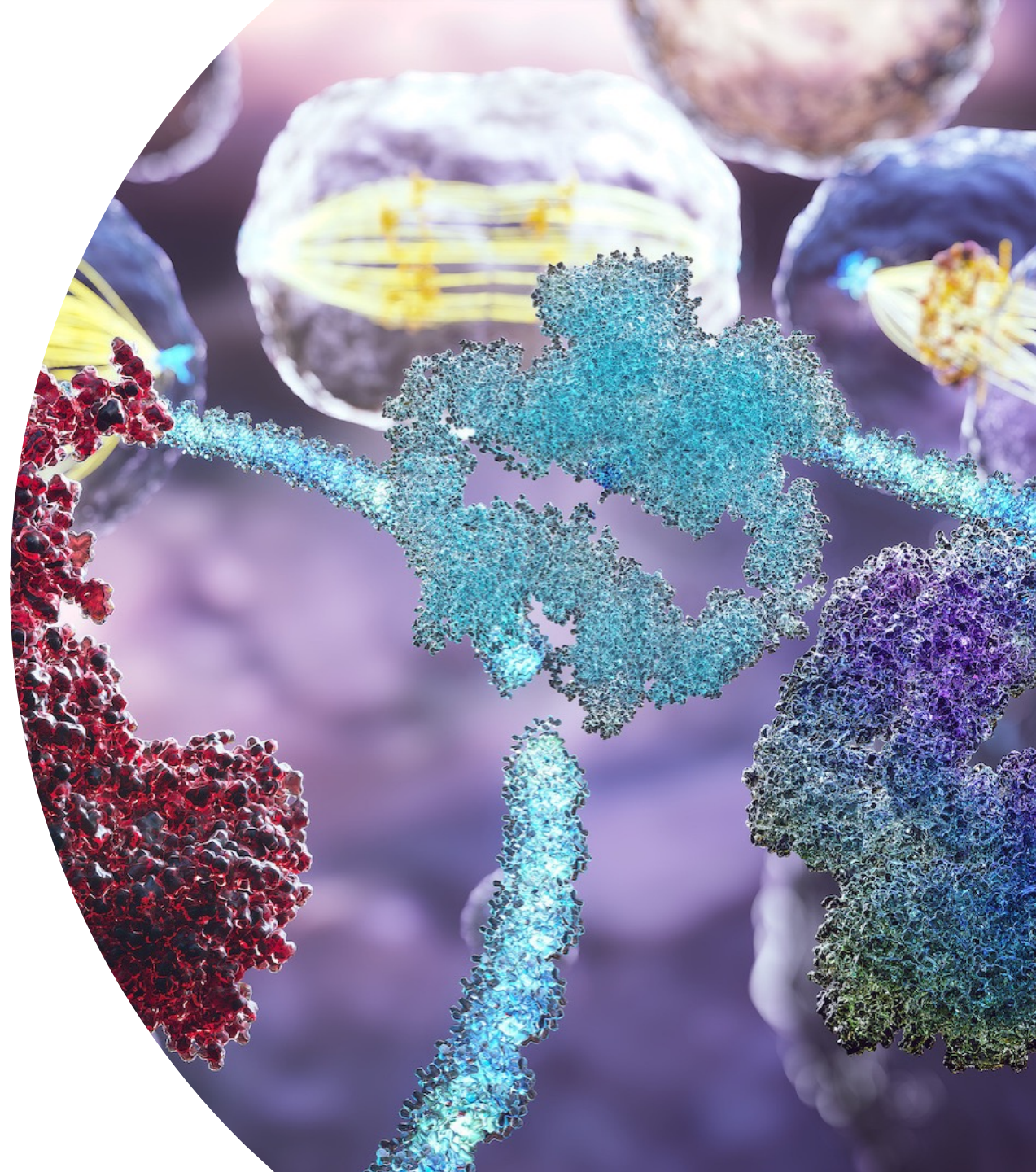




The transition from Finance to Pharmaceuticals; the lessons learned in two industries.

Timothy Lachlan-cope



Introduction

Statistical programmer at AstraZeneca working in late-stage oncology.

- “Degree in Mathematical (i.e., Applied Math, Engineering, etc), Statistics, Computer Science, Life Science, or equivalent.”

Come from a heavily Economics based background.

