



# Beacon v2 && Phenopackets

## Current relations & Future Alignment

Michael Baudis | 2022-11-22



**Global Alliance**  
for Genomics & Health



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

**YES** | **NO** | \0

## Beacon v1 Development

## Beacon v2 Development

## Related ...

2014 GA4GH founding event; Jim Ostell proposes Beacon concept including "more features ... version 2"

2015 • beacon-network.org aggregator created by DNASTack

2016 • Beacon v0.3 release  
• work on queries for structural variants (brackets for fuzzy start and end parameters...)

2017 • OpenAPI implementation  
• integrating CNV parameters (e.g. "startMin, statMax")

2018 • Beacon v0.4 release in January; feature release for GA4GH approval process  
• GA4GH Beacon v1 approved at Oct plenary

2019 • ELIXIR Beacon Network

2020

2021

2022

• Beacon<sup>+</sup> concept implemented on progenetix.org  
• concepts from GA4GH Metadata (ontologies...)  
• entity-scoped query parameters ("individual.age")

• Beacon<sup>+</sup> demos "handover" concept

• Beacon hackathon Stockholm; settling on "filters"  
• Barcelona goes Zurich developers meeting  
• Beacon API v2 Kick off  
• adopting "handover" concept

• "Scouts" teams working on different aspects - filters, genomic variants, compliance ...  
• discussions w/ clinical stakeholders

• framework + models concept implemented  
• range and bracket queries, variant length parameters  
• starting of GA4GH review process

• further changes esp. in default model, aligning with Phenopackets and VRS  
• unified beacon-v2 code & docs repository  
• Beacon v2 approved at Apr GA4GH Connect

• ELIXIR starts Beacon project support

• GA4GH re-structuring (workstreams...)  
• Beacon part of Discovery WS

• new Beacon website (March)

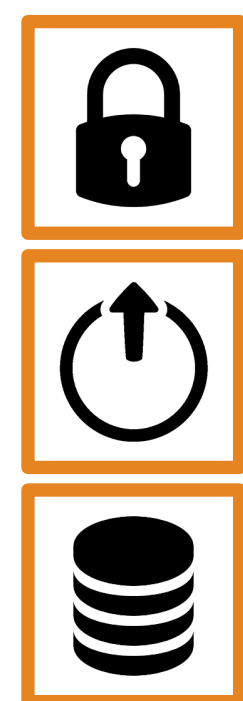
• Beacon publication at Nature Biotechnology

• Phenopackets v2 approved

• *docs.genomebeacons.org*



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**".



# Future?

## Some proposals for a stepwise Beacon protocol extension

- Query language expansion, e.g. Boolean options for chaining filters
  - ➔ use of heterogeneous/alternative annotations within and across resources
- **Phenopackets** support as a (the?) default format for biodata export
- **Phenopackets** as **request** documents
- Focus on service & **resource discovery**
- **ELIXIR Beacon Network**, including translations for federated queries to Beacon and Beacon-like resources

