

The Changing Toxicology Landscape: Challenges and Innovations for Application of NAMs



UK Food Standards Agency NAM Workshop

October 7, 2021

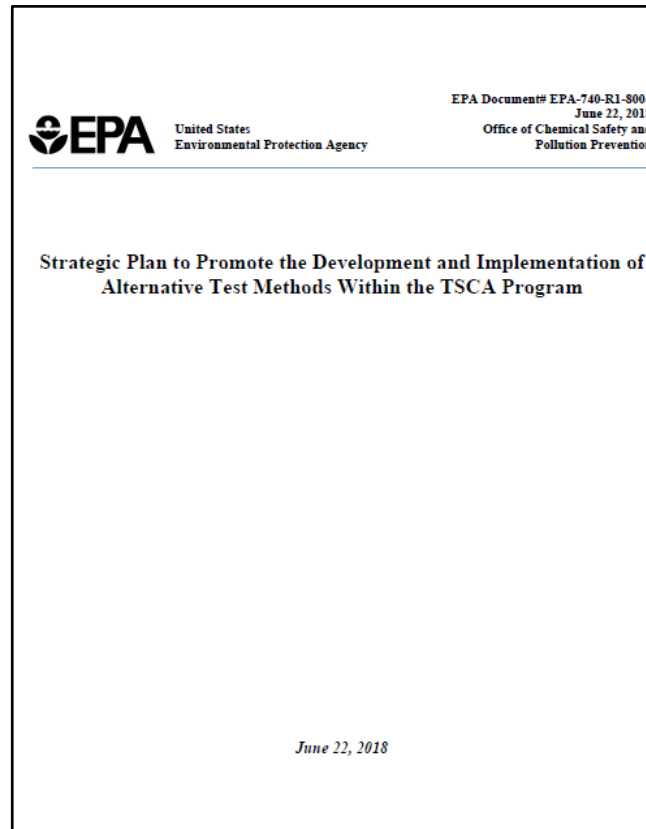
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Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the presenter and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. EPA

Our Roadmaps...



Focused on Agency-wide action



Focused on TSCA



Focused on research

How is the Landscape of Toxicology Changing?



- Many groups are systematically addressing the limitations of current NAMs
- Accepting that there is likely not a primary mechanism/mode of action for most environmental/industrial chemicals
- Working through how to assemble NAMs in a coherent, practical, fit for purpose testing framework
- Understanding how to benchmark new approaches
- Grappling with the issue of protection vs. prediction in our current and future approaches
- Developing a flexible and fit for purpose validation/confidence framework to evaluating new approaches
- Quantifying public health and economic trade-offs of testing more chemicals/faster
- Don't underestimate organizational inertia...

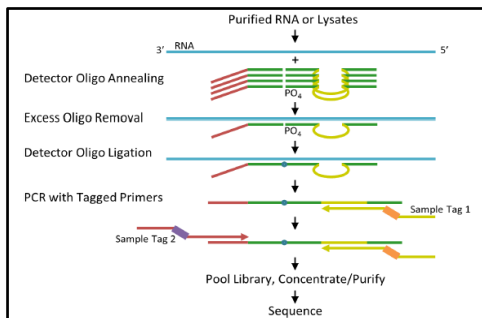
Scientific and Technical Challenges Associated with NAMs



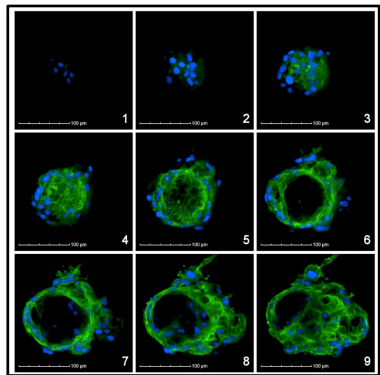
- Limited coverage of important cellular and intracellular processes
- Relatively short duration exposures and extrapolation to chronic effects
- Extrapolating context-dependent molecular/pathway changes to adverse responses in organs and tissues
- Limited metabolic capacity
- “Black box” predictions
- Limited chemical domain of applicability
- Complex data interpretation
- Cross-species extrapolation
- ...

Research Activities and Innovations to Overcome Those Challenges...

