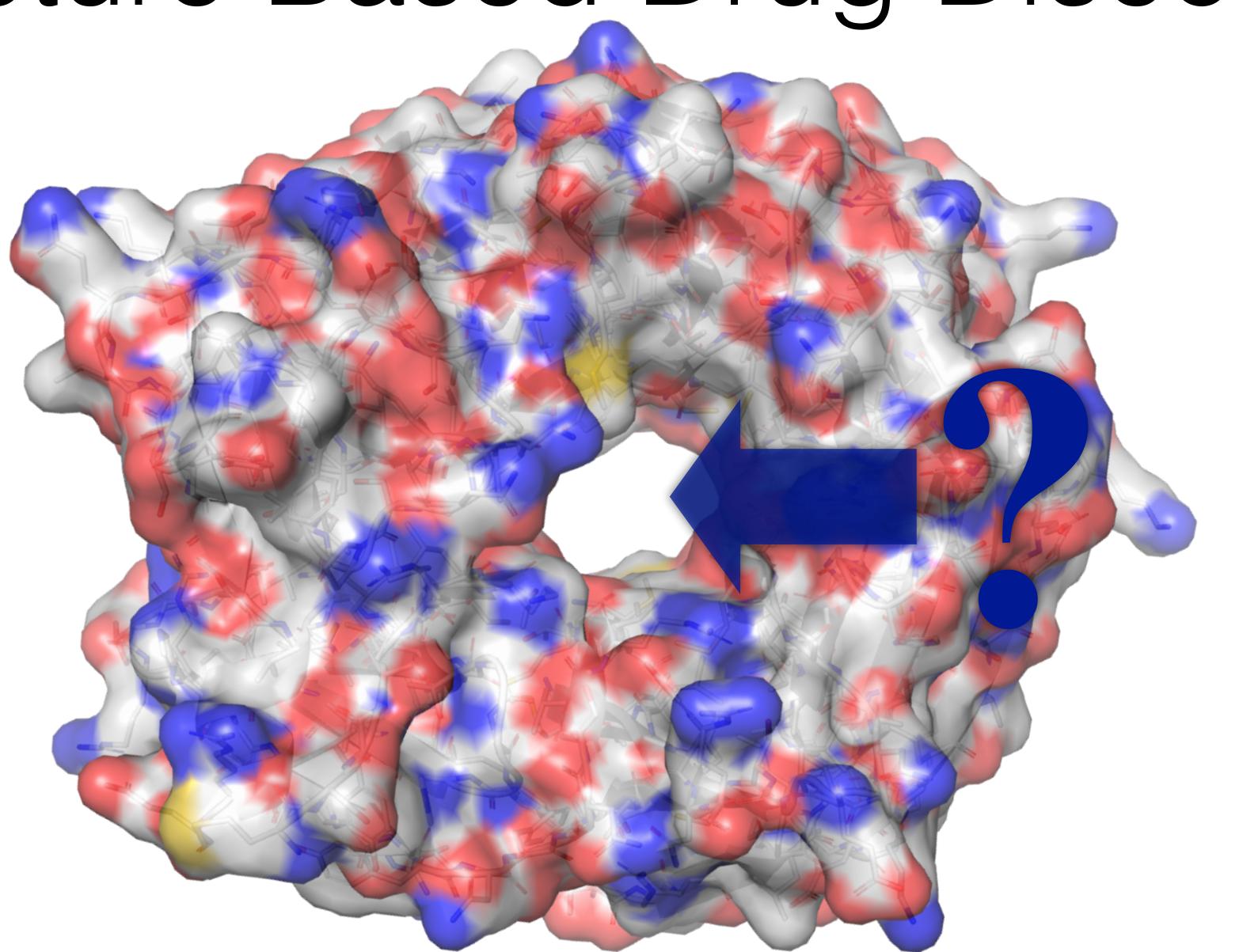
# Deep Learning for Structure-Based Drug Discovery: From Scoring to Generative Design

David Ryan Koes October 17, 2025 AbbVie SMTPT Seminar Series



Structure Based Drug Discovery



### GNINA 1.0

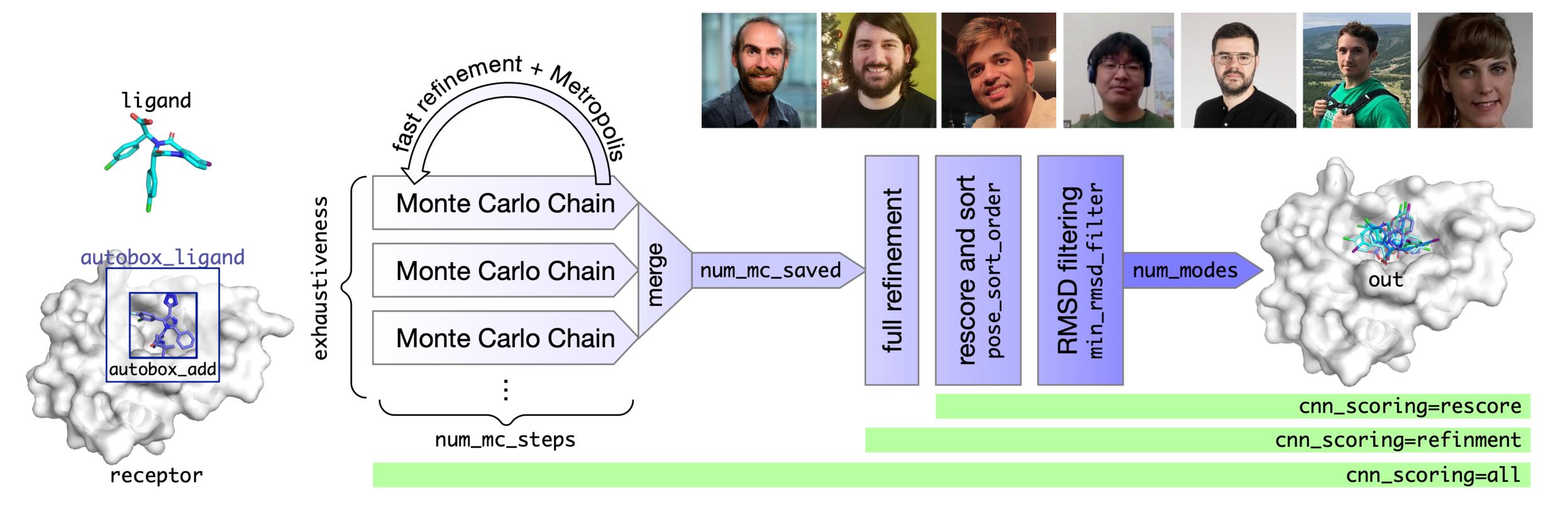
https://github.com/gnina/gnina

SOFTWARE Open Access

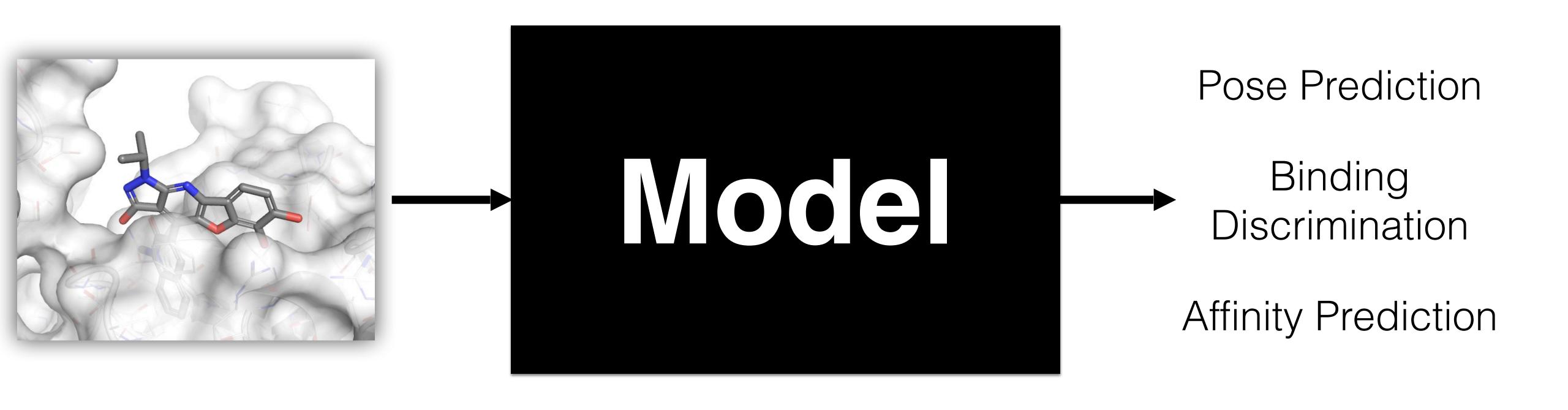
## GNINA 1.0: molecular docking with deep learning



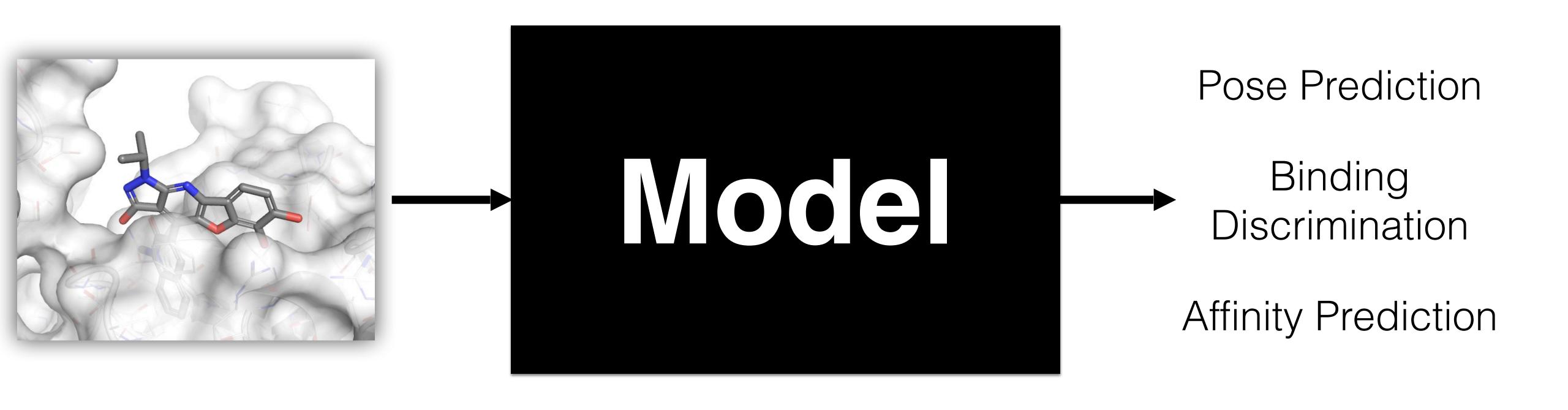
Andrew T. McNutt<sup>1</sup>, Paul Francoeur<sup>1</sup>, Rishal Aggarwal<sup>2</sup>, Tomohide Masuda<sup>1</sup>, Rocco Meli<sup>3</sup>, Matthew Ragoza<sup>1</sup>, Jocelyn Sunseri<sup>1</sup> and David Ryan Koes<sup>1\*</sup>



# Protein-Ligand Scoring

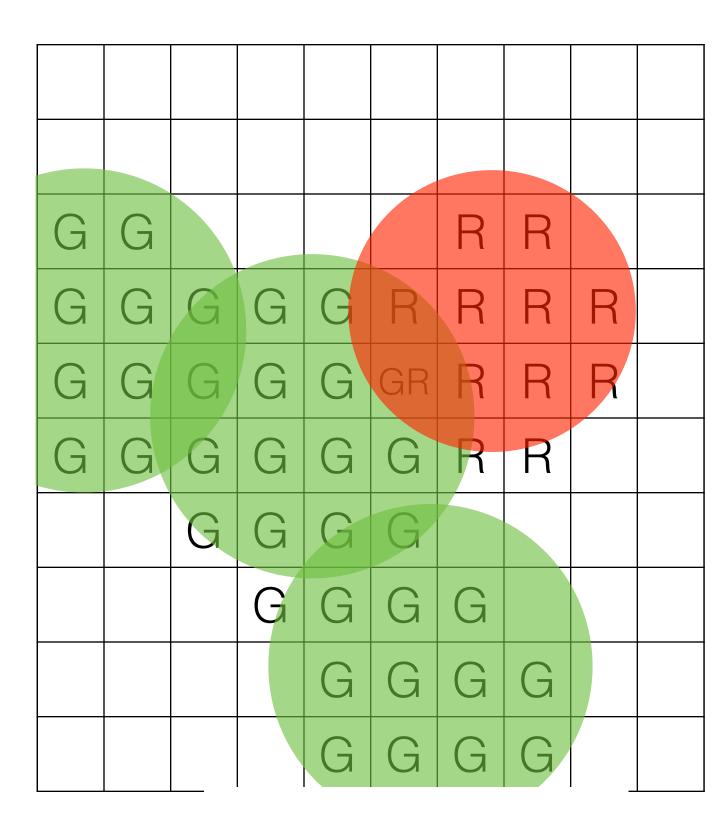


# Protein-Ligand Scoring

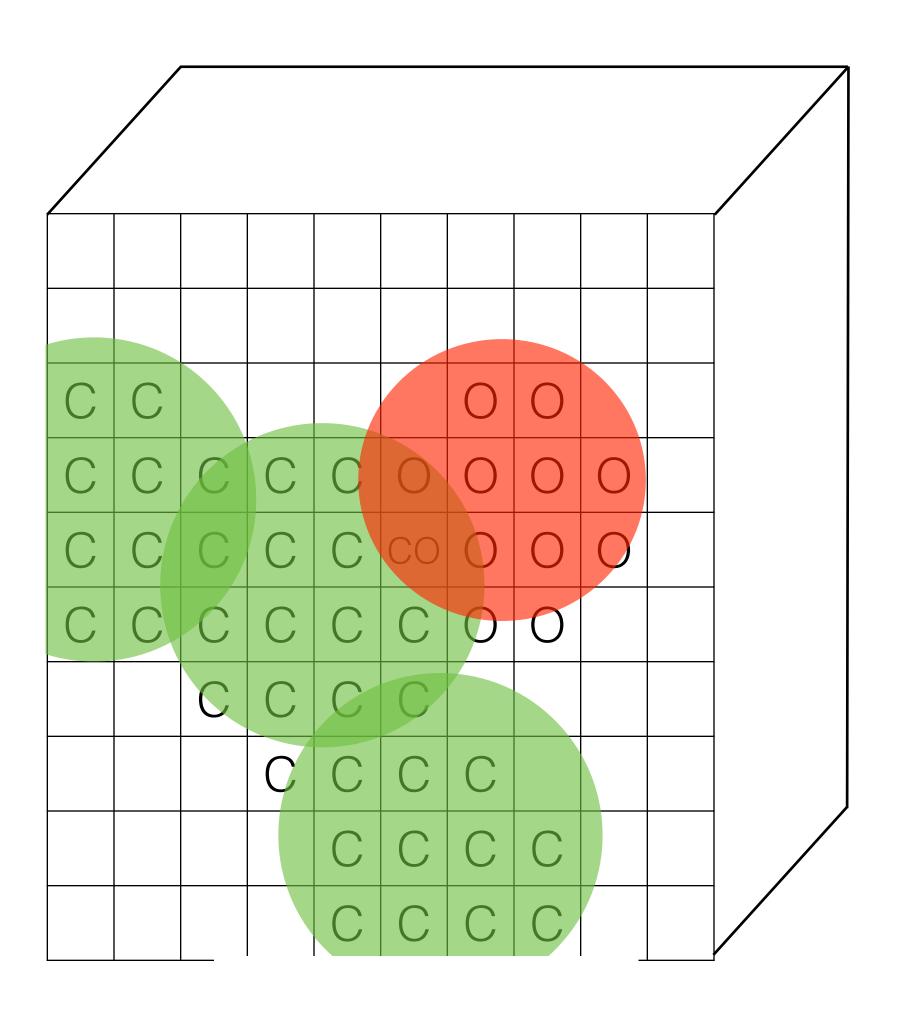


# Protein-Ligand Representation

(R,G,B) pixel



# Protein-Ligand Representation



```
(R,G,B) pixel →(Carbon, Nitrogen, Oxygen,...) voxel
```

The only parameters for this representation are the choice of **grid resolution**, **atom density**, and **atom types**.

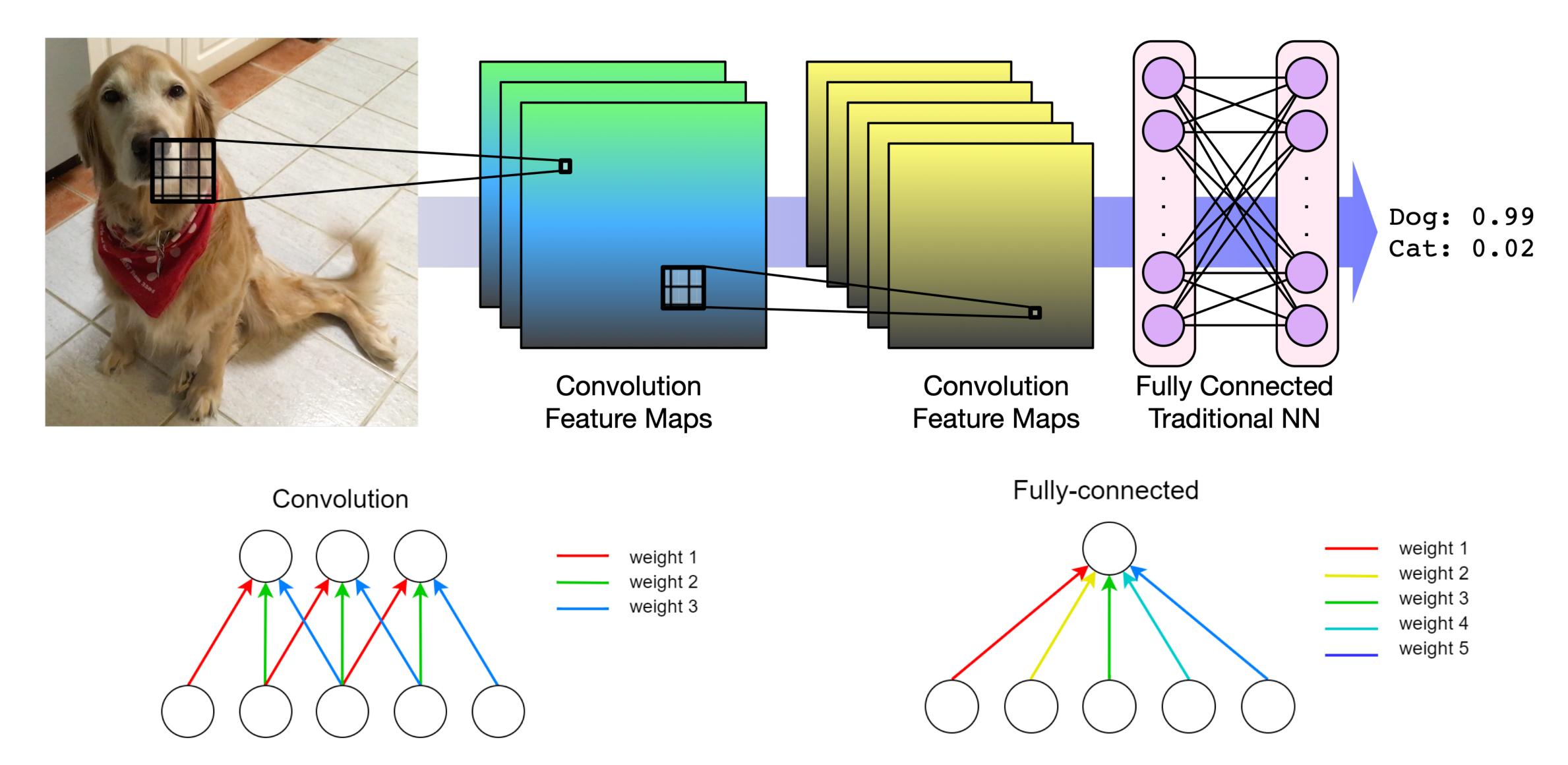
CHEMICAL INFORMATION
AND MODELING

pubs.acs.org/jcim

**Protein-Ligand Scoring with Convolutional Neural Networks** 

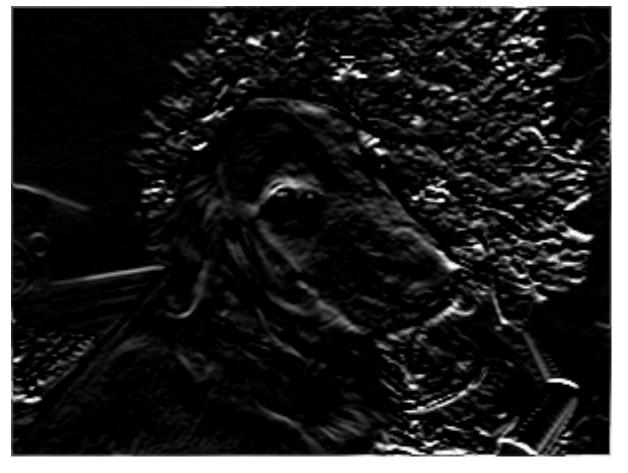
Matthew Ragoza,<sup>†,‡</sup> Joshua Hochuli,<sup>‡,¶</sup> Elisa Idrobo,<sup>§</sup> Jocelyn Sunseri,<sup>||</sup> and David Ryan Koes\*,<sup>||</sup>

### Convolutional Neural Networks



# Convolutional Filters







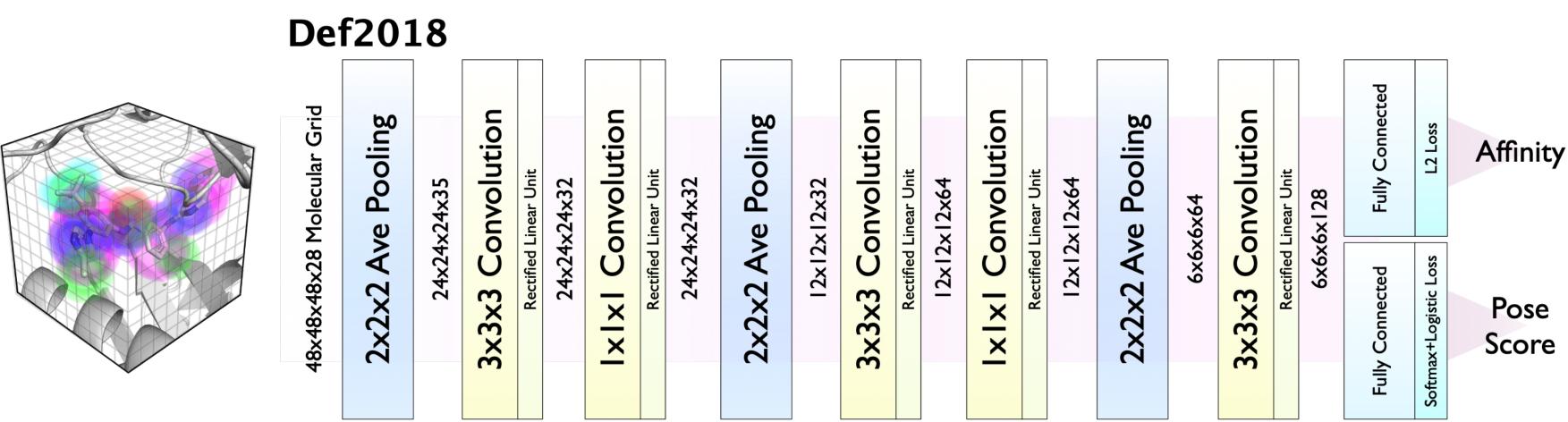


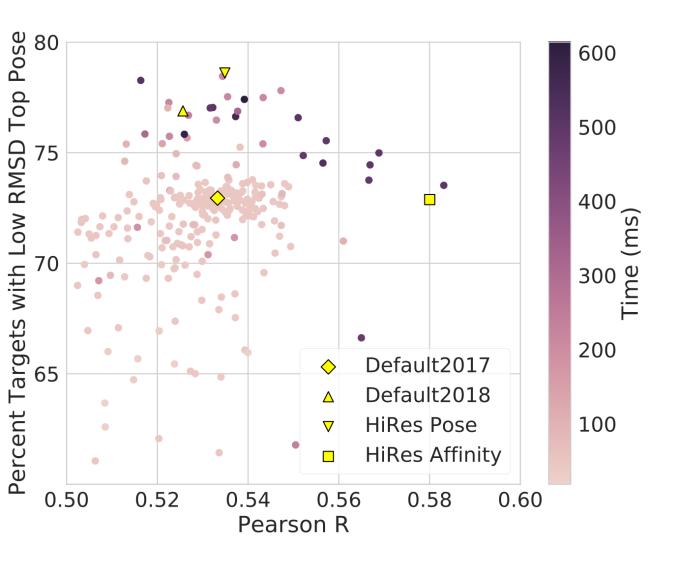
-1	-1	-1
0	0	0
1	1	1

-1	0	1	
-1	0	1	
-1	0	1	

-1	-1	-1
-1	8	-1
-1	-1	-1

# Protein Ligand Scoring





#### **Dense**

7

2x2x2 Max Pooling

x48x28 Molecular Grid

48×48

3x3x3 Convolution (3
Rectified Linear Unit
Dense Block

IXIXI Convolution (96)

Rectified Linear Unit

2x2x2 Max Pooling

2x2x2 Max Pooling

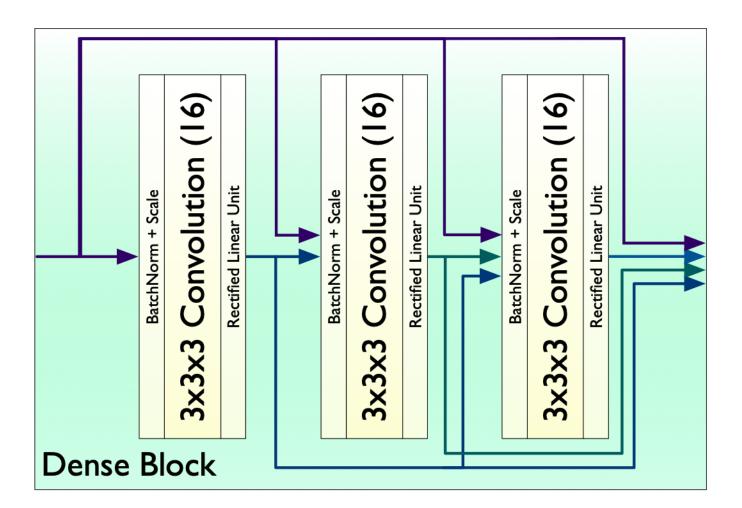
Dense Block

IXIXI Convolution (I Rectified Linear Unit 2x2x2 Max Pooling

388,736 Parameters

(09

Dense Block Global Max Pooling Fully Connected
Softmax+Logistic Loss
L2 Loss
Soch and Softmax and



684,640 Parameters

#### Cross-Docked Protein Ligand Scoring

#### Three-Dimensional Convolutional Neural Networks and a Cross-**Docked Data Set for Structure-Based Drug Design**

Paul G. Francoeur, Tomohide Masuda, Jocelyn Sunseri, Andrew Jia, Richard B. Iovanisci, Ian Snyder, and David R. Koes\*

Cite this: J. Chem. Inf. Model. 2020, 60, 9, 4200-4215

Publication Date: August 31, 2020 > https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jcim.0c00411 Copyright © 2020 American Chemical Society

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1420

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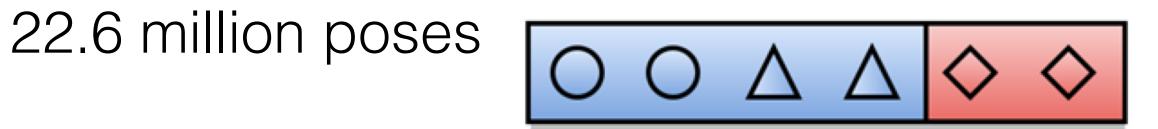


18,450 complexes

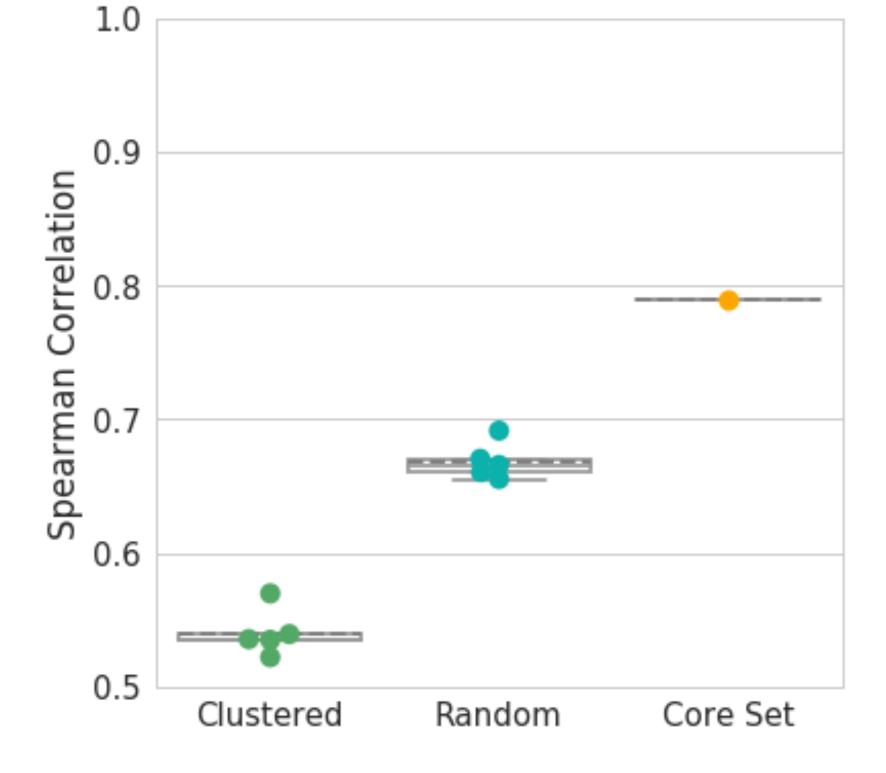


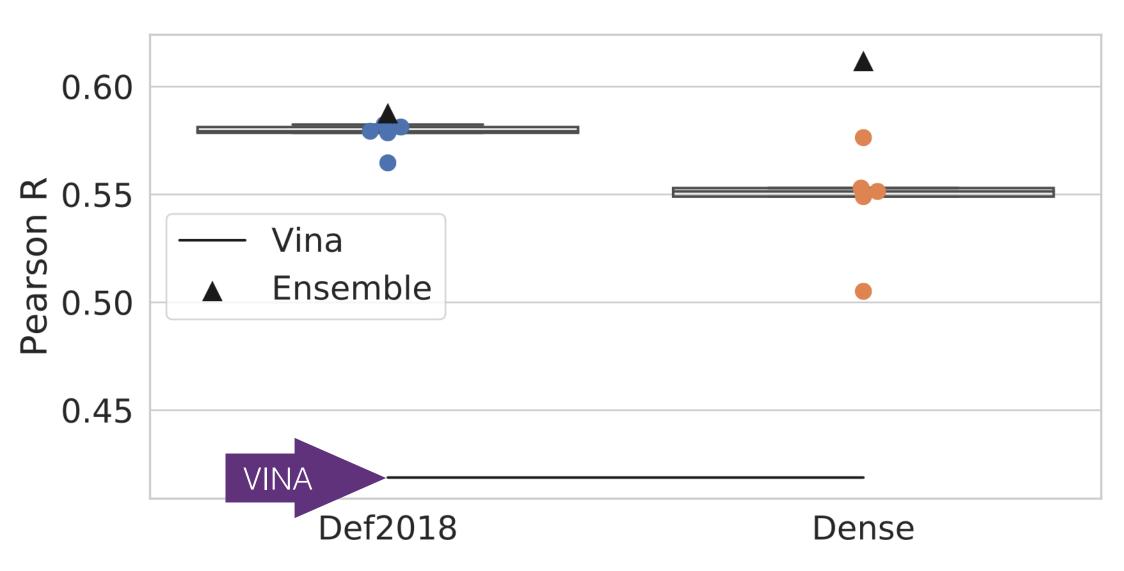
Clustered Cross-validation



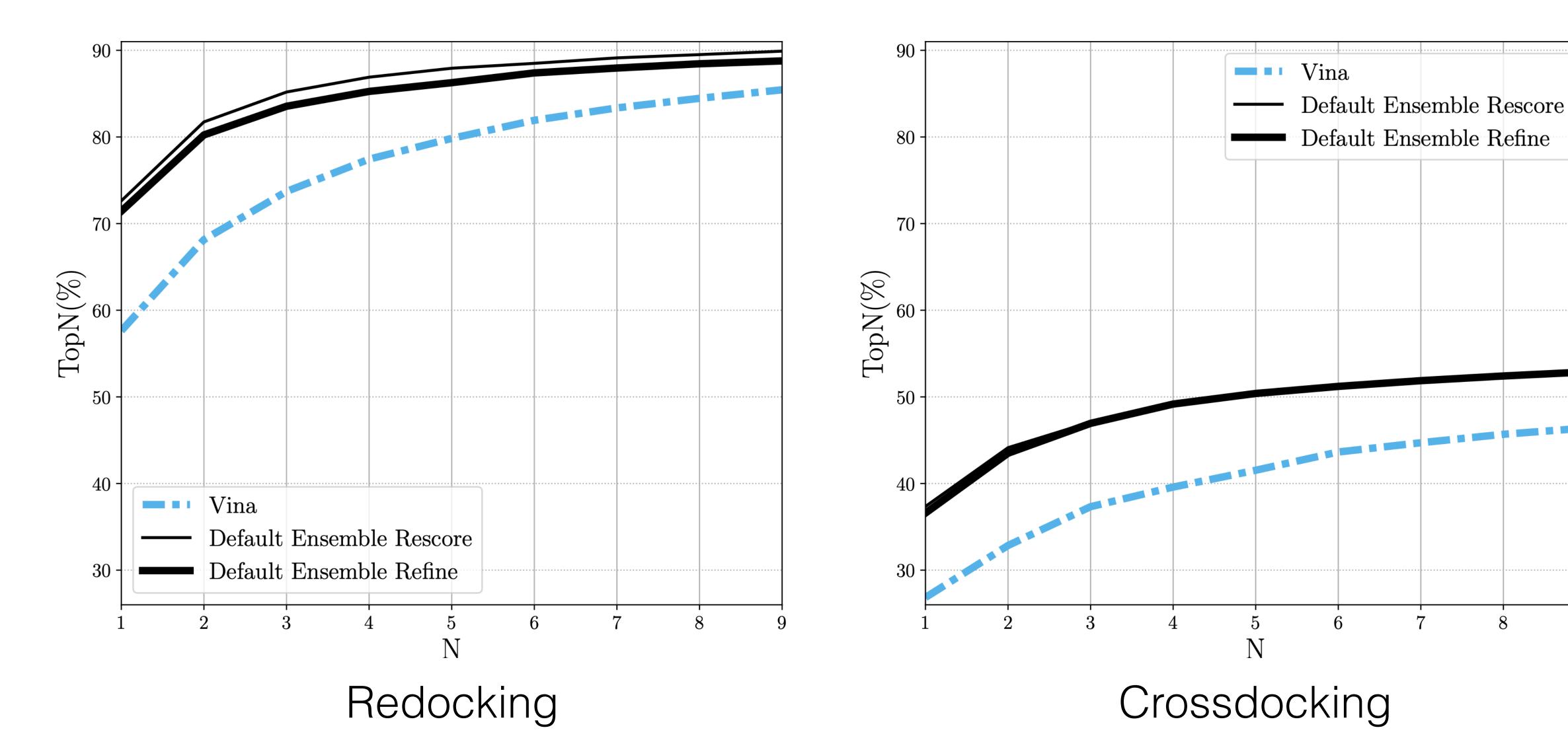


Affinity Prediction



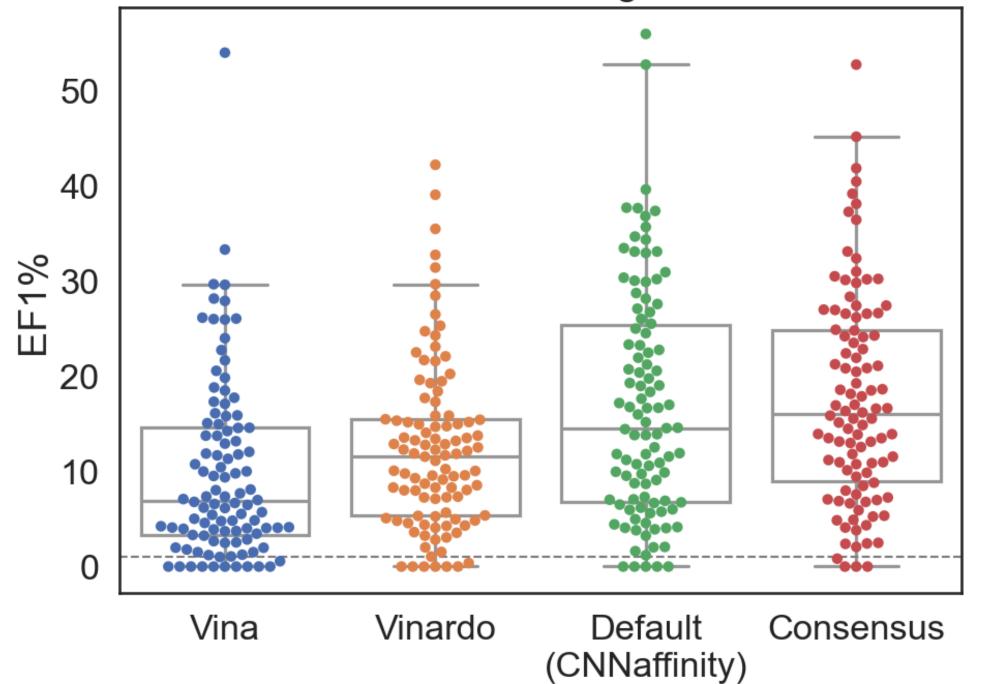


# Docking Performance





#### **DUD-E Virtual Screening Performance**



Open Access

#### Article

#### Virtual Screening with GNINA 1.0





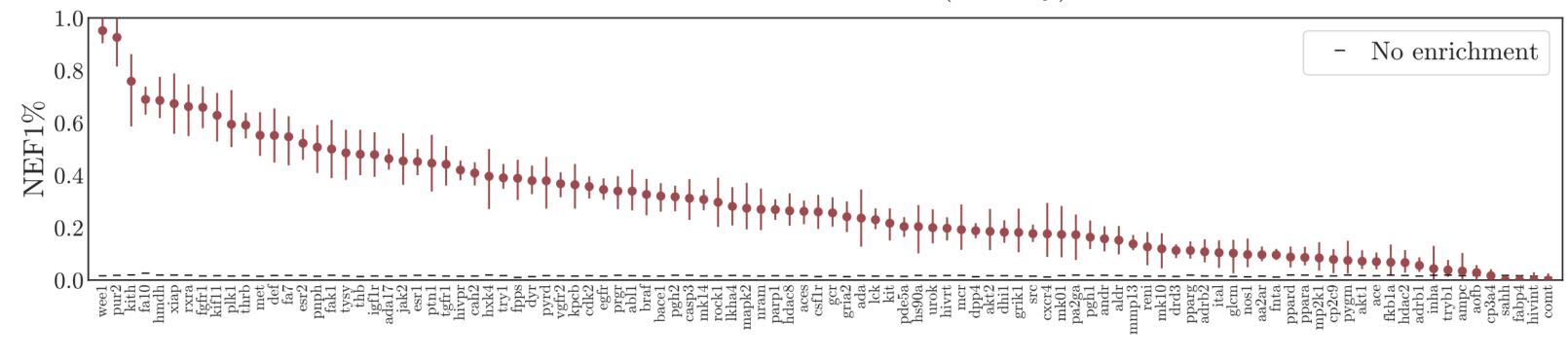


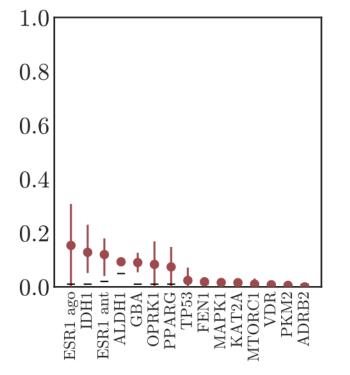


A 3000
166

Model	DUD-E		LIT-PCBA			
Model	AUC	NEF1%	EF1%	AUC	NEF1%	EF1%
RFScore-4	0.683	0.0514	3.02	0.6	0.013	1.28
RFScore-VS	0.963	0.857	51.9	0.542	0.00733	0.733
Vina	0.745	0.118	7.05	0.581	0.011	1.1
Vinardo	0.764	0.187	11.4	0.577	0.0103	0.99
General (Affinity)	0.756	0.179	11.6	0.579	0.037	2.06
General (Pose)	0.702	0.156	10.3	0.498	0.0147	1.3
Dense (Affinity)	0.795	0.27	17.7	0.616	0.037	2.58
Dense (Pose)	0.767	0.313	20.4	0.514	0.0238	1.81
Default (Affinity)	0.795	0.258	15.6	0.611	0.0238	1.88
Default (Pose)	0.744	0.241	15.8	0.512	0.0147	1.47

Default (Affinity)





