

# SEMANTIC WEB IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

## *A LANDSCAPE OF CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES*

- Tim Williams

**SWAT4HCLS**

Antwerp, Belgium

2018-12-03

# OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Data
3. PhUSE
4. The Way Forward
5. General Discussion

# OUTLINE

## 1. Introduction

- 2. Data
- 3. PhUSE
- 4. The Way Forward
- 5. General Discussion

WHO AM I?





*Interactive!*

*Questions and Discussion*

# WHO I AM

## UCB BioSciences

- Statistical Systems Analyst
- Raleigh, North Carolina
-  ,

## PhUSE

- Steering Committee: "PhUSE Computational Sciences Symposium"
- Co-lead : "Clinical Trials Data as RDF"\*
- Co-lead : "Analysis Results Model (RDF Data Cubes)" (2016)
- Instructor: "Linked Data Hands-on Workshop"\*

# I ALSO LIKE #LINKEDDATA MEMES



@NovasTaylor

# WHO ARE YOU?

*Hands up:*

- Pharmaceuticals (any size pharma)
- Biotechnology (non-pharma)
- Health Care
- Research
- Other

# WHO ARE YOU : SEM WEB ADOPTION?

*Hands up if you are:*

- Doing something (personally, professionally) with Semantic Web

*Keep your hands up if you are using SW at work in:*

- any way: Experiment, Prototype, Proof of Concept, Pilot, Production
- in a Validated Production Environment



# OUTLINE

1. Introduction

## 2. Data

### 2.1 Landscape

### 2.2 Standards

3. PhUSE

4. The Way Forward

5. General Discussion

## 2.1 DATA *LANDSCAPE*

Non-clinical (Pre-clinical)

- Animal studies

## Clinical

- Human Study Subjects

Phase	n	Description
0	~ 15	Safety
I	~ 20 - 80	Safety, Dosing
II	~ 100's	Safety, Treat Condition, Refine methods
III	~ 3,000	Efficacy, Double-blind. Comp. other treatments.
IV	1000's	Post-approval. Long term efficacy, safety...

# DATA *SOURCES*

## Traditional

- Case Report Forms (CRF)
- Electronic Data Capture (EDC)
- \* Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMS)

## New

- Wearables, Ingestibles, Devices
- Social Media
- Real World Evidence
  - See: [openEHR - The 'open platform' Revolution](#)  
Room A, 17:00-18:00

*Other Data Sources?*

# DATA SOURCES (RDF)

RDF ENDPOINTS FOR LATE PHASE DATA?



<https://old.datahub.io/dataset/linkedct>

*Your Experience?*

## LinkedCT

Followers

1

### Organization



### Linking Open Data Cloud

See also 2014 augmentation. This group catalogs data sets that are available on the Web as Linked Data and contain data links pointing at other Linked Data sets. The... [read more](#)

### Social

[Google+](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Facebook](#)

### License

Creative Commons Non-Commercial (Any)

[Dataset](#)
[Groups](#)
[Activity Stream](#)

## LinkedCT

Data exposed: Linked Clinical Trials

Size of dump and data set: ~25 million triples as of April 2011. 4.8GB NTriples dump


### CC by-nc-sa license


You are free to copy, distribute, transmit, and adapt the work for non-commercial purposes. However, you need to follow the terms and conditions available at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/info/terms>


According to OKD (<http://www.openlinkproject.org/okd/>) the data is not considered open.


[Download Data Package](#)

### Data and Resources

 **Download**  
Download

[More information](#)
[Go to resource](#)
 **SPARQL endpoint**  
SPARQL endpoint

[More information](#)
[Go to resource](#)
 **Data Browser Interface**  
Data Browser Interface

[More information](#)
[Go to resource](#)
 **Example resource**  
Example resource

[More information](#)
[Go to resource](#)

[download.esa.200810](#)
[deref-vocab](#)
[format.rdf](#)
[health](#)
[lifesciences](#)
[linkeddata](#)
[ltd](#)
[loddcloud-diagram-20...](#)
[loddcloud-diagram-20...](#)
[no-license-metadata](#)
[no-provenance-metadata](#)
[published-by-third...](#)
[rdf](#)
[size.gb](#)

### Additional Info

Field	Value
Source	<a href="http://linkedct.org/">http://linkedct.org/</a>
Author	<a href="#">Oktie Hassanzadeh</a>
Maintainer	
Last Updated	July 30, 2016, 9:50 AM (UTC+02:00)
Created	2016-07-30T09:50:00+02:00
links:bio2rdf-pubmed	78483
links:dbpedia	25478
links:fu-berlin-dailymed	37600
links:fu-berlin-diseasome	1325
links:fu-berlin-drugbank	28047
links:tcgenedit_dataset	141
namespace	<a href="http://linkedct.org/resource/">http://linkedct.org/resource/</a>

## 2.2 STANDARDS



### HEALTH LEVEL 7

*"A set of international standards for transfer of clinical and administrative data between software applications used by various healthcare providers."*

## 2.2 STANDARDS

### FAST HEALTHCARE INTEROPERABILITY RESOURCES

*"A draft standard describing data formats and elements and an application programming interface for exchanging electronic health records. Created by Health Level Seven."*

FHIR as RDF



*Who is using FHIR?*

*Who is using FHIR as RDF?*

*Who is attending:*

HL7 FHIR and the Semantic Web

Harold Solbrig

Room A, 13:30

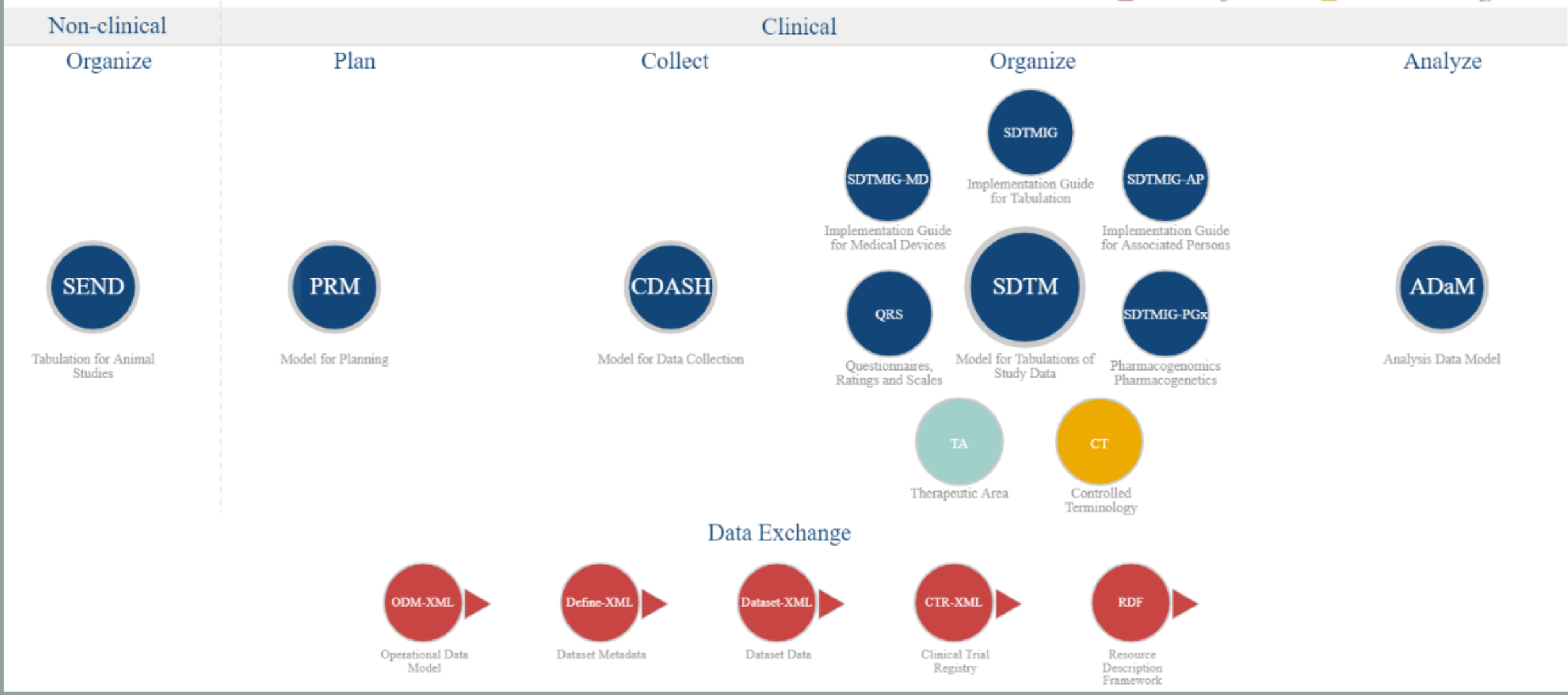


Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium

[www.cdisc.org](http://www.cdisc.org)  
Standards Overview

# CDISC Standards in the Clinical Research Process

- Foundational Standard
- Therapeutic Area
- Data Exchange
- Controlled Terminology



*Are you using CDISC as RDF?*

*Are you using CDISC?*

*If you are in Pharma and not using CDISC Standards, I am worried about you.*



CDISC STANDARDS ARE A GOOD THING  
BUT THERE ARE PROBLEMS  
AND CHANGE IS NEEDED

# SDTM DOMAINS

- Demographics (DM)
- Vital Signs (VS)
- Adverse Events (AE)
- ...

