



CIFAR



**12PM**

5PM in London (GMT), 2AM in Tokyo (GMT+9)

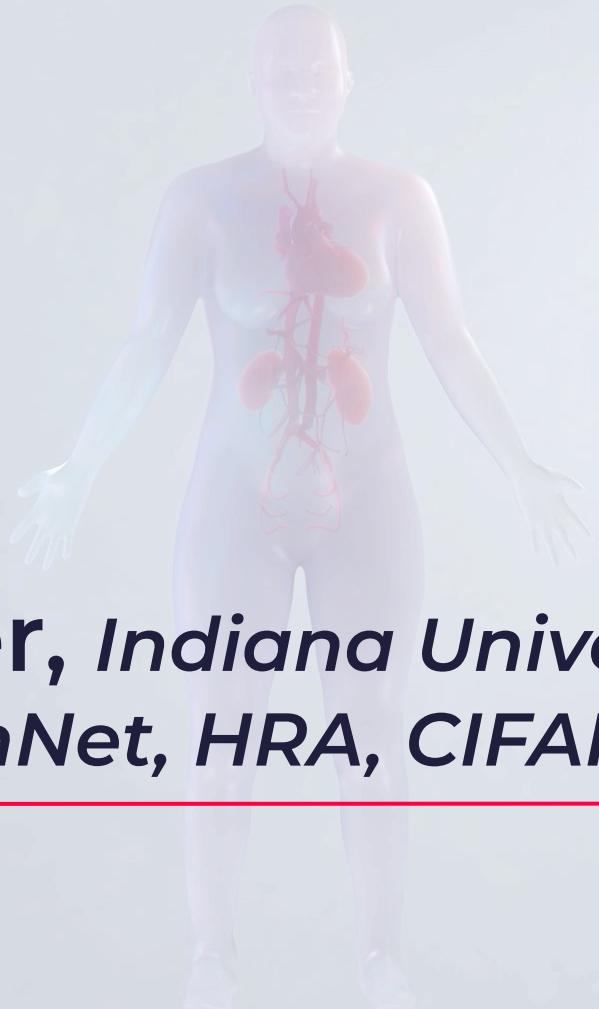
## Welcome and Panel: Multiscale Human: Definitions, Maps, Models

**Moderator:** Katy Börner, *Indiana University*

### Panelists:

- Griffin Weber, *Harvard Medical School (Human Reference Atlas)*
- Karen Miga, *UC Santa Cruz (Pangenome)*
- Clair Walsh, *University College London (Human Organ Atlas)*
- Caterina Strambio, *University of Massachusetts Medical School (4D Nucleome Network)*
- Aviv Regev, *Genentech, Inc. (Human Cell Atlas)*
- Peter Hunter, *Bioengineering Institute New Zealand (SPARC)*
- Maryann Martone, *National Center for Microscopy and Imaging Research (NCMIR)*
- Gary Bader, *University of Toronto, Canada (CIFAR co-director)*

Video: [CIFAR MacMillan Multiscale Human](#)



**Katy Börner, *Indiana University***  
**(HuBMAP, SenNet, HRA, CIFAR Co-Director)**

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# Welcome!

To the first hour of 24!

Each hour will introduce a unique topic related to the multiscale mapping of the human body.

We will cover data, maps and models and the role of 2D/3D visualizations in understanding complex multiscale biological systems.

You'll also learn about the program's founders, funding avenues, and the collaborative efforts advancing this research.

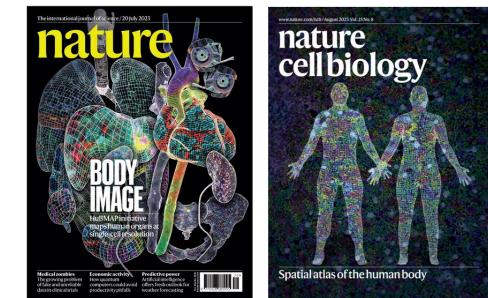
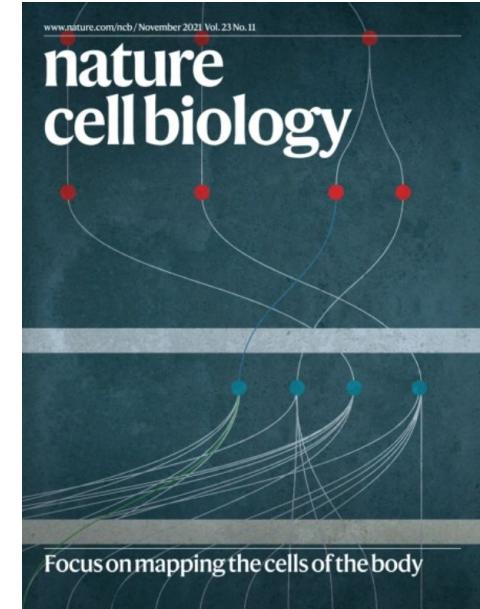
We are glad you can join.

# Human Reference Atlas

The Human Reference Atlas (HRA)

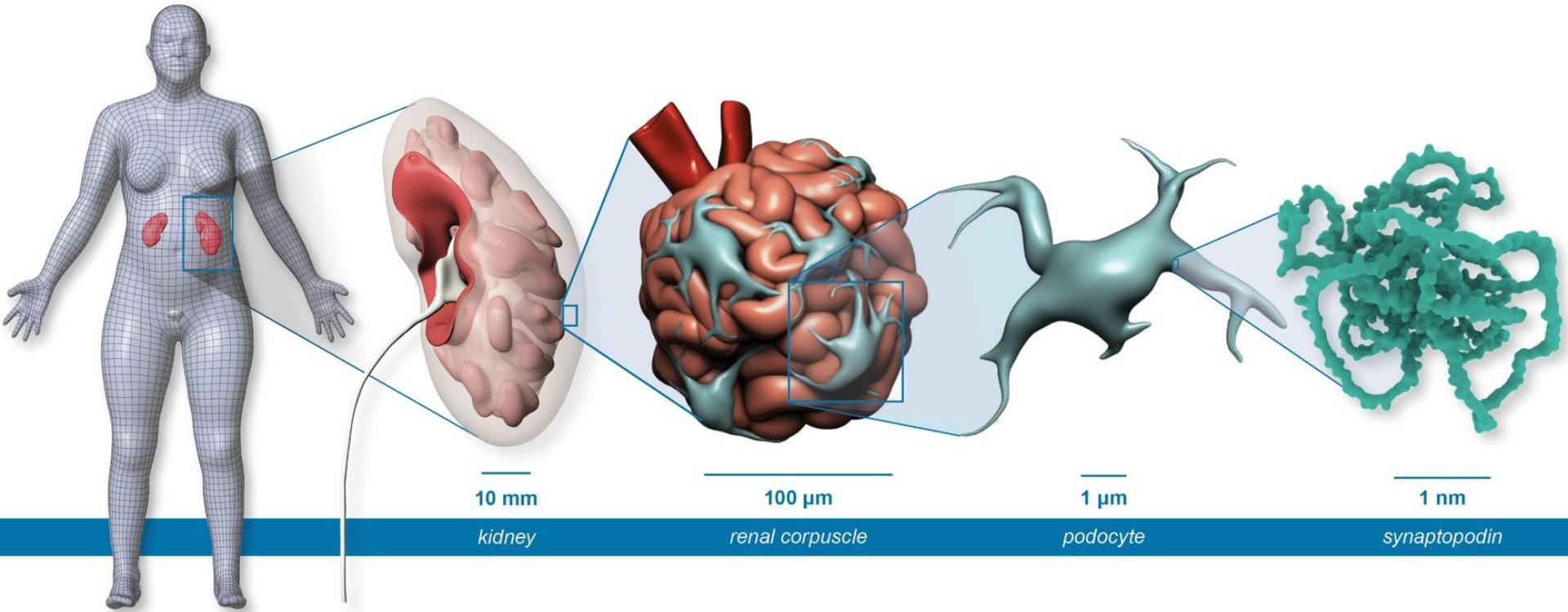
1. defines the 3D space and shape of anatomical structures and cell types that are of biomedical relevance plus the biomarkers used to characterize them. Anatomical structures, cell types and biomarkers are validated and represented in/added to ontologies (Uberon/FMA, CL, HGNC).
2. defines how new datasets can be mapped to the HRA, e.g., spatially using the Visible Human CCF or Vasculature CCF (or both, see next slide), via ASCT+B ontology terms/IDs, or via gene expression data as in Azimuth.
3. it is
  - authoritative (there exists expert agreement and it was validated by data),
  - computable (supports API queries, UIs),
  - published as LOD (connected to gene, disease, and other ontologies and data),
  - open (anyone can use the HRA data and code), and
  - continuously evolving (e.g., as new technologies become available).

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41556-021-00788-6>



# Human Reference Atlas

A multiscale, high-resolution, three-dimensional, ontologically aligned atlas of anatomical structures and cells in the healthy human body



# HRA-focused HIVE Marker Paper

Accepted as *Nature Methods* ‘Resource’ paper

The preprint is at

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.03.27.587041v3>

Thanks go to all 170+ Core and HRA Team authors who made this possible.

It is our hope that this joint paper helps align efforts and optimize data formats, APIs.

The screenshot shows the bioRxiv preprint page for the "Human BioMolecular Atlas Program (HuBMAP): 3D Human Reference Atlas Construction and Usage".

**Header:** bioRxiv THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR BIOLOGY

**Meta-information:** Accepted May 22, 2024. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.03.27.587041>

**Authorship:** Katy Börner, Philip D. Blood, Jonathan C. Silverstein, Matthew Ruffalo, Sarah A. Teichmann, Gloria Pryhuber, Ravi Misra, Jeffrey Purkerson, Jean Fan, John W. Hickey, Gsemira Molla, Chuan Xu, Yun Zhang, Griffin Weber, Yashvardhan Jain, Daniel Qaurooni, Yongxin Kong, HuR Team, Andreas Bueckle, Bruce W. Herr II

**Abstract:** The Human BioMolecular Atlas Program (HuBMAP) aims to construct a reference 3D structural, cellular, and molecular atlas of the healthy adult human body. The HubMAP Data Portal (<https://portal.hubmapconsortium.org>) serves experimental datasets and supports data processing, search, filtering, and visualization. The Human Reference Atlas (HRA) Portal (<https://humanatlas.io>) provides open access to atlas data, code, procedures, and instructional materials. Experts from more than 20 consortia are collaborating to construct the HRA's Common Coordinate Framework (CCF), knowledge graphs, and tools that describe the multiscale structure of the human body (from organs and tissues down to cells, genes, and biomarkers) and to use the HRA to understand changes that occur at each of these levels with aging, disease, and other

**Navigation and Tools:** Download PDF, Print/Save Options, Supplementary Material, Data/Code, Revision Summary, Email, Share, Citation Tools, Get QR code, Post, Like 0, Preview PDF.

**Subject Areas:** Bioinformatics.

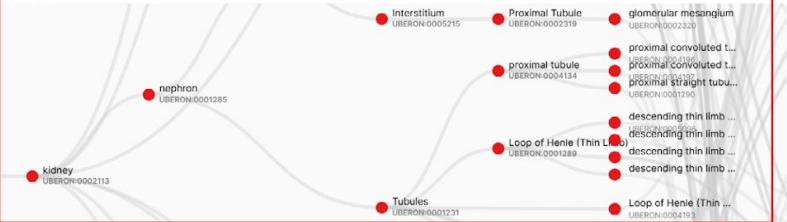
**Subject Areas:** Animal Behavior and Cognition, Biochemistry, Bioengineering, Bioinformatics, Biophysics.

**All Articles:** A list of other articles in the same subject area.

**a**

### Anatomical Structures (AS)

Partonomy Tree  
*part\_of*



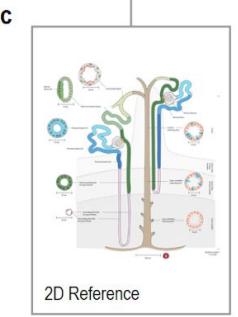
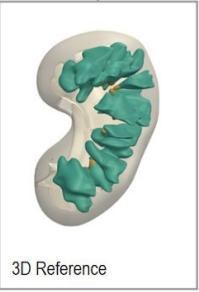
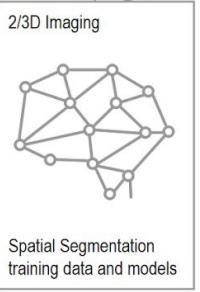
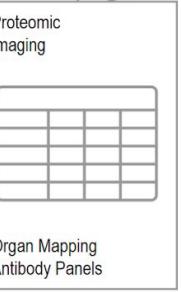
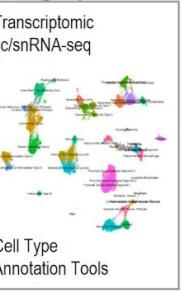
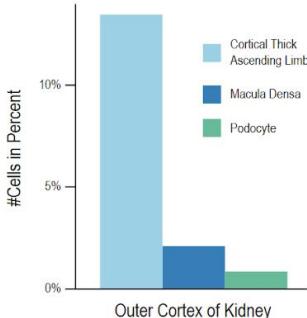
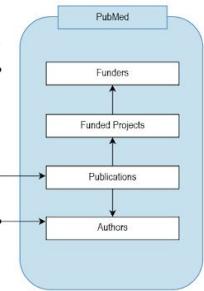
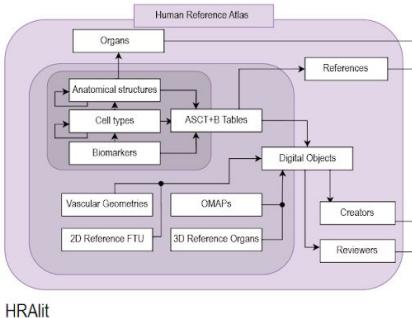
### Cell Types (CT)

Typology Tree  
*is\_a*



### Biomarkers (B)

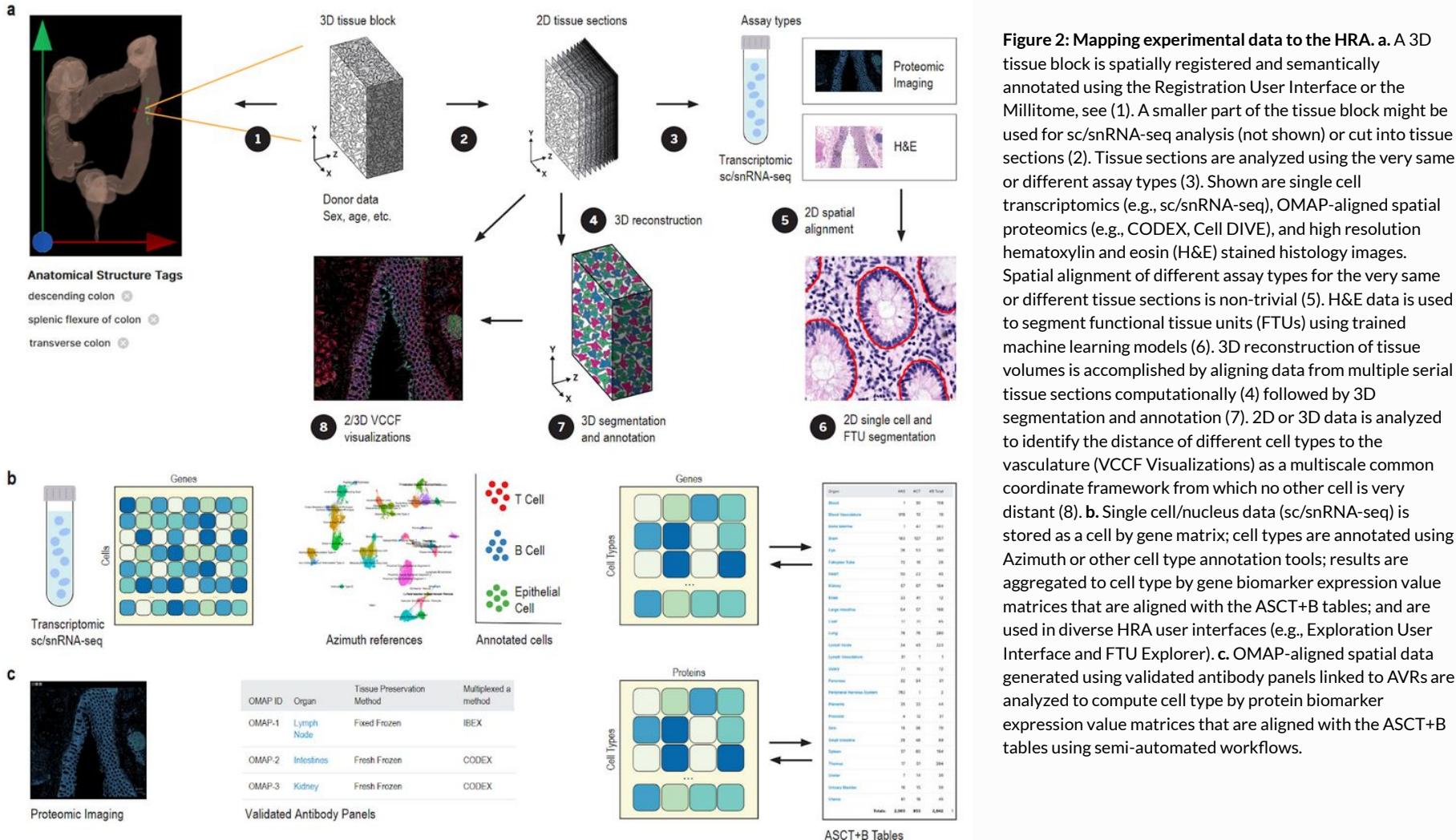
Typology Tree  
*is\_a*

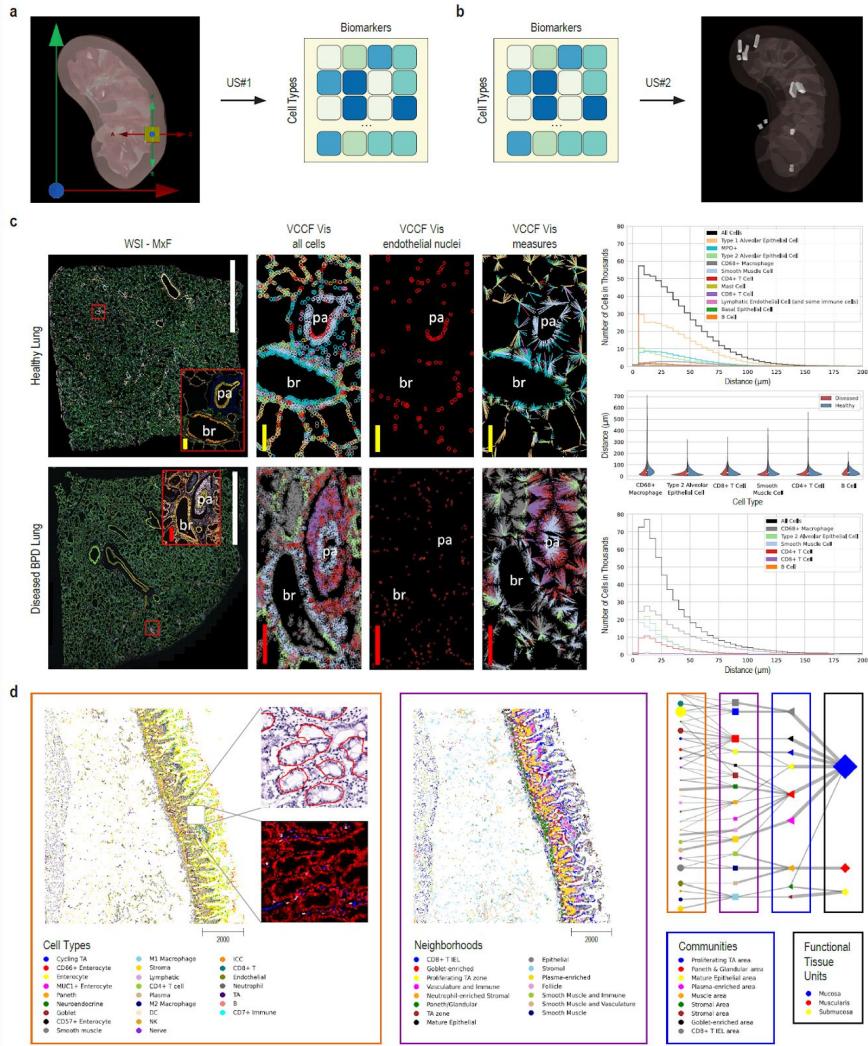
**b****c****d****e****g****h**

**Figure 1: Human Reference Atlas (HRA) components and linkages.** **a.** The anatomical structures, cell types and biomarkers (ASCT+B) tables document the nested *part\_of* structure of organs (e.g., cells that make up functional tissue units, successively larger anatomical structures, an entire organ such as the kidney, which is *part\_of* the body). The cells that make up (are *located\_in*) each of the anatomical structures are organized in a multi-level cell type typology with 'cell' at the root and more and more specialized child nodes. The biomarkers used to characterize cell types might have one of five types: genes, proteins, metabolites, proteoforms, and lipids organized in a biomarker typology. Gray arrows indicate crosswalks that connect other HRA DOs to ASCT+B tables.

