

# AI and the Life Sciences: Evaluating Opportunities and Risks

**Dr. George Poste**

**Regents' Professor and Del E. Webb Chair in Health Innovation**

**[george.poste@asu.edu](mailto:george.poste@asu.edu)**

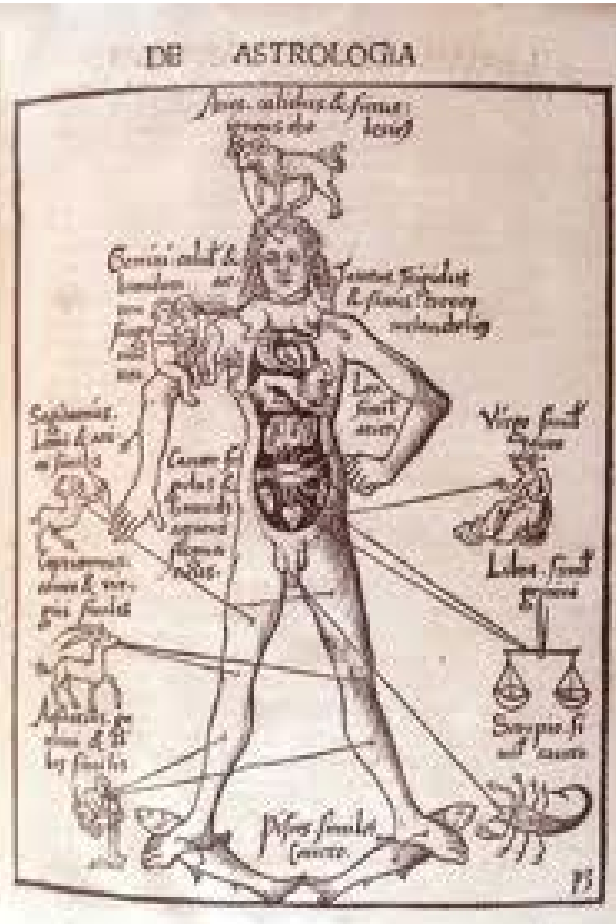
**GETS Conference: Plenary Session 2**

**May 16, 2024**

**Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, ASU**

**Slides Available @ <http://casi.asu.edu/presentations>**

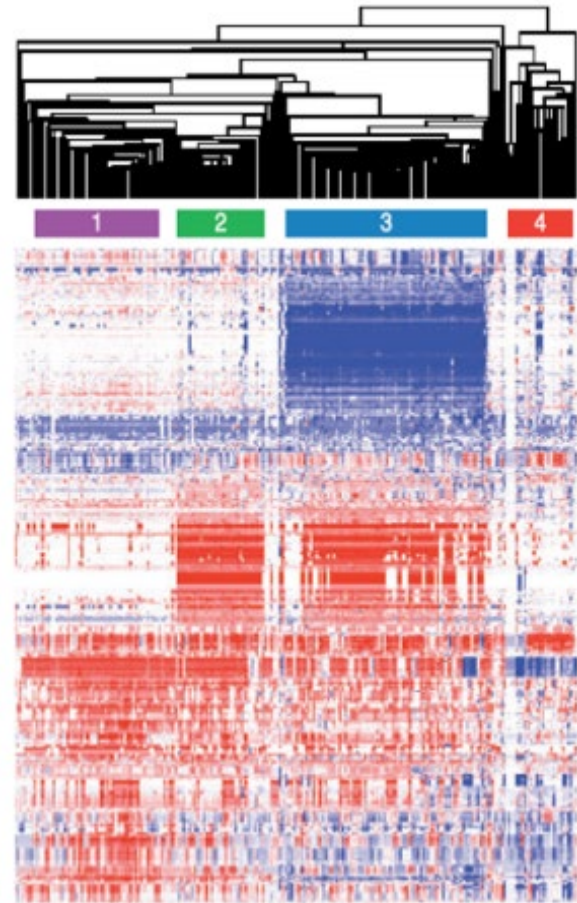
# The Path to Precision Health: From Superstitions to Symptoms to Molecular Signatures of Health Risk