*"23 defined domains within six broad categories." (SDTM 3.1)*

# PROBLEMS IN CDISC SDTM

*"Domains represent discrete categories" - CDISC*

Reality Check: **They do not.**

- Example: Demographics Domain (DM)
  - Also contains
    - Study ID
    - Treatment Arm Information (arm, coded value for arm)
    - Age units

# PROBLEMS IN CDISC SDTM

- Multiple approaches to represent Medical conditions
  - Medical History (MH)
  - Adverse Events (AE)
  - Clinical Events (CE)
- Multiple locations for same/similar information
  - Death Information:
    - Demographics (DM)
    - Disposition (DS)
    - Adverse Events (AE)
- ...and more.



# PROBLEMS IN CDISC SDTM

- Data Repetition
- Row-by-Column Structure

The image shows two overlapping CDISC SDTM dataset views. The top view, titled 'vs', displays a table with four columns: 'studyid' (Study Identifier), 'domain' (VS), 'usubjid' (Unique Subject Identifier), and 'vsseq'. It contains five rows of data for study CDISCPILLOT01, all with the same usubjid (01-701-1015) but different vsseq values (1-5). The bottom view, titled 'dm', displays a table with five columns: 'studyid' (Study Identifier), 'domain' (DM), 'usubjid' (Unique Subject Identifier), and 'subjid' (Subject Identifier). It contains seven rows of data for study CDISCPILLOT01, with usubjid values ranging from 01-701-1015 to 01-701-1057 and corresponding subjid values (1015, 1023, 1028, 1033, 1034, 1047, 1057).

	studyid Study Identifier	domain	usubjid Unique Subject Identifier	vsseq
1	CDISCPILLOT01	VS	01-701-1015	1
2	CDISCPILLOT01	VS	01-701-1015	2
3	CDISCPILLOT01	VS	01-701-1015	3
4	CDISCPILLOT01	VS	01-701-1015	4
5	CDISCPILLOT01	VS	01-701-1015	5

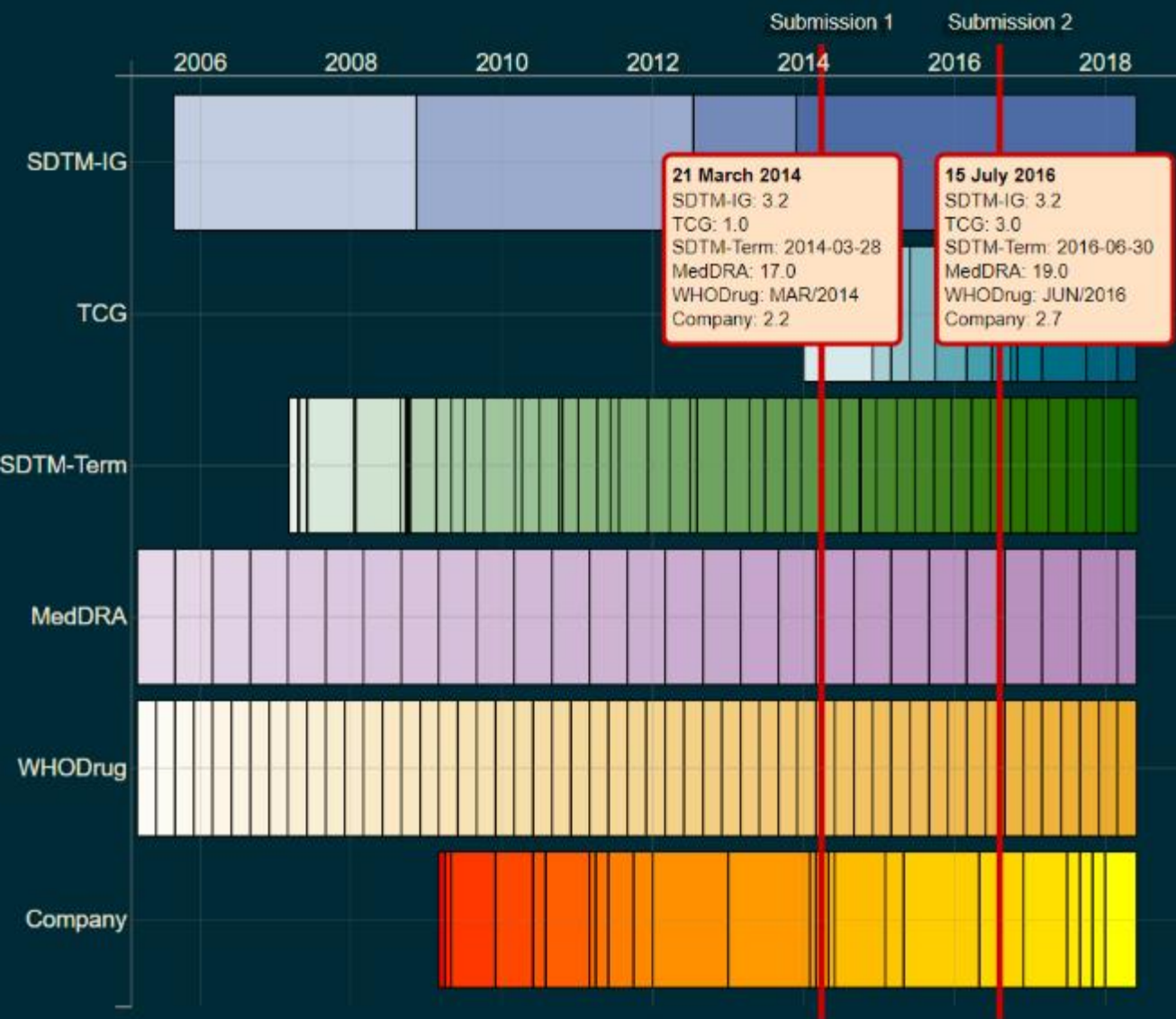
  

	studyid Study Identifier	domain	usubjid Unique Subject Identifier	subjid Subject Identifier
8	CDISCPILLOT01	DM	01-701-1015	1015
9	CDISCPILLOT01	DM	01-701-1023	1023
10	CDISCPILLOT01	DM	01-701-1028	1028
11	CDISCPILLOT01	DM	01-701-1033	1033
12	CDISCPILLOT01	DM	01-701-1034	1034
13	CDISCPILLOT01	DM	01-701-1047	1047
14	CDISCPILLOT01	DM	01-701-1057	1057

# THE VERSIONING PROBLEM

- Standards Change over time
- Version-Conversion
  - Instance data is not version-independent

