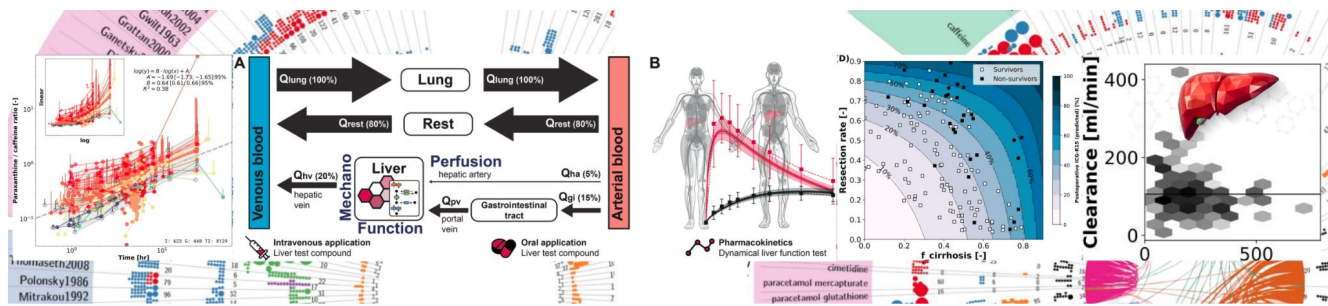




Pharmacokinetics Modeling Course

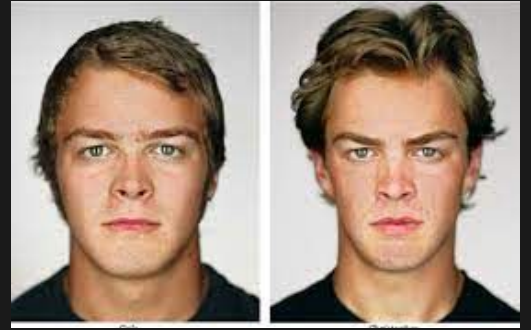
Reproducible Research & SBML



Dr. Matthias König
 Humboldt-University Berlin
 Systems Medicine of the Liver
koenigmx@hu-berlin.de
<https://livermetabolism.com>

By the end of this section, you should be able to:

1. **Understand the role of reproducibility** in computational modeling.
2. **Introduce the Systems Biology Markup Language (SBML)** as a standard for model representation and exchange.
3. **Gain familiarity with tools** for creating, and simulating SBML models (e.g., sbmlutils, cy3sbml).
4. **Discuss FAIR principles** (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) and their application to model data and metadata.
5. **Highlight the importance of open science practices** for transparent and collaborative research.



REPRODUCIBILITY



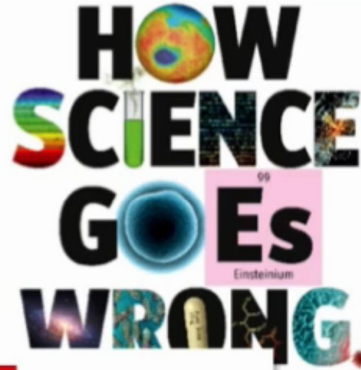
PUBLIC MEDIA

The Breakdown in Biomedical Research

Contaminated samples, faulty studies and have created a crisis in laboratories and in quest for new treatments and cures



Washington's lawyer surplus
How to do a nuclear deal with Iran
Investment tips from Nobel economist
Junk bonds are back
The meaning of Sachin Tendulkar



Why bad science persists Incentive malus

Poor scientific methods may be hereditary
Sep 24th 2016 | From the print edition



Lies, Damned Lies, and Medical Science

MUCH OF WHAT MEDICAL RESEARCHERS CONCLUDE IN THEIR STUDIES IS MISLEADING, FLAT-OUT WRONG. SO WHY ARE DOCTORS—TO A STRIKING EXTENT—STILL DRAWING UP MISINFORMATION IN THEIR EVERYDAY PRACTICE? DR. JOHN IOANNIDIS HAS SPENT HIS CHALLENGING HIS PEERS BY EXPOSING THEIR BAD SCIENCE.

By David H. Freedman



THE NEW YORKER

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THE NEW YORKER | REPORTING & BOOKS

ANNALS OF SCIENCE

THE TRUTH WEARS OFF

Is there something wrong with the scientific method?

BY JONAH LEHRER

DECEMBER 13, 2010

FEATURES

How many scientific papers just aren't true?

