

How Working Groups Work

Holly Wichman

Director, Center for Modeling Complex Interactions

What makes interdisciplinary research hard?

- Different disciplinary cultures
- Language barriers
- Low comfort level / lack of trust
- Territoriality

- ?????

WGs: What do you need?

1. Formalized groups
2. Well-equipped space
3. Regular, scheduled time
4. Inclusiveness: faculty, postdocs, research staff, and students

WGs: What are the benefits

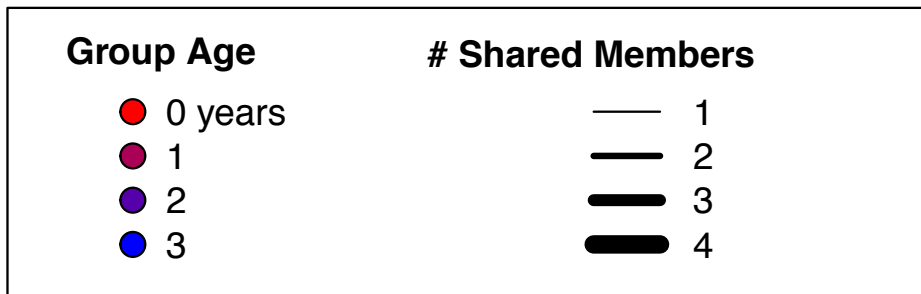
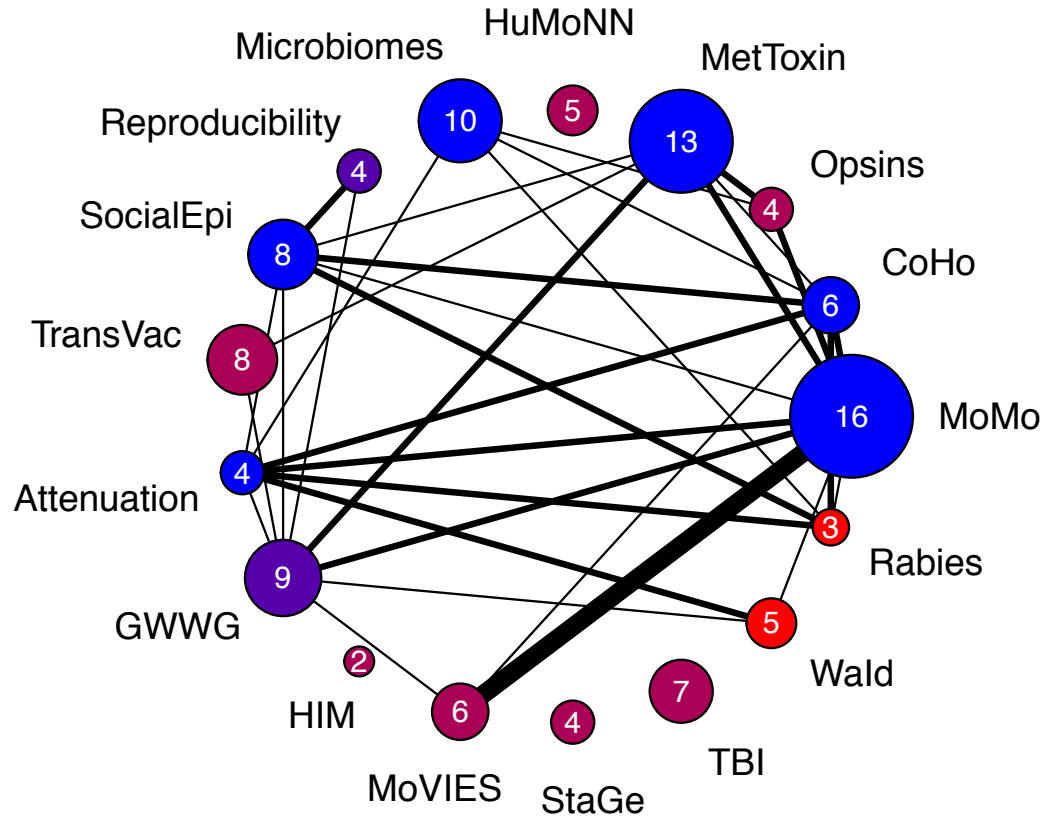
1. Promotes communication
2. Assures that work progresses at a good pace
3. Makes goals explicit, shared, and public
4. Helps with reporting

Please don't call it a meeting...





Age, Size, and Connectivity



- Working Groups can be small or large
- Working Group ephemeral or long lasting
- Working groups can change their focus
- Older groups tend to be more connected
- Working Groups can have members from multiple universities

How to set up a Working Group

1. Working group name and abbreviation
2. When did the working group originate?
3. Leader / Organizer
4. Members, position, and their home department & institution. TABLE.
5. Meeting time and place

How to set up a Working Group

6. Brief working group description
7. Goals/future products and projected timeline. TABLE
8. Update Accomplishments and Products. TABLE
9. (Life Expectancy)
- 10.(Evaluation checkpoint)

Some things to consider...