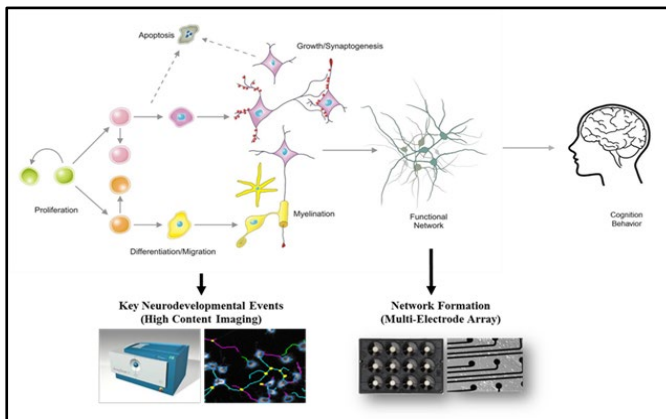
Whole Genome Transcriptomics



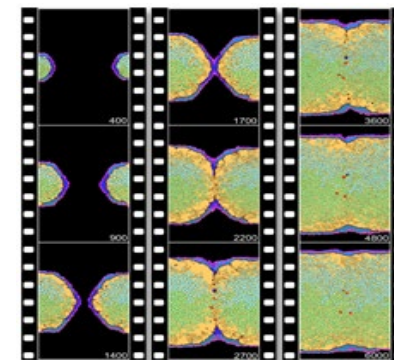
Organotypic Culture Models



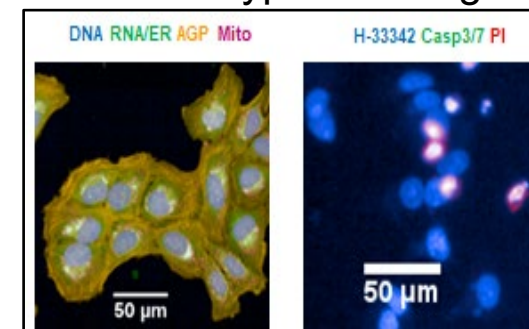
Integrated Approach to Testing and Assessment for DNT



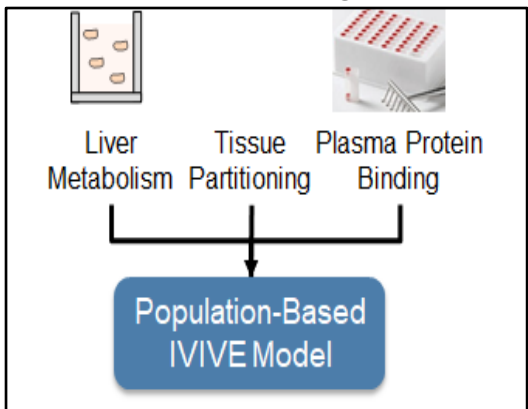
Virtual Tissue Models



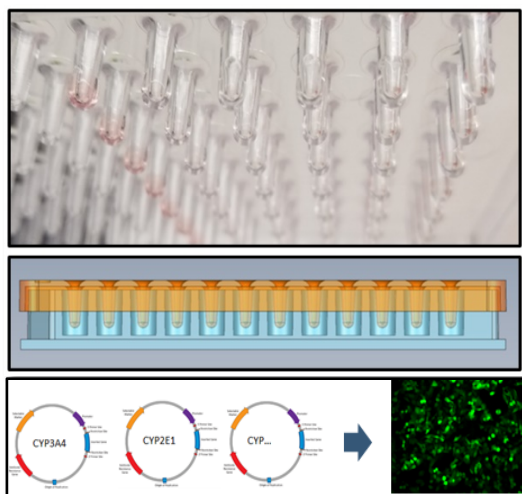
Multi-Parameter Cellular Phenotypic Profiling



