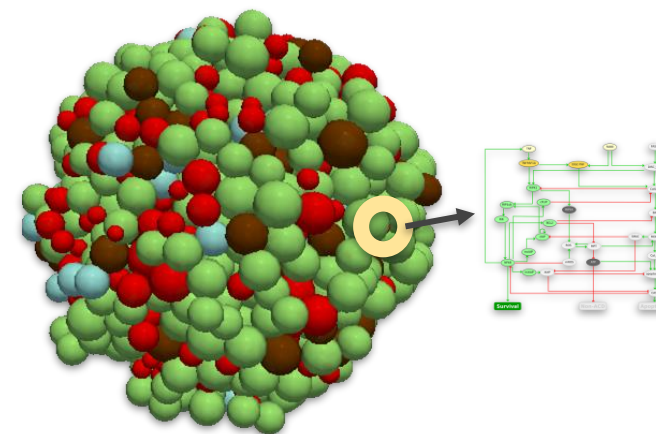
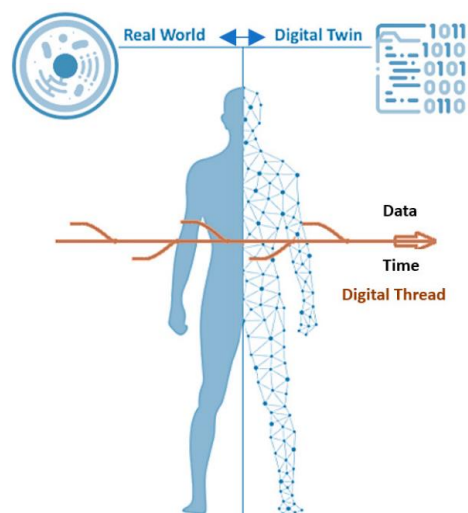
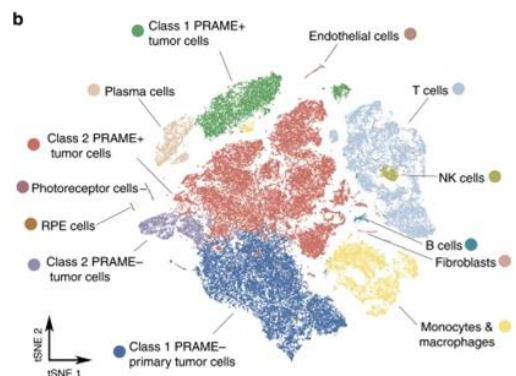


# Computational challenges in the future of Molecular Biology and Personalised Medicine

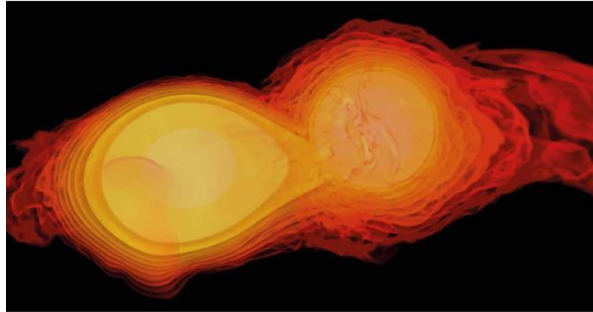
3B4HPC 2022



José Carbonell and Arnau Montagud  
Computational Biology group

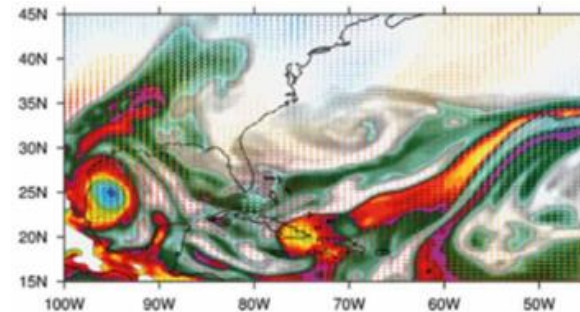
# Simulations in Life Sciences

## Astrophysics



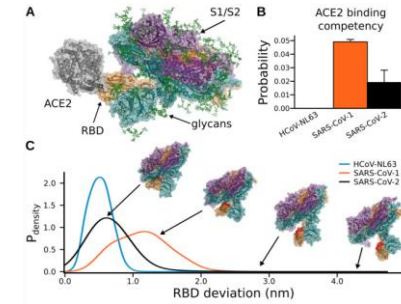
Luciano Rezzolla

## Weather prediction



UPSCALE Project

## COVID19



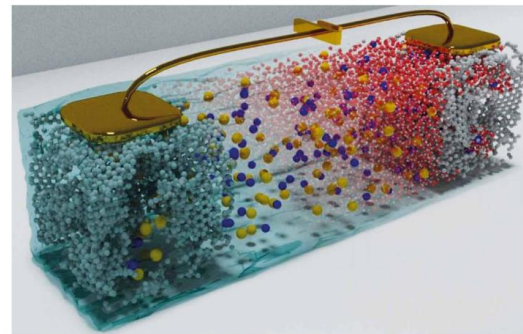
<https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.06.27.175430>

## Energy



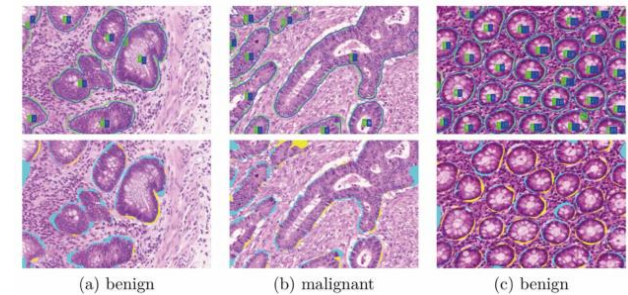
Frank Jenko, Marina Bécoulet

## Materials design



Mathieu Salanne, EPFL.

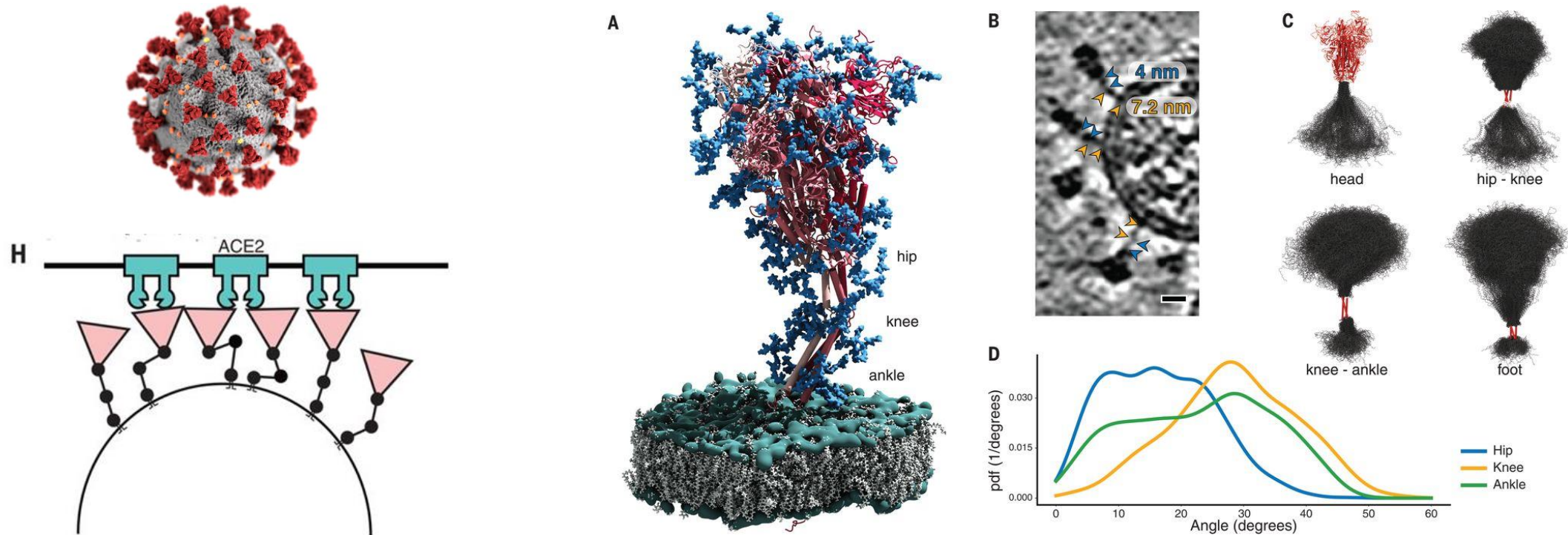
## AI in biomedicine



Luciano Rezzolla

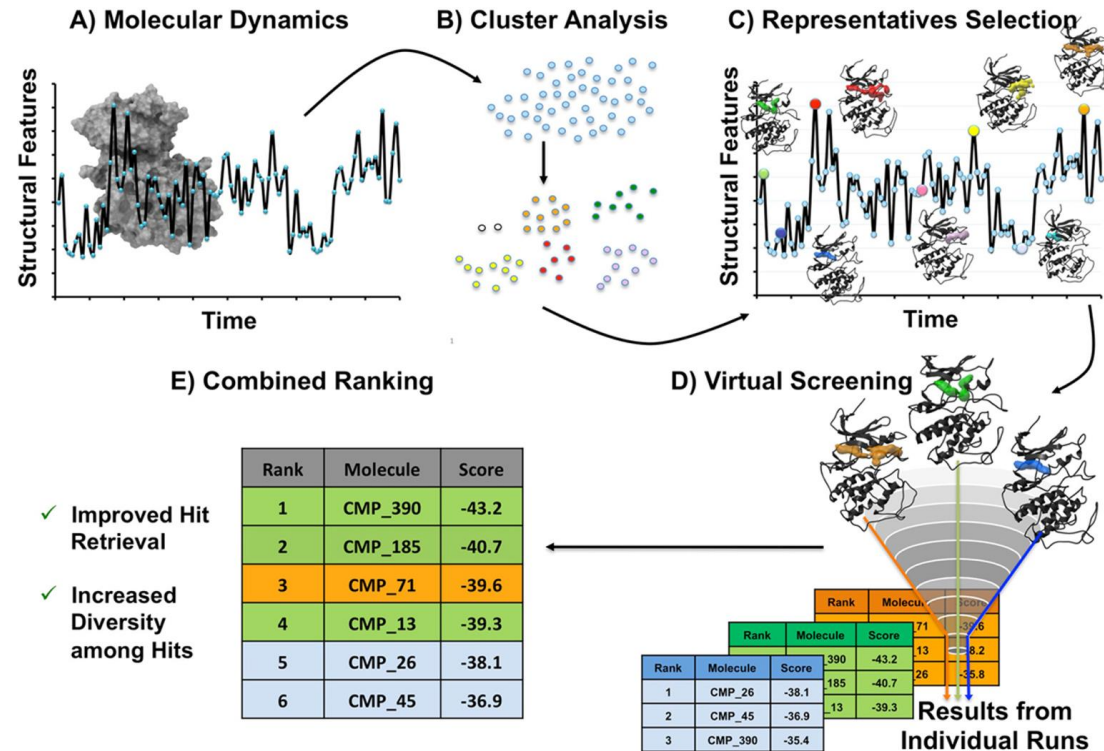
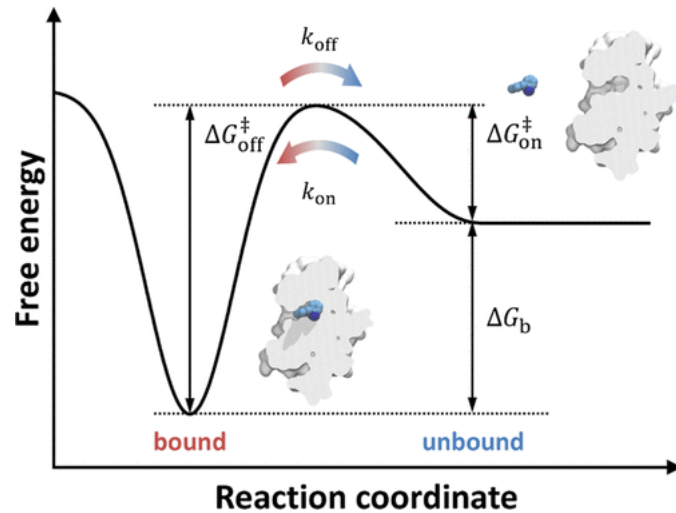
# Simulations in Life Sciences

## Predicting the structure of SARS-CoV-2 S protein



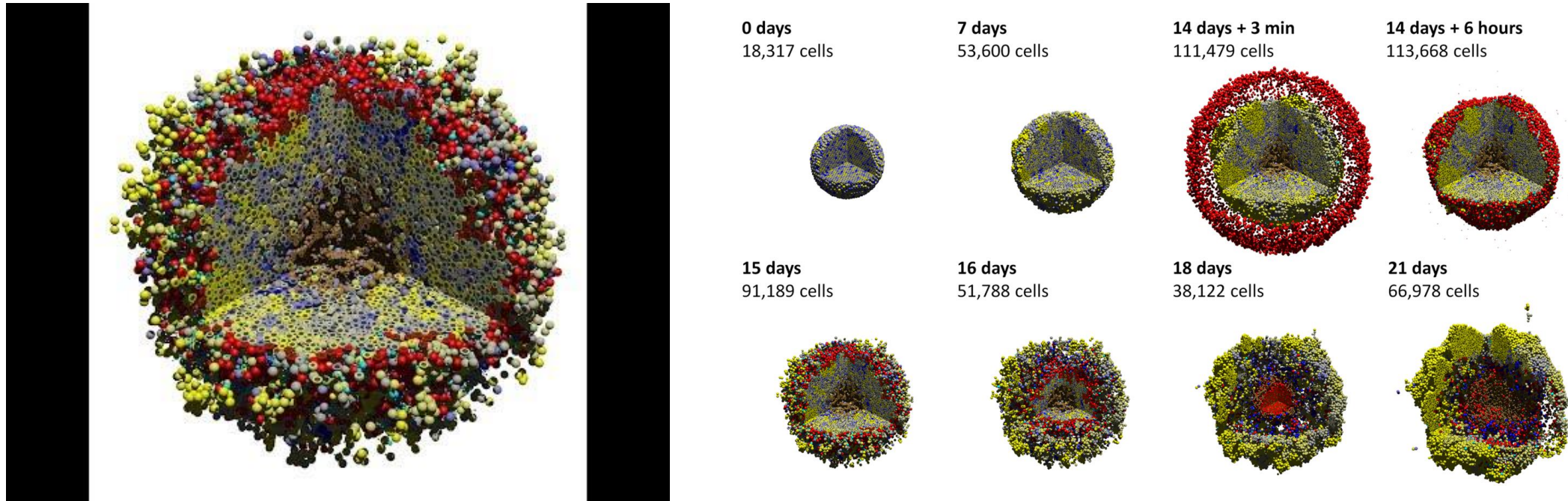
# Simulations in Life Sciences

## Molecular dynamics guiding drug discovery



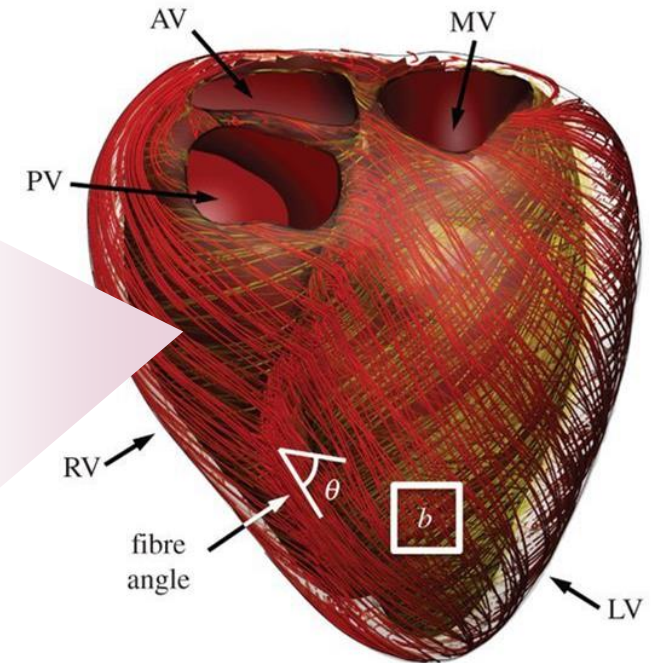
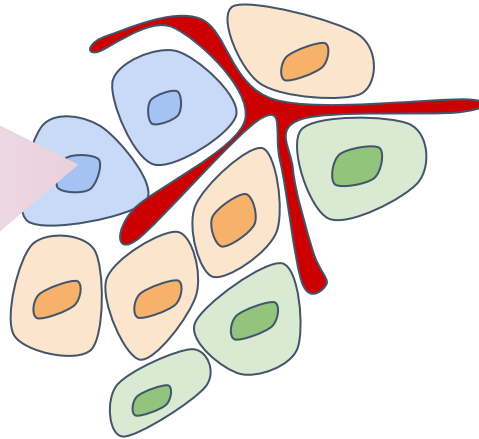
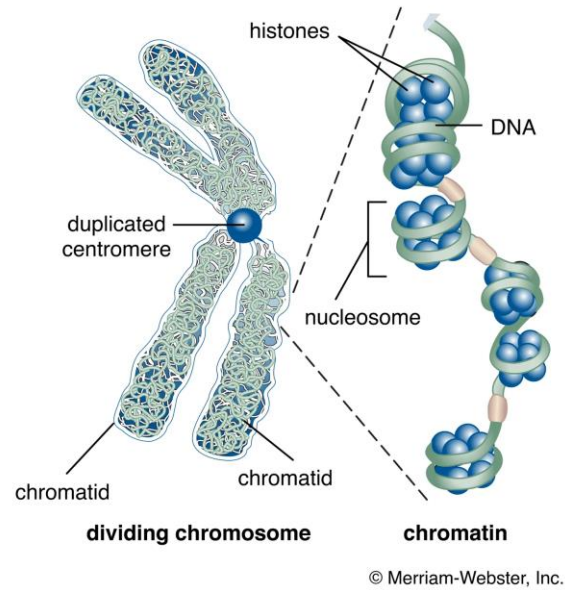
# Simulations in Life Sciences

