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**CDEK: Clinical Drug Experience Knowledgebase**

Rebekah H. Griesenauer<sup>1</sup>, Constantino Schillebeeckx<sup>1</sup>, Michael S. Kinch<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Center for Research Innovation in Biotechnology, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, United States

\* Corresponding author  
E-mail: [michael.kinch@wustl.edu](mailto:michael.kinch@wustl.edu) (MK)

## 26 **ABSTRACT**

27 The Clinical Drug Experience Knowledgebase (CDEK) is a database and web platform of active  
28 pharmaceutical ingredients with evidence of clinical testing as well as the organizations involved in  
29 their research and development. CDEK was curated by disambiguating intervention and organization  
30 names from ClinicalTrials.gov and cross-referencing these entries with other prominent drug  
31 databases. Approximately 43% of active pharmaceutical ingredients in the CDEK database were  
32 sourced from ClinicalTrials.gov and cannot be found in any other prominent compound-oriented  
33 database. The contents of CDEK are structured around three pillars: active pharmaceutical  
34 ingredients (n = 22,292), clinical trials (n = 127,223), and organizations (n = 24,728). The envisioned  
35 use of the CDEK is to support the investigation of many aspects of drug development, including  
36 discovery, repurposing opportunities, chemo- and bio-informatics, clinical and translational  
37 research, and regulatory sciences.

38 **Database URL: <http://cdek.wustl.edu>**

39

## 40 **INTRODUCTION**

41 The process in which drugs are discovered and developed has fundamentally changed since the  
42 inception of the pharmaceutical industry and continues to evolve. Several research groups have  
43 peered into the past to identify trends in pharmaceutical innovation based upon FDA approved  
44 medicines (1–3). The Center for Research Innovation in Biotechnology (CRIB) at Washington  
45 University in St. Louis is amidst an ongoing effort to objectively track and analyze trends in the  
46 innovation of new medicines. Several published works were facilitated by analysis of a precursor  
47 database (curated and maintained by CRIB) of all FDA-approved new molecular entities (NMEs),  
48 which included their mechanistic basis, therapeutic applications, and organizations guiding their  
49 clinical development. This NME database (<http://cribdb.wustl.edu>) also includes products that were

50 once approved but no longer marketed as a result of toxicity, lack of efficacy, obsolescence,  
51 production issues, or lack of demand.

52

53 A handful of reviews on the biopharmaceutical industry trends and innovation sources revealed a  
54 trove of findings, many unexpected, and all supported by objective data (all of which we have made  
55 public). As one example, a handful of organizations have recently come to control two-thirds of NMEs  
56 and these marketing organizations often have little or no internal drug discovery or development  
57 activities (4). Whereas large, traditional pharmaceutical companies receive most FDA approvals,  
58 upstart biotechnology companies increasingly dominate early-stage discovery (including patents  
59 and Investigational New Drug (IND) applications) (5). The NME database also revealed the causes  
60 and impact of corporate consolidation in transforming research and development. Whereas 60% of  
61 all acquired biotechnology companies were acquired within 5 years (before or after) their first NME  
62 approval was granted, the number of new organizations to receive their first approval has not kept  
63 pace (6). Consequently, the net number of research organizations that remain active and  
64 independent in new drug research has eroded from over 200 firms in 2004 to 100 firms at the  
65 end of 2015 (7).

66

67 Based on findings with FDA-approved medicines, we analyzed the mechanistic basis and therapeutic  
68 indications of FDA approved medicines and changes over time. In some cases, these works  
69 emphasized therapeutic areas (e.g., the decline in anti-infectives or the rise in oncology (8)) while  
70 others focused upon drug targets, revealing three target families dominate FDA-approved drugs (G-  
71 protein coupled receptors, membrane channels and transporters, and targets involving nuclear  
72 signaling (9)). Beyond clinical indications and drug targets, exploration of other facets of the  
73 biotechnology industry enabled by the NME database included regulatory pathways and timelines  
74 (10), vaccine development (11), and the rise of biologics (12).

75 Although intriguing, we considered prior observations of pharmaceutical research and development  
76 trends to be undoubtedly skewed by focusing only upon FDA-approved medicines. It is generally  
77 understood most drug research does not conclude with a single FDA-approval as post-approval  
78 research (e.g., additional indications or post-approval commitments) capture an ever-increasing  
79 fraction of research and development expenditures and are not captured in analyses of drugs based  
80 solely upon a designation of “FDA-approved.” Compounding the problem, the timelines required for  
81 drug development mean an FDA-approval reflects research and development activities that were  
82 likely initiated more than a decade before, enfeebling any analyses intended to assess current or  
83 predict future research and development activity. Consequently, conjectures and definitive  
84 conclusions are not feasible absent a more comprehensive accounting of drug development efforts;  
85 including an assessment of successes, failures, and those experimental medicines currently being  
86 developed.

87  
88 Powerful insights can be obtained by analyzing and modeling drug “failures.” In Gayvert et al. (13), a  
89 random forest machine learning algorithm classified a set of compounds as “FDA approved” or  
90 “Failed for Toxicity” based on chemical structure and drug target features. In this study, 784 FDA  
91 approved drugs and 100 “toxic” drugs were used to train and validate the machine learning model.  
92 Ideally, failed drugs would have made up a higher percentage of the sample, but sufficient data on  
93 failed drugs are not readily available. Nonetheless, these findings revealed machine learning  
94 predictions can be quite powerful provided that they are supplied with enough data for training and  
95 validation. Wong et al. (14) were able to assign a probability of success to clinical trials solely by  
96 following drugs through clinical trial phase transitions and comparing intended medical applications.  
97 The data for this study was limited to information from a commercial dataset and not available  
98 publicly. While an open assessment of all experimental medicines would be preferable, the authors

99 stated “trained analysts would require tens of thousands of hours of labor” (14) to perform such a  
100 study using ClinicalTrials.gov, a public source for clinical trials data.

