Universität Zürich[UZH]

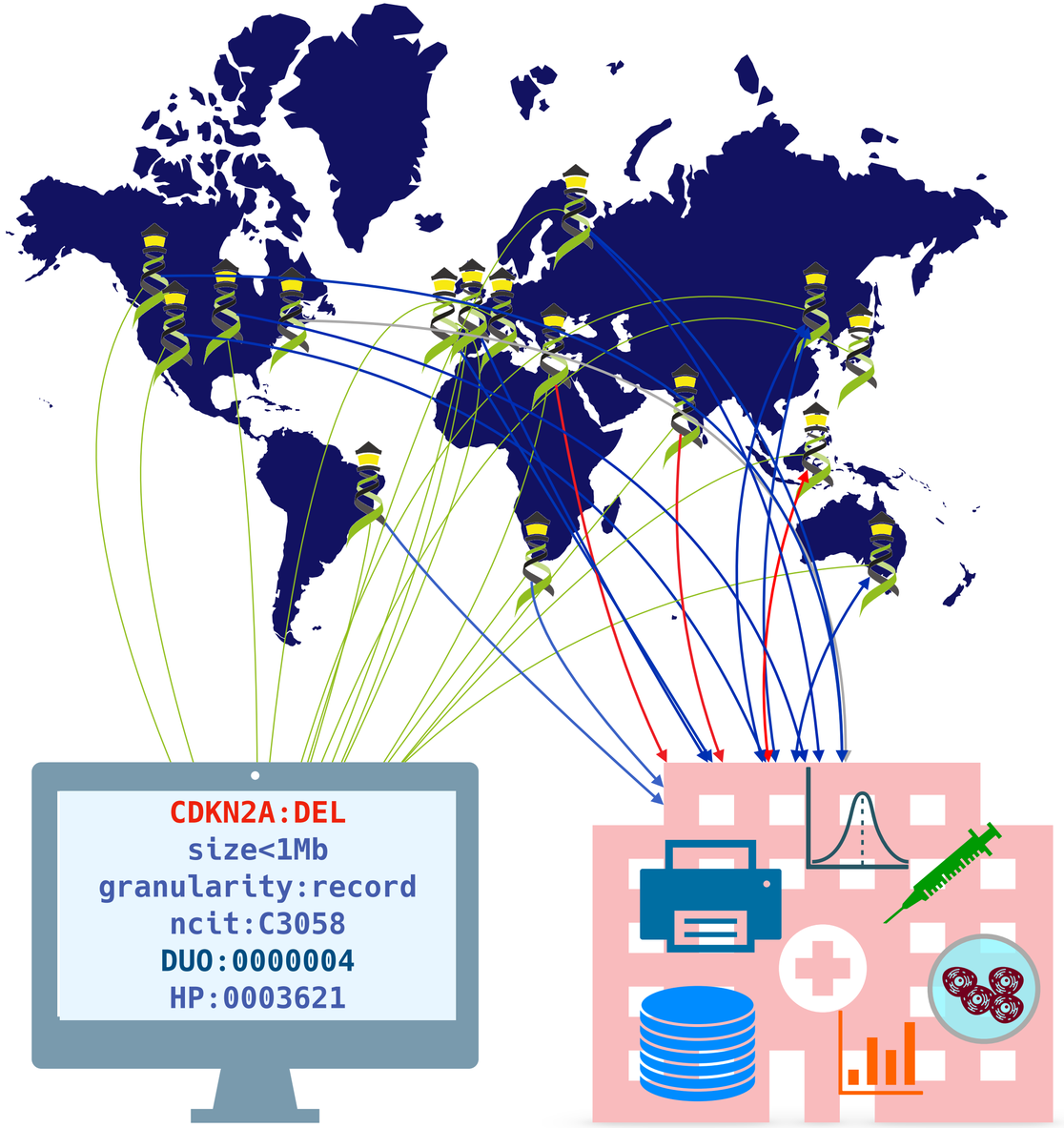
Global Alliance for Genomics & Health

Collaborate. Innovate. Accelerate.

Opening Cancer Genomics

Deploying the GA4GH Beacon protocol

Michael Baudis @ ORD Cancer Care Zürich Project Workshop



University of Zurich[UZH]

Department of Molecular Life Sciences

Genome screening at the core of “Personalised Health”

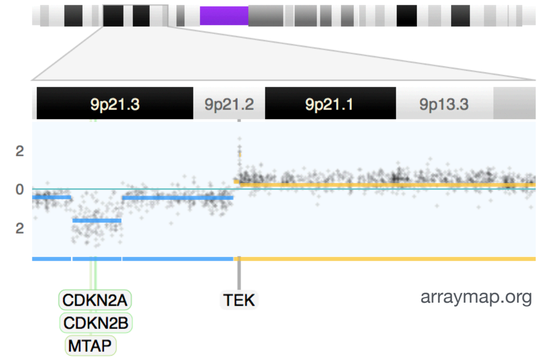
- **Genome analyses** (including transcriptome, metagenomics) are core technologies for Personalised Health™ applications
- The unexpectedly large amount of **sequence variants** in human genomes - germline and somatic/cancer - requires huge analysis efforts and creation of **reference repositories**
- **Standardized data formats** and **exchange protocols** are needed to connect these resources throughout the world, for reciprocal, international **data sharing** and **biocuration** efforts
- Our work @ UZH:
  - ***cancer*** genome repositories
  - biocuration
  - protocols & formats

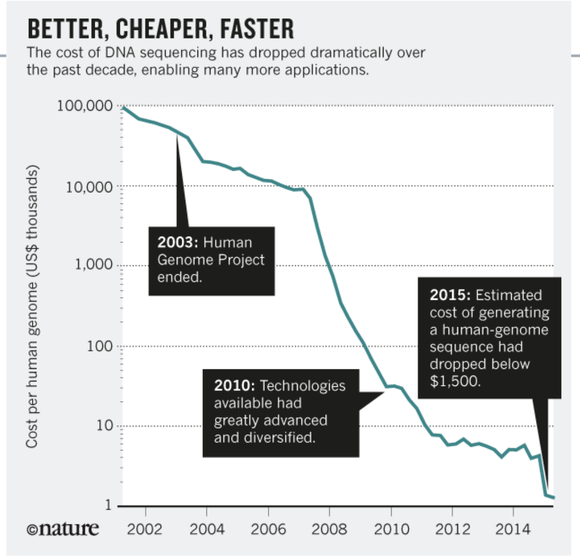
arrayMap

progenetix

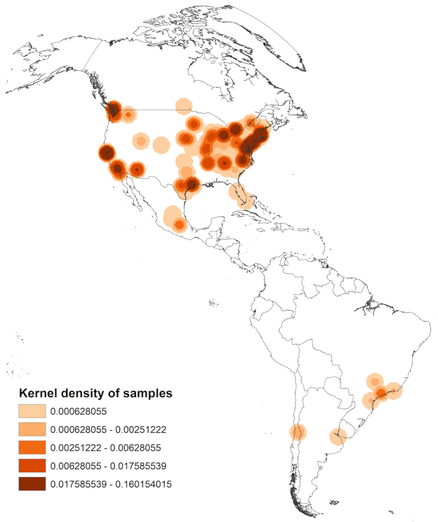
elixir

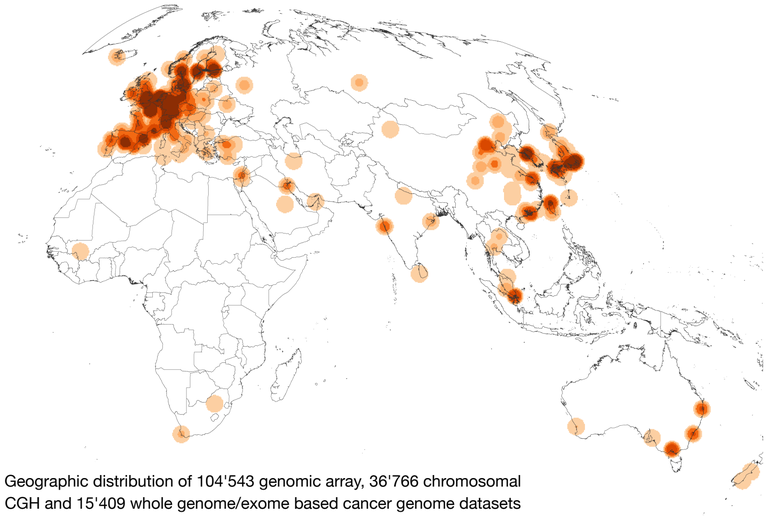
Global Alliance for Genomics & Health





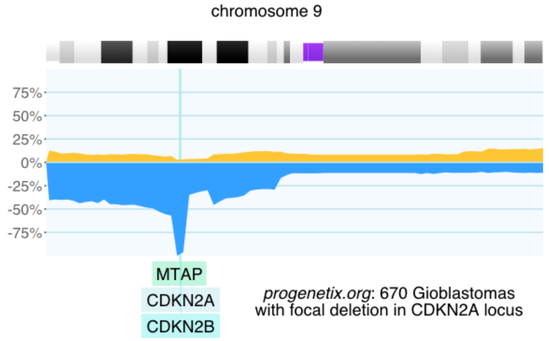
The future of DNA sequencing. Eric D. Green, Edward M. Rubin & Maynard V. Olson. Nature; 11 October 2017 (News & Views)





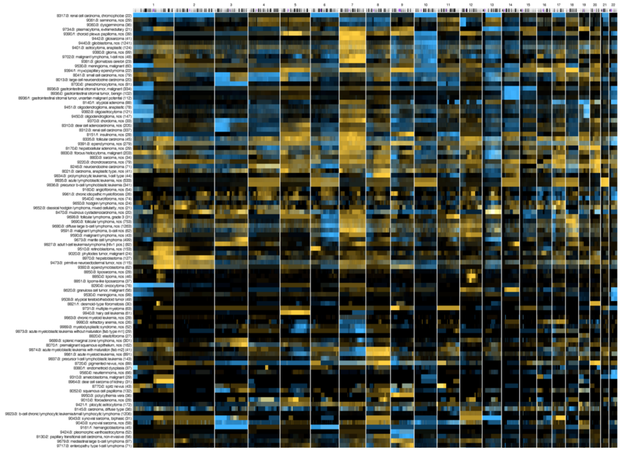
Geographic distribution of 104'543 genomic array, 36'766 chromosomal CGH and 15'409 whole genome/exome based cancer genome datasets

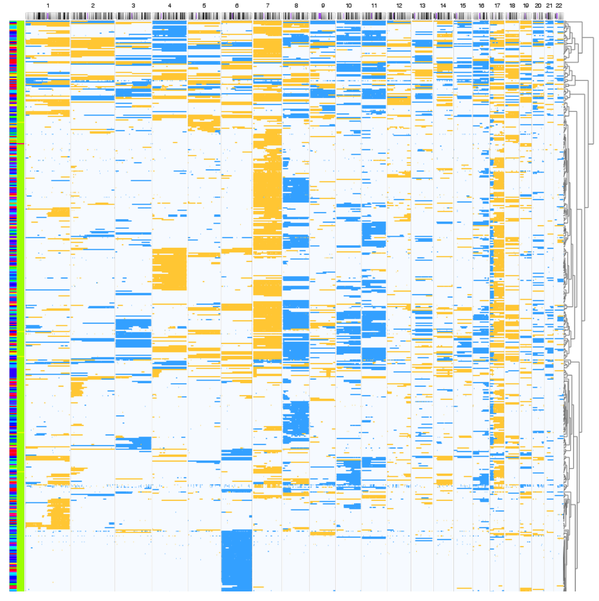
Theoretical Cytogenetics and Oncogenomics Research | Methods | Standards

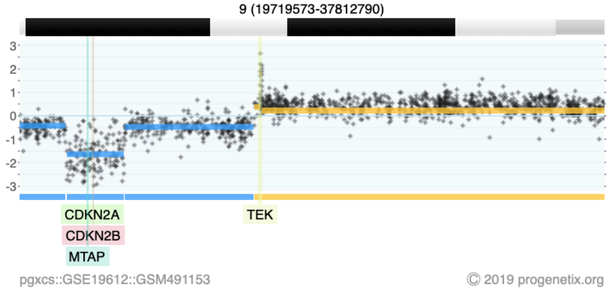


Genomic Imbalances in Cancer - Copy Number Variations (CNV)

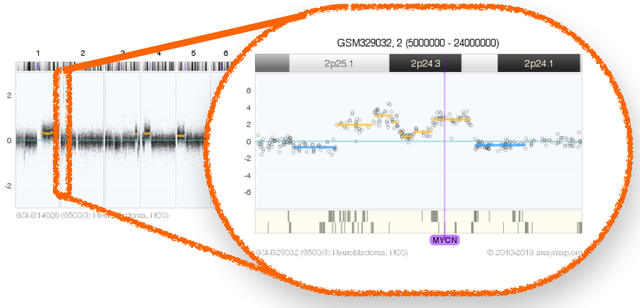
- Point mutations (insertions, deletions, substitutions)
- Chromosomal rearrangements
- **Regional Copy Number Alterations** (losses, gains)
- Epigenetic changes (e.g. DNA methylation abnormalities)







2-event, homozygous deletion in a Glioblastoma



MYCN amplification in neuroblastoma
(GSM314026, SJNB8_N cell line)

progenetix.org

Cancer Genomics Reference Resource

- ***open*** resource for oncogenomic profiles
- over **116'000 cancer CNV profiles**
- more than **800 diagnostic types**
- inclusion of reference datasets (e.g. TCGA)
- standardized encodings (e.g. NCIt, ICD-O 3)
- identifier mapping for PMID, GEO, Cellosaurus, TCGA, cBioPortal where appropriate
- core clinical data (TNM, sex, survival ...)
- data mapping services
- recent addition of SNV data for some series

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SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics

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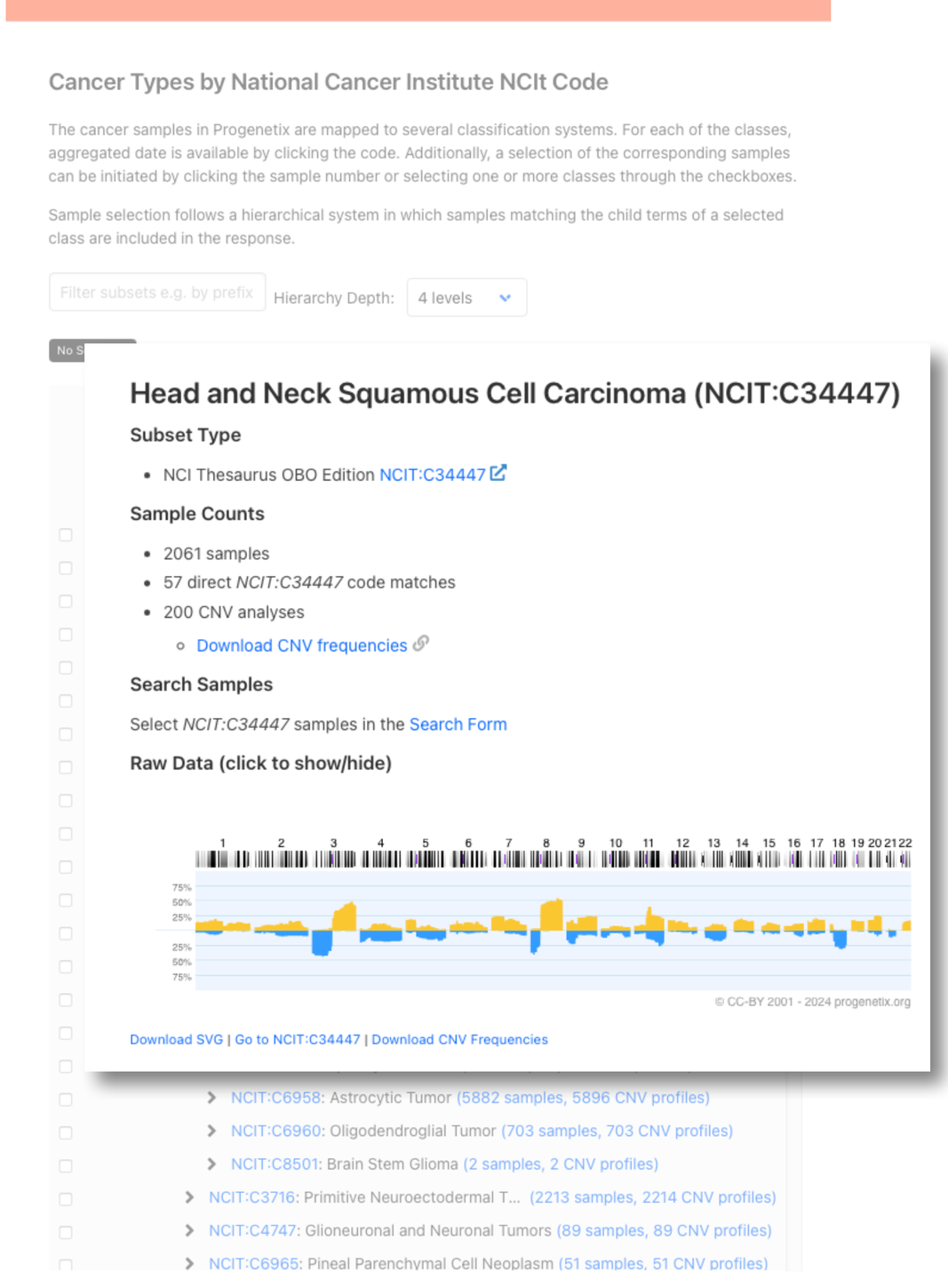