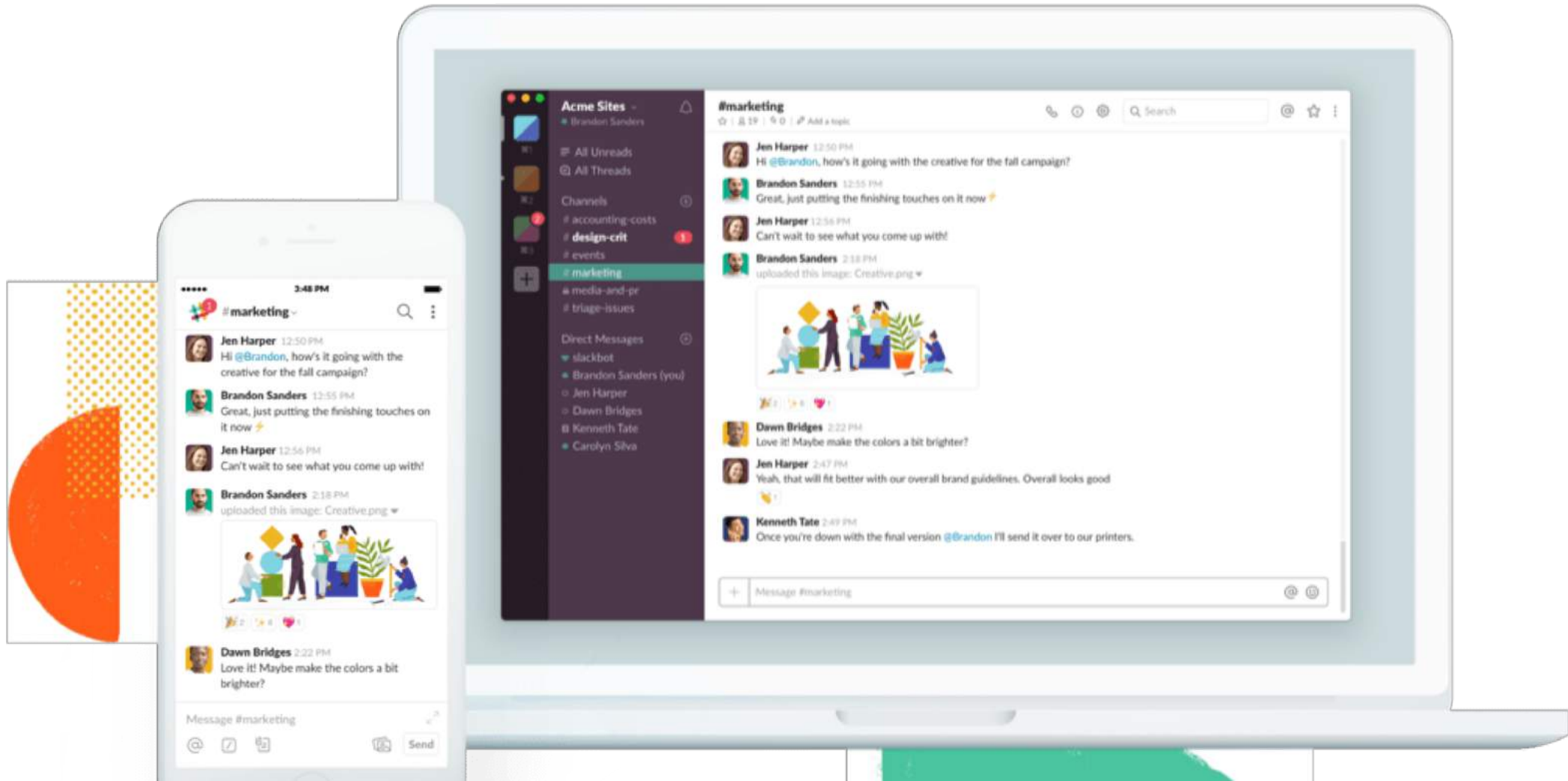
1. Working groups need to include everyone involved on a project (faculty, postdocs, grad students, undergrads)
2. Most of our groups start out meeting once a week, then find their best schedule over time
3. Initially, all members need to attend every meeting
4. Eventually, members do not necessarily need to attend every meeting
5. Prior planning is important if you are going to get work done
6. Working Groups facilitate work and communication, but *this cannot be the only time you work on a project*

