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# WorldFAIR Chemistry: Aligning IUPAC Standards with FAIR Data Practices



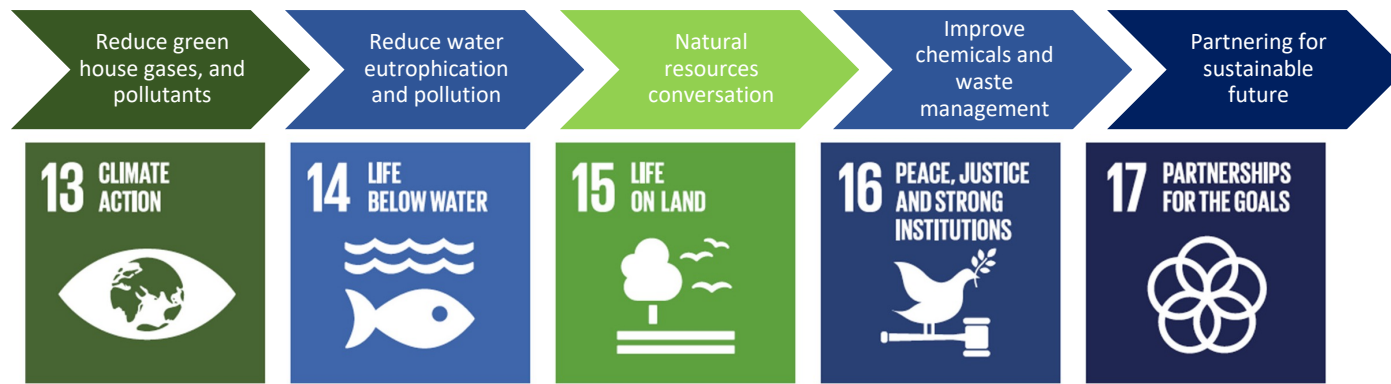
WorldFAIR

Leah McEwen, Cornell University Library  
*IUPAC Committee on Publications and Cheminformatics Data Standards*

