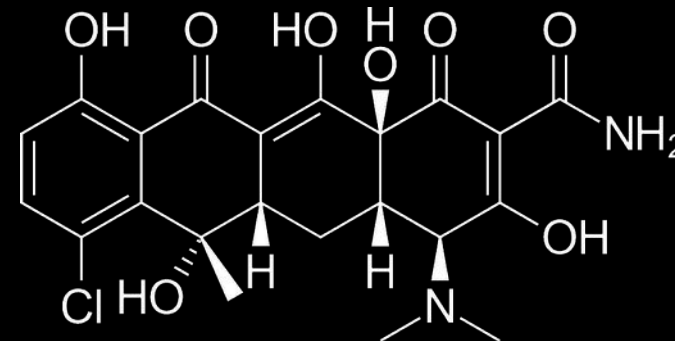
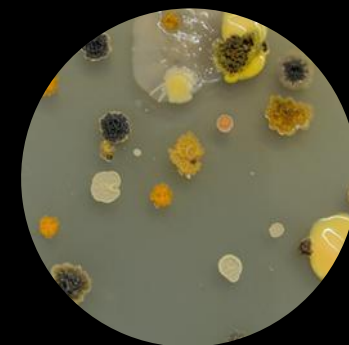


# Information-rich platforms for natural product antibiotic drug discovery and microbial characterization

Chase Clark  
Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Computation and Informatics in  
Biology and Medicine Training  
Program  
Jason Kwan Lab  
School of Pharmacy  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

IDBac



SocalGene

GTGGAGGAGCAG  
CGGGCCGGGAGC  
CG.....

# Education:

B.S. in Biochemistry from Berry College  
(Bonner)

Ph.D. in Pharmacognosy from UIC (F31)



**PHARMACEUTICAL  
SCIENCES  
COLLEGE  
OF PHARMACY**



# Current:

Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Computation and Informatics in Biology and Medicine  
Program (T15)



**WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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**WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# Previous:



**Head of Method Development**

## **R&D Tech**

- New product development
- Technical support for sales team
- Troubleshooting QC and production/manufacturing

Enzyme USP / FCC assays  
HPLC analysis  
Bioavailability testing  
FTIR/Raman identity testing of raw materials  
Preservatives, Allergens, Western Blot testing capabilities  
Application development / formulation support

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## R&D Tech

- New product development
- Technical support for sales team
- Troubleshooting QC and production/manufacturing

“Drugs”

“Natural Products”

“Specialized Metabolites”

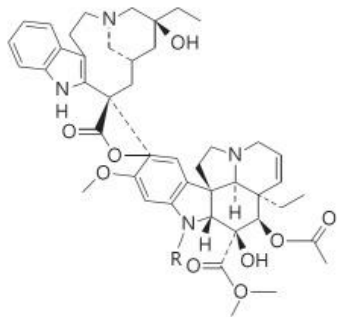


“Drugs”  
“Natural Products”  
“Specialized Metabolites”

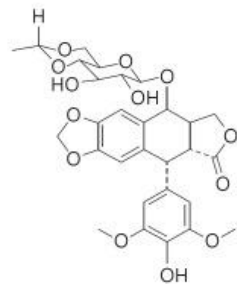
Over 60% of current anticancer drugs are  
derived in one way or another from natural sources

Cragg, Gordon M, and John M Pezzuto. “Natural Products as a Vital Source for the Discovery of Cancer Chemotherapeutic and Chemopreventive Agents.” *Medical principles and practice : international journal of the Kuwait University, Health Science Centre* vol. 25 Suppl 2,Suppl 2 (2016): 41-59. doi:10.1159/000443404

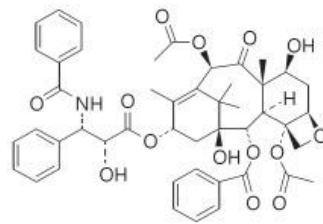
# “Natural Products”



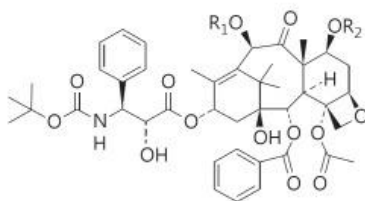
**1** VBL R = CH<sub>3</sub>  
**2** VCR R = CHO



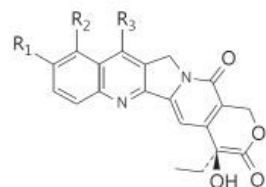
**3** Etoposide



**4** Paclitaxel (Taxol™)

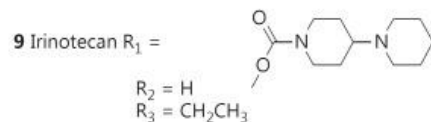


**5** Docetaxel (Taxotere™) R<sub>1</sub> = R<sub>2</sub> = H  
**6** Cabazitaxel R<sub>1</sub> = R<sub>2</sub> = CH<sub>3</sub>



**7** CPT R<sub>1</sub> = R<sub>2</sub> = R<sub>3</sub> = H

**8** Topotecan R<sub>1</sub> = OH; R<sub>2</sub> = CH<sub>2</sub>NH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>; R<sub>3</sub> = H



**9** Irinotecan R<sub>1</sub> =

R<sub>2</sub> = H  
R<sub>3</sub> = CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>

**10** Belotecan R<sub>1</sub> = R<sub>2</sub> = H; R<sub>3</sub> = (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NHCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

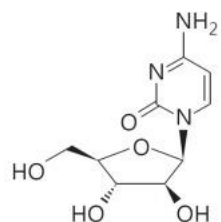
**11** Cositecan R<sub>1</sub> = R<sub>2</sub> = H; R<sub>3</sub> = (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>

**12** SN-38 R<sub>1</sub> = OH; R<sub>2</sub> = H; R<sub>3</sub> = CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>

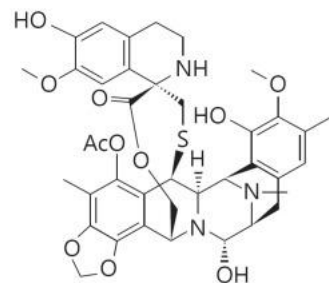
## Natural products from plants

- Cragg, Gordon M, and John M Pezzuto. “Natural Products as a Vital Source for the Discovery of Cancer Chemotherapeutic and Chemopreventive Agents.” *Medical principles and practice : international journal of the Kuwait University, Health Science Centre* vol. 25 Suppl 2,Suppl 2 (2016): 41-59. doi:10.1159/000443404
- Cragg, G M et al. “The taxol supply crisis. New NCI policies for handling the large-scale production of novel natural product anticancer and anti-HIV agents.” *Journal of natural products* vol. 56,10 (1993): 1657-68. doi:10.1021/np50100a001
- Stierle, A et al. “The search for a taxol-producing microorganism among the endophytic fungi of the Pacific yew, *Taxus brevifolia*.” *Journal of natural products* vol. 58,9 (1995): 1315-24. doi:10.1021/np50123a002

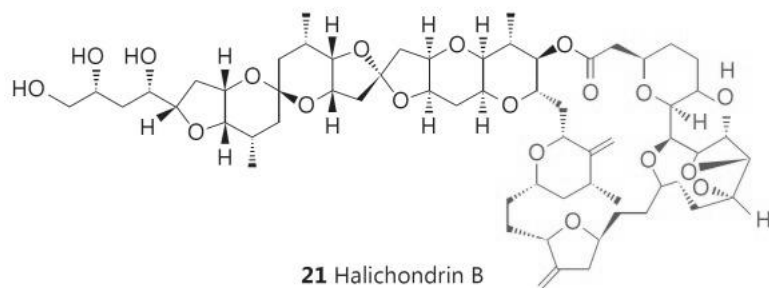
# “Natural Products”



19 Cytarabine



20 Trabectedin (ET743; Yondelis®)



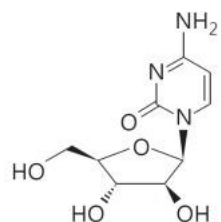
21 Halichondrin B

## Natural products from marine organisms

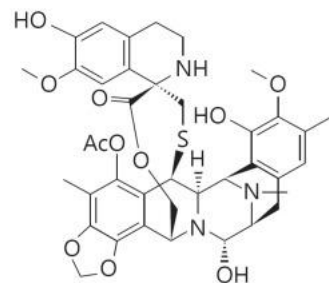
Cragg, Gordon M, and John M Pezzuto. “Natural Products as a Vital Source for the Discovery of Cancer Chemotherapeutic and Chemopreventive Agents.” *Medical principles and practice : international journal of the Kuwait University, Health Science Centre* vol. 25 Suppl 2,Suppl 2 (2016): 41-59. doi:10.1159/000443404



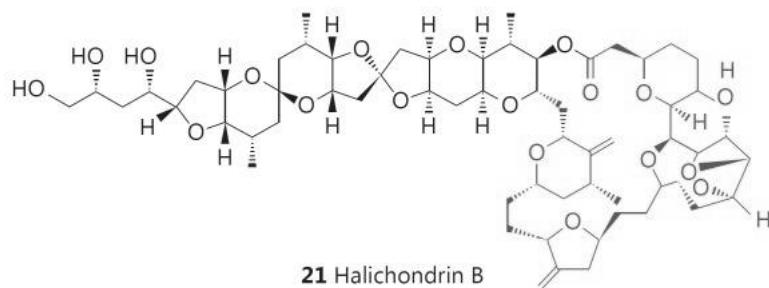
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Supply issue can  
be a huge problem

Cragg, Gordon M, and John M Pezzuto. “Natural Products as a Vital Source for the Discovery of Cancer Chemotherapeutic and Chemopreventive Agents.” *Medical principles and practice : international journal of the Kuwait University, Health Science Centre* vol. 25 Suppl 2,Suppl 2 (2016): 41-59. doi:10.1159/000443404

# The Threat of Antibiotic Resistance in the United States

Antibiotic resistance—when germs (bacteria, fungi) develop the ability to defeat the antibiotics designed to kill them—is one of the greatest global health challenges of modern time.

## New National Estimate\*

Each year, antibiotic-resistant bacteria and fungi cause at least an estimated:



**2,868,700**  
infections



**35,900** deaths



*Clostridioides difficile* is related to antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance:



