

1,000,000,000 CHF investment

7,000,874 hours of work

6,587 experiments

423 researchers

1 medicine



With Prof Susan M Gasser  
and Prof Olivier Michelin

# THE MAKING OF AN INNOVATIVE MEDICINE

*Introductory workshops on translational biomedical research and drug discovery  
and development*

BIO-698 resumes Thursday September 21. 2023  
4:15 PM @ AAC 108



Sciences de la Vie -SV



Prof Roger G. Clerc

# The Making Of An Innovative Medicine – course schedule

Thursday's @ 4-6 PM except 14.12/21.12.23 @2-6 PM



## Session 1: Scope of the course \_ general organization \_ case study

21.09.23 *Embracing a career at the heart of biomedical research !?*

AAC108

## Session 2: Historical perspective: the modern pharmacy

28.09.23 *Advent of modern medicines - placebo controlled drug development*

AAC108

## Session 3: Introduction to translational research: crossing the bridge

05.10.23 *A chasm has opened wide between biomedical research and patients in need*

AAC014

## Session 4: Therapeutic target identification I & II

12-19.10.23 *“me too” vs a wealth of innovative targets \_ small MW cpds vs biologicals*

AA014 AAC108 *Early front loading of biomarker identification for cohort stratification*

## Session 5: Structure based drug design \_ medicinal chemistry\_low/high throughput

26.10.23 *screening assays\_ multiple parallel parameters optimization MDO*

*Setting up screening assays, the robotics, the million cpds librairies*

## Session 6: Therapeutic modalities peptides and biologicals: today's -

02.11.23 *tomorrow's pharmacy NBEs*

AAC108

*Challengies (cost of goods - healthcare payers) and opportunities*

INNO EXHAUSTIVE LISTING - SUGGESTIONS WELCOME !			
sessions	no	workshops	speaker/s
S02 (28-09-23)   AAC108			
historical medicines with Nobel laureates while hopping on giant shoulders	1	vaccine discovery : E. Jenner and smallpox	Danica M
	2	penicillin: impact, whose invention ?	
	3	prozac at the core of psychiatry	
	4	lipitor/statins at last a blockbuster	
	5	artemisinin and malaria	Umair
	6	cyclosporin from soil sample to blockbuster	Umair
S03 (5-10-23)   AAC014			
translational research an emerging field	7	expanding the scope of targeted therapies	
	8	chronotherapy	Pitt
S04 (12-10-23)   AAC014			
therapeutic target identification	9	rare diseases repurposing medicines	Adrien
S04b (19-10-23)   AAC108	10	nocosomial inf/MRSA/phage antibiotics	Georges
therapeutic target identification	11	Crispr/Cas9 gene editing huntington disease	Pitt
	12	AI in drug discovery	Simon
S05 (26-10-23)   AAC108			
structure based drug design	13	macrocycles and non druggable targets	Masota
	14	chemoproteomics - NMEs	Nico G
S06 (02-11-23)   AAC108			
therapeutic modalities - NBEs	15	Biologicals/biotech production/incretins	Tim
	16	armed monoclonal AB medicines	Nico G
	16	RNA therapeutics, antisense medicines	
S07 (9-11-23)   AAC108			
PHC personalized healthcare	17	BRCA1 preventive surgery/tumor board	Nikita
Human genomics	18	SOPHIA Genetics - GWAS	
	19	disease enabling biomarkers/micro RNAs	Isika
S08 (16-11-23)   AAC014			
pharmacogenetic polymorphism	20	NextGenSequencing - precision medicine	Hien
	21	deCODE Inc pharmgenomic/iceland genealogy	
S09 (23-11-23)   AAC108			
in vivo pharmacology	22	organoids come of age	Nathalie B
toxicology	23	thalidomide repurposing	Ekaterina
S10 (30-11-23)   AAC108			
clinical research	24	AI medicine 2.0	
	25	most common genetic defect : cystic fibrosis	.
	26	sex bias in preclinical and clinical research	Weilin
	27	placebo/nocice effects	Tim
S11 (07-12-23)   AAC108			
intellectual property/integrity	28	SMA gene therapy - pay for performance	Abtin
	29	biopatents - 23 and Me - my genome	khosiyat
S12 (14-12-23) starts @ 2PM		Hacking medicine	all + invitees
! MED21522!			
S13 (21-12-23) start @ 2 PM		Hacking medicine	all + invitees
! AAC231 !			
other workshops opportunities	30	insulin-Banting Best et al. beagle dog	S02



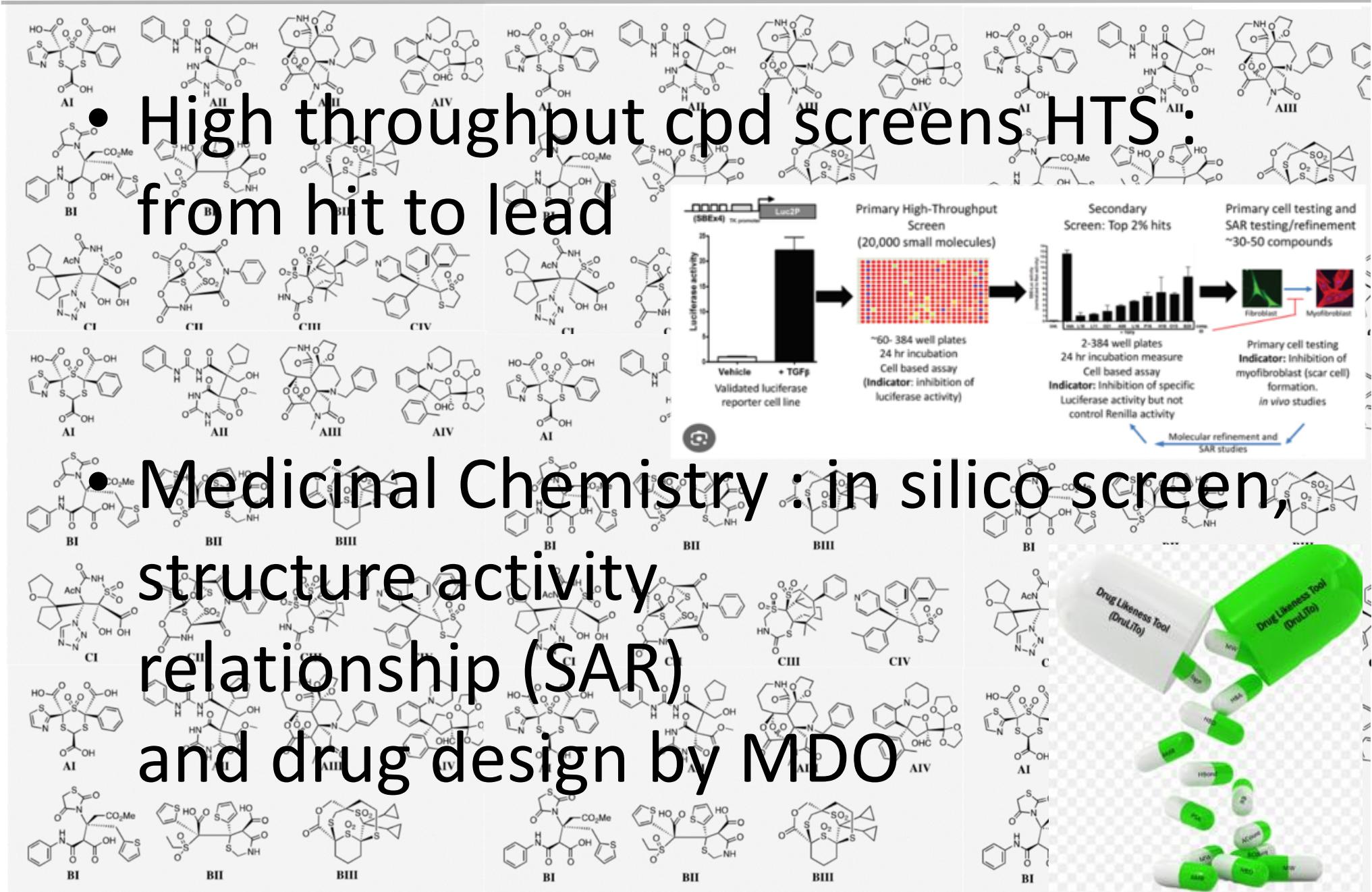
## Workshops \_ The Making Of An Innovative Medicine (today's class)



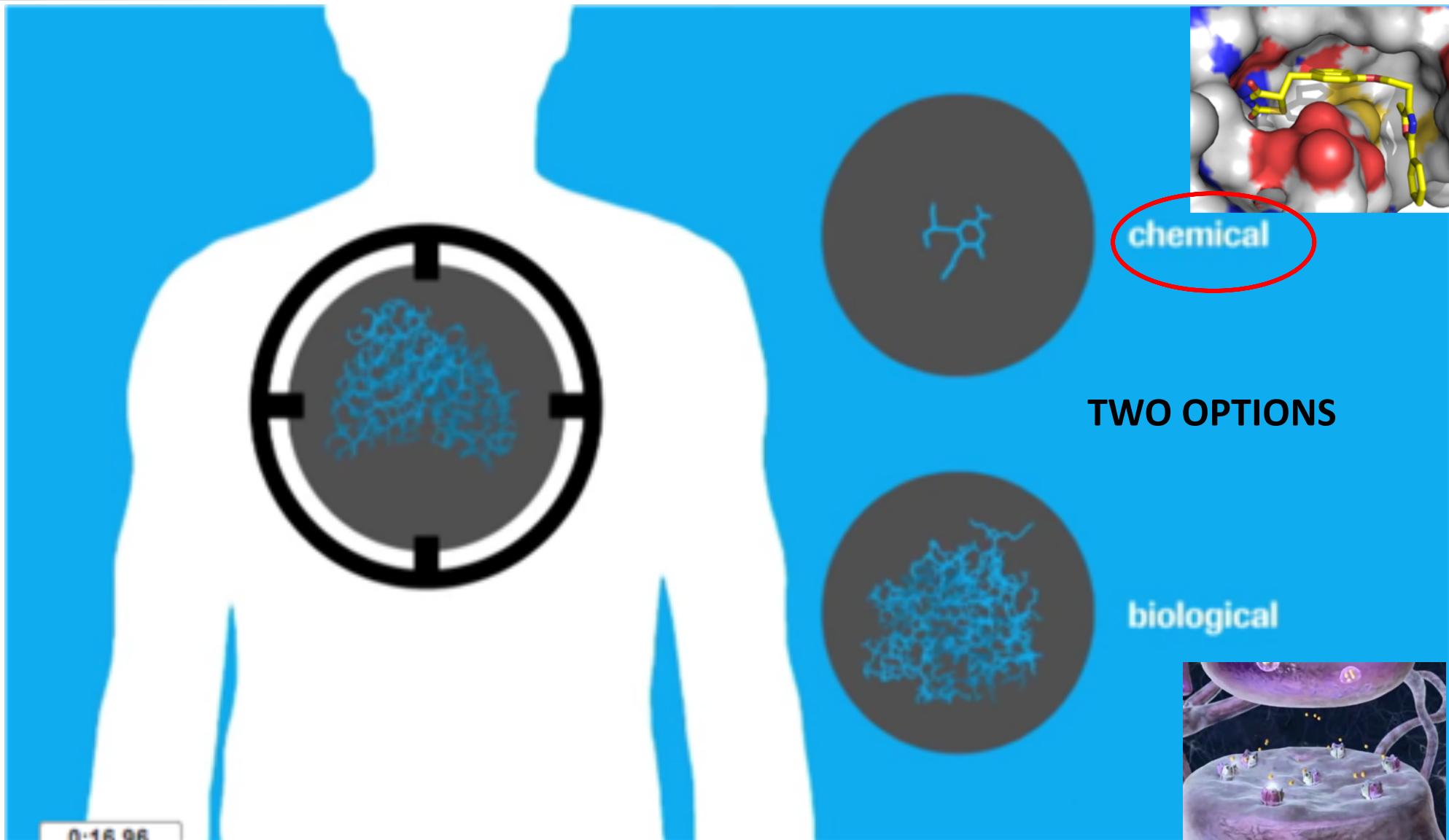
## Session 5 – Drug design : 90% of today's medicines are issued from medicinal chemistry



- High throughput cpd screens HTS : from hit to lead



# Addressing a novel therapeutic target : small MW chemical cpds versus large biological moieties : what's best ?

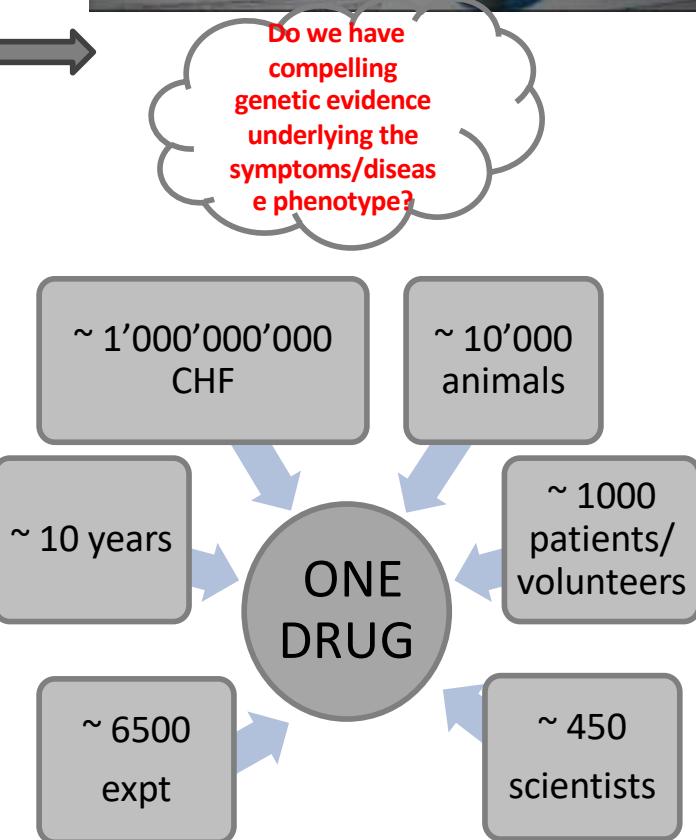
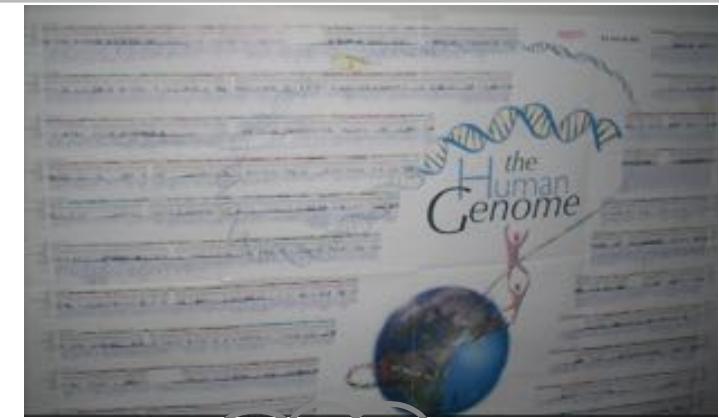
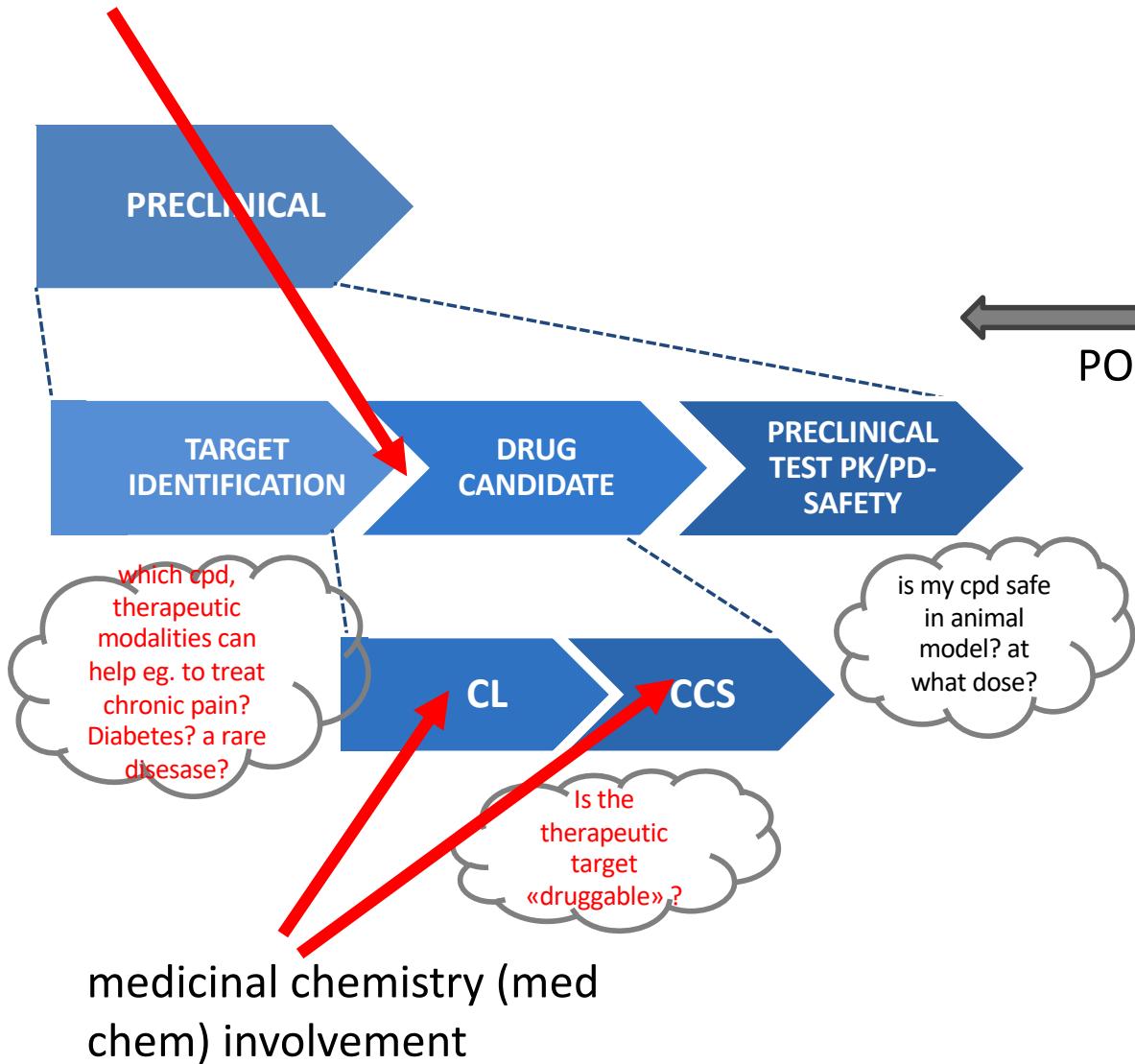


On average you are likely to take 15,000 SMW pills during the course of your life time !

# The Making Of An Innovative Medicine: From Idea to Medicine

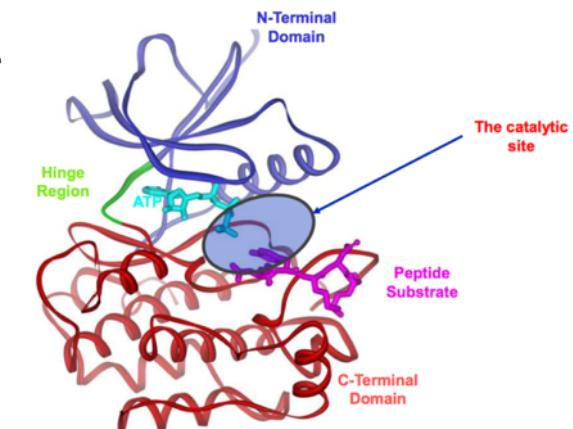


HTS involvement



