

20.109  
Laboratory Fundamentals in  
Biological Engineering

Module 1  
Nucleic Acids

# Infectious Disease

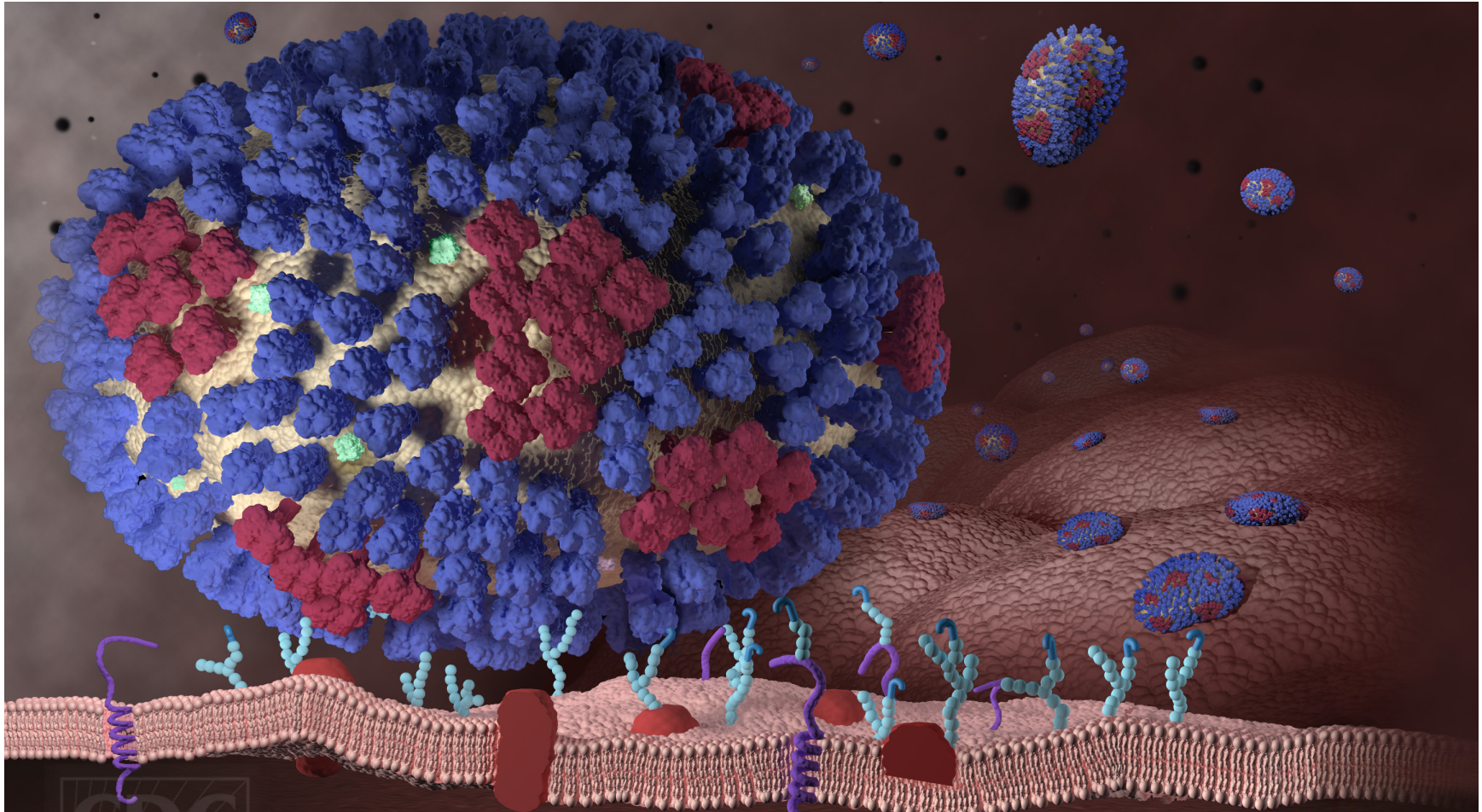
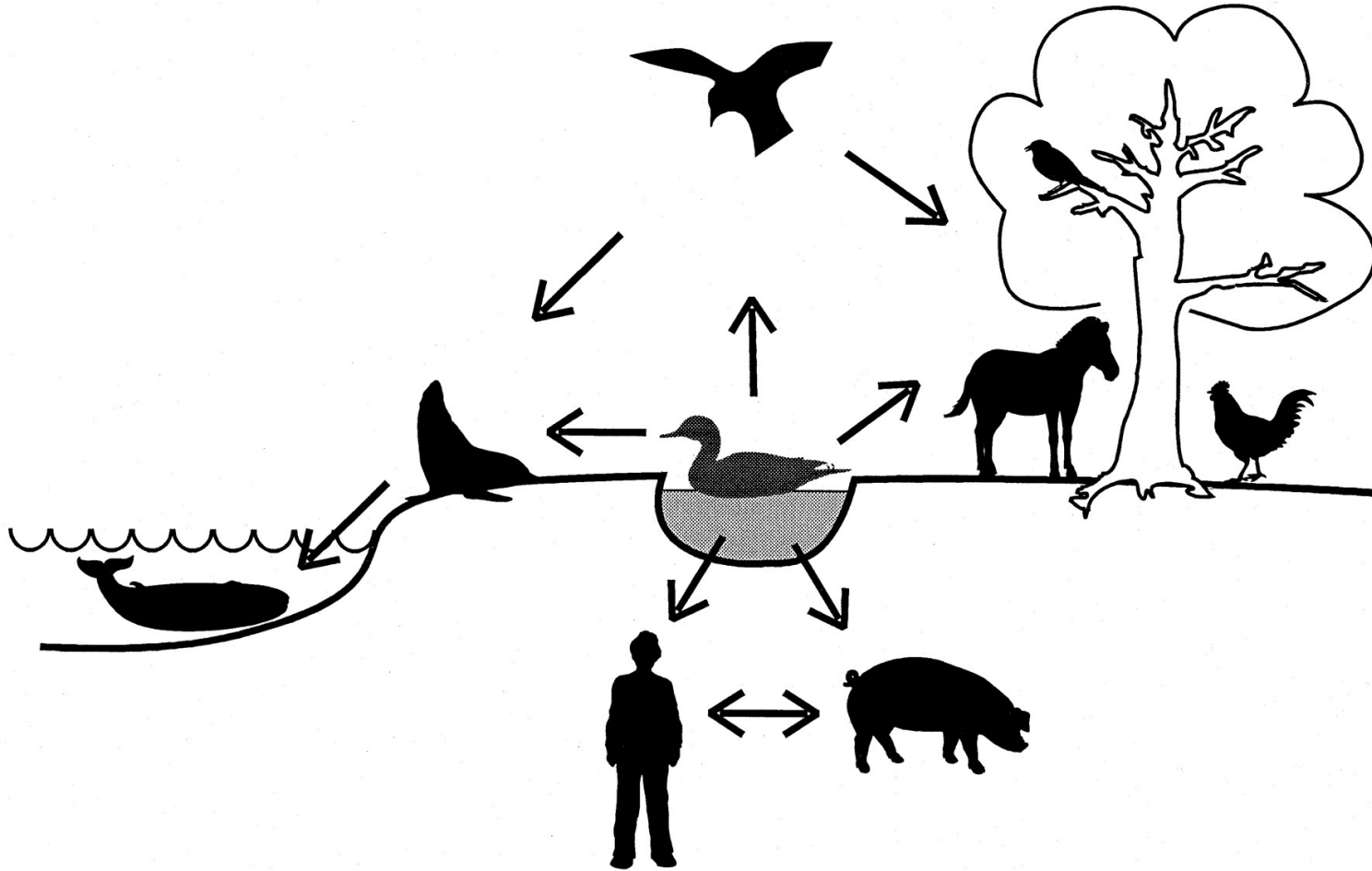