**223,900**  
cases



**12,800** deaths

## New Antibiotic Resistance Threats List

Updated urgent, serious, and concerning threats—totaling 18

**5** urgent threats

**2** new threats

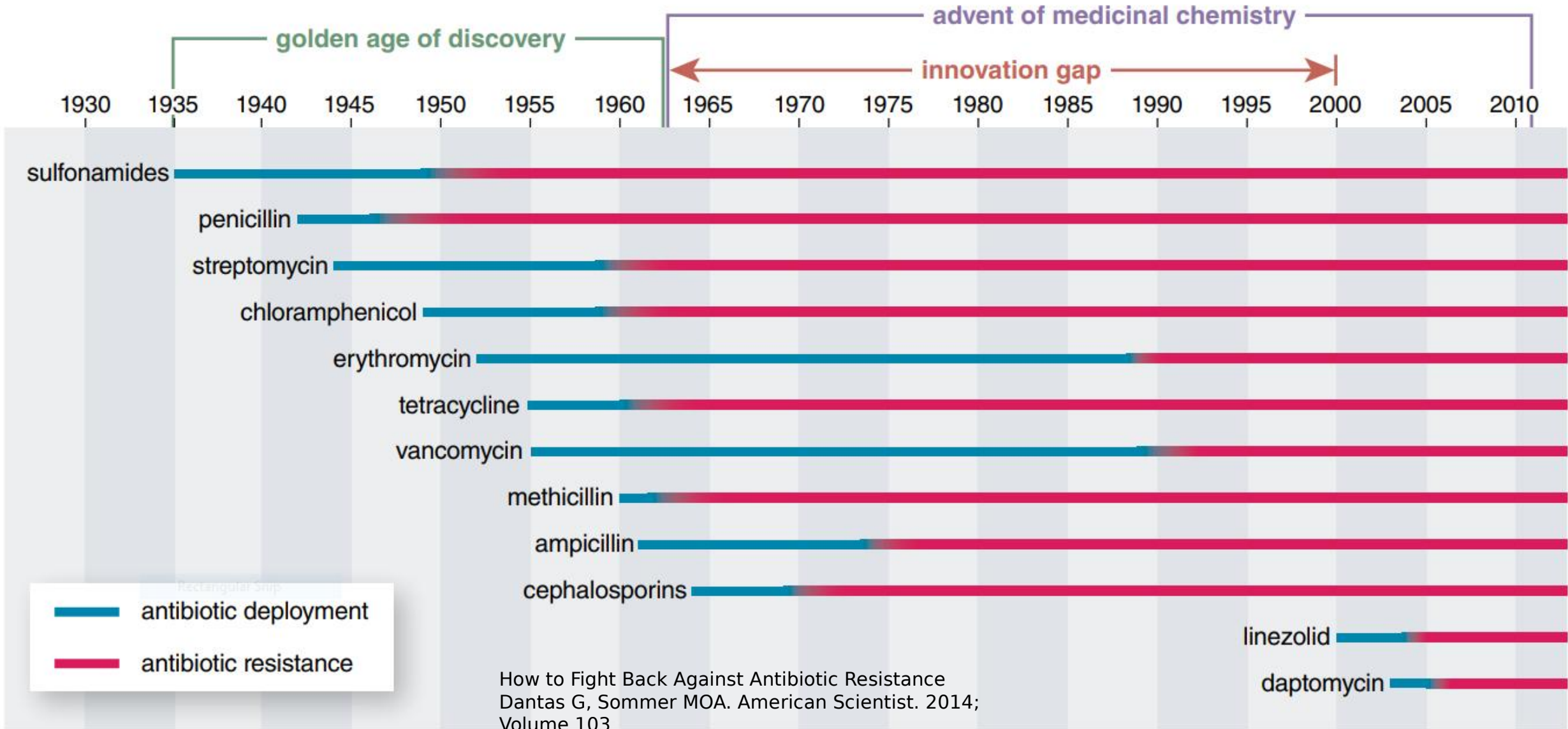
**NEW:**  
Watch List with **3** threats



Antibiotic resistance remains a significant One Health problem, affecting humans, animals, and the environment. Data show infection prevention and control is saving lives—especially in hospitals—but threats may undermine this progress without continued aggressive action now.

Learn more: [www.cdc.gov/DrugResistance/Biggest-Threats](https://www.cdc.gov/DrugResistance/Biggest-Threats)

\*National burden reflects de-duplicated infection and death estimates.



# Combinatorial Chemistry vs Natural Products



70 HTS campaigns  
**3 million compounds**  
19 Hits  
5 Leads



65 HTS campaigns  
**2 million compounds**  
57 Hits  
19 Leads



**3 million compounds**

\_\_\_\_ Gram-  
negative  
antibiotics with  
cellular activity

# Combinatorial Chemistry vs Natural Products



70 HTS campaigns  
**3 million compounds**  
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**3 million compounds**

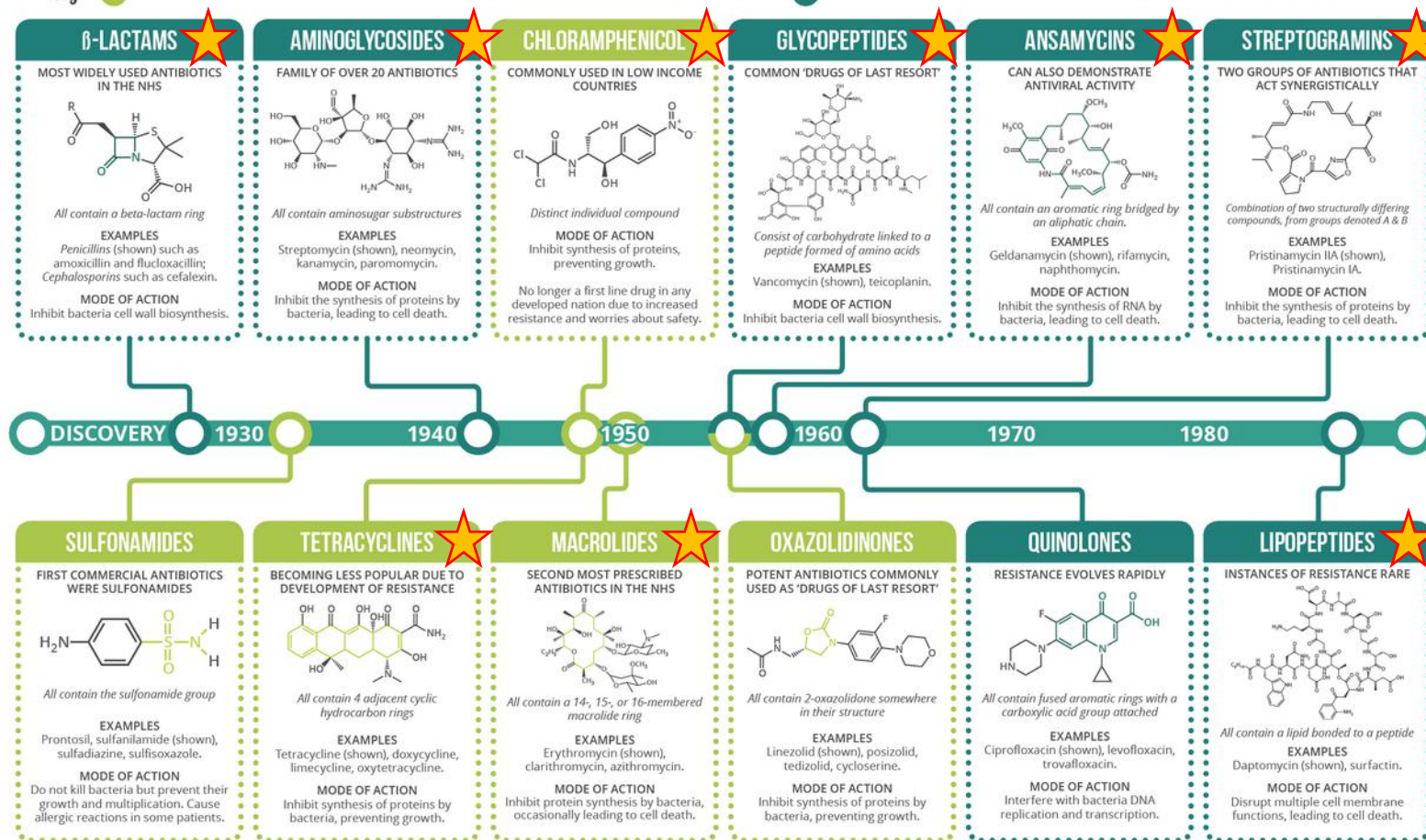
0 \_\_\_\_ Gram-  
negative  
antibiotics with  
cellular activity



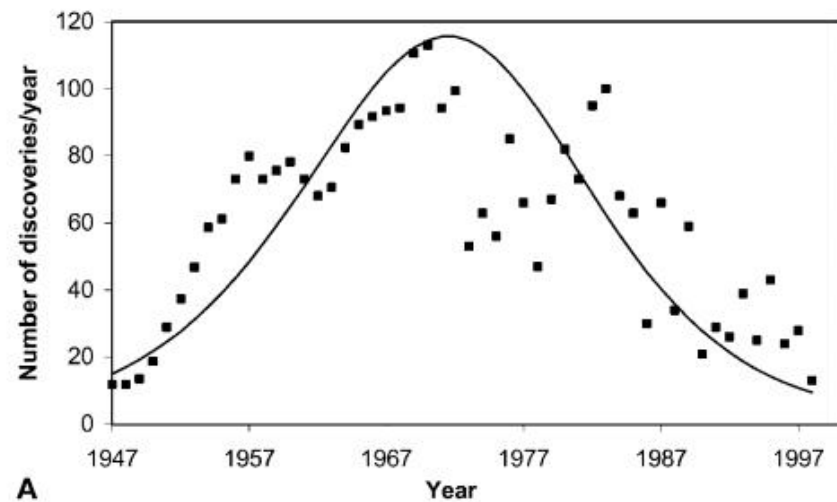
# Bacteria (and fungi) as sources of antibiotics

## DIFFERENT CLASSES OF ANTIBIOTICS - AN OVERVIEW

**Key:** ● COMMONLY ACT AS BACTERIOSTATIC AGENTS, RESTRICTING GROWTH & REPRODUCTION ● COMMONLY ACT AS BACTERICIDAL AGENTS, CAUSING BACTERIAL CELL DEATH



# Are there more compounds to find in *Streptomyces*?

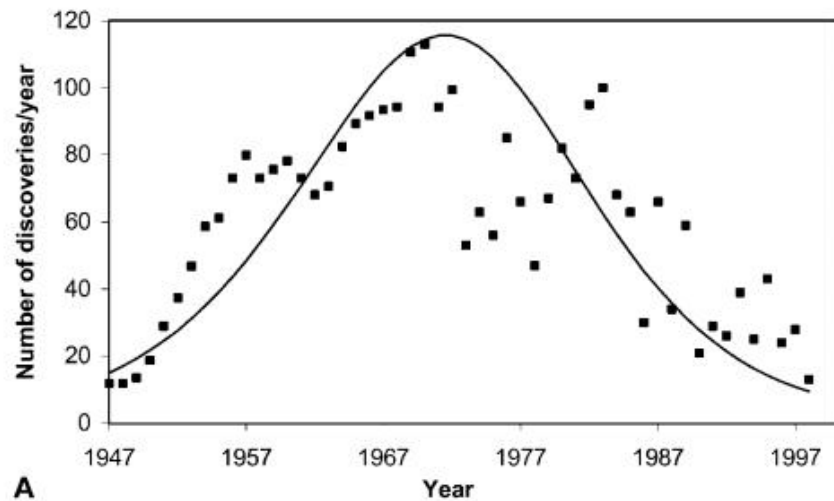


Watve MG, Tickoo R, Jog MM, Bhole BD. How many antibiotics are produced by the genus *Streptomyces*? Archives of Microbiology. 2001. p. 386-390.



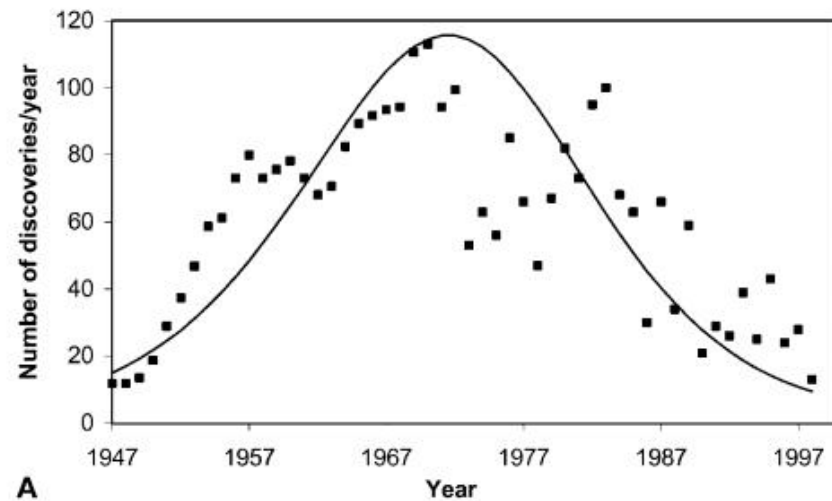
# Are there more compounds to find in *Streptomyces*?

“...even if we accept the more conservative estimate, only about 3% of the existing compounds have been reported so far.”



