# Exploiting Electronic Health Record Standard openEHR to Manage Experimental Data in Computational Physiology

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## **Outline**

- Physiome/VPH & Data Linkages
- Experimental Data
- openEHR fundamentals
- Beyond Experimental >Health Data





## **Experimental Data**

- For Simulation Experiments mature standards (MIASE/MIBBI and COMBINE) for both data and metadata
- For Wetlab Experiments there is limited agreement on standard data and meta-data formats;
- Some examples (for meta-data)
  - The Cardiac Electrophysiology Ontology (EP);
  - The Ontology for Biomedical Investigations (OBI)
  - Just Enough Results Model (JERM) Ontology;
  - Bioassay Ontology (BAO);
  - ISA-Tab experimental metadata from FAIRDOM
- Motivation of this study: handle experimental data and meta-data using openEHR Information Modelling
  - Very flexible, model driven
  - Supports ontology based semantic linkages

## Study Source (Wetlab) Data

- Time-series type experimental data
- 1Hz steady state pacing membrane potential data from dog myocytes

Johnstone RH, Chang ETY, Bardenet R, de Boer TP, Gavaghan DJ, Pathmanathan P, et al. Uncertainty and variability in models of the cardiac action potential: Can we build trustworthy models? Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology

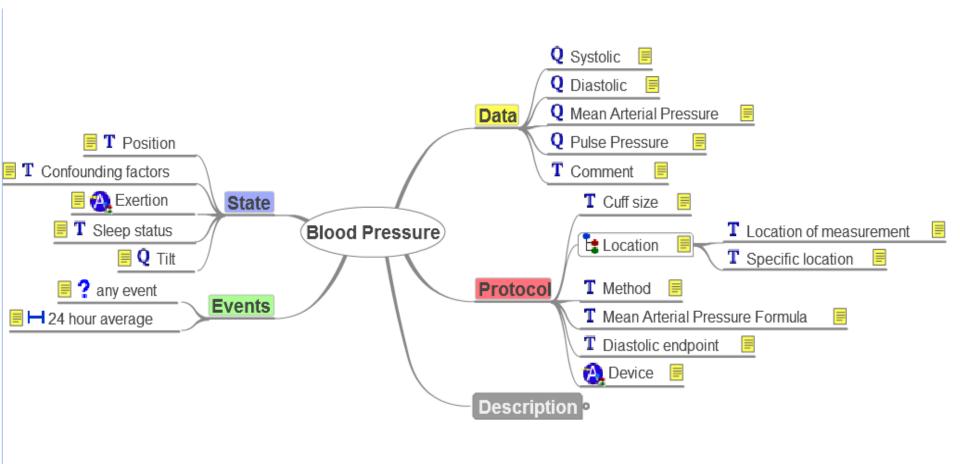
- 572 traces as .csv files each containing 3248 rows of two data points:
  - measurement time (in seconds)
  - membrane potential (in volts)
- No structured set of meta-data

# Information Modelling (IM)

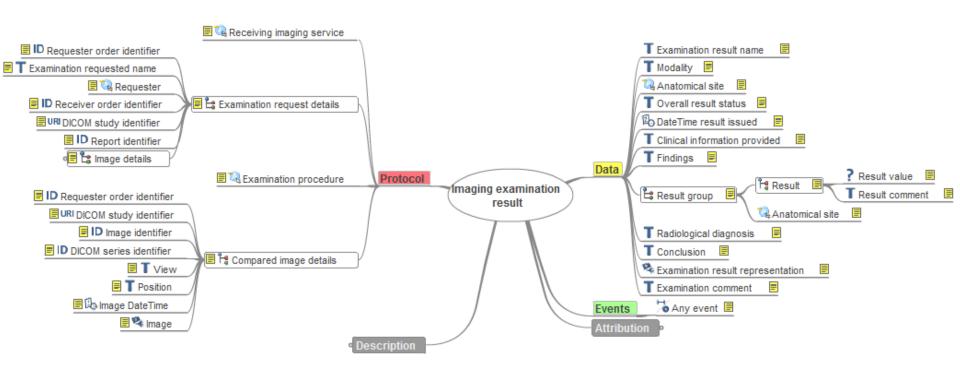
Archetypes, Detailed Clinical Models, Clinical Models etc.

