

# Exploring chemical space: Molecular Space Shuttle

Alán Aspuru-Guzik  
Professor  
Harvard University

<http://aspuru.chem.harvard.edu>

Twitter: A\_Aspuru\_Guzik  
aspuru@chemistry.harvard.edu



How large is space?

$10^{82}$  atoms in the observable  
universe

How large is chemical space?

$10^{60}$  –  $10^{180}$  medium-size molecules

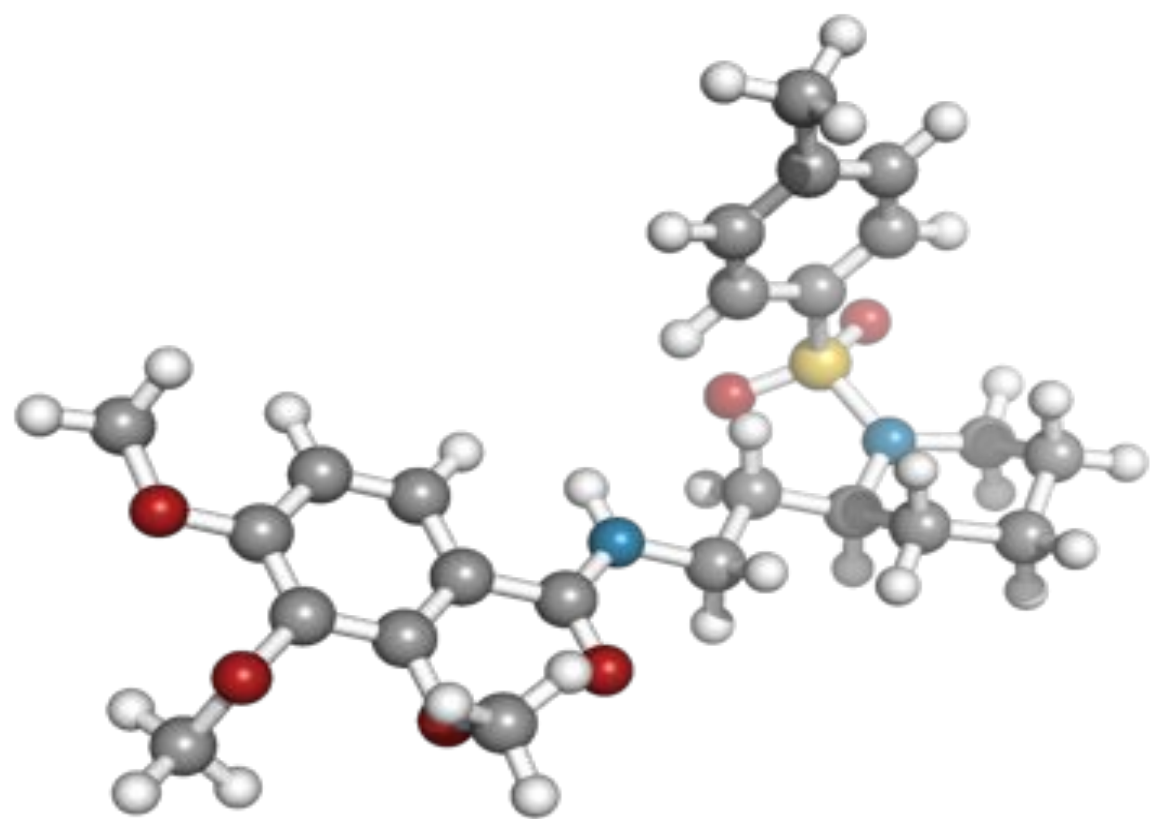
# Long-term Goal: Mapping chemical space

What is the nature of chemical space in terms of functionality

What are the molecules reachable by certain synthetic rules and mechanisms

Can we learn to automate quantum chemistry prediction for chemical space

# Molecular screening for organic materials

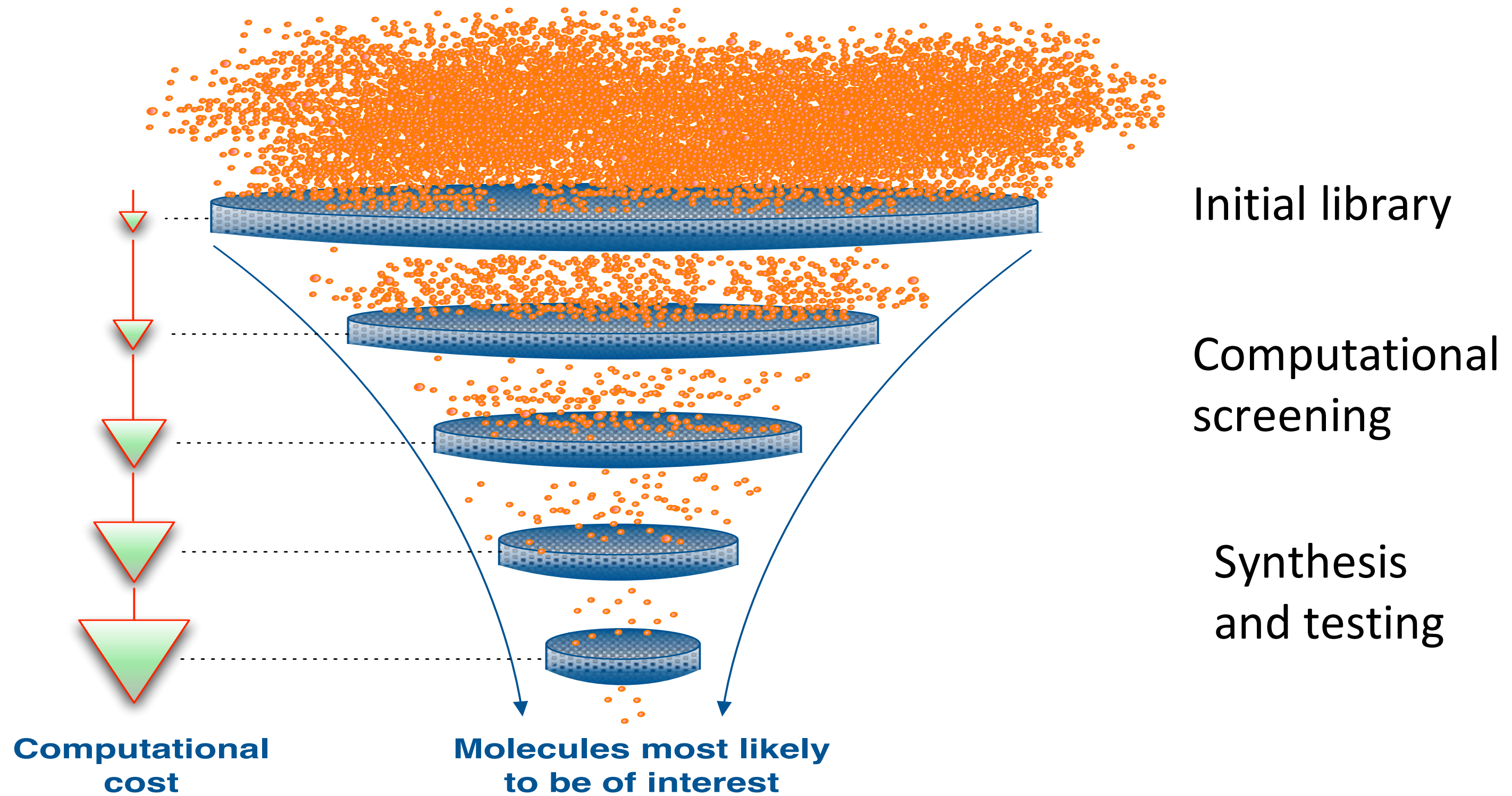


Quantum Mechanics

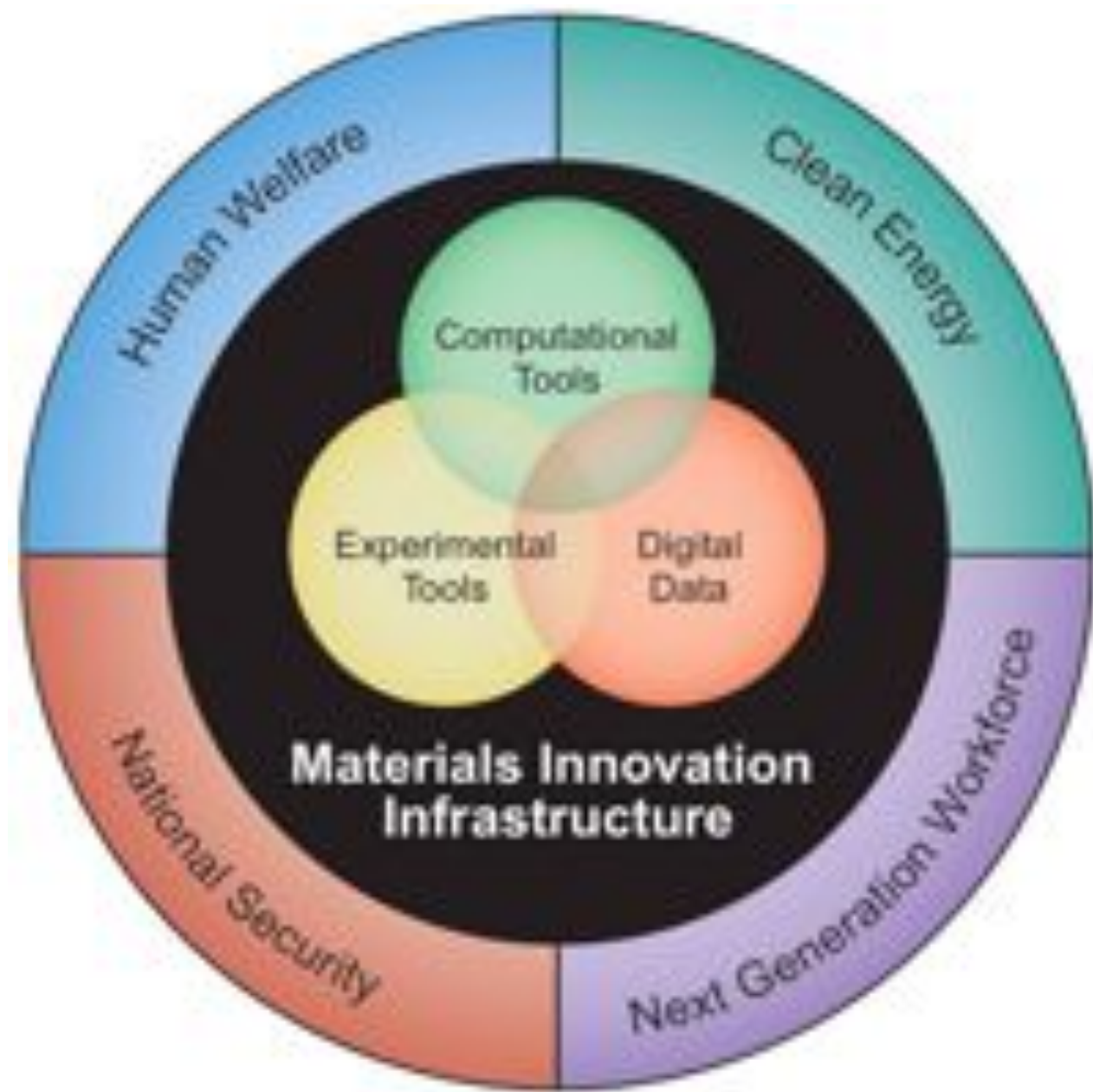
Machine Learning

How good is this molecule as  
a battery material?

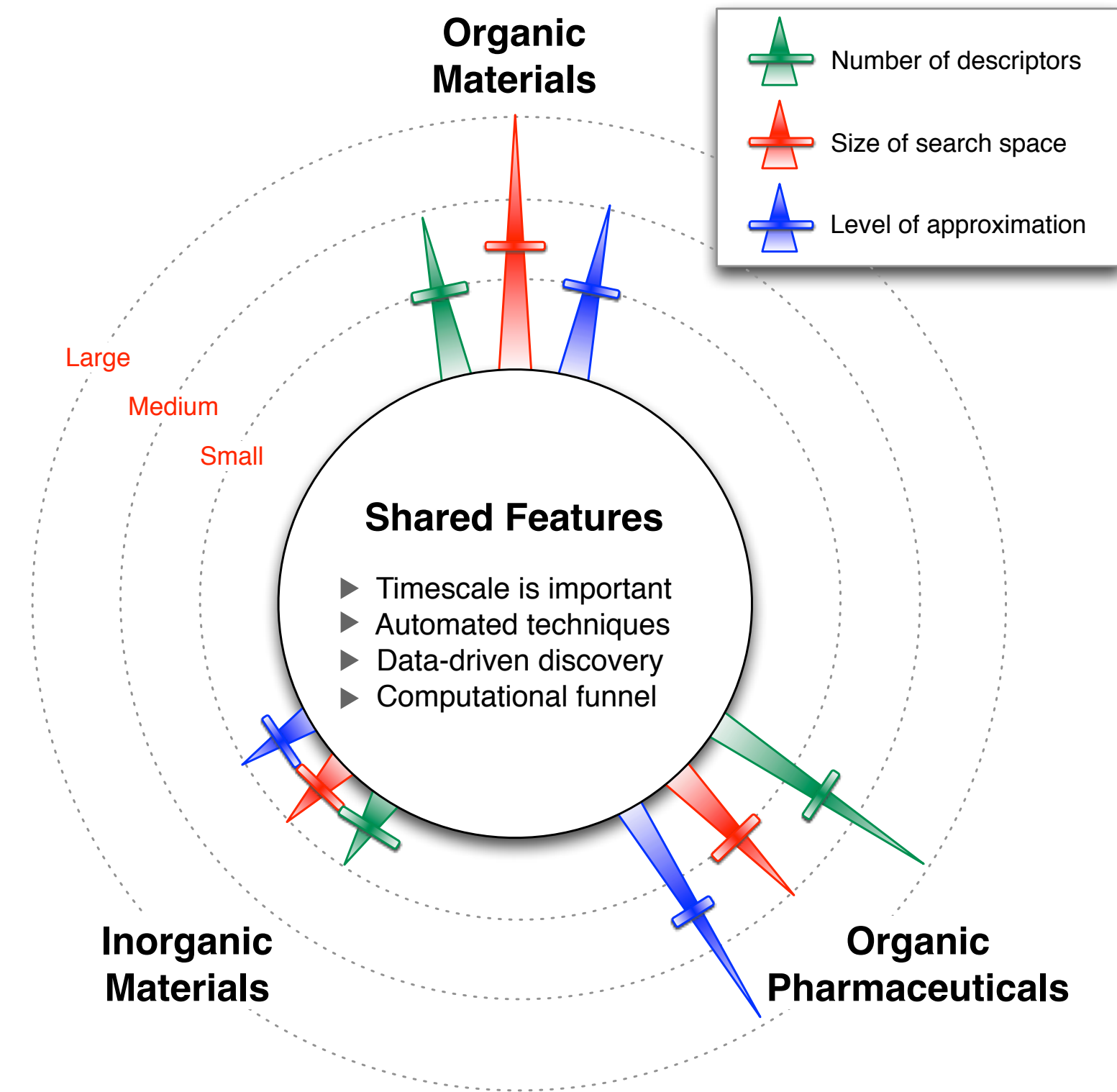
From  $10^{60}$  to  $10^6$  to 10...



# Organic materials in the larger context

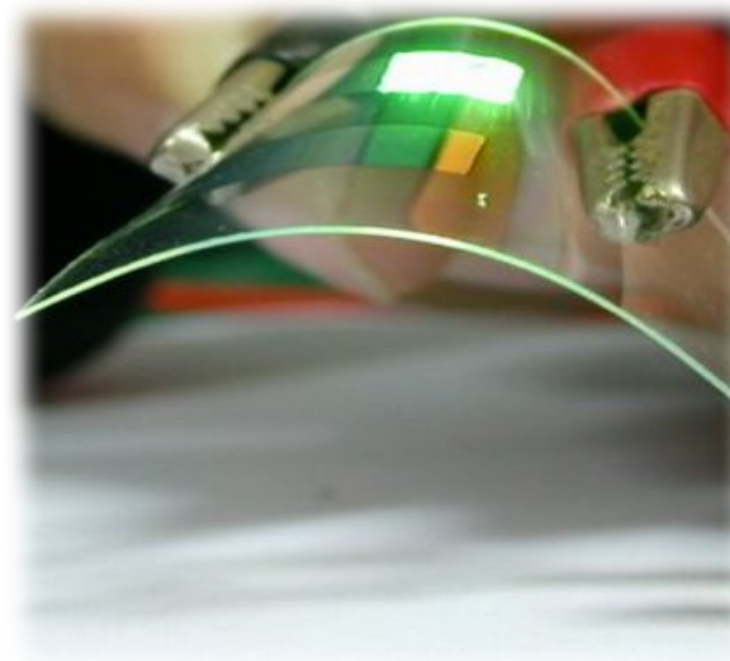
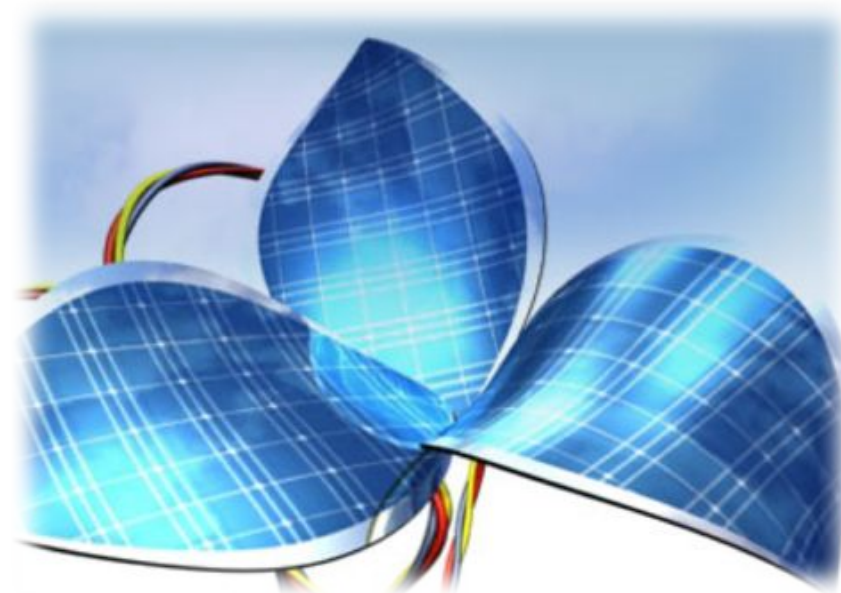


US Materials Genome Initiative



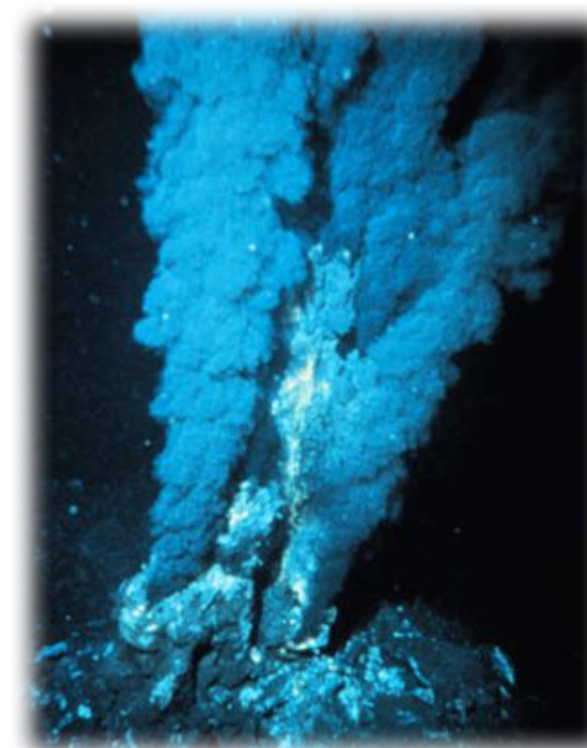
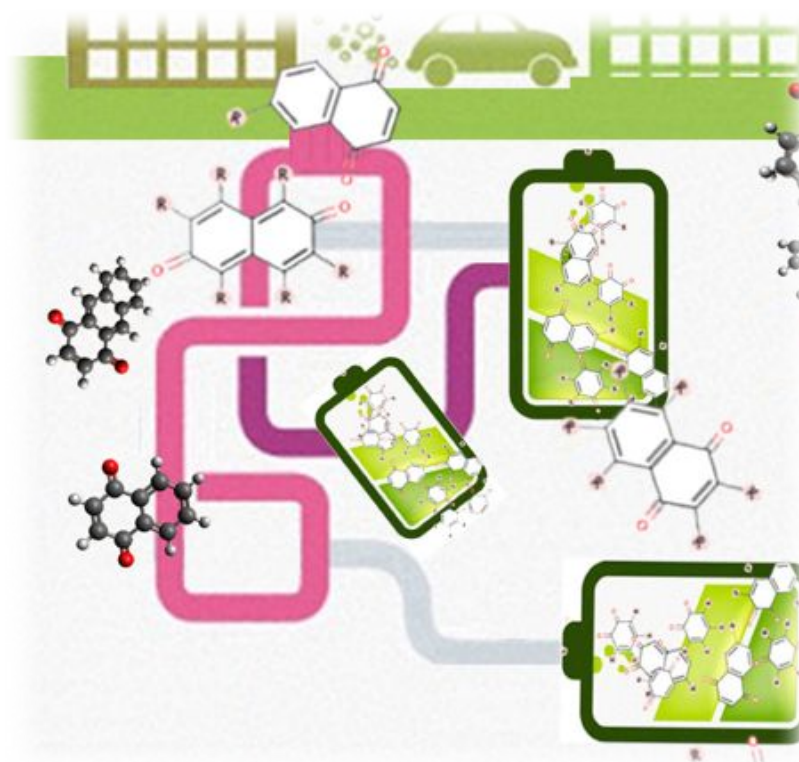
# My research group's explorations of chemical space

