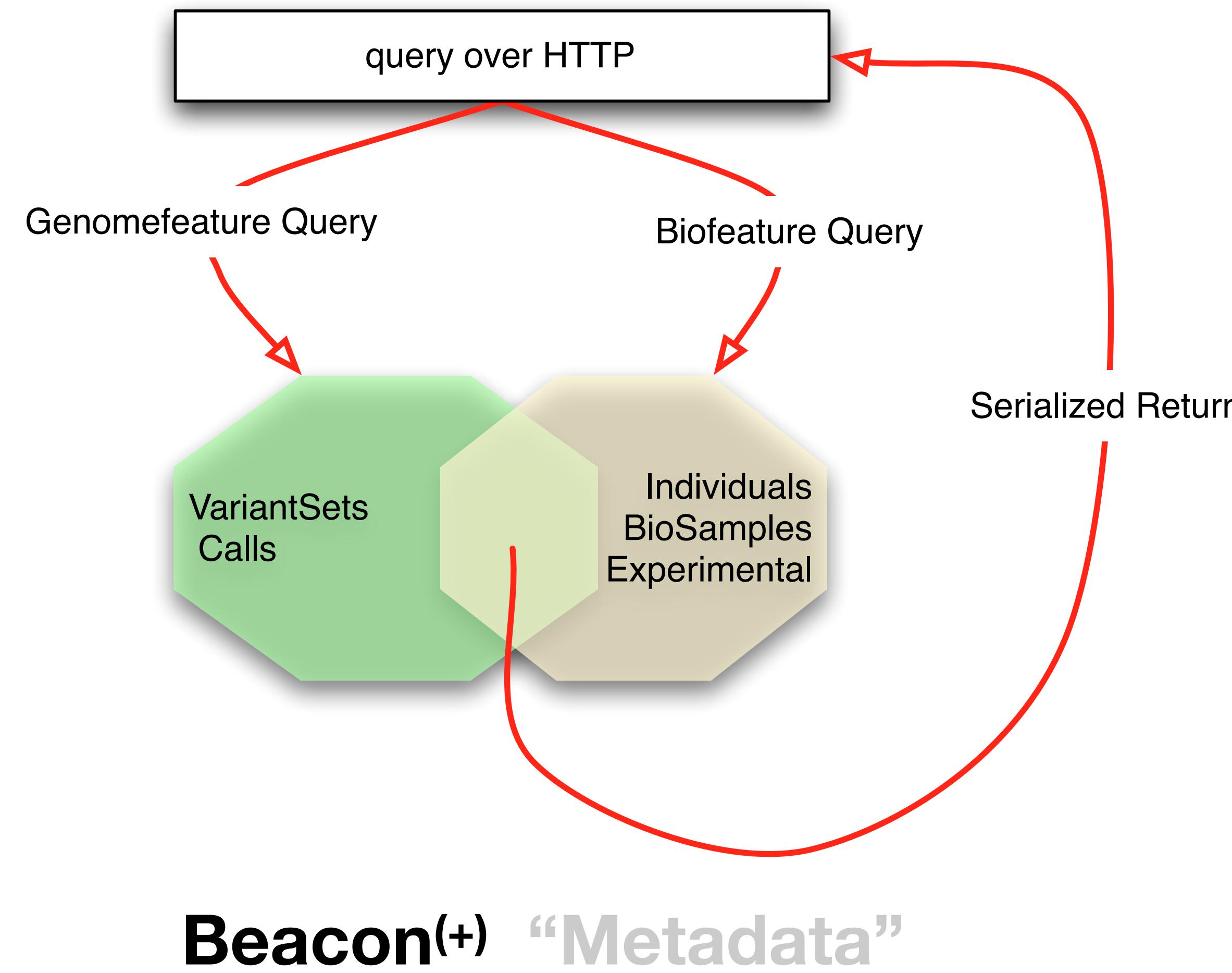


# Beacon

A **Beacon** answers a query for a specific genome variant against individual or aggregate genome collections

**YES | NO | \0**

# Minimal GA4GH query API structure



## Beacon+ Concept



- “quantitative Beacon” with metadata in query and return; especially needed for cancer genomes
- extending GA4GH use cases beyond SNP calls
- server implementation using GA4GH query methods
- needed: structural variants, metadata, context representation ...
- test implementation for **cancer** CNA data from arrayMap will be supported through **SIB**  
=> local copy number frequency reference in cancer (+ background CNVs)



# Progenetix in 2021

## Cross-platform Oncogenomics

- source data (i.e. array probe data access) and annotation derived (aCGH, WGS, WES, other arrays)
- >130'000 cancer and reference CNA profiles
- systematic metadata annotations following GA4GH standards
- unrestricted access w/o registration
- data access API
- online visualization
- CNA statistics



University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>



[Cancer CNV Profiles](#)

[Search Samples](#)

[Studies & Cohorts](#)

[arrayMap](#)

[TCGA Samples](#)

[DIPG Samples](#)

[Gao & Baudis, 2021](#)

[Cancer Cell Lines](#)

[Publication DB](#)

[Services](#)

[NCIt Mappings](#)

[UBERON Mappings](#)

[Upload & Plot](#)

[Beacon<sup>+</sup>](#)

[Progenetix Info](#)

[About Progenetix](#)

[Use Cases](#)

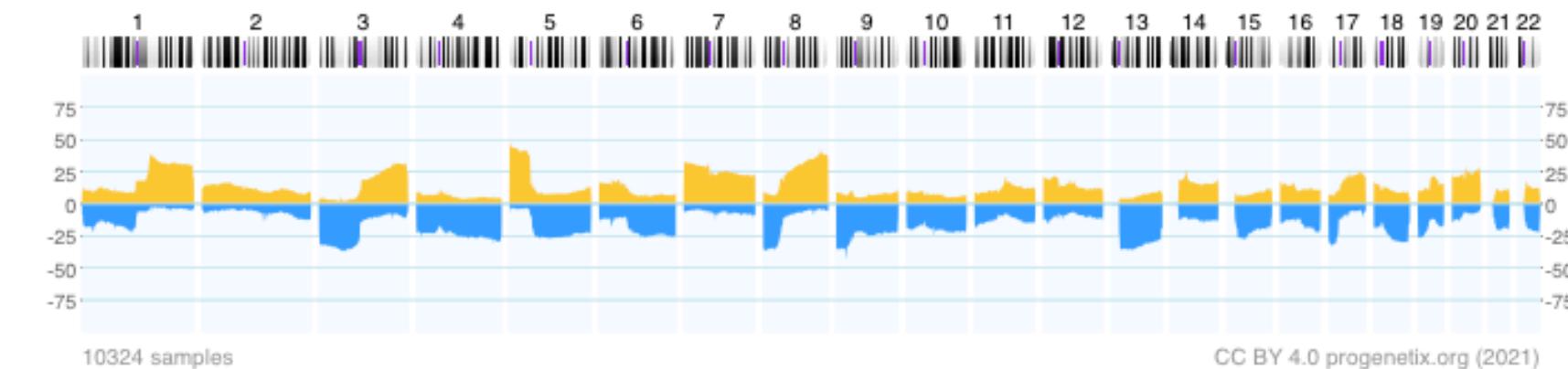
[Documentation](#)

[Baudisgroup @ UZH](#)

## Cancer genome data @ [progenetix.org](#)

The Progenetix database provides an overview of mutation data in cancer, with a focus on copy number abnormalities (CNV / CNA), for all types of human malignancies. The data is based on *individual sample data* from currently **139448** samples.

