

# National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

## NCCoE Virtual Workshop on Cybersecurity of Genomic Data

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM (ET)

# National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

## NCCoE Virtual Workshop on Cybersecurity of Genomic Data

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM (ET)

**This webinar is being recorded.**

# AGENDA



<i>Segment</i>	<i>Time</i>
Segment 1: Workshop Overview and Background	11:00 AM – 11:40 AM
Segment 2: Keynotes	11:40 AM – 12:20 PM
Segment 3: Challenges from the Field	12:20 PM – 12:50 PM
Intermission	12:50 PM – 1:30 PM
Segment 4: Challenges Sessions	1:30 PM – 2:25 PM
Break	2:25 PM – 2:35 PM
Segment 4 (Continued): Challenges Sessions	2:35 PM – 3:45 PM
Break	3:45 PM – 3:50 PM
Segment 5: Open Lightning Round	3:50 PM – 4:20 PM
Segment 6: Next Steps	4:20 PM – 4:30 PM

# Welcome to the NCCoE Virtual Workshop on Cybersecurity of Genomic Data

Natalia Martin, NIST

# Virtual Workshop on the Cybersecurity of Genomic Data

Natalia Martin, Acting Director for National  
Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE), NIST

# About the NCCoE

**NIST** National Institute of  
Standards and Technology  
U.S. Department of Commerce



# WHO WE ARE



A **solution-driven, collaborative** hub addressing complex cybersecurity problems



# OUR GOALS



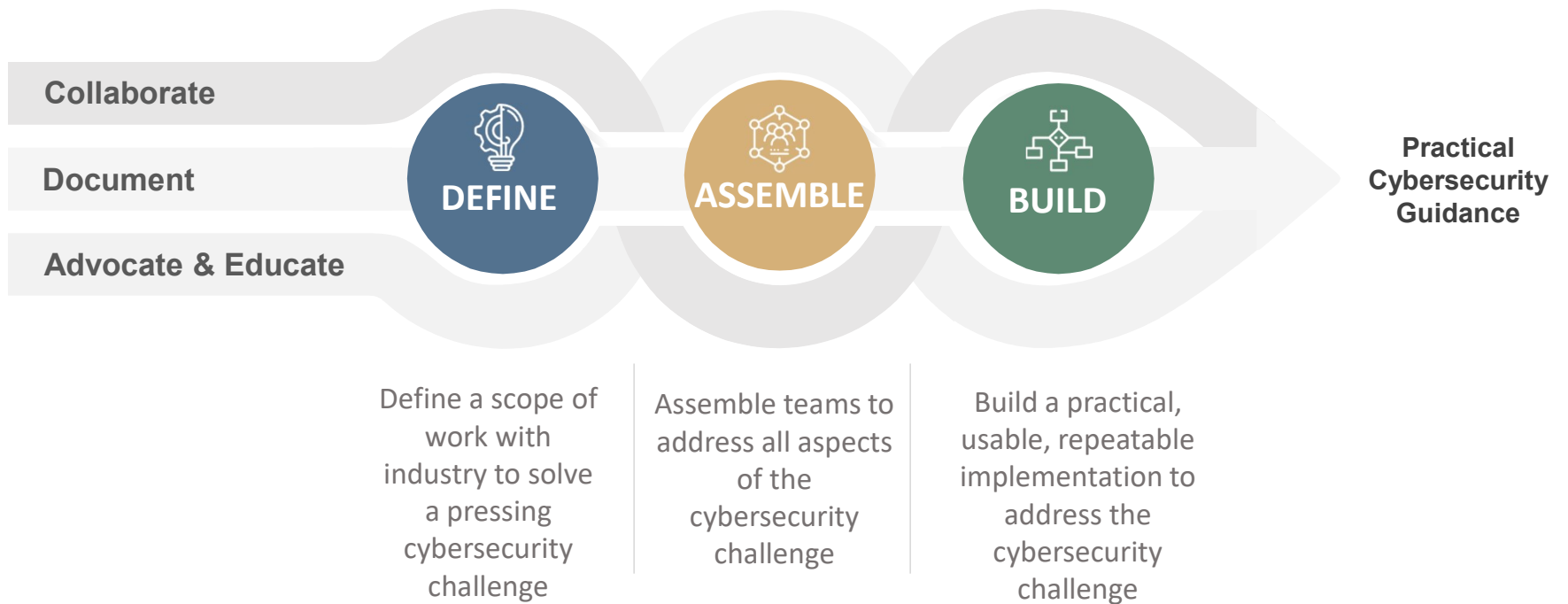
**Improve cybersecurity** for businesses and commerce

**Lower the learning curve** for cybersecurity

**Spark innovation** in secure technology



# OUR APPROACH



# Virtual Workshop on the Cybersecurity of Genomic Data

An abstract graphic at the bottom of the slide features a network of interconnected nodes and lines in various shades of blue and green, set against a dark blue background with a subtle grid pattern.

# Workshop Overview

Ron Pulivarti, NIST

# Housekeeping

- We support the health and well being for all.
  - We are supporting virtual collaboration.
  - We have three breaks planned for the day.
- We want audience engagement.
  - Please pose your questions for today's workshop using the Q&A window.
  - Please voice your insights in the Open Lightning Round from 3:50 – 4:30 PM.
- We intend to share our learnings today.
  - We are recording this session for future post on the NCCoE Website.
  - We will summarize key insights.

# NIST Experiences in Genomics, Cybersecurity, and Privacy

Samantha Maragh (NIST)

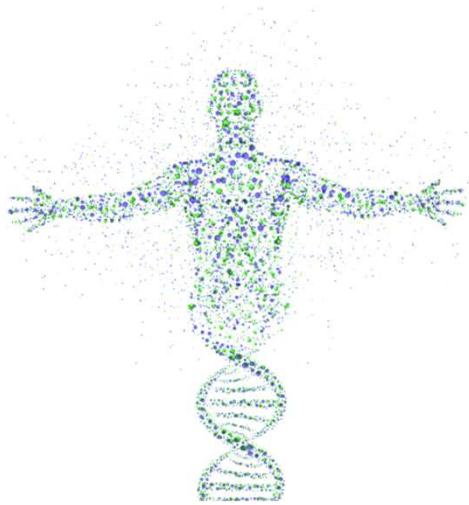
Naomi Lefkowitz (NIST)

Ron Pulivarti (NIST)

# Human Genomics at NIST

Samantha Maragh  
Leader, Genome Editing Program

# The Human Genome



- The instruction code for humans
- ~6.4 billion letters long
- Present in each cell of a person
- ~ Half inherited from each biological parent
- Code is highly similar between people, but each person has a unique identifiable sequence



# Uses of human genomic information

NIST



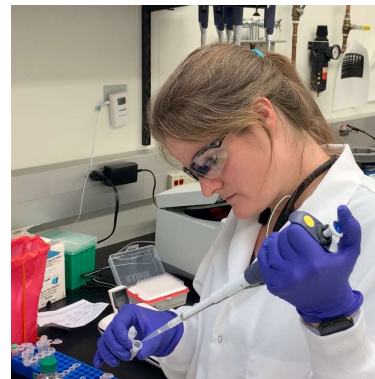
Human Identification



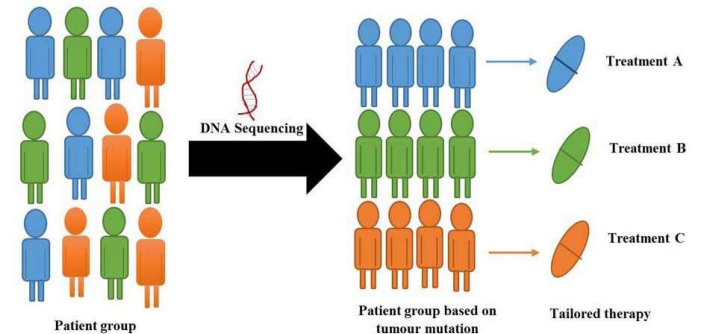
Population Diversity and Ancestry



Human Health: Diagnostics



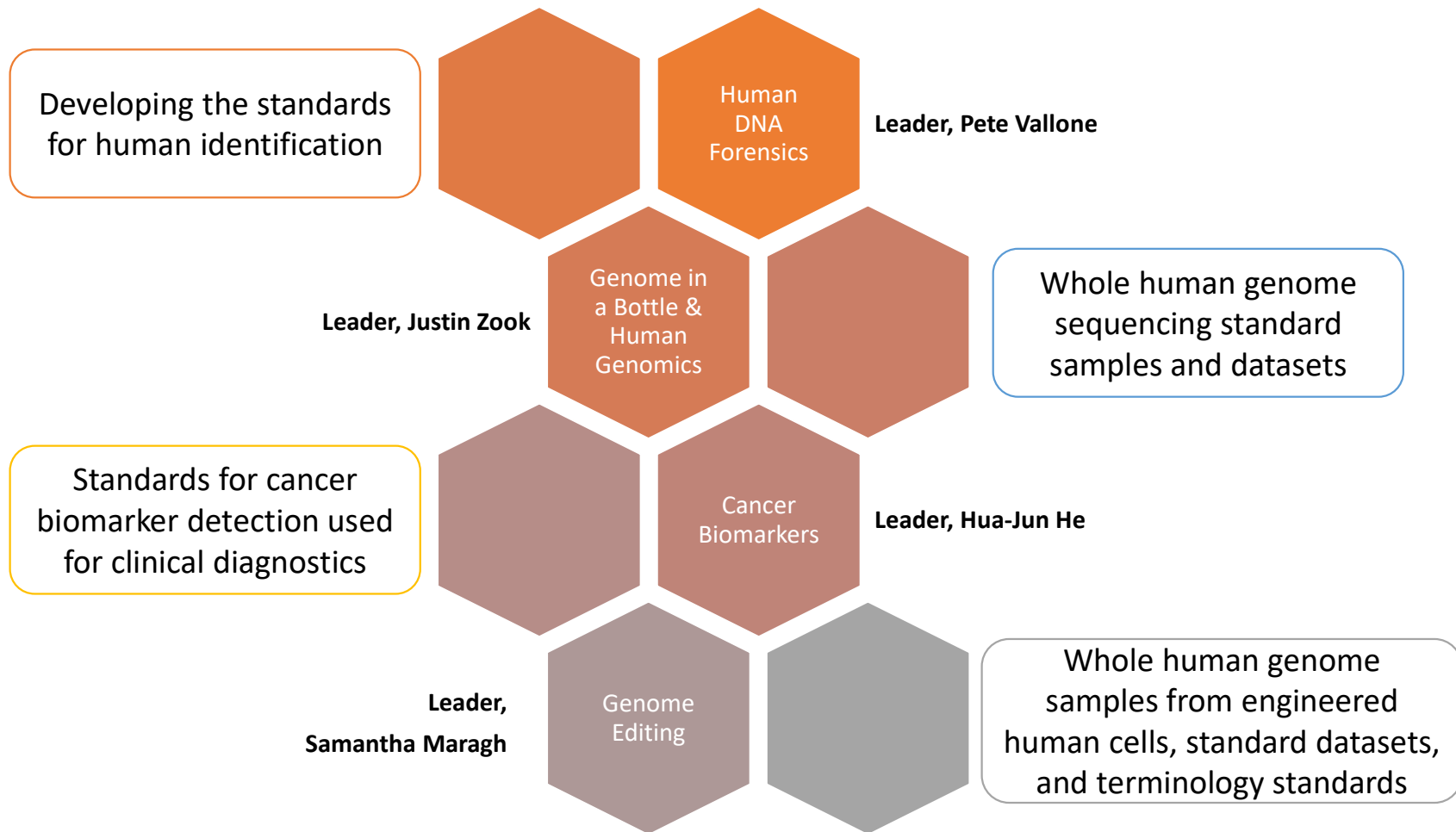
Scientific Research



Human Health: Treatment



# NIST expertise with human genomics




# NIST formed the Genome in a Bottle Consortium in 2012

GIAB has characterized variants in 7 human genomes and released NIST whole genome DNA standards




**Pilot Genome  
NA12878**

HG001\* 


**AJ Trio**

HG003\*  —  HG004\*

HG002\* 

**Chinese Trio**

HG006  —  HG007

HG005\* 



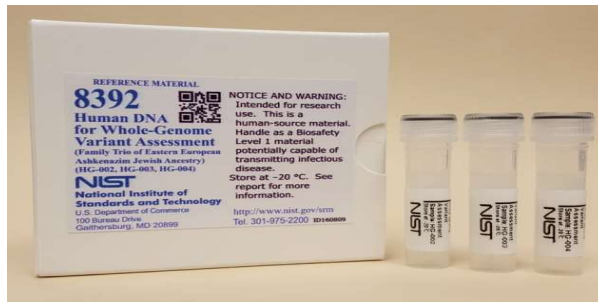
National Institute of Standards & Technology

## Report of Investigation

Reference Material 8391

Human DNA for Whole-Genome Variant Assessment  
(Son of Eastern European Ashkenazim Jewish Ancestry)

This Reference Material (RM) is intended for validation, optimization, and process evaluation purposes. It consists of a male whole human genome sample of Eastern European Ashkenazim Jewish ancestry, and it can be used to assess performance of variant calling from genome sequencing. A unit of RM 8391 consists of a vial containing human genomic DNA extracted from a single large growth of human lymphoblastoid cell line GM24385 from the Coriell Institute for Medical Research (Camden, NJ). The vial contains approximately 10 µg of genomic DNA, with the peak of the nominal length distribution longer than 48.5 kb, as referenced by Lambda DNA, and the DNA is in TE buffer (10 mM TRIS, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0).



\*NIST RMs developed from large batches of DNA

nature  
biotechnology

Resource | Published: 01 April 2019

### An open resource for accurately benchmarking small variant and reference calls

Justin M. Zook , Jennifer McDaniel, Nathan D. Olson, Justin Wagner, Hemang Parikh, Haynes Heaton, Sean A. Irvine, Len Trigg, Rebecca Truty, Cory Y. McLean, Francisco M. De La Vega, Chunlin Xiao, Stephen Sherry & Marc Salit

nature  
biotechnology

Resource | Published: 15 June 2020

### A robust benchmark for detection of germline large deletions and insertions

Justin M. Zook , Nancy F. Hansen, [...] Marc Salit

nature  
biotechnology

Analysis | Published: 11 March 2019

### Best practices for benchmarking germline small-variant calls in human genomes

Peter Krusche, Len Trigg, Paul C. Boutros, Christopher E. Mason, Francisco M. De La Vega, Benjamin L. Moore, Mar Gonzalez-Porta, Michael A. Eberle, Zivana Tezak, Samir Lababidi, Rebecca Truty, George Asimenos, Birgit Funke, Mark Fleharty, Brad A. Chapman, Marc Salit, Justin M. Zook  & the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health Benchmarking Team

PLOS COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

OPEN ACCESS | PEER-REVIEWED  
RESEARCH ARTICLE

### A crowdsourced set of curated structural variants for the human genome

Lesley M. Chapman, Noah Spies, Patrick Pai, Chun Shen Lim, Andrew Carroll, Giuseppe Narzisi, Christopher M. Watson, Christos Proukakis, Wayne E. Clarke, Naoki Narai, Eric Dawson, Garon Jones, Daniel Blankenberg, [...] Justin M. Zook 

<p><b>Reference samples</b></p> <p>The Harvard Personal Genome Project we are open for access</p> <p>sera.care Rapid. Innovation. Precision.</p> <p>NIST CORIELL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH DECODING THE GENOME</p> <p>horizon INSPIRED CELL SOLUTIONS ThermoFisher SCIENTIFIC</p>	<p><b>Clinical Laboratories</b></p> <p>INVITAE</p> <p>AMP ASSOCIATION FOR MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY</p> <p>Personalis Pioneering Genome-Guided Medicine</p>	<p><b>Academic Laboratories</b></p> <p>Baylor College of Medicine</p> <p>Stanford MEDICINE</p> <p>JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY</p> <p>HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH</p>
<p><b>NGS technology developers</b></p> <p>ThermoFisher SCIENTIFIC</p> <p>illumina</p> <p>Complete GENOMICS</p> <p>10X GENOMICS</p> <p>NANOPORE technology</p> <p>bionano GENOMICS</p> <p>PACBIO</p> <p>Nabsys</p>	<p><b>Government</b></p> <p>NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH</p> <p>FDA</p> <p>NIST CDC</p> <p>* Funders</p>	<p><b>Bioinformatics developers</b></p> <p>Google SevenBridges</p> <p>Sentieon Precision Data for Precision Medicine</p> <p>Arvados verily</p> <p>Roche DNAnexus</p>

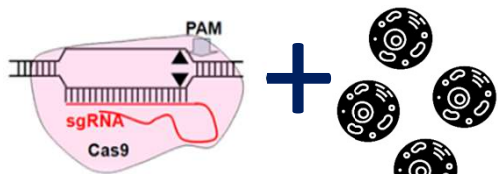
# CRISPR technologies and uses

## CRISPR-Cas

CRISPR - Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats

Cas - CRISPR assoiated protein

CRISPR-Cas system were identified in nature as bacterial immune systems and have been pivoted to enable modification of the genetic code within cells at designed target positions (**genome editing**)

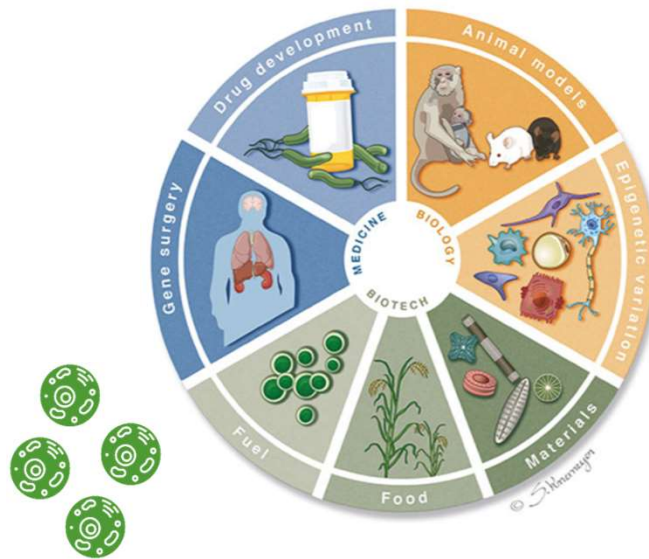


Genome Editing System (e.g., CRISPR-Cas) designed to target genome sequence

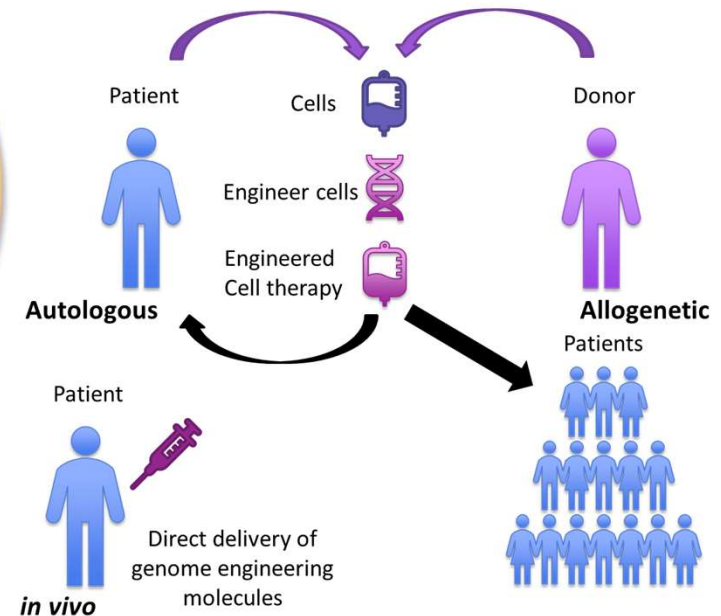
Cells of interest

DNA sequence change

Engineered/edited functional cells



## Human Gene Therapy applications

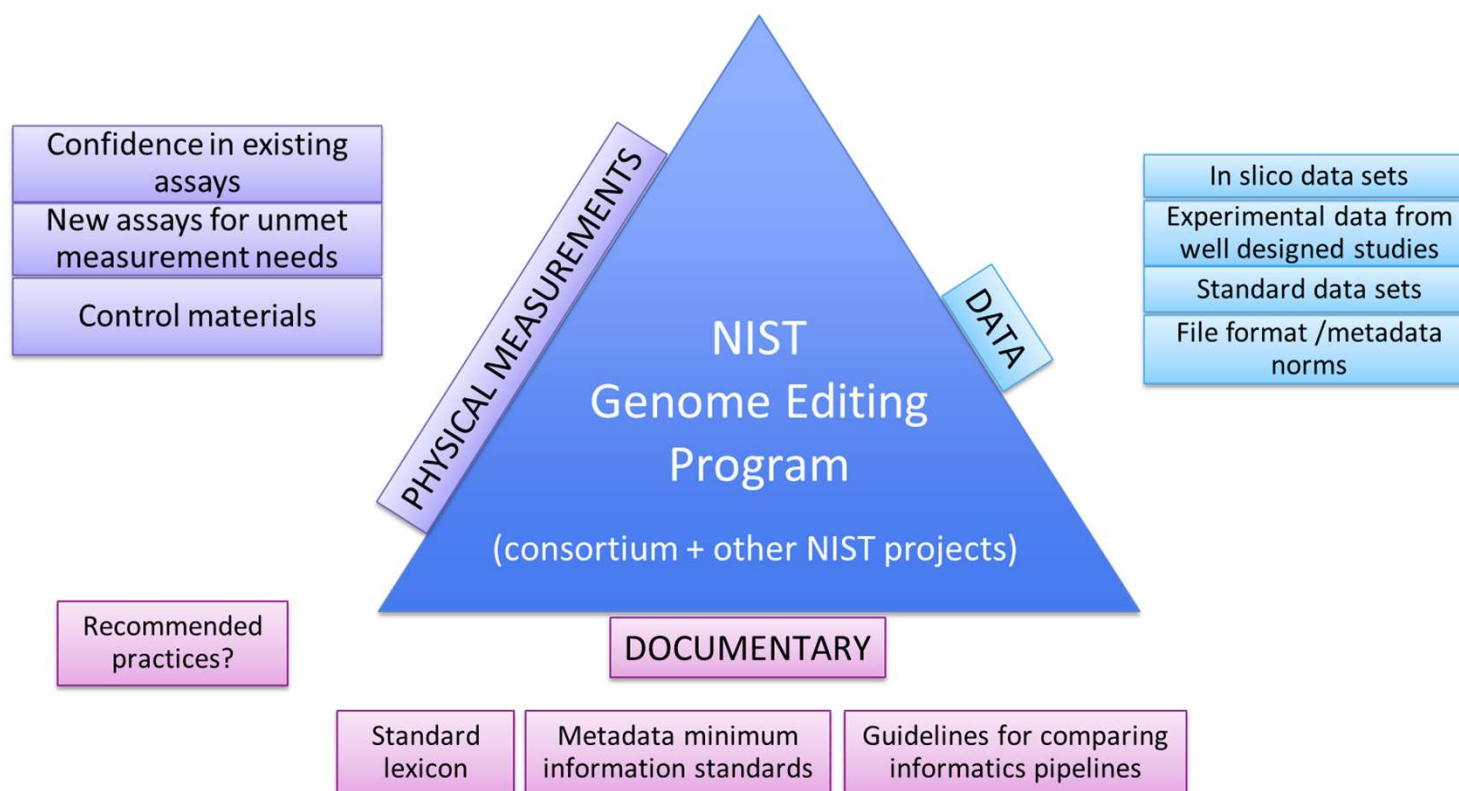


# NIST experience with CRISPR technologies



**Vision:** Support quality in measurements for translating genome edited product to market

**Goal:** Develop measurement tools standards to increase the confidence of utilizing genome editing technologies in research and commercial products.



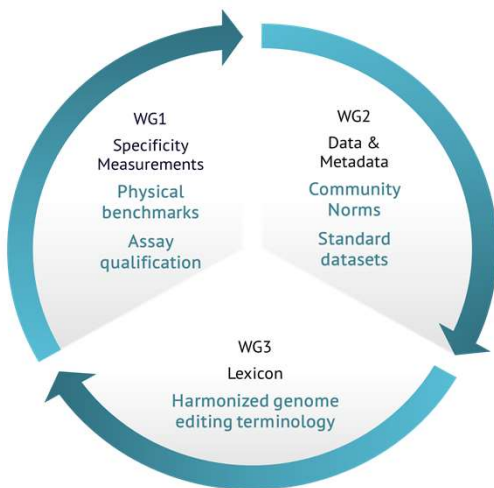
# NIST Genome Editing Consortium (launched October 2018)



## MISSION

Convene experts across academia, industry, non-profit & government to address the measurements and standards needed to increase confidence of utilizing genome editing technologies in research and commercial products

## ORGANIZATION



## MEMBER BENEFITS

- Access to a neutral forum for addressing pre-competitive needs
- Participation in the development of experimental benchmarks, guidelines and terminology
- Access to tools developed by the consortium ahead of public release

## MEMBERS

- Agilent
- Aldevron
- Applied StemCell
- AstraZeneca
- Bionano Genomics
- Bio-Rad
- Bluebird bio\*
- Caribou Biosciences
- Catalytic Data Science
- Cergentis
- COBO Technologies
- **College of American Pathologists (CAP)**
- CRISPR Therapeutics
- DARPA
- DowDuPont Agrosience (Corteva)\*
- Editas Medicine
- EMBL-EBI
- **FDA CBER**
- Genomic Vision
- Horizon Discovery
- Illumina
- Inscripta
- Integrated DNA Technologies
- Intellia Therapeutics
- KromaTiD
- Lonza
- Macrogen
- Mass General Hospital
- Mission Bio
- Novartis
- New England Biolabs
- NIH/NINDS
- NIH SCGE
- Precision Biosciences
- Sangamo Therapeutics
- SeQure Dx
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Synthego
- ThermoFisher Scientific
- Twinstrand Biosciences
- UCSC
- WhiteLab Genomics

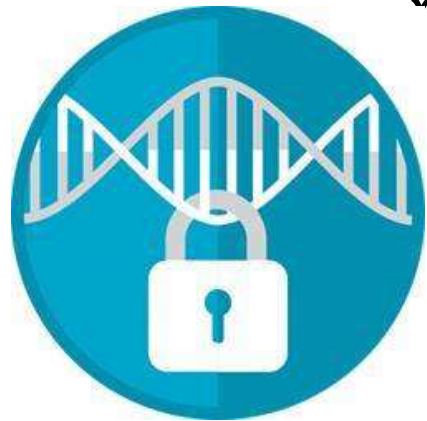
NIST coordinates with FDA and Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM)

Cost sharing model. All members contribute \$20,000 annually or *in-kind*

\* Former members



# Importance of securing human genomics data **NIST**



- ✓ Data integrity
- ✓ Data reliability
- ✓ Maintain limited access to individual genomic information
  - ✓ Protect knowledge / intellectual property
    - ✓ Data reusability / prevent loss
  - ✓ Prevent against nefarious use or misuse
    - ✓ Privacy

# Contact Us

Thank You!