101  
102 The current lack of public data on successful, failed, and on-going drug studies sparked the  
103 development of the Clinical Drug Experience Knowledgebase (CDEK- <http://cdek.wustl.edu>) with the  
104 purpose of creating a public platform to analyze all active pharmaceutical ingredients that have ever  
105 been tested in humans, as well as their sponsoring organizations and those participating in pre-  
106 approval clinical activities. Based on insights derived from previous studies, we focused on three  
107 primary pillars for the first instantiation of CDEK: active pharmaceutical ingredients, organizations,  
108 and clinical trials. Each pillar is shown in Figure 1 with surrounding metadata fields. Foreign keys in  
109 the database link each pillar together. In the next section, we review the current state of clinical stage  
110 pharmaceuticals available in public databases.

**Figure 1:** Overview of CDEK contents with three primary pillars: Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients,  
Organizations, and Clinical Trials. Each metatopic is surrounded with the current fields (solid lines) and  
planned metadata fields (dashed lines).

111  
112 ***Current state of clinical stage pharmaceuticals in public databases***  
113 Several biopharmaceutical databases have emerged over the last decade to enable chemo- and bio-  
114 informatics research in the field of drug discovery, including chemical structures to support *in silico*  
115 drug discovery, drug repurposing opportunities, and trends in the drug development enterprise. A  
116 decade ago, fewer than 200 peer-reviewed articles were published per year referencing a  
117 biopharmaceutical database. Today, over 2,500 articles annually cite biopharmaceutical databases  
118 and this rate continues to grow exponentially. We recently surveyed several open and freely available  
119 databases to explore the current landscape of clinical stage pharmaceuticals and found a collection  
120 of databases having drug records that display some evidence of clinical experience.

121  
122 A selection of databases is listed in Table 1, including a brief description of the clinical content of the  
123 database. However, these databases often contain discovery-level or preclinical molecules that have  
124 never or will ever enter the clinic. The PubChem (15) database, housing over 100 million compound  
125 records, can be filtered to clinical stage compounds by extracting records sourced from  
126 ClinicalTrials.gov, ToxCast, or the NCATS Pharmaceutical Collection. ChEMBL (16), another large  
127 compound database, can be filtered to clinical stage compounds by selecting records with a  
128 max\_phase greater or equal to one (with max\_phase corresponding to the farthest clinical trial phase  
129 the compound has been registered). DrugBank (17), an encyclopedia of active pharmaceutical  
130 ingredients, can be filtered to clinical compounds by selecting “Approved”, “Withdrawn”,  
131 “Investigational”, “Illicit”, or “Nutraceutical” from their “Drug Group” metadata field. Other databases  
132 focus explicitly on approved or withdrawn medicines, making their whole catalog of drugs relevant  
133 in terms of clinical experience.

134  
135 In a study that inspired the creation of CDEK, our group downloaded the clinical-stage active  
136 pharmaceutical ingredients from the sources listed in Table 1. Approximately 11,760 unique active  
137 pharmaceutical ingredients with evidence of clinical experience were available collectively from  
138 those data sources. However, the total number of active pharmaceutical ingredients that have ever  
139 been tested in humans was likely much higher. For example, Wong *et al.* used the Informa Pharma  
140 Intelligence databases “TrialTrove” and “Pharmaprojects” to complete their study on estimating  
141 clinical trial success rates. In their study, they cited extracting over 21,143 unique compounds from  
142 the Informa Pharma Intelligence databases with corresponding clinical trial information (14).

143  
144 Table 1: Public databases containing clinical stage active pharmaceutical ingredients.

Database	Scope	Clinical Experience Evidence	Access
<b>PubChem</b>	Chemical entities and their bioactivities	Records sourced from Clinicaltrials.gov, ToxCast, or NCATS Pharmaceutical Collection	<a href="https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov">https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov</a>
<b>ChEMBL</b>	Bioactivity for drug discovery	Field "max_phase" =>1	<a href="https://www.ebi.ac.uk/chembl">https://www.ebi.ac.uk/chembl</a>
<b>DrugBank</b>	<i>in silico</i> drug discovery and exploration	Field "DRUG GROUP" = "Approved OR Withdrawn OR Investigational OR Illicit OR Nutraceutical"	<a href="https://www.drugbank.ca">https://www.drugbank.ca</a>
<b>DrugCentral</b>	Active pharmaceutical ingredients approved by FDA and other agencies	All records are approved or withdrawn medicines	<a href="http://drugcentral.org">http://drugcentral.org</a>
<b>SuperDrug2</b>	Marketed drugs	All records are approved or withdrawn medicines	<a href="http://cheminfo.charite.de/superdrug2">http://cheminfo.charite.de/superdrug2</a>
<b>CRIB NME</b>	FDA approved molecular entities and biopharmaceutical organizations	All records are approved or withdrawn medicines	<a href="http://cribdb.wustl.edu">http://cribdb.wustl.edu</a>
<b>repoDB</b>	Drug repurposing	All records are either approved or have been in clinical trials.	<a href="http://apps.chiragjgroup.org/repoDB">http://apps.chiragjgroup.org/repoDB</a>
<b>WITHDRAWN</b>	Withdrawn or discontinued drugs	All records are withdrawn medicines	<a href="http://cheminfo.charite.de/withdrawn">http://cheminfo.charite.de/withdrawn</a>

145

146 Such findings suggest other active pharmaceutical ingredients may exist in the public domain but  
 147 have not been curated. ClinicalTrials.gov (accessed through the Aggregate Analysis of Clinical Trials  
 148 (AACT) database), for example, contains over 286,811 unique trials with over 246,005 unique  
 149 "intervention names" in a trial (as of 10/20/2018). Multiple "intervention names" correspond to the  
 150 same active pharmaceutical ingredient. To achieve the ambitious goal of "studying all drugs ever  
 151 tested in a human", it was necessary to mine and disambiguate ClinicalTrials.gov data to supplement  
 152 the compounds available in current open access drug databases.

153

154 Descriptions of the disambiguation of ClinicalTrials.gov interventions and organizations follow.  
 155 Detail on how other databases were used to cross-reference unique ClinicalTrials.gov interventions  
 156 is also summarized. CDEK is the culmination of this curation effort and is a public database and web  
 157 platform to interrogate all active pharmaceutical ingredients where there exists objective evidence  
 158 of human clinical testing. CDEK aggregates metadata surrounding active pharmaceutical ingredients,  
 159 including the details of clinical trial design, intended indications, and organizations responsible for  
 160 development. The envisioned use of the CDEK is to support the investigation of many aspects of drug

161 development, including discovery, repurposing opportunities, chemo- and bio-informatics, clinical  
162 and translational research, and regulatory sciences. The platform is intended to serve a wide  
163 audience interested in investigational agents, which have reached clinical stage development. The  
164 uses enabled by CDEK also include the elucidation of broad or focused trends, competitive  
165 intelligence, improving drug development efficiency and conveying best practices of lessons learned  
166 and future directions.

