Decision making in Next Generation Risk Assessment (NGRA)





Learning objectives

- Give an overview of next generation risk assessment.
- Awareness of different computational approaches that are used (e.g., Bayesian inference, dose response models etc), illustrated with examples taken from case studies.
- Understand how to get started using computational approaches to analyse data (including open access tools and other resources).



About me

- Degree in Mathematics from the University of Edinburgh
- PhD in Applied Mathematics from the University of Nottingham
- Postdocs in Germany at the University of Freiburg and the University of Heidelberg
- Joined Unilever in 2014, hired as a mathematical modeller
- Science leader in Computational Toxicology













Web Resource

Unilever's Safety and Environmental Assurance Centre's Website for what we are discussing today:

www.TT21C.org



Ensuring Safe Ingredients for Foods, Drinks, Homecare and Cosmetic Products

Risk Based Approach:

Considers both the hazard and the exposure to evaluate the risk

Can we safely use % of ingredient in product?

For consumers; workers; the environment





Next Generation Risk Assessment (NGRA)

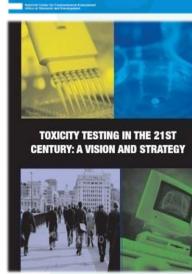
NGRA is defined as an exposure-led,
hypothesis-driven risk assessment
approach that integrates New Approach
Methodologies (NAMs) to assure safety
without the use of animal testing

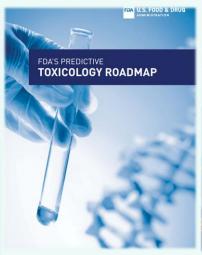




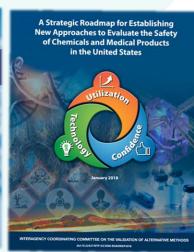
Safety without animal testing









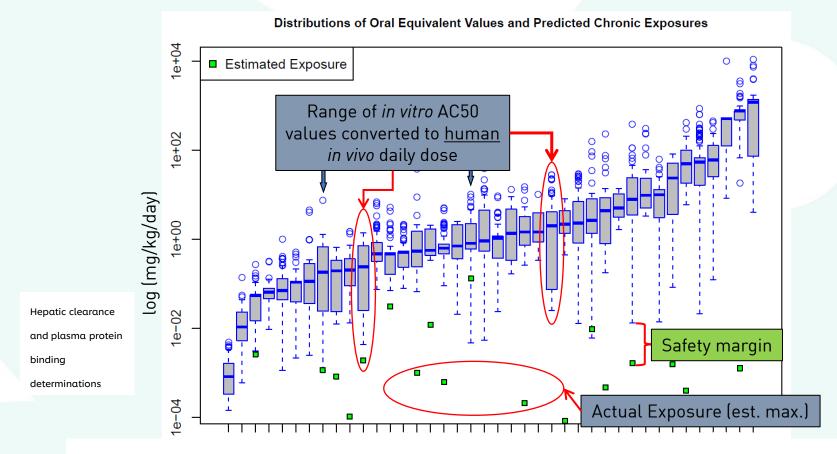






In Vitro Bioactivity vs Bioavailabilty



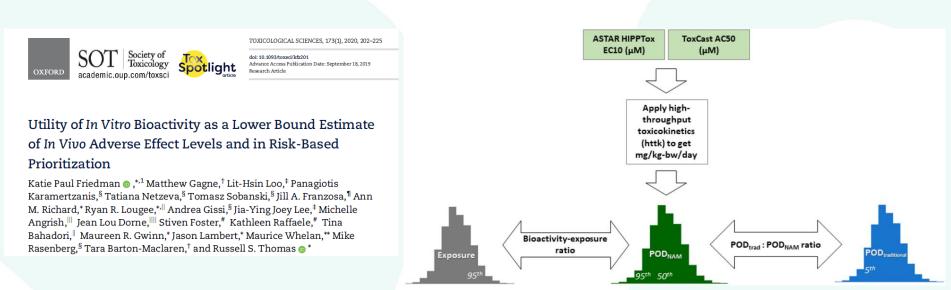


"Protection not Prediction"

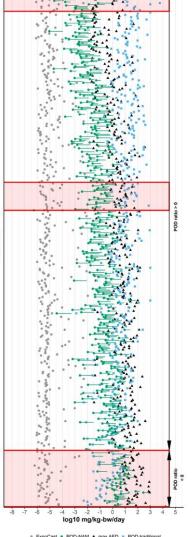


Slide from Dr Rusty Thomas, EPA, with thanks

Integration of exposure and bioactivity for decision-making – Example from the Accelerating the Pace of Chemical Risk Assessment (APCRA) initiative

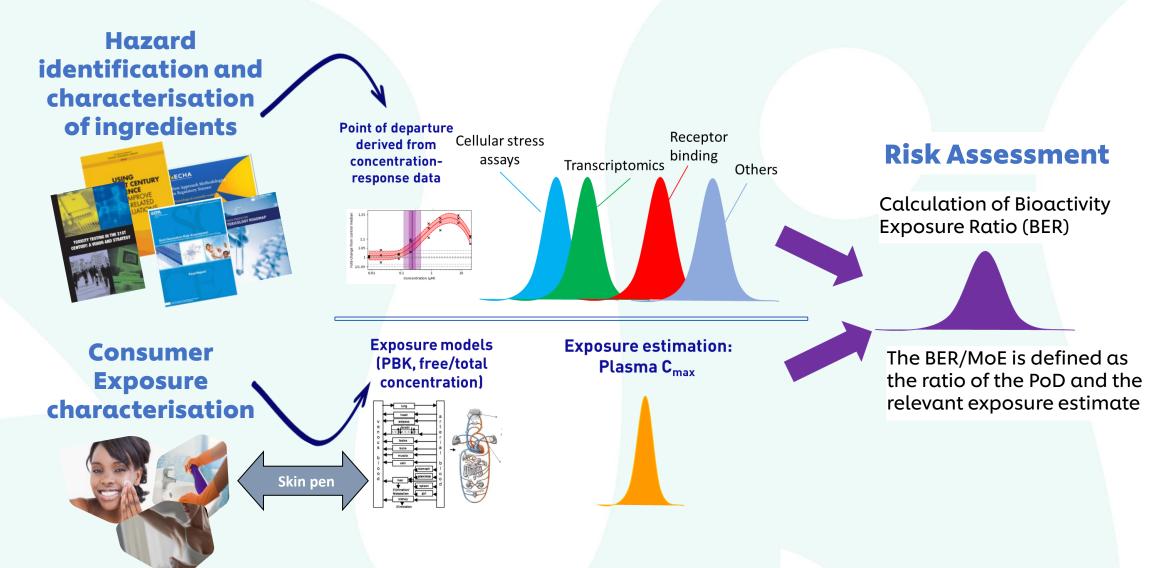


- Of the 448 substances, 89% had a POD_{NAM.95} that was less than the traditional POD (POD_{traditional}) value.
- Bioactivity:exposure ratios (BERs), useful for identification of substances with potential priority, demonstrated that high-throughput exposure predictions were greater than the PODNAM,95 for 11 substances.



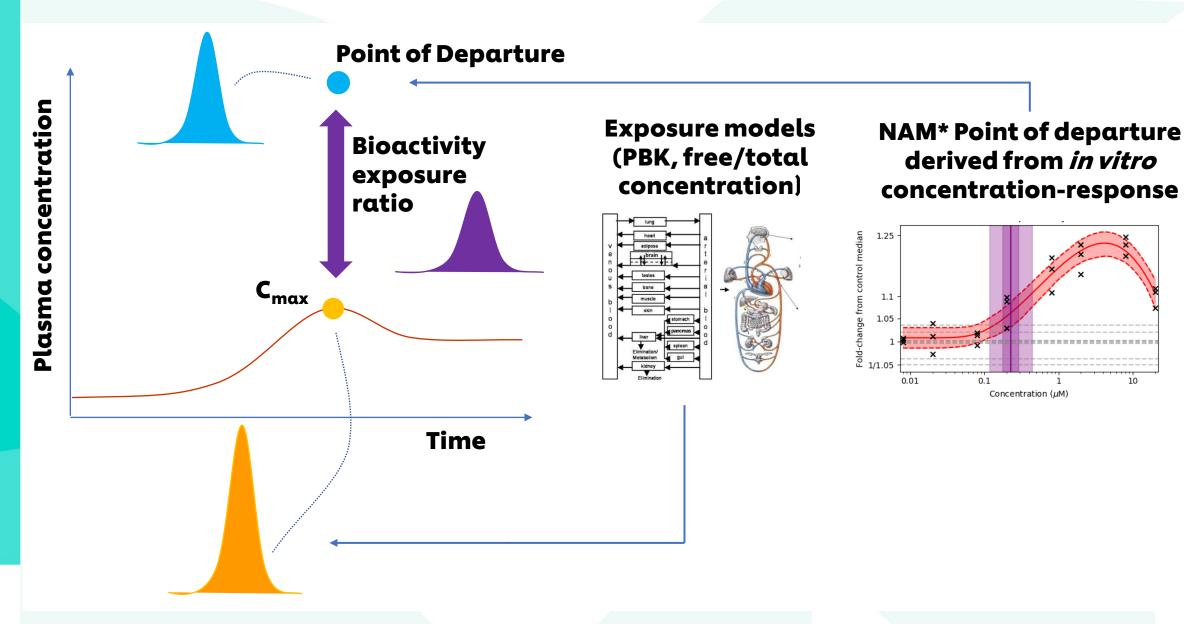


Integration of exposure and bioactivity for decision-making – The assessment is designed to prevent harm