Malignant Thoracic Neoplasm (NCIT:C3576)



[Download SVG](#) | [Go to NCIT:C3576](#) | [Download CNV Frequencies](#)

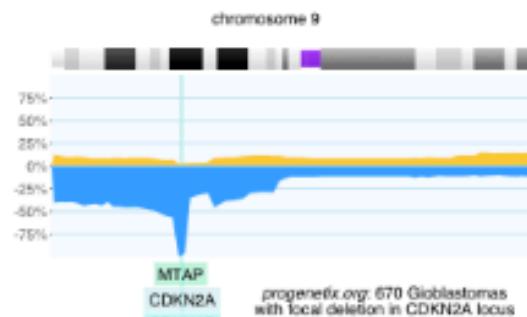
Example for aggregated CNV data in 10324 samples in Malignant Thoracic Neoplasm.

Here the frequency of regional **copy number gains** and **losses** are displayed for all 22 autosomes.

### Progenetix Use Cases

#### [Local CNV Frequencies](#)

A typical use case on Progenetix is the search for local copy number aberrations - e.g. involving a gene - and the exploration of cancer types with these CNVs. The [ [Search Page](#) ] provides example use cases for designing queries. Results contain basic statistics as well as visualization and download options.



#### [Cancer CNV Profiles](#)

The progenetix resource contains data of **788** different cancer types (NCIt neoplasm classification), mapped to a variety of biological and technical categories. Frequency profiles of regional genomic gains and losses for all categories (diagnostic entity, publication, cohort ...) can be accessed through the [ [Cancer Types](#) ] page with direct visualization and options for sample retrieval and plotting options.

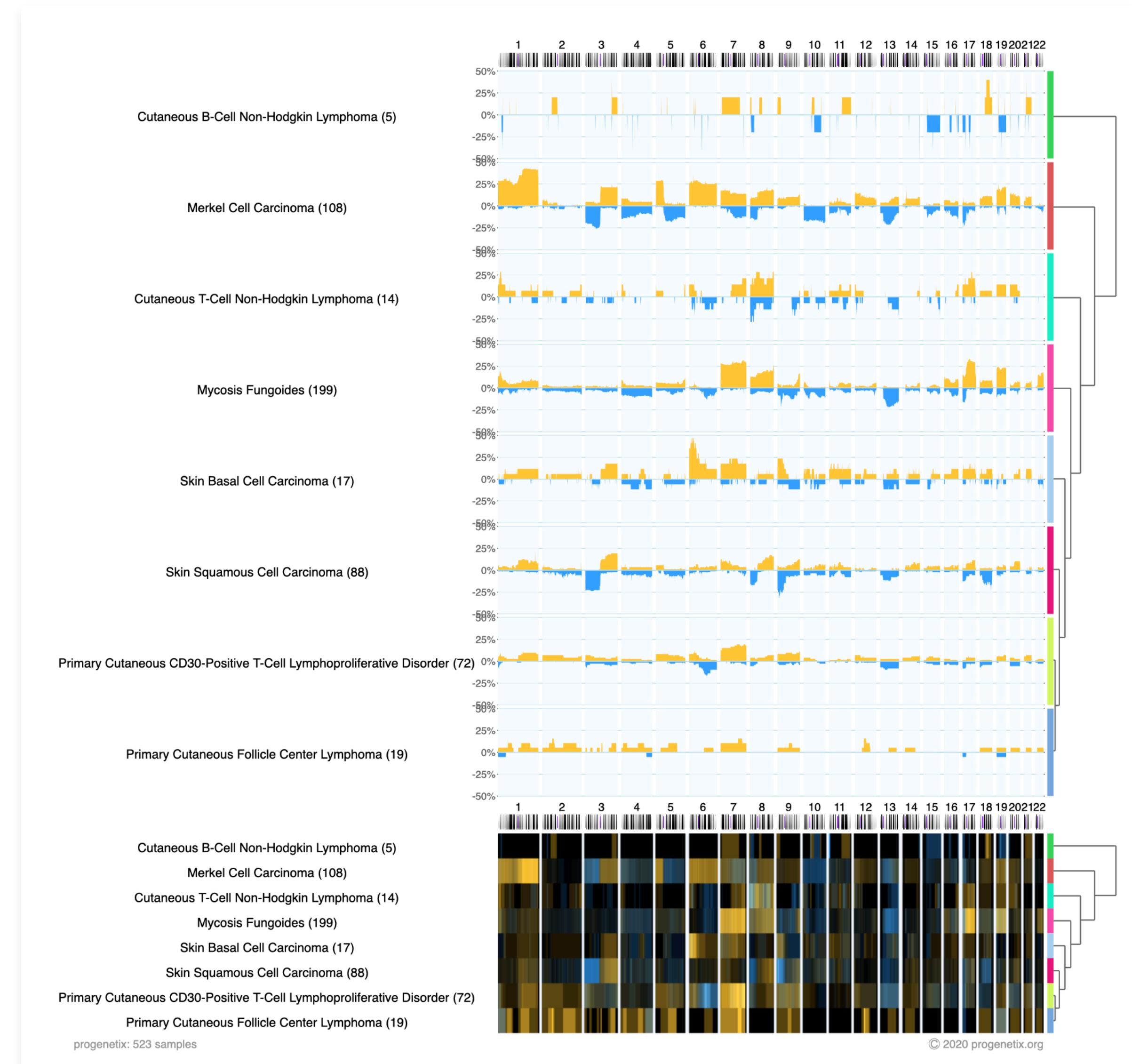
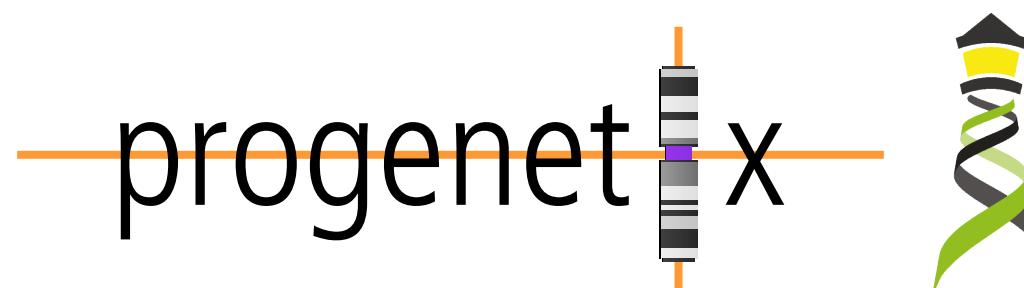
#### [Cancer Genomics Publications](#)

Through the [ [Publications](#) ] page Progenetix provides **4025** annotated references to research articles from cancer genome screening experiments (WGS, WES, aCGH, cCGH). The numbers of analyzed samples and possible availability in the Progenetix sample collection are indicated.