6. It is possible to be involved in too many Working Groups

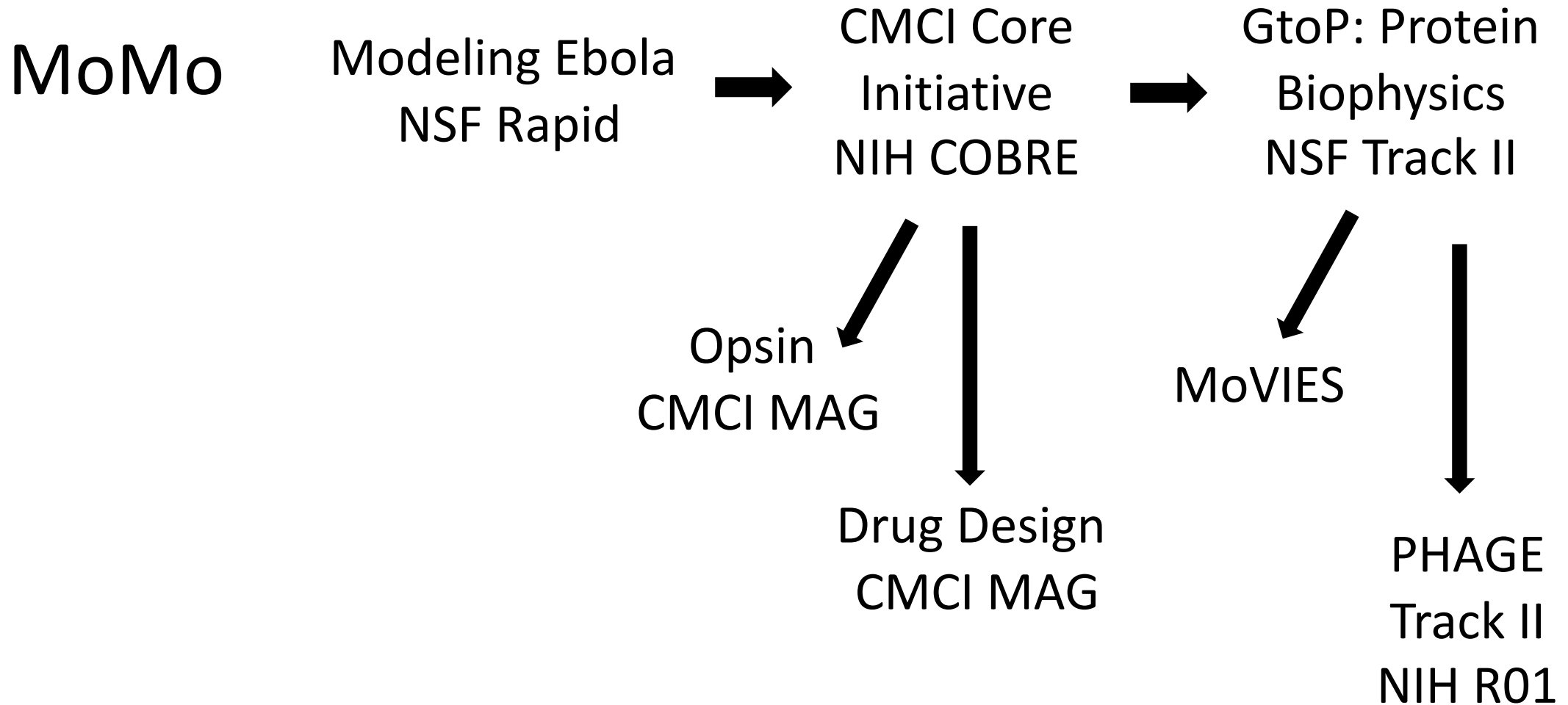
6. It is possible to be involved in too many Working Groups
7. Goal setting and accomplishment updating are an important part of the process for large grants
8. Someone needs to be in charge of every Working Group, but being in charge does not mean being the boss (in charge = find a time that works for everyone, reserve a room, discuss an agenda, communicated with the team)
9. Use something other than email for communication (Slack)



slack.com



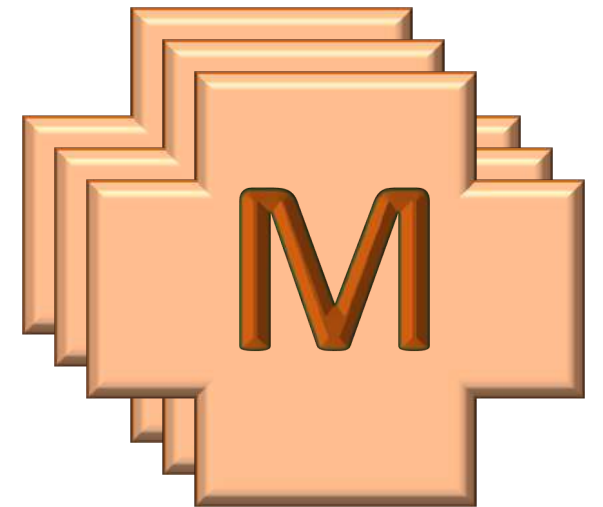
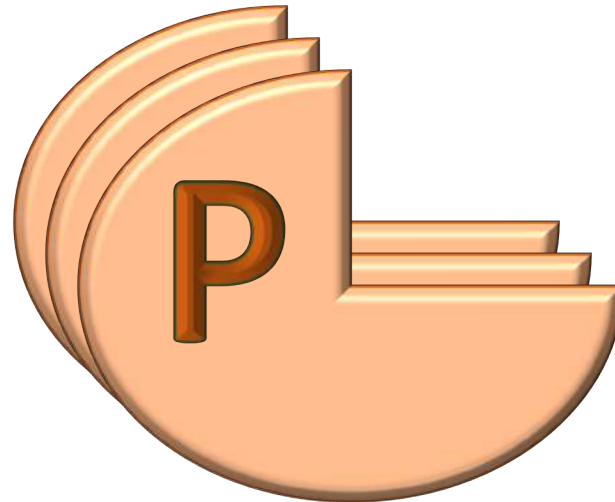
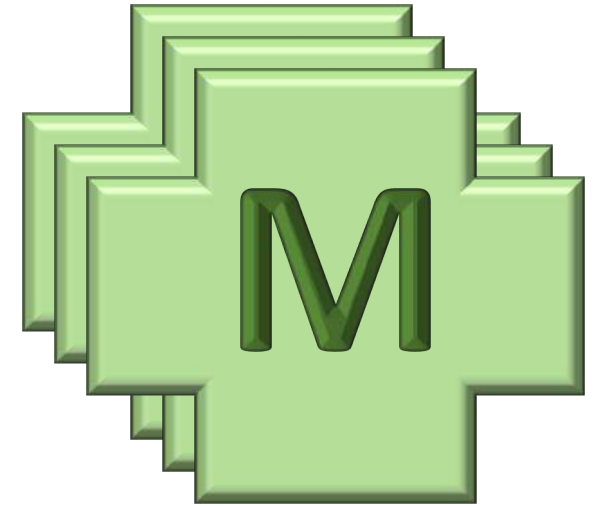
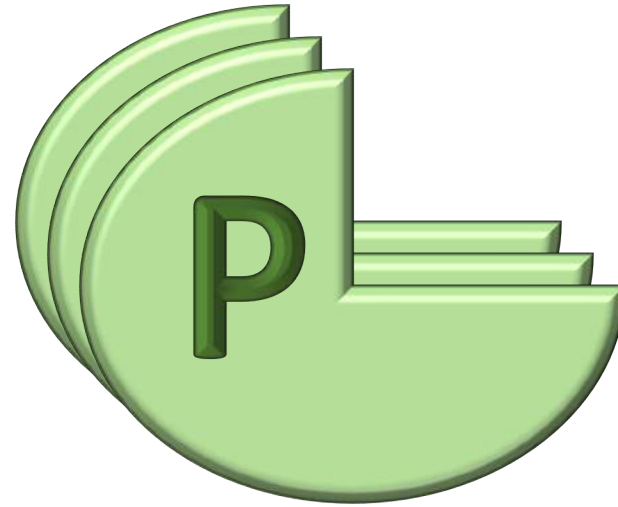
Evolution of a Working Group: Molecular Modeling



