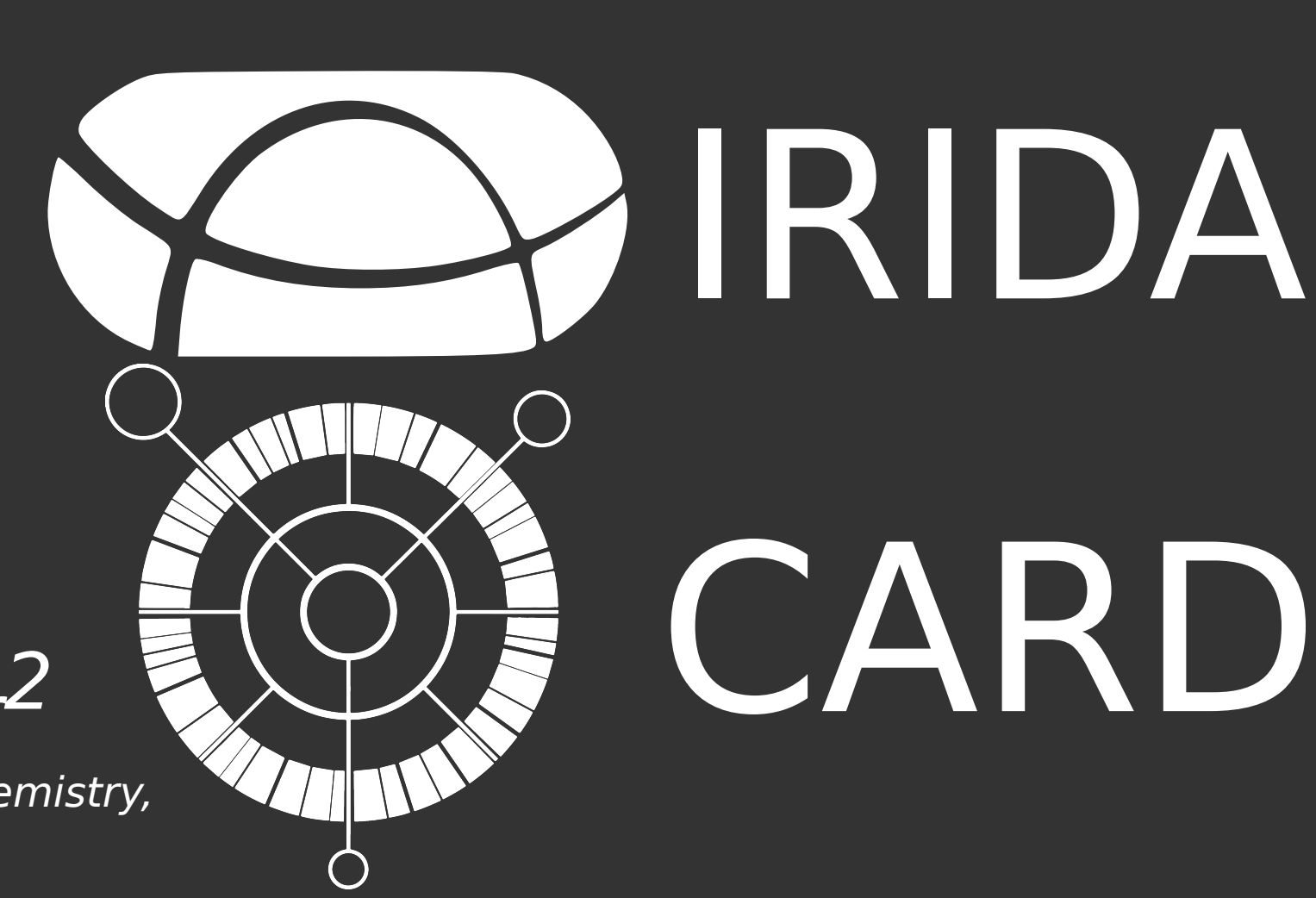


# Integrated Rapid Infectious Disease Analysis: A comprehensive platform for public health bioinformatics and AMR surveillance using genomic data