# Are there more compounds to find in *Streptomyces*?

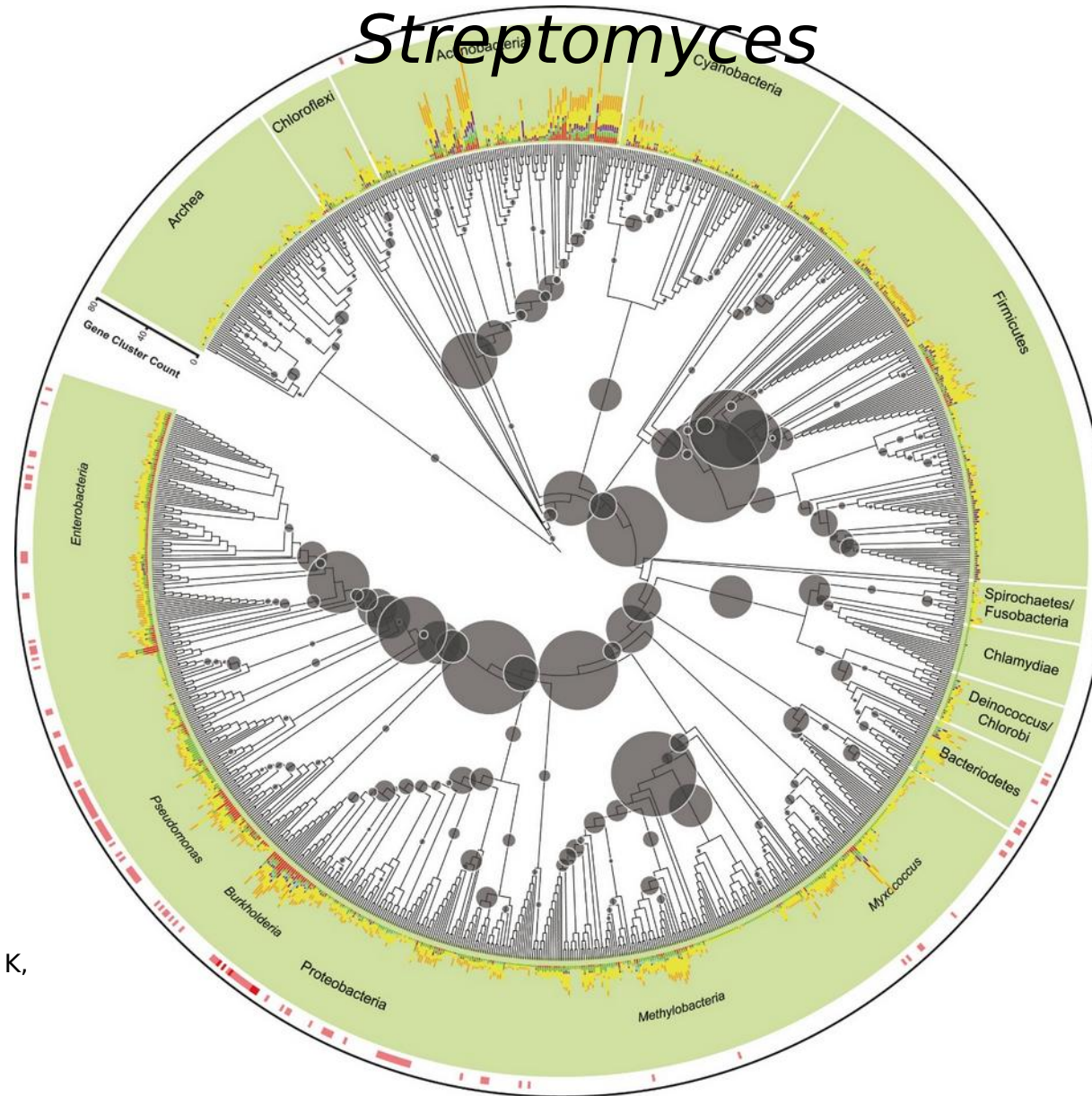
“...even if we accept the more conservative estimate, only about 3% of the existing compounds have been reported so far.”



## Problems:

1. Rediscovery of commonly occurring compounds
2. Only tested in limited assays

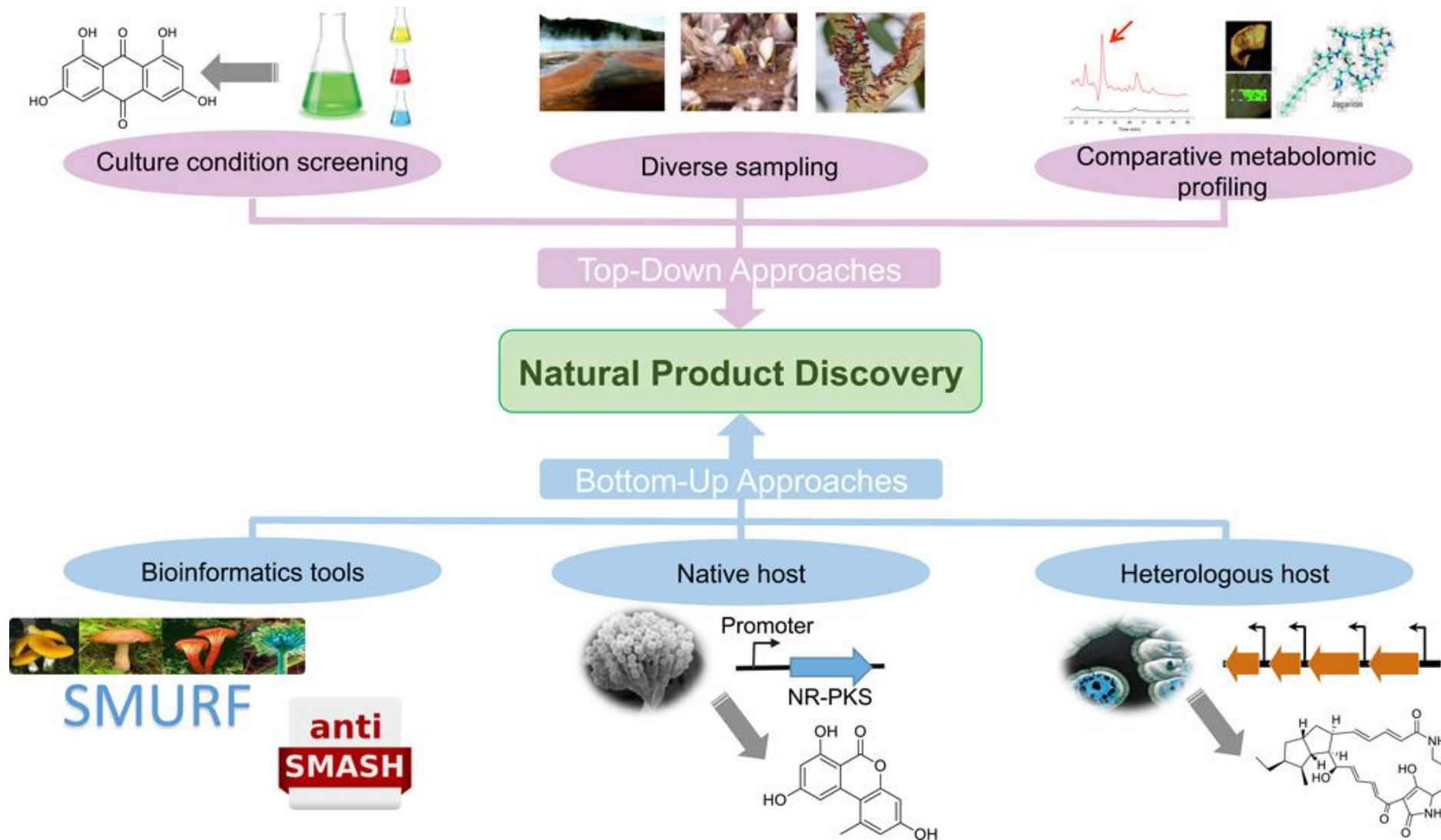
But... natural products aren't just found in  
*Streptomyces*



Cimermancic P, Medema MH, Claesen J, Kurita K, Wieland Brown LC, Mavrommatis K, Pati A, Godfrey PA, Koehrsen M, Clardy J, Birren BW, Takano E, Sali A, Linington RG, Fischbach MA. Insights into secondary metabolism from a global analysis of prokaryotic biosynthetic gene clusters. Cell. Cell Press; 2014 Jul 17;158(2):412-421.

# To think about...

- Where should we look for new bacterial NP? (rediscovery of known compounds a major issue)
  - New species of bacteria? New phyla?
  - Same species, different location/host organism?
- How to access enough NP from uncultured organisms?
  - Total synthesis can be slow isn't always an answer





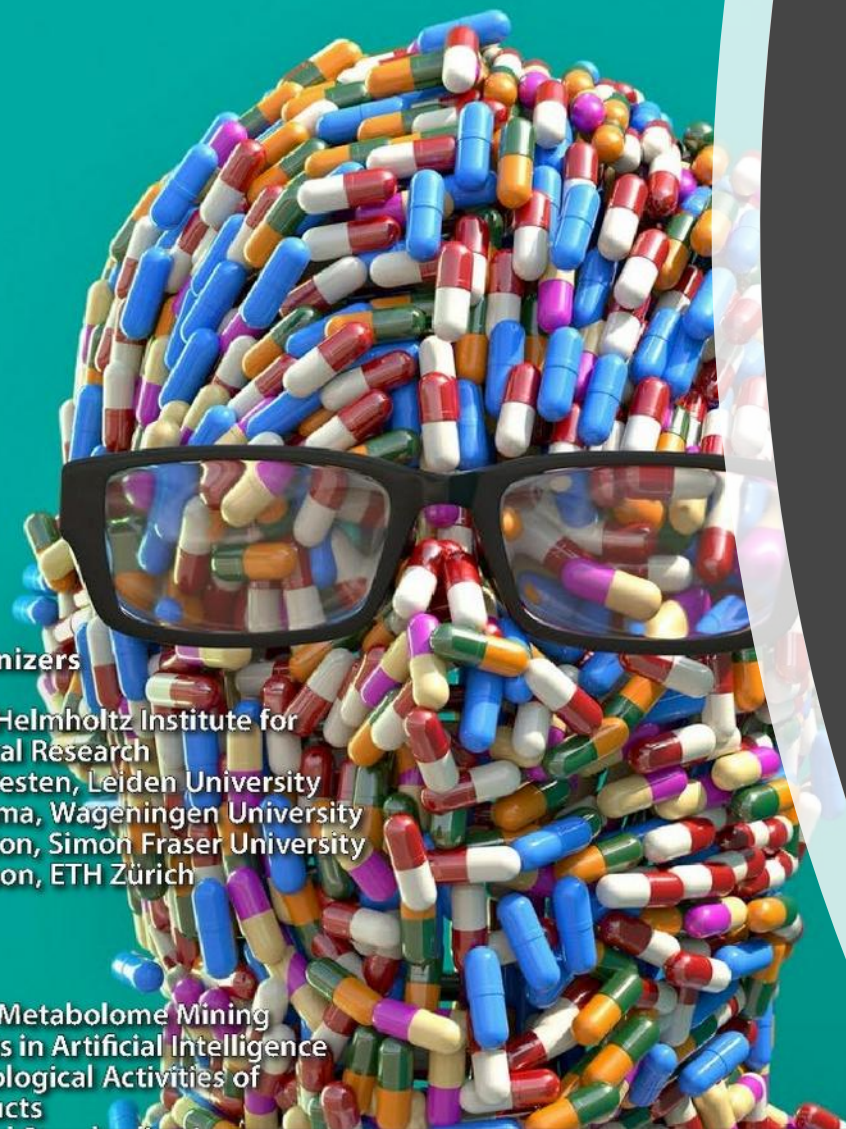
# Postdoctoral Research

## Bioinformatics, Metagenomics



# Artificial Intelligence for Natural Product Drug Discovery

27 September - 1 October 2021, Leiden, the Netherlands



## Scientific Organizers

- Anna Hirsch, Helmholtz Institute for Pharmaceutical Research
- Gerard van Westen, Leiden University
- Marnix Medema, Wageningen University
- Roger Linington, Simon Fraser University
- Serina Robinson, ETH Zürich

