

# Update from Clinical Informatics Interoperability Working Group & DIGIONE pilot

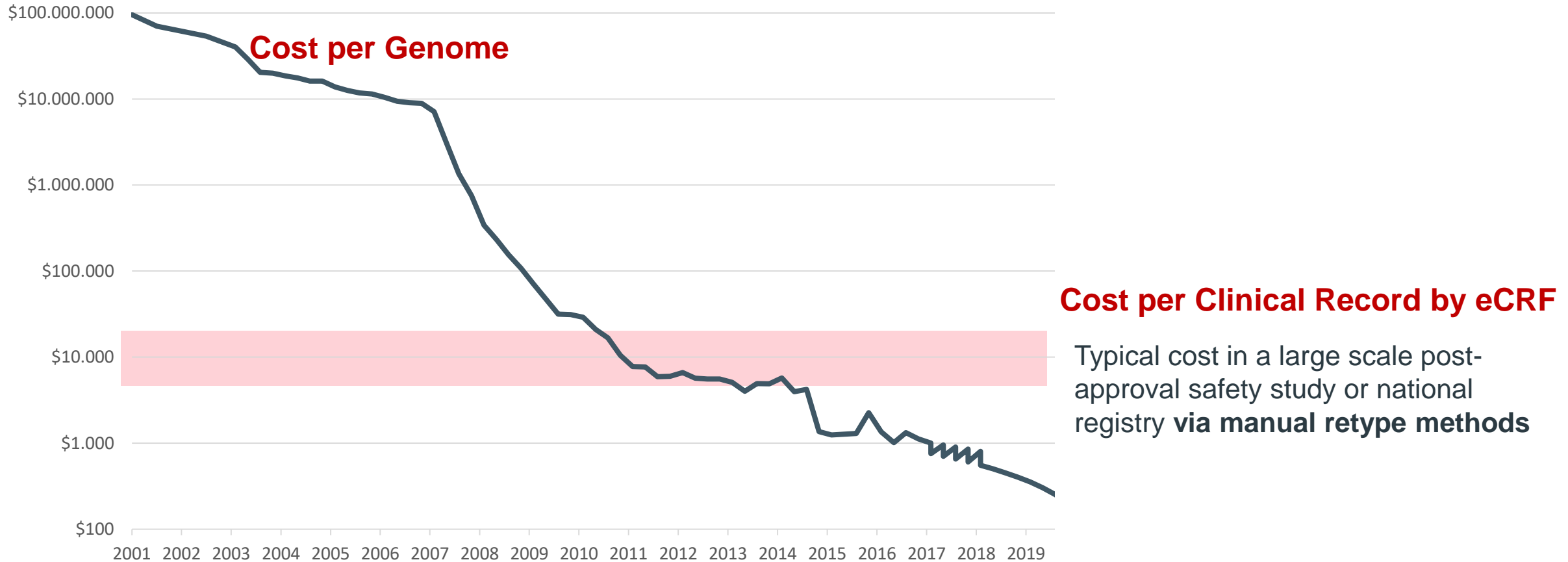
*Dr Piers Mahon & Prof. Giovanni Tonon*



# Clinical informatics is key to unlocking a research revolution as it will transform the cost of clinical and outcome research



Cost per unit (\$, log scale)