# STANDARDS OVER TIME



## LEGEND

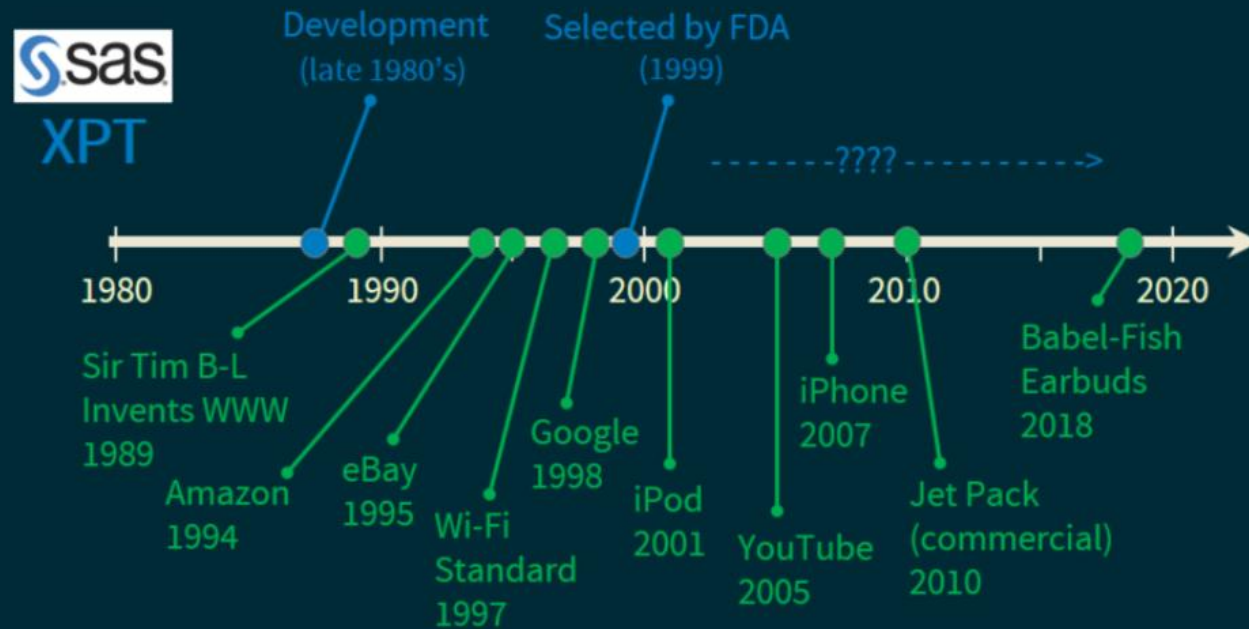
SDTM-IG	Study Data Tabulation Model (SDTM), Implementation Guide
TCG*	Study Data Technical Conformance Guide
SDTM-TERM**	SDTM terminology
MedDRA	Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities
WHODrug	World Health Organization Drug Dictionary
Company	Fictional company standard.

\*<https://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StudyDataStandards/default.htm#guides>

\*\*<https://evs.nci.nih.gov/ftp1/CDISC/SDTM/Archive/>



# A TECHNOLOGY TIMELINE: XPT FORMAT FOR FDA SUBMISSIONS



IT GETS WORSE...

THE 30 YEAR-OLD XPT FORMAT FOR FILE TRANSFER...

*IS BEING USED AS A STRUCTURE FOR DATA STORAGE*







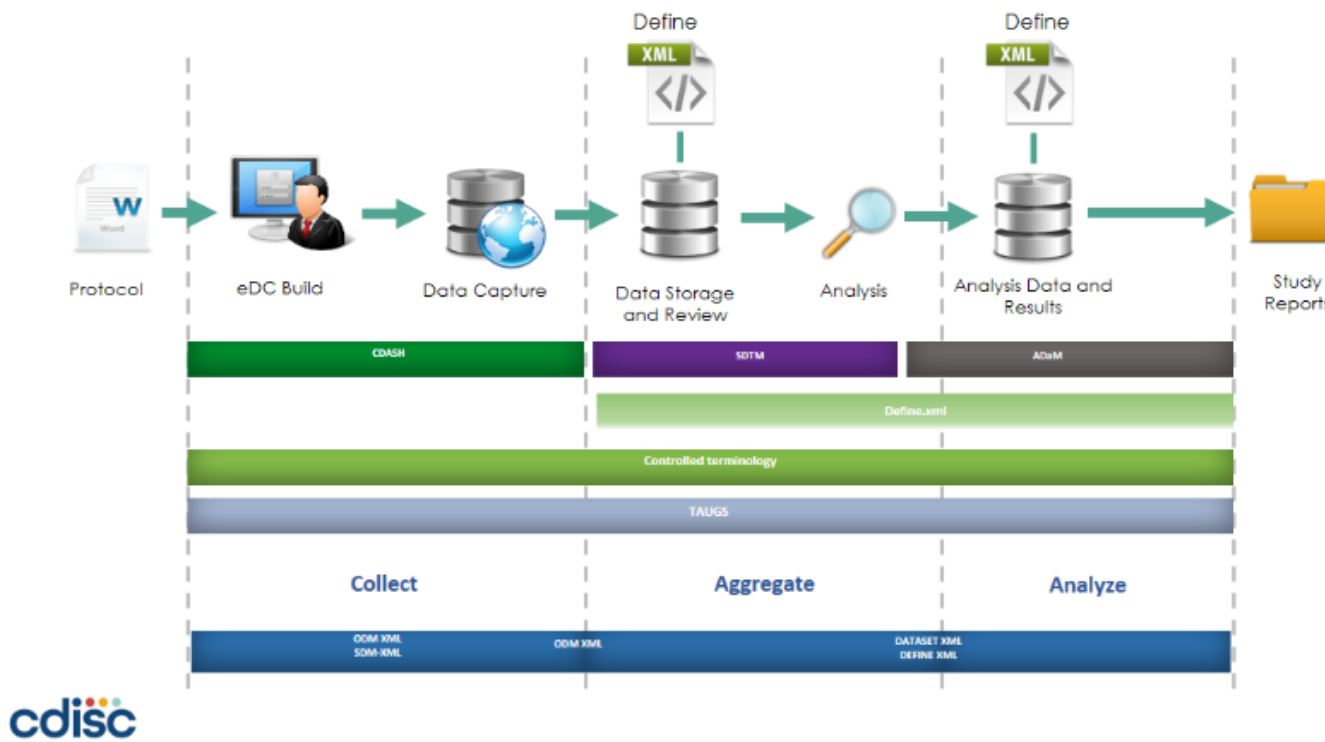


CDISC IS TRYING TO CHANGE

# CDISC PROOF OF CONCEPT

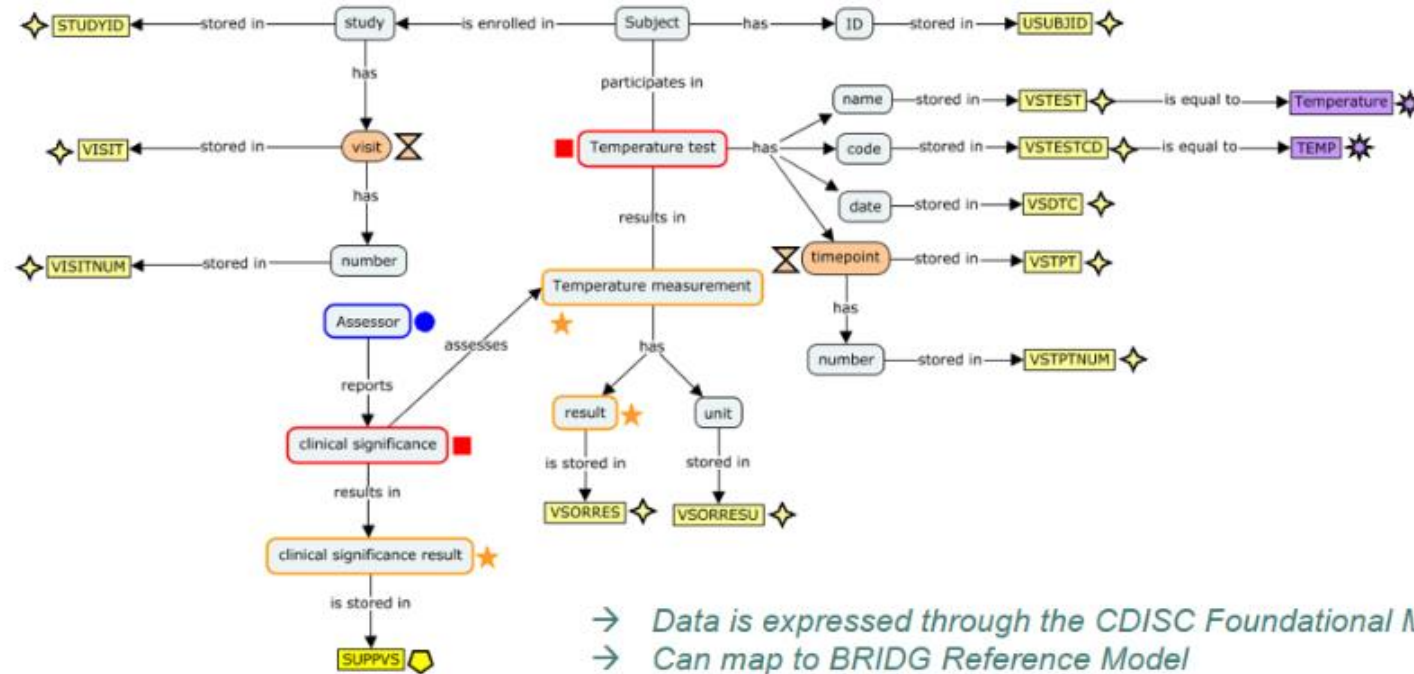
*"Evolving our standards towards end to end automation"*