**b.** The HRA 3D reference objects represent the shape, size, location, and rotation of 1,218 3D anatomical structures of 356 types for 65 organs with crosswalks to ASCT+B tables. Shown are 'renal papilla' and 'renal pyramid' in the kidney. **c.** 2D reference illustrations document the shape, size, and spatial layout of 3,726 2D cells of 131 types for 22 FTUs in 10 organs with crosswalks to ASCT+B tables. Shown is the kidney nephron. **d.** Labeled training data exist for FTUs in five organs with crosswalks (gray arrows) to anatomical structures and cell types in the ASCT+B tables. **e.** 13 Organ Mapping Antibody Panels (OMAPs) are linked to 197 Antibody Validation Reports (AVRs) and there exist crosswalks to cell types and biomarkers in ASCT+B tables. **f.** 10 Azimuth references for healthy adult organs plus crosswalks to cell types and biomarkers in ASCT+B tables. **g.** Cell type populations from single cell experimental data exist for 74 3D anatomical structures across 23 organs with 13 unique UBERON IDs in the HRA. Shown is the 'outer cortex of kidney' on left and a bar graph that plots the percentage of cells for three cell types in this anatomical structure on right.

**h.** The HRAlit database links HRA DOs to existing ontologies (e.g., Uberon, CL), expert ORCID, publication evidence, funding, and experimental data used for HRApop computation.





**Figure 3: Human Reference Atlas Usage.** **a.** User story #1 (US#1) lets a user define a 3D volume inside of the HRA reference body using the RUI and it predicts cell type populations and mean expression values for cell types in that volume. **b.** User story #2 (US#2) reads cell type population data and predicts the 3D origin of tissue, shown as a collection of extraction sites that have a similar cell type population. **c.** HRA can be used to compare the distribution of parenchymal cells including endothelial, epithelial, and muscle that compose the blood vessels, airways and gas exchanging functional lung structures, and resident immune cells including macrophages, to local vasculature (VCCF Visualizations) in healthy (top) and diseased (bottom) lung using multiplexed immunofluorescence microscopy images with bronchiole (br) and an accompanying small pulmonary artery (pa). Scale bar legend: white: 5 mm, red: 200  $\mu$ m, yellow: 100  $\mu$ m. The graphs on the right show distance distributions for cell types present in the healthy lung (top) and diseased BPD lung (bottom); the violin plot (middle) shows a comparison between distance distributions for cell types common in both datasets. **d.** Multi-level cell neighborhoods can be computed to analyze and communicate the structure and function of FTUs; tissue image with cell type annotations and zoom into H&E with FTU segmentations (red outlines) and zoom into the multiplexed image (CODEX) is shown in left, neighborhoods are given in the middle; hierarchy of FTUs, neighborhoods, communities, and cell types are shown on the right.



**Griffin Weber, Harvard Medical School**  
*(Human Reference Atlas)*

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# Vasculation Common Coordinate Framework

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Katherine S Gustilo

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Marc Halushka

Ellen M Quardokus

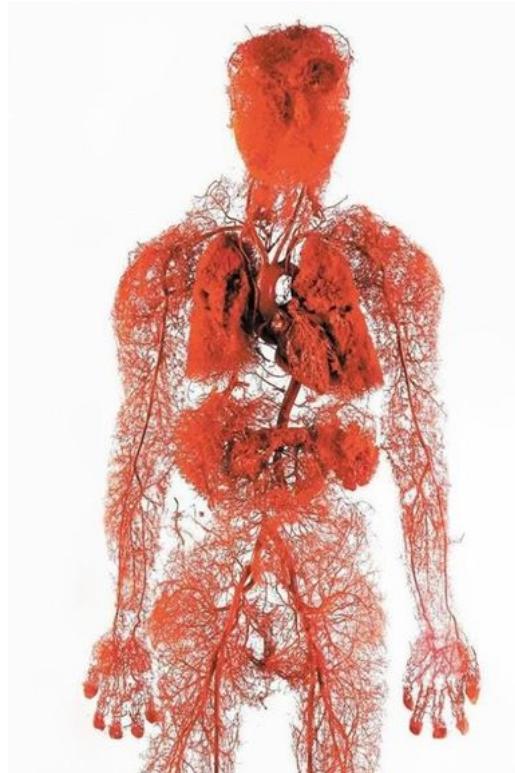
Avinash Boppana

Bruce W Herr II

Ushma Patel

Zorina Galis

Katy Börner



<https://bodyworlds.com/>

# Multiscale Maps of Roads

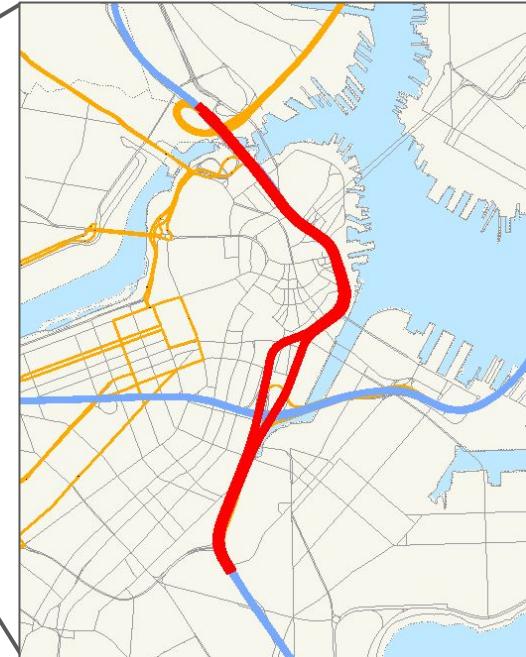
(similar to multiscale maps of blood vessel pathways through the body)

Daily traffic, U.S. National Highway System



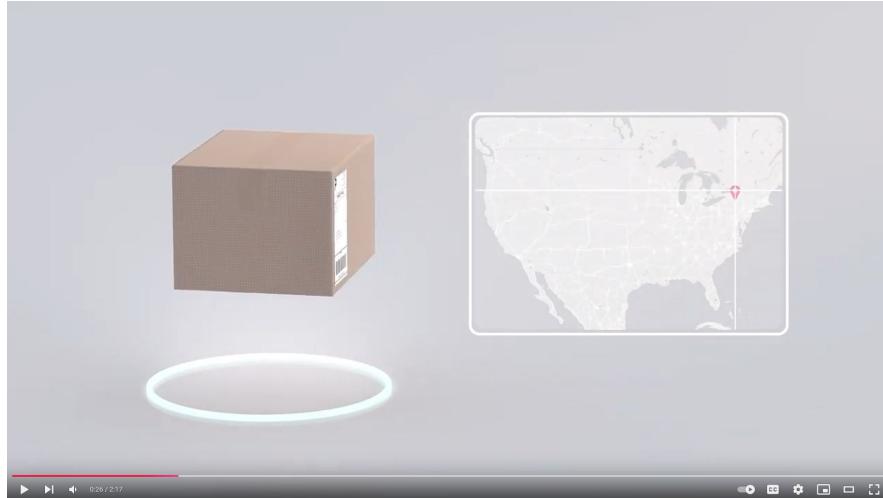
Note: Major flows include domestic and international freight moving by truck on highway segments with more than twenty five FAF trucks per day and between places typically more than fifty miles apart.  
Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Freight Management and Operations, Freight Analysis Framework, version 4.3, 2017.

Boston “Central Artery”

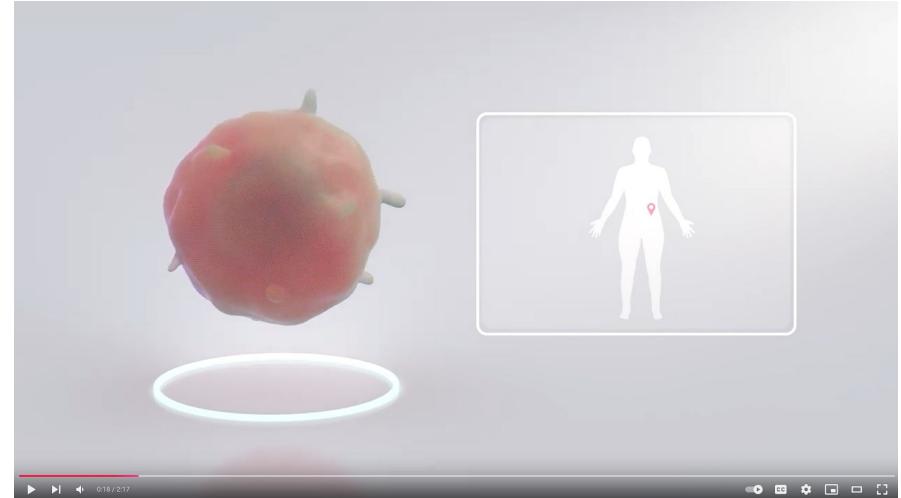


John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, By Sswonk, Public Domain,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4538754>

Trucks follow roads to deliver  
a package to a house



Blood cells follow vessels to  
deliver oxygen to organs

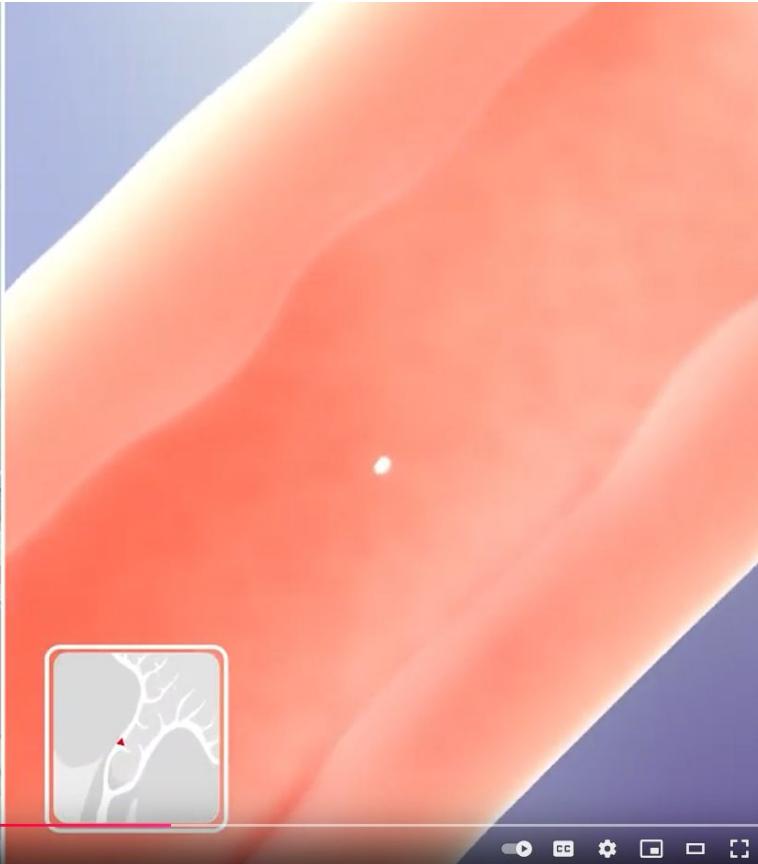


[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQeMgxo8n\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQeMgxo8n_U)

# Highway (1000 km)

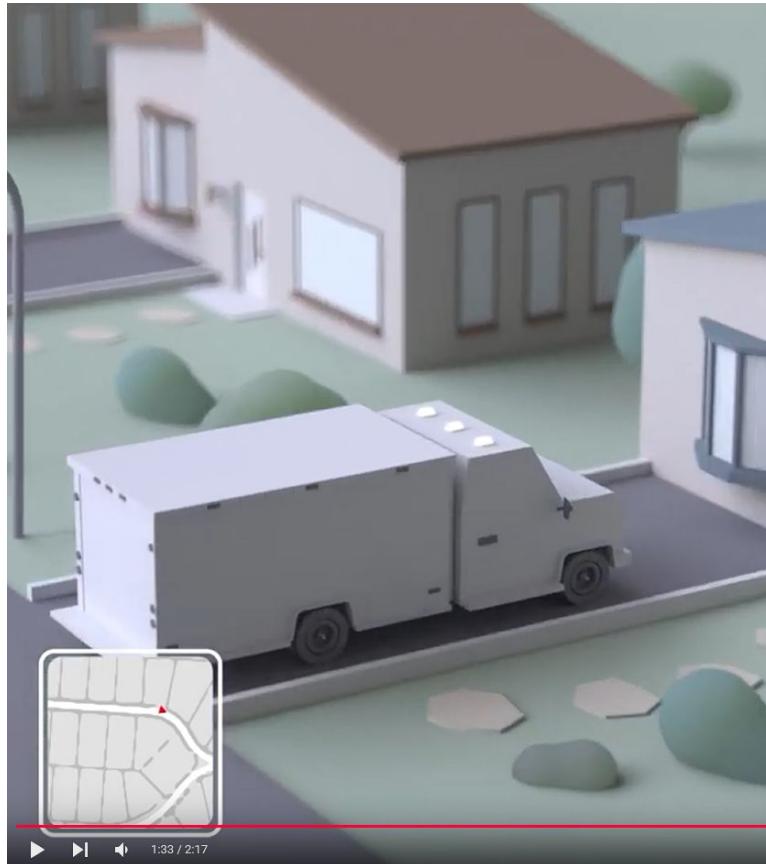


# Artery (1 m)

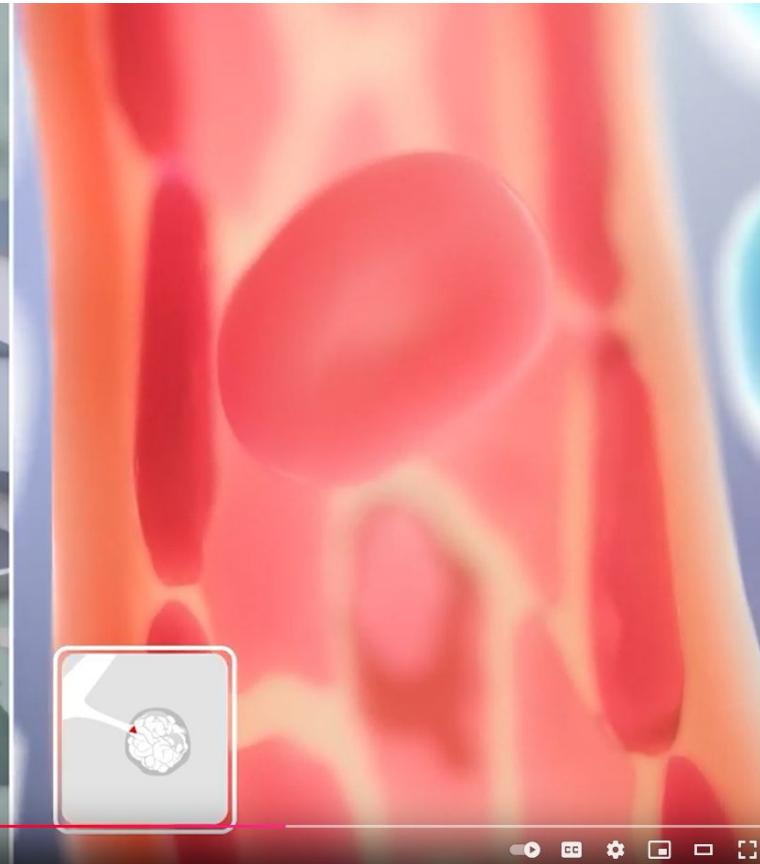


[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQeMgxo8n\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQeMgxo8n_U)

# Street (1 km)

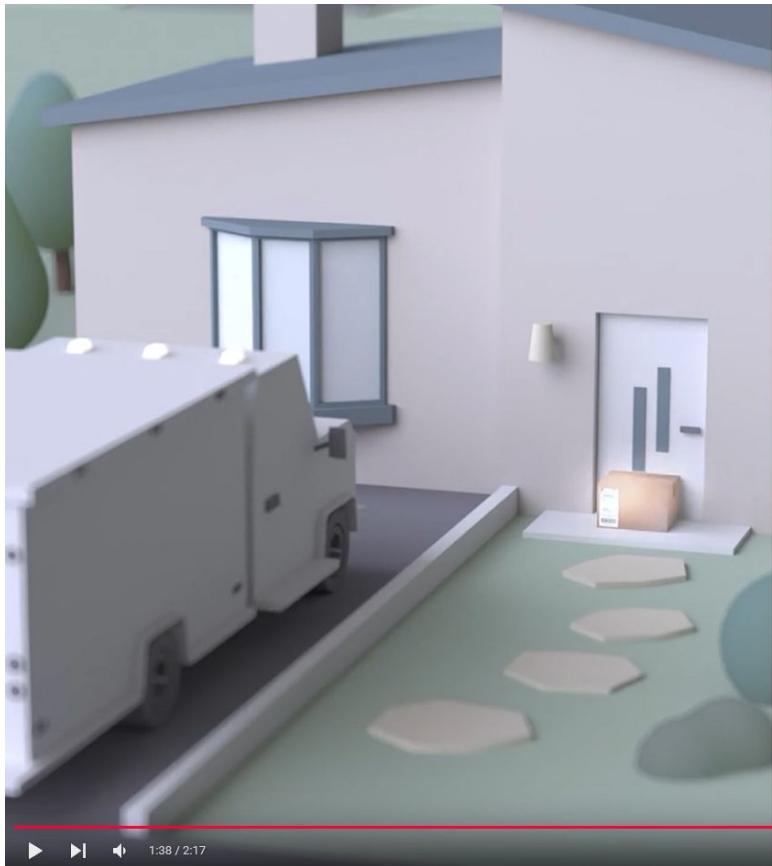


# Arteriole (0.5 cm)

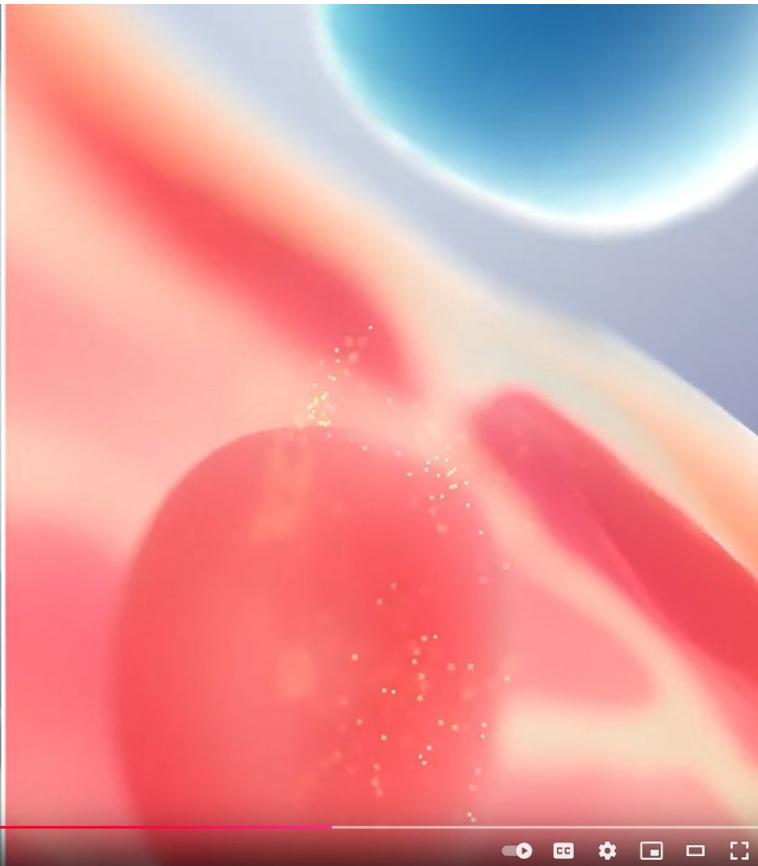


[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQeMgxo8n\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQeMgxo8n_U)

