

The virtual physiological human – impact on early medicines development

Stig W. Omholt

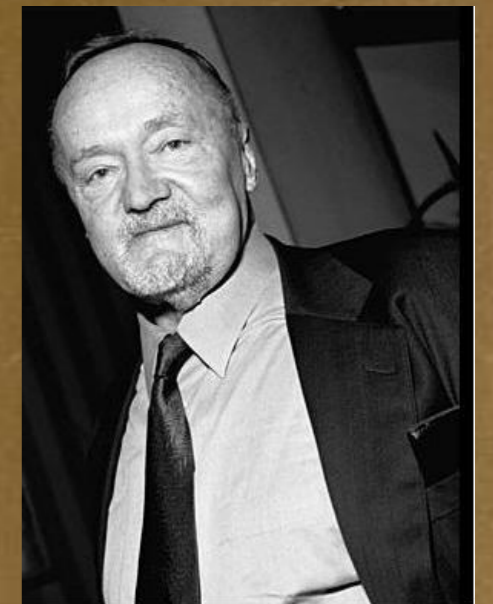
Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
NTNU Biotechnology: the Confluence of Life Sciences, Mathematical
Sciences and Engineering

**Problems =
Explanatory Ideals –
Current Capabilities**

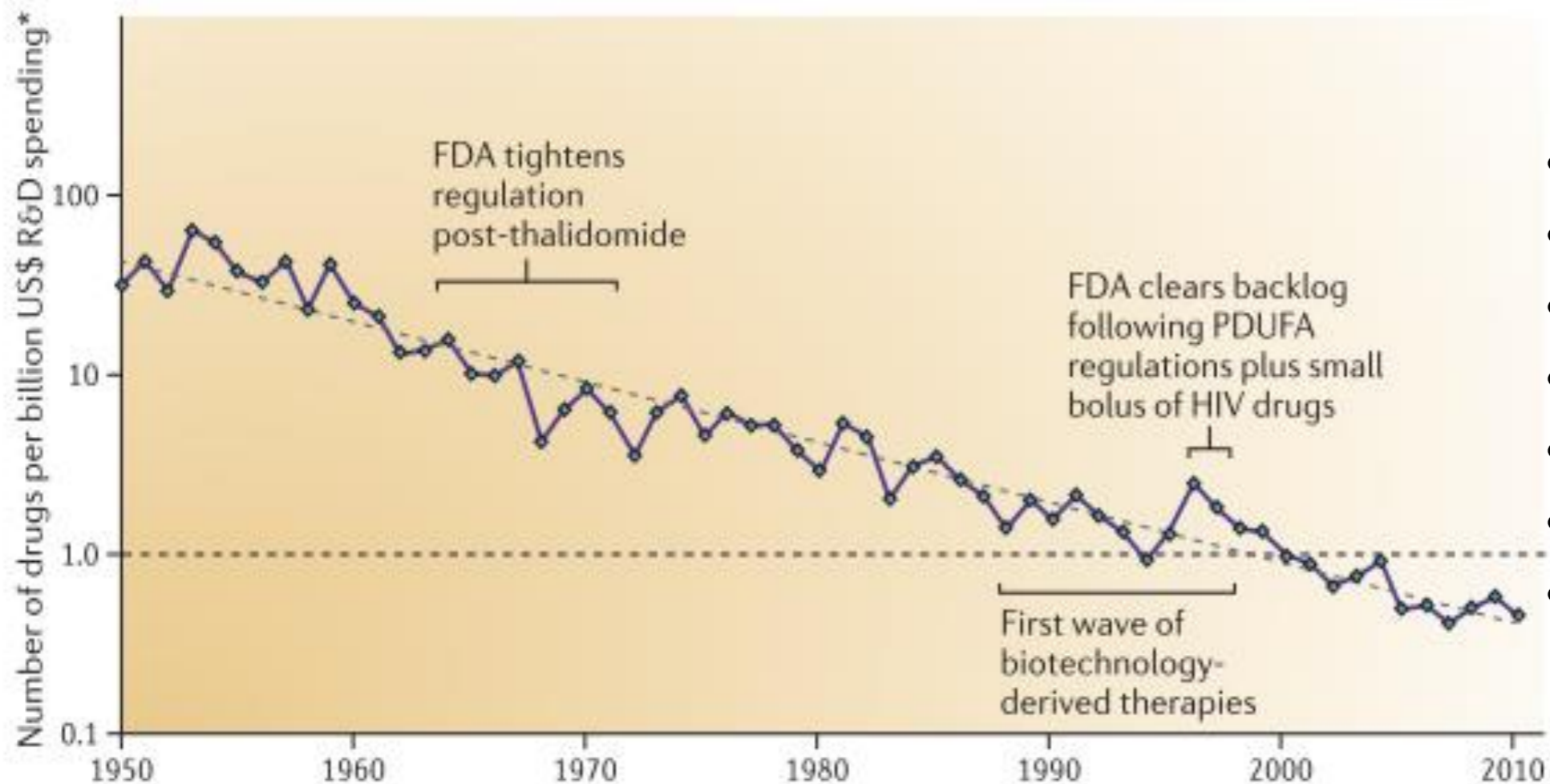
Human Understanding

*The Collective Use and Evolution
of Concepts*

Stephen Toulmin



a Overall trend in R&D efficiency (inflation-adjusted)



- Comb. chemistry
- DNA sequencing
- 3D protein str.
- Databases
- Transgenic mice
- HTP screening
- Management R&D

Eroom's Law in pharmaceutical R&D: The number of new drugs approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) per billion US dollars (inflation-adjusted) spent on research and development (R&D) has halved roughly every 9 years.



Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.
Aldous Huxley

The Darwinian theatre



Ecology

Almost nothing in biology makes sense except in
the light of ecology!



Hunting the Cave Bear
Zdenek Burian, 1952





THE ART OF WAR

SUN TZU

將
武

THE CLASSIC TEXT
ON THE CONDUCT
OF WARFARE

Take home message: 1

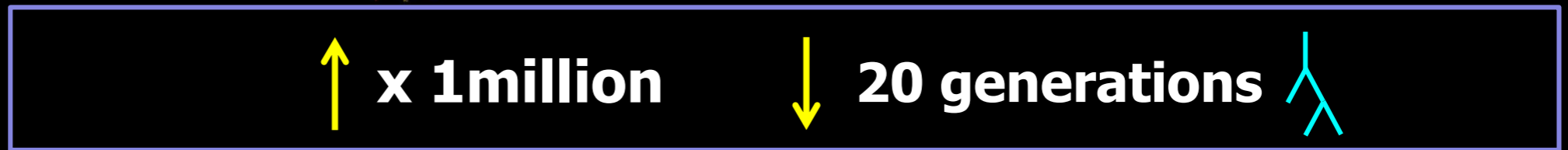
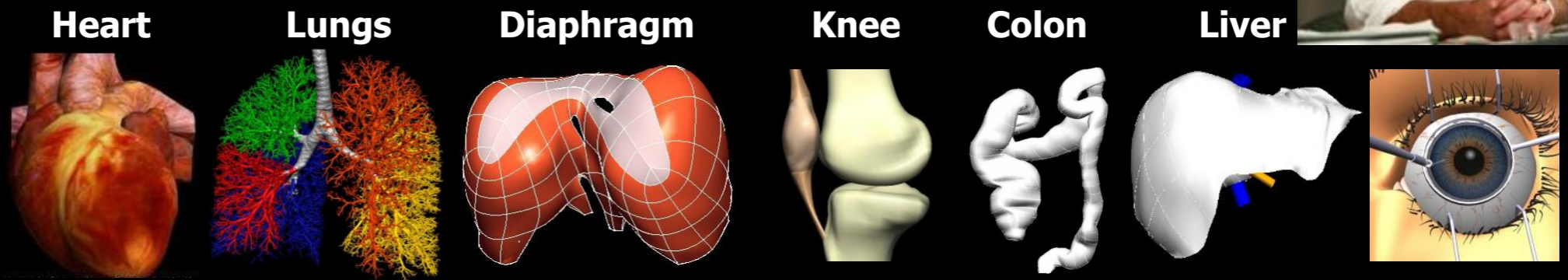
“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles.