Enough that basing government policy on 'peer-reviewed studies' isn't all it's cracked up to be

Donna Laframboise

The New York Times

SCIENCE

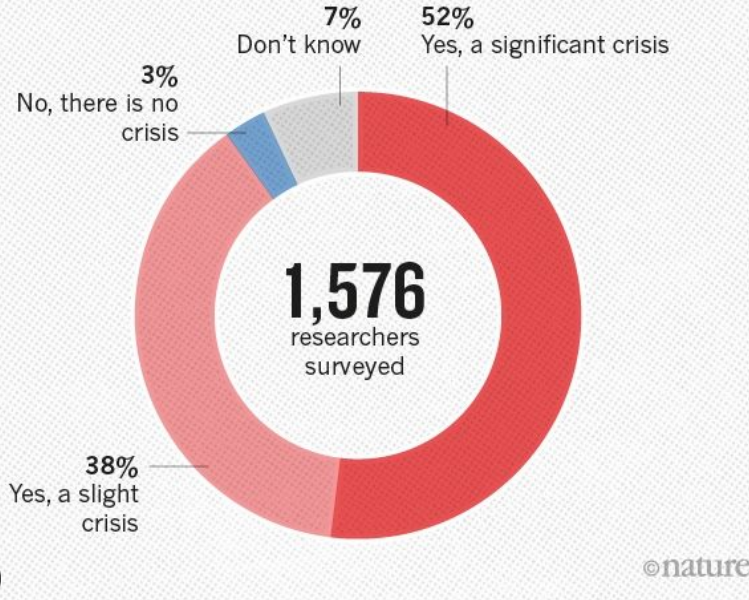
Science, Now Under Scrutiny Itself

Editorial: "Is science in big trouble?"

The 5th World Conference on Research Integrity will explore the challenges of promoting transparency and accountability in research — and develop an agenda for action

SCIENTIST

IS THERE A REPRODUCIBILITY CRISIS?



WHAT FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO IRREPRODUCIBLE RESEARCH?

Many top-rated factors relate to intense competition and time pressure.

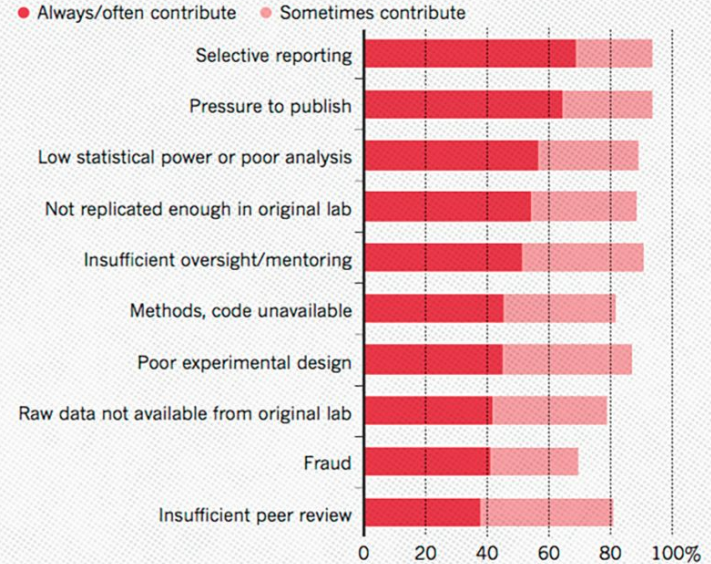
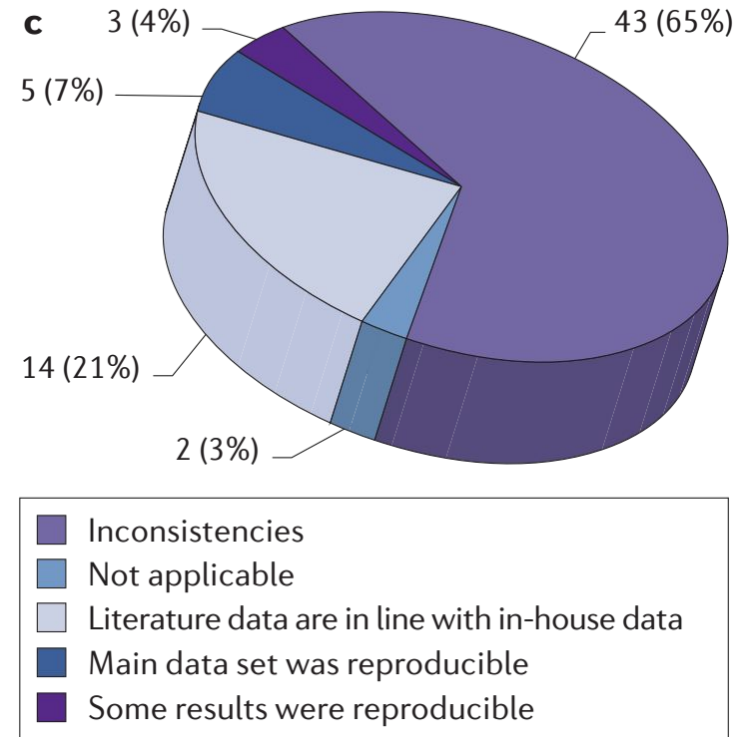