Bioactivity Exposure Ratio





10

Integration of exposure and bioactivity for decision-making – Case studies

NAMs to support hypothetical read-across NGRA case studies (e.g. caffeine and parabens)



English - Or. English

Unclassified

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Exposure to Propylparaben from Cosmetics

Series on Testing and Assessment

JOINT MEETING OF THE CHEMICALS COMMITTEE AND THE WORKING

Cancels & replaces the same document of 23 September 2020

Case Study on use of an Integrated Approach to Testing and Assessment (IATA) and New Approach Methods to Inform a Theoretical Read-Across for Dermal

PARTY ON CHEMICALS, PESTICIDES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

NAMs applied in an *ab initio* hypothetica! NGRA case study



 $\label{lem:convergence} Unilever Safety \ and \ Environmental \ Assurance \ Centre, Colworth \ Science \ Park, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire \ MK44 \ LQ, UK$

¹To whom correspondence should be addressed. Fax: +44(0)1234 264 744. E-mail: maria.baltazar@unilever.com

NAMs applied in real-life chemical safety assessments

APPLIED IN VITRO TOXICOLOGY Volume 7, Number 2, 2021 © Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. DOI: 10.1089/aivt.2021.0005

> Use of the MucilAir Airway Assay, a New Approach Methodology, for Evaluating the Safety and Inhalation Risk of Agrochemicals

> > Marie McGee Hargrove,^{1,i} Bob Parr-Dobrzanski,² Lei Li,³ Samuel Constant,⁴ Joanne Wallace,⁵ Paul Hinderliter,^{1,*} Douglas C. Wolf,¹ and Alex Charlton²

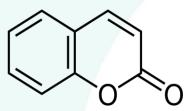


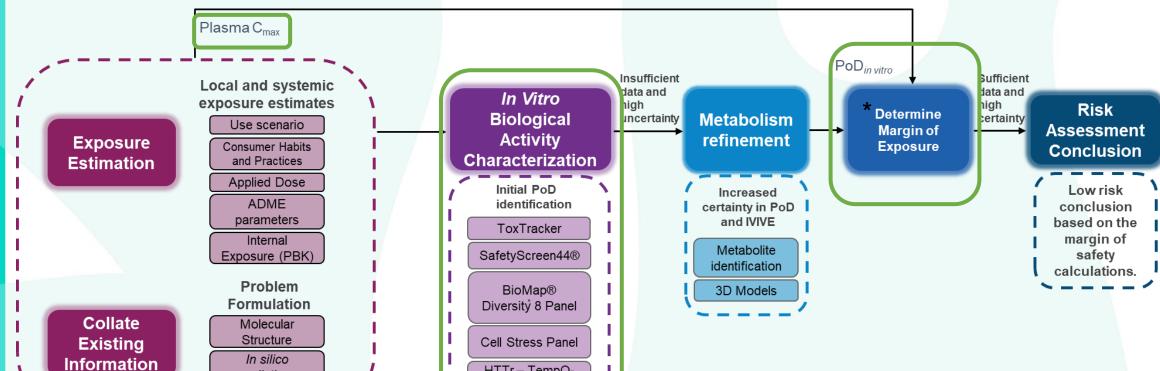
https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0840-0080 11



Example how to integrate NAMs for a NGRA: coumarin case study

0.1% COUMARIN IN FACE CREAM AND BODY LOTION (NEW FRAGRANCE)



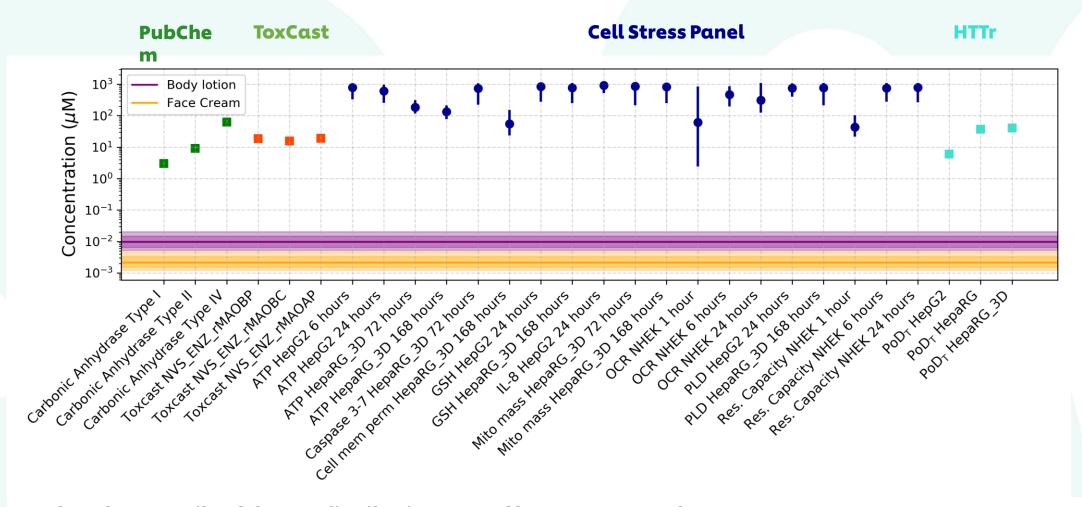


HTTr - TempO-



predictions Literature

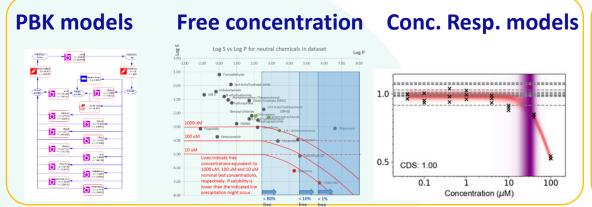
Exposure and PoD are plotted and used to derive a Bioactivity-Exposure Ratio (MoE/BER)

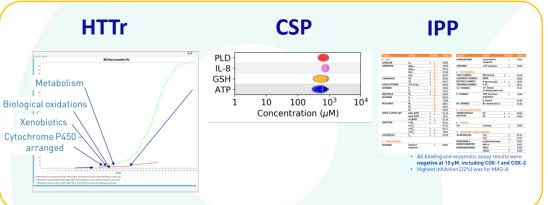


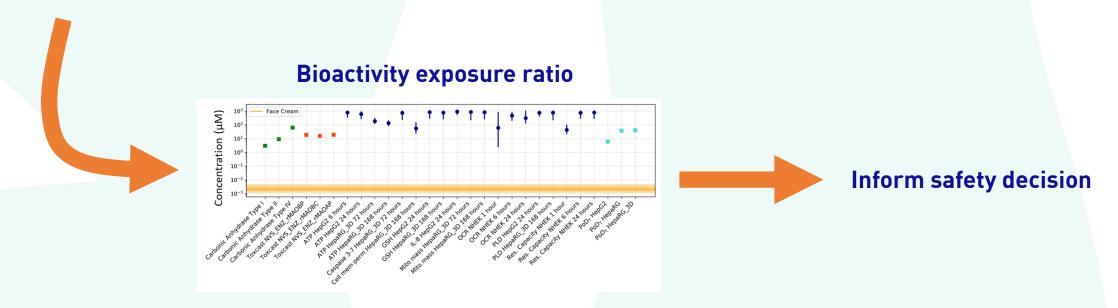
The 5th percentile of the <u>BER distribution ranged between 158 and 96738</u>



Can we develop a general toolbox for estimating BERs?









