
Converging technologies from the Biotechnologies perspective

Messenger RNA: An emerging biotechnology platform

Katalin Karikó, PhD

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA

University of Szeged, Hungary



CONVERGING ON THE PERSON

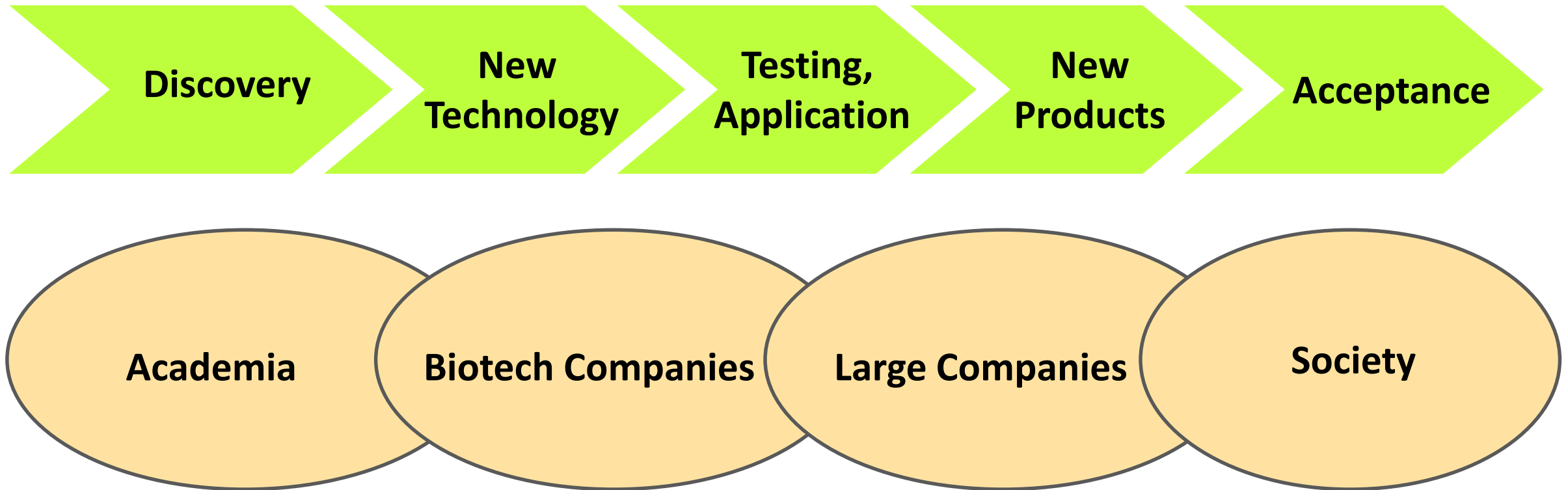
EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Vatican City | February 20-22, 2023

Disclosures

I have securities from BioNTech SE, and serve as consultant for BioNTech SE.
I am inventor on patents and patent applications related to RNA technology.

Emergence of novel biotechnologies



Emerging novel biotechnologies

Genome editing technologies:

- CRISPR-Cas
- TALEN
- Zinc Finger Nucleases

Cell and Gene therapies (FDA: >2,500 trial) :

- CAR T cells – Kymriah
- AAV gene therapy – Luxturna

RNA technologies:

- mRNA
- siRNA

Fields impacted by emerging biotechnologies

Genome editing, RNA therapy, cell and gene therapy technologies

Therapeutics:

- Treat human patients: acquired and genetic human disease
- Treat animals – Companion animals, *pets*
 - Farmed animals, *livestock*

Vaccines:

- Prevent infections of human and animals

Agriculture:

- Sustainable with improve yield, quality, nutrition of crops

The two most important emerging biotechnologies

CRISPR-Cas-based genome editing technology

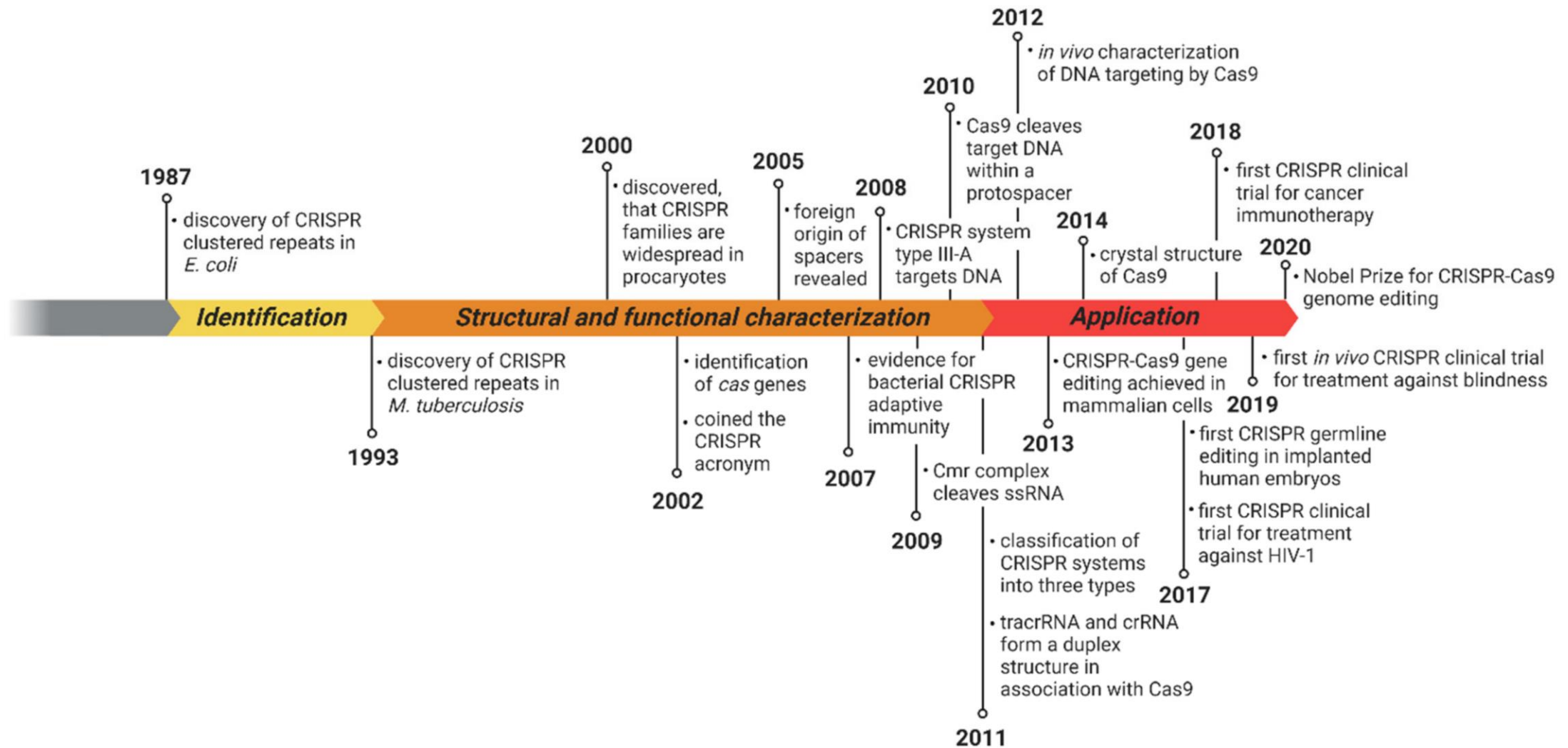
Messenger RNA-based therapy and vaccine technology