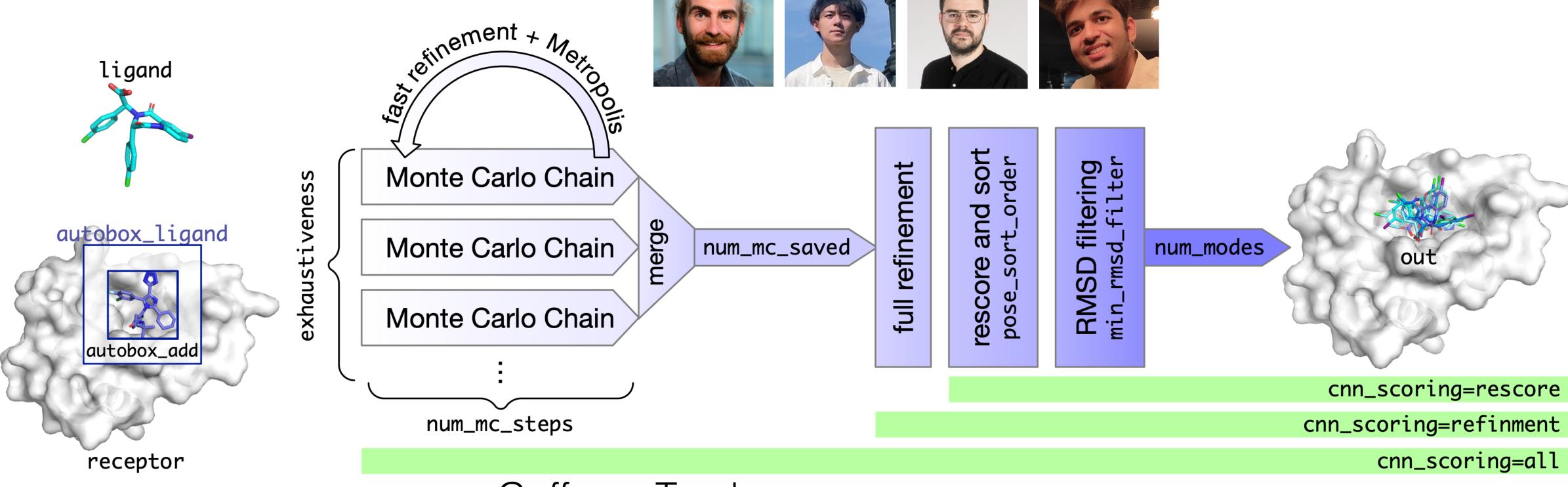
### GNINA 1.3

https://github.com/gnina/gnina

# GNINA 1.3: the next increment in molecular docking with deep learning

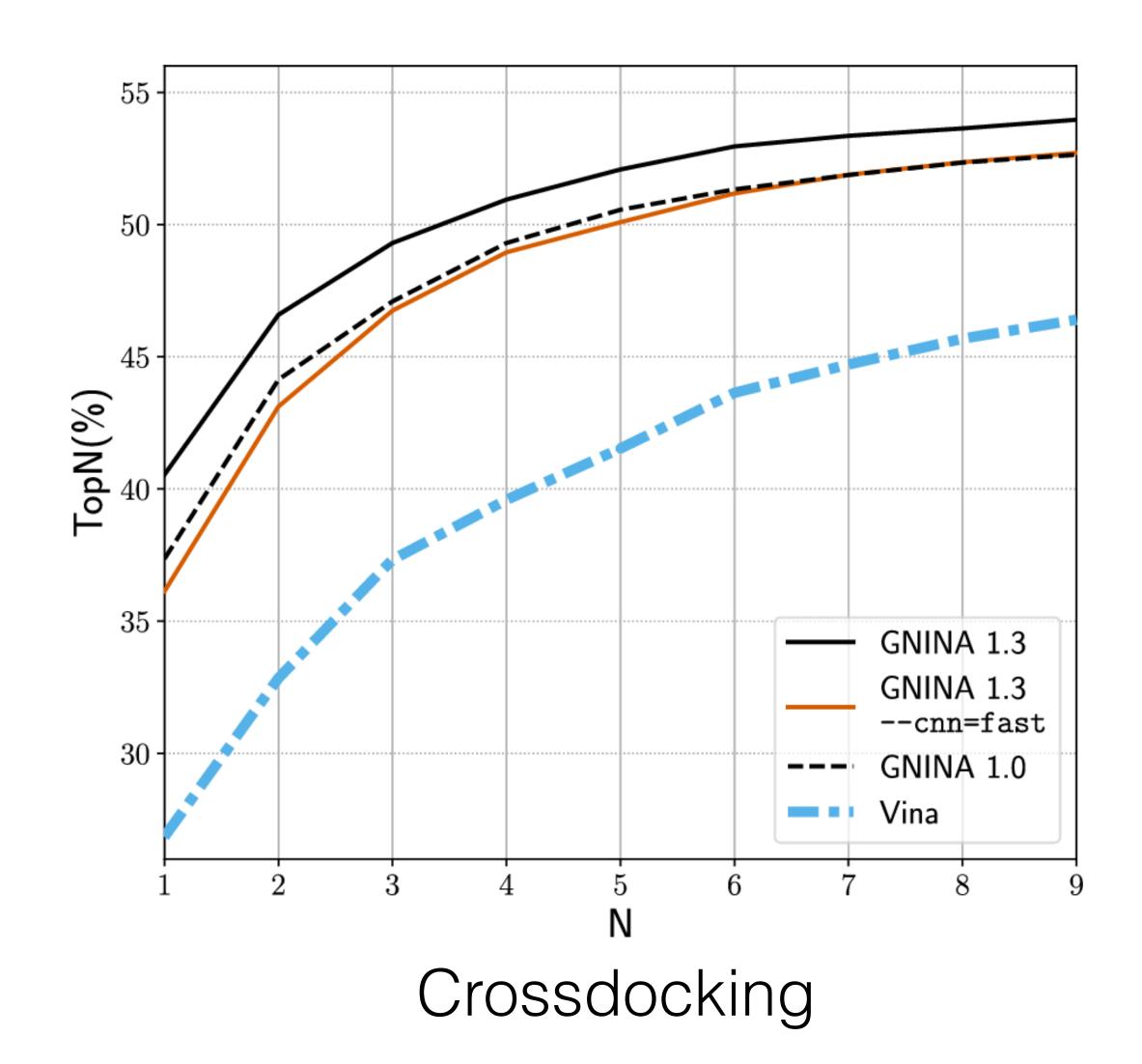
Andrew T. McNutt, Yanjing Li, Rocco Meli, Rishal Aggarwal & David Ryan Koes □

Journal of Cheminformatics 17, Article number: 28 (2025) Cite this article



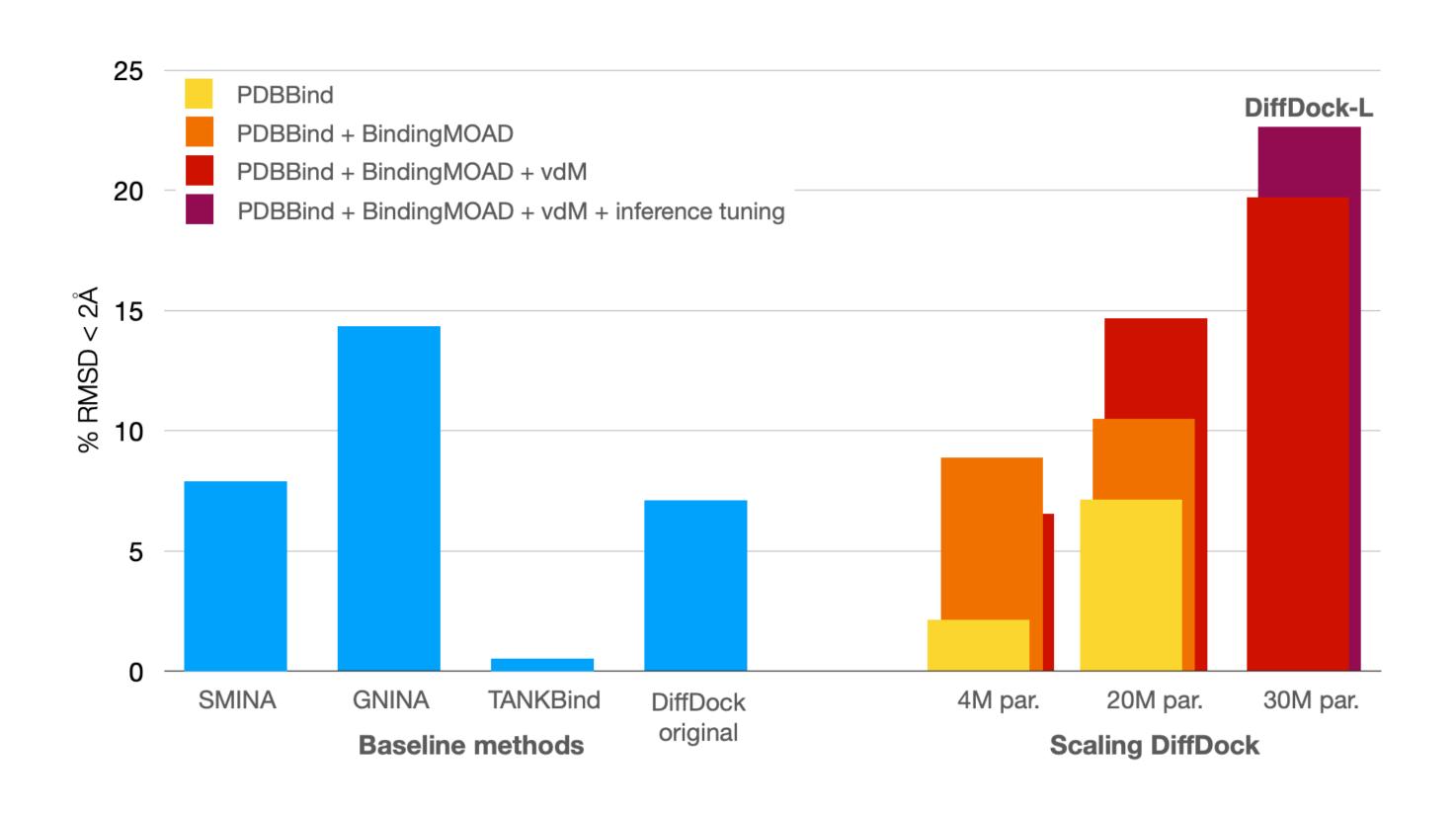
Caffe → Torch
easy covalent docking
retrained models

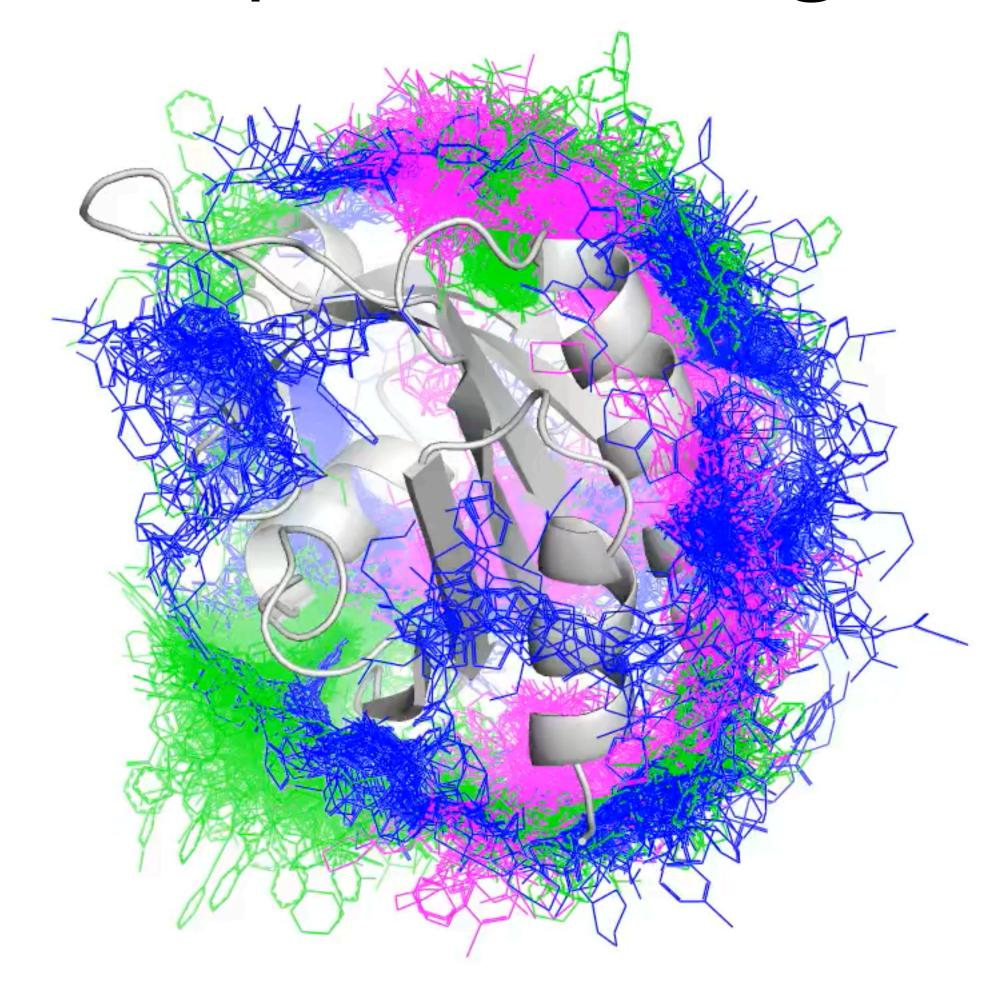
### GNINA 1.3 Performance



1.0 0.9-0.8-O.7 0.6-0.5 -0.4-**GNINA 1.0 GNINA 1.3 GNINA 1.3** -- cnn = fast

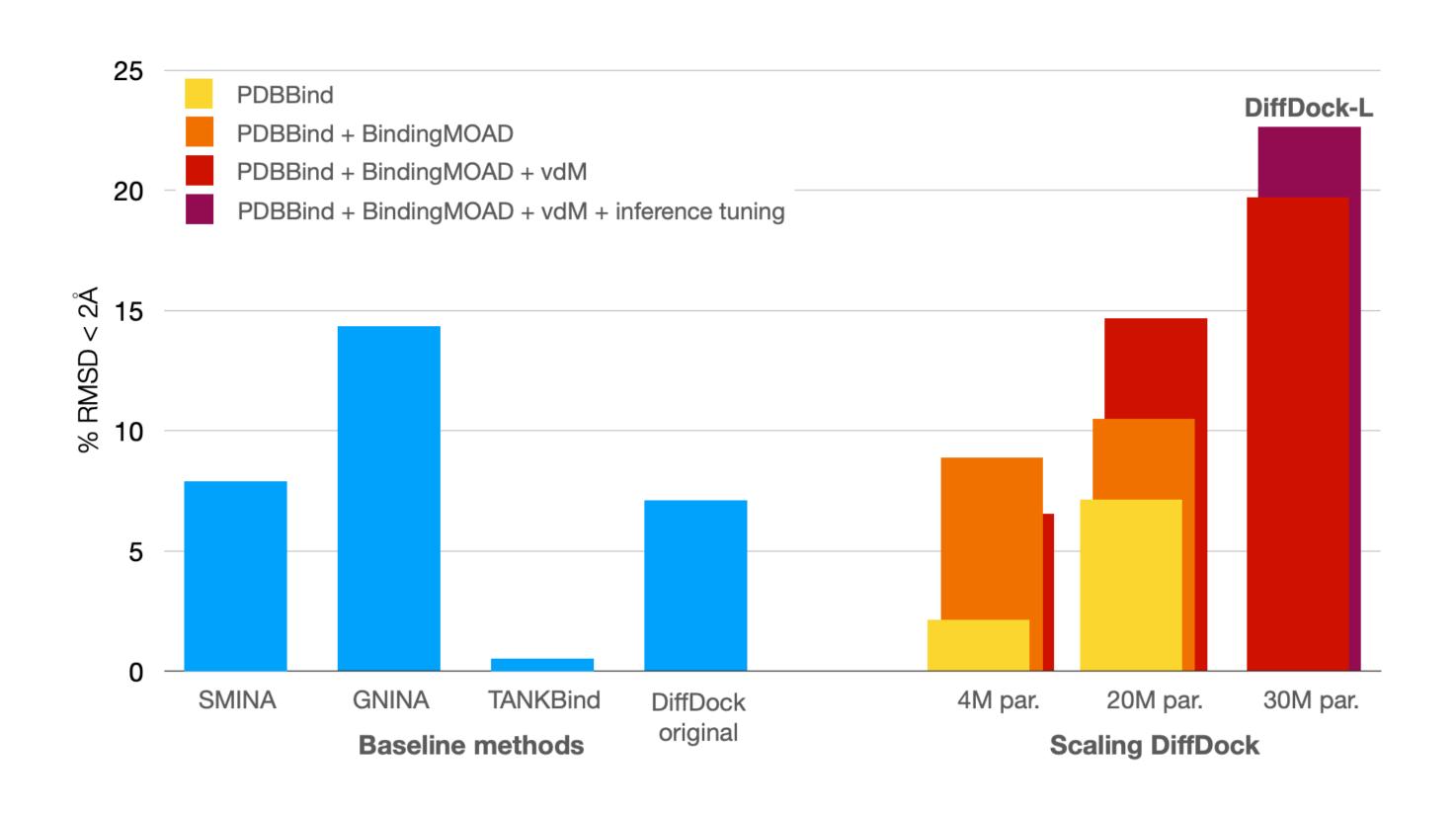
### GNINA vs End-to-end Deep Docking

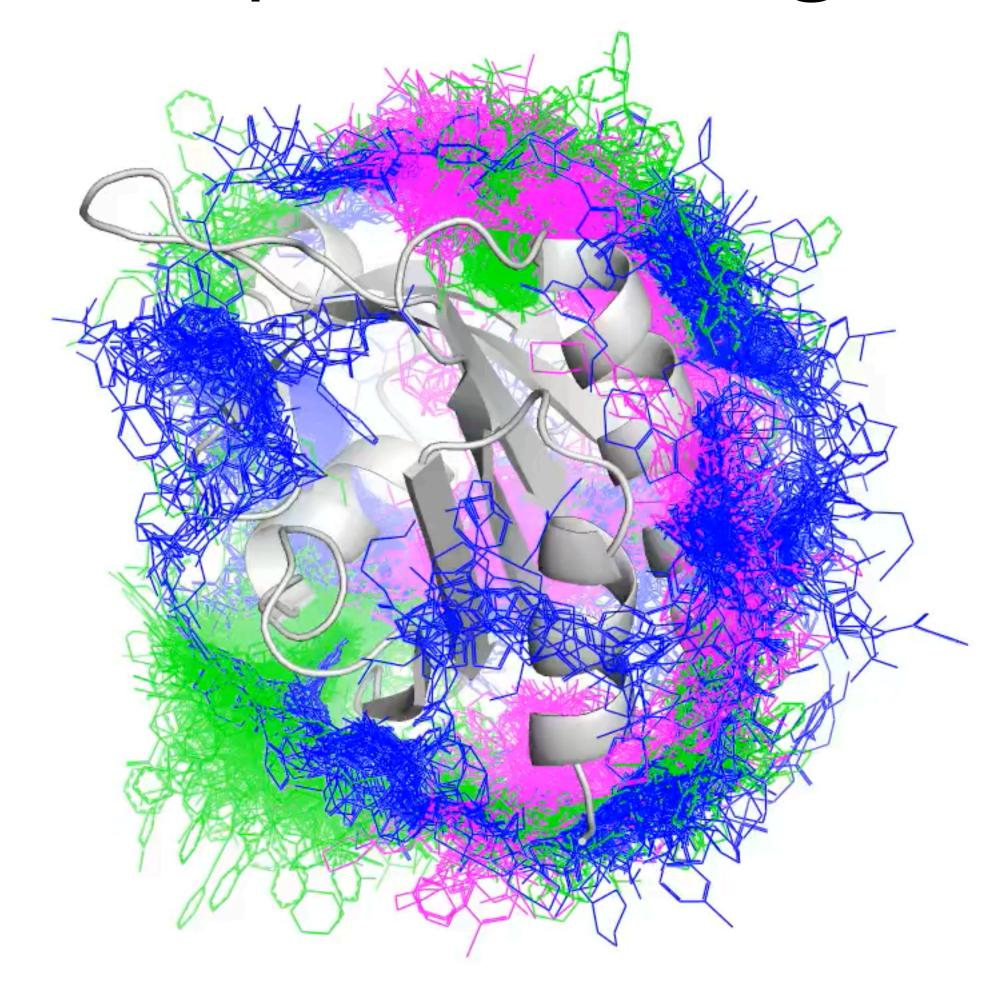




GNINA DynamicBind Boltz1

### GNINA vs End-to-end Deep Docking





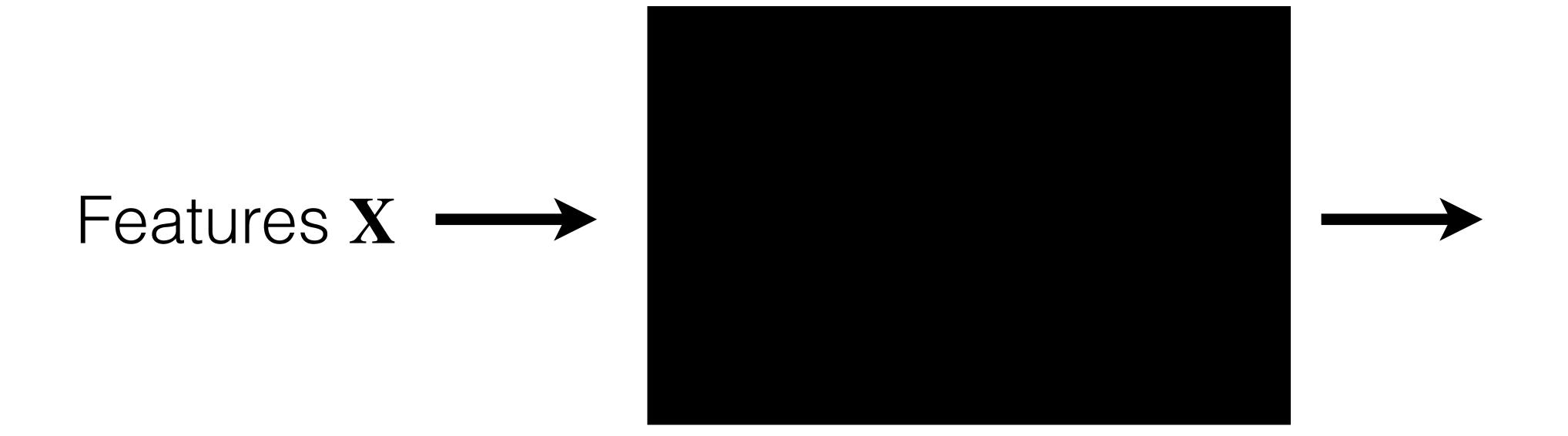
GNINA DynamicBind Boltz1

# Generative Modeling

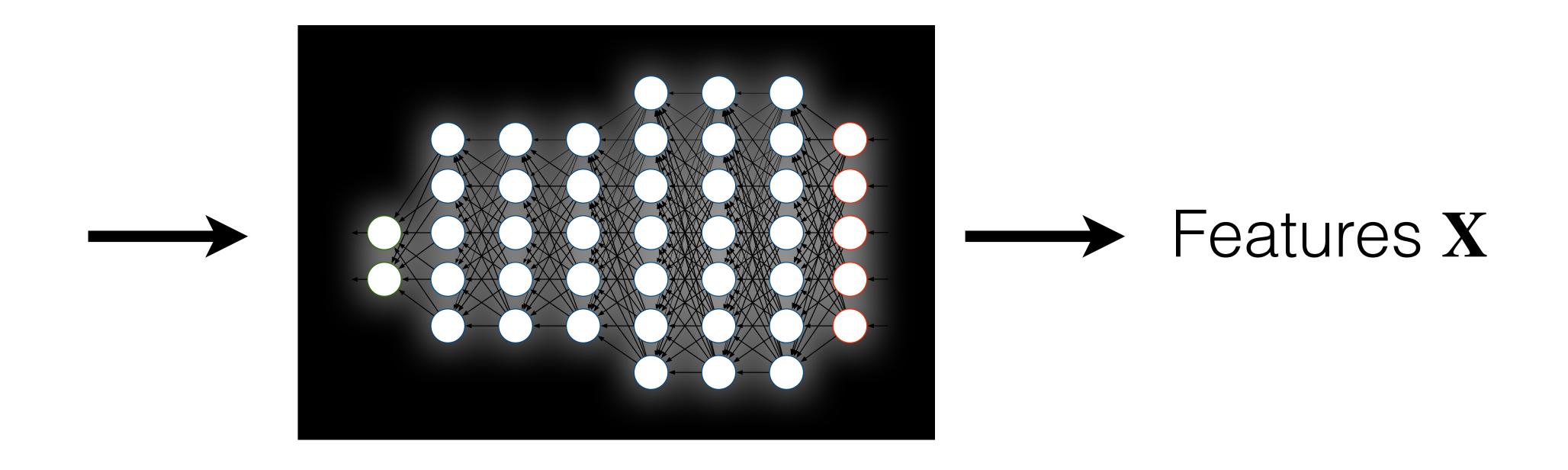
### Discriminative Model

Features  $\mathbf{X} \longrightarrow$  Prediction  $\mathbf{y}$ 

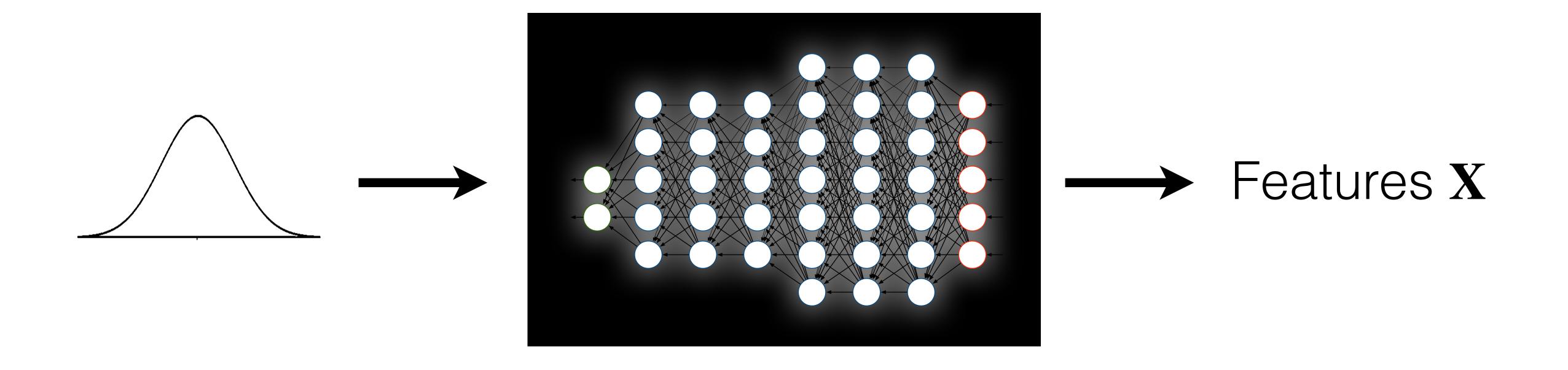
#### Generative Model



#### Generative Model



### Generative Model



#### Learning a Continuous Representation of 3D Molecular Structures with Deep Generative Models

#### Matthew Ragoza\*

Comp. & Systems Biology University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA 15213 mtr22@pitt.edu

#### Tomohide Masuda\*

Comp. & Systems Biology University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA 15213 tmasuda@pitt.edu

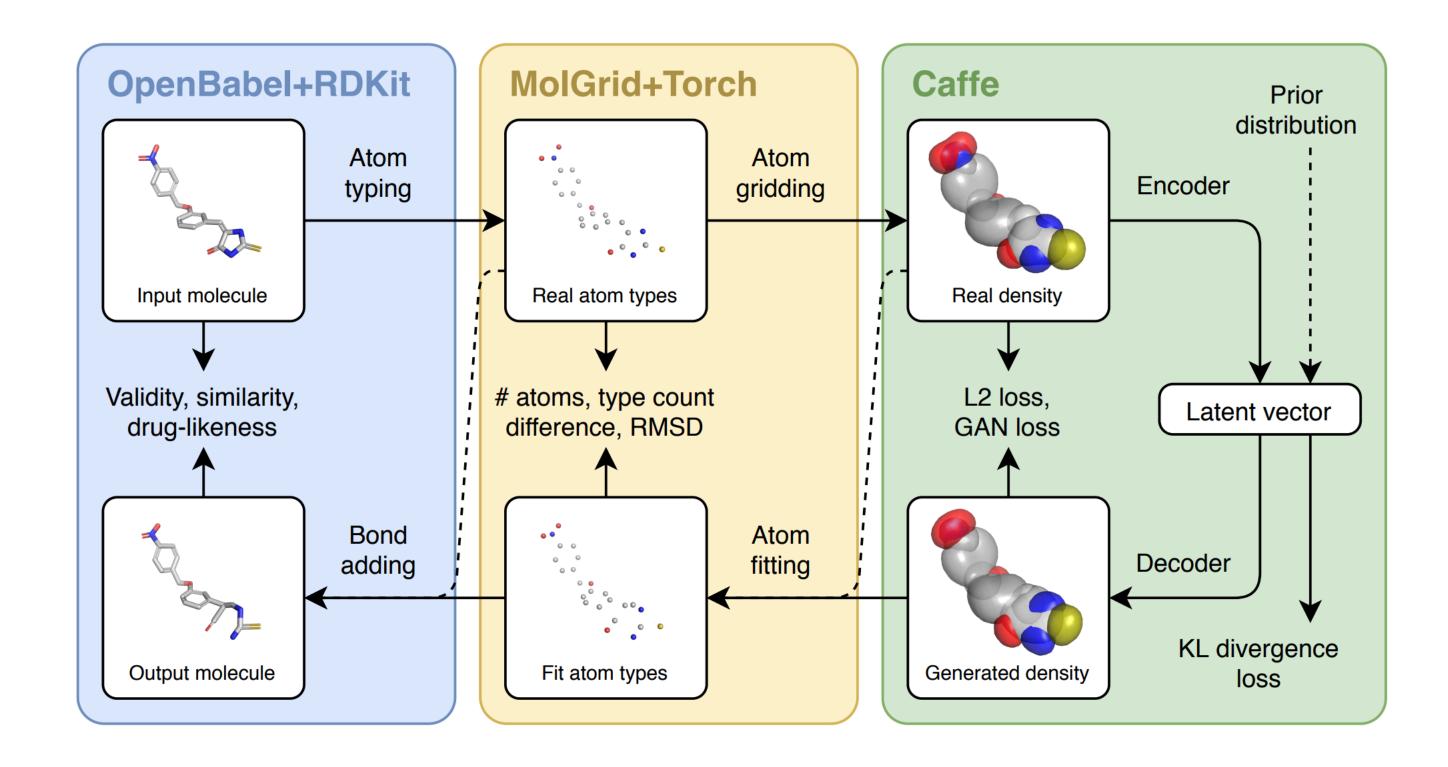
#### David Ryan Koes

Comp. & Systems Biology
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
dkoes@pitt.edu

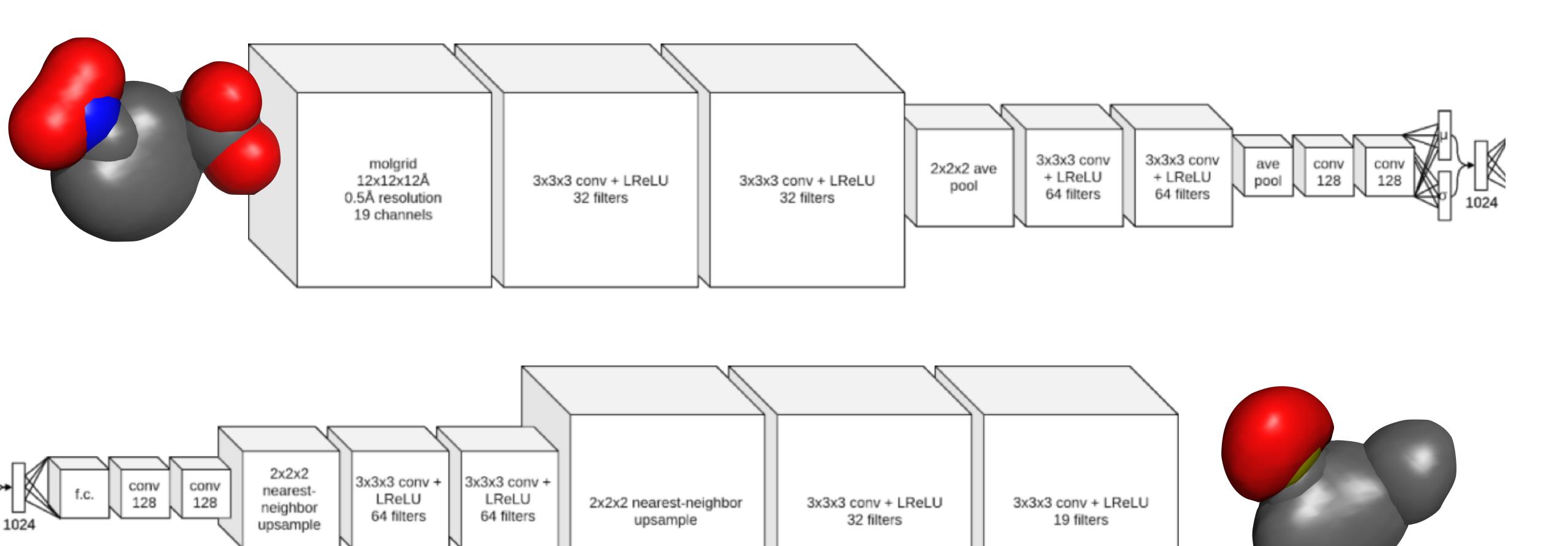
#### NeurIPS 2020 Workshop Machine Learning for Structural Biology





