

Building a Non-Targeted Analysis Research Program at the U.S. EPA

Jon R. Sobus, Ph.D. & the EPA/ORD NTA Team

Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure Research Triangle Park, NC

Current NTA Team



Elin 'Da Boss' Ulrich



Tony 'Stark' Williams



'Dapper' Charlie Lowe



Scott 'The Postman' Clifton



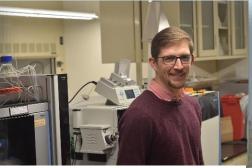
Jon 'Nature Boy' Sobus



Alex 'Can Do' Chao



Mark 'Blue Steel' Strynar



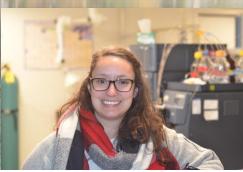
James 'Shake-n-Bake' McCord



Nelson 'Prints' Yeung



Seth 'Nice guy' Newton



Hannah 'Dr. Cool' Liberatore



The Unflappable Ariel Wallace



Tom 'Mystery Man' Purucker



'Adventurin' Jeff Minucci



Key Drivers for 21st Century Exposure Science

1) Understanding causes of disease

"...70-90% of disease risks are probably due to differences in environments"

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Environment and Disease Risks

Stephen M. Rappaport and Martyn T. Smith

lthough the risks of developing chronic diseases are attributed to both genetic and environmental factors, 70 to 90% of disease risks are probably due to differences in environments (1-3). Yet, epidemiologists increasingly use genomewide association studies (GWAS) to investigate diseases, while relying on questionnaires to characterize "environmental exposures." This is because GWAS represent the only approach for exploring the totality of any risk factor (genes, in this case) associated with disease prevalence. Moreover, the value of costly genetic information is diminished when inaccurate and imprecise environmental data lead to biased inferences regarding gene-environment interactions (4). A more comprehensive and quantitative view of environmental expo-

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sure is needed if epidemiologists are to discover the major causes of chronic diseases.

An obstacle to identifying the most important environmental exposures is the fragmentation of epidemiological research along lines defined by different factors. When epidemiologists investigate environmental risks, they tend to concentrate on a particular category of exposures involving air and water pollution, occupation, diet and obesity, stress and behavior, or types of infection. This slicing of the disease pie along parochial lines leads to scientific separation and confuses the definition of the figure). This internal chemical environ-"environmental exposures." In fact, all of ment continually fluctuates during life due these exposure categories can contribute to chronic diseases and should be investigated collectively rather than separately.

To develop a more cohesive view of environmental exposure, it is important to recognize that toxic effects are mediated through

A new paradigm is needed to assess how a lifetime of exposure to environmental factors affects the risk of developing chronic diseases.

chemicals that alter critical molecules, cells, and physiological processes inside the body. Thus, it would be reasonable to consider the "environment" as the body's internal chemical environment and "exposures" as the amounts of biologically active chemicals in this internal environment. Under this view, exposures are not restricted to chemicals (toxicants) entering the body from air. water, or food, for example, but also include chemicals produced by inflammation, oxidative stress, lipid peroxidation, infections, gut flora, and other natural processes (5, 6) (see to changes in external and internal sources, aging, infections, life-style, stress, psychosocial factors, and preexisting diseases.

The term "exposome" refers to the totality of environmental exposures from conception onwards, and has been proposed to be a

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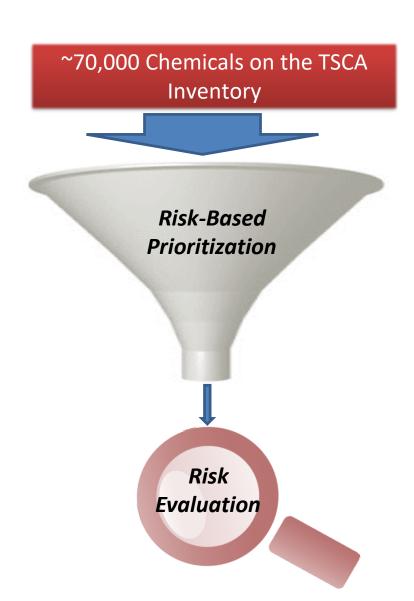
2) Ensuring chemical safety





High-Throughput Risk Characterization

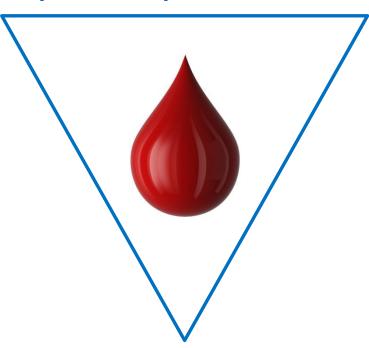
- Many industrial & commercial chemicals are covered by the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), which is administered by EPA.
- TSCA updated in June 2016 to allow risk-based evaluation of existing and new chemicals.
- Characterization of risk requires exposure and hazard data.
- EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) is developing new approach methodologies (NAMs) for rapid risk characterization.
- NTA is a promising NAM, but requires careful evaluation and implementation





NTA Research Produces Critical Data

Top-Down Exposomics via NTA



Measure Important Exposures Within the Receptor

Editorial

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realized single i

Complementing the Genome with an "Exposome": The Outstanding Challenge of Environmental **Exposure Measurement in Molecular Epidemiology**

Christopher Paul Wild

Molecular Epidemiology Unit, Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Leeds Institute of Genetics, Health and Therapeutics, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom

The sequencing and mapping of the human genome UK Biobank will recruit half a million people at a cost of and protein function, and the identification of the biochemical pathways implicated in the natural history of chronic diseases, including cancer, diabetes, and vascular and neurodegenerative diseases. This knowledge may consequently offer oppor-

provides a foundation for the elucidation of gene expression around £60 million (\$110 million) in the initial phase. The proposal to establish a "Last Cohort" of 1 million people in the United States (7) or a similar-sized Asian cohort (8) would presumably exceed this sum. In each case, the high cost is heavily influenced by the collection and banking of biological tunities for a more effective treatment and improved patient material. This expense is predicated on the assumption that

All "...life-course environmental exposures (including lifestyle factors) from the prenatal period onwards..."

constitute the major health burden in economically developed countries (3, 4). Despite this, many exposure-disease associations remain ill defined and the complex interplay with genetic susceptibility is only beginning to be addressed. This raises the question as to whether fundamental knowledge about genetics will improve understanding of disease etiology at the population level.

The new generation of mega-cohort studies, including the UK Biobank or similar proposed US and Asian cohorts (5-8), provides the framework for such investigations of genetic variation, environment, lifestyle, and chronic disease. At the same time, they represent substantial investment. For example,

Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev 2005;14(8):1847-50 Grant support: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (USA) grant no. ES0605 Copyright © 2005 American Association for Cancer Research.

loi:10.1158/1055-9965.EP1-05-0456

case-control study design. For laboratories involved in molecular cancer epidemiology, gene-disease association studies offered rapid gains in research output. The literature is now replete with meta-analyses of these data. The studies that have been conducted have, by some accounts, yielded only a modicum of success with relatively few reproducible findings (see for example ref. 12). More recently, improvements in study design have been suggested, notably by increasing subject numbers and by analyzing multiple polymorphisms, of functional relevance (13). A more comprehensive coverage of the genome and the possibility to examine the interplay between single nucleotide polymorphisms are now feasible through the application of microarray technology (14). It is predictable that as costs decrease, there will emerge analyses of existing studies on a grander scale. The consequence may not be greater clarity but a greater number of chance findings and an increasing difficulty of dealing with the sheer volume of data in the absence of parallel advances in data analysis. Things may get worse before they get better.

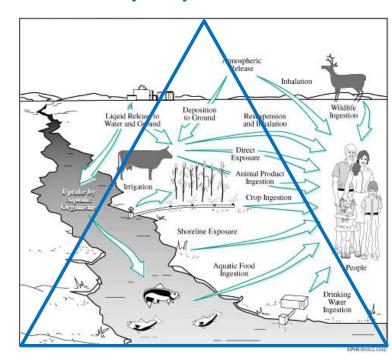
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Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev 2005;14(8). August 2005

Downloaded from cebp.aacrjournals.org on August 5, 2015. @ 2005 American Association for Cancel

Bottom-Up Exposomics via NTA



Measure Important Exposures in All Relevant Media

Figure adapted from: Rappaport SM. J Expo Sci Environ Epidemiol. 2011 Jan-Feb;21(1):5-9.



Our HRMS Tools of the Trade



Agilent 6530B LC/Q-TOF



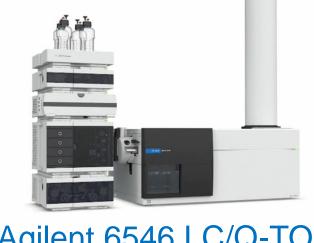
Thermo GC/Q Exactive Hybrid Quad-Orbitrap



Thermo LC/Orbitrap **Fusion Tribrid**



Coming Soon!!



Agilent 6546 LC/Q-TOF



NTA Applications at EPA

Exposure surveillance

What chemicals are in water, products, dust, blood, etc.?

Chemical prioritization

What are relevant chemicals & mixtures?

Exposure forensics

What are chemical signatures of exposure sources?

Biomarker discovery

What chemicals are associated with health impairment?