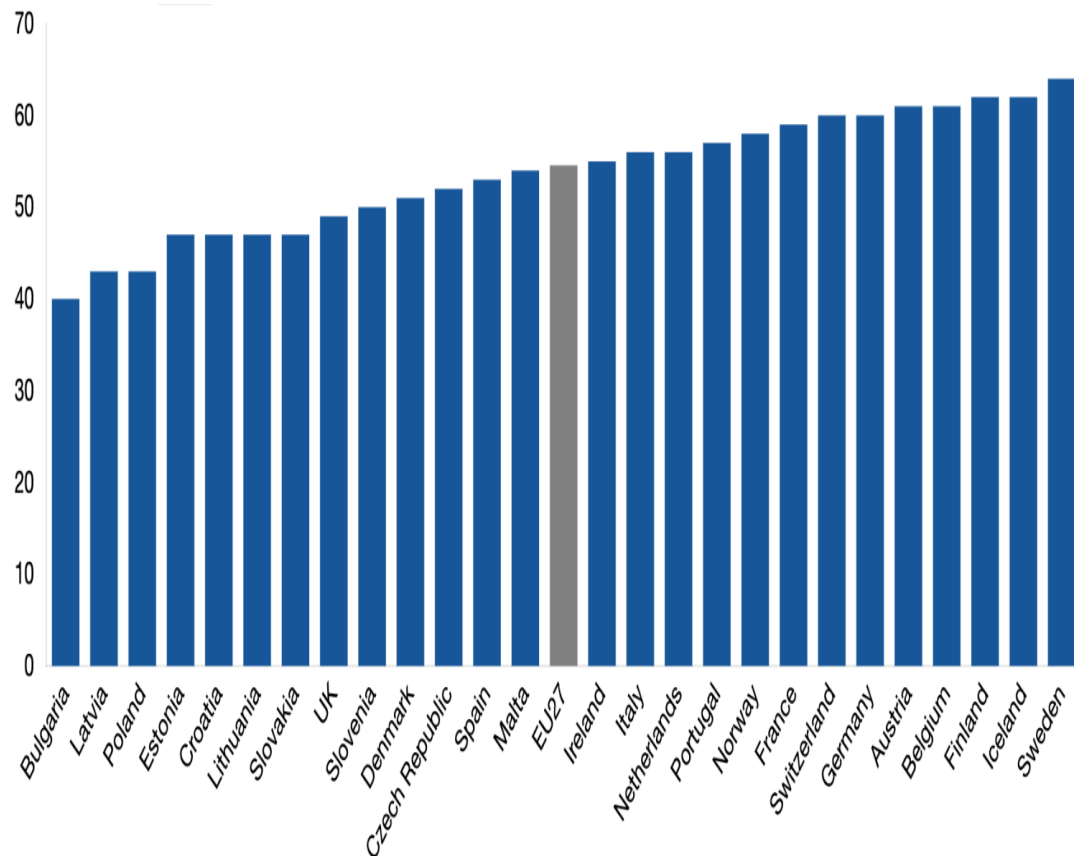


Source: Genome costs: National Institutes of Health, US; study costs: IQVIA internal data, IQVIA analysis of 2 national cancer registry budgets

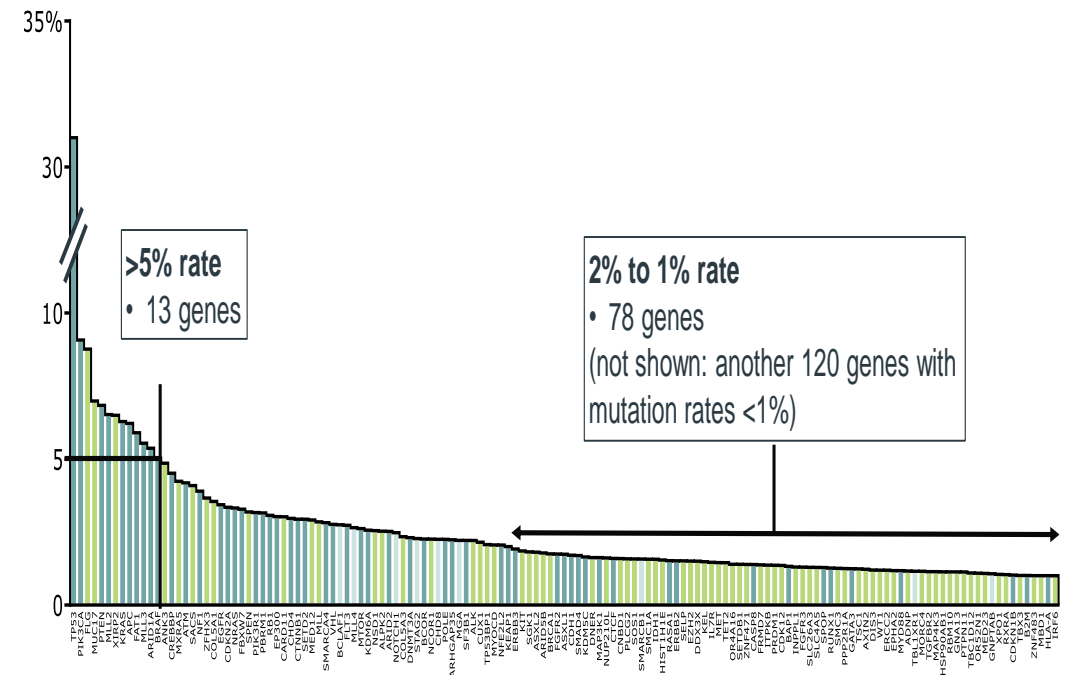
# With lower cost we can get the scale to tackle both care quality and precision oncology research



## 5 year age standardised survival (%)



## Pan-cancer non-silent mutation frequency (%)



Hofmarcher, T et al. (2019) Comparator Report on Cancer in Europe 2019 - Disease Burden, Costs and Access to Medicines. IHE Report 2019:7  
 Mahon & Tenenbaum, 2015

# Milan 2022: we discussed the technical challenges and key principals for an open standard based, multi-vendor networked solution



