

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
COLLEGE PARK CAMPUS



**Aquatic Pathobiology Center**



VIRGINIA-MARYLAND REGIONAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

**Facilitating Needed Drug Approval for Aquaculture:  
*In Vitro* Metabolic Profiles to  
Characterize and Predict Drug  
Residues in Cultured Finfish**

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# CVM Mission

Facilitate drug approvals for minor species

while

protecting the food supply from harmful residues



# Disease Impact

- **Infectious and parasitic diseases losses in millions of dollars: major obstacles for aquaculture growth** (*Georgiadis et al., 2001*).
- **Salmon industry in New Brunswick: \$20 million/year in losses due to sea lice**  
(Davies and Rodger, 2000).
- **Japan estimates \$125 million annual losses due to diseases of aquacultured species**  
(Schnick et al., 1999). **(40 drugs APPROVED in Japan)**



# Drugs approved for aquaculture

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Indication</b>
<b>Formalin</b>	<b>Finfish, finfish eggs, shrimp</b>	<b>Ectoparasites</b>
<b>Sulfamerazine</b>	<b>Trouts</b>	<b>Furunculosis</b>
<b>Oxytetracycline</b>	<b>Salmonids, catfish, lobsters</b>	<b>Bacterial septicemia</b>
<b>Chorionic gonadotropin</b>	<b>Broodfish</b>	<b>Improvement of spawning</b>
<b>Sulfa-ormetroprim</b>	<b>Salmonids, catfish</b>	<b>Furunculosis</b>
<b>MS-222</b>	<b>Fish, other aquatic poikilotherms</b>	<b>Sedation/ anesthesia</b>



# General Objectives

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## Develop species groupings

- **Metabolic profiles**
- **Residue profiles**
- ***In vivo - in vitro* correlations**

# Specific Objectives

- To contrast phase I (ECOD, EROD, PROD, BROD) and phase II (GST, GT, SULF) biotransformation kinetics in relevant aquacultured species.
- Baseline kinetics of farm-raised vs. lab-acclimated specimens of 3 species (rainbow trout, catfish, tilapia).
- *In vitro* metabolism of albendazole as a model drug in representative fish species.

# Species



Channel catfish  
*Ictalurus punctatus*

## Channel catfish

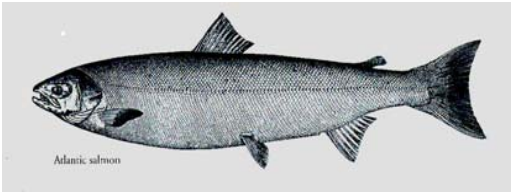


Rainbow trout, male  
*Oncorhynchus mykiss*

## Rainbow trout



## Tilapia



Atlantic salmon

## Atlantic salmon



Wiper  
*Morone saxatilis* × *Morone chrysops*

## Hybrid striped bass



Striped bass  
*Morone saxatilis*

## Striped bass



## Largemouth bass



Bluegill  
*Lepomis macrochirus*

## Bluegill



# Phase I and phase II pathways

**Use model substrates for comparative studies:**

- **ECOD - Ethoxycoumarin: phase I**
- **EROD - Ethoxyresorufin: phase I (1A1)**
- **PROD - Pentoxyresorufin: phase I**
- **BROD - Benzyloxyresorufin: phase I**
- **Resorufin: phase II GT & ST**
- **CDNB - Chlorodinitrobenzene: phase II GST**





# Tissue & assay preparation

- **Market size fish**
- **Harvest livers**
- **Homogenization & centrifugation**
- **Microsomes and cytosol**
- **Optimization assays**



# Enzyme source for *in vitro* analyses



Lipids (discarded)

