

# End-to-End AI-driven Robotic Drug Discovery and Case Study of the First AI-Discovered and AI-Designed Therapeutic in Human Clinical Trials



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Medicine

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# Insilico Medicine:

Transforming the drug discovery and development process with an *end-to-end next-generation AI platform*

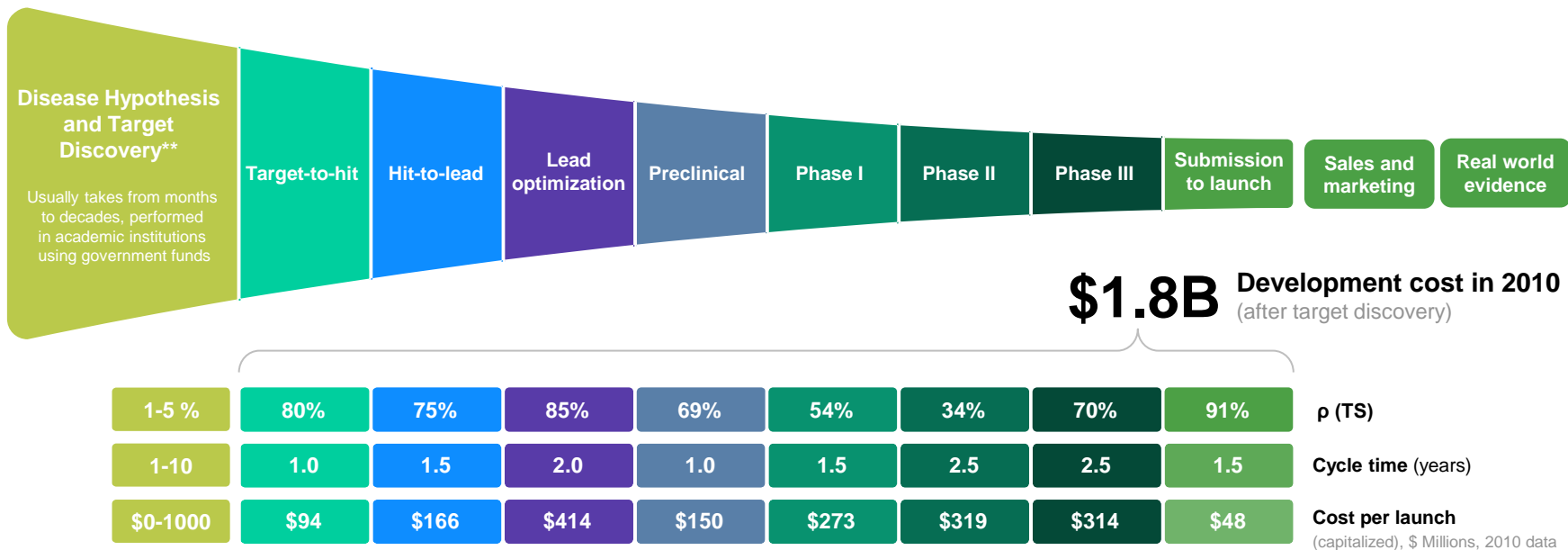
- *Founded in 2014*
- *Global team and presence:*
  - *~250 scientists globally*
  - *70+ AI / ML experts*
  - *90+ drug hunters*
  - *210+ FTE scientists (biology + chemistry)*
  - *Expert C-Suite in the US*



# Traditional drug R&D takes >10 years and >\$2B\*



From the discovery to the launch of a new drug



Discovery

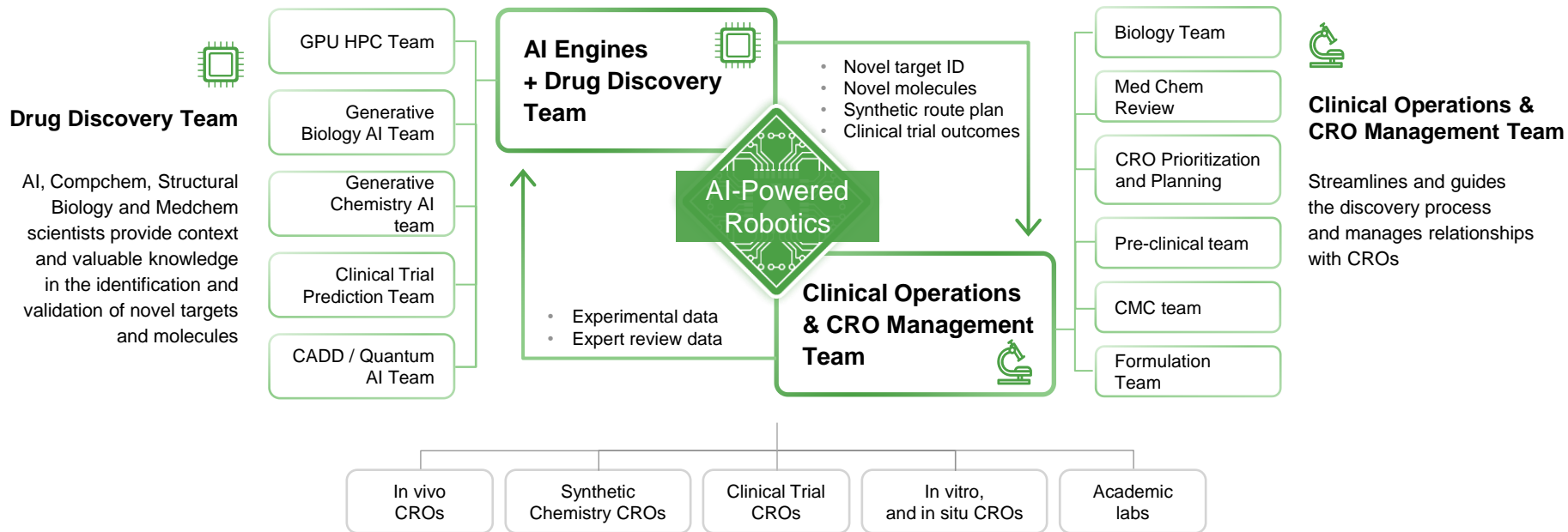
Development

Sales and marketing

\* Modified from Paul et al, How to improve R&D productivity: the pharmaceutical industry's grand challenge. Nature Reviews Drug Discovery , 2010

\*\* Based on interviews with the pharmaceutical industry executives

# AI Platform ↔ Pipeline of Therapeutics



- Over 80 CROs globally
- Over 40 CROs in China with dedicated managers from Insilico
- Expert CRO management, with local supervision, best FTE selection, security protocols, data and IP protection
- Focus on speed, quality, and accuracy with direct local supervision

# Integrated AI-Driven End-to-End Drug Discovery and Development Platform



PHARMA.AI

## pandaOmics

SaaS

### Broaden data analysis & visualization horizons

- Decipher & analyze any published OMICs data
- Discover and evaluate novel drug targets
- Uncover novel strategies for drug repurposing

LAUNCHED

## Chemistry42

On-Premises Deployment

### Explore uncharted chemical space

- An automated end-to-end machine learning platform
- Novel & diverse molecules for targets of interest
- Structure- and ligand-based drug design strategies

LAUNCHED

## InClinico

### Design & predict clinical trial outcomes

- Predict success rates of clinical trials
- Identify weak areas in trial design early
- Adopt best practices guided by InClinico

IN PROGRESS



# Internal Pipeline Discovered Using Pharma.AI Platform

## Multiple assets entering PCC in 2022

Target	Mechanism	Indication	Product Candidate	Stage of Development		
				Discovery	IND-enabling	Phase 1
Target X	EMT, FMT, fibroblast proliferation, macrophage activation	Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)	ISM001-055 <sup>(1)</sup>	[Progress bar: Discovery to Phase 1]		
		Kidney Fibrosis (KF)	ISM001-055	[Progress bar: Discovery to IND-enabling]		
		Skin Fibrosis	ISM001-055	[Progress bar: Discovery]		
PHD2	EPO induction and iron utilization, epithelial integrity	Anemia of Chronic Kidney Disease	ISM012-077	[Progress bar: Discovery to IND-enabling]		
		Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)	ISM012-042	[Progress bar: Discovery to Phase 1]		
QPCTL	Immune modulation	Immuno-Oncology	ISM004-1057D	[Progress bar: Discovery to Phase 1] Co-development with Fosun Pharma		
3CL M <sup>pro</sup>	Virus replication	COVID-19	Undisclosed	[Progress bar: Discovery to IND-enabling]		
USP1	Synthetic lethality	BRCA-mutant cancer	Undisclosed	[Progress bar: Discovery to Phase 1]		
MAT2A	Synthetic lethality	MTAP <sup>-/-</sup> cancer	Undisclosed	[Progress bar: Discovery to Phase 1]		
CDK8	Immune modulation	AML, Solid tumors	Undisclosed	[Progress bar: Discovery]		
PARP7	Immune modulation	Solid tumors	Undisclosed	[Progress bar: Discovery]		
CDK12	Tumor cell proliferation	Solid tumors	Undisclosed	[Progress bar: Discovery]		
ENPP1	Immune modulation	Solid tumors	Undisclosed	[Progress bar: Discovery]		

8 PCCs since 2021

Fibrosis
  Oncology
  Immunology
  Others

1. ISM001-055, is currently being evaluated in a Phase 1, SAD / MAD study in New Zealand.  
 Note: Full pipeline consists of ~30 programs for 20+ drug targets; only selected programs have been listed above