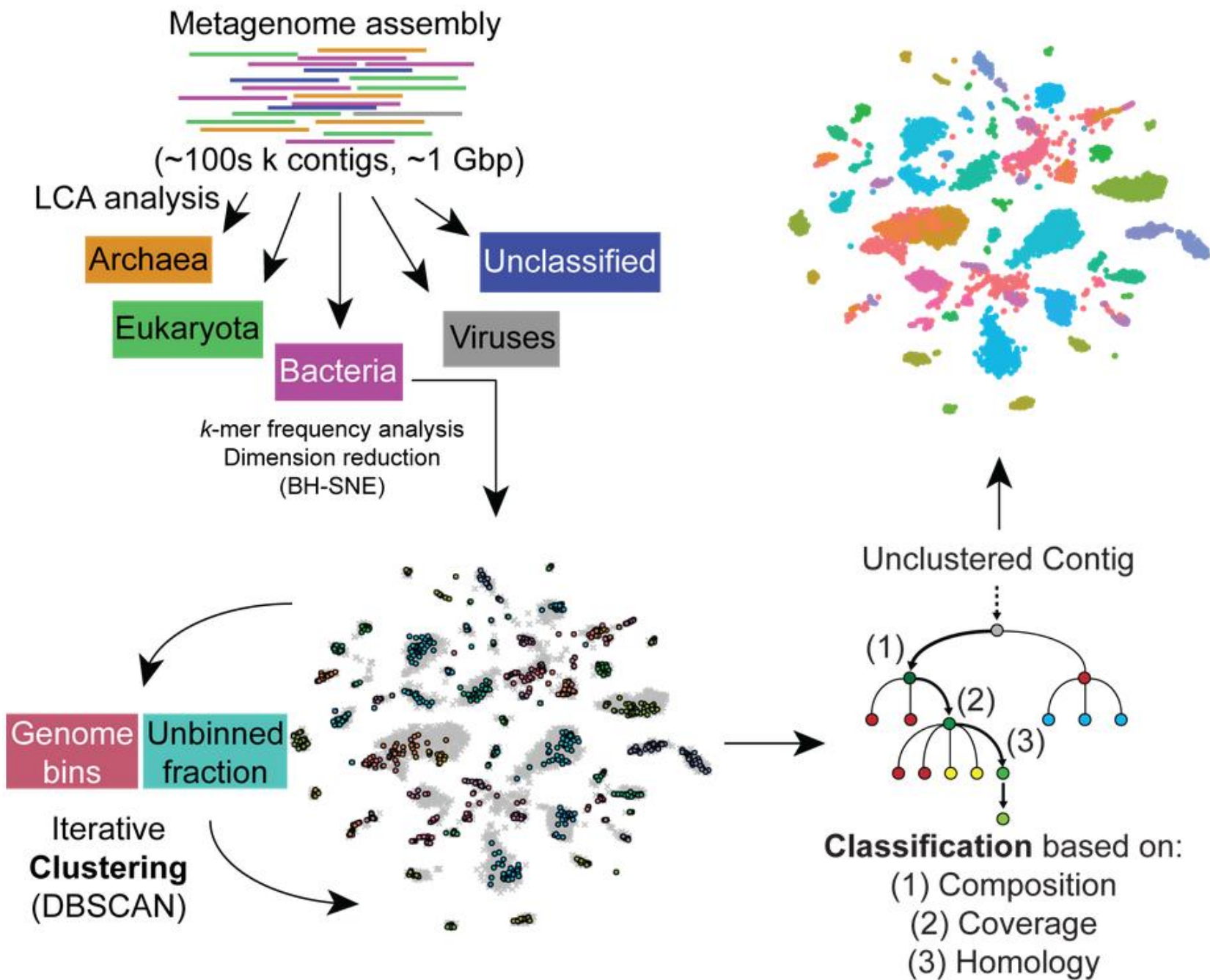
## Topics

- Genome and Metabolome Mining
- Developments in Artificial Intelligence
- Predicting Biological Activities of Natural Products

## Artificial Intelligence Approaches to Natural Product Drug Discovery

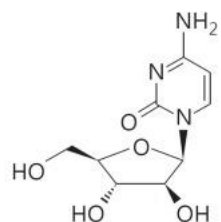
Nature Reviews Drug Discovery -  
submitted  
(58 authors)



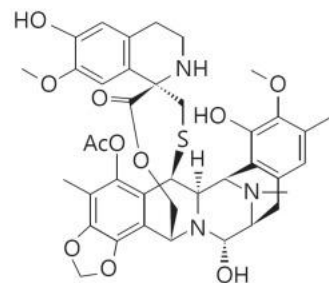


Miller IJ, et al. Autometa: automated extraction of microbial genomes from individual shotgun metagenomes. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2019 Jun 4;47(10):e57.

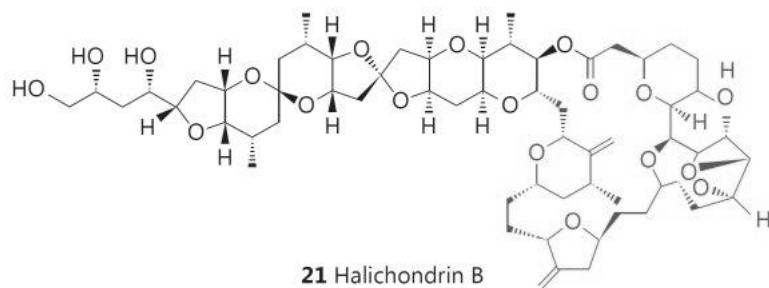
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PHOTO BY LAURA  
FLÓREZ



**Metagenomic**

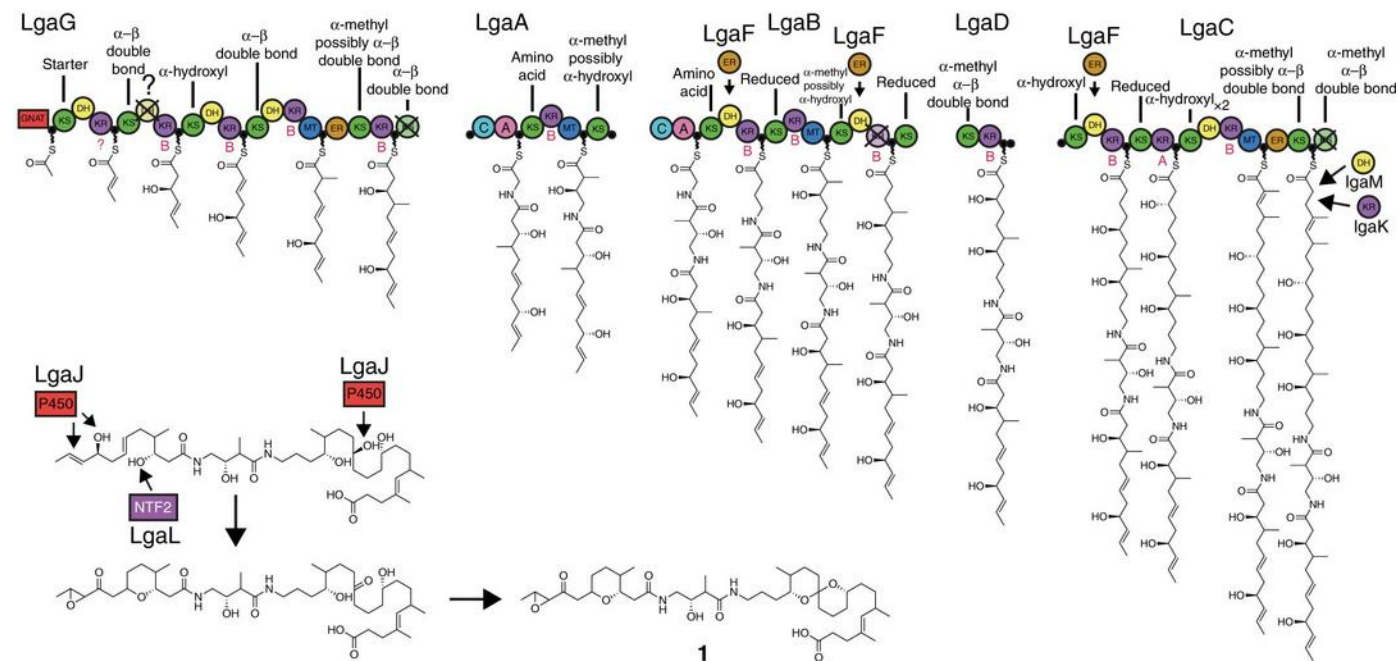


**Uncultured  
symbiont**

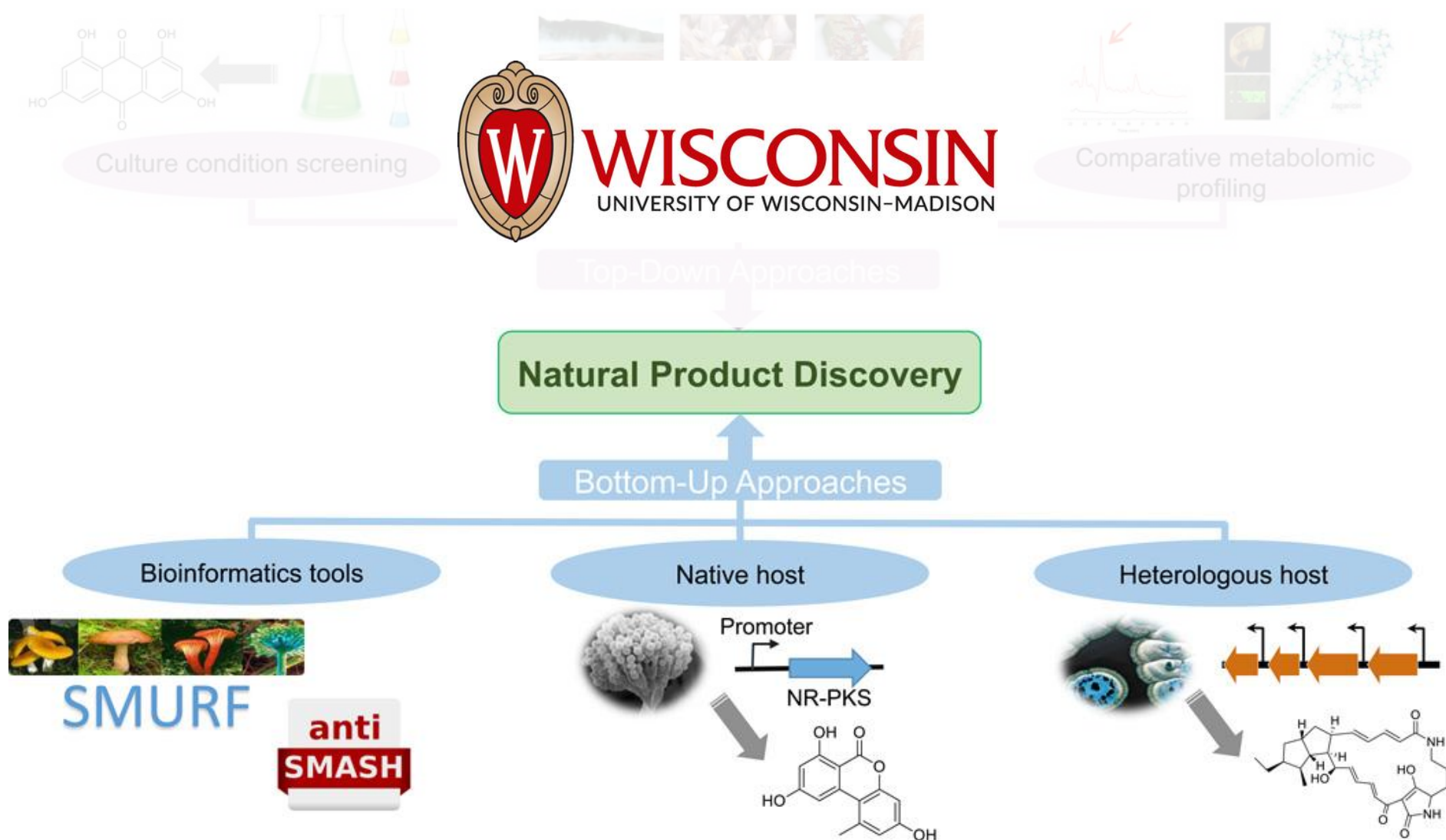
*Burkholderia gladioli*

Ly S+P

# Metagenomics revealed the biosynthetic gene cluster for laqriamide



Waterworth SC, Flórez LV, Rees ER, Hertweck C, Kaltenpoth M, Kwan JC. Horizontal Gene Transfer to a Defensive Symbiont with a Reduced Genome in a Multipartite Beetle Microbiome. *mBio*. 2020 Feb 25;11(1):e02430-19.