Image from CDC

# Influenza Disease Ecology (measure, model)



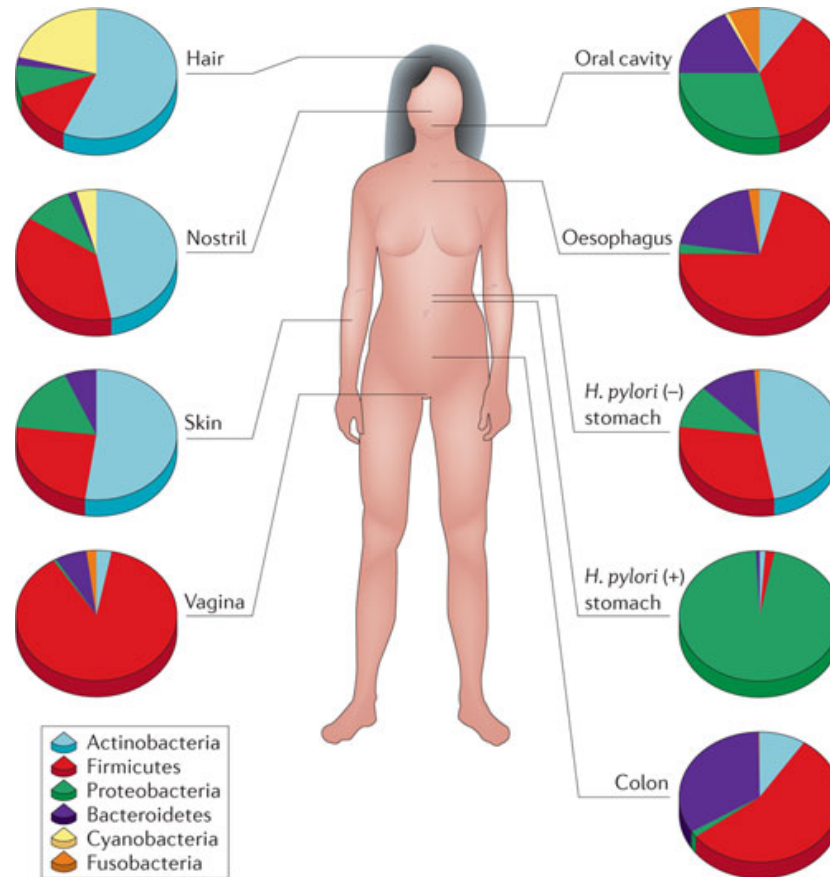
# The microbial environment

Scientific American interactive  
microbiome

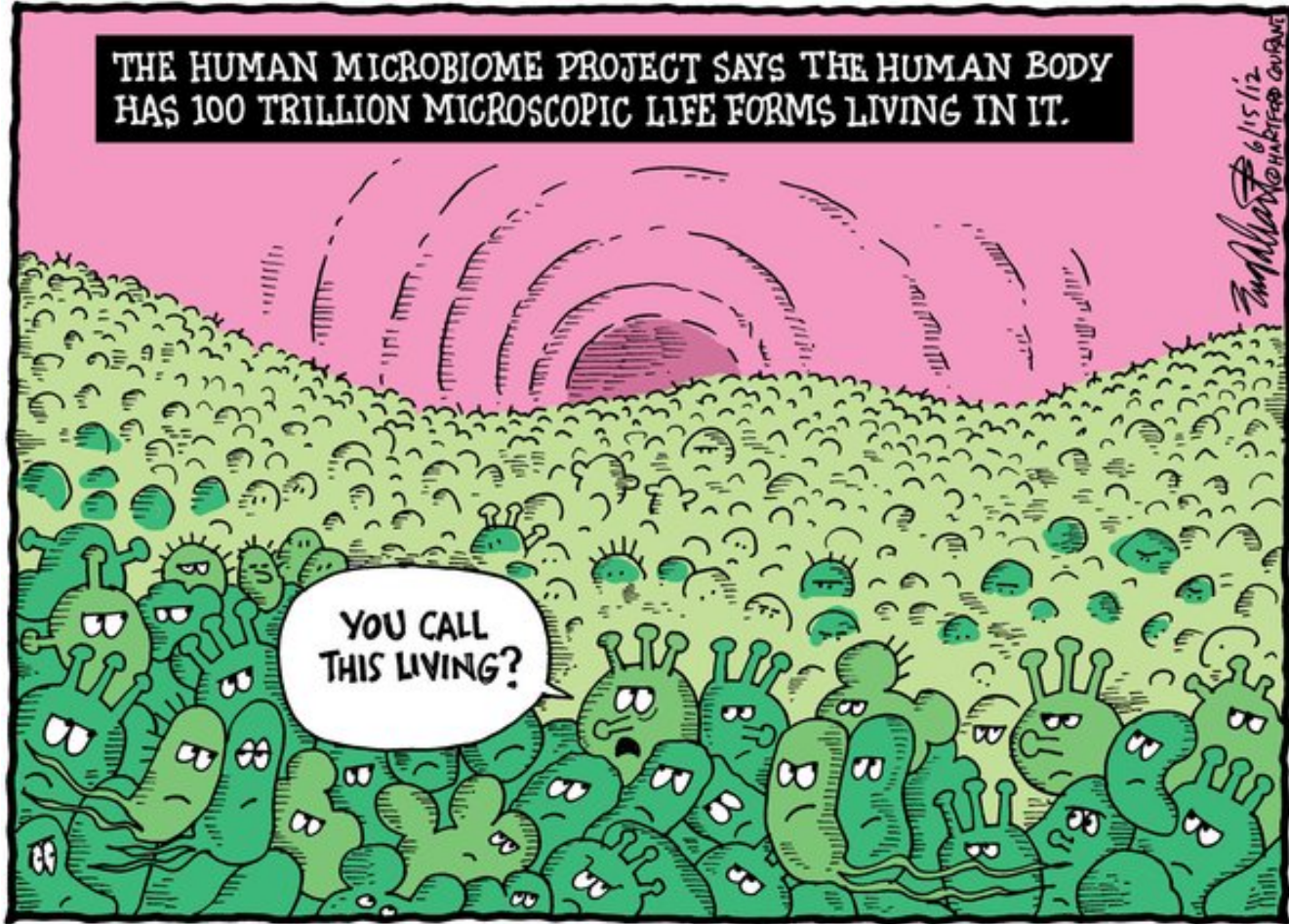


Scitechdaily.com

# A world of environments



THE HUMAN MICROBIOME PROJECT SAYS THE HUMAN BODY HAS 100 TRILLION MICROSCOPIC LIFE FORMS LIVING IN IT.