WorldFAIR Webinar

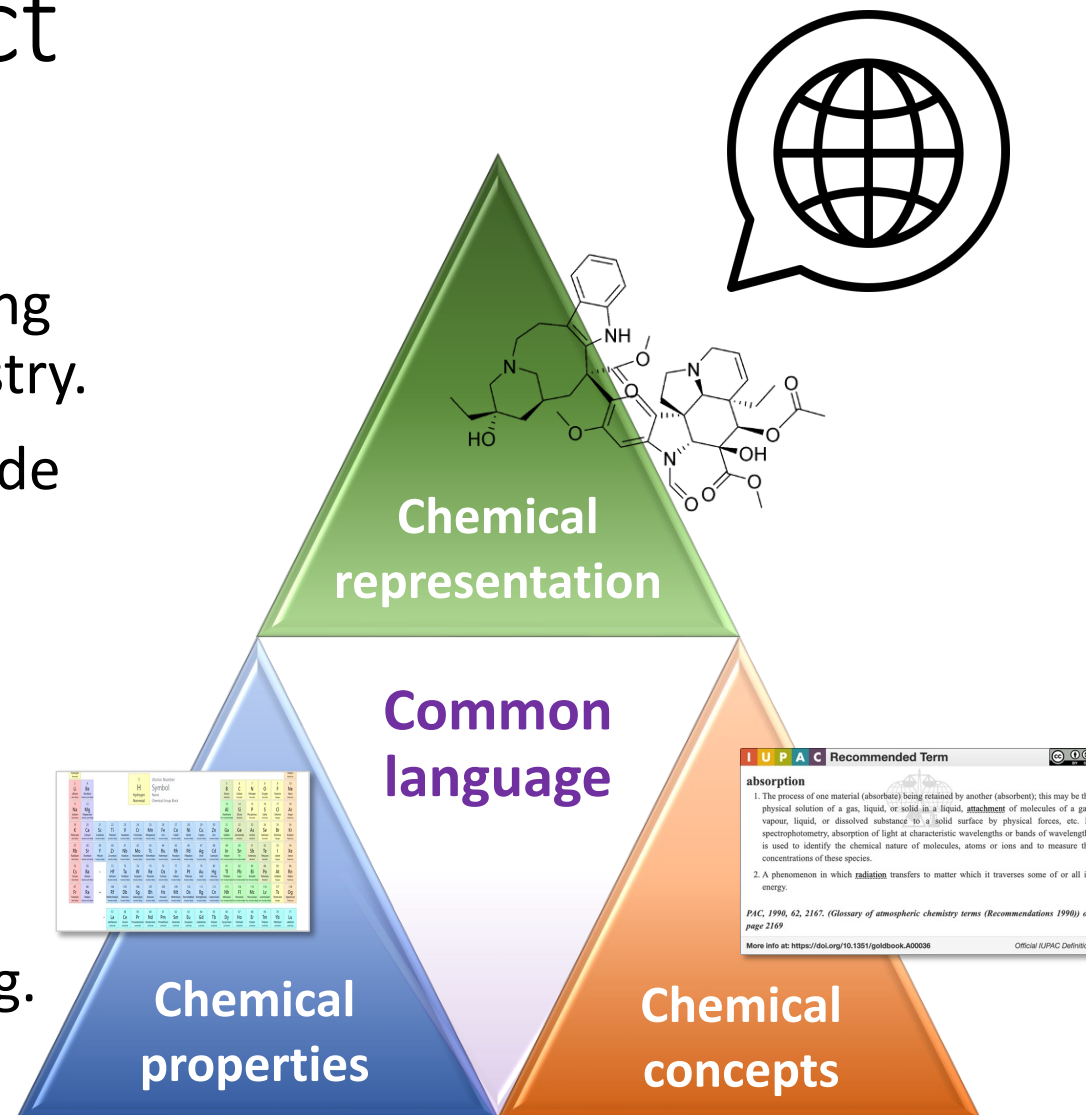
2023.09.13

# Chemistry is everywhere: Chemistry & UN Sustainability Goals



# WorldFAIR Chemistry project

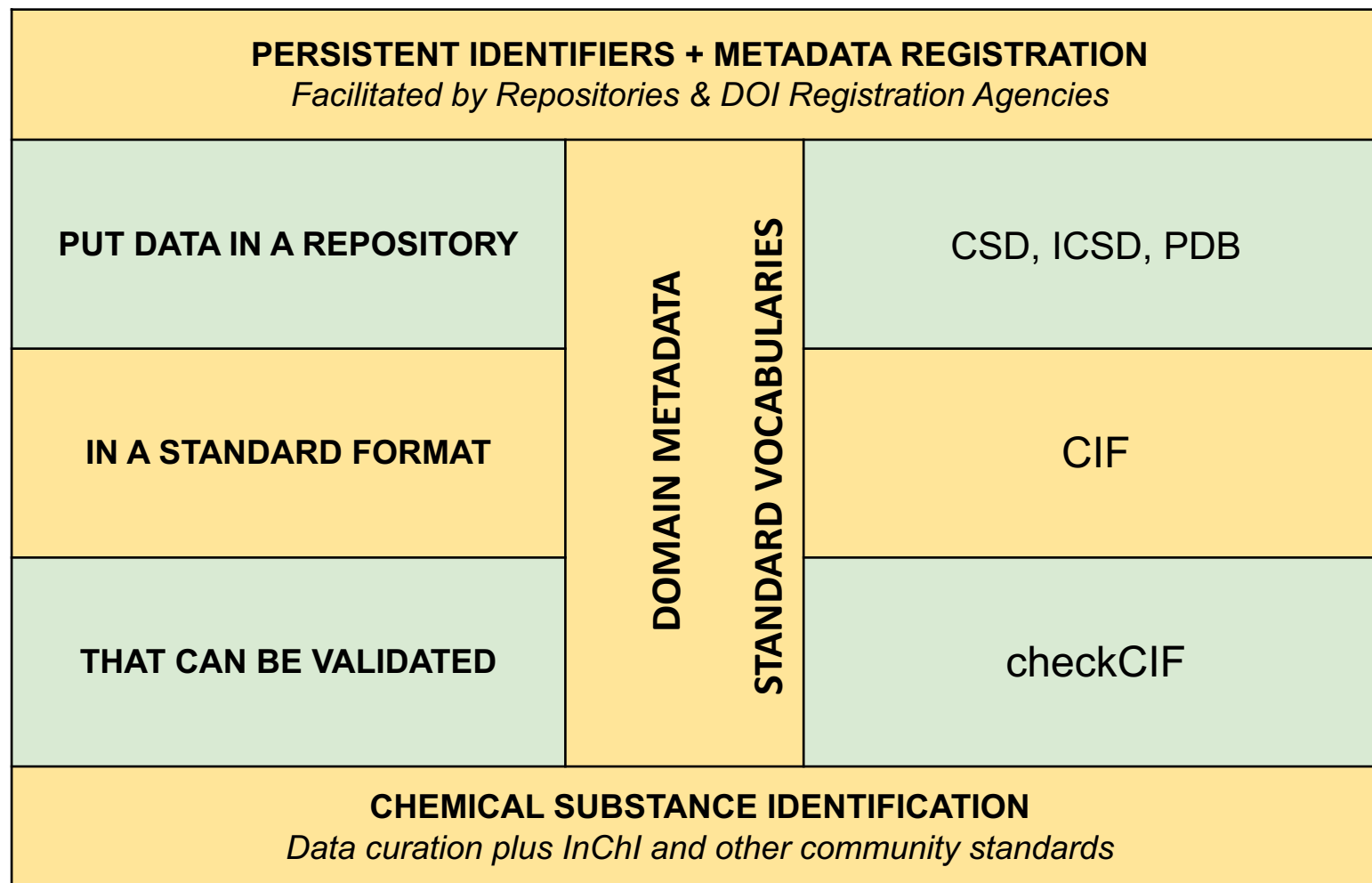
- The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) is a standards organization with over 100 yrs of global consensus in defining a common and systematic language for chemistry.
- IUPAC stewards [dozens of standards](#) that provide authoritative definitions and parameters for consistent expression of chemical data and information.
- The community needs machine processable representations of these expert defined standards for digital applications and guidance for incorporating these into FAIR data reporting.



# GOAL: align chemical data standards with FAIR

| FAIR attributes  | Functionality  | Chemical notations (examples)  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Findable</b><br>metadata schema   | Indexing, matching   | InChI, nomenclature  |