# Soc*al*Gene

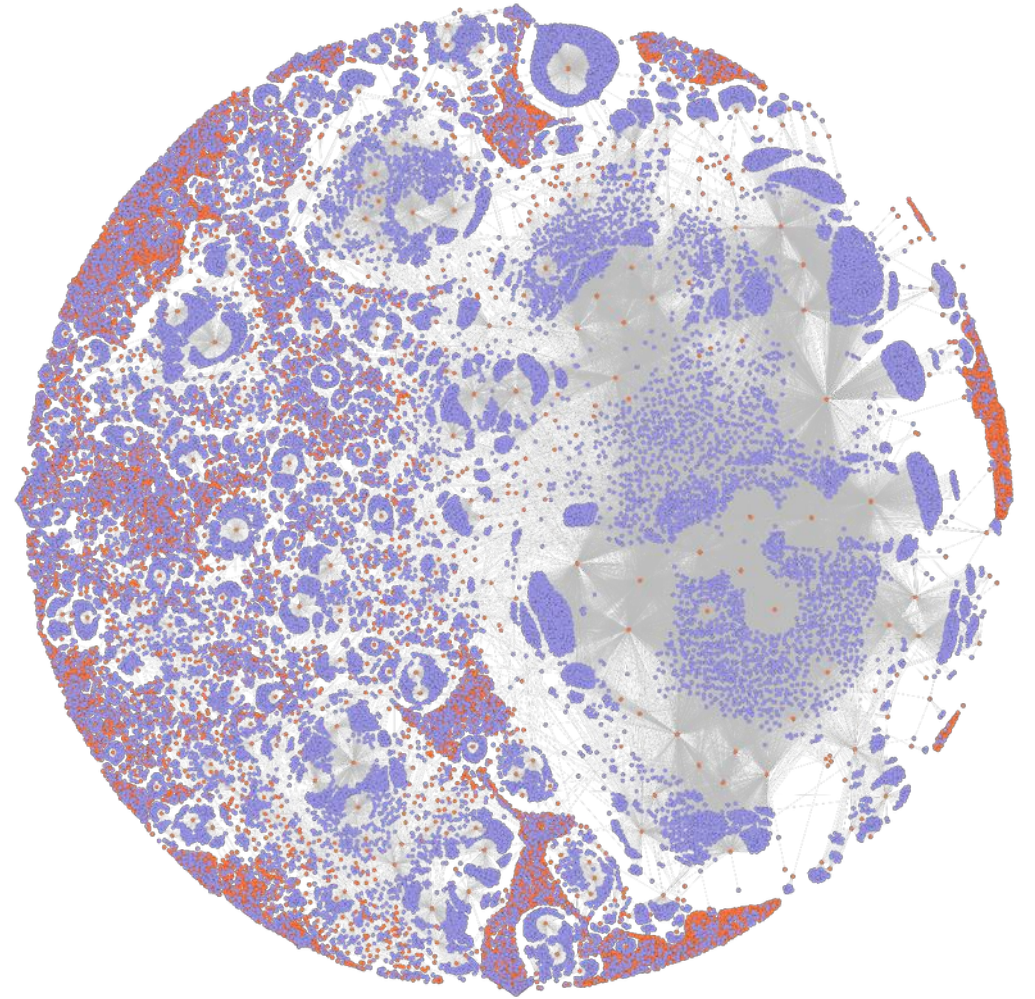
Knowledge graphs for drug  
discovery  
Functional characterization of  
proteins  
and searching for similar BGCs