Today we are here



# CDISC PROOF OF CONCEPT STANDARDS IN CONCEPT MAPS

- Example of biomedical concept





# OUTLINE

1. Introduction

2. Data

## 3. PhUSE

3.1 What is PhUSE?

3.2 PhUSE Linked Data Initiatives

3.3 CTDasRDF Project

- The Way Forward
- General Discussion



## Pharmaceutical Users Software Exchange

### Mission:

*Provide an welcoming, neutral platform for creating and sharing ideas, implementing data standards, processes, and tools, and exploring innovative methodologies, techniques, and technologies.*



## Pharmaceutical Users Software Exchange

### Working Groups Mission:

*Provide an open, transparent, and collaborative forum in an non-competitive environment in which Regulators, Life Science Companies, Technology Providers, SDOs, and Academia can address unmet computational science needs impacting product development and regulatory review as to improve human health*

\* - emphasis is mine

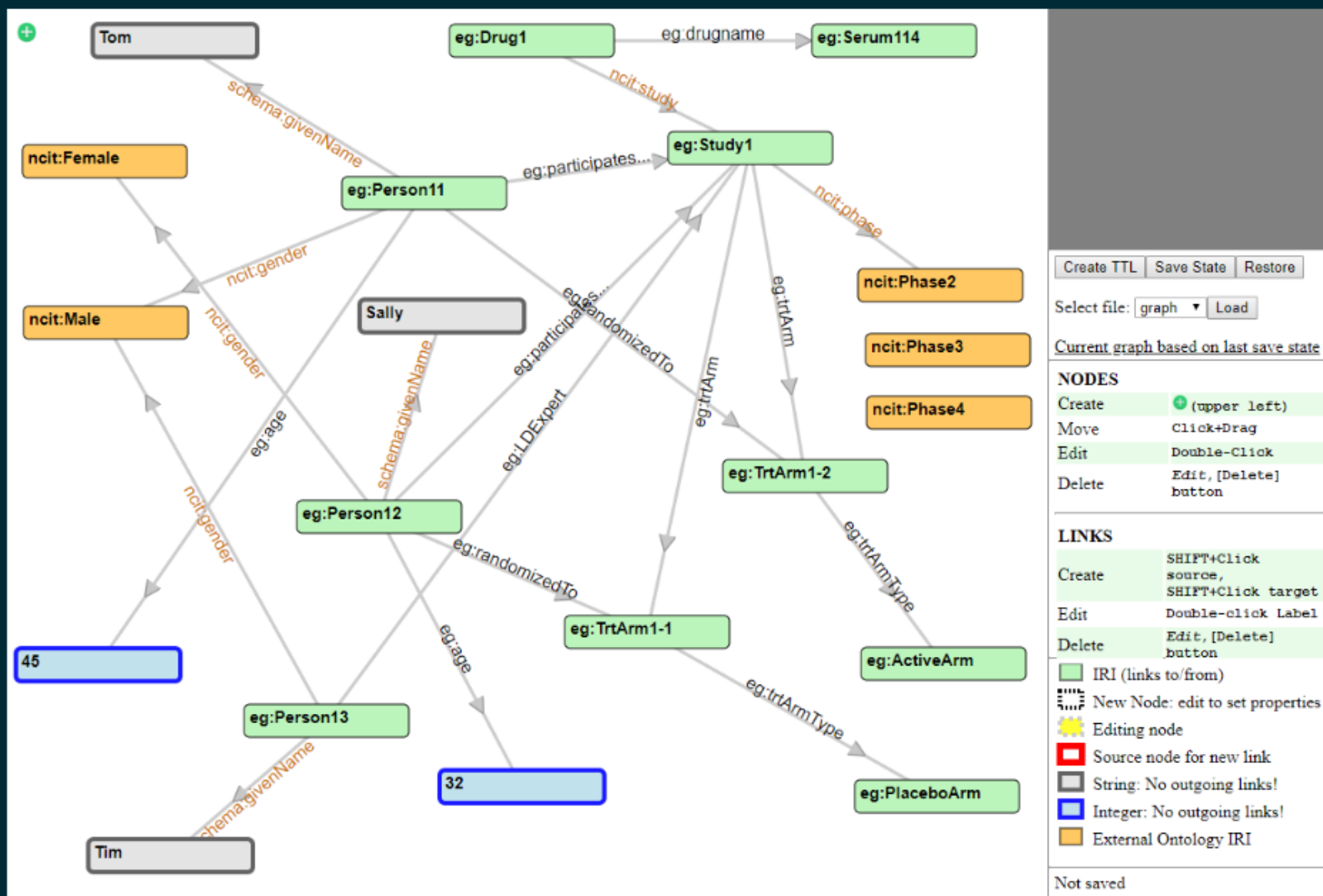


## Pharmaceutical Users Software Exchange

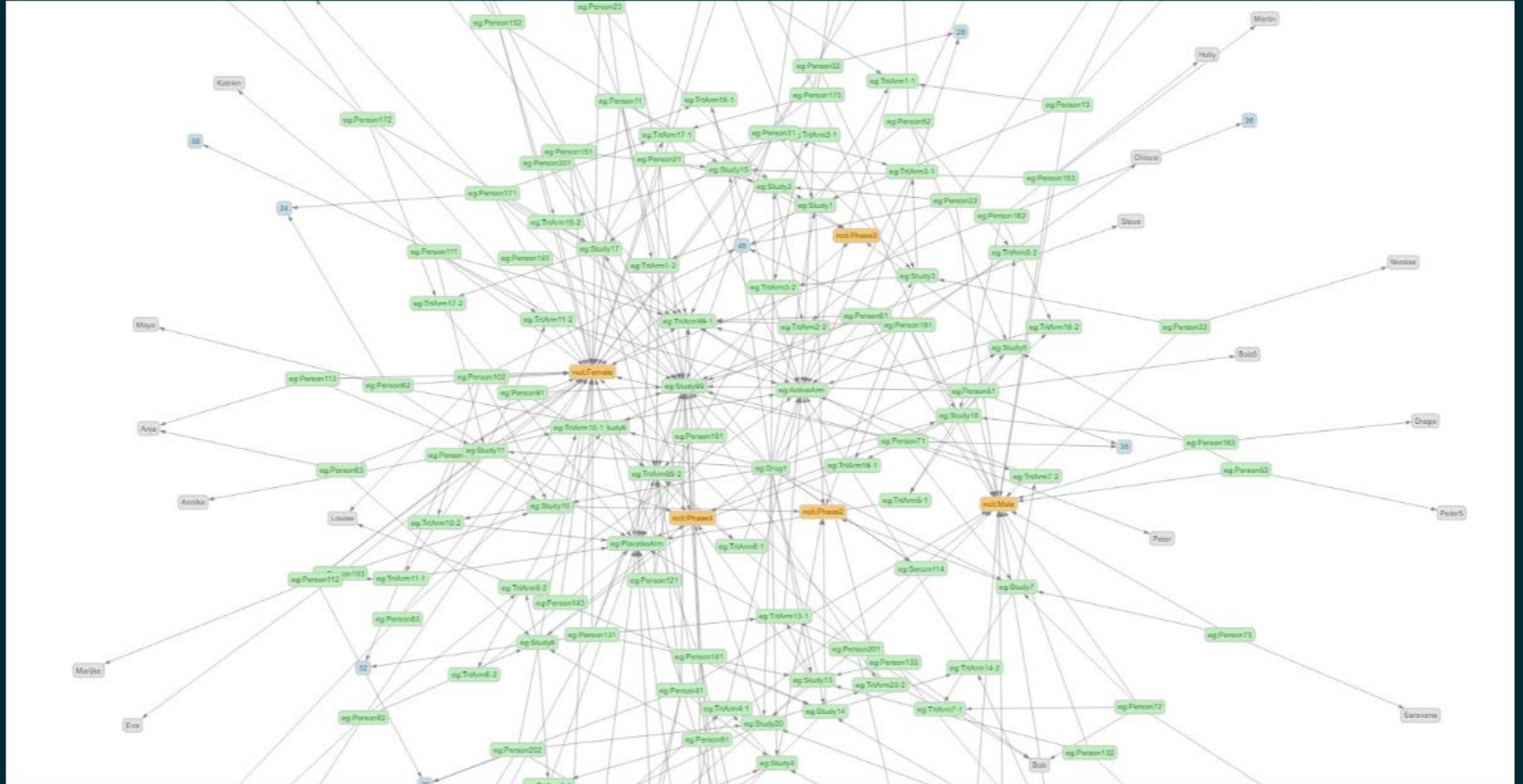
- Membership: >8,700 spanning 30 countries
- Annual Conference: EUConnect, USConnect
- Single Day Events
- Computational Sciences Symposium (CSS)
  - A "working" conference



