

# Sharing without Sharing – Privacy-Conscious Decentralized Data Analytics

Prof. Jean-Pierre Hubaux (EPFL)

With gratitude to all the great colleagues and co-workers I have the privilege to collaborate with

7 October 2021

# Use case for Swiss Personalized Oncology Project: federated analytics platform for research and molecular tumor board

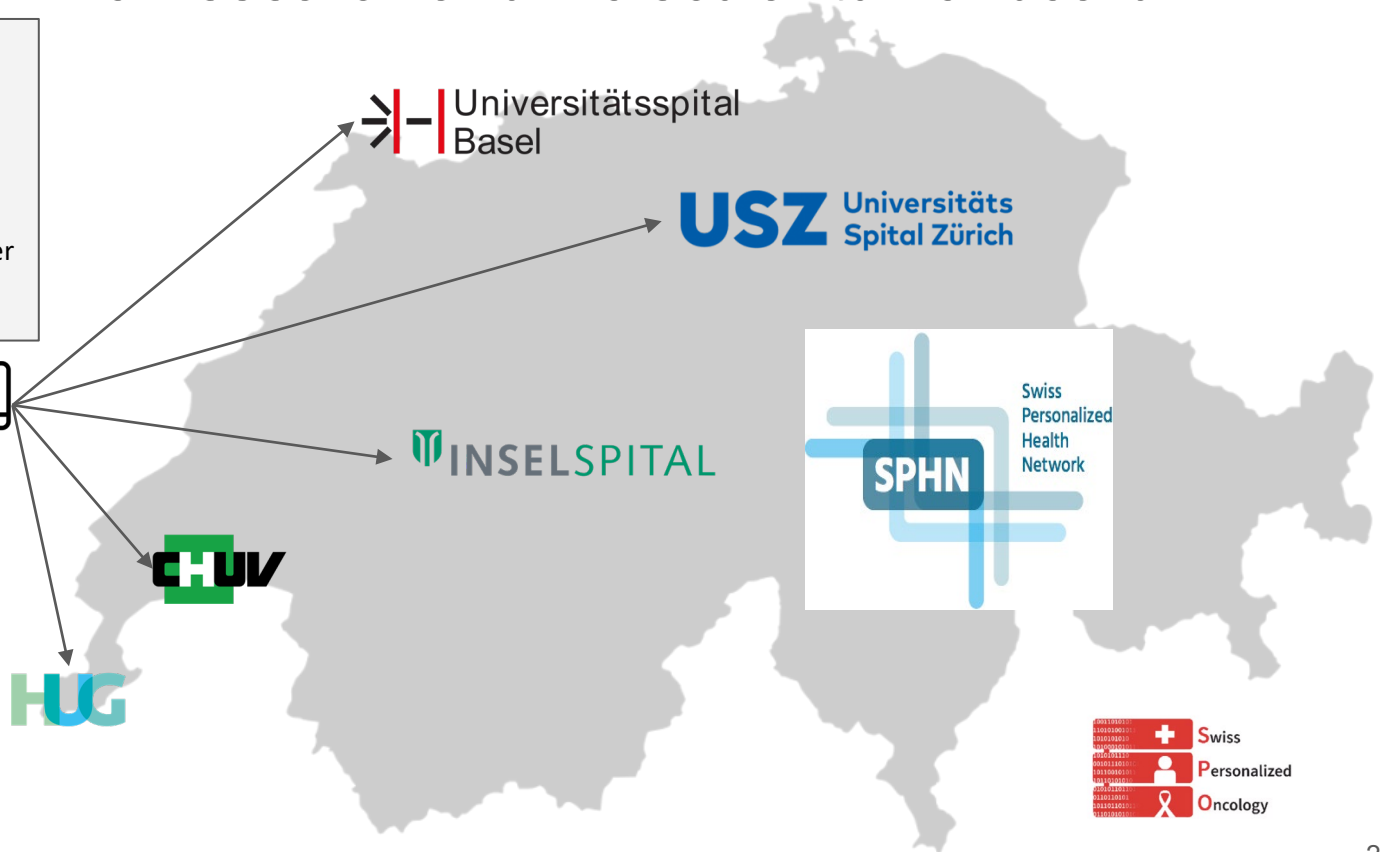
**Q1:** How many adult cancer patients consenting on reuse of routine data for research with diagnosis of a malignancy on or after 1st January 2015, mutations in BRAF gene and under anti-PD-1 are there?

**Explore**



**Q2:** Among these patients, what is the overall survival for patients with and without a mutation on position 600 of the BRAF gene?

**Analysis**



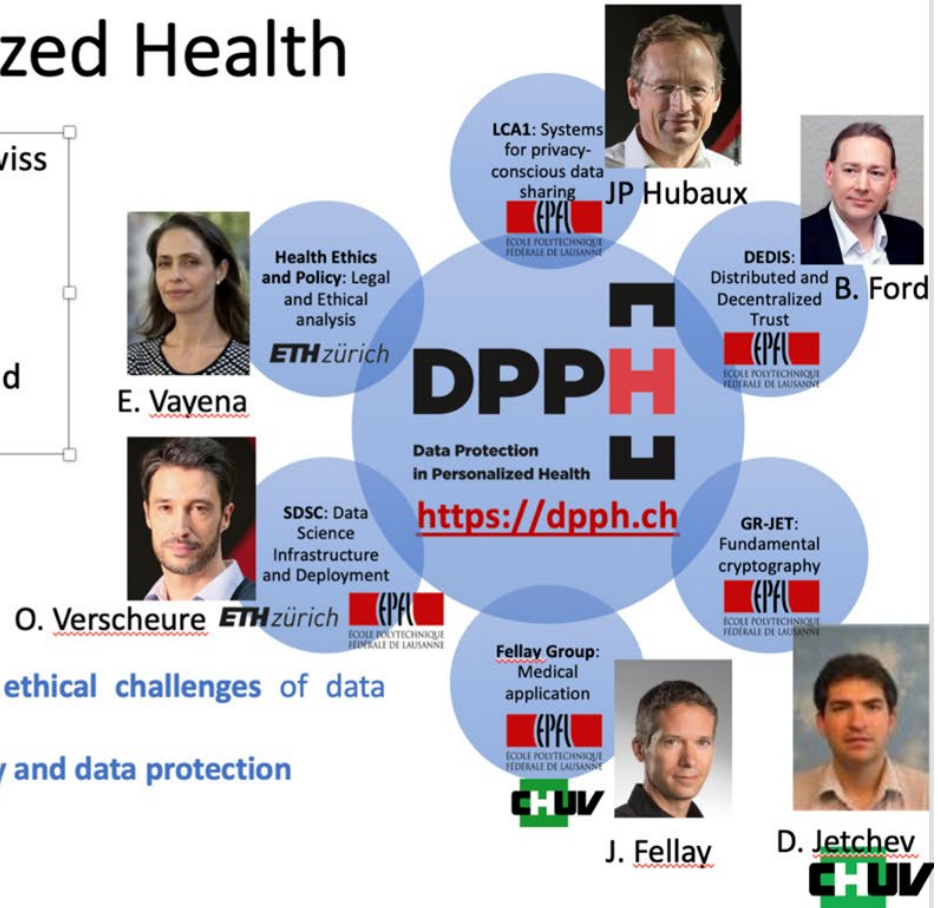
# DPPH – Data Protection in Personalized Health

- 5 research groups across the ETH domain + SDSC (Swiss Data Science Center)
- Funding: 3 Millions CHFrs
- Duration: 3 years (4/2018 - 12/2021)
- Funding Program: ETH PHRT (Personalized Health and Related Technologies)



## Project goals:

- Address the main **privacy, security, scalability, and ethical challenges** of data sharing for enabling effective P4 medicine
- Define an optimal **balance between usability, scalability and data protection**
- Deploy an appropriate set of **computing tools**



# DPPH/MedCo - A highly interdisciplinary team

## Core team

### Leadership team



Prof. JP Hubaux  
(Head of LDS, EPFL)



Dr. Juan Troncoso  
(Senior researcher  
LDS, EPFL)



Mickael Misbach  
(Lead SW architect  
LDS, EPFL)



Nicolas Rosat  
(Deputy CIO, CHUV)



Dr. JL Raisaro  
(Data Science Lead, CHUV)

### Development team



Dr. Francesco Marino  
(Senior SW developer, LDS)



Joao Sa  
(SW developer, LDS)

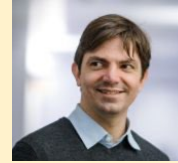


Jules Fasquelle  
(SW developer, CHUV)

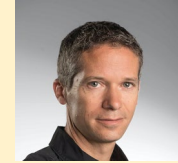


Nicolas Freundler  
(SW developer, CHUV)

## Hospital ambassadors



Prof. Alexandre Leichtle  
(Inselspital)



Prof. Jacques Fellay  
(CHUV/EPFL)



Dr. David Cavin  
(HUG)



Solon Barraclough  
(HUG)

## SPO ambassadors



Prof. Olivier Michielin  
(CHUV)