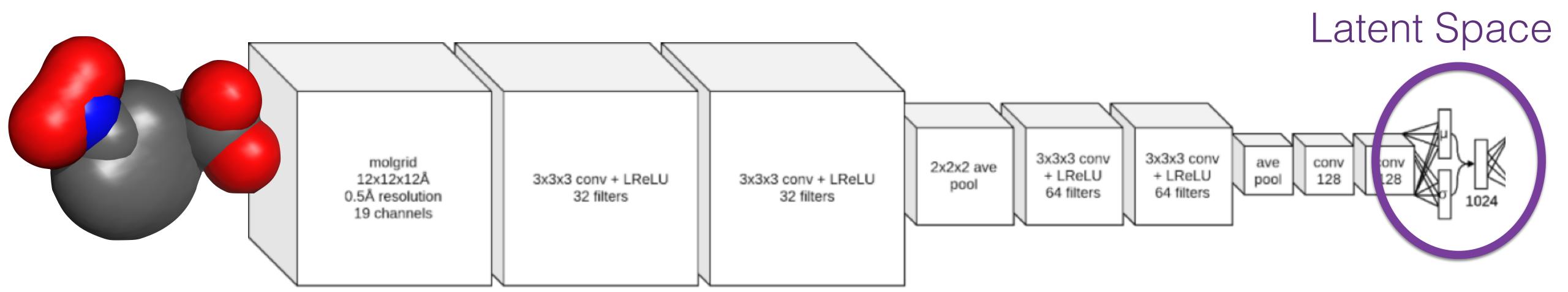


### Model



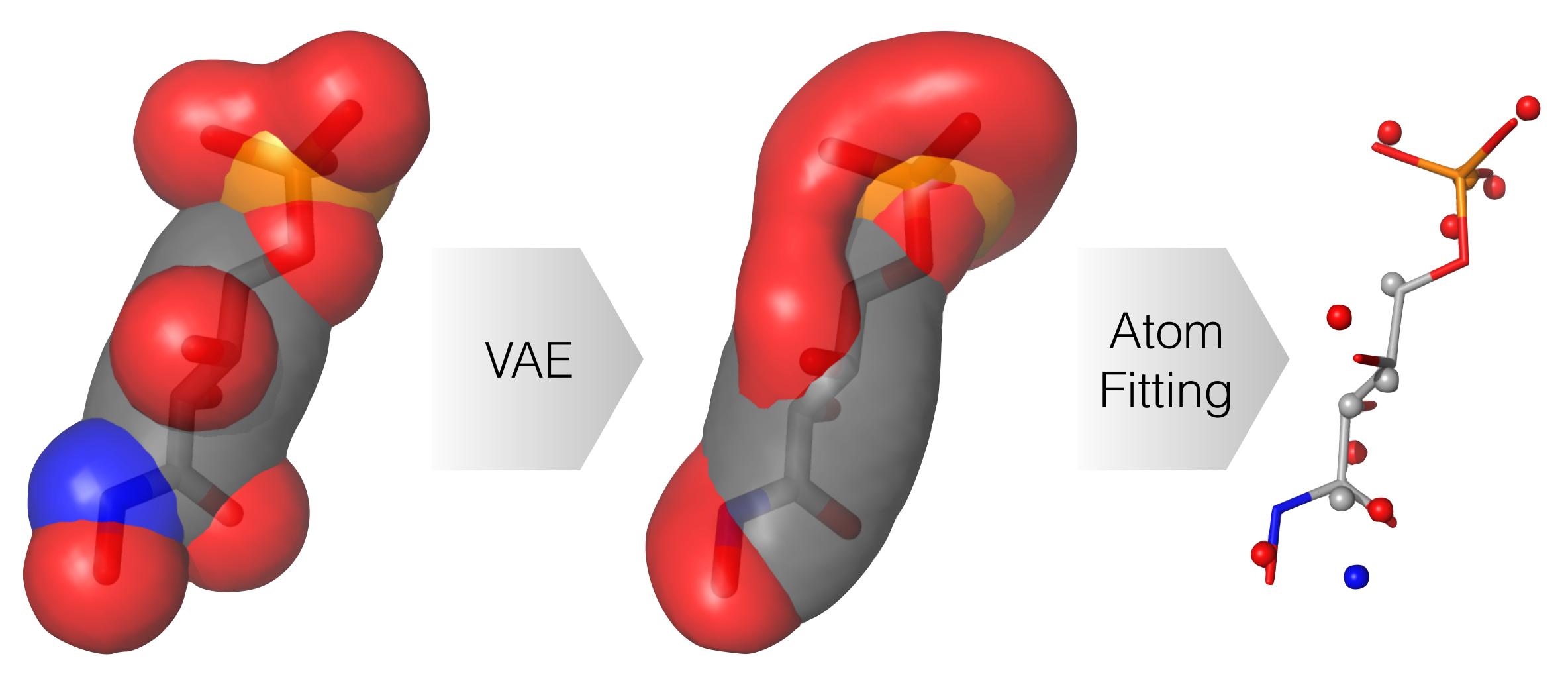
**Variational** 

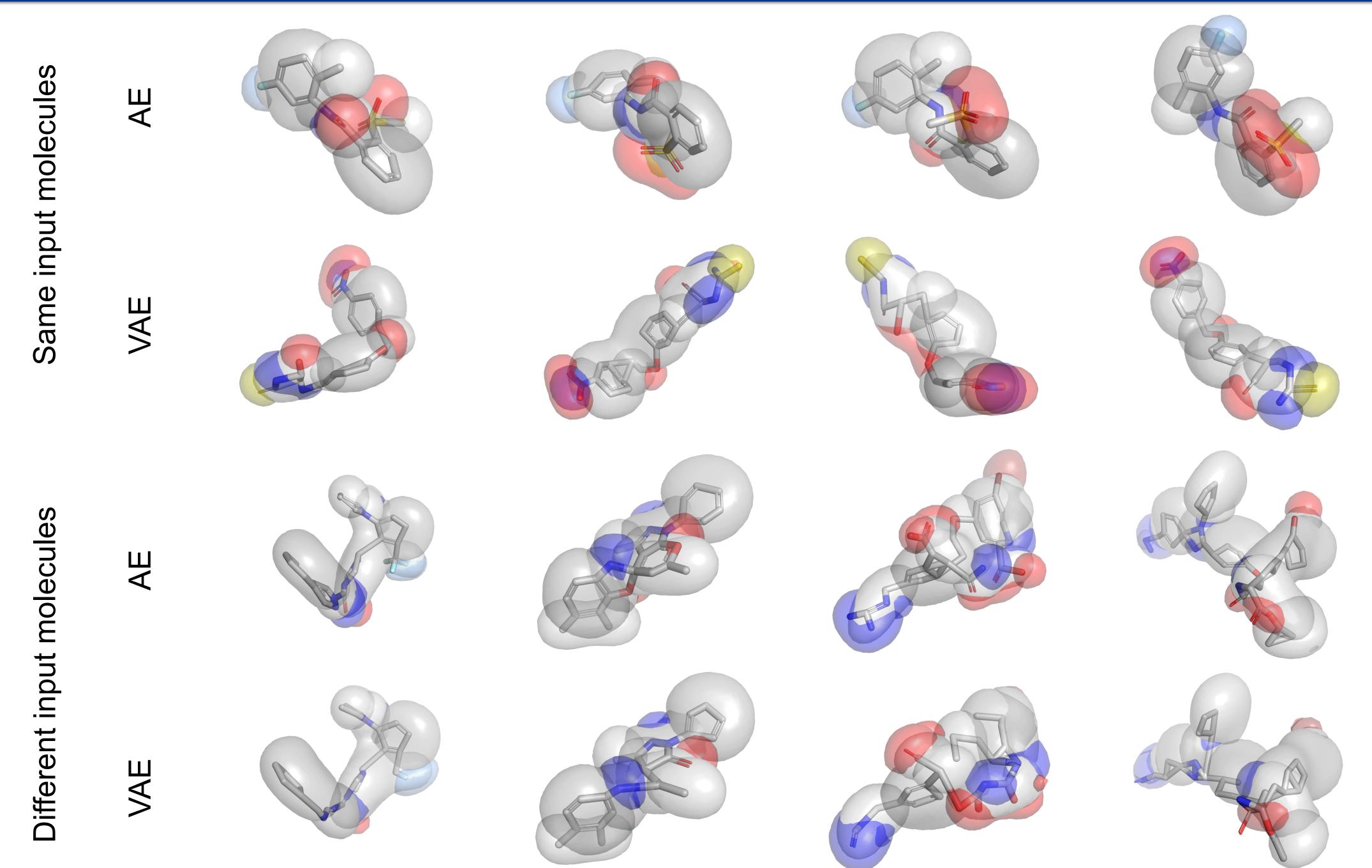
### Model

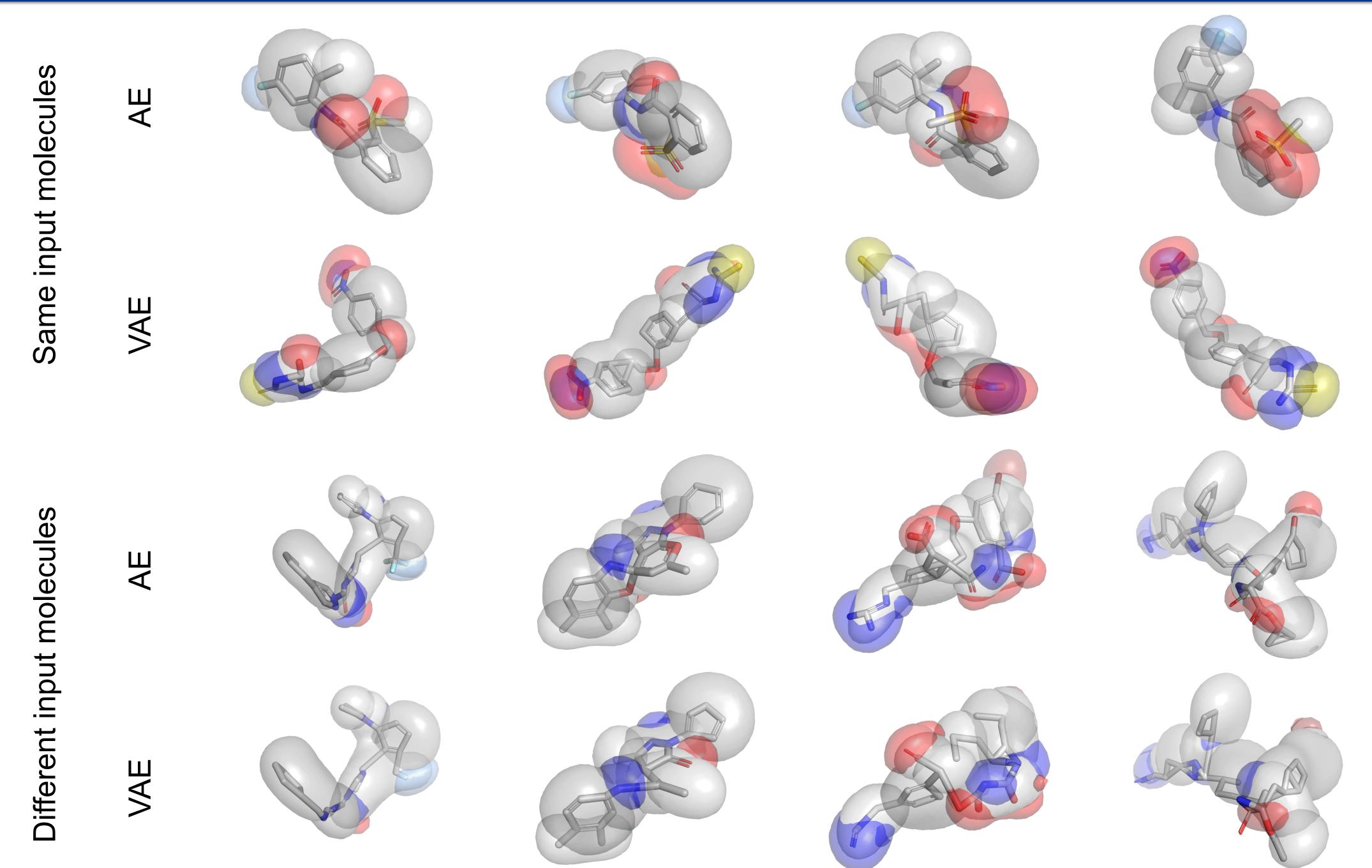




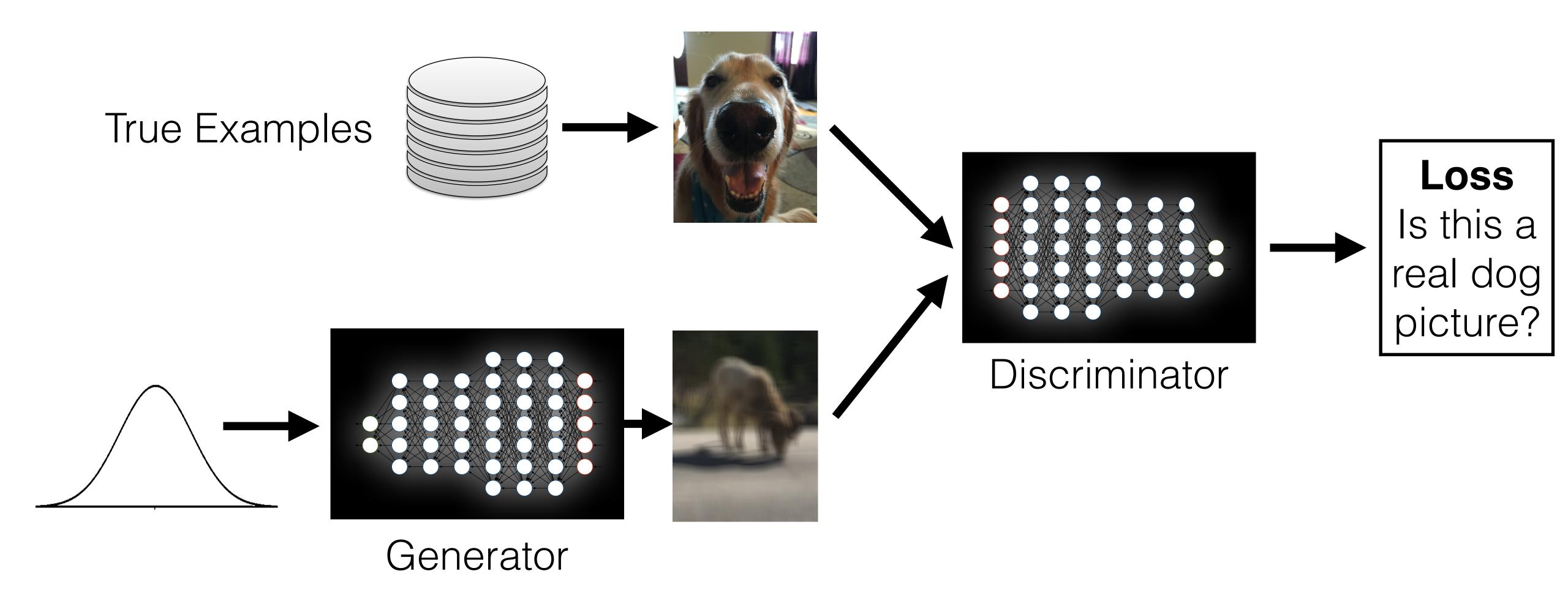
### Variational Autoencoding Examples



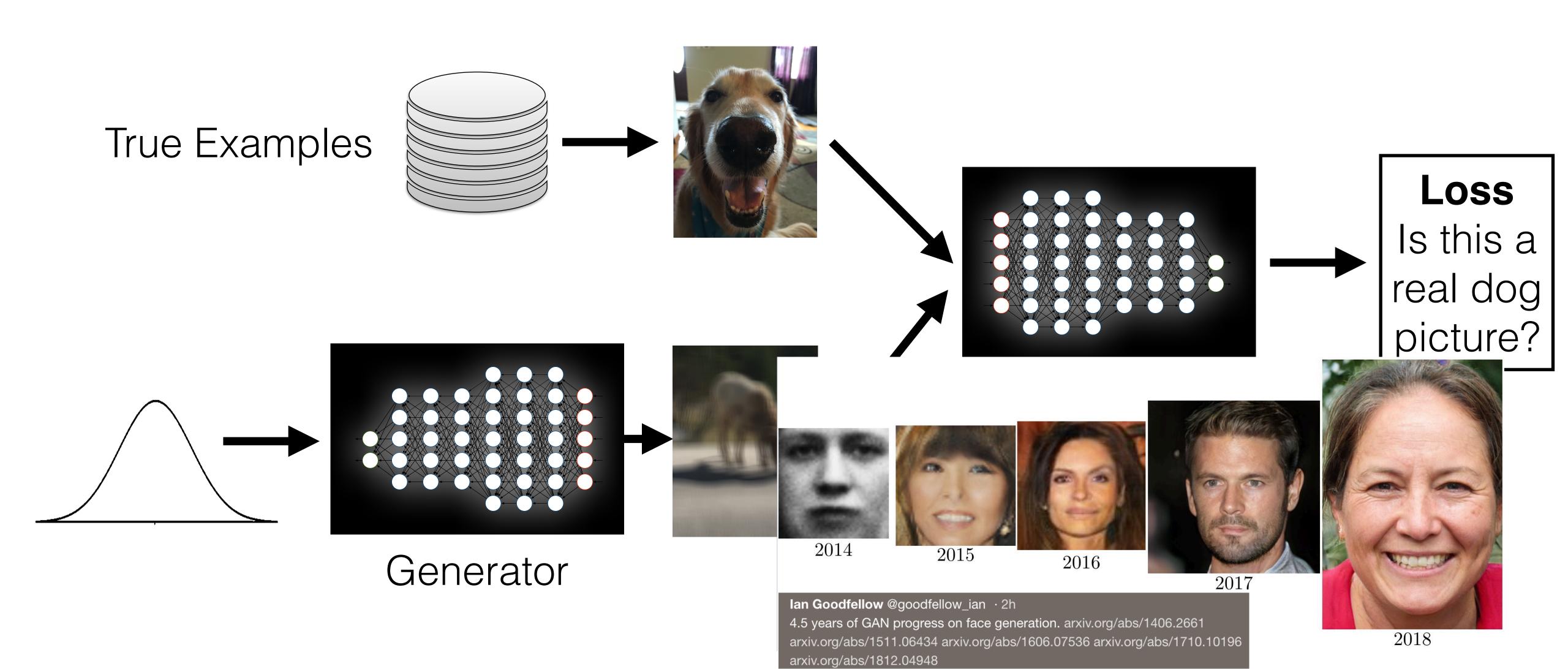


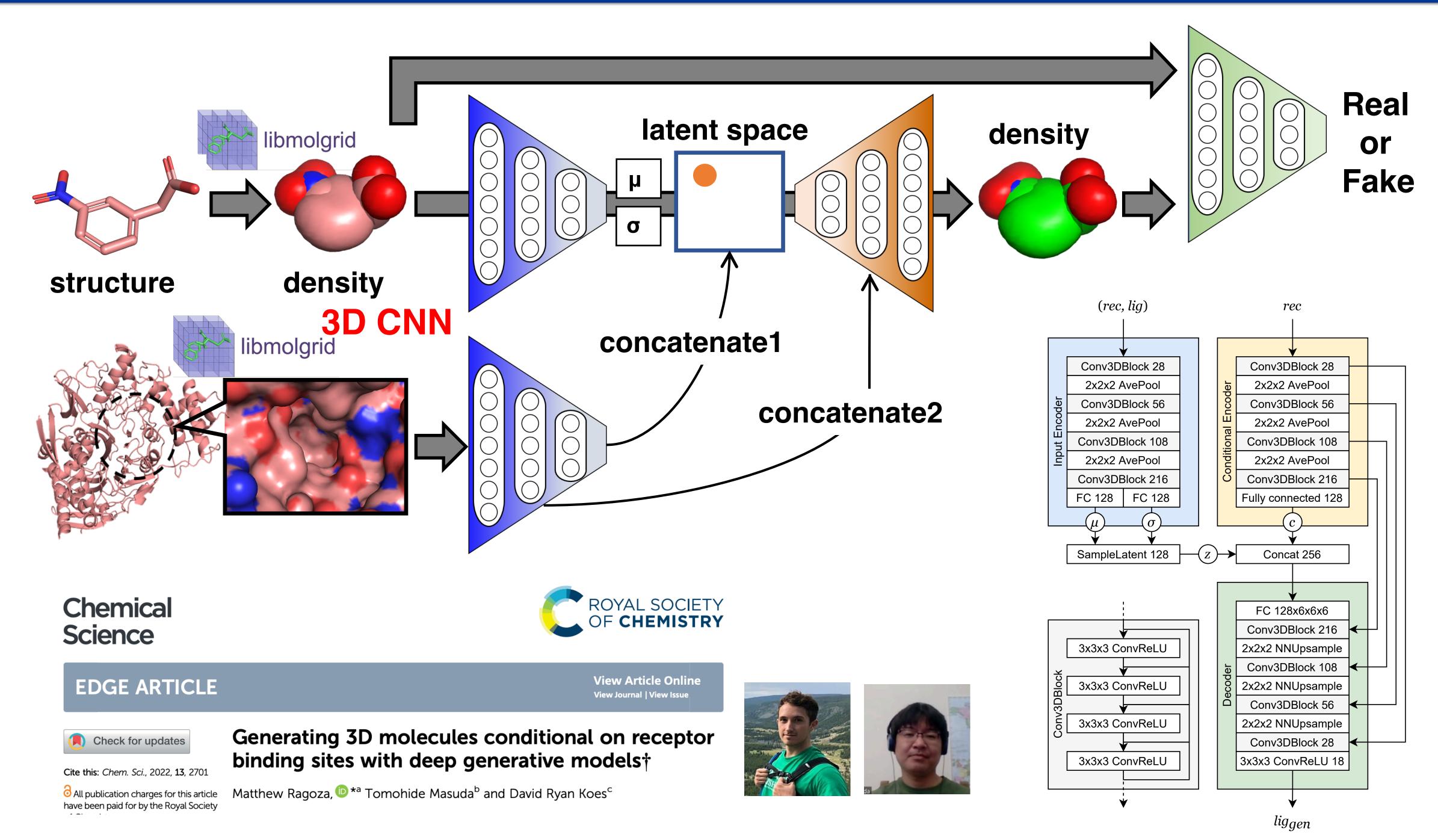


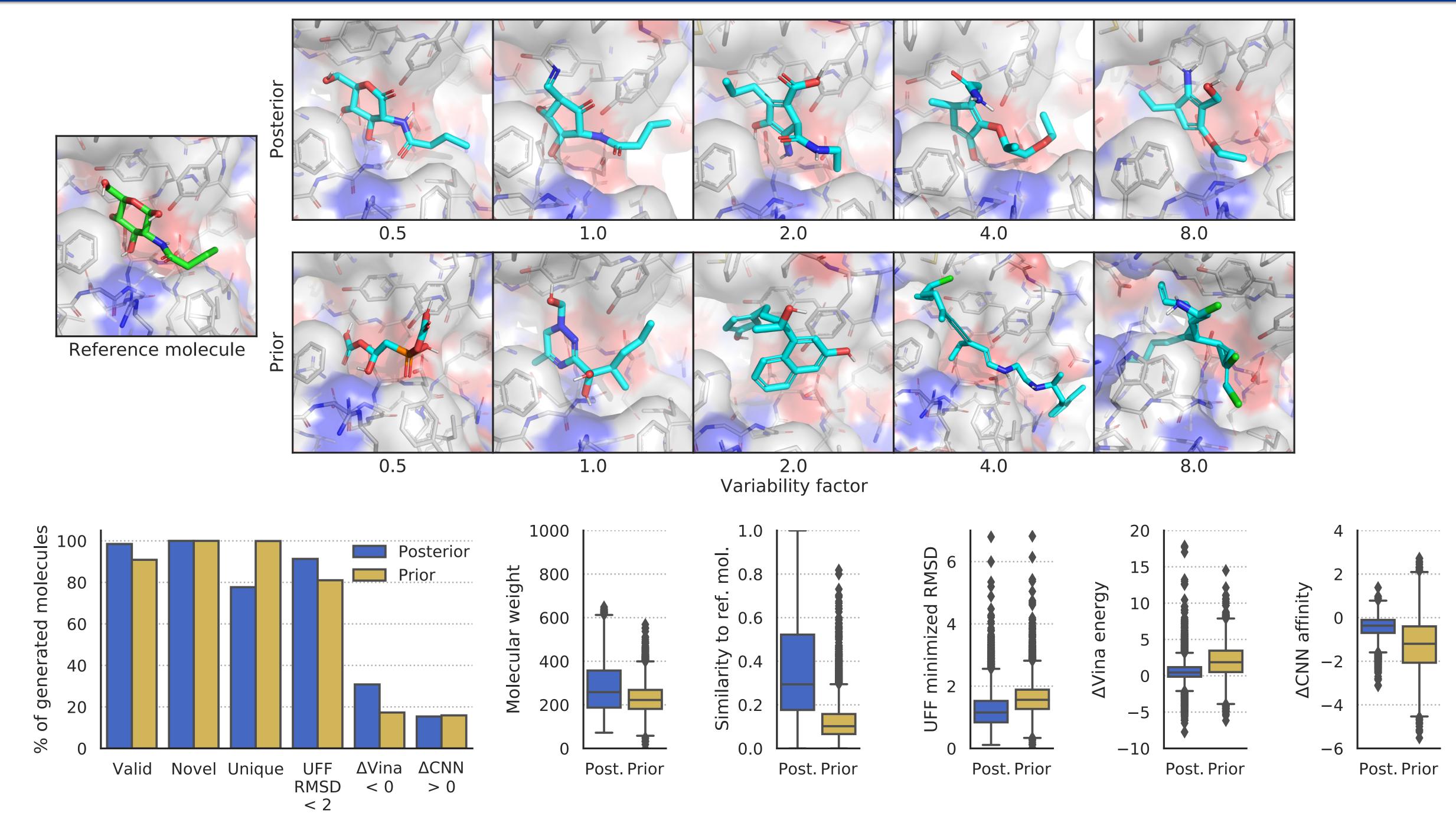
### Generative Adversarial Networks

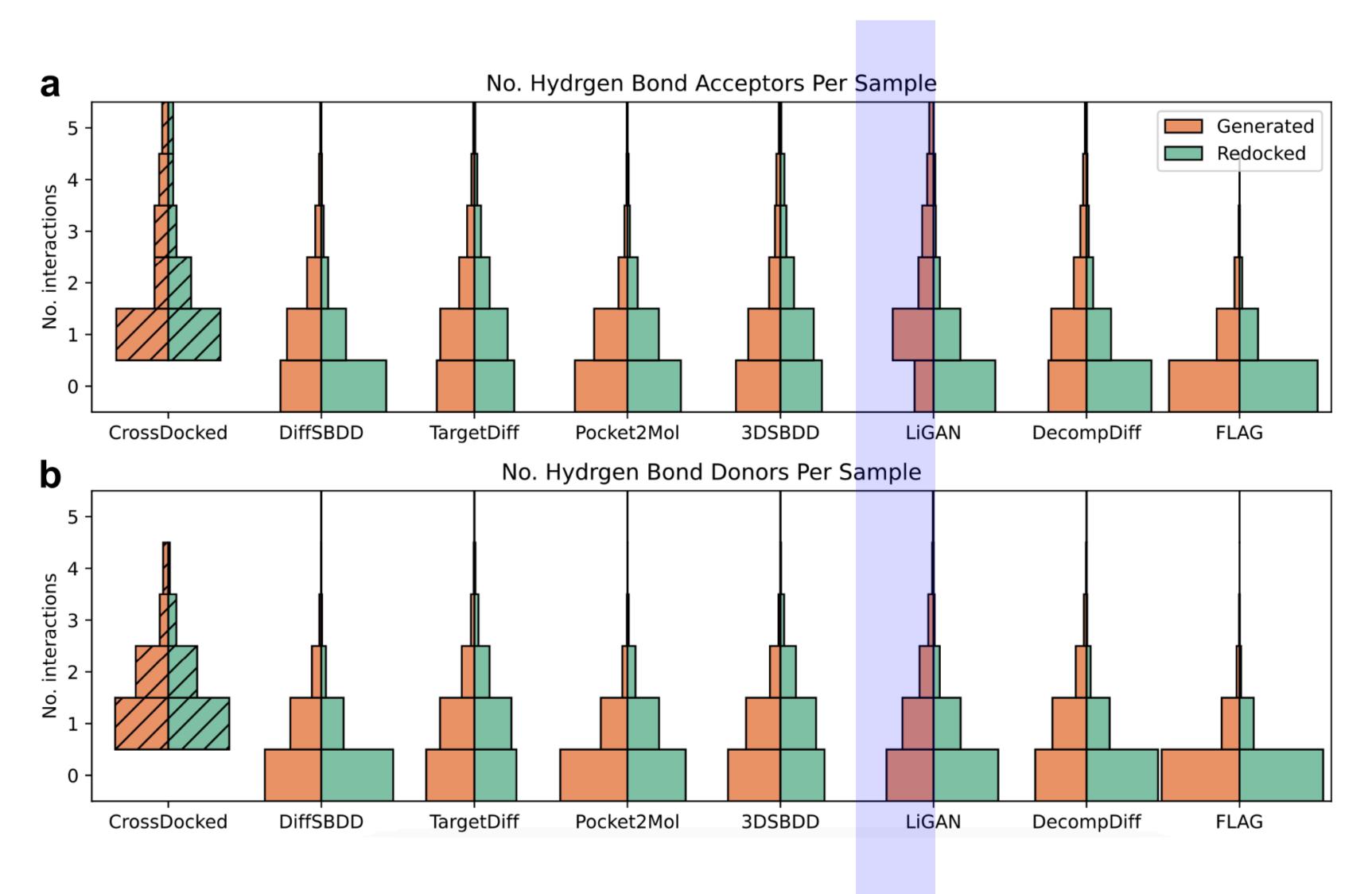


#### Generative Adversarial Networks









#### PoseCheck: Generative Models for 3D Structure-based Drug Design Produce Unrealistic Poses

Charles Harris\*
University of Cambridge
cch57@cam.ac.uk

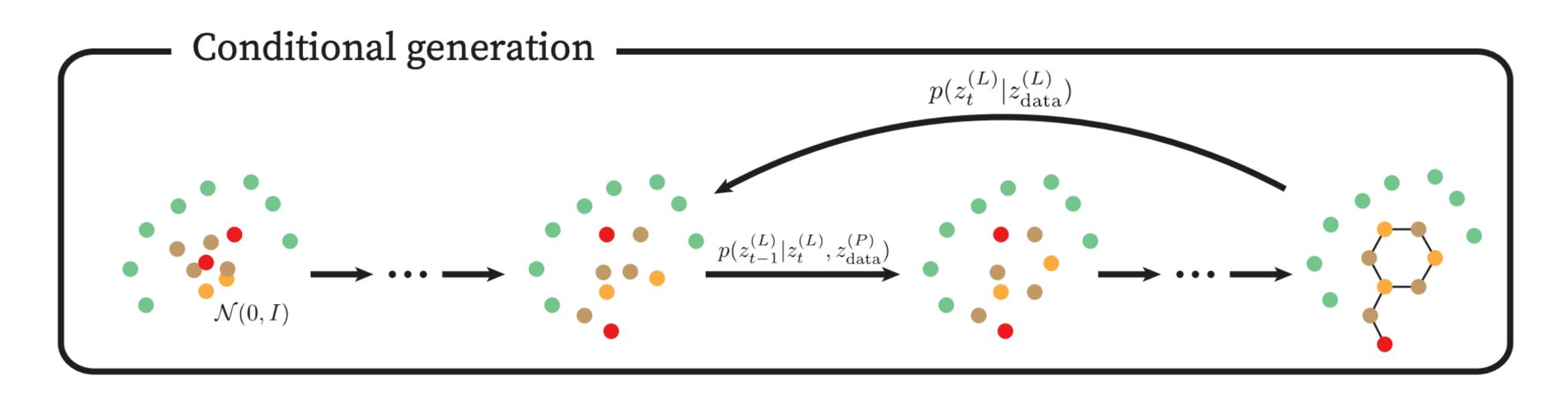
Kieran Didi University of Cambridge ked48@cam.ac.uk Arian R. Jamasb University of Cambridge arj39@cam.ac.uk

Chaitanya K. Joshi University of Cambridge ckj24@cam.ac.uk

Pietro Lio University of Cambridge pl219@cam.ac.uk Simon V. Mathis
University of Cambridge
svm34@cam.ac.uk

Tom L. Blundell University of Cambridge tlb20@cam.ac.uk

### Diffusion Models



#### STRUCTURE-BASED DRUG DESIGN WITH EQUIVARIANT DIFFUSION MODELS

Arne Schneuing<sup>1\*</sup>, Yuanqi Du<sup>2\*</sup>, Charles Harris<sup>3</sup>, Arian Jamasb<sup>3</sup>, Ilia Igashov<sup>1</sup>, Weitao Du<sup>4</sup>, Tom Blundell<sup>3</sup>, Pietro Lió<sup>3</sup>, Carla Gomes<sup>2</sup>, Max Welling<sup>5</sup>, Michael Bronstein<sup>6</sup> & Bruno Correia<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, <sup>2</sup>Cornell University, <sup>3</sup>University of Cambridge, <sup>4</sup>USTC, <sup>5</sup>Microsoft Research AI4Science, <sup>6</sup>University of Oxford



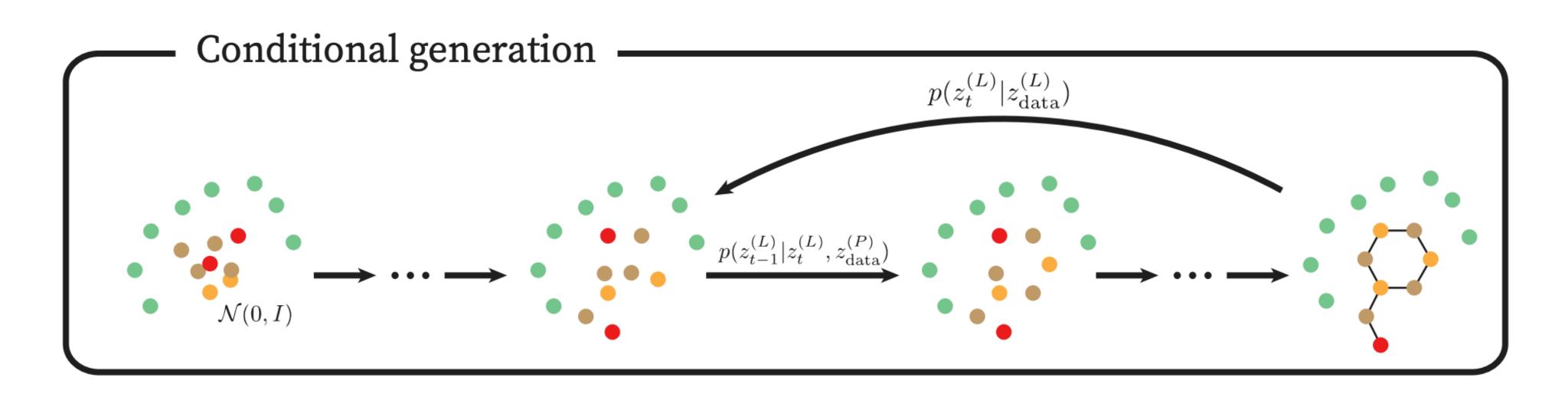
**Quantitative Biology > Biomolecules** 

[Submitted on 4 Oct 2022 (v1), last revised 11 Feb 2023 (this version, v2)]

DiffDock: Diffusion Steps, Twists, and Turns for Molecular Docking

Gabriele Corso, Hannes Stärk, Bowen Jing, Regina Barzilay, Tommi Jaakkola

### Diffusion Models



### STRUCTURE-BASED DRUG DESIGN WITH EQUIVARIANT DIFFUSION MODELS

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<sup>1</sup>École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, <sup>2</sup>Cornell University, <sup>3</sup>University of Cambridge, <sup>4</sup>USTC, <sup>5</sup>Microsoft Research AI4Science, <sup>6</sup>University of Oxford

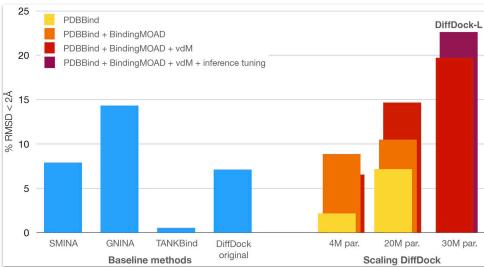
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**Quantitative Biology > Biomolecules** 

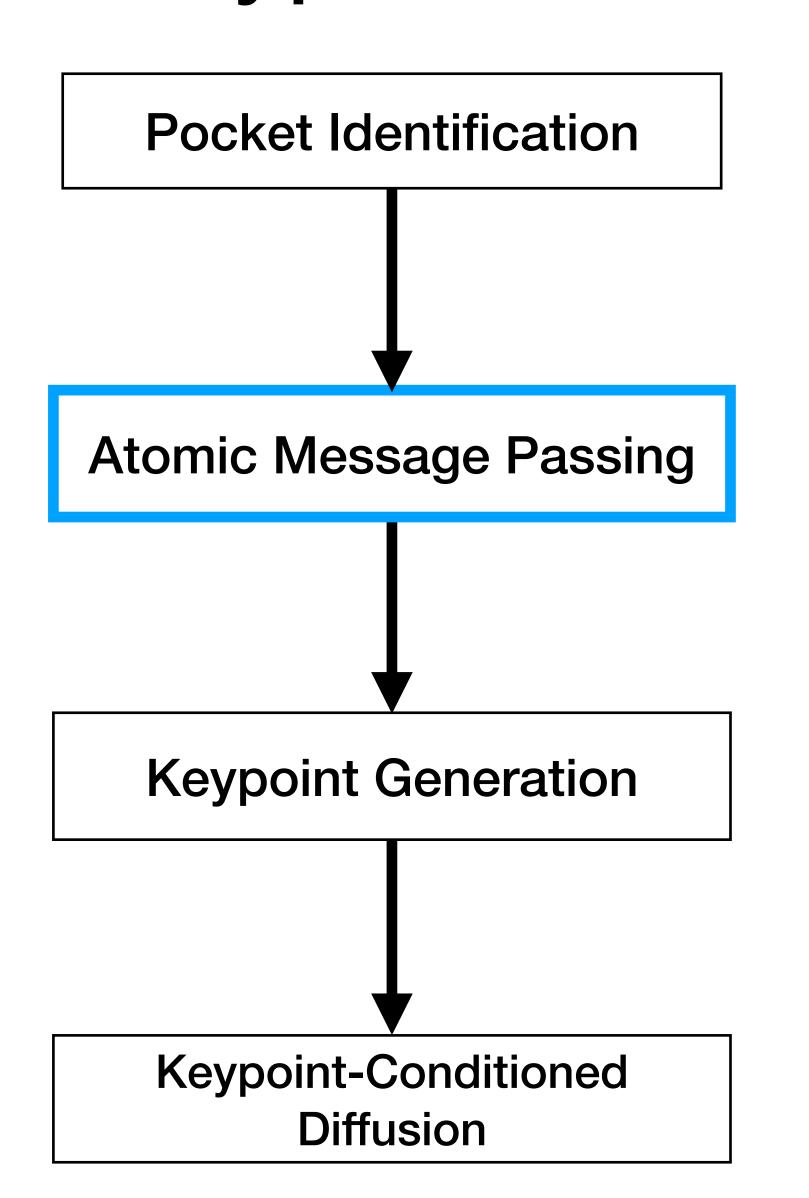
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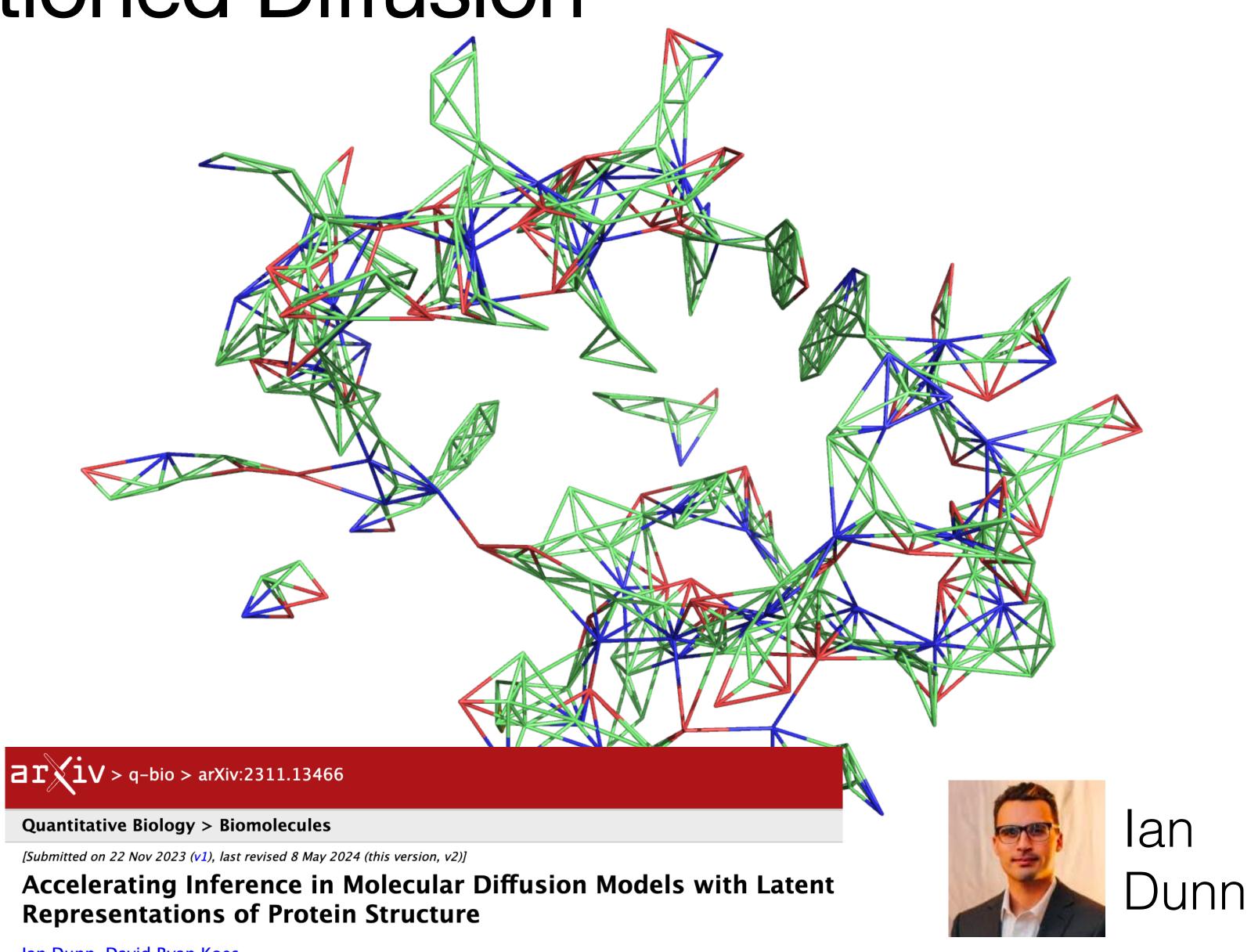
DiffDock: Diffusion Steps, Twists, and Turns for Molecular Docking

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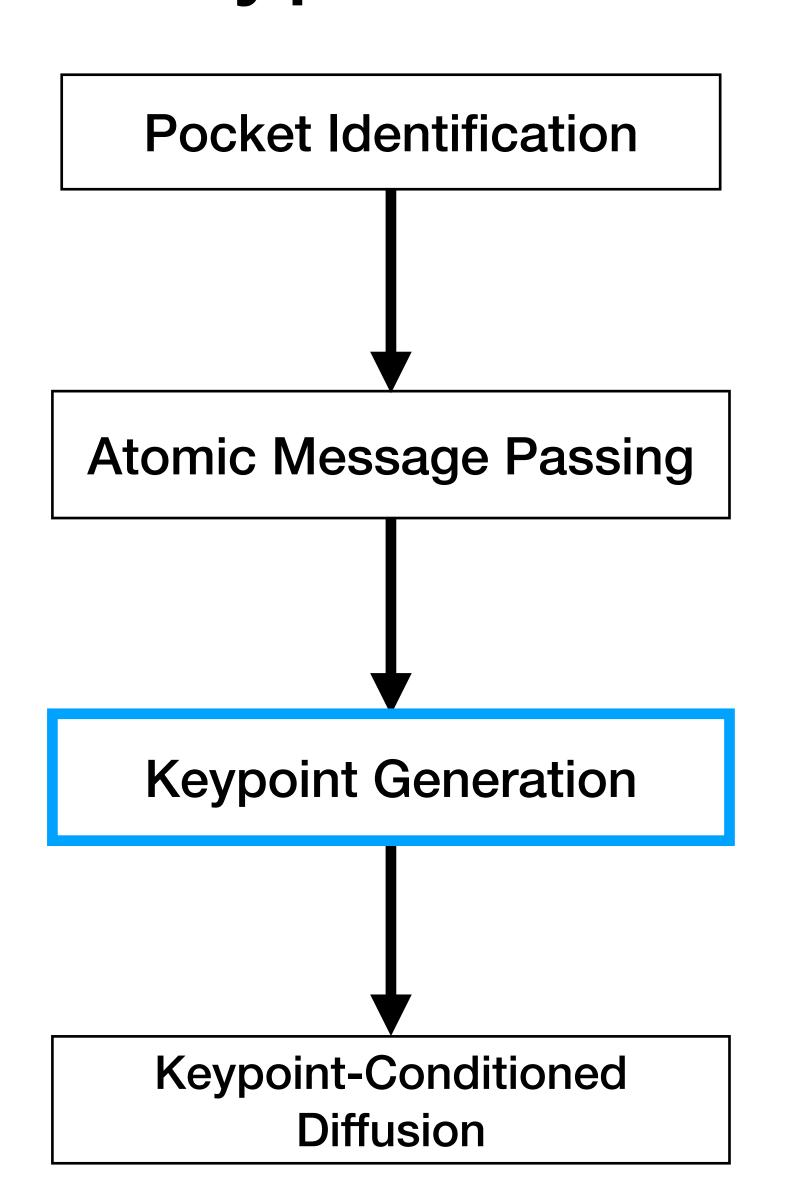