The two most important emerging biotechnologies

CRISPR-Cas-based genome editing technology

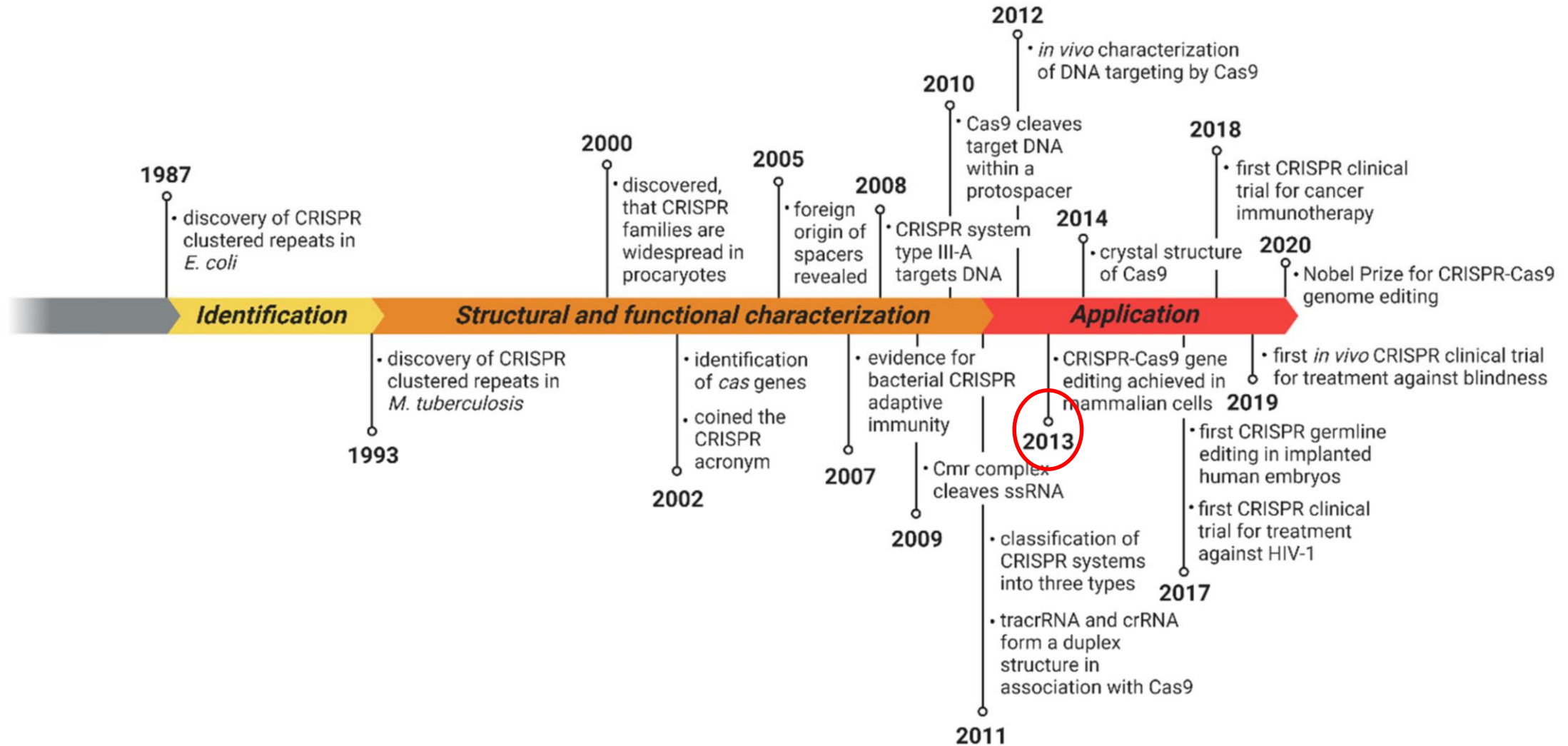
Messenger RNA-based therapy and vaccine technology