Contact

Samantha Maragh  
Leader, Genome Editing Program

Email address

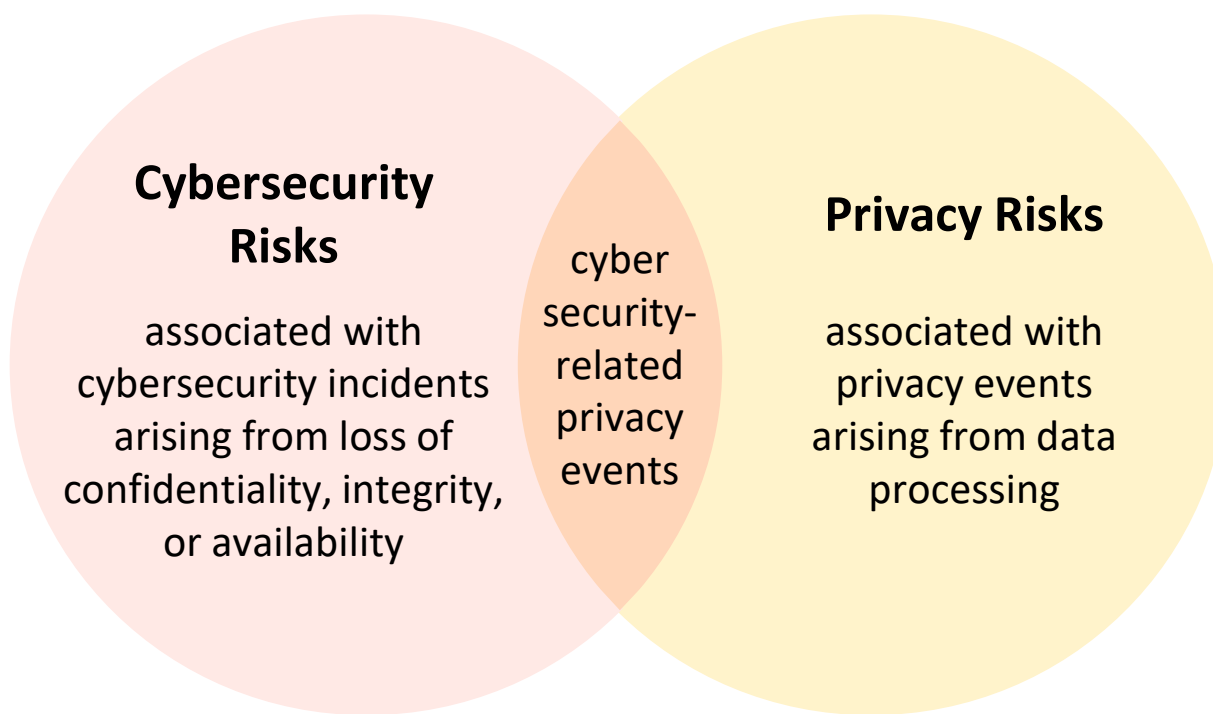
samantha@nist.gov

# Privacy at NIST

Naomi Lefkowitz



# Relationship Between Cybersecurity and Privacy Risk



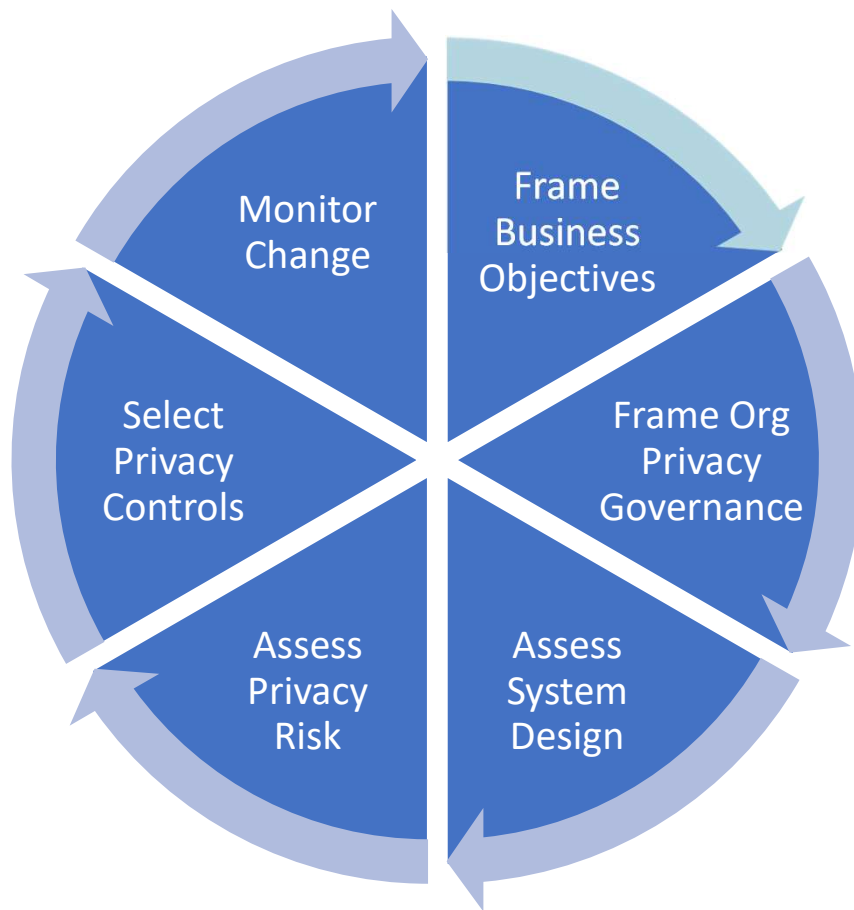
**Data:** A representation of information, including digital and non-digital formats

**Privacy Event:** The occurrence or potential occurrence of problematic data actions

**Data Processing:** The collective set of data actions (i.e., the complete data life cycle, including, but not limited to collection, retention, logging, generation, transformation, use, disclosure, sharing, transmission, and disposal)

**Privacy Risk:** The likelihood that individuals will experience problems resulting from data processing, and the impact should they occur

# NIST Privacy Risk Assessment Methodology (PRAM)



Catalog of Problematic Data  
Actions  
and Problems

# NIST Privacy Engineering Objectives

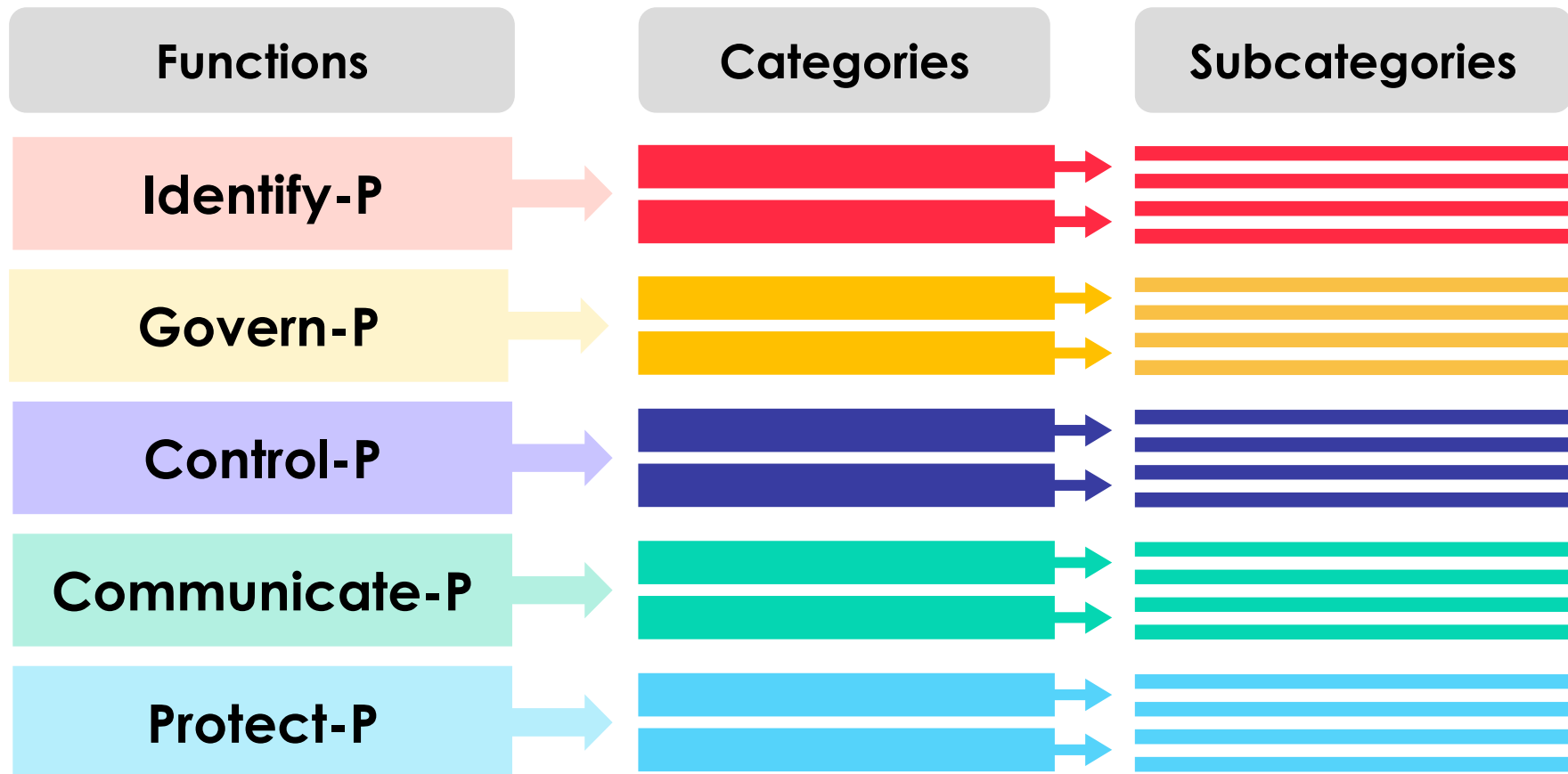


**Predictability:** enabling reliable assumptions by individuals, owners, and operators about data and their processing by a system, product, or service.

**Manageability:** providing the capability for granular administration of data, including alteration, deletion, and selective disclosure.

**Disassociability:** enabling the processing of data or events without association to individuals or devices beyond the operational requirements of the system.

# NIST Privacy Framework Core





## Websites

<https://www.nist.gov/privacyframework>



## Mailing List

List.nist.gov/privacyframework



## Contact Us

PrivacyFramework@nist.gov

# National Institute of Standards and Technology - Cybersecurity

Ron Pulivarti, Senior Cybersecurity Engineer for the Healthcare Sector at the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE), which is part of NIST



# NIST

**National Institute of  
Standards and Technology**  
U.S. Department of Commerce

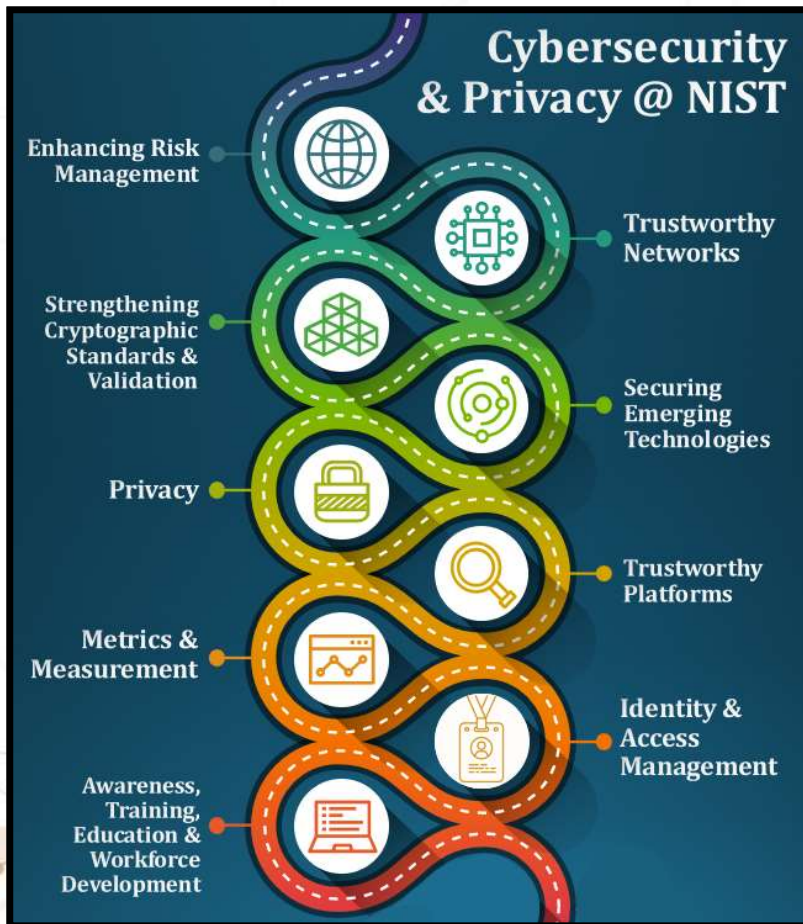
**Celebrating 50 years of Cybersecurity at NIST**



**NIST** National Institute of  
Standards and Technology  
U.S. Department of Commerce



**NCCOE**  
NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY  
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



## NINE PRIORITY AREAS:

- Enhancing Risk Management
- Trustworthy Networks
- Strengthening Cryptographic Standards & Validation
- Securing Emerging Technologies
- Privacy
- Trustworthy Platforms
- Metrics & Measurement
- Identity & Access Management
- Awareness, Training, Education & Workforce Development



**Cybersecurity Framework released; Cybersecurity Enhancement Act assigns NIST workforce, other responsibilities**

**Law designates NIST to Federal Acquisition Security Council, produce supply chain guidance**

**NIST produces IoT guidance per IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act; NIST issues Security and Privacy Controls, Rev 5; NIST updates NICE strategic plan**

**2014**

**2016**

**NIST launches public key Post-Quantum Cryptography Standardization initiative**

**2018**

**2019**

**NIST launches Small Business Cybersecurity Corner website following 2018 statute**

**2020**

**2021**

**NIST launches effort to enhance software supply chain security in response to Executive Order and technology supply chain partnership**

# NIST Cybersecurity Framework 1.1



Function	Category
Identify	Asset Management
	Business Environment
	Governance
	Risk Assessment
	Risk Management Strategy
	Supply Chain Risk Management
Protect	Identity Management and Access Control
	Awareness and Training
	Data Security
	Information Protection Processes & Procedures
	Maintenance
	Protective Technology
Detect	Anomalies and Events
	Security Continuous Monitoring
	Detection Processes
Respond	Response Planning
	Communications
	Analysis
	Mitigation
	Improvements
Recover	Recovery Planning
	Improvements
	Communications



Prepare

Essential activities to **prepare** the organization to manage security and privacy risks

Categorize

**Categorize** the system and information processed, stored, and transmitted based on an impact analysis

Select

**Select** the set of NIST SP 800-53 controls to protect the system based on risk assessment(s)

Implement

**Implement** the controls and document how controls are deployed

Assess

**Assess** to determine if the controls are in place, operating as intended, and producing the desired results

Authorize

Senior official makes a risk-based decision to **authorize** the system (to operate)

Monitor

Continuously **monitor** control implementation and risks to the system

NIST Special Publication 800-160, Volume 2  
Revision 1

# Developing Cyber-Resilient Systems:

*A Systems Security Engineering Approach*

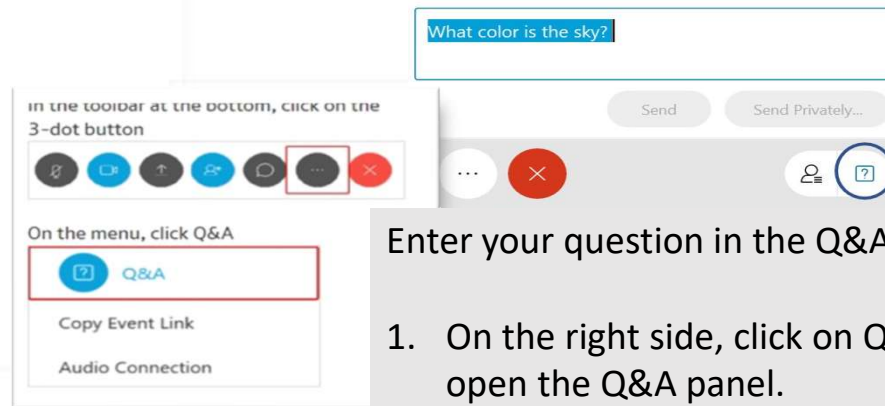




# Thank You.

# NIST Experiences in Genomics, Cybersecurity, and Privacy

## Moderated Questions and Answers



Enter your question in the Q&A panel.

1. On the right side, click on Q&A header to open the Q&A panel.
2. Type in the box **your name, organization and question.**
3. Click send.

# National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

## NCCoE Virtual Workshop on Cybersecurity of Genomic Data

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM (ET)

# Keynote: The Protection Perspective

Michael J. Orlando  
(National Counterintelligence and Security Center [NCSC])



# Threats to Genomic Data

Michael J. Orlando, Senior Official Performing the Duties of Director,  
National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC)

## National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

NCCoE Virtual Workshop on Cybersecurity of Genomic Data

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 11:00 AM (EST)

# National Counterintelligence and Security Center



## Mission

- Lead and support the U.S. Government's counterintelligence and security activities critical to protecting our nation.
- Provide counterintelligence outreach to U.S. private sector entities at risk of foreign intelligence penetration.
- Issue public warnings regarding intelligence threats to the United States.

# Global Threat Picture

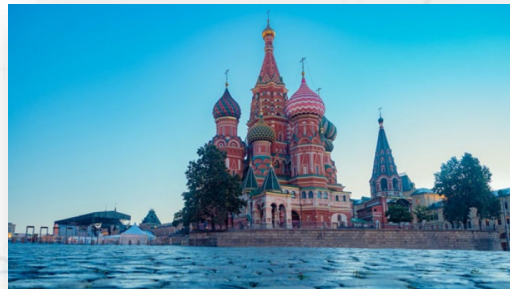
Expanding Array  
of Adversaries

Improving  
Capabilities &  
Tradecraft

Expanded Range  
of Targets &  
Operations

## Emerging Technologies: A Key Focus of Strategic Competitors

- U.S. leadership in emerging technology sectors -- such as biotech, AI, & quantum -- faces growing challenges from strategic competitors.
- China, Russia, and other nations recognize the economic & military benefits of these technologies & have enacted comprehensive national strategies to achieve leadership in these areas.
- To achieve their strategic goals, strategic competitors are using a wide variety of legal, quasi-legal, and illegal methods to acquire technology, talent, and know-how from the U.S. and other nations.



# Foreign Exploitation of Genomic Data is Already Occurring



## Exploitation of DNA for Societal Control & Repression by the People's Republic of China (PRC)

- The PRC has conducted large-scale collection of DNA and other biometric data from residents of Xinjiang ages 12 to 65.
- DNA samples, fingerprints, iris scans, and blood types are linked to ID numbers and centralized in searchable database used by PRC authorities to carry out surveillance and detentions.
- Since 2017, between 1 million and 1.8 million Uyghurs & other minorities in Xinjiang have been placed in “re-education” centers.
- Multiple Chinese entities & companies, including two subsidiaries of BGI (the world’s largest genomics company based in China), have been sanctioned by the U.S. Government for their roles in the PRC repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang.

Bottom photo source: <https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1564669932542581>

# PRC Ambitions and Genomic Data

**NATIONAL POLICIES:** PRC has enacted national policies prioritizing the collection of healthcare data, including genetic data, both at home and abroad to achieve its goal of becoming a global biotech leader.

- **Precision Medicine Initiative:** In 2016, the PRC announced a \$9 billion, 15-year project to collect, analyze, and sequence genomic data to become global leader in precision medicine under the “Healthy China 2030” initiative.
- **14<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan:** In 2021, the PRC unveiled its 14<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, which listed genetics and biotechnology as among the cutting-edge science and technology research areas the PRC seeks to dominate in the years 2021-2025.
- **China Standards 2035:** The PRC’s national strategy to set global rules and standards in emerging technologies, including those critical for future precision healthcare.

**ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE:** The PRC understands the collection and analysis of large genomic data sets from diverse populations helps foster new medical discoveries that can advance its AI, pharmaceutical, and precision medicine industries.

**MILITARY / SECURITY ADVANTAGE:** PRC has used genetic analysis for state surveillance, societal control, and has been conducting genetic research for military purposes and biodefense.

# PRC Vectors to Access U.S. Genomic Data

## INVESTMENTS

- China's largest genomics company, BGI, purchased U.S. genomic sequencing firm Complete Genomics in 2013.
- In 2015 WuXi Pharma Tech acquired U.S. genetic sequencing company NextCODE. WuXi NextCODE later received accreditation to perform molecular diagnostic and genetic testing in the U.S.

## PARTNERSHIPS

- China's BGI has partnered with health institutions across America to provide low-cost genomic testing and sequencing services, while also gaining access to genetic data on persons in the U.S.
- According to a 2019 report prepared by Gryphon Scientific, 23 companies associated with China are certified to perform genetic testing in the U.S., giving them access to genetic data on patients in the US.

## COMPELLED ACCESS

- All Chinese companies are subject to PRC laws requiring them to share data they acquire with the PRC government.

## CYBER INTRUSIONS

- PRC has conducted cyber attacks on U.S. healthcare institutions and companies (such as Anthem and others) to acquire personal health information.

# Risks Associated with PRC Access to U.S. Genomic Data

**PRIVACY:** Your genetic data could end up in the hands of the PRC and used for purposes you never intended. The loss of your DNA is permanent and not only affects you, but your relatives, and potentially, generations to come.

**INTELLIGENCE:** By combining genetic data with other PII and healthcare / lifestyle data the PRC has acquired through cyberattacks and other means, the PRC could use this information to target U.S. personnel, dissidents, journalists, and others around the world for potential surveillance, manipulation, or extortion.

**ECONOMIC COMPETITION:** Large, diverse sets of genetic and health data from around the world can help the PRC enhance its AI, pharmaceutical, healthcare, and precision medicine industries at the expense of U.S. biotech industry.

- **No Reciprocity:** The PRC severely restricts U.S. and other foreign access to Chinese genetic data, putting America's biotech industry at a disadvantage.

**MILITARY & SECURITY CAPABILITIES:** There is growing concern over PRC research and exploitation of genetic data for bioweapons and biodefense, including to enhance the performance of soldiers in combat and more effectively support force readiness.

# Direct-to-Consumer (DTC) Genetic Testing Companies



**DESIRABLE TARGETS:** DTC genetic testing companies, information exchanges, and data libraries are desirable targets for foreign adversaries, cyber criminals, and insider threats.

**HUGE GENETIC HOLDINGS:** DTC genetic testing companies hold large quantities of human genetic data and other personal information. Last year, the American Medical Association (AMA) projected that as many as 100 million individuals would undergo DTC genetic tests by the end of 2021.

**LESS REGULATED THAN U.S. HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS:** Data held by DTC genetic testing companies are not subject to HIPAA / privacy and security requirements that apply to health care providers, as consumers send samples directly to the companies without the involvement of a health care provider.



# Cyber Risks and DTC Genetic Testing Companies

In November 2021, an Ohio-based DNA testing company reported to regulators that personal information on more than **2.1 million people** was acquired in a hacking incident. No genetic data reported stolen.

In July 2019, a California-based DNA testing company accidentally exposed the personal data of 3,000 customers online, including some **300 files containing genetic data**.

In June 2018, an Israel-based DNA testing company, announced it had been breached and the email addresses of more than **92 million users** were compromised. No genetic data reported stolen.



The screenshot shows the top of a CPO Magazine article. The header includes the CPO Magazine logo and navigation links for HOME, NEWS, INSIGHTS, and RESOURCES. The main image is a hand holding a test tube with a glowing DNA double helix inside. Below the image, there are tags for 'CYBER SECURITY' and 'NEWS', and a '2 MIN READ' indicator. The article title is 'DNA Testing Firm Data Breach Exposed Sensitive Information of More Than 2.1 Million People'. The author is Alicia Hope and the date is December 9, 2021. Social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn are visible. A short summary of the article is provided at the bottom of the screenshot.

CPO MAGAZINE HOME NEWS INSIGHTS RESOURCES

CYBER SECURITY NEWS · 2 MIN READ

## DNA Testing Firm Data Breach Exposed Sensitive Information of More Than 2.1 Million People

ALICIA HOPE · DECEMBER 9, 2021

Twitter Facebook LinkedIn

DNA Diagnostics Center (DDC) filed a [data breach notification](#) with the Maine Attorney General's office disclosing that hackers accessed sensitive details of more than 2.1 million people.

[Image source: DNA Testing Firm Data Breach Exposed Sensitive Information of More Than 2.1 Million People - CPO Magazine](#)

# Key Takeaways

**GREAT PROMISE, BUT KEY RISKS:** The collection and analysis of genomic data holds great promise for medical breakthroughs, but with it comes important risks to privacy as well as economic and national security.

- Large genetic databases that allow people's ancestry to be revealed and crimes to be solved also can be misused for surveillance and societal repression.
- Genomic technology used to design disease therapies tailored to an individual also can be used to identify genetic vulnerabilities in a population that potentially could be targeted.

**ADVERSARIES ALREADY EXPLOITING GENOMIC DATA:** Adversaries are already exploiting genomic data and have national plans to acquire and harness genomic data at home and abroad for their economic advantage and national security.

- Foreign companies and authoritarian regimes have already gained significant access to U.S. genomic data and related healthcare data through investments, research partnerships, contractual agreements, and other means.

**LEGAL / REGULATORY GAPS ON GENETIC DATA:** U.S. laws currently do not treat genetic data as a national security asset, but primarily focus on privacy and IP protection. Few restrictions prevent a U.S. company from selling genetic data to parties outside the U.S.

# Keynote: The Enabling Perspective

Yaniv Erlich (Eleven Therapeutics)

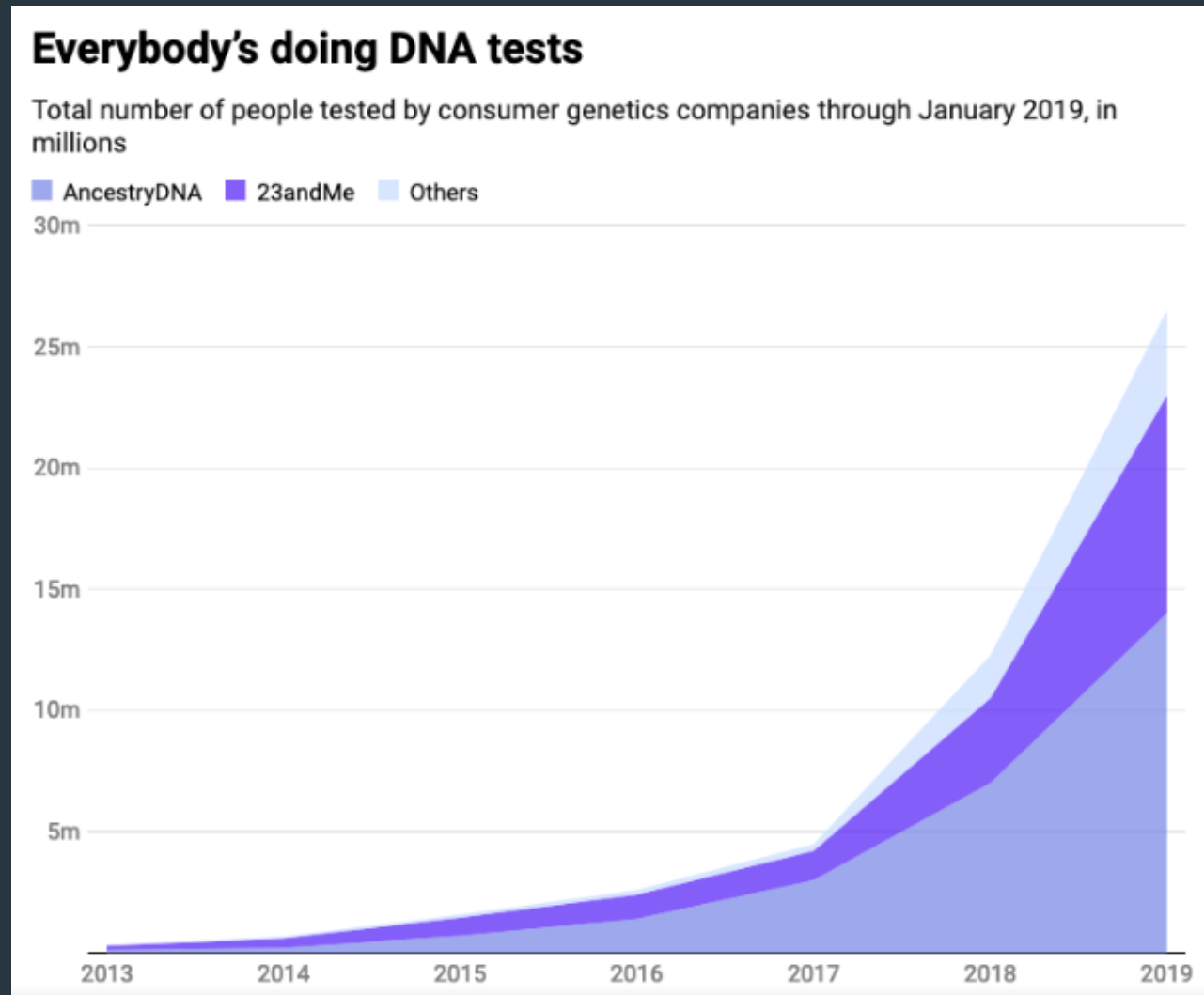
# Free-for-all genetic surveillance nation



• Dr. Yaniv Erlich  
[@erlichya](#)

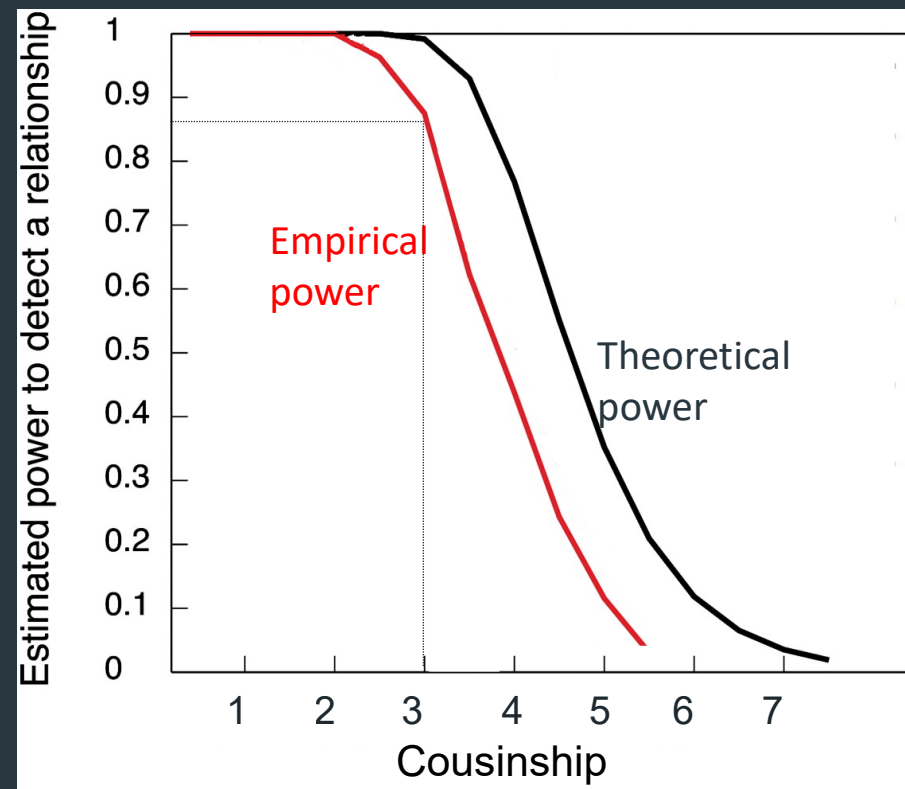
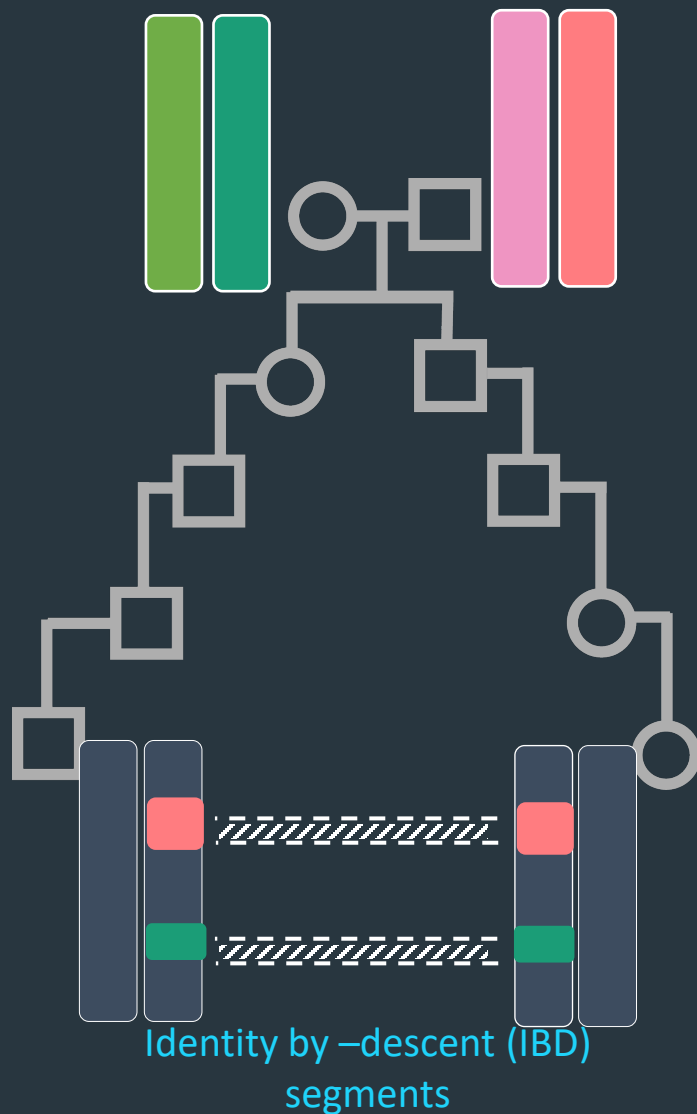


# The advent of consumer genomics



*MIT Technology review*

# Relative matching via shared IBD



Modified from Huff et al., Genome Research, 2011

# Relative matching is the core of genetic genealogy



# 3<sup>rd</sup> party support for relative matching

## Your raw genetic data

```
# MyHeritage DNA raw data.
# This file was generated on 2018-10-10 09:03:32
# For each SNP, we provide the identifier, chromosome
# number, base pair position and genotype. The genotype
# is reported on the forward (+) strand with respect to
# the human reference build 37.
# THIS INFORMATION IS FOR YOUR PERSONAL USE AND IS
# INTENDED FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH
# ONLY. IT IS NOT INTENDED FOR MEDICAL OR HEALTH
# PURPOSES. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE
# DOWNLOADED DATA WILL NO LONGER BE PROTECTED BY OUR
# SECURITY MEASURES.
```

```
#RSID, CHROMOSOME, POSITION, RESULT
"rs4477212", "1", "82154", "AA"
"rs3094315", "1", "752566", "--"
"rs3131972", "1", "752721", "AG"
"rs12562034", "1", "768448", "--"
"rs12124819", "1", "776546", "--"
"rs11240777", "1", "798959", "GG"
"rs6681049", "1", "800007", "--"
"rs4970383", "1", "838555", "AC"
"rs4475691", "1", "846808", "TC"
"rs7537756", "1", "854250", "AG"
"rs13302982", "1", "861808", "GG"
"rs1110052", "1", "873558", "TG"
"rs2272756", "1", "882033", "GG"
```

Upload



### MyHeritage (users: 3M)

### FTDNA (users: 1M)

### GEDmatch (users: 1.4M)

### DNA.Land (users: 150K)



# 3<sup>rd</sup> party uploads are highly important



# Using genetic genealogy for forensic is not a new idea

nature  
REVIEWS GENETICS

## Routes for breaching and protecting genetic privacy REVIEWS

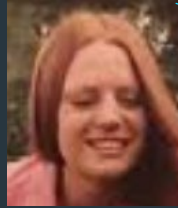
*Yaniv Erlich<sup>1</sup> and Arvind Narayanan<sup>2</sup>*

Abstract | We are entering an era of ubiquitous genetic information for research, clinical care and personal curiosity. Sharing these data sets is vital for progress in biomedical research. However, a growing concern is the ability to protect the genetic privacy of the data originators. Here, we present an overview of genetic privacy breaching strategies. We outline the principles of each technique, indicate the underlying assumptions, and assess their technological complexity and maturation. We then review potential mitigation methods for privacy-preserving dissemination of sensitive data and highlight different cases that are relevant to genetic applications.