# HANDS-ON WORKSHOP: GRAPH EDITOR



# HANDS-ON WORKSHOP: 21 MERGED STUDIES



# PHUSE SEMANTIC WEB (LINKED DATA) PROJECTS

## Completed:

- CDISC Foundational Standards in RDF
- CDISC Conformance Checks (incomplete? Last update 2014?)
- Reusing Medical Summaries for Enabling Clinical Research [Demo, P.O.C]
- Analysis Results and Metadata (2016) [P.O.C]

# PHUSE SEMANTIC WEB (LINKED DATA) PROJECTS

## Past

- Regulatory Guidance in RDF (incomplete?)
- Clinical Program Design in RDF (incomplete?)
- CDISC Protocol Representation Model in RDF (on hold [indefinitely?])

## Current

- Clinical Trials Data as RDF
- Understanding RDF/Linked Data for Nonclinical Use [NEW]

## OBSERVATION:

CDISC AND PHUSE PROJECTS HAVE (MOSTLY)  
BEEN MODELING THE DATA STANDARDS

*What is fundamental problem with this approach?*

*It does not model the clinical trial **data**.*

Proposal:

- Model the Clinical Trial *process* and *instance data*
- Build the standards, data checks, etc. - *into that model*
- Instance data independent from Industry Standards
  - *Materialize instance data into a Standard*

# OUTLINE

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Data
- 3. PhUSE

## 4. The Way Forward

### 4.1 Roofshot Manifesto

#### 4.1.1 Roofshot: Study URI

#### 4.1.2 Roofshot: SDTM Domains as RDF

#### 4.1.3 Roofshot: Open Source Ontology Development

- 5. General Discussion



# R.O.I UNICORN



**Linked Data  
Business Case**

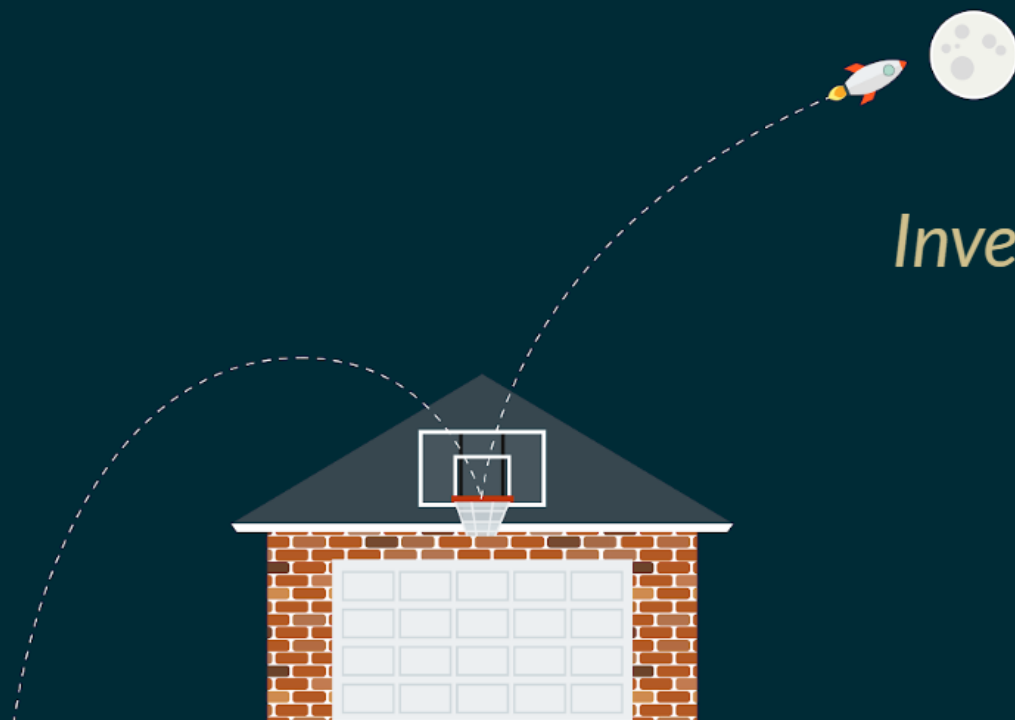
Image Attribution: <https://bit.ly/2x0Hjmd>

## 4.1 THE ROOFSHOT / MOONSHOT MANIFESTO

### *Roofshot*

#### *Incremental impacts*

- Study URI
- CTD (SDTM) as RDF
- Open Ontology Development



### *Moonshot*

*Invent & apply state-of-the-art*

**Knowledge Graph**

Clinical trial lifecycle

Concept & Image Attribution: <https://rework.withgoogle.com/blog/the-roofshot-manifesto/>



## 4.1.1 *ROOFSHOT*: STUDY URI AS AN INDUSTRY STANDARD (PROPOSAL)

*"Study URI" - K. Forsberg, D. Goude. PhUSE EUConnect18.*

...and additional followup by J. Ulander (A3), T. Williams (UCB)

### Why?

- Easy entrypoint for Pharma
- Familiar concept: NCT ID
  - CT.gov must first review and approve Protocol

# STUDY URI COMPONENTS

<https://data.pharma.abc/clinicaltrial/D3562C00096>

1. Global Namespace
2. Resource type
3. Trial ID

*Is anyone using a Study URI/IRI?*

# STUDY URI: GLOBAL NAMESPACE

<https://data.pharma.abc/clinicaltrial/D3562C00096>

- Company web URL
- URIs that de-reference: External/Internal

*Discuss*

## STUDY URI: RESOURCE TYPE

<https://data.pharma.abc/clinicaltrial/D3562C00096>

- Easy? What else could it be called?
- Implications? Link to ontology?