— Sun Tzu, The Art of War

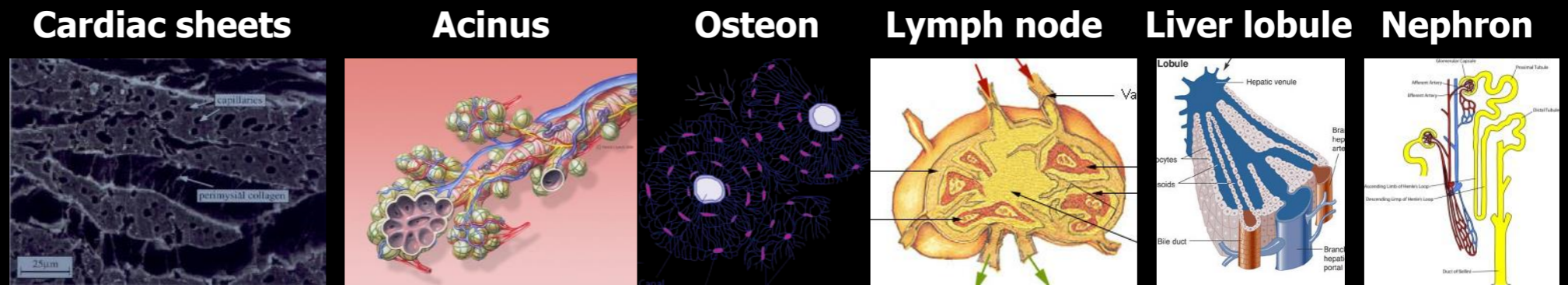


IUPS Physiome: Molecular pathways to organ systems

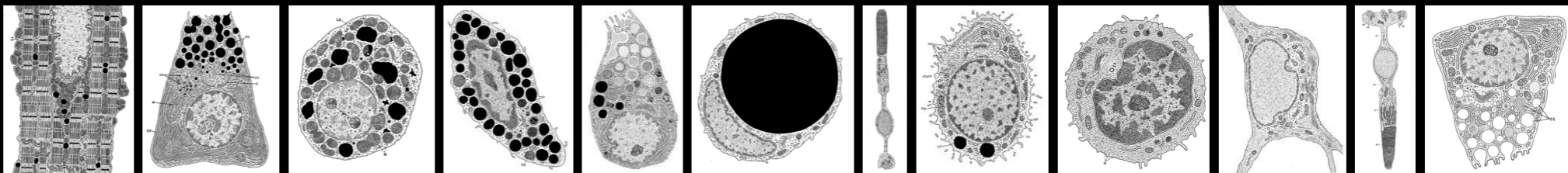
Environment
Organism
Organ system
Organ



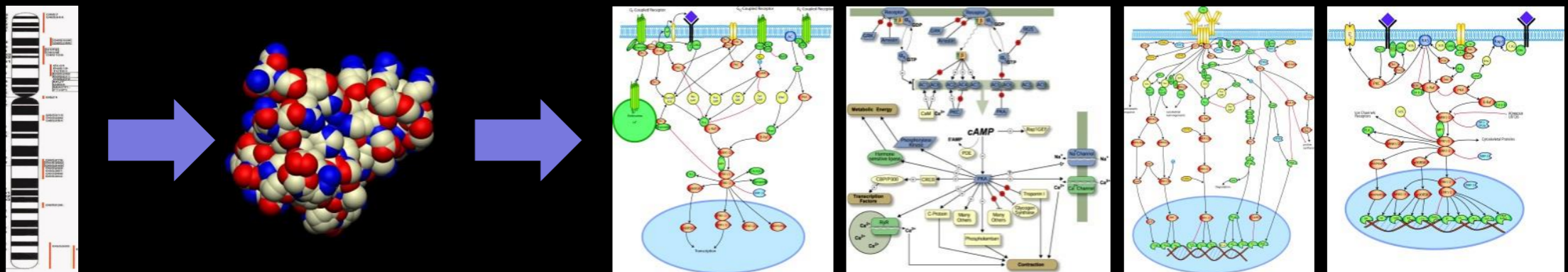
Tissue



Cell



Network
Protein
Gene
Atom



Continuum physics

Meter

Solid mechanics
(Finite elasticity)

$$\det F^T F = 0 \quad \tau^{ij} \Big|_i = f^j \quad \tau^{ij} = f(e_{ij})$$

Fluid mechanics
(Navier-Stokes eqns)

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p - \nabla \cdot (-\nu \nabla \mathbf{u})$$

Entropy

Heat flow

Mole

Reaction-diffusion

$$\frac{DC}{Dt} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla C = f_s - \nabla \cdot (-k \nabla C)$$

Coulomb

Electromagnetics

Candela

(Maxwell's eqns)

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon}$$

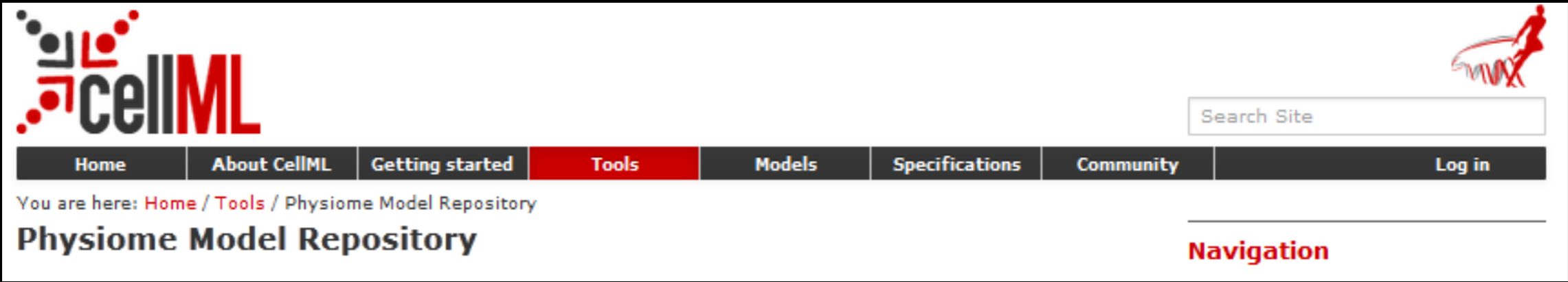
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

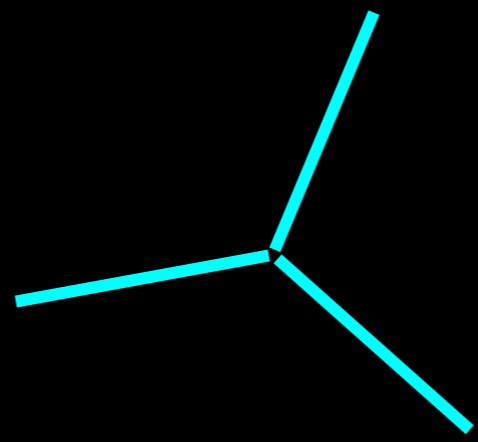
$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu \left(\mathbf{J} + \epsilon \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \right)$$

Biology appears in the constitutive relationship. It is important that when these relationships are derived from the underlying physiological mechanisms, they obey conservation laws.

Markup Languages, PMR, OpenCOR



models.cellml.org



www.cellml.org



sed-ml.github.io



www.sbml.org

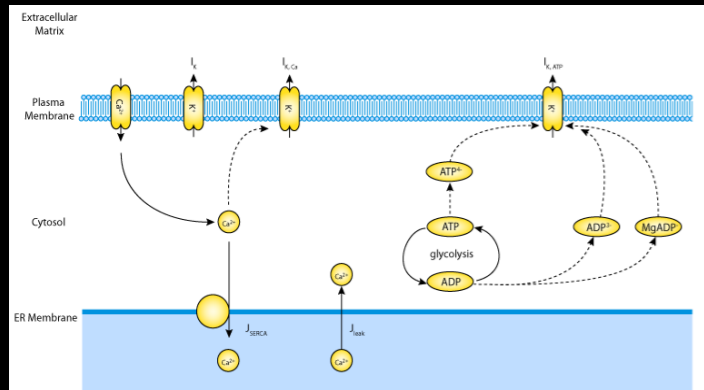


$$i_{Na} = \frac{g_{Na} \cdot m^3 \cdot h \cdot Na_o \cdot \frac{F^2}{R \cdot T} \cdot (e^{V - E_{Na}} \cdot \frac{F}{R \cdot T} - 1)}{e^{\frac{V - E_{Na}}{R \cdot T}} - 1} \cdot V$$

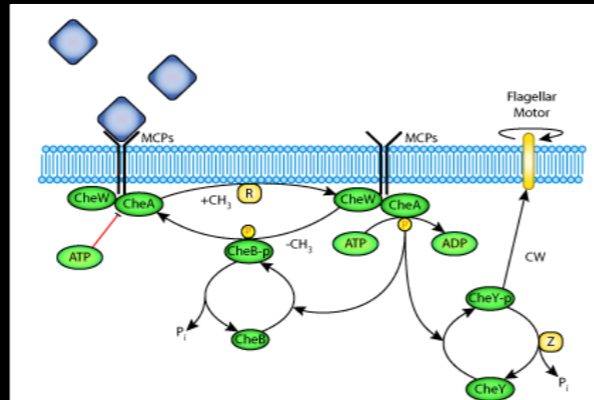
www.opencor.ws

The Physiome Repository (~1000 models)

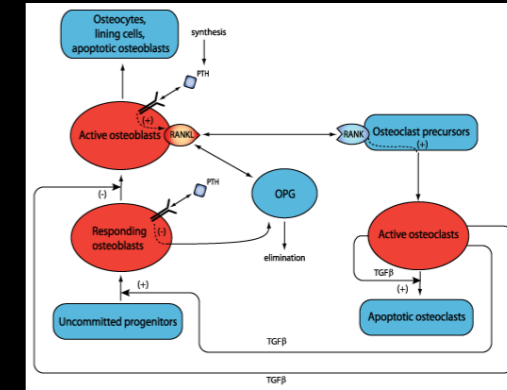
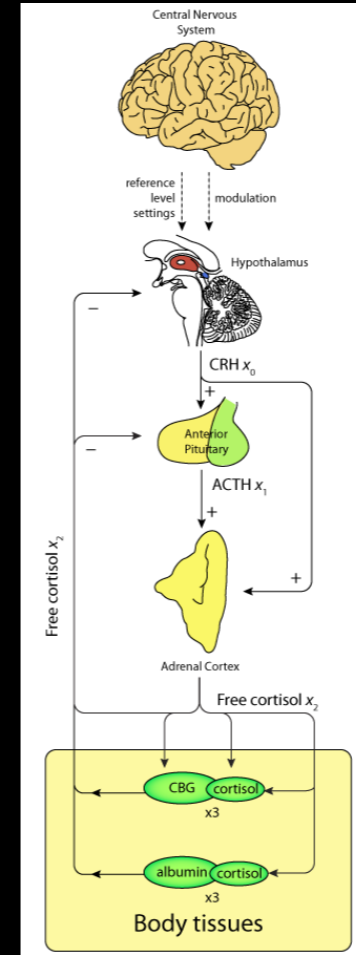
Calcium dynamics