- Computable representations of <u>data+context =</u> information
- Define both the information structure and formal semantics of documented concepts
- They facilitate:
  - Domain ←→ technical communication
  - Managing size, complexity and changeability (of biomedicine)
  - Organizing, storing, querying & displaying data
  - Data exchange & distributed computing
  - Data linkage, analytics & decision support

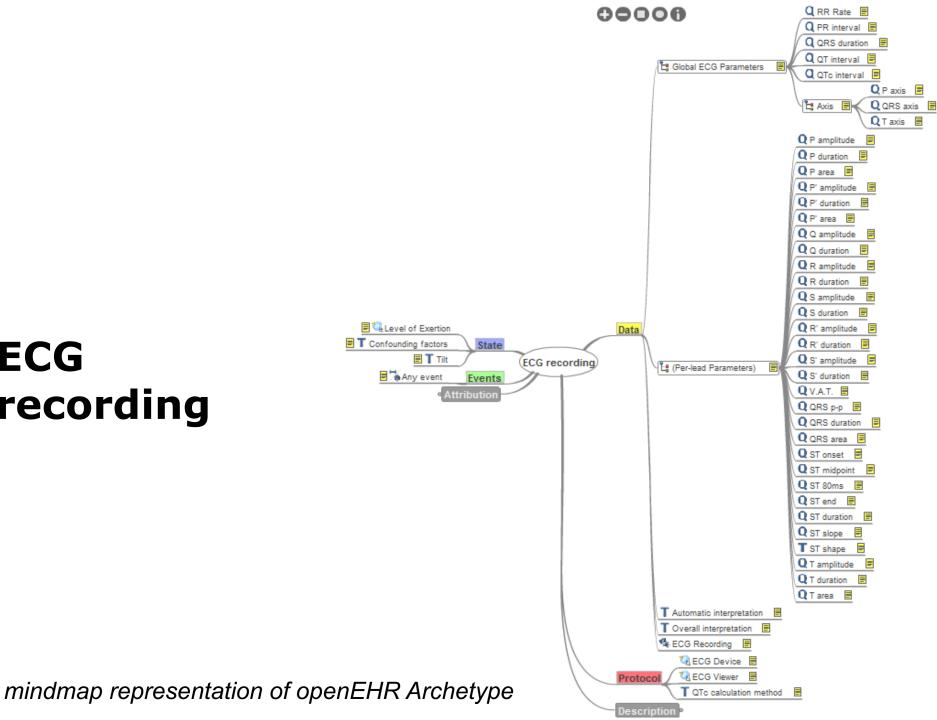
# **Clinical IM Examples: Blood Pressure Measurement**