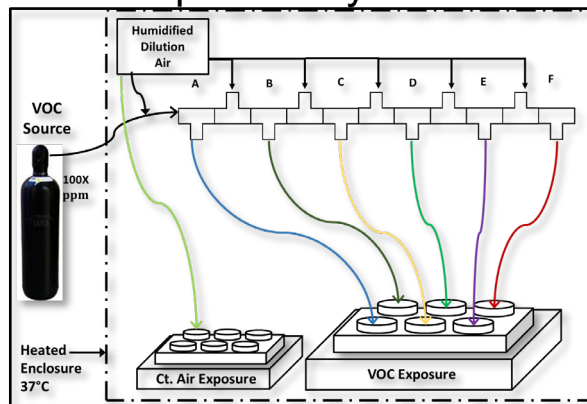
Toxicokinetic Measurements and Modeling



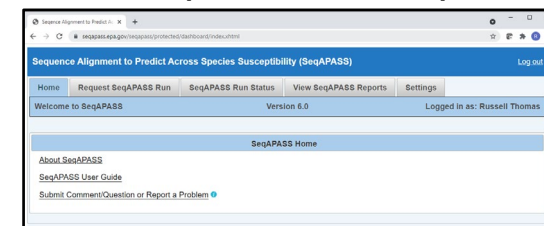
Metabolic Retrofitting



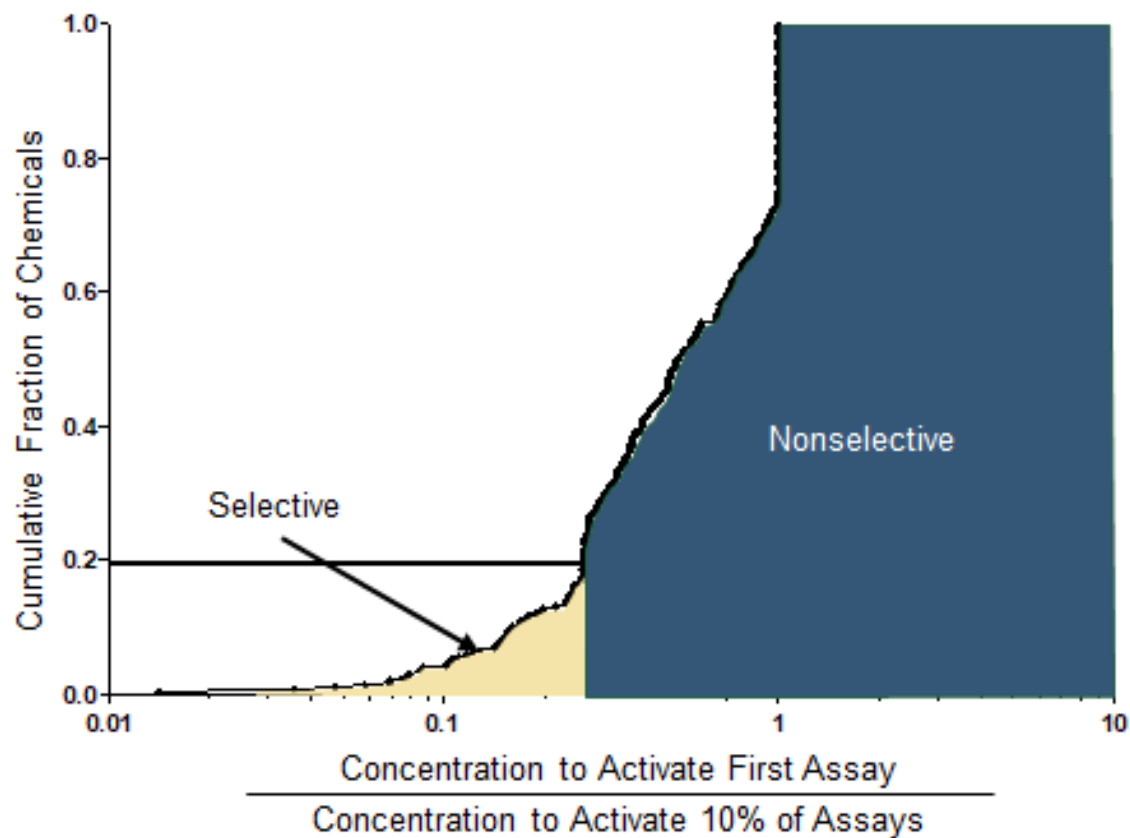
Volatile/Aerosol *In Vitro* Exposure Systems



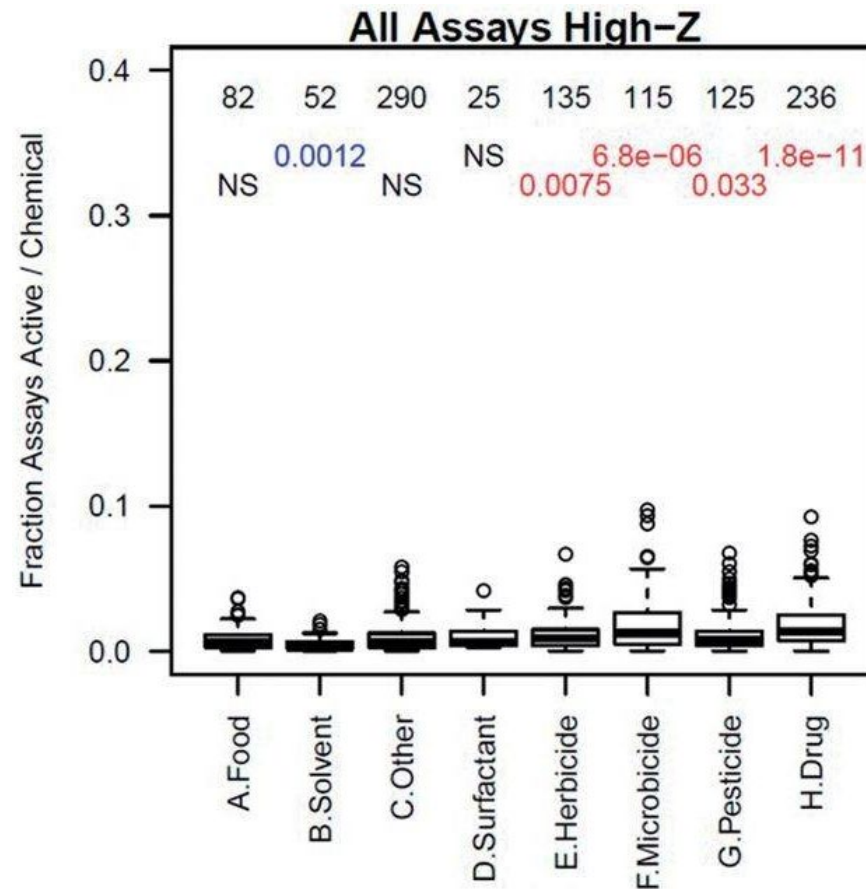
Sequence Alignment to Predict Across Species Susceptibility



