



NFDI4
BIOIMAGE

Metadata Matters 2024

a.k.a. “Next Generation Metadata (Framework)”

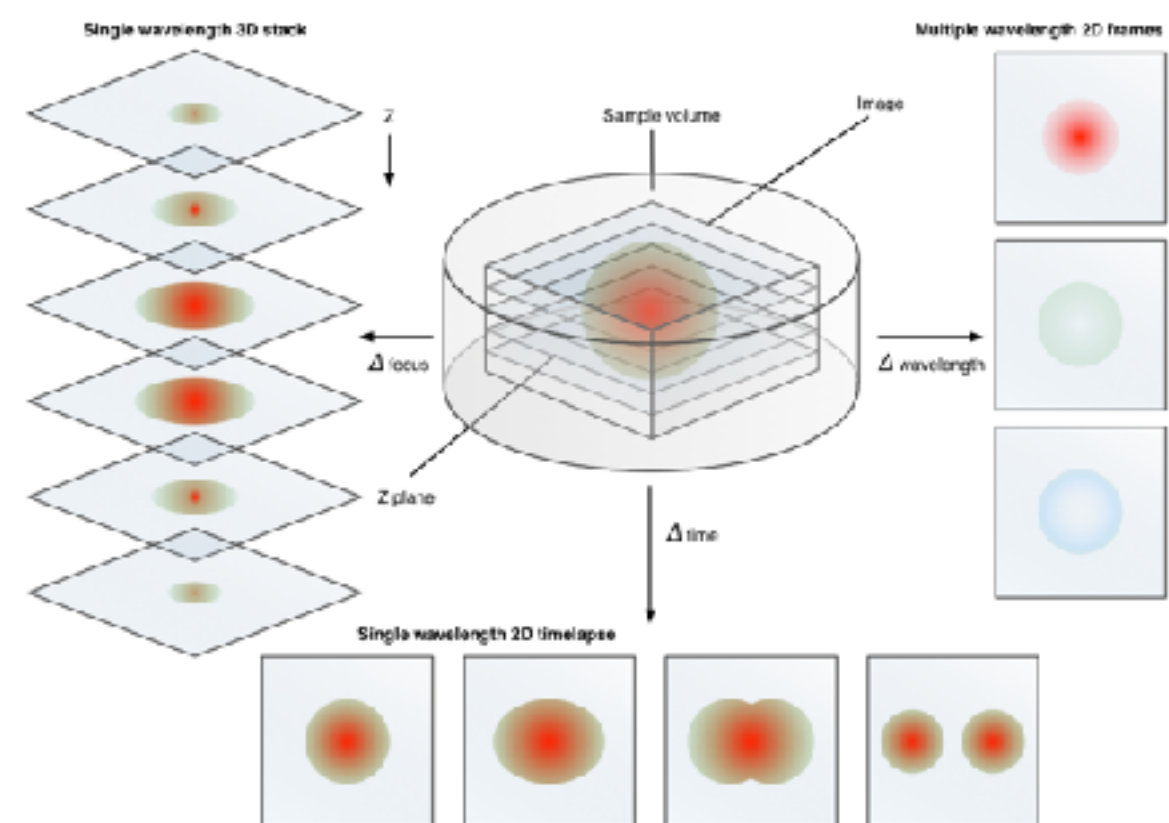
Josh Moore, Senior RDM Officer

German BioImaging, e.V. / Open Microscopy Environment

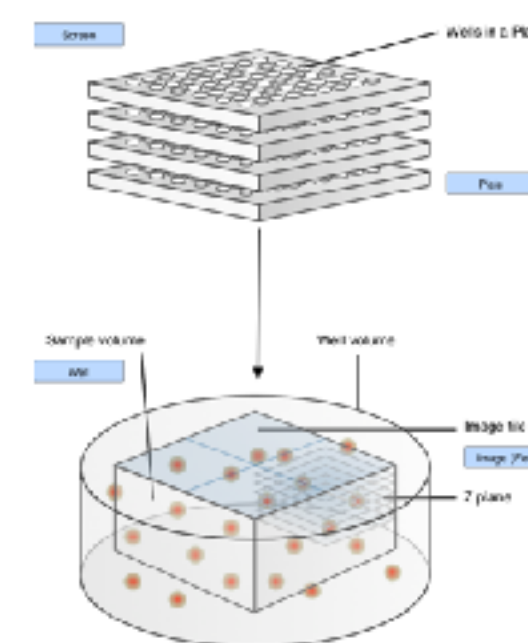


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Maintaining a model



2008



2010

```
<OME xmlns="http://www.openmicroscopy.org/Schemas/OME/2016-06"
xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.openmicroscopy.org/Schemas/OME/2016-06
http://www.openmicroscopy.org/Schemas/OME/2016-06/ome.xsd">
  <Image ID="Image:0" Name="6x6x1x8-swatch.tif">
    <AcquisitionDate>2010-02-23T12:51:30</AcquisitionDate>
    <Pixels DimensionOrder="XYZCT" ID="Pixels:0:0">
      <PhysicalSizeX>10000.0</PhysicalSizeX>
      <PhysicalSizeY>10000.0</PhysicalSizeY>
      <Type>uint8</Type>
      <SizeC>1</SizeC>
      <SizeT>1</SizeT>
      <SizeX>6</SizeX>
      <SizeY>4</SizeY>
      <SizeZ>1</SizeZ>
      <AnnotationRef ID="Annotation:1"/>
    </Pixels>
  </Image>
  <StructuredAnnotations>
    <CommentAnnotation ID="Annotation:1">
      <Value>Fred</Value>
    </CommentAnnotation>
  </StructuredAnnotations>
</OME>
```

Added flexible **structured annotations** for user-extensions

Last major modeling effort for **high-content screening**

“

The OME Model is a specification for storing data on biological imaging. The model includes image parameters, such as XYZ dimensions and pixels type, as well as extensive metadata on, for example, image acquisition, annotation, and regions of interest (ROIs). This common specification is essential for the exchange of image data between different software packages.

Swedlow et al. (2003) *Informatics and quantitative analysis in biological imaging*. Science 300(5616), 100-2. Published 4 April 2003

DOI: [10.1126/science.1082602](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1082602)

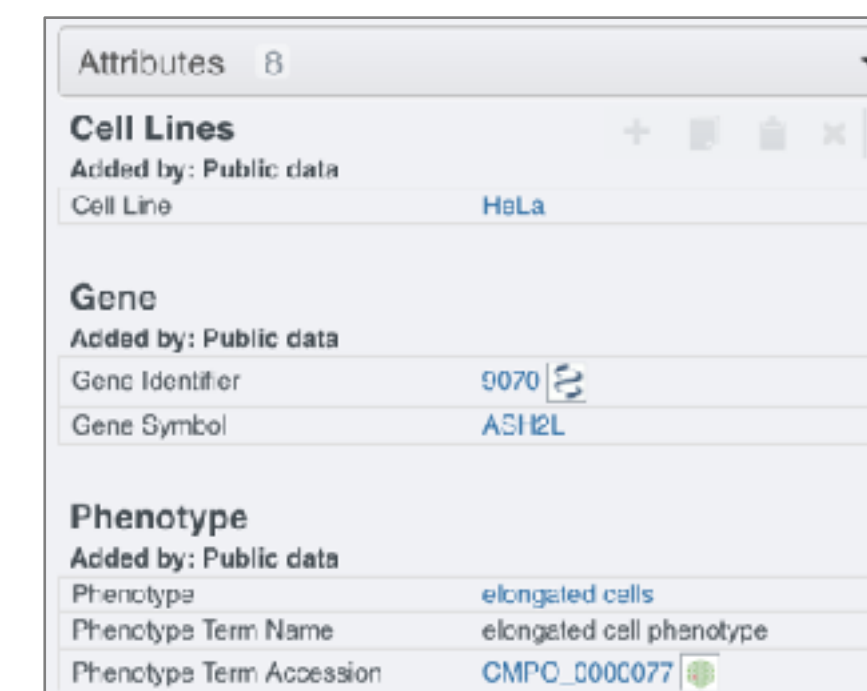
<https://bit.ly/citing-ome>

2013

Study Type	Protein localisation using fluorescence microscopy
Organism	Homo sapiens
Experiment Type	Immunocytochemistry
Imaging Method	Deconvolution widefield fluorescence microscopy
Data Analysis	OMEHO.mtools http://help.openmicroscopy.org/workflows-mtools.html
Publication Title	The Ndc80 complex targets Ecd1 to human mitotic kinetochores
Publication Authors	Kellertink-Schleitzer, Michael Porter, Sara Iyer-Hive, Rameshramanian Sundaramoorthy, Iain M Porter, Jason R Swedlow
PubMed ID	29142109
PMC ID	tba
Publication DOI	10.1098/rstb.170099
License	Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
Data Publisher	University of Dundee
Data DOI	http://dx.doi.org/10.17887/10003109

Add **key-value (K/V) pair** annotation

2016



Use k/v for **ontology links**

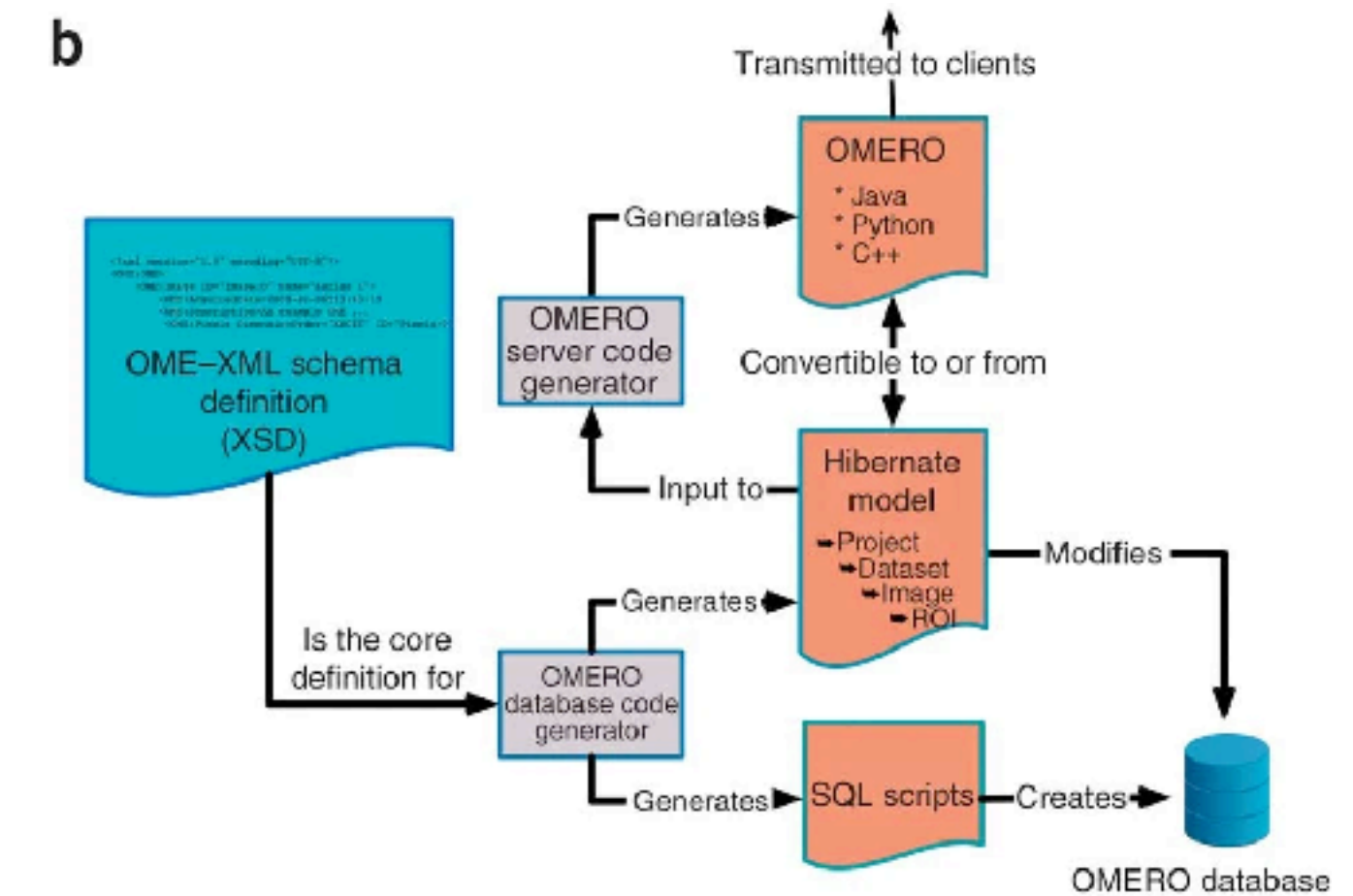
Maintaining a model

Targets

Source	2016-06	2015-01	2013-06	2012-06	2011-06	2010-06	2010-04	2009-09	2008-09	2008-02	2007-06	2003-FC
2016-06	--	good	good	good	good	good	fair	fair	fair	poor	poor	poor
2015-01		--	good	good	good	good	fair	fair	fair	poor	poor	poor
2013-06			--	good	good	good	fair	fair	fair	poor	poor	poor
2012-06				--	good	good	fair	fair	fair	poor	poor	poor
2011-06					--	good	fair	fair	fair	poor	poor	poor
2010-06						--	fair	fair	poor	poor	poor	poor
2010-04							--	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
2009-09								--	poor	poor	poor	poor
2008-09									--	poor	poor	poor
2008-02						excellent				--	poor	poor
2007-06											--	poor
2003-FC												--