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## Abstract

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major and growing global health crisis. Development of comprehensive AMR surveillance and rapid diagnostics capabilities with genomic and metagenomic data is fundamental to improving understanding of AMR transmission and stewardship of our limited and dwindling antibiotic arsenal. Unfortunately, effectively using genomic data for public health applications such as this is impeded by a scarcity of easy-to-use automated and semi-automated pipelines and robust data sharing tools. To address these issues, we developed the Integrated Rapid Infectious Disease Analysis (IRIDA) platform ([irida.ca](http://irida.ca)), a user-friendly, decentralized, open-source bioinformatics and analytical web platform to support multi-jurisdictional infectious disease outbreak investigations using genomic sequencing data. IRIDA incorporates quality control, genomics assembly and annotation, *in silico* serotyping, multi-locus sequence typing, and outbreak phylogenetics. This platform also incorporates direct visualisation of results to assist with hypothesis generation in epidemiological investigations. IRIDA allows users to perform secure and local analysis, while also enabling controlled data sharing with trusted partners and public sequence repositories.

Additionally, via built-in Galaxy support it integrates high-quality curated AMR data from the Comprehensive Antibiotic Resistance Database (CARD; [card.mcmaster.ca](http://card.mcmaster.ca)) with state-of-the-art AMR detection methods for genomes and metagenomes such as the Resistance Gene Identifier (RGI) and, in the future, AMRtime. CARD is an ontology-centric database and bioinformatics resource on the molecular and genetic basis of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) that has recently been greatly expanded with Resistomes and Variants surveillance data for over 81,000 isolates, plus extensions to its underlying Antibiotic Resistance Ontology. These improvements have been leveraged to extend RGI to enable rapid read-mapping for detection of AMR genes from metagenomic data, with associated *k*-mer classifiers for pathogen-of-origin prediction. They have also served as the basis for the development of AMRtime, a highly sensitive and accurate machine-learning based metagenomic AMR classification tool.

This extensive set of genomic epidemiology focused analysis methods and robust data management tools are completely open-source and available to all. Currently, IRIDA is being used by the Public Health Agency of Canada as a primary tool for infectious disease outbreak investigations and is used/installed by other government and academic groups internationally across four continents (including the US, UK, South Africa, and Singapore). IRIDA is freely available at [github.com/phac-nml/irida](http://github.com/phac-nml/irida) and [www.irida.ca](http://www.irida.ca)

## IRIDA

IRIDA is a web-based application that can be locally deployed as a stand-alone platform, designed to provide public health, clinical microbiology, and food regulatory authorities with the capability to incorporate next-generation sequencing into their surveillance, diagnostics, reference typing, and research programs. IRIDA's core functionality encompasses four main areas: 1) data management, 2) user management and data sharing, 3) data analysis, and 4) reporting and visualization.

Via its tight integration with Galaxy, IRIDA also supports state-of-the-art analysis and annotation of AMR genes from metagenomic data. This is mainly based on the Comprehensive Antibiotic Resistance Database and its associated Resistance Gene Identifier (RGI) and the RGI inspired AMRtime tool.