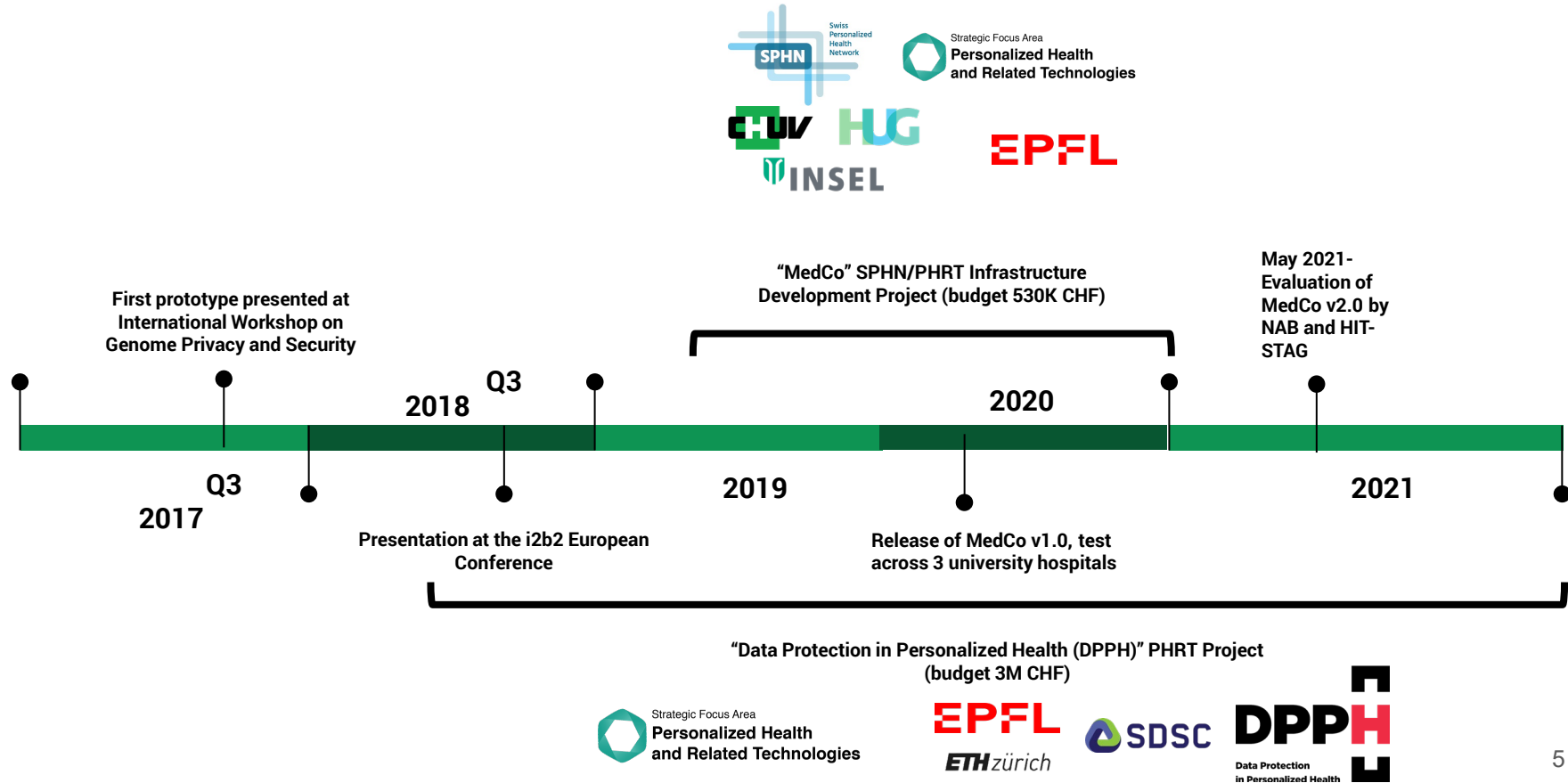


Dr. Michel Cuendet  
(CHUV)





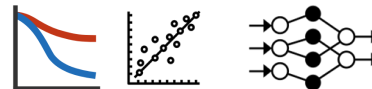
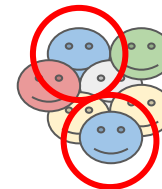
Dr. Sylvain Pradervand  
(CHUV)

# Unfolding

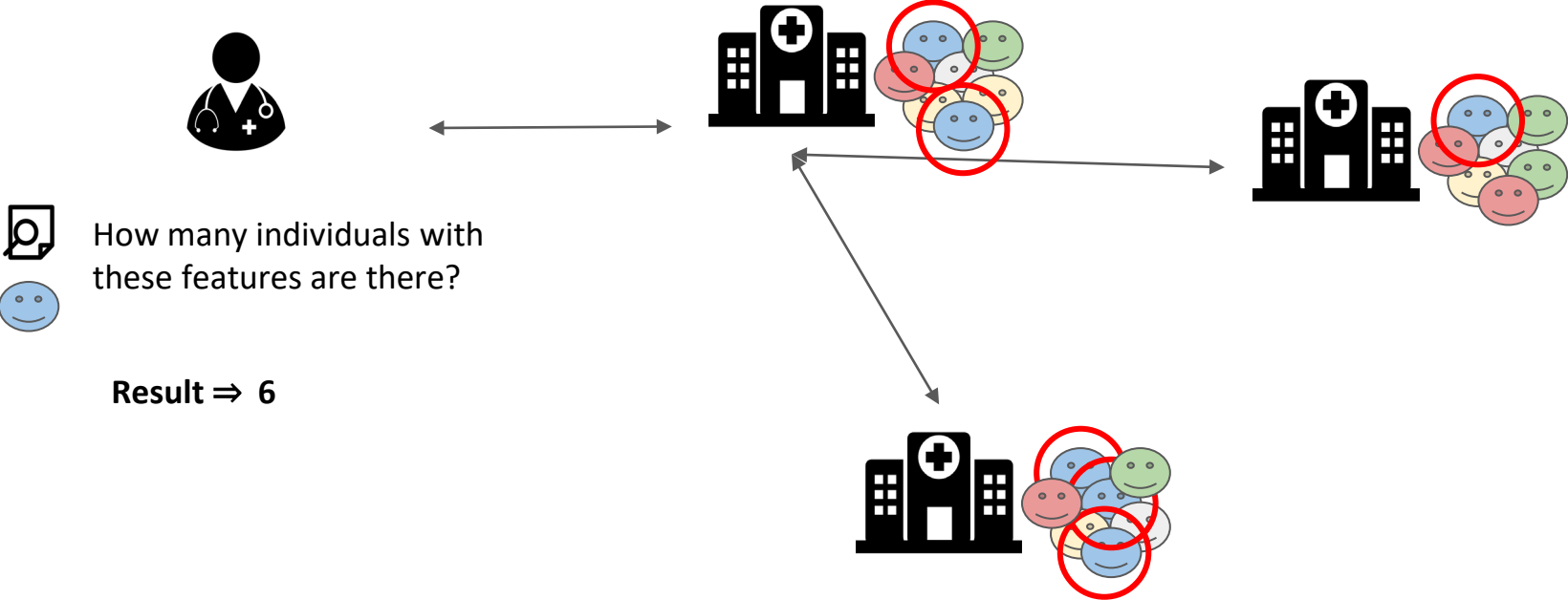


# MedCo+ in one slide...

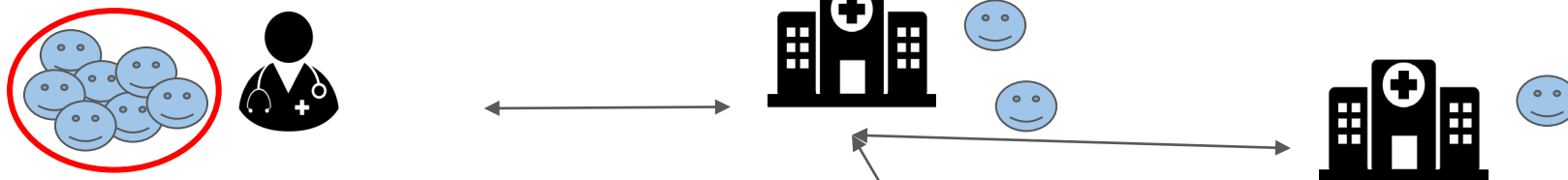
- **Distributed software platform** for federated cohort exploration and analytics of clinical and genomic data
- Co-developed by EPFL and CHUV  
- Built on top of the i2b2 cohort explorer (i2b2 is used by 250+ hospitals worldwide)
- Relies on **advanced cryptographic techniques**  
→ Multi-party homomorphic encryption (MHE)
- Code-reviewed and pen-tested by third-party industrial companies, compliant with hospitals' information security policies
- Main functionalities
  - **MedCo-Explore: cohort exploration**
    - Obtaining cohort sizes for clinical research studies based on inclusion/exclusion criteria,
  - **MedCo-Analysis: federated analytics**
    - Survival analysis
    - ML training and testing (under development)



# MedCo-Explore: cohort exploration/selection



# MedCo-Analysis: distributed analytics









Distributed analysis on virtual cohort  
(the data stay where they are):

- Overall survival (Kaplan-Meier)
- Linear/logistic regression
- Neural networks





# Positioning of MedCo with respect to similar distributed platforms

Criteria \ Platform	 CLINERION Real World Data Solutions	 SHRINE Shared Health Research Information Network	 DataSHIELD Secure & Incentive Collaboration	 VANTAGE	 IP	 MedCO	
Functionality	Federated cohort exploration	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Federated analytics	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Privacy/Security	Protection of intermediate results and distributed computation	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
	Protection of end result from inference attacks	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
	Fine-grained role management	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Usability	Graphical user interface	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Public API	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Service & support	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
	Extensibility	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

# GDPR legal compliance: partial aggregates are not personal data anymore, they are anonymous

Published on 25.2.2021 in **Vol 23, No 2 (2021): February**

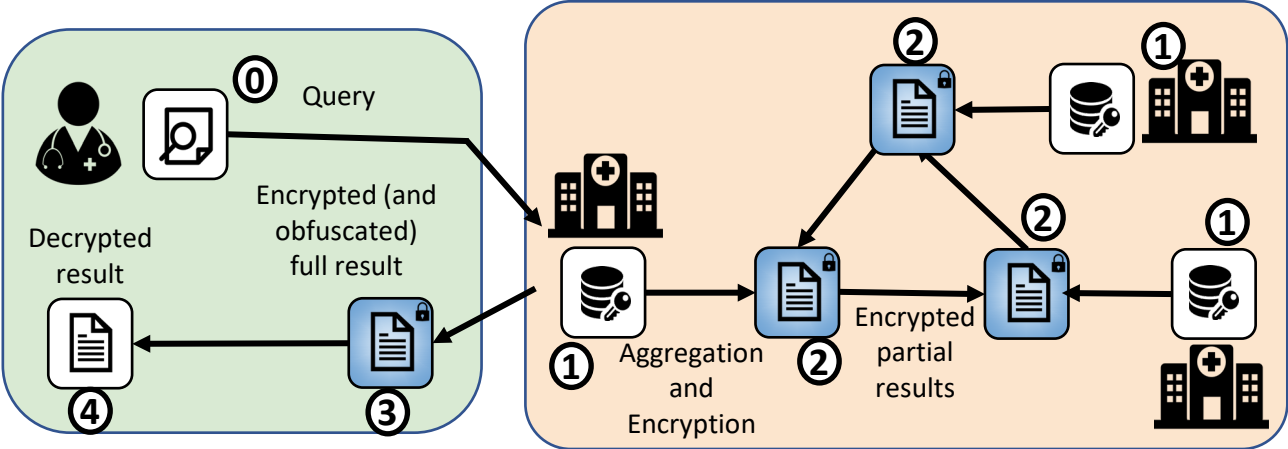
📄 Preprints (earlier versions) of this paper are available at <https://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/25120>, first published October 19, 2020.