Greater Understanding that Most Chemicals Non-Selectively Interact with Biological Systems



Thomas *et al.*, *Tox Sci.*, 2013



Judson *et al.*, *Tox Sci.*, 2016

Working to Assemble NAMs into a Practical Testing Framework

SOT | Society of Toxicology
www.toxsci.oxfordjournals.org

TOXICOLOGICAL SCIENCES, 169(2), 2019, 317-332
doi: 10.1093/toxsci/kty058
Advance Access Publication Date: March 5, 2019
Forum

FORUM

The Next Generation Blueprint of Computational Toxicology at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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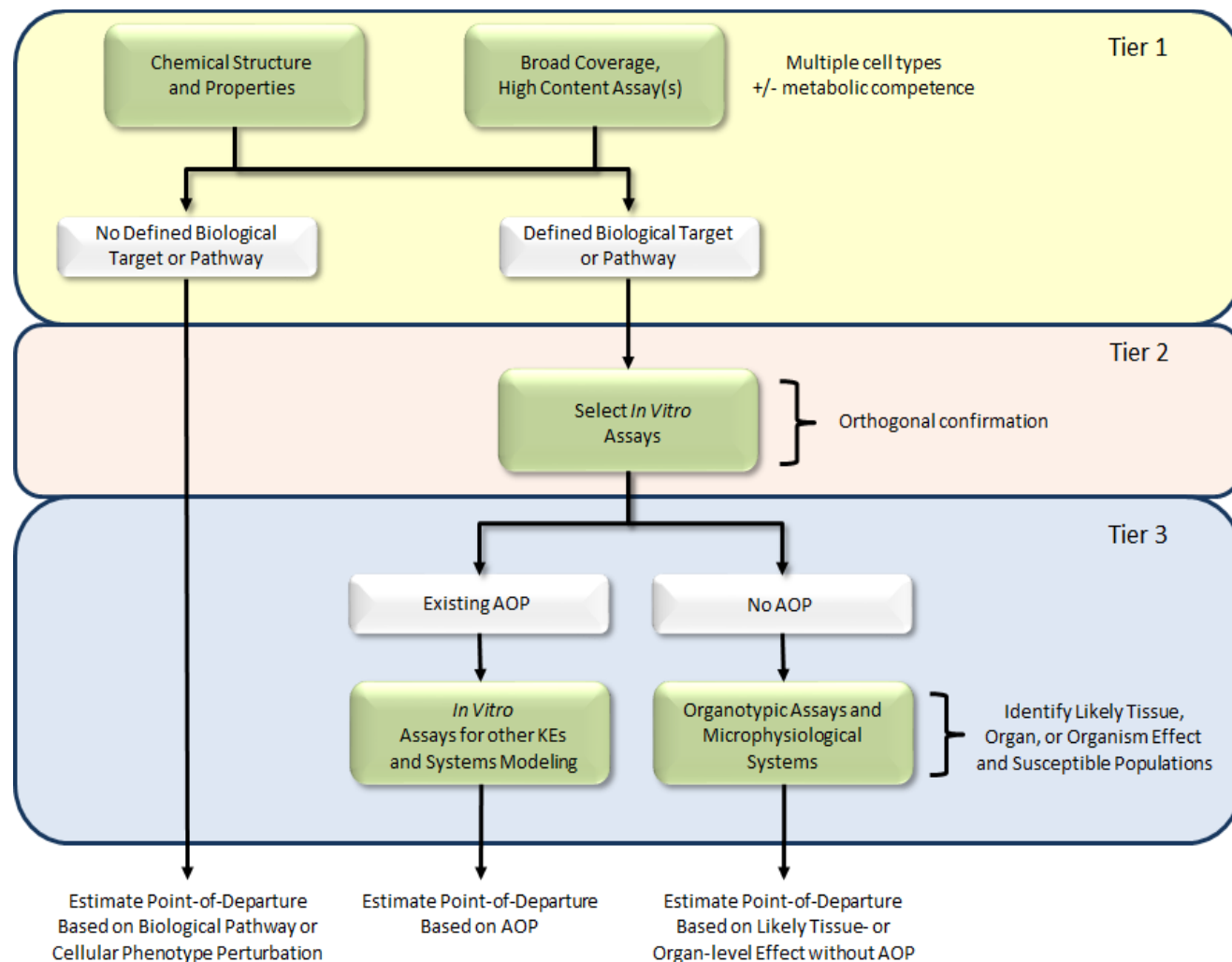
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ABSTRACT