Genome editing: Timeline of CRISPR-Cas system with milestones



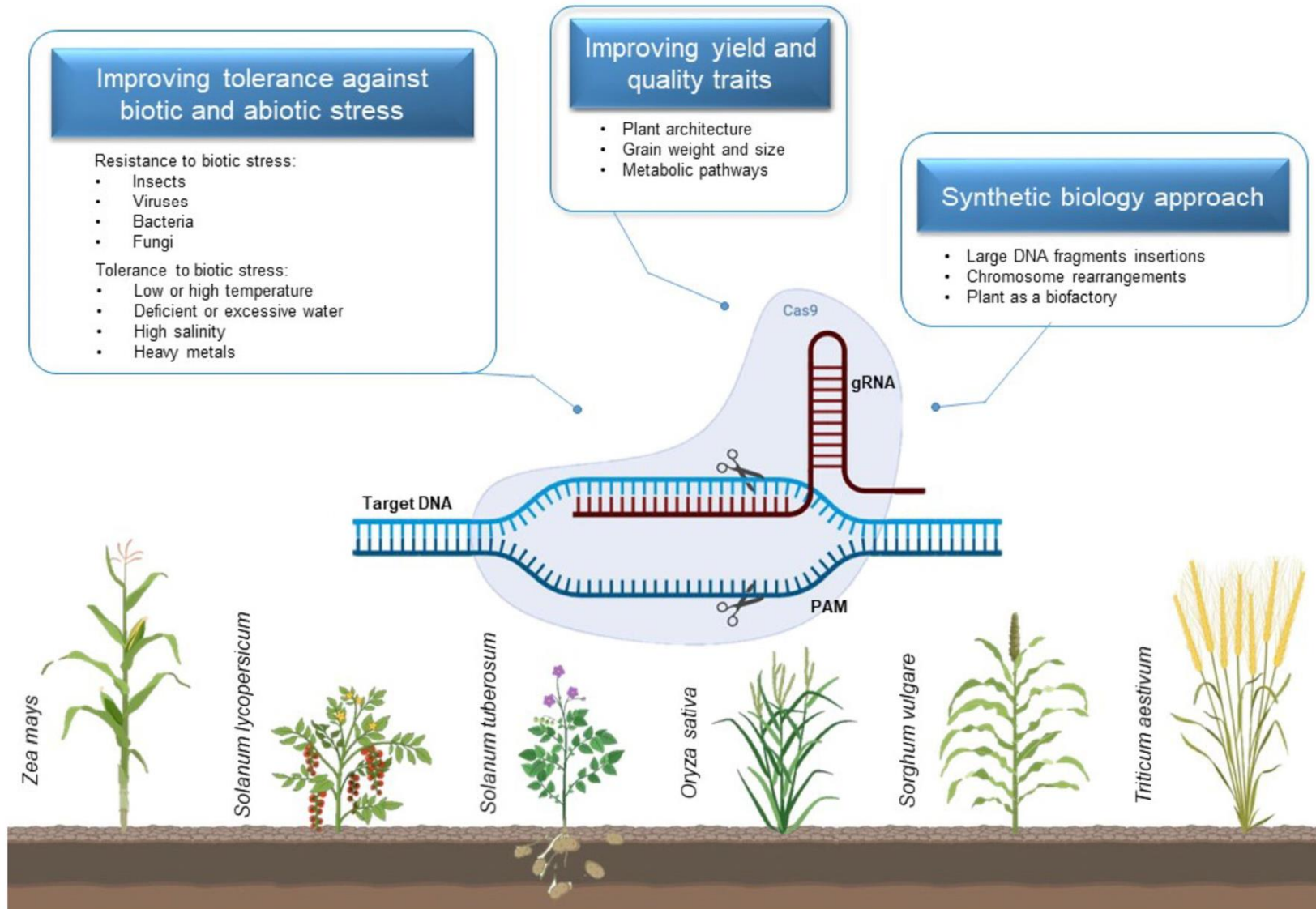
Int. J. Mol. Sci. **2021**, *22*, 3327

Genome editing: Timeline of CRISPR-Cas system with milestones



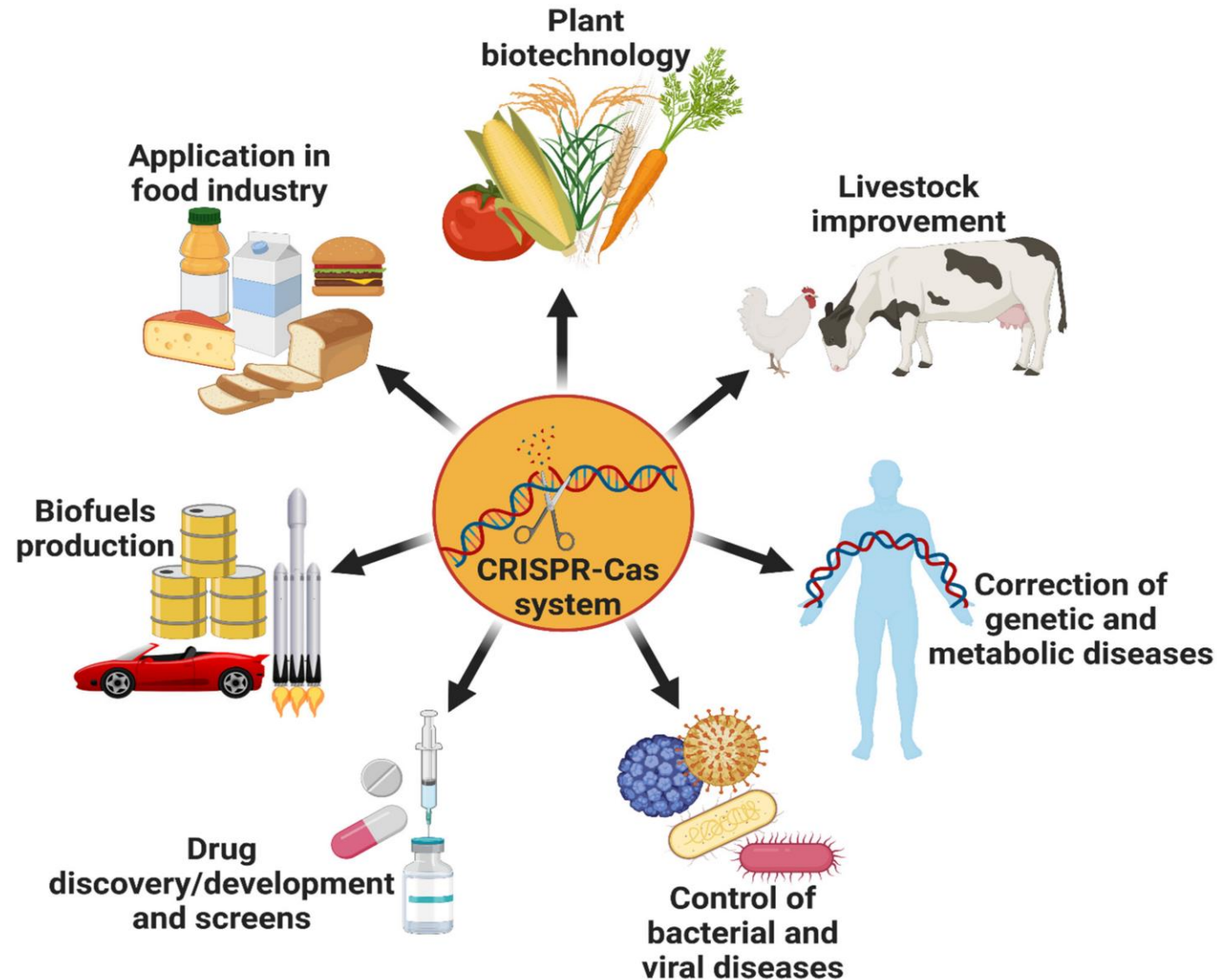
