

# Navigating ARPA-H



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**UAB** HUGH KAUL PRECISION  
MEDICINE INSTITUTE



**ARPA-H?**



**Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health**



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**Where did it come from?**



**What are “ARPA-class” projects?**

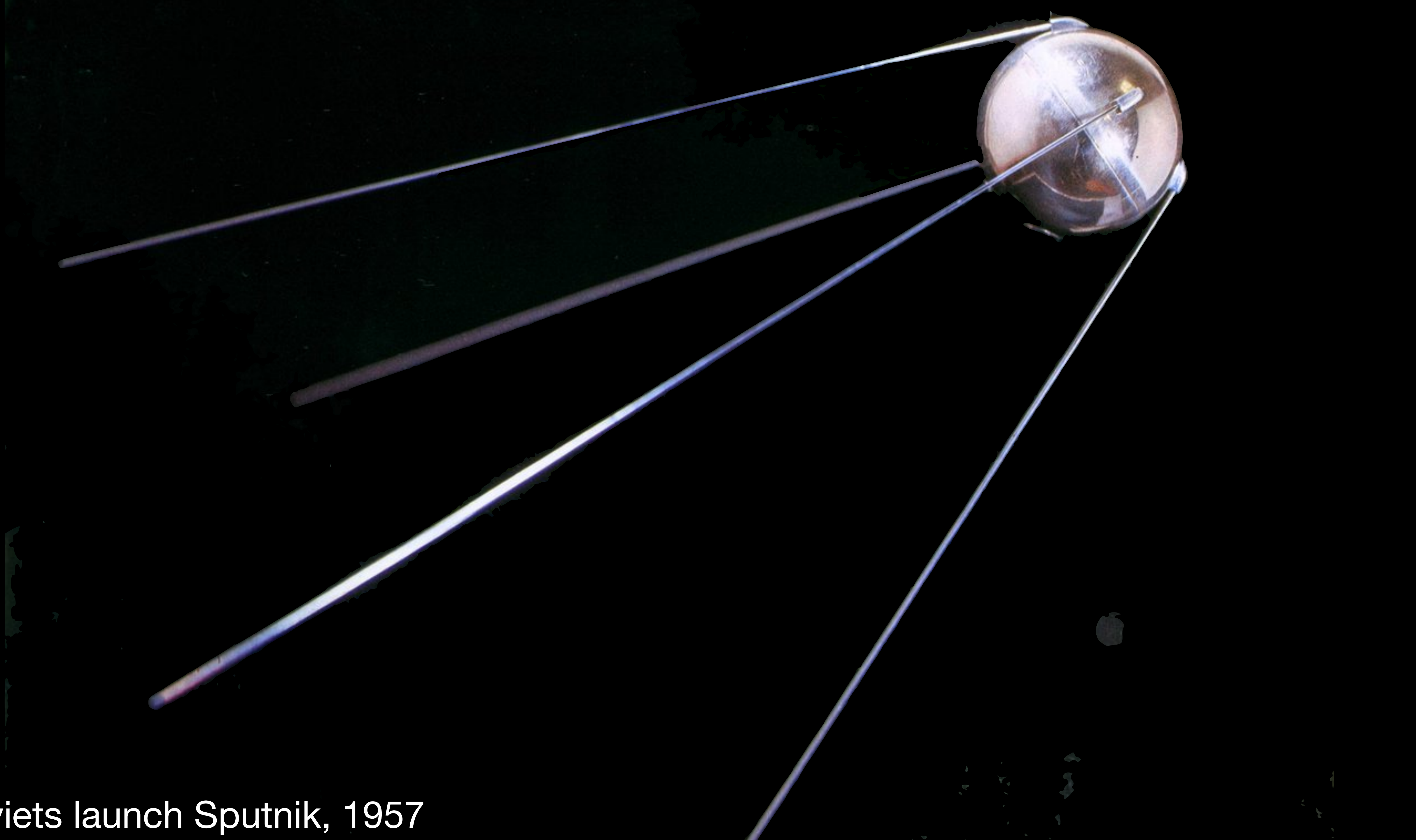


# Tips for ARPA-H funding



# History





Soviets launch Sputnik, 1957



# Eisenhower learns of Sputnik





ARPA is born, 1958





Typical ARPA project





The Internet (originally called ARPANet)





# Stealth technology





GPS





**Rebranded in 1972: DARPA**

# And also...

1. Advanced Robotics
2. Artificial Intelligence (AI)
3. Precision Medicine and Biotechnology
4. Autonomous Vehicles and Unmanned Systems
5. Cybersecurity
6. Materials Science and Manufacturing
7. Neuroscience and Brain-Computer Interfaces
8. Hypersonics
9. Quantum Computing and Communications
10. Health and Medical Technologies
11. Space Technologies
12. Energy and Power Systems
13. Human Performance and Bioenhancement
14. Advanced Sensors and Detection Systems
15. High-Energy Laser Systems