# Driveway (10 m)



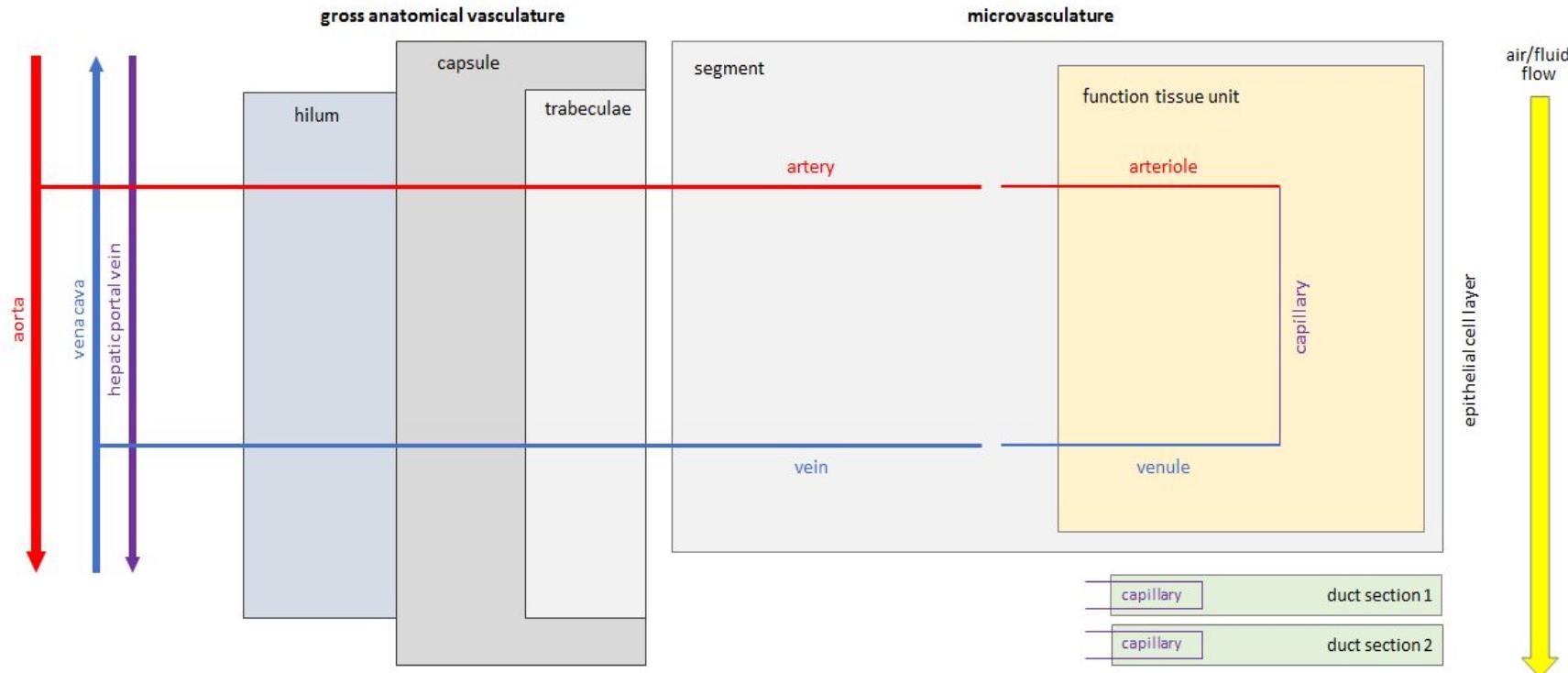
# Capillary ( $0.5 \text{ mm} \times 0.01 \text{ mm}$ )



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQeMgxo8n\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQeMgxo8n_U)

# Blood Vasculature to Organ Crosswalk Diagrams

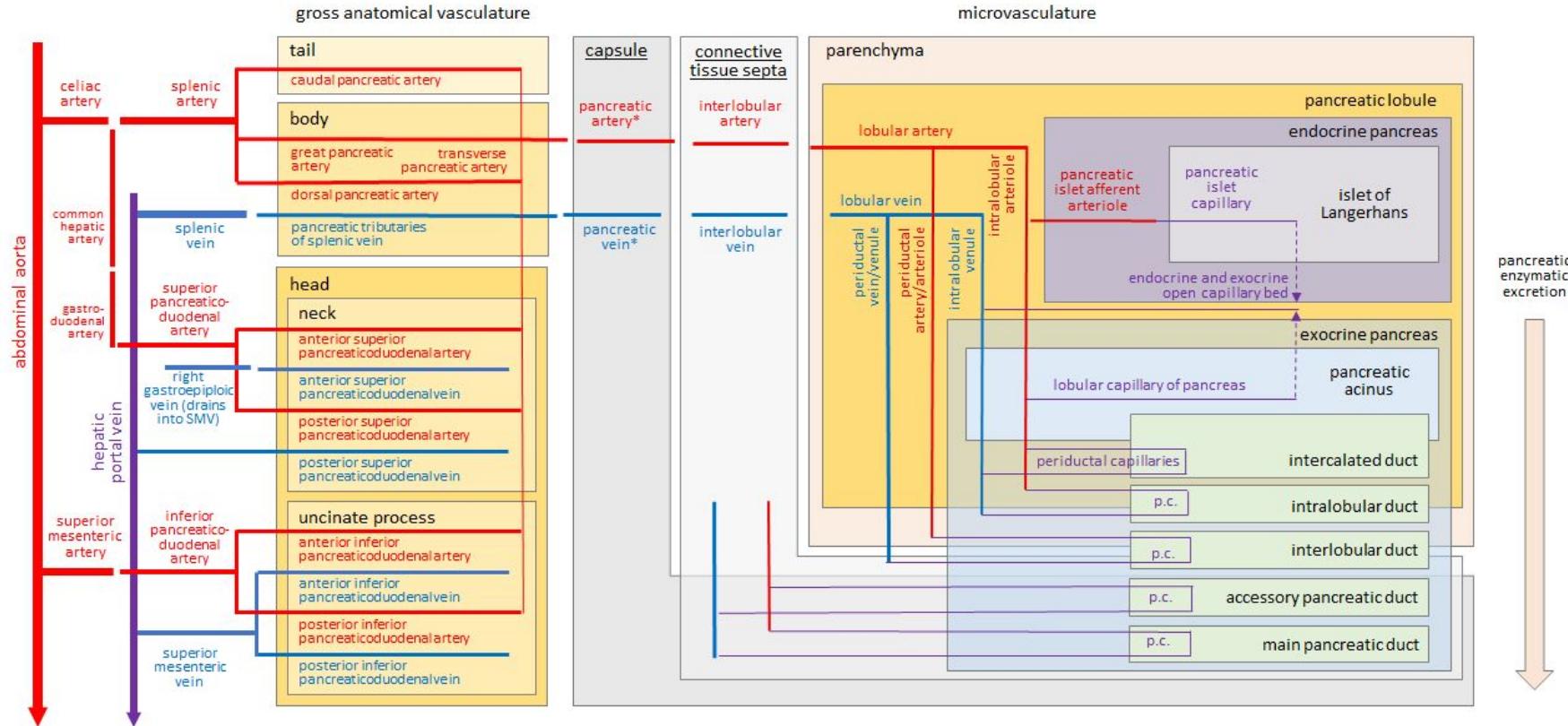
## Template



Boppana A, Lee S, Malhotra R, Halushka M, Gustilo KS, Quardokus EM, Herr BW 2nd, Börner K, Weber GM. Anatomical structures, cell types, and biomarkers of the healthy human blood vasculature. *Sci Data*. 2023 Jul 19;10(1):452. doi: 10.1038/s41597-023-02018-0.

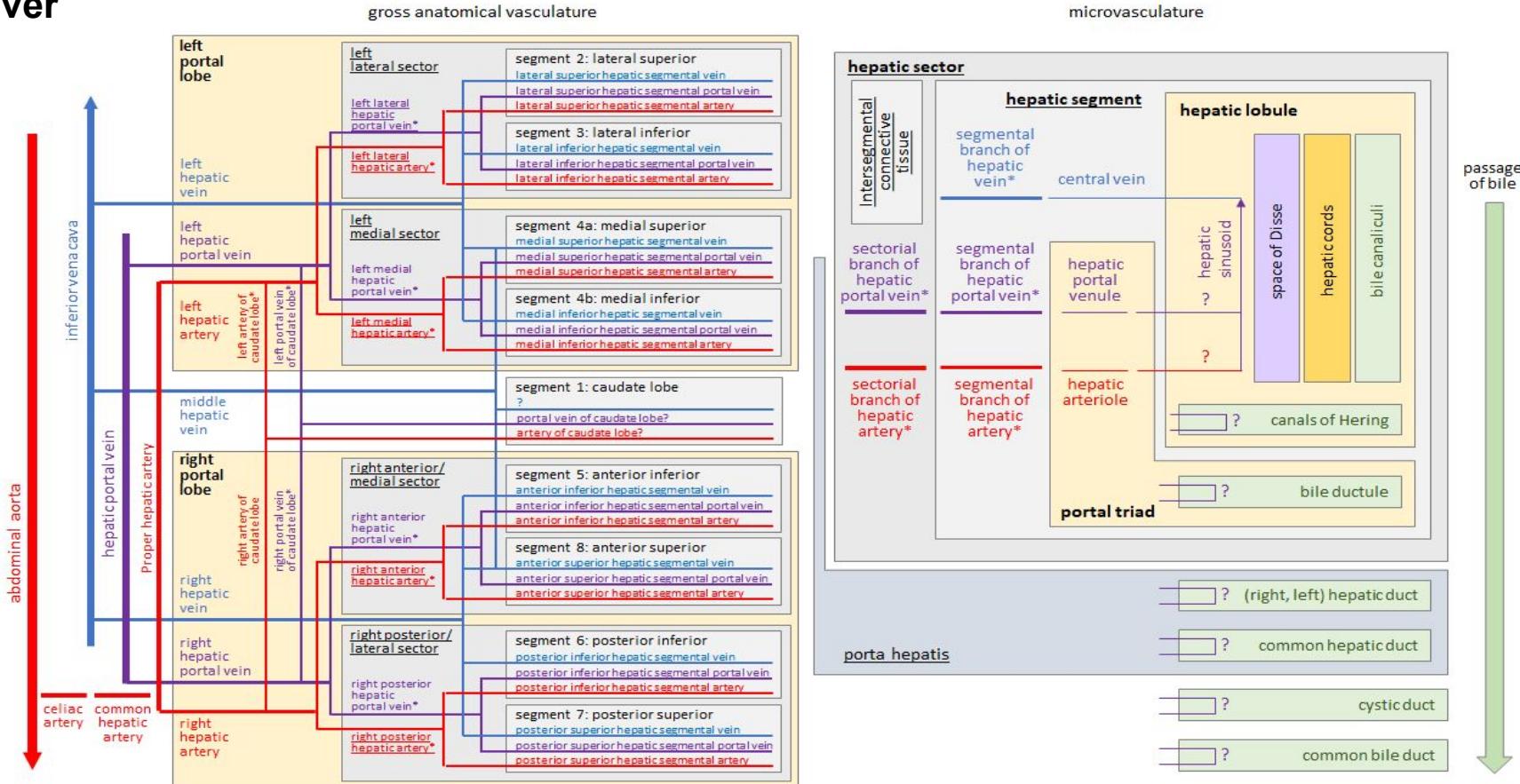
# Blood Vasculature to Organ Crosswalk Diagrams

## Pancreas



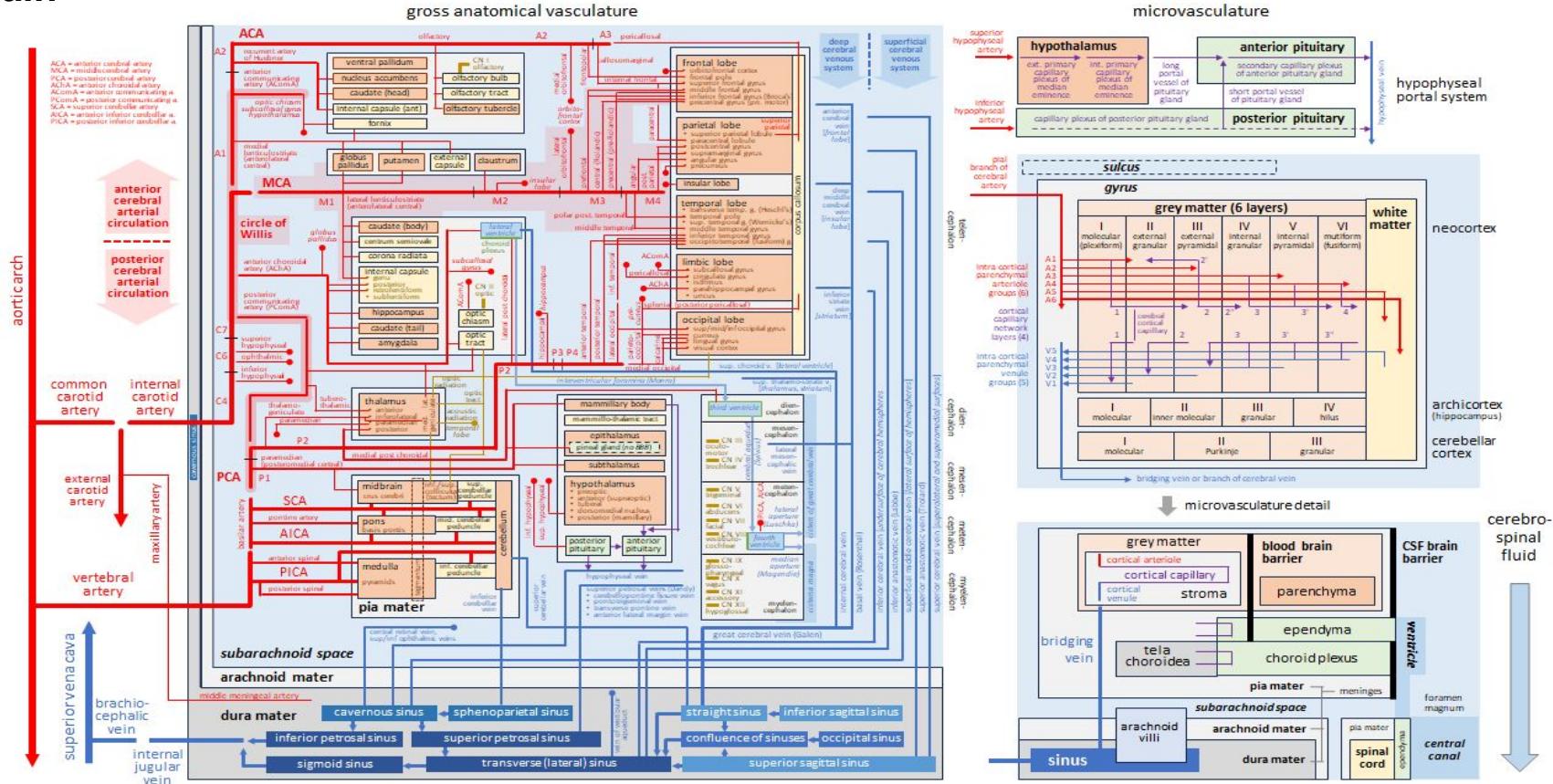
# Blood Vasculature to Organ Crosswalk Diagrams

## Liver



# Blood Vasculature to Organ Crosswalk Diagrams

## Brain



The background of the slide features a complex, abstract visualization of biological data. It consists of numerous translucent, glowing particles in shades of blue, green, and pink, which are interconnected by a dense network of thin, glowing lines. This creates a sense of a dynamic, living system, possibly representing genetic or protein interactions. The overall aesthetic is modern and scientific.

**Karen Miga, UC Santa Cruz (*Pangenome*)**

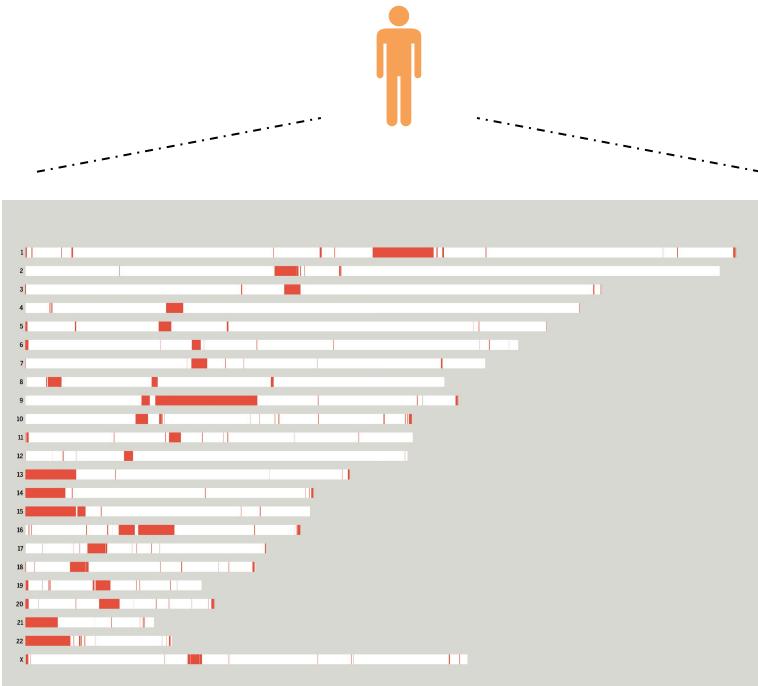
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# A Need to Modernize the Human Reference Genome

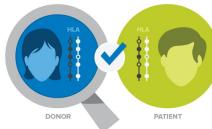


- The human reference genome is a foundational resource in human genetics and **like most technology-driven resources, is overdue for an upgrade.**
- Improvements in long-read sequencing and assembly methods allow the **production of high-quality genomes**
- The current structure is a **linear haplotype, largely representing a single individual.** This introduces biases and excludes sequence variation.

# One genome cannot represent the genetic diversity of the human species



## HLA-A Typing:



Autoimmunity Allergy, Transplant  
(allogenic stem cell transplant, solid organ, and blood marrow)

## SMA Locus

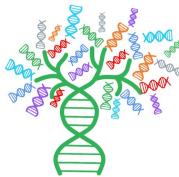


Leading cause of early infant death  
(1:6,000-10,000 live births)

## CYP2D6

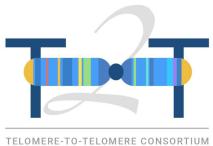


Responsible for the metabolism of  
around 25% of clinically used drug



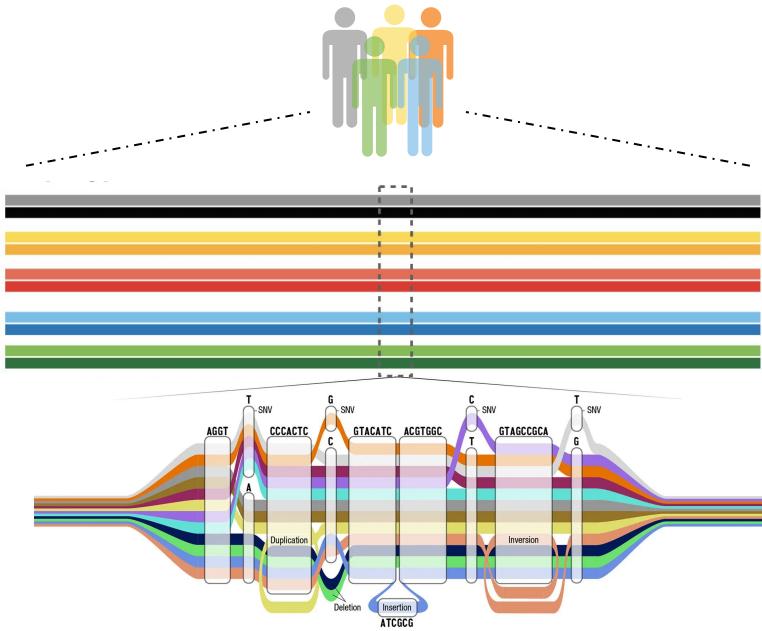
# Human Pangenome Reference Consortium

- Call to action from NHGRI to improve representation of **global genomic diversity** (common alleles, ~1% AF)
- Organized a team of researchers with expertise in long read technologies, complex variation, and T2T assemblies.