167

## 168 **METHODS**

### 169 ***CDEK Construction: Curating ClinicalTrials.gov data***

170 Construction of CDEK arose from multiple iterations beginning with the predominant source of data:  
171 ClinicalTrials.gov accessed through the Aggregate Analysis of Clinical Trials (AACT) database (18).  
172 ClinicalTrials.gov is a repository of clinical trial registrations in the United States and is maintained  
173 by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in collaboration  
174 with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The AACT database was developed and is maintained  
175 by the Clinical Trials Transformation Initiative (CTTI) group, a government-academic collaboration  
176 between the FDA and Duke University. The AACT database contains ClinicalTrials.gov data that has  
177 been parsed and deposited into a structured relational database. AACT also links clinical trials data  
178 to Medical Subject Headings (MeSH terms), a controlled vocabulary containing terms describing  
179 disease indications and interventions. This mapping enables querying the data by intervention and  
180 disease indication terms. In this first step, we were primarily interested in removing the ambiguity  
181 in the trial intervention names and names of sponsoring organizations.

182

183 The AACT *interventions* table has the field *intervention\_type* with the following distinct terms used to  
184 describe an intervention in a trial: Drug, Behavioral, Diagnostic Test, Dietary Supplement, Other,  
185 Device, Biological, Procedure, Combination Product, Genetic, and Radiation. To initially populate



186 CDEK with therapeutic clinical trials, all AACT pharmaceutical interventions were included whereas  
187 interventions labeled Behavioral, Diagnostic Test, Device, Radiation or Other were excluded. CDEK  
188 was populated with associated clinical trial data and organizations linked to those entries. The  
189 organizations in turn were parsed from the *sponsors* table, *overall\_officials* table, and  
190 *responsible\_parties* table within AACT. Collectively, these tables contain the lead and collaborating  
191 sponsors, trial affiliation data for various study roles (e.g. Principal Investigator, Study Chair), and  
192 trial affiliation data for the party type (e.g. Sponsor, Sponsor-Investigator).

193  
194 In a first round of data cleanup, the names of active pharmaceutical ingredients and organizations  
195 were validated. Each active pharmaceutical ingredient was manually labeled by biomedical research  
196 curators as being one of either *Vaccine*, *Gene therapy*, *Cell therapy*, *Small molecule*, *Biologic*  
197 (*synthesized in organisms or cell lines*), *Biological (derived from human material)*, *Animal product* or  
198 *Botanical*; and any active pharmaceutical ingredient not categorized as such was removed from the  
199 dataset. Additionally, active pharmaceutical ingredient names were manually curated and any active  
200 pharmaceutical ingredient listed as a combination drug was split into its constituent parts. Manual  
201 validation and cleaning of active pharmaceutical ingredient names included correcting obvious  
202 misspellings and removing salt or solvent forms. Similarly, each organization was labeled as being  
203 one of *Individual*, *Academic/Hospital*, *Government*, *Foundation*, *For profit* or *Unknown*, and each  
204 organization name was validated and normalized to have consistent naming nomenclature. Figure 2  
205 illustrates an example of the curation process for an active pharmaceutical ingredient.

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207

208

**Figure 2:** An example that illustrates the process of extracting interventions from ClinicalTrials.gov (through AACT) and creating a unique active pharmaceutical ingredient record in CDEK. Curation begins by extracting the intervention names from trials containing active pharmaceutical ingredients and cleaning names to strip any perfluous text (e.g. dosing amount, dosing frequency). Once complete, an automated program flags entities that should be merged into a single CDEK record using a set of “merging” criteria. The curation software will also flag entities that are made up of two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients using a set of “splitting” criteria (e.g. the drug “Mavyret” is a combination of two active pharmaceutical ingredients, glecaprevir and pibrentasvir, used to treat hepatitis C). A unique CDEK active pharmaceutical ingredient record is created and assigned a unique id, a type, and a preferred name. All names are stored as synonymns and all trials are linked to the unique active pharmaceutical ingredient ID. Finally, several external databases are cross-referenced to pull metadata and provide hyperlinks to more information about that active pharmaceutical ingredient. This metadata was also used to flag entries that should be merged into a single active pharmaceutical ingredient.

209

### 210 ***Construction: Cross-referencing with public biopharmaceutical databases***

211 Additional sources of data were ingested into the database following the first round of cleanup.  
212 Several open drug-compound databases containing clinically tested therapeutics to capture active  
213 pharmaceutical ingredients with evidence of clinical testing outside of the ClinicalTrials.gov registry.  
214 These databases included Drugbank(17), ChEMBL(16), PubChem(15), SuperDrug2(19),  
215 DrugCentral(20), WITHDRAWN(21), repoDB (22) and CRIB NME (4). The first three of these  
216 databases were subsetted to access only those therapeutics with evidence of clinical testing, while  
217 the remainder contain solely clinically-tested therapeutics (approved by a regulatory agency,  
218 withdrawn from the market for any reason, or associated with a clinical trial). All DrugBank (v5.0.7)  
219 compounds labeled “experimental” were excluded from CDEK as DrugBank defines “experimental”  
220 as “drugs that are at the preclinical or animal testing stage.” The ChEMBL database labels drug

221 compound records as having a *max\_phase*, the maximum clinical trial phase for which that drug  
222 compound has been tested. Any compounds with a *max\_phase* greater than 0 was ingested from  
223 ChEMBL v23. Any PubChem compound annotated as sourced from ClinicalTrials.gov were ingested.  
224 Additionally, all approved drugs listed on the regulatory websites (as of April 2018) of the Food and  
225 Drug Administration (Drugs@FDA) and European Medicines Agency (EMA) were parsed, validated  
226 and ingested. The metadata provided by these external databases were used to facilitate the  
227 disambiguation process described in the next section.

