



Delivering on the promise  
of Prime Editing

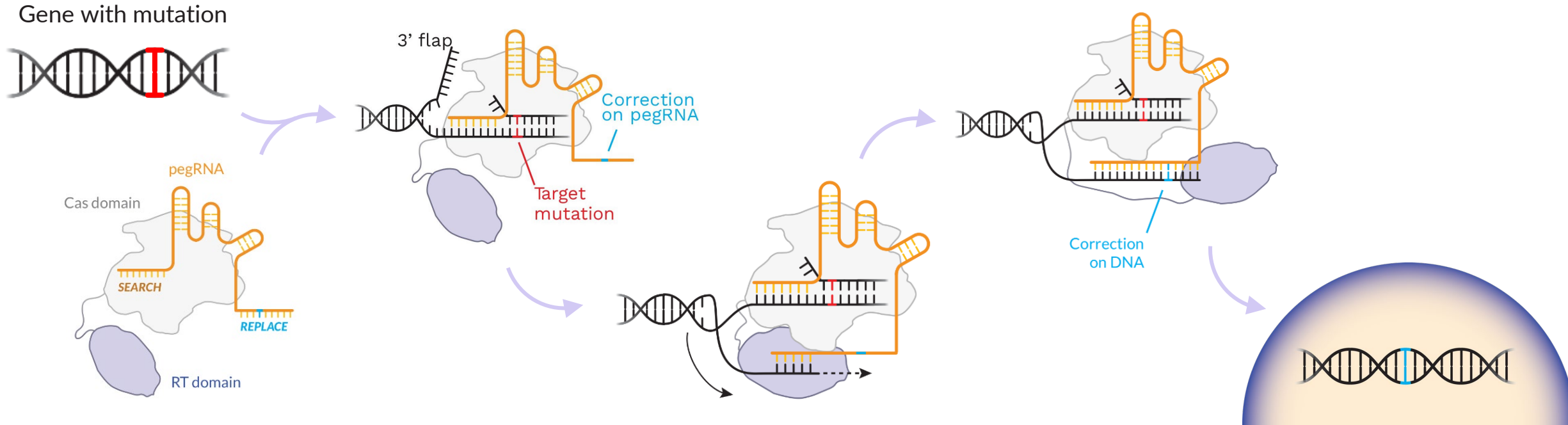
# Integrate to Innovate: Strategic Approaches to Modular Automation

*Future Labs, Automation, & Technology West  
November 12, 2024*

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Associate Director  
Prime Medicine



# Prime Editing: a gene editing technology that is programmable for both *search* and *replace*



## SEARCH

Prime editor complex initiates search for target DNA



## FIND & NICK

Prime editor complex finds DNA with target mutation, nicks one strand



## PRIME

Nicked DNA strand primes the RT domain for DNA synthesis



## REPLACE

Prime editor complex copies in corrective DNA sequence



## GENE CORRECTED

3' flap preferentially incorporated<sup>1</sup>, excess flap repaired, gene fully corrected

<sup>1</sup> Completion of an edit requires 3 'edit checks'

pegRNA = prime editing guide RNA; RT = reverse transcriptase; Cas = CRISPR associated protein

Anzalone, et al (David R. Liu). Search-and-replace genome editing without double-strand breaks or donor DNA. *Nature*, 2019.

# Our automation strategy

Automated processes to increase our capacity, reduce error and variability, generate and structure our data, and feed into a data pipeline to power innovation

## HARDWARE

Implementing lab instrumentation or systems to labor-intensive or monotonous tasks



## INFORMATICS

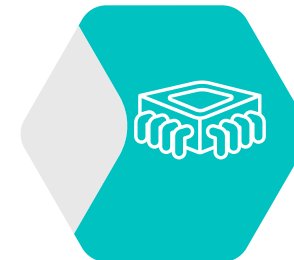
Build digital solutions to transform our raw data into information and knowledge

## PROGRAMMING

Adopting a no-code user interface to interact with hardware



## Automation Center of Excellence



## AI/ML

Exploit AI/ML models to learn, mine, and correlate our data to create scientific insights and power innovation