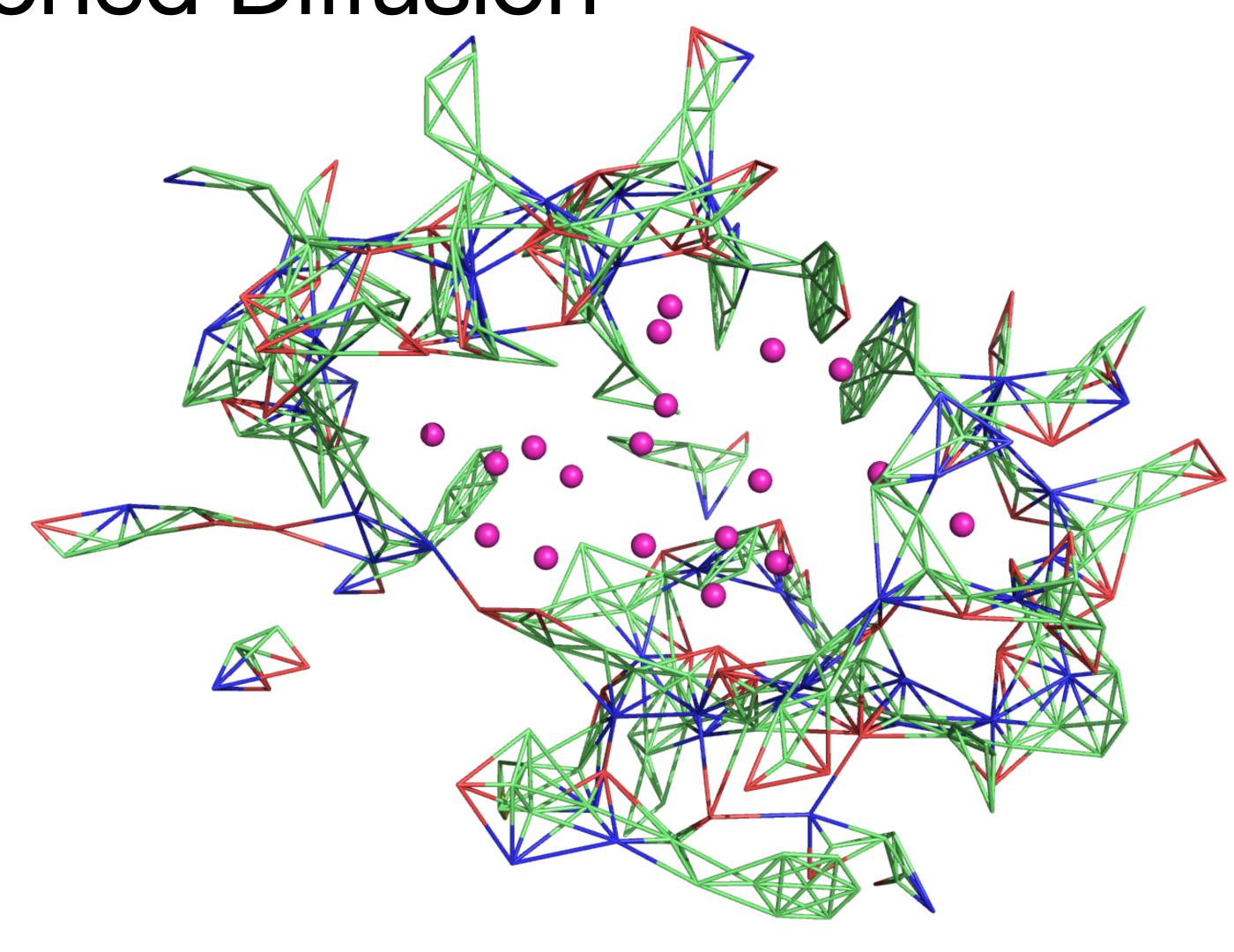
Keypoint Conditioned Diffusion

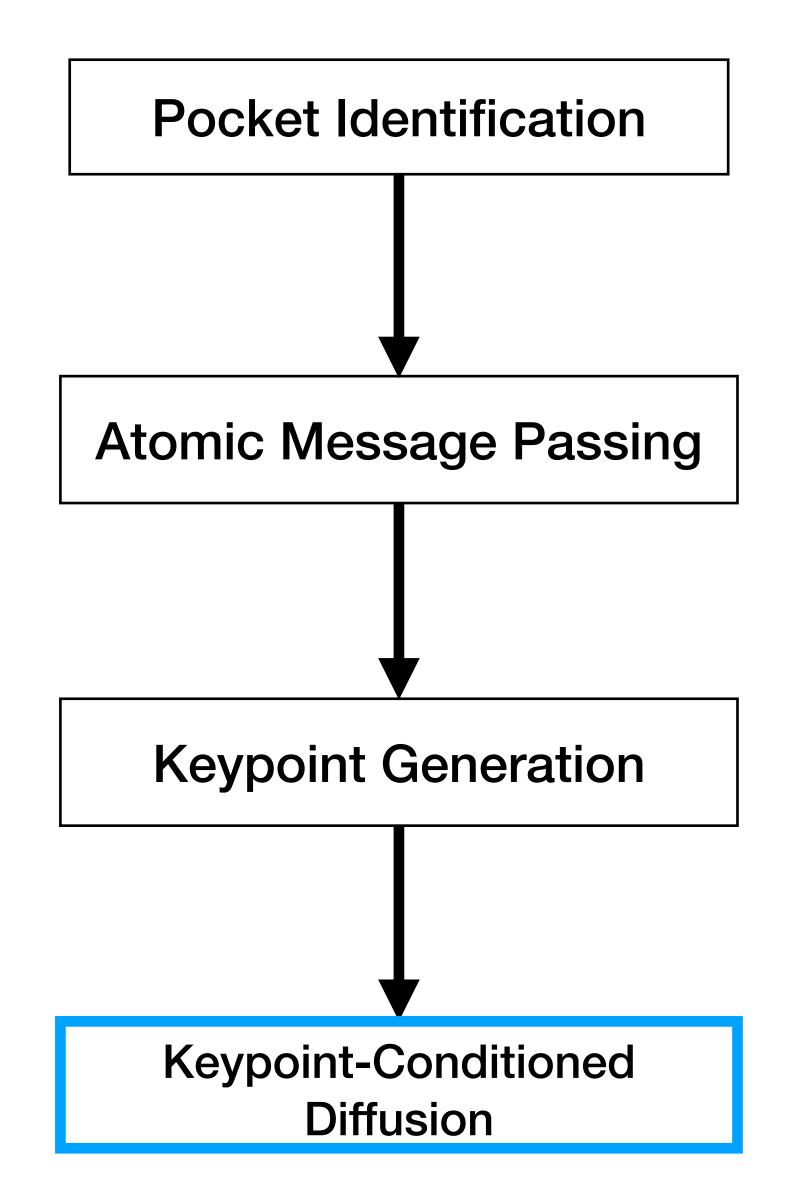


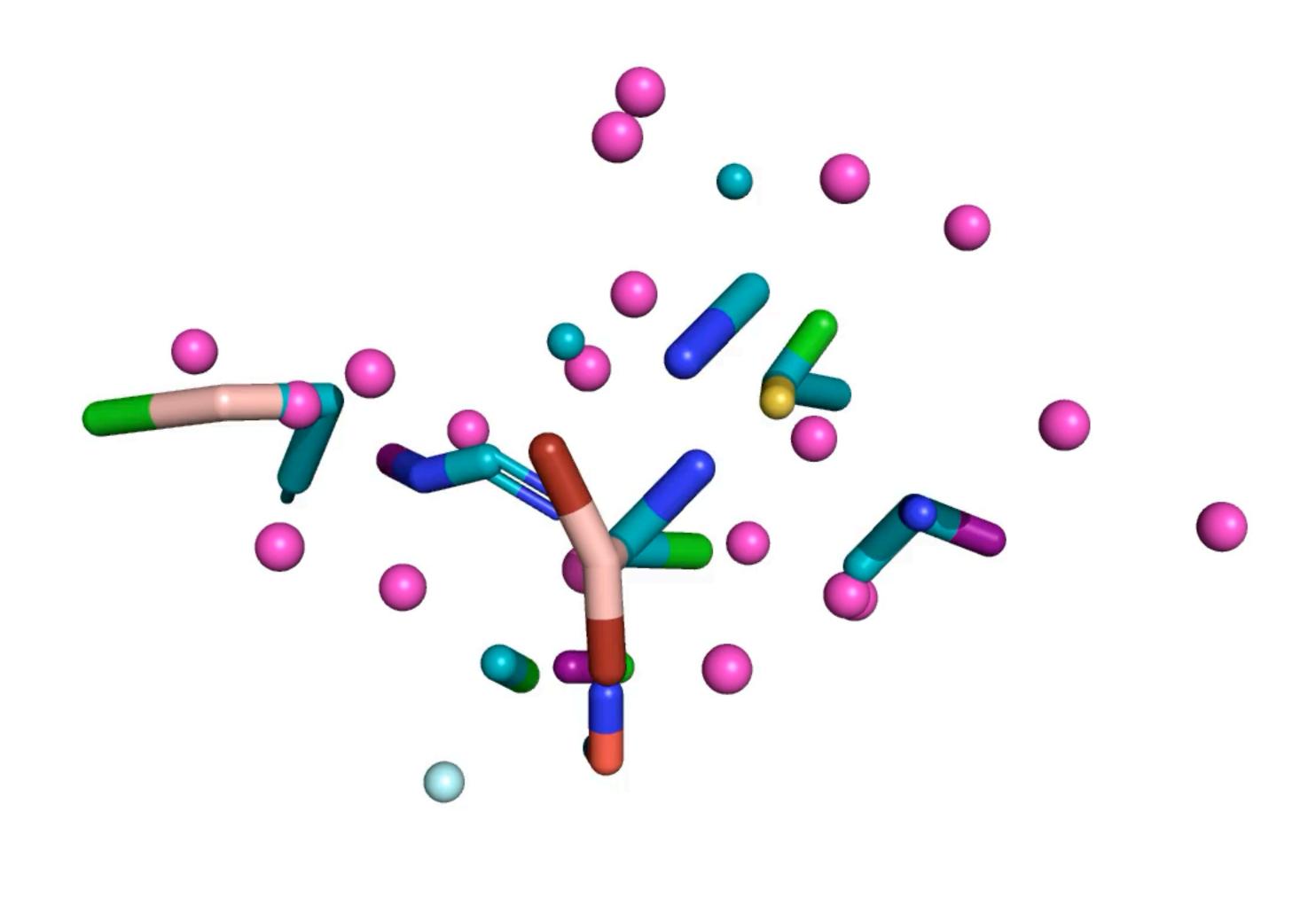


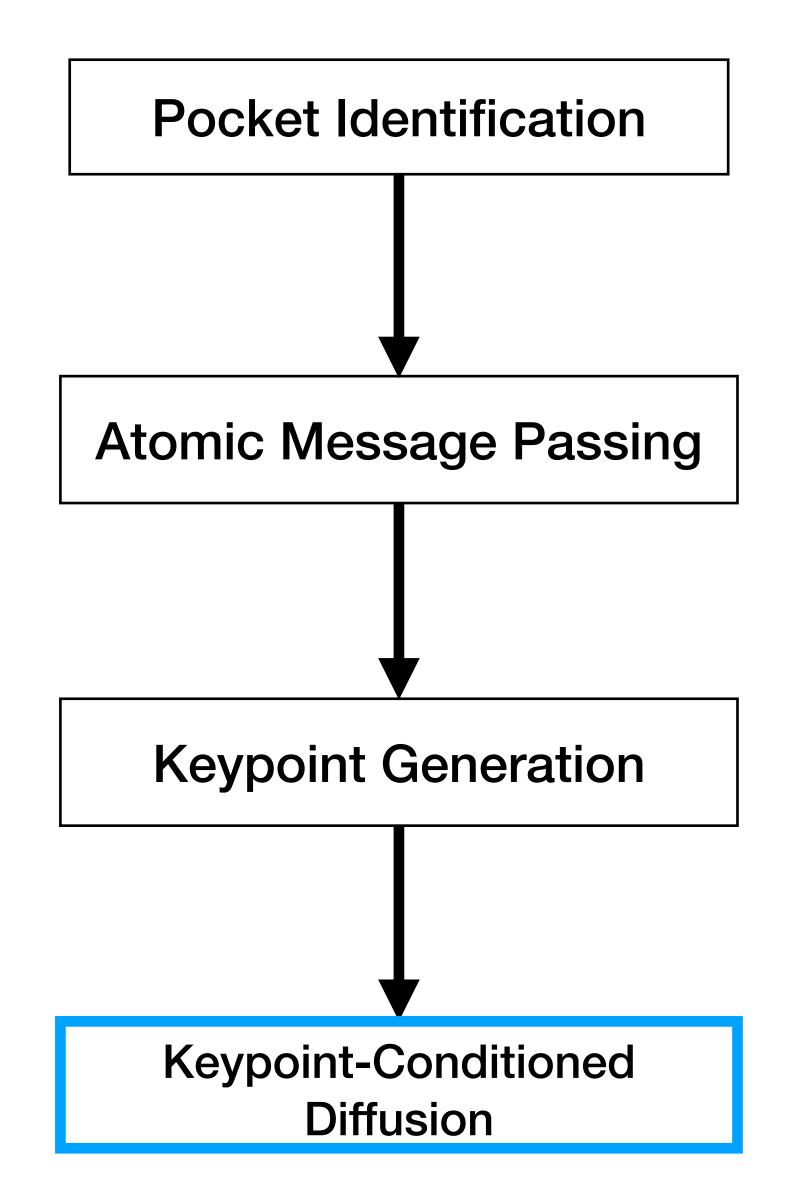
lan Dunn, David Ryan Koes

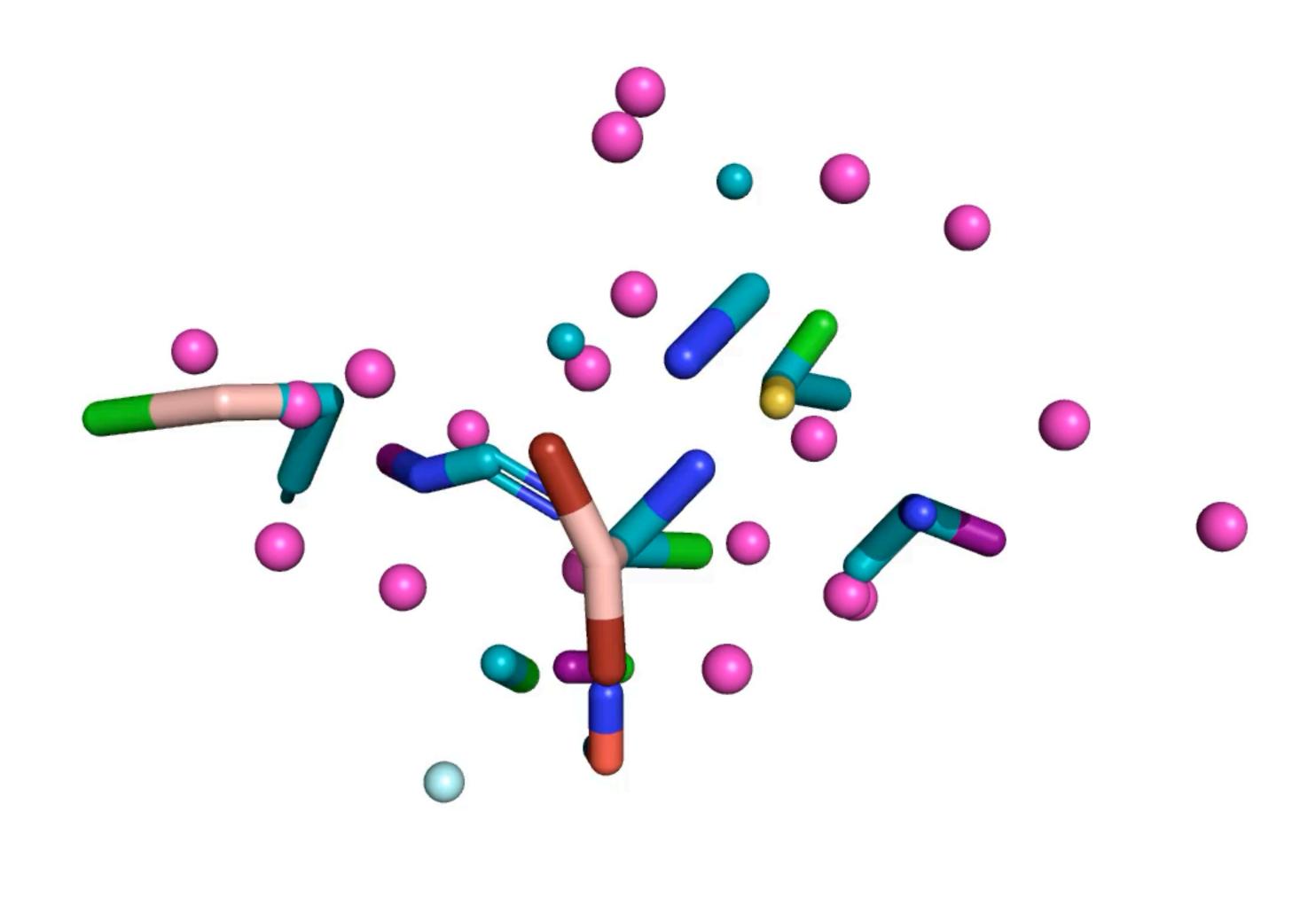


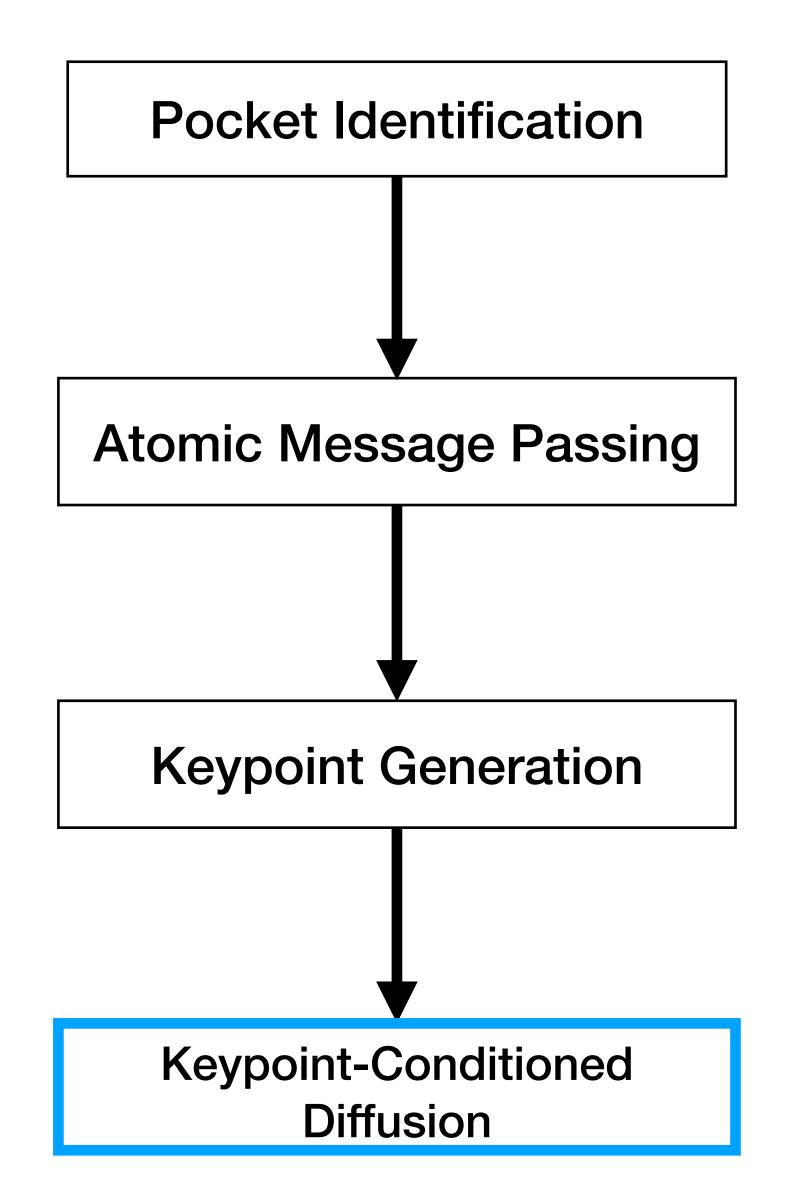


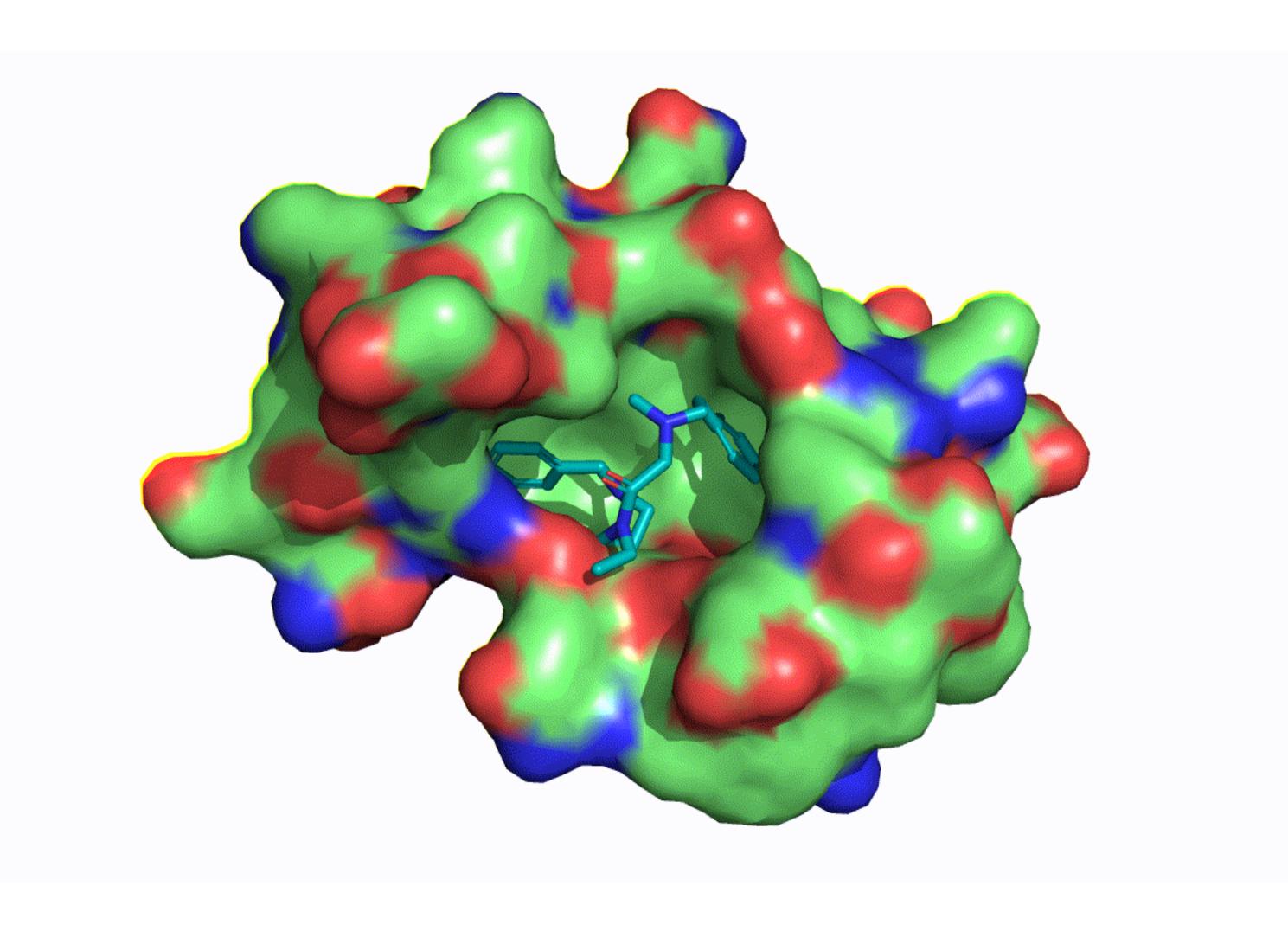


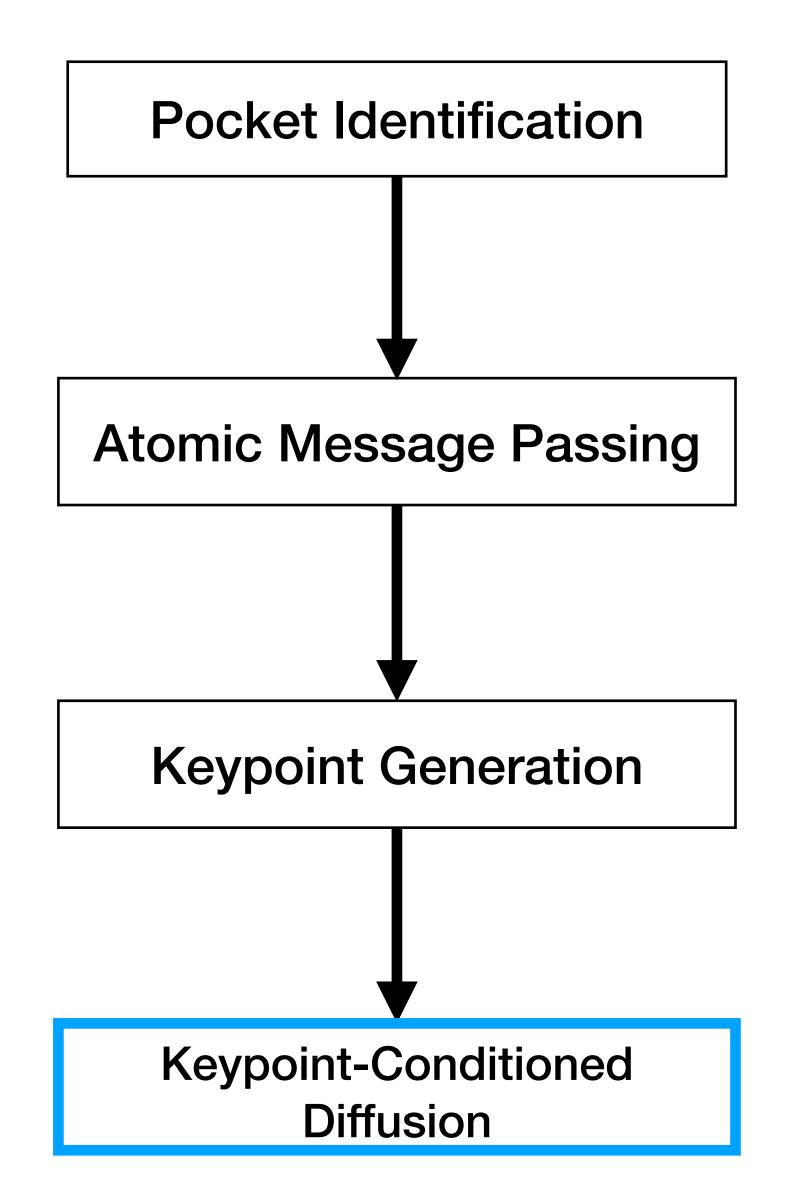


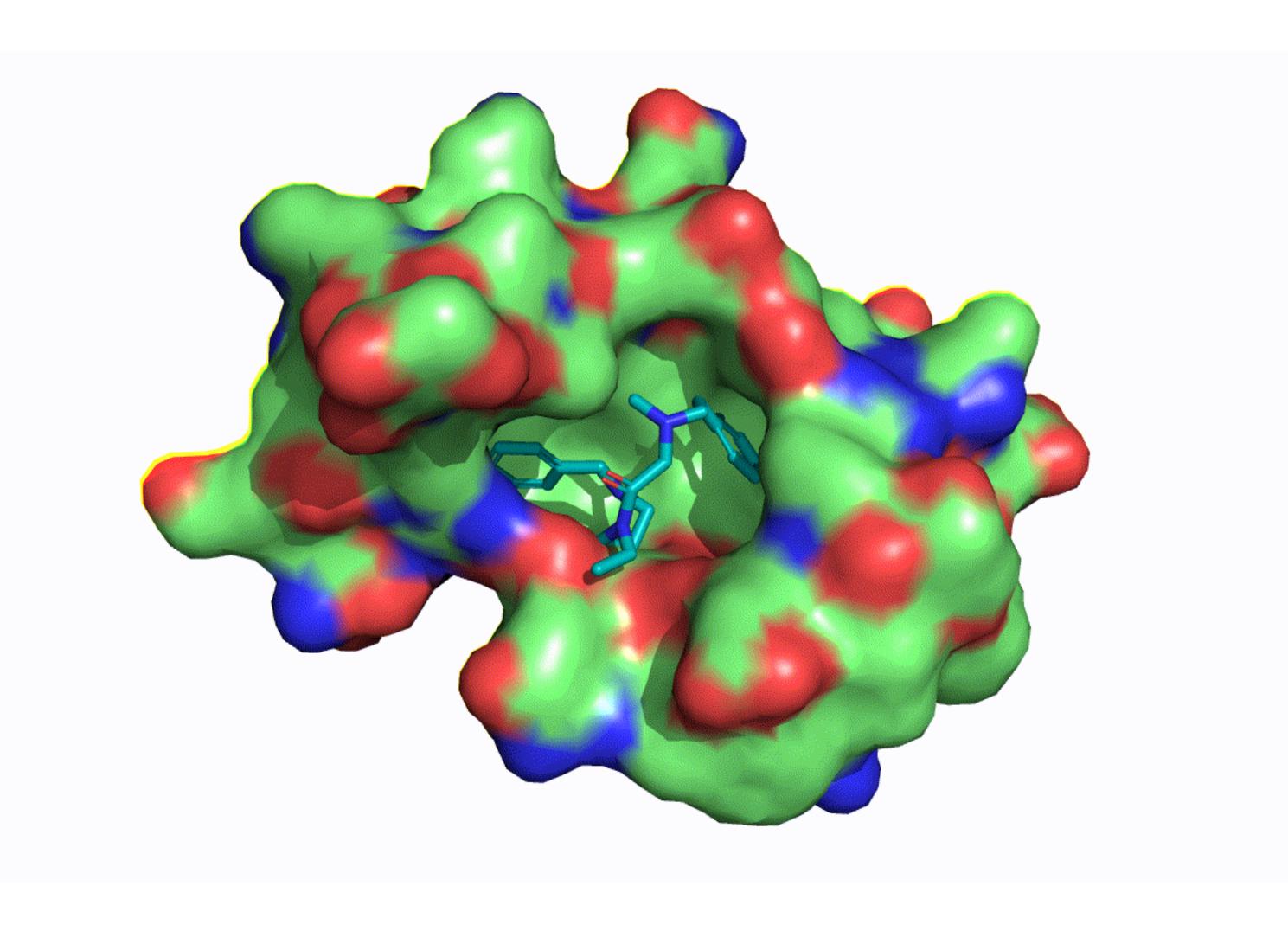














GVP all-atom

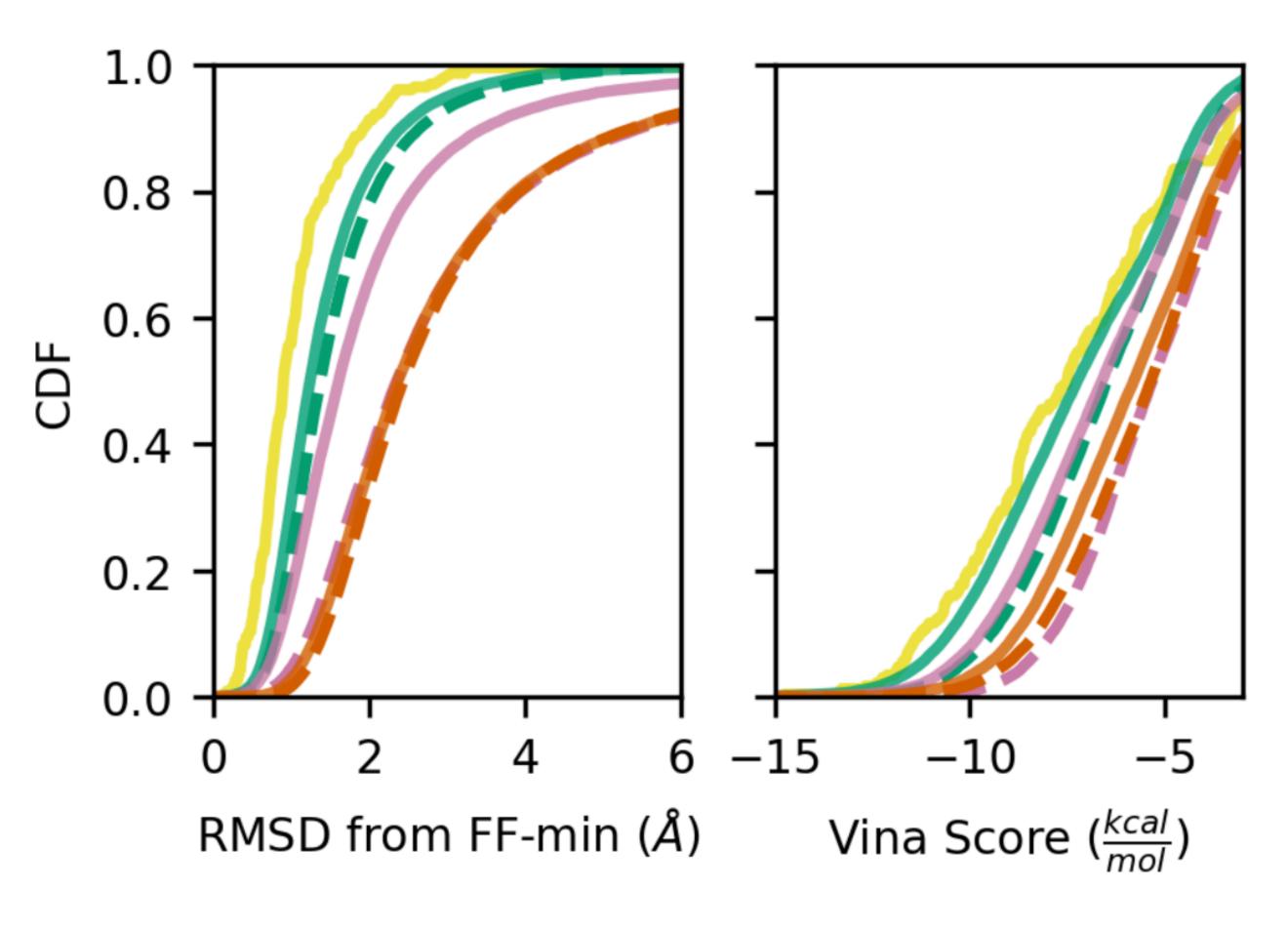
EGNN all-atom

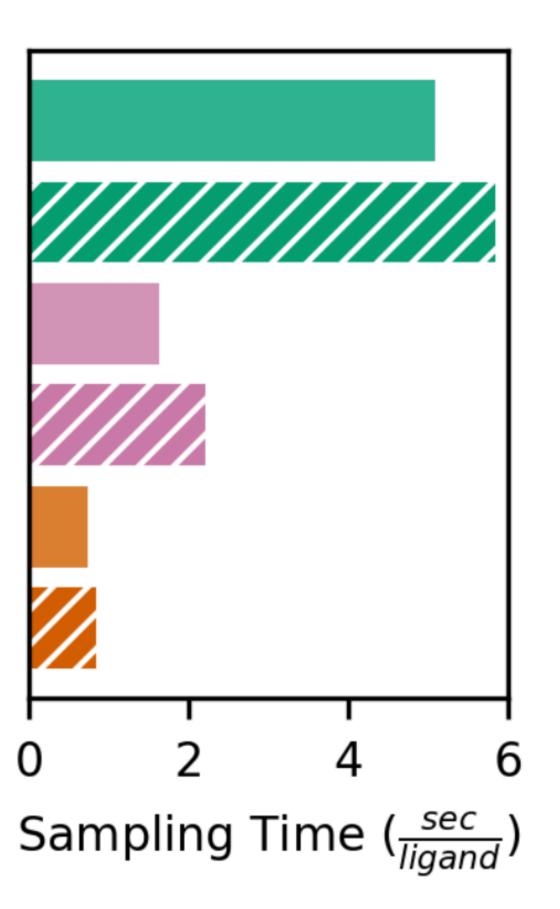
—— GVP keypoints

EGNN keypoints

--- GVP  $C_{\alpha}$ 

- EGNN  $C_{\alpha}$ 

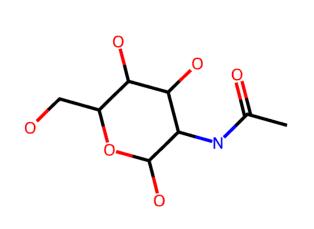




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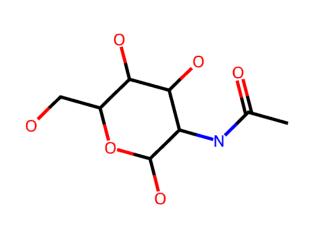
#### **Generated Molecules**

#### Reference Molecules

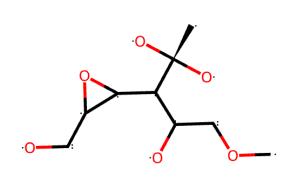


#### **Generated Molecules**

#### Reference Molecules



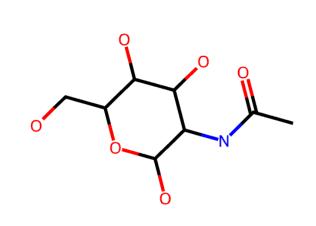
#### **Generated Molecules**



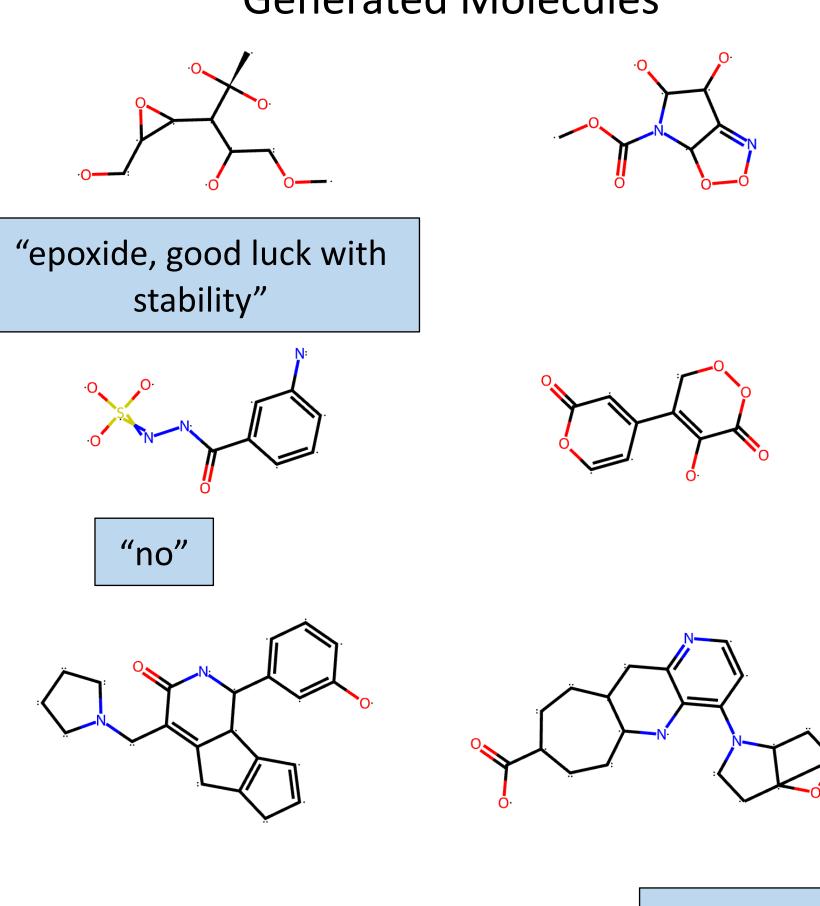
"epoxide, good luck with stability"

"certainly unstable"

#### Reference Molecules



#### **Generated Molecules**

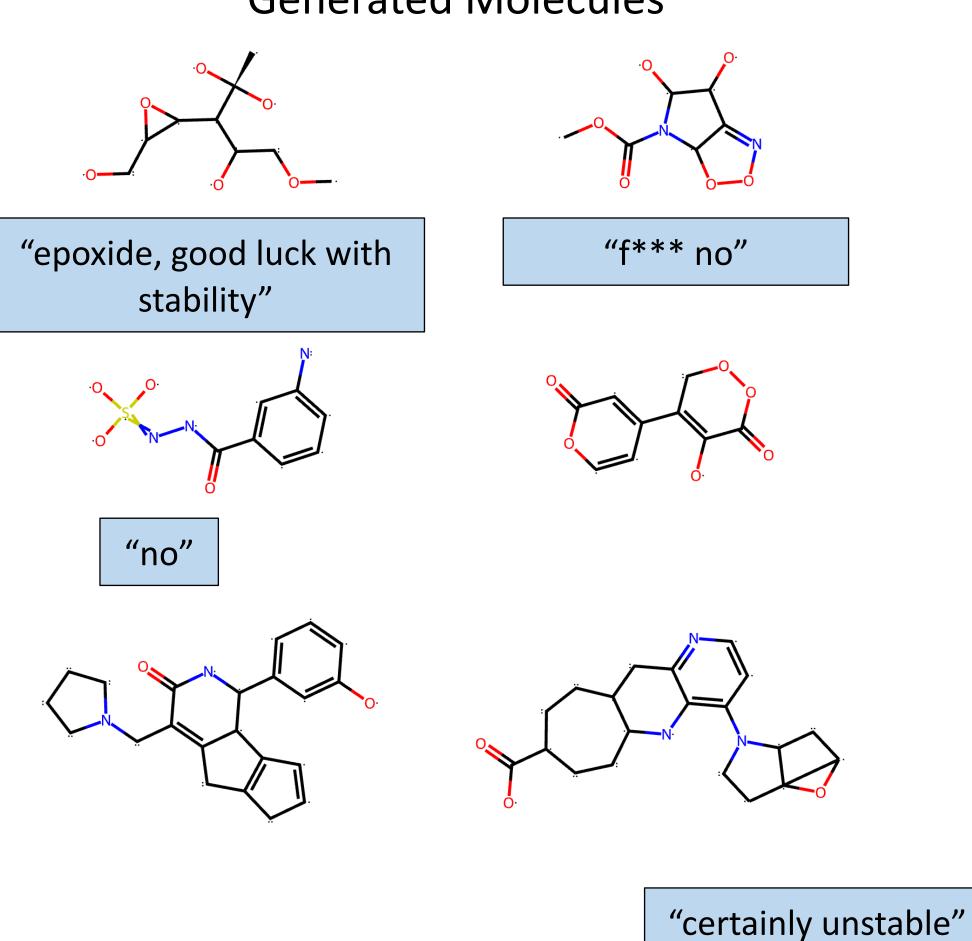


"certainly unstable"

#### Reference Molecules



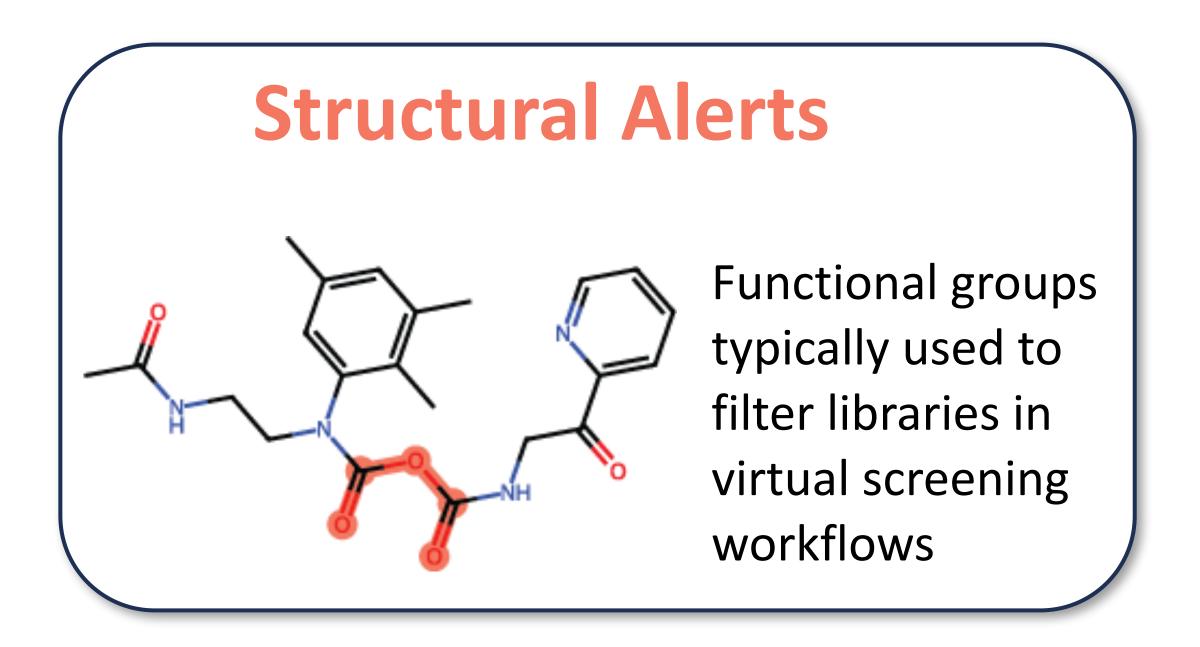
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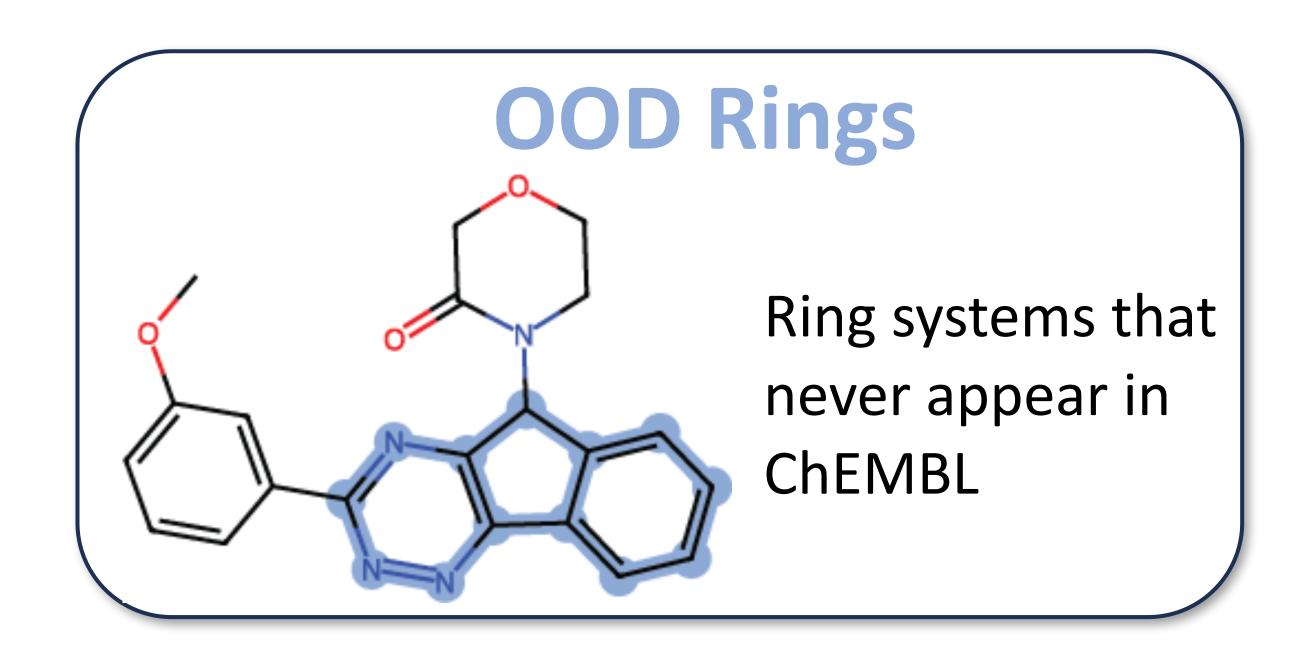


#### Practical Measures of Molecule Quality

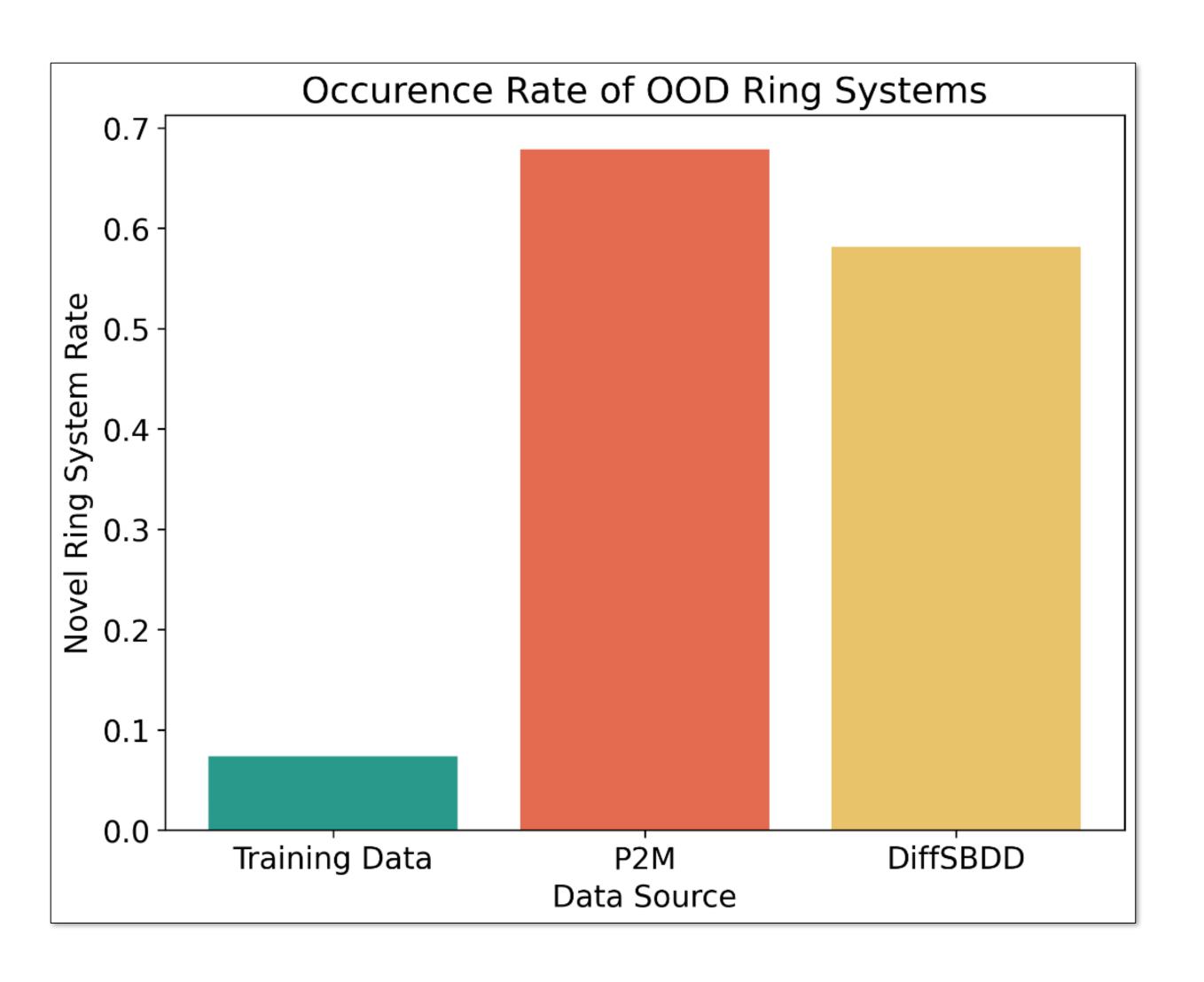
Existing literature primarily focuses on validity/valency; necessary but insufficient dimensions of molecule quality

We propose to evaluate molecule quality at the level of functional groups and ring systems

