

A Review of Relevant Ontologies and Application of Reasoners



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 @ontowonka

Outline

- **Using ontologies and reasoners for classification**
- **Anatomy and Stage Ontologies**
- **Example of ontologies and reasoning at work: diagnosing diseases**
- **Environmental ontologies**
- **How to exchange data better**

① What is an Ontology?

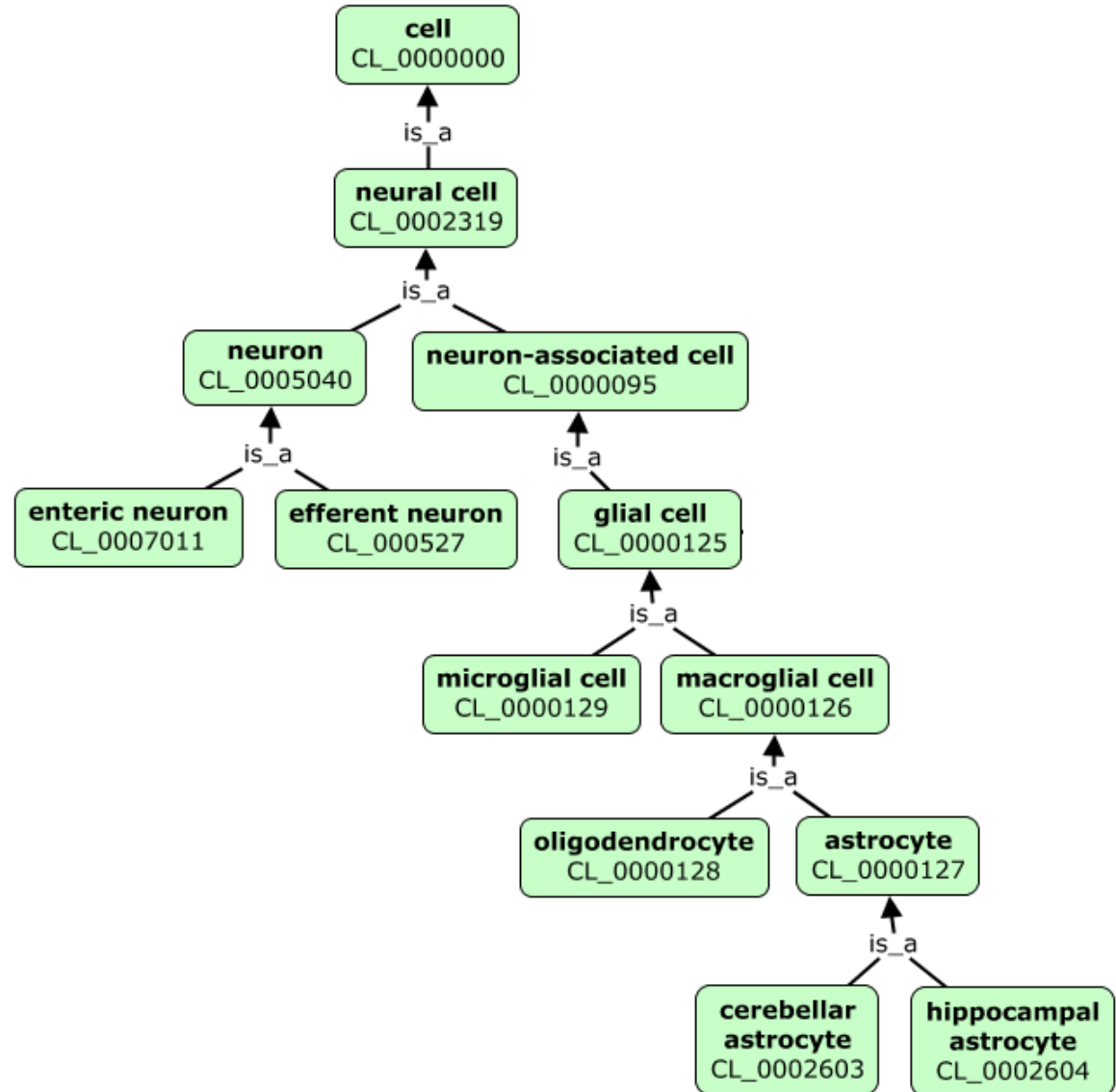
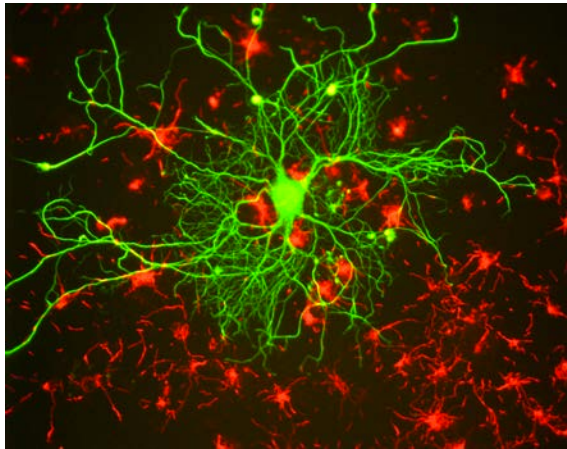
② **Definition:**
A formal conceptualization of a specified domain

③ **Key Features:**

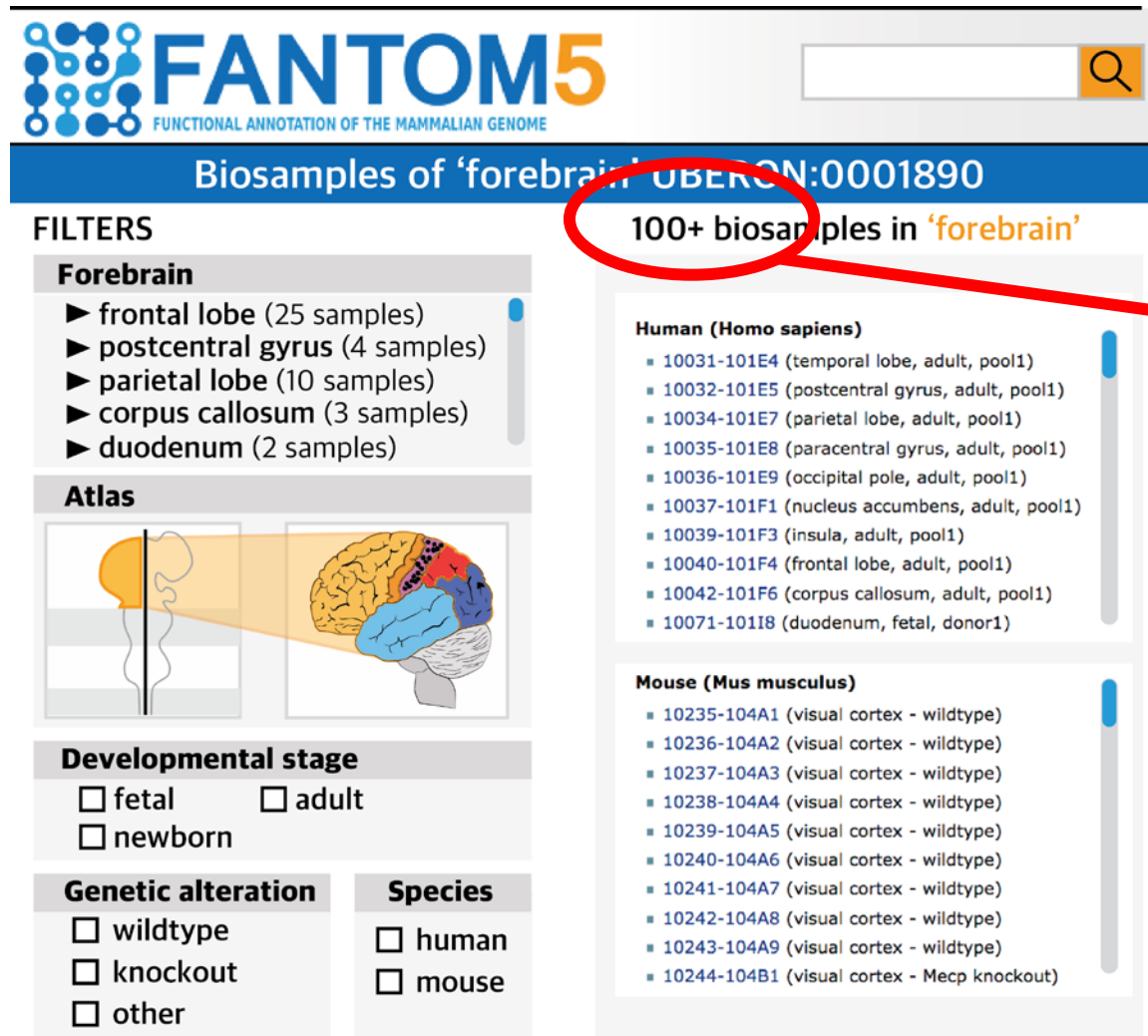
- Terms are defined
- Relationships between terms are defined, allowing logical inference and sophisticated data queries
- Terms are arranged in a hierarchy
- Expressed in a knowledge representation language such as RDFS, OBO, or OWL

④ **Examples:**
SNOMED, Foundational Model of Anatomy, Gene Ontology, Linnean Taxonomy of species

Example taxonomy



Ontologies enable queries to “just work” as you would hope.



FANTOM5
FUNCTIONAL ANNOTATION OF THE MAMMALIAN GENOME

Biosamples of 'forebrain' **UBERON:0001890**

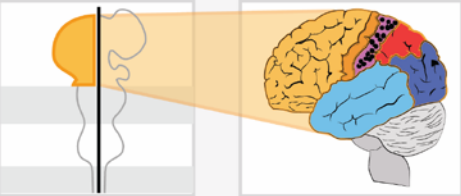
100+ biosamples in 'forebrain'

FILTERS

Forebrain

- ▶ frontal lobe (25 samples)
- ▶ postcentral gyrus (4 samples)
- ▶ parietal lobe (10 samples)
- ▶ corpus callosum (3 samples)
- ▶ duodenum (2 samples)

Atlas



Developmental stage

fetal adult
 newborn

Genetic alteration

wildtype
 knockout
 other

Species

human
 mouse

Human (Homo sapiens)

- 10031-101E4 (temporal lobe, adult, pool1)
- 10032-101E5 (postcentral gyrus, adult, pool1)
- 10034-101E7 (parietal lobe, adult, pool1)
- 10035-101E8 (paracentral gyrus, adult, pool1)
- 10036-101E9 (occipital pole, adult, pool1)
- 10037-101F1 (nucleus accumbens, adult, pool1)
- 10039-101F3 (insula, adult, pool1)
- 10040-101F4 (frontal lobe, adult, pool1)
- 10042-101F6 (corpus callosum, adult, pool1)
- 10071-101I8 (duodenum, fetal, donor1)

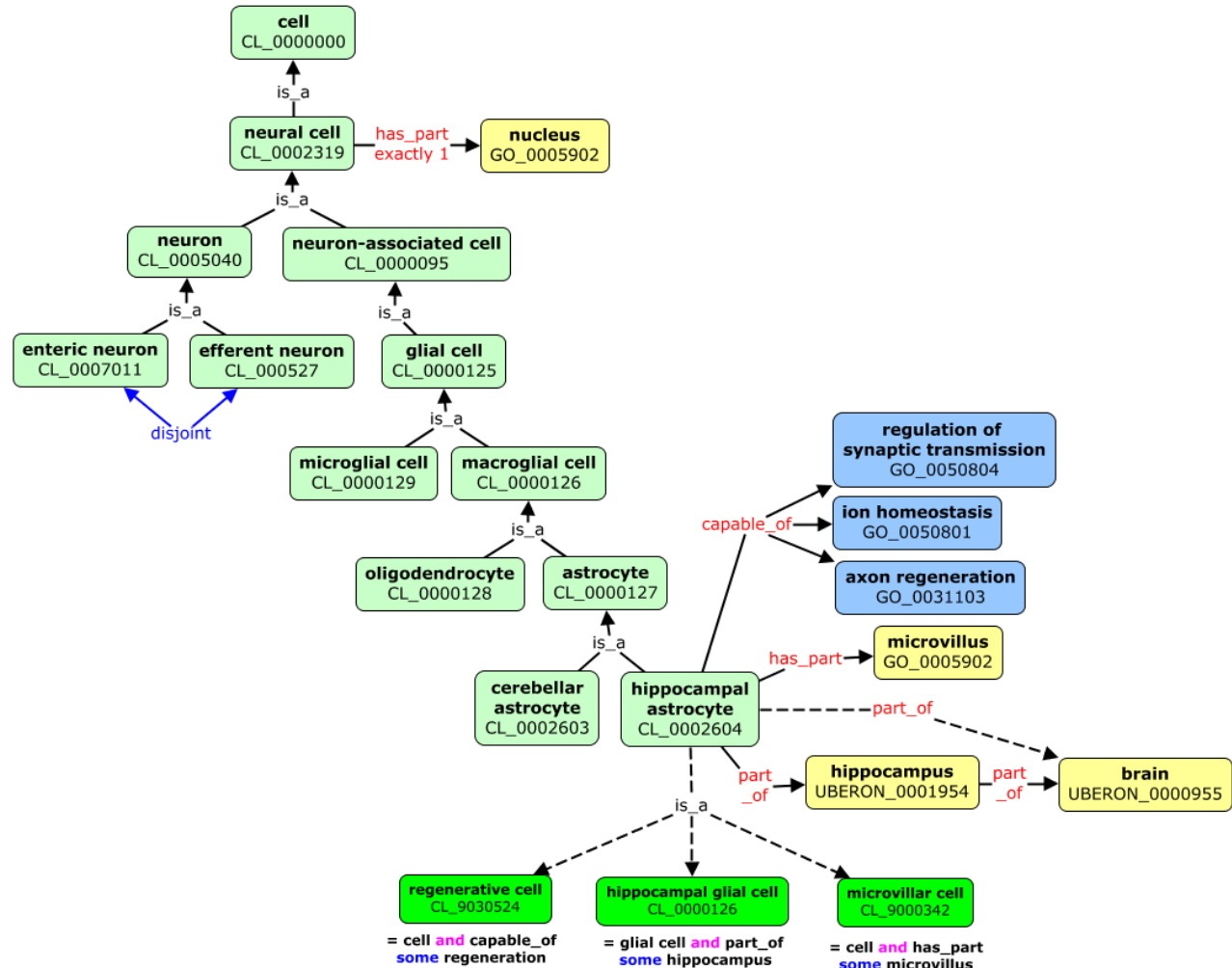
Mouse (Mus musculus)

- 10235-104A1 (visual cortex - wildtype)
- 10236-104A2 (visual cortex - wildtype)
- 10237-104A3 (visual cortex - wildtype)
- 10238-104A4 (visual cortex - wildtype)
- 10239-104A5 (visual cortex - wildtype)
- 10240-104A6 (visual cortex - wildtype)
- 10241-104A7 (visual cortex - wildtype)
- 10242-104A8 (visual cortex - wildtype)
- 10243-104A9 (visual cortex - wildtype)
- 10244-104B1 (visual cortex - Mecp knockout)

Without ontological “subsumption” reasoning, synonym formalism, the user would either need to do 17 different queries, or get an incomplete set of results.

