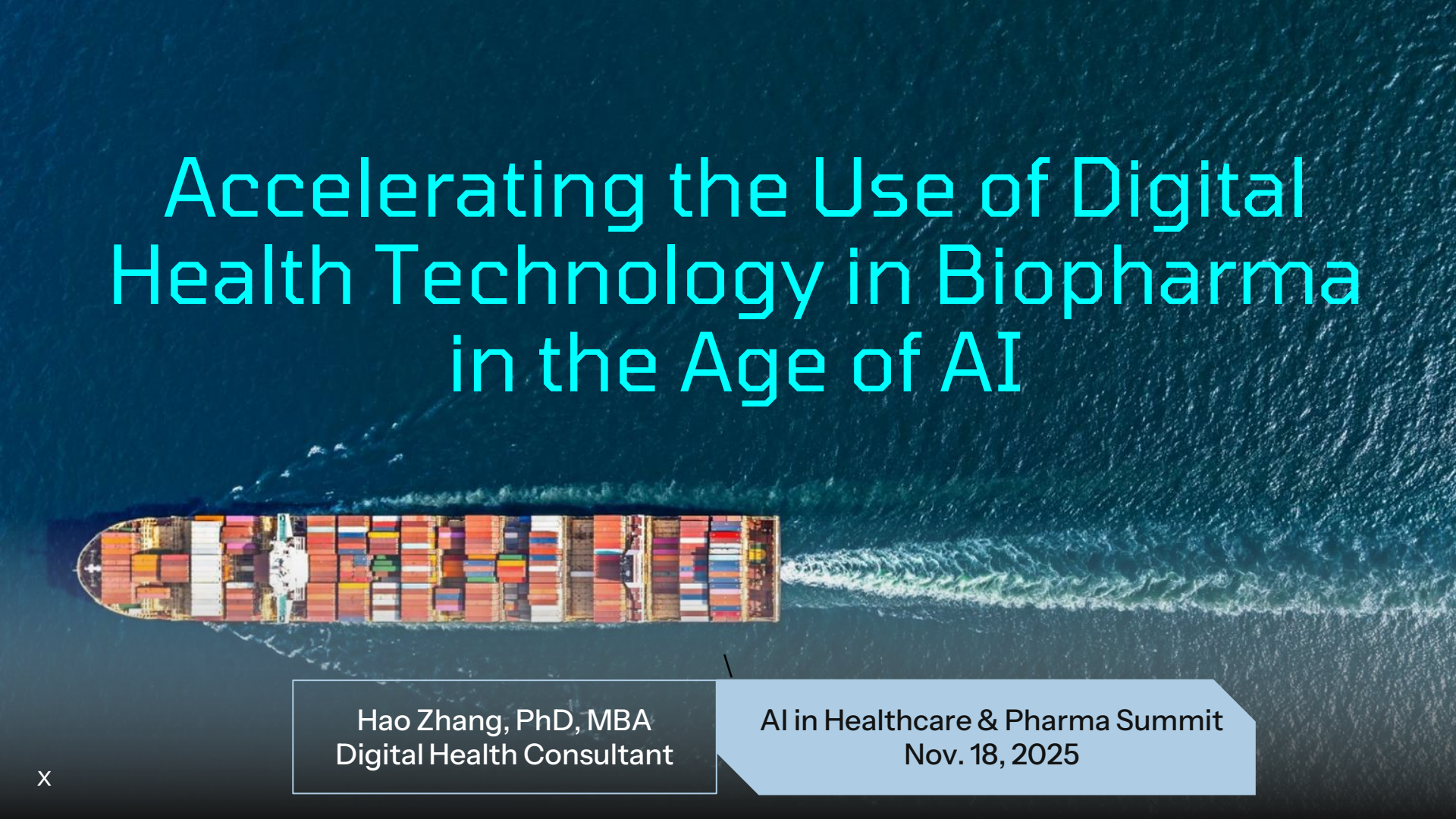


# Accelerating the Use of Digital Health Technology in Biopharma in the Age of AI



Hao Zhang, PhD, MBA  
Digital Health Consultant

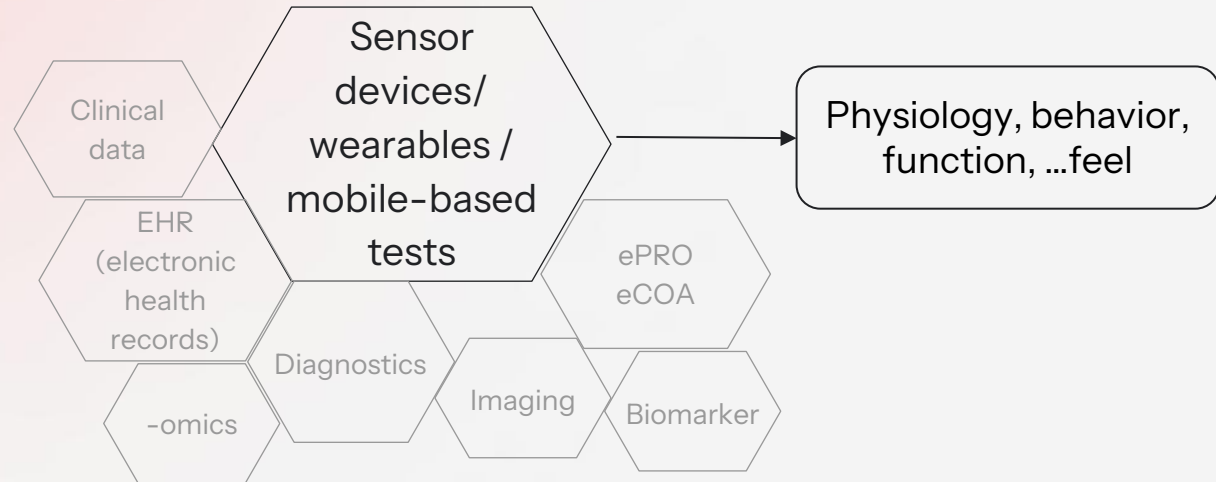
AI in Healthcare & Pharma Summit  
Nov. 18, 2025

## ↓ Disclaimer

- Views and perspectives are my own, not representing any organization
- Most cases and examples are from my past work projects, or products and services evaluated for them
- All info from published sources
- Examples do not represent endorsement for any specific product or service
- Acknowledgement: many of the illustrations created with Napkin.ai