## Revolutionizing Medical Data Sharing Using Advanced Privacy-Enhancing Technologies: Technical, Legal, and Ethical Synthesis

James Scheibner <sup>1,2</sup> ; Jean Louis Raisaro <sup>3,4</sup> ; Juan Ramón Troncoso-Pastoriza <sup>5</sup> ;  
Marcello Ienca <sup>1</sup> ; Jacques Fellay <sup>3,6,7</sup> ; Effy Vayena <sup>1</sup> ; Jean-Pierre Hubaux <sup>5</sup> 

# Legal qualification of data processed through MedCo



- Data transferred/processed with MedCo can be considered **anonymized data**
- **No need of bilateral data transfer agreements** between institutions to perform federated analytics
- **Patient consent not required for MedCo-Explore** (out of scope of HRA)
- Patient consent might not be required for MedCo-Analysis (under some circumstances)

	1 : Local data	2 : Encrypted partial results	3 : Encrypted full result	4 : Decrypted full result
<b>Data status</b>	Individual-level data	Locally aggregated	Globally aggregated	Globally aggregated
<b>Legal qualification</b>	Personal data	Anonymized data	Anonymized data	Anonymized (if proper protection in place) Personal data (if proper protection not in place)

# Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for multisite medical data analysis (June 2021)

Centralized approach with standard pseudonymization

Threat	Threat likelihood	Threat impact	Risk	Risk level
Unlawful access to the system	Unlikely	High	Loss of data confidentiality	Moderate
Malicious use of the system	Possible	High	Loss of data confidentiality	High
Loss of data	Unlikely	Minor	Loss of data integrity, data unavailability	Minor
Data leak of host/cloud	Possible	High	Loss of data confidentiality	High
Collusion of host/cloud	Possible	High	Loss of data confidentiality	High
Corrupted or malicious host/cloud	Possible	High	Data unavailability, loss of data integrity, loss of data confidentiality, loss of data correctness	High
Unavailability of host/cloud	Possible	Minor	Data unavailability, loss of data correctness	Moderate
Re-identification/attribute inference	Possible	High	Loss of data confidentiality	High



Federated approach enhanced with MedCo

Threat	Measure introduced with MedCo	Threat likelihood	Threat Impact	Risk	Risk level
Unlawful access to the system	1	Unlikely	Minor	Loss of data confidentiality	Low
Malicious use of the system	1, 2, 4, 10	Possible	Minor	Loss of data confidentiality	Low
Loss of data	3, 5	Unlikely	Minor	Loss of data integrity, data unavailability	Low
Data leak	4, 5, 8, 9, 10	Unlikely	Minor	Loss of data confidentiality	Low
Collusion between nodes	4, 9	Unlikely	Moderate	Loss of data confidentiality	Moderate
Corrupted or malicious nodes	2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Unlikely	Moderate	Data unavailability, loss of data integrity, loss of data confidentiality, loss of data correctness	Moderate
Unavailability of nodes	6, 7	Possible	Minor	Data unavailability, loss of data correctness	Moderate
Re-identification or attribute inference	1, 2, 4, 9, 10	Unlikely	Minor	Loss of data confidentiality	Low

The DPIA was elaborated notably with the help of Valérie Junod and Sylvain Métille

# Feedback from EDÖB on MedCo DPIA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Federal Data Protection and Information  
Commissioner**

“... the threat impact of most risks with the MedCo system shows to be clearly lower than with traditional systems. Since data processed within the Medco framework remain encrypted at rest and during computation, an attacker would cause little damage. **As no entity has the full decryption key, it seems indeed unlikely that he could decrypt and abuse the stolen data. (...)**”

13 September 2021

# The “Holy Grail” for SPHN secure federated analytics: FAMHE

## Truly Privacy-Preserving Federated Analytics for Precision Medicine with Multiparty Homomorphic Encryption

David Froelicher<sup>1</sup>, Juan R. Troncoso-Pastoriza<sup>1</sup>, Jean Louis Raisaro<sup>2,3</sup>, Michel A. Cuendet<sup>4</sup>, Joao Sa Sousa<sup>1</sup>, Hyunghoon Cho<sup>5</sup>, Bonnie Berger<sup>5,6,7</sup>, Jacques Fellay<sup>2,8</sup>, and Jean-Pierre Hubaux<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laboratory for Data Security, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

<sup>2</sup>Precision Medicine Unit, Lausanne University Hospital, Lausanne, Switzerland

<sup>3</sup>Data Science Group, Lausanne University Hospital, Lausanne, Switzerland

<sup>4</sup>Precision Oncology Center, Lausanne University Hospital, Lausanne, Switzerland

<sup>5</sup>Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

<sup>6</sup>Computer Science and AI Laboratory, MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

<sup>7</sup>Department of Mathematics, MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

<sup>8</sup>School of Life Sciences, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

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Accepted for publication in Nature Communications

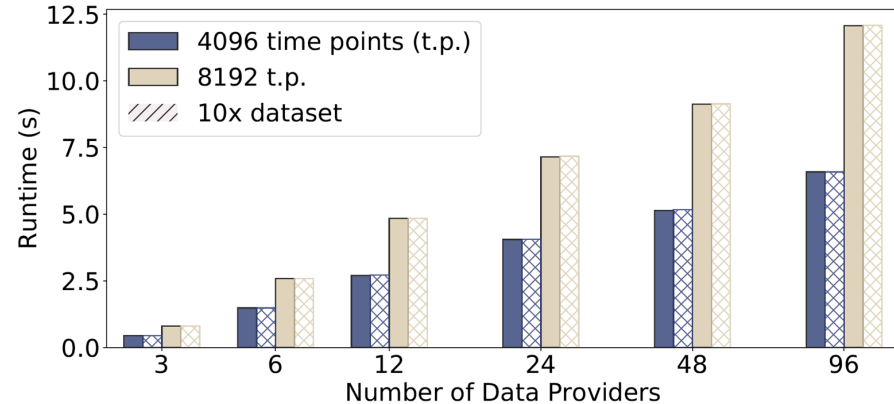
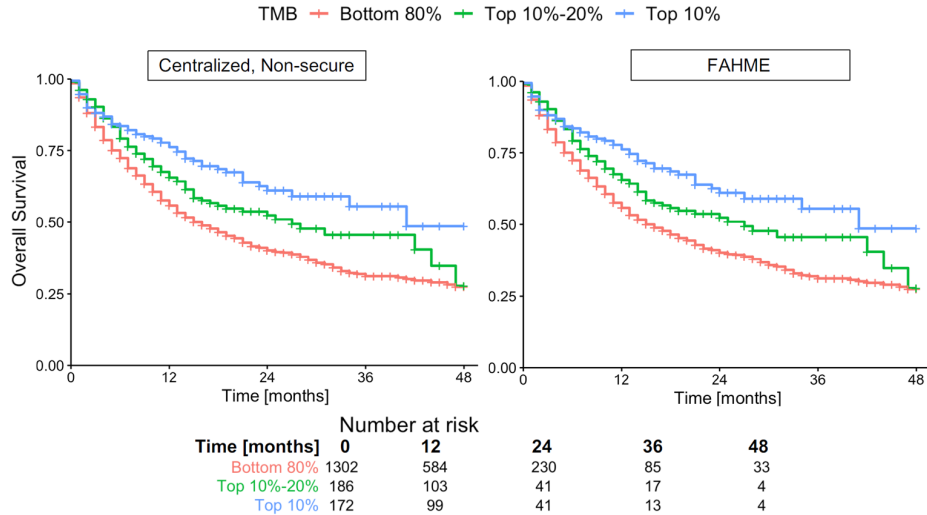
→ will appear on 11 October

<https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.02.24.432489>

- Idea: train and run ML models on decentralized datasets without “seeing” the data
- Initially CHUV + EPFL, then Broad Inst. + MIT researchers joined the effort

# FAHME: Privacy-Preserving Federated Analytics for Precision Medicine with MHE - Survival curves (Kaplan-Meier)

Data split among 3 data providers:



[Centralized] Samstein, R. M. et al. Tumor Mutational Load Predicts Survival after Immunotherapy across Multiple Cancer Types. *Nat. genetics* 51, 202–206 (2019).

[FAHME] Froelicher et al. Truly Privacy-Preserving Federated Analytics for Precision Medicine with Multiparty Homomorphic Encryption.