Ontologies

Ontologies support automated **consistency checking**, **inferred classification** along different axes, and powerful **graph-based applications**



Ontologies are formal classifications

Appendage

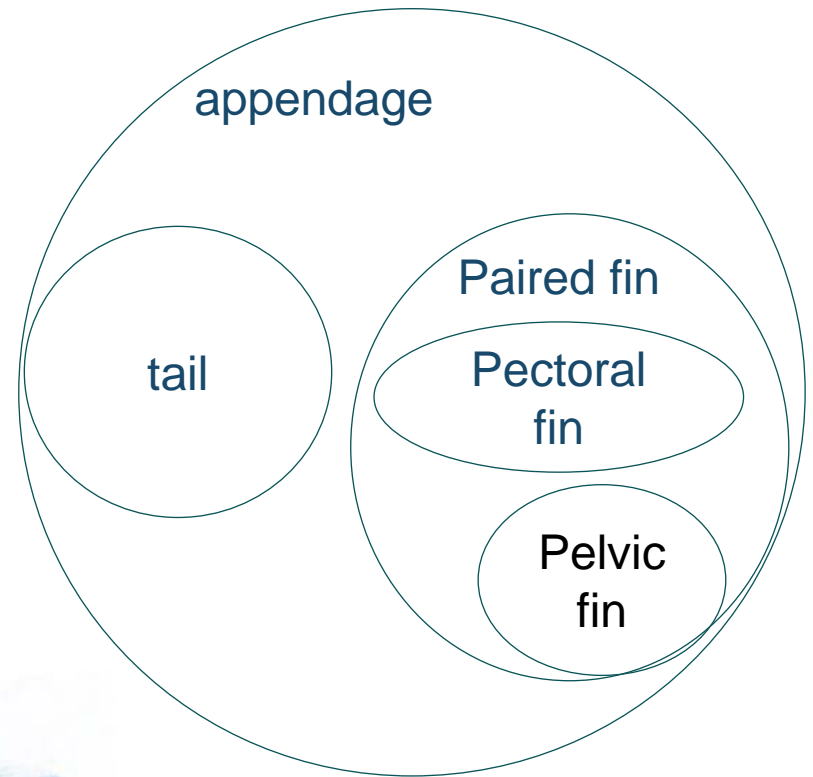
Tail

Median fin

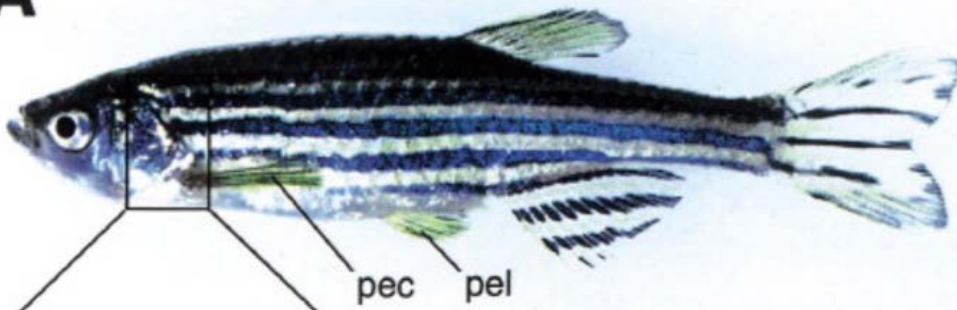
Paired fin

Pectoral fin

Pelvic fin

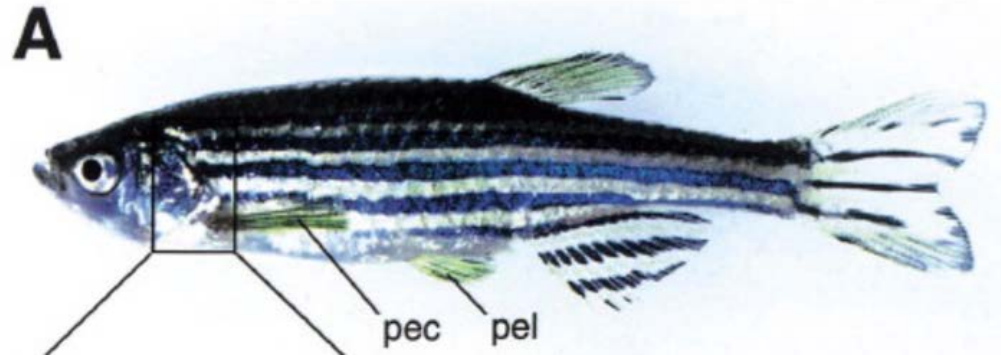
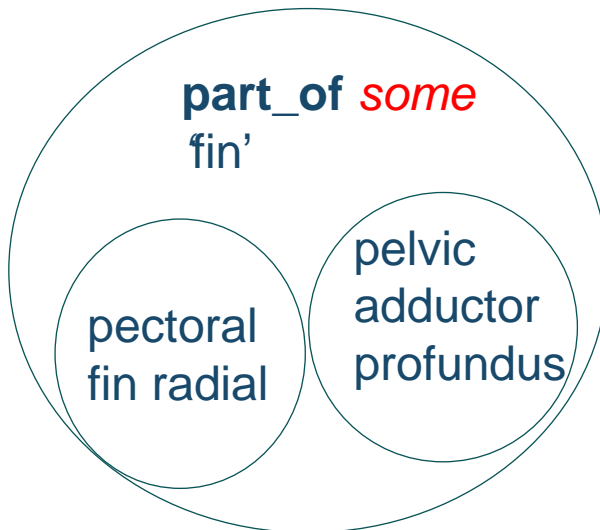


A



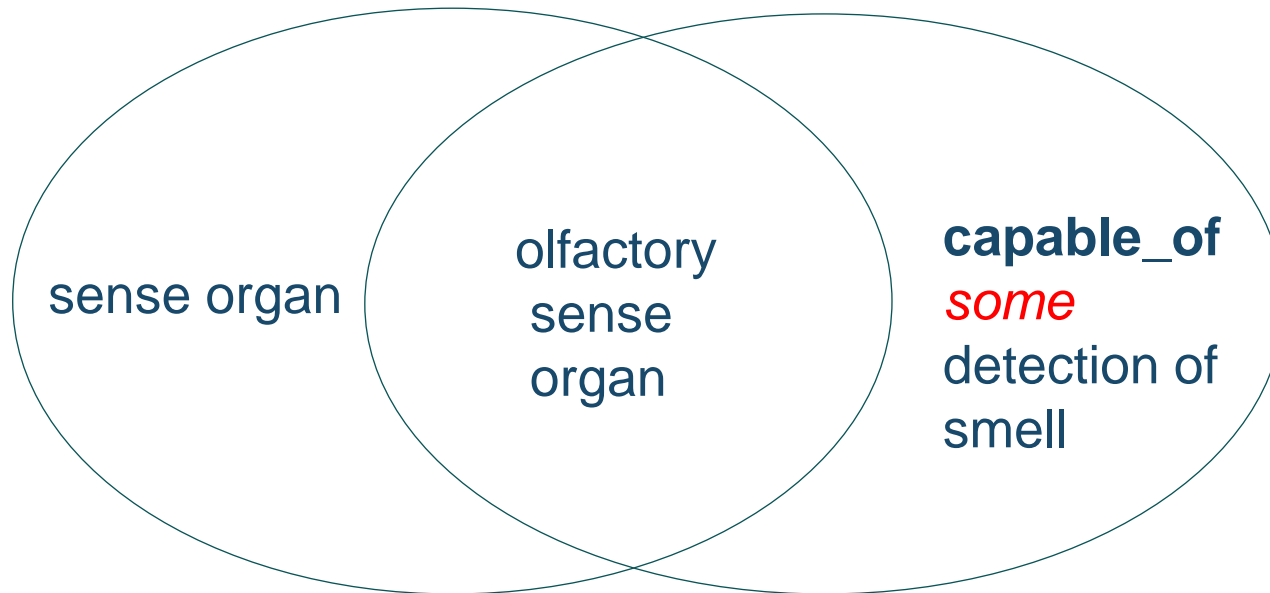
Relationships also support classification

'pectoral fin radial' *SubClassOf* part_of some 'fin'

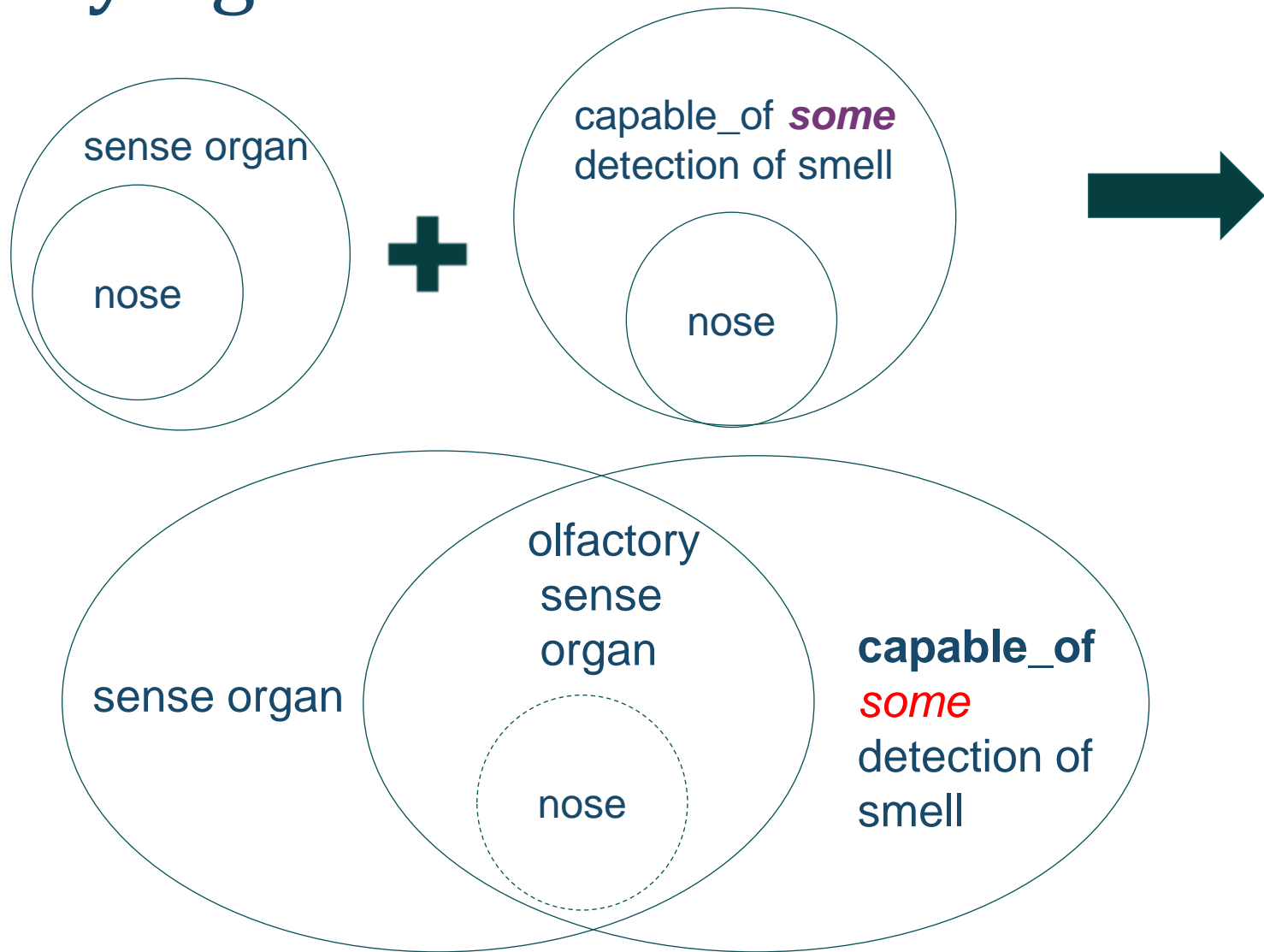


Necessary and sufficient conditions

Any sense organ that functions in the detection of smell is an olfactory sense organ

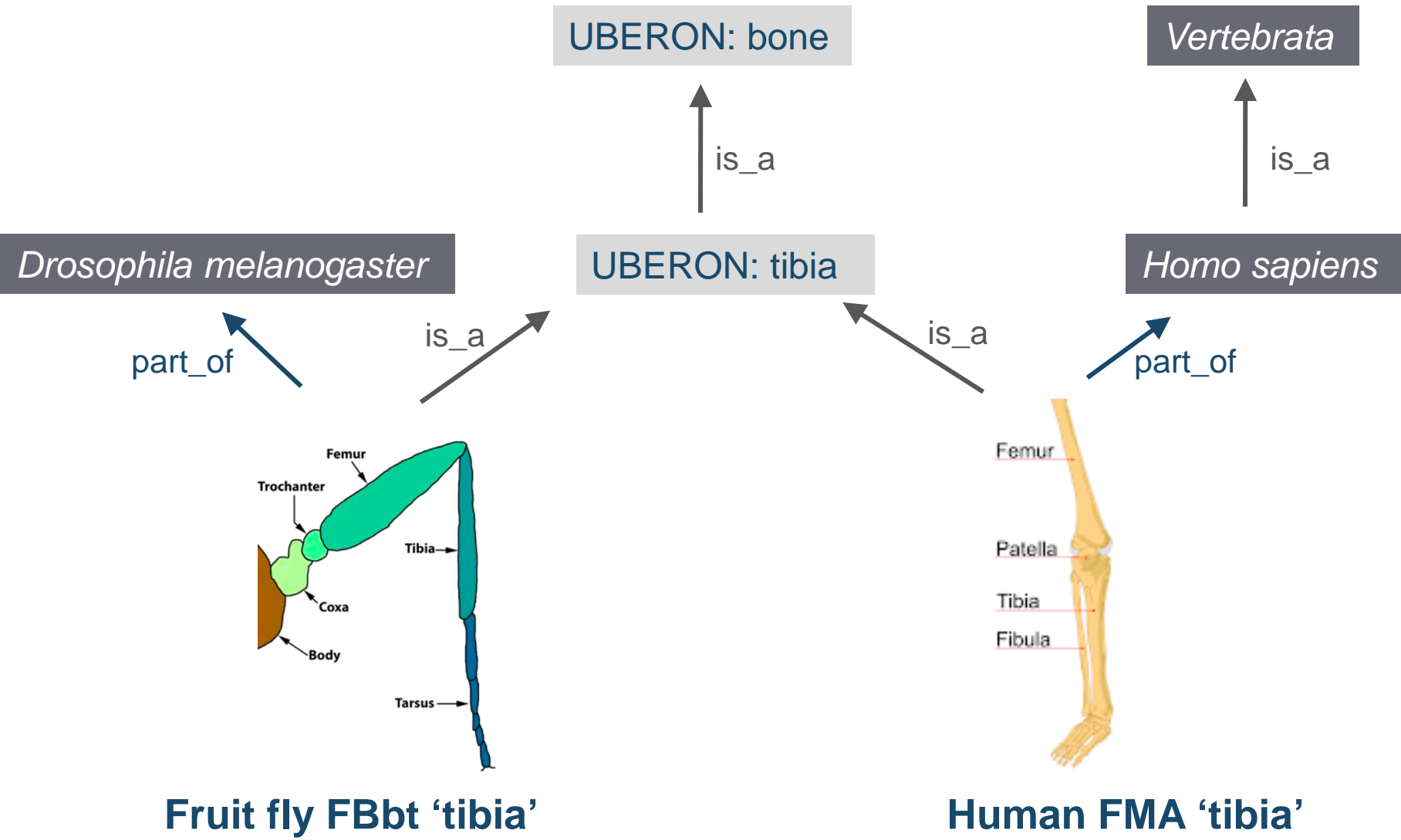


Classifying

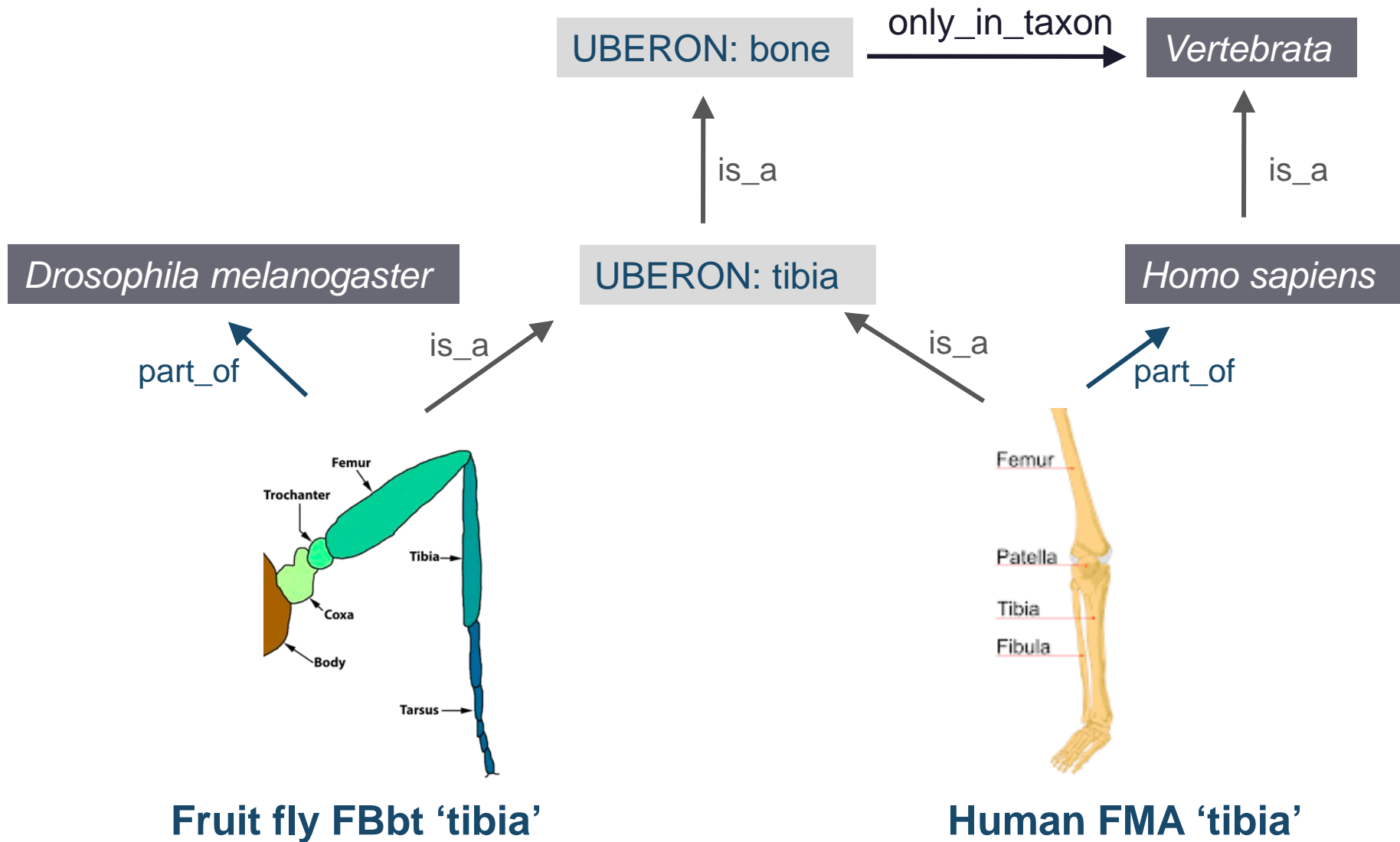


➤ These are necessary and sufficient conditions, also called an equivalent class axiom