# 8 Preclinical Candidates Nominated Since February 2021



**February 2021**



Idiopathic  
Pulmonary  
Fibrosis

**August 2021**



Kidney  
Fibrosis

**January 2022**



Inflammatory  
Bowel  
Disease

**January 2022**



Anemia of  
Chronic  
Kidney Disease

**February 2022**



Immuno-  
Oncology

**April 2022**



BRCA-  
Mutant cancer

**April 2022**



MTAP-/-  
cancer

**May 2022**

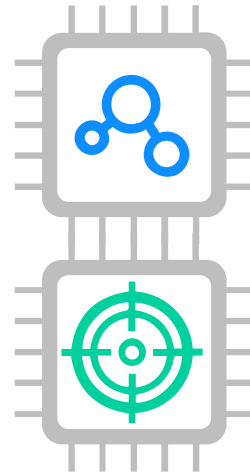
COVID-19  
3CL Protease



## 2020 - Can we link biology and chemistry to improve patient outcomes?

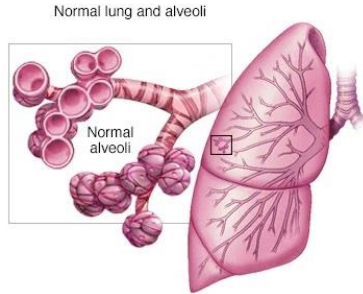
Can AI come up with  
a Novel Target and Novel Molecule

for a broad disease with no cure  
that may also target the fundamental  
mechanisms of aging?

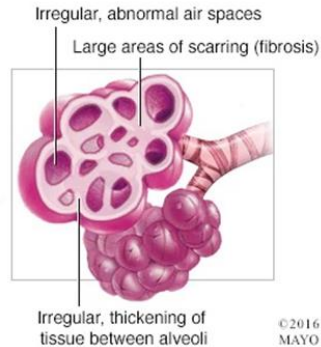


# Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Disease Background

## Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis



Alveoli in pulmonary fibrosis



IPF is defined as a specific form of chronic, progressive fibrosing interstitial pneumonia of unknown cause, occurring primarily in older adults, limited to the lungs, and associated with the histopathologic and/or radiologic pattern of usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP).

### Symptoms

- Shortness of breath
- A severe dry cough.
- Others: Clubbing, fatigue, gradual unintended weight loss, generally feeling unwell, rapid shallow breathing.

### Pathogenesis

The factors that induce the fibrotic process are unclear. Possible risk factors include smoke, history of pulmonary fibrosis, genes, certain viral infections, air pollution and some exposures in the workplace.

### Prognosis

IPF is a progressive disease, fibrosis builds up over time causing a gradual breathlessness and the need for increasing amounts of oxygen. Eventually, lung failure (medically called “respiratory failure”) can develop, which is a life-threatening condition.

### Complications

Depression and anxiety, lung cancer, pulmonary hypertension, gastroesophageal reflux disease, obesity, emphysema, and obstructive sleep apnea

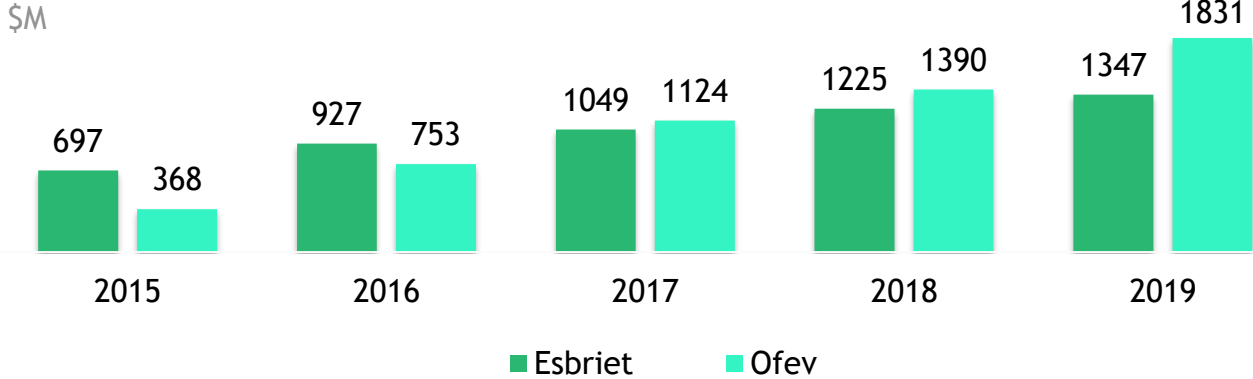
# IPF Disease Background

Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis



**Current Therapy:** Very limited treatments: **Ofev (nintedanib)** and **Esbriet (pirfenidone)** with 50% reduction of decline in forced vital capacity over 1 year, however, no oxygen saturation benefit.

IPF market drug sales



# ISM001: The Discovery of Novel Antifibrotic / Geroprotector

Fibrosis Target ID, Compound Generation and Validation in <18 months

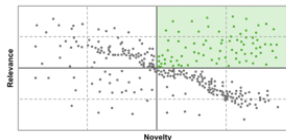
## Data Inventory of Omics Datasets

Related to tissue Fibrosis, annotated by Age and Sex

Omics and Clinical Data Sets



## Novelty Assessment



Relevant targets



## Gene and Pathway scoring engine (with iPANDA)

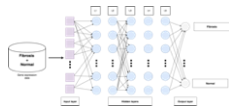
(with iPANDA)

Fibrosis vs Healthy



## DL-based Target ID engine

- DFS
- PFI
- Causality inference
- De novo pathway reconstruction



## Text-based analysis tools

- Patents
- Publications
- Clinical Trials
- Grants



20 Targets for validation  
Multiple hits  
Prioritized Top novel intracellular target

COMPLETE

DE NOVO COMPOUND GENERATION

COMPLETE

Primary Assays

COMPLETE

Spec. & selectivity

COMPLETE

Fibrosis Assay

Collagen Production Assays

COMPLETE

Fibrosis In Vivo Studies



COMPLETE

# Target X is one of the targets identified by Insilico Medicine AI platform implicated in multiple fibrotic diseases

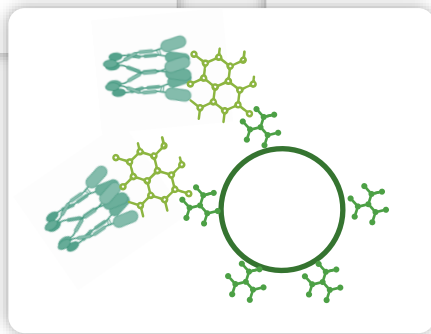
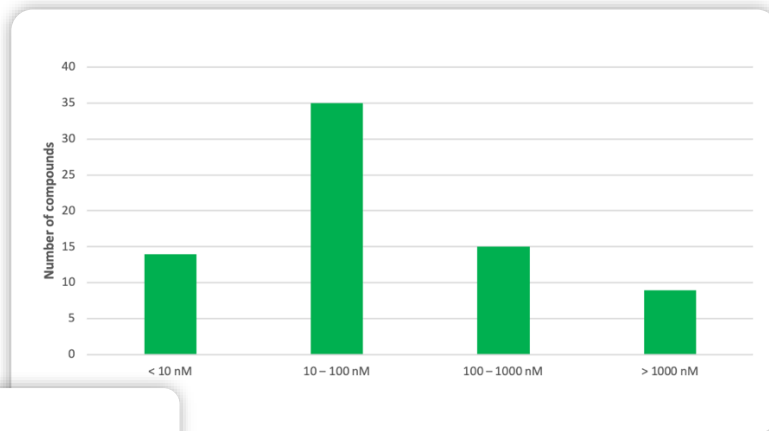
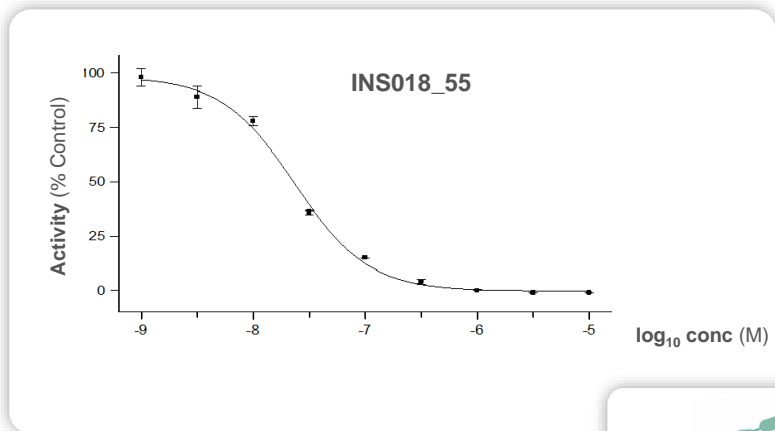


Confirmed Efficacy by Insilico Medicine

# Potent target inhibition of ISM018\_055

Novel small molecules generated using Chemistry42™ showed promising activity.

