



JOHNS HOPKINS

WHITING SCHOOL  
of ENGINEERING

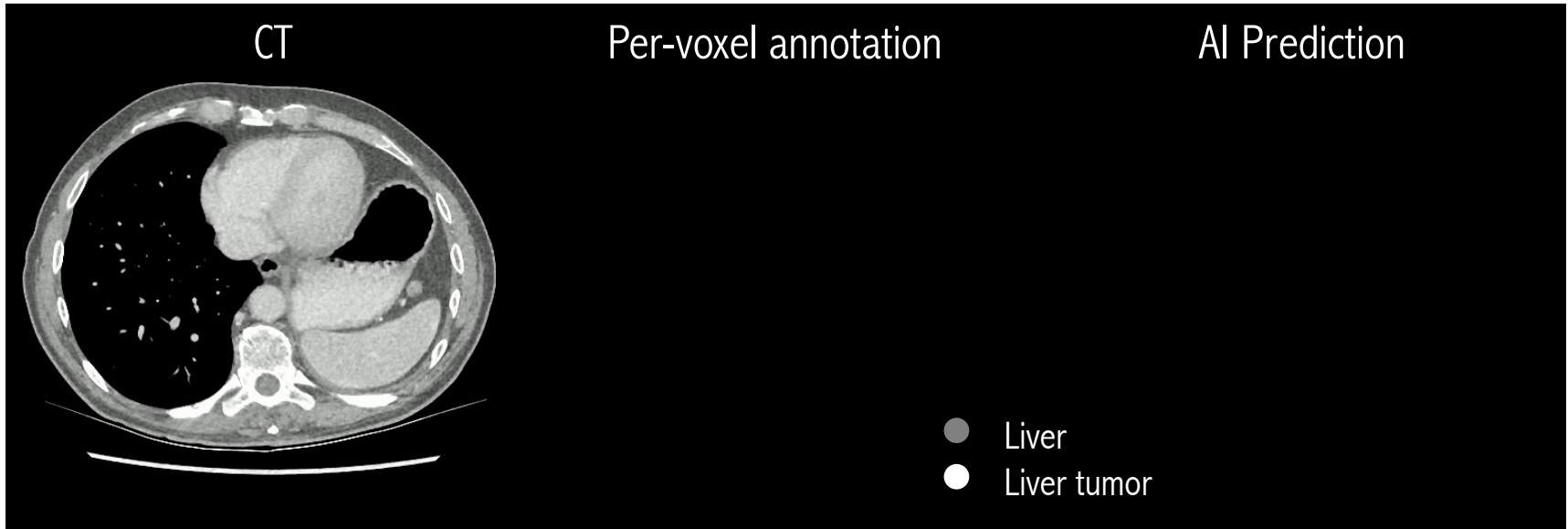
# Towards Annotation-Efficient Deep Learning for Computer-Aided Diagnosis

## *Label-Free Liver Tumor Segmentation*

Zongwei Zhou, PhD

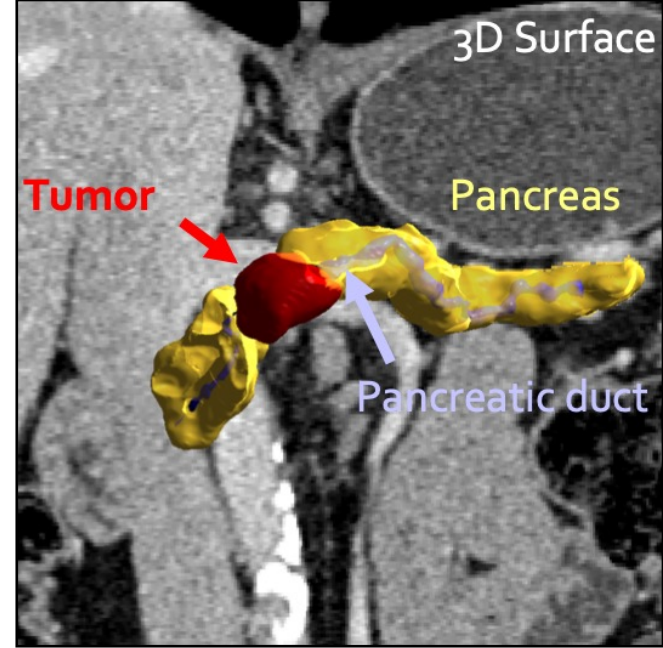
# Goal: Detecting and Segmenting Cancer

- An example of CT scan, per-voxel annotations performed by radiologists, and AI predictions



