

Toxicology in the 21st Century

Thomas Hartung

**Doerenkamp-Zbinden Professor and Chair for Evidence-based Toxicology, EHS
Director, Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT)**

Joint appointment: Molecular Microbiology and Immunology

Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, US

Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Konstanz, Germany

About 1/3 funding each from industry, philanthropy and research funding



The Bernice Barbour Foundation

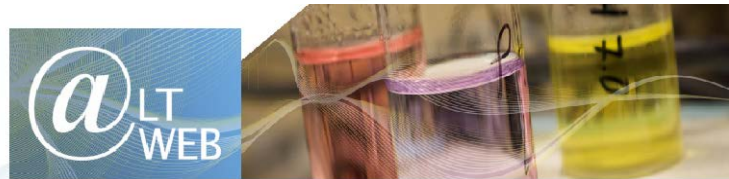


THE ESTHER A. & JOSEPH KLINGENSTEIN FUND, INC.

...and individuals



CAAT Programs



- **Information and communication**
- **Policy and Outreach Program**
- **Refinement Program**
- **Transatlantic Think Tank of Toxicology (t4)**
- **Evidence-based Toxicology**
- **Grants Programs**
- **Education**
- **Research**

Examples of food related activities

Workshop Tox-21 beyond chemicals June, 2012

Food Information Day

Current Issues and Future Prospects of Food Safety, Risk Assessment, Risk Management, International Regulations, and Animal Health

Linkages & Separation of Risk Assessment & Risk Management
Herman Köeter, Orange House Partnership

Animal Health & Welfare – risk assessment & impact on legislation & regulatory practices – a US-EU comparison
Jordi Serratosa, European Food Safety Commission

Pesticide Law – EU and New Developments

Pesticides – Safety Assessment / Risk Assessment
• Ann Blacker, Bayer Crop Sciences
• Douglas Wolf, US Environmental Protection Agency

Opportunities for the 3Rs in Food Risk Assessment
• Timothy Pastoor, Syngenta, Ltd.
• Charles Hastings, BASF
• Thomas Hartung, Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing

Tuesday, November 15, 2011
9:00 am – 3:30 pm (includes lunch)
E2030 - Feinstein Hall

Co-sponsored by EHS Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing and the Orange House Partnership

Registration Information: <http://caat.jhsph.edu/programs/workshops/foodinformation.html>
Contact: Marilyn Principe mprincip@jhsph.edu or phone: 410 614 4919



100,000+ chemicals in consumer products



**Infectious pathogens,
e.g. Salmonella, Campylobacter,
Hepatitis**

**Food additives,
ca. 3,000 substances**

**Toxins, e.g. botulinum,
marine biotoxins,
mycotoxins, aflatoxin**



**Plant protection products,
ca. 1,000 substances**

**Lack of essential
nutrients**

**Contaminants,
e.g. dioxins, heavy metals,
acrylamide**

**Unhealthy nutrients
and calorie overload**

Food allergens

Source of picture: animated fast-food superheroes of "Aqua Teen Hunger Force" from Cartoon Network

Fig. 1: Food safety concerns

Hartung and Koeter, ALTEX 2008, 259-264.



**Evident data gaps,
But traditional
approaches not
suitable**

**Consumer are little
aware of animal
testing for food**

**Strong
discrepancies for
e.g. food additives
vs. pesticides**

**Source:
B. Ames & L. Gold**

Alcohol 36-times more dangerous than coffee intake

When using the same threshold levels as for TCDD (dioxin):