Downgrades

Upgrades

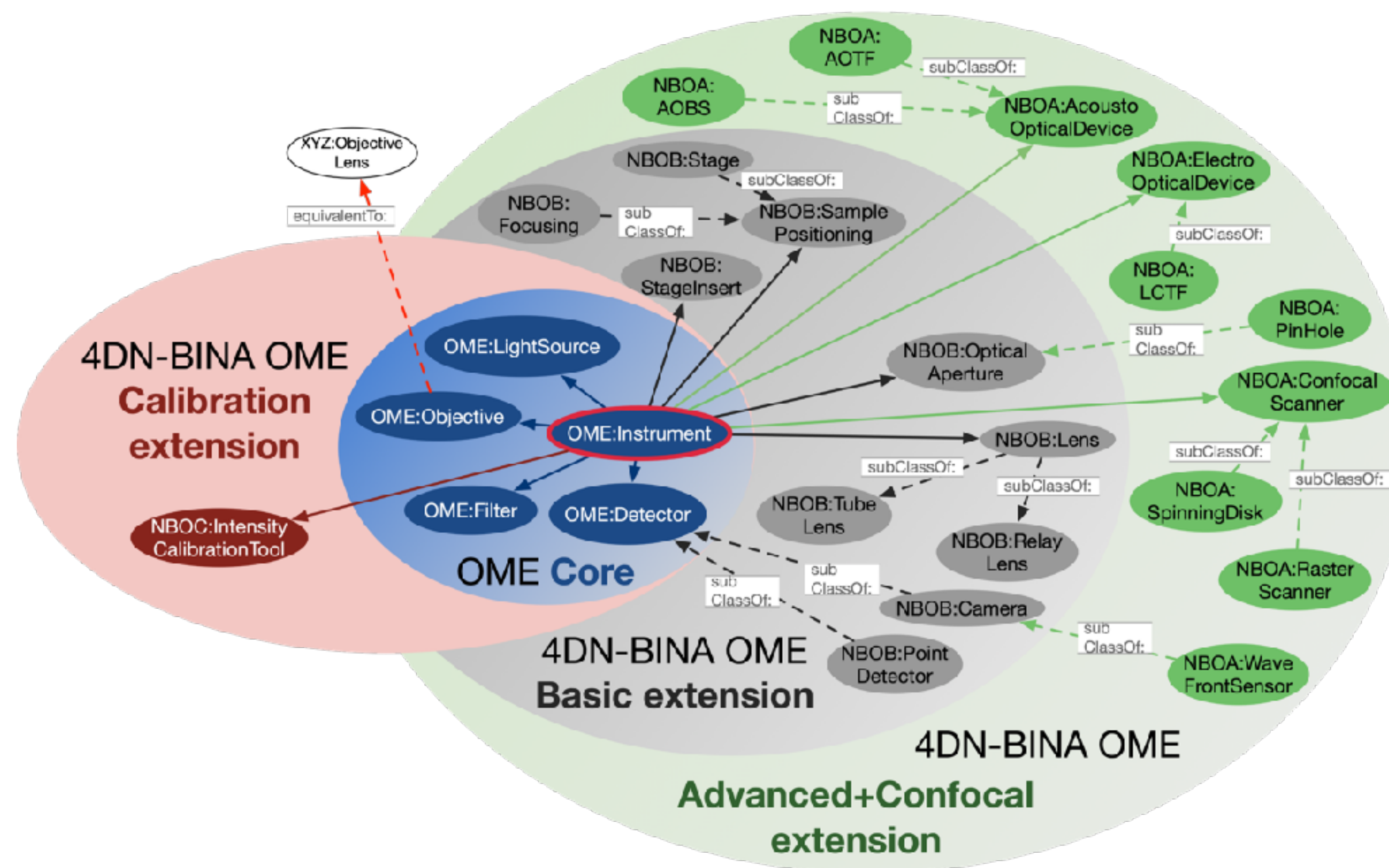


Allan et al. (2012) *OMERO: flexible, model-driven data management for experimental biology*. *Nature Methods* 9, 245–253. Published 28 February 2012

DOI: [10.1038/nmeth.1896](https://doi.org/10.1038/nmeth.1896)

<https://bit.ly/citing-ome>

Extending a model??



4D-Nucleome / BINA / OME / QUAREP-LiMi (2018-2019)

<https://github.com/WU-BIMAC/NBOMicroscopyMetadataSpecs>

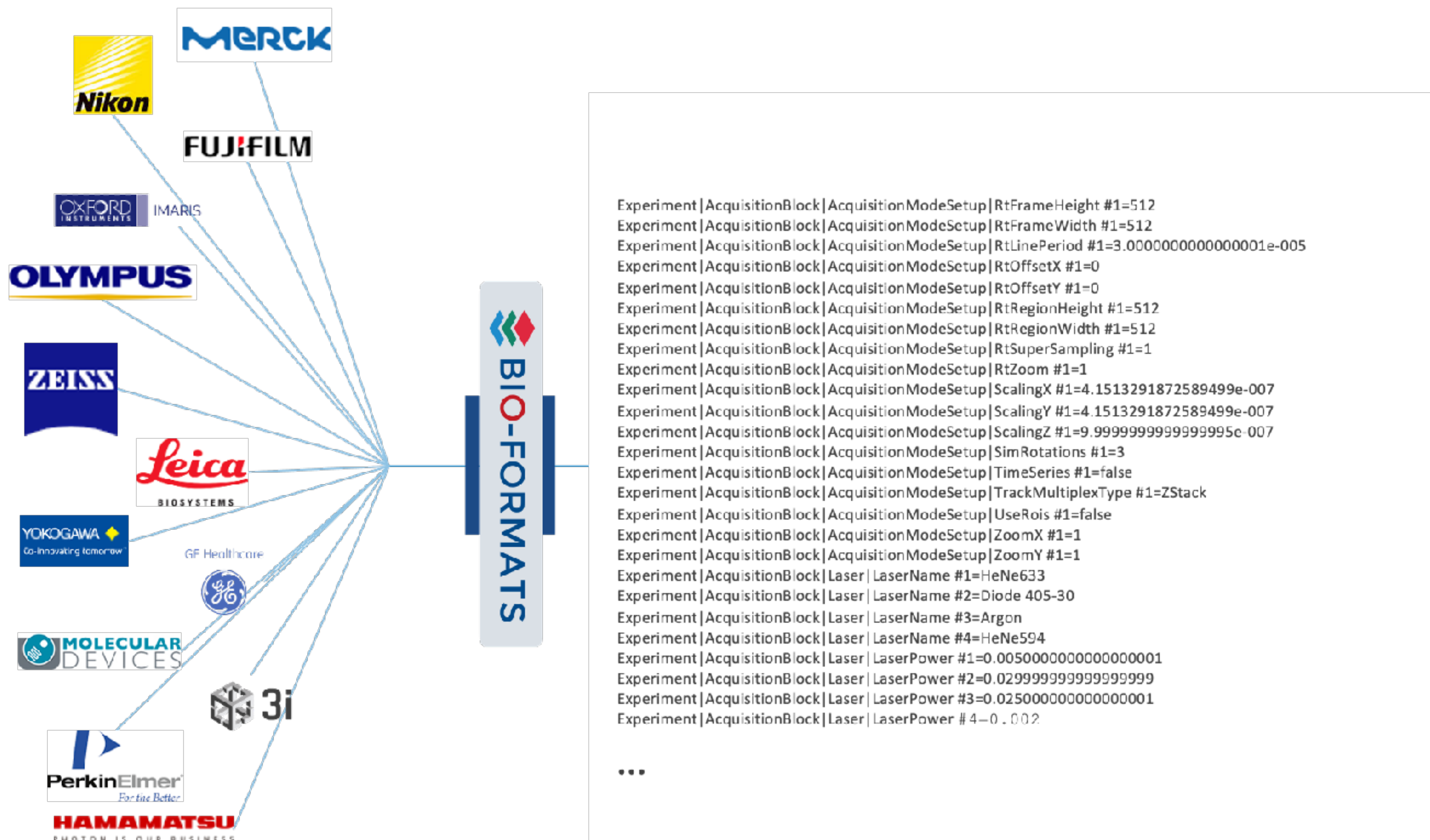


Caterina Strambio De Castillia



Damir Sudar

Goal: Common Framework



Goal: Common Framework



```
{  
  @context: {  
    "ome": "https://openmicroscopy.org/namespace",  
    "vendor": "https://vendor.com/namespace"  
  },  
  "ome:Image": ...  
  "vendor:acquisitionModeSetup": [  
    {  
      "RtFrameHeight": 512  
    }, ...  
  ]  
}
```

JSON-LD (RDF)

(make it simple)



<https://linkml.io/>

What's been going on? (tl;dr)

REMBI (2019)

COMMENT | FOCUS

REMBI: Recommended Metadata for Biological Images—enabling reuse of microscopy data in biology

Bioimaging data have significant potential for reuse, but unlocking this potential requires systematic archiving of data and metadata in public databases. We propose draft metadata guidelines to begin addressing the needs of diverse communities within light and electron microscopy. We hope this publication and the proposed Recommended Metadata for Biological Images (REMBI) will stimulate discussions about their implementation and future extension.

Ugis Sarkans, Wah Chiu, Lucy Collinson, Michele C. Darrow, Jan Ellenberg, David Grunwald, Jean-Karim Hériché, Andrii Iudin, Gabriel G. Martins, Terry Meehan, Kedar Narayan, Ardan Patwardhan, Matthew Robert Geoffrey Russell, Helen R. Saibil, Caterina Strambio-De-Castilla, Jason R. Swedlow, Christian Tischner, Virginie Uhlmann, Paul Verkade, Mary Barlow, Omer Bayraktar, Ewan Birney, Cesare Catavittolo, Christopher Cawthorne, Stephan Wagner-Conrad, Elizabeth Duke, Perrine Paul-Gilloteaux, Emmanuel Gustin, Maria Harkiolaki, Pasi Kankaanpää, Thomas Lemberger, Jo McEntyre, Josh Moore, Andrew W. Nicholls, Shuichi Onami, Helen Parkinson, Maddy Parsons, Marina Romanchikova, Nicholas Sofroniew, Jim Swoger, Nadine Utz, Lenard M. Voortman, Frances Wong, Peijun Zhang, Gerard J. Kleywegt and Alvis Brazma