# FAHME: Privacy-Preserving Federated Analytics for Precision Medicine with MHE - GWAS

**Use case:** 1857 patients spread among 12 data providers.

*Original* = Centralized approach

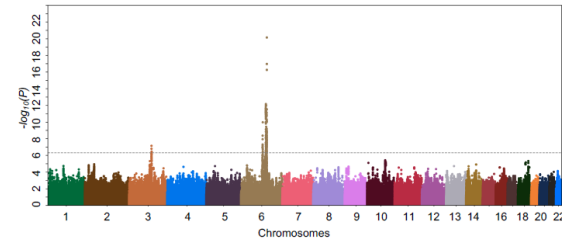
*FAMHE-GWAS* = Exact secure federated approach

*FAMHE-FastGWAS* = Efficient secure federated approach

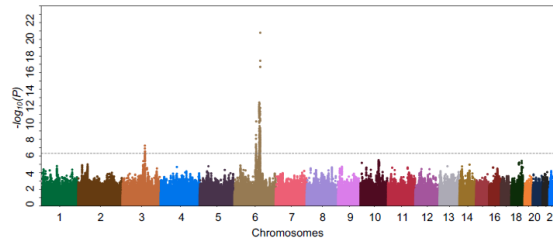
*Meta-analysis* = distributed non-secure non-iterative approach

*Independent* = 1 DP alone

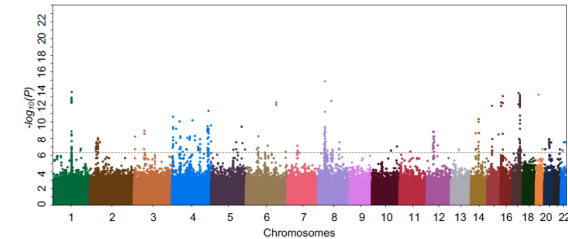
(a) *Original Approach*



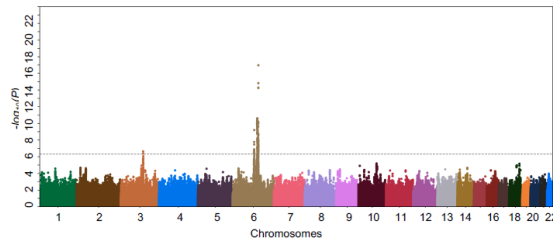
(b) *FAMHE-GWAS*



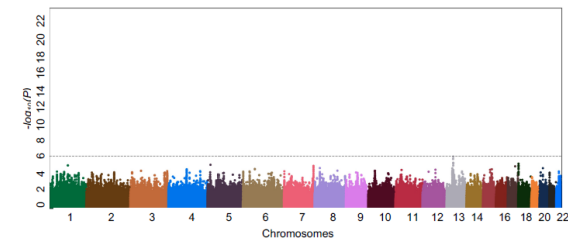
(c) *Meta-analysis Approach*



(d) *FAMHE-FastGWAS*



(e) *Independent Approach*



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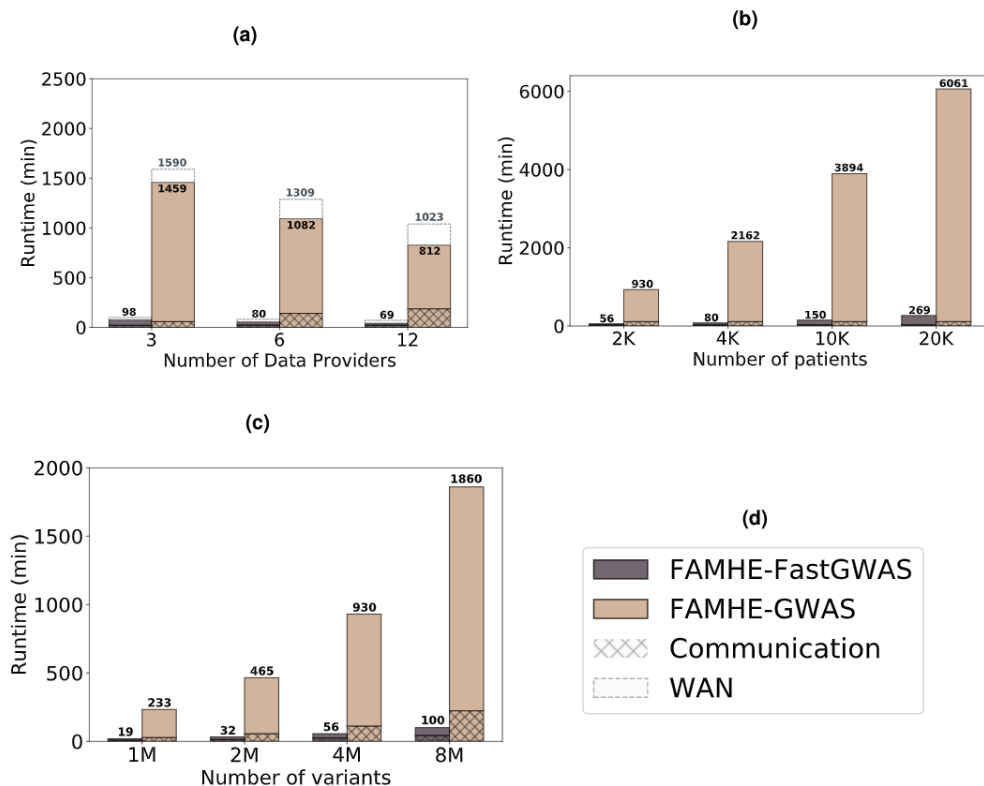


# FAHME: Genome-wide association study

**Default:** 1857 patients spread among 12 data providers.

→ **scale in all dimensions**

- With the number of data providers*
- With the number of patients*
- With the number of variants*



# Enterprise Data & Analytics

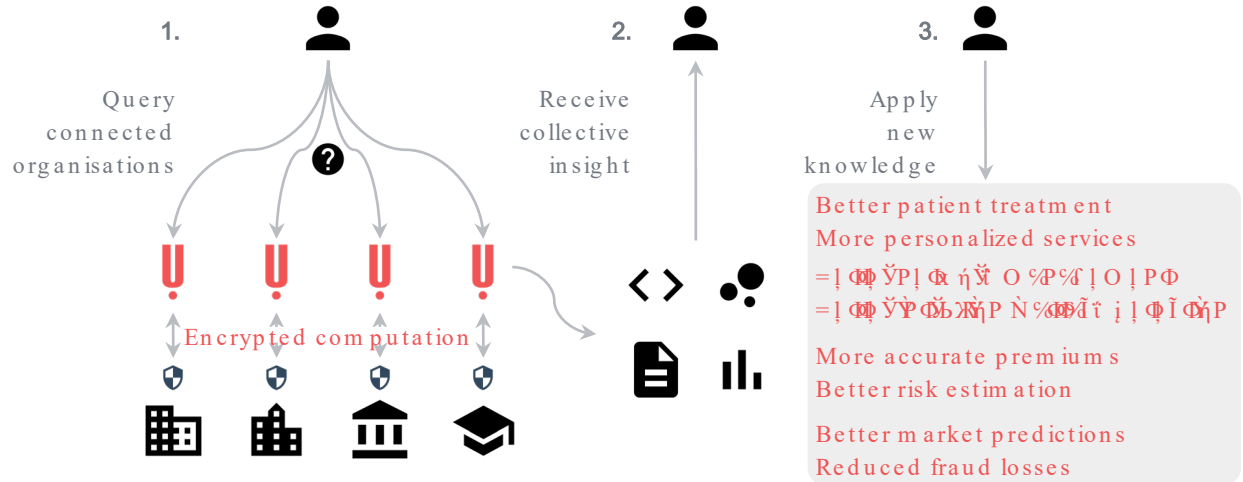


However, organizations are **prevented** to enter valuable data collaborations due to fear of **data leaks** and **data protection regulations**

# TUNE INSIGHT

Cross-vertical enterprise SaaS enabling organizations to make better decisions, together, by orchestrating secure collaborations around their sensitive data.

- Incubating at Lab for Data Security (LDS)
- CHF400k in customer-paid projects including with Swiss Re, Arm asuisse
- Pilot deployed at Swiss hospitals
- CHF100k EPFL Innogrant
- State-of-the-art post-quantum encryption technology



**Access to insights**  
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**Immediacy**  
**Scalability**

**Compliance**  
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## Tune Insight secures pre-seed round from Wingman Ventures

22.09.2021

> FINANCING

More news about

Tune Insight SA >



**Tune Insight B2B software enables organizations to make better decisions by collaborating securely on their sensitive data to extract collective insights. Incubated at the EPFL Laboratory for Data Security, with a deployment in Swiss university hospitals and customer-funded projects in the insurance and cybersecurity businesses, Tune Insight will use the funds to accelerate product development, strengthen the team, and onboard more customers.**

# Conclusion

## Achievements:

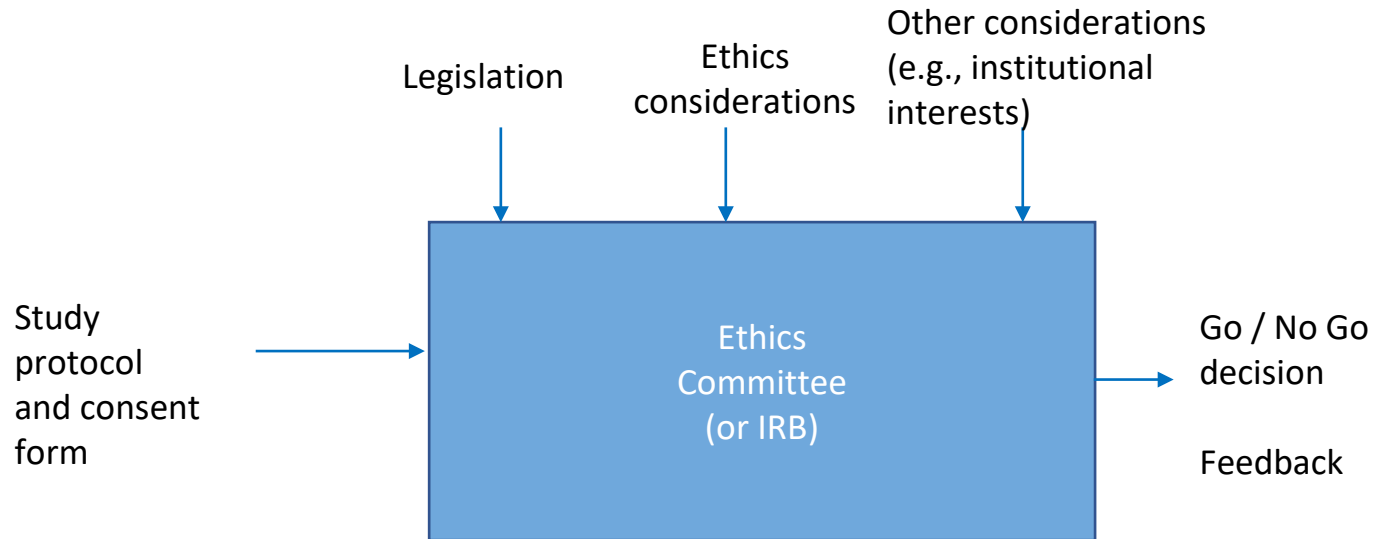
- We have solved the problem of GDPR-compliant federated analytics for medical data
- We provide MedCo, a fundamental building block for SPHN and beyond
- In September 2021, SPHN gave green light for further experimental deployments of MedCo
- Worldwide leading project on secure, privacy-conscious medical data sharing
- Solution for economic viability beyond 2021: Tune Insight