# Beacon+ by Progenetix

## From Beacon Query to Explorative Analyses of CNV Patterns

- Since 2016 the Progenetix resource has been used to model options for Beacon development
  - ▶ 138334 individual samples from 698 cancer types
- The consistent use of hierarchical diagnostic codes allows the use of Beacon "filters" for histopathological/clinically scoped queries
- Beacon's handover protocols can be utilized for data retrieval and, well, handing over to additional services:
  - ▶ downloads
  - ▶ visualization
  - ▶ use of external services (UCSC browser display...)



# Progenetix & Beacon

## Demonstrator for Variant Queries and Filters

- the CNV content of Progenetix has been a driver to develop the range and bracket variant query options
- extensive sample annotations using CURIEs with hierarchical ontologies for "bbiocharacteristics" (NCIT ...) and external references (cellosaurus, geo, PMID ...) serve implementation scenarios for Beacon testing and "production" environment



CDKN2A Deletion Example   MYC Duplication   TP53 Del. in Cell Lines   K-562 Cell Line

Gene Spans   Cytoband(s)

This example shows the query for CNV deletion variants overlapping the CDKN2A gene's coding region with at least a single base, but limited to "highly focal" hits (here i.e. <= ~1Mbp in size). The query can be modified e.g. through changing the position parameters or diagnosis.

Gene Symbol i  
Select...

Chromosome i  
9

(Structural) Variant Type i  
DEL (Deletion)

Start or Position i  
21500001-21975098

End (Range or Structural Var.) i  
21967753-22500000

Minimum Variant Length i  
Maximal Variant Length i

Cancer Classification(s) i  
NCIT:C3058: Glioblastoma (4375) x

Filter Precision i  
exact

City i  
Select...

Chromosome 9 i  
21500001 21975098  
21967753 22500000

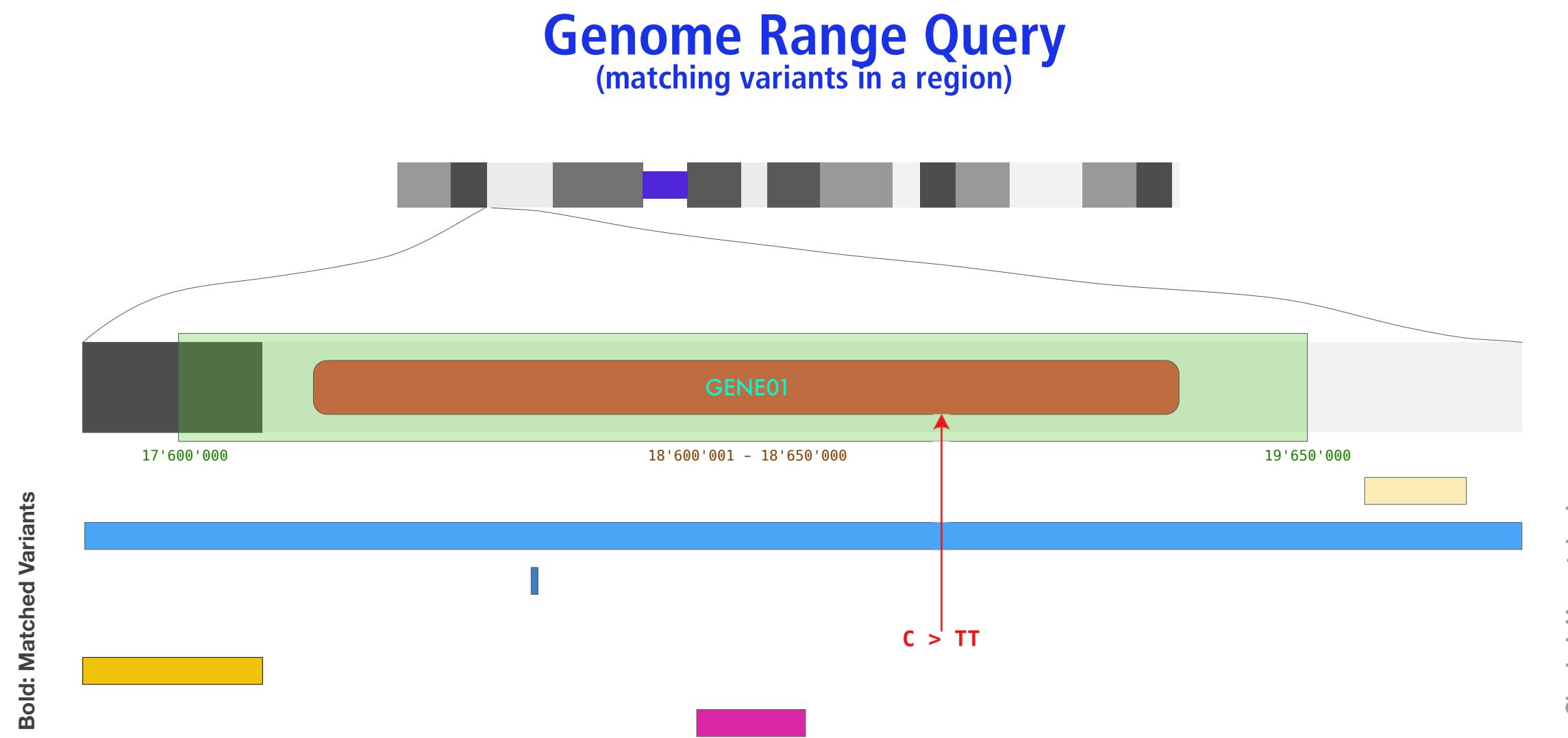
Query Database

A cytoband plot of Chromosome 9. The plot shows alternating dark and light bands along the chromosome. A specific region is highlighted with a red bracket, indicating a deletion event. The coordinates 21500001-21975098 are labeled above the red bracket, and 21967753-22500000 are labeled below it.