Cytosol

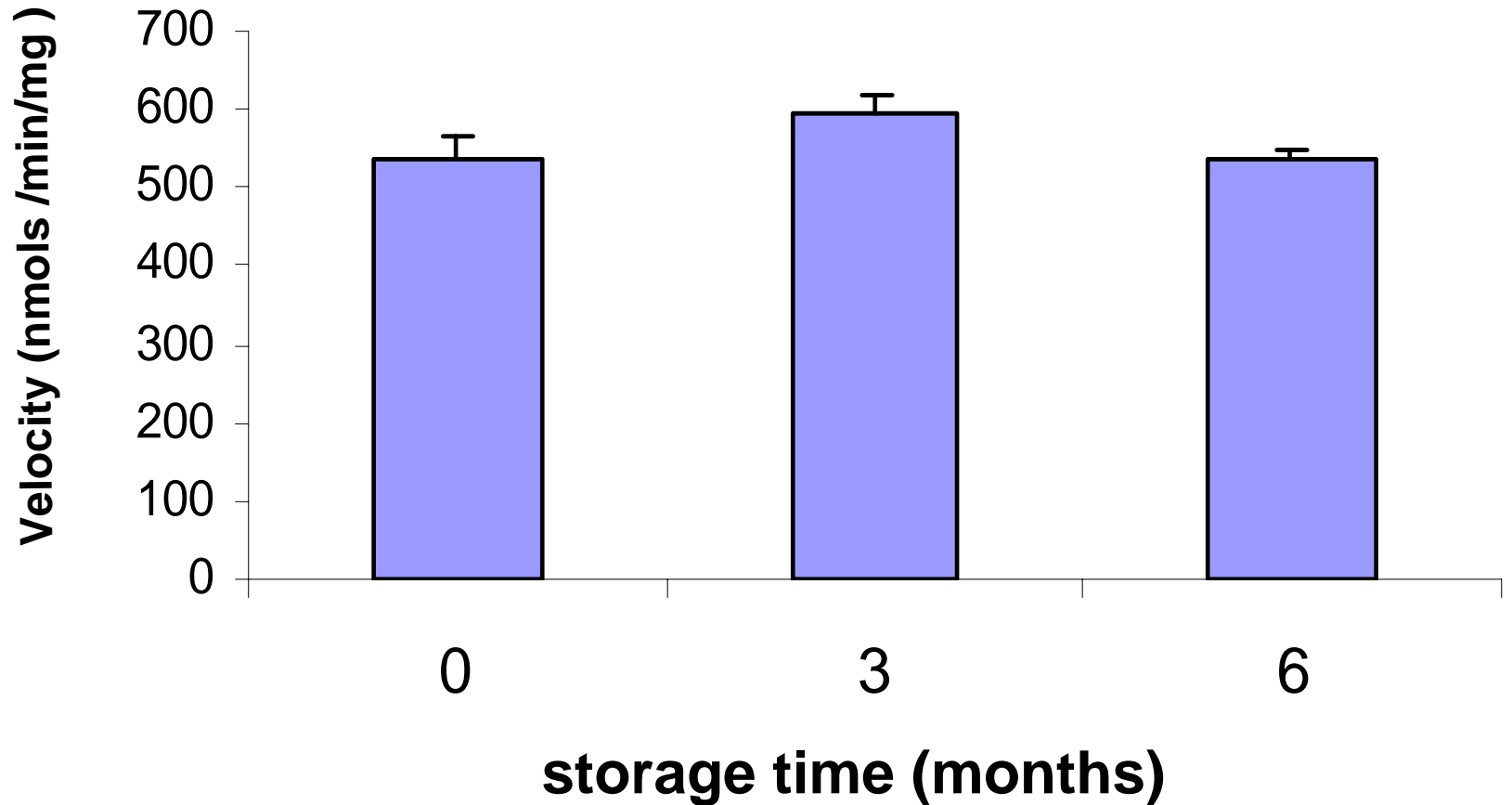
Microsomal fraction

**Enzyme activities at different substrate concentrations discerned using an absorbance-fluorescence microplate reader.**