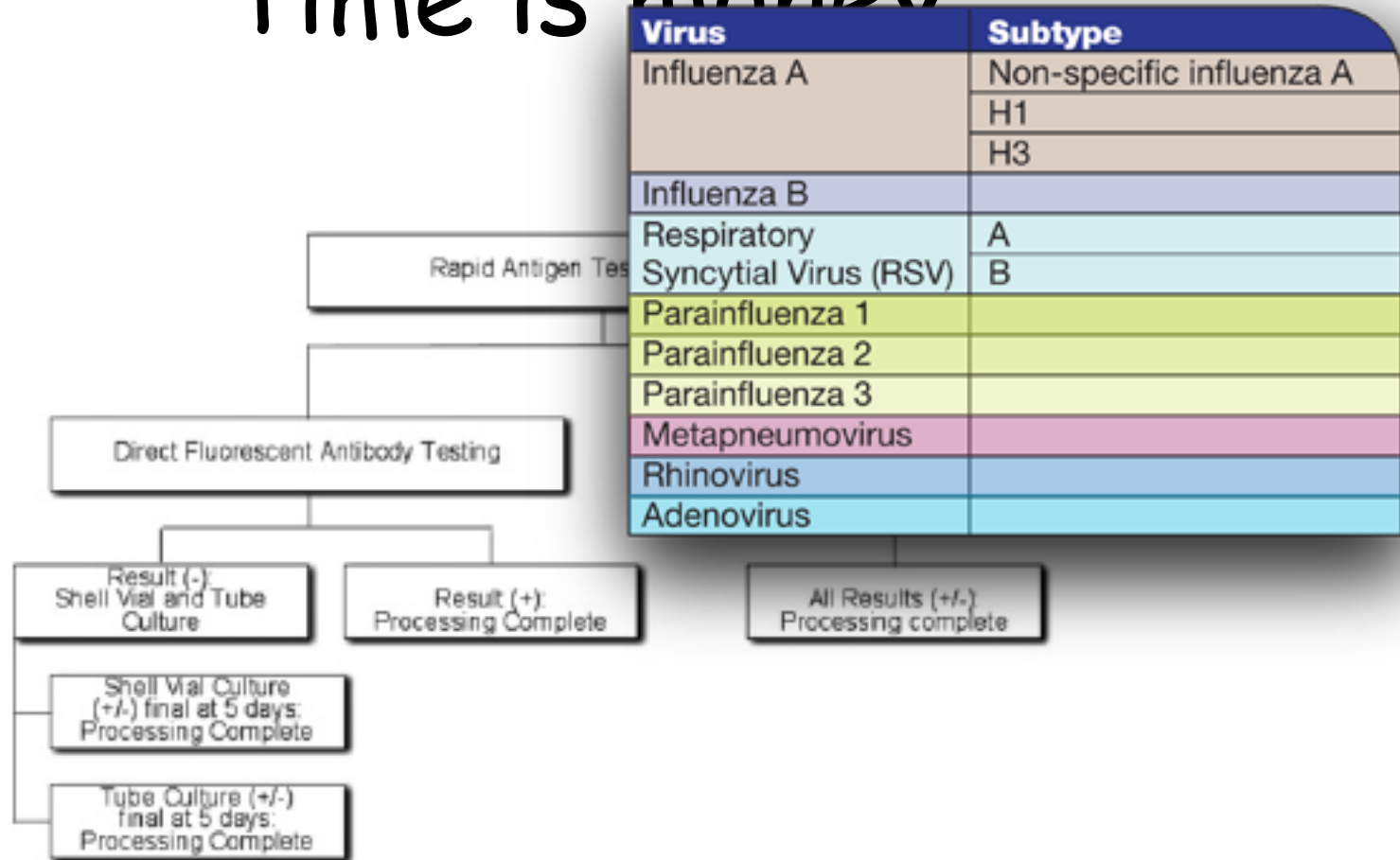
6/15/12  
HARTFORD COURANT

# Identifying what's there

## What is the best test?

- Morphology, imaging, culture?
- Molecular?

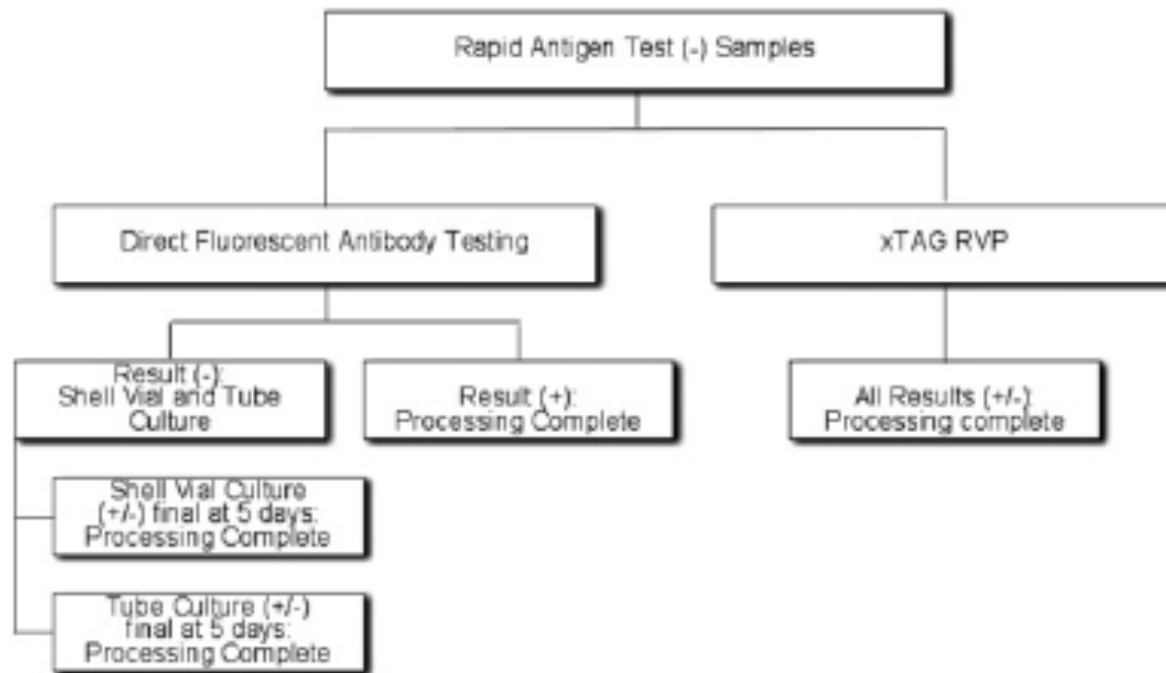
# Time is money



**Figure 1.** Respiratory viral testing procedure. Workflow of respiratory viral testing samples with negative rapid antigen results.



# Time is money



**Figure 1.** Respiratory viral testing procedure. Workflow of respiratory viral testing samples with negative rapid antigen results.

