

# The NCI Human Tumor Atlas Network (HTAN)

---

HuBMAP Annual Meeting

September 25, 2019

Shannon Hughes (NCI) & Mike Snyder (Stanford)



# The Cancer Moonshot Initiative (2016)



2016 State of the Union Address

## Goals

- *Accelerate progress in cancer, including prevention & screening*
  - From cutting-edge basic research to wider uptake of standard care
- *Encourage greater cooperation and collaboration*
  - Break down silos within and between academia, government, and the private sector
- *Enhance data sharing*
  - NCI Cancer Data Ecosystem
  - Annotated patient-level clinical data and 'omics

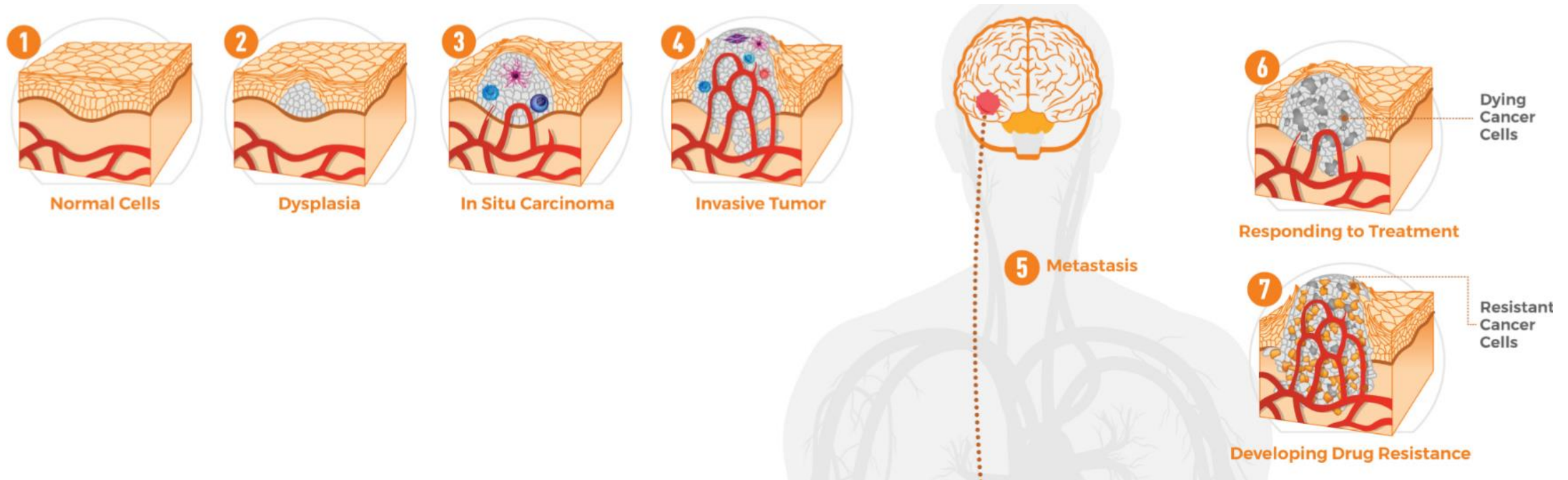
# Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations

- A. Network for **Direct Patient Engagement**
- B. Cancer **Immunotherapy** Clinical Trials Network
- C. Therapeutic Target Identification to **Overcome Drug Resistance**
- D. A National Cancer **Data Ecosystem** for Sharing and Analysis
- E. Fusion Oncoproteins in **Childhood Cancers**
- F. **Symptom Management** Research
- G. **Prevention and Early Detection:** Implementation of Evidence-Based Approaches
- H. Retrospective **Analysis of Biospecimens** from Patients Treated with Standard of Care
- I. Generation of **Human Tumor Atlases**
- J. Development of New Enabling **Cancer Technologies**