Cell migration

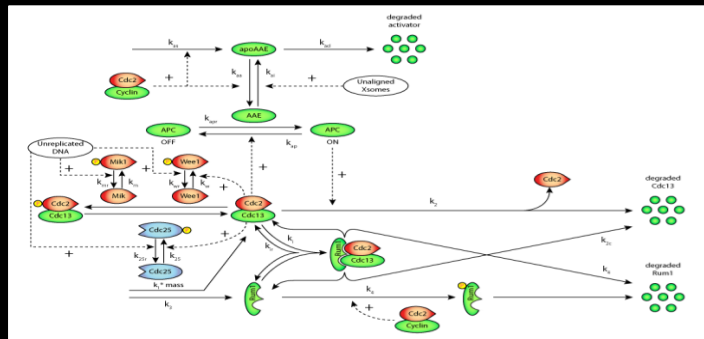


Endocrine system

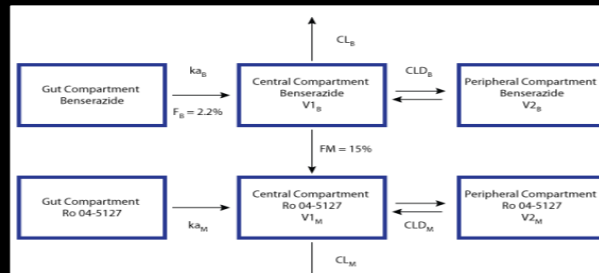


Material constitutive laws

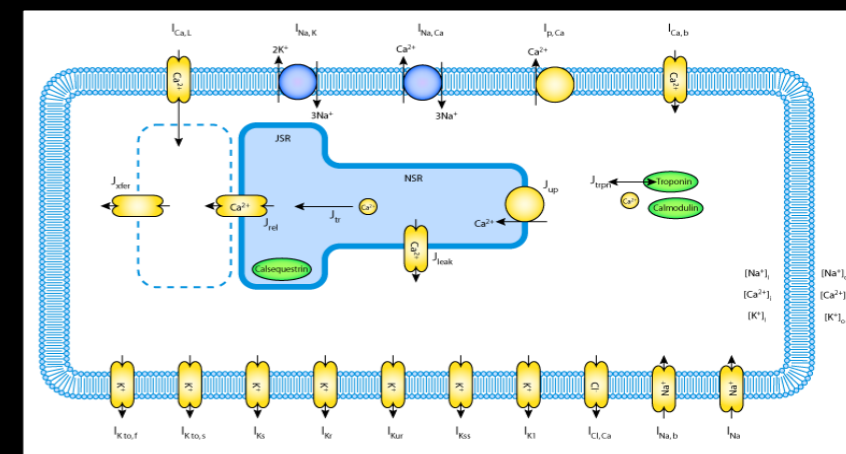
Cell cycle



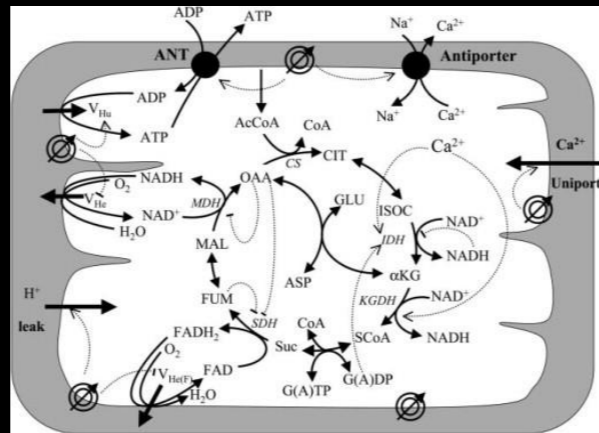
PKPD models



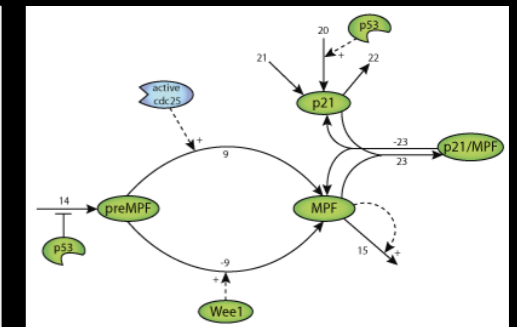
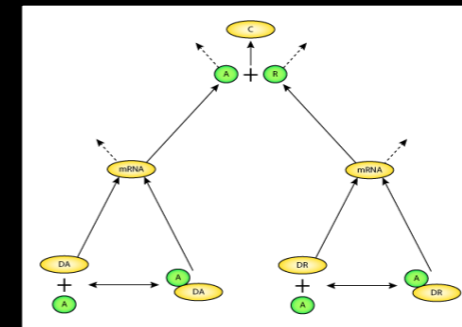
Electrophysiology



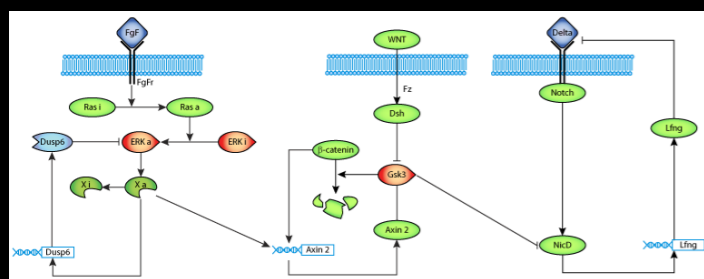
Metabolism



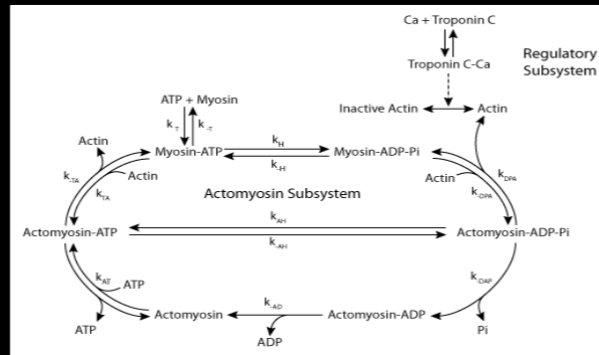
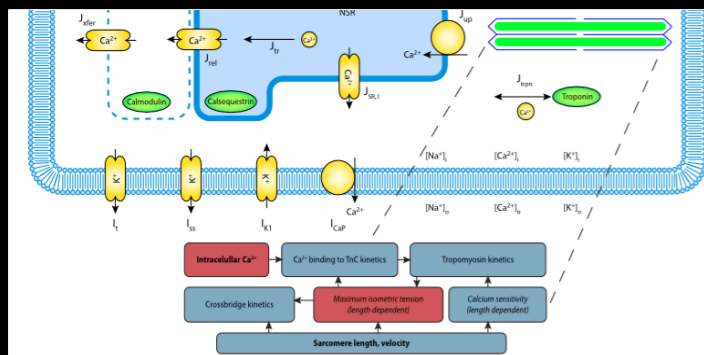
Gene regulation DNA repair



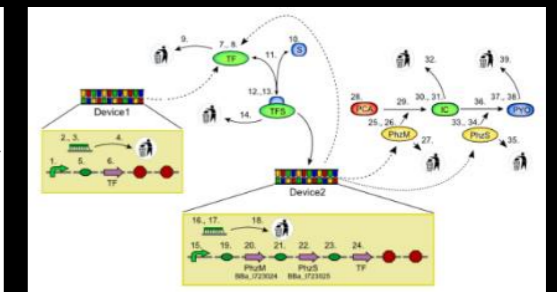
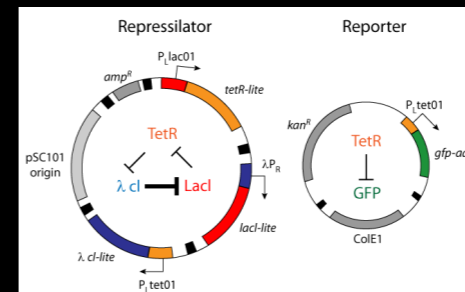
Circadian rhythms



Excitation-contraction Myofilament mechanics



Synthetic biology



Most authors happy to have models 'fixed' ..

That's sounds wonderful, I'm glad you were able to get the code to match the published results. I'm also glad to hear about the student interested in our 2007 model, it's always nice to know that someone other than myself is interested in the models.

The value of 'a' was indeed missing, it is 2.5218 (at temp = 286K). Also note that the value of delta-H for gamma should be 200240 rather than 200.24, this is an error in the Table (the period should have been a comma).

Your guess is right: k_0 and k_{-o} are 95 and 22/s, resp. They are not a function of voltage (as k_v and k_{-v}). I'll fix the bug in the table and make it clearer for the print version.

Thank you for your interest in our work and your careful reading of the paper. Eq. 7 was printed wrong. Whilst proofreading the article for publication we found several misprints but we missed this one (hopefully the only one). You are right, the last two iron terms in Eq. 7 should be in the ferrous form as in the pathway diagram (Fig. 1). Also, k_8 and $k_{8_}$ should have their units swopped over.

Units for biophysically based modelling

7 units:

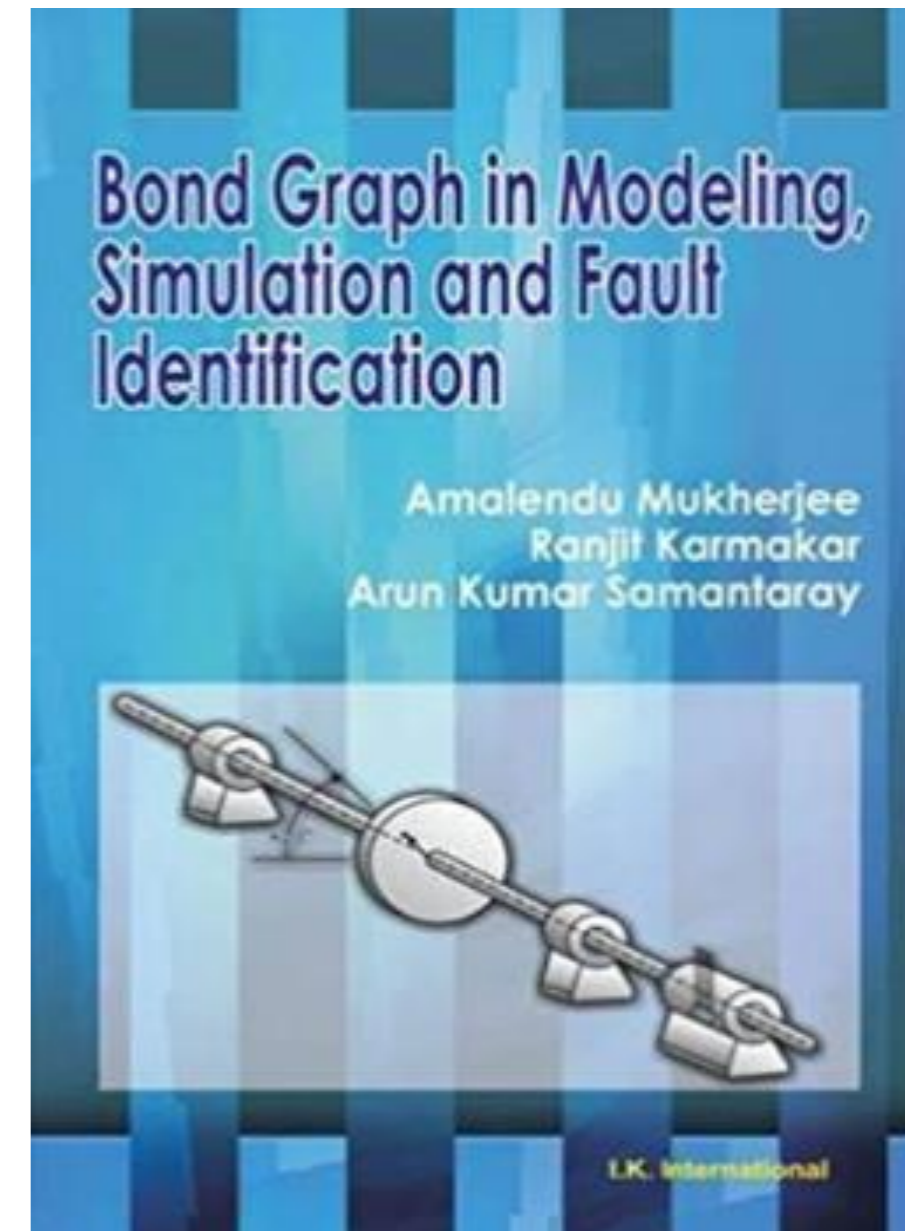
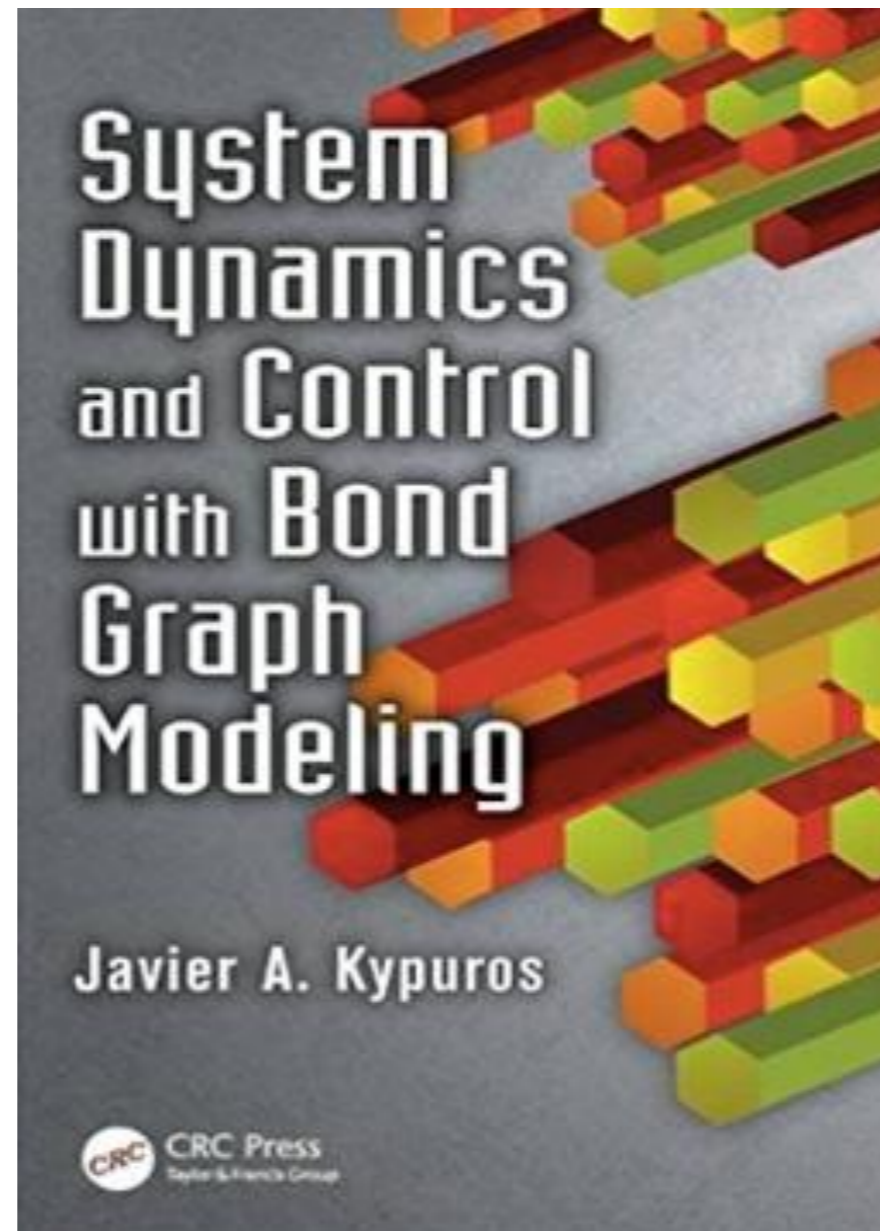
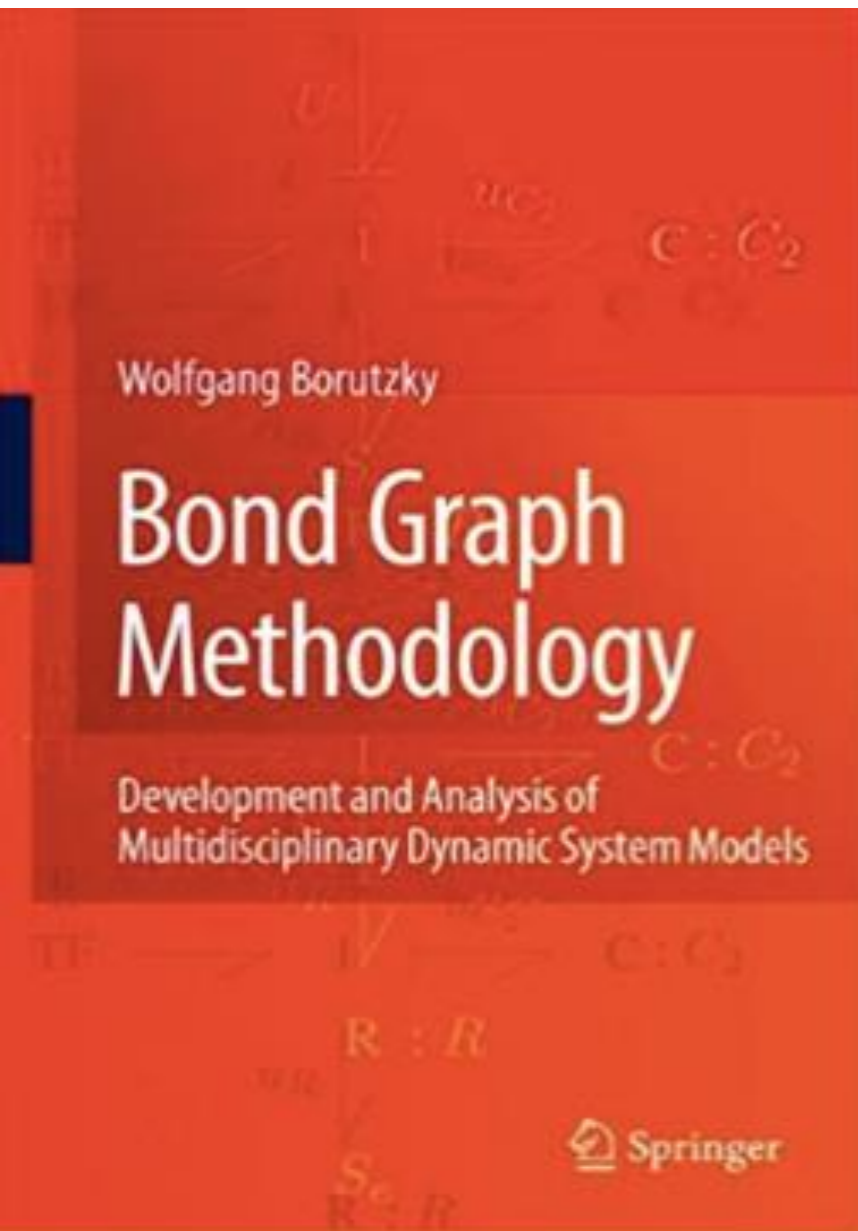
- **Joule (J)**
 - **Second (s)**
 - **Meter (m)**
- } space-time + energy
- **Coulomb (C)** - count electrons
 - **Candela (Cd)** - count photons
 - **Mole (mol)** - count atoms
 - **Entropy (e)** - count probable states

1. **Mechanics (J,s,m,e): (i) Solids; (ii) Fluids**
2. **Electro-physiology (J,s,C)**
3. **Heat transfer (J,s,e)**
4. **Signalling pathways (J,s,b,e)**
5. **Metabolic pathways (J,s,mol)**
6. **Membrane transporters (J,s,mol,C): (i) neutral; (ii) electrogenic; (iii) ATPase**
7. **Electro-magnetic (J,s,C,Cd)**

“Bond graphs deal with energy transfer between different physical systems and make a distinction between the supply, storage, transmission and dissipation of energy.”



**Henry M. Paynter
(1923 –2002)**



Bond graphs

Potential u ($J \cdot \text{quantity}^{-1}$)

Flow v ($\text{quantity} \cdot s^{-1}$)

$$u \times v = \text{Power } (J \cdot s^{-1})$$

quantity is

- m or m^3
- **Coulomb (C)**
- **candela (cd)**
- **mole (mol)**
- **entropy (e)**
- **bits (b)**

Mechanical system

u is force (*Newtons* or $J \cdot m^{-1}$) or torque ($N \cdot m / rad$) or pressure (kPa or $J \cdot m^{-3}$)

$v = \dot{q}$ is velocity ($m \cdot s^{-1}$) or angular vel. ($rad \cdot m^{-1} \cdot s^{-1}$) or volume flow rate ($m^3 \cdot s^{-1}$)

Electrical circuit

u is electrical potential (*Volts* or $J \cdot C^{-1}$)

$v = \dot{q}$ is current *flow* (*Amps* or $C \cdot s^{-1}$)

Biochemical reaction

u is chemical potential ($J \cdot mol^{-1}$) or ($J \cdot mM^{-1}$)

$v = \dot{q}$ is molar flow rate ($mol \cdot s^{-1}$) or ($mM \cdot s^{-1}$).

Heat flow

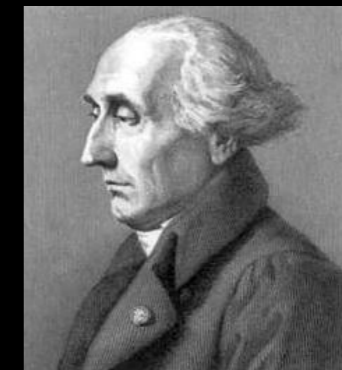
u is temperature (*deg K*) = entropic potential ($J \cdot e^{-1}$)

$v = \dot{q}$ is entropy flow rate ($e \cdot s^{-1}$).