humors, astrology, shamanism,  
sin and divine fate

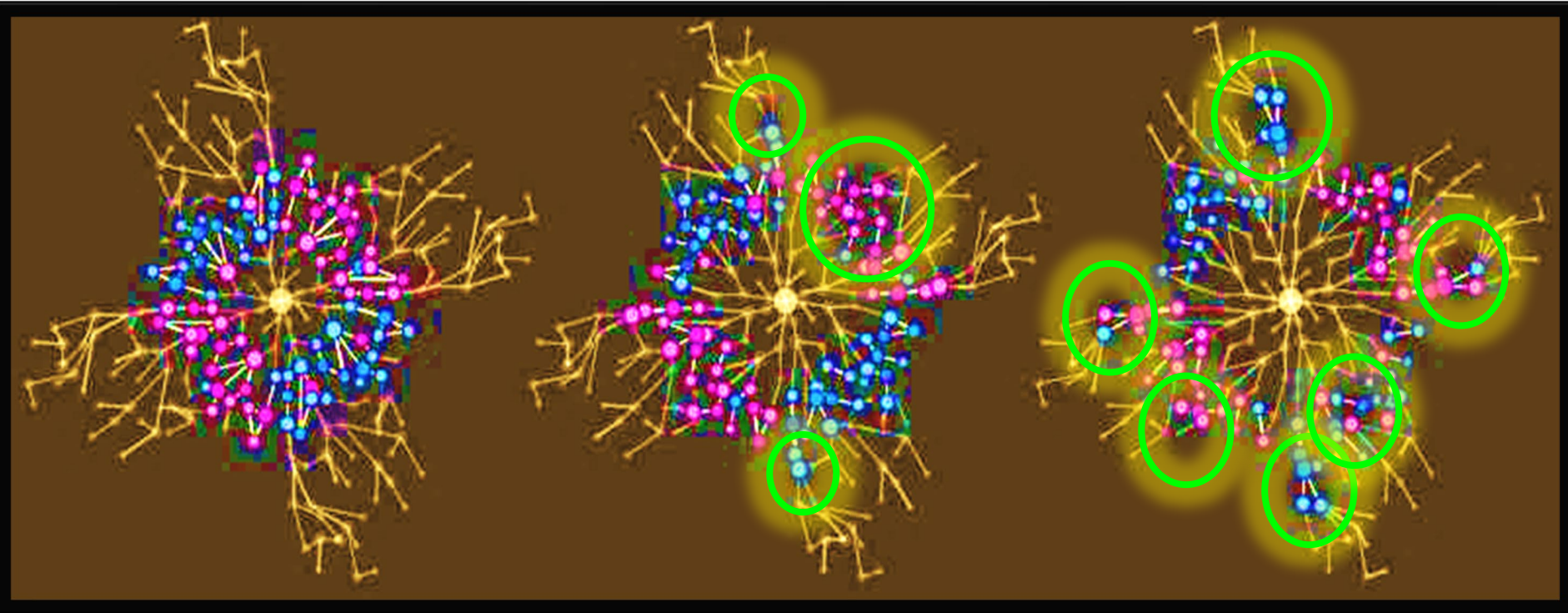


biochemistry and organ-based  
pathophysiology



molecular biology and  
multi-omics profiling

# Diseases as Complex Adaptive Biological Systems: Mapping System State Shifts (Phenomes) and Cumulative Perturbations in Molecular Signaling Networks in the Health to Disease Continuum



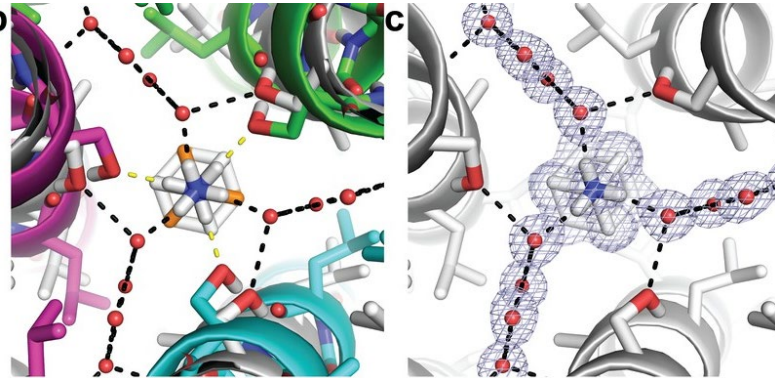
$T_{1(n)}$  health

$T_{2(n)}$  subclinical disease

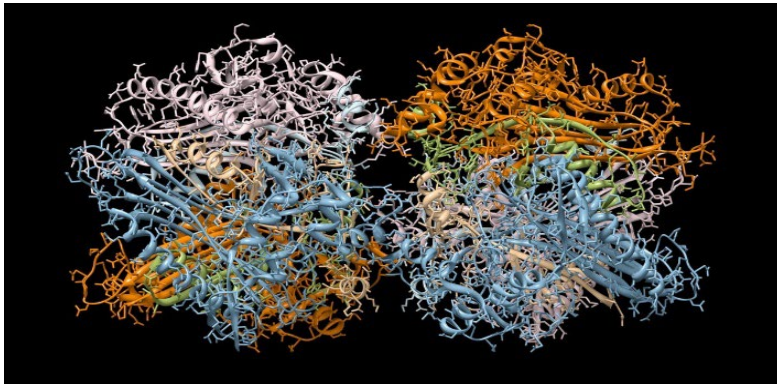
$T_{3(n)}$  overt disease

- identification of biomarkers/diagnostics and therapeutic targets in dysregulated networks
- DrugMechDB (2023) 4583 Rx indications, 5666 pathways  
32,249 molecular interaction networks across 14 biological parameters

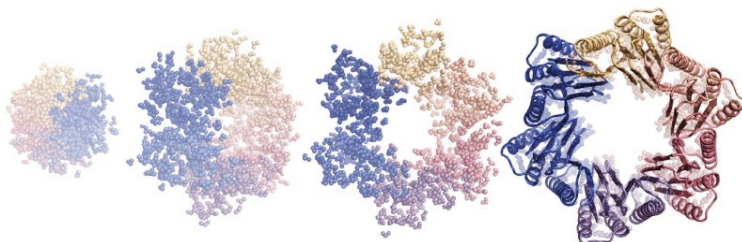
# Use of ML-AI Protein Structure Prediction in Drug Discovery and Synthetic Biology



J. Park et. al. (2019) Elife doi.org/10.7554/eLife.47839



<https://www.cnet.com/science/biology/googles-deepmind-ai-predicts-3d-structure-of-nearly-every-protein-known-to-science/>



