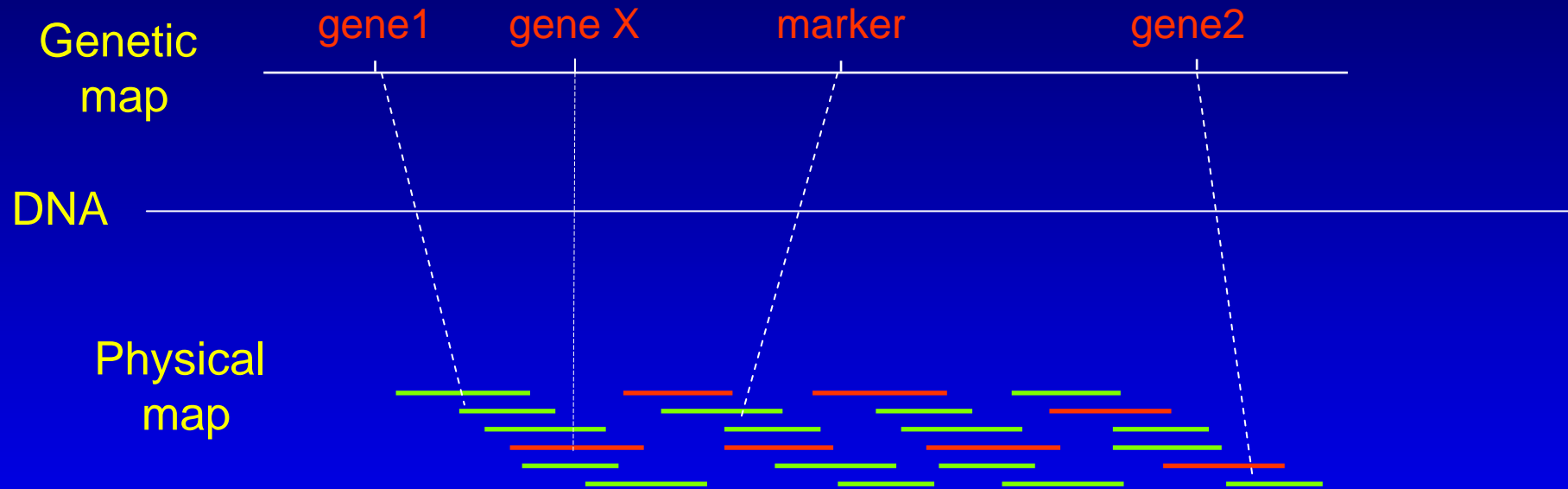


Caenorhabditis elegans



A GENOME MAP



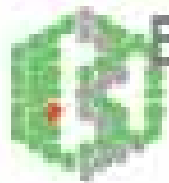
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON DATA RELEASE

“All human genomic sequence information should be freely available and in the public domain in order to encourage research and development and to maximise its benefit to society.”