One beer in 345 years

Comparison of cancer risk of the average American food intake

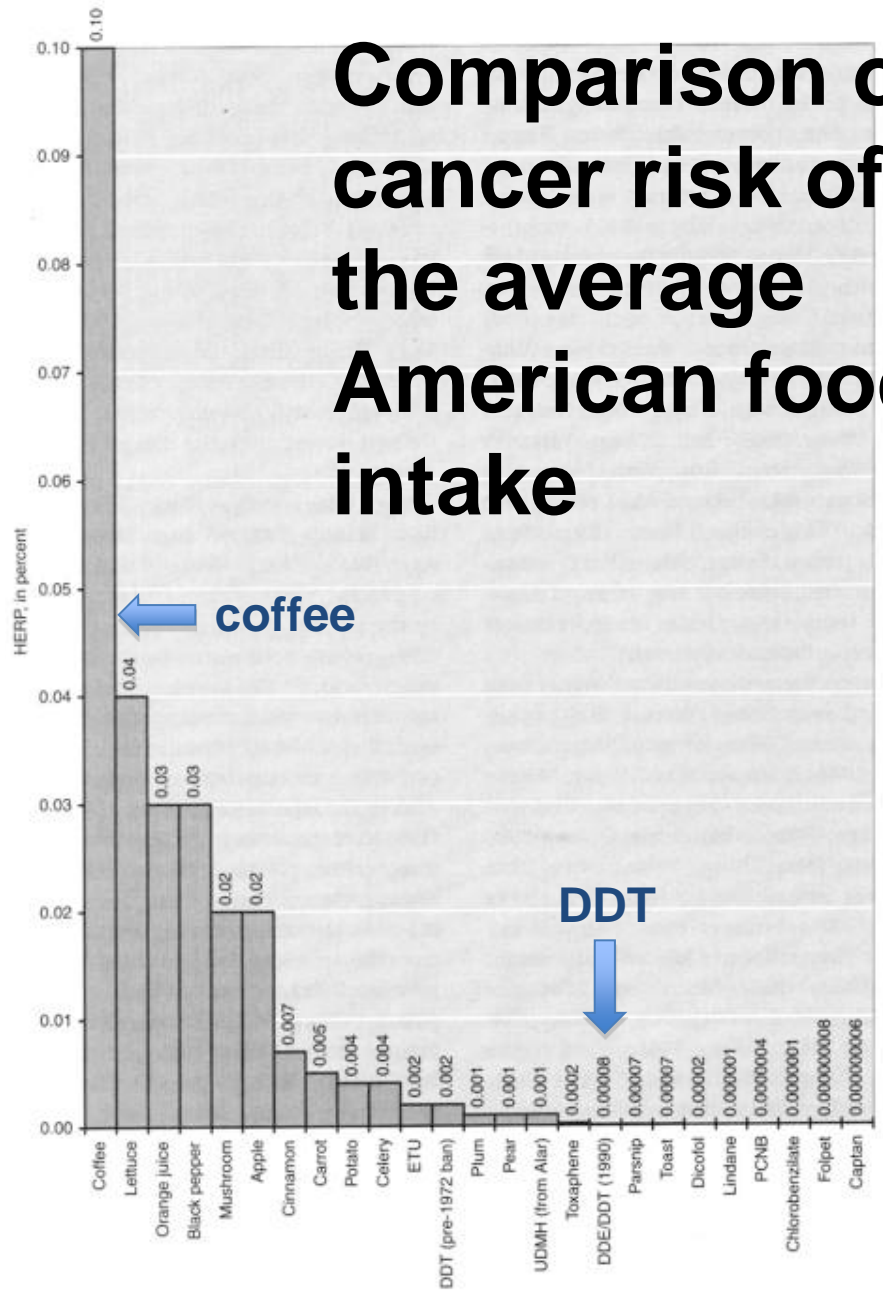


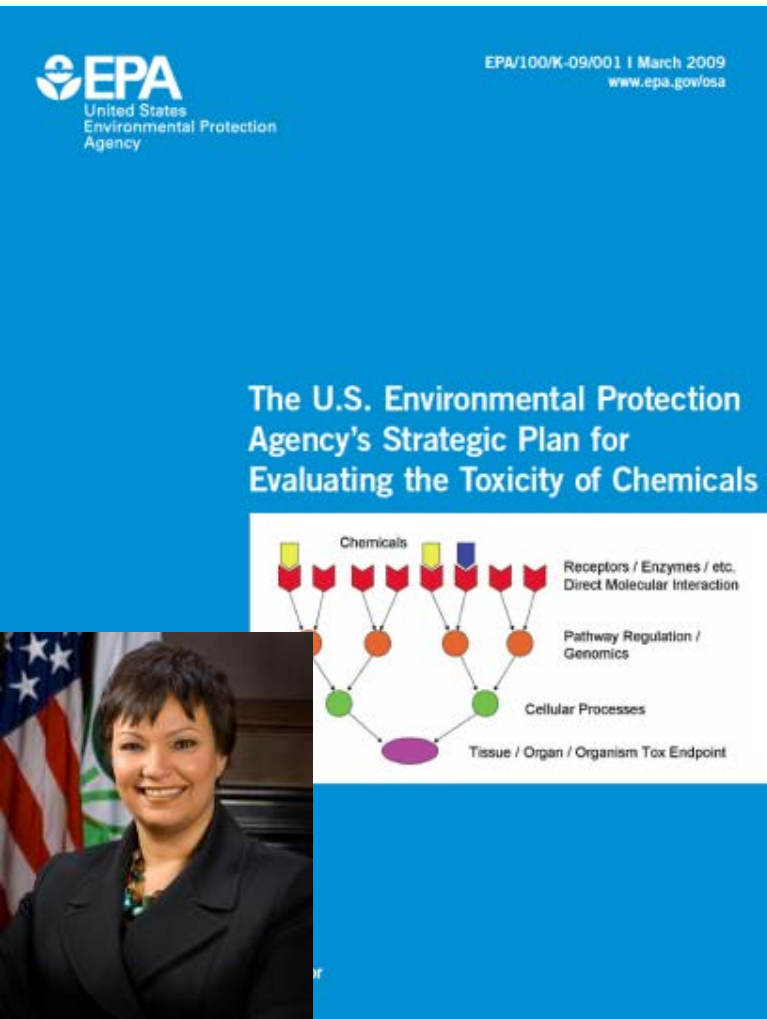
Figure 127 Comparison of relative cancer risk (HERP) of the average American daily intake of various foods and synthetic pesticides. The alcohol intake of the average adult American is equivalent to 1.7 beers or a HERP of 3.6 (i.e., 36 times greater than coffee). Note that UDMH-intake from Alar is the average from 1988. Source: Ames




**R22 harmful if swallowed
(LD₅₀ = 150-200mg/kg in rats)
R 36 irritant to eyes
R 37 respiratory irritant
R 38 irritant to skin
Not carcinogenic,
but co-carcinogen (promotor)
Unclear mutagenicity
Embryonic malformations in
cat, dog, rat, mice, rabbit,
monkey**

Unlikely to be brought to the market today

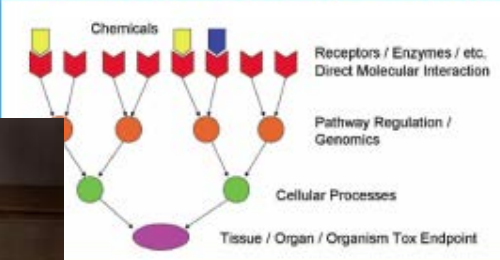
NAS vision report Tox-21c



 EPA
United States Environmental Protection Agency

EPA/100/K-09/001 | March 2009
www.epa.gov/osa

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Strategic Plan for Evaluating the Toxicity of Chemicals




Chemicals

Receptors / Enzymes / etc. Direct Molecular Interaction

Pathway Regulation / Genomics

Cellular Processes

Tissue / Organ / Organism Tox Endpoint



“With an advanced field of regulatory science, new tools, including functional genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, high-throughput screening, and systems biology, we can replace current toxicology assays with tests that incorporate the mechanistic underpinnings of disease and of underlying toxic side effects.” M.A. Hamburg, FDA 2011



“We propose a shift from primarily in vivo animal studies to in vitro assays, in vivo assays with lower organisms, and computational modeling for toxicity assessments”
F. Collins, NIH, 2008

Initiatives implementing Tox-21c

Organization	Approach	Purpose	Outcome
US EPA & Tox21 (ToxCast Program)	High-throughput testing	Chemical prioritization (initially)	“Biological signatures”
Hamner Institute	Case studies	“Just do it”	Proof-of-principle
NIH project (CAAT-US)	Pathway mapping	Pathway ID & annotation	Human Toxome

**Tox-21c =
the end of
GRAS**



The new regulator

Tox-20c

EBT



Tox-21c

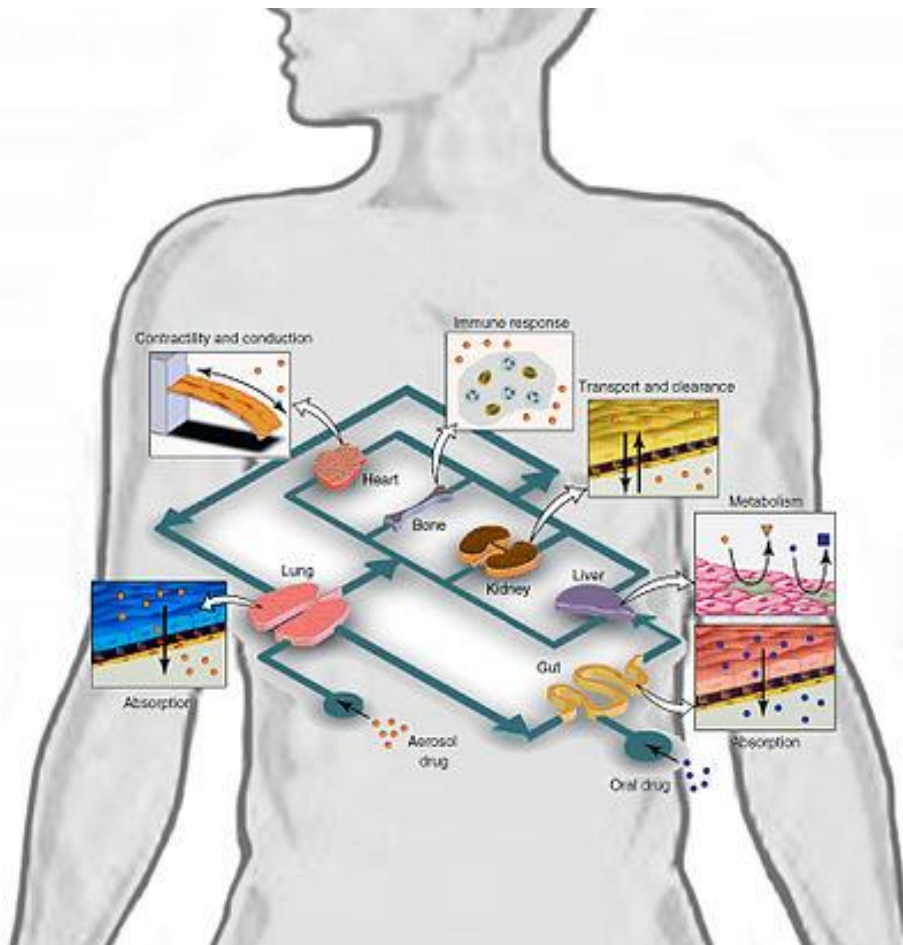
**Omics, high-content, HTS
Bio-informatics
& -engineering**