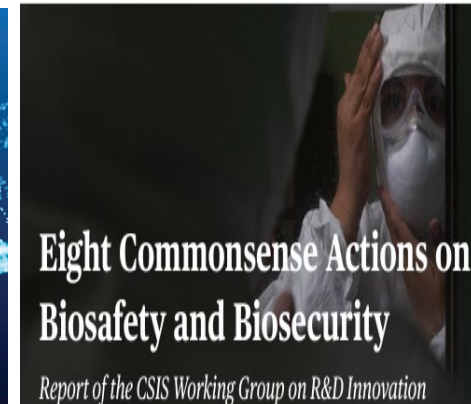
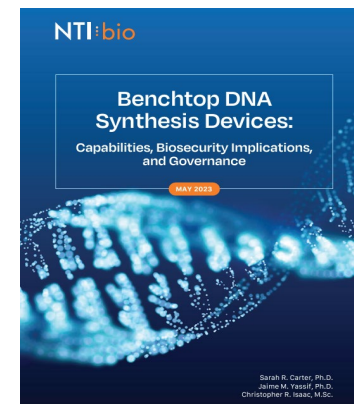
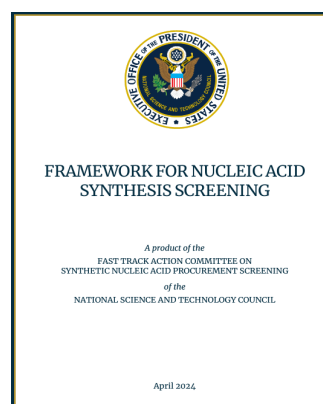
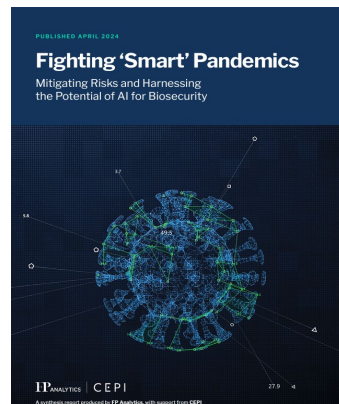
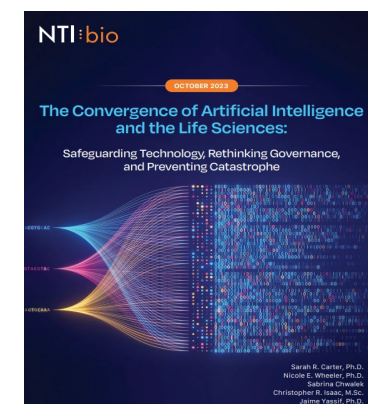
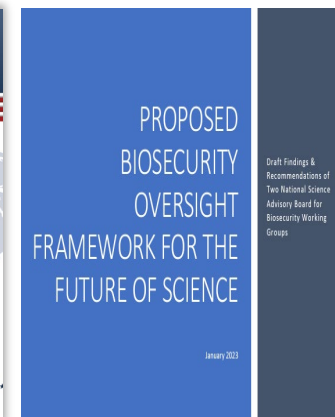
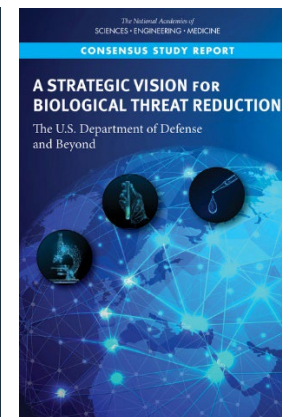
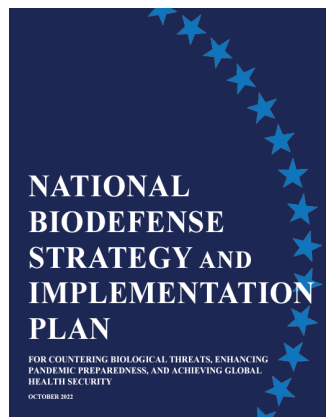
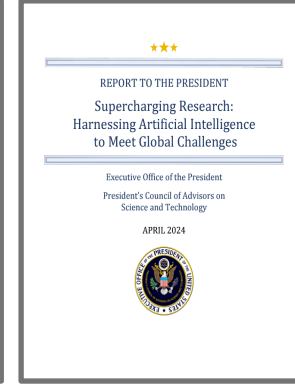
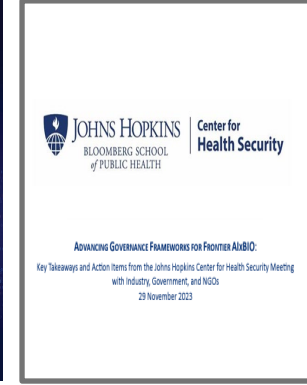
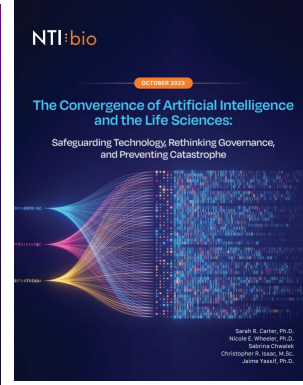
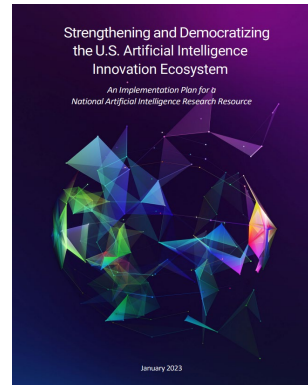
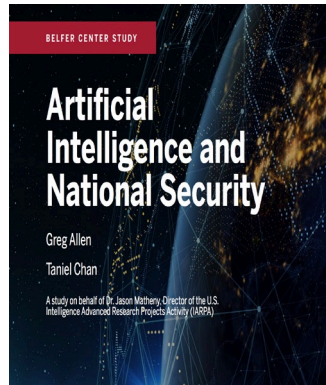
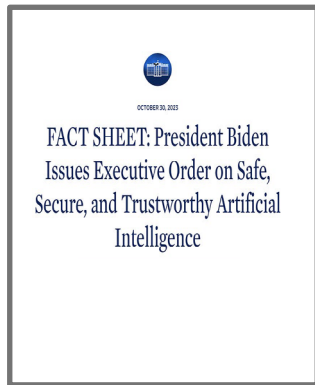
E. Callaway (2023) Nature 619:236-238; doi.org/10.1038/d41586-023-02227-y

- Expanded Inventory of Novel Protein Structures
- Improved Drug-Pocket Affinities and Allosteric Sites
- Design of Protein-Protein Interactions
- Drugging the Undruggable
- Designer ADME, Targeting Systems for Drug Delivery and Cellular Therapy