## Technical challenge – hospital data is “ugly data”



### The Tower of Babel



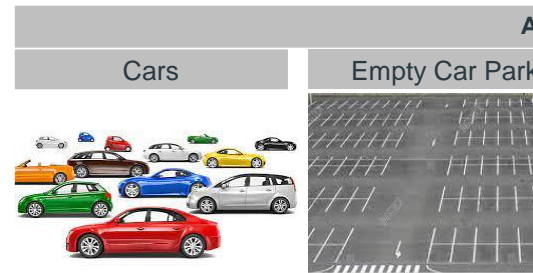
Pieter Bruegel the Elder

× We speak **multiple languages**

## Common data models in research data repositories

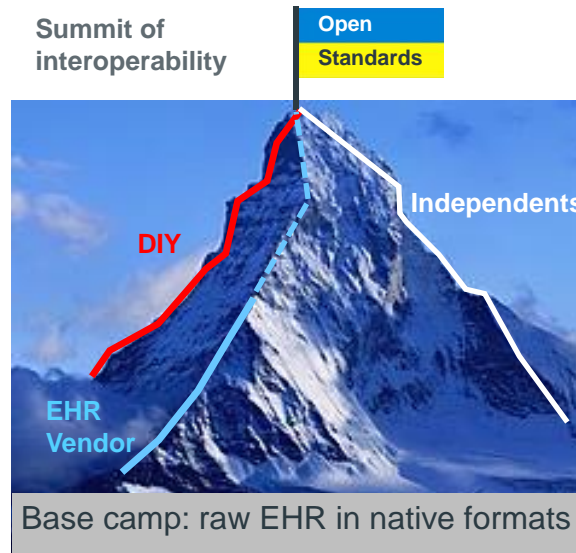


- Specific medical concept that can be measured in data, a “protocol element”
- A conceptual schema for storing data elements in standardised ways, in standardised units for reliable analysis
- Software to “pull”
- The result: clean data



The Digital Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research

## Open standards and a multi-vendor market

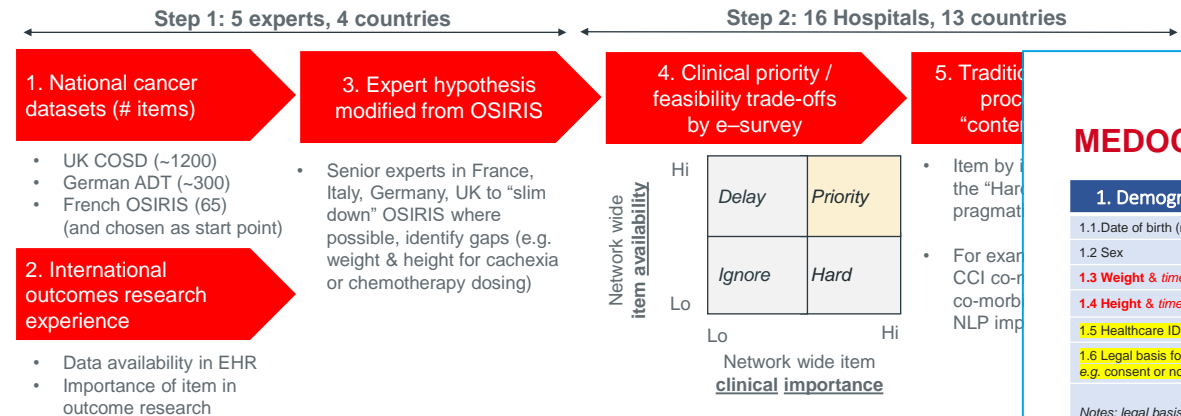


- **DIY:** Do-it-yourself using Open Source tools (The IT version of climbing with no guide)
- **EHR vendor supported** (e.g. EPIC, Varian, Daedelus, Cerner etc)
- **But will they get beyond a Clinical Data Warehouse in a proprietary data model?**

Independent specialist systems integrators (IQVIA, EHDEN accredited SI vendors)

# We also reviewed the international consensus work we've done to define a Minimal Essential Description of Cancer (MEDOC) that most can deliver

We have built international consensus across 16 hospitals in 13 countries to define a minimum data model for cancer: MEDOC



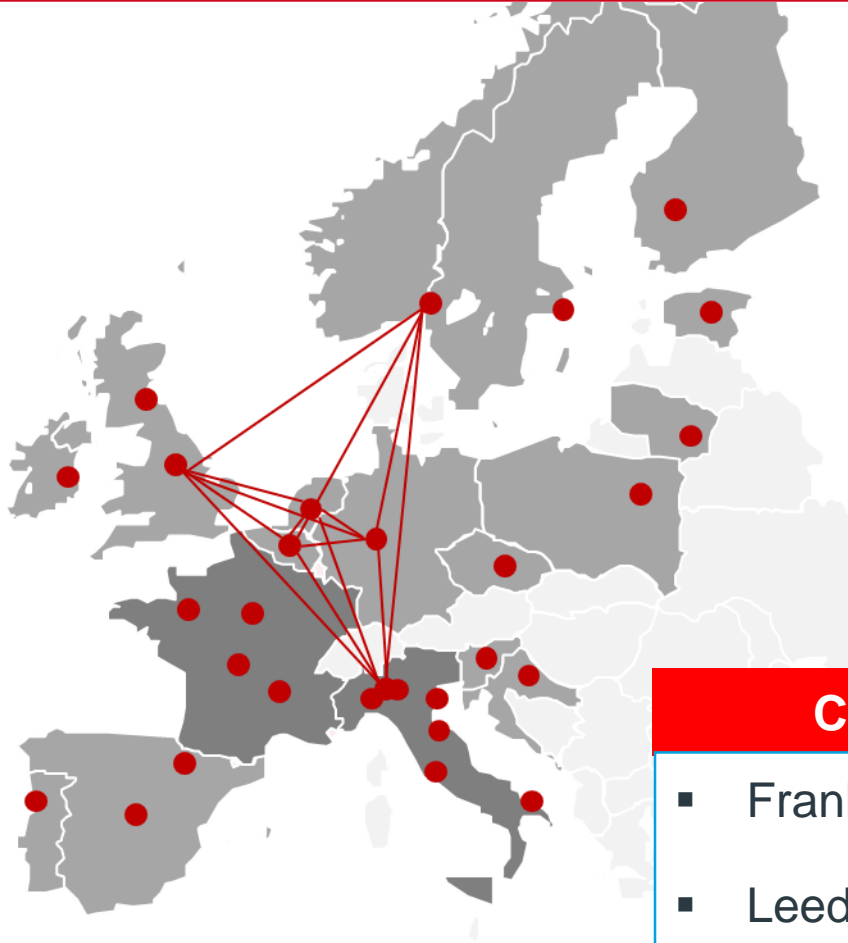
## MEDOC defines a minimum data standard most Cancer Centres can achieve