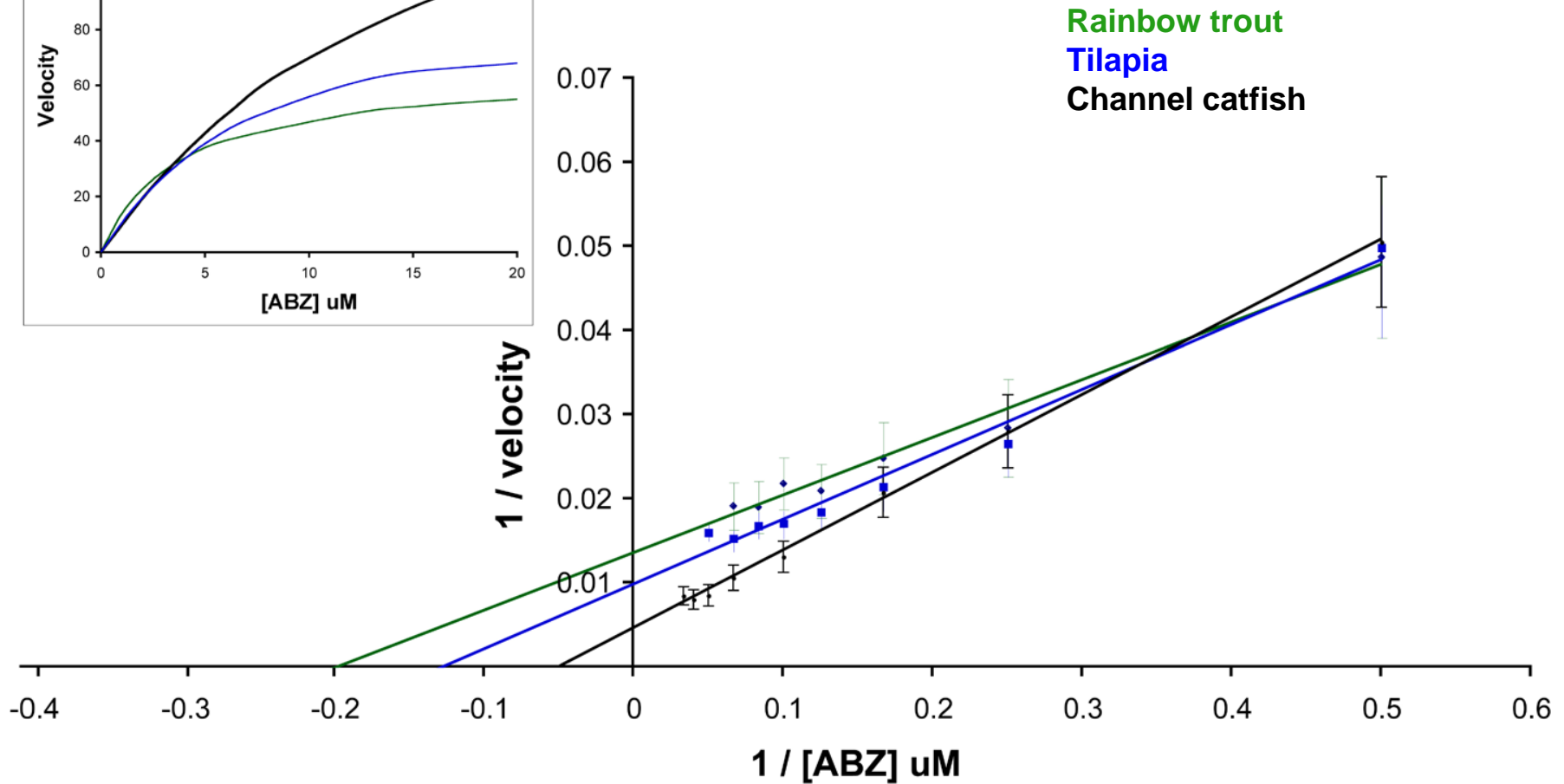
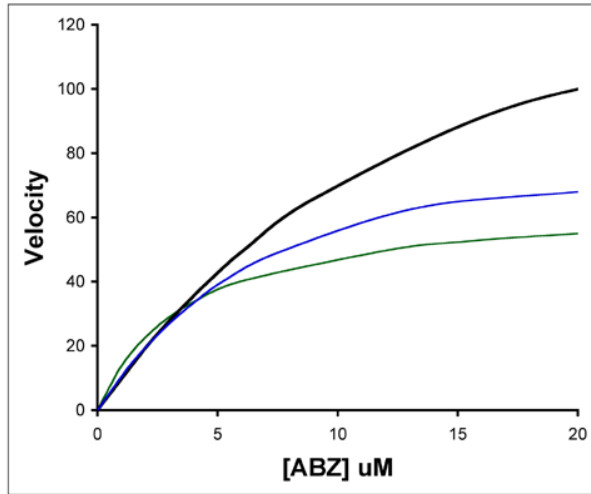


## Storage Data

**Enzyme (GST) activity in rainbow trout  
Effects of -80°C storage time (means  $\pm$  S.E., n=6)**



# Sample kinetic data for three species of fish



# EROD

<b>Species</b> (sample size)	<b>V<sub>max</sub></b> (pmols resorufin/min/mg prot)	<b>K<sub>m</sub></b> (μM)	<b>V<sub>max</sub> / K<sub>m</sub></b>
Rainbow trout (aquacultured) (n = 3)	28 ± 8	0.6 ± 0.07	49 ± 14
Rainbow trout (acclimated) (n = 7)	30 ± 5	0.1 ± 0.01	323 ± 43
Catfish (aquacultured) (n = 4)	39 ± 7	1.8 ± 0.5	24 ± 4
Tilapia (aquacultured) (n = 7)	74 ± 15	2.1 ± 0.3	33 ± 4
Tilapia (acclimated) (n = 8)	32 ± 2	0.2 ± 0.04	226 ± 36
Atlantic salmon (n = 5)	66 ± 7	0.2 ± 0.02	300 ± 28
Largemouth bass (n = 5)	27 ± 8	0.9 ± 0.1	30 ± 5

