

# All About the **Readiness:**

AI in Clinical Research  
and Regulatory Practice



Single Day Event

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# From Data & Science to Healthier Lives

EVIDENCE | INSIGHT | IMPACT

CLINICAL

STATISTICS

REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE

AI / ML

DATA SCIENCE

R / PYTHON / Pyspark

VISUALIZATION

BETTER DECISIONS

PEOPLE | SCIENCE | POSSIBILITY

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- 03** Rare, Adverse, and Pediatric Evidence
- 04** Models – Governance – Trust
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DATA | PEOPLE | BETTER HEALTH TOMORROW

# The Four Pillars

## Trusted Clinical Evidence

PEOPLE  
SCIENCE  
DATA  
BETTER DECISIONS

### 01 SUBJECTS

Real patients, real biology – the retrospective or prospective data source

### 02 SPONSORS

The accountable party that commissions the work and owns the outcome

### 03 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Statisticians, programmers, epidemiologists, biostatisticians and the systems they use

### 04 GOVERNANCE

Regulators and ethics bodies that set the rules and grant or deny permission to proceed

## THE EVIDENCE CHAIN

CREATION

ANALYSIS

REPORTING

COMPLIANCE

CONSUMPTION

A weakness introduced today can travel through the evidence chain — and affect decisions and people years later

# The Framingham Heart Study

## Creation → Consumption

1948

Study launched; NIH created same year

1961

“Risk factor” coined in landmark paper

1971

Offspring Cohort enrolled

2002

Third Generation Cohort

2026

78 yrs; \$31.5M Brain Aging renewal

### STUDY DESIGN

- **Prospective**
- **Longitudinal**  
Full exam every ~2 years
- **Whole-community**  
True incidence rates
- **Multi-generational**  
3 cohorts under matched protocol isolate heredity vs. lifestyle

### BY THE NUMBERS

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>5,209</b>         | <b>~5,124</b>        |
| Original Cohort      | Offspring Cohort     |
| <b>~4,095</b>        | <b>2M+</b>           |
| Third Gen. Cohort    | Biosamples collected |
| <b>3,000+</b>        | <b>78 yrs</b>        |
| Peer-reviewed papers | Continuously running |

### GOVERNANCE

- Funded by NHLBI (NIH) since 1948 - one of the longest federally funded studies in U.S
- Run jointly with Boston University since 1971.
- Overseen by a Steering Committee and Observational Study Monitoring Board.

### DATA ACCESS

- BioLINCC (NHLBI): lists datasets; routed to FHS
- dbGaP: genomic data, controlled access
- framinghamheartstudy.org: direct request

**1948–2026 | 78 years | 15,000+ participants | 3 generations**

**Evidence Outlives Its Creators**

## Trust Was Earned Through Transparency, Long Follow-up And Enforced Accountability.

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### Global Governance Has Enforcement Teeth

- **2012 | GSK / Avandia**

Pleaded guilty and paid \$3B to resolve U.S. charges including failure to report safety data to the FDA

- **2013 | Ranbaxy USA**

Pleaded guilty and paid \$500M over manufacturing violations and false statements concerning drug-quality testing.

- **2026 | ClinicalTrials.gov**

In April 2026, FDA sent compliance reminders to more than 2,200 sponsors and researchers after finding nearly 30% of legally required trial results had not been posted.

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The Framingham example shows how creation and consumption can involve different populations - a structural risk that predates AI.

# Readiness Is The Binding Constraint

## The Gap Between Adoption Rhetoric And Operational Reality

|    |                     |                                                                                                        |
|----|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | Adoption Rhetoric   | <b>AI is a game changer</b><br>High expectations, rapid narratives, broad claims                       |
| 02 | Operational Reality | <b>Validated data • Audit Trail • Trained People</b><br>Execution requires data, processes, and people |
| 03 | Regulatory Signal   | <b>Structured AI governance</b><br>Evidence that can be defended                                       |
| 04 | Analyst Signal      | <b>ROI skepticism</b><br>Proven value, not adoption theater                                            |

PEOPLE  
SCIENCE  
DATA  
BETTER DECISIONS

### Two Signals Converge

REGULATORS / QUALITY  
More structured AI governance.

ANALYSTS  
Most AI investments not yet showing measurable return.