HTTr: High-throughput transcriptomics

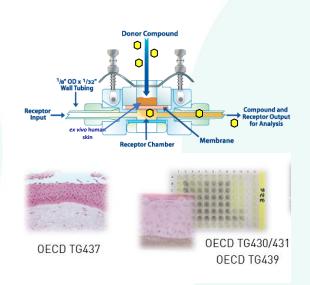
CSP: Cell Stress Panel

IPP: In vitro pharmacological profiling

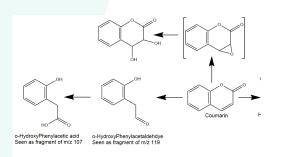
Next Generation Risk Assessment is highly interdisciplinary



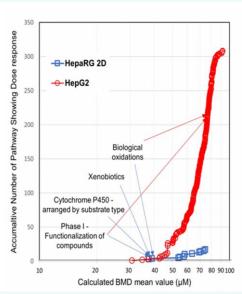
Risk assessment



Biology



Chemistry



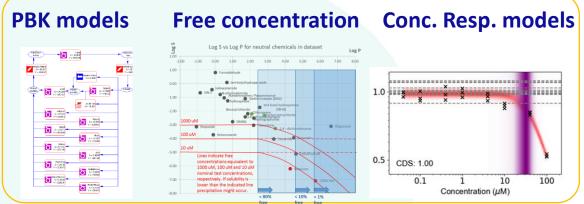
Bioinformatics

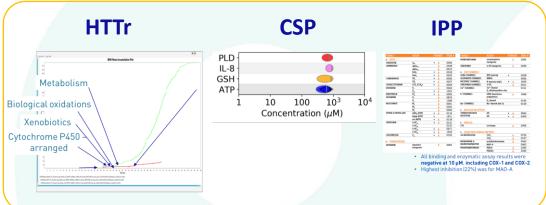
$$y_{t} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} w_{g,1}^{(1)} & \cdots & w_{g,1}^{(m)} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ w_{g,n_{y}}^{(1)} & \cdots & w_{g,n_{y}}^{(m)} \end{bmatrix}}_{C} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \phi_{g}^{(1)}(x_{t}, u_{t}) \\ \vdots \\ \phi_{g}^{(m)}(x_{t}, u_{t}) \end{bmatrix}}_{\bar{\varphi}_{g}(x_{t}, u_{t})} + e_{t}.$$

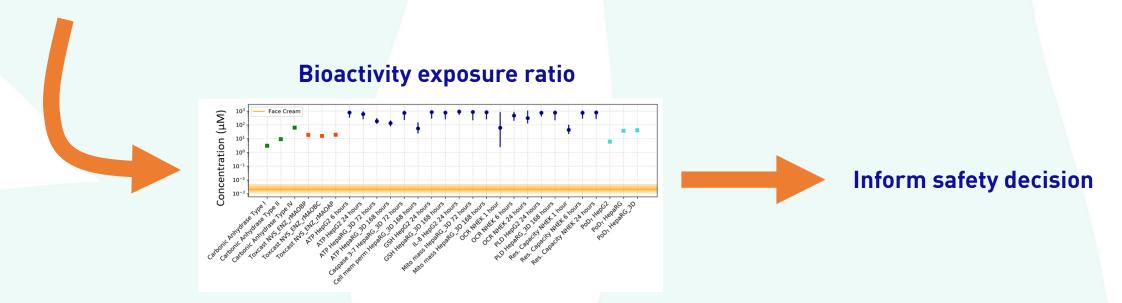
Mathematical and statistical modelling



Back to the toolbox









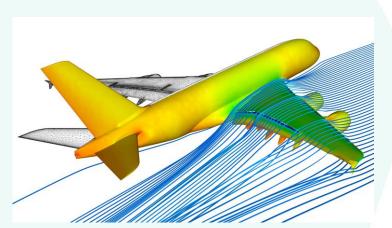
HTTr: High-throughput transcriptomics

CSP: Cell Stress Panel

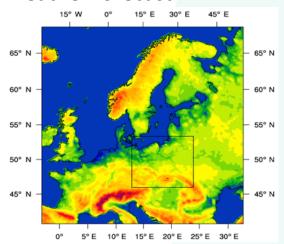
IPP: In vitro pharmacological profiling

Computational models and their impact on everyday life

Air transport



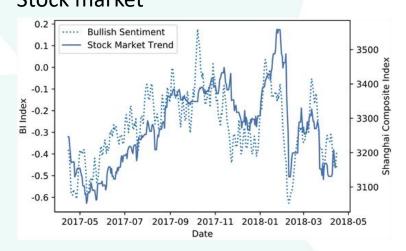
Weather forecast



Satnav



Stock market



dlr.de

Self driving cars

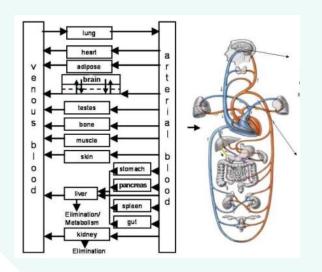




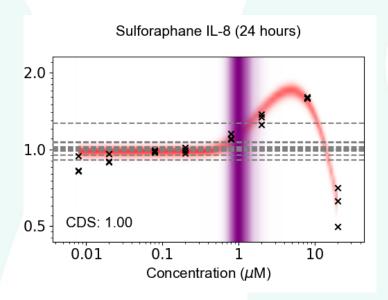


Different types of computational approaches used in NGRA

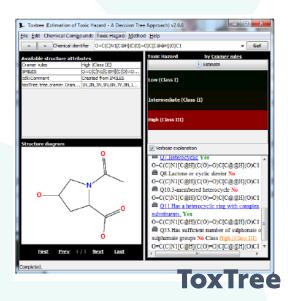
Physiologically-based kinetic (PBK) modelling



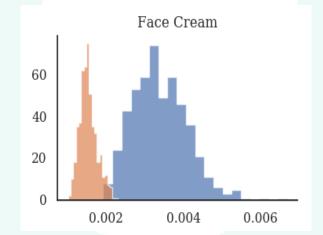
Dose response modelling



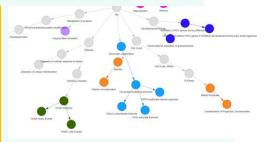
In silico tools



Statistical models of uncertainty and variability



Bioinformatics tools for analysing omics data



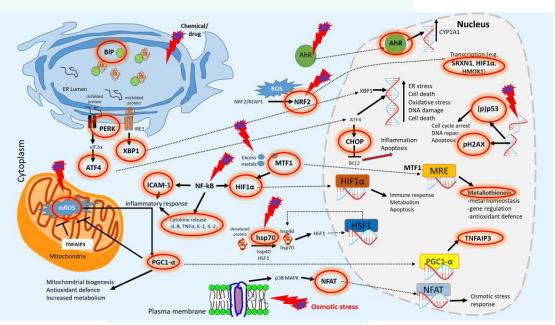


Dose response models



The cell stress panel

Intended to cover off non-specific modes of action that lead to cell stress or mitochondrial toxicity







TOXICOLOGICAL SCIENCES, 2020, 1-23

doi: 10.1093/toxsci/kfaa054 Advance Access Publication Date: May 6, 2020 Research article

Identifying and Characterizing Stress Pathways of Concern for Consumer Safety in Next-Generation Risk Assessment

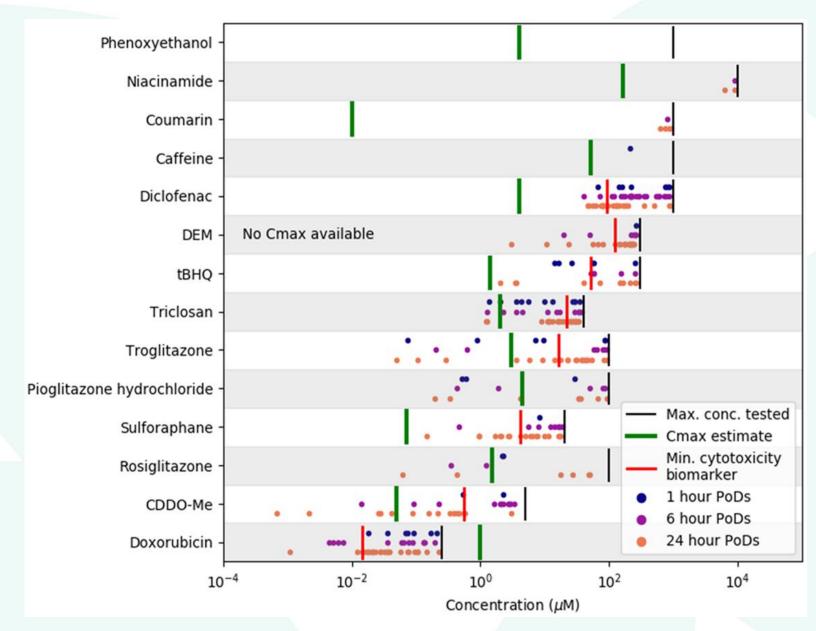
Sarah Hatherell,* Maria T. Baltazar,* Joe Reynolds,* Paul L. Carmichael,* Matthew Dent,* Hequn Li,* Stephanie Ryder,† Andrew White,* Paul Walker , † and Alistair M. Middleton*,1

*Unilever Safety and Environmental Assurance Centre, Colworth Science Park, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire

36 biomarkers identified that were representative of key stress pathways, mitochondrial toxicity and cell health.