# Sulfotransferase

Species (sample size)	$V_{\max}$ (pmols resorufin /min/mg prot)	$K_m$ ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	$V_{\max} / K_m$
Rainbow trout (aquacultured) (n = 8)	$190 \pm 20$	$0.7 \pm 0.1$	$287 \pm 18$
Rainbow trout (acclimated) (n = 8)	$239 \pm 19$	$0.9 \pm 0.1$	$298 \pm 45$
Catfish (aquacultured) (n = 5)	$265 \pm 27$	$0.8 \pm 0.1$	$388 \pm 63$
Catfish (acclimated) (n = 3)	$49 \pm 10$	$0.1 \pm 0.0$	$487 \pm 97$
Tilapia (aquacultured) (n = 5)	$328 \pm 17$	$1.0 \pm 0.2$	$354 \pm 64$
Tilapia (acclimated) (n = 5)	$86 \pm 9$	$0.6 \pm 0.1$	$164 \pm 39$
Atlantic salmon (n = 5)	$215 \pm 14$	$0.5 \pm 0.1$	$436 \pm 63$
Largemouth bass (n = 4)	$147 \pm 10$	$0.6 \pm 0.1$	$300 \pm 83$
Striped bass (n = 4)	$45 \pm 5$	$0.1 \pm 0.03$	$394 \pm 77$
Hybrid striped bass (n = 3)	$46 \pm 4$	$0.3 \pm 0.1$	$309 \pm 89$
Bluegill (n = 4)	$107 \pm 23$	$0.7 \pm 0.1$	$167 \pm 35$

# Glutathione-s-transferase

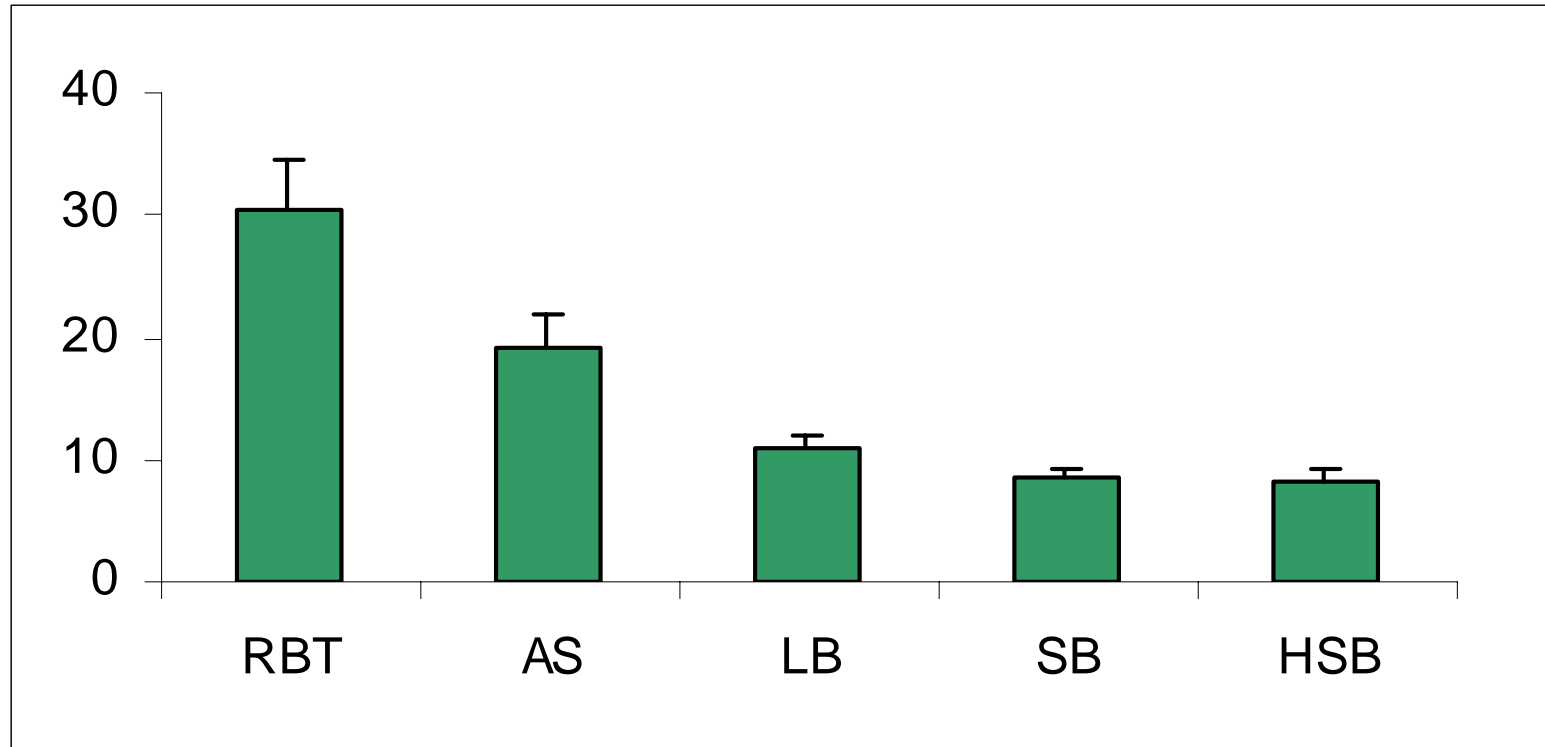
Species (sample size)	$V_{\max}$ (nmols CDNB/min/mg prot)	$K_m$ (mM)	$V_{\max} / K_m$
Rainbow trout (aquacultured) (n = 8)	929 ± 65	0.4 ± 0.05	2260 ± 200
Rainbow trout (acclimated) (n = 7)	419 ± 32	0.1 ± 0.01	4690 ± 254
Catfish (aquacultured) (n = 8)	657 ± 39	0.1 ± 0.02	5568 ± 413
Catfish (acclimated) (n = 6)	1972 ± 125	1.1 ± 0.1	1891 ± 74
Tilapia (aquacultured) (n = 8)	1508 ± 70	0.3 ± 0.01	5005 ± 23
Tilapia (acclimated) (n = 7)	1474 ± 109	0.6 ± 0.05	2434 ± 70
Atlantic salmon (n = 5)	1349 ± 107	0.5 ± 0.1	2816 ± 329
Largemouth bass (n = 8)	589 ± 52	0.4 ± 0.06	1491 ± 117
Striped bass (n = 7)	334 ± 30	0.2 ± 0.02	1525 ± 99
Hybrid striped bass (n = 7)	471 ± 39	0.4 ± 0.04	1395 ± 105
Yellow perch (n = 5)	490 ± 91	0.6 ± 0.1	859 ± 75
Bluegill (n = 8)	354 ± 26	0.3 ± 0.04	1394 ± 145



