Agency for Science, Technology and Research
SINGAPORE

Bioinformatics Institute (BII)

Protein Sequence Analysis

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Senior Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
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CHEW Yi Hong

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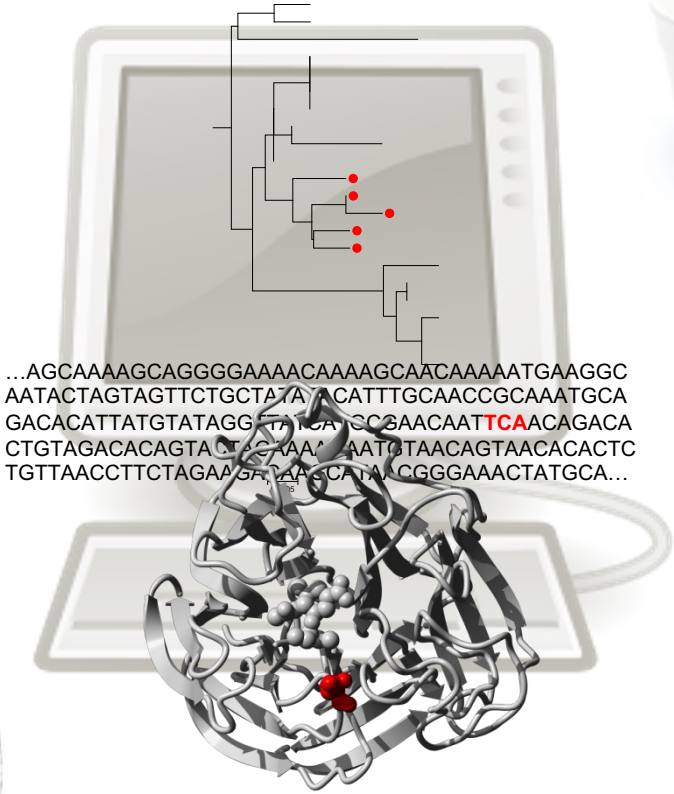
CREATING GROWTH, ENHANCING LIVES

Viruses

Computational Sequence and Structure Analysis



Food flavors

Drugs

Human variation

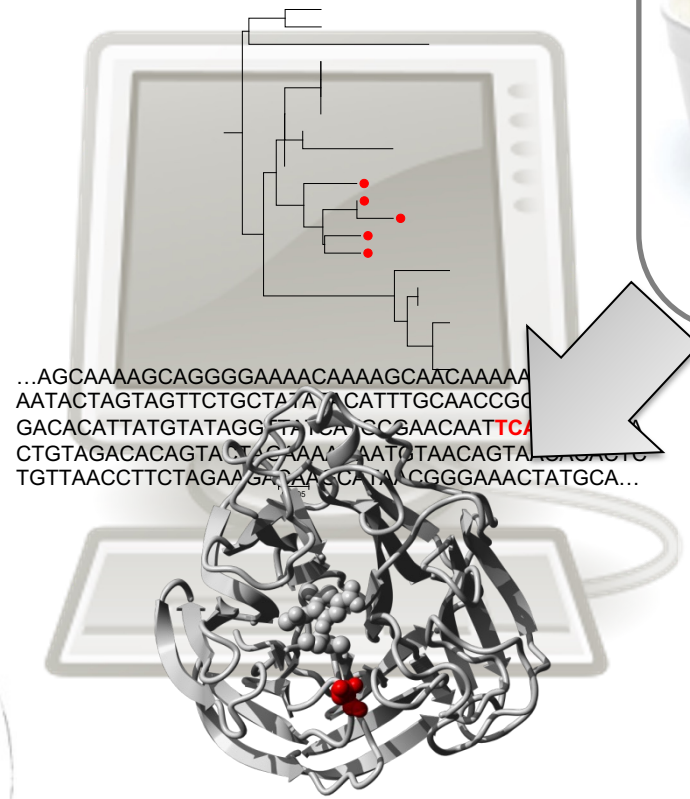
We are working at the interface between sequence and structure

Product Safety

CREATING GROWTH, ENHANCING LIVES

Viruses

Computational Sequence and Structure Analysis



Food flavors

Nestlé

FERRERO

Drugs

gsk

Pfizer

MSD

Human variation

Enzymes can be used to naturally produce food flavours and fragrances but also drugs!

Product Safety

AI (CNN) prediction of mutation effects on enzyme function

CREATING GROWTH, ENHANCING LIVES

PHARMA INNOVATION PROGRAMME SINGAPORE (PIPS)

Kinetics

EVB Model

Binding

Docking scores

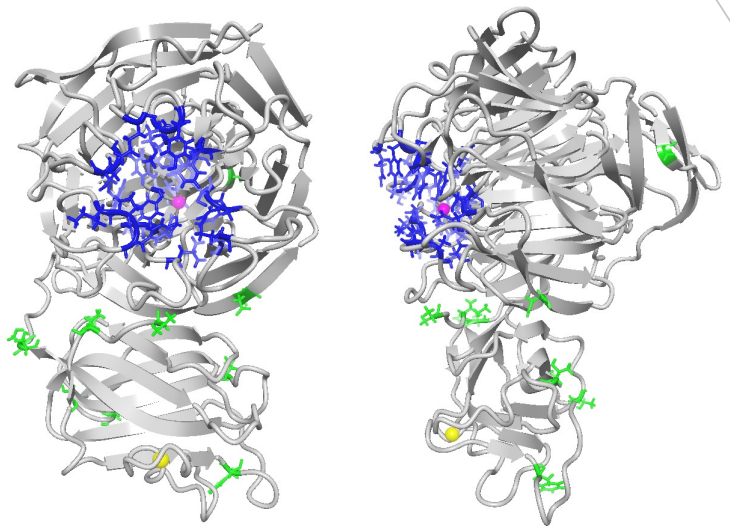
Binding free energy

r=0.9

Stability

Yasara + FoldX vs Rosetta

8 of 12 correct predictions of increased stability (incl. top 3)



Aggregation

Tango

Waltz

1 predicted mutation set increases solubility 2-fold

Allostery

Allosigma

7 of 14 correct predictions of long range binding effect

Sequence Conservation

SIFT

Shannon entropy

Jump from 11% good sites to 67% good sites

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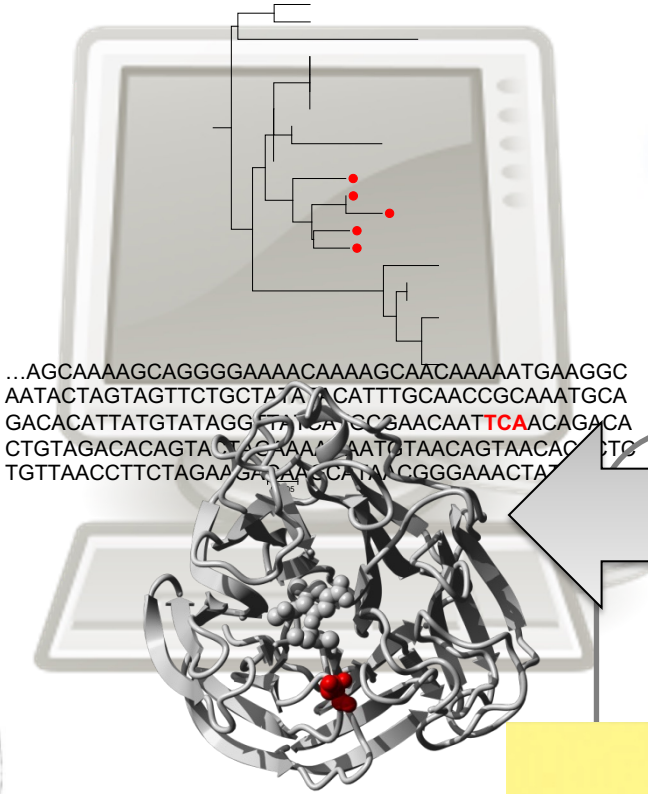

Food flavors

Drugs

Human variation

Product safety

Proteins can cause allergy if similar to other allergens.

Singapore Food Agency

Vachi, Minh

Bioinformatics Institute
BII

Computational prediction of protein allergenicity: from viruses to shampoo and food safety

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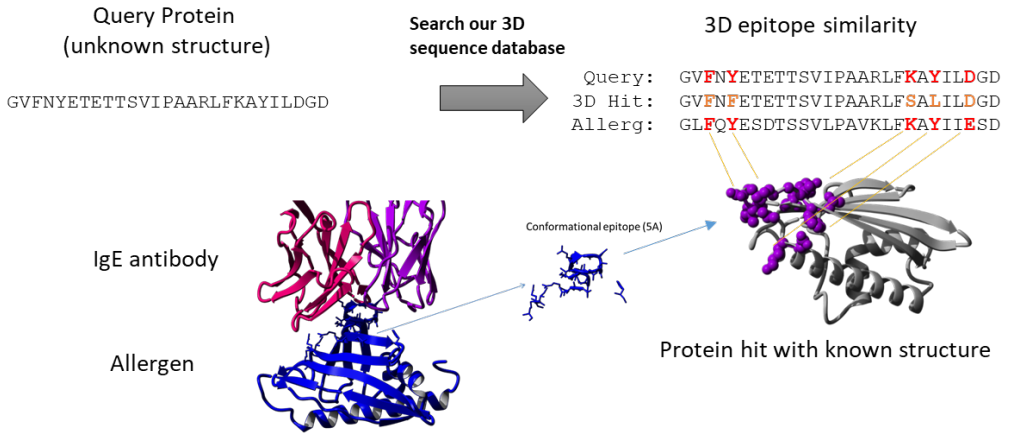
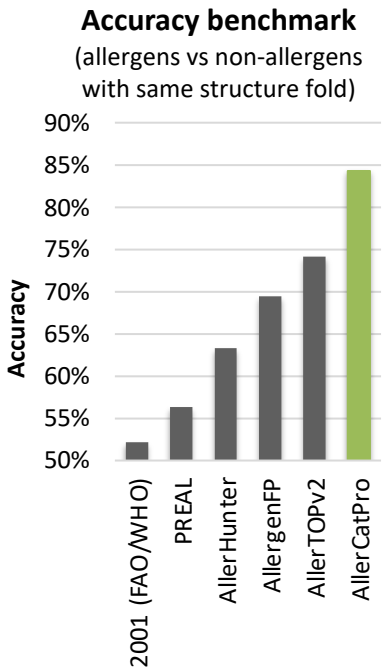
Path to new impacts:

- Started with flu antibody binding modelling expertise
- New industry application of similar method applied to antibody binding of allergens in consumer care products
- New area of application in food safety assessment





AllerCatPro
predicts if a protein is similar to known allergens

The impact:

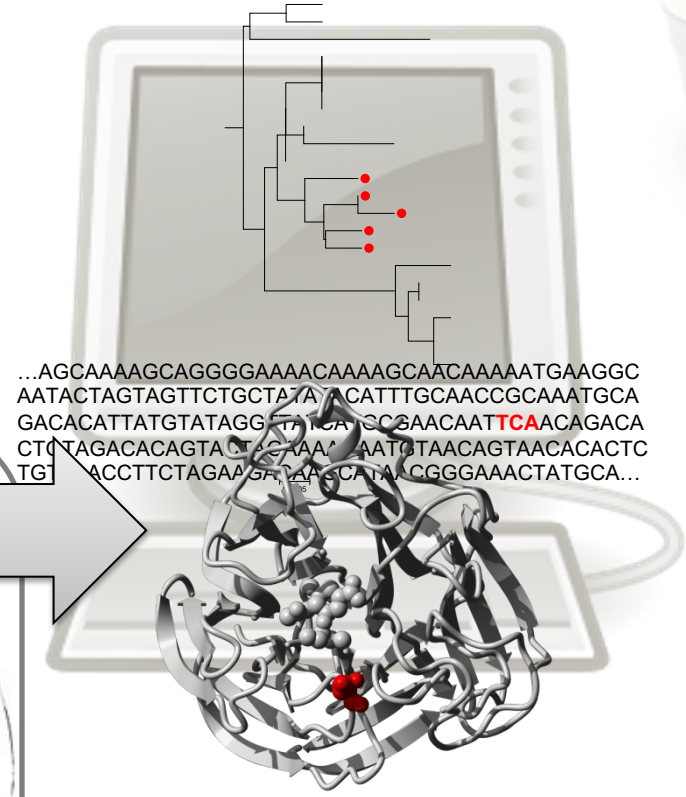
- ✓ Industry:
  - ✓ 4 RCAs long-term work with P&G for co-development
  - ✓ active use by P&G in product development safety pipeline
  - ✓ Gluten extension work with The Coca Cola Company
- ✓ Supporting SG 30-by-30 goal by providing tool to assess risk of alternative/novel protein sources for food
  - ✓ Project with CSIRO/JCU on seafood allergy and risk of insect proteins as food source
  - ✓ Consulting for Singapore Food Agency for ongoing safety assessments in expert panel

P&G
The Coca-Cola Company
CSIRO
Singapore Food Agency

CREATING GROWTH, ENHANCING LIVES

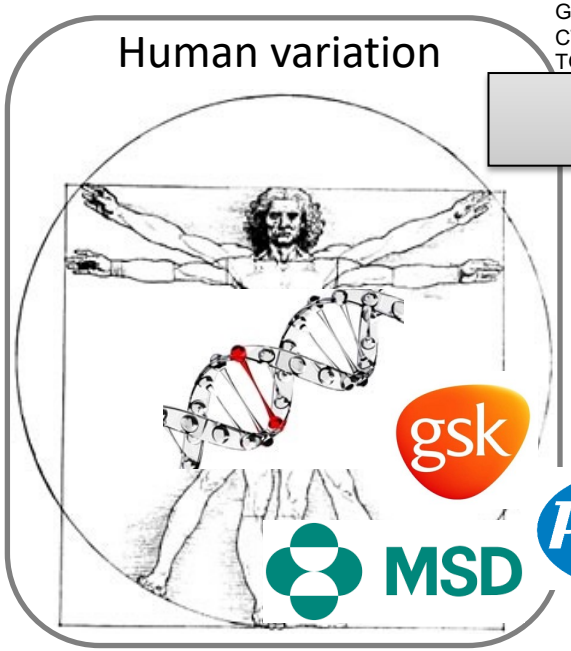
Viruses

Computational Sequence and Structure Analysis



Food flavors

Human variation



GIS

Individual mutations can cause disease or affect drug efficacy

Product Safety

Ashar, Dimitar, Ken
Chandra, Sebastian

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BII
Genome Institute of Singapore
GIS

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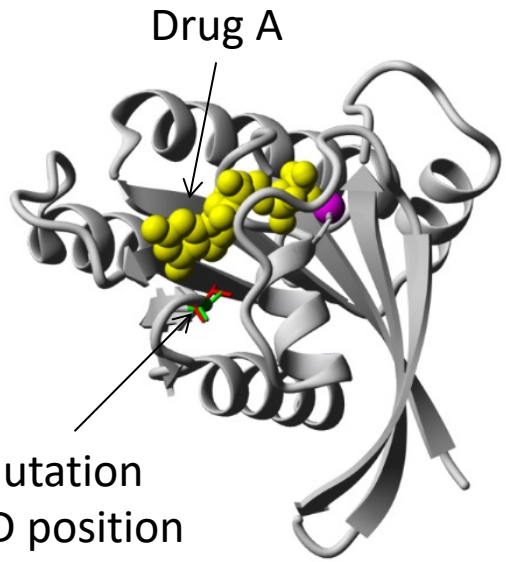
SNPdrug3D database for Precision Medicine

…AGCAAAAGCAGGGGAAAACAAAAGCAA
CAAAAATGAAGGCAATACTAGTAGTTCTG
CTATATACATTTGCAACCGCAAATGCAGA
CACATTATGTATAGGTTATCATGCGAACAA
TTCAACAGACACTGTAGACACAGTACTAG
AAAAGAATGTAACAGTAACACACTCTGTTA
ACCTTCTAGAAGACAAGCATAACGGGAAA
CTATGCA…

Sequence SNP/variant X



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Doctor_with_Patient_Cartoon.svg

User	Value
Scientist	SNP prioritization VUS annotation
Clinician scientist	SNP prioritization VUS annotation Known and new PGx SNPs
Clinician	Known PGx SNPs

Ashar

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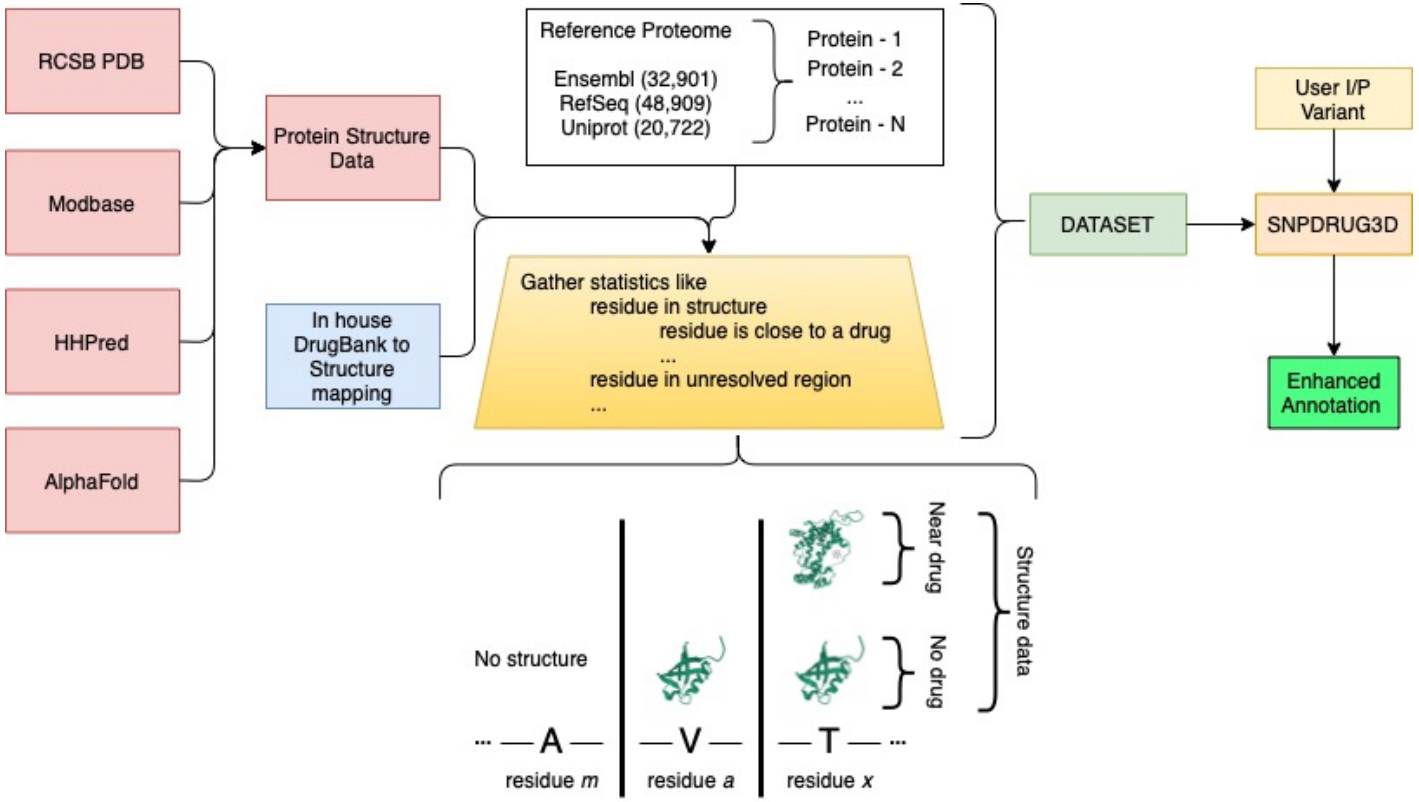
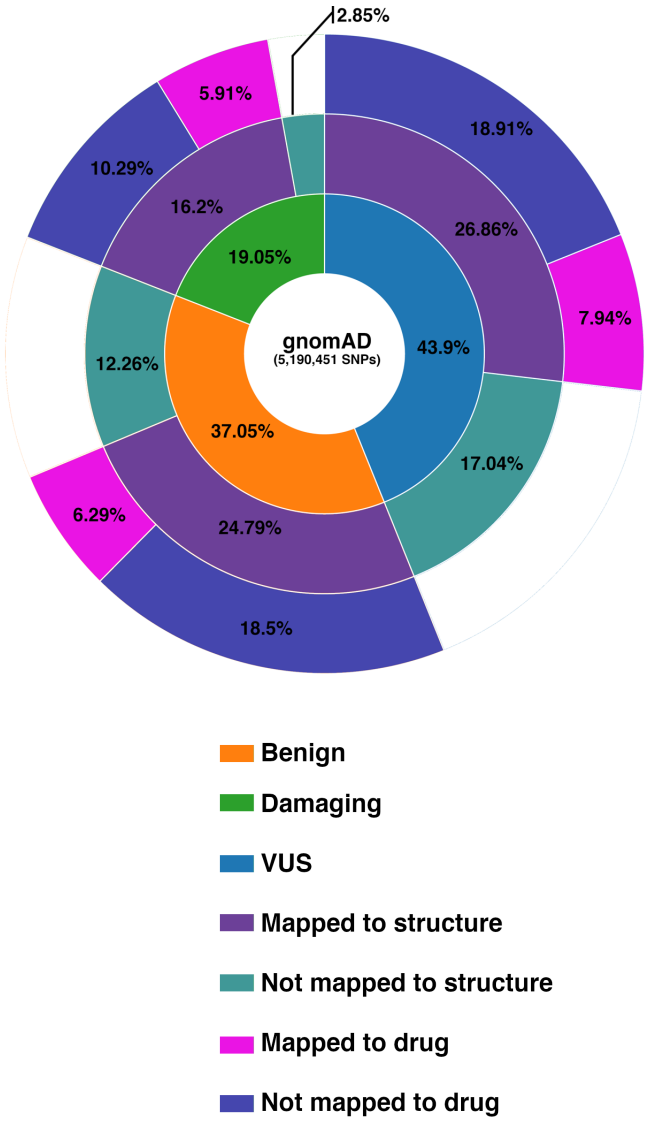
SNPdrug3D database for Precision Medicine