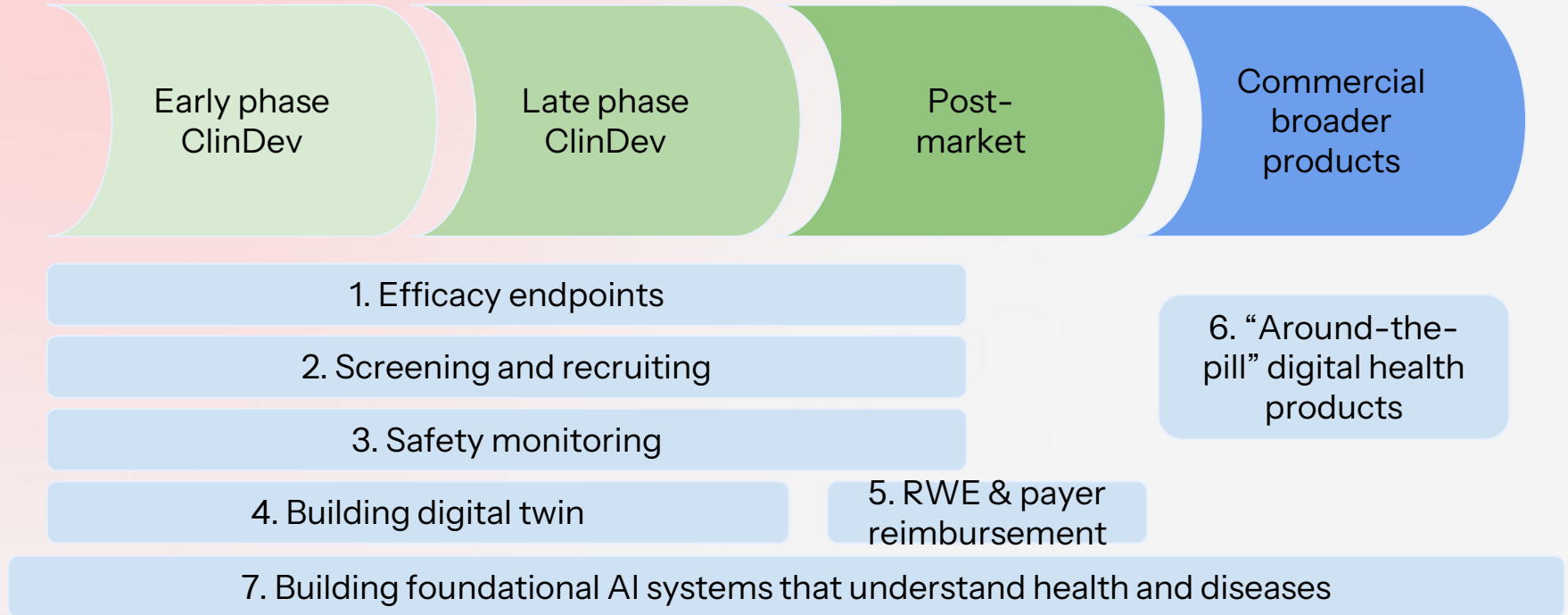
# Digital Health Technologies (DHTs)

and their digital measures, propelled by AI,  
are finding ever broader applications across biopharma,  
with accelerating progress in methodology and regulatory pathways.



# Overview and agenda

DHT's roles along biopharma pipeline:

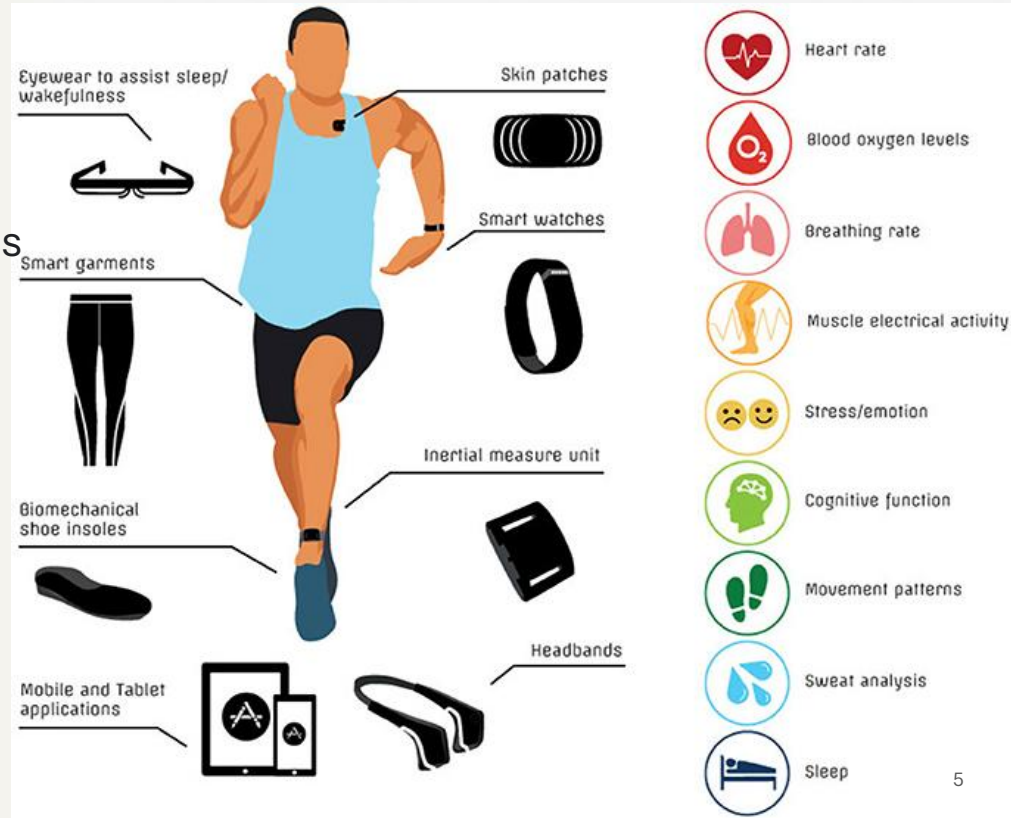


# 1. DHT-Derived Digital Endpoints: Efficacy Measures for Decision Making and Pivotal Trials

## Promises:

- Higher frequency, continuous
- Ecologically valid / Remotely collected
- Objective, real-time collection so avoids recall bias
- Potentially higher sensitivity
  - Earlier go/no-go decisions (often internal ESoE)
  - Reduced sample size
  - Reduced trial time

ESoE: early sign of efficacy  
DiMe Society ([link](#))  
Peake et al 2018 ([link](#)),



# Case Examples

Bellerophon used primary endpoint moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA) in trials for pulmonary hypertension.

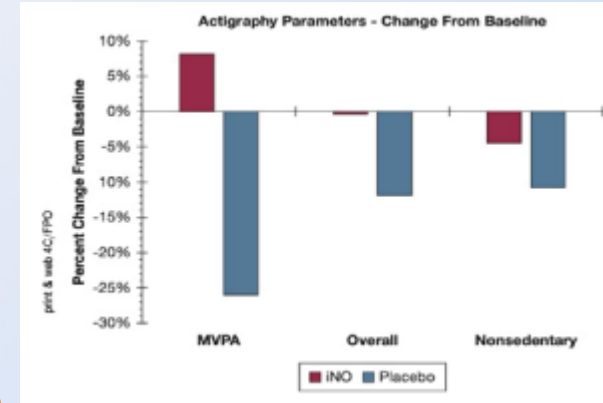
FDA Agreement  
Reduce Phase 3 sample size **300 -> 140**