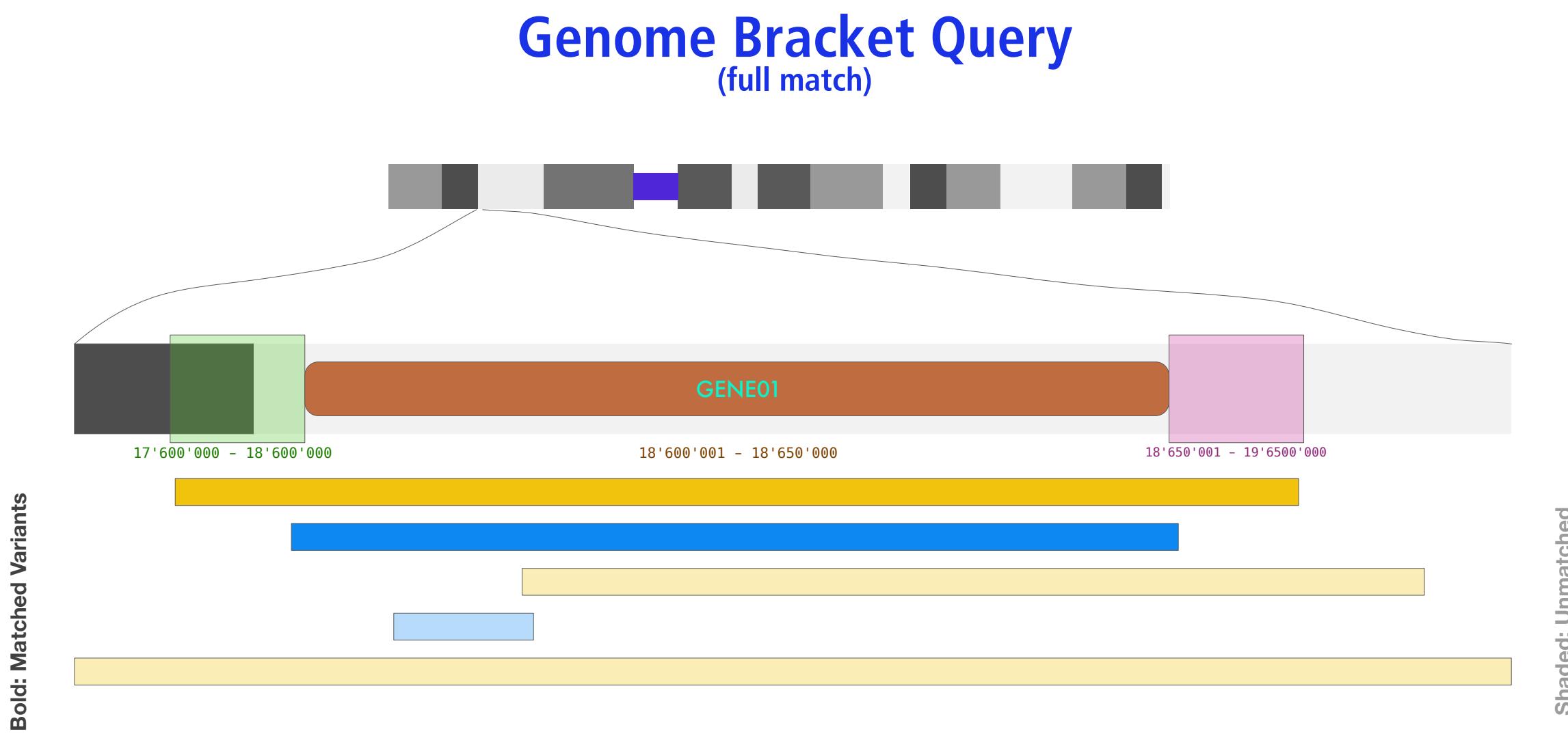
# Beacon v2: Extended Variant Queries



## Range and Bracket queries enable positional wildcards and fuzziness



- Genome Range Queries provide a way to "fish" for variants overlapping an indicated region, e.g. the CDR of a gene of interest
- Additional parameters (e.g. variant type, reference or alternate bases) limit the scope of the responses
- new Beacon v2 size parameters to limit structural variants (e.g. "focal" CNVs)



- Genome Bracket Queries allow to search for structural variants with start and end positions falling into defined sequence ranges
- allows to query any contiguous genomic variant (and in principle also can step in for range queries)
- typical use case is e.g. the query for variants such as duplications covering the whole CDR of a gene, while limiting the allowed start or end regions

# DX Ontologies

## Hierarchical NCIt Neoplasm Core replaces heterogeneous primary annotations

- heterogeneous and inconsistent diagnostic annotations are common in clinical reports and research studies ("text", ICD-10, ICD-O 3, OncoTree, domain-specific classifications)
- highly variable granularity of annotations is a major road block for comparative analyses and large scale data integration
  - ▶ "Colorectal Cancer" or "Rectal Mucinous Adenoca."
- initiatives and services such as Phenopackets, MONDO, OXO ... rely on and/or provide mappings to hierarchical ontologies

NCIt Neoplasm Core coded display (excerpt) for samples in the Progenetix cancer genome data resource allows sample selection on multiple hierarchy levels →



	Subsets	Samples
□	▼ NCIT:C3262: Neoplasm	88844
□	▼ NCIT:C3263: Neoplasm by Site	84747
□	▼ NCIT:C156482: Genitourinary System Neoplasm	11616
□	▼ NCIT:C156483: Benign Genitourinary System Neoplasm	219
□	▼ NCIT:C4893: Benign Urinary System Neoplasm	90
□	▼ NCIT:C4778: Benign Kidney Neoplasm	90
□	NCIT:C159209: Kidney Leiomyoma	1
□	NCIT:C4526: Kidney Oncocytoma	82
□	NCIT:C8383: Kidney Adenoma	7
□	▼ NCIT:C7617: Benign Reproductive System Neoplasm	129
□	▼ NCIT:C4934: Benign Female Reproductive System Neoplasm	129
□	▼ NCIT:C2895: Benign Ovarian Neoplasm	58
□	▼ NCIT:C4510: Benign Ovarian Epithelial Tumor	58
□	▼ NCIT:C40039: Benign Ovarian Mucinous Tumor	58
□	NCIT:C4512: Ovarian Mucinous Cystadenoma	58
□	▼ NCIT:C4060: Ovarian Cystadenoma	58
□	NCIT:C4512: Ovarian Mucinous Cystadenoma	58
□	▼ NCIT:C3609: Benign Uterine Neoplasm	71
□	▼ NCIT:C3608: Benign Uterine Corpus Neoplasm	71
□	NCIT:C3434: Uterine Corpus Leiomyoma	71
□	▼ NCIT:C156484: Malignant Genitourinary System Neoplasm	11171
□	▼ NCIT:C157774: Metastatic Malignant Genitourinary System Neoplasm	2
□	▼ NCIT:C146893: Metastatic Genitourinary System Carcinoma	2
□	NCIT:C8946: Metastatic Prostate Carcinoma	2
□	▼ NCIT:C164141: Genitourinary System Carcinoma	10561
□	▼ NCIT:C146893: Metastatic Genitourinary System Carcinoma	2
□	NCIT:C8946: Metastatic Prostate Carcinoma	2
□	▼ NCIT:C3867: Fallopian Tube Carcinoma	19

# Beacon v2 Filters

# **Example: Use of hierarchical classification systems (here NCI It neoplasm core)**

- Beacon v2 "filters" assumes inclusion of child terms when using hierarchical classifications
    - ➡ implicit *OR* with otherwise assumed *AND*
  - implementation of hierarchical annotations overcomes some limitations of "fuzzy" disease annotations
  - data *handover* (Beacon v1.1+) enables further data exploration and export scenarios