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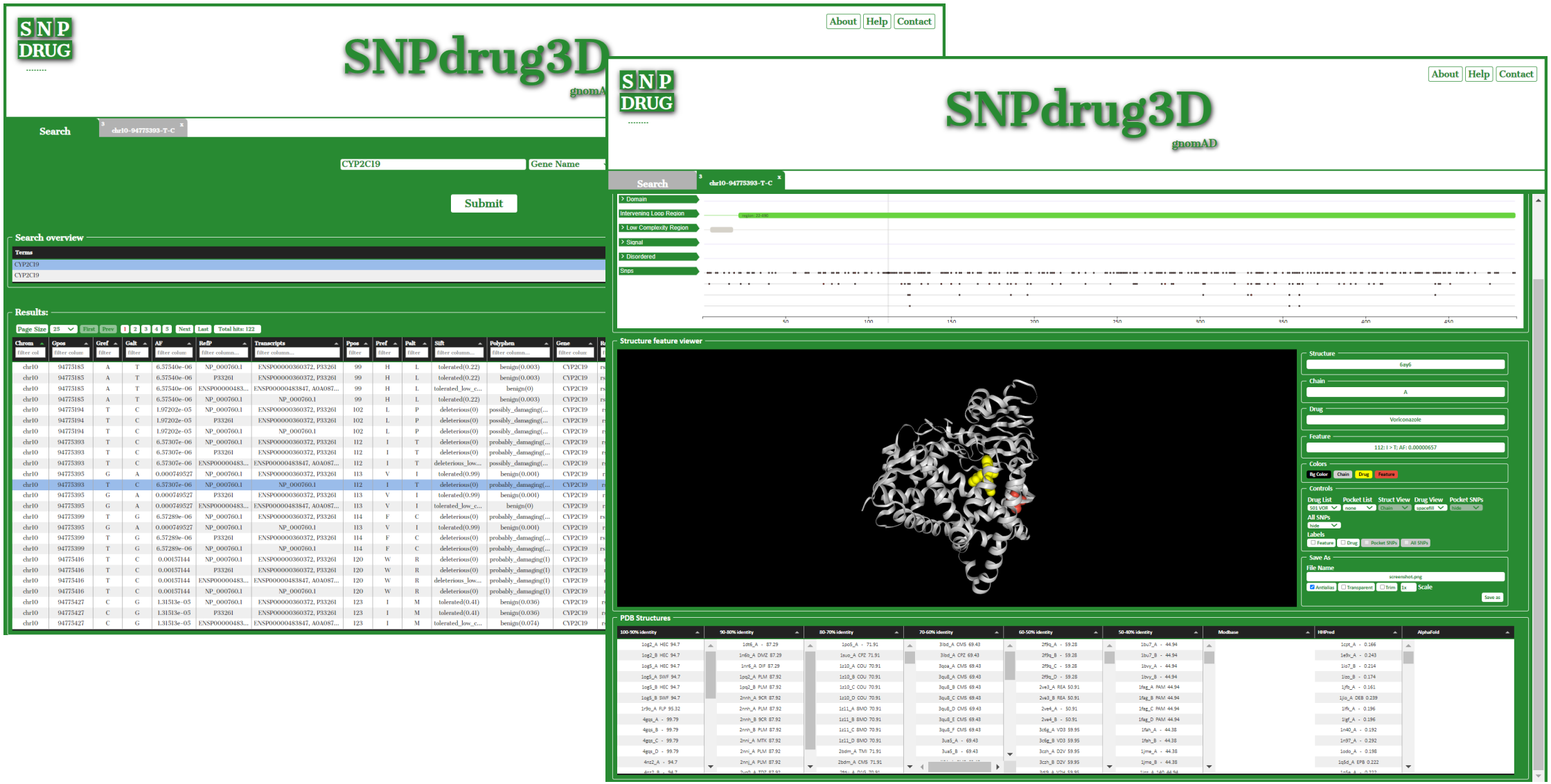
Dimitar

SNPdrug3D database for Precision Medicine



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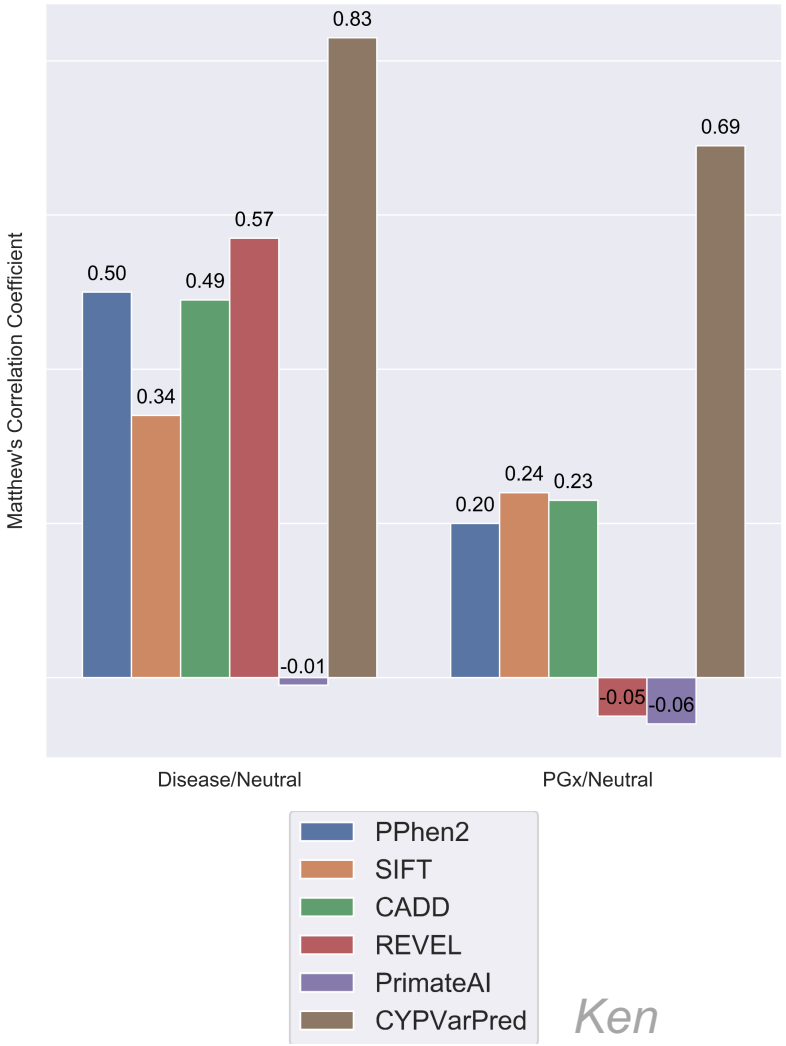
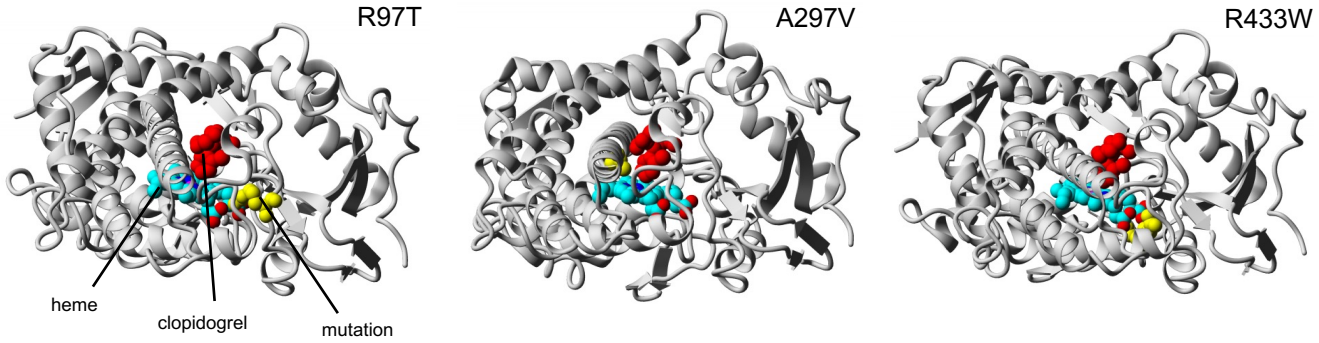
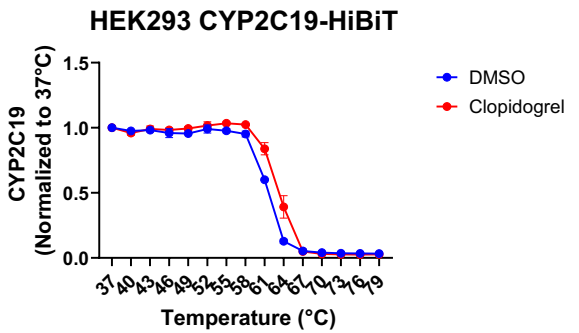
SNPdrug3D database for Precision Medicine