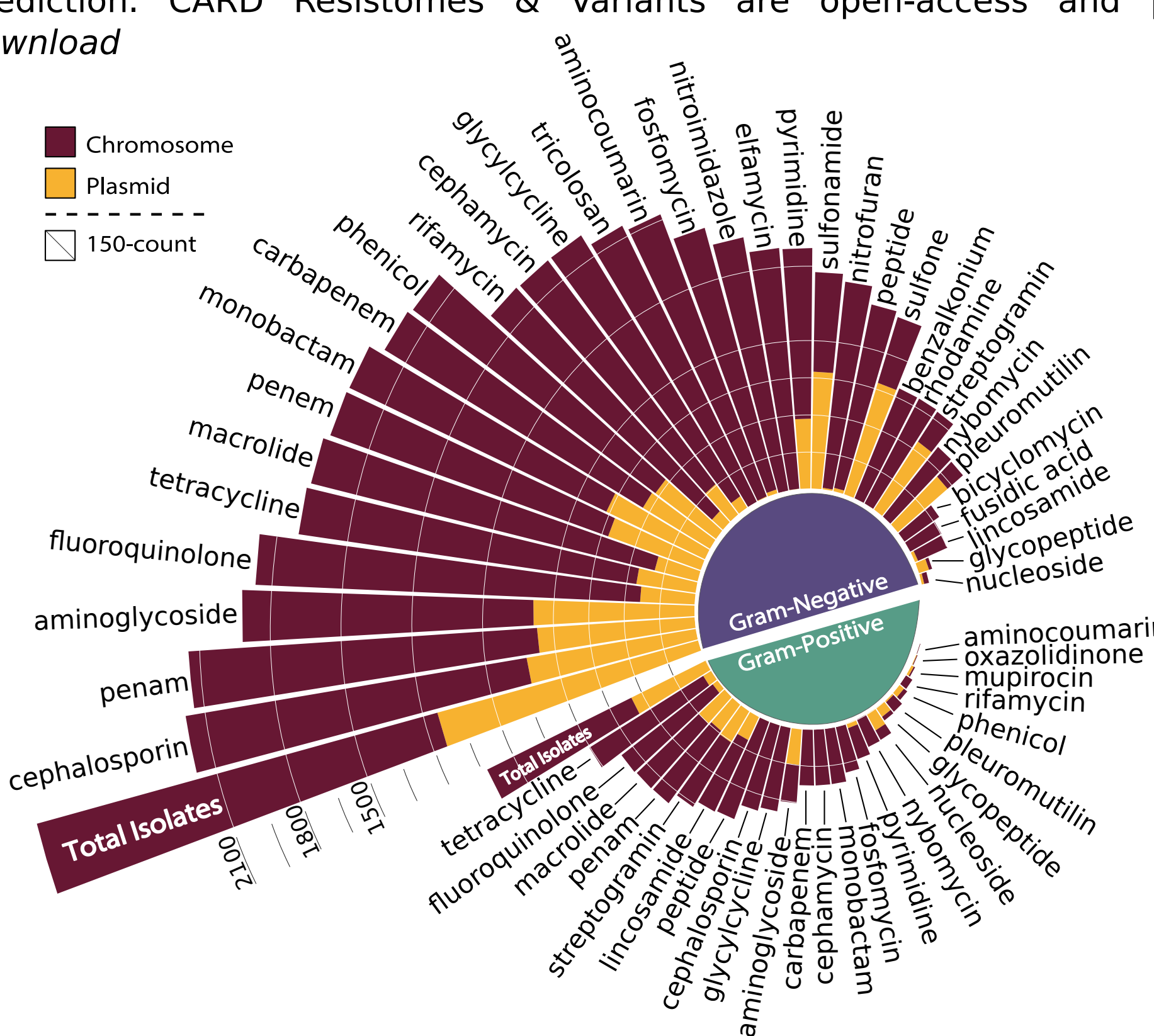
## CARD

CARD ([card.mcmaster.ca](http://card.mcmaster.ca)) is an open-source, expertly curated, regularly updated, ontology-centric database that catalogues the molecular determinants underpinning AMR. Automated literature searches via the CARD\*Shark PubMed text mining algorithms are performed at regular intervals and manually reviewed by domain experts for inclusion into the database. Uniquely, CARD is built upon the ARO (Antibiotic Resistance Ontology) which contains terms related to antimicrobial resistance genes and mechanisms, as well as antibiotics and their targets. This ontology and associated classification tags allows rapid classification and summary resistome predictions. Within the CARD are a range of AMR determinants including gene and 16S rRNA SNPs associated with resistance phenotypes, variants associated with protein over-expression, and meta-models describing multi-component systems such as efflux pumps and glycopeptide resistance clusters. CARD is freely available at [card.mcmaster.ca](http://card.mcmaster.ca) and openly curated via [github.com/arpcard/amr\\_curation](https://github.com/arpcard/amr_curation)