## OPERATIONS

Building out a team to evaluate, develop, deploy, and maintain systems

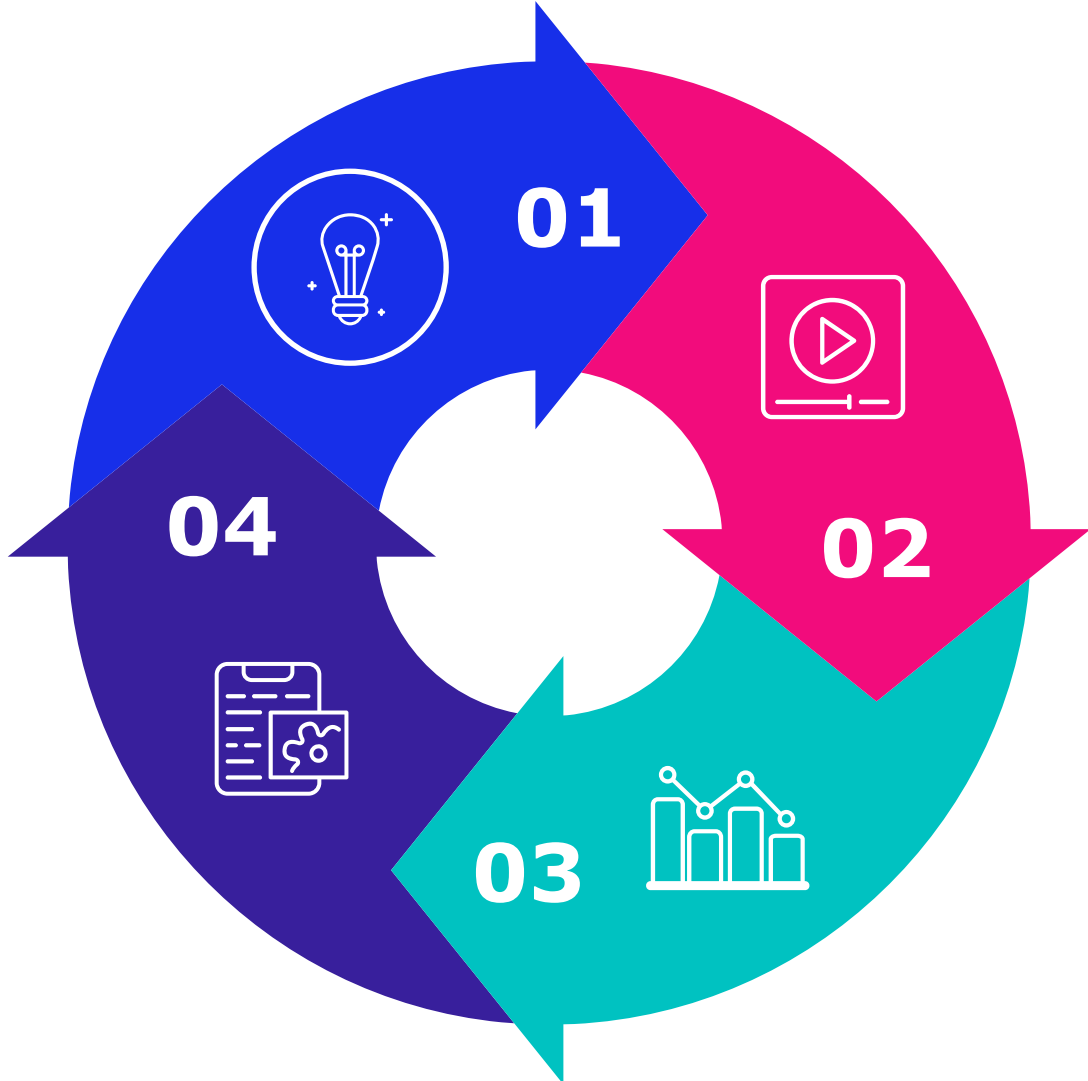


## CULTURE

Cultivate an automation culture at Prime, fueling our potential to bring the promise of Prime Editing to as many patients as fast as possible.

# Our data pipeline

A closer look at our past, present, and future



	Where we started	Where we are	Where we're going
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientist defined</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defined by scientist and programmed in "no code" UI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generated by AI/ML from previous run</li> </ul>
Execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of record</li> <li>• Lack of standardization</li> <li>• 100% manual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barcoded consumables</li> <li>• Metadata collection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benchling entry triggers automated protocol</li> </ul>
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the fly analysis</li> <li>• Lack of plate metadata retention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standardized analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data file generation launches automated analysis</li> </ul>
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-platform results</li> <li>• Inconsistent structure</li> <li>• Variable link to experiment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results manually uploaded to Benchling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Automated upload of results</li> <li>• Results fuel next experiment through AI/ML</li> </ul>

# Supporting Prime's current and future automation requires well-defined team responsibilities

We've got 10+ integrated systems, including GMP equipment, with more to come

## Build

**Workflow Assessment**

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**Instrument Evaluation**

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**Design**

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**Installation**

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**UI Development**

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**UAT**

## Install

**Standardization**

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**Liquid Class Development**

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**Programming**

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**Teaching**

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**Troubleshooting**

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**Training**

## Support

**Incident Response**

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**Metrics Analysis**

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**Programmatic Changes**

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**End user training**

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**Maintenance**

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**Repair**

# Agenda

Showcasing how automation and digital infrastructure accelerates bringing Prime Editing to patients

