



Improving the Treatment of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia using Graph Analytics with AI and Machine Learning

Jesper Vang, PhD Student at Cancer Systems Biology group





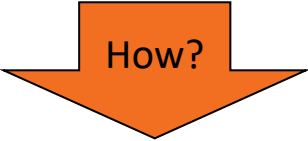
DTU on Interregional Childhood Oncology Precision Medicine Exploration (iCOPE)

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The rate of cancer in children rises in Europe by 6-10% per ten years, and mortality and treatment toxicity are still high.

To improve diagnostics, treatment, cure rates, and the overall life situation of children with cancer (at the hospital, in school, and at home).



Build	Analyses	Ethical	Telepresence	e-health
Build a database and biobank for childhood cancer research based on ~2000 patients.	Carry out extensive germline and tumour DNA and transcriptomics (NGS) analyses to gain insights into cancer predisposition syndromes, somatic mutations, and tumor biology.	Address ethical issues arising from genome sequencing.	Develop telepresence robots to support children with staying connected to school during cancer treatment.	Investigate e-health as a tool to support healthcare at home.

NGS Team at DTU:



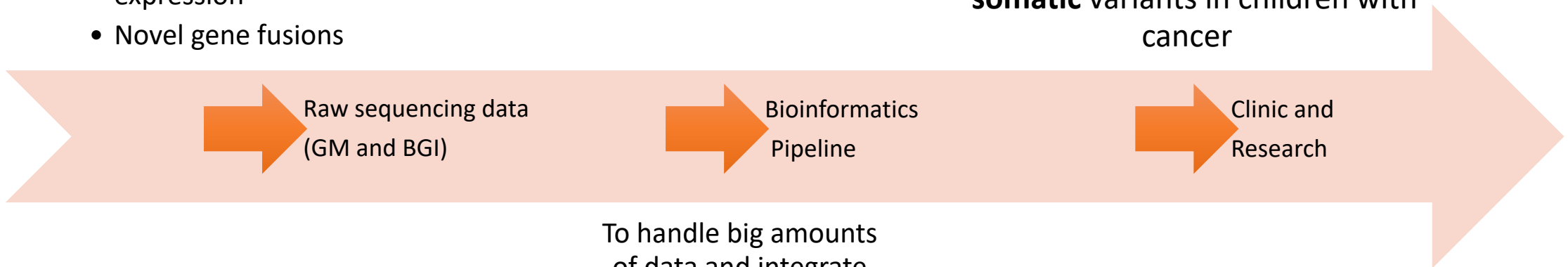
Operational goal:

Types of data:

- **Germline DNA: Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) data**
- **Tumour RNA: RNA-seq data**
 - Molecular subtypes from gene expression
 - Novel gene fusions