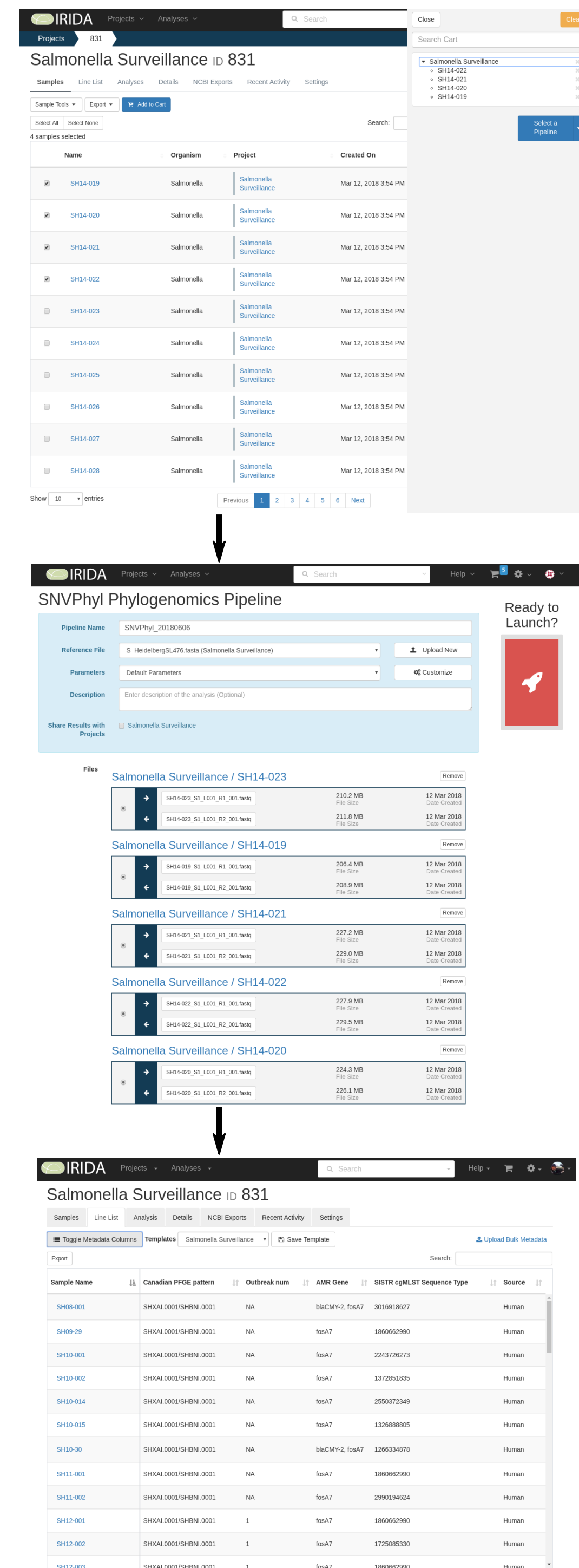
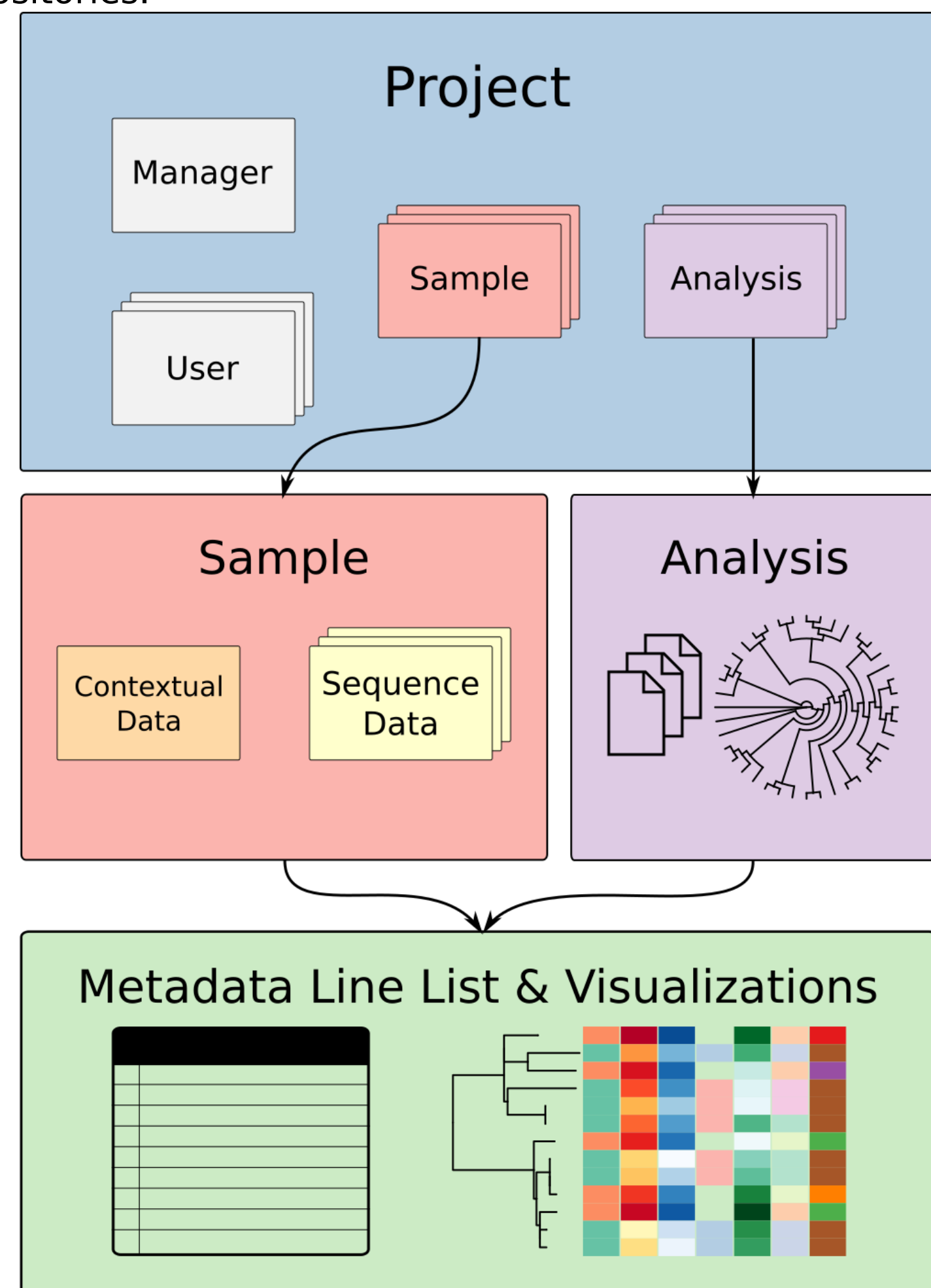
## CARD Resistomes & Variants