Genotype

Phenotype

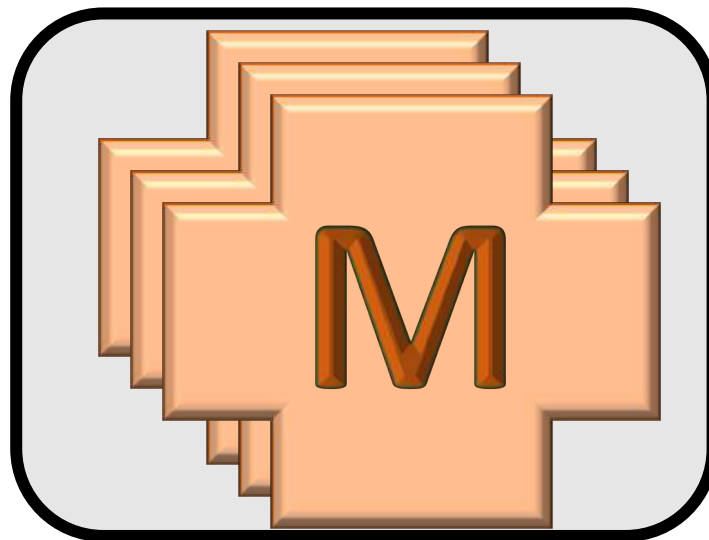
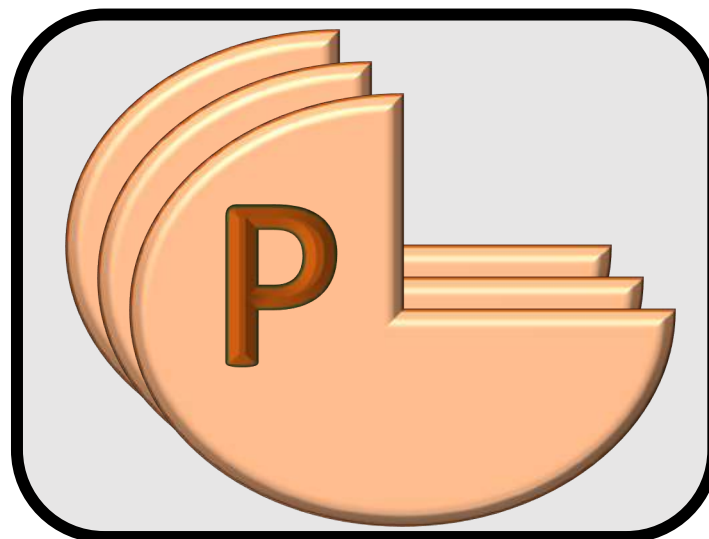
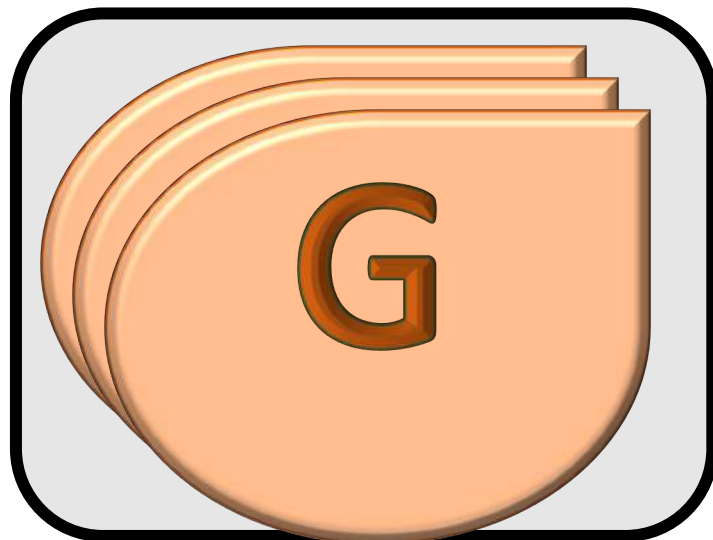
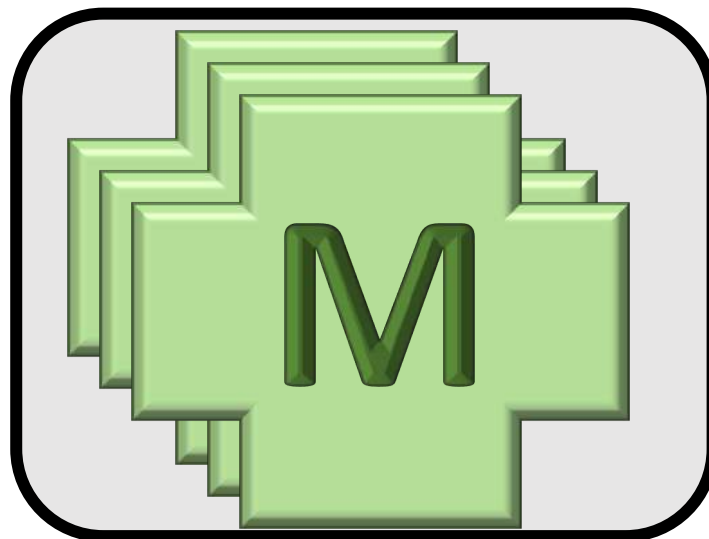
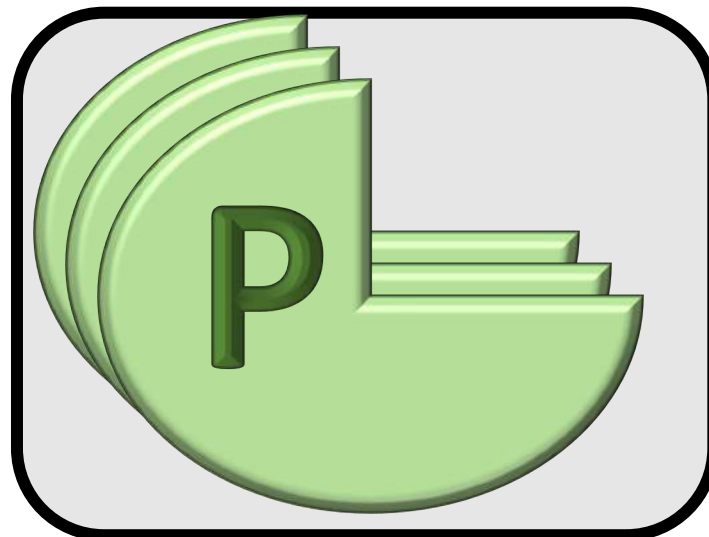
Model/Map