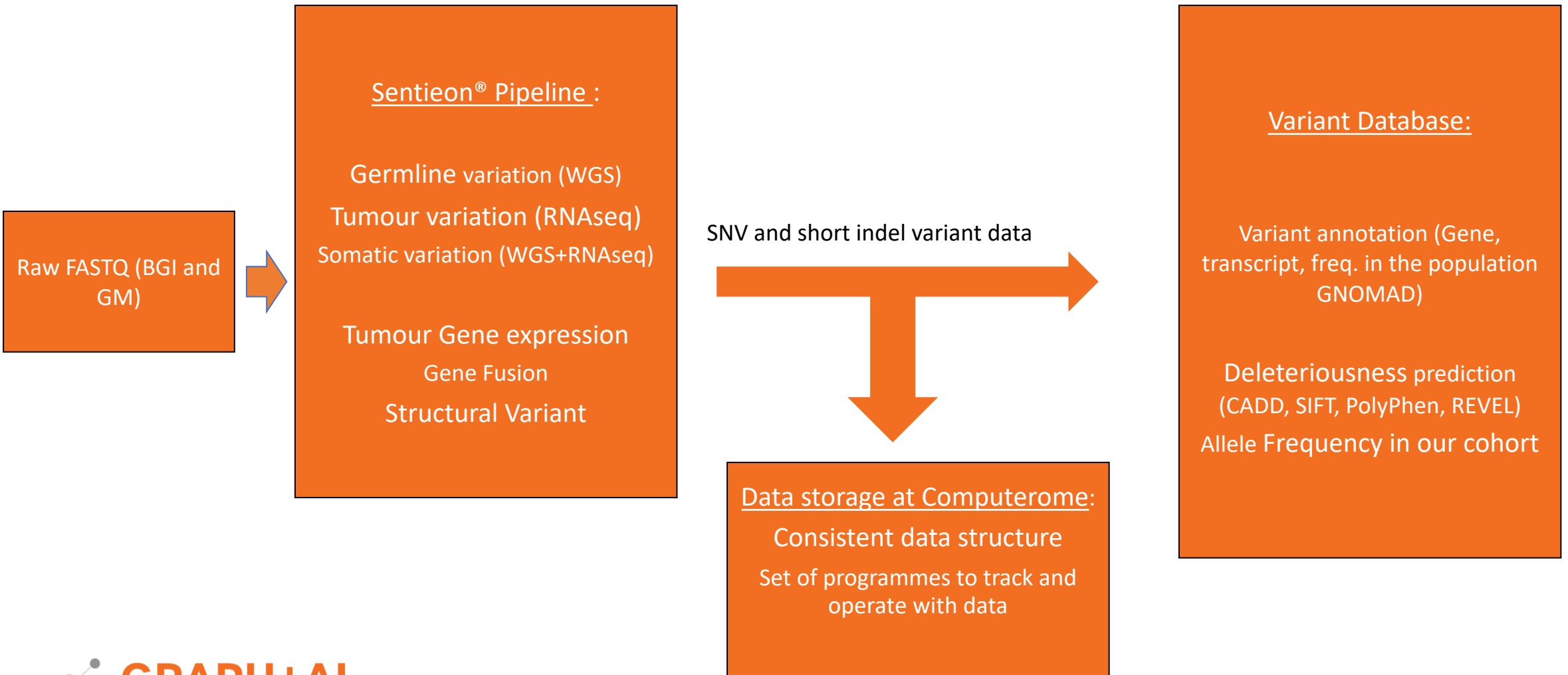
Research goals:

Germline-somatic continuum:
Find links between **germline** and **somatic** variants in children with cancer



To handle big amounts of data and integrate different data sources and extract biologically relevant signals through our pipelines

General workflow overview



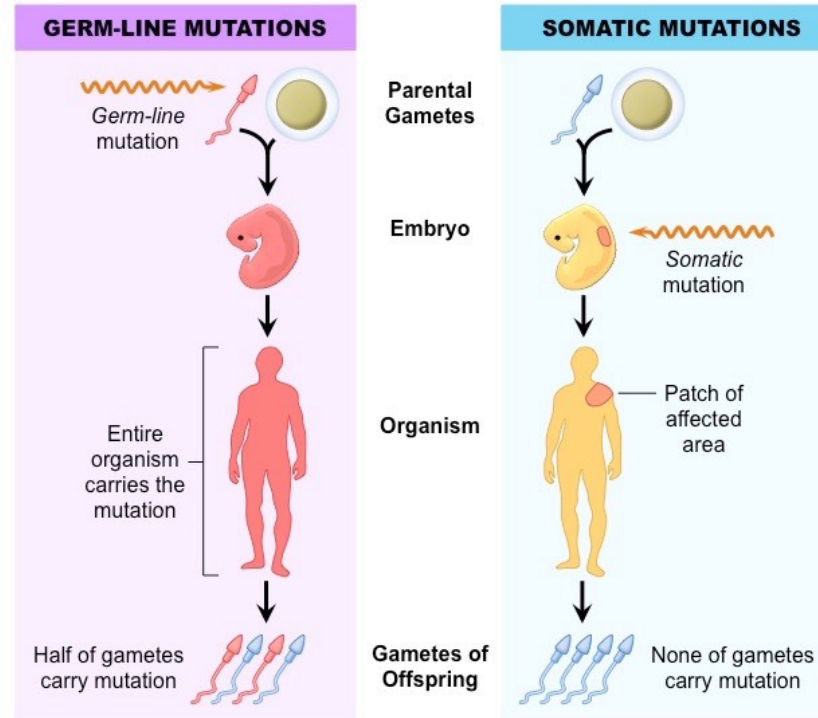
Germline Somatic 1:

Map and describe correlations of germline and somatic events in individual patients with gene expression and molecular signalling (Cancer Hallmarks, Cosmic Genes, DNA Repair genes), and their association to risk assessment and patient stratification

Study Cohort: 116 paediatric ALL patients

Data:

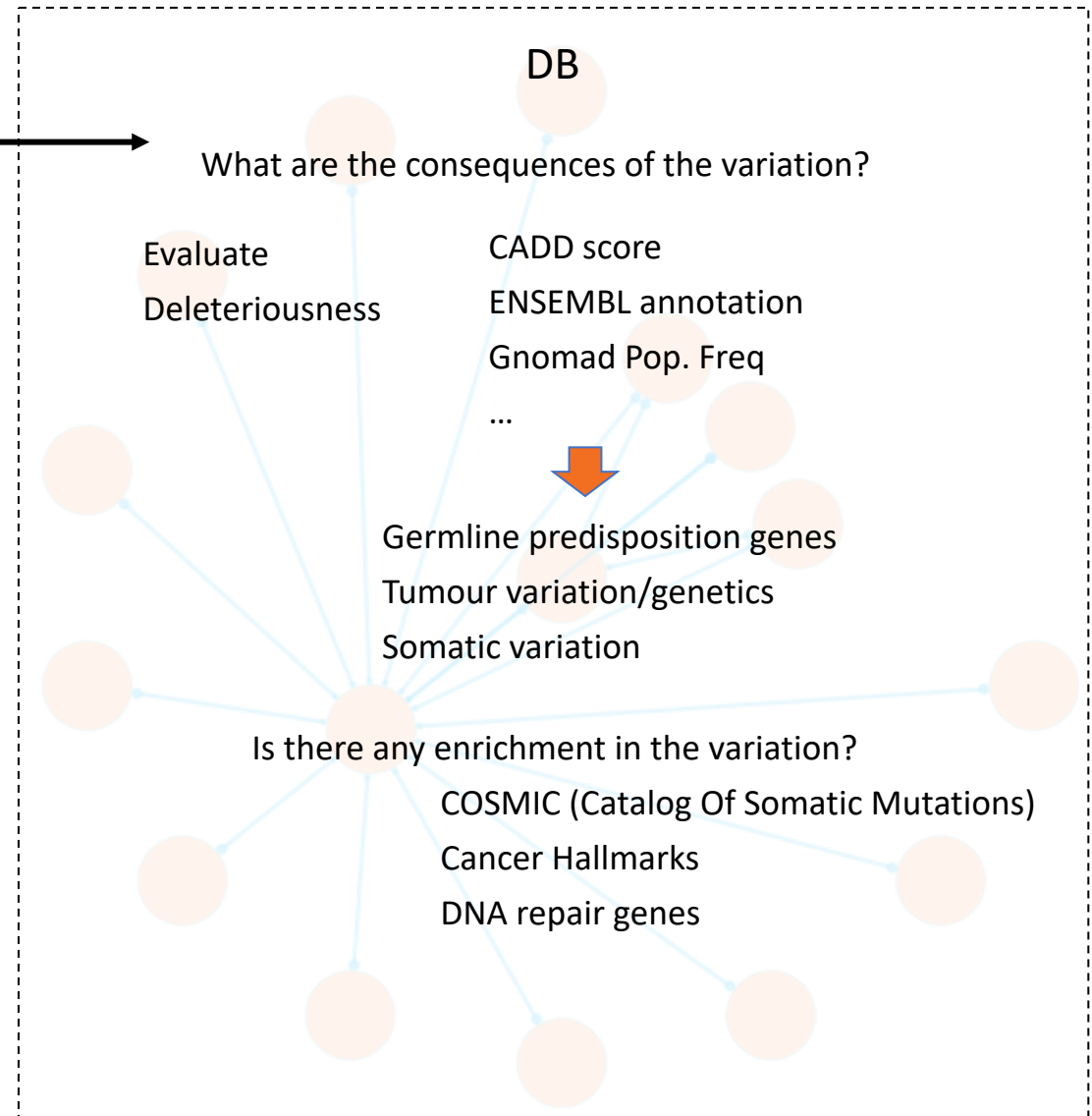
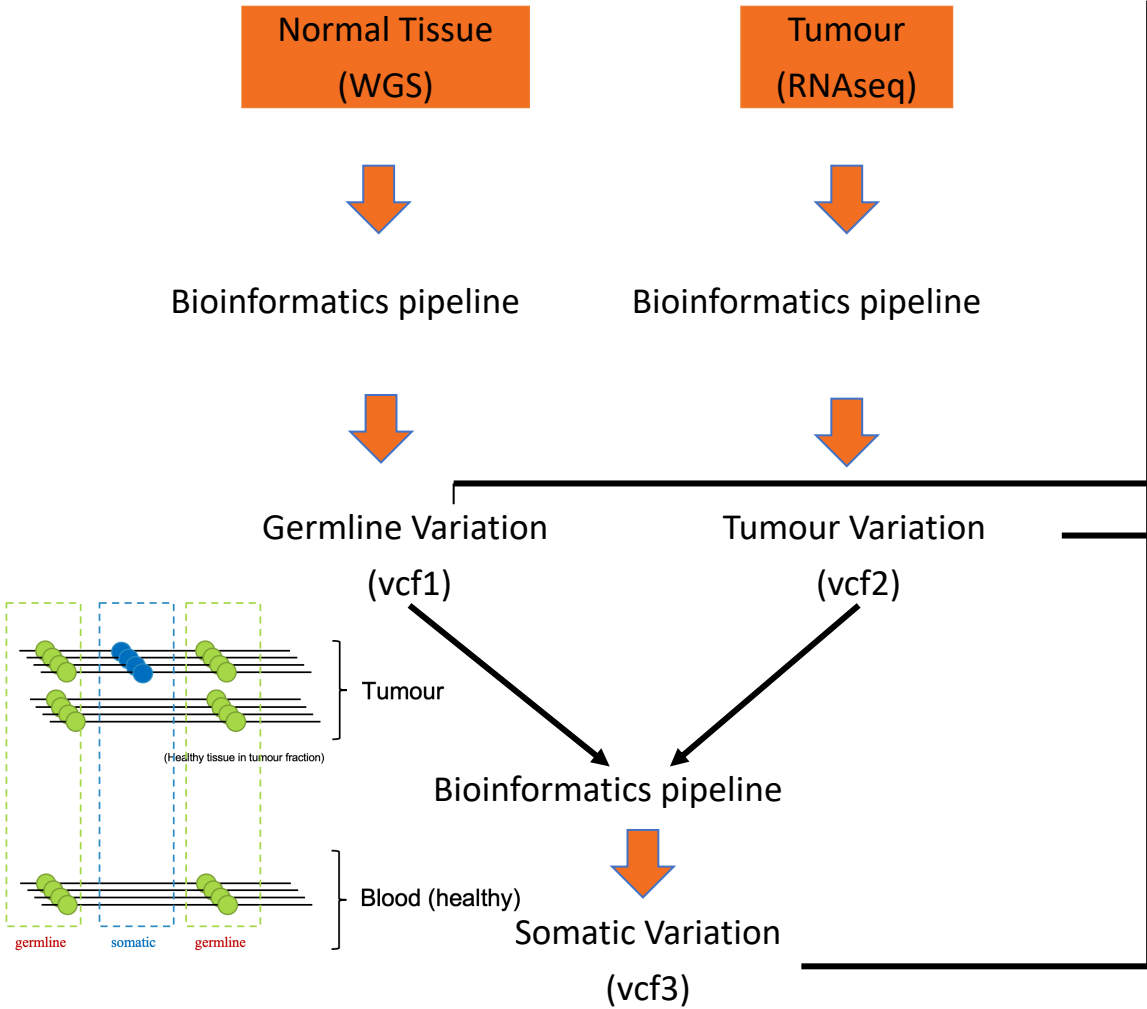
Whole Genome Sequencing for Germline DNA (N=116)
RNAseq for Tumour RNA (N=94)