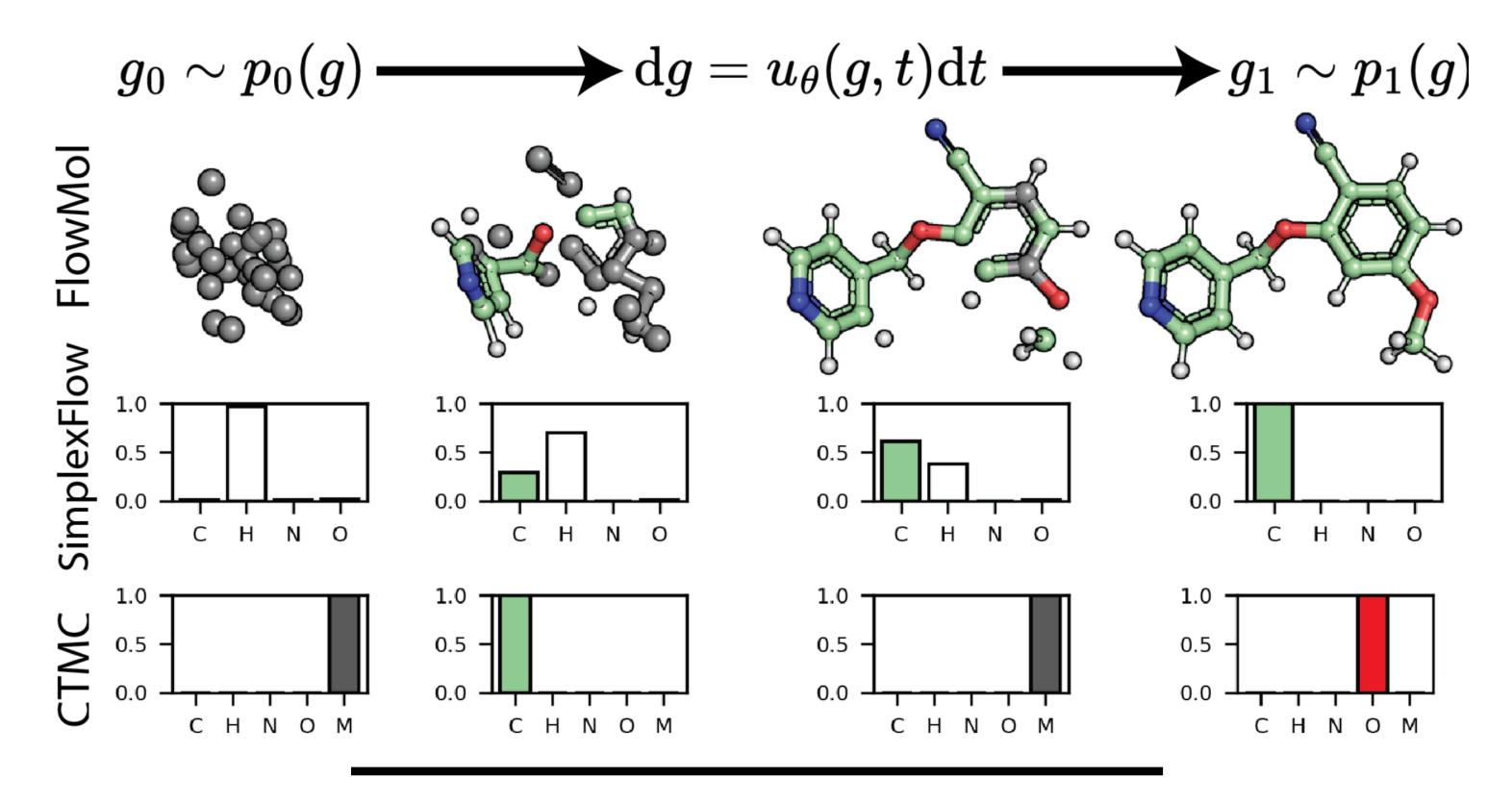




#### Practical Measures of Molecule Quality



#### Unconditional Generation with FlowMol



**Exploring Discrete Flow Matching for 3D De Novo Molecule Generation** 

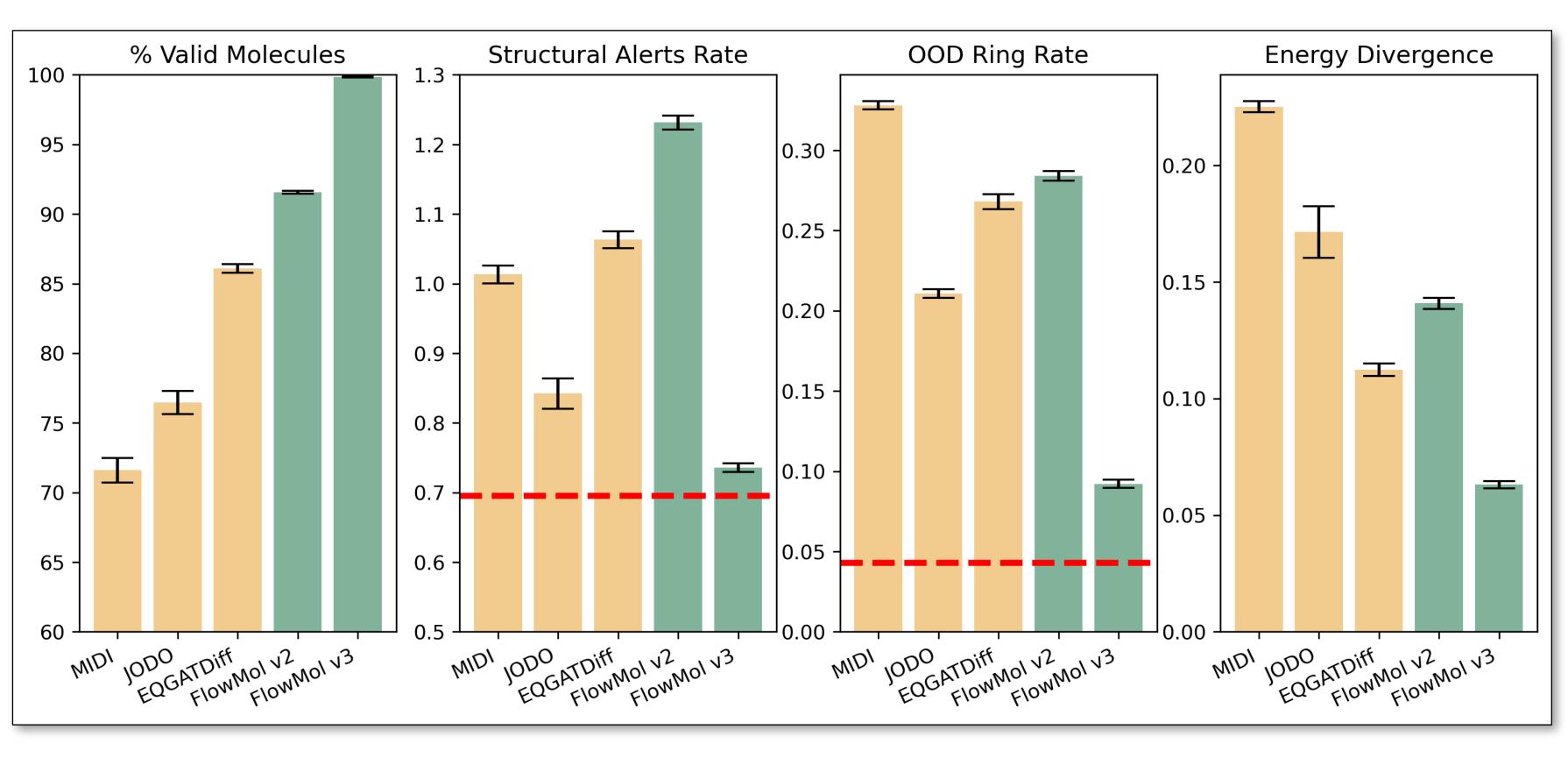


Ian Dunn
Dept. of Computational & Systems Biology
University of Pittsburgh
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ian.dunn@pitt.edu

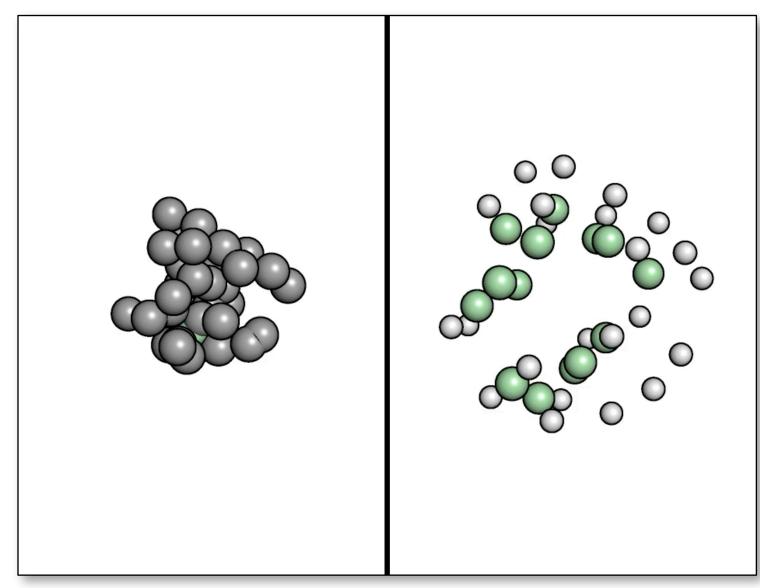
**David Ryan Koes** 

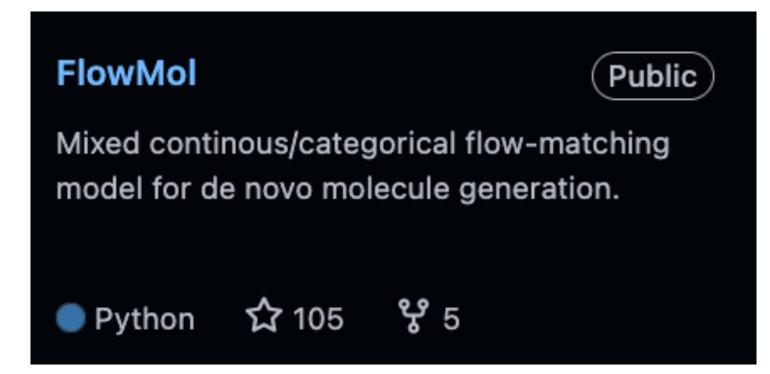
Dept. of Computational & Systems Biology
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
dkoes@pitt.edu

### FIOWMOI V3

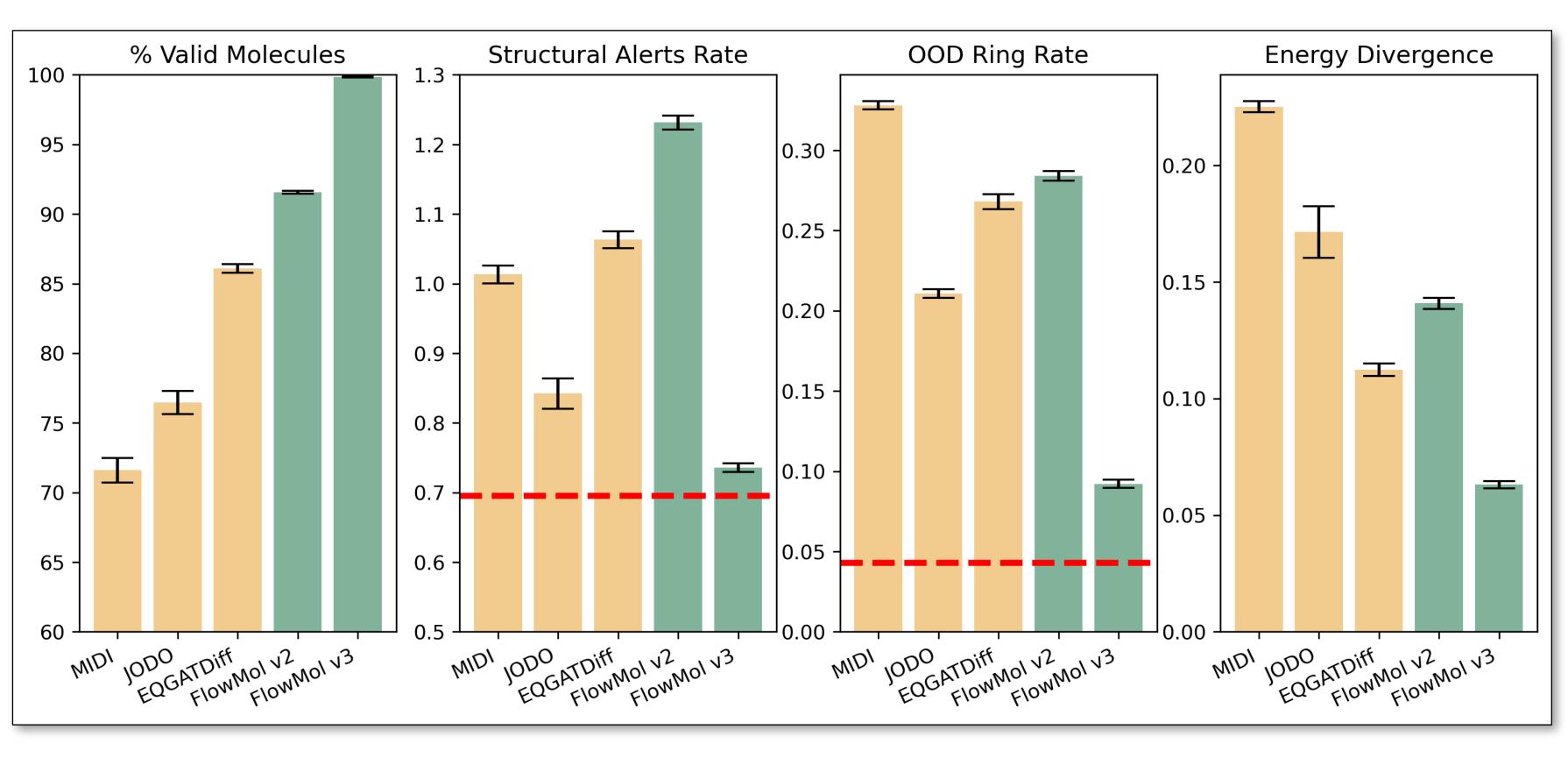


- State of the art validity
- Improves chemical plausibility and synthetic accessibility

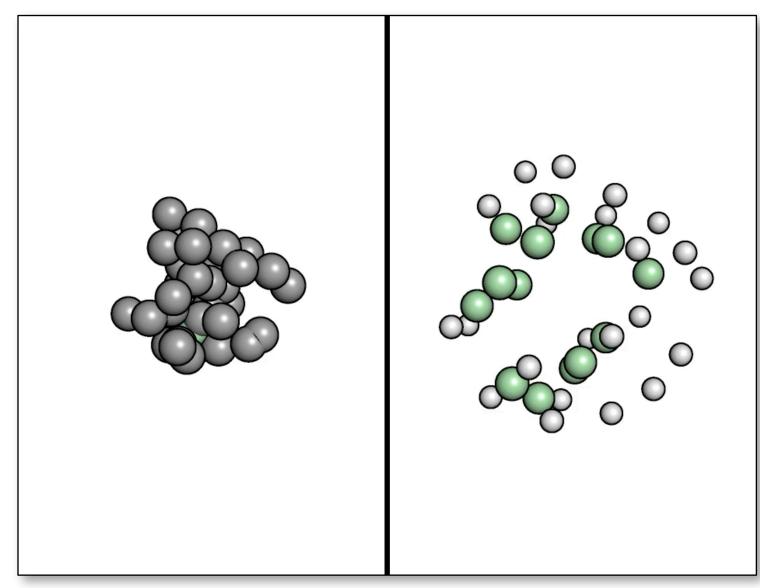


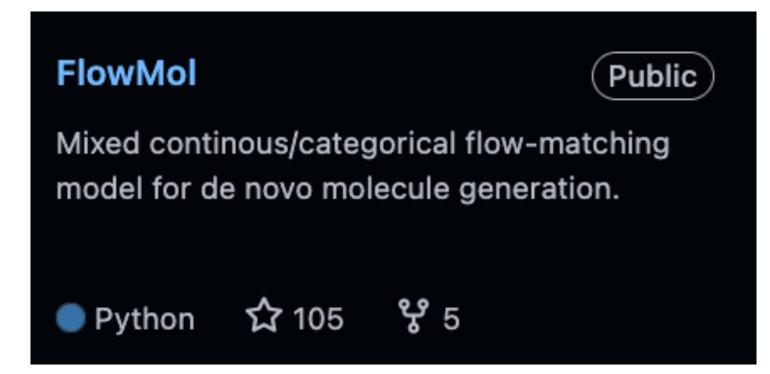


### FIOWMOI V3



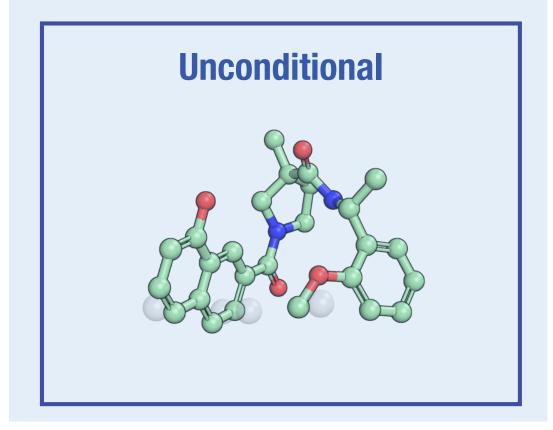
- State of the art validity
- Improves chemical plausibility and synthetic accessibility



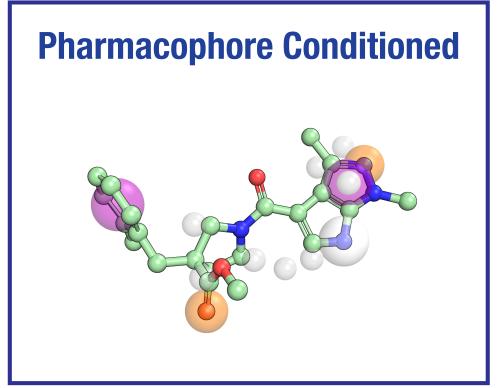


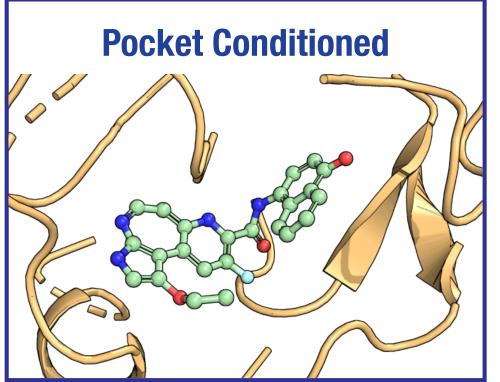
### OMTRA

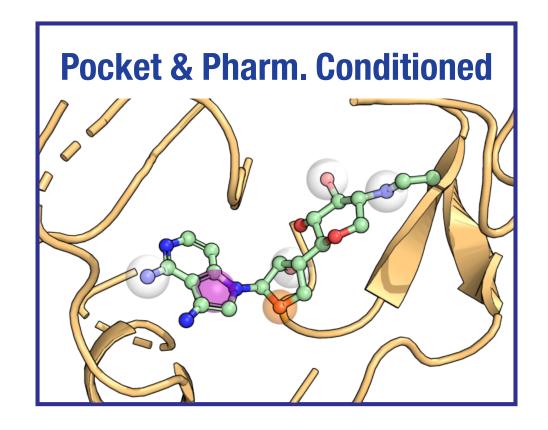
#### FlowMol3

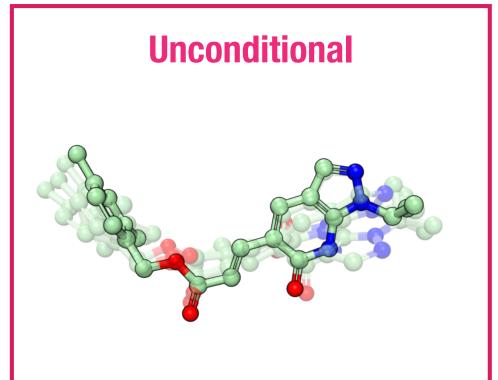


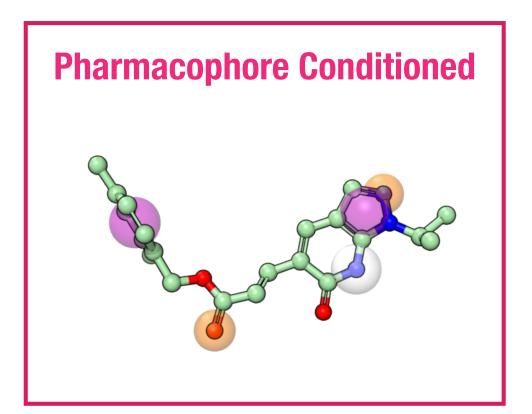


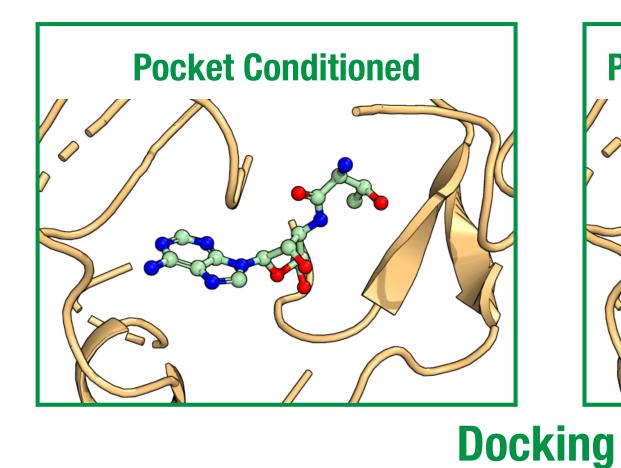


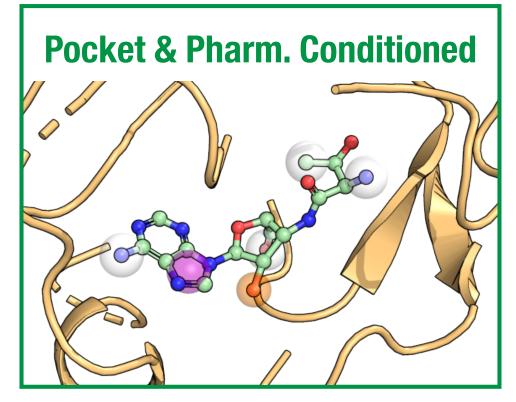












**Conformer Generation** 

lan Dunn

Tyler Katz









Ramith <u>Hettiarachchi</u>

# OMTRA: De Novo Design

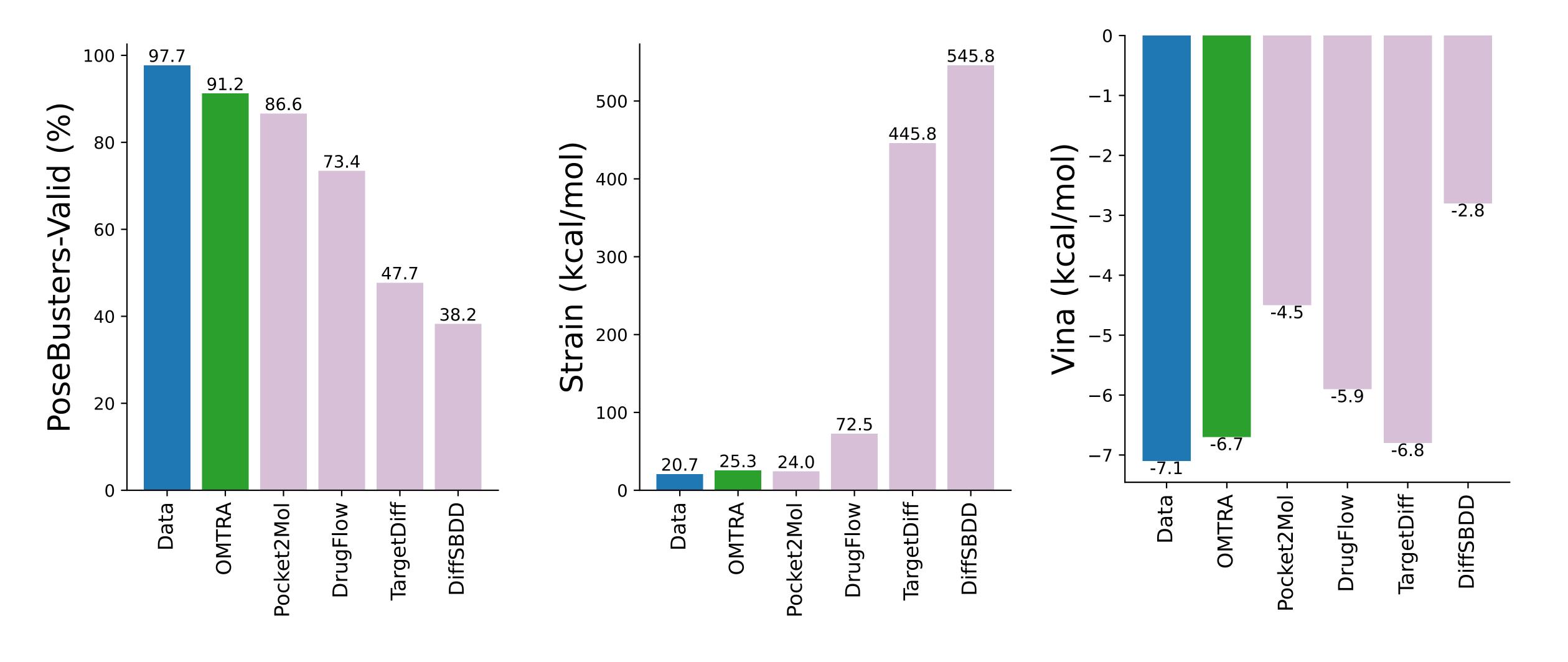


# OMTRA: De Novo Design

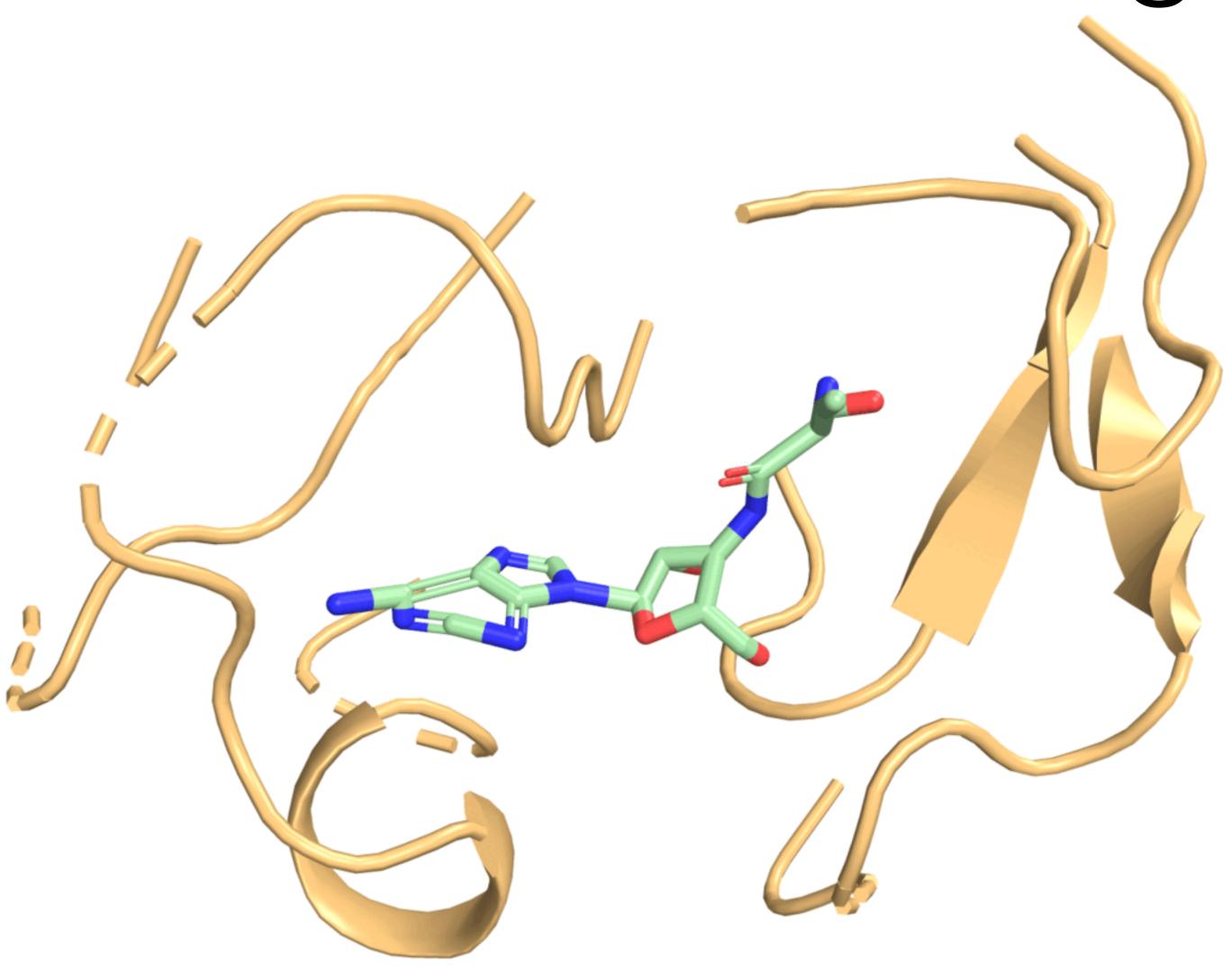


# OMTRA: De Novo Design

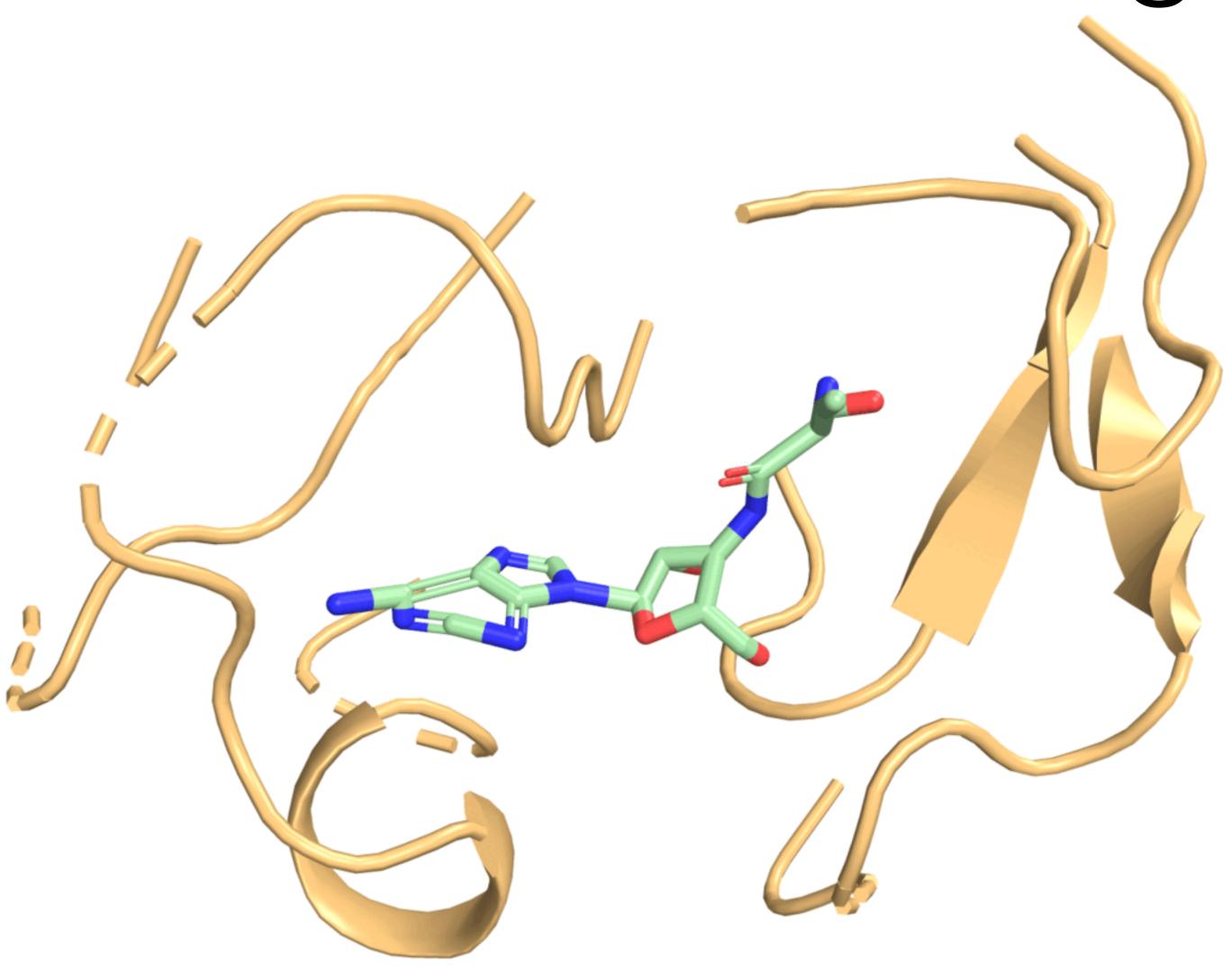
Evaluated on Luo et al CrossDocked test set.



# OMTRA: Docking

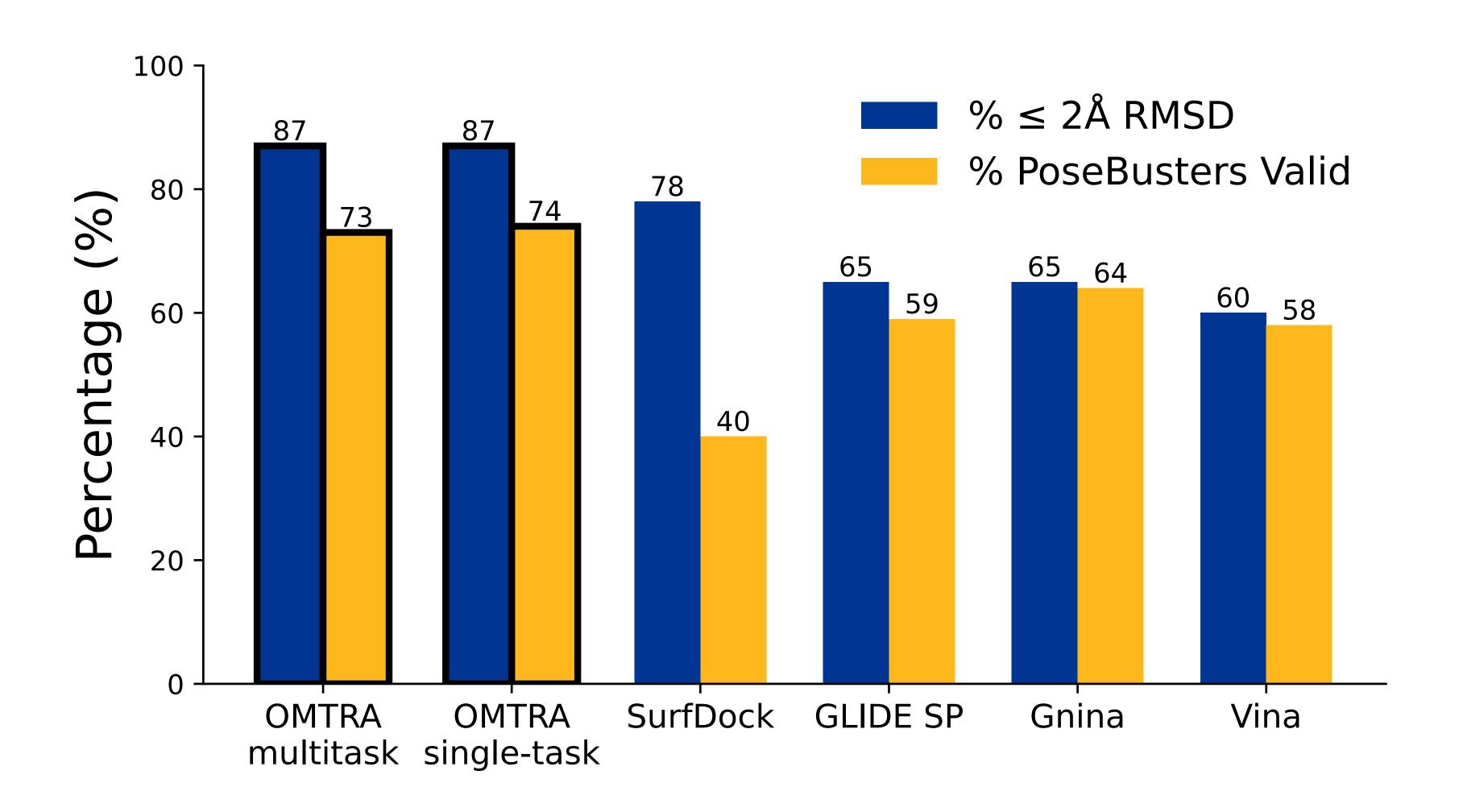


# OMTRA: Docking



## OMTRA: Docking

Evaluated on PoseBusters test set.

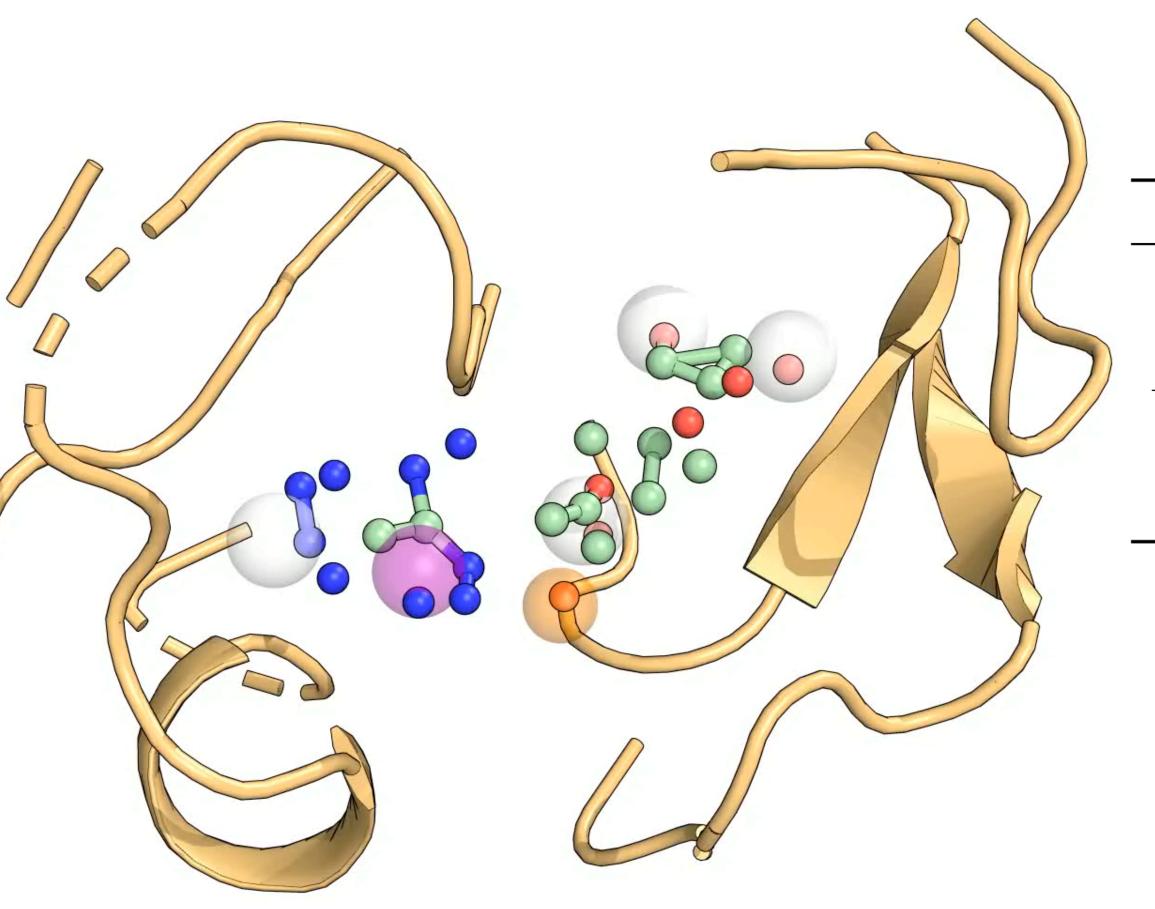


# OMTRA: Transfer Learning?

Evaluated on PLINDER test set.