Exposure Surveillance for Consumer Products

Environmental Science & Technology

Cite This: Environ. Sci. Technol. 2018, 52, 3125-3135

pubs.acs.org/est

Suspect Screening Analysis of Chemicals in Consumer Products

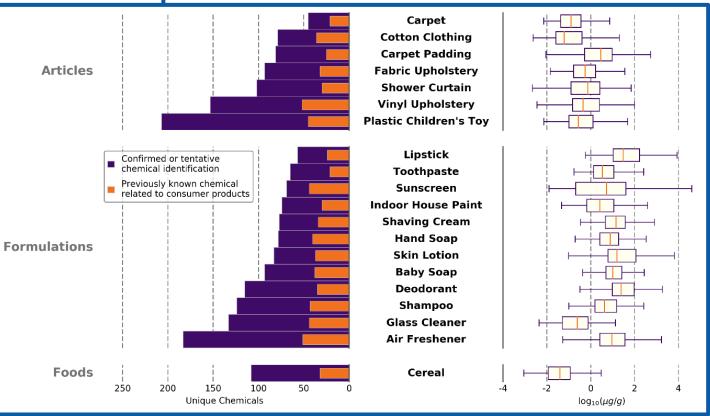
Katherine A. Phillips, †® Alice Yau, *Kristin A. Favela, *Kristin K. Isaacs, Andrew McEachran, Antropher Grulke, Ann. M. Richard, Antony J. Williams, Jon R. Sobus, Russell S. Thomas,

and John F. Wambaugh*, |

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19% of chemicals identified by NTA are on consumer product chemical lists



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Chemical Prioritization for Drinking Water

Environmental Pollution 234 (2018) 297-306



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environmental Pollution

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/envpol



Suspect screening and non-targeted analysis of drinking water using point-of-use filters*

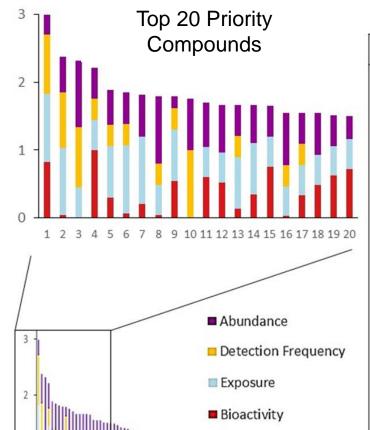


Seth R. Newton ^{a, *}, Rebecca L. McMahen ^{a, b}, Jon R. Sobus ^a, Kamel Mansouri ^{b, c, 1}, Antony J. Williams ^c, Andrew D. McEachran ^{b, c}, Mark J. Strynar ^a

- ^a United States Environmental Protection Agency, National Exposure Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, United States
- b Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education Research Participant, 109 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, United States
- Cunited States Environmental Protection Agency, National Center for Computational Toxicology, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, United States







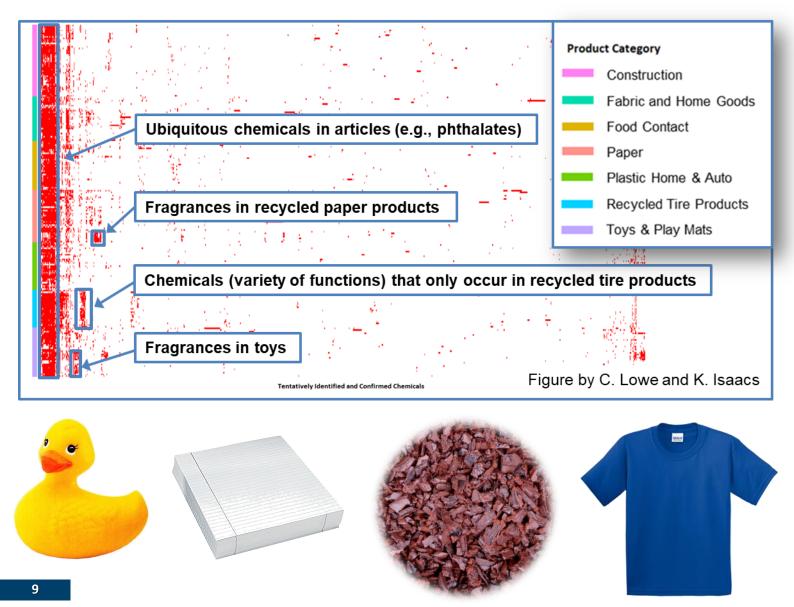
#	Compound	ToxPi Score	
1	1,2-Benzisothiazolin-3-one*	2.99	
2	Diethyleneglycol	2.38	
3	N-[3-(Dimethylamino)propyl] methacrylamide	2.32	
4	Nonylparaben	2.22	
5	Dipentyl phthalate	1.89	
6	2-[2-(2-Butoxyethoxy) ethoxy]ethanol*	1.85	
7	N,N-Dimethyldodecan- 1-amine*	1.81	
8	Sucralose	1.80	
9	PFOS*	1.79	
10	2-(2-Ethoxyethoxy) ethyl acetate*	1.76	
11	TDCPP*	1.71	
12	Zearalanol	1.67	
13	PFOA*	1.66	
14	Butylparaben	1.66	
15	Noristerat	1.65	
16	p-Synephrine	1.55	
17	Alprostadil	1.55	
18	Sclareol	1.55	
19	PFDA*	1.51	
20	Simvastatin	1.50	

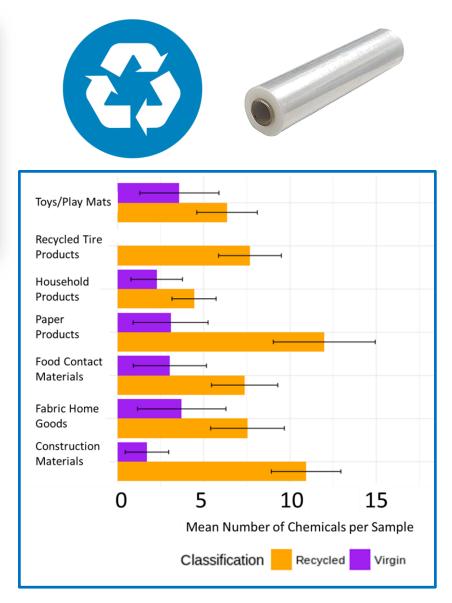
*Confirmed with standard

Top 100 Priority Compounds



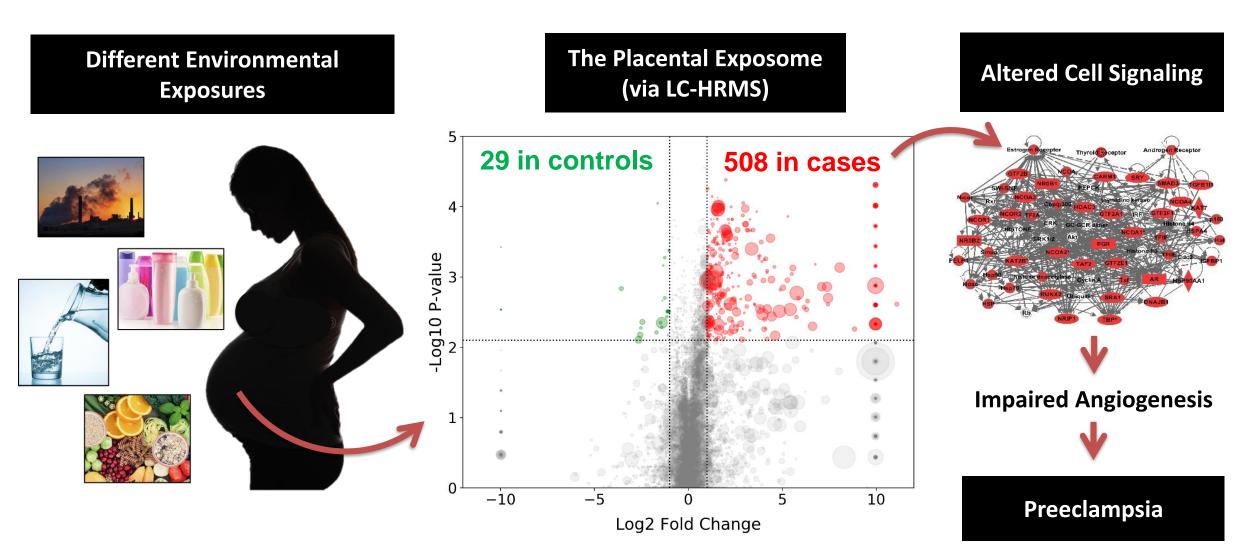
Exposure Forensics for Recycled Products