1. Demographics (=6)	2. Clinical Phenotype (=7)	3. Biomarkers (=3)	4. Treatment (=14*)	5. Outcomes (=6)
1.1. Date of birth (month)	2.1 ICD10 for primary diagnosis and comorbidities (& timestamp)	3.1 Biomarker name & time stamp	4.1 Line of therapy	5.1 Date of death (any location, in-hospital or from national deaths)
1.2 Sex	2.2 Charlson comorbidity index (CCI - timestamped and derived)	3.2 Biomarker measure & time stamp	4.2 Anti-cancer treatment name	5.2 Time to next treatment (derived)
1.3 Weight & timestamp	2.3 Date of primary diagnosis	3.3 Biological sample identifier & timestamp	4.3 Molecule generic name	5.3 Metastasis presence / absence
1.4 Height & timestamp	2.4 Method of primary diagnosis	<b>Notes on biomarkers:</b>	4.4 Start date for drug treatment	5.4 Metastasis location
1.5 Healthcare ID	2.5 Performance status (e.g. ECOG, Karnofsky) & timestamp	We aim to get to the same level of detail as in OSIRIS -omics for biomarkers anticipated in the guidelines in 2024 from the drug pipeline (even if from NLP / OCR)	4.5 Treatment dose	5.5 Date of last visit/follow-up
1.6 Legal basis for data processing, e.g. consent or non-opposition	2.6 Disease stage & timestamp (e.g. TNM, size, node and metastasis)	Tests formats will cover:	4.6 End date for drug treatment	5.6 Vital status (derived)
<i>Notes: legal basis and a healthcare ID are likely to be in national schema, and may be multi-concept in some countries or settings</i>	2.7 Histological cell type & timestamp (e.g. ICD-O-3)	- Core routine Blood biochemistry commonly used in cancer	4.7 Radiotherapy type (e.g. procedure code of treatment)	<i>Note: routine death registry linkage is not allowed in some European countries, and will require careful design of delivery of 5.1 and 5.6</i>
<b>Key:</b>	<i>Note: we anticipate multiple cancer specific schema for stage and cell type and will phase implementation</i>	- IHC - including HER2+ low	4.8 Radiotherapy Start date	<b>* Notes on Treatment</b>
Yellow = item must follow local / national rules or norms		- FISH	4.9 Radiotherapy dose	In some countries we anticipate that claims data is not accessible, only the core EHR which may need NLP routines to extract dates. Where claims data accessible, dates may be derived via timestamps
Red = Item not in original OSIRIS starting 65 concepts		- Somatic mutations, likely as amino acid change or similar	4.10 Radiotherapy end date	
Italics = implementation notes		- Germline, e.g. BRCA1	4.11 Surgery type (e.g. procedure)	
			4.12 Surgery date	
			4.13 Participation in clinical trial	
			4.14 Date of trial consent	

# 2022 we also announced who secured seed funding to build a prototype for the Digital Oncology Network for Europe (DigiONE – Pilot)