nextflow

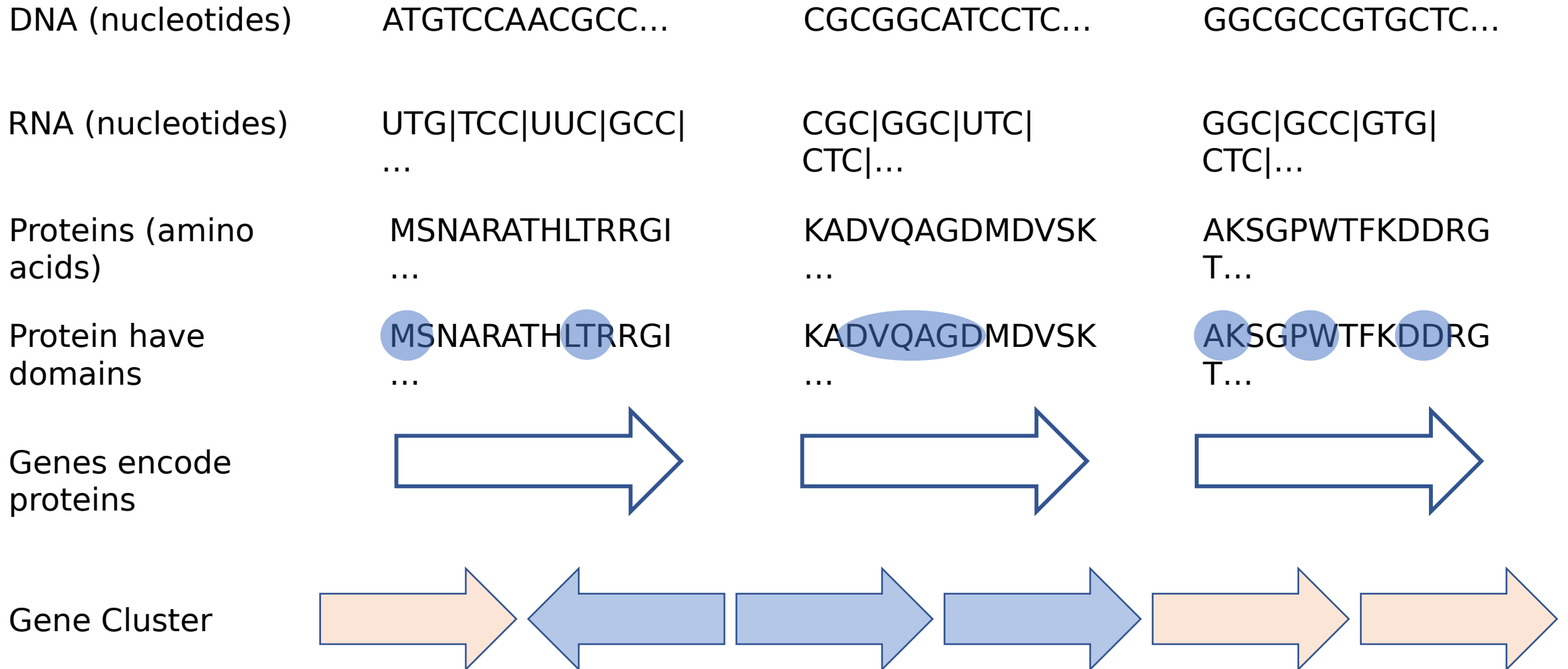
django

neo4j



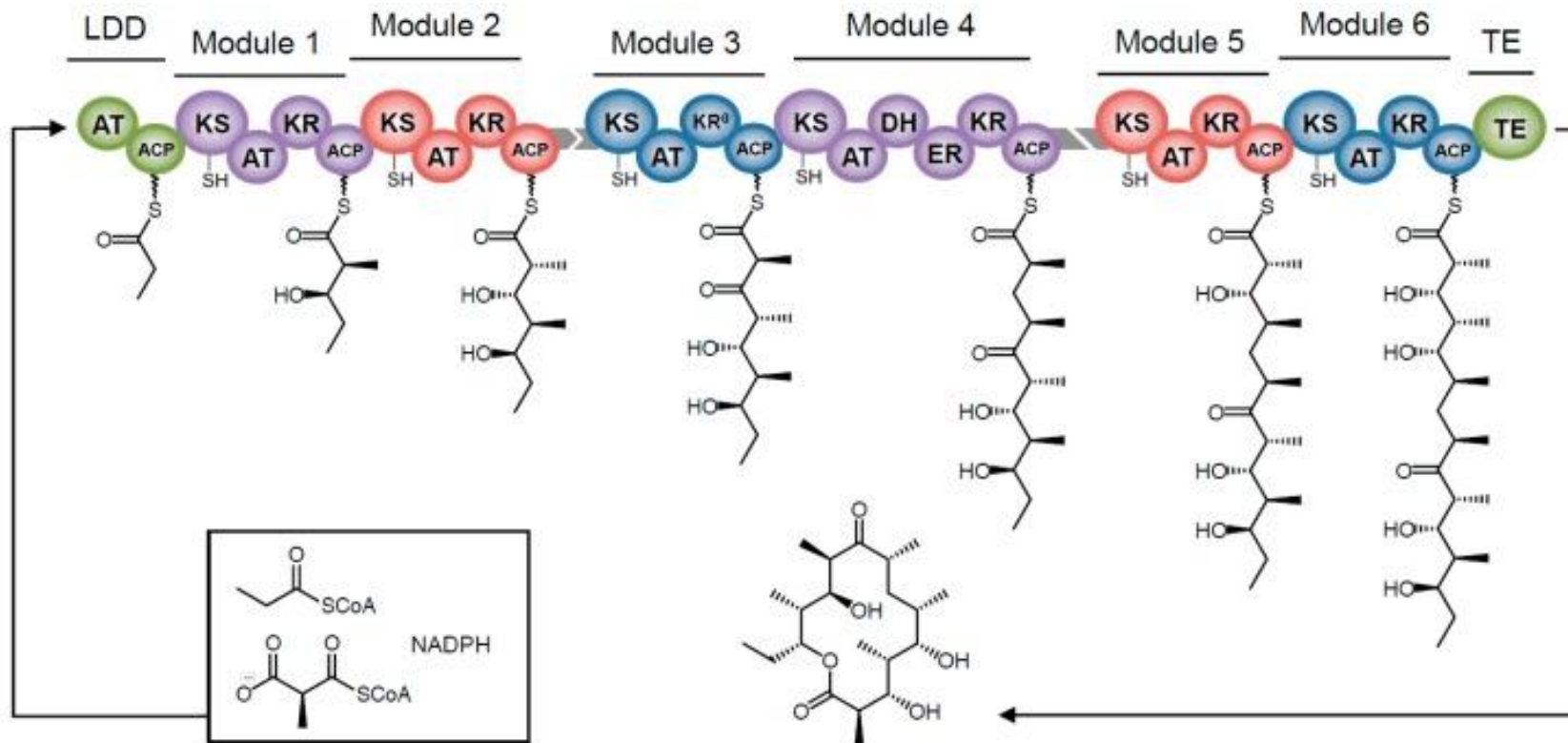
# Molecular Biology in < 1 minute

DNA → RNA, RNA → protein



# Polyketide synthases are large, multidomain proteins

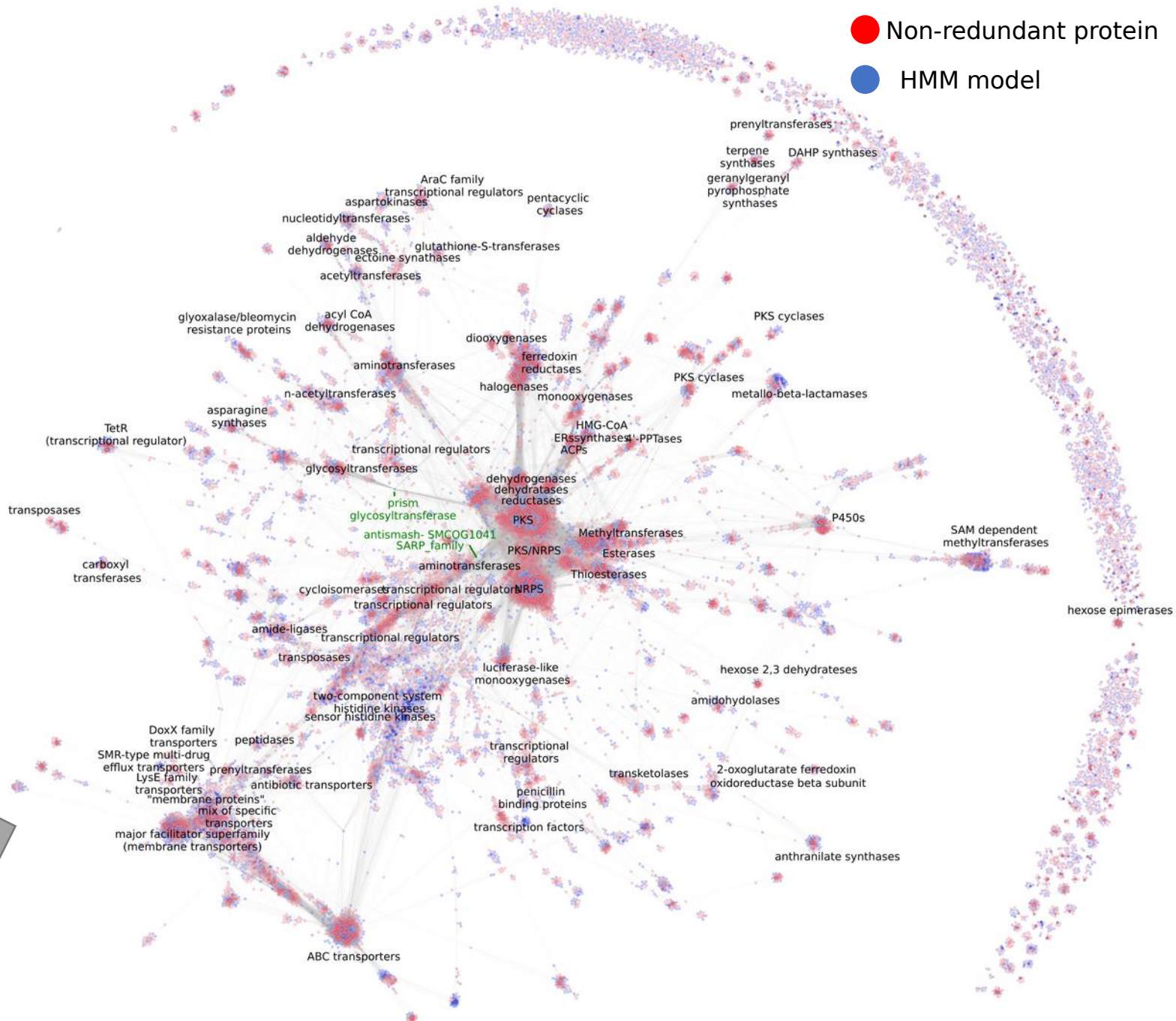
## “Beads on a String”





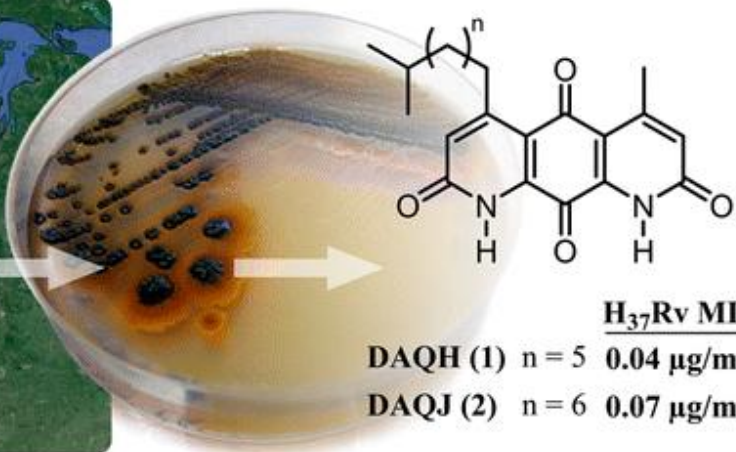
# Vignette 1

## Mapping MIBiG



## Vignette 2

Looking for  
diazquinomycin analogs



Mullowney, Michael W et al. "Diaza-anthracene Antibiotics from a Freshwater-Derived Actinomycete with Selective Antibacterial Activity toward *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*." *ACS infectious diseases* vol. 1,4 (2015): 168-174. doi:10.1021/acsinfecdis.5b00005

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# Diazaquinomycin Biosynthetic Gene Clusters from Marine and Freshwater Actinomycetes

Jana Braesel, Jung-Ho Lee, Benoît Arnould, Brian T. Murphy, and Alessandra S. Eustáquio\*

**Cite This:** *J. Nat. Prod.* 2019, 82, 4, 937–946.  
 Publication Date: March 21, 2019.  
<https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jnatprod.8b01028>  
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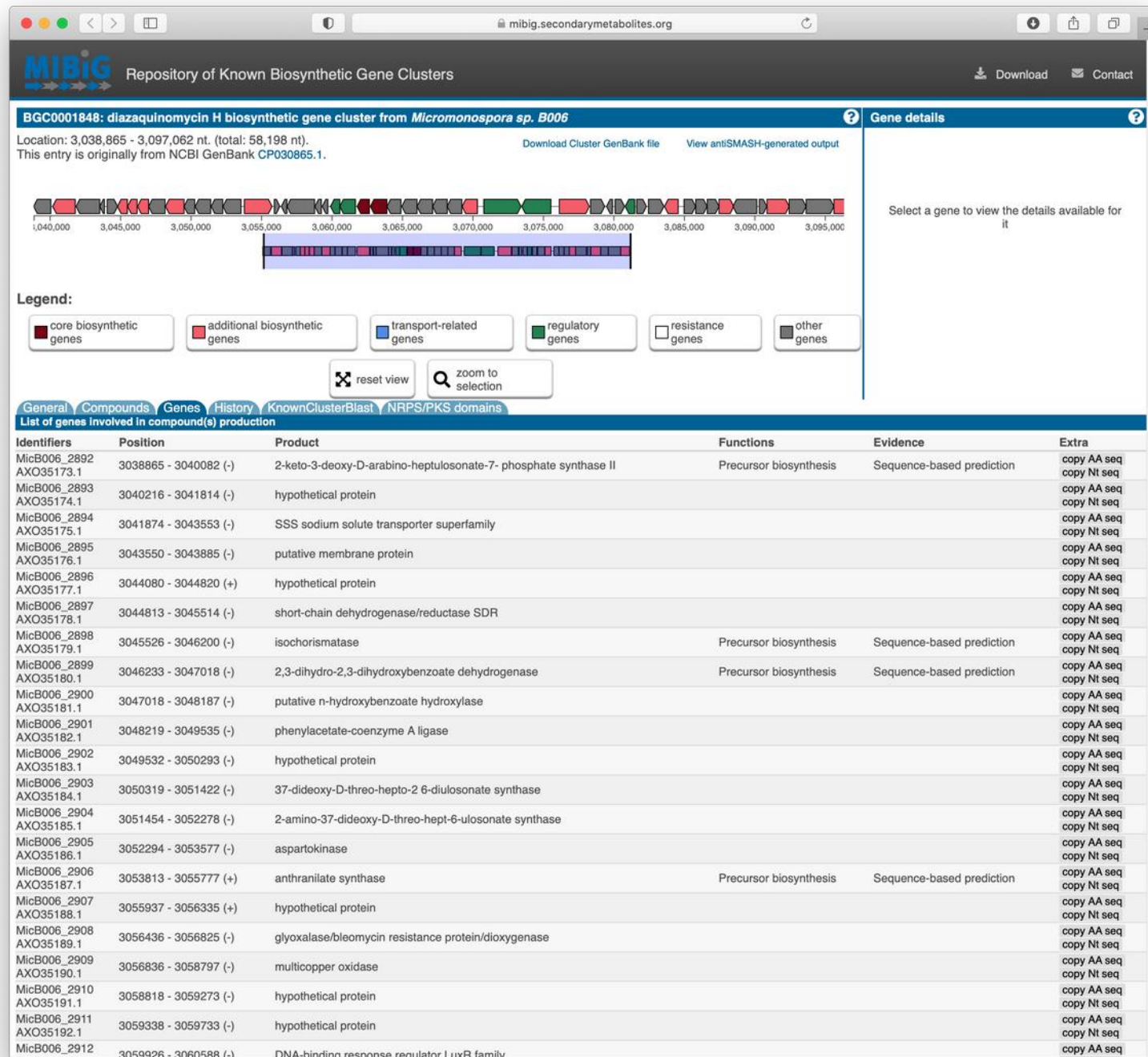
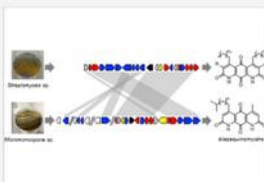
Supporting Info (1) |

**SUBJECTS:** Peptides and proteins, Bacteria, Genetics, >

Journal of Natural Products

## Abstract

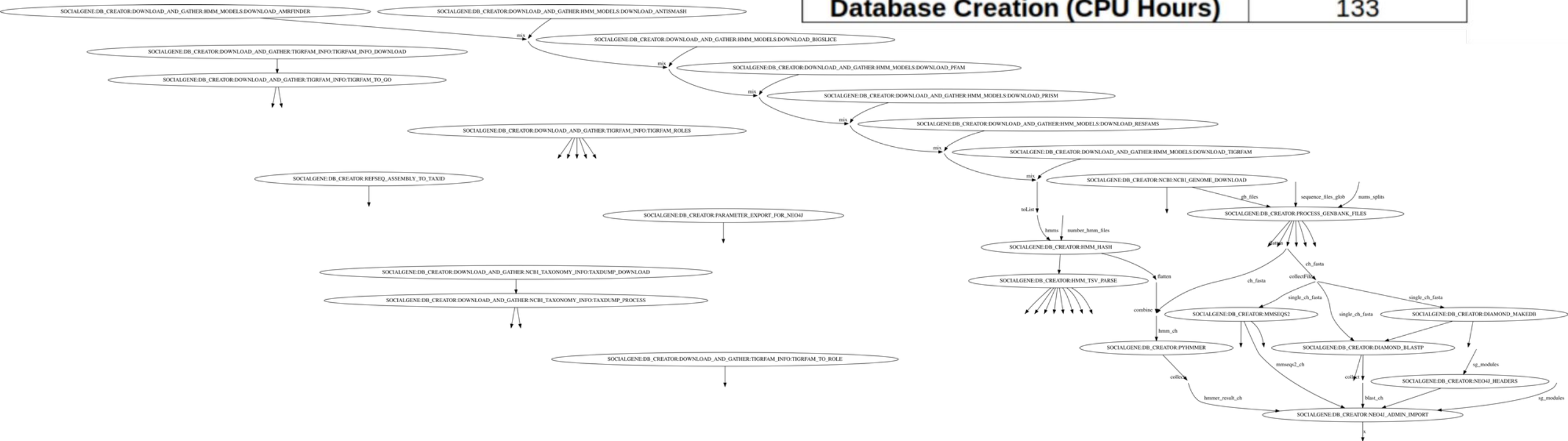
Tuberculosis is an infectious disease of global concern. Members of the diazaquinomycin (DAQ) class of natural products have shown potent and selective activity against drug-resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. However, poor solubility has prevented further development of this compound class. Understanding DAQ biosynthesis may provide a viable route for the generation of derivatives with improved properties. We have sequenced the genomes of two actinomycete bacteria that produce distinct DAQ derivatives. While software tools for automated biosynthetic gene cluster (BGC) prediction failed to detect DAQ BGCs, comparative genomics using MAUVE alignment led to the identification of putative BGCs in the marine *Streptomyces* sp. F001 and in the freshwater *Micromonospora* sp. B006. Deletion of the identified *daq* BGC in strain B006 using CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing abolished DAQ production, providing experimental evidence for BGC assignment. A complete model for DAQ biosynthesis is proposed based on the genes identified. Insufficient knowledge of natural product biosynthesis is one of the major challenges of productive genome mining approaches. The results reported here fill a gap in knowledge regarding the genetic basis for the biosynthesis of DAQ antibiotics. Moreover, identification of the *daq* BGC shall enable future generations of improved derivatives using biosynthetic methods.