# Goal: Detecting and Segmenting Cancer

- Detailed per-voxel annotations are limited in public datasets
  - Colon tumors: 126 examples
  - Liver tumors: 131 examples
  - Pancreas tumors: 282 examples
  - Kidney tumors: 300 examples
- High-performance AI algorithms require large annotated data
  - Pancreas tumors: 5,038 examples in FELIX<sup>1</sup> ■ Sensitivity = 97%, Specificity = 99%
  - This annotation took 15 human-year to create



1. Xia, Y., Yu, Q., Chu, L., ... & Fishman, E. K. (2022). The FELIX Project: Deep Networks To Detect Pancreatic Neoplasms. medRxiv.

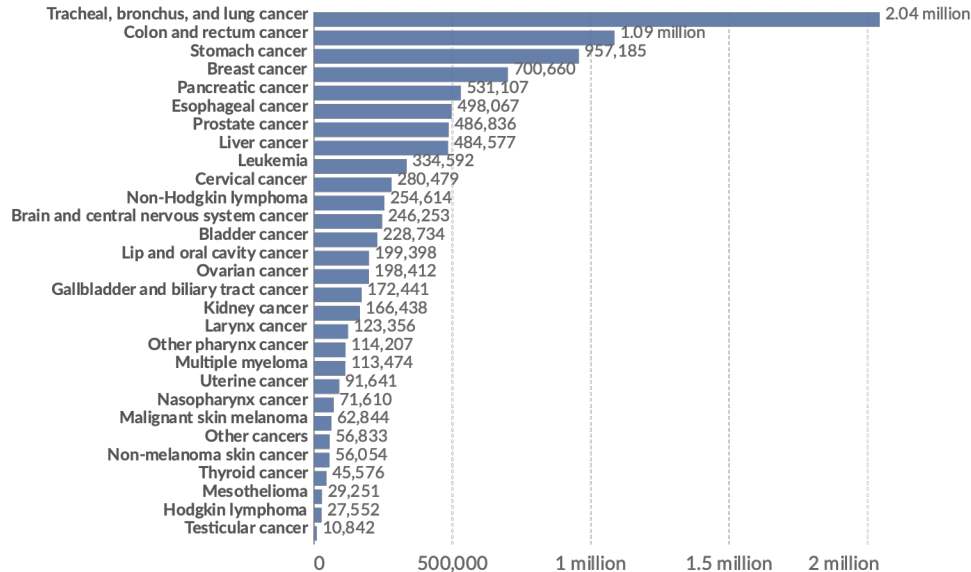
# Goal: Detecting and Segmenting Cancers\_ (Not Cancer)

- How can we deal with many other types of tumors?