For inclusion in CARD, an AMR gene must have a nucleotide sequence available in GenBank and appear in a published peer-reviewed journal with a demonstrably elevated minimum inhibitory concentration. While this paradigm promotes a verifiable and concise database, it omits valuable information pertaining to AMR gene prevalence, resistome prediction, and unpublished AMR sequence variants, including those predicted *in silico*.

To overcome this limitation, CARD has recently been expanded to include predicted AMR gene variants from plasmid and genomic assemblies from a wider range of pathogens. These include 75,446 genomes, plasmid and/or contig assemblies from 79 ESKAPE and WHO priority pathogens. Using the ARO these can then be summarised to identify the relative distribution of resistance to certain antibiotic classes in mobile genetic elements such as plasmids (below). These data allow us to better understand genetic AMR diversity, monitor mobile AMR elements, detect AMR determinant co-occurrence, provide better reference data for metagenomic analyses, and improve AMR phenotype prediction. CARD Resistomes & Variants are open-access and periodically updated via [card.mcmaster.ca/download](http://card.mcmaster.ca/download)



IRIDA performs all aspects of sequence data and metadata management, including data import, export, storage, organization, tracking, and sharing. IRIDA's data structure is rooted by a Project. Projects contain a collection of Samples, which contain a collection of Sequence Data. Projects also contain Analyses generated from the sequence data within that project. Metadata can be associated with Projects, Samples, Sequence Data, and Analyses. This project-centric model incorporates robust auditing, security and sharing tools within the same installation or across different installations/institutions. IRIDA's data structure is modeled after, and fully compatible with, the BioProject data structure used by INSDC databases (NCBI, EMBL-EBI and DDBJ). IRIDA's data structure facilitates deposition of reads, assemblies, and annotated contigs to the various public sequence repositories.