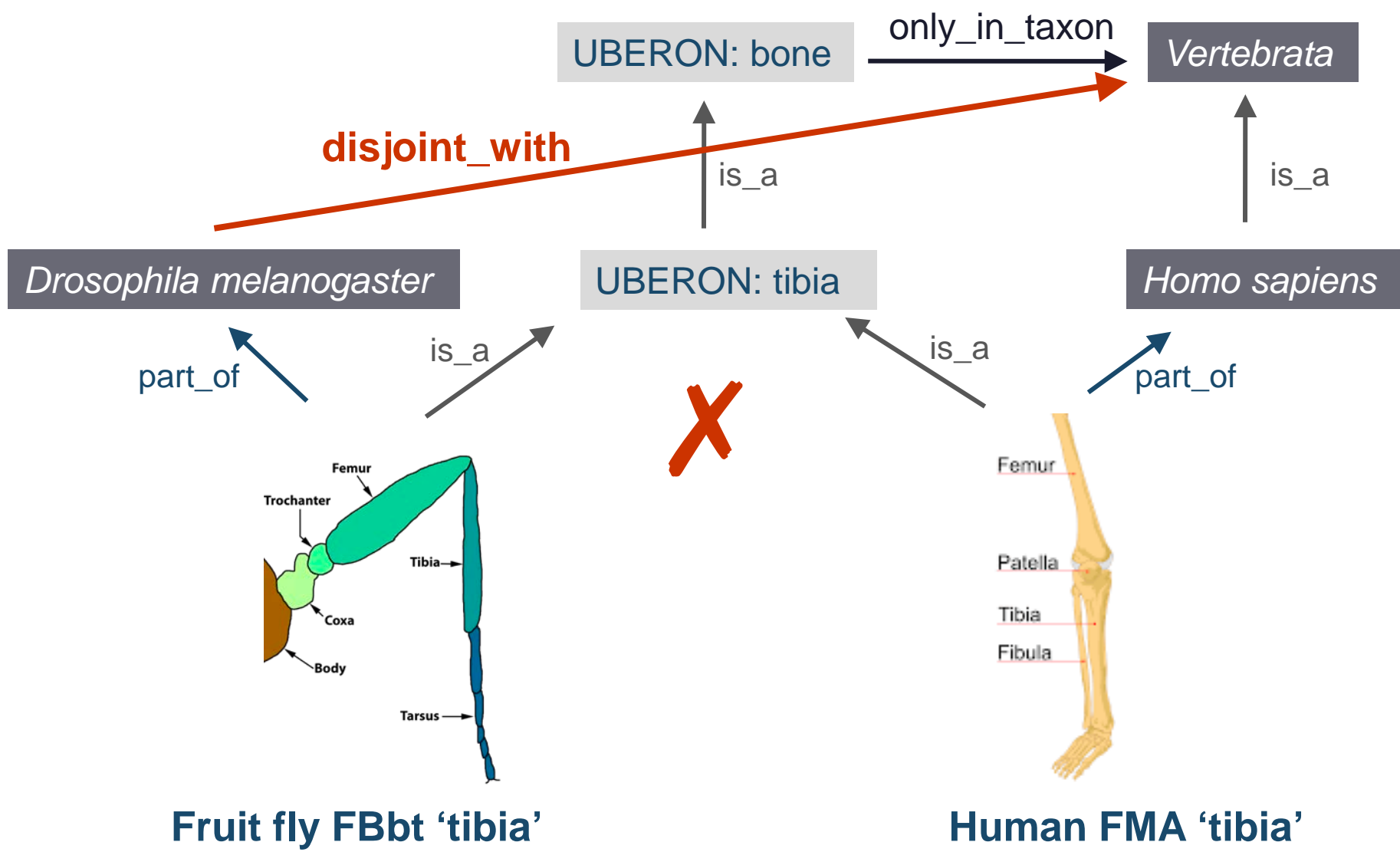
Using reasoners to detect errors



Using reasoners to detect errors



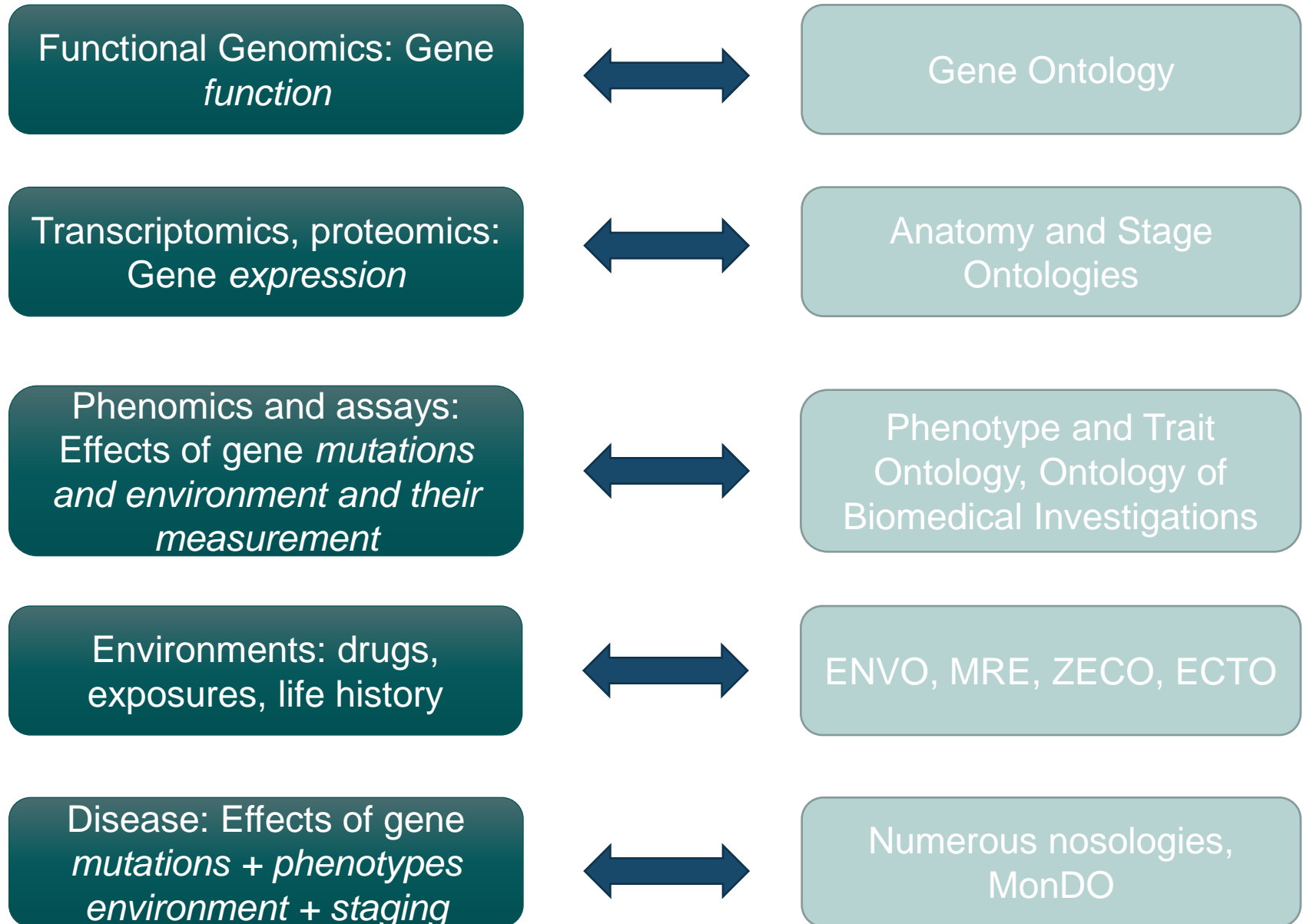
Using reasoners to detect errors



Fruit fly FBbt 'tibia'

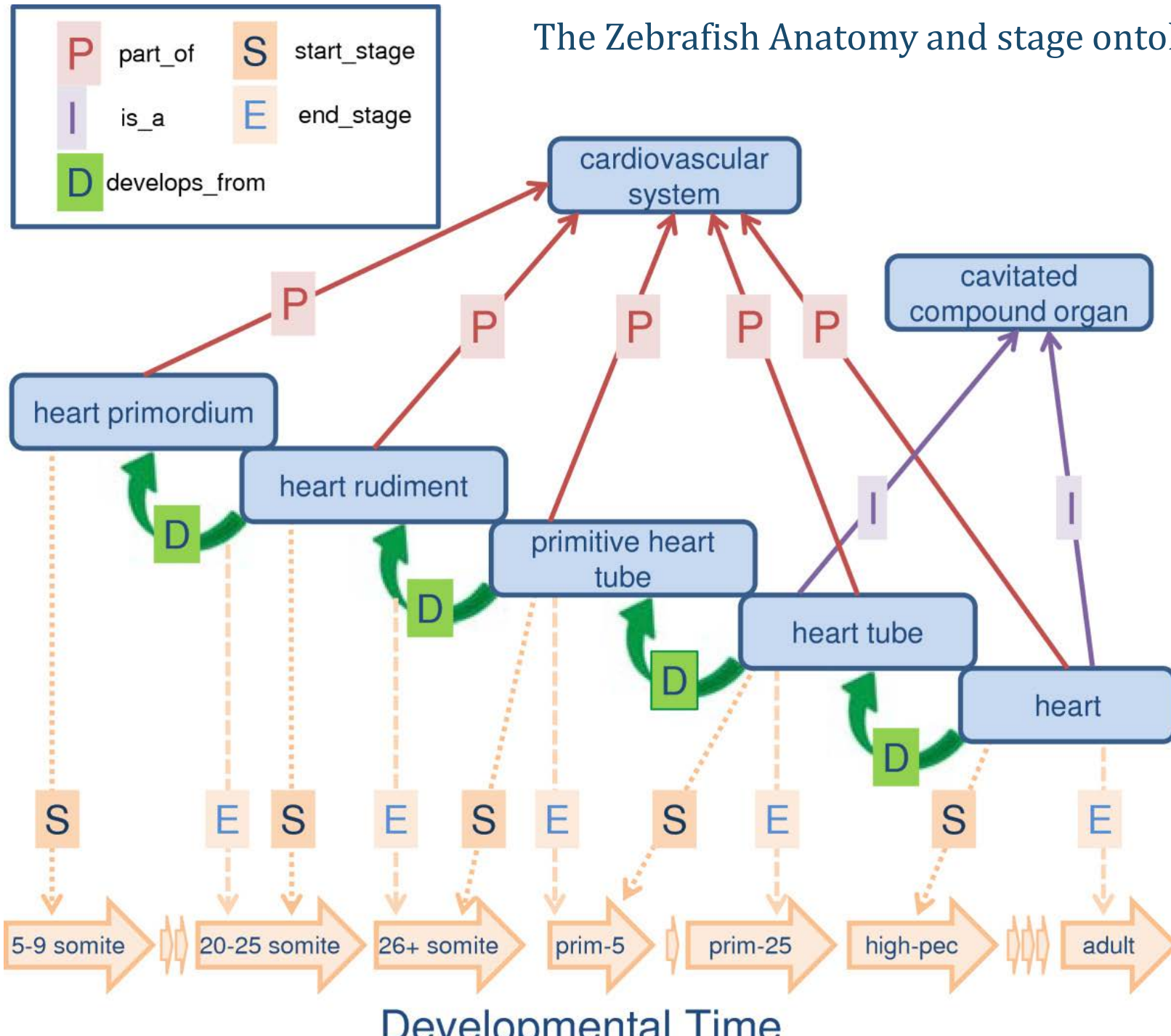
Human FMA 'tibia'

A compendium of interoperable ontologies



Anatomy and stage ontologies

The Zebrafish Anatomy and stage ontologies



The Zebrafish Anatomy and stage ontologies

A.