# Recommendation I: *Generation of Human Tumor Atlases*

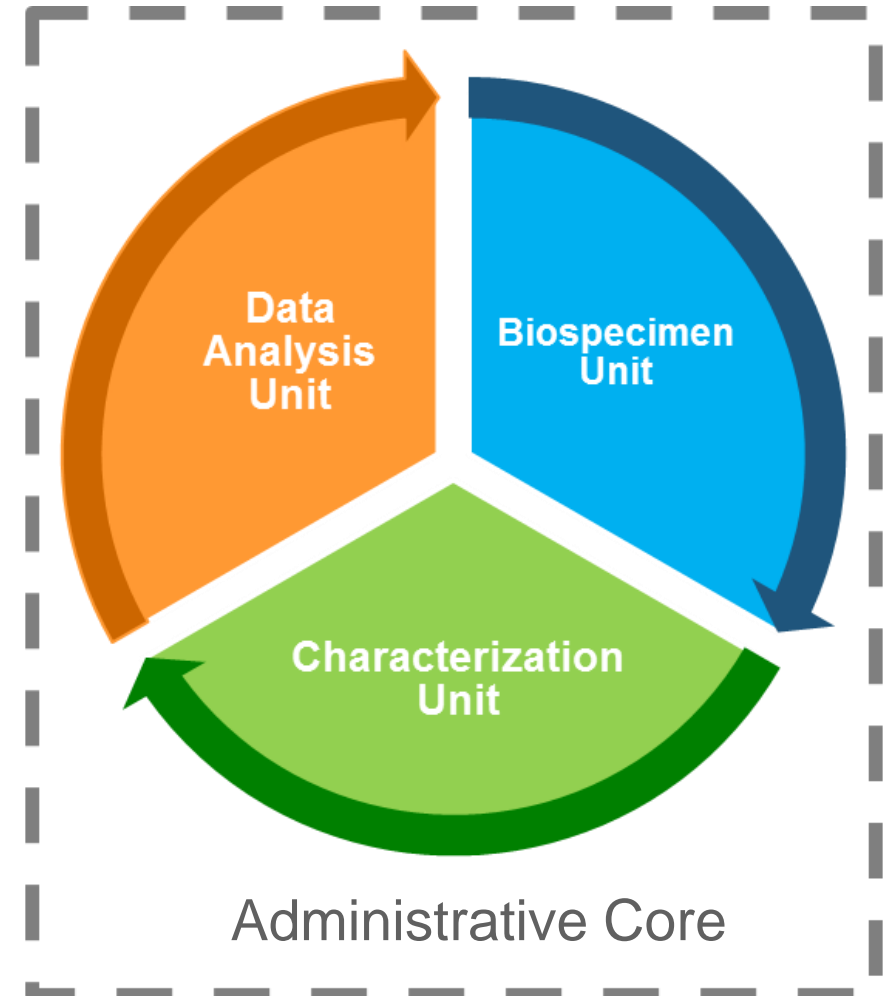
Create dynamic 3D maps of human tumor evolution to document the genetic lesions and cellular interactions of each tumor as it evolves from precancerous lesion to advanced cancer.