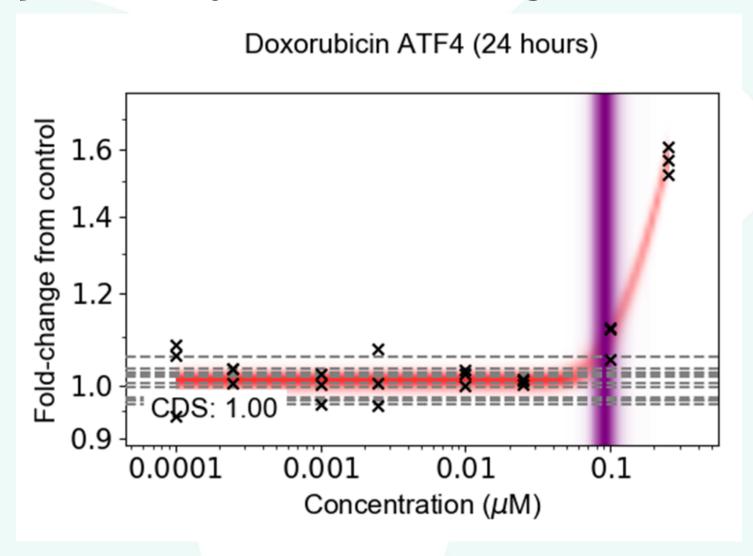
Cell stress biomarkers predominantly measured using high content imaging. Includes Extracellular Flux assay to measure mitochondrial function.





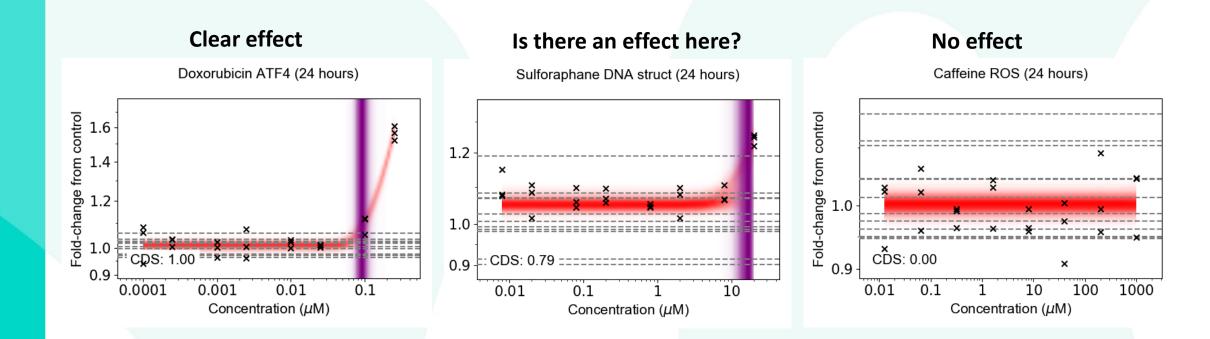


Dose response analysis and estimating PODs





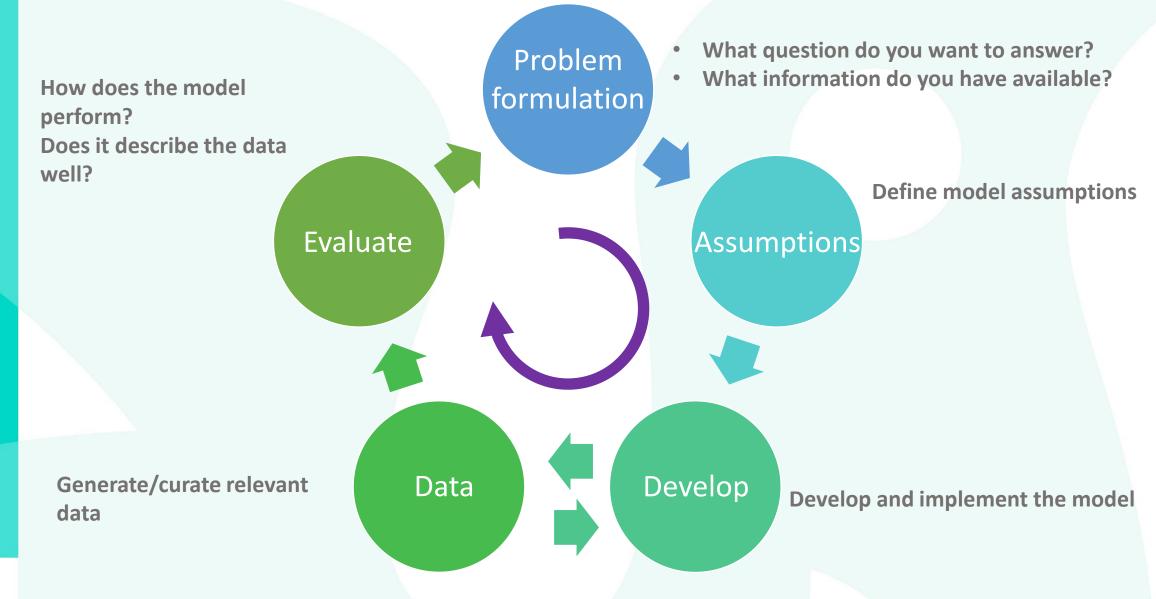
Dose response analysis and estimating PODs



- Broadly, there are two approaches to doing this parametric and non-parametric
- We will focus on the **parametric** approach



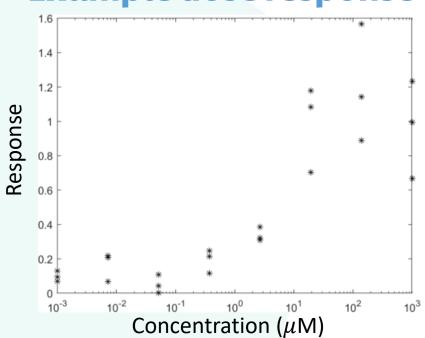
Principles of model development and the wet-dry cycle

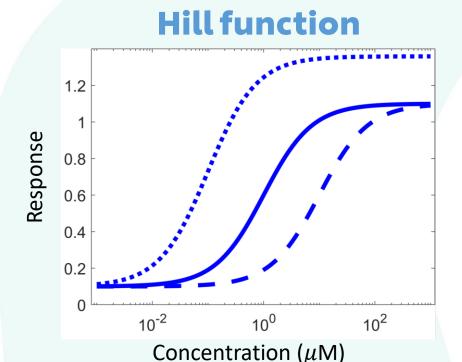




Developing a dose response model

Example dose response data



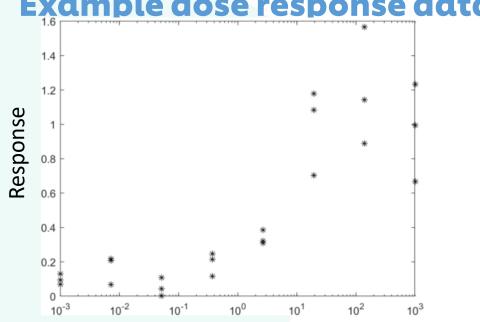


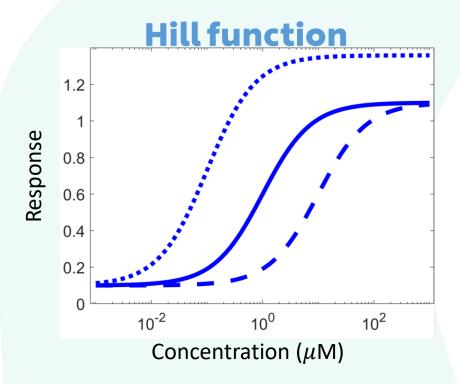
- Problem: We want to know:
 - Does the chemical have an effect on our biomarker
 - At what concentration does this occur?
 - We want to quantify the uncertainty in these.
- Assumption: There is an increase in our biomarker, which can be captured using a Hill function.