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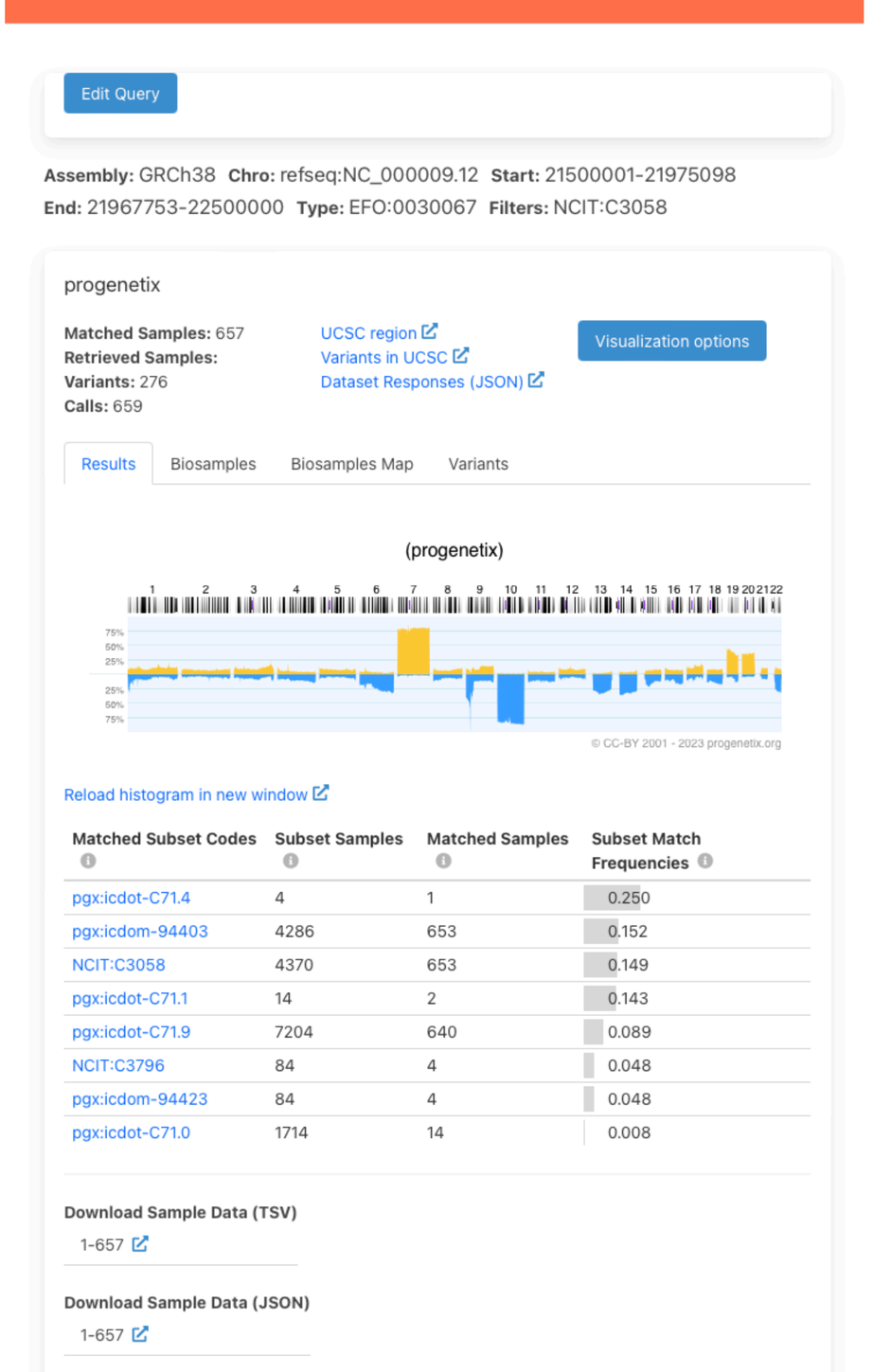

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progenetix

SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics

Cancer Cell Lines

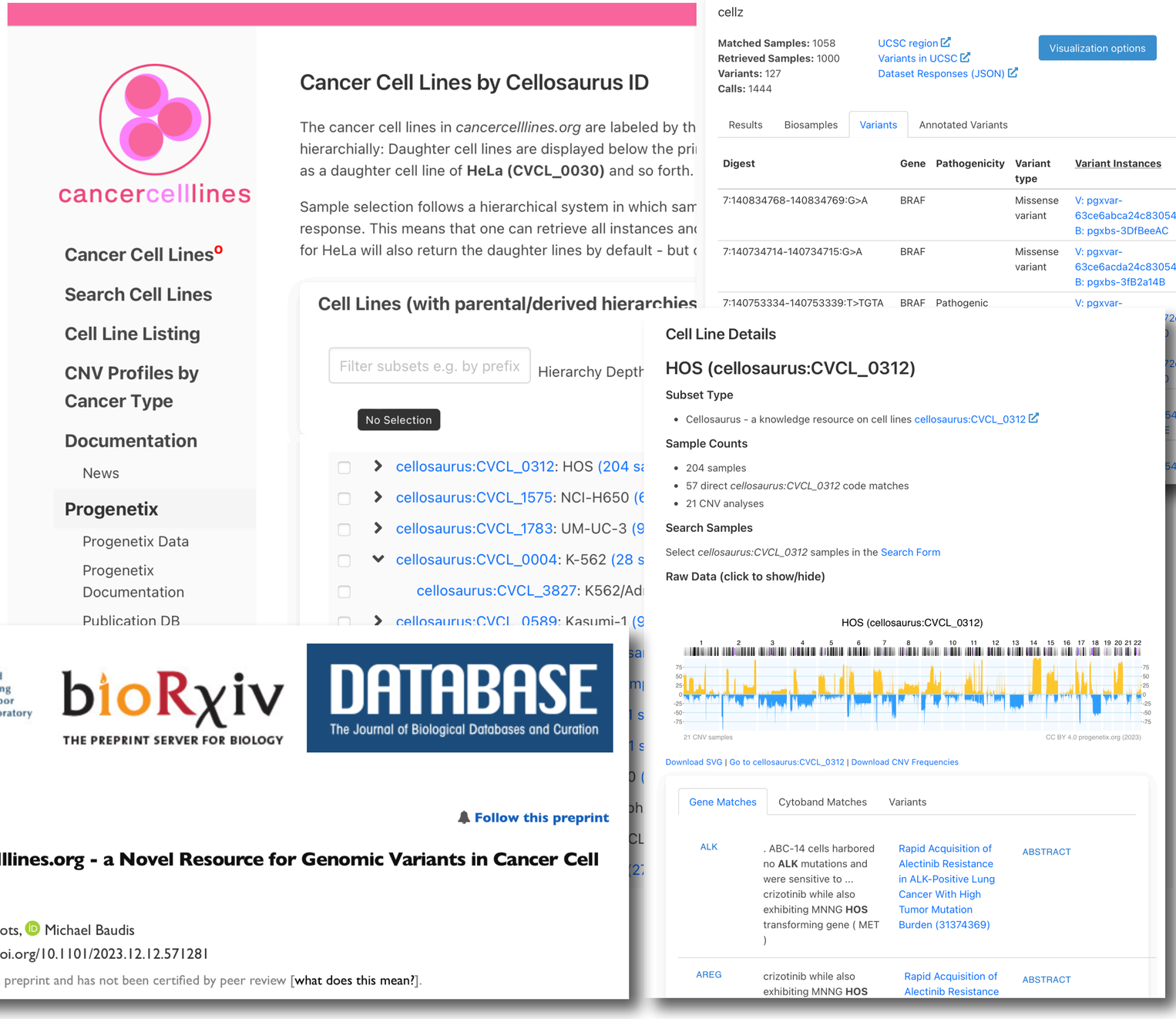
Cancer Genomics Reference Resource

- starting from >5000 cell line CNV profiles
  - 5754 samples | 2163 cell lines
  - 256 different NCIT codes
- genomic mapping of annotated variants and additional data from several resources (ClinVar, CCLE, Cellosaurus...)
  - 16178 cell lines
  - 400 different NCIT codes
- query and data delivery through Beacon v2 API

➡ integration in data federation approaches

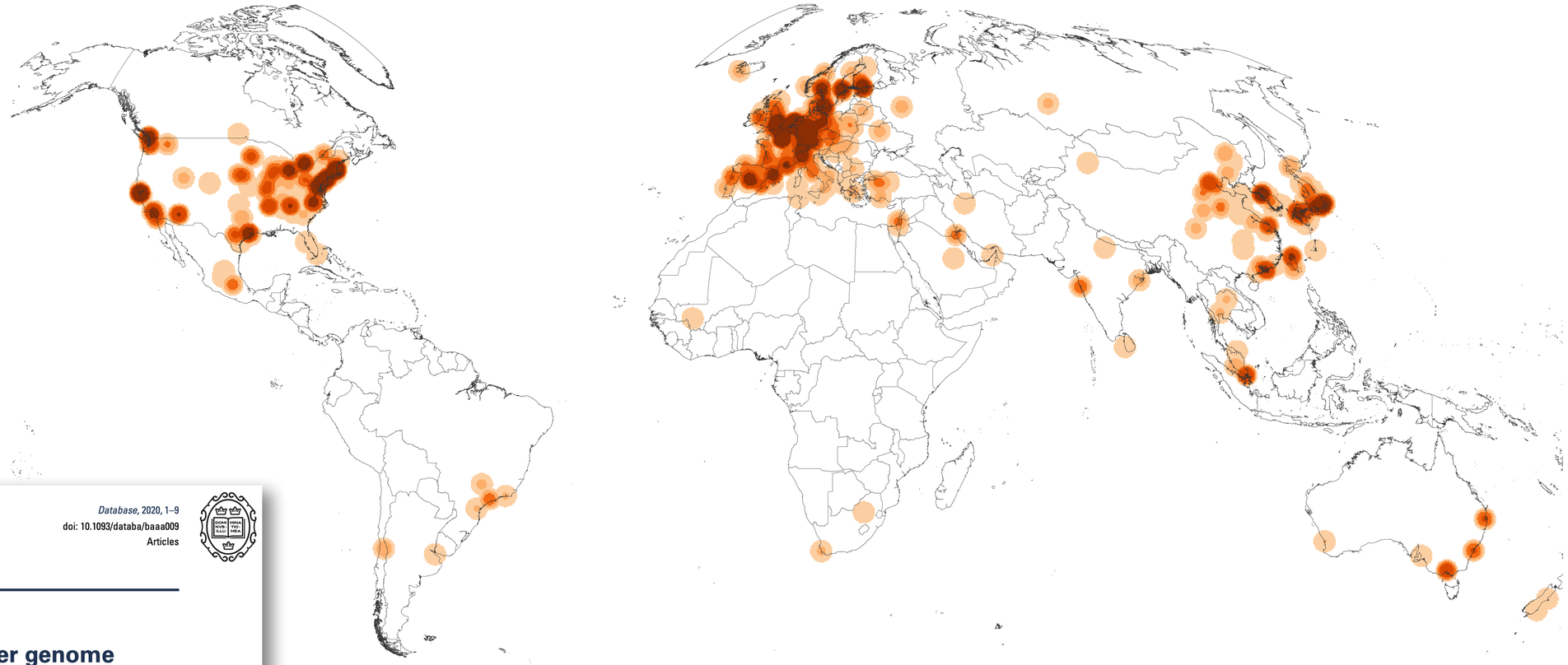
cancercelllines.org

Lead: Rahel Paloots



Where Does Cancer Genomic Data Come From?

Geographic bias in published cancer genome profiling studies



DATABASE
The Journal of Biological Databases and Curation

Database, 2020, 1–9
doi: 10.1093/databa/baaa009
Articles

Articles

Geographic assessment of cancer genome profiling studies

Paula Carrio-Cordo[1,2], Elise Acheson[3], Qingyao Huang[1,2] and Michael Baudis[1,*]

[1]Institute of Molecular Life Sciences, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland [2]Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, Zurich, Switzerland [3]Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Map of the geographic distribution (by first author affiliation) of the 104'543 genomic array, 36'766 chromosomal CGH and 15'409 whole genome/exome based cancer genome datasets. The numbers are derived from the 3'240 publications registered in the Progenetix database.

Global Alliance for Genomics & Health

Collaborate. Innovate. Accelerate.

GENOMICS

A federated ecosystem for sharing genomic, clinical data

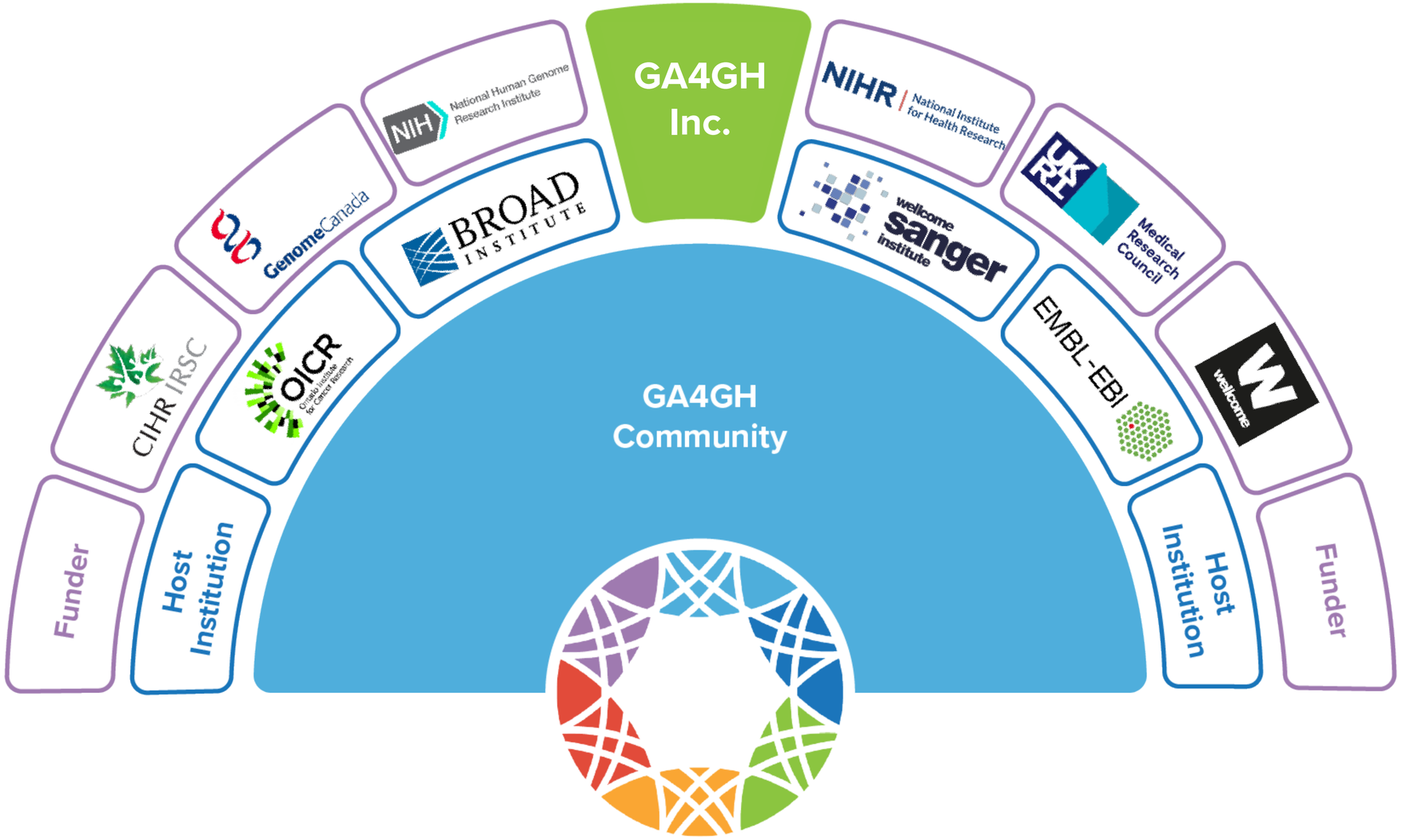
Silos of genome data collection are being transformed into seamlessly connected, independent systems

The Global Alliance for Genomics and Health*

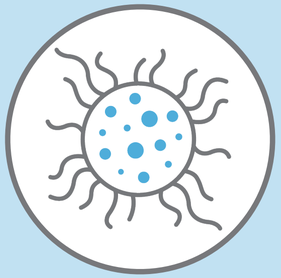
SCIENCE 10 JUNE 2016 • VOL 352 ISSUE 6291

Organization

Global Alliance
for Genomics & Health



Global Genomic Data Sharing Can...