Neural Plate

Neural Keel

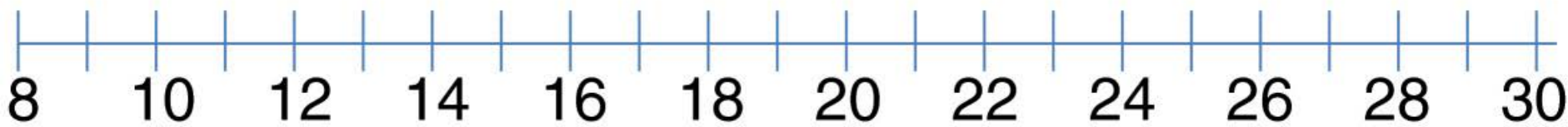
Neural Rod

0 Neural Tube

anterior

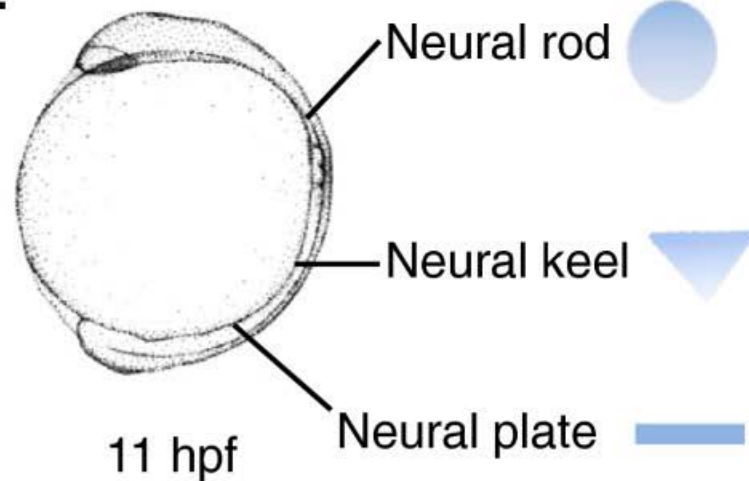


posterior

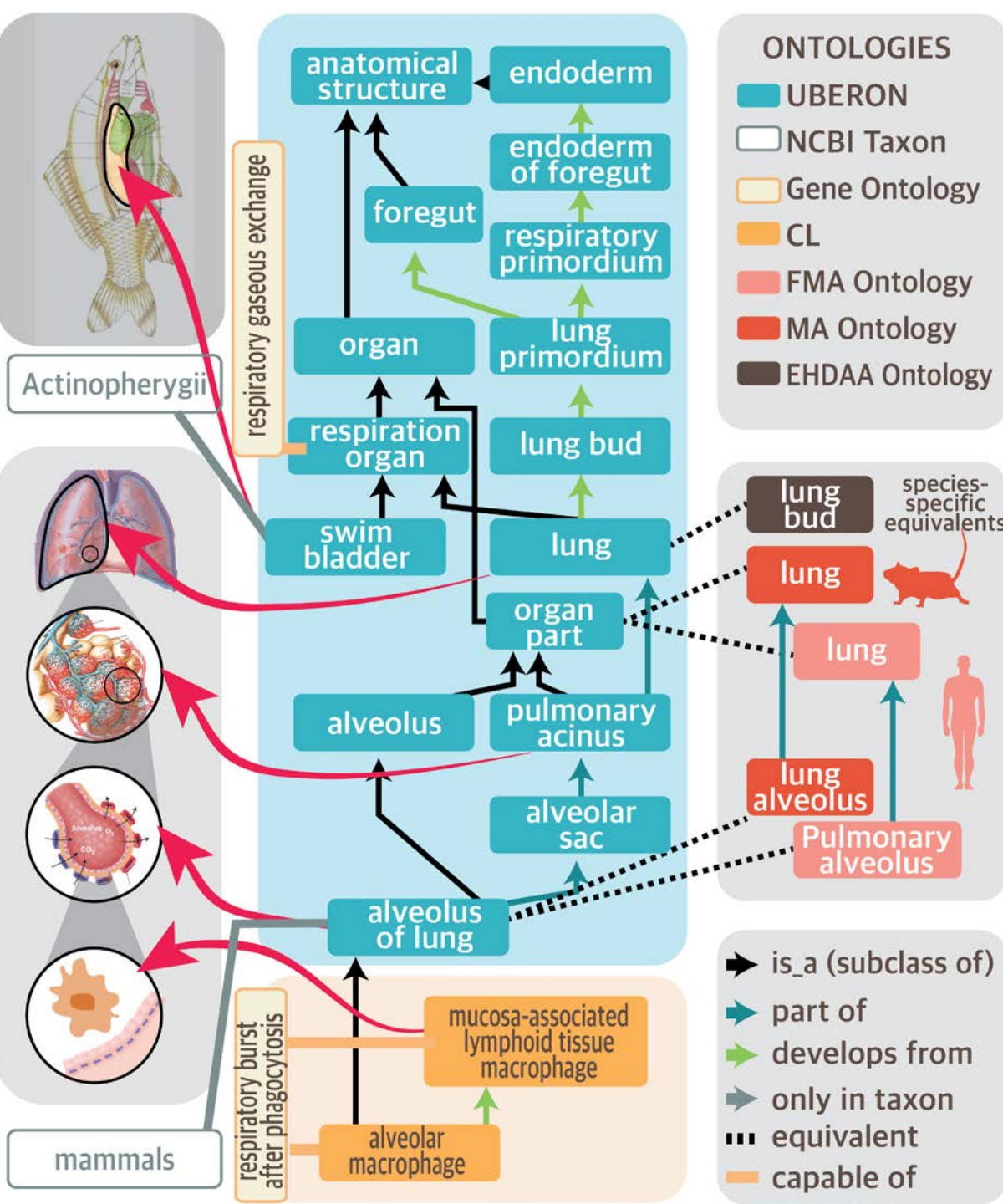


Time (hours post fertilization)

B.



Uberon: bridging semantics for anatomy

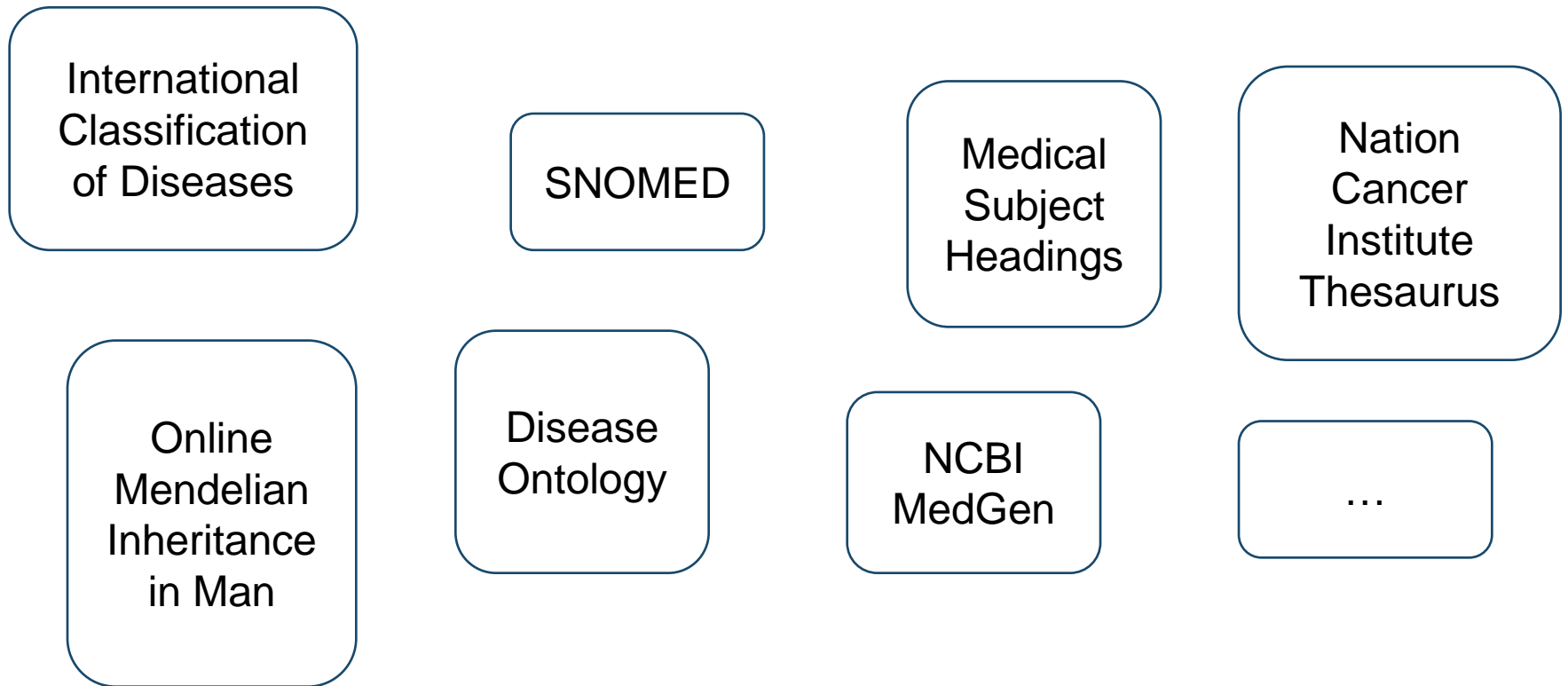


Mungall et al. (2012). *Genome Biology*, 13(1), R5. doi:10.1186/gb-2012-13-1-r5

Köhler et al. (2014) *F1000Research* 2:30 Haendel et al. (2014) *JBMS* 5:21 doi:10.1186/2041-1480-5-21

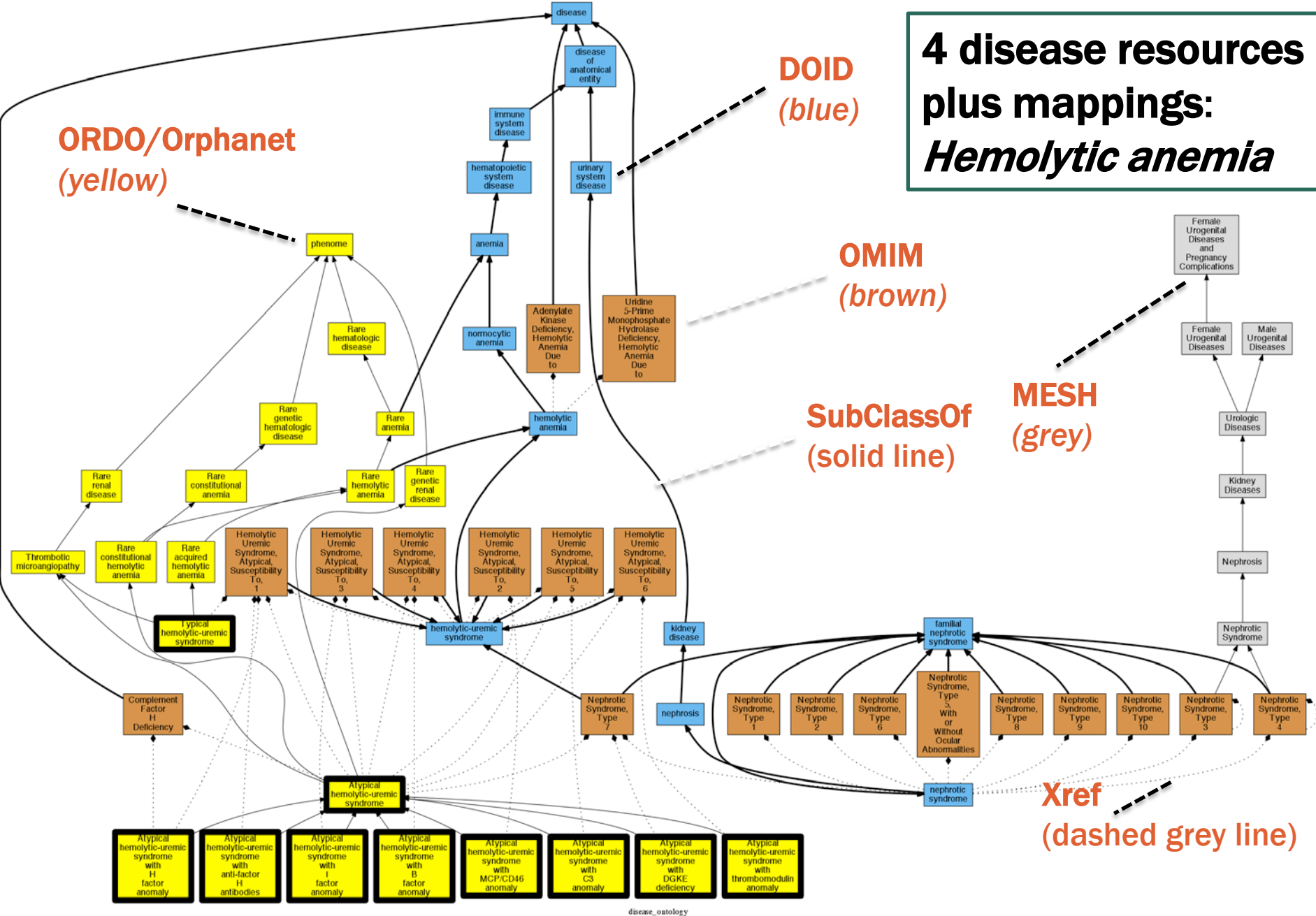
A merger of disease ontologies

The challenge of multiple perspectives: how can we bridge these?

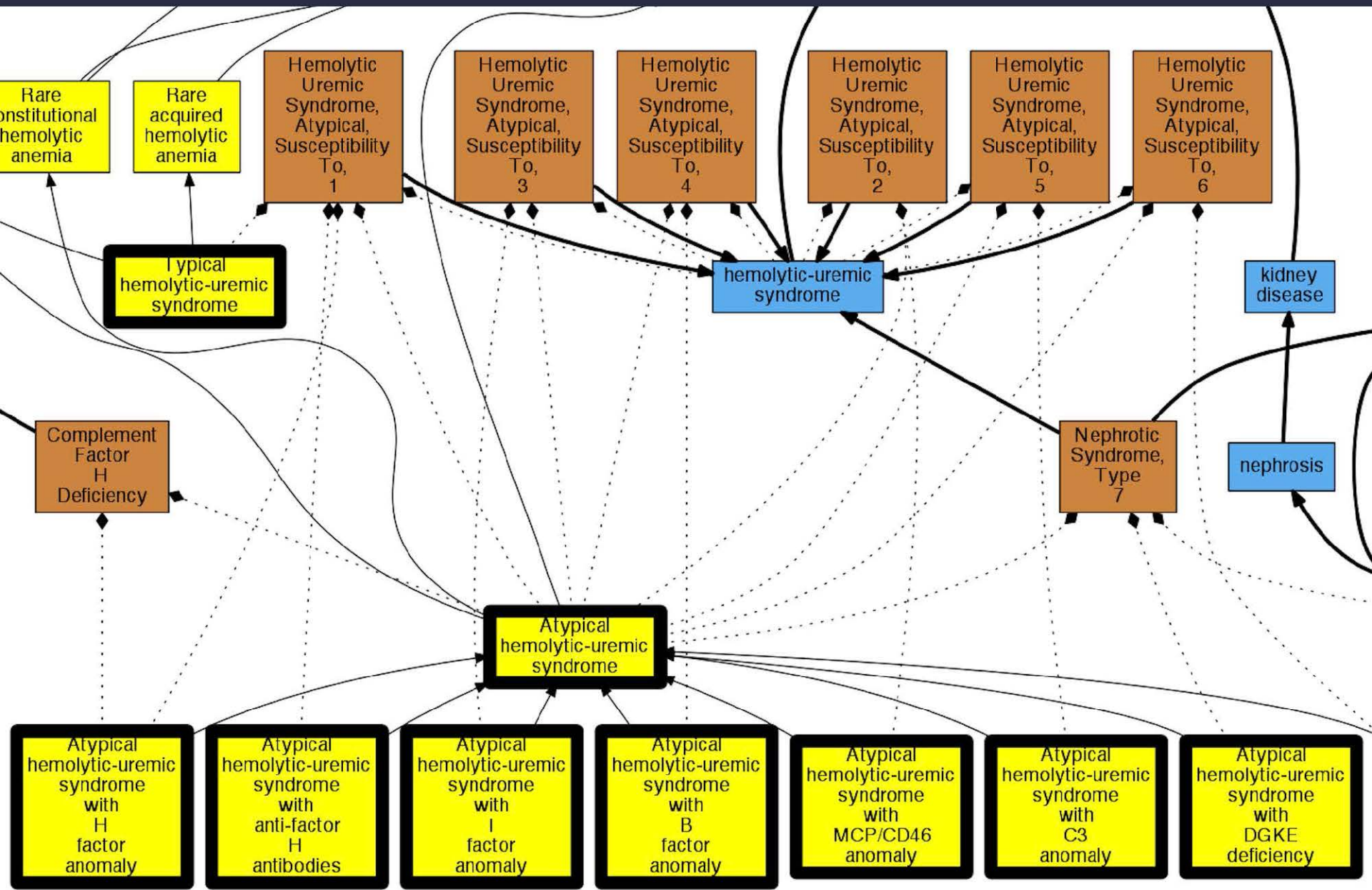


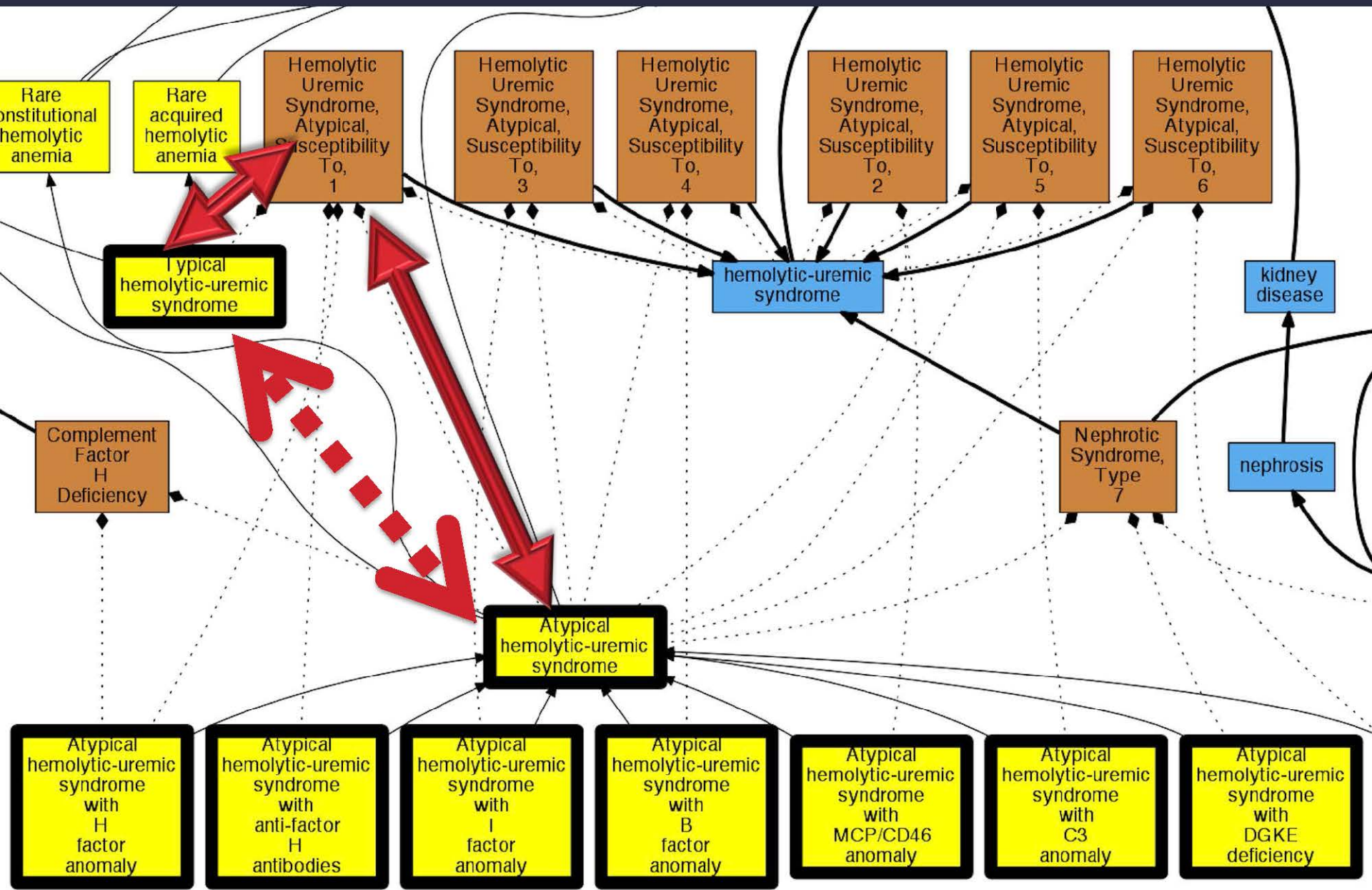
Disease classifications and lists...there are a lot of them