Somatic Mutations
Present only in some cells
Not transmitted to offspring
Do not fixate in population

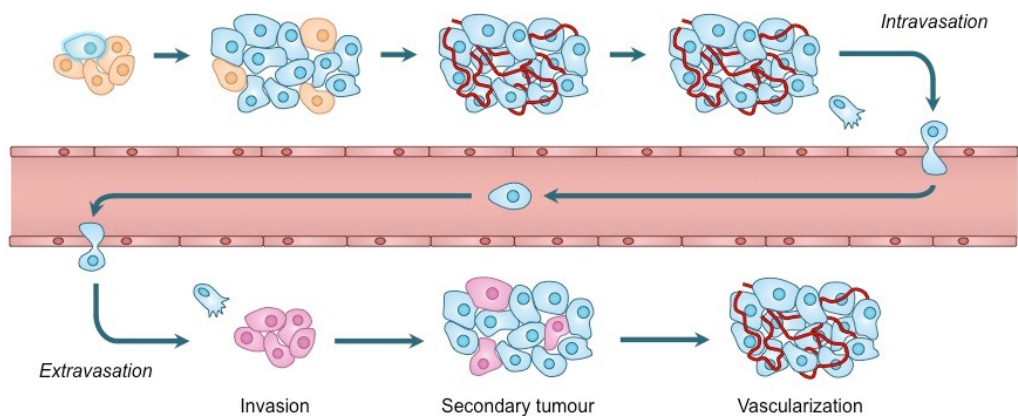
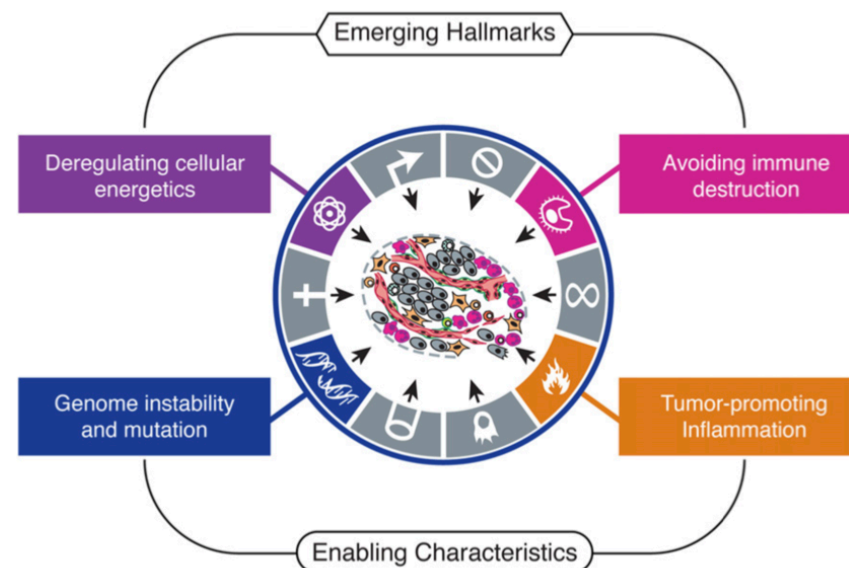
Germline Mutations
Present in all cells
Transmitted to offspring
Fixate in population (SNP)