**Pathways
of Tox (PoT)
*Human
Toxome***

**Integrated
Testing
Strategies
*ITS***

**Organo-typic
cultures
*Human-on-
Chip***

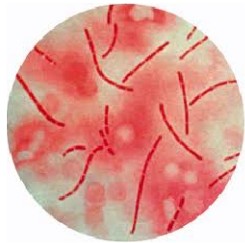
Human on Chip Approach



Could overcome many of these shortcomings, especially using stem cells

C. Zhang et al. (2009),
“Towards a human-on-chip:
Culturing multiple cell types
on a chip with
compartmentalized
microenvironments”

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organ-on-a-chip>



CAAT Information Day

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Sheldon Hall (W1214)

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg

School of Public Health

615 North Wolfe Street

Baltimore, MD

New Approaches to Assessing Countermeasures to Bioterrorism Agents

Speakers include:

George Korch (JHSPH and US DHHS)

William C. (Clint) Florence (DTRA)

Donald Drake (Sanofi-Pasteur)

Marti Jett (US Army)

Anthony Bahinski (Wyss Institute, Harvard)

Sonia Grego (RTI International)

Lisa Hensley (US FDA)

Thomas Hartung (CAAT)

Registration fee (including lunch): \$100 (free for the JHU community)

For registration and information, contact Marilyn Principe at mprincipe@jhsph.edu



InfoDay 22 May 2012

Opportunities from countermeasures to bioterrorism

- Funding program (\$200 million) from NIH/FDA/DARPA/DTRA
- Need for predictivity, QA, validation
- Joint workshop 10 May 2013 FDA / NIH / DARPA / CAAT



3D vs. 2D cultures

- Increased cell survival
- Increased differentiation
- Increased cell – cell interaction
- Reproducing better the complexity of the organ
- Endpoints need optimization
- More complex – lower reproducibility



Organotypic behavior of 3D-cell culturing models to maintain functional capacity: moving from phenotyping to mechanisms

A workshop of the Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing - Europe (CAAT-Europe), the ALEXANDRA project, BASF SE, Beiersdorf AG, ecopa, L'Oreal and the Transatlantic Think Tank for Toxicology (T⁴)



Joint Information Day on Organotypic 3D Cell Culture Models and Engineered Tissues

October 25th 2012
09:00 – 16:30

Toxicology - \$3 billion of testing to regulate \$10 trillion of trade

Human-on-chip



Problems

- Throughput —
- Costs —
- Predictivity + ?
- Too precautionary ?
- Animal use +
- New products +
- New hazards +
- Mixtures —
- Individuals +

EBT

Tox-20c



Tox-21c

**Omics, high-content, HTS
Bio-informatics
& -engineering**

**Pathways
of Tox (PoT)
*Human
Toxome***

**Integrated
Testing
Strategies
*ITS***

**Organo-typic
cultures
*Human-on-
Chip***

Scientific roadmap for the future of animal-free systemic toxicity testing

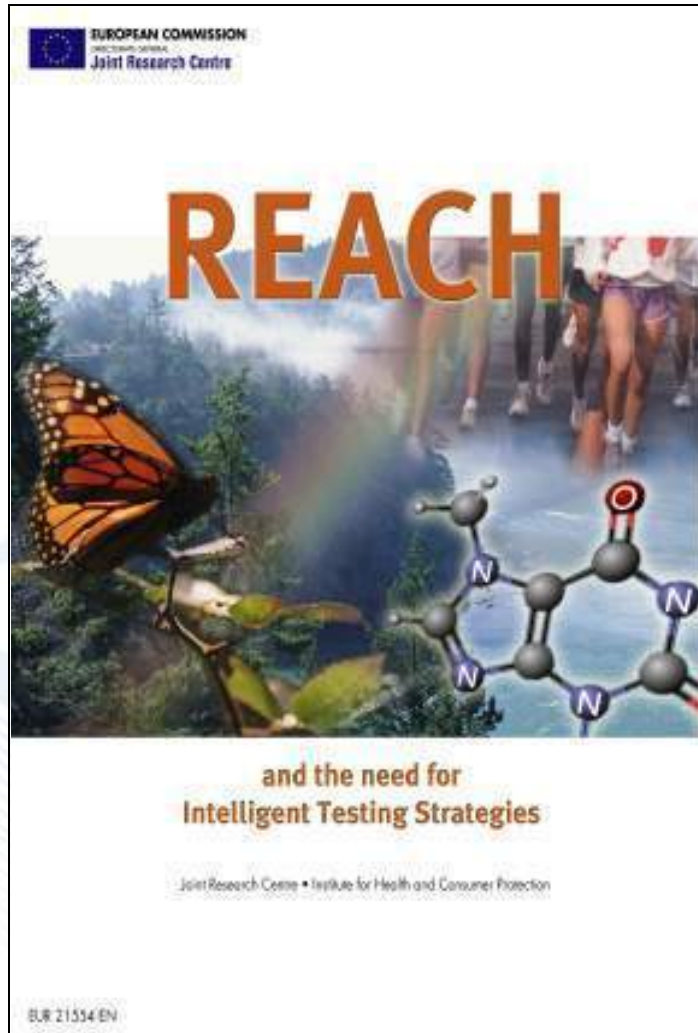


US Stakeholder Forum 30-31 May 2013

Hosted by FDA CFSSAN

Looking for further interested partners!!!

Integrated Testing Strategies



- **Key contribution to REACH implementation process**
- **Use of different informations, not stand-alone replacement**



Just became available (AltWeb or ALTEX website)

Food for Thought ... Integrated Testing Strategies for Safety Assessments

Thomas Hartung^{1,2}, Tom Luechtefeld¹, Alexandra Maertens¹, and Andre Kleensang¹

¹Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, CAAT, Baltimore, USA; ²University of Konstanz, CAAT-Europe, Germany