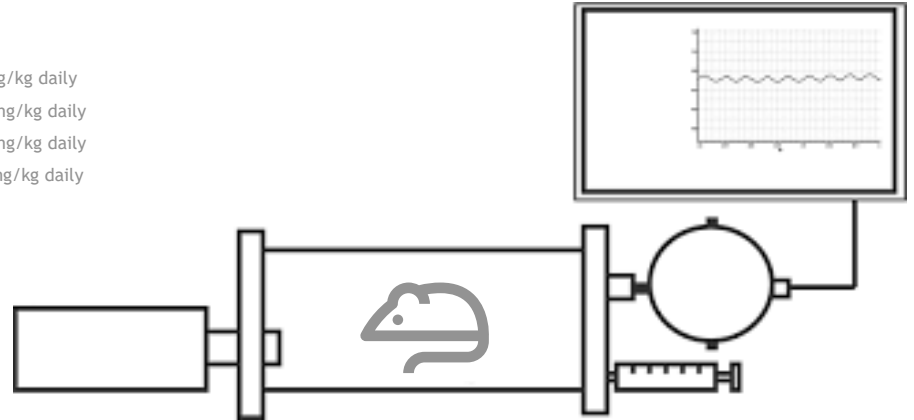
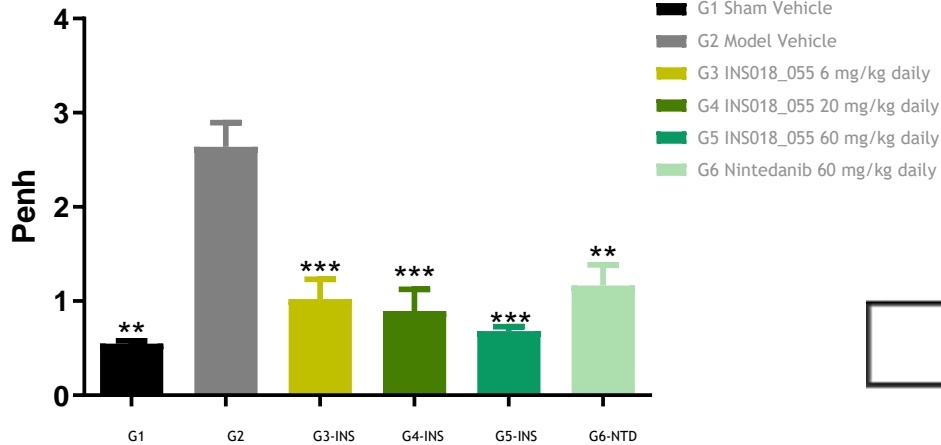
ISM001 series molecules showed potent inhibition of the target's activity with nM IC<sub>50</sub> values.



# Lung function restored at low doses

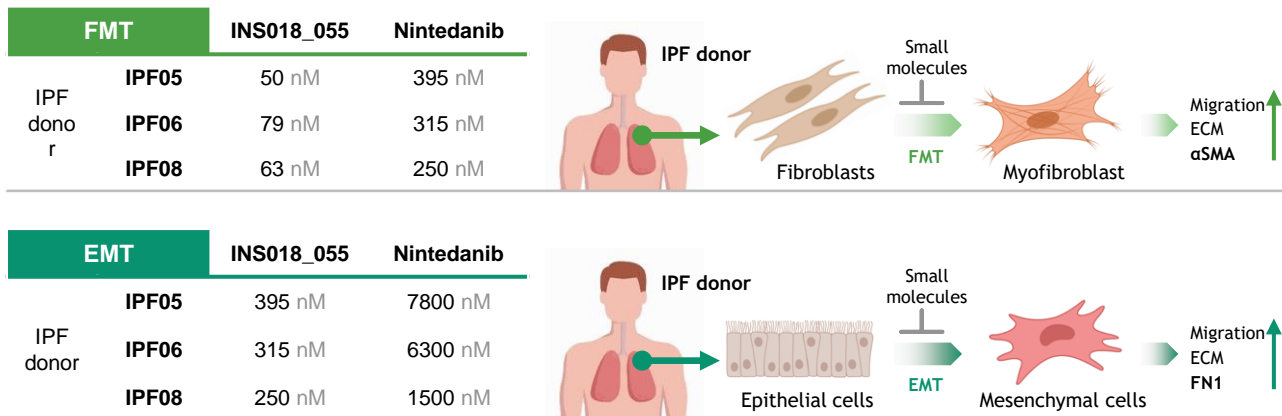
## Lung Function (Day21)

\*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001 vs G2



Histology data verified by independent, blinded analysis

# Fibroblast-to-myofibroblast transition (FMT) and Epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) in IPF human donors



Myofibroblasts are thought to play a major role in fibrosis through excessive deposition of extra-cellular matrix during wound healing processes.

FMT & EMT are hallmark events in the pathobiology of IPF.

Average	INS018_055		Nintedanib	
	FMT	EMT	FMT	EMT
IC <sub>50</sub>	64 nM	320 nM	320 nM	5200 nM

INS018\_055 potently antagonized FMT and EMT in primary human lung epithelial cells and fibroblasts, respectively, derived from patients with idiopathic lung fibrosis.

INS018\_055 is **5-fold** more potent than Nintedanib on **FMT**, and **16-fold** more potent than Nintedanib on **EMT**.

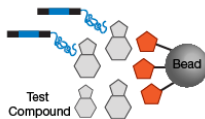


# Preclinical Candidate (PCC) preclinical experiments completed



## Enzymatic assay

AI-discovered,  
highly selective & potent



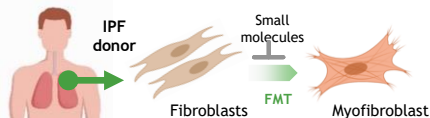
## *In vitro* cell-based assay IC50 evaluation of fibrosis markers

Collagen I &  $\alpha$ SMA IC<sub>50</sub> < 100 nM

VS  
IC<sub>50</sub> > 600 nM of nintedanib



## Fibroblast-to-myofibroblast transition and Epithelial-mesenchymal transition



5- & 16- fold greater potency of INSO18\_055  
than nintedanib in FMT & EMT respectively



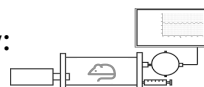
## *In vivo* efficacy study in Bleomycin-induced lung fibrosis mouse model

Equivalent efficacy at a lower dose  
(6-20 mg/kg) than nintedanib (60 mg/kg)



## *In vivo* efficacy study: Lung function

Significant improvement in lung function



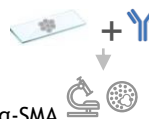
## *In vivo* efficacy study: Modified Ashcroft score

Significant improvement in fibrosis status



## *In vivo* efficacy study: Immunohistochemistry for $\alpha$ -SMA & Collagen I

equivalent efficacy in inhibiting  $\alpha$ -SMA  
& Collagen I synthesis at a lower doses



## Toxicology study in mice

INSO18\_055



- No adverse effects was observed in doses up to 60 mg/kg daily in a 14-day non-GLP toxicity study in mice
- Safety factor of 8-10 in non-GLP 2-week toxicity study



## ADME studies

- Forecasted clinical efficacy at once-daily dosing
- increase patient compliance and efficacy



## Safety / Tolerability

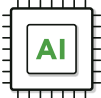
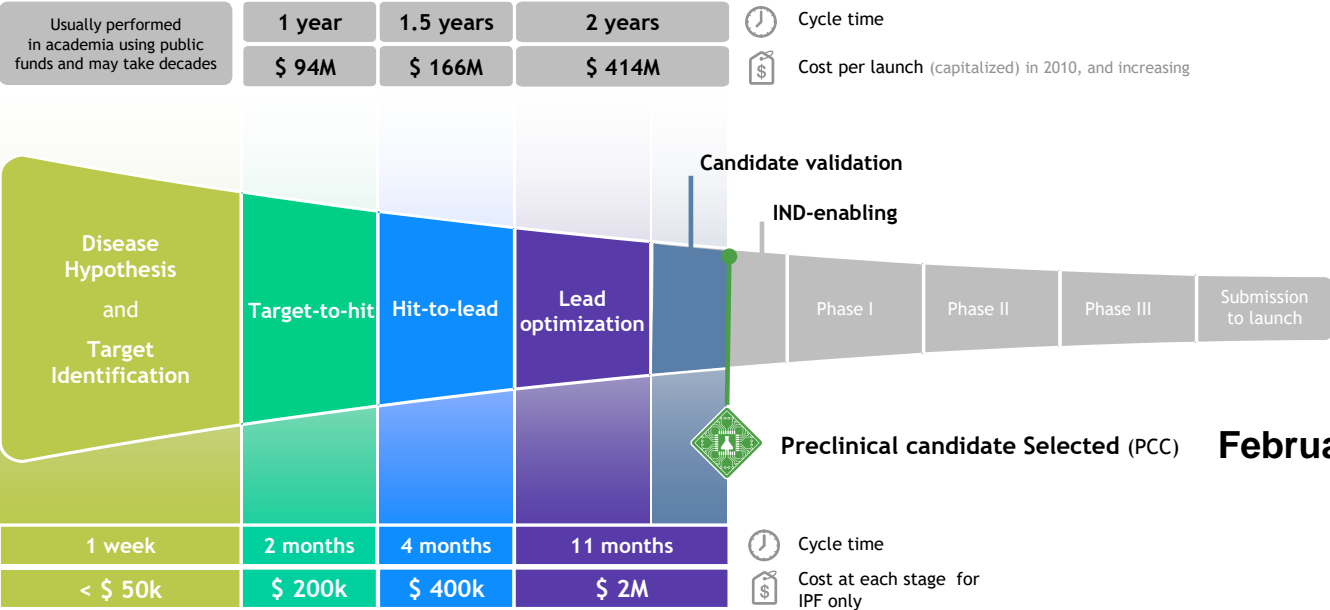
- Greater tolerability to be confirmed in pivotal toxicity studies (Planned)
- Should be a preferred option, if tolerability is confirmed to be superior to nintedanib