# New Dual-Use Risks from the Convergence of Biotechnology, Synthetic Biology and AI (BIOxAI)



# Biosecurity: Balancing Innovation with Risk Oversight



# The Proliferation of Dual-Use Risks from the Intersection of Biotechnology, Synthetic Biology and AI (BIO x AI)

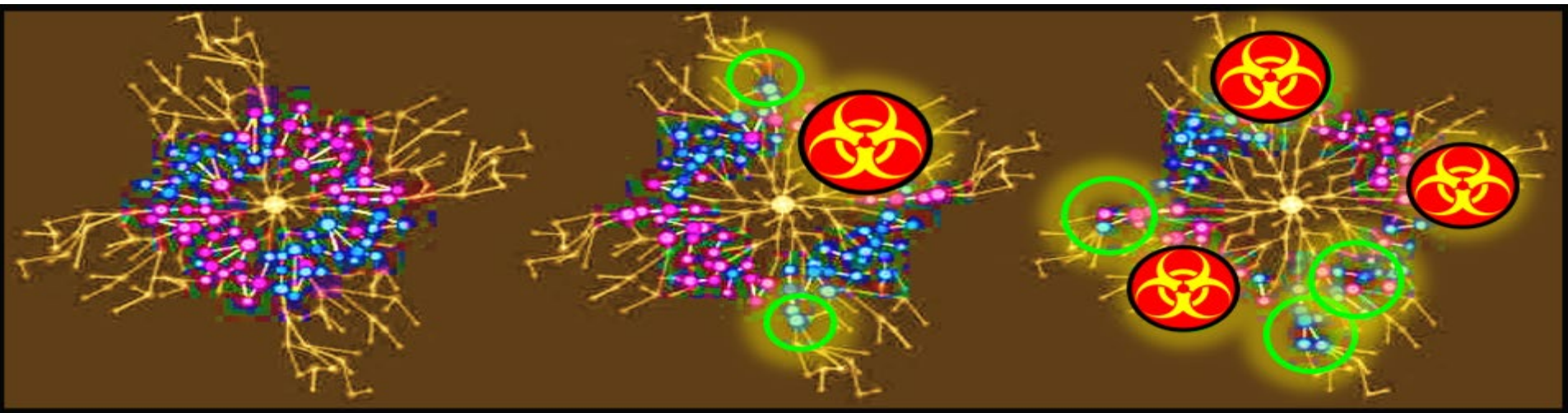
**digital biology:  
“it from bits”**

**de novo  
synthesis of organisms**

**engineered  
virulence**



**Beyond Bugs:  
targeted modification of any biological pathway in any organ in any species**



# The Geopolitical Race for Commercial and Military Superiority in Applications of Biotechnology, Synthetic Biology and Artificial Intelligence



## REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT Biomanufacturing to Advance the Bioeconomy

Executive Office of the President  
President's Council of Advisors on  
Science and Technology

December 2022



## BOLD GOALS FOR U.S. BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOMANUFACTURING

HARNESSING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
TO FURTHER SOCIETAL GOALS

MARCH 2023



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## U.S. Department of Defense Biomanufacturing Strategy



Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering

21 March 2023

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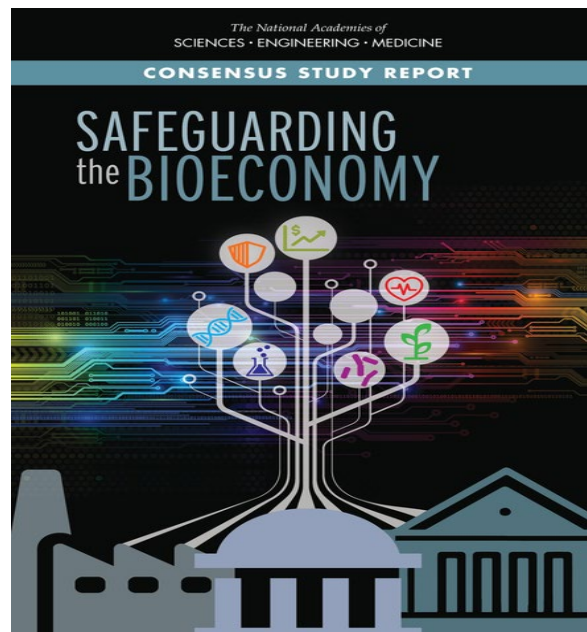
## Biosecurity-by-Design to Safeguard Emerging Bioeconomies



INTEGRATING BIOSECURITY CONSIDERATIONS INTO THE COMPLETE  
BIOTECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE

Gurpreet Dhaliwal, Askar A. Kleefeldt, Alexandra Klein

NOVEMBER 2023



## Hybrid CoE Strategic Analysis / 26

MAY 2021

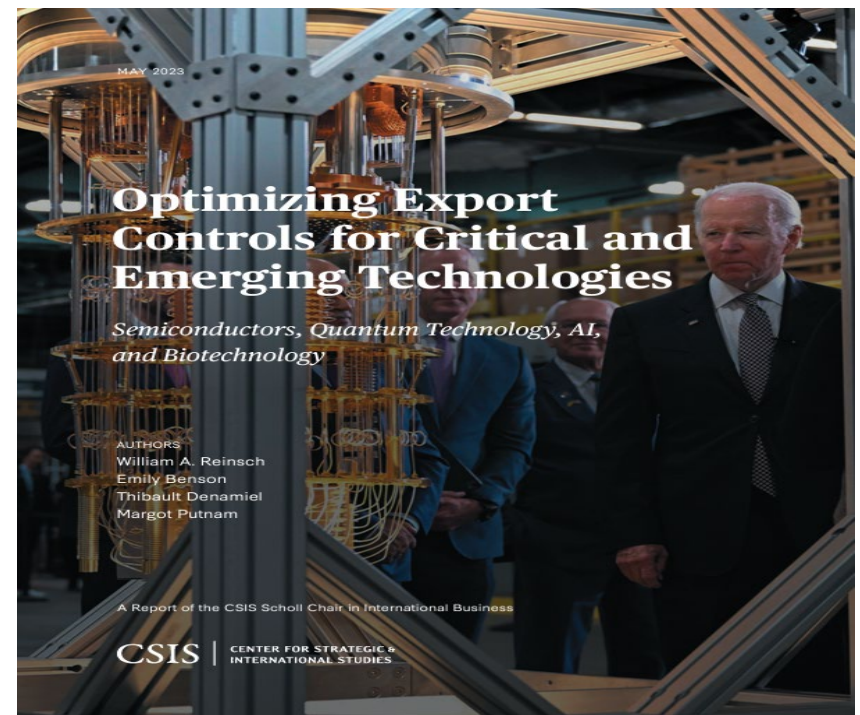
## Cyber-biosecurity: How to protect biotechnology from adversarial AI attacks