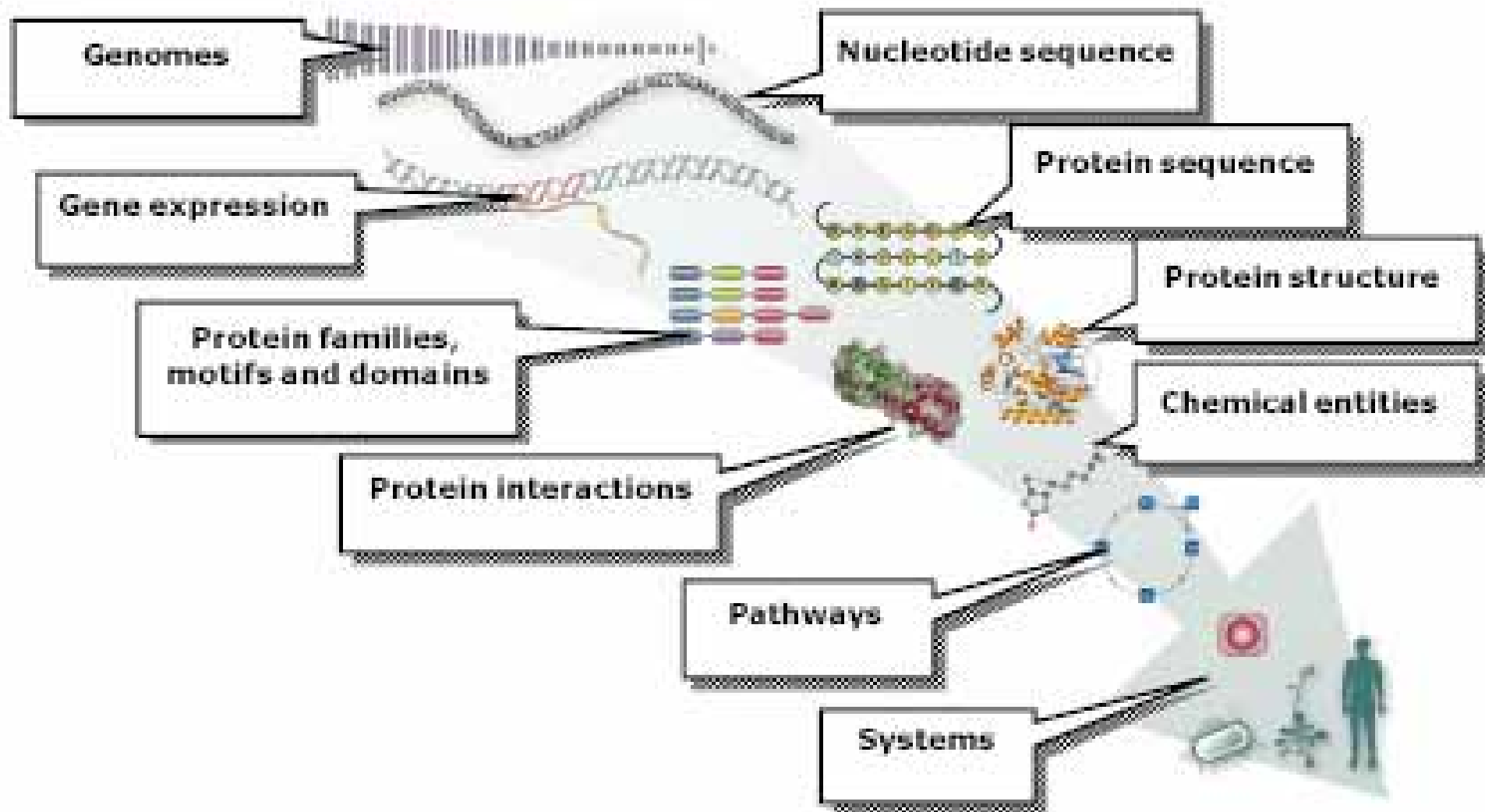
The Bermuda Statement, February 1996

Assemblies of 1-2 kb are deposited in public database (GenBank, EBI) every 24 hours