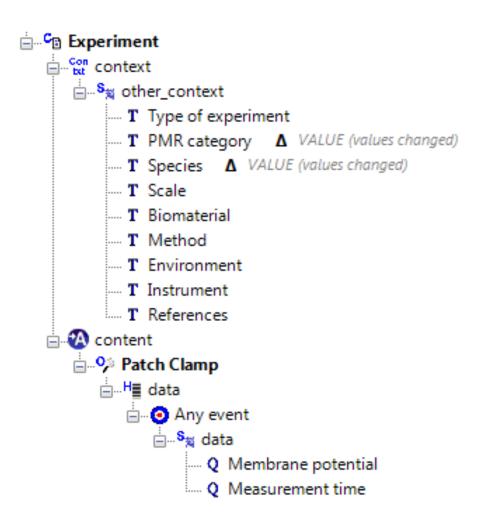
## Imaging exam result



# **ECG** recording



# Study Information Model (with meta-data)

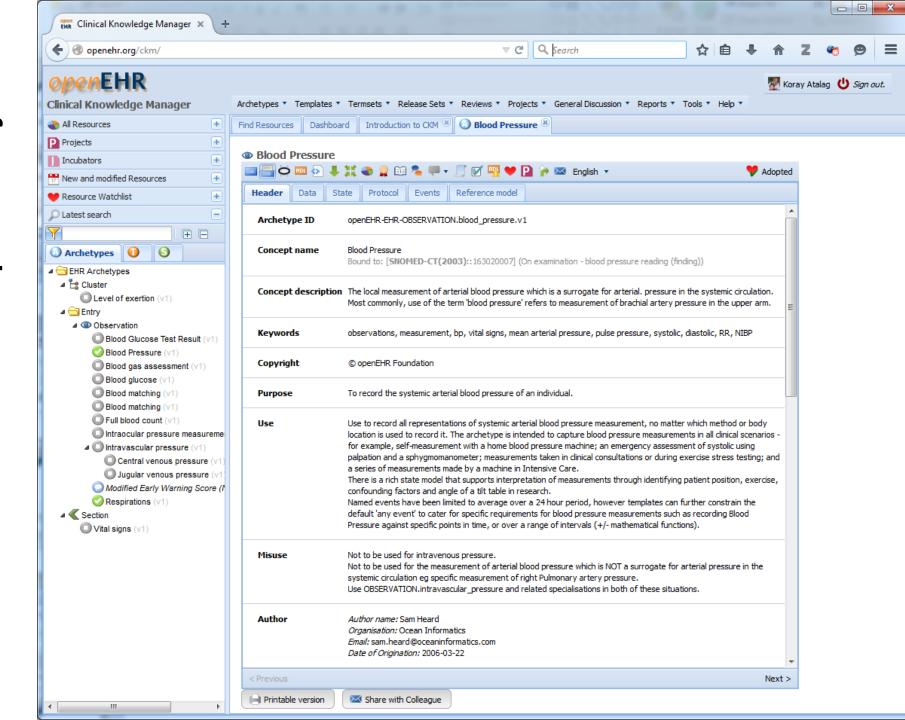


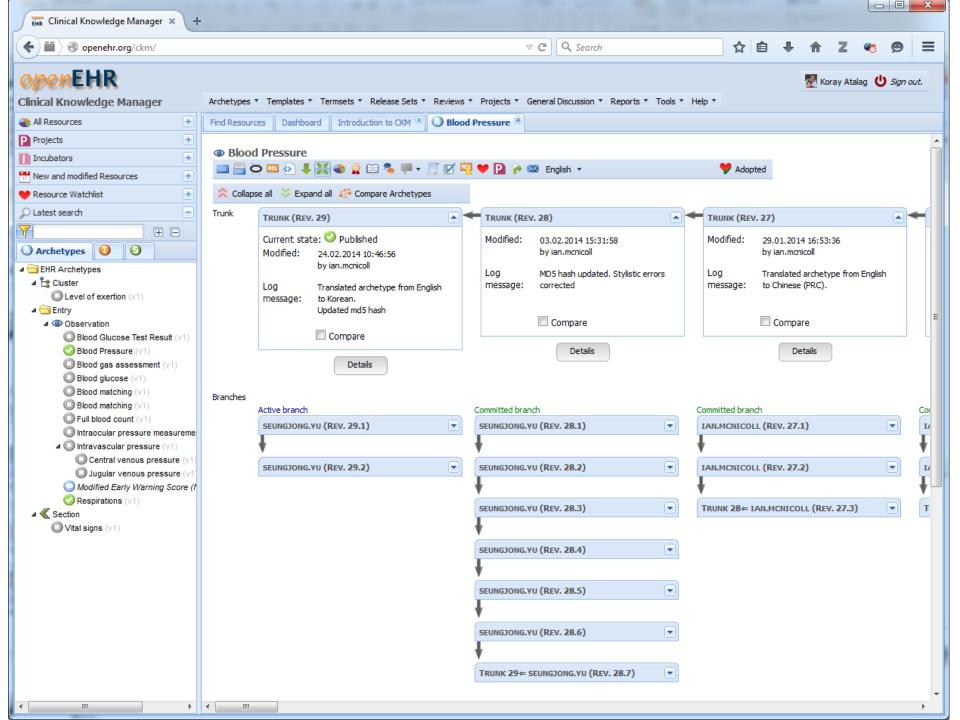
# openEHR

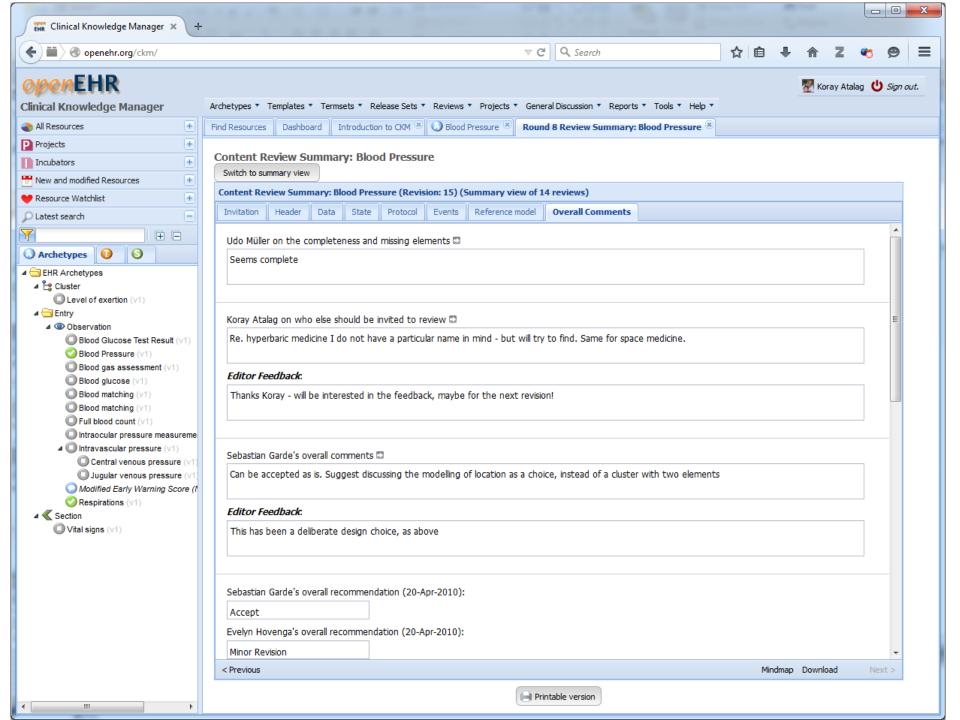
- Open source specs & tooling for representing health information and building EHRs
  - Based on 20 years of international research
  - Also an ISO/CEN standard
- Not-for-profit organisation established in 2001 www.openEHR.org
- Extensively used in research
- Separation of clinical and technical worlds
- Big international community
- Open Access online models repository <a href="http://openehr.org/ckm">http://openehr.org/ckm</a>