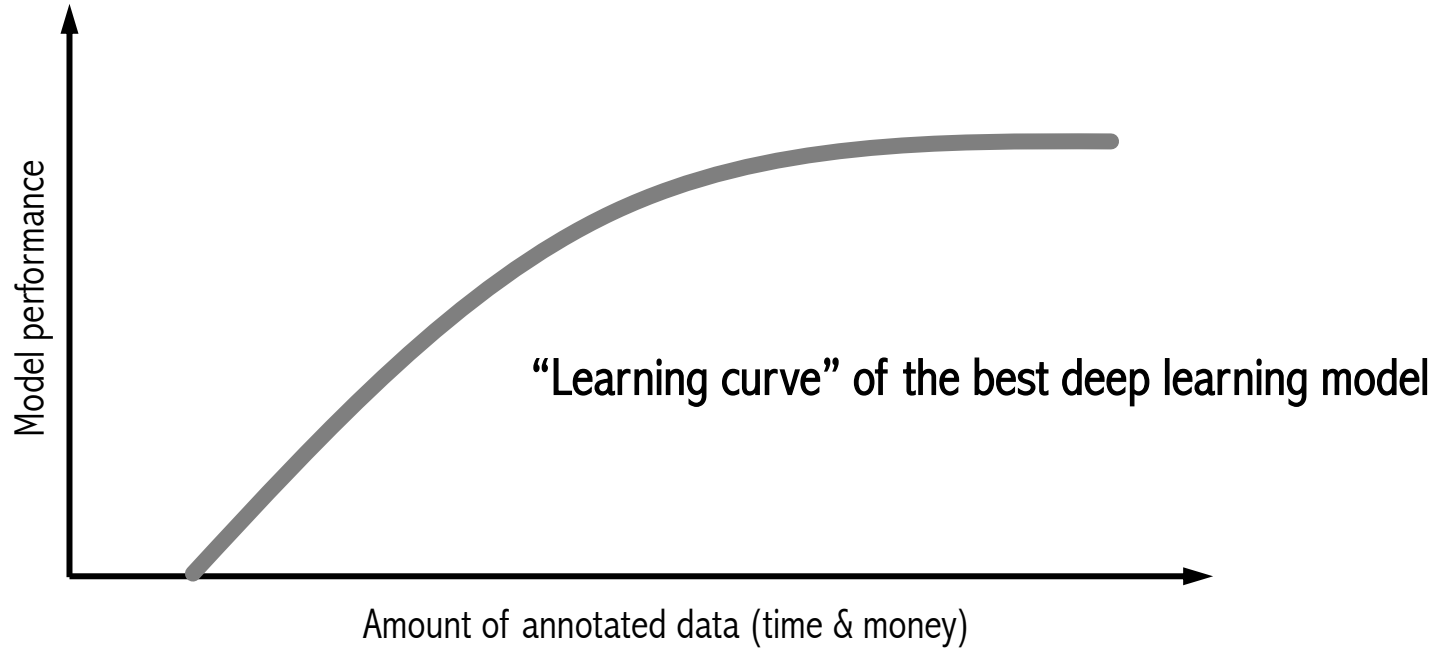
## Cancer deaths by type, World, 2019

Total annual number of deaths from cancers across all ages and both sexes, broken down by cancer type.