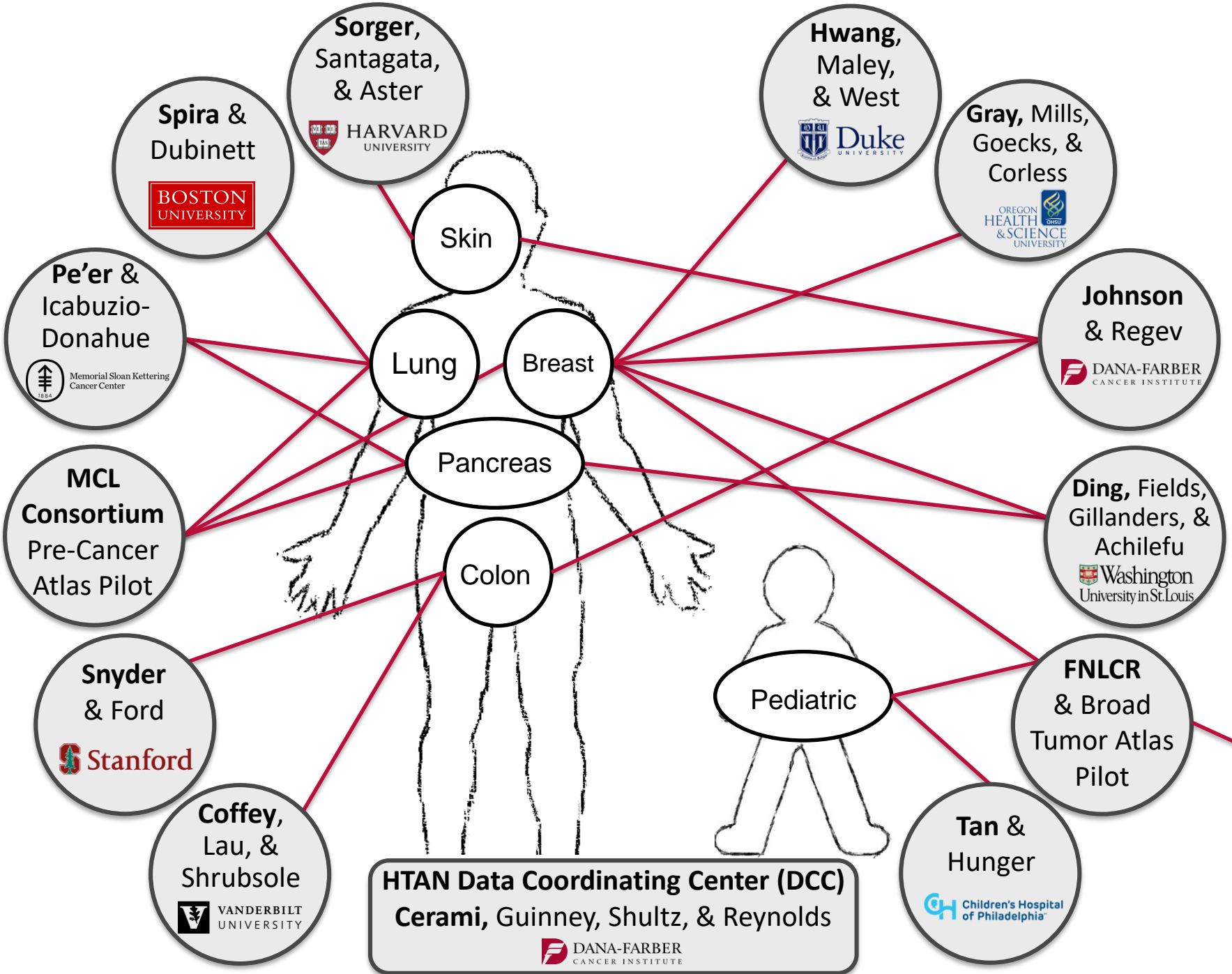
# The NCI Human Tumor Atlas Network (HTAN)

- 10 U2C **Research Centers**
- 2 Pilot Cancer Atlases
- A U24 **Data Coordinating Center**
- A highly **multidisciplinary team of investigators**, including pathologists, clinical oncologists, cancer biologists, systems biologists, bioinformaticians, technology developers, computer scientists, etc.