## Objectives for DigiONE Pilot



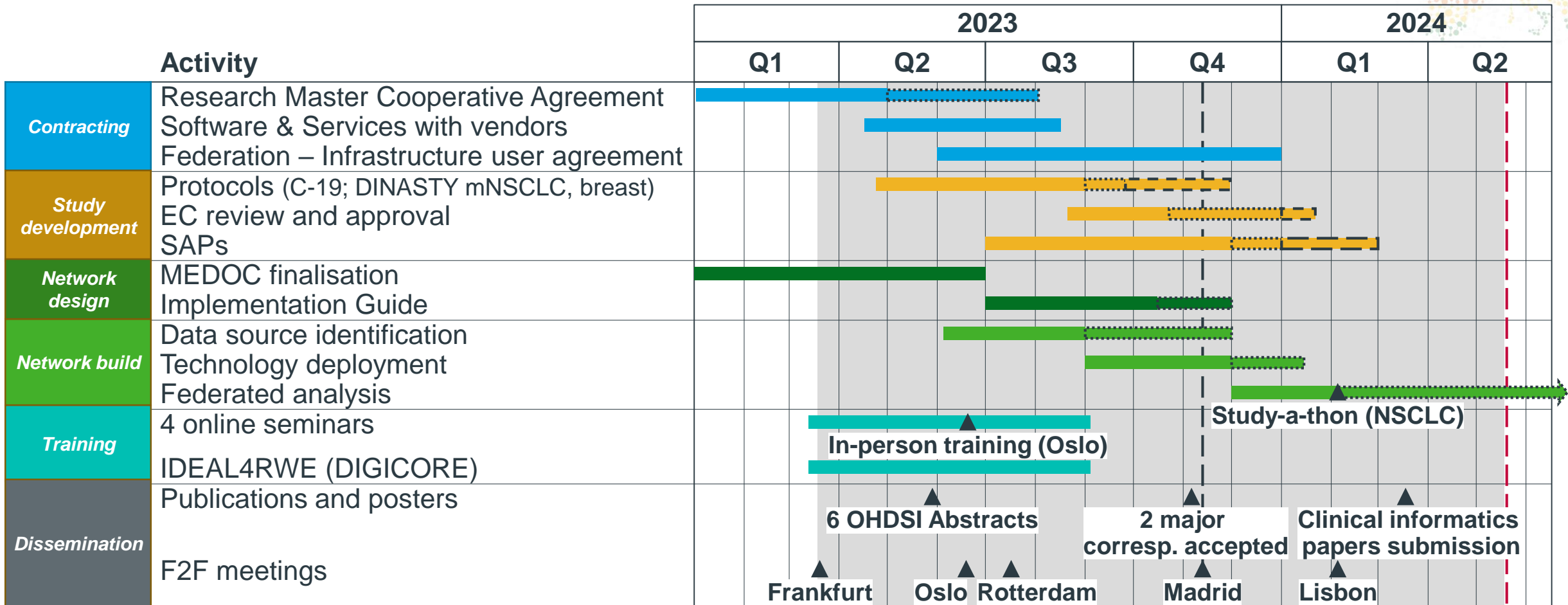
1. Define a **scalable common international minimum dataset for cancer outcome research** in precision oncology / OMOP
2. **Achieve interoperability and high data quality** on that dataset between 6 centres across Europe under GDPR
3. **Federate those centres** to allow complex protocolized research, such as disease natural history + outcome studies
4. **Demonstrate “fully digital” real world evidence possible** in a broader range of European countries to attract funding

### Competitive process: 16 sites applied => 6 centres selected

- Frankfurt (Janne Vehreschild)
- Leeds (Geoff Hall)
- Maastricht (Andre Dekker)
- Oslo (Åslaug Helland / Sissel Jor)
- St Luc (Cédric Van Marcke)
- San Raffaele (Giovanni Tonon)

*\*with funding from Illumina and IQVIA*

# This is where we are in the pilot



Study-a-thon (NSCLC)

In-person training (Oslo)

6 OHDSI Abstracts

2 major  
corresp. accepted

Clinical informatics  
papers submission

**ESMO Abstract  
Submission  
Mid-May 2024**

Study key  
 Extension for mNSCLC  
 Extension for breast

**Core project duration from start to study output ~14 months**

## So what have we achieved in 2023?



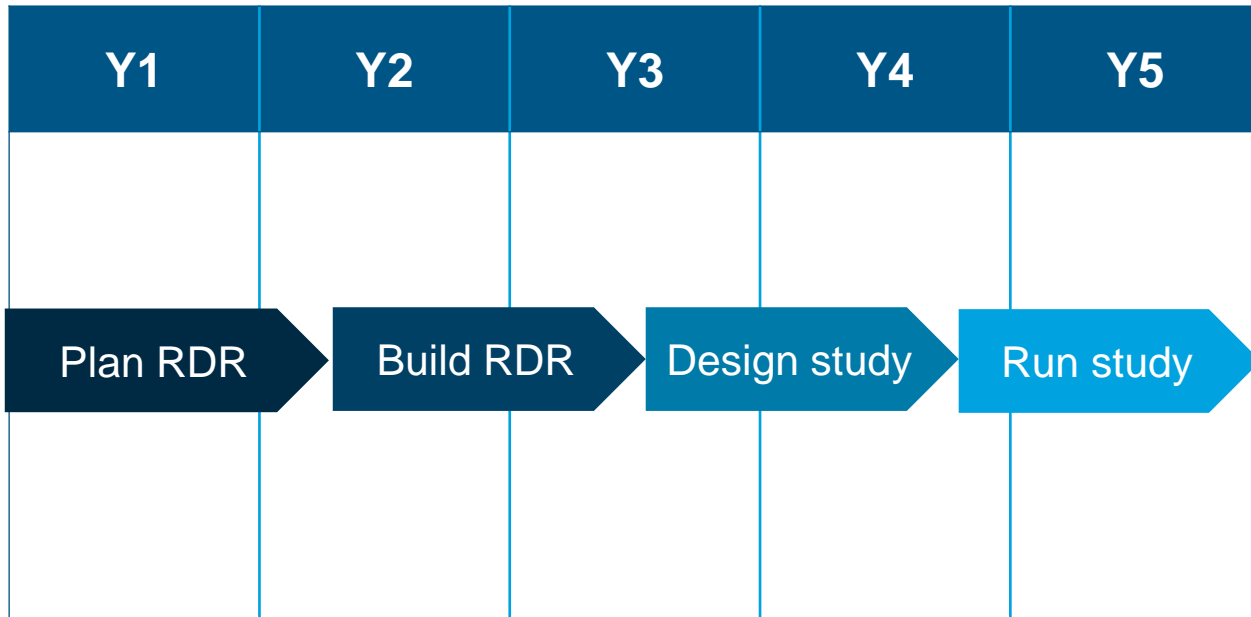
- ❑ MEDOC, our minimal dataset, has been defined in Cancer OMOP
- ❑ 58 page MEDOC implementation guide developed so any hospital can copy us (in beta)
- ❑ 18 contracts signed to allow build (with another 3 pending for federation)
- ❑ 6 hospitals well into build, with multiple vendors and approaches
- ❑ 4 OMOP studies (C19, mBC, mNSCLC, EOC) developed to test MEDOC
- ❑ Data ready for first study in >3 centres now (C19), will be ready for mNSCLC mid-January
- ❑ 6 abstracts accepted to OHDSI Europe summer 2023 (the main OMOP conference)
- ❑ 2 major correspondence pieces in press (but under embargo)
- ❑ Funding from ESMEIA / I3 scheme for another 15 hospitals to achieve “OMOP + NLP”