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is faced with the challenge of efficiently and credibly evaluating chemical safety often with limited or no available toxicity data. The expanding number of chemicals found in commerce and the environment, coupled with time and resource requirements for traditional toxicity testing and exposure characterization,

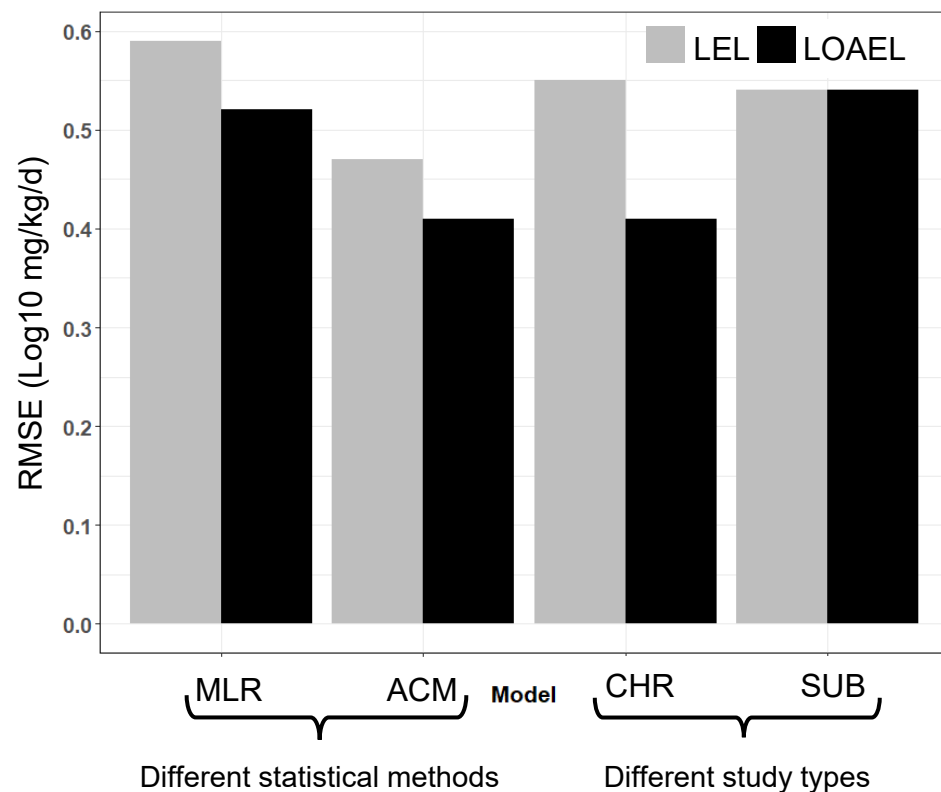
Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the Society of Toxicology 2019.
This work is written by US Government employees and is in the public domain in the US.

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Understanding How to Benchmark Approaches

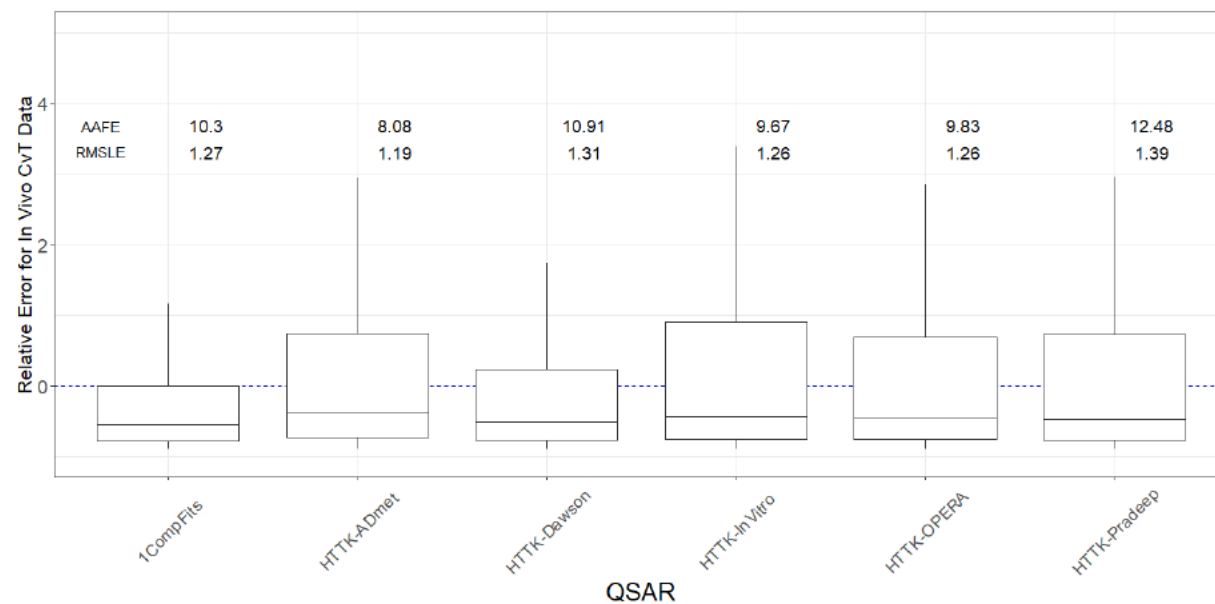
Evaluating LEL/LOAEL Variability in Traditional Toxicity Studies to Set Expectations for NAMs