## Cell-level simulations as a virtual microscope



# Simulations in Life Sciences

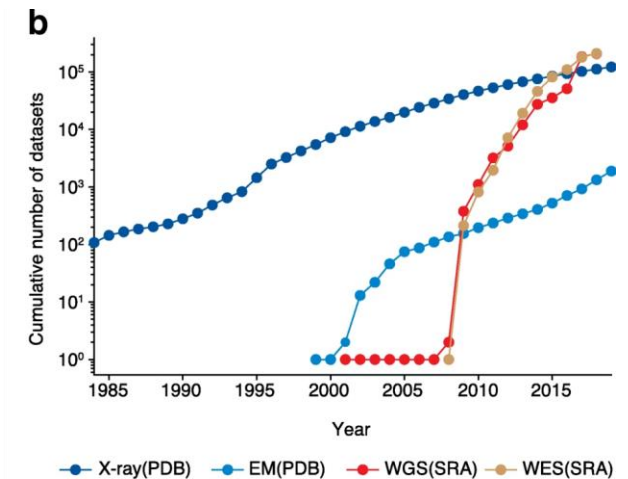
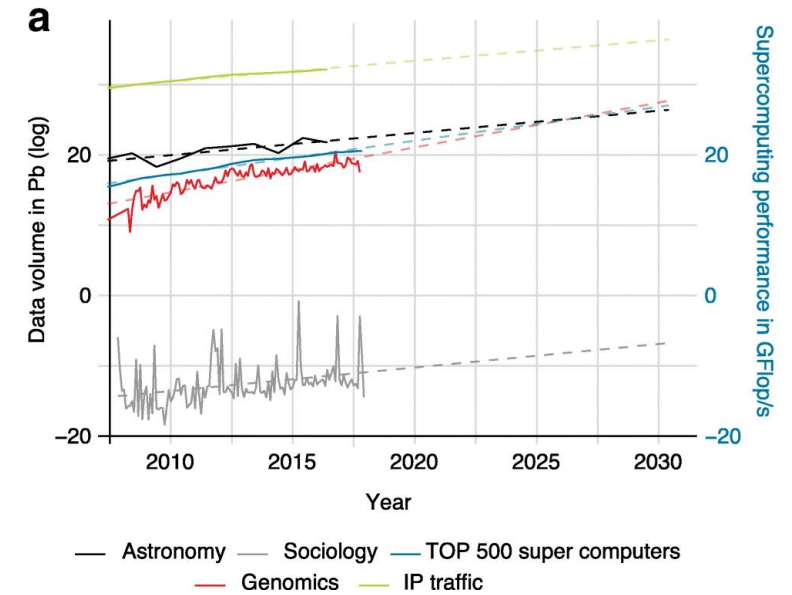
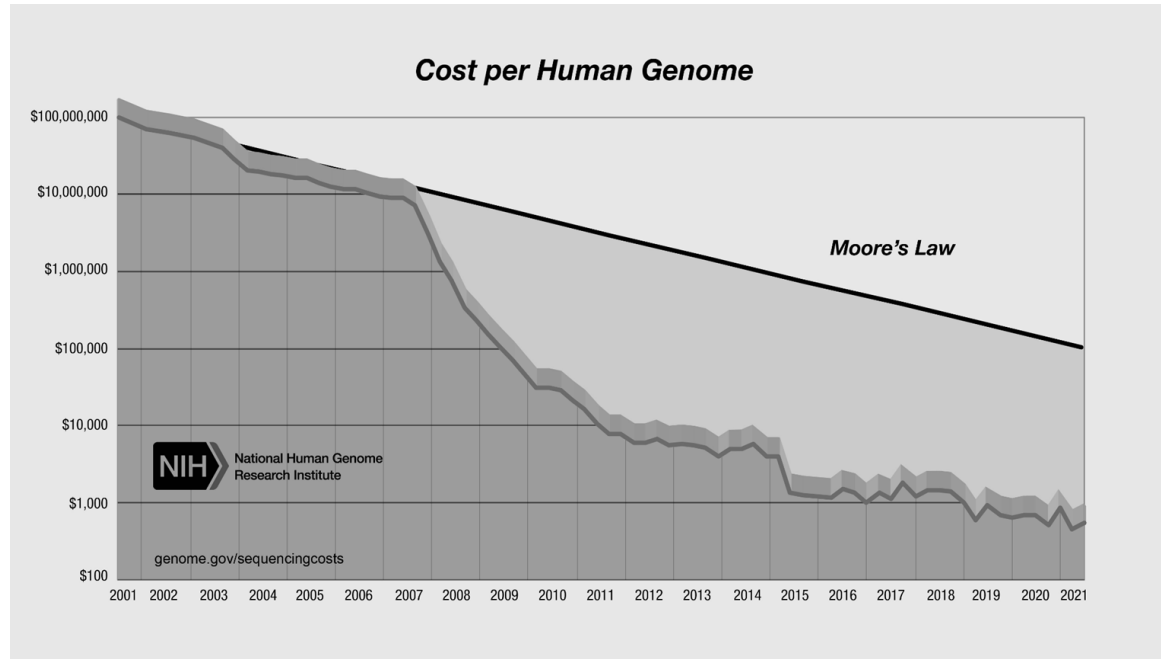
From cells to tissues and organs



From Chabiniok R et al. Interface Focus. 2016

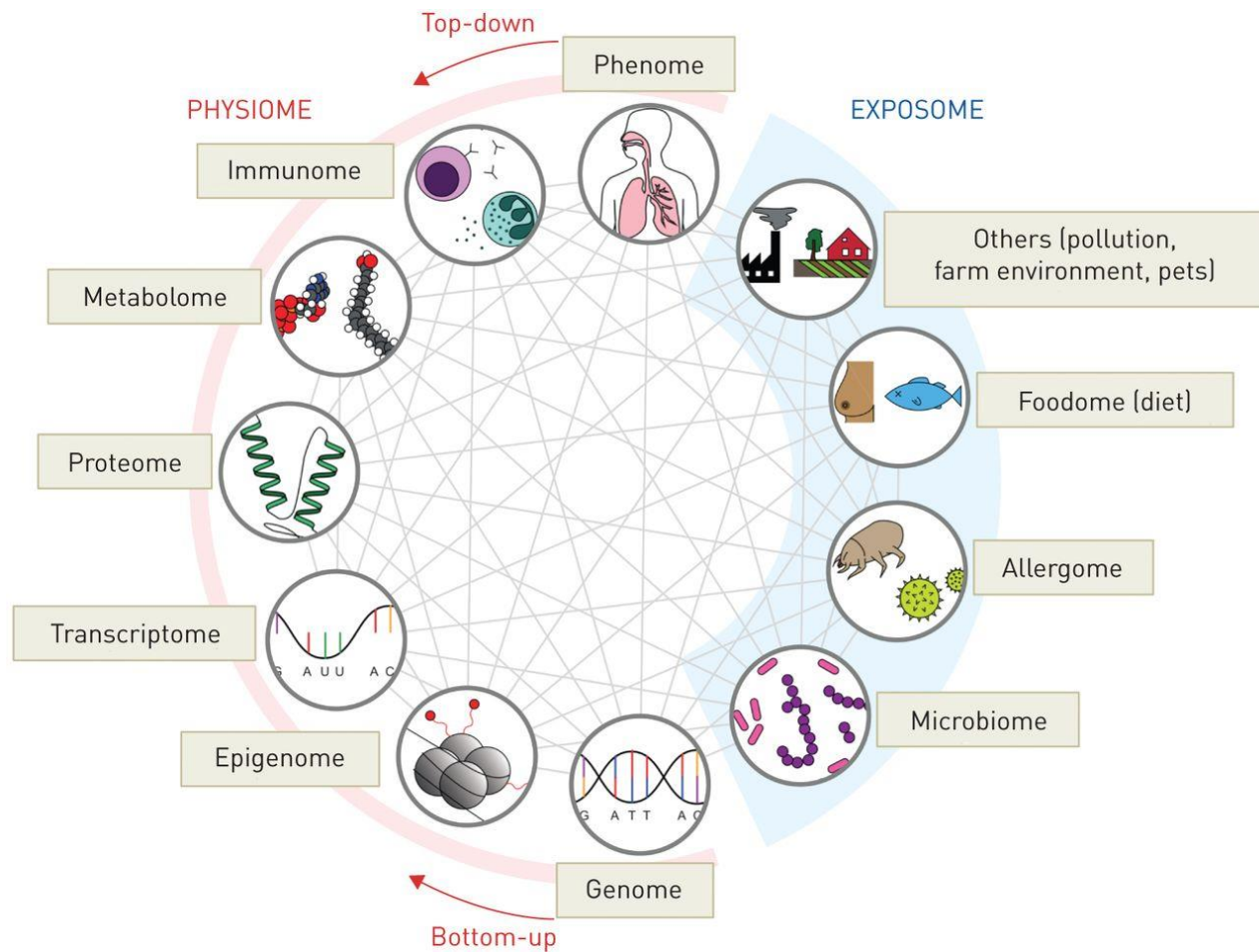
# Towards a big data landscape

## More and more data

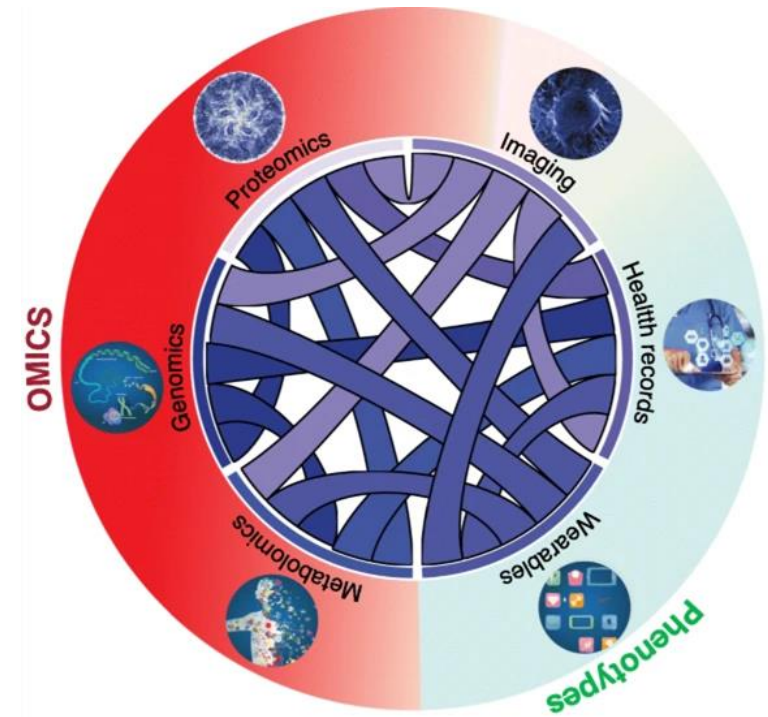


Navarro FCP et al. Genome Biol. 2019

# Integration of multiple omics



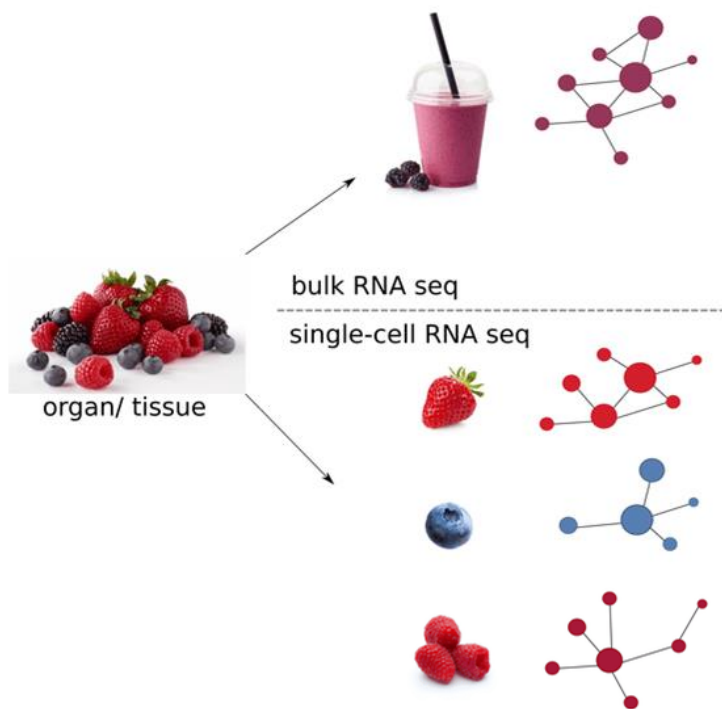
Howard H.F. Tang, et al. *European Respiratory Journal* 2020



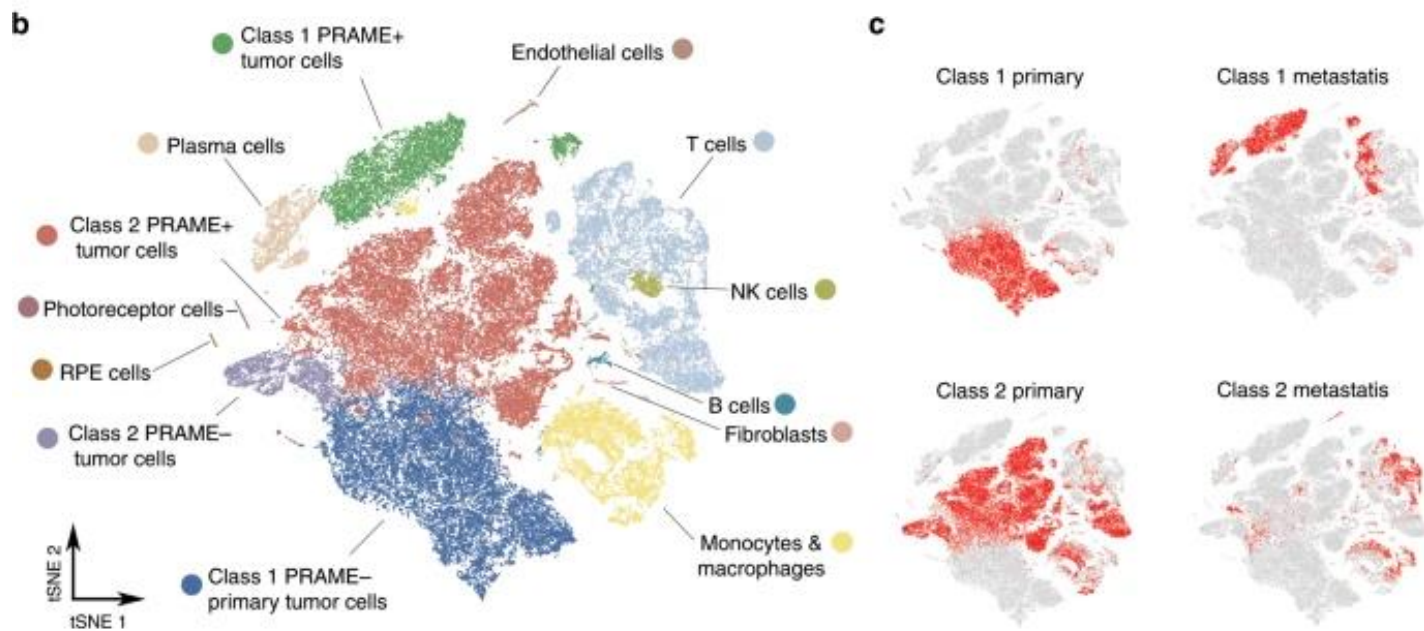
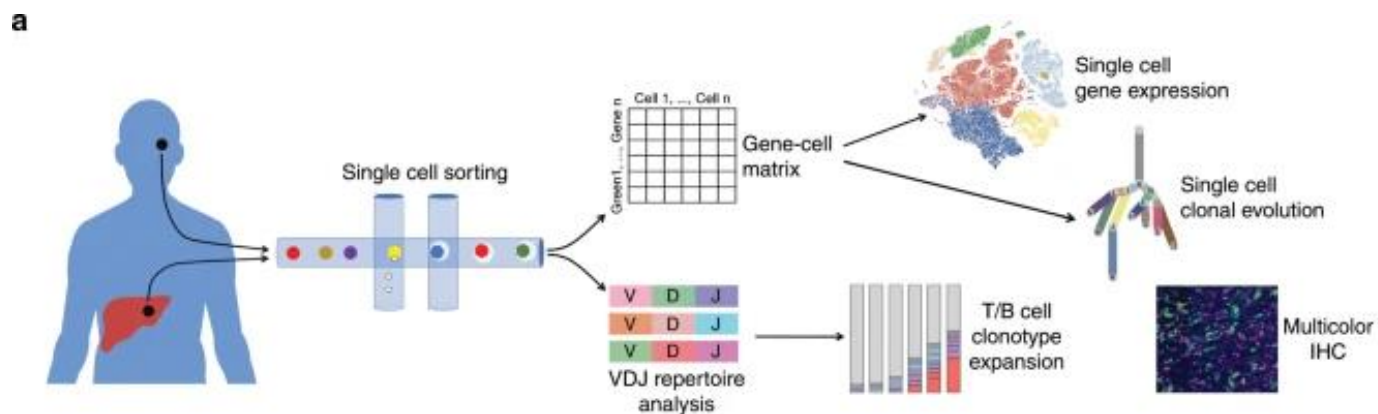
Navarro, F.C.P., Mohsen, H., Yan, C. et al. *Genomics and data science: an application within an umbrella. Genome Biol* 20, 109 (2019)



# From Bulk to Single-cell sequencing

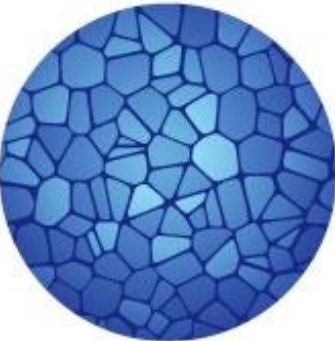


Adapted from Lisa Maria Steinheuer et al. Bioarxiv 2021

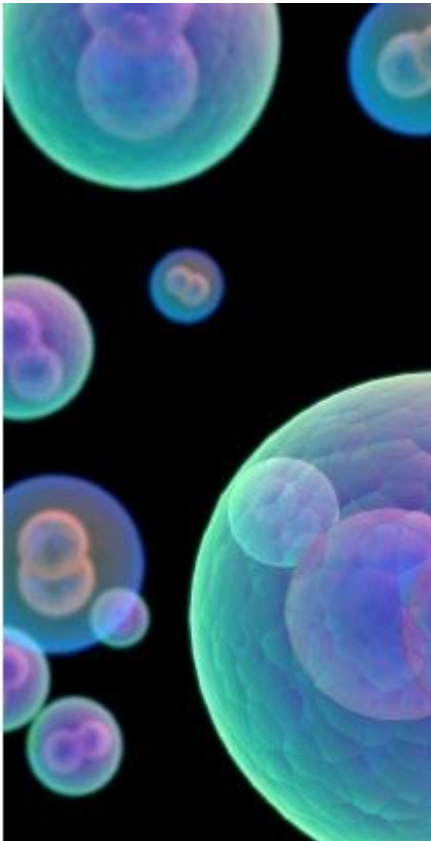
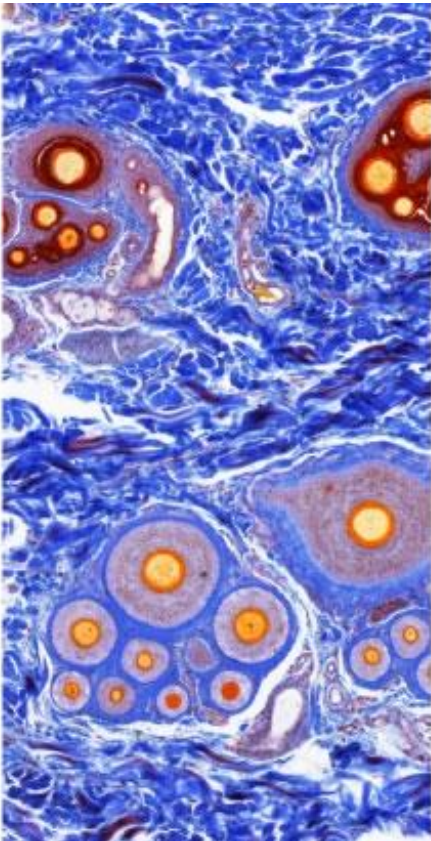
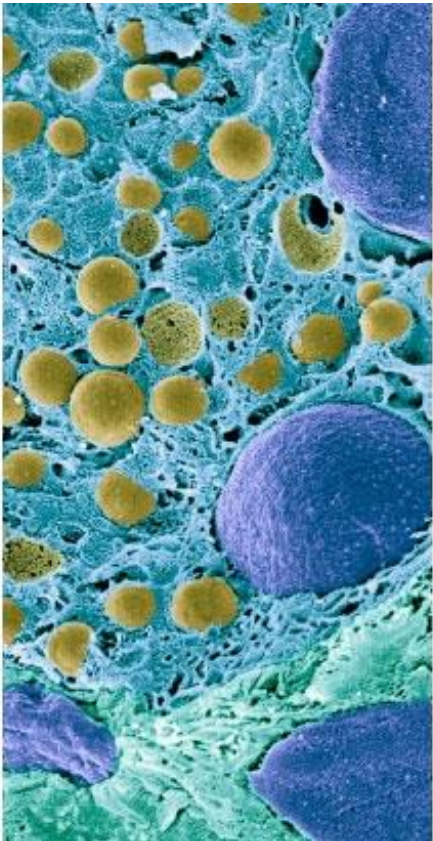
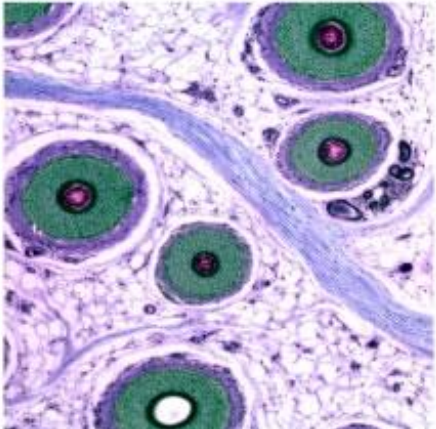


Durante MA et al. Single-cell analysis reveals new evolutionary complexity in uveal melanoma. Nat Commun. 2020