# Lesson 1: DigiONE's minimalist, study focused, and pragmatic approach works and is faster than traditional approaches to Cancer OMOP

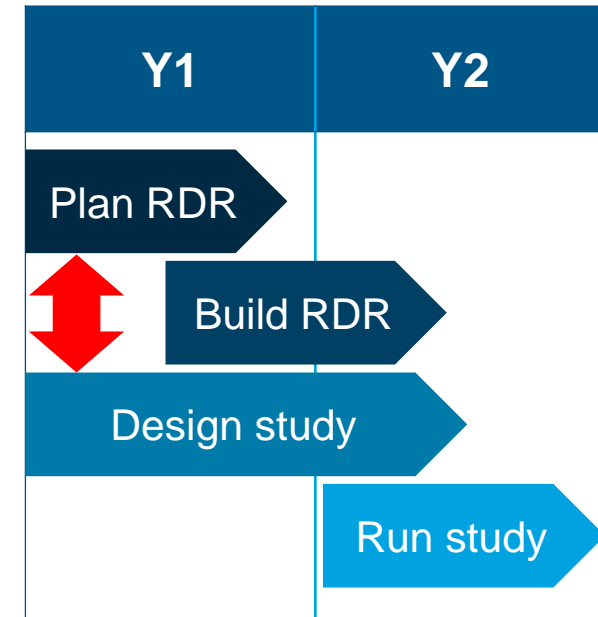


Early Cancer OMOP pilots ran in series  
3-5 years



DigiONE runs in parallel  
1.5-2 years

vs.



2-3x faster by tightly coupling study design and RDR specification

RDR, research data repository

## Lesson 2: we can get interoperability with multi-vendor approaches (just look at the diversity of approaches the hospitals took)



Hospital	Unstructured data approach	Structured data approach	Approach to build
<b>Frankfurt</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Averbis NLP in German</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kairos ETL OMOP conversion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Company</li> </ul>
<b>Leeds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>May not need – considering NLP options for biomarker*</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospital built ETL, repurposing a non-Cancer OMOP version</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospital / open source</li> </ul>
<b>Maastricht</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CTcue NLP in Dutch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMOP conversion from CTcue data model</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Company + open source</li> </ul>
<b>Oslo</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simple text mining for semi-structured data (no Norwegian NLP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospital built ETL, with advice from EdenceHealth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospital / open source</li> </ul>
<b>Saint-Luc</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EarlyTracks/ manual (in French)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EdenceHealth / hospital ETL OMOP conversion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Company / Hospital</li> </ul>
<b>San Raffaele</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CGP – home developed eCRF solution (manual retype)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hybrid - Hospital eCRF tools integrated with IQVIA Health Data Research Platform</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hybrid</li> </ul>

\*Leeds' EHR is very structured, and so for most MEDOC NLP is not required

# Lesson 3: OMOP is so flexible we need a detailed implementation guide to ensure hospitals and vendors can “build the same thing”

