

# Introduction to NHLBI BioData Catalyst

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BioData Catalyst Steering Committee Chair

October 21, 2020



National Heart, Lung,  
and Blood Institute

BioData

**CATALYST**

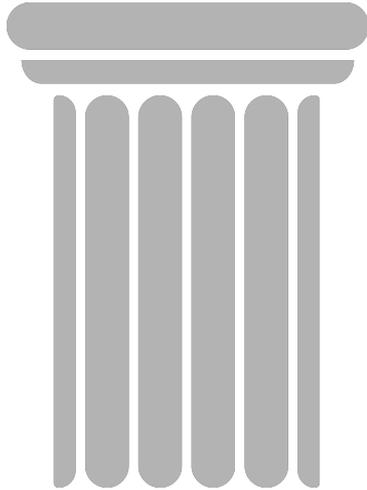
# Agenda

- NHLBI BioData Catalyst Mission
- Ecosystem Data, Tools, and Workflows
- Potential Users
- BioData Catalyst Fellows Program

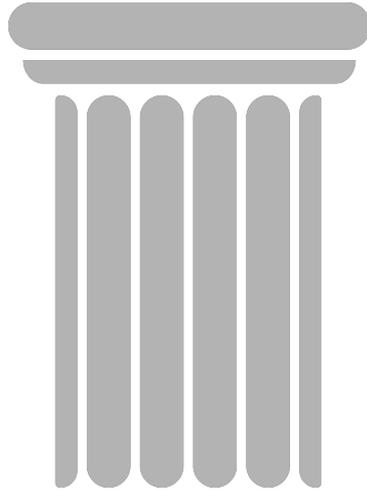


# NHLBI BioData Catalyst

## Mission



## Vision



The *mission* is to develop and integrate advanced cyberinfrastructure, leading edge tools, and FAIR data to support the NHLBI research community.

The *vision* is to be a community-driven ecosystem implementing data science solutions to democratize data and computational access to advance Heart, Lung, Blood, and Sleep science.

**WHO?**

**WHAT?**

**WHERE?**

**SCIENCE!**

**WHY?**



**Genomics**

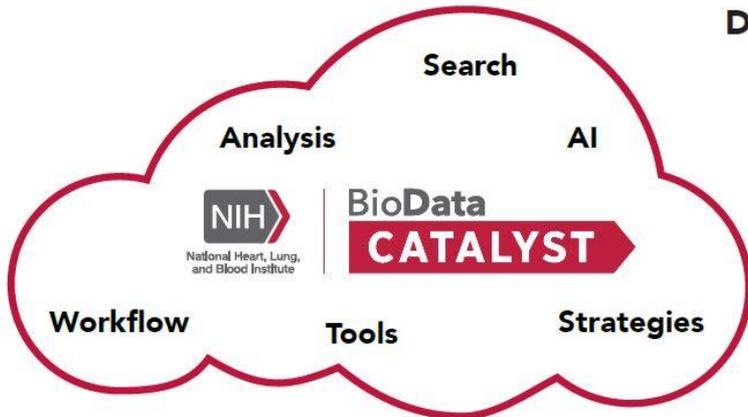


**Clinical**



**Imagery**

**DATA  
HARMONIZATION**

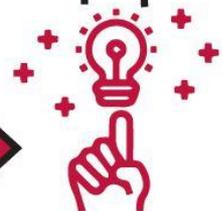


- UNDERSTAND
- OPEN SCIENCE
- CROSS-LINK
- COLLABORATE
- SCALE
- SHARE
- INTEROPERATE

**HOW?**

**Diagnostic  
Tools**

**Therapeutic  
Options**



**DISCOVERY**

**Prevention  
Strategies**



**PATIENTS!**

# Data Available in BioData Catalyst

The Trans-omics for Precision Medicine (**TOPMed**) initiative (<https://www.nhlbiwgs.org/>)

- Available now:
  - 45 TOPMed Freeze 8 studies (16 new studies to BioData Catalyst)
    - Genomic and Phenotypic Data
- Coming soon:
  - Additional TOPMed Freeze 8 studies
  - 1000 Genomes Project
  - BioLINCC Training Datasets
  - Pediatric Cardiac Genomics Consortium (PCGC) data
  - COVID data

For more detailed information, see [About BioData Catalyst Datasets](#).