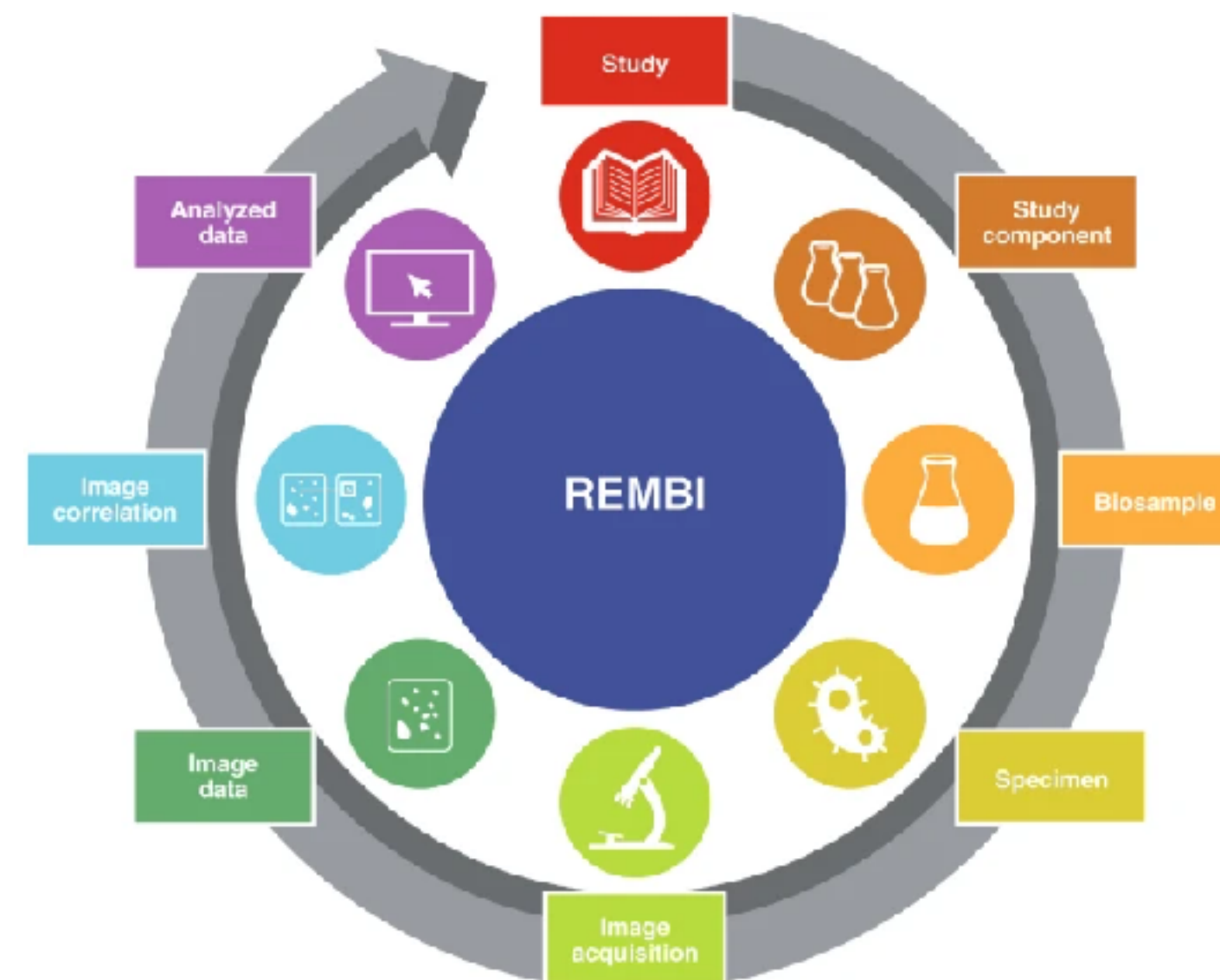
Spectacular advances in light and electron microscopy^{1,2} are rapidly transforming the life sciences. For instance, scientists are now able to image molecular complexes at atomic resolution^{3,4}, follow the fates of individual molecules in a living cell, and image the development of an organism starting from a single fertilized oocyte⁵. These imaging technologies are generating large amounts of complex data, the interpretation of which often requires sophisticated analysis, as in other “omics” technologies. Moreover, most advanced imaging technologies are expensive, while the biological samples used in the experiments may be unique. To maximize the use of the generated data and to realize the full potential of the advances in biological imaging, these datasets need to be made available to other researchers in a timely manner, consistent with the FAIR principles—findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable—and thus amenable to reuse.

Around the world, there are efforts to develop informatics systems for making different types of microscopy data available to the community. Sharing cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) data has already quite advanced (Box 1), with sharing light microscopy data still at an early stage. In Europe, a research infrastructure for biological and biomedical imaging

called Euro-BioImaging has recently been established and is developing imaging data management and publishing solutions such as Cell-EDR and Tissue-EDR⁶. In Japan, RIKEN launched the Systems Science of Biological Dynamics database (SSBD) in 2013, with the goal of sharing quantitative biological dynamics data including time-lapse microscopy images⁷. In 2016, the database expanded its remit to all bioimage data from the Japanese community. In the United States, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has funded the establishment of the CELL Image Library⁸, while NIH’s BRAIN initiative is establishing specifications and resources for imaging of brain tissue (<https://brainworkspace.org/>, <https://www.brainimaginglibrary.org/>). In collaboration with Bioimaging North America, NIH’s 4D Nucleome project has released specifications for image acquisition metadata⁹. There are also efforts that have wider geographic coverage. Global BioImaging (<https://globalbioimaging.org/>) has published recommendations for data terms and data repositories¹⁰, and the QUAREM-LMI¹¹ global consortium is working to establish community-driven specifications for quality assurance and testing in quantitative light microscopy.

Experiences from other omics domains have taught us that to make data reusable, some standardization is necessary, and

in particular, in reporting the metadata we need to give information describing the experiments and the samples—for instance, what instrument was used to generate the images and how the samples were prepared. To achieve this, appropriate minimal or recommended information guidelines or standards have been adopted by various life-science communities. One of the first such initiatives was MIAME (Minimum Information About a Microarray Experiment), which was published¹² in 2001 and has had a major impact on how functional genomics data are collected and reported via public repositories, and on the reusability of these data^{13–15}. As the biological imaging field is maturing, the bioimaging community is now recognizing that it faces similar challenges. In fact, the metadata challenge in the bioimaging domain has been discussed in the European Light Microscopy Initiative (ELMI) community (<https://elmi.bioimaging.org/>) since 2011, and an attempt to address it was undertaken by the OME Consortium¹⁶. In the domain of medical imaging, the challenge is partially addressed by the Digital Information and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) standard¹⁷. Nevertheless, it was reported recently that metadata on imaging methods are rarely under-reported in biomedical research¹⁸. One might argue that microscopy experiments are too



BioImage Archive

Study Type	Protein localisation using fluorescence microscopy
Organism	Homo sapiens
Experiment Type	Immunocytochemistry
Imaging Method	Deconvolution widefield: fluorescence microscopy
Data Analysis	OMEHO.mtools http://help.openmicroscopy.org/worldwide-mtools.html
Publication Title	The Ndc80 complex targets Eed1 to human mitotic kinetochores
Publication Authors	Katherine Schleibler, Michael Porter, Sara Ien Havel, Ramasubramanian Sundaramoorthy, Iain M Porter, Jason R Swedlow
PubMed ID	29142109
PMC ID	tba
Publication DOI	10.1038/s41592-021-01166-8
License	Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
Data Publisher	University of Dundee
Data DOI	http://dx.doi.org/10.17667/10003109

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41592-021-01166-8>



Matthew Hartley

QUAREP-LiMi (2020)



Quality Assessment and Reproducibility for Instruments & Images in Light Microscopy

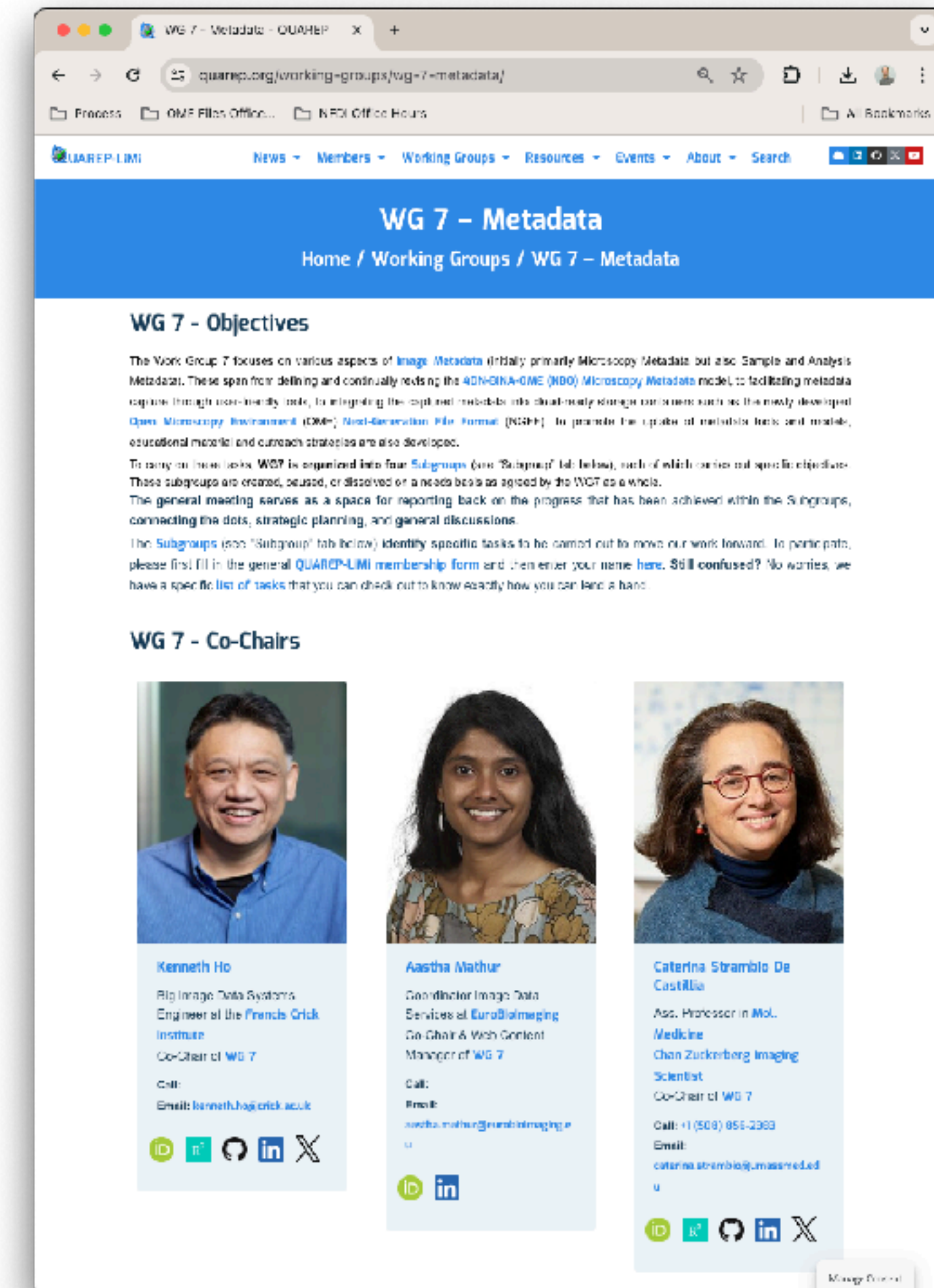
QUAREP-LiMi - who are we?



Companies

Standardization and Governmental Org.

Academia & Networks



WG 7 - Metadata

Home / Working Groups / WG 7 - Metadata

WG 7 - Objectives

The Work Group 7 focuses on various aspects of *Image Metadata* (initially primarily *Microscopy Metadata* but also *Sample and Analysis Metadata*). These span from defining and continually revising the *4D+DNA-OME (NDI) Microscopy Metadata* model, to facilitating metadata capture through user-friendly tools, to integrating the captured metadata into cloud-ready storage containers such as the newly developed *Open Microscopy Environment (OME)*, *Next-Generation File Format (NGFF)*. To promote the uptake of metadata tools and models, educational material and outreach strategies are also developed.

To carry on these tasks, WG7 is organized into four *Subgroups* (see "Subgroup" tab below), each of which carries out specific objectives. These subgroups are created, ceased, or dissolved on a needs basis as agreed by the WG7 as a whole. The *general meeting* serves as a space for reporting back on the progress that has been achieved within the Subgroups, connecting the dots, strategic planning, and general discussions.

The *Subgroups* (see "Subgroup" tab below) identify specific tasks to be carried out to move our work forward. To participate, please first fill in the general *QUAREP-LiMi membership form* and then enter your name *here*. *Still confused? No worries, we have a specific list of tasks that you can check out to know exactly how you can lend a hand.*

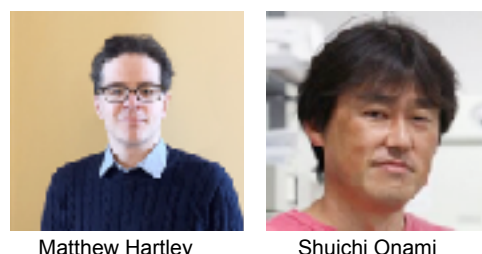
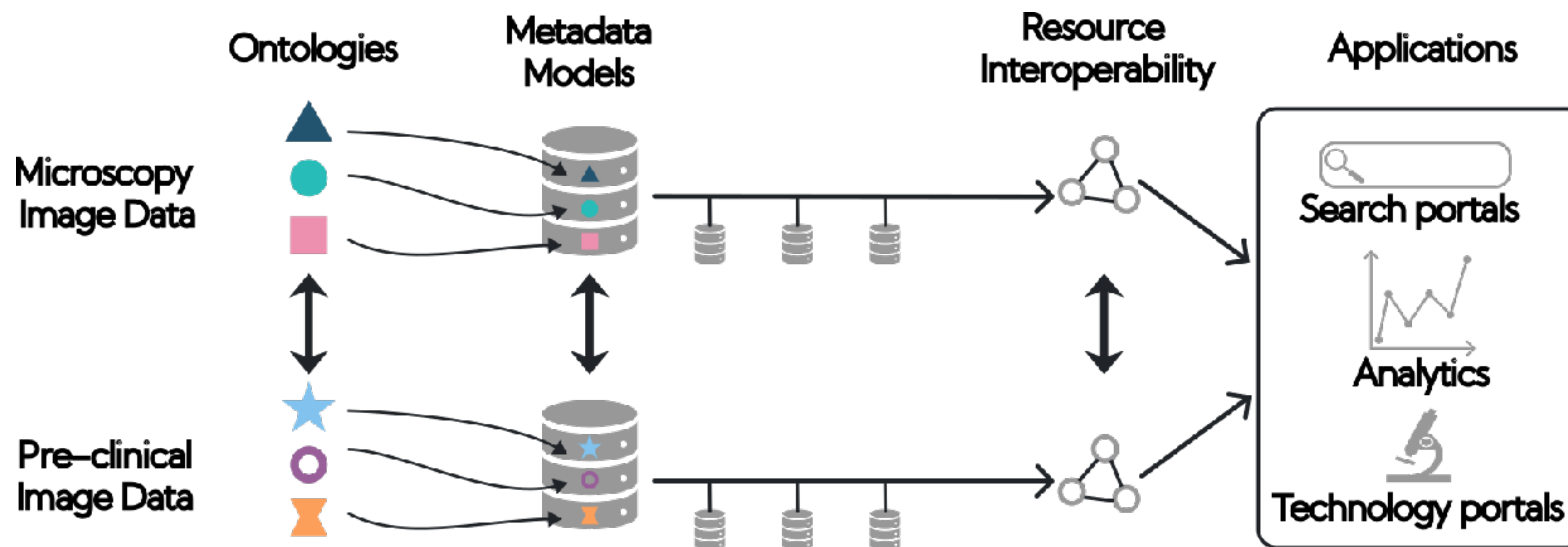
WG 7 - Co-Chairs