## OMOP is a very flexible data model

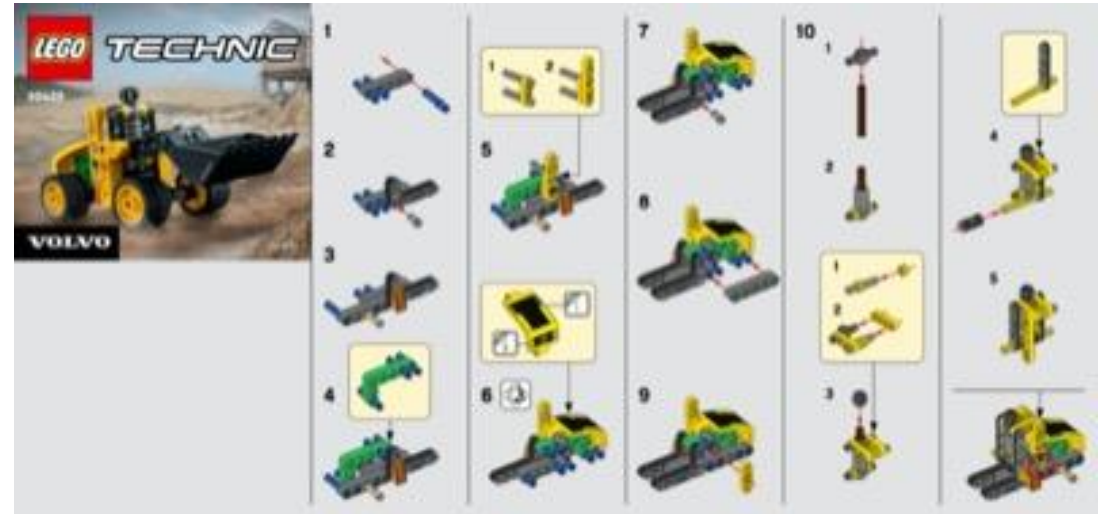
- Designed for registry, claims or EHR data
- Lots of components, some that duplicate
- Very flexible individual tables
- Highly customisable implementation
- ETL “expert only” documentation



...Like a big pile of Technic Lego

## Needs an implementation guide

- Assumes we start with hospital EHR data with non-expert teams on 38 MEDOC variables
- Agrees how we will build key tables and concepts so we “end up in the same place”
- 58 pages, 12 tables for local ETL planning



The Lego instructions to get the same model

# Our panel today



What is it like to build a Cancer OMOP instance in a hospital?

What does it allow us to do?

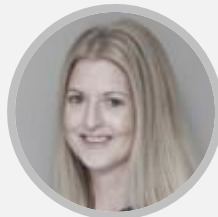
**Leeds Teaching  
Hospitals NHS  
Trust**



**Stelios  
Theophanous**

LTHT has a homebrew EMR and currently hosts a non-cancer OMOP instance they are extending for MEDOC

**Oslo University  
Hospital**



**Elisabeth  
Ross**

OUH is building its own OMOP instance following consulting advice from edenceHealth

**edenceHealth**



**Lars  
Halvorsen**

edenceHealth is collaborating with Saint-Luc on their OMOP implementation of MEDOC

**San Raffaele  
Scientific  
Institute**



**Giovanni  
Tonon**

Overseeing pilot implementation in San Raffaele, and coordinating large scale Europe initiatives that could use such an infrastructure

**DigiCore**



# What are the “take homes” for senior hospital leadership?

Care quality is primary focus

- **Improving care quality** via guideline benchmarking and outcome research
- Designed to **engage front line clinicians** (not just the research focused)
- Set up as an **internal service to all** (not a restrictive research dataset)

Right hospital leadership and team key

- **Senior sponsor** to solve roadblocks like contracting (head of R&D, head of IT, CIO etc)
- **Project manager** to drive coordination day to day (across contracting to clinical engagement)
- **Data analyst** who understands “what data lives where and how to access it”
- **SQL engineer** to learn and then implement OMOP ETL tools
- **Clinician or nurse to advise on data meaning** (via study implementation in their disease)

Doing OMOP together = faster & better

- **Design for study interoperability together from the start** (Implementation guide)
- **Peer to peer advice** helps turbocharge new teams
- Often “**someone has solved that problem before**” (don’t reinvent the wheel)

Just get started and then hunt funds to upgrade

- **Any hospital can do C19 study and build a minimal OMOP instance on their own**
- **2024 OMOP ETL training programme** to help you get started
- Solving **unstructured data is slower, harder and more expensive**
- **Full MEDOC implementation needs grants** and often vendor support

# After the CCI4EU session we split for the final session of the day



## Session A

**Topic:** DIGICORE 2024 clinical research priorities and working groups **discussion**

**With:** Adriana Albini & Piers Mahon

**For:** more clinically focused people

**Location:** Stay here



Or

## Session B

**Topic:** Clinical informatics tools in open source to help DIGICORE members digitise – selected **poster** presentation

**With:** Alberto Traverso & Xose Fernandez

**For:** more IT /data science people

**Location:** go outside with Alberto & Xose



**BACKUP**



# Technical challenge – hospital data is “ugly data”



## The Tower of Babel



*Pieter Bruegel the Elder*

- ✗ We speak **multiple languages**
- ✗ We **practice medicine differently**
- ✗ Most of the data in a hospital is **unstructured**
- ✗ **Critical data is missing**
- ✗ We have **bespoke IT systems** and vendors in every hospital with **proprietary data formats**
- ✗ We have **different clinical coding standards and claims systems** in every country
- ✗ We have different **national care quality** agendas
- ✗ We have **different national (and local) interpretations of GDPR & privacy requirements**