**How?**



**High risk, high reward**



# Parallel approaches



# Short timelines



**Fail fast philosophy**



**Significant deliverables**



**High autonomy for PMs**



**Limited terms for PMs**



**Examples: My DARPA projects**





**Cyberwarfare and cybersecurity**



**CRASH: Create unhackable OS**



**APAC: Malware-proof phones**



# **STAC: Leak-proof programs**



# ■ ARPA-H ■

PREVENT, TREAT, CURE



**Born in 2022**



**Modeled on DARPA**



**(perhaps too closely)**

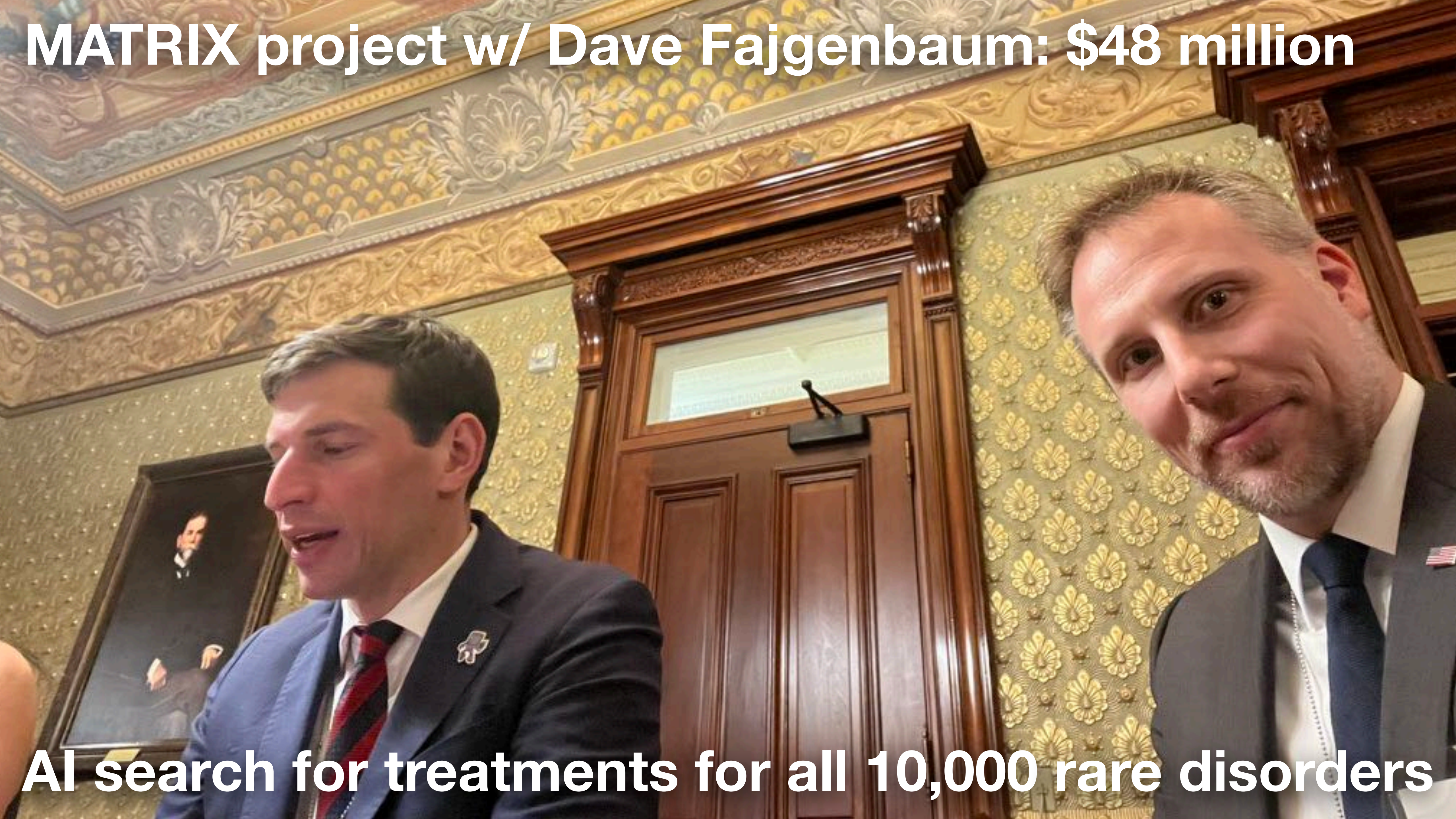


**Inspired by Operation Warp Speed**



**Two new ARPA-H Projects**



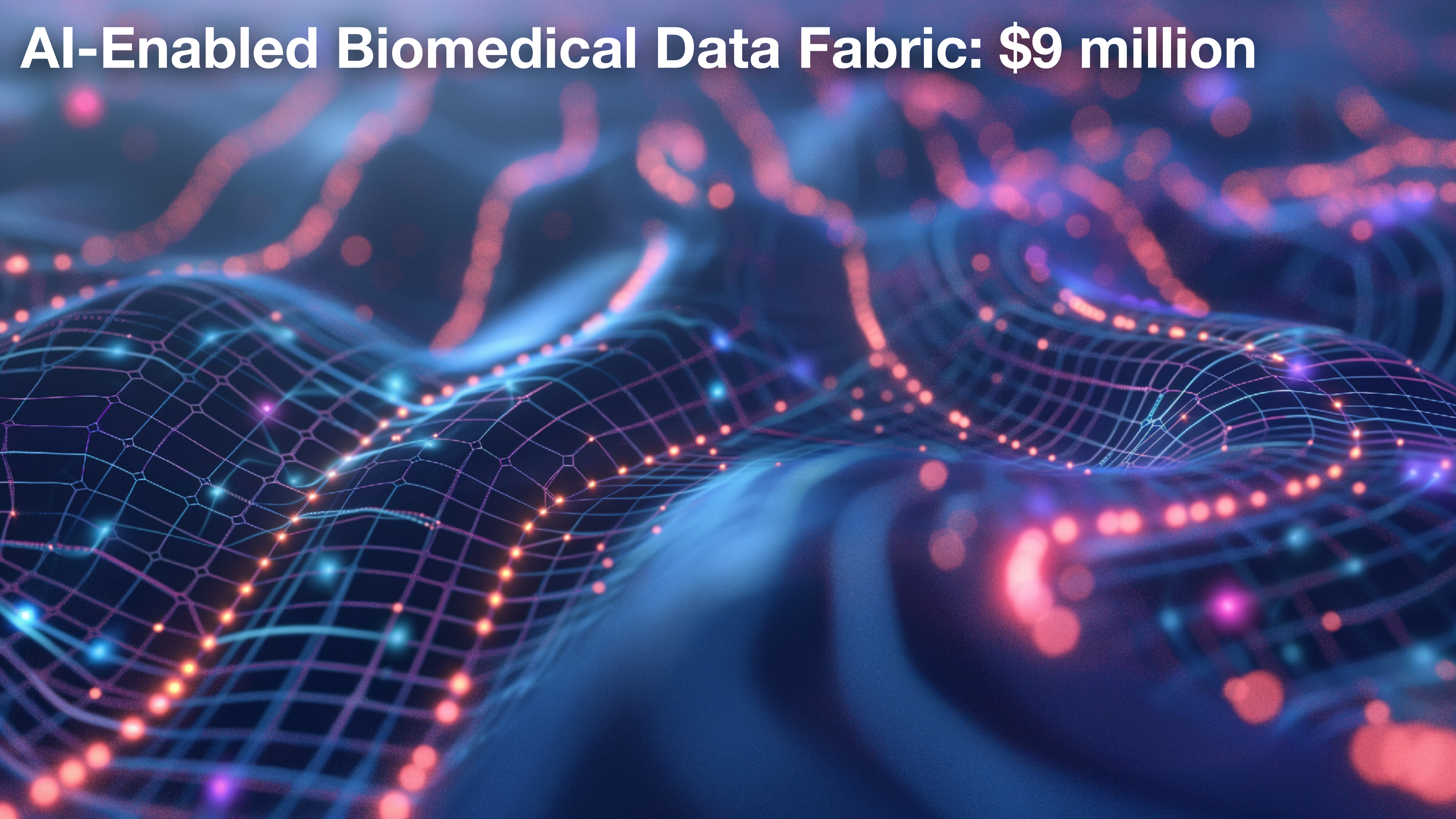