ELEONORE PAUWELS



华大基因学院  
BGI college

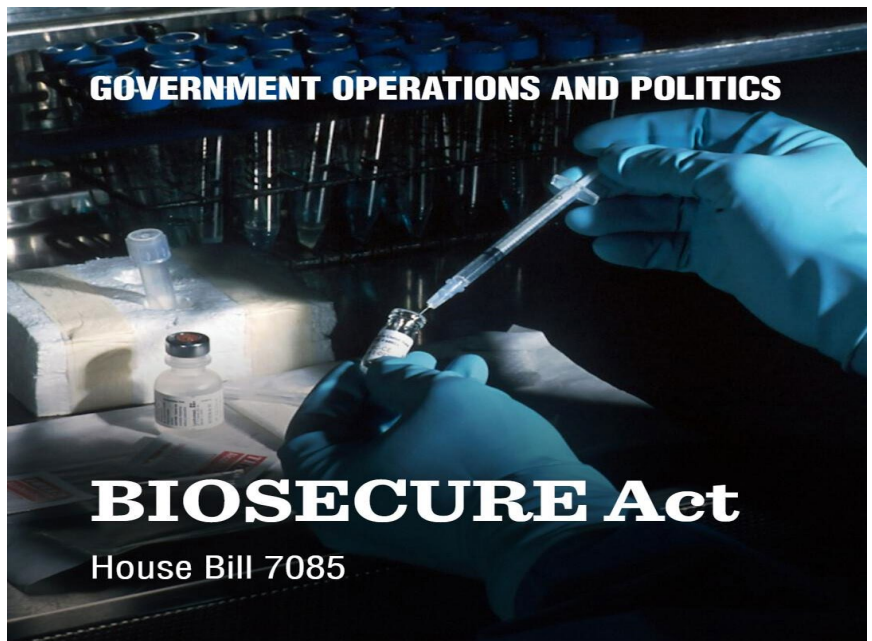
华大基因研究院  
BGI research



Department of Commerce Export Controls for  
Biological Equipment and Technology



Chemical and Biological Controls Division  
Office of Nonproliferation & Treaty Compliance



# Gain-of-Function (GOF) Research on Modification of Microbial Pathogens



May 2024

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

for the

United States Government Policy for Oversight  
of Dual Use Research of Concern  
and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic  
Potential