228

### 229 ***Construction: Removing ambiguity to get a list of unique Interventions and Organizations***

230 After initial cleanup and ingestion, expert curators split and merged organizations and active  
231 pharmaceutical ingredients based on their metadata. We performed this cleanup and ingestion  
232 process semi-manually by first programatically flagging data for review followed by manual  
233 validation of each flagged entry. The program identified active pharmaceutical ingredients to be  
234 considered for merging when two or more distinct entries are were labelled with the same active  
235 pharmaceutical ingredient name, *source\_api\_id* (the ID given to the active pharmaceutical ingredient  
236 in a given source), chemical structure (SMILES string), or had overlapping synonyms. Similarly, the  
237 program flagged records for splitting active pharmaceutical ingredients into multiple distinct  
238 compounds when multiple non-distinct chemical structure data was associated with a given active  
239 pharmaceutical ingredient or if multiple *source\_api\_ids* were associated with the active  
240 pharmaceutical ingredient. The program calculated similarity scores (e.g. Levenshtein distance) for  
241 all pairs of organizations to identify highly similar organizations pairs, which expert curators then  
242 manually validated as either being the same organization or not.

243

244 Figure 3 demonstrates an example of the ambiguous nature of ClinicalTrials.gov data. Our particular  
245 home institution, Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL), was designated by more than 50

246 unique representations in ClinicalTrials.gov. This represents the ambiguity challenge to be remedied.  
247 Figure 3 shows a network in which all red nodes are different representations of the WUSTL name  
248 and all black nodes are the clinical trials associated with that name. After disambiguation, all WUSTL  
249 affiliated trials were represented as one organization: “Washington University in St. Louis”. The June  
250 2017 snapshot of AACT has 54047 organization names associated with the 127,220 clinical trials in  
251 CDEK. We manually validated and collapsed these entries into 24,728 unique CDEK organizations.  
252 Furthermore, AACT has 104,627 unique intervention names that we manually validated and  
253 collapsed to 17,096 CDEK active pharmaceutical ingredients. During the curation process, we stored  
254 all names, which had been collapsed into single organizations as “alternative names”. This allows for  
255 users to search many different terms in our web application.

**Figure 3:** Network graph of trials associated with Washington University in St. Louis. The left graph shows different representations of Washington University in St. Louis in ClinicalTrials.gov as red nodes. Examples of different names representing “Washington University in St. Louis” include: “Washington University School of Medicine”, “Washington University Siteman Cancer Center”, and various misspellings of the word ‘university’. Black nodes are the clinical trials associated with each different name for the Washington University in St. Louis organization. The right graph shows CDEK data with Washington University in St. Louis as a single organization with its corresponding clinical trials.

256

### 257 ***CDEK Contents***

258 Table 2 provides summary statistics of CDEK contents: active pharmaceutical ingredients (n =  
259 22,292), clinical trials (n = 127,223), and organizations (n = 24,728).

260

261 Table 2: Summary counts of CDEK data

Organization Type	Count	API Type	Count	Trial Phase	Count
Academic/Hospital	9495	Small Molecules	13169	Phase 2	32538
For Profit	6577	Biologics	2583	Phase 1	23656
Individual	3634	Botanicals	1769	Phase 3	22641
Unknown	3183	Vaccine	1698	N/A	18830
Foundation	1200	Cell Therapy	1521	Phase 4	18267
Government	658	Biological	1182	Phase 1/Phase 2	7054
<b>Total Orgs</b>	<b>24747</b>	Animal Product	233	Phases 2/Phase 3	3184
		Gene Therapy	157	Early Phase 1	1163
		<b>Total APIs</b>	<b>22312</b>	<b>Total Trials</b>	<b>127333</b>

262

263 CDEK includes all prophylactic and therapeutic chemical or biological entities, including but not  
264 limited to vaccines, cell therapies, gene therapies, animal products, and biologics – many of which are  
265 not typically included in other popular compound-oriented databases.

266

## 267 **RESULTS**

### 268 ***CDEK Platform***

269 The CDEK platform used the open-source web framework, Django, which follows the model-view-  
270 controller architectural pattern. This allows the internal representation of data (the models) to be  
271 separated from the presentation to the end user (the view). In the back-end, the models were  
272 implemented as a PostgreSQL database and all data is hosted on Heroku. The controller and views  
273 rendered the front-end of the platform using a mix of HTML, CSS and javascript.

274

275 The CDEK platform provided two query functionalities, allowing users to quickly interface with the  
276 data without having any prior familiarity with a structured query language (SQL). The first  
277 functionality, a *basic search* (<http://cdek.wustl.edu/search/>) enable the user to do a fuzzy, case-

278 insensitive search for keywords or synonyms in order to find either active pharmaceutical  
279 ingredients or organizations. This functionality serves as a quick, simplified means of interacting with  
280 a single datum. The result displays summary statistics of the basic CDEK pillars. Figure 4 shows an  
281 example of active pharmaceutical ingredients and organization summary pages. For an active  
282 pharmaceutical ingredient, the clinical trial distribution is plotted according to trial phase and  
283 organizations involved in its developed is plotted according to organization type. For an organization,  
284 the involvement in clinical trials and active pharmaceutical ingredient development is plotted  
285 according to trial phase and active pharmaceutical ingredient type, respectively. In both search  
286 displays, a list of alternative names is given. For those interested in the source data, or who seek to  
287 visualize the ingested reference, CDEK allows the user to link to external cross-referencing databases.

**Figure 4:** Example Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient and Organization summary pages from the CDEK platform. Adalimumab, was the top selling drug of 2017 while GlaxoSmithKline has the most associated clinical trials in the CDEK database.