**The Harvard Clean Energy Project**  
Generating renewable energy



**Blue Organic LED**  
For your next gadget or TV

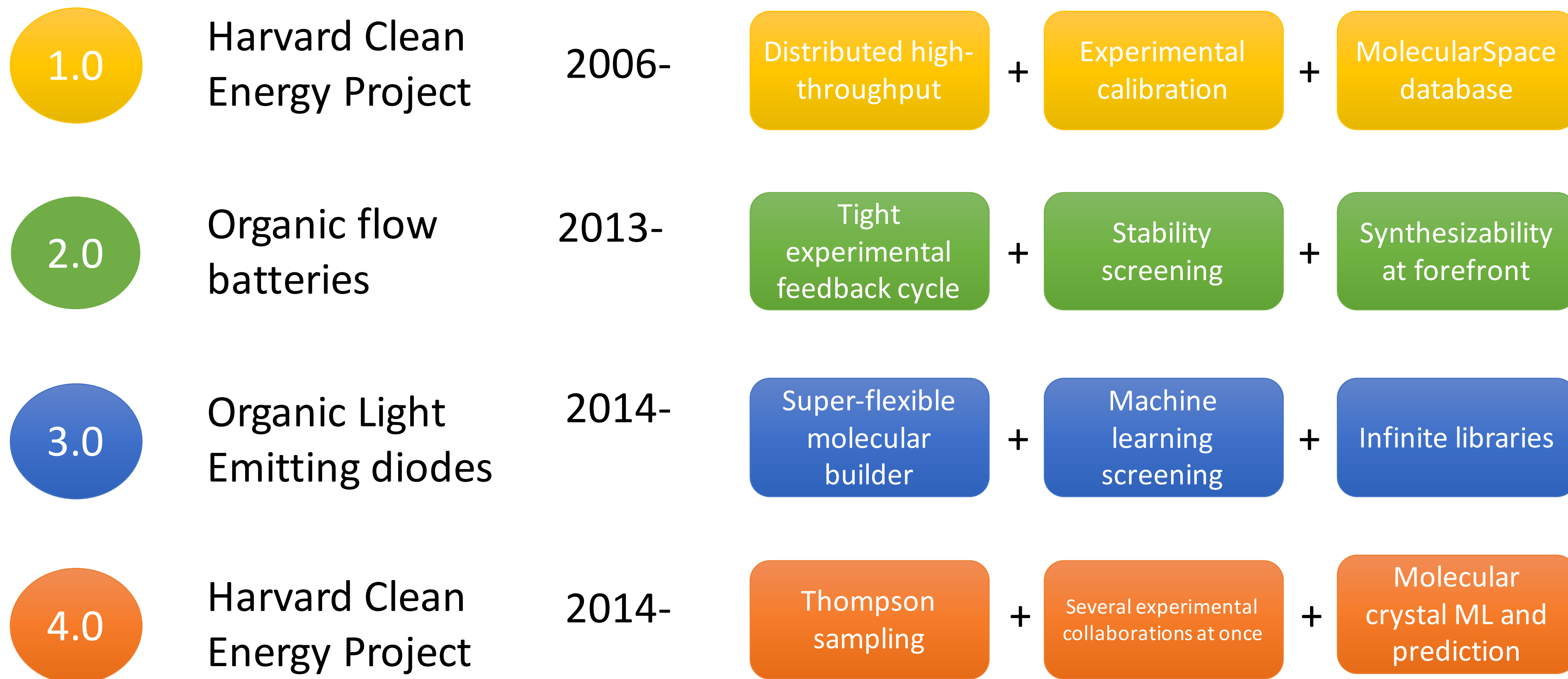
**Organic flow batteries**  
Storing renewable energy



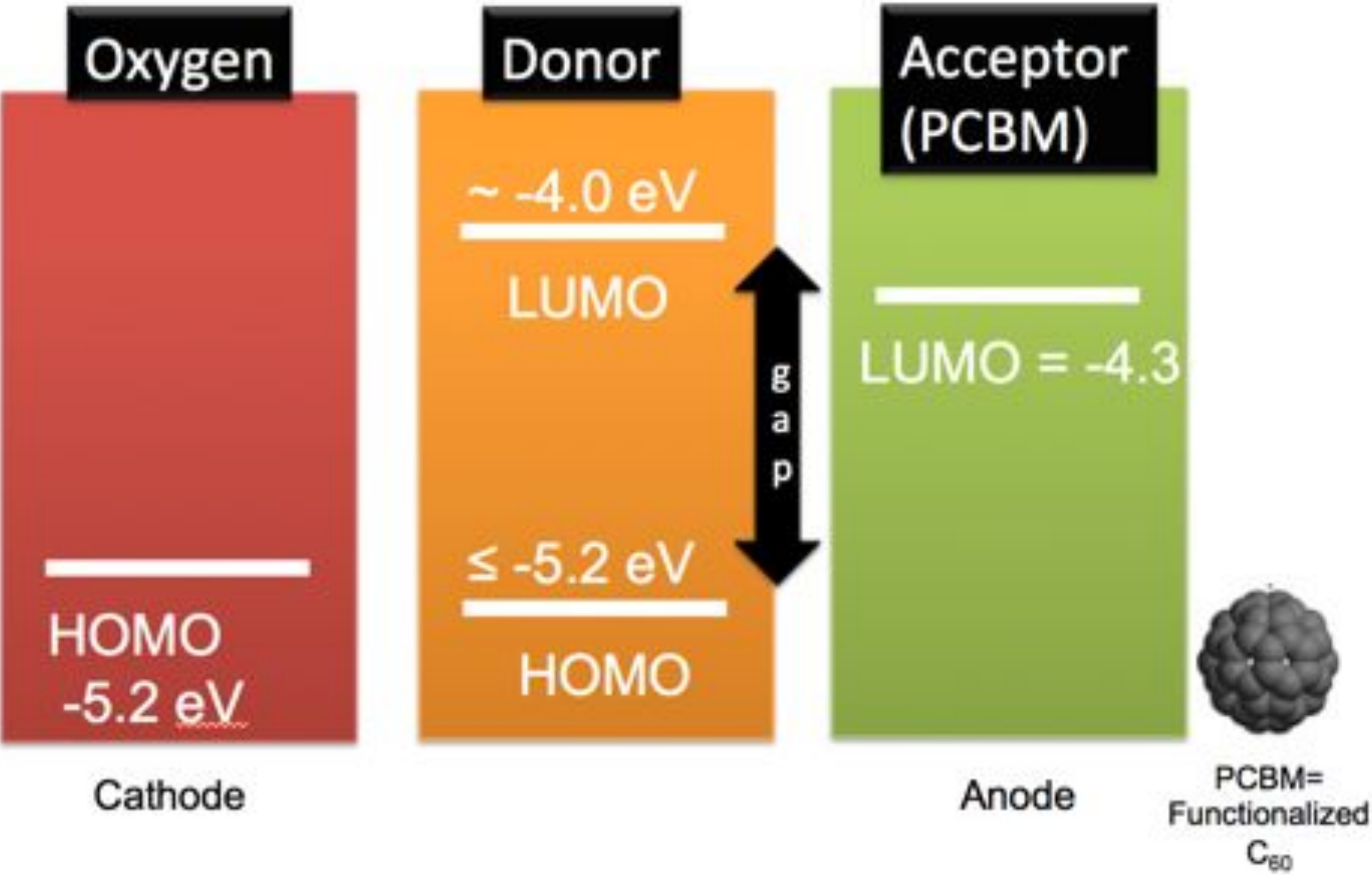
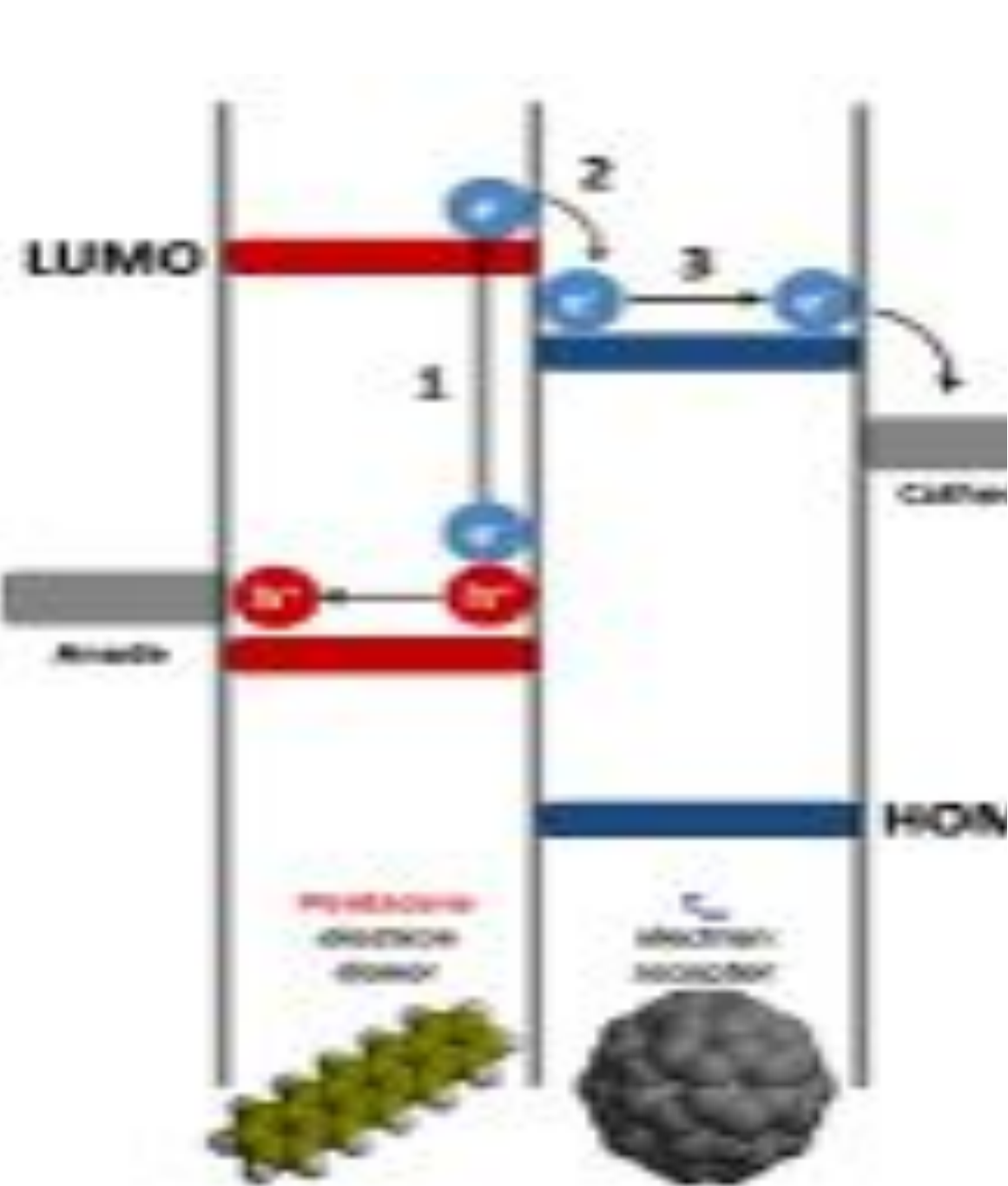
**Origins of life**  
How life may have come about?



# Project chronology and screening methodology improvements

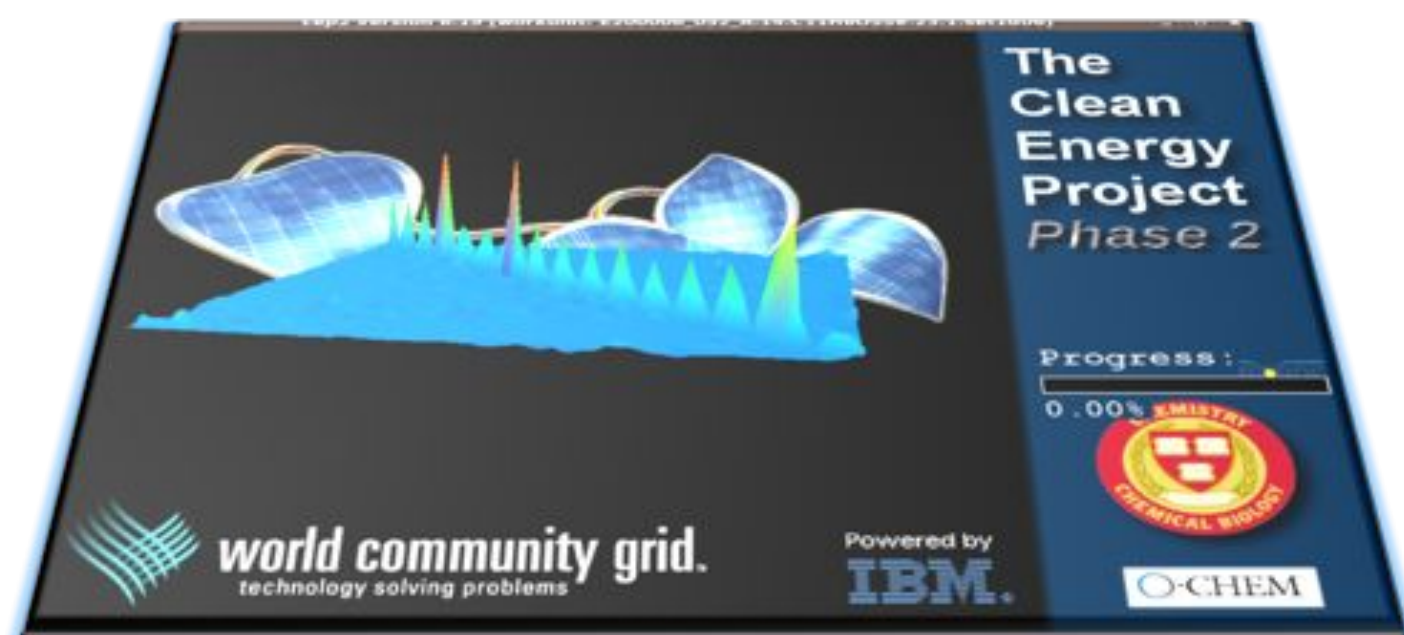


# Harvard Clean Energy Project: Organic solar cells



# The Harvard Clean Energy Project

The Largest quantum chemistry screening project to date



Part IV: Clean Energy Project

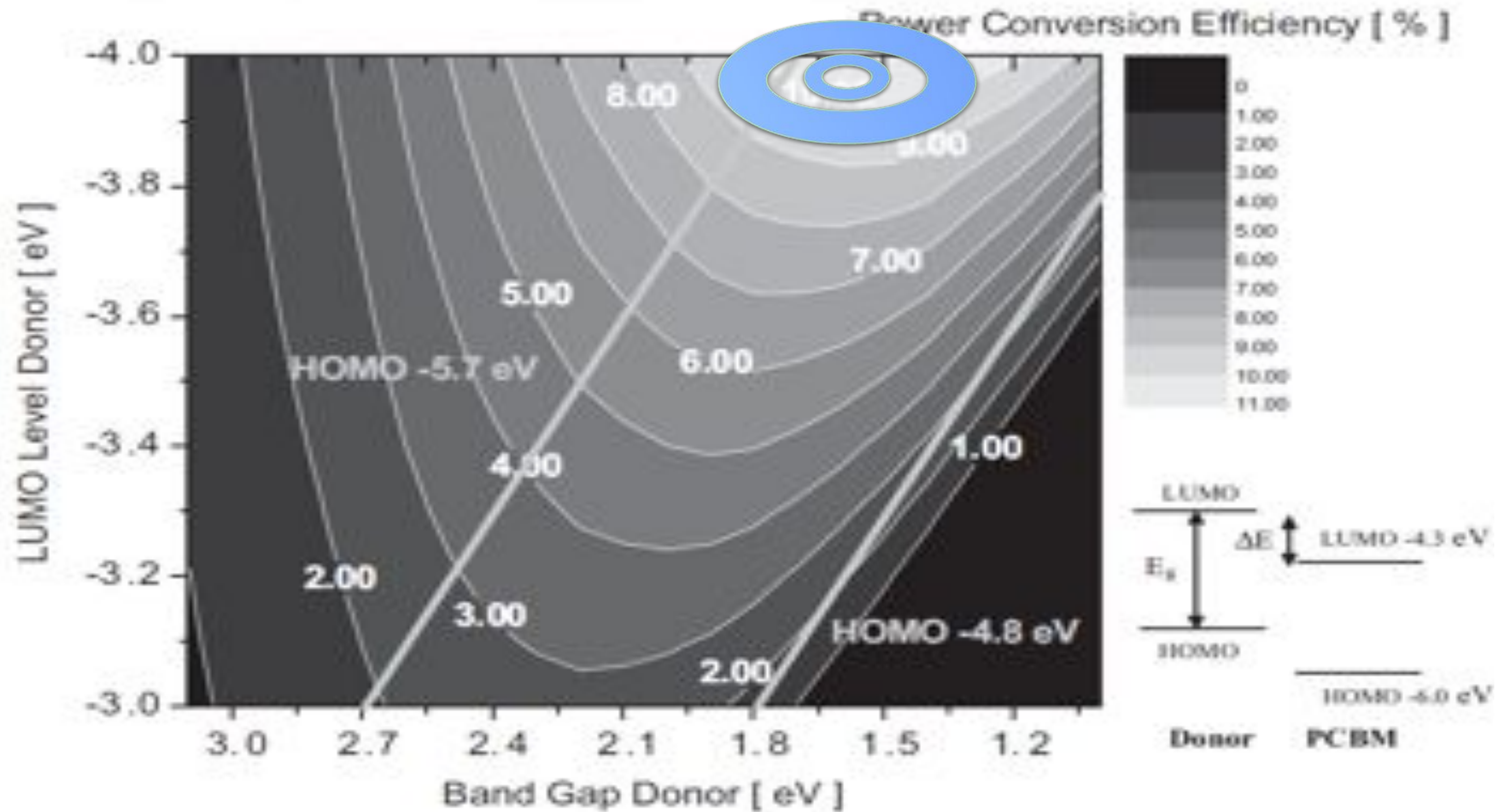
30,000+ CPU years have led to more than 35,000 high-performance organic photovoltaic candidates.

11

Collaborators: Juan Hindo (IBM) Zhenan Bao (Stanford), Johannes Hachmann (Buffalo), Alejandro Briseño (UMass),  
**Carlos Amador (UNAM)**, and ...

Hachmann, et. Al, J. Phys. Chem Lett. (2011), Energ. Env. Sci. (2014)

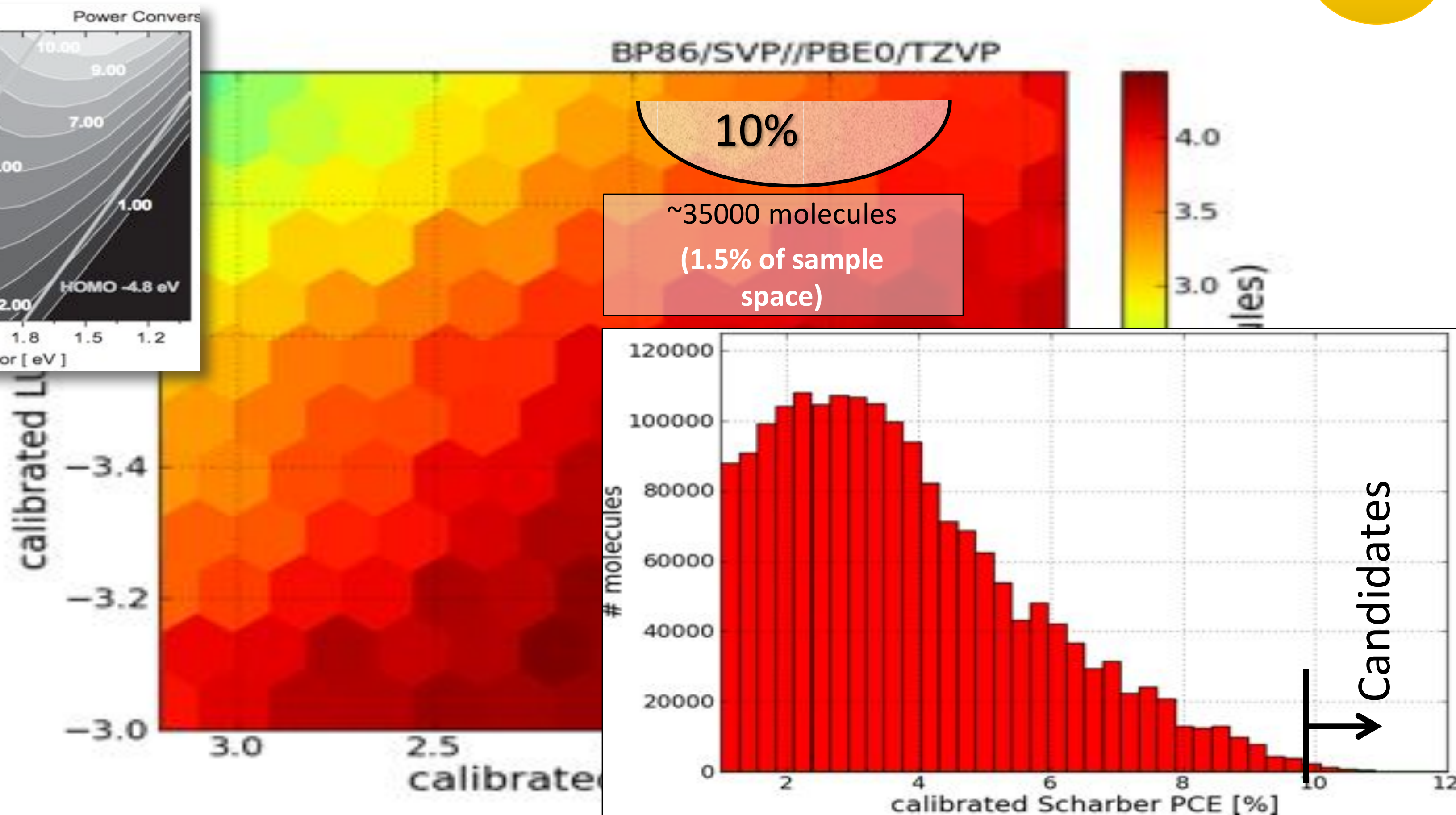
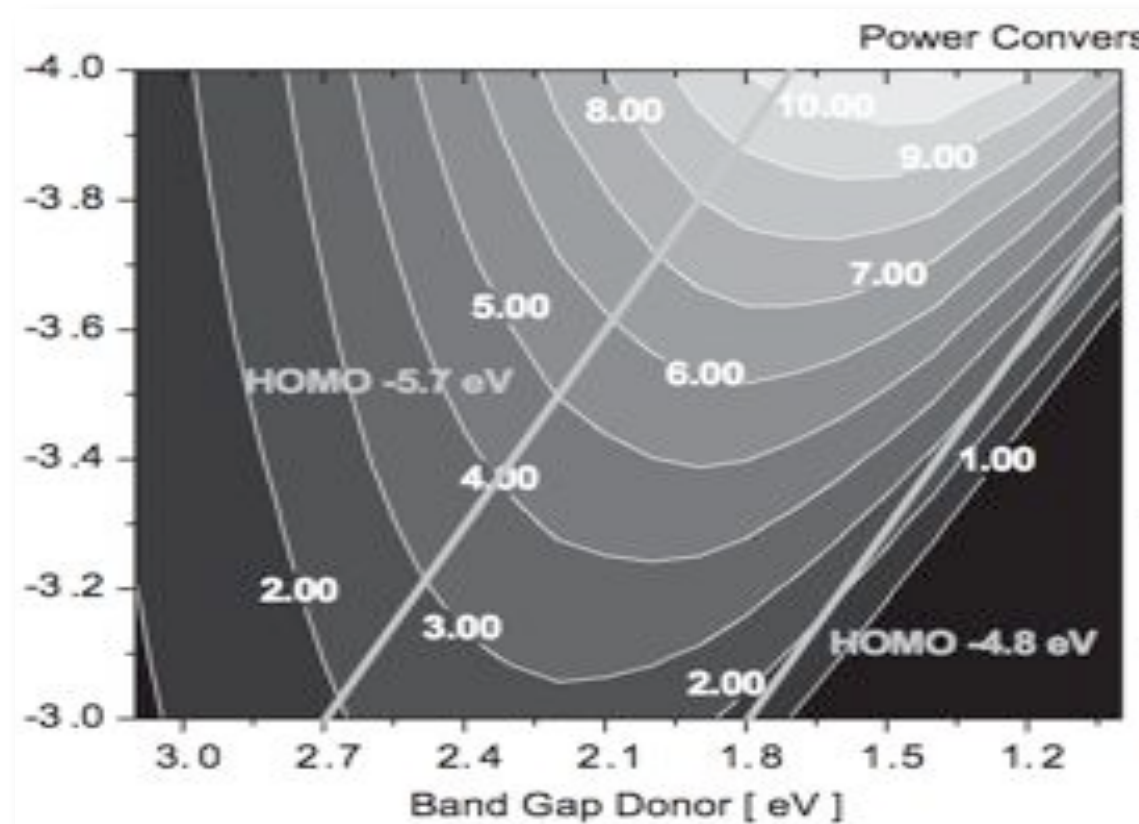
# Energy Levels and Efficiency