**MATRIX project w/ Dave Fajgenbaum: \$48 million**

**AI search for treatments for all 10,000 rare disorders**



**AI-Enabled Biomedical Data Fabric: \$9 million**



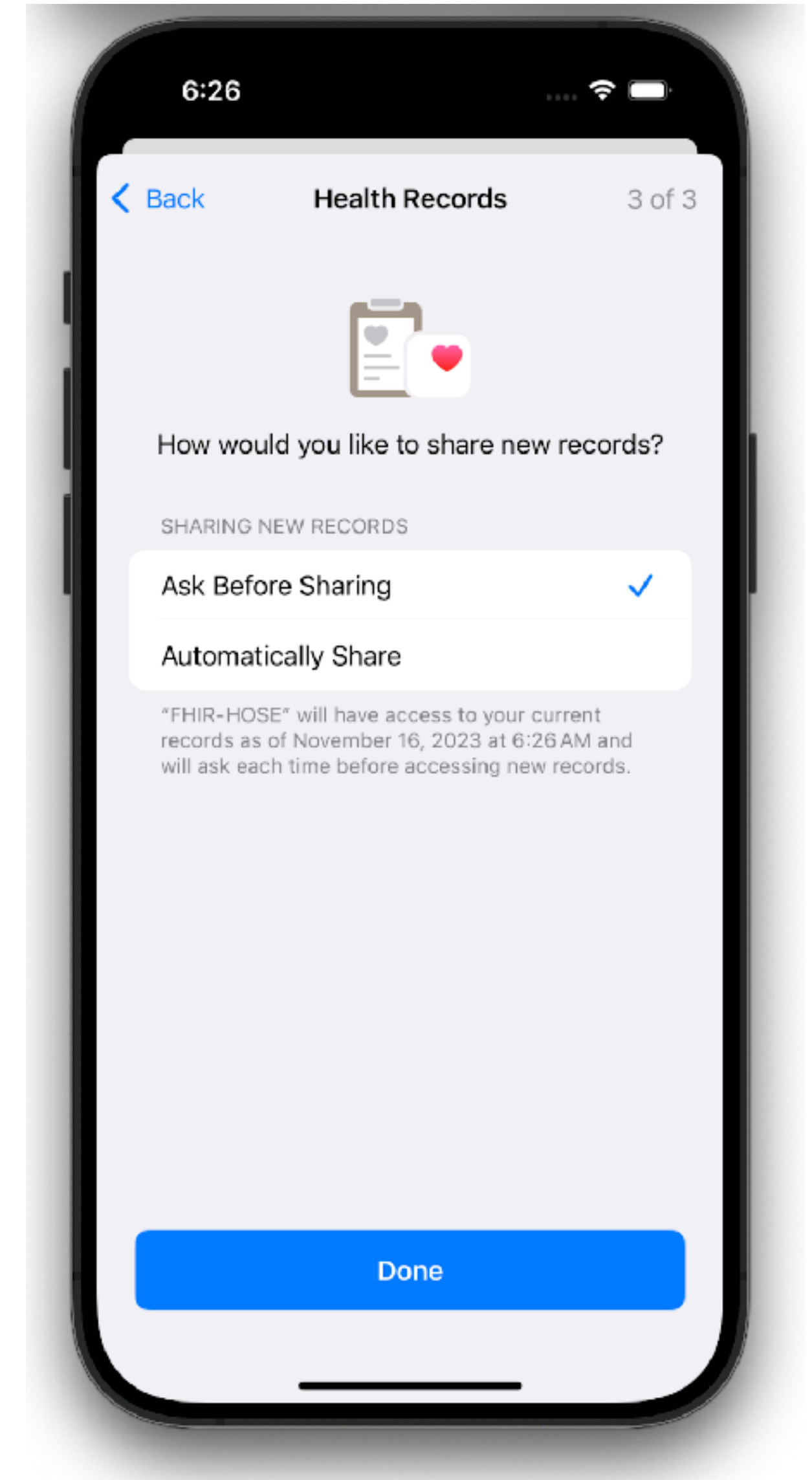
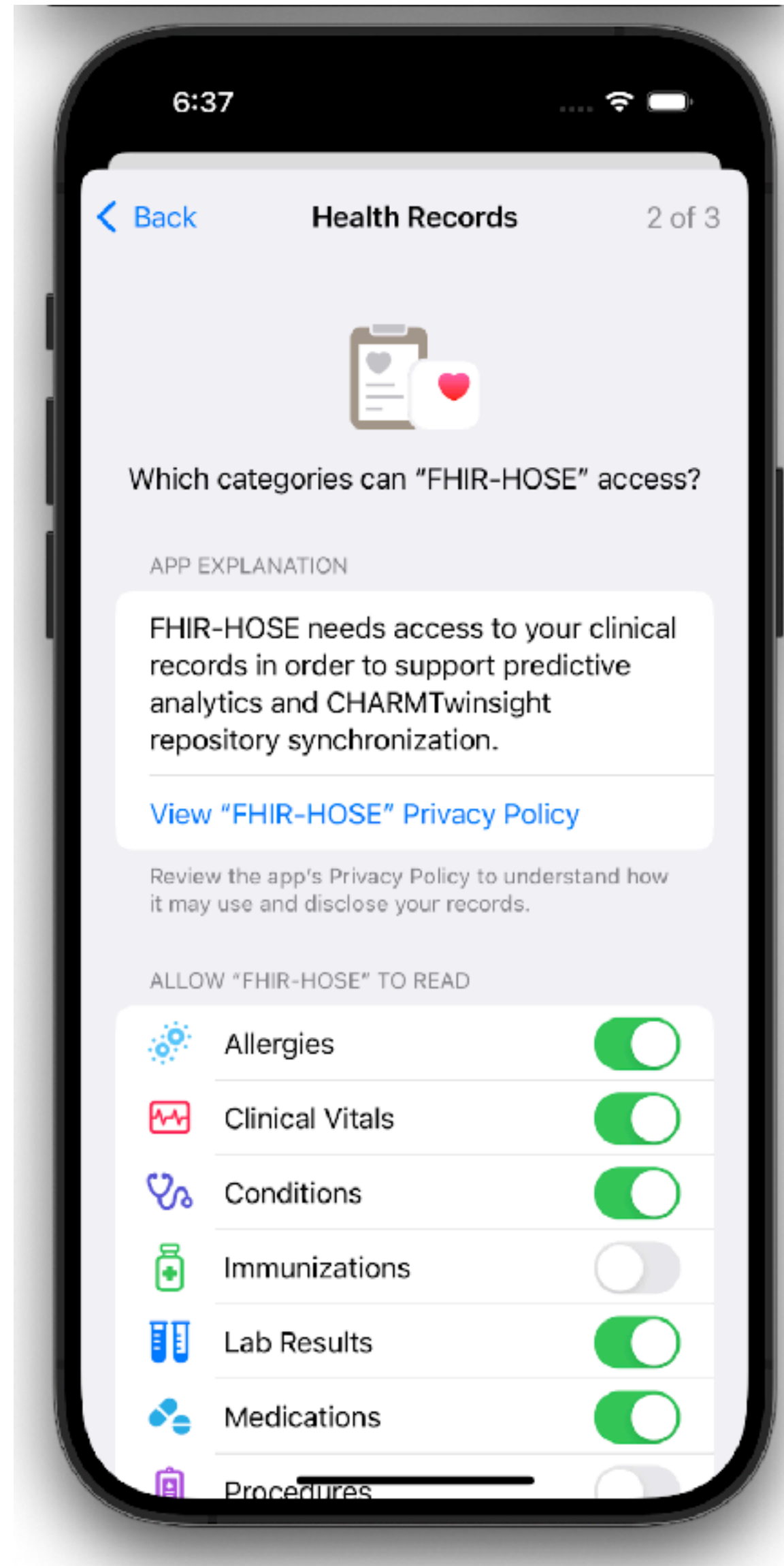
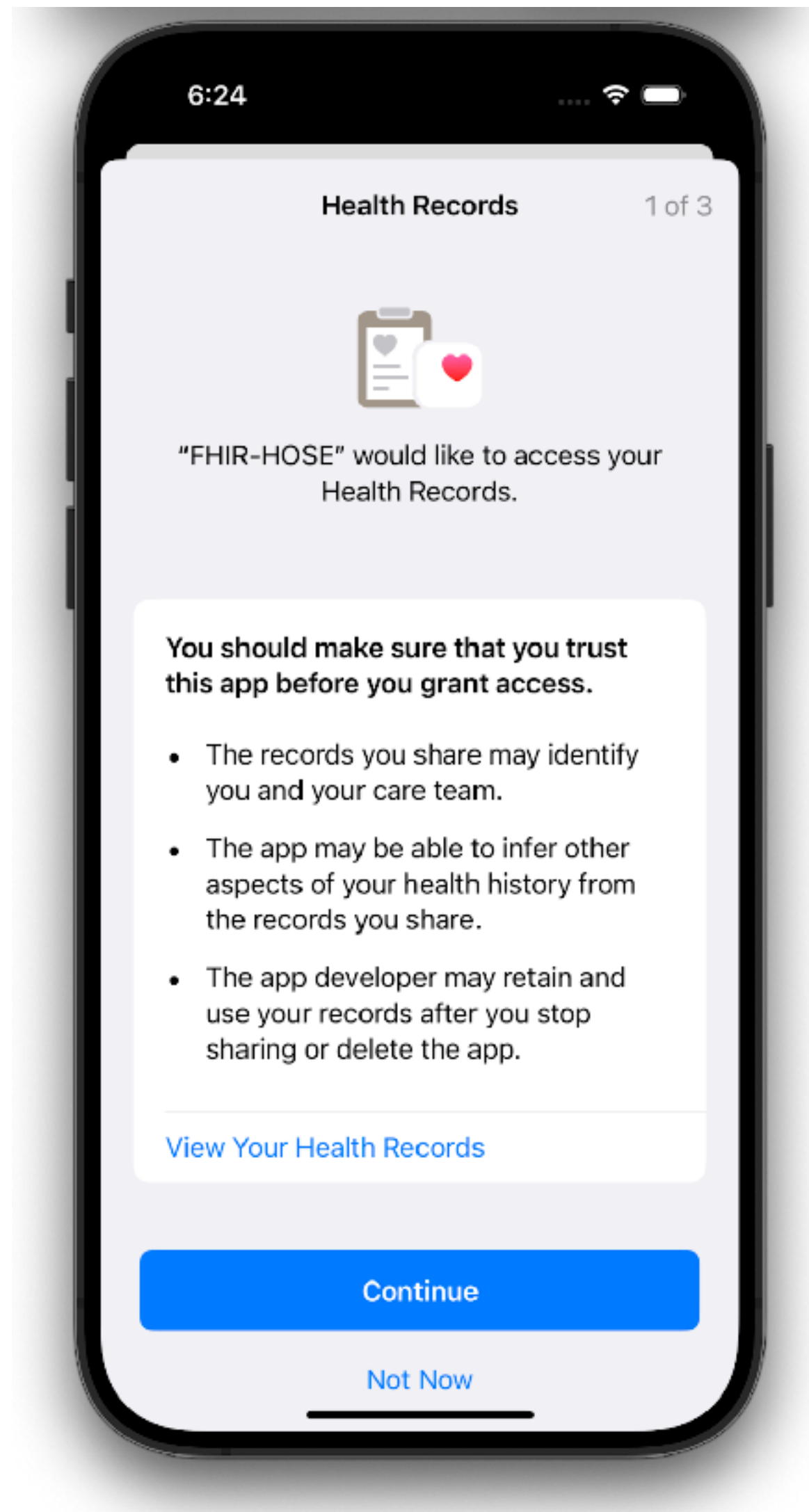