# openEHR IM: Archetypes

- Constraints (OCL) on Data
  - Structural constraints: List, table, tree
  - What labels can be used?
  - What data types can be used?
  - What values are allowed for these data types?
  - How many times a data item can exist?
  - Whether a particular data item is mandatory
  - Whether a selection is involved from a number of items/values
- Formal semantics via terminology bindings
- Flexible Meta-data definition







## **Semantics in openEHR**

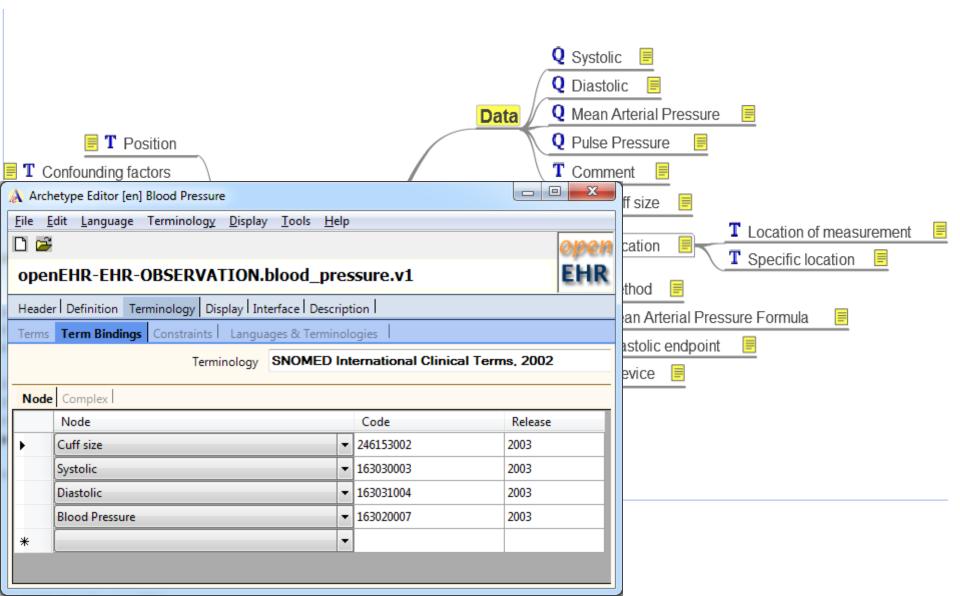
- Whole-of-model meta-data:
  - Description, concept references (terminology/ontology), purpose, use, misuse, provenance, translations
- Item level semantics (Schema level)
  - Trees/Clusters (Structure)
  - Leaf nodes (Data Elements)