Import

Analysis

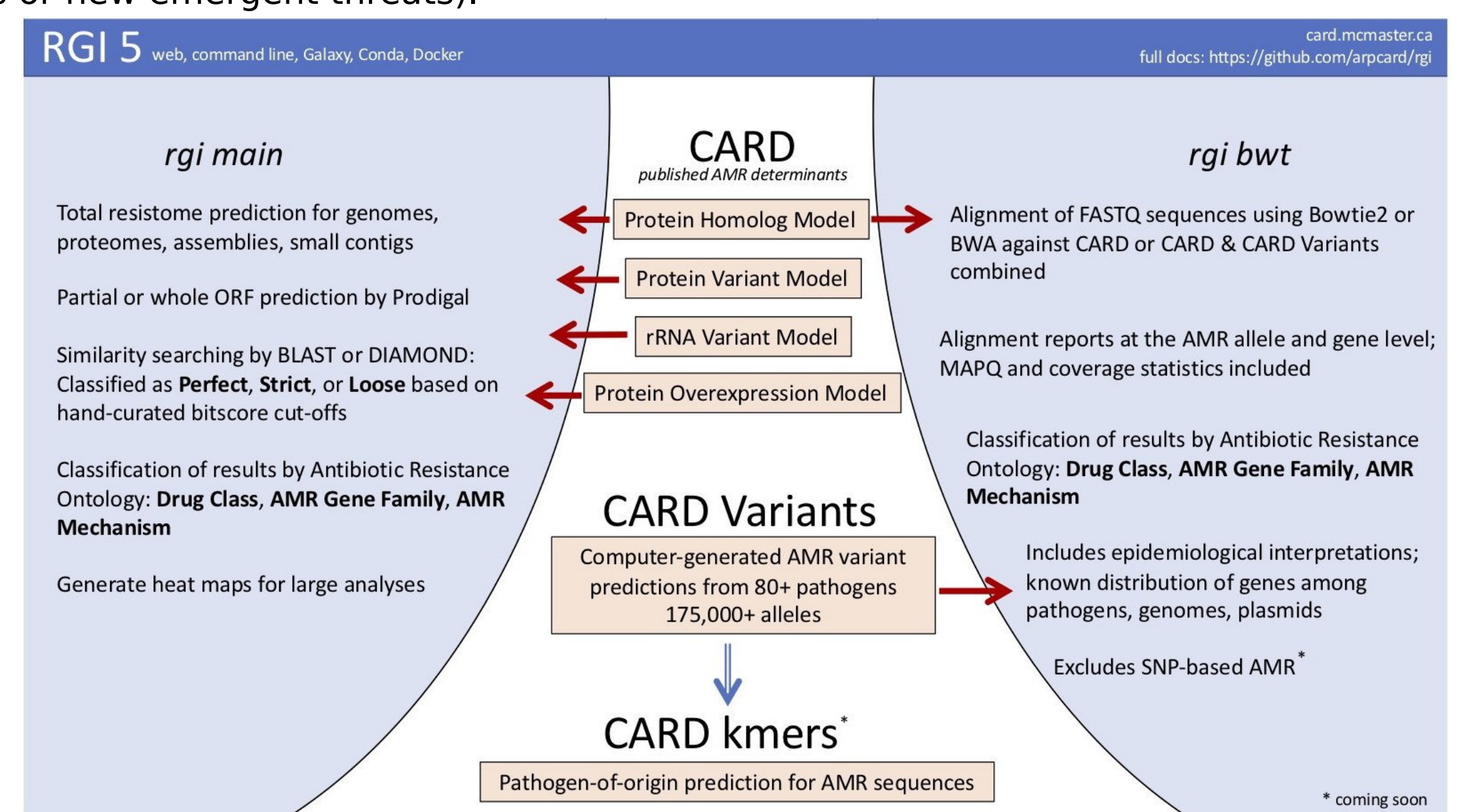
Visualisation

IRIDA provides the ability to automatically analyze genomic sequence data and metadata using its collection of analysis pipelines. These currently include quality control, genome assembly, annotation, genome distance calculations, single nucleotide variant detection, phylogenomic inference, serotype prediction, and multi-locus sequence typing.

IRIDA also provides support for visualizing metadata and analysis results with metadata viewable in a standardised interactive tabular "line-list" format. Similarly, generated phylogenies can be viewed and manipulated in browser using a modified version of PhyloCanvas ([phylocanvas.org](http://phylocanvas.org)). This includes optional annotation of useful metadata directly onto the phylogeny.