Our World  
in Data

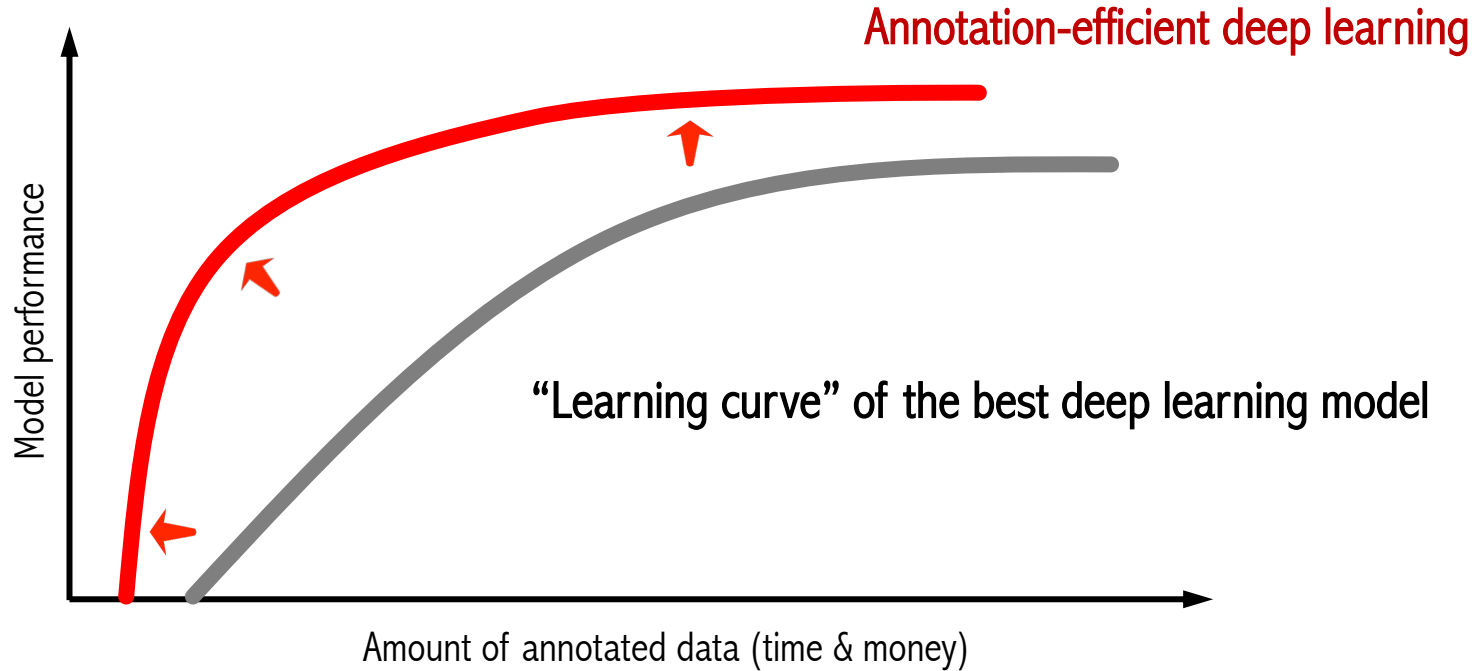


# Towards Annotation-Efficient Deep Learning



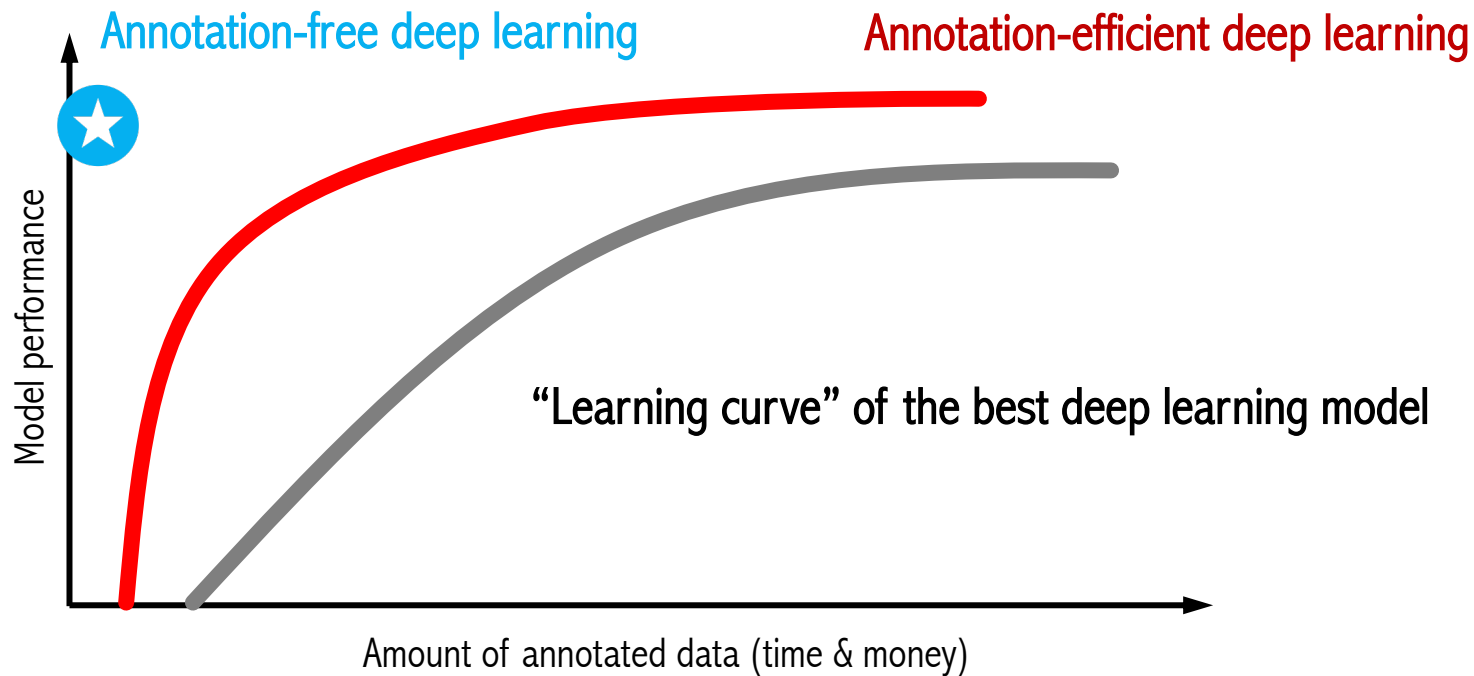
1. Zhou, Z. (2021). Towards annotation-efficient deep learning for computer-aided diagnosis (Doctoral dissertation, Arizona State University).