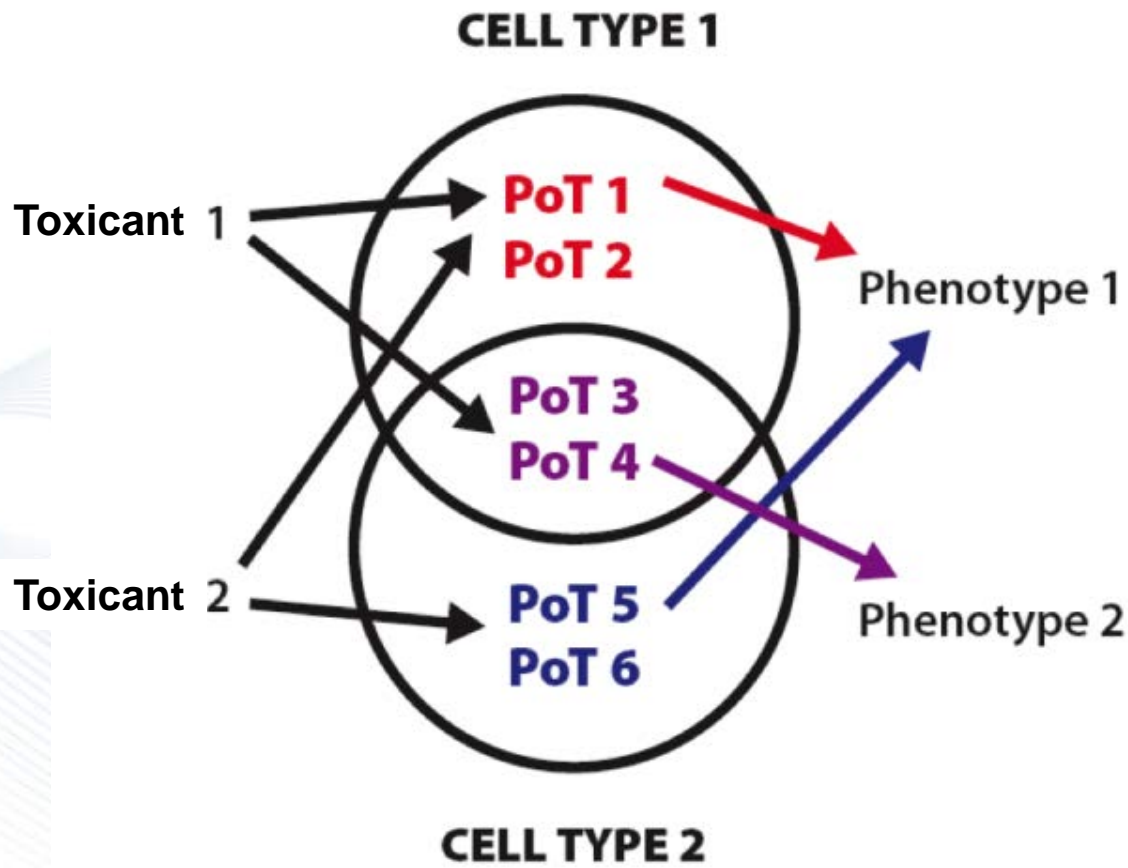
***WoE, EBT, ITS.... Similar problems,
but not the same***

all: quality and data integration problem

EBT/WoE retrospective -- ITS prospective

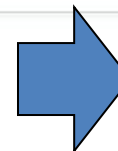
WoE pragmatic -- EBT / ITS formalized

The concept of (finite number of) pathways of toxicity



- Annotation to:**
- Hazard
 - Toxin (class)
 - Cell type
 - Species

Comprehensive list (Human Toxome)



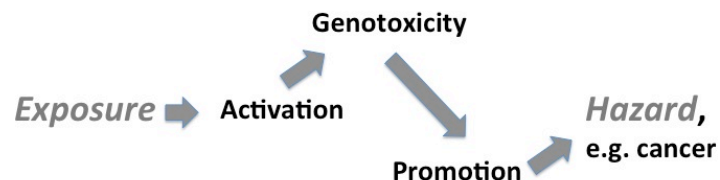
Negatives

A) Phenomenological Toxicology



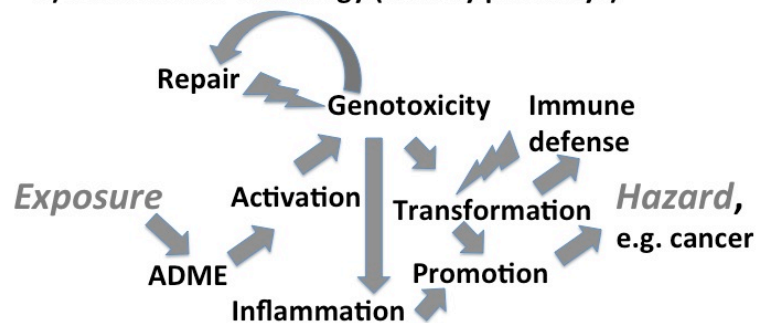
Causality supported by correlation and e.g. Bradford-Hill criteria

B) Mode of Action Toxicology (e.g. Adverse Outcome Pathways)



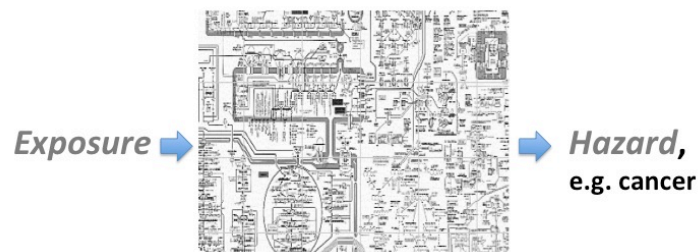
Causality supported by experimental intervention, e.g. Koch-Dale approaches

C) Mechanistic Toxicology (toxicity pathways)



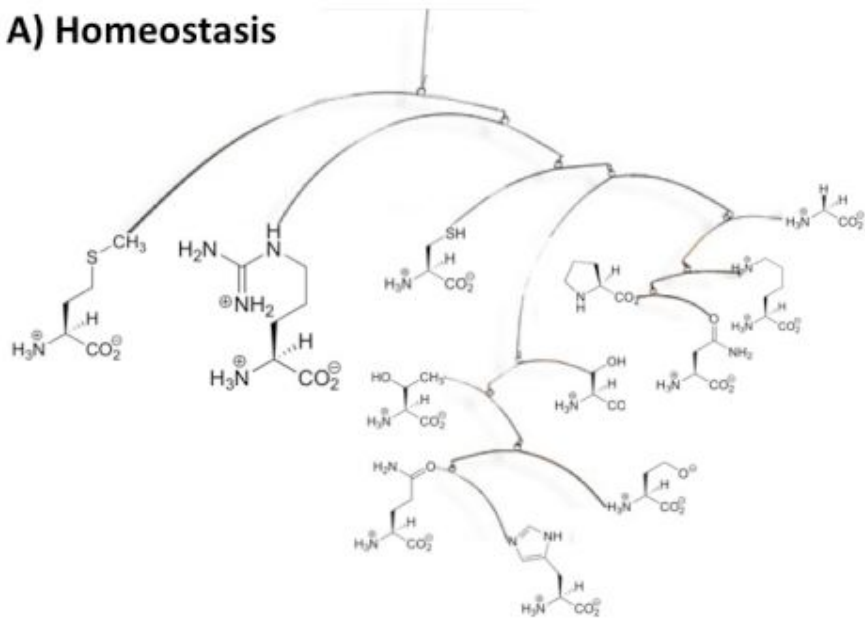
Causality supported by simulation and other bioinformatic tools

D) Systems Toxicology (resolution on PoT and fluxes)

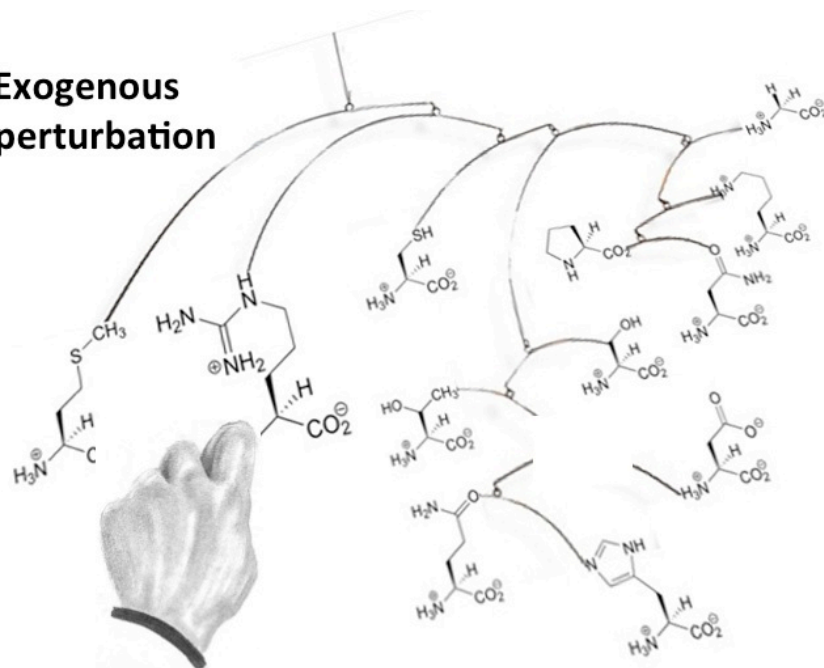


Systems Toxicology approaches

A) Homeostasis



B) Exogenous perturbation



Use for PoT identification:

- Homeostasis under stress, i.e. signatures of tox
- Critical cell infrastructures
- Network knowledge
- Reference models
- Reference toxicants



NIH Transformative Research Grant: *Mapping the Human Toxome by Systems Toxicology*

Consortium: Johns Hopkins (Hartung / Yager)
Brown (Boekelheide)
The Hamner (Andersen)
Georgetown (Fornace)
Agilent (Rosenberg)
EPA ToxCast (Kavlock, Dix)



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



Mapping PoT from metabolomics and transcriptomics

In vitro systems

omics data generation

Software tools

Pathways of Toxicity

Human Toxome Database

Toxicological endpoints

Model Systems Characterization

In vitro treatments

HC omics data
Metabolomics
& Transcriptomics

Software for Statistics and Pathways

Visualization Tools

Signature of Toxicity Analysis

PoT Concept Development

Pathway Validation

IV-IV Extrapolation

Toxcast, other data



BROWN UNIVERSITY



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH



Agilent Technologies

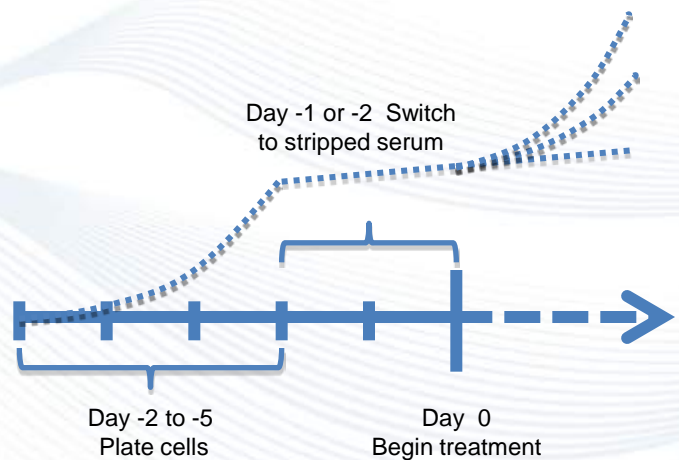


(Pre-)Validated work

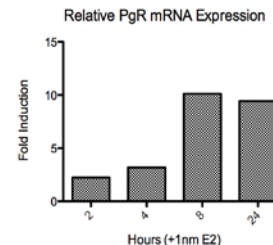
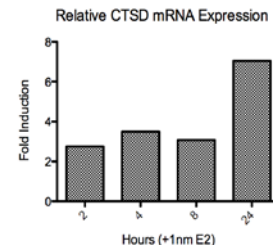
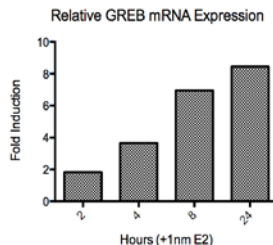
- Robust protocols, good cell models
- Regulatory acceptance available or in progress
- Available reference substances
- Thresholds of adversity defined

In vitro systems

- MCF-7 cells (currently undergoing validation by ICCVAM) &
- Initial set of endocrine disrupting chemicals selected from a priority list of 53 reference compounds identified by ICCVAM



Cell culture SOP



Gene Expression – Timecourse
1nM estradiol – 2, 4, 8, and 24 hours



MCF-7 cell culture and E2 exposure



Sample prep and metabolite extraction

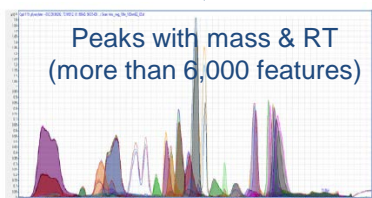


Data acquisition (Q-ToF)

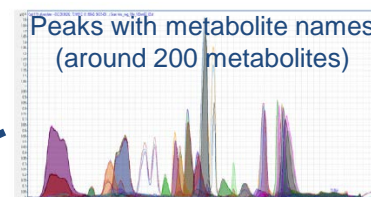
omics data generation

Untargeted

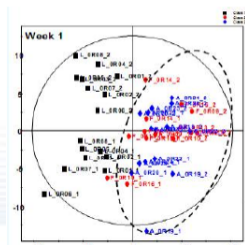
Targeted



Peak/feature extraction with Naïve data mining algorithm

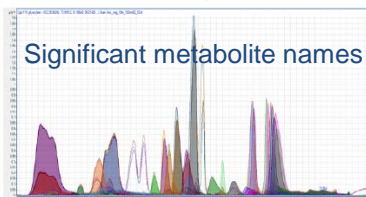


Metabolite peak extraction with database searching

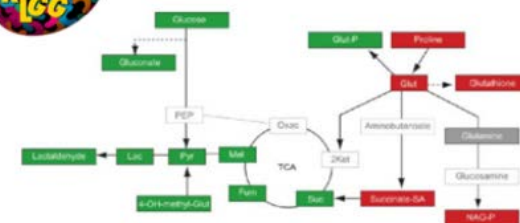


Bio-statistical analysis (e.g. ANOVA, PCA and clustering analysis)

Workflow for Metabolomics



Metabolites Identification (only for untargeted) and confirmation (for both approaches)



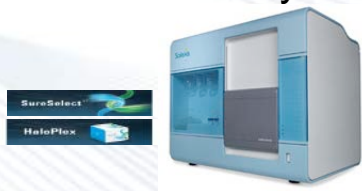
Data interpretation (e.g. Pathway analysis)



