# Al-Driven Discovery of QT Prolonging Drug-drug Interactions

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#### All studies approved by Institutional IRBs



## Observation is the starting point of biological discovery

- Charles Darwin observed relationship between geography and phenotype
- William McBride & Widukind Lenz observed association between thalidamide use and birth defects



# The tools of observation are advancing

- Human senses
  - sight, touch, hearing, smell, taste
- Mechanical augmentation
  - binoculars, telescopes, microscopes, microphones
- Chemical and Biological augmentations
  - chemical screening, microarrays, high throughput sequencing technology

Bytes to KB

Megabytes to Terabytes

# Your doctor is observing you like never before

>99% of Hospitals have Electronic Health Records





- Goal: 1 billion patient records in a common data model
- ~800 million patient records integrated
- Automated tools available

#### s in a common data model integrated



# Observation analysis in a petabyte world

- Darwin, McBride, and Lenz were working with *kilo*bytes of data
- Today, we observing *tera*bytes and *peta*bytes of data everyone
- Data mining is about making the tools of data analysis ("hypothesis generation") catch up to the tools of observation





### But there's a problem...



#### ....behavior confounds observations

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## Every drug order is an experiment.

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## Can observational data be used to study hidden **Drug-Drug Interactions?**



# Drug-drug interactions (DDIs)

- DDIs can occur when a patient takes 2 or more drugs
- DDIs cause unexpected side effects
- 10-30% of adverse drug events are attributed to DDIs
- Understanding of DDIs
  - Improved safety as dangerous combos are avoided
  - reveals underlying human biological networks

## Polypharmacy increases with age

76% of older Americans used two or more prescription drugs

#### Percent of people on two or more drugs by age United States 2007-2008



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey



# More needs to be done to understand and identify drug-drug interactions

- Clinical trials do not typically investigate drug-drug interactions
- Observational studies are the only systematic way to detect drug-drug interactions

## Post-market Drug Safety Surveillance Systems

- Contain clinical data on millions of patients over many years
- Currently being used to establish single drug adverse events (pharmacovigilance)
- Eg. Spontaneous Adverse Event Reporting Systems
  - Collect adverse event reports for a patient (a snapshot in time)
  - Maintained by WHO > FDA > Health Canada

Drug-drug interactions are not reported

# How to discover effects when they are not *directly* reported?

### Diseases can be identified by the side effects they elicit

- underlying disease



physicians use observable side effects to form hypothesis about the

• e.g. you can't *see* diabetes, but you can *measure* blood glucose

#### Severe ADE's can be identified by the presence of more minor (and more common) side effects

- Throw thousands of examples of known single-drug effects at an AI



Let the AI learn the "signs and symptoms" of diagnosing an adverse drug reaction



## Drug-drug interactions and acquired Long QT Syndrome (LQTS)

- Prolonging the QT interval can lead to a dangerous ventricular tachycardia
- Drugs can cause acquired LQTS by blocking the hERG channel
- We are good at testing for single drugs
- We know almost nothing when it comes to DDIs



E. Jason Wambsgans/Chicago Tribune

"The experiment began with thousands of patient files, millions of prescription orders, billions of clinical measurements and a single question: Could big data be used to discover deadly drug combinations

- Sam Roe and Karisa King

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#### Identify acquired LQTS drug-drug interactions using Latent Signal Detection





#### Latent Signal Detection of acquired LQTS

Top Prediction: **Ceftriaxone + Lansoprazole** 

- *Ceftriaxone* common in-patient cephalosporin antibiotic
- the most commonly taken drugs in the world

Lansoprazole — proton-pump inhibitor used to treat GERD, one of

Lorberbaum, et al. Drug Safety (2016) Lorberbaum, et al. JACC (2016)







# ╋ Ceftriaxone

#### FAERS





#### Electronic Health Records









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## Automated Patch Clamp

- Collaboration with Rocky Kass (CUMC Pharmacology Dept.)
- Take HEK293 cells over-expressing
  the hERG channel
- Perform a single-cell patch clamp experiment
  - control
  - ceftriaxone alone
  - lansoprazole alone
  - combination of ceftriaxone and lansoprazole



E. Jason Wambsgans/Chicago Tribune



Nanion Patchliner



#### Ceftriaxone+Lansoprazole



Lorberbaum, et al. JACC (2016)



Lorberbaum, et al. JACC (2016)





# Computational model of human ventricular myocyte



- Wildtype channel
- 1μ Lansoprazole + 100μM Ceftriaxone (10% block)
- 10µM Lansoprazole + 100µM Ceftriaxone (55% block)

#### most common at CUMC

#### **10ms longer**

Lorberbaum, et al. JACC (2016)

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Algorithms cover a glass wall at Columbia University in New York, where data scientist Nick Tatonetti, center, and his team used novel techniques in signal detection to identify potentially harmful drug interactions hidden in a vast database.

# The hunt for dangerous doses

#### 2017 Pulitzer Prize Finalist in Public Service





#### Thank you!

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#### **Current Lab Members**

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