#### Formally: different types of terminology bindings:

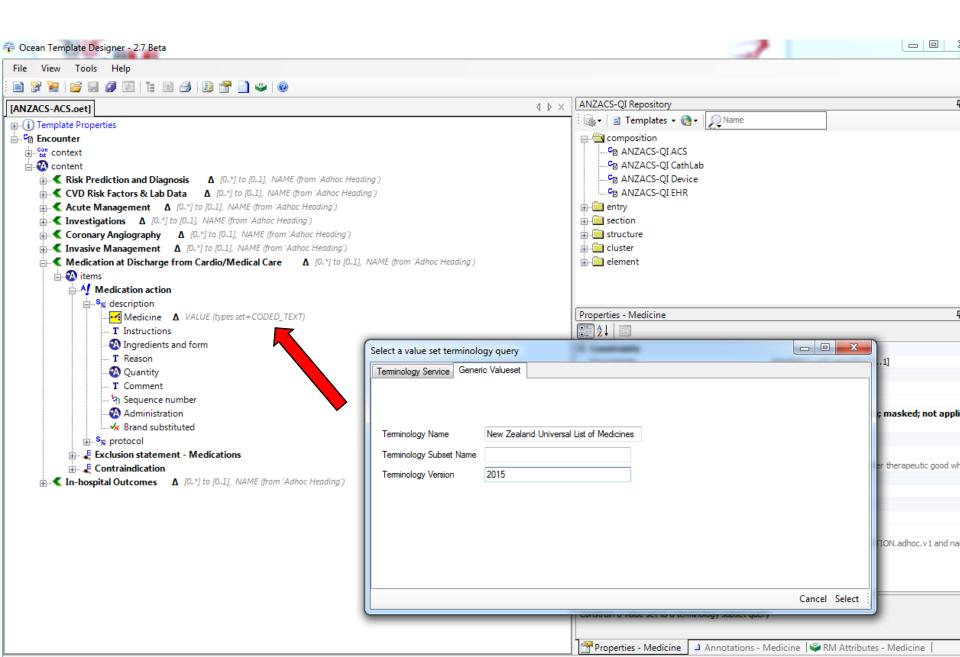
- linking an item to external terminology/ontology for the purpose of defining its <u>real-world clinical/biological **meaning**</u>
- Linking data element values to external terminology (e.g. a RefSet or terminology query)

<u>Also→Instance level</u> semantic annotations – applies to actual data collected

# 1) Linking data items to Ontology to define real-world meaning (~semantic annotation)

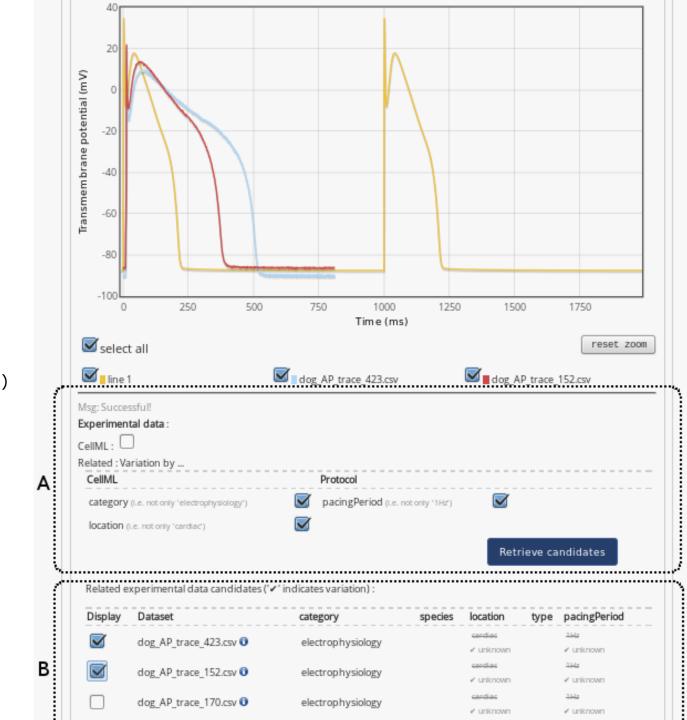


#### 2) Linking data element values to an ontology (or subset)



# Result: Experimental & Simulation Data Integration

-Extended WebLab (doi: 10.1016/j.bpj.2015.12.012)