An open research question is the use of non-Y-chromosome markers for genealogical triangulation. The [Mitosearch](#) and [GEDmatch](#) websites run open, searchable databases for matching mitochondrial and autosomal genotypes, respectively. Our expectation is that mitochondrial data will not be very informative for tracing identities. The resolution of mitochondrial searches is low owing to the small size of the mitochondrial genome, which means that a large number of individuals share the same mitochondrial haplotypes. In addition, matrilineal identifiers (such as surname or clan) are fairly rare in most human societies, which complicates the use of mitochondrial haplotype for identity tracing. By contrast, autosomal searches can be powerful. Genetic genealogy companies have started to market services for dense genome-wide arrays that enable the identification of distant relatives (on the order of third to fourth cousins) with fairly sufficient accuracy<sup>43</sup>. These hits would reduce the search space to no more than a few thousand individuals<sup>44</sup>. The main challenge of this approach would be to derive a list of potential people from a genealogical match. As stated above, family trees of most individuals are not publicly available; such searches are therefore demanding and would require indexing a large number of genealogical websites. With the growing interest in genealogy, this technique might be easier in the future and should be taken into consideration.

Erlich and Narayanan, 2014

# Long range familial searches



Case	Announcement	By
Buckskin Girl	April 9, 2018	DNA Doe Project
Golden State Killer	April 24, 2018	Barbara Rae-Venter
Lyle Stevik	May 8, 2018	DNA Doe Project
William Earl Talbott II	May 21, 2018	Parabon
Joseph Newton Chandler III	June 21 2018	DNA Doe Project
Gary Hartman	June 22, 2018	Parabon
Raymond "DJ Freez" Rowe	June 25, 2018	Parabon
James Otto Earhart	June 26, 2018	Parabon
John D. Miller	July 15, 2018	Parabon
Matthew Dusseault	July 28, 2018	Parabon
Spencer Glen Monnett	July 29, 2018	Parabon
Darold Wayne Bowden	August 23rd, 2018	Parabon
Michael F. Henslick	August 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	Parabon



# The probability of finding a relative?

Repeat 1,280,000 times

Find genetic relatives for  
a MyHeritage participant

Exclude >700cM  
matches

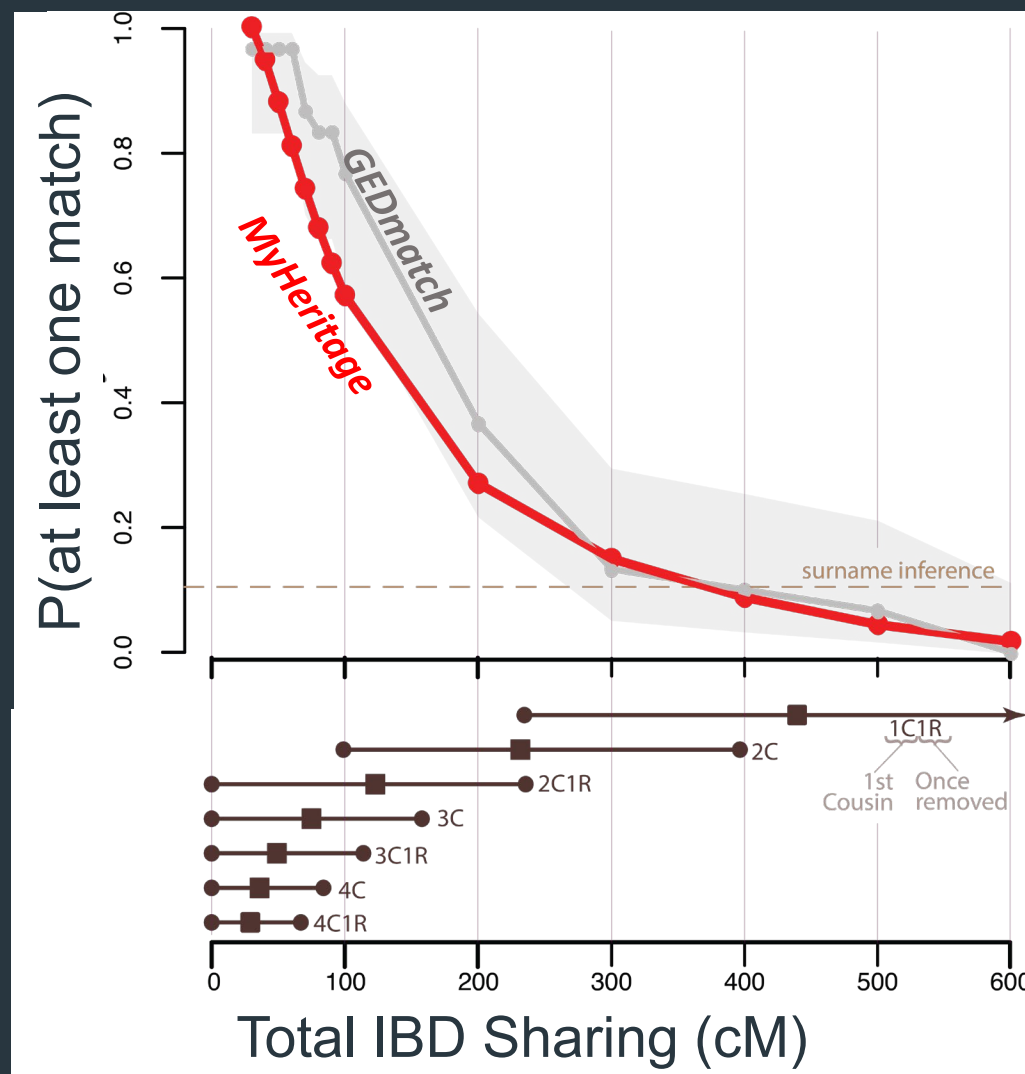
What is the top  
match of the  
person?

Repeat 30 times

Find genetic relatives for  
a GEDMatch participant

Exclude >700cM  
matches

What is the top  
match of the  
person?



**Estimate: ~60% of US individuals of European heritage have a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin match**

# Small scale study confirms our projection

## SCIENCE

### We Tried To Find 10 BuzzFeed Employees Just Like Cops Did For The Golden State Killer

The Golden State Killer case has triggered a boom in “genetic genealogy” for solving crimes. But how hard is it to find people by sleuthing in their family trees?

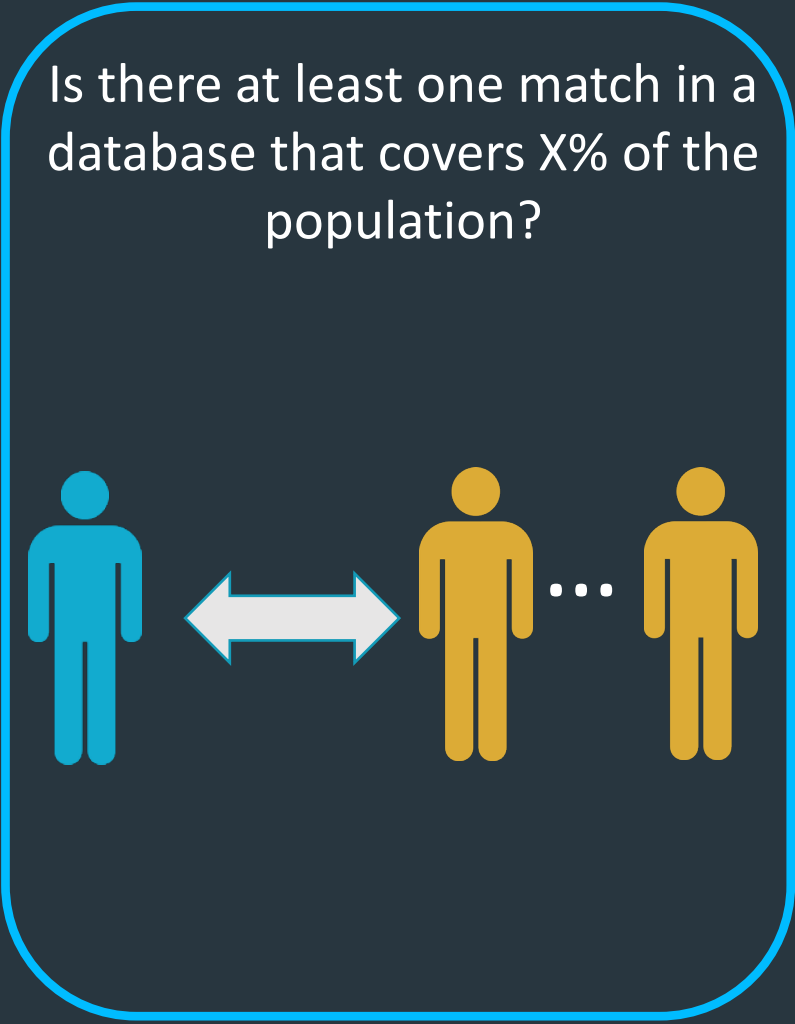
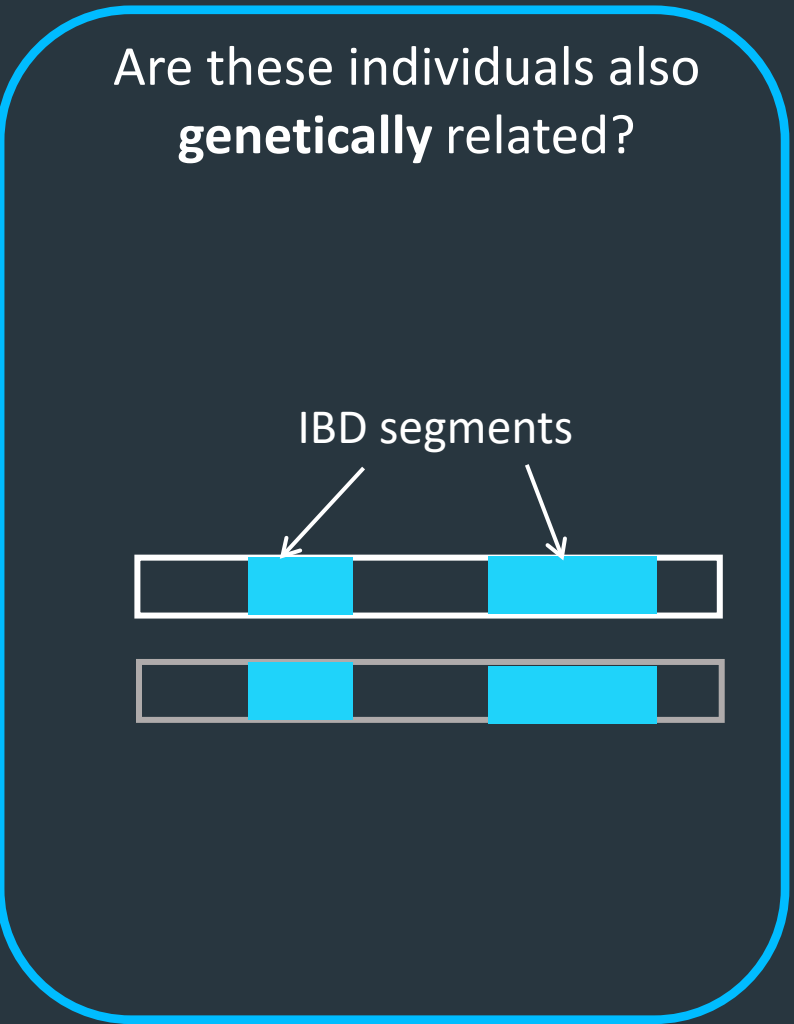
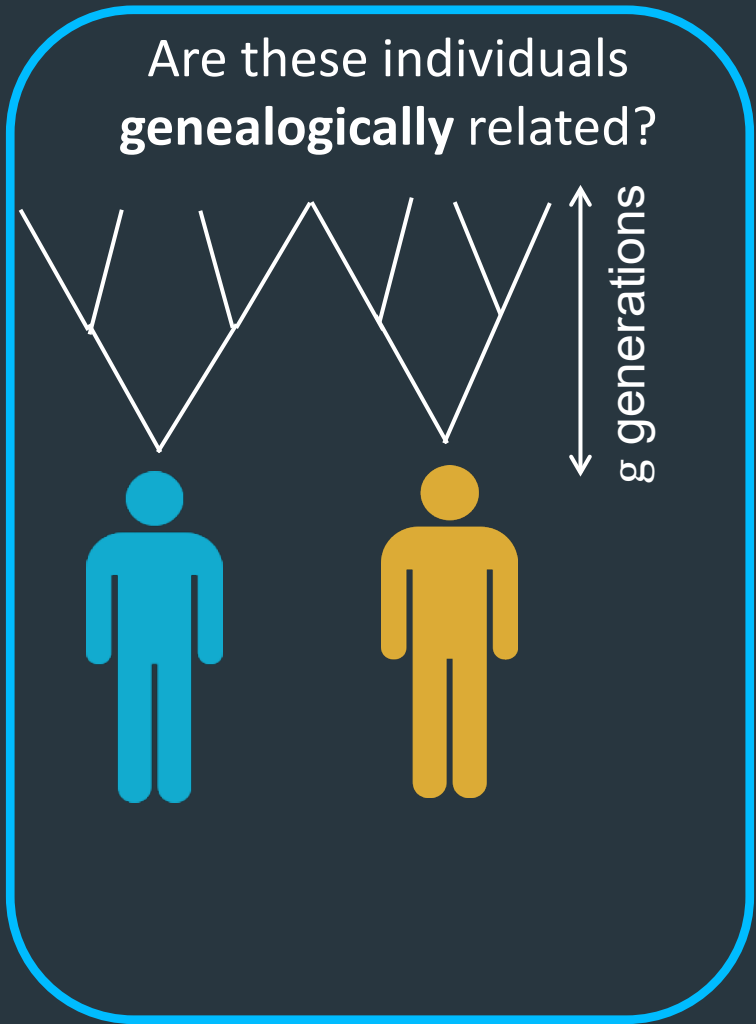


**Peter Aldhous**  
BuzzFeed News Reporter

Posted on April 9, 2019, at 9:16 a.m. ET

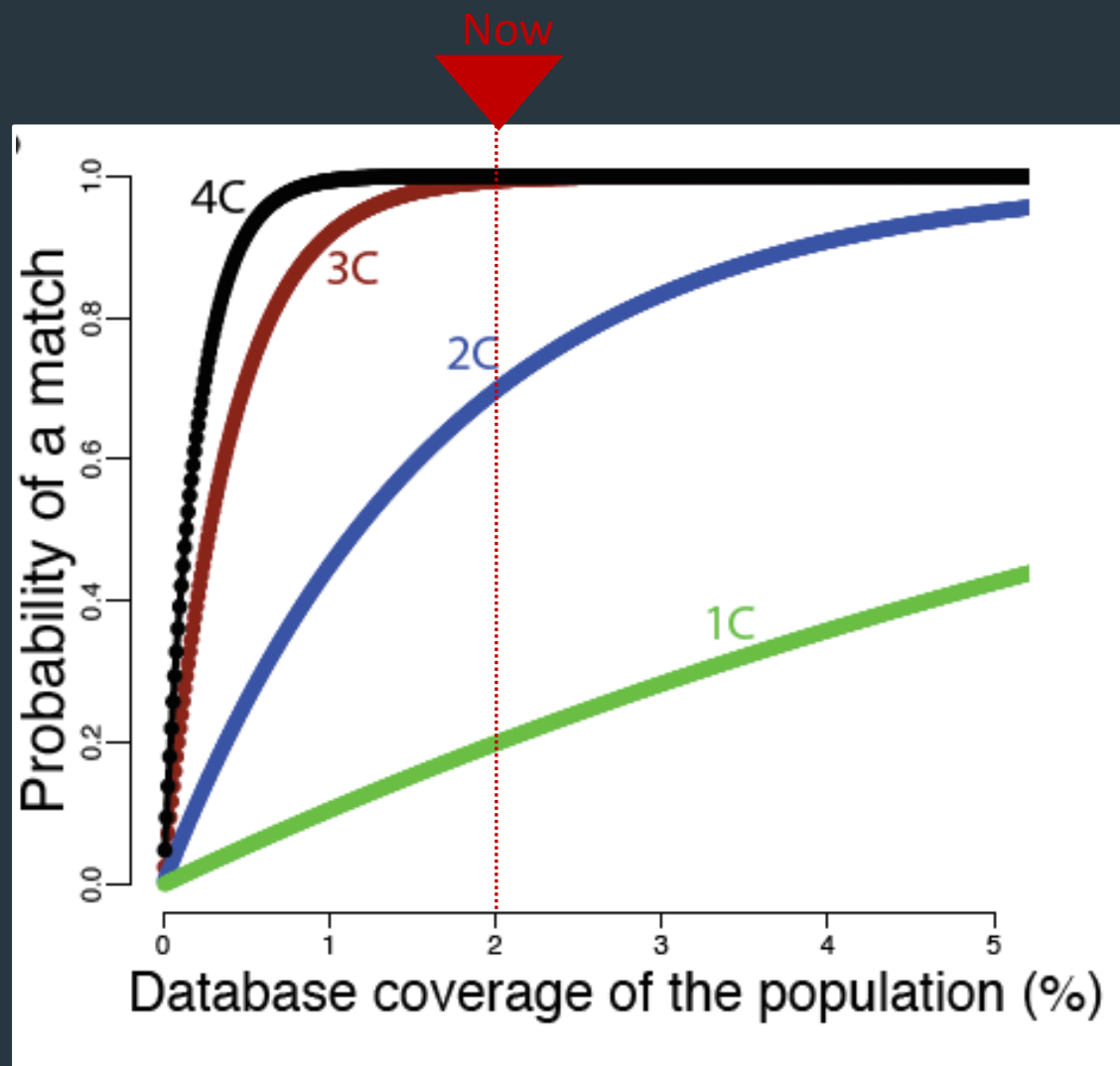
**In the end, I identified 6 out of our 10 volunteers.** Four of those cases I solved by tracking them down through their relatives’ family trees, much as the cops did with DeAngelo. In a twist I didn’t anticipate, I found two more not through their relatives, but simply because their ancestry indicated that their family came from a specific country — raising uncomfortable questions about genetic racial profiling.

# Modeling the probability of finding relatives



Caveats: no-population structure or consanguinity; assumes random samples.

# The probability of a match in the future



Virtually any US person of European heritage will have a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin in these databases.

# Can we get to a single person?

325M →

3rd cousin match

## Crime Scene and Distance Correlates of Serial Rape

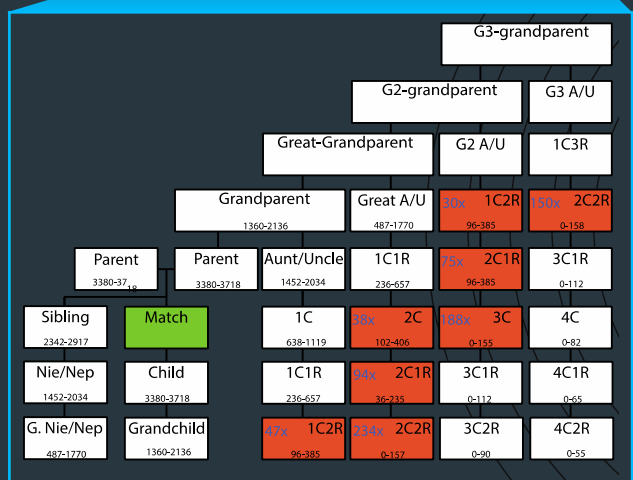
ex

→ 16.5

Janet Warren,<sup>1,7</sup> Roland Reboussin,<sup>2</sup> Robert R. Hazelwood,<sup>3</sup> Andrea Cummings,<sup>4</sup> Natalie Gibbs,<sup>5</sup> and Susan Trumbetta<sup>6</sup>

This study, derived from a sample of 108 serial rapists (rapes = 565), examines the relationship between demographic, crime scene, and criminal history variables and the distance traveled by serial rapists in order to offend. The pattern of offenses perpetrated by each of the 108 serial offenders as it relates to his place of residence is also analyzed in terms of known characteristics of the offender and his offenses. The theoretical focus of the study integrates premises derived from criminal investigative analysis, environmental criminology, ethnographic geography, journey to crime research, and criminal geographic targeting to explore the cognitive symmetry between the “how” and the “where” of serial sexual offenses. These components or dimensions of serial crime are explored in an attempt to aid law enforcement in their investigation of hard-to-solve serial crimes.

**KEY WORDS:** serial rape; journey to crime; crime scene analysis; criminal investigative analysis; spatial analysis of crime; environmental criminology; criminal geographic targeting; geographic profiling.



Even three simple pieces of



# Summary so far

We expect 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin for virtually every person in the US with European descent (if access is allowed)

Basic demographic information can substantially narrow the search space to handful of individuals

The method is extremely powerful

# Paper

**Science**

REPORTS

Cite as: Y. Erlich *et al.*, *Science*  
10.1126/science.aau4832 (2018).

## Identity inference of genomic data using long-range familial searches

Yaniv Erlich<sup>1,2,3,4\*</sup>, Tal Shor<sup>1</sup>, Itsik Pe'er<sup>2,3</sup>, Shai Carmi<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>MyHeritage, Or Yehuda 6037606, Israel. <sup>2</sup>Department of Computer Science, Fu Foundation School of Engineering, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA. <sup>3</sup>Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (C2B2), Department of Systems Biology, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA. <sup>4</sup>New York Genome Center, New York, NY, USA. <sup>5</sup>Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel.

\*Corresponding author. Email: erlichya@gmail.com

Consumer genomics databases have reached the scale of millions of individuals. Recently, law enforcement authorities have exploited some of these databases to identify suspects via distant familial relatives. Using genomic data of 1.28 million individuals tested with consumer genomics, we investigated the power of this technique. We project that over 60% of the searches for individuals of European-descent will result in a third cousin or closer match, which can allow their identification using demographic identifiers. Moreover, the technique could implicate nearly any US-individual of European-descent in the near future. We demonstrate that the technique can also identify research participants of a public sequencing project. Based on these results, we propose a potential mitigation strategy and policy implications to human subject research.

So why am I worried?

# Genetic genealogy can be weaponized by counter-intelligence

1. Everyone can uploads data to GEDmatch/FTDNA/etc...
2. Also adversaries of the US (they don't give a damn to Toc)
3. Counter-intelligence and other players can exploit genetic genealogy to cast population-scale genetic surveillance over the US
4. The risk is asymmetric (US is substantially affected but not other countries)

# Intelligence services are interested in DNA

## WikiLeaks: are Chinese spies stealing Iceland's genetic database?

by Jared Yee | 18 Dec 2010 | [Link](#)

Another bioethics angle has emerged in Wikileaks. Chinese spies are investigating genetic research companies in Iceland, according to cables written in authorities said that intelligence gathering included bugging phone lines, hacking into databases.

## Novichok bottle could hold attackers' DNA



Dawn Sturgess died last week from novichok poisoning; Charlie Rowley remains in hospital  
AFP PHOTO/FACEBOOK

# Differentiate good vs. bad actors

Can we differentiate legitimate searches from illegitimate searches?

- Legitimate datasets are produced with a regular DTC lab or authorized crime labs
- Illegitimate datasets are produced by research labs, unauthorized crime labs, etc.
- Idea: ask authorized labs to sign datasets before letting users downloading the data.

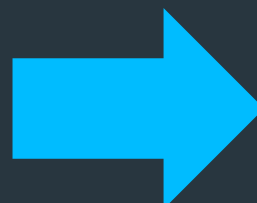
# How it works?

## Before

## After

```
# MyHeritage DNA raw data.
# This file was generated on 2018-10-10 09:03:32
# For each SNP, we provide the identifier, chromosome
# number, base pair position and genotype. The genotype
# is reported on the forward (+) strand with respect to
# the human reference build 37.
# THIS INFORMATION IS FOR YOUR PERSONAL USE AND IS
# INTENDED FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH
# ONLY. IT IS NOT INTENDED FOR MEDICAL OR HEALTH
# PURPOSES. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE
# DOWNLOADED DATA WILL NO LONGER BE PROTECTED BY OUR
# SECURITY MEASURES.
```

```
#RSID, CHROMOSOME, POSITION, RESULT
"rs4477212", "1", "82154", "AA"
"rs3094315", "1", "752566", "--"
"rs3131972", "1", "752721", "AG"
"rs12562034", "1", "768448", "--"
"rs12124819", "1", "776546", "--"
"rs11240777", "1", "798959", "GG"
"rs6681049", "1", "800007", "--"
"rs4970383", "1", "838555", "AC"
"rs4475691", "1", "846808", "TC"
"rs7537756", "1", "854250", "AG"
"rs13302982", "1", "861808", "GG"
"rs1110052", "1", "873558", "TG"
"rs2272756", "1", "882033", "GG"
```



```
# MyHeritage DNA raw data.
# This file was generated on 2018-10-10 09:03:32
# For each SNP, we provide the identifier, chromosome
# number, base pair position and genotype. The genotype
# is reported on the forward (+) strand with respect to
# the human reference build 37.
# THIS INFORMATION IS FOR YOUR PERSONAL USE AND IS
# INTENDED FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH
# ONLY. IT IS NOT INTENDED FOR MEDICAL OR HEALTH
# PURPOSES. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE
# DOWNLOADED DATA WILL NO LONGER BE PROTECTED BY OUR SECURITY
# MEASURES.
```

**#SIGNATURE=RZTci tAZ1bneCfURL5gsC5yRghb9=**

```
#RSID, CHROMOSOME, POSITION, RESULT
"rs4477212", "1", "82154", "AA"
"rs3094315", "1", "752566", "--"
"rs3131972", "1", "752721", "AG"
"rs12562034", "1", "768448", "--"
"rs12124819", "1", "776546", "--"
"rs11240777", "1", "798959", "GG"
"rs6681049", "1", "800007", "--"
"rs4970383", "1", "838555", "AC"
"rs4475691", "1", "846808", "TC"
"rs7537756", "1", "854250", "AG"
"rs13302982", "1", "861808", "GG"
"rs1110052", "1", "873558", "TG"
"rs2272756", "1", "882033", "GG"
```

## Seamless for the user!

# Acknowledgments



Tal Shor  
MyHeritage



Itsik Pe'er  
Columbia  
University

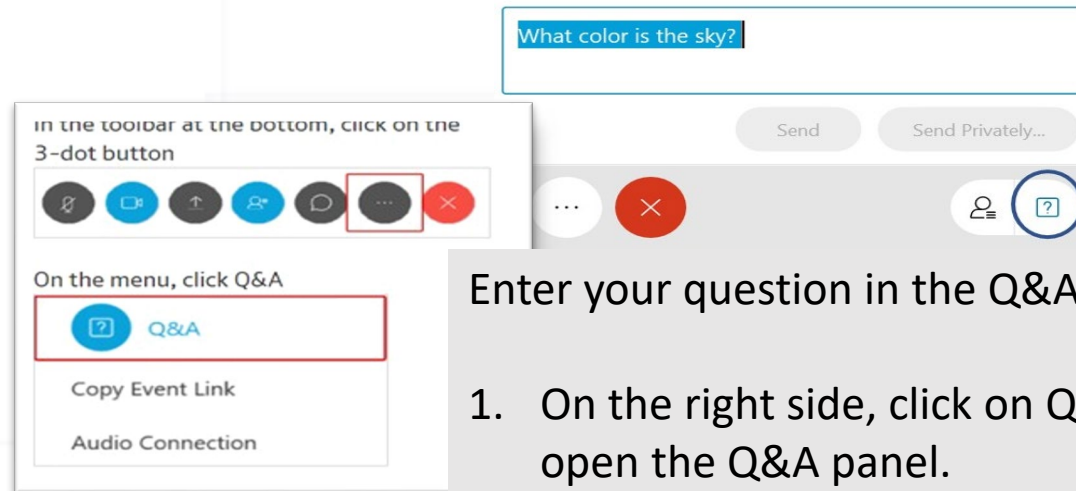


Shai Carmi  
Hebrew  
University



# Keynotes: The Protection and Enabling Perspectives

## Moderated Questions and Answers



Enter your question in the Q&A panel.

1. On the right side, click on Q&A header to open the Q&A panel.
2. Type in the box **your name, organization and question.**
3. Click send.

# National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

## NCCoE Virtual Workshop on Cybersecurity of Genomic Data

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM (ET)

# Challenges from the Field: Research Perspective

Jean-Pierre Hubaux  
(EPFL/ Global Alliance for Genomics and Health [GA4GH])

# Protecting and Sharing Genomic Data: a Swiss/European Perspective

Prof. Jean-Pierre Hubaux, EPFL  
Co-Founder of Tune Insight SA

Work done in close collaboration with Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV)

With gratitude to all the colleagues I have had the privilege to work with

# About Switzerland



8.5 inhabitants

26 cantons (states), each with its own laws

Most of the health system managed by the cantons, not the federal government; the latter defines the overall policy and strategy

Data protection laws very similar to EU GDPR

Very strong political decentralization

One of highest GDP/capita in the world

Strong pharma: Roche, Novartis,...