# The GA4GH Phenopackets v2 Standard

## A Computable Representation of Clinical Data

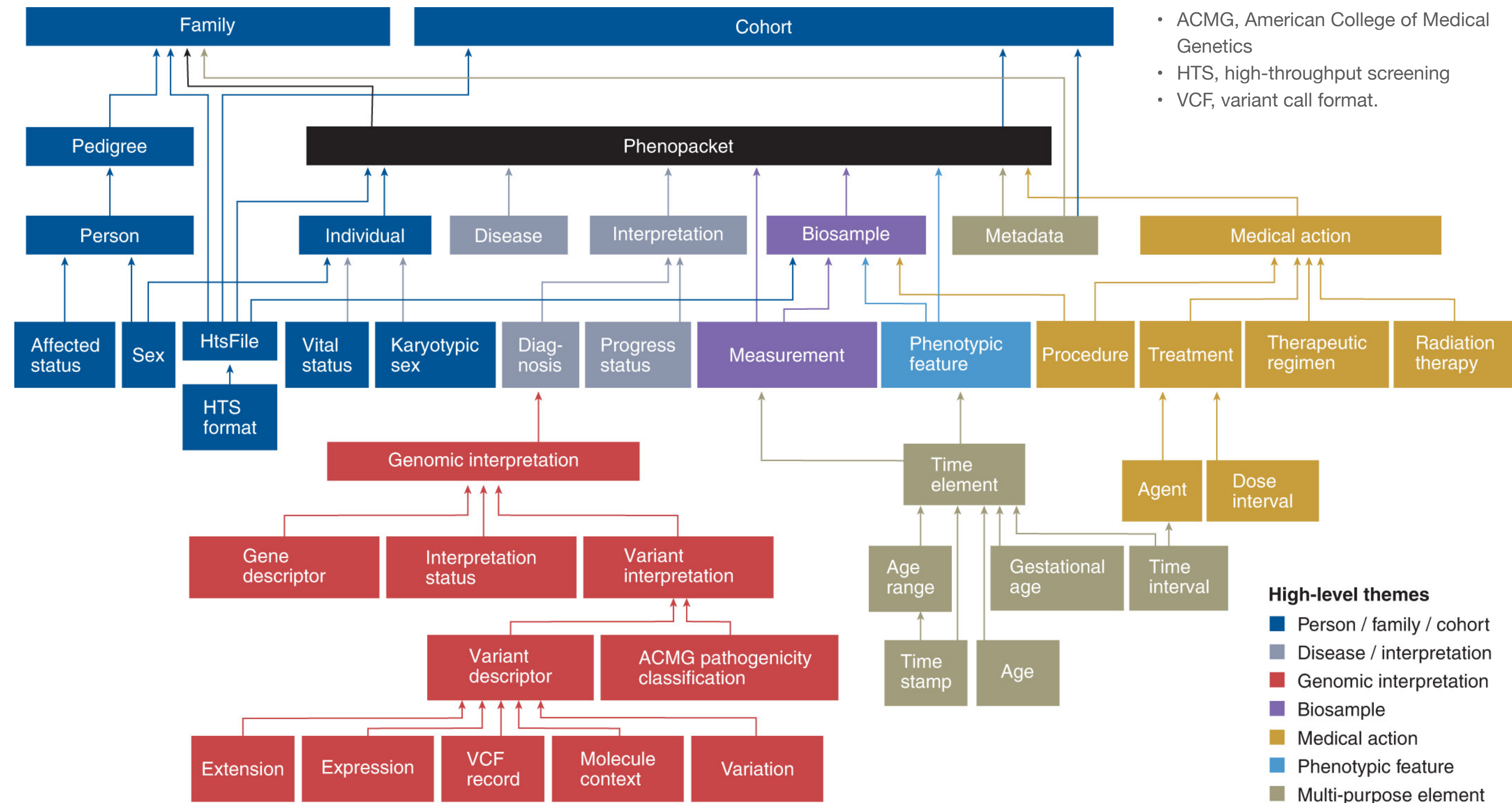


The GA4GH Phenopacket schema consists of several optional elements, each containing information about a certain topic, such as phenotype, variant or pedigree. An element can contain other elements, which allows a hierarchical representation of data.

For instance, Phenopacket contains elements of type *Individual*, *PhenotypicFeature*, *Biosample* and so on. Individual elements can therefore be regarded as **building blocks** of larger structures.

Jacobsen JOB, Baudis M, Baynam GS, Beckmann JS, Beltran S, Buske OJ, Callahan TJ, et al. 2022.

**The GA4GH Phenopacket Schema Defines a Computable Representation of Clinical Data.**  
*Nature Biotechnology* 40 (6): 817–20.