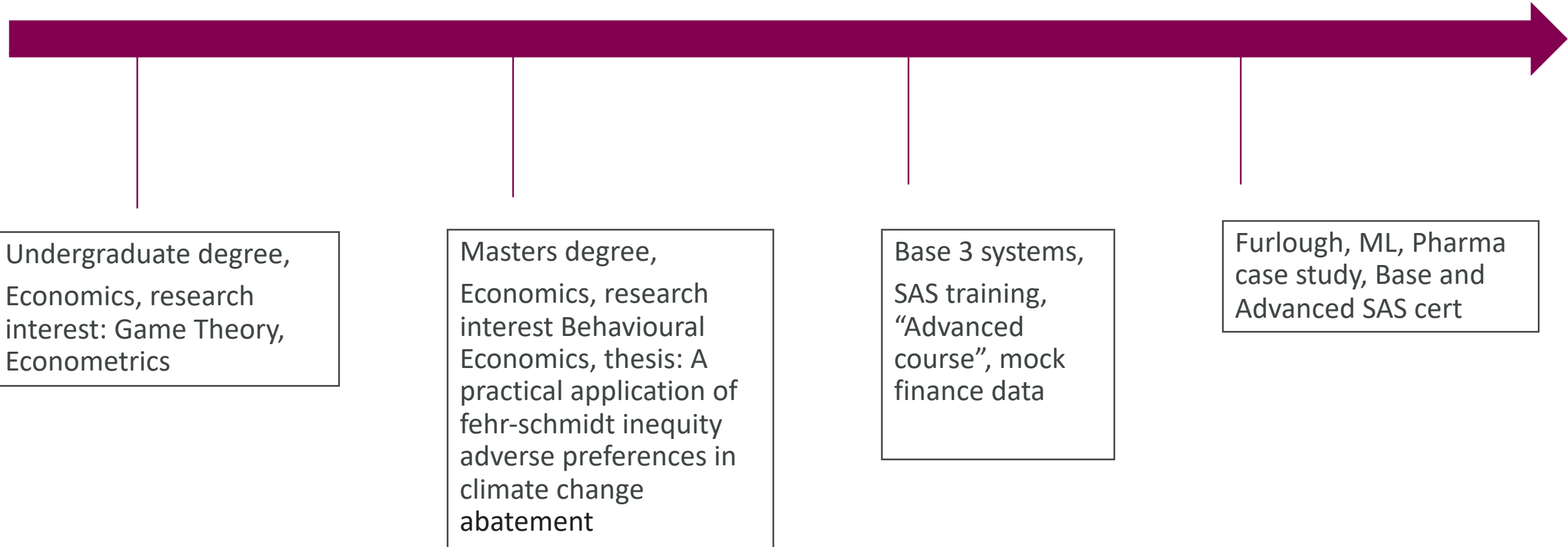
- Research interests: Game theory, Behavioral economics and Econometrics.

Started a career in programming at a consultancy (Base 3 systems ltd) looking to go into finance.

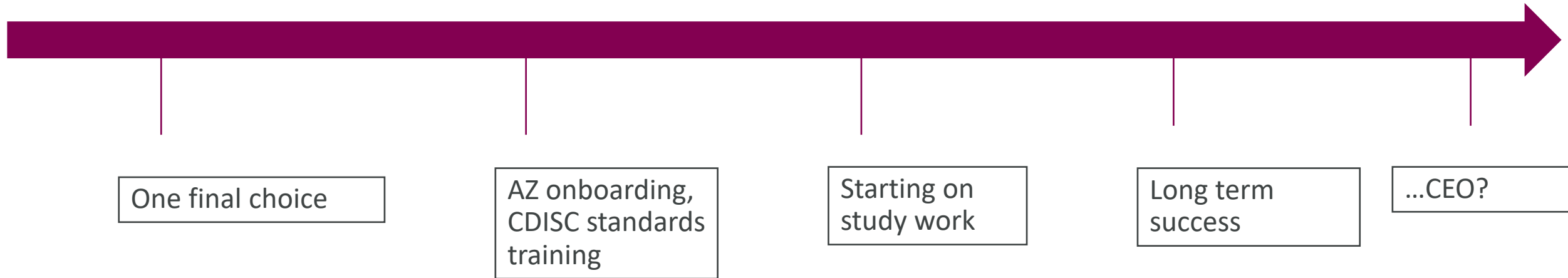
How did I end up here??