**Collect => Harmonize => Analyze**

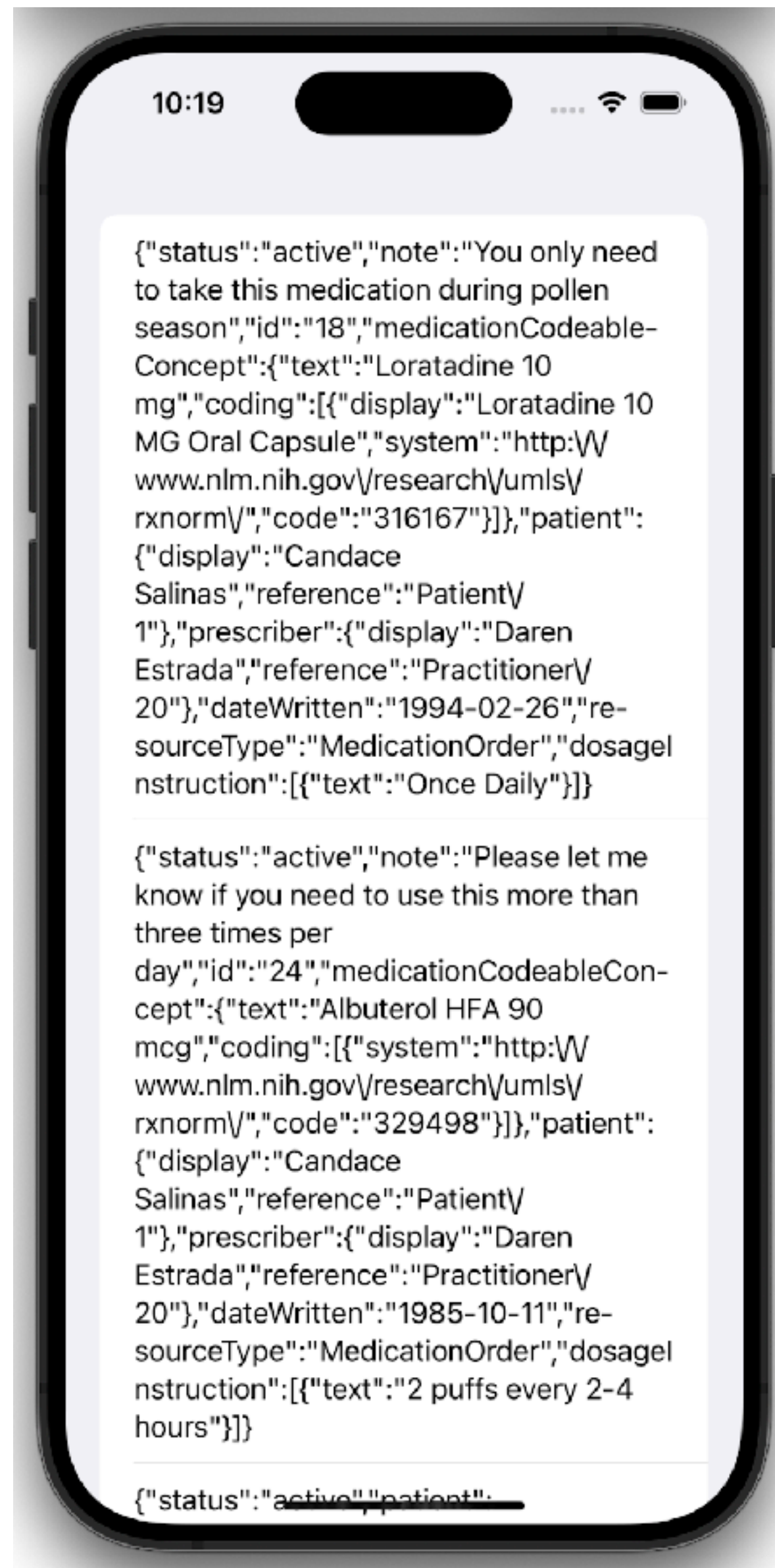


**Ex: Importing patient data via phone**









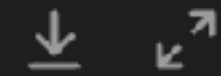
My medical record in an open standards format: FHIR



**Automated analysis: CHARM-GPT**



## Drug Response Profiling Sample Data



	Age	Tumor Size Reduction	Gene Expression Score	Side Effect Severity
1	36	95.98528437324805	90.49512863264476	1.028468876827232
2	49	88.03345035229626	88.63890037284231	1.18482913772405
3	44	91.24217733388136	85.82458280396084	0.0929008254399545
4	40	70.61753482887407	92.23705789444759	1.2150897038028767
5	37	99.09729556485983	82.78987721304084	0.3410482473748306



I need to identify clusters in this drug response profiling data for a new drug for breast cancer. Please conduct a clustering analysis.