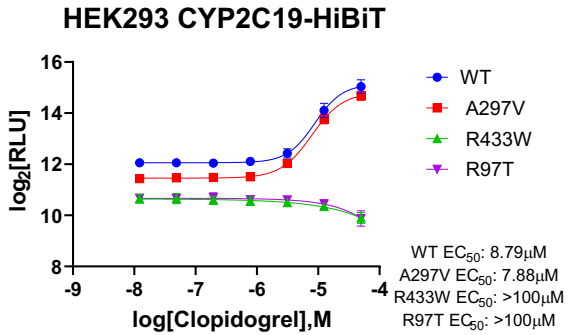


Ken

Drug metabolizing enzyme (CYP2C19)







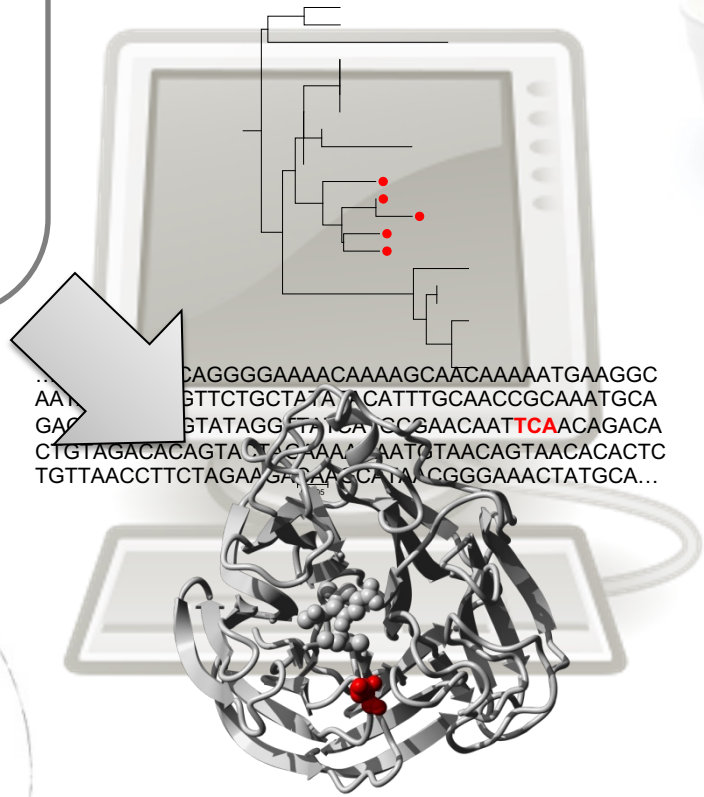
Chris Tan team

CREATING GROWTH, ENHANCING LIVES

GIS

Viruses

Computational Sequence and Structure Analysis



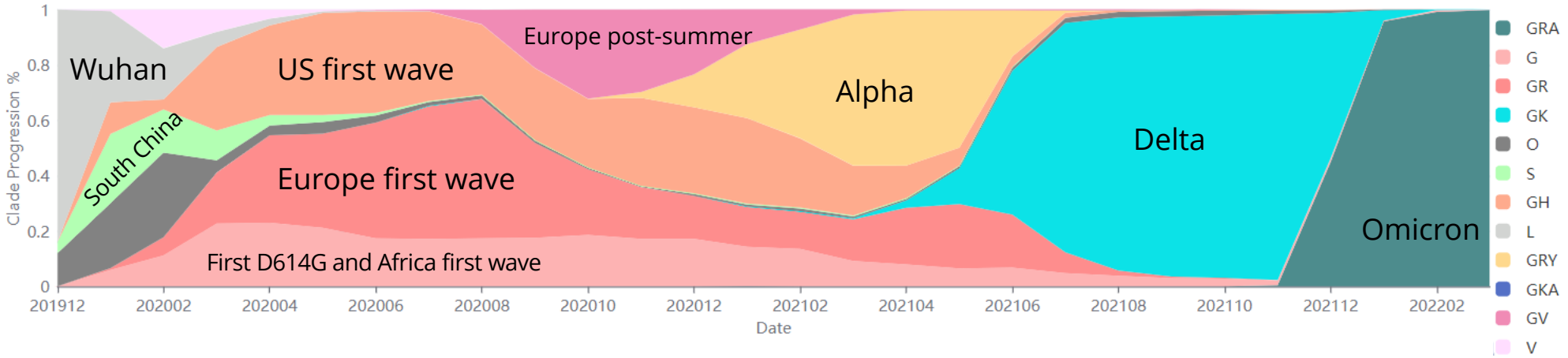
Food flavors

Drugs

Human variation

Product Safety

Long history of flu work but COVID put us into the spotlight



Our BII team is part of the history of this pandemic and a pillar of GISAID and in Singapore's COVID response

Curation: Shruti, Yi Hong, Meera *Annotation, tools, reports:* Raphael, Yani, Joses, Sandy, Dimitar, Ken

POWERING DISCOVERIES

Shruti, Yi Hong, Meera

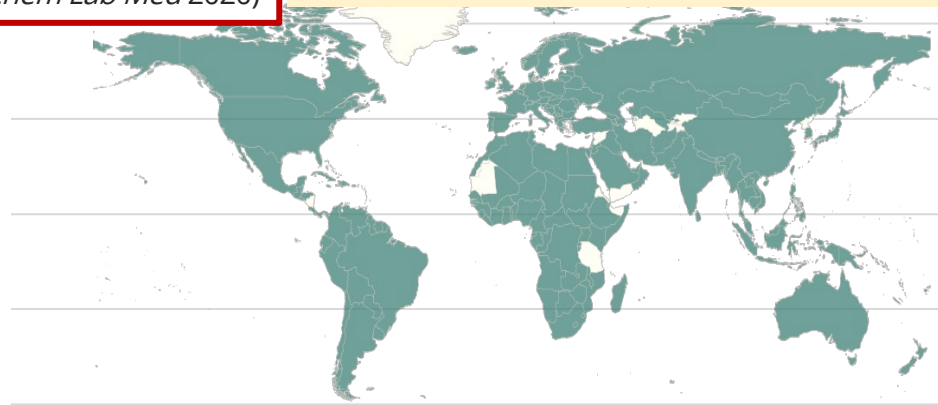
Real-time genomic data sharing during the COVID-19 Pandemic

GISAID's transparent sharing mechanism is favored over anonymous sharing via public-domain

enabled first vaccines (Polack et al *N Engl J Med* 2020)
enabled first diagnostic tests (Bohn et al *Clin Chem Lab Med* 2020)