5 university hospitals

2 federal institutes of technology: EPFL (Lausanne), ETH (Zurich)



# Use case for Swiss Personalized Oncology Project: federated analytics platform for research and molecular tumor board

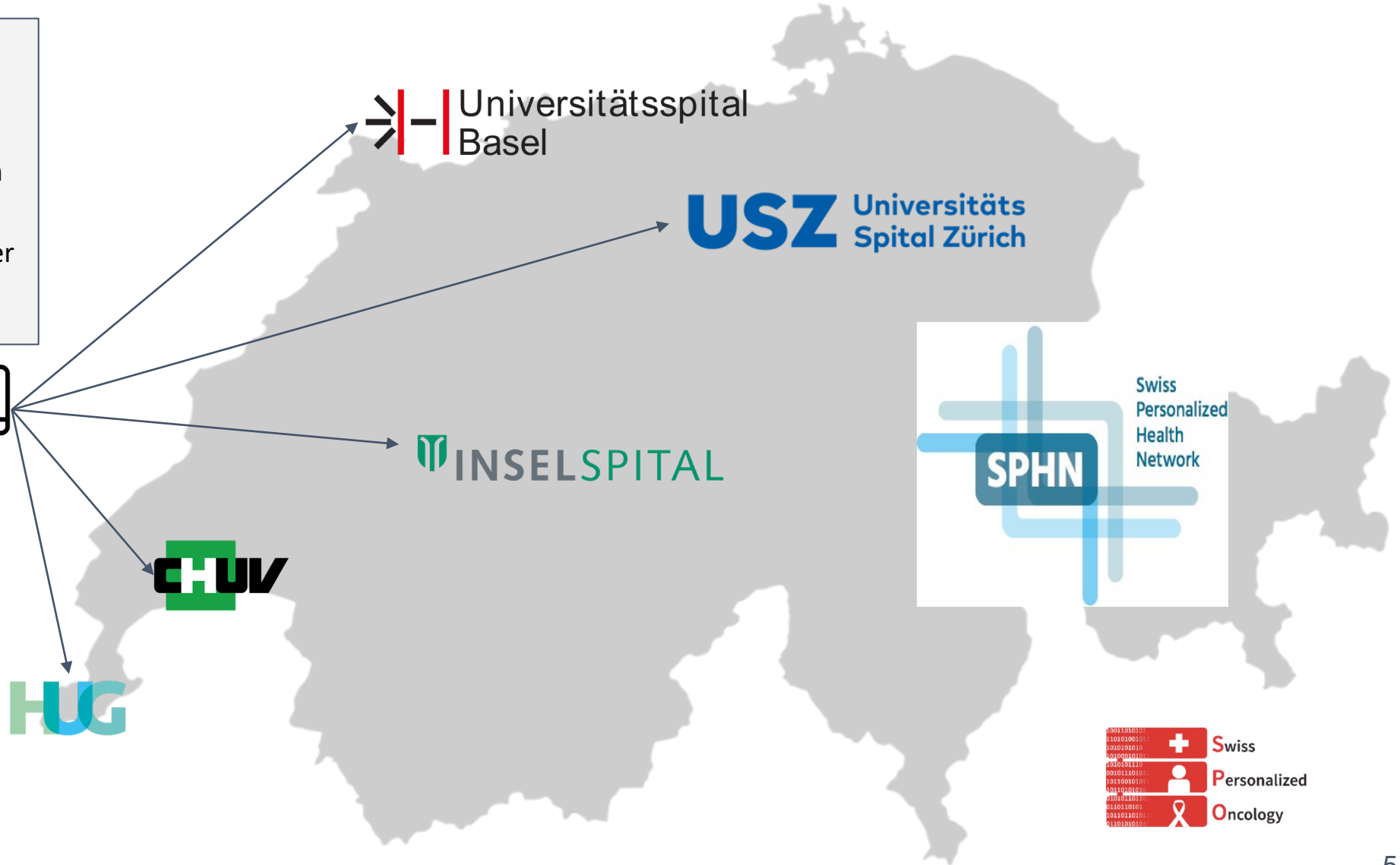
**Q1:** How many adult cancer patients consenting on reuse of routine data for research with diagnosis of a malignancy on or after 1st January 2015, mutations in BRAF gene and under anti-PD-1 are there?

**Explore**



**Q2:** Among these patients, what is the overall survival for patients with and without a mutation on position 600 of the BRAF gene?

**Analysis**

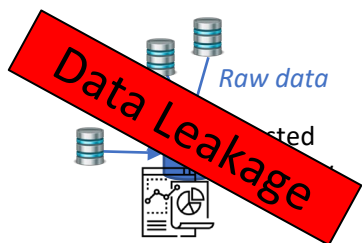


# The Main Challenges we Faced

- Multi-disciplinary nature of the problem: bio-informaticians, clinicians, geneticists, hospital IT specialists, hospital lawyers, data protection authorities, ethicists, computer scientists
- Mess of the health data
- Financial sustainability of the solution

# Distributed Learning - Current Approaches

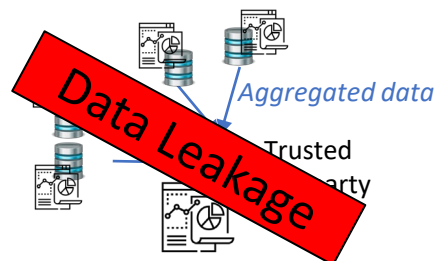
## a) Fully centralized



Examples:

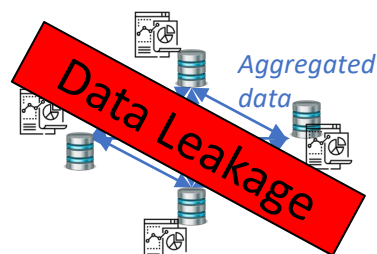
- All of Us
- EGA
- Genomics England

## Meta-analysis



<https://covidclinical.net/>

## Decentralized

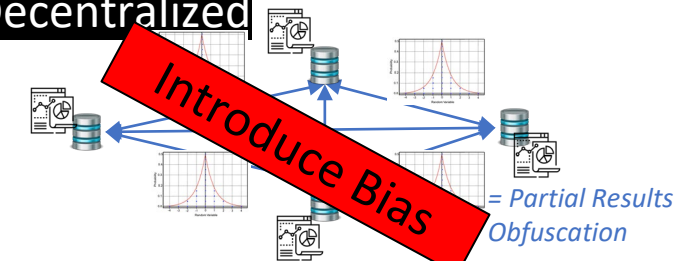


<http://www.datashield.ac.uk>

Personalized Health Train (PHT)

## Differential Privacy

### Decentralized

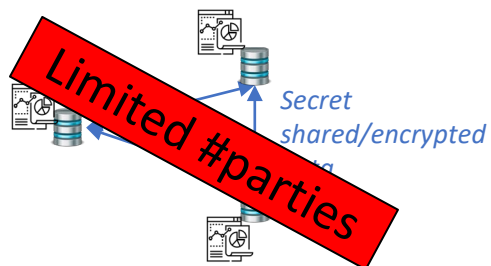


Examples:

- M. Kim et al. "Secure and Differentially Private Logistic Regression for Horizontally Distributed Data," TIFS 2019
- M. Abadi et al. Deep learning with differential privacy. In ACM CCS, 2016.
- Chaudhuri and C. Monteleoni. Privacy-preserving logistic regression. In NIPS, 2009.

## (e) Cryptographic (SMC, HE)

### Decentralized

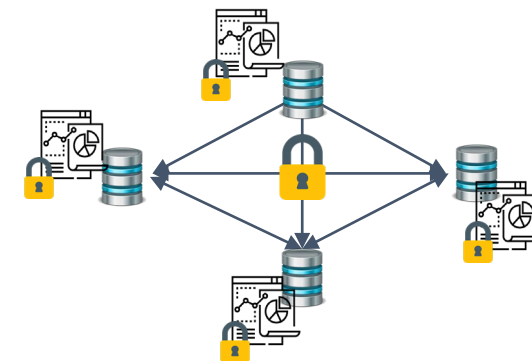


Examples:

- A. Gascón et al.. Privacy-preserving distributed linear regression on high-dimensional data. PETS, 2017.
- P. Mohassel and Y. Zhang. SecureML: A system for scalable privacy-preserving machine learning. In IEEE S&P, 2017.

## Our approach

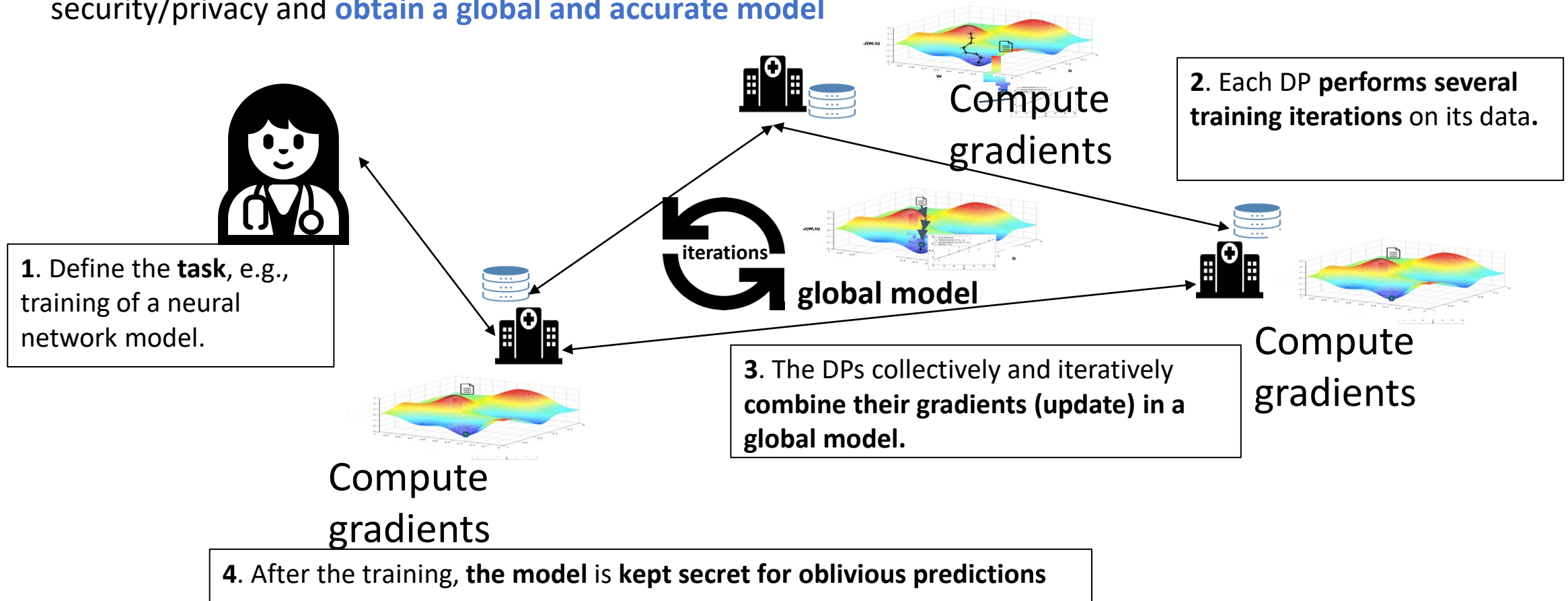
- Data + Model Confidentiality as long as 1 entity is honest
- No data outsourcing
- Scales with #parties
- Exact results





# Privacy-Preserving Federated Neural Network Learning

**Solution:** The data providers (DPs) collaborate to enable a joint gradient descent while protecting their security/privacy and **obtain a global and accurate model**

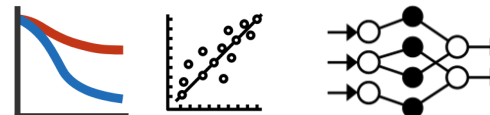
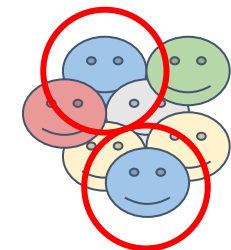


S.Sav, A. Pyrgelis, J.R. Troncoso-Pastoriza, D. Froelicher, J.P. Bossuat, J.S. Sousa and J.P. Hubaux,

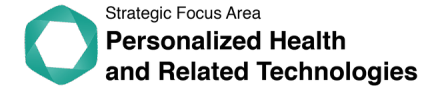
**POSEIDON: Privacy-Preserving Federated Neural Network Learning.** NDSS, 2021

# MedCo

- **Distributed software platform** for federated cohort exploration and analytics of clinical and genomic data
- Co-developed by EPFL and CHUV
- Built on top of the i2b2 cohort explorer (i2b2 is used by 250+ hospitals worldwide)
- Relies on **advanced cryptographic techniques**  
→ Multi-party homomorphic encryption (MHE)
- Code-reviewed and pen-tested by third-party industrial companies, compliant with hospitals' information security policies
- Main functionalities
  - **MedCo-Explore: cohort exploration**
    - Obtaining cohort sizes for clinical research studies based on inclusion/exclusion criteria
  - **MedCo-Analysis: federated analytics**
    - Survival analysis
    - ML training and testing



# April 2020: MedCo deployed at 3 hospitals



## EPFL software to enable secure data-sharing for hospitals



The MedCo system aims to facilitate medical research on pathologies – such as cancer and infectious diseases – by enabling secure computations on decentralized data. The unique software has recently been deployed at three Swiss hospitals.

02.04.20

### LINKS

- [MedCo](#)
- [LDS](#)
- [Video](#)

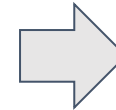


- First application:  
Swiss Personalized Oncology project:  
→ melanoma data and beyond
- Planned deployment at Zurich University Hospital
- Ongoing international deployments: USA, NL, Italy, France

# Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for multisite medical data analysis (June 2021)

## Centralized approach with standard pseudonymization

Threat	Threat likelihood	Threat impact	Risk	Risk level
Unlawful access to the system	Unlikely	High	Loss of data confidentiality	Moderate
Malicious use of the system	Possible	High	Loss of data confidentiality	High
Loss of data	Unlikely	Minor	Loss of data integrity, data unavailability	Minor
Data leak of host/cloud	Possible	High	Loss of data confidentiality	High
Collusion of host/cloud	Possible	High	Loss of data confidentiality	High
Corrupted or malicious host/cloud	Possible	High	Data unavailability, loss of data integrity, loss of data confidentiality, loss of data correctness	High
Unavailability of host/cloud	Possible	Minor	Data unavailability, loss of data correctness	Moderate
Re-identification/attribute inference	Possible	High	Loss of data confidentiality	High



## Federated approach enhanced with MedCo

Threat	Measure introduced with MedCo	Threat likelihood	Threat Impact	Risk	Risk level
Unlawful access to the system	1	Unlikely	Minor	Loss of data confidentiality	Low
Malicious use of the system	1, 2, 4, 10	Possible	Minor	Loss of data confidentiality	Low
Loss of data	3, 5	Unlikely	Minor	Loss of data integrity, data unavailability	Low
Data leak	4, 5, 8, 9, 10	Unlikely	Minor	Loss of data confidentiality	Low
Collusion between nodes	4, 9	Unlikely	Moderate	Loss of data confidentiality	Moderate
Corrupted or malicious nodes	2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Unlikely	Moderate	Data unavailability, loss of data integrity, loss of data confidentiality, loss of data correctness	Moderate
Unavailability of nodes	6, 7	Possible	Minor	Data unavailability, loss of data correctness	Moderate
Re-identification or attribute inference	1, 2, 4, 9, 10	Unlikely	Minor	Loss of data confidentiality	Low

# Feedback from Swiss authorities on MedCo DPIA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Federal Data Protection and Information  
Commissioner**

“... the threat impact of most risks with the MedCo system shows to be clearly lower than with traditional systems. Since data processed within the Medco framework remain encrypted during computation, an attacker would cause little damage. **As no entity has the full decryption key, it seems indeed unlikely that he could decrypt and abuse the stolen data. ...**”

13 September 2021

GDPR legal compliance: partial aggregates are not personal data anymore, they are anonymous

Published on 25.2.2021 in **Vol 23, No 2 (2021): February**

📌 Preprints (earlier versions) of this paper are available at <https://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/25120>, first published October 19, 2020.



## Revolutionizing Medical Data Sharing Using Advanced Privacy-Enhancing Technologies: Technical, Legal, and Ethical Synthesis

James Scheibner<sup>1,2</sup> ; Jean Louis Raisaro<sup>3,4</sup> ; Juan Ramón Troncoso-Pastoriza<sup>5</sup> ;  
Marcello Ienca<sup>1</sup> ; Jacques Fellay<sup>3,6,7</sup> ; Effy Vayena<sup>1</sup> ; Jean-Pierre Hubaux<sup>5</sup> 

# Truly privacy-preserving federated analytics for precision medicine with multiparty homomorphic encryption

[David Froelicher](#), [Juan R. Troncoso-Pastoriza](#), [Jean Louis Raisaro](#), [Michel A. Cuendet](#), [Joao Sa Sousa](#), [Hyunghoon Cho](#), [Bonnie Berger](#), [Jacques Fellay](#) & [Jean-Pierre Hubaux](#) 

[Nature Communications](#) **12**, Article number: 5910 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

[Metrics](#)

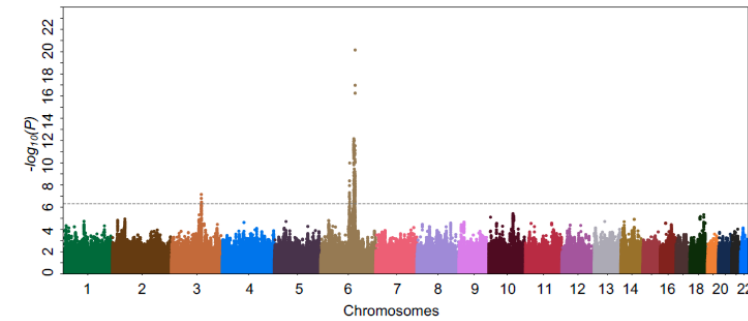
## Abstract

---

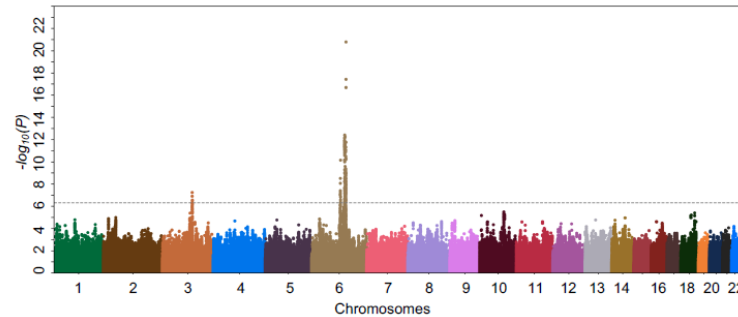
Using real-world evidence in biomedical research, an indispensable complement to clinical trials, requires access to large quantities of patient data that are typically held separately by multiple healthcare institutions. We propose FAMHE, a novel federated analytics system that, based on multiparty homomorphic encryption (MHE), enables privacy-preserving analyses of distributed datasets by yielding highly accurate results without revealing any intermediate data. We demonstrate the applicability of FAMHE to essential biomedical analysis tasks, including Kaplan-Meier survival analysis in oncology and genome-wide

# FAMHE: Privacy-Preserving Federated Analytics for Precision Medicine with MHE - GWAS

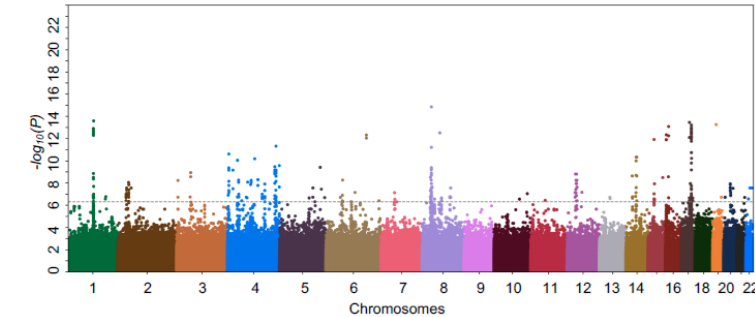
(a) Original Approach



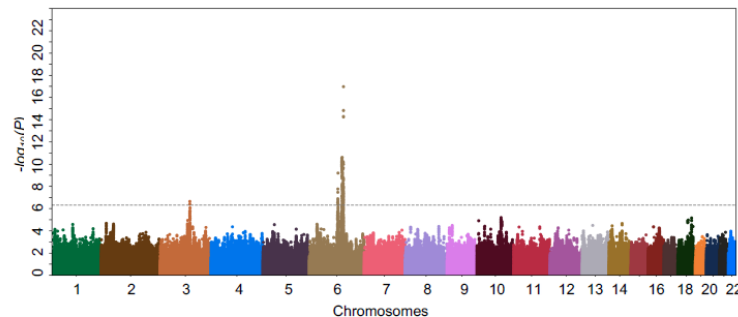
(b) FAMHE-GWAS



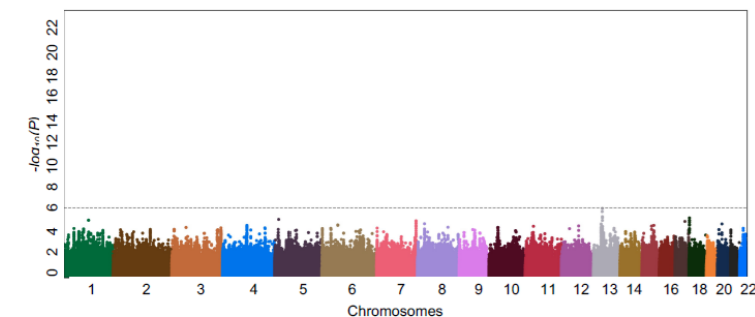
(c) Meta-analysis Approach



(d) FAMHE-FastGWAS



(e) Independent Approach



[Original approach] McLaren, P. J. et al. Polymorphisms of Large Effect Explain the Majority of the Host Genetic Contribution to Variation of HIV-1 Virus Load. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 112, 14658–14663 (2015).

[FAMHE] Froelicher et al. Truly Privacy-Preserving Federated Analytics for Precision Medicine with Multiparty Homomorphic Encryption.

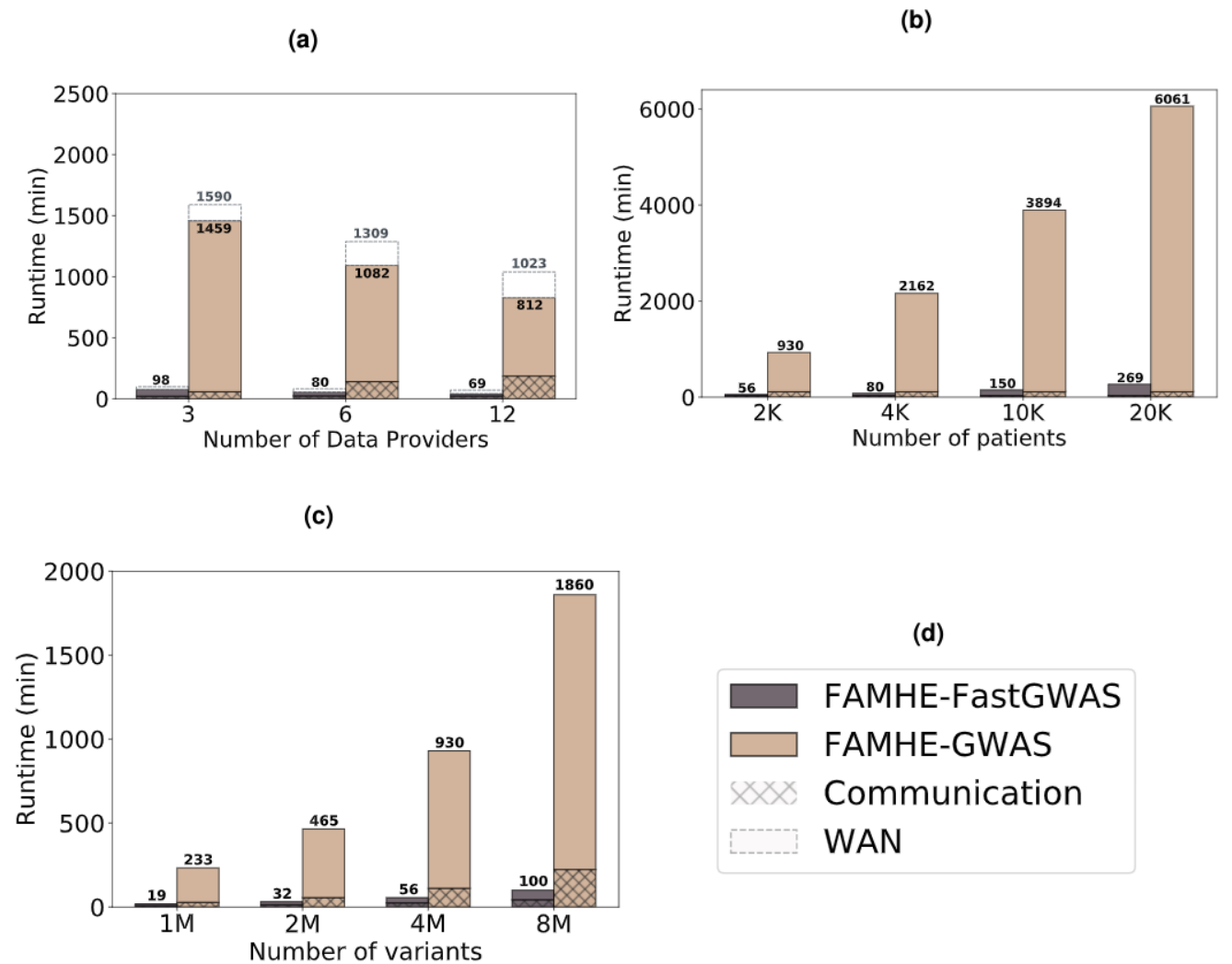


# FAMHE: Genome-wide association study

**Default:** 1857 patients spread among 12 data providers.

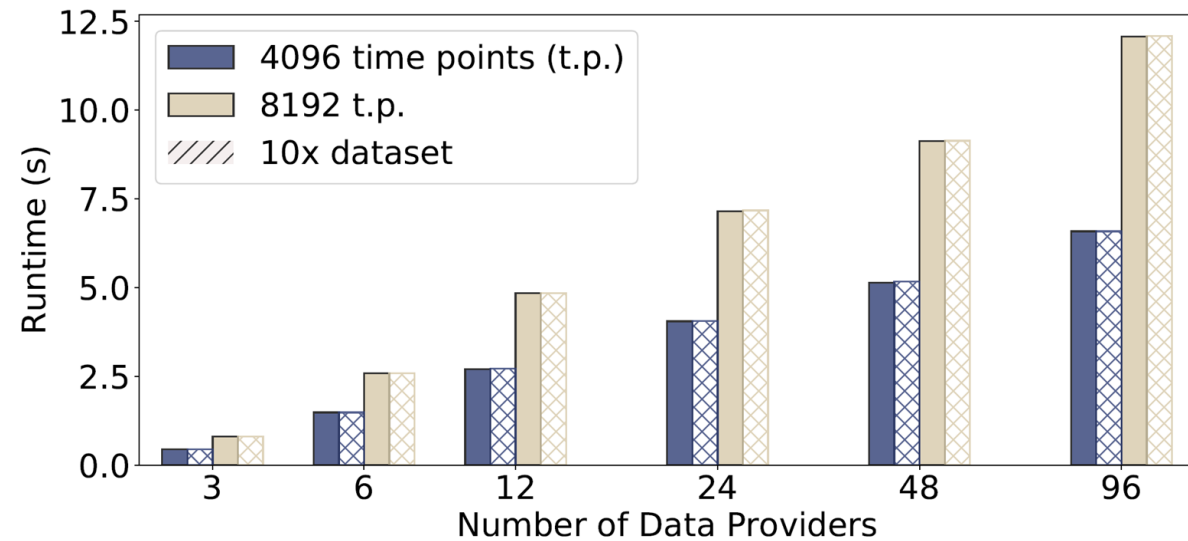
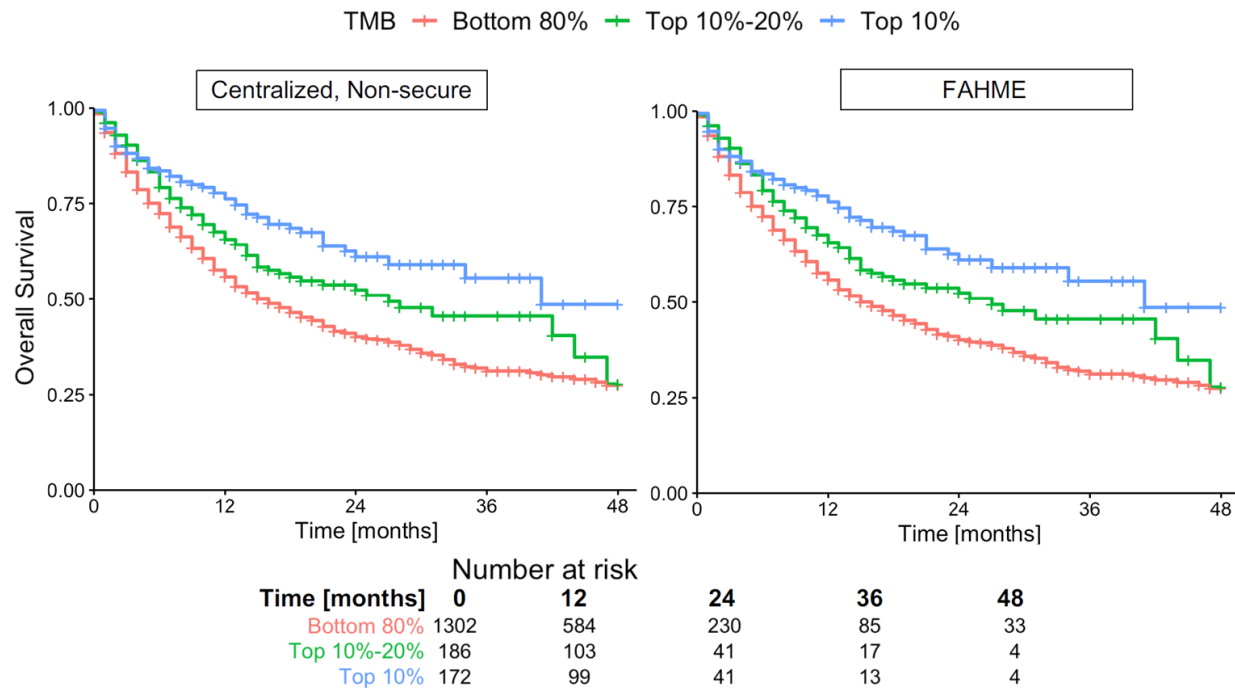
→ **scale in all dimensions**

- With the number of data providers*
- With the number of patients*
- With the number of variants*



# FAMHE: Privacy-Preserving Federated Analytics for Precision Medicine with MHE - Survival curves (Kaplan-Meier)

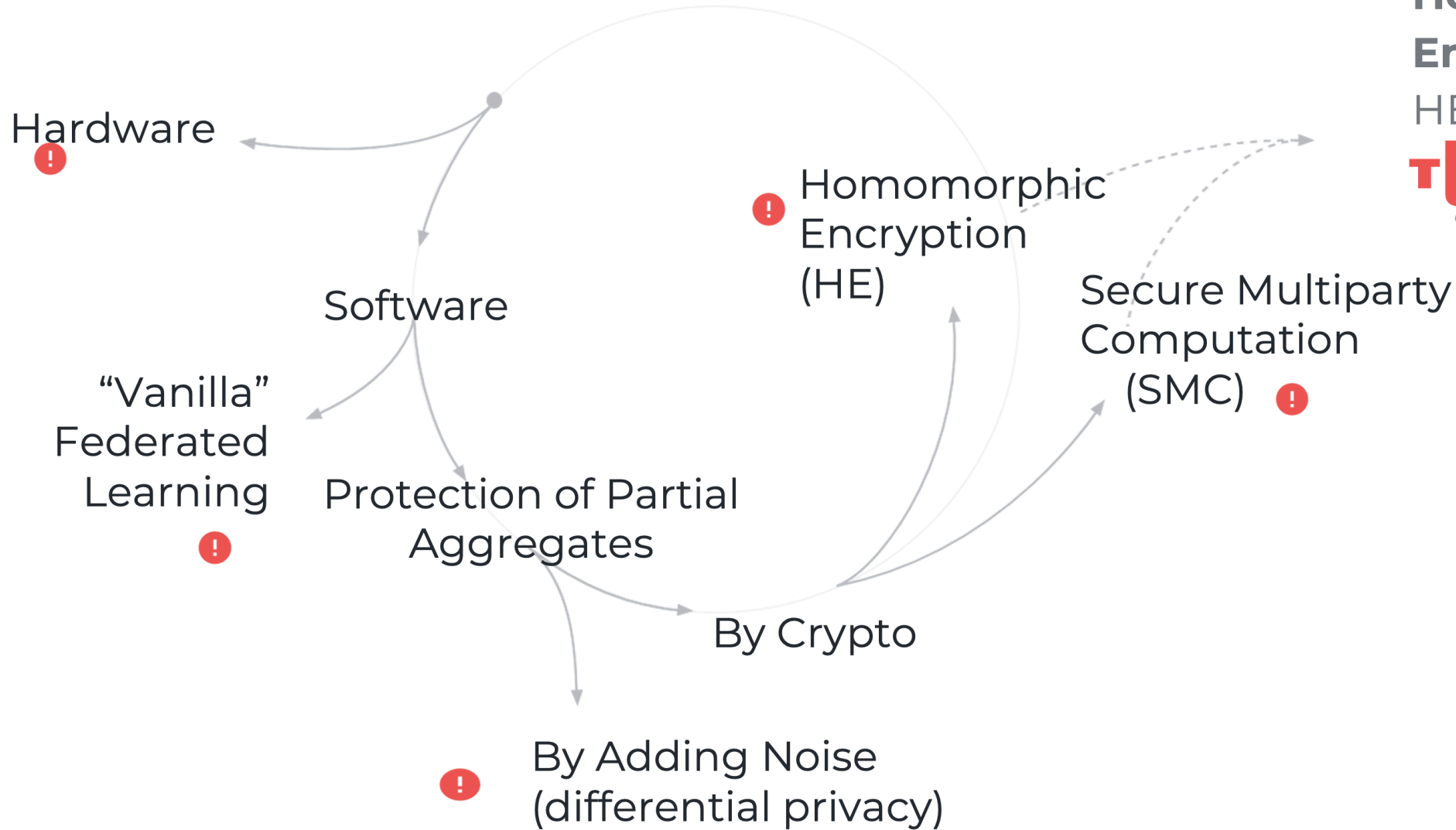
Data split among 3 data providers:



[Centralized] Samstein, R. M. et al. Tumor Mutational Load Predicts Survival after Immunotherapy across Multiple Cancer Types. *Nat. genetics* 51, 202–206 (2019).