Demonstrate patterns in health & disease

Increase statistical significance of analyses

Lead to “stronger” variant interpretations

Increase accurate diagnosis

Advance precision medicine

Different Approaches to Data Sharing

progenetix

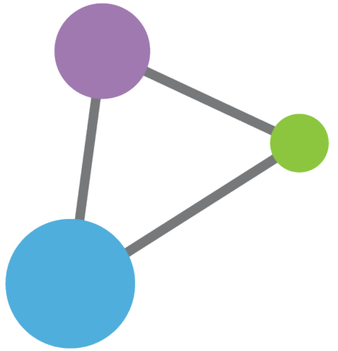
European Genome-Phenome Archive

SPHN Swiss Personalized Health Network

Centralized Genomic Knowledge Bases

Data Commons
Trusted, controlled repository of multiple datasets

Hub and Spoke
Common data elements, access, and usage rules



Linkage of distributed and disparate datasets

Different Approaches to Data Sharing

progenetix

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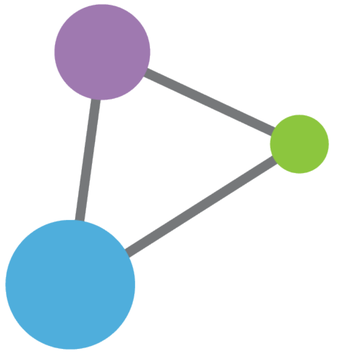

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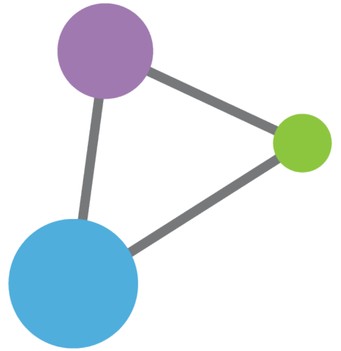


Linkage of distributed and disparate datasets

The EGA

European Genome-Phenome Archive

Long term secure archive for human biomedical research sensitive data, with focus on reuse of the data for further research (or "*broad and responsible use of genomic data*")

EUROPEAN GENOME-PHENOME ARCHIVE

CRG Centre for Genomic Regulation

EMBL-EBI

Global Alliance for Genomics & Health

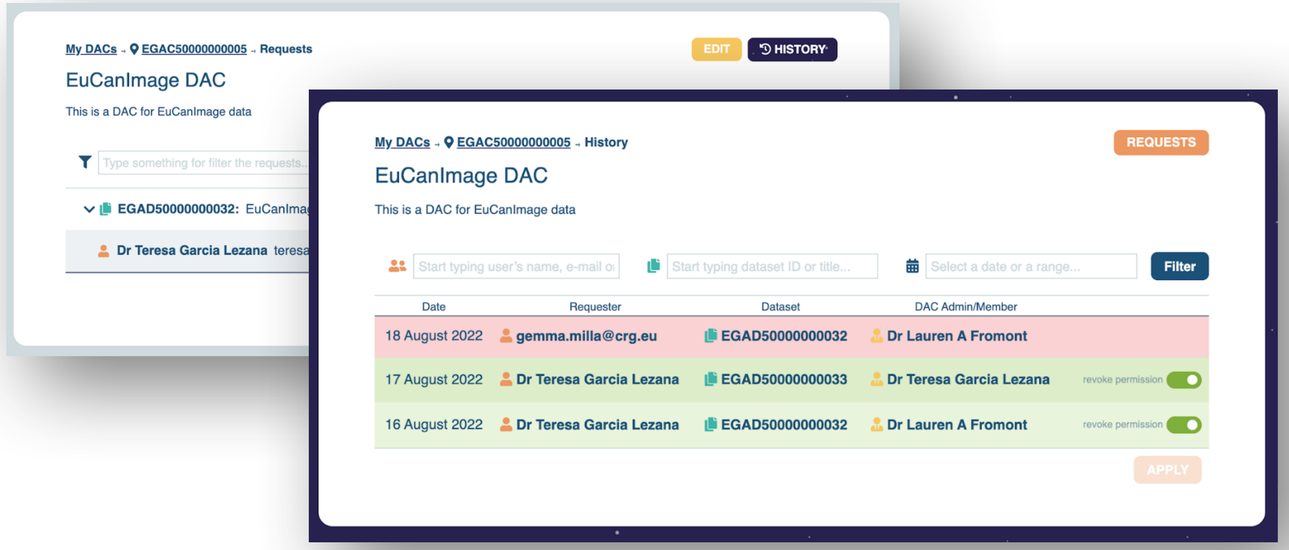
DRIVER PROJECT

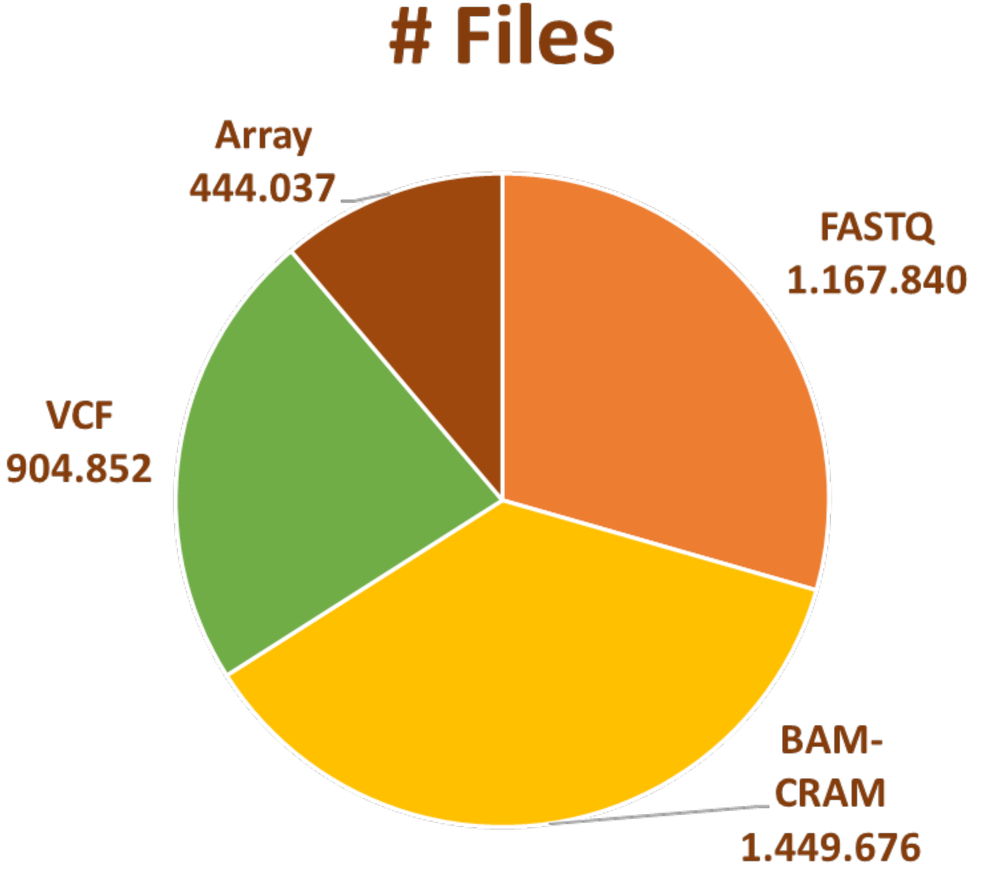
Slide: adapted from Jordi Rambla@ GA4GH 2023

The EGA

European Genome-Phenome Archive

- EGA “owns” nothing; data controllers tell who is authorized to access ***their*** datasets
- EGA admins provide smooth “all or nothing" data sharing process





4,328 Studies released
10,470 Datasets
2,309 Data Access Committees

Slide: adapted from Jordi Rambla@ GA4GH 2023

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progenetix

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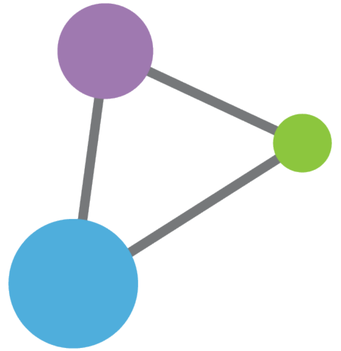
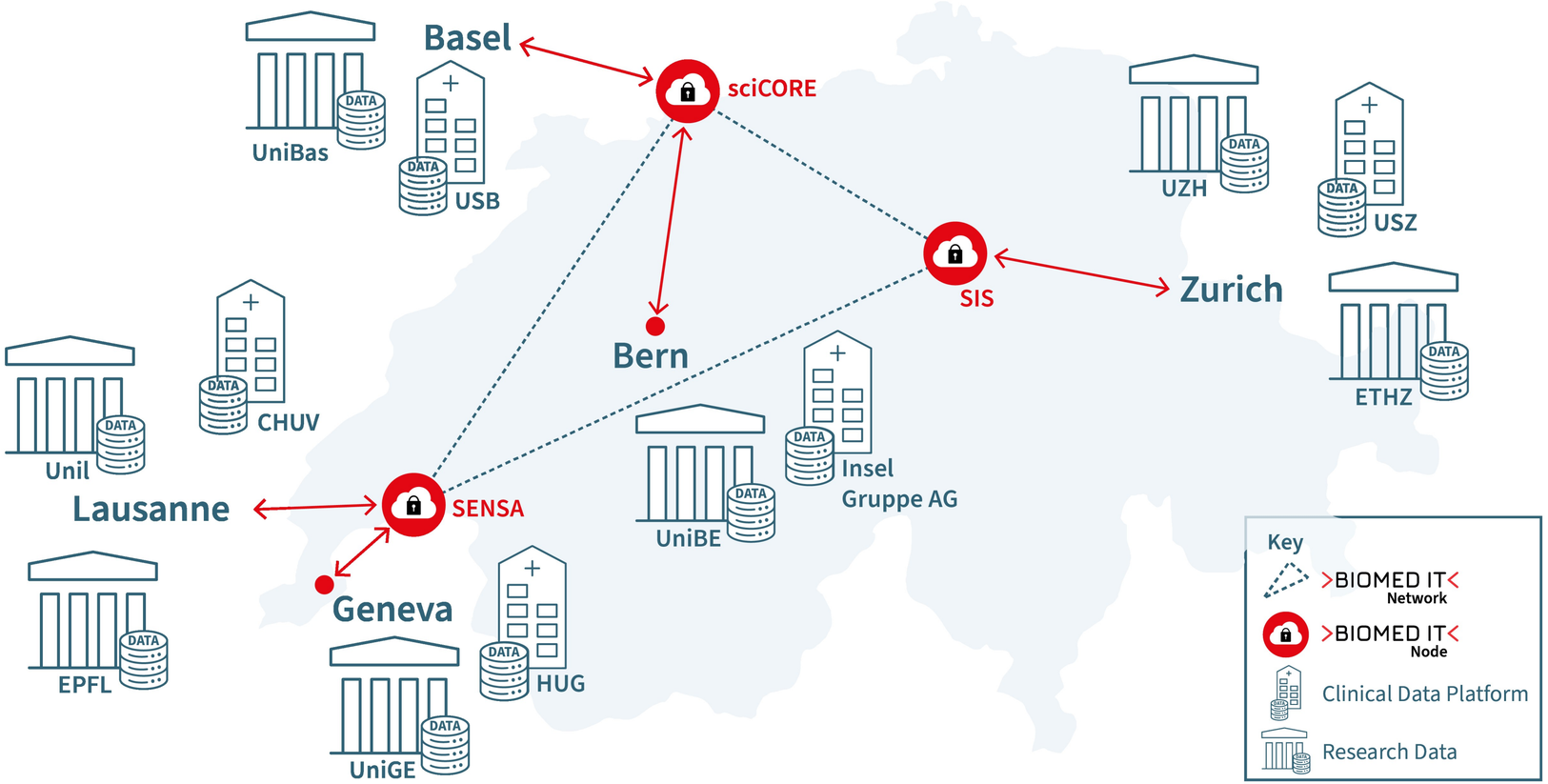


Linkage of distributed and disparate datasets

The Swiss Personalized Health Network



Strategic Focus Area
Personalized Health and Related Technologies

Personalized Health Informatics Group

SPHN Data Coordination Center (DCC)
BioMedIT Network

Swiss Personalized Health Network

ehealthsuisse

THE LOOP ZURICH MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER

FNSNF Fonds national suisse Schweizerischer Nationalfonds Fondo nazionale svizzero Swiss National Science Foundation

Personalized Health Alliance Basel-Zurich

SWISS BIOBANKING PLATFORM

SCTO

SAKK

SSPH+ SWISS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

life sciences cluster basel

University Hospital Basel

USZ Universitäts Spital Zürich

HUG Hôpitaux Universitaires Genève

CHUV Centre hospitalier universitaire vaudois

INSELSPITAL UNIVERSITÄTSSPITAL BERN HOPITAL UNIVERSITAIRE DE BERNE BERN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

swissuniversities

Universitäre Medizin Schweiz Médecine Universitaire Suisse

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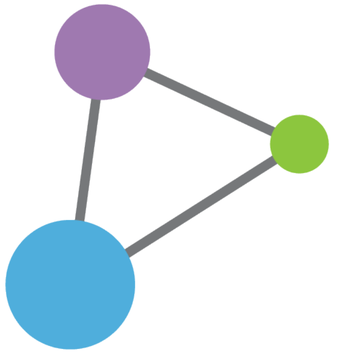

Linkage of distributed and disparate datasets

Federation

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INFORMATICS

Beacon v2 and Beacon networks: federated data discovery n biome

Jordi Rambla[1,2] | Michael Baudis[3] | Roberto Ariosa[1] | Tim Beck[4] |
Lauren A. Fromont[1] | Arcadi Navarro[1,5,6,7] | Rahel Paloots[3] |
Manuel Rueda[1] | Gary Saunders[8] | Babita Singh[1] | John D. Spalding[9] |
Juha Törnroos[9] | Claudia Vasallo[1] | Colin D. Veal[4] | Anthony J. Brookes[4]

Cell Genomics

CellPress
OPEN ACCESS

Commentary

International federation of genomic medicine databases using GA4GH standards

Adrian Thorogood,[1,2,*] Heidi L. Rehm,[3,4] Peter Goodhand,[5,6] Angela J.H. Page,[4,5] Yann Joly,[2] Michael Baudis,[7]
Jordi Rambla,[8,9] Arcadi Navarro,[8,10,11,12] Tommi H. Nyronen,[13,14] Mikael Linden,[13,14] Edward S. Dove,[15] Marc Fiume,[16]
Michael Brudno,[17] Melissa S. Cline,[18] and Ewan Birney[19]

Cell Genomics

OPEN ACCESS

Perspective

GA4GH: International policies and standards for data sharing across genomic research and healthcare

Heidi L. Rehm,[1,2,47] Angela J.H. Page,[1,3,*] Lindsay Smith,[3,4] Jeremy B. Adams,[3,4] Gil Alterovitz,[5,47] Lawrence J. Babb,[1]
Maxmillian P. Barkley,[6] Michael Baudis,[7,8] Michael J.S. Beauvais,[3,9] Tim Beck,[10] Jacques S. Beckmann,[11]
Sergi Beltran,[12,13,14] David Bernick,[1] Alexander Bernier,[9] James K. Bonfield,[15] Tiffany F. Boughtwood,[16,17]
Guillaume Bourque,[9,18] Sarion R. Bowers,[15] Anthony J. Brookes,[10] Michael Brudno,[18,19,20,21,38] Matthew H. Brush,[22]
David Bujold,[9,18,38] Tony Burdett,[23] Orion J. Buske,[24] Moran N. Cabili,[1] Daniel L. Cameron,[25,26] Robert J. Carroll,[27]
Esmeralda Casas-Silva,[123] Debyani Chakravarty,[29] Bimal P. Chaudhari,[30,31] Shu Hui Chen,[32] J. Michael Cherry,[33]
Justina Chung,[3,4] Melissa Cline,[34] Hayley L. Clissold,[15] Robert M. Cook-Deegan,[35] Mélanie Courtot,[23]
Fiona Cunningham,[23] Miro Cupak,[6] Robert M. Davies,[15] Danielle Denisko,[19] Megan J. Doerr,[36] Lena I. Dolman,[19]

(Author list continued on next page)

Cell Genomics

OP

Technology

The GA4GH Variation Representation Specification A computational framework for variation representation and federated identification

Alex H. Wagner,[1,2,25,*] Lawrence Babb,[3,*] Gil Alterovitz,[4,5] Michael Baudis,[6] Matthew Brush,[7] Daniel L. Cameron,[8,9]
Melissa Cline,[10] Malachi Griffith,[11] Obi L. Griffith,[11] Sarah E. Hunt,[12] David Kreda,[13] Jennifer M. Lee,[14] Stephanie Li,[15]
Javier Lopez,[16] Eric Moyer,[17] Tristan Nelson,[18] Ronak Y. Patel,[19] Kevin Riehle,[19] Peter N. Robinson,[20]
Shawn Rynearson,[21] Helen Schuilenburg,[12] Kirill Tsukanov,[12] Brian Walsh,[7] Melissa Konopko,[15] Heidi L. Rehm,[3,22]
Andrew D. Yates,[12] Robert R. Freimuth,[23] and Reece K. Hart[3,24,*]