Scharber M, Mühlbacher D, Koppe M, et al., Advanced Materials (2006)

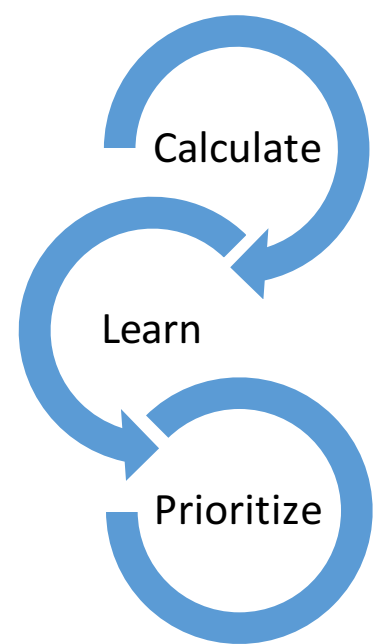
# Sifting through 2.3 million molecules

1.0

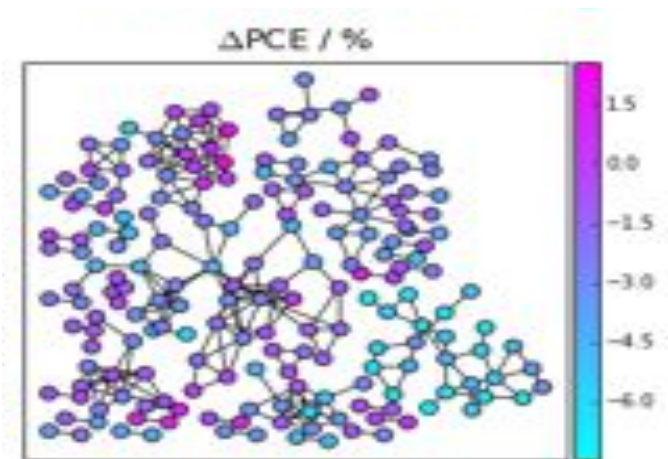


# The Clean Energy Project gets an artificial intelligence boost!

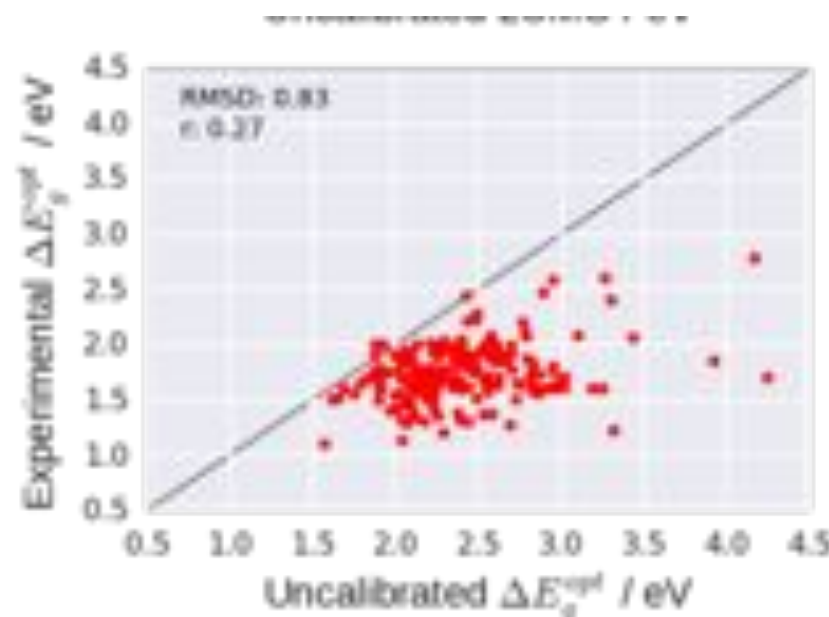
Machine learning



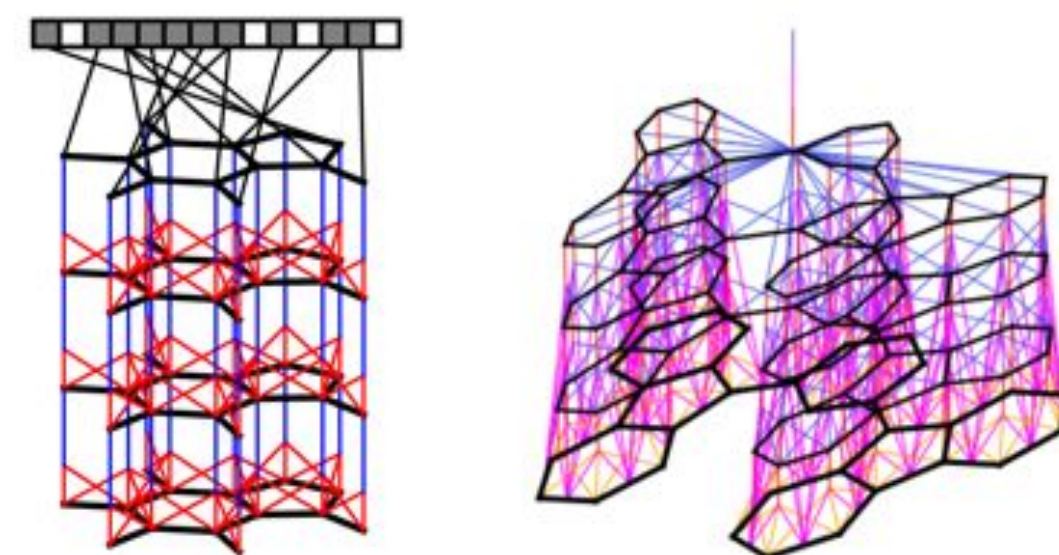
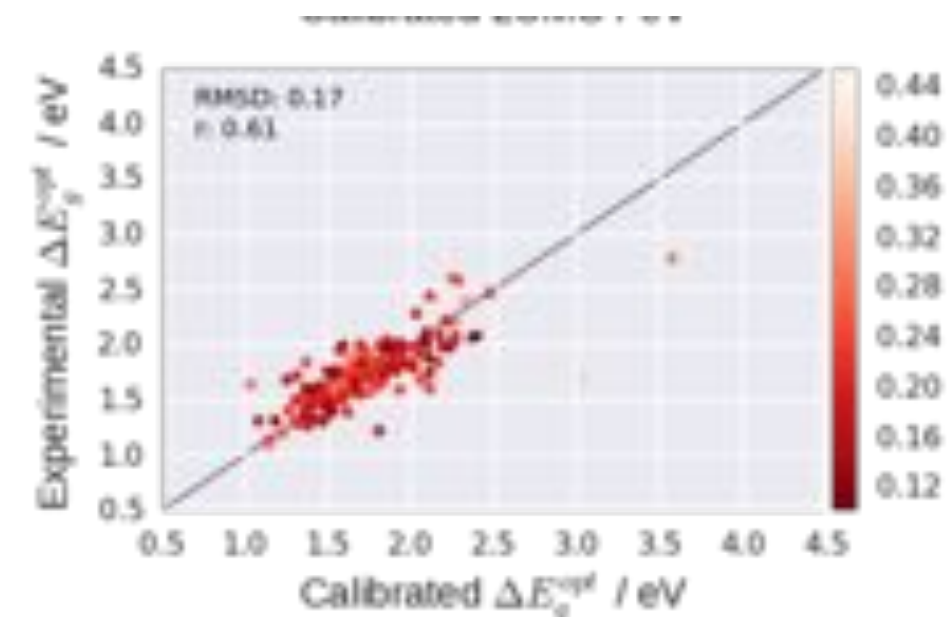
Easy to synthesize libraries



Bayesian calibration



Smart Screening Using machine learning



Neural Fingerprints

E. O. Pyzer-Knapp, et al. Advanced Functional Materials 2015

E. O. Pyzer-Knapp, et al. arXiv:1510.00388 2015

D. Duvenaud, arXiv:1509.09292 NIPS 2015

Collaborator: Ryan Adams (Harvard)

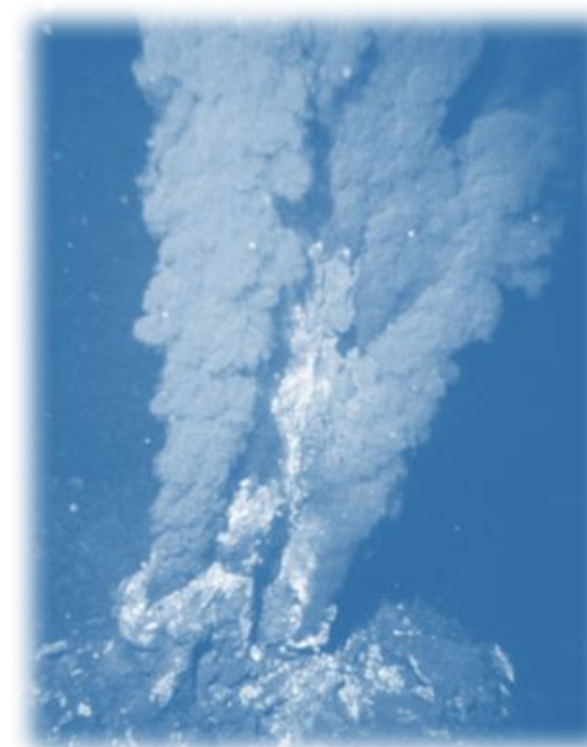
# Organic Flow Batteries

**The Harvard Clean  
Energy Project**  
Generating renewable  
energy



**Blue Organic LED**  
For your next  
gadget or TV

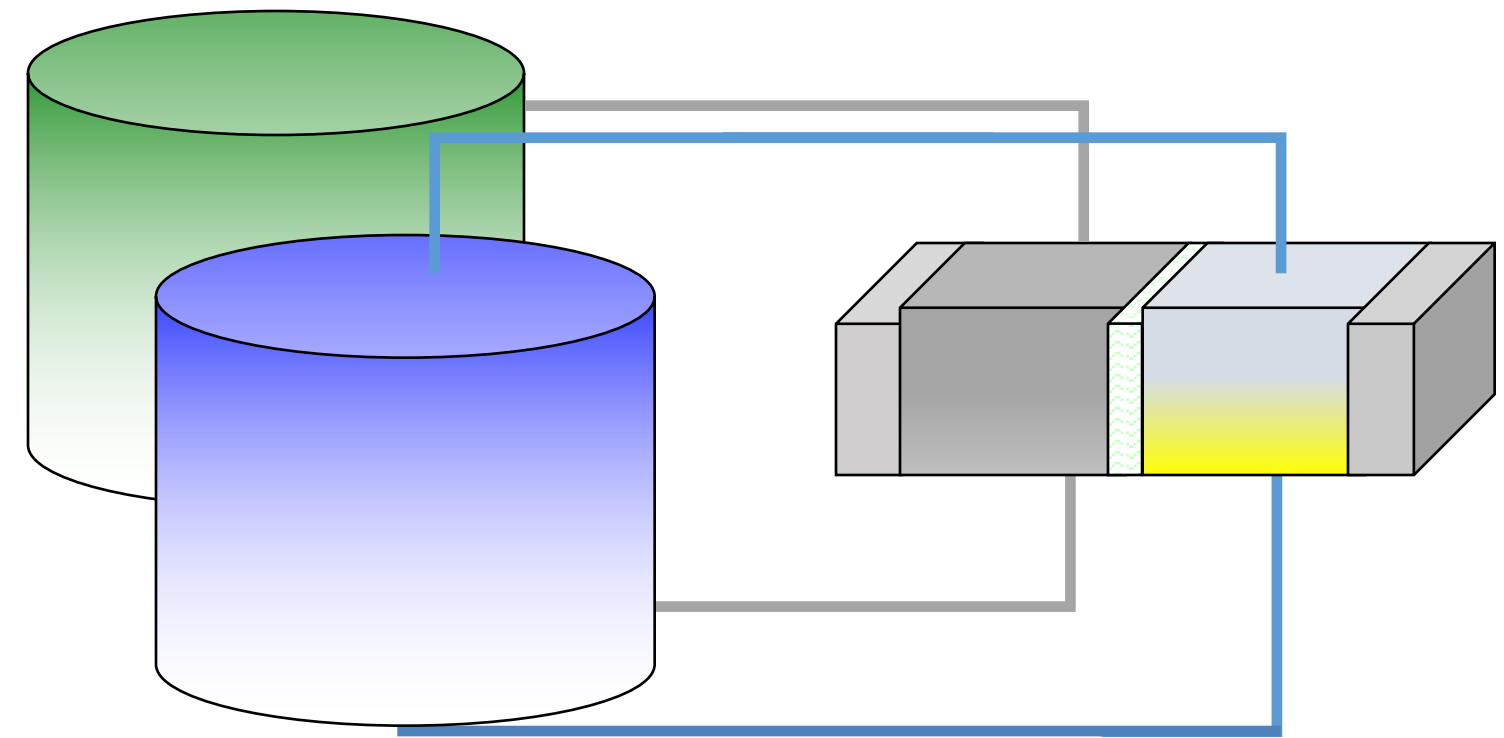
**Organic flow batteries**  
Storing renewable energy



**Chemical networks**  
Origins of life  
Organic reactions  
Chemical  
autoencoders

# Organics for storing clean energy

## Organic flow batteries



Suh, et al., Chem. Sci., 6, 2015, p. 885

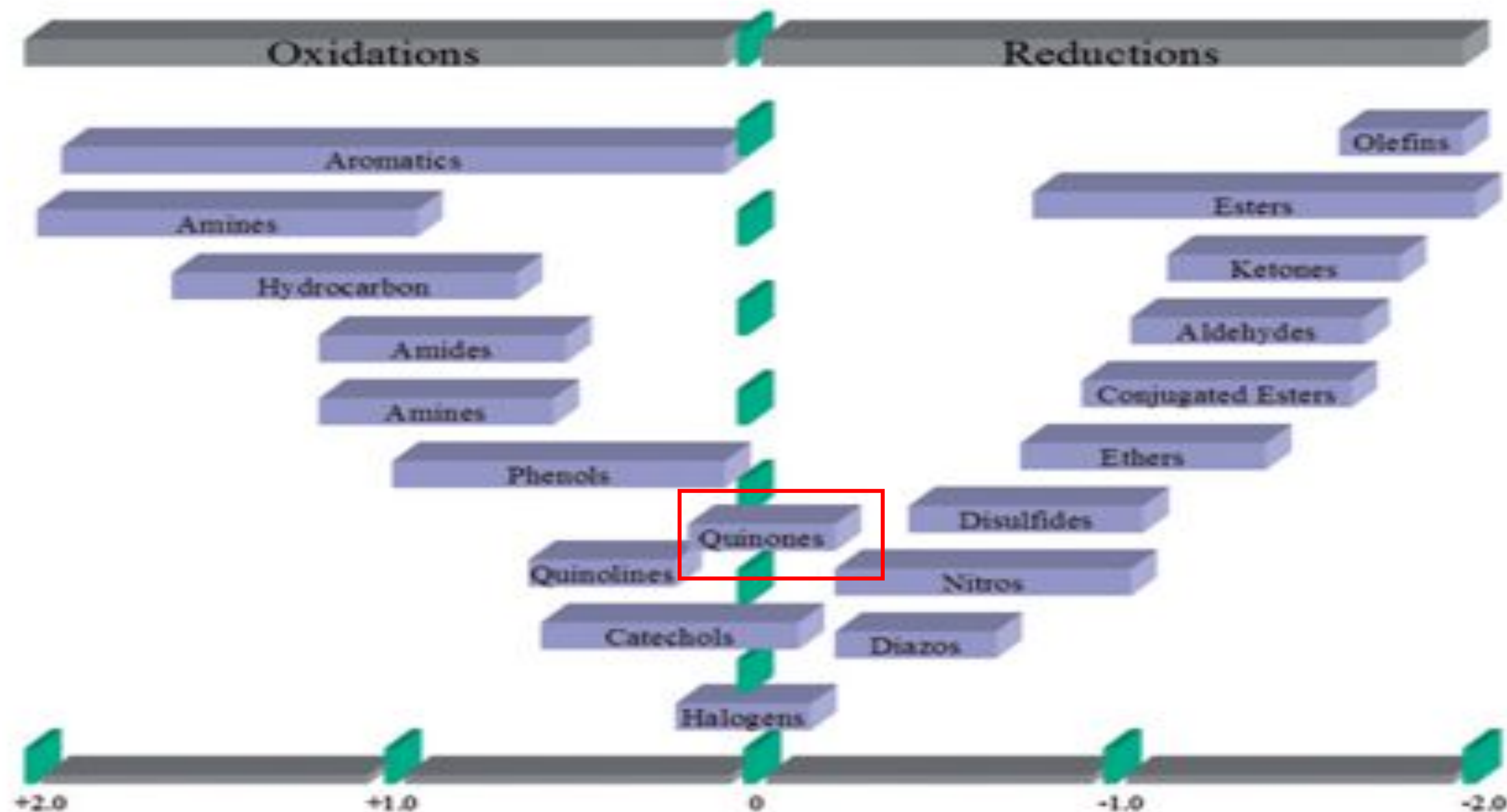
Huskinson, et al., Nature, 505, 2014, p. 195

Lin, et al., Science, 349, 2015, p. 1529

Collaborators: Mike Aziz and Roy Gordon (Harvard)

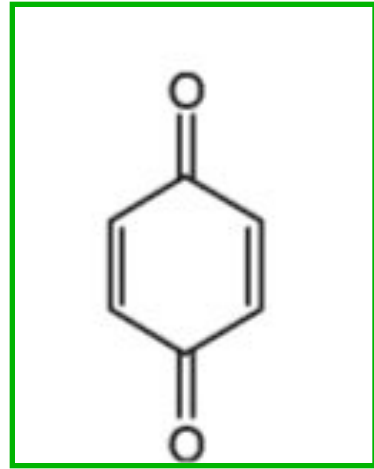


# Search space for redox potentials



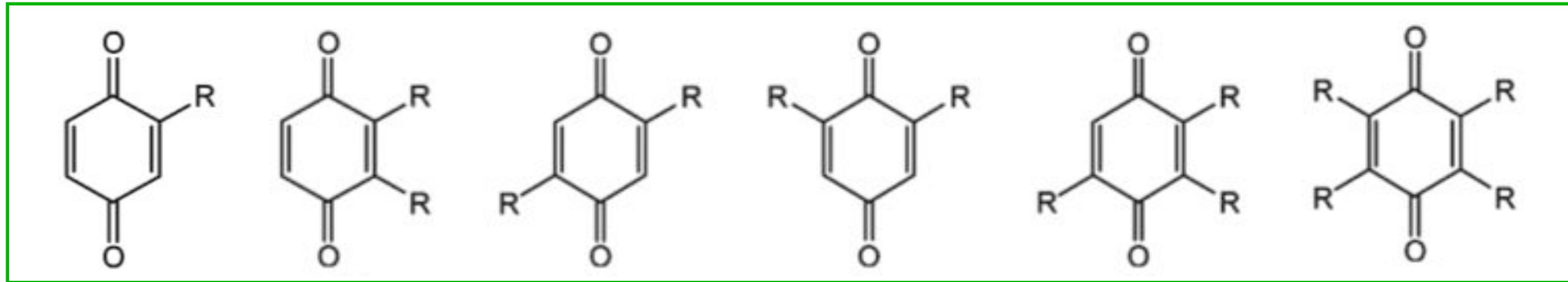
$E$  (V vs. Saturated Calomel Electrode)