Kenneth Ho
Big Image Data Systems
Engineer at the Francis Crick Institute
Co-Chair of WG 7
Call: kenneth.ho@crick.ac.uk

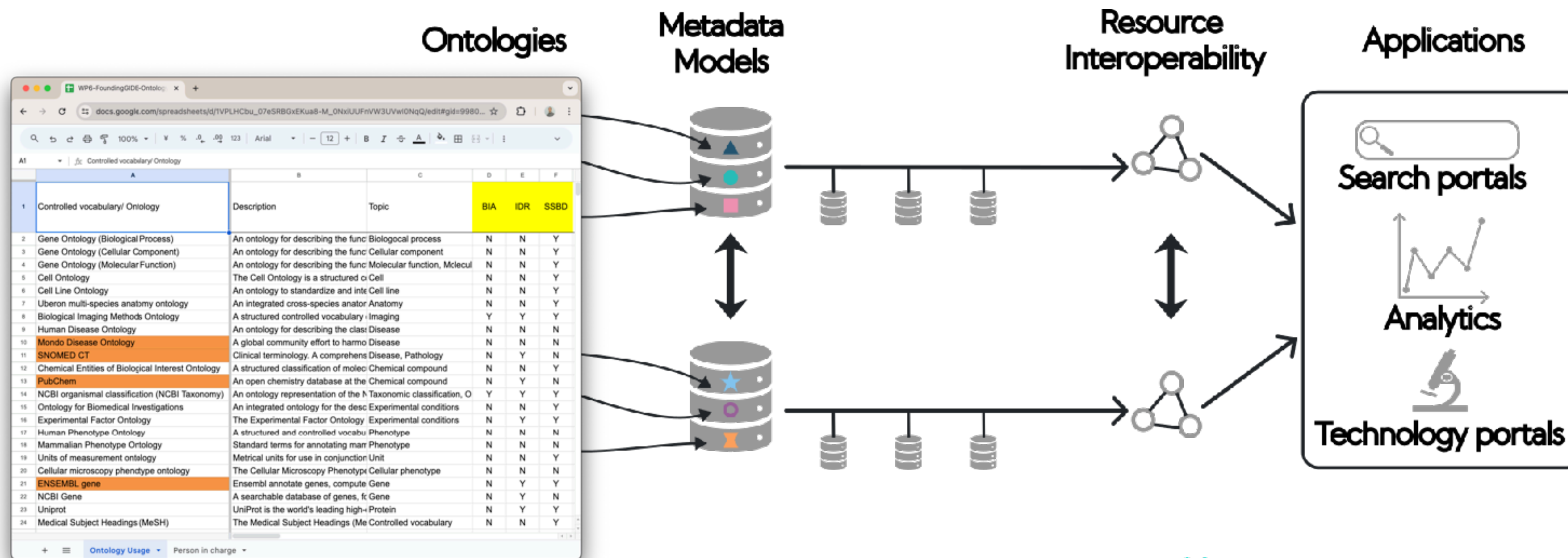
Aastha Mathur
Coordinator Image Data Services at EuroBioImaging
Co-Chair & Web Content Manager of WG 7
Call: aastha.mathur@eurobioimaging.eu

Caterina Strambio De Castille
Asst. Professor in Mol. Medicine
Chan Zuckerberg Imaging Scientist
Co-Chair of WG 7
Call: +1 (508) 855-2303
Email: caterina.strambio@umassmed.edu

FoundingGIDE (2024-2026)

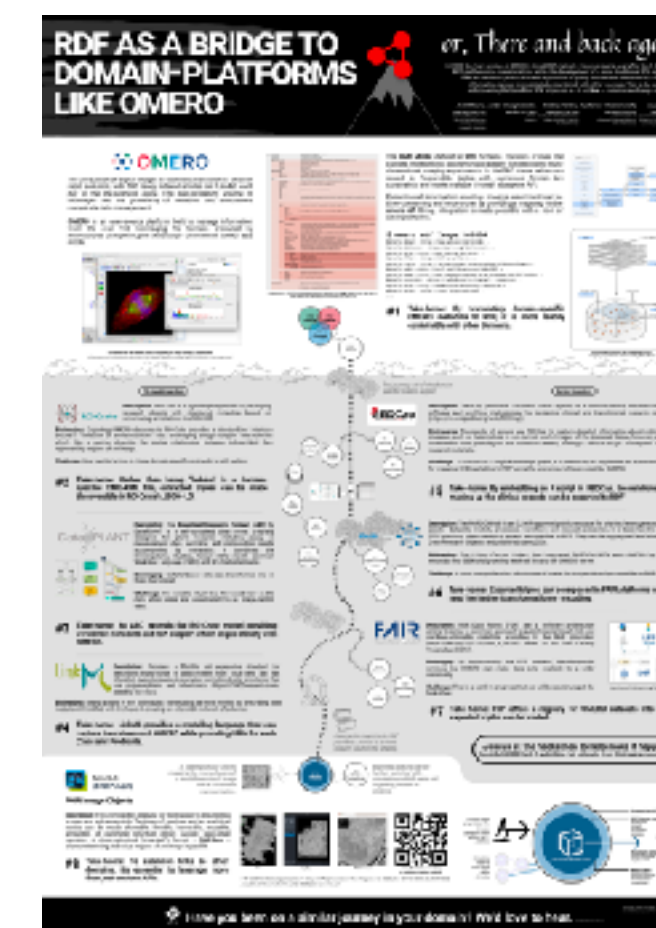
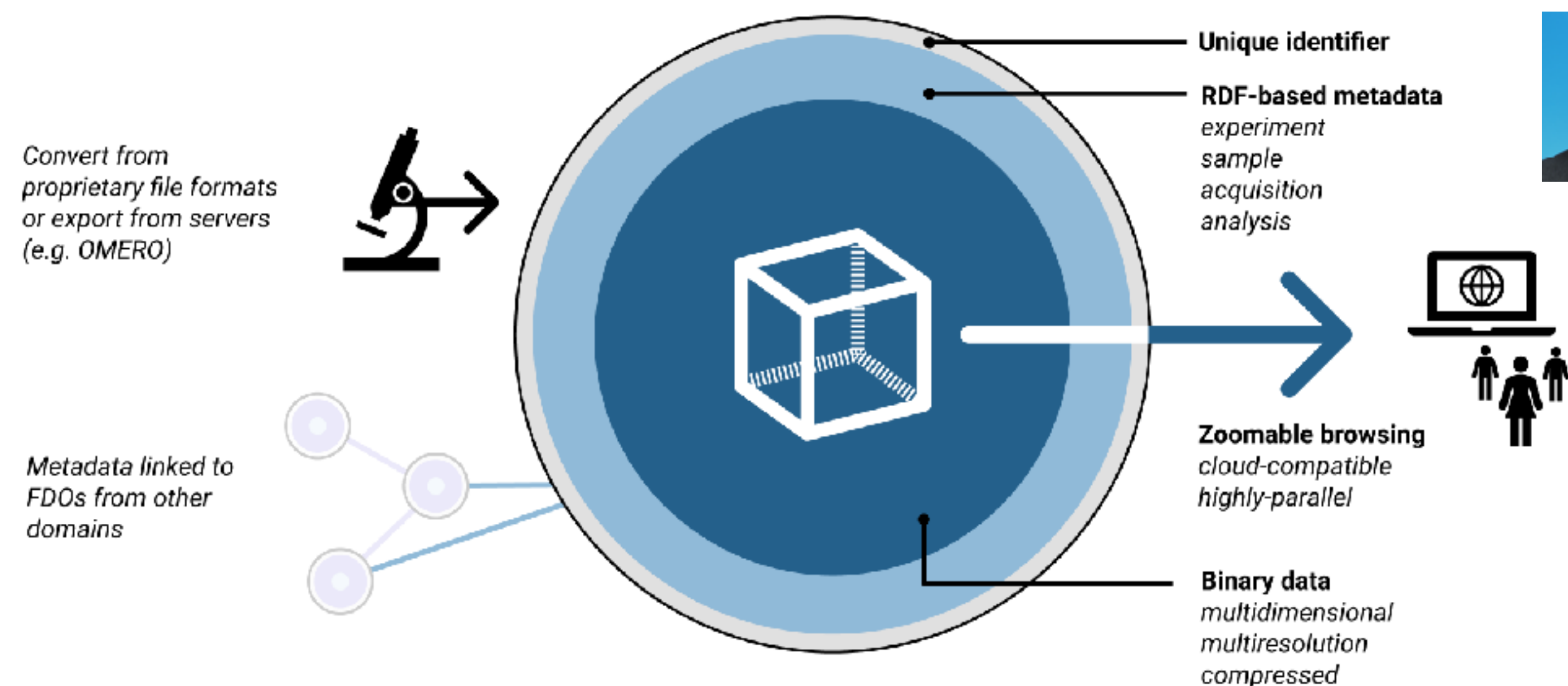


FoundingGIDE (2024-2026)



FAIR-IO (2023-2028)

FAIR Image Objects (FAIR-IO), an FDO-subtype for bioimaging



& omero-rdf (PyPI)