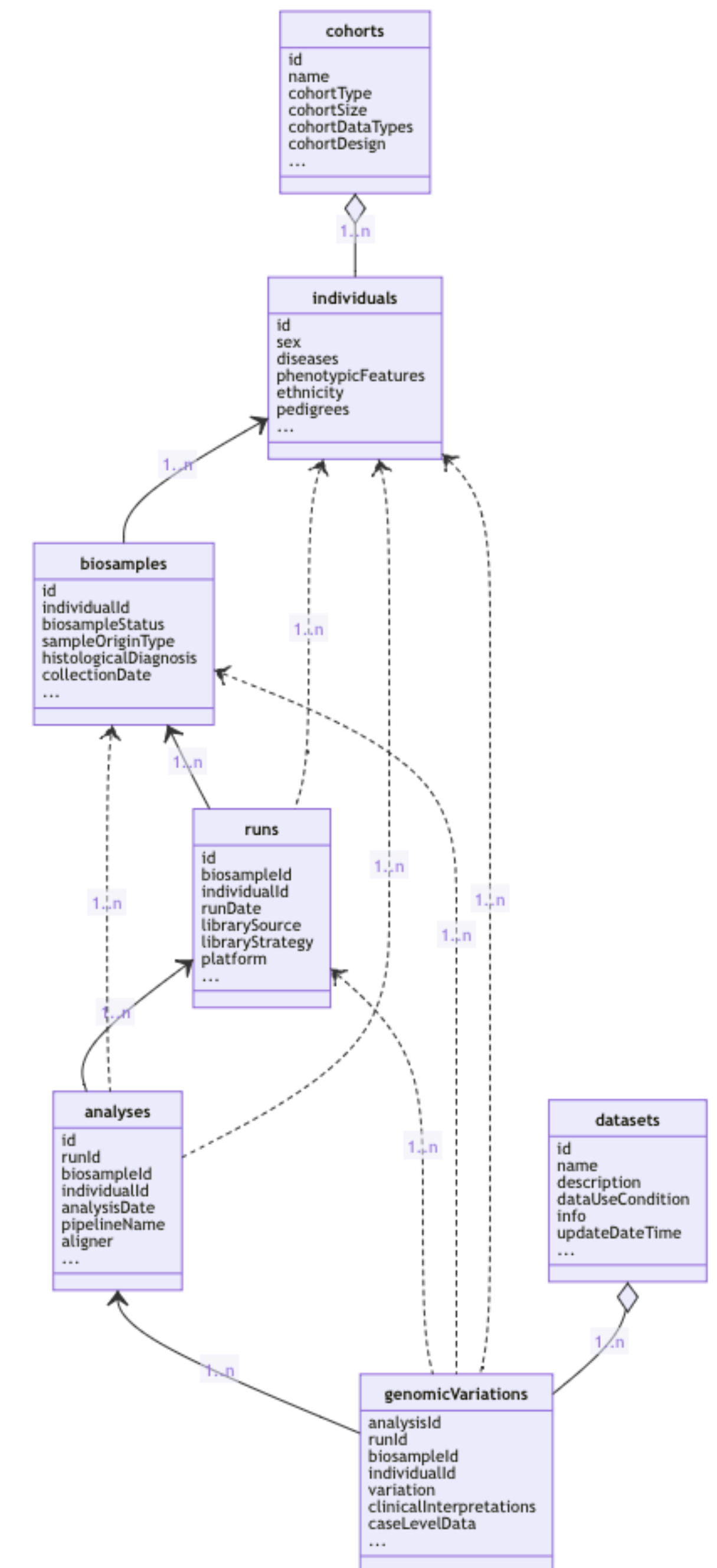




# Beacon Default v2 Model

## Similarities & Differences ...

- The Beacon framework describes the overall structure of the API requests, responses, parameters, the common components, etc.
- Beacon Models describe the set of concepts included in a Beacon, like individual or biosample, and also the relationships between them.
- Besides the overall logical concepts, the Beacon models represent the schemas for data delivery in Beacons supporting “record” granularity
- Beacon explicitly allows the use of other models besides its version specific default.
- The domains defined in the standard model overall correspond well to phenopackets “themes” (since both have been influenced by GA4GH task teams etc.)



# Beacon Default v2 Model

## Similarities & Differences ...

- In the Beacon v2 default data model, many schemas are either directly compatible to Phenopackets v2 building blocks or at least reflect them but with some adjustments.
- While the Beacon v2 default model's schemas do not per se have to reflect PXF schemas, we target an as-close-as-possible alignment to promote/leverage GA4GH-wide standardization.
- The Phenopackets model is centered around the Phenopacket, which is the collector and integrator of all sub-schemas (with the addition of the external Family and Cohort schemas). While Phenopacket usually describes information related to a subject - which is defined in an Individual - and the top level elements in Phenopacket relate to a specific proband (measurements as "Measurements performed in the proband"), the phenopacket itself does not explicitly represent an individual.
- In contrast, the Beacon v2 default model uses a hierarchy in which biosamples reference individuals directly (if existing). For most purposes one can equate Beacon's Individual with a merge of Phenopacket's core Phenopacket and Individual parameters.