Biomarker Discovery for Placenta Samples



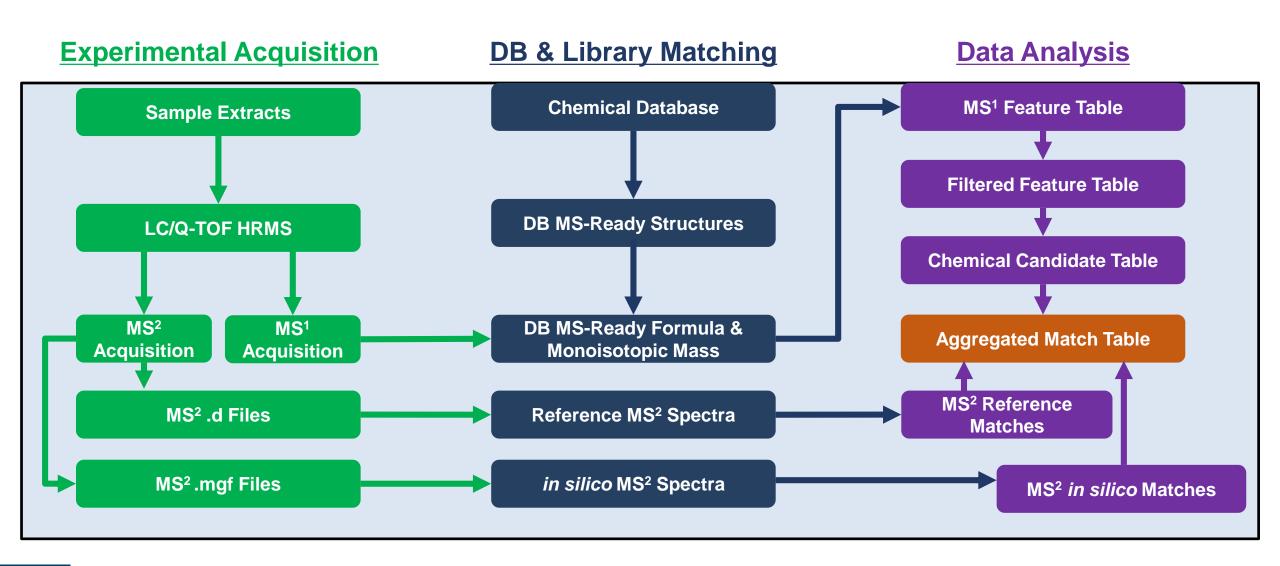


NTA Best Practices

Name	Example	Purpose
Tracers	Isotopically labeled standards: ¹³ C ₃ -Atrazine, D ₃ -Thiamethoxam, ¹³ C ₄ , ¹⁵ N ₂ -Fipronil	Allows tracking of chromatographic performance and mass accuracy
Replication	Triplicate injections of same sample vial	Removes risk of "one hit wonder"
Run order randomization	8, 3, 7, 4, 2, 1, 10, 5, 8, 6, 9, 2, 5, 4, 1, 9, 4, 7, 3, 8, 1, 6, 10, 9, 6, 7, 5, 3, 2, 10	Minimizes/averages out batch or sample order effects (e.g., carryover, temp & instrument drift)
Pooled QC sample	Combine 5 mg/µL from each of 10 samples (total 50 mg/µL) prior to extract to create pooled QC	Separate confirmation of presence with different matrix, MS2 IDs
Blanks	Solvent, method, matrix, double blanks	Allows identification/subtraction/deletion of interferences introduced in lab processes
Multiple lines of evidence for ID	RT prediction/matching, spectra prediction/matching, data source ranking, functional/product uses, media occurrence	Improves confidence in identification when chemicals standards are unavailable

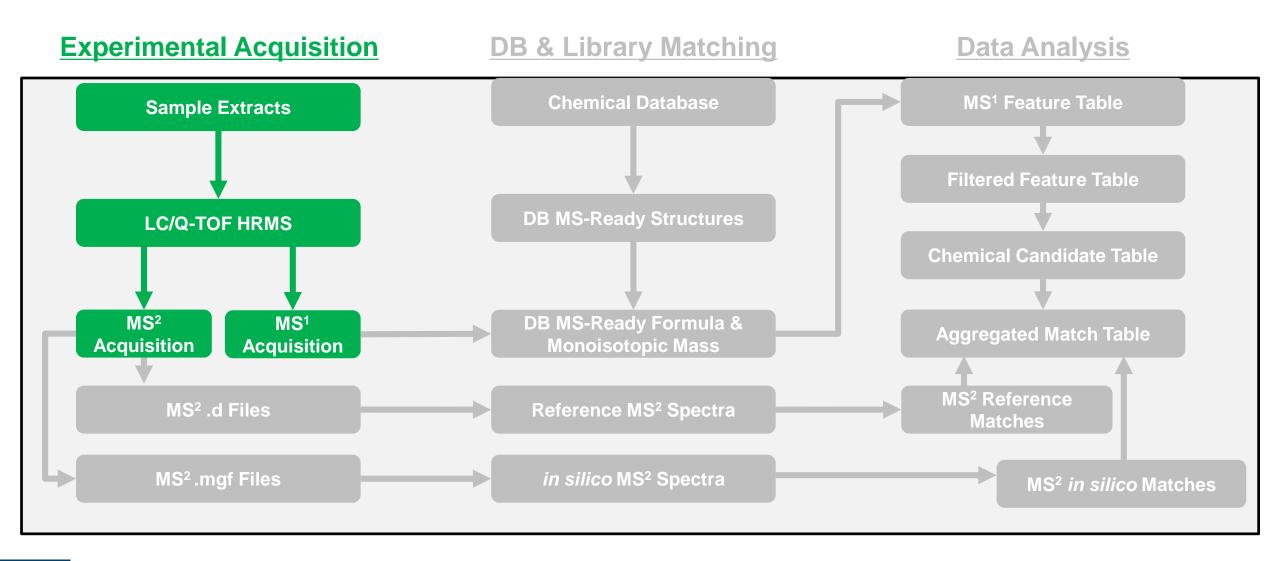


Agilent LC/Q-TOF Simplified Workflow





Agilent LC/Q-TOF Simplified Workflow

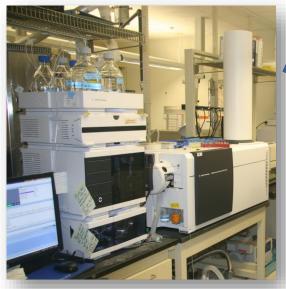




Experimental Acquisition



1,269 **Substances** in 10 **Mixtures**



Agilent 6530B Q-TOF

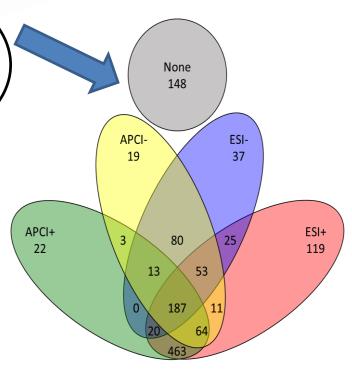


RP vs. HILIC

ESI vs. APCI

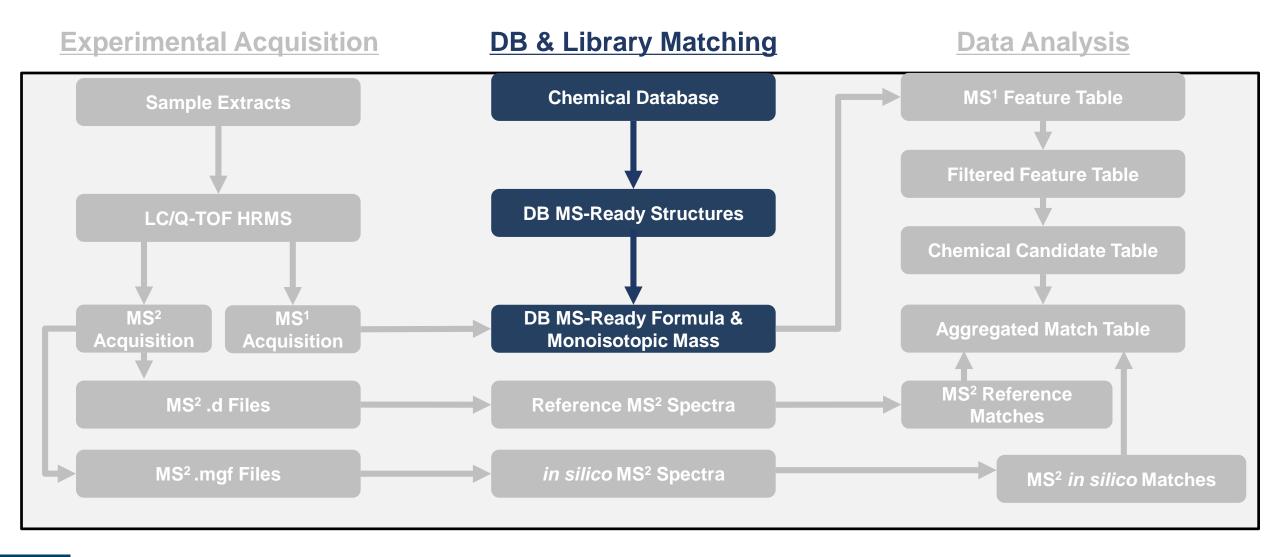








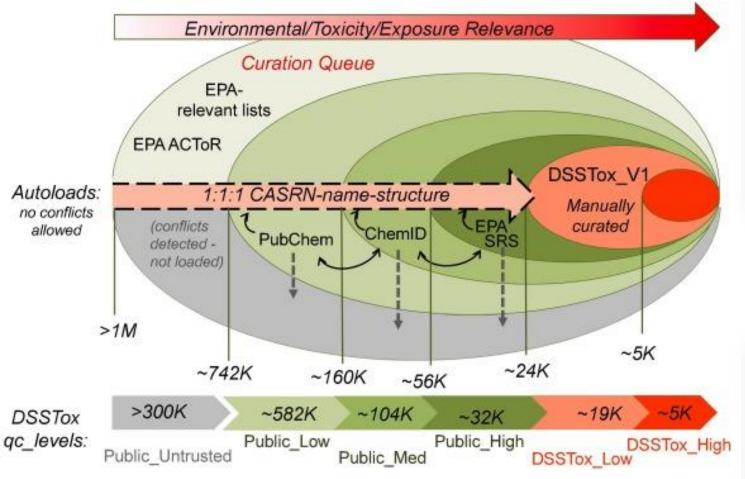
Agilent LC/Q-TOF Simplified Workflow





Chemical Database = DSSTox

ELSEVIER





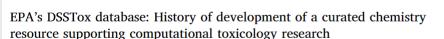
Computational Toxicology 12 (2019) 100096