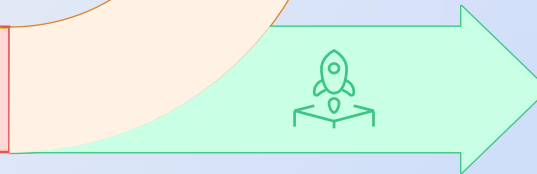
Wearable Data



MVPA as Secondary Endpoint  
showed efficacy in Phase 2 Trial



Slow Clinical Trial  
High costs, slow completion  
Recruitment challenge



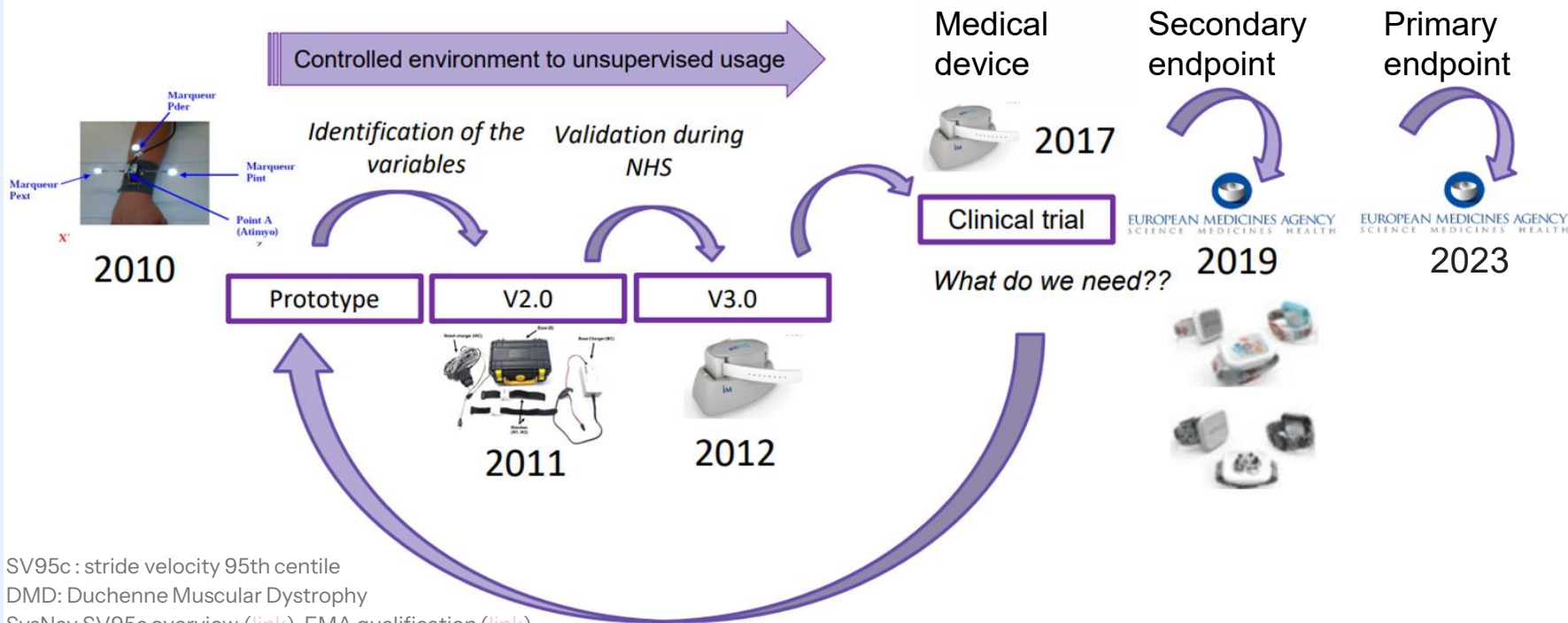
Accelerated Trial  
Reduced costs, faster completion  
**18 months** sooner



# Case Examples

The decade+ winding road to the first digital efficacy endpoint qualified by EMA – SV95c for DMD.

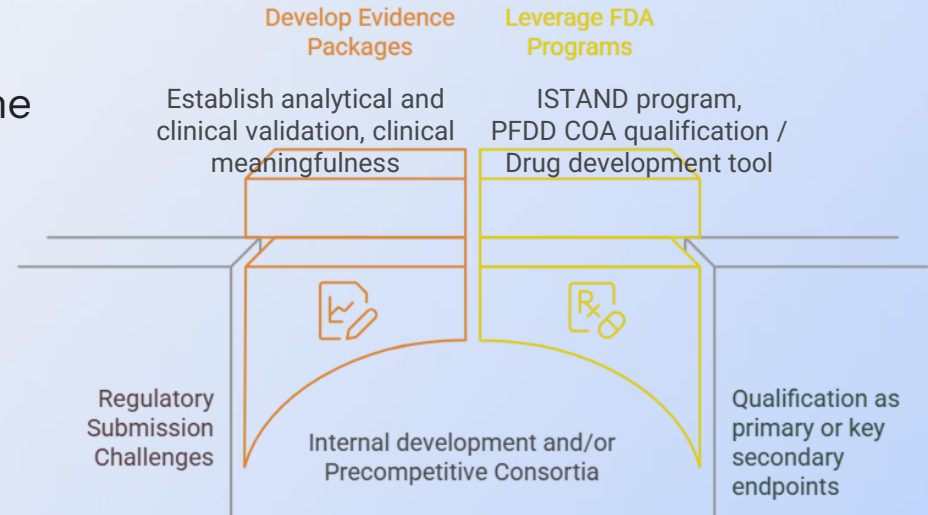
## Technical development timeline



# Critical hurdles, AI's role and path forward

Date

- No FDA-approved drug has used a DHT-derived primary endpoint yet
  - Regulatory qualification very few cases so far, evidentiary package bar
  - Long development cycle
- AI's role
  - AI/ML algorithms often as cornerstone
  - Harmonize diverse device data into standards
- Regulatory framework and pathways



PFDD: patient focused drug development ([link](#))

COA: clinical outcome assessment

ISTAND: Innovative Science and Technology

Approaches for New Drugs ([link](#))



## 2. Screening Acceleration, Precision Patient Stratification and Enrichment with DHT

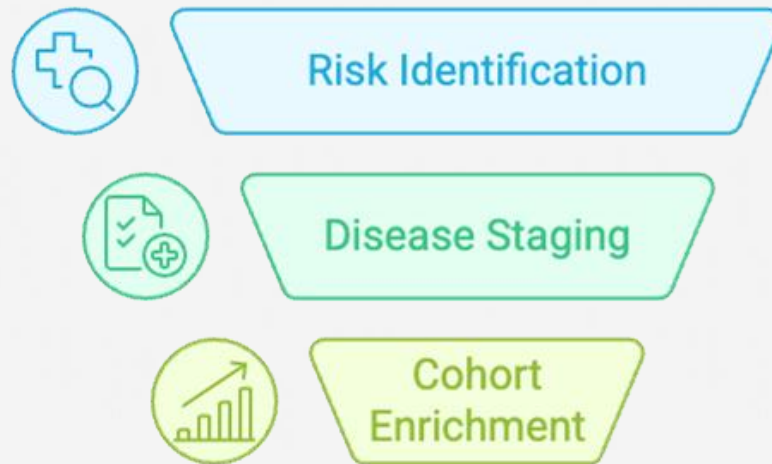
Find the right patient faster by:

- Mobile health apps and tests
- Real-world data / EHR
- Digital diagnostics
- Wearable digital measures