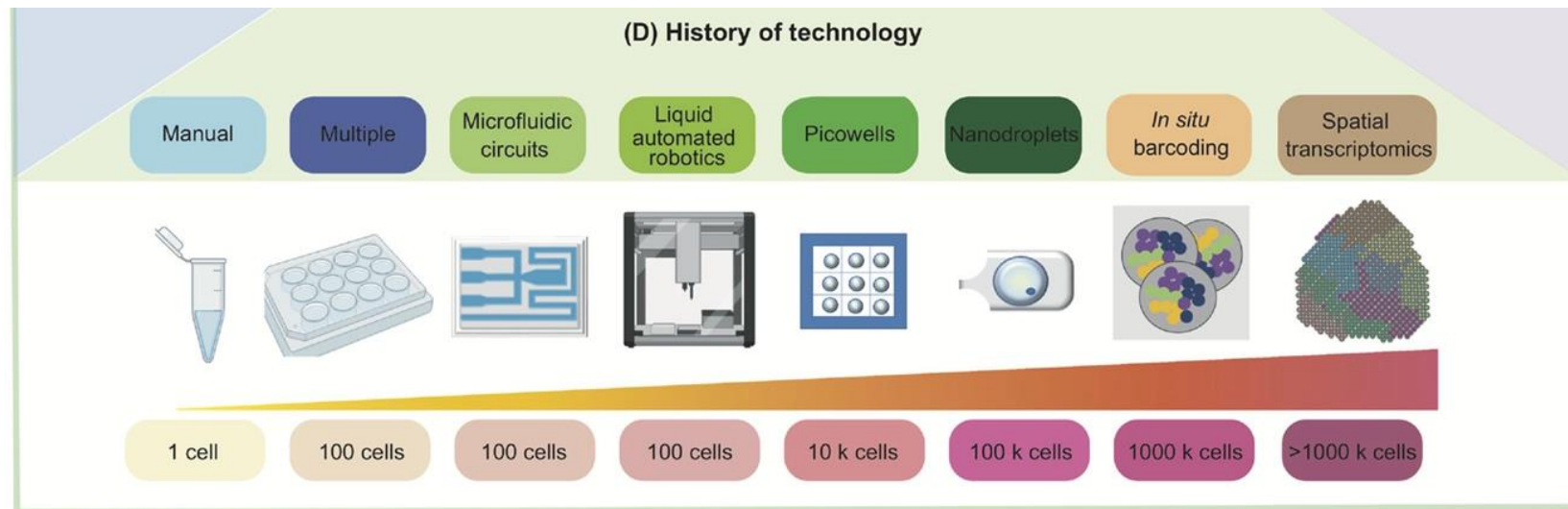
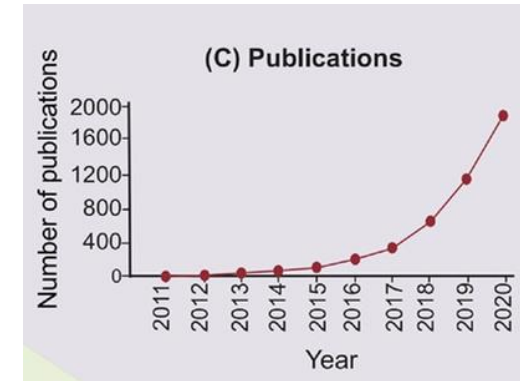
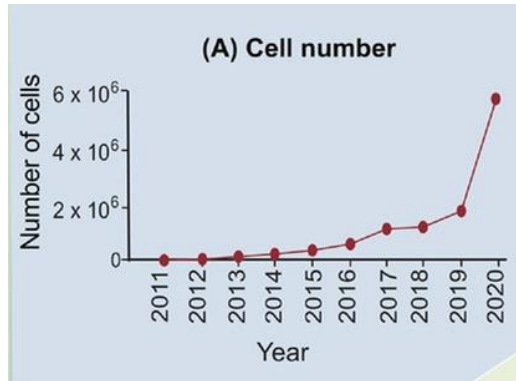
# From Bulk to Single-cell sequencing



## HUMAN CELL ATLAS

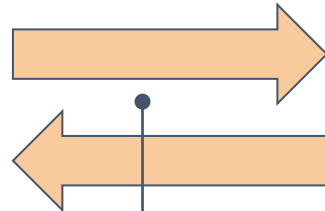
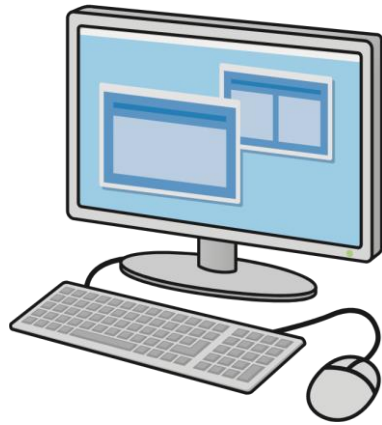


# From Bulk to Single-cell sequencing

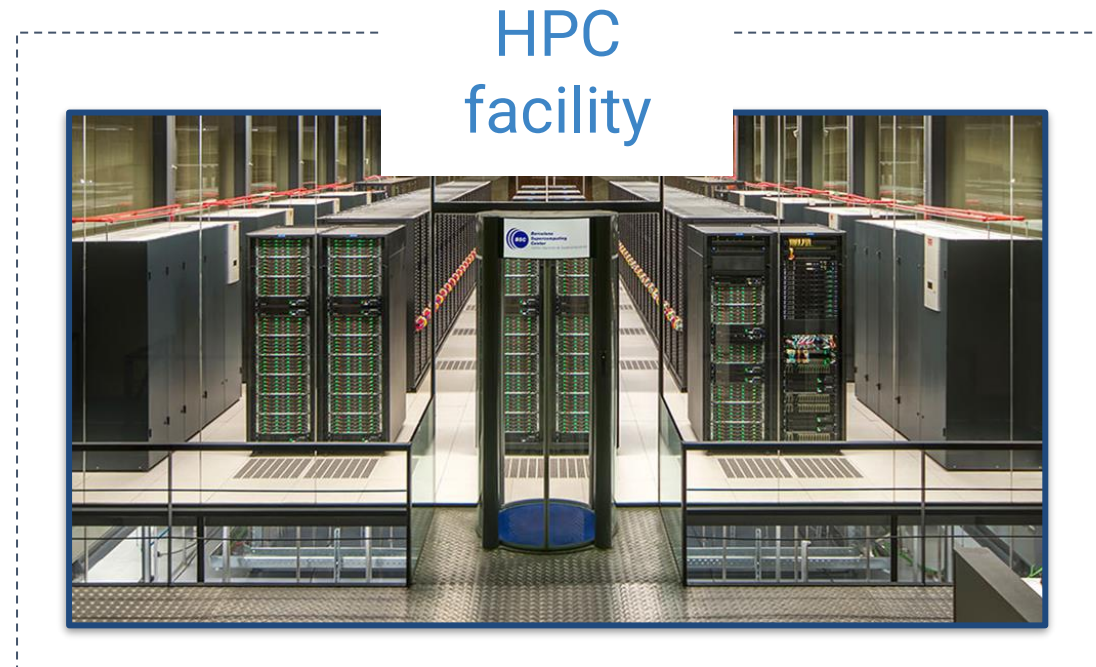


# From laptops to HPC centres

Designing appropriate user interfaces



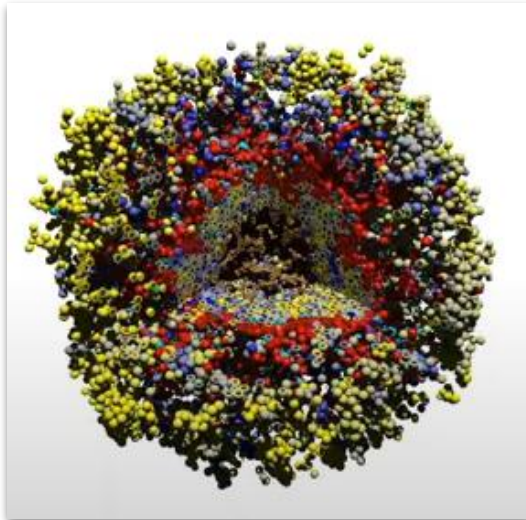
User interface  
(profile-based)



# From laptops to HPC centres

Towards an ecosystem of tools adapted to HPC environments

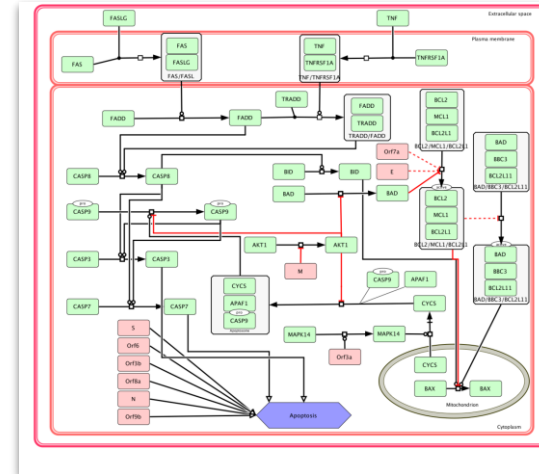
Cell level simulations



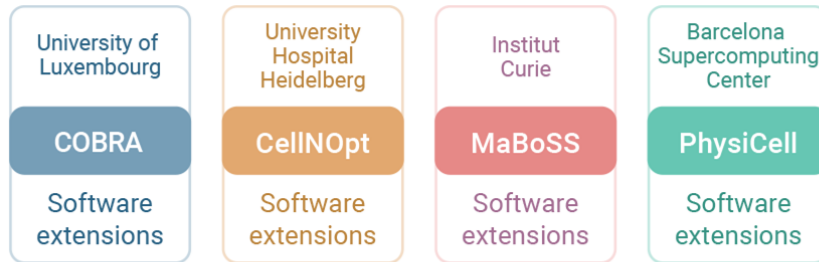
HPC



Molecular Pathways



# From laptops to HPC centres



HPC/Exascale Adaptation and Optimisation

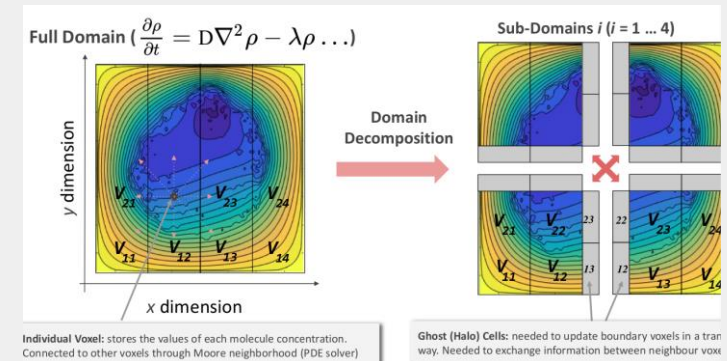
BSC HPC experts



HPC/Exascale Guidelines

POP CoE experts

## Roadmap to scalability

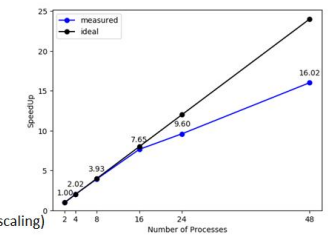
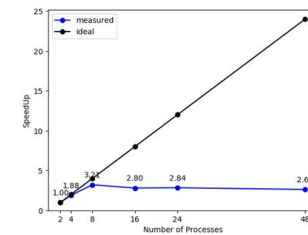


## SUMMARY: CHANGING THE LIBRARY IMPROVES SCALABILITY

	2	4	8	16	24	48
Global efficiency	96.66	91.10	77.63	59.83	22.64	10.56
Parallel efficiency	96.66	93.85	86.16	93.98	91.24	91.62
Load balance	97.36	94.70	88.66	95.45	92.19	94.39
Communication efficiency	99.28	99.10	97.18	98.45	98.97	97.06
Serialization efficiency	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer efficiency	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computation scalability	100.00	97.07	90.10	35.99	25.03	11.55
IPC scalability	100.00	97.18	90.33	86.43	83.28	78.81
Instruction scalability	100.00	99.87	99.89	99.66	99.50	99.86
Frequency scalability	100.00	100.01	99.85	41.79	30.21	14.68

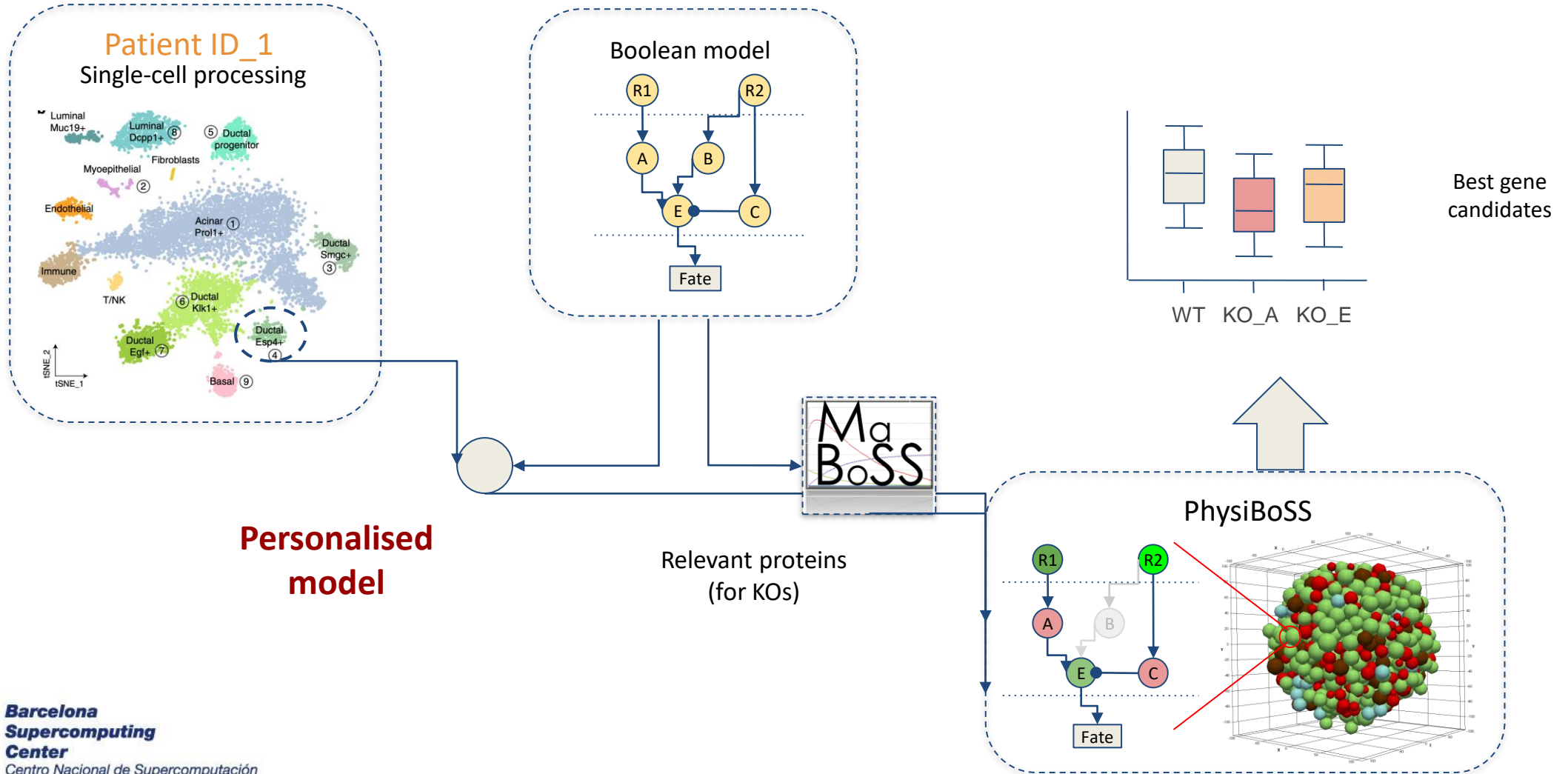
  

	2	4	8	16	24	48
Global efficiency	97.01	98.13	95.27	92.82	77.64	64.73
Parallel efficiency	97.01	96.05	90.91	88.04	76.35	62.71
Load balance	97.79	97.81	93.36	91.17	79.82	73.25
Communication efficiency	99.21	98.20	97.37	96.56	95.65	85.62
Serialization efficiency	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer efficiency	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computation scalability	100.00	102.17	104.80	105.44	101.69	103.22
IPC scalability	100.00	102.17	104.83	105.77	102.31	106.13
Instruction scalability	100.00	100.03	100.11	99.96	99.78	99.86
Frequency scalability	100.00	99.97	99.86	99.73	99.60	97.40



# From laptops to HPC centres

Solving real-life use cases



**Personalised model**

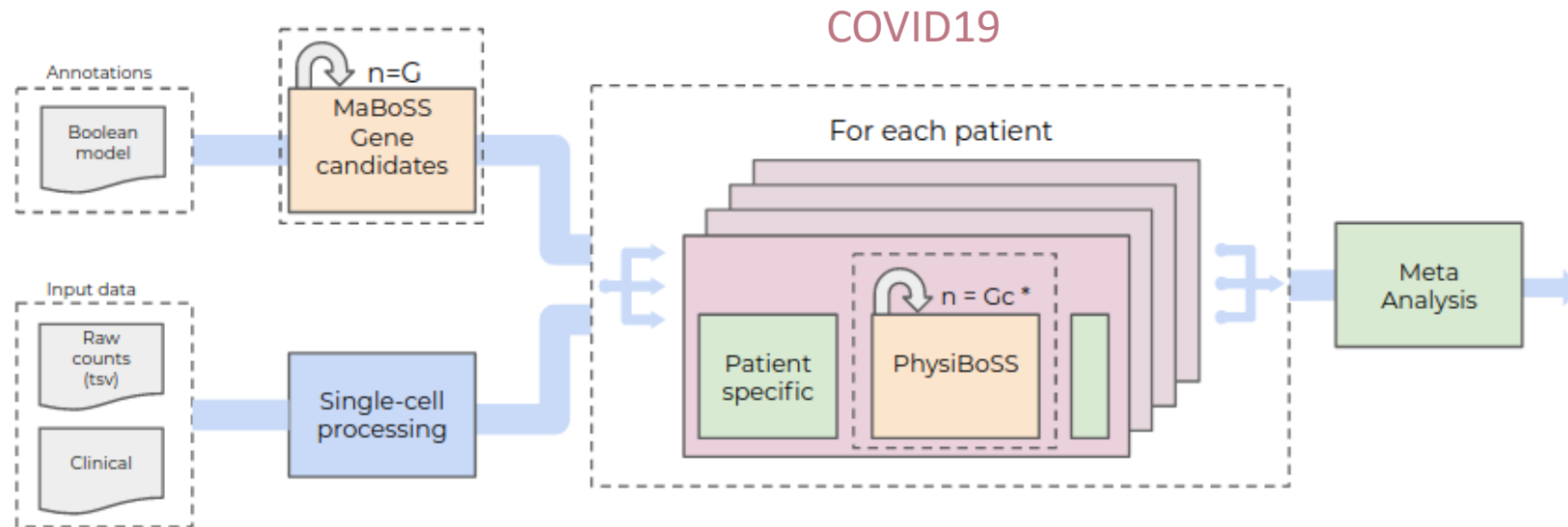
Relevant proteins  
(for KOs)