288 Users are directed to an advanced query functionality to access the granular CDEK data.

289  
290 The *advanced query* functionality ([cdek.wustl.edu/query/](http://cdek.wustl.edu/query/)) provides users with more control over  
291 the metadata are used to filter the dataset. A dynamically generated user-interface (UI) allows a user  
292 to build a SQL-like query, in a *WISYWIG* (“what you see is what you get”) fashion, without having any  
293 previous knowledge of SQL. Complex queries can be quickly generated by building filtration rules  
294 (predicates) and by combining them with boolean logic. These data are then submitted to the back-  
295 end through an AJAX (Asynchronous JavaScript And XML) call to a database-view which combines all  
296 the CDEK data into a single table. This AJAX call initializes a Celery worker which will process the  
297 query request on a separate Heroku worker dyno and return the result in a non-blocking fashion;  
298 this ensures that the platform can scale properly as more queries are submitted and ensures a better  
299 user experience. Results are presented in a familiar table-like manner with sortable columns and

300 hyperlinks to individual data instances. A RESTful API (application programming interface) provides  
301 an endpoint for viewing these individual data when either requesting a single active pharmaceutical  
302 ingredient or organization instance. This endpoint dynamically generates interactive charts which  
303 summarize the data for the given data instance. Our advanced query builder allows a user to filter  
304 CDEK data to granular details. Figure 5 shows a screen shot of the query tool web application. In this  
305 example, the data returned will be all unique Phase III clinical trials (n = 681) studying lung or  
306 cardiovascular diseases, excluding vaccines, and run by GlaxoSmithKline as the lead sponsor between

**Figure 5:** Our advanced query builder allows users to filter down CDEK data to very granular details. In this example, the data returned will be all unique Phase III clinical trials studying lung or cardiovascular diseases, excluding vaccines, that were ran by GlaxoSmithKline as the lead sponsor between 2012 and 2017.

307 2012 and 2017.

308

### 309 *Lessons Learned*

310 Approximately 17,096 unique active pharmaceutical ingredients in CDEK were sourced from  
311 ClinicalTrials.gov, 9,781 of which currently cannot be found in any databases cross-referenced in  
312 CDEK (see Table 1). These active pharmaceutical ingredients comprise 3160 small molecules, 1477  
313 vaccines, 1438 cell therapies, 1387 biologics, 1084 botanicals, 982 biologics, 143 gene therapies,  
314 and 110 animal products. The databases included for initial cross-referencing primarily focus on  
315 small molecules and biologics. Therefore, we reviewed unique small molecules and biologics  
316 extracted from ClinicalTrials.gov, hereafter referred to as “unique CDEK records”. Most (90%) unique  
317 CDEK records have been registered in three or fewer clinical trials and 85% of the clinical trials  
318 referencing these drugs are prior to Phase III. This indicates that early stage active pharmaceutical  
319 ingredients might not typically be flagged for curation in traditional databases. Another interesting  
320 trend is almost two-thirds (64%) of the unique CDEK records were sponsored by for profit

321 organizations. This contrasts to the whole CDEK dataset where less than one third (30%) of all trial  
322 lead sponsors are for profit organizations.

323  
324 The active pharmaceutical ingredient contents of CDEK was compared with other common  
325 compound-oriented drug databases including: PubChem, ChEMBL, DrugBank, DrugCentral,  
326 SuperDrug2, WITHDRAWN, repoDB, and drugs@FDA. Despite our initial assumption that existing  
327 databases, once aggregated, would convey a comprehensive list of experimental medicines,  
328 approximately 43% of active pharmaceutical ingredients in the CDEK database were extracted from  
329 AACT and cannot be found in any of the other compound-oriented databases listed above.

330  
331 We reviewed the overlap of active pharmaceutical ingredients with evidence of clinical testing among  
332 several open databases, including those listed in Table 1, AACT, and the Drugs@FDA database. Figure  
333 6 shows the this overlap as a heatmap, comparing content across several drug databases. This  
334 visualization demonstrates that some databases are almost complete subsets of others (99% of  
335 repoDB compounds can be found in ChEMBL, DrugCentral and DrugBank). PubChem, one of the  
336 largest compound libraries showed consistently high overlap values across the spectrum. The  
337 overlap between AACT active pharmaceutical ingredients and PubChem is the highest, closely  
338 followed by AACT and ChEMBL.

**Figure 6:** Heatmap displaying the overlap in active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) between any two databases in CDEK. The coloring and number displayed at the intersection between any two databases is the total number of shared APIs. The total number of unique APIs from each database that has evidence of clinical experience is noted in paranthesis next to each database name label.

339

340 **DISCUSSION**



341 The purpose of CDEK is to provide researchers with an open database and platform to study the  
342 entire drug development enterprise by interrogating *all* active pharmaceuticals with evidence of  
343 clinical testing. While not truly comprehensive, we have created the first release of such a resource  
344 and below we discuss several on-going strategies for improvement.

345  
346 The first instantiation of CDEK was derived from a June 2017 snapshot of the AACT database. Over  
347 20,000 trials registered in ClinicalTrials.gov were not included in the first instantiation but we are  
348 currently developing a novel “ingestion pipeline” to allow curators to update the data automatically  
349 and in real time. Databases listed as cross-referencing sources will be updated in CDEK in the future  
350 along with the addition of new data sources – such as ToxCast and ZINC. Future curated databases  
351 will also be merged into CDEK under the conditions they are public, verifiable and contain evidence  
352 of clinical-trial candidates.

353  
354 The curation of several new metadata fields will be incorporated into CDEK. These fields are  
355 summarized in Figure 1 encircled by dashed lines. They include information such as patents  
356 surrounding active pharmaceutical ingredients, approval status of each indication associated with an  
357 active pharmaceutical ingredient, clinical trial study results, and the merger and acquisition activity  
358 of for-profit organizations conducting clinical trials.

359  
360 Another on-going area of development is mining scientific publications containing clinical trial  
361 information. ClinicalTrials.gov was created in response to the Food and Drug Administration  
362 Modernization Act of 1997 (FDAMA), with the first public version of ClinicalTrials.gov released in  
363 2000. Therefore, it is necessary to search public reports of clinical studies for trials that may not have  
364 been registered, or that were conducted prior to 1997.

365

366 Finally, continued efforts are being made to clean and disambiguate any residual errors propagated  
367 through the initial data cleanup. We intend to employ higher standards for chemical data set curation  
368 methods, such as those outlined by Fourches et al (23). Due to the expansive efforts needed to keep  
369 CDEK up-to-date and accurate, our group is also interested in deploying crowd-based curation  
370 methods in the future.