Back to the dose response example

Example dose response data





Develop

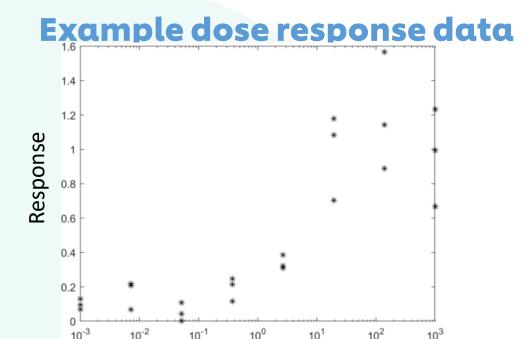
- Main building blocks of the model:
 - Measured data = Mean Response + Observational Noise

$$\circ \qquad \qquad y \qquad = \qquad f(x|C,\theta,V_{max}) \qquad \qquad + \quad r$$

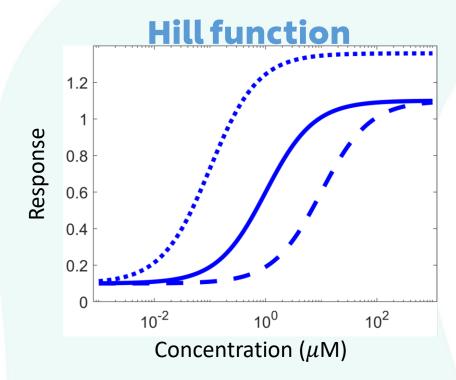
- y and x are the observations and concentrations respectively.
- Assume η is normally distributed with standard deviation σ



Using Bayesian models to quantify uncertainty



10¹



Develop

Hill equation:

$$f(x|C, \theta, V_{max}) = V_{max} \frac{x}{x + \theta} + C$$



(full Hill equation has exponent on x and θ to obtain sharper curves)

Bayesian statistics - what and why

Bayesian probability:

- Probability reflects the plausibility or belief in some event being true.
- Provides framework for updating plausibility based on available data.
- For example, can talk about the probability of a hypothesis being true, or a parameter taking on a certain value.
- Key terms: credible interval, priors, posterior

Frequentist probability

- What people are normally taught in school
- Basis for p-values and hypothesis testing
- Probability reflects the relative frequency at which an event occurs in many over many repeated trials.
- Only really relevant when dealing with well-defined random experiments
- Can't use it to talk about the probability of a 'parameter taking a certain value' or a 'hypothesis being true'.



Thomas Bayes, 1701-1761



Bayesian statistics - what and why

Bayesian interpretation of probability

- Probability quantifies the plausibility of some event.
- Bayes' theorem:

Likelihood

Posterior
$$P(X|D) = \frac{P(D|X)P(X)}{P(D)}$$

- Here, D is the data and X is random variable
- E.g., $X V_{max}$ parameter, D experimental observations
- The key things are the likelihood, the prior and the posterior:
 - \circ **Posterior**: probability that V_{max} takes a certain value
 - Likelihood: probability of the data, given V_{max}
 - Prior: probability reflecting initial assumptions V_{max}

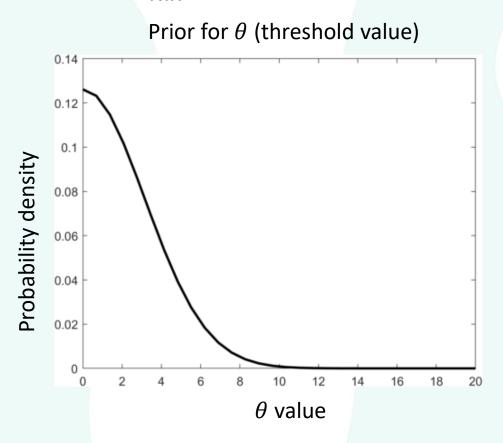


Prior

Example of a prior

Develop

• Have parameters θ , C, V_{max} and σ – need to be learned from the data



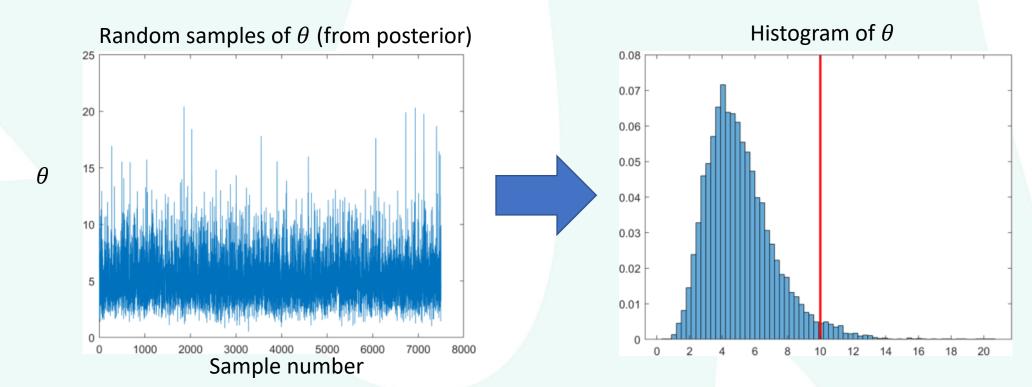
Data

Typically you only have the measured values that you are fitting to, but you
could incorporate prior knowledge (e.g. biologically plausible values) into the
prior.



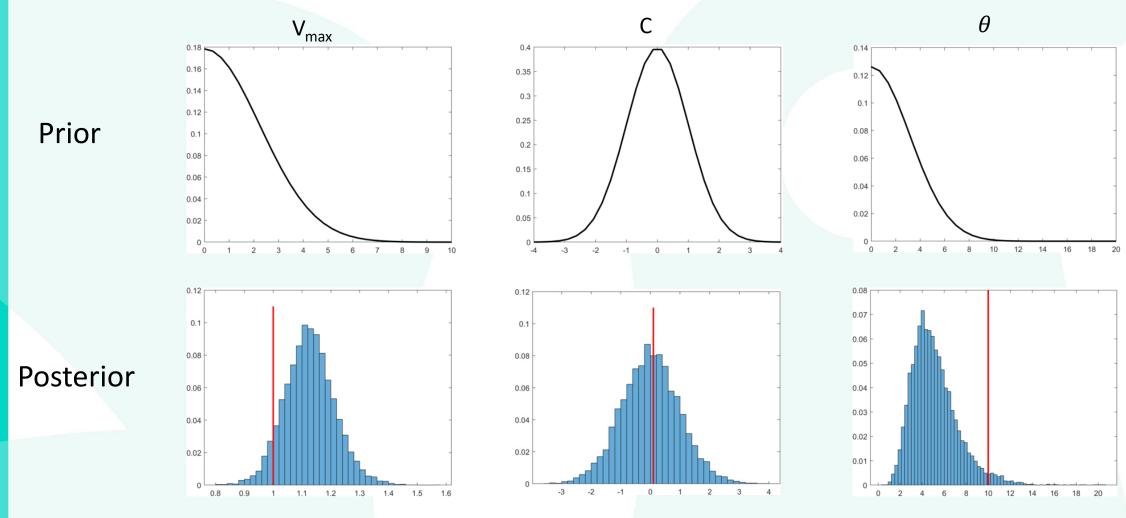
Learning parameters from the data

- One things that's important to know about Bayesian statistics is that
 for most problems, it is impossible to get an exact solution to the
 posterior.
- Resort to using methods like **Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)** to take random samples from the distribution.