My Timeline



My Timeline



Base 3

- Advanced course.
 - Complete look at SAS and supporting products.
 - Enterprise Guide, Pipeline, etc.
 - Finance based.
 - A SAS course developed over 20 years.
- Supporting Pharma course.
- Teaching a mindset, not how to parrot code.
- Very wide syllabus.



Two industries – sort of similar

Retail banking

- Heavily utilizes SAS in programming across the industry
- Transforming data and analytics
- Problem solving
- Basil accords, now Capital Requirements Regulation and Bank Act 2022

Pharma

- Heavily utilizes SAS in programming tasks across the industry
- Transforming data and applying algorithms
- Problem solving
- Based on CDISC standards



Two industries – distinct differences

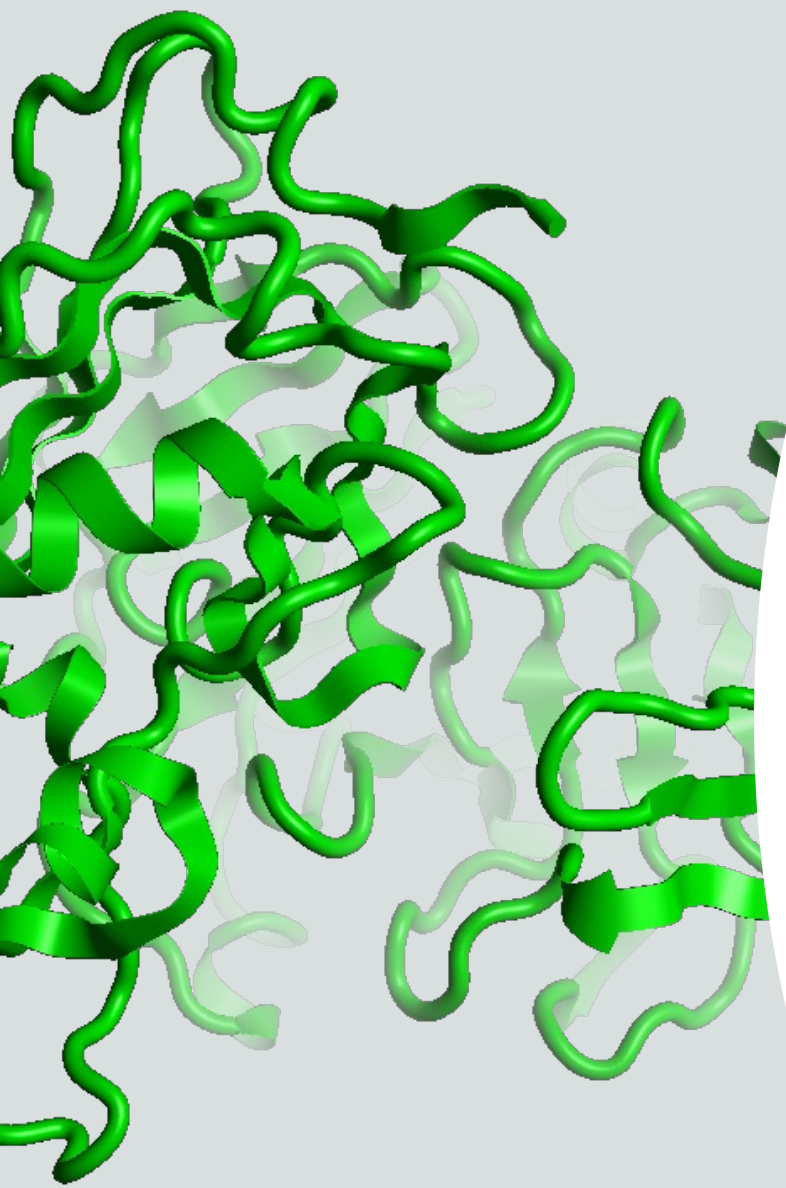
Retail banking

- Code efficiency
 - Lloyds – 26,000,000 customers
- Customer detail reports, risk, credit, compliance stress testing
 - Feed big data into compliance models