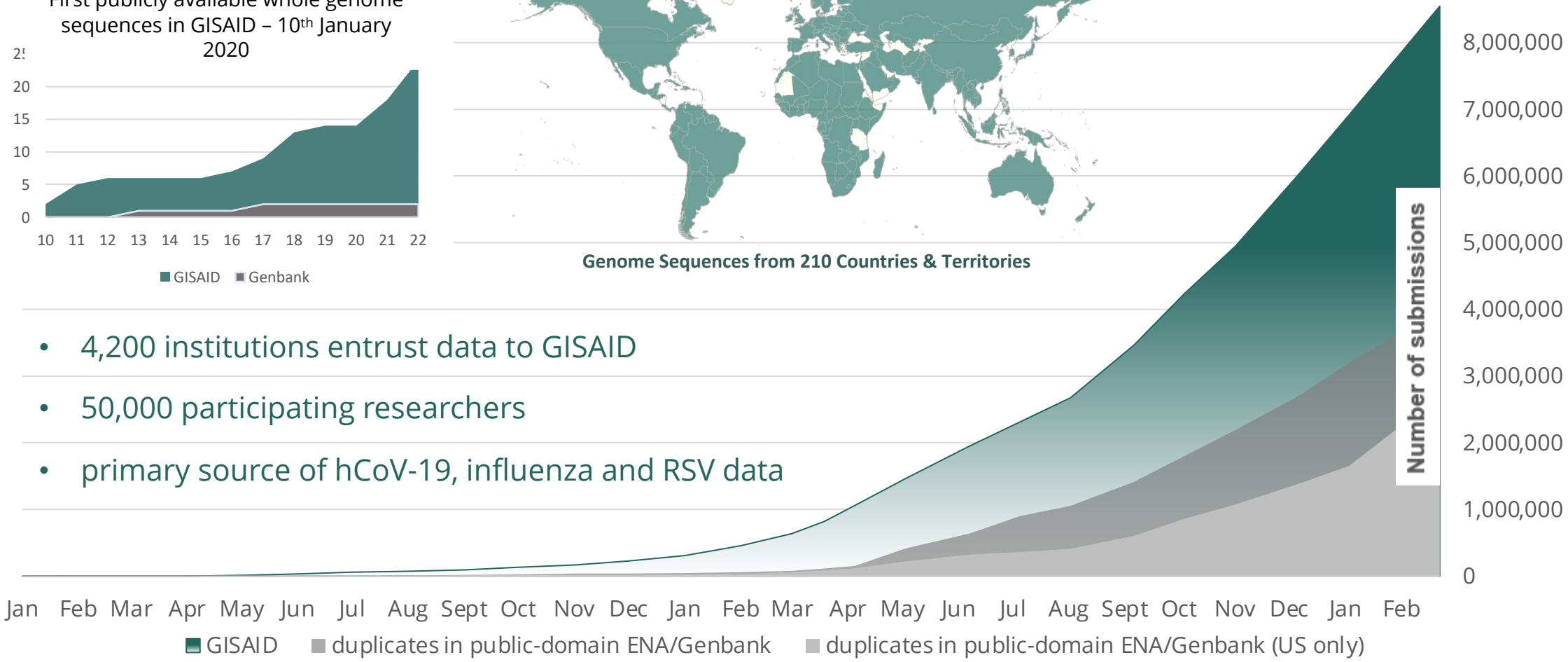
In SG: Contributed to Fortitude and Resolute kits

First publicly available whole genome sequences in GISAID – 10th January 2020



Genome Sequences from 210 Countries & Territories

- 4,200 institutions entrust data to GISAID
- 50,000 participating researchers
- primary source of hCoV-19, influenza and RSV data



BII with help from GIS has started and complemented the global team that curated all genomes on GISAID since day 1 and every single genome goes through our servers for error checking and mutation annotation

POWERING DISCOVERIES

Our tool enables real-time primer tracking for Dx

PrimerChecker

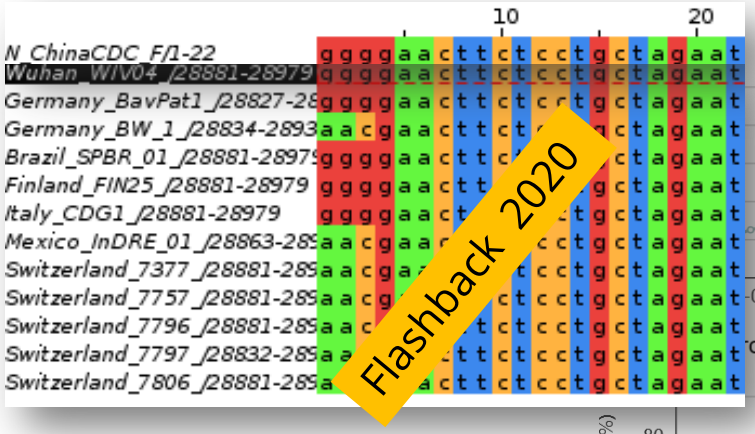
Basic Filters

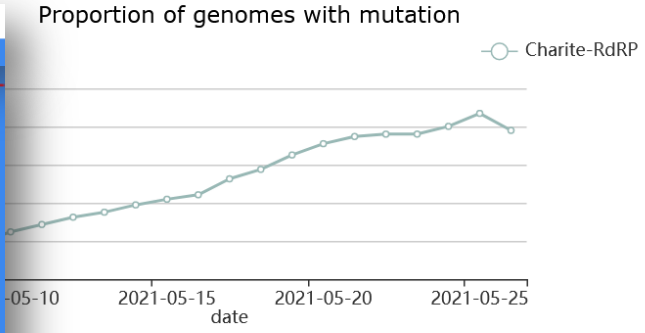
Primers: Charite-RdRP ×

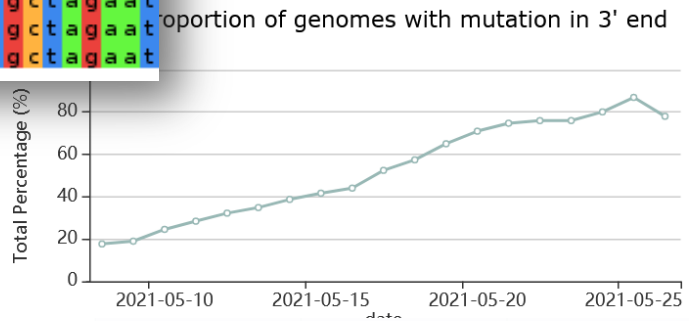
Primer Type: Specify Type

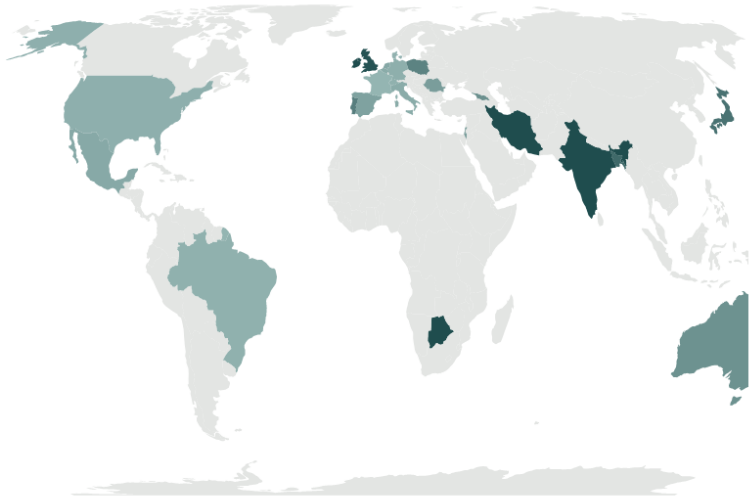
Countries: Filter Countries

More Settings









Download Map Data

E.g. the team alerted for mismatches in China CDC N and Charite RdRP primers when they emerged

Charite-RdRP	EPI_ISL_1807318	hCoV-19/Australia /ACT0100/2021	GTGAAATGGTCATGTGTGGCGG / GTGAAATGGTCATGTGTGGCAG	fwd
Charite-RdRP	EPI_ISL_2107499	hCoV-19/Australia /NSW-R0238/2021	GTGAAATGGTCATGTGTGGCGG / GTGAAATGGTCATGTGTGGCAG	fwd

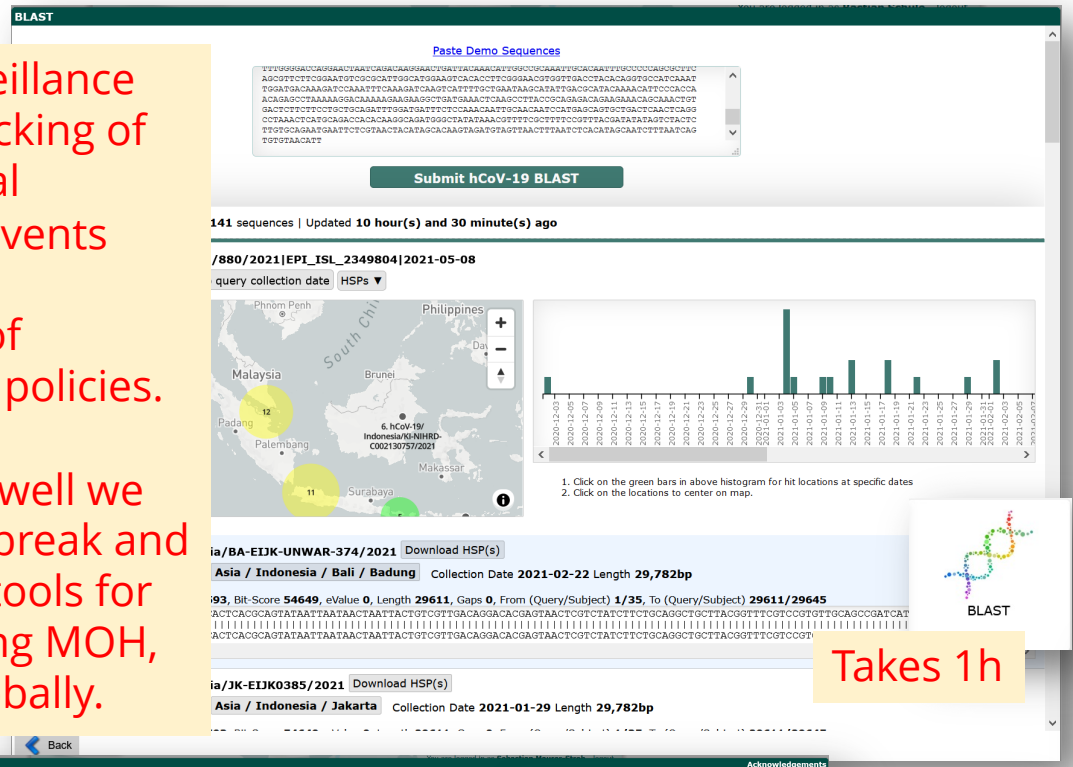
POWERING DISCOVERIES

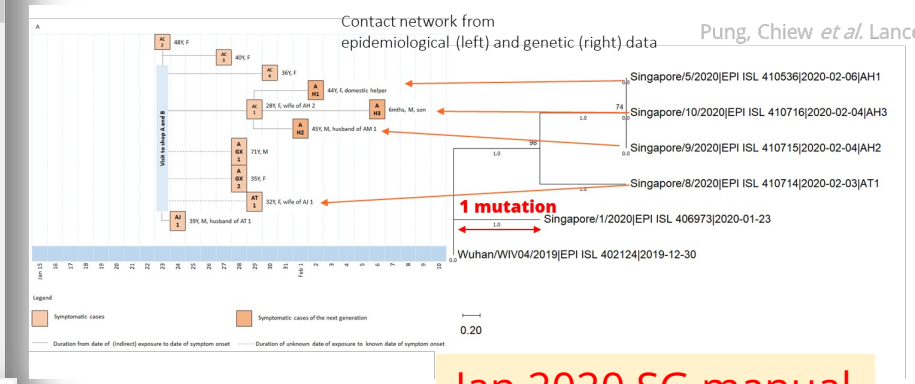
Expertise and tools supporting contact tracing

Sandy

Genomic surveillance also allows tracking of global and local transmission events which informs effectiveness of measures and policies.