PhysiBoSS

Best gene candidates

# Building block and workflows

Leveraging HPC resources while improving reproducibility





# Artificial intelligence in Life Sciences

**nature**

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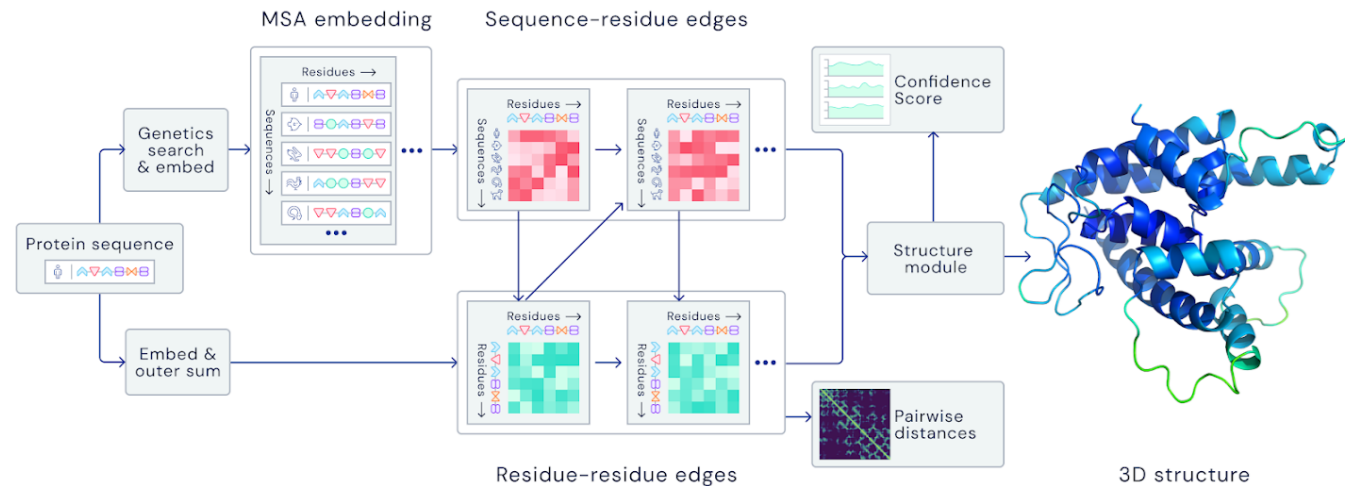
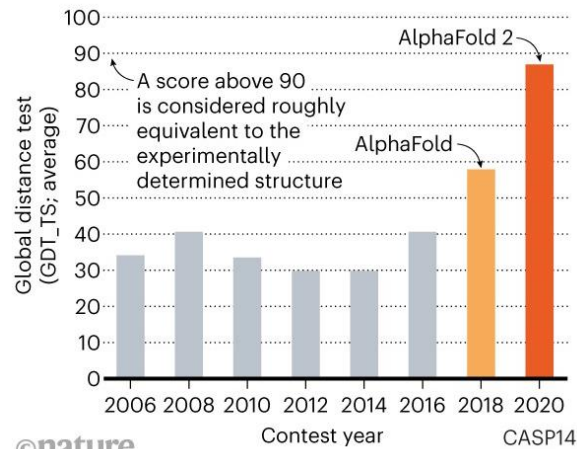
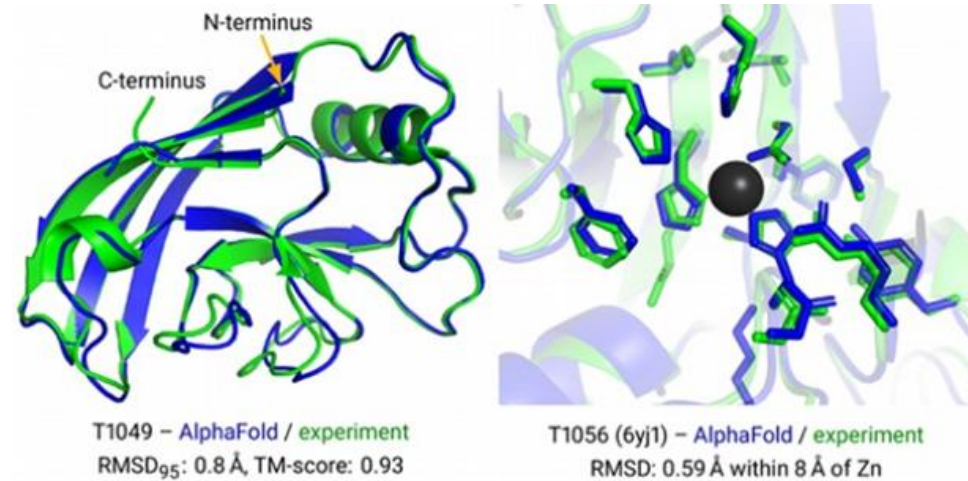
Article | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 15 July 2021](#)

## Highly accurate protein structure prediction with AlphaFold

[John Jumper](#) ✉, [Richard Evans](#), ... [Demis Hassabis](#) ✉ [+ Show authors](#)

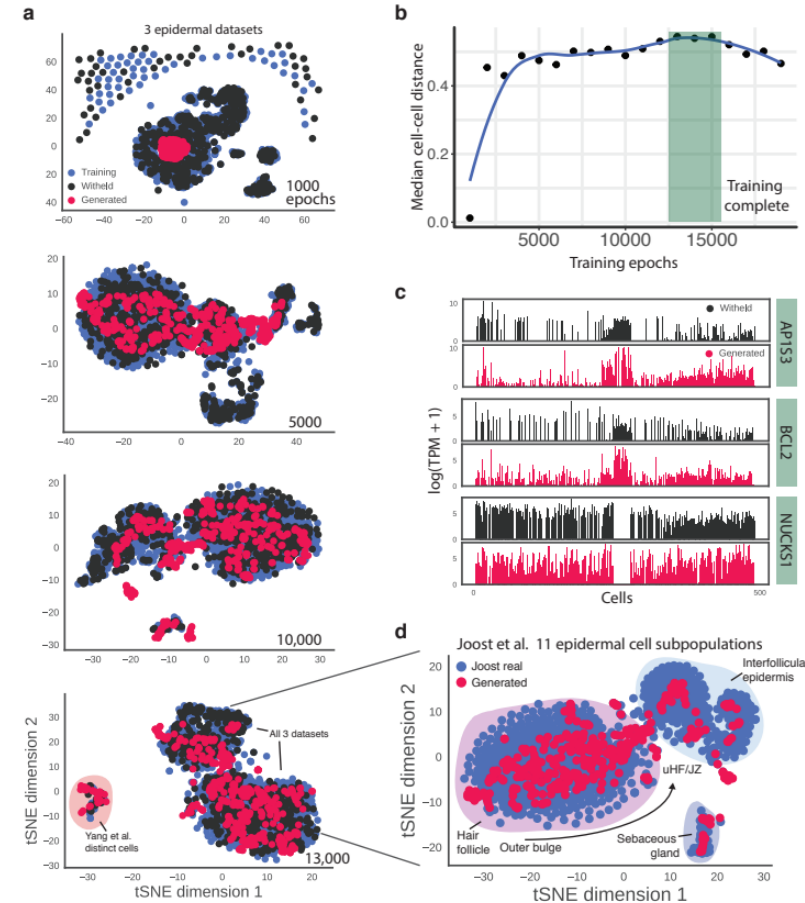
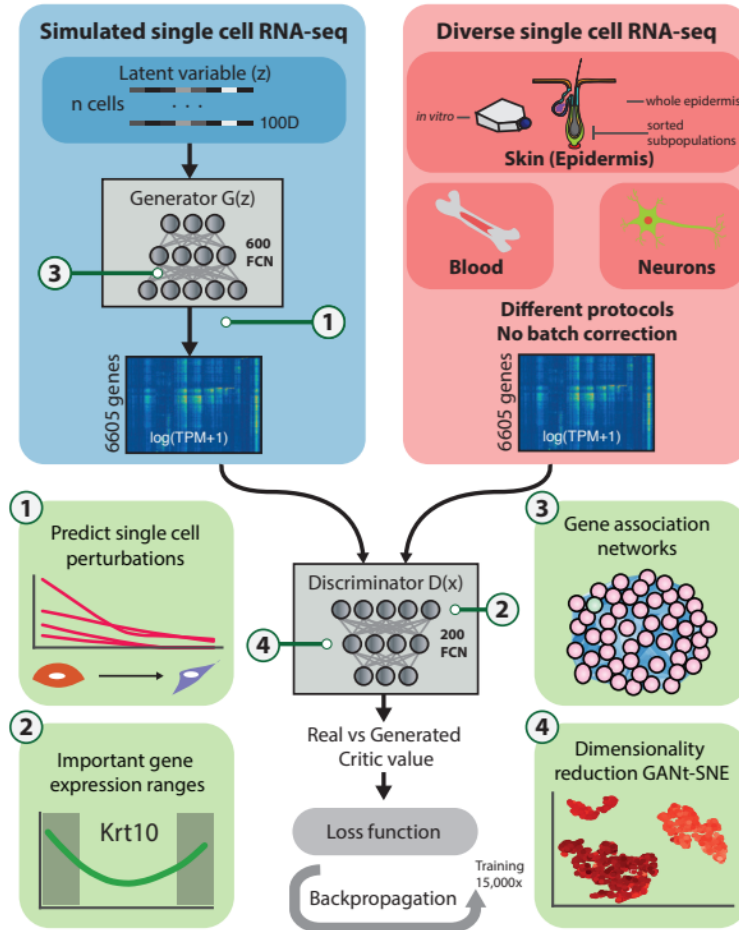
[Nature](#) 596, 583–589 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

703k Accesses | 2254 Citations | 3076 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)



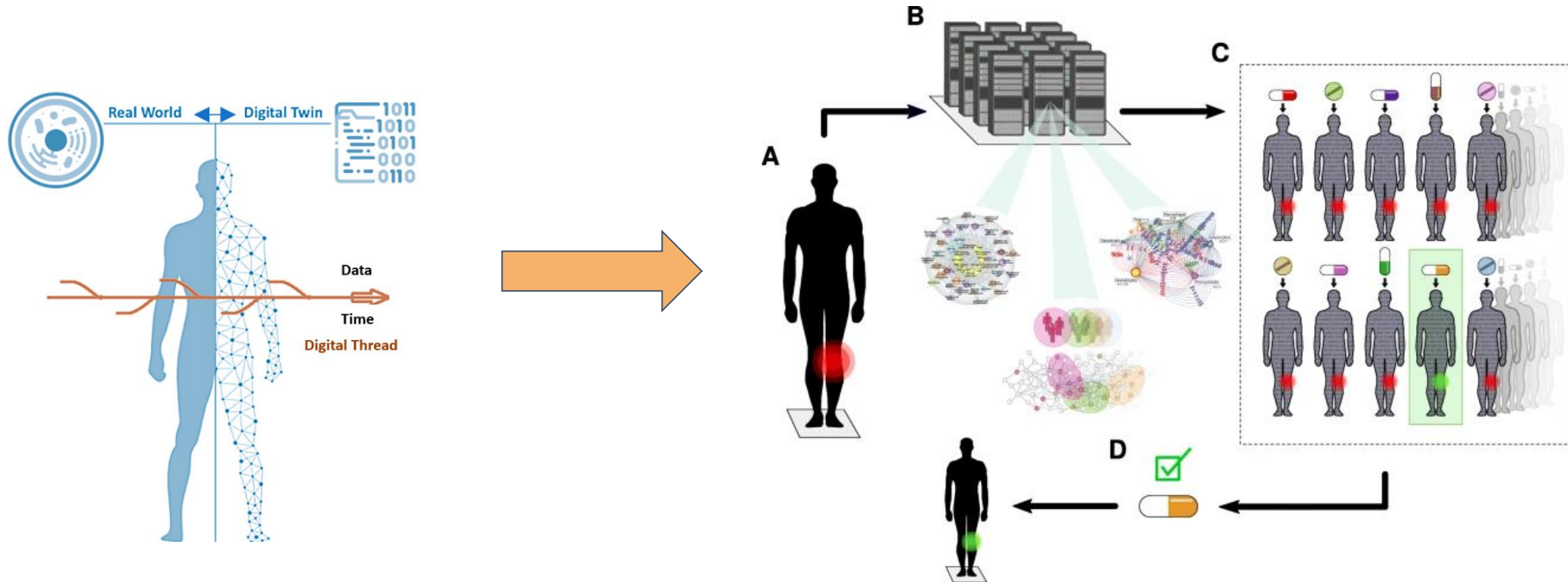
# Artificial intelligence in Life Sciences

## Using Deep Learning to simulate scRNA-seq



# Personalised Medicine and Digital Twins

Towards patient-specific treatments





**Barcelona  
Supercomputing  
Center**

*Centro Nacional de Supercomputación*

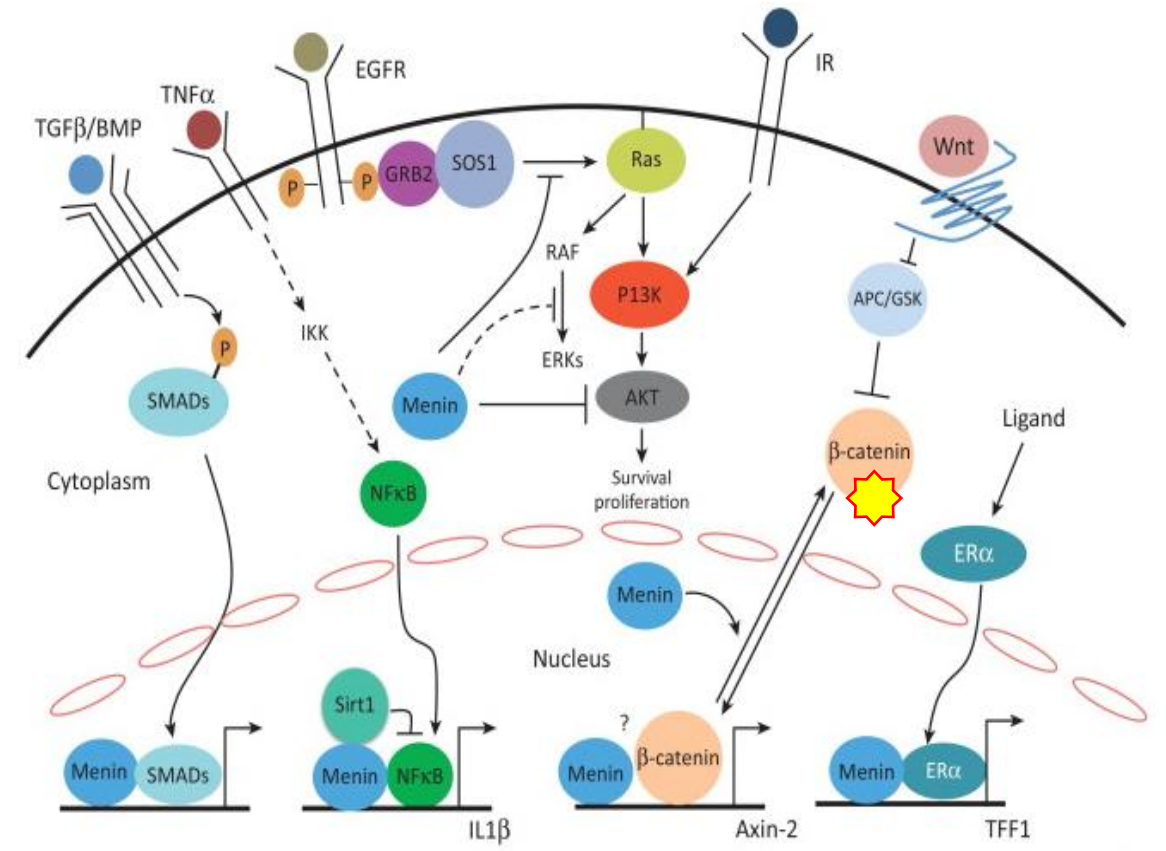
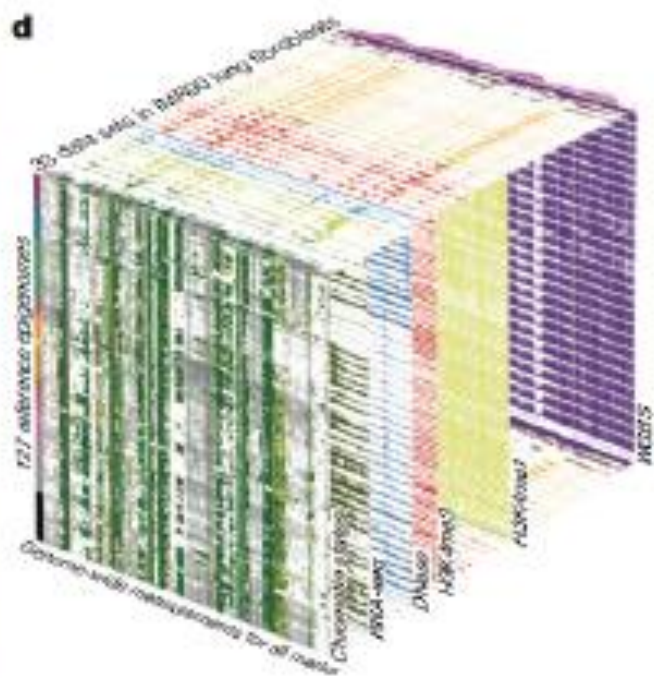
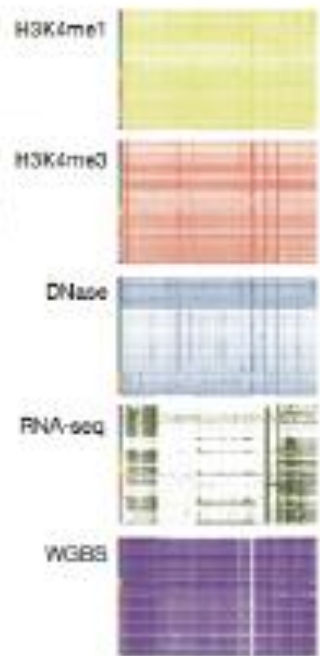
# Databases where to find information

Cancer genomics data sets visualization, analysis and download.

**Data Release 28** March 27th, 2019

Cancer projects	86
Cancer primary sites	22
Donor with molecular data in DCC	22,330
Total Donors	24,289
Simple somatic mutations	

# To infer mechanisms from omics data we need networks and models

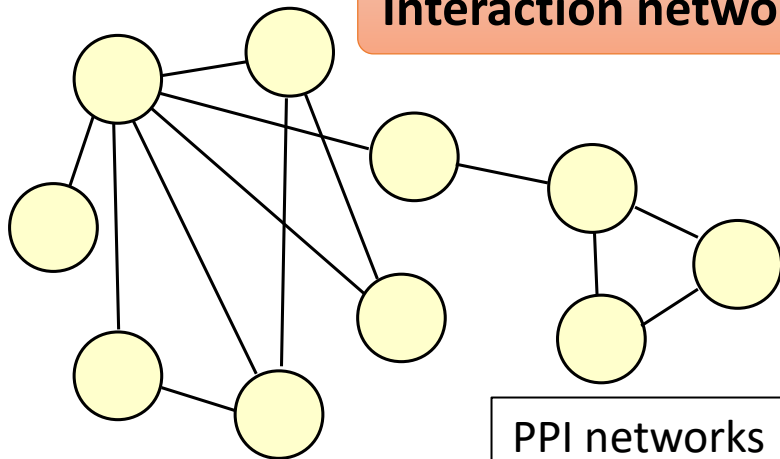


T/BS

# Data leads to Structure ... and Structure leads to Modelling

Le Novere (2015), *Nat Rev Genet* 16(3):146-58.