## Build

**Workflow Assessment**

**Instrument Evaluation**

**Design**

**Installation**

**UI Development**

**UAT**

## Install

**Standardization**

**Liquid Class Development**

**Programming**

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**Troubleshooting**

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## Support

**Incident Response**

**Metrics Analysis**

**Programmatic Changes**

**End user training**

**Maintenance**

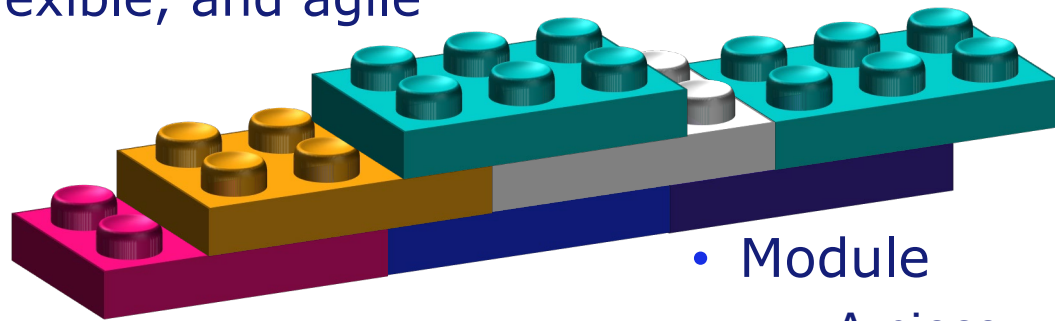
**Repair**

# Module, Modular, Modularity ... What do they mean?

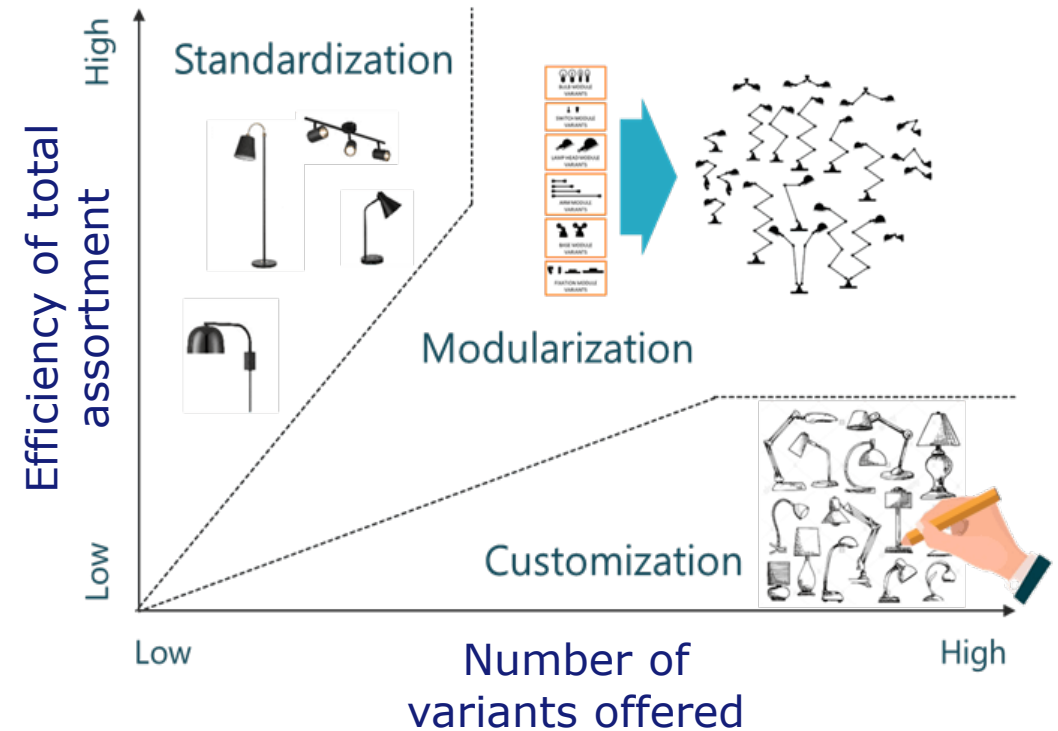
Definitions vary across teams, companies, and fields – so let's define

- Modularity

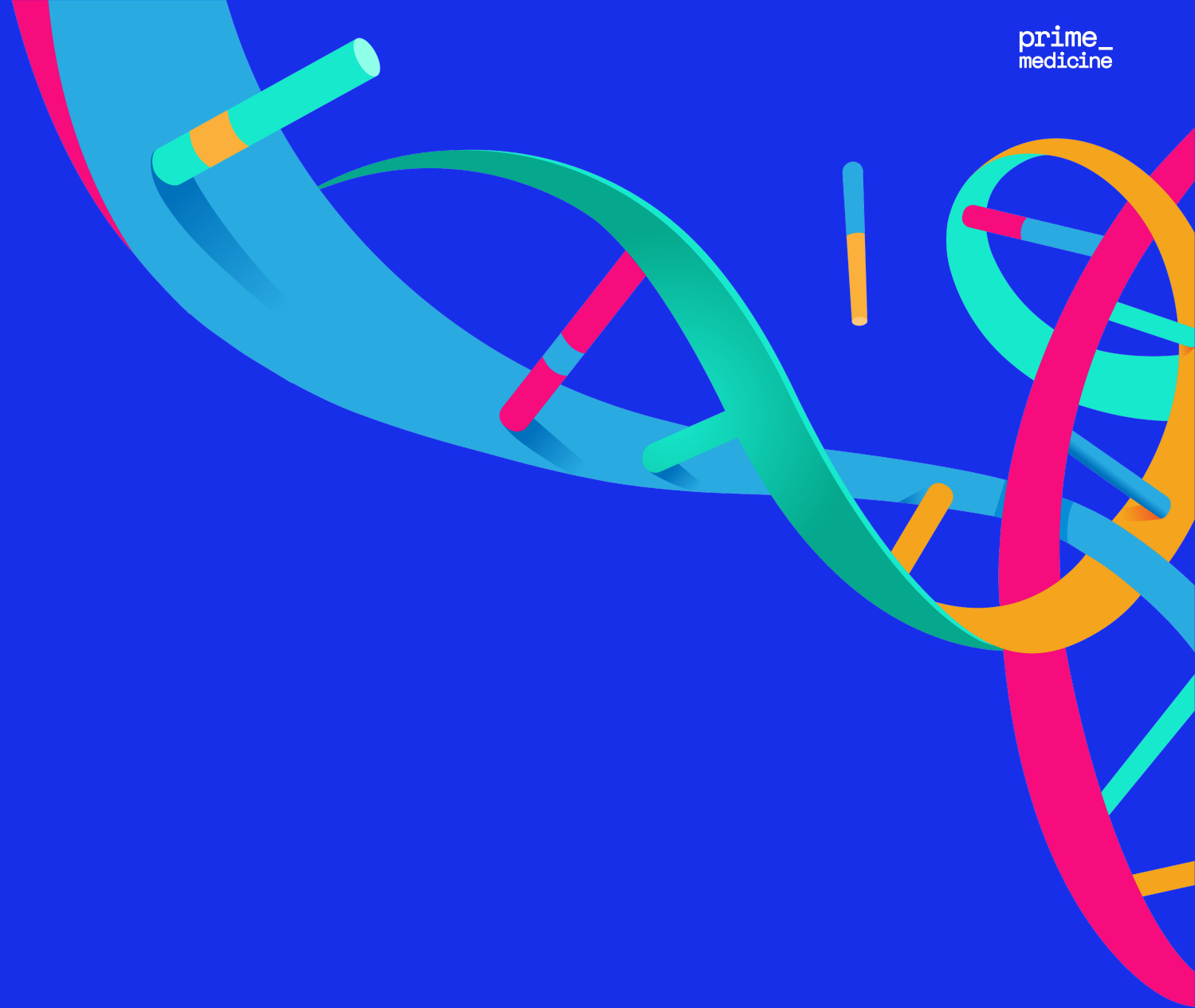
- The ability of a system to be efficient, flexible, and agile