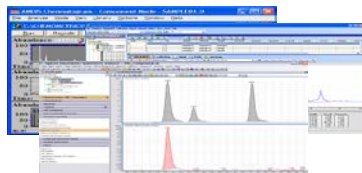
LC/MS
GC/MS



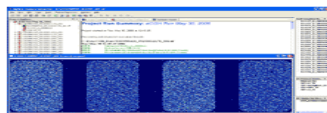
Microarrays



NGS



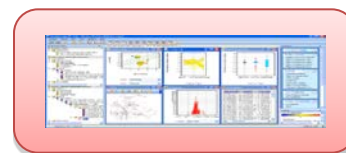
MassHunter Qual/Quant
ChemStation AMDIS



Feature Extraction



Alignment to Reference Genome



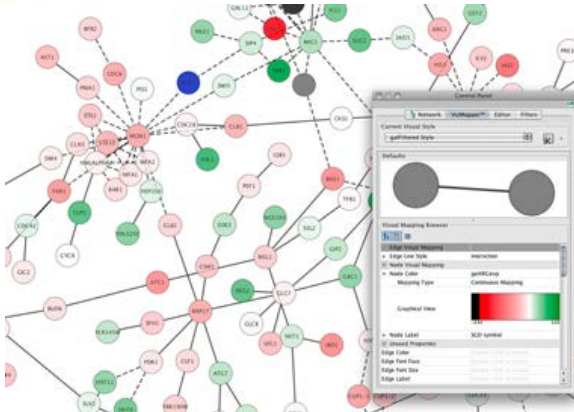
GeneSpring Platform



Biological Pathways

Software tools

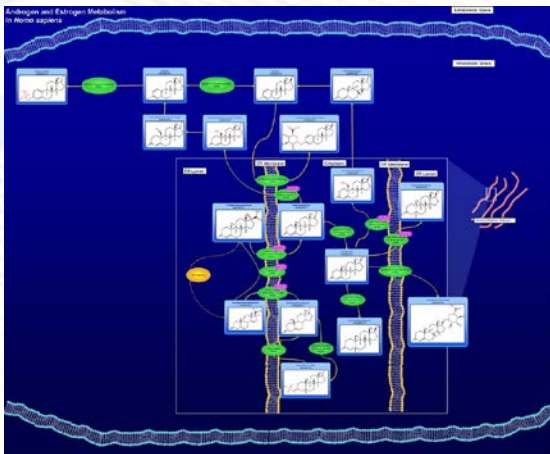
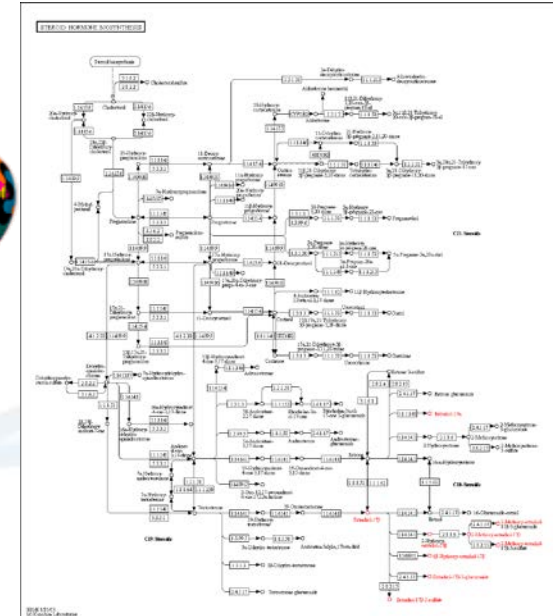
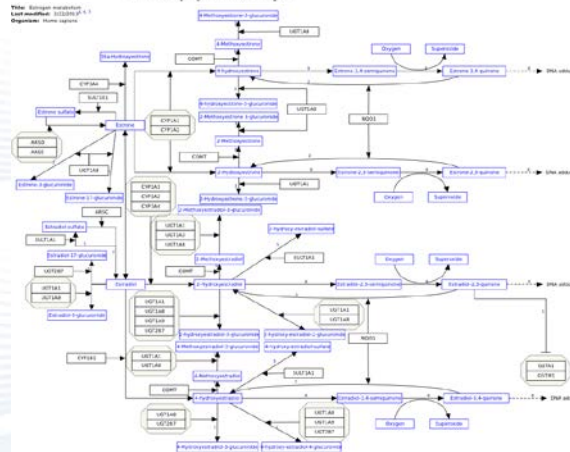
Agilent Integrated Biology Workflows



Software tools

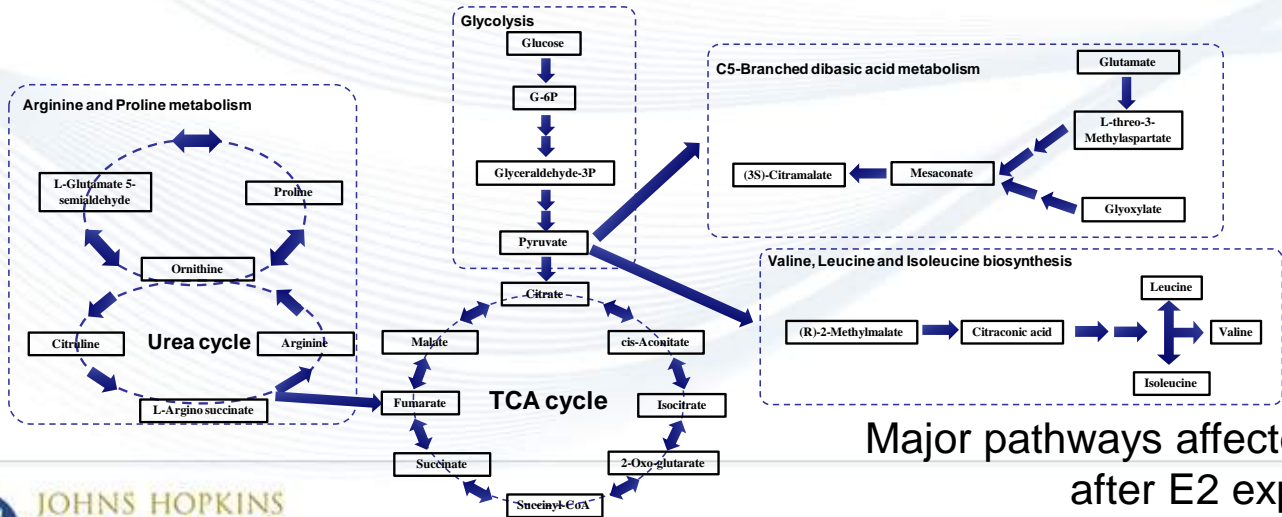


WIKIPATHWAYS
Pathways for the People



Pathways of Toxicity

Significant Metabolites	Related Pathways
Malate	Citrate cycle (TCA cycle)
Fumarate	Citrate cycle (TCA cycle); Amino acid metabolisms
Aconitate	Citrate cycle (TCA cycle); C5-Branched dibasic acid metabolism
Pyruvate	Citrate cycle (TCA cycle); Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis; Amino acid metabolisms
D-glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate	Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis
Lactate	Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis
Citraconic acid	Valine, leucine and isoleucine biosynthesis; C5-Branched dibasic acid metabolism
L-threo-3-Methylaspartate	C5-Branched dibasic acid metabolism
Glyoxylate	C5-Branched dibasic acid metabolism
(R)-2-Methylmalate	Valine, leucine and isoleucine biosynthesis; C5-Branched dibasic acid metabolism
Arginine	Arginine & Proline Metabolism
Valine	Valine, leucine and isoleucine biosynthesis
L-Glutamate 5-semialdehyde	Arginine & Proline Metabolism
Ornithine	Arginine & Proline Metabolism
Leucine/Isoleucine	Valine, leucine and isoleucine biosynthesis