### KEY ENABLERS OF READINESS

Validated data | Auditable documentation | Trained staff | Proven ROI

#### BOTTOM LINE

The constraint is increasingly the readiness of the system around AI –  
 not the capability of the AI itself.

CLINICAL EVIDENCE  
 REAL-WORLD IMPACT  
 A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

# Where AI Readiness Is Won-or Lost

## Five Practical Readiness Questions, Anchored In Current 2025–2026 Evidence

### Five Dimensions

### Evidence Anchors

01

#### Data & Technical Readiness for Reliable AI

Clean • Standardized • Interoperable • Monitorable



**11%**

fully implemented AI/ML in trials

02

#### Regulatory Readiness

Documented • Validated • Fit-for-Purpose • Defensible



**55%**

sites reporting >5-month activation timelines

03

#### Governance Readiness

Human Oversight • Transparency • Accountability



**1 in 5**

AI investments showing measurable ROI

04

#### Are people ready to use AI in practice?

Trained • Equipped • Competent • Operationally Ready



**1 in 50**

AI investments delivering transformational value

05

#### Can AI value be separated from the hype?

Evidence • ROI • Expectations • Real-World Value

1. IEEE SA - Active PAR P4158.3
2. FDA - Draft Guidance, Jan 2025 • FDA-2024-D-4689
3. WCG - 2026 Clinical Research Trends & Insights
4. WCG 2026 + ICON Site Activation Survey, Dec 2025
5. Gartner - Worldwide AI Spending Will Total \$2.5T in 2026

**Adoption Is Moving Ahead Of Readiness Across Data, Regulation, Governance, People And Measurable Value**

# Not All “AI ROI” Signals Mean The Same Thing

## General-purpose Adoption Vs. Controlled, Auditable

### ENTERPRISE-WIDE AI

- Chatbots
- Generic copilots
- Broad productivity tools

Industry commentary often groups these investments into one broad “AI” category.

ROI skepticism here does not describe narrow, validated use in a regulated trial pipeline.

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### REGULATED AI USE

- Narrow scope
- Defined context of use
- Validated performance
- Auditable evidence

Relevant Questions

- Where AI Is Being Applied
- Under What Evidence Standard

- GCP / 21 CFR Part 11 operate around traceability, validation and controlled processes
- The evidence standard is materially different from generic AI experimentation

It is not “AI vs. no AI”

## Build Credibility To Use AI Responsibly — Before The Market Settles

### WHY THIS WORKFORCE IS DIFFERENT



#### Narrow Start

with a defined use case.



#### Provable

Measure what the use actually improves.



#### Auditable

Preserve evidence, controls and traceability.

### Regulatory discipline builds readiness

- Traceable
- Controlled
- Defensible

#### Applied to AI claims:

1. Define the use
2. Understand the evidence
3. Challenge the output
4. Preserve the audit trail.

The Implementation Gap Is An Opportunity

# Acceleration Is Not The Opposite Of Rigor

## Faster Clinical Development Needs Structured Urgency — Not Reduced Controls

### The Historical Precedent



1992

#### PRIORITY REVIEW

Accelerates FDA review of qualifying applications.



1992

#### ACCELERATED APPROVAL

Allows earlier approval using surrogate endpoints, with binding post-market confirmatory obligations.



1997 / 2012

#### FAST TRACK / BREAKTHROUGH

Earlier and more frequent interaction with FDA to accelerate development and review.

### What Legitimate Compression Adds

- More frequent sponsor–regulator meetings
- Rolling review of completed sections
- Defined post-market obligations
- Continued accountability

### The Principle Is Consistent:

- The timeline can compress
- The governance structure does not

# The Test Is Not Whether AI Is Fast - It Is What Gets Compressed

## Accelerate With AI, Without Compromising Accountability

### Legitimate Compression

#### ● Faster, Not Looser

AI shortens the timeline for:

- Data cleaning
- Signal detection
- Documentation and evidence assembly

**while the four pillars remain intact:**

- Subjects protected
- Sponsors accountable
- Technologists produce a credibility package
- Governance signs off

### Illegitimate Compression

#### ● A Pillar Is Removed

AI adoption is used to:

- Skip validation
- Bypass documentation
- Substitute vendor assurance for an auditable credibility trail

That is **not “fast”** in the FDA sense.