# UDP-glucuronosyltransferase

<b>Species</b> (sample size)	<b>V<sub>max</sub></b> (pmols resorufin/min/mg prot)	<b>K<sub>m</sub></b> ( $\mu$ M)	<b>V<sub>max</sub> / K<sub>m</sub></b>
Rainbow trout (aquacultured) (n = 4)	930 $\pm$ 258	32.3 $\pm$ 8.7	30.4 $\pm$ 4.4
Rainbow trout (acclimated) (n = 8)	834 $\pm$ 208	25.0 $\pm$ 6.0	34.0 $\pm$ 3.0
Tilapia (aquacultured) (n = 6 )	368 $\pm$ 89	29.0 $\pm$ 9.0	15.4 $\pm$ 2.7
Tilapia (acclimated) (n = 6)	400 $\pm$ 88	29.0 $\pm$ 9.0	16.0 $\pm$ 3.0
Atlantic salmon (n = 5)	410 $\pm$ 86	24.0 $\pm$ 6.0	19.0 $\pm$ 3.0
Largemouth bass (n = 7)	273 $\pm$ 16	27.0 $\pm$ 3.0	11.0 $\pm$ 1.0
Striped bass (n = 5)	231 $\pm$ 29	29.0 $\pm$ 5.0	8.4 $\pm$ 1.0
Hybrid striped bass (n = 6)	271 $\pm$ 37	36.0 $\pm$ 7.0	8.2 $\pm$ 0.9
Bluegill (n = 6 )	263 $\pm$ 31	17.5 $\pm$ 2.3	16.3 $\pm$ 3.1

# $V_{\max} / K_m$ ratios for UDPGT



Move from baseline data to working with

Microsomes from albendazole exposed fish

or

Microsomes exposed to albendazole *in vitro*

# *in vitro* Albendazole metabolism in 3 species

Species	$V_{\max}$ (pmols ABZ-SO/min/mg protein)	$K_m$ ( $\mu$ M)	$V_{\max}/K_m$
Channel catfish	264.0 $\pm$ 58.6	22.0 $\pm$ 3.2	12.3 $\pm$ 1.9
Tilapia	112.3 $\pm$ 8.2	9.2 $\pm$ 1.7	13.6 $\pm$ 1.7
Rainbow trout	73.3 $\pm$ 10.3	3.9 $\pm$ 0.5	19.2 $\pm$ 2.6

$V_{\max}$ ,  $K_m$  and  $V_{\max}/K_m$  values for *in vitro* Albendazole sulfoxidation in channel catfish, tilapia and rainbow trout microsomes, determined from the regression equations in Figure 1, above.  $V_{\max}$  and  $K_m$  values differ notably between species, however the ratio of these values suggest similar *in vitro* metabolic efficiencies.

# Does Albendazole induce EROD, PROD, BROD or GST after in vivo dosing?

- Significant induction of EROD activity was seen in all ABZ-treated fish as compared to control fish. Induction was highest in 24h and 72h post-dosage treatment groups.
- In general, CYP1A gene expression at the translational level is low in fish that have not been exposed to chemical inducers. CYP1A has been mainly studied as a subfamily that can be used as a biomarker for aquatic pollution due to its inducibility with numerous compounds that are present as water contaminants.