**4 disease resources
plus mappings:
*Hemolytic anemia***



disease_ontology





MonDO: Merged Ontology of Disease Entities

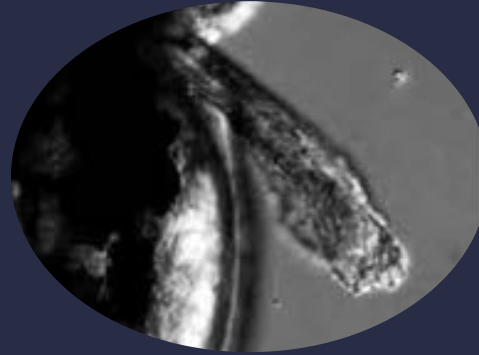
“Ontology”	Classes (before, after merge)	SubClass axioms	Mappings
<i>Inputs:</i>			
DOID	6878 → 6012	7082	36656
MESH (D)	11314 → 4152	19036	
OMIM (D)	7783 → 7783	0	31242
Orphanet (D)	8740 → 4683	15182	20326
OMIA	4833 → 4833	3120	355
DC	209 → 208	310	316
Medic	0	8630	3435
<i>Output:</i>			
MonDO	39757 → 27617	44837	

<https://github.com/monarch-initiative/monarch-disease-ontology>

Phenotype ontologies

Different communities use different languages

Palmoplantar
hyperkeratosis



Degenerate
fin
epithelium



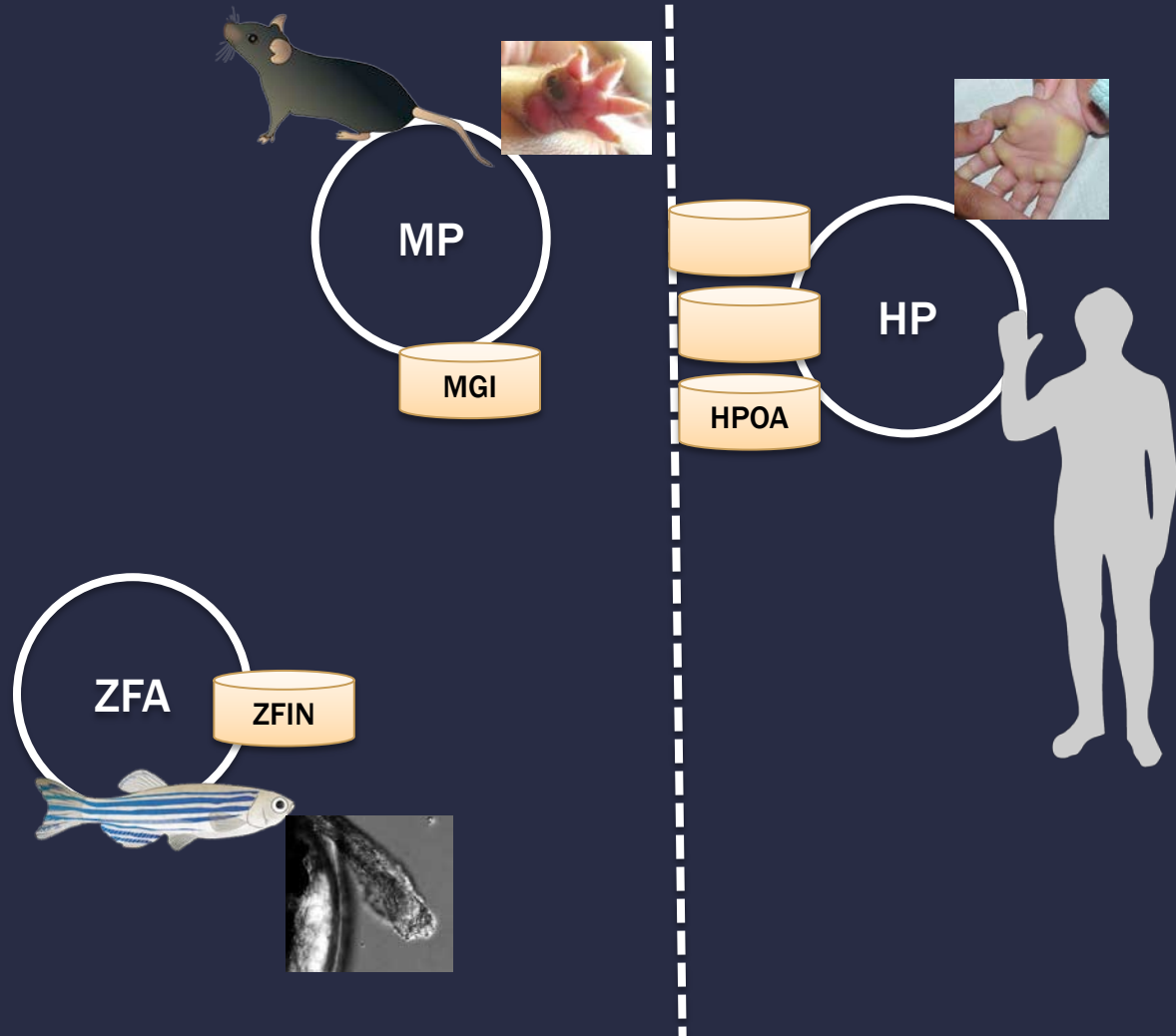
Thick
hand skin



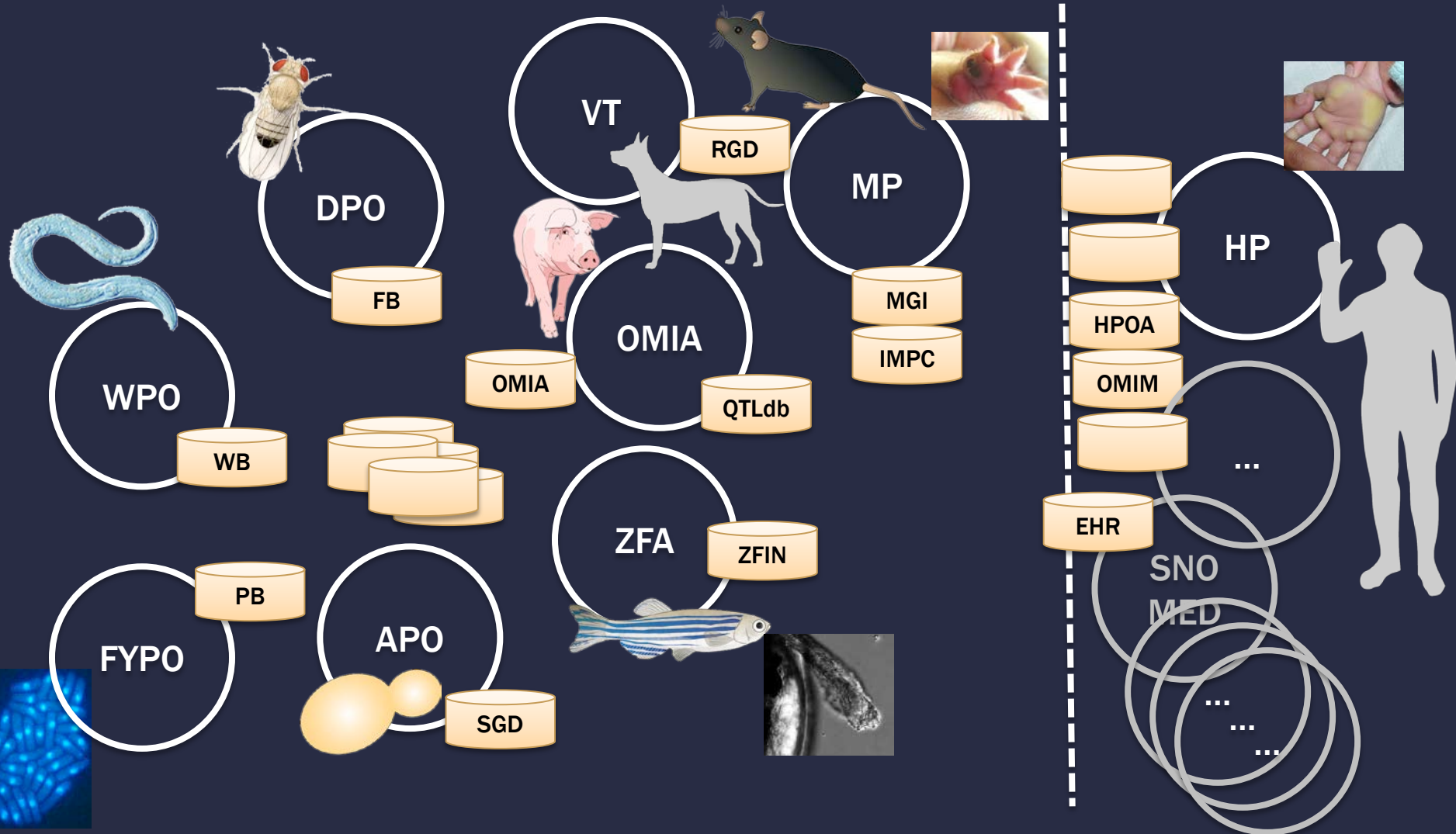
Ulcerated
paws



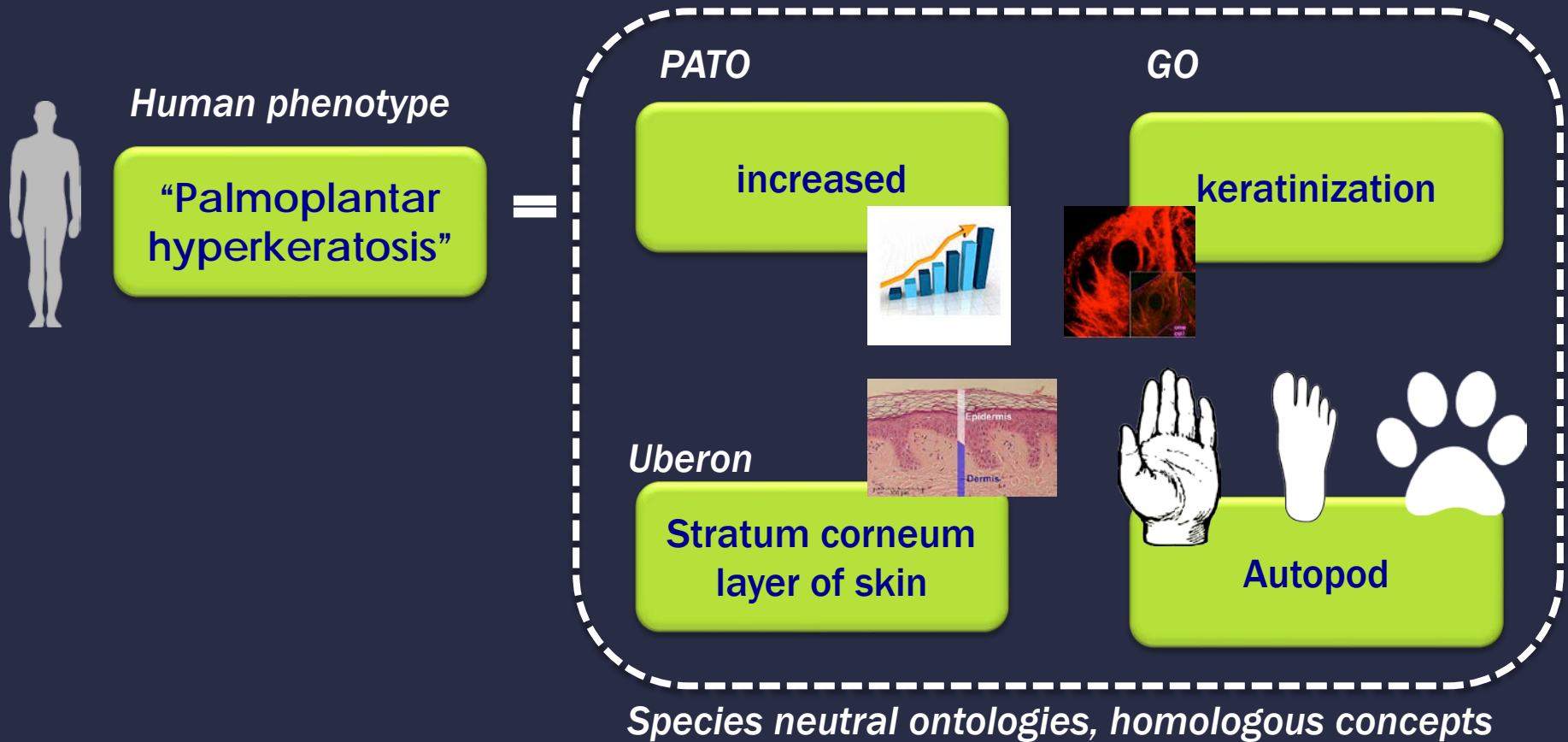
Challenge: Each data source uses their own vocabulary/ontology




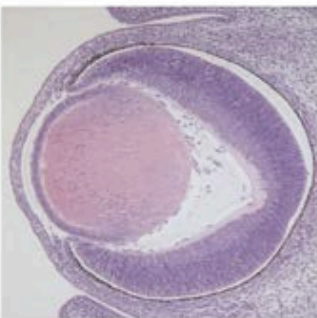
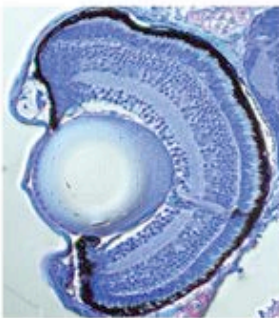

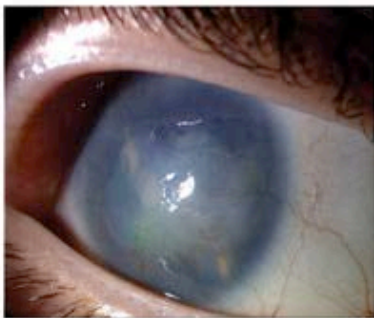
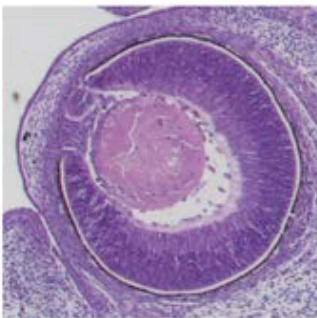
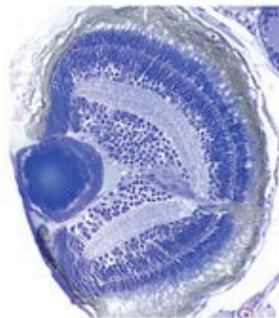
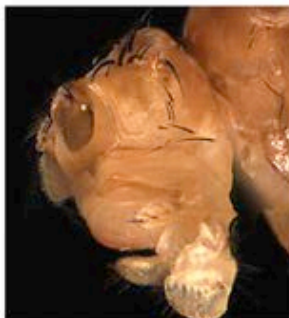
Challenge: Each data source uses their own phenotype vocabulary/ontology