IC / EC

IC: inclusion criteria;  
EC: exclusion criteria



faster trial, reduced cost,  
higher chance of success

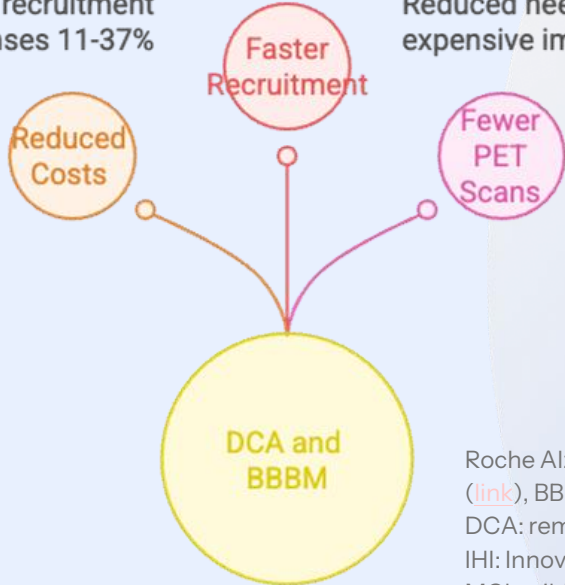
# Case Examples: Alzheimer's Trials

Roche modeling for Alzheimer's trials suggests faster trial completion and reduced overall trial cost with -

Streamlined participant onboarding decrease on-site screening 46-68%

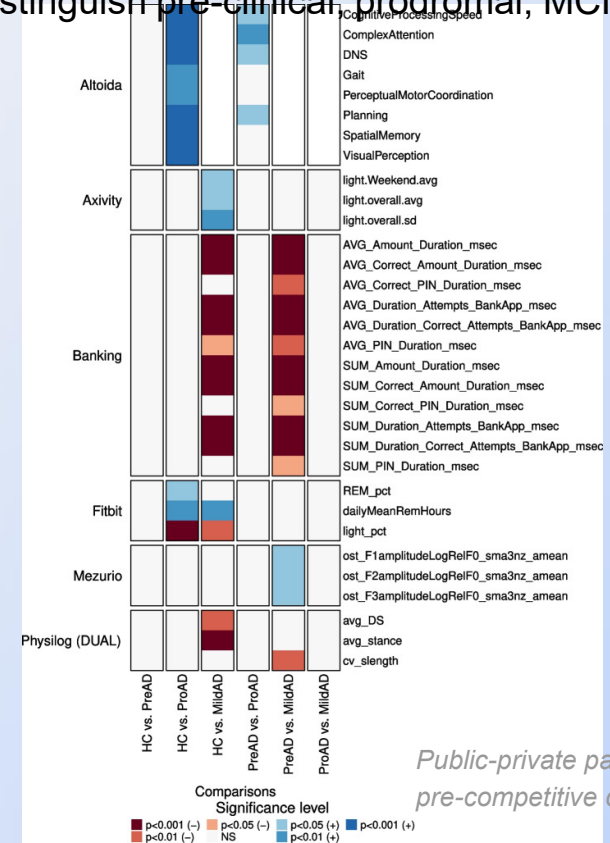
Lower recruitment expenses 11-37%

Reduced need for expensive imaging



Roche Alzheimer's trial screening modeling ([link](#)), BBBM: blood-based biomarkers, DCA: remote digital cognitive assessments  
 IHI: Innovative Health Initiative  
 MCI: mild-cognitive impairment  
 RADAR-AD paper ([link](#))

IHI RADAR-AD project explores digital measures to distinguish pre-clinical, prodromal, MCI patients



Public-private partnership,  
pre-competitive consortium

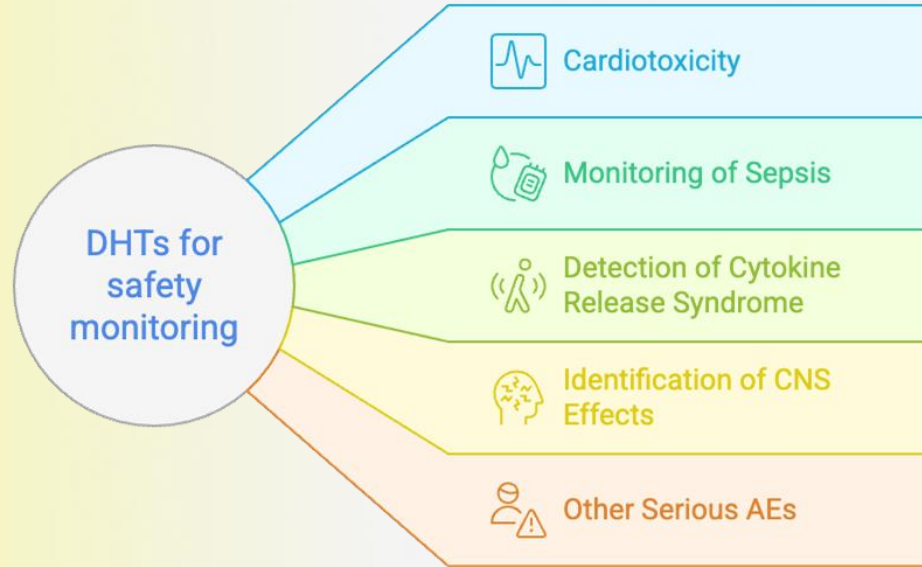
# Critical hurdles, AI's role and path forward

Date

- **Adoption to pick up**
  - Method validity / regulatory uncertainty
  - Operation barrier (sponsor, site)
  - Data privacy
- **AI's role**
  - AI/ML algorithms as cornerstone, incorporating wide data sources
  - New digital diagnostics
  - Predictive modeling: treatment response, adverse event risk
- **The frontier**
  - Neuroscience, rare disease areas
  - EHR integration
  - Federated learning

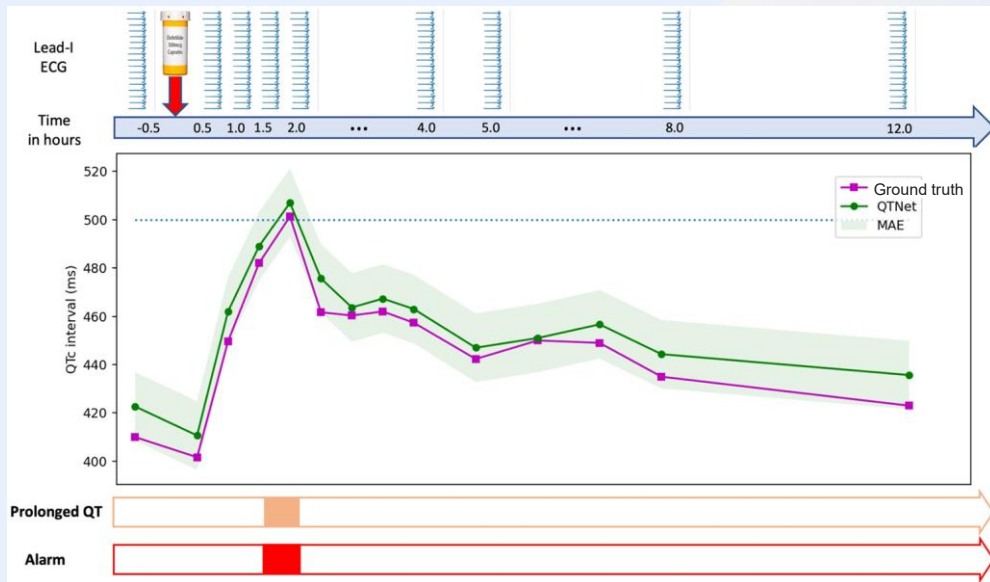
### 3. Enhancing Patient Safety and Monitoring with DHT