# Insilico Medicine AI platforms discovered a Novel target and designed a Novel preclinical candidate molecule



## Traditional Approach



## Insilico Medicine Approach



# ISM001-055: Compelling Preclinical Package to Support CTA/IND Filing



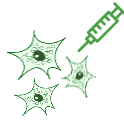
**In vitro cell-based assay**  
IC<sub>50</sub> evaluation of fibrosis markers

ISM001-055

Collagen I & αSMA IC<sub>50</sub> < 100 nM

vs

IC<sub>50</sub> > 600 nM of Nintedanib



ISM001-055 observed to be 6-times more potent than Nintedanib



**In vivo efficacy study for combinations with Nintedanib & Pirfenidone**

Combination of **suboptimal** doses of ISM001-055 & Pirfenidone exhibited:

- ✓ Synergistic effect in the lung function restoration
- ✓ Synergistic anti-fibrotic effect
- ✓ Synergistic reductions in αSMA & Collagen I expression

Synergistic effect of ISM001-055 with Pirfenidone observed



**BioMAP study in fibrosis panel** demonstrated that ISM001-055:



- ✓ Was **active and non-cytotoxic**
- ✓ Mediated changes in key IPF biomarker parameters
- ✓ Showed a more pronounced effect compared to Nintedanib

ISM001-055 observed to cause significant changes of key biomarkers related to IPF



**Toxicology studies** in mice & dogs

**After 14-day oral repeat dose study:**

- ✓ In mice: NOAEL considered to be 60 mg/kg/day
- ✓ In dogs: NOAEL considered to be 20 mg/kg/day

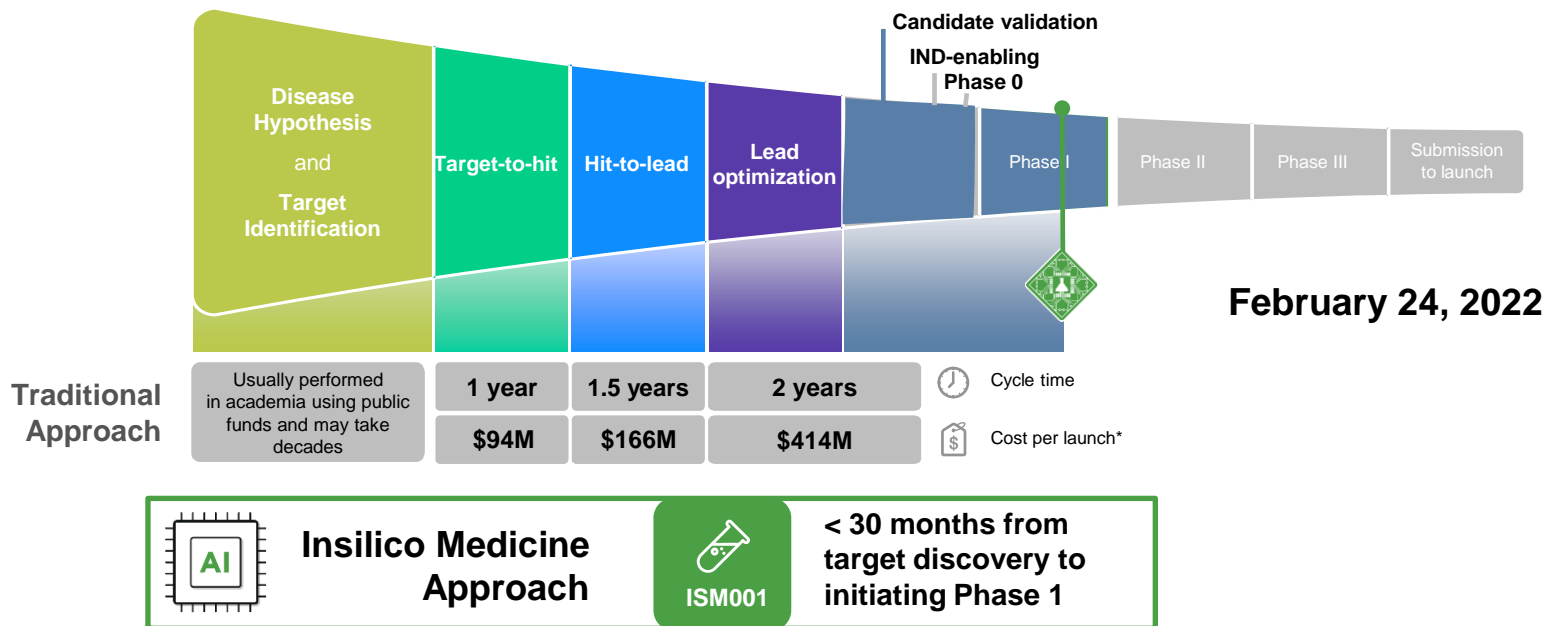
**In the ongoing 28-day toxicology study:**

- ✓ In mice: Top dose group showed dose-limiting toxicity; low and mid dose animals demonstrated only minor clinical findings
- ✓ In dogs: GI symptoms with increasing severity and reduced food intake observed mainly in high dose animals while not in low and mid dose groups

ISM001-055 observed to be well tolerated at low and mid doses



# Example: AI-Discovered Novel Target and AI-Designed Novel Anti-Fibrotic Small Molecule with Multi-Purpose Target in Phase I in 30-months



**February 24, 2022**

\* The cost per launch was capitalized in 2010, and is increasing

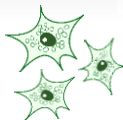
# ISM001-073: Preclinical Data Supports Selection as a PCC for Kidney Fibrosis



**Highly active inhibitor** of Target X  
with  $IC_{50}$  values in nM range



**High efficacy** in cell-based assay inhibiting  $\alpha$ -SMA production in human kidney 2 cells with the nM  $IC_{50}$  values and  $\mu$ M  $CC_{50}$  values



**In the BioMAP** renal fibrosis system, inhibited inflammation, myofibroblast activation, fibrosis-related tissue remodeling and wound healing activity markers



**Good efficacy** in UUO *in vivo* model of kidney fibrosis:

- **Significant & dose dependent decrease** in hydroxyproline & fibrosis score
- **Significant decrease** in Collagen type 1, 3 & 4



**Well-tolerated** in 2-week toxicity study in mice

$$\text{Safety factor} = \frac{\text{Exposure at NOAEL}}{\text{Exposure at Pharmacological active dose}}$$

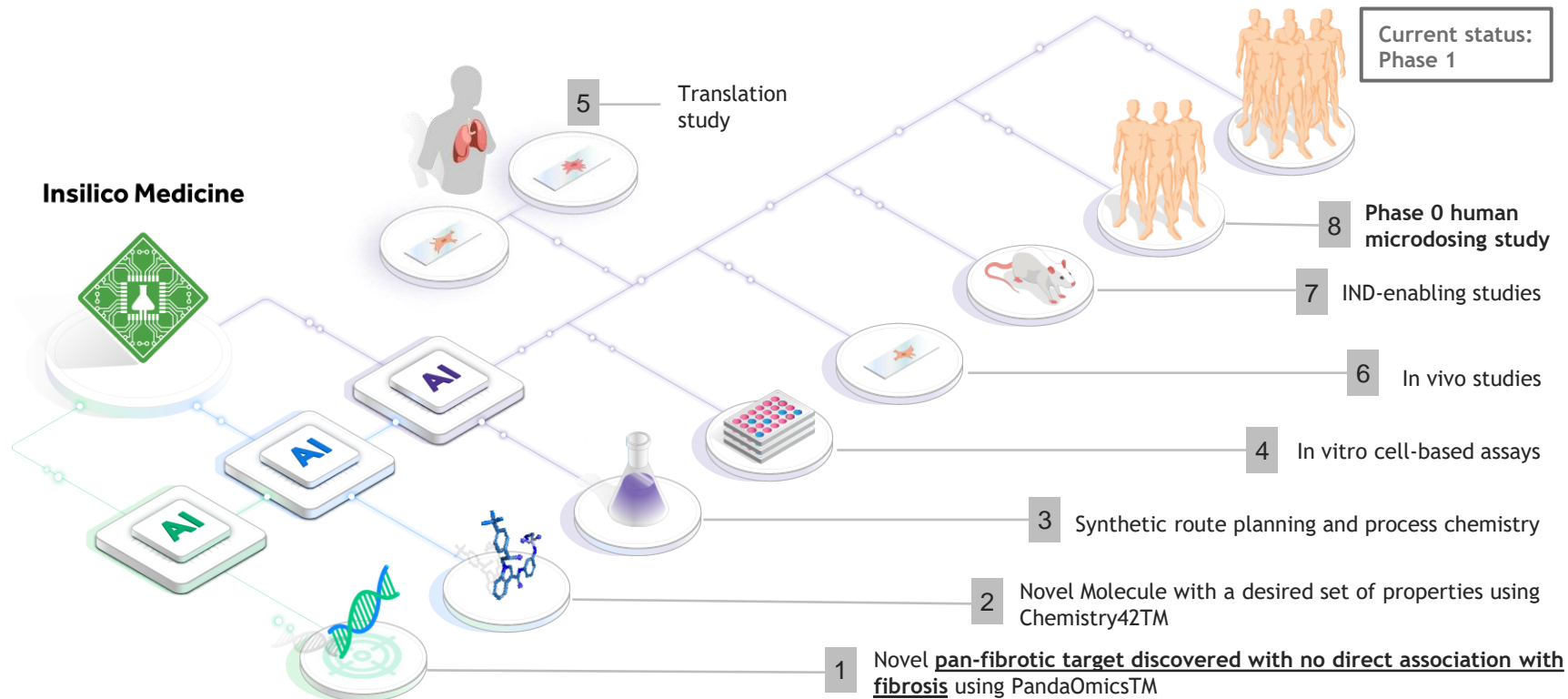
- Safety factor of ISM001-073  $\approx$  12