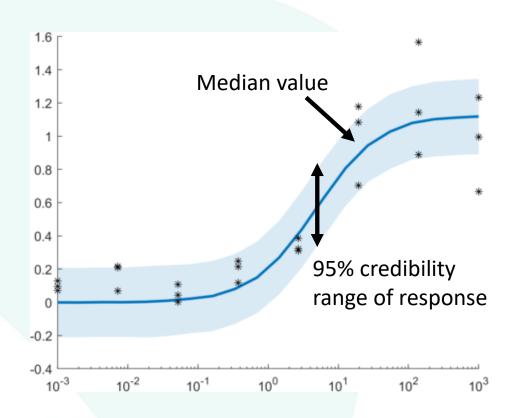
Learning parameters from the data: prior vs posterior

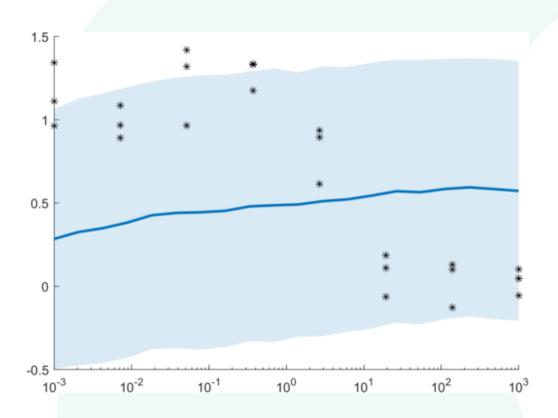






Evaluating the dose response model

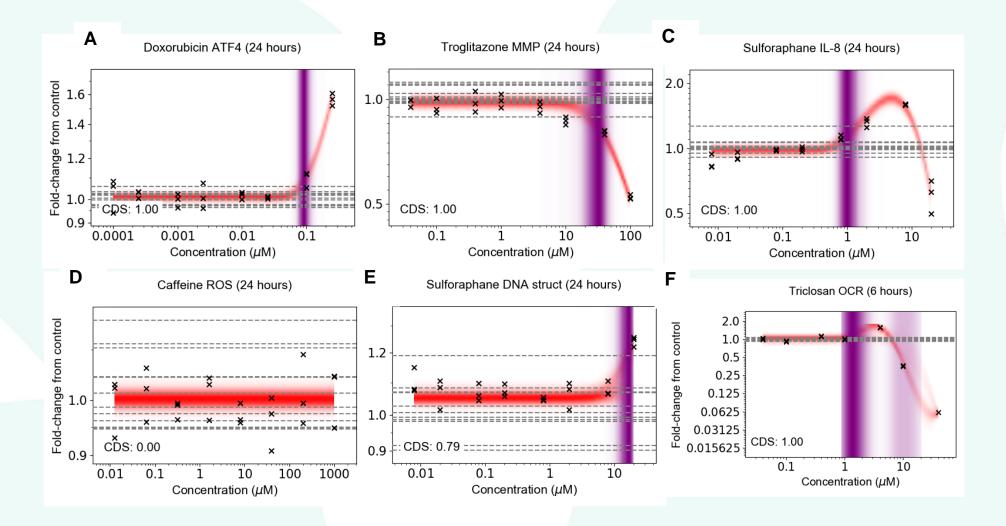




- Bayesian models can be evaluated by comparing the predictive distributions to the training data
- When using parametric models is to fit data to multiple models and decide which one is best
- Sometimes you can miss effects, not because there is no effect, but because the model does a poor job of describing the data

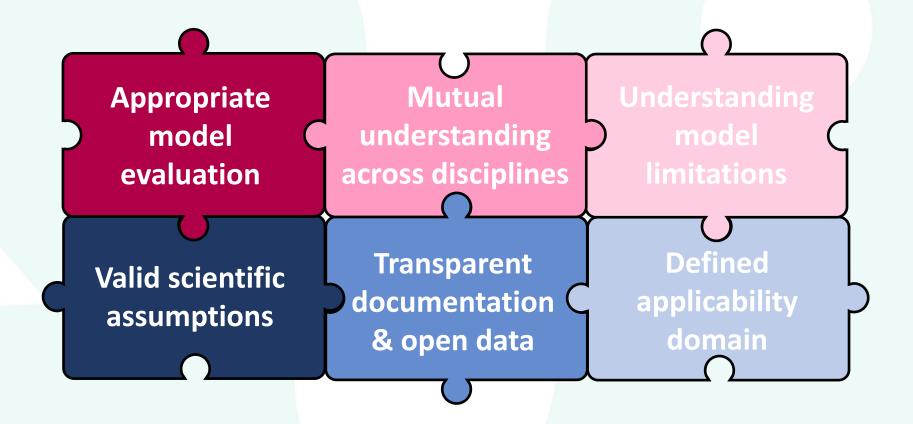


Back to the cell stress panel





Challenges in the acceptance of using computational approaches in NGRA

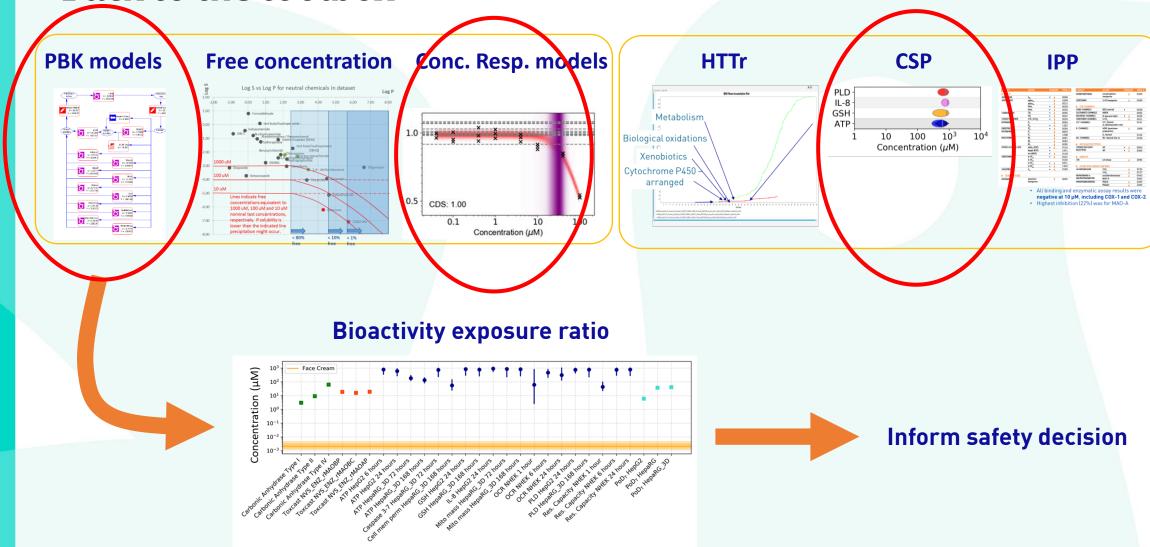




Evaluating a toolbox of NAMs



Back to the toolbox





HTTr: High-throughput transcriptomics CS

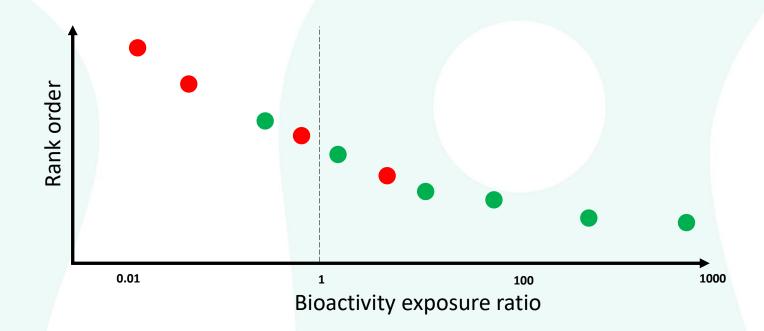
CSP: Cell Stress Panel

IPP: In vitro pharmacological profiling

An evaluation strategy for the toolbox

Chemical exposures scenarios

- 'Low' risk (from consumer goods perspective) e.g. foods, cosmetics
- 'High' risk (from consumer goods perspective) e.g. drugs



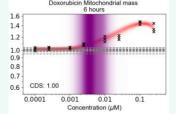
Define typical use-case scenarios benchmark chemical-exposures;
Mixture of High and low risk



0.02 0.015

0.005

PBK models of systemic exposure



In-vitro cell assays, estimate PoDs



Calculate the bioactivity exposure ratio



Thinking about it in terms of model development

Evaluate

How does the model perform?

Does it describe the data well?

Decide on a way to assess how well the toolbox performs

Problem formulation

What question do you want to answer?

What information do you have available?

Can we use the BERs so that we are protective of human health?