Decomposition of complex concepts allows interoperability

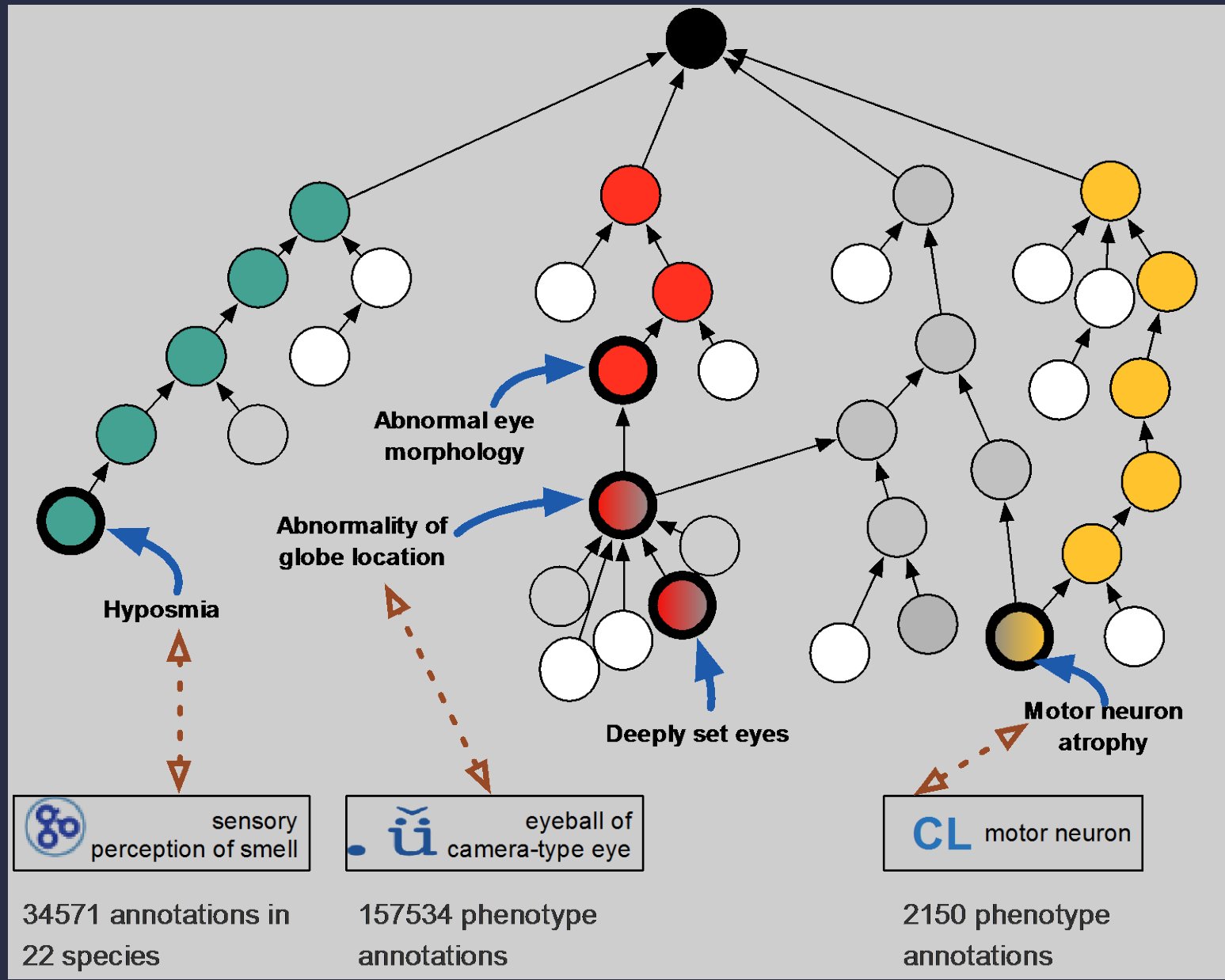


Semantic similarity of phenotypes for disease discovery

	Human	Mouse	Zebrafish	Drosophila
WT				
mut				
	<i>PAX6</i> ^{+/-}	<i>Pax6</i> ^{-/-}	<i>pax6b</i> ^{-/-}	<i>ey</i> ^{-/-}
EQs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cornea opaque iris absent retina degenerate lens opaque aqueous humor of eyeball increased pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eye decreased size lens fused_to cornea iris morphology anterior chamber absent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eye decreased size lens decreased size retina malformed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eye absent
	FMA+PATO	MP	ZFA+PATO	FBbt+PATO

"Linking Human Diseases to Animal Models Using Ontology-Based Phenotype Annotation." PLoS Biol 7(11): e1000247. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000247 Washington NL, Haendel MA, Mungall CJ, Ashburner M, Westerfield M, Lewis SE

The Human Phenotype Ontology for deep phenotyping

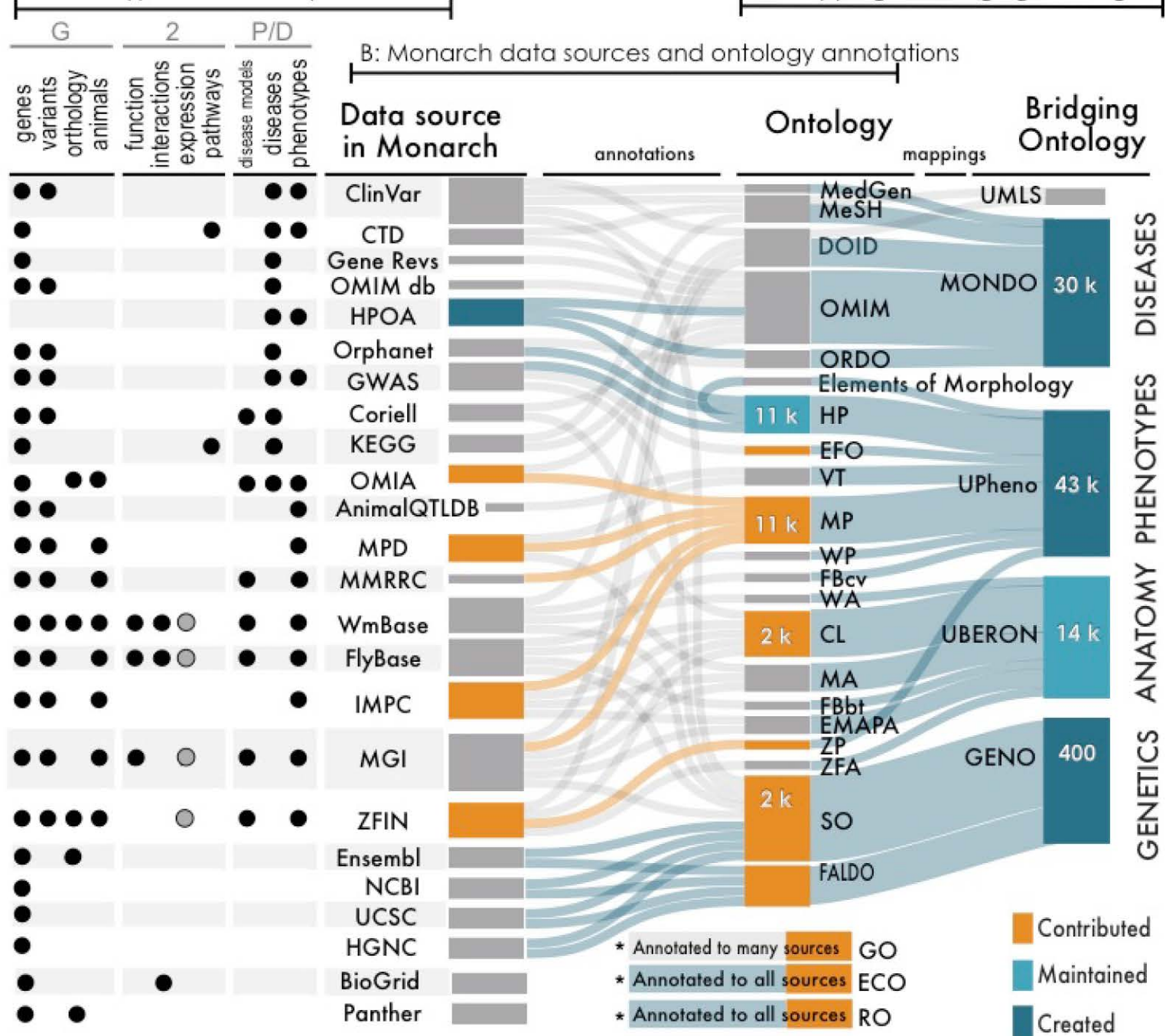




Ontologies at work:
Data integration and disease
diagnosis

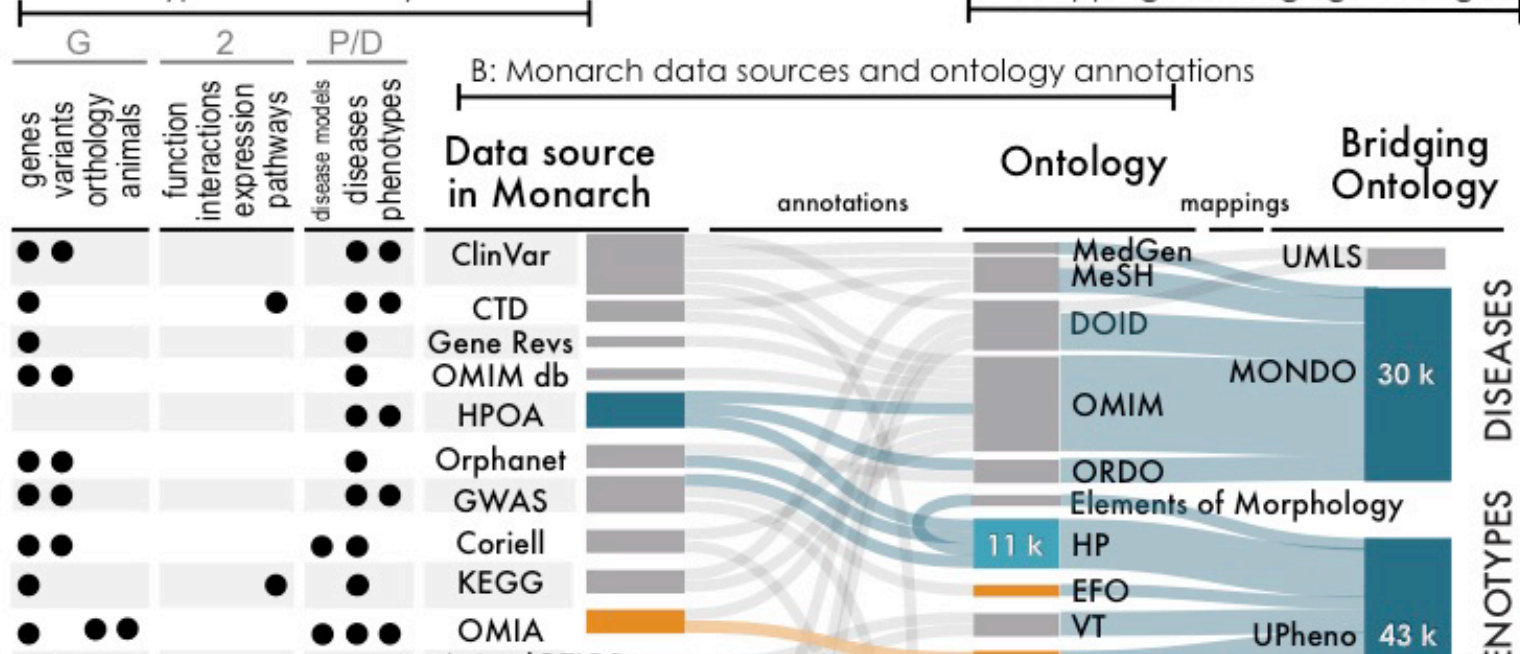
A: Data types covered by Monarch data sources

C: Mappings to bridging ontologies

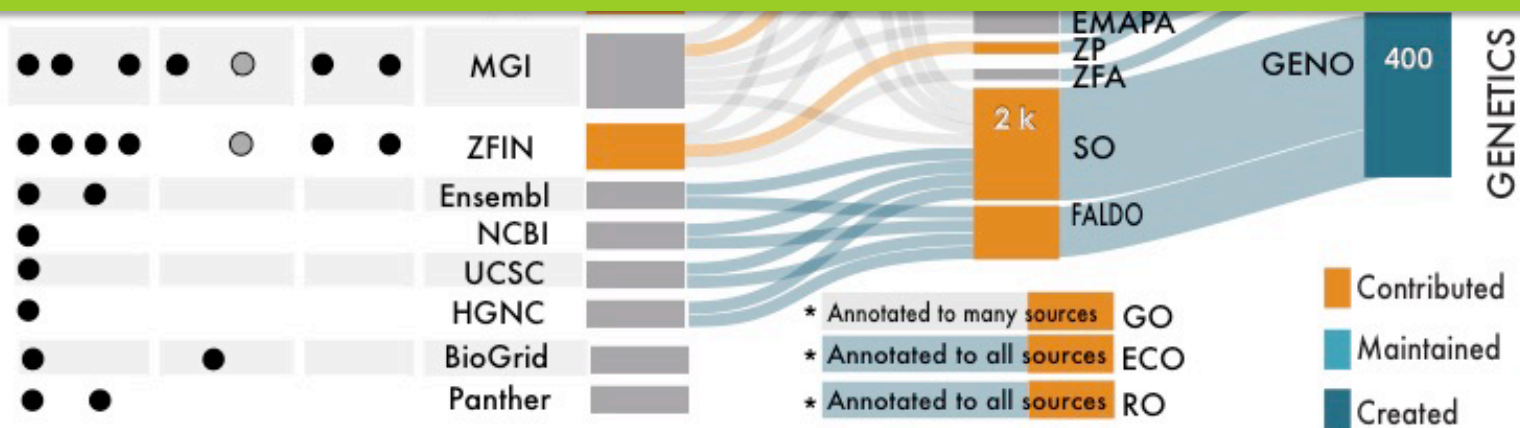


A: Data types covered by Monarch data sources

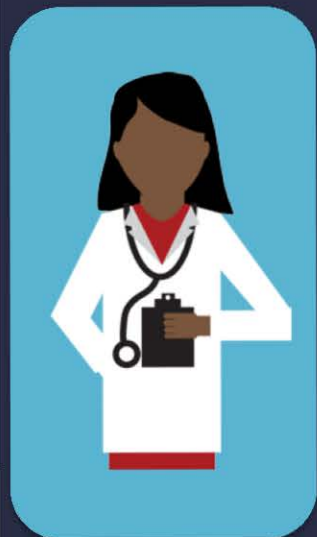
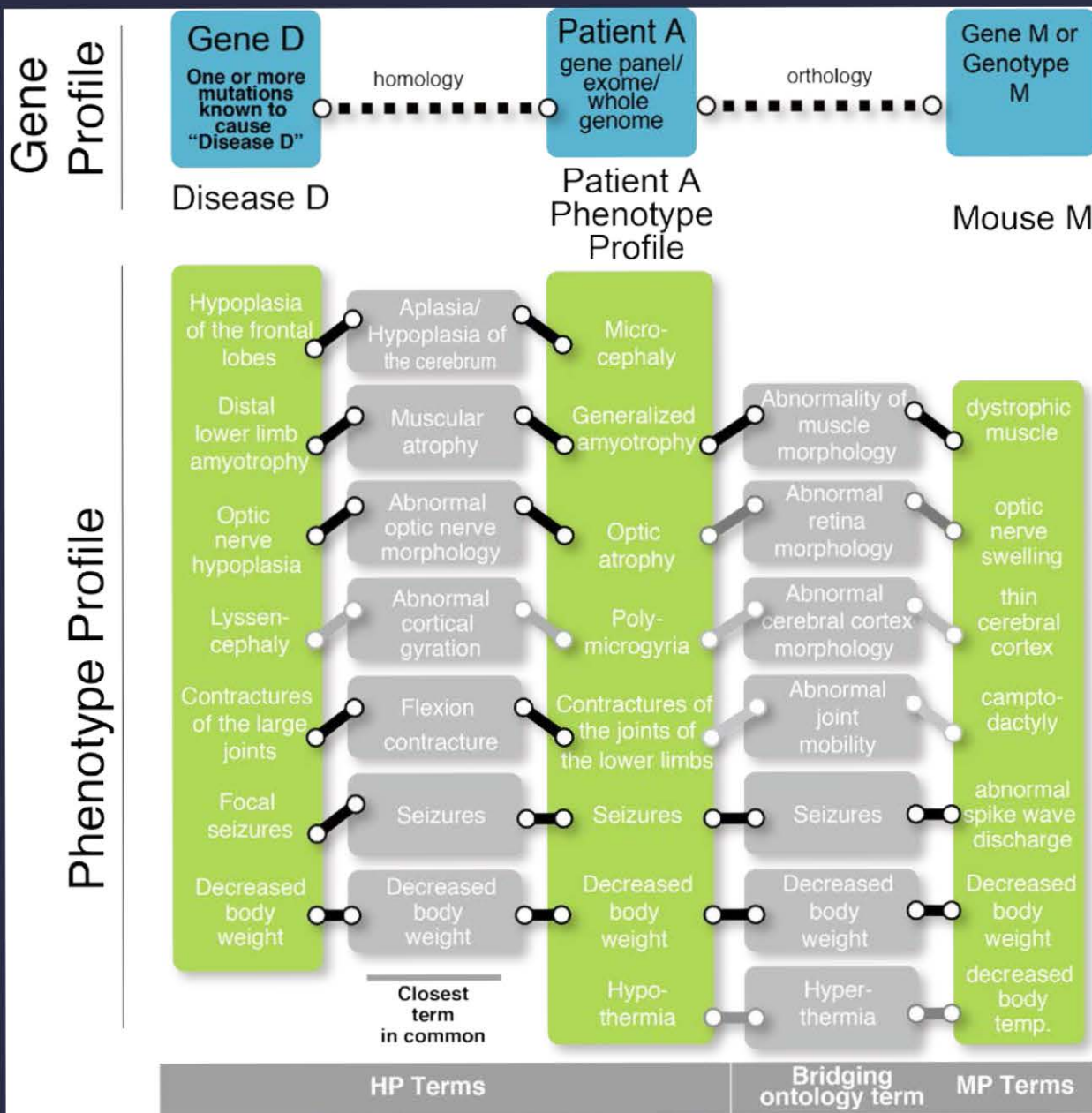
C: Mappings to bridging ontologies