EROD	Control	24h	48h	72h	120h
7ER <sub>(1 uM)</sub>	8.5 ± 1.9	22.2 ± 2.5	19.1 ± 1.6	18.4 ± 3.1	19.6 ± 2.0
7ER <sub>(10 uM)</sub>	16.5 ± 3.9	48.5 ± 6.2	34.8 ± 3.4	48.9 ± 10.6	41.3 ± 7.9

EROD activity (pmols resorufin/min/mg protein) in ABZ-dosed channel catfish.  
Data are means +/- S.E.

# PROD and BROD activity after *in vivo* albendazole exposure

**No induction due to albendazole treatment *in vivo*.**

**Baseline activities have not been observed in any of the fish species tested in our previous experiments.**

# GST activity after *in vivo* albendazole exposure.

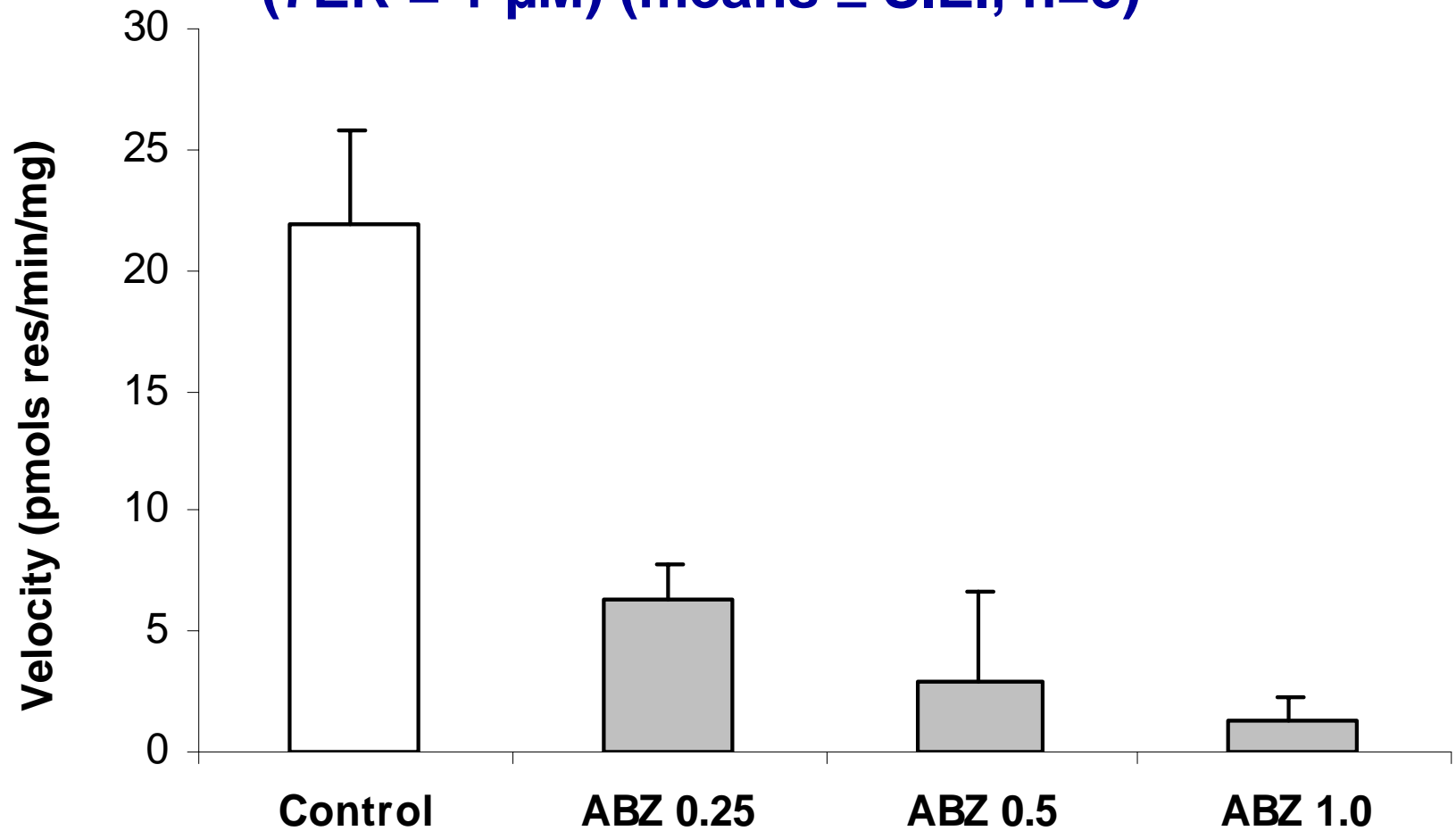
## GST Activity:

- GST activity was not induced in Albendazole-treated catfish livers. On the contrary, GST was significantly reduced at 120h post-Albendazole treatment. This is in contrast to what has been reported in mouse serum and muscle.