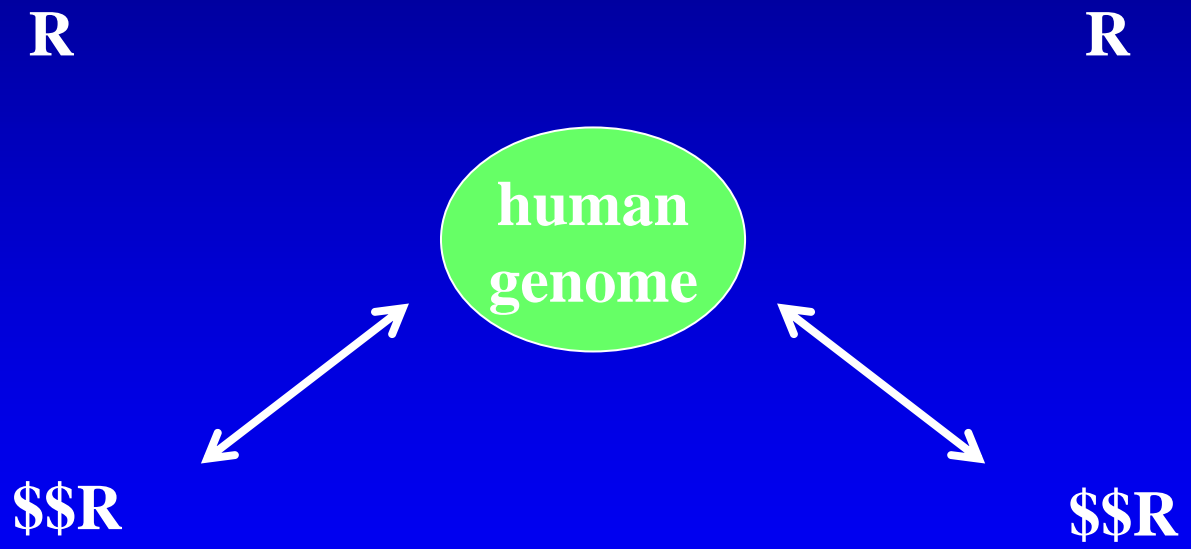
No patents are filed



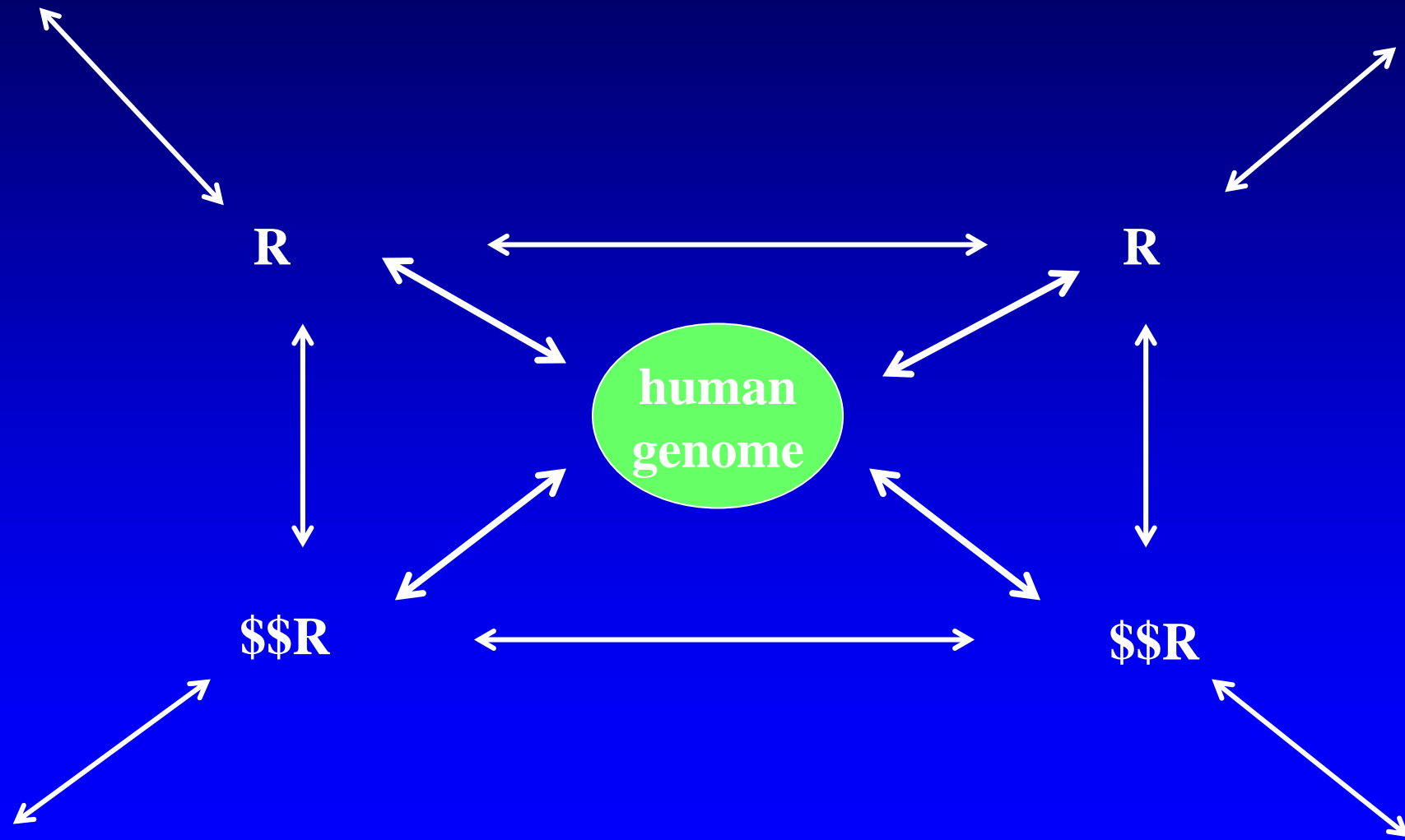
Databases: molecules to systems



Proprietary database



Public database



Examples of working networks

- science meetings and publications
- public biological databases
- open access publishing
- free software
- internet

Examples of problematic networks

- geographical maps
- meteorological data
- avian flu
- pharmaceuticals
- European database directive

Some mechanisms

- free release
- open access
- GPL for free software
- Creative/Science Commons
- prize incentives
- NGOs

Data reliability

- transparency
- peer review
- fact checking
- Wikiscanner

Sources of problems

- personal attribution
- short term profit motive
- exclusive patent rights as revenue source
- government perceptions
- competition for international trade
- inequality
- unforeseen consequences of free market
- trust in “corporate responsibility”
- digital rights management

Sources of trust

- benefit sharing
 - access to knowledge
 - equitable trade rules
 - multinational agreements
 - reversal of brain drain
 - balancing openness with opportunity
- globalisation of justice

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Wellcome Trust

Oxfam

Médecins Sans Frontières

Human Genetics Commission

... but the opinions stated are my own