It can tell how well we control an outbreak and BII is building tools for that. Supporting MOH, ASEAN and globally.

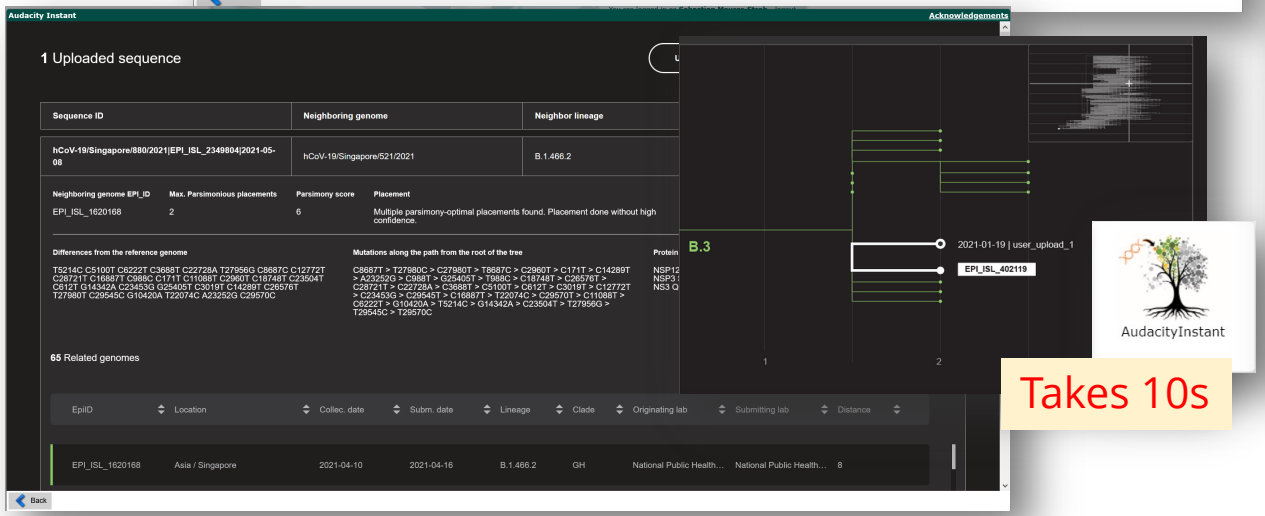




Jan 2020 SG manual

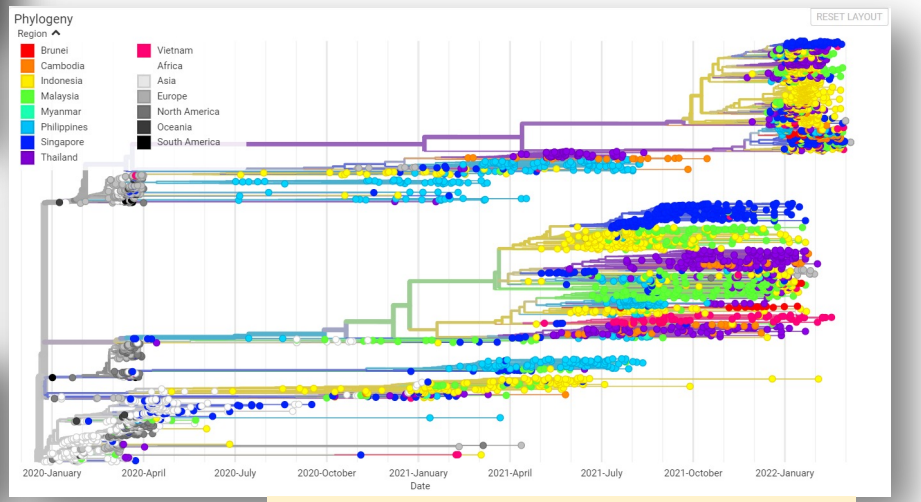
BLAST

Takes 1h



AudacityInstant

Takes 10s



Jan 2022 ASEAN automated

POWERING DISCOVERIES

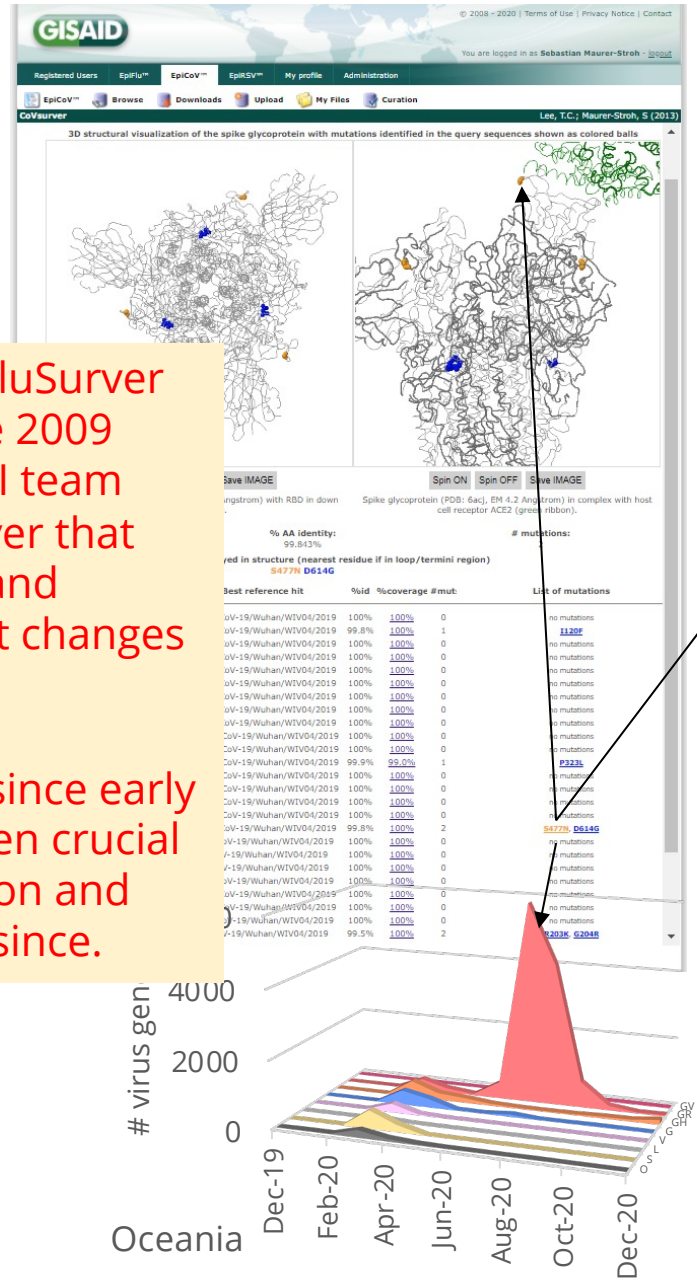
CoVsurver real-time surveillance for mutations that can affect vaccines etc.

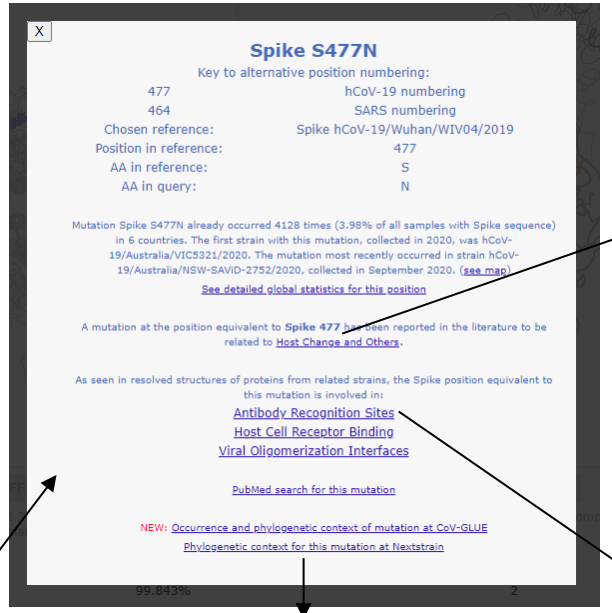
Raphael

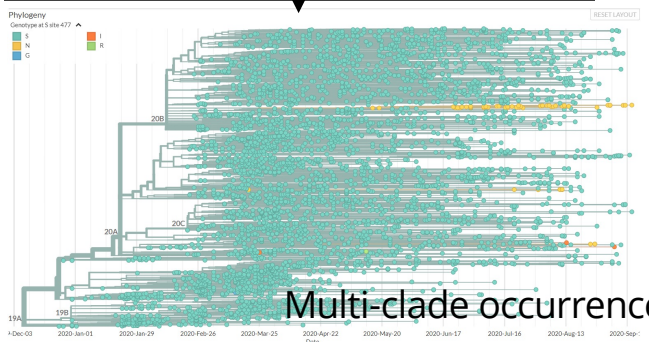
POWERING DISCOVERIES

Building on the FluSurver success since the 2009 pandemic, the BII team built the CoVsurver that can help to find and interpret relevant changes in the virus.