A New Paradigm for Data Sharing

FROM

TO

Data Copying

Data Visiting

A New Paradigm for Data Sharing

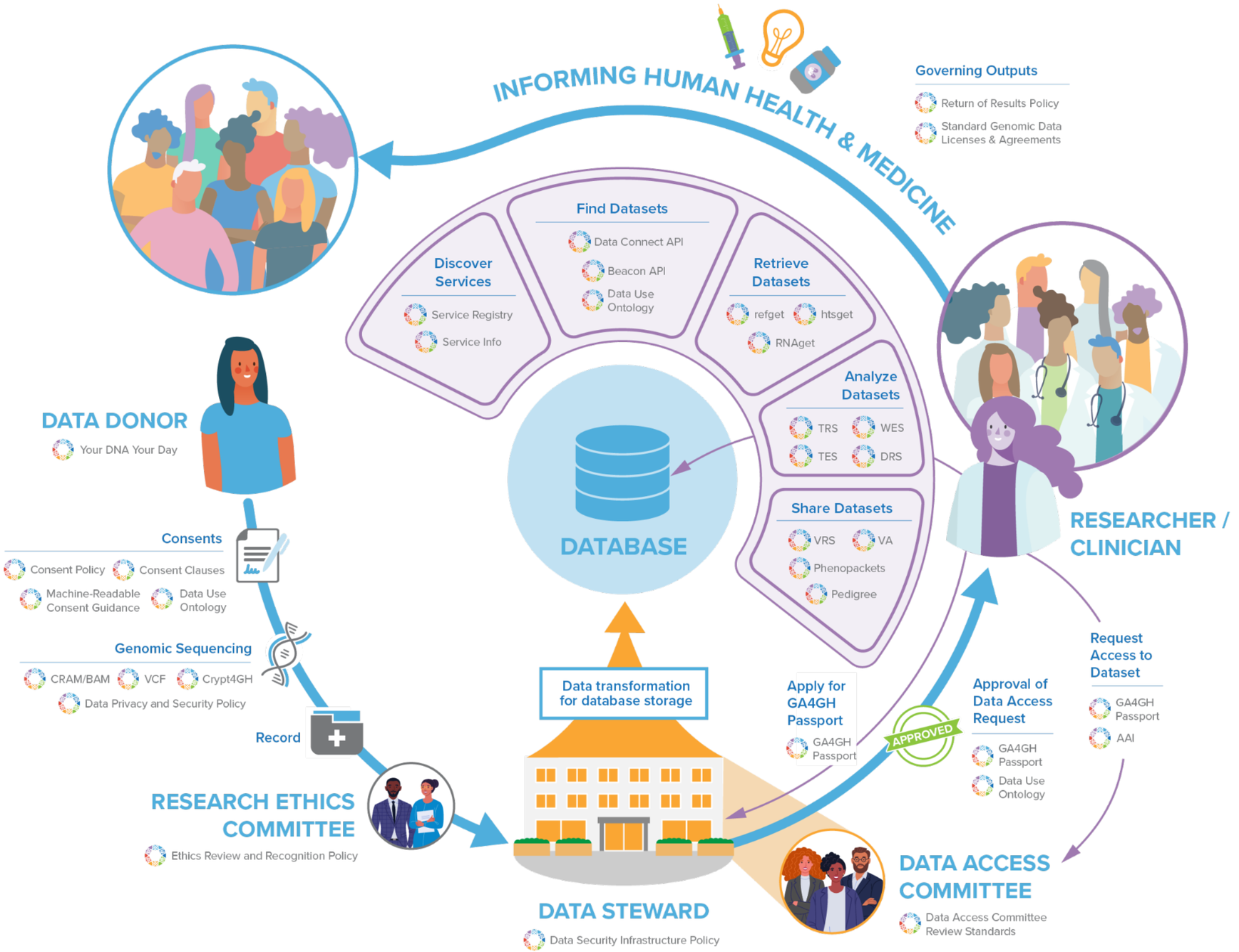
FROM

STANDARDS

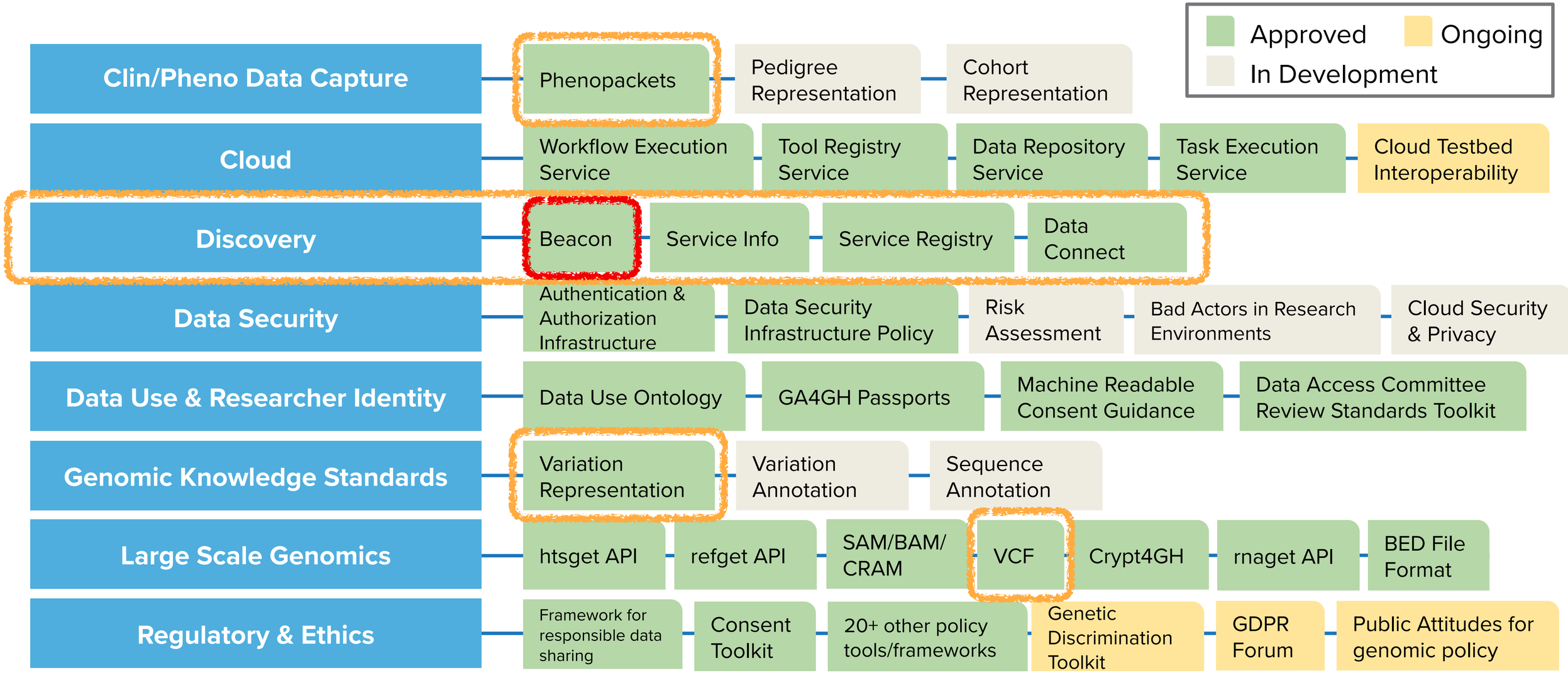
TO

Data Copying

Data Visiting


INFORMING HUMAN HEALTH & MEDICINE
Governing Outputs
Return of Results Policy
Standard Genomic Data Licenses & Agreements
Find Datasets
Data Connect API
Beacon API
Data Use Ontology
Discover Services
Service Registry
Service Info
Retrieve Datasets
refget
htsget
RNAget
Analyze Datasets
TRS
WES
TES
DRS
Share Datasets
VRS
VA
Phenopackets
Pedigree
DATABASE
DATA DONOR
Your DNA Your Day
RESEARCHER / CLINICIAN
Consents
Consent Policy
Consent Clauses
Machine-Readable Consent Guidance
Data Use Ontology
Genomic Sequencing
CRAM/BAM
VCF
Crypt4GH
Data Privacy and Security Policy
Record
Data transformation for database storage
Apply for GA4GH Passport
GA4GH Passport
APPROVED
Approval of Data Access Request
GA4GH Passport
Data Use Ontology
Request Access to Dataset
GA4GH Passport
AAI
RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE
Ethics Review and Recognition Policy
DATA STEWARD
Data Security Infrastructure Policy
DATA ACCESS COMMITTEE
Data Access Committee Review Standards

Overview of GA4GH standards and frameworks



Genomics England implements GA4GH API to provide secure access to genomic data for the NHS

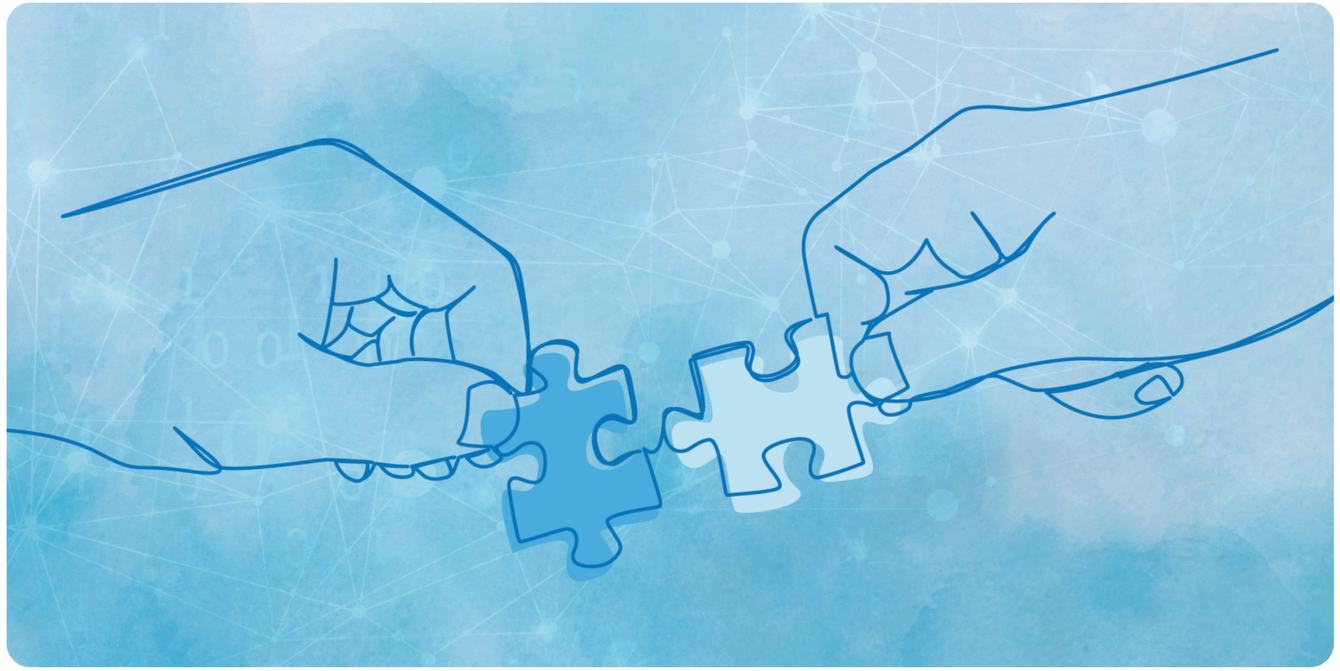
Genomics England has implemented the standard GA4GH API hts
Genomes Program and the Genomic Medicine Service.

News

14 Feb 2024

NIH and GA4GH commit to ongoing collaboration

NIH and GA4GH strengthen their partnership to expand responsible data use for the benefit of human health through a Memorandum of Agreement.



The United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Data Science Strategy (ODSS) and the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health (GA4GH) have announced a strategic collaboration in the form of a Memorandum of Agreement. This partnership aims to bolster the development of technology standards, tools, and policy frameworks to support responsible sharing of genomic and related health data on a global scale.

Global Alliance
for Genomics & Health

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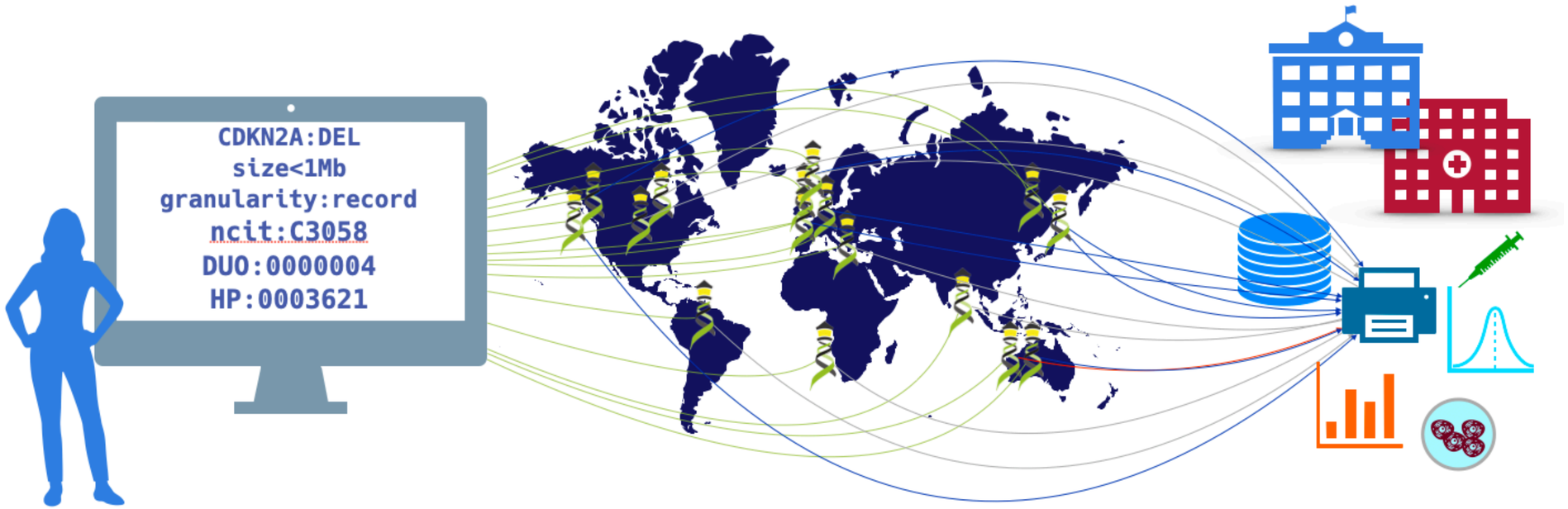
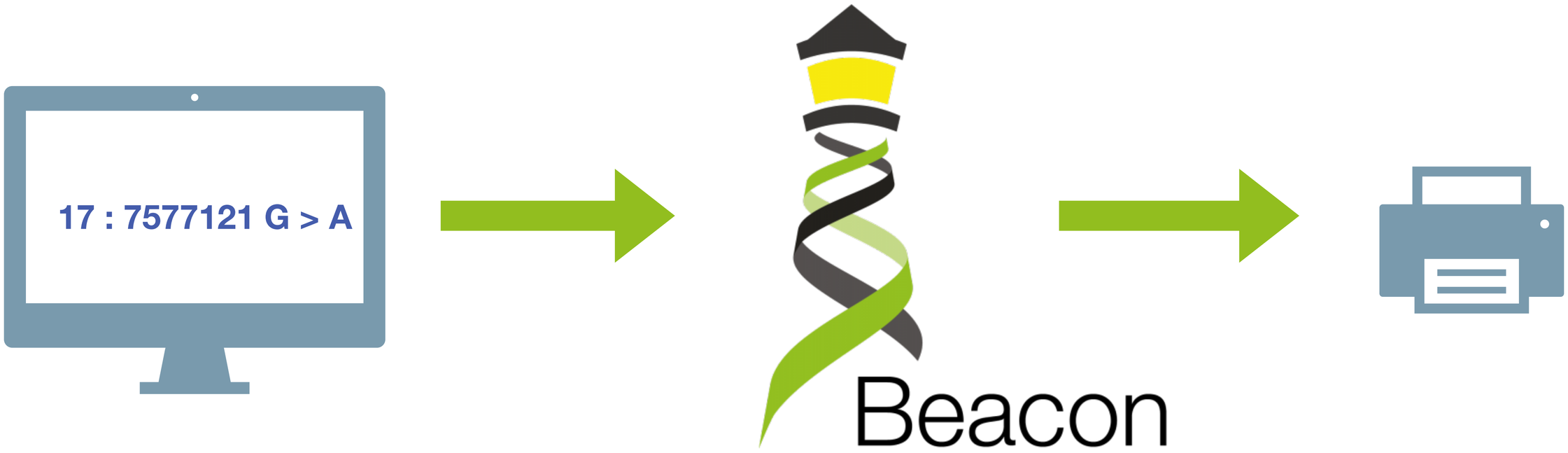


The GA4GH Beacon Protocol

Federating Genomic Discoveries



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

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

Global Alliance “Beacon” - Jim Ostell, NCBI, March 7, 2014

Global Alliance for Genomics & Health

Introduction

… I proposed a challenge application for all those wishing to seriously engage in ***international*** data sharing for human genomics. …

1. Provide a public web service
2. Which accepts a query of the form “Do you have any genomes with an “A” at position 100,735 on chromosome 3?”
3. And responds with one of “Yes” or “No” …

“Beacon” because … people have been scanning the universe of human research for ***signs of willing participants in far reaching data sharing***, but … it has remained a dark and quiet place. The hope of this challenge is to 1) ***trigger the issues*** blocking groups … in way that isn’t masked by the … complexities of the science, fully functional interfaces, and real issues of privacy, and to 2) in ***short order*** … see ***real beacons of measurable signal*** … from ***at least some sites*** … Once your “GABeacon” is shining, you can start to take the ***next steps to add functionality*** to it, and ***finding the other groups*** … following their GABeacons.

Utility

Some have argued that this simple example is not “useful” so nobody would build it. Of course it is not the first priority for this application to be scientifically useful. …intended to provide a ***low bar for the first step of real*** … ***engagement***. … there is some utility in …locating a rare allele in your data, … not zero.

A number of more useful first versions have been suggested.