Pharma

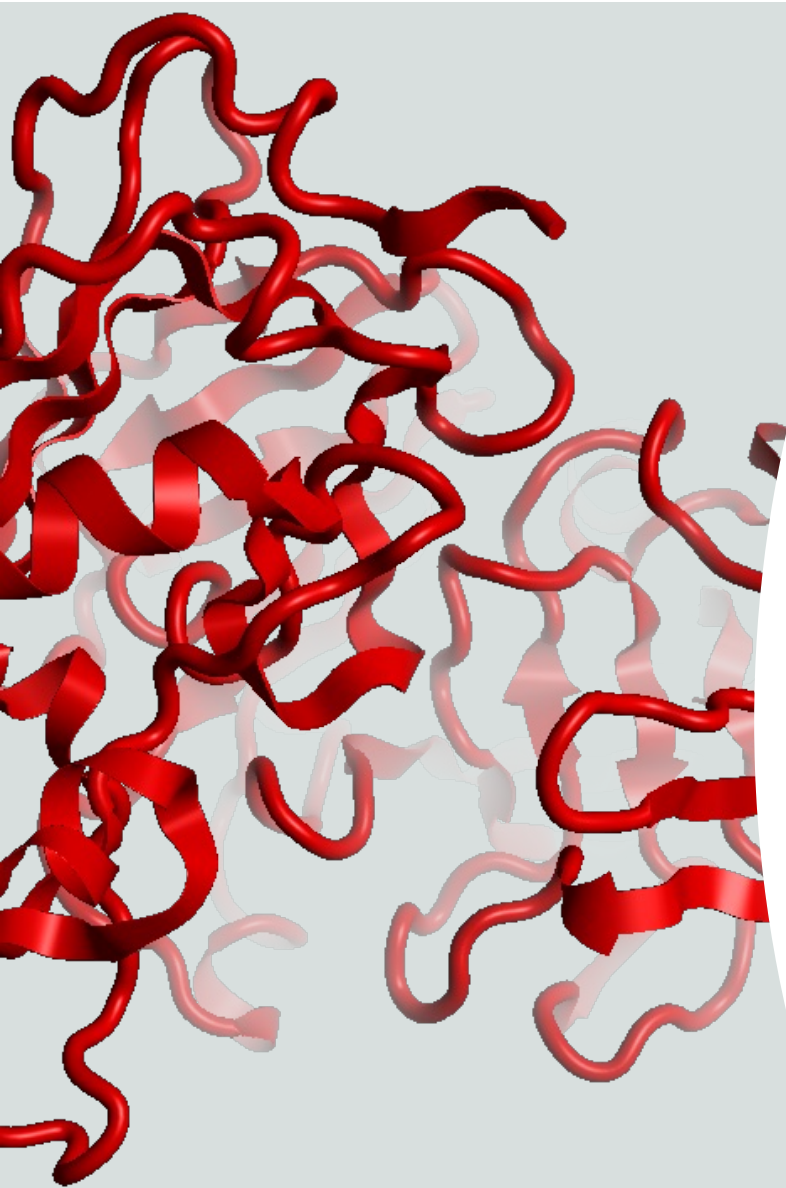
- Code readability
 - 1,000-2,000 patients per study
- Evidencing drug studies
 - Simpler, smaller data sets
 - Visualized.



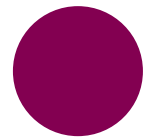


Which key skills transitioned

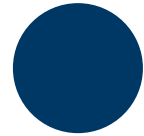
- SAS skills: macro, SQL,
- Understanding of data structures
- Problem solving skills
- Data visualization
- Good programming practices



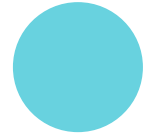
Challenges in transition



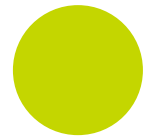
New language: acronyms etc.



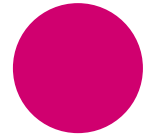
A new set of strict standards: CDISC



A large volume of information to contend with



Understanding relative importance of information



Not knowing what is unknown



Opportunities – for industry



A new set of ideas from a different background



Pre-existing SAS skills

Internal vs external
training



Context independent problem solving



A bigger pool allows for more selective recruitment



Threats – for industry



Getting lost in jargon

PD, IPD, IPDSI – an acronym filled industry



Not being able to efficiently provide the context to better solve problems

Some problems have a context to them that inform decisions



CDISC

A new strict set of standards that new starters won't know



Cross function teams: scientists



Final thoughts

Shared competencies and new ideas

- Finance and Pharma share a lot of key competencies.
- Data forces different approaches in programming styles.

On boarding challenges

- How can the skill gaps be identified?
- How can these be distilled into a manageable syllabus.

Your companies strengths

- What are your company strengths?
- How can we leverage these?
- Where can specialists fill proficiency gaps?



Question time!