Estimated potential range of organic functional group @ 25°C

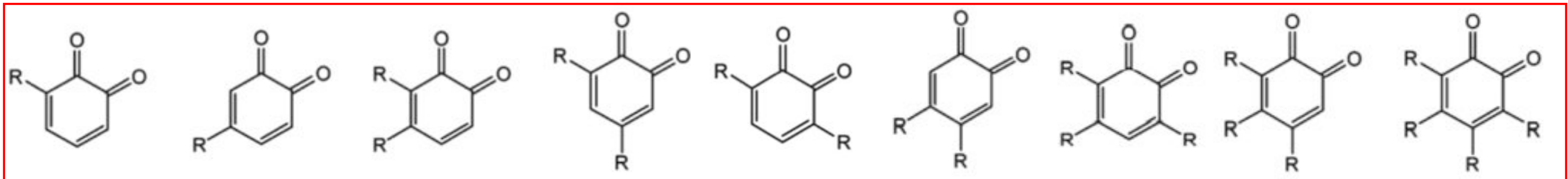
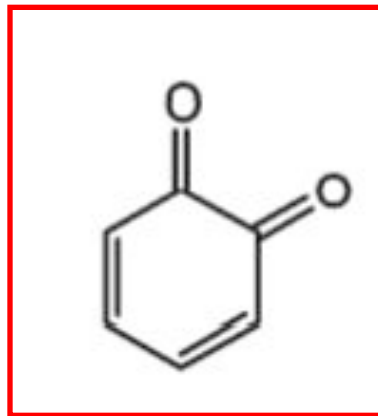


Choice for combinatorial library:  
1R and fully substituted cases only

### 1,4-BenzoQuinones

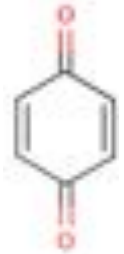
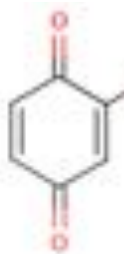
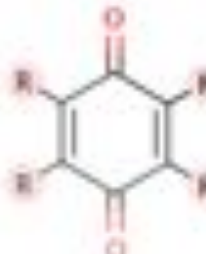
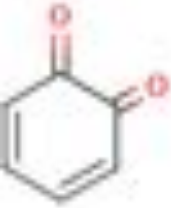
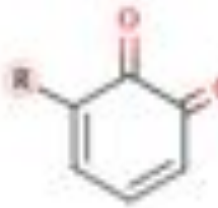
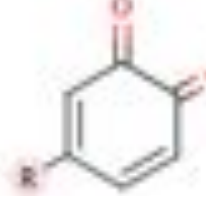
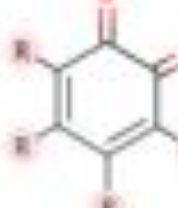
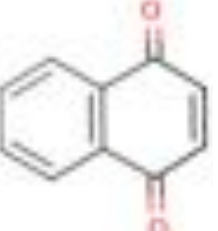
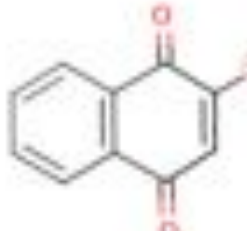
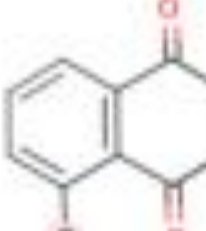
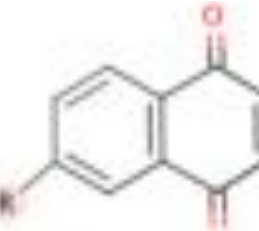
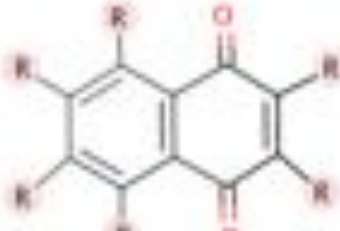
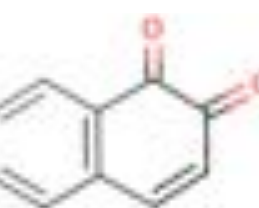
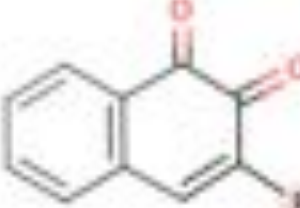
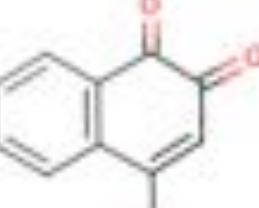
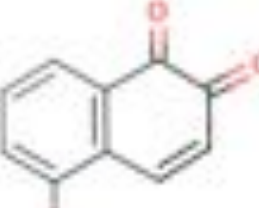
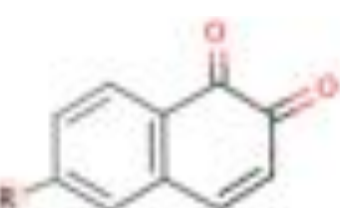
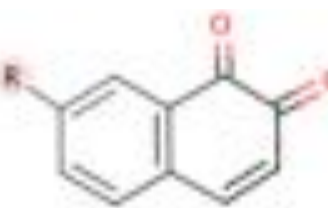
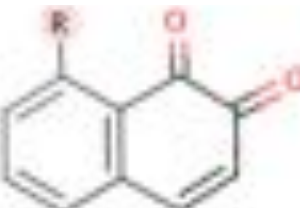
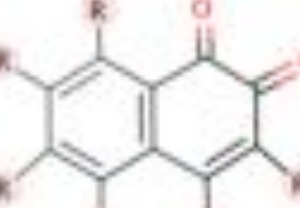
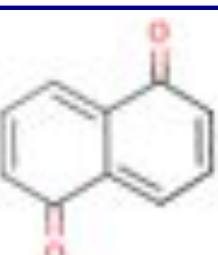
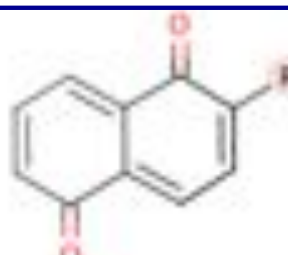
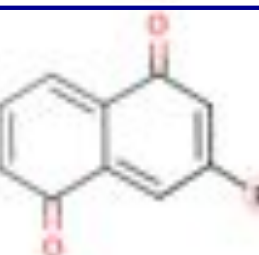
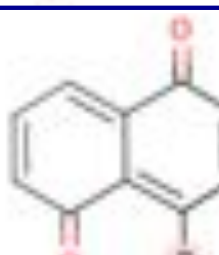
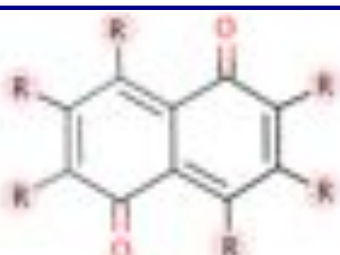
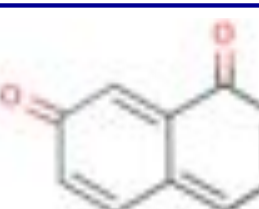
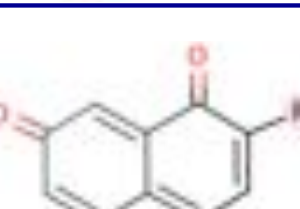
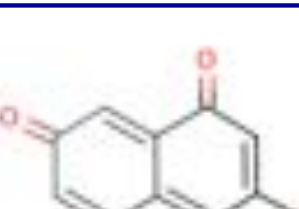
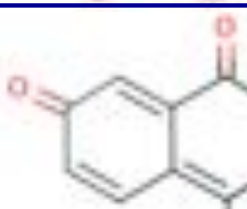
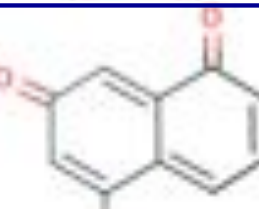
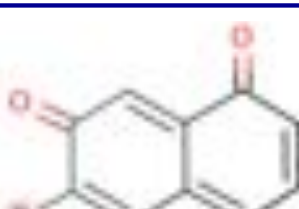
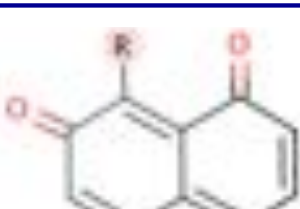
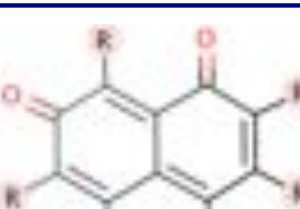
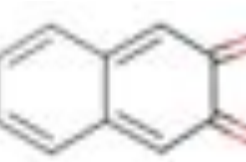
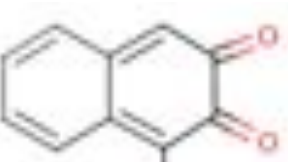
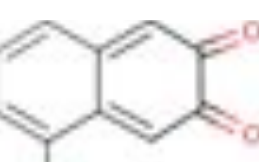
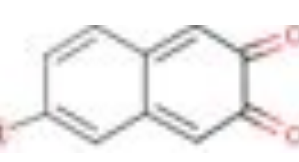
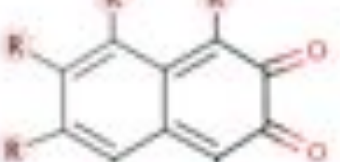
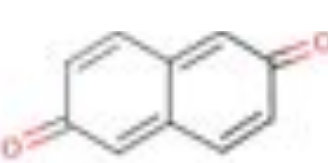
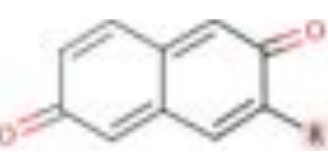
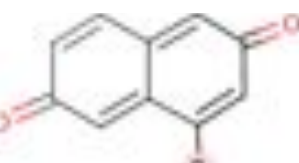
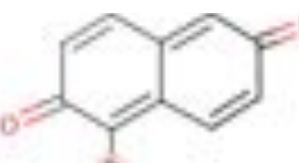
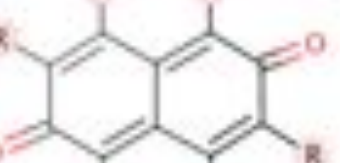


### 1,2-BenzoQuinones



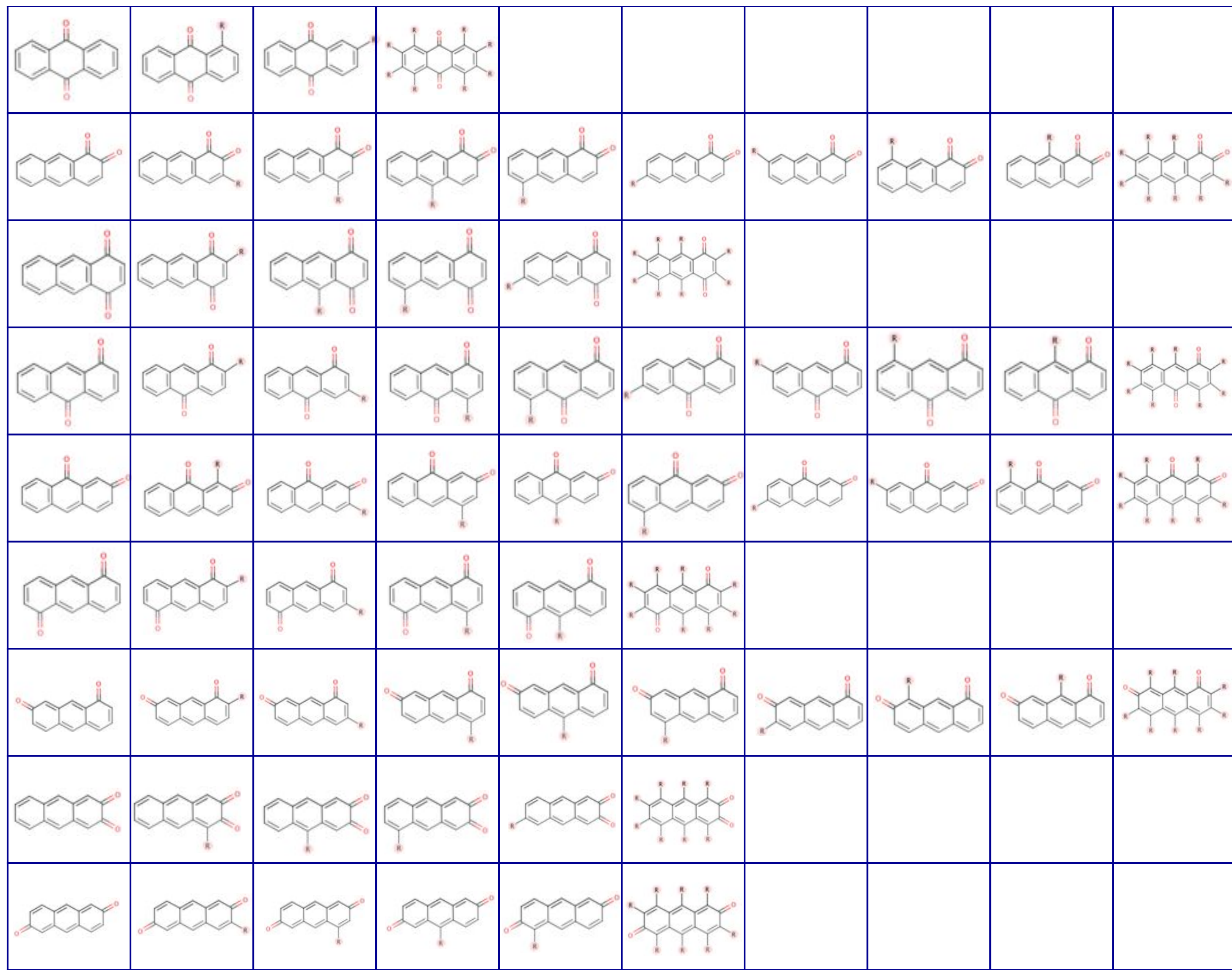
1.  $N(CH_3)_2$
2.  $NH_2$
3.  $OCH_3$
4.  $OH$
5.  $SH$
6.  $CH_3$
7.  $SiH_3$
8.  $F$
9.  $Cl$
10.  $C_2H_5$
11.  $CHO$
12.  $COOCH_3$
13.  $CF_3$
14.  $CN$
15.  $COOH$
16.  $PO_3H_2$
17.  $SO_3H$
18.  $NO_2$

2,6-naphtho 2,3-naphtho 1,7-naphtho 1,5-naphtho 1,2-naphtho 1,4-naphtho 1,2-benzo 1,4-benzo

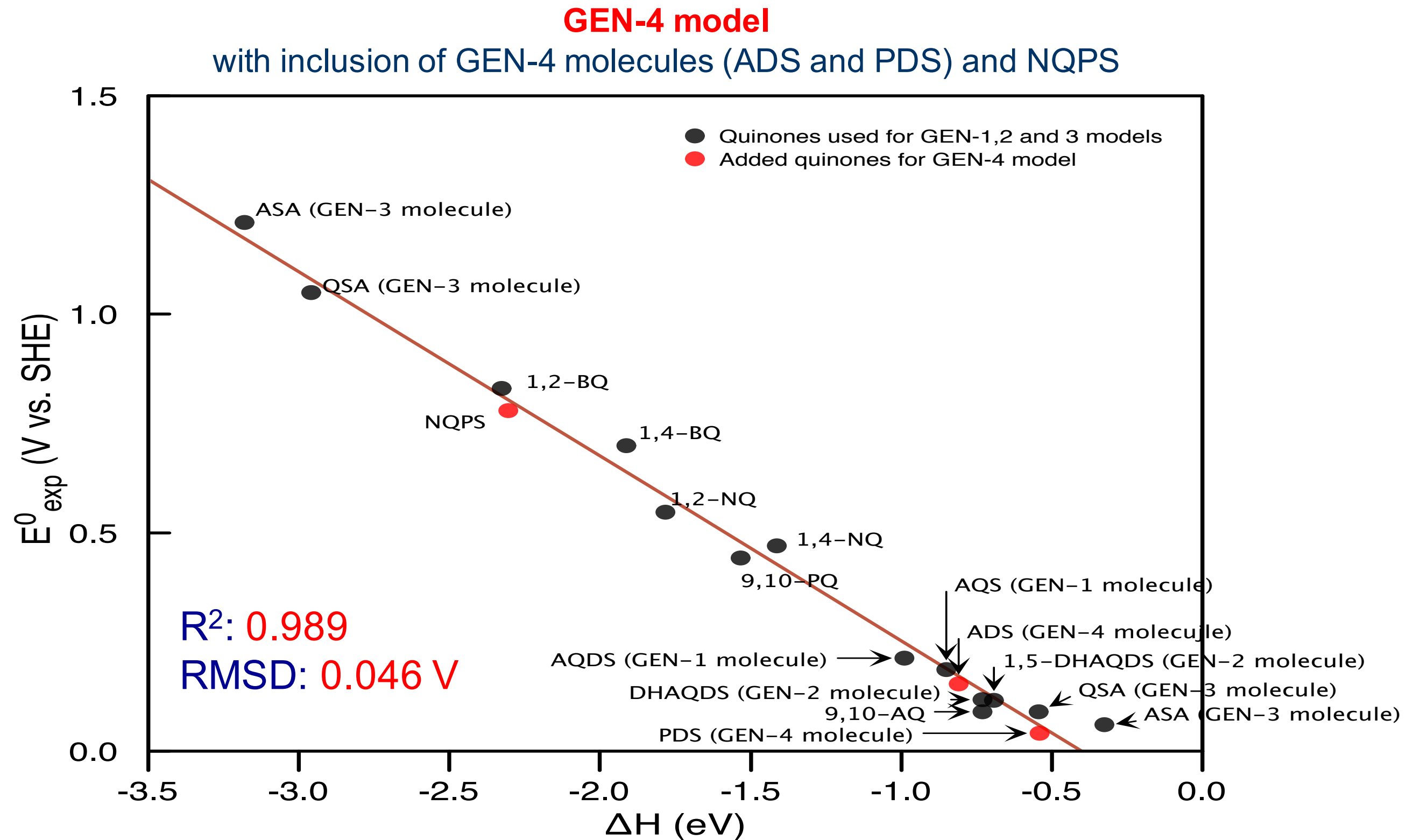
# Napthoquinones

2,6-anthra 2,3-anthra 1,7-anthra 1,5-anthra 2,9-anthra 1,10-anthra 1,4-anthra 1,2-anthra 9,10-anthra

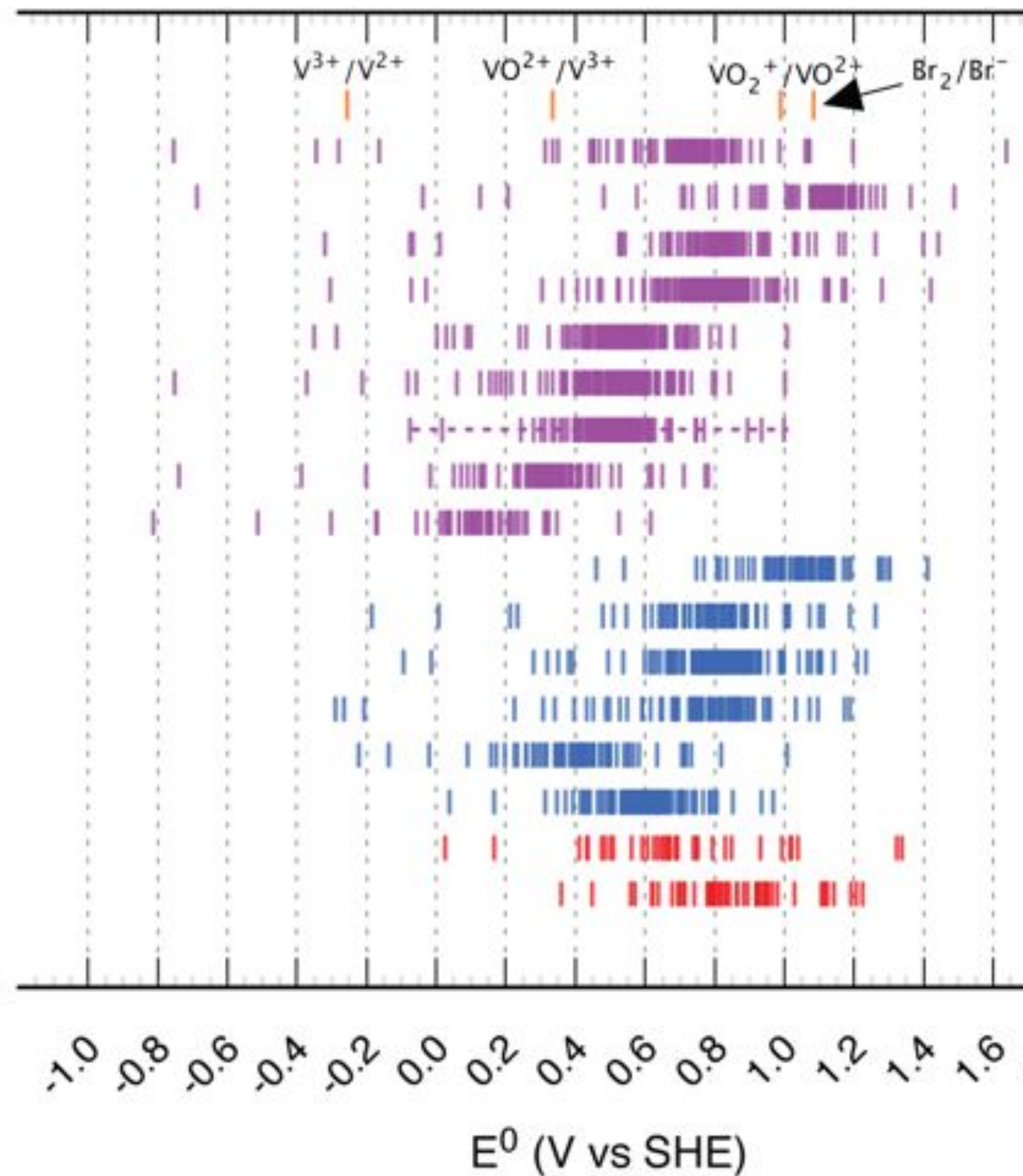
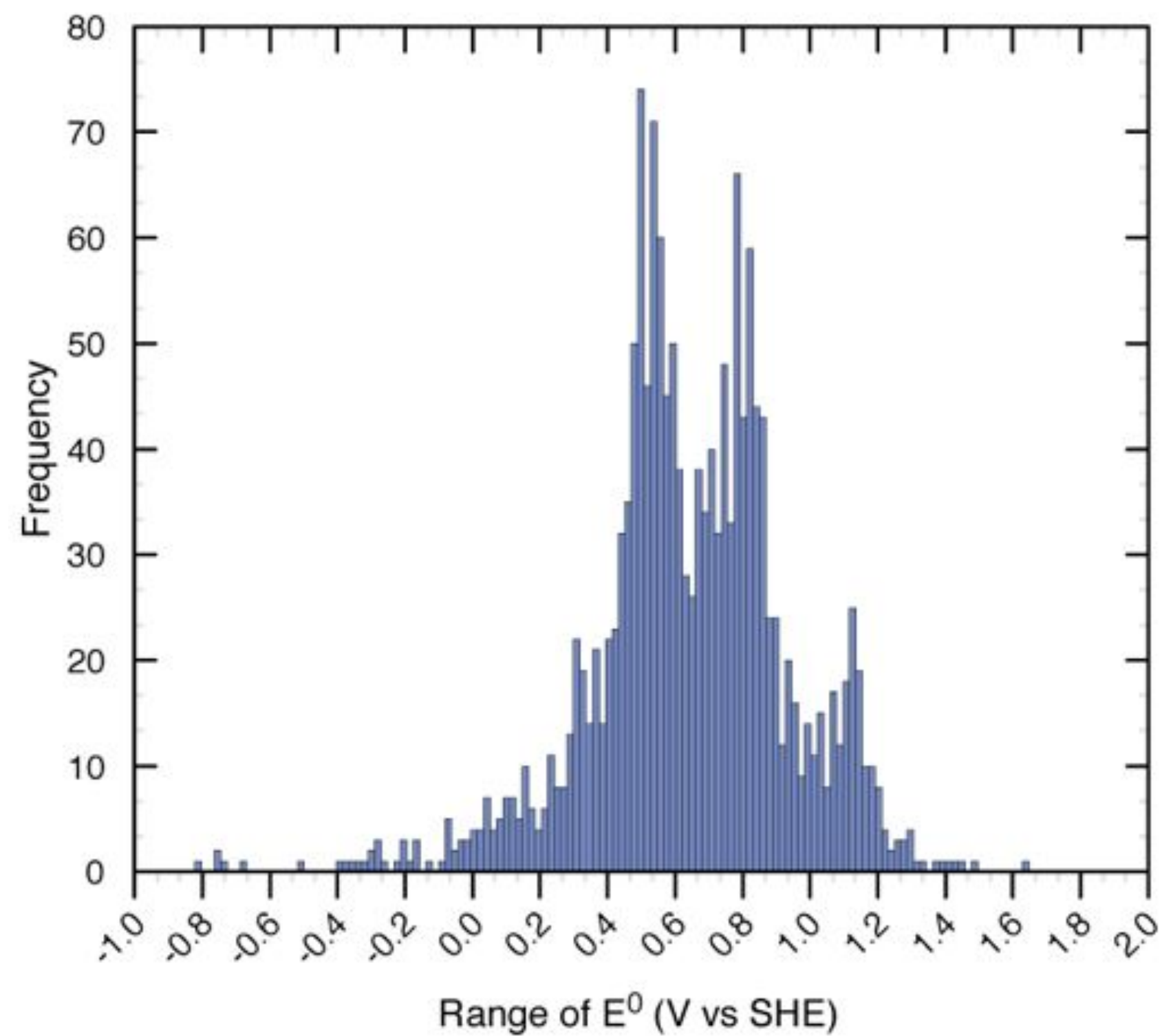