# Types of Data

## *Phenotypic*

### **Harmonized data**

44 high-priority clinical and demographic variables have been harmonized by the TOPMed [Data Coordinating Center \(DCC\)](#) in order to facilitate cross-study analysis.

### **Non-harmonized data**

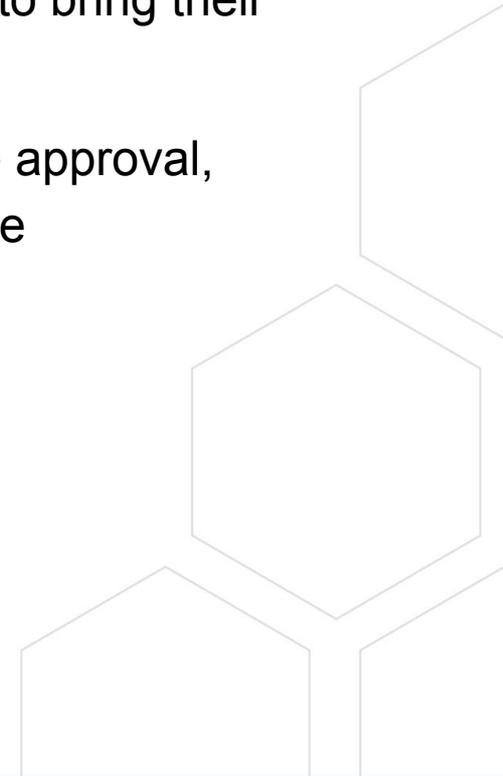
The full set of raw clinical and phenotypic variables for the hosted studies are also available on the Gen3 platform. Exploration and search is available via the [Gen3 search engine](#) (under the “Files” tab) and in the [PIC-SURE API](#).

## *Genomic*

Genomic data provided by the [Trans-Omics for Precision Medicine](#) (TOPMed) program, including CRAM and VCF files. These files are available in the Gen3 [Exploration](#) page.

# Bring-Your-Own Data

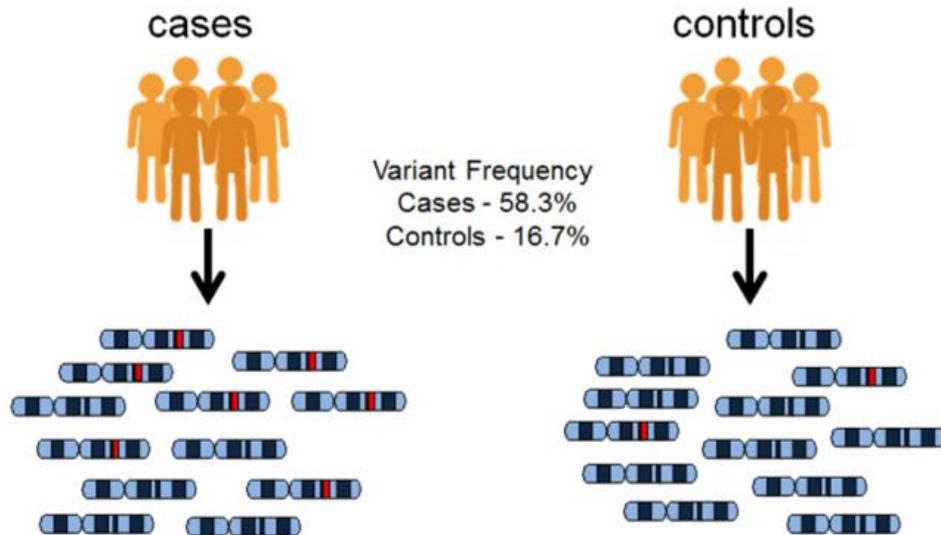
- To support **flexibility and analysis**, we allow researchers to bring their own data and workflows into the ecosystem.
- Users can upload data for which they have the appropriate approval, provided that they do not violate the terms of their Data Use Agreements, Limitations, or IRB policies and guidelines



# Ecosystem Tools

## Key tools include

- **Genome-wide Association Study (GWAS)**
- **Genetic Variant Calling**
- **Structural Variant Calling**
- **Annotation Explorer:** for variant functional annotation
- **TOPMed Imputation Server:** Yields phased and imputed genotypes based on multiethnic reference panel



# Reproducible Workflows

The BioData Catalyst ecosystem leverages Docker-based reproducible tools that can be discovered in [Dockstore](#)'s open-access catalog and used in secure workspaces.