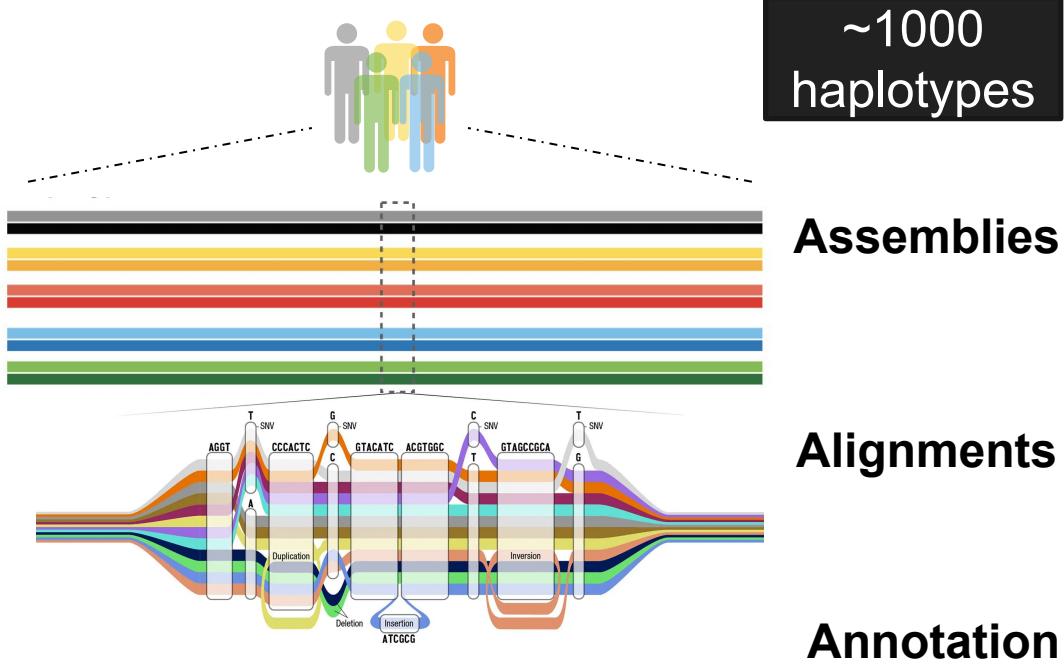
- Develop a new, non-linear reference data structure and foster an innovative ecosystem of pangenomic tools

# Pangenome reference resource will better represents and serve humanity



One genome can introduce bias in  
genomics medicine initiatives

# Pangenome reference resource will better represents and serve humanity



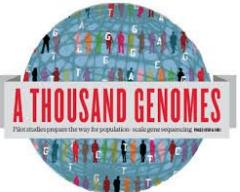
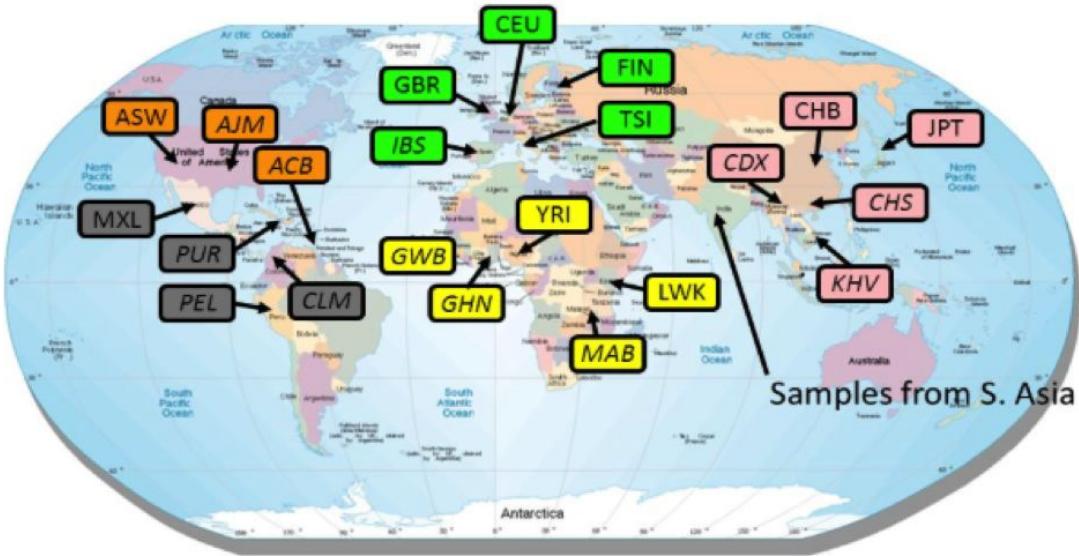
OPEN  ACCESS

New Tooling Ecosystem

- Pangenome construction:  
T2T Assemblies, QC,  
Genome Annotation
- Read/assembly alignment  
and variant calling

# Who is currently represented in the Pangenome?

Pangenome should comprehensively capture most common variants, defined as variants at **>1% frequency**, in human populations globally



Phase I: Use of 1000 Genomes Cell Lines

# Advancement in automated T2T assemblies

28



Rautiainen, M., Nurk, S., Walenz, B.P. et al.  
Telomere-to-telomere assembly of diploid  
chromosomes with Verkko. Nat Biotechnol (2023)



Cheng, H., Jarvis, E.D., Fedrigo, O., Koepfli, K.P.,  
Urban, L., Gemmell, N.J., Li, H. Haplotype-resolved  
assembly of diploid genomes without parental  
data. Nat Biotechnol (2022)

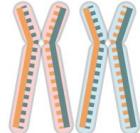
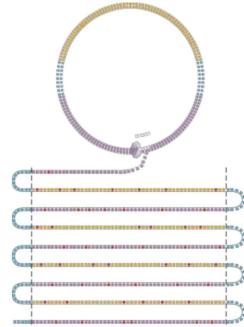
Assembly methods: **verkko** and **hifiasm-UL**

Both methods rely on a combination of  
long accurate reads (**PacBio HiFi**) + ultra-long data (**ONT-UL**) +  
Phasing data (**Illumina** HiC or Strand-Seq/verkko only)

**PacBio**

Oxford  
**NANOPORE**  
Technologies

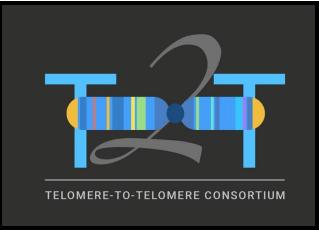
**illumina**



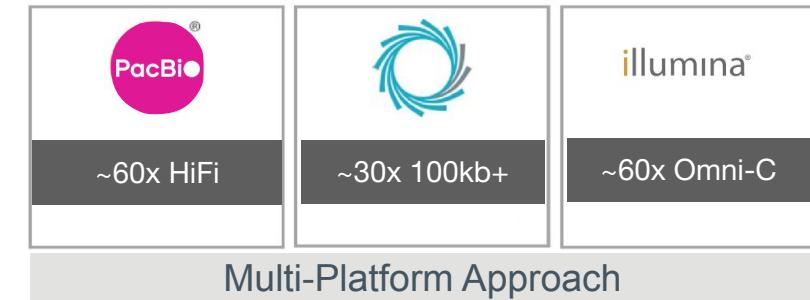
# Advancement in automated T2T assemblies



Rautiainen, M., Nurk, S., Walenz, B.P. et al.  
**Telomere-to-telomere assembly of diploid  
chromosomes with Verkko.** Nat Biotechnol (2023)



Cheng, H., Jarvis, E.D., Fedrigo, O., Koepfli, K.P.,  
Urban, L., Gemmell, N.J., Li, H. **Haplotype-resolved  
assembly of diploid genomes without parental  
data.** Nat Biotechnol (2022)



Jarvis\*, Formenti\*, et al. Nature 2022

# Draft Release of a Human Pangenome



nature

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[nature](#) > [articles](#) > [article](#)

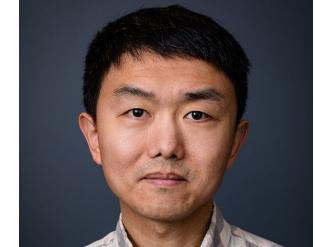
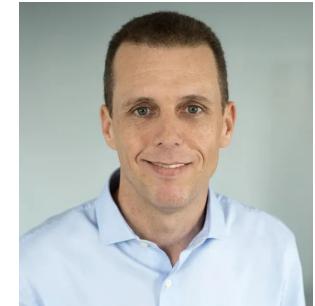
Article | [Open Access](#) | Published: 10 May 2023

## A draft human pangenome reference

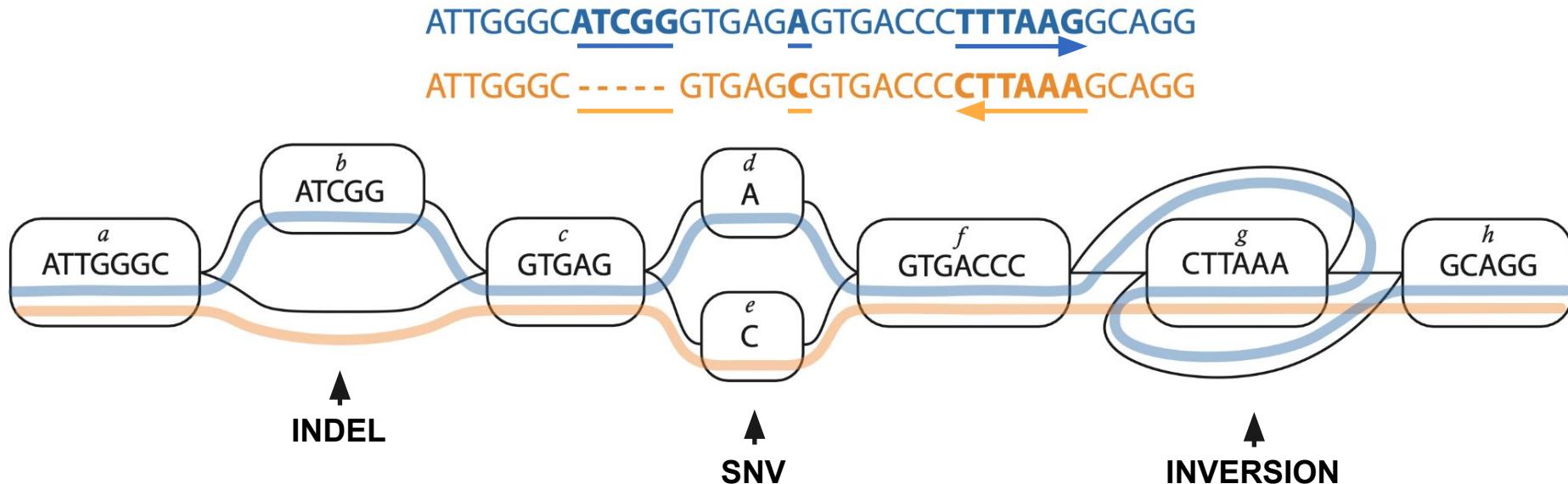
[Wen-Wei Liao](#), [Mobin Asri](#), [Jana Ebler](#), [Daniel Doerr](#), [Marina Haukness](#), [Glenn Hickey](#), [Shuangjia Lu](#),  
[Julian K. Lucas](#), [Jean Monlong](#), [Haley J. Abel](#), [Silvia Buonaiuto](#), [Xian H. Chang](#), [Haoyu Cheng](#), [Justin Chu](#), [Vincenza Colonna](#), [Jordan M. Eizenga](#), [Xiaowen Feng](#), [Christian Fischer](#), [Robert S. Fulton](#), [Shilpa Garg](#), [Cristian Groza](#), [Andrea Guarracino](#), [William T. Harvey](#), [Simon Heumsos](#), ... [Benedict Paten](#)✉  
+ Show authors

[Nature](#) 617, 312–324 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

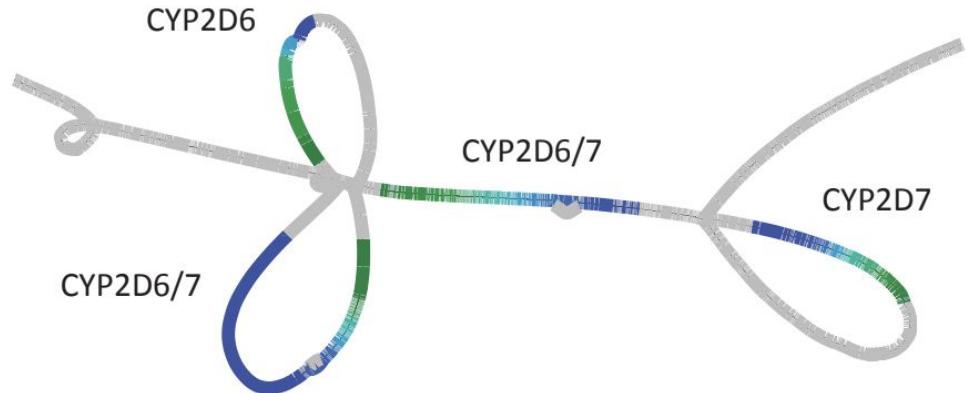
5 Citations | 2985 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)



# Genome Graphs



# CYP2D6/7 genes: cytochrome P450 family of enzymes

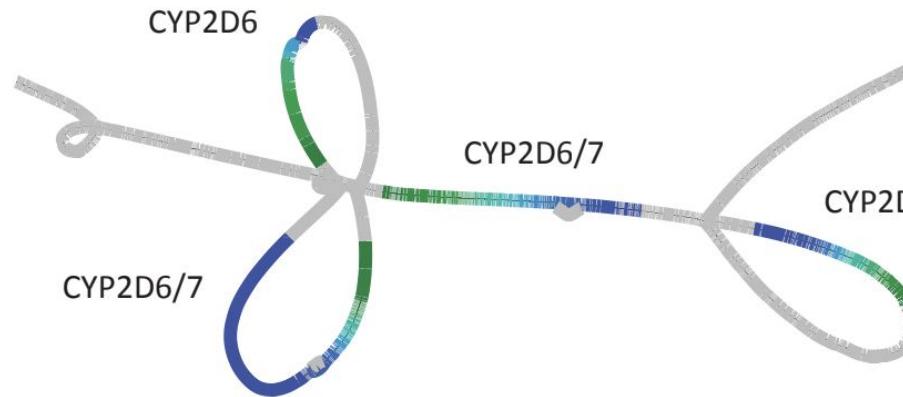


**CYP2D6** is particularly important because it is responsible for the metabolism of around 25% of clinically used drugs, including antidepressants, antipsychotics, analgesics, and beta-blockers.

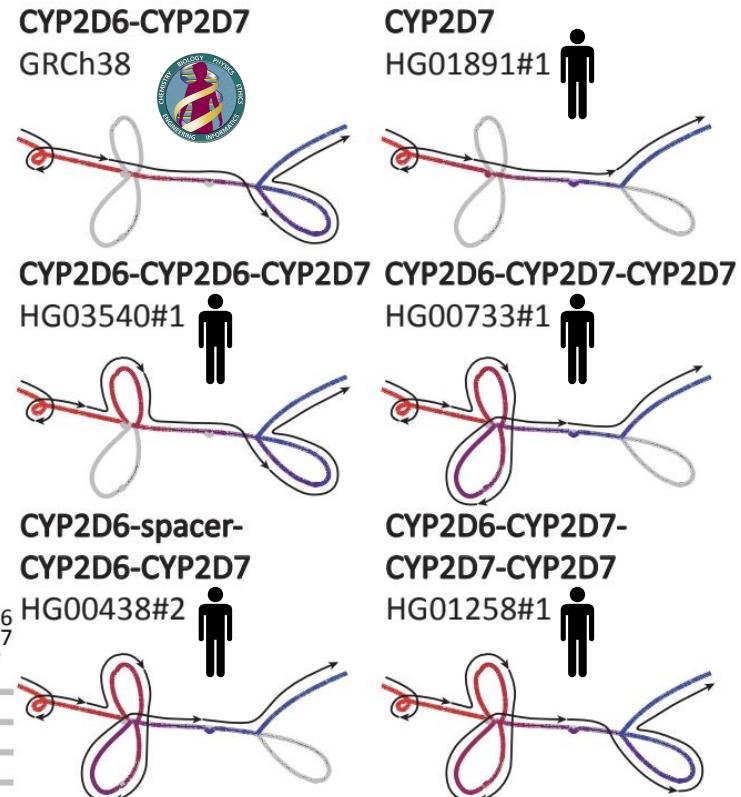
Variations in the CYP2D6 gene can greatly affect how an individual metabolizes these drugs.

Figure Credit:  
Shuangjia Liu (Yale)

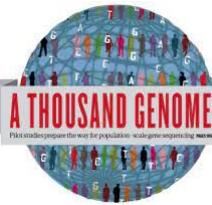
# CYP2D6/7 genes: cytochrome P450 family of enzymes



Count	Frequency	Haplotype name	gene
78	0.87	CYP2D6-CYP2D7	CYP2D6 CYP2D7 spacer
6	0.07	CYP2D7	
2	0.02	CYP2D6-CYP2D6-CYP2D7	
1	0.01	spacer-CYP2D6-CYP2D7	
1	0.01	CYP2D6-CYP2D7-CYP2D7	
1	0.01	CYP2D6-spacer-CYP2D6-CYP2D7	
1	0.01	CYP2D6-CYP2D7-CYP2D6-CYP2D7	
1	0.01	CYP2D6-CYP2D7-CYP2D7-CYP2D7	



# HPRC Pangenome Release Roadmap



**“Alpha” - Draft**  
47 Genomes  
May 2023



**“Beta” - Improvement**  
>170 Genomes  
Early 2025

- HiFi (30x)
- ONT-UL (30x) - R9
- OmniC (30x)
- Illumina (30x)



**1.0 - Stable “T2T”**  
>350 Genomes  
2026

- HiFi (60x), Deep Consensus
- ONT-UL (30x) - R9, R10
- OmniC (30x)
- Illumina (30x)
- Long read RNA (Kinnex, 10M)
- FiberSeq (40x)
- Element (30x)



**1.1 - Refinement**  
>550 Genomes  
2028

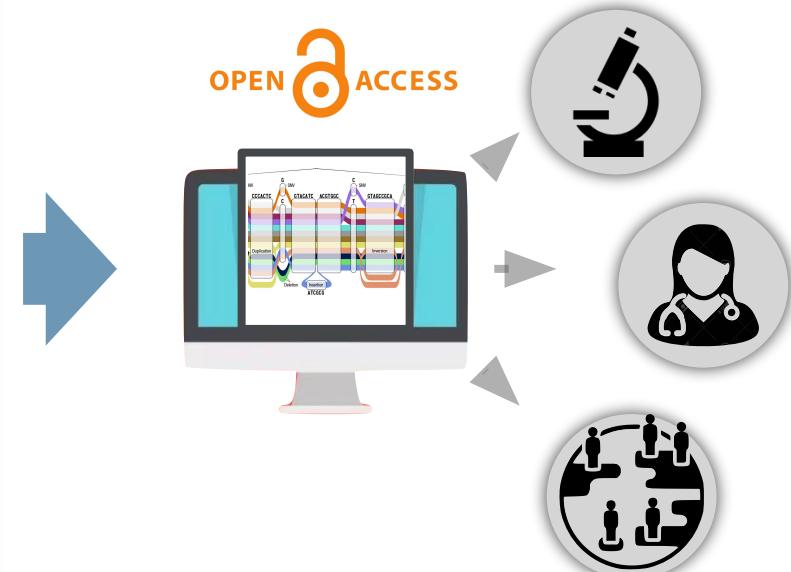
- HiFi (60x), Deep Consensus
- ONT-UL (30x) - R10
- OmniC (30x)
- Illumina (30x)
- Long read RNA (Kinnex, 10M)
- FiberSeq (40x)
- Element (30x)



## A Global Human Pangenome Resource



A world map where each continent is filled with a unique color gradient, transitioning from blue in North America and Europe to red in South America and Australia, and through various shades of green, yellow, and orange across Africa, Asia, and Australia. Below the map is the logo for the Global Alliance for Genomics & Health, which consists of a circular emblem with a grid pattern in blue, purple, and green, followed by the text "Global Alliance for Genomics & Health" and the tagline "Collaborate. Innovate. Accelerate.".





**Caterina Strambio De Castillia,  
UMass Chan Medical School (4D Nucleome  
Network, BioImaging North America,  
QUAREP-LiMi)**

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# Integration of the 4D Nucleome Nuclear CCF with the HuBMAP Human Reference Atlas (HRA) CCF



Frank Alber  
UCLA



Susanne  
Rafelski  
AICS



Yin Shen  
UCSF



Lacra Bintu  
Stanford



Caterina  
Strambio DC  
UMass Chan



Quan Zhu  
UCSD

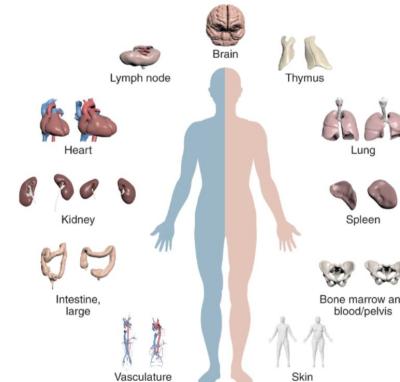


Bogdan Bintu  
UCSD



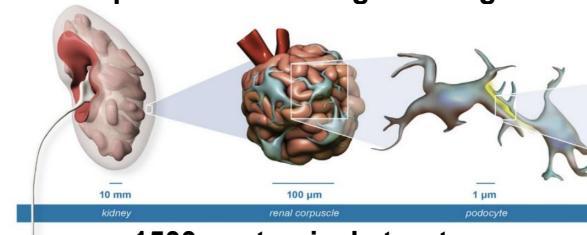
Katy Borner  
Indiana U.