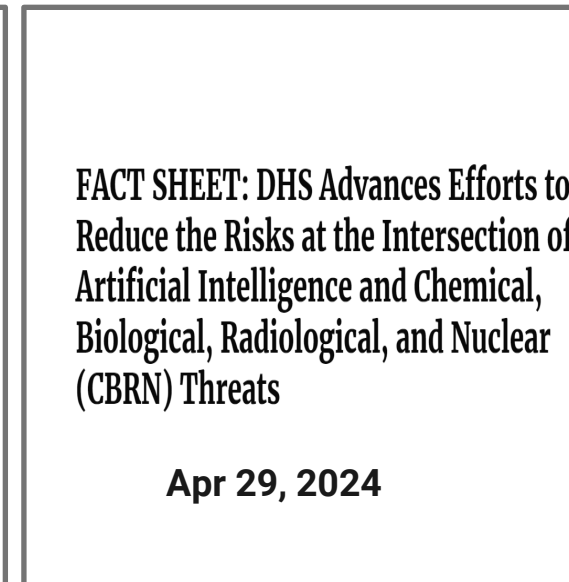
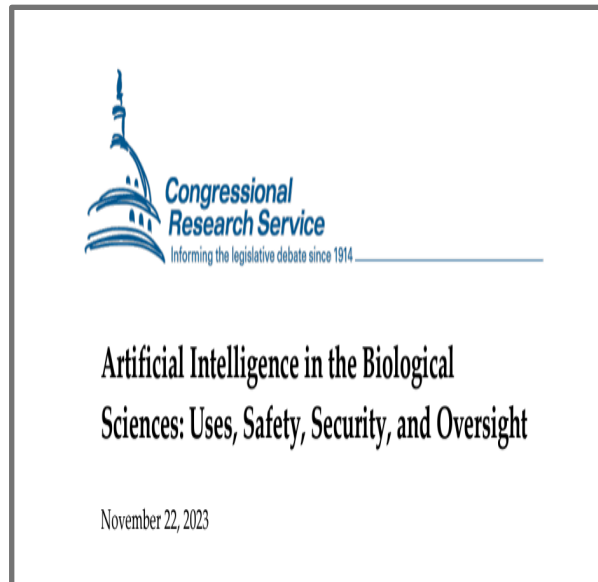
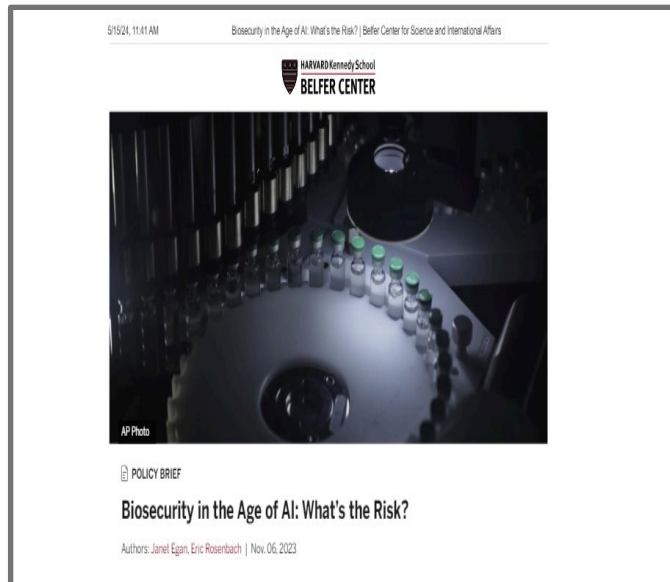
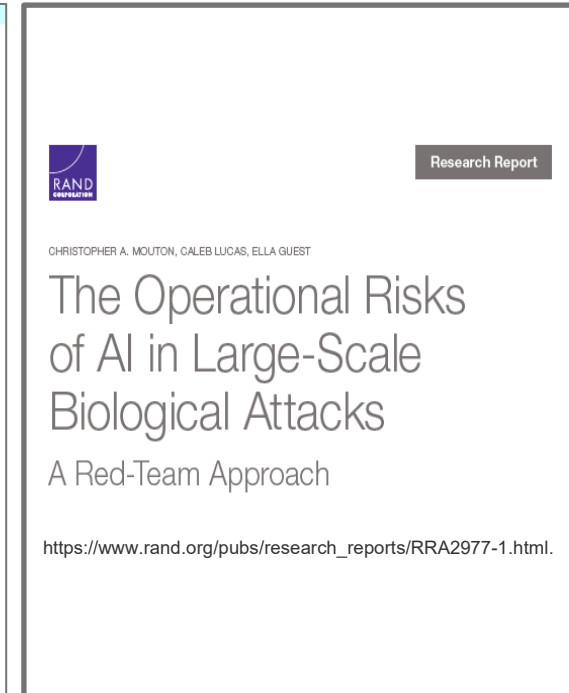
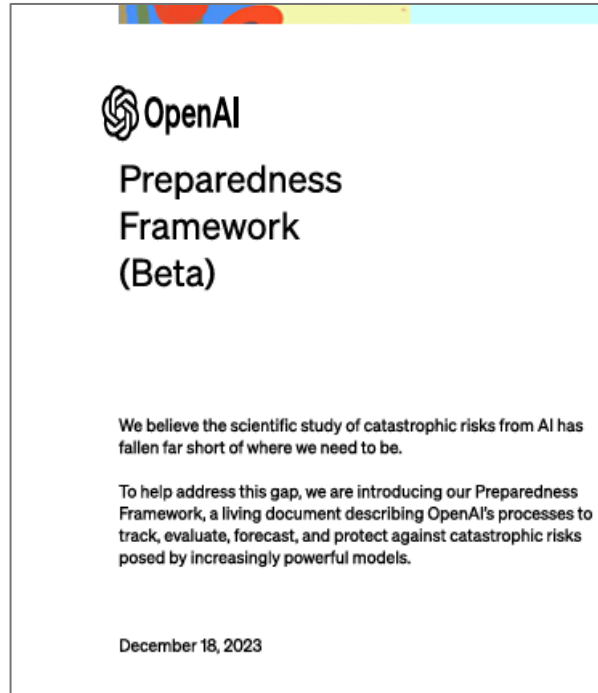
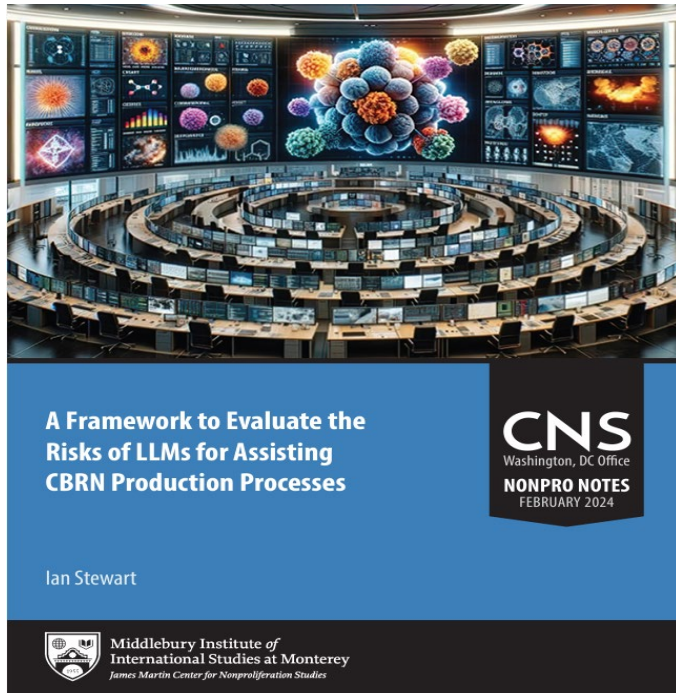
- value of responsible GOF research in providing insight into potential future evolutionary pathways for pathogens
  - inform proactive development of Dx/vaccines/MCMs
- US legislative actions to tighten oversight of GOF research
- low probability of harmonization of international standards without robust transparency and enforced inspection (trust but verify)

# Global Expansion of High Biosafety Level (BSL-3/4) Laboratories



- COVID-19 pandemic highlighted gaps in preparedness resources for handling high-risk pathogens
  - conventional public health (BSL-3)
  - expanded capabilities for translational research (Rx, vaccines)
- plans announced to build 27 new BSL-4 facilities
  - Russia (15), PRC (4), India (4), Kazakhstan, Singapore, Philippines, US (1)
- long lead times for construction and certification
- high operational costs (\$15-20 million/year)
  - maintenance, air handling, security
- staff training and (re)certification in stringent-biohazard containment protocols to limit risk of biosecurity breach

# Large Language Models and AI-Based Dual-Risk



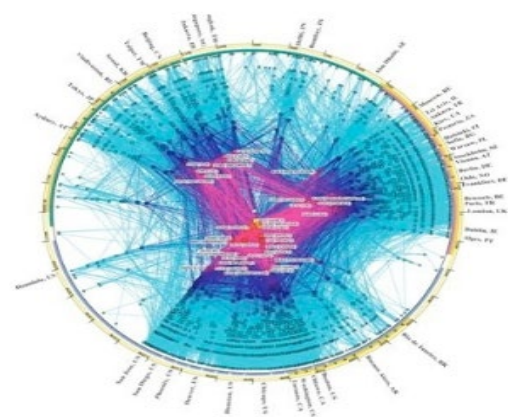
# Large-Language Models and Generative Artificial Intelligence: A Looming Paradigm Shift in Scientific Discovery



**Isolated  
Data**



**Complex  
Networked Data**



**Complex  
Computational Data**

- availability of ever larger multimodal data and GAI-based LLM analytics
  - exabyte data scale (and beyond)
- automated combinatorial hyperdimensional analysis
  - large N parameters X large N entities (biospecimens, individuals, populations)
- paradigm shift from current dominance of hypothesis-driven research to hypothesis-free large scale data mining