<https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.10687658>

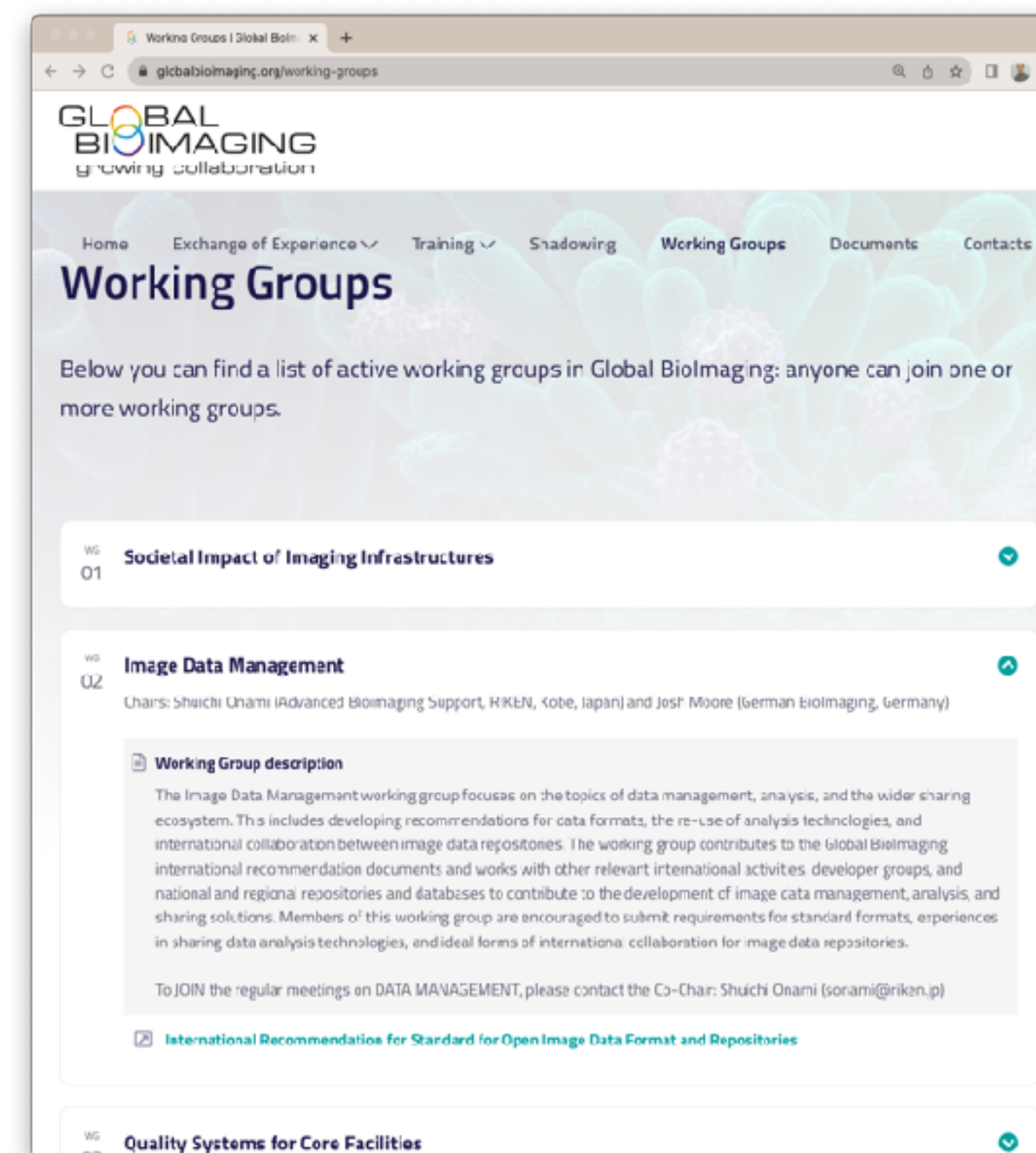
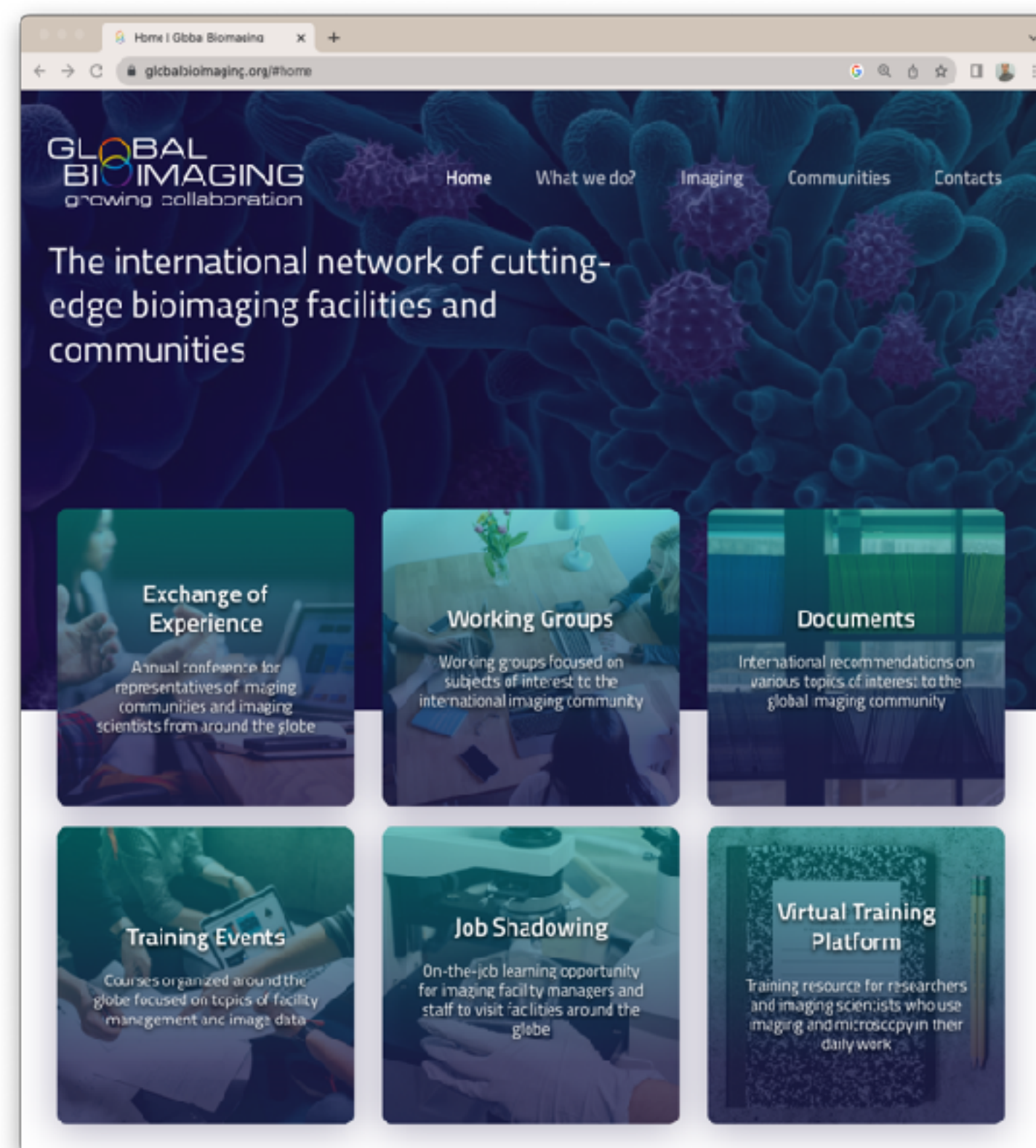
<https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.7394674>
(from the NFDI4BIOIMAGE grant proposal)



<https://nfdi4bioimage.github.io/FAIR-IO/specification/>



Upcoming GBI working group



<https://globalbioimaging.org/working-groups>

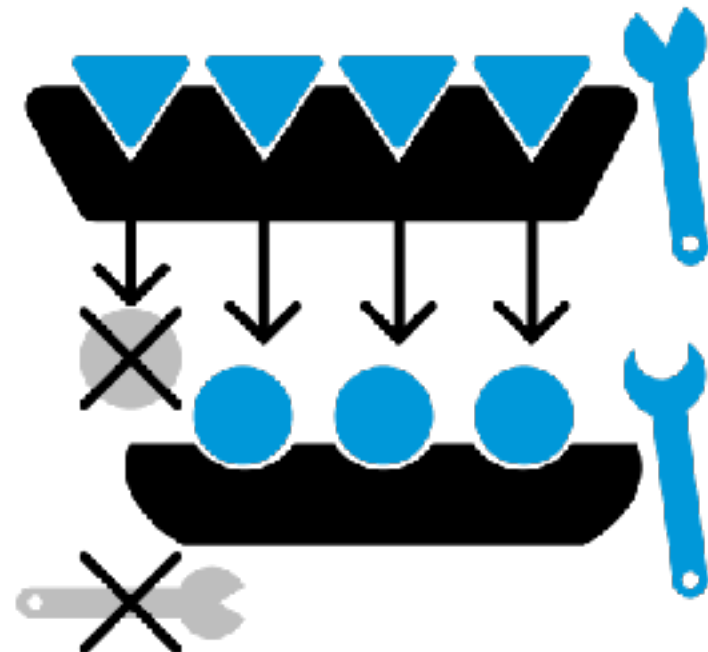
Persistent Hardware Descriptors (2023)

(NSF proposal)

Current Situation: non-reusable metadata

Proprietary (e.g., **vendor**) metadata are restricted to vendors tools.

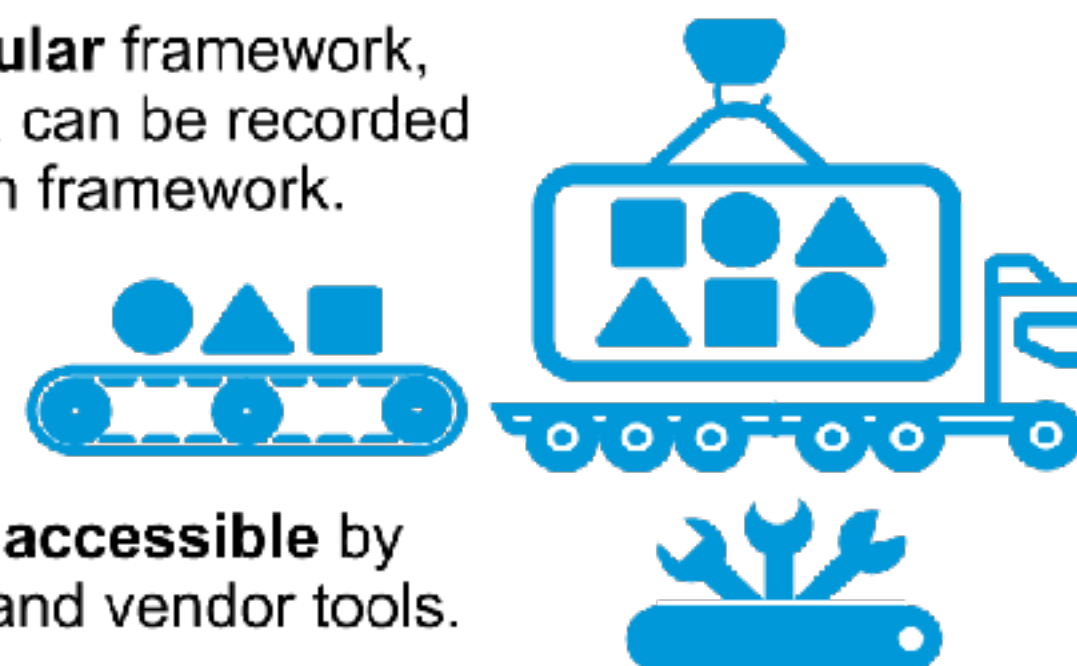
Community metadata cannot represent all vendor-specific information.






Next-Generation Metadata Framework

With a **modular** framework, all metadata can be recorded in a common framework.

Metadata is **accessible** by community and vendor tools.



Legend

-  **Core models:** provide general building blocks that can be re-used.
-  **Community models:** community approved metadata models that enable open-source tools.
-  **Custom models:** extensions that are in development or highly specialized in their application.

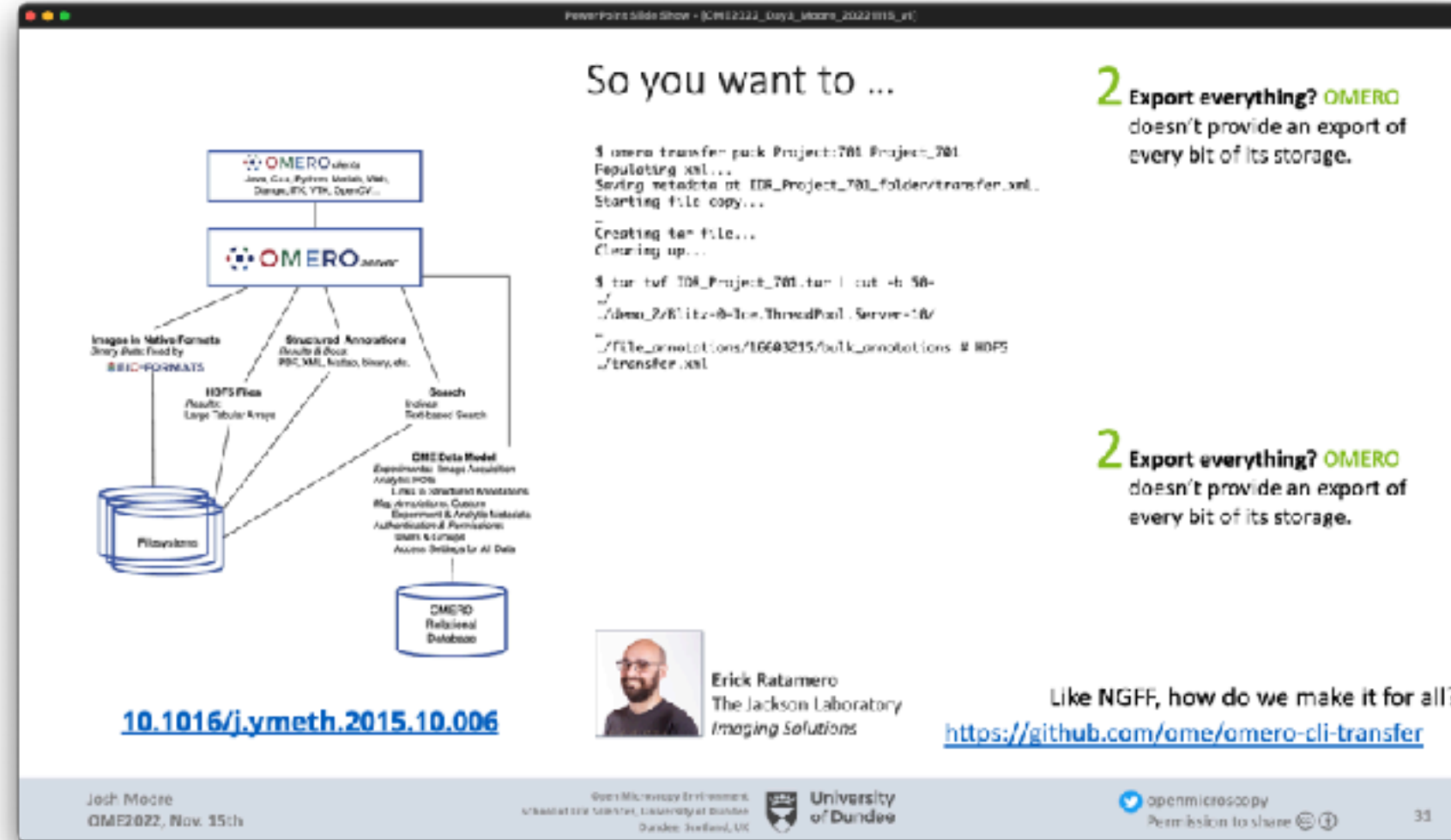
<https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.11265016>



Caterina
Strambio De Castillia

What's the plan? (short, middle, long)

Mini-schemas (XSD)



So you want to ...