# Anthraquinones

# Theoretical calibration of quinone redox potentials

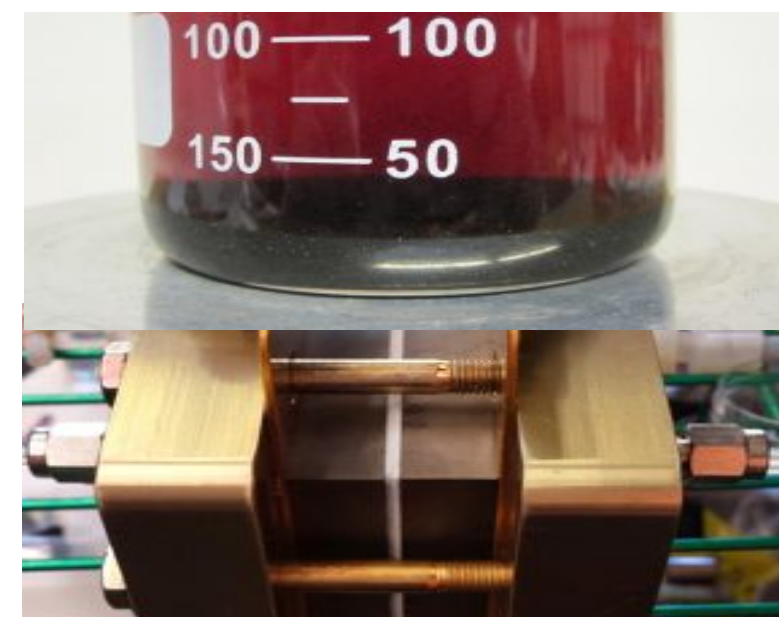
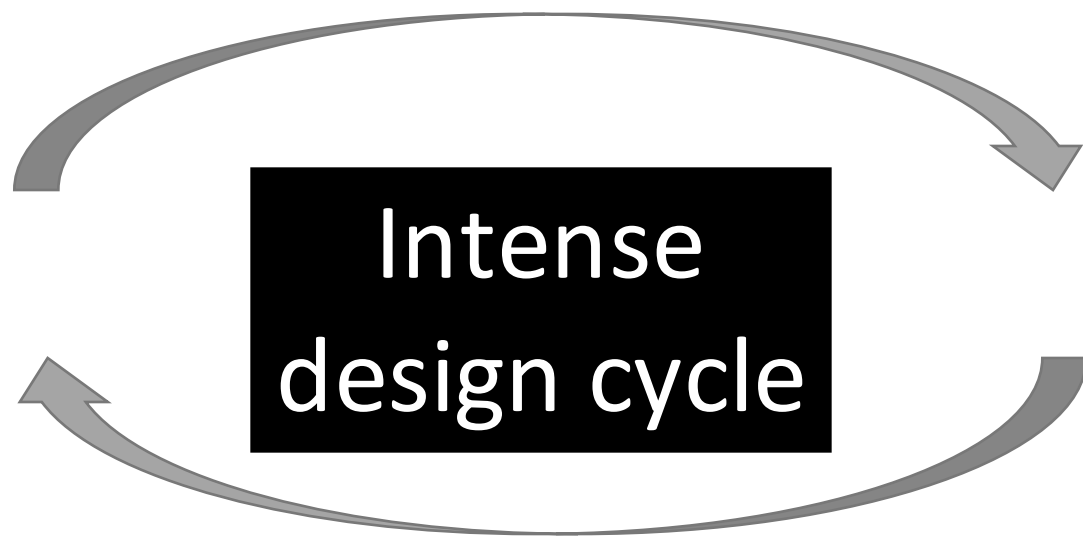
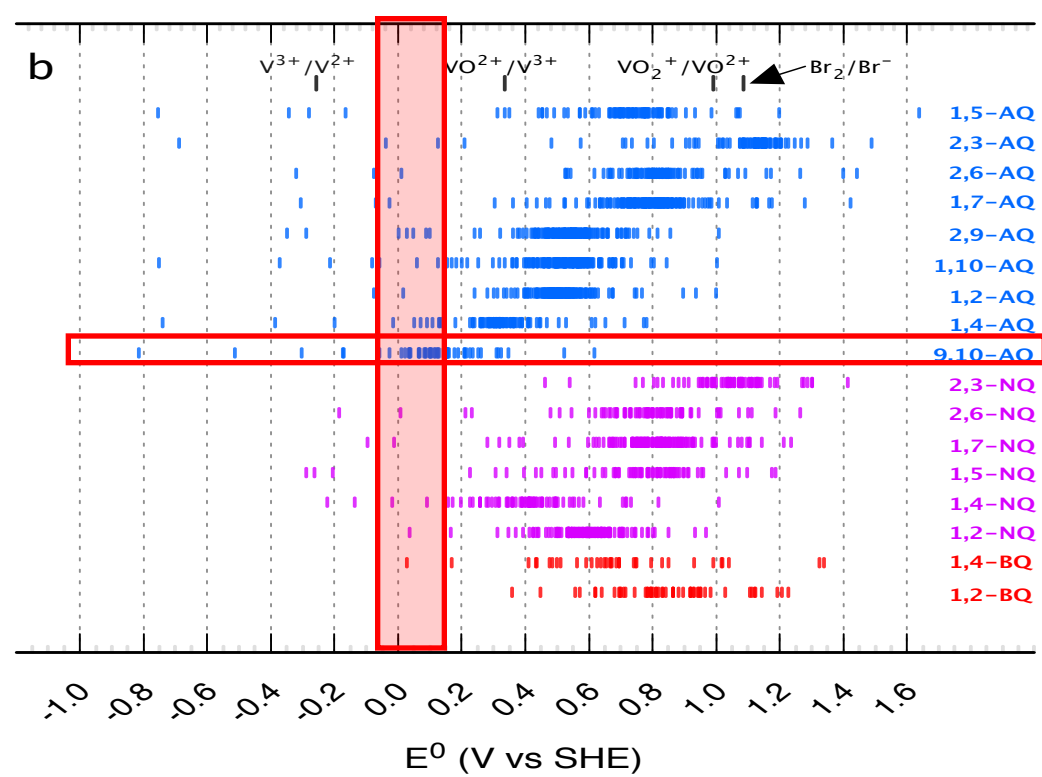


> 300 new candidate quinones predicted



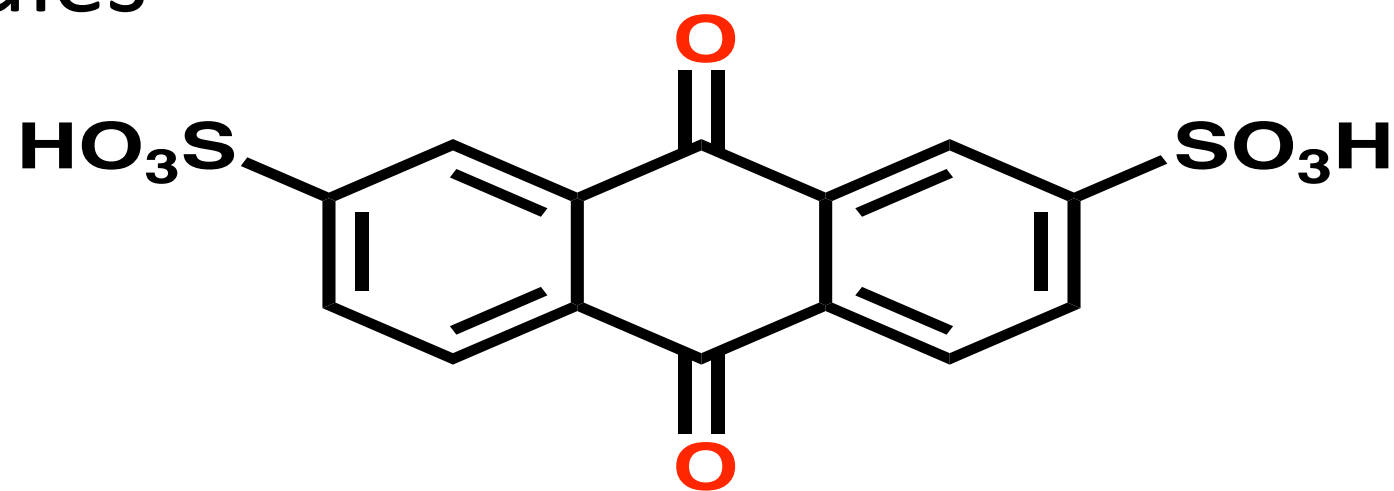
S. Er., C. Suh, M. P. Marshak, A. Aspuru-Guzik,  
Chemical Science (2015)

# Our metal-free aqueous flow battery



Computational screening of 10,000 quinone molecules

Synthesize molecules  
Test in flow battery



**Selected molecule**

# Theory-experiment collaboration



**Michael Aziz**  
Engineering



**Roy Gordon**  
Chemistry



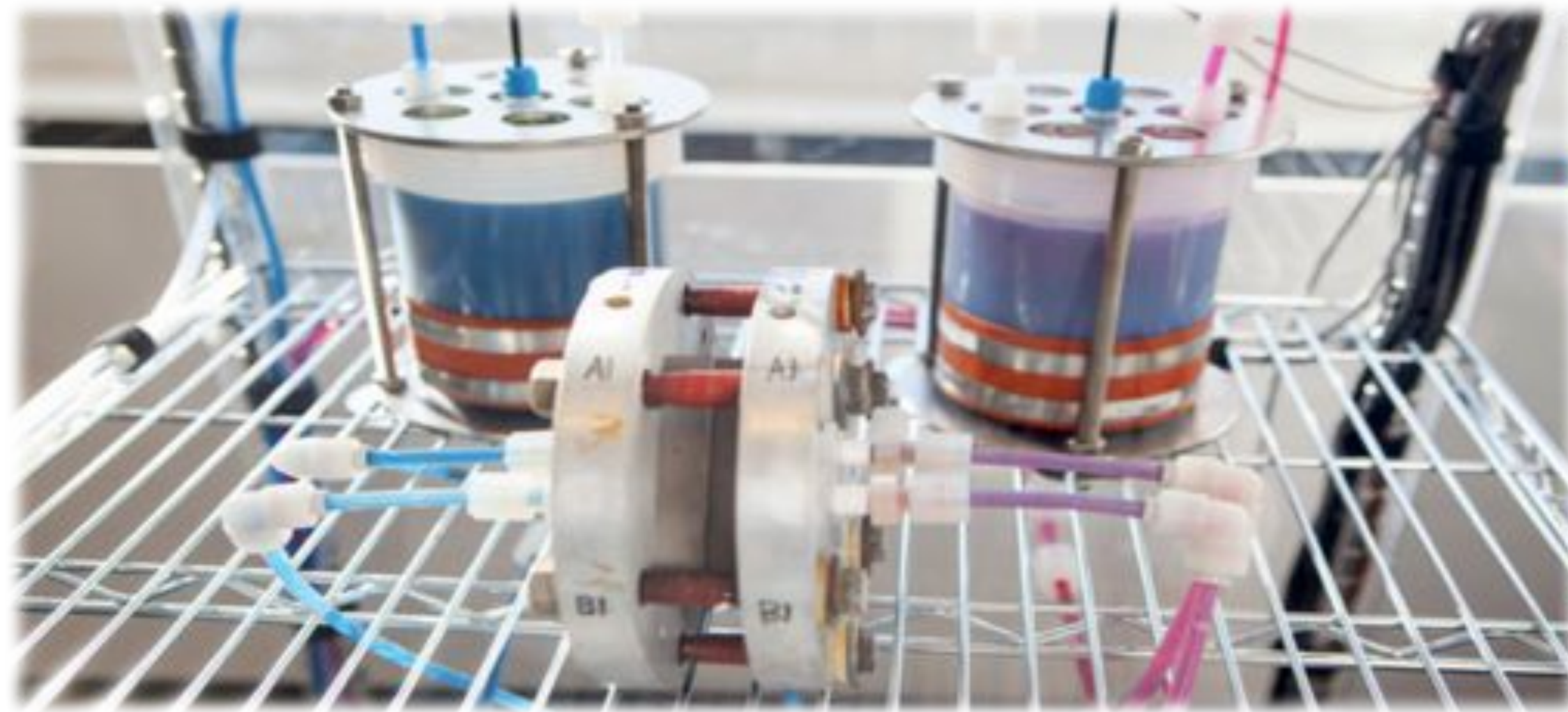
**Alán Aspuru-Guzik**  
Chemistry

LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature12909

## A metal-free organic–inorganic aqueous flow battery

Brian Huskinson<sup>1\*</sup>, Michael P. Marshak<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Changwon Suh<sup>2</sup>, Süleyman Er<sup>2,3</sup>, Michael R. Gerhardt<sup>1</sup>, Cooper J. Galvin<sup>2</sup>, Xudong Chen<sup>2</sup>, Alán Aspuru-Guzik<sup>2</sup>, Roy G. Gordon<sup>1,2</sup> & Michael J. Aziz<sup>1</sup>



Nature, 505, 2014, p. 195



# Molecular Flow Battery Data View

Blue: Stable molecule

Red: Unstable molecule

X axis: Redox Potential

Y axis: Free energy of Solvation

~ 100,000 molecules shown

# Molecular Flow Battery Data View

Filtering the data view

Molecular Flow Battery Data View

Baseball card view

# High-throughput materials discovery process and tools

## Moelcular Space Shuttle: advanced molecular discovery platform

The screenshot displays the Moelcular Space Shuttle web interface, which includes several key components:

- Info Cards:** A sidebar on the left provides detailed information for a selected molecule, including its chemical structure, nicknames, weight (amu), splitting (eV), absorption (eV), homo (eV), lumo (eV), rate (1/μs), sascore, strength, key, calc time, and color estimation.
- Voting Interface:** A central panel shows a voting interface with a progress bar indicating 14 Yes, 14 Unsure, 22 No, and 35 Remaining votes. It also includes a 'Sort By' dropdown and 'My Rating' buttons.
- Detailed Tables:** A table displays a list of molecules with columns for Nicknames, Structure, and other properties. The table shows entries for 'test01-1' through 'test01-6'.
- Bubble Plot:** A scatter plot on the right shows the relationship between 'Splitting (eV)' (y-axis, 0.00 to 0.18) and 'Oscillator Strength' (x-axis, 0.00 to 0.18). The plot contains numerous colored bubbles of varying sizes, representing different molecules.

Web tools and critically enable partner communication and successful molecular discovery

# Feedback tool

Database-backed web system tracks:

- ~1,000,000 machine-generated molecules
- ~1,500 (8000 including oxidation, decomposition and dissociation products)

The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Flow Battery" with a sidebar on the left containing search filters like "Tag" (E50h\_110029) and "Order". The main area displays a grid of molecule cards. Each card shows a chemical structure and a table of properties:

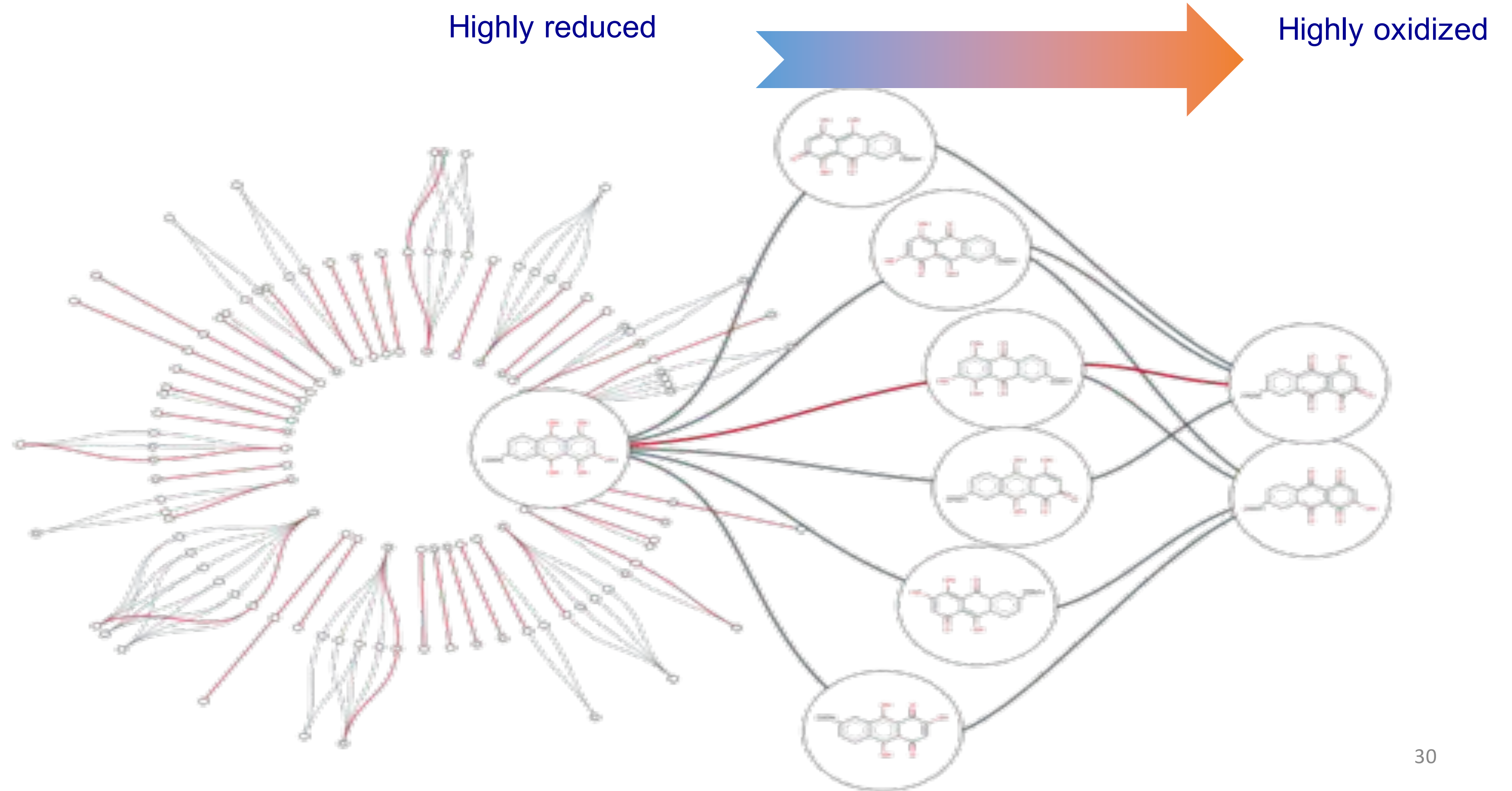
Property	Value
Potential (eV)	0.73
Log K hyd	-2.84
Mike Energy (eV)	-0.10
Solvation	-0.43
Weight (amu)	110.04
Reduced CAS	[57534-13-1]
Oxidized CAS	[13052-63-2]
Reduced SA	1.5
Reduced IKEY	QIGPVMKCJKYU-LHFFFAOYSA-N

The detailed view shows two chemical structures at the top: a reduced form (left) and an oxidized form (right). Below them is a table of properties:

Potential (eV)	0.24
Log K hyd	-3.84
Mike Energy (eV)	NA
Solvation	-1.76
Weight (amu)	369.98
Reduced CAS	No CAS found
Oxidized CAS	[53123-81-2]
Reduced SA	2.4
Reduced IKEY	GQQVITQURHTUJP-UHFFFAOYSA-N