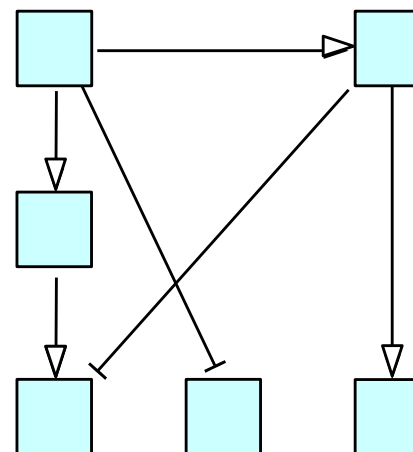
## Interaction networks



PPI networks

Statistical modelling

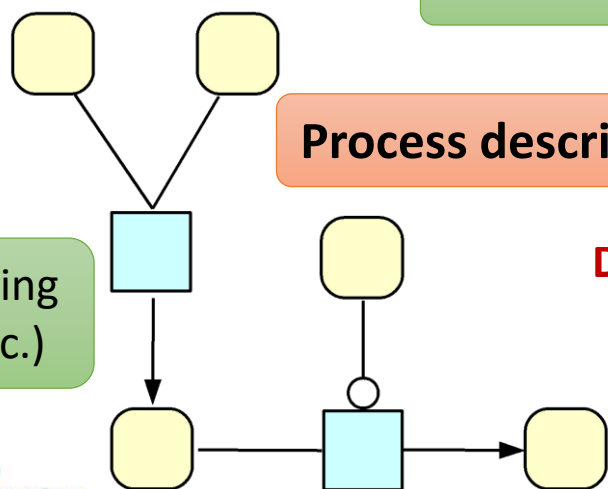
## Activity flows



Signalling pathways,  
gene regulatory  
networks

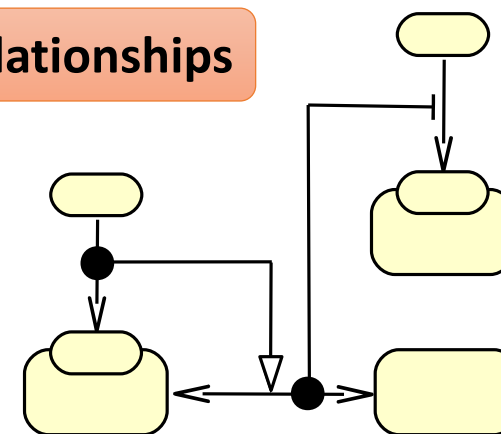
Logical modelling

## Process descriptions



Metabolic networks, reaction networks

## Entity relationships



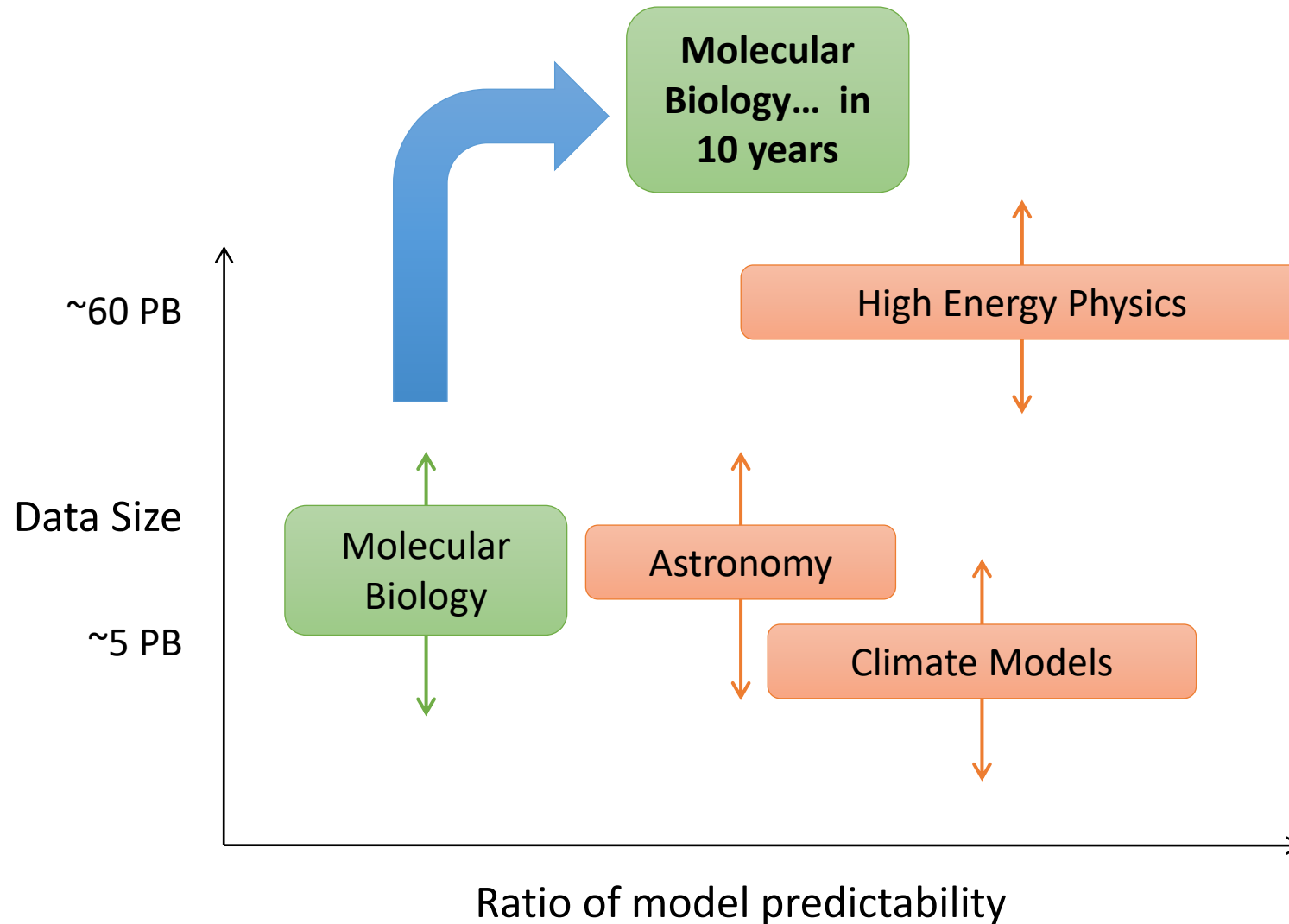
Rule-based  
modelling

Molecular interactions, reaction networks

Different biological knowledge ↔  
different types of networks ↔  
different types of modelling

Process modelling  
(FBA, ODEs, etc.)

# Modern Biology means Big Data





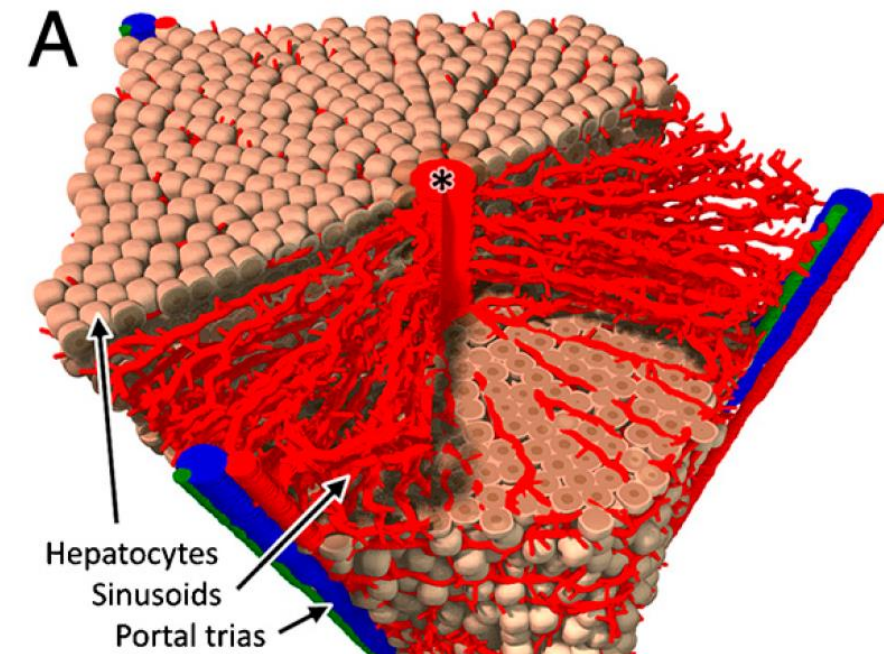
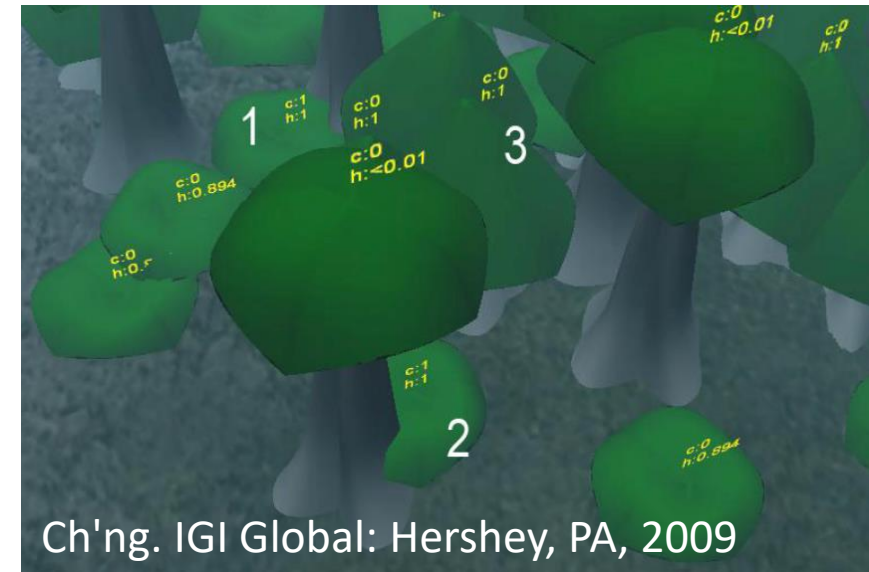
# Agent-based modelling

Agent-based models are composed of:

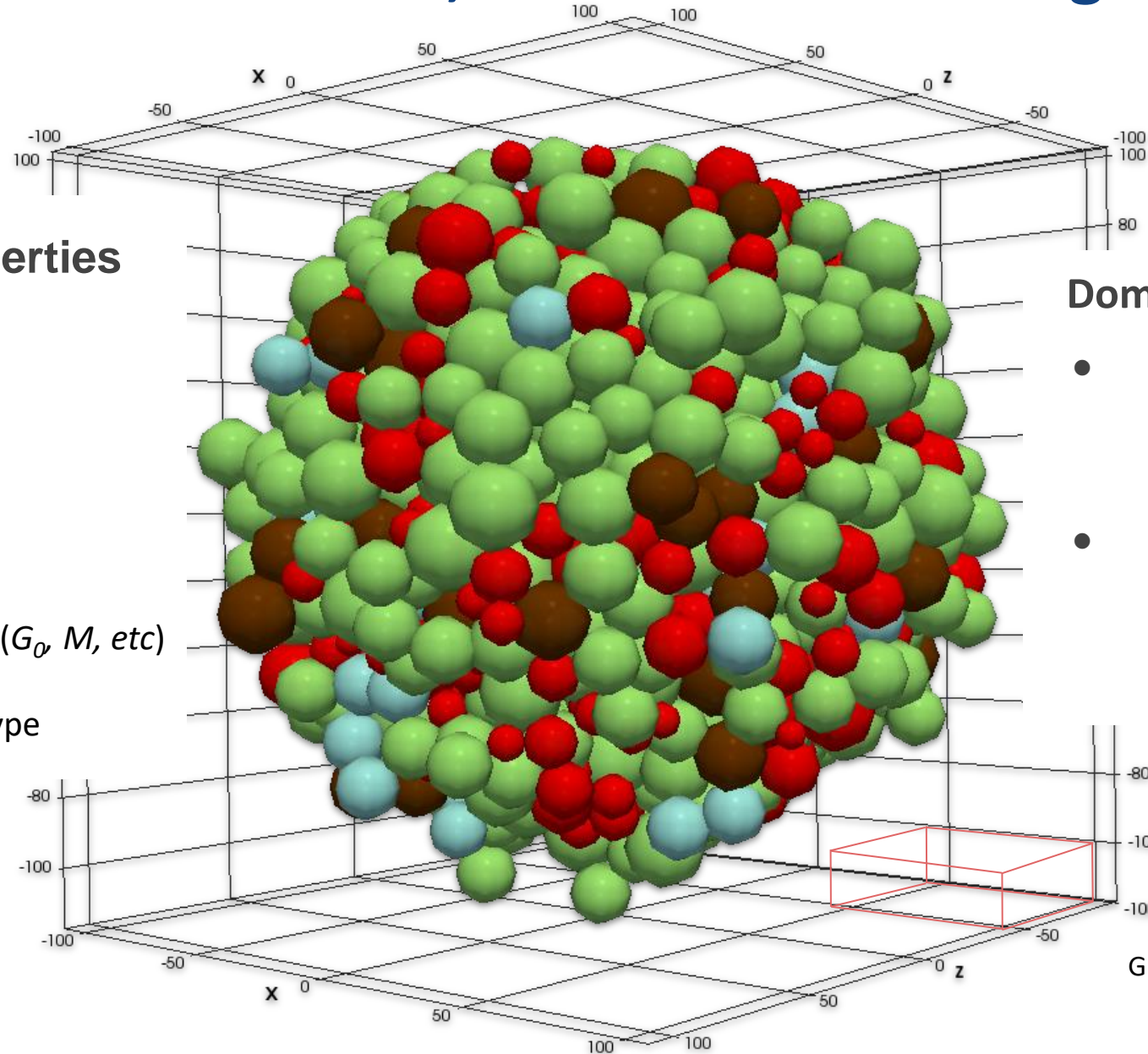
- numerous **agents**;
- decision-making **heuristics**;
- an interaction **topology**; and
- a description of the **environment**.

• Examples:

- Ecology
- Environmental Science
- Artificial Intelligence
- Tissue Biology



# Agent-based is a flexible, multiscale modelling framework



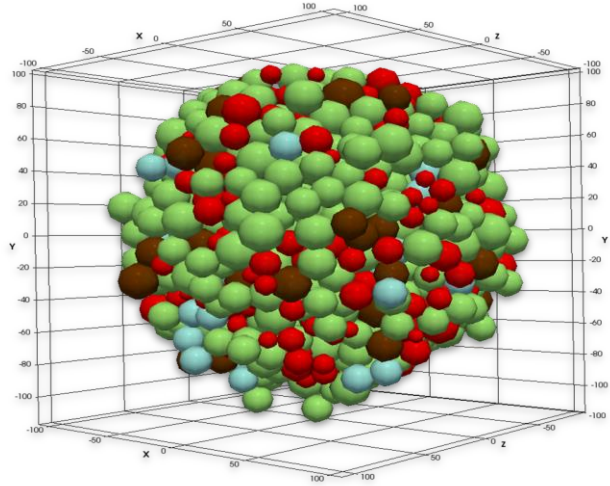
## Cell agent properties

- Cell Volume
  - nucleus
  - cytoplasm
- Position (x, y, z)
  - Neighborhood
  - Environment
- Cell internal state
  - Cell cycle phase ( $G_0$ ,  $M$ , etc)
  - Growth rate
  - Custom phenotype

## Domain = Voxels' grid

- 2D-Monolayers
  - petri-dish
  - epitelia
  - bio-film
- 3D-Shapes
  - spheroid
  - ductal
  - more complex shapes

# Multiscale because we consider different time scales

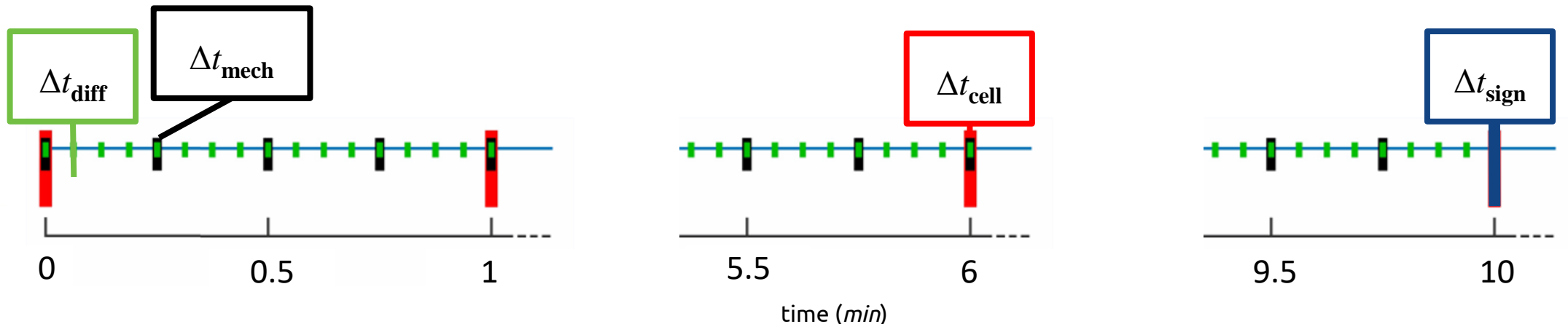


## Simulation's main loop

```
while t_current < tend
  update_diffusion()
  if Δt % Δt_mech == 0
    update_cell_mechanics()
  if Δt % Δt_cell == 0
    update_cell_processes()
  Δt = 0
  Δt += t_step
  t_current += t_step
```

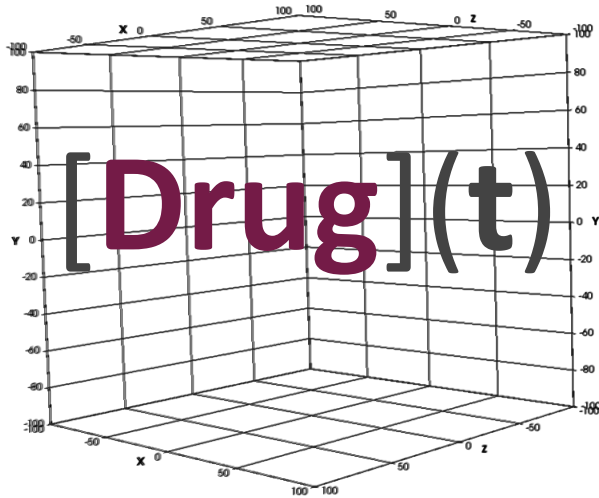
## Time scales

- $\Delta t_{\text{diff}}$ : (diffusion/transport): 0.01 min
- $\Delta t_{\text{mech}}$ : (cell movement): 0.1 min
- $\Delta t_{\text{cell}}$ : (cell processes): 6 min
- $\Delta t_{\text{signalling}}$ : (Boolean simulation): 10 min



# Environment can be dynamic and reactive

$\Delta t_{diff}$   
 $\Delta t_{mech}$



## Diffusion equation

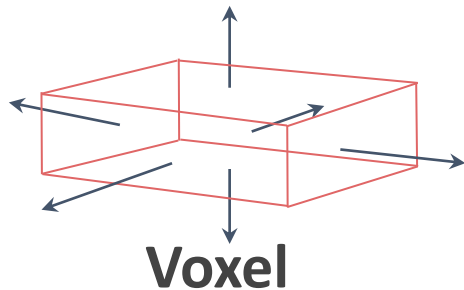
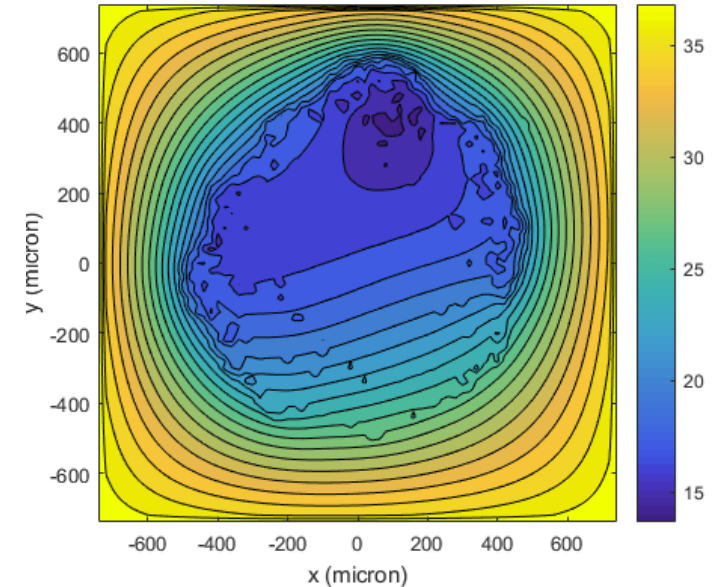
$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \underbrace{\mathbf{D} \nabla^2 \rho}_{\text{diffusion}} - \underbrace{\lambda \rho}_{\text{decay}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{S}(\rho^* - \rho)}_{\text{bulk source}} - \underbrace{\mathbf{U} \rho}_{\text{bulk uptake}} + \underbrace{\sum_{\text{cells } k} \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k) W_k [\mathbf{S}_k(\rho_k^* - \rho) - \mathbf{U}_k \rho]}_{\text{sources and uptake by cells}} \text{ in } \Omega$$

System of PDEs for each molecule:

- Diffusion term
- Decay
- Uptake/Production

## Gradient of chemical factors (O2)

oxygen (mmHg) at t = 30240.00 min, z = 0.00 micron



## Mechanical equation

$$\mathbf{v}_i = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} \left( \underbrace{-\sqrt{c_{cca}^i c_{cca}^j} \nabla \phi_{1,R_i,A+R_j,A}}_{\text{cell-cell adhesion}} - \underbrace{-\sqrt{c_{ccr}^i c_{ccr}^j} \nabla \psi_{1,R_i+R_j}}_{\text{cell-cell repulsion}} \right) - \underbrace{c_{cba}^i \nabla \phi_{1,R_i,A}(-d(\mathbf{x}_i) \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}_j))}_{\text{cell-BM adhesion}} - \underbrace{c_{cbr}^i \nabla \psi_{1,R_i}(-d(\mathbf{x}_i) \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}_j))}_{\text{cell-BM repulsion}} + \mathbf{v}_{i,mot}$$