|  | Searching  | Chemical notations (e.g., SMILES), terms (e.g., properties, methods) |
| <b>Accessible</b><br>retrieval protocols   | Searching, retrieving (APIs)<br><i>(consistent across systems)</i> | Chemical structure resolver<br><i>(general spec underway in WFC)</i> |
| <b>Interoperable</b><br>knowledge representations, vocabularies, metadata references | File formats for chemical entities and experimental measurements   | SDF, CIF, ThermoML, JCAMP-DX, mzML                                   |
|  | Referrable terms and definitions                                   | Gold Book, VIM, MeSH   |
|  | Classification, modeling   | CHMO, RXNO, ChEBI, <i>FAIRSpec</i>                                   |
| <b>Reusable</b><br>validation services   | Completeness, consistency  | checkCIF   |

# FAIR data implementation in Crystallography



## Stakeholders

Researchers  
 Institutions  
 Funders

Publishers  
 Editors  
 Reviewers

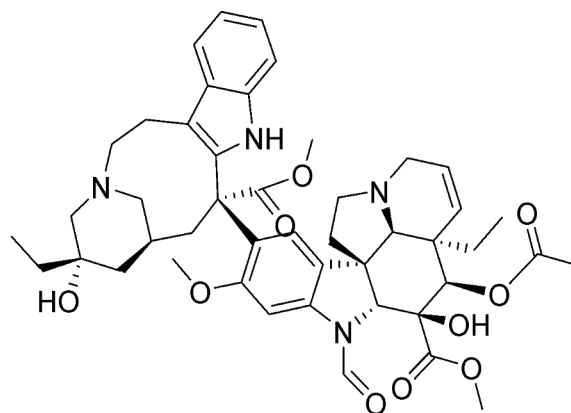
Repositories  
 Tool Providers  
 Instrument Manufacturers