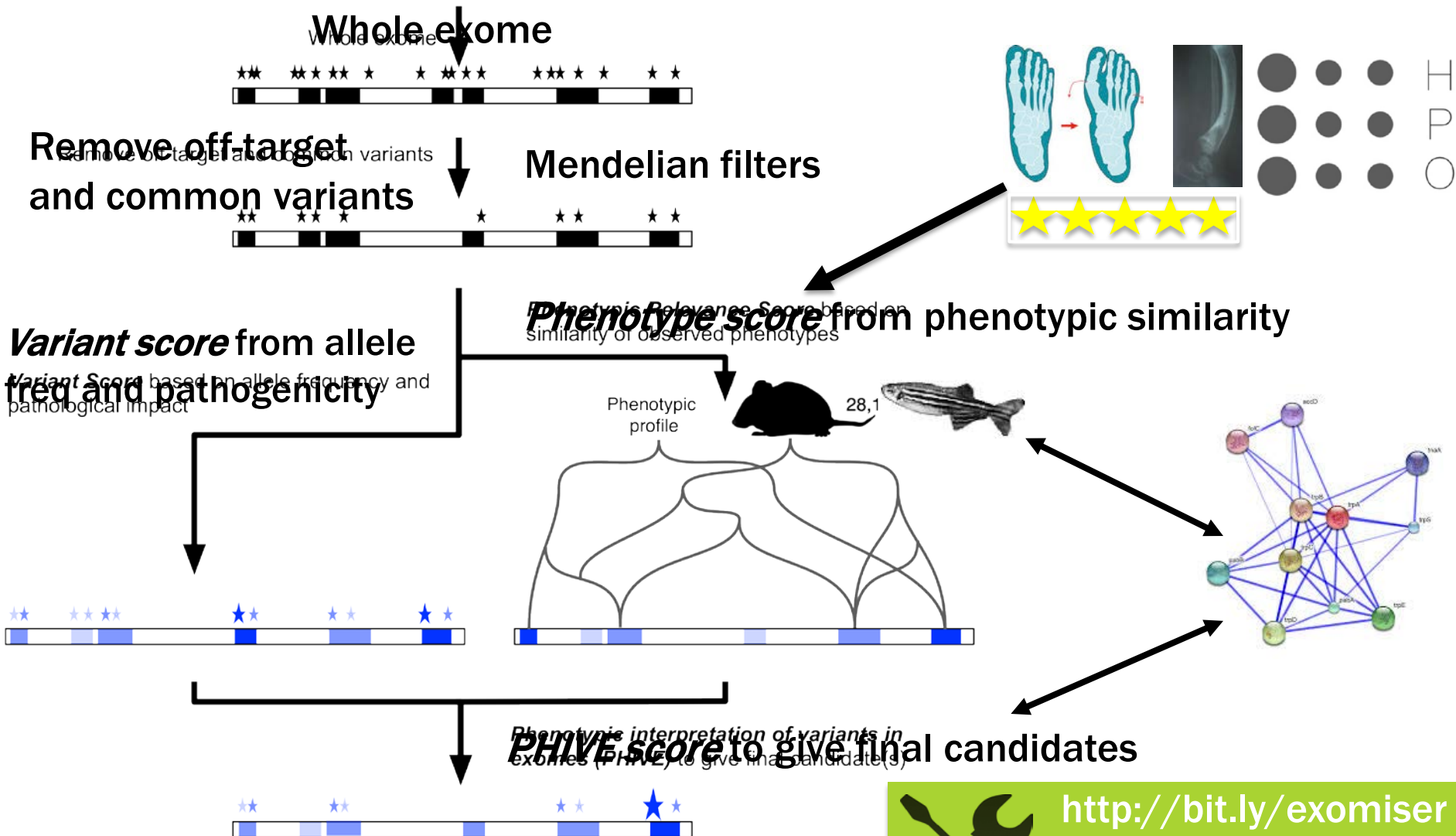
Harmonizing diseases, phenotypes, anatomy, and genotypes
 91% of our 2.2 Million G2P associations require integrating
 2 or more data sources



Phenotypic matchmaking for disease diagnostics



Combining genotype and phenotype data for variant prioritization



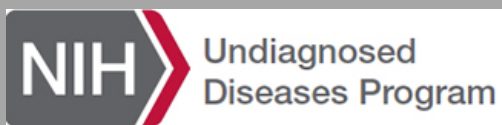
Putting all that data to use to diagnose a rare platelet syndrome

<http://bit.ly/stim1paper>

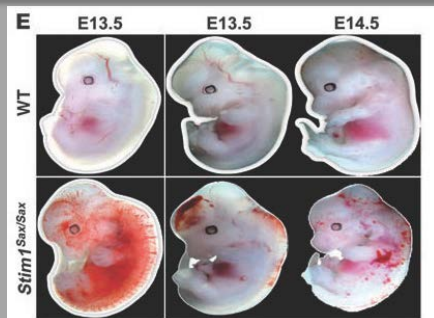
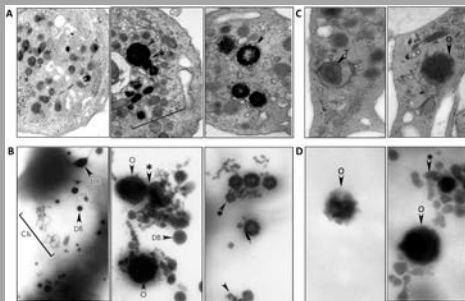


<http://bit.ly/exomiser>

Ranked STIM-1 variant maximally pathogenic based on cross-species G2P data, in the absence of traditional data sources



Phenotypic profile



N/A

Genes

Heterozygous, missense mutation
STIM-1

Heterozygous, missense mutation
STIM-1

N/A



What about environment and exposure ontologies?



A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the Americas (North and South America) in the center, surrounded by the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The Earth's surface is covered in blue oceans, green and brown landmasses, and white clouds. The background is black space.

**“the environment is everything
that isn’t me”**

—Albert Einstein

**Can we sensibly make an
ontology of everything that
isn't me?**





International
Labour
Organization

1. Occupational diseases caused by exposure to agents arising from work activities

1.1. Diseases caused by chemical agents

- 1.1.1. Diseases caused by beryllium or its compounds
- 1.1.2. Diseases caused by cadmium or its compounds
- 1.1.3. Diseases caused by phosphorus or its compounds
- 1.1.4. Diseases caused by chromium or its compounds
- 1.1.5. Diseases caused by manganese or its compounds
- 1.1.6. Diseases caused by arsenic or its compounds
- 1.1.7. Diseases caused by mercury or its compounds
- 1.1.8. Diseases caused by lead or its compounds
- 1.1.9. Diseases caused by fluorine or its compounds
- 1.1.10. Diseases caused by carbon disulfide
- 1.1.11. Diseases caused by halogen derivatives of aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbons
- 1.1.12. Diseases caused by benzene or its homologues
- 1.1.13. Diseases caused by nitro- and amino-derivatives of benzene or its homologues
- 1.1.14. Diseases caused by nitroglycerine or other nitric acid esters
- 1.1.15. Diseases caused by alcohols, glycols or ketones
- 1.1.16. Diseases caused by asphyxiants like carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, hydrogen cyanide or its derivatives
- 1.1.17. Diseases caused by acrylonitrile
- 1.1.18. Diseases caused by oxides of nitrogen
- 1.1.19. Diseases caused by vanadium or its compounds
- 1.1.20. Diseases caused by antimony or its compounds



International
Labour
Organization

residues of

3. Occupational cancer

3.1. Cancer caused by the following agents

3.1.1. Asbestos

3.1.2. Benzid

3.1.3. Bis-chl

3.1.4. Chromi

3.1.5. Coal tar

3.1.6. Beta-na

3.1.7. Vinyl ch

3.1.8. Benzer

3.1.9. Toxic n

3.1.10. Ionizing

3.1.11. Tar, pit
these s

3.1.12. Coke ov

3.1.13. Nickel c

3.1.14. Wood d

3.1.15. Arsenic

3.1.16. Berylliu

3.1.17. Cadmiu

3.1.18. Erionite

3.1.19. Ethylene oxide

3.1.20. Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV)

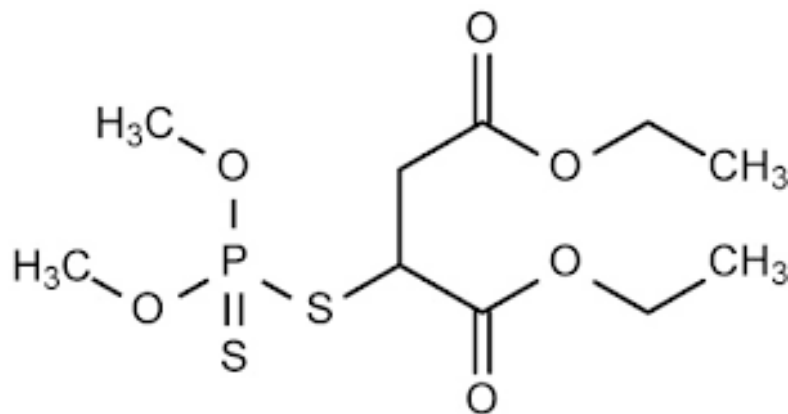
3.1.21. Cancers caused by other agents at work not mentioned in the preceding items where a

**Can we make these lists computable?
Translate them into a form a machine can
understand and reason over?**

We have a precise machine-readable language for describing some environmental exposures



= CCOC(=O)CC(SP(=S)(OC)OC)C(=O)OCC



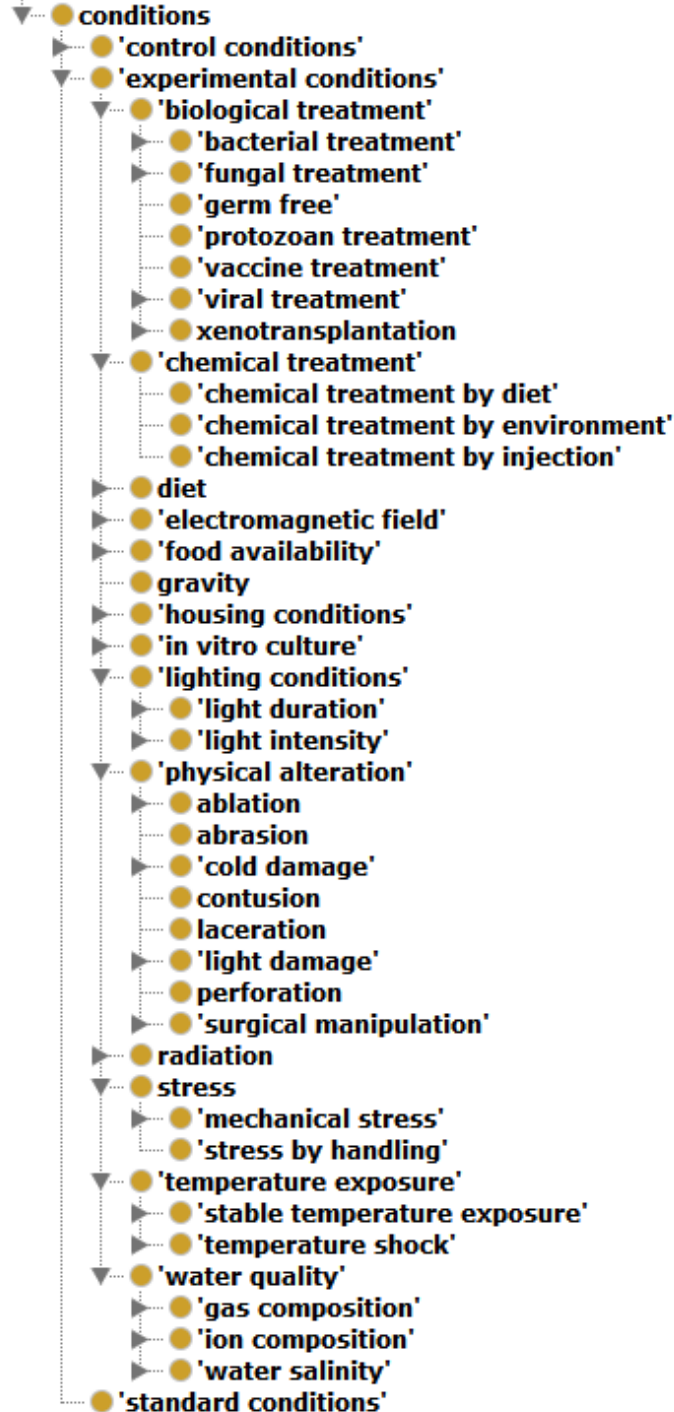
[CHEBI:6651](#)

CheBI is a chemical ontology

But others are harder to define



The Zebrafish Environmental Conditions Ontology



<https://github.com/ybradford/zebrafish-experimental-conditions-ontology>

The Environment Ontology



- Originally created for metagenome samples
 - Characterize microbial environments
- Extended for ecological science
 - The “Earth Phenotype Ontology”
- Being adapted for human exposures

Material

Water

Soil

Air

Features

Natural

Anthropogenic

Biome

Terrestrial

Aquatic

Polar

Process

Erosion

Pollution

Biological

Algal bloom...

A photograph of a 'FOOD MART' store. The building has a yellow sign with 'FOOD MART' written in blue letters. There is a blue mailbox in front of the store. The background shows trees and a cloudy sky.