Int. J. Mol. Sci. 2021, 22, 3327

Editing genomes of plants with CRISPR-Cas9 enzyme system



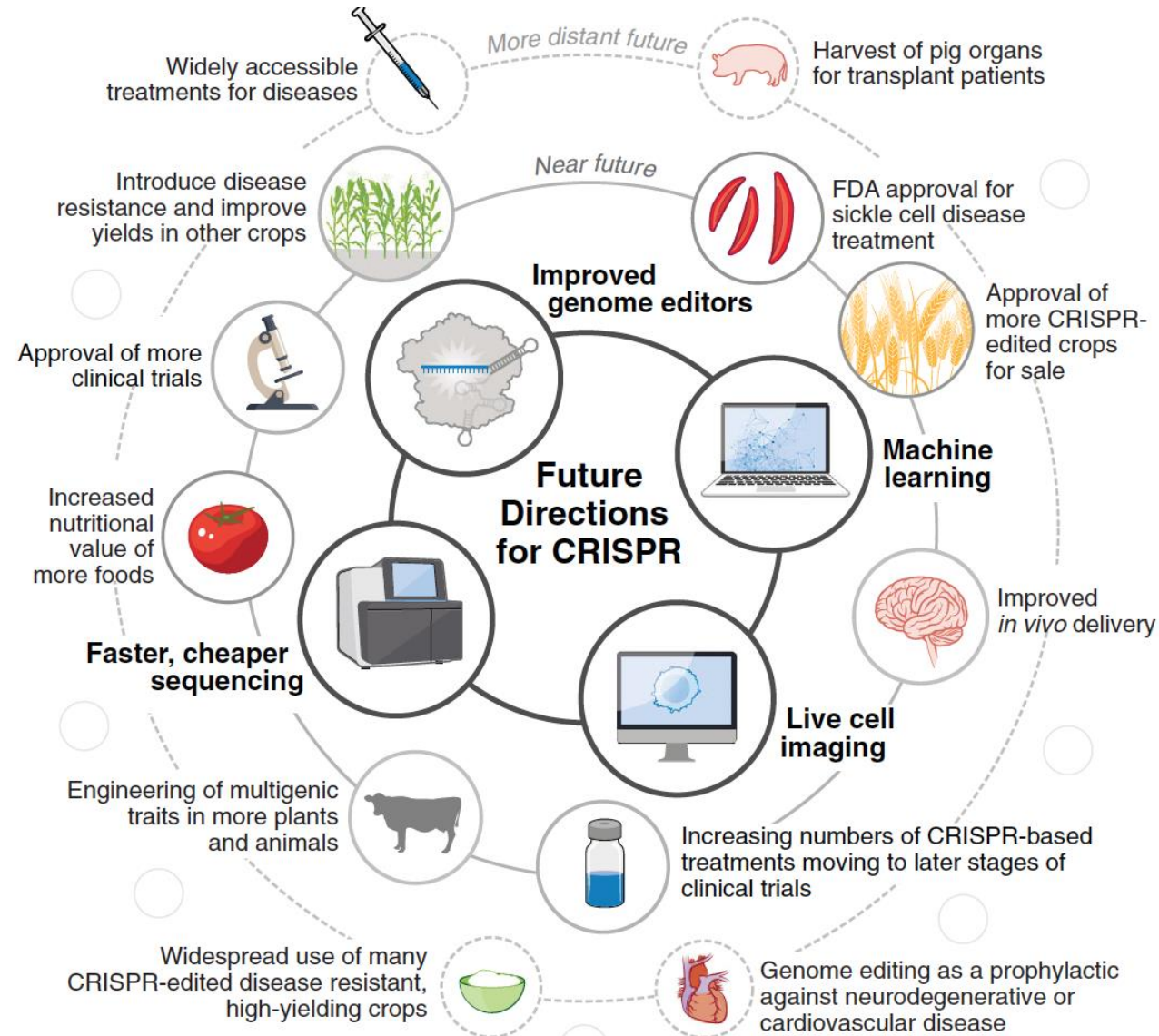
Encyclopedia 2022, 2: 538

Emerging genome editing in biotechnology: CRISPR-Cas