## Surrounding physical environment

Surrogate for extra-cellular matrix

- Field with densities that can be produced & consumed
- Inert agents that can be moved

# Cells have different phenotypes depending on their genes' activation

## Cell Cycle Phase

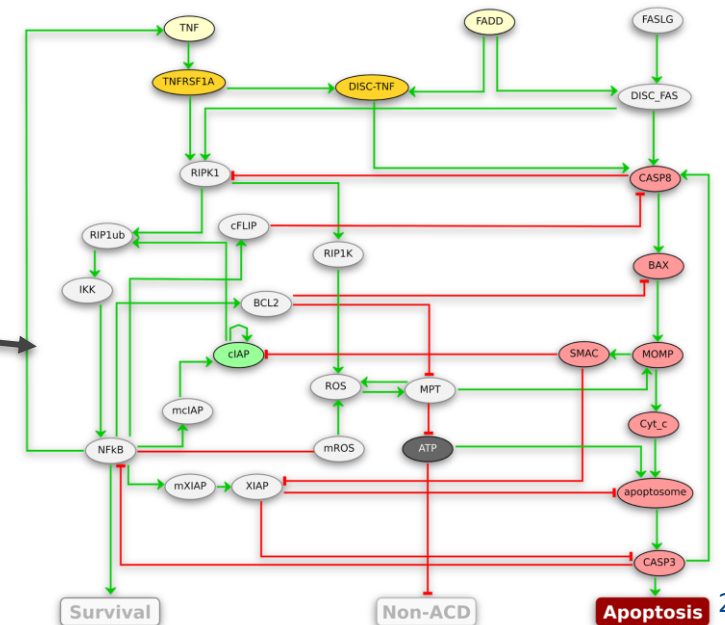
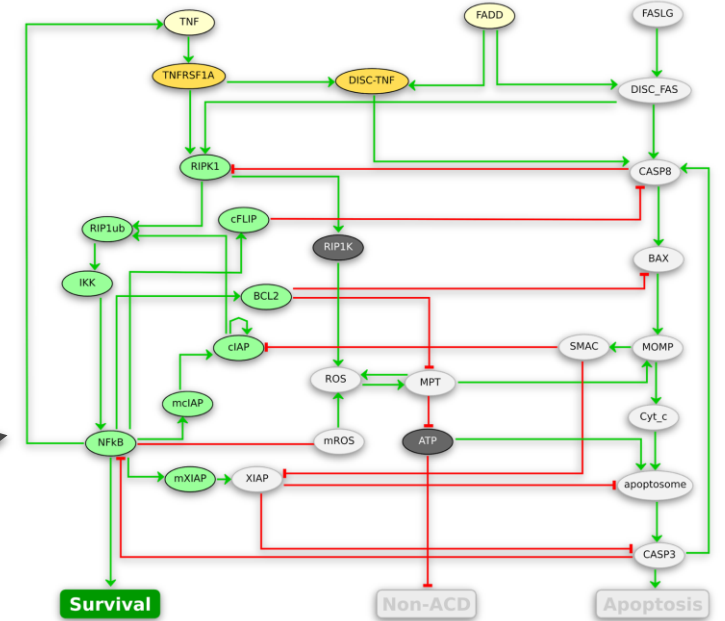
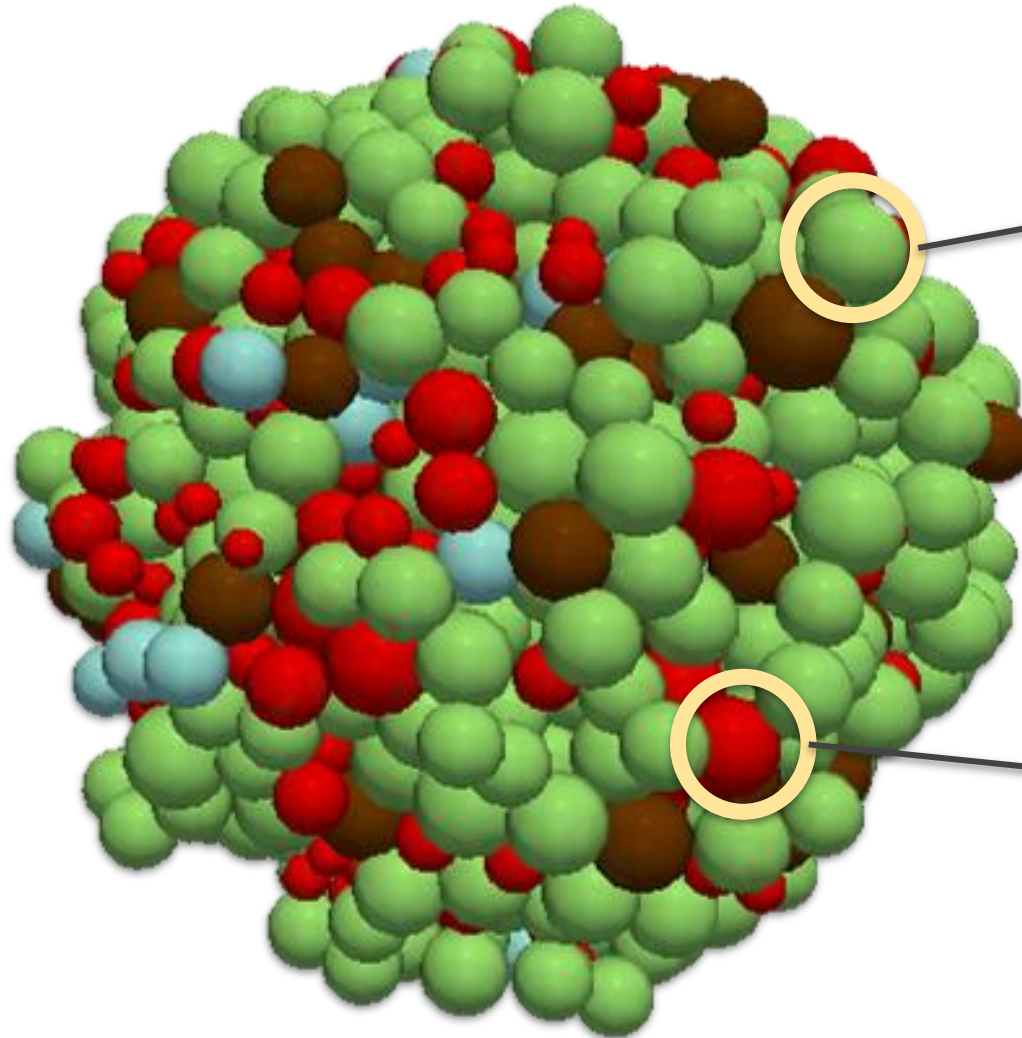
- Premitotic
- Postmitotic
- Ki67 negative
- Apoptotic
- Necrotic
- Necrotic (swelling)
- Necrotic (lysis)

## Time scales

$$- \Delta t_{\text{diff}} / \Delta t_{\text{mech}} / \Delta t_{\text{cell}}$$

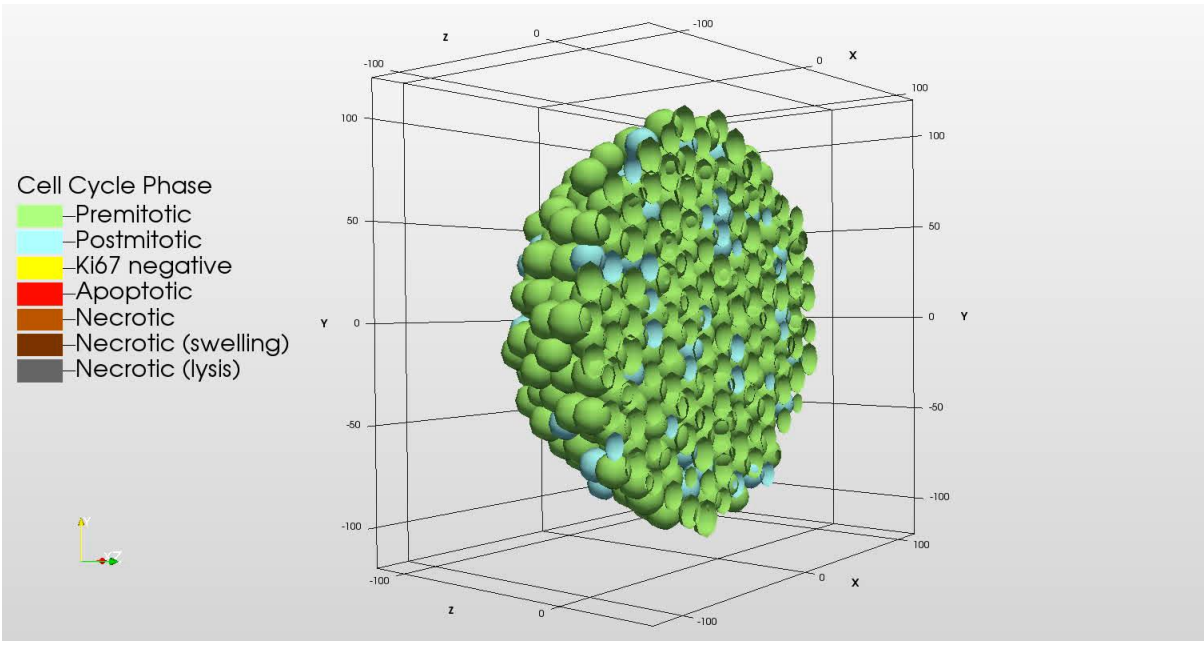
$$- \Delta t_{\text{signalling}}$$

## Different cell signaling states



# PhysiBoSS allows for finding optimal drug regimes

Proliferation Apoptosis Necrosis



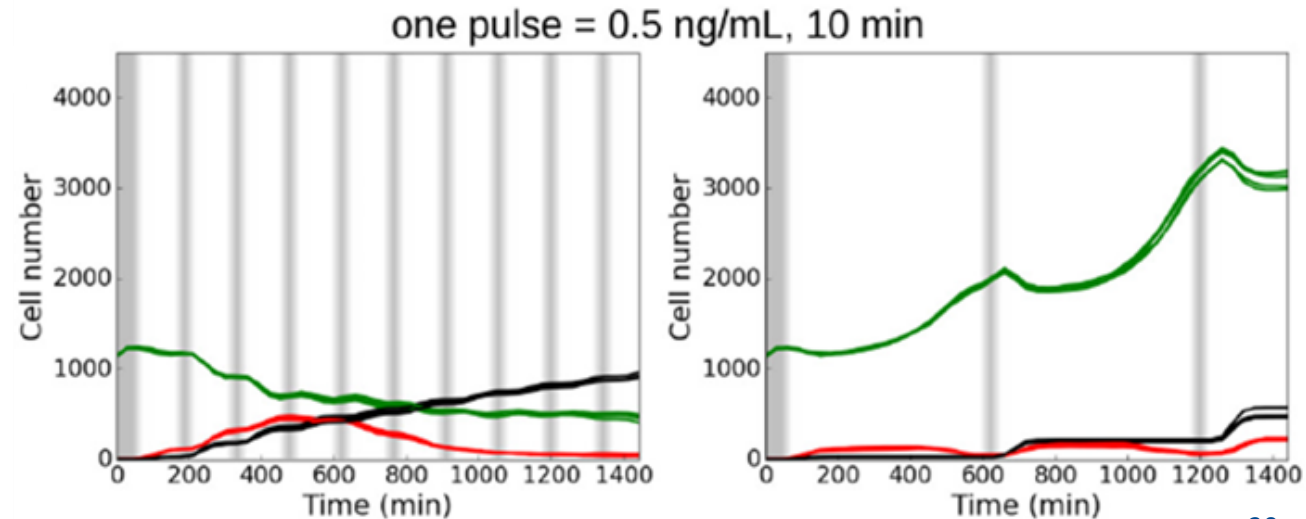
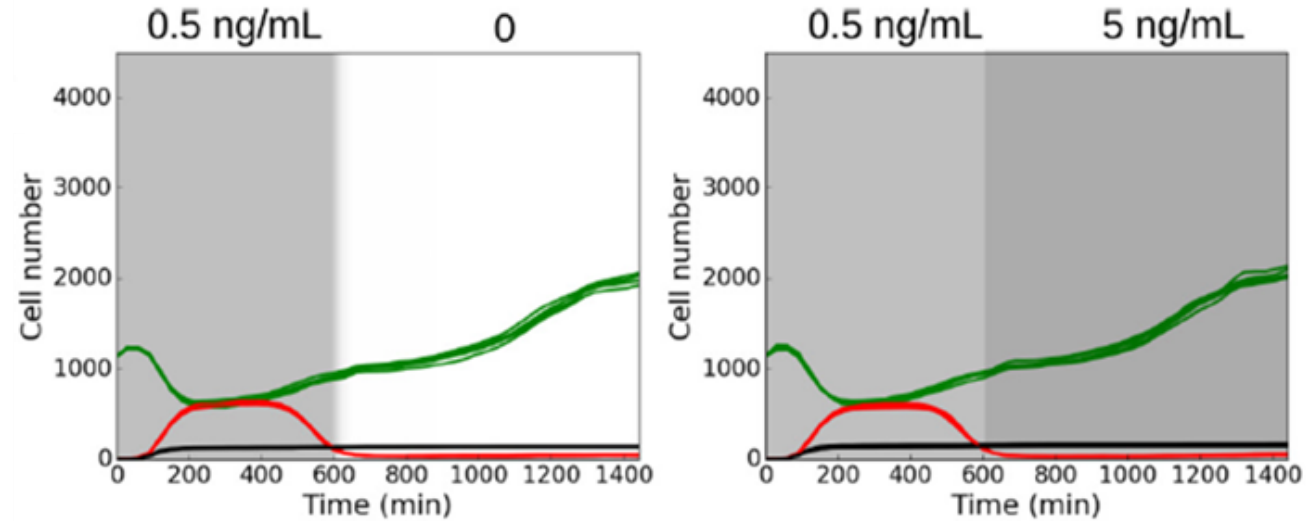
~48 h simulation time, 30 min wall time

~2500 cells

Figure from Miguel Ponce-de-Leon, BSC



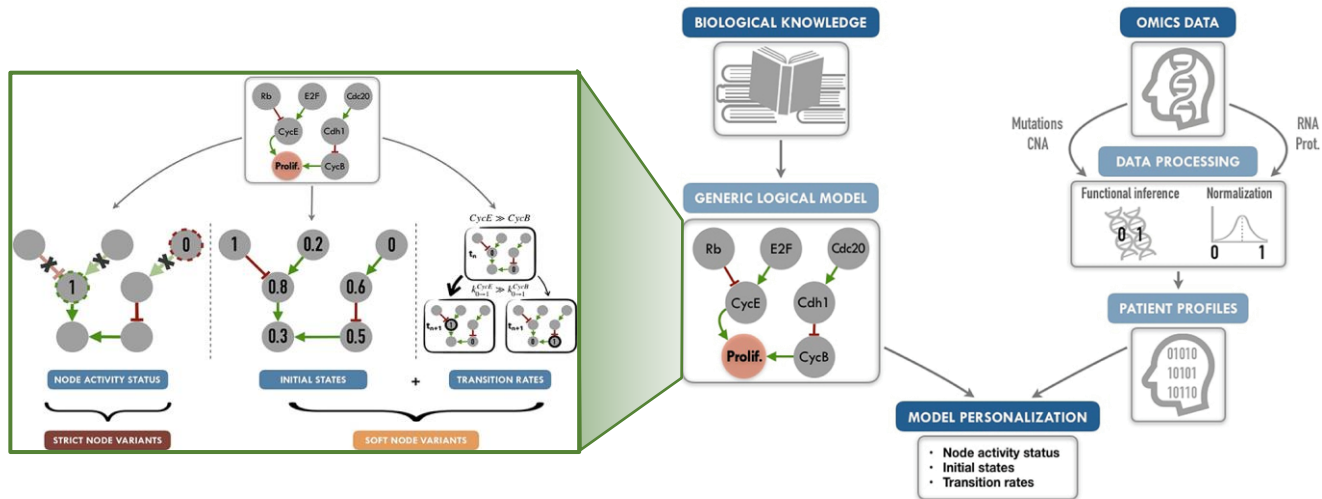
Ponce-de-Leon et al. (2022) *bioRxiv*, 2022.01.06.468363  
 Ponce-de-Leon et al. (2022) *Frontiers in Molecular Biosciences*, 9



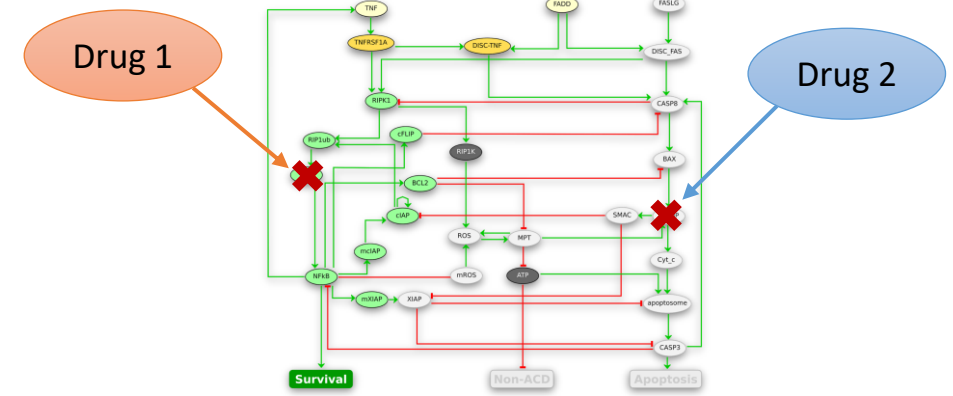
Letort et al. (2018), *Bioinformatics*, bty766

# PhysiBoSS allows for personalised drug studies

## Personalisation of intracellular models



## Different combinations of drugs

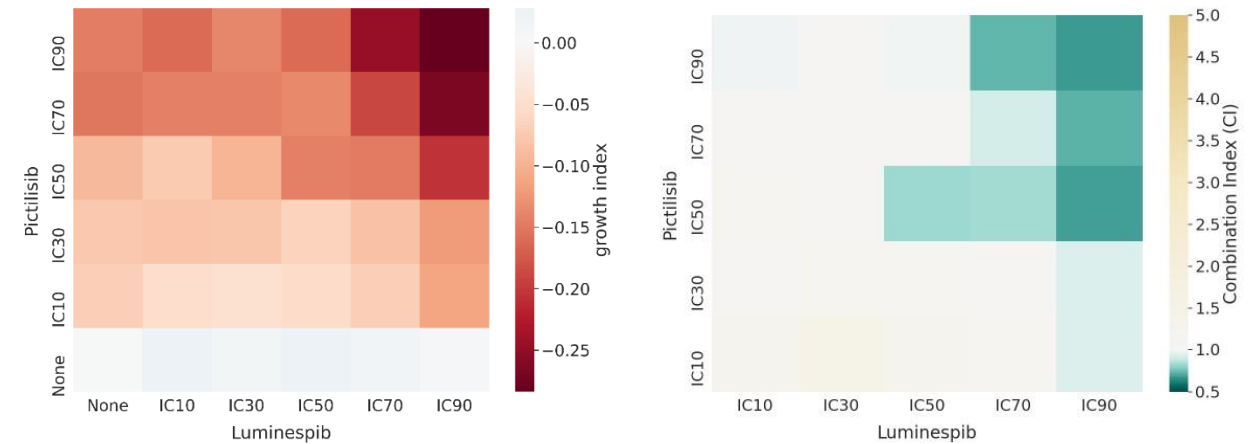


Distribution of Phenotypes scores across GDSC prostate cohort, using mutation as discrete data, RNA as continuous data and random initial conditions