# Common data models in research data repositories

## Data item

- Specific medical concept that can be measured in data, a “protocol element”

## Data model

- A conceptual schema for storing data elements in standardised ways, in standardised units for reliable analysis

## Extraction “Tooling”

- Software to “pull” data from existing messy storage, clean it, standardise and “push” into a data model

## Conformed research data repository

- The result: clean data in a standardised format in a robust data model held under hospital control for research use

## An analogy...

### Cars



### Empty Car Park



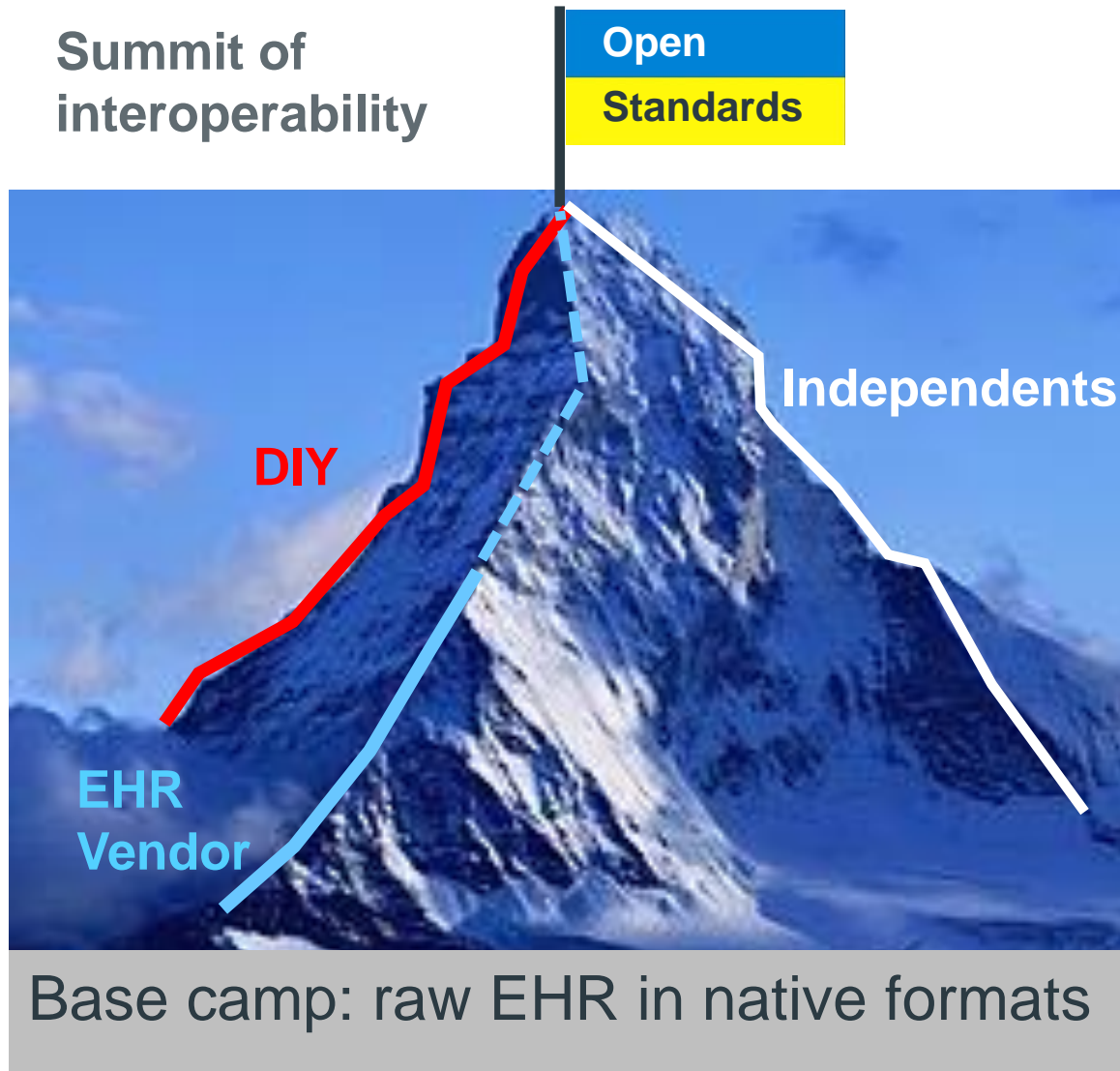
### Car Park Attendants



### Filled, Neat Car Park



# Open standards and a multi-vendor market



- DIY: Do-it-yourself using Open Source tools (The IT version of climbing with no guide)
- EHR vendor supported (e.g. Epic, Varian, Dedalus, Cerner etc)
- But will they get beyond a Clinical Data Warehouse in a proprietary data model?

Independent specialist systems integrators (IQVIA, EH DEN accredited SI vendors)

# An IT deployment

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