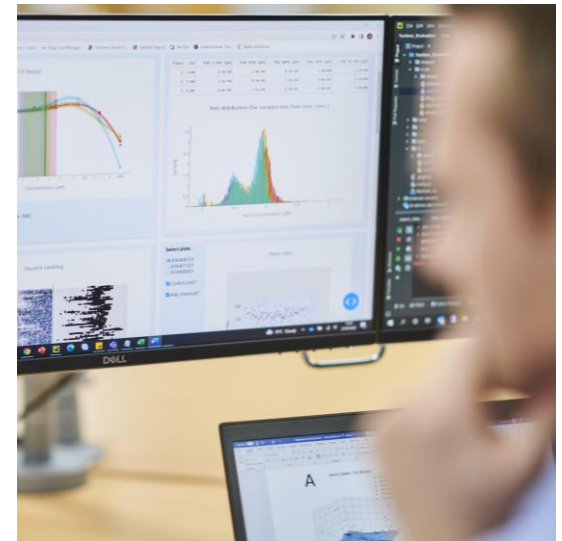


Making the transition to next generation risk assessment for systemic toxicity.

**Maria Baltazar,
Unilever Safety and Environmental
Assurance Centre, UK**



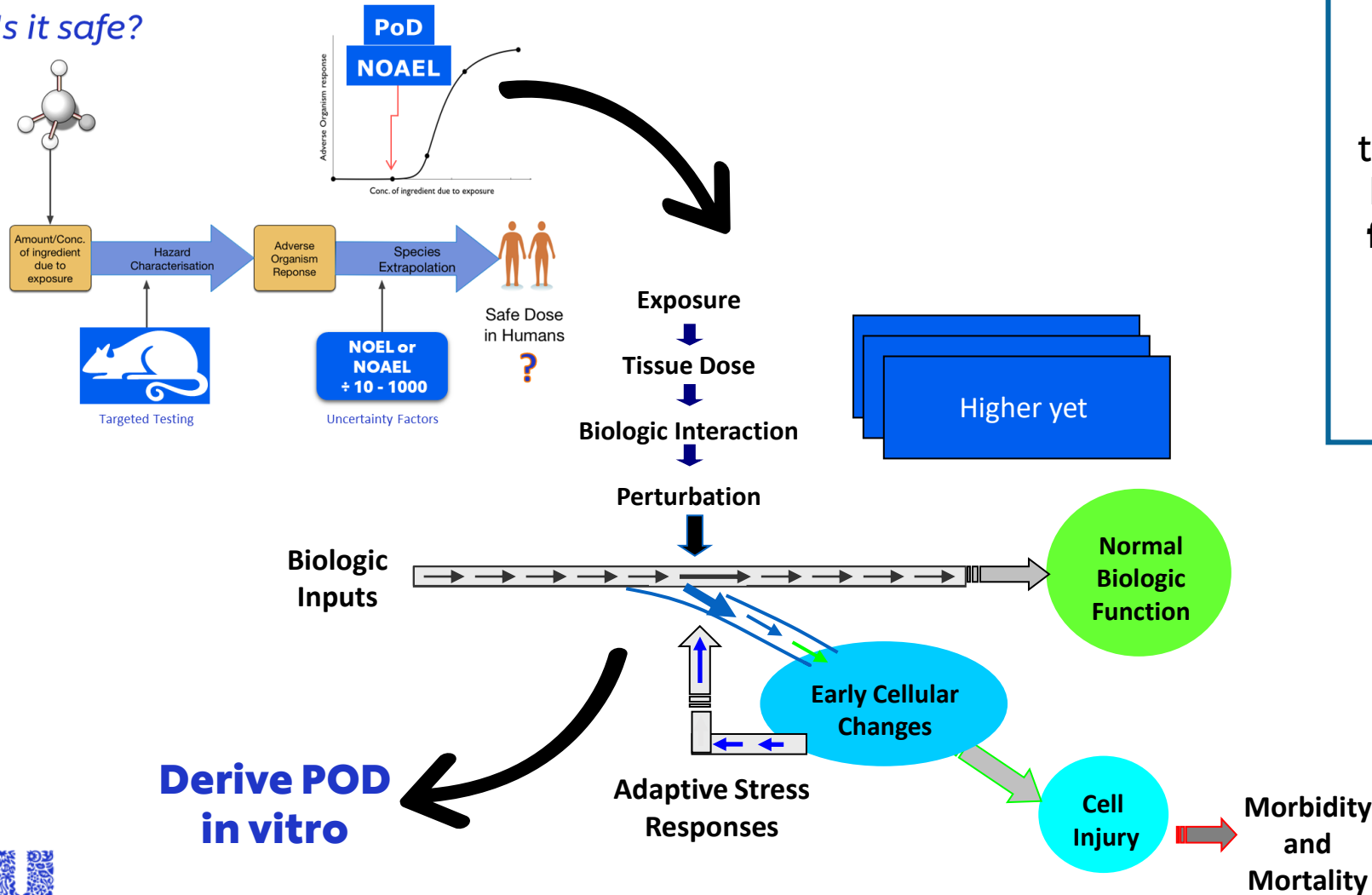
What is next generation risk assessment (NGRA)?

“An exposure-led, hypothesis driven risk assessment approach that incorporates one or more NAMs to ensure that chemical exposures do not cause harm to consumers”

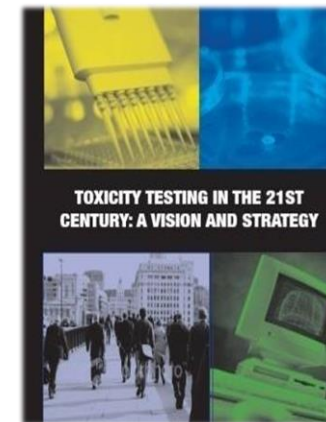
Dent et al ., (2018) *Comp Tox* 7:20-26

Transition from apical endpoints in animal to cellular perturbations using human relevant in vitro models

Is it safe?

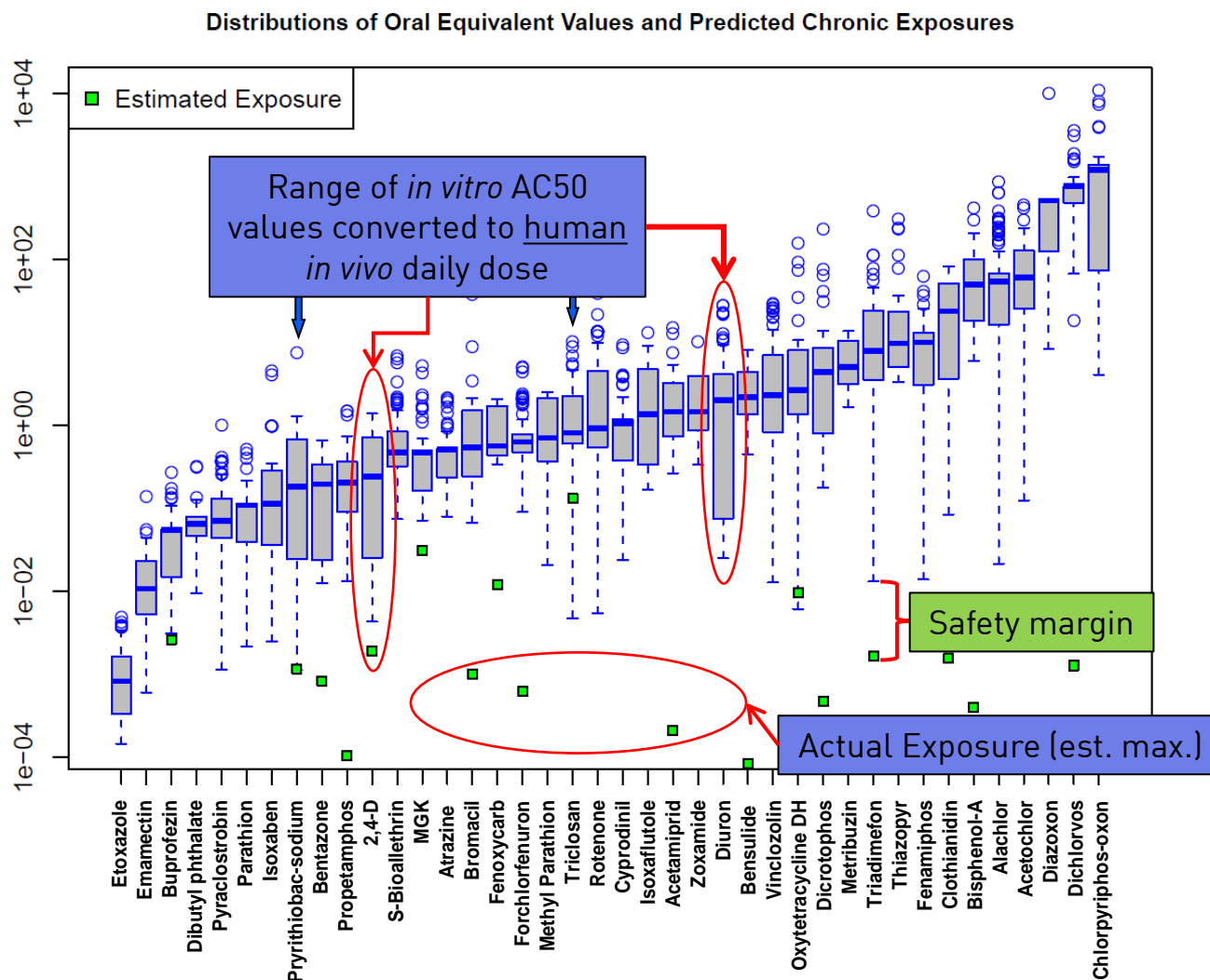


“Advances in toxicogenomics, bioinformatics, systems biology, and computational toxicology could transform toxicity **testing from a system based on whole-animal testing to one founded primarily on *in vitro* methods** that evaluate changes in **biologic processes using cells, cell lines, or cellular components, preferably of human origin.**” 2007



[Krewski. J Toxicol Environ Health B Crit Rev. 2010 Feb;13\(2-4\):51-138](#)

Paradigm shift for systemic safety - Protection not Prediction



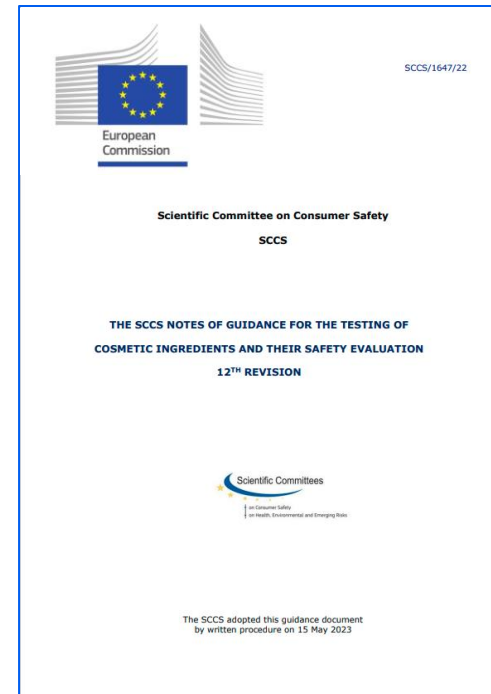
The hypothesis underpinning this type of NGRA is that **if there is no bioactivity observed at consumer-relevant concentrations, there can be no adverse health effects.**

Rotroff, *et al.* *Tox.Sci* 2010

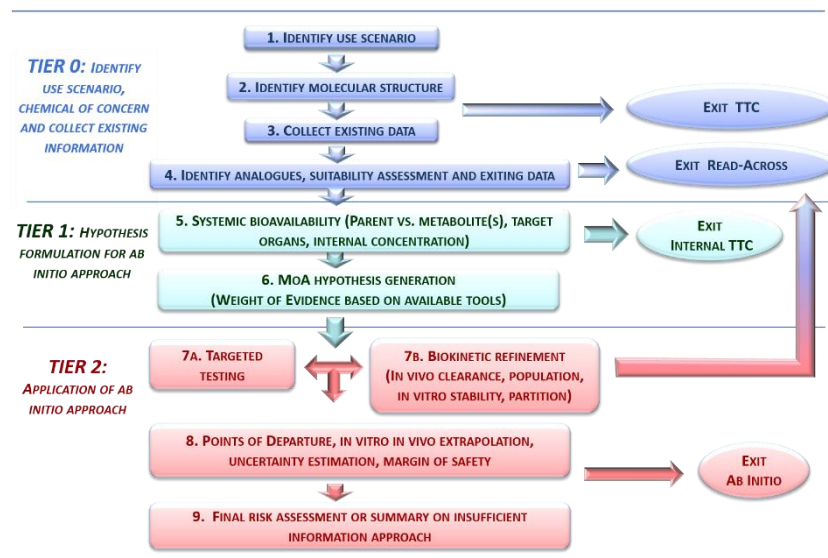
Graphic from Dr Rusty Thomas, EPA, with thanks

Tiered, exposure-led NGRA means we can make robust safety decisions

- Many tools available ([exposure-based waiving](#), [read across](#), [history of safe use](#))
- Increasing recognition that *in vitro* bioactivity is a part of this tiered approach (e.g. [Health Canada](#), [SCCS](#))



Guiding principles for the *ab initio* NGRA applied to the Benzophenone-4 case study



Computational Toxicology 7 (2018) 20–26



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/comtox



Principles underpinning the use of new methodologies in the risk assessment of cosmetic ingredients

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TOXICOLOGICAL SCIENCES, 176(1), 2020, 236–252

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Advance Access Publication Date: April 10, 2020
Research article

A Next-Generation Risk Assessment Case Study for Coumarin in Cosmetic Products

Maria T. Baltazar,¹ Sophie Cable, Paul L. Carmichael, Richard Cubberley, Tom Cull, Mona Delagrangé, Matthew P. Dent, Sarah Hatherell, Jade Houghton, Predrag Kukic, Hequn Li, Mi-Young Lee, Sophie Malcomber, Alistair M. Middleton, Thomas E. Moxon, Alexis V. Nathanail, Beate Nicol, Ruth Pendlington, Georgia Reynolds, Joe Reynolds, Andrew White, and Carl Westmoreland



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27 October 2021

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
CHEMICALS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Case Study on use of an Integrated Approach for Testing and Assessment (IATA) for Systemic Toxicity of Phenoxyethanol when included at 1% in a body lotion

Series on Testing and Assessment,
No. 349

Benzophenone-4 (BP-4) case study



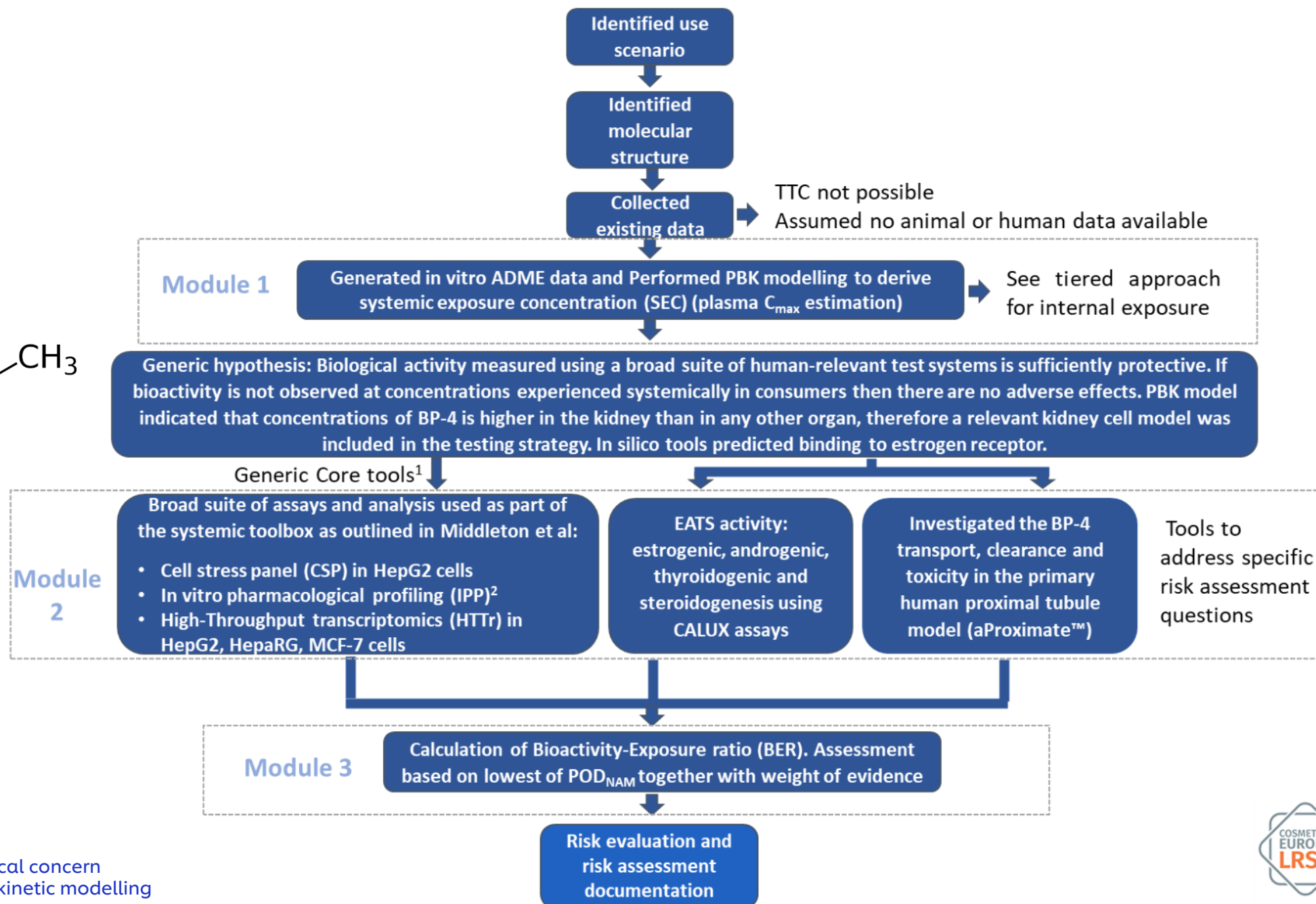
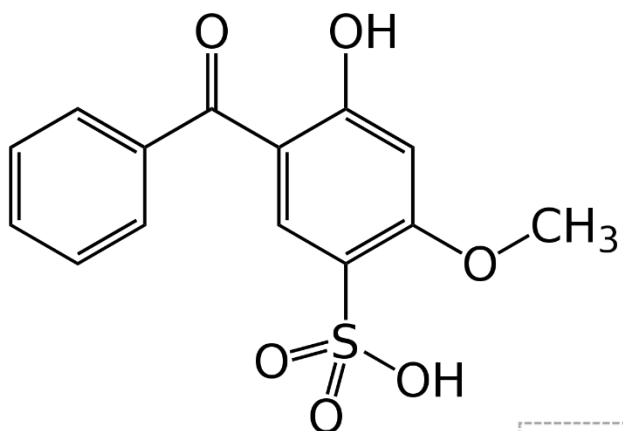
[OVERVIEW](#) > [NEWS](#)

Call for data on ingredients with potential endocrine-disrupting properties used in cosmetic products

Is a tiered NGRA approach is sufficiently protective and useful to answer a real-life question?

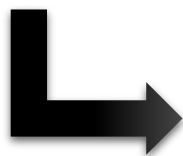
Is Benzophenone-4 safe in a sunscreen product at the maximum approved level of 5%?

Framework used for BP-4



Gathering information: In silico results

- **Benzophenone-4 did not trigger many alerts within the tools used.** The most common alert across the tools was for skin sensitisation, or protein binding as an indication of skin sensitisation, in the DEREK, TIMES and OECD Toolbox outputs.
- **Benzophenone-4 triggered one potential alert for estrogen receptor binding in the VEGA profiler,** however this was not consistent across other profilers that also assess estrogen receptor activity.



Follow up with in vitro assays to confirm whether or not BP-4 binds to estrogen receptor and other endocrine related endpoints – CALUX EATS (estrogenic, androgenic, thyroidogenic and steroidogenesis)



Tiered approach for Exposure estimation



Level 0: Characterise exposure scenario¹

- 5% in Sunscreen product,
- 18g/day, two times, 9g/application,
- On body and face 17500cm² (total body area)

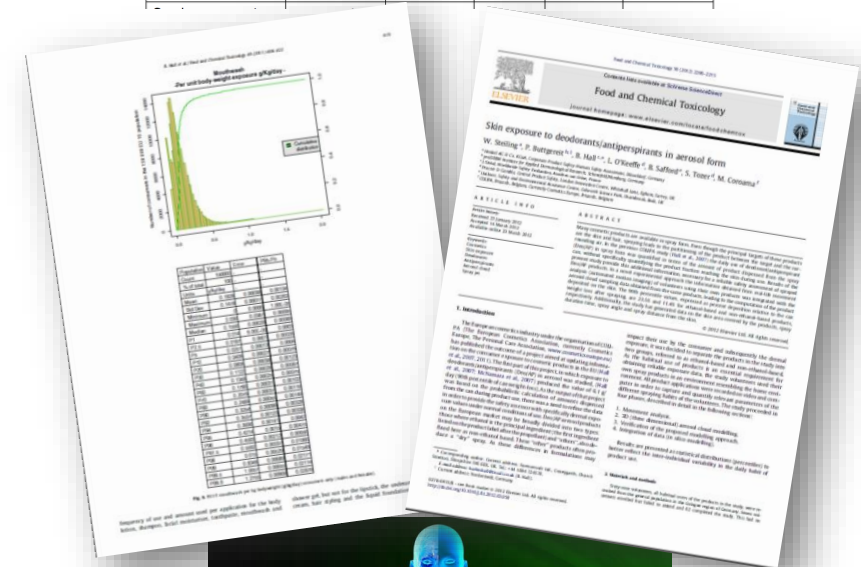
Level 1: PBK model built with in silico parameters only & sensitivity analysis^{1,2}

- Predicted sensitive parameters
- Fup (Fraction unbound in plasma)
- Liver CL_{int} (intrinsic clearance)
- Dermis water partition coefficient
- Dermis diffusivity

Level 2: PBK model built with vitro parameters^{1,2}

Table 2: Estimated daily exposure levels for different cosmetic product types according to Cosmetics Europe data (SCCNFP/0321/00; Hall *et al.*, 2007, 2011).

Product type	Estimated daily amount applied	Relative amount applied (mg/kg bw/d)	Retention factor ¹	Calculated daily exposure (g/d)	Calculated relative daily exposure (mg/kg bw/d)
Bathing, showering					
Shower gel	18.67 g	279.20	0.01	0.19	2.79
Hand wash soap ²	20.00 g	-	0.01	0.20 ³	3.33
Hair care					
Shampoo	10.46 g	150.49	0.01	0.11	1.51
Hair conditioner ²	3.92 g	-	0.01	0.04	0.60
Hair styling products	4.00 g	57.40	0.1	0.40	5.74



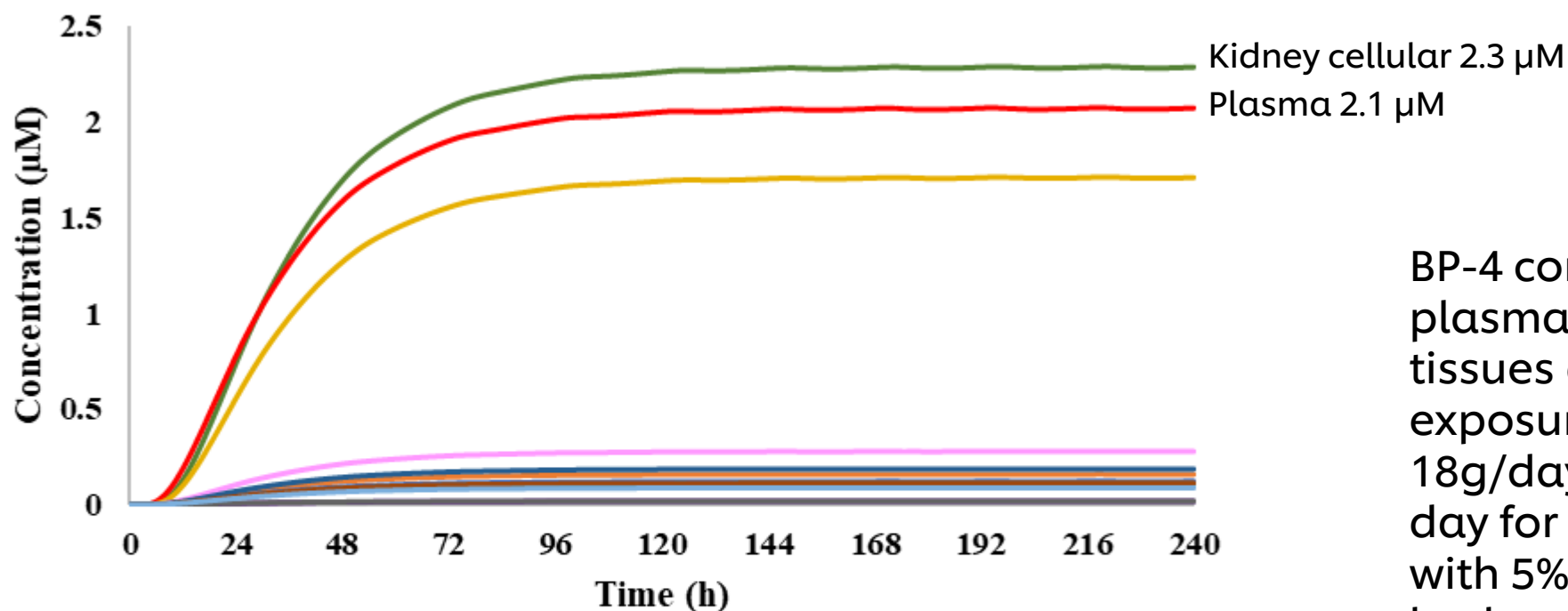
¹Hall *et al.*, Food and Chemical Toxicology 49 (2011) 408-422.

²Moxon *et al.* 2020. Toxicology in Vitro, Volume 63, 104746.

³Li H., Toxicol Appl Pharmacol. 2022 :442:115992.

PBK model simulation of C_{max} for an American female with 60kg bodyweight

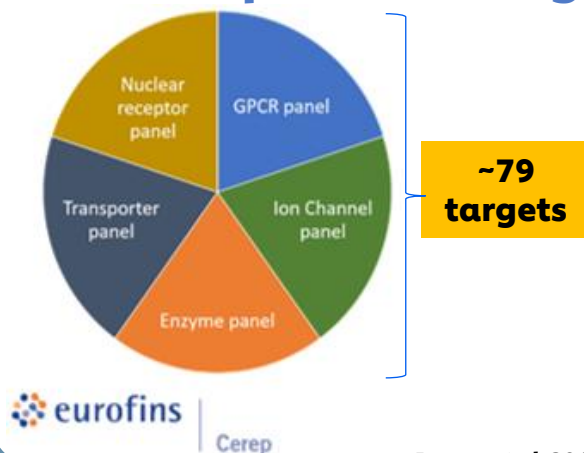
BP4-Systemic Exposure-repeat



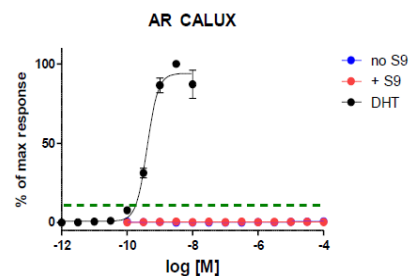
BP-4 concentrations in plasma and different tissues after repeated exposure of body lotion 18g/day, i.e., 9g twice per day for a period of 10 days, with 5% BP-4, on the whole body.

Key bioactivity NAMs

In vitro pharmacological profiling



CALUX bioassays and binding assays: TTR-TR β - and hTPO

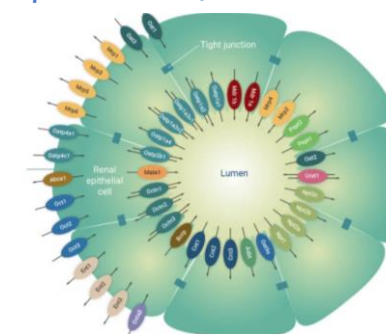


Bowes et al. 2012. *Nat Rev Drug Discov* 11(12): 909-22
Sonneveld et al. 2005. *Toxicol Sci* 83(1): 136-48

Renal Toxicity

Nephrotoxicity (3 donors, duplicate per donor), 8 concentrations, 24h and 72h timepoints:

- KIM-1
- NGAL
- Clusterin
- TEER (Day 0 and Day 3)
- ATP
- LDH

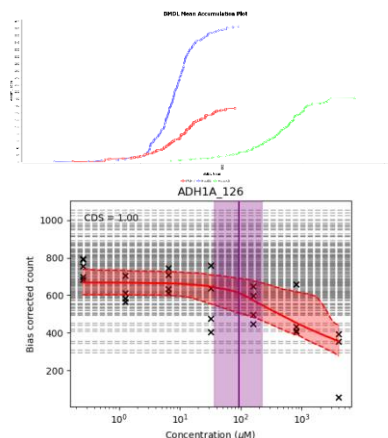


Newcells aProximate™ platform

Piyush Bajaj et al. 2020. *Toxicology*. 442, 152535

High-Throughput transcriptomics

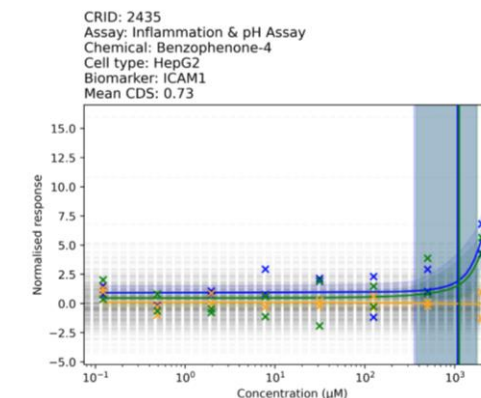
- TempO-seek technology – full gene panel
- 24hr exposure
- 7 concentrations
- 4 cell models: HepG2, MCF7, HepaRG and aProximate cells
- Dose-response analysis using BMDExpress2 and BIFROST model



Reynolds et al. 2020. *Comp Tox* 16: 100138
Baltazar et al. 2020. *Toxicol Sci* 176(1): 236-252

Cell stress panel (CSP)

- 36 biomarkers covering 10 cell stress pathways
- HepG2
- 24hr exposure
- 8 concentrations
- Dose-response analysis using BIFROST model



Hatherell et al. 2020. *Toxicol Sci* 176(1): 11-33

Results from the key NAMs- Deriving Points of Departure (PoDs) and BERs

BERs calculated for all individual NAMs tested

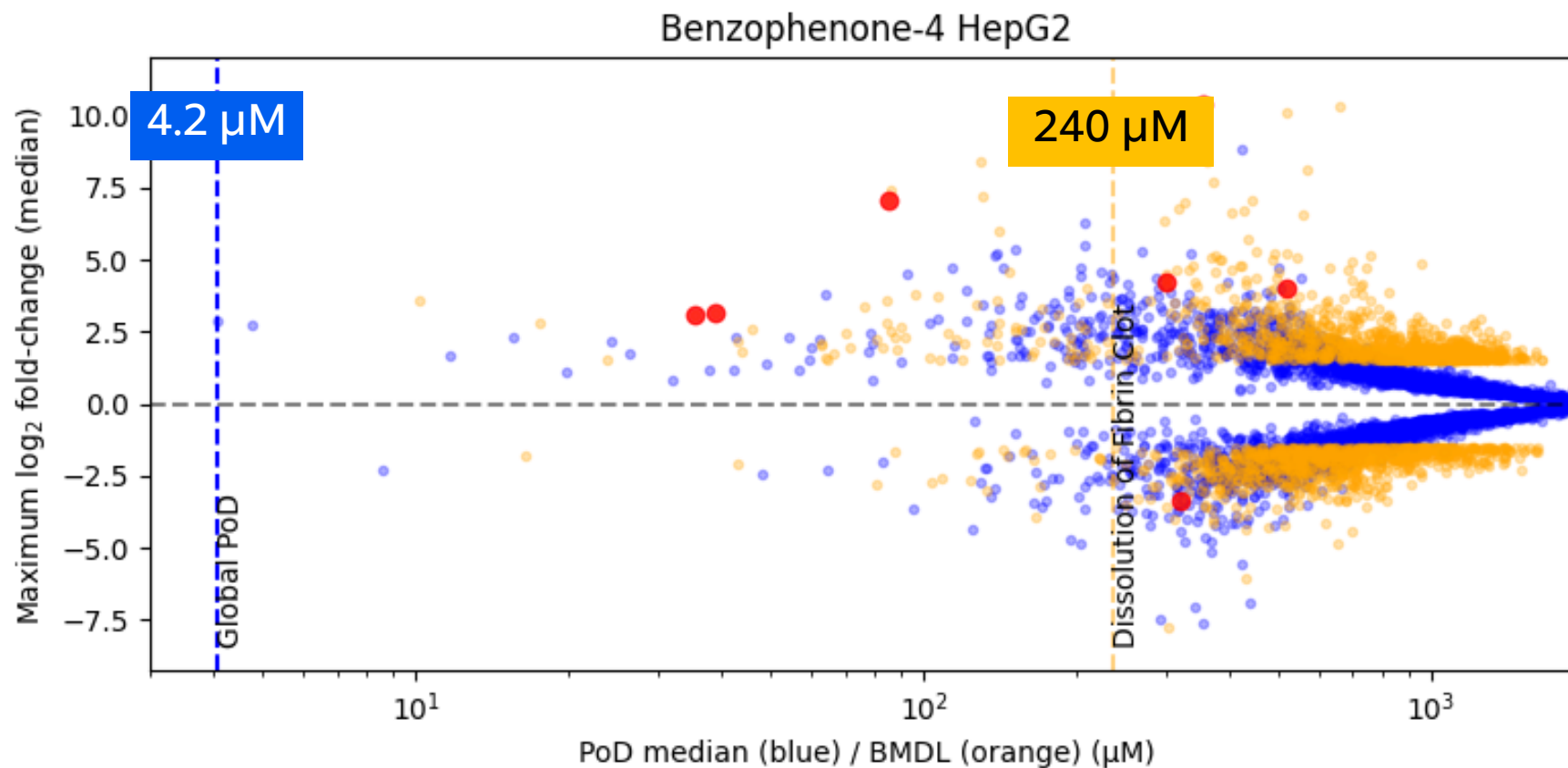
NAM	Cell type	POD _{NAM} Type	POD _{NAM} Value (µM)	BER (using C _{max} of 2.1 µM)
Cell stress panel	HepG2	Global PoD	140	67
HTTr	HepG2	Global PoD	4.2	2
HTTr	HepaRG	Global PoD	52	25
HTTr	MCF7	Global PoD	5.5	2.6
HTTr	HepaRG	Lowest pathway BMDL	530	252
HTTr	HepG2	Lowest pathway BMDL	240	114
HTTr	MCF7	Lowest pathway BMDL	330	157

NAM	Cell type	POD _{NAM} Type	POD _{NAM} Value (µM)	BER (using C _{max} of 2.1 µM)
Calux (hTPO-inhibition)	-	LOEC	300	143
Calux (T4 binding to TTR)	-	LOEC	630	300
Renal biomarkers (24 hr exposure)	PTC	Global PoD	>1000	NA
Renal biomarkers (72 hr exposure)	PTC	Global PoD	>1000	NA
HTTr (renal cells) (24 hr exposure)	PTC	Global PoD	320	152
HTTr (renal cells) (72 hr exposure)	PTC	Global PoD	320	152

$$\text{BER} = \text{PoD} / \text{Plasma } C_{\text{max}}$$

Results from the key NAMs- Deriving Points of Departure (PoDs)

Very little bioactivity: high throughput transcriptomics in HepG2 cells gave the lowest point of departure



Bioactivity:Exposure Ratios

$$\text{Gene level} = \frac{4.2}{2.3} = 2$$

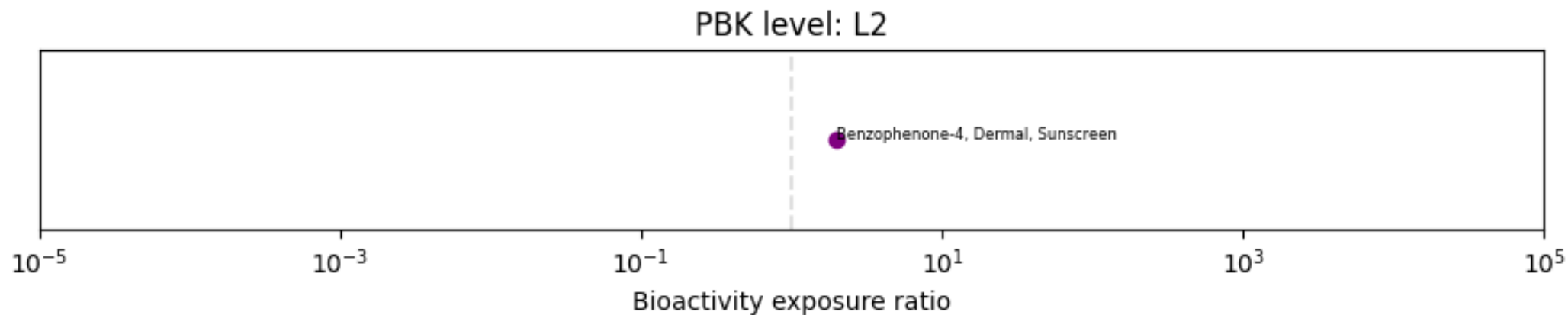
$$\text{Pathway} = \frac{240}{2.3} = 114$$

Acceptable BER?

Conceptually, with the following assumptions a $BER > 1$ indicates a low risk of adverse effects in consumers following use of the product:

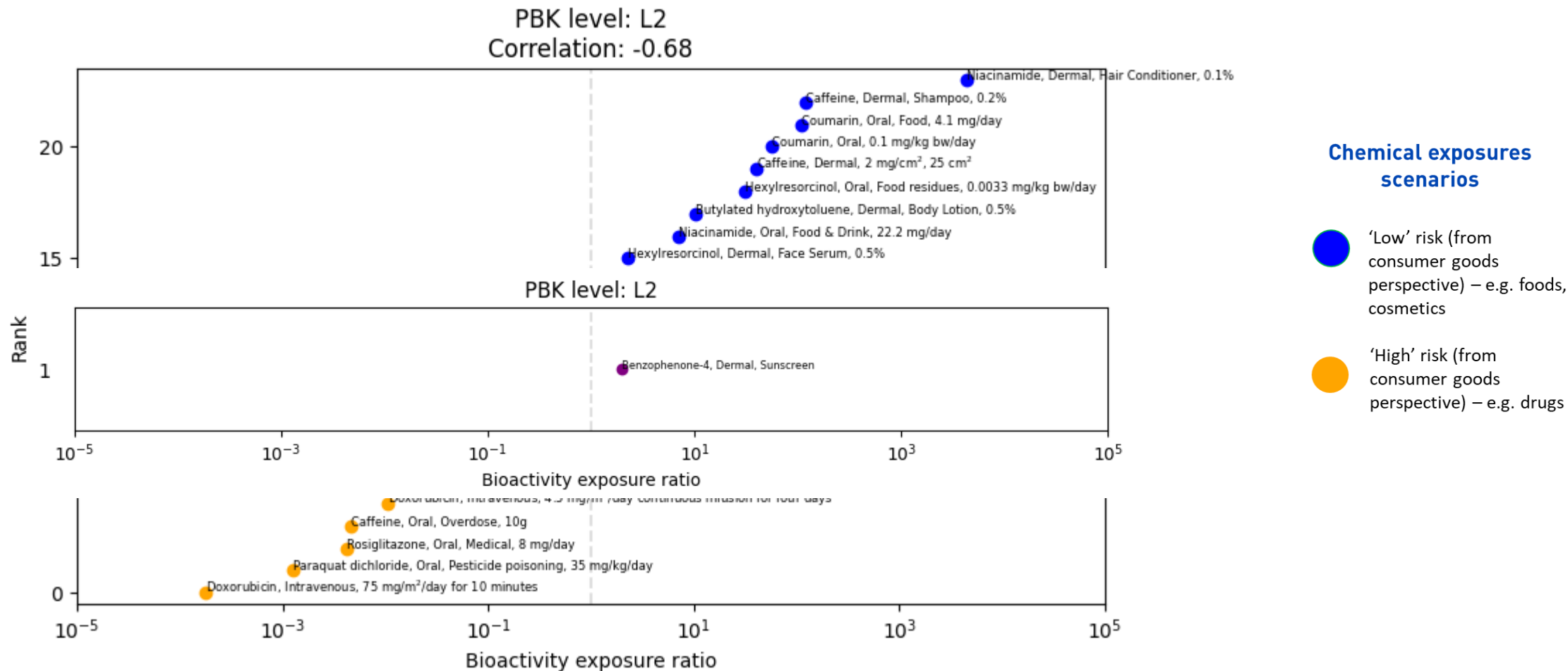
- a) The in vitro measures of bioactivity provide appropriate biological coverage**
- b) There is confidence that the test systems are at least as sensitive to perturbation as human cells in vivo**
- c) The exposure estimate is conservative for the exposed population**

Considering the determinist BER using lowest PoD (BER=2)



Given all the information before, how confident would you be to conclude low risk?

What if the same approach was applied to 10 other chemicals with varying risk classifications

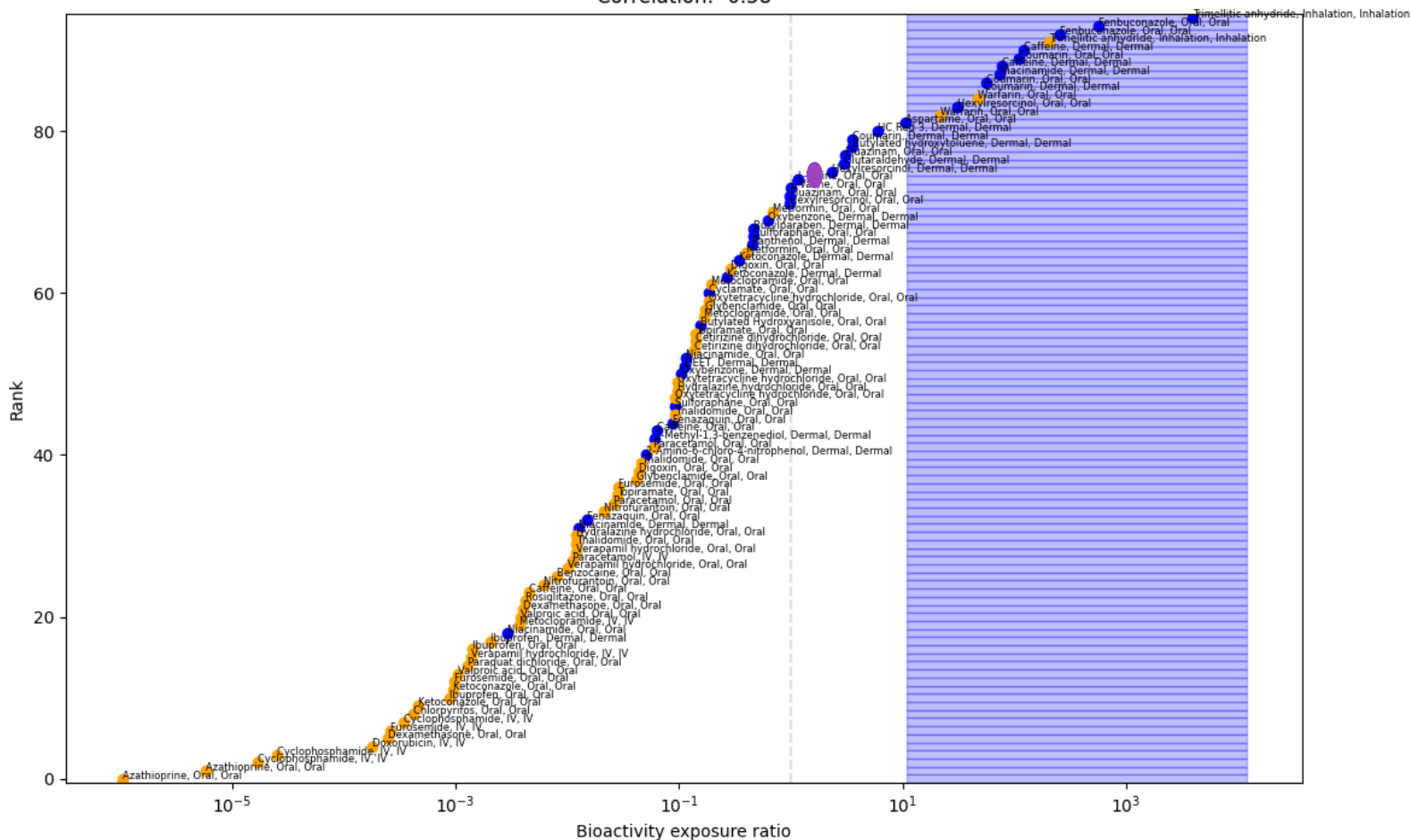


Note: Low risk is different than low toxicity; it is all about integrating exposure.

[Middleton et al., 2022](#)

NAM Systemic toolbox remains protective (95%) when 38 additional chemicals and 70 exposure scenarios were tested

PoD types: IPP lowest IC50, CSP global PoD, HTr global PoD, Minimum pathway BMDL
 Protectiveness: 52/55 (95%), Utility: 9/39 (23%)
 Correlation: -0.58



- **Toolbox not protective for 3/55 of the high-risk exposure scenarios**
- **Chemical- Exposure scenarios not protective for:**
 - Warfarin therapeutic oral dose
 - Trimellitic anhydride inhalation exposure
- **Using BER > 11, only 23% of the low-risk chemical-scenarios would be correctly identified as such**
 - For the other 77%, refinement by using approaches to distinguish bioactivity from adversity would be needed.

Conclusion & reflections

- **Case studies have demonstrated it is possible to integrate exposure estimates and bioactivity points of departure to make a safety decision without generating animal testing.**
- **These case studies showed that the approach is exposure-led and follows a tiered approach for both exposure and bioactivity**
 - **Bespoke NAMs can be added to the NGRA to fill gaps identified along the process**
- **'Early tier' in vitro screening tools show promise for use in a protective rather than predictive capacity.**
- **NGRA requires a mindset shift and a multidisciplinary team!**

Acknowledgements

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BioClavis

Cyprotex

SOLVO

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