A model in place of the missing control

# The Practical Test For AI In Clinical Research

## Does It Accelerate The Work While Keeping The Evidence Chain Intact?

### THE FOUR-PILLAR TEST

- **01 SUBJECTS**      **Protected**      No loss of participant protection or evidence integrity.
- **02 SPONSORS**      **Accountable**      The sponsor remains responsible for the outcome and evidence.
- **03 TECHNOLOGISTS**      **Credible**      Validation, monitoring and the credibility package remain defensible.
- **04 GOVERNANCE**      **In control**      Oversight, documentation and sign-off remain intact.



**AI**



**FASTER**



**STILL GOVERNED**

Responsible AI is not a new exception to the clinical evidence lineage - it is its continuation at a higher speed.

# When “More Data” Is Not A Strategy

## Rare Adverse Events, Pediatric Populations And Rare Diseases

### The Data-volume Assumption

**More Records → More Patients → More signal**

That logic breaks when the population limits what can **ethically or practically be collected**

The constraint is structural - not simply a shortage of effort or funding

### Where It Breaks

- Rare Adverse Events**  
**~1 IN 10,000**

A serious event can remain **too sparse** for conventional testing

Enrolling enough patients becomes ethically and economically difficult.
- Pediatric Populations**  
**Ethical Limit**

Large placebo-controlled trials duplicating established adult knowledge may be impractical or unethical.
- Rare Diseases**  
**Hundreds**

The entire global patient population may number in the hundreds.

There is no scalable “more data” regime.

### The Bayesian Culture

Concurrent data + prior trials + adult data + historical controls + registries → one defensible estimate

**Bayesian analysis is coherent precisely - these populations cannot simply be expanded**

# Framework Is Moving - Four Pillars Are Not Equally Ready

Regulatory | Operational Evidence | Tooling Maturity | Synchronized Global Governance

## January → September Snapshot

|                                |            |                                                                                                           |            |                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ● <b>Subjects</b>              | <b>JAN</b> | Borrowing is explicitly intended to reduce unnecessary burden on children and rare-disease patients.      | <b>SEP</b> | Benefit is not yet realized in practice; Sponsors and Technologists must operationalize the framework.      |
| ● <b>Sponsors</b>              | <b>JAN</b> | Draft guidance published; 60-day comment window opens.                                                    | <b>SEP</b> | Comments closed Mar 13; sponsors remain in a clarification-seeking phase.                                   |
| ● <b>Technologists / Tools</b> | <b>JAN</b> | High technical bar: pre-specified priors, conflict assessment, simulation and computational transparency. | <b>SEP</b> | Prior classification and methodological questions remain active; tooling is not yet routine.                |
| ● <b>Governance</b>            | <b>JAN</b> | FDA draft + EMA concept paper begin parallel movement.                                                    | <b>SEP</b> | FDA remains draft; EMA targets a full reflection paper only by 2028. Global governance is not synchronized. |