# Towards Annotation-Efficient Deep Learning



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# Towards Annotation-Free Deep Learning



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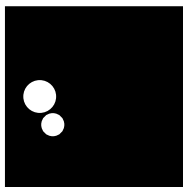
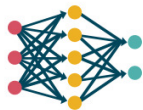
# Goal: Detecting and Segmenting Cancers (Not Cancer)

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- *How can we deal with many other types of tumors?*
- Three perspectives
  - I. Exploiting existing public datasets and their **partial annotation**
  - II. Investigating the power of **weak annotation** (e.g., circle, box, scribble, tag)
  - III. Exploring the potential of **ultra-weak annotation** (e.g., radiology report and synthetic tumors)



Paradigm I



Paradigm I (*old*)

Training set: 101 image-label pairs

Cost: 100 per-voxel annotation

Paradigm I

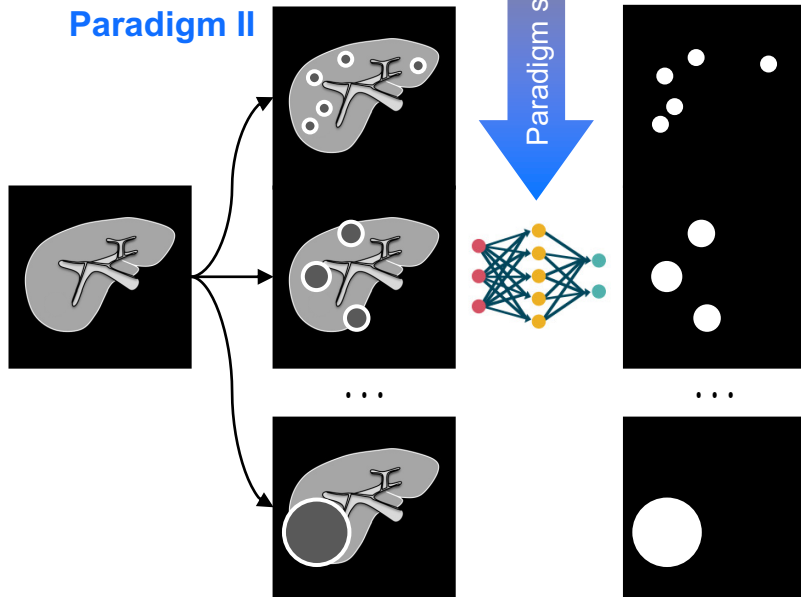


Paradigm I (*old*)