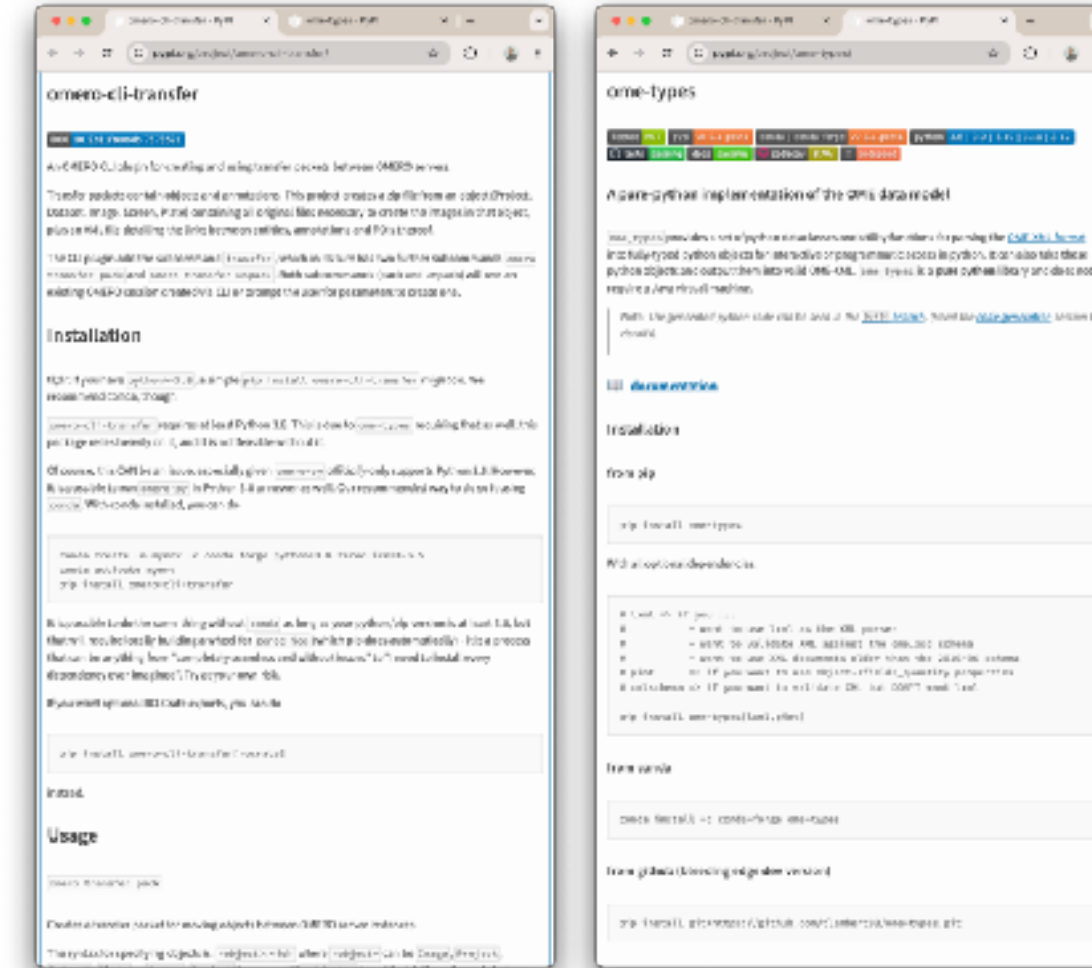
2 Export everything? OME doesn't provide an export of every bit of its storage.

2 Export everything? OME doesn't provide an export of every bit of its storage.

Like NGFF, how do we make it for all?
<https://github.com/ome/omero-cli-transfer>

Erick Ratamero
The Jackson Laboratory
Imaging Solutions

10.1016/j.ymeth.2015.10.006



Thoughts how to make NBOQ coexist with OME model

A transitional concept as a bridge towards the brave new world of Next Generation Metadata (NGM).

Considerations:

- 1) Community needs to store significantly more instrument, settings, quality control, etc. metadata than the current version of OME model allows.
- 2) NBOQ model is being adopted by QUAREP-LIMI and other organizations as a more extensive model.
- 3) Unlikely that the OME model will be expanded soon by the OME Community and the NBOQ model contains too many breaking changes to be considered an extension of the model.
- 4) It is critical that the 100's or 1000's of existing software projects that use the OME model by virtue of reading/writing OME-TIFF files continue to work without modifications. But it is important we provide a relatively easy road for existing software to support NBOQ.
- 5) At this time, it's not clear how NGFF (OME-Zarr, any HDF5-based implementations, etc.) will deal with metadata other than those metadata necessary to describe the image storage itself but current ad-hoc implementations (e.g. Glencoe's bioformats2raw) simply put an OME-XML file into the Zarr hierarchy.
- 6) NGM efforts will hopefully be funded and will provide a true solution to integrate the OME, NBOQ, and many other models but there's a need to move forward now.

Conceptual approach:

- 1) Propose a very light-weight NBOQ extension to the OME model through OME model's Annotation capability by using the CommentAnnotation Structured Annotations (SA) at as few attachment points as is practical which store the NBOQ information as JSON blocks. Ideally there is just one such SA, but it's likely best to have at least one SA to the "Instrument" top-level element which has the rich NBOQ metadata in JSON format that applies to the entire contents of the file and multiple attachments to the "Image" elements in the OME-TIFF which records the settings from each image.
- 2) Any existing software not NBOQ-aware simply uses the OME-XML and ignores any NBOQ extensions.
- 3) The NBOQ extension JSON blocks live as CommentAnnotations in the OME-XML header of OME-TIFF files (for NGFF: the info is contained in the OME-Zarr hierarchy in a METADATA.ome.xml file, based on the convention set by bioformats2raw – see: <https://ngff.openmicroscopy.org/latest/index.html#bf2raw>).
- 4) NBOQ-aware software will need to write metadata both to the NBOQ model JSON blocks and to the OME-XML (for those fields that OME-XML supports).
- 5) NBOQ-aware software will need to read metadata from both the NBOQ model JSON blocks and from the OME-XML and should in general let NBOQ information supersede any overlapping/conflicting OME-XML information.

```
<XMLAnnotation ID="Annotation:18350171370993896933" Namespace="openmicroscopy.org/cli/transfer">
  <Value>
    <CLITransferServerPath xsi:schemaLocation="https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ome/omero-cli-transfer/main/schemas/serverpath.xsd">
      <Path>root_0/2022-01/14/18-30-55.264/combined_result.tiff</Path>
    </CLITransferServerPath>
  </Value>
</XMLAnnotation>
```

<https://github.com/ome/omero-cli-transfer/blob/main/test/data/transfer.xml>



Erick Ratamero

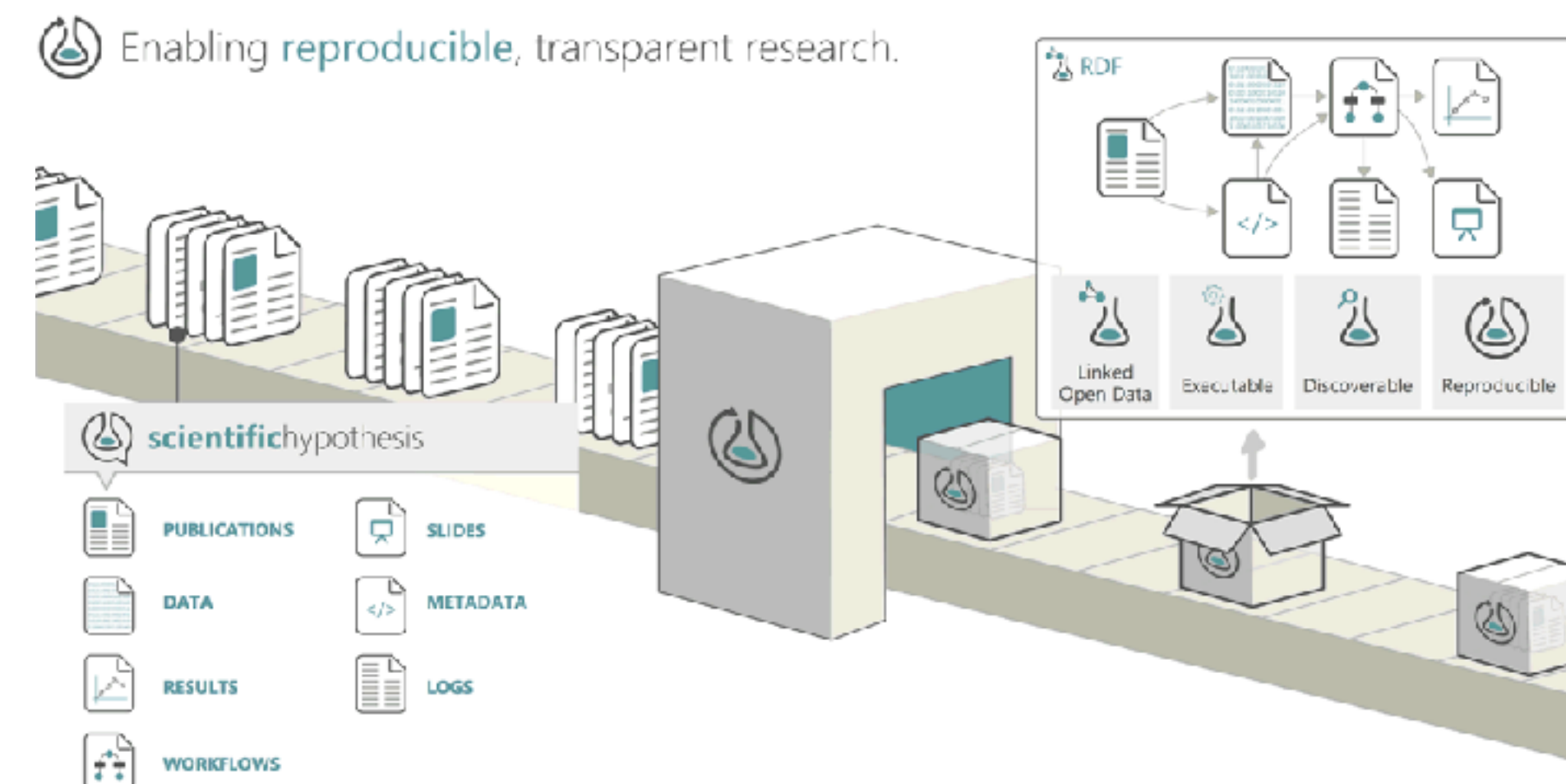
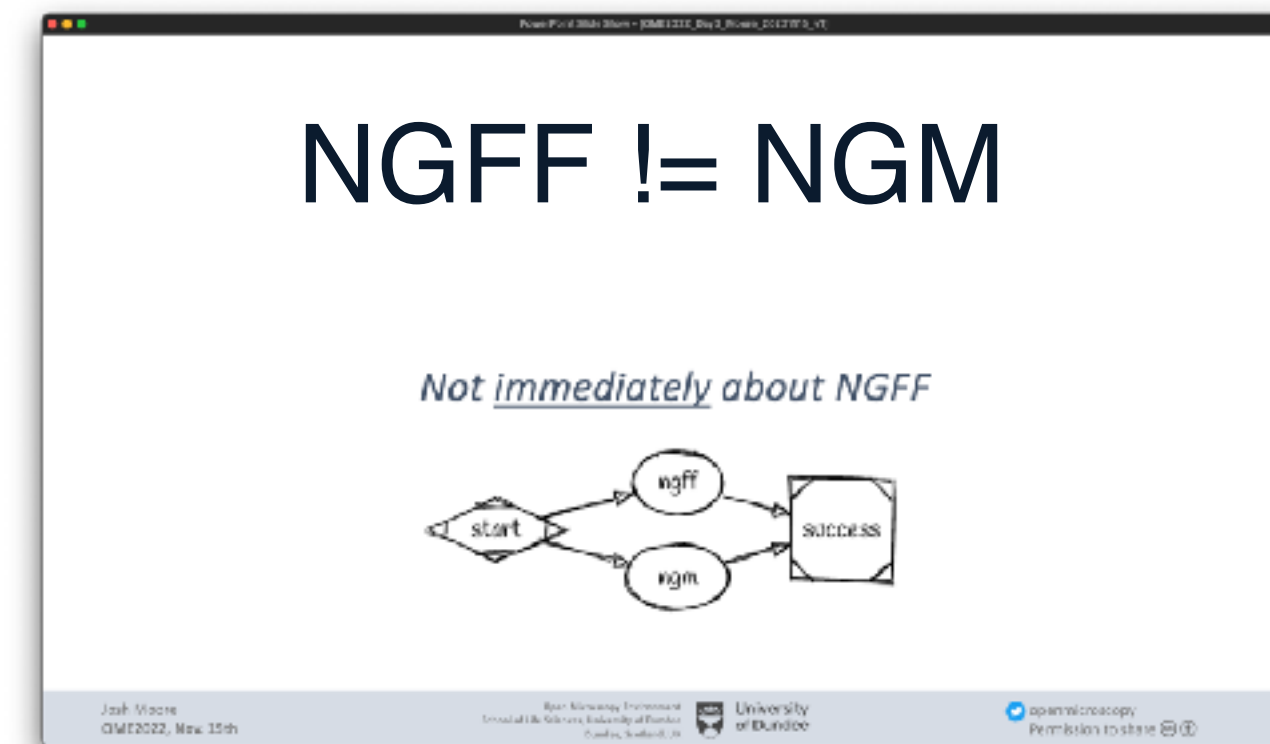
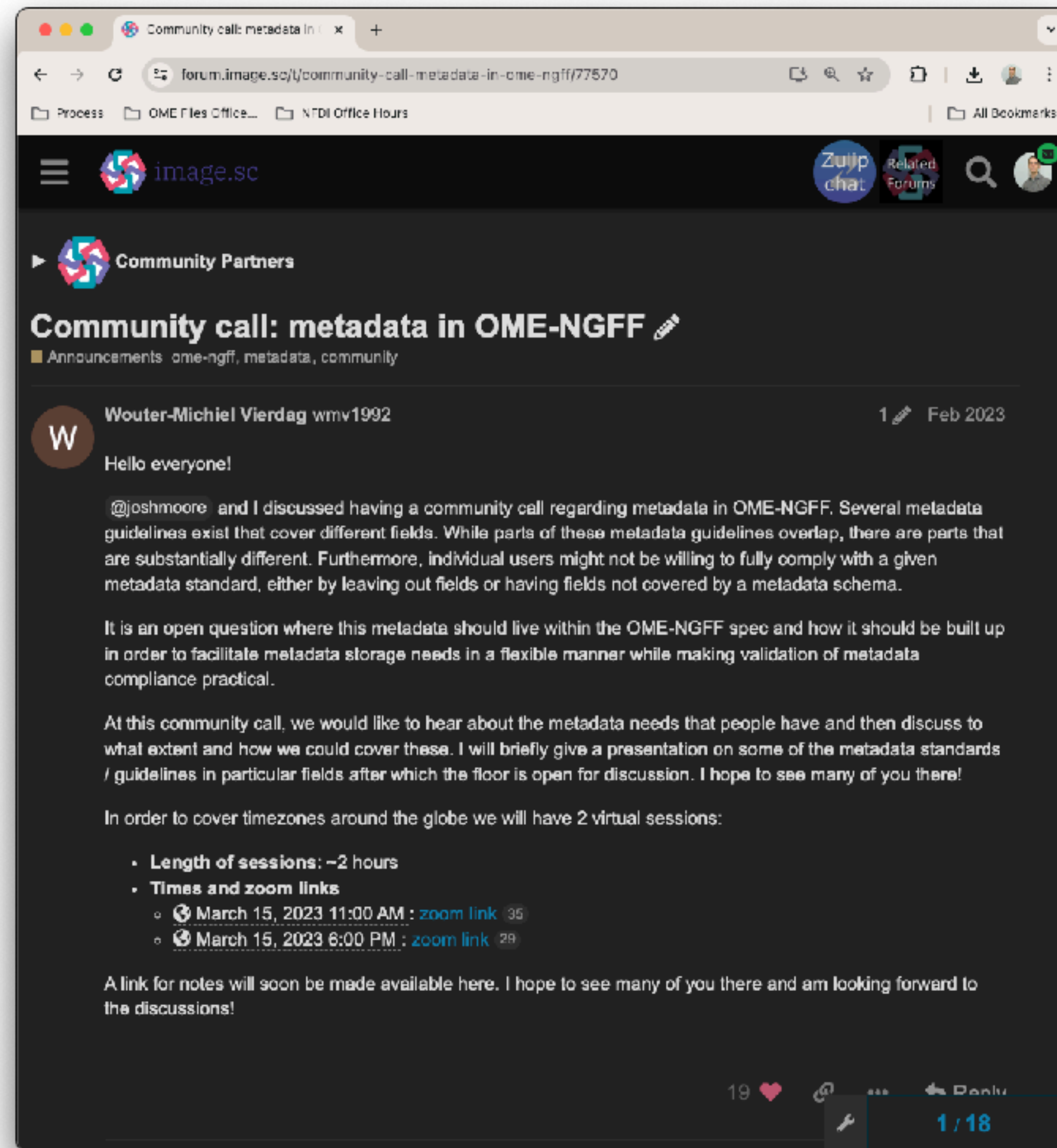