## Ongoing and future steps:

- Assessment by CER-VD and APDI
- Transfer of people and know-how from EPFL to Tune Insight
- Further deployments in Swiss hospitals and beyond

Back-up slides

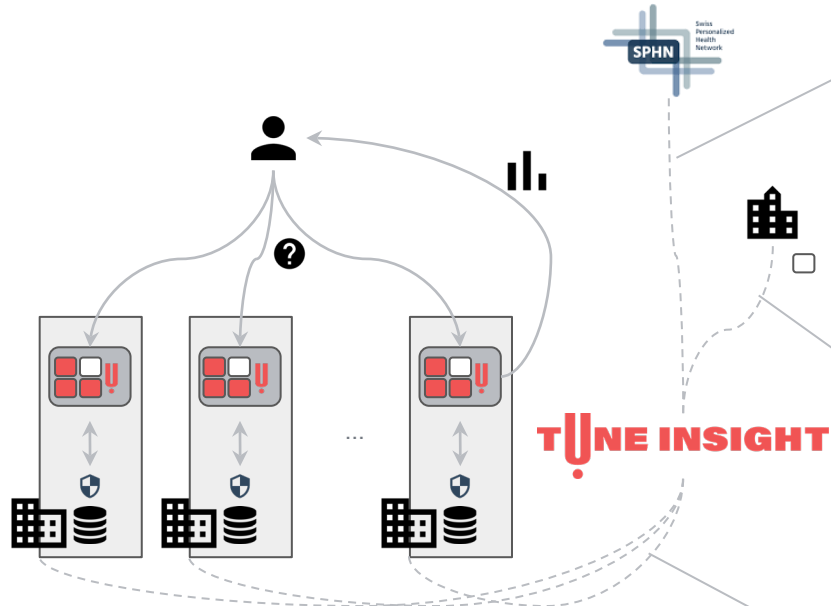
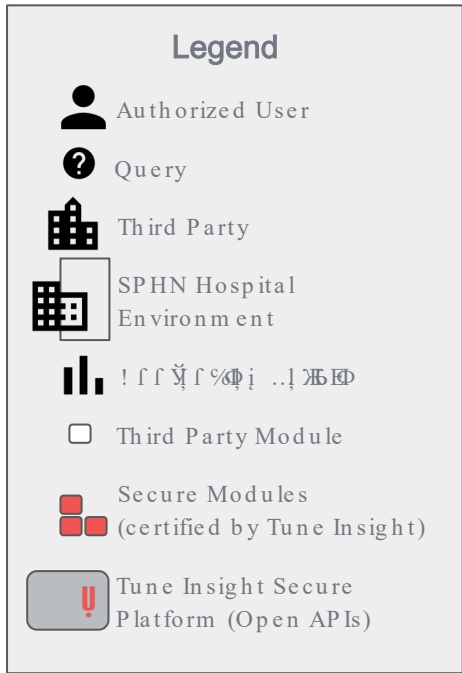
# Ethics Committees



- Very slow, manpower-hungry and tedious process to check the proposed data-protection measures
- Need to obtain informed consent; diversity of consent forms
- Ethics committees make an on-paper *a priori* evaluation, with little control on what happens afterwards
- Risk of “race to the bottom”: the researchers that obtain permissions to see more data will extract more value → competitive advantage



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- #### Project contract(s)\*
- Project-specific developments
  - Health-specific platform modules

- #### CLA contract\*
- Third party developed modules
  - Security/privacy certification by
  - Potential platform Integration by

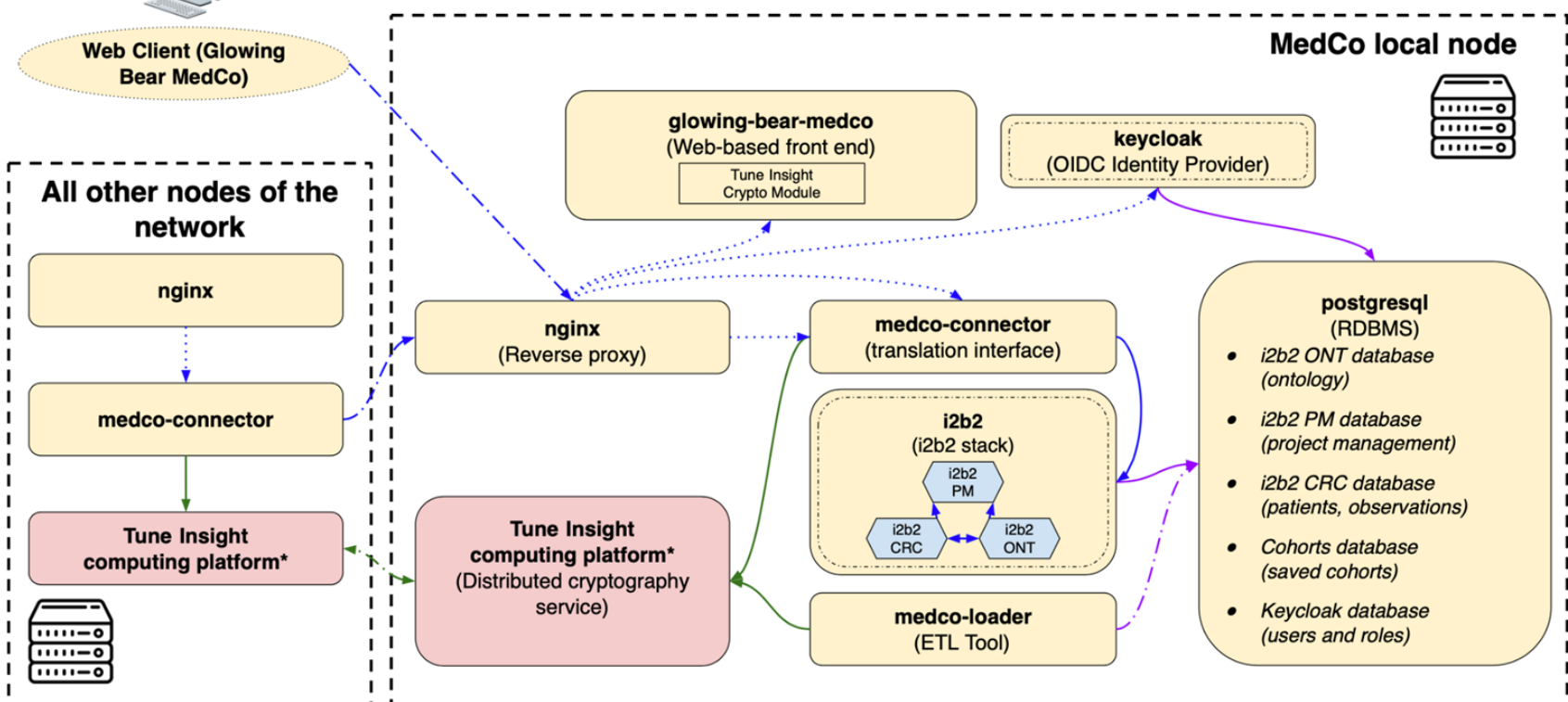
- #### Use license contract
- Support
  - Maintenance
  - Updates
  - Upgrades (new ML functionalities)

\* Optional

Third Party: Non-Tune Insight and non-EPFL developers of platform modules. Examples: CHUV, Insel,...

Third Party Module: Statistical computation modules that are registered and deployed on top of the platform, but not certified or coded by Tune Insight.

# MedCo System Architecture



**Legend**

- TLS encapsulation
- SQL
- HTTP
- HTTP (reverse proxied)
- Other

**Deployment Methods:**

- MedCo node
- WildFly deployed Java service
- Docker deployed service
- Axis2 deployed Java service

**Licensing:**

- Open-source license (Apache/MPL/Others)
- Open API license (EPFL/Tune Insight License)

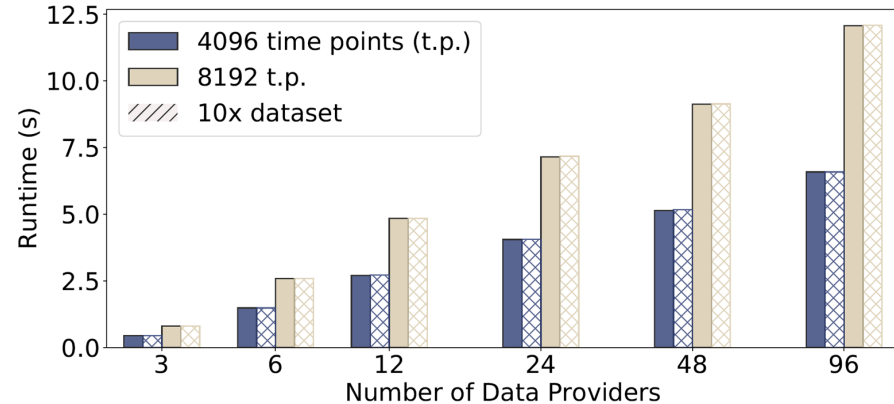
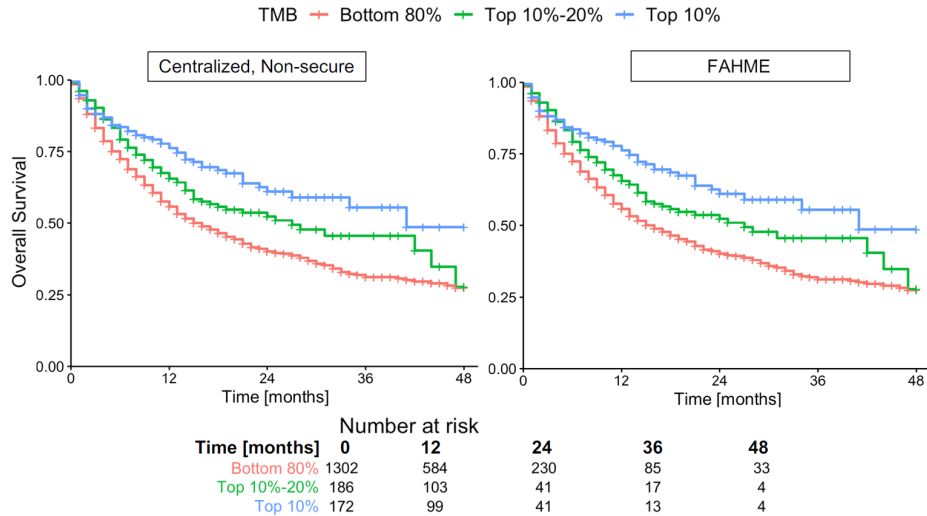
*\*The current MedCo backend is based on EPFL's UnLynx, available through an academic non-commercial license. Tune Insight will only support the next generation of the platform, offering post-quantum protection with open APIs.*