Beacon+ specific: Multiple term selection with OR logic

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	> <a href="#">NCIT:C4914</a> : Skin Carcinoma	213
<input type="checkbox"/>	> <a href="#">NCIT:C4475</a> : Dermal Neoplasm	109
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	▼ <a href="#">NCIT:C45240</a> : Cutaneous Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Cell Neoplasm	310

**Filters:** NCIT:C4914, NCIT:C4819, NCIT:C9231, NCIT:C2921, NCIT:C45240, NCIT:C6858, NCIT:C3467, NCIT:C45340, NCIT:C7195, NCIT:C3246, NCIT:C7217

# Beacon v2 Paths

## Progenetix utilizes Beacon v2 REST paths

- Beacon v2 paths are used in the Beacon specification to scope query and delivery
- Progenetix uses a default `/biosamples/` + query path for its front end queries, and then collection specific methods for data retrieval (see next)
- current implementation addresses a core subset of all options, and evaluates some still moving targets
  - variants\_interpretations
  - variant instances versus prototypes
  - ...



### Base `/biosamples`

#### `/biosamples/` + query

- `/biosamples/?filters=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004`

◦ this example retrieves all biosamples having an annotation for the Cellosaurus CVCL\_0004 identifier (K562)

#### `/biosamples/{id}/`

- `/biosamples/pgxbs-kftva5c9/`

◦ retrieval of a single biosample

#### `/biosamples/{id}/variants/` & `/biosamples/{id}/variants_in_sample/`

- `/biosamples/pgxbs-kftva5c9/variants/`

- `/biosamples/pgxbs-kftva5c9/variants_in_sample/`

◦ retrieval of all variants from a single biosample

◦ currently - and especially since for a mostly CNV containing resource - `variants` means "variant instances" (or as in the early v2 draft `variantsInSample`)

### Base `/variants`

There is currently (April 2021) still some discussion about the implementation and naming of the different types of genomic variant endpoints. Since the Progenetix collections follow a "variant observations" principle all variant requests are directed against the local `variants` collection.

If using `g_variants` or `variants_in_sample`, those will be treated as aliases.

#### `/variants/` + query

- `/variants/?`

`assemblyId=GRCh38&referenceName=17&variantType=DEL&filterLogic=AND&start=7500000&start=7676592&end=7669607&end=7800000`

◦ This is an example for a Beacon "Bracket Query" which will return focal deletions in the TP53 locus (by position).

#### `/variants/{id}/` or `/variants_in_sample/{id}` or `/g_variants/{id}/`

- `/variants/5f5a35586b8c1d6d377b77f6/`

- `/variants_in_sample/5f5a35586b8c1d6d377b77f6/`

#### `/variants/{id}/biosamples/` & `variants_in_sample/{id}/biosamples/`

- `/variants/5f5a35586b8c1d6d377b77f6/biosamples/`

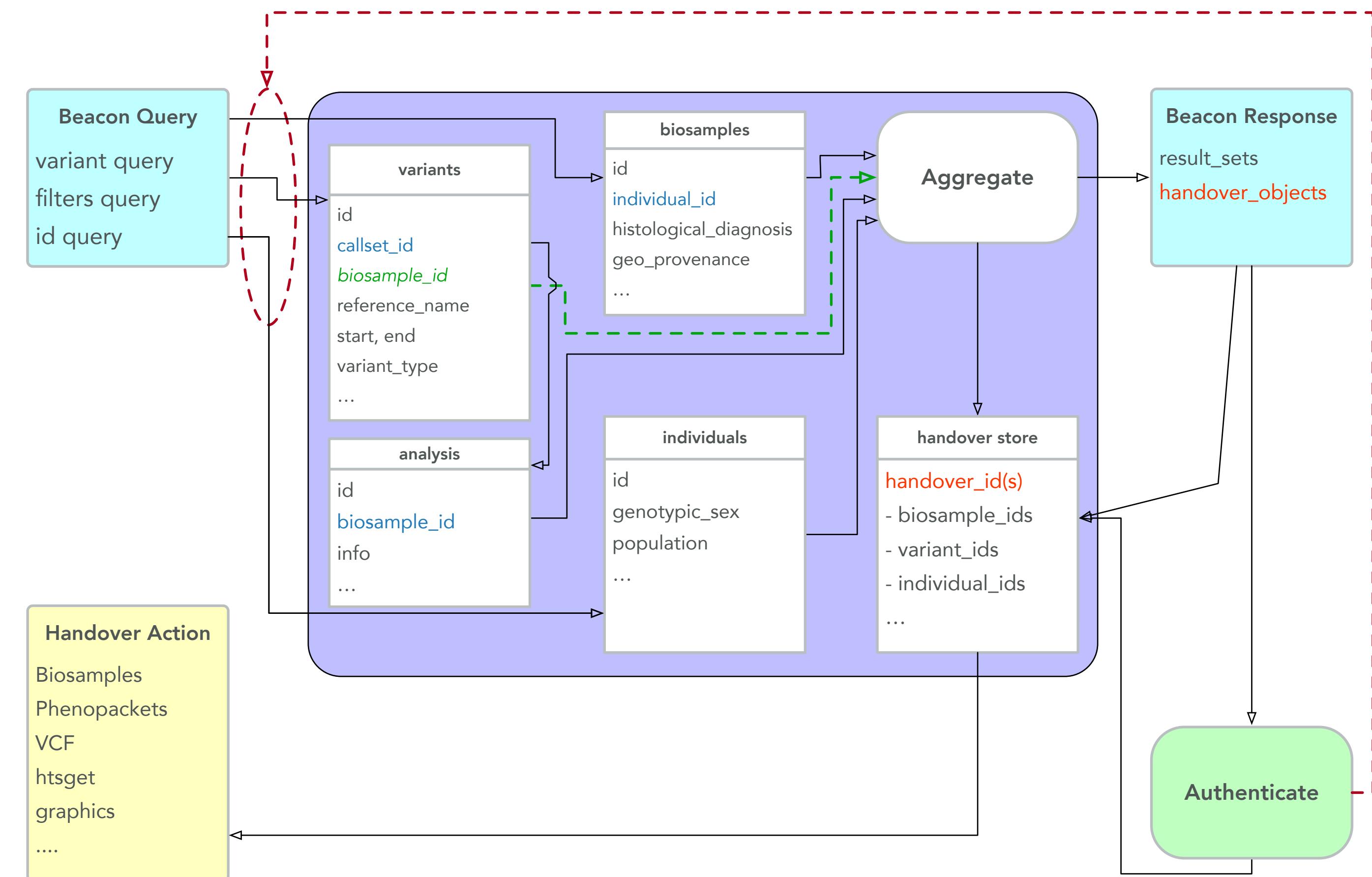
- `/variants_in_sample/5f5a35586b8c1d6d377b77f6/biosamples/`