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Phenotype

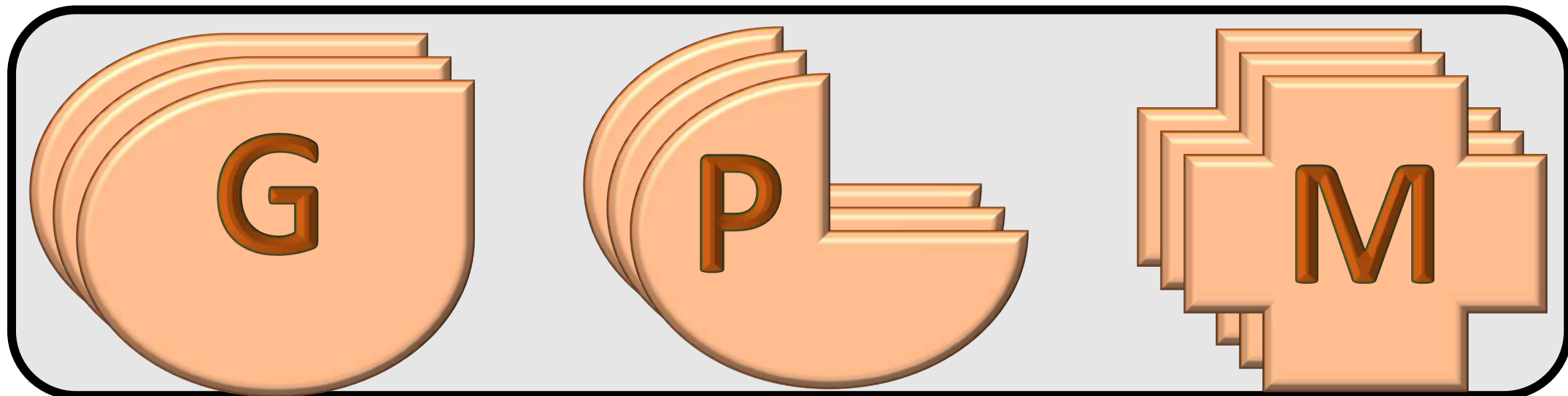
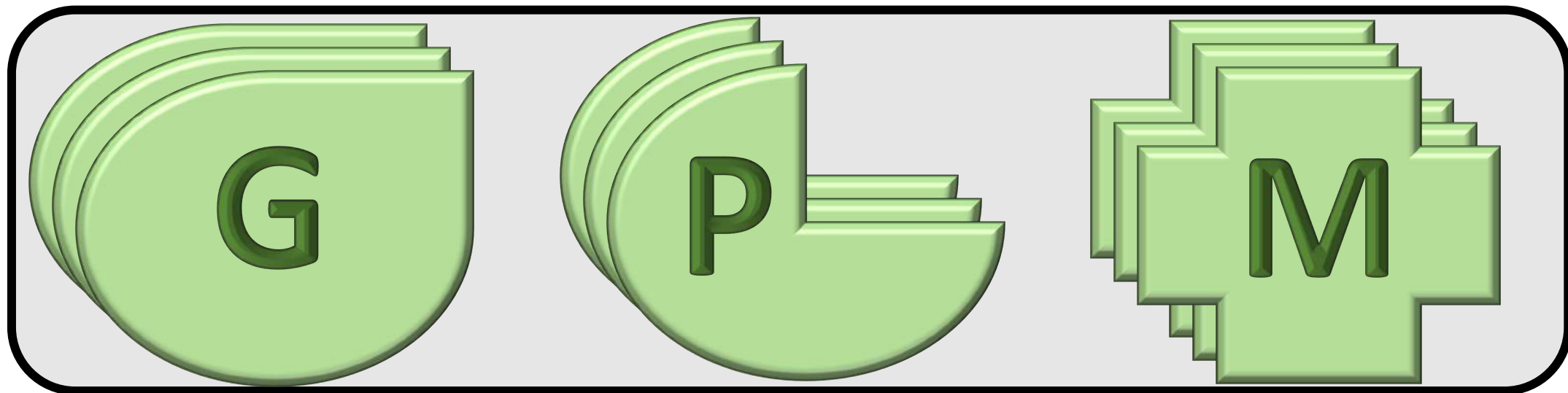
