



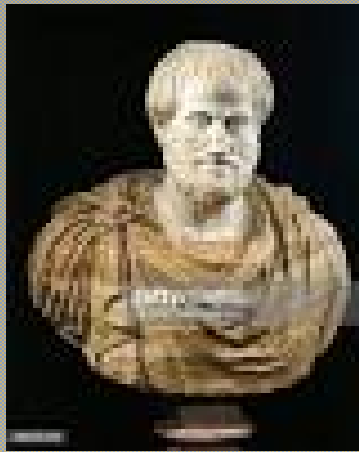
# Major anthropogenic pressures from chemicals related to human and environmental health

International Conference on Biotechnology  
Environmental and Human Health and Sustainability  
Krasnoyarsk , 1-4 October 2018

**Aristides M. Tsatsakis**

*Professor and Director, MSc, PhD, DSc, ERT, FATS (USA)  
D.HonorisC. (Carol Davila), DHC (Mendeleev), DHC (FEFU),*

*Hon Professor (Erisman), Academician FM RAS*



Aristotle

Aristotle, the great Greek philosopher ' ..... **ανευ των αναγκαίων αδύνατον και ζην και εύζην,**  
*which means that .....*  
**without the basics it is impossible to live and live well.**

**And I too, believe that the science of toxicology and its effect to the people and the environment ..**  
**is truly such a basic, both for our existence, as well for our well being**

Toxicology Reports xxx (2017) xxx-xxx

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Toxicology Reports**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/toxrep](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/toxrep)

ELSEVIER

Editorial

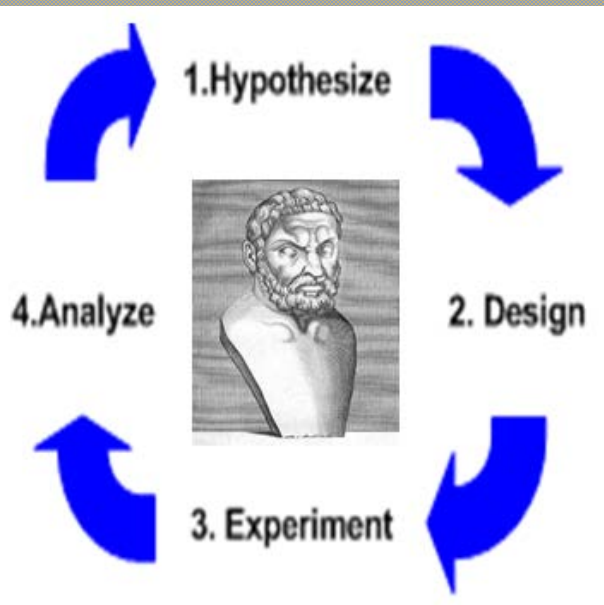
**Toxicology: The basic science for human well-being and environmental health**

Aristotle, the great Greek philosopher, stated back around 350 BCE that **ανευ των αναγκαίων αδύνατον και ζην και εύζην**, which means that **without the basics** it is impossible to **live and live well**. My own belief, as a toxicologist with more than 30 years of experience in the field, is that the science of toxicology and its printed form, as being online provides greater accessibility to its entire content and thus, to knowledge and to all the latest scientific developments directly, at all places and at all times.

The previous and founding Editor-in-Chief of *Toxicology Reports* thanks Dr. Bart Wacek, publishing director at Elsevier, Dr. Meghan



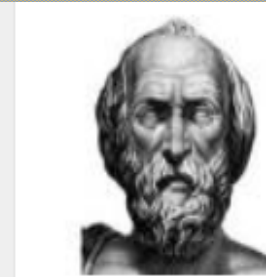
Trust the evidence.....but don't generalise into conclusions ! .....Think of personlised causality and intergarted approaches ... AMT



Thales

**Modern  
toxicology  
influenced  
by ancient  
philosophy**

**Kleovoulos Rodios**



Κλεόβουλος ο Ρόδιος  
? π.Χ. – ? π.Χ.

πολιτικός και ποιητής,  
ένας από τους Επτά  
Σοφούς της Αρχαίας

Ελλάδας. Έζησε τον 6ο π.Χ. αιώνα.

«Αρχή σοφίας, η γνώση της άγνοιας.»  
Μέτρον άριστον

Η τροφή σου να είναι το φάρμακό σου και  
το φάρμακό σου να είναι η τροφή σου

- Ιπποκράτης

**Ippocrates**



# Related Web sites

Journal of Laboratory of Toxicology  
Medical School, University of Crete

## aristsatsakis.com



**ARISTIDES M. TSATSAKIS**

Professor Tsatsakis is Director at the Toxicology Science and Research Centre in the Department of Forensic Sciences of the Medical School in the University of Crete and The University Hospital. He is teaching the toxicology course for medical students for the last 25 years and advanced toxicology issues for universities' postgraduate programs. Prof. Tsatsakis is currently the President of EUROTOX, President of the Hellenic Society of Toxicology, chairman of the ENT-HST network Registry and member of several Scientific Academies and Societies.

[READ MORE](#)

Laboratory of Toxicology and Forensic Chemistry

University of Crete Medical School

**ctoxres.med.uoc.gr**

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Σύστημα Υγρής Χρωματογραφίας - Φασματομετρίας Μάζας



**ELSEVIER**

**Aristidis Tsatsakis**

**Co-Editor, Food and Chemical Toxicology**

Dept. of Forensic Sciences and Toxicology, Medical School, University of Crete, 71409, Heraklion, Greece

**Food and Chemical Toxicology**

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Aristidis M. Tsatsakis was born in Heraklion, Crete, Greece, 1957. Graduated BSc, MSc and PhD at the Heraklion University and (D) Sc. in Biology, School of Medicine, Moscow University of Pharmacy. Postdoctoral Fellow at the Toxicology Department in Baltimore 1981, Miami 1985, the University of Florida 1986, at Albany 1989-91, visiting Professor at the Moscow Medical Academy 1990-2001. Dr Tsatsakis has published more than 200 original articles in national scientific journals, Publications in books, Congresses, Proceedings and Congresses abstracts and over 450 invited lectures in numerous EU Congresses and Universities. He has 8 patents and has published several monographs. He has organized, as president, international (2) and national Congresses (3) in the field of Toxicology and Forensic Science. He was the president of the Organizing Committee of the EUROTOX2008 Congress. He is a member of Editorial Board for several scientific journals: Editor-in-Chief of TOXICOL, Associate Editor Food/Chemical Toxicology, J Drug Abuse Res, J Food Med, The World J. Clin. Oncol, J. Pharm. Med. Dr. Tsatsakis has supervised 16 PhD theses and is the principal investigator of more than 20 international research projects. He is teaching toxicology for graduate and post graduate courses for over 27 years. Dr. Tsatsakis' scientific research has been focused on biomonitoring of chronic chemical exposure and assessing human genetic predisposition to toxic agents. Dr Tsatsakis was granted in 2011 by the Research Promotion Council the Outstanding Scholar (OSU) medal award. Prof. Tsatsakis is the President (2015).

**Atlas**  
Research for a better world  
[Read the word](#)



ISSN: 2214-7500

## Toxicology Reports

An Open Access Journal

[Open Access](#)

Editor-in-Chief: **Aristidis M. Tsatsakis**

[View Editorial Board](#)



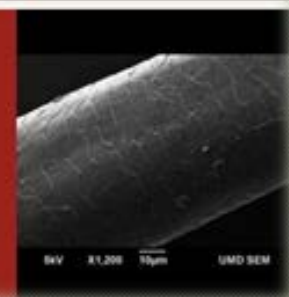
**toxplus.gr**

### ΑΝΑΛΥΣΗ ΤΡΙΧΑΣ

Είναι μια αποτελεσματική μέθοδος αναγνώρισης των ναρκωτικών. Μόνο μια μικρή ποσότητα του δείγματος απαιτείται προκειμένου να αξιολογηθούν ποσοτικά και ποιοτικά οι μεταβολίτες των ναρκωτικών στο στέλεχος της τρίχας.

[ΤΕΡΕΣΤΕΡΑ](#)

ΥΠΕΡΣΥΣΤΗΜΗ  
**TOXPLUS**  
ΑΝΑΛΥΣΗ ΤΡΙΧΑΣ  
ΒΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΑ ΔΕΙΓΜΑΤΑ  
ΦΥΤΟΦΑΡΜΑΚΑ  
ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝ  
ΤΡΟΦΙΜΑ  
ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙΑΚΕΣ ΕΠΙΔΕΙΞΕΙΣ  
ΣΥΝΘΕΤΙΚΑ ΚΑΙ ΦΥΣΙΚΑ







# HOW EFFECTIVELY TOXICOLOGY SAVES CONSUMERS?

## WHY IS THIS QUESTION IMPORTANT NOWADAYS?

Concerns of increasing anthropogenic pressures to human (and environment)

Chemical mixtures (life style-new products, dietary, industry, PPPs, natural toxins), high exposure, all routes

Electromagnetic pressure from human activities

General pollution of seas and earth affecting consumers

Climate changes due to anthropogenic pressures affecting consumers

New knowledge = new concerns

Endocrine disruption, low dose effects, obesity, epigenetics, etc.

Risk communication

Mainly through the media

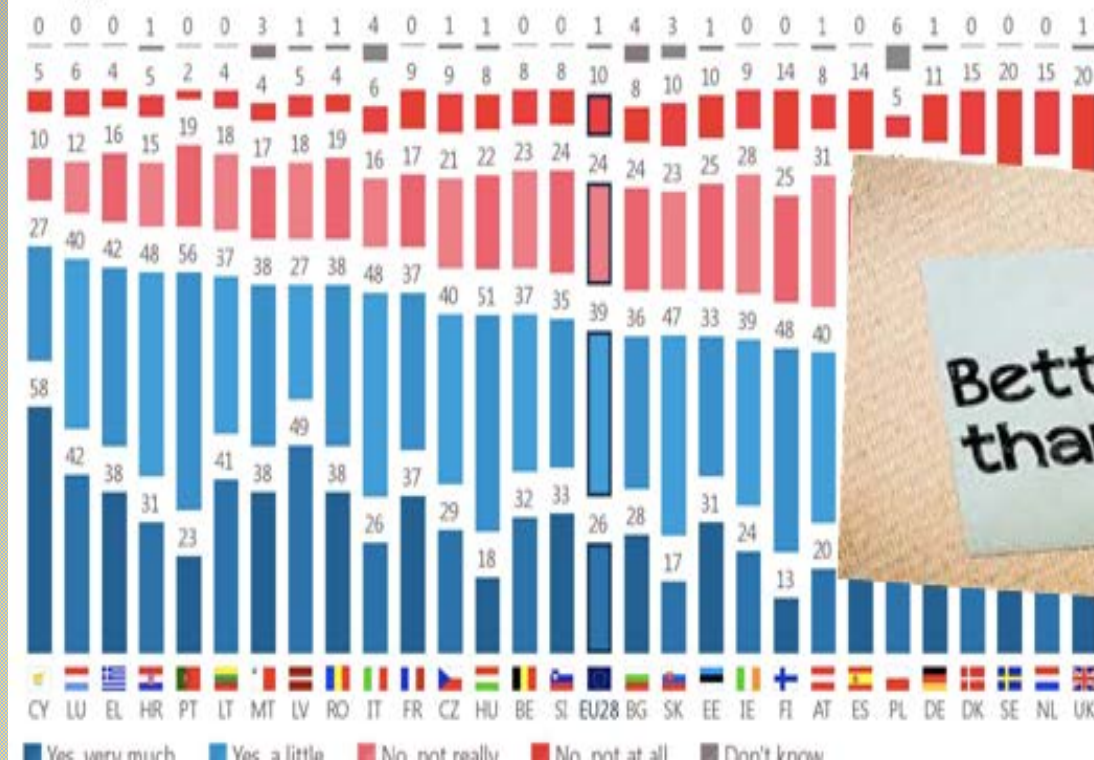
Consumers confusion, lack of trust





65% of EU citizens are at least a little concerned about being exposed to hazardous chemicals  
26% who are 'very much' concerned.

QD1 In general, would you say that you are concerned about being exposed to hazardous chemicals in your daily life?  
(%)



Better safe  
than sorry

Our job:

Be safe!

Feel safe!

# Why to study Long Term Low Dose Exposure to Chemicals

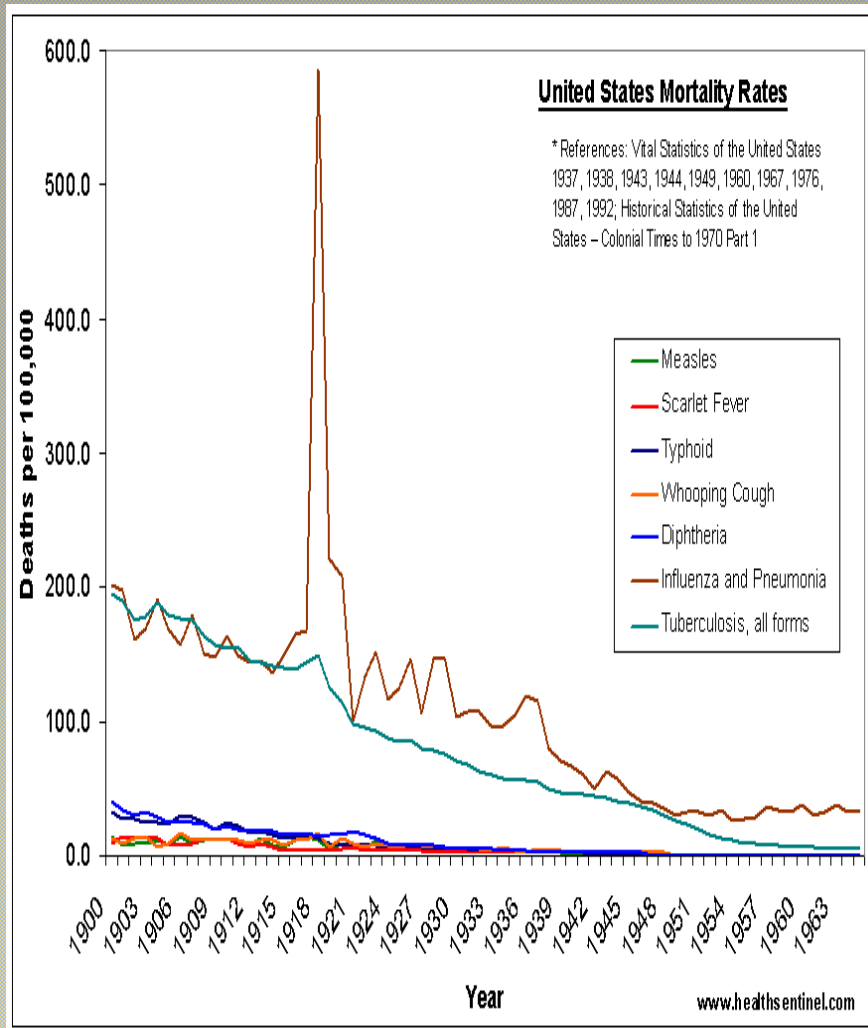
**Changes in Causes of Morbidity and the concern of increase of chemical exposure**

**During the last 100 years changes in our planet and in life conditions and climate have resulted in major changes in causes of morbidity and the burden of diseases**

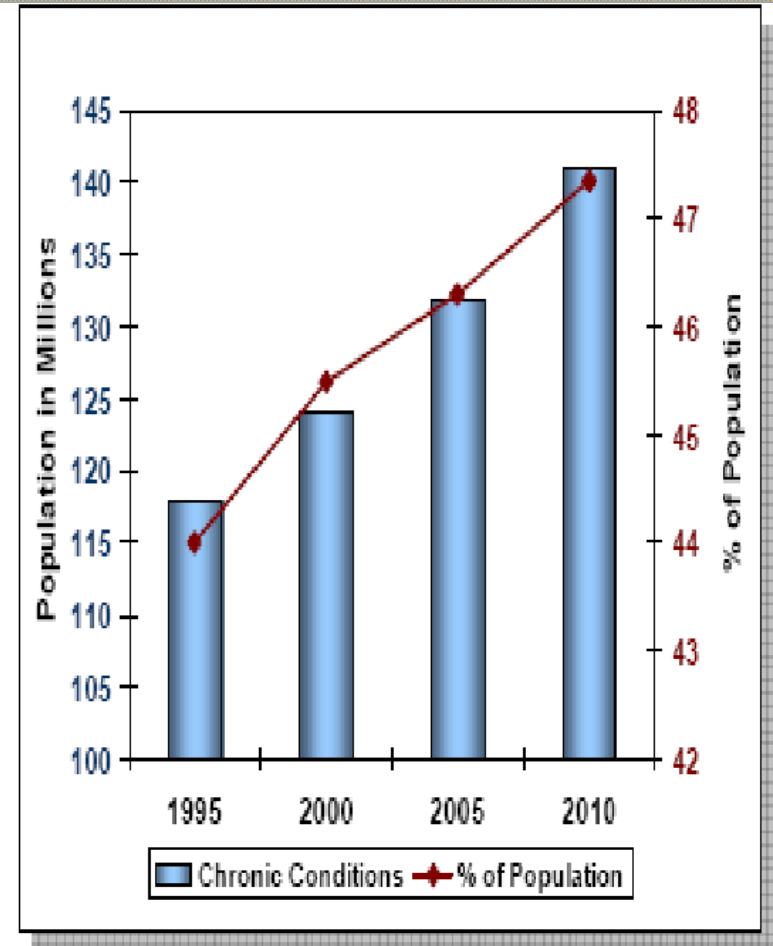
*The Burden of Disease and the Changing Task of Medicine*  
***N Engl J Med 2012; 366:2333-2338 June 21, 2012***



## Decrease in mortality from infectious diseases during century



## Increase of morbidity and mortality from chronic diseases during last 15 years ,1995-2010.

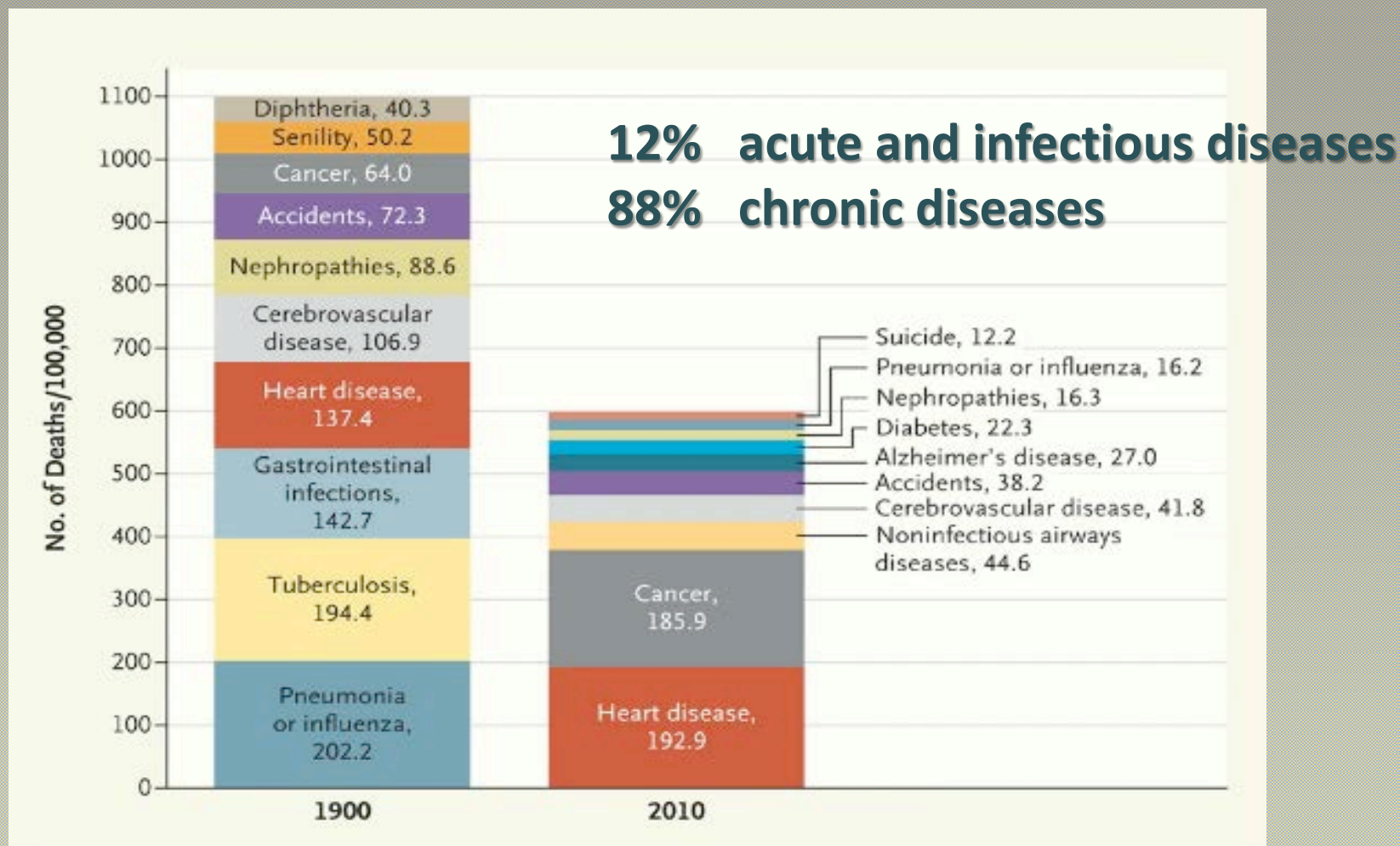


Source: NCCA State of HealthCare Quality Report, 2007.

# Main causes of morbidity in 1900 and 2010

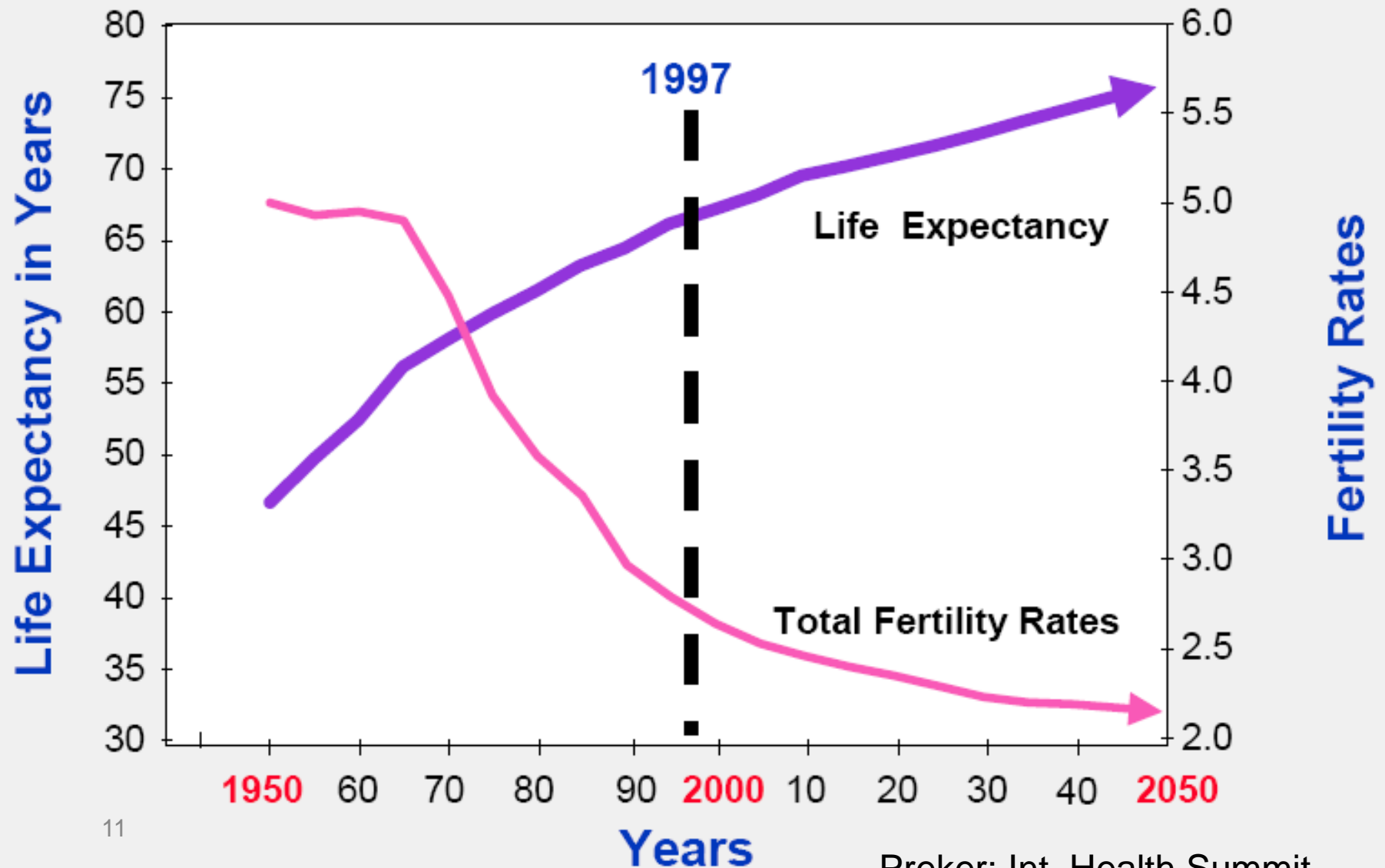
60% acute and infectious diseases

40% chronic diseases





# A Century of Unparalleled Improvement



Citation: *Molecular Systems Biology* 3:124  
© 2007 EMBL and Nature Publishing Group All rights reserved 1744-4292/07  
www.molecularsystemsbiology.com

Barabasi et al (2007)

molecular systems biology

PERSPECTIVE

# Human disease classification in the postgenomic era: A complex systems approach to human pathobiology

Disease gene network

Disorder class

## "Genetics loads the gun, but Environment pulls the trigger"

after Elliott Proctor Joslin MD, Br Med J 1991; 302: 1231

Cardio-vascular

Cancer

Metabolic

Most human diseases are connected at some genetic level

Modern toxicology

Citation: *Molecular Systems Biology* 3:124  
© 2007 EMBL and Nature Publishing Group All rights reserved 1744-4292/07  
www.molecularsystemsbiology.com

Barabasi et al (2007)

molecular systems biology

PERSPECTIVE

# Human disease classification in the postgenomic era: A complex systems approach to human pathobiology

Disease gene network

Disorder class

- Bone
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular
- Connective tissue
- Dermatological
- Developmental
- Ear, nose, throat
- Endocrine
- Gastrointestinal
- Hematological
- Immunological
- Metabolic
- Muscular
- Neurological
- Nutritional
- Ophthalmological
- Psychiatric
- Renal
- Respiratory
- Skeletal
- multiple
- Unclassified

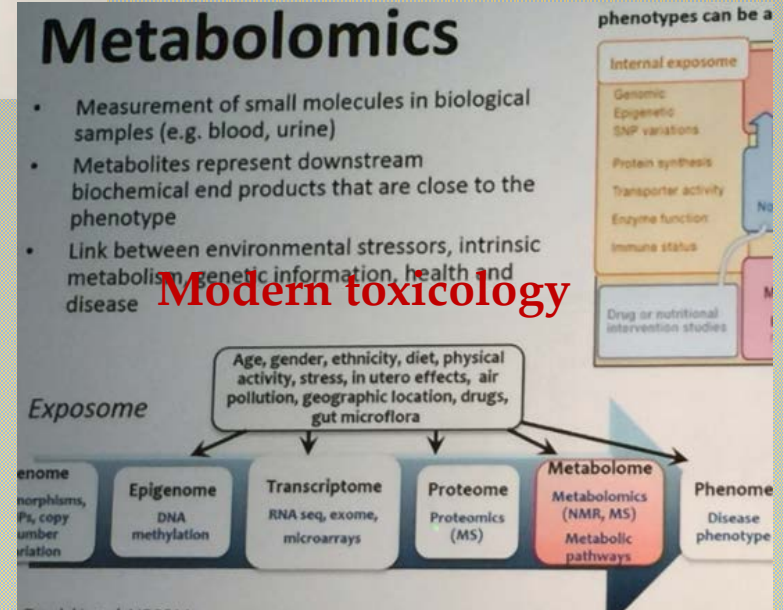
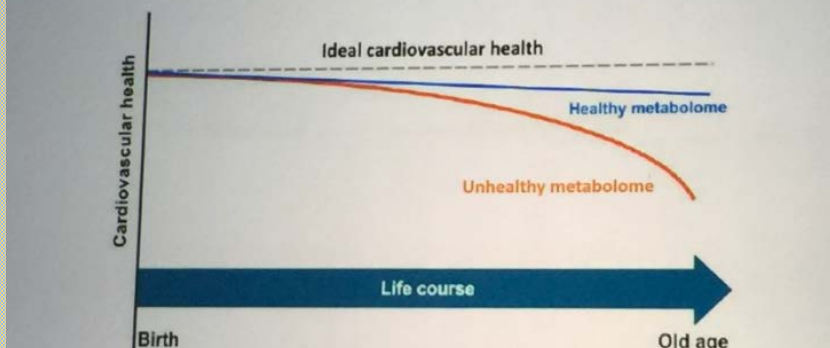
Cardio-vascular

Cancer

Metabolic

Most human diseases are connected at some genetic level

## Metabolome over the lifecycle





# Disease Risk Factors

20%



Genes



80%



Environment



- Stephen M. Rappaport and Martyn T. Smith (2010) Environment and Disease Risks Science Vol 330
- Walter C. Willett (2002) Balancing Life-Style and Genomics Research for Disease Prevention Science 296, 695

# Disease Risk Factors

Smoking

Alcohol

Exercise



Environment

Nutrition

Toxic Burden

Stress

# Precision Medicine Initiative 2015

## Autoimmune Diseases



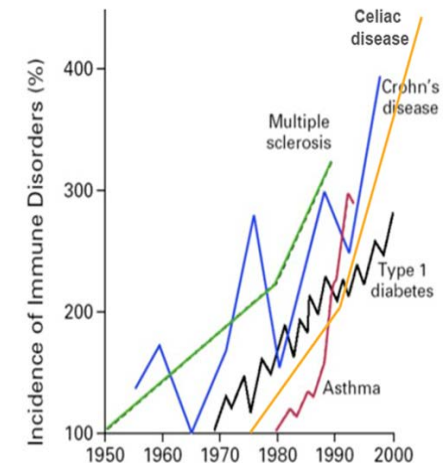
the WHITE HOUSE  
PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

BRIEFING ROOM

*“Until now, most medical treatments have been designed for the **“average patient.”***

*As a result of this **“one-size-fits-all”** approach, treatments can be very successful for some patients but not for others.*

*Precision Medicine, on the other hand, is an innovative approach that takes into account **individual differences in people’s genes, environments, and lifestyles.”***



# Metabolic pressure and autoimmune diseases

## Overnutrition, the hygiene hypothesis and autoimmune disease

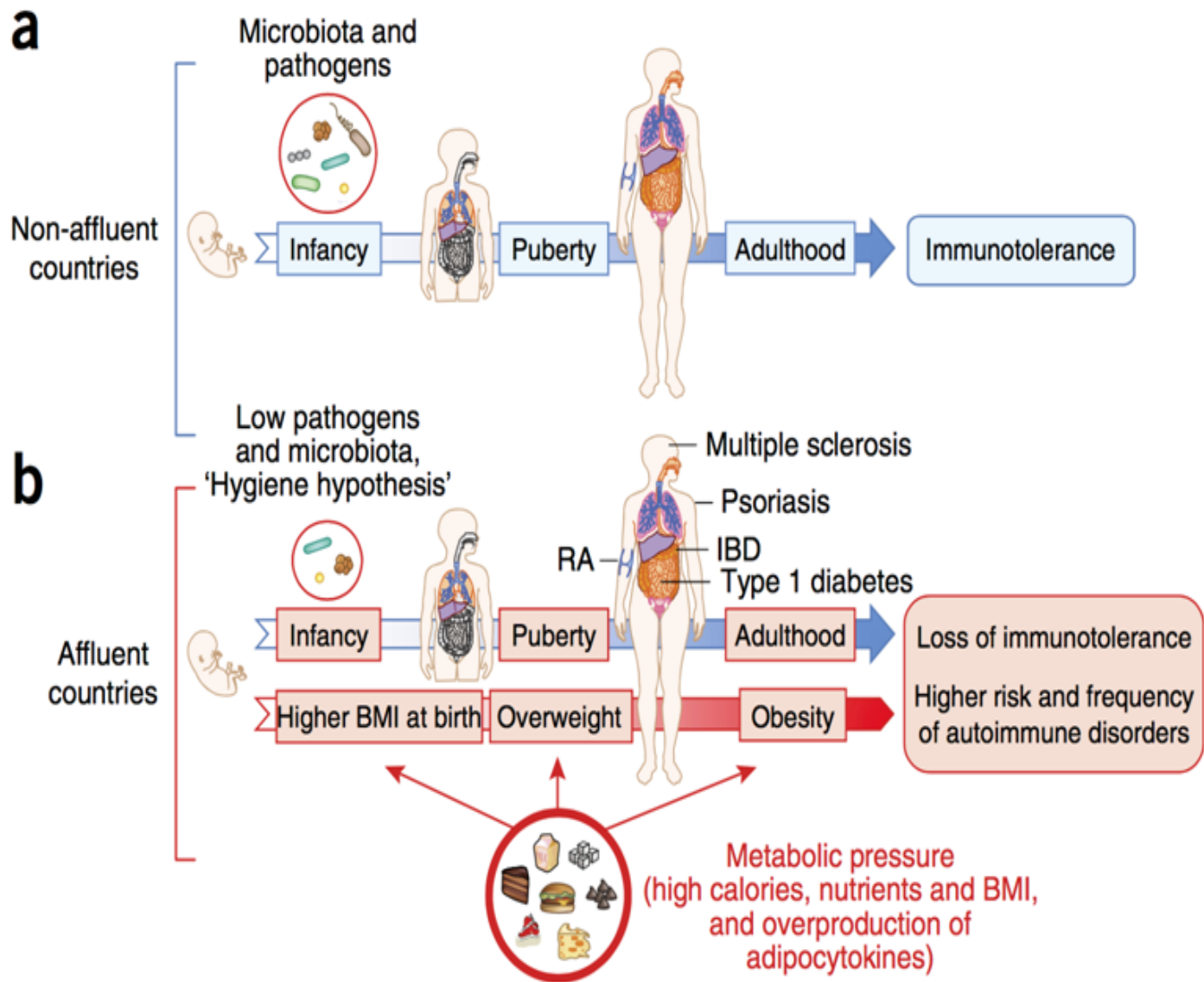
Changes in lifestyle have been considered a major contributor to the rise in the frequency of autoimmune disorders and allergies (by 300%) in industrialized and developing countries.

## Metabolic pressure and autoimmune diseases

- Increased daily caloric intake from processed foods
- Industrialized foods “holy triad” high sugar –high fat– high salt, hyperactivate immune response (nutrient-energy-sensing pathways)
- Lack of immuno-modulating nutrients (Omega 3, vitamin C, Probiotics, vitamin D3)

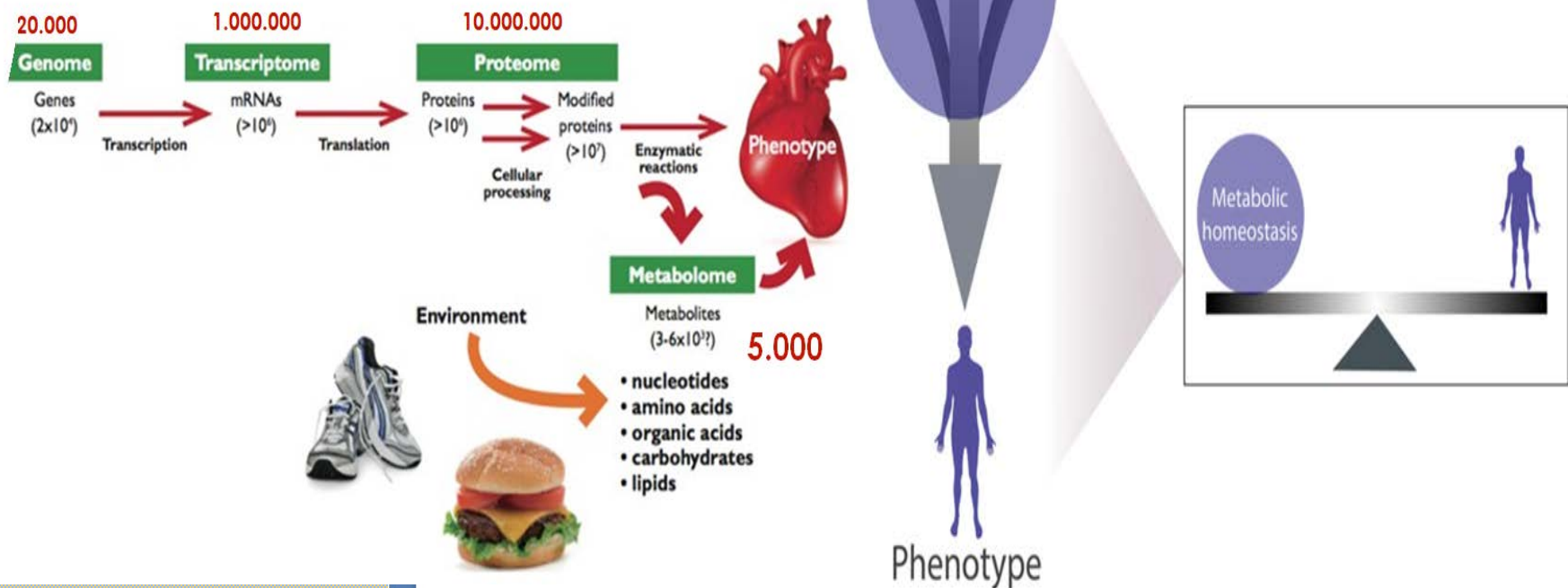
1. Metabolic pressure and the breach of immunological self-tolerance Veronica De Rosa et al. Nature Immunology (2017).
2. Review The Roles of Vitamin C in Skin Health Juliet M.12 August 2017. Nutrients





Metabolic pressure and the breach of immunological self-tolerance Veronica De Rosa et al.  
Nature Immunology (2017).

## Metabolomics



**Sharpening Precision Medicine by a Thorough Interrogation of Metabolic Individuality.** K. Beebe, A.D. Kennedy / Computational and Structural Biotechnology Journal, 2016.

# International Journal of Epidemiology

Official Journal of the International Epidemiological Association

- Contribution of medical therapies in mean life length is only : 5-10%
- Contribution of hygiene in mean life length is major : 90-95%
- Hygiene as “prophylactic” preventive medicine based on public surveillance and exposure science, toxicology data and risk assessment and risk analysis
- aims to improve and maintain public health

*Clin Lab. 2010. Medicine and natural science-time for a change in paradigm*

**Need for Changes in Scientific Model**  
**For medical research and practice**

18 Nobel Prizes in basic research  
8 Nobel Prizes in clinical research

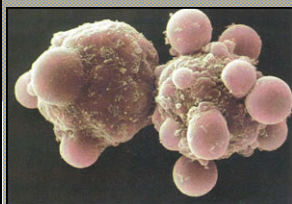
- **Low success in chronic diseases**
  - due to treatment of symptoms
  - and not the basic biochemical disturbances
- Medical practice changes will include more knowledge from natural and molecular sciences

*The role of medical care in contributing to health improvements within societies . Int. J. Epidemiol. (2001) 30 (6): 1260-1263.*

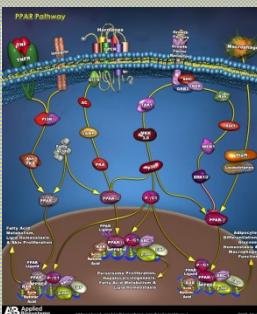


# Qualitative and Quantitative Inferences Based on Mechanistic Understanding

Molecule → Cell → Tissue / Organ → Individual → Population

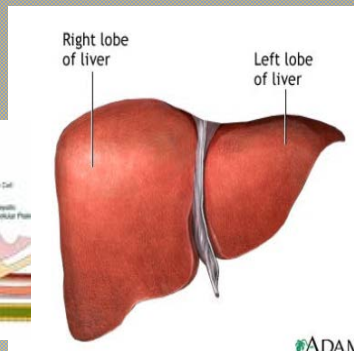
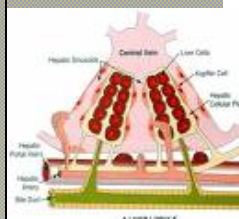
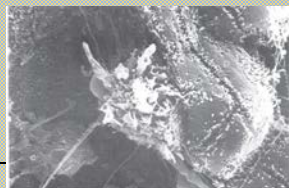


*Parenchymal*  
--Diploid  
--Polyploid  
--Putative  
stem cell



*NPCs*

--Kupffer  
--Ito  
-Endothelial



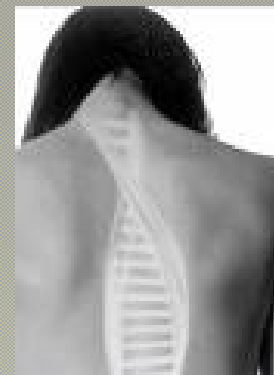
## Lobular and regional differences:

- Ploidy
- Maturation
- Function

Exposure dose/  
window?

Tissue concordance  
across species?

Other outcomes?



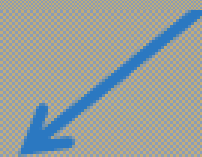
Colorful mice, above, were used to find the weight regulation gene mahoganoid. From left, yellow and black banded, yellow, and dark reddish-brown mice.

Susceptible  
populations?

Shape/slope of  
population  
dose-response  
curve?

# Purpose of Toxicology

## To Provide



### Human Health

- ❧ Workers
  - Safe working environment (OEL)
- ❧ Consumers
  - Products should be safe to use as specified and under foreseeable misuse
    - ADI (food ingredients)
    - RfD (pesticides)
    - TDI (food contaminants)

### Environment (ecotoxicology)

- ❧ Air, water (surface and ground), soil, bedrock
- ❧ Aquatic (fresh and salt) & terrestrial organisms (flora and fauna)

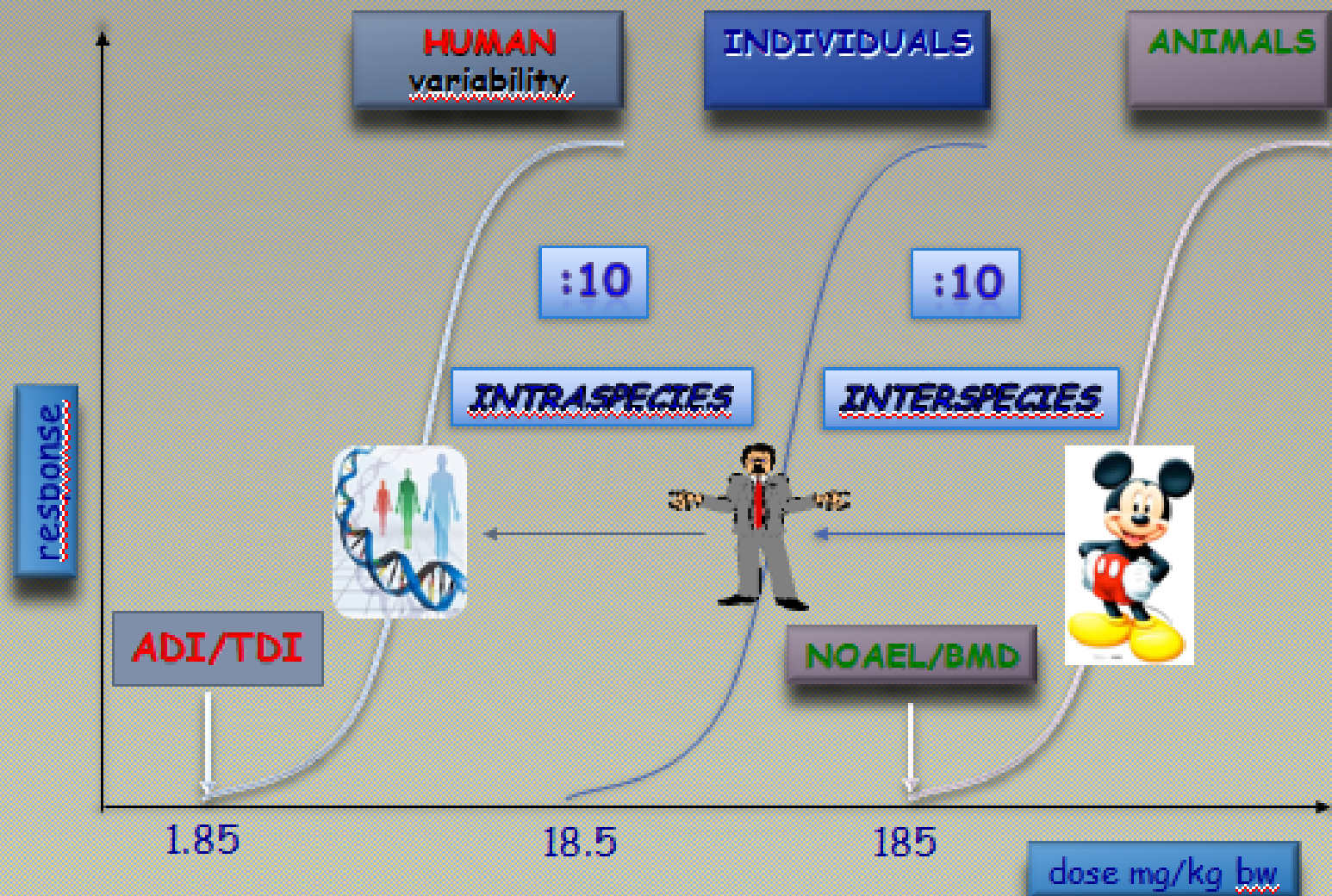
- Information to risk managers
  - ❧ About nature & severity of effects on human health and environment as it relates to specific exposures
    - Ecotoxicology often drives remediation site clean-ups
  - ❧ ~6,000,000 known chemicals
    - Approximately 100,000 currently in use worldwide, 500 new chemicals added annually
    - limited information
  - HPVC & REACH; 7th Amendment

### Via Risk Assessments

- Hazard identification
- Dose-response assessment
- Exposure assessment
- Risk characterization

# ANIMAL-BASED TOXICOLOGICAL STUDIES

(quantification of adverse health effects)





# CUT-OFF AND APPROVAL CRITERIA

(as., safeners, synergists)

## CUT-OFF CRITERIA

### Human Health

Carcinogenic, Mutagenic,  
Reprotox (CMR)

Endocrine properties

### Environment

### POP

Persistent Organic Pollutant

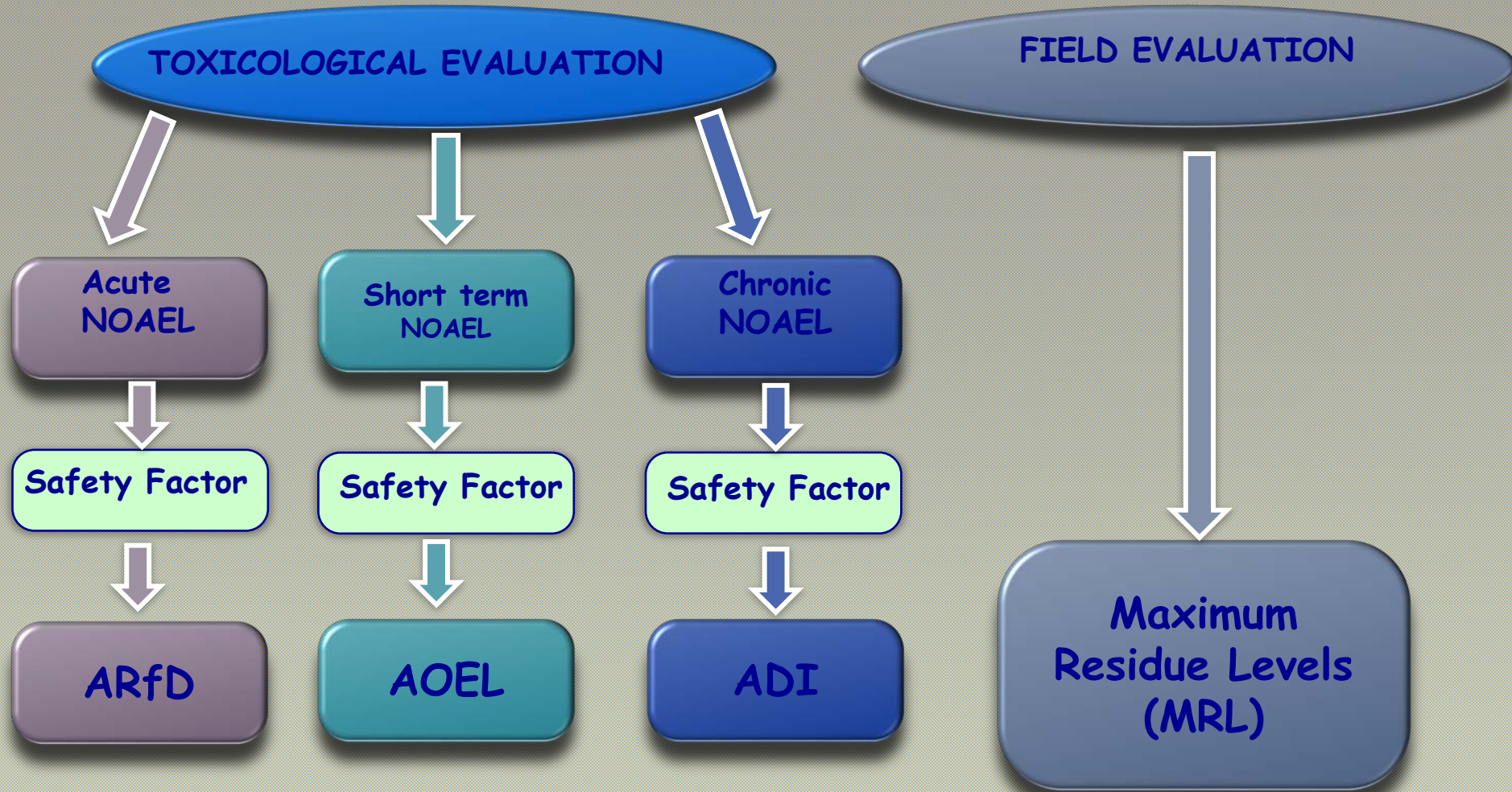
### PBT

Persistent, Bioaccumulative  
Toxicants

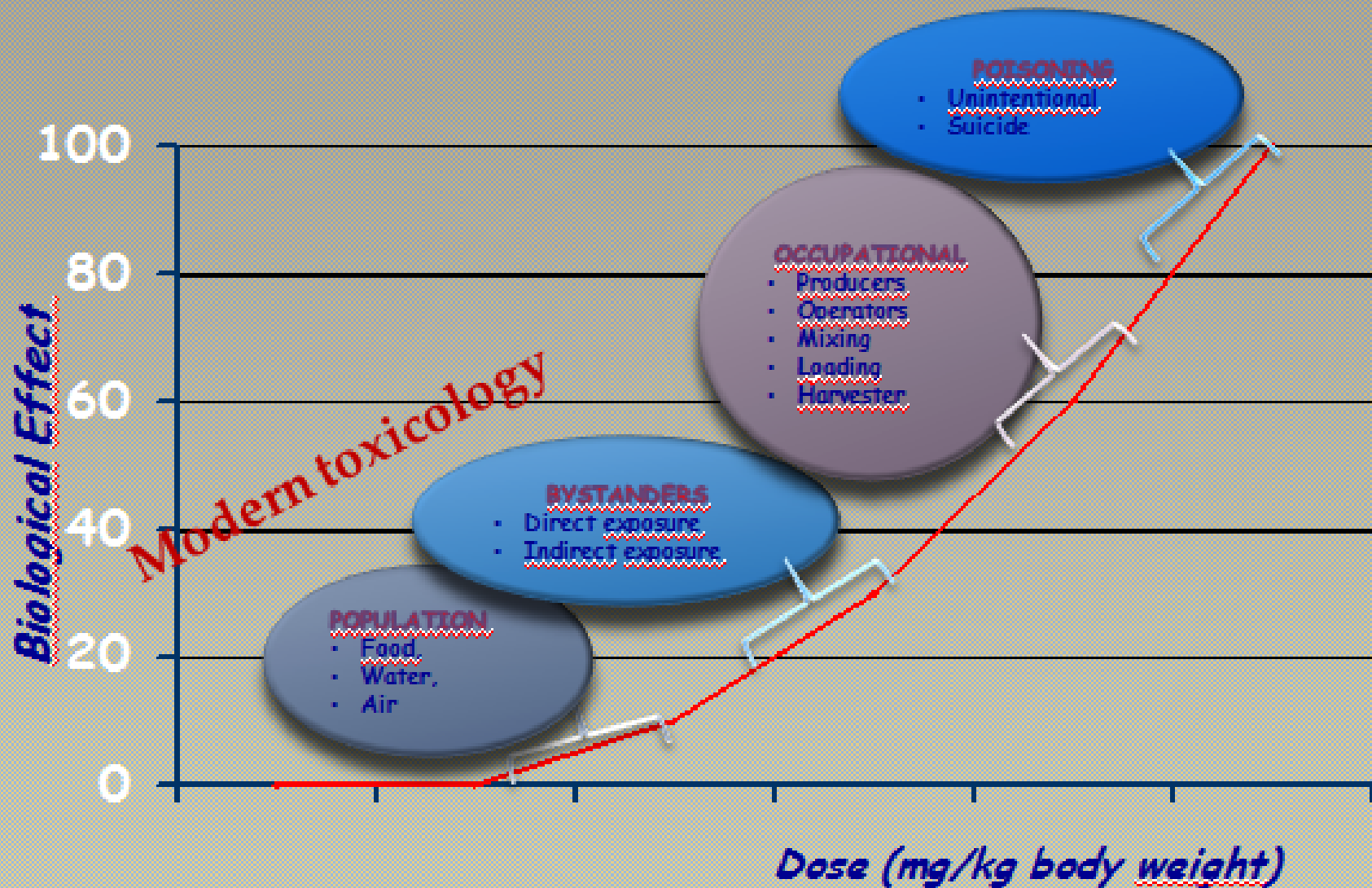
### vPvB

very Persistent,  
very Biocumulative

# HEALTH BASED GUIDANCE



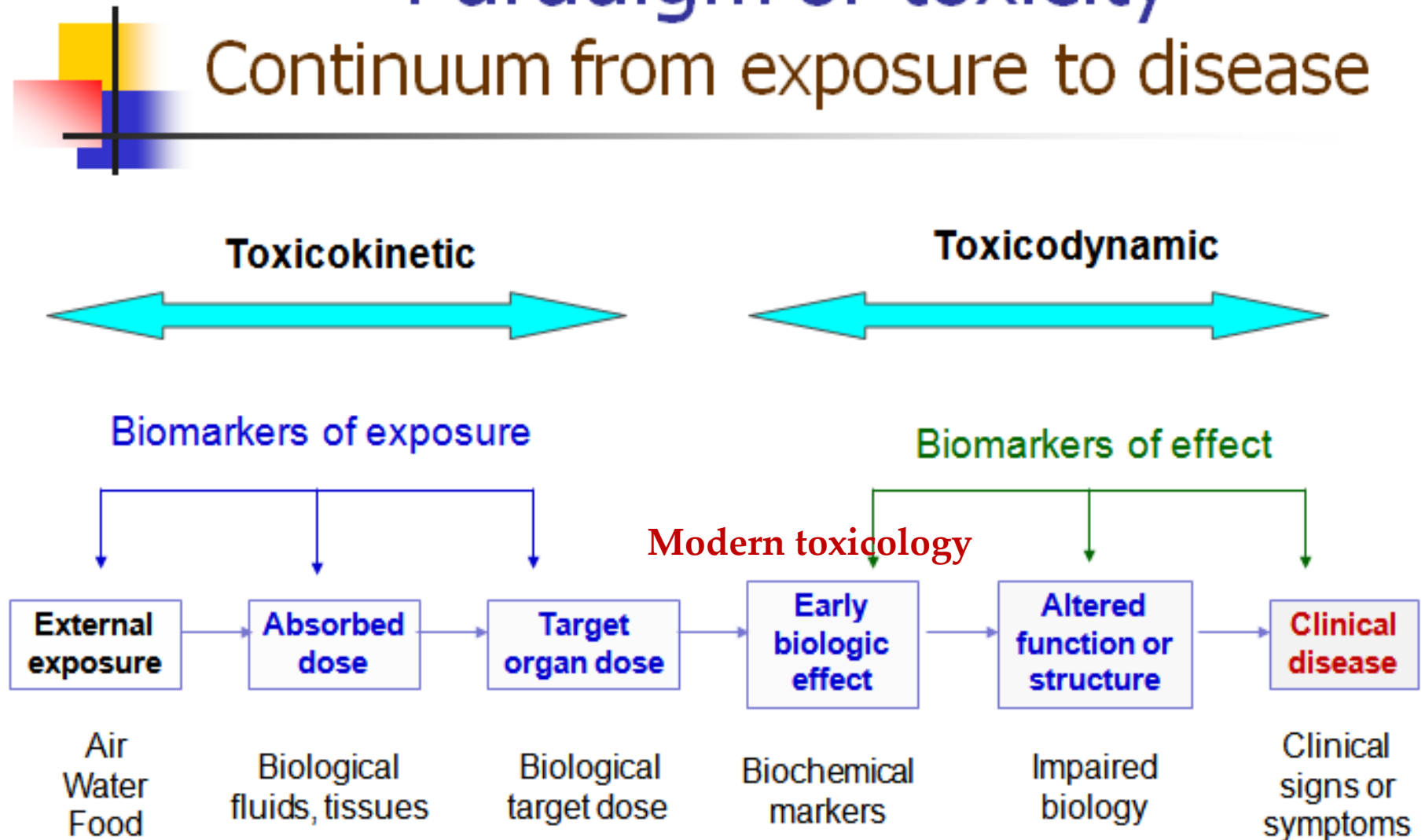
# TOXICOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT EXPOSURE





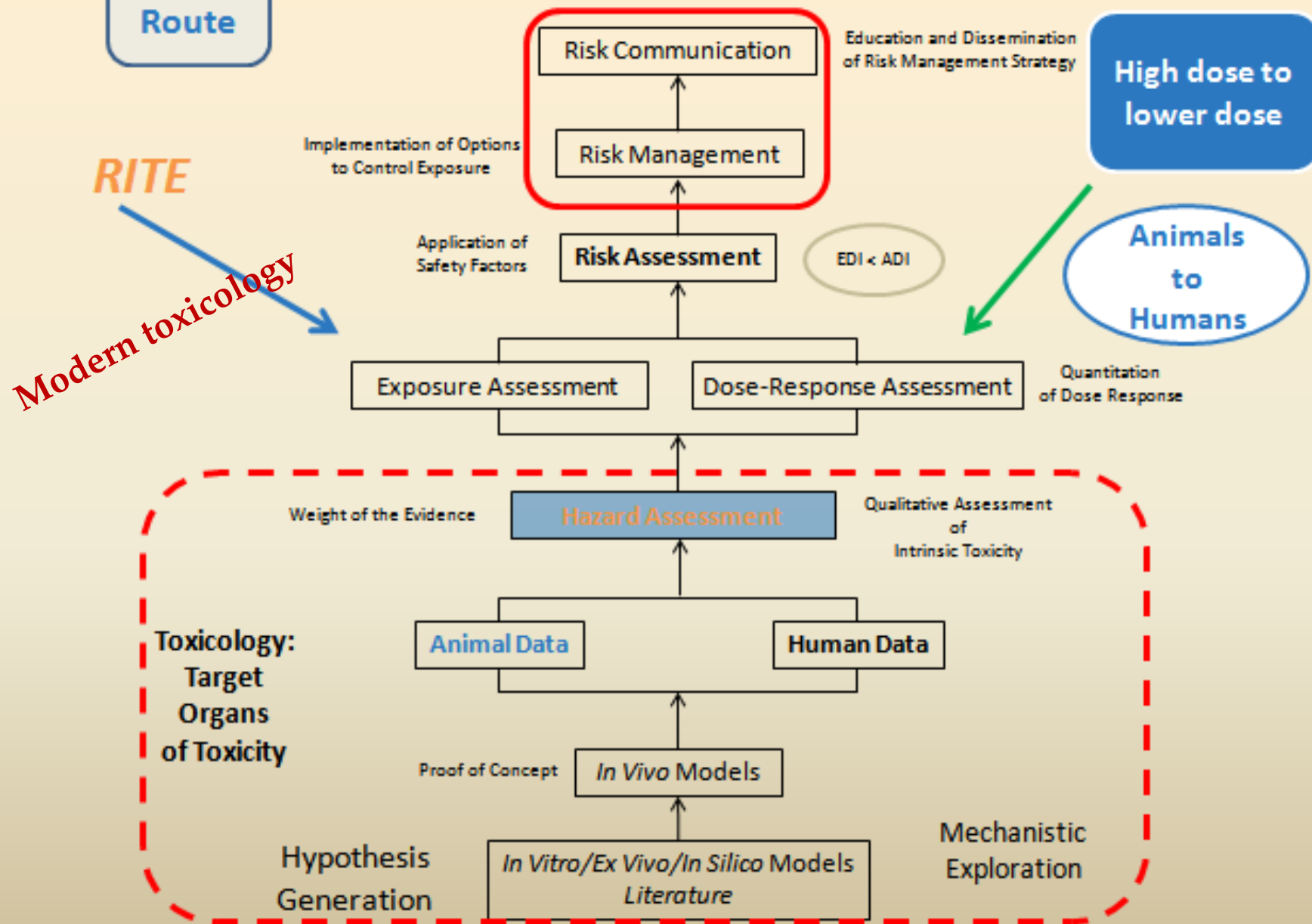
# Paradigm of toxicity

## Continuum from exposure to disease



Cross-Route

# Risk Analysis



Toxicity or hazard

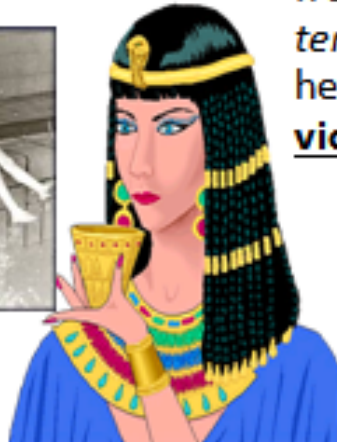
Dose/timing matters



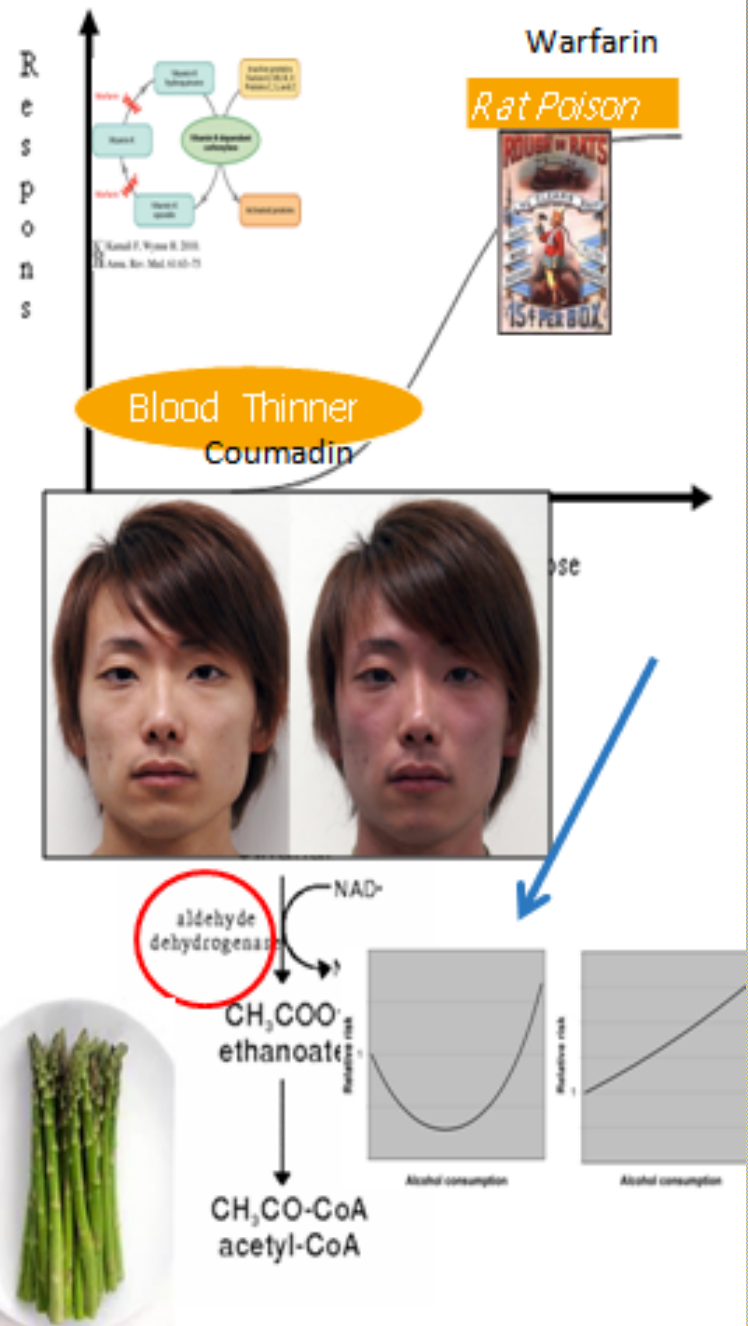
Polymorphisms  
Age, gender,  
health, drugs

People differ

She used to drink turpentine (terebinth from *Pistacia terbinthus*?) to make her urine smell of violets



Things Change





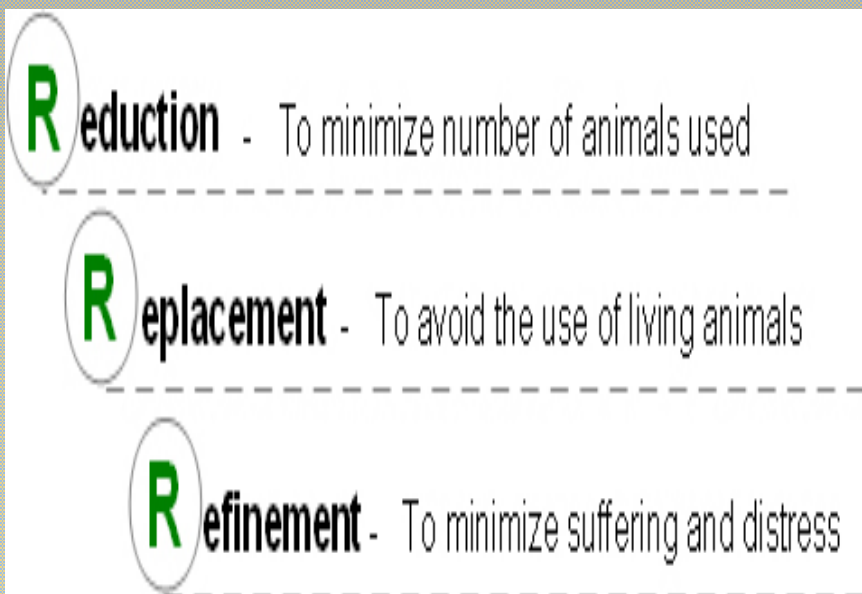
# 3R and the JRC Activity

- ⌘ **New integrated methods based on in-depth biological knowledge are needed. Therefore the JRC is developing and testing new animal-free methods, alternatives to animal-based tests, to be applied in an integrated safety assessment of chemicals.**
- ⌘ **EURL ECVAM, the European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing**



## 3R!

**Examples of EU legislation that require, or strongly encourage, the replacement of animal testing**



- [Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes \(2010/63\)](#)
- [Regulation on cosmetic products \(1223/2009\)](#)
- [REACH \(2007/2006\)](#)
- [Classification, Labelling and Packaging \(CLP\) \(1272/2008\)](#)





# EUROTOX / SOT Debate 2013

SOT Society of Toxicology

euROTOX 2013  
Interlaken | Switzerland



## SOT/EUROTOX Debate

*In the Near Foreseeable Future, Much of Toxicity Testing  
Can Be Replaced by Computational Approaches*

Monday, March 11, 2013

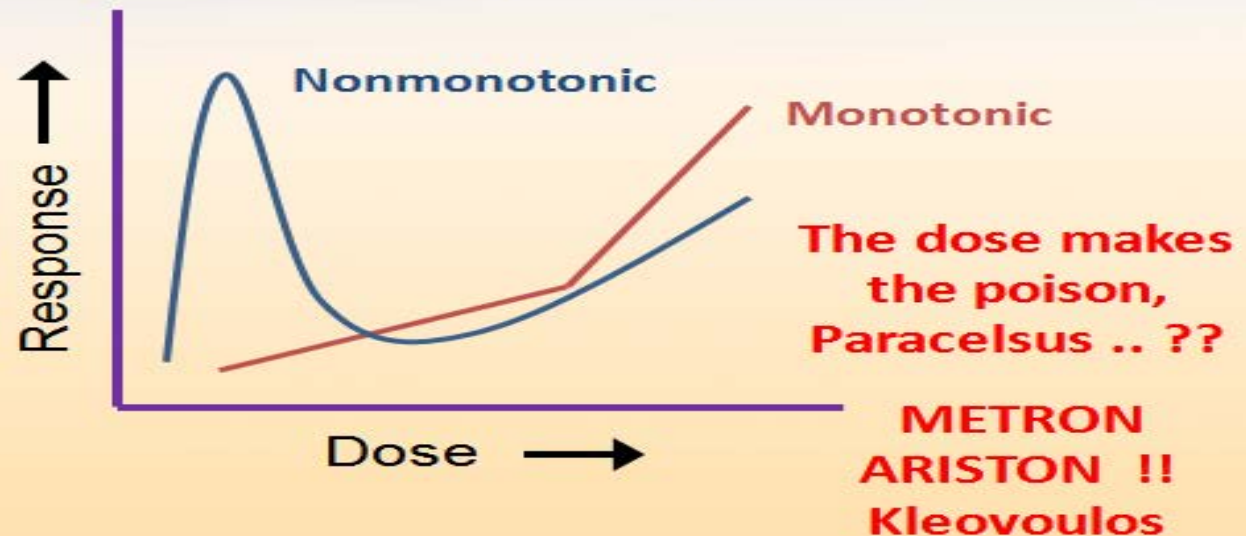
4:45 PM-6:00 PM



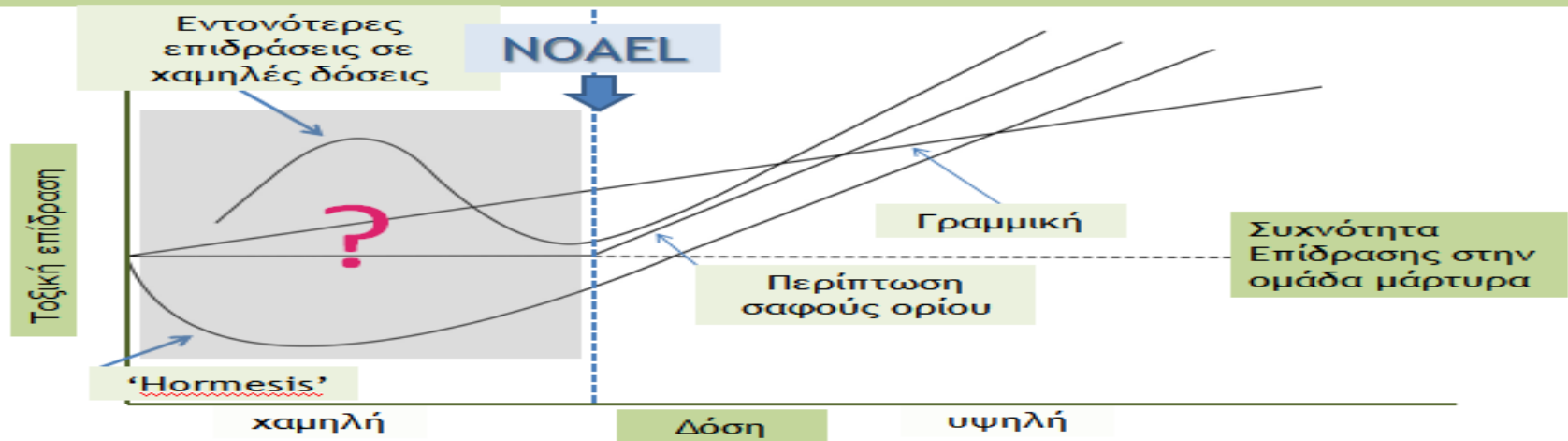
52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting and ToxExpo



# Are Nonmonotonic Dose-Responses at Low Dose Levels Toxicologically Relevant?

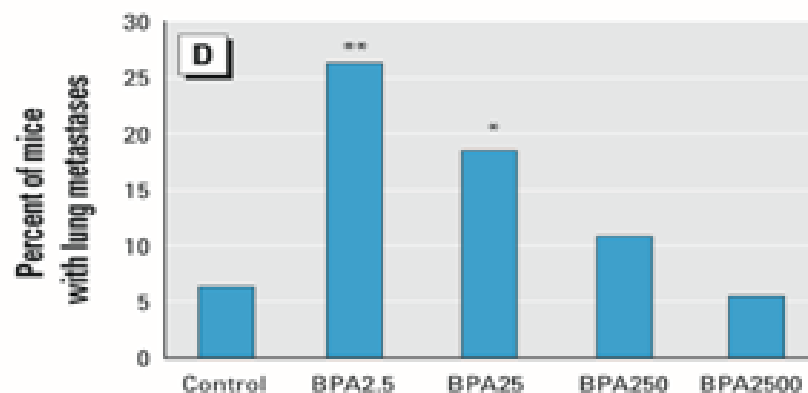
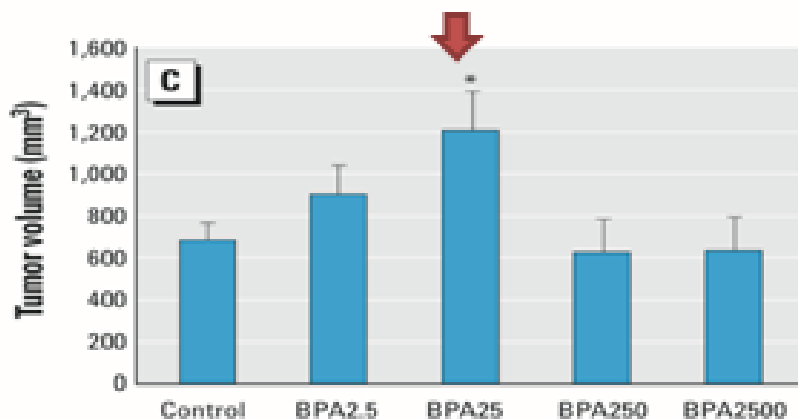
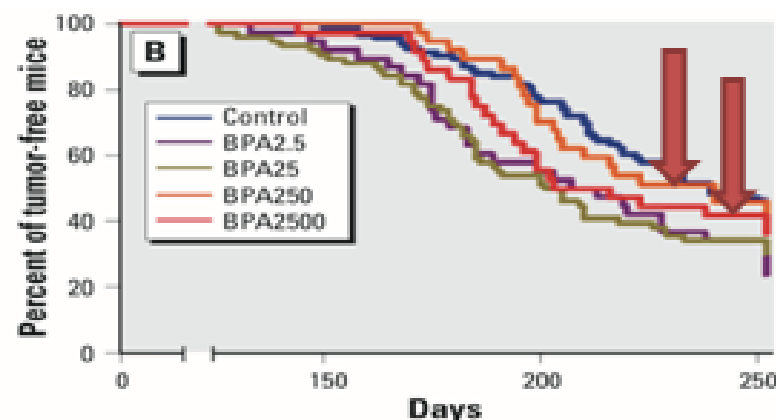
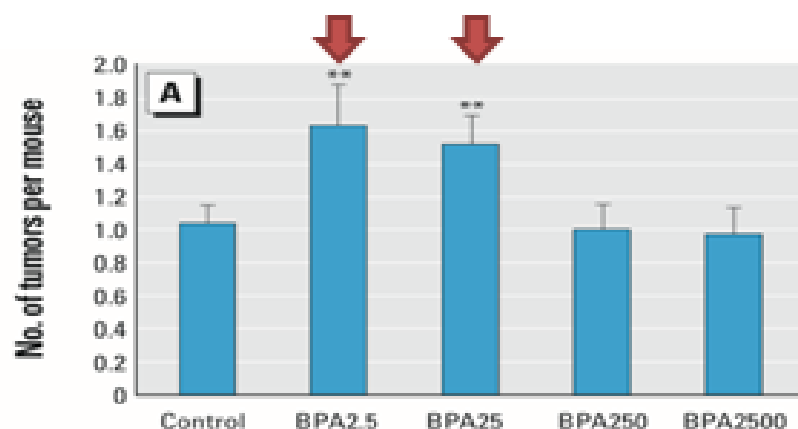


**WHEN The dose makes the poison,  
Paracelsus .. ??**  
**Which is the correct model?**  
**Which is the safe dose ?**



# Examples of non-monotonic curves

## Bisphenol A in drinking water in mice.



Number of tumors ↑ at low dose 2.5 and 25 µg BPA/L

Survival times and mortality rate ↑ at low dose 2.5 and 25 µg BPA/L

Tumor volume (mm³) ↑ at bisphenol Dose 2.5 µg BPA/L

Number of metastatic rats ↑ at bispheno dose 2.5 and 25 µg BPA/L

Jekins S et al. (2011)

***Environ Health Perspectives***

***119:1604–1609***



# Examples of non-monotonic curves

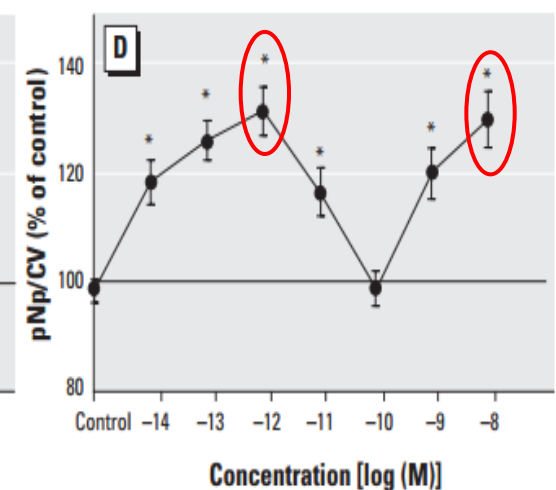
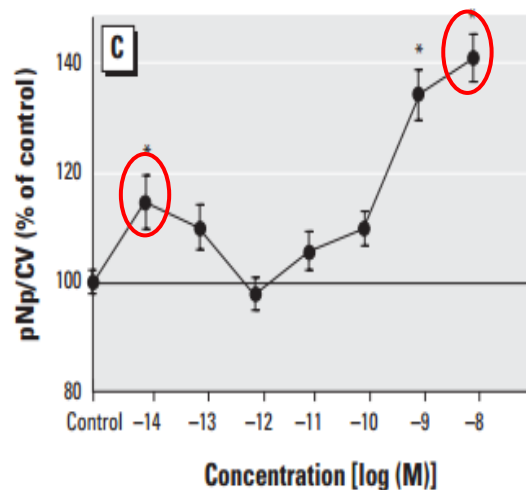
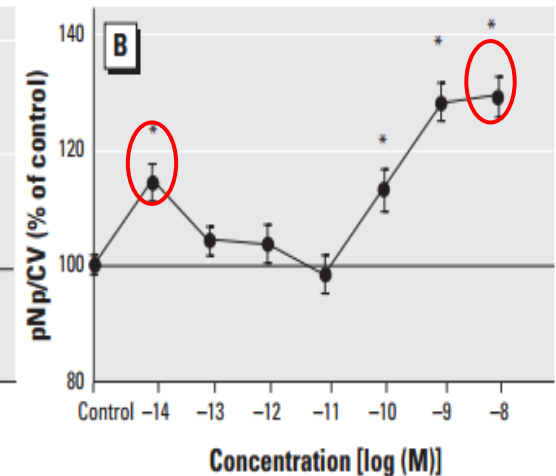
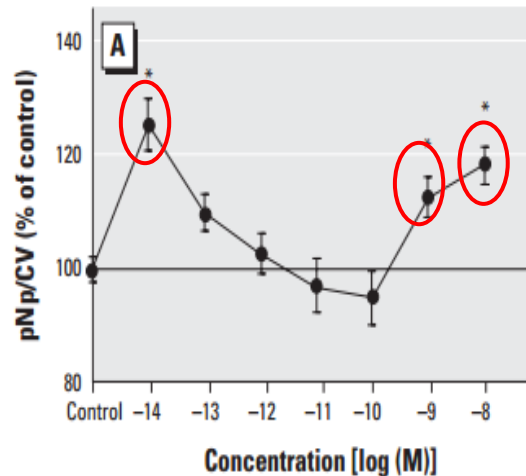
## Xenoestrogens in vitro cell lines

- (A) Estradiol
- (B) Coumestrol
- (C) p-nonylphenol
- (D) endosulfan

Concentration-dependent changes in the phosphorylation status of extracellular-regulated kinases (ERK)

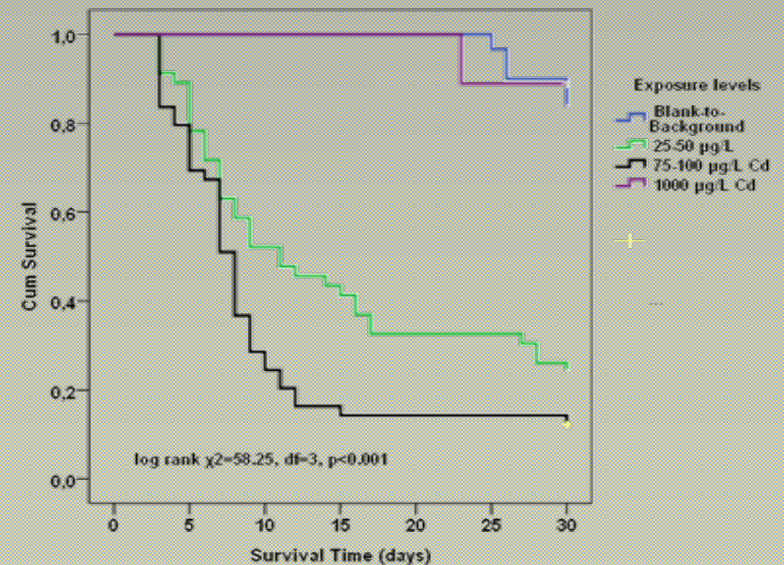
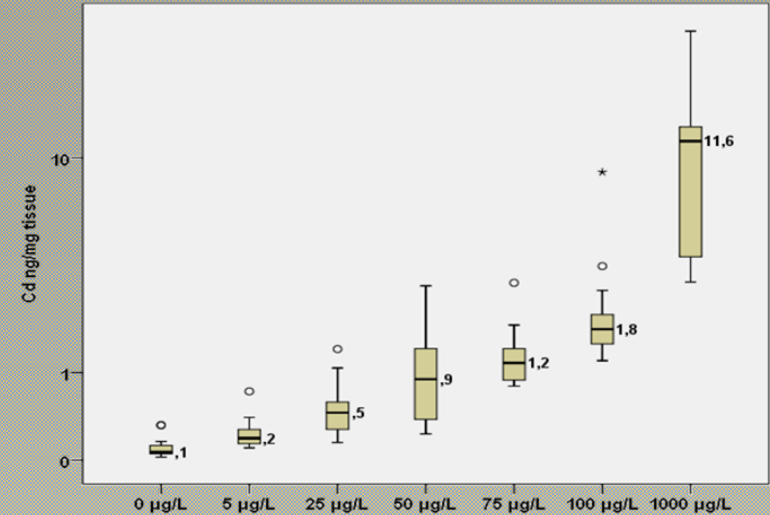
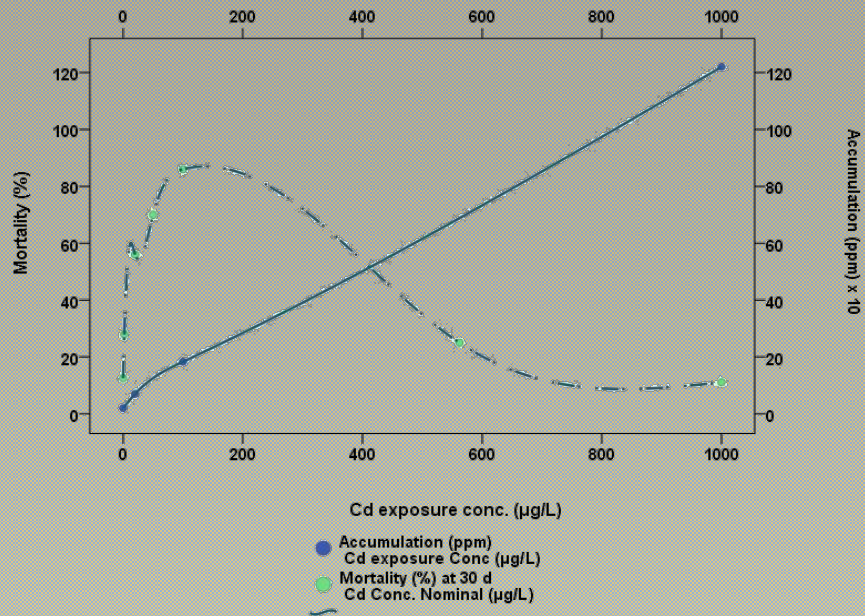
Concentrations in  $\log_{10}$  scale

*Bulayeva NN Watson CS  
(2004). Environmental  
Health Perspectives,  
112(15): 1481-1487*



# Non linear (non monotonic) response at low? doses

## Mortality vs. Cd accumulation



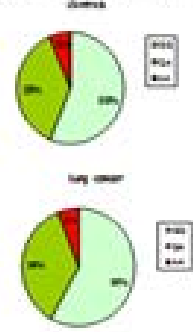
- Mortality data: this study (Renieri E.), including recent literature
  - S. Cambier *et al.*, 2010
  - L. Vergauwen *et al.* / Chemosphere (2013)
  - LA. Arini *et al.*, 2015
- Accumulation data: this study (Renieri E.)

# Enough, but not too much / ..metron ariston, .kleovoulos

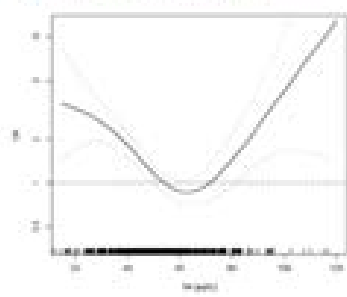
## Two faces of selenium



## Se, *Sep15* polymorphism and lung cancer risk



Lung cancer risk associated with plasma Se concentration

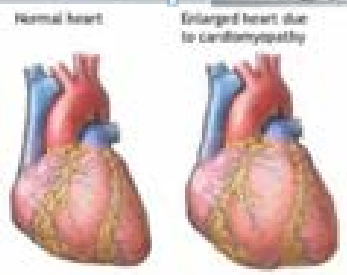
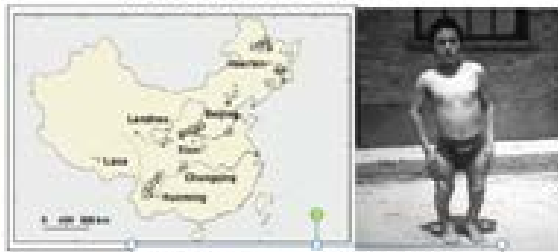


## Deficiency

## Poisoning

Life Window

### Keshan disease

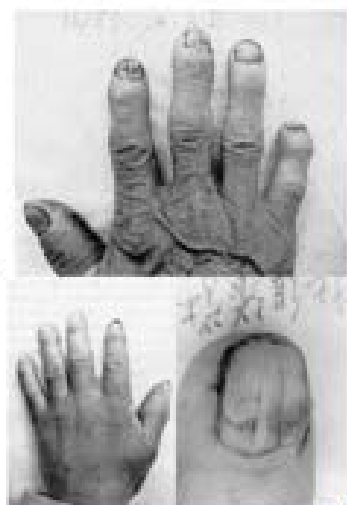


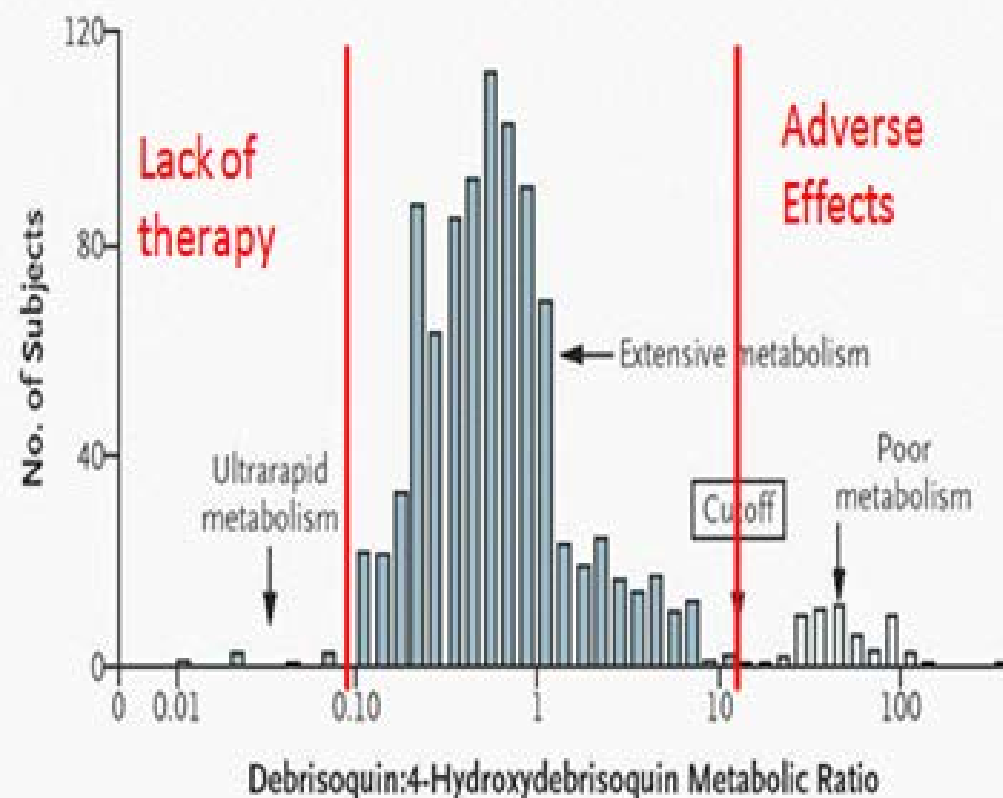
### Kashin-Back



### Selenosis patients

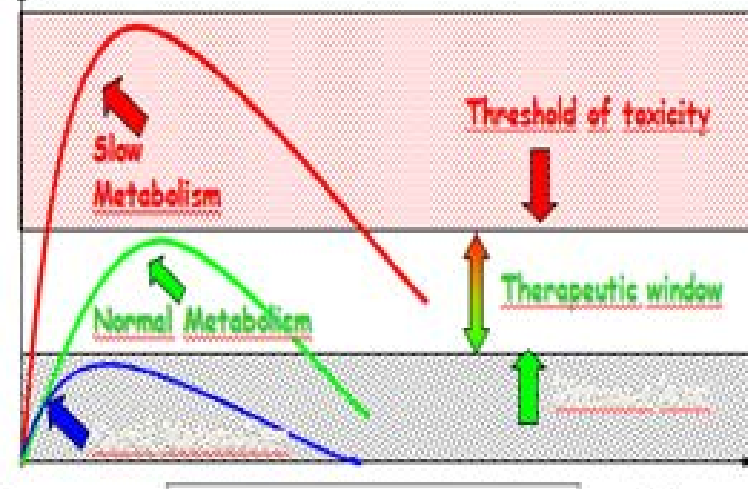
Three persons among four members of their family were selenosis patients, During heavy prevalence, intake of Se as high as 15-38 mg were detected,



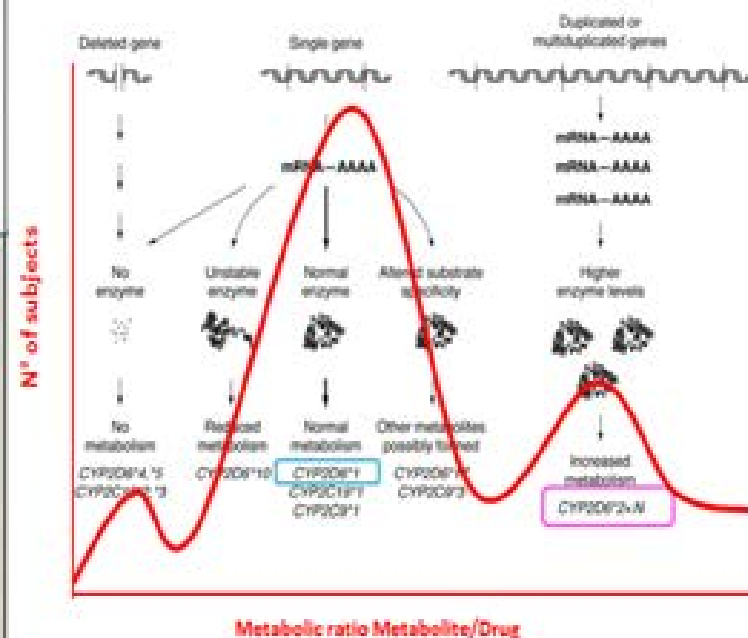


**Figure 3. Pharmacogenetics of CYP2D6.**

Urinary metabolic ratios of debrisoquin to its metabolite, 4-hydroxydebrisoquin, are shown for 1011 Swedish subjects. The Cutoff box indicates the cut-off point between subjects with poor metabolism as a result of decreased or absent CYP2D6 activity and subjects with extensive metabolism. Modified from Bertilsson et al.<sup>17</sup> with the permission of the publisher.



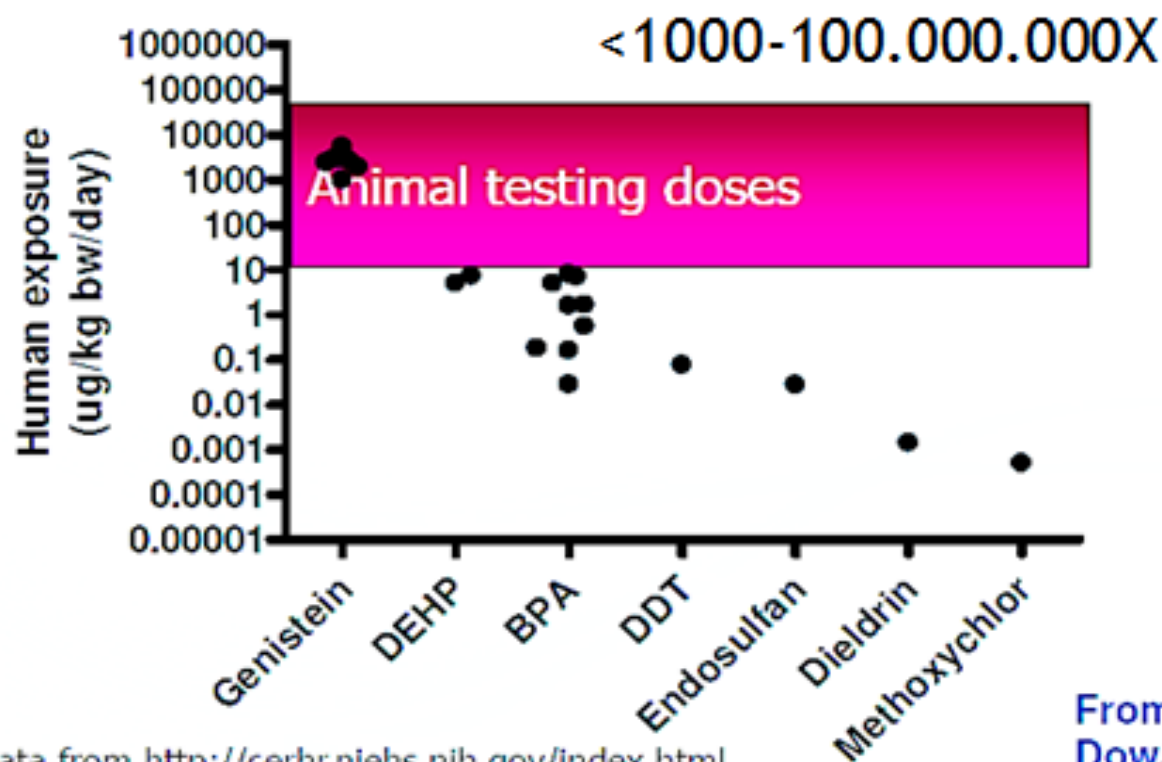
## Genetic and Phenotypic differences





# Presentation of studied doses in relation to levels of human exposure

*human exposure vs studied doses*



Exposure data from <http://cerhr.niehs.nih.gov/index.html>

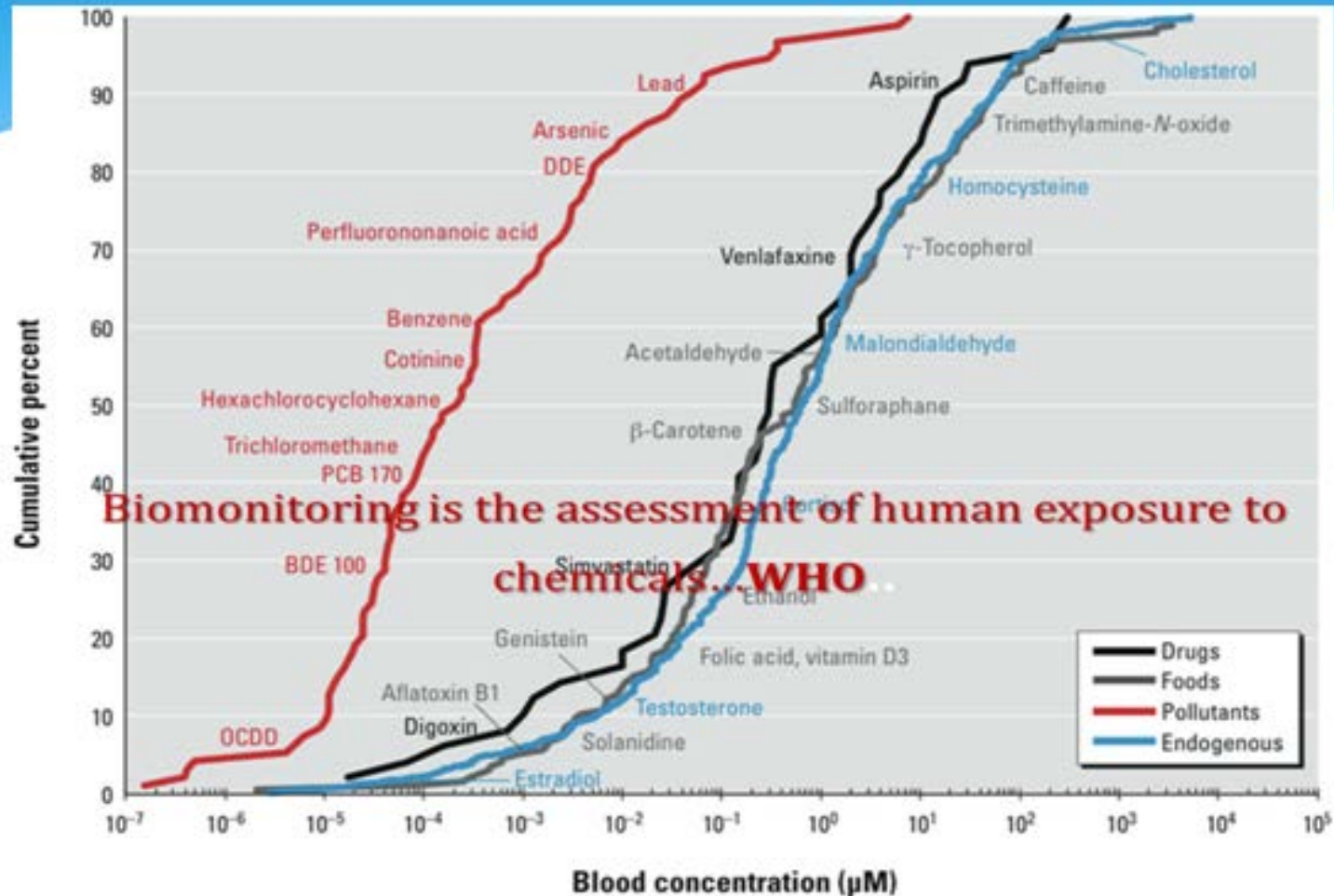
From E. Carney,  
Dow, 2010

Thomas Hartung, The Human TOXOME Project & Endocrine Disruption Testing, JHU, USA.

Issues under consideration include high variability in levels and sensitivity and of exposure duration of the toxicological studies

## What is the exposome?

A big range for doses of exposures and of chemicals



# WHO , Oct. 26 2015 released review study performed by IARC

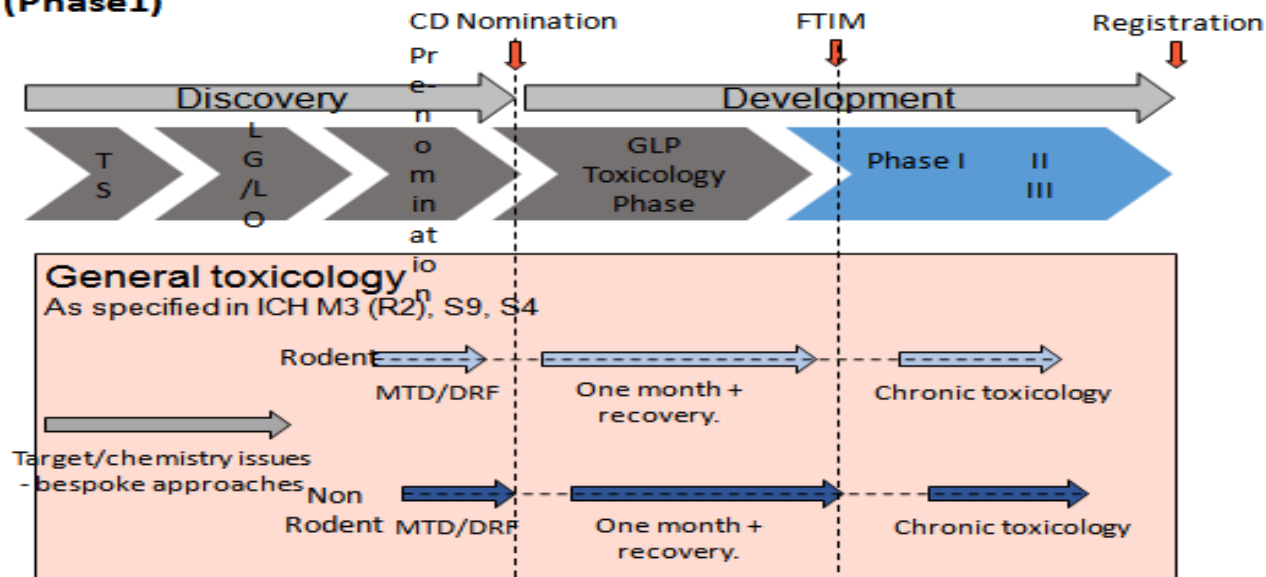
Intern Agency Research on Cancer WHO subsidiary

- Processed meat as a Group 1 **Carcinogen**, meaning evidence that links to cancer
- This based on meta-analysis studies evaluating 800 papers and conducted by team of 22 experts from 10 countries
- **FDA Food and Drug Administration response : Federal Government carries out its own research through the National Toxicology Program**
- **NTP on carcinogens will not look at processed meats as whole food items nominated for review as carcinogens**

**Contraversies  
among regulators**



**Preclinical toxicology testing: a series of tests conducted prior to first time in man (FTIM) (Phase1)**



**SOT  
EUROTOX  
debate**

**Preclinical toxicity studies DO NOT predict clinical outcome.....but.....**

- They play a vital role in eliminating non-viable compounds from development
- They define a no effect level (NOAEL) in support of starting dose, dose escalation and exposure limits
- They inform clinical monitoring



# Epidemiological studies

## Advantages

Human populations

True range of exposure

Vulnerable subgroups

Sensitive parts of lifespan

Gender-selective effects

## Disadvantages

Poor exposure information

No quantitative data

More than one chemical

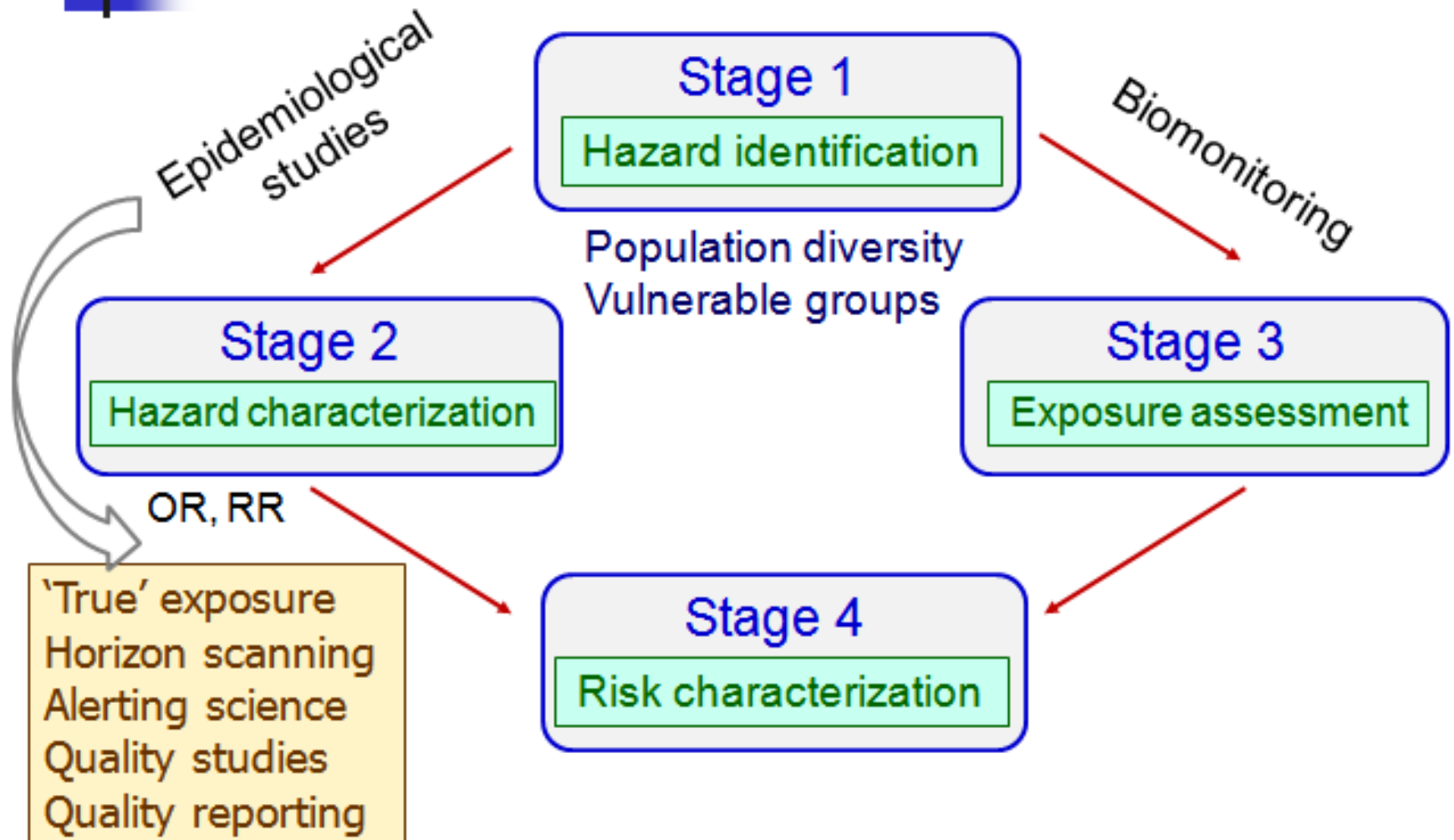
Heterogeneity of data

Temporal concordance?

Confounders

No biological plausibility

# Summary of the Risk Assessment Process



# Application of epidemiological studies to pesticide risk assessment

Classical single hazard approach  
(*regulatory framework*)

Evaluation of one pesticide

Various potential outcomes

Single hazard

Endpoint 1

Endpoint 2

Endpoint 3

Modern toxicology  
Multiple hazard  
(*integrated epi approach*)

Evaluation of various 'stressors'

Known (or emerging risk)

Pesticides

Chemicals

Biological agents

↑ disease incidence

# Biological plausibility for the interpretation of epi evidence



External exposure

- Epidemiological studies

Clinical disease

- Use of modern technologies and approaches

External exposure

Absorbed dose

Target organ dose

Early biologic effect

Altered function or structure

Clinical disease

- AOP framework may be an appropriate tool

Molecular initiating event

Receptor binding  
DNA lesion  
Protein/Enzyme oxidation

Cellular response

Altered signaling  
Gene expression  
Protein synthesis

Organ response

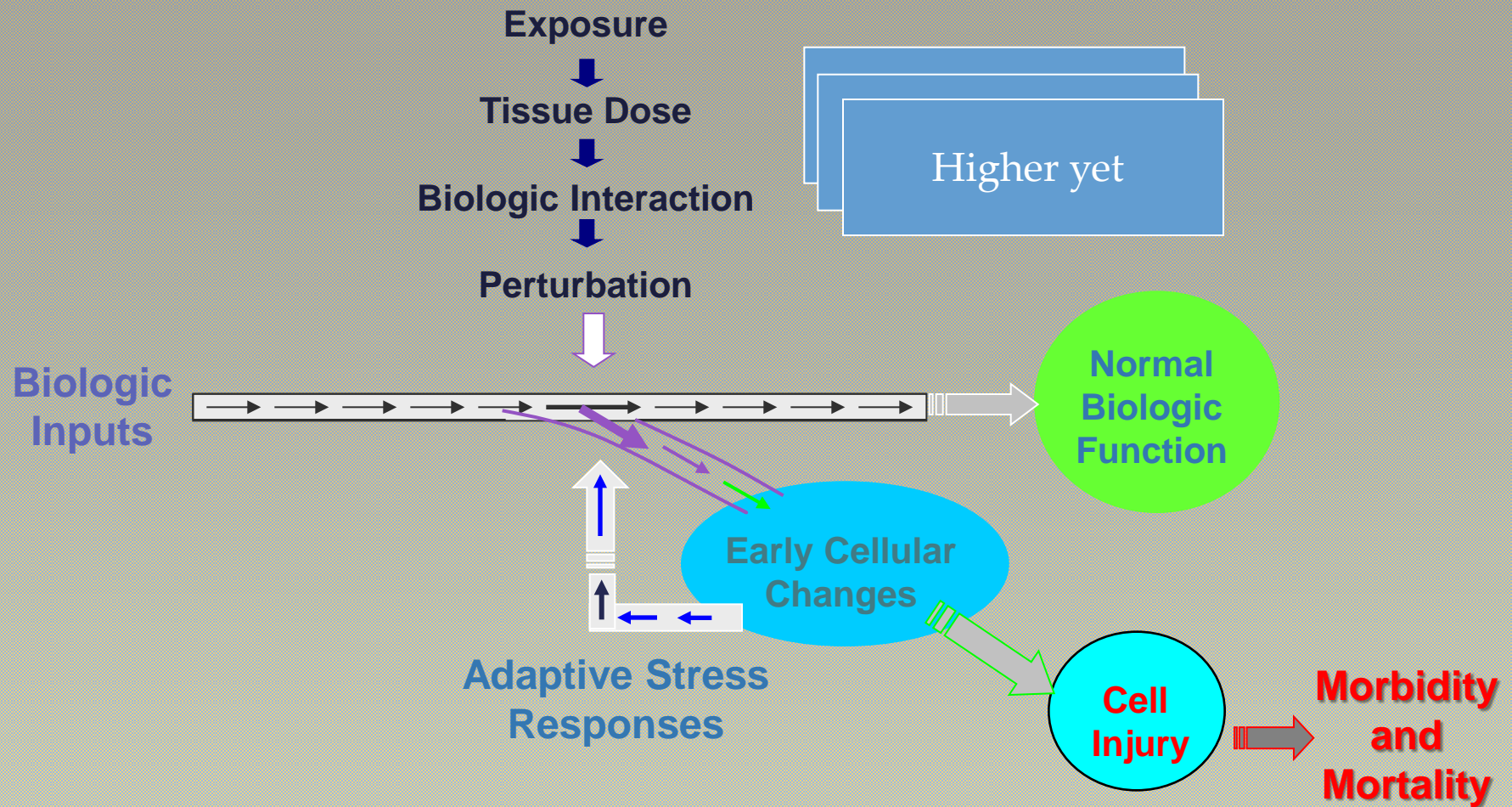
Disturbed physiology  
Disturbed function  
Altered homeostasis  
Cancer

Individual

Clinical disease  
Impaired development  
Impaired reproduction

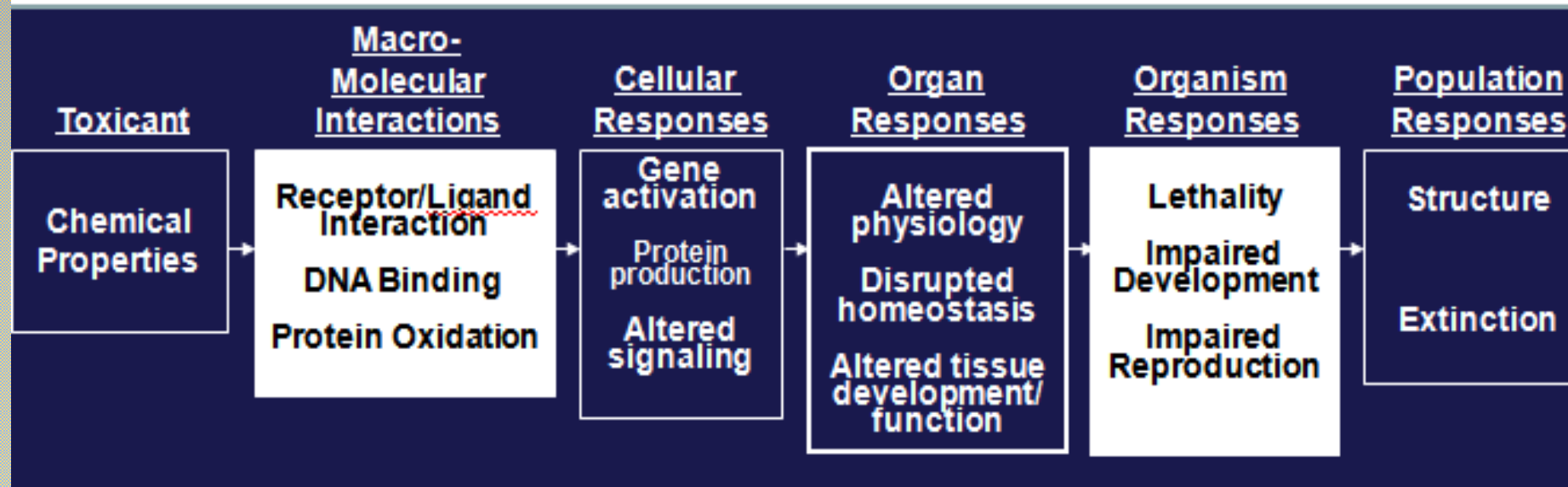


# Activation of a toxicity pathway (NRC, 2007)

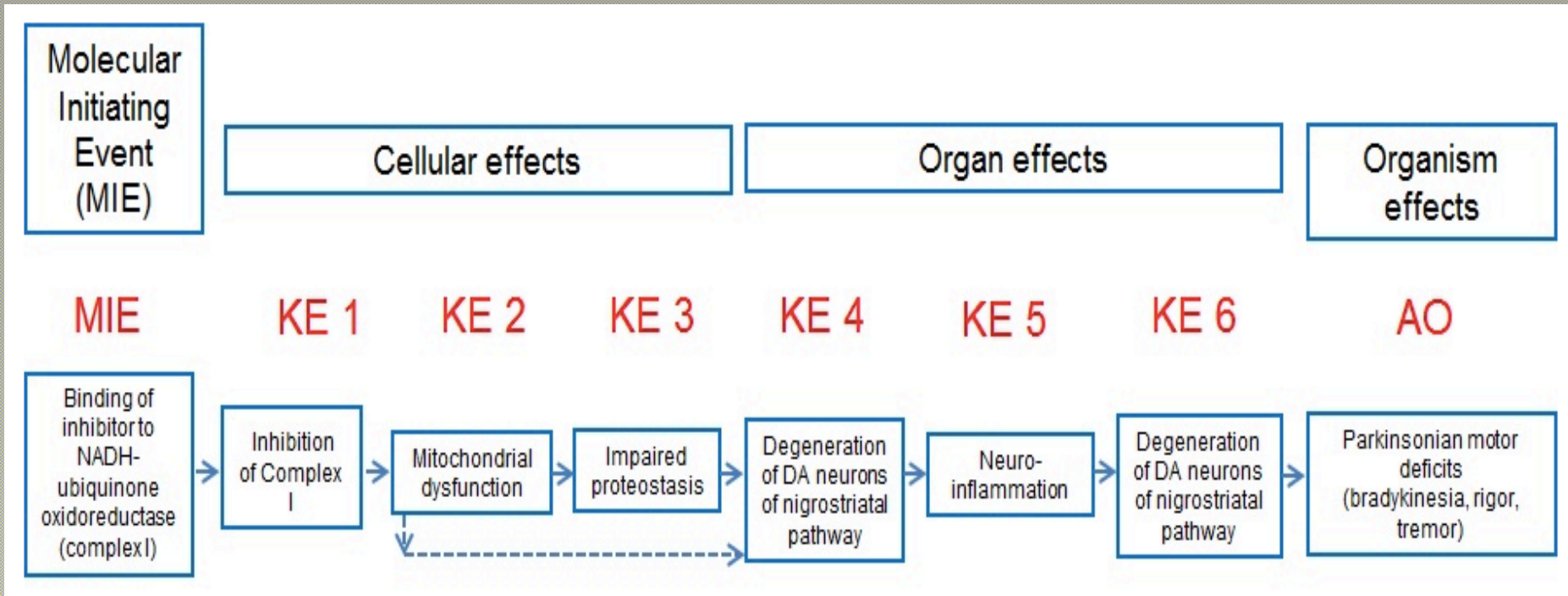


## Why use AOPs?

- How do we identify chemicals that may cause adverse effects before we see impacts on human health or wildlife populations?
- We need to understand
  - HOW chemicals cause adverse outcomes and
  - Biological activities that lead to/are associated with progression toward those AOs
- Creates opportunities to use new types of data for hazard identification and/or risk-based decision-making



# AOP 1: Inhibition of the mitochondrial complex I of nigrostriatal neurons leads to **parkinsonian motor deficits**



AOP Wiki: <https://aopwiki.org/wiki/index.php/Aop:3>, accessed Oct 1, 2016

Studies on Adverse Outcome pathways for many years now resulted so far only in few AOPs not without contraversies also

<sup>46</sup> See EFSA recent reports on Paraquat and Parkinson Disease





University of Crete Medical School  
Department of Toxicology & Forensic Science



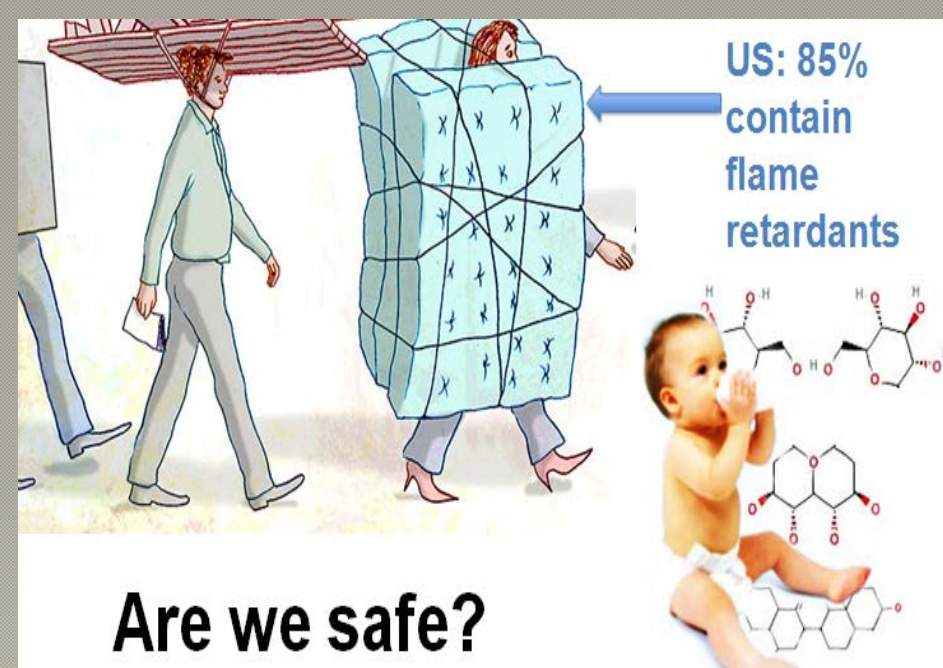
# Prenatal long term pesticide exposure and its association with pregnancy problems and birth defects

**Aristides M. Tsatsakis**

*Professor and Director, MSc, PhD, DSc, ERT  
Department of Toxicology & Forensic Science, Medical  
School, University of Crete  
<http://aristsatsakis.com>*







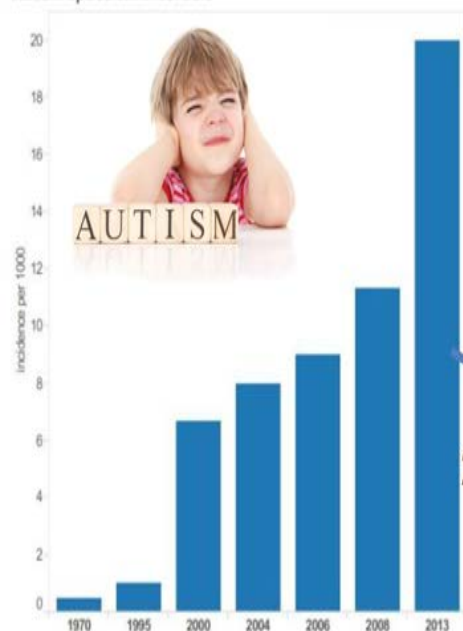
- Simplistic identification of similar chemicals driven by data availability
- Good Read-Across Practice only emerging
- One-to-one or one-to-few read-across
- Cannot be validated

badly used in REACH!



# Are we safe?

Autism Spectrum Disorders



**DEVELOPMENTAL NEUROTOXICITY IS THE ENDOCRINE DISRUPTOR PROGRAM OF THE NEXT DECADE**

2013: 1 in 68 children (CDC)

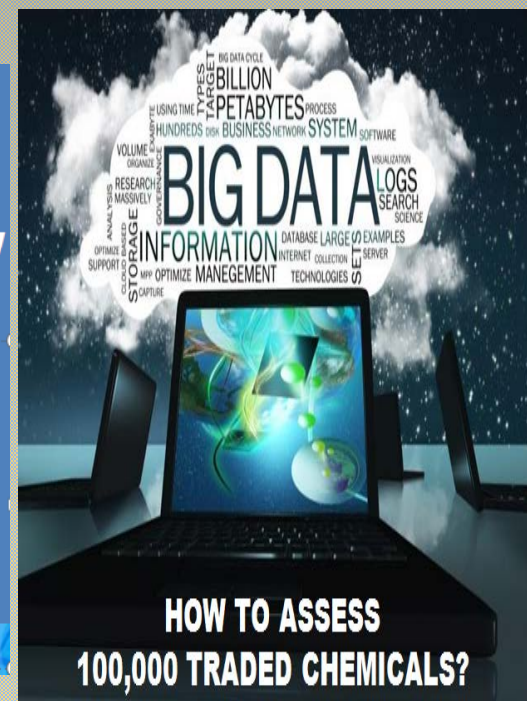
2014: 1 in 59 children (CDC 27 April 2018)

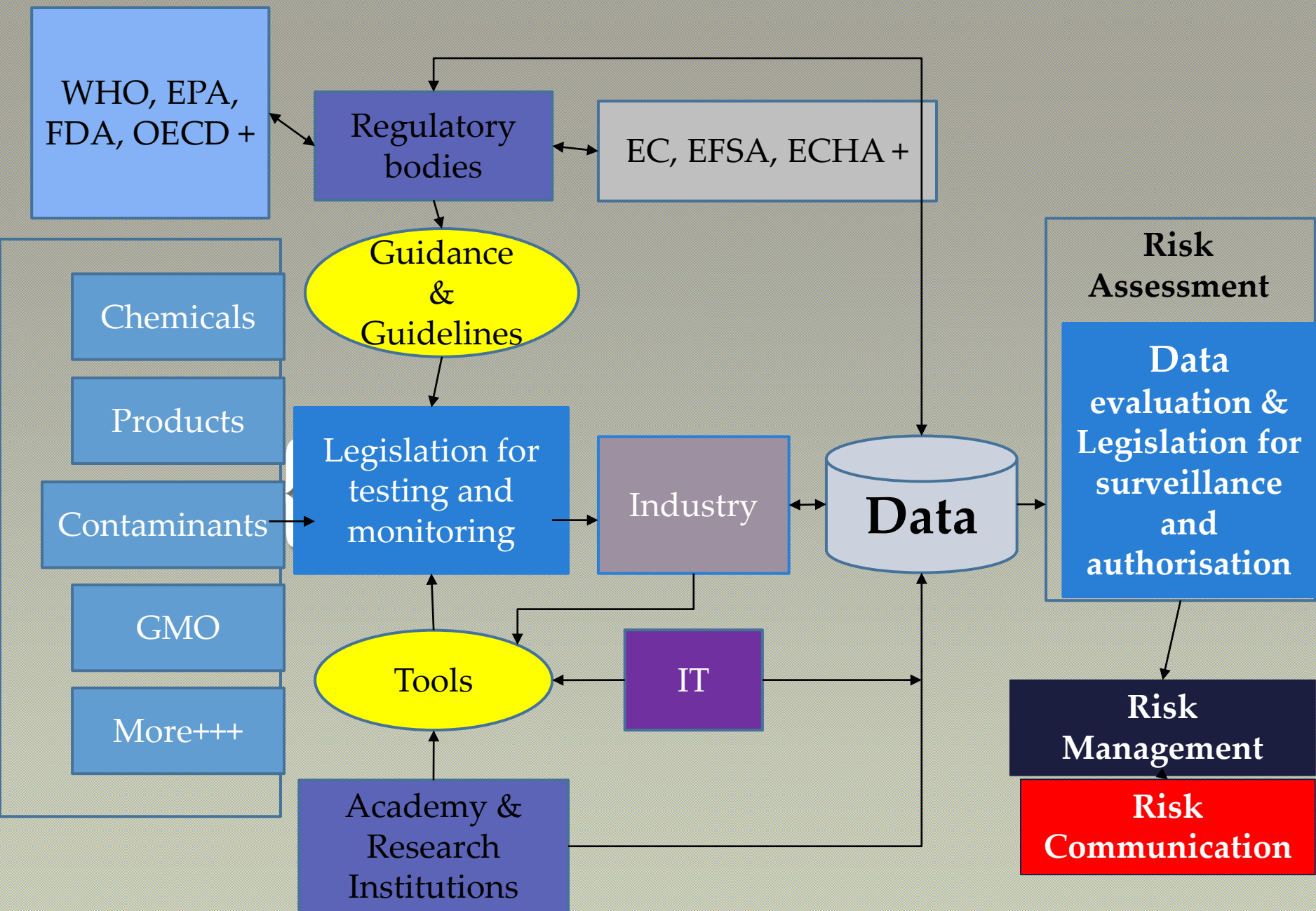
Data from Studies completed by the CDC on Autism Spectrum Disorder incidence rates.

**The map of the chemical universe**

**Similarity = proximity**

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE  
0,5 BILLION CALCULATIONS PER PREDICTION  
+ CERTAINTY**





**Toxicology**  
**\$3 billion per year**  
**\$20 million per**  
**pesticide**

Food for Thought ...

**ALTEX 2018, 35:275-305**

## **Animal Testing and its Alternatives – the Most Important Omics is Economics**

*Lucy Meigs<sup>1,2</sup>, Lena Smirnova<sup>2</sup>, Costanza Rovida<sup>3</sup>, Marcel Leist<sup>3</sup> and Thomas Hartung<sup>2,3</sup>*

**Tox: \$18.6 billion (14,4 *in vitro*, 4,2 *in vivo*)**

**40% of chemical industry is now in China**  
**EU down from 35% to 15% in one decade**

**REACH 2018: only 22.000 chemicals total**

**7,800+ flavors in e-cigs not tested**

**US: 4,500 food additives with <20% public data**

**140 million chemicals synthesized**

**100,000 traded**

**1,000 new ones per year**  
**(hardly tested)**

**3% extensively**  
**tested**

**10% tested**

**After REACH (May**  
**2018):**

**8% extensively tested**

**16% tested**



**\$1 million for a**  
**cancer study**

**About 5 years 20kg**  
**needed**



## Is Global Chemical Policy Reaching its Goals?

### Benefits of an industrial chemicals management system

**Increases** the availability of high quality information and data on chemicals and how to use them safely

**Supports** the execution of the general public right to know

**Improves** the protection of workers and the public from chemical hazards

**Improves** quality of life and the environment

**Supports** enhanced stakeholder engagement and public participation in decision-making



Circular Economy



## Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

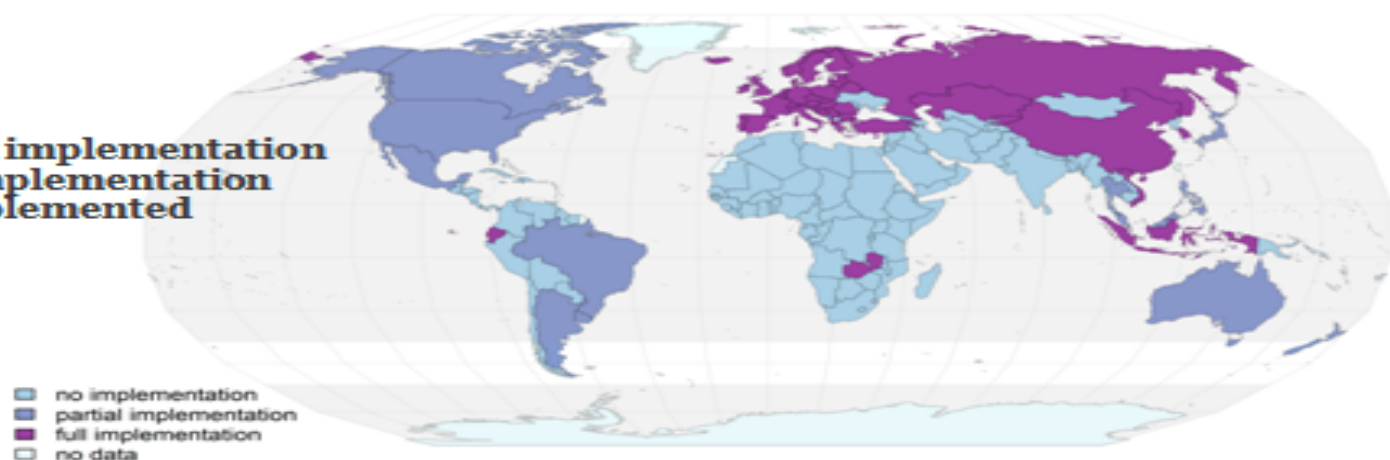
- Adopted in 2006 in Dubai
  - supports the achievement of the 2020 goal agreed at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development
- Overall objective is the *achievement of the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that by the year 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.*

## Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling

In 2002, it was agreed under the United Nations that all countries should be encouraged to implement the GHS by 2008.

As of 1 April 2017:

**50 countries – full legal implementation**  
**15 countries – partial implementation**  
**128 countries – not implemented**



## OECD Global Forum on Environment: Plastics in a Circular Economy

### Designing sustainable plastics from a chemicals' perspective

29-31 May, Copenhagen

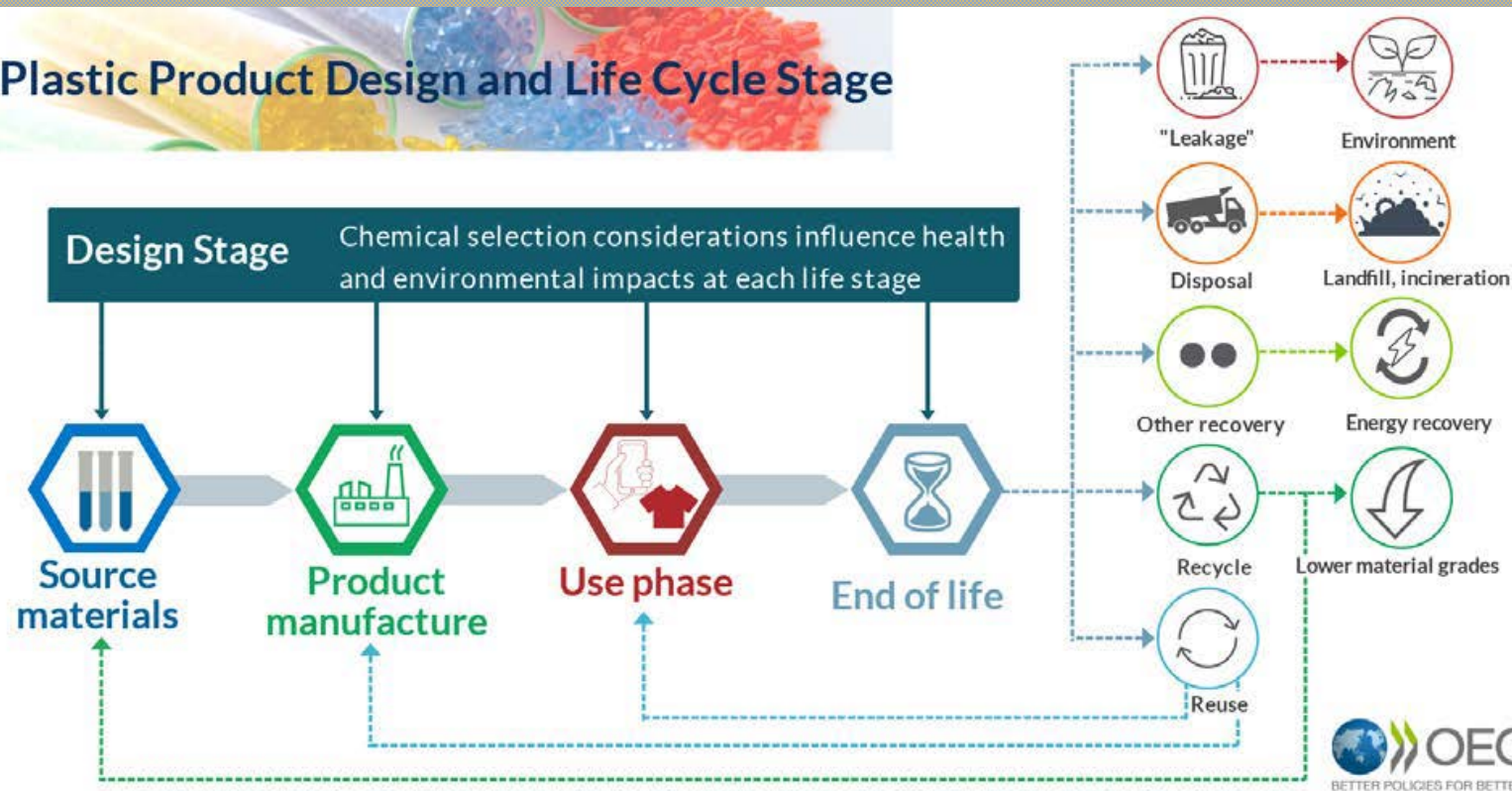


[oe.cd/plastics-forum](https://oe.cd/plastics-forum)



@OECD\_ENV

### Plastic Product Design and Life Cycle Stage



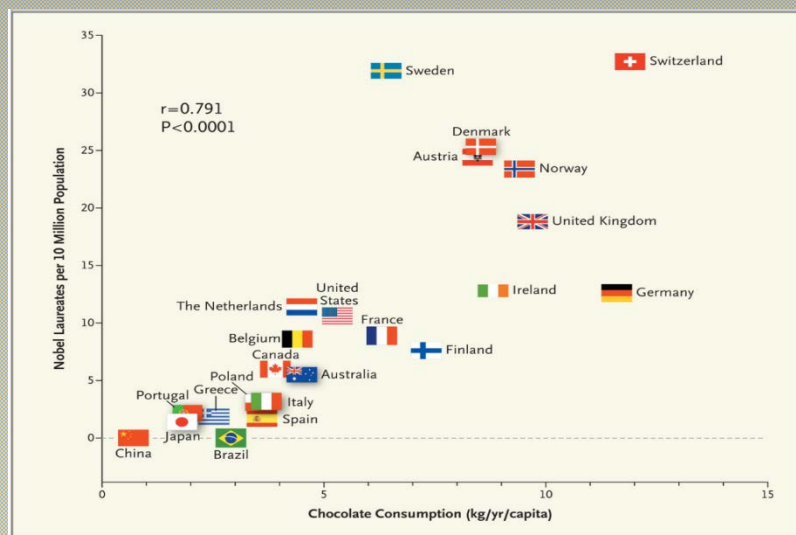
Associations related to exposures and health problems remain at the end only associations for certain cases and is not a prove for general conclusions.

## Association is not Causality

These associations are more evident in cases with strong epidemiology support and objections and restrictions are apparent .

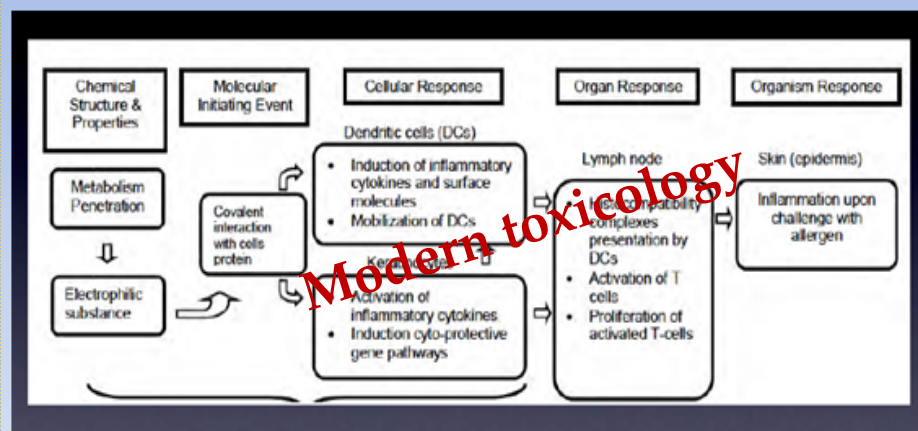
**The case of paraquat and parkinson disease in recent EFSA studies**

What is the value then ? Policy and Prevention and Regulatory issues, and increase of knowledge



Correlation ..Chocolate Consumption and the Number of Nobel Laureates .  
Messerli (2012) New Engl J Med, 367, 1562

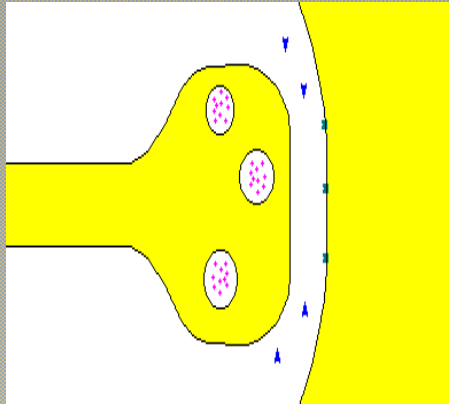
The elucidation of Adverse Outcome Pathways needs Integrated testing approaches



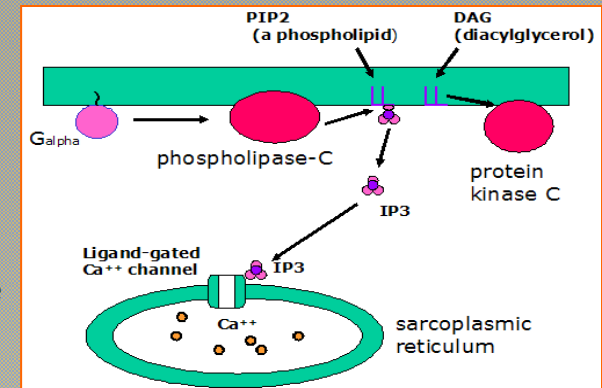


# Mechanisms involved in long-term low dose exposure

## Paradigm for pesticides

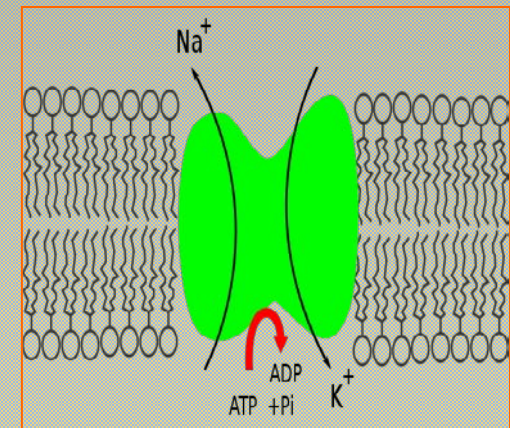
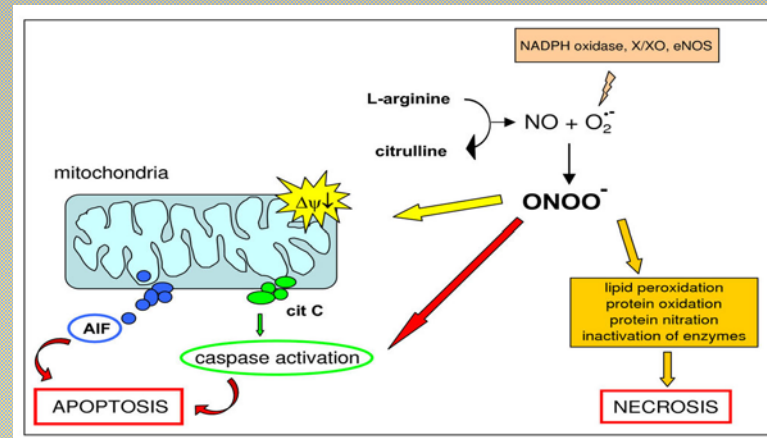
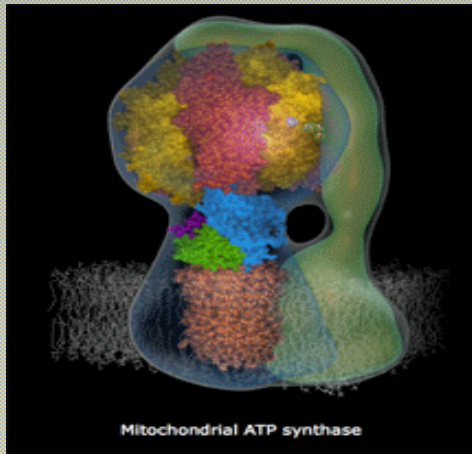


Inhibition or enhancement of enzymes, lipid peroxidation  
 Production of free radicals, oxidative stress  
 Reduction of antioxidant enzymes GSH, SOD, CAT, Gpx  
 Inhibition of the electron transport chain  
 Disturbances in transcription at the nucleus  
 Splitting chromatid DNA, Chromosomal damage  
 Apoptosis, oncogenesis, epigenetic damage, depletion of mitochondria, telomere shortening and ageing  
 Inhibition of protein synthesis  
 Disorders phosphorylation, methylation and intracellular signaling  
 Receptor and ion channels function's modifications



Muscarinic (Rs) secondary signaling Gps, PKC, Ca<sup>2+</sup>

Ops, Pyrethroids and Carbamates cause cholinergic crisis



Ops and Pyrethroids inhibit Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase

Pesticides inhibit the mitochondrial energy production at mt complexes

Pesticides cause oxidative stress, ROS production, apoptosis, necrosis, mutations, ageing



# The challenge of linking diseases with exposure

## web of interactions

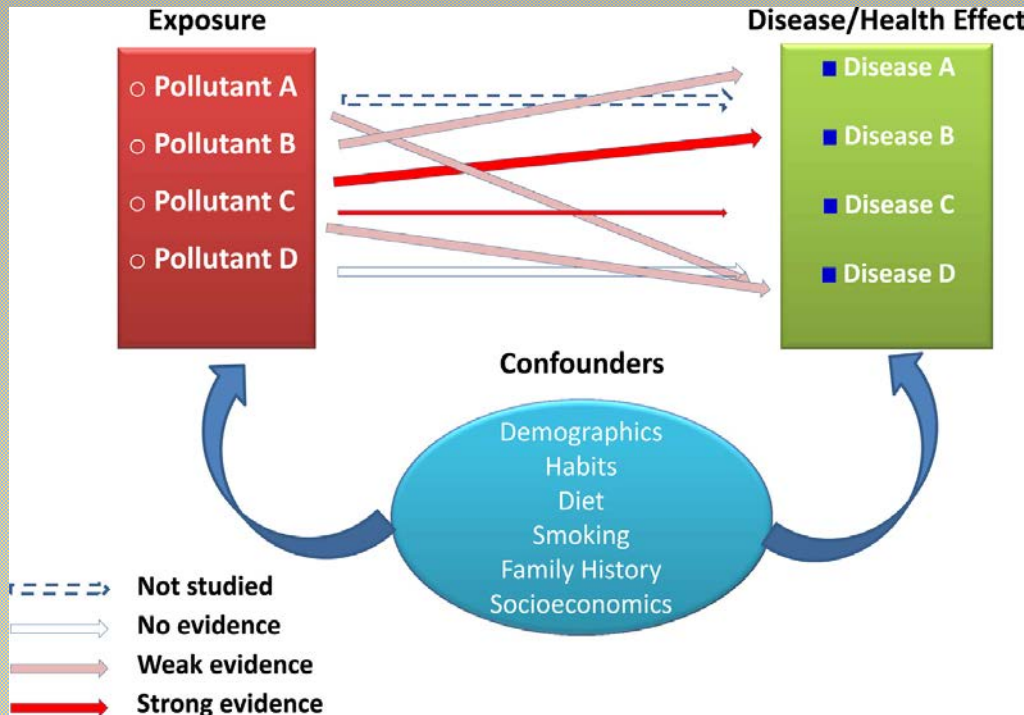
- The complex issue of linking exposures to diseases/health effects can be summarized under the term *“web of interactions”*

3  
IMPORTANT ISSUES

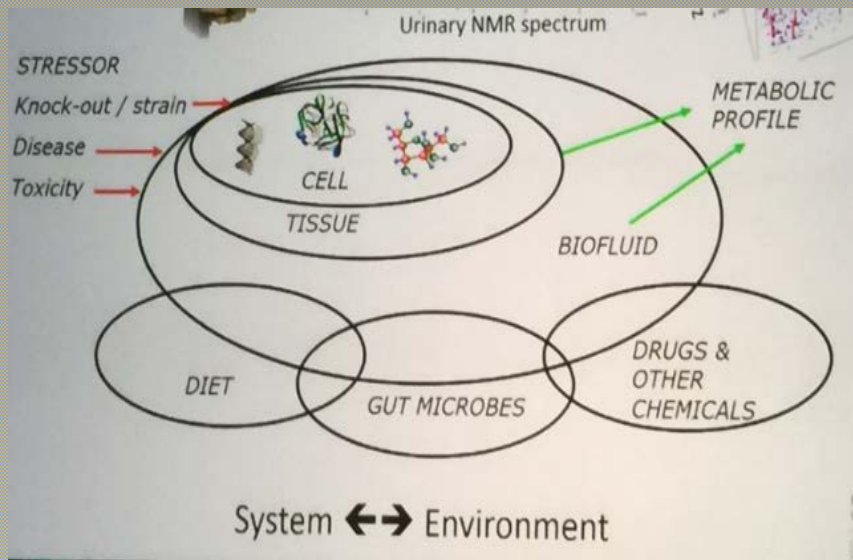
The **big number** and categories of diseases and/or disorders that can be involved

The **expanding number of measurable exposures** to specific substances or categories of pollutants

The **effect** of various types of confounders on both exposure and disease manifestation



**Editorial in Toxicol Letters**  
*Environmental contaminants  
and target organ toxicities –  
new insights into old problems*  
**Tsatsakis and Wilks**



Pictured Above: Farfield Exposure Examples



Pictured Above: Examples of Nearfield Exposure, Consumer Use and Indoor

Modern toxicology

Low *Combined* Long *T*erm

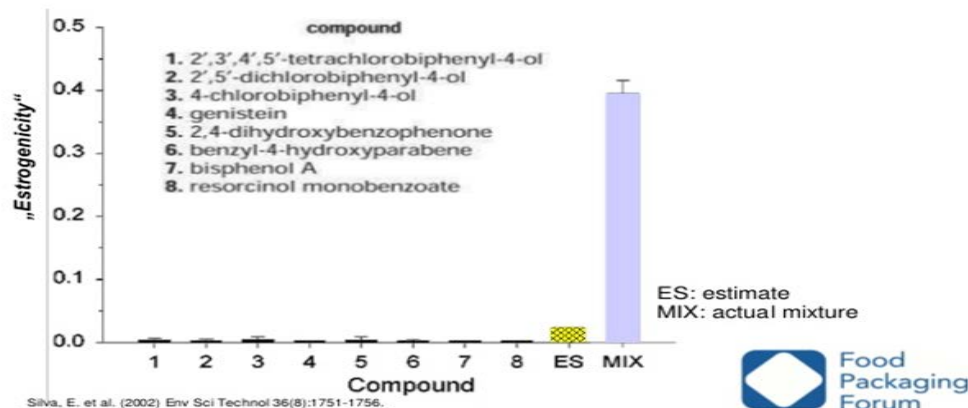
Health impacts from Exposures  
simulating real Life scenarios

# Simulating real life exposures to uncover possible risks to human health: a proposed consensus for a methodological approach

- ⌘ Exposure scenarios simulating real life is a complex issue since effects from multiply chemicals must be considered as a web of interactions that produce variety of mechanisms of effects and subsequently of health outcomes.
- ⌘ Linear –monomodal but also nonlinear effects can be seen in the range of low and/or high concentrations of exposures

New Modern toxicology

## Mixture Toxicity: „Something from Nothing“





**PPPs or pesticides** “any substance or mixture of substances used as insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, acaricides, rodenticides, nematocides, growth regulators, repellents, biocides to prevent, destroy or control a harmful organism ('pest') or disease, or to protect plants or plant products during production, storage and transport”

[[http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/index_en.htm)].



**“Lifestyle additives”** - other substances used as additives, preservatives, plasticisers, solvents, colorants that can be found in consumer related products as cosmetics, products of personal hygiene, detergents, food contact materials and medicines.

59

**Food improvement agents**  
= food additives, food enzymes and food flavouring. **Additives** are defined by the same EU legislation as any substance not normally consumed as a food in itself and not normally used as a characteristic ingredient of food, whether or not it has nutritive value

[[http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food\\_improvement\\_agents/additives/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_improvement_agents/additives/index_en.htm)].





# Simulating Real Life Exposures to Uncover Possible Risks to Human Health.

## The present regulatory assessment disadvantage

Chronic toxicity evaluations for chemicals have been performed for a single chemical each time in order to set appropriate reference doses and regulatory limits,

### Status now

such as the ADIs of additives in food and other consumer products, the MRLs for pesticides residues in food, the OELs to different chemicals and the DNELs (derived no-effect levels) for chemical safety assessment of chemicals under the REACH Regulation.



### BUT

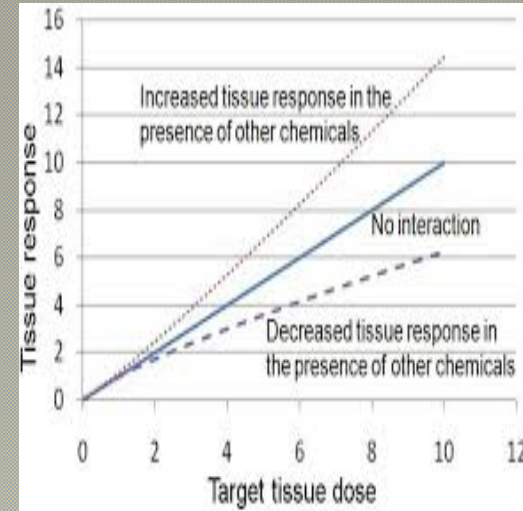
In practise the general population is never exposed to one single chemical but experiences uncontrolled multi-chemicals exposure from many different sources, at doses around or well below the regulatory limits.



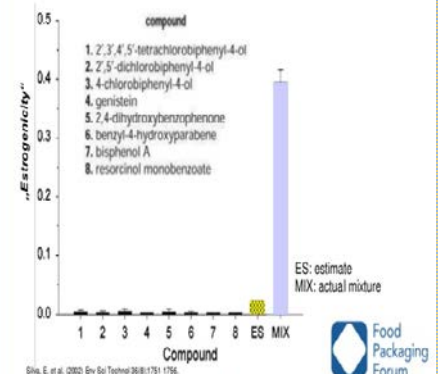
# Limitation of toxicological studies investigating mixtures

The existing studies on mixtures disadvantages :

- **dosage schemes** proposed from the internationally recognised experimental protocols that are **too high to simulate real exposure scenarios**
- **endpoints studied** - limited to specific types of toxicity covered by the Regulations, allowing for **a gap of knowledge** for example on cardiotoxicity or neurotoxicity.
- **Long term studies** are not performed to simulate time frames for **neurodegenerative diseases**



## Mixture Toxicity: „Something from Nothing“



# The need for a cumulative risk assessment

- Nowadays, the international scientific community as well as the international regulatory authorities **have started to realise the need for a cumulative risk assessment** and new methodologies are being developed  
[<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/3313>].
- **EFSA** started to give special attention to **cumulative risks from exposure to pesticides** that produce common adverse outcomes on the same target organ/system [EFSA. Scientific opinion on the identification of pesticides to be included in cumulative assessment groups on the basis of their toxicological profile. EFSA J., 11 (2013), p. 3293].
- The lack of data from toxicological studies investigating mixtures consists one of the biggest regulatory challenges.
- **The CLP Regulation** [<http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/regulations/clp>] gives the opportunity to Industry to **perform animal testing in commercial mixtures** as a last resort to prove a toxicological hazard.

Our experimental methodology has the ambition to provide at one strike multi-answers to multi-questions:

- **long term toxicity study of non-commercial chemical mixtures**, consisting of common everyday life chemicals (pesticides, food additives, life-style products components)
- at low **and realistic dose levels** around the regulatory limits
- with the **simultaneous investigation of several key endpoints** like genotoxicity, endocrine disruption, target organ toxicity and systemic mechanistic pathways, like oxidative stress.

## Aim of the study



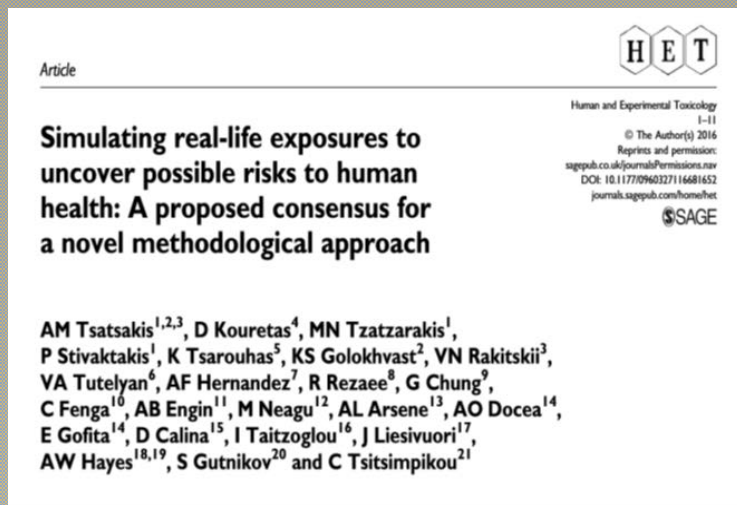
*Pictured Above: Farfield Exposure Examples*



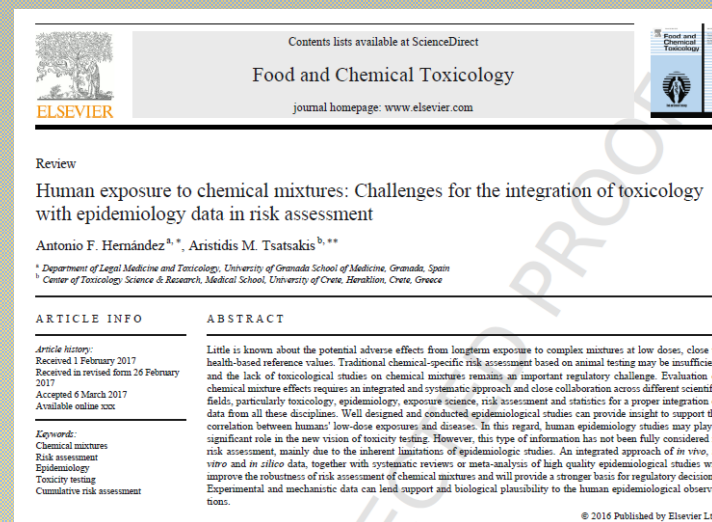
*Pictured Above: Examples of Nearfield Exposure, Consumer Use and Indoor*



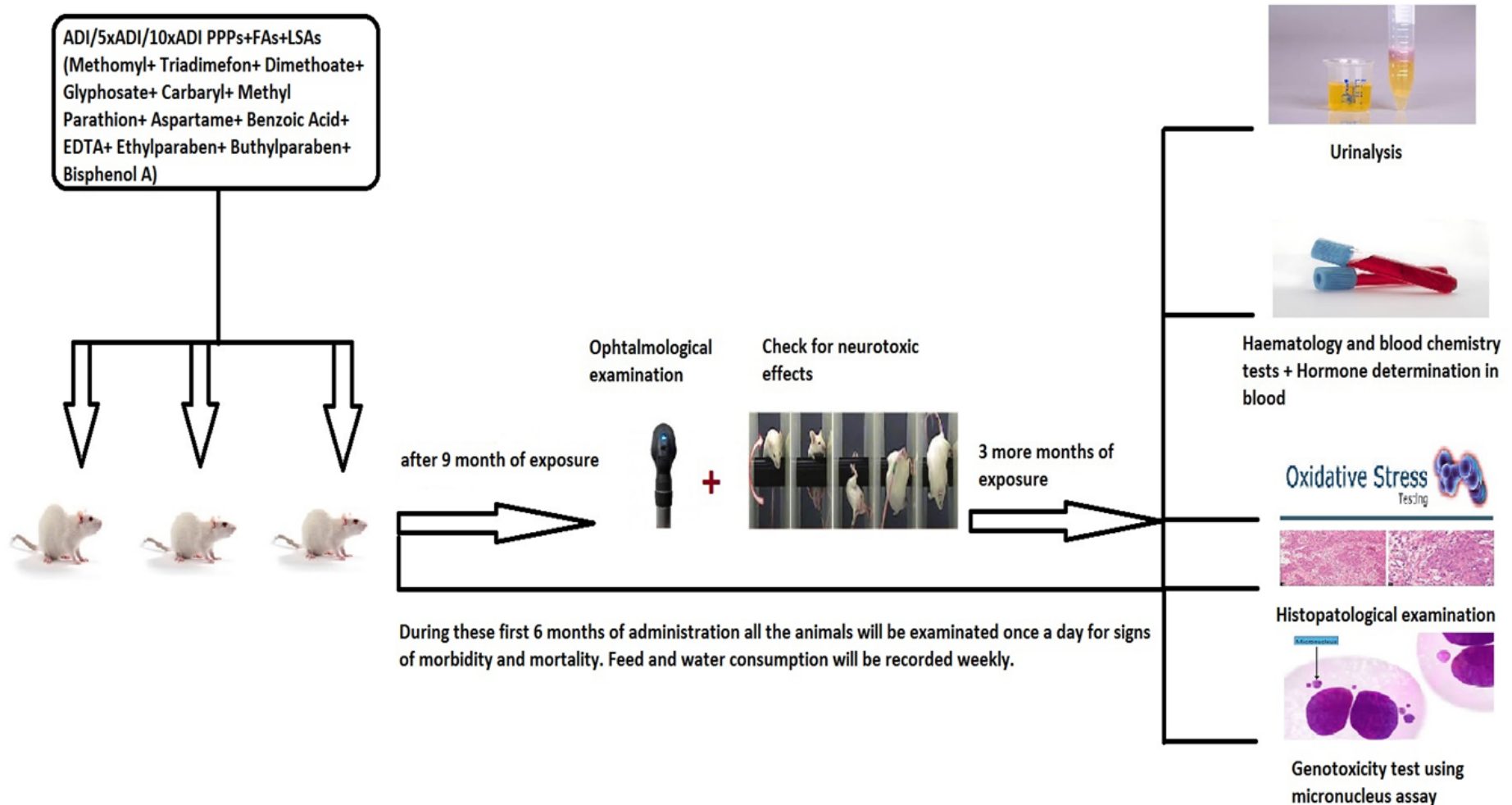
# The new methodology approach high lights



The need for a new experimental methodology for mixture testing intending to answer to multiple questions related to health concerns after exposure to low, realistic doses raised the attention of research in the field

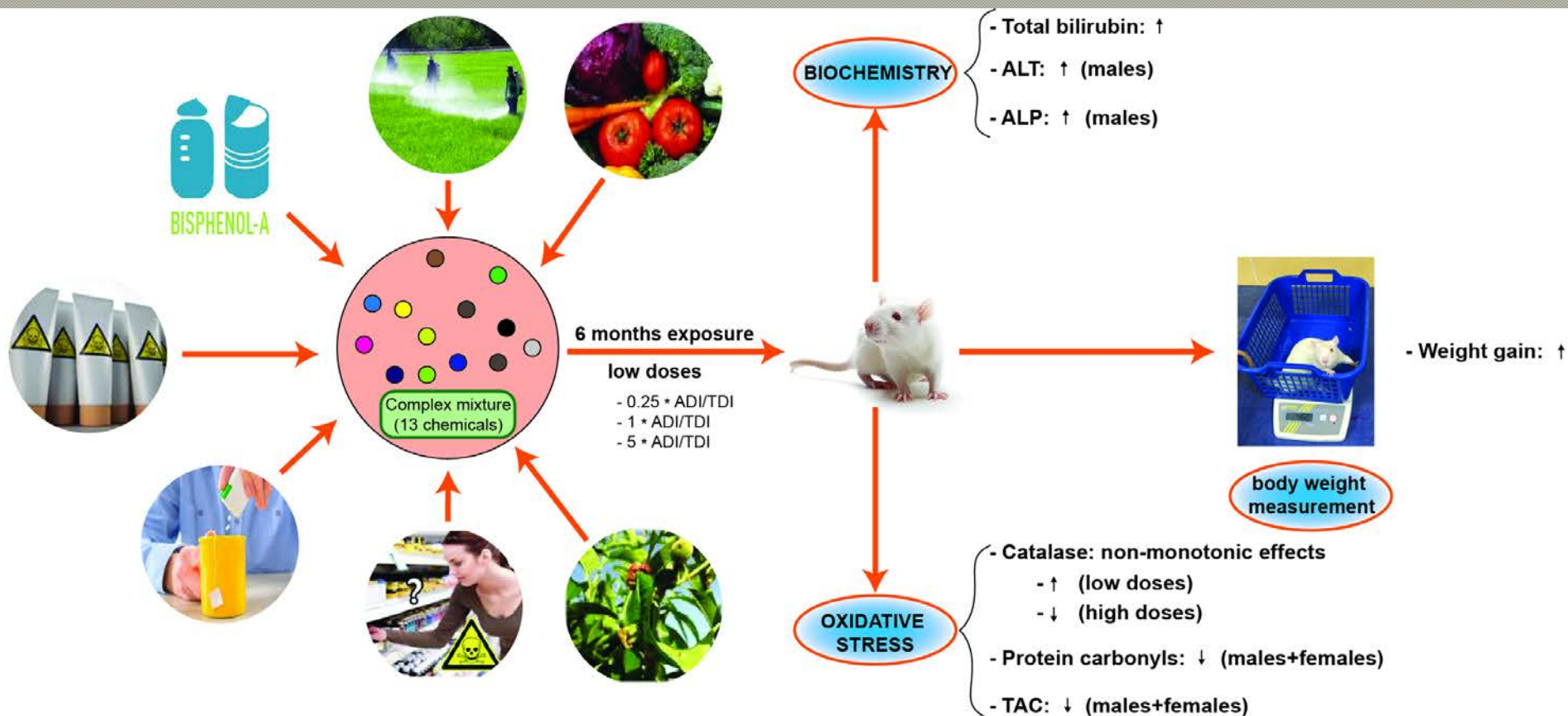


# Long- term - low- dose exposure to pesticides mixture IN COMBINATION WITH DIETARY FOOD ADDITIVES AND LIFESTYLE ADDITIVES

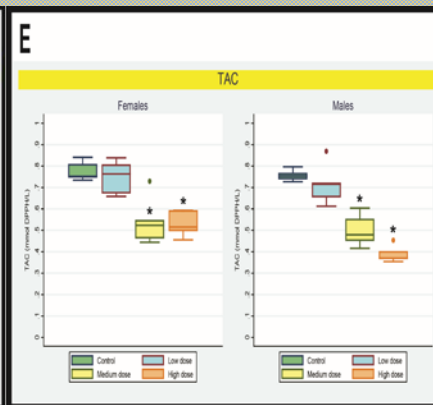
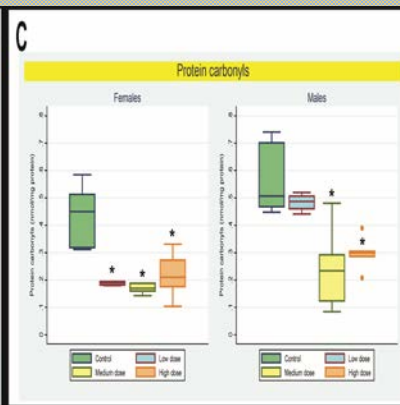
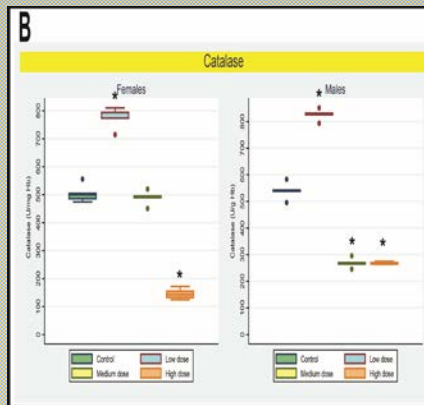
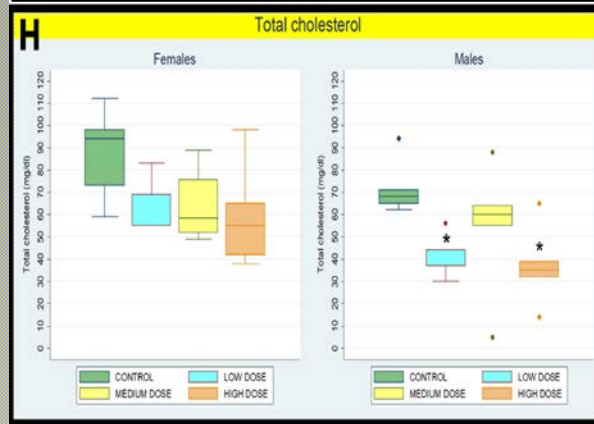
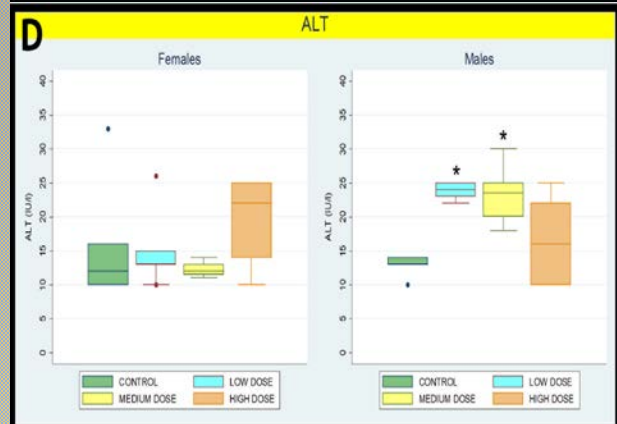
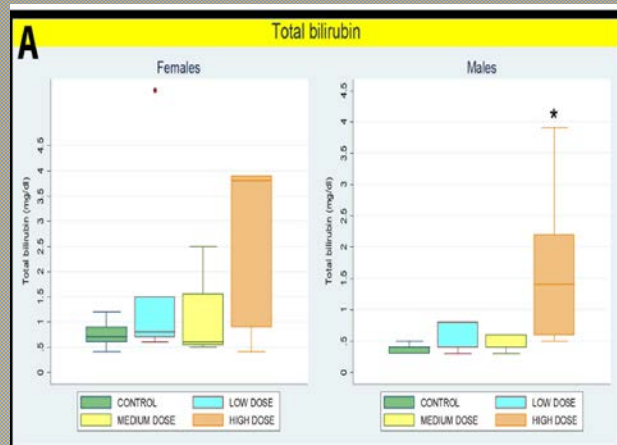


# Six months exposure to a real life mixture of 13 chemicals' below individual NOAELs induced non monotonic sex-dependent biochemical and redox status changes in rats

Anca Oana Docea <sup>a, 1</sup>, Eliza Gofita <sup>a, 1</sup>, Marina Goumenou <sup>b, 1, 1</sup>, Daniela Calina <sup>c, 1</sup>, Otilia Rogoveanu <sup>d</sup>, Marius Varut <sup>e</sup>, Cristian Olaru <sup>f</sup>, Efthalia Kerasioti <sup>g</sup>, Polyxeni Fountoucidou <sup>g</sup>, Ioannis Taitzoglou <sup>h</sup>, Ovidiu Zlatian <sup>i</sup>, Valerii N. Rakitskii <sup>j</sup>, Antonio F. Hernandez <sup>k</sup>, Dimitrios Kouretas <sup>g</sup>, Aristidis Tsatsakis <sup>b, g, ✉</sup>







Hepatotoxic effects observed showed non-monotonic dose-response curves (Total bilirubin, ALP, ALT, tChOH).

A non-monotonic adaptive response on redox status was observed in rats exposed to low-dose chemical mixture.



# Experimental location



National Institute Victor Babes,  
Bucuresti



Federal Research Center of Nutrition,  
Biotechnology and Food Safety, Moscow



Federal Scientific Center of  
Hygiene, F.F. Erisman, Moscow



Far Eastern Federal  
University,  
Vladivostok, Russian  
Federation



University of Medicine and  
Pharmacy, Faculty of  
Pharmacy, Craiova

First Experiment started in  
April 2016



University of Granada School  
of Medicine, Granada



Department of  
Biotechnology,  
Chonnam National  
University, Yeosu,  
Chonnam, Korea



University of  
Messina, Messina



Medical School, University  
of Crete, Heraklion, Crete



Faculty of Pharmacy,  
Gazi University,  
Ankara

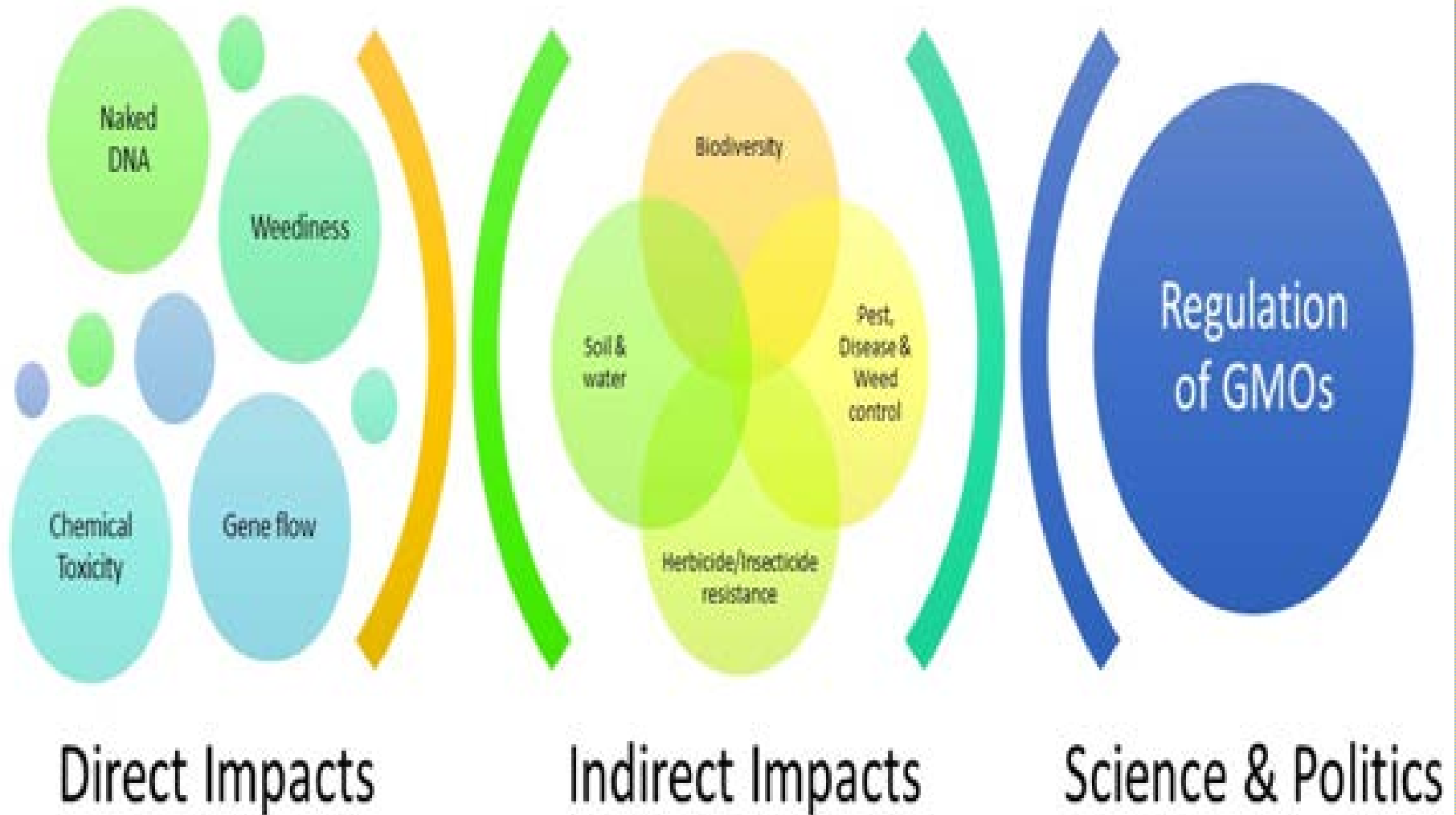


Mashhad University of  
Medical Sciences,  
Mashhad, Iran



Shandong University,  
Jinan, China

# Environmental Implications



## Environmental impacts of genetically modified plants: A review

Aristidis M. Tsatsakis<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Muhammad Amjad Nawaz<sup>c,1</sup>, Demetrios Kouretas<sup>d</sup>, Georgios Balias<sup>e</sup>, Kai Savolainen<sup>f</sup>, Victor A. Tutelyan<sup>g</sup>, Kirill S. Golokhvast<sup>b,h</sup>, Jeong Dong Lee<sup>i</sup>, Seung Hwan Yang<sup>c</sup>, Gyuha Chung<sup>c,\*</sup>

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<sup>f</sup> Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, POB 40 Helsinki, Finland

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### ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

### ABSTRACT

Powerful scientific techniques have caused dramatic expansion of genetically modified crops leading to altered

# Indirect Impacts of GM

Effect on biodiversity

Effect on soil and water

Reduced efficiency of pest, disease and  
weed control

Evolution of insecticide and  
pesticide resistance

Evolution of herbicide  
resistance

## Implications



### Gene flow

Gene flow creates reduction of differentiation between populations  
Transgene x wild hybridization a possible and has been proven  
Synergistic and antagonistic effects of stacked transgenes offer risks  
Horizontal gene transfer can create fitness changes in the recipient organism  
Weediness is potential effects of adoption of HR crops



### Chemical toxicity

Natural/Novel toxins have target and/or non-target impacts on life  
Herbicides have immediate or delayed adverse effects on the environment  
Bt toxins has effects tri-trophic interactions among fauna and flora



### Indirect impacts of GM

Excess of Glyphosate effects soil and water  
GMOs effect biodiversity  
Reduced efficiency of pest, disease and weed control  
Evolution of insecticide and herbicide resistance



### Regulation of GMOs

EU-Comparative assessment VS US-Substantial equivalence  
Authorities should consider sci. evidences as well as legitimate reasons  
Chronic and sub-chronic studies have limitations



### Future prospects

Evidences are not enough, case-to-case studies, large scale investigations  
Complex food webs, long term exposure/full-life span for many generations



# HOW EFFECTIVELY TOXICOLOGY SAVES CONSUMERS?

## WHY IS THIS QUESTION IMPORTANT NOWADAYS?

Concerns of increasing anthropogenic pressures to human (and environment)

Chemical mixtures (life style-new products, dietary, industry, PPPs, natural toxins), high exposure, all routes

Electromagnetic pressure from human activities

General pollution of seas and earth affecting consumers

Climate changes due to anthropogenic pressures affecting consumers

New knowledge = new concerns

Endocrine disruption, low dose effects, obesity, epigenetics, etc.

Risk communication

Mainly through the media

Consumers confusion, lack of trust

# WHICH CONSUMER?



## Different areas and countries means...

Cultural differences (e.g. Asia vs Europe)

Different regulations (e.g. Europe vs USA and among European MSs)

Different protection goal and policies

Different use of science (based on capacity, infrastructures, and feeling of need)



Good news!  
Constant increase of global collaboration in science and regulation



# ASKING WHO?

Industry

NGOs

Academy

Risk  
Managers

Politicians

Consumers

# SOME OF THE ANSWERS..



## Too much!

Too many experiments, high UFs, extreme conservatism in the exposure estimation, concerns due to risk communication from the media, etc.



**As much as is needed / is possible...**

Socioeconomic considerations, business considerations, etc.



## Not really!

New concerns, mainly industry studies are considered, profit over science, hazards and risks overlooked, etc.



**As much as society can stand...**

Balance between safety and life style maintenance



## Not enough...

Poor science, old experimental protocols, many arbiter assumptions, etc.

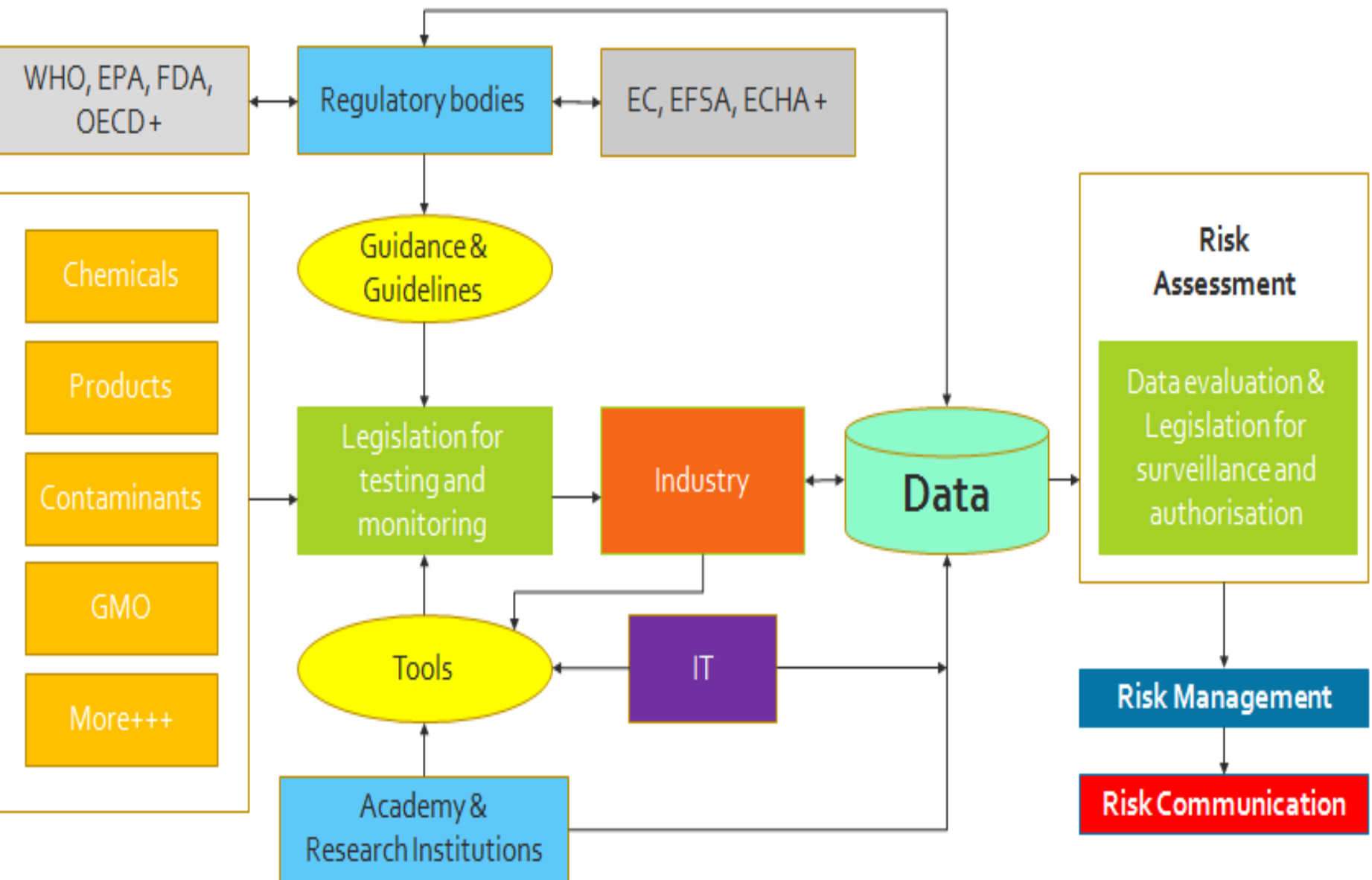


**Of course not! Nobody cares!**

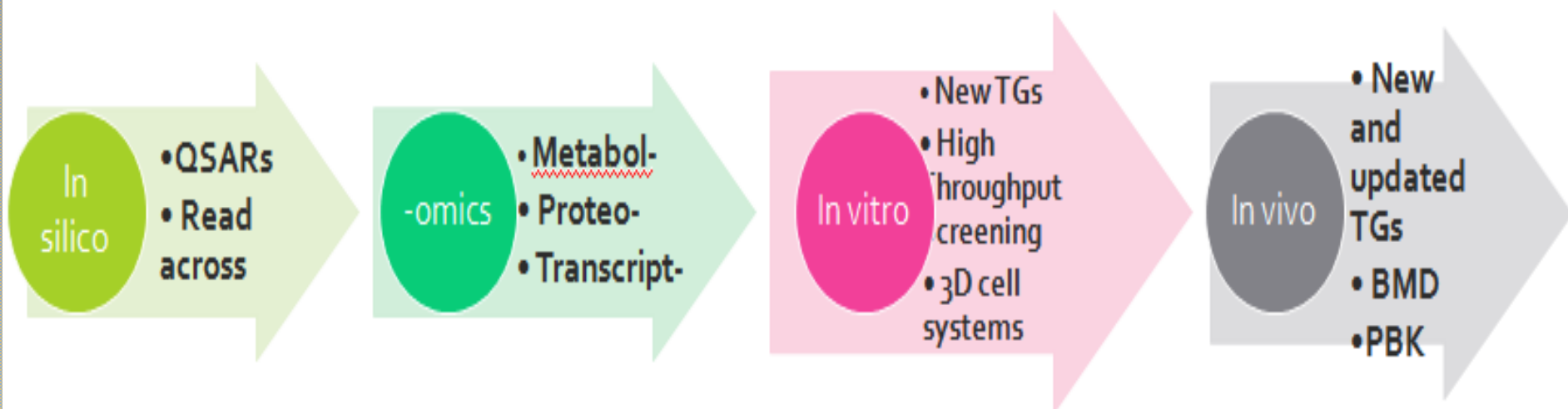
"Did you hear the news about....!", "Don't eat....! It's full of....! I read in.... yesterday!", etc



IF I SHOULD GIVE A REPLY: MORE THAN EVER!



# TOOLS



Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment (IATA) (e.g.  
AOPs/MoA)

Integrated Testing Strategies (ITS)

## HOWEVER...

There are clear cases that prove that something is missing and that something can be done better

### Disagreements

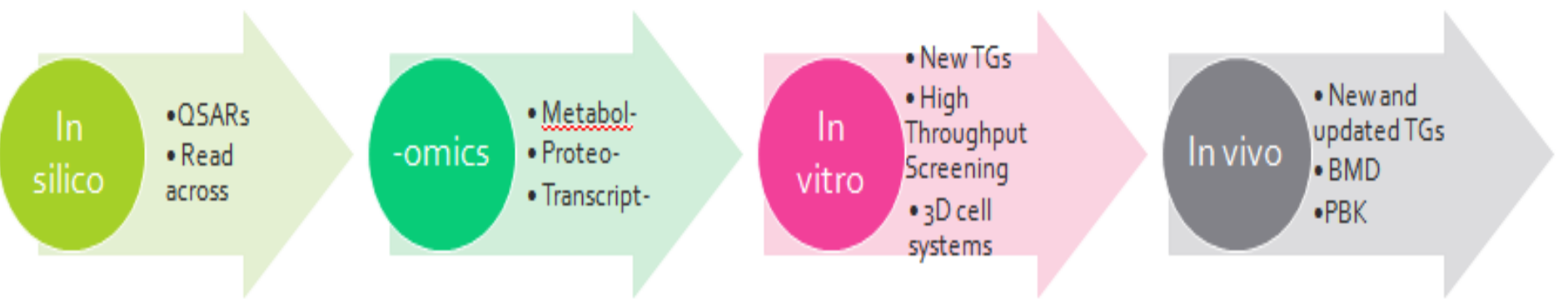
- Glyphosate: EFSA vs IARC

### No or newly regulated products

- Flavourings
- Food enzymes
- Natural products

# HOWEVER...

There is limited use of new tools in the regulatory context



Are they used in regulatory practice?			
Limited	No	Partially	Yes

Drawbacks			
No standardised Unknown reliability	-Under development -Complexity -Specialisation	-Most protocols used are old -No clear regulatory demand	Standardised but usually only old studies are submitted. BMD and PBK in their infancy.

Integrated approaches and methodologies are under development (e.g. AOPs/MoA)



HOWEVER...

## Mixtures: Progress but still no implementation



HOWEVER...

No consideration of the possibility of NMDR: EDs

## EPA's Nonmonotonic Dose Response Workplan

There are divergent positions in the scientific and regulatory communities regarding whether modifications to EPA's standard guidelines for reproductive and developmental toxicity testing and risk assessment are needed in order to detect and characterize low-dose adverse effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs).

### Non-monotonic dose-response relationships and endocrine disruptors: a qualitative method of assessment

Felipe L. Lacerda, Claire S. Bousquet, Scott M. Bartsch, Luc F. Dubois, Claude Emond, Michel Gosselin, and Christine Desaulniers

Author information: [Lacerda et al.](#) | [Contact information](#) | [Download](#)

This article has been cited in other articles in PMC.

#### Abstract

Experimental studies investigating the effects of several chemical dose-response relationships (NMDR) relationships and control are missing.

## Endocrines disruption

### Efforts

- EC-JRC, EFSA-ECHA, EPA
- Legislation

### Implementation?

- Europe: Assessment of biocides from 7 June. For pesticides, substances for which a decision is scheduled on or after 10 November 2018.
- EPA: Estrogen, androgen and thyroid hormone systems.
- What about the rest?



## New and not so new concerns

### Radiation

- EEA report for cell phones
- Phototoxicity & photomutagenicity
- Radiation + chemicals?

### Epigenetics

- What we will do?

### Genotoxicity

- Testing strategies

- Toxicology saves consumers better than ever
- However there is still a considerable number of known and unknown risks to be assessed
- Global collaboration is necessary
- There is no 100% safety.
- However, a desirable protection level should be set and this is a matter of will, cost, and needed time.

Trust the evidence.....but don't generalise into  
conclusions ! .....Think of personlised causality  
and intergarted approaches ... AMT

«Αρχή σοφίας, η γνώση της  
άγνοιας.»

Begin of Wisdom is acknowledgemen  
of ignorance

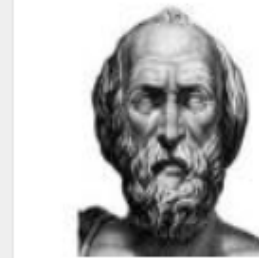
Pan metron ariston

Be fond of hearing  
rather than of talking

Be fond of learning

Γηράσκω  
δ' αεί πολλά  
διδασκόμενος

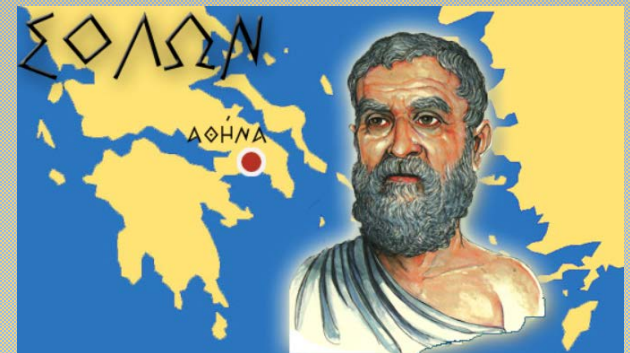
I grow old  
ever learning



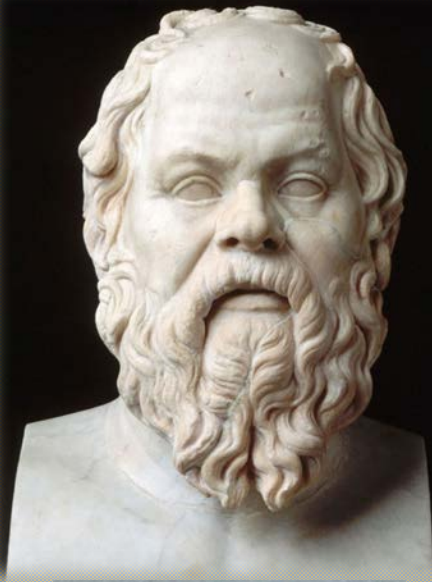
Κλεόβουλος ο Ρόδιος  
? π.Χ. – ? π.Χ.

πολιτικός και ποιητής,  
ένας από τους Επτά  
Σοφούς της Αρχαίας

Ελλάδας. Έζησε τον 6ο π.Χ. αιώνα.



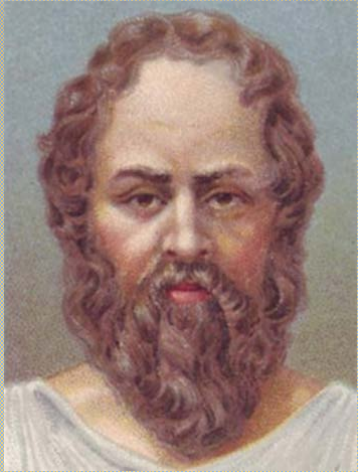




I KNOW NOTHING  
EXCEPT THE FACT OF MY IGNORANCE

*"The only good is knowledge and the only evil is ignorance"*

As much we increase our knowledge  
as more we understand that we  
increase the borders with our  
ignorance



"I know that  
I know  
nothing"







Support Team

Laboratory of Toxicology and Forensic Chemistry  
University of Crete Medical School  
<http://ctoxres.med.uoc.gr>

HOME LABORATORY DIRECTOR TOUR THE LAB SPEECHES & CONFERENCES LINKS CONTACT

**LC-MS**  
Σύστημα Υγρής Χρωματογραφίας - Φασματομετρίας Μαζας



**ToxPlus**  
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## ΦΥΤΟΦΑΡΜΑΚΑ

Ενας μεγάλος αριθμός φυτοπροστατευτικών ουσιών χρησιμοποιείται στη γεωργία για την αντιμετώπιση των ασθενειών που συνδέονται με την ανάπτυξη των φυτών, την εξόντωση ζωνών με σκοπό την αύξηση της παραγωγικότητας.

ΠΕΡΙΣΣΟΤΕΡΑ

## ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΕΣ TOXPLUS

ΑΝΑΛΥΣΗ ΤΡΟΦΑΣ  
ΒΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΑ ΔΕΓΜΑΤΑ  
ΦΥΤΟΦΑΡΜΑΚΑ  
ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝ  
ΤΡΟΦΙΜΑ  
ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙΑΚΕΣ ΕΞΕΤΑΣΕΙΣ  
ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΕΥΤΙΚΕΣ  
ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΕΣ



# Sbasibo za vnimanie



**Protect Yourself !**



**Protect Others !**



**Protect the Environment !**