# Progenetix & Beacon v1->2

## Handover elements in Beacon responses

- Progenetix utilizes handovers to deliver data matched by the Beacon queries
- These handovers are interpreted by the front end to populate different parts of the UI, w/o the need of active selection
- Handovers are either standard Beacon v2 paths or dedicated custom functions

# Handover Concept



# Progenetix & Beacon v1->2

## Handover elements in Beacon responses

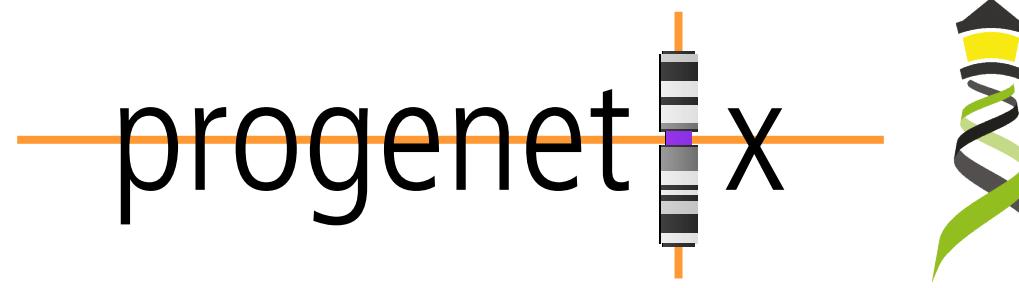
- Progenetix utilizes handovers to deliver data matched by the Beacon queries
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- Handovers are either standard Beacon v2 paths or dedicated custom functions

```
"results_handovers": [
  {
    "description": "create a CNV histogram from matched callsets",
    "handoverType": {"id": "pgx:handover:cnvhistogram", "label": "CNV Histogram"},
    "url": "https://progenetix.org/cgi-bin/PGX/cgi/samplePlots.cgi?method=cnvhistogram&accessid=aff0f73f-6dbf-45e5-91ba-04f19e3621bb"
  },
  {
    "description": "retrieve data of the biosamples matched by the query",
    "handoverType": {"id": "pgx:handover:biosamples", "label": "Biosamples"},
    "url": "https://progenetix.org/beacon/biosamples/?accessid=61b68a59-2160-41e4-a17d-0cf128841a57"
  },
  {
    "description": "retrieve variants matched by the query",
    "handoverType": {"id": "pgx:handover:variants", "label": "Found Variants (.json)" },
    "url": "https://progenetix.org/beacon/variants/?method=variants&accessid=5cced529-3acf-4156-b121-6ae7e5e63d0c"
  },
  {
    "description": "Download all variants of matched samples - potentially huge dataset...",
    "handoverType": {"id": "pgx:handover:callsetsvariants", "label": "All Sample Variants (.json)" },
    "url": "https://progenetix.org/beacon/variants/?method=callsetsvariants&accessid=61b68a59-2160-41e4-a17d-0cf128841a57"
  },
  {
    "description": "map variants matched by the query to the UCSC browser",
    "handoverType": {"id": "pgx:handover:bedfile2ucsc", "label": "Show Variants in UCSC" },
    "url": "http://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-bin/hgTracks?org=human&db=hg38&position=chr9:21531306-22492891&hgt.customText=https://progenetix.org/tmp/5cced529-3acf-4156-b121-6ae7e5e63d0c.bed"
  }
]
```

# Progenetix & Beacon v1->2

## Handover elements in Beacon responses

- Progenetix utilizes handovers to deliver data matched by the Beacon queries
- These handovers are interpreted by the front end to populate different parts of the UI, w/o the need of active selection
- Handovers are either standard Beacon v2 paths or dedicated custom functions



Search Samples      Modify Query

Assembly: GRCh38 Chro: 9 Start: 21500001-21975098 End: 21967753-22500000  
Type: DEL Filters: NCIT:C3058

progenetix

Samples: 668      Variants: 286      Calls: 675

Found Variants (.pgxseq)      UCSC region ↗  
All Sample Variants (.json)      JSON Response ↗  
All Sample variants (.pgxseg)      Visualization options ↗  
Show Variants in UCSC ↗

Results      Biosamples      Biosamples Map      Variants

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

75%  
50%  
25%  
0%  
-25%  
-50%  
-75%

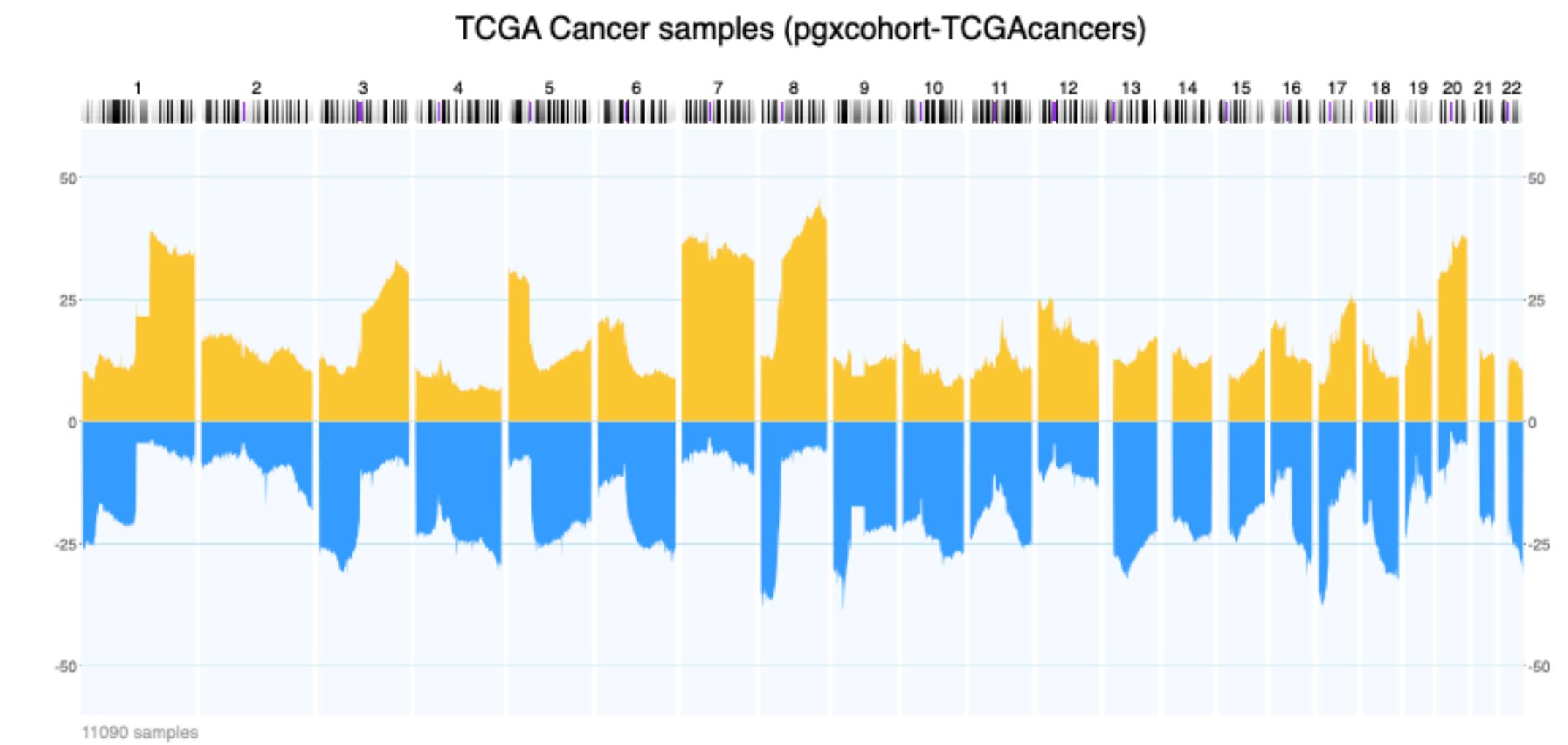
progenetix: 670 samples      CC BY 4.0 progenetix.org (2021)