Scientific Unions  
 Professional Societies

# Chemical Structure Representation

## Vincristine

(trivial name)



## IUPAC name - standardized nomenclature

(3aR,3a1R,4R,5S,5aR,10bR)-Methyl 4-acetoxy-3a-ethyl-9-((5S,7S,9S)-5-ethyl-5-hydroxy-9-(methoxycarbonyl)-2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10-octahydro-1H-3,7-methano[1]azacycloundecino[5,4-b]indol-9-yl)-6-formyl-5-hydroxy-8-methoxy-3a,3a1,4,5,5a,6,11,12-octahydro-1H-indolizino[8,1-cd]carbazole-5-carboxylate

## SMILES – linear notation for searching, substructures

*defacto* use, efforts underway to standardize

```
CC[C@@]1(C[C@@H]2C[C@@](c3c(c4cccc4[nH]3)CC[N@@](C2)C1)(c5cc6c(cc5OC)N([C@@H]7[C@]68CCN9[C@H]8[C@@](C=CC9)([C@H]([C@@]7(C(=O)OC)O)OC(=O)C)CC)C(=O)C(=O)OC)O
```

Adapted from Scalfani & McEwen, 2019, <https://osf.io/psq7k>

Molfile – connection table for data exchange, *defacto* use, not yet standardized

```
vincristine.mol - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
vincristine.mol
ChemDraw03301721232D

60 68 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0999 V2000
-5.6011 -0.4961 0.0000 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-5.0361 -1.0973 0.0000 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-4.2330 -0.9086 0.0000 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-3.4431 -1.1469 0.0000 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-2.8418 -0.5820 0.0000 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-2.0314 -0.4277 0.0000 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-1.5188 0.2187 0.0000 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-1.5535 1.0430 0.0000 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-2.1184 1.6442 0.0000 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
```

InChI - formal descriptor standard for identifying, canonical matching and linking of structures

```
InChI=1S/C46H56N4O10/c1-7-42(55)22-28-23-45(40(53)58-5,36-30(14-18-48(24-28)25-42)29-12-9-10-13-33(29)47-36)32-20-31-34(21-35(32)57-4)50(26-51)38-44(31)16-19-49-17-11-15-43(8-2,37(44)49)39(60-27(3)52)46(38,56)41(54)59-6/h9-13,15,20-21,26,28,37-39,47,55-56H,7-8,14,16-19,22-25H2,1-6H3/t28-,37+,38-,39-,42+,43-,44-,45+,46+/m1/s1
```