Analyzed

python

Always show details



Copy code

```
import pandas as pd

# Load the data
file_path = '/mnt/data/Drug_Response_Profiling_Sample_Data.csv'
data = pd.read_csv(file_path)

# Display the first few rows of the dataframe to understand its structure
data.head()
```

Result

	Age	Tumor Size Reduction (%)	Gene Expression Score \
0	36	95.985284	90.495129
1	49	88.033450	88.638900
2	44	91.242177	85.824583
3	40	70.617535	92.237058
4	37	99.097296	82.789877

Side Effect Severity (0-10)

0	1.028469
1	1.184829
2	0.092901
3	1.215090
4	0.341048

**CHARM-GPT writes code to look at the data and understand its format/structure.**



The dataset contains the following columns:

- **Age:** Age of the patient.
- **Tumor Size Reduction (%):** Percentage reduction in tumor size.
- **Gene Expression Score:** A score representing gene expression levels.
- **Side Effect Severity (0-10):** Severity of side effects on a scale from 0 to 10.



Let's proceed with the clustering analysis. I'll perform k-means clustering to identify clusters in this data.

### Steps:

1. Normalize the data.
2. Determine the optimal number of clusters using the elbow method.
3. Perform k-means clustering.
4. Visualize the clusters.

Let's start with data normalization and determining the optimal number of clusters using the elbow method. [↪]

**CHARM-GPT decides on a strategy for analyzing the data.**



Let's start with data normalization and determining the optimal number of clusters using the elbow method. [↵]

Analyzed

python

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```
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
from sklearn.cluster import KMeans
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# Select the features for clustering
features = data[['Age', 'Tumor Size Reduction (%)', 'Gene Expression Score', 'Side

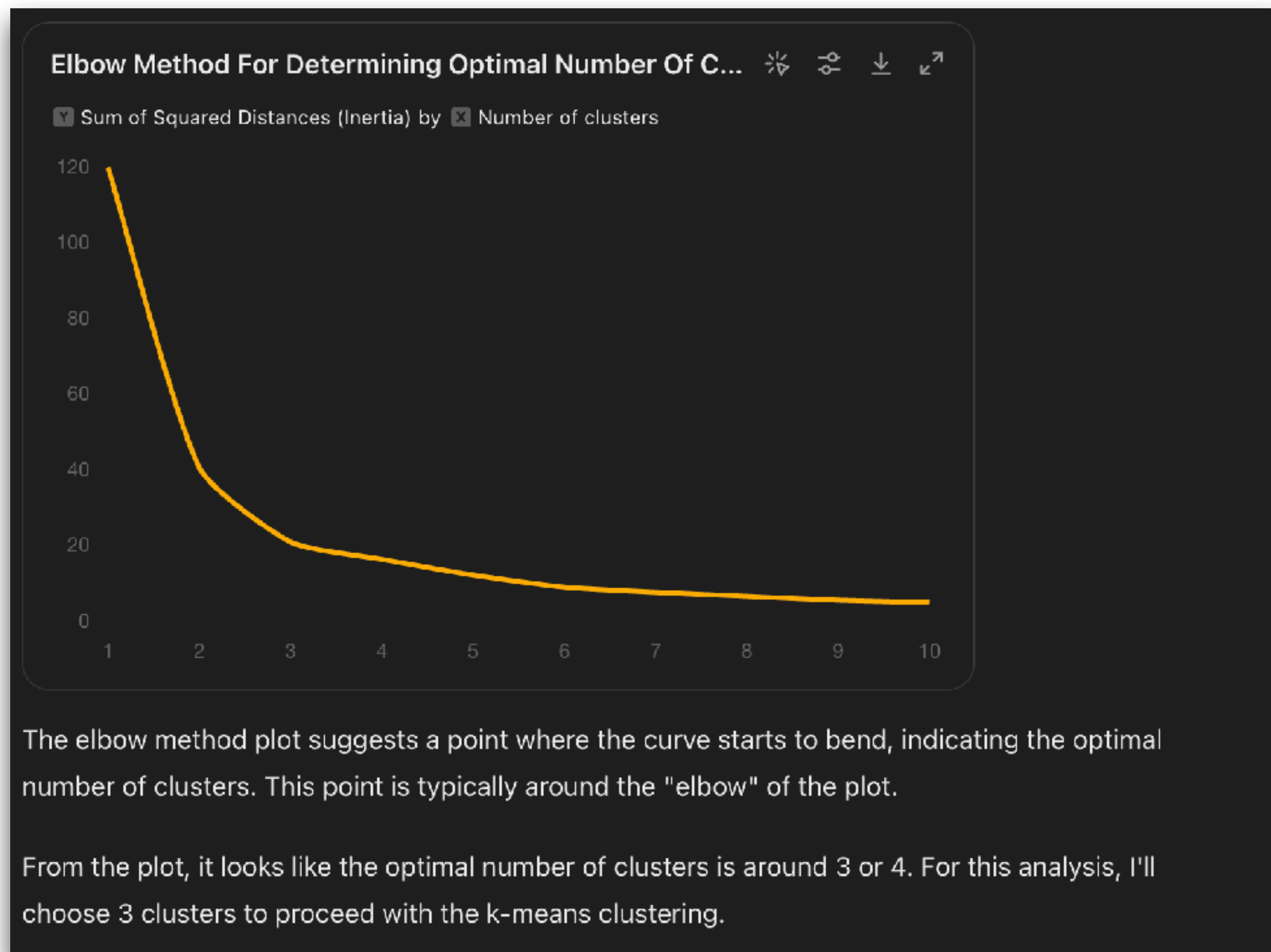
# Normalize the data
scaler = StandardScaler()
normalized_data = scaler.fit_transform(features)