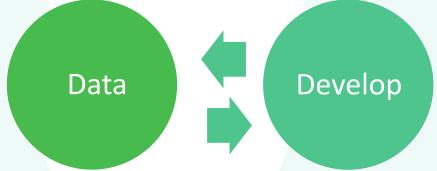
Define model assumptions

The BER can be estimated in terms of the PODs and Cmax from the PBK models

Assumptions

Generate/curate relevant data

Curate relevant benchmark exposures and generate data



Develop and implement the model

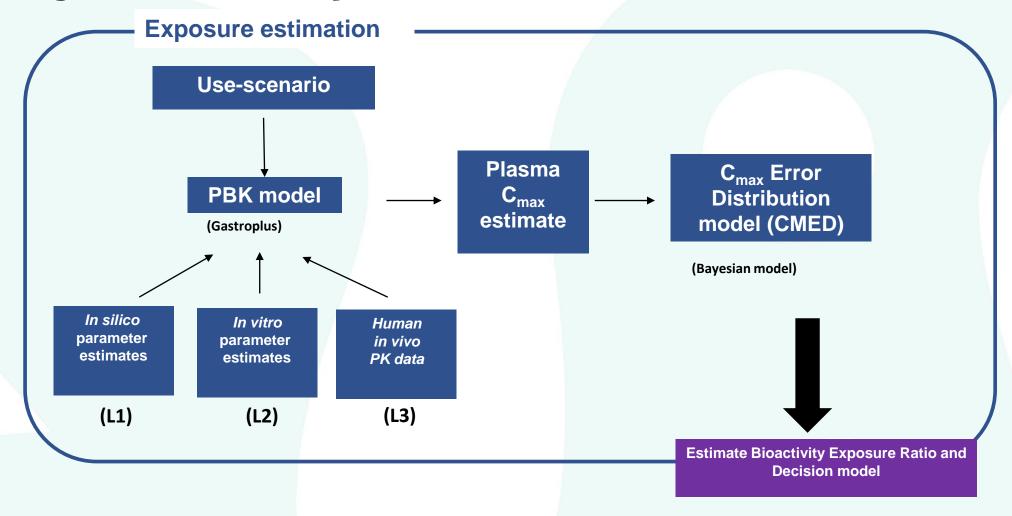


Identifying suitable benchmarks for the evaluation

Chemical	Exposure scenario	Risk classification
Oxybenzone	2 scenarios: 0.5%; 2% sunscreen	Low risk
Caffeine	2 scenarios: 0.2% shampoo & coffee oral consumption 50 mg	Low risk
Caffeine	10g – fatal case reports	High risk
Coumarin	3 scenarios: 4 mg/d oral consumption; 1.6% body lotion (dermal); TDI 0.1 mg/kg oral	Low risk
Coumarin	400 mg/kg clinical trial ~ 14 months	High risk
Hexylresorcinol	3 scenarios: Food residues (3.3 ug/kg); 0.4% face cream; throat lozenge 2.4 mg	Low risk
ВНТ	Body lotion 0.5%	Low risk
Sulforaphane	2 scenarios: Tablet 60 mg/day; food 4.1-9.2 mg/day	Low risk
Niacinamide	4 scenarios: oral 12.5-22 mg/kg; dermal 3% body lotion and 0.1 % hair condition	Low risk
Thalidomide	3 scenarios: oral tablet 50 mg, 100 mg, 400 mg	High risk
Doxorubicin	75 mg/m2 IV bolus 10 min; 21 days cycles; 8 cycles	High risk
Rosiglitazone	8 mg oral tablet	High risk
Valproic Acid (VPA)	2 scenarios: oral tablet 1000 mg & > 60 mg/kg	High risk
Paraquat	Accidental ingestion 35 mg/kg	High risk



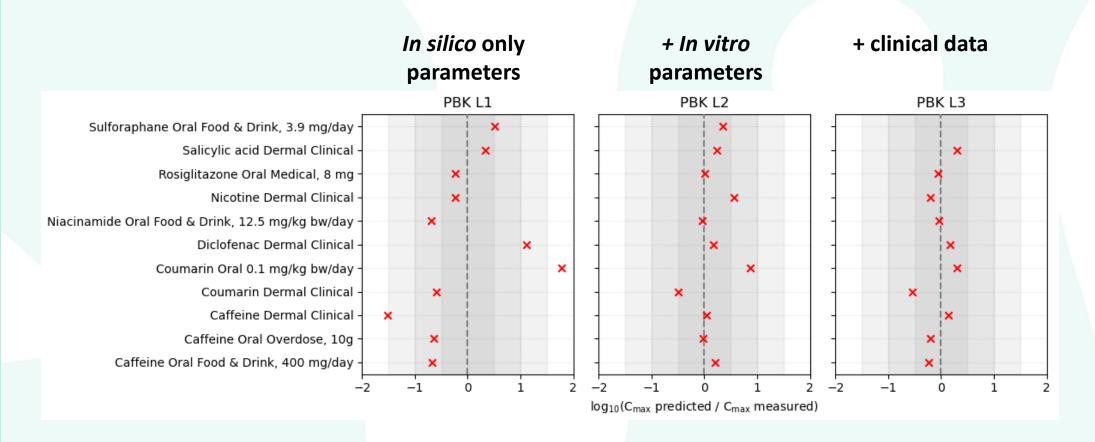
Using PBK models to predict Cmax



- Used a (bottom-up) PBK model to predict Cmax under different parameterisations
- Used a (top down) Bayesian statistical model to quantify the potential error in the est



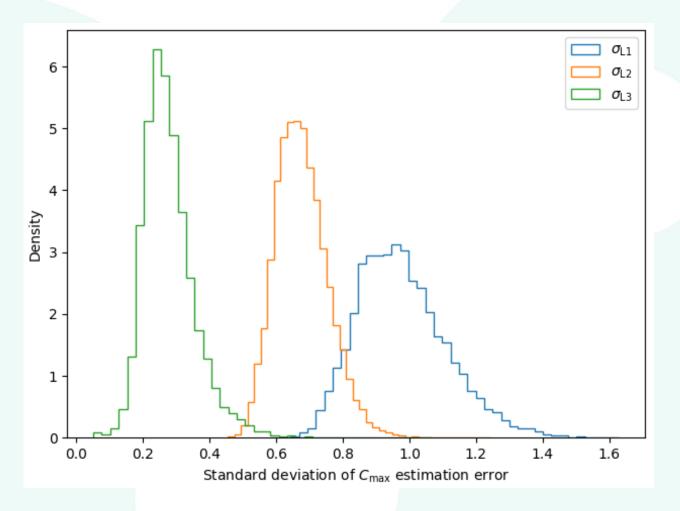
Quantifying the error in the Cmax estimates



- The PBK prediction error decreases as we go through the different parameterisation levels
- This is an empirical observation