Two descriptor languages for Docker-based reproducible pipelines are supported:

- Common Workflow Language (CWL) supported on Seven Bridges
- Workflow Description Language (WDL) supported on Terra.

Dockstore hosts both languages, and you can launch tools and workflows directly from Dockstore into cloud workspace environments.

# Who are our potential users?



Dr. Phil Phelps is a **physician scientist** looking at the interaction of dietary fat with known genes in the lipid metabolism pathway and the effect on measured LDL-cholesterol levels.



Stevie Statler is a **statistician** looking to test multiple correlated traits for genetic association, leveraging the large-scale data in the BioData Catalyst Consortium.



Dr. Imogen Imhoff is a **researcher** interested in explaining the genetic association to subtypes of COPD (emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and chronic obstructive asthma) characterized by image data.

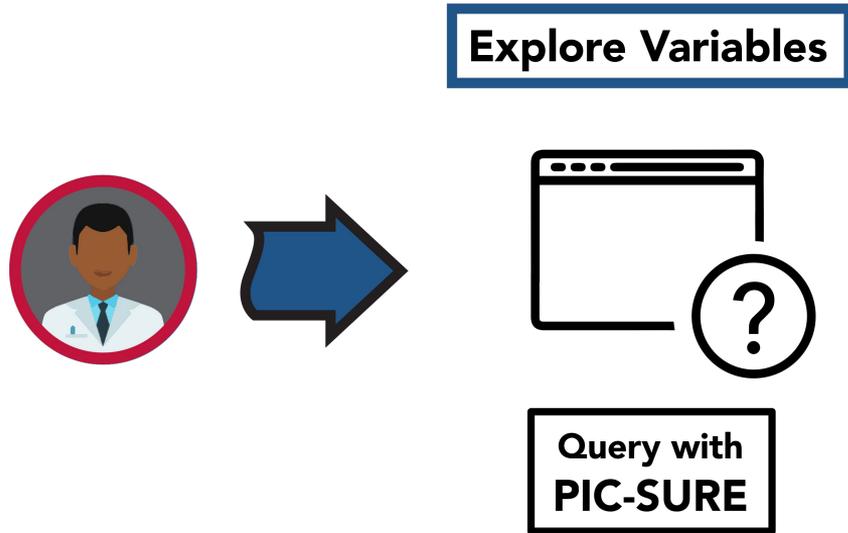
# Clinical Genetic Epidemiology

**Dr. Phelps wants to ask:**

**Does intake of dietary fat interact with genes in the lipid metabolism pathway and affect measured LDL-cholesterol levels?**