- Module
  - A piece, unit, or part
- Modular
  - A group of modules



# Build





# We design our systems to be modular

But modular can have multiple definitions

## Agility

- Equipment goes down?
  - We've got a backup for that
- Swap this for that?
  - You've got it

## Efficiency

- Standardized features across systems
  - Teaching
  - Liquid classes
  - Programming

## Flexibility

- DIY build and integration
  - We're building tables
  - 3D printing
  - In-house programming

Modularity begins at design and we've streamlined our request system to enable it

Utilizing Smartsheet, we've developed an all-in-one system for requests, design, project management, and improvements

01

**Request**

Submitted by the end user and alerts the automation team for evaluation

**Automation Requests**

Requester \*

Start Date

Target Delivery Date \*

Project Team \*

Driver for Automation \*

Plate Type \*

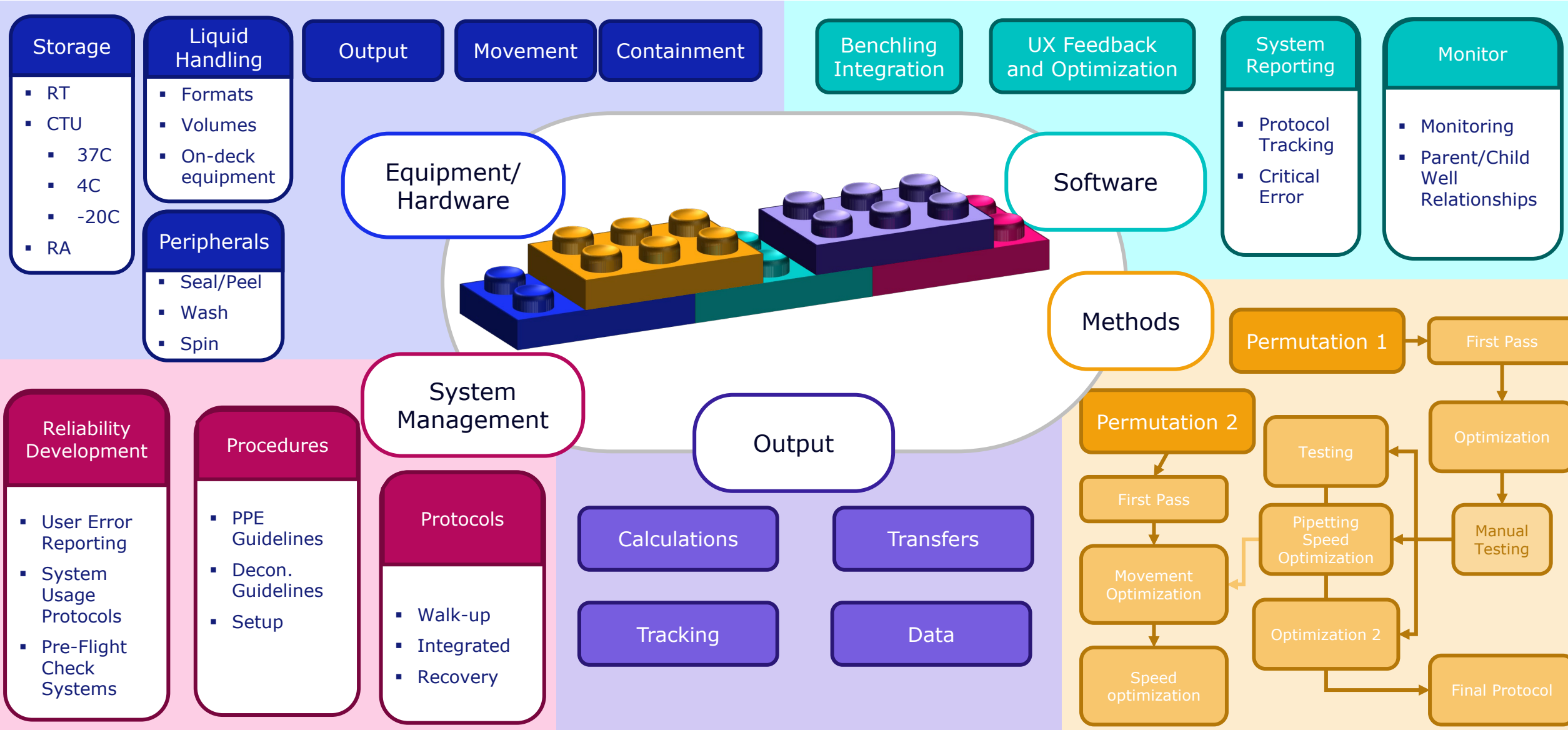
Volumes \*

Incubation Temperatures \*

End-Point \*

Liquid Types \*

# Workcell Development - It's more than just labware and equipment



# Modularity begins at design and we've streamlined our request system to enable it

## Utilizing Smartsheet, we've developed an all-in-one system for requests, design, project management, and improvements



At Risk	Task Name	Status	Assigned To	Start
	Celadon	In Progress		06/19/23
	Planning	Complete		06/19/23
	Instrumentation Assessment	Complete		06/19/23
	End user requirement gathering	Complete		06/21/23
	Functional	Complete		07/14/23
	EVO	Complete		07/15/23
	Method Programming	Complete		07/15/23
	Method 1	Complete	Rachael Cohen	07/15/23