## 4DN Integrating and Imaging and Omics WG



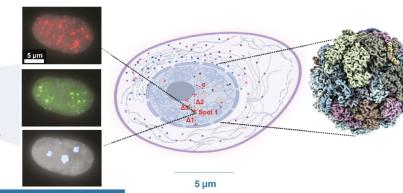
## 4DN Imaging WG

### Common Coordinate Framework for Spatial and Ontological Integration



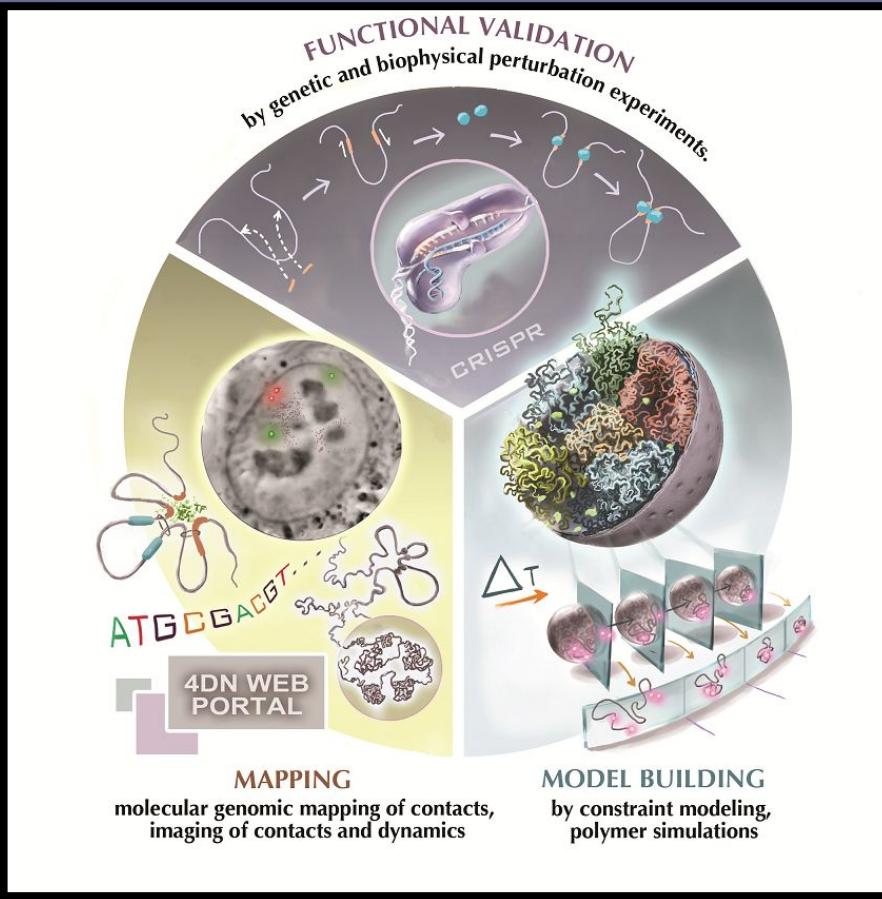
1500 anatomical structures

### Integration of 4DN FISH Omics



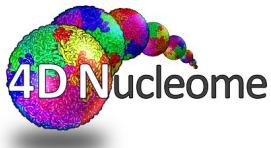


# NIH Common Fund 4D Nucleome Initiative



- Phase 1: 2015-19
- Phase 2: 2020-25
- 4DN Data Portal  
<https://data.4dnucleome.org/>
- Dekker et al. Current state and future aims of the 4D nucleome project. *Molecular Cell*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2023.06.018>



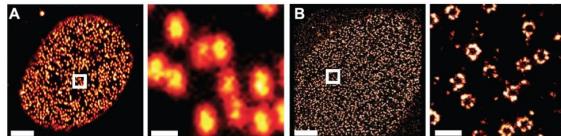


# Production and Utilization of FAIR Imaging Data via Inter-Consortia Partnerships

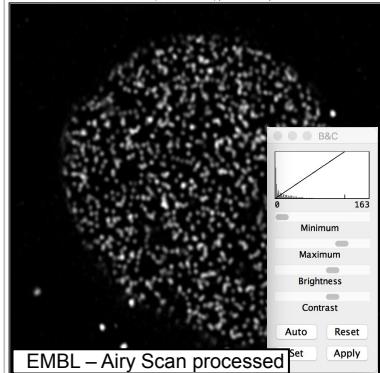
1. **Microscopy Metadata** specifications and **Micro-Meta App** initiated by 4DN to expand the OME Data Model are forming the basis for a **global effort to standardize image acquisition metadata**
2. The 4DN developed **FISH-OMICS Format for Chromatin Tracing (FOF-CT)** for the exchange of results of multiplexed DNA and RNA FISH data
3. The **4DN Nuclear Common Coordinate Framework (CCF)** developed by the IOWG and IWG is being **integrated with the HuBMAP Human Reference Atlas (HRA) CCF**



# Data comparability



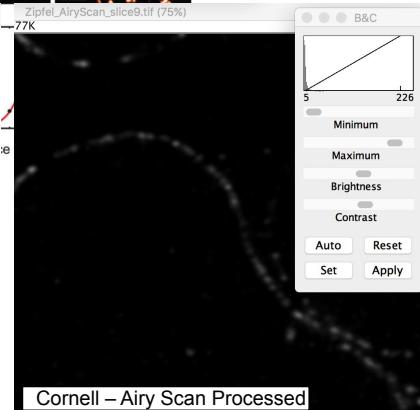
Nup107-SNAP\_BG\_AF647\_slide2\_bottom\_Out.tif  
21.13x21.13 microns (364x364); 16-bit; 259K



EMBL – Airy Scan processed

Jonas Ries

Zipfie\_AiryScan\_slice9.tif (75%)  
-77K

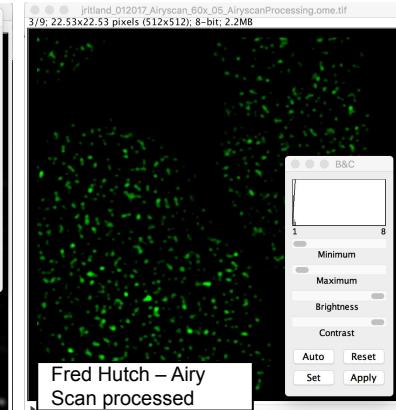


Cornell – Airy Scan Processed

Richard Conroy

Rob Singer

Jitland\_012017\_AiryScan\_60x\_05\_AiryScanProcessing.ome.tif  
3/9: 22.53x22.53 pixels (512x512); 8-bit; 2.2MB



Fred Hutch – Airy Scan processed

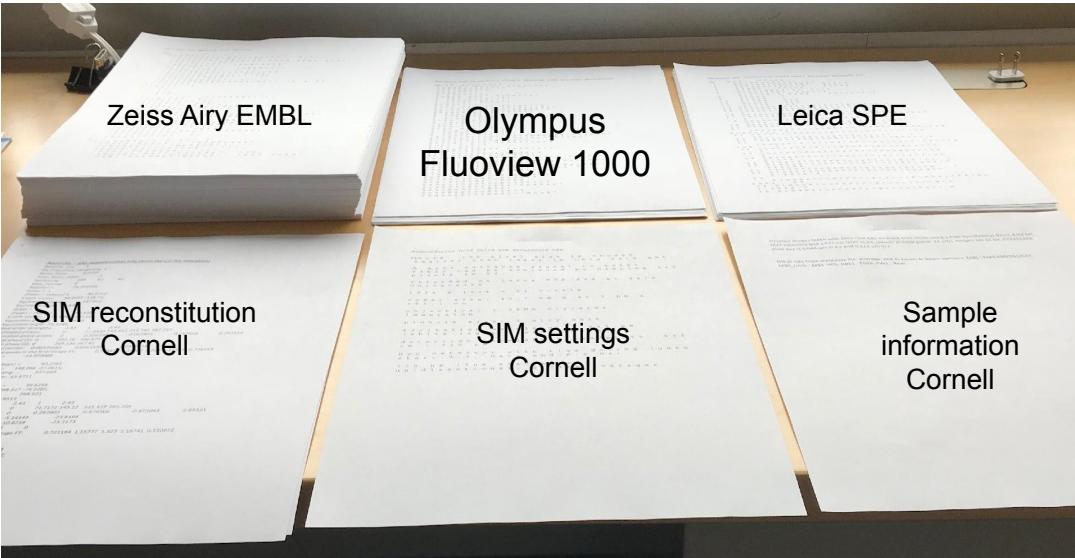
Joan Ritland-Politz



# Metadata comparability



Example: Metadata documentation



# The 4DN has partnered with a global networks of imaging scientists to build consensus around standardization



Image credit: <https://quarep.org>

# Community standards: Microscopy Metadata Specifications to expand the OME-data model

Comment

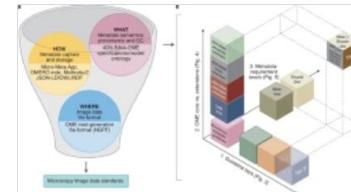
3 Dec 2021

Nature Methods

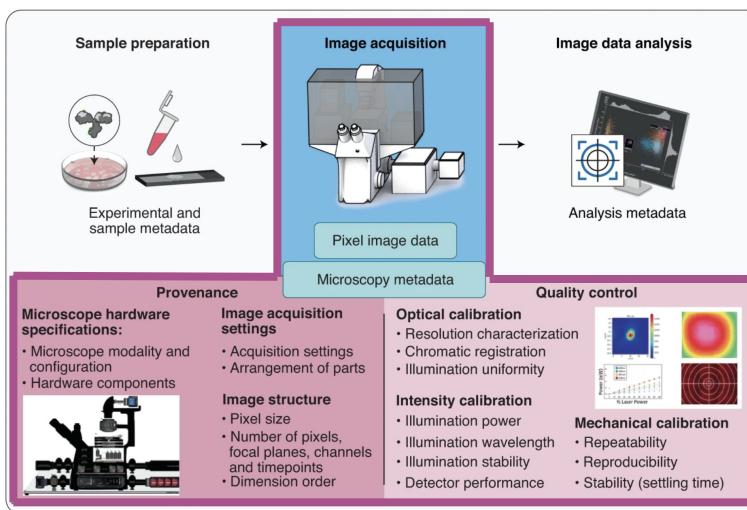
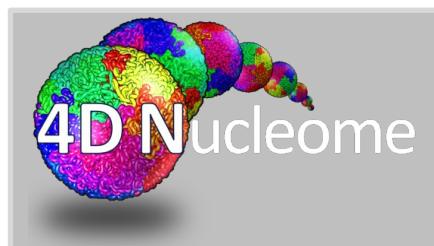


## Towards community-driven metadata standards for light microscopy: tiered specifications extending the OME model

Rigorous record-keeping and quality control are required to ensure the quality, reproducibility and value of imaging data. The 4DN Initiative and BINA here propose light Microscopy Metadata Specifications that extend the OME Data Model, scale with experimental intent and complexity, and make it possible for scientists to create comprehensive records of imaging experiments.



Mathias Hammer, Maximiliaan Huisman ... Caterina Strambio-De-Castillia



# Community standards: Microscopy Metadata Specifications to expand the OME-data model

Comment

3 Dec 2021

Nature Methods



## Towards community-driven metadata standards for light microscopy: tiered specifications extending the OME model

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Mathias Hammer, Maximiliaan Huisman ... Caterina Strambio-De-Castillia

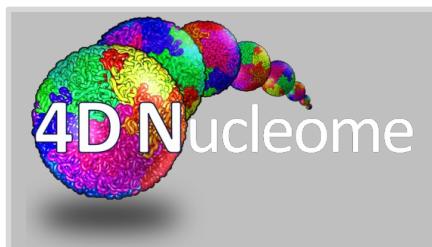
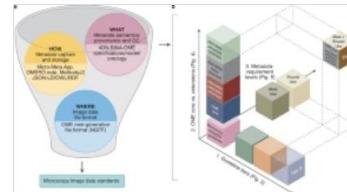


Image Acquisition  
**4DN-BINA-OME-Q**  
**UAREP (NBO-Q)**  
Hardware, Acquisition  
Settings and QC

**Microscope specifications**

- Microscope modality configuration
- Hardware components

**Image structure**

- Pixel size
- Number of pixels, focal planes, channels and timepoints
- Dimension order

**Intensity calibration**

- Illumination power
- Illumination wavelength
- Illumination stability
- Detector performance

**Mechanical calibration**

- Repeatability
- Reproducibility
- Stability (settling time)



# Community standards: Micro-Meta App implements the NBO-Q Microscopy Metadata Model

Brief Communication

Open Access

3 Dec 2021

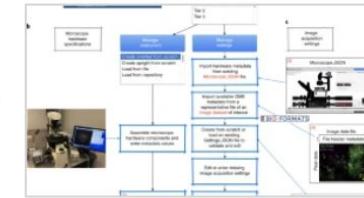
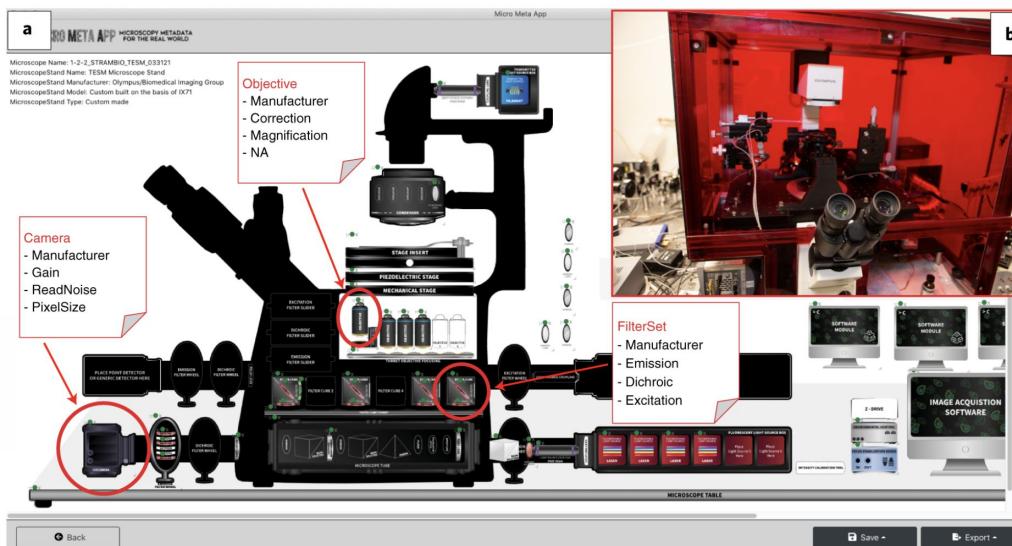
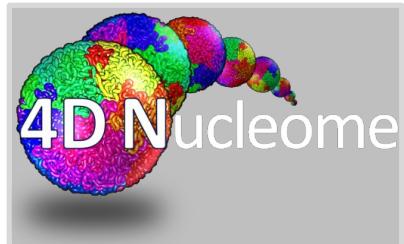
Nature Methods



## Micro-Meta App: an interactive tool for collecting microscopy metadata based on community specifications

Micro-Meta App is an intuitive, highly interoperable, open-source software tool designed to facilitate the extraction and collection of relevant microscopy metadata as specified by recent community guidelines.

Alessandro Rigano, Shannon Ehmsen ... Caterina Strambio-De-Castillia



OME  
b  
QUAREP-LiMi

# Partnership with manufacturers to develop community metadata specifications

## The making of microscope camera standards

Cameras are a crucial part of microscopes and are also built into many kinds of instruments. To make their output comparable takes standards.

Vivien Marx

The academics and company scientists in the group Quality Assessment and Reproducibility for Instruments & Images in Light Microscopy (QUAREP-LIM) are setting standards for microscopy camera output. "As in other areas of standards development, working with companies is crucial; after all they are the expert of the hardware they are producing," says Caterina Strambini-de-Castilla, a researcher at the Broad Institute of Molecular Medical Sciences Professor in Molecular Medicine and a Chan Zuckerberg Imaging Scientist, who spearheads this effort within QUAREP-LIM. A separate story in this issue of *Nature Methods* about emerging standards in microscopy can be found in this section.

Part of the work in developing standards for cameras in microscopy and imaging is about creating common definitions as a public resource. "The QUAREP-ers are moving on all that quite well," says Jason Szwedlow of the University of Dundee, who



Cameras are a crucial part of microscopes and imaging systems. Agreeing on standards to provide defined descriptions for aspects such as gain or readout speed is tricky. Credit: W. Bulgar/Science Photo Library

### technology feature

Check for updates

## Imaging standards to ease reproducibility and the everyday

Imaging and microscopy technology advances in leaps and bounds. To address accumulated pain points, academics and companies are making headway on standards.

Vivien Marx

With a view to transparency and reproducibility in microscopy, scientists and firms are putting standards to address, for instance, the surprises of fluctuating illumination power, the jungle of file formats, the mysteries of missing metadata and the diversity of camera outputs. A second story in this issue of *Nature Methods* focused on camera standards can be found in this section.

"We need standards," says Roland Nitschke of the University of Freiburg. Developing standards in imaging is a noble deed that can make some eyes glaze over even beyond the glaze arising from long hours at the computer keyboard. Those who lack the time to pitch in on standards might be glad to hear that some not-so-distant developments stand to help microscopy users pull out their hair a bit less. Here's a peek at how some emerging standards could address real-world pain points.

Standards development is not a task for



Emerging standards in microscopy are being set up to address many pain points in the field. Credit: TEK Image/Science Photo Library

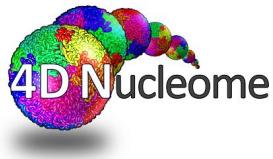
- **January – August 2022:** 10+ focused feedback sessions to build consensus
- **Completed first parsing of camera hardware specifications and image acquisition settings!**
- **Due Summer 2023:** Revision of **4DN-BINA-OME-QUAREP Camera Metadata model + Terms definitions**



### Camera

- Manufacturer: *Xyz*
- Catalog Nr.: *0000*
- Mount: *C-mount*
- FrameRate: *20 fps*
- ReadOutRate: *30 MHz*

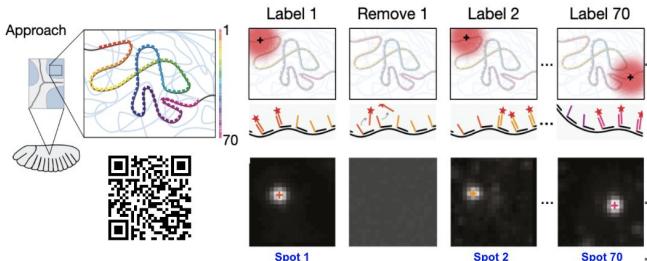




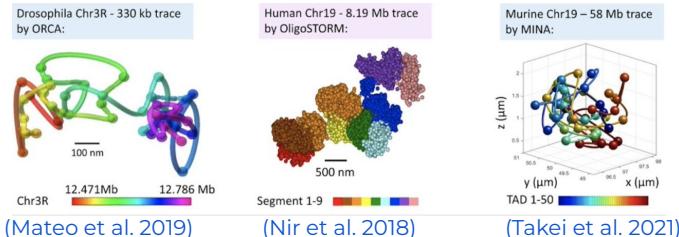
# Why do we need a common format for Chromatin Tracing?