## Organization of HTAN Research Centers



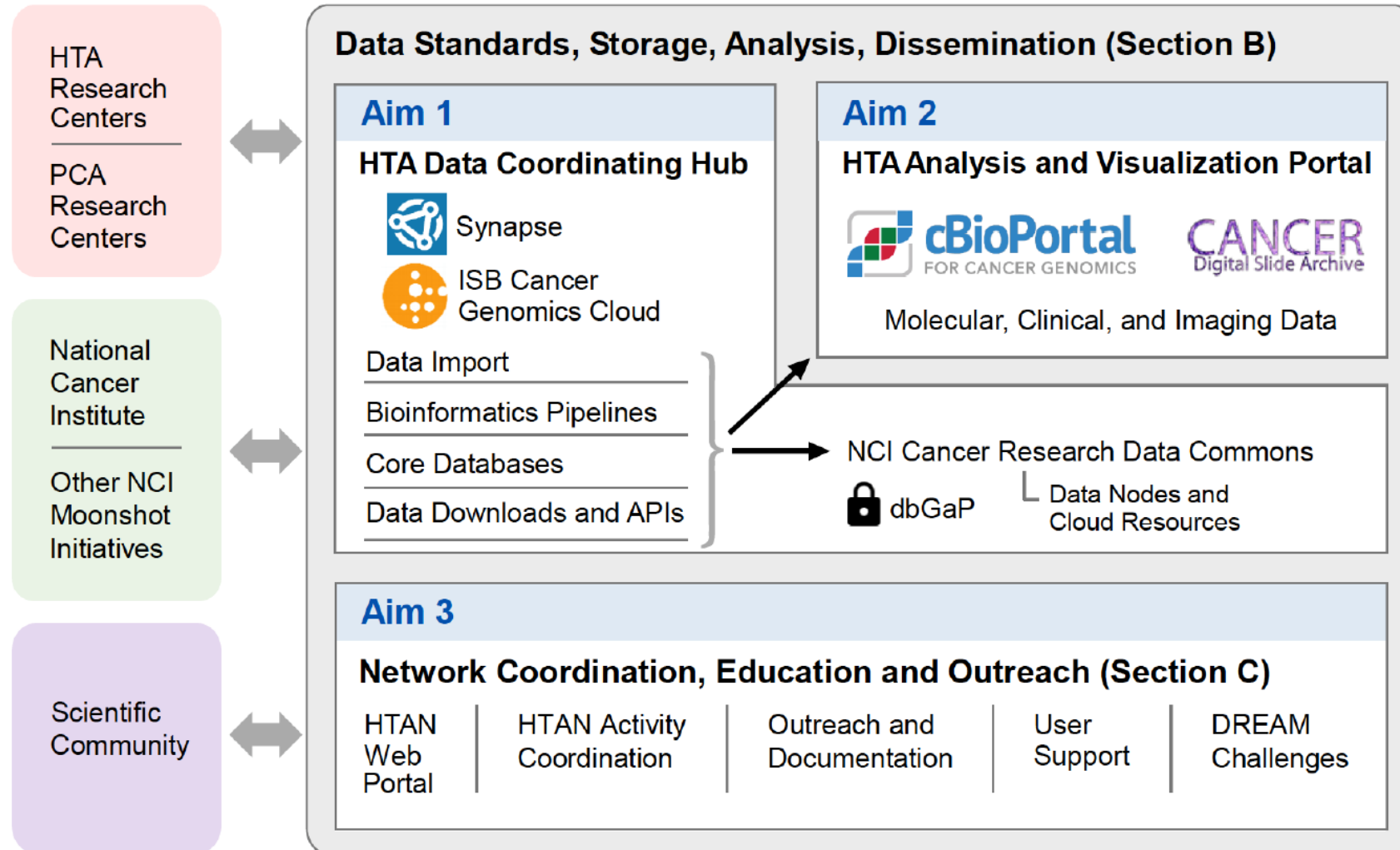
# HTAN Research Centers and Tumor Atlases



A single-cell and single-nucleus RNA-seq toolbox for fresh and frozen human tumors  
 Slyper, Porter, Ashenberg, et al.  
 bioRxiv; Sept 12 2019  
<https://doi.org/10.1101/761429>



# The HTAN Data Coordinating Center (DCC)



## HTAN DATA COORDINATING CENTER (DCC)

Ethan Cerami, Justin Guinney, Nikolaus Shultz, & Vésteinn Thorsson

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Sage Bionetworks, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, & Institute for Systems Biology

# HTAN Data

Host level (microbiome, circulating factors)

Medical imaging modalities (MR, CT, PET)

Histology; Highly multiplexed 2D and 3D imaging

Metabolomics (Mass Spec, MALDI Imaging)

Proteomics (Mass Spec, Imaging Approaches)

Transcriptomics (RNA-Seq, in situ/FISH, etc.)