Continuous, passive monitoring to catch adverse events (AEs) earlier



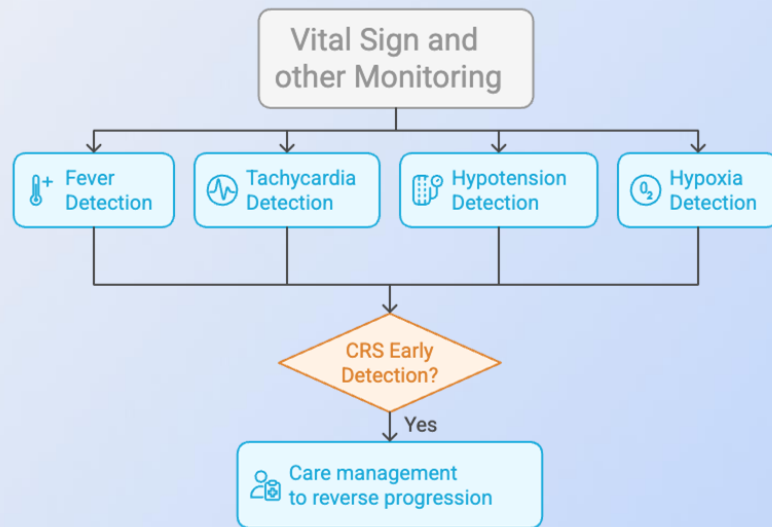
# Case Examples

## Measuring QT prolongation with single-lead ECG



FDA allowing ambulatory ECG for QT as supplement to 12-lead ECG method ([link to latest guidance](#))  
Alam et al 2024, QT prolongation with single lead ECG ([link](#))  
DiMe Society De-risking CRS project ([link](#))

## Early detection of CRS in immuno-oncology therapy



*(Sepsis early detection can follow a similar method, may needs differential diagnosis)*

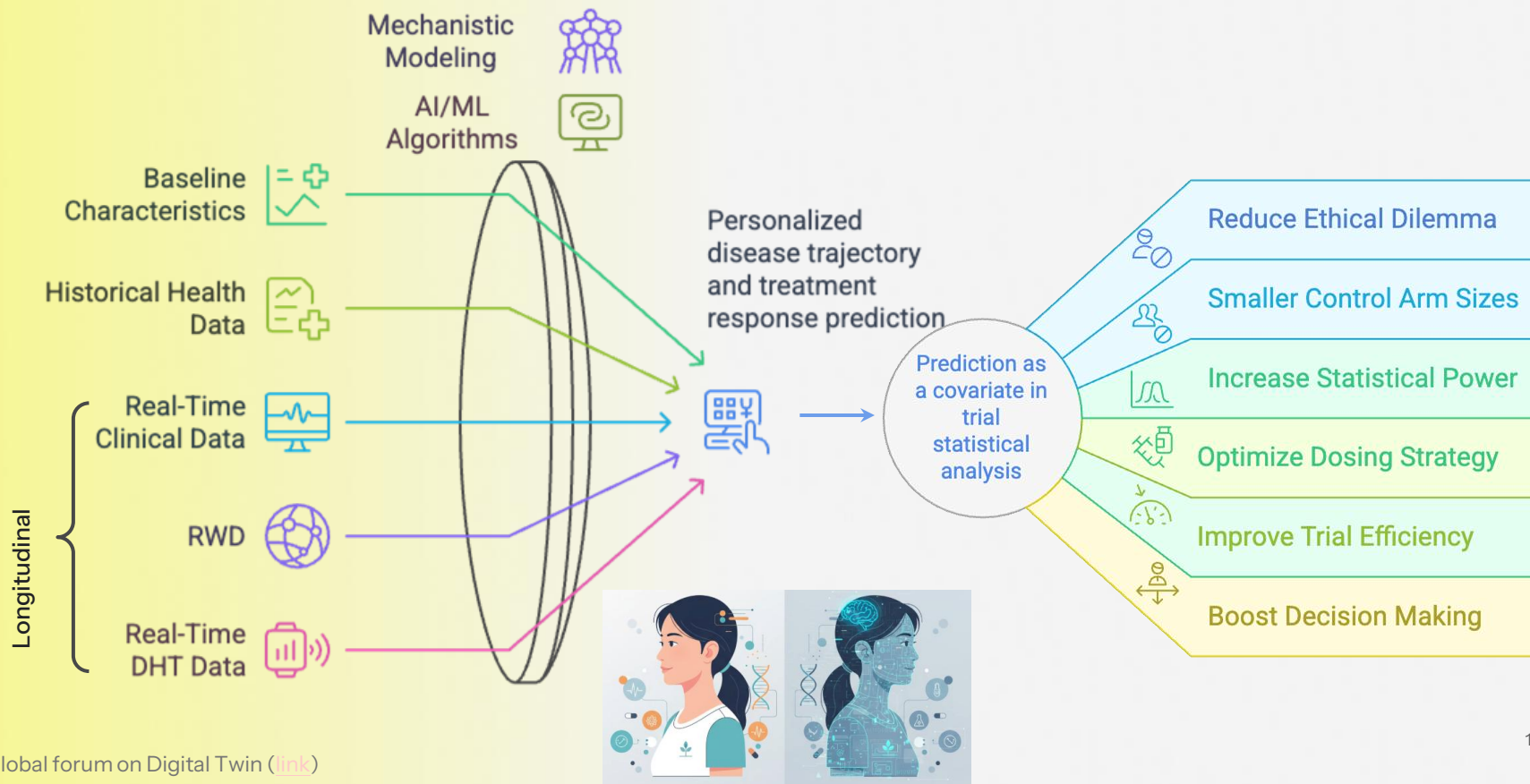
# Critical hurdles, AI's role and path forward

Date

- **Methods still under development**
  - Scarcity of existing data
  - False alarm burden vs. false negative liability
  - Regulatory path
- **AI's role**
  - AI/ML algorithms on multi-modal data superior than conventional thresholding
  - Personalized alarm
- **Efforts moving forward**
  - Collect data; algorithm > SoC
  - CRS Care product (as in next section)