GST Activity	Control	24h	48h	72h	120h
CDNB <sub>(1mM)</sub>	512 ± 23	430 ± 32	456 ± 28	360 ± 46	354 ± 50

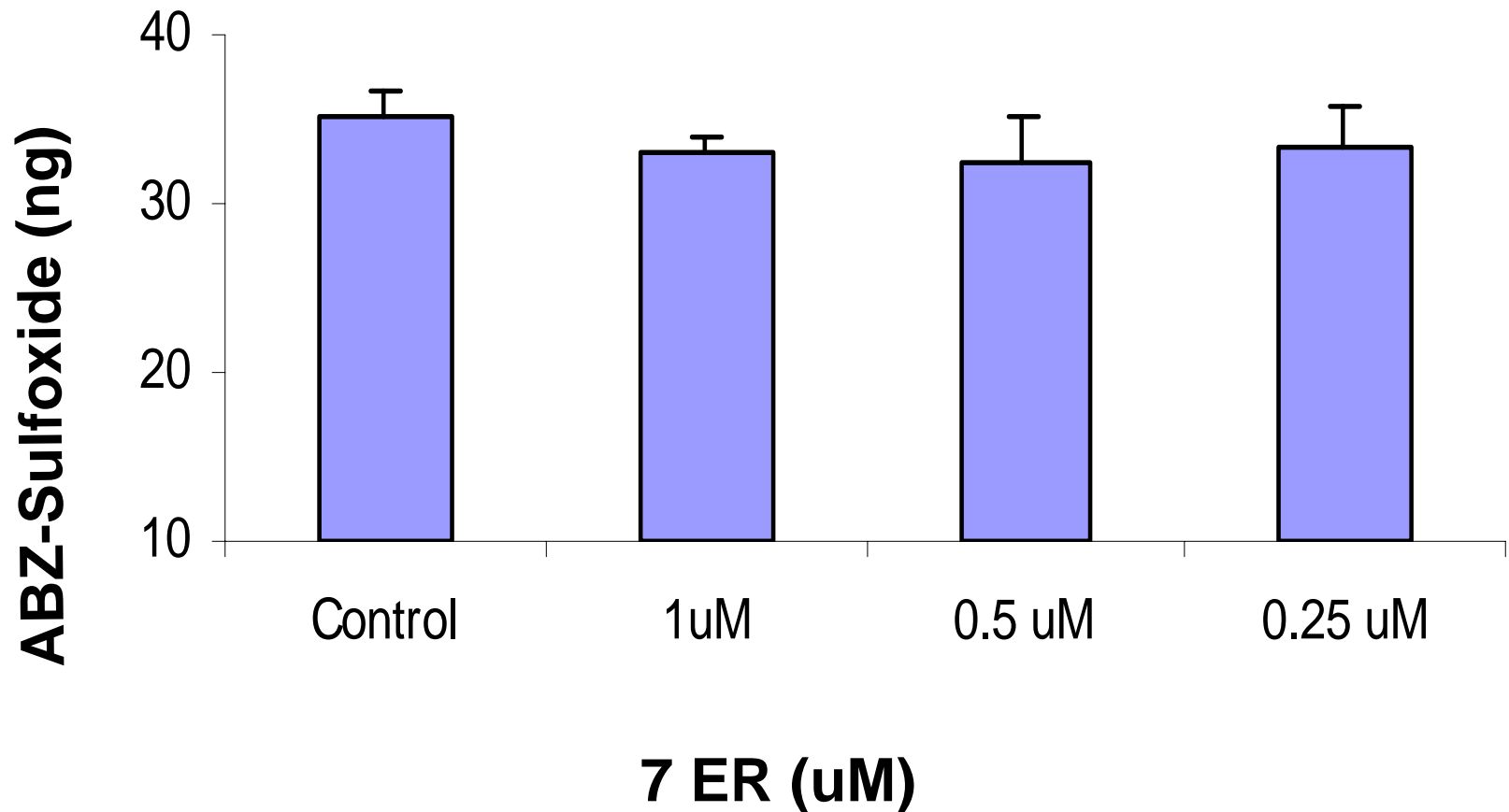
GST activity (nmols/min/mg protein) in ABZ-treated channel catfish.  
Data are means ± S.E.