[FAMHE] Froelicher et al. Truly Privacy-Preserving Federated Analytics for Precision Medicine with Multiparty Homomorphic Encryption.

# Share without Sharing: Available Options



Multiparty  
Homomorphic  
Encryption

HE + SMC



**TUNE INSIGHT**



# Enterprise Data & Analytics



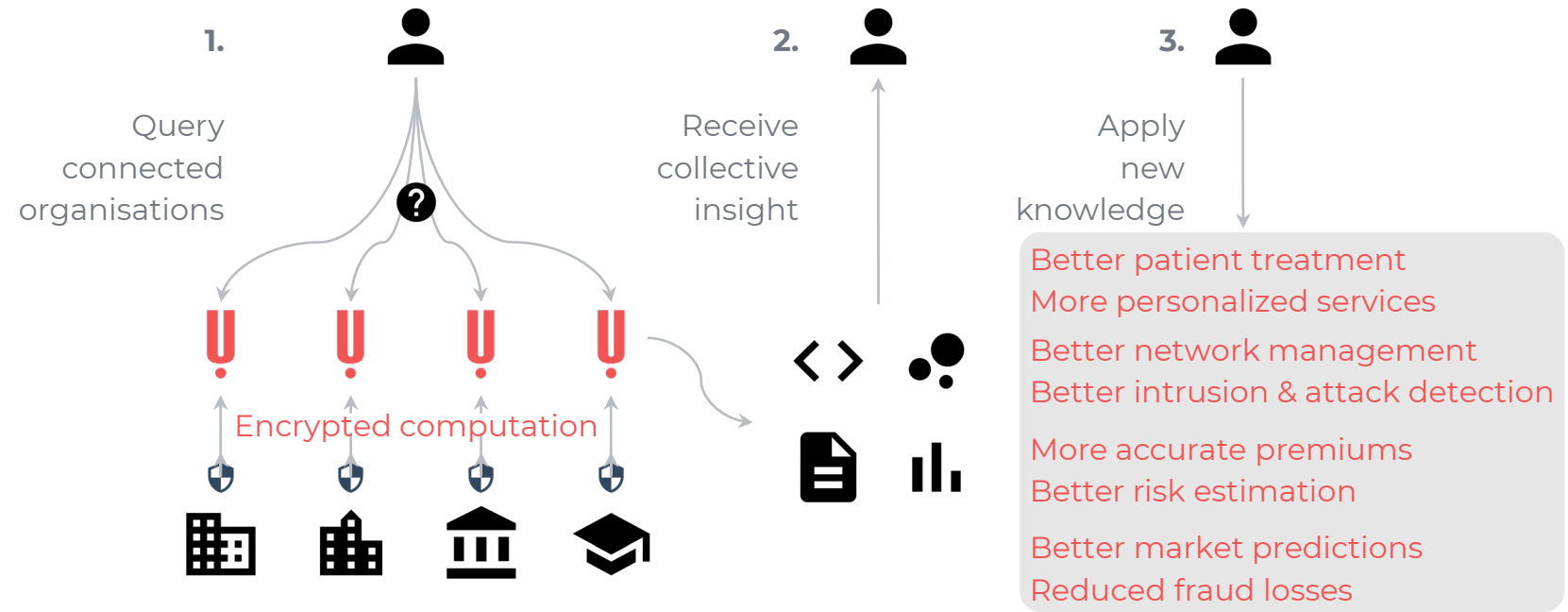
However, organizations are **prevented** to enter valuable data collaborations due to fear of **data leaks** and **data protection regulations**

# TUNE INSIGHT

juan@tuneinsight.com

Cross-vertical enterprise SaaS enabling organizations to make better decisions, together, by orchestrating secure collaborations around their sensitive data.

- CHF400k in customer-paid projects including with Swiss Re, Armasuisse
- Pilot deployed at Swiss hospitals
- CHF100k EPFL Innogrant
- State-of-the-art post-quantum encryption technology
- Raised pre-seed with Wingman Ventures



- Access to insights**
- Personalization**
- Immediacy**
- Scalability**
- Compliance**
- Control**

# MHE: mathematical proofs instead of vendor lock-in and side-channel attacks

	Software-based solutions (MHE)	Hardware-based solutions (e.g., Intel SGX)
<b>System and trust model</b>	<b>Decentralized</b> (federated computing, edge computing) or <b>centralized</b> (outsourced) systems	<b>Only centralized</b> systems (data has to be transferred to the TEE)
<b>Assumptions</b>	Protection against passive adversaries with quantum computing power: <b>processing infrastructure (including side-channels) and other data providers</b>	Protection against passive adversaries (other tenants); <b>limited protection against the processing infrastructure</b> ; protection against side-channels is implementation-dependent
<b>Implementation cost</b>	<b>Tailored solution</b> ; application-specific design; composition of cryptographic building blocks; limited range of efficient functionalities	<b>Available SDKs</b> ; relatively easy conversion to secure enclave; general-purpose solutions; limited libraries and memory inside the enclave
<b>Performance and overhead</b>	<b>Less than 10x</b> overhead when full packing capacity is utilized (federated training of GLMs and NNs). Up to 4-5 orders of magnitude overhead for non-optimized or non-packed solutions	<b>Negligible</b> overhead for <b>regular instructions</b> ; <b>4x overhead for memory copy operations</b> ; <b>35x overhead for syscalls</b> to/from enclave
<b>Response to newly discovered vulnerabilities</b>	<b>Software patch</b> with protocol update; usually, no re-encryption of the data is needed	<b>Firmware patch</b> with variable <b>performance impact</b> (1x to 20x slow-down); <b>architecture change and hardware replacement</b> ; <b>enclave code update</b> (update signatures, keys, and require new attestation)

GLM : Generalized Linear Model  
MHE : Multi-party homomorphic encryption  
NN : Neural Network

SDK : Software Development Kit  
SGX : Software Guard eXtensions  
TEE : Trusted Execution Environment

# International collaborations

- Prof. Xiaoqian Jiang, UT Health
- GA4GH Data Security Work Stream
- MedCo now part of the i2b2 official community projects
- Prof. Shawn Murphy, HMS, and the ACT Network
- Broad Inst. + MIT
- Cancer Institute of the Netherlands
- ...

# Events devoted to the topic

- **GenoPri.org: International workshop on genome privacy and security**
  - Yearly workshop, typically co-located with GA4GH main annual event
- **iDash - <http://www.humangenomeprivacy.org/2021>**
  - Annual event with technical challenges on genome data protection and sharing

# Conclusion

- We have solved the problem of GDPR-compliant federated learning for medical data, including genomic data
- Solution: Multi-party homomorphic encryption (MHE)
  - Perform computations without “seeing” the data
  - Rely on decentralized trust and mathematical proofs
  - No need to transfer the data
- Scalability with the number of data providers and the size of the datasets
- Green light from the Swiss federal data protection authority
- Support and development of new features: provided by Tune Insight

Contact me at [jean-pierre.hubaux@epfl.ch](mailto:jean-pierre.hubaux@epfl.ch)

More information at <https://medco.epfl.ch>



# Challenges from the Field: Individual's Perspective

John Verdi (Future of Privacy Forum)

# Privacy Risks and Challenges from the Perspective of Individual Rights

John Verdi, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Future of Privacy Forum.

# Privacy Risks and Challenges from the Perspective of Individual Rights

## *FPF Work:*

- In July 2018, the Future of Privacy Forum released [Privacy Best Practices for Consumer Genetic Testing Services](#)
- FPF developed the Best Practices following consultation with technical experts, regulators, leading consumer genetic and personal genomic testing companies, and civil society
- On January 1, 2022, California's Genetic Information Privacy Act (GIPA) became effective, codifying many of FPF's best practices

# Privacy Risks and Challenges from the Perspective of Individual Rights

## *FPF Requirements:*

- Express consent for collection, use, and retention of genetic data;
- Separate express consent for transfer of to third parties and for incompatible uses;
- Informed consent for research;
- Educational resources about the basics, risks, benefits, and limitations of genetic and personal genomic testing;
- Access, correction, and deletion rights;
- Valid legal process for disclosure to the government and transparency reports;
- Ban on sharing genetic data with third parties (such as employers, insurance companies, educational institutions, and government agencies) without consent or as required by law;
- Restrictions on marketing based on genetic data; and
- Strong data security protections and privacy by design

# Privacy Risks and Challenges from the Perspective of Individual Rights

## *Privacy Risks and Challenges of genomic data:*

- Unique, immutable biometric
- Potentially reveals information about identity
- Potentially reveals information about heritage
- Potentially reveals information about health
- Potentially reveals information about relatives' identities, heritage, and health
- Difficult or impossible to de-identify without undermining utility

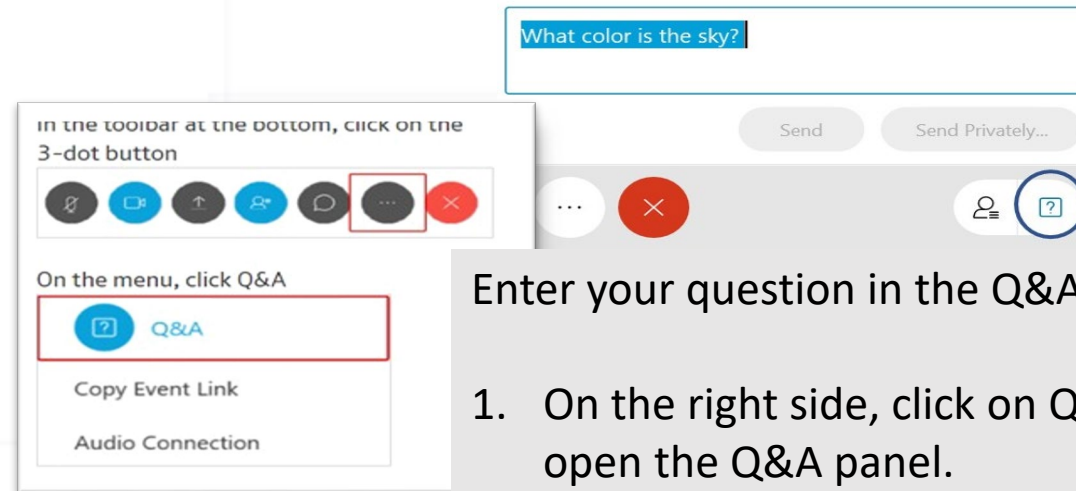
# Privacy Risks and Challenges from the Perspective of Individual Rights

## *Privacy Risks and Challenges of genomic data:*

- False identifications in criminal matters (evidence mishandling)
- Unexpected family connections and non-connections
- Dept. of Defense warning re: health tests and readiness reporting
- False identifications in criminal matters (remote relatives)
- Data breaches – e.g. 2020 GED Match law enforcement breach
- Re-identification attacks, e.g. cross-referencing clinical, research, and publicly available data sets

# Challenges from the Field: Research and Individual's Perspectives

## Moderated Questions and Answers



Enter your question in the Q&A panel.

1. On the right side, click on Q&A header to open the Q&A panel.
2. Type in the box **your name, organization and question.**
3. Click send.

# National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

## NCCoE Virtual Workshop on Cybersecurity of Genomic Data

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM (ET)



# Session 1: Cybersecurity Challenges Affecting Genomic Sequencing

Charles Fracchia (BioBright)  
Phillip Whitlow (HudsonAlpha)

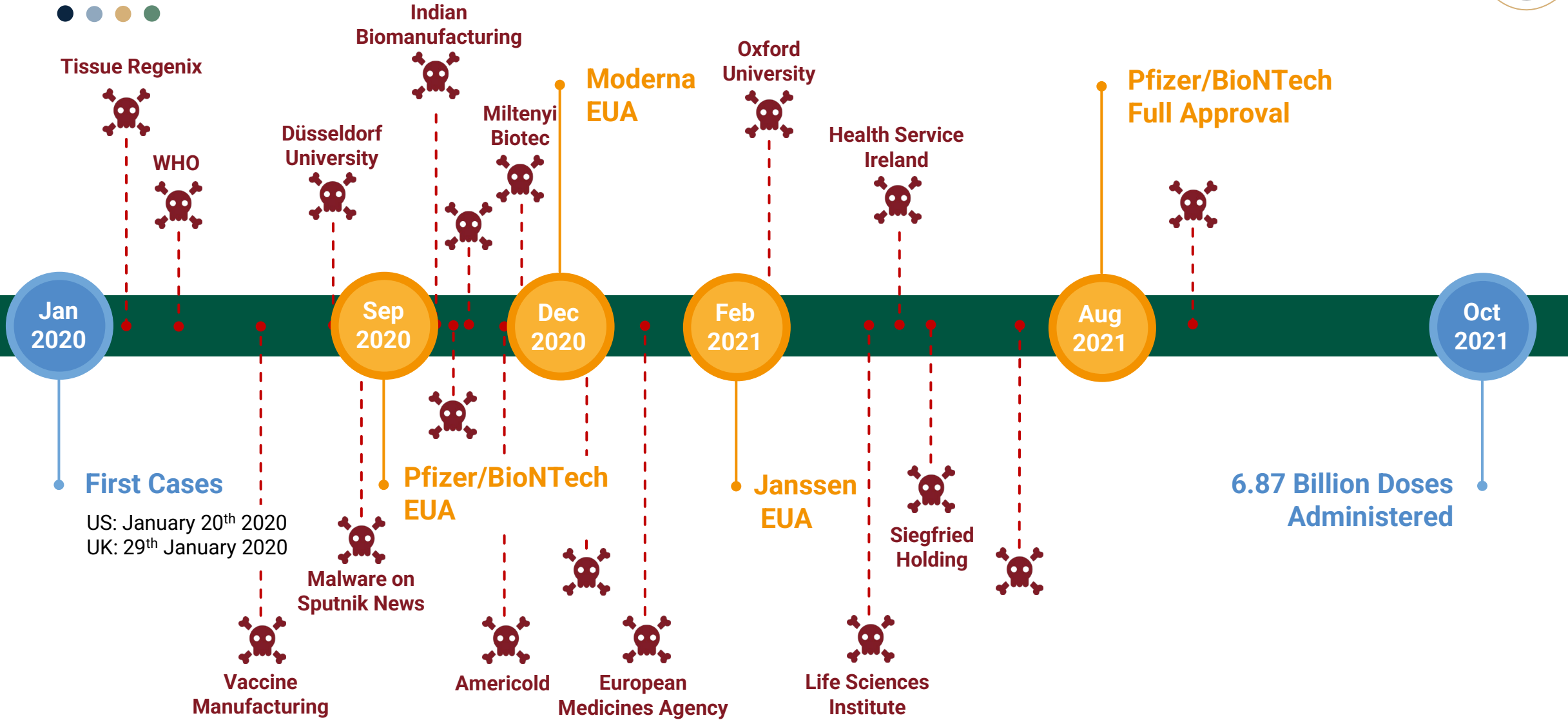
# Digital Biosecurity in a Modern Context

Charles Fracchia <[charlesfracchia@gmail.com](mailto:charlesfracchia@gmail.com)>

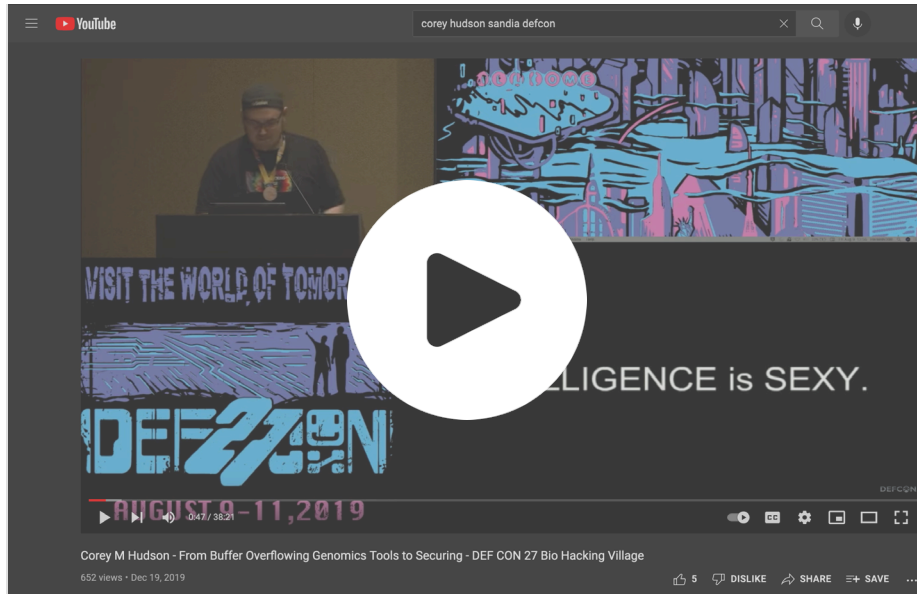
PGP: 4A06 3D3A B157 C3DE C31C 91B0 6E76 3F6A DA35 06C4

CEO BioBright / VP Data Dotmatics

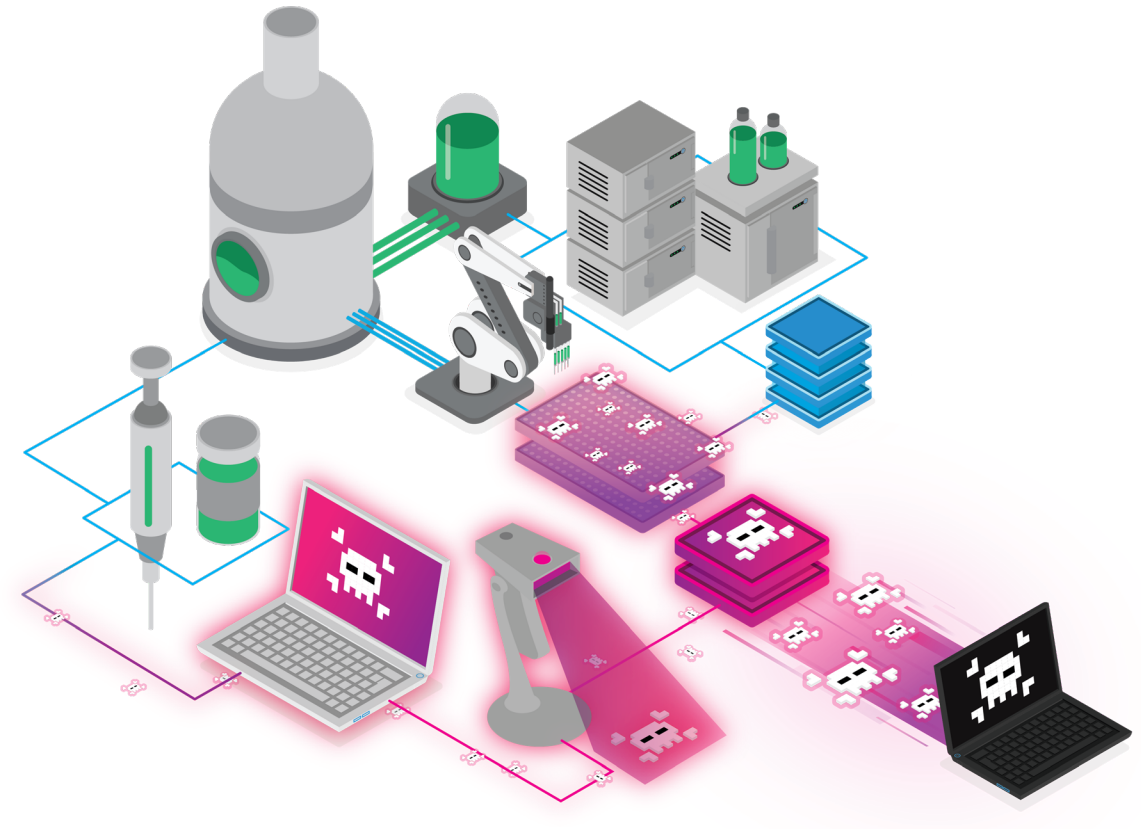
# PUBLIC DOMAIN ATTACKS ON BIOINFRASTRUCTURE



# WE CANNOT FIX THE ISSUE WITHOUT TACKLING ... DEVICE INSECURITY



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7du1TltZOJg>



Devices are embedded at every step of the biological process.

# TARDIGRADE APT ON THE BIOECONOMY



**bio-isac**  
Creating Collaborative Threat Intelligence for the Bioeconomy



**Tardigrade:**  
APT Attack on the Bioeconomy  
(Bulz.253748 Variant Overview: intserres644.dll)

Callie Churchwell – Senior Digital Biosecurity Analyst  
Charles Fracchia – VP of Data & CEO BioBright  
Ed Chung, MD – Digital Biosecurity Lead & CMO BioBright

Contact: tips@isac.bio  
PGP: EB2A1A4A094A88BE07 EBA96258BFEE2E95C7FC

contributed by: **BioBright**  
a dynamilis company

LILY HAY NEWMAN SECURITY NOV 22, 2021 11:59 AM

## Devious ‘Tardigrade’ Malware Hits Biomanufacturing Facilities

The surprisingly sophisticated attack is “actively spreading” throughout the industry.



 LEADERSHIP FOR IT SECURITY & PRIVACY ACROSS HHS  
**HHS CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM**  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION SECURITY



**HC3: Alert**  
November 23, 2021 TLP: White Report: 202111231300

  
*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

### BIO-ISAC Tardigrade Amplify Alert



## Biomannufacturing companies getting hit by hackers potentially linked to Russia

BY MAGGIE MILLER - 11/22/21 01:14 PM EST

37 COMMENTS



By Joseph Marks

November 23, 2021 at 7:28 a.m. EST

## A foreign government could be trying to hack U.S. biomedical companies

# BIO-ISAC:

## BIOECONOMY-FOCUSED INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS CENTER



# bio-isac

Creating Collaborative Threat  
Intelligence for the Bioeconomy

- Provides members tailored and actionable threat intelligence information
- Leverages a coordinated disclosure process to simplify information sharing from small, medium and large enterprises of digital biosecurity issues
- Establishes and shares best practices and standards to improve digital biosecurity in the bioeconomy, including biomanufacturing
- Educates members and partners in digital biosecurity by creating and teaching content directly
- Promotes the creation of a skilled workforce for digital biosecurity with industry and government partners
- Interacts with lawmakers and policy stakeholders to further the development of a resilient infrastructure for the bioeconomy
- Acts as a convening place for trusted international partners to collaborate on digital biosecurity and biological supply chain security issues

<https://isac.bio>



# Genomic Sequencing Instrument Security

NCCoE Virtual Workshop on Cybersecurity of Genomic Data

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 11:00 AM (EST)

**Phillip Whitlow**

Security Architect

HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology

[pwhitlow@hudsonalpha.org](mailto:pwhitlow@hudsonalpha.org)

# Who is HudsonAlpha?

HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology is a nonprofit institute founded in 2008 specializing in genetics and genomics research and biotech education.

Tens of thousands of genomes (human and non-human) sequenced per year on campus

Sequencing use cases include:

- Genetic testing
- Clinical genome sequencing
- Genomic screening programs
- Original plant genome sequencing

We also host more than 50 associate companies on our campus - all of them involved in bioscience and many performing genomic sequencing in their own labs





# Cybersecurity Challenges

## Campus and Entrepreneurial Mission

- Associate companies provide their own sequencers
- Combines all the challenges of IoT and BYOD



# Cybersecurity Challenges

Sequencers are essentially IoT devices

- Internet connection required
- Dedicated PC
- Unknown software
- Software firewalls



# Cybersecurity Challenges

## Availability vs. Security

- Security takes a back seat to availability and accuracy
- Software updates can be problematic



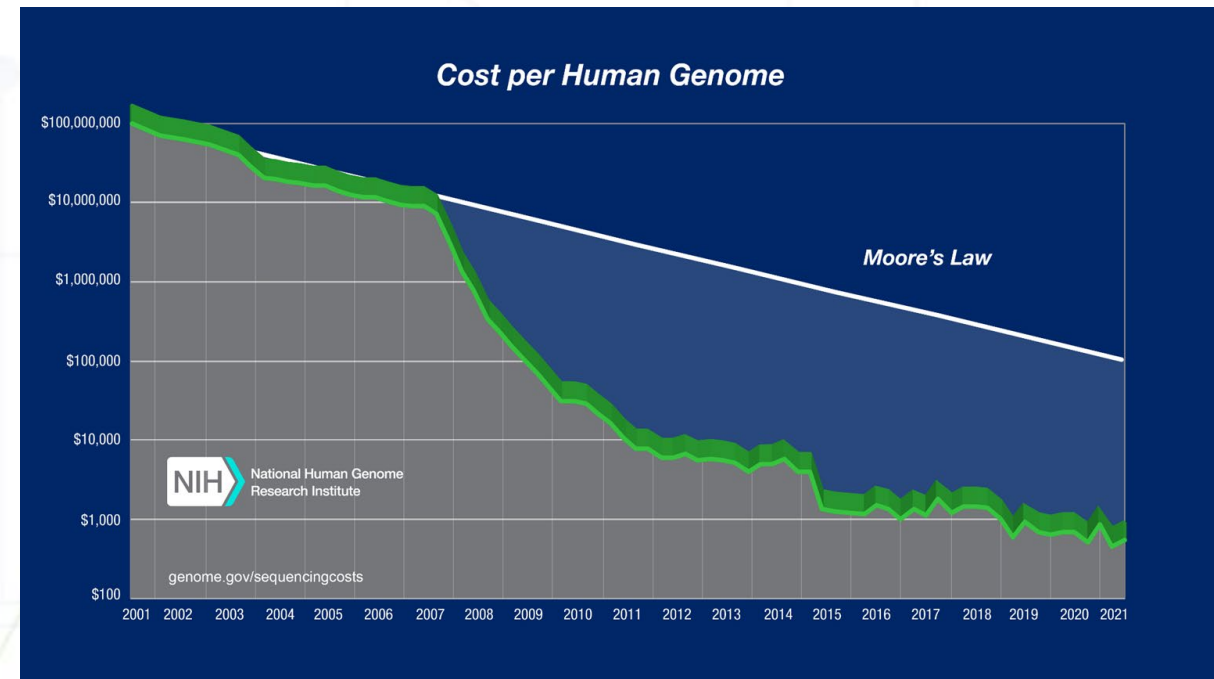
# Cybersecurity Challenges

## Lack of Security Standards

- No guidelines or standards (e.g., STIG)

## Anticipated proliferation

- Decreasing cost and more widespread use will lead to more attacks



# Session 2: Cybersecurity Challenges for Genomic Software

E. Loren Buhle (DNAnexus)

# National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

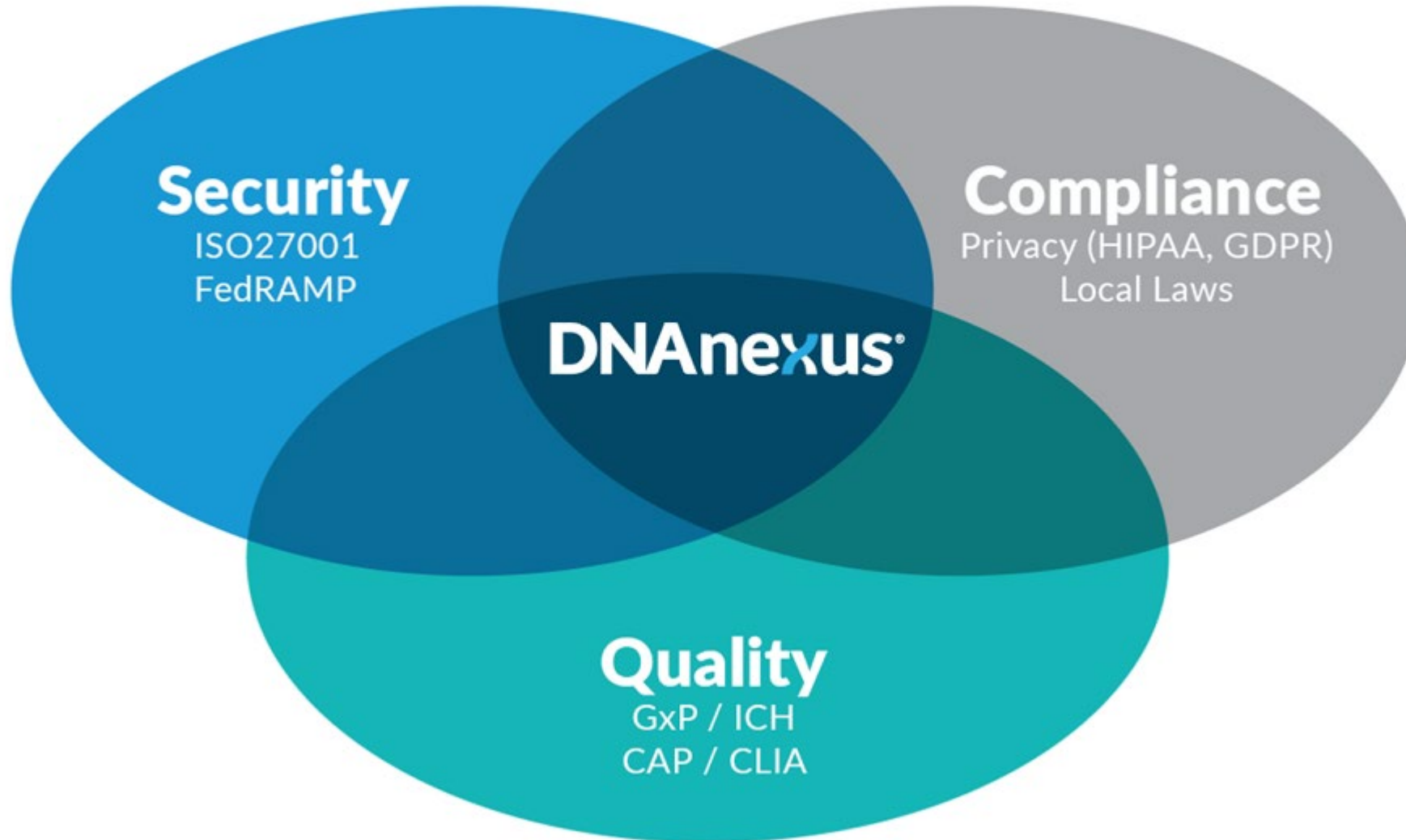
Session 2: Cybersecurity Challenges for Genomic Software

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 11:00 AM (EST)

E. Loren Buhle

VP of Security, Quality and Compliance at DNAnexus

# CONSIDER A HOLISTIC APPROACH



# SECURITY REQUIREMENTS



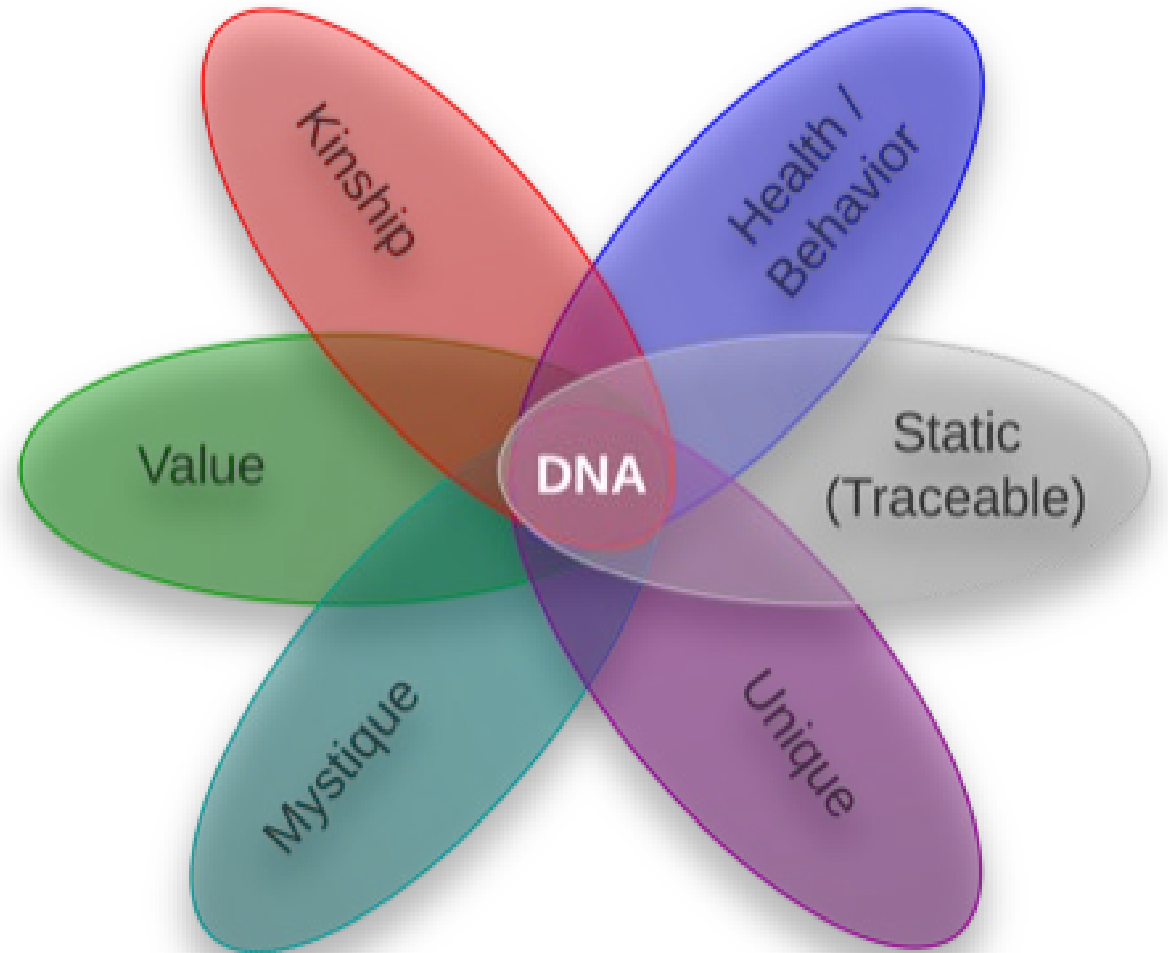
- Architecture
  - Consider zero-trust architecture
- Robust and auditable authentication and authorization
- Continuous Monitoring
  - (24x7x365) with a high degree of automation
  - Automate the Incident Response Procedure as much as possible
- Accountability to industry standards:
  - FedRAMP “Moderate,” “High” or similar standards (NIST 800-family)
  - ISO27000 family of standards
  - Discovery & sampling audit at frequent intervals (trust & verify)



# PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS



- Compliant with the applicable privacy regulations
  - GDPR for citizens of the EU
  - Federal, state, and local regulations regarding PII and PHI
- Consent management
  - Ongoing management of contributor's consent with audit trails
  - Managing familial scans (law enforcement)
- Automated data privacy scans
  - Support for DSARs, etc.