Building block comparisons: Beacon v2 == PXF v2

AGE

- PXF Age
- Beacon v2 Age

AGERANGE

- PXF AgeRange
- Beacon v2 AgeRange

EVIDENCE

- PXF Evidence
- Beacon v2 Evidence

KARYOTYPICSEX

- PXF
- Beacon

REFERENCERANGE

- PXF ReferenceRange
- Beacon v2 ReferenceRange

While `unit` in Beacon points to a

VALUE

- PXF Value
- Beacon v2 Value

Beacon v2 ~ PXF v2 (e.g. renamed or additional parameters)

COMPLEXVALUE

- PXF ComplexValue
- Beacon v2 ComplexValue

Renamed `ComplexValue.TypedQuantity.quantityType` compared to GA4GH Phenopackets v2 `ComplexValue.TypedQuantity.type` due to problematic use of `type` as parameter

EXTERNALREFERENCE

- PXF ExternalReference
- Beacon v2 ExternalReference

Renamed `ExternalReference.notes` compared to GA4GH Phenopackets v2 `ExternalReference.description` due to problematic use of `description` as parameter

MEASUREMENT

- PXF Measurement
- Beacon v2 Measurement

Added notes and date.

PHENOTYPICFEATURE

- PXF PhenotypicFeature
- Beacon v2 PhenotypicFeature

Beacon	Phenopackets
<code>featureType</code>	<code>type</code>

Beacon v2 ~ PXF v2 (e.g. multiple/complex differences)

DISEASE

PEDIGREE

While the Beacon & Phenopackets schemas for "pedigree" representation are not aligned, they may become superseded by the [GA4GH pedigree standard](#) currently under development.

SEX

Beacon directly uses the (IMO preferable) [representation through an ontology term](#), while PXF uses an [ordinal mapping](#)





Progenetix Documentation

Documentation Home

- Progenetix Source Code
  - bycon
  - progenetix-web
  - PGX
- Additional Projects
- News & Changes
- Pages & Forms
- Services & API
- Use Case Examples
- Classifications, Ontologies & Standards
- Publication Collection
- Data Review
- Beacon+ & bycon
- Technical Notes
- Progenetix Data
- Baudisgroup @ UZH

## Progenetix Source Code ¶

With exception of some utility scripts and external dependencies (e.g. [MongoDB](#) the software (from database interaction to website) behind Progenetix and Beacon

### bycon

- Python based service based on the [GA4GH Beacon protocol](#)
- software powering the Progenetix resource
- [Beacon+](#) implementation(s) use the same code base

### progenetix-web

- website for Progenetix and its [Beacon+](#) implementations
- provides Beacon interfaces for the [bycon](#) server, as well as other Progenetix sevices (e.g. the [public](#)
- implemented as [React](#) / [Next.js](#) project
- contains this documentation tree here as [mkdocs](#) project, with files in the [docs](#) directory

Org.progenetix Search beacon-v2 ☆2 🐞8

**Base** [/biosamples](#)

[/BIOSAMPLES/](#) + QUERY

- [/biosamples?filters=cellosaurus:CVCL\\_0004](#)
- this example retrieves all biosamples having an annotation for the Cellosaurus *CVCL\_0004* identifier (K562)

[es/pgxbs-kftva5c9](#)

of a single biosample

[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/G\\_VARIANTS?testMode=true](#)

of some random samples

- for testing API responses

[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/G\\_VARIANTS](#)

- [/biosamples/pgxbs-kftva5c9/g\\_variants/](#)
- retrieval of all variants from a single biosample

### Base [/individuals](#)

[/INDIVIDUALS](#) + QUERY ¶

- [/individuals?filters=NCIT:C7541](#)

## Beacon API

### Beacon-style JSON responses

The Progenetix resource's API utilizes the [bycon](#) framework for data query and delivery and represents a custom implementation of the Beacon v2 API.

The standard format for JSON responses corresponds to a generic Beacon v2 response, with the [meta](#) and [response](#) root elements. Depending on the endpoint, the main data will be a list of objects either inside [response.results](#) or (mostly) in [response.resultSets.results](#). Additionally, most API responses (e.g. for biosamples or variants) provide access to data using *handover* objects.

### Beacon v2 Documentation Search beacon-v2 ☆2 🐞8

## Org.progenetix

### Progenetix & Beacon+

The Beacon+ implementation - developed in the Python & MongoDB based [bycon](#) [project](#) - implements an expanding set of Beacon v2 paths for the [Progenetix](#) resource 🇨🇭.