# Determine the optimal number of clusters using the elbow method
sse = []
for k in range(1, 11):
    kmeans = KMeans(n_clusters=k, random_state=0).fit(normalized_data)
    sse.append(kmeans.inertia_)

# Plot the elbow method result
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
plt.plot(range(1, 11, 1), sse, marker='o')
plt.xlabel('Number of clusters')
plt.ylabel('Sum of Squared Distances (Inertia)')
plt.title('Elbow Method for Determining Optimal Number of Clusters')
plt.grid(True)
plt.show()
```

**CHARM-GPT writes code to use the elbow method to estimate the number of clusters.**





**CHARM-GPT estimates 3 clusters from the elbow method.**



Next, I'll perform k-means clustering with 3 clusters and visualize the results. [↗]

Analyzed

python

Always show details  Copy code

```
# Perform k-means clustering with the chosen number of clusters
optimal_clusters = 3
kmeans = KMeans(n_clusters=optimal_clusters, random_state=0)
clusters = kmeans.fit_predict(normalized_data)

# Add the cluster labels to the original data
data['Cluster'] = clusters

# Visualize the clusters in a 3D plot
from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d import Axes3D

fig = plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8))
ax = fig.add_subplot(111, projection='3d')

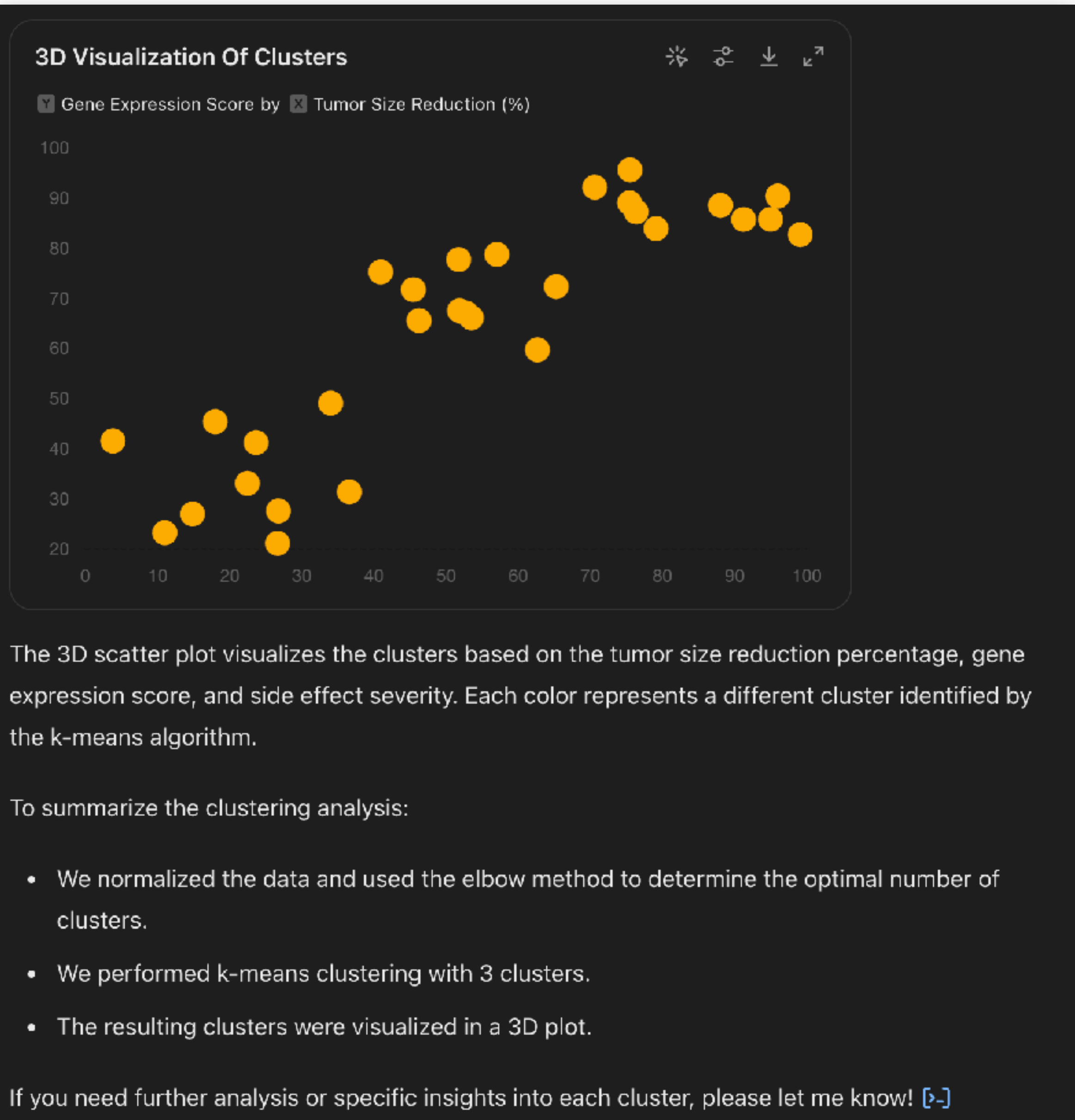
# Scatter plot for each cluster
scatter = ax.scatter(data['Tumor Size Reduction (%)'], data['Gene Expression Score'],
                    c=data['Cluster'], cmap='viridis', s=50, alpha=0.7)
legend1 = ax.legend(*scatter.legend_elements(), title="Clusters")
ax.add_artist(legend1)