### Automation Project Tracking & Rollup DASHBOARD

**Charizard Rollup**

Information

Percent Complete: 100%

Status: Complete

Start Date: 06/19/23

End Date: 11/20/23

Charizard Task Status: 100% Complete

**Blastoise Rollup**

Information

Percent Complete: 91%

Status: In Progress

Start Date: 06/19/23

End Date: 11/20/23

Blastoise Task Status: 82% Complete, 13% In Progress, 5% Not Started

**Celadon Rollup**

Information

Percent Complete: 97%

Status: In Progress

Start Date: 06/19/23

End Date: 12/10/23

Celadon Task Status: 91% Complete, 8% In Progress, 1% Not Started

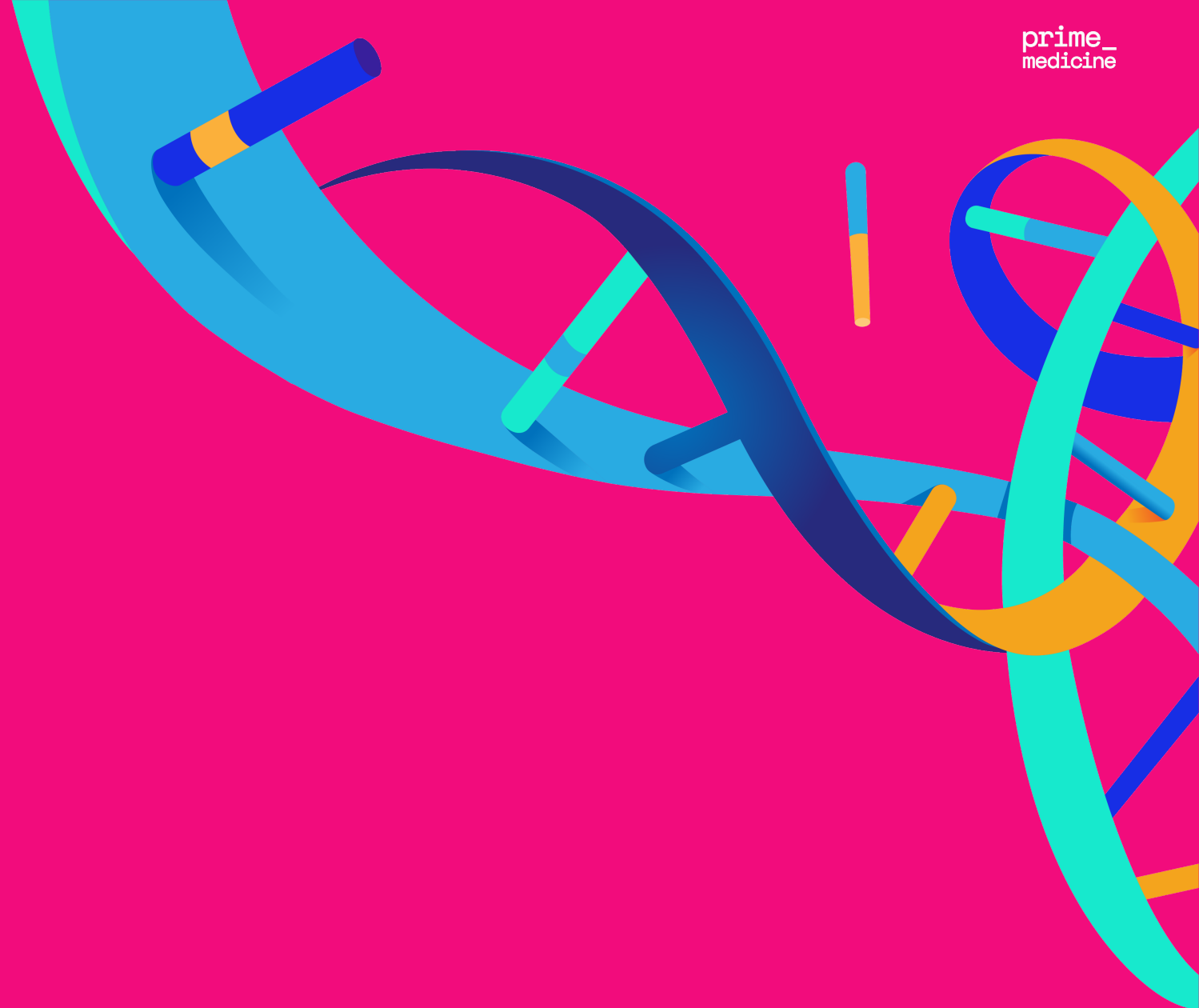
**Tasks Upcoming**

Task Name	Status	Start	End
Sheet Name: <b>Blastoise</b>			
Thermalcycler ETA	In Progress	11/09/23	
Thermalcycler Integration/teachi	In Progress	10/27/23	
Confirmation run	In Progress	11/04/23	
Sheet Name: <b>Celadon</b>			
Confirmation run	In Progress	12/03/23	

**At Risk Tasks**

Task Name	Sheet Name	At Risk	Status	Assigned To	Start Date	End Date	% C
Driver evaluator	Celadon	At Risk	Complete	Rachael Cohen	07/30/23	08/05/23	100%
Thermalcycler Ir	Blastoise	At Risk	In Progress	Rachael Cohen	10/27/23	11/10/23	25%