## Resistance Gene Identifier

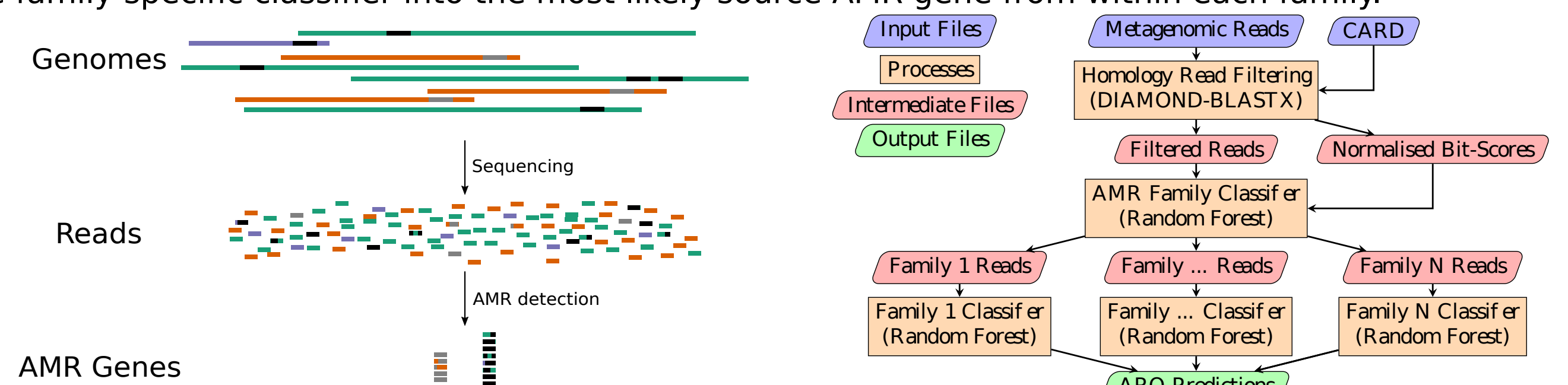
The Resistance Gene Identifier (RGI; [card.mcmaster.ca/analyze/rgi](http://card.mcmaster.ca/analyze/rgi) or [github.com/arpcard/rgi](https://github.com/arpcard/rgi)) was developed to predict AMR determinants from genomic data and has been recently expanded to support metagenomic datasets. RGI can predict homolog and variant related resistance in both protein and rRNA sequences from either metagenomic/genomic assemblies or raw sequencing reads. For genome sequences and assemblies, RGI uses a combination of prodigal gene prediction, BLAST/DIAMOND against the CARD database, and mutation mapping to predict resistance determinants. These results are classified into Perfect (exact match to reference), Strict (likely functional variants with a match above a manually curated gene specific bit-score), and Loose hits (putative distant homologs or new emergent threats).



RGI for raw reads uses the Burrows-Wheeler Transform (through BWA or bowtie 2 software) to align reads to CARD reference sequences and *in silico* predicted allelic variants from CARD's Resistomes & Variants dataset. In addition, RGI uses AMR specific *k*-mers mined from CARD Resistomes & Variants to predict pathogen-of-origin for detected AMR alleles and mobile AMR genes. Lastly, this tool includes additional algorithms to support analysis of AMR in metagenomic samples via bait capture technologies by helping with probe design and validation. RGI is open-source and can be accessed via either a web-interface ([card.mcmaster.ca/analyze/rgi](http://card.mcmaster.ca/analyze/rgi)) or installed locally from source ([github.com/arpcard/rgi](https://github.com/arpcard/rgi)), conda, or Docker ([quay.io/repository/biocontainers/rgi](https://quay.io/repository/biocontainers/rgi)).

## AMRtime

*K*-mer and read-mapping methods, while rapid and controlled in terms of false positives are relatively conservative and liable to a greater rate of missed AMR-related reads than other homology search methods. AMRtime is an alternative complementary approach for accurately profiling AMR related reads present in metagenomic data that provides much greater sensitivity at the expense of increased complexity. AMRtime achieves this by first filtering the raw metagenomic dataset using DIAMOND-BLASTX searches against CARD with an optimised bitscore cut-off to remove non-AMR reads. The filtered reads are then more precisely classified using a series of hierarchical series of Random Forest classifiers using features derived from the filtering stage. Reads are classified into one of 271 AMR gene families via a top-level classifier. Each read is then classified by a separate family-specific classifier into the most likely source AMR gene from within each family.



AMRtime is open source ([github.com/beiko-lab/AMRtime](https://github.com/beiko-lab/AMRtime)) with Galaxy bindings for IRIDA and wider tool-sheds planned for the near future.

## Interested in this work?

Interested in bioinformatics, AMR, and machine learning? We are hiring: [arete-amr.ca](mailto:arete-amr.ca)