The tool is used since early 2020 and has been crucial for GISAID curation and annotation ever since.







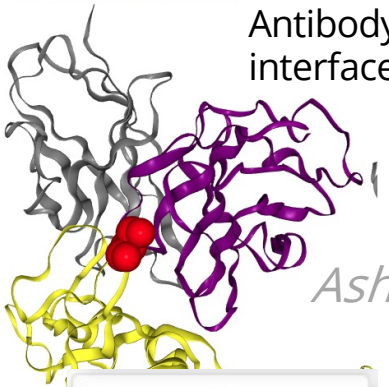
Multi-clade occurrence

Protein: Spike
Coronavirus type: Yeast SARS-CoV-2 (2019)
Mutation (as in paper): S477N
neutral AA: S
neg. eff. AA: N
Effect: Host Change

Receptor binding

Comment:
In a deep mutational scanning experiment that expresses Spike RBD in a yeast-display platform, S477N mildly increases the binding to ACE2 (apparent dissociation constant delta-log10 value: 0.06)
Literature reference
(Mutation S477N in the paper is at an equivalent position of the mutation in your query)

Screenshot
Antibody interaction: The mutation position (red atoms) corresponds to position 477 on viral chain E (yellow backbone) of protein entry 6xcn, originating from Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 and with a label of Spike glycoprotein. The mutation is within 6 A from antibody chain F (purple backbone).

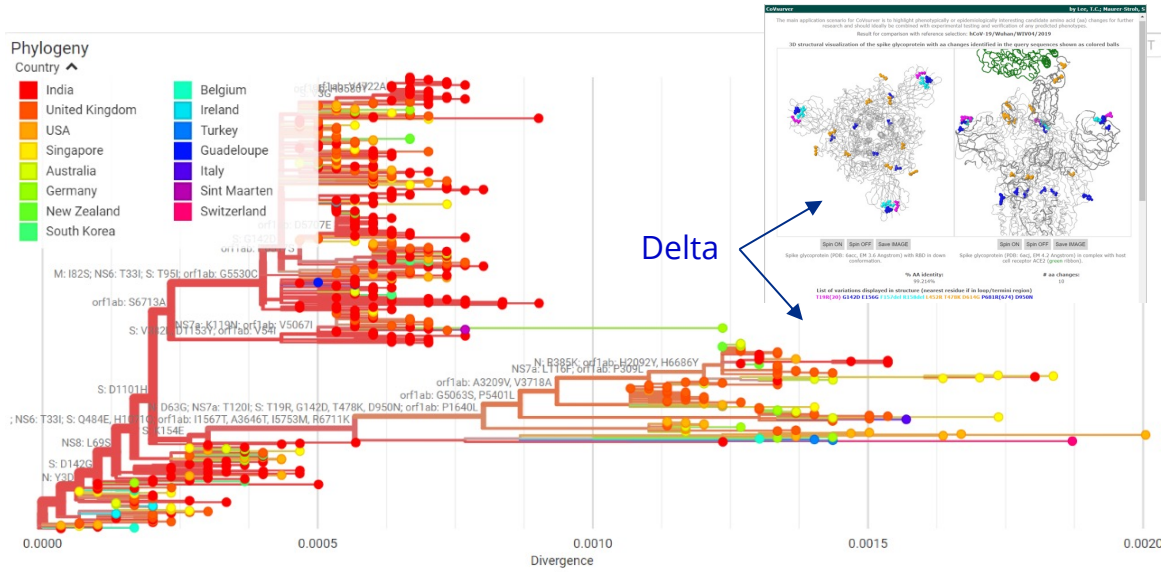


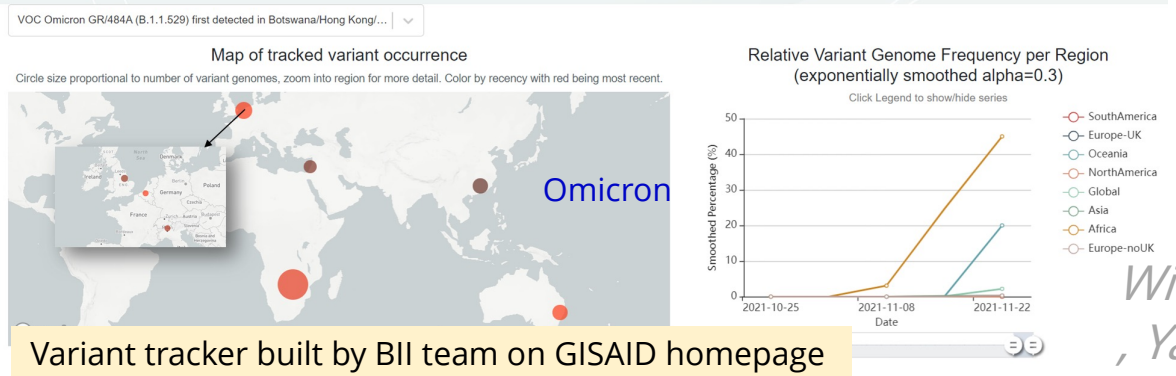
Antibody interface

Ashar

1,680 variant phenotype annotations from literature plus 3,826 3D interactions

Example for early phase of Delta and Omicron





Variant tracker built by BII team on GISAID homepage

Winston, Yani, Raphael

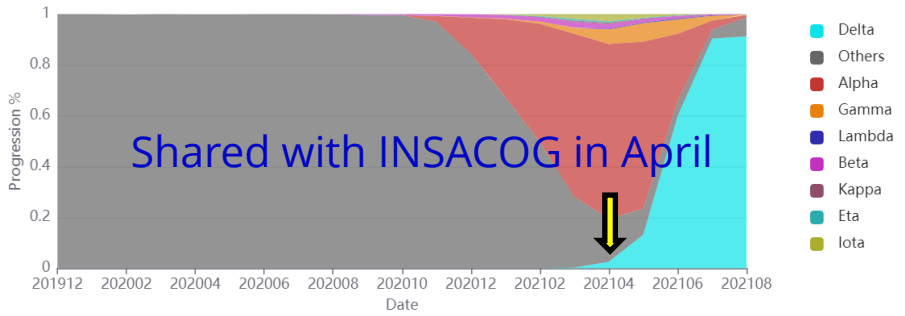
Most recent reported occurrences in different countries

Country	Strain Name	Collection Date
Australia	hCoV-19/Australia/NSW-RPAH-1933/2021	2021-11-27
Belgium	hCoV-19/Belgium/rega-20174/2021	2021-11-24
Botswana	hCoV-19/Botswana/R43B70_BHP_4021000195/2021	2021-11-23
South Africa	hCoV-19/South Africa/CERI-KRISP-K032284/2021	2021-11-23
Italy	hCoV-19/Italy/LOM-Sacco_Var_T96348/2021	2021-11-22
United Kingdom	hCoV-19/England/MILK-2B67570/2021	2021-11-21
Israel	hCoV-19/Israel/SMC-7022800/2021	2021-11-20
Hong Kong	hCoV-19/Hong Kong/VM21045145/2021	2021-11-18

Country Submission Count

Country	Total #GR/484A (B.1.1.529)	#GR/484A (B.1.1.529) in past 4 weeks	%GR/484A (B.1.1.529) in past 4 weeks
South Africa	99	99	69.7
Botswana	19	19	18.6
Australia	2	2	0.1
Hong Kong	2	2	8.3
Italy	1	1	0.0
United Kingdom	1	1	0.0
Belgium	1	1	0.1
Israel	1	1	0.1

Flashback Apr 2021



Our team saw relevant changes in strains in India and alerted INSACOG and SG research teams before the strain exploded (it later got named Delta)

Flashback Nov 2021

South African researchers worked with GISAID and BII to characterize and track Omicron

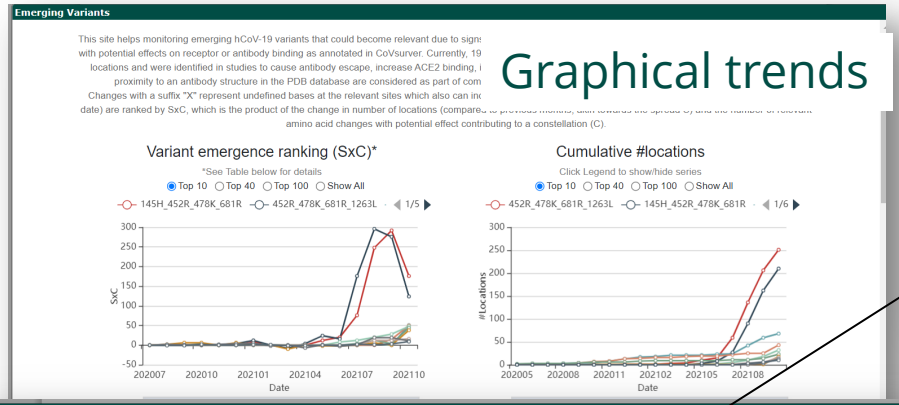
BII was also part of WHO taskforce for the variant naming scheme.