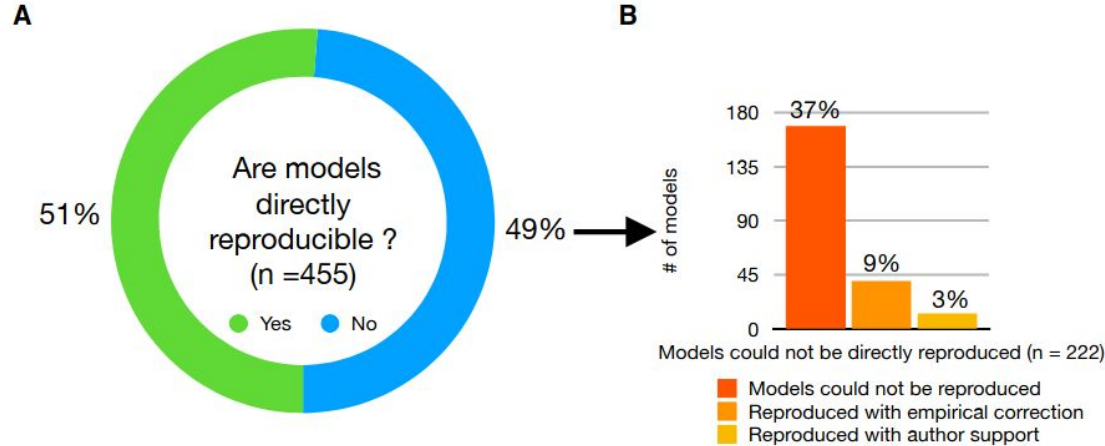
FIGURE 5: Plot Representing What Researchers Believe are the Primary Causes of Reproducibility Failure in the Sciences.

Industry Efforts

- **Amgen (6/53) & Bayer (14/67)**
- **Bayer halts nearly two-thirds of its target-validation projects** because in-house experimental findings fail to match up with published literature claims
- internal experiments matched up with the published findings in only 14 projects, but were **highly inconsistent in 43/67**



Reproducibility of Computational Models



- Most models not accessible
- Many accessible models not reproducible

Tiwari K, Kananathan S, Roberts MG, Meyer JP, Sharif Shohan MU, Xavier A, Maire M, Zyoud A, Men J, Ng S, Nguyen TVN, Glont M, Hermjakob H, Malik-Sheriff RS. Reproducibility in systems biology modelling. *Mol Syst Biol.* 2021 Feb;17(2):e9982. doi: 10.15252/msb.20209982. PMID: 33620773; PMCID: PMC7901289.



Reproducibility of Computational Models

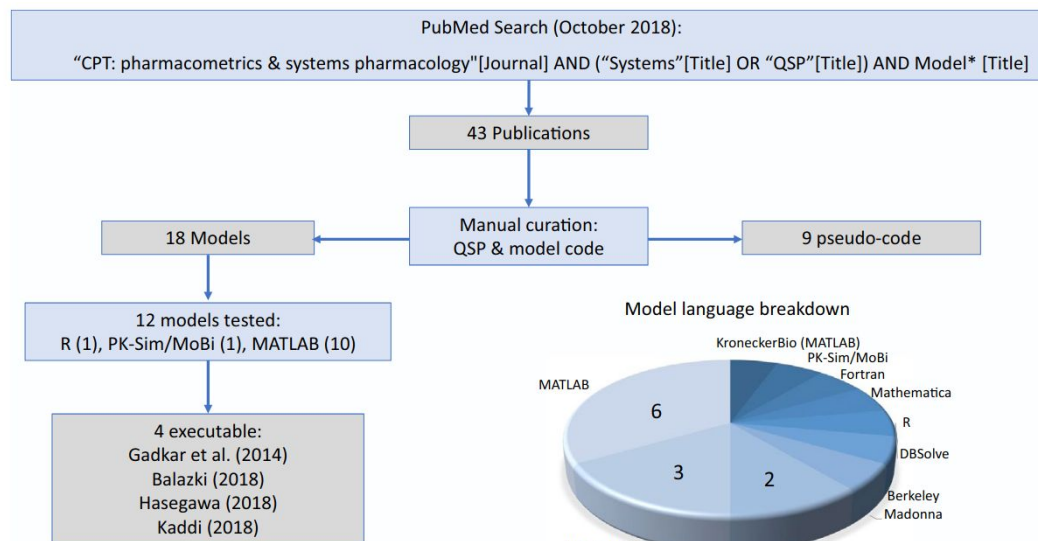


Figure 1 Workflow and results summary. QSP, quantitative systems pharmacology.