# **Dual-Use Risks from the Intersection of AI, Biotechnology and Synthetic Biology**

- **LLM training sets require data**
  - **unless adversaries have access to unique data robust intelligence analysis and monitoring should identify risks and potential nefarious actors/actions**
- **theoretical expanded risk spectrum nonetheless requires adaptive risk monitoring tools**
  - **supply chains, multi-INT monitoring of laboratories of concern**
  - **advances in automated synthesis instruments (integrated gene-to-protein) and foreign purchase**

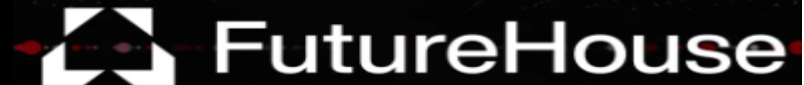
# Large-Scale Automation of Biomedical Laboratory Research



## Building an AI Scientist.

Our 10-year mission is to build semi-autonomous AIs that can scale scientific research, to accelerate the pace of discovery and to provide world-wide access to cutting-edge scientific, medical, and engineering expertise.

**WikiCrow: Automating Synthesis of Human Scientific Knowledge**



# **Dual-Use Biosecurity Risks from AI**

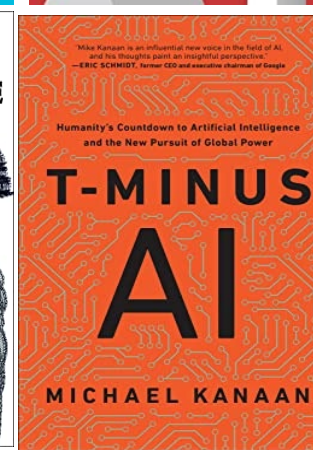
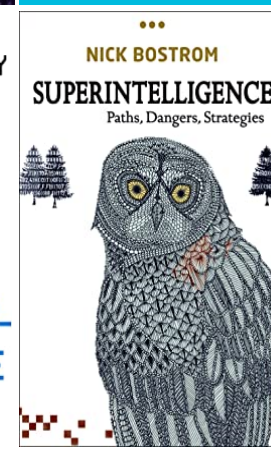
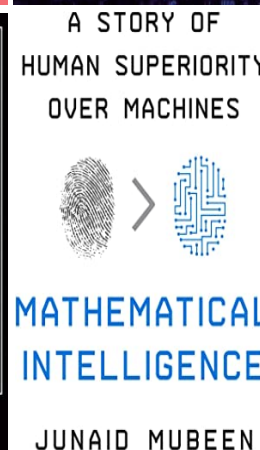
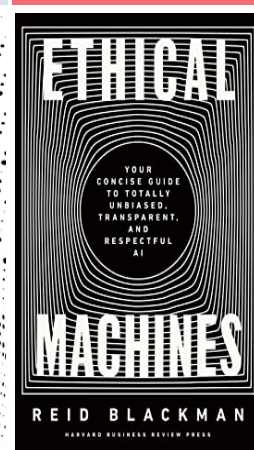
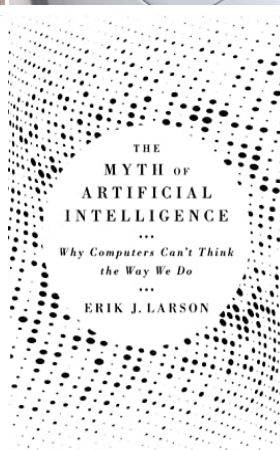
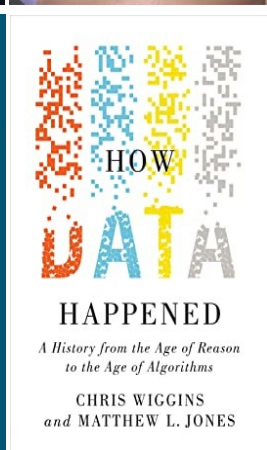
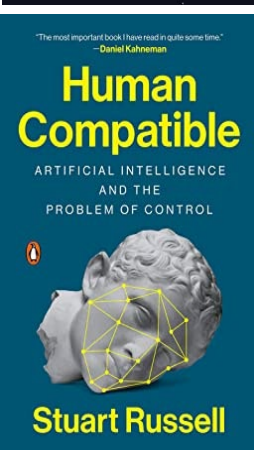
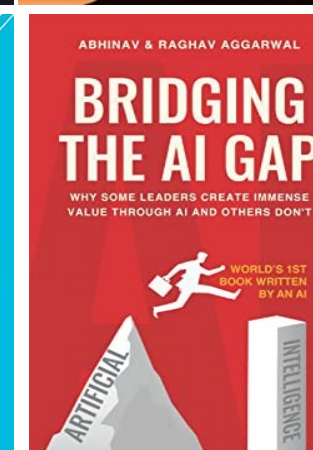
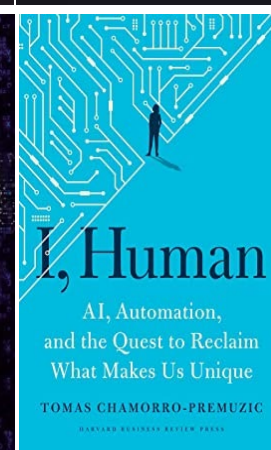
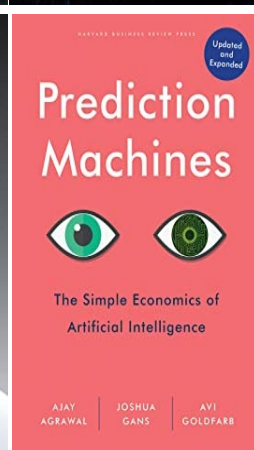
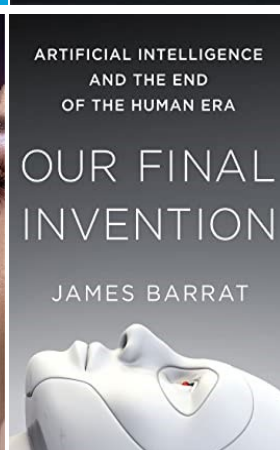
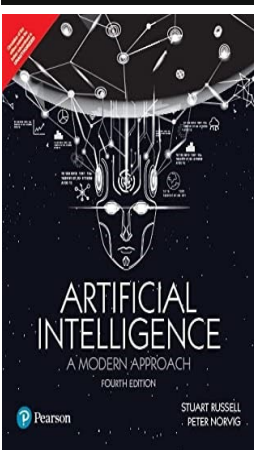
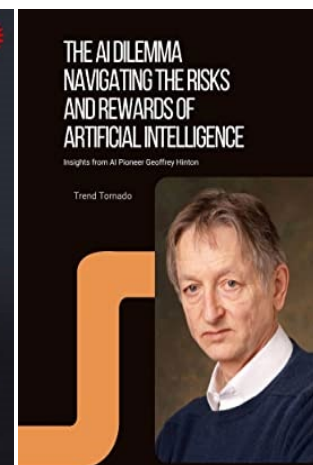
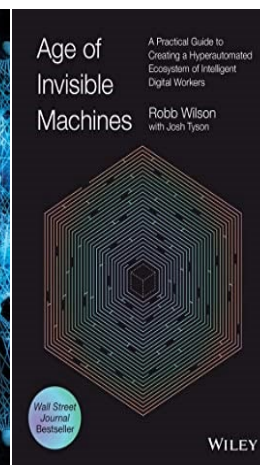
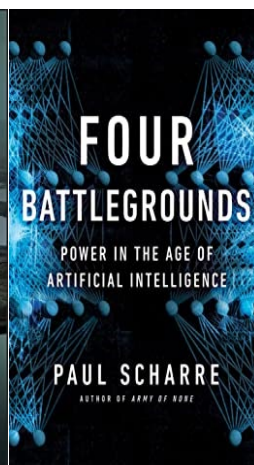
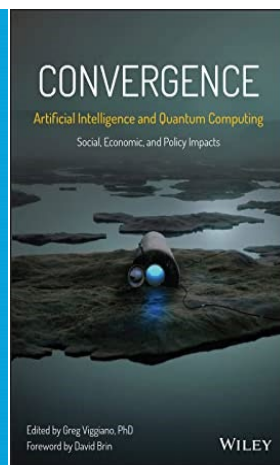
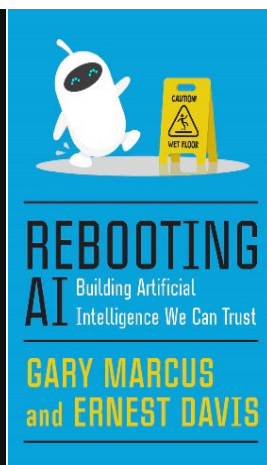
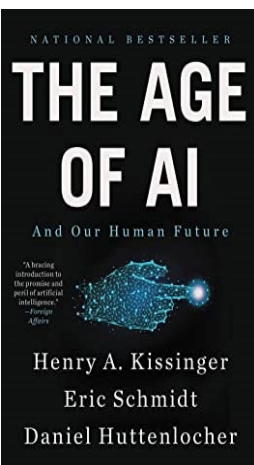
- **expanded cyber threats and corruption of databases/communication systems**
  - **public health/medical infrastructure**
  - **health records**
  - **biopharma manufacturing and product safety**
- **dissemination of disinformation/misinformation**
  - **erode public trust in institutions/decision-makers**
  - **amplify public concerns on safety of new technologies (GMO crops, mRNA vaccines, AI)**
- **targeted espionage and theft of innovation/IP (academia, industry)**
  - **PRC targeting of mRNA COVID vaccine companies**