DNA-seq (whole genome, whole exome) and Epigenetics

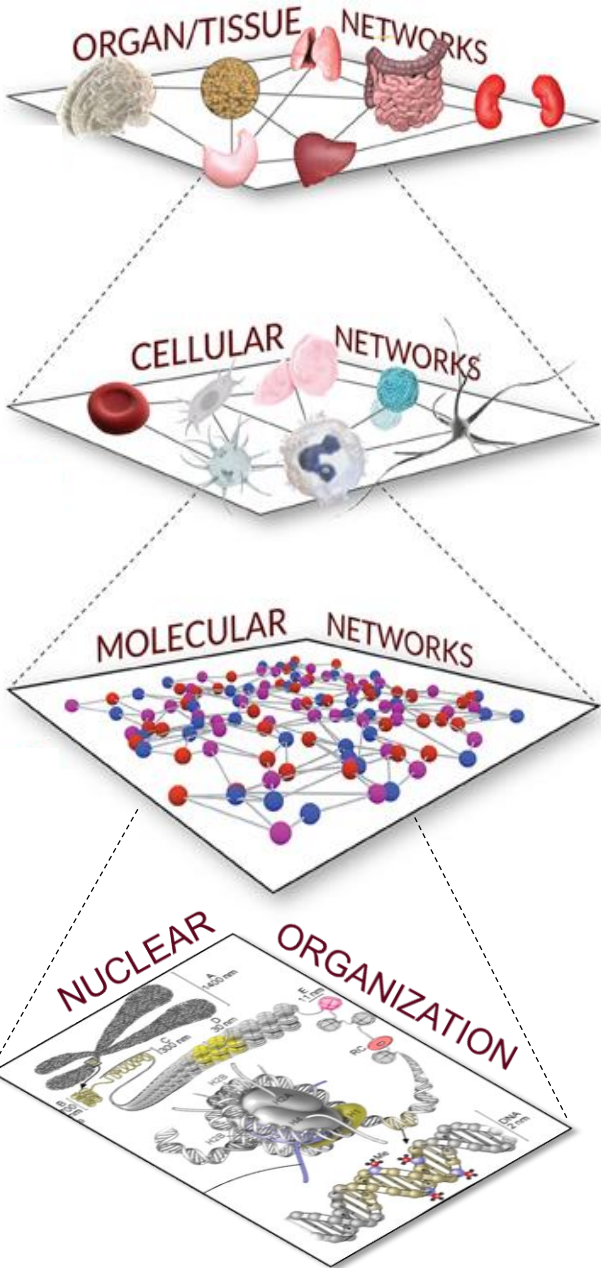
EM imaging (2D, 3D)

Sample of data types  
common with HuBMAP

CODEX, CyCIF,  
mIHC, MIBI,  
IMC, Slide-seq

sc/sn 10X  
inDrops  
SMART-seq2  
MERFISH

scATAC-seq  
scTHS-seq  
(+bulk)