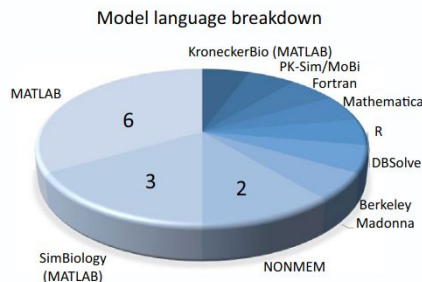


Table 1 Summary of 18 QSP models

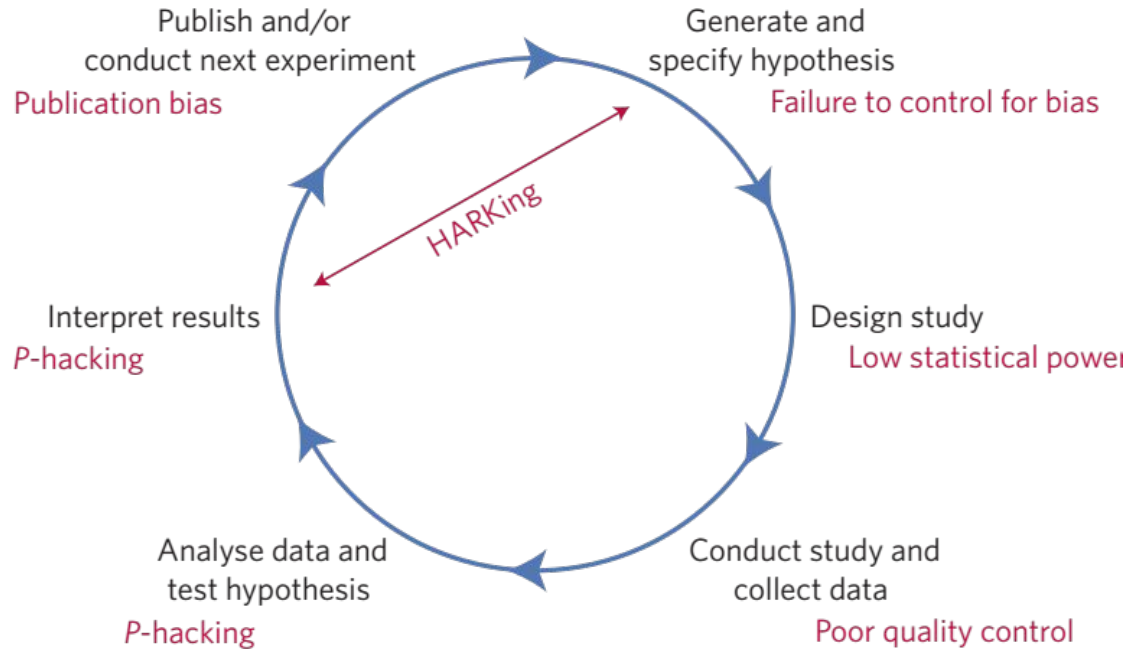
PMID	Title	Author, year	Language	Executable
29637732	Quantitative Systems Pharmacology Model of HUGT1A1-modRNA Encoding for the UGT1A1 Enzyme to Treat Crigler-Najjar Syndrome Type 1	Apgar (2018)	KroneckerBio (MATLAB)	No
28548387	A Quantitative Systems Physiology Model of Renal Function and Blood Pressure Regulation: Model Description	Hallow (2017)	R	Error
26312163	Using a Systems Pharmacology Model of the Blood Coagulation Network to Predict the Effects of Various Therapies on Biomarkers	Nayak (2015)	SimBiology (MATLAB)	No
26225228	A Systems Pharmacology Model of Erythropoiesis in Mice Induced by Small Molecule Inhibitor of Proliferating Cell Nuclear Antigen Kinase	Singh (2015)	Fortran	Not tested
28188981	A Mechanistic Systems Pharmacology Model for Prediction of LDL Cholesterol Lowering by PCSK9 Antagonism in Human Dyslipidemic Populations	Gadkar (2014)	SimBiology (MATLAB)	Yes
24918743	Effects of IL-1 β -Blocking Therapies in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: A Quantitative Systems Pharmacology Modeling Approach to Explore Underlying Mechanisms	Palmer (2014)	Mathematica	Not tested
23903463	Quantitative Systems Pharmacology Model of NO Metabolism and Methemoglobin Following Long-Term Infusion of Sodium Nitrite in Humans	Vega-Villa (2013)	NONMEM	Not tested
28941225	Systems Pharmacology Model of Gastrointestinal Damage Predicts Species Differences and Optimizes Clinical Dosing Schedules	Shankaran (2017)	MATLAB	Error
28571112	A Translational Systems Pharmacology Model for Aji Kinetics in Mouse, Monkey, and Human	Karelna (2017)	DBSolve	Not tested
27537780	A Systems Model for Ursodeoxycholic Acid Metabolism in Healthy and Patients With Primary Biliary Cirrhosis	Zuo (2016)	MATLAB	No
27299938	Systems Pharmacology Modeling of Prostate-Specific Antigen in Patients With Prostate Cancer Treated With an Androgen Receptor Antagonist and Down-Regulator	Mistry (2016)	MATLAB	No
26783501	A Systems Pharmacology Model for Predicting Effects of Factor Xa Inhibitors in Healthy Subjects: Assessment of Pharmacokinetics and Binding Kinetics	Zhou (2015)	SimBiology (MATLAB)	No
26451331	Application of a Systems Pharmacology-Based Population Model to Analyze Long-Term Data of Postmenopausal Osteoporosis	Berkhout (2015)	NONMEM	Not tested
24402117	Scale Reduction of a Systems Coagulation Model With an Application to Modeling Pharmacokinetic-Pharmacodynamic Data	Gulati (2014)	MATLAB	No
23887363	Integrated Pharmacometrics and Systems Pharmacology Model-Based Analyses to Guide GnRH Receptor Modulator Development for Management of Endometriosis	Riggs (2012)	Berkeley Madonna	Not tested
30270578	A Quantitative Systems Pharmacology Kidney Model of Diabetes Associated Renal Hyperfiltration and the Effects of SGLT Inhibitors	Balazski (2018)	PK-Sim/MoBi	Yes
30043496	Automated Scale Reduction of Nonlinear QSP Models With an Illustrative Application to a Bone Biology System	Hasegawa (2018)	MATLAB	Yes
29820993	Quantitative Systems Pharmacology Modeling of Acid Sphingomyelinase Deficiency and the Enzyme Replacement Therapy Olipudase Alfa Is an Innovative Tool for Linking Pathophysiology and Pharmacology	Kaddi (2018)	MATLAB	Yes