**Balanced ADMET properties** suitable for further development in clinical trials



# From Start to Phase 1 in 30 Months: Insilico's AI-Discovered & AI-Designed Potentially Geroprotective Anti-Fibrotic Drug



# Autonomous AI-Driven Robotics Laboratory

Scaling Target Discovery With Robotics



Phase I

Clinical  
Trials

IND-enabling  
studies

Phase II

Phase III

Learn

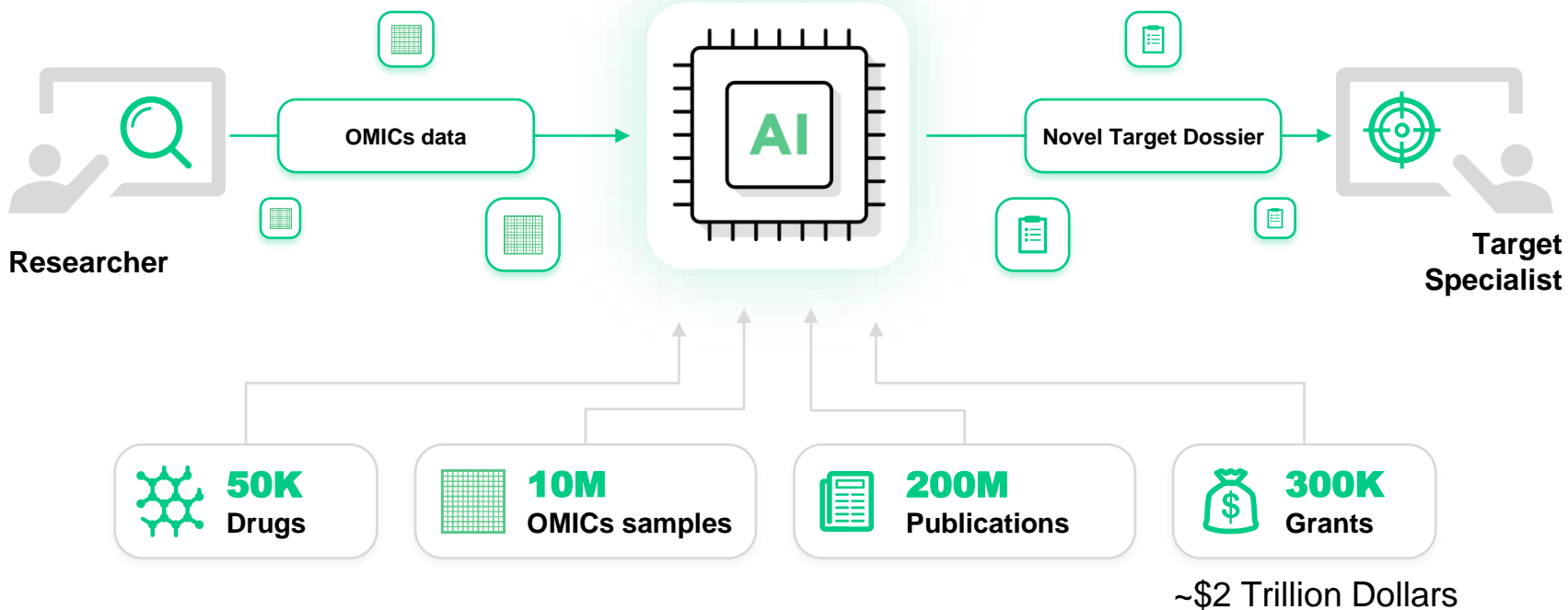


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# Leverage OMICS and Meta Data for Novel Target Discovery



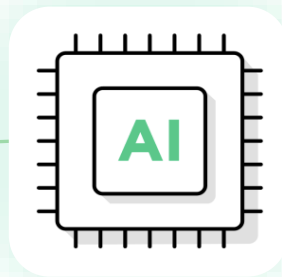
## panda Omics



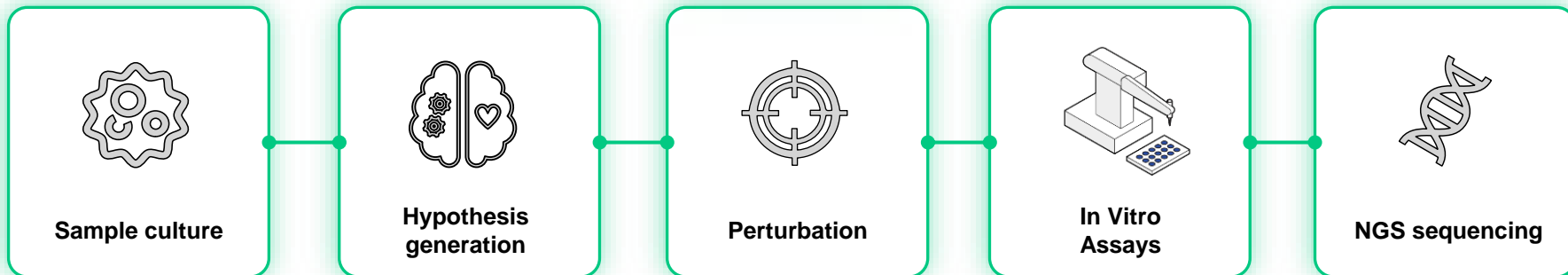


## pandaOmics

Integrated system  
with multiple workflows



Phenotype  
High-resolution, High-content Imaging  
Methylation Response  
Transcriptional Response  
Deep Phenotypic Response  
HUMAN + ANIMAL

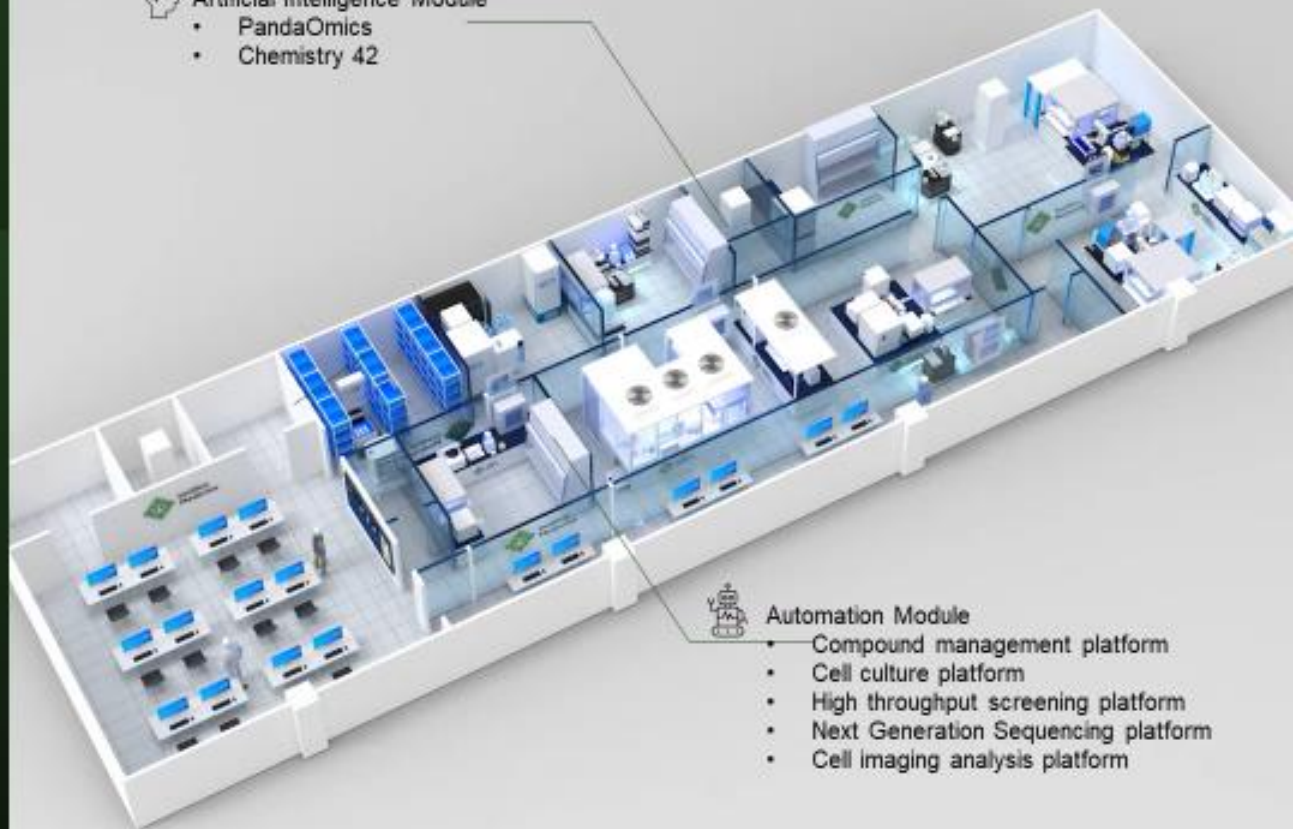


# End-to-End Integrated Solutions



## Artificial Intelligence Module

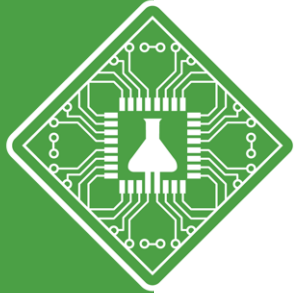
- PandaOmics
- Chemistry 42



## Automation Module

- Compound management platform
- Cell culture platform
- High throughput screening platform
- Next Generation Sequencing platform
- Cell imaging analysis platform





# Insilico Medicine



InsilicoMedicine



InSilicoMeds

@Biogerontology



alex@insilico.com



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Abu Dhabi  
Montreal

We are hiring!