# SocialGene

	<i>Micromonospora</i>
<b>Genomes</b>	226
<b>Contigs/Scaffolds</b>	34,856
<b>Proteins</b>	1,373,641
<b>Non-Redundant Proteins</b>	1,076,690
<b>HMM Annotations</b>	10,656,754
<b>MMSEQS2</b>	1,009,056
<b>Bidirectional BLASTP (45.3 GB)</b>	420,788,981
<b>Database Creation (Real Duration)</b>	4h 30m
<b>Database Creation (CPU Hours)</b>	133



socialgeneweb

127.0.0.1:8009/findmybgc/

socialgenewebHomeAboutAboutSingle Protein SearchBGC SearchMy ProfileSign Out

DjDT

# Search the database, using a single BGC as input

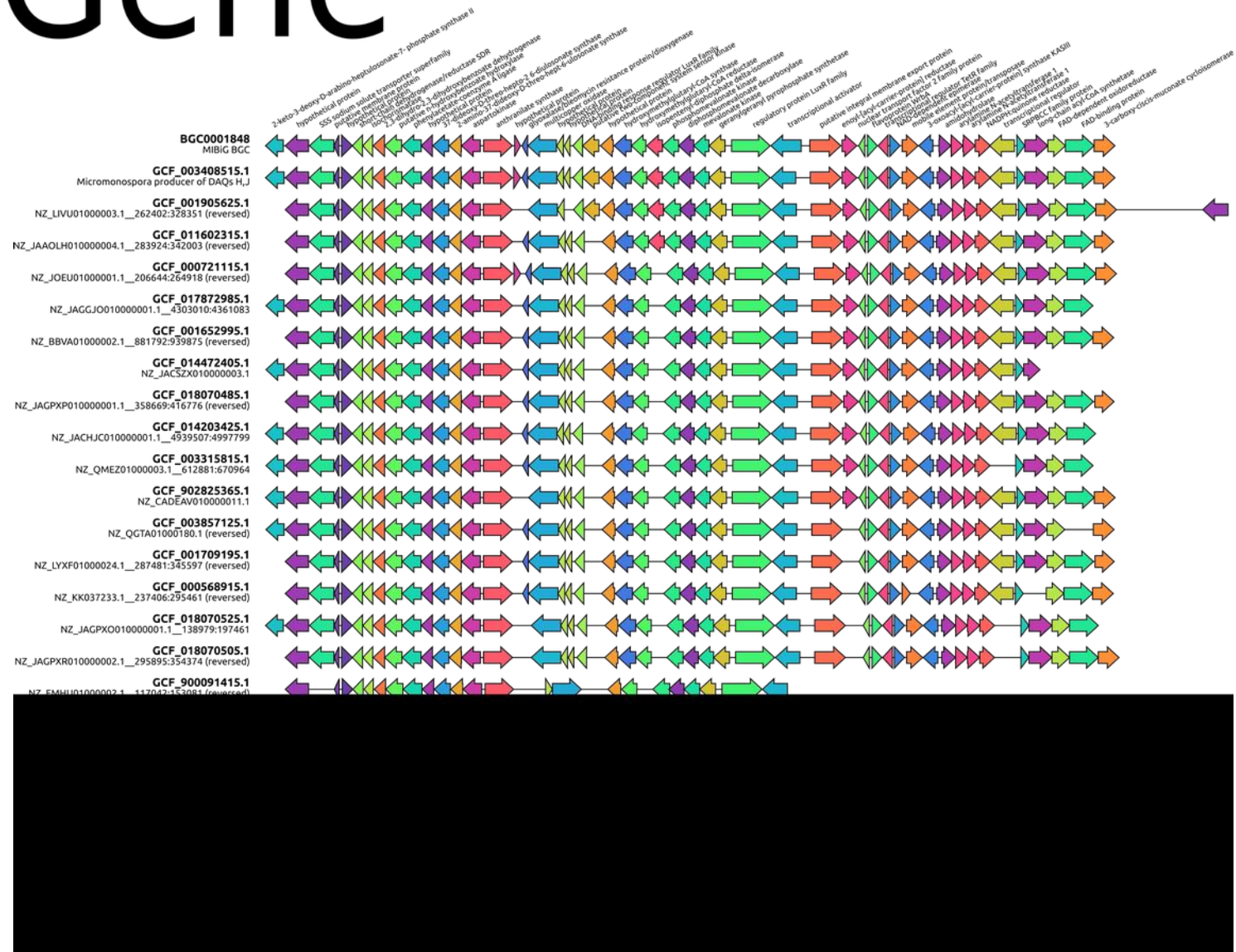
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(Input expects a gbk or gbff file)

Description:

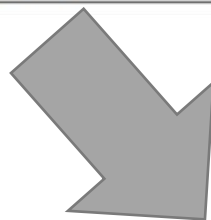
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# SocialGene

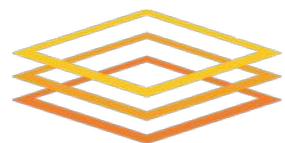




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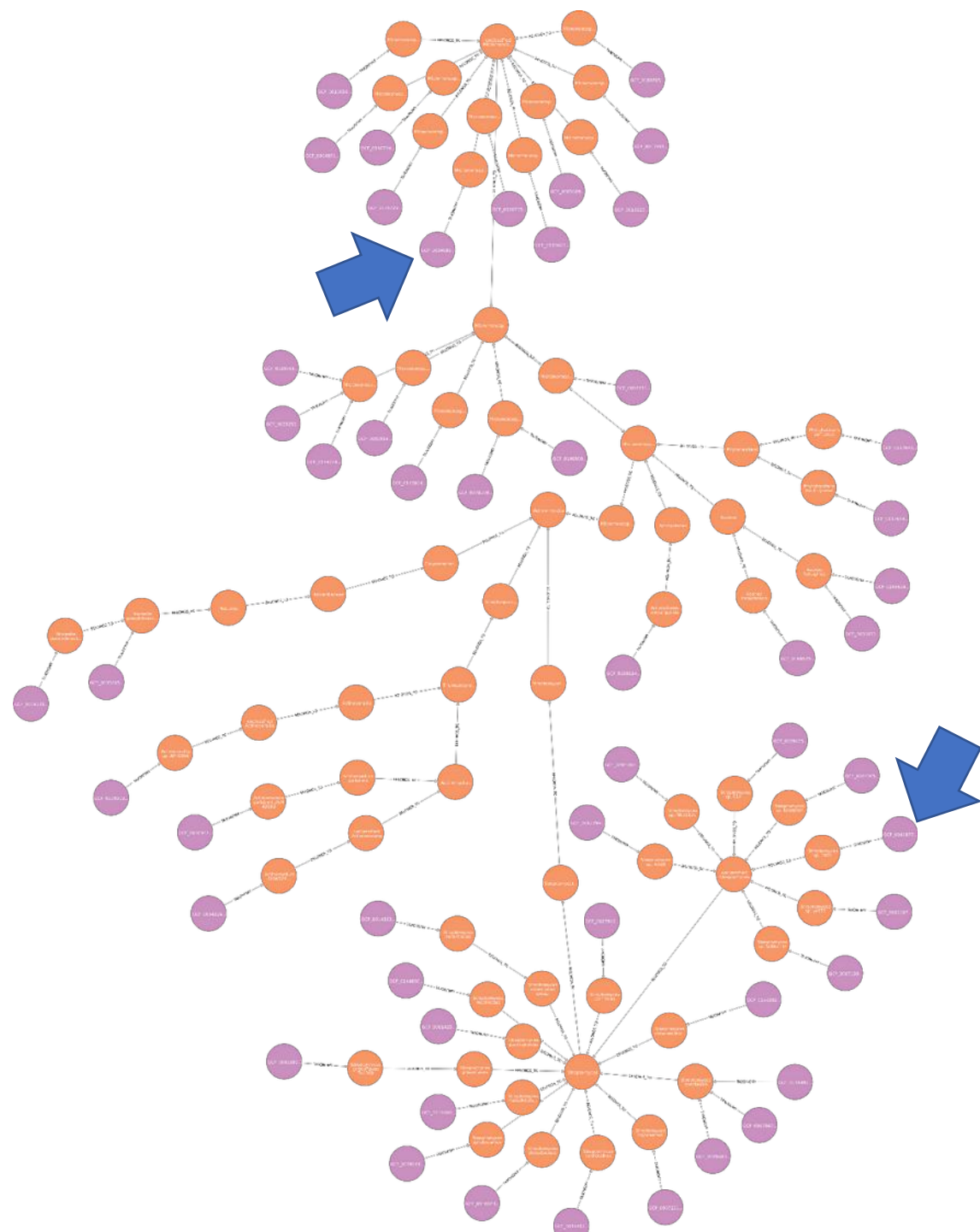