# Clinical Genetic Epidemiology

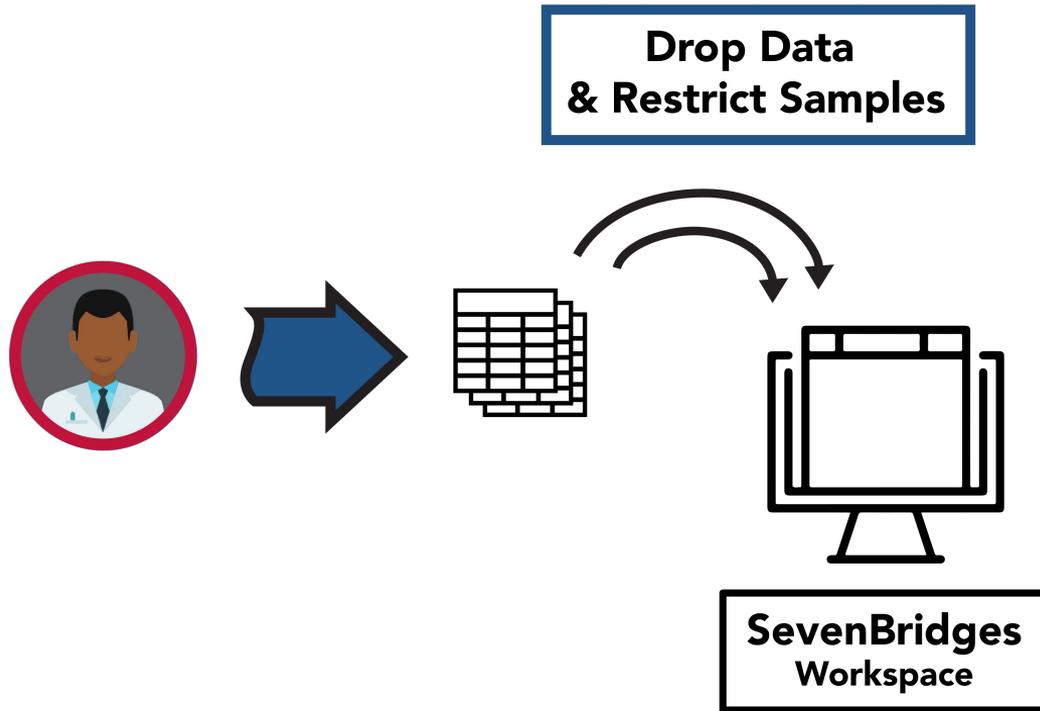


Dr. Phelps uses PIC-SURE to find all studies with lipids measured. Dr. Phelps identifies studies that also have dietary measures and asks:

What types of variables are there?

Are there measures of macronutrient intake, specifically, fat intake?

# Clinical Genetic Epidemiology

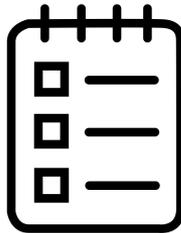
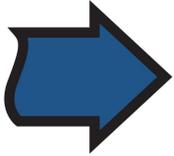


Dr. Phelps drops data into a secure workspace on Seven Bridges or Terra and restricts samples by ancestry using PIC-SURE.

What are the sample sizes?

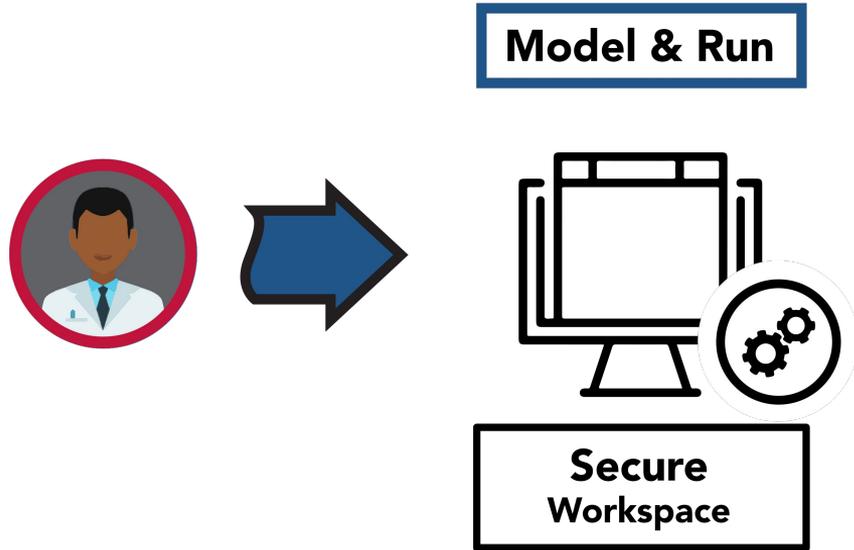
# Clinical Genetic Epidemiology

**Prepare List of Biomarkers**



**Dr. Phelps prepares a list of harmonized phenotypes and dietary measures for analysis**

# Clinical Genetic Epidemiology



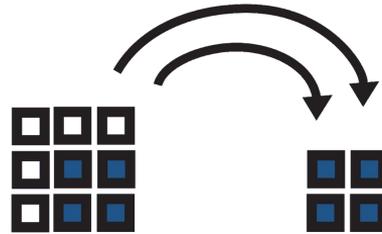
Dr. Phelps searches for workflows to conduct G x E interaction test, sets up models, and launches run.

# Clinical Genetic Epidemiology

**Annotate & Subset**



**SevenBridges  
Annotation Tool**

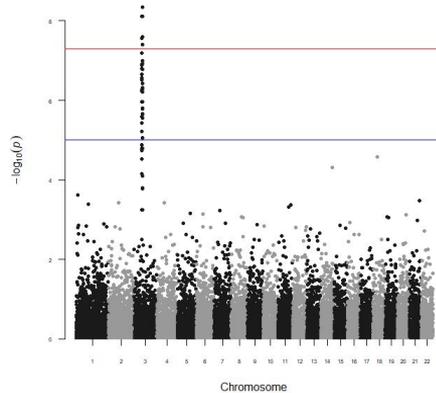


Dr. Phelps can use Seven Bridges Annotation Explorer to annotate significant variants by gene and function, and subsets results by genes in lipid metabolism pathways.