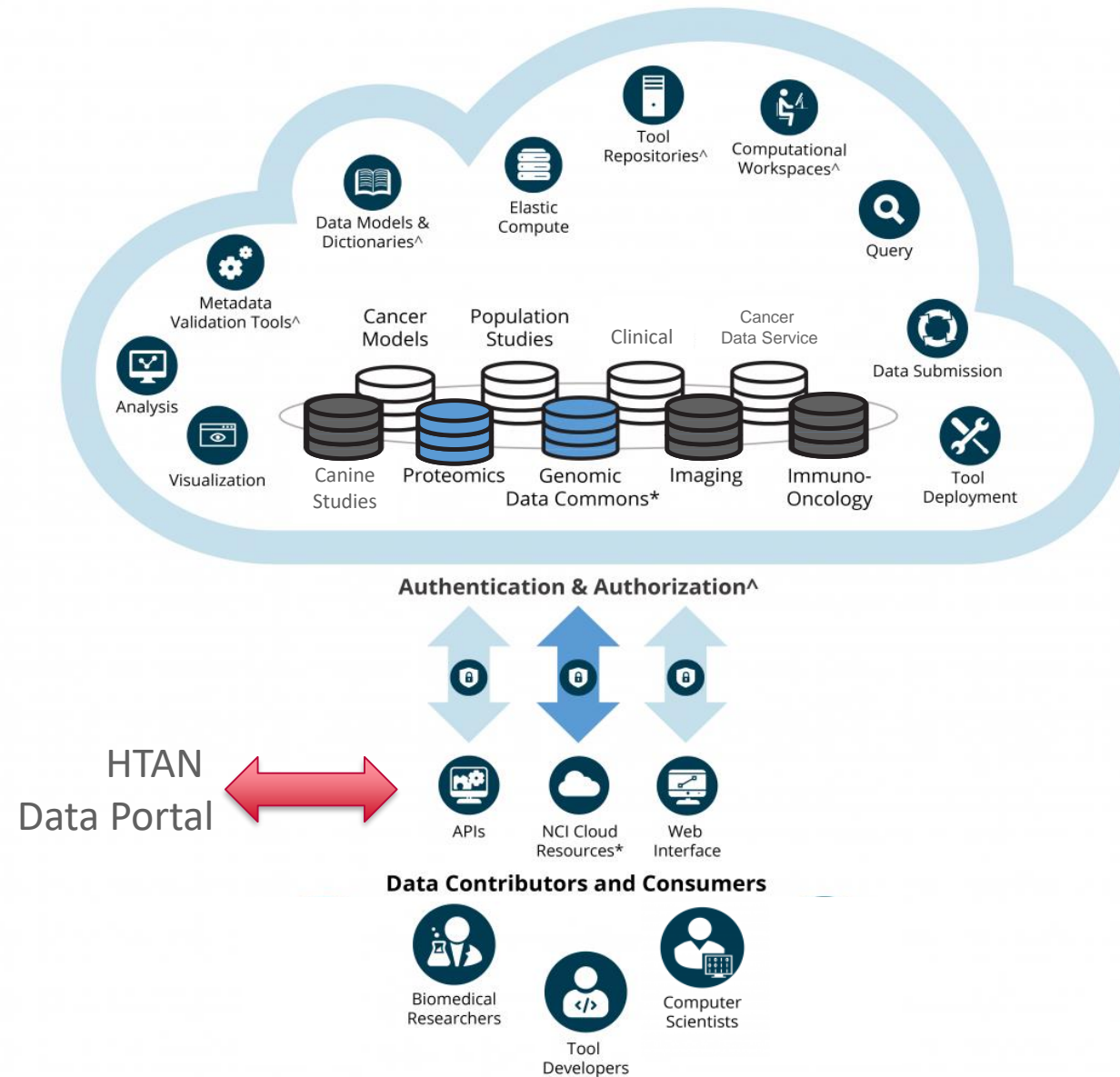




# HTAN data will be accessed through the NCI CRDC

- Data access is controlled through a common Authentication and Authorization mechanism that secures the data.
- Data are stored in domain-specific repositories, called Data Nodes (e.g., genomic, proteomic, imaging, etc.).
- Researchers can bring their own data and tools to the cloud, and combine with the data in the CRDC for integrative analysis.

## NCI Cancer Research Data Commons (CRDC)



\* The Genomics Data Commons and NCI Cloud Resources are in production and available to the community

<sup>^</sup> Components of the Data Commons Framework

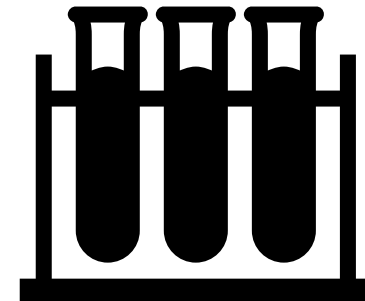
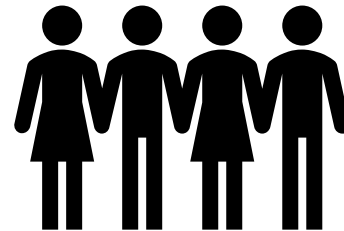
# HTAN Policy Working Group