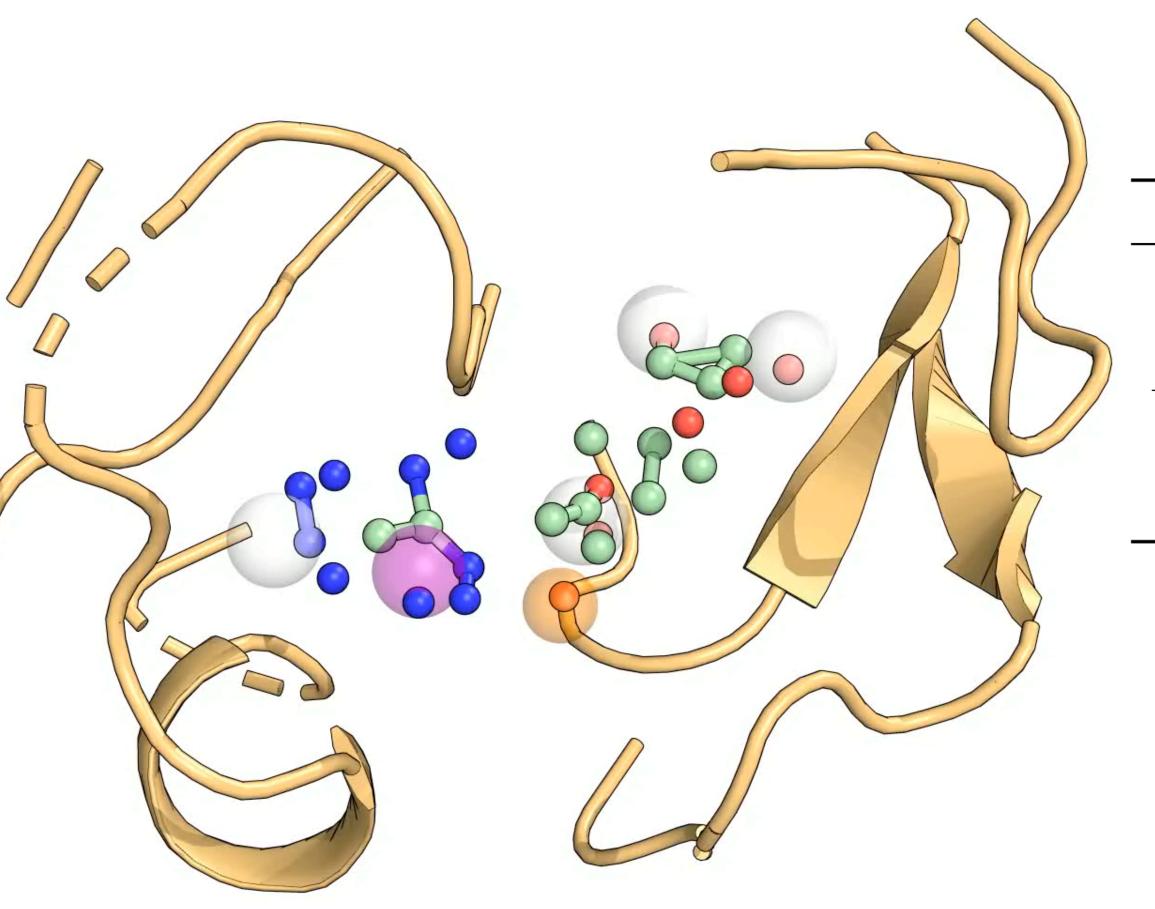
		De Novo Design		Docking		
Multitask	Pretrained	% Valid	%PB-Valid	strain	$\% \leq 2\text{Å}$	%PB-Valid
Data			94.0	39.2		
X	X	98.4	71.2	96.2	92.0	75.0
X		96.6	67.4	125.6	91.0	73.0
		97.6	69.7	69.6	95.0	75.0

### OMTRA: Pharmacophore Conditioning



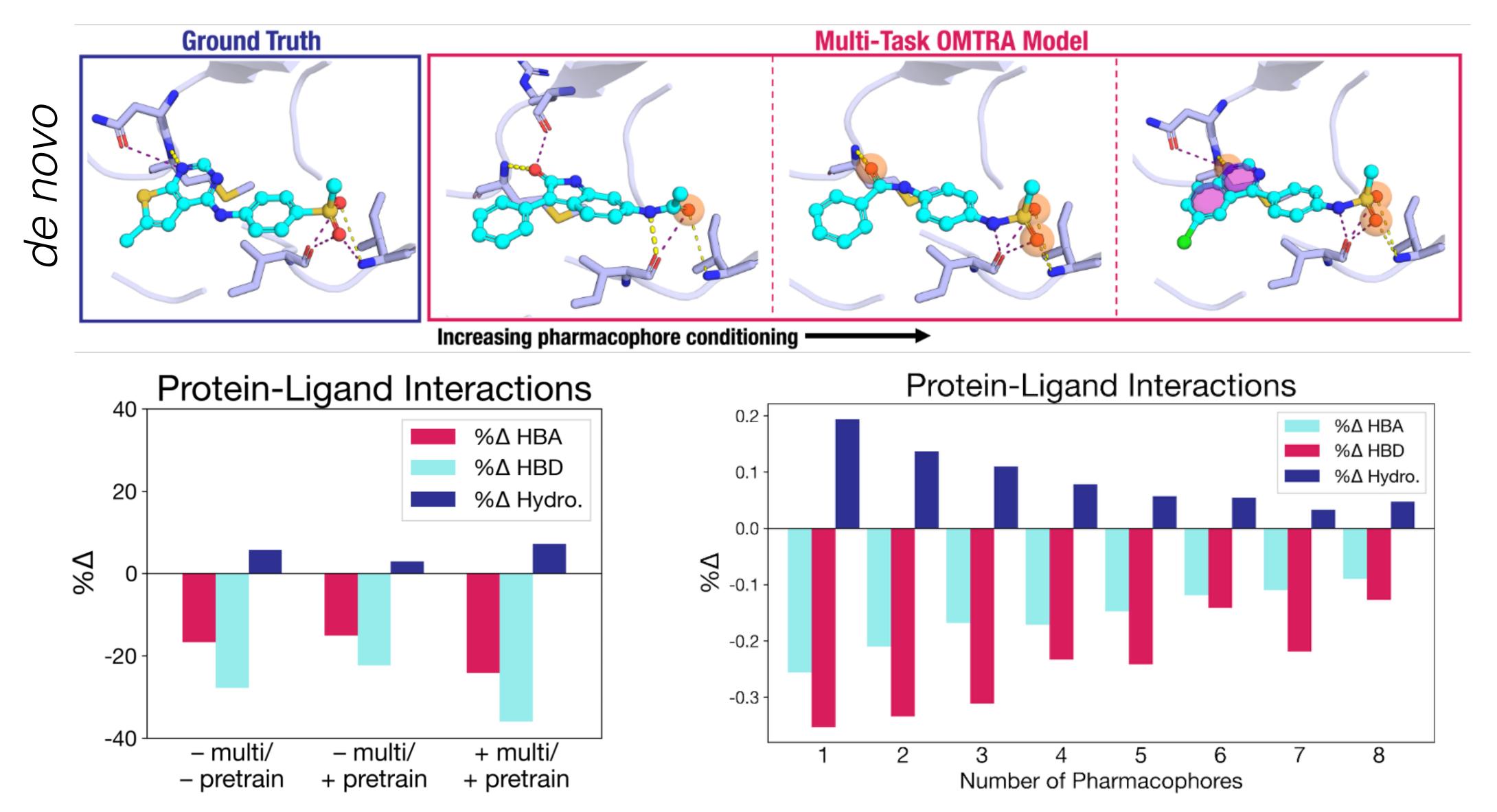
		Prot Conditioning	Prot + Pharm Conditioning
de novo design	%PB-Valid	67.5	66.2
	interaction recovery	51.0	67.4
	% Pharm Matches	-	96.9
docking	$% RMSD \le 2 Å$	93.0	99.0
· ·	%PB-Valid	73.0	81.0
	% Pharm Matches	-	99.5

### OMTRA: Pharmacophore Conditioning



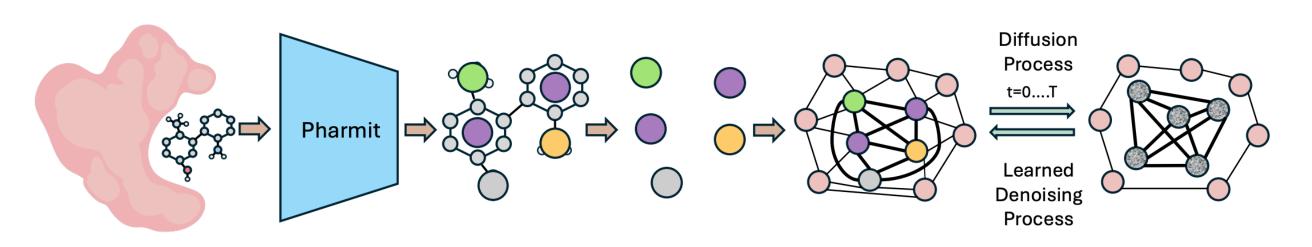
		Prot Conditioning	Prot + Pharm Conditioning
de novo design	%PB-Valid	67.5	66.2
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docking	$% RMSD \le 2 Å$	93.0	99.0
· ·	%PB-Valid	73.0	81.0
	% Pharm Matches	-	99.5

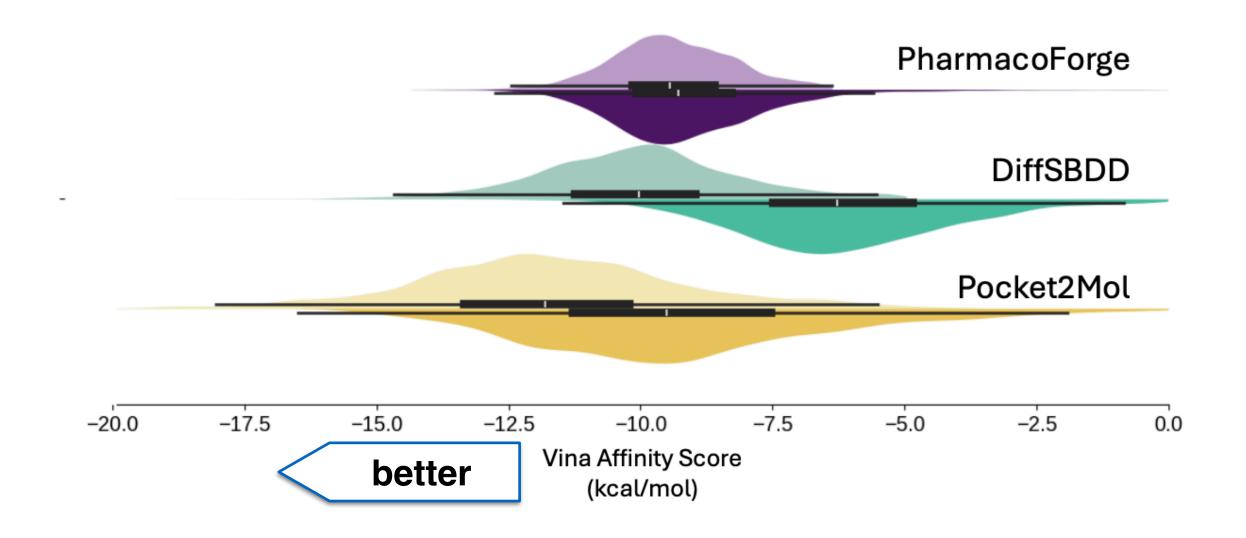
### OMTRA: Pharmacophore Conditioning



### Generating Descriptions of Molecules

## PharmacoForge



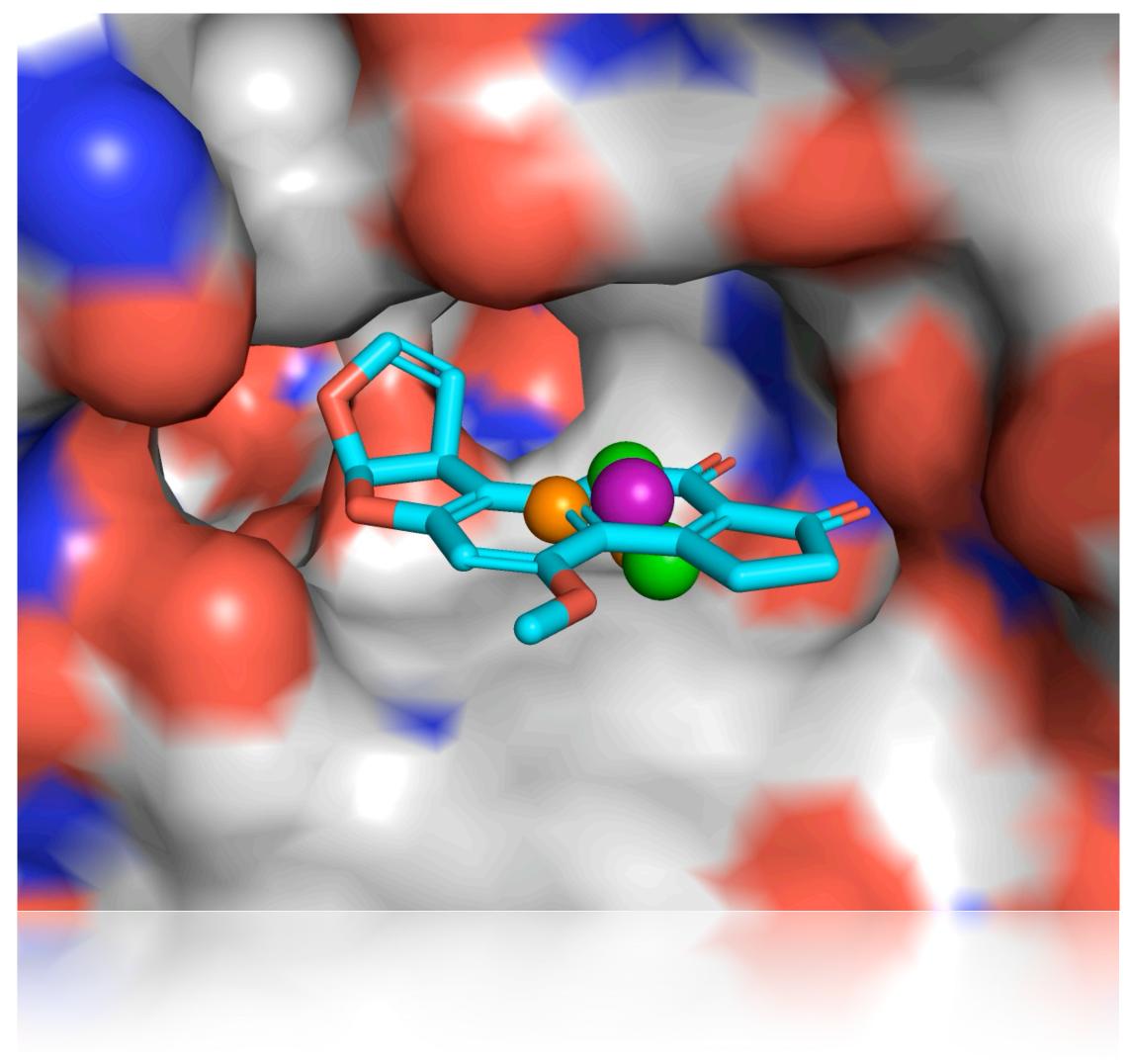










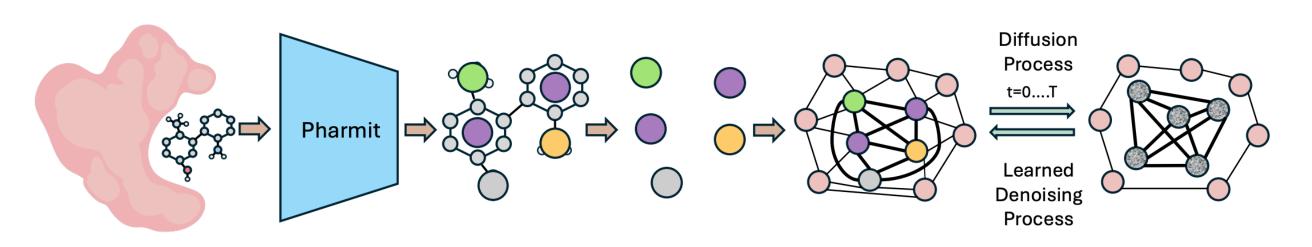


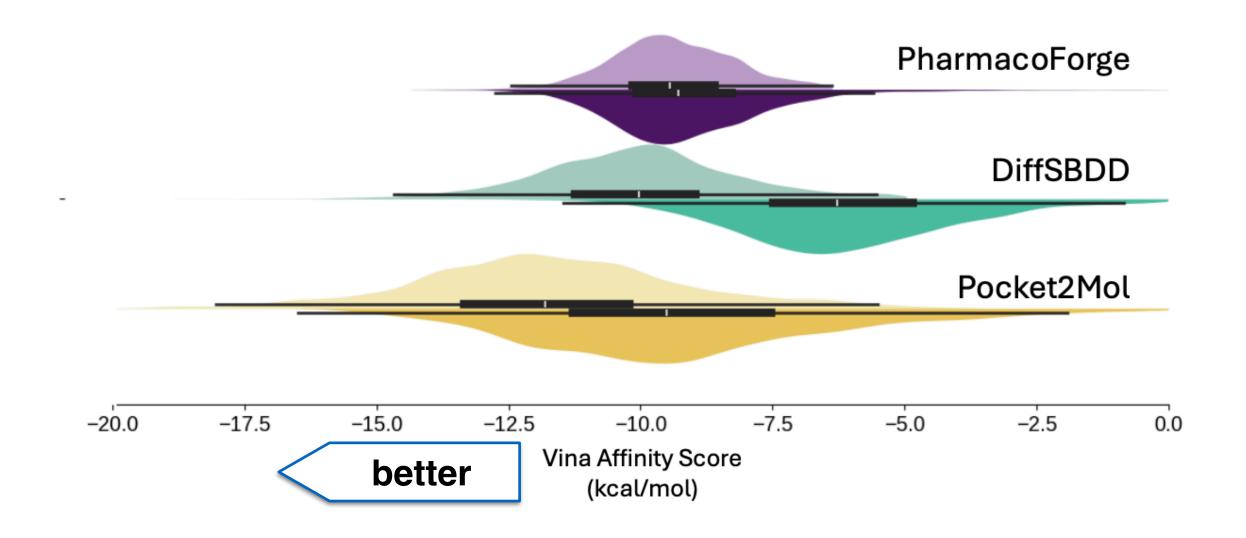
PharmacoForge: pharmacophore generation with diffusion models

Emma L. Flynn<sup>1,2</sup>, Riya Shah <sup>1</sup>, Ian Dunn <sup>1,2</sup>, Rishal Aggarwal <sup>1,2</sup> and David Ryan Koes <sup>1</sup>\*



## PharmacoForge



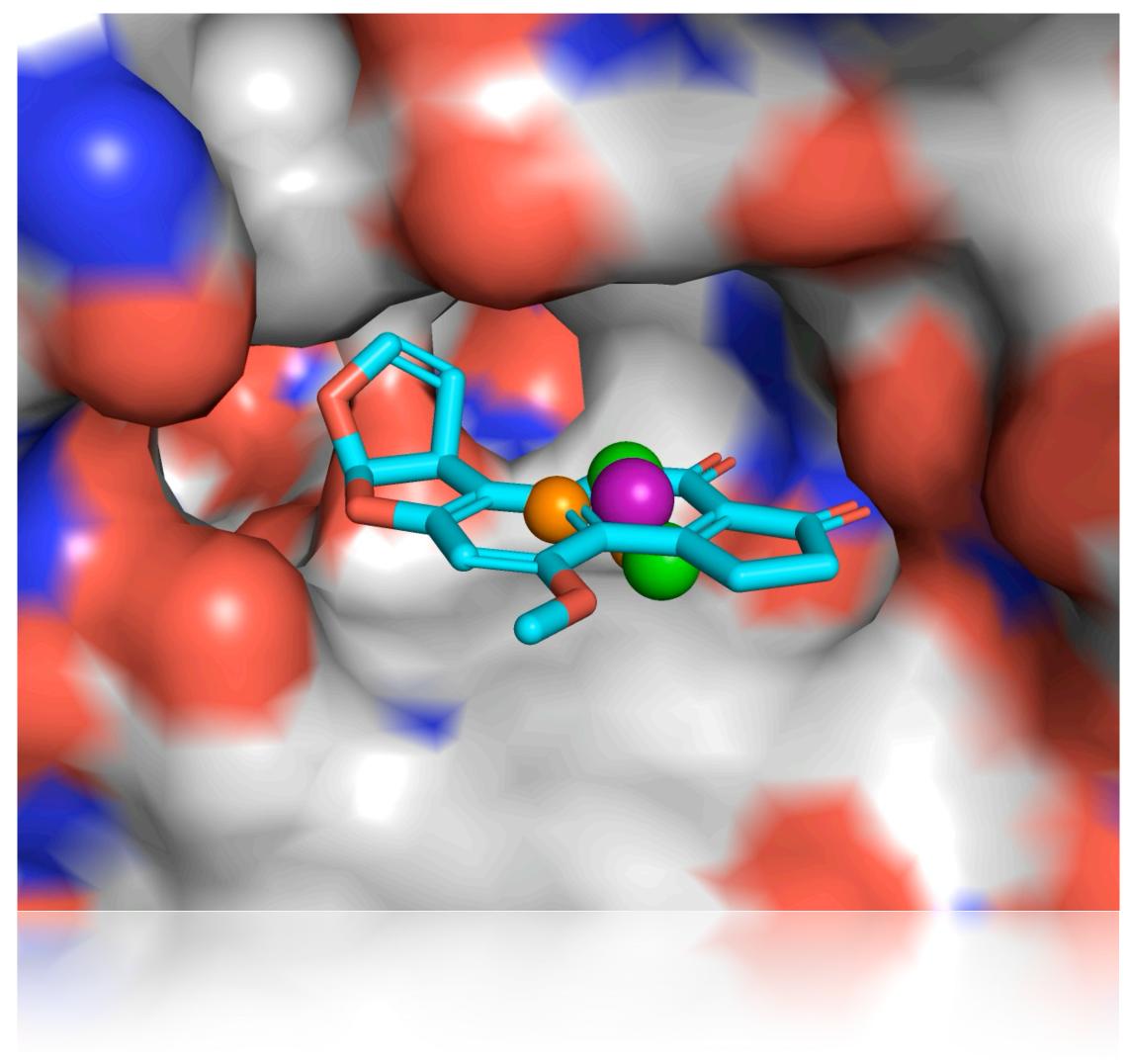












PharmacoForge: pharmacophore generation with diffusion models

Emma L. Flynn<sup>1,2</sup>, Riya Shah <sup>1</sup>, Ian Dunn <sup>1,2</sup>, Rishal Aggarwal <sup>1,2</sup> and David Ryan Koes <sup>1</sup>\*



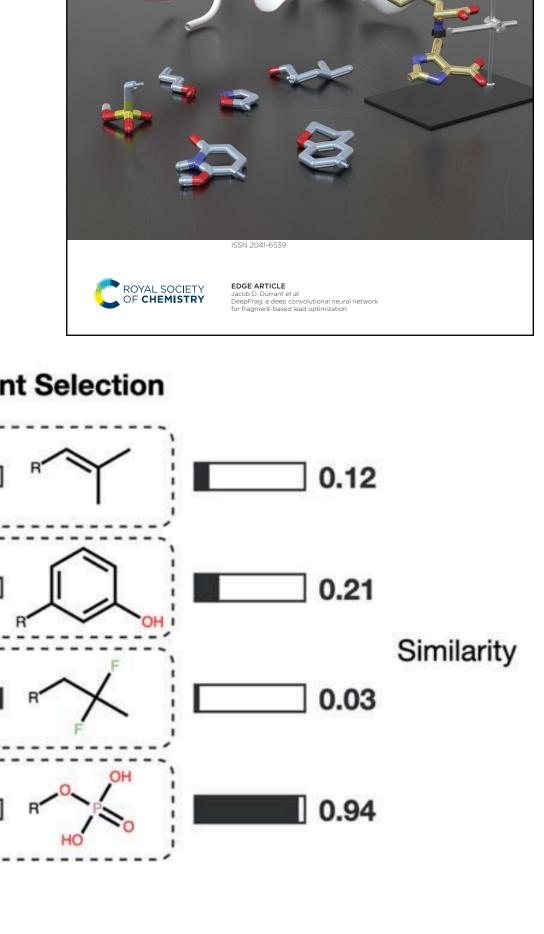
Chemical

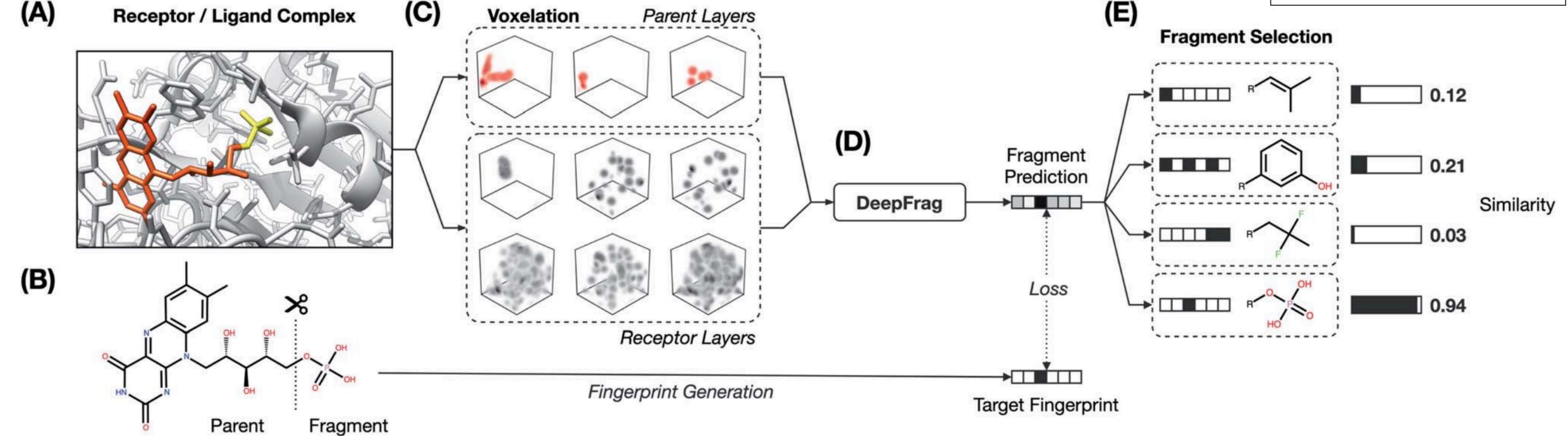
Science

#### DeepFrag: a deep convolutional neural network for fragment-based lead optimization†

Harrison Green, Paralle David R. Koes and Jacob D. Durrant \*\*

https://durrantlab.pitt.edu/deepfrag/



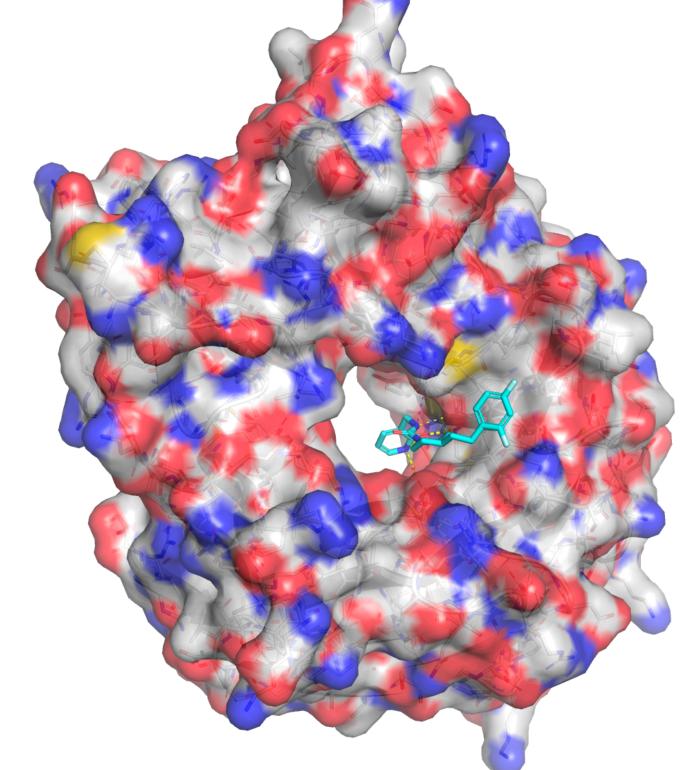


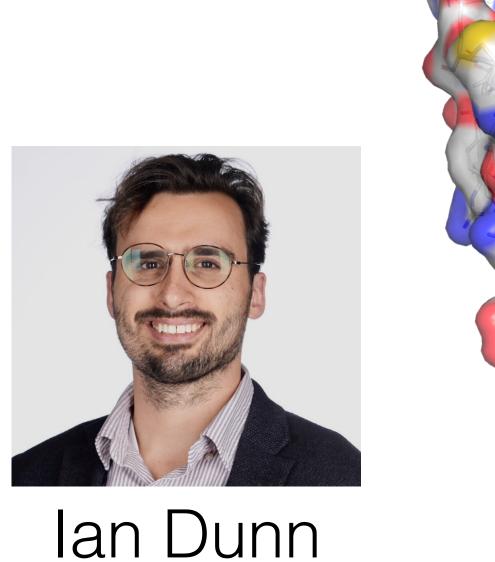
# Prospective Evaluation

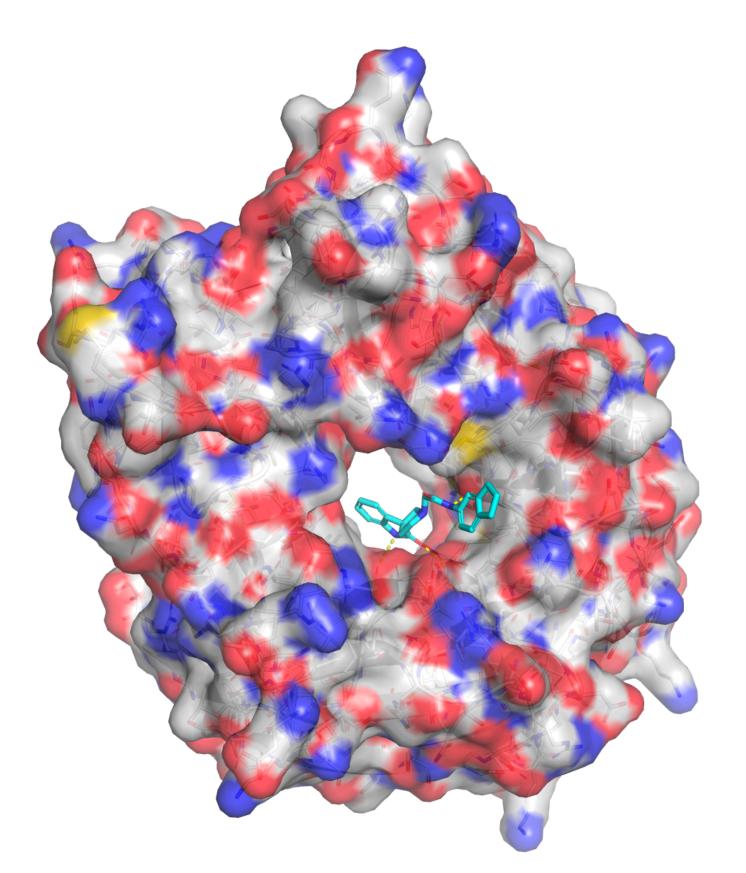


CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPUTATIONAL HIT-FINDING EXPERIMENTS