Caterina
Strambio De Castilla



Damir Sudar

How to tie it all together?

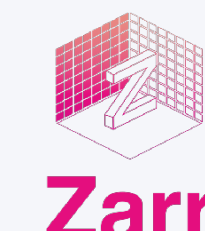
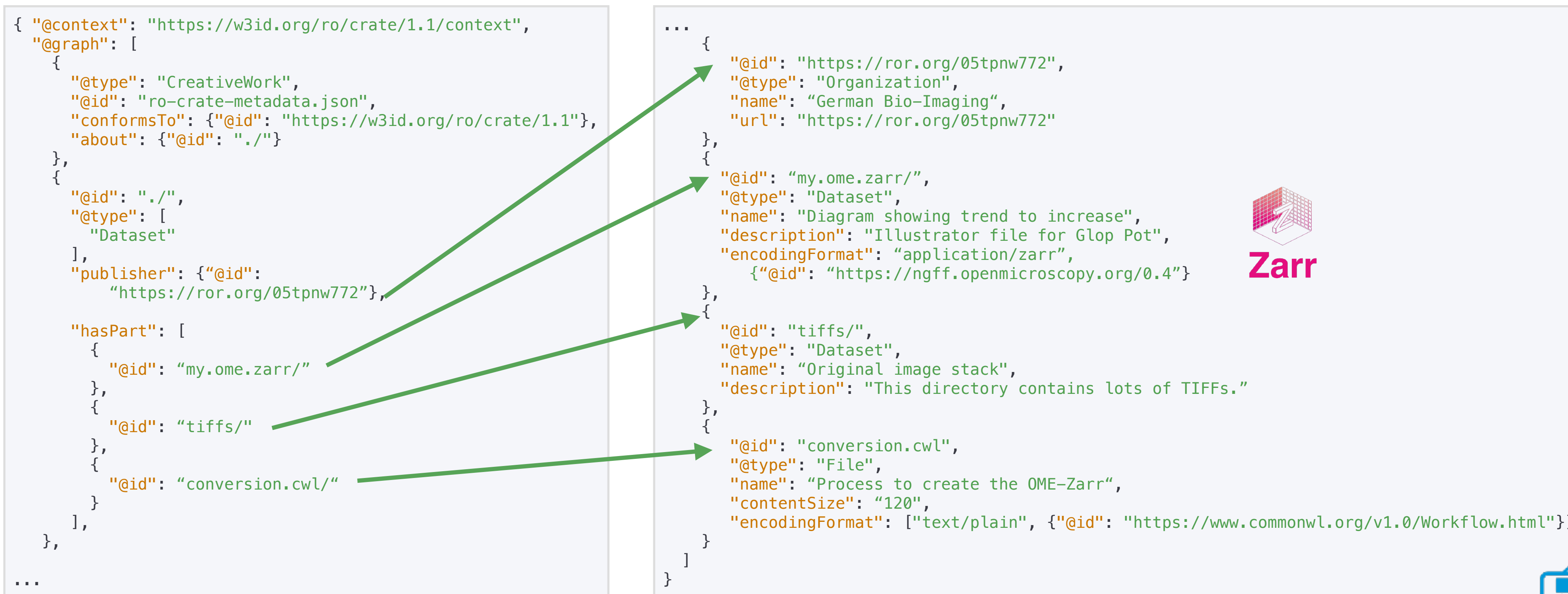


<https://forum.image.sc/t/community-call-metadata-in-ome-ngff/77570>

<https://www.researchobject.org/>

How to tie it all together?

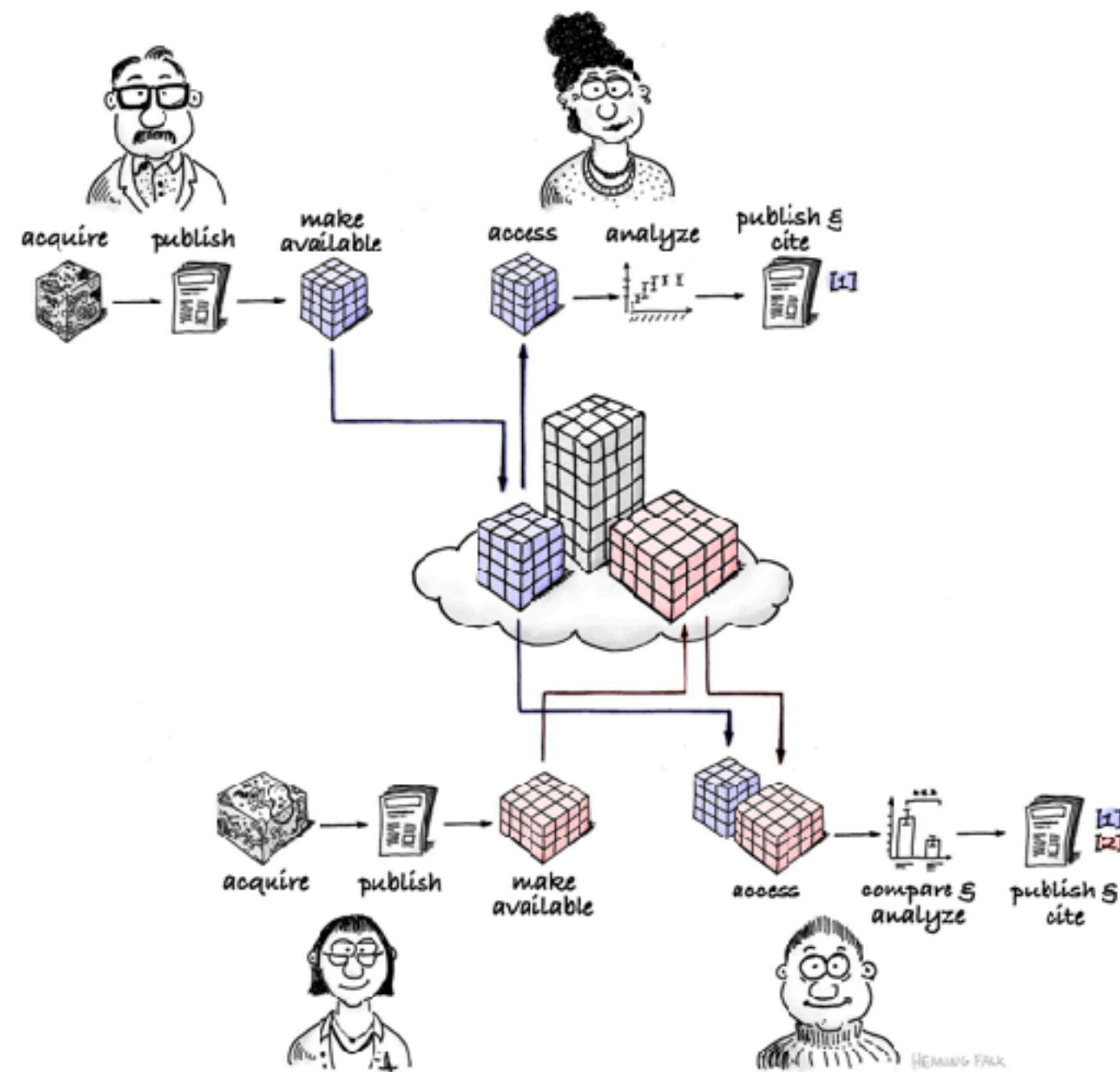
RO-Crate is to NGM what Zarr is to NGFF



JSON-LD (RDF)