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Computational Toxicology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/comtox







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b Senior Environmental Employment Program, US Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, USA

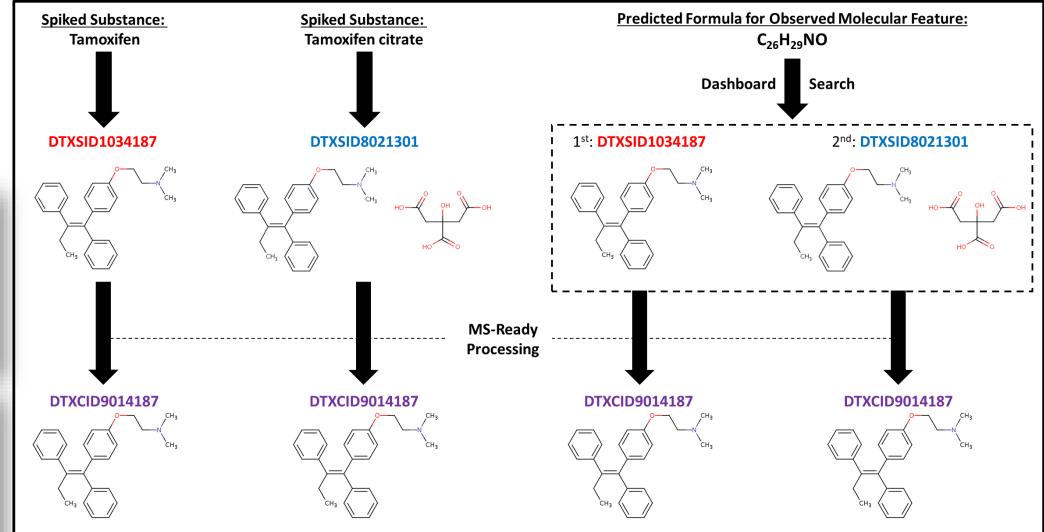


MS-Ready Structures



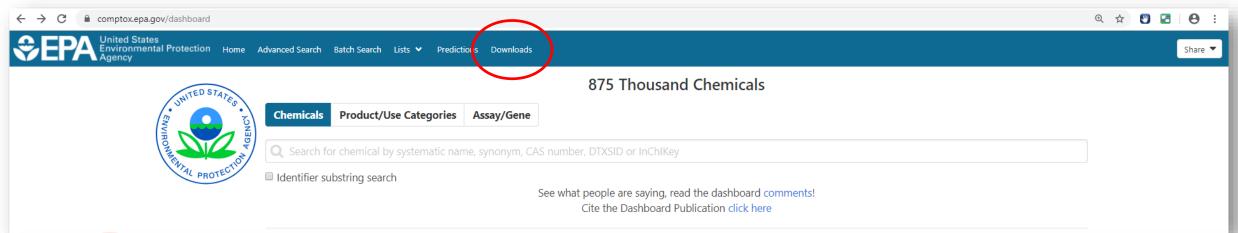






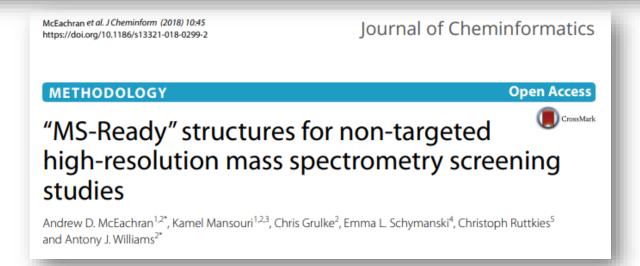


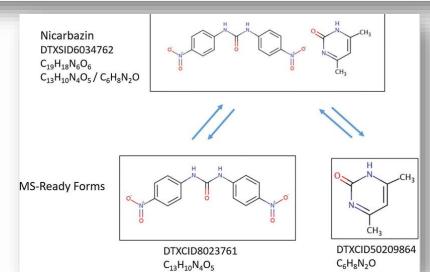
Dashboard Access



DSSTox MS Ready Mapping File

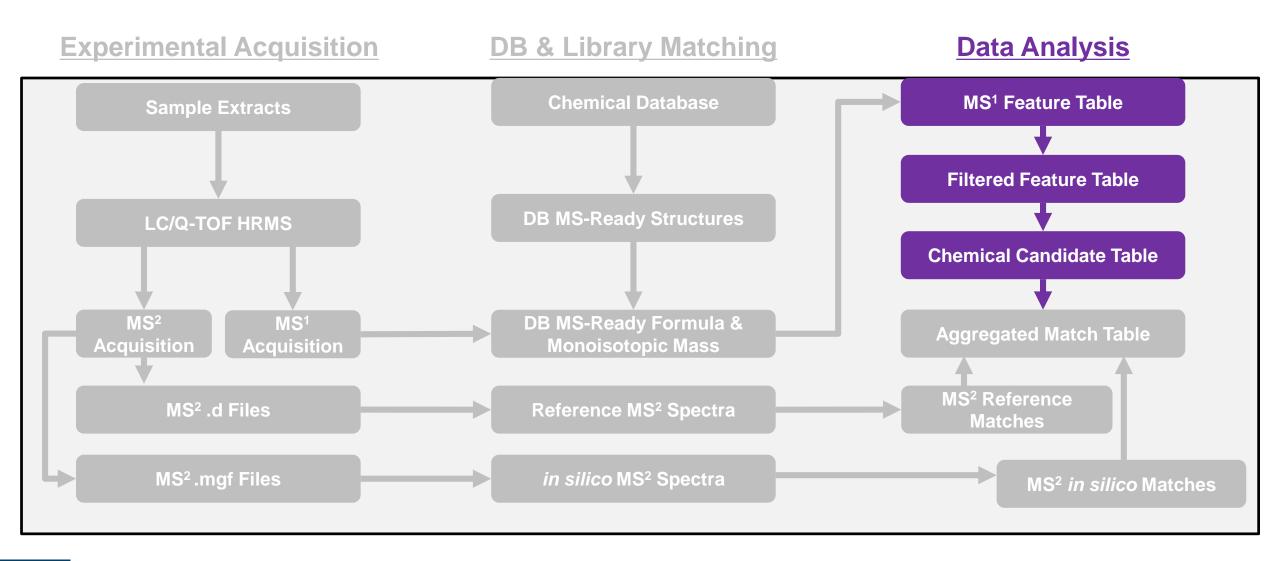
Posted: 11/14/2016 The CompTox Chemistry Dashboard can be used by mass spectrometrists for the purpose of structure identification. A normal formula search would search the exact formula associated with any chemical, whether it include solvents of hydration, salts or multiple components. However, mass spectrometry detects ionized chemical structures and molecular formulae searches should be based on desalted, and desolvated structures with stereochemistry removed. We refer to these as "MS ready structures" and the MS-ready mappings are delivered as Excel Spreadsheets containing the Preferred Name, CAS-RN, DTXSID, Formula, Formula of the MS-ready structure and associated masses, SMILES and InChI Strings/Keys. (UPDATED APRIL 2019)







Agilent LC/Q-TOF Simplified Workflow





EPA NTA WebApp







Feature Removal:

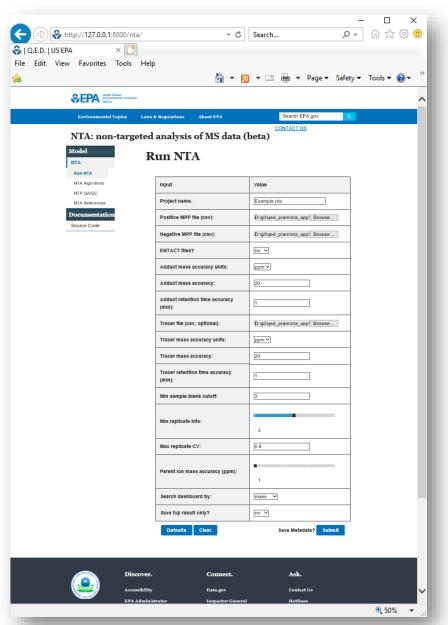
- 1) Duplicate features
- 2) Non-reproducible features
- 3) Blank features (sample:blank)
- 4) Non-responsive features (dilutions)

Feature Flagging:

- 1) Multi-mode hits (+ and -)
- 2) Meas. precision (CV threshold)
- 3) Formula match (score ≥ threshold)
- 4) Negative mass defect
- 5) Halogenation
- 6) Has/is adduct
- 7) Has/is neutral loss
- 8) Has/is multimer