**Abbreviations:** PM: Project Management; CRC: Clinical Research Chart (data repository); ONT: Ontology; RDBMS: Relational Database Management System; OIDC: OpenID Connect



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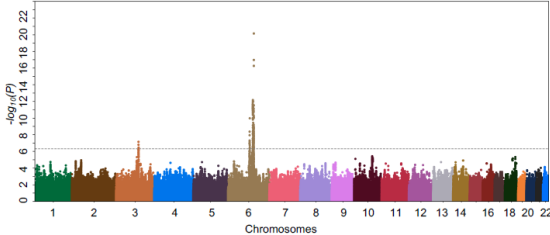


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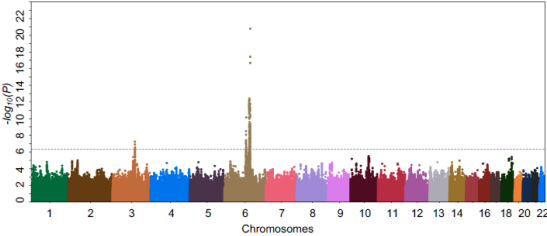
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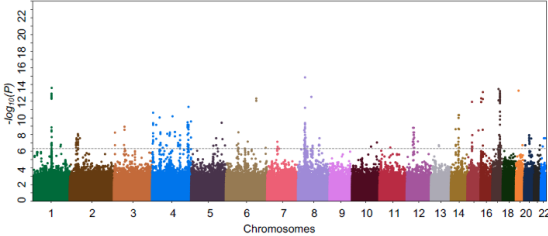
(a) Original Approach



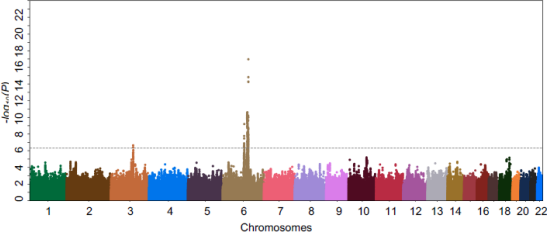
(b) FAMHE-GWAS



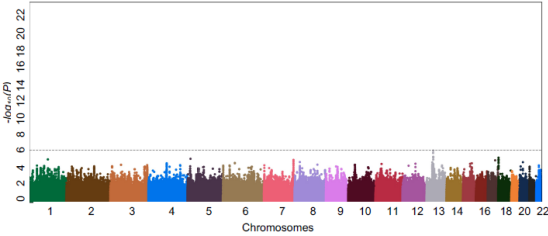
(c) Meta-analysis Approach



(d) FAMHE-FastGWAS



(e) Independent Approach

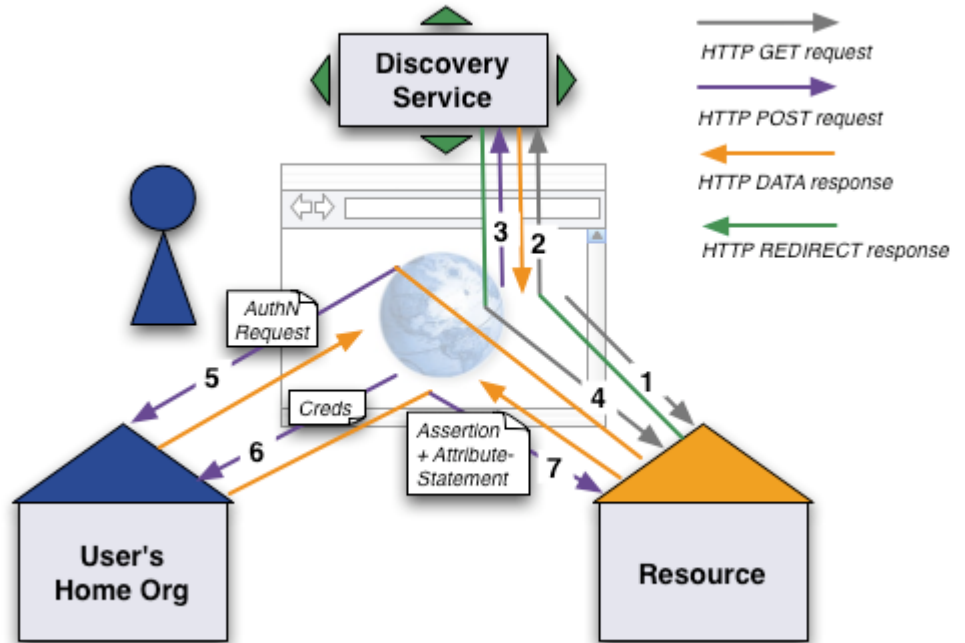


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[FAHME] Froelicher et al. Truly Privacy-Preserving Federated Analytics for Precision Medicine with Multiparty Homomorphic Encryption.

# Federated 2-factor authentication based on Switch-AAI or Switch edu-ID

- Federated authentication and authorization mechanism compatible with Switch-AAI (Shibboleth login procedure)
- Already used by Swiss hospitals and universities



# Positioning of MedCo with respect to similar distributed platforms

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	Fine-grained role management	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Usability	Graphical user interface	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Public API	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Service & support	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
	Extensibility	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

# Clinerion

- + **Already deployed in all Swiss university hospitals**
- + **Proven track record**
- **Mainly designed for “patient recruitment” and pharma’s needs**
- **Rigid data model enabling queries across only 5 variables (diagnosis, procedures, labs, treatments, demographics)**
- **Customized ETL (hard to maintain without Clinerion support)**
- **Needs central trusted third-party**
- **Closed API (vendor lock-in) => expensive customizations, no extension or integration with other software components possible**
- **Limited to cohort exploration based on patient counts => no distributed analytics**
- **Lacks data protection guarantees for aggregated data leaving hospitals’ IT infrastructure**

# MedCo

- + **Designed for “data recruitment” based on SPHN standards and hospitals needs**
- + **Fully integrated with i2b2, thus enabling distributed and privacy-preserving fine-grained queries for rich cohort exploration based on SPHN ontology and semantic interoperability standards**
- + **Open API and free license for academic and non-commercial purposes => extensible with new modules and improvements**
- + **Possibility to run distributed analytics (beyond patient counts) for hypotheses generation without compromising patients’ privacy**
- + **Hospital IT security and legal compliance**
- + **State-of-the-art data protection technologies**
- + **Support by driver projects**
- + **Deployed and tested in 3 out of 5 Swiss university hospitals**
- **Not used in operational environments yet**

