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# Diagnostic Signature Challenge: Perennial Benchmarking

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# Diagnostic Signature Challenge: gene expression to phenotype prediction

Aim to assess and verify computational approaches that classify clinical samples based on transcriptomics data.

Participants were asked to establish predictive signatures on unlabeled gene expression data sets in 4 disease areas

Chronic Obstructive  
Pulmonary Disease

Multiple Sclerosis

Lung Cancer

Psoriasis

## Scope:

- Online automatic scoring of new predictions and display of ranking compared to final challenge results

## Rationale:

- Benefit the scientific community by:
  - allowing scientists to benchmark their methods
  - motivating scientists to improve the methods developed in the challenge open phase
- Motivate participants to participate in other sbv IMPROVER challenges
- Stay in contact with the sbv IMPROVER community
- Establish standards for Diagnostic Signature models

# sbv IMPROVER Diagnostic Signature Challenge

## Design and results

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deliver a truly autonomous classification procedure. Additionally, a web-based platform is being developed for perennial benchmarking, where future teams can test their methods and perform a self-assessment of their predictions. Though this system will no longer qualify as strictly blinded testing, and requires careful interpretation of scores, it will offer intermediate results and is a stable method for participants to benchmark themselves against current front-runners.

# Perennial: what do we mean with that?

## Full Definition of PERENNIAL

1. present at all seasons of the year
2. persisting for several years usually with new herbaceous growth from a perennating part  
<*perennial asters*>
3.
  - a. persistent, enduring <*perennial favorites*>
  - b. continuing without interruption : constant, perpetual <*the perennial quest for certainty*> <*a perennial student*>
  - c. regularly repeated or renewed : recurrent  
<*death is a perennial literary theme*>

AN ENCYCLOPÆDIA  
BRITANNICA COMPANY



<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/perennial>; accessed October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013

- Different persons will use the evaluation tool for their assessment as a learning tool
- One user testing over and over again will end up overfitting
- For more about issues with self-evaluations, please see:

Molecular Systems Biology 7; Article number 537; doi:10.1038/msb.2011.70  
Citation: *Molecular Systems Biology* 7: 537  
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www.molecularsystemsbiology.com



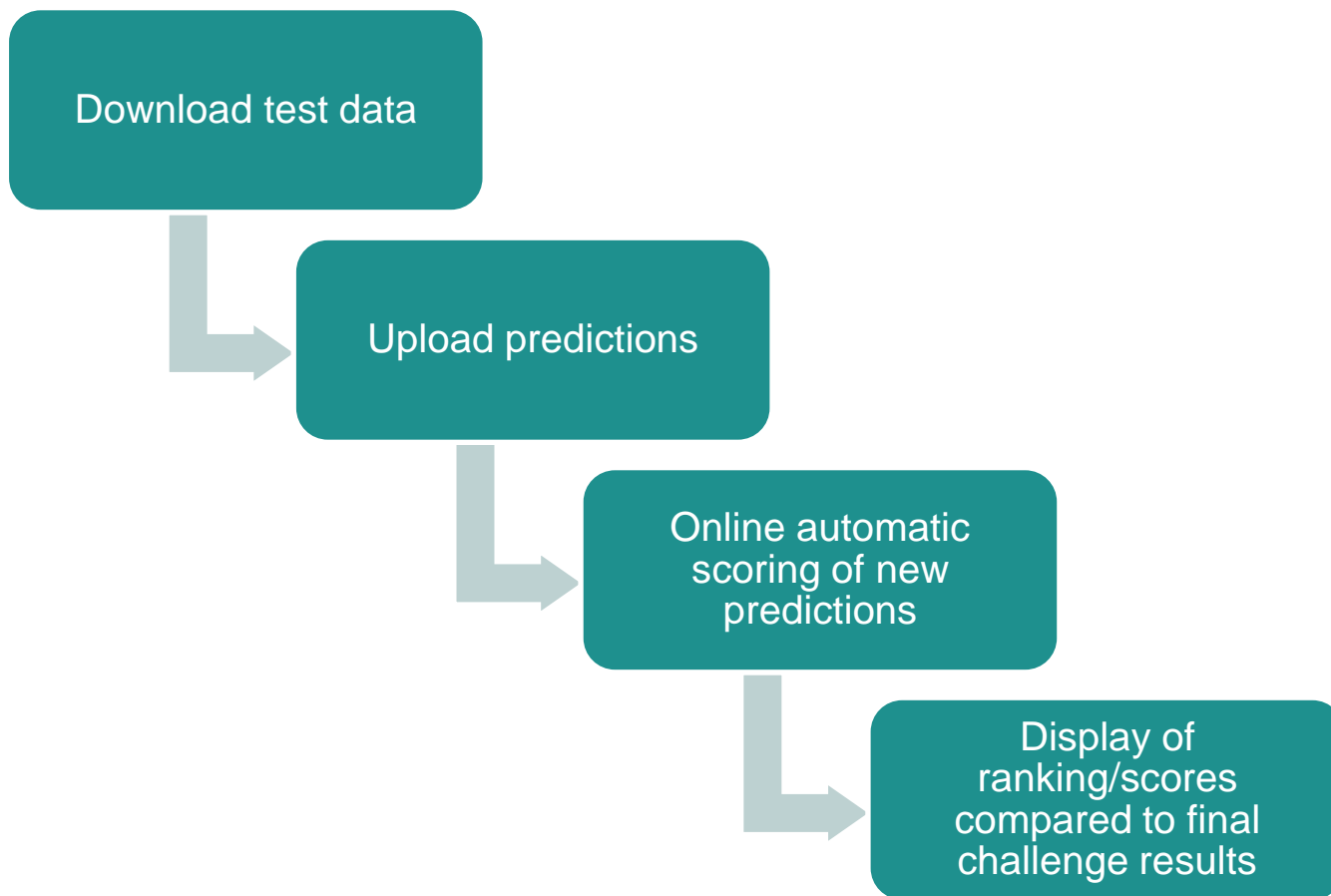
molecular  
systems  
biology

## CORRESPONDENCE

# The self-assessment trap: can we all be better than average?

*Molecular Systems Biology* 7: 537; published online 11 October 2011; doi:10.1038/msb.2011.70

# How can users expect to interact with the site?



We expect to include new data sets for testing your scripts, so stay tuned!

## Diagnostic Signature Challenge - Psoriasis Sub-Challenge



Team	BCM	CCEM	AUPR_avg	Rank-sum	Rank
Team294	0.99995	0.999978	1	3	1
Team161	0.988422	0.993527	1	5	2
Team050	0.979805	0.980985	1	13	3
Team091	0.959137	0.978078	1	22	4
Team251	0.965961	0.965068	1	24	5
Team170	0.956042	0.968387	1	25	6
Team158	0.961257	0.962698	1	27	7
Team056	0.975824	0.980655	0.998924	27	7
Team212	0.95327	0.970024	0.998924	38	9
Team241	0.981481	0.983871	0.980884	39	10
Team227	0.985714	0.983871	0.979032	40	11
Team221	0.980258	0.983332	0.979429	43	12

› Sub-Challenge Psoriasis

› Sub-Challenge MS Stage

› Sub-Challenge MS Diagnostic

› Sub-Challenge COPD

› Sub-Challenge Lung Cancer



# Thank you for your attention

The sbv IMPROVER project and [www.sbvimprover.com](http://www.sbvimprover.com) are part of a collaboration designed to enable scientists to learn about and contribute to the development of a new crowd sourcing method for verification of scientific data and results. The project team includes scientists from Philip Morris International's (PMI) Research and Development department and IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center. The project is funded by PMI.