Are long read genomic sequences inherently identifiable?

# DATA REQUIREMENTS



- **Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability (CIA)**
  - Encrypted data in transit and at rest
  - Evidence proving the accuracy and consistency throughout the lifespan of the data
  - Code/data are available to only those who are authorized within time limits
- **Governance**
  - Establishing the appropriate authorizations on code/data
  - What must be retained? Where? For how long?
- **Provenance**
  - Privacy concerns, alignment with consent, ability to track and prove compliance
  - Metadata – source of sequence, sequencer, processing steps
- **Quality**
  - How do you measure quality per use case?

# SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS



- Unconstrained by the size of the sequences and “-omics” type
- Horizontal and vertical scaling – application, metadata processing, etc.
- Walled Garden vs Open Federation
  - Users add their own software, which could contain malware, crypto mining, unsupported and vulnerable supporting libraries (log4j)
- License Management in leveraged software (Asset Mgmt)
  - Open Source Software – permissive, viral light, highly viral, Affero
  - Commercial Software – terms need to balance with usage
- Auditability
  - Immutable logs showing *every action performed on every object*

# NETWORK REQUIREMENTS



- Volume and velocity
  - Increasing at 40+% per year
- Centralized repository or Federated repository
  - Network usage varies on the overall design
- Enforcement of data localization regulations and agreements
  - Privacy regulations require data to stay within a country/region's jurisdictions and how the data can be used.
  - Commercial agreements control where the data resides, how it can be accessed and used.

# CLOSING THOUGHTS



- Zero-Trust - verify and corroborate
- Track-and-Trace – anything you say, be prepared to prove it!
- Governance

Balancing Security, Privacy, Quality, and Science

# Session 3: Cybersecurity Challenges for Genomic Data Storage

Xiaofeng Wang (Indiana University)

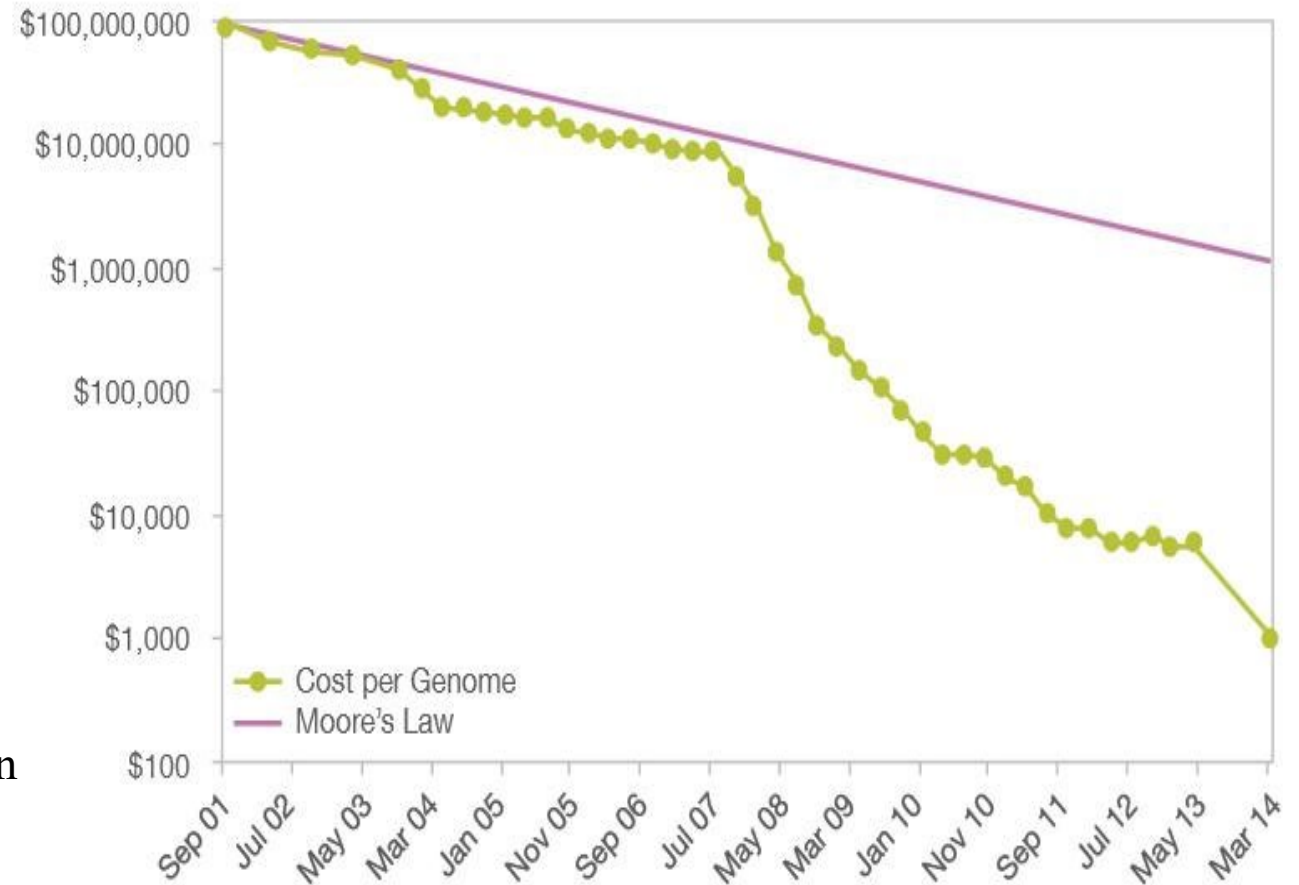
# Privacy in the Genomic Era

XiaoFeng Wang, IEEE Fellow, Rudy Professor at IUB

<http://www.informatics.indiana.edu/xw7>

# Genomic Revolution

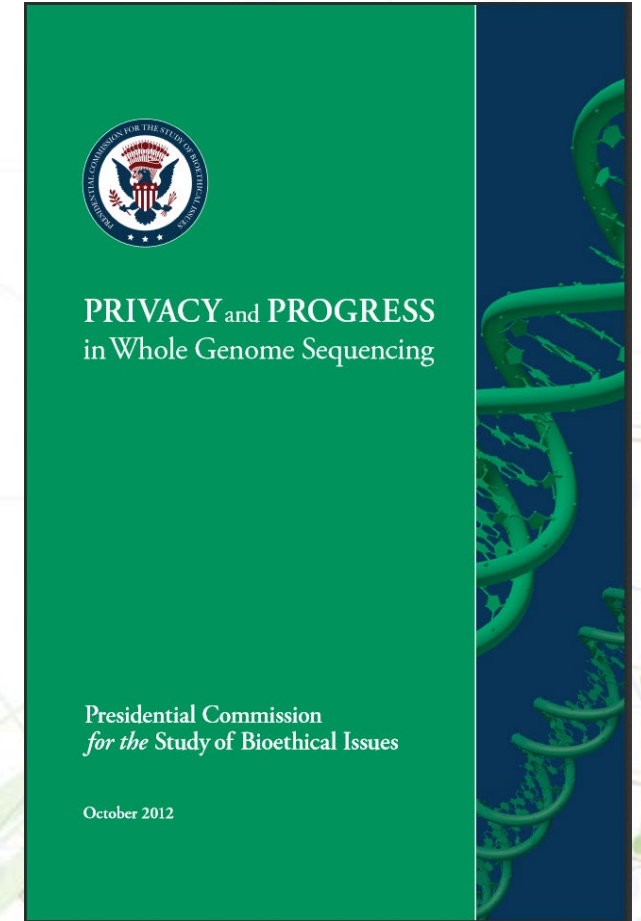
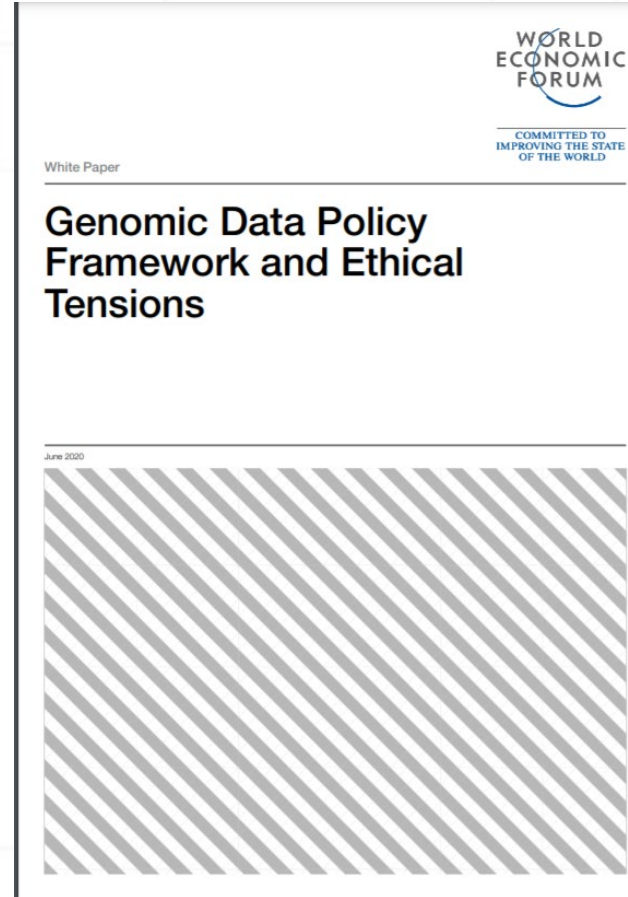
- Fast drop in the cost of genome-sequencing
  - 2000: \$3 billion
  - Mar. 2021: \$800 - \$1,000
  - Genotyping 1M variations: below \$200
- Unleashing the potential of the technology
  - Healthcare: e.g., disease risk detection, personalized medicine
  - Biomedical research: e.g., geno-phono association
  - Legal and forensic
  - DTC: e.g., ancestry test, paternity test





# Genome Privacy

- Privacy risks
  - Genetic disease disclosure
  - Collateral damage
  - Genetic discrimination ...
- Protection
  - Clear access policies
  - Accountability
  - Data anonymization
  - Best practice for data privacy
  - Privacy awareness .....



For more information: **Privacy and Security in the Genomic Era** by Naveed, E. Ayday, E. Clayton, J. Fellay, C. Gunter, JP Hubaux, B. Malin and X. Wang

Available at <http://arxiv.org/pdf/1405.1891v1.pdf>

# Disclosed Genomic Data can be Abused

- Hawasupai case (1989): use of Indian tribe genome data without proper informed consent, with impacts on NIH's All of Us project (2020)
- Genomic data for solving crimes (with privacy implications)
  - E.g., Capture of the Golden State Killer (through GEDmatch)
  - But privacy concern is raised: how one's individual choice affects others?



# Unauthorized Disclosure of DNA/Meta Data Continue to Happen

- DNA Diagnostics Center (DDC), breach more than 2.1 million people (2021)
- GEDmatch hack causes email addresses from its users to be used in a phishing attack on another leading genealogy site (2020)
- Veritas Genetics claim a data breach resulted in unauthorized access of some customer information (2019)

.....

# Genomic Privacy: Technical Challenges

- Dissemination: privacy protection is difficult !
  - Anonymization is hard: genotype to phenotype mapping
  - Impact of genetic genealogy
  - Extremely high dimensions: hard to balance between privacy and utility
- Computing: big data analysis
  - Beyond the capability of existing secure computing technologies
    - NIH originally disallows reads with human DNA to be given to the public Cloud
    - Now, use the cloud at your own risk

# Challenge in Privacy-preserving Genomic Data Sharing

- Old problems:
  - Statistical inference control, access control, query auditing...
- However, genome data are special:
  - Special structures, e.g. linkage disequilibrium
  - Existence of reference genomic data that are publicly available (e.g. large population studies as HapMap, WTCCC, 1000 Genome)
- Examples:
  - Homer's attack and NIH's responses (2008)
  - Our analysis on test statistics released by GWAS papers (2009)
  - Shringarpure and Bustamante's attack on beacons (2015)

# iDASH Genomic Data Privacy and Security Protection Competition

Since 2014, <http://www.humangenomeprivacy.org>

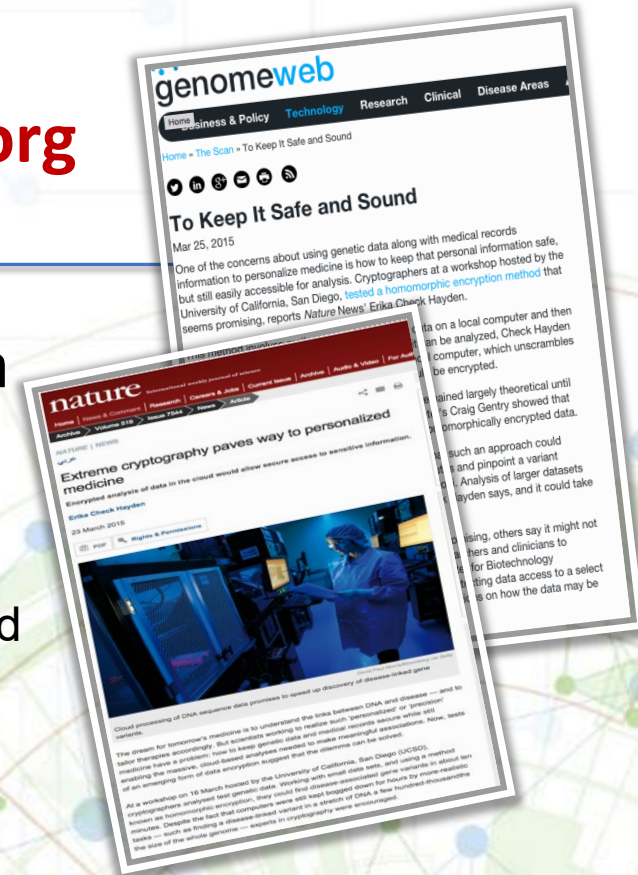
## An interdisciplinary challenge on genomic privacy research

Motivated by real world biomedical applications and with participation of privacy technology experts, Biomedical and ELSI researchers (academia and industry)

Develop practical solutions for privacy preserving genomic data sharing and analysis

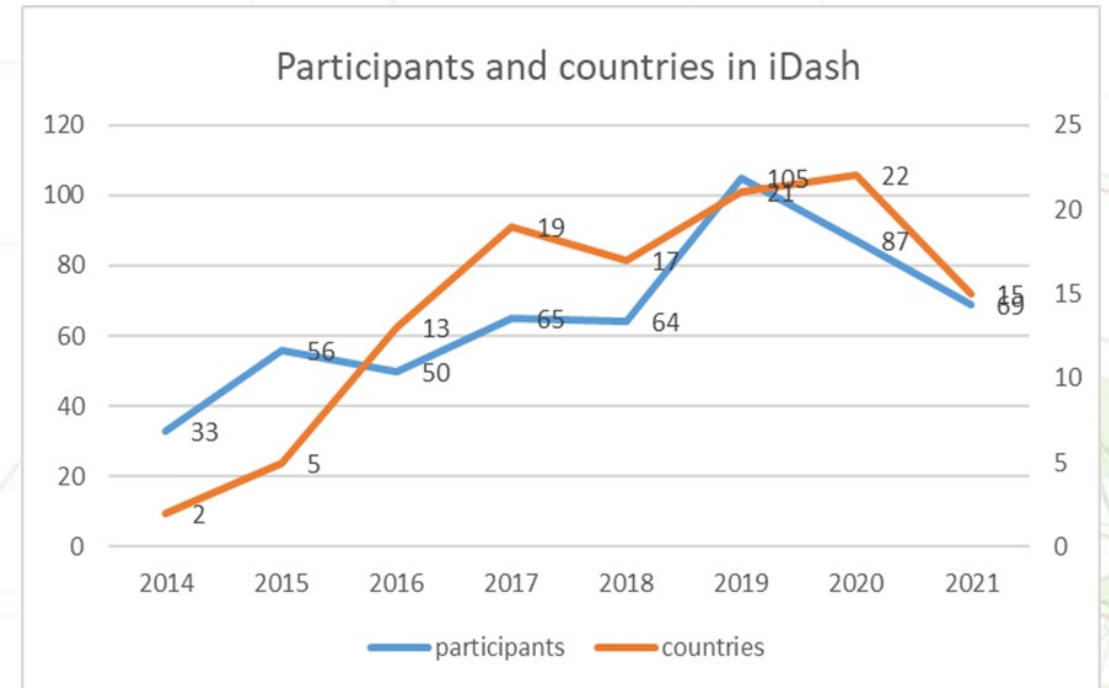
Demonstrate the feasibility of secure genome analysis and dissemination using DP, MPC, HE, TEE

Reported in the media (e.g., Nature News)

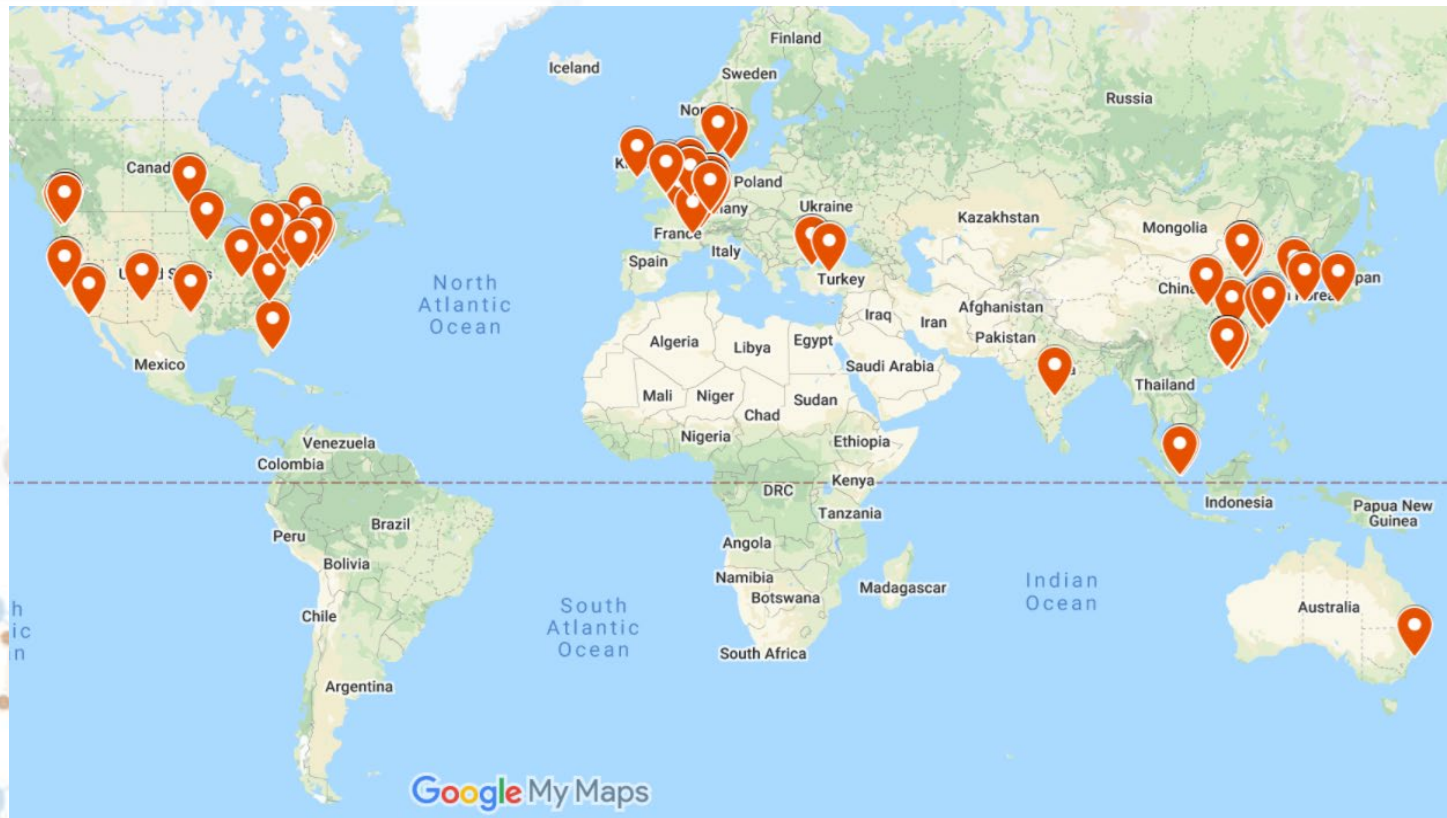


# Topics and Trend from 2014 to 2021

Privacy-preserving Data Sharing	Encryption Testing
Secure Release	De-duplication
Secure Outsourcing	Software Guard Extensions
Homomorphic Encryption	Secure Search
Secure Collaboration	Blockchain and Smart Contract
Secure Multiparty Computation	Secure Machine Learning
Beacon Service	Privacy-preserving Machine Learning
Privacy-preserving Search	



# Participation Around the World



- Academia: Cornell, MIT, UTHealth, UCSD, Yale, Purdue, Vanderbilt, EPFL, SNU, CUHK, Manitoba ...
- Industry: IBM, MSR, Samsung, Alibaba, Tencent, Baidu ...
- Government: Sandia National Lab, French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission ...



# Contributions to the Progress in Genome Privacy

For the task secure multi-label tumor classification using Homomorphic Encryption in 2020, most teams are utilizing linear/logistic regression models to implement cancer classification. These models have been improved significantly over the past few years in the HE competition, which is quite scalable and efficient now. The top solutions achieved a Micro-AUC of 0.97 to classify 11 cancer types from encrypted genetic variants of 909 samples within 5 minutes.

For the task differentially private federated learning for the cancer prediction model in 2020, the submitted solutions achieved almost perfect model accuracies while enforcing a high differential privacy standard (privacy budget of 3.0 or lower). The training process of the best-performing solution is very fast, comparable with the efficiency of training a machine learning model with all data by a single party.

For the task of data sharing consent for health-related data using contracts on blockchain in 2021, it is feasible to store patient consent sharing preference records for seven categories for a given clinical/genomic study on blockchain up to ~6,800 records per hour (or ~1.889 records per second).

# Acknowledgement

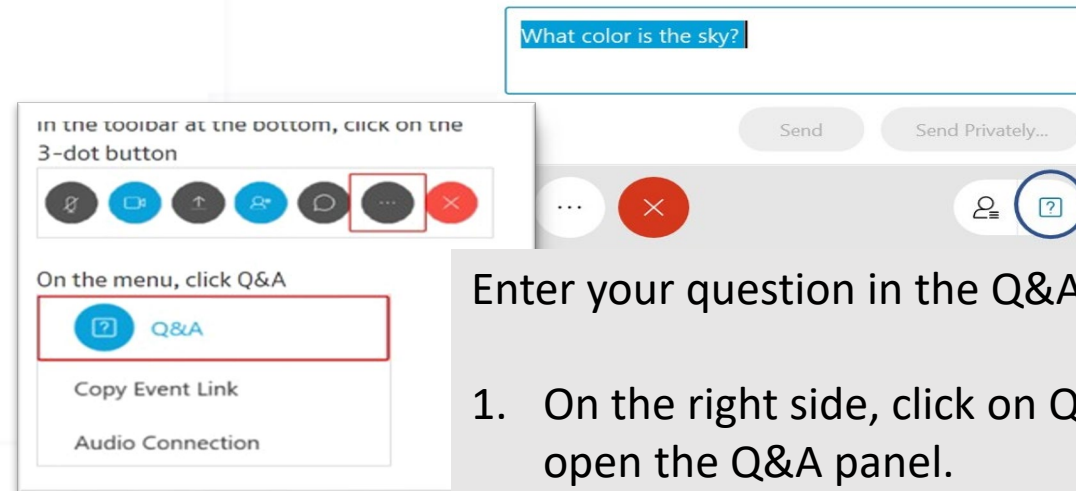
- NIH R01HG010798: “Secure and Privacy-preserving Genome-wide and Phenome-wide Association Studies via Intel Software Guard Extensions (SGX)”
- NIH R01HG007078: “Privacy Preserving Technologies for Human Genome Data Analysis and Dissemination”
- NSF-CNS-1408874: “Broker Leads for Privacy-Preserving Discovery in Health Information Exchange”

# More Information:

1. Learning Your Identity and Disease from Research Papers: Information Leaks in Genome Wide Association Study, 2009, ACM CCS
2. Addressing Beacon re-identification attacks: Quantification and mitigation of privacy risks, 2017, JAMIA
3. Real-time Protection of Genomic Data Sharing in Beacon Services, 2018, AMIA
4. A Secure Alignment Algorithm for Mapping Short Reads to Human Genome, 2018, RECOMB
5. MBeacon: Privacy-Preserving Beacons for DNA Methylation Data, 2019, NDSS
6. Haplotype-based membership inference from summary genomic data, 2021 Bioinformatics

# Cybersecurity Challenges

## Moderated Questions and Answers



Enter your question in the Q&A panel.

1. On the right side, click on Q&A header to open the Q&A panel.
2. Type in the box **your name, organization and question.**
3. Click send.