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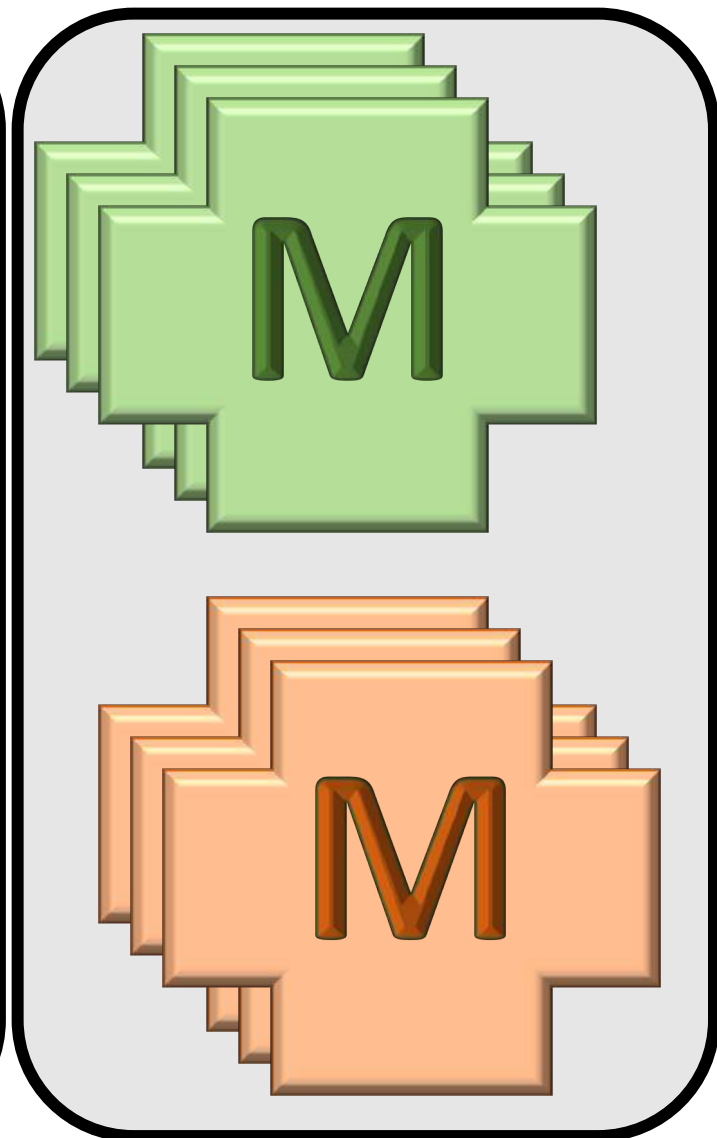
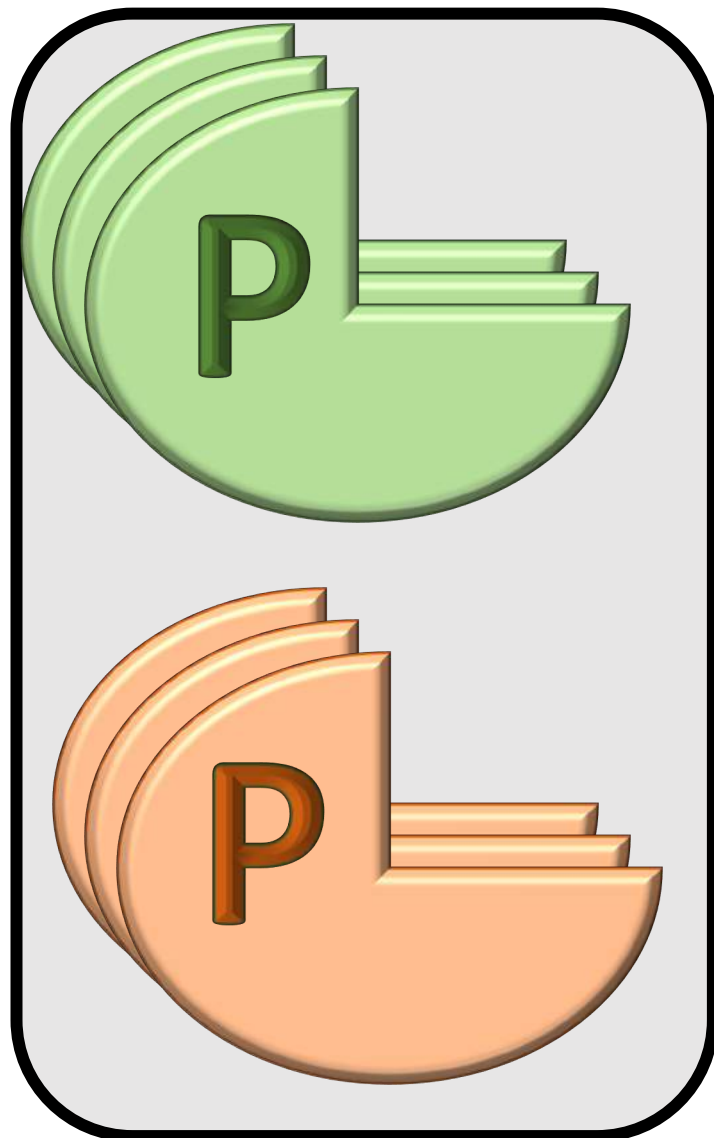