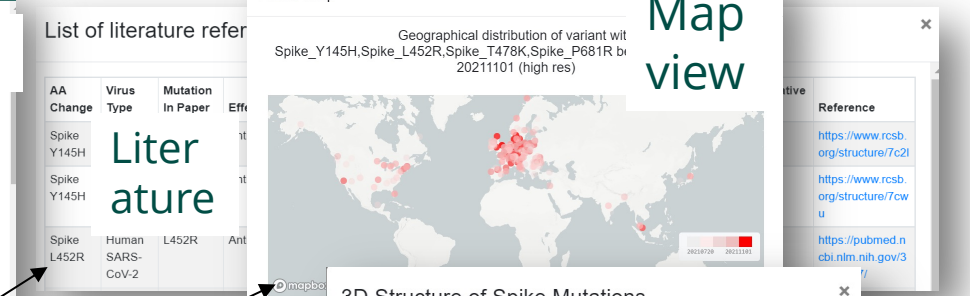
POWERING DISCOVERIES

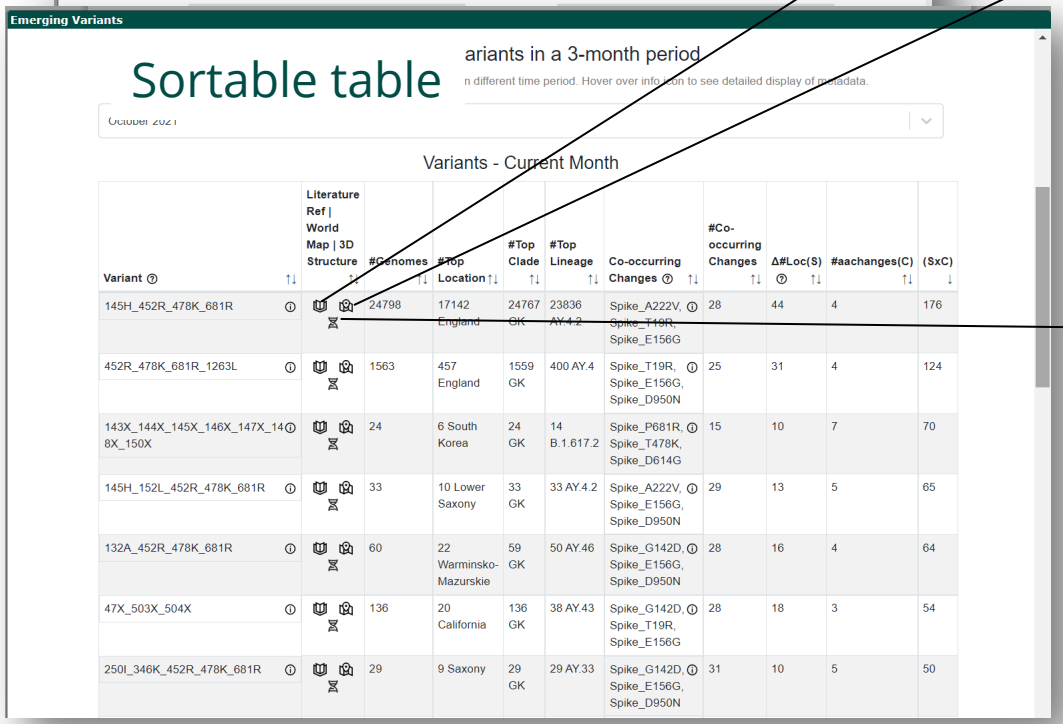
Live dashboard for choosing which emerging variants to investigate

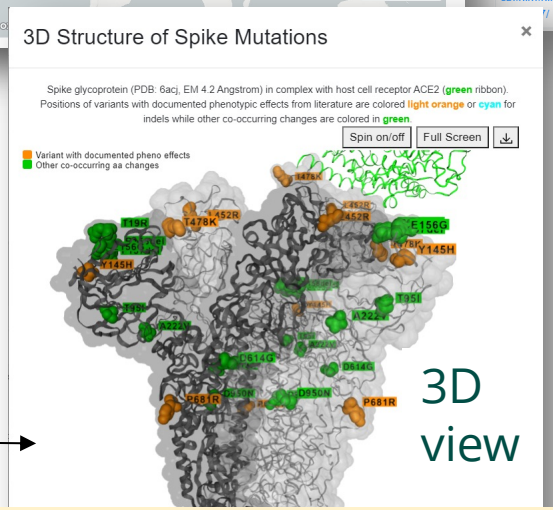
Raphael , Yani, Joses

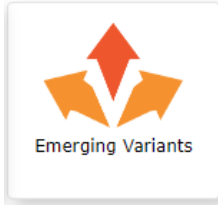
- Fast spread (increase in observed locations)
- Number of relevant spike changes (with experimentally known effect or known Ab site)











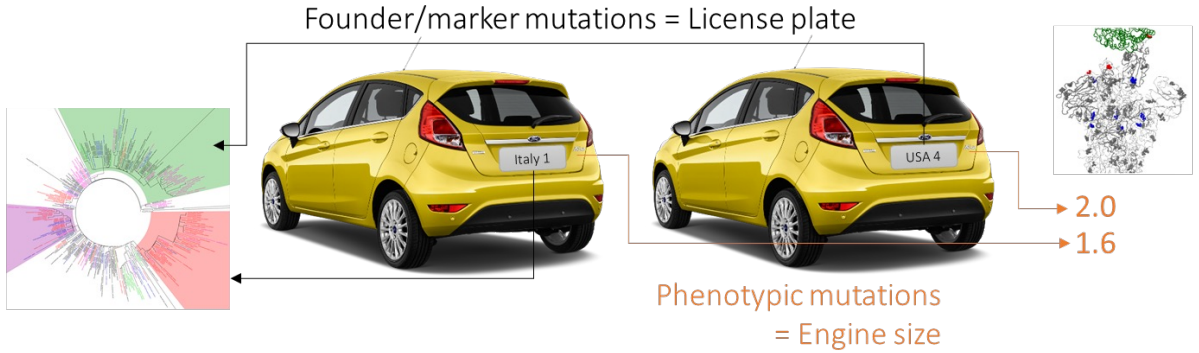
Combining relevant changes found by CoVsurver with GISAID real-time genome counts across the world allows to track and find **Emerging Variants**.

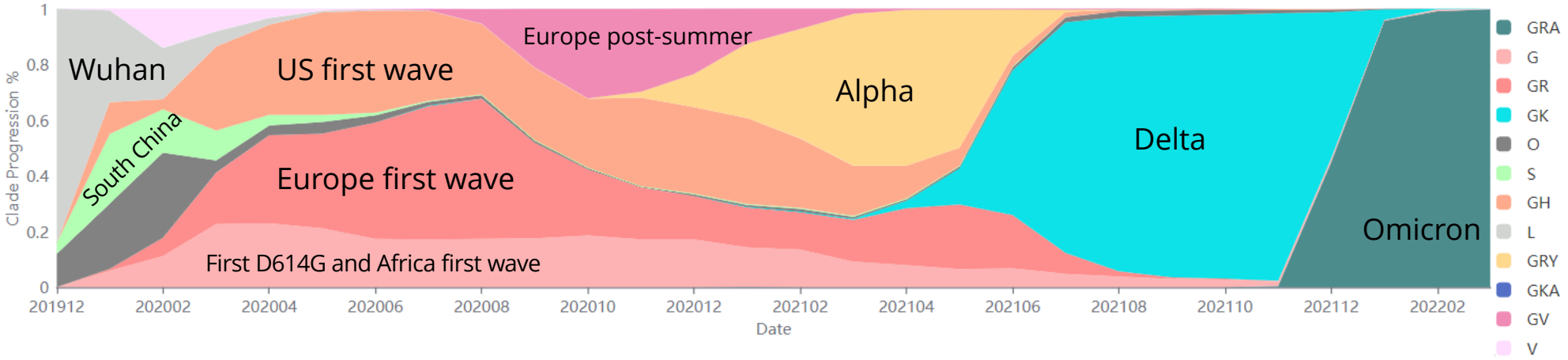
This informs CEPI, UKHSA and WHO on new trends.

POWERING DISCOVERIES

Conclusion

Our A*STAR team has worked day and night for over 2 years as pillar of GISAID and in Singapore's COVID response

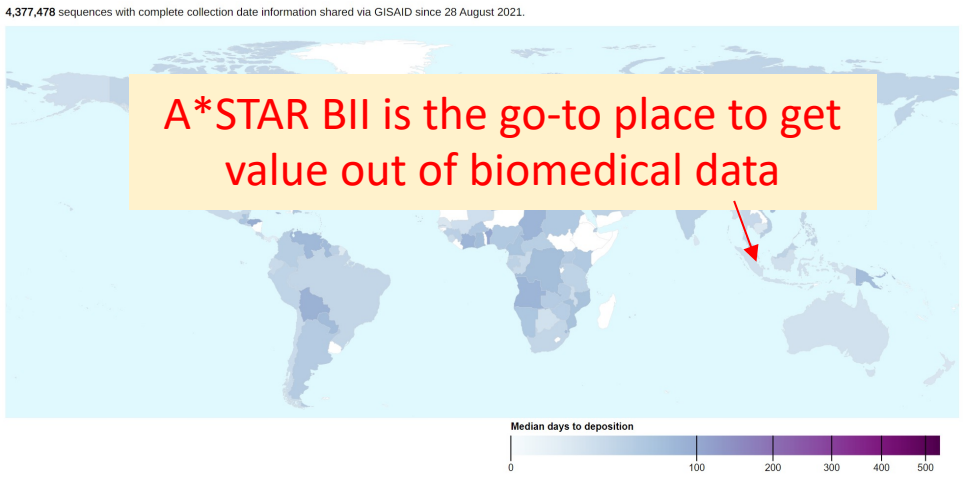




GISAID is a global data science initiative that involves public-private partnerships made possible by the GISAID community

We gratefully acknowledge all data contributors, i.e. the Authors and their Originating laboratories responsible for obtaining the specimens, and their Submitting laboratories for generating the genetic sequence and metadata and sharing via the GISAID Initiative, on which this research is based.

Thank You



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