# Install



# Standardization of procedures enables our ability to adapt

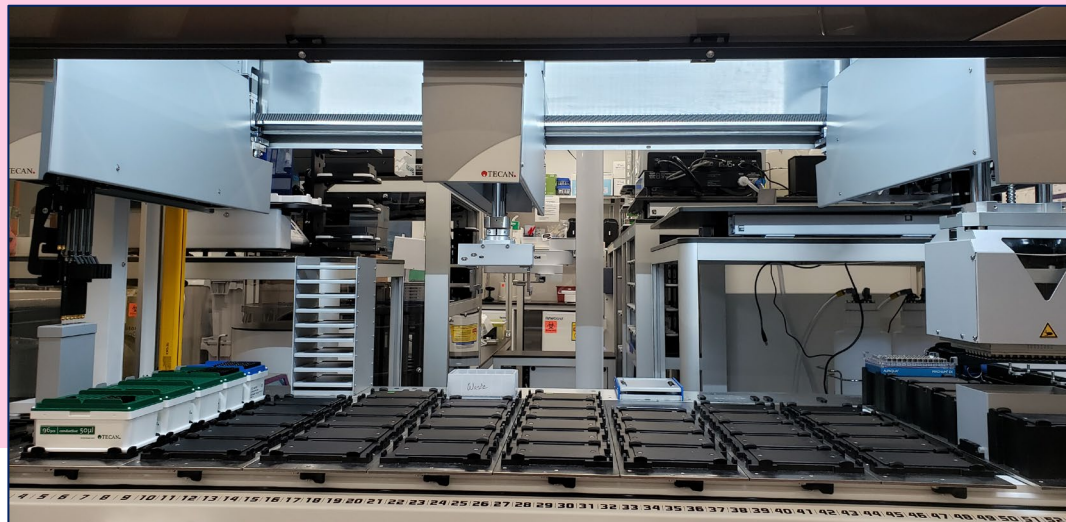
Harmonization across engineers and equipment is required for smooth transitions

## Labware

- We maintain a database of approved labware including critical details
  - Naming convention
  - Manufacturer
  - Catalog Number
    - Problematic lots
  - Dimensions
- New requests are submitted to the team, reviewed, and deployed
  - Newly deployed labware is taught across *all* systems
  - Database is updated

## Teaching

## Liquid Classes



# Standardization of procedures enables our ability to adapt

Harmonization across engineers and equipment is required for smooth transitions

Labware

Teaching

Liquid  
Classes

- Liquid handler procedures
  - Labware definitions
  - Vectors
- Robotic Arms
  - Gold standard labware
  - Gold standard positions
  - Path definition

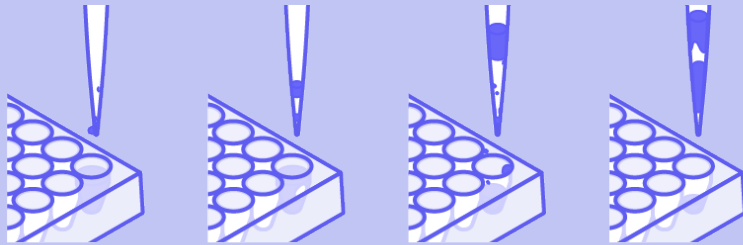




# Standardization of procedures enables our ability to adapt

Harmonization across engineers and equipment is required for smooth transitions

Labware



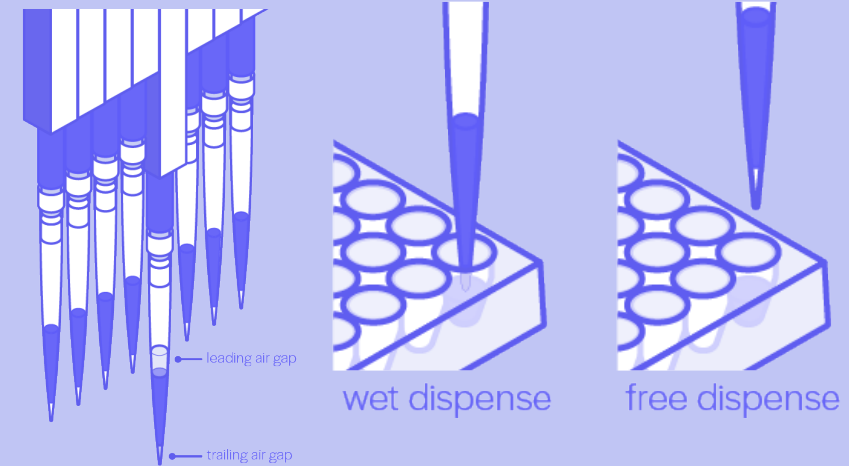
poor pipetting technique comes in countless forms

Teaching

- Standardized liquid classes across systems
  - Naming convention
  - Sub-classes (as appropriate)
  - Purpose
  - Behavior

Liquid  
Classes

- Liquid classes are optimized on each type of liquid handler
  - Each class must meet predefined specifications for accuracy and precision
  - Parameters for the class are maintained in a database
- Calibration for each liquid handler is verified at regular intervals





# Liquid class development and optimization is essential for transferability

Artel MVS allows us to not only develop our classes, but track their performance over time



## DEFINE

What liquids?  
Properties?  
Requirements?



## Measure

Artel MVS  
96: 0.1 – 350  $\mu$ L  
384: 0.01 – 55  $\mu$ L



## CONTROL

Monitor performance  
regularly



## Design

DOE for effect  
screening and  
optimization



## Analyze

Utilize JMP for  
selection of factors  
and optimal  
conditions

	Single Pipetting	Multi Pipetting
Dispense Speed	<input type="text" value="5"/> $\mu$ / s	<input type="text" value="20"/> $\mu$ / s
Breakoff Speed	<input type="text" value="200"/> $\mu$ / s	<input type="text" value="200"/> $\mu$ / s
Delay	<input type="text" value="200"/> ms	<input type="text" value="200"/> ms
Trailing Airgap after each Dispense	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> yes
Use Pinch Valve	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> yes