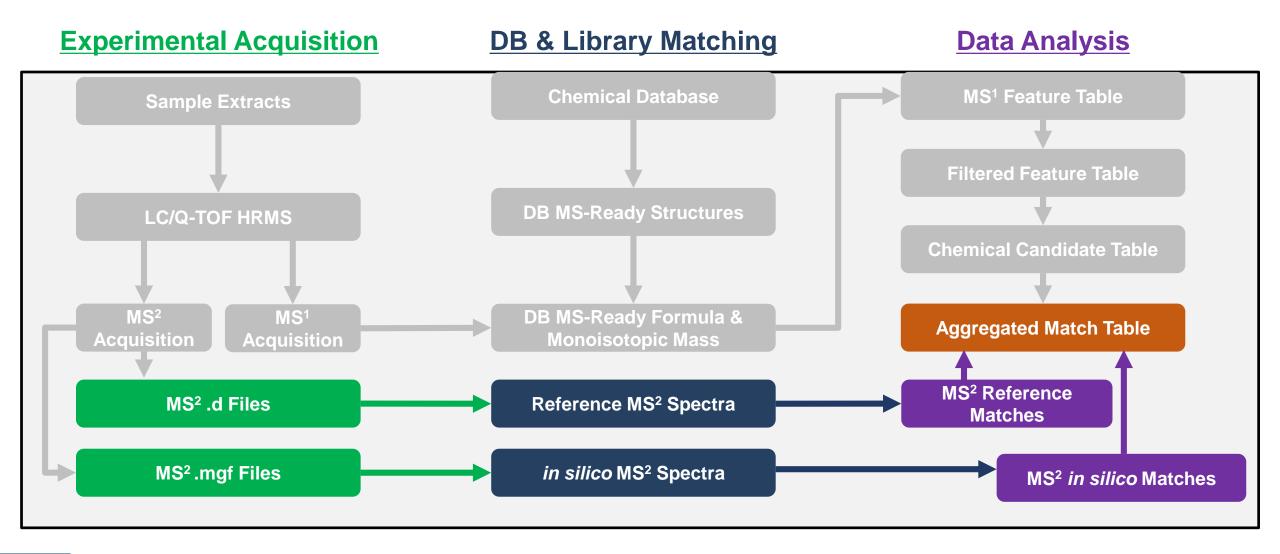
Dashboard Integration:

- 1) Data source & pub counts
- 2) Bioactivity & exposure levels
- 3) Presence on lists
- 4) Product & use categories