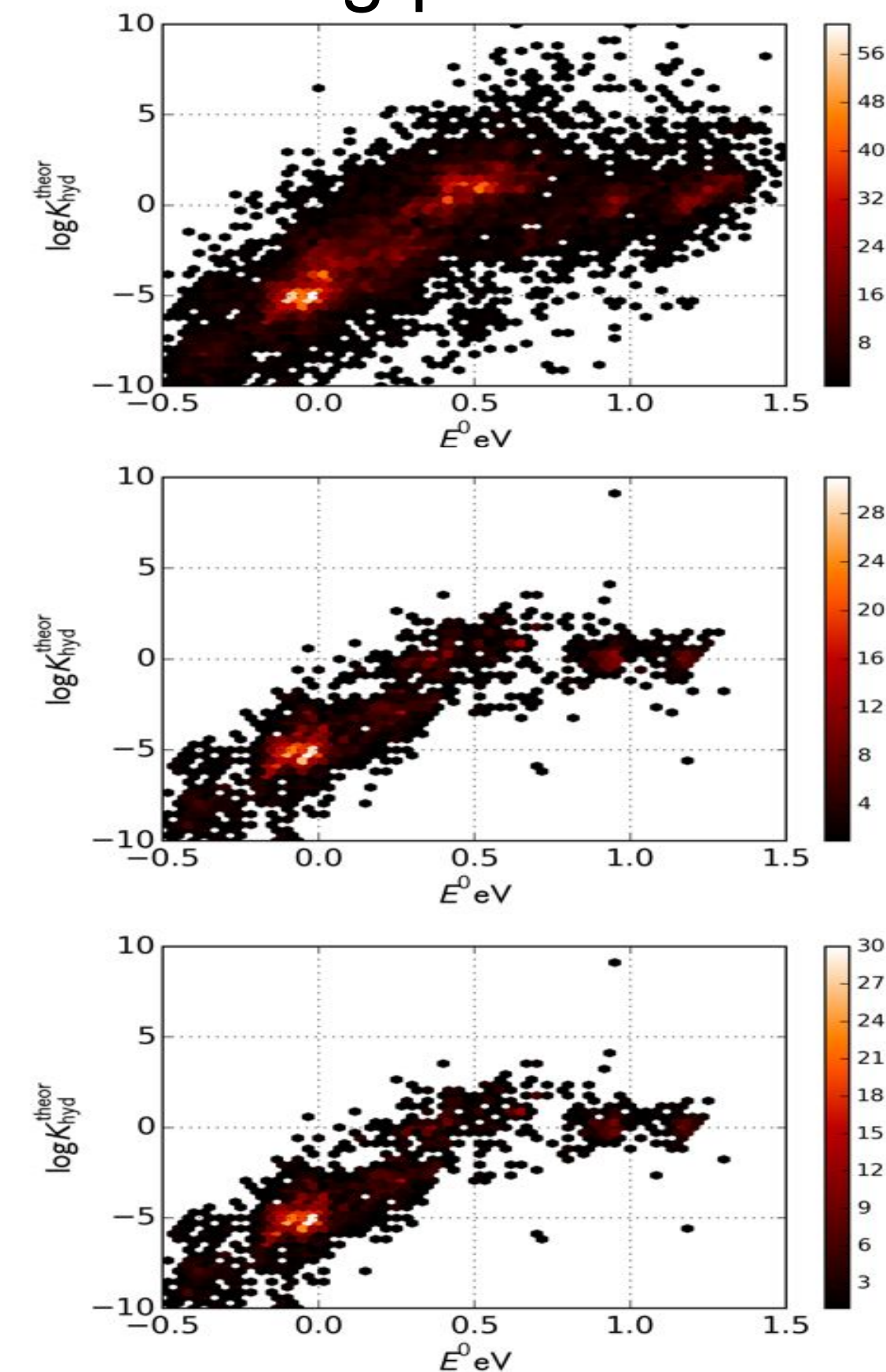
[view family graph](#)

# Complex quinone redox pathways



# Additional current-theory work 1: quinone stability

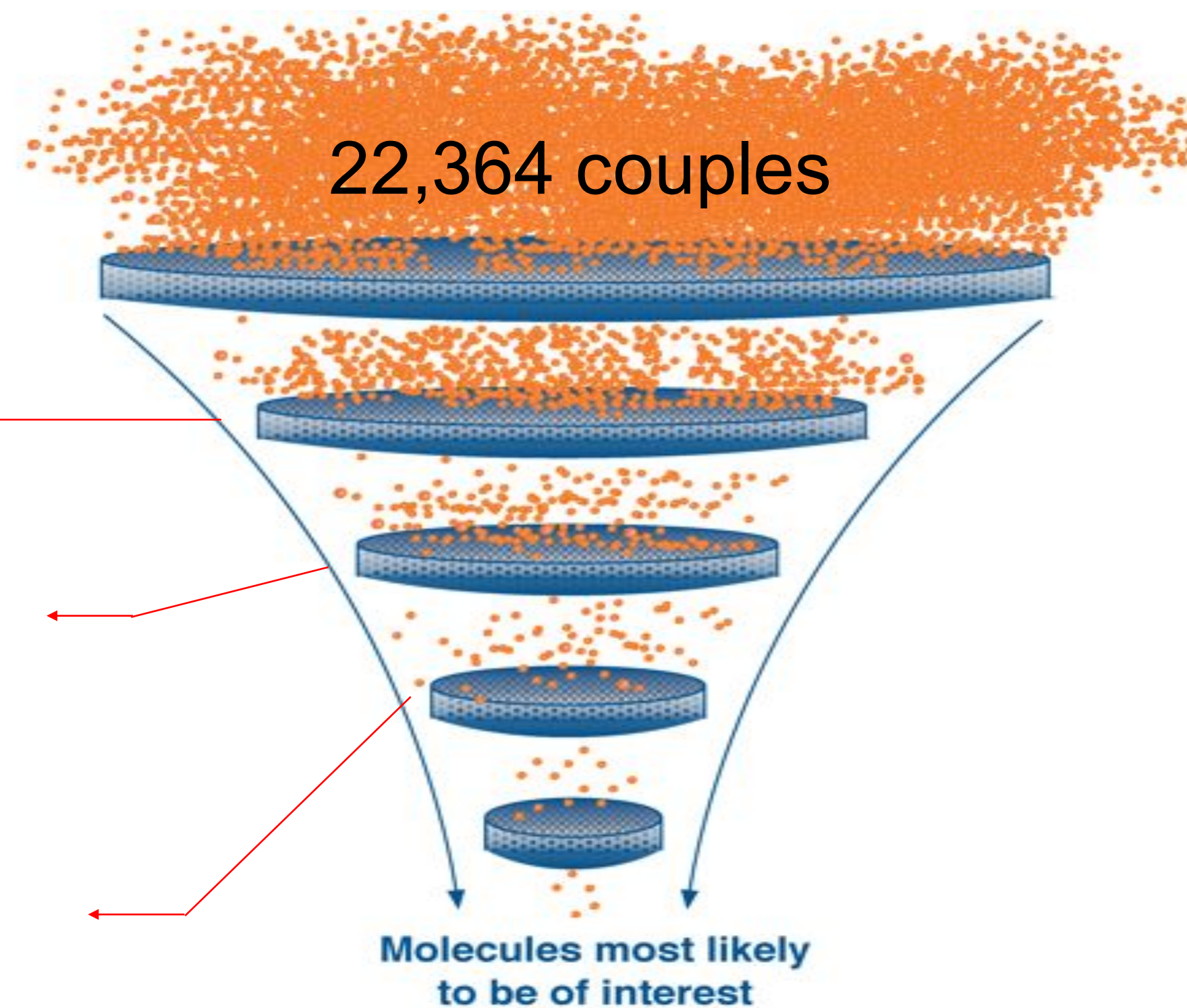
## Screening procedures excluding potential Michael addition



1<sup>st</sup> screening with  
Michael addition  
9,866 couples

2<sup>nd</sup> screening:  
Fewer than two R-groups  
2,290 couples

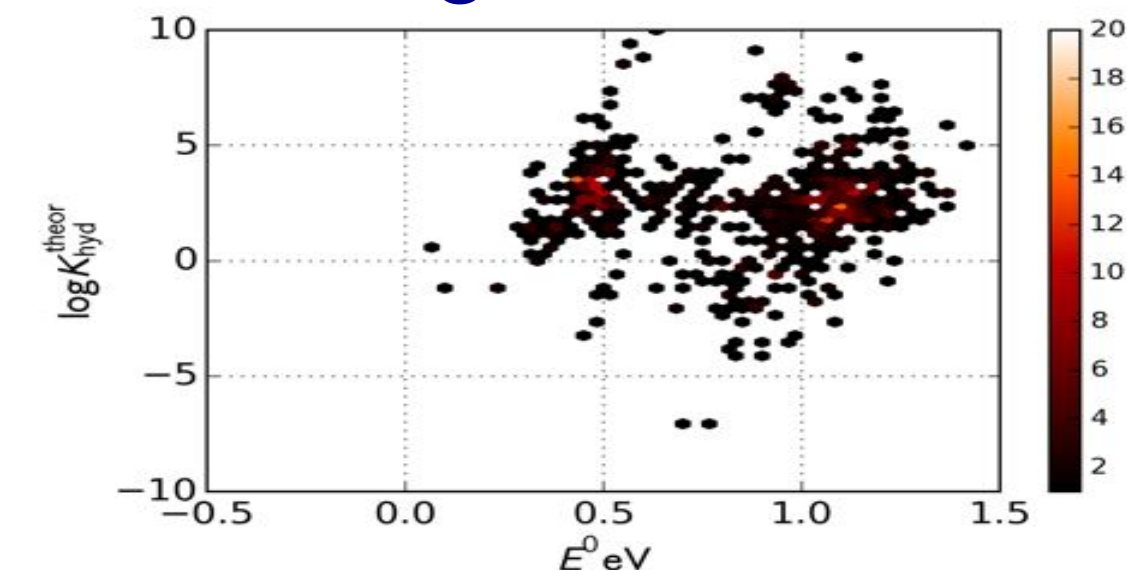
3<sup>rd</sup> screening:  
Fewer than two R-groups  
and good solubility  
( $\Delta G_{\text{sol}}^0 < -0.75$  eV )  
2,052 couples



- X-axis: Quinone redox potential ( $E^0_1$ ) / Y-axis: Stability ( $K_{\text{hyd}}$ )
- Warmer colors represent higher density of molecules

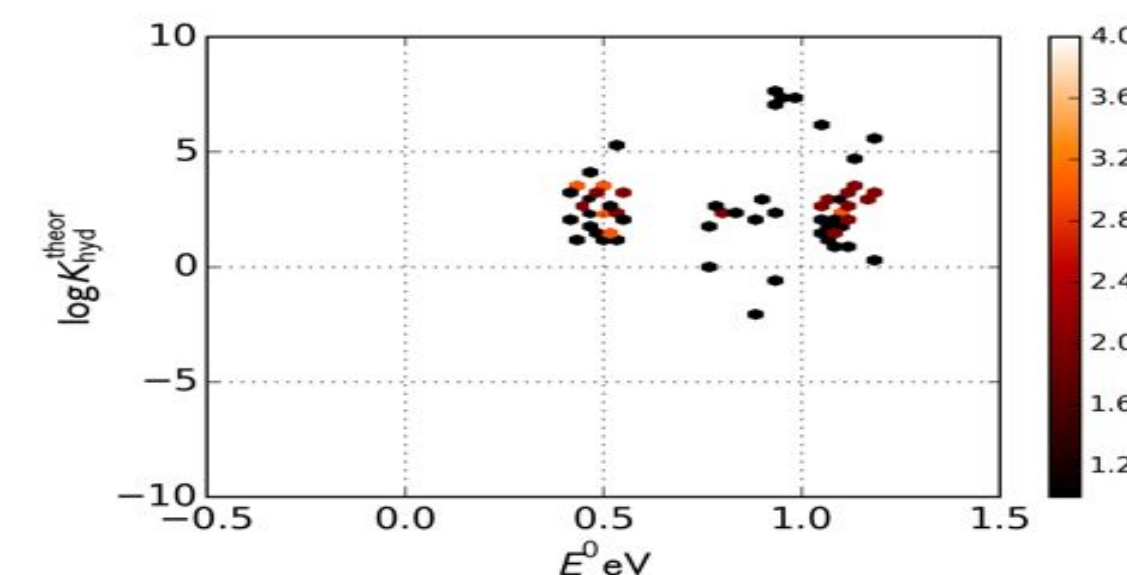
# Additional current-theory work 2: Second-oxidation quinones

## Screening Procedures with consideration of Michael addition



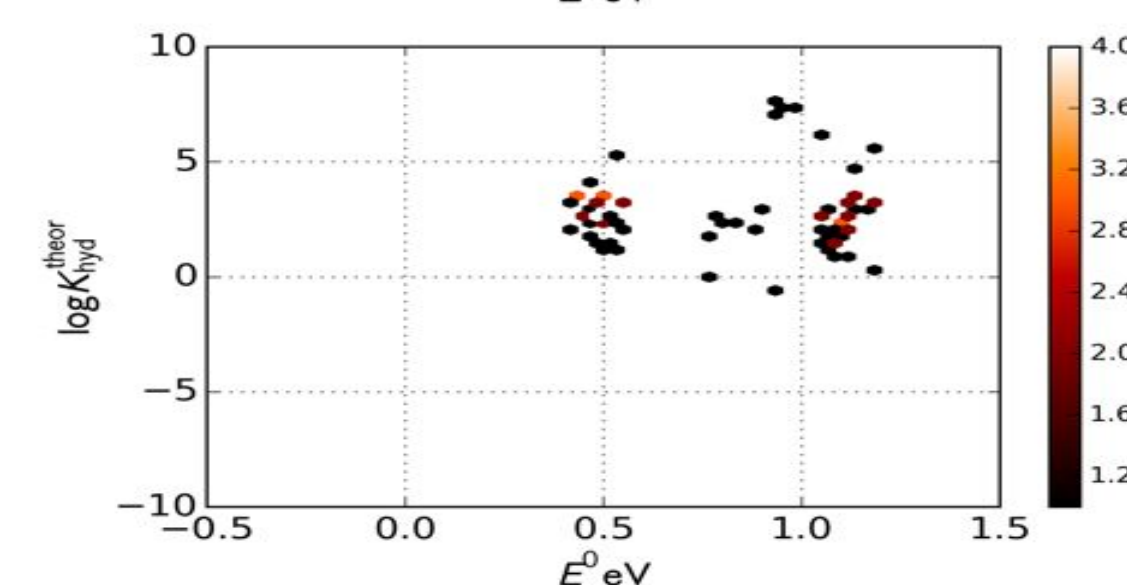
1<sup>st</sup> screening with Michael addition

762 couples



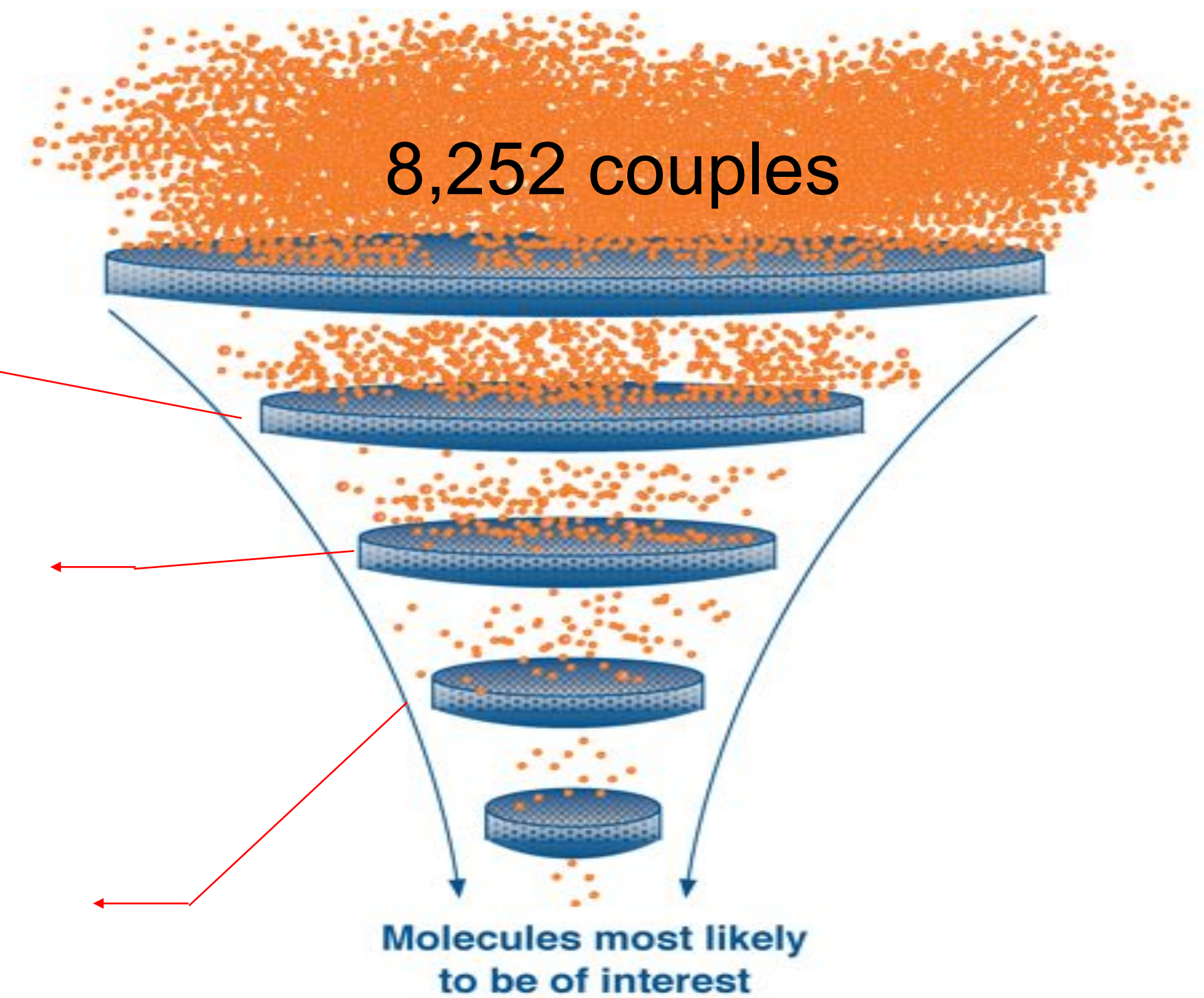
2<sup>nd</sup> screening:  
Fewer than two R-groups

98 couples



3<sup>rd</sup> screening:  
Fewer than two R-groups  
and good solubility  
( $\Delta G_{\text{sol}}^0 < -0.75$  eV)

84 couples





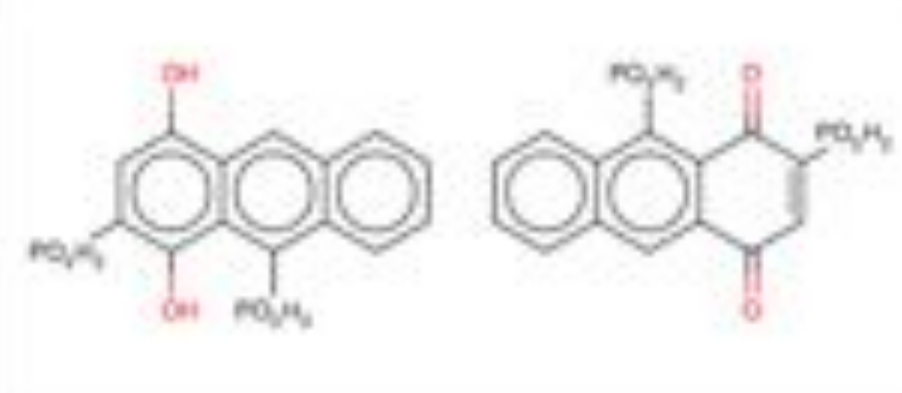
# Molecular baseball cards including stability



<b>Potential (eV)</b>	0.19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Log K hyd</b>	-4.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mike Energy (eV)</b>	-0.17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Solvation</b>	-1.06		
<b>Weight (amu)</b>	370.00		
<b>Reduced CAS</b>	No CAS found		
<b>Oxidized CAS</b>	No CAS found		
<b>Reduced SA</b>	3.2		
<b>Reduced IKEY</b>	CLRJBXWOLKGSZY- UHFFFAOYSA-N		
<a href="#">view family graph</a>			

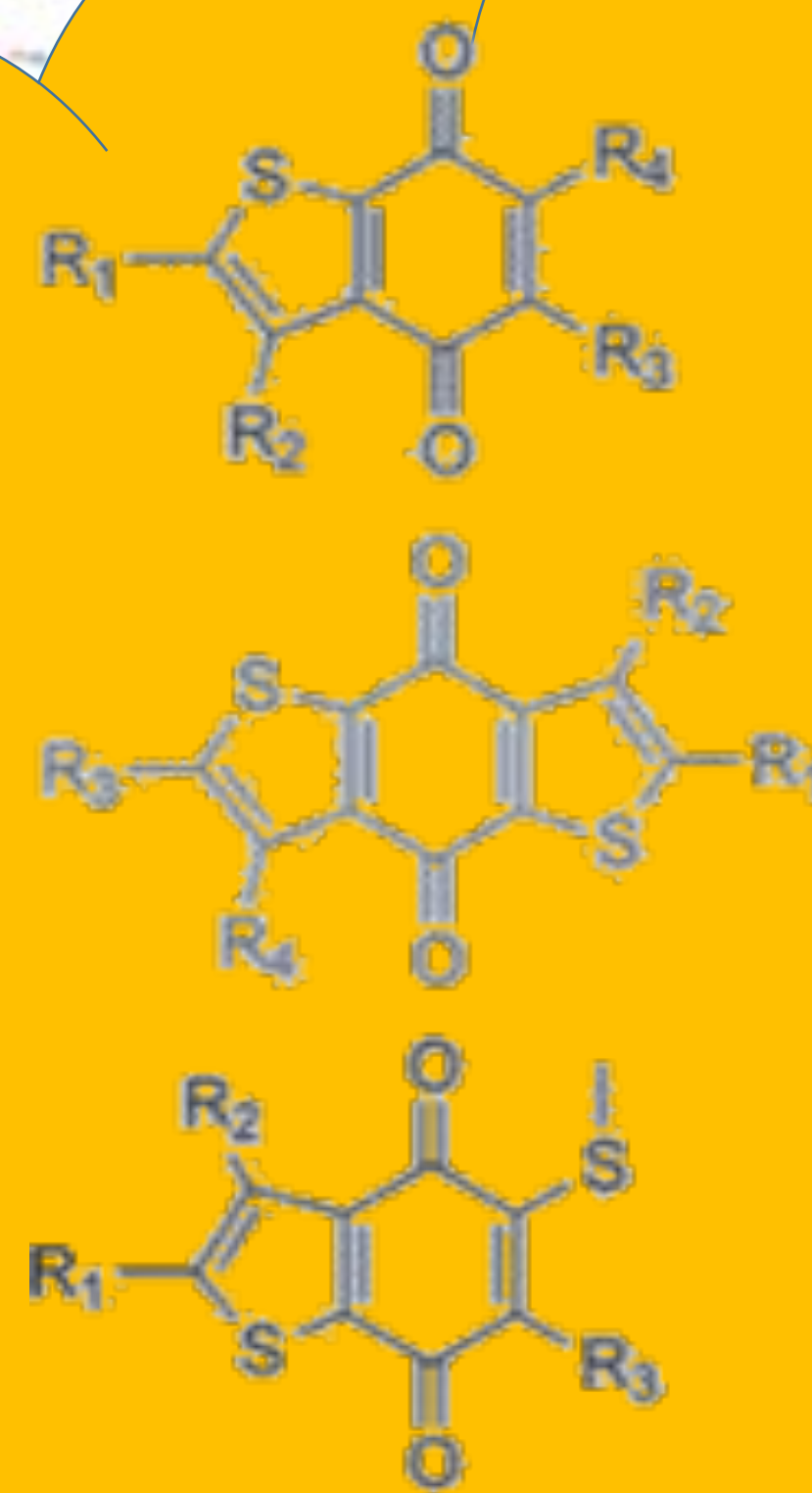


<b>Potential (eV)</b>	0.70	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Log K hyd</b>	2.53	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mike Energy (eV)</b>	-0.55	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Solvation</b>	-0.84		
<b>Weight (amu)</b>	298.05		
<b>Reduced CAS</b>	No CAS found		
<b>Oxidized CAS</b>	No CAS found		
<b>Reduced SA</b>	2.4		
<b>Reduced IKEY</b>	ZJXDHPQZYHGAJA- UHFFFAOYSA-N		
<a href="#">view family graph</a>			