1. Provide ***frequencies of all alleles*** at that point
2. Ask for all alleles seen in a gene ***region*** (and more elaborate versions of this)
3. Other more complicated queries

"I would personally recommend all those be held for **version 2**, when the beacon becomes a service."
Jim Ostell, 2014

Implementation

1. Specifying the chromosome … The interface needs to specify the ***accession.version*** of a chromosome, or ***build number***…
2. Return values … right to ***refuse*** to answer without it being an error … DOS ***attack*** … or because …especially ***sensitive***…
3. Real time response … Some sites suggest that it would be necessary to have a ***“phone home” response*** …

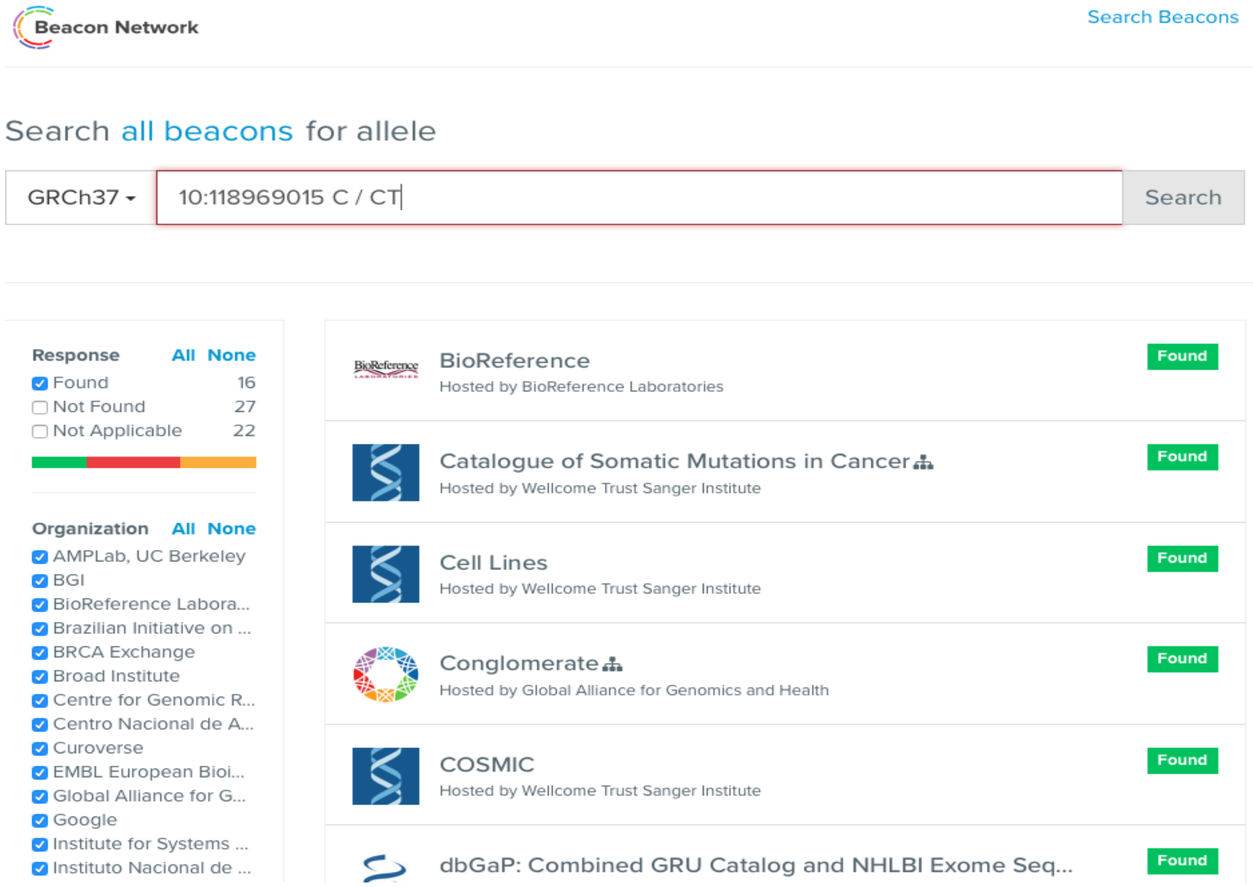
Have you seen this variant? It came up in my patient and we don't know if this is a common SNP or worth following up.

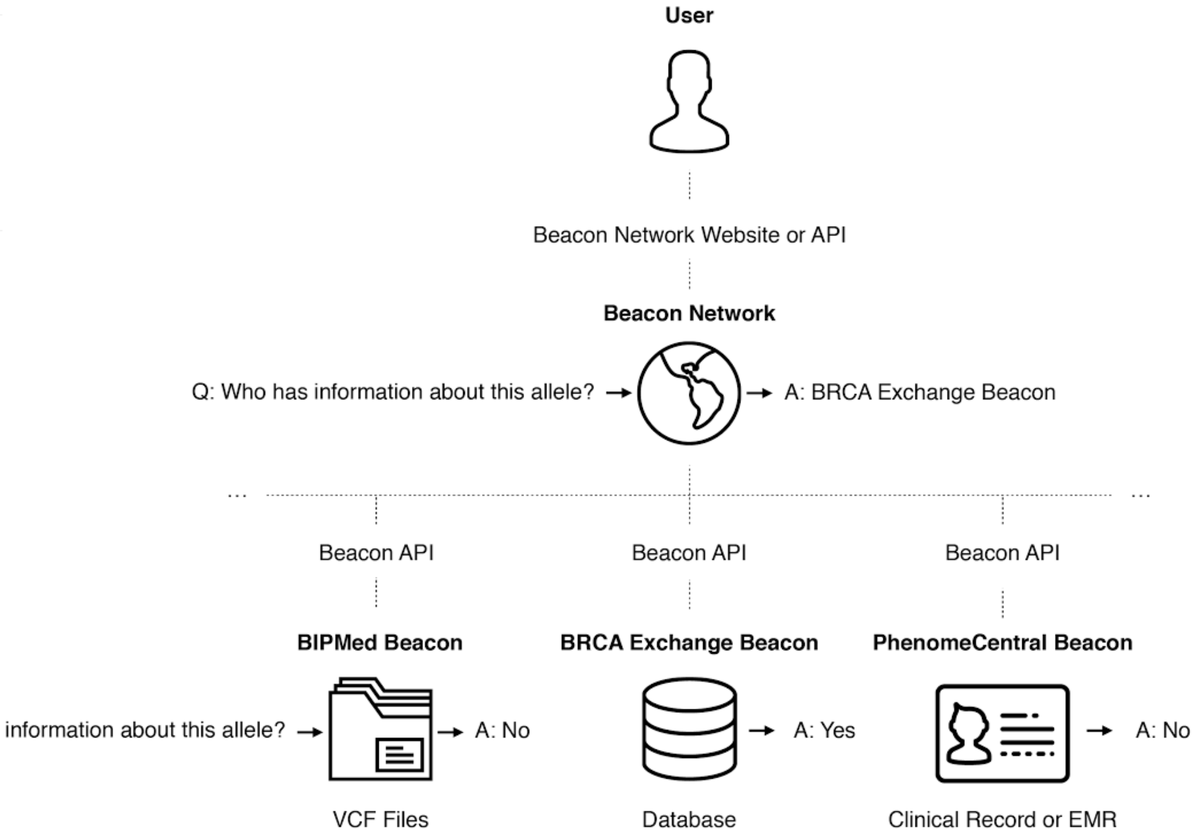
A Beacon network federates *genome variant queries* across databases that support the ***Beacon API***

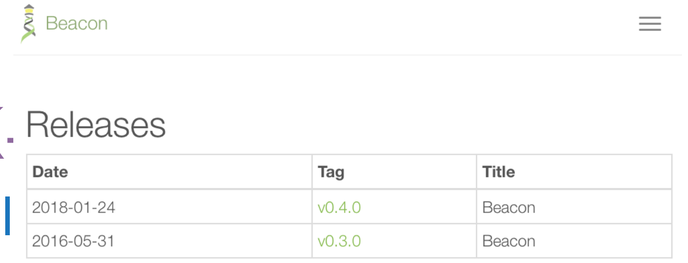
Here: The variant has been found in **few** resources, and those are from **disease** specific **collections**.

Beacon Project in 2016

An open web service that tests the willingness of international sites to share genetic data.







Global Alliance for Genomics & Health

35+ Organizations

90+ Beacons

200+ Datasets

100K+

Beacon v1 Development

Beacon v2 Development

Related ...

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

2015

- beacon-network.org aggregator created by DNAstack

- ELIXIR starts Beacon project support

2016

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

- Beacon+ concept implemented on progenetix.org
- concepts from GA4GH Metadata (ontologies…)
- entity-scoped query parameters ("individual.age")

2017

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

- Beacon+ demos "handover" concept

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

2018

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

- new Beacon website (March)

2019

- ELIXIR Beacon Network

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

- Beacon publication at Nature Biotechnology

2020

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

2021

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

- Phenopackets v2 approved

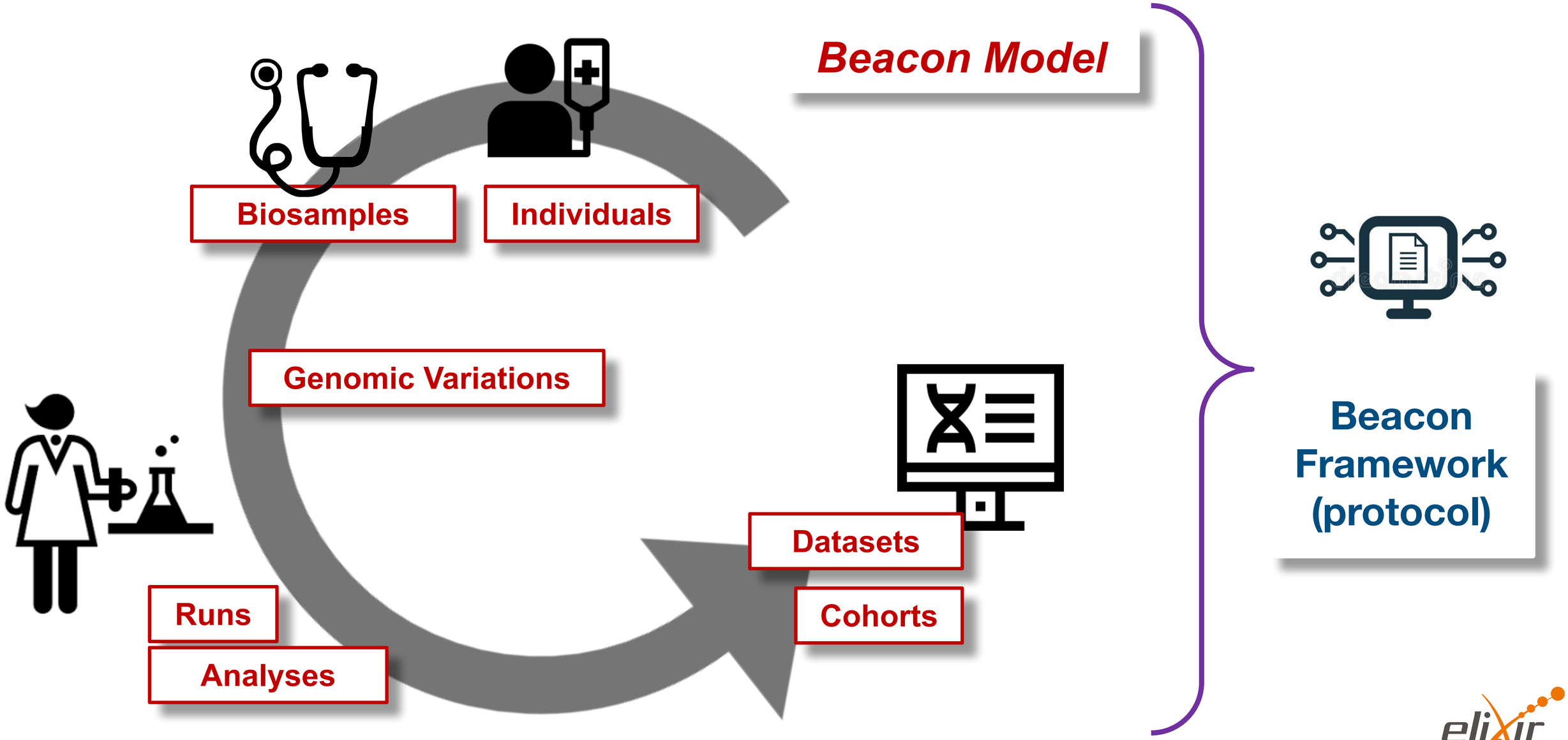
2022

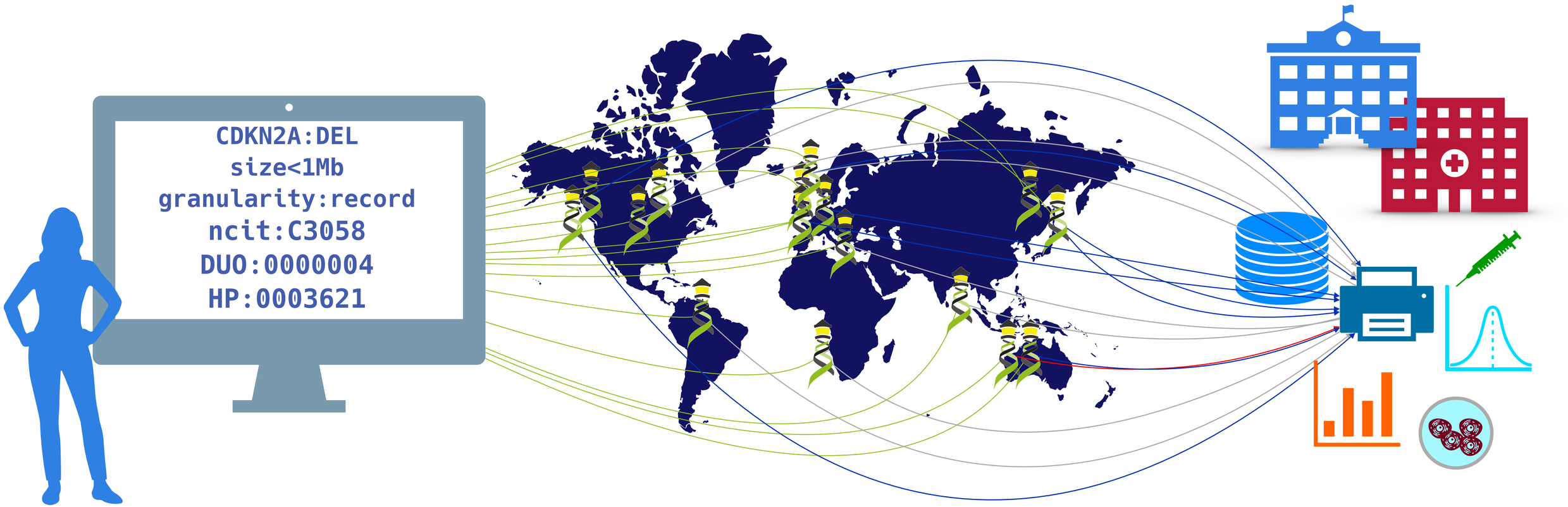
- further changes esp. in default model, aligning with Phenopackets and VRS
- unified beacon-v2 code & docs repository
- Beacon v2 approved at Apr GA4GH Connect

- *docs.genomebeacons.org*

Beacon v2

docs.genomebeacons.org





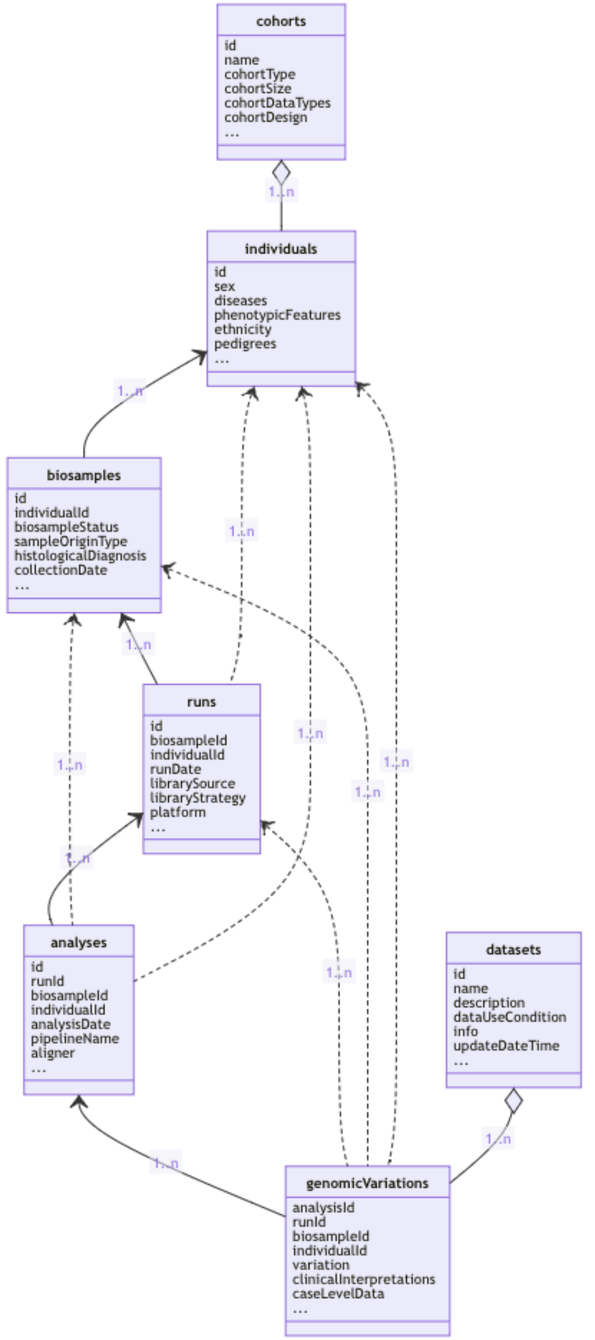
Can you provide data about focal deletions in CDKN2A in Glioblastomas from juvenile patients with unrestricted access?