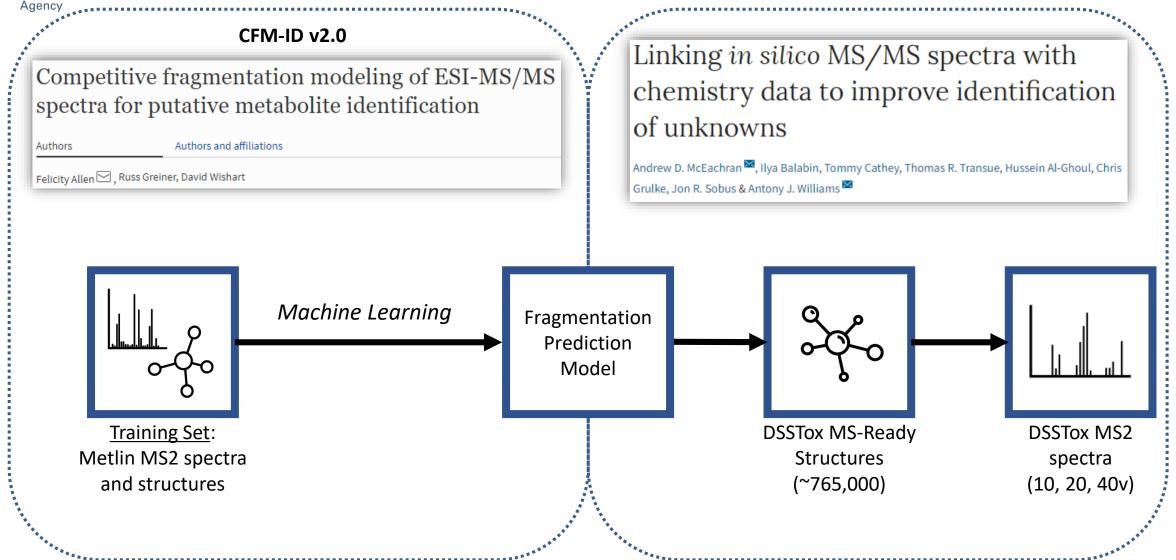


Agilent LC/Q-TOF Simplified Workflow

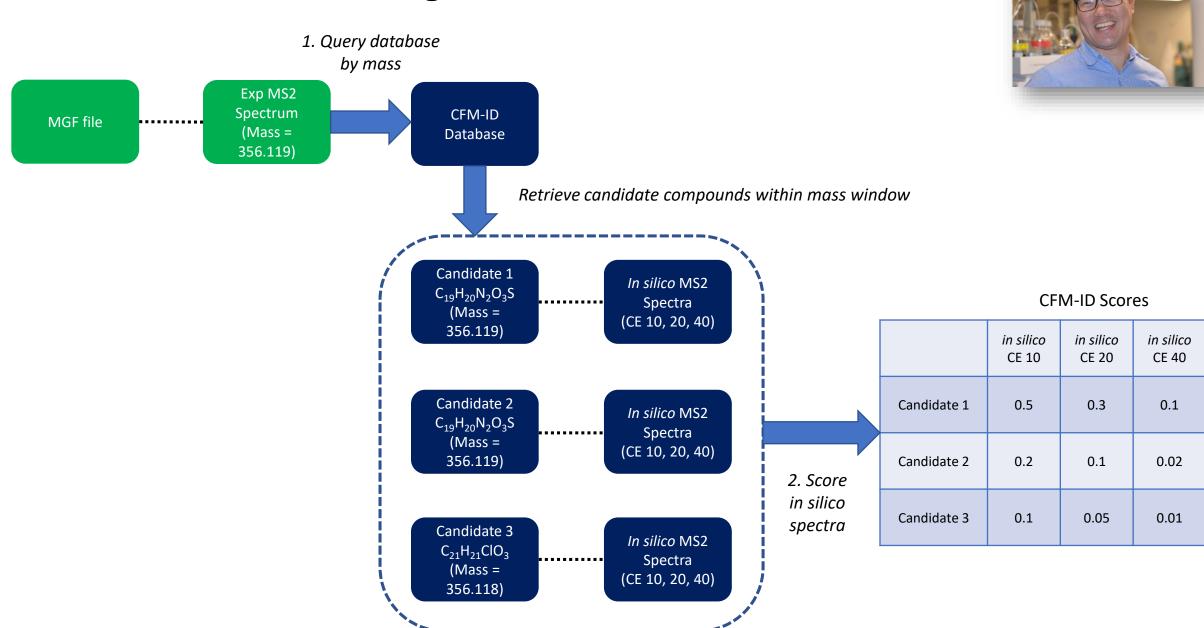




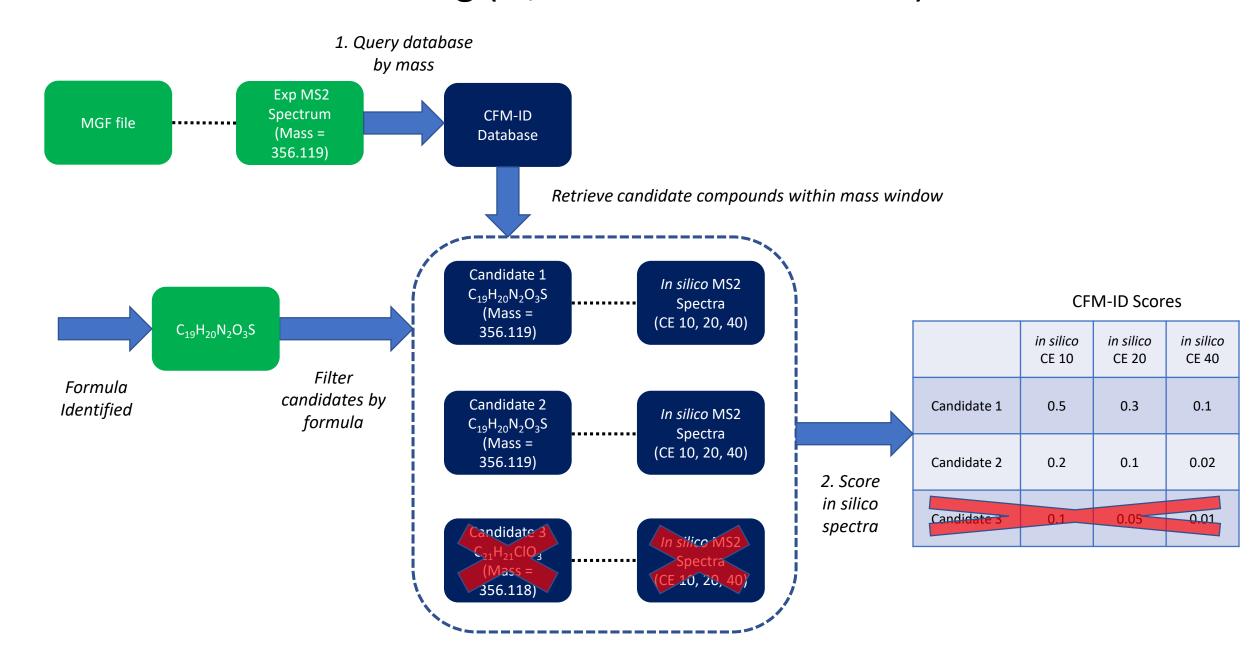
Generation of in silico Spectra



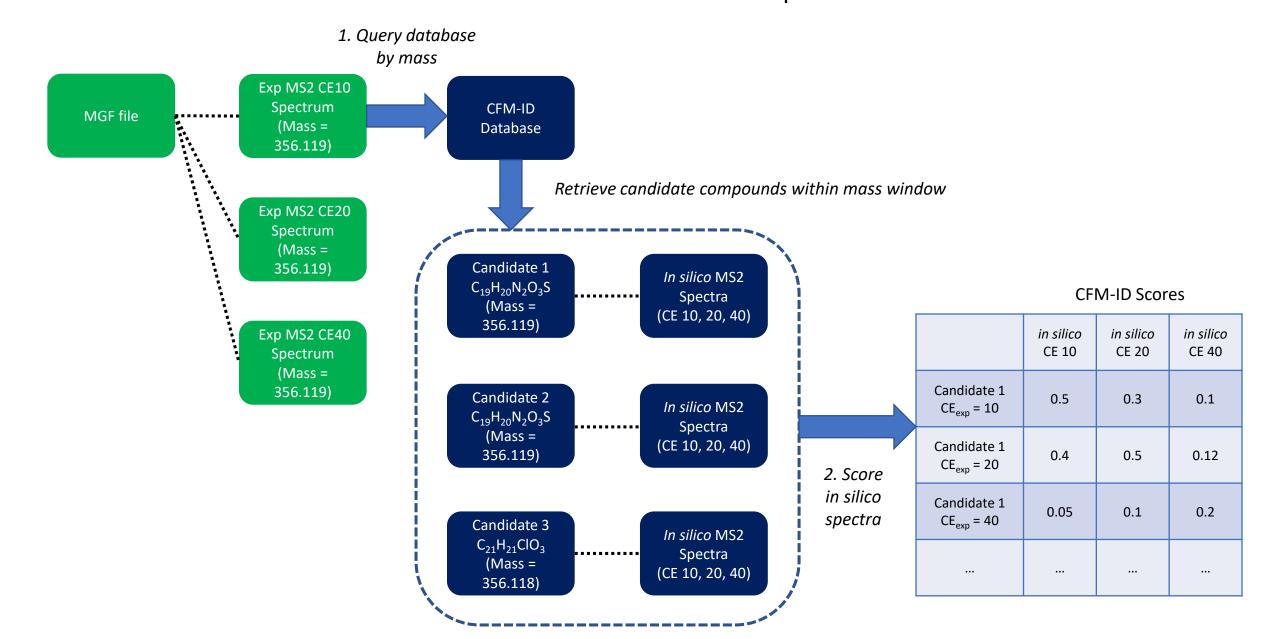
CFM-ID Database Matching



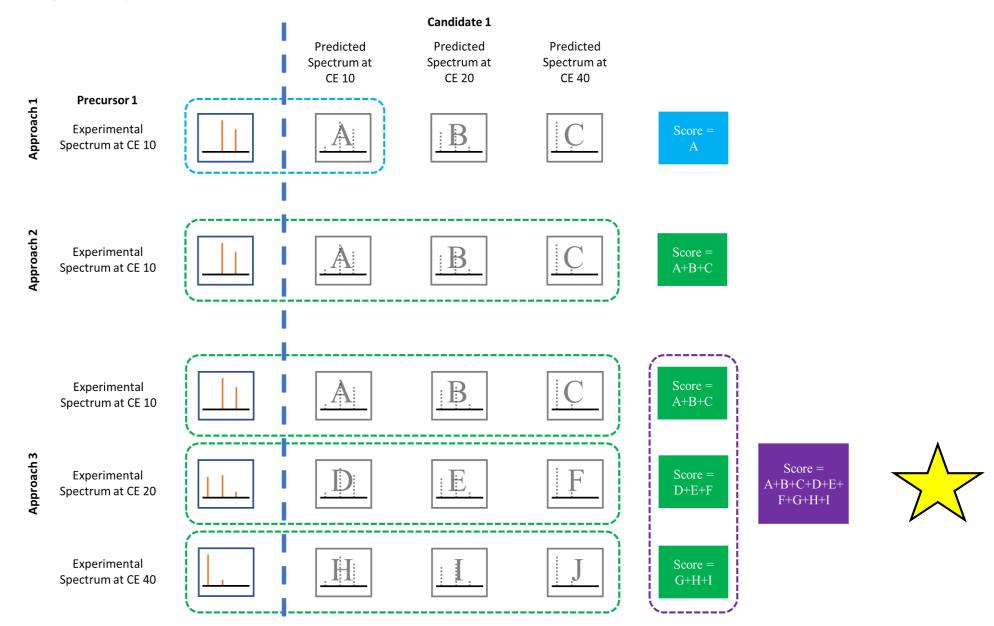
CFM-ID Database Matching (w/ Formula Information)



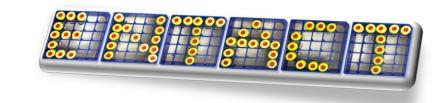
CFM-ID Database Matching (w/ Multiple CE_{experimental})



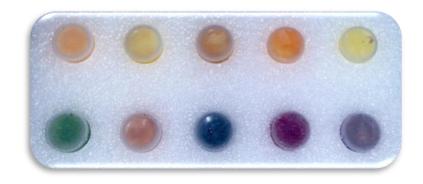
CFM-ID Scoring Approaches



EPA'S Non-Targeted Analysis Collaborative Trial



The Trial Mixtures:



10 Mixtures ranging from 95 to 365 compounds (Total: 1,269 unique compounds)

"Pass" compounds = 377 with MS2 data

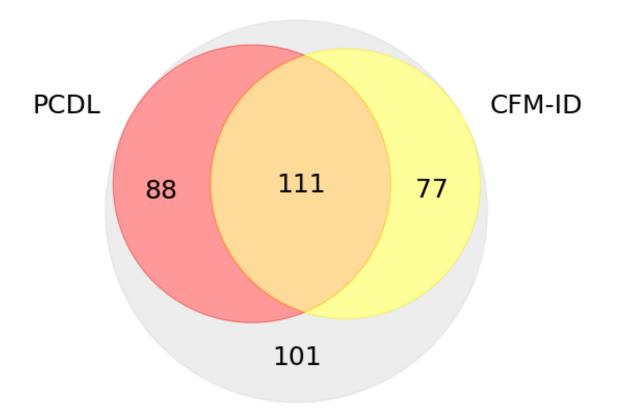
EPA Setup:



Agilent 1290 UPLC
Agilent 6530B Q-TOF with ESI source



Reference vs. in silico Library Coverage



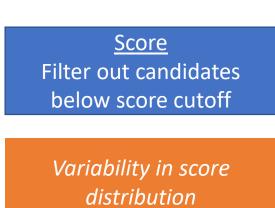
MS2 Library	% of "Pass" Compounds Identified
Agilent PCDL	53%
CFM-ID Top Hit	50%
PCDL and/or CFM-ID Top Hit	73%

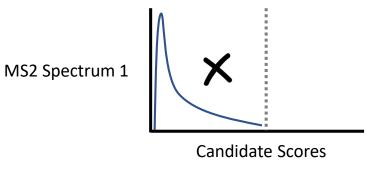
"Pass" Compounds

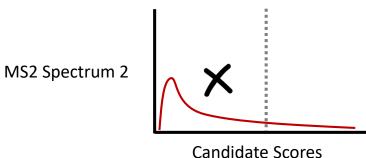
PCDL → Agilent reference MS² library

"Pass" compounds (n=377) → ENTACT chemicals observed with MS² data

NTA Workflows: Using CFM-ID Results as Filters

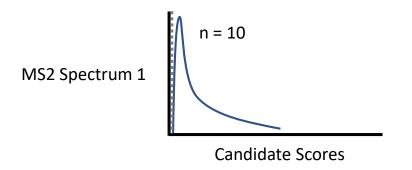




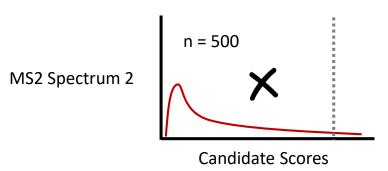


Rank Filter out candidates above rank cutoff

Variability in number of candidate compounds



Filter by Top 20



Normalizing CFM-ID Results Values

Score Quotient
Normalize score to the
highest candidate
compound score

Score Percentile
Normalize rank to the
number of candidate
compounds

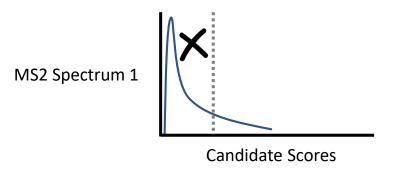
	Rank	CFM-ID Score	Maximum Score	Score Quotient	Score Percentile
Candidate Compound 1	1	0.5	0.5	1	100
Candidate Compound 2	2	0.4	0.5	0.8	80
Candidate Compound 3	3	0.39	0.5	0.78	60
Candidate Compound 4	4	0.1	0.5	0.2	40
Candidate Compound 5	5	0.05	0.5	0.1	20

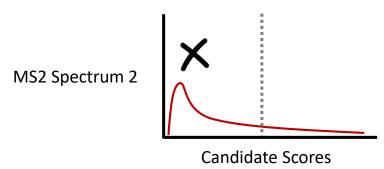
Score Quotient = Score / Maximum Score

NTA Workflows: Using CFM-ID Normalized Results as Filters

Score Quotient
Filter out candidates
below score quotient
cutoff

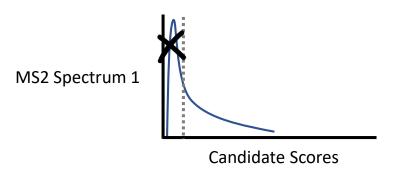
Score quotient cutoff = 0.5
Keep candidates scoring at least half of max score