	Single Pipetting	Multi Pipetting	Single Pipetting	Multi Pipetting
Aspiration Speed	<input type="text" value="100"/> $\mu$ / s	<input type="text" value="10"/> $\mu$ / s		
Delay	<input type="text" value="600"/> ms	<input type="text" value="400"/> ms	LAG	LAG
System Trailing Airgap	<input type="text" value="0"/> $\mu$	<input type="text" value="0"/> $\mu$	Vol.	Vol.
Leading Airgap	<input type="text" value="0"/> $\mu$	<input type="text" value="2"/> $\mu$	TAG	TAG
Trailing Airgap	<input type="text" value="1"/> $\mu$	<input type="text" value="0.5"/> $\mu$		
Excess Volume	<input type="text" value="0"/> $\mu$	<input type="text" value="0"/> $\mu$		
Conditioning Volume	<input type="text" value="0"/> $\mu$	<input type="text" value="0"/> $\mu$		
Use Pinch Valve	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> yes		
Use Liquid Detection	<input type="checkbox"/> yes			
Aspiration Position	z-max $\pm$ offset, no tracking		<input type="text" value="0"/> mm	X: center
				Y: center
On Detection Error	user prompt			



# Liquid class development and optimization is essential for transferability

Artel MVS allows us to not only develop our classes, but track their performance over time

## Bulk Reagents

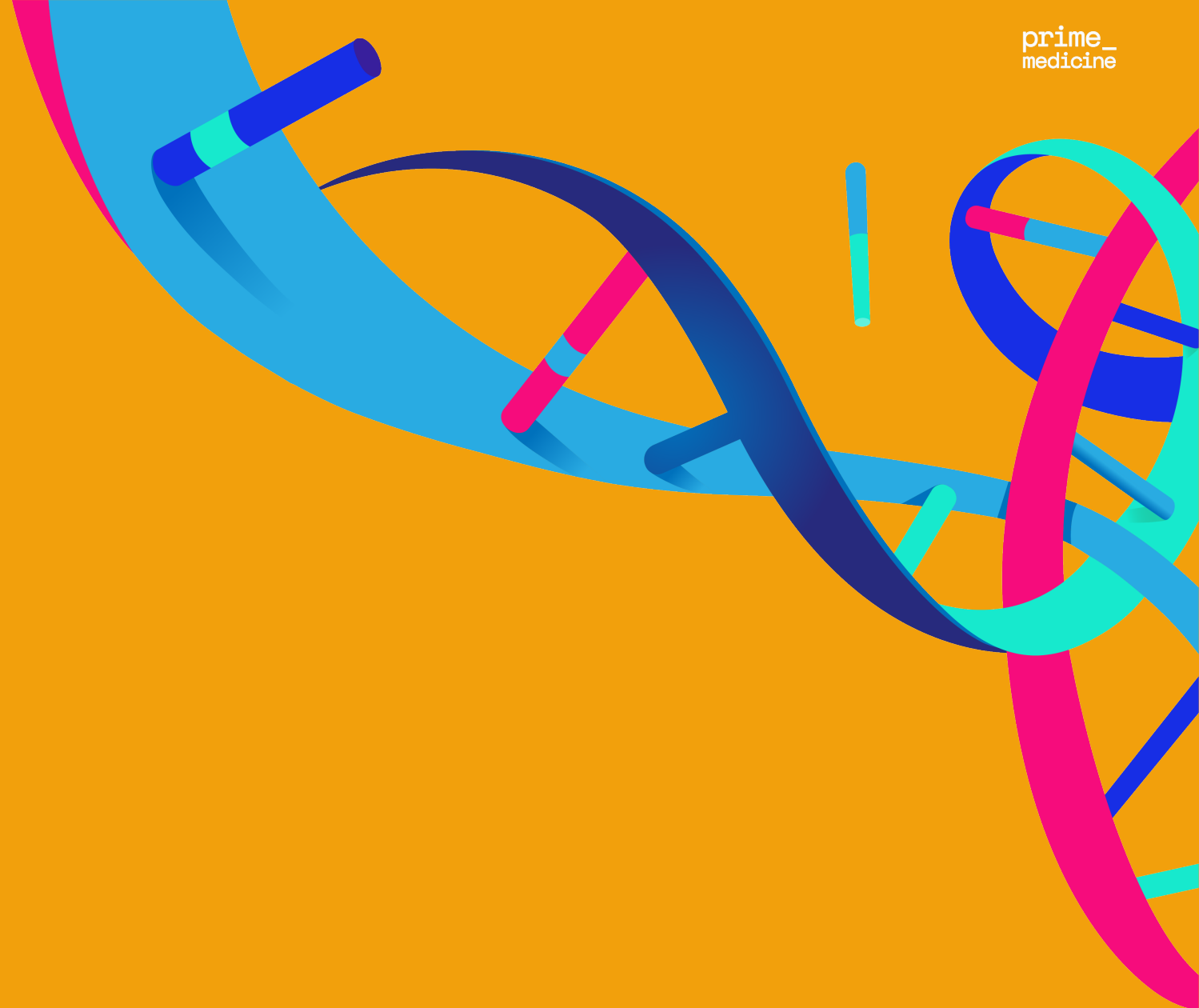
- Standardized to 3 liquid classes
- Screening of 16 factors
- Optimization of 5 critical factors
- <1% CV and <2% error

	6 uL	13 uL	20 uL	27 uL	34 uL	41 uL	48 uL
%CV	0.51%	0.44%	0.31%	0.28%	0.26%	0.22%	0.25%
%Error	1.58%	1.02%	-0.07%	-0.78%	-0.89%	0.94%	1.02%

## Serial Dilution

- Multi-step dilution causes cumulative error
  - Impacting assay results
- Reduced to 1-2 (liquid handler dependent) classes

# Support



# We collect metrics wherever we can to understand behavior and utilization

Run time data gives us a continuous look at system utilization



## Run Time

- Method Start/Stop times
- Number of plates/samples
- Recoveries
- Associated notebooks

- Systems generate run logs during every run, with metadata
  - Scheduler records start and stop of global run
  - Integrated equipment records start and stops of subroutines
- Logs are standardized across all systems
- Utilization metrics fuel reconfiguration and capital requests