# Clinical Genetic Epidemiology



## Display Results



Dr. Phelps displays results in a Manhattan plot.

Dr. Phelps can now perform follow-up analyses.

# The Fellows Program

## For the researcher:

- Offers early career researchers **funding for novel and innovative research**

## For BDCatalyst:

- **Improves the the ecosystem** based on Fellow feedback.

## Heart



**Alexander Bick,  
MD, PhD**

CHIP expansion and  
CVD



**Melissa Cline,  
PhD**

Genetics of  
Cardiomyopathies



**Jacqueline Dron,  
PhD**

Genetics CAD  
Lifecourse



**Einat Granot-  
Hershkovitz, PhD**

Ancestry-enriched  
Variants and CVD



**Jamie Murkey,  
MPH**

Psychosocial stress  
and CVD



**Yaling Tang,  
MD**

Transcriptomics in  
Heart Failure



**Xuefang Zhao,  
PhD**

Structural Variants  
and Lipids

# Fellows Application Criteria

A successful applicant

- Addresses a **scientific topic that can be answered** using BioData Catalyst
- Conducts analysis toward **publication**
- **Contributes to the functionality** of the ecosystem
- Obtains appropriate **data use agreements**
- **Demonstrates the necessary capabilities** to accomplish the proposed work
- **Engages and collaborates** with the BioData Catalyst community
- Contributes to **diversity** across fields of study, institutions, geography, and investigators.

## Lung



Sarah Gerard,  
PhD

Lung Image AI



Pietro Nardelli,  
PhD

COPD Phenotyping



Dandi Qiao,  
PhD

COPD GWAS



Einat Granot-  
Hershkovitz, PhD

Transcriptomics in  
Asthma



Pranav Rajpurkar,  
MS

ML Chest X Rays



Jia Wen,  
PhD

Genetic Modifiers  
Cystic Fibrosis



Yonghua Zhuang,  
PhD

Multimomics in COPD

# Fellow: Kenneth Westerman, PhD

## Identification and Characterization of Diet-Responsive Genetic Loci for Glycemic Traits



Project goal: Conduct gene-diet interaction analysis in TOPMed cohorts using a multi-exposure approach and characterize loci using metabolomics.

How BioData Catalyst has helped:

- Direct use of genotype files from 11 TOPMed cohorts in Gen3 **avoided a time-intensive and error-prone manual download from dbGaP.**
- The combination of Notebooks and Data Tables in Terra has made my **GWAS pipeline cleaner and more reproducible.**
- BioData Catalyst acts as a **secure and fully-featured space to share and harmonize phenotype datasets** within the TOPMed T2D Working Group.

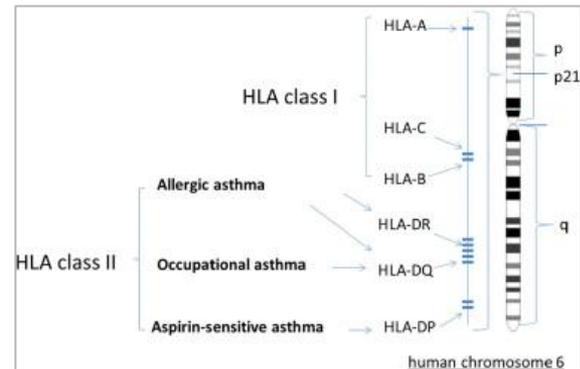
# Fellow: Michelle Daya, PhD

## HLA and Genome-Wide Association Studies of Total Serum IgE (tIgE) Levels

Project goal: Use state-of-the-art tools to call HLA alleles and test for association with tIgE in subjects of diverse ancestry.

How BioData Catalyst has helped

- **Cloud access to CRAM** files for HLA typing saved time (no need to download) and cost (no need to store)
- **Compute availability** that is not limited to local cluster
- **TOPMed imputation** on BioData Catalyst (6x faster than a similar project 4 years ago)
- Platform encourages development of **well-designed, well-documented, source-controlled, and re-usable pipelines**



# Fellows Program Cohort 3 Deadlines

Fellows Applications Open	Oct 16 2020
Fellows Applications Close	Dec 04 2020
Award Notification	Jan 25 2021
1st Period of Performance	Mar 2021 - Feb 2022

More information at  
<https://biodatacatalyst.nhlbi.nih.gov/fellows/program>

Please share with your community!