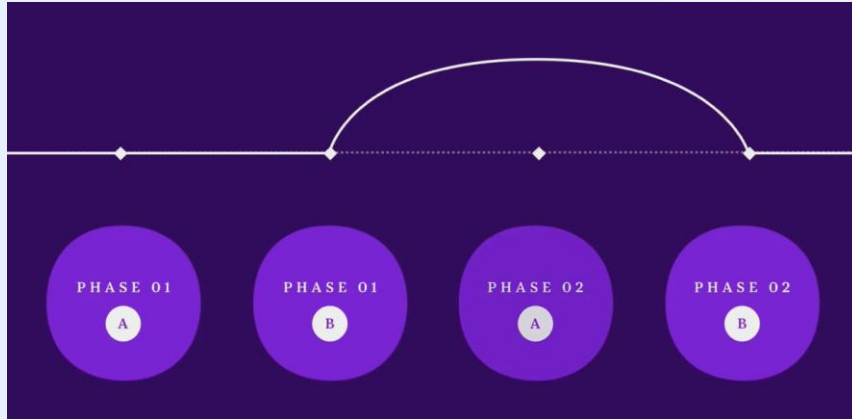


## 4. DHT Feeding Continuous Data for Digital Twin in Trials



# Case examples, AI's role and path forward

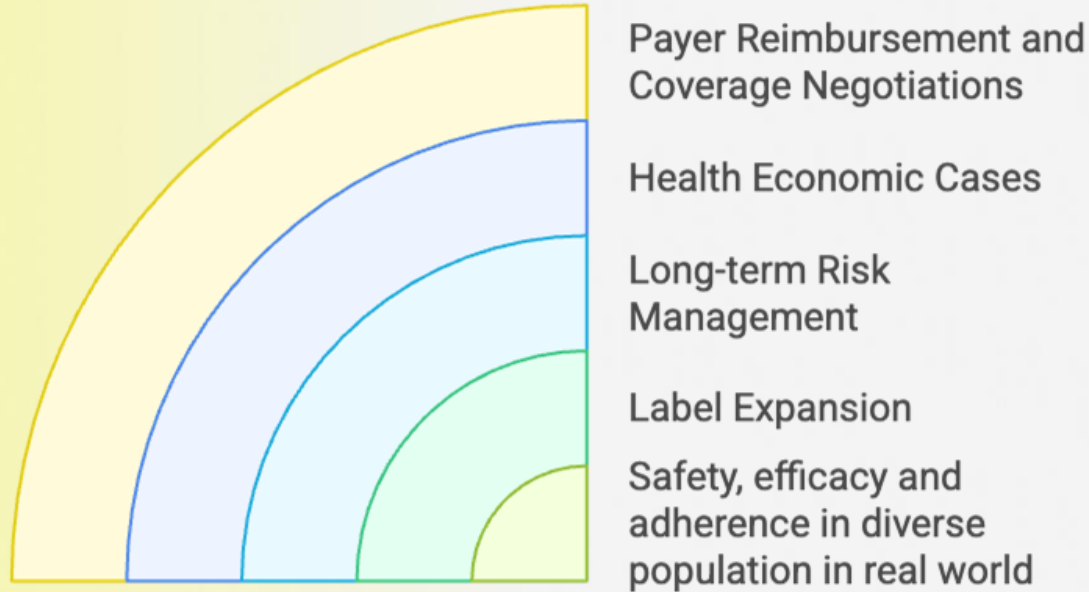
## Sanofi Used Digital Twin to Skip a Phase2a Lunsekimig Asthma Trial



*(\*In this example, DHT use not mentioned)*

- Approach still under exploration
  - AI model validation
  - Regulatory uncertainty
- AI's role
  - Multi-modal fit-for-purpose modeling
  - Personalized, longitudinal outcome prediction
- Efforts moving forward
  - Multi-sponsor consortia to pool historical trial data
  - FDA ISTDAND qualification path?
  - Explainable AI

## 5. DHT Data for Post-Market Real-World Evidence (RWE) & Payer Reimbursement



# Critical hurdles, AI's role and path forward

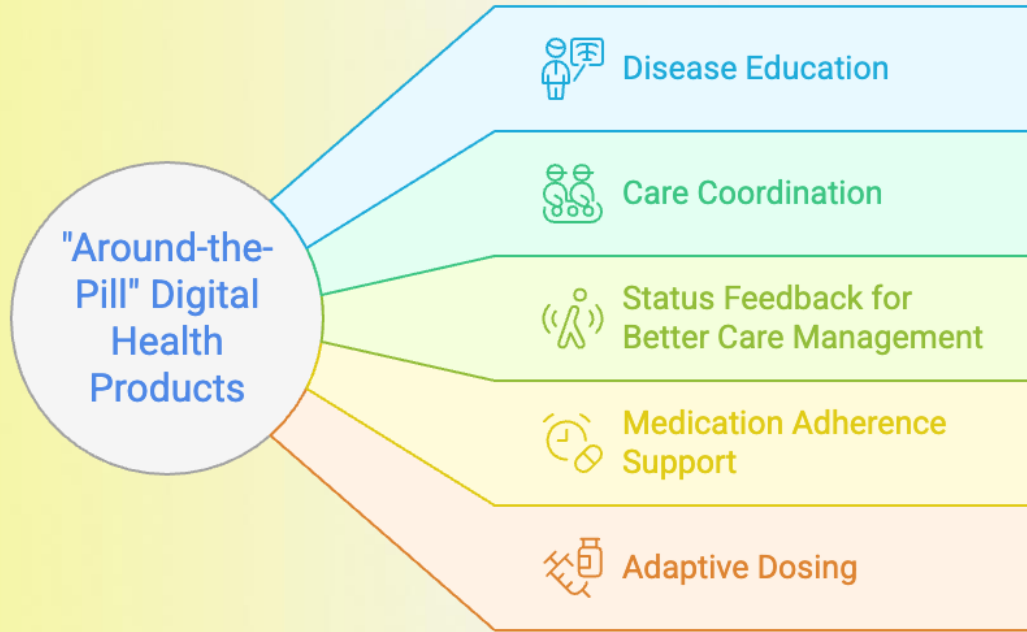
- **Integrating into general RWE approach**
  - Extension from use for efficacy and safety in RCT
  - Case examples scarce so far
  - DHT as an upcoming component of RWD
  - RWD integration fragmented; data privacy
  - Payer criteria for DHT/RWE-based evidence still explored
- **AI's role**
  - Predictive Risk Stratification
  - Real-Time Safety Signal Detection
  - Adherence Prediction & Intervention
  - Modeling health economics and outcomes
- **Efforts moving forward**
  - Engage payers early in trial design to align on RWE evidentiary standards
  - Use distributed and federated data networks

RCT: randomized control trials

RWD: real-world data

RWE: real-world evidence

## 6. Turn DHT into Care Products: DTx, SaMD, PDURS etc



DTx: digital therapeutics

SaMD: software-as-medical-device

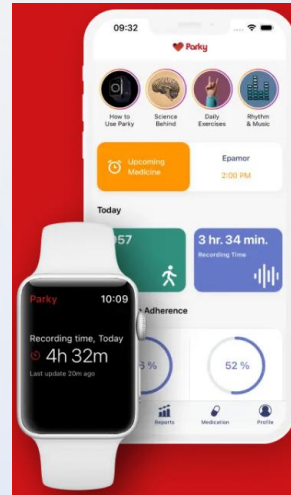
PDURS: Prescription Drug Use-Related Software