Open Science Grid



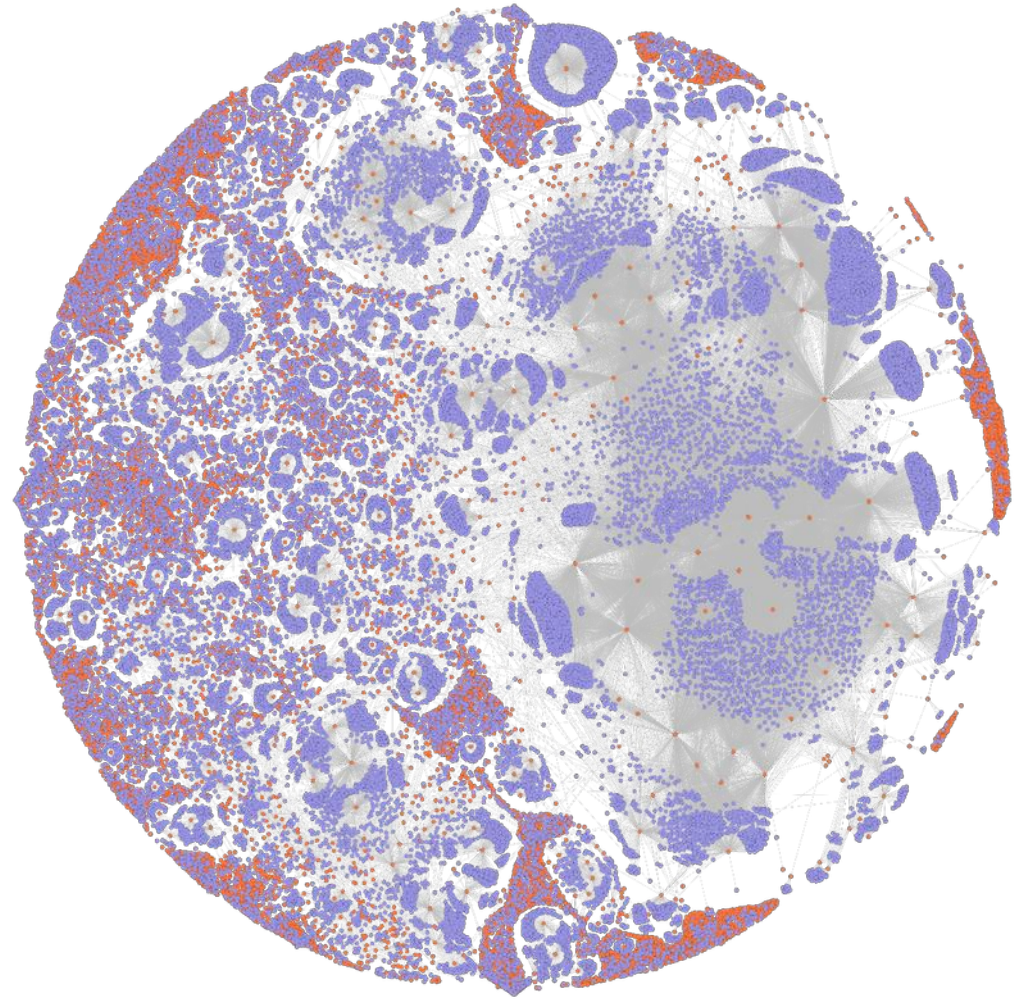
CENTER FOR  
**HIGH THROUGHPUT**  
COMPUTING

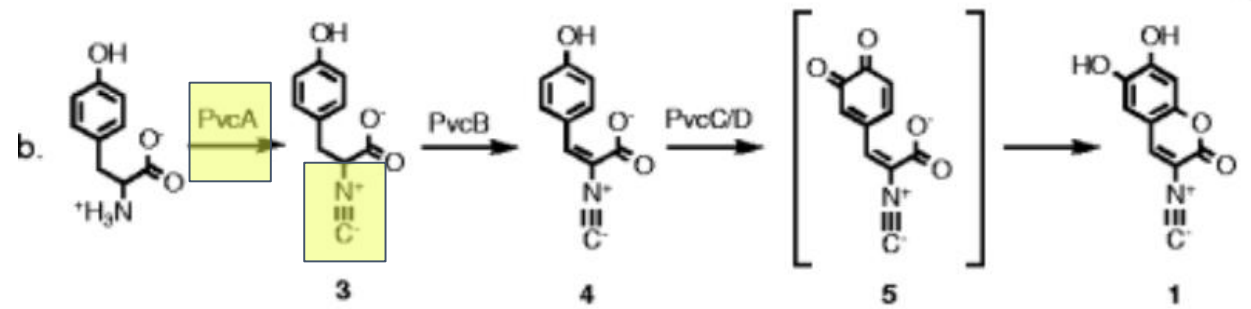
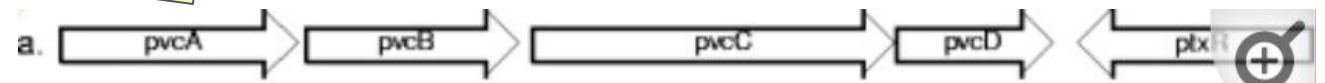
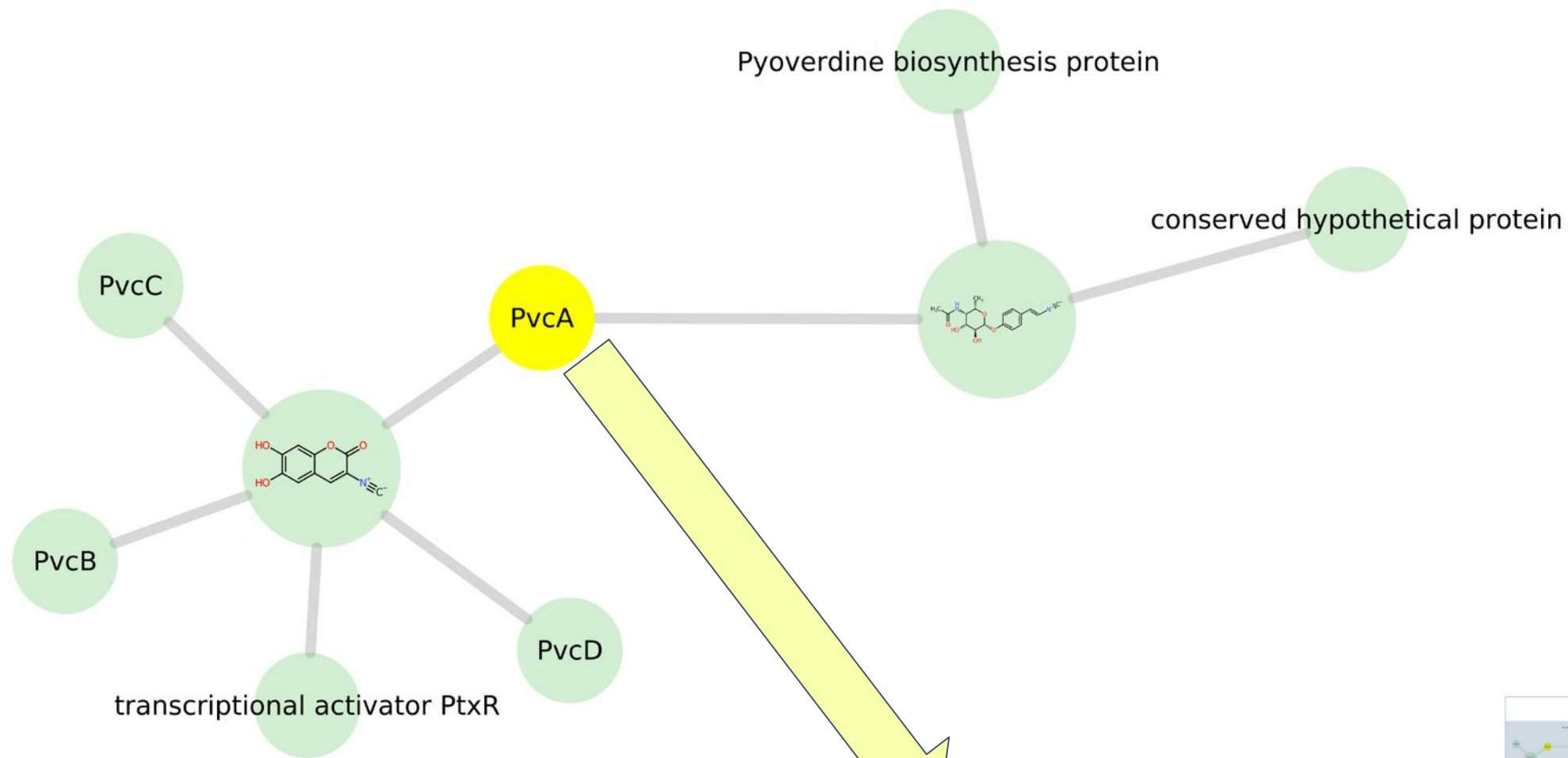
	<i>RefSeq</i>
<b>Genomes</b>	266,668
<b>Contigs/Scaffolds</b>	23,941,594
<b>Proteins</b>	188,429,555
<b>HMM models</b>	25,648
<b>HMM annotations</b>	1,403,423,051
<b>MMseqs2 (bug in MMseqs2)</b>	188,327,165
<b>Contigs to Proteins</b>	971,298,319
<b>Species</b>	49,902
<b>Genera</b>	6,460



Teasers- What Next?

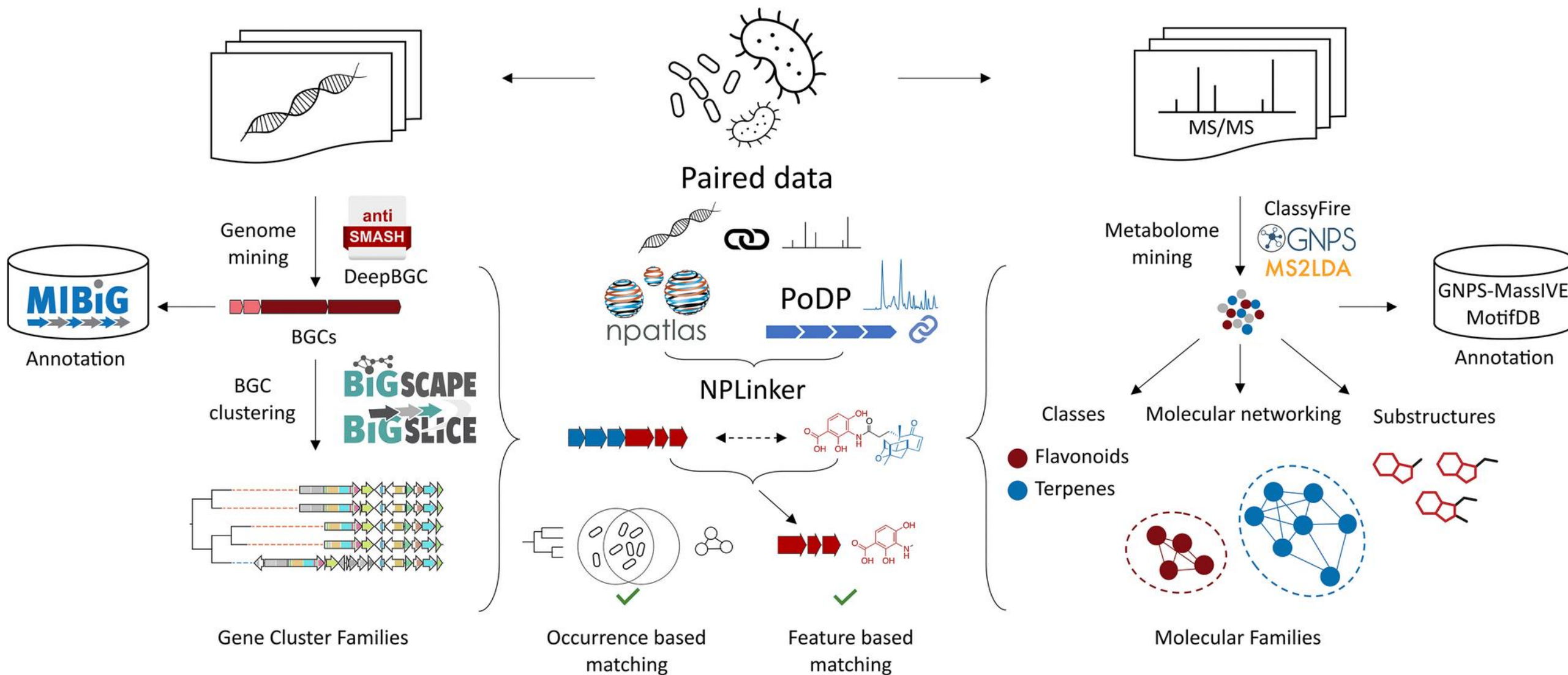
# Soc*al*Gene





Clarke-Pearson MF, Brady SF. Paerucumarin, a new metabolite produced by the pvc gene cluster from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. J Bacteriol. 2008 Oct;190(20):6927-30.





Louwen JJR, van der Hooft JJJ. Comprehensive Large-Scale Integrative Analysis of Omics Data To Accelerate Specialized Metabolite Discovery. mSystems. 2021 Aug 31;6(4):e0072621. doi: 10.1128/mSystems.00726-21. Epub 2021 Aug 24