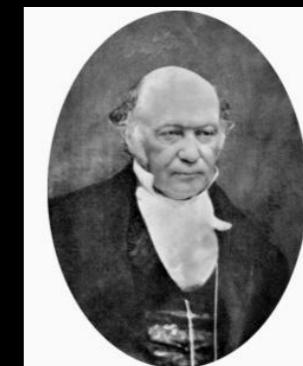
Information flow

u is information potential ($J \cdot b^{-1}$)

$v = \dot{q}$ is information flow rate ($b \cdot s^{-1}$).



Joseph-Louis Lagrange
(1736-1813)



William Rowan Hamilton
(1805 – 1865)

Take home message 2

Physiology is the place in the known universe where we see the most sophisticated inter-twined exploitation of electro-magnetism, fluid mechanics, mechanical behaviour of solid materials and the principles governing the change in space and time of the concentration of chemical substances.

Can we dramatically improve drug development without making use of tools that are designed for taming such complexity?



James W. Black 1924-2010

- Propranolol
- Cimetidine

“Myocardial oxygen consumption is determined by the work of the heart and is a function of arterial blood pressure and heart rate. Lowering blood pressure by systemic vasodilatation might dangerously reduce the perfusion pressure and blood flow through disease-narrowed coronary arteries. Indeed, hypotension was known to be able to induce a heart attack. Heart rate, on the other hand, is largely determined by the cardiac autonomic nervous system. Heart rate would thus be reduced by cardiac sympathetic blockade. In addition, there was much discussion in those days about a postulated “anoxiating” action of adrenaline, proposing that the price of rapidly increasing cardiac power was a decrease in cardiac metabolic efficiency.”

“These clinical, therapeutic and physiological features of hearts coping with coronary artery disease all seemed to point to the potential advantage of annulling the actions of the sympathetic hormones, noradrenaline and adrenaline, on the heart. “

Nobel Lecture, December 8, 1988

Putting the James Black approach on steroids by use of multiscale physiological modelling

$$\begin{Bmatrix} a_{11} \\ a_{12} \\ \dots \\ a_{1n} \end{Bmatrix} = \bar{a}_1 \rightarrow M_1 \rightarrow \bar{P}_1 = \begin{Bmatrix} P_{11} \\ P_{12} \\ \dots \\ P_{1m} \end{Bmatrix}$$



Multidimensional sensitivity analysis ($S(\bar{a}_1, \bar{P}_1)$)



Identify putative drug targets (a_{1j}, a_{1k})



Construct lower-level model M_2

$$\begin{Bmatrix} a_{21} \\ a_{22} \\ \dots \\ a_{2z} \end{Bmatrix} = \bar{a}_2 \rightarrow M_2 \rightarrow \bar{P}_2 = \begin{Bmatrix} P_{21} = a_{1j} \\ P_{22} = a_{1k} \\ \dots \\ P_{2v} \end{Bmatrix}$$



Multidimensional sensitivity analysis ($S(\bar{a}_2, \bar{P}_2)$)



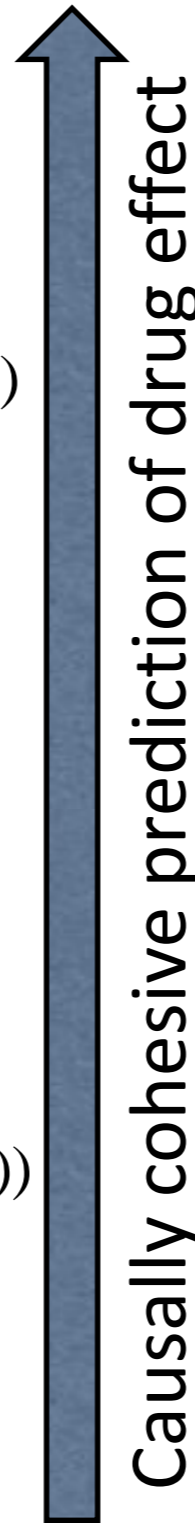
Identify putative drug targets (a_{2i}, a_{2l})



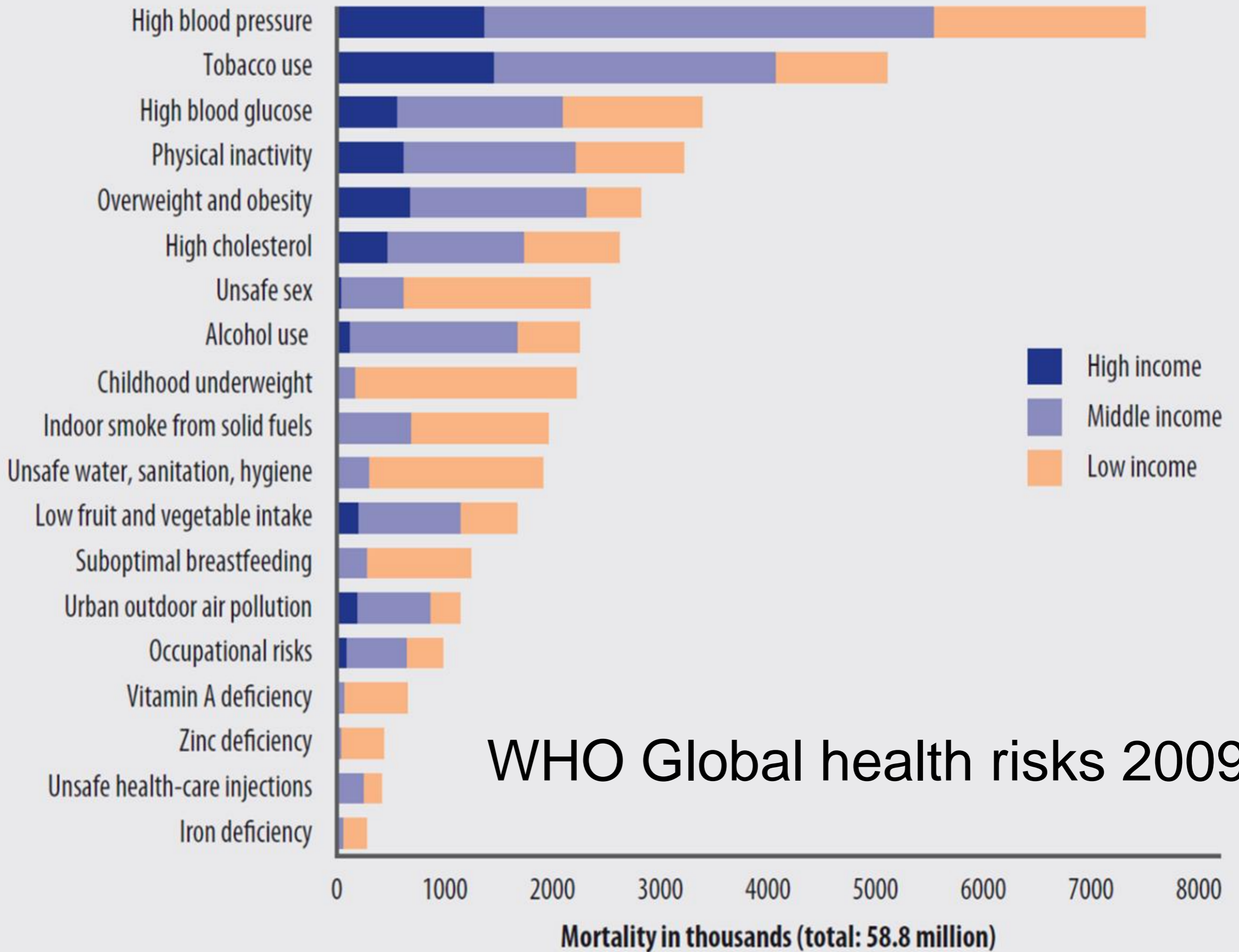
⋮



Drug design targeting parameters (a_{ji}, a_{jl})



Drug targeting becomes a merge between multiscale physiological modelling + nonlinear control engineering + deep phenotyping



Arterial Stiffening Provides Sufficient Explanation for Primary Hypertension

Klas H. Pettersen^{1*}, Scott M. Bugenhagen², Javid Nauman³, Daniel A. Beard², Stig W. Omholt³

1 Department of Mathematical and Technological Sciences, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway, **2** Department of Physiology, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States of America, **3** Department of Circulation and Medical Imaging, Cardiac Exercise Research Group, NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

Abstract

Hypertension is one of the most common age-related chronic disorders, and by predisposing individuals for heart failure, stroke, and kidney disease, it is a major source of morbidity and mortality. Its etiology remains enigmatic despite intense research efforts over many decades. By use of empirically well-constrained computer models describing the coupled function of the baroreceptor reflex and mechanics of the circulatory system, we demonstrate quantitatively that arterial stiffening seems sufficient to explain age-related emergence of hypertension. Specifically, the empirically observed chronic changes in pulse pressure with age and the impaired capacity of hypertensive individuals to regulate short-term changes in blood pressure arise as emergent properties of the integrated system. The results are consistent with available experimental data from chemical and surgical manipulation of the cardio-vascular system. In contrast to widely held opinions, the results suggest that primary hypertension can be attributed to a mechanogenic etiology without challenging current conceptions of renal and sympathetic nervous system function.