# Case Examples: Crowded Market for Parkinson's Management

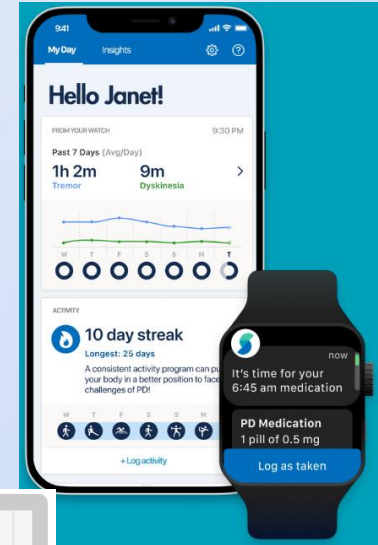
## NeuroRPM – Rx



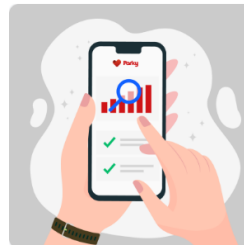
## H2O Therapeutics Parky app



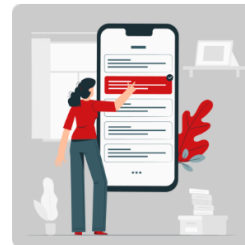
## Rune Labs StrivePD



24/7 self monitoring



Comprehensive reports



Reminders & activity tracking

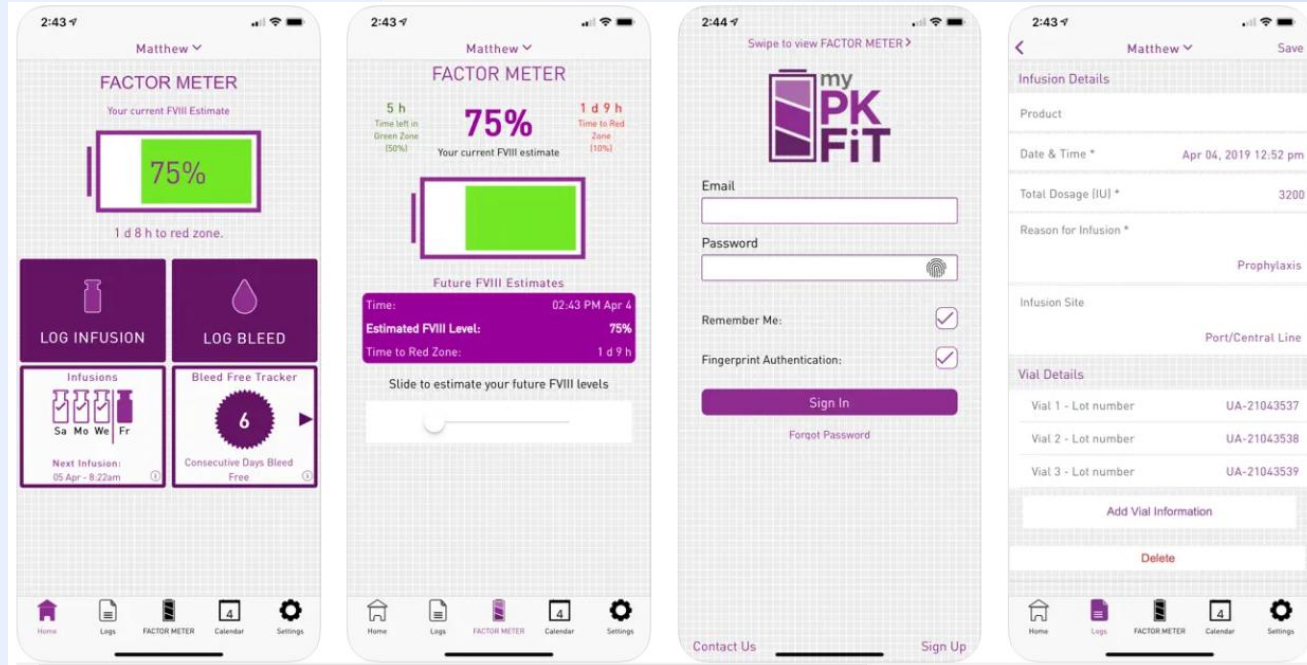


Enhanced communication



# Case Examples

Shire/Takeda built classic SaMD guiding prophylactic dosing for Hemophilia drug based on PK measure:



# Critical hurdles, AI's role and path forward

Date

## ➤ Reimbursement

- Payers' criteria still evolving
- Clinical evidence bars (tiered?)
- Healthcare adoption

## ➤ AI's role

- Powers components of product
- Personalization & Adaptive Interventions

## ➤ Efforts moving forward

- More HEOR evidence for payers
- Carve out separate pathways
- Partner with EHR & embed in clinical workflows
- Policy traction with DTA/ATA efforts in Capitol Hill

# 7. Building AI Systems that Understand Human Health and Diseases with DHT

Ultimately, all health-related industries building insights and action on:



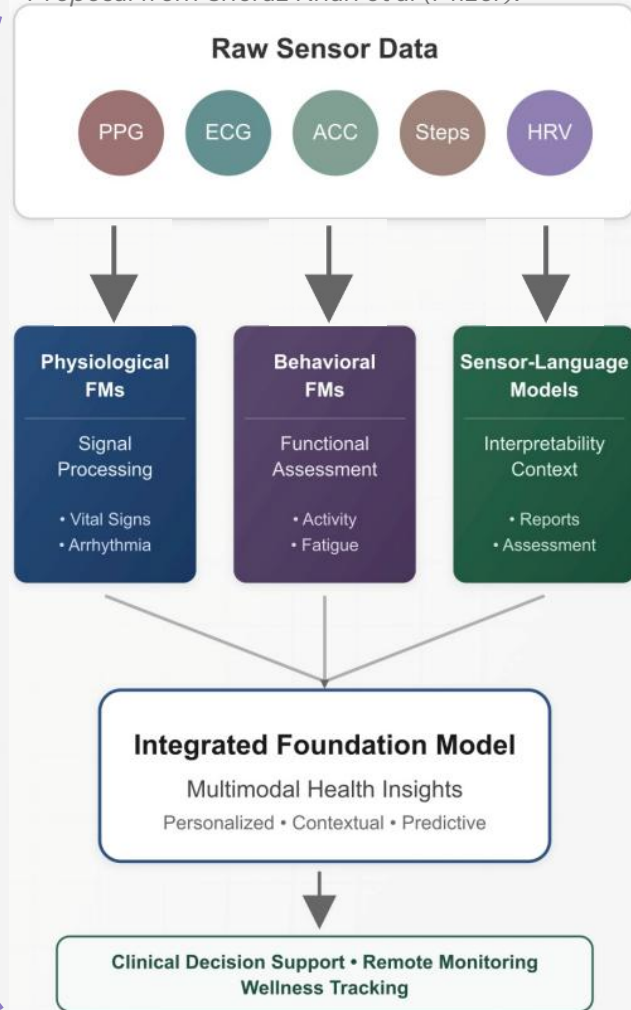
Samsung health sleep and sleep apnea ([link](#))  
Pfizer's Sheraz Khan et al advocate at CTTI ([link](#)), FM: foundation model  
Sensor-language model from Google Research ([link](#))