InChIKey: OGWKCGZFUXNPDA-XQKSVPLYS-A-N

# Expression of chemical data

**Mole fraction of substance 1,  $x_1$  or  $x(1)$ :**

$$x_1 = n_1 / \sum_{s=1}^c n_s$$

**Mass fraction of substance 1,  $w_1$  or  $w(1)$ :**

$$w_1 = g_1 / \sum_{s=1}^c g_s$$

**Molality of solute 1 in a solvent 2,  $m_1$ :**

$$m_1 = n_1 / n_2 M_2$$

60\_3 2

|  |                    |  |                         |                          |
|--|--------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>COMPONENTS:</b><br>(1) Tetrabromomethane (Carbon tetrabromide);<br>$\text{CBr}_4$ ; [558-13-4]<br>(2) Water; $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; [7732-18-5]   |                    | <b>ORIGINAL MEASUREMENTS:</b><br>Gross, P. M.; Saylor, J. H.<br><i>J. Am. Soc. Soc.</i> <u>1931</u> , 53, 1744-51.   |                         |                          |
| <b>VARIABLES:</b><br>$T/\text{K} = 303$  |                    | <b>PREPARED BY:</b><br>A. L. Horvath   |                         |                          |
| <b>EXPERIMENTAL VALUES:</b>  |                    |  |                         |                          |
|  | $t/^\circ\text{C}$ | 1000 $g_1/g_2$   | 100 $w_1$<br>(compiler) | $10^5 x_1$<br>(compiler) |
|  | 30                 | 0.24   | $2.4 \times 10^{-2}$    | 1.30                     |
| <b>AUXILIARY INFORMATION</b>   |                    |  |                         |                          |
| <b>METHOD/APPARATUS/PROCEDURE:</b><br>An excess of tetrabromomethane in 500 g water was shaken for 12 hours in a thermostat bath. Samples were then withdrawn and read against water in an interferometer made by Zeiss (ref. 1). A detailed description of the complete procedure is given in a Ph. D. thesis (ref. 2). |                    | <b>SOURCE AND PURITY OF MATERIALS:</b><br>(1) Eastman Kodak Co., recrystallized from ethyl alcohol and petroleum ether before use.<br>(2) Distilled.                       |                         |                          |
|  |                    | <b>ESTIMATED ERRORS:</b><br>Solubility: $\pm 8.0\%$ .<br>Temperature: $\pm 0.02 \text{ K}$ .   |                         |                          |
|  |                    | <b>REFERENCES:</b><br>(1) Gross, P. M. <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> <u>1929</u> , 51, 2362.<br>(2) Saylor, J. H. <i>Ph. D. thesis</i> , Duke University, Durham, <u>1930</u> . |                         |                          |

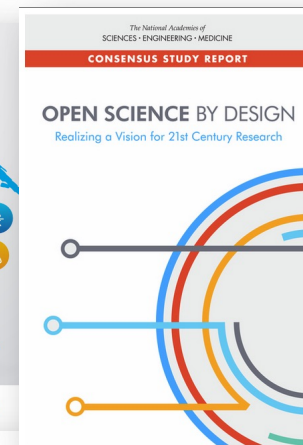
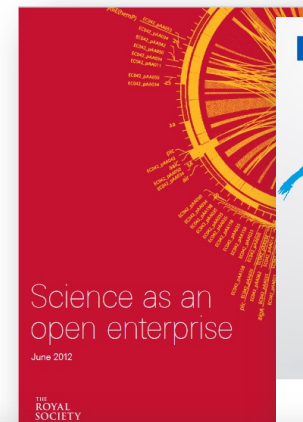
# Data reporting guidance

Framing: Over-arching goals

Perspectives: Desired end state

Practical: Specific and targeted

Policies: Enforcing community norms

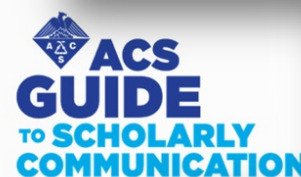


Perspective | Published: 04 April 2022

## Making the collective knowledge of chemistry open and machine actionable

[Kevin Maik Jablonka](#), [Luc Patiny](#) & [Berend Smit](#)

*Nature Chemistry* 14, 365–376 (2022)



Essay | [Open Access](#) | [CC](#) | [i](#)

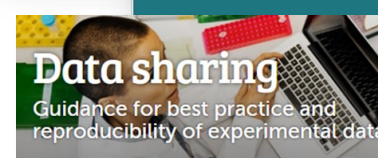
## The Long and Winding Road towards FAIR Data as an Integral Component of the Computational Modelling and Dissemination of Chemistry

Henry S. Rzepa

Open Data FAQs for chemists



New Data Management and Sharing Policy: January 25, 2023. [Learn More.](#)



Data sharing



IUPAC does not dictate policy; the aim is to provide how-to guidance on reporting chemical data robustly in support of data exchange.



# WorldFAIR Chemistry Deliverable 3.1

## Digital guidance for Chemistry FAIR data policy and practice



- Landscape overview
  - What is a Chemical?
  - Chemical data across disciplines
  - Community level strategies
  - Open Science and Data Sharing Guidance
- Implementation frameworks
  - RIPE for sharing: Reliable, Interpretable, Processible, Exchangeable
  - IUPAC Standards as FAIR-Enabling Resources
  - Aligning across interoperability frameworks
  - Ecosystems of implementation

Nanomaterials  
Materials Science  
Earth Sciences  
Astrochemistry & physics  
Oceanography  
Environmental Sciences  
Life Sciences