Citation: Pettersen KH, Bugenhagen SM, Nauman J, Beard DA, Omholt SW (2014) Arterial Stiffening Provides Sufficient Explanation for Primary Hypertension. *PLoS Comput Biol* 10(5): e1003634. doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003634

Editor: Feilim Mac Gabhann, Johns Hopkins University, United States of America

Received: September 5, 2013; **Accepted:** April 9, 2014; **Published:** May 22, 2014

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Funding: This work was supported by the Research Council of Norway under the eVITA program, project number 178901/V30, and by the Virtual Physiological Rat Project funded through NIH grant P50-GM094503. NOTUR, the Norwegian metacenter for computational science, provided computing resources under project nn4653k, and the Nord-Trøndelag Health Study (The HUNT Study) provided empirical data. The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Competing Interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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Observations

The aorta gets **stiffer** with age

Baroreceptors are **strain** sensitive

Hypothesis

stiffening of the arterial wall with age



constitutively reduced signaling from the baroreceptors to the sympathetic nervous system



misinformation of the autonomic nervous system about the actual blood pressure

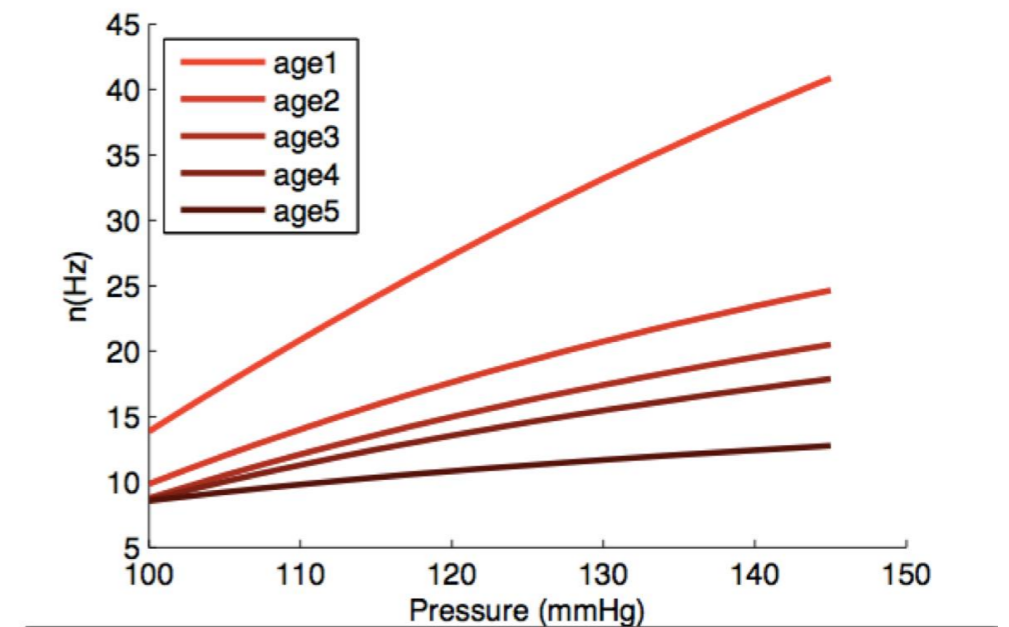


prevention of a proper negative feedback response through regulation of the heart rate, vasculature and renal system

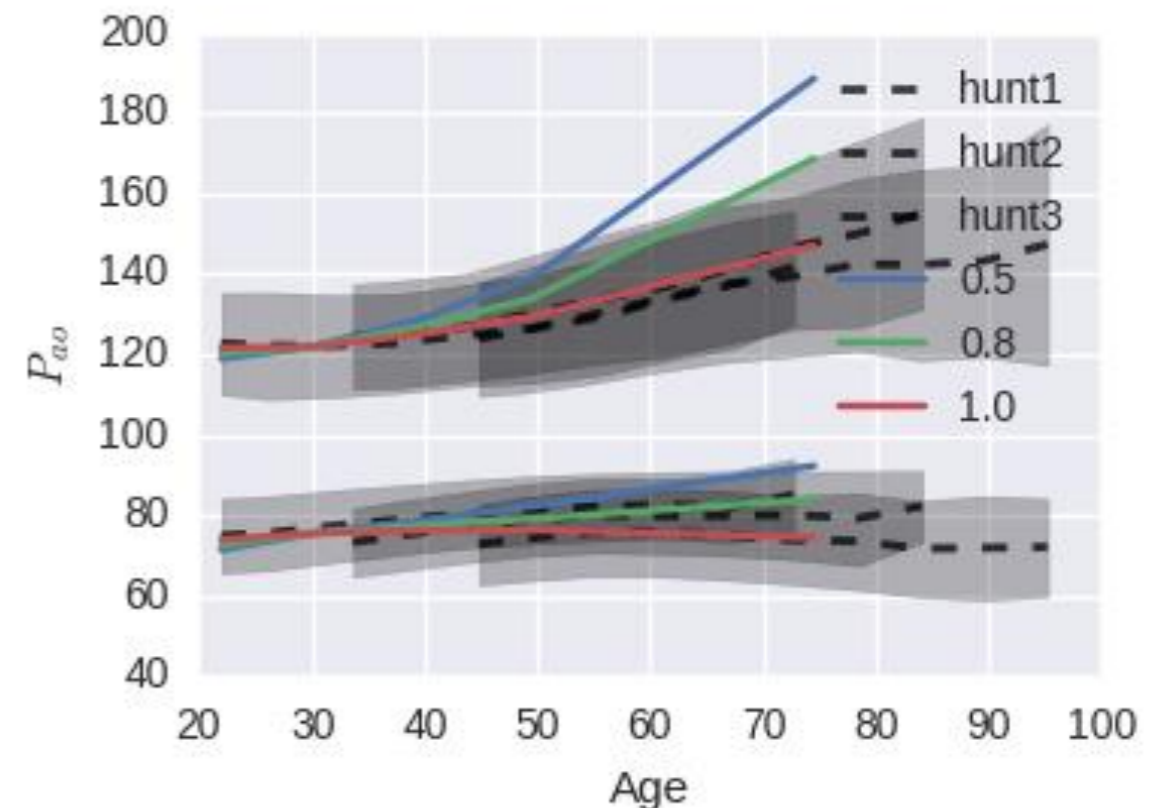


hypertension

Pressure firing relation



Predictions on 65000 people





Phenomics: the next challenge

*David Houle**, *Diddahally R. Govindaraju*[‡] and *Stig Omholt*^{§||}

Abstract | A key goal of biology is to understand phenotypic characteristics, such as health, disease and evolutionary fitness. Phenotypic variation is produced through a complex web of interactions between genotype and environment, and such a 'genotype–phenotype' map is inaccessible without the detailed phenotypic data that allow these interactions to be studied. Despite this need, our ability to characterize phenomes — the full set of phenotypes of an individual — lags behind our ability to characterize genomes. Phenomics should be recognized and pursued as an independent discipline to enable the development and adoption of high-throughput and high-dimensional phenotyping.

Phenomics: The acquisition of high-dimensional phenotypic data on an organism-wide scale.

Model-guided phenomics: encapsulate what you know in mathematical descriptions → identify phenotypic data that will advance understanding

Hypertension model example: blood volume

Take home message: 3

There is always a grey zone between a grand vision and a plain hallucination. But can we afford not to check it out?

I²AGE

Transforming the challenge of ageing into an age of opportunity

I
nnovate
ntegrate
n silico
nstruments
n vitro
n vivo
ndividual
nteract
nspire

2 AGE



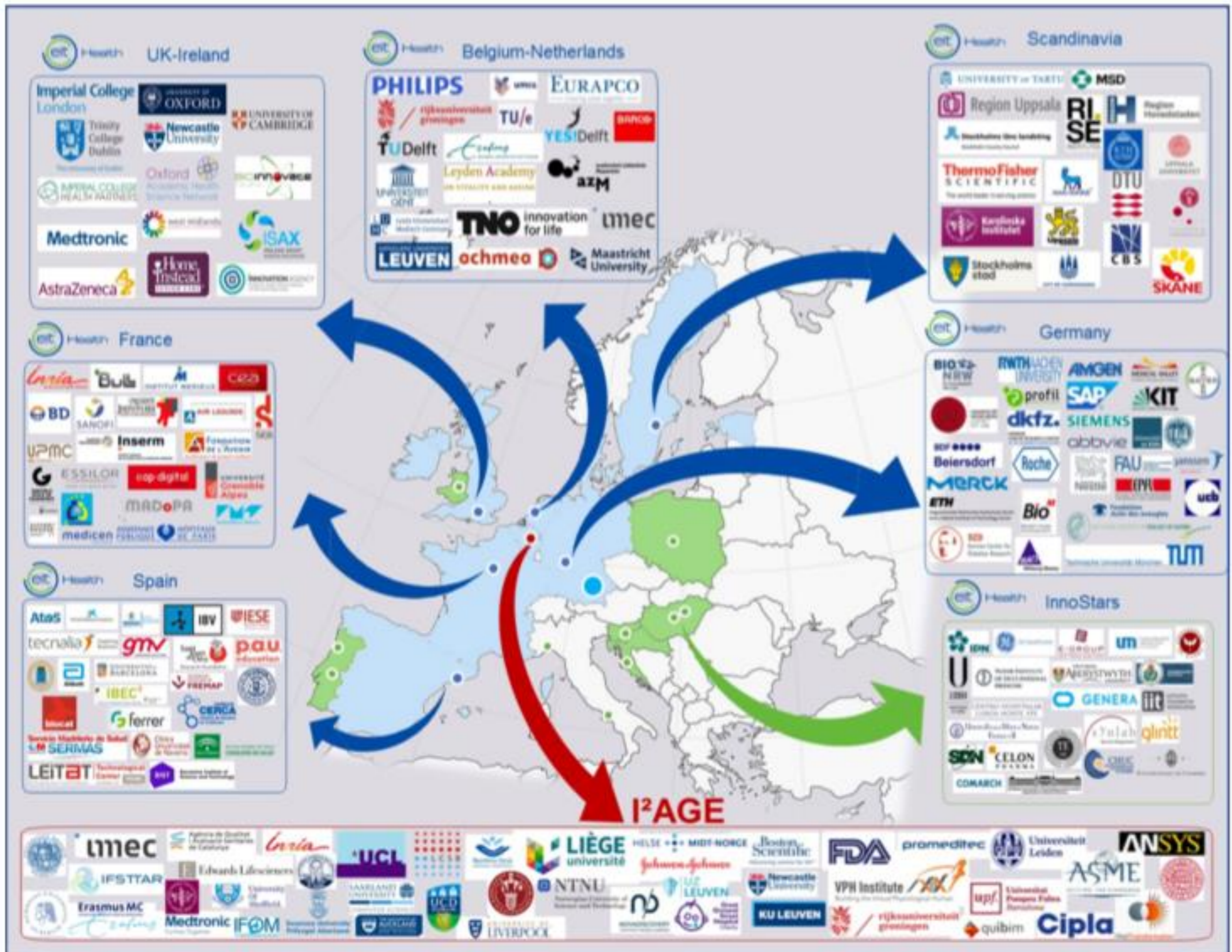
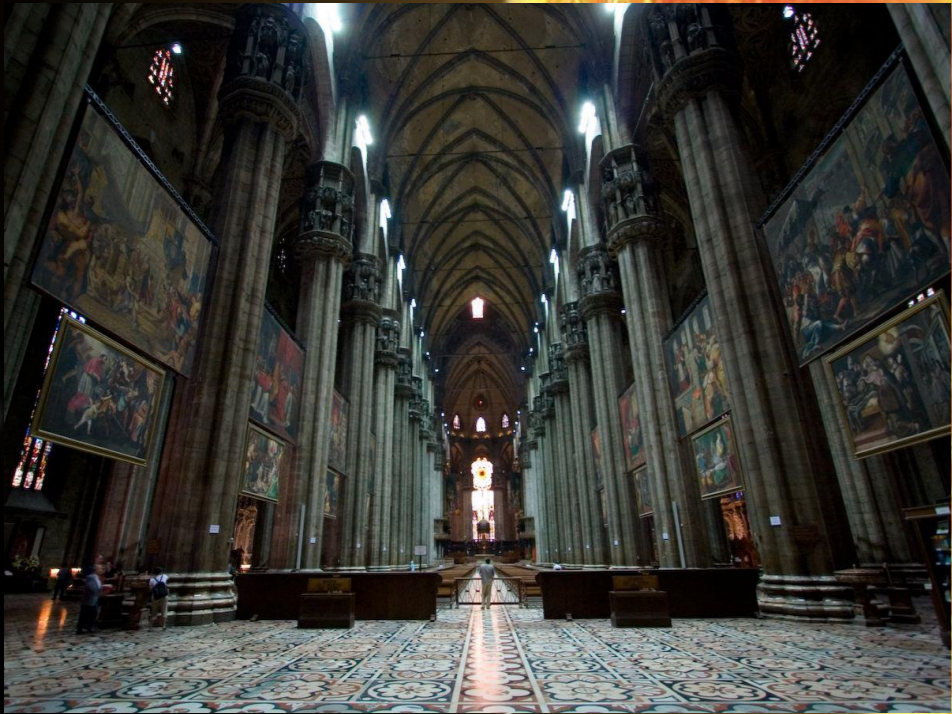


