

# Are non-animal systemic safety assessments protective? A toolbox and evaluation strategy

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Unilever



# 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**

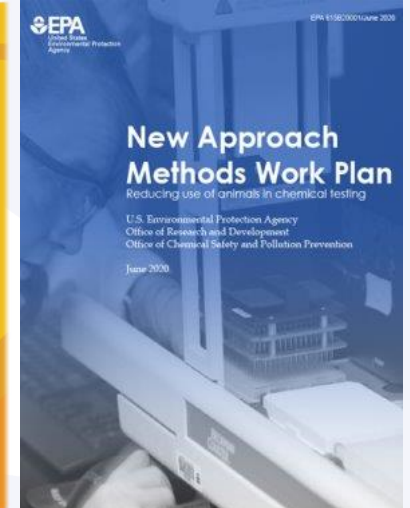
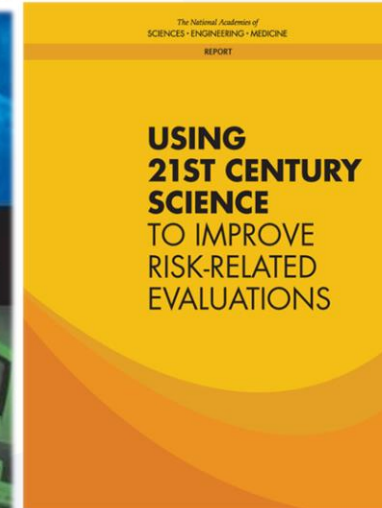
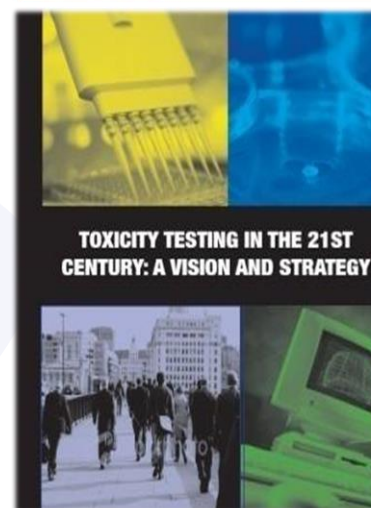
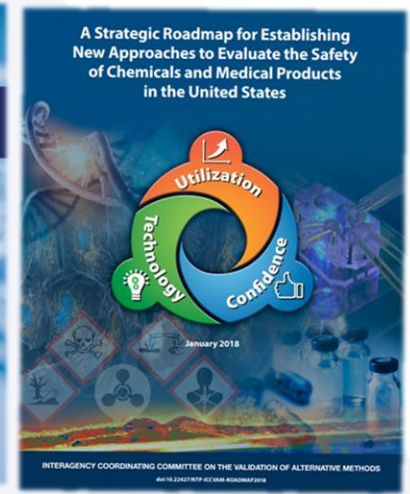
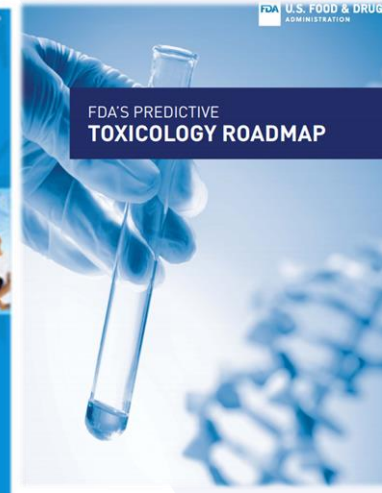


# Next Generation Risk Assessment (NGRA)

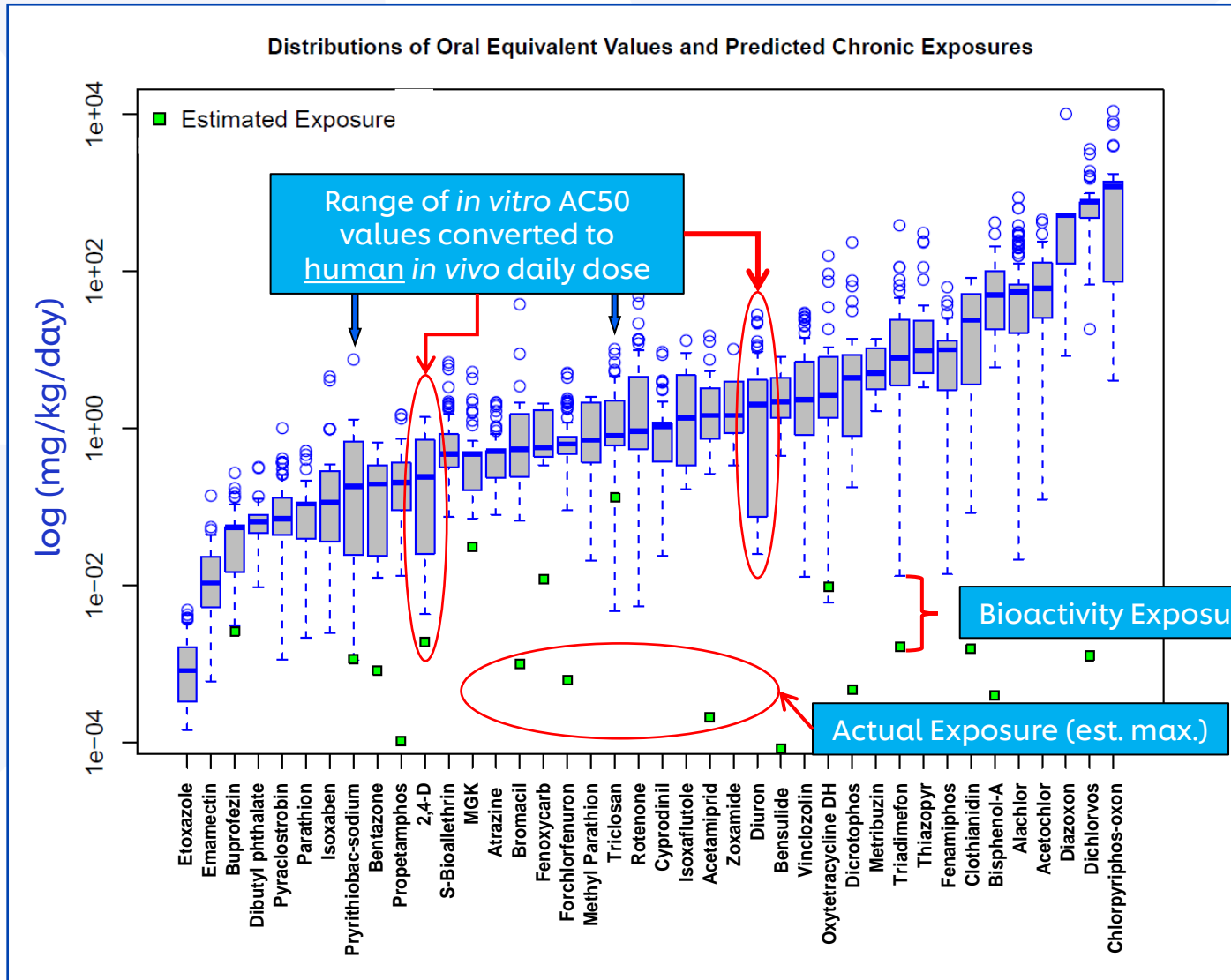
NGRA is defined as ***an exposure-led, hypothesis-driven risk assessment approach that integrates New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) to assure safety without the use of animal testing***



Safety without animal testing



# NGRA: aim is protection, not prediction of animal data



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

At no point does NGRA attempt to predict the results of high dose toxicology studies in animals.

NGRA **uses new exposure science and understanding of human biology.**



Graph from Rusty Thomas EPA, with thanks. Rotroff *et al* (2010) *Toxicological Sciences*, **117**, 348-358



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

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

Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology 123 (2021) 104931

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect


 **Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology**

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



**New framework for a non-animal approach adequately assures the safety of cosmetic ingredients – A case study on caffeine**

Dagmar Bury<sup>a</sup>, Camilla Alexander-White<sup>b</sup>, Harvey J. Clewell III<sup>c</sup>, Mark Cronin<sup>d</sup>, Bertrand Desprez<sup>e</sup>, Ann Detroyer<sup>f</sup>, Alina Efremenko<sup>g</sup>, James Firman<sup>d</sup>, Eric Hack<sup>g</sup>, Nicola

 **OECD**  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

ENV/JM/MONO(2020)16

Unclassified English - Or. English  
24 September 2020

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE  
JOINT MEETING OF THE CHEMICALS COMMITTEE AND THE WORKING PARTY ON CHEMICALS, PESTICIDES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

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 Exposure to Propylparaben from Cosmetics

Series on Testing and Assessment  
No. 320

## NAMs applied in an *ab initio* hypothetical/NGRA case study

 **SOT** Society of Toxicology  
academic.oup.com/toxsci

TOXICOLOGICAL SCIENCES, 176(1), 2020, 236–252  
doi: 10.1093/toxsci/ktaa048  
Advance Access Publication Date: April 10, 2020  
Research article

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

Maria T. Baltazar,<sup>1</sup> 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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## NAMs applied in real-life chemical safety assessments

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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**

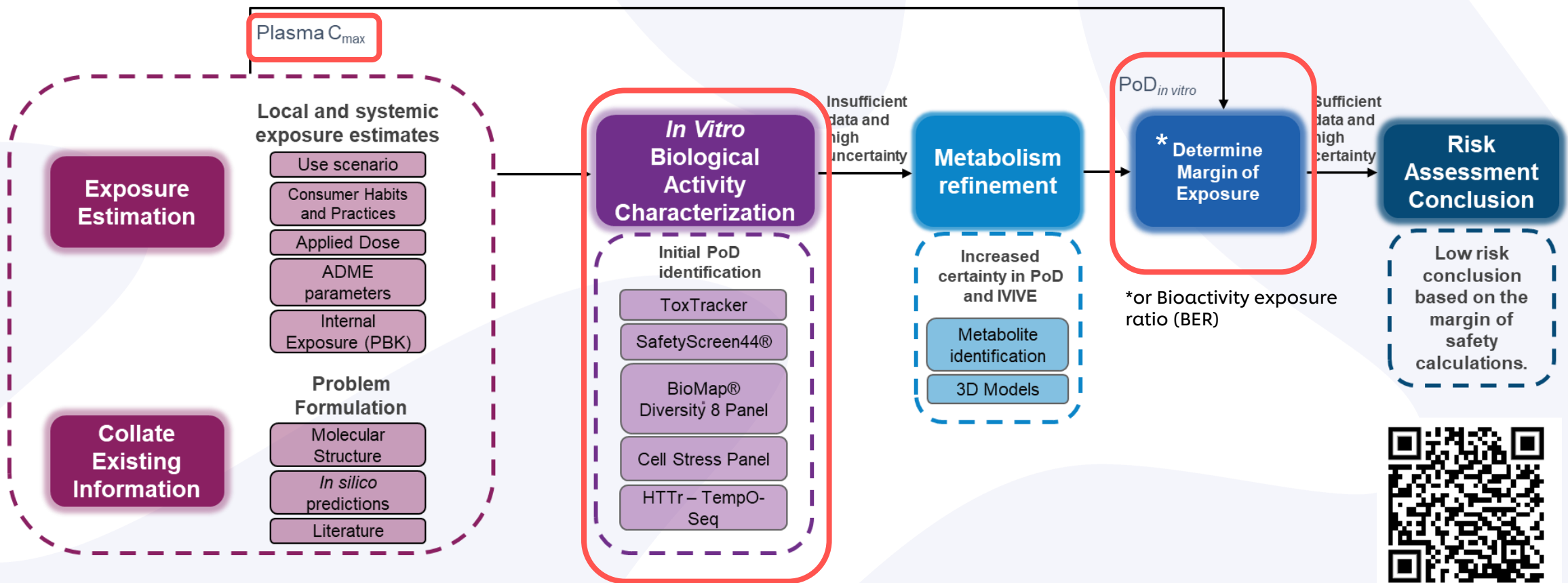
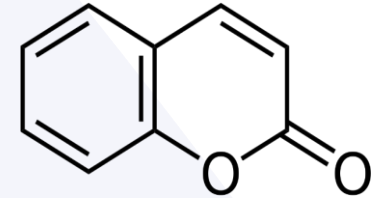
Marie McGee Hargrove,<sup>1,1</sup> Bob Parr-Dobrzanski,<sup>2</sup> Lei Li,<sup>3</sup> Samuel Constant,<sup>4</sup> Joanne Wallace,<sup>5</sup> Paul Hinderliter,<sup>1,\*</sup> Douglas C. Wolf,<sup>1</sup> and Alex Charlton<sup>2</sup>



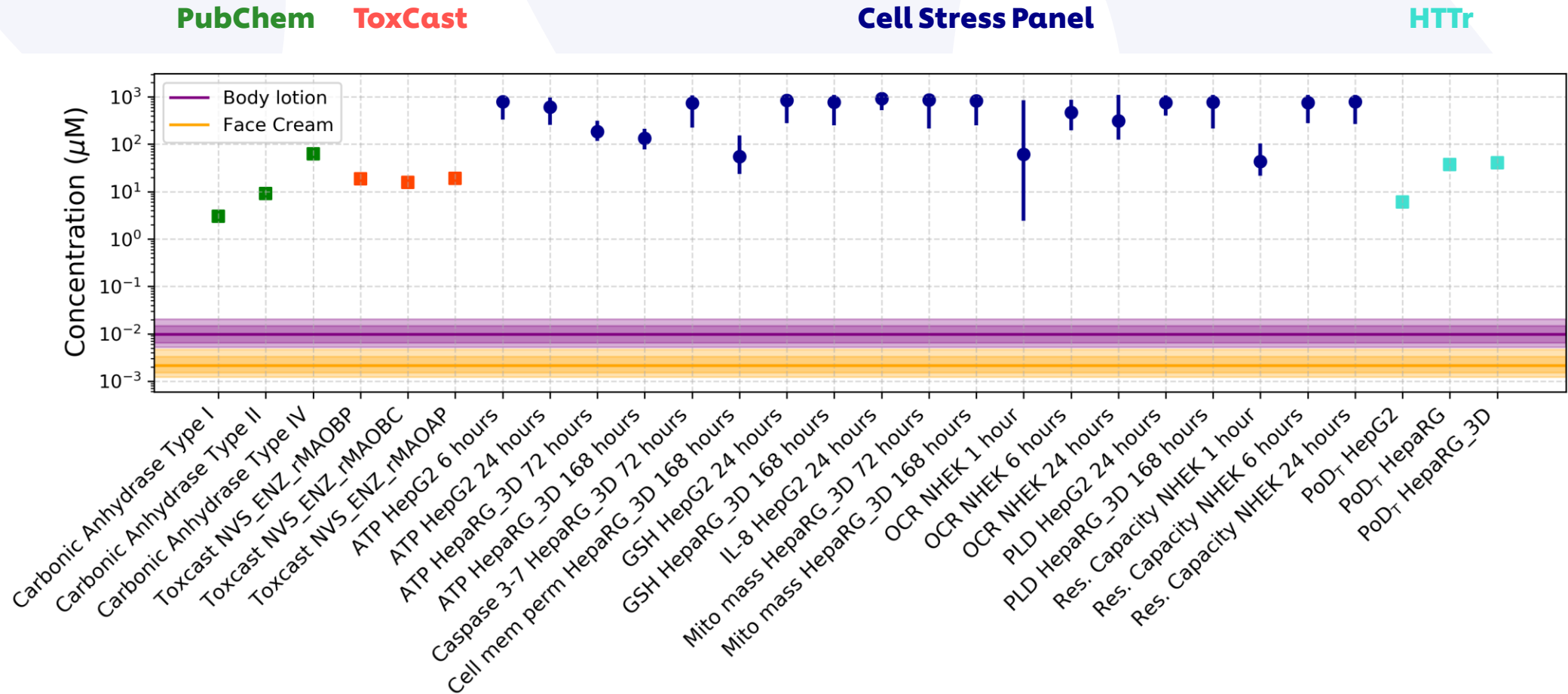
<https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0840-0080>

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

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



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

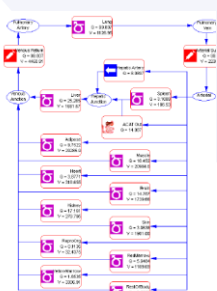


**The 5th percentile of the BER distribution ranged between 158 and 96738**

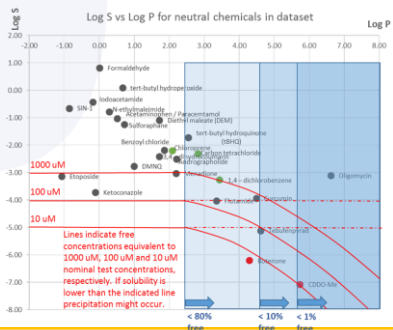
**In this case study: Weight of evidence suggested that the inclusion of 0.1% coumarin in face cream or a body lotion is safe for the consumer**

# Can we develop a systemic safety toolbox for estimating BERs?

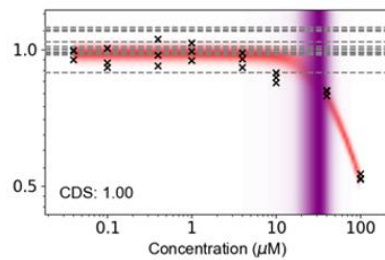
## PBK models



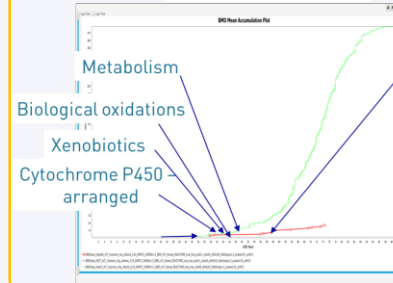
## Free concentration



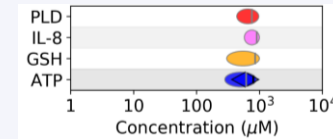
## Conc. Resp. models



## HTTr



## CSP



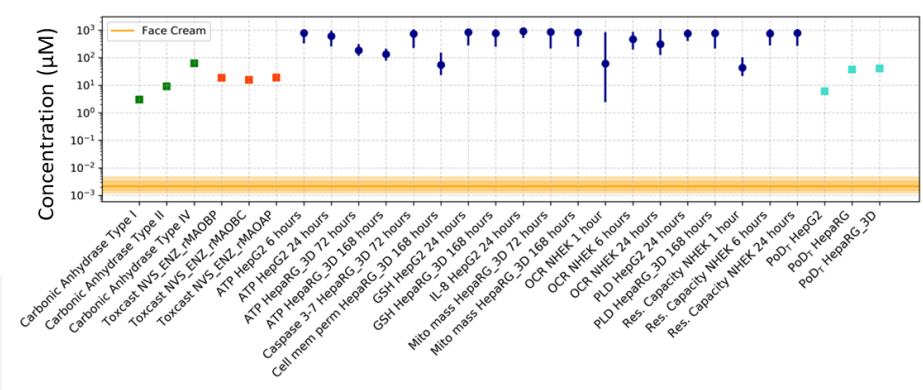
## IPP

Target	IC50 (uM)	IC90 (uM)	IC95 (uM)
MAO-A	0.001	0.002	0.005
MAO-B	0.001	0.002	0.005
COX-1	0.001	0.002	0.005
COX-2	0.001	0.002	0.005
...	...	...	...

• All binding and enzymatic assay results were negative at 10 uM, including COX-1 and COX-2  
 • Highest inhibition (22%) was for MAO-A



## Bioactivity exposure ratio



Inform safety decision

HTTr: High-throughput transcriptomics

CSP: Cell Stress Panel

IPP: In vitro pharmacological profiling





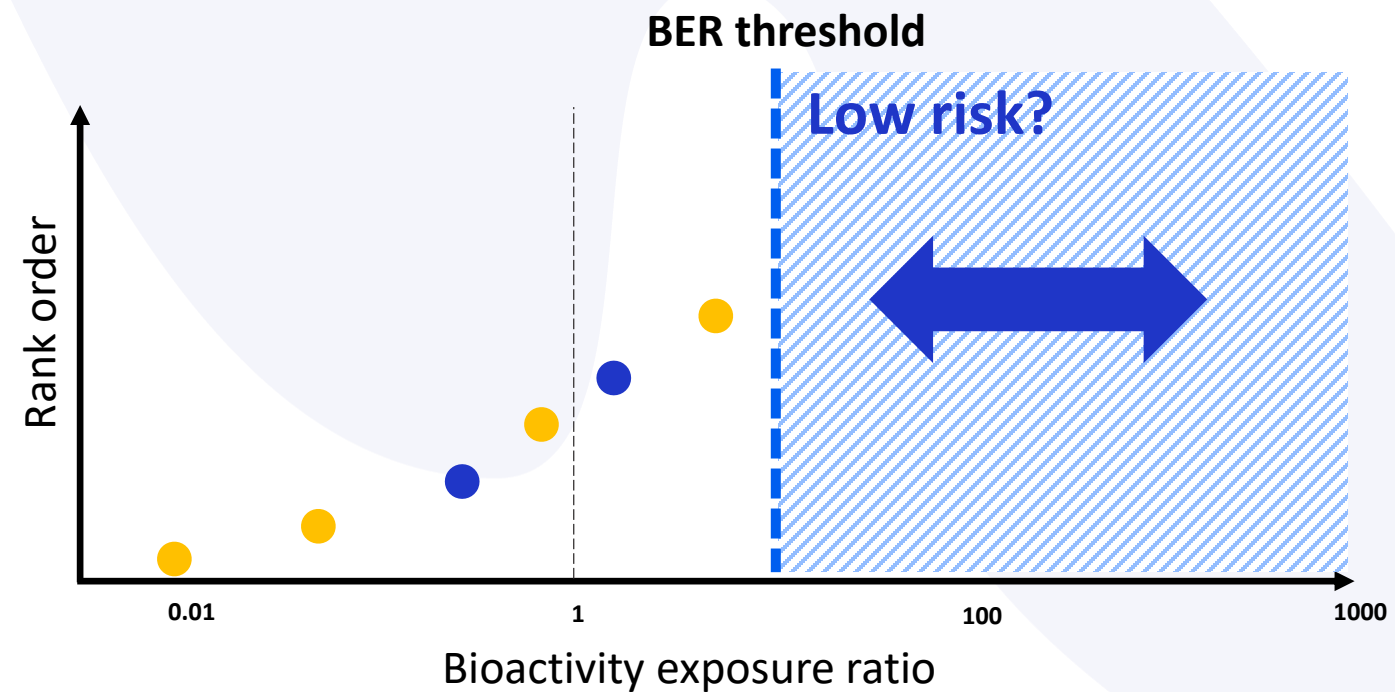
# Some challenges to developing and evaluating a systemic safety toolbox

- Biological coverage:
  - Are we using the right in vitro models?
  - Are we measuring the right biomarkers?
- Accuracy of internal exposure estimates (PBK models)
- How large should the bioactivity exposure ratio to identify an exposure as **low risk**?

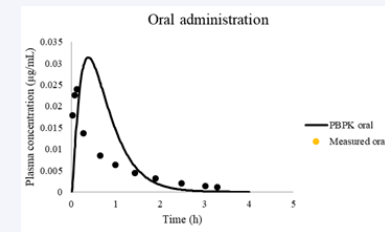
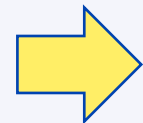
# An approach for evaluating the toolbox

## Chemical exposures scenarios

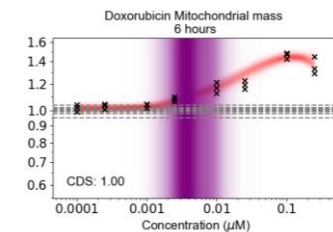
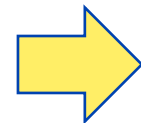
- 'Low' risk (from consumer goods perspective) – e.g. foods, cosmetics
- 'High' risk (from consumer goods perspective) – e.g. drugs



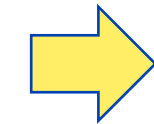
Define typical use-case scenarios benchmark chemical-exposures; Mixture of High and low risk



PBK models of systemic exposure



In-vitro cell assays, estimate PoDs



Calculate the bioactivity exposure ratio

# Overall evaluation strategy

## Step 1 (pilot study)\*

- Define what the toolbox contains (which NAMs) and the workflow through which they should be used.
- Define process of how the toolbox will be evaluated, and the metrics that will be used to determine its 'performance'
- Explore using a small set of chemicals and exposure scenarios (11 chemicals, 25 exposure scenarios)
- Define **prototype decision model** for determining the BER threshold.

## Step 2 (full evaluation)

- Evaluate the toolbox using ~40 chemicals with ~100 exposure scenarios based on the toolbox established in the pilot study.
- Use learnings from the toolbox evaluation to refine the toolbox in terms of **NAM composition** and the **decision model**.

# Stage 1: defining the benchmark chemical exposure scenarios

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



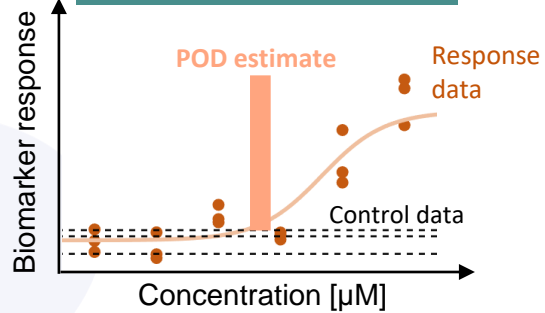
# Stage 2: Estimating PODs from bioactivity platforms

## POD estimation

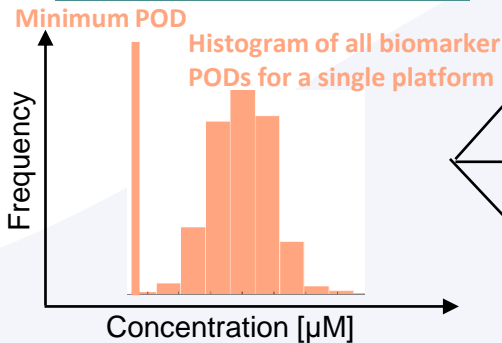
### Concentration-response assays

- HTTr (MCF-7, HepG2, HepaRG)
- CSP (HepG2)
- IPP

### Point of departure estimation



### Summarise biomarker points of departure



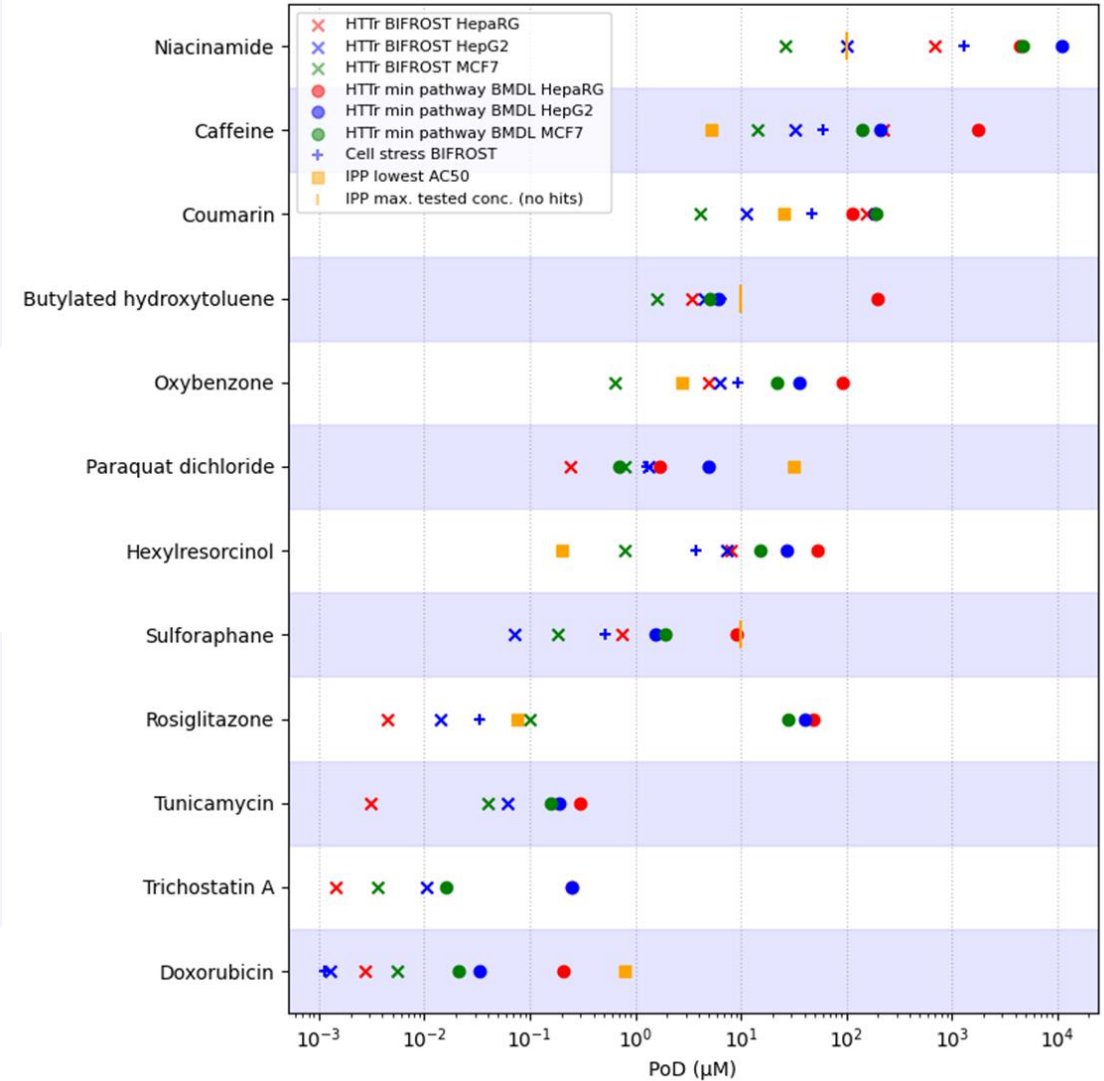
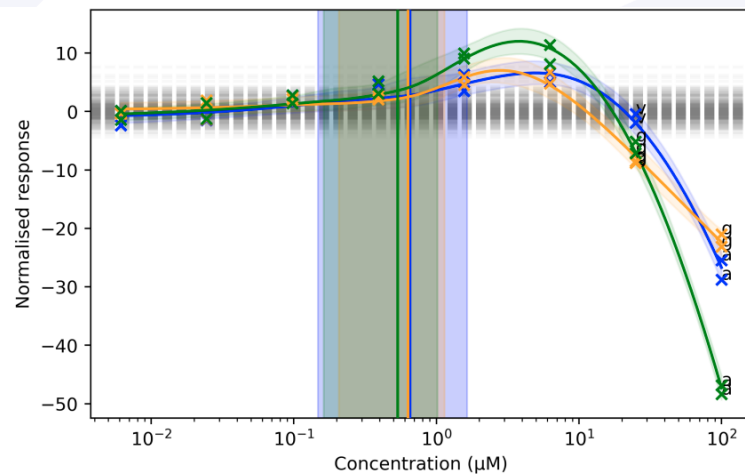
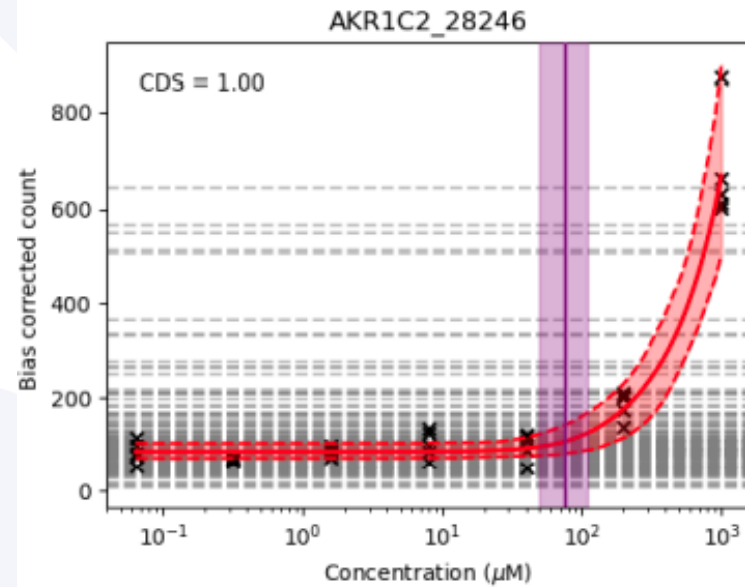
HTTr platform  
POD (Global  
POD method or  
lowest pathway  
mean BMCL)

Cell stress  
platform POD  
(HepG2)

IPP platform  
POD

Minimum  
platform POD

# Stage 2: Estimating PODs from bioactivity platforms



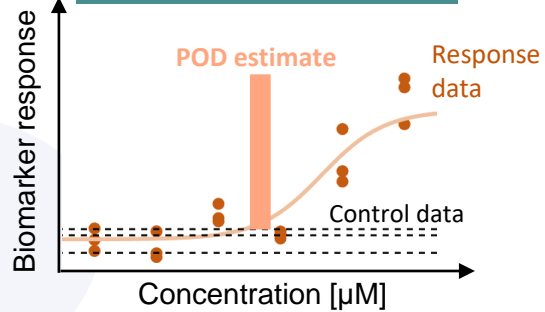
# Stage 2: Estimating Cmax using PBK models

## POD estimation

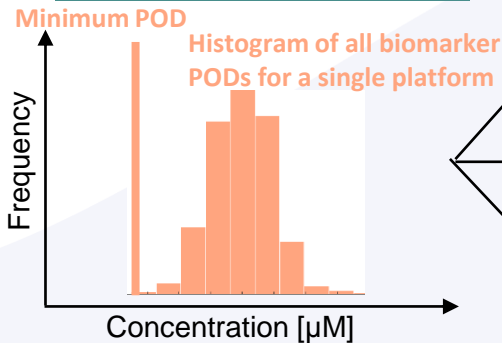
**Concentration-response assays**

- HTTr (MCF-7, HepG2, HepaRG)
- CSP (HepG2)
- IPP

### Point of departure estimation



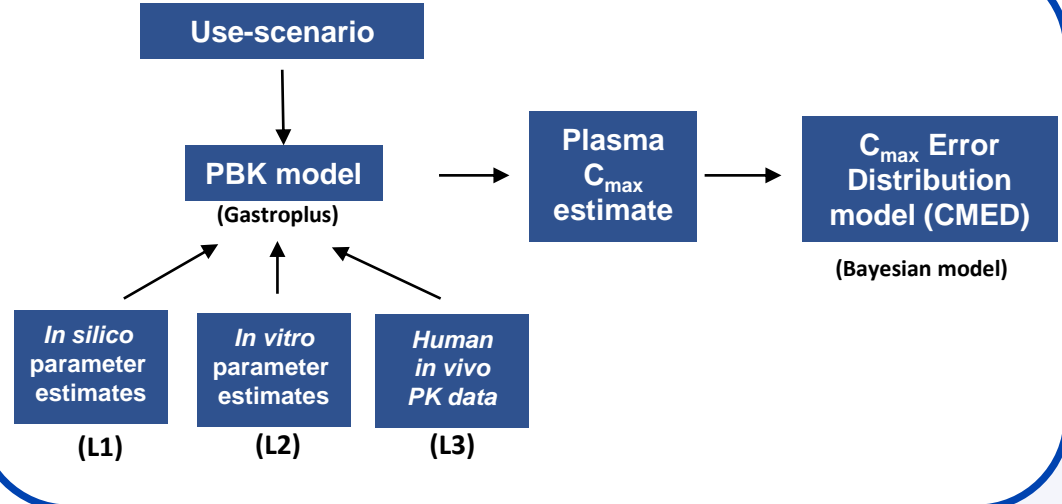
### Summarise biomarker points of departure



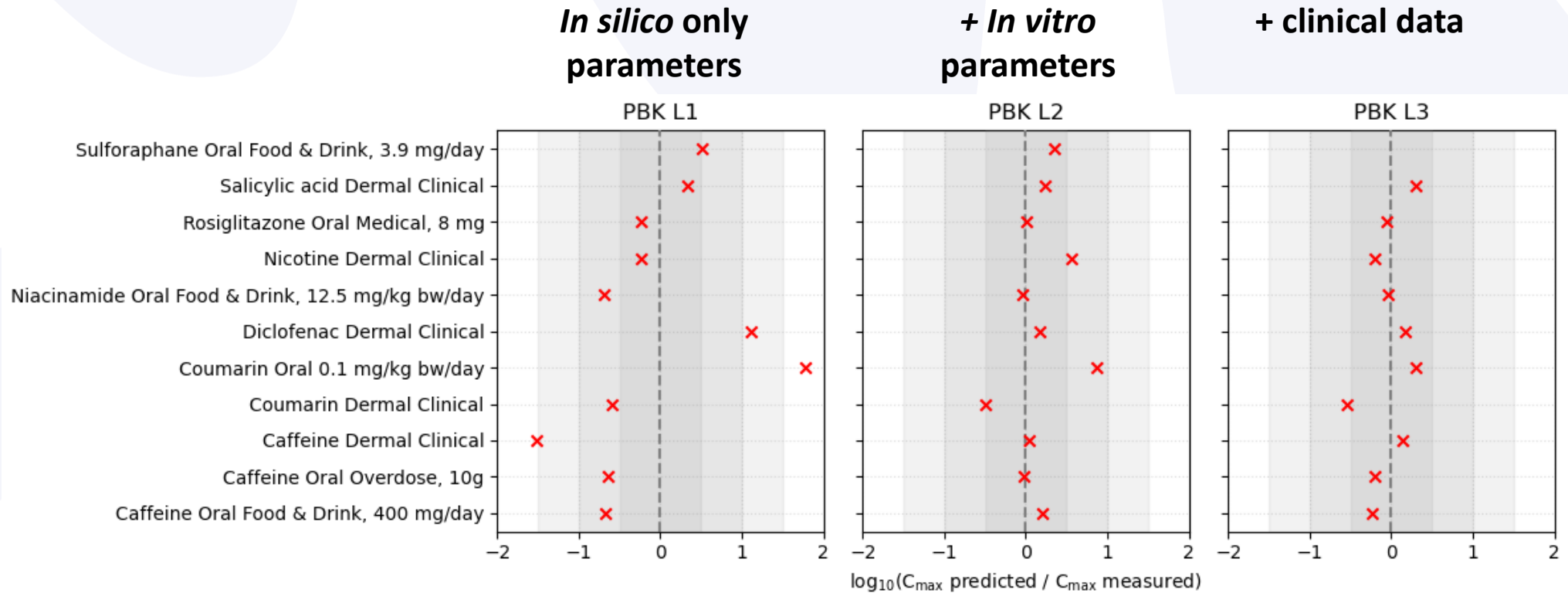
- HTTr platform POD (Global POD method or lowest pathway mean BMCL)
- Cell stress platform POD (HepG2)
- IPP platform POD

**Minimum platform POD**

## Exposure estimation



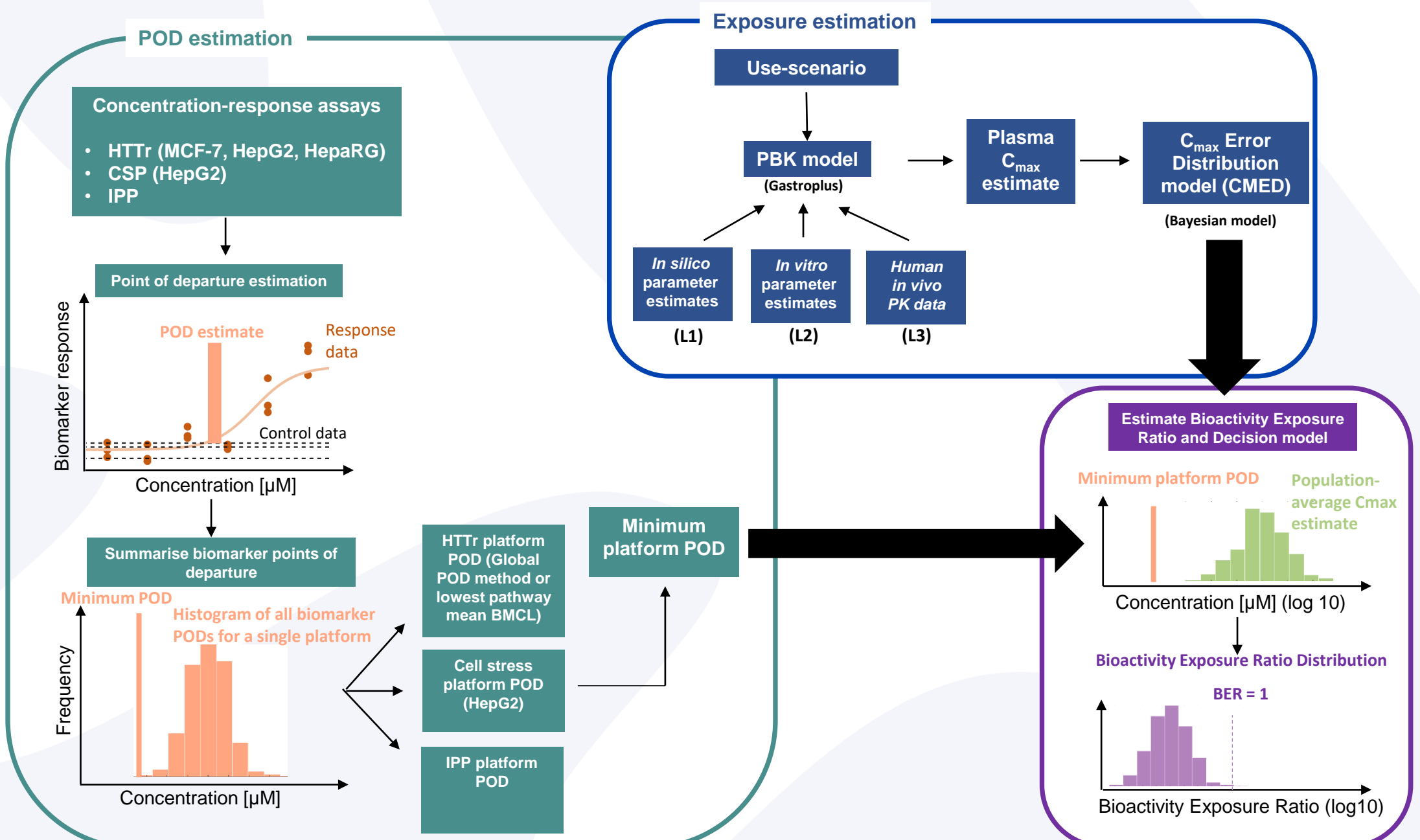
# Considering the error in PBK models based on parameterisation level



- The PBK prediction error decreases as we go 'up' parameterisation levels
- Developed a Bayesian statistical model to quantify the error for a novel chemical

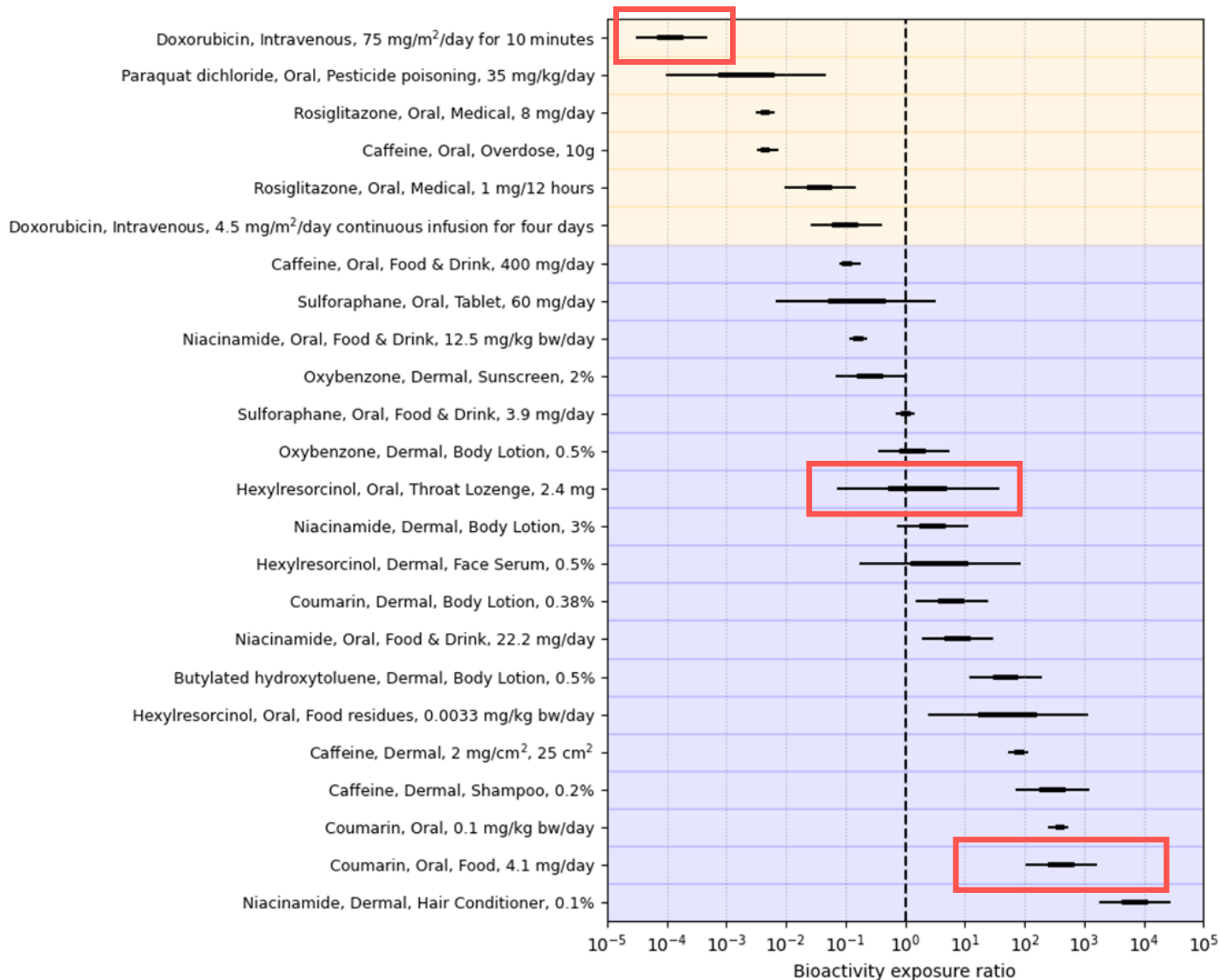


# Stage 3: Estimating the BER from the toolbox



# Stage 3: Estimating the BER from the toolbox

**BER=1**



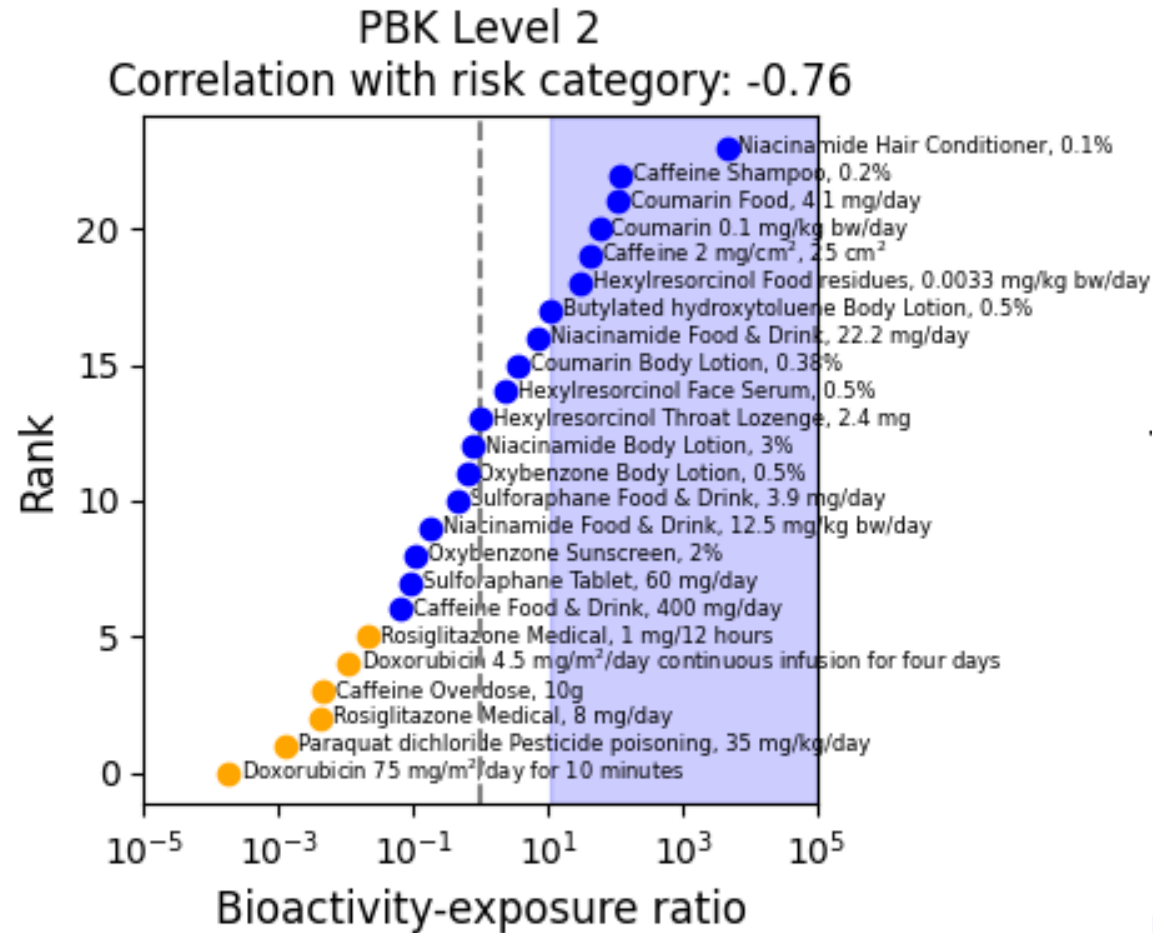
**Blue: low risk chemical-exposure scenario**

**Yellow: high risk chemical-exposure scenario**

**BER=1:**  
Cmax estimates coincide with the minimum POD

What threshold value of the BER is needed to assure safety?

# Visualising how the toolbox performs against the pilot study data

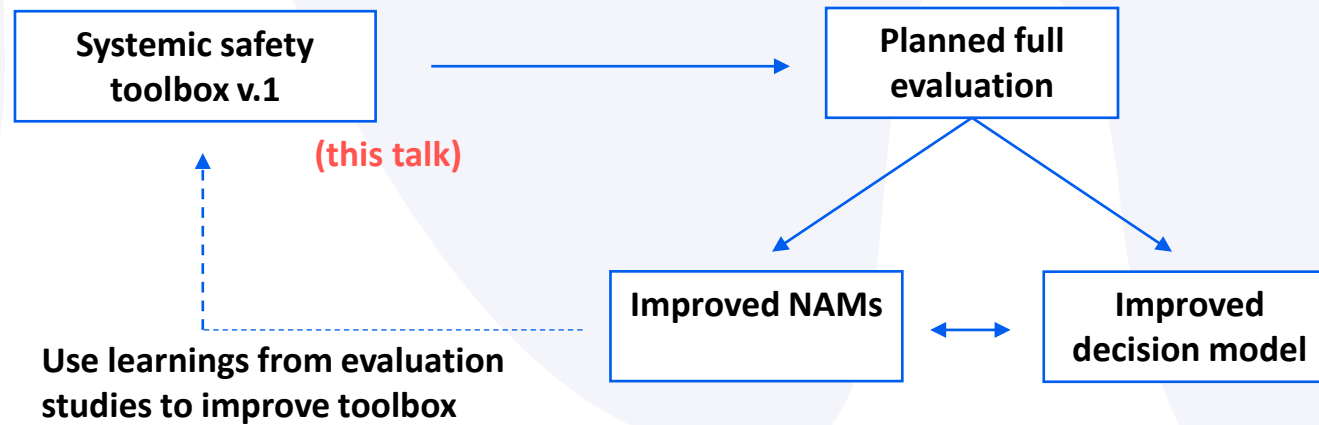


**Blue: low risk chemical-exposure scenario**

**Yellow: high risk chemical-exposure scenario**

Exposure scenarios within the **blue shaded region** are identified as **low risk**

# An iterative approach to evaluating the toolbox



- Have now extended the evaluation to ~40 chemicals with ~100 associated **high risk** and **low risk** exposure scenarios.
- Adopt **iterative approach** to evaluating and then identifying potential improvements to the toolbox.
- The overall objective is to establish the **scientific confidence** that the toolbox is fit for purpose\*.
- **Unilever-EPA CRADA**: Generating data for 10 cell lines, using high-throughput transcriptomics and phenotypic profiling.



# Acknowledgements

**Unilever:** Maria Baltazar, Sophie Cable, Tom Cull, Joe Reynolds, Beate Nicol, Sharon Scott, Sophie Malcomber, Annabel Rigarlsford, Chris Sparham, Katarzyna Przybylak, Predrag Kukic, Georgia Reynolds, Tom Moxon, Hequn Li, Dawei Tang, Jayasujatha Vethamanickam, Matthew Dent, Andrew White, Paul Carmichael, Sarah Hatherell, Richard Cubberley, Carl Westmoreland

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