Major pathways affected in MCF-7 cells after E2 exposure

PROPOSAL FOR A TEMPLATE, AND GUIDANCE ON DEVELOPING AND ASSESSING THE COMPLETENESS OF ADVERSE OUTCOME PATHWAYS

2012

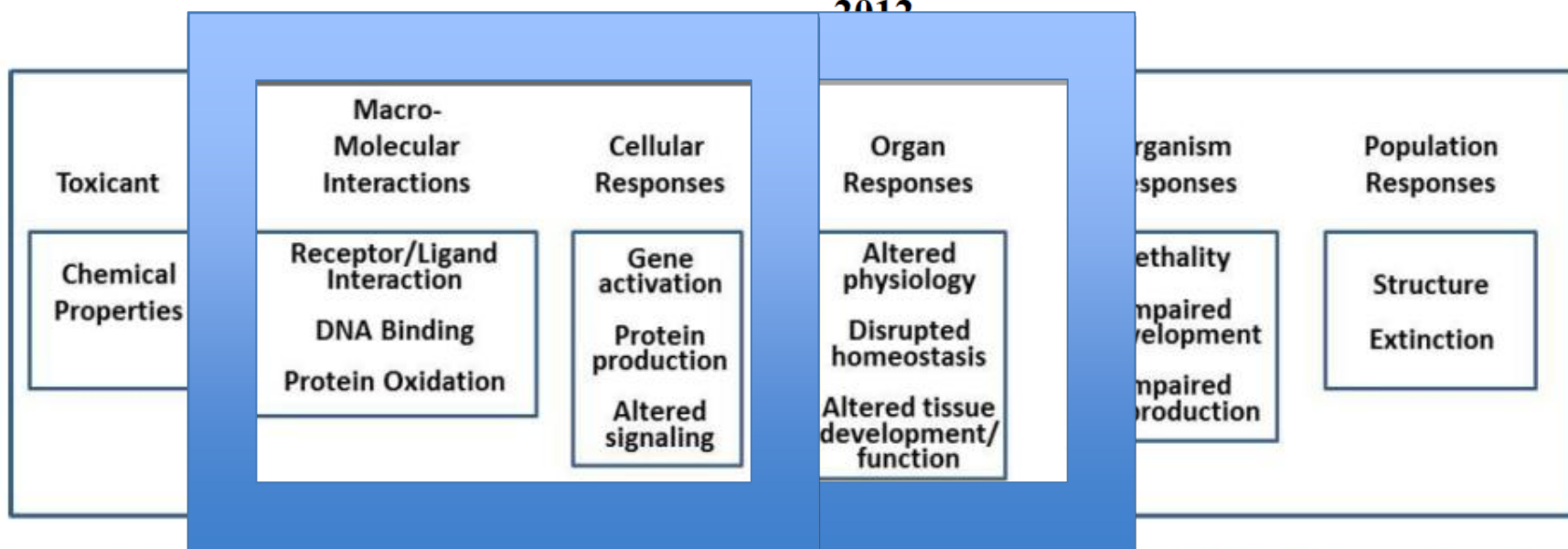


Figure 1. A schematic representation of the Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) illustrated with reference to a number of pathways.

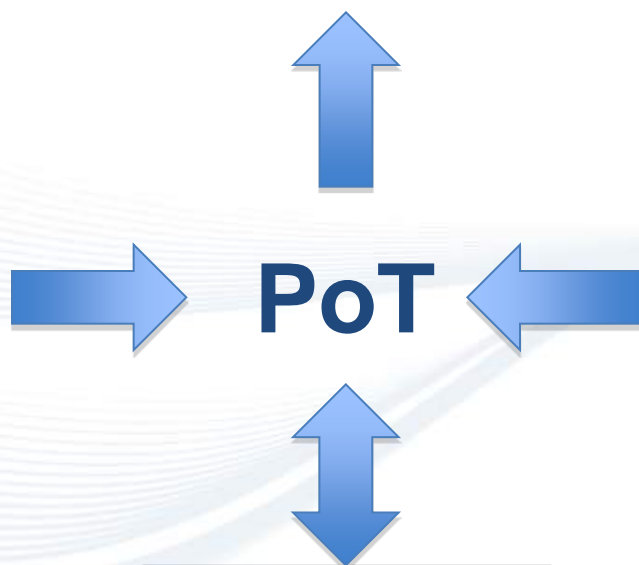
PoT

Workshop on the Concept and Tools for Pathways of Toxicity
October 10 -12, 2012, Baltimore, MD

Human Toxome database

Content side:

- Mol.biol.
- Biochem.
- Omics SoT
- Tox Mechan.



User side:

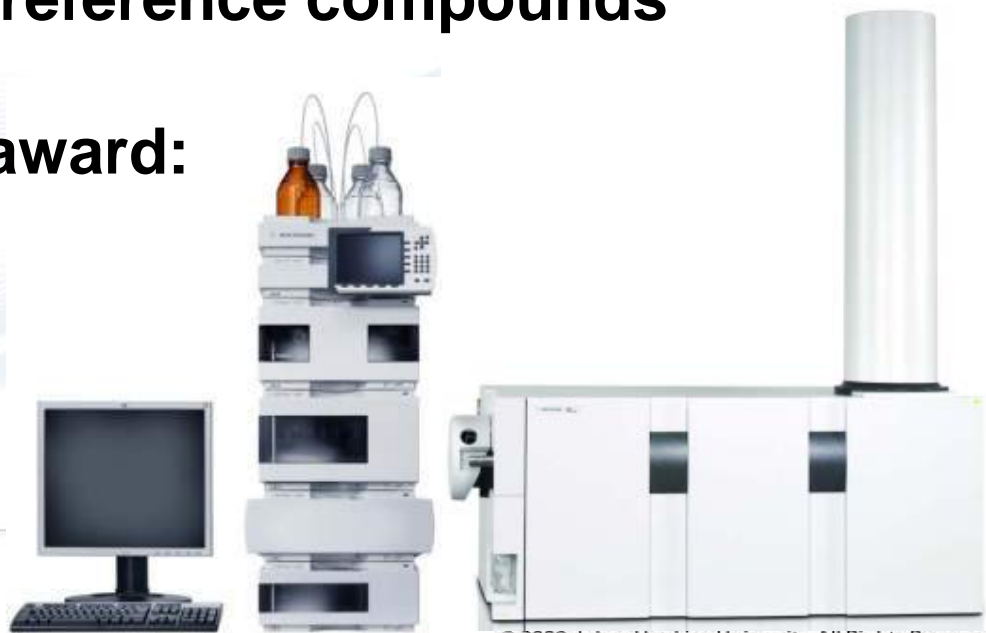
- Regulation
- Probabilistic RA
- Systems Toxicology
- Virtual patient

Existing
databases

Metabolic profiling and Pathway of Toxicity identification in DNT



- **DNT (autism, hyperactivity); animal test \$1.4 million, 1400 animals per substance**
- **Identify metabolite changes relevant for neurodevelopment with reference compounds**
- **Agilent thought leader award: LC/MS system**
- **Integrate with genomics**



PoToMaC - The Pathways of Toxicity Mapping Center



European branch?

Transformative
Research Grant:
*Mapping the
Human Toxome
by Systems
Toxicology*



7 companies, 3 stakeholders



2 Mar 2012

“Driven both by legislative mandate and scientific need, a new suite of in vitro and cell culture-based animal-free methods are gaining a foothold in toxicology labs.”

LIFE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES


Produced by the Science/AAAS Custom Publishing Office

Toxicology

Animal-Free Toxicology

Sometimes, in Vitro is Better

The next time you use shampoo, air freshener, or moisturizing cream, consider this: How do you know it's safe? In all likelihood, whatever toxicologic screening its component ingredients were subjected to involved laboratory animals, the method of choice for decades and the industry's reigning "gold standard." Yet as Bob Dylan once put it, the times, they are a-changing. Animal-based testing is expensive and time-consuming, morally and ethically troubling, and most significantly, often a poor predictor of human toxicity. Animals aren't going anywhere just yet. But their numbers are dropping. Driven both by legislative mandate and scientific need, a new suite of in vitro and cell culture-based animal-free methods are gaining a foothold in toxicology labs. **By Jeffrey M. Perkel**



One key player in the modernization of toxicology screening is automation.