#### **Conclusion**

- Experimental data and meta-data can be modelled using mature EHR standard
  - No need for a concrete persistence model
  - Supports model based querying
  - Auto-generated GUI for data and meta-data entry
- Good open source tooling and data platforms
- Models can be created and maintained collaboratively
  - Including semantic annotations
  - Supports provenance and version control
- Same tools and methods can be used for managing real-world healthcare data

# **Beyond Experimental Data: Healthcare Data**

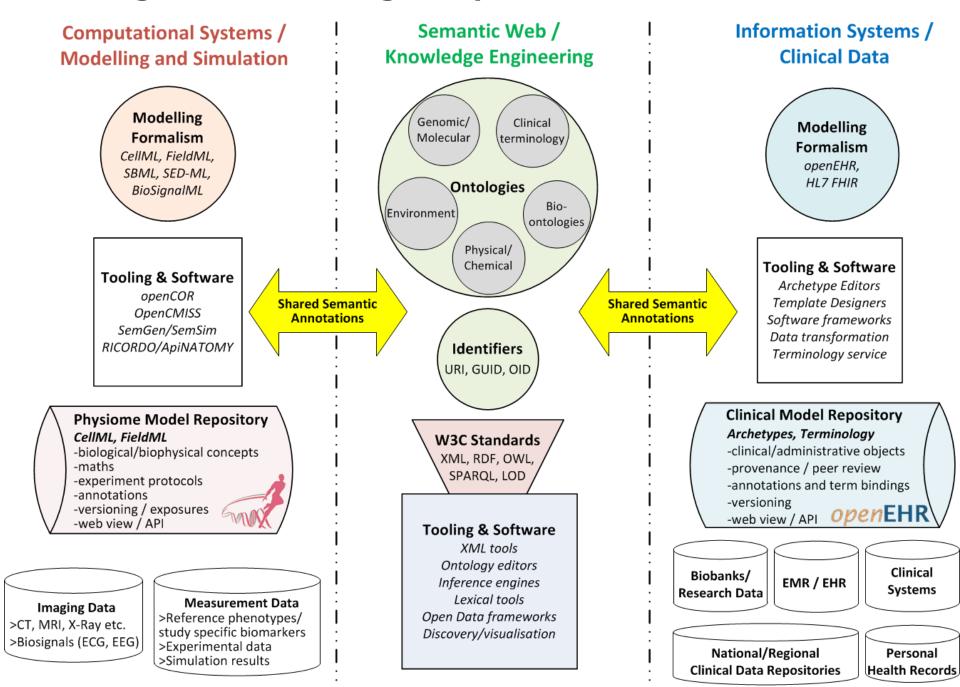
- Healthcare data/longitudinal EHRs are sinks of valuable knowledge/causality
  - Embody effects of <u>environment/psychosocial factors</u>
- Therefore linking with EHRs will enable:
  - Better understanding (genotype>enviro>phenotype)
  - Large scale validation of computational models
  - Personalised computational models
  - → Predictive tools & decision support systems

# Another emerging IM standard: HL7 FHIR (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources)

- Purpose: Information Exchange (not persistence)
  - Scope smaller than openEHR
  - Support simpler use-cases (for exchange)
- Rapid adoption
- Developer oriented / pragmatic
- RESTful API
- Inspired by modern Web technologies leveraging W3C standards (XML family, ATOM, RDF etc.)
- Information models defined as Resources;
  - Semantic linkages supported



#### **Big Picture: Linking Computational Models to Data**



## Some concluding thoughts

#### Linking the two universes - shared semantics!

- Semantic annotation mechanisms & tooling already exist in both universes
  - CellML annotations→ openCOR, SemGen
  - openEHR Archetypes, SNOMED, CTSII etc.

#### → Key considerations should be:

- Shared ontologies / identifiers
  - SNOMED>UMLS> FMA/GO etc.
  - But SNOMED and FMA anatomy not same but similar!
     Bodenreider O, Zhang S. Comparing the Representation of Anatomy in the
     FMA and SNOMED CT. AMIA Annu Symp Proc. 2006;2006:46–50.
- Shared annotation approach
  - RICORDO, PMR2, SemGen etc.
  - More research on joint semantic annotations.
- Shared modelling patterns & governance?