# Session 4: Privacy Challenges for Genomic Data

Sumitra Muralidhar (Department of Veterans Affairs)

# National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

NCCoE Virtual Workshop on Cybersecurity of Genomic Data

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 11:00 AM (EST)

## Million Veteran Program (MVP) Department of Veterans Affairs

Sumitra Muralidhar, PhD

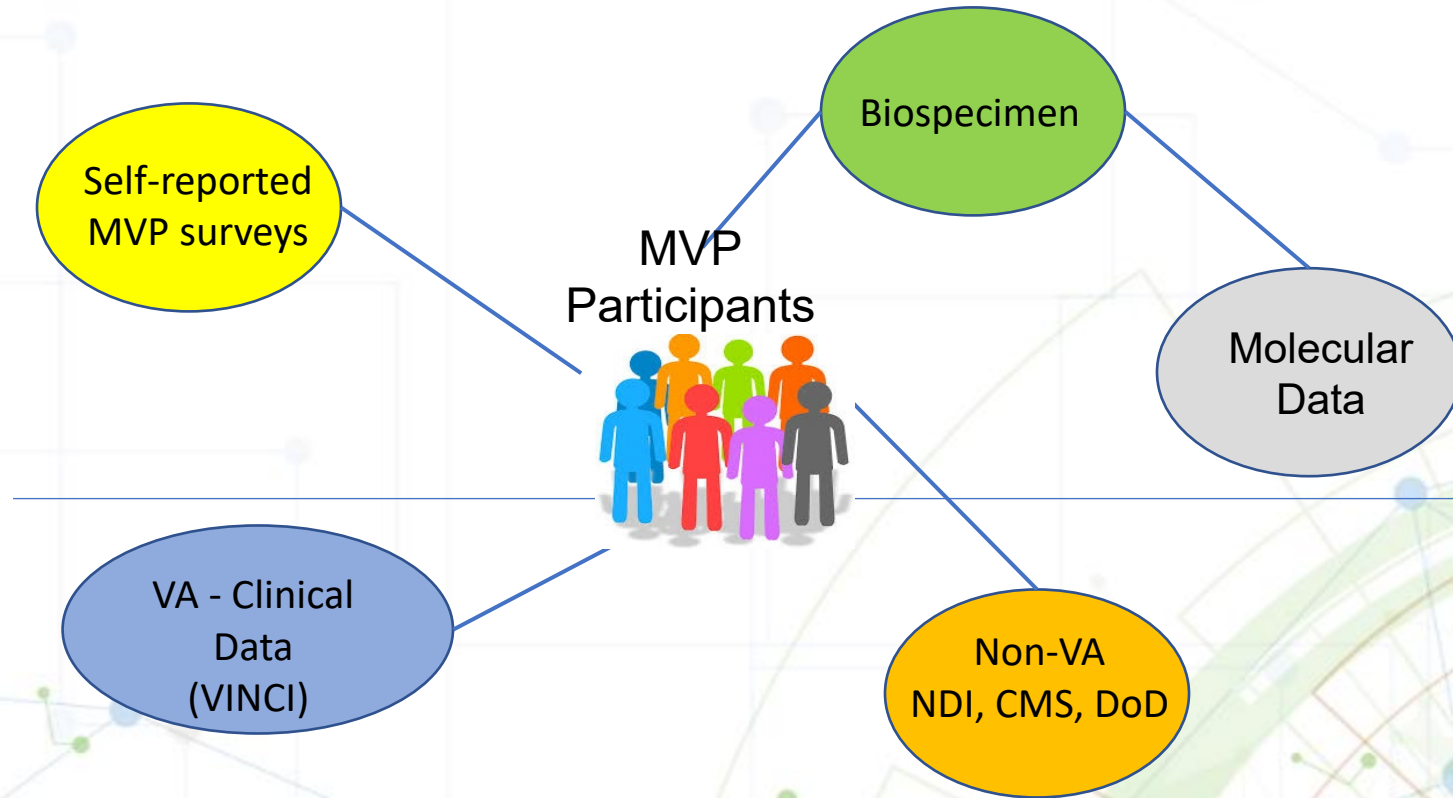
Director, MVP

VA Office of Research and Development

# Million Veteran Program (MVP) Overview

- MVP is a **national VA research program**, launched in 2011, designed to advance precision health care by learning how genes, lifestyle, and military experiences and exposures affect health and illness
  - Establish a comprehensive, diverse cohort of at least one million Veterans
  - Provide broad access to the data for scientific discovery
  - Establish pipelines to translate discoveries to the clinic to improve the health of Veterans
- MVP is one of the world's largest healthcare system-based research programs of its kind with **over 864,000 Veterans enrolled (as of Dec. 2021)**

# MVP Data Universe



# MVP Biospecimen Data Overview

*GOAL: Generate the maximum amount of data from biospecimens to enhance scientific discovery*

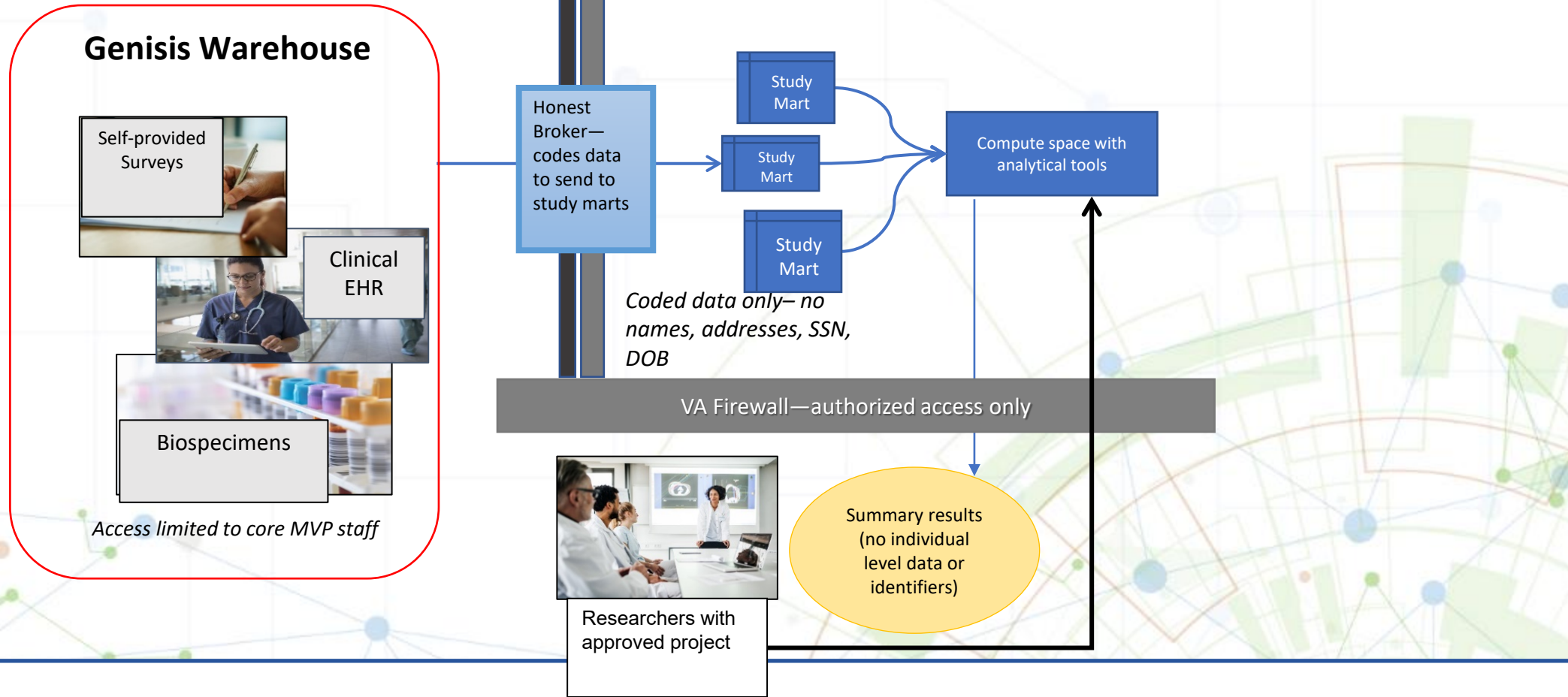
- Baseline genetic data profile (genotype) generated for all participants
  - Data from 650,000 samples are currently provided to approved researchers
- Genetic data for specific ethnic groups (Blacks, Hispanics and Asians) using a customized analytic tool currently underway for ~ 200K participants
- Whole genome sequences have been generated on ~ 140,000 samples
  - Processing underway
- Other data such as proteomics and metabolomics are being piloted



# Balancing Data Privacy/Security and Access

- Bring researchers to the data in a central secure scientific computing platform
  - Computing infrastructure within the VA meets VA IT Privacy and Security requirements; DOE and the University of Chicago VA Data Commons have an approved VA authority to operate (ATO)
- Biospecimen (blood sample) and data (surveys) collected are labeled using a code instead of identifiable information
- New ship ID created for sample send-outs to vendors
- Crosswalk to identity of participant is held by few authorized core staff
- Researchers access only coded data (no direct identifiers such as SSN, name, date of birth, street address)
- Researchers sign rules of behavior and analyze data in a central, secure computing system
- No data leaves the system; only summary results can be taken out

# MVP Data Access Model



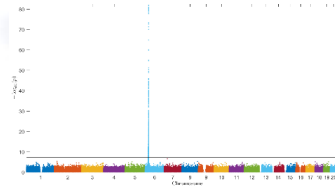
# External access to MVP Data

- VA Data Commons : allow data access broadly to investigators within and outside the VA
- Contract with the University of Chicago (UoC)
- Data deidentified at the VA and moved to UoC
  - Safe harbor method plus
  - Formal expert statistical determination
- Data will be migrated to a cloud compute infrastructure for many simultaneous approved users
- Beta-testing in FY 2022 ; piloting in FY23

# MVP Summary Data Access in dbGaP



15  
publications



96 analyses

7 phenotype  
categories



166 authorized  
requests for  
access



<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gap/>  
Search "VA Million Veteran Program"

# Reidentification Risk

- **Re-Identification:** the ability to determine whether an individual is included in a pooled sample, based on the allele frequencies in the pool -- without the need to access individual-level genotype data of that pooled data set
- All the published references discussing re-identification are theoretical, not actual case reports of participant re-identification
- In order for re-identification to occur, the user must already have access to that person's genetic information from another source
- Accuracy of re-identification is determined by:
  - the size of the population (small sample size = better accuracy)
  - the diversity of the population (homogenous population = better accuracy)
  - the frequency of the genetic variants (rare genetic variants = better accuracy)

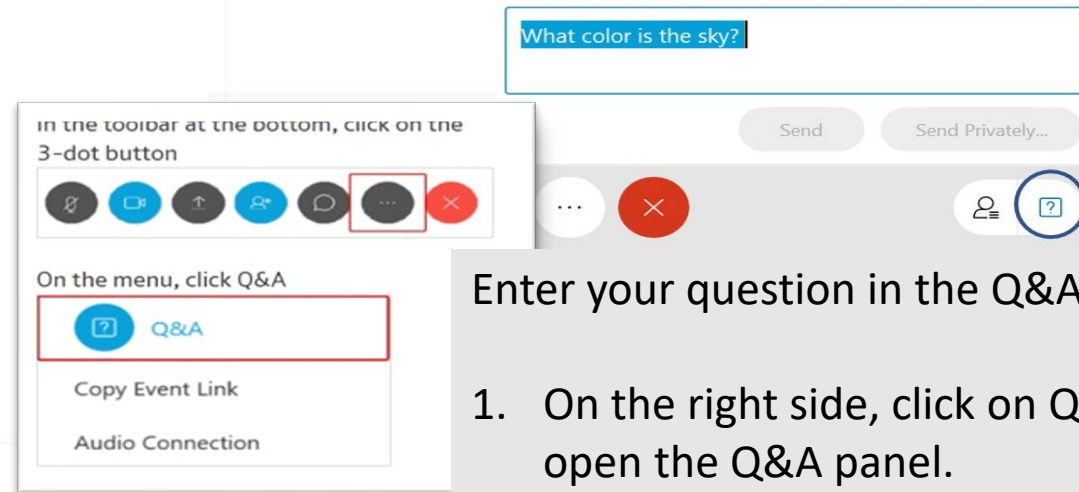
# MVP Risk Mitigation Strategies

- MVP is sufficiently large and diverse, therefore theoretical re-identification risk is extremely low
  - Only aggregate results will be shared, no individual-level data
- Additional steps taken to further reduce risk
  - Results filtered to only include genetic variants with a minor allele count  $> 30$  or minor allele frequency  $> 0.005$ , whichever is less (metrics should be based on the subset of the study population actually used for the analysis, not the general population)
  - Total study population used for the analysis must be  $>3000$  participants
  - If a case-control study, there must be  $>500$  cases in the analysis

**Thank you!**

# Privacy Challenges for Genomic Data

## Moderated Questions and Answers



Enter your question in the Q&A panel.

1. On the right side, click on Q&A header to open the Q&A panel.
2. Type in the box **your name, organization and question.**
3. Click send.



# Session 5: Current and Future Genomic Data Use Challenges

Gail Jarvik (American Society of Human Genetics [ASHG])  
Ankit Malhotra (AWS)  
Heidi Sofia (NIH National Human Genome Research Institute [NHGRI])

# Human Genetics & Genomics Research: Data-Sharing & Privacy

**Gail Jarvik MD, PhD**  
**2021 President,**  
**American Society of Human Genetics**

*January 26, 2022*

# American Society of Human Genetics

- **Mission:** *Advance human genetics and genomics in science, health, and society through excellence in research, education and advocacy*
- **Vision:** *People everywhere realize the benefits of human genetics and genomics research*
- **Annual Meeting:** *Attracts up to 9,000 attendees*
- **Year-Round Scientific Programs**
- **Two Scientific Journals:**
  - *American Journal of Human Genetics*
  - *Human Genetics and Genomics Advances*



## RARE DISEASES

From discovery to diagnosis to treatment

It is estimated that about 25-30 million Americans suffer from a rare disease. In the United States, a rare disease is defined as affecting fewer than 200,000. While each

## Success Stories

Human Genetics and Genomics Research



## GENE EDITING WITH CRISPR

In the past decade, scientists have found a way to make specific, targeted changes to DNA much more quickly and efficiently than ever before. This is made possible by a

## Success Stories

Human Genetics and Genomics Research



## CANCER GENETICS AND GENOMICS

Cancer, a disease caused by mutations in the human genome, is the second leading cause of death in the United States. Basic genetics and genomics research funded by

## Success Stories

Human Genetics and Genomics Research



## NONINVASIVE PRENATAL GENETIC SCREENING

In the last decade, advances in DNA sequencing have revolutionized prenatal screening for chromosomal disorders in fetuses. Now routinely carried out as part of prenatal

## Success Stories

Human Genetics and Genomics Research



## NEUROGENETICS

Federally funded basic research is driving progress toward understanding the genes

# Data-sharing Fuels Progress in Human Genetics & Genomics Research

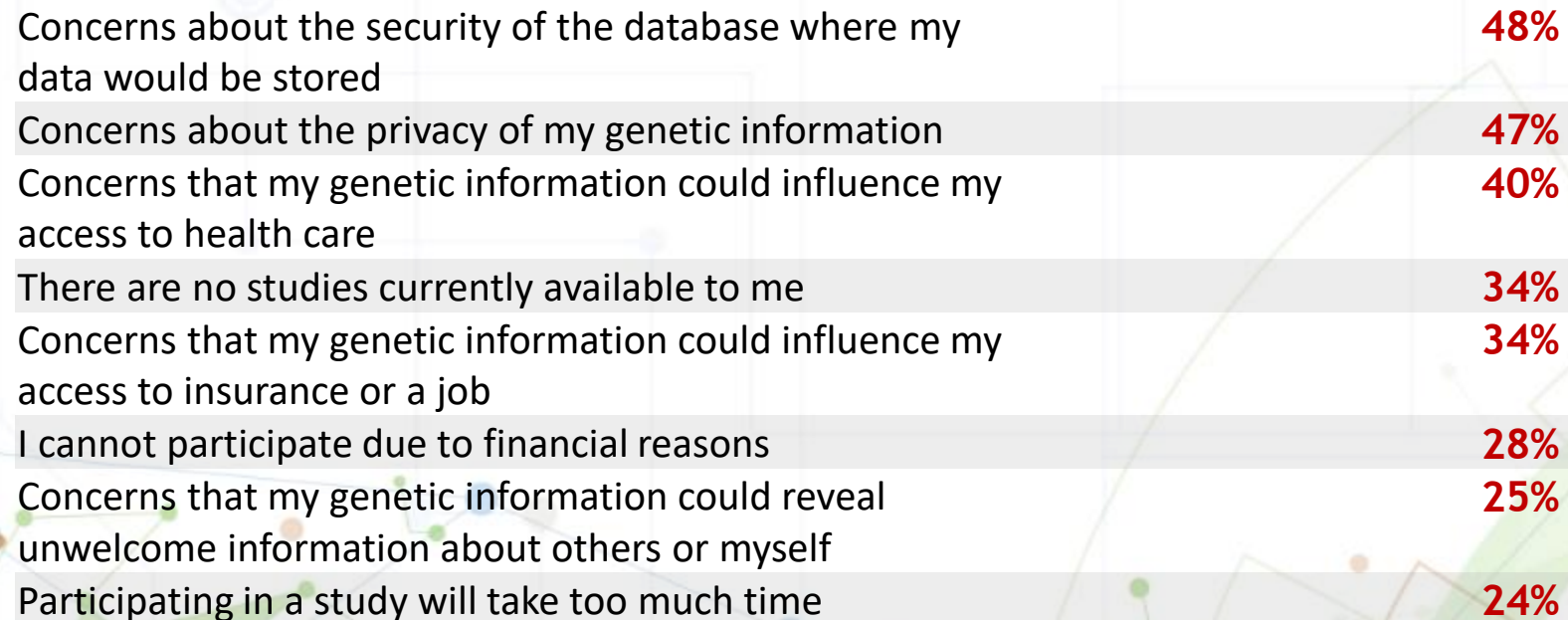
- Broad data-sharing a hallmark of the human genetics community
  - Essential for completion of Human Genome Project
- Data-sharing fundamental for continued advances in research & medicine

# Policies and Systems Need to Maintain Privacy of Research Participants

- Acquisition, analysis, sharing of human genetic data, use of genetic tools, need to be conducted responsibly
- ASHG supports policies that strengthen research participant privacy
  - Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act
  - Common Rule
  - NIH Genomic Data Sharing Policy

# Privacy/Security Essential for Public Participation in Genetics Research

What are the biggest barriers or concerns to your participation in human genetics research? (Choose all that apply)



*Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in December 2019*

# Policies and Systems Must Enable Science, Maintain Privacy

Data-sharing



Advance science

Privacy



Protect participants



# DNA researchers question Senate bill's security provisions

Measure aimed at stopping China from misusing human genome data could harm research efforts, groups argue

By Jocelyn Kaiser

**A** provision buried in a 2400-page bill approved last week by the U.S. Senate to help the United States compete with China is drawing fire from human genome researchers. It would require the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop new security protocols aimed at preventing the misuse of U.S.-funded genomic data by China and other nations.

The provision is not based on substantiated security risks, and "could slow biomedical advances and impose unintended burdens," the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) warned last week in a letter to lawmakers. The Association of American Medical Colleges cautioned in a statement that "any additional protections or restrictions ... should be commensurate with the actual risk."

Research advocates are applauding many provisions of the huge Senate bill, the United States Innovation and Competition Act (S. 1260), which calls for increasing federal research spending and creating a technology directorate at the National Science Foundation (*Science*, 21 May, p. 777). But they're less enthusiastic about a provision reflecting concerns that China is amassing DNA data on

national security risks." NIH must work with intelligence agencies to issue, within 1 year, "a comprehensive framework" for managing risks, such as requiring more training for NIH-funded investigators and peer reviewers and including security experts on data access panels.

In the past, NIH has argued that existing security measures are adequate. Researchers already strip identifying information from genome data, and NIH reviews, and sometimes rejects, scientists' requests for access. But in 2019, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of Health and Human Services, NIH's parent agency, suggested NIH do more, for example by adding controls on foreign scientists who use U.S. genome data.

In a response to OIG, NIH questioned the severity of the threat. It noted security worries were largely based on "a single Congressional testimony," from FBI agent Edward You, who has long warned of the risks of sharing genomic research data. Fears of economic harm were "theoretical," NIH said, noting that many experts argue that sharing data promotes innovation. And it scoffed at the "improbability" of weaponizing human genetics data. Research would "come to a halt," NIH said, if it had to write craft

**"Any additional protections or restrictions ... should be commensurate with the actual risk."**

Association of American Medical Colleges

*Science* • 18 Jun 2021 •  
Vol 372, Issue 6548 • p. 1253

**Thank you!**

*Contact: [gjarvik@medicine.washington.edu](mailto:gjarvik@medicine.washington.edu)*

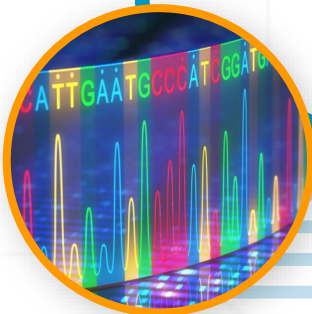
# AWS for Genomics

## *Solving Challenges in Genomic Data Sharing*

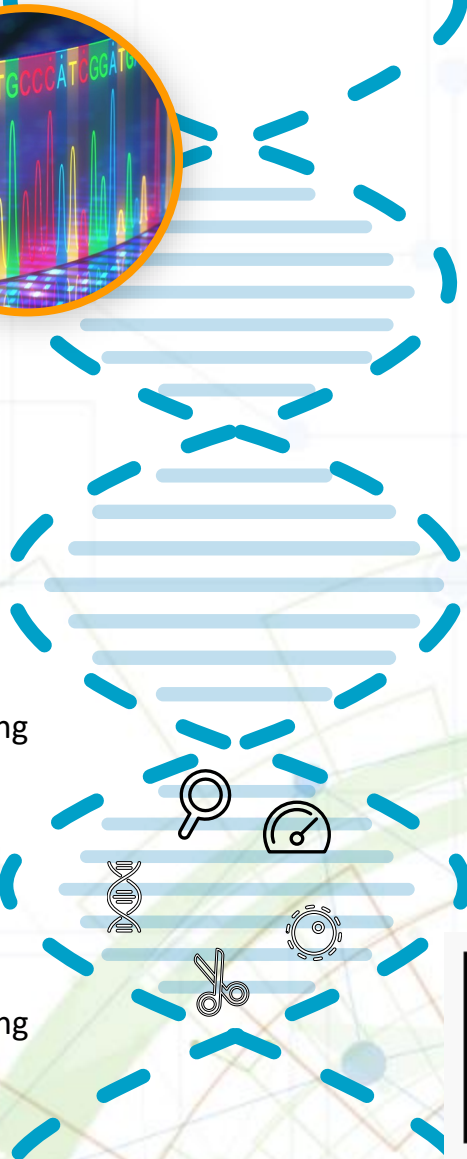
**Ankit Malhotra, Ph.D.**  
**Genomics Lead,**  
**AWS Worldwide Public Sector Health**

# The precision medicine revolution

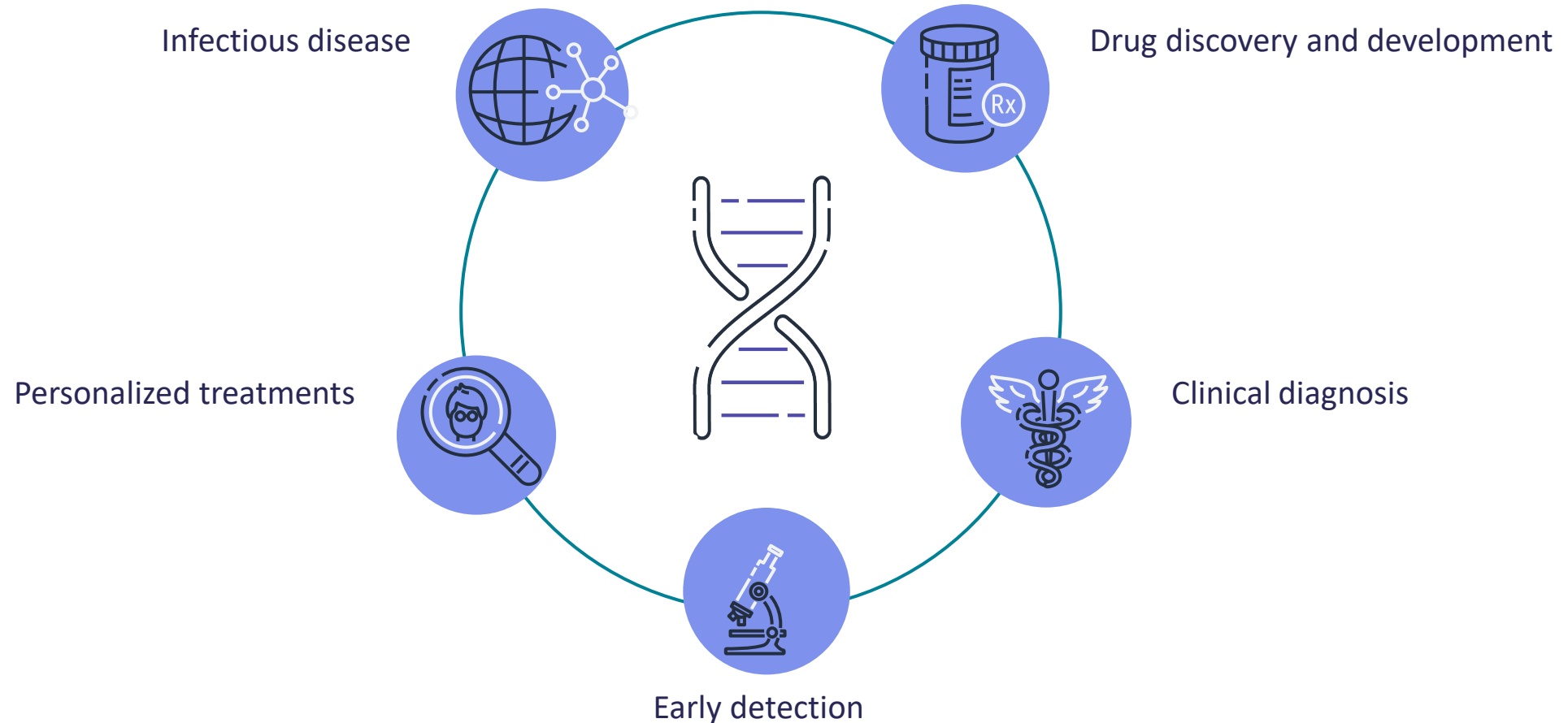
Transformative technologies in sequencing and computing is driving innovation across healthcare and enabling precision medicine.



- Clinical Genome Sequencing
- Genetic Risk Scores
- Targeted Therapeutics
- Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells
- CRISPR Genome Editing



# Genomics—a catalyst for personalized health



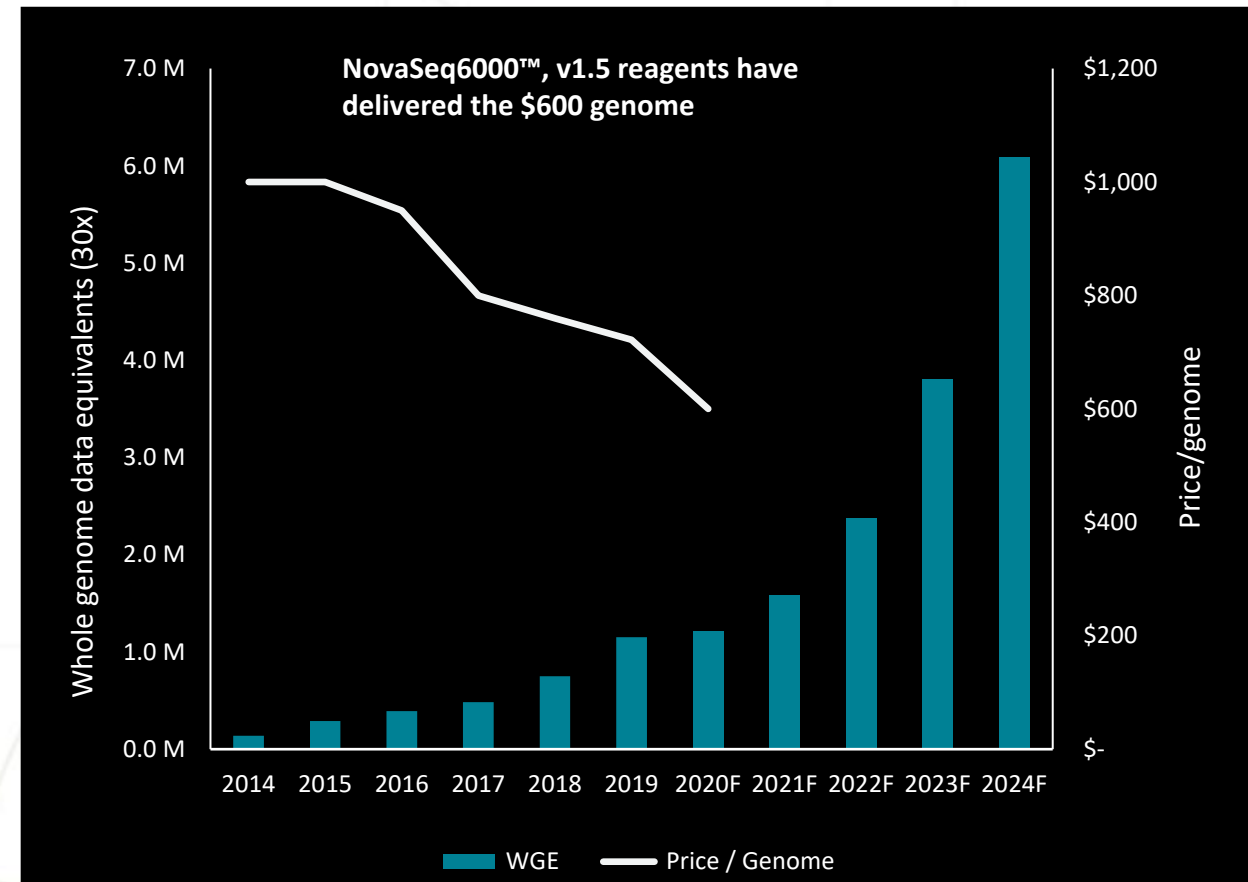
# Challenges in leveraging genomics data

Large volumes of data needs to be transfer, stored, analyzed

Sequencing and analysis requires immense processing power, time

Frequently requires integration of multi-modal datasets

Protected health information must be secured



# Genomics on AWS



Data Transfer & Storage

Trusted partner for secure data transfer, life cycle management, storage cost optimization and digital preservation



Secondary Analysis & Workflow Automation

Manage multiple workflows, accelerate, simplify and scale data analysis with both flexibility and reproducibility



Data Aggregation & Governance

Harmonize multi-omic datasets and govern robust data access controls and permissions across a global infrastructure



Interpretation & Deep Learning

Turn big genomic data into actionable insights with a rich layer of sophisticated solutions and services

**AWS Modern Genomics Data Platform**

---






**AWS Genomics CLI**

---

**SageMaker, HealthLake, Sequera Labs, Cromwell**






---

BUILD








---

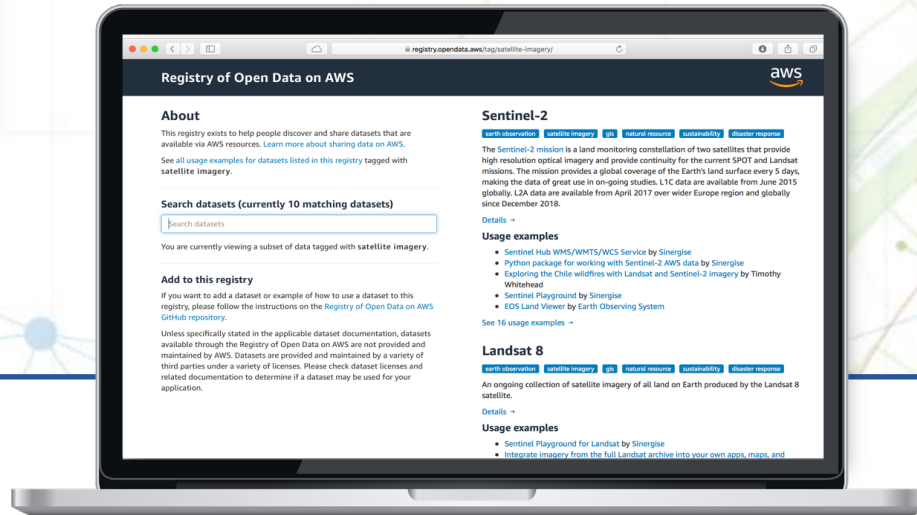
BUY

---



## AWS Open Data Program



At last count there were 301 datasets (87 life science) hosted on AWS S3 as part of Registry of open data on AWS

Registry of Open Data on AWS

**The Human Microbiome Project**

Registry of Open Data on AWS

**1000 Genomes**

Registry of Open Data on AWS

**Encyclopedia of DNA Elements (ENCODE)**

Registry of Open Data on AWS

**TCGA on AWS**

CANCER
GENOMIC
LIFE SCIENCES

# Open Access to Top Genomics Datasets

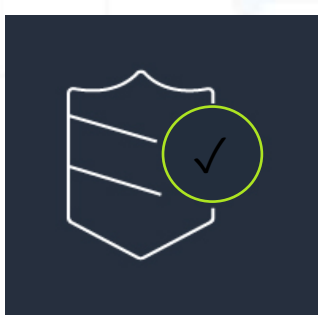
AWS hosts a variety of public datasets that anyone can access for free. Below are just a few examples

- 1000 Genomes Project
- The Cancer Genome Atlas
- International Cancer Genome Consortium
- 3000 Rice Genome
- Genome in a Bottle (GIAB)
- The Genome Modeling System
- Medicare Drug Spending
- The Human Connectome Project
- The Human Microbiome Project
- OpenNeuro
- Physionet
- Tabula muris
- gnoMAD
- and more....