# CACHE Challenge #1

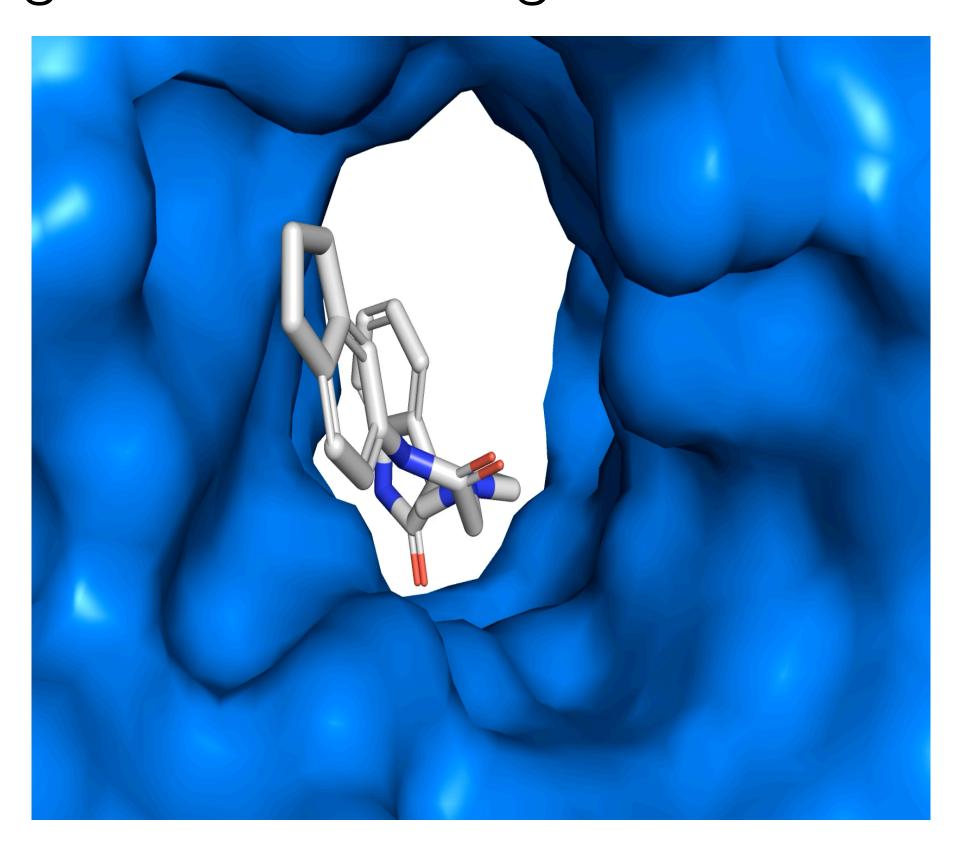




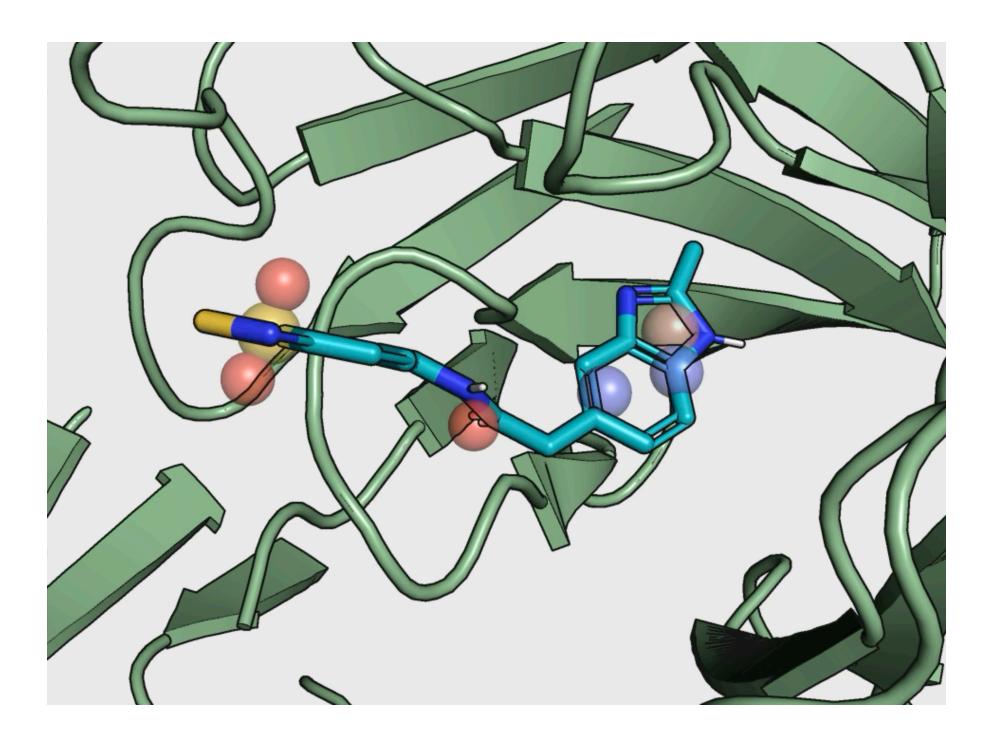


### A Tale of Two Methods

Large-Scale Docking with GNINA

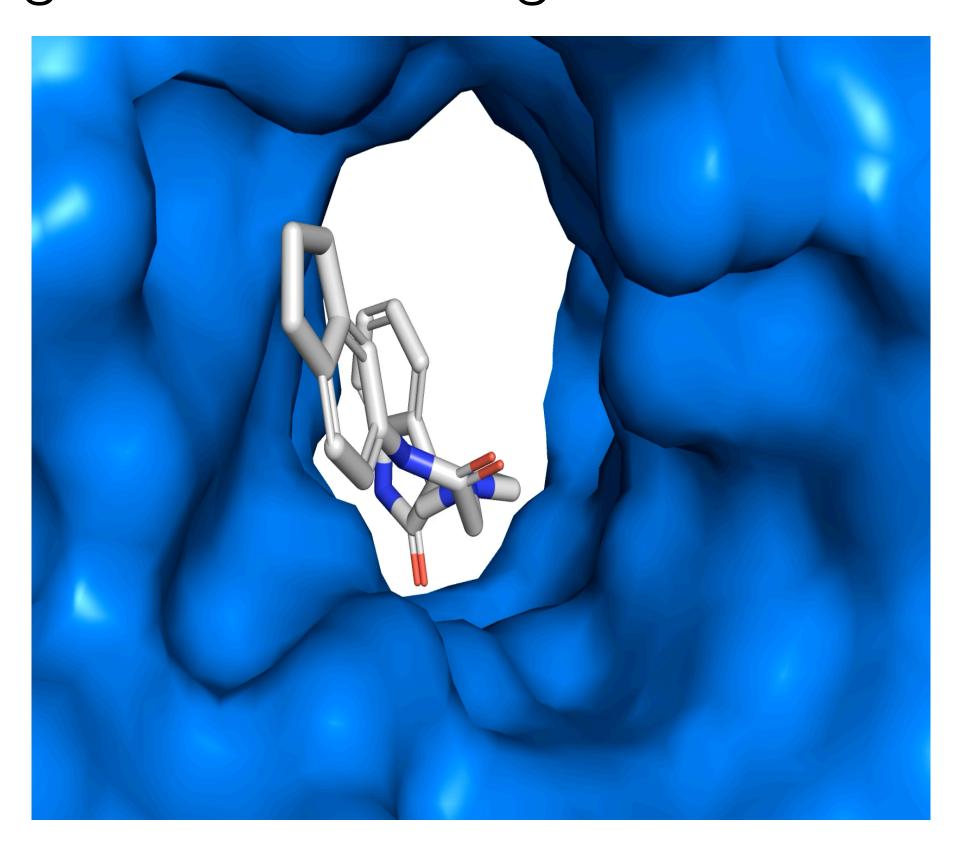


Pharmacophore Screening with Pharmit

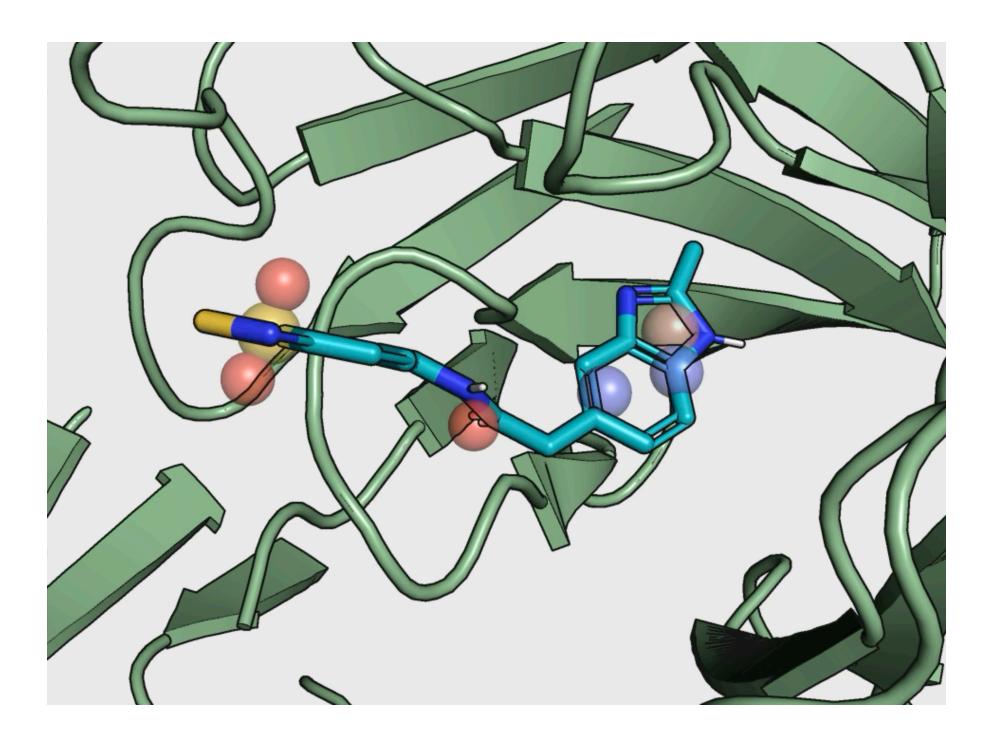


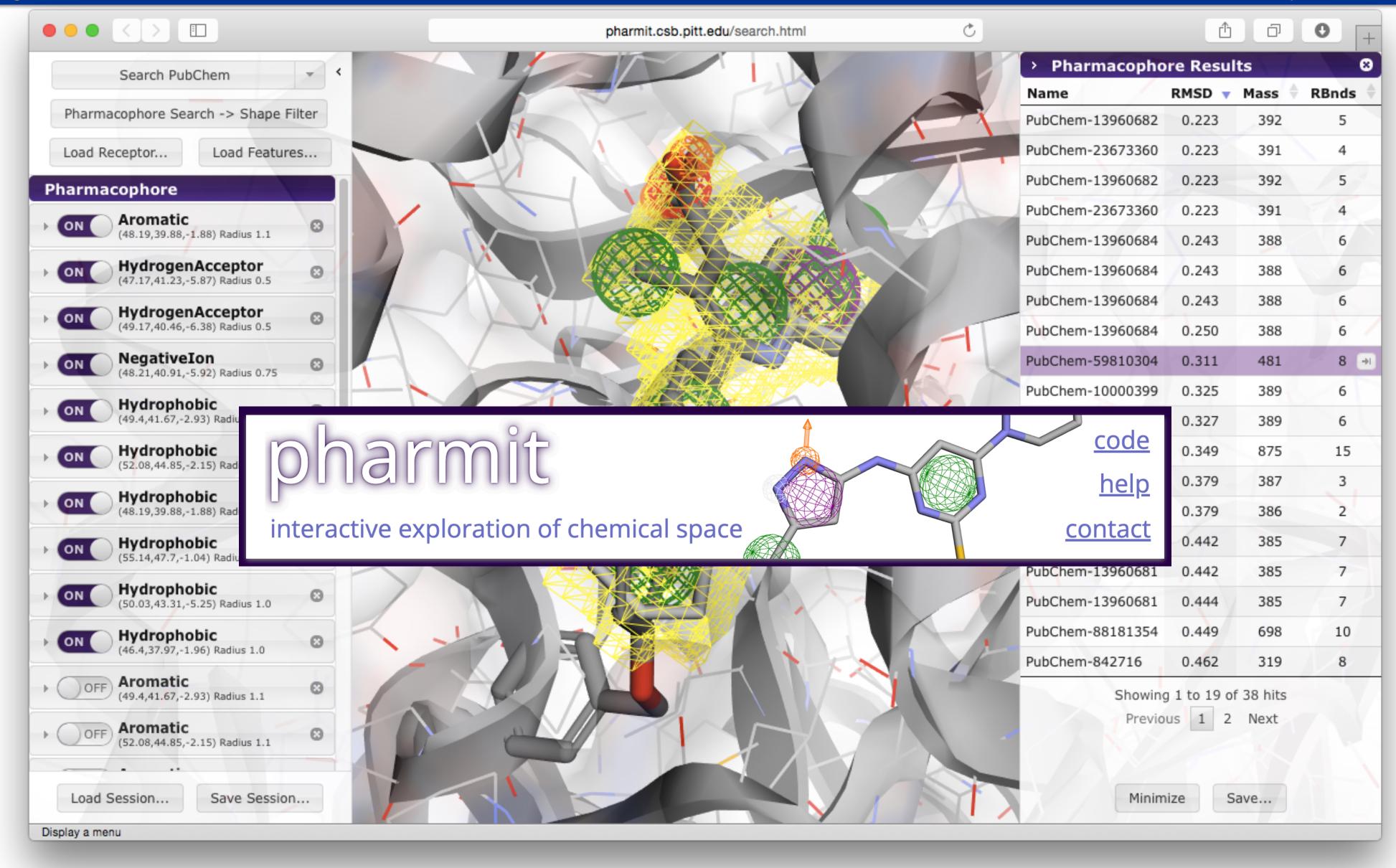
### A Tale of Two Methods

Large-Scale Docking with GNINA



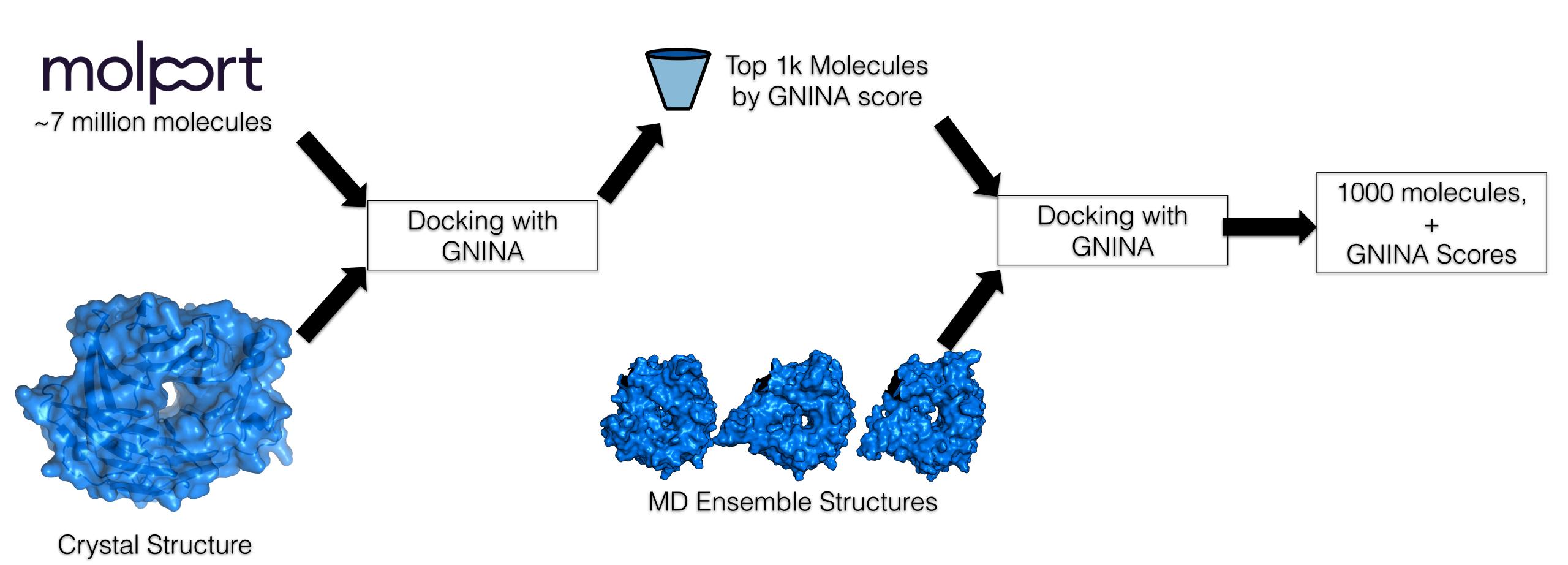
Pharmacophore Screening with Pharmit





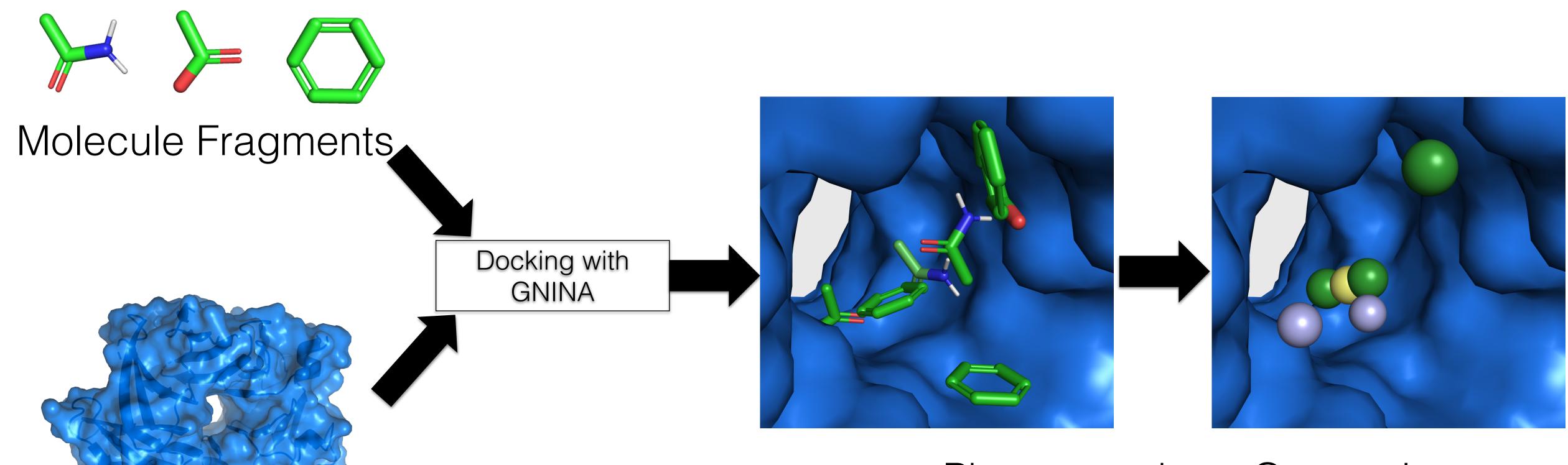
http://pharmit.csb.pitt.edu/

# High-throughput Docking Pipeline



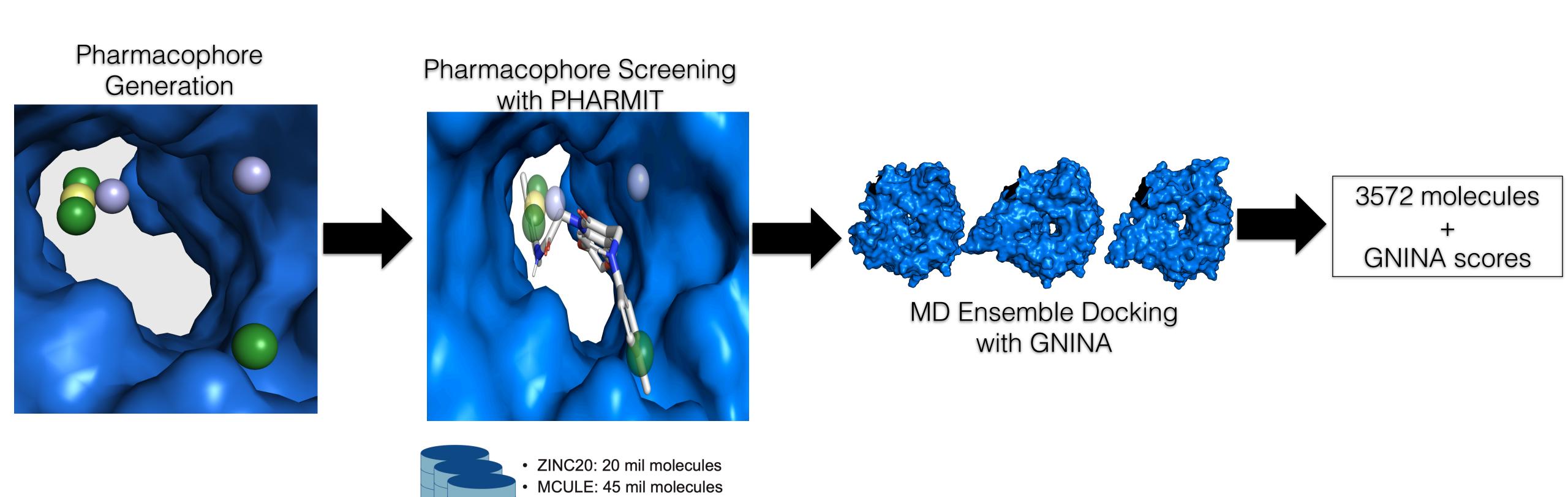
Crystal Structure

### Pharmacophore Generation via Fragment Docking



Pharmacophore Generation

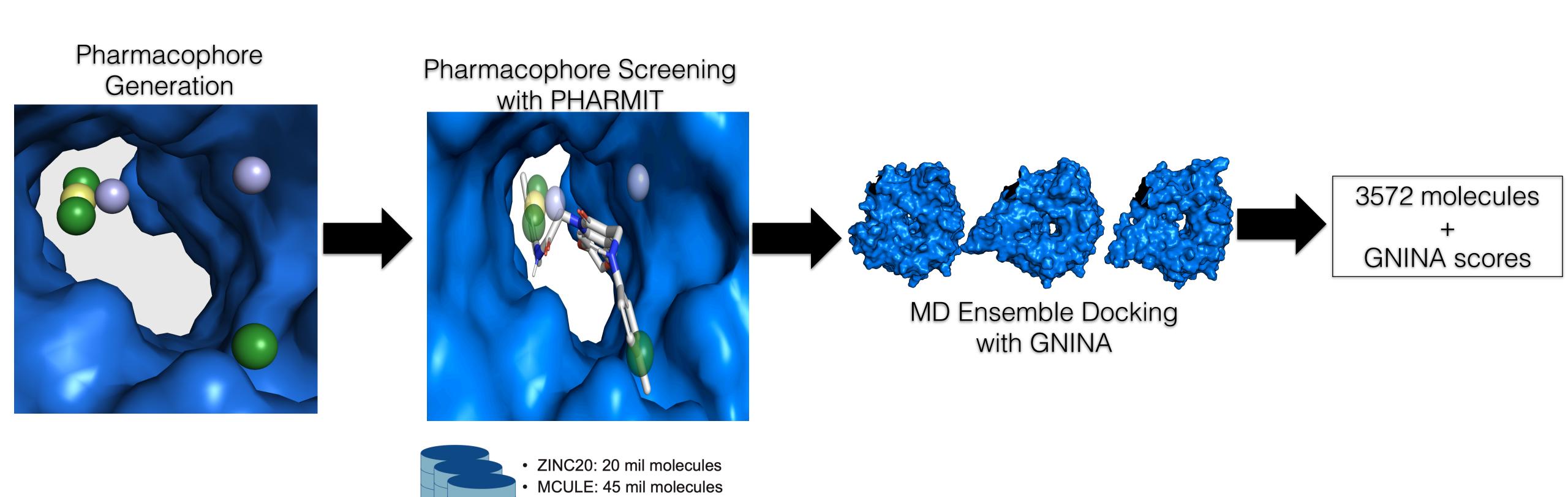
# Pharmacophore Pipeline



MCULE-ULTIMATE: 126 mil molecules

**Molecule Libraries** 

# Pharmacophore Pipeline

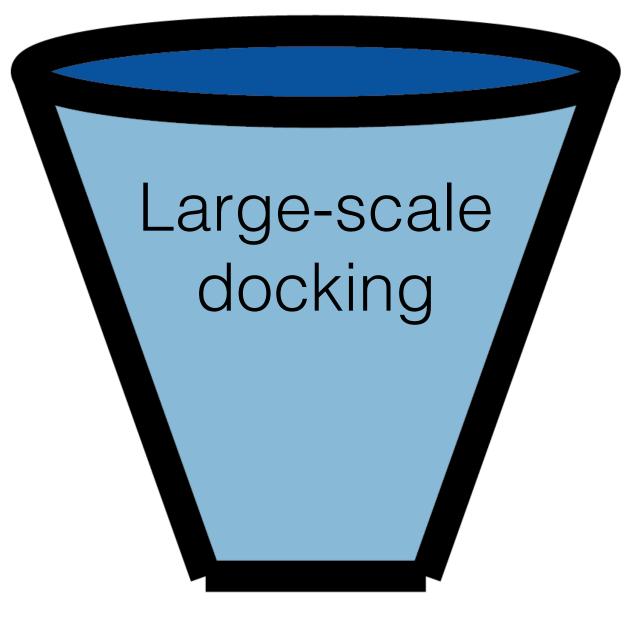


MCULE-ULTIMATE: 126 mil molecules

**Molecule Libraries** 

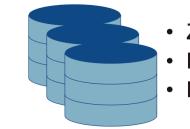
## Round 1 Submission

### molport



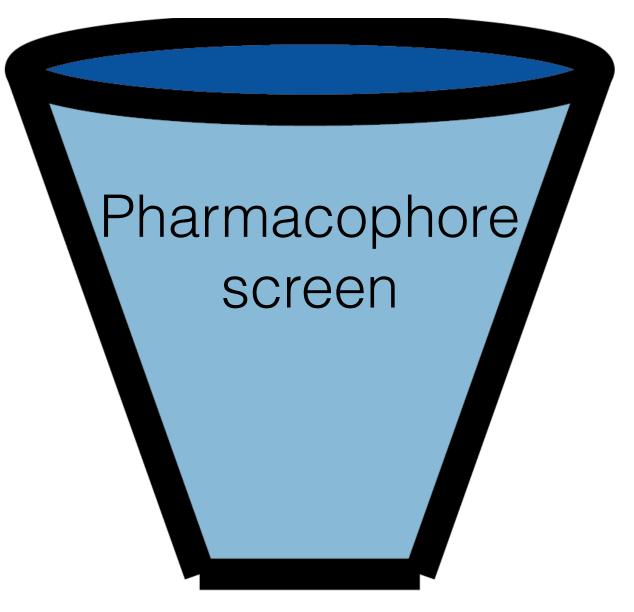
2 screening methods 2 scoring methods





- ZINC20: 20 mil molecules
- MCULE: 45 mil molecules
- MCULE-ULTIMATE: 126 mil molecules

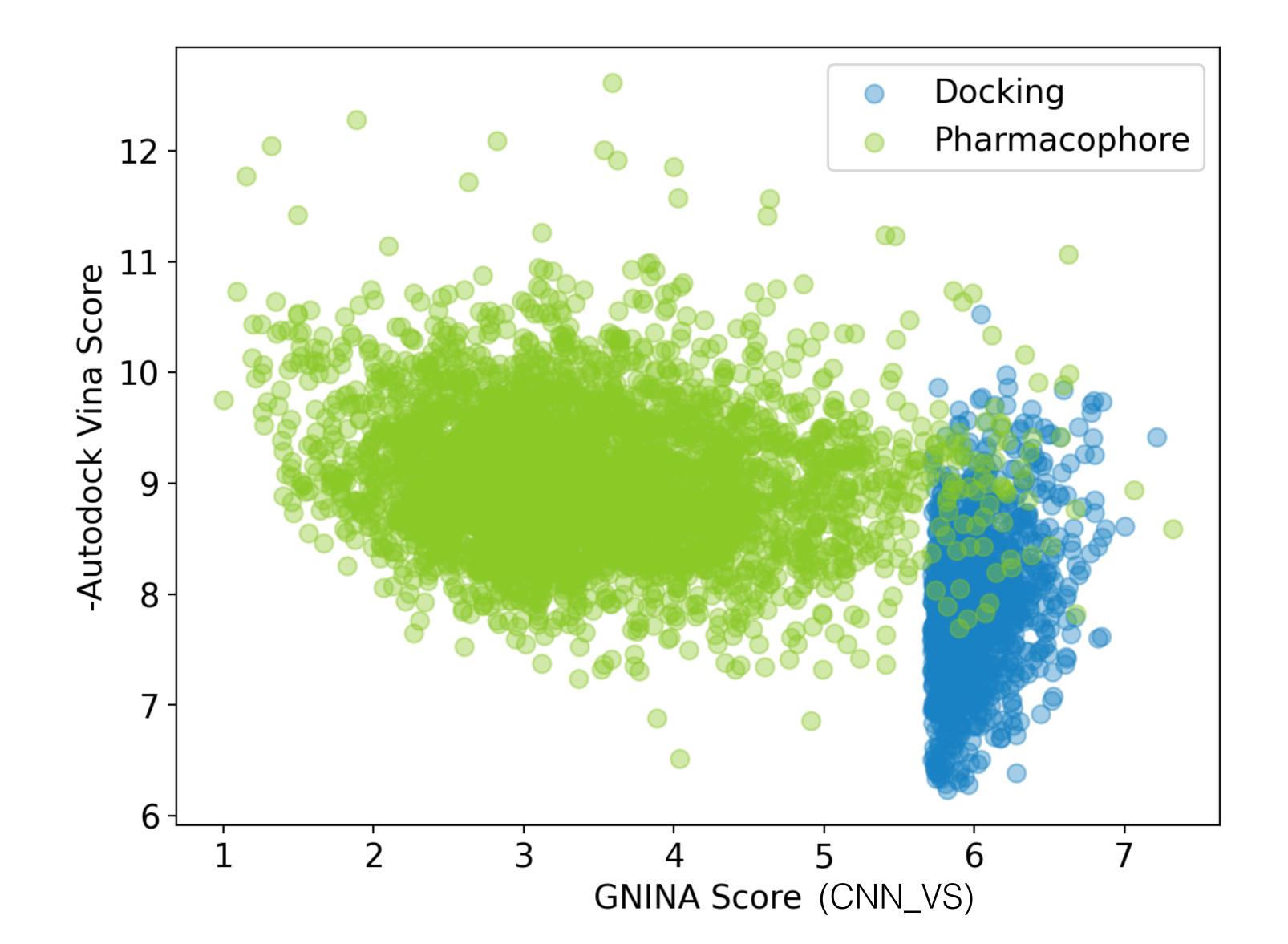
**Molecule Libraries** 



3.5k ligands gnina scores vina scores

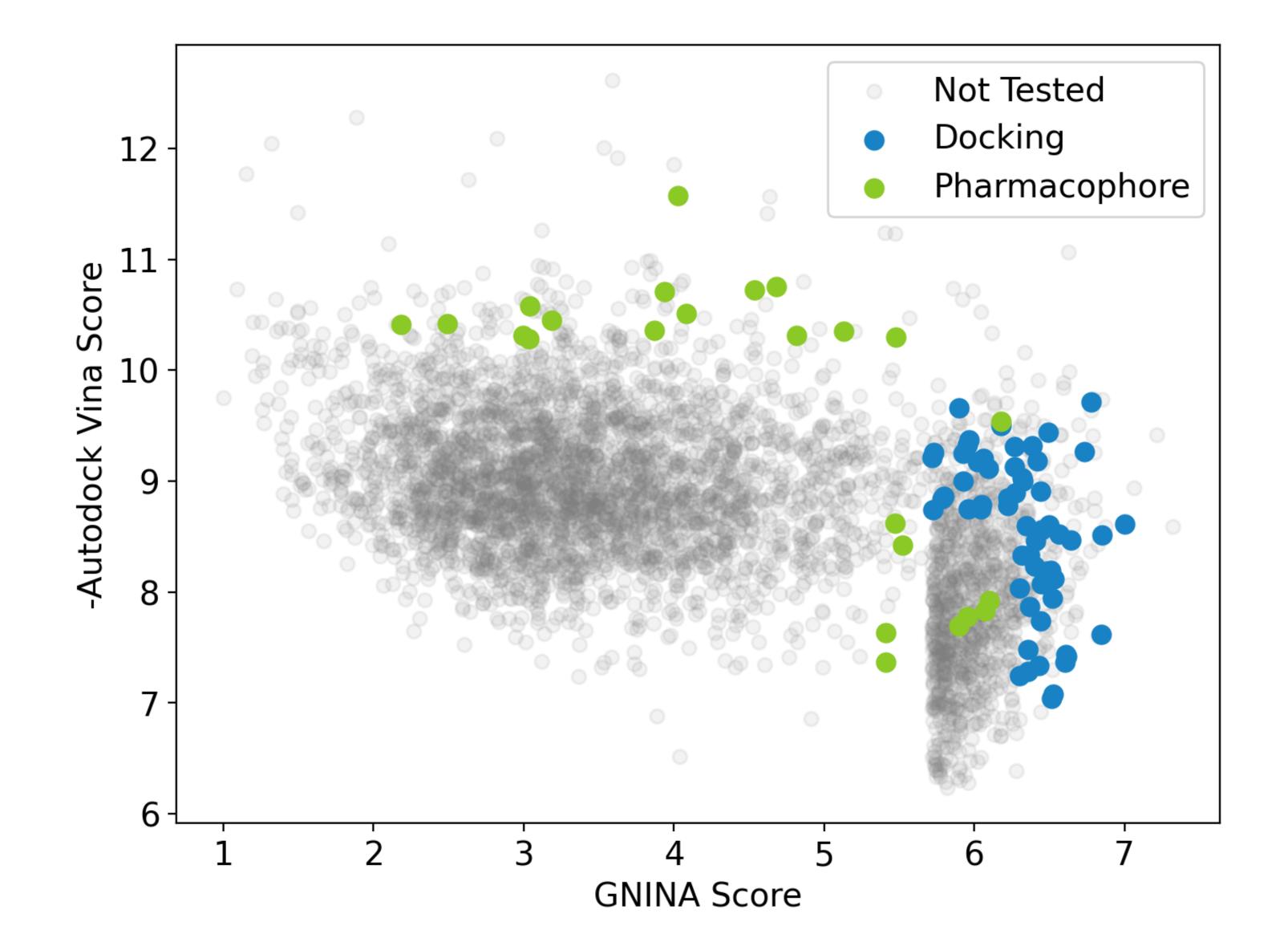
1k ligands gnina scores vina scores

## Round 1 Results



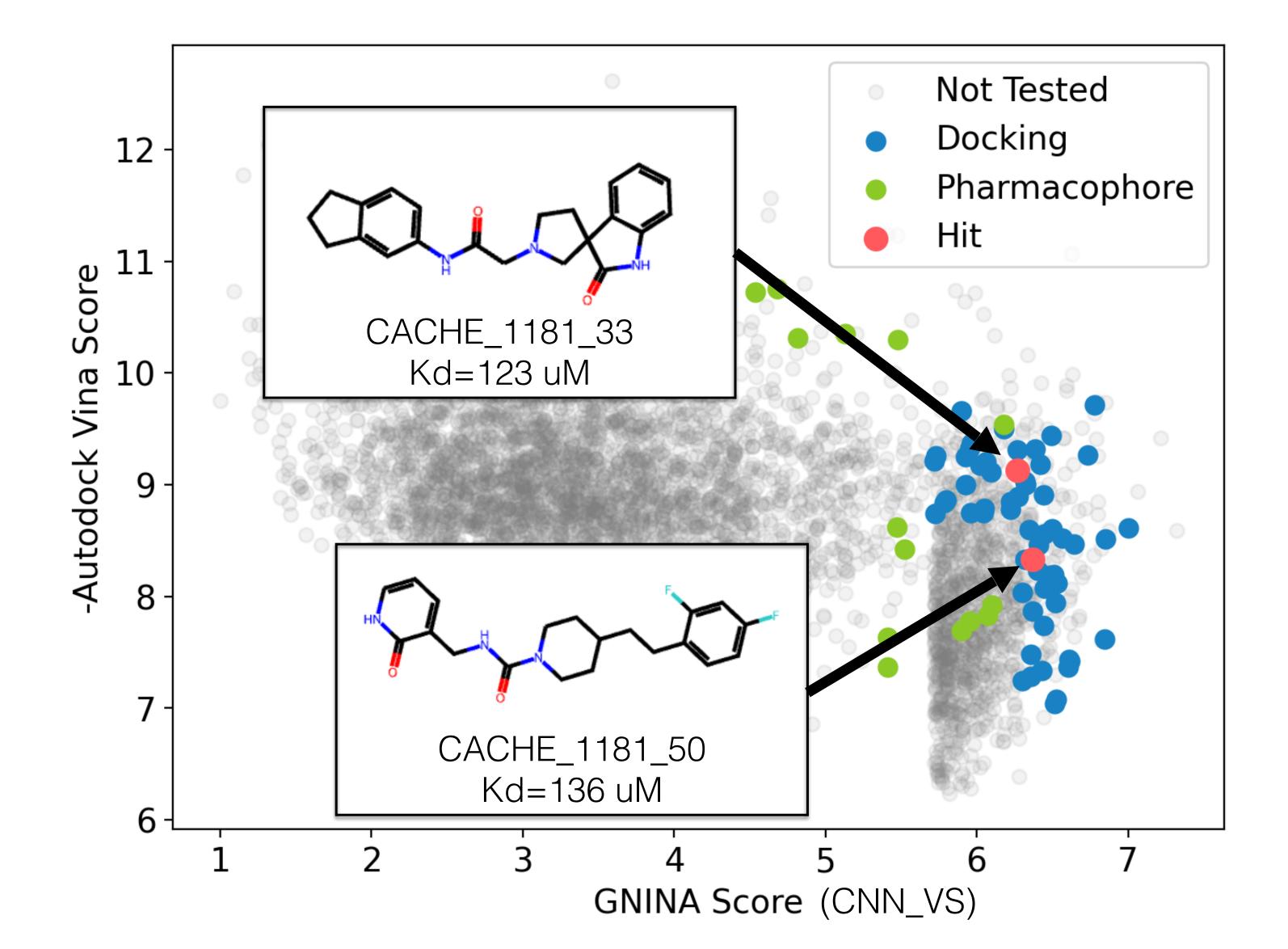
- Selection limited/ skewed by database availability
- 84 ligands tested
  - 59 from docking
  - 24 from pharm screen

## Round 1 Results



- Selection limited/ skewed by database availability
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  - 59 from docking
  - 24 from pharm screen

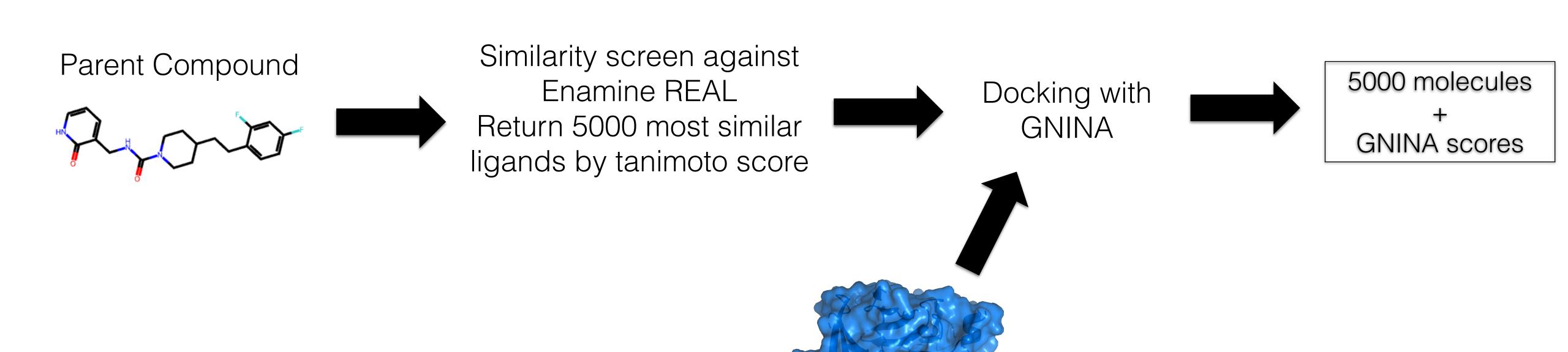
## Round 1 Results



- 2/84 were hits
  - Both from docking

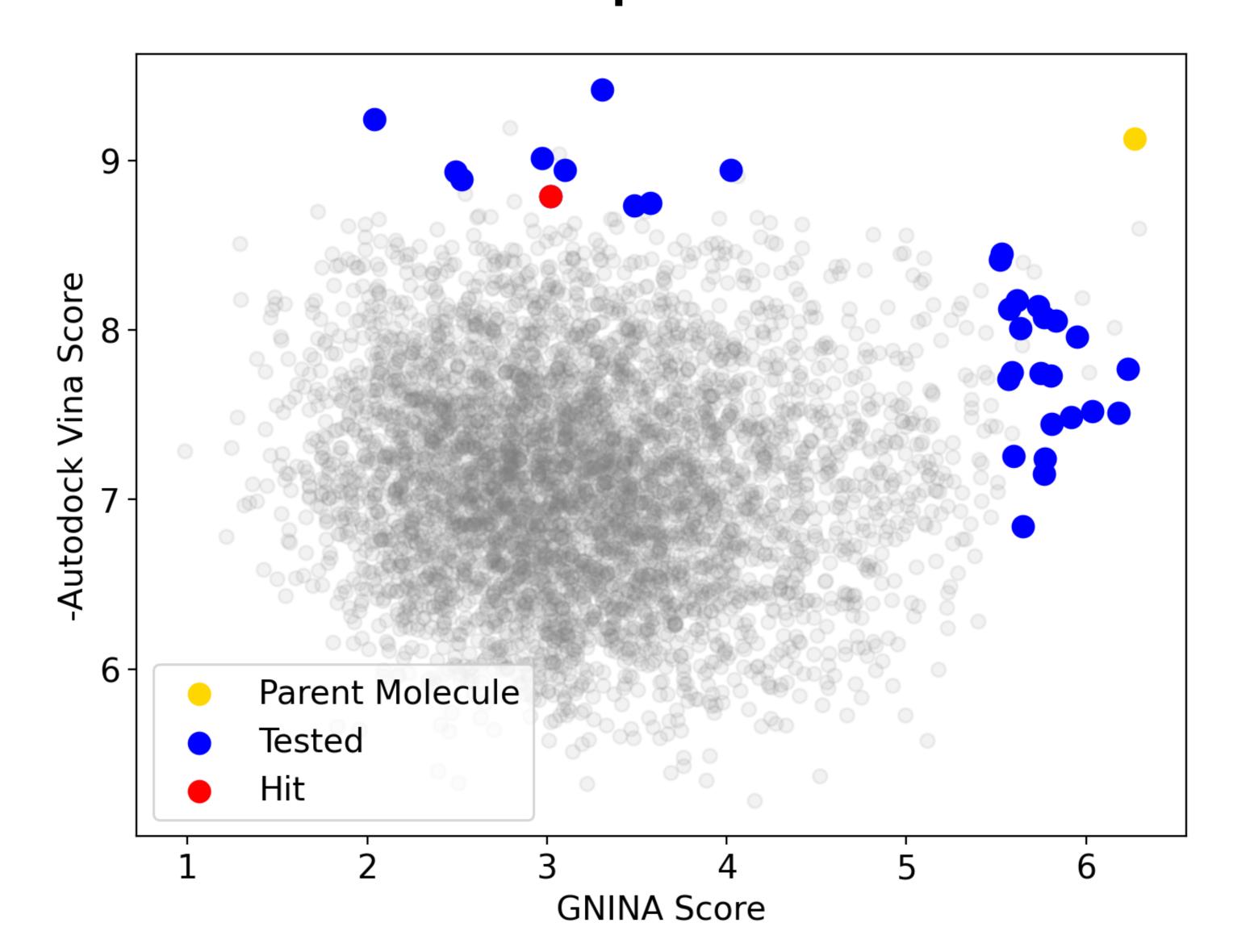
# Round 2: Hit Optimization

# Hit Optimization Pipeline

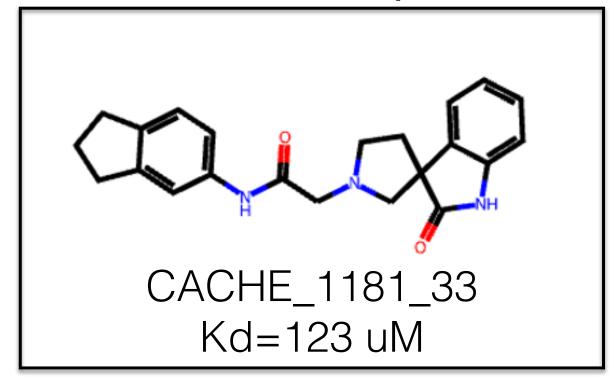


Crystal Structure

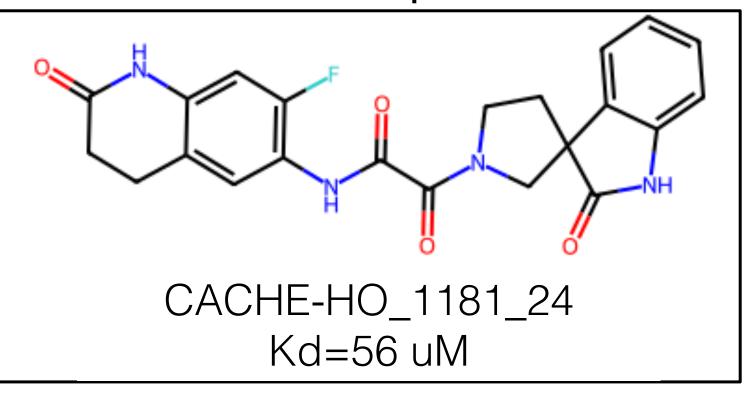
## Hit Optimization Results



### Parent Compound



### Hit Compound

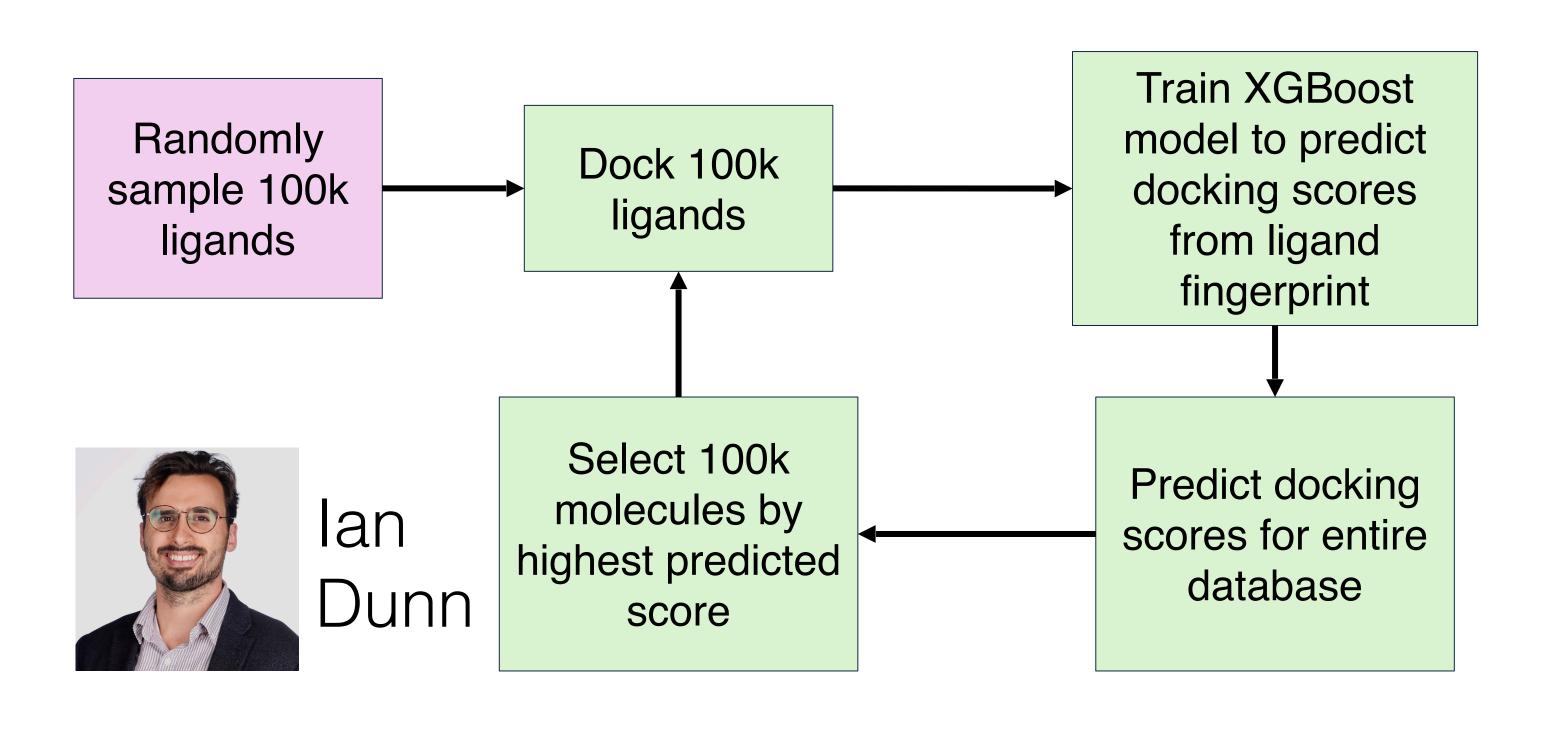


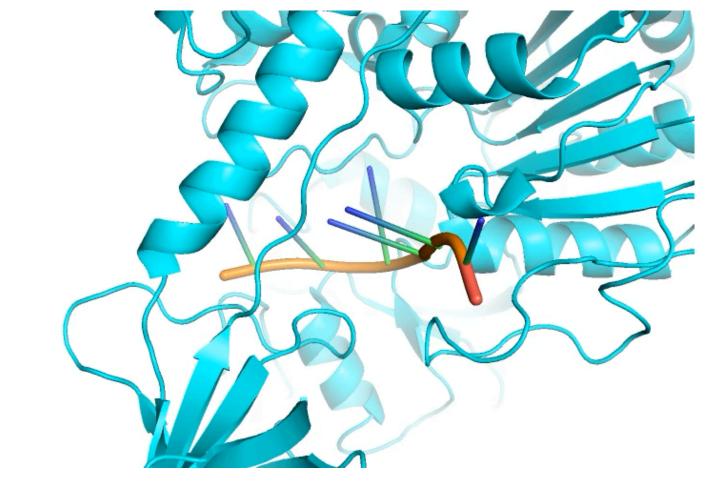
## Final Results

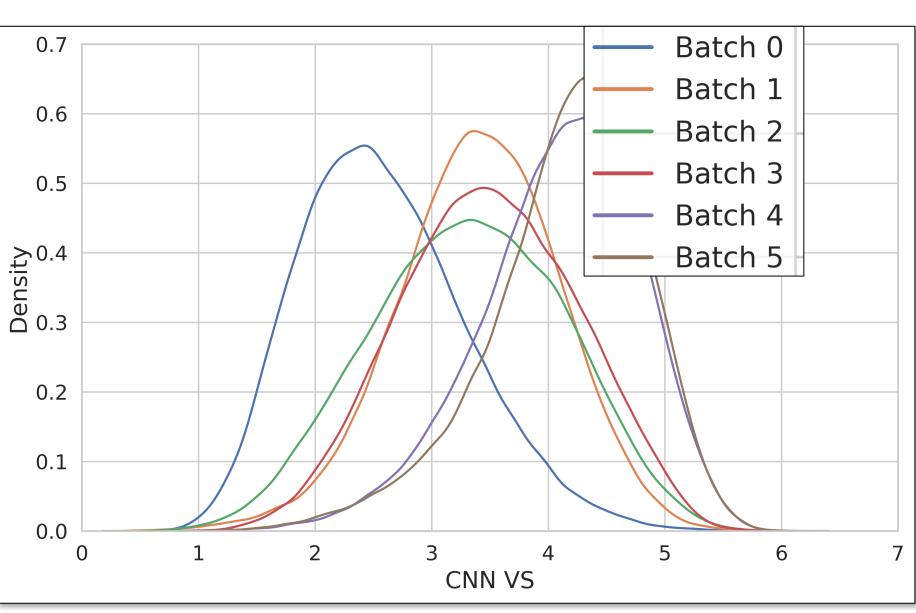
Participant	Participant ID	Aggregated score
David Koes, University of Pittsburgh	1181	18
Olexandr Isayev & Maria Kurnikova, Carnegie Mellon University & Artem Cherkasov, University of British Columbia	1209	18
Christina Schindler, Merck KGaA	1193	17
Dmitri Kireev, University of Missouri	1183	16
Christoph Gorgulla, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Harvard University	1195	16
Didier Rognan, Université Strasbourg	1202	16
Pavel Polishchuk, Palacky University	1210	16
Kam Zhang, Centre for Biosystems Dynamic Research, RIKEN	1188	15
Shuangjia Zheng, Shanghai Jiao Tong University (previously Galixir)	1187	14
Carlos Zepeda, Treventis/UHN	1200	14
Fabian Liessmann, Leipzig University	1201	14
	1179	13

# CACHE Challenge #2

- RNA binding site of SARS-COV2 NSP13
- "Deep Docking" of Enamine (4B)

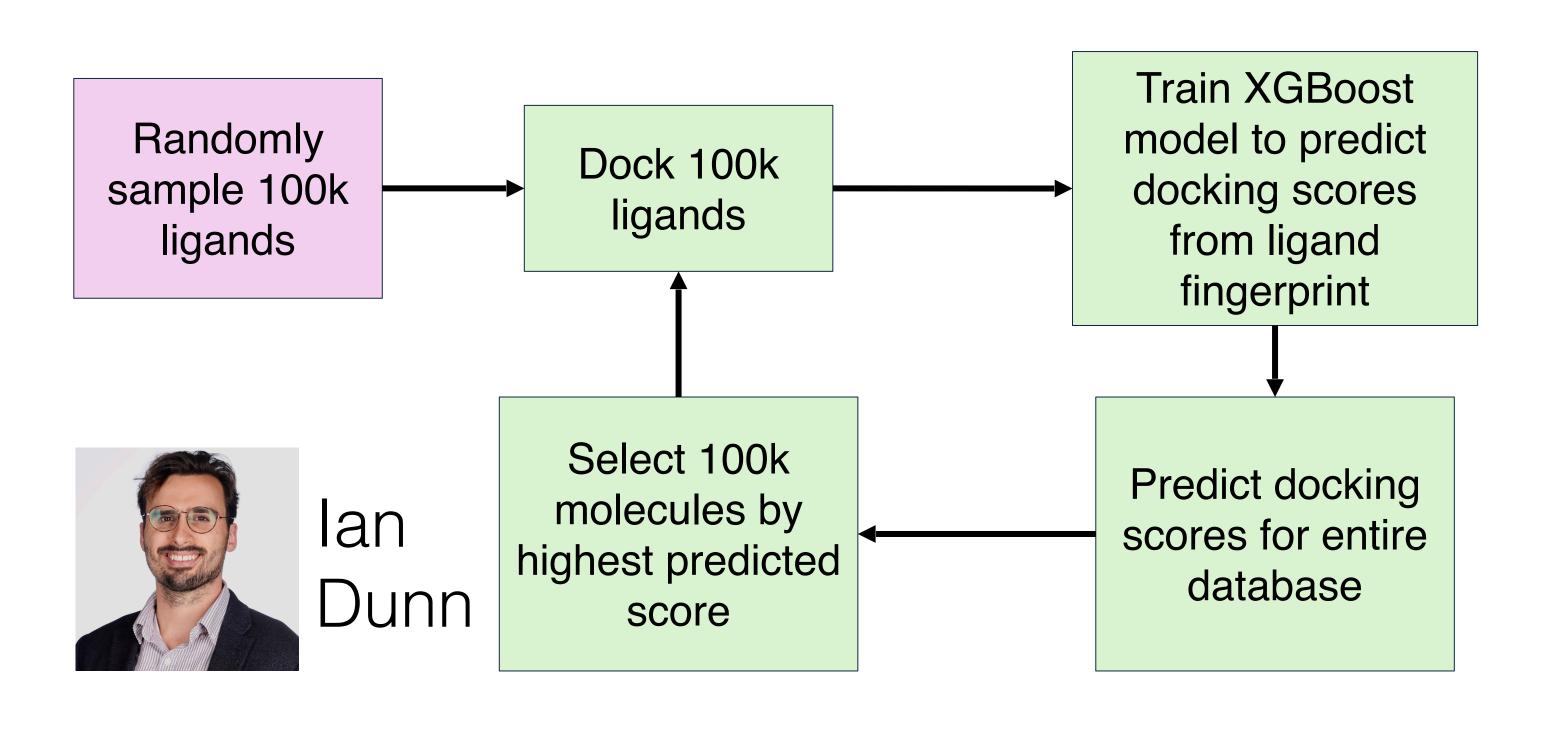


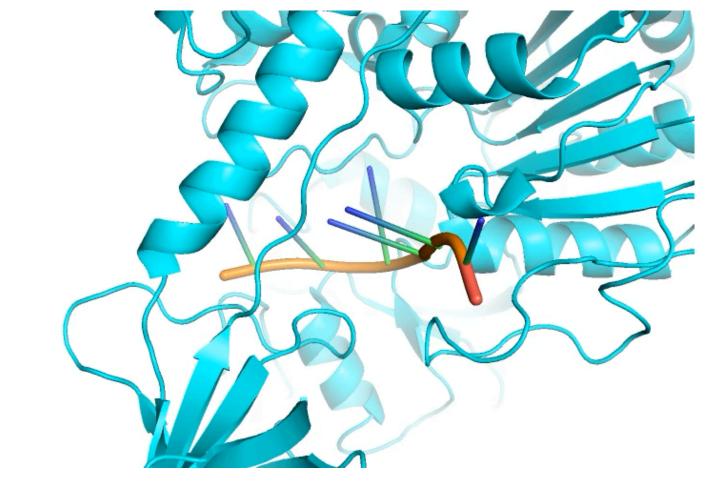


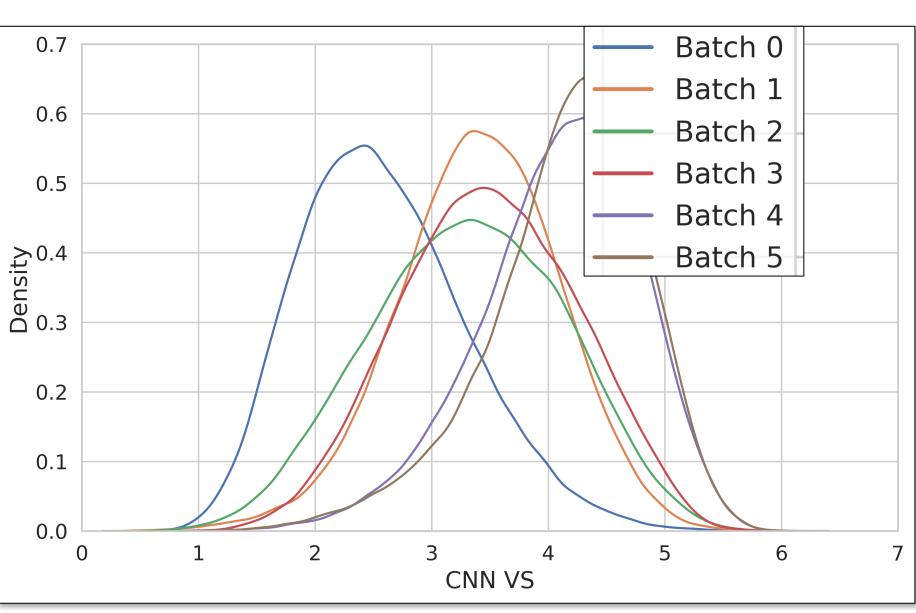


# CACHE Challenge #2

- RNA binding site of SARS-COV2 NSP13
- "Deep Docking" of Enamine (4B)