***"We emphasize the critical need for software and infrastructure developers, repositories, publishers and others who are building systems and services, to actively incorporate, use and reference chemical data standards in workflows, policies and guidelines."***

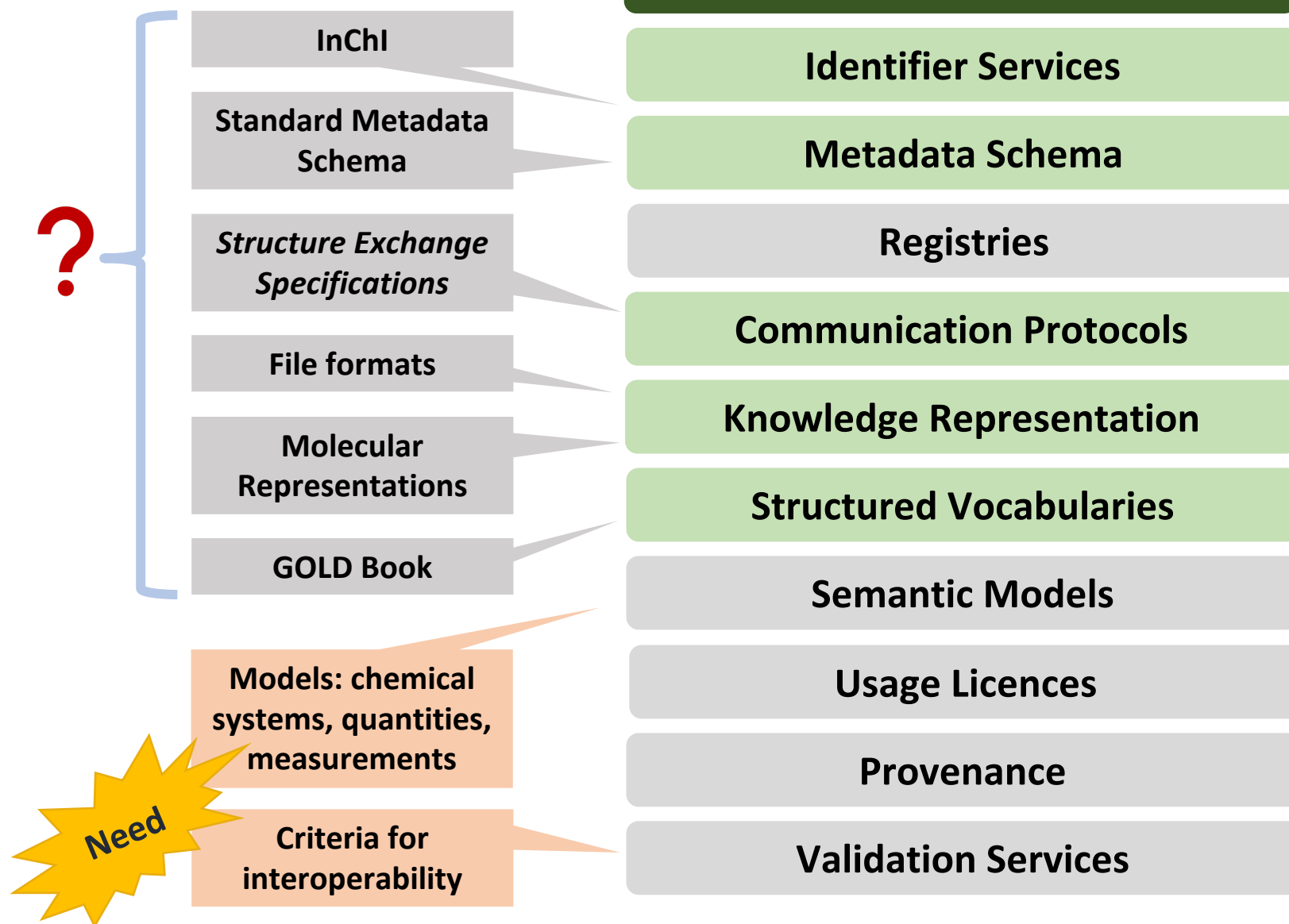
# RIPE: well-defined chemical data are broadly reusable