**ABZ treatment *in vitro* suppresses EROD activity in rainbow trout microsomes (7ER = 1  $\mu$ M) (means  $\pm$  S.E., n=8)**





**Effects of 7ER on ABZ sulfoxidation *in vitro*  
rainbow trout (ABZ = 1 uM) (means  $\pm$  S.E., n=4)**



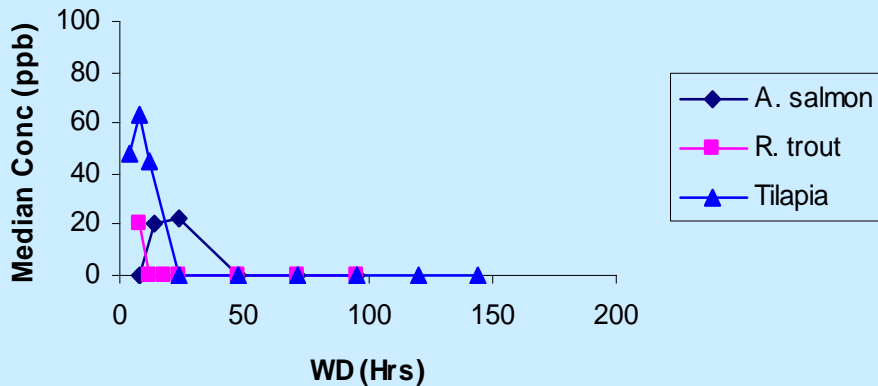
**No significant changes in ABZ-sulfox, suggests that CYP1A does not play a critical role in this reaction**



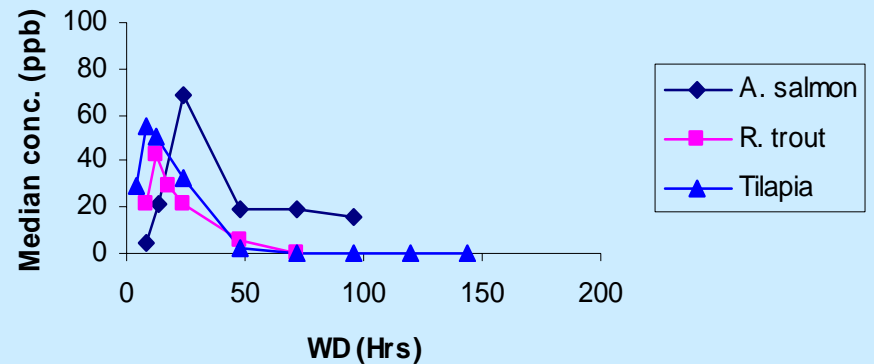
# *In vivo* efforts: Albendazole

*(FDA-CVM metabolite/residue analyses)*

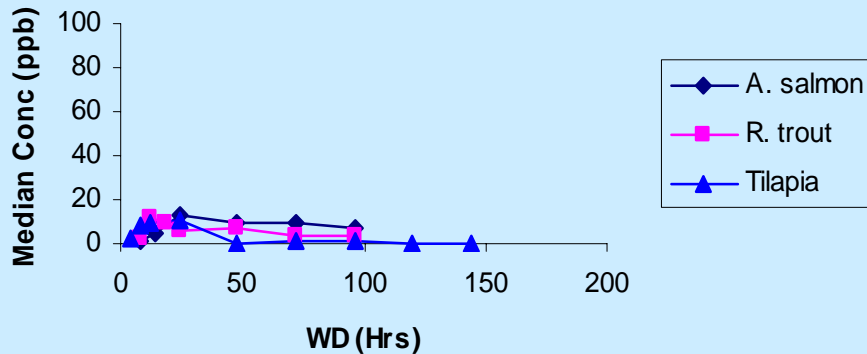
Depletion of ABZ



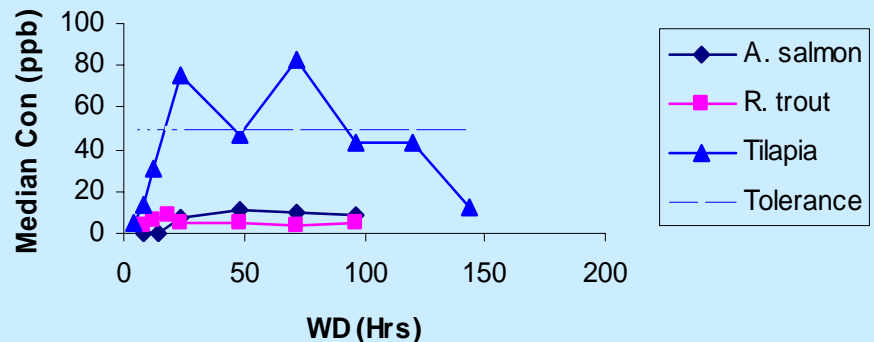
Depletion of ABZ-SO



Depletion of ABZ-SO2



Depletion of ABZ-SO2NH2



# Working

- Complete *in vitro* species comparisons
- Data analysis
- CVM *in vivo* albendazole exposures – residue analysis – additional fish species –  
catfish, LMB
- Compare and contrast the *in vivo* and *in vitro* data to screen for correlations which could be used in a regulatory setting.



# Anticipated benefits

- **Accelerate the drug approval process for multiple fish species, based on modeling drug metabolic profiles and tissue residues.**
- **Reduce cost of approval process**
- **Effective disease control**
- **Improved production and profits**
- **Controlled drug use**

**Fin**