The Sharpest AI-Readiness Test

**An AI model cannot clear the bar by training on more data alone**

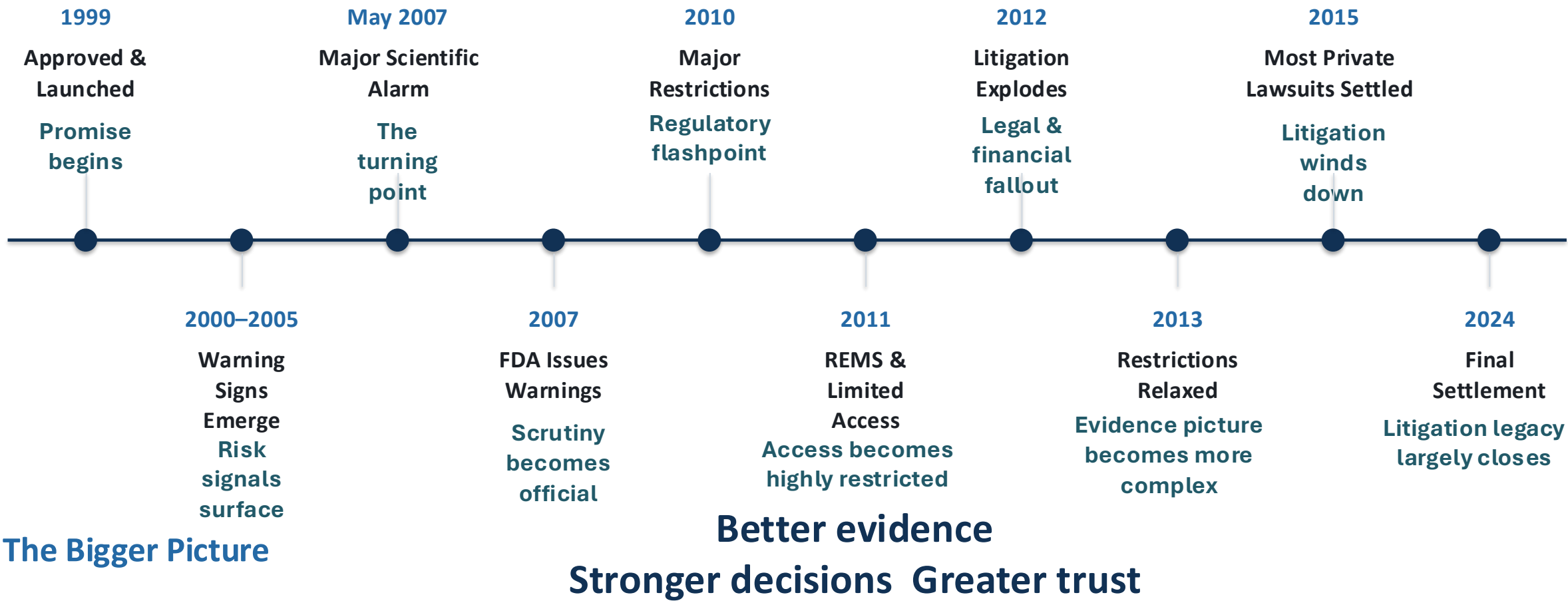
**Justified models • Documented borrowing rationale • Simulation-validated OC • Computational transparency.**





# Early Promise | Safety Concerns | Actions | Journey Of Evidence, Litigation & Resolution

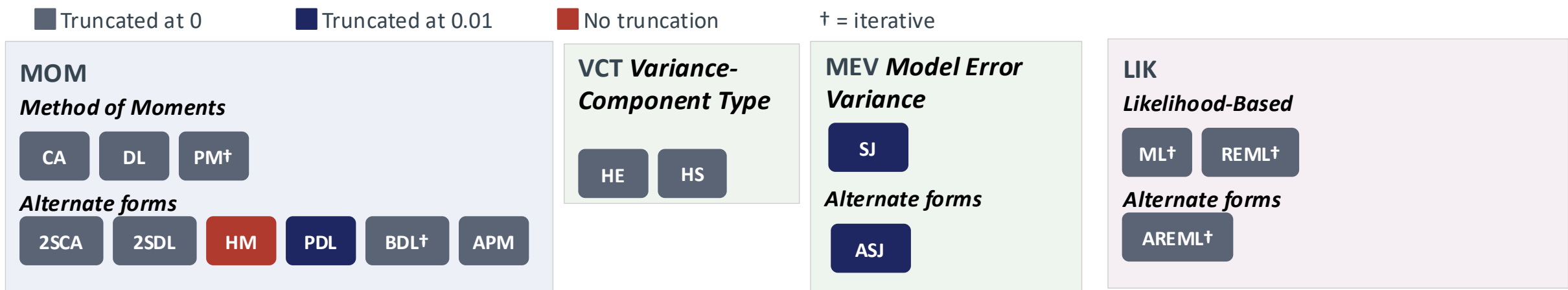
## Regulatory & Litigation Timeline



# A Decade of $\tau^2$ Methodology: 2017–2026



## Alternate & Derived Forms · Aberration Behavior

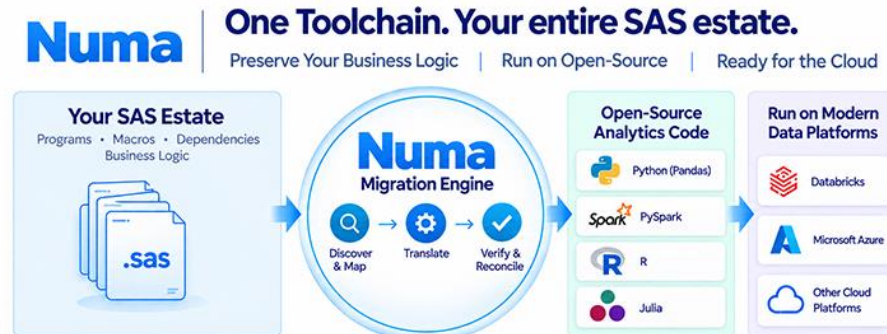


AI Preparedness Is Not Knowing Every Model. It Is Knowing Which Model to Trust, When — and Why.