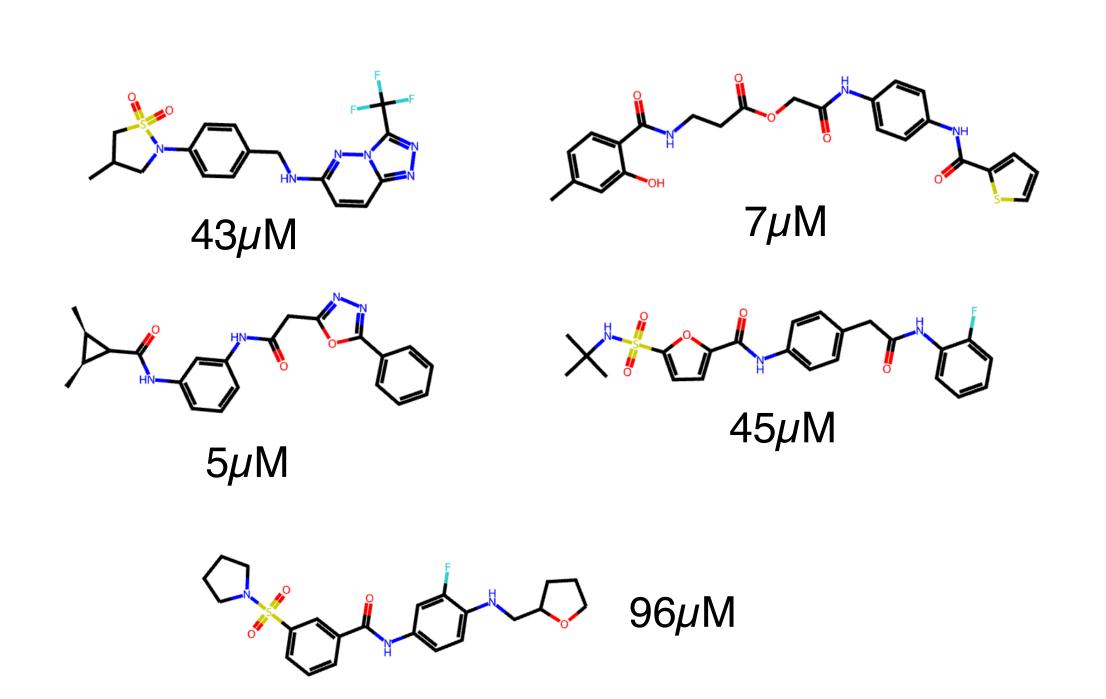
## CACHE #2 Results

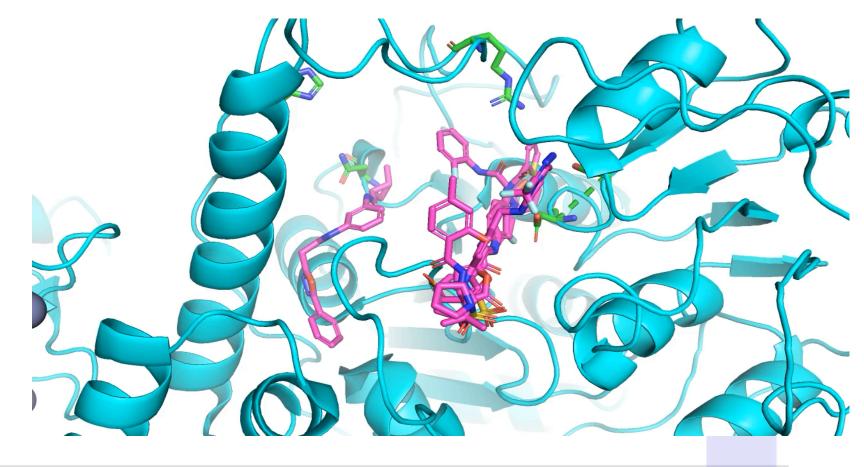
5/50 compounds identified as potential hits

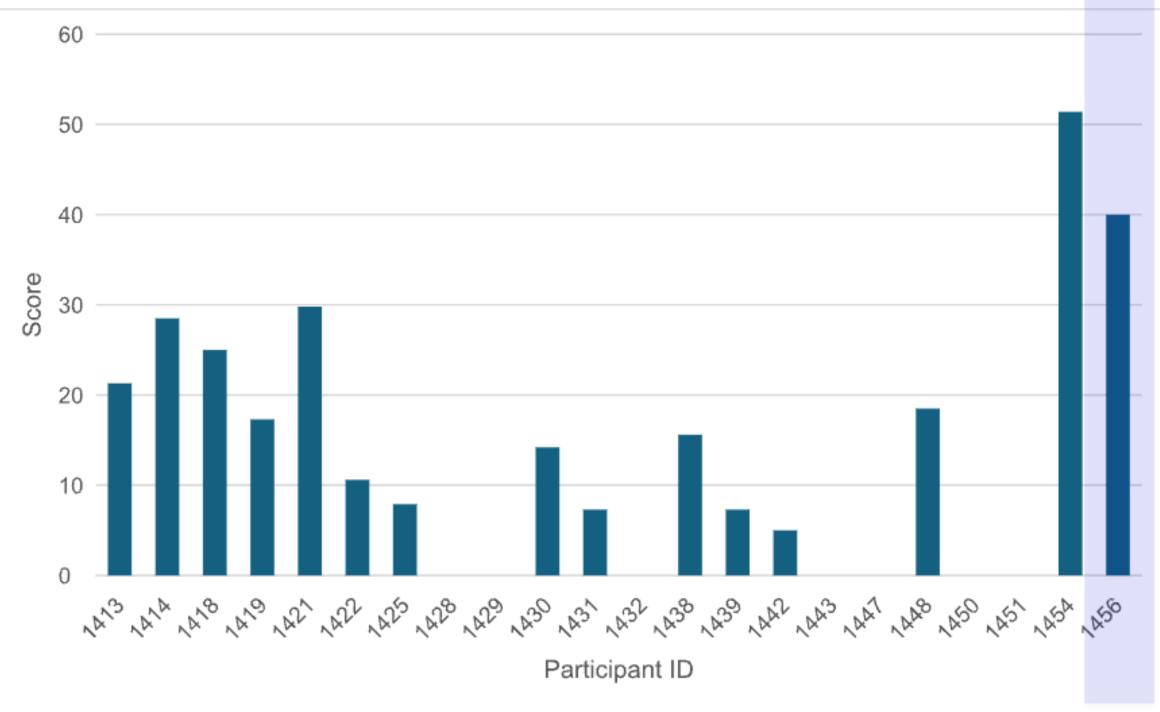
### >2x the average hit rate

4/5 hits from last round of active learning

### Highest affinity round 1 hit in the competition







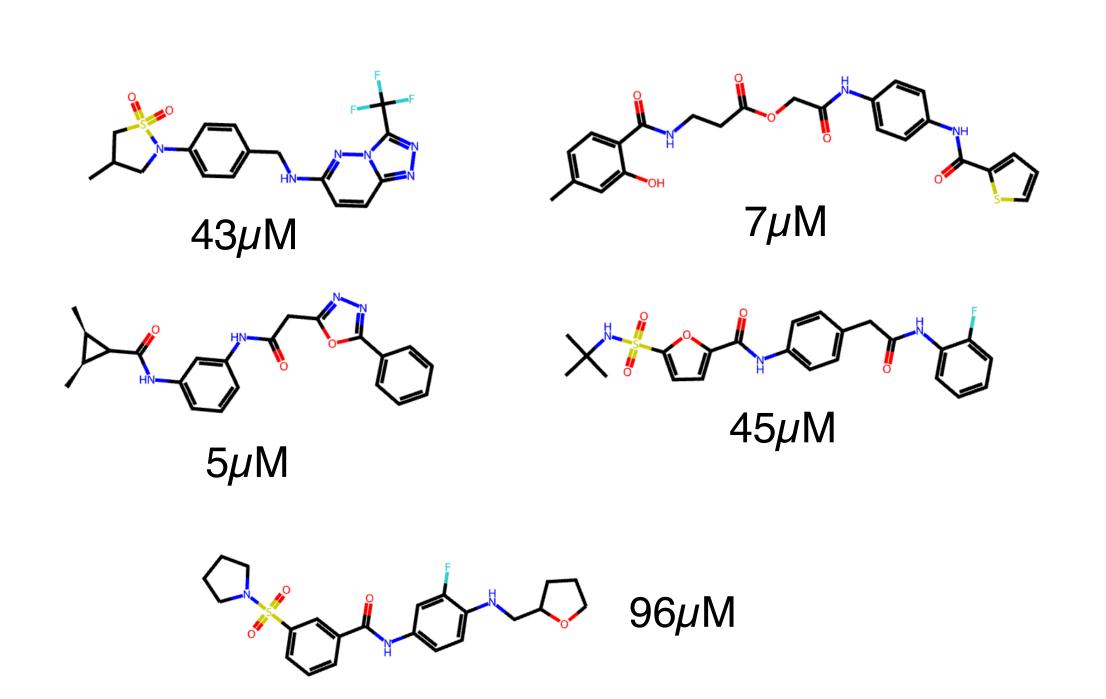
## CACHE #2 Results

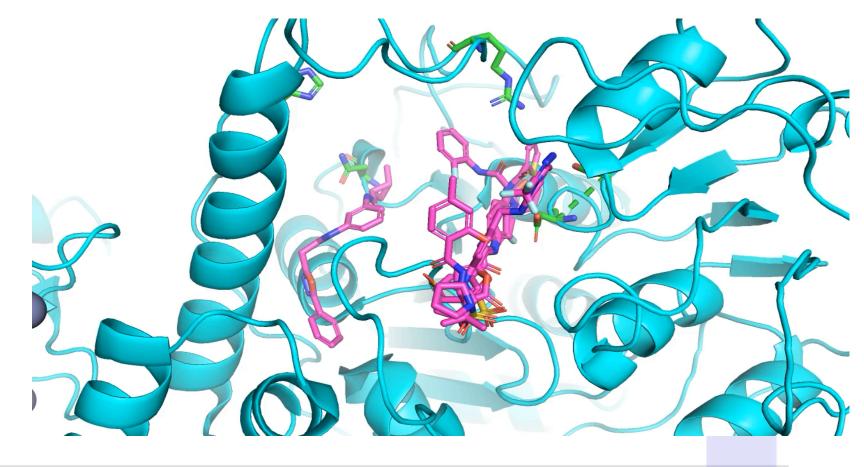
5/50 compounds identified as potential hits

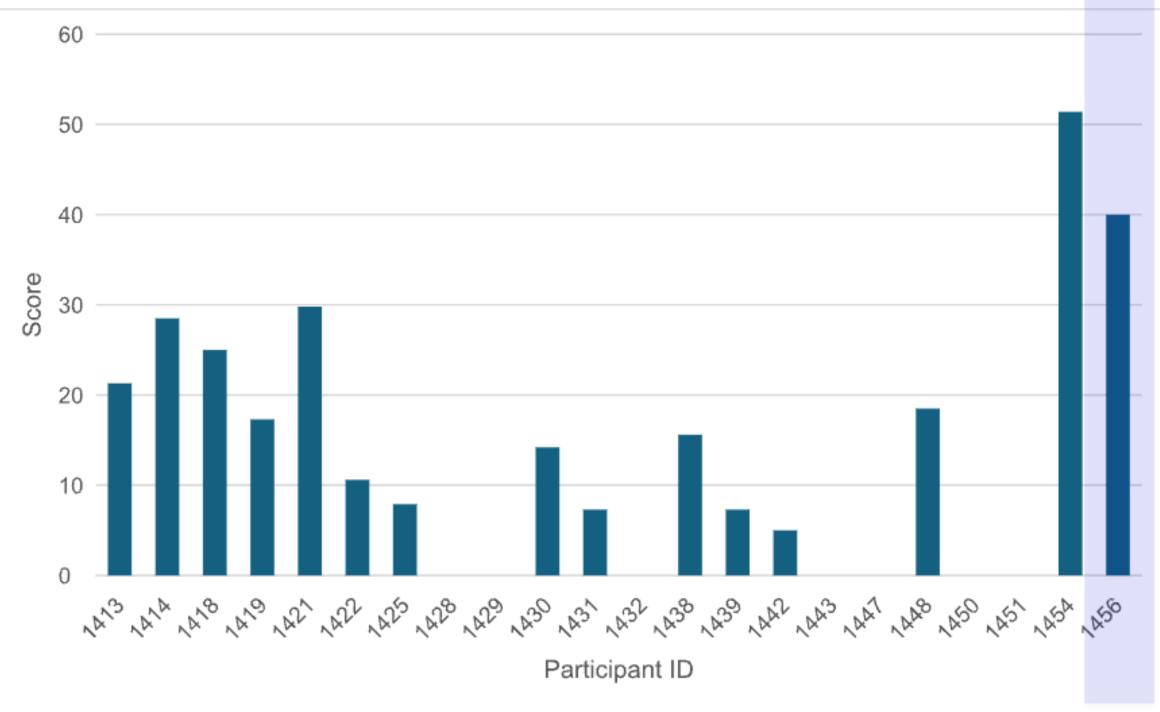
### >2x the average hit rate

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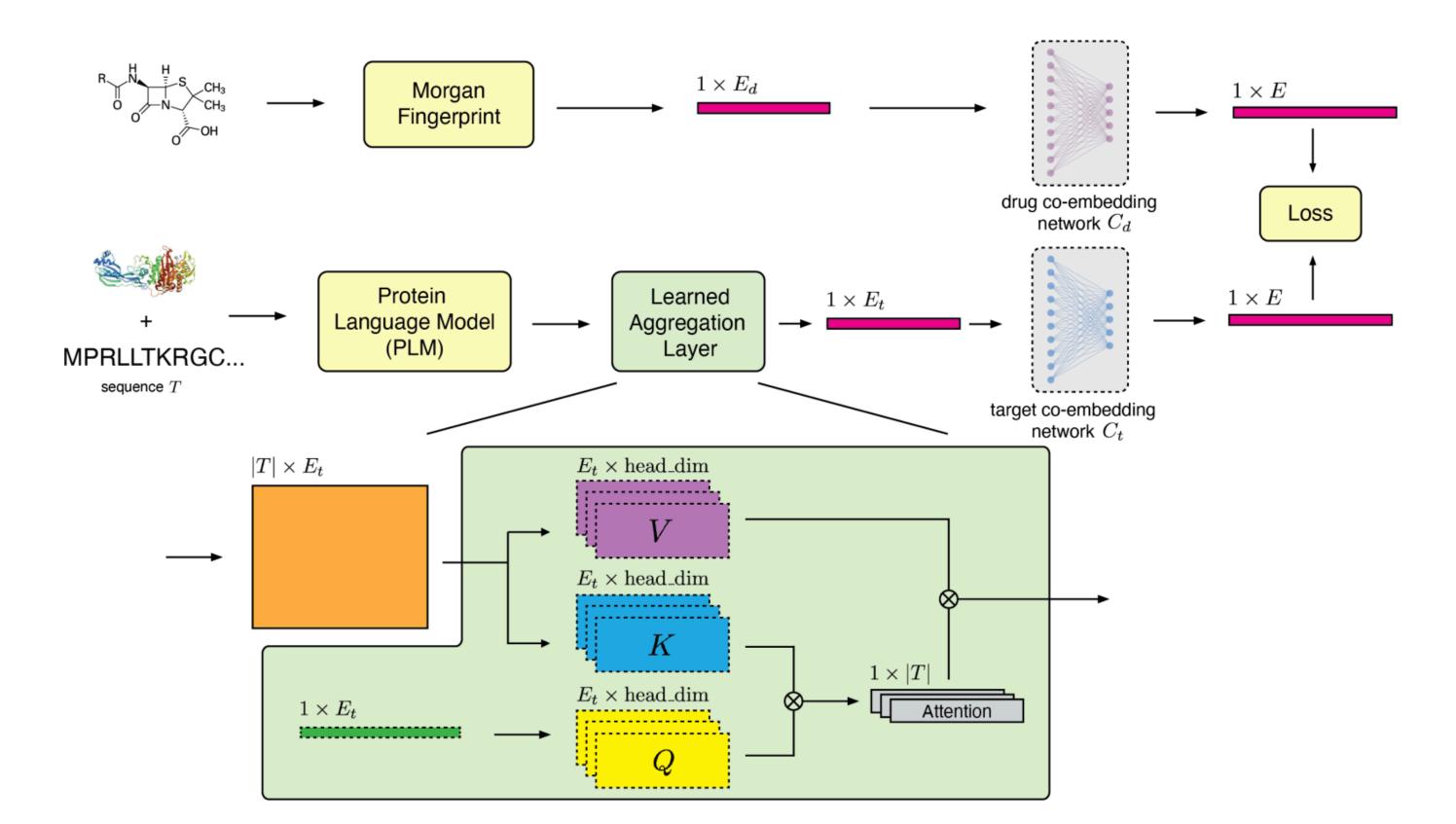
### Highest affinity round 1 hit in the competition







### Scalable Screening of Ultra Large Libraries



Learn co-embedding of ligands and proteins

Ligands are "close" to proteins they bind to



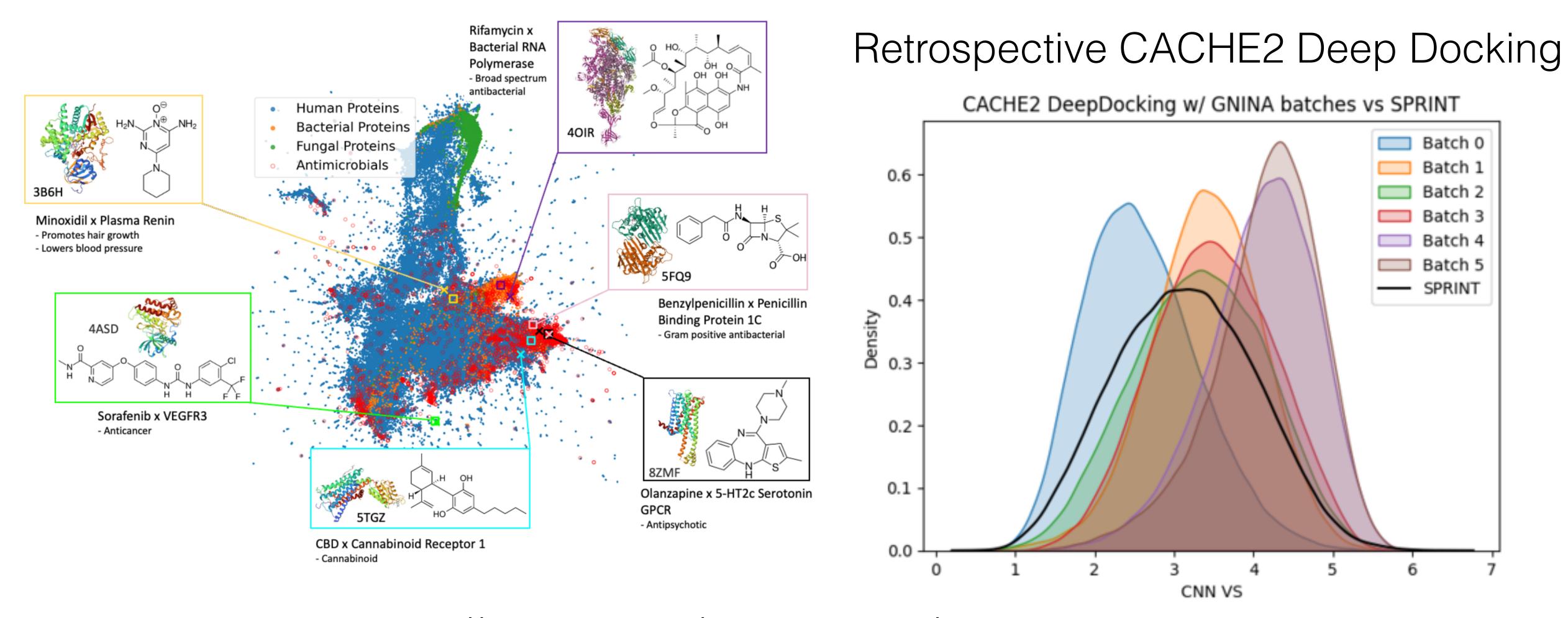
**Quantitative Biology > Biomolecules** 

[Submitted on 23 Nov 2024 (v1), last revised 20 Jan 2025 (this version, v2)]

Scaling Structure Aware Virtual Screening to Billions of Molecules with SPRINT

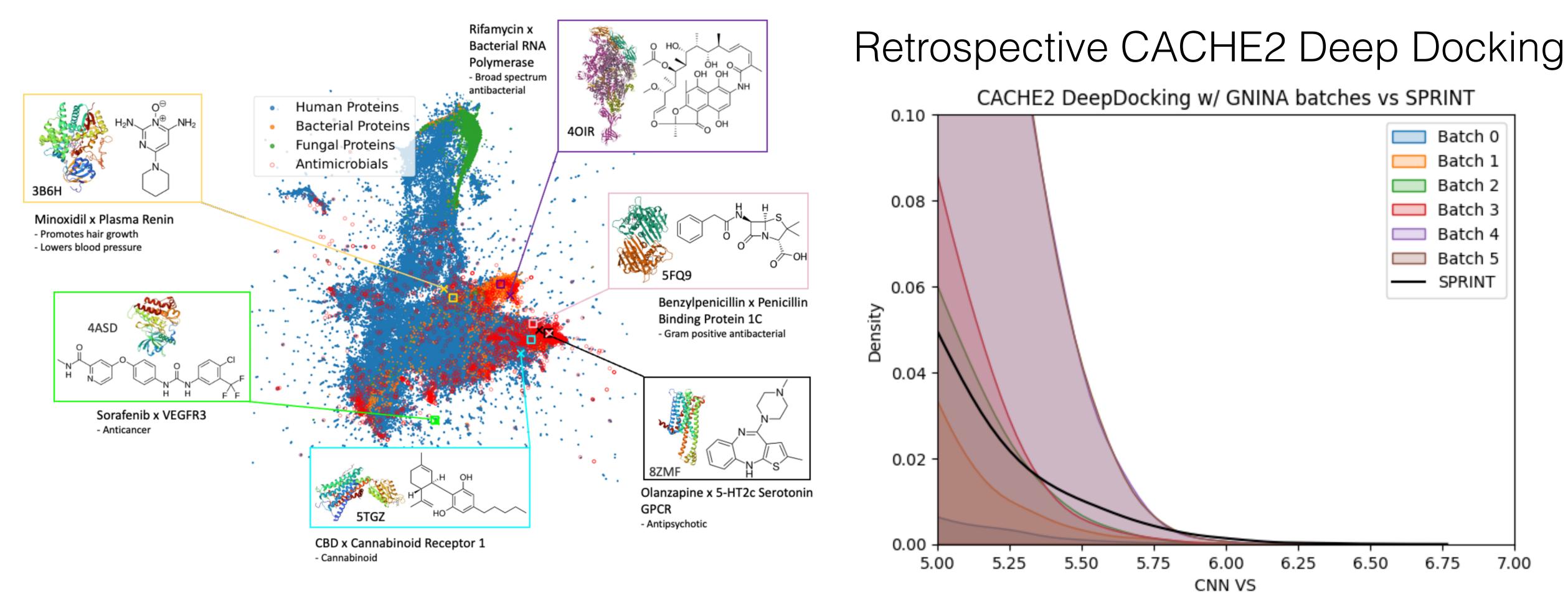
Andrew T. McNutt, Abhinav K. Adduri, Caleb N. Ellington, Monica T. Dayao, Eric P. Xing, Hosein Mohimani, David R. Koes

## Enhanced Deep Docking with SPRINT

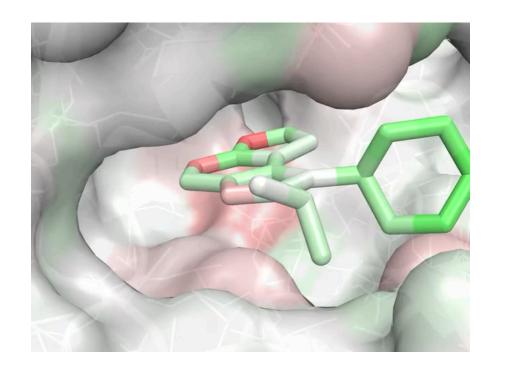


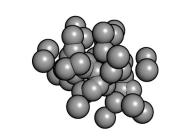
https://github.com/abhinadduri/panspecies-dti

## Enhanced Deep Docking with SPRINT

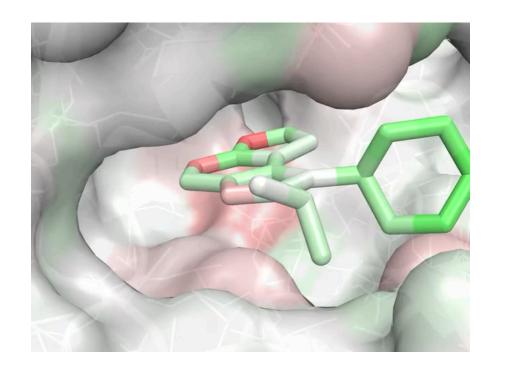


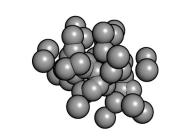
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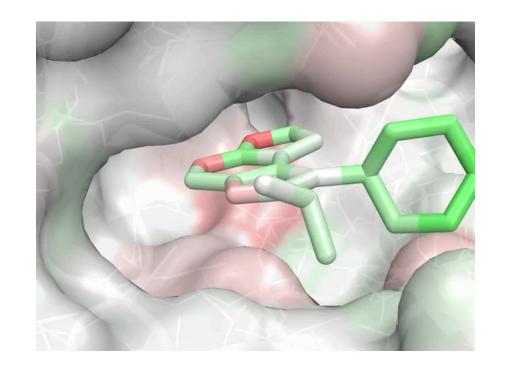


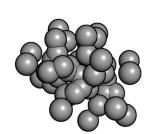
Deep learning works for molecules!



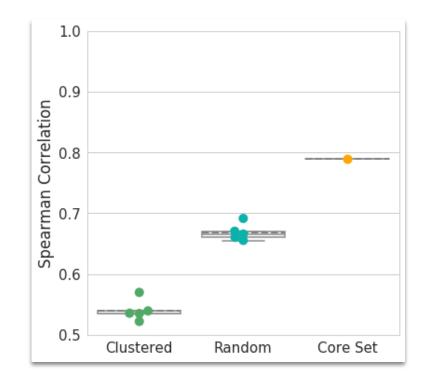


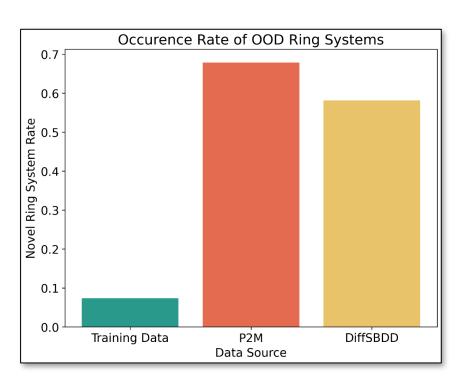
Deep learning works for molecules!



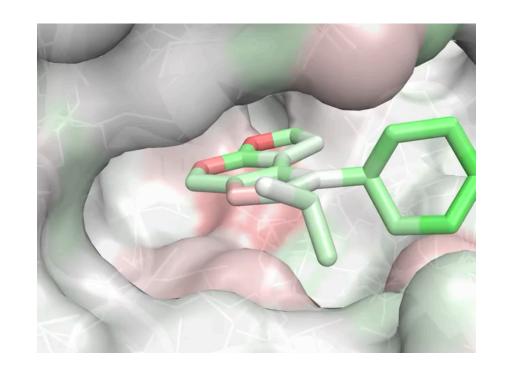


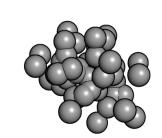
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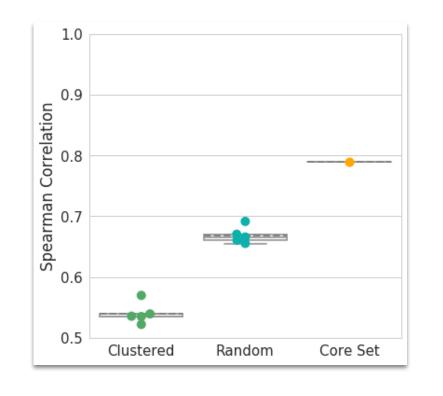


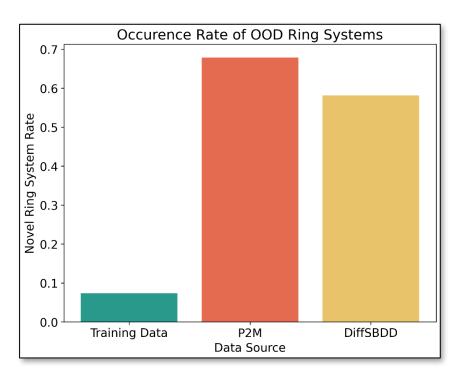
Rigorous evaluation is essential





Deep learning works for molecules!

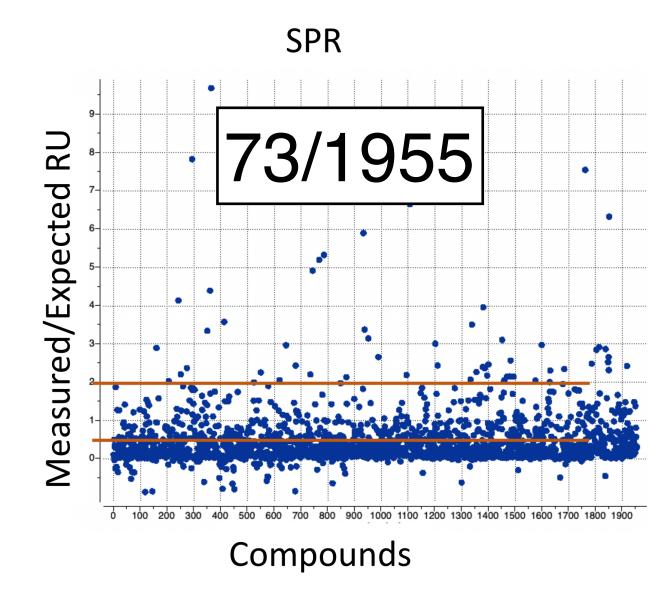


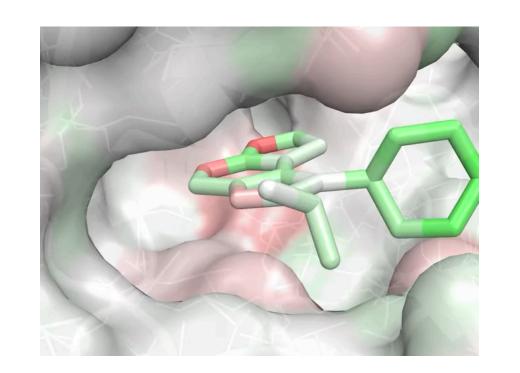


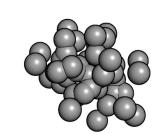
Rigorous evaluation is essential

No replacement for prospective evaluation

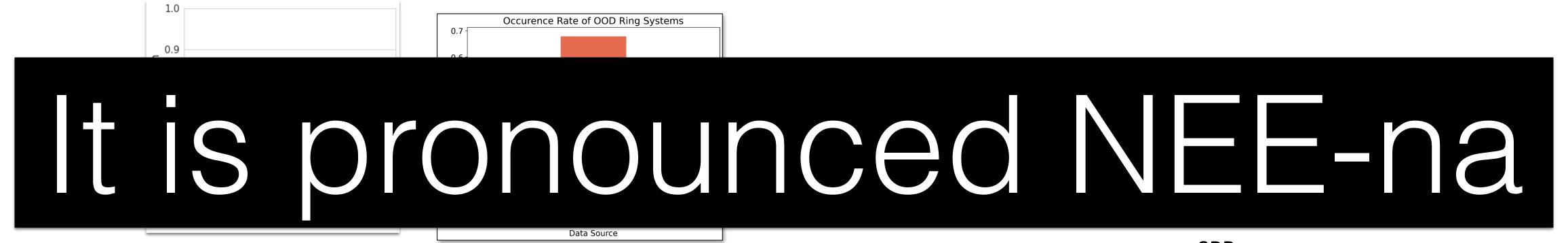
Still pretty bad





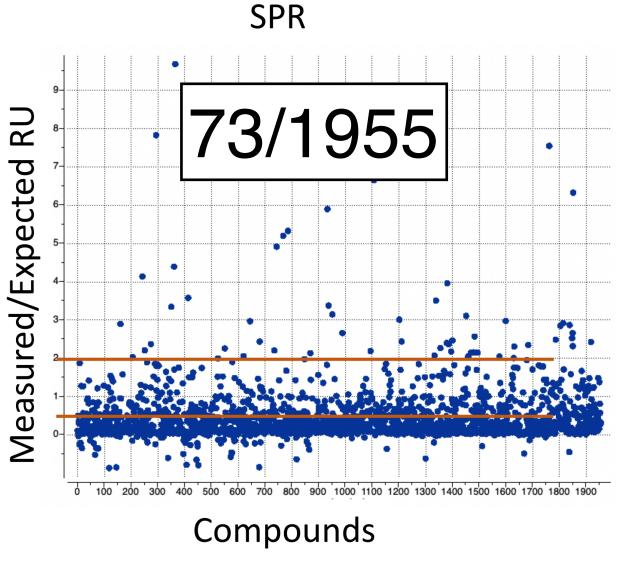


Deep learning works for molecules!



No replacement for prospective evaluation

Still pretty bad



# Acknowledgements



### Current

Ian Dunn Emma Flynn Riya Shah Rishal Aggarwal Drew McNutt Daniel Penaherrera Jacky Chen Somayeh Pirhadi Fareeda Abu-Juam Ben Krummenacher

#### **Previous**

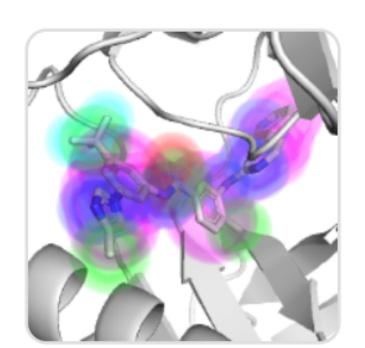
Jocelyn Sunseri Matthew Ragoza Tomohide Masuda Paul Francoeur Jonathan King Rocco Meli Josh Hochuli Elisa Idrobo Lily Turner Alec Helbling Andrew Jia Rich Iovanisci Ian Snyder Nick Rego

CHE-1800435



R01GM108340

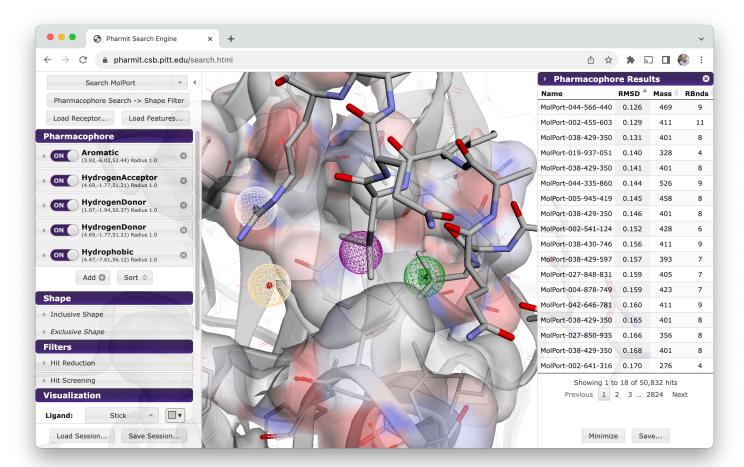
# Shameless Plugs



### gnina

https://github.com/gnina

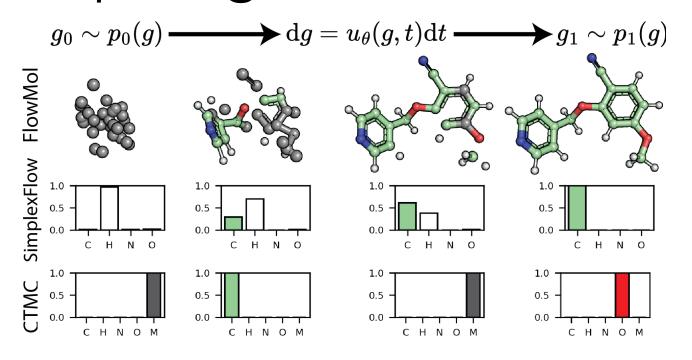
### **Pharmit**



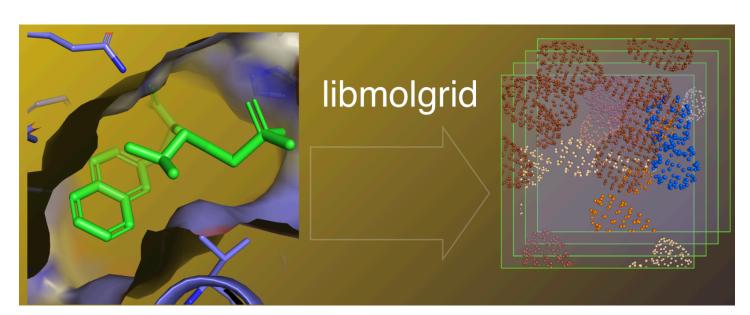
https://pharmit.csb.pitt.edu

### **FlowMol**

https://github.com/Dunni3/FlowMol

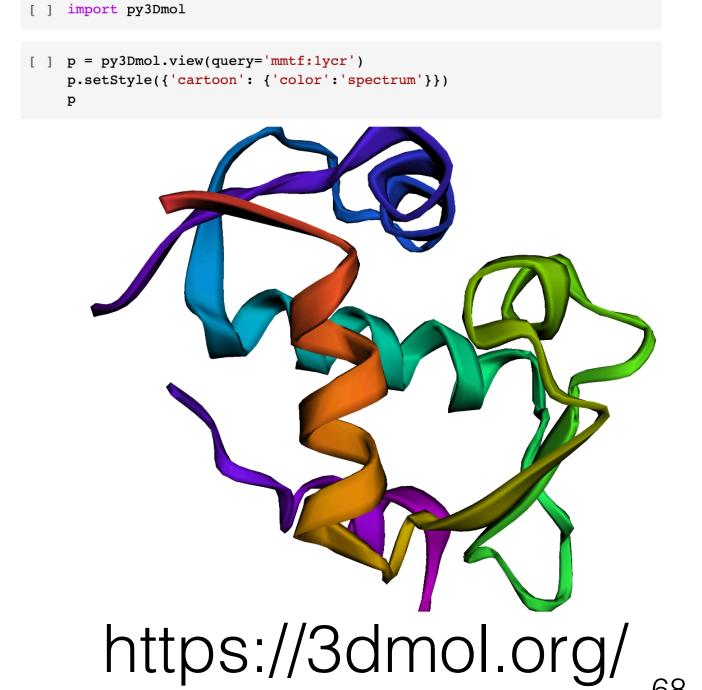


@dkoes.compstruct.org

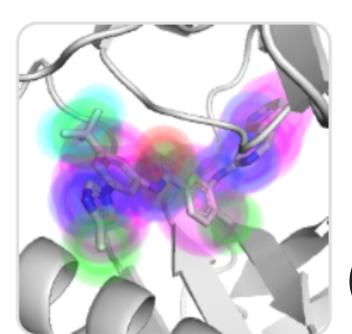


https://gina.github.io/libmolgrid/

### py3Dmol



# Shameless Plugs

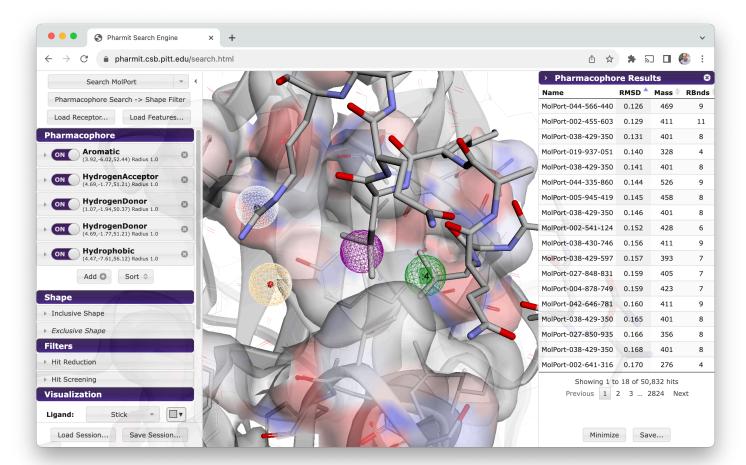


### gnina

(pronounced NEE-na)

https://github.com/gnina

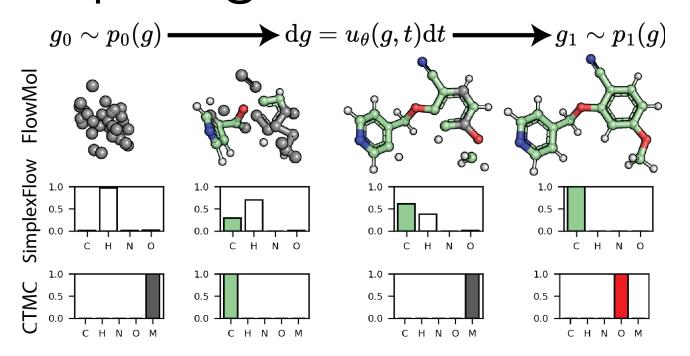
### **Pharmit**



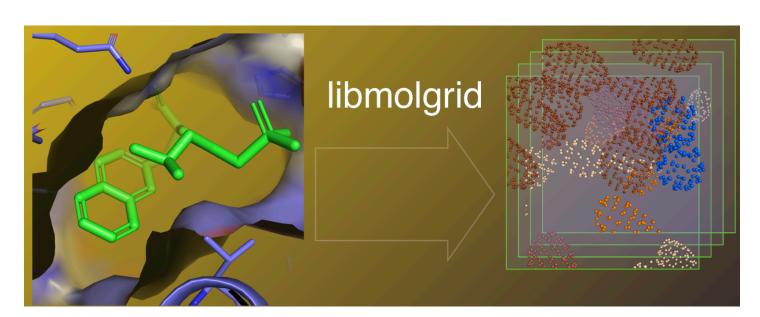
https://pharmit.csb.pitt.edu

### **FlowMol**

https://github.com/Dunni3/FlowMol



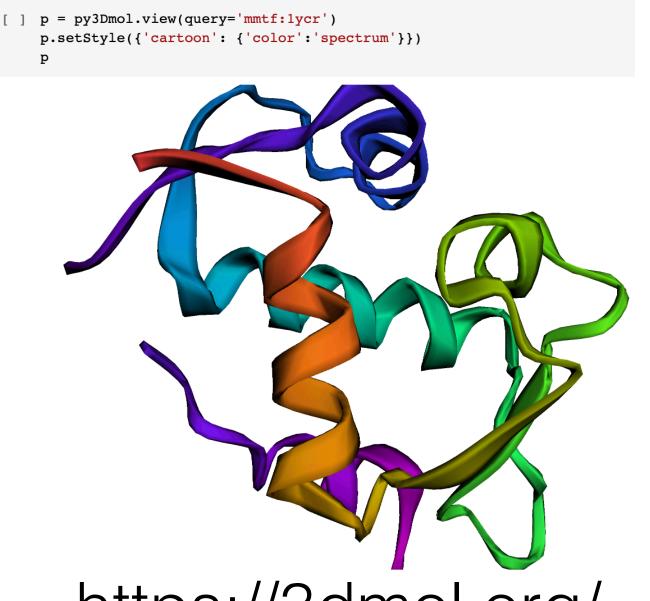
### @dkoes.compstruct.org



https://gina.github.io/libmolgrid/

### py3Dmol

[ ] import py3Dmol



https://3dmol.org/