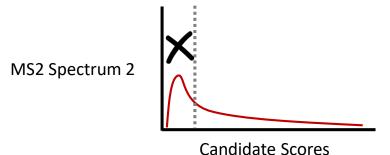




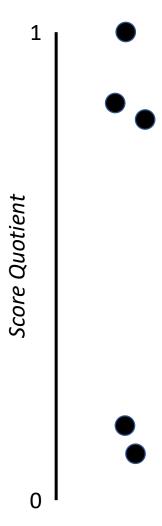
Score Percentile
Filter out candidates
below percentile cutoff

Score percentile cutoff = 0.5 Keep the top 50% of candidates





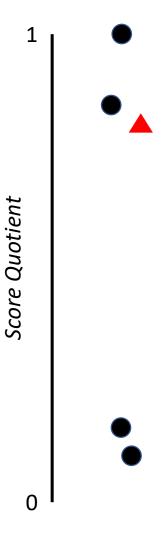
	CFM-ID Score	Maximum Score	Score Quotient
Candidate Compound 1	0.5	0.5	1
Candidate Compound 2	0.4	0.5	0.8
Candidate Compound 3	0.39	0.5	0.78
Candidate Compound 4	0.1	0.5	0.2
Candidate Compound 5	0.05	0.5	0.1



	CFM-ID Score	Maximum Score	Score Quotient
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Candidate Compound 2	0.4	0.5	0.8
Candidate Compound 3	0.39	0.5	0.78
Candidate Compound 4	0.1	0.5	0.2
Candidate Compound 5	0.05	0.5	0.1

- ▲ True Compound
- Other Candidate Compounds

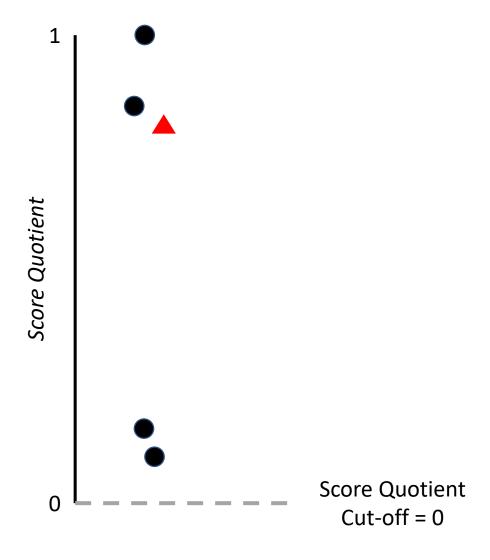
True Positives	
False Negatives	
True Negatives	
False Positives	



	CFM-ID Score	Maximum Score	Score Quotient
Candidate Compound 1	0.5	0.5	1
Candidate Compound 2	0.4	0.5	0.8
Candidate Compound 3	0.39	0.5	0.78
Candidate Compound 4	0.1	0.5	0.2
Candidate Compound 5	0.05	0.5	0.1

- ▲ True Compound
- Other Candidate Compounds

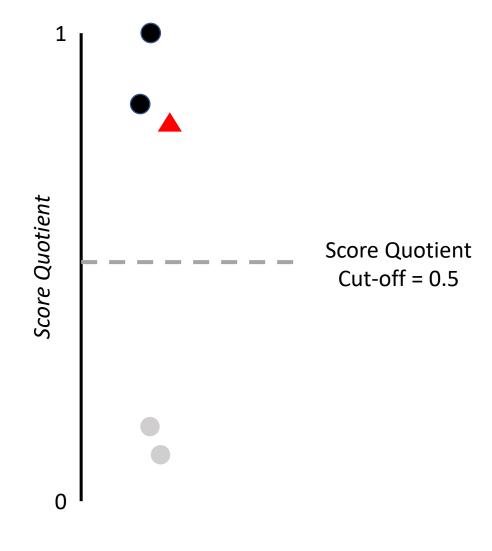
True Positives	1
False Negatives	0
True Negatives	0
False Positives	4



	CFM-ID Score	Maximum Score	Score Quotient
Candidate Compound 1	0.5	0.5	1
Candidate Compound 2	0.4	0.5	0.8
Candidate Compound 3	0.39	0.5	0.78
Candidate Compound 4	0.1	0.5	0.2
Candidate Compound 5	0.05	0.5	0.1

- ▲ True Compound
- Other Candidate Compounds

True Positives	1
False Negatives	0
True Negatives	2
False Positives	2

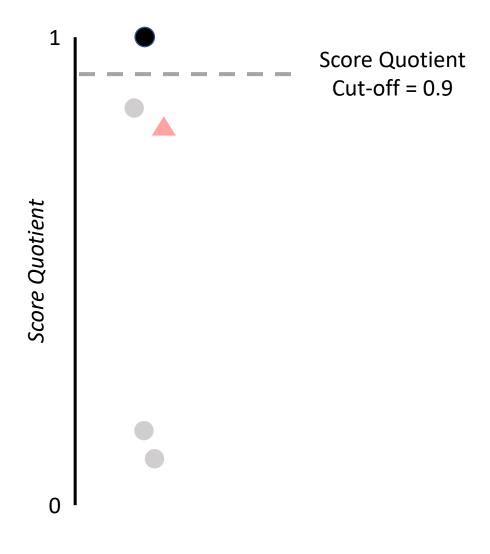


Applying Cut-off Filters to Data

	CFM-ID Score	Maximum Score	Score Quotient
Candidate Compound 1	0.5	0.5	1
Candidate Compound 2	0.4	0.5	0.8
Candidate Compound 3	0.39	0.5	0.78
Candidate Compound 4	0.1	0.5	0.2
Candidate Compound 5	0.05	0.5	0.1

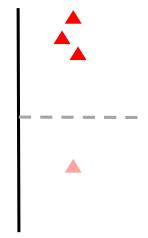
- ▲ True Compound
- Other Candidate Compounds

True Positives	0
False Negatives	1
True Negatives	3
False Positives	1



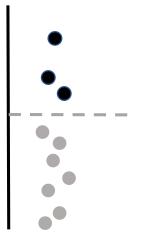
Balancing Cut-offs

True Positive Rate (TPR) =
$$\frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$



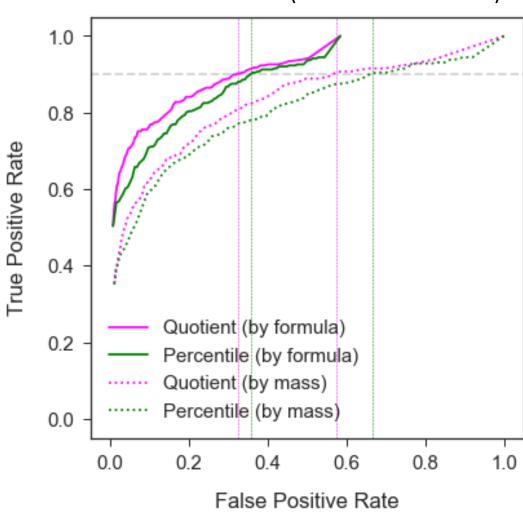
How many of the true compounds are we keeping?

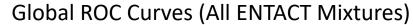
False Positive Rate (FPR) =
$$\frac{FP}{FP + TN}$$

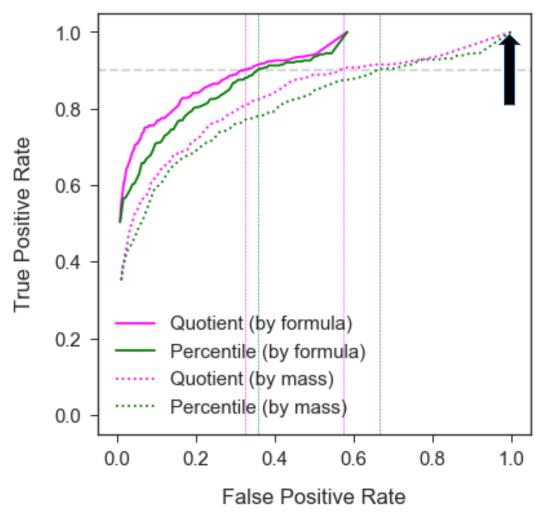


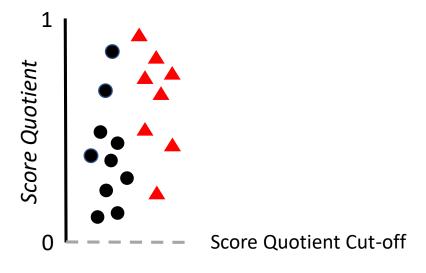
How much of the junk are we getting rid of?