# Governance through Models to Build Evidence, so Trust is Earned.

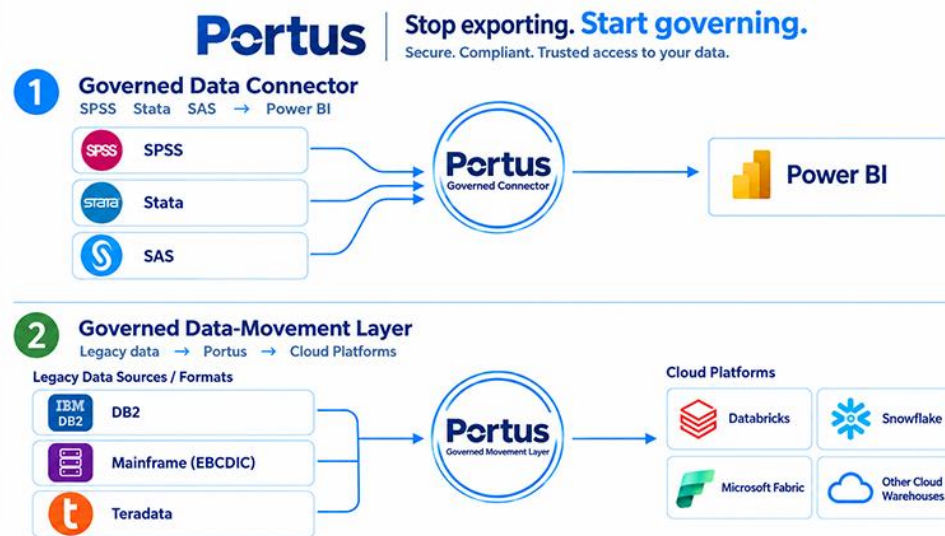
*Not assumed. Not claimed. **Earned** - through evidence the organisation holds, verifies, and owns.*





## Intelligent Migration to the Modern Data Stack

*Preserving what matters. Modernizing what must change.*



# Responsible AI Is Not A New Standard For Clinical Research

## It Is A Higher Standard For Carrying The Existing Responsibility Forward

AI Should Strengthen The Evidence Chain - Not Merely Accelerate It

**01 More Rigorous**

Explicit assumptions, appropriate methods and demonstrated performance.

**02 More Accountable**

Clear ownership, traceability and evidence behind conclusions.

**03 More Transparent**

Reproducible methods, provenance and computational transparency.

**04 More Prudent**

Appropriate consent, responsible data use, privacy and security.

**05 More Governable**

Oversight that keeps pace with capability and risk.

**06 More Useful To Future Generations**

Preserve the integrity of the evidence base, not merely its speed.

**Better Evidence Is  
Essential**

**Faster Evidence Is  
Valuable**

**Responsible AI Must  
Deliver Both**

**Responsibility Is Shared: Clinicians, Sponsors, Scientists, Technologists, Regulators, & Policymakers**

# Connect With Us



## Migration Solutions

SAS → Open Source → Modern Cloud  
Modernize legacy analytics and data estates.



## Capability Development Programs

Machine Learning · Data Science · Bayesian · Frequentist  
Build advanced analytical capability within your teams.

MODERNIZE YOUR PLATFORMS. BUILD CAPABILITY FOR WHAT'S NEXT.