- **Mission:** Establish policies that **optimize sharing of data and information** within HTAN and the broader research community.
- **Co-Chairs:** Aviv Regev, Broad Institute; Bruce Johnson, DFCl; Justin Guinney, Sage
- **Current Priorities:**
  - Data Access & Release Policy (including DUA & MTAs)
  - ✓ Protocol Sharing Policy
  - ✓ Publication Policy



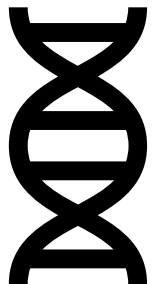
# HTAN Clinical and Biospecimen Working Group

- **Mission:** Build consensus and provide guidance to enable implementation of **standardized collection, processing, handling, preservation/storage, sharing/tracking, de-identification, and annotation** of cases, samples, and clinical images across HTAN.
- **Co-Chairs:** Warren Kibbe, Duke; Dan Merrick, University of Colorado; Asaf Rotem, DFCI
- **Subgroups**
  - **Clinical Annotations (CDEs)**
  - **Collection and Processing**
  - **Trans-Network Projects**



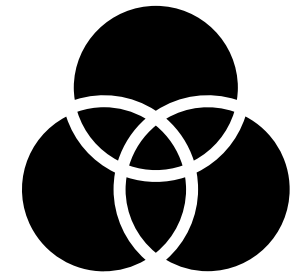
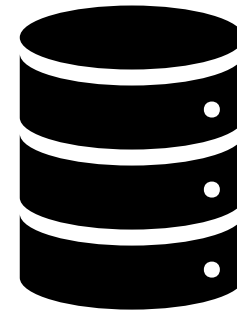
# HTAN Molecular Characterization Working Group

- **Mission:** Help discover, develop, and distribute methods for data collection within HTAN. This will include development of **best practices, quality-control metrics, workflows, reagent/data standards, and procedures** (ultimately SOPs).
- **Co-Chairs:** Peter Sorger, Harvard; Orit Rozenblatt-Rosen, Broad; Ken Lau, Vanderbilt
- **Current Priorities:** *within the context of a Trans-network Project*
  - Integrative imaging data standards and imaging data sharing systems
  - Reference samples and preanalytical variables
  - NGS approaches on FFPE



# HTAN Data Analysis Working Group

- **Mission:** Define, share, and integrate **best practices that support rigorous, reproducible data analysis and open science**. Serve as an interface between HTAN Research Centers and DCC with respect to data processing and analysis pipelines.
- **Co-Chairs:** Li Ding, WUSTL; Dana Pe'er, MSKCC; Kai Tan, CHOP
- **Subgroups**
  - Single-cell/Single-nucleus Sequencing Pipelines
  - Multiplex IHC/IFC Image Processing Pipelines
  - Cell Type Signatures
  - Emerging Technologies - scATAC-Seq/Methylation
  - Emerging Technologies - Radiology/Radiomics
  - Bulk Sequencing (methylation/RNA/DNA) & Proteomics/Metabolomics





# HTAN Tumor Atlases will Facilitate Cancer Research

At the end a successful 5-year HTAN effort, we expect a preliminary set of human tumor atlases that:

- **Helps define tumor heterogeneity** within and across patients in high-priority adult and pediatric cancers
- **Quantifies the 3D architecture** of the tumor ecosystem during important transitions
- **Facilitates predictive modeling** that leads to development of new risk stratification methods, better treatment options for patients, and improved understanding of disease mechanisms
- **Provides direction for future atlas building efforts**



# What are the challenges?

- Many
- Consensus analysis pipelines for common assays
- How to handle, analyze, display/navigate multiplex images
- Balancing biology versus cataloging
- 3D

What are the most productive intersections between atlas efforts?

[www.humantumoratlas.org](http://www.humantumoratlas.org)

@NCIHTAN

shannon.hughes@nih.gov



**NATIONAL  
CANCER  
INSTITUTE**

[www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)

[www.cancer.gov/espanol](http://www.cancer.gov/espanol)