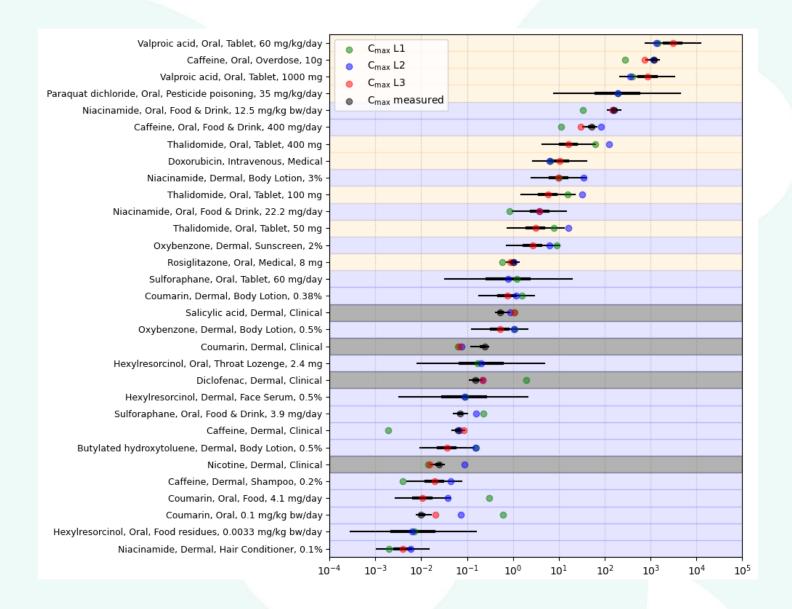


Using a Bayesian model to learn the PBK C_{max} prediction error



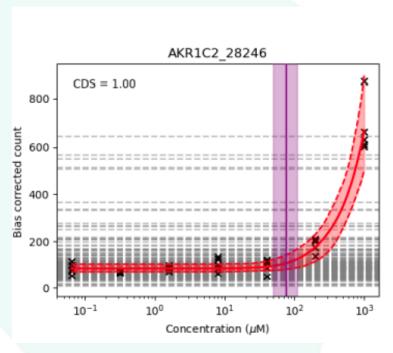


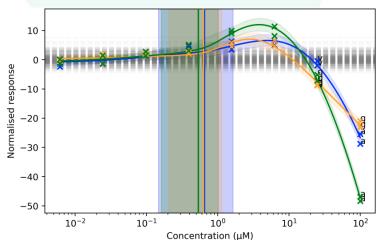
Using PBK models to predict Cmax

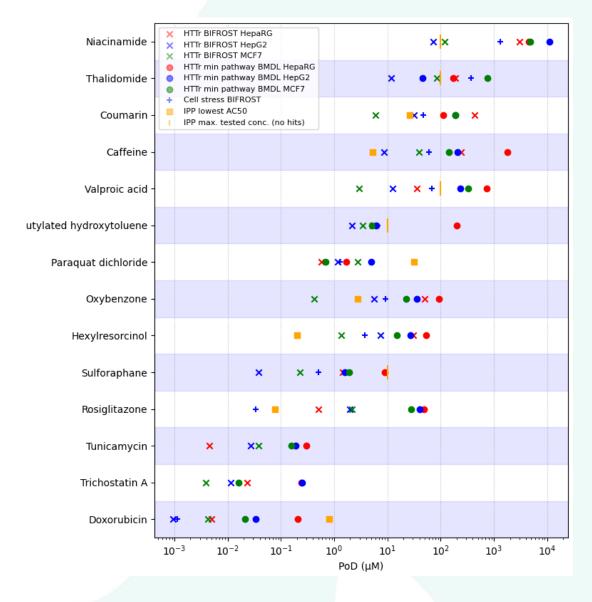




PODS from the bioactivity platforms

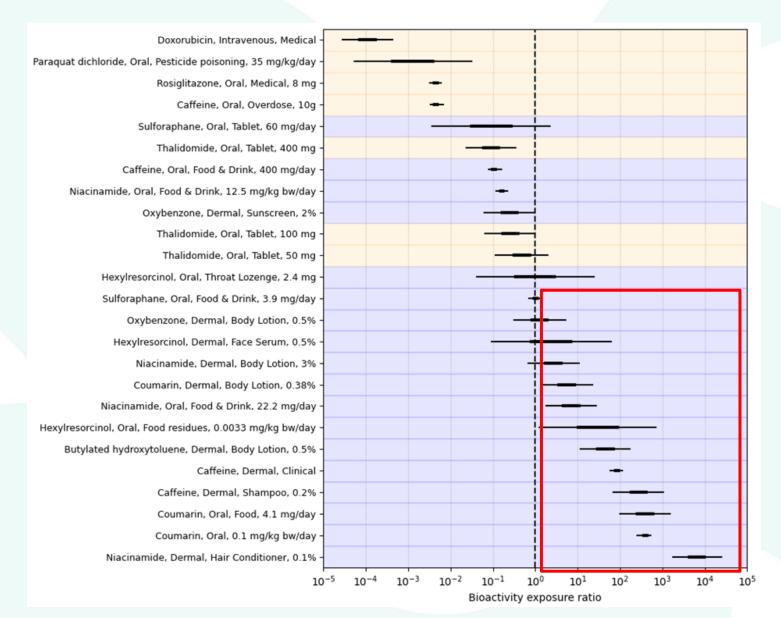








Initial results indicate the toolbox is protective



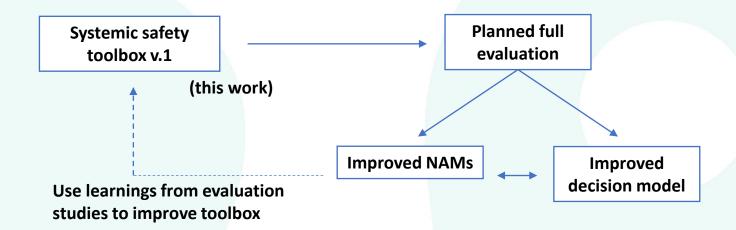
- Blue: low risk chemical-exposure scenario
- Yellow: high risk chemical-exposure scenario

Protectiveness: 100%

Utility: 62%



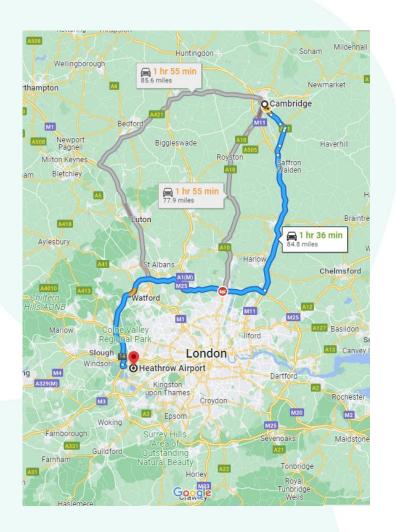
Next step for the toolbox - the full evaluation

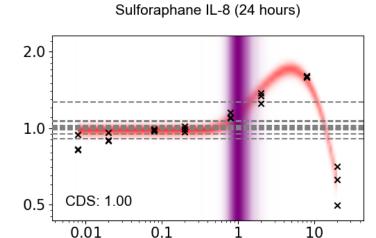


- Planning to extend evaluation to ~40 chemicals with ~60 associated high risk and low risk exposure scenarios.
- Also in collaboration with US-EPA, expanding range of NAMs
- Adopt iterative approach to evaluating and then identifying potential improvements to the toolbox.
- Use of concepts from used model evaluation and development should help build confidence in the approach.

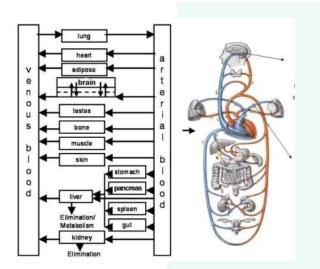


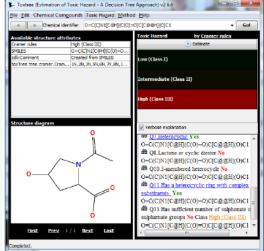
Thinking about the future...





Concentration (µM)





ToxTree





Getting started with computational approaches...



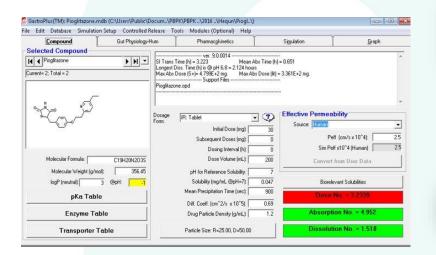
Learning to code vs using existing tools

Programming



Graphical user interfaces

PBK software







Dose response software





https://cran.rproject.org/web/packages/tcpl/vignet tes/Data_processing.html





References

Baltazar *et al.,* (2020) A Next-Generation Risk Assessment Case Study for Coumarin in Cosmetic Products *Toxicol Sci* 176(1): 236-252 https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfaa048

Bowes *et al.,* (2012) Reducing safety-related drug attrition: the use of in vitro pharmacological profiling *Nat Rev Drug Discov* 11(12):909-22 https://doi.org/10.1038/nrd3845

Dent *et al.*, (2018) Principles underpinning the use of new methodologies in the risk assessment of cosmetic ingredients *Comp Tox* 7: 20-26 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.comtox.2018.06.001

Hatherell *et al.*, (2020) Identifying and Characterizing Stress Pathways of Concern for Consumer Safety in Next-Generation Risk Assessment *Toxicol Sci* 176(1): 11-33 https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfaa054

Moxon *et al.*, (2020) Application of physiologically based kinetic (PBK) modelling in the next generation risk assessment of dermally applied consumer products *TIV* 63:104746 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tiv.2019.104746

Paul-Friedman *et al.*, (2019) Utility of In Vitro Bioactivity as a Lower Bound Estimate of In Vivo Adverse Effect Levels and in Risk-Based Prioritization *Toxicol Sci* 173(1):202-225 https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfz201

Rotroff *et al.*, (2010) Incorporating Human Dosimetry and Exposure into High-Throughput In Vitro Toxicity Screening *Toxciol Sci* 117(2): 348-358 https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfq220

Rajagopal *et al.*, (2022). Beyond AOPs: A Mechanistic Evaluation of NAMs in DART Testing. Frontiers in toxicology, 4. https://doi.org/10.3389%2Fftox.2022.838466

Li et al, (2022) PBK modelling of topical application and characterisation of the uncertainty of Cmax estimate: A case study approach, *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology*, Vol 442(1) https://doi.org/10.1016/j.taap.2022.115992