*Discuss?*

## STUDY URI: TRIAL ID

<https://data.pharma.abc/clinicaltrial/D3562C00096>

1. NCT ID available ( [ClinicalTrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov) )
2. NCT ID not available: Unique Company ID (Company guidance)

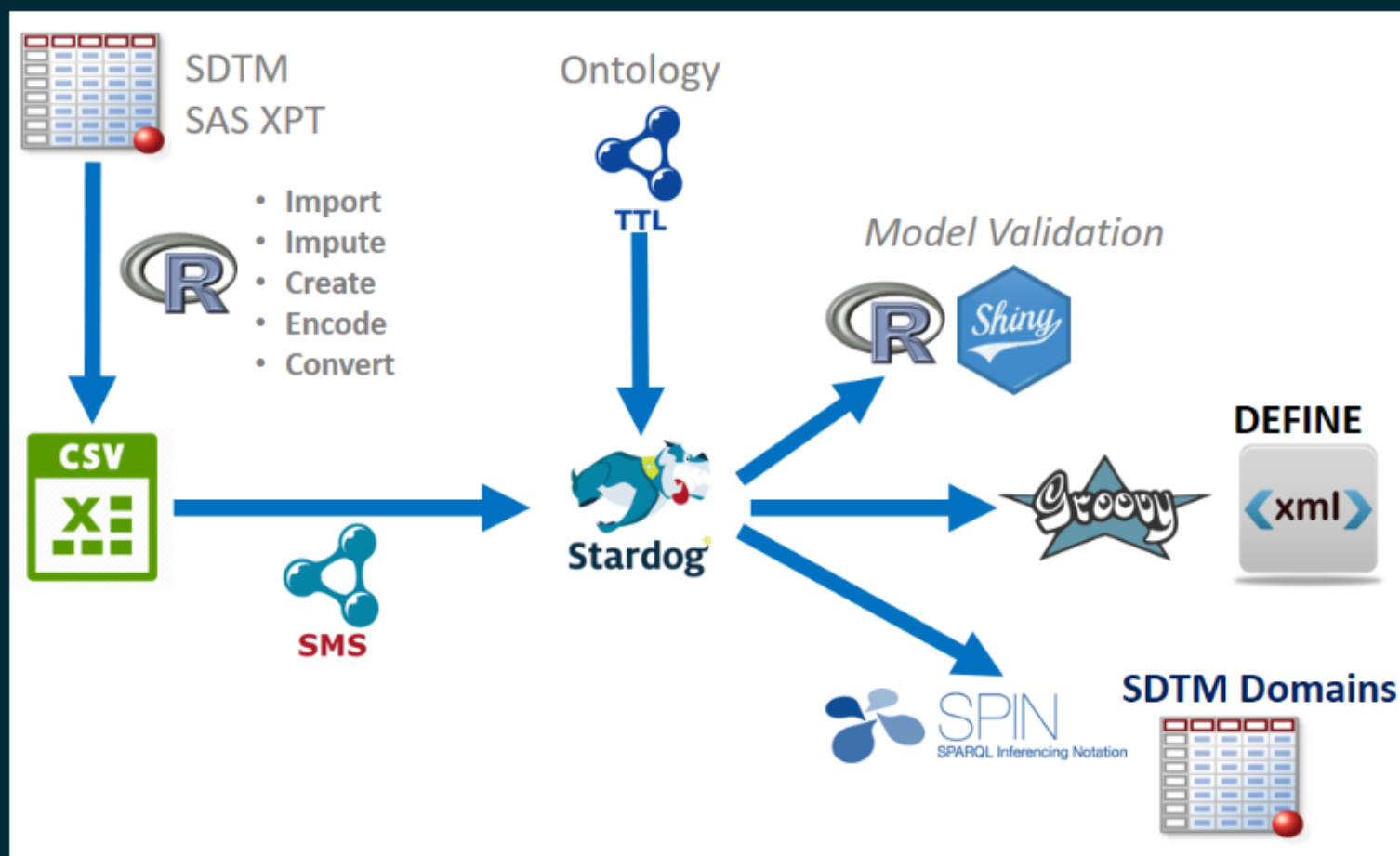
*Discuss*

## STUDY URI: NEXT STEPS

- Review and comment at:  
<https://github.com/phuse-org/LinkedDataEducation/blob/master/doc/StudyURI.md>
- Invite comment from FDA, EMA, PMDA, CDISC... *You!*

## 4.1.2 *ROOFSHOT*: CTD (SDTM) AS RDF

### PHUSE PROJECT: CLINICAL TRIALS DATA AS RDF



# CTD AS RDF *PROJECT PHILOSOPHY*

## DO NOT MODEL:

- Industry Standards

## DO MODEL:

- Clinical trial process
- Data
- Rules



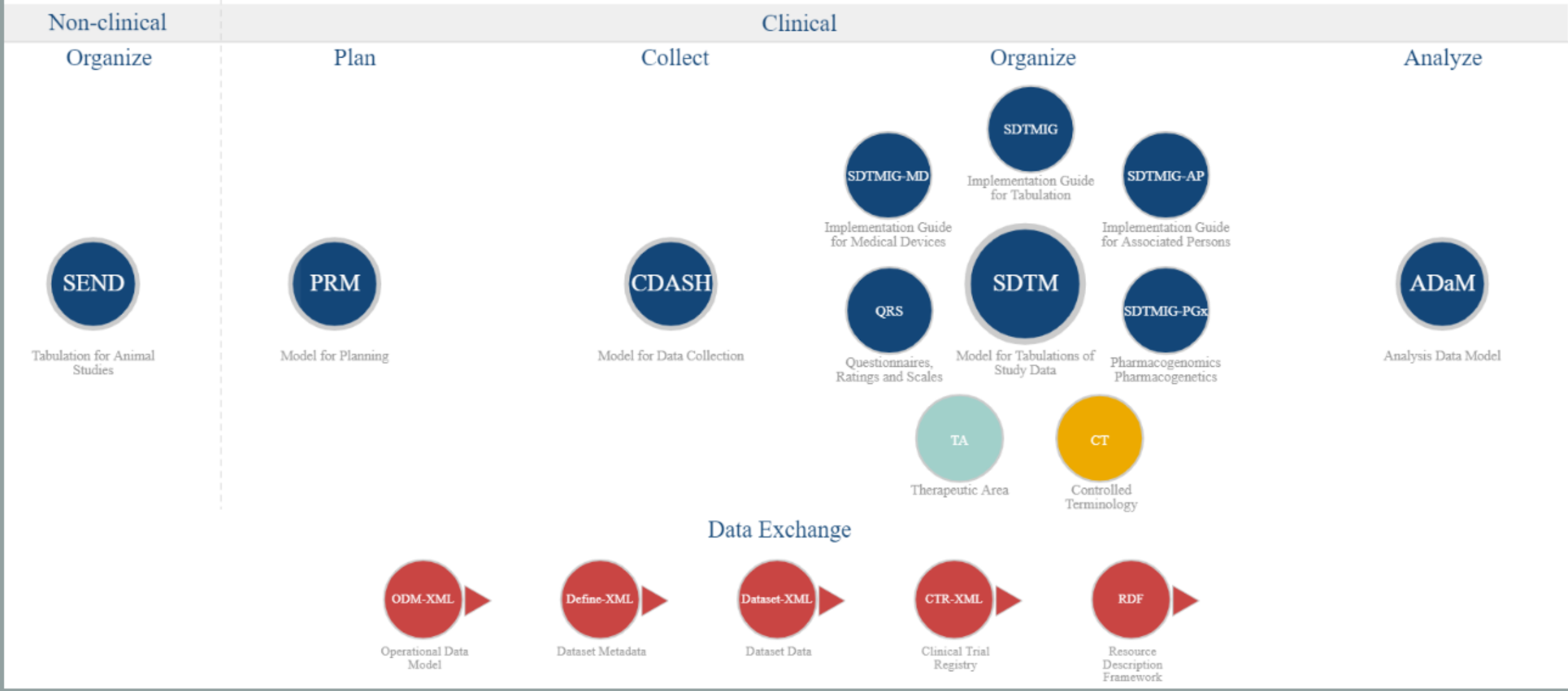
IMPLICATIONS "UP STREAM" FROM CLINICAL STUDIES

PHUSE PRE-CLINICAL JOINS CLINICAL RDF PROJECT!