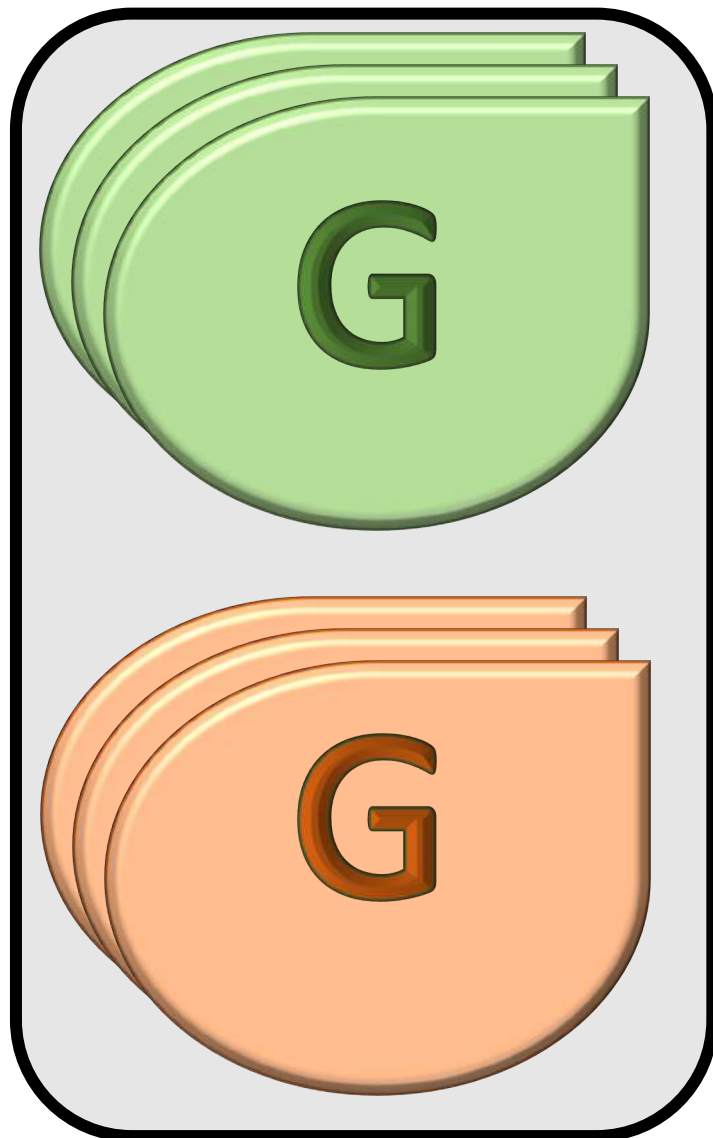
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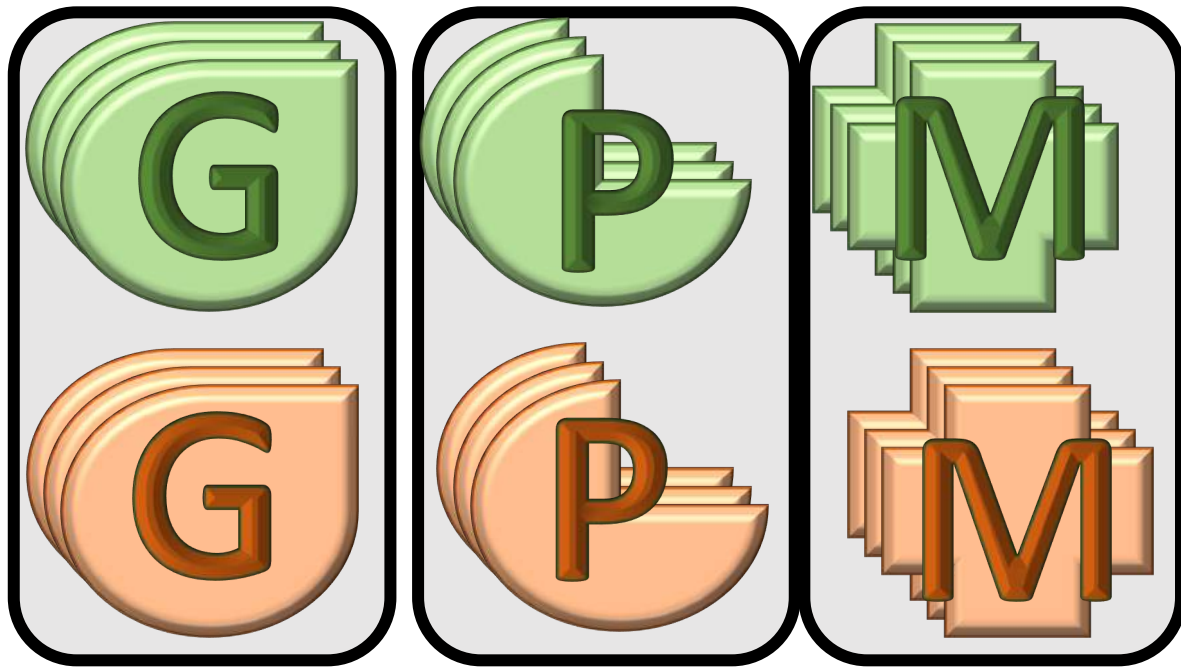