### Scoped responses from query object

In queries with a complete [beaconRequestBody](#) the type of the delivered data is independent of the path and determined in the [requestedSchemas](#). So far, Beacon+ will compare the first of those to its supported responses and provide the results accordingly; it doesn't matter if the endpoint was [/beacon/biosamples/](#) or [/beacon/variants/](#) etc.

Below is an example for the standard test "small deletion CNVs in the CDKN2A locus, in gliomas" Progenetix test query, here responding with the matched variants. Exchanging the [entityType](#) entry to

- ```
{ "entityType": "biosample", "schema": "https://progenetix.org/services/schemas/Biosample/" }
```

would change this to a biosample response. The example ccan be tested by POSTing this as [application/json](#) to [http://progenetix.org/beacon/variants/](#) or [http://progenetix.org/beacon/biosamples/](#).

```
{
  "$schema": "beaconRequestBody.json",
  "meta": {
    "apiVersion": "2.0",
    "requestedSchemas": [
      {
        "entityType": "genomicVariant",
        "schema": "https://progenetix.org/services/schemas/genomicVariant"
      }
    ]
  },
  "query": {
    "requestParameters": {
```

Rapidly evolving documentation  
of both the Beacon API itself and  
its use and technical  
implementation on  
[docs.genomebeacons.org](#)  
[docs.progenetix.org](#)

Shoutout to Laure(e)n  
Fromont & Manuel  
Rueda for being  
instrumental in the  
Beacon v2  
documentation!

# Beacon+: Phenopackets

Testing alternative response schemas...

<http://progenetix.org/beacon/biosamples/pgxbs-kftvhyvb/phenopackets>

- the v2 default schemas are mostly aligned w/ Phenopackets v2
- creating phenopackets can be done mostly by re-wrapping of Beacon entities (individual, biosample)
- variants can be included through file resource URLs; in Beacon+ this is done through *ad hoc* handover URLs

```
{
  "id": "pgxpxf-kftx3tl5",
  "metaData": {
    "phenopacketSchemaVersion": "v2",
    "resources": [
      {
        "id": "NCIT",
        "iriPrefix": "http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/NCIT",
        "name": "NCIt Plus Neoplasm Core",
        "namespacePrefix": "NCIT",
        "url": "http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/ncit/neoplasm-core.c",
        "version": "2022-04-01"
      }
    ]
  },
  "subject": {
    "dataUseConditions": {
      "id": "DU0:0000004",
      "label": "no restriction"
    },
    "diseases": [
      {
        "clinicalTnmFinding": [],
        "diseaseCode": {
          "id": "NCIT:C3099",
          "label": "Hepatocellular Carcinoma"
        },
        "onset": {
          "age": "P48Y9M26D"
        },
        "stage": {
          "id": "NCIT:C27966",
          "label": "Stage I"
        }
      }
    ],
    "id": "pgxind-kftx3tl5",
    "sex": {
      "id": "PATO:0020001",
      "label": "male genotypic sex"
    },
    "updated": "2018-12-04 14:53:11.674000",
    "vitalStatus": {
      "status": "UNKNOWN_STATUS"
    }
  }
}
```

```
"biosamples": [
  {
    "biosampleStatus": {
      "id": "EF0:0009656",
      "label": "neoplastic sample"
    },
    "dataUseConditions": {
      "id": "DU0:0000004",
      "label": "no restriction"
    },
    "description": "Primary Tumor",
    "externalReferences": [
      {
        "id": "pgx:TCGA-0004d251-3f70-4395-b175-c94c2f5b1b81",
        "label": "TCGA case_id"
      },
      {
        "id": "pgx:TCGA-TCGA-DD-AAVP",
        "label": "TCGA submitter_id"
      },
      {
        "id": "pgx:TCGA-9259e9ee-7279-4b62-8512-509cb705029c",
        "label": "TCGA sample_id"
      },
      {
        "id": "pgx:TCGA-LIHC",
        "label": "TCGA LIHC project"
      }
    ],
    "files": [
      {
        "fileAttributes": {
          "fileFormat": "pgxseg",
          "genomeAssembly": "GRCh38"
        },
        "uri": "https://progenetix.org/beacon/biosamples/pgxbs-kftvhyvb/variants/?output=pgxseg"
      }
    ],
    "histologicalDiagnosis": {
      "id": "NCIT:C3099",
      "label": "Hepatocellular Carcinoma"
    },
    "id": "pgxbs-kftvhyvb",
    "individualId": "pgxind-kftx3tl5",
    "pathologicalStage": {
      "id": "NCIT:C27966",
      "label": "Stage I"
    },
    "sampledTissue": {
      "id": "UBERON:0002107",
      "label": "liver"
    },
    "timeOfCollection": {
      "age": "P48Y9M26D"
    }
  }
]
```