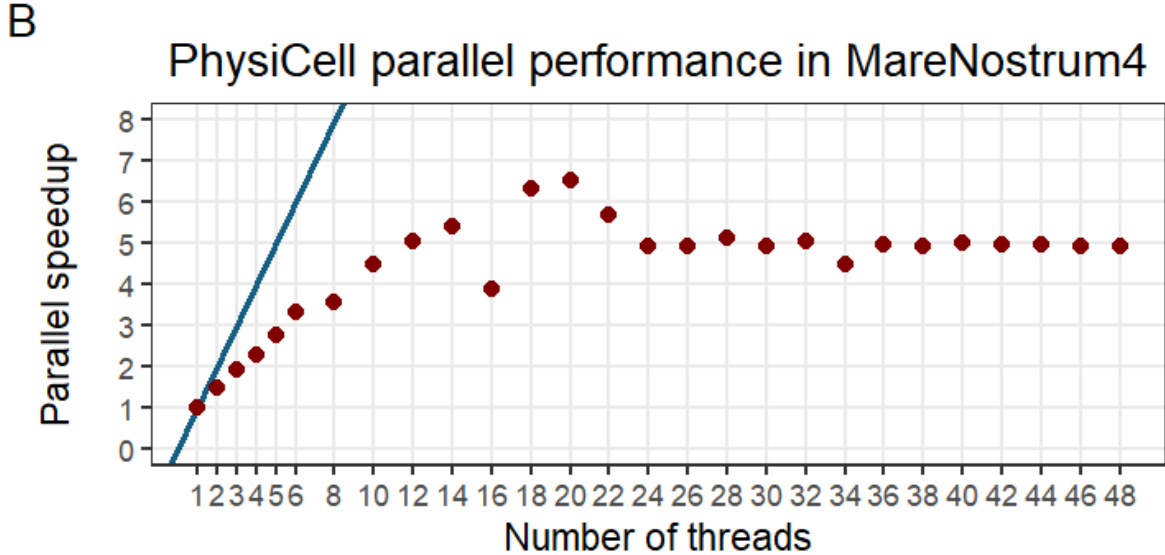
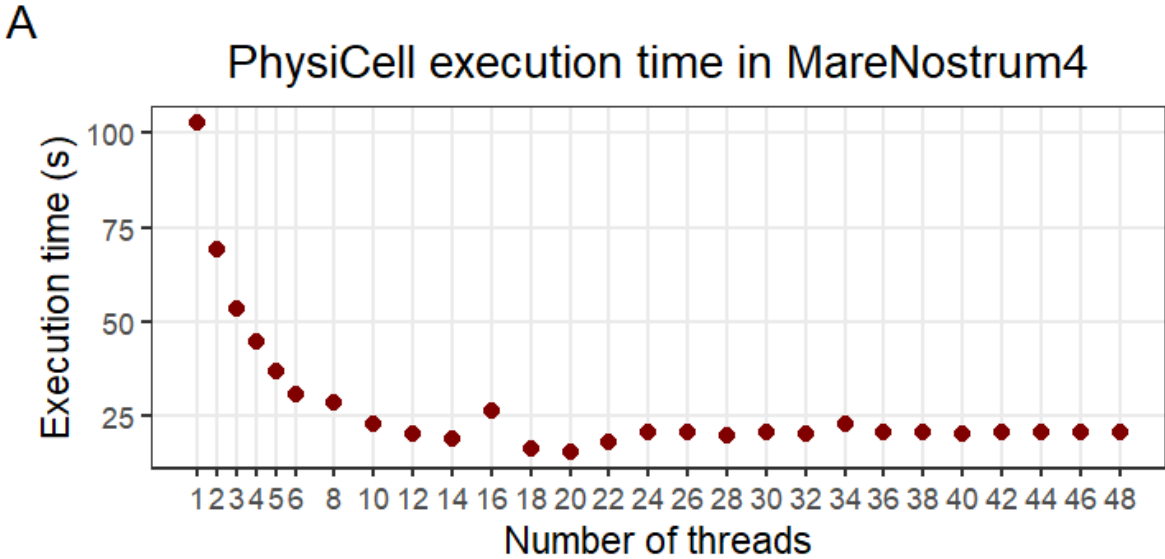
- Cell lines
- 22RV1
  - BPH-1
  - DU-145
  - LNCaP-Clone-FGC
  - NCI-H660
  - PC-3
  - PWR-1E
  - VCaP
  - WT

Béal et al. (2019) *Frontiers in Physiology*, 9:1965



Montagud et al. (2022) *eLife* 2022;11:e72626

# PhysiCell scalability analysis stagnates at ~8 cores





# Optimisation in MN4 : Improving PhysiCell's scalability –memory allocation problem

PhysiCell vanilla *malloc* library



2 threads

4 threads

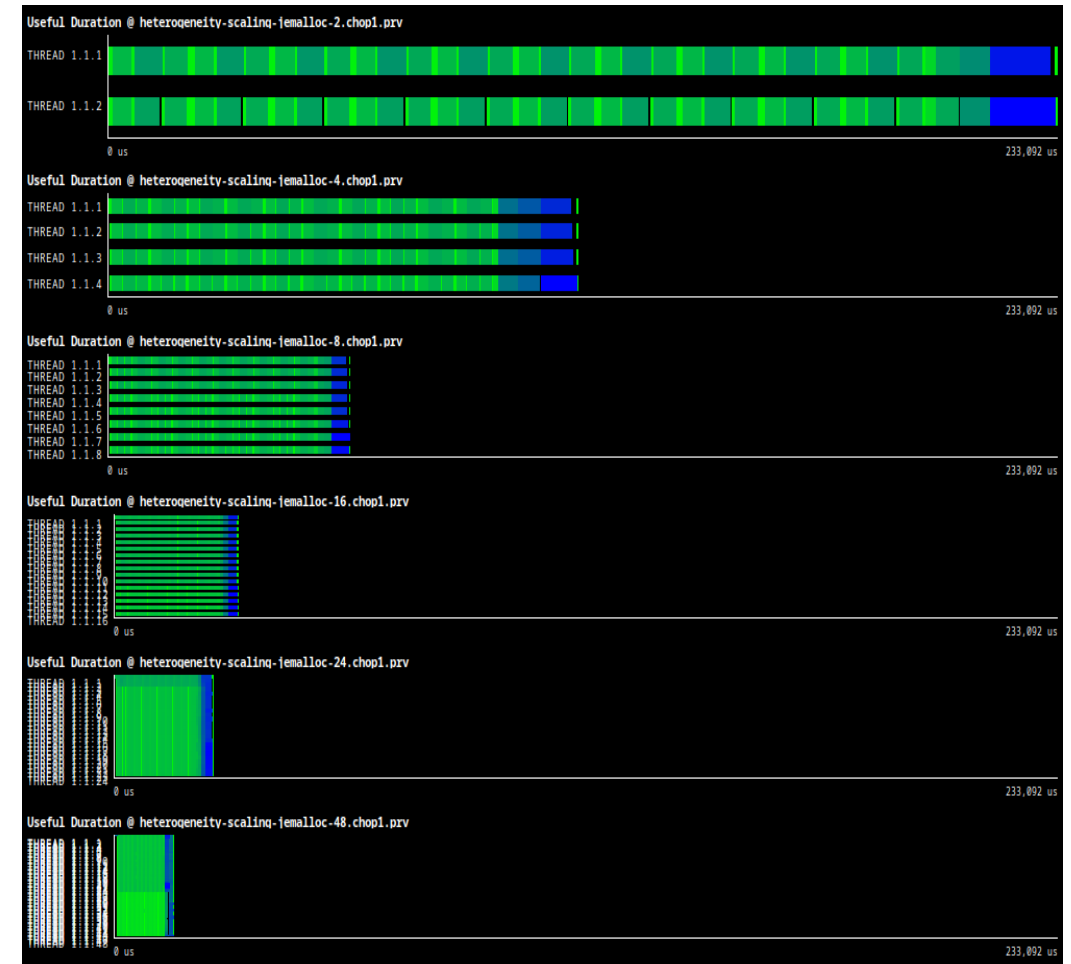
8 threads

16 threads

24 threads

48 threads

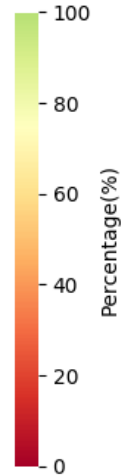
PhysiCell using *jemalloc* library



# Benchmarking in MN4: Changing the library improves PhysiCell's scalability

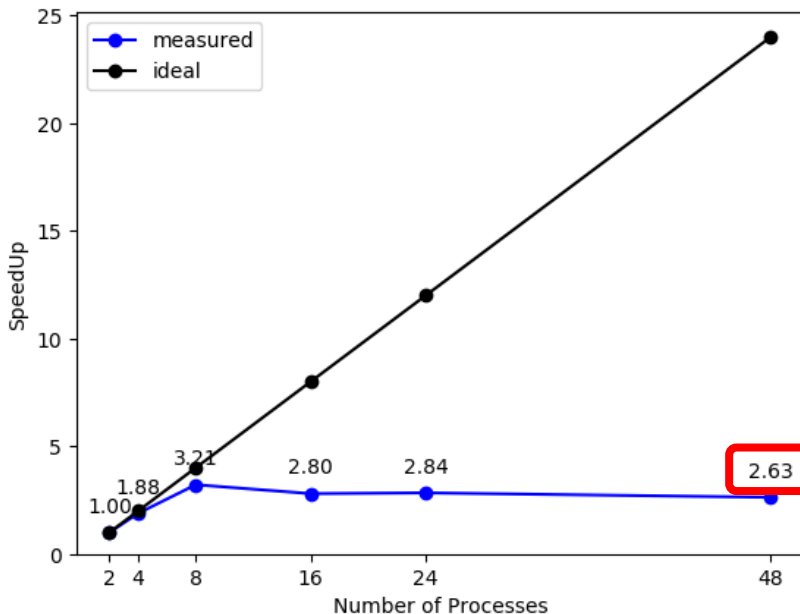
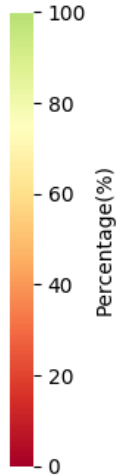
## PhysiCell vanilla *malloc* library

	2	4	8	16	24	48
Global efficiency	96.66	91.10	77.63	33.83	22.84	10.59
-- Parallel efficiency	96.66	93.85	86.16	93.98	91.24	91.62
-- Load balance	97.36	94.70	88.66	95.45	92.19	94.39
-- Communication efficiency	99.28	99.10	97.18	98.45	98.97	97.06
-- Serialization efficiency	-	-	-	-	-	-
-- Transfer efficiency	-	-	-	-	-	-
-- Computation scalability	100.00	97.07	90.10	35.99	25.03	11.55
-- IPC scalability	100.00	97.18	90.33	86.43	83.28	78.81
-- Instruction scalability	100.00	99.87	99.89	99.66	99.50	99.86
-- Frequency scalability	100.00	100.01	99.85	41.79	30.21	14.68

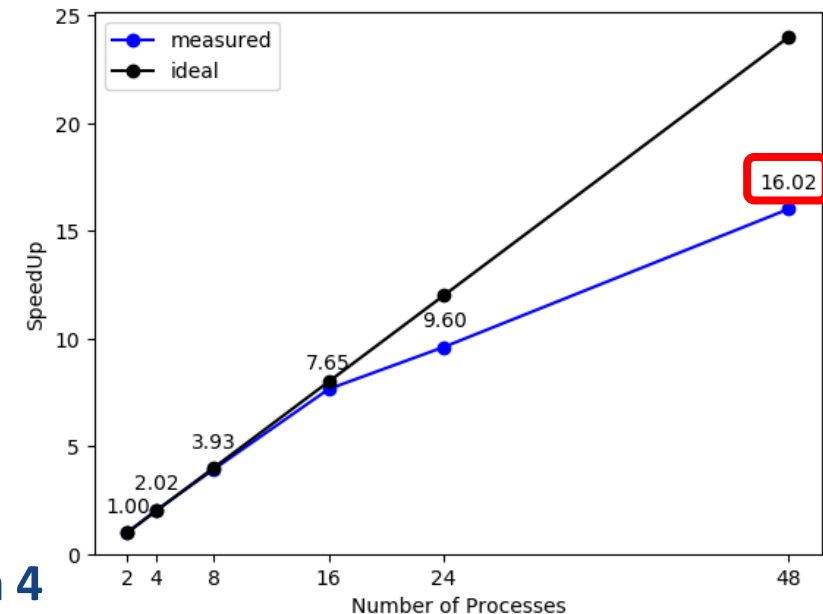


## PhysiCell using *jemalloc* library

	2	4	8	16	24	48
Global efficiency	97.01	98.13	95.27	92.82	77.64	64.73
-- Parallel efficiency	97.01	96.05	90.91	88.04	76.35	62.71
-- Load balance	97.79	97.81	93.36	91.17	79.82	73.25
-- Communication efficiency	99.21	98.20	97.37	96.56	95.65	85.62
-- Serialization efficiency	-	-	-	-	-	-
-- Transfer efficiency	-	-	-	-	-	-
-- Computation scalability	100.00	102.17	104.80	105.44	101.69	103.22
-- IPC scalability	100.00	102.17	104.83	105.77	102.31	106.13
-- Instruction scalability	100.00	100.03	100.11	99.96	99.78	99.86
-- Frequency scalability	100.00	99.97	99.86	99.73	99.60	97.40



Strong scaling  
speedup with  
**2 processes as  
baseline**

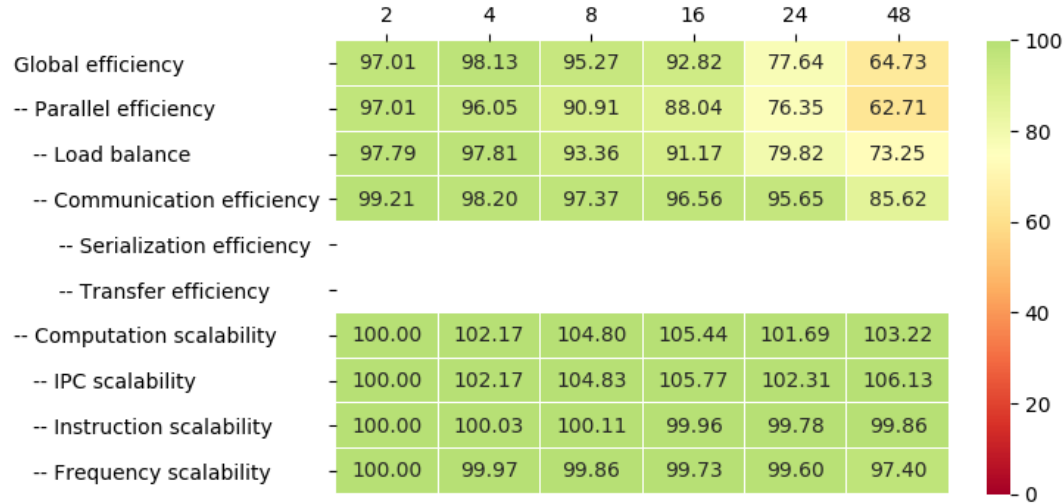


**6x faster!**

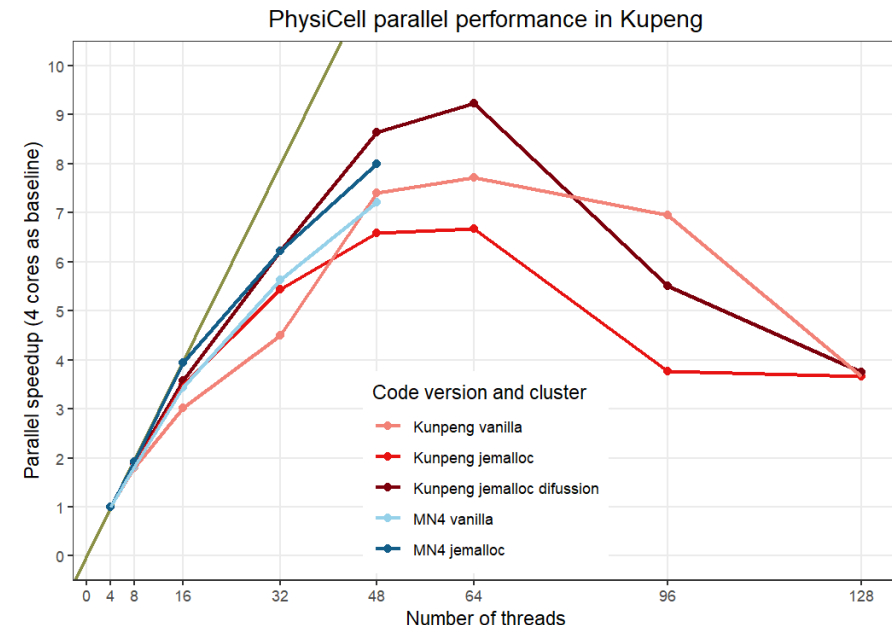
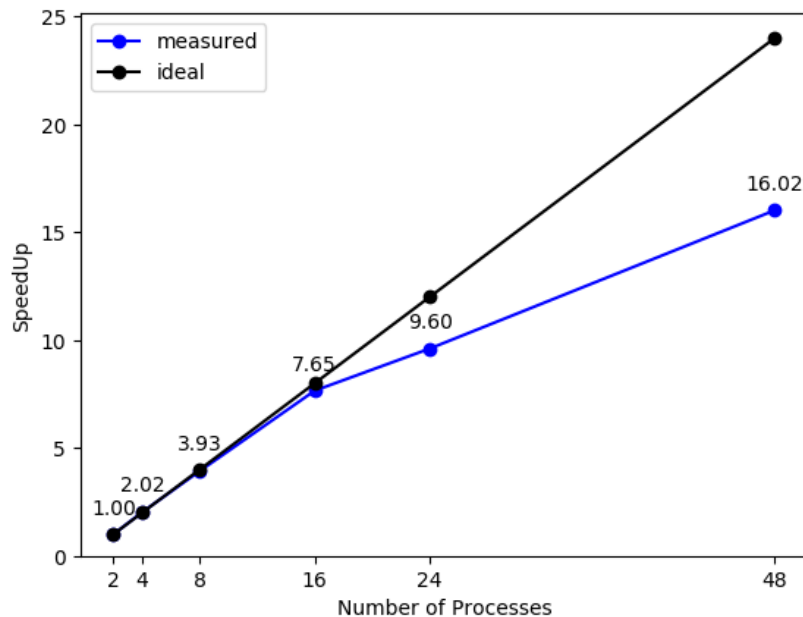
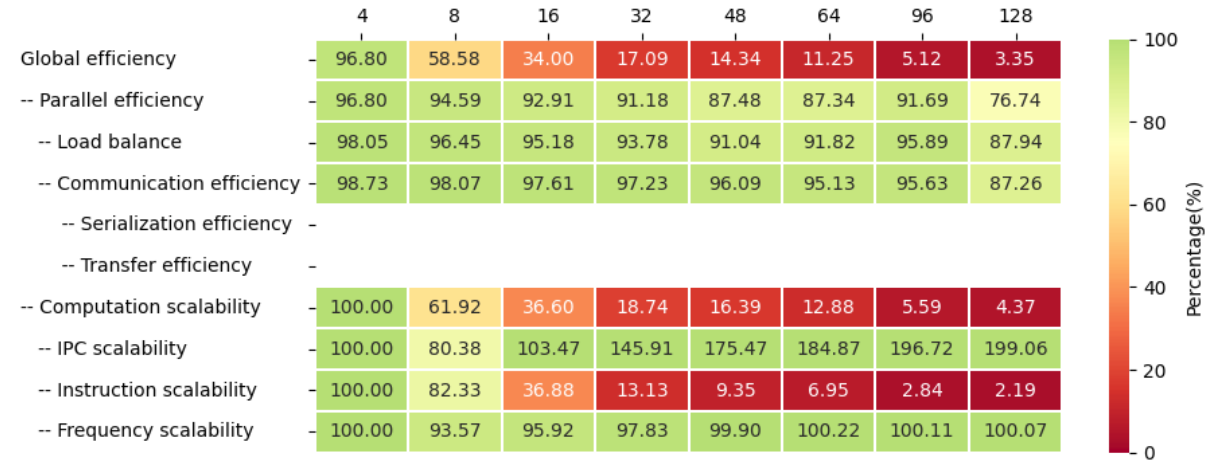
Slide from Marc  
Clascà, Marta  
Garcia-Gasulla,  
BSC