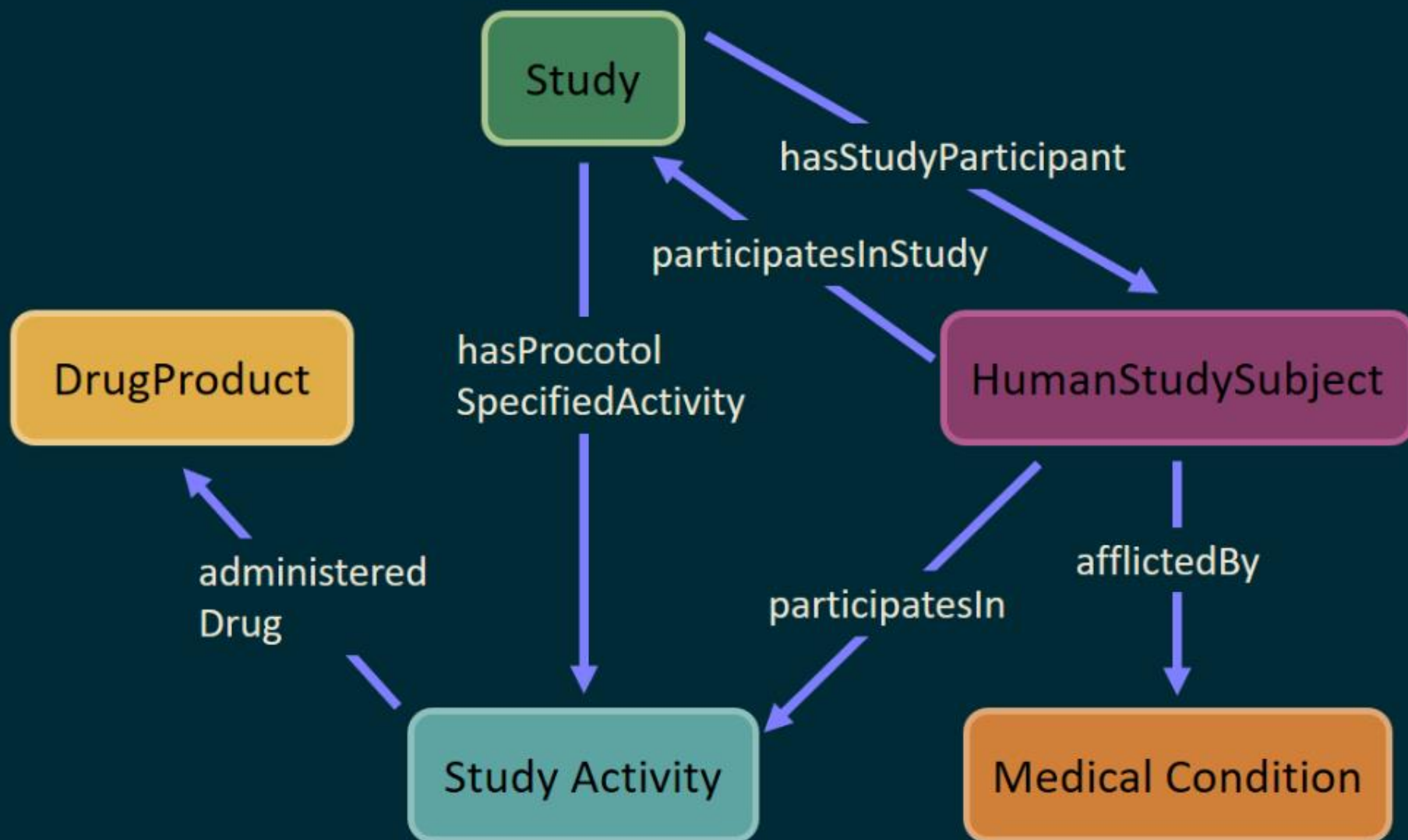
Common Concepts: Pre-Clinical & Clinical Research

# CDISC Standards in the Clinical Research Process

- Foundational Standard
- Therapeutic Area
- Data Exchange
- Controlled Terminology



# CORE STUDY 'MINI' ONTOLOGY



# LEVERAGE EXISTING ONTOLOGIES

When you try to choose ontologies  
for your Knowledge Graph



# LEVERAGE EXISTING ONTOLOGIES

## BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INTEGRATED DOMAIN GROUP MODEL (BRIDG)

Collaboration:

- CDISC, HL7, NCI, caBIG, FDA
- OWL version from NCI
- Version 3.2 as RDF. Current is 5.x?

# Biomedical Research Integrated Domain Group Model

Last updated: September 4, 2012



[Summary](#) [Classes](#) [Properties](#) [Notes](#) [Mappings](#) [Widgets](#)

## Details

Acronym	BRIDG
Visibility	Public
Description	The Biomedical Research Integrated Domain Group (BRIDG) Model is a collaborative effort engaging stakeholders from the Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC), the HL7 Regulated Clinical Research Information Management Technical Committee (RCRIM TC), the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and its Cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid (caBIG®), and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The BRIDG model is an instance of a Domain Analysis Model (DAM). The goal of the BRIDG Model is to produce a shared view of the dynamic and static semantics for the domain of protocol-driven research and its associated regulatory artifacts. This domain of interest is further defined as: Protocol-driven research and its associated regulatory artifacts: i.e. the data, organization, resources, rules, and processes involved in the formal assessment of the utility, impact, or other pharmacological, physiological, or psychological effects of a drug, procedure, process, or device on a human, animal, or other subject or substance plus all associated regulatory artifacts required for or derived from this effort, including data specifically associated with post-marketing adverse event reporting. This OWL version of the BRIDG model is create by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Source repository: <a href="https://ncisvn.nci.nih.gov/WebSVN/listing.php?repname=bridg-model&amp;path=%2Ftrunk%2FModel+-+OWL%2F&amp;">https://ncisvn.nci.nih.gov/WebSVN/listing.php?repname=bridg-model&amp;path=%2Ftrunk%2FModel+-+OWL%2F&amp;</a>
Status	Production
Format	OWL
Contact	Cecil Lynch, <a href="mailto:clynch@surewest.net">clynch@surewest.net</a>
Categories	Health

## Submissions

Version	Released	Uploaded	Downloads
3.2 <small>(Parsed, Indexed, Metrics, Annotator)</small>	06/30/2012	09/04/2012	<a href="#">OWL</a>   <a href="#">CSV</a>   <a href="#">RDF/XML</a>