371

## 372 **CONTACTING CDEK**

373 CDEK was developed and is maintained by the Center for Research Innovation in Biotechnology  
374 (CRIB) at Washington University in St. Louis. CRIB studies the blend of science, business, and  
375 regulation of biotechnology, medical devices, and healthcare IT to ensure continued improvements  
376 in the delivery of medical innovations and public health. CRIB is actively pursuing collaborations to  
377 study the data within CDEK. Errors and suggestions for improvement can be submitted at  
378 <http://cdek.wustl.edu/about/>. Or contact us via e-mail at cdek at wustl dot edu.

379

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385 (NIH). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the  
386 official view of the NIH.

387

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## ClinicalTrials.gov

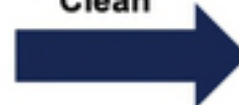
### AACT Intervention Name

adalimumab  
 Adalimumab 40 mg  
 Adalimumab every other week  
 Adalimumab 40 MG/0.8 ML Subcutaneous Solution [HUMIRA]  
 EU-Humira  
 US-licensed Humira

### Trial ID

NCT03316781  
 NCT02471118  
 NCT00927069  
 NCT01320293  
 NCT02472912  
 NCT03014947

Clean



### Cleaned Name Trial ID

adalimumab NCT03316781  
 adalimumab NCT02471118  
 adalimumab NCT00927069  
 adalimumab NCT01320293  
 humira NCT02472912  
 humira NCT03014947