# Labels and title
ax.set_xlabel('Tumor Size Reduction (%)')
ax.set_ylabel('Gene Expression Score')
ax.set_zlabel('Side Effect Severity (0-10)')
ax.set_title('3D Visualization of Clusters')

plt.show()
```

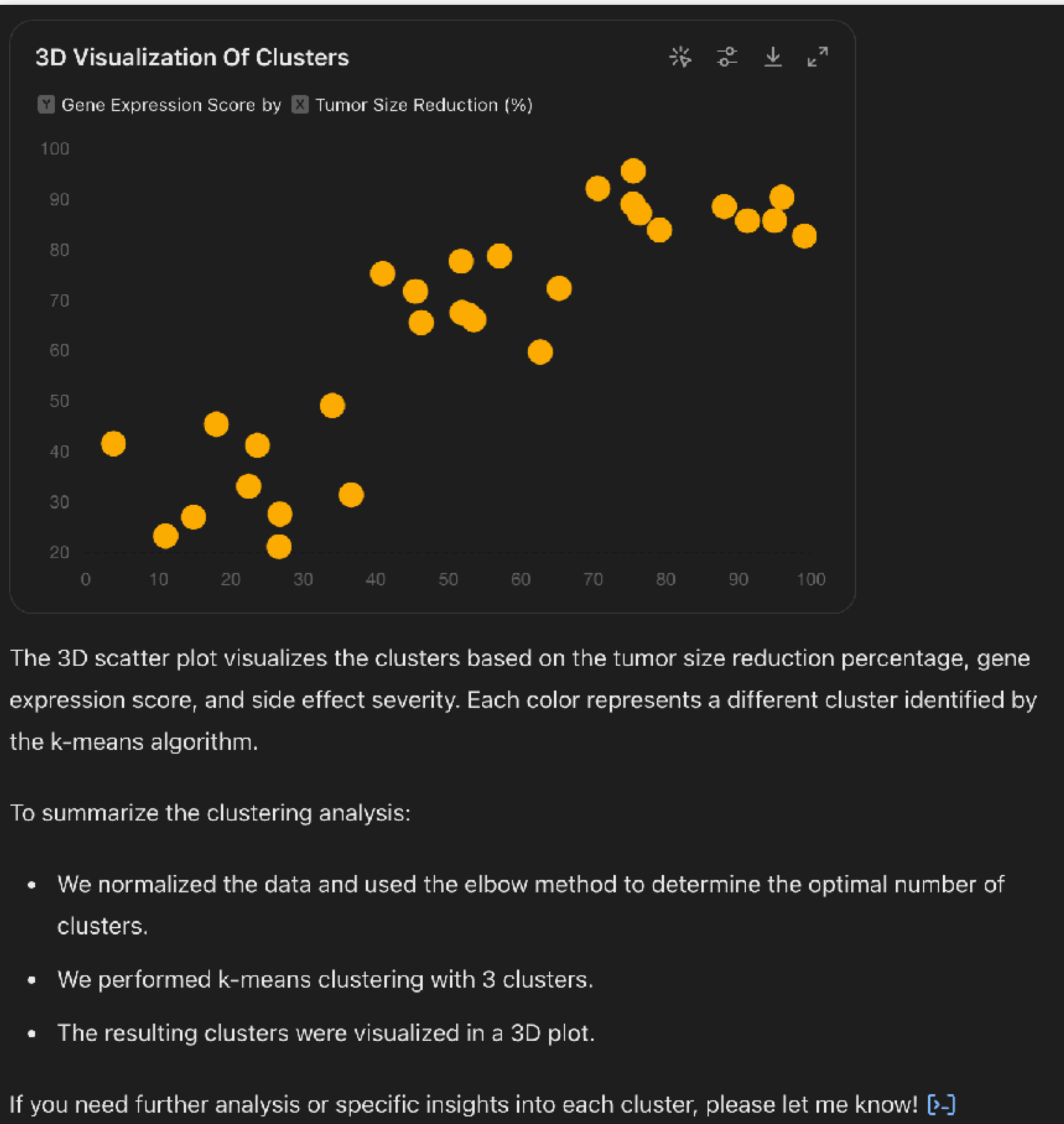
**CHARM-GPT writes code to run k-means clustering with 3 clusters.**





**CHARM-GPT visualizes the 3 clusters.**





**CHARM-GPT visualizes the 3 clusters.**



CHARM-GPT ▾

Looking at the statistics for each cluster, how might one characterize them in English?



## Summary

- **Cluster 0** represents patients with moderate response and moderate side effects.
- **Cluster 1** represents older patients with low response and high side effects.
- **Cluster 2** represents younger patients with high response and low side effects.



**One more moving forward...**



# HealthyDocs: *Secure* medical records: \$10 million



Б. БЭТНБЭЛГЭРДЭВЭЛЭ

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# Tips on ARPA-H proposals



**Highly focused calls**



**Short turnarounds: 3-4 weeks**



**~75 pages for technical section**



**PMs have high discretion**



**Needs a “secret weapon”**



**Makes impossible goal possible**



**Teaming often encouraged**



**Teaming can be forced post-award!**



**So, team or be teamed**

**Deliverables must be delivered**



**Payment *only upon delivery***

**Budgets broken out by milestone**



**Contracting is a nightmare**

**Subcontracting is *awful***



***Risky*** if deliverable spans subs

**Contracting is lethargic**



**MATRIX: Intent to award in Nov**

**MATRIX: *Still* in subcontracting**



**BDF: Intent to award in February**

**BDF: *Still* in subcontracting**



**Use AI for RFA analysis**

**Use AI to make checklist**



**Use AI for proposal critique**

**Use AI for “Task Description Doc”**



**Also, don't use ChatGPT**

**Do use Microsoft Copilot**





**Thank you!**