<b>Potential (eV)</b>	0.20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Log K hyd</b>	-2.76	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mike Energy (eV)</b>	-0.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Solvation</b>	-1.05		
<b>Weight (amu)</b>	370.00		
<b>Reduced CAS</b>	No CAS found		
<b>Oxidized CAS</b>	No CAS found		
<b>Reduced SA</b>	3.3		
<b>Reduced IKEY</b>	LGNXOEAOQMPUSPK- UHFFFAOYSA-N		
<a href="#">view family graph</a>			

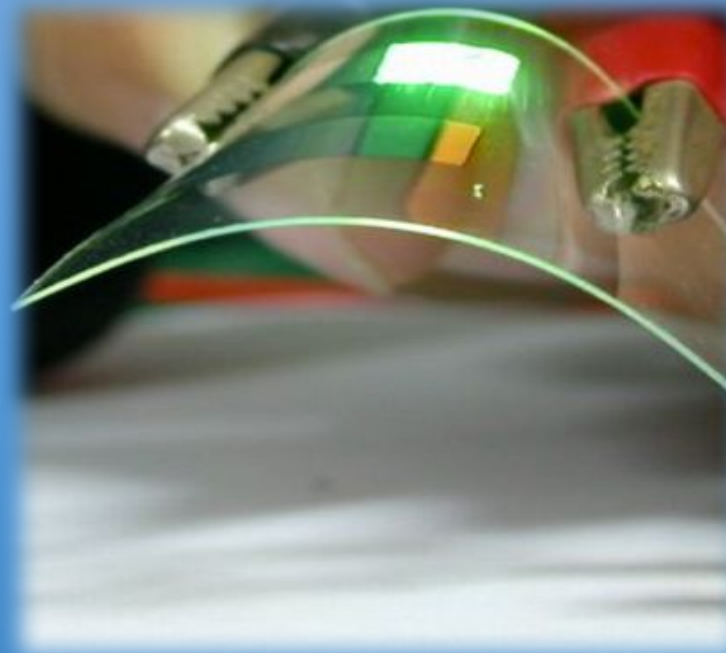
# Beyond quinones



*Sulfolobus* archaeobacteria

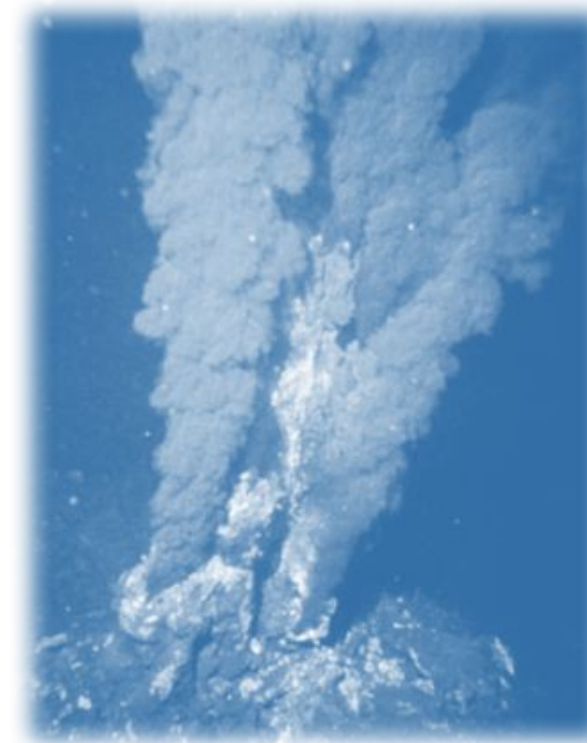
# Long-lasting blue organic LED

**The Harvard Clean Energy Project**  
Generating renewable energy



**Blue Organic LED**  
For your next gadget or TV

**Organic flow batteries**  
Storing renewable energy



**Origins of life**  
How life may have come about?

# Harvard-MIT collaboration

Harvard

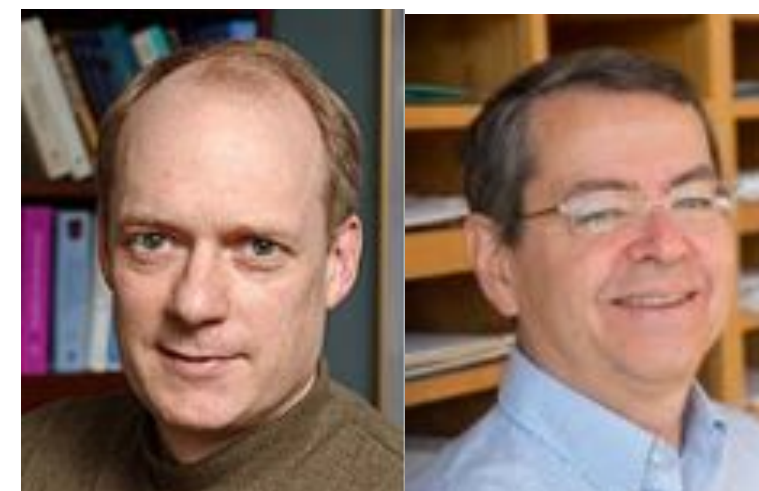


Ryan Adams  
**Machine Learning**



Alán Aspuru-Guzik  
**High-throughput  
quantum chemistry**

MIT



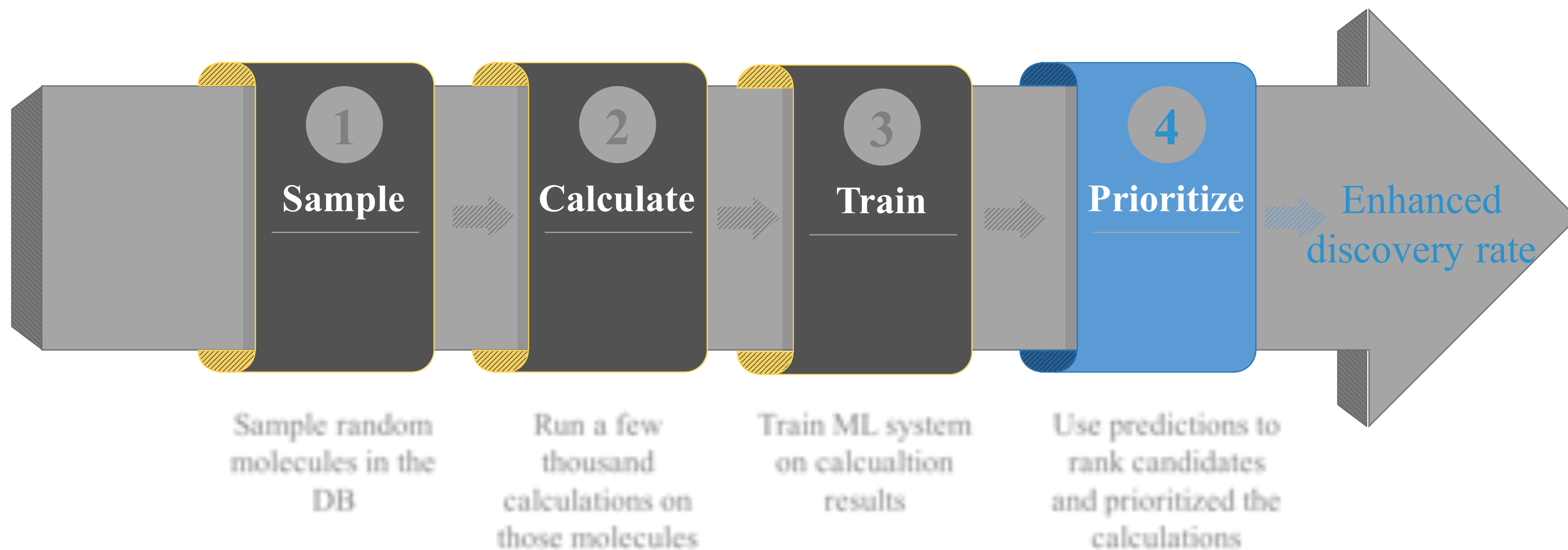
Tim Swager  
Stephen Buchwald  
**Synthetic Chemistry**



Marc Baldo  
**Device Engineering**  
Troy Van Voorhis  
**Microscopic theory**

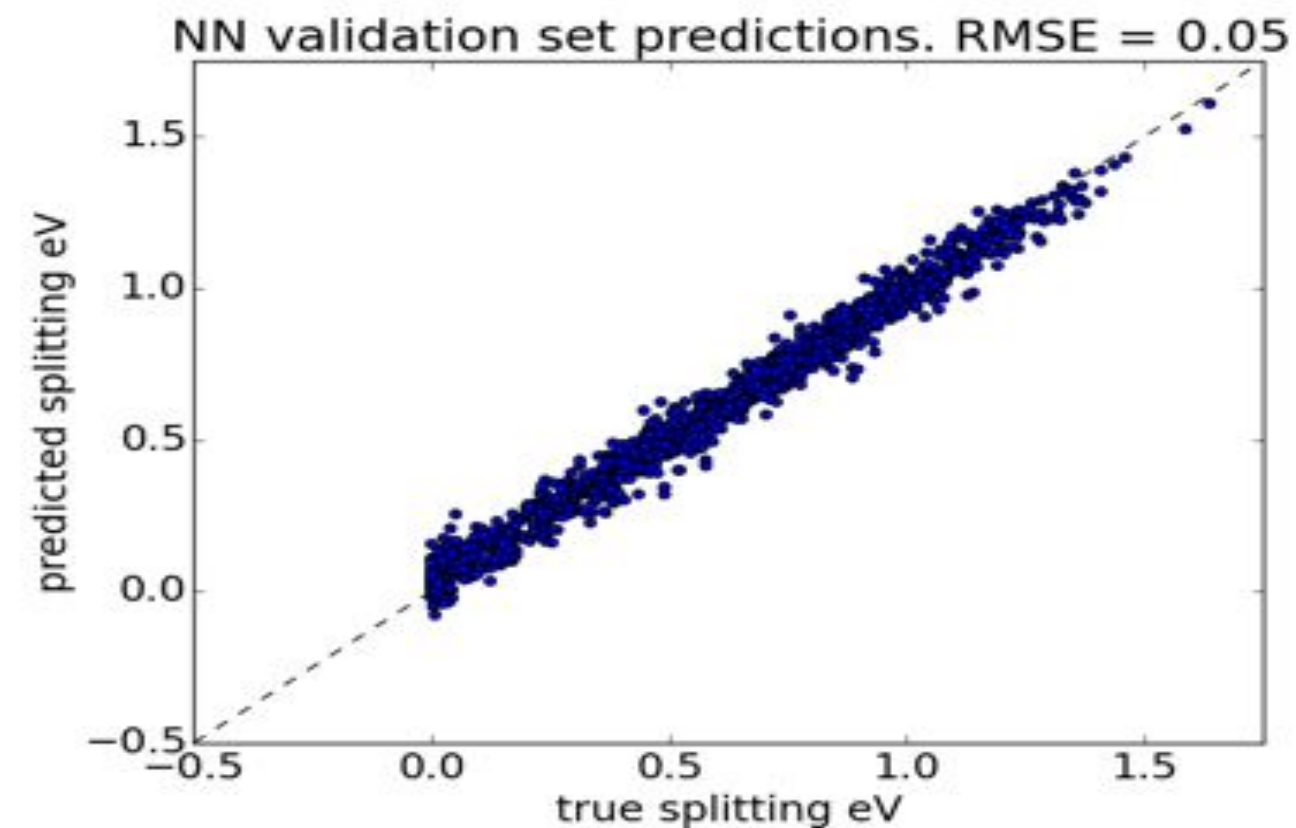
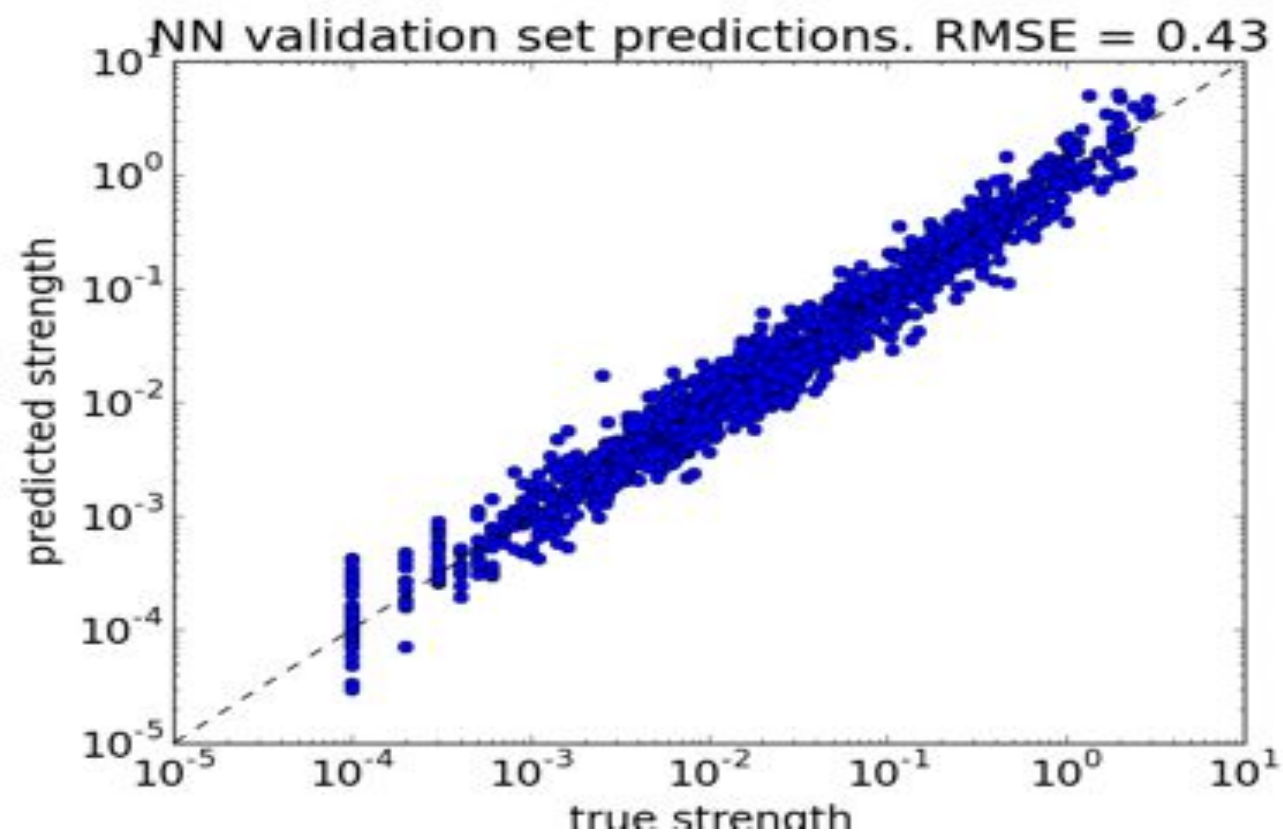
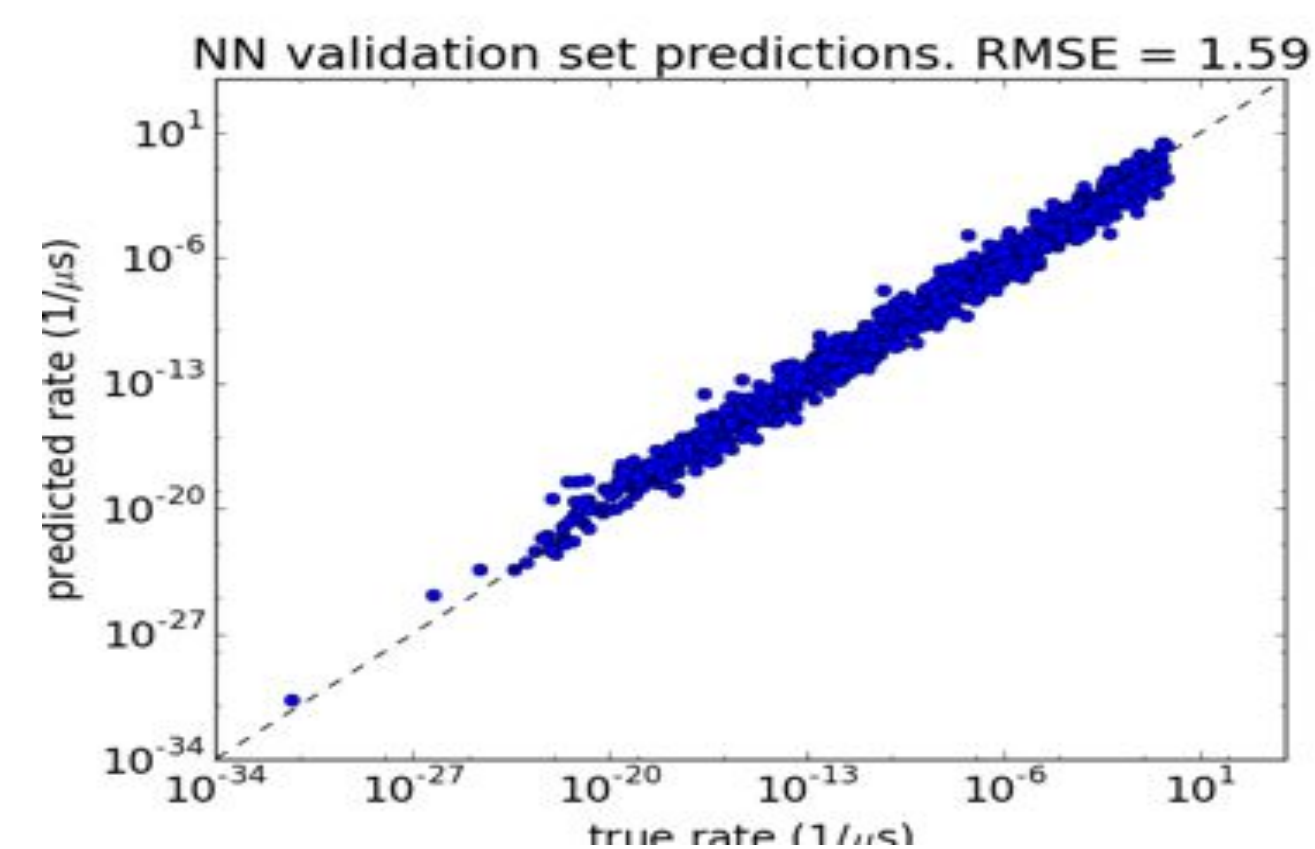
>450,000 molecules screened so far! ~25 synthesized and tested

# Speedy screening: Machine Learning



# Machine Learning

- Supervised learning algorithms
  - Neural networks for ultrafast predictions leveraging thousands of data-points.
  - Result in 10x speedup by discarding poor candidates
- Role of dimensionality
  - Chemical space is **sparse** but libraries are **dense**. Powerful interpolation
- Explore-exploit strategy



Selecting molecules is  
like dating.