# Security



AWS supports 98 security standards and compliance certifications, including HITRUST, GDPR compliance, FedRAMP, ISO 27001, and HIPAA.

Whitepaper - <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/whitepapers/latest/aws-overview/security-and-compliance.html>

## AWS shared responsibility model

### AWS shared responsibility model

#### Customer

Responsibility for security **"IN" the cloud**

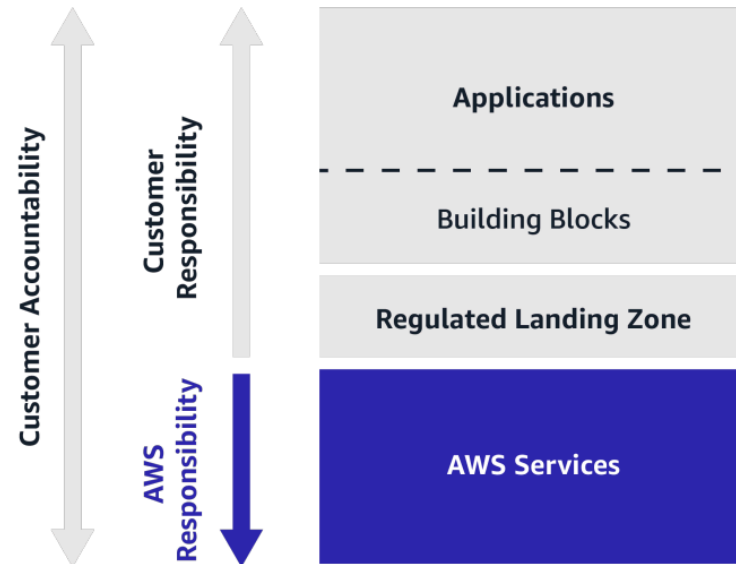
AWS is responsible for protecting the infrastructure that runs all of the services offered in the AWS Cloud.

---






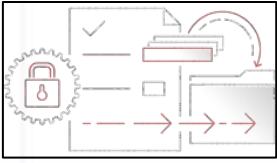
#### AWS

Responsible for security **"OF" the cloud**

Genomics organizations control access to and management of their data, includes data access permissioning.



# AWS security, identity, and compliance solutions

 <b>Identity and access management</b>	 <b>Detective controls</b>	 <b>Infrastructure protection</b>	 <b>Data protection</b>	 <b>Incident response</b>	 <b>Compliance</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM)</li> <li>AWS Single Sign-On</li> <li>AWS Organizations</li> <li>AWS Directory Service</li> <li>Amazon Cognito</li> <li>AWS Resource Access Manager</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AWS Security Hub</li> <li>Amazon GuardDuty</li> <li>Amazon Inspector</li> <li>Amazon CloudWatch</li> <li>AWS Config</li> <li>AWS CloudTrail</li> <li>VPC Flow Logs</li> <li>AWS IoT Device Defender</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AWS Firewall Manager</li> <li>AWS Network Firewall</li> <li>AWS Shield</li> <li>AWS WAF – Web application firewall</li> <li>Amazon Virtual Private Cloud</li> <li>AWS PrivateLink</li> <li>AWS Systems Manager</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amazon Macie</li> <li>AWS Key Management Service (KMS)</li> <li>AWS CloudHSM</li> <li>AWS Certificate Manager</li> <li>AWS Secrets Manager</li> <li>AWS VPN</li> <li>Server-Side Encryption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amazon Detective</li> <li>Amazon EventBridge</li> <li>AWS Backup</li> <li>AWS Security Hub</li> <li>CloudEndure Disaster Recovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AWS Artifact</li> <li>AWS Audit Manager</li> </ul>



## Genomics England Develops Genomic and Health Information Platform on AWS to Turn Science into Healthcare

### Challenge

Through the 100,000 Genomes Project alone, GEL amassed 50 petabytes of data. Seeking to make the data accessible to the research community, GEL is in the process of migrating its data to AWS to enable democratized access.

### Solution

GEL is working with AWS to use compression technologies and other advanced tools to optimize cloud storage and analysis of genomic data based on the field's specific needs

### Benefits

- To make genomic healthcare a reality, GEL is transitioning from project to platform, using Amazon Web Services (AWS) tools to give researchers reliable, comprehensive, and privacy-compliant access to these massive datasets. Through secure collaboration and analysis, this initiative will inform diagnoses, drive drug development, and unlock the future of precision medicine.

## AstraZeneca is Raising the Bar with Running its Genome Sequencing Pipeline on AWS

### Challenge

AstraZeneca's Centre for Genomic Research (CGR) has a bold target to analyze 2m genomes by 2026. However

- On-premise compute resources, which limit the performance capacity
- Dependency upon 3rd party informatics providers
- Orchestration of bioinformatics pipeline was time-intensive therefore costly and hard to scale

### Solution

With support from AWS Professional Services, AstraZeneca built a highly scalable and high performance sequence data processing pipeline on AWS. The solution leveraged FPGA instances for compute and extensive use of Step Functions, Lambda, SQS and AWS Batch. The output is stored in scalable and highly secure AWS managed databases and S3 storage.

### Benefits

- The bespoke pipeline was able to increase processing time by 2400%
- The results has been used to provided scientists advanced access to the clinical effects of natural mutations in humans that mimic drug inhibition/suppression

# Impact of the pandemic

The SARS-Cov-2 pandemic caused widespread impact for healthcare systems around the world, and brought genomic sequencing and testing into the public eye.

This has also brought forth challenges in global data sharing:

- Privacy concerns - data misuse may lead to infringement of privacy for individuals and their relatives
  - Need for novel approaches to data anonymization for research use
- Compatibility and aggregation
  - accessing and reconciling duplications/differences from distributed data sources hindered meta-analyses
- Real / Near real time data ingestion

# Use cases: genomic information in the cloud

## **NCI Genomic Data Commons**

<https://aws.amazon.com/solutions/case-studies/university-of-chicago-case-study/>

## **University of Chicago Biomedical Research Hub (Gen3)**

<https://academic.oup.com/jamia/advance-article/doi/10.1093/jamia/ocab247/6432980>

## **Hong Kong Genome Project (LifeBit)**

<https://lifebit.ai/blog/lifebit-awarded-a-four-year-contract-for-hong-kongs-genome-project/>

## **CanCOGeN, Genome Canada, Illumina**

<https://www.genomecanada.ca/en/cancogen>

## **GISAID**

<https://www.gisaid.org/>

## **Undiagnosed Disease Network, Harvard School of Medicine (Service Workbench)**

<https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/publicsector/solving-medical-mysteries-aws-cloud-medical-data-sharing-innovation-undiagnosed-diseases-network/>

## **UK Biobank (DNANexus)**

<https://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/enable-your-research/research-analysis-platform>

# Genomics Research and Responsible Data Sharing at NIH

Heidi Sofia, National Human Genome Research Institute

# NIH PRIVACY & DATA SHARING RESEARCH



## **NHGRI - Mission of responsible Genomics Data Sharing**

- ELSI – “Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications” program
- Technical privacy portfolio - research grants and small business
  - Homomorphic encryption, Secure Multiparty Computation, Differential Privacy, Secure Enclaves, Machine learning with privacy, etc.

## **NIH - Public Trust is the currency of the realm**

- Data sharing through cloud commons (one copy instead of many copies)
  - AnVil, BioData Catalyst, CRDC, Kids First etc.
- Federated data sharing
- RAS Researcher Auth System
- DUOS - pilot of data access automation
- Privacy Preserving Record Linkage (PPRL)

## **ODSS - Catalyze modern computing at NIH**

- Office of Data Science Strategy – Susan Gregurick
- <https://datascience.nih.gov/>

# GENOMICS PRIVACY PORTFOLIO AT NIH



## 27 NIH Institutes and Centers

**NHGRI** National Human Genome Research Institute, **NCI** National Cancer Institute, **NHLBI** National Heart, Lung, & Blood Institute

**NICHD** National Institute of Child Health & Development

- Genomics & health data

**NEI** National Eye Institute

- Retinal scans

**NIDCR** National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research

- Facial and dental images

**NIBIB** National Institute of Biomedical Imaging & Bioengineering

- Imaging & signal data

**NIEHS** National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

- Geolocation

**NCATS** National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

- N3C COVID patient data

NCI	NEI	NHLBI
NHGRI	NIA	NIAAA
NIAID	NIAMS	NIBIB
NICHD	NIDCD	NIDCR
NIDDK	NIDA	NIEHS
NIGMS	NIMH	NIMHD
NINDS	NINR	NLM
CC	CIT	CSR
FIC	NCATS	NCCIH
OD		



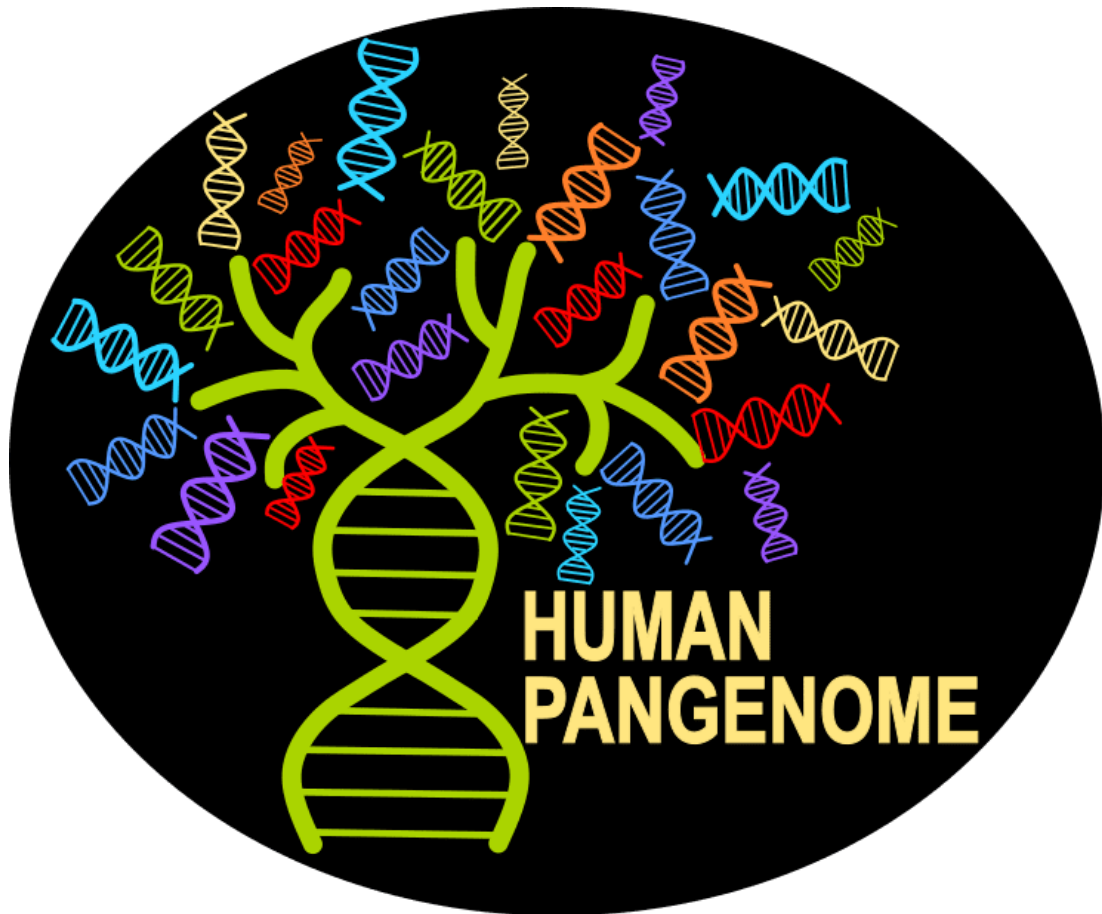
# HUMAN PANGENOME FAQs



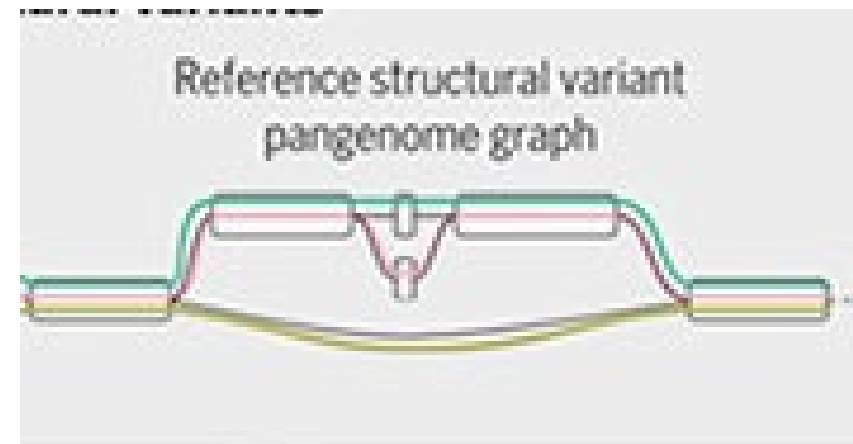
## International collaboration at foundation of genomics

- 1<sup>st</sup> Human genome \$3B
- Now millions at \$1000 each
- Simple codes build complexity
  - Genome: 4-letter code (A,C,T,G)
  - Computers: (0,1)
- Need huge numbers to decipher signals and interpret genome data

# NHGRI HUMAN PANGENOME REFERENCE



- Pangenome graph replaces linear “single genome” reference
- Represents global human diversity
- Enables population scale analysis
- Graph compresses large number of genomes into compact form
- “Subway map” of human journey



<https://humanpangenome.org/>

# FACIAL RECOGNITION OF GENETIC SYNDROMES

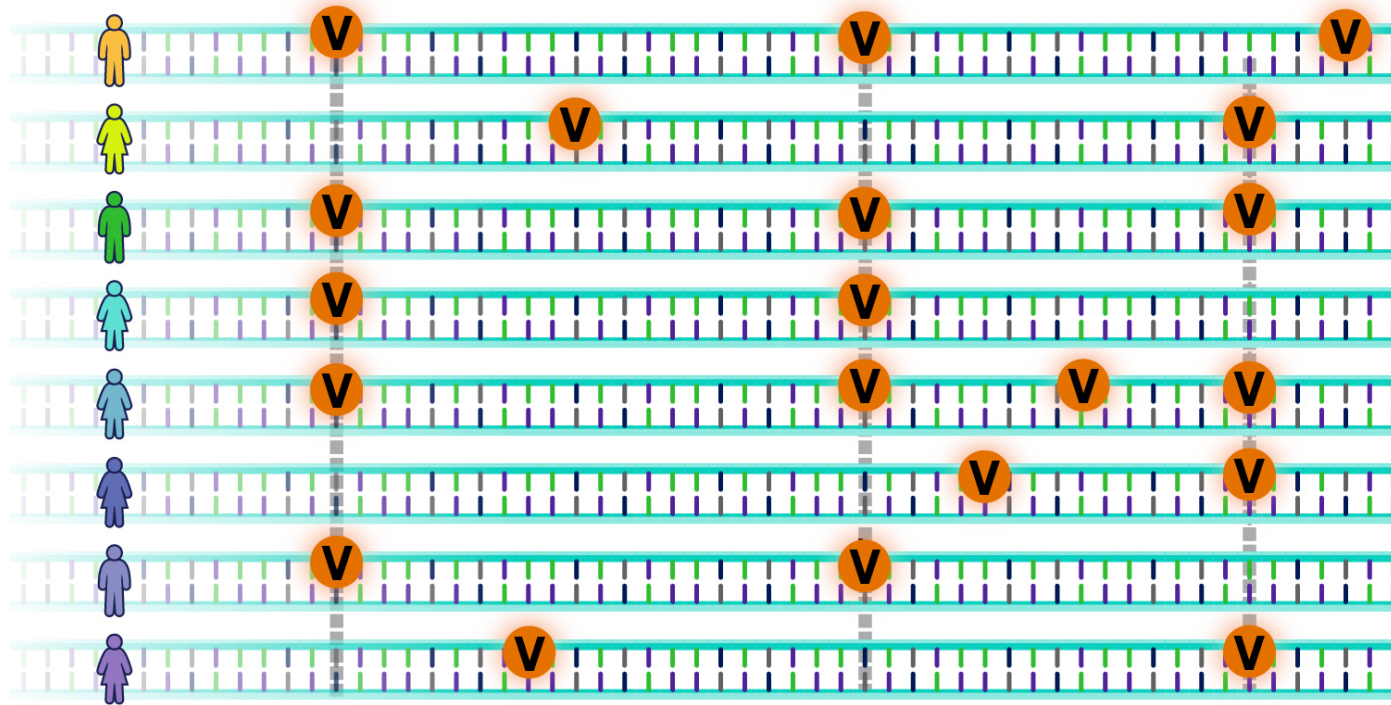


- Many (1000's) genetic syndromes have distinct facial dysmorphisms.
- Sometimes gene defect detected in facial scan of “normal” relative

Hong et al. Genetic syndromes screening by facial recognition technology, *Orphanet J. of Rare Diseases* (2021)

Face2Gene: “...facial recognition software to aid clinical diagnoses of thousands of genetic conditions, such as Sotos syndrome (cerebral gigantism), Kabuki syndrome, intellectual disability, Down syndrome, etc.”

# POLYGENIC RISK SCORES



Ali Torkamani et al. “The personal and clinical utility of polygenic risk scores” *Nat. Rev. Genet.* (2018)

NHGRI Consortia



**GREGoR** (previously Mendelian Centers) to find single gene cause of disease (cystic fibrosis, progeria, etc)

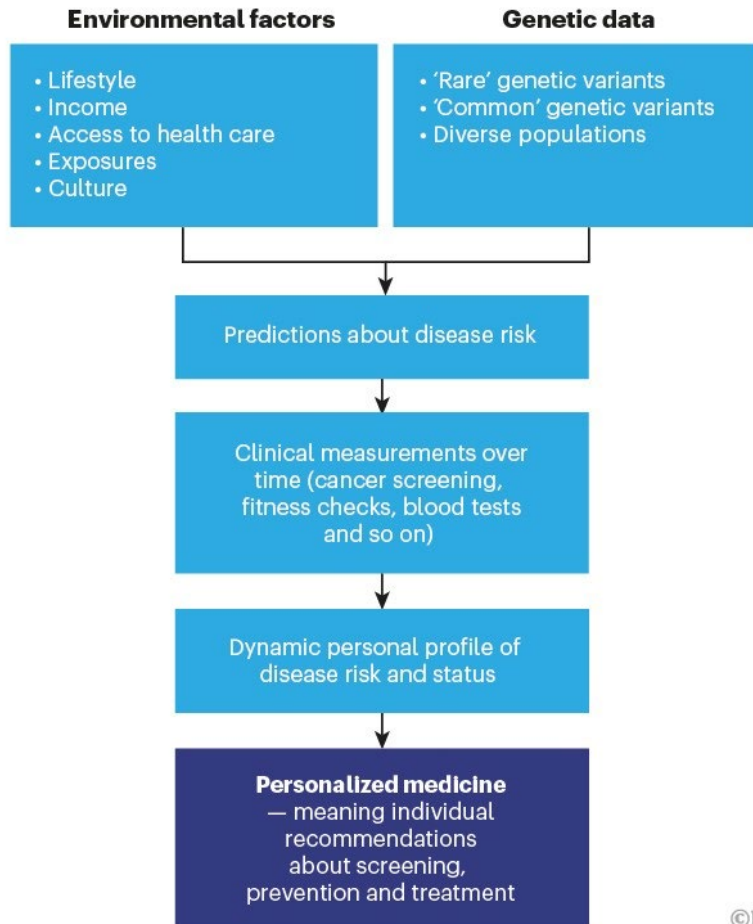
**PRIMED** to study polygenic (“complex”) diseases using advances in Polygenic Risk Scores (diabetes, heart disease, autism, etc.)

# PRECISION HEALTH POWERED BY GENOMICS



## PATH TO PERSONALIZATION

To tailor health care to individuals, information from various sources must be brought together. These data, both genetic and environmental, should be drawn from diverse populations.



Mark McCarthy & Ewan Birney, “Personalized profiles for disease risk must capture all facets of health” *Nature* 597, 175-177 (2021)

- Polygenic & Pangenome with diverse genomes to represent the human family
- Environmental, lifestyle, income, access to health care, exposures, culture
- “This will inevitably bring the realms of research and clinical care together, and will require us to address fundamental questions about data ownership, privacy, equality of access, fairness and social responsibility. Global efforts to create such standards are in place, for example the [Global Alliance for Genomics and Health](#).”

# GLOBAL DATA STANDARDS



## Global Alliance for Genomics & Health

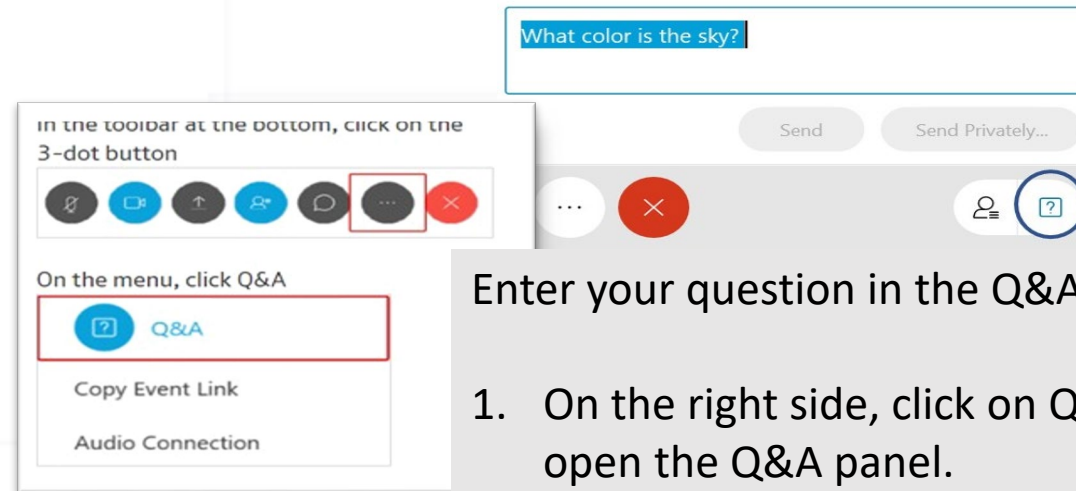
Collaborate. Innovate. Accelerate.

- GA4GH is international collaboration on standards for genomics and health data with human rights foundation
- Many social and technical “onramps” for inclusion and adoption
- Example: GA4GH Passports & Visas
- *Cell Genomics* special issue Nov 2021

GA4GH: <https://www.ga4gh.org/>

# Current and Future Genomic Data Use Challenges

## Moderated Questions and Answers



Enter your question in the Q&A panel.

1. On the right side, click on Q&A header to open the Q&A panel.
2. Type in the box **your name, organization and question.**
3. Click send.

# National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

## NCCoE Virtual Workshop on Cybersecurity of Genomic Data

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM (ET)



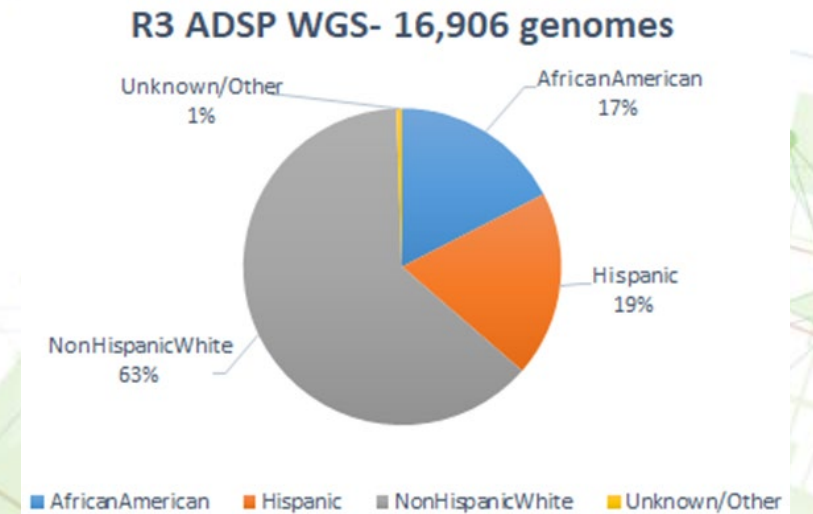
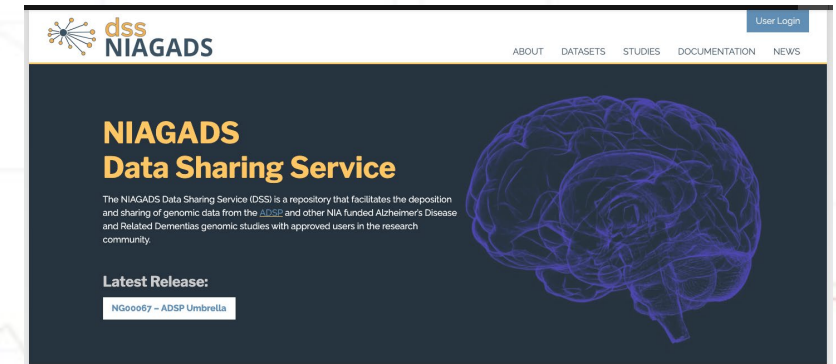
# Lessons Learned from NIAGADS and ADSP Data Sharing

Wan-Ping Lee & Li-San Wang

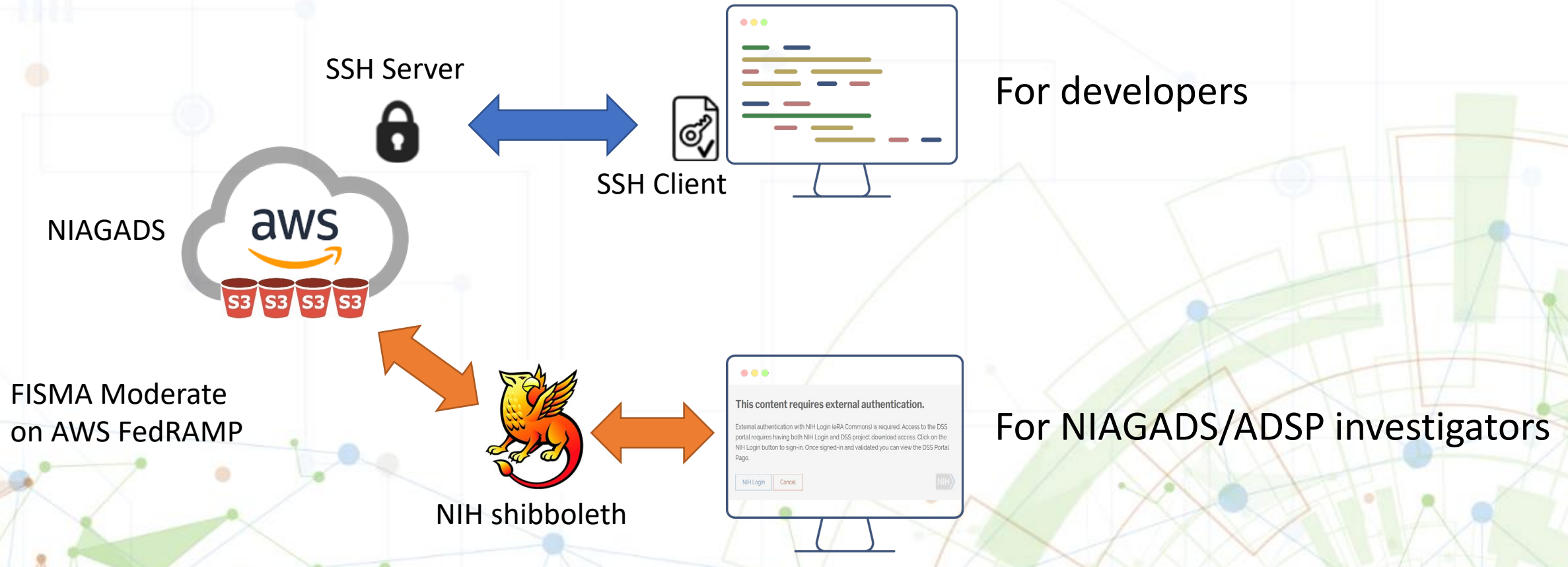
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

# Alzheimer's Disease Sequencing Project (ADSP) and NIAGADS

- 17k complete genomes released in 2021
- 36k (2022), 75k (2023) planned
- Data releases are managed by NIAGADS
  - National Institute on Aging Genetics of Alzheimer's Disease Data Storage Site at University of Pennsylvania

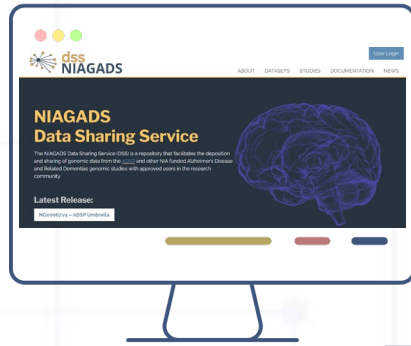


# NIAGADS DSS Security Setup

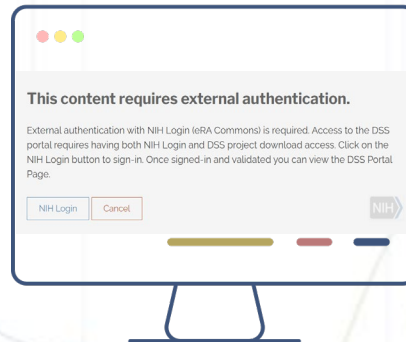


# Authentication of data requesters

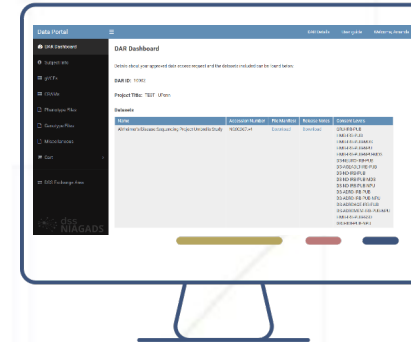
Step 1: <https://dss.niagads.org>



Step 2: NIH eRA Authentication



Step 3: Data manifest browsing on NIAGADS DSS



Step 4: Data accessing



# Learning curve for FISMA is steep

- Scope
- Amount of work
  - 10 months preparation
  - 1 year for 3 times external assessment
- Regulations to be met
- Cost benefit analysis

# Respecting Informed Consent

- NIH Genome Sharing Policy
- Institutional certification to capture informed consent conditions
- Data access committee
- How to split data based on informed consent

# De-identification of genomic data

- Genome sequencing is identifiable
- What about functional genomics data? Theoretically RNA-Seq is identifiable because it carries variants. What other types of sequencing data?
- What does it take to de-identify data?

# What will be helpful if we do it again

- Guidelines for FISMA requirements that are specific to human genome data
- Tutorials and FAQs on how to set up a FISMA compliant framework: timeline, amount of work, cost (budget and staff)



# Workshop Close Out

Ron Pulivarti, NIST

# Thank you for joining!

## Contribute to the conversation

Email [genomic\\_cybersecurity\\_nccoe@nist.gov](mailto:genomic_cybersecurity_nccoe@nist.gov)