Using an RMSE=0.59, the 95% Prediction Interval of an LEL/LOAEL is +/- 10-fold (e.g., 1 mg/kg/day, 0.07 – 14)

Pham et al., Comp Toxicol., 2020

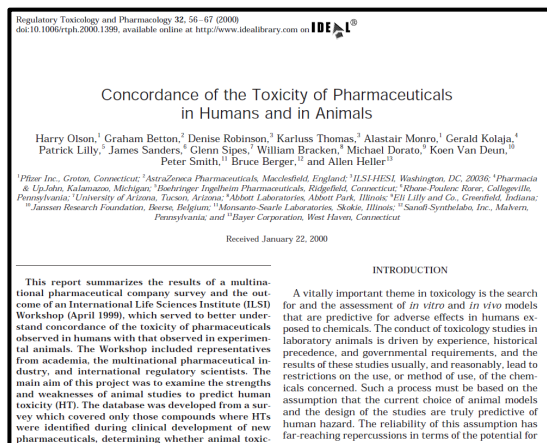
Comparing *In Silico*, *In Vitro*, and *In Vivo* Data for Toxicokinetic Modeling



Wambaugh et al., QSAR2021 meeting poster

Grappling With the Issue of Protection vs Prediction

Limited Qualitative Concordance of Rodent and Human Toxicological Responses



...data compiled from 150 compounds with 221 human toxicity events reported. The results showed the true positive human toxicity concordance rate of 71% for rodent and non-rodent species, with non-rodents alone being predictive for 63% of human toxicity and **rodents alone for 43%.**

Current Risk Assessment Practices Geared Towards Protection Not Prediction

EPA/630/P-02/002F
December 2002
Final Report

A REVIEW OF THE REFERENCE DOSE AND REFERENCE CONCENTRATION PROCESSES

Prepared for the
Risk Assessment Forum
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC

Reference Dose/Reference Concentration (RfD/RfC) Technical Panel

Bob Benson (OPRA/Region 8)
Gary Foreman (NCEA/ORD)
Lee Hoffmann (PARMS/OSWER)
Carole Kimmel (NCEA/ORD)*
Gary Kimmel (NCEA/ORD)
Susan Makris (OPP/OPPTS)
Deirdre Murphy (OAQPS/OAR)

Edward Othman (OST/OW)
Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta (NHEERL/ORD)
Deborah Rice (NCEA/ORD)
Jennifer Seed (OPPT/OPPTS)
Hugh Tilson (NHEERL/ORD)
Vanessa Vu (SAB Staff Office, formerly OSCOP/OPPTS and NCEA/ORD)

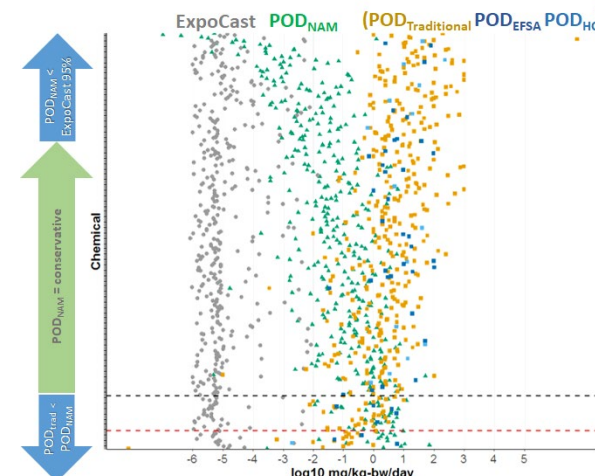
Table 2-2. Uncertainty/safety factors for various reference values

Reference value	UF ^a				FQPA ^b
	U _A	U _H	U _L	U _D	
ARE	1, 3, 10	1, 3, 10	1, 3, 10	ND	NA
AEGL	1, 3, 10	1, 3, 10	3 ^c	ND ^d	NA
OPP acute and intermediate RfDs	10	10	3, 10	ND ^e	10±
OW HAs	1, 3, 10	1, 3, 10	1, 3, 10	case-specific	NA
ATSDR MRLs	1, 3, 10	1, 3, 10	1, 3, 10	ND ^f	NA