QSP, quantitative systems pharmacology.

Kirouac DC, Cicali B, Schmidt S. Reproducibility of Quantitative Systems Pharmacology Models: Current Challenges and Future Opportunities. CPT Pharmacometrics Syst Pharmacol. 2019 Apr;8(4):205-210. doi: 10.1002/psp4.12390. Epub 2019 Mar 3. PMID: 30697975; PMCID: PMC6482280.

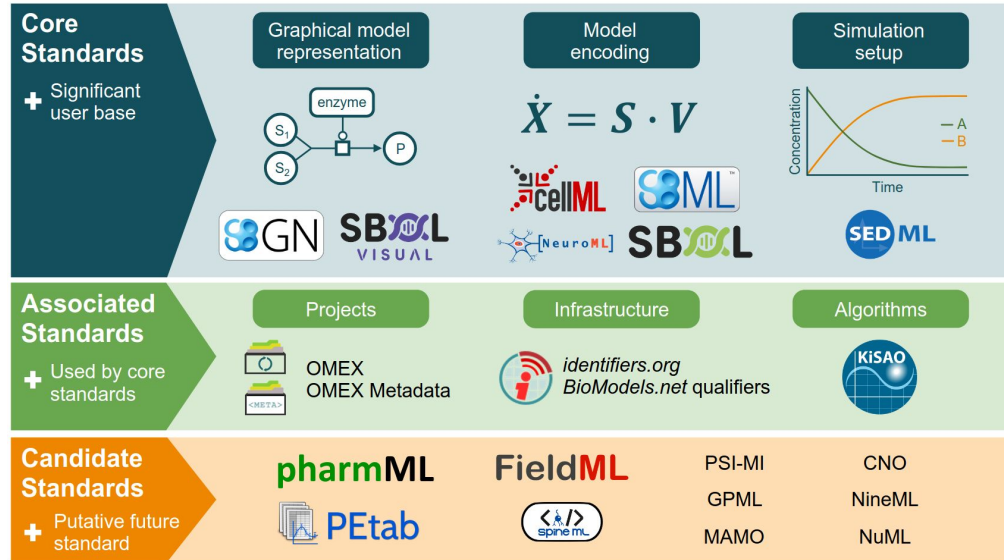


Threats to Scientific Method



- Poor study design
- Low statistical power
- Analytical flexibility
- P-hacking
- Hypothesizing after the results are known (HARKing)
- Publication bias
- Lack of data sharing

Development of Standards



- Models (SBML)
- Simulationen (SED-ML)
- Visualisation (SGBN)
- Parameter Optimization (PETab)
- Metadata (OMEX)
- COMBINE archive

Specifications of Standards in Systems and Synthetic Biology: Status and Developments in 2022 and the COMBINE meeting 2022. M. König et al. J Integr Bioinform. 2023 Mar 29;20(1).

SBML Level 3: an extensible format for the exchange and reuse of biological models. SM Keating, D Waltemath, M König, ..., M Hucka, and SBML Community members. Mol Syst Biol. 2020;16(8):e9110. doi:10.15252/msb.20199110

The Systems Biology Markup Language (SBML): Language Specification for Level 3 Version 2 Core. M. Hucka, F. Bergmann, C. Chaouiya, A. Dräger, S. Hoops, S. Keating, M. König, N Le Novère, C. Myers, B. Olivier, S. Sahle, J. Schaff, R. Sheriff, L. Smith, D. Waltemath, D. Wilkinson, F. Zhang. J Integr Bioinform. 2019 Jun 20;16(2); doi:10.1515/jib-2019-0021

The Distributions Package for SBML Level 3. L. Smith, S. Moodie, F. Bergmann, C. Gillespie, S. Keating, M. König, C. Myers, M. Swat, D. Wilkinson, M. Hucka. J Integr Bioinform. 2020 Aug 4; doi: 10.1515/jib-2020-0018