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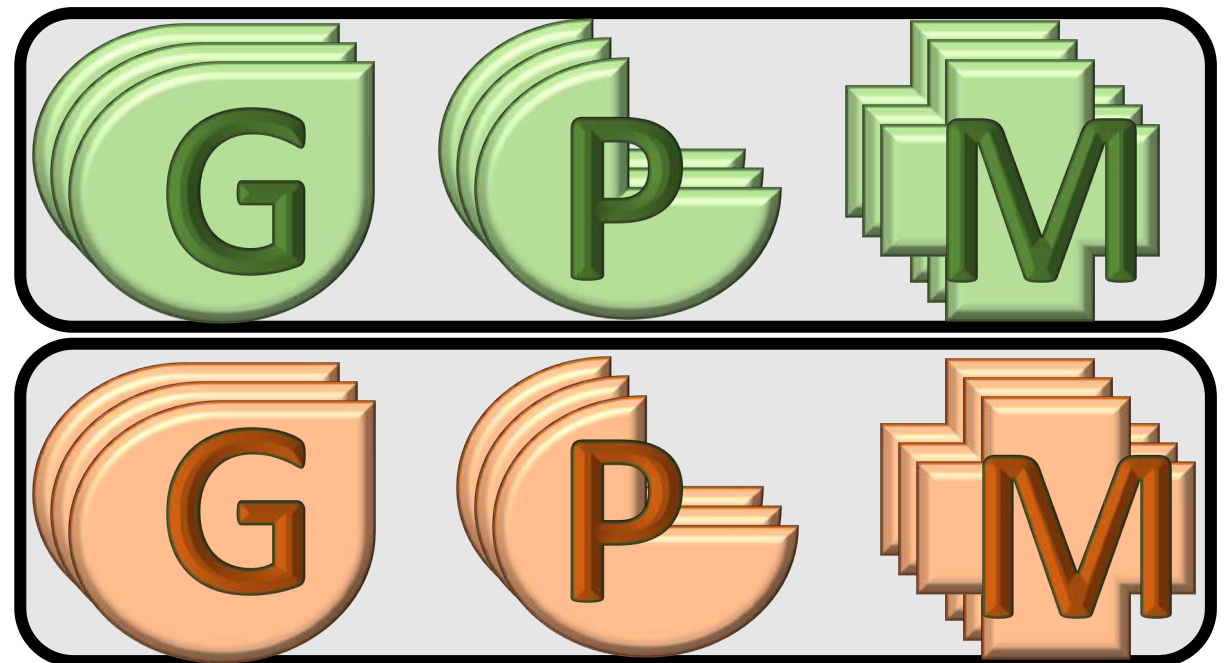
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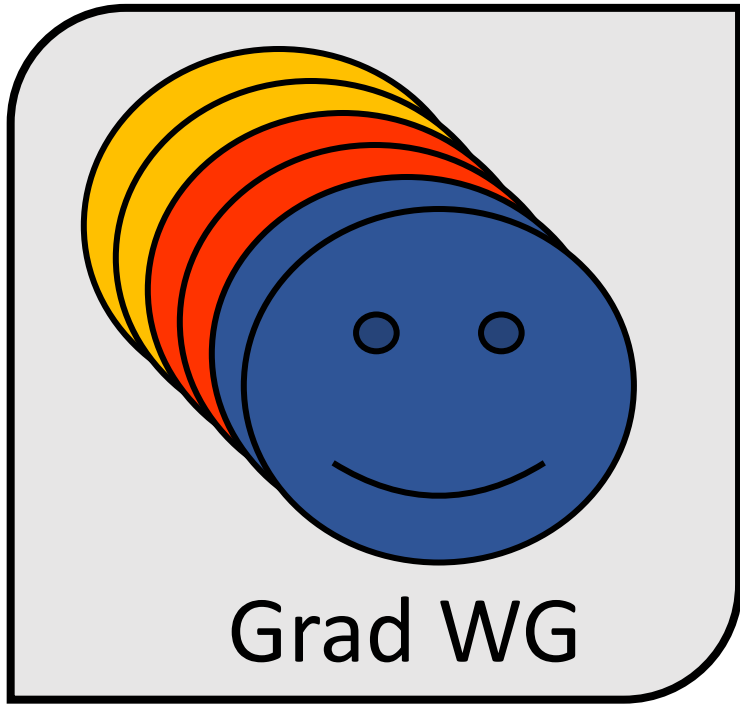
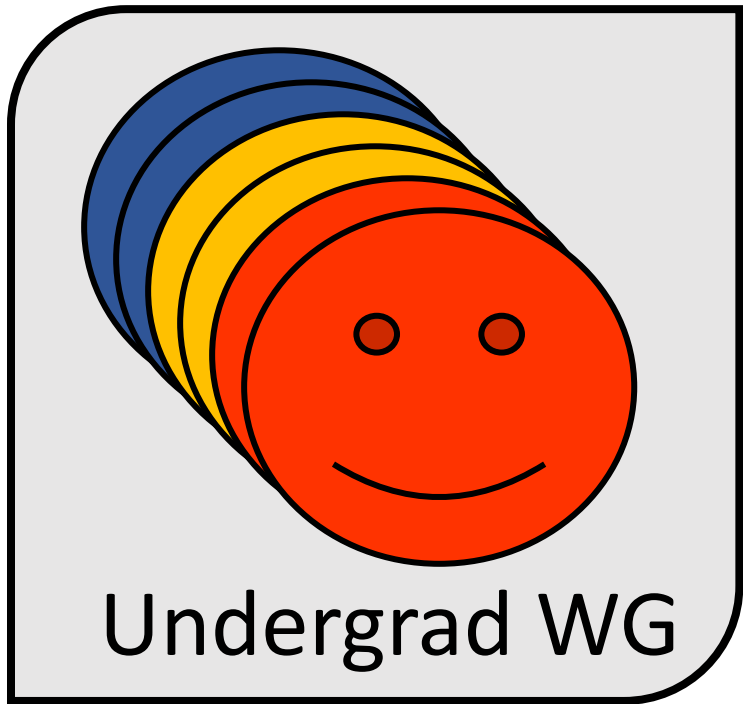




1st and 3rd week

2nd and 4th week





All-Hands Meeting

Questions?