Matched Subset Codes	Subset Samples	Matched Samples	Subset Match Frequencies
icdot-C71.4	4	1	0.250
UBERON:0002021	4	1	0.250
icdom-94403	4291	664	0.155
NCIT:C3058	4375	664	0.152
icdot-C71.1	14	2	0.143
UBERON:0016525	14	2	0.143
UBERON:0000955	6700	651	0.097
icdot-C71.9	7282	651	0.089

# Progenetix API

## Data & Plots

- "all" of the data can be accessed using API calls
- segmented CNV data in .pgxsg (columnar) and JSON format
- histograms for disease, study or cohort from precomputed frequencies - live generated as SVG for embedding with plot options



[https://progenetix.org/cgi/PGX/cgi/collationPlots.cgi?  
datasetIds=progenetix&id=pgxcohort-TCGAcancers&-  
size\\_plotimage\\_w\\_px=800&-size\\_plotarea\\_h\\_px=300&-  
value\\_plot\\_y\\_max=60](https://progenetix.org/cgi/PGX/cgi/collationPlots.cgi?datasetIds=progenetix&id=pgxcohort-TCGAcancers&-size_plotimage_w_px=800&-size_plotarea_h_px=300&-value_plot_y_max=60)

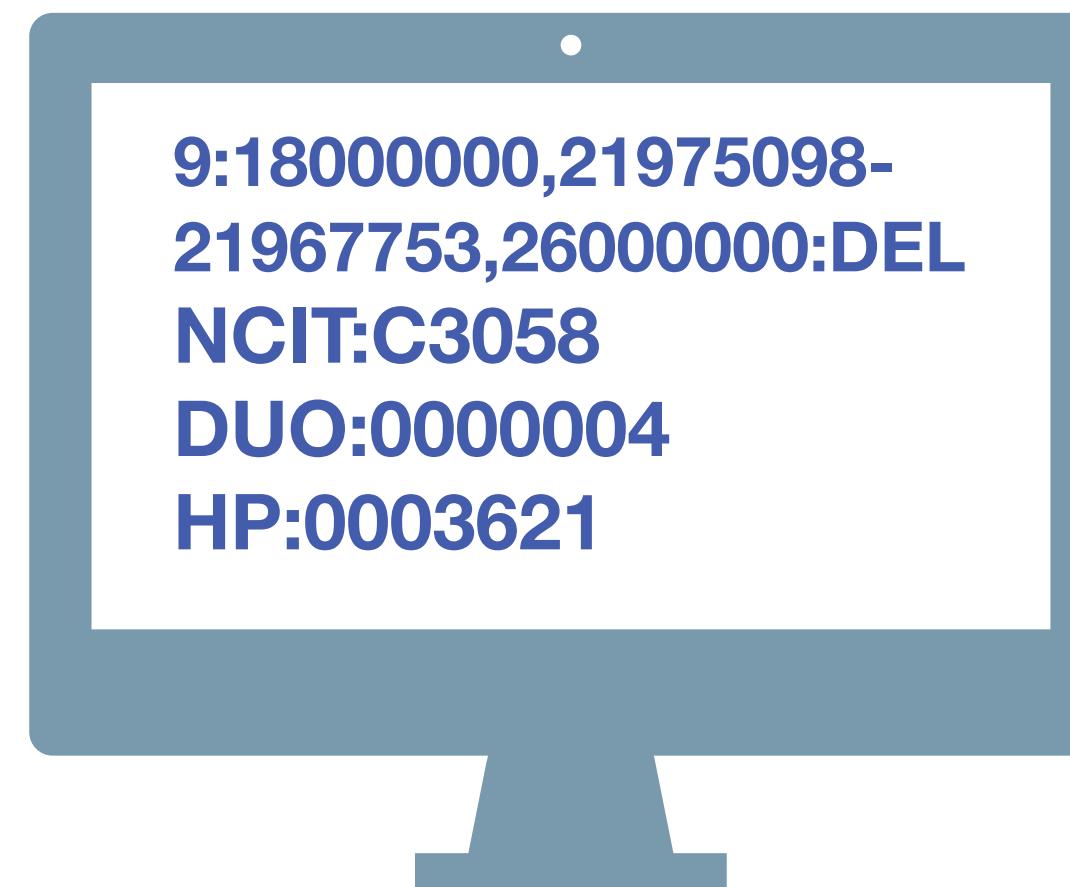


# Beacon & Phenopackets

## Data *discovery* and *delivery* using standardized GA4GH formats and schemas

- modern standards and protocols such as Beacon & Phenopackets are essential for federation and exchange of biomedical data
  - emerging / established principles are the use of hierarchical coding systems and with widespread use of CURIEs
  - other formats based on international standards, e.g.
    - ISO (ISO 8601 time & period, ISO 3166 country codes ...)
    - IETF (GeoJSON ...)
    - W3C (CURIE ...)
  - these standards become pervasive throughout GA4GH's ecosystem
- Beacon query **filters** correspond well to Phenopackets data
- Phenopackets as supported protocol for Beacon data delivery

```
"data_use_conditions" : {  
    "label" : "no restriction",  
    "id" : "DUO:0000004"  
},  
"material" : {  
    "id" : "EF0:0009656",  
    "label" : "neoplastic sample"  
},  
{  
    "ageAtDiagnosis": "P25Y3M2D"  
},  
"sampled_tissue" : {  
    "id" : "UBERON:0002037",  
    "label" : "cerebellum"  
},  
"histological_diagnosis" : {  
    "id" : "NCIT:C3222",  
    "label" : "Medulloblastoma"  
},
```