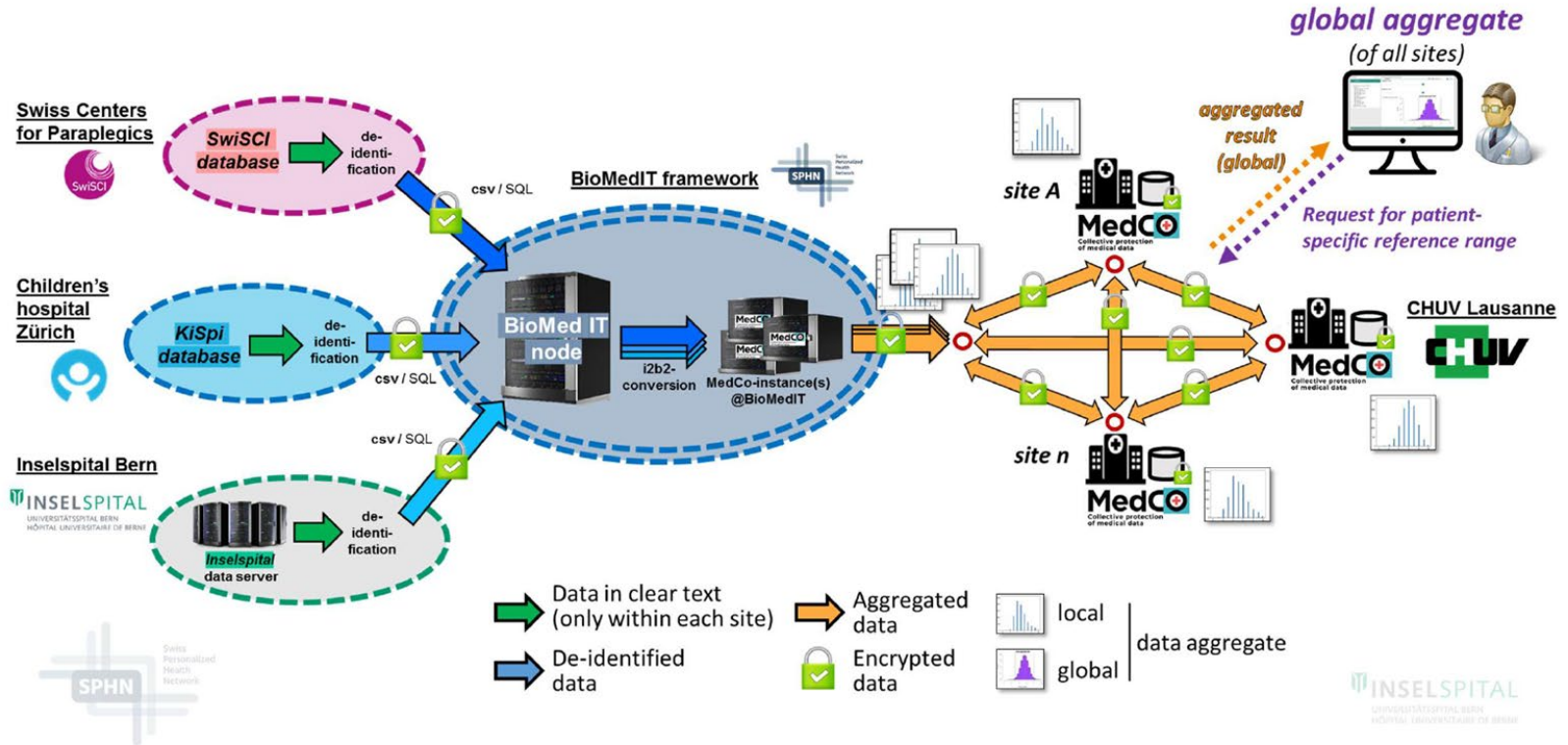
# What we have accomplished

- Shown that MedCo works, on data sets 1000 times larger than the ones currently used with Clinerion
- Addressed legal/ethical issues; produced the Data Privacy Impact Analysis (as requested by GDPR)
- Live tests by the NAB and HIT-STAG of MedCo for 3 weeks in May 2021; no feedback received so far
- Extensively demoed to the Swiss oncology community
- Thorough comparison with alternative solutions, including Clinerion
- Found the “Holy Grail” of secure federated analytics
- Traction from outside SPHN
  - Ophthalmology
  - UT Health (Houston), IKNL (Cancer Center, NL), Fondazione Maugeri (Pavia, I)
  - Cybersecurity, insurance → launch of start-up Tune Insight

# About medical data

- The current situation of medical data is appalling and is a worldwide embarrassment (lack of standards, poor quality, etc.)
- Switzerland is no exception, unfortunately
- **It is not DPPH/MedCo mission to clean the mess**
- But once MedCo is deployed, it will be an **incentive** for hospitals and clinics to work together → this should bootstrap a virtuous circle
- MedCo uses i2b2 to facilitate adoption

# BioMed IT-MedCo-Hybrid for Swiss BioRef



Credit: Alexander Leichtle and Harald Witte, Swiss BioRef, Insel



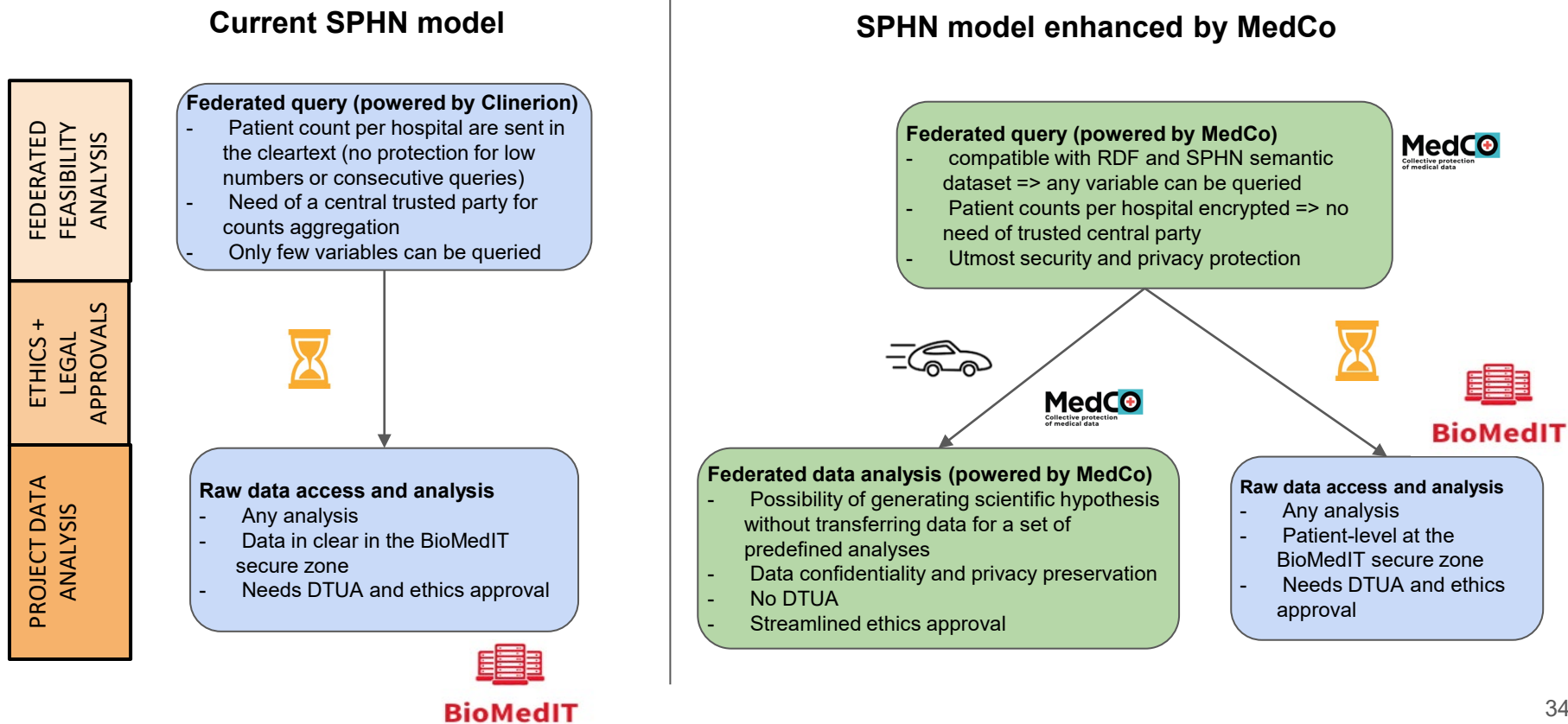
# MedCo: Secure, Privacy-Conscious Federated Analytics Infrastructure for Precision Medicine

*Was presented and demoed at multiple meetings of the Swiss  
Personalized Oncology (SPO) and Swiss Molecular Pathology  
Platform (SOCIBP) Projects*

Attendees included:

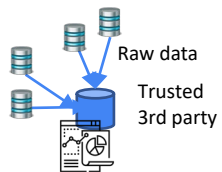
Olivier Michielin (CHUV), Mohamed Ben Tires-Alj (USB), Marc Rubin (Insel),  
Christian Britschgi (USZ), Simon Haefliger (Insel), Sacha Rothschild (USZ),  
Pedros Tsantoulis (HUG), Andreas Wicki (USZ), Sylvain Pradervand (CHUV)

# What MedCo will bring to SPHN



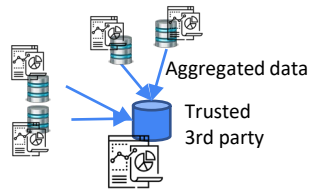
# Federated Learning - Current Approaches

## (a) Fully centralized



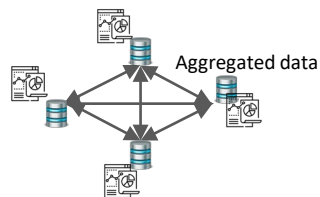
All of Us  
EGA  
Genomics England

## (b) Meta-analysis



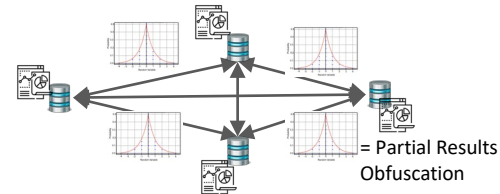
<https://covidclinical.net/>

## (c) Decentralized



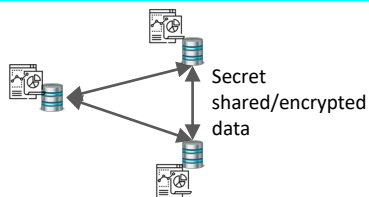
<http://www.datashield.ac.uk>  
Personalized Health Train (PHT)

## (d) Differential Privacy Decentralized



- M. Kim et al. "Secure and Differentially Private Logistic Regression for Horizontally Distributed Data," TIFS 2019
- M. Abadi et al. Deep learning with differential privacy. In ACM CCS, 2016.
- Chaudhuri and C. Monteleoni. Privacy-preserving logistic regression. In NIPS, 2009.

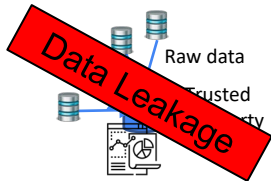
## (d) Cryptographic (SMC, HE) Decentralized



- A. Gascón et al.. Privacy-preserving distributed linear regression on high-dimensional data. PETS, 2017.
- P. Mohassel and Y. Zhang. SecureML: A system for scalable privacy-preserving machine learning. In IEEE S&P, 2017.