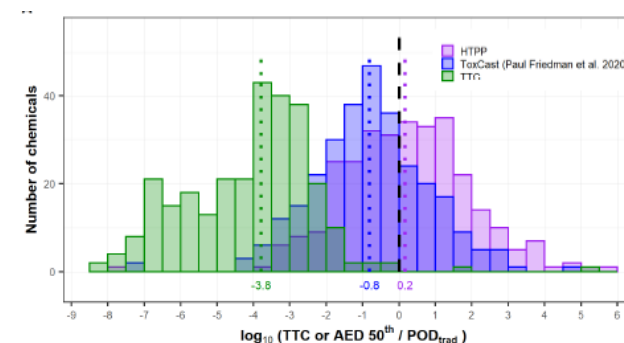
^a Uncertainty factors: U_A = animal-to-human; U_H = within-human variability; U_L = LOAEL-to-NOAEL; U_D = database deficiency.
^b Additional safety factor required under FQPA.
^c Endpoint = lethality, not really a LOAEL-to-NOAEL adjustment in this case.
^d Database deficiencies considered, and a factor may be included for intermediate RfDs if, for example, there is no reproduction and fertility study.
^e Overlaps with the FQPA safety factor (see U.S. EPA, 2002b).

ND = not done
NA = not applicable

Case Studies Demonstrating Application of Bioactivity as a Protective POD



Paul-Friedman et al., 2020



Nyffeler and Harrill, ISMB Poster, 2020

Developing a Fit-for-Purpose Validation and Scientific Confidence Framework

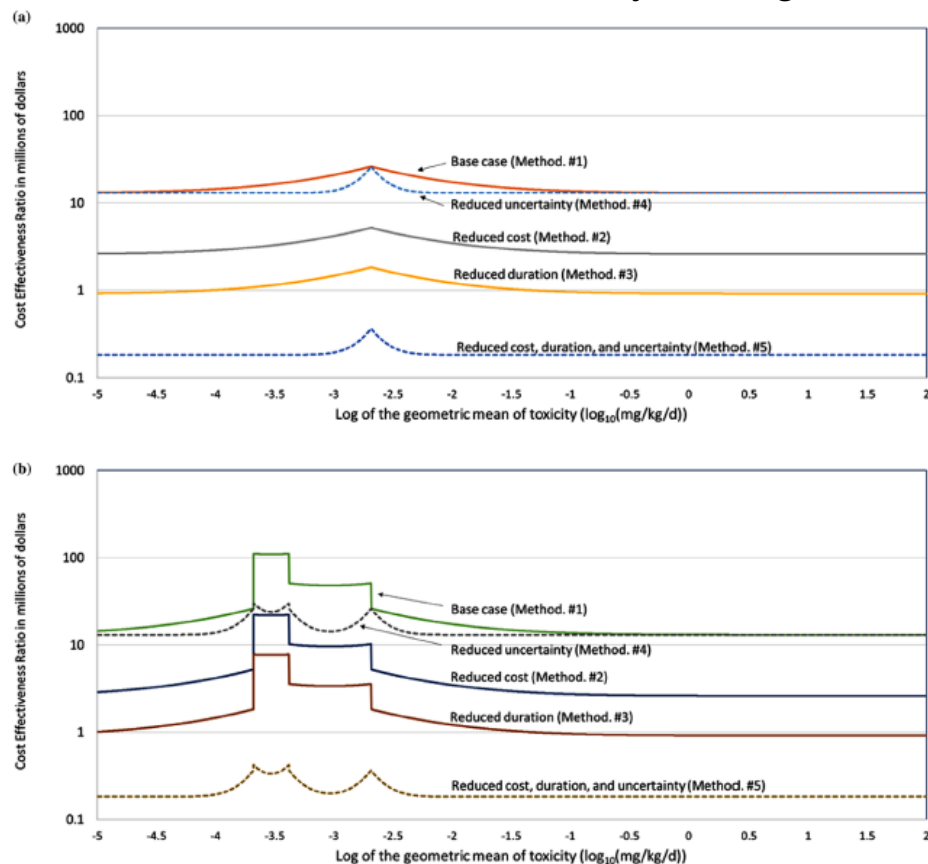


Deliverables:

- US National Academies of Sciences report on uncertainties and utility of existing mammalian toxicity tests in Q4 2022.
- Scientific confidence framework to evaluate the quality, reliability, and relevance of NAMs in Q3 2022.