# Time is money

Rapid Antigen Test (-) Samples

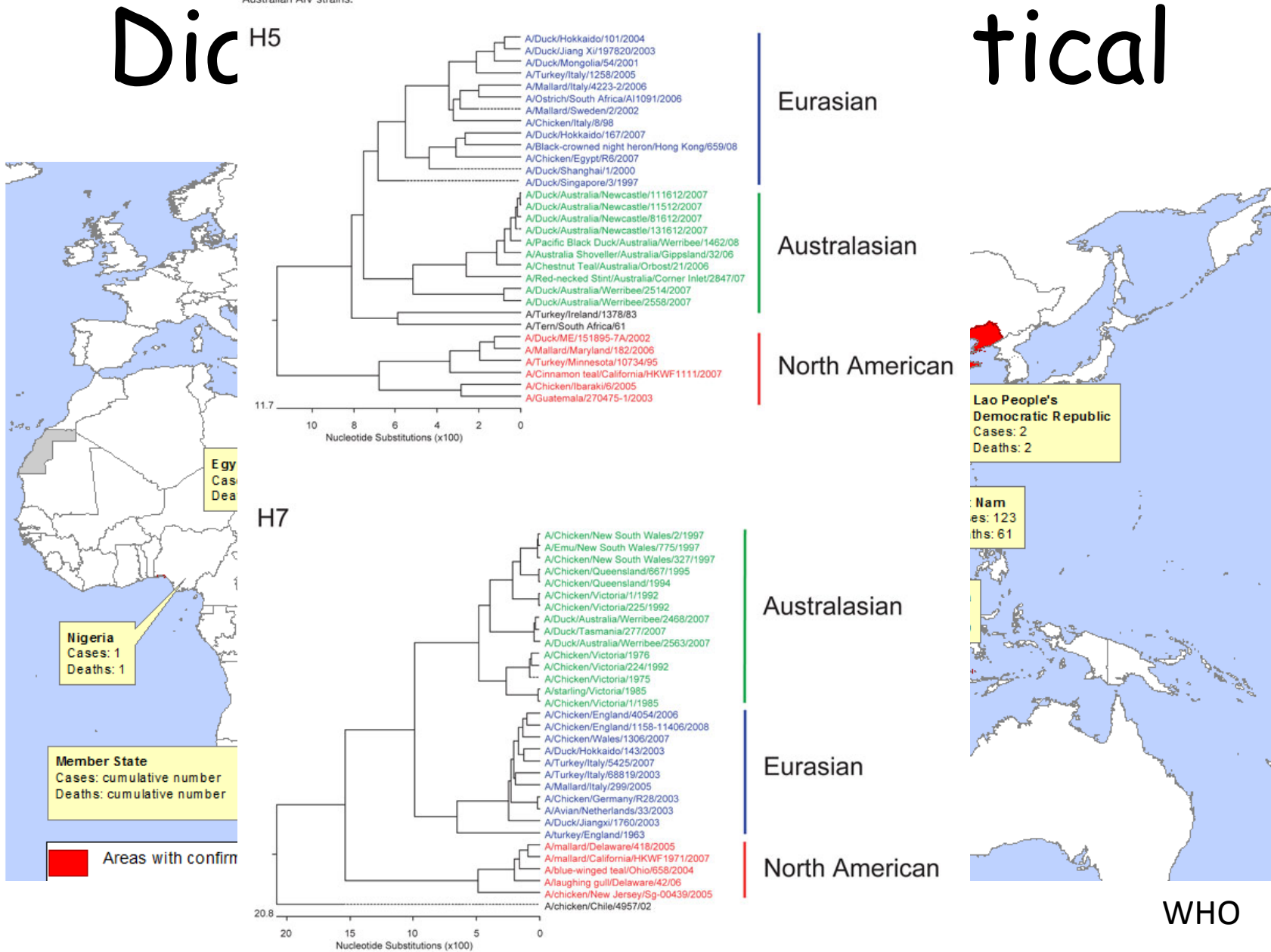
**Table 3.** Cumulative Operational Analysis Results Traditional versus Molecular Methodology

Component	Hands-on time (hours)	Operator steps
RVP	80	52,780
Traditional	503	342,775

Final at 5 days:  
Processing Complete

**Figure 1.** Respiratory viral testing procedure. Workflow of respiratory viral testing samples with negative rapid antigen results.

Figure 2. Phylogenetic tree of the haemagglutinin gene sequences from H5 and H7 viruses showing the distinct genetic clade formed by Australian AIV strains.



# What is the best test?

Diagnostics choices are often not straight forward

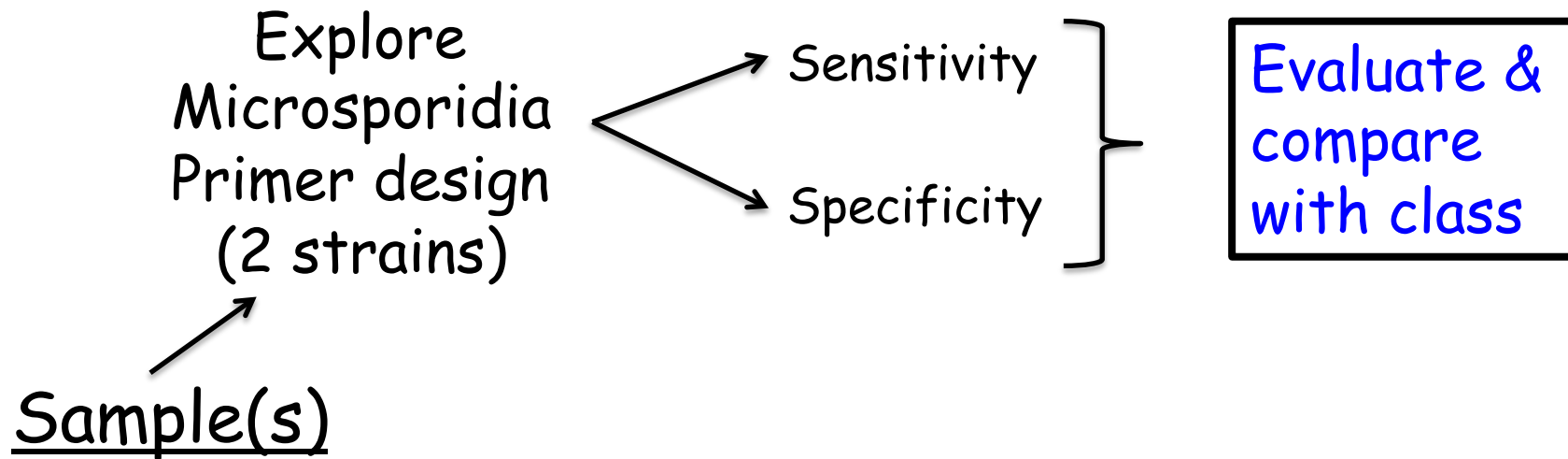
		Egg Isolation	
		+	-
PCR	+	22	52
	-	20	408

What other utility is there for  
microbe testing?