## MULTIPLEXED FISH CHROMATIN TRACING



Mateo et al.,  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1035-4>

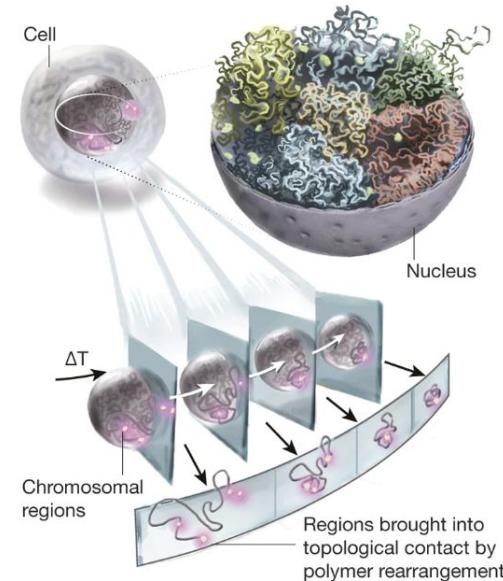


## FOF-CT Data and Metadata Exchange Format

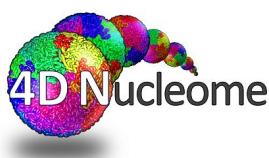
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##genome\_assembly=GRCm38  
##XY2\_unit=micron  
##lab\_name=Siyuan Yale  
##experimenter\_contact:siyuan.wang@yale.edu  
##Software\_Title: MINA Analyst  
##Software\_Type: MATLAB  
##Software\_Authors: Siyuan Wang  
##Software\_Description: Custom written software  
##Software\_Repository: https://campuspress.yale.edu/wanglab/mina-analyst/  
##Software\_Preference: 2667-2697 (2021). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41596-021-00518-0  
##additional\_tables: 4dn\_FOF-CT\_cell 4dn\_FOF-CT\_bio  
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1 110.573964 129.244672 1.79925511 19 4190000 4290000 411  
2 1 110.262885 129.093298 2.31765925 19 5890000 5990000 411  
3 1 109.743291 129.745431 1.636418 19 7195510 7295510 411  
4 1 109.165345 129.784738 0.91529473 19 8055510 8155510 411  
5 1 109.176669 129.793967 0.7188798 19 9255510 9355510 411



## PREDICTIVE MODELING/ AND MECHANISMS



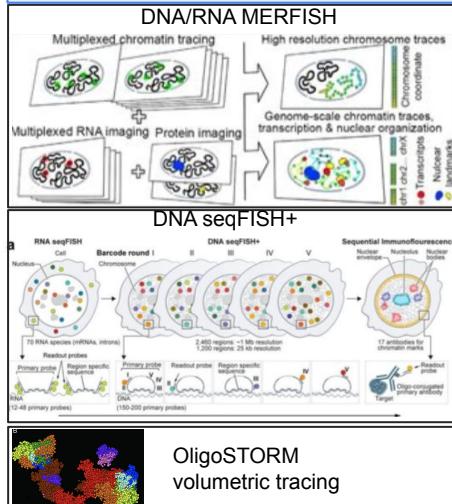
<https://doi.org/10.1038/nature23884>



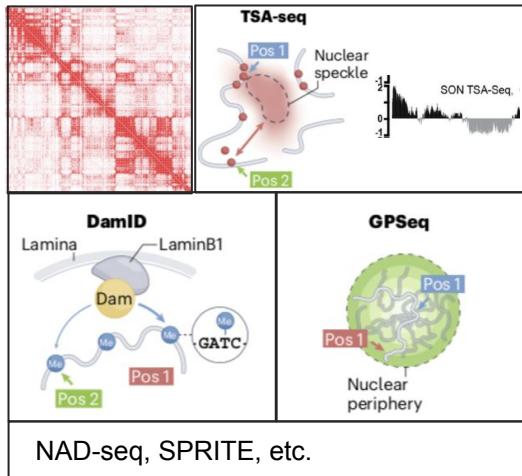
# Development of a Nuclear Common Coordinate Framework

IWG  
FISH-Omics  
Format for  
Chromatin  
Tracing

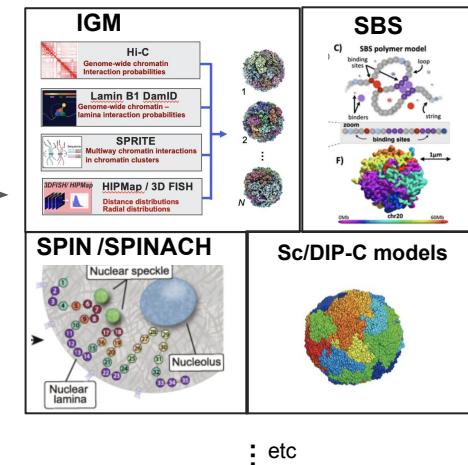
## Imaging FISH-Omics (multiplexed FISH) and other imaging

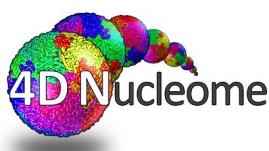


## Single cell and bulk genomics data Cytological mapping data

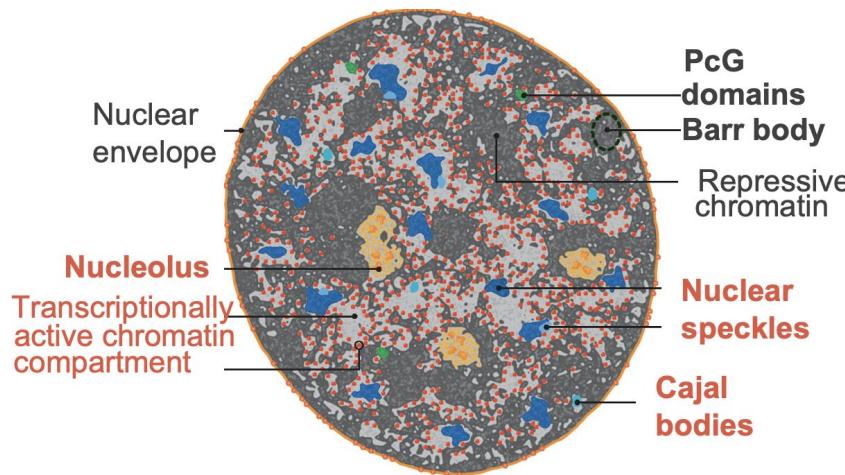


## Computational models and methods





# Why do nuclear coordinates matter?

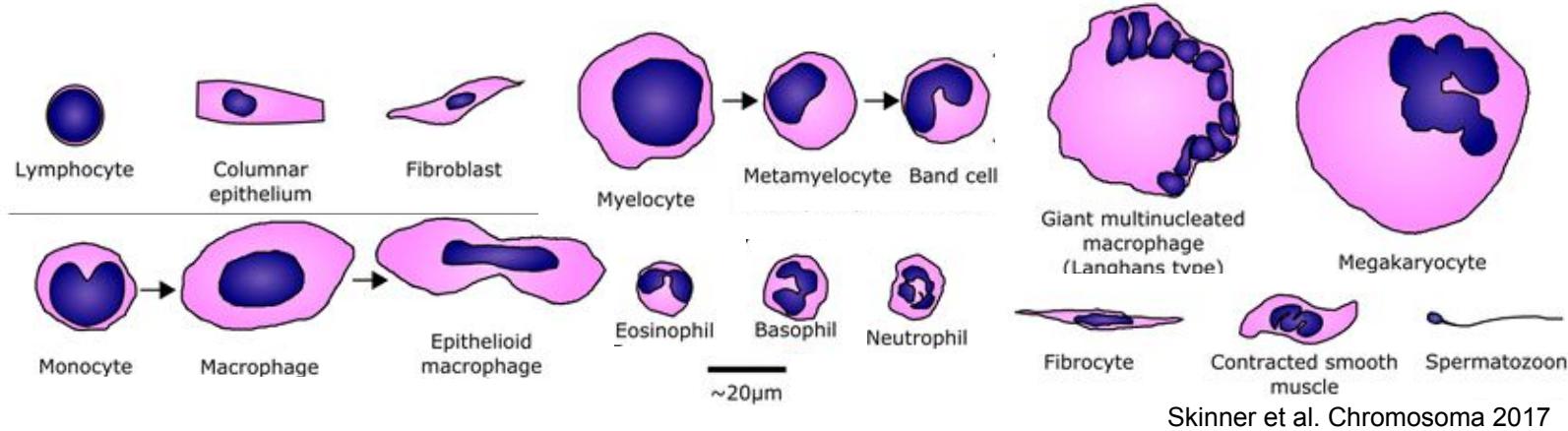


Caudron-Herger et al., Curr.Op.Gen.&Dev. 2012

The nucleus is organized into functional compartments. The spatial proximity to nuclear compartments and nuclear bodies matters.

# Why do nuclear coordinates matter?

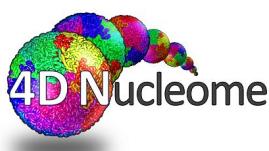
The nucleus **varies widely across cell types, tissues, and differentiation states.**  
This affects the overall shape, size, and internal nuclear compartment organization.



1) How do we compare data across different cell types and conditions?

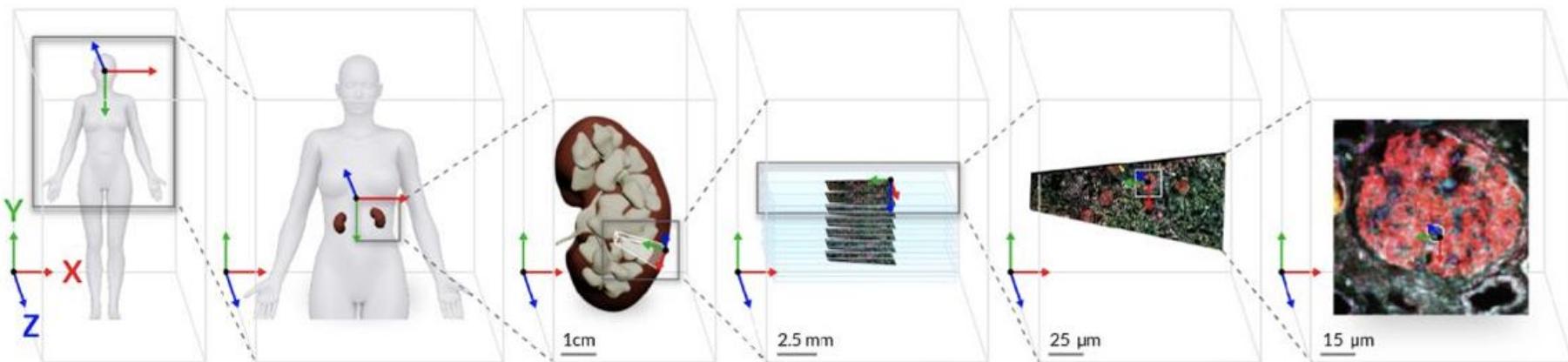
- We need a **shared and systematic way to describe nuclear topography**
- We need a **reference system to quantitatively characterize describe the nuclear landscape**

2) What are the **minimum requirements for a nuclear landscape reference system** (e.g., with respect to the location of nuclear compartments and landmarks)?



# What is a Common Coordinate Framework?

A standard spatial coordinate system is used to integrate spatial and molecular data across different laboratories, bio-samples, specimens, and conditions and move past the use of single standardized samples. The HuBMAP Human Reference Atlas effort developed a recent example.



HuBMAP

Atlas reference system

Body

Used for navigation

Organ

Used for RUI registration

Tissue Block

Z-Stack of tissue sections

FTU

Human or ML segmented

Cell

Human or ML segmented

Borner et al. (2020)

<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2007.14474>

Borner et al., (2022)

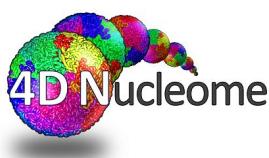
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-022-03644-x>

Herr et al., (2023)

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-023-01993-8>

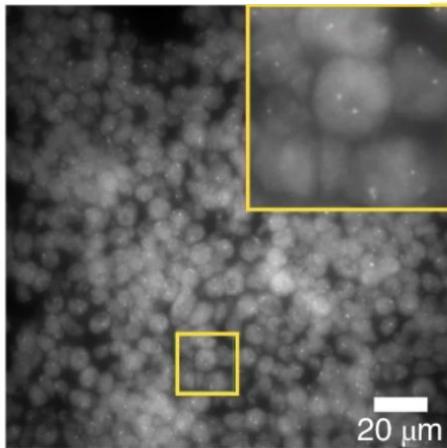
Borner et al., (2024)

<https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.03.27.587041>



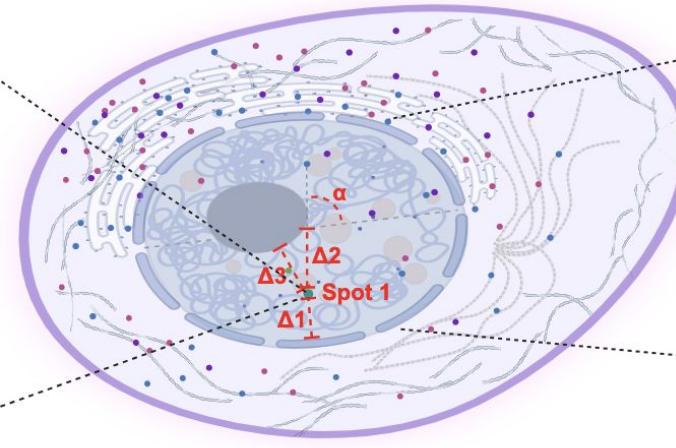
# 4DN Nuclear Common Coordinate Framework (CCF)

Multiplexed FISH

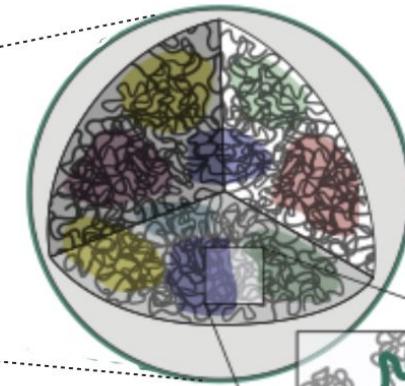


The goal is to have a set of recommendations how to measure and store nuclear information together with locations of loci.

Models from genomics data (Hi-C)

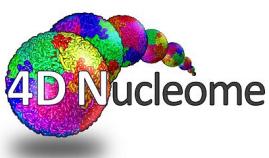


Spot 1 ( $\Delta 1$ ,  $\Delta 2$ ,  $\Delta 3$ ,  $\alpha$ )



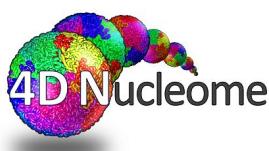
Liu, M., Yang, B., Hu, M. et al. (2021). 10.1038/s41596-021-00518-0

An underlying common ‘language’ for describing and indexing the data in a spatially explicit and semantically consistent way to integrate knowledge from diverse data types (i.e., multiplexed FISH and 3C methods) and sources and build coherent predictive models of 4D Nucleome structure and function



# Recommendations for Nuclear CCF best practices: should be minimally intrusive and widely applicable

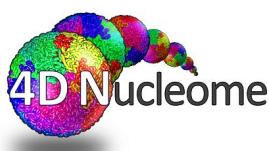
- A nuclear boundary marker is necessary (but not sufficient):
  - Examples: DAPI, Nucleoporin, Lamina (LaminA/C, LaminB)
- Other markers are required for triangulation and breaking symmetry:
  - Examples: Nucleoli, Nuclear speckles, Histone epigenetic markers, RNA polymerase, mRNA transcripts
- Key requirements:
  - Easy-to-use,
  - Different options for different experimental designs
  - Consider methods that do not require the use of fluorescence markers and use Machine Learning to predict nuclear markers localization:
    - Brightfield images
    - Fluorescence background (from DNA/RNA FISH-Omics probes)
    - Autofluorescence



# Recommendations for Nuclear CCF best practices: should be minimally intrusive and widely applicable

- A nuclear boundary marker is necessary (but not sufficient):
  - Examples: DAPI, Nucleoporin, Lamina (LaminA/C, LaminB)
- Other markers are needed to break nuclear symmetry:
  - Examples: Histone H3, H2B, RNA polymerase, RNA markers, RNA
- Key requirements:
  - Easy-to-use
  - Different optical properties
  - Consider methods to measure fluorescence markers and use Machine Learning to predict nuclear markers localization:
    - Brightfield images
    - Fluorescence background (from DNA/RNA FISH-Omics probes)
    - Autofluorescence

Different methods have to  
be tested to develop best  
practices for Nuclear CCF



# Ongoing: acquisition of benchmarking datasets @ Center for Epigenomics, UCSD



Quan Zhu  
UCSD



Bogdan Bintu  
UCSD

- Optimization

- Tested different nuclear markers
- Tested Chromatin Tracing probe library

- Model System

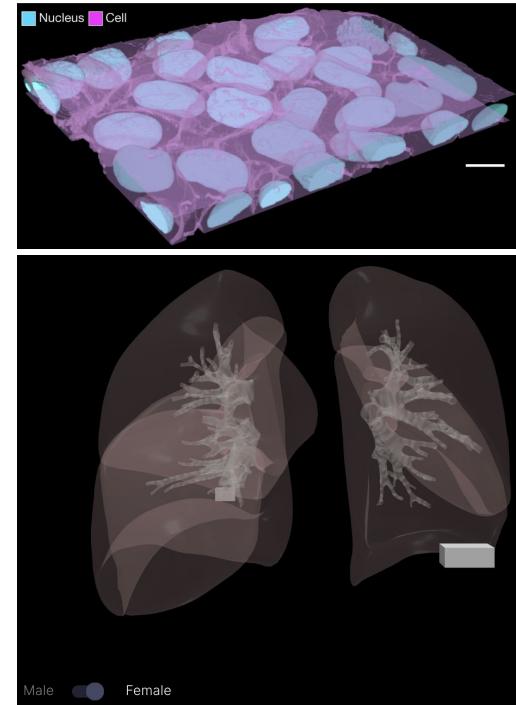
- WTC-11 hiPSC
- Human adult lung sections (from HuBMAP)

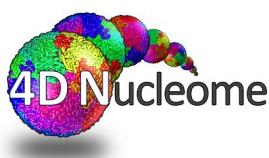
- Ongoing experiments:

- RNA and DNA MERFISH
- Multiple markers: DAPI, Lamina, NPC, Nucleoli, RNA Polymerase II, SC35, Histone epigenetic markers, PCNA
- Brightfield image

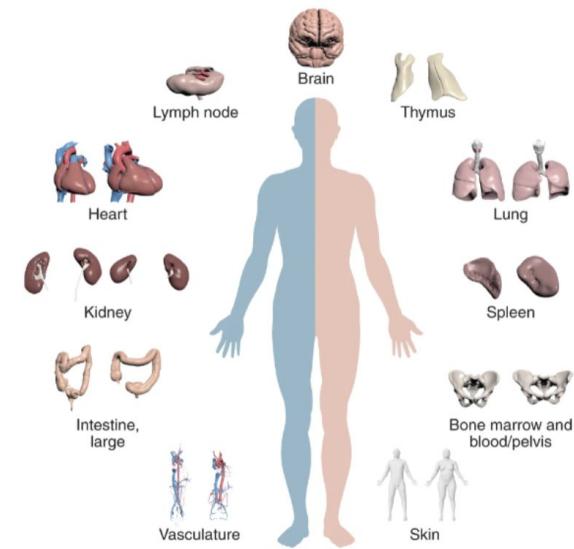
- Questions

- What combination of markers are necessary and sufficient?
- What protocol should be used for
- Can we use machine learning approaches to predict the position of nuclear landmarks in stain-free transmitted light, background fluorescence, or autofluorescence images?



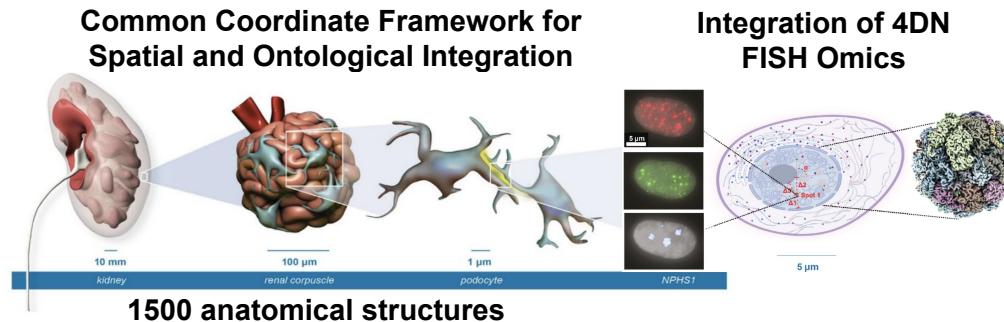


# Next Steps: Integration of Nuclear CCF with the HuBMAP Human Reference Atlas



## Questions:

- What is the role of the chromatin organization and gene expression regulation in determining the organization of microenvironments in healthy and diseased Functional Tissue Units (FTUs)
- Determine how the molecular and cellular functions for a given cell type compare across organs (for example, genes essential in water transport across the kidneys, intestines, and lungs)



267  
Donors

2358  
Samples

3080  
Datasets

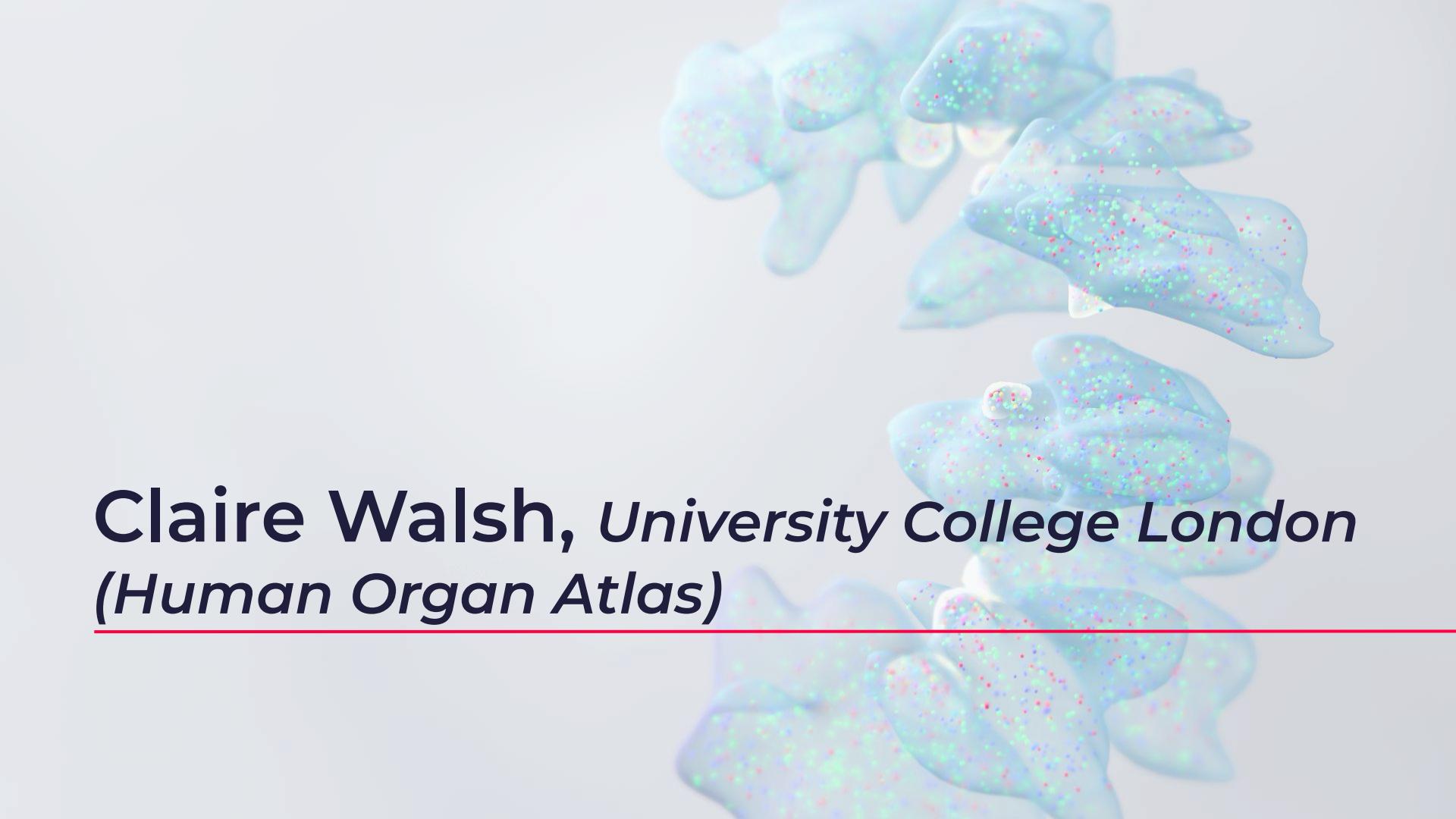
31  
Organs

18  
Collections

The background of the slide features a complex, abstract illustration of a brain's neural network. It consists of numerous thin, translucent blue and pink lines representing axons or synapses, which converge on numerous small, glowing circular nodes of various sizes. These nodes are primarily white, yellow, and green, with some having a slight pink hue. The overall effect is one of a dense, interconnected biological system.