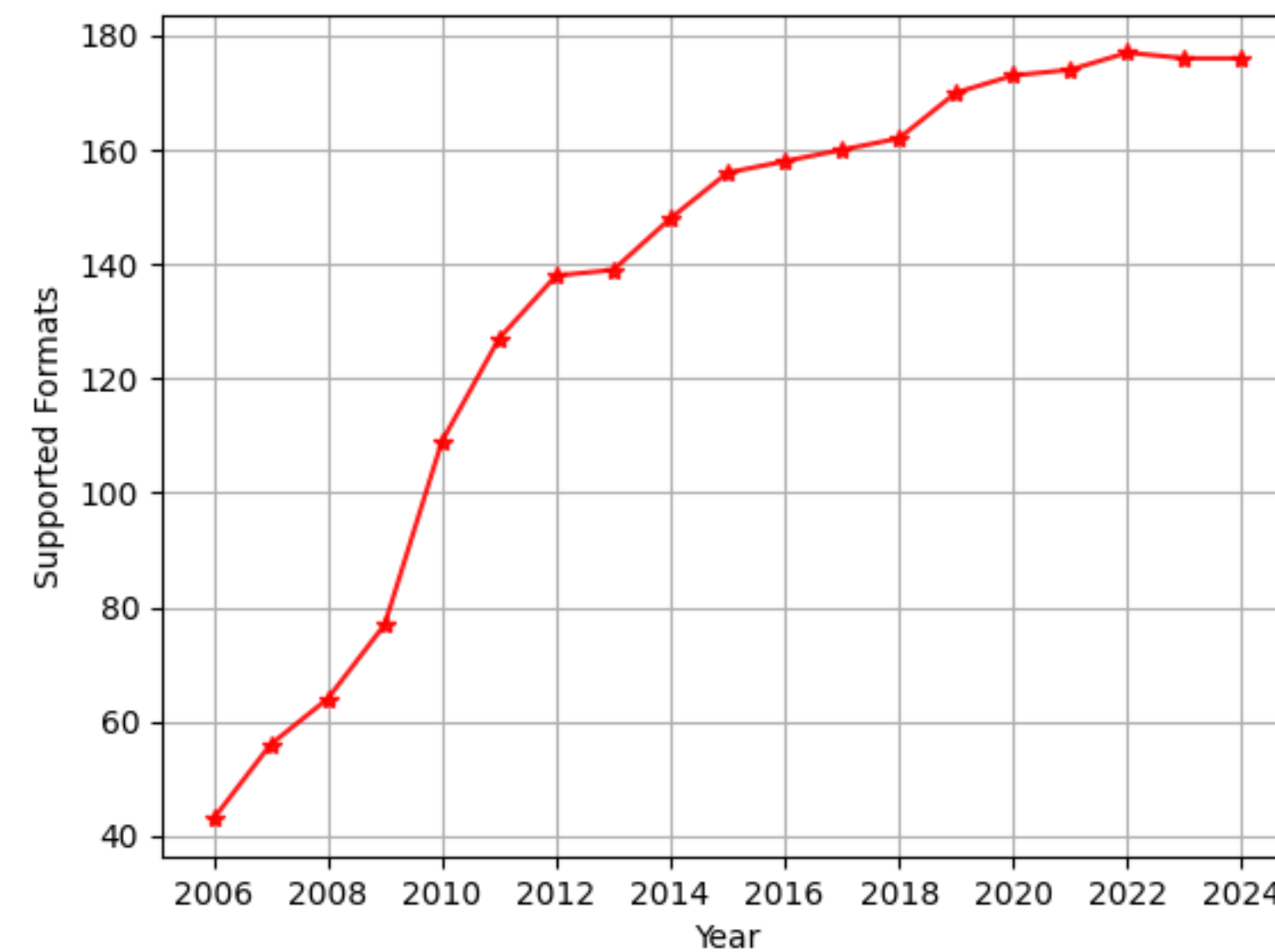


The FAIR Vision



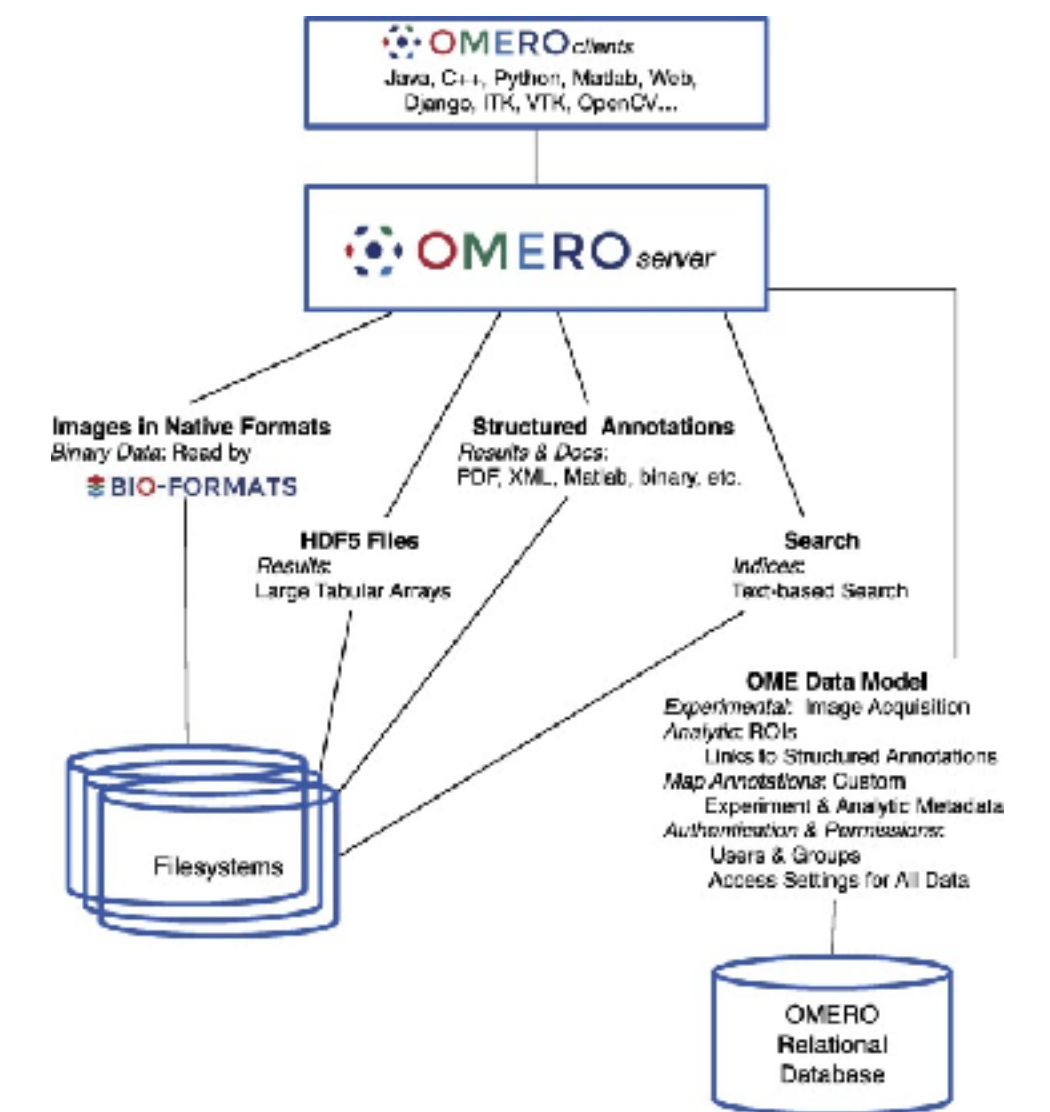
"FAIR re-use" by [@DrHenningFalk](#),
 ©2022 [@NumFOCUS](#) is used under a [CC-BY 4.0 license](#).

Supported formats by year



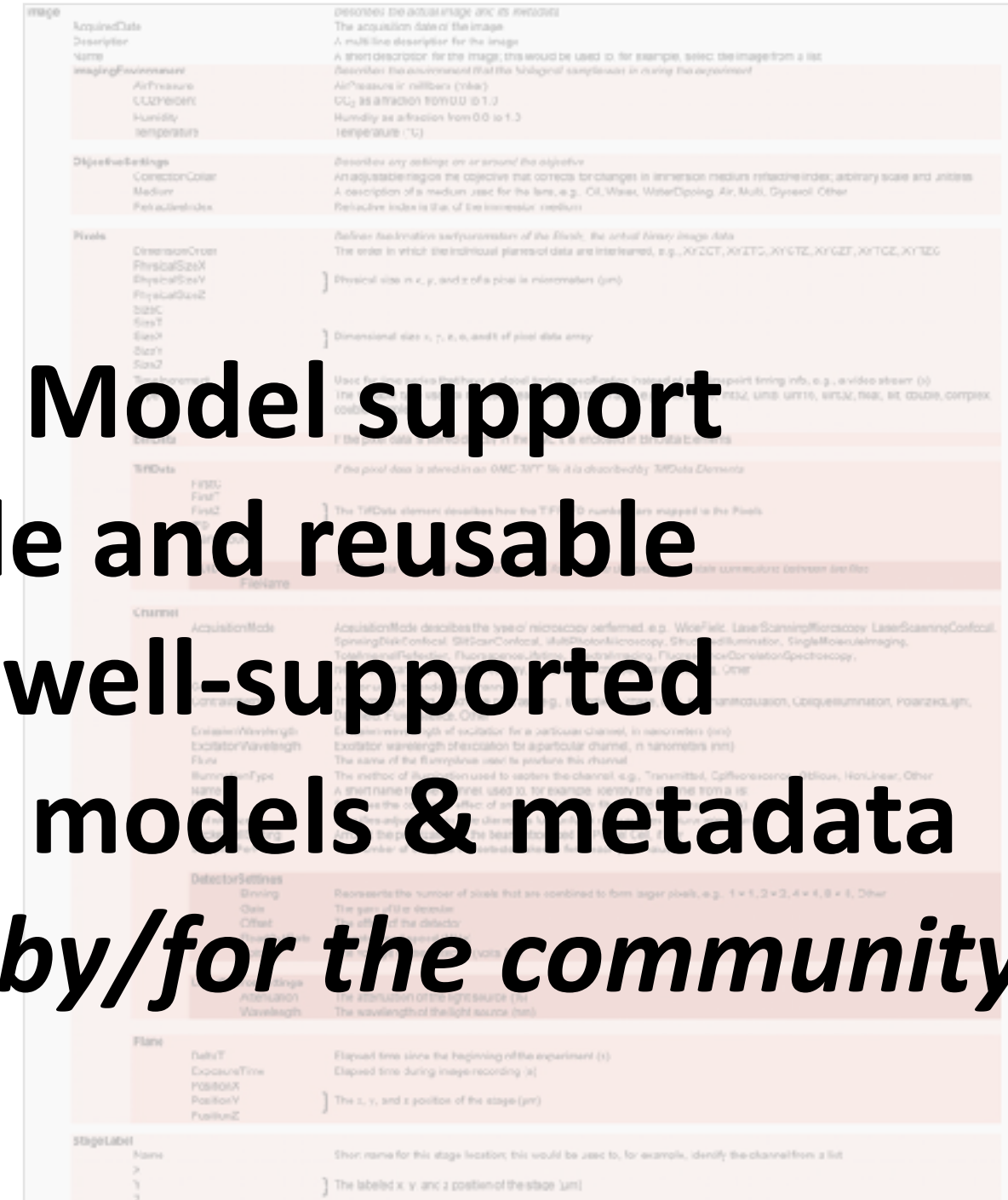
<https://bit.ly/bio-formats-list>

OMERO "format"



<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ymeth.2015.10.006>

Metadata Matters 2024



Recommendations for OME Compliant image metadata. The Image and Instrument Elements from the OME Data Model, with attributes and hierarchies shown in diagrammatic form. The Image Element contains core metadata that can be used for display and processing of the associated binary image data. Currently, an OME Compliant image completes all of the metadata in the Image Element. By the end of 2010, we aim to include the Instrument Element in the OME Compliant specification. The Bio-Formats library provides support for writing OME-XML either as a stand-alone file or within the header of an OME-TIFF file. The full XML Schema version of the OME Data Model is available at <http://ome-xml.org/browser/Schemas/OME/2010-04/ome.xsd>. Updates to the OME Data Model are announced on the project's roadmap site (<http://ome-xml.org/roadmap>).

- Superset of OME Model support
- Models extensible and reusable
- Base models are well-supported
- Vendors produce models & metadata
- Web of schemas by/for the community

<https://bit.ly/dundee-pledge-v01>



Dundee Pledge

May 29, 2024

Introduction

Over the past several years, the interest in a mechanism for achieving common metadata specifications has grown considerably. A history of various efforts within our community can be read under the background section. Rather than attempting "Yet Another Metadata Specification", here the undersigned propose an alternative mechanism.

This is not a new project, or specification, or framework. It does not define a namespace or a software artifact of any kind. Instead, it is a set of tenets which community members can state their intention to follow. These are likely a bit more than just "best practices". The intent is that by following a sufficient number of them will enable specifications and software produced by each group to interoperate. We pledge to attempt just that.

Tenets

MULTI-MINIMAL

Though we affirm that different communities may want to define distinct "minimal metadata specifications", we discourage at this time the community focusing on this. Rather, having communities work together to include "subsetting" or "profile" information to be maximally inclusive will help to provide a stronger, richer set of metadata specifications.

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