Training set: 101 image-label pairs

Cost: 100 per-voxel annotation

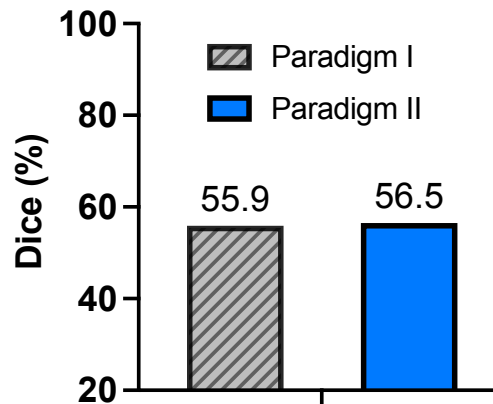
Paradigm II



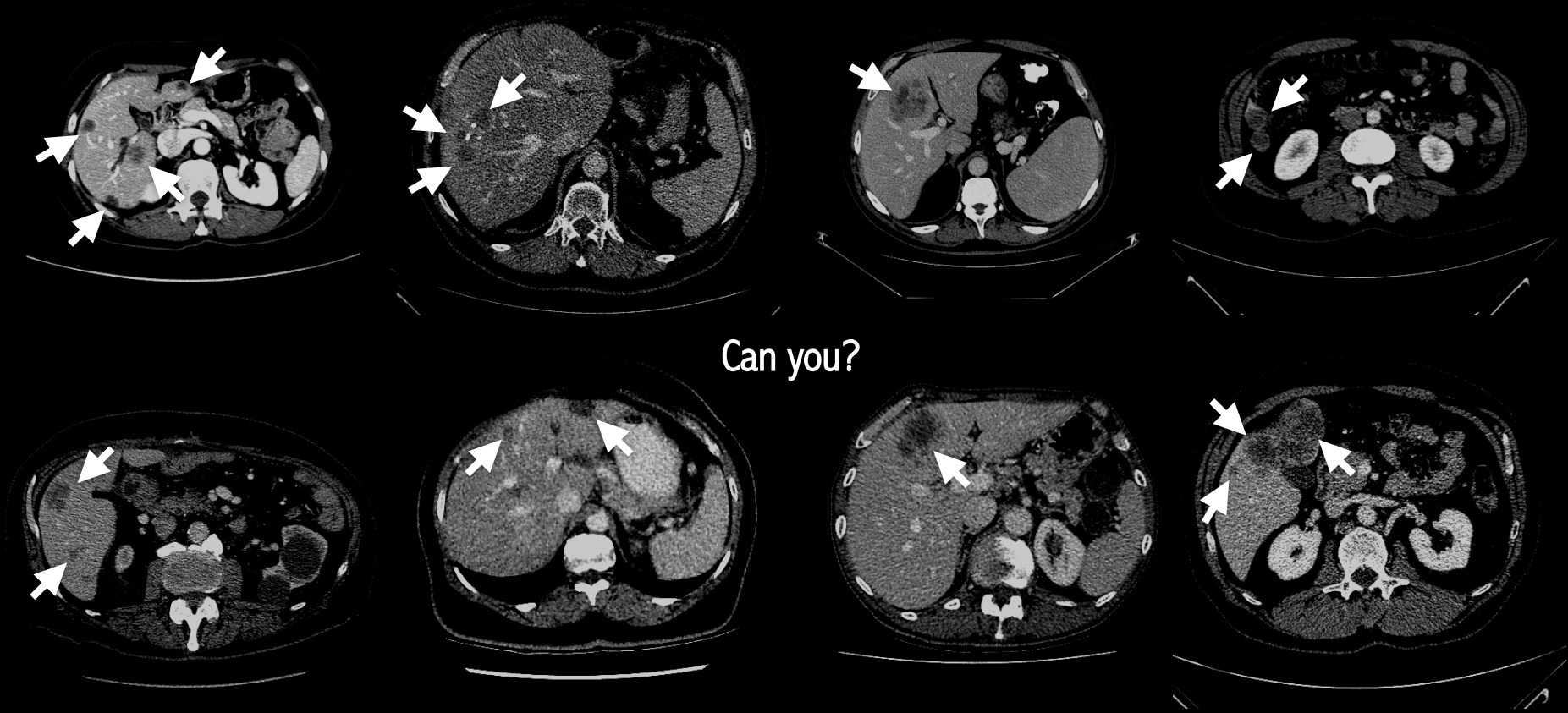
Paradigm II (*new*)