Beacon *v2* API

The Beacon API v2 represents a simple but powerful **genomics API** for ***federated*** data discovery and retrieval

Beacon Default v2 Model

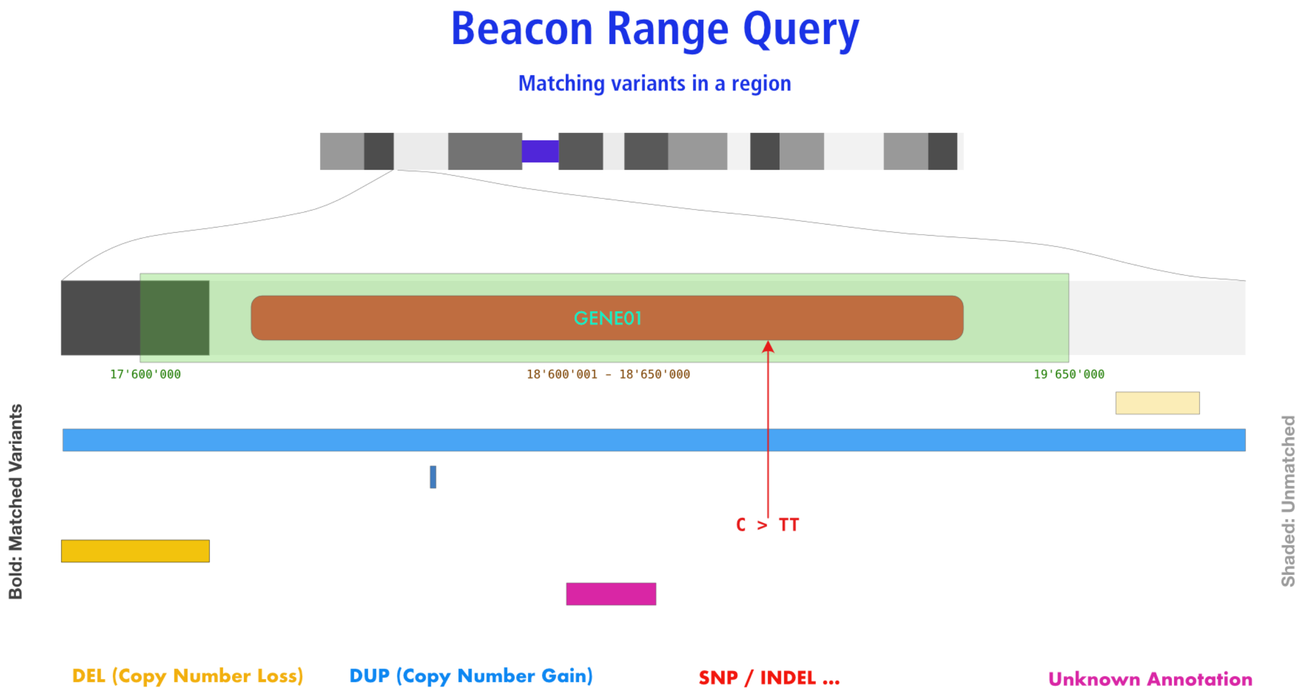
- The Beacon ***framework*** describes the overall structure of the API requests, responses, parameters, the common components, etc.
- Beacon ***models*** describe the set of concepts included in a Beacon, like individual or biosample, and also the relationships between them.
- Besides logical concepts, the Beacon ***models*** represent the schemas for data delivery in “record” granularity
- Beacon explicitly allows the use of *other models* besides its *version specific default*.
- Adherence to a shared ***model*** empowers federation
- Use of the ***framework*** w/ different models extends adoption

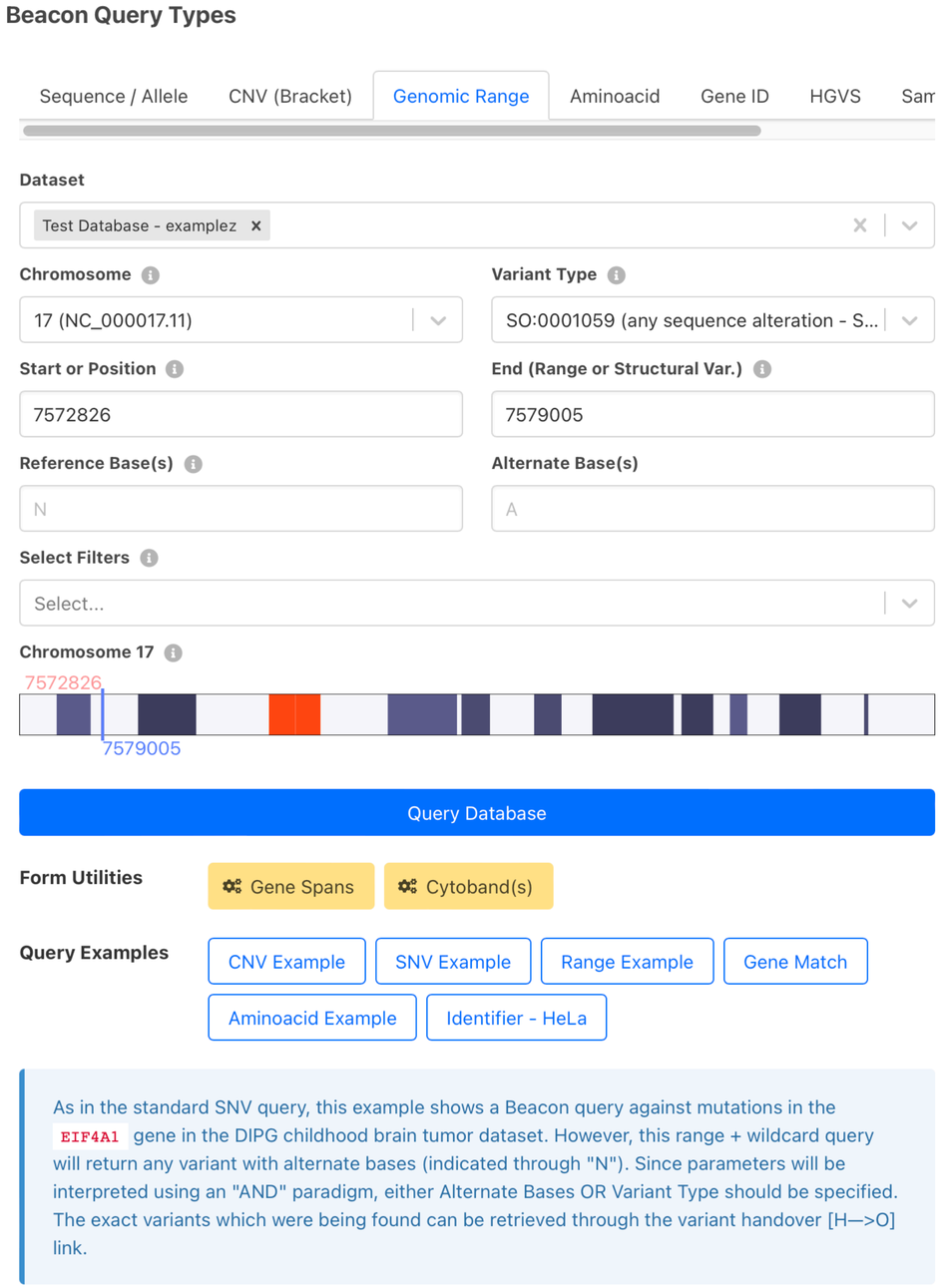


Variation Queries

Range ("anything goes") Request

- defined through the use of 1 start, 1 end
- any variant… but can be limited by type etc.

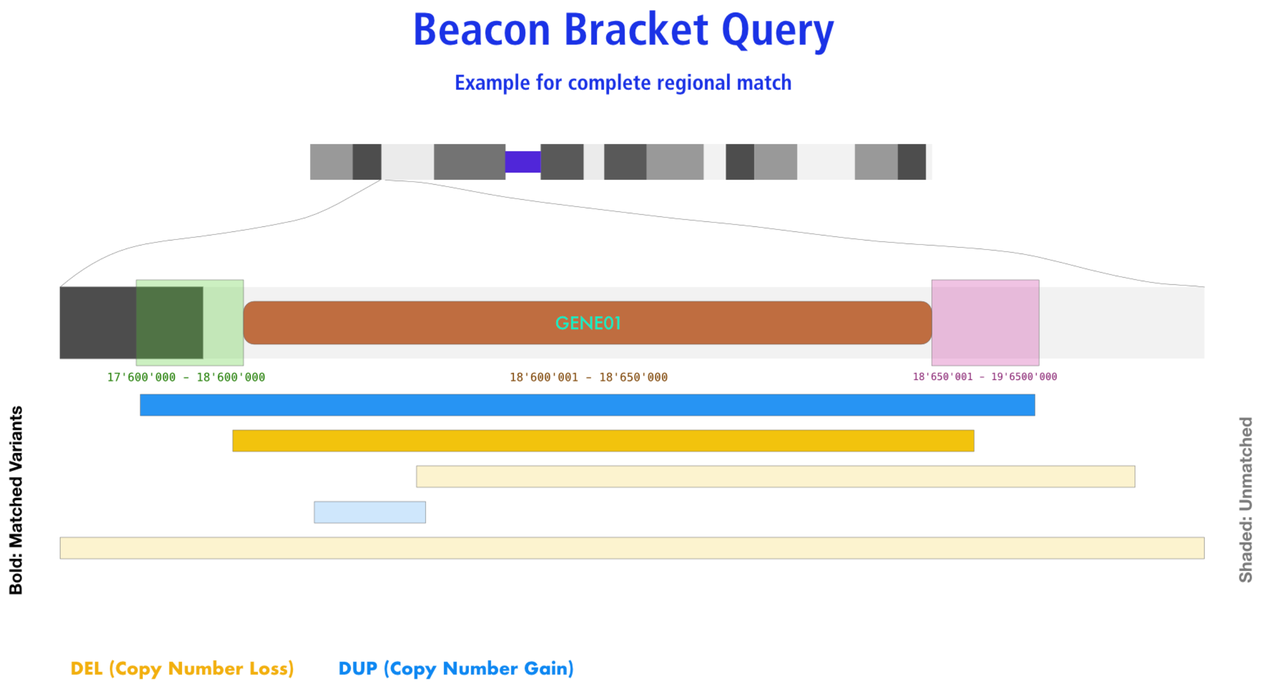


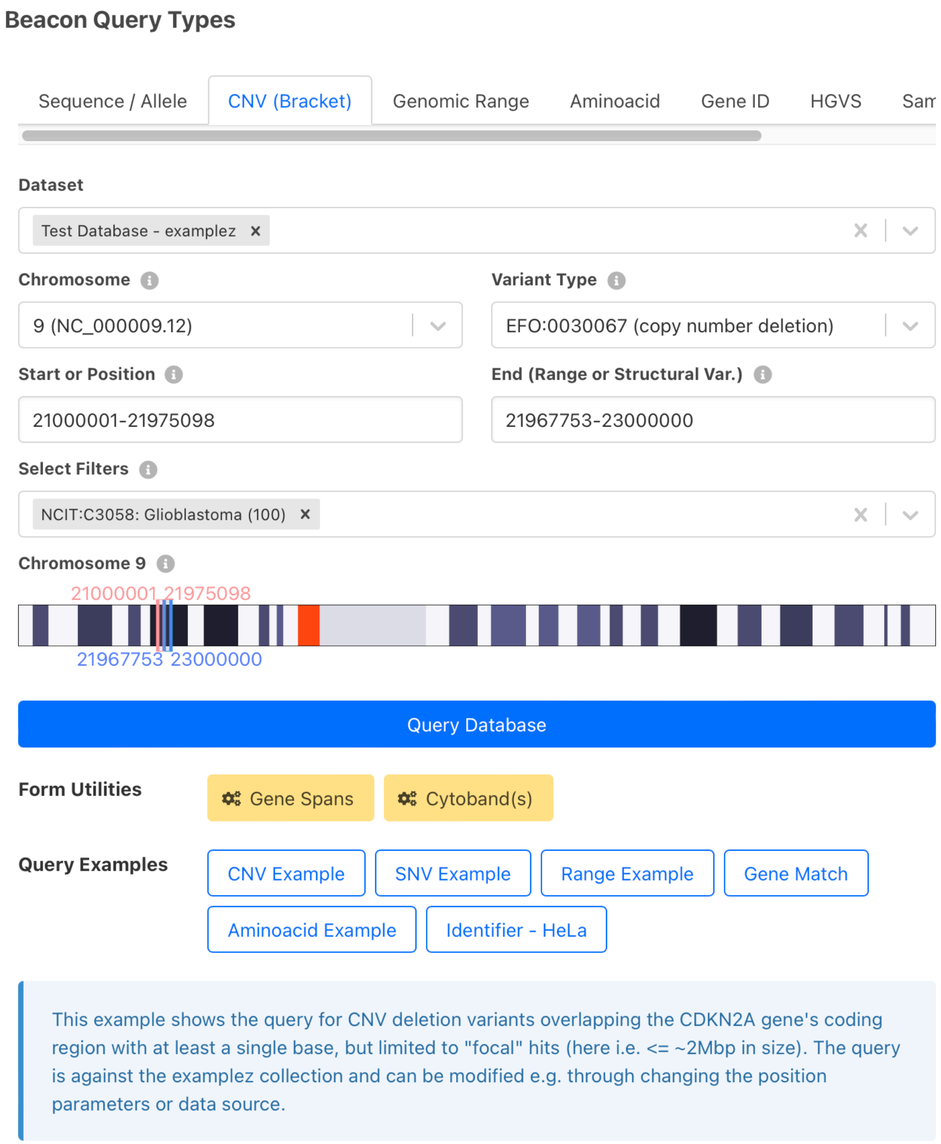


Variation Queries

Bracket ("CNV") Query

- defined through the use of 2 start, 2 end
- any contiguous variant...





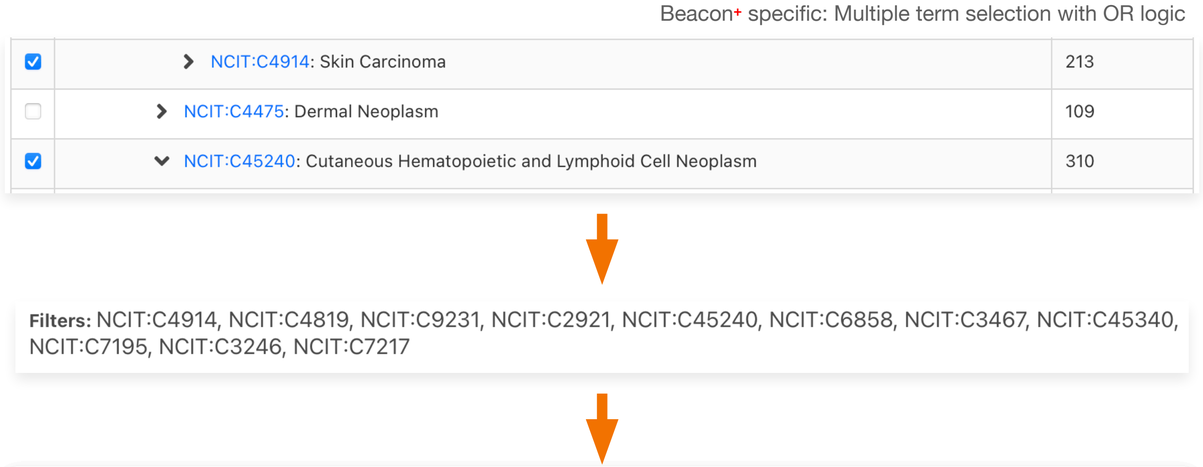
Beacon v2 Filters

Example: Use of hierarchical classification systems (here NCIt neoplasm core)

- Beacon v2 relies heavily on "filters"
  - ontology term / CURIE
  - alphanumeric
  - custom
- Beacon v2 "filters" assumes inclusion of child terms when using hierarchical classifications

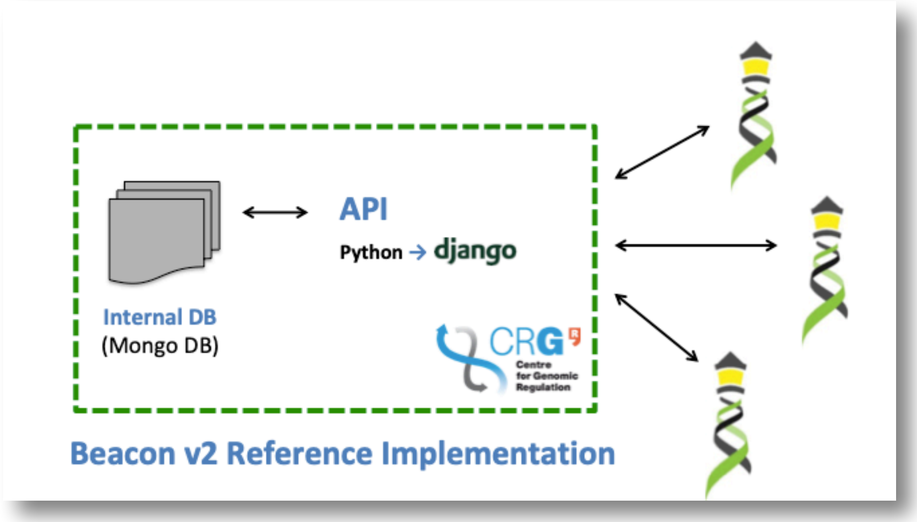
  ➡ implicit *OR* with otherwise assumed *AND*
- implementation of hierarchical annotations overcomes some limitations of "fuzzy" disease annotations

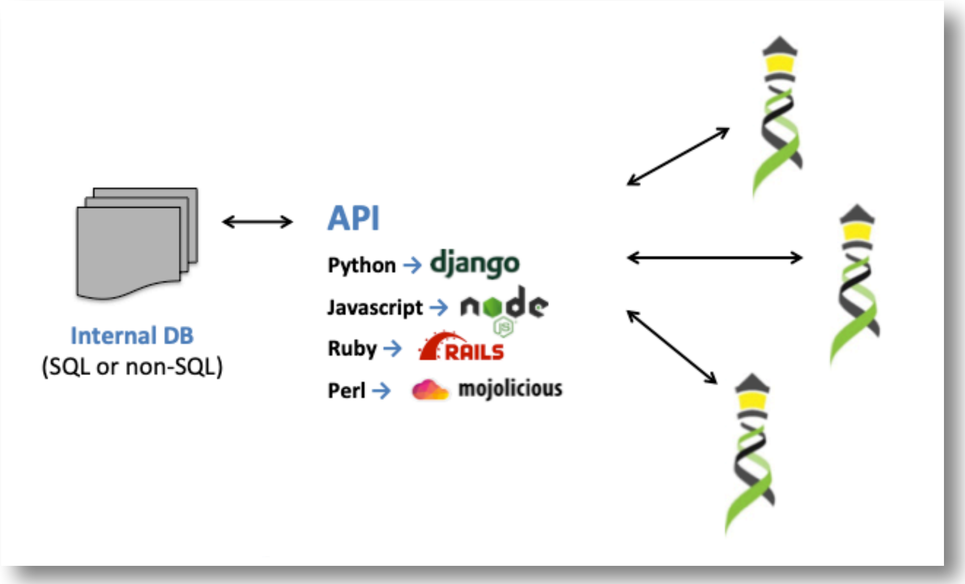
Beacon+ specific: Multiple term selection with OR logic