**tinder**  
It's how people meet

Download the App

▶ Watch Tinder Plus

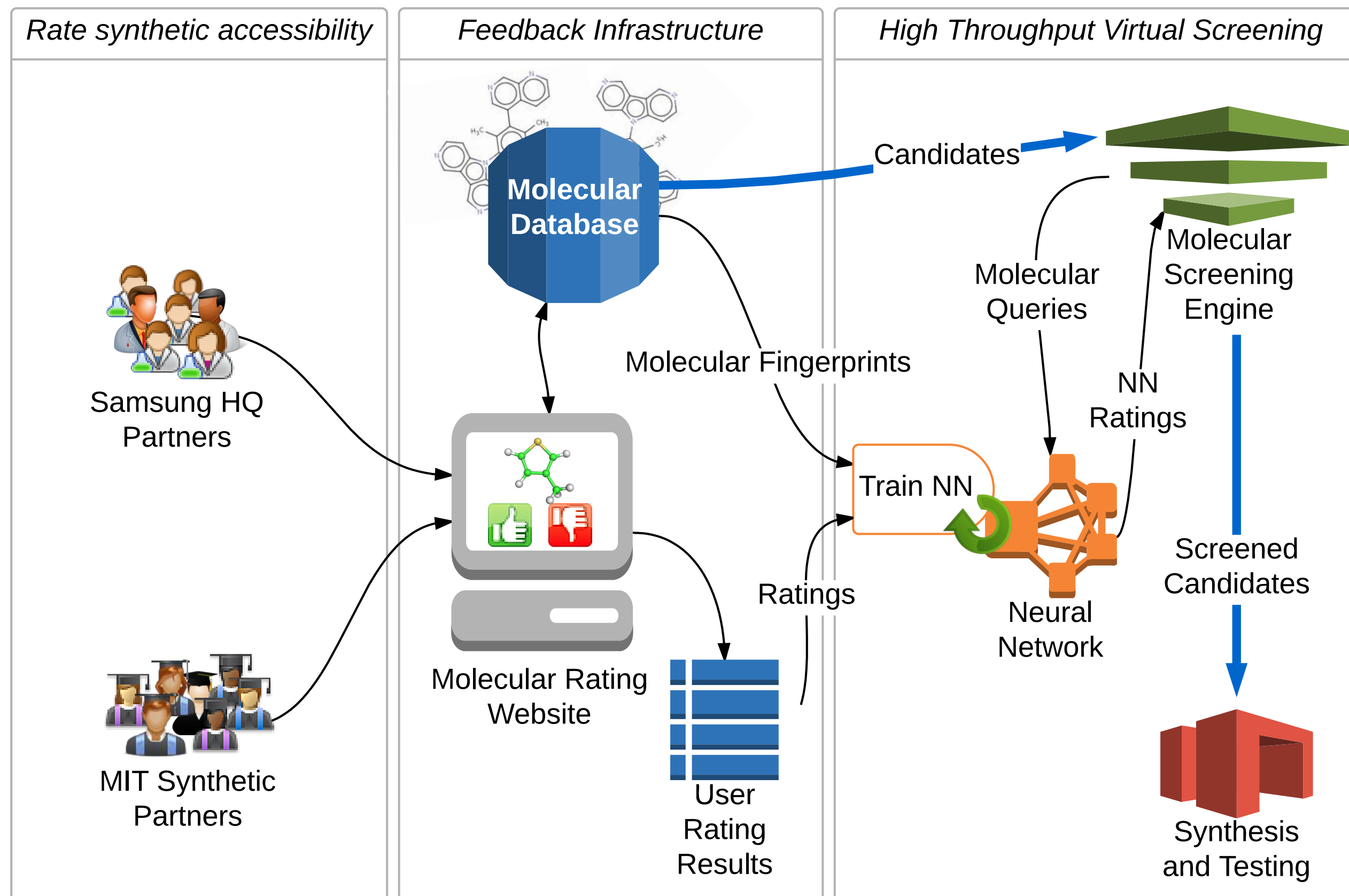


Organic LED Screening

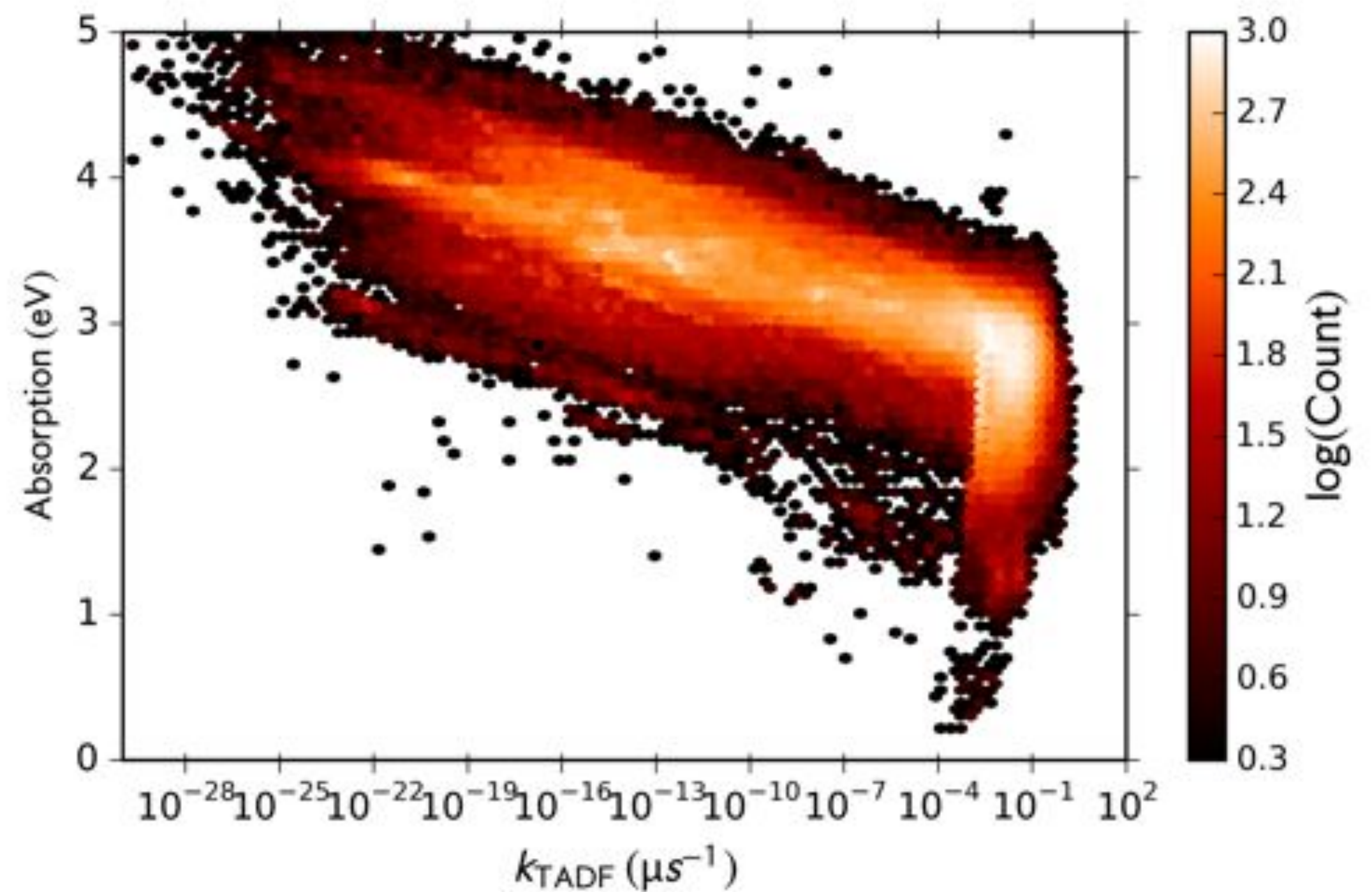
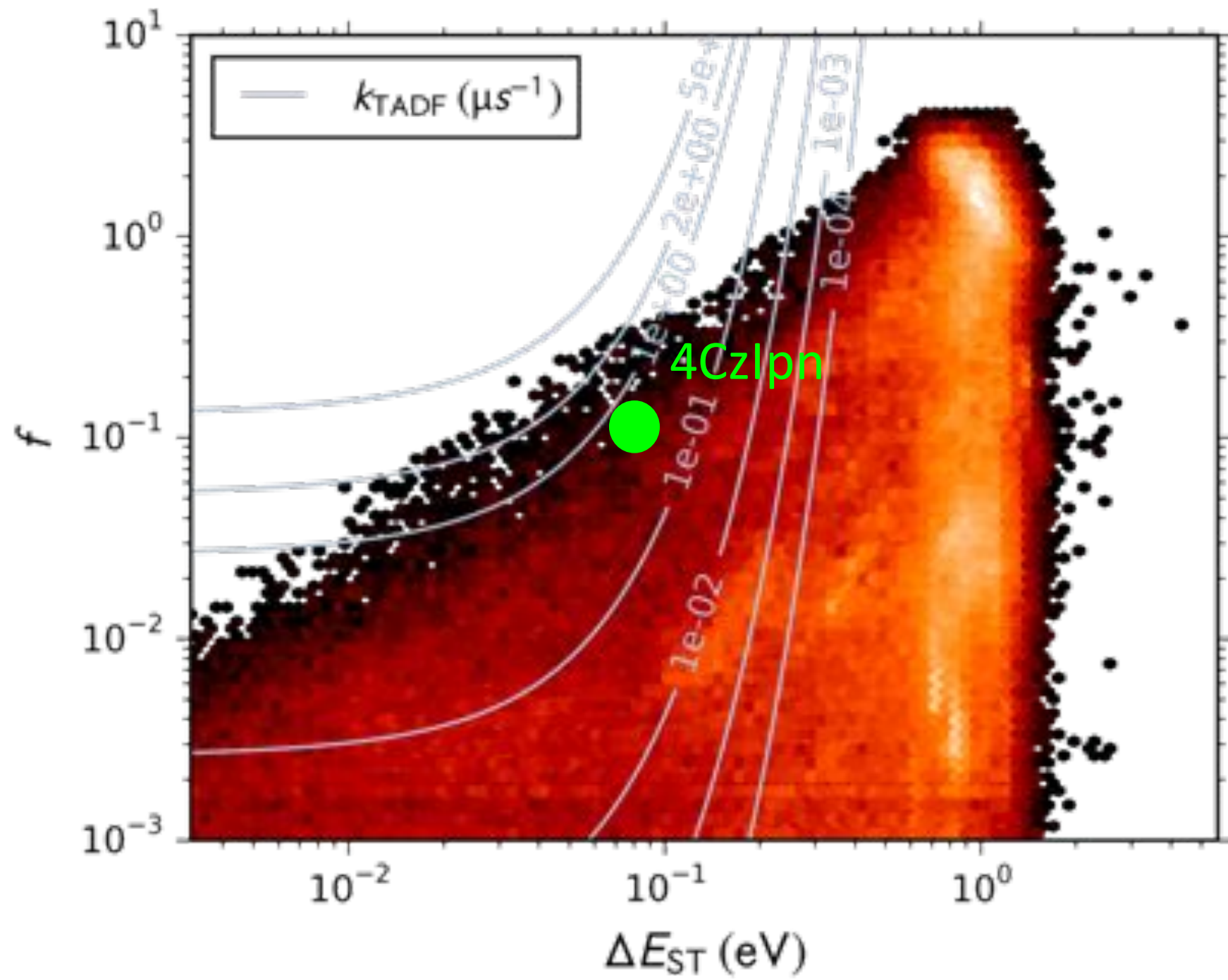
Synthetic accessibility voting tool



# Neural Net Training Workflow



# Data mining 500,000 quantum calculations



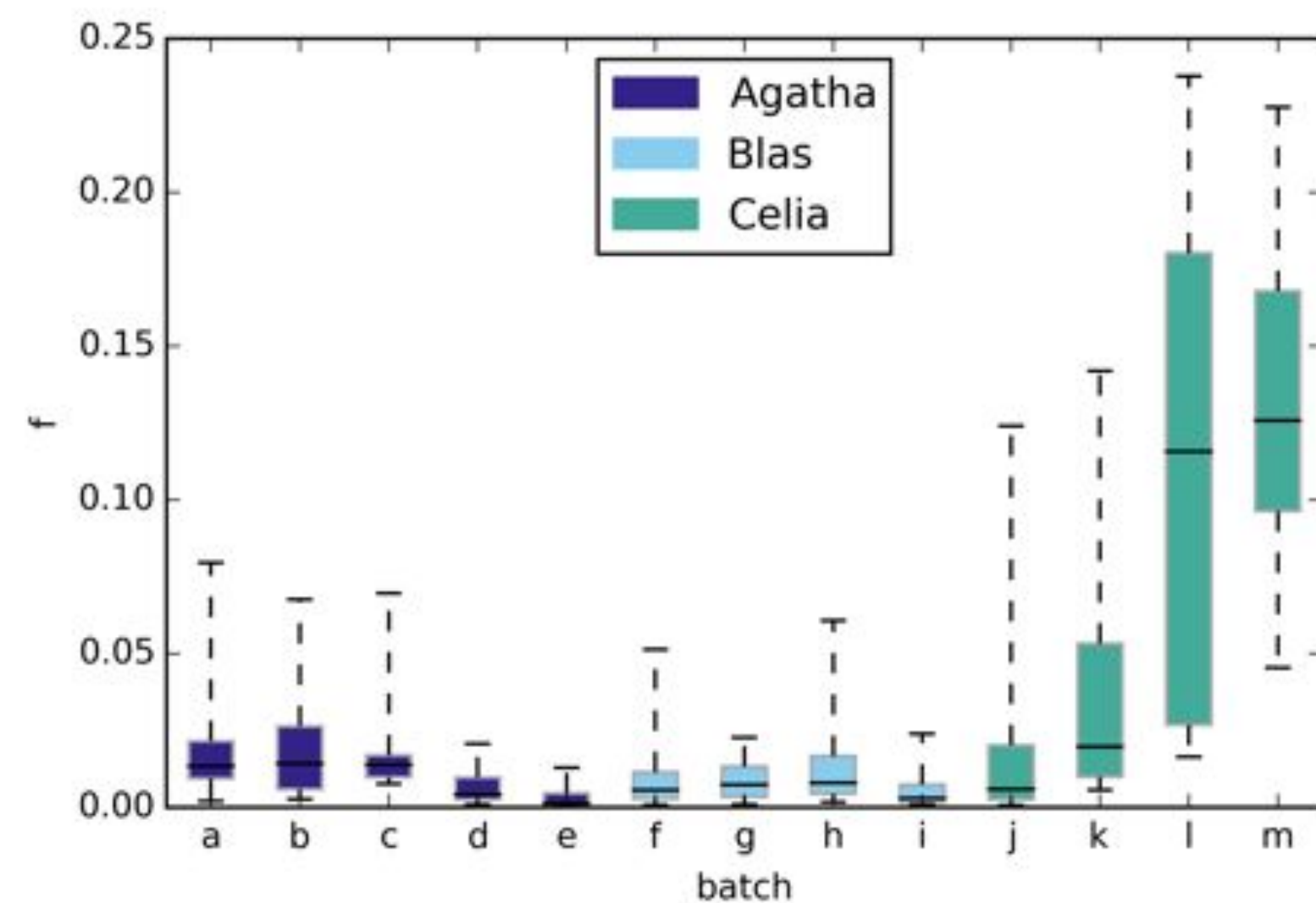
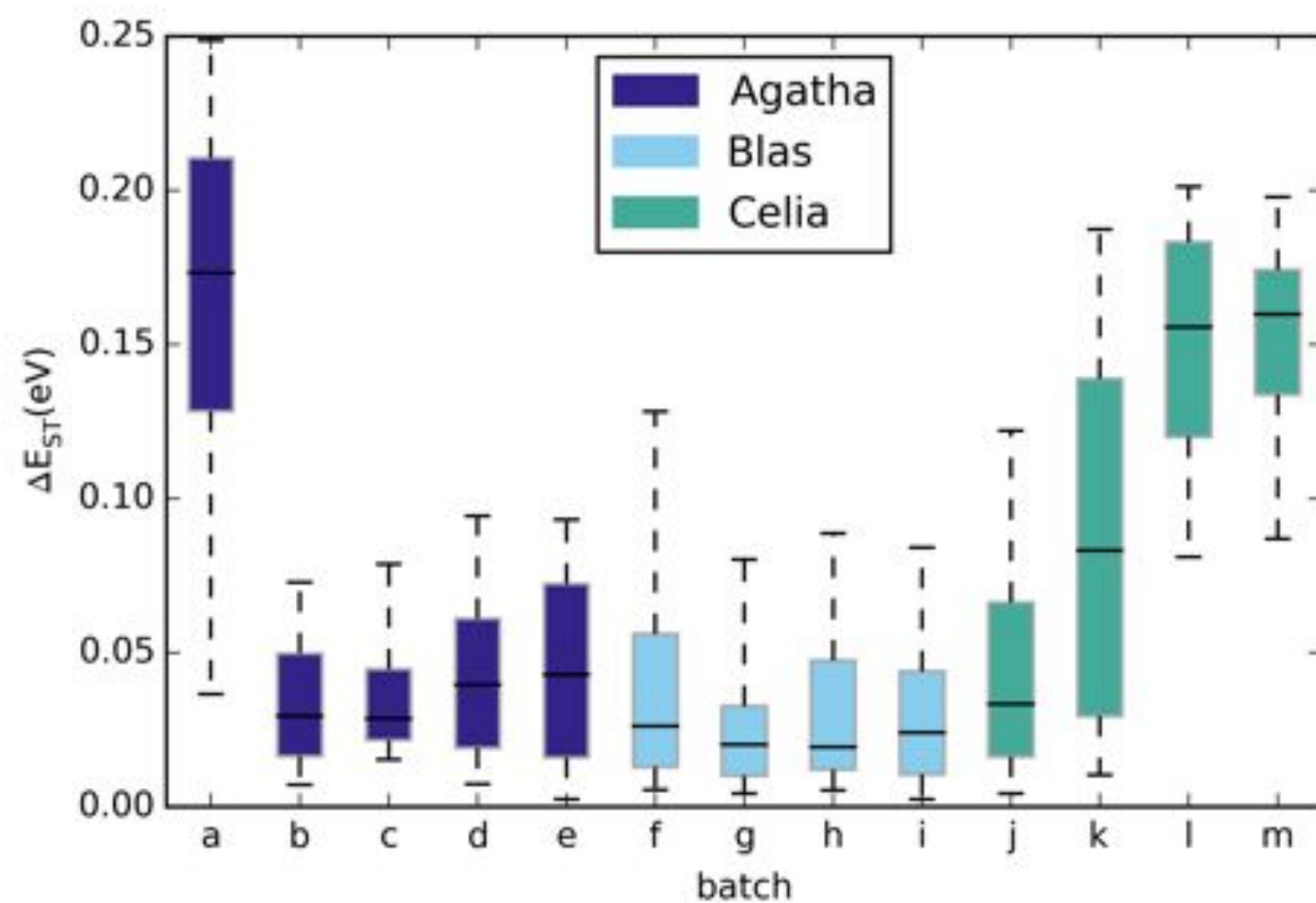
# Batches

## Batches

Selection of 100-200 molecules for experimentalists to browse in a contained way.

Usually explore some chemical *family*, using ancestry from database.

Need to confirm novelty *post hoc*: sometimes re-discover known molecules.





22.5%

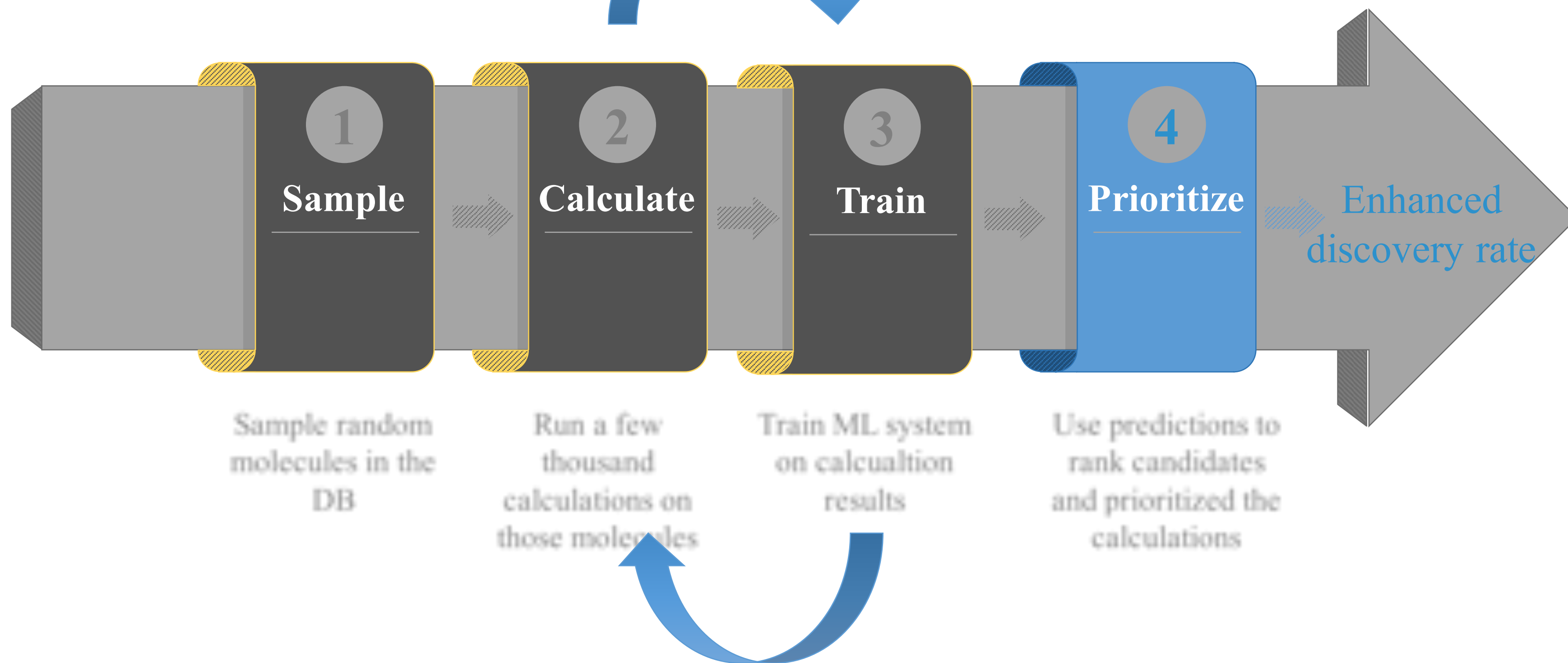
Rafael Gómez-Bombarelli, Jorge Aguilera-Iparaguirre, Tim Hirzel  
Martin BloodAdams, Baldo, Swager groups, Samsung IT

# Key breakthroughs in efficiency: **Strength**

Name	$S_0$ splitting	$T_1$ splitting	$S_0$ strength	$T_1$ strength	EQE(%)
4CzIPN	0.124	0.101	0.063	0.049	20
Foxtrot1-21	0.015	0.031	0.003	0.000	20
Hotel1-38	0.017	0.046	0.008	0.012	7
Julie2-16-1	0.104	0.145	0.124	0.186	22
Lima17-36	0.179	0.187	0.257	0.240	17*

- A small gap is crucial for TADF behavior
- We need also need a big fluorescence
- We have managed to control both for great overall efficiency

# Screening billions of molecules: Machine learning takes the driver's seat



To design something really well you have to get it. You have to really grok what it's all about. It takes a passionate commitment to really thoroughly understand something. Chew it up, not quickly swallow it. Most people don't take time to do that.



# Aspuru-Guzik group

Sponsors: **DOE BES, ARPA-E, Samsung, NSF**, ARO, ONR, AFOSR, Samsung, Sloan Foundation, Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, DTRA, DARPA

<http://aspuru.chem.harvard.edu>

Twitter: A\_Aspuru\_Guzik  
aspuru@chemistry.harvard.edu