The trap

**Biological
phenotyping (alerts)
becomes available
before we know how
to interpret this in a
risk context**

False

Evidence

Appearing

Real



*1st International Forum towards
Evidence-Based Toxicology (EBT)
October 15-18, 2007, Como, Italy*



Evidence-based Toxicology
“Evidence-based medicine goes toxicology!”

Hoffmann and Hartung “Toward an evidence-based toxicology”,
Human Exp. Tox., 2006



Mar 2011: US EBTC
Oct 2011: Secretariat at CAAT
Jan 2012: First conference hosted by EPA



Kick-off meeting of the Evidence-Based Toxicology Collaboration (EBTC) Europe



ebtcc
Evidence-based Toxicology Collaboration

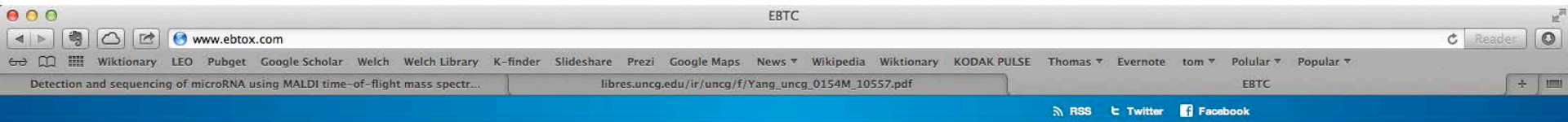
In conjunction with Eurotox Congress 2012 (Stockholm, Sweden)

June 17, 2012
15:30h - 17:30h

Radisson Blu Royal Viking Hotel • Vasagatan 1, Stockholm, Sweden

Complimentary Registration: <http://www.ebtcc.com>

EBT Collaboration Steering Committees



[About Us](#) [Contact Us](#) [Meetings & Symposia](#) [Steering Committee](#)

What is Evidence-based Toxicology?

The Evidence-Based Toxicology (EBT) Collaboration has recently taken up the challenge of translating evidence-based approaches from medicine to toxicology. The Collaboration has closely coordinated steering committees in the US and Europe with members drawn from government agencies, academia, and industry. [More . . .](#)



LATEST NEWS

-  **US EBTC Receives Informal Tutorial on Systematic Reviews**
The US EBTC Steering Committee held an informal tutorial on systematic reviews (SRs) on July 23, 2012 at Johns Hopkins S...
-  **Kick-off meeting of the Evidence-Based Toxicology Collaboration (EBTC) Europe**
In conjunction with Eurotox Congress 2012 (Stockholm, Sweden) June 17, 2012 | 15:30h - 17:30h Radisson Blu Royal Vi...

Definition of Validation



ALTEX 27 (2010) 253-263

Evidence-Based Toxicology – the Toolbox of Validation for the 21st Century?

Thomas Hartung

Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Dept. Environmental Health Sciences, Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT), Doerenkamp-Zbinden Chair for Evidence-based Toxicology, Baltimore, MD, USA, and Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Konstanz, Germany



Knowledge:
- PoT
- MoA

Just became available (AltWeb or ALTEX website)

Workshop Report

Evidence-based Toxicology for the 21st Century: Opportunities and Challenges*

Martin L. Stephens¹, Melvin Andersen², Richard A. Becker³, Kellyn Betts⁴, Kim Boekelheide⁵, Ed Carney⁶, Robert Chapin⁷, Dennis Devlin⁸, Suzanne Fitzpatrick⁹, John R. Fowle III¹⁰, Patricia Harlow¹¹, Thomas Hartung¹, Sebastian Hoffmann¹², Michael Holsapple¹³, Abigail Jacobs¹¹, Richard Judson¹⁴, Olga Naidenko¹⁵, Tim Pastoor¹⁶, Grace Patlewicz¹⁷, Andrew Rowan¹⁸, Roberta Scherer¹, Rashid Shaikh¹⁹, Ted Simon²⁰, Douglas Wolf¹⁴, and Joanne Zurlo¹

Perspectives on Validation of High-Throughput Assays Supporting 21st Century Toxicity Testing

Richard Judson¹, Robert Kavlock¹, Matthew Martin¹, David Reif¹, Keith Houck¹, Thomas Knudsen¹, Ann Richard¹, Raymond R. Tice², Maurice Whelan³, Menghang Xia⁴, Ruili Huang⁴, Christopher Austin⁴, George Daston⁵, Thomas Hartung⁶, John R. Fowle III⁷, William Wooge⁸, Weida Tong⁹, and David Dix¹

Valid(ated) models and reference substances

Pathway Identification

Food for Thought ... Mechanistic Validation

**Next
ALTEX**

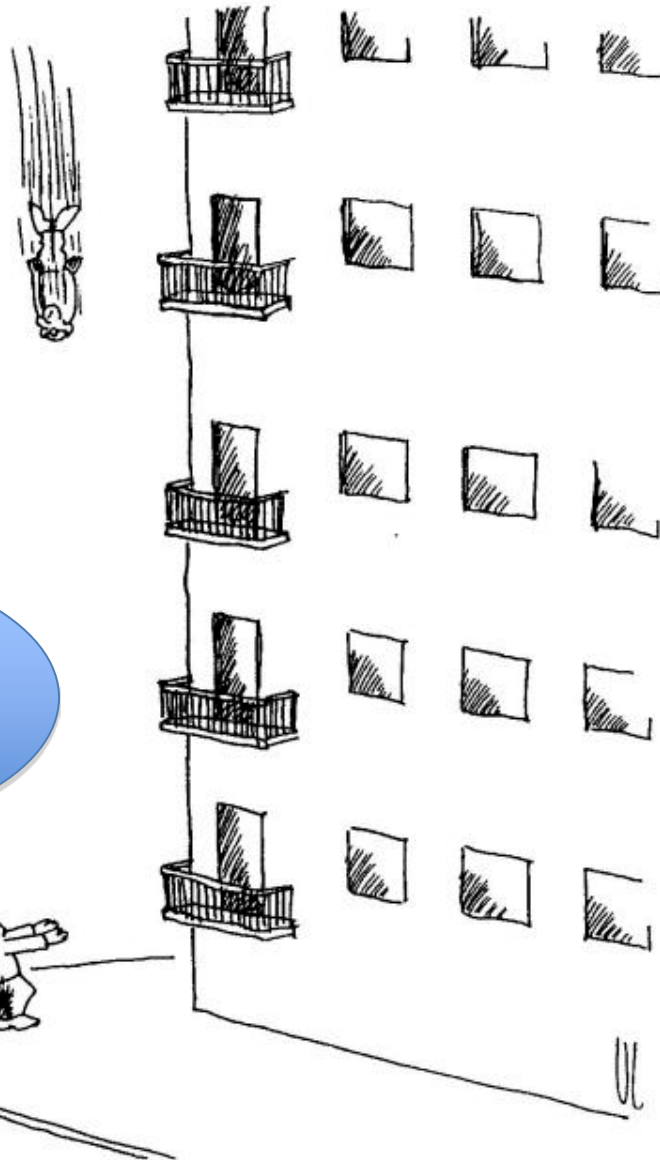
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**Proof of pathway coverage
Reproducibility**

***Mechanistically
validated***



We have to catch him

That's not evidence-based

Johns Hopkins is the right environment for EBTC secretariat



***The difficulty lies, not in the new ideas,
but in escaping from the old ones.***

John Maynard Keynes

(1883 - 1946)