Implementing Beacon v2

... its just code ¯_(ツ)_/¯





Progenetix Stack

progenetix

- JavaScript front-end is populated for query results using asynchronous access to multiple handover objects
  - biosamples and variants tables, CNV histogram, UCSC .bed loader, .pgxseg variant downloads…
- the complete middleware / CGI stack is provided through the ***bycon*** package
  - schemas, query stack, data transformation (e.g. Phenopackets generation)…
- data collections mostly correspond to the main Beacon default model entities
  - no separate *runs* collection; integrated w/ analyses
  - *variants* are stored per observation instance

React

APACHE HTTP SERVER PROJECT

python

mongoDB

- *collations* contain pre-computed data (e.g. CNV frequencies, statistics) and information for all grouping entity instances and correspond to **filter values**
  - PMID:10027410, NCIT:C3222, pgx:cohort-TCGA, pgx:icdom-94703…
- *querybuffer* stores id values of all entities matched by a query and provides the corresponding access handle for **handover** generation


```
_id: ObjectId("6249bb654f8f8d67eb94953b"),
id: '876eed6-5829-4f28-b01d-9759a6f55f14',
source_collection: 'variants',
source_db: 'progenetix',
source_key: '_id',
target_collection: 'variants',
target_count: 567,
target_key: '_id',
target_values: [
  ObjectId("5bab578b727983b2e00ca99e"),
```


variants | analyses | biosamples | individuals

Entity collections

collations | geolocs | genespans | publications | qBuffer

Utility collections

Universität Zürich[UZH]

Global Alliance for Genomics & Health

bycon for GA4GH Beacon

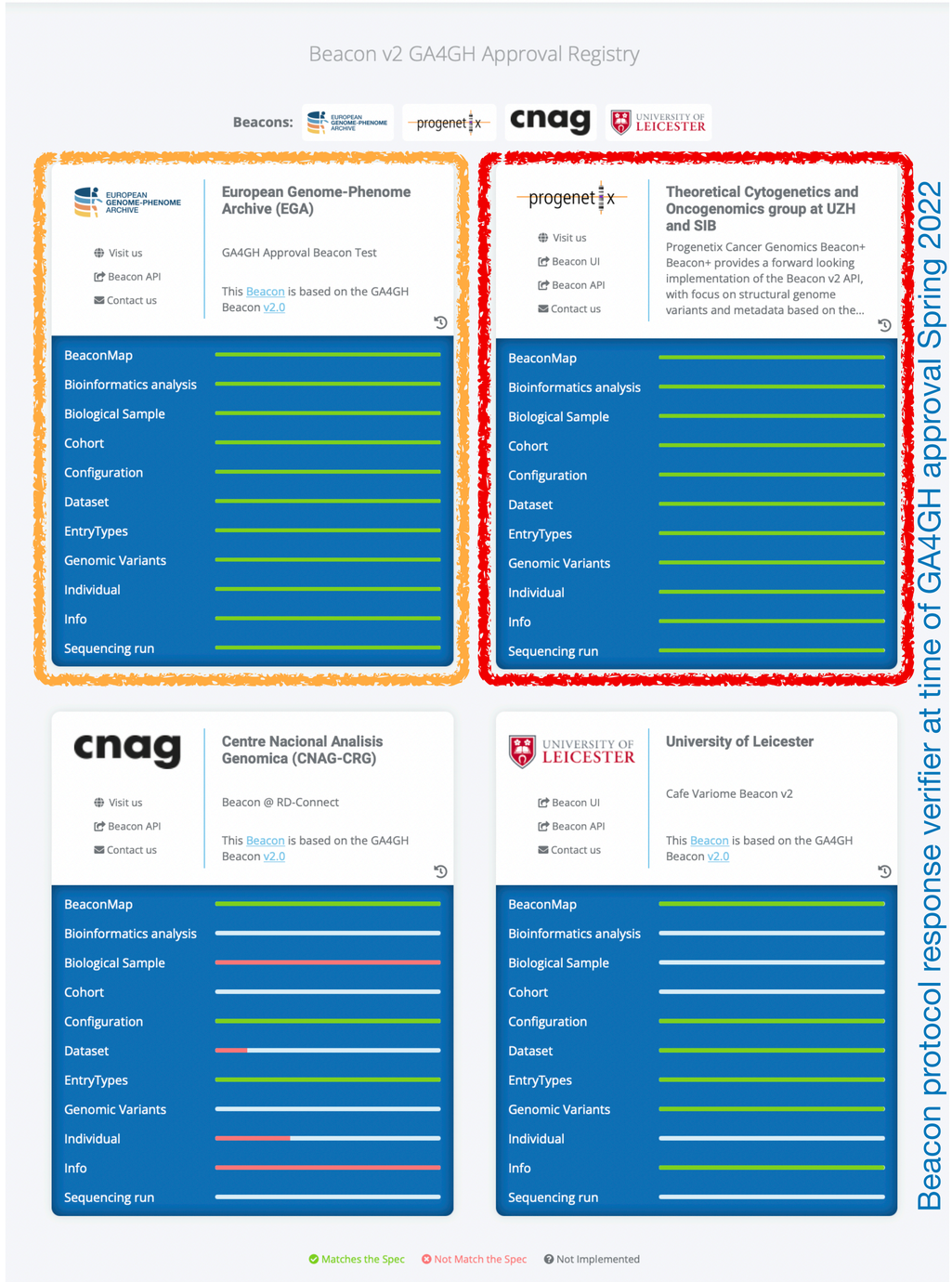
Implementation driven development of a GA4GH standard

progenetix

bycon Beacon

Implementation driven standards development

- Progenetix' Beacon+ has served as implementation driver since 2016
- the *bycon* package is used to prototype advanced Beacon features such as
  - ➡ structural variant queries
  - ➡ data handovers
  - ➡ Phenopackets integration
  - ➡ variant co-occurrences
  - ➡ ...



Global Alliance for Genomics & Health

progenetix

elixir

bycon based Progenetix Stack

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```
_id: ObjectId("6249bb654f8f8d67eb94953b"),
id: '0765ee26-5029-4f28-b01d-9759abf5bf14',
source_collection: 'variants',
source_db: 'progenetix',
source_key: '_id',
target_collection: 'variants',
target_count: 667,
target_key: '_id',
target_values: [
  ObjectId("5bab578b727983b2e00ca99e"),
  ObjectId("5bab578d727983b2e00cb505"),
```

Entity collections

Utility collections

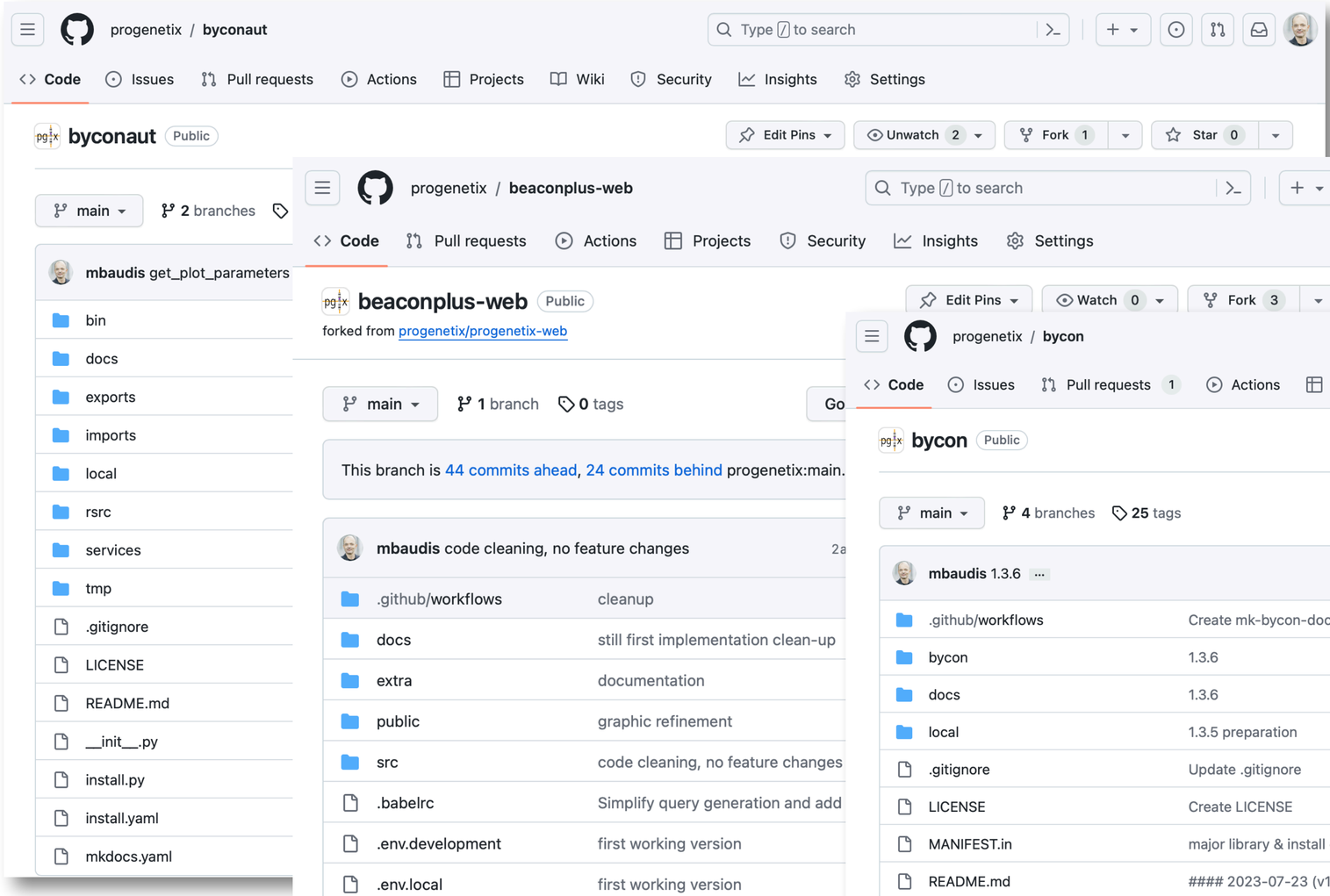
Beacon v2 Conformity and Extensions in *bycon*

Putting the + into Beacon ...

- support & use of standard Beacon v2 PUT & GET variant queries, filters and meta parameters
  - ➡ variant parameters, geneId, lengths, EFO & VCF CNV types, pagination
  - ➡ widespread, self-scoping filter use for bio-, technical- and and id parameters with switch for descending terms use (globally or per term if using POST)
- **extensive use of handovers**
  - ➡ asynchronous delivery of e.g. variant and sample data, data plots
- + optional use of OR logic for filter combinations (global)
- + extension of query parameters
  - ➡ **geographic queries** incl. $geonear and use of GeoJSON in schemas
- ┐(ﾟ▽ﾟ)┌ no implementation of authentication on this open dataset

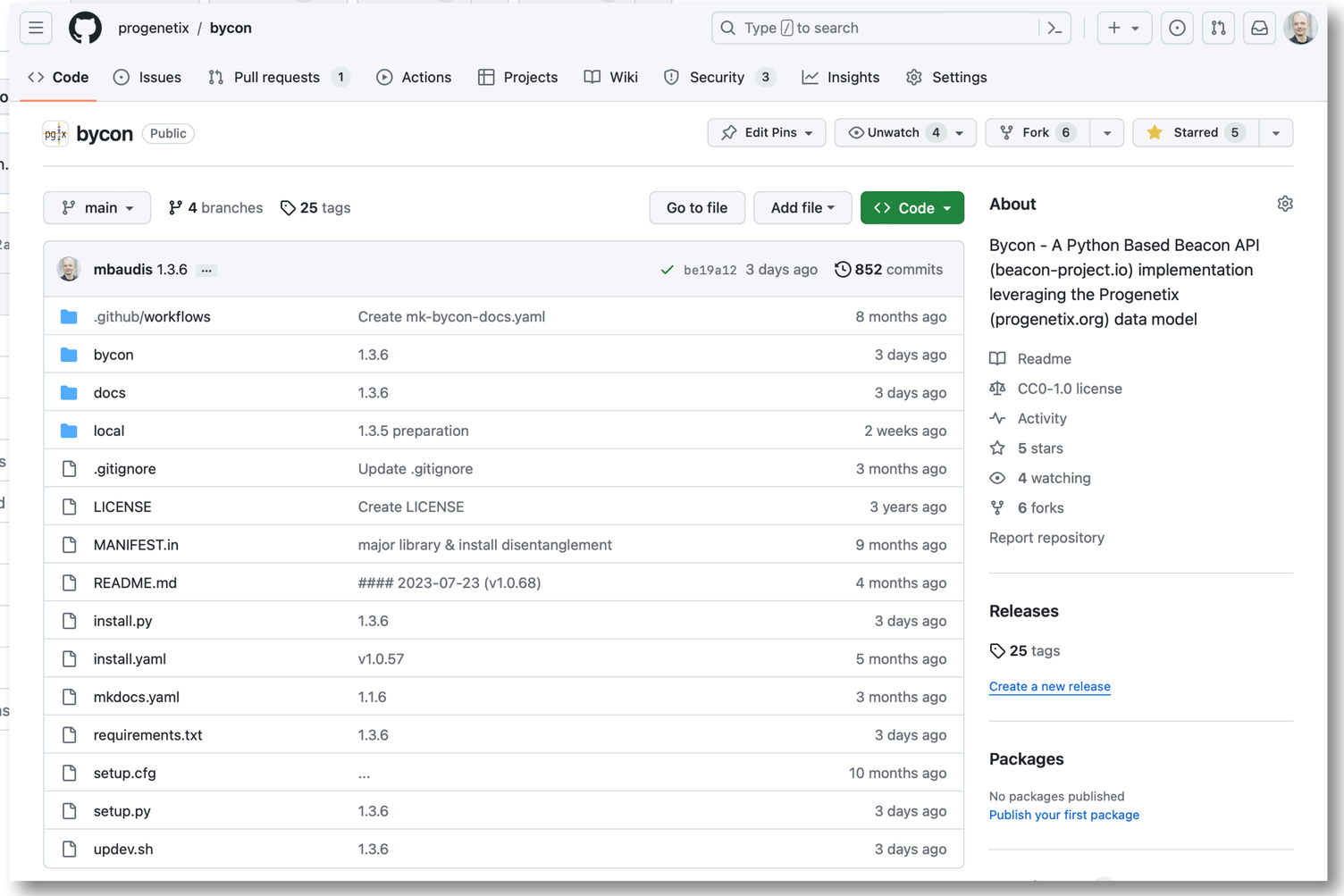
bycon **provides a number of additional services and output formats which are initiated over the / services path or provided as request parameters and are not considered Beacon extensions (though they follow the syntax where possible).**

progenetix



bycon.progenetix.org
github.com/progenetix/bycon/

beaconplus.progenetix.org
.../progenetix/beaconplus-web/



bycon.progenetix.org
github.com/progenetix/bycon/

pgxRpi

An interface API for analyzing Progenetix CNV data in R using the Beacon+ API

GitHub: https://github.com/progenetix/pgxRpi

Bioconductor

README.md

pgxRpi

Welcome to our R wrapper package for Progenetix REST API that leverages the capabilities of Beacon v2 specification. Please note that a stable internet connection is required for the query functionality. This package is aimed to simplify the process of accessing oncogenomic data from Progenetix database.

You can install this package from GitHub using:

```
install.packages("devtools")
devtools::install_github("progenetix/pgxRpi")
```

For accessing metadata of biosamples/individuals, or learning more about filters, get started from the vignette Introduction_1_loadmetadata.

For accessing CNV variant data, get started from this vignette Introduction_2_loadvariants.

For accessing CNV frequency data, get started from this vignette Introduction_3_loadfrequency.

For processing local pgxseg files, get started from this vignette Introduction_4_process_pgxseg.

If you encounter problems, try to reinstall the latest version. If reinstallation doesn't help, please contact us.

pgxRpi

platforms all | rank 2218 / 2221 | support 0 / 0 | in Bioc devel only
build ok | updated < 1 month | dependencies 144

DOI: 10.18129/B9.bioc.pgxRpi
This is the **development** version of pgxRpi; to use it, please install the devel version of Bioconductor.

R wrapper for Progenetix

Bioconductor version: Development (3.19)

The package is an R wrapper for Progenetix REST API built upon the Beacon v2 protocol. Its purpose is to provide a seamless way for retrieving genomic data from Progenetix database—an open resource dedicated to curated oncogenomic profiles. Empowered by this package, users can effortlessly access and visualize data from Progenetix.

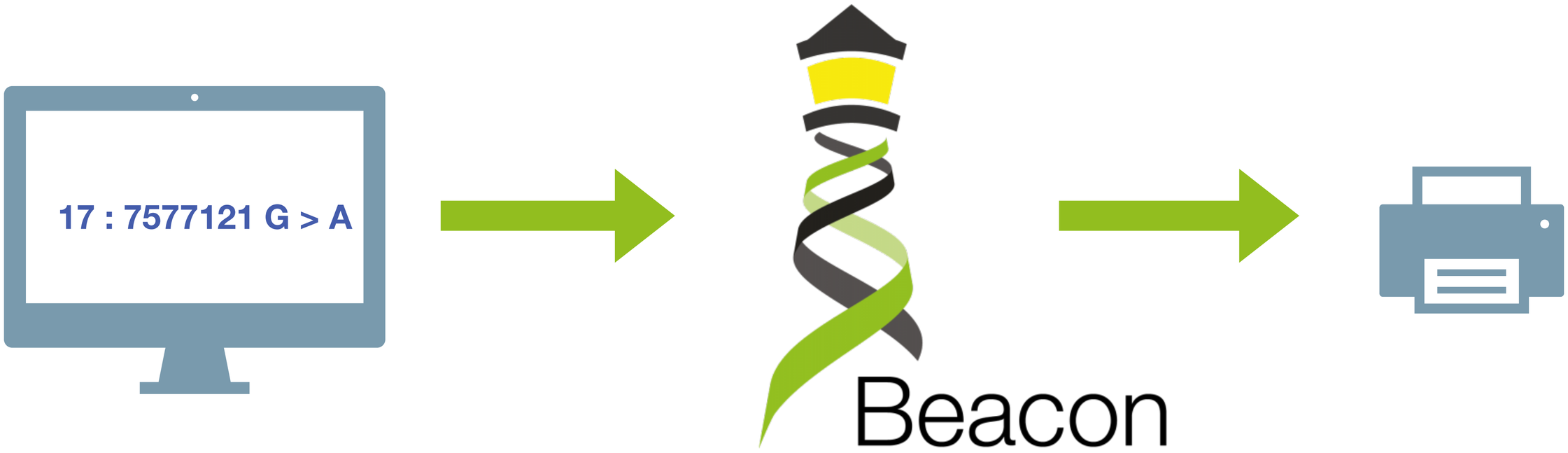
Author: Hangjia Zhao [aut, cre], Michael Baudis [aut]

Maintainer: Hangjia Zhao <hangjia.zhao at uzh.ch>

Citation (from within R, enter `citation("pgxRpi")`):

Zhao H, Baudis M (2023). *pgxRpi: R wrapper for Progenetix*. doi:10.18129/B9.bioc.pgxRpi, R package version 0.99.9, https://bioconductor.org/packages/pgxRpi.

Beacon Security



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

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

Genome *Beacons* Compromise Security?

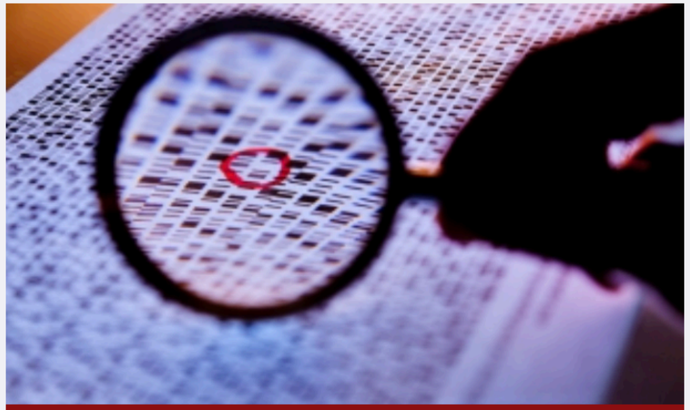
Querying for thousands of specific SNV occurrences in a genomic data pool can identify individuals in an anonymized genomic data collection

Stanford researchers identify potential security hole in genomic data-sharing network

Hackers with access to a person's genome might find out if that genome is in an international network of disease databases.

OCT 29
2015

Sharing genomic information among researchers is critical to the advance of biomedical research. Yet genomic data contains identifiable information and, in the wrong hands, poses a risk to individual privacy. If someone had access to your genome sequence — either directly from your saliva or other tissues, or from a popular genomic information service — they could check to see if you appear in a database of people with certain medical conditions, such as heart disease, lung cancer or autism.



Stanford researchers are working with the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health to make genomic information in the Beacon Project more secure.
Science photo/Shutterstock

Work by a pair of researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine makes that genomic data more secure. Suyash Shringarpure, PhD, a postdoctoral scholar in genetics, and Carlos Bustamante, PhD, a professor of genetics, have demonstrated a technique for hacking a network of global genomic databases and how to prevent it. They are working with investigators from the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health on implementing preventive measures.

The work, published Oct. 29 in *The American Journal of Human Genetics,* also bears importantly on the larger question of how to analyze mixtures of genomes, such as those from different people at a crime scene.

IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS FROM MIXED COLLECTIONS USING RARE ALLELES

The American Journal of Human Genetics 97, 631–646, November 5, 2015

Privacy Risks from Genomic Data-Sharing Beacons

Suyash S. Shringarpure[1,*] and Carlos D. Bustamante[1,*]

The human genetics community needs robust protocols that enable secure sharing of genomic data from participants in genetic research. Beacons are web servers that answer allele-presence queries—such as "Do you have a genome that has a specific nucleotide (e.g., A) at a specific genomic position (e.g., position 11,272 on chromosome 1)?"—with either "yes" or "no." Here, we show that individuals in a beacon are susceptible to re-identification even if the only data shared include presence or absence information about alleles in a beacon. Specifically, we propose a likelihood-ratio test of whether a given individual is present in a given genetic beacon. Our test is not dependent on allele frequencies and is the most powerful test for a specified false-positive rate. Through simulations, we showed that in a beacon with 1,000 individuals, re-identification is possible with just 5,000 queries. Relatives can also be identified in the beacon. Re-identification is possible even in the presence of sequencing errors and variant-calling differences. In a beacon constructed with 65 European individuals from the 1000 Genomes Project, we demonstrated that it is possible to detect membership in the beacon with just 250 SNPs. With just 1,000 SNP queries, we were able to detect the presence of an individual genome from the Personal Genome Project in an existing beacon. Our results show that beacons can disclose membership and implied phenotypic information about participants and do not protect privacy a priori. We discuss risk mitigation through policies and standards such as not allowing anonymous pings of genetic beacons and requiring minimum beacon sizes.

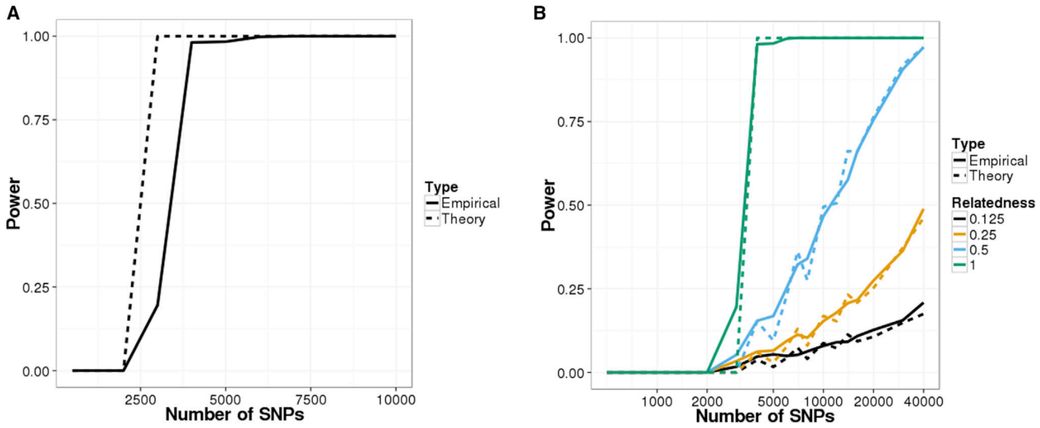


Figure 1. Power of Re-identification Attacks on Beacons Constructed with Simulated Data
Power curves for the likelihood-ratio test (LRT) on (A) a simulated beacon with 1,000 individuals and (B) detecting relatives in the simulated beacon. The false-positive rate was set to 0.05 for all scenarios.

- rare allelic variants can be used to identify an individual (or her relatives) in a genome collection without having access to individual datasets
- however, such an approach requires previous knowledge about the individual's SNPs

Making Beacons Biomedical - Beacon v2

- Scoping queries through "biodata" parameters
- Extending the queries towards clinically ubiquitous variant formats
  - cytogenetic annotations, named variants, variant effects
- Beacon queries as entry for **data delivery**
  - Beacon v2 permissive to respond with variety of data types
    - Phenopackets, biosample data, cohort information ...
  - handover to stream and download using htsget, VCF, EHRs
- Interacting with EHR standards
  - FHIR translations for queries and handover ...
- Beacons as part of local, secure environments
- Authentication to enable non-aggregate, patient derived datasets
  - ELIXIR AAI with compatibility to other providers (OAuth...)

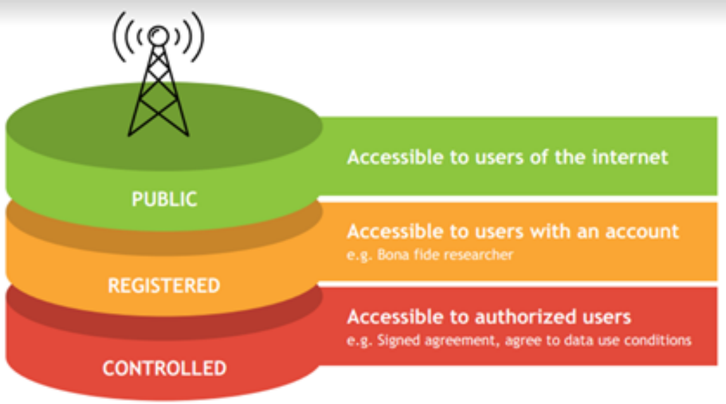
Definitely breaks the "Relative Security by Design" Concept!

Global Alliance for Genomics & Health

elixir

Beacon Security

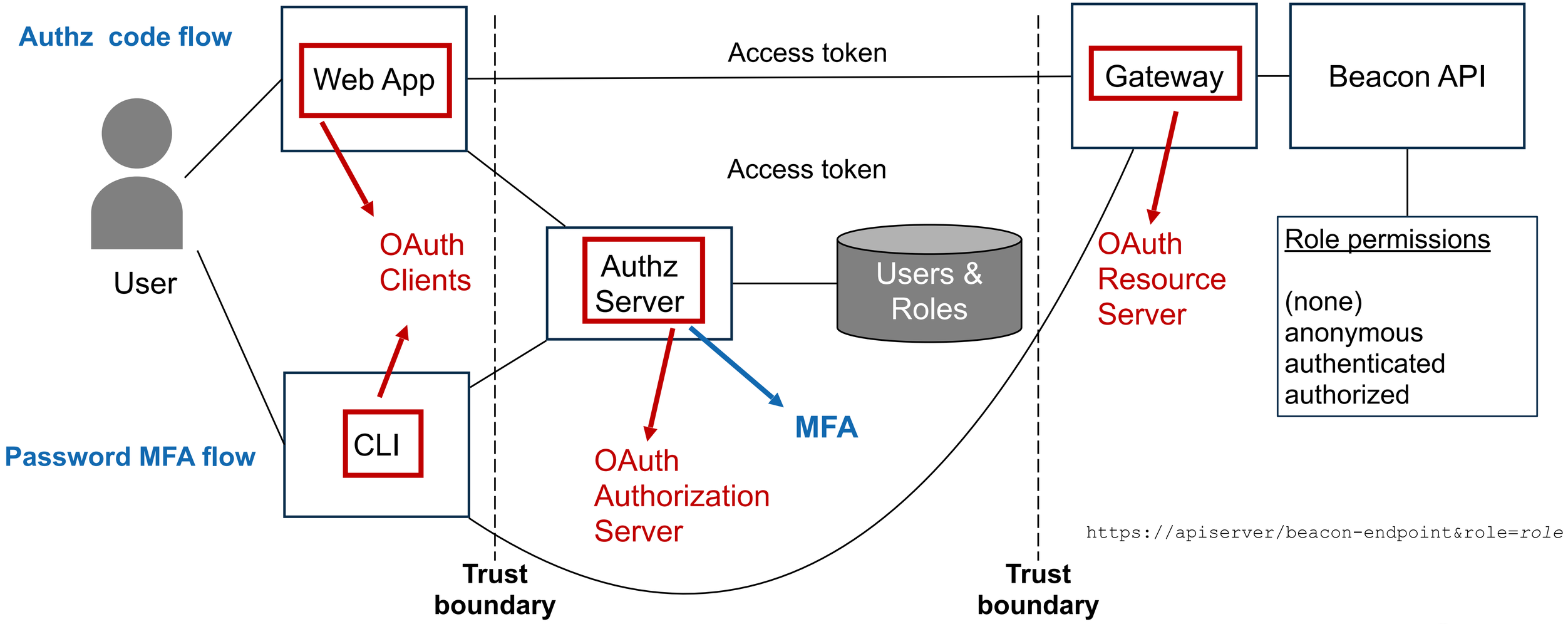
Security by Design ... if Implemented in the Environment



- the beacon API specification does not implement explicit security (e.g. checking user authentication and authorization)
- the framework implements different levels of response granularity which can be mapped to authorization levels (**boolean** / **count** / **record** level responses)
- implementations can have beacons running in secure environments with a **gatekeeper** service managing authentication and autorization levels, and potentially can filter responses for escalated levels
- the backend can implement additional access reduction, on a user <-> dataset level if needed

Architecture

Running the *bycon* stack in a secure environment



Architecture

Running the *bycon* stack in a secure environment

- The ***Beacon API*** implementation stack (e.g. bycon) is authentication procedure agnostic; i.e. it just accepts that a user has been authenticated and passed the general authorization gatekeeping
- The ***Beacon API*** server and the ***Gateway*** reside in a single VM, with only the ***Gateway***'s port exposed (with TLS). Beacon's port is not exposed by the VM and can only be reached through the ***Gateway***
- The ***Authentication Server*** can run on the same or separate VM; needs a database with user accounts.
- The ***Web Client*** can be in the same VM or a separate one.
- Separate ***Gateways*** (e.g. university firewall vs. public) can be configured to modify different roles, e.g. the public gateway may turn registered roles into anonymous, regardless of whether the user has registered status
- Users can write their own clients (web / command line) which are registered with the ***Authorization Server*** and are issued with a Client ID and Client Secret to use against the ***Authorization Server***.

Global Alliance
for Genomics & Health
Collaborate. Innovate. Accelerate.

What Can You Do?

- implement procedures and standards supporting **data discovery** (FAIR principles) and federation approaches using Beacon
- promote forward looking consent and data protection models (**ORD** principle "*as secure as necessary, as open as possible*")
- **support** and/or get involved with international **data standards** efforts and projects

➡ **Collaborate!**

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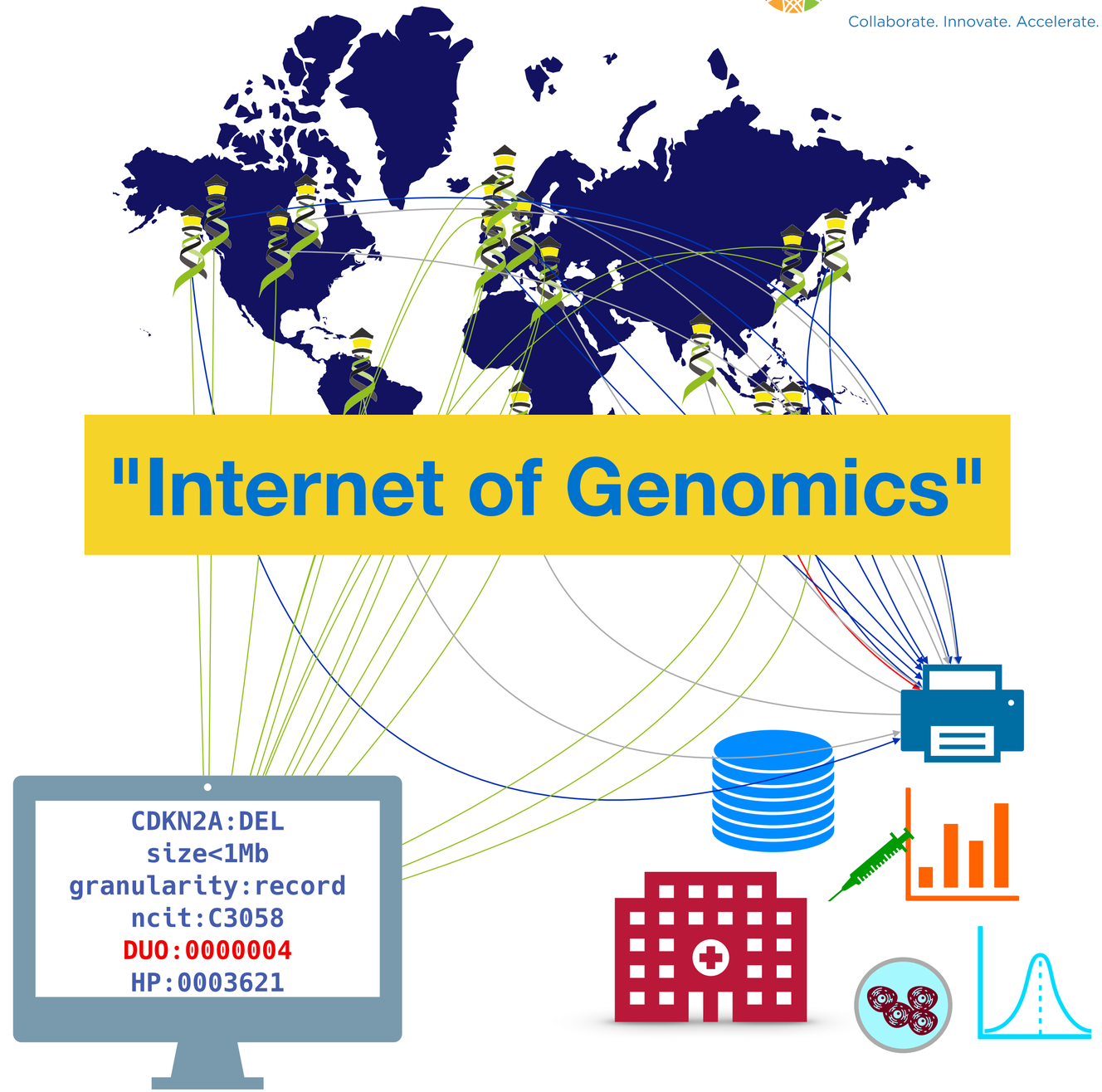

The Beacon team through the ages

EUROPEAN GENOME-PHENOME ARCHIVE

CRG Centre for Genomic Regulation

Jordi Rambla
Arcadi Navarro
Roberto Ariosa
Manuel Rueda
Lauren Fromont
Mauricio Moldes
Claudia Vasallo
Babita Singh
Sabela de la Torre
Marta Ferri
Fred Haziza

CSC

Juha Törnroos
Teemu Kataja
Ilkka Lappalainen
Dylan Spalding

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

Cafe Variome Central

Tony Brookes
Tim Beck
Colin Veal
Tom Shorter

Swiss Personalized Health Network (SPHN)

University of Zurich[UZH]

Michael Baudis
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