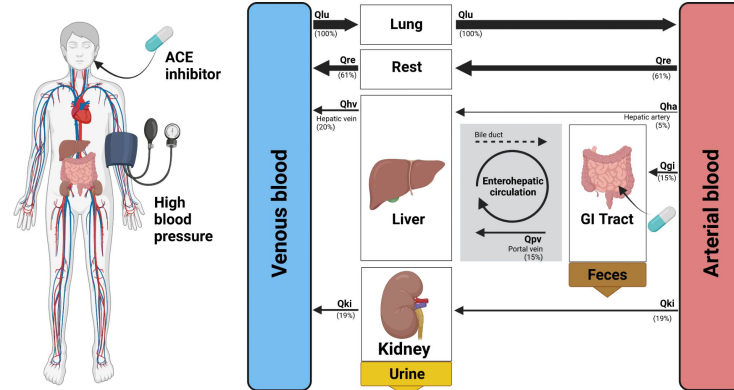
Open modeling and exchange (OMEX) metadata specification version 1.0. Neal ML, Gennari JH, Waltemath D, Nickerson DP, König M. J Integr Bioinform. 2020 Jun 25;17(2-3):20200020. doi:10.1515/jib-2020-0020.

Harmonizing semantic annotations for computational models in biology. Neal, M.; König, M.; Nickerson, D., ...mWaltemath, D. Brief Bioinform. 2019 Mar 22;20(2):540-550. doi:10.1093/bib/bby087.



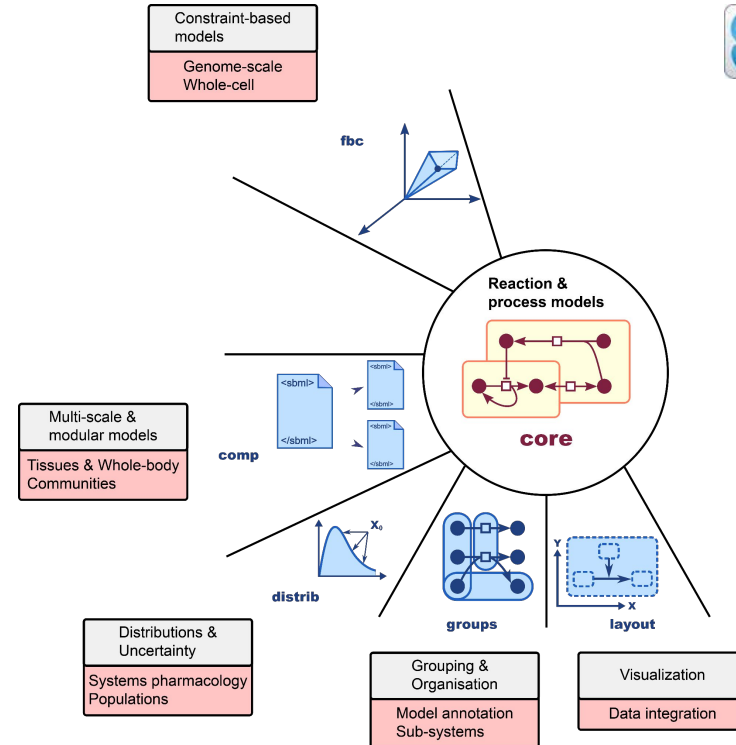
Systems Biology Markup Language (SBML)

- SBML is a software data format for describing models in biology (<https://sbml.org>)
- It's a little like HTML but for model instead of web pages
- independent of any particular tool
- free and open
- De facto standard



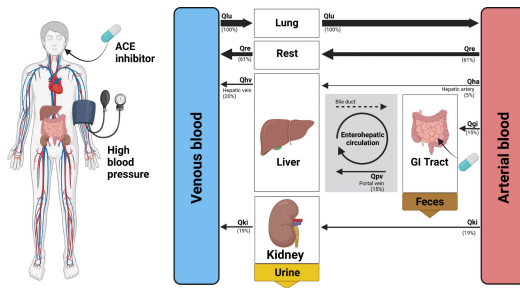


- **Process-based ODE models**
- Reproducible & exchangeable model encoding (**SBML**)
- Annotations to modelling, biological and medical ontologies (**SBML core**)
- Hierarchical models/multi-scale models
- (**SBML comp**)
- Unit validation, unit checking, unit conversion
- Distributions in models & uncertainty in data and parameters (**SBML distrib**)
- Mass- & charge balance (**SBML fbc**)
- Use wide range of tools (visualization, parameter fitting, simulation, ...)
- <http://sbml.org>