Training set: Infinite image-label pairs

Cost: ZERO annotation

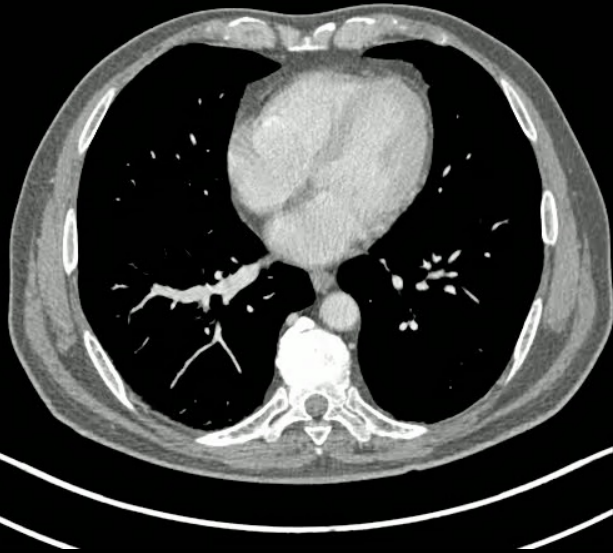


Medical professionals with over 6-year experience cannot tell which are real and which are synthetic tumor with an accuracy of 20% (lower than random guess)



Training AI on synthetic tumors performs almost as well as training it on real tumors.

CT



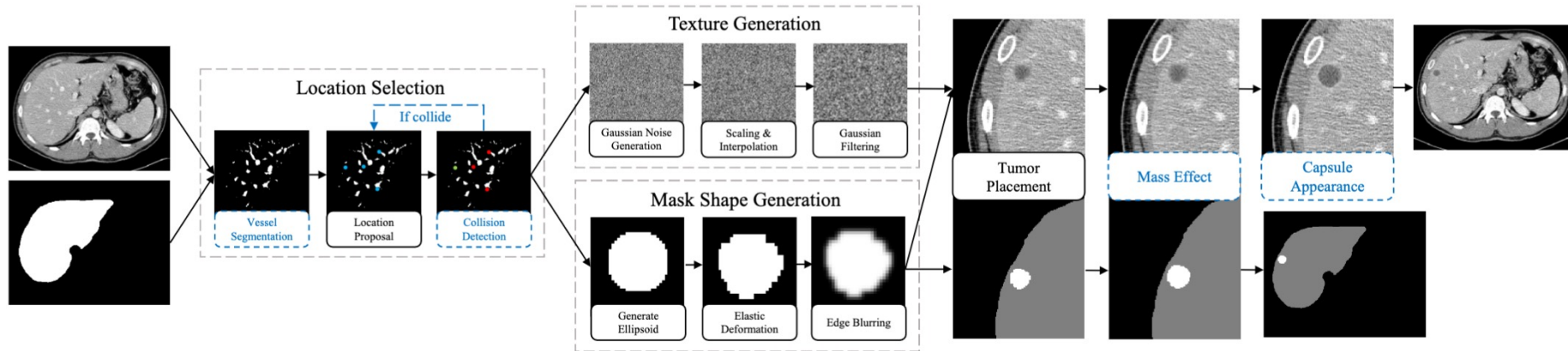
AI prediction  
trained on real tumors  
*with per-voxel annotation*