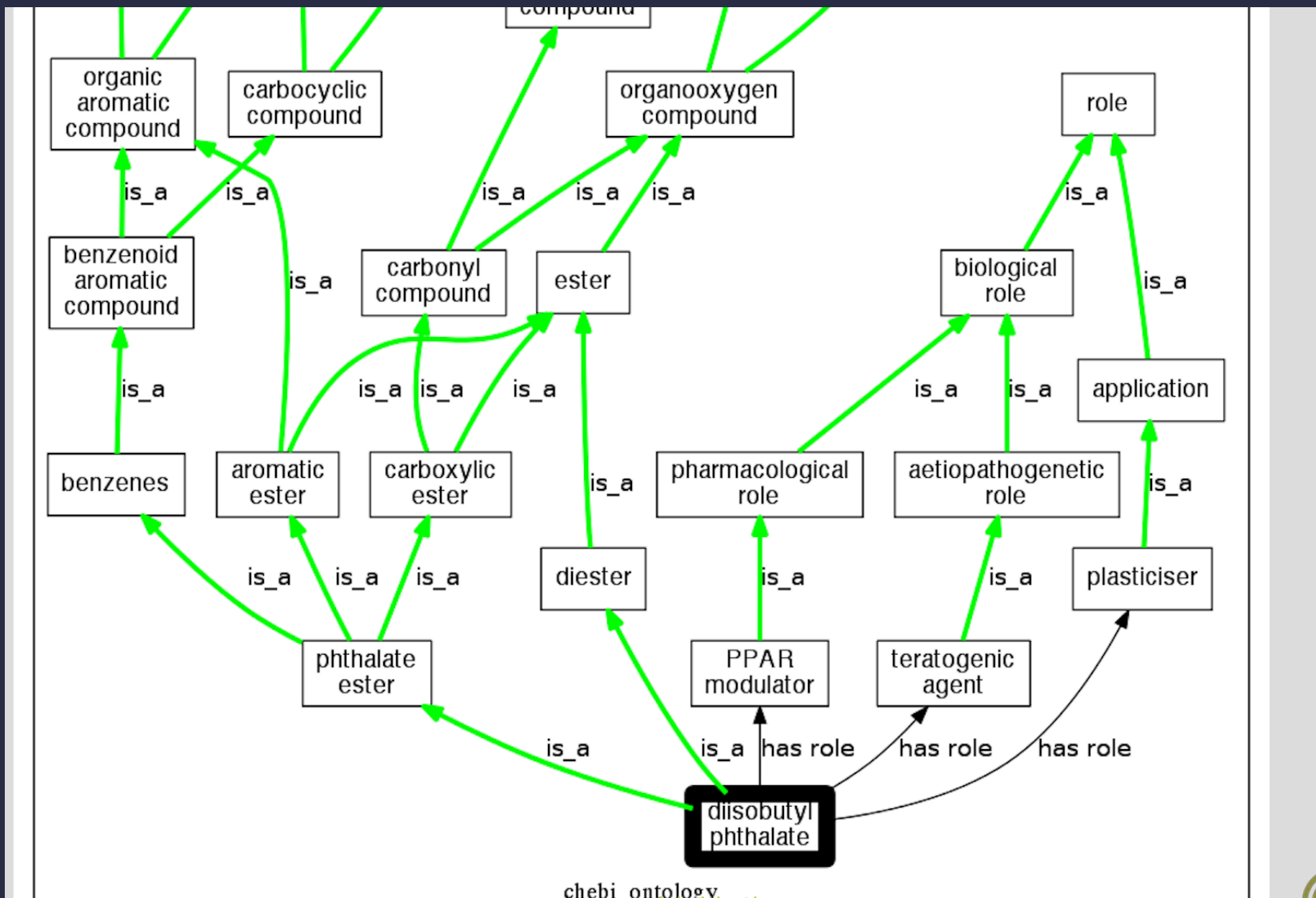
Biome: Food desert

Feature: Store (alcohol, sugar-rich food)

Material: Air, high particulate matter

**Process: decreased investment
in infrastructure**

CHEBI: chemical classification



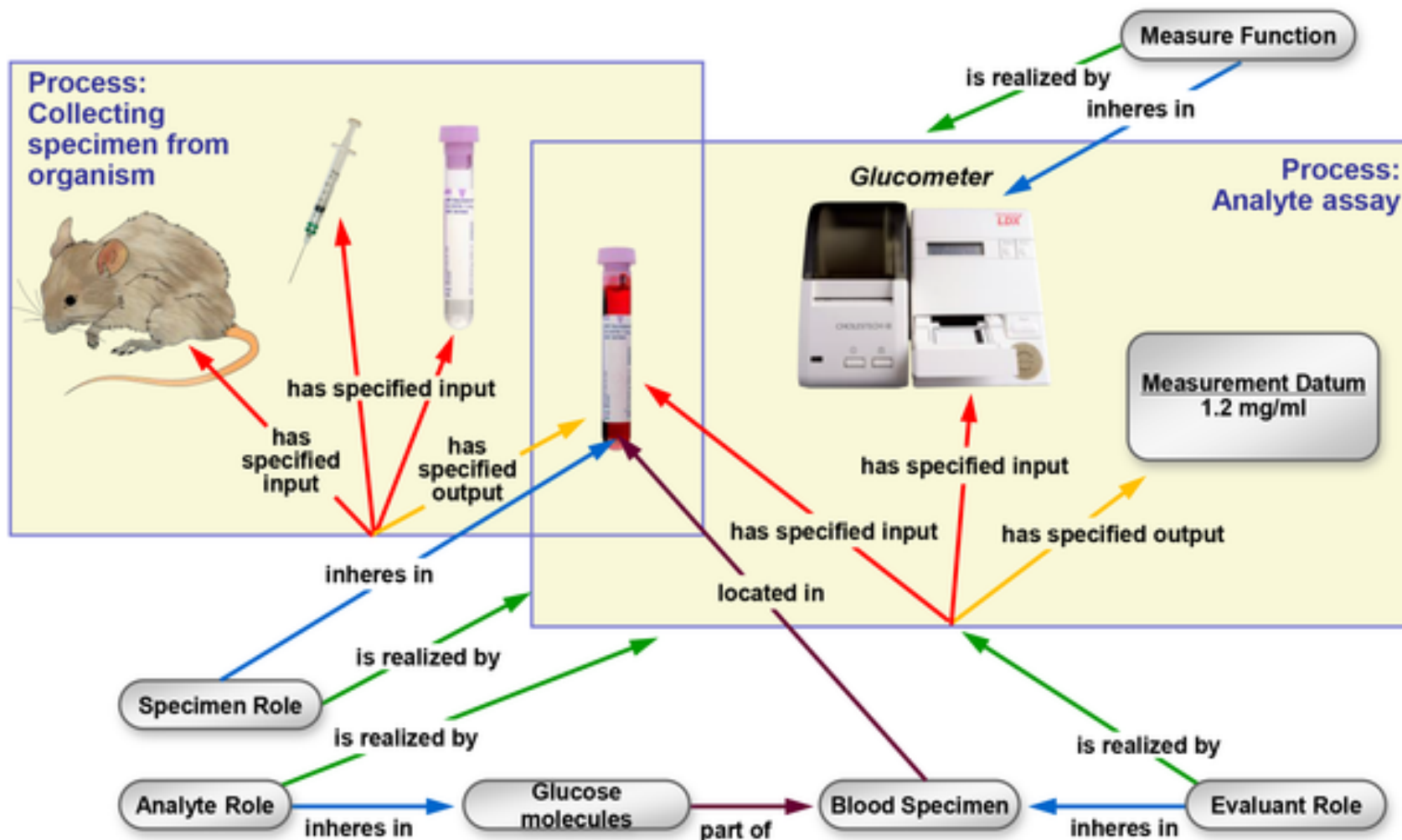
Environmental conditions, treatments and exposures ontology (ECTO)



<https://github.com/cmungall/environmental-conditions>
monarchinitiative.org



The Ontology of Biomedical Investigations



Recording and exchanging
phenotype and environmental
data...better



WebPhenote and Noctua

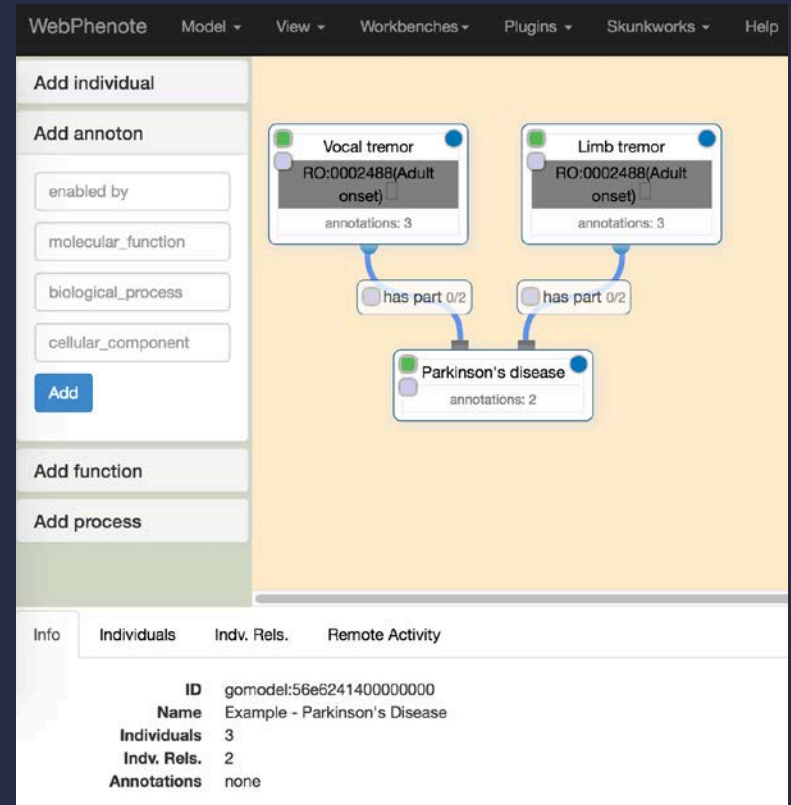
A causal/spatiotemporal network curation environment

Form-based

The screenshot shows the 'Edit' dialog box in the WebPhenote interface. The dialog has several sections: 'Disease' (DOID:9351 (diabetes mellitus)), 'Phenotype' (WBPhenotype:0002273 (dietary sugar response variant)), 'Age of onset (of the phenotype)' (HP:0011463 (Childhood onset)), and 'Evidence' (ECO:0000180 (clinical study evidence)). There is a text input for 'PMID:1234' and buttons for 'Add evidence' and 'Add reference'. A 'Description' field contains the text: 'This example was created via the beta version of webphenote on create.m.org'. At the bottom, there are 'Cancel' and 'Save changes' buttons.

Disease	Phenotype	Age of Onset	Evidence	Reference	Description	Actions
DOID:9351 (diabetes mellitus)	WBPhenotype:0002273 (dietary sugar response variant)	HP:0011463 (Childhood onset)	ECO:0000180 (clinical study evidence)	PMID:1234	This example was created via the beta version of webphenote on create.m.org	Edit Export Delete

Graph-based



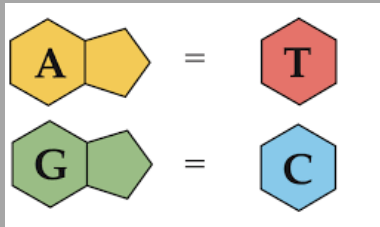
<http://create.monarchinitiative.org/>

noctua.berkeleybop.org

Computable encodings are essential



Base pairs
Variant notation (eg. HGVS)



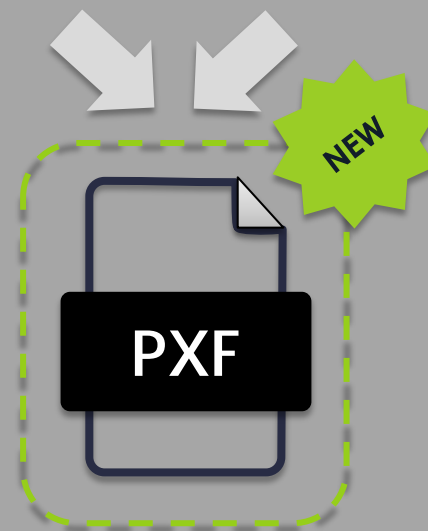
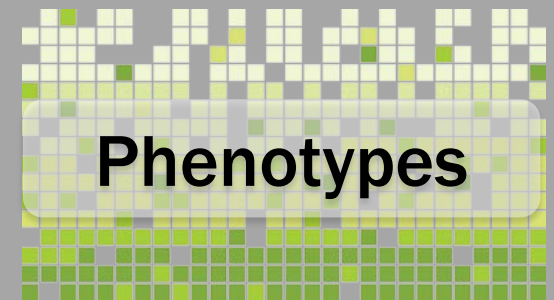
Medical procedure coding



Human Phenotype
Ontology



Standard exchange formats exist for genes ... but for phenotypes? Environment?



If it is alive, it can be PhenoPackaged

Patients & Cohorts

Rare Disease
Diagnosis



Personalized
Medicine

Disease vectors

Epidemiological
Monitoring



Mechanistic
Discovery

Model Organisms

Drug discovery
& Development



Biodiversity

Environmental
Monitoring



Crops

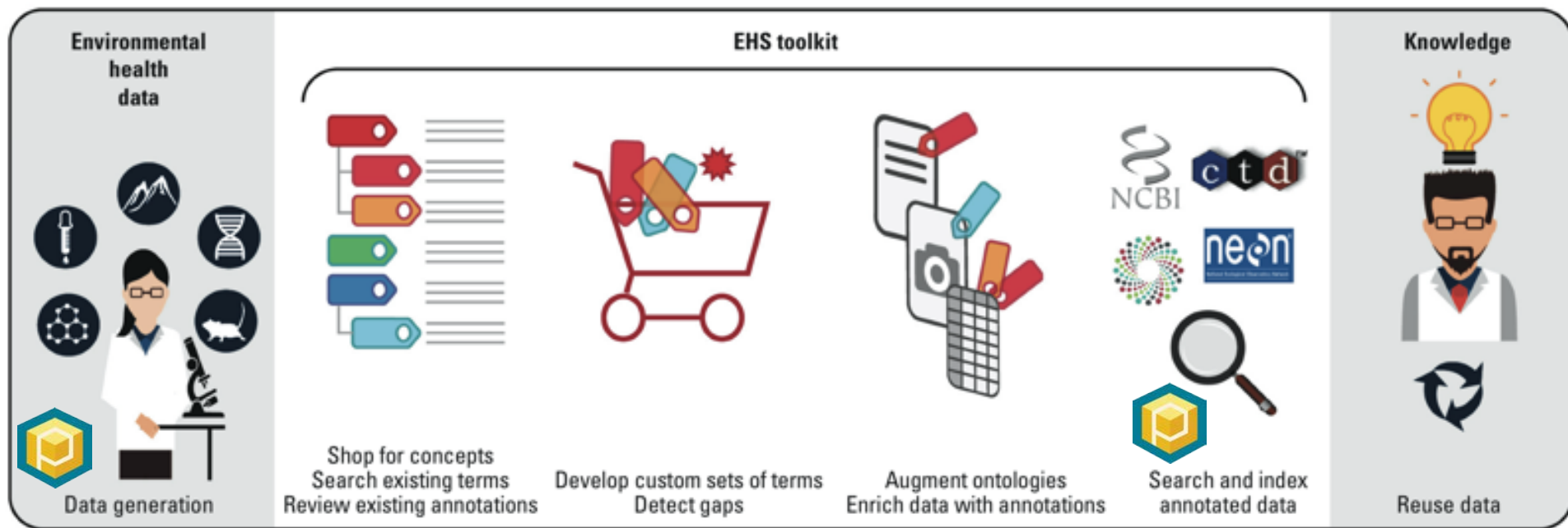
Genetic
Engineering



Domestic Animals



A semantic vision for environmental health research



Laying a Community-Based Foundation for Data-Driven Semantic Standards in Environmental Health Sciences

<https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/15-10438/>



For updates on the SEAZIT project and other activities related to *in vitro* alternatives, subscribe to the NICEATM News email list.

- To subscribe to the NICEATM News email list, go to: https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/webforms/index.cfm/main/formViewer/form_id/361
- Check the NICEATM News box and click submit

The screenshot shows the 'Subscribe to News Updates' form on the National Toxicology Program website. The page header includes the NTP logo and navigation tabs for Home, Testing Information, Study Results & Research Projects, Public Health, and About NTP. A search bar is located in the top right. The main content area is titled 'Subscribe to News Updates' and provides information about the email list, including a list of topics and a note about unsubscribing. The form itself is a light green box containing a 'Subscribe to:' section with radio buttons for 'NTP Listserv' and 'NICEATM News' (which is selected), and an 'Email:' field with the placeholder 'user@xyz.com'. 'Submit' and 'Reset' buttons are at the bottom of the form. A 'Back to top' link is at the bottom left. A 'NTP Quick Links' sidebar is on the right, listing various resources like the Annual Report, Calendar, and Databases.

National Toxicology Program
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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Subscribe to News Updates

Have notices of NTP or NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods news, events, and publications delivered to your inbox.

Subscribe to know the latest happenings including:

- Meetings, workshops, and other events
- Federal Register notices and Requests For Comment
- Funding opportunities for alternative methods
- Test Method Evaluations
- Additions to NTP Reports series
- NTP Update Newsletter [↗](#)
- Report on Carcinogens

You may always unsubscribe using directions at the bottom of each email.

Note: * denotes required information.

* Subscribe to: NTP Listserv
 NICEATM News

* Email:

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NTP Quick Links:

- Annual Report for FY2015 [↗](#)
- Calendar & Events
- Databases, Searches & Other Resources
- Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods
- Federal Register Notices
- Health Assessment and Translation
- Nominate & Provide Input to NTP
- Pathology Tables for Peer Review
- Reports & Publications
- Report on Carcinogens
- Search Substances Studied by NTP
- Tox21

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