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```

{
  "id": "pgxpxf-kftx3tl5",
  "metaData": {
    "phenopacketSchemaVersion": "v2",
    "resources": [
      {
        "id": "NCIT",
        "iriPrefix": "http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/NCIT",
        "name": "NCIt Plus Neoplasm Core",
        "namespacePrefix": "NCIT",
        "url": "http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/ncit/neoplasm-core.owl",
        "version": "2022-04-01"
      }
    ]
  },
  "files": [
    {
      "fileAttributes": {
        "fileFormat": "pgxseg",
        "genomeAssembly": "GRCh38"
      },
      "uri": "https://progenetix.org/ beacon/biosamples/pgxbs-kftvhyvb/variants/?output=pgxseg"
    }
  ],
  "onset": {
    "age": "P48Y9M26D"
  },
  "stage": {
    "id": "NCIT:C27966",
    "label": "Stage I"
  },
  "id": "pgxind-kftx3tl5",
  "sex": {
    "id": "PATO:0020001",
    "label": "male genotypic sex"
  },
  "updated": "2018-12-04 14:53:11.674000",
  "vitalStatus": {
    "status": "UNKNOWN_STATUS"
  }
},
{
  "biosamples": [
    {
      "biosampleStatus": {
        "id": "EFO:0009656",
        "label": "neoplastic sample"
      },
      "dataUseConditions": {
        "id": "DUO:0000004",
        "label": "no restriction"
      },
      "description": "Primary Tumor",
      "externalReferences": [
        {
          "fileAttributes": {
            "fileFormat": "pgxseg",
            "genomeAssembly": "GRCh38"
          },
          "uri": "https://progenetix.org/ beacon/biosamples/pgxbs-kftvhyvb/variants/?output=pgxseg"
        }
      ],
      "histologicalDiagnosis": {
        "id": "NCIT:C3099",
        "label": "Hepatocellular Carcinoma"
      },
      "id": "pgxbs-kftvhyvb",
      "individualId": "pgxind-kftx3tl5",
      "pathologicalStage": {
        "id": "NCIT:C27966",
        "label": "Stage I"
      },
      "sampledTissue": {
        "id": "UBERON:0002107",
        "label": "liver"
      },
      "timeOfCollection": {
        "age": "P48Y9M26D"
      }
    }
  ]
}

```



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```

bios_s = data_db["biosamples"].find({"individual_id":ind["id"]})

for bios in bios_s:

    bios.update({
        "files": [
            {
                "uri": "{}beacon/biosamples/{}/variants/?output=pgxseg".format(server, bios["id"]),
                "file_attributes": {
                    "genomeAssembly": "GRCh38",
                    "fileFormat": "pgxseg"
                }
            }
        ]
    })
    for k in bios_pop_keys:
        bios.pop(k, None)

    clean_empty_fields(bios)

    pxf_bios.append(bios)

def remap_phenopackets(ds_id, r_s_res, byc):

    if not "phenopacket" in byc["response_entity_id"]:
        return r_s_res

    mongo_client = MongoClient()
    data_db = mongo_client[ds_id]
    pxf_s = []

    for ind_i, ind in enumerate(r_s_res):

        pxf = phenopack_individual(ind, data_db, byc)
        pxf_s.append(pxf)

    return pxf_s

```

# Beacon & Phenopackets

## Where to go?

- Adding a Phenopacket model to Beacon v2.n
  - ➡ going for fast, correct implementation over completeness
- Beacon will (?) include defined handover types; PXF could be an early one
  - ➡ does not require definition in the Beacon models itself
- Driver project using PXF over Beacon v2 for data delivery
  - ➡ existing draft proposal ...
- PXF as the default schema for Beacon data delivery in v2.n...