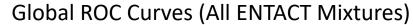


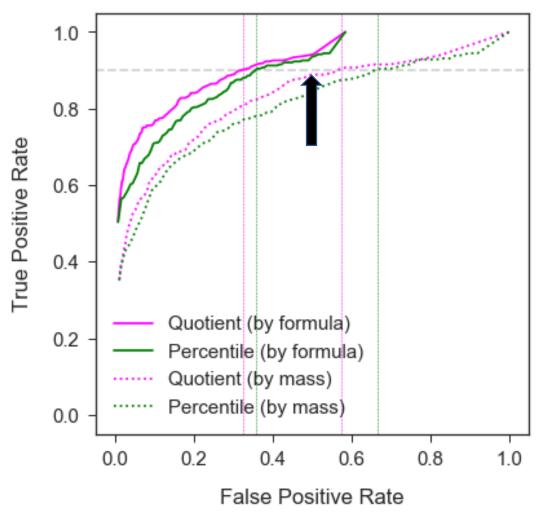


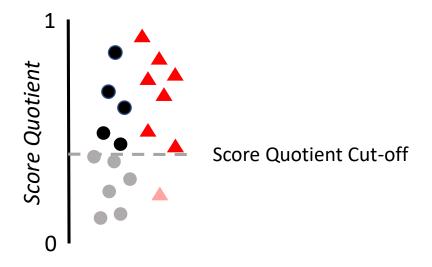




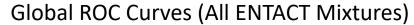
- True Compounds
- Other Candidate Compounds

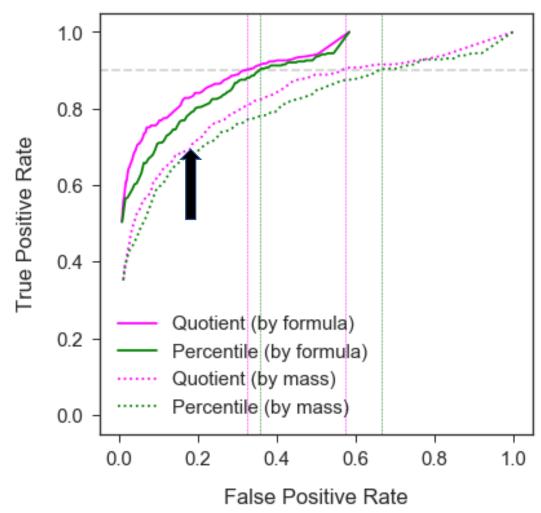


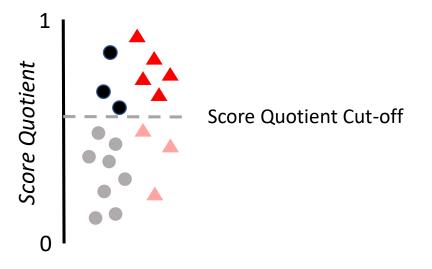




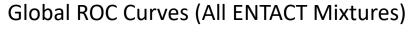
- ▲ True Compounds
- Other Candidate Compounds

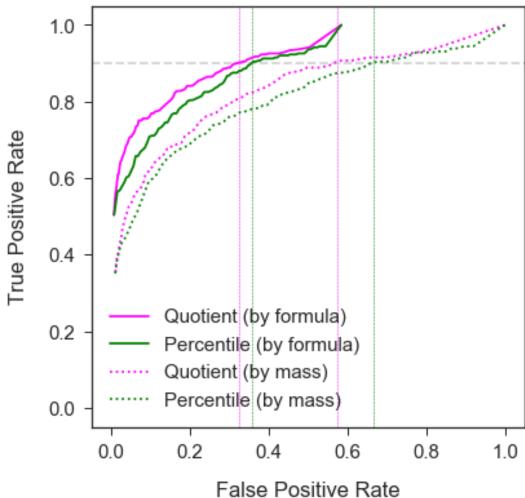


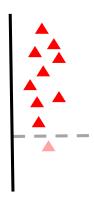




- ▲ True Compounds
- Other Candidate Compounds







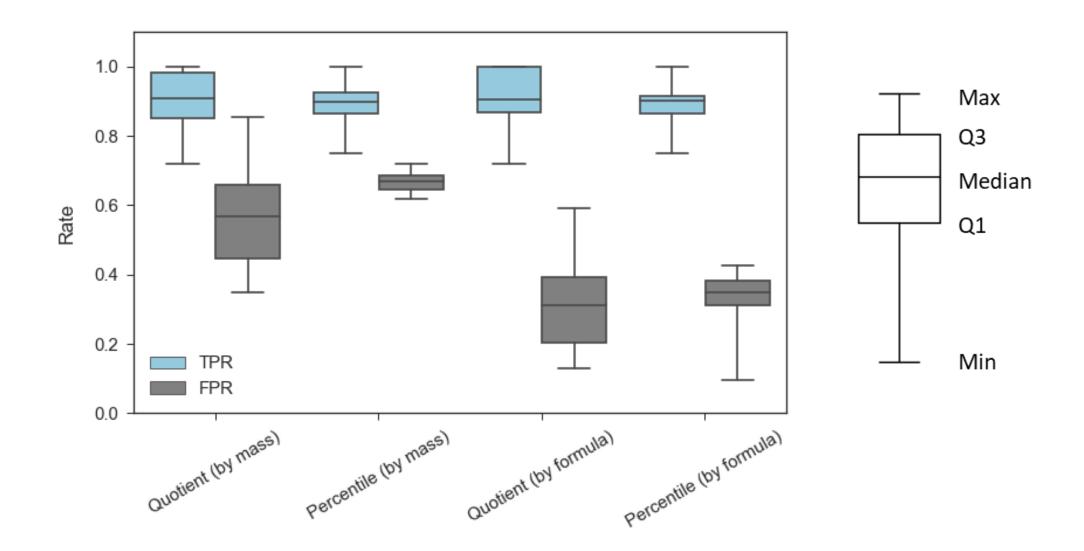
Cut-off Values for Global TPR = 0.9

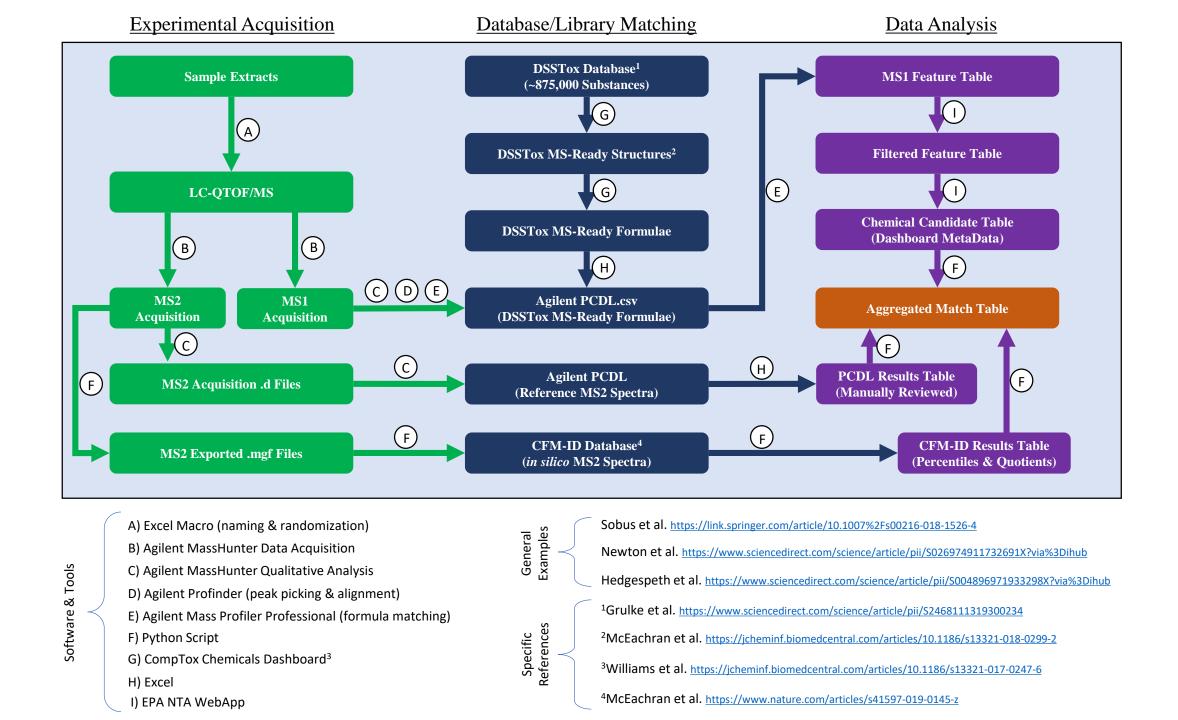
	Cut-off value
Quotient (by formula)	0.18
Percentile (by formula)	38
Quotient (by mass)	0.13
Percentile (by mass)	32



Apply to individual ENTACT mixtures

CFM-ID Cut-off Filtering: Individual ENTACT Mixtures







Take-away Messages

EPA/ORD NTA activities:

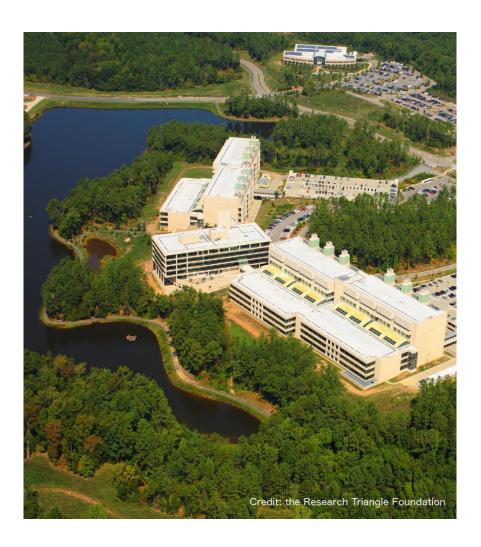
- Focused on applications
 - qualitative (to date) → semi-quantitative (soon)
 - must support HT exposure prediction & risk evaluation
- R&D required to support applications
 - Experimental + cheminformatic + computational efforts = Viable NTA program
- Growing capacity with new instrumentation
 - Requires flexible workflows
 - Work smarter, not harder
 - Don't reinvent the wheel
 - Build once, use many (A. Williams)



Contributing Researchers



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Questions?



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