Create CDEK Entry

KEGG

ChEMBL

DrugBank

repoDB

adalimumab

MeSH

DrugCentral

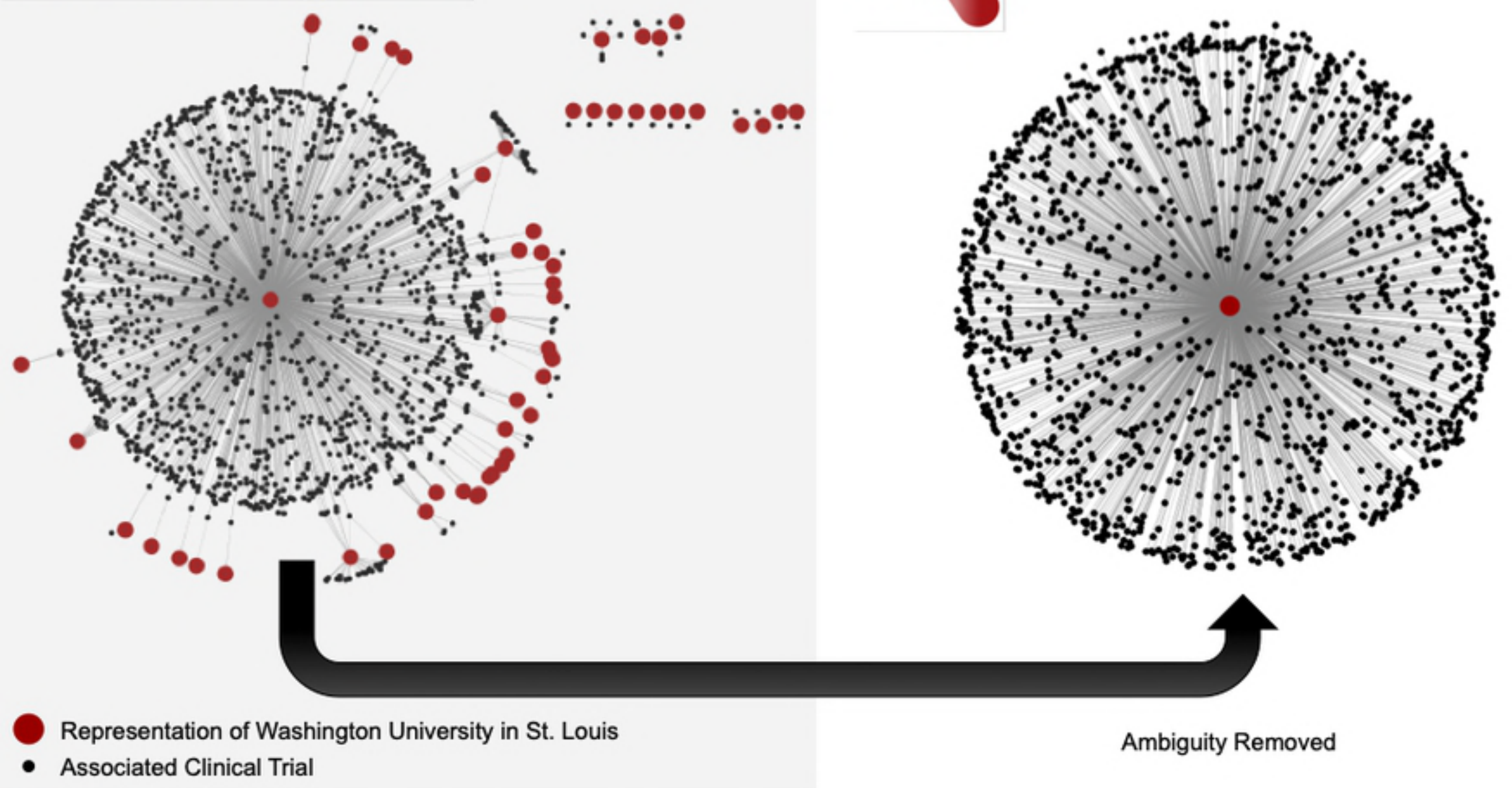
Drugs@FDA

Cross-reference with other databases and add metadata

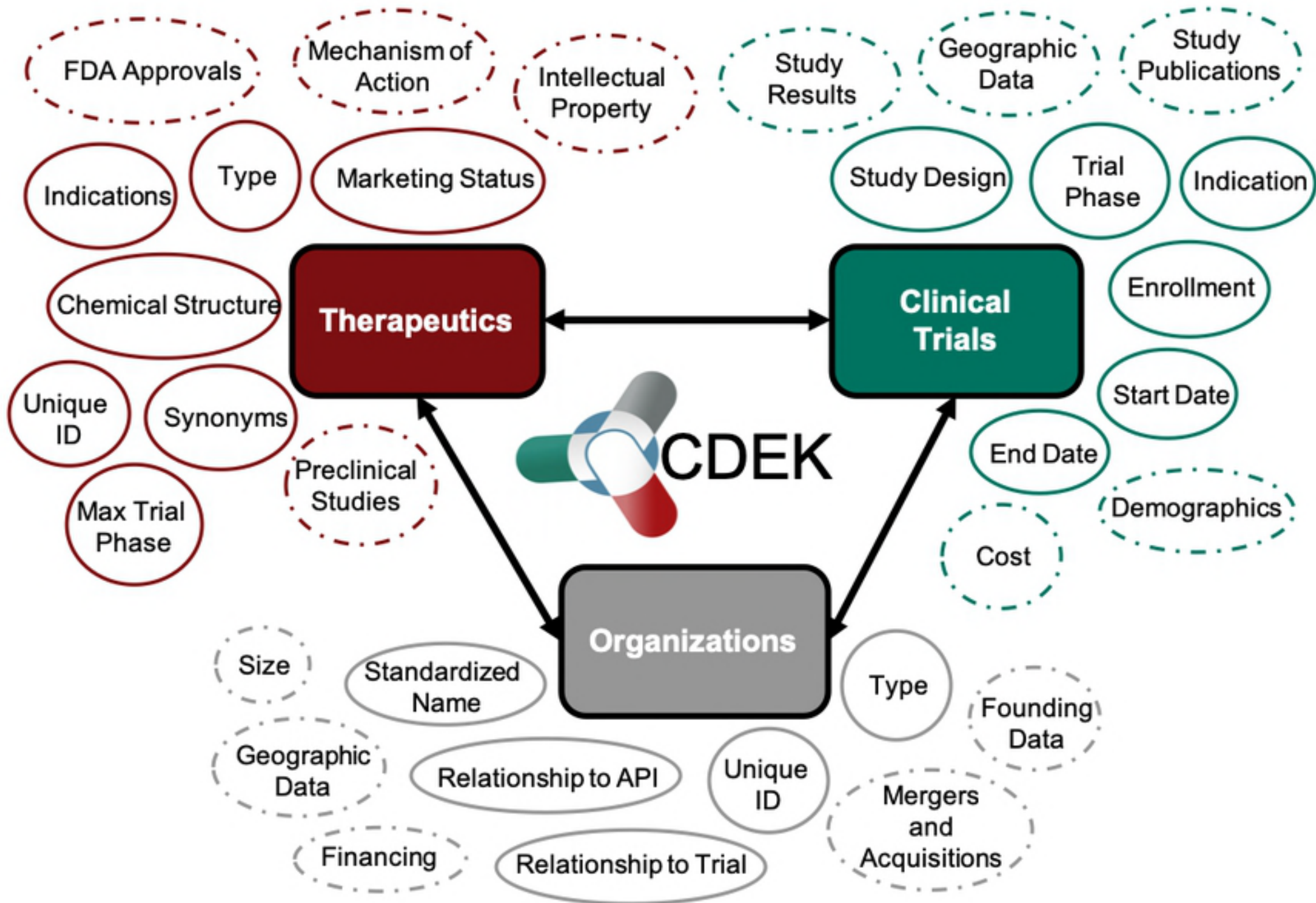


### CDEK Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API)

<u>Unique ID</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Preferred Name</u>	<u>All Names</u>	<u>Trials</u>
59850	Biologic	adalimumab	adalimumab	NCT03316781
			humira	NCT02471118
			d2e7	NCT00927069
				NCT01320293
				NCT02472912
				NCT03014947



Figure



Figure



Biologics

[ChEMBL](#) [DrugBank](#) [Drug Central](#) [Drugs@FDA](#) [KEGG](#) [MeSH](#) [repoDB](#)

## Trials (330 total)



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## Organizations (257 total)



## Metadata

### Alternative names

adalimumab | adalimumab-atto | adalimumab (genetic recombination) | amjevita | d2e7 | humira | lu200134 | lu-200134