# We collect metrics wherever we can to understand behavior and utilization

Submission data shows us a per sample breakdown of need

- Submissions are required for use of the systems
  - Currently via Benchling or Smartsheet
  - If it's not in a submission, it's not tested
- Submission metrics allow for future projection modeling

## Submissions

- Program
- Submitting team
- Method
- Samples



# 2

# We collect metrics wherever we can to understand behavior and utilization

Incident reporting shows us how the systems are behaving

- Incidents occur on systems all the time
  - We collect data every time that happens
  - QR codes in the lab allow analysts to report issues at time of issue
  - Engineer response requires an incident
- We can track hardware, software, facility, and more root causes

## Incidents

- System
- Equipment
- Error
- Sample Loss

# 3

We collect metrics wherever we can to understand behavior and utilization

Firmware data gives us a snapshot of mileage

- Monthly, firmware is collected from all available instruments
  - Data collected is dependent on the instrument
- Firmware allows for prediction of failure before failure occurs



# 4

## Firmware

- Movements
- Errors
- Volumes
- Tip pickups

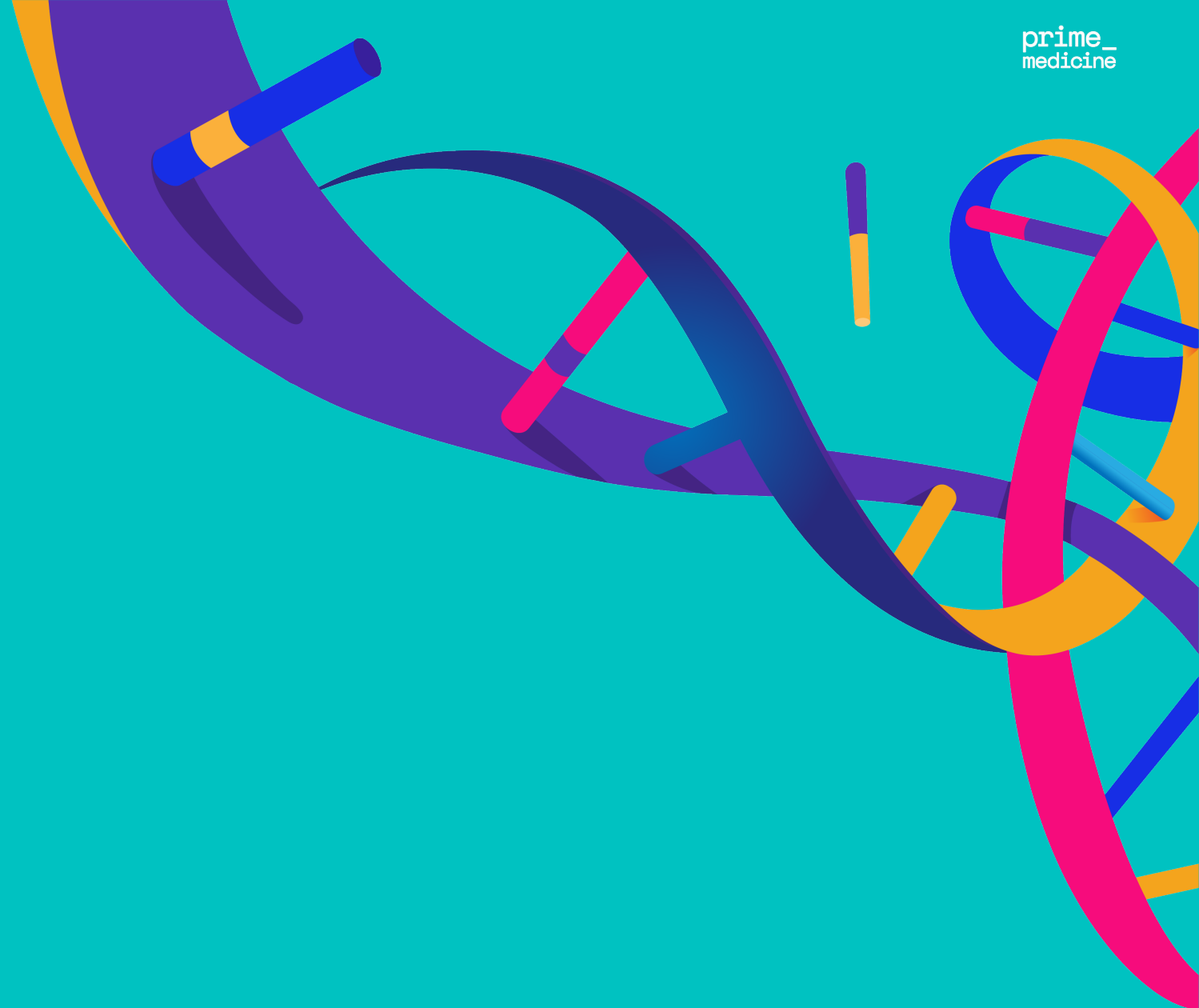
We collect metrics wherever we can to understand behavior and utilization

The more data the better





# Summary



# We're modular for the lifecycle of a system

From design to maintenance, we build and support automation to innovate for our future

How early planning and preparation sets modularity up for success



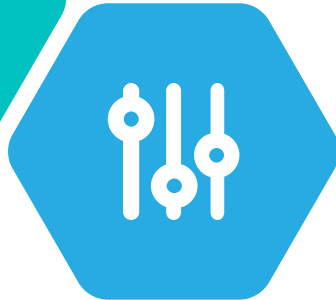
How standardization and optimization enhances performance



How modularity can impact system design and build



How metrics collection enables modularity by allowing us to understand factors





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Thank you!

[primemedicine.com](https://primemedicine.com)