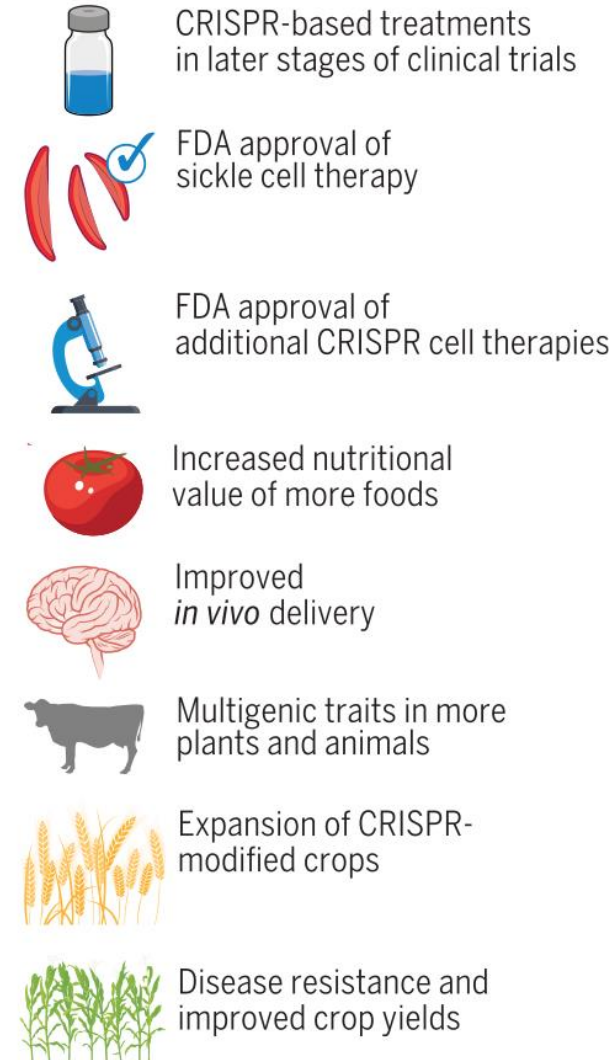


Int. J. Mol. Sci. **2021**, *22*, 3327

A decade of genome editing with CRISPR-Cas technology



Next 10 years



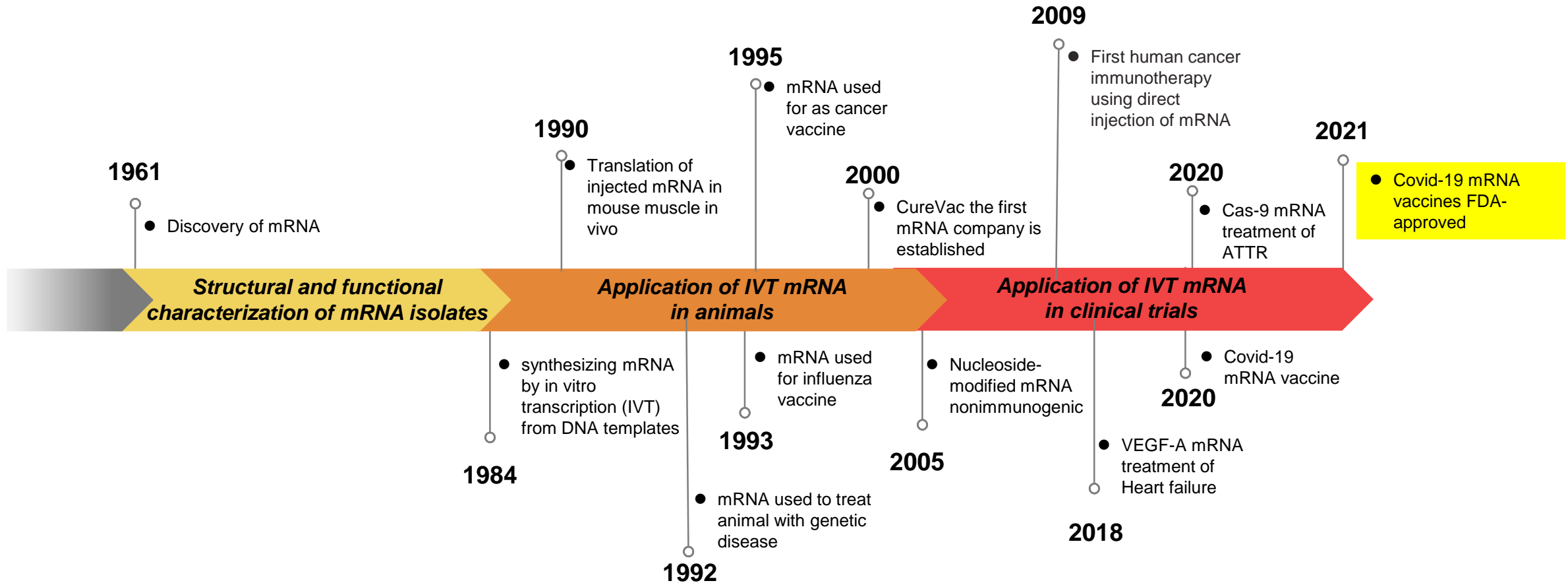
Science **379**, 251 (2023)