Healthier  
Generations

## Our responsibilities



Protect people



Ensure integrity



Build transparency



Maintain strong governance



Use AI to advance responsibly

Clinical Evidence Is Built Across Generations

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| S. No. | Author–Year        | DOI                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1      | Friede '17b        | 10.1002/jrsm.1217                                                                                                                                             |
| 2      | Friede '17a        | 10.1002/bimj.201500236                                                                                                                                        |
| 3      | Bender '18         | 10.1002/jrsm.1297                                                                                                                                             |
| 4      | Seide '19          | 10.1186/s12874-018-0618-3                                                                                                                                     |
| 5      | Ren '19            | 10.1007/s11606-019-04925-8                                                                                                                                    |
| 6      | Röver '20          | 10.18637/jss.v093.i06                                                                                                                                         |
| 7      | Ju '20             | 10.1186/s12874-020-01035-6                                                                                                                                    |
| 8      | Günhan '20         | 10.1002/jrsm.1370                                                                                                                                             |
| 9      | Röver '21          | 10.1002/jrsm.1475                                                                                                                                             |
| 10     | Pateras '21        | 10.1002/pst.2053                                                                                                                                              |
| 11     | Holling '22        | 10.1007/s11336-021-09835-5                                                                                                                                    |
| 12     | Xu '22             | 10.1002/jrsm.1521                                                                                                                                             |
| 13     | Röver '23          | 10.1002/sim.9731                                                                                                                                              |
| 14     | Guo '23            | 10.1177/09622802221125913                                                                                                                                     |
| 15     | Jansen&Holling '23 | 10.1002/jrsm.1662                                                                                                                                             |
| 16     | Böhning '23        | 10.1515/ijb-2021-0087                                                                                                                                         |
| 17     | Cochrane '24       | <a href="https://www.cochrane.org/authors/handbooks-and-manuals/handbook/current">https://www.cochrane.org/authors/handbooks-and-manuals/handbook/current</a> |
| 18     | Borenstein '24     | 10.1002/jrsm.1678                                                                                                                                             |
| 19     | Röver&Friede '24   | 10.1002/bimj.202300387                                                                                                                                        |
| 20     | Lilienthal '24     | 10.1002/jrsm.1685                                                                                                                                             |
| 21     | Iaquinto '25       | 10.1186/s13643-025-02831-1                                                                                                                                    |
| 22     | Li '25             | 10.1017/rsm.2024.4                                                                                                                                            |
| 23     | Alqasem '25        | 10.1080/10543406.2025.2512205                                                                                                                                 |
| 24     | Yao '25            | 10.1186/s12874-025-02664-5                                                                                                                                    |
| 25     | Röver '26          | 10.1002/sim.70508                                                                                                                                             |

**IEEE SA - Active PAR P4158.3**  
**Active PAR P4158.3 — Recommended Practice for Responsible, Transparent, and Ethical Use of AI in Clinical Research**  
 — IEEE Standards Association, 2025 (ongoing)  
<https://standards.ieee.org/ieee/4158.3/12626/>

**FDA - Draft Guidance, Jan 2025 • FDA-2024-D-4689**  
**Considerations for the Use of Artificial Intelligence To Support Regulatory Decision-Making for Drug and Biological Products (Draft Guidance)**  
 — U.S. Food and Drug Administration — Docket FDA-2024-D-4689, Issued 6 Jan 2025; comment period closed 7 Apr 2025

**WCG - 2026 Clinical Research Trends & Insights**  
**2026 Trends and Insights Report: Charting a New Era of Readiness, Innovation, and Human-Centric Clinical Research**  
 — WCG (WIRB-Copernicus Group), Released 6 Jan 2026  
<https://www.wcgclinical.com/?p=26915>

**ICON Site Activation Survey, Dec 2025**  
**ICON Survey Reveals Increasing Clinical Trial Startup Delays, Underscoring Need for Human-Centred Site Activation Solutions**  
 — ICON plc (NASDAQ: ICLR) — official press release, 2 Dec 2025 (survey fielded June 2025)  
<https://www.iconplc.com/news-events/press-releases/icon-survey-reveals-increasing-clinical-trial-startup-delays>

**Gartner - Worldwide AI Spending Will Total \$2.5T in 2026**  
**Gartner Says Worldwide AI Spending Will Total \$2.5 Trillion in 2026** — Gartner, Inc. — official newsroom, 15 Jan 2026  
<https://gcom.pdo.aws.gartner.com/en/newsroom/press-releases/2026-1-15-gartner-says-worldwide-ai-spending-will-total-2-point-5-trillion-dollars-in-2026>