## Views of BRIDG

No views of BRIDG available

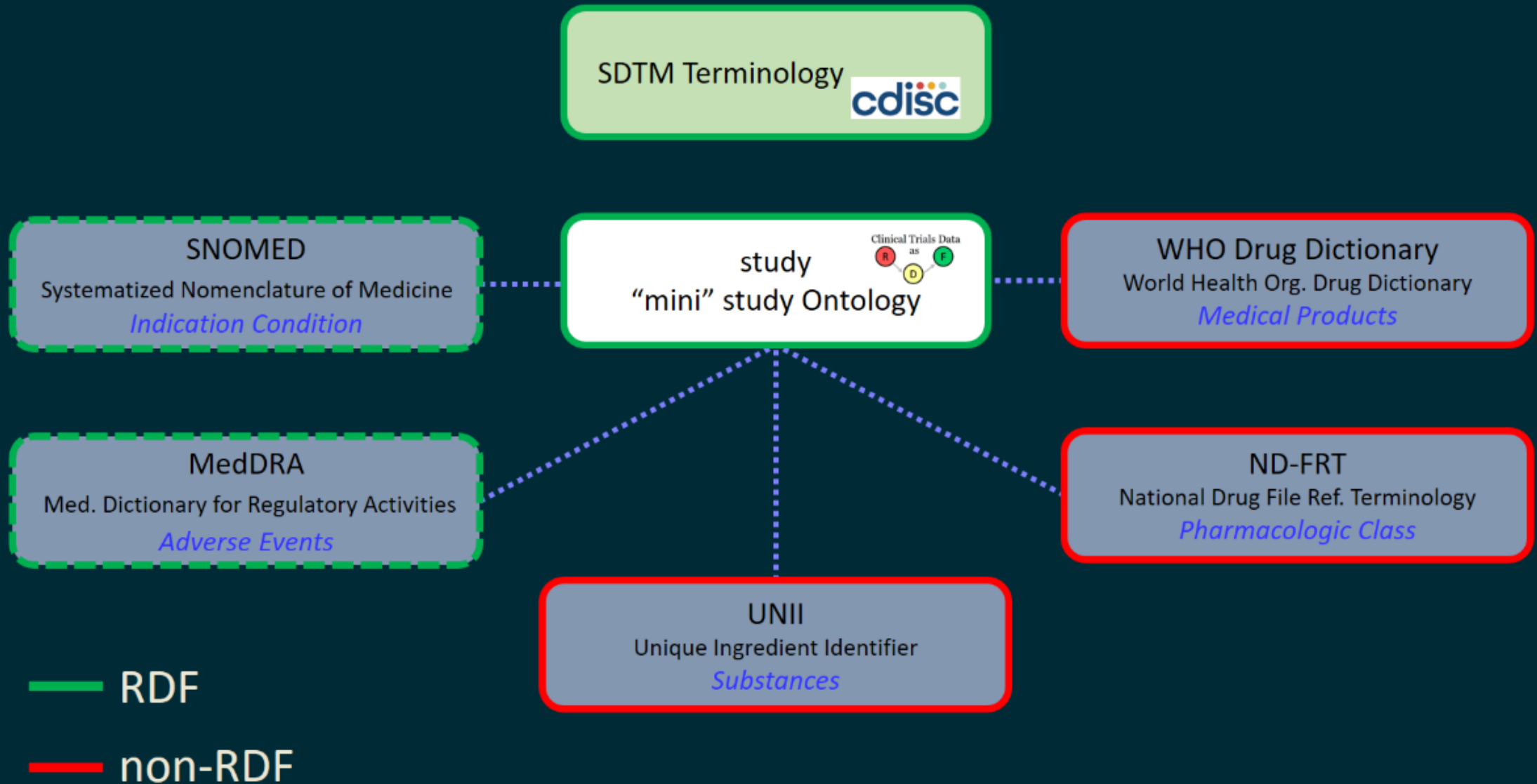
## Metrics

Classes	326
Individuals	6,290
Properties	1,432
Maximum depth	5
Maximum number of children	128
Average number of children	7
Classes with a single child	8
Classes with more than 25 children	3
Classes with no definition	52

## Visits



# LEVERAGE EXISTING STANDARDS





### 4.1.3 *ROOFSHOT*: OPEN SOURCE ONTOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

*Can an individual developer, project team, company, standards org., or regulatory org. create a solution for the industry?*



*"We cannot compete with centralized systems unless we collaborate."*

*- Ruben Verborgh, Decentralizing the Semantic Web Through Incentivized Collaboration*

# OPEN SOURCE MODEL FOR CLINICAL TRIAL ONTOLOGIES DEVELOPMENT

- Ontologies on GitHub?
- Cooperation in the pre-competitive space
  - PhUSE?
  - TransCelerate?
    - Common Protocol Template (not in RDF!)
  - CDISC?

*Discuss*

# OPEN SOURCE ONTOLOGY CHALLENGES

- Gate keeper?
- Will companies:
  - Participate?
  - Give back?
- Conflict resolution (approach, code)
- Volunteers

*Is this feasible?*

# ONTOLOGY MAINTENANCE AND DISTRIBUTION

*Will the Open Biological and Biomedical Ontology (OBO) approach work?*

The OBO Foundry

Post-development curation?

# ONTOLOGY MAINTENANCE AND DISTRIBUTION

Don't hide my OWL behind an API!



# OUTLINE 5

- 1. Introduction
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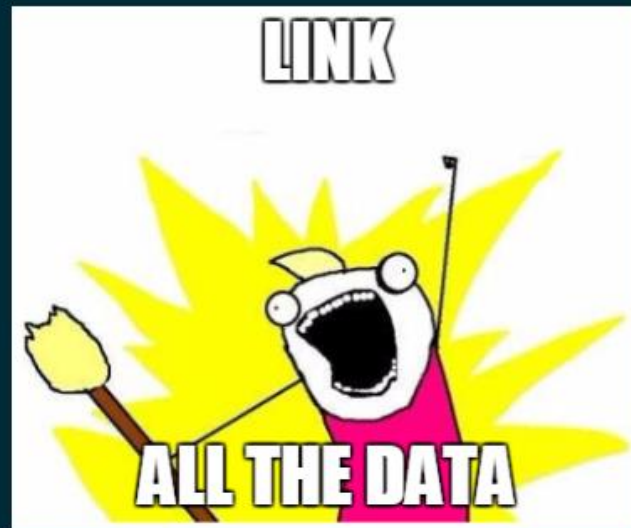
## 5. General Discussion

# ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION POINTS

# DISCUSSION:

*How are we hindering our own progress?*

- "High Priesthood"
- Too much emphasis on "Linking all the things?"



- Poor communication, translation to ROI?

*What are we doing right?*



# DISCUSSION:

*What are our main challenges in Pharma?*

- Momentum of legacy technology
- Skill set, lack of knowledge
- Politics: Who owns innovation?
  - IT
  - Analytics
  - The "Business"

## DISCUSSION:

*Which is the best environment for SW in BioTech/Pharma?*

- Startups, Small Pharma
- Mid-Sized
- Large Pharma

## DISCUSSION:

*What are you using for validation (& why?)*

- SPIN
- SHEX
- SHACL
- OTHER?

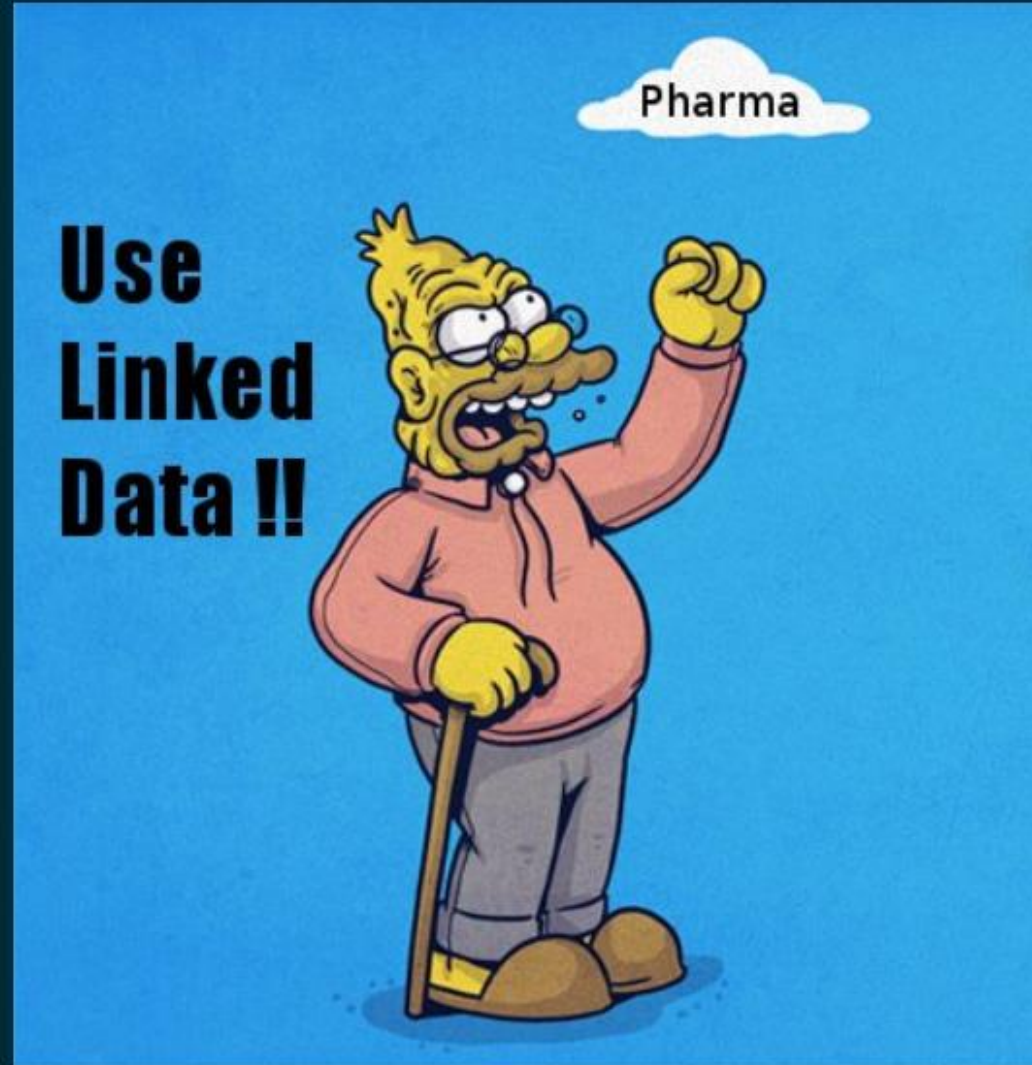
# DISCUSSION:

*What are you using for visualization?*

- Commercial Applications
- Open Source Tools
- Bespoke
  - Python
  - Javascript (D3JS, other?)
  - R, RShiny
  - Other?



# CONCLUSION



*Thank you!*