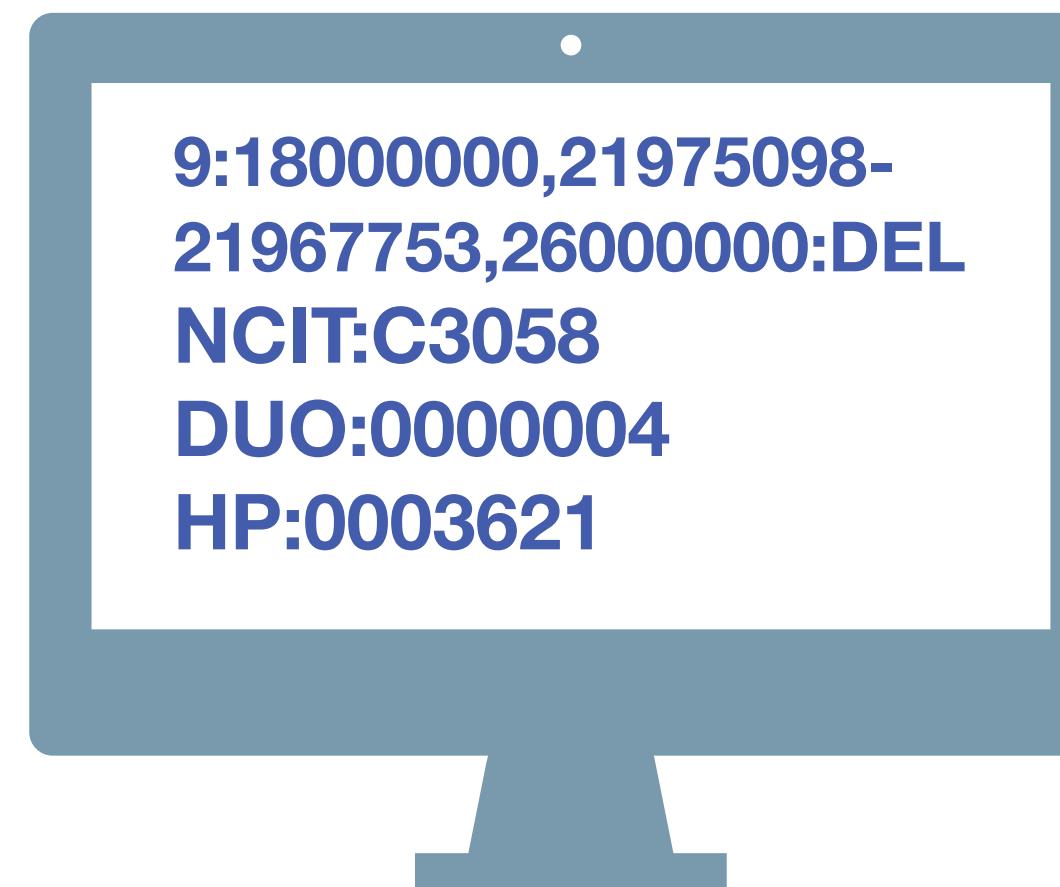


Have you seen deletions in this region on chromosome 9 in Glioblastomas from a juvenile patient, in a dataset with unrestricted access?



## Beacon v2 API

The Beacon API v2 proposal opens the way for the design of a simple but powerful "genomics API".



Have you seen deletions in this region on chromosome 9 in Glioblastomas from a juvenile patient, in a dataset with unrestricted access?



## Beacon v2 API

The Beacon API v2 proposal opens the way for the design of a simple but powerful "genomics API".

**GA4GH Genome Beacons**  
A Driver Project of the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health GA4GH and supported through ELIXIR

**News**  
**Specification & Roadmap**  
**Beacon Networks**  
**Events**  
**Examples, Guides & FAQ**  
**Contributors & Teams**  
**Contacts**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Related Sites**  
ELIXIR BeaconNetwork  
Beacon @ ELIXIR  
GA4GH  
beacon-network.org  
Beacon+  
GA4GH::SchemaBlocks  
GA4GH::Discovery

**Github Projects**  
Beacon API and Tools  
SchemaBlocks

**Tags**  
CNV EB FAQ SV VCF beacon clinical  
code compliance contacts definitions  
developers development events filters  
minutes network press proposal  
queries releases roadmap  
specification teams v2 versions  
website

**Beacon v2 - Towards Flexible Use**

**Beacon v2 API** for the simple "genomic" use case

Have you seen deletions in this region on chromosome 9 in Glioblastomas from a juvenile patient, in a dataset with unrestricted access?

**beacon-project.io**

**Beacon Protocol for Genomic Data Sharing**  
Beacons provide discovery services for genomic data using the Beacon API developed by the **Global Alliance for Genomics** standard for genomics data discovery against genomic data collections, for repositories.

## Baudisgroup @ UZH

(Ni Ai)  
Michael Baudis  
(Haoyang Cai)  
Paula Carrio Cordo  
Bo Gao  
Qingyao Huang  
(Saumya Gupta)  
(Nitin Kumar)  
Sofia Pfund  
Rahel Paloots  
Hangjia Zhao  
Pierre-Henri Toussaint

The original Beacon protocol had been:  

- Simple:** focus on robustness and ease of use.
- Federated:** maintained by individual sites offering *beacons*.
- General-purpose:** used to represent a wide range of genomic data.
- Aggregative:** provide a boolean query for CNV deletion variants overlapping a genomic region, but limited to "focal" hits (here i.e. <~100 kb).
- Privacy protecting:** queries do not reveal individual samples.

Sites offering *beacons* can scale through parallel processing of many queries among a potentially large number of users. Since 2015 the development of the Beacon protocol has been international, with contributions from many participants. Recent versions have focused on:  

- providing a framework for other types of genomic variants
- allowing for data delivery using different formats and environments and allow for data sharing.

**Beacon v2 - Towards Flexible Use**

**Beacon v2 API** for the simple "genomic" use case

Have you seen deletions in this region on chromosome 9 in Glioblastomas from a juvenile patient, in a dataset with unrestricted access?

**Query Beacon**

**Beacon API Leads**  
Jordi Rambla  
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Juha Törnroos  
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Michael Baudis (Beacon)  
Marc Fiume (Networks)  
**ELIXIR**  
Gary Saunders  
David Lloyd  
Serena Scollen  
**Beacon Team CRG**  
Laureen Fromont  
Babita Singh  
Sabela de la Torre Pernas  
**Beacon v2 Scouts**  
Tim Beck  
Joaquin Dopazo  
Veronique Geoffroy  
Jean Muller  
David Salgado  
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Tim Beck  
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Veronique Geoffroy  
Jean Muller  
David Salgado  
Alex Wagner

**GA4GH Beacon v2 specification.**

46 commits 1 branch 0 tags  
2 months ago

empty response  
6 months ago

6 months ago

project website  
last month

last month

**Releases**  
No releases published  
Create a new release

**Packages**  
No packages published  
Publish your first package

**Contributors** 3

sdelatorrep sdelatorrep  
mbaudis mbaudis  
blankdots blankdots

**github.com/ga4gh-beacon/**



[beacon.progenetix.org/ui/](http://beacon.progenetix.org/ui/)