| RIPE 4 sharing  | Chemical data   | Standard definitions (examples)                                       |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Reliable</b><br>information for samples & measurements | Samples: identity of substance(s), sample description (provenance, purity, state) | nomenclature (Blue/Red/Purple books), graphical representation, InChI |
|   | Measurements: techniques, conditions, calibrations, uncertainties                 | Terminology for analytical chemistry (Orange book), metrology (VIM)   |
| <b>Interpretable</b><br>scientific expression             | Results: quantities, units, calculations, dependencies, processing/derivation     | Notations, symbols, terminology for physical chemistry (Green book)   |
| <b>Processable</b><br>formatted for machines              | File formats, validation  | SDF, CIF, ThermoML, JCAMP-DX, mzML                                    |
|   | Referrable terms, ontologies  | Gold Book, CHMO, RXNO, ChEBI  |
|   | Data models, metadata schema  | FAIRSpec, <i>Solubility</i> , <i>Periodic Table</i>                   |
| <b>Exchangeable</b><br>metadata online                    | Registered metadata for indexing chemicals  | InChIs, standard terms/notations                                      |
|   | Standardized exchange APIs for chemicals  | <i>Chemical structure API specification</i>                           |

(items in italics are in progress)

Are these digital standards FAIR for programmatic access and reuse?

## IUPAC standards



## FAIR for machines



Persistent Identifiers



Rich Metadata

Data Repositories



Standard Open Protocols

Knowledge Representation



FAIR Vocabularies

Linked Data



Usage Licences



Provenance

Community Standards

IUPAC standards

InChI

Standard Metadata  
Schema*Structure Exchange  
Specifications*

File formats

Molecular  
Representations

GOLD Book

Models: chemical  
systems, quantities,  
measurementsCriteria for  
interoperability

Need

## FAIR enabling resources

Identifier Services

Metadata Schema

Registries

Communication Protocols

Knowledge Representation

Structured Vocabularies

Semantic Models

Usage Licences

Provenance

Validation Services

# Desired points of cross-domain data integration

**Chemical substance:** integration by chemical identification

→ *standard chemical identifier*

**Chemical property:** integration of property values

→ *standard property terms*

**Measurement:** integration by technique, by conditions

→ *standard definitions*

**Units:** integration of quantities → *standard units of measure*

**Material sample:** integration by composition, state of matter, space group → *standard classifications/descriptions*

**Origin of sample:** integration by location, source (e.g., species), named reactions

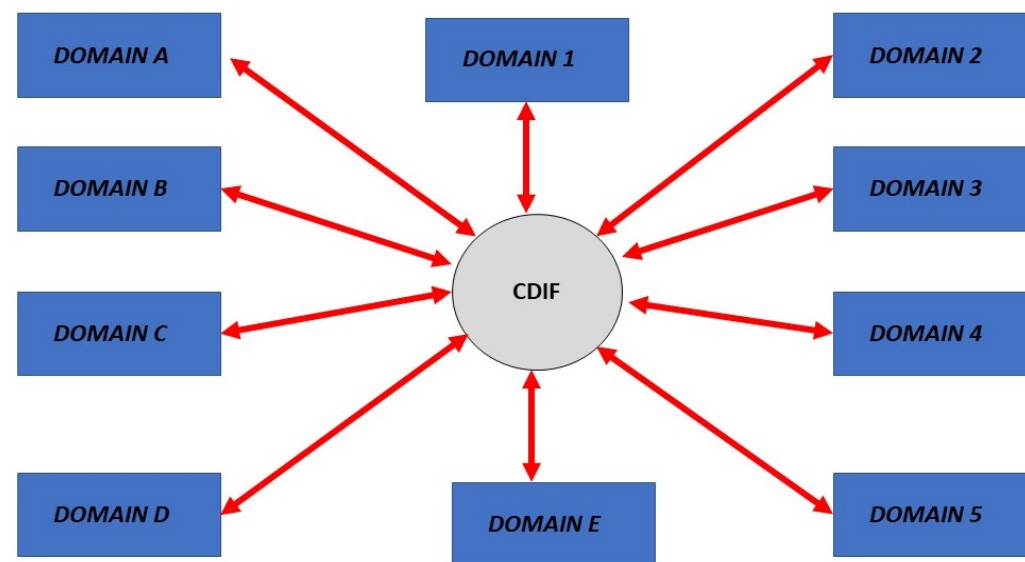
→ *standard location metadata, species classification, reaction classification*