AI prediction  
trained on synthetic tumors  
*with no annotation*

- Liver
- Liver tumor

# III. Exploring the potential of ultra-weak annotation

- <https://github.com/MrGiovanni/SyntheticTumors>



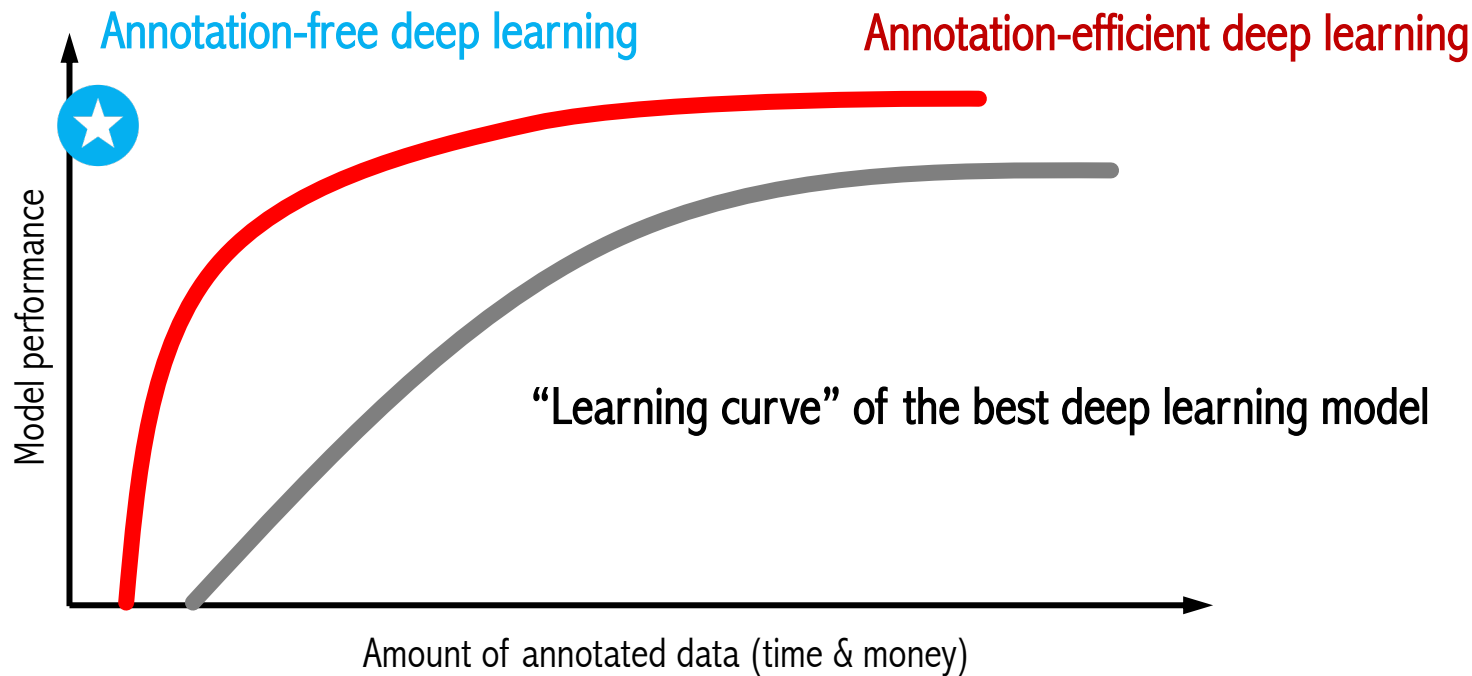
1. Hu, Q., Xiao, J., Chen, Y., ... & Zhou, Z. (2022). "Synthetic Tumors Make AI Segment Tumors Better." Medical Imaging Meets NeurIPS, 2022.

# Goal: Detecting and Segmenting Cancer

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- We plan to generate synthetic tumors in many more organs
- In the future, annotations are still needed, but these annotations will be only used for evaluation
  - Colon tumors: 126 examples
  - Liver tumors: 131 examples
  - Pancreas tumors: 282 examples
  - Kidney tumors: 300 examples

# Towards Annotation-Efficient (*-Free*) Deep Learning



1. Zhou, Z. (2021). Towards annotation-efficient deep learning for computer-aided diagnosis (Doctoral dissertation, Arizona State University).