Germline Somatic 2:



Acquire functional capabilities

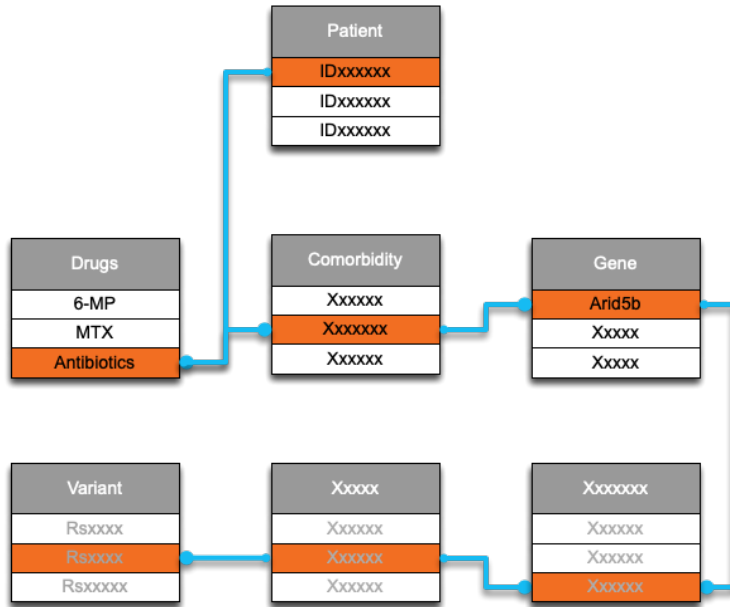
- Sustaining proliferative signalling
- Evading growth suppressors
- Resisting cell death
- Enabling replicative immortality
- Inducing angiogenesis
- Activating invasion and metastasis
- Emerging Hallmarks
- Enabling characteristics



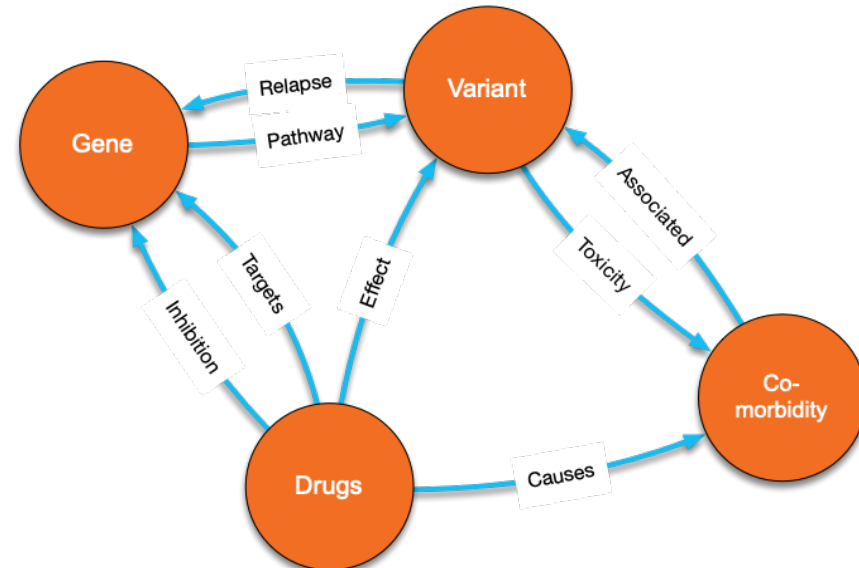
*The hallmarks of cancer
Hanahan and Weinberg, Cell 2011*

Why TigerGraph

Relational Database



Graph Database



Format	Nodes and edges	Tables with rows and columns
Relationship	Considered data, represented by edges between nodes	Related across tables established using foreign keys between tables
Complex Queries	Run quickly and do not require joins	Require complex joins between tables



Thanks to the team:

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50% DTU March 2021

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