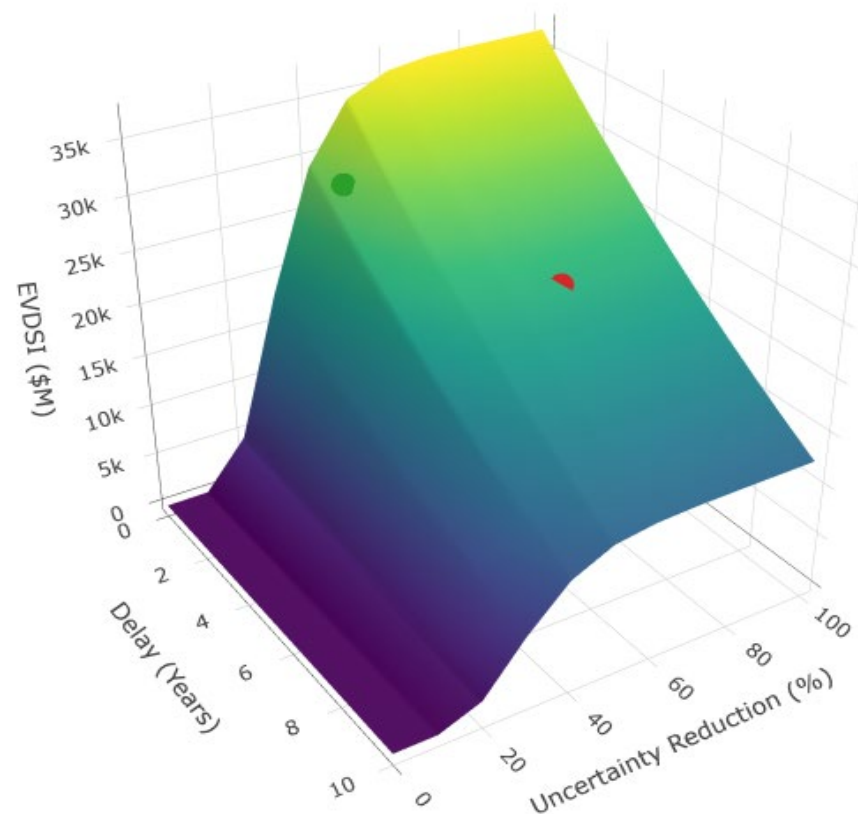
Quantifying Public Health and Economic Trade-Offs of Testing More Chemicals Faster

Cost Effectiveness Analysis Evaluating the Costs Associated with Different Toxicity Testing Methods



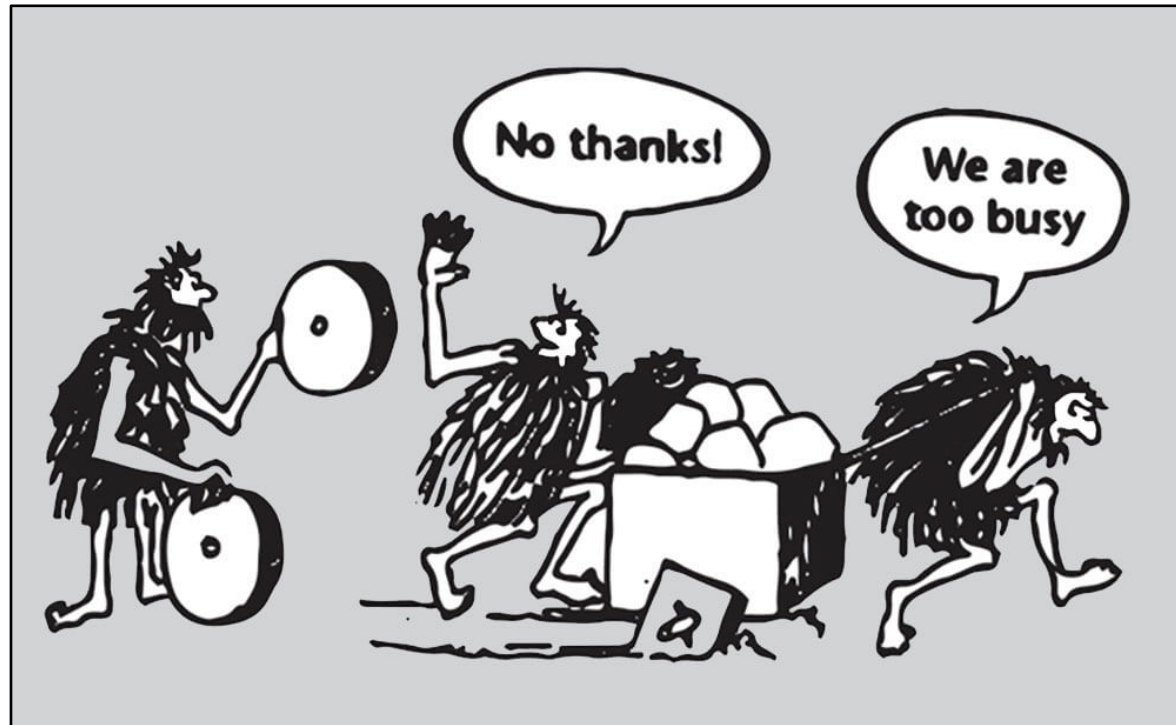
Price et al., Risk Anal 2021

Value of Information Analysis Evaluating the Economic and Health Costs Associated with Different Toxicity Testing Methods



Hagiwara et al., Submitted

But, Don't Underestimate Organizational and Individual Inertia



<https://www.tps-scotland.co.uk/selling-is-the-oldest-profession-in-the-world/>

Wrapping Up...



The landscape of toxicology is changing...
Hopefully towards a greener future

Thank you for your attention!