# Fellows Application Elements

- **Background:** Profile information, Letters of support, Biographical sketch
- **Abstract:** description of the research
- **Project aims:** specific aims, goals, deliverables, and timelines
- **Prior studies:** how proposed project would extend prior work.
- **Expertise:** genomic analysis, statistical programming, & cloud based computation.
- **Methods and materials**
- **Engagement** with Consortium members, other Fellows, broader community
- **Budget:** costs for salary, travel, training, publication, & conference fees up to ~\$69k

## Proposal Questions

Provide a title for the research project proposal. \*

25 word maximum

Provide an abstract on how you will address the goals of the Fellows Program. \*

125 words maximum

Describe concisely the specific research approach you intend to take, again, speaking to the goals of the Fellows Program. Specifically outline aims, goals, deliverables, and timelines for the 1-year. \*

300 words maximum

Using examples of work, by you or others, please outline how your proposed project would align with past studies. Please provide sufficient background to demonstrate project feasibility, and that your project can be completed successfully in the duration of the year. \*

175 words maximum

Describe your familiarity with genomic analysis, statistical programming, and cloud based computation. \*

125 words maximum

# Fellows Collaborative Projects

- It is possible to propose a project involving a pair of investigators with complementary skills to collaborate on a project.
- For example: clinical investigator with knowledge of disease collaborating with a statistical investigator. Both must contribute substantially to the project.
- It is not permissible to fund a senior investigator as a mentor using this mechanism.



# Other Ways to Try Out the BDCatalyst Ecosystem

- Currently, the ecosystem is by invitation only, but we are working toward opening our doors in 2021.
- PRIDE members can request access at <https://biodatacatalyst.nhlbi.nih.gov/contact>. Make sure to include your association with PRIDE in your message.
- Each researcher receives cloud credits to explore resources, pilot runs, and initiate their project.

# Learn More on the BioData Catalyst Website

[BioData Catalyst Website \(main page\)](#): Main access point for all things BioData Catalyst.

[BioData Catalyst Data](#): Description of data availability and access limitations.

[BioData Catalyst Services](#): Overview and links to ecosystem, platforms, services and workflows.

[BioData Catalyst Learn](#): Access tutorials and other documentation.

[BioData Catalyst Documentation](#): Documentation server.

[Biodata Catalyst Help Desk and Knowledge Base](#): Help desk environment featuring searchable knowledge base, FAQs, and contact forms.

## National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Providing strategic leadership and funding the researchers and other professionals developing the ecosystem.

Director: Gary Gibbons

CIO: Alastair Thomson

Program Officer: Jon Kaltman

## Steering Committee

Providing strategic decision-making and achieving consensus for the Consortium.

Ingrid Borecki (Chair), Principal Investigators, NHLBI Working Group

## External Expert Panel

Independently informing and advising the work of the Consortium.

Donna Arnett

Mark Craven

Jason Williams

David Mendelson

Warren Kibbe

## Coordinating Center

Coordinating project management, communications, project reporting, and collaboration standards.

Ahalt, Boyles

## Data Stewards

Partnering with the Consortium on data accessibility and interoperability.

TOPMed, COPDGene

## The Broad Institute, University of Chicago, University of California, Santa Cruz

Grossman, Manning,  
Paten, Philippakis

Providing authorized access and faceted search of harmonized data across studies, genomic analysis and visualization in virtual workspace, and high-quality Docker-based research tools.

## Harvard Medical School

Avillach

Exploring data with interactive search and visualizations for feasibility assessment and providing data science tools to access and analyze clinical and genomic data.

## RTI International, UNC-CH/RENCI

Krishnamurthy,  
Bradford

Developing tools and apps for machine learning; deep learning models; semantic search; and visualizing, annotating and analyzing biomedical images. Developing methods for tool and app creation to enhance the ecosystem.

## Seven Bridges Genomics

Davis-Dusenbery

Finding, accessing, analyzing TOPMed genomics data at scale; bringing your workflows or choosing from hosted CWL tools; performing association studies with tooling for variant aggregation.

Questions?