Figure 6. Overview of the PAGE consortium partners and associated partners (red). Additional network brought in by partner EIT Health (blue & green). Several consortium partners are also partners in EIT.



Horizon Europe funding opportunities

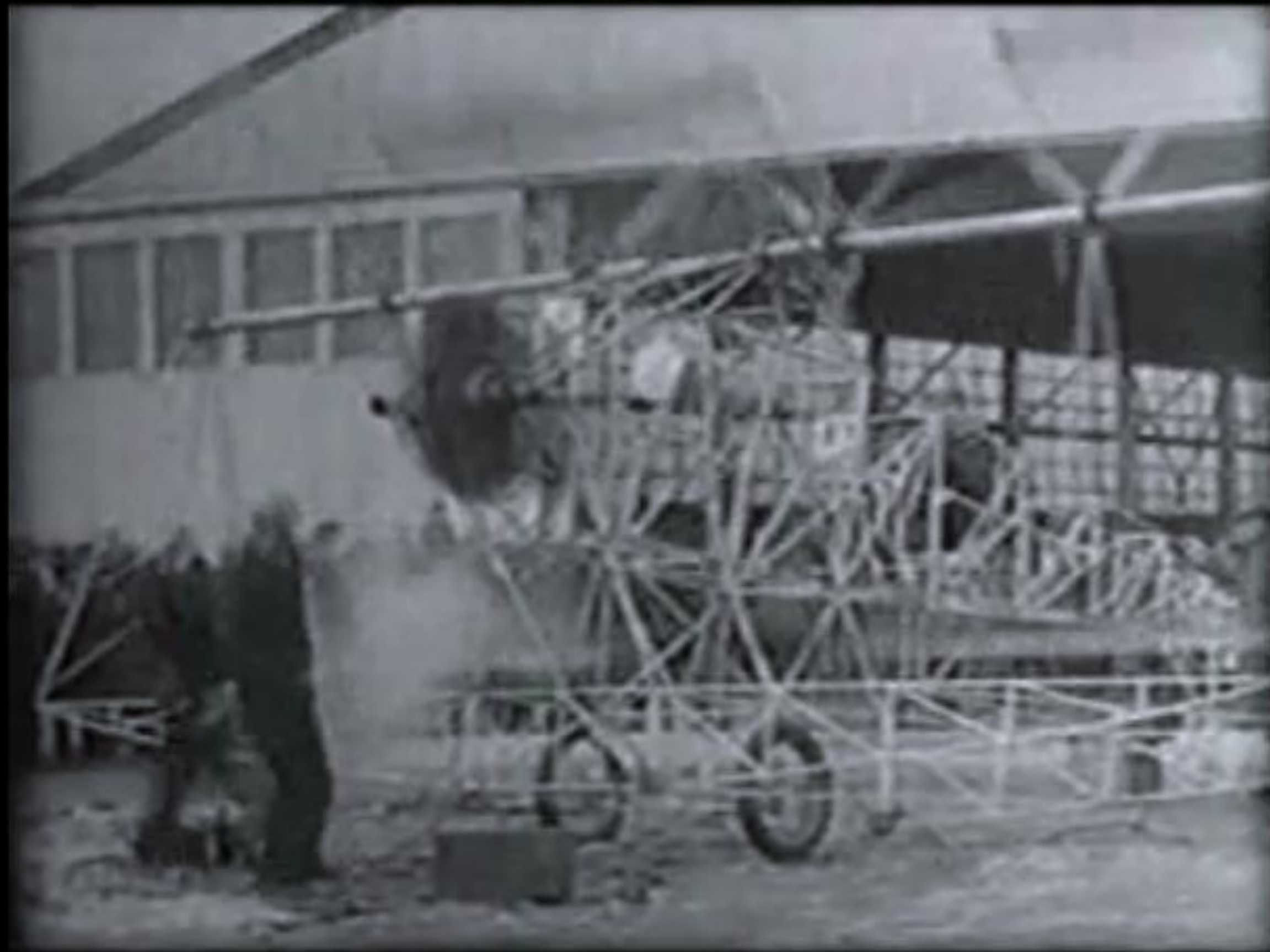
Preliminary list of candidates for European Partnerships in Pillar II, III and cross-pillar, and short description of what the partnership stands and aims for		Currently envisaged implementation mode(s)	Predecessors	Composition of partners	Relevance for clusters/ pillars
Health	1. EU-Africa Global Health Partnership Increase health security in sub-Saharan Africa and Europe, by accelerating the clinical development of effective, safe, accessible, suitable and affordable health technologies as well as health systems interventions for infectious diseases in partnership with Africa and international funders.	Article 185 or Article 187 or Co-programmed or co-funded	EDCTP2 (Art.185)	MS/AC and 3 rd countries (i.e. sub-Saharan African countries) Foundations/industry on an ad-hoc basis	Cl.1
	2. Innovative Health Initiative A collaborative platform bringing the pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, medical devices, imaging and digital sectors together for precompetitive R&I in areas of unmet public health need, to accelerate the development and uptake of people-centred health care innovations.	Article 187 or Co-programmed	IMI2 (Art.187)	Industry, other organisations on an ad hoc basis	Cl.1
	3. European partnership for chemicals risk assessment Bring together the European risk assessment and regulatory agencies to implement a joint research agenda, to ensure their capacity to deal with persistent or emerging challenges. It will promote the uptake of new methods, tools, technologies and information in chemical hazard identification and risk assessment and as part of this, sustain the development and use of human biomonitoring capacities in Europe.	Co-funded	Human Bio-monitoring and a number of other actions	MS/AC, National agencies, tbd the role of the corresponding EU agencies	Cl.1, 4, 6
	4. Pre-clinical/clinical health research The partnerships aims for establishing and implementing a strategic research agenda and joint funding strategy between major European public funders in health research.	Co-funded	Around 10 previous and current ERA-NET actions	MS / AC / 3rd countries	Cl.1, 6
	5. Large-scale innovation and transformation of health systems in a digital and ageing society Improving health and care models in an ageing, data-driven and digital society, shifting to holistic health promotion and person-centred care approaches through health policy and health systems research.	Co-funded	AAL2 (Art.185), JPI 'More Years, Better Lives' and others	MS / AC Civil Society organisations	Cl.1
	6. Personalised Medicine To align national research strategies, promote excellence, reinforce the competitiveness of European players in Personalised Medicine and enhance the European collaboration with non-EU countries	Co-funded	ERA-PerMed and actions in support of ICPeMed	MS / AC	Cl.1
	7. Rare Diseases To improve the integration, the effectiveness, the production and the social impact of research on rare diseases through the development, demonstration and promotion of Europe/ world-wide production, sharing and exploitation of research and clinical data, materials, processes, knowledge and know-hows.	Co-funded	EJP Rare diseases (until 2023)	MS/AC /3 rd countries, civil society organisations, EU research infrastructures	Cl.1