# Xi Jinping's Information Support Force: A New Force for a New Era



# **Digital Biology and a New Landscape for Dual-Use Technology Risk Assessment and Mitigation**

- **understanding ‘rule sets’ the design and behavior of information networks complex biological systems**
- **engineered modulation with predictable outcomes**
- **expanding substrate for proliferation of dual-use risk for nefarious applications of targeted network modulation**
- **governance, oversight and regulatory challenges to limited dual-use abuse**
  - **detection, containment, attribution**




# Predicting and improving complex beer flavor through machine learning

Nature Communications | (2024)15:2368 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-024-46346-0>

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 Check for updates

Michiel Schreurs <sup>1,2,3,7</sup>, Supinya Piampongsant<sup>1,2,3,7</sup>, Miguel Roncoroni <sup>1,2,3,7</sup>, Lloyd Cool <sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, Beatriz Herrera-Malaver <sup>1,2,3</sup>, Christophe Vanderaa <sup>4</sup>, Florian A. Theßeling<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Łukasz Kreft <sup>5</sup>, Alexander Botzki <sup>5</sup>, Philippe Malcorps<sup>6</sup>, Luk Daenen<sup>6</sup>, Tom Wenseleers <sup>4</sup> & Kevin J. Verstrepen <sup>1,2,3</sup> 

The perception and appreciation of food flavor depends on many interacting chemical compounds and external factors, and therefore proves challenging to understand and predict. Here, we combine extensive chemical and sensory analyses of 250 different beers to train machine learning models that allow predicting flavor and consumer appreciation. For each beer, we measure over 200 chemical properties, perform quantitative descriptive sensory analysis with a trained tasting panel and map data from over 180,000 consumer reviews to train 10 different machine learning models. The best-performing algorithm, Gradient Boosting, yields models that significantly outperform predictions based on conventional statistics and accurately predict complex food features and consumer appreciation from chemical profiles. Model dissection allows identifying specific and unexpected compounds as drivers of beer flavor and appreciation. Adding these compounds results in variants of commercial alcoholic and non-alcoholic beers with improved consumer appreciation. Together, our study reveals how big data and machine learning uncover complex links between food chemistry, flavor and consumer perception, and lays the foundation to develop novel, tailored foods with superior flavors.