**Origin of measurement:** integration by analyst or lab, by instrument

→ *PIDs: ORCID, ROR, etc.*

**Temporal:** integration by date of sample collection, date of measurement

→ *standard date format*



# Further work on cross-domain interoperability



- **Samples: provenance and identification**

- Many well-developed identifiers and other semantic descriptions to describe different facets of sample provenance, *can we harmonize?*
- RDA P21, Birds of a Feather (WP02, WP03, WP04, WP05, WP10, and others) *'Describing Chemical, Physical and Biological samples digitally'*

23-26 OCT

2023

SALZBURG



**International  
Data Week**

A FESTIVAL OF DATA

- **Measurements & quantities**

- Molecular structures  $\Leftrightarrow$  Physical systems  $\Leftrightarrow$  System conditions
- Dagstuhl workshop, Oct 1-6 (hosted by WP02 and GO FAIR) *'Defining a core metadata framework for cross-domain data sharing and reuse'*



- **Terminologies => ontologies**

- Application of authoritative terminologies in semantic frameworks
- Ontologies4Chem Workshop, Oct 11-12 (hosted by NFDI4Chem)
- RDA WG proposal: *'Harmonised terminologies and ontologies for FAIR materials data documentation'*

Editors4Chem  
Workshop, Nov 2



**NFDI<sub>4</sub>Chem**

# Future Outlook: Challenges & Opportunities



## ● Sustainability

- Parlous shortage of time and resources currently available to develop and maintain standards, policies, guidance and tools needed to enable machine-actionable reporting of chemical research data into the pipeline
- *Who should be funding the work necessary long term?*
- IUPAC workshop, Nov 14-15 (hosted by the Pistoia Alliance)  
*'Sustainable business models for digital standards development'*



## ● Roadmap

- WorldFAIR is initiating excellent synergies towards interoperability and assessment but implementation still primarily at the organizational level and bespoke, system by system
- *What can IUPAC do to continue to enable success in chemistry digital standards, by and for the broader community?*
- *What does broad adoption and functional chemical FAIR data exchange across domains look like in practice?*
- *Beyond FAIR: how do we align demand for chemical data and foster more data reuse across sectors to support SDGs?*

# WorldFAIR Chemistry Deliverable Prototypes

→ develop *guidelines, training materials and tools* that facilitate use of standards



## D3.1 FAIR Chemistry Guidance



[bit.ly/IUPACDigitalRe  
commend](https://bit.ly/IUPACDigitalRecommend)

## D3.2 FAIR Chemistry Training Cookbook

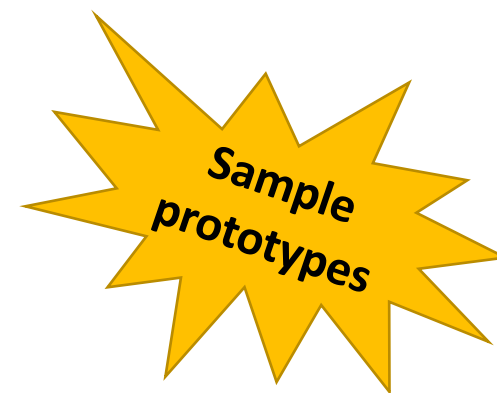


[bit.ly/CookFAIR](https://bit.ly/CookFAIR)

## D3.3 FAIR Chemistry Protocol Services



[bit.ly/ProtServices](https://bit.ly/ProtServices)



CCDC



NFDI<sub>4</sub>Chem



PSDI  
PHYSICAL SCIENCES  
DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

PubChem

GO FAIR





# Acknowledgements

WorldFAIR Chemistry team ([iupac.org/project/2022-012-1-024](http://iupac.org/project/2022-012-1-024))

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WorldFAIR project collaborators

WorldFAIR project funders