The two most important emerging biotechnologies

CRISPR-Cas-based genome editing technology

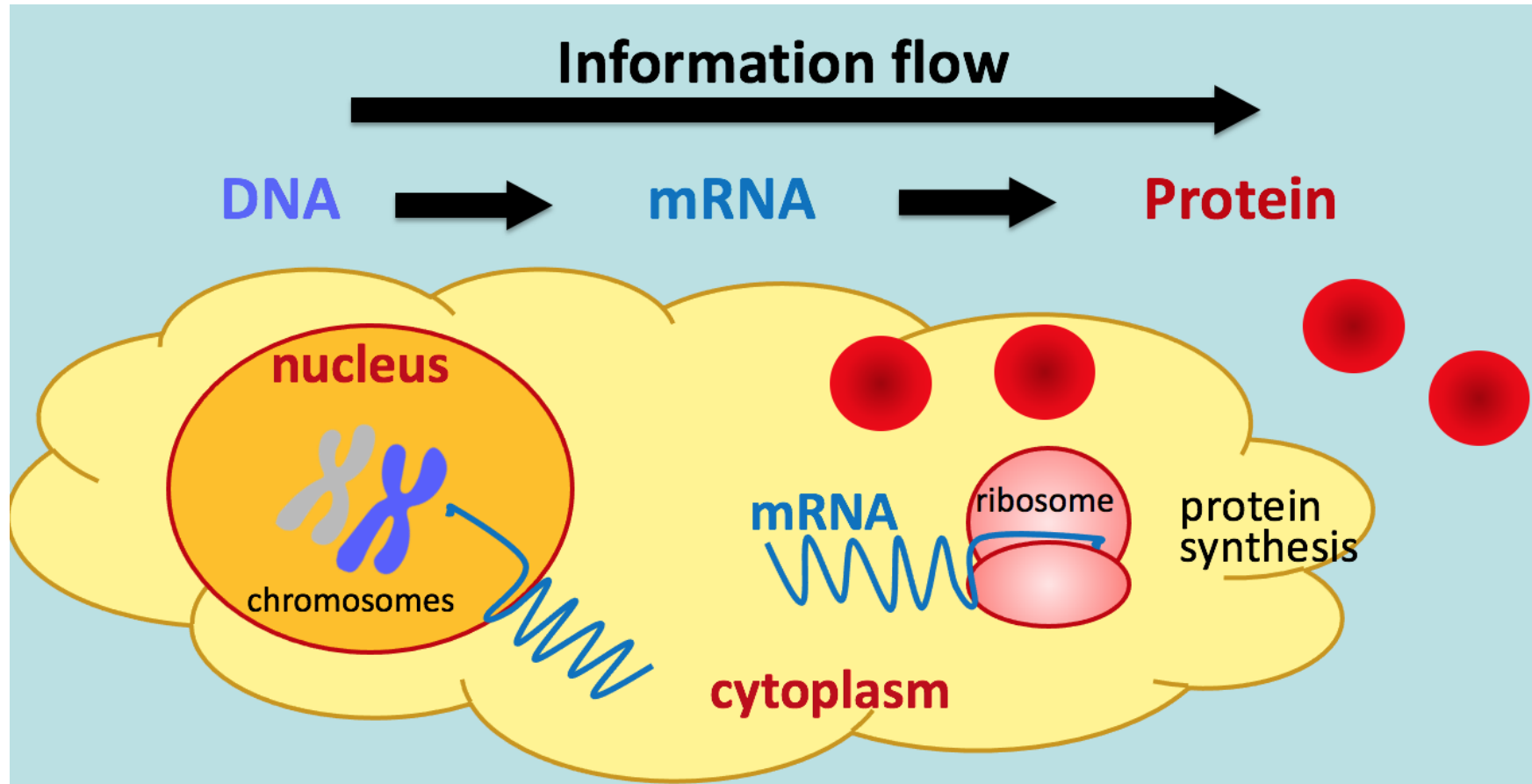
Messenger RNA-based therapy and vaccine technology

Milestones of mRNA development for therapy



Information flow in all cells

mRNA: the labile intermediate carrying the information from the DNA to ribosome



Therapeutic proteins are the new medicines

- ❖ >100 therapeutic proteins FDA-approved - purified, recombinant
Fastest growing group of therapeutics

Hormones, cytokines, enzymes: replacing proteins missing, deficient, abnormal

- insulin, growth hormone, EPO, cytokines (IFN- α , IFN- β , IL-2)
- enzymes (GLA, alpha-1-antitrypsin, DNase, tPA, uPA)
- blood coagulation factors (FVIII, FVIIa)

Monoclonal antibodies: Targeting TNF- α , cancer antigen, infectives

- 1986 Anti-CD3, 1995: Reopro

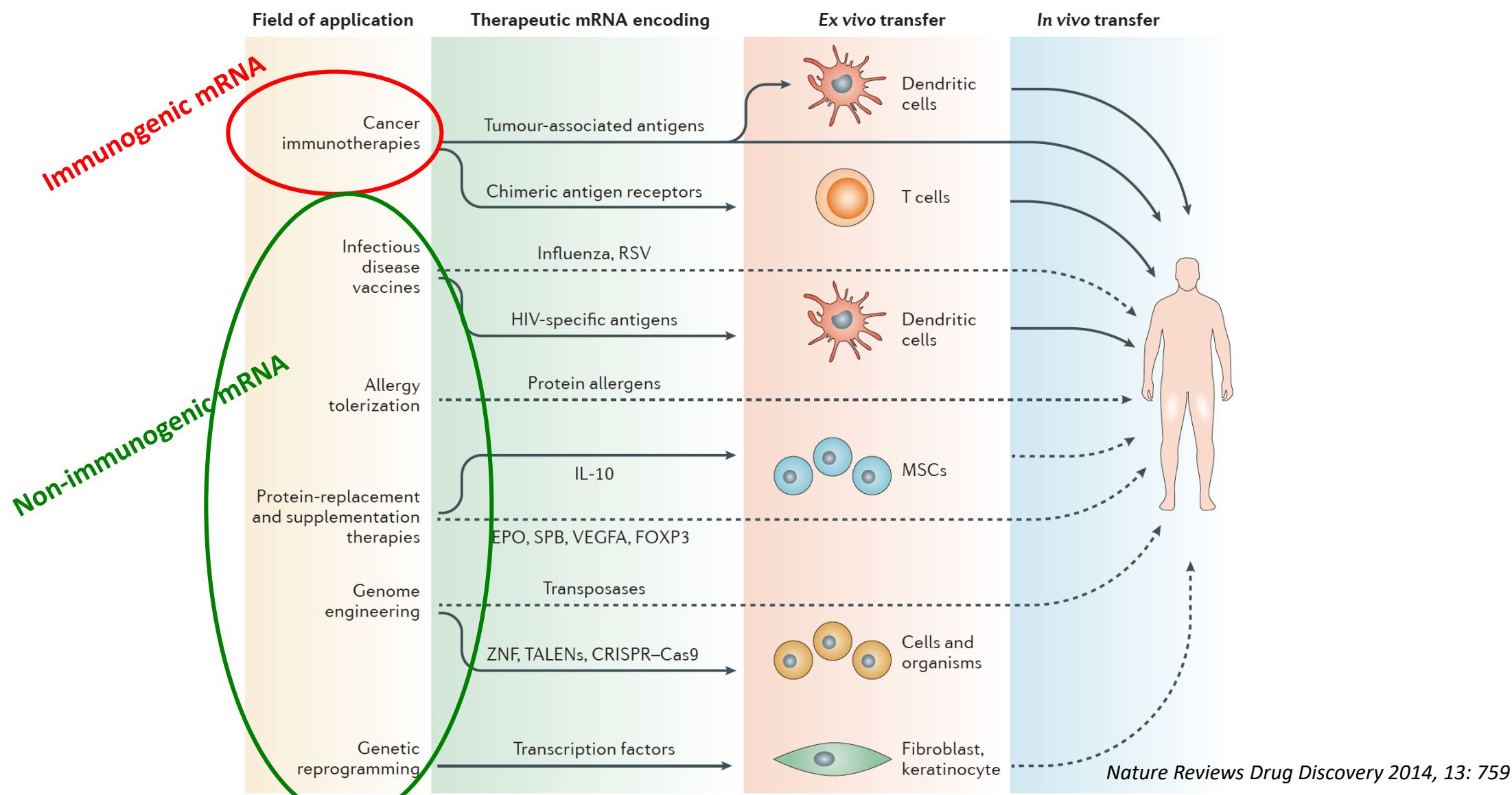
Replacing therapeutic proteins with their encoding mRNA

Advantage of IVT mRNA

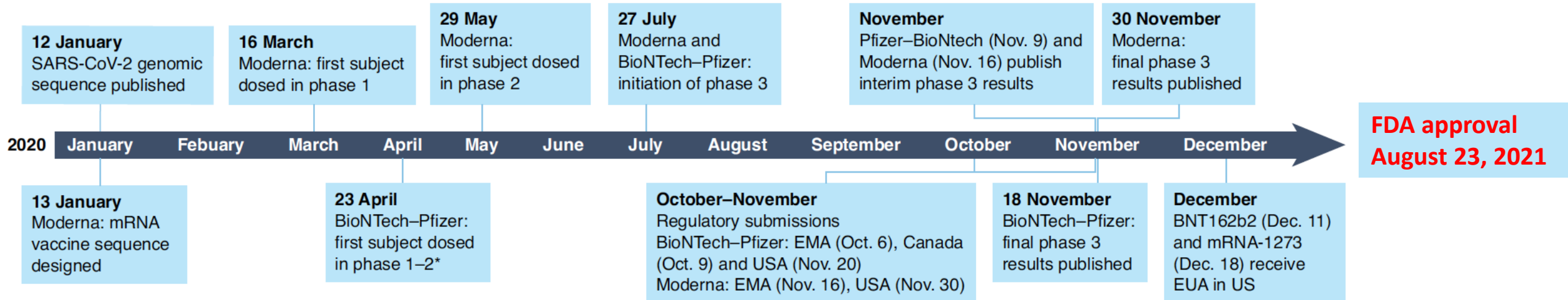
mRNA vs. recombinant protein

- no need to purify the protein
- speed up drug development using mRNA - easy to make, cheap
- the protein has proper structure
- continuous in vivo supply of encoded protein from the delivered mRNA
- production of intracellular proteins is possible with mRNA

mRNA-based therapeutics — developing a new class of drugs

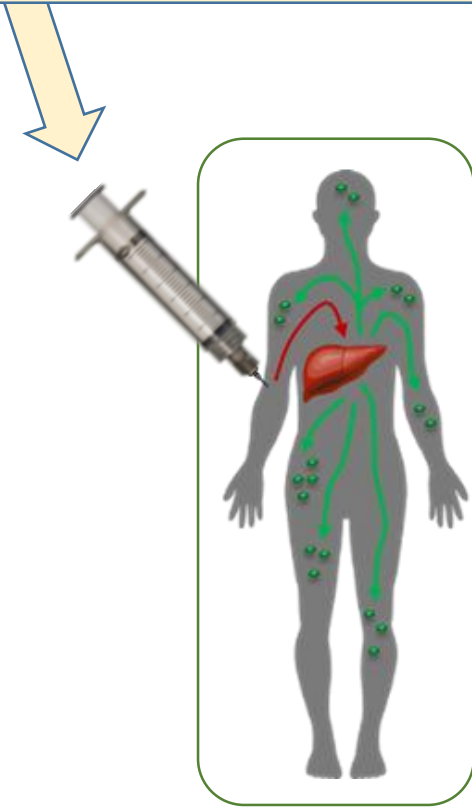
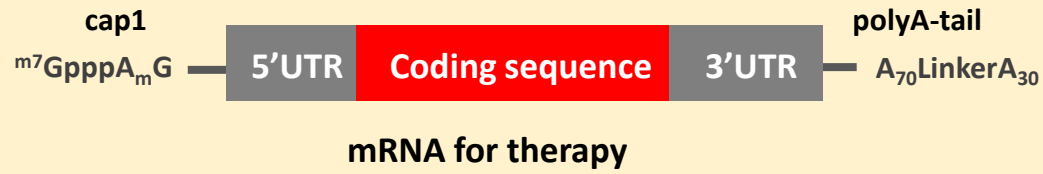


Timeline: development of mRNA vaccines against SARS-CoV-2



Barbier et al. *Nature Biotechnology* 2022

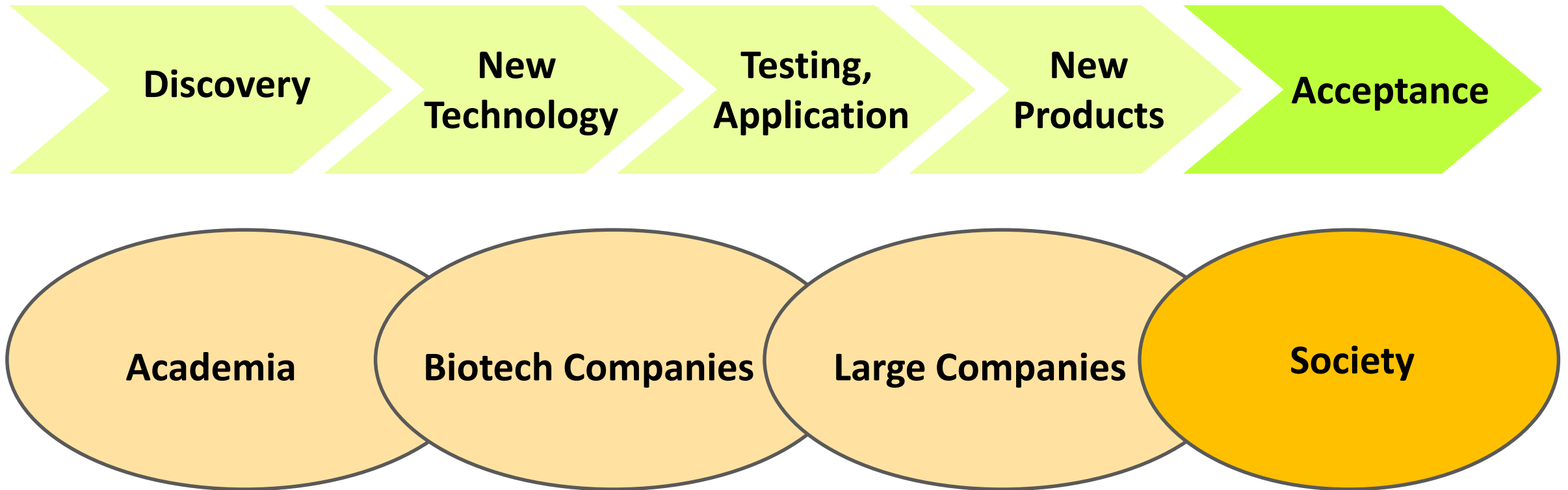
2023 and beyond - mRNA is a new class of medicine



mRNA in clinical trials to prevent or treat

- **infectious disease**
 - RSV, Flu, HIV, ZKV, HSV, EBV, HMPV, CMV, Nipah, malaria
- **cancer**
 - vaccines, antibodies, CAR-T cells, intratumor injection of cytokine mRNAs
- **acute diseases**
 - VEGFA mRNA heart failure, wound healing
- **genetic diseases**
 - OTCD, Propionic acidemia, methylmalonic acidemia, glycogen storage disease, genome editing (Cas9 mRNA), cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia

Acceptance of the new biotech products by society is needed

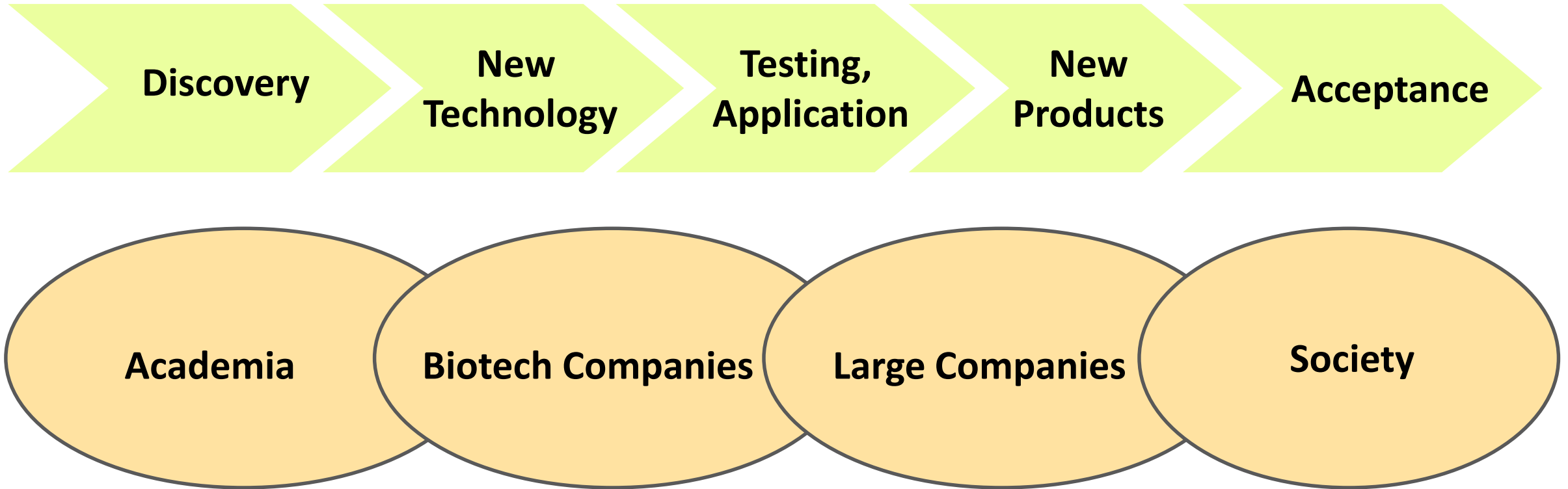


Acceptance of new products by society

Public relation:

- Public engagement, education, debates, transparency
 - concerns, skepticism, vaccines hesitancy
 - fighting misinformation
 - values, benefits
- Regulatory path
 - Safety, efficacy
 - Risk : benefit ratio

Biotechnology is serving the common good



- **Thanks for your attention**