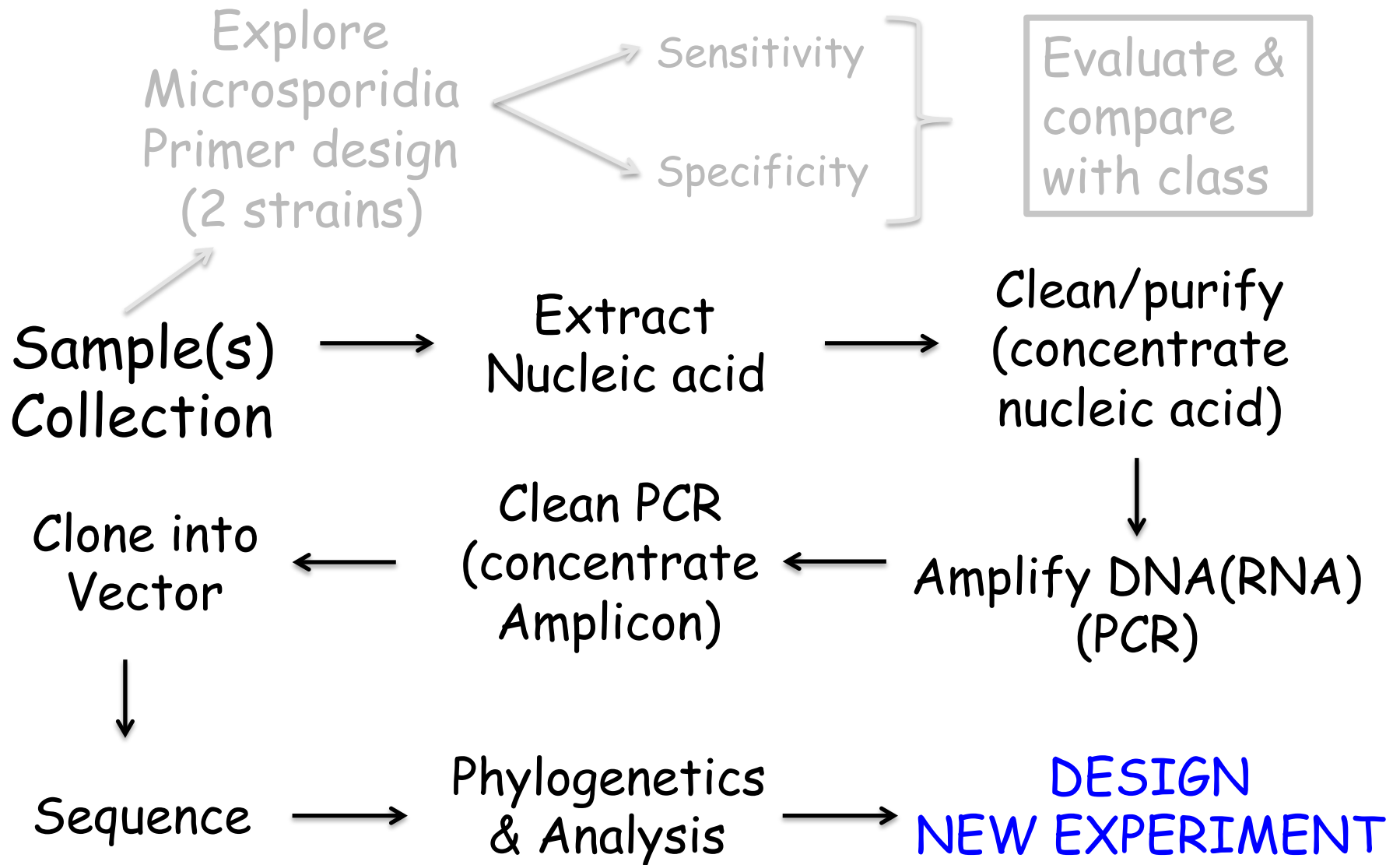
# Module 1

- Learn techniques
- Design, analysis, interpretation
- Communication

# Module 1



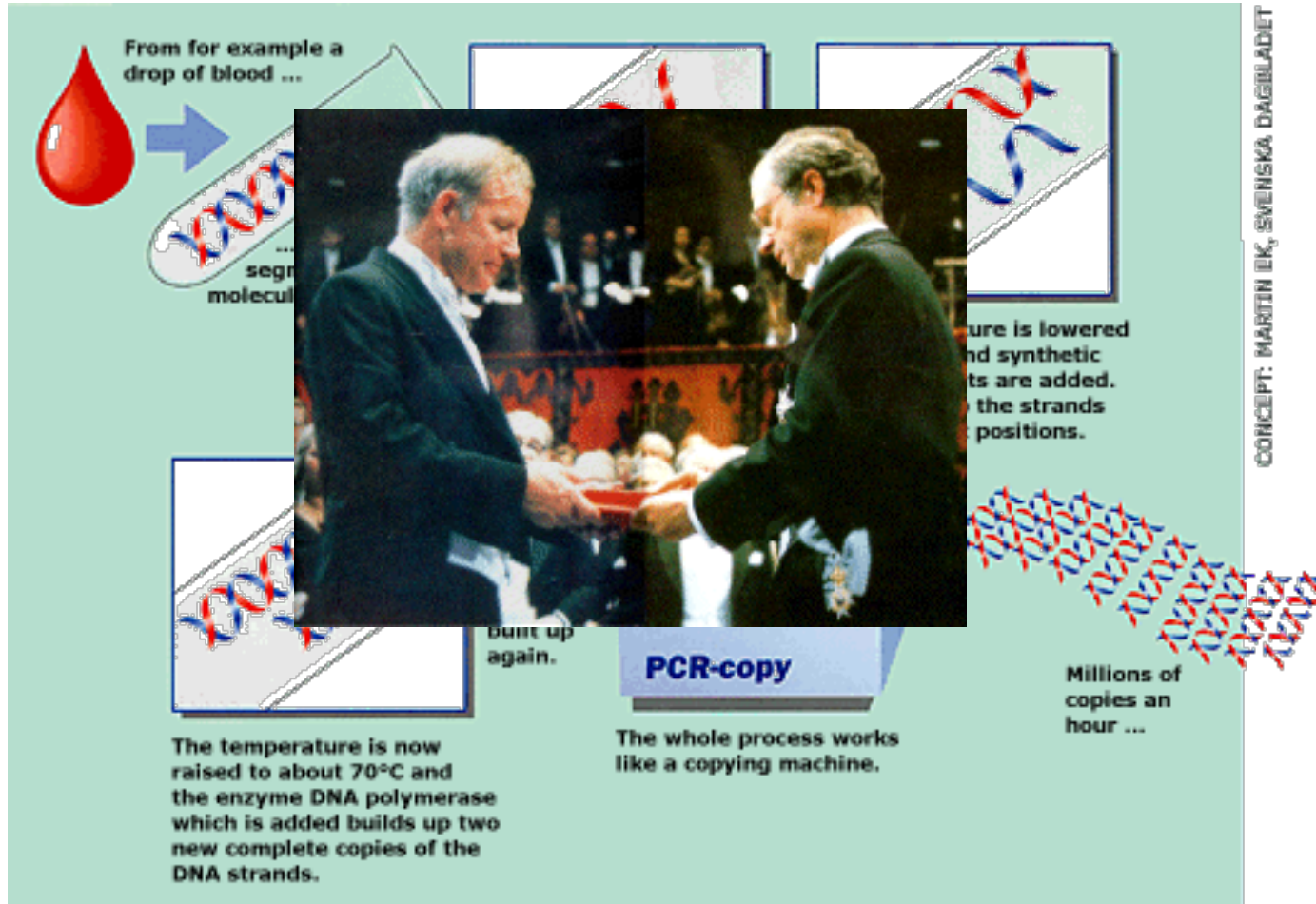
# Module 1



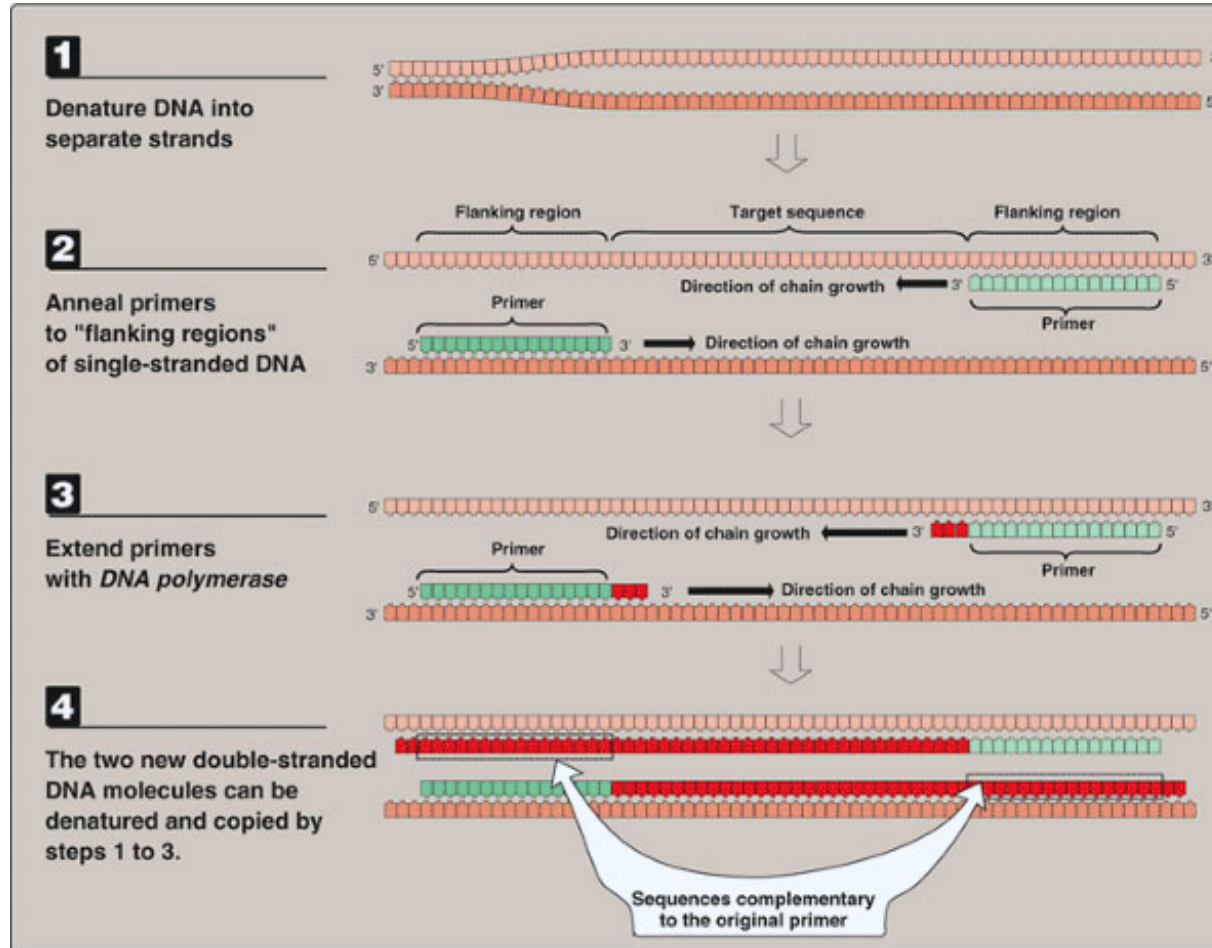


What other ways might you identify a pathogen/microbe?