# Benchmarking in MN4 vs Kupeng

## PhysiCell using jemalloc library in MN4



## PhysiCell using jemalloc library in Kupeng



Strong scaling speedup with **2 processes as baseline**

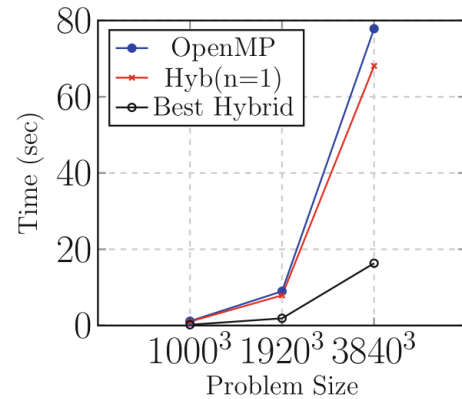
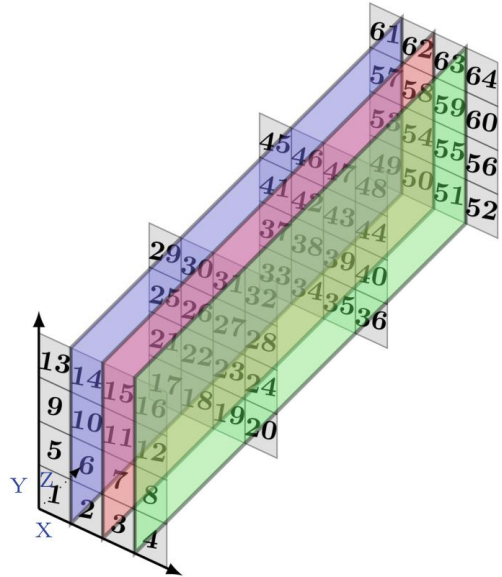
Strong scaling speedup with **4 processes as baseline**



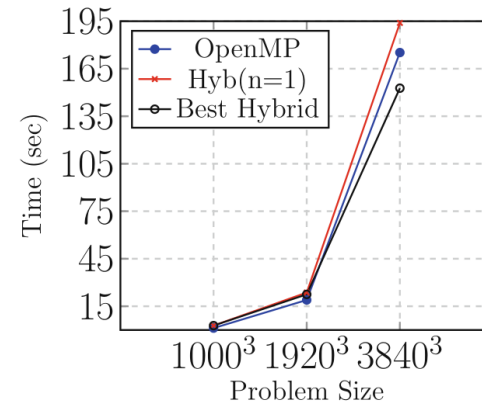
Work from José Estragués, BSC



# PhysiCell-X: extending PhysiCell with MPI



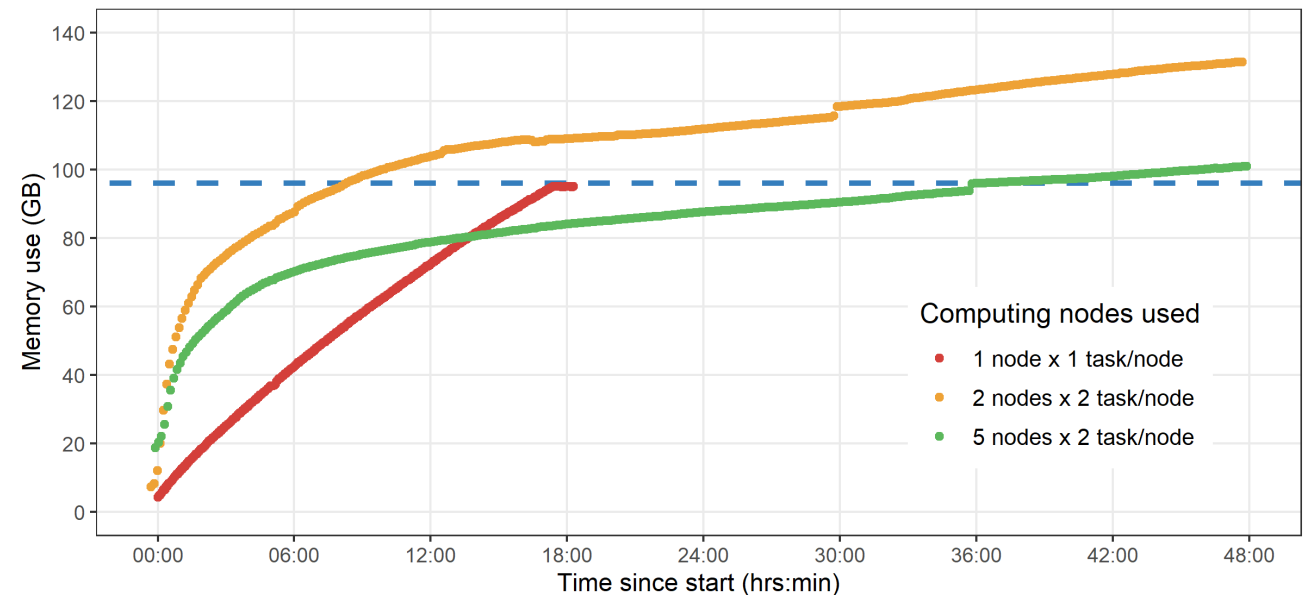
(a)  $\mu$ -environment



(e) Thomas solver

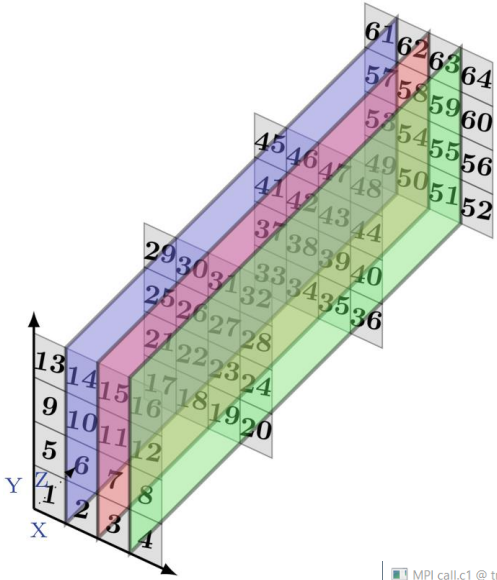
- Re-factored the diffusion solver
  - Lower scale of multiscale
- Allows to **simulate bigger setups**
  - Needed to reach huge, complex simulations
- **Still efficient vs serial** in smaller setups

Memory use in PhysiCell and PhysiCell-X in MN4



Domain: 7680x7680x7680 ≈ 0.5 billion voxels, 1 substrate	OpenMP	Hybrid (n=4)	Hybrid (n=8)
Build Microenvironment	✗	141.98 s	67.81 s
Gaussian profile	✗	0.92 s	0.45 s
File I/O	✗	7.30 s	7.40 s
Agent Generation	✗	0.11 s	0.0023 s
Source/Sink Diffusion Solver	✗	1109.69 s	1210.41 s

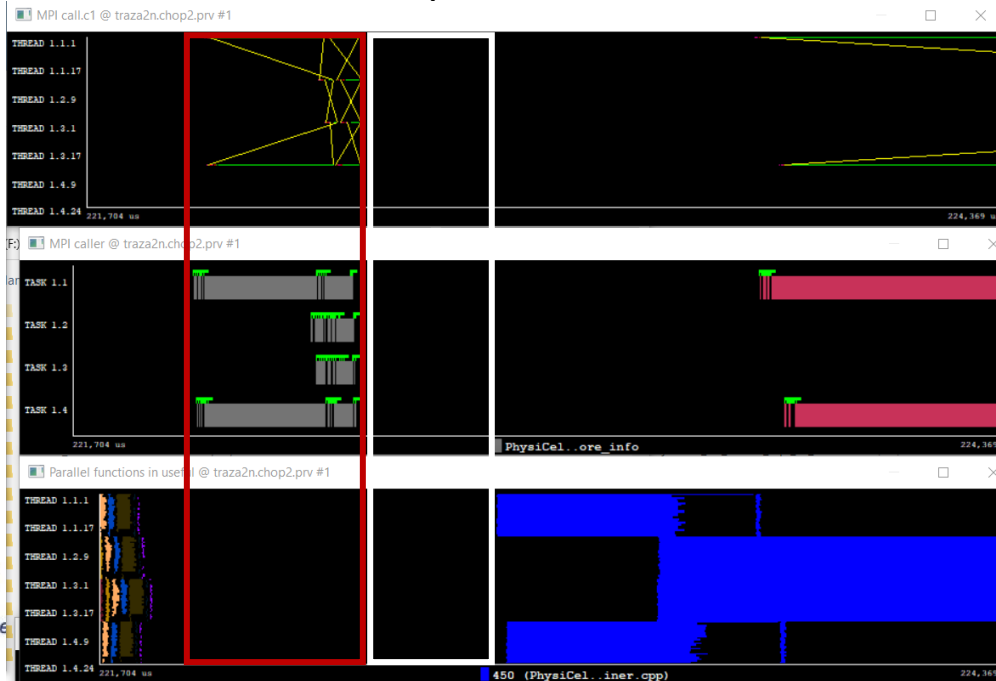
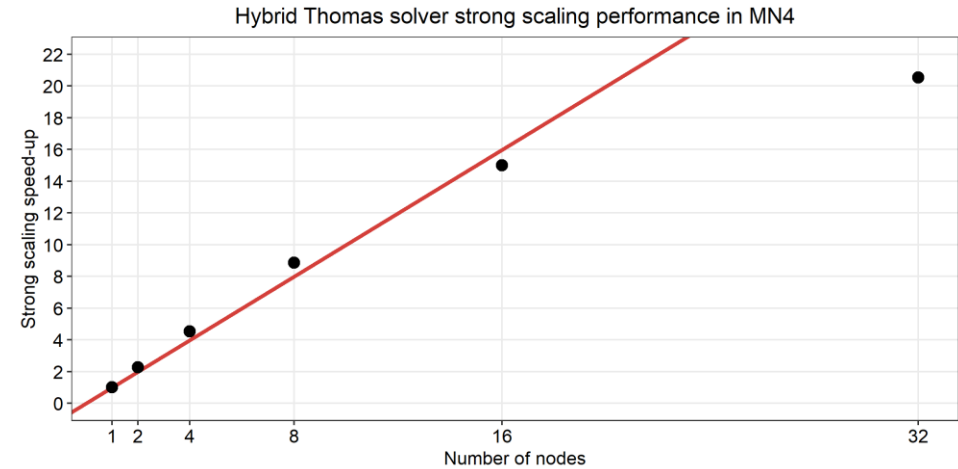
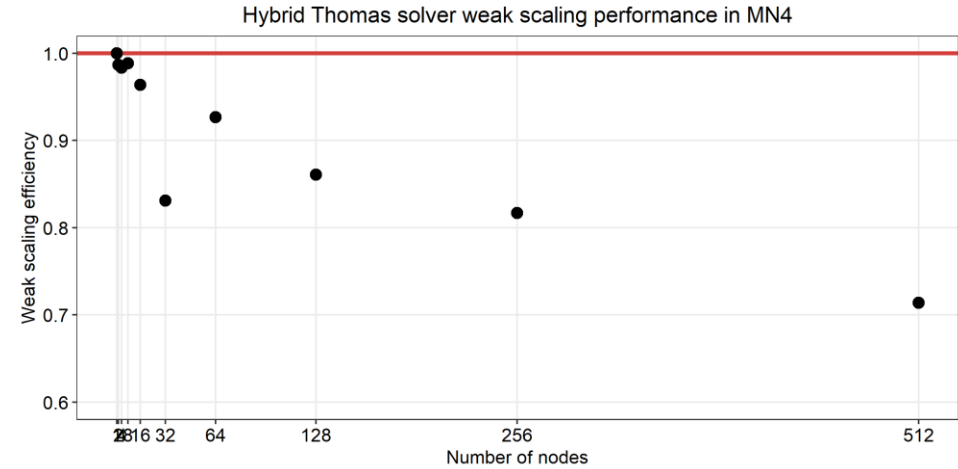
# Towards a flexible exascale multiscale framework using PhysiCell-X



## Limitations:

- MPI domain decomposition is 1D
- Diffusion solver in BioFVM-X is serial on the X-axis
- Working on a Parallel Modified (hybrid) Thomas solver

MPI send MPI unpack



## Testing the performance of PhysiCell-X

- Overhead of MPI messaging

# Further work: study how to migrate to hybrid architectures

- **Combine CPU / GPU**
  - Lower loops in GPU
  - Tools already published:

## Simulation's main loop

```
while t_current < tend
    update_diffusion()
    if Δt % Δt_mech == 0
        update_cell_mechanics()
    if Δt % Δt_cell == 0
        update_cell_processes()
    Δt = 0
    Δt += t_step
    t_current += t_step
```

## Time scales

- $\Delta t_{\text{diff}}$ : (diffusion/transport): 0.01 min
- $\Delta t_{\text{mech}}$ : (cell movement): 0.1 min
- $\Delta t_{\text{cell}}$ : (cell processes): 6 min
- $\Delta t_{\text{signalling}}$ : (Boolean simulation): 10 min

PhysiCell-OpenACC

FLAME-GPU

Machine	CPU	NVIDIA GPU
NVIDIA DGX-2	Intel Xeon Platinum 8168 (24 cores)	Volta V100 (32GB HBM2)
NVIDIA DGX A100	AMD EPYC Rome 7742 (64 cores)	Ampere A100 (40GB HBM2)

Table 1: Specifications of the nodes in the two systems

Sim Dataset	60 Sim mins	180 Sim mins	360 Sim mins
<b>OMP CPU 1 Core</b>	8 min. 44.6083s	25 min. 11.1268s	51 min. 47.043s
<b>OMP CPU 64 Cores</b>	1 min. 6.0669s	3 min. 21.9457s	6 min. 44.9028s
<b>ACC CPU 64 Cores</b>	57.993s	2 min. 47.4116s	5 min. 30.3994s
<b>Manual GPU V100</b>	1 min. 34.2378s	2 min. 39.4965s	4 min. 17.9657s
<b>Manual GPU A100</b>	2 min. 20.6413s	3 min. 36.9927s	5 min. 25.707s
<b>Managed GPU V100</b>	23.903s	57.4191s	1 min. 47.7914s
<b>Managed GPU A100</b>	21.3251s	45.9034s	1 min. 22.7607s

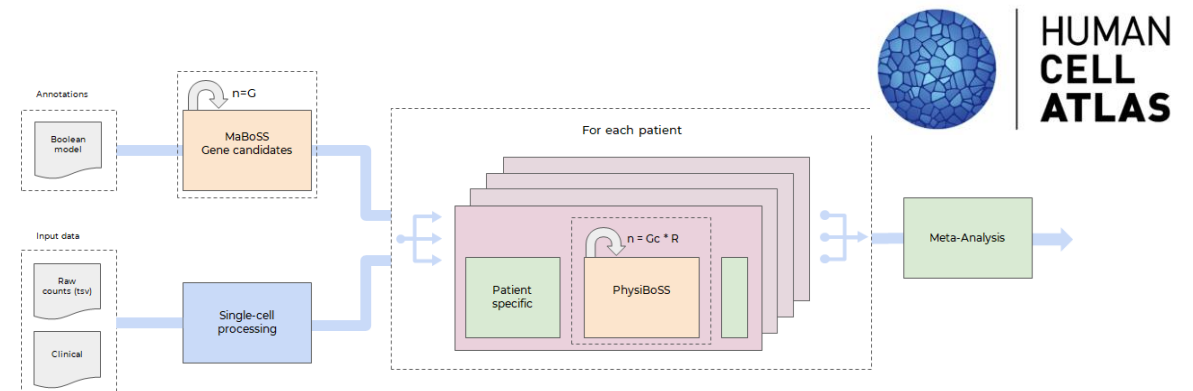
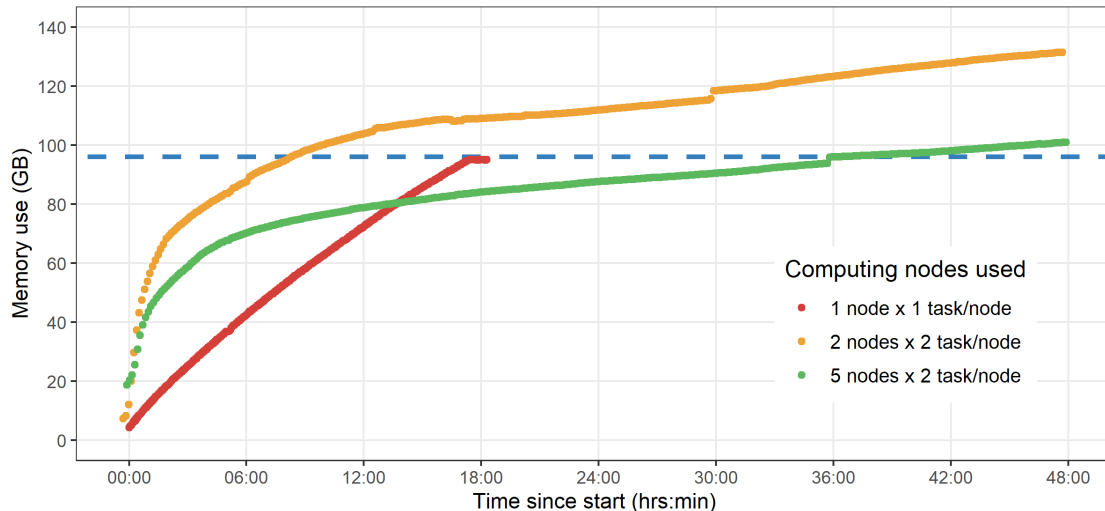
Table 2: Results Table

# Further work: prepare set-up to many patients and many replicates

- We would like to **scale-up simulations**
  - Currently running jobs of  $10^4$  cells
  - Looking forward to  $10^9$  cells
- Obstacles and potential solutions:
  - **Memory-limited** multiscale tools
    - MPI implementation

- We would like to simulate **many more patients** at once
  - **Big datasets** for each patient:
    - Storage & security problems
- Obstacles and potential solutions:
  - **Different tools** and codes
    - Use of pipelines and orchestrators
  - **Homogeneous 3DaI** set-up
    - Use of **clinical images** as initial set-ups
  - **Parameter fitting evaluation**
    - Model exploration techniques

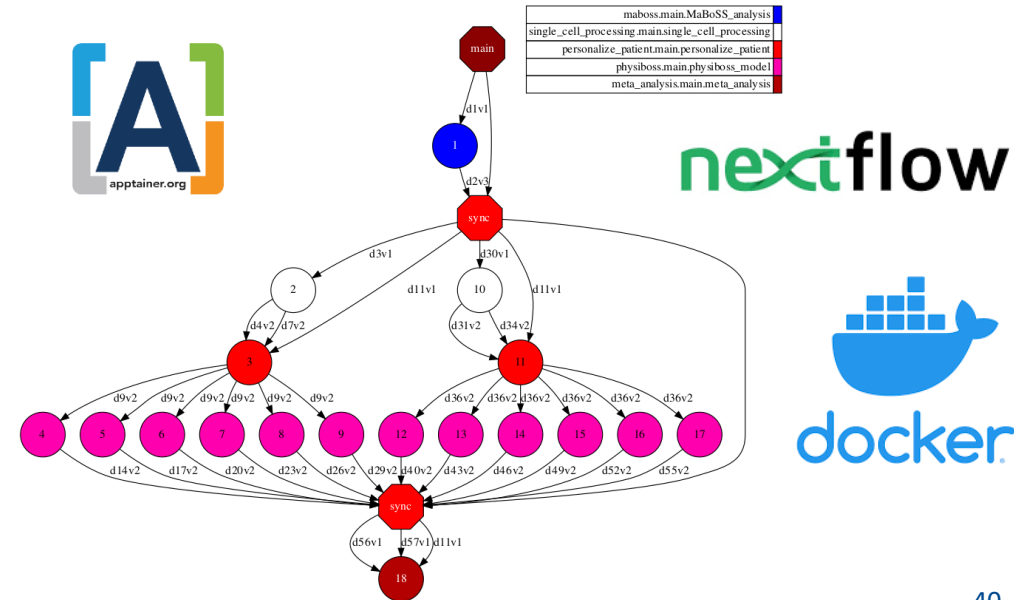
Memory use in PhysiCell and PhysiCell-X in MN4



# Further work: prepare infrastructure that fills the community needs

- **PerMedCoE's initiatives** open to the Computational Biology community:
  - Scaling-up **success cases**
  - **Observatory** of tools
  - **Benchmark** of similar tools
  - **Repository** of building blocks and workflows
- **Obstacles and potential solutions:**
  - **Long-term maintenance costs**
    - National funds? EU?

- Further outreach to the community:
  - Extensive use of **pipelines and orchestrators**
  - Offer **alternatives to cloud** computing
  - Offer **training** of Life scientists in HPC
    - Simulation tools
    - HPC performance tools
    - Offer testbeds for users' tools





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