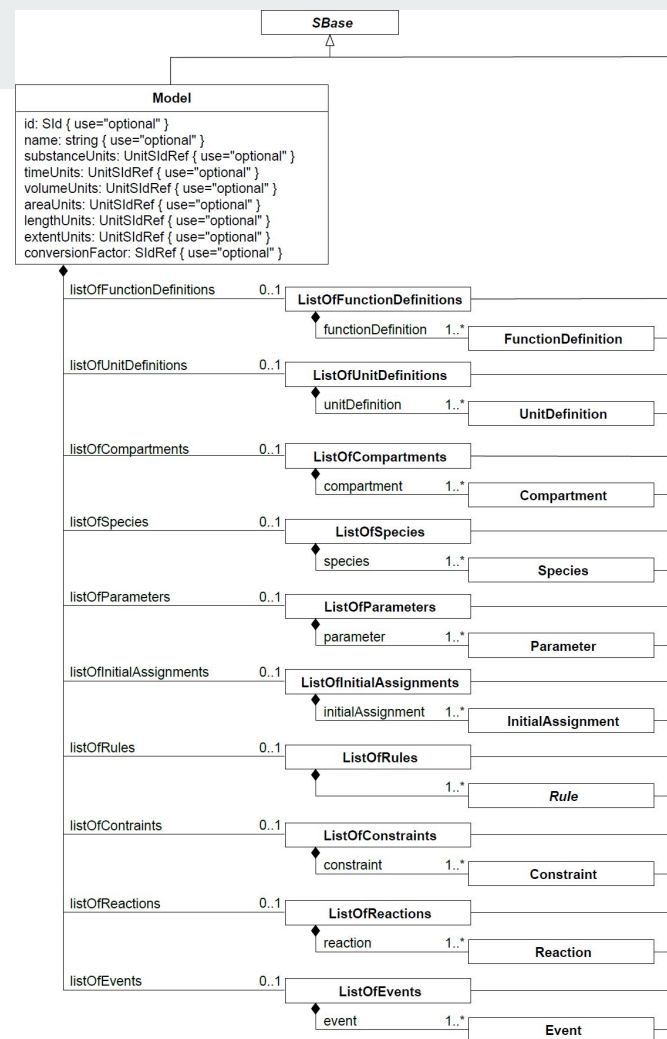


Keating SM, Waltemath D, König M, ... , Hucka M; SBML Level 3 Community members. SBML Level 3: an extensible format for the exchange and reuse of biological models. Mol Syst Biol. 2020 Aug;16(8):e9110. doi: 10.15252/msb.20199110.

SBML core



- **Compartments**
 - containers/volumes (e.g. liver volume)
- **Species**
 - molecules in compartments (e.g. glucose in plasma)
- **Parameters**
 - parameters with values (e.g. cardiac output)
- **AssignmentRules**
 - mathematical relationships between other parameters, species, compartments (e.g. $BMI = \text{bodyweight}/\text{height}^2$)
- **Reactions**
 - processes converting species in other species (e.g. enzymatic conversion; e.g. transport via blood flow)



sbmlutils: Python Utilities for Working with SBML

<https://github.com/matthiaskoenig/sbmlutils>

Packages

- core, fbc, comp, distrib, layout

Features

- model creation, manipulation & merging
- unit support
- model annotation
- interpolations
- file converters (XPP)
- markdown annotations
- OMEX support

```
Parameter(  
    "ICGIM_ki_bil",  
    0.02,  
    unit=U.mM,  
    name="Ki bilirubin of icg import",  
    sboTerm=SBO.INHIBITORY_CONSTANT,  
    notes="""  
    bilirubin reference range:  
    ...  
  
    ~ 0.1 - 5 [g/dL]  
    (10 [mg/L] / 584.6623 [g/mole]) ~ 0.0171 mmole/L`  
    ...  
  
    setting Ki in reference range  
    """,  
    ),
```

Parameter	
ICGIM_ki_bil Ki bilirubin of icg import	
id	ICGIM_ki_bil
metaID	meta_ICGIM_ki_bil
name	Ki bilirubin of icg import
sbo	SBO:0000261
value	0.02
constant	✓
units	$\frac{\text{mmol}}{\text{l}}$
derivedUnits	$\frac{\text{mmol}}{\text{l}}$
cvterms	BQB_IS sbo SBO:0000261
inhibitory constant Synonym: Ki	
notes	
bilirubin reference range: ~ 0.1 - 5 [g/dL] (10 [mg/L] / 584.6623 [g/mole]) ~ 0.0171 mmol/L	
setting Ki in reference range	





SBML4Humans: Human Readable SBML Report

<https://sbml4humans.de>

- **interactive SBML report** with navigation between SBML objects
- **web application** (no setup)
- **search** and filter functionality
- **resolve/render metadata**
- **hierarchical models** (SBML comp)
- **distributions and uncertainties** (SBML distrib)
- **flux balance** (SBML fbc)
- **COMBINE archives** (multiple models)
- **URL endpoint** for integration in tools/ workflows/ webpages/ presentations

https://sbml4humans.de/model_url?url=https://www.ebi.ac.uk/biomodels/model/download/BIOMD0000000001.2?filename=BIOMD0000000001_url.xml



Parameter

HCT hematocrit

id	HCT
metaID	meta_HCT
name	hematocrit
sbo	SBO:0000002
value	0.51
constant	✓
units	—
derivedUnits	—
cvterms	

BQB_IS sbo SBO:0000002

quantitative systems description parameter

A numerical value that defines certain characteristics of systems or system functions. It may be part of a calculation, but its value is not determined by the form of the equation itself, and may be arbitrarily assigned.