# Aviv Regev, Genentech, Inc. (*Human Cell Atlas*)

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**Claire Walsh, University College London**  
*(Human Organ Atlas)*

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# The Human Organ Atlas (HOA)

Claire Walsh

[c.walsh.11@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.walsh.11@ucl.ac.uk)

@hip\_ct



**UCL**

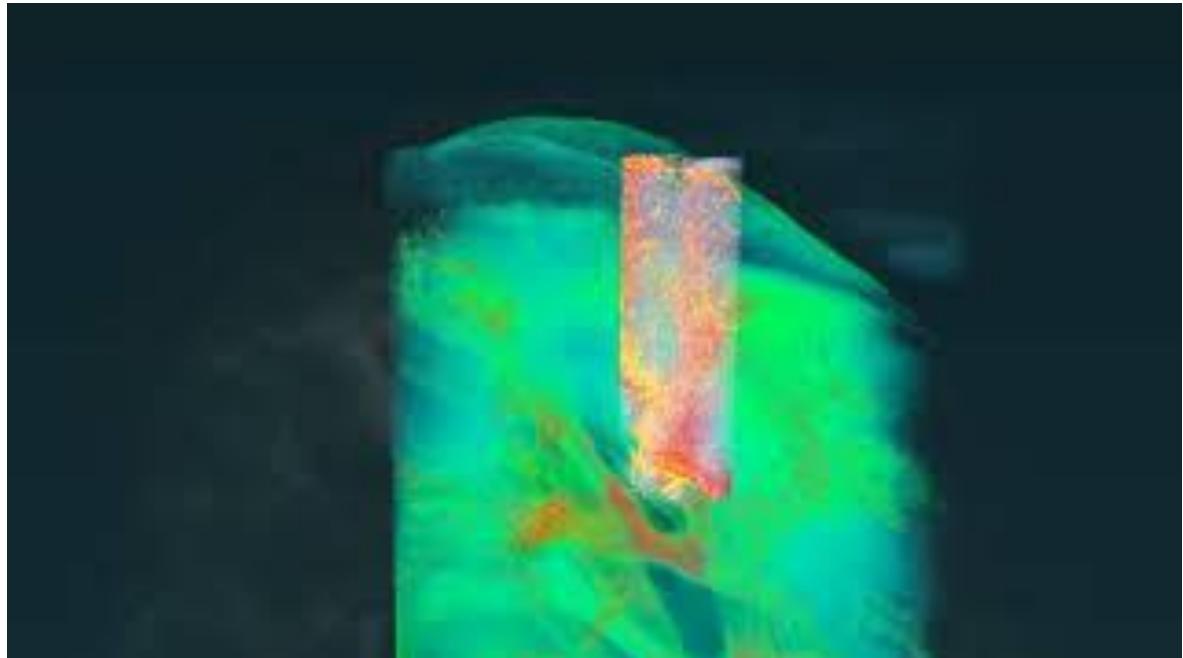


CHAN  
ZUCKERBERG  
INITIATIVE

# Hierarchical Phase-contrast tomography

- Intact human kidney organs can be scanned ex vivo at 25-7.8 $\mu\text{m}/\text{voxel}$

- Regions of interest anywhere can then be scanned at higher resolution (down to 0.7  $\mu\text{m}/\text{voxel}$ )
- We can reach single cell resolution in an intact human organs



Video Credit: Paul Tafforeau data credit UCL lead ESRF beamtime md1252

# HiP-CT at the ESRF



Paul Tafforeau  
Beamline responsible  
BM18

# The Human Organ Atlas HUB (HOAHub)



Peter Lee  
Executive Co-Chair  
Co-PI  
UCL



Max Ackermann  
Executive Co-Chair  
Co-PI  
Aachen Medical School



Claire Walsh  
Director  
Co-PI  
UCL



Anastasia Yendiki  
Member  
Co-PI  
Harvard Medical School



Danny Jonigk  
Member  
Co-PI  
Aachen Medical School



Bernadette de Bakker  
Member  
Co-PI  
Amsterdam UMC



Paul Tafforeau  
Beamline responsible  
BM18



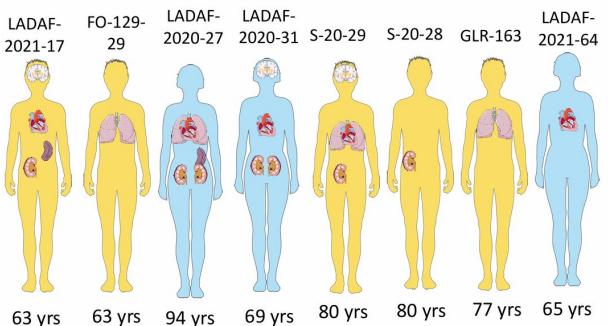
Stijn Verleden  
Member  
Co-PI  
Antwerp University



Alexandre Bellier  
Member  
Co-PI  
LADAF

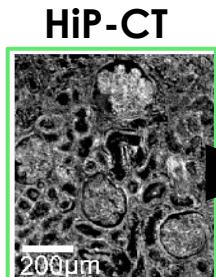
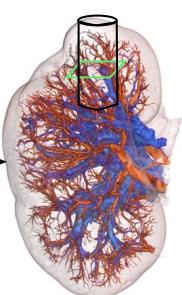
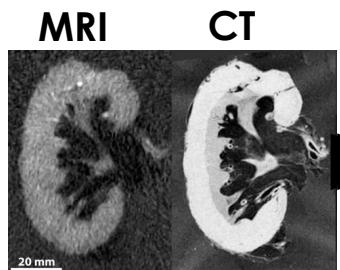
<https://mecheng.ucl.ac.uk/HOAHub/>

## 1. Human Organ Atlas

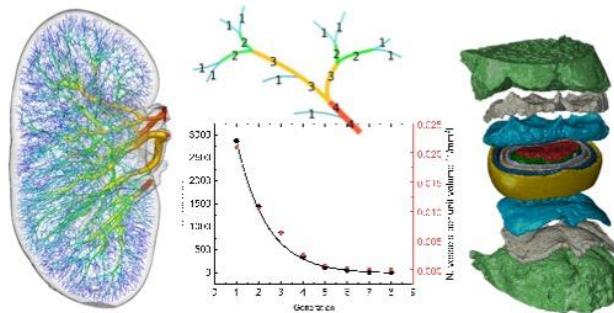


[human-organ-atlas.esrf.eu](http://human-organ-atlas.esrf.eu)

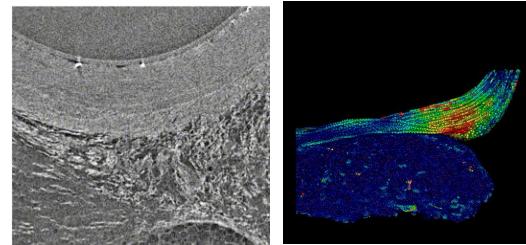
## 2. Correlation



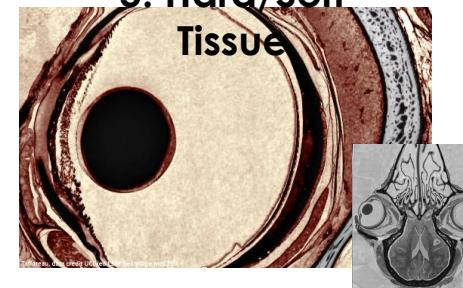
## 3. Quantifying & Modelling



## 4. Dynamics



## 5. Hard/Soft Tissue



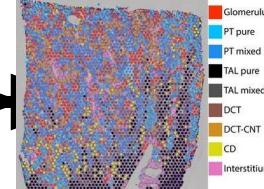
MRI

CT

HiP-CT

Histology

Spatial omics



Ferreira, Ricardo Melo, et al. (2021).

# The Human Organ Atlas

[human-organ-atlas.esrf.fr](http://human-organ-atlas.esrf.fr)

Public database with complete organs imaged by HiP-CT in health and disease



[Human Organ Atlas](#)   [EXPLORE](#)   [SEARCH](#)

## Patients

A. FO-20.129  
male - 54 yo  
died from COVID-19 21 days after hospitalisation, mechanical ventilation, pulmonary failure, renal failure,bacterial pneumonia with *Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus*, general brain edema, bilateral pleural effusion and intracranial bleeding

A. LADAF-2020-27  
female - 34 yo - 45 kg - 140 cm  
right eyelid and right corneal edema, cognitive disorders of vascular origin, depressive syndrome, atrial fibrillation and hypertension, heart disease, micro-crystalline arthritis, gout, right lung pneumonia (3 before death), caused by the anti-eye, squamous cell carcinoma of the oral left temporal region

A. LADAF-2020-31  
female - 67 yo - 40 kg - 145 cm  
type 2 diabetes, pelvic radiation to treat cancer of the uterus, right collecting duct sign lesion on histopathology, bilateral nephrology for acute obstructive renal failure, pyelonephritis, enterectomy and peritoneal carcinoma with occlusive syndrome

A. GLR-163  
male - 77 yo  
resection of the lower lobe segment is due to small pulmonary adenocarcinoma (T1N1M0), coronary heart disease, arterial hypertension, chronic rheumatic disease (polyarthralgia rheumatoidea)

## Organs

kidney   heart   lung   spleen

## Datasets

2.45um\_VOI-01\_upper-lobe-apical  
Vertical column in local tomography at 2.45um pixel size performed by HiP-CT on the bivalve BM05 of the left lung from the body donor LADAF-2020-27 using half acquisition protocol.

2.45um\_VOI-02\_lower-lobe-basal  
Vertical column in local tomography at 2.45um pixel size performed by HiP-CT on the bivalve BM05 of the left lung from the body donor LADAF-2020-27 using half acquisition protocol.

2.45um\_VOI-06\_lower-lobe-basal  
Vertical column in local tomography at 2.45um pixel size performed by HiP-CT on the bivalve BM05 of the left lung from the body donor LADAF-2020-27 using half acquisition protocol.

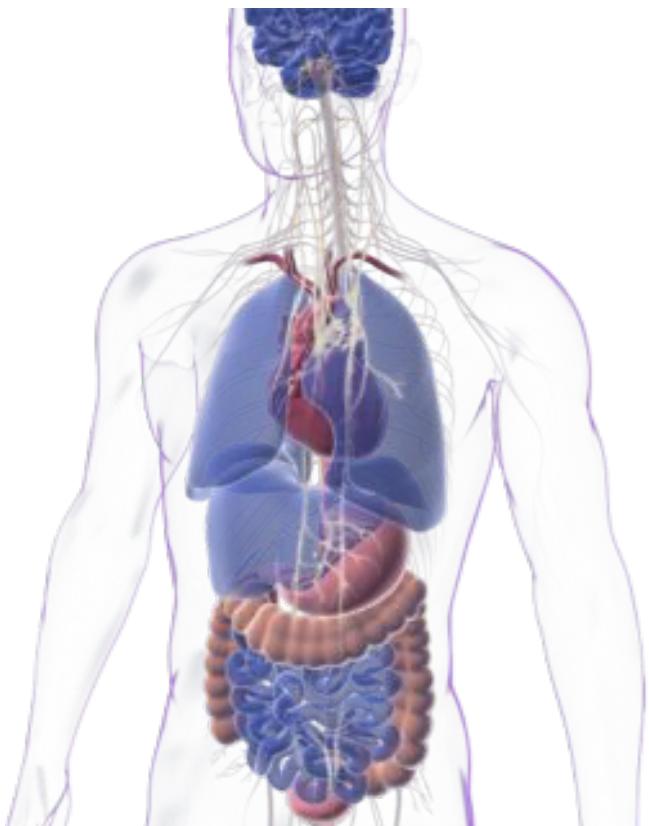
25.08um\_complete-organ [2021-10-07 14:06:38]  
Complete scan at 25.08um performed by HiP-CT on the bivalve BM05 of the left lung from the body donor LADAF-2020-27 using half acquisition protocol.



**Maryann Martone, University of  
California, San Diego**

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# SPARC: Bridging the body and brain



**Opportunity:** Neuromodulation of end-organ function holds promise in treating many diseases/conditions.

**Challenge:** Mechanisms of action remain poorly understood. Many neuromodulation trials have failed to reach clinical endpoints.

## SPARC program goals:

- Deliver detailed, integrated functional and anatomical neural circuit maps for organs and technologies to improve neuromodulation studies
- Provide the scientific foundation necessary to translate advanced and more effective neuromodulation protocols into clinical

# Start exploring at SPARC.science

[Data & Models](#)[SPARC Apps](#)[Tools & Resources](#)[News & Events](#)[About](#)[Submit to SPARC](#)

## SPARC — bridging the body and the brain

The SPARC Portal is an open neuroscience and systems physiology platform containing multi-species data, knowledge, computational modeling and spatial mapping. Share your data and models to drive development of treatments that change lives.



### What Can I Do With SPARC?



#### Browse, View, and Get Data and Models

Freely use curated experimental data, protocols, and models of the peripheral nervous system.

[Find Data and Models](#)

#### View 2D and 3D Anatomical Maps

Discover relationships and datasets with interactive connectivity maps featuring different species.

[View the Maps](#)

#### Create Computational Pipelines

Connect to the o<sup>2</sup>SPARC platform to build and explore modeling and data analysis pipelines.

[Discover o<sup>2</sup>SPARC](#)

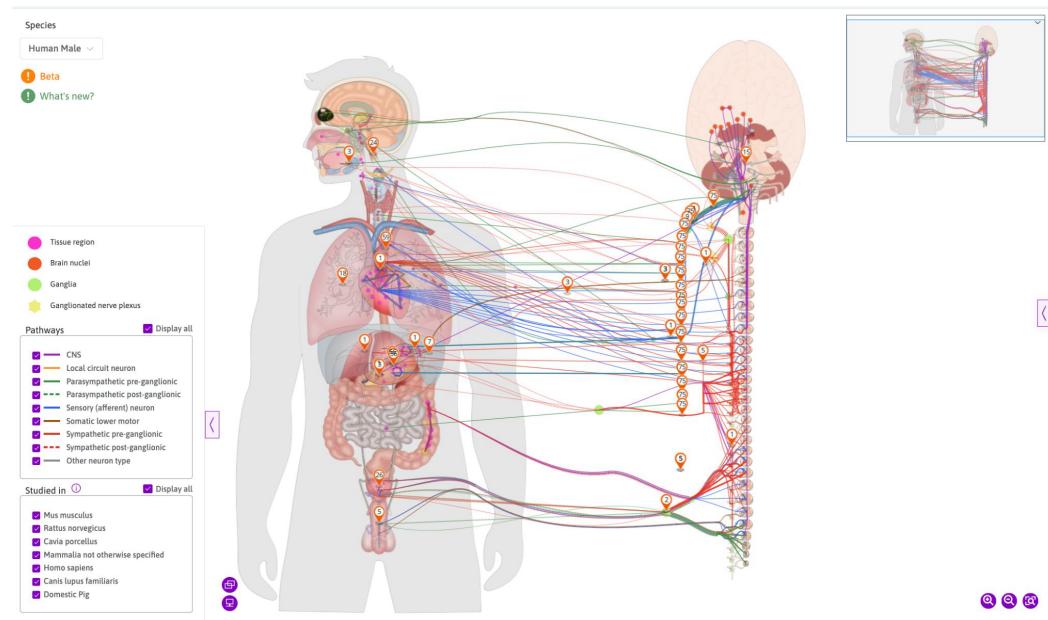
#### Contribute to the Community

SPARC accepts data, devices, and models about the PNS and is compliant with the 2023 NIH Data Sharing Mandate.

[Submit to SPARC](#)

# SPARC Maps and Connectivity KB

- Explore SPARC's interactive 2D and 3D maps of the autonomic nervous system
- These maps are drawn automatically from a knowledge base that contains detailed information about how nerves connect different parts of the body



<https://sparc.science/apps/maps?type=ac>



**Peter Hunter, *Bioengineering Institute*  
New Zealand (SPARC)**

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# Physics-based multiscale modelling

## 1. BG protein templates

(full) (reduced)

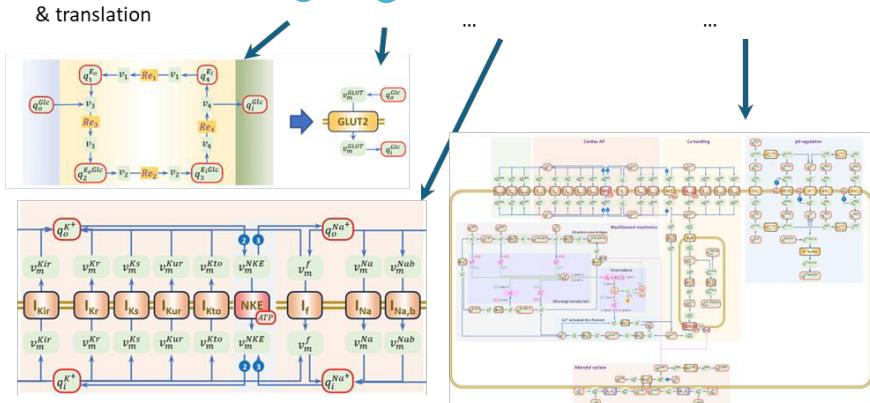
Metabolic enzymes	
SLC transporters	
ATPase pumps	
ABC transporters	
Ion channels	
Contractile proteins	
Receptors: GPCR, TRK	
Signal transduction	
Immune cytokines	
Cell cycle	
Gene transcription & translation	

## 2. FCUs

- Metabolism
- Action potentials
- Calcium handling
- pH regulation
- Myofilament mechs
- Receptors & signaling
- Glucose transport
- Na/K regulation
- Cell cycle
- Cell adhesion
- Gene regulation

## 3. Cells

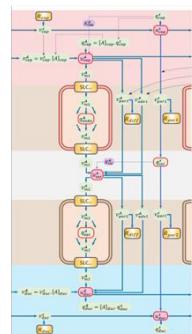
- Endothelial cell
- Epithelial cell
- Cardiomyocyte
- Muscle fiber
- Fibroblast
- Smooth muscle cell
- Osteocyte
- Enterochromaffin cell
- Hepatocyte
- Goblet cell
- Red blood cell
- ...



## 4. FTUs

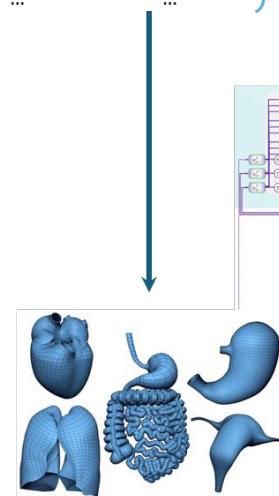
(including 3D structure)

- Glomerulus, ...
- Lung alveoli
- Cardiomyocyte
- Myocardial sheet
- Liver lobule
- Bone osteon
- Fibre, etc
- ...