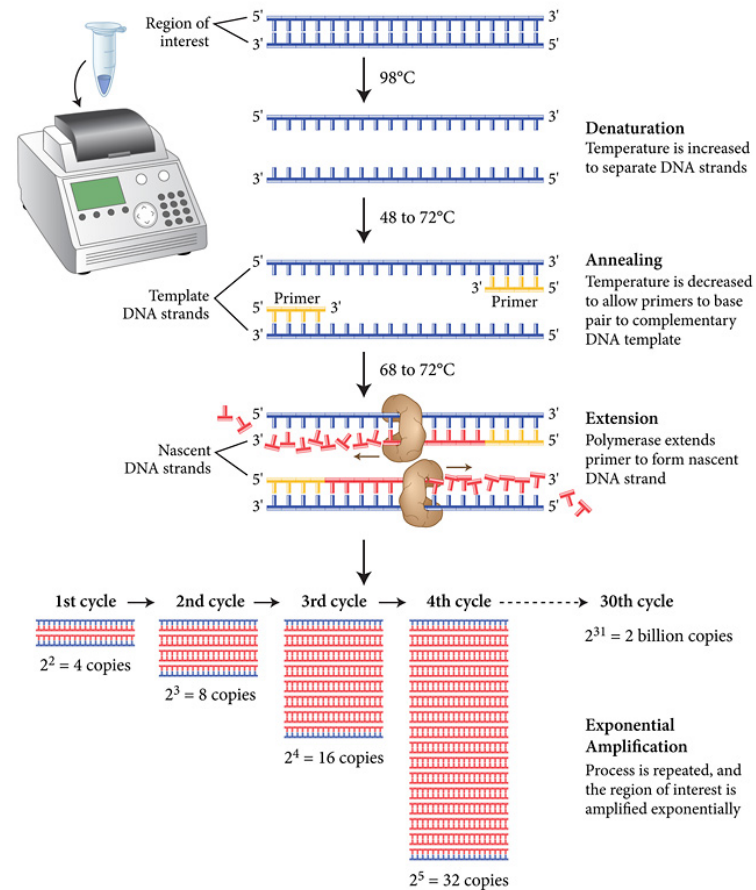
# Inventing PCR

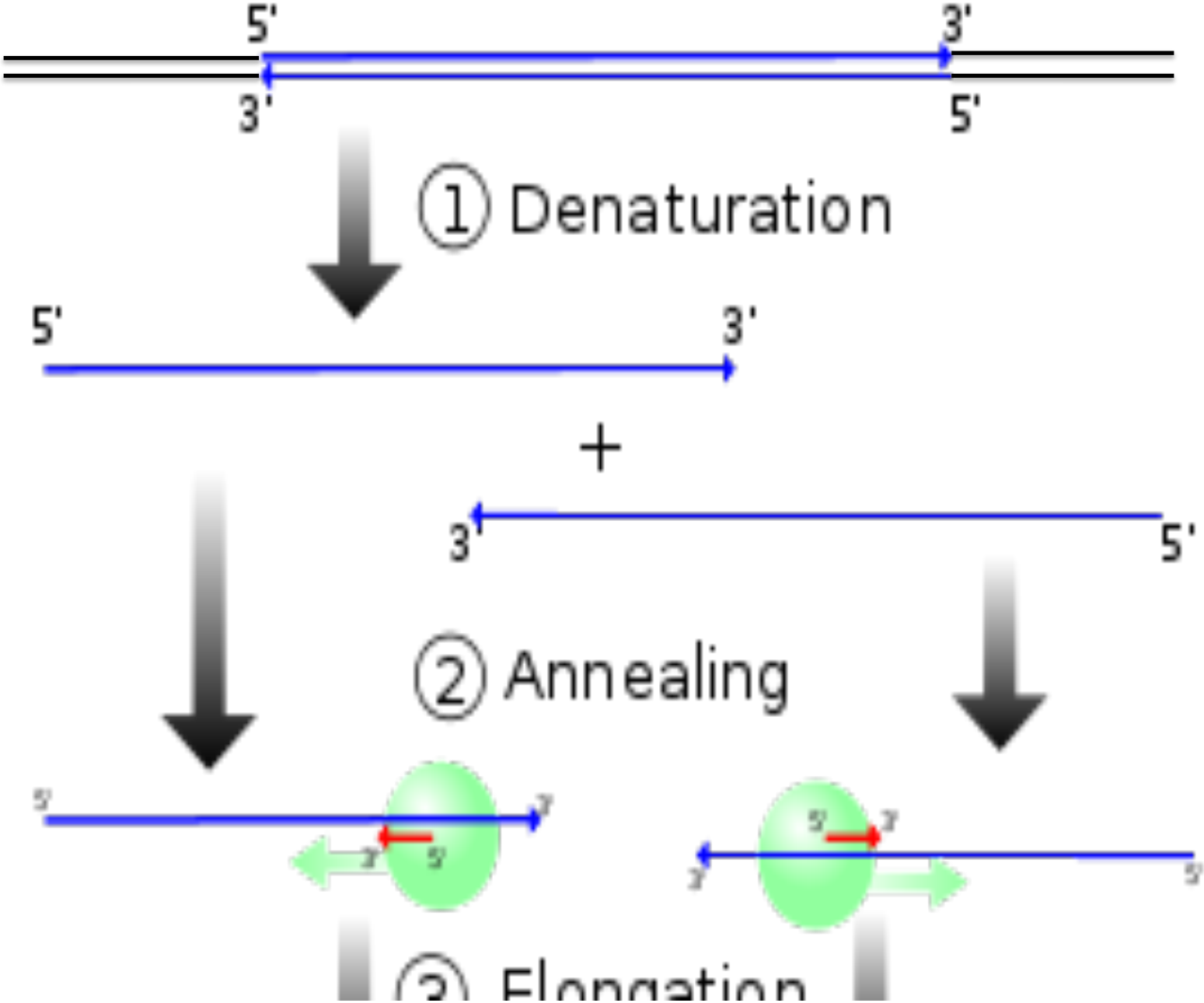


# In a bit more detail...