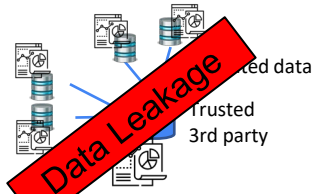
# Federated Learning - Current Approaches

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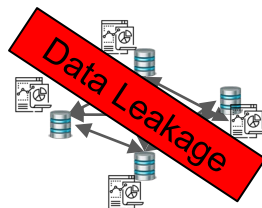
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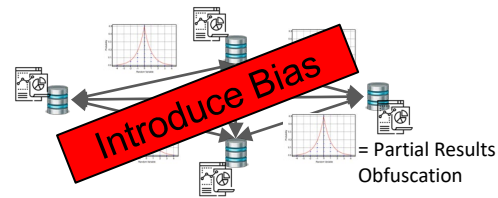
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(c) Decentralized



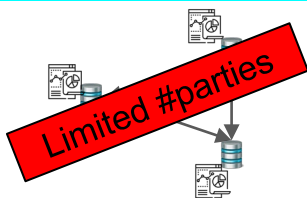
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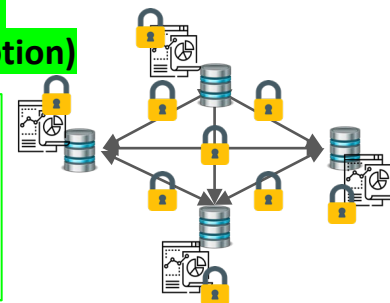


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P. Mohassel and Y. Zhang. SecureML: A system for scalable privacy-preserving machine learning. In IEEE S&P, 2017.

## Our solution (Secure Multiparty Computation + Homomorphic Encryption)



- Data Confidentiality
- Not data outsourcing
- Scale with #parties
- Exact results

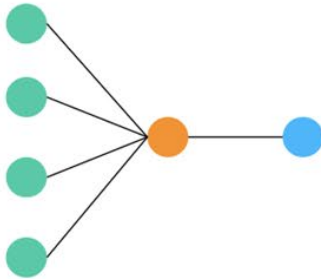


C. Mouchet, J. R. Troncoso-pastoriza, J.-P. Bossuat, and J. P. Hubaux. Multiparty homomorphic encryption: From theory to practice. PETS'21. <https://eprint.iacr.org/2020/304>, 2020.

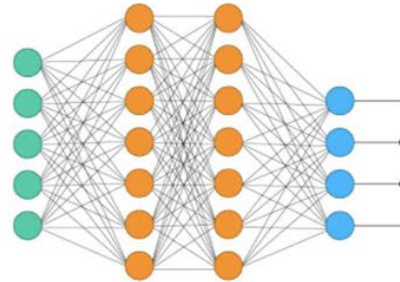
# Multi-Party Homomorphic Encryption (MHE) Efficient Functionalities

- Statistical computations (aggregations, histograms, moments,...)
- Machine learning/AI: Increasing set of models can be efficiently trained and evaluated with MHE

Generalized Linear Models  
(Represented as a simple neural network)



Deeper Neural Network



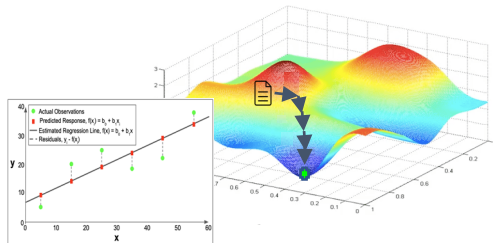
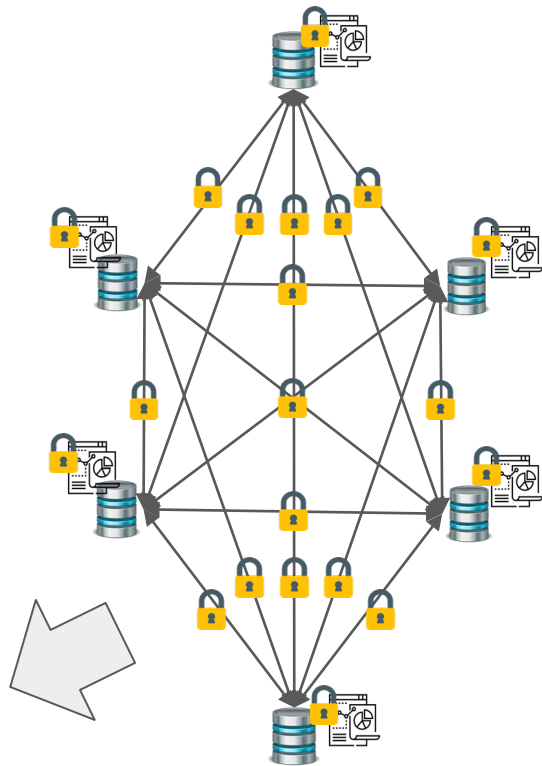
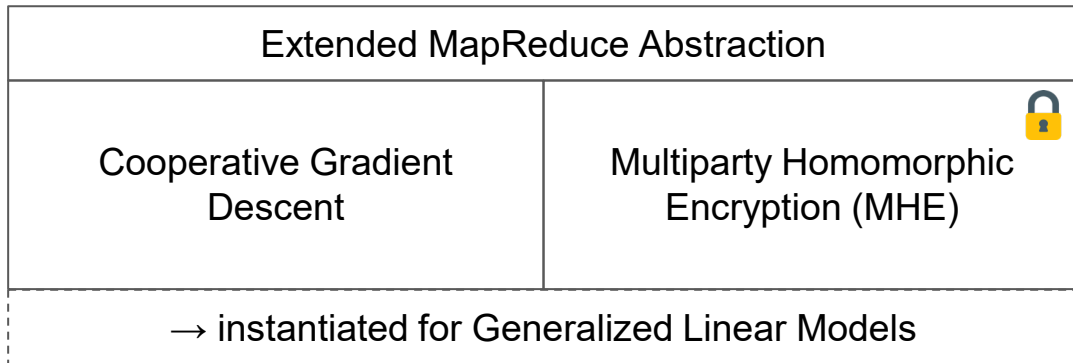
Froelicher, J.R. Troncoso-Pastoriza, A. Pyrgelis, S. Sav, J.S. Sousa, J.-P. Bossuat, J.-P. Hubaux, "Scalable Privacy-Preserving Distributed Learning". PETS'21 <https://arxiv.org/abs/2005.09532>

● Input Layer    ● Hidden Layer    ● Output Layer

S. Sav, A. Pyrgelis, J.R. Troncoso-Pastoriza, J.-P. Bossuat, J.S. Sousa, J.-P. Hubaux, "POSEIDON: Privacy-Preserving Federated Neural Network Learning". NDSS'21 <https://arxiv.org/abs/2009.00349>

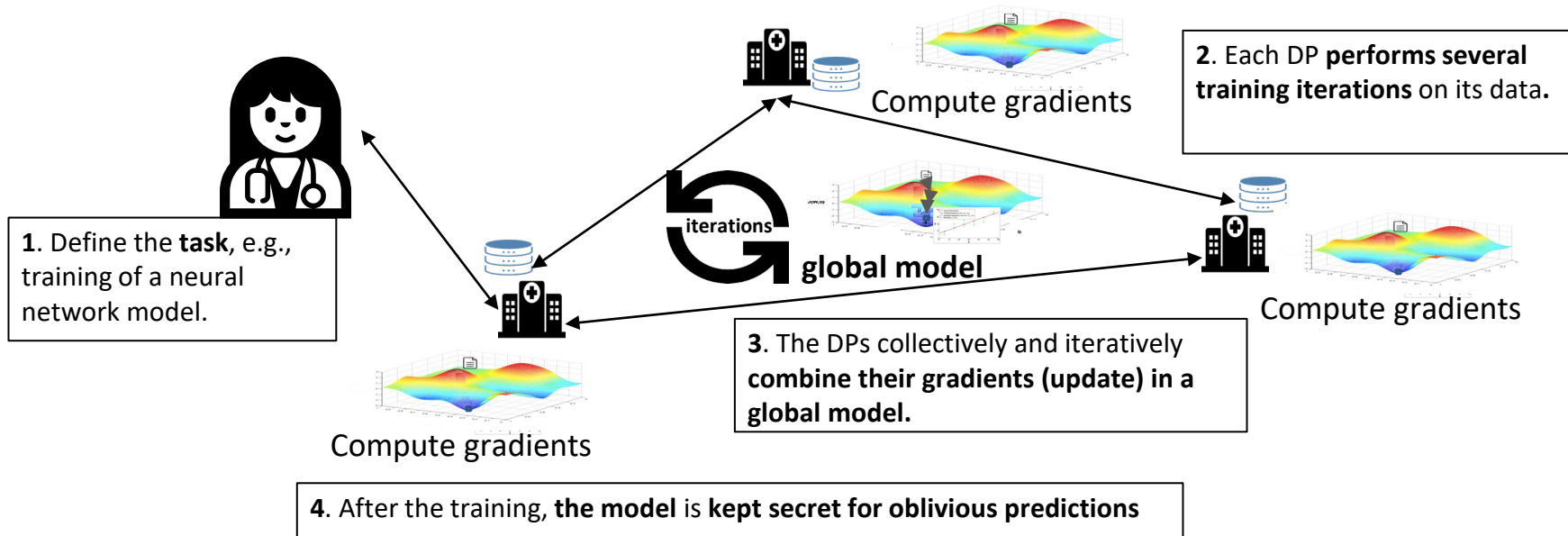
# SPINDLE: Scalable Privacy-preserving Distributed LEarning

Generic Secure Federated Learning that ensures **Data Confidentiality** + **Model Confidentiality** by building on:



# POSEIDON: Privacy-Preserving Federated Neural Network Learning

**Solution:** The data providers (DPs) collaborate to enable a joint gradient descent while protecting their privacy and **obtain a global and accurate model**

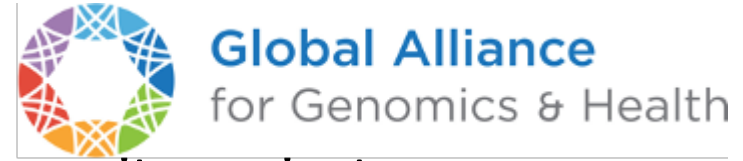


## Parameterization:

→ Strong interdependencies between learning parameters and cryptographic parameters

# International collaborations

- GA4GH Data Security Work Stream
- MedCo now part of the i2b2 official community projects
- Prof. Shawn Murphy, HMS, and the ACT Network
- Broad Inst. + MIT



- Hôpital ophtalmique de Lausanne + hschild (F