# GlaxoSmithKline [Report issue](#)

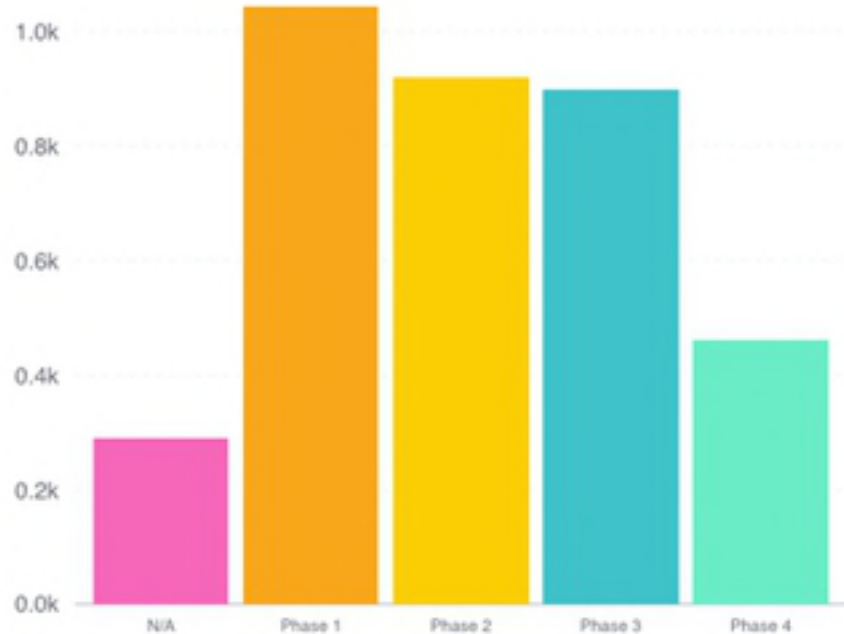
For profit

Founded on: 2000

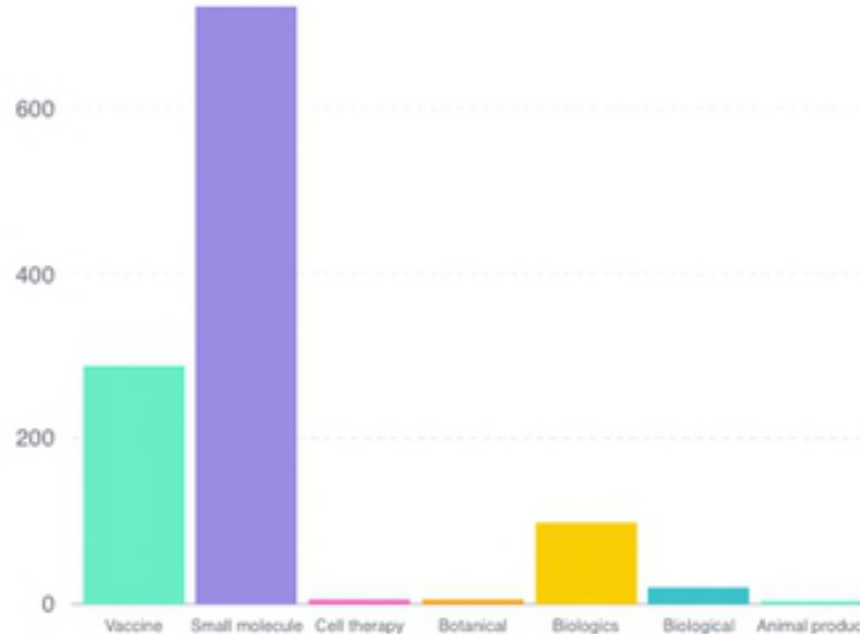
Founded in: London United Kingdom



## Trials (3,612 total)



## APIs (1,148 total)



### Alternative names

Barrier Therapeutics/ Stiefel, a GSK Company | GlaxoSmithKline | GlaxoSmithKline AG, Switzerland | Glaxosmithkline Biologicals S.A. | Glaxosmithkline/Quintiles | GSK-CIHR Research Chair in Respiratory Health Care Delivery, | GSK Vaccines Institute for Global Health (GVGH) | Stiefel, a GSK Company

NOT **AND** OR + Add rule  Add group

Org name equal GlaxoSmithKline X Delete

Relationship type equal Lead sponsor X Delete

Trial phase equal Phase 3 X Delete

Start date between 2012-01-01 2017-01-01 X Delete

NOT **AND** OR + Add rule  Add group X Delete

MeSH heading equal Lung Diseases X Delete

MeSH heading equal Cardiovascular Diseases X Delete

NOT **AND** OR + Add rule  Add group X Delete

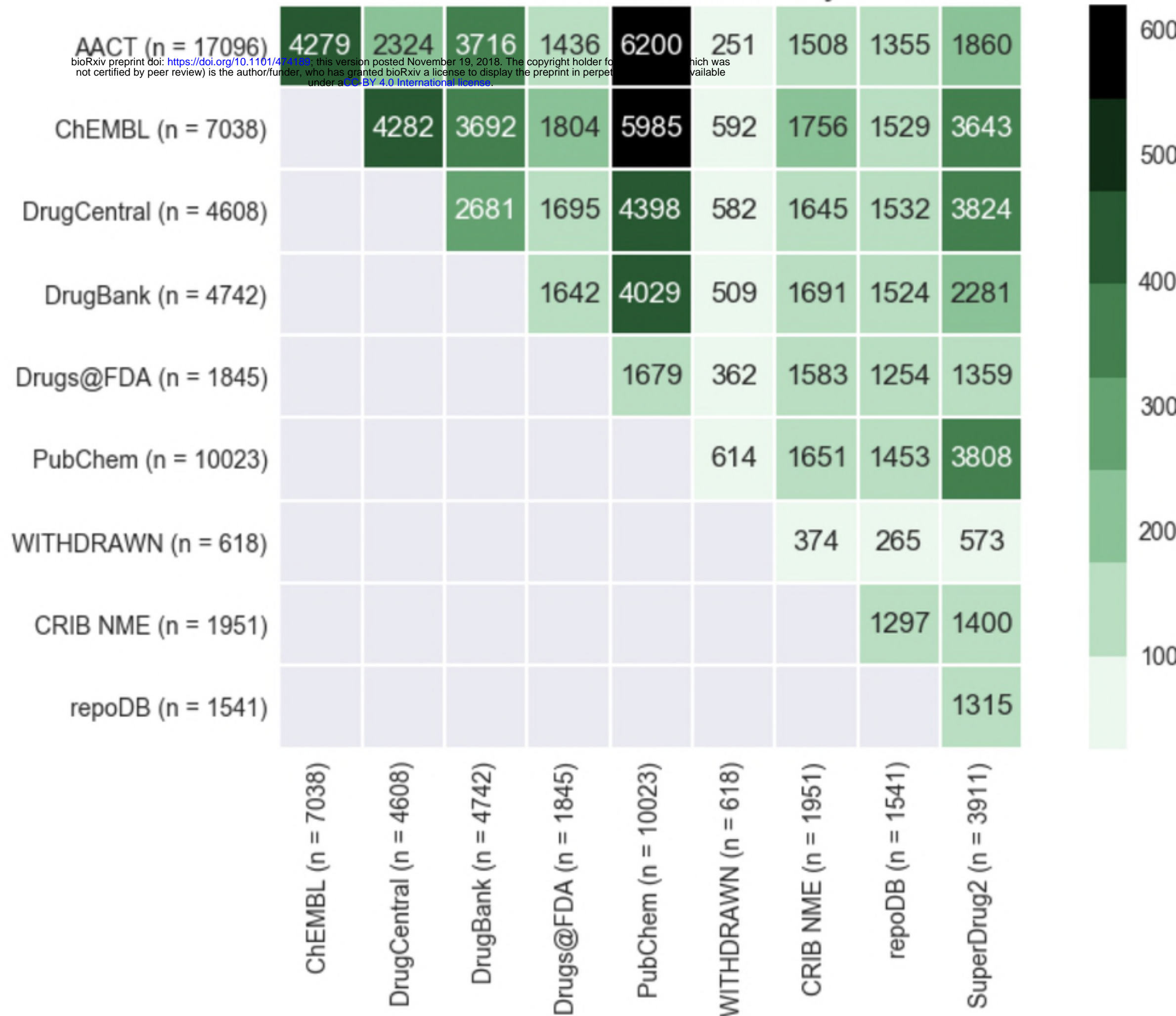
API type equal Vaccine X Delete

Return rows as Trial number i Q

Figure

# Counts of APIs common between any two sources

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Figure