**New York:** Insilico Medicine, The Cure by  
Deerfield, 345 Park Avenue, New York

**HK:** 307A, Core Building 1, 1 Science Park East  
Avenue, Hong Kong Science Park, Pak Shek Kok

**Taipei:** 20<sup>th</sup> Floor, No.333, Sec. 1, Keelung Rd.,  
Xinyi District, Taipei

**Shanghai:** Tower E, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2889 Jinke Road,  
Pudong New Area, Shanghai

A short personal announcement...

*Alex Zhavoronkov*  
**LONGEVITY PLEDGE**

A QUEST FOR AGING WITHOUT LOSING  
AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

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

## Hallmarks of aging-based dual-purpose disease and age-associated targets predicted using PandaOmics AI-powered discovery engine

Frank W. Pun<sup>1,\*</sup>, Geoffrey Ho Duen Leung<sup>1,\*</sup>, Hoi Wing Leung<sup>1,\*</sup>, Bonnie Hei Man Liu<sup>1</sup>, Xi Long<sup>1</sup>, Ivan V. Ozerov<sup>1</sup>, Ju Wang<sup>1</sup>, Feng Ren<sup>1</sup>, Alexander Aliper<sup>1</sup>, Evgeny Izumchenko<sup>2</sup>, Alexey Moskalev<sup>3</sup>, João Pedro de Magalhães<sup>4</sup>, Alex Zhavoronkov<sup>1,5</sup>

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\*Equal contribution

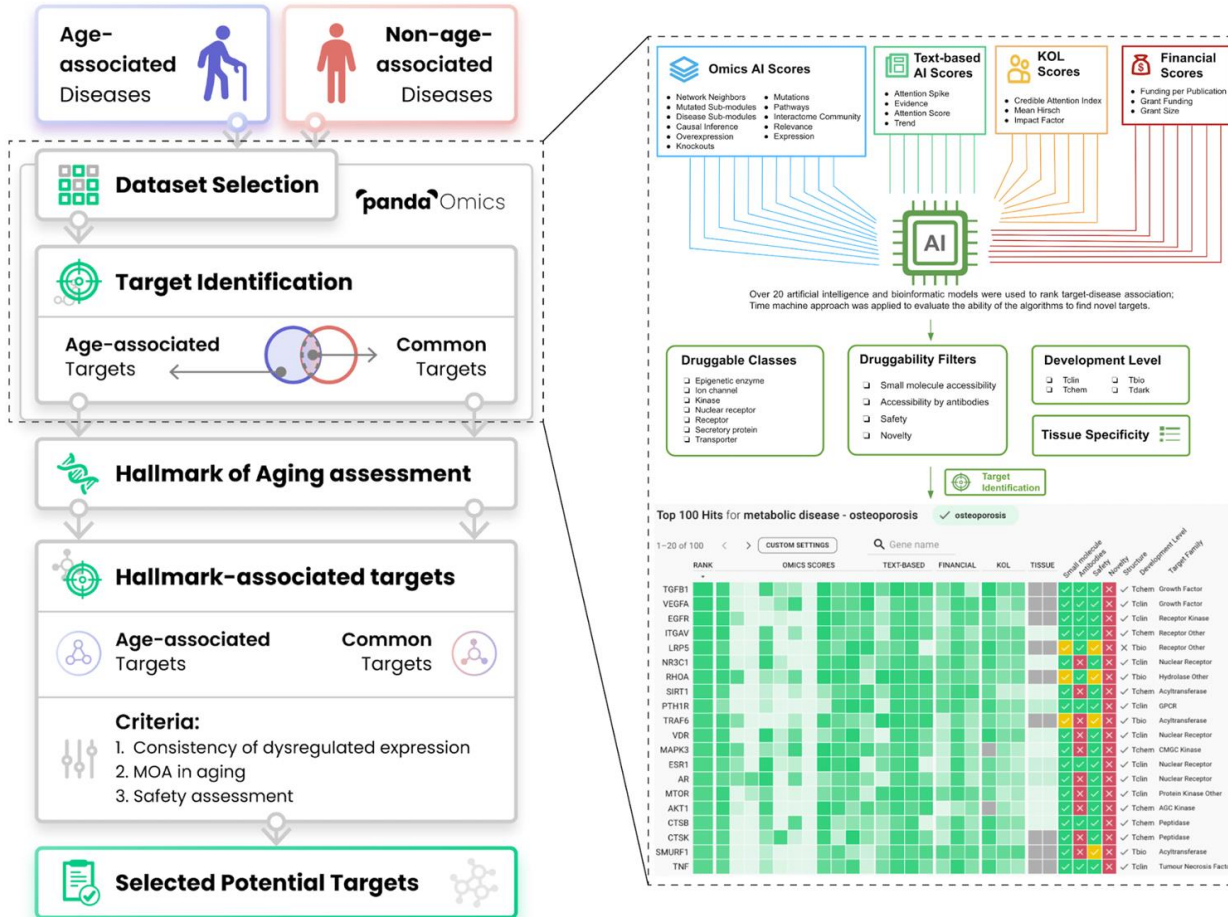
**Correspondence to:** Alex Zhavoronkov; **email:** [alex@insilico.com](mailto:alex@insilico.com)

**Keywords:** artificial intelligence, deep learning, drug discovery, multi-omics, target identification

**Received:** January 21, 2022

**Accepted:** March 6, 2022

# Workflow of the present study



# List of diseases and datasets employed

Non-age-associated diseases (NAADs) (n = 19)		
Disease	Disease Class	Number of datasets
Acromegaly	Metabolic	2
Asthma	Inflammation & Immunology	13
Bipolar disorder	Neurological	4
Celiac disease	Inflammation & Immunology	3
Crohn's disease	Inflammation & Immunology	8
Cystic fibrosis	Fibrotic	5
Hepatitis, alcoholic	Metabolic	3
Hepatitis C virus infection	Infectious	2
Huntington's disease	Neurological	5
Infectious meningitis	Infectious	3
Influenza	Infectious	5
Multiple sclerosis	Fibrotic	11
Psoriasis	Inflammation & Immunology	11
Pulmonary tuberculosis	Infectious	7
Schizophrenia	Neurological	4
Systemic lupus erythematosus	Inflammation & Immunology	9
Systemic sclerosis	Inflammation & Immunology	6
Type I diabetes mellitus	Metabolic	12
Ulcerative colitis	Inflammation & Immunology	13
Total		126

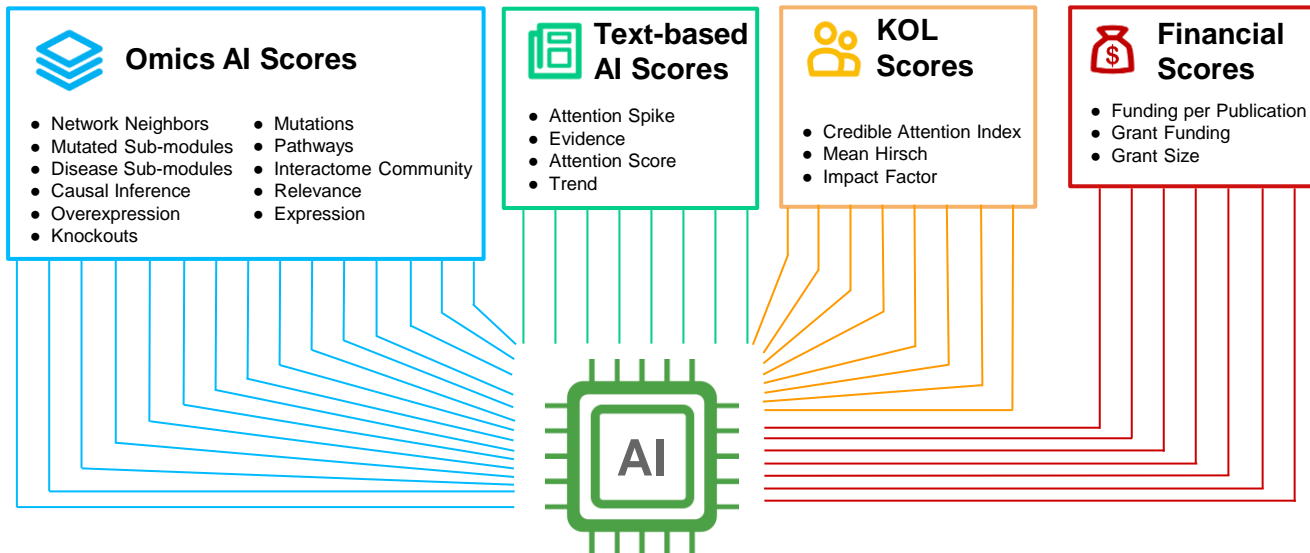
Age-associated diseases (AADs) <sup>1,2</sup> (n = 14)		
Disease	Disease Class	Number of datasets
Alzheimer's disease	Neurological	12
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis	Neurological	10
Chronic kidney disease	Metabolic	7
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Inflammation & Immunology	6
Cirrhosis of liver	Fibrotic	5
Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis	Fibrotic	11
Obesity	Metabolic	10
Osteoarthritis	Inflammation & Immunology	5
Osteoporosis	Metabolic	2
Parkinson's disease	Neurological	4
Primary myelofibrosis	Fibrotic	2
Pulmonary arterial hypertension	Metabolic	5
Rheumatoid Arthritis	Inflammation & Immunology	4
Type II diabetes mellitus	Metabolic	4
Total		87