## Comprehensive Health State

### Outputs:

- Disease risk scores
- Wellness indices
- Alert generation
- Trend analysis
- Anomaly detection
- Recommendations
- Clinical insights

*Proposal from Sheraz Khan et al (Pfizer):*



# Outlook for Building DHT Based Science /FM

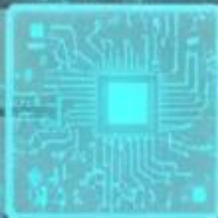
## Potential approaches forward

- One-at-a-time & grand foundation models
- Multiple sponsor/source data consortia & federated learning
- Hybrid consumer-medical-grade ecosystem

FM: foundation model

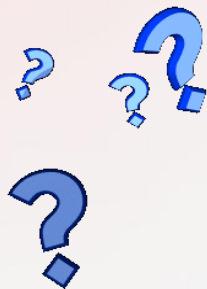
Medical grade devices

EHR



# Concluding considerations

- Wide range of DHT use cases, varied maturity => build infrastructure beyond pilots
- Validations are fundamental requirements
- Regulatory paths clarity emerges => strengthen regulatory science
- AI as the critical enabler and facilitator
- Prioritize AI governance and transparency, reduce bias
- Anticipating digital health science's **AlphaFold moment**



Look forward to  
further discussions:  
[HaoZhangNeuro@  
gmail.com](mailto:HaoZhangNeuro@gmail.com)



Hao Zhang, PhD, MBA

Innovation in digital health, application  
of wearable/mobile technologies and...



# Appendix



# Case Examples: internal decision making

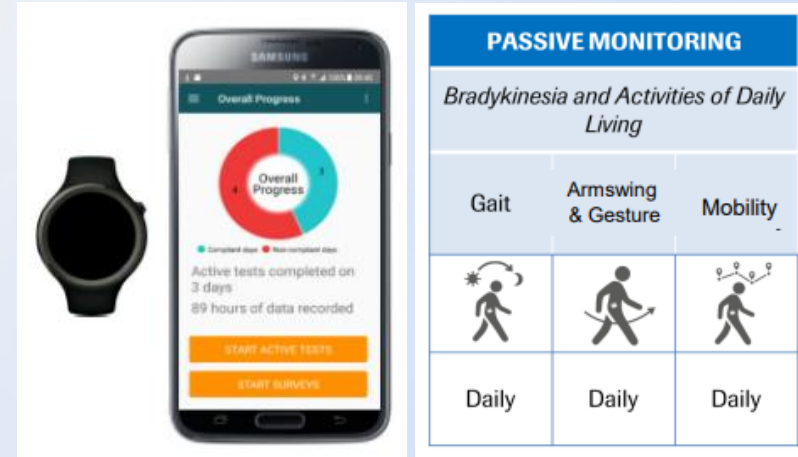
Date

Roche PD mobile application used in Roche's Phase2 trial

- “detected potential disease modifying effect of prasinezumab”
- trial now moved to Phase3

App V3 licensed by Neuron23 Inc. as the primary endpoint in the global Phase 2 NEULARK clinical trial of NEU-411

PD: Parkinson's Disease  
App V2 validation publication ([link](#)),  
Phase2 efficacy evidence with PD app ([link](#))  
NEULARK trial ([link](#))

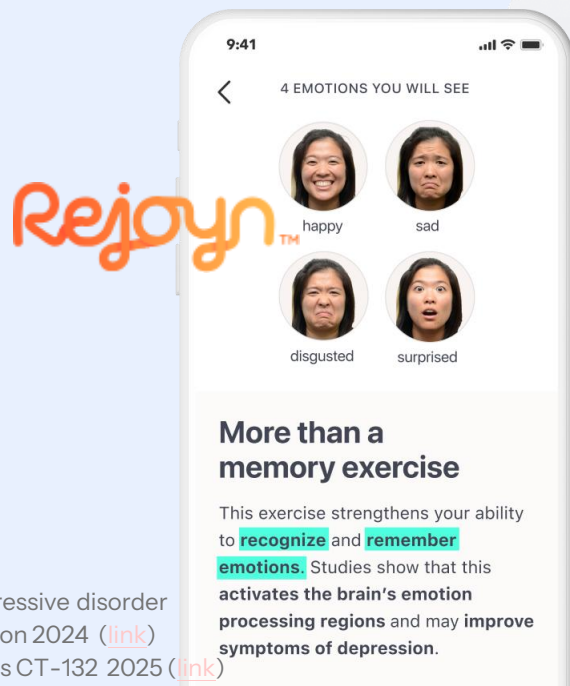


ACTIVE TESTS									
Bradykinesia			Tremor/Bradykinesia		Tremor		Rigidity/Postural Instability		Cognition
Draw A Shape	Dexterity	Hand Turning	Speech	Phonation	Postural Tremor	Rest Tremor	Balance	U-Turn	Cognitive Test (SDMT)
Bradykinesia Days (Every 2nd Day)			Alternating		Tremor and Stability Days (Every 2nd Day)				Fortnightly

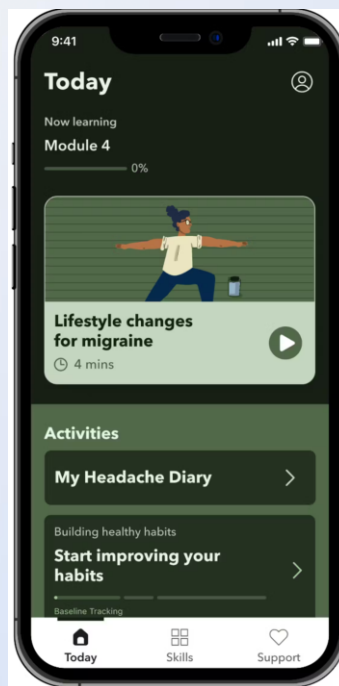
# Case Examples

Click Therapeutics spearheading prescription DTx accompanying drugs or stand-alone

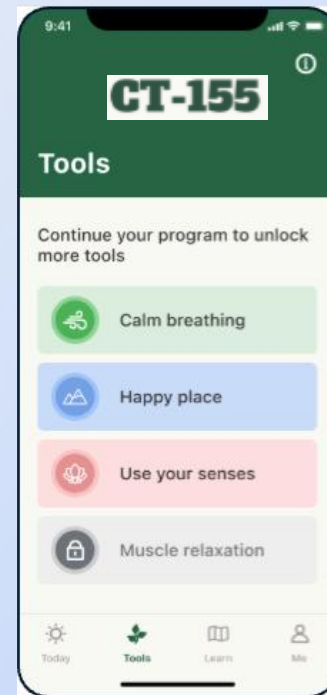
Rejoyn with  
Otsuka for MDD



CT-132 for  
Episodic Migraine



CT-155 with Boehringer  
for Schizophrenia



MDD: Major depressive disorder  
Otsuka/Click Rejon 2024 ([link](#))  
FDA clears Click's CT-132 2025 ([link](#))  
Boehringer/Click CT-155 ([link](#))

# Case Examples

Alexion medical affairs building functional assessments for Myasthenia Gravis (MG) patients to assess disease status and more

MG: a rare autoimmune disease ~15/100k