BQB_IS ncit C64796

Hematocrit Measurement

A measure of the volume of red blood cells expressed as a percentage of the total blood volume. Normal in males is 43-49%, in females 37-43%.

Synonyms

- HCT
- Packed Cell Volume
- Hematocrit
- Erythrocyte Volume Fraction
- PCV
- Hematocrit Measurement
- EVF

BQB_IS omit 0007571

Hematocrit

BQB_IS efo 0004348

hematocrit

The volume of packed RED BLOOD CELLS in a blood specimen. The volume is measured by centrifugation in a tube with graduated markings, or with automated blood cell counters. It is an indicator of erythrocyte status in disease.

Parameter (1)

id	name	constant	value	units	derivedUnits	assignment
----	------	----------	-------	-------	--------------	------------

HCT	hematocrit	✓	0.51	—	—	
-----	------------	---	------	---	---	--

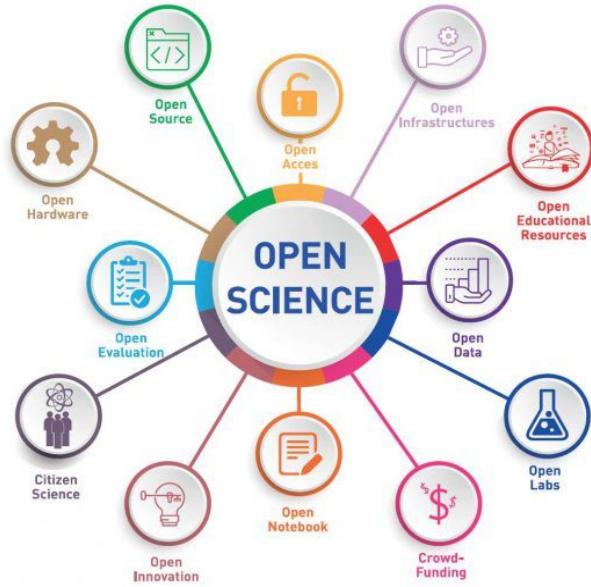
AssignmentRule (8)

id	name	variable	math	derivedUnits
Vve	Vve		$(1 - HCT) \cdot (BW \cdot FVve - \frac{FVve}{FVar + FVve + FVpo + FVhv} \cdot BW \cdot Fblood \cdot (1 - (FVar + FVve + FVpo + FVhv)))$	<i>t</i>
Var	Var		$(1 - HCT) \cdot (BW \cdot FVar - \frac{FVar}{FVar + FVve + FVpo + FVhv} \cdot BW \cdot Fblood \cdot (1 - (FVar + FVve + FVpo + FVhv)))$	<i>t</i>
Vpo	Vpo		$(1 - HCT) \cdot (BW \cdot FVpo - \frac{FVpo}{FVar + FVve + FVpo + FVhv} \cdot BW \cdot Fblood \cdot (1 - (FVar + FVve + FVpo + FVhv)))$	<i>t</i>
Vhv	Vhv		$(1 - HCT) \cdot (BW \cdot FVhv - \frac{FVhv}{FVar + FVve + FVpo + FVhv} \cdot BW \cdot Fblood \cdot (1 - (FVar + FVve + FVpo + FVhv)))$	<i>t</i>
Vre_plasma	Vre_plasma		$Vre \cdot Fblood \cdot (1 - HCT)$	<i>t</i>
Vgi_plasma	Vgi_plasma		$Vgi \cdot Fblood \cdot (1 - HCT)$	<i>t</i>
Vli_plasma	Vli_plasma		$Vli \cdot Fblood \cdot (1 - HCT)$	<i>t</i>
Vlu_plasma	Vlu_plasma		$Vlu \cdot Fblood \cdot (1 - HCT)$	<i>t</i>

- # Matthias König



Open und FAIR Science



FE Kohrs, ..., M König, ..., TL Weissgerber. **Eleven Strategies for Making Reproducible Research and Open Science Training the Norm at Research Institutions.** eLife (2023)

Ten Simple Rules for FAIR Sharing of Experimental and Clinical Data with the Modeling Community. König M, Grzegorzewski J, Golebiewski M., Hermjakob H, Hucka M, Olivier B, Keating SM, Nickerson D, Schreiber F, Sheriff R, Waltemath D. Preprints 2021, 2021080303, doi: 10.20944/preprints202108.0303.v2.

FAIR Sharing of Reproducible Models of Epidemic and Pandemic Forecast Ramachandran, K.*; König, M.*; Scharm, M.; Nguyen, T.V.N.; Hermjakob, H.; Waltemath, D.; Malik Sheriff, R.S. (* equal contribution). Preprints 2022, 2022060137 (doi: 10.20944/preprints202206.0137.v1).



Matthias König

Open Data in Repositories

- BioModels DB, GitHub, Zenodo
- PK-DB

Open/FAIR models

- CC-BY, Zenodo, GitHub, FAIR Indicators

Open Science Initiatives

- Strategy development (Open Science Training at Universities)
- Open Science Ambassador (2024-2025)