<sup>1</sup> Diseases are classified as age-associated if age is a strong risk factor for the disease onset

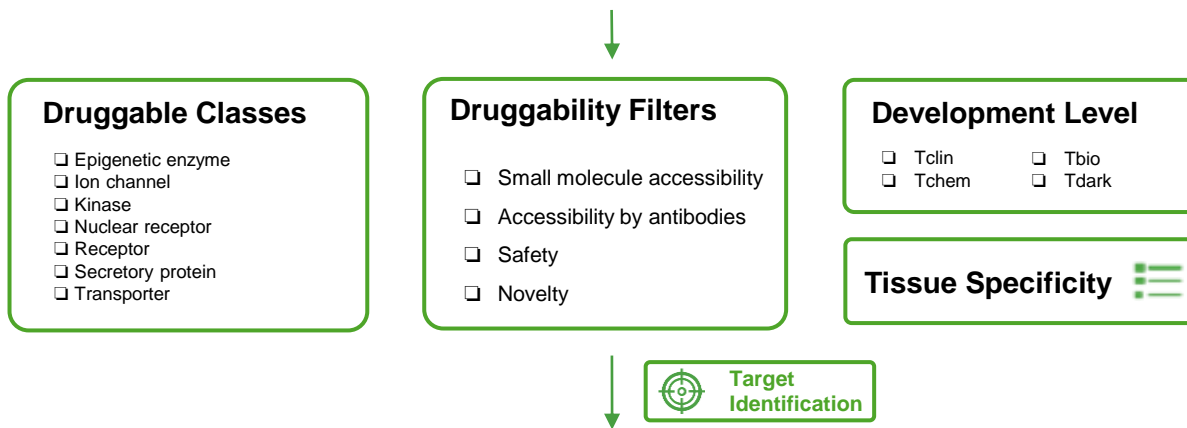
<sup>2</sup> The rationale behind the exclusion of cancer and cardiovascular disease:

- common mechanistic root contributing to the insufficient blood supply to multiple organs among cardiovascular disease
- Some mechanisms of Hallmark of Aging in cancer and some aging-associated diseases are in opposite direction.

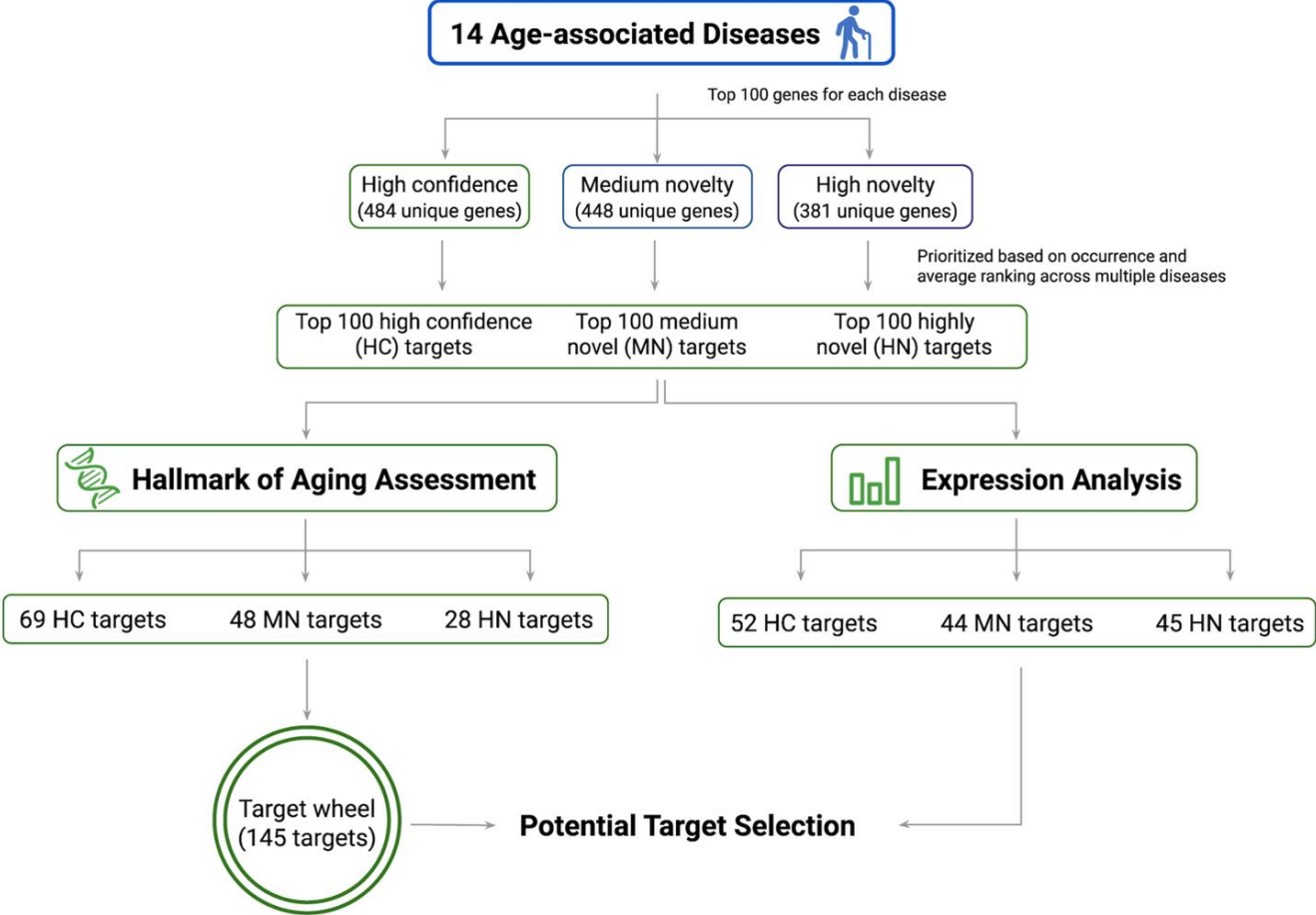


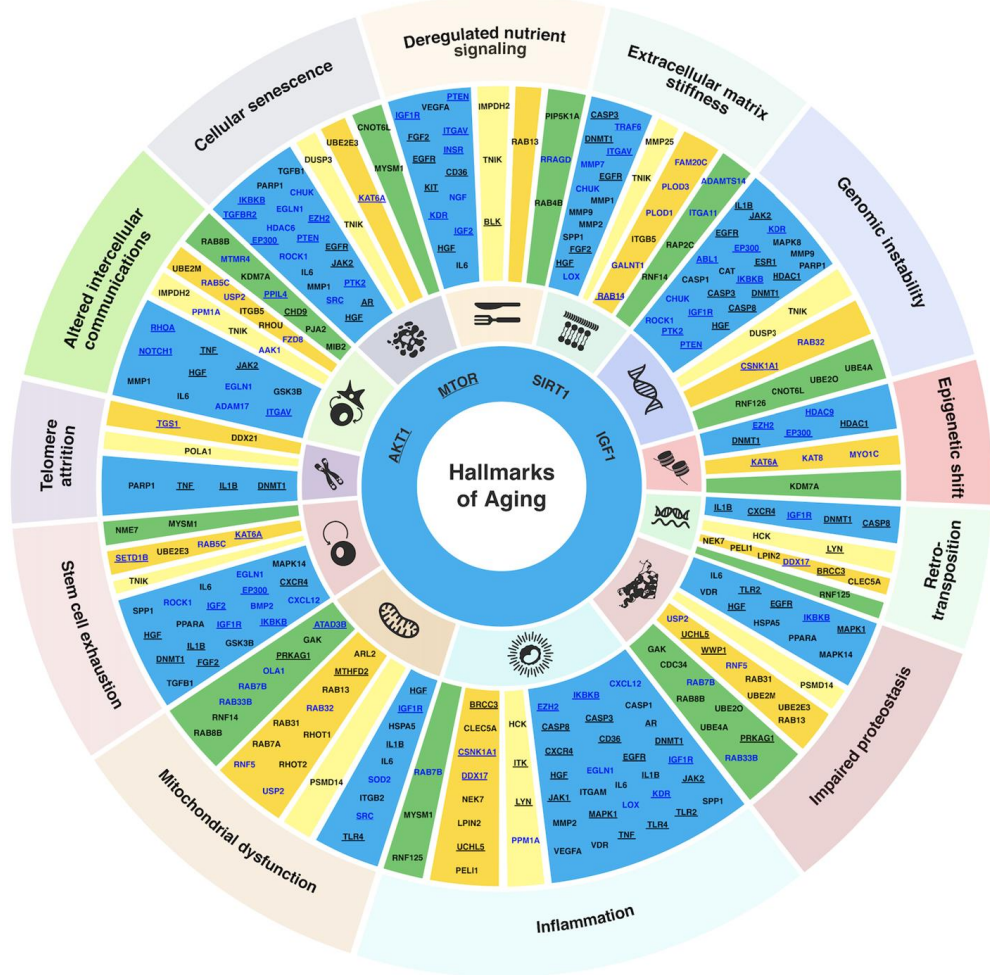


Over 20 artificial intelligence and bioinformatic models were used to rank target-disease association; Time machine approach was applied to evaluate the ability of the algorithms to find novel targets.