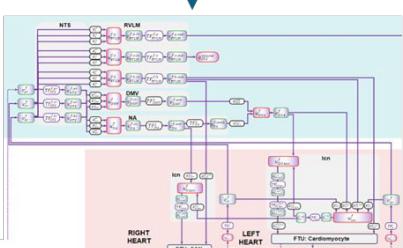
## 5. Organs

- =surrogate
- nephron → Kidney
- acinus → Lung
- block → Heart
- lobules → Liver
- osteon → Bone
- fascicle → Muscle
- ...

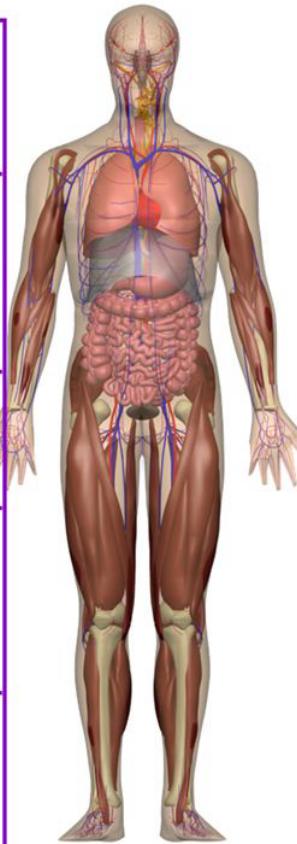
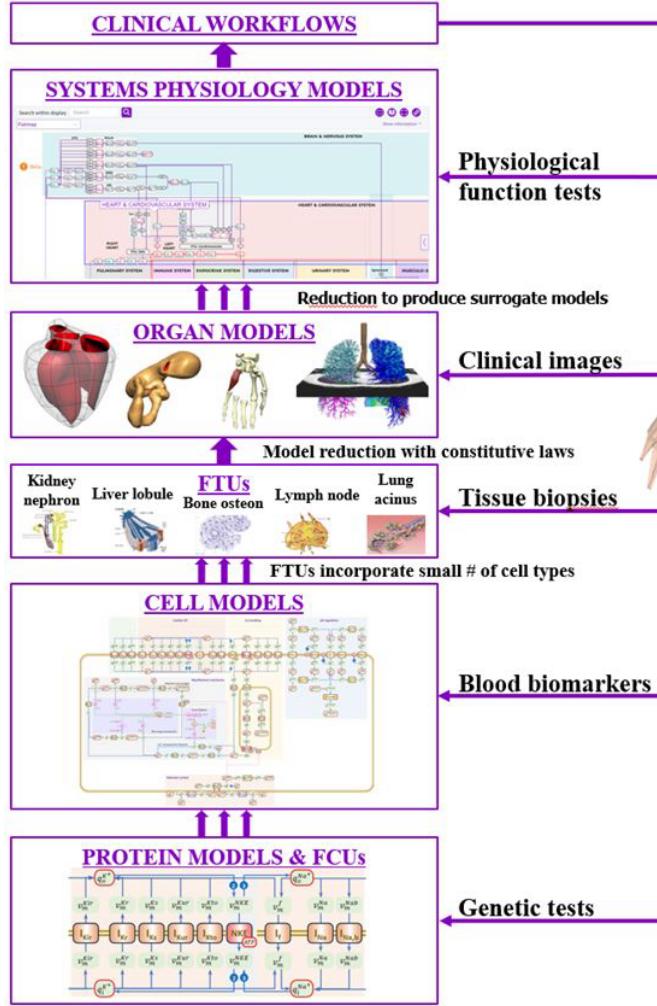


## 6. Systems

- (3D anatomical model of the body)
- Regulation of fluid volume
- Regulation of arterial blood pressure
- Regulation of pH
- Regulation of electrolyte balance
- Regulation of glucose
- Regulation of O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>
- Regulation of calcium
- Regulation of phosphate
- Regulation of body temperature
- ...



Finite element models that are subsequently reduced (with AI methods) to surrogate models.



Constrained by observed behaviour

↓  
Needs AI based on physics

Model parameters

↑

Constrained by physics and genetics



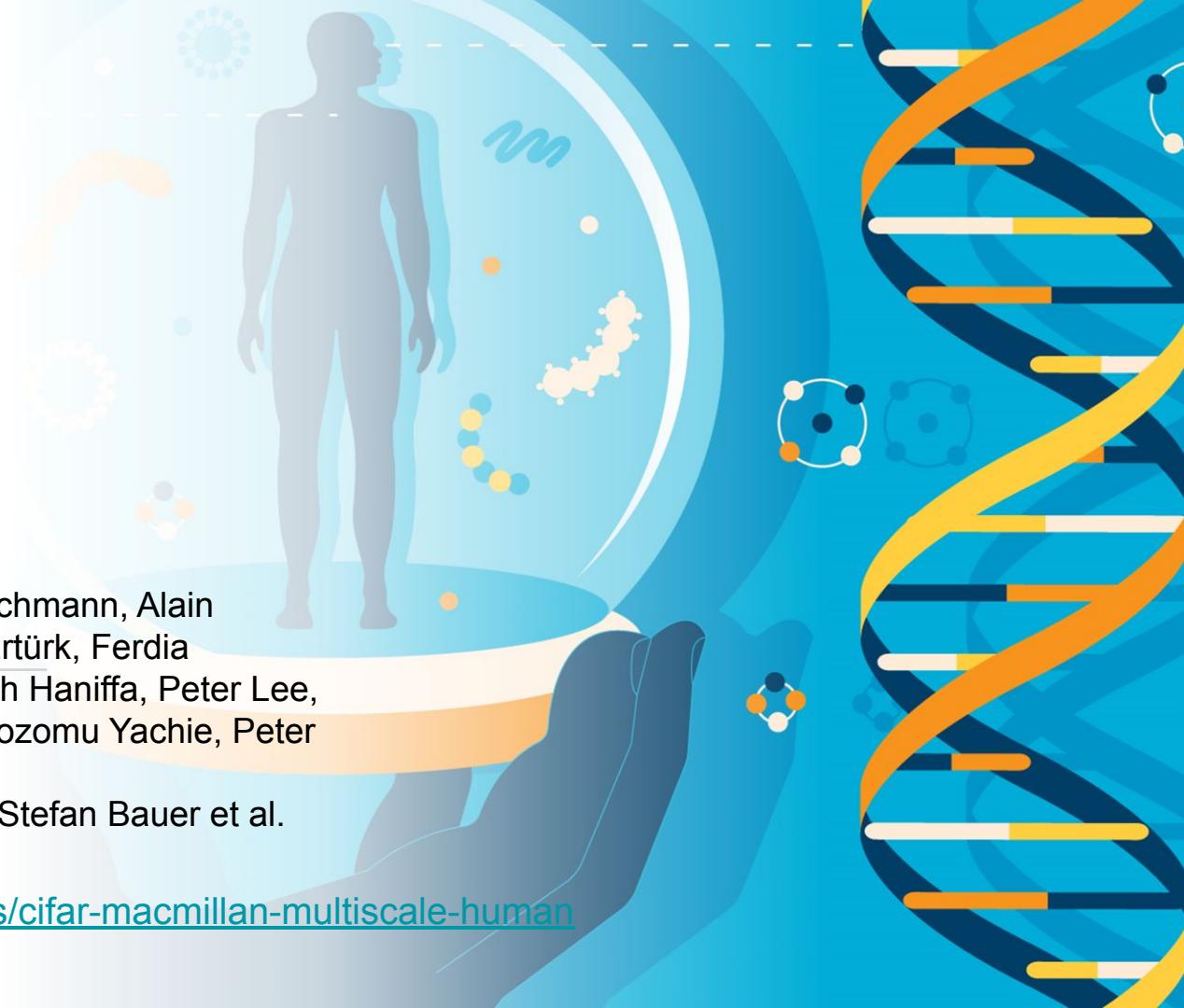
**Gary Bader, University of Toronto, Canada  
(CIFAR co-director)**

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# The CIFAR Multiscale Human Program

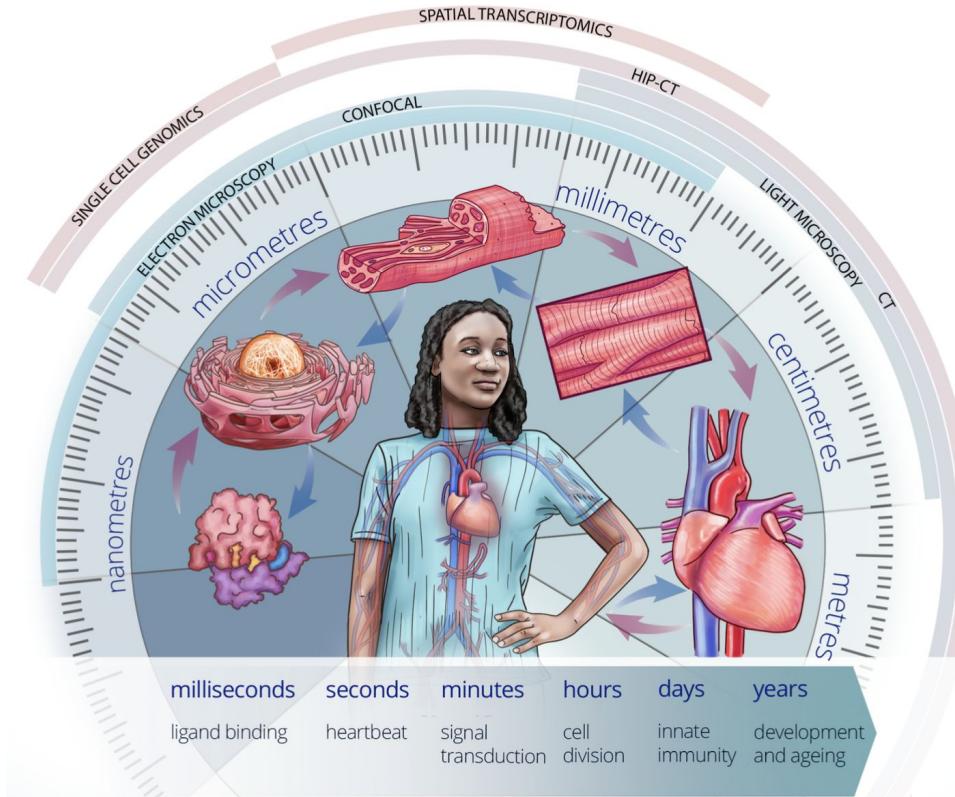
Gary Bader, Katy Börner, Sarah Teichmann, Alain Chédotal, Barbara Engelhardt, Ali Ertürk, Ferdia Gallagher, Sidhartha Goyal, Muzlifah Haniffa, Peter Lee, Ed Lein, Dana Pe'er, Aviv Regev, Nozomu Yachie, Peter Zandstra, Mei Zhen  
Guests: Fabian Theis, Maria Brbić, Stefan Bauer et al.

<https://cifar.ca/research-programs/cifar-macmillan-multiscale-human>



# Major goal

To understand how the human body works across scales, from molecules to organs to the whole body to revolutionise our understanding, treatment and prediction of major diseases



# Siros across scales: Molecular biology vs. physiology

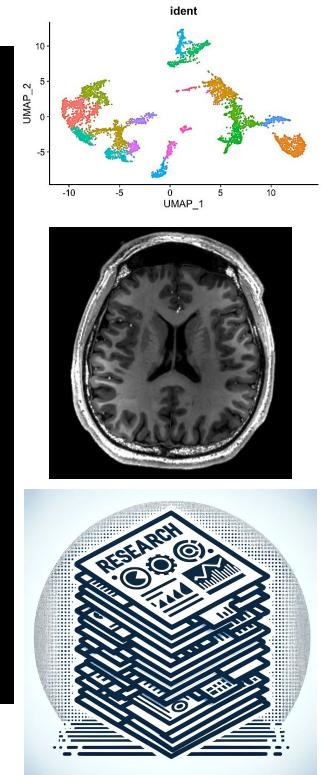
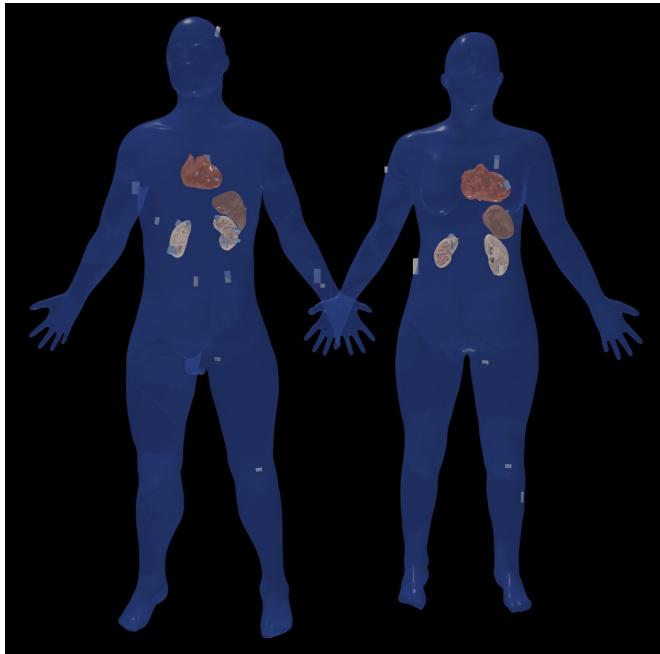
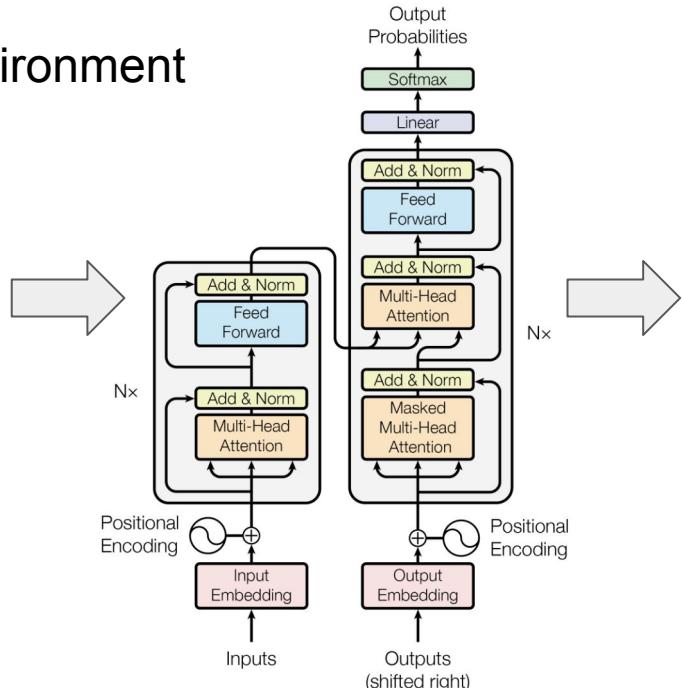
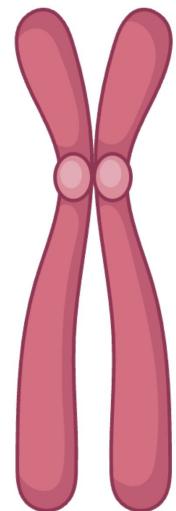
Focus on understanding mechanism at separate scales and rarely integrate

Single cell and spatial genomics creates a bridge via multicellular tissues

Can we develop a unified field that considers how the whole body works across scales?

# The genome as the ultimate generative model

+environment



# Is machine learning a good approach for understanding the body?

Evolution: copy and mutate (+ memorize)

Result: redundancy, variation

Perfect for ML: redundancy helps with pattern recognition, variation helps link data measurements (e.g. regression)

Will require mechanistic insight, multiscale thinking

(Rare events will require mechanism-based interpretation)

# Genetics can link scales

Genome to phenotype relationship works across scales

Useful to link scales: SNP, protein, complex, pathway, cell, tissue, organ, body

Large biobanks help us map biology

However, mechanistic insight is challenging to get

May need to combine genetics and mechanistic modeling

# Mapping the human body (structure)



HUMAN  
CELL  
ATLAS



3D  
Multiscale  
Biomolecular  
Human  
Reference  
Atlas



# Generating the virtual human (function)

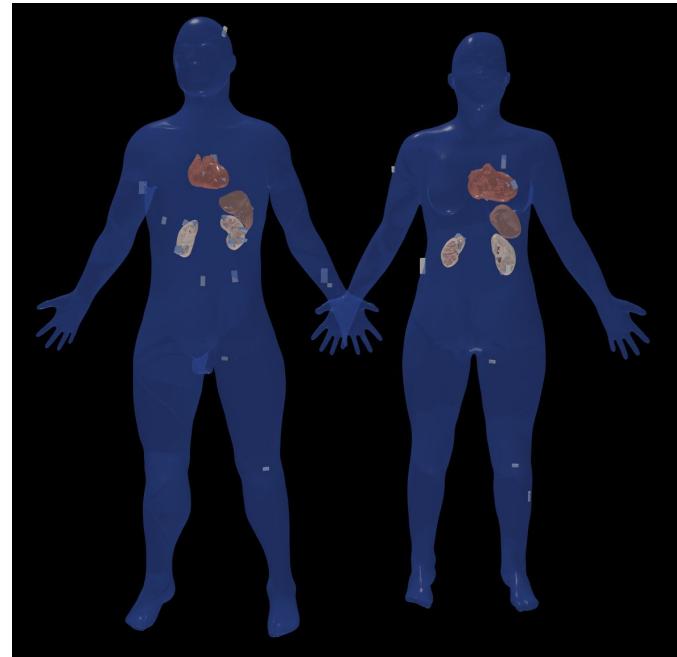
Generative model

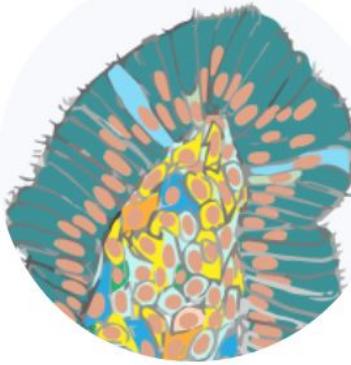
Mechanistic

Predictive (e.g., response to perturbation)

Multiscale - how are scales connected?

Medical applications (e.g., digital twin)





# 5AM

10AM in London (GMT), 7PM in Tokyo (GMT+9)

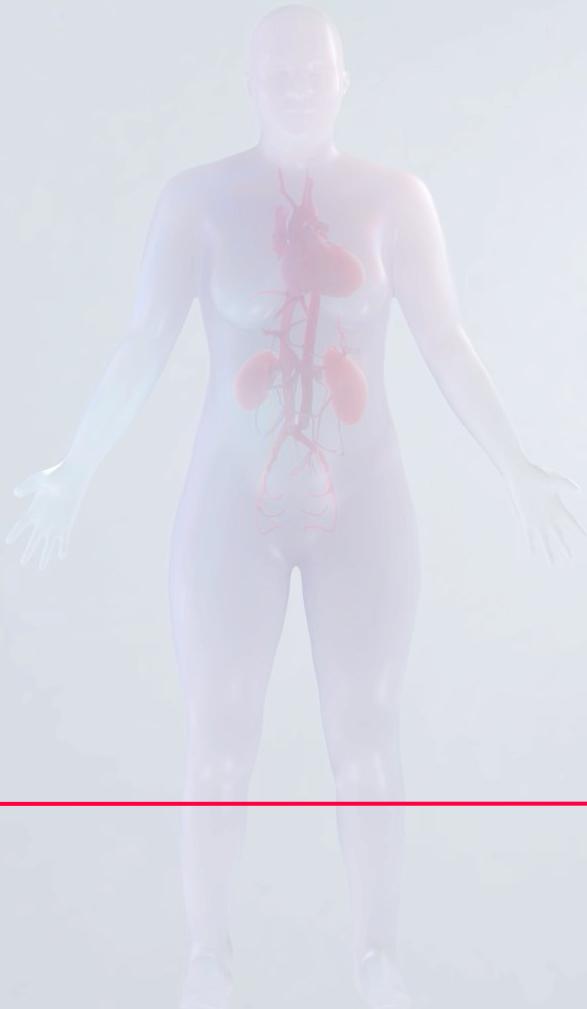
## VIDEOS: Human Atlas Insights

- Mapping the Multiscale Human by Gary Bader,  
*University of Toronto, Canada (CIFAR co-director)*

# Q&A

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<https://humanatlas.io/events/2024-24h>



# Questions

How do we define a Multiscale Human?

How do we map a Multiscale Human?

How do we model a Multiscale Human?

How can LLMs or RAGs be used to advance science and clinical practice?

Thank you

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