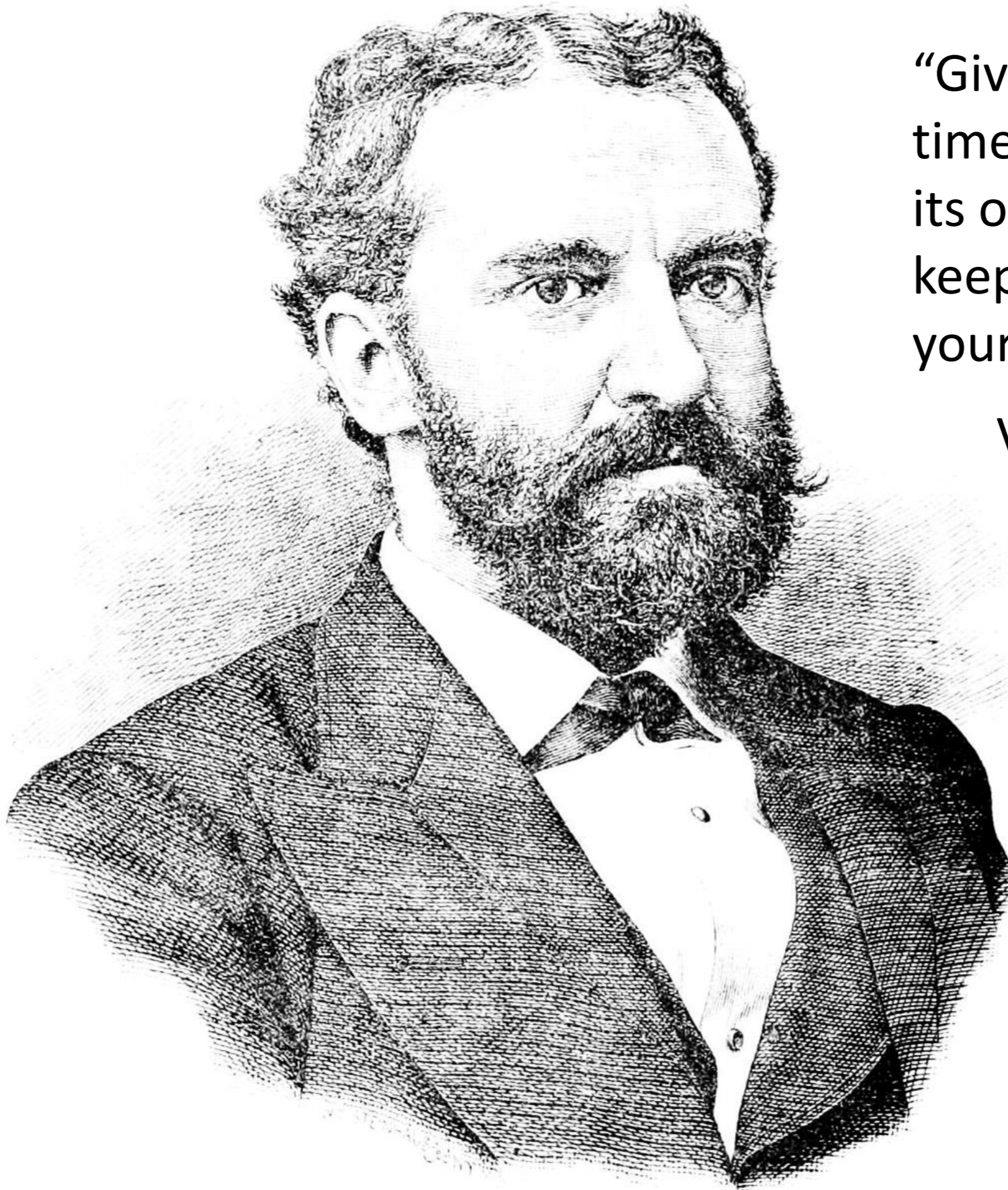


Take home message: 4

A log's flame leaps to another.
Fire kindles fire. A man listens,
thus he learns. The shy stays
shallow.

Hávamál





“Give me the fruitful error any time, full of seeds, bursting with its own corrections. You can keep your sterile truth for yourself.”

Vilfredo Pareto (1848-1923)

Take home:

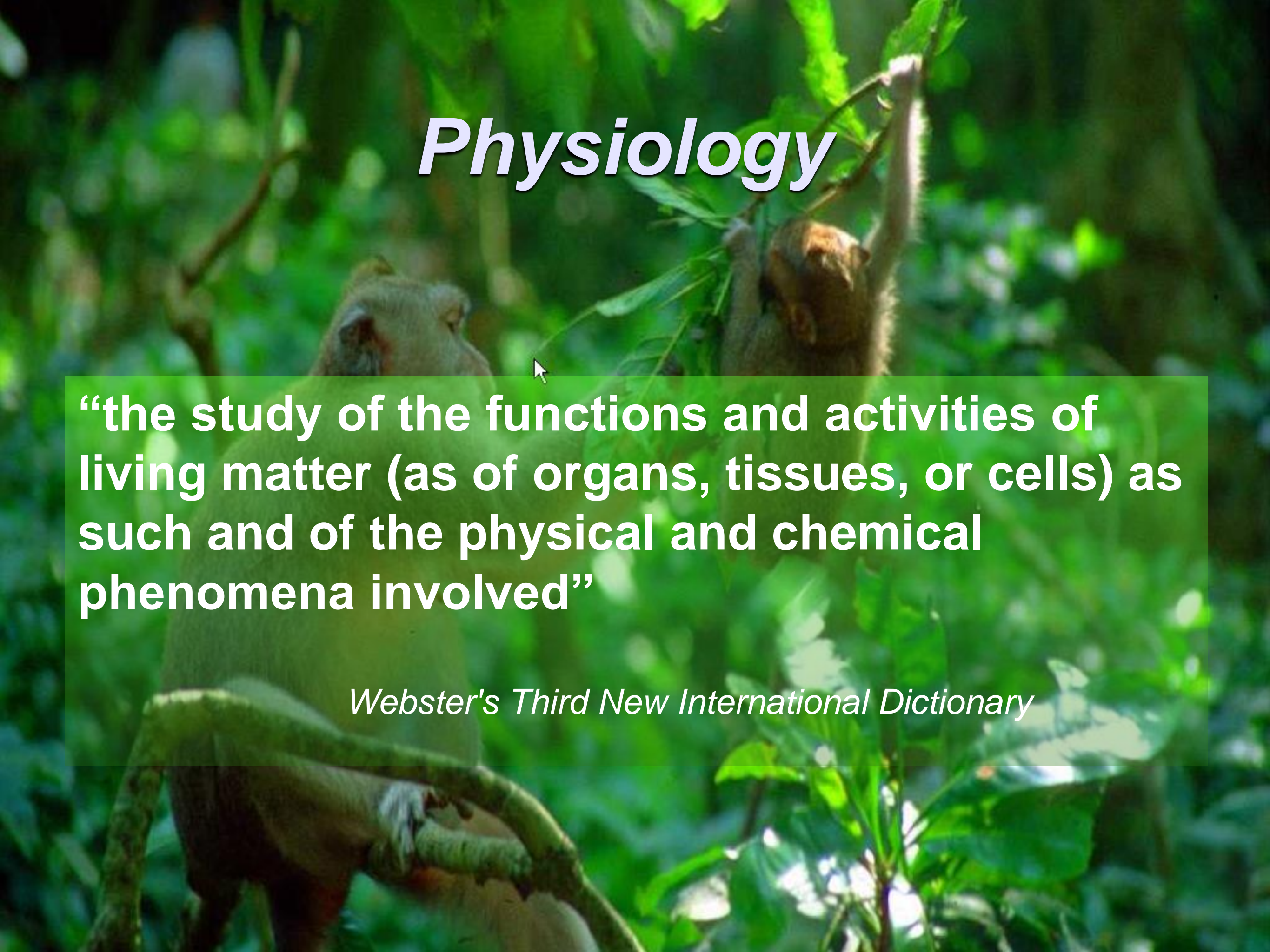
- Remember Sun Tzu
- Taming complexity
- New drug targeting paradigm – PG/PK/PD
- Remember old Norwegian saying



“New technologies are seldom created by luck; they are instead the result of private and public sector investments of time, money and effort.”

Ronald Reagan, 1983

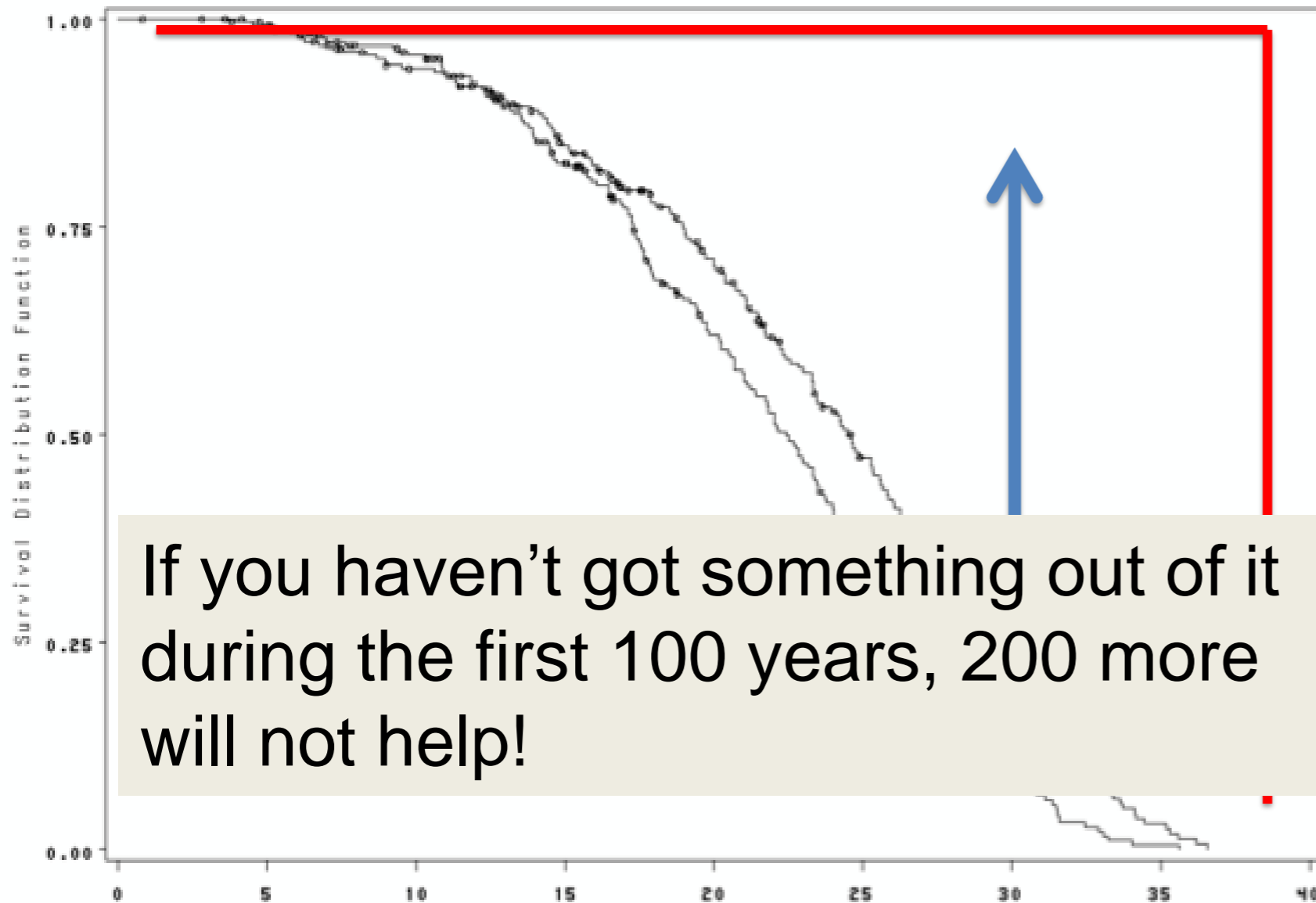
Physiology

A sloth is hanging from a tree branch in a lush green forest. The sloth is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image, with its body and limbs visible as it grips the branch. The background is filled with dense, vibrant green foliage, creating a natural and serene setting. The lighting is bright, highlighting the textures of the sloth's fur and the surrounding leaves.

“the study of the functions and activities of living matter (as of organs, tissues, or cells) as such and of the physical and chemical phenomena involved”

Webster's Third New International Dictionary

Is it possible to rectangularise the intrinsic mortality curve?



European Psychologist 2006; Vol. 11(3):204–223



Take home message: 4