# Flowchart of the selection of dual-purpose targets from the 14 AADs





# Targets associated with hallmarks of aging

Targets ( $n = 145$ ) were mapped to the corresponding hallmark(s) of aging based on the literature. For novel targets, their participating pathways were also used for the assessment of their association with the hallmark(s) of aging.

Genes in inner circle: connected to all hallmarks  
 Genes in **Blue**: Age-associated disease targets  
 Genes in **Black**: Common targets  
 Genes underlined: Cancer drivers

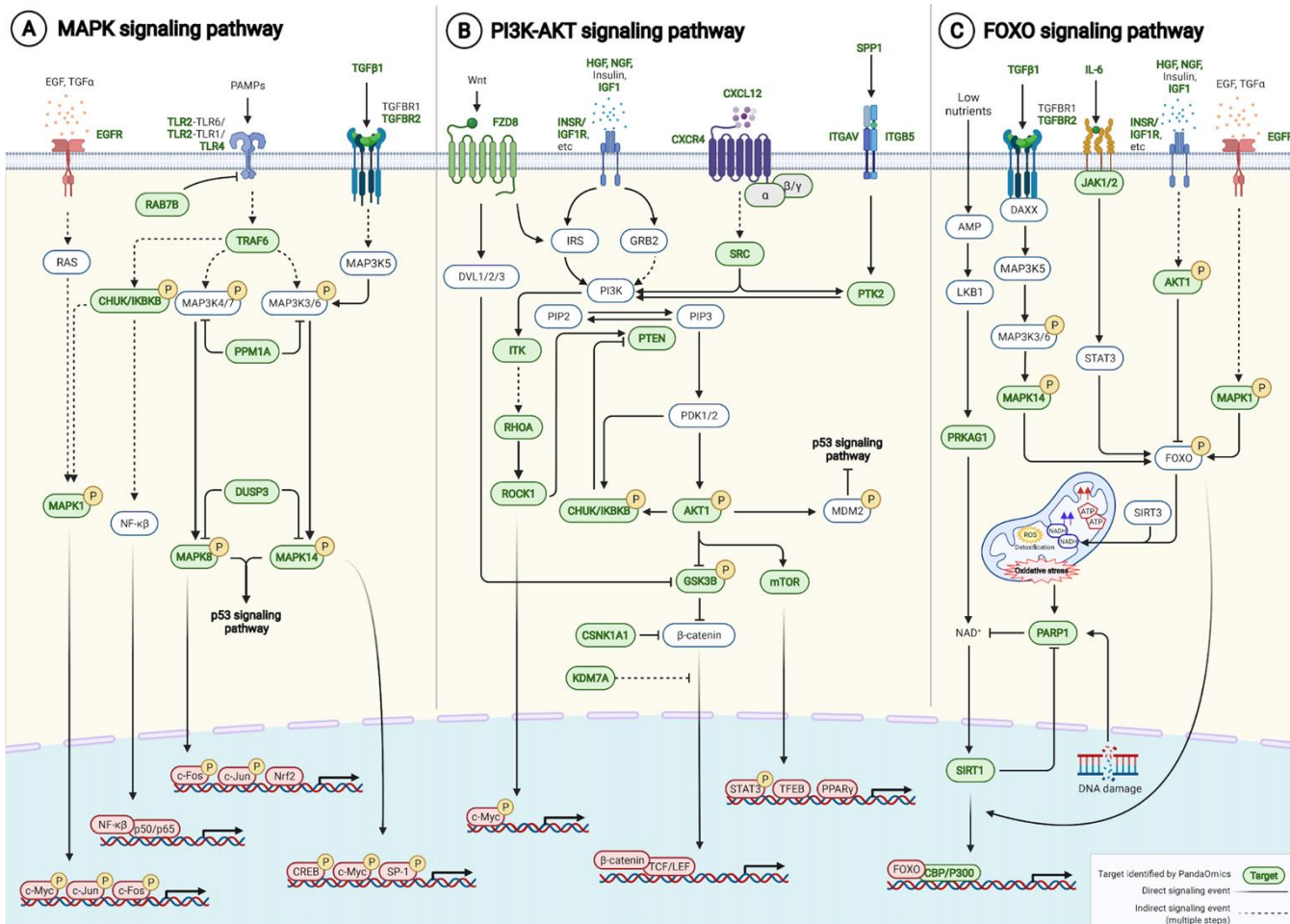
High confidence, high druggability (n=69)

Medium novel, medium druggability (n=36)

Medium novel, high druggability (n=12)

Highly novel, medium druggability (n=28)

# AI-derived targets crosstalk to aging-associated signaling pathways



# List of prioritized targets

Novelty	Target <sup>1</sup>	Protein family	Dysregulation in AAD classes	Therapy approach	Hallmarks of aging	Role in aging	Clinical trial status	Severe toxicity <sup>3</sup>	Reference (PMID)
High confidence	<b>CXCL12</b>	Cytokine	ALL Upregulated	Antagonist (pro-aging)	Inflammation, Stem cell exhaustion	CXCL12 is an aging-upregulated gene and a mediator of the crosstalk between vascular cells and many brain cell types	Completed phase 4	No evidence	23128103, 20833981
High confidence	<b>SPP1</b>	Chemokine	ALL Upregulated	Antagonist (pro-aging)	Extracellular matrix stiffness, Inflammation, Stem cell exhaustion	Age-dependent increase in SPP1 levels inhibited skeletal muscle regeneration	Completed phase 1/2	No evidence	28254837, 17392476
Medium novel	<b>ITGB5</b>	Receptor	ALL Upregulated	Antagonist (pro-aging)	Altered intercellular communications, Extracellular matrix stiffness	ITGB5 is a TGF- $\beta$ activator. Inhibiting TGF- $\beta$ signaling was shown to repress body size as well as lifespan <i>in vivo</i>	Completed phase 3	No evidence	29070608
Medium novel	<b>PPM1A</b>	Esterase	ALL Downregulated	Agonist (anti-aging <sup>2</sup> )	Deregulated nutrient signaling, Inflammation	PPM1A stimulated macrophages to produce TNF through TLR4	N/A	No evidence; absence in DEG	31791585
Highly novel	<b>RAB7B</b>	Hydrolase	ALL Upregulated	Agonist (anti-aging)	Impaired proteostasis, Inflammation, Mitochondrial dysfunction	RAB7B negatively regulated TLR4 signaling in macrophages and autophagic flux as well as prevented inflammation and autophagy upon damage	N/A	No evidence; absence in DEG	28726776
Highly novel	<b>ADAMTS14</b>	Peptidase	Upregulated in neurological and fibrotic diseases	Antagonist (pro-aging)	Extracellular matrix stiffness	ADAMTS14 is responsible for the degradation of ECM collagen. Aged fibroblast-ECM interactions become disrupted due to the fragmentation of collagen fibrils. Fibroblasts synthesized fewer ECM proteins and more matrix-degrading metalloproteinases	N/A	No evidence, absence in DEG	11779638
Highly novel	<b>KDM7A</b>	Oxidoreductase	Downregulated in neurological and fibrotic diseases	Agonist (anti-aging)	Altered intercellular communications, Genome instability	Age-related neural dedifferentiation might contribute to many cognitive abilities decline with age. KDM7A regulated neural differentiation through FGF4, and was associated with Wnt signaling	N/A	No evidence	34395453, 30614617
Highly novel	<b>MYSM1</b>	Peptidase	Downregulated in neurological, fibrotic and metabolic diseases	Agonist (anti-aging)	Cellular senescence, Inflammation, Stem cell exhaustion	MYSM1 functionally reduced cellular senescence and the aging process. MYSM1 deficiency promoted the aging process and decreased lifespan while its overexpression inhibited the aging process and increased lifespan <i>in vivo</i> .	N/A	No evidence	33240758
Highly novel	<b>MTMR4</b>	Esterase	Downregulated in neurological, fibrotic and metabolic diseases	Agonist (anti-aging)	Altered intercellular communications	Skeletal muscle atrophy accompanies many chronic disease states and normal aging	N/A	No evidence	31543504

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Targets selected for comprehensive target review are in **BOLD**

<sup>2</sup> Based on its mechanism of action i.e. protective role

<sup>3</sup> Database of Essential Gene (DEG) is freely accessible from the website

<http://tubic.tju.edu.cn/deg>