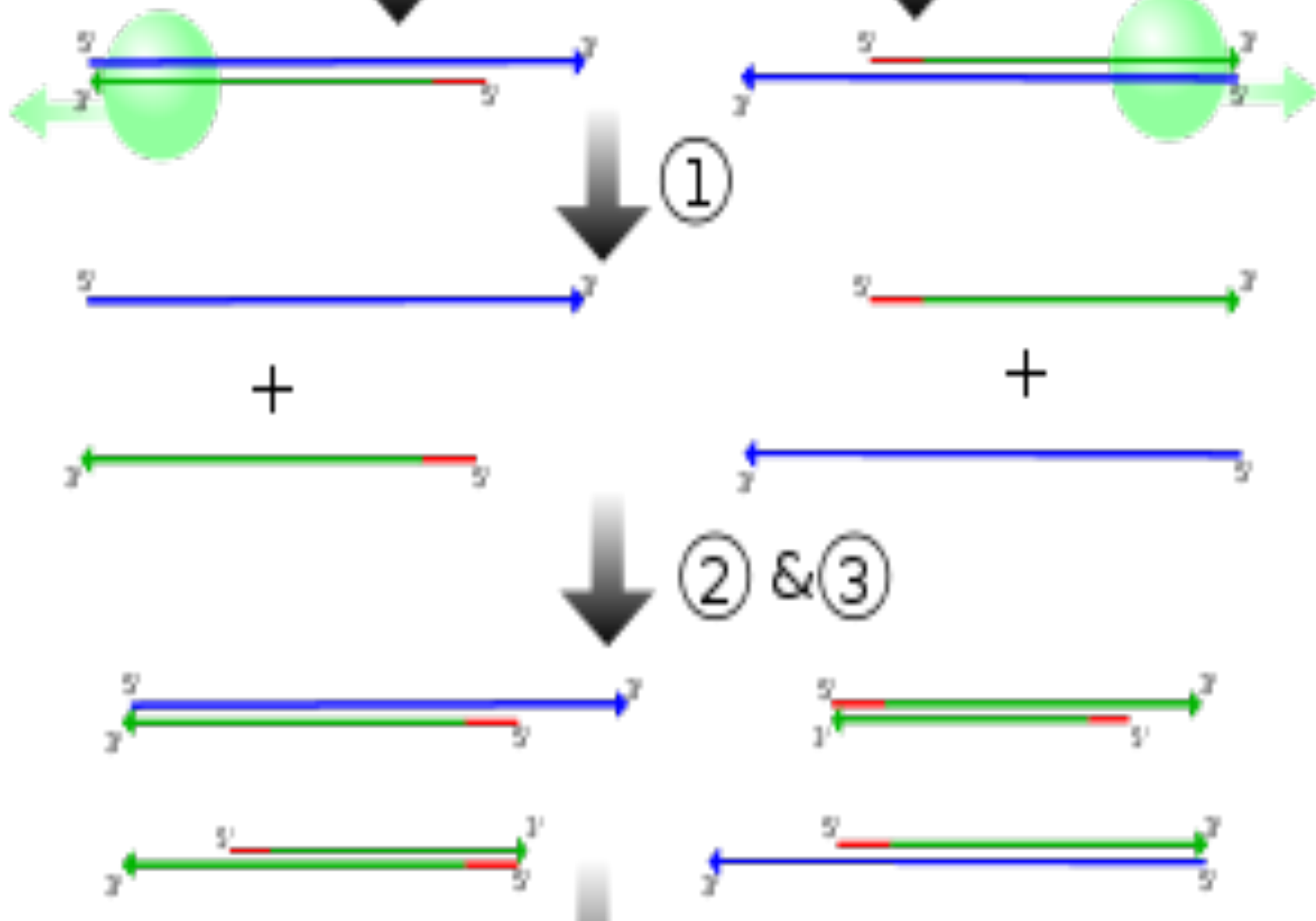


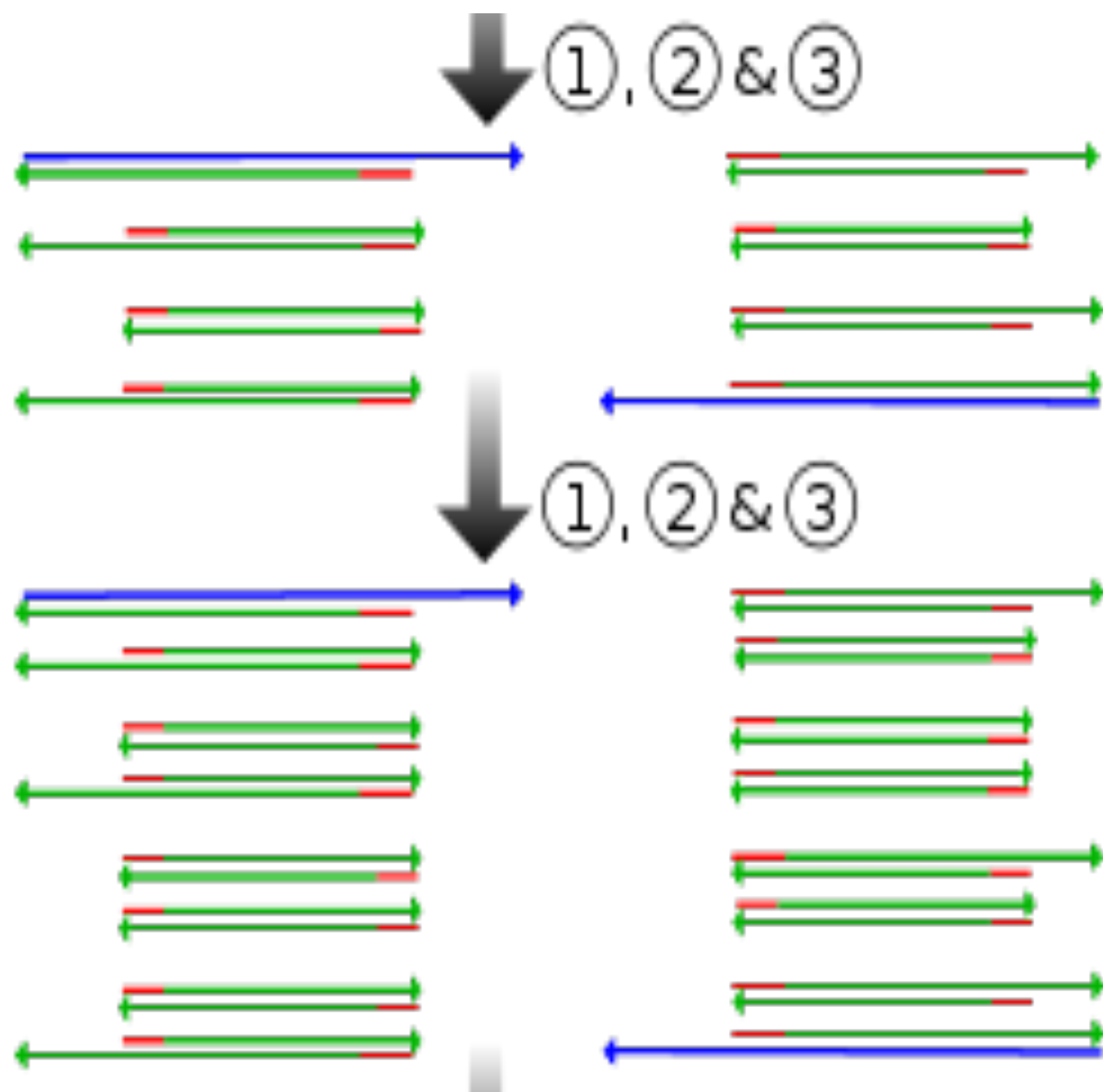
# With temperature now...





### ③ Elongation





# Primer Design

Specificity

Yield

Length,  $T_m$ , Annealing, GC content,  
GC clamp, 2ary structure, 3' end



# Primer Design - length

- Hybridization stability or  $T_m$ 
  - Itakura or Wallace rule
  - $T_m = 2(A+T) + 4(G+C)$
  - Good from ~45-70 F
  - Location of mismatches matter!
- Template complexity
  - If each base is equally likely, then for 12mer  $(1/4)^{12} \sim 6e-8$
  - How likely in bacteria? Human? Messy sample?
- Possible mismatching
  - Not every sequence target is known.

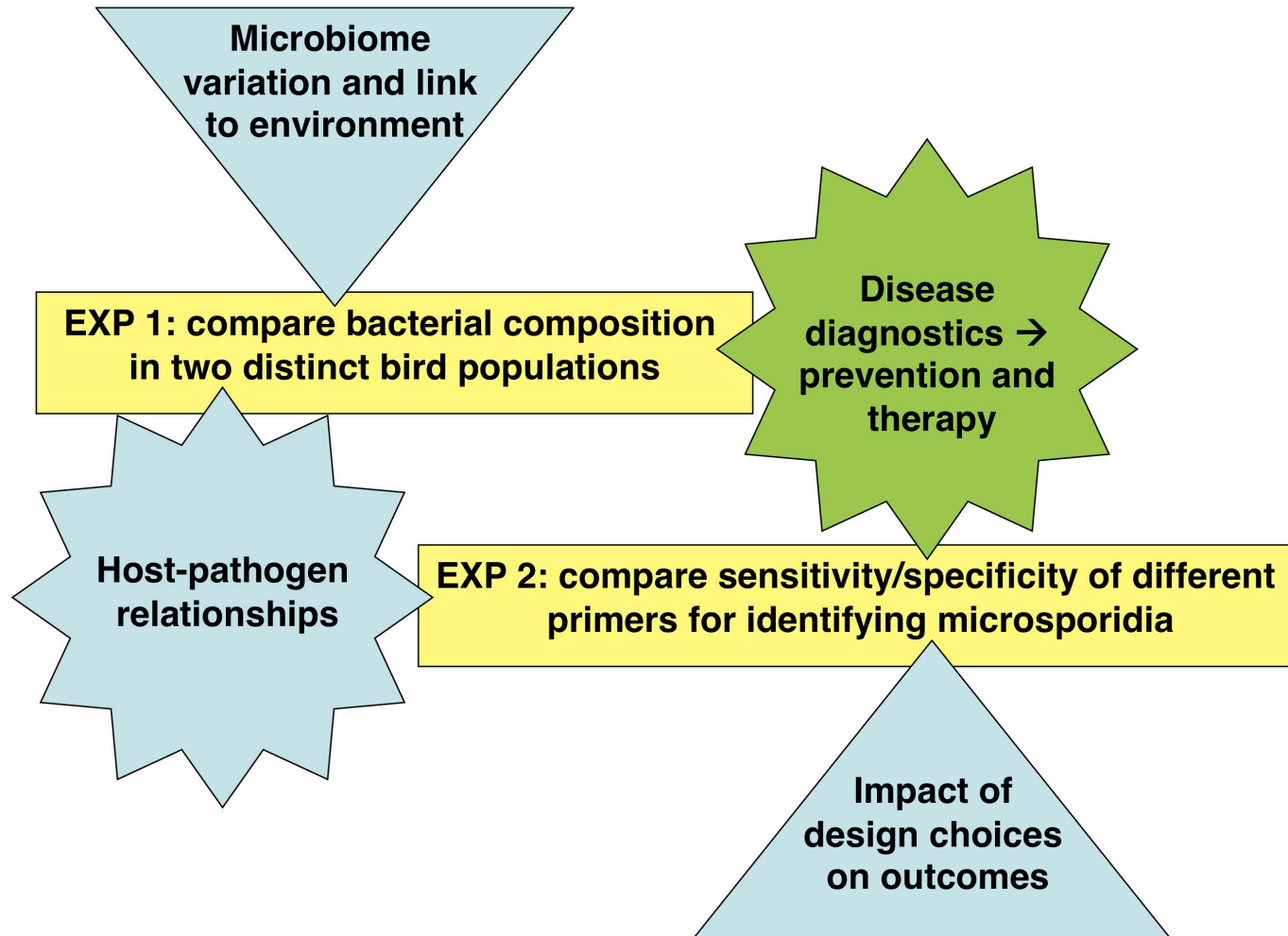
# Primer Design - 2° structure

- Hairpins
    - Particularly bad at 3' end
    - $\Delta G < -3$  kcal/mol may be tolerated
  - Self-dimers
    - Homologous to self, 3' end worse
    - $\Delta G < -5$  kcal/mol may be tolerated
  - Cross-dimers
    - Sense/antisense pair
- All reduce primer availability, annealing

# Primer Design - Other considerations

- Things to aim for:
  - $52 < T_a < 58$  ( $T_m$  55-80)
  - $T_{aOpt} = 0.3 \times (T_m \text{ primer/pr}) + 0.7 (T_m \text{ product}) - 14.9$
  - Matched primer  $T_m$  (within 5 degrees)
  - Mixed content, GC clamp?
- Things to avoid:
  - Repeats
  - Runs
  - Excess 3' end stability, avoid 3+ Gs, Cs
    - Mispriming in GC rich zones, stability

# DNA engineering: investigating pathogens



# Lecture

- **Jim Collins**
- Dr. Arup Chakraborty is launching the new IMES speaker series and is hosting our first guest lecturer in early February.
- **Thursday, February 7, 2013**
- **Pre-lecture reception: 5-5:30 pm**
- **Lecture: 5:30-6:30 pm**
- **E25-111**
- **Guest Lecturer: Professor J.J. Collins**
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute; Dept. of Biomedical Engineering, Boston University; Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering, Harvard University
- 
- **Topic: "Network Biology Approaches to Microbial Threats"**
- In this talk, we will highlight recent work in synthetic biology and systems biology aimed at elucidating the mechanisms of action of antibacterials and bacterial responses to antibiotic treatment. We discuss how the insights arising from these studies can be harnessed to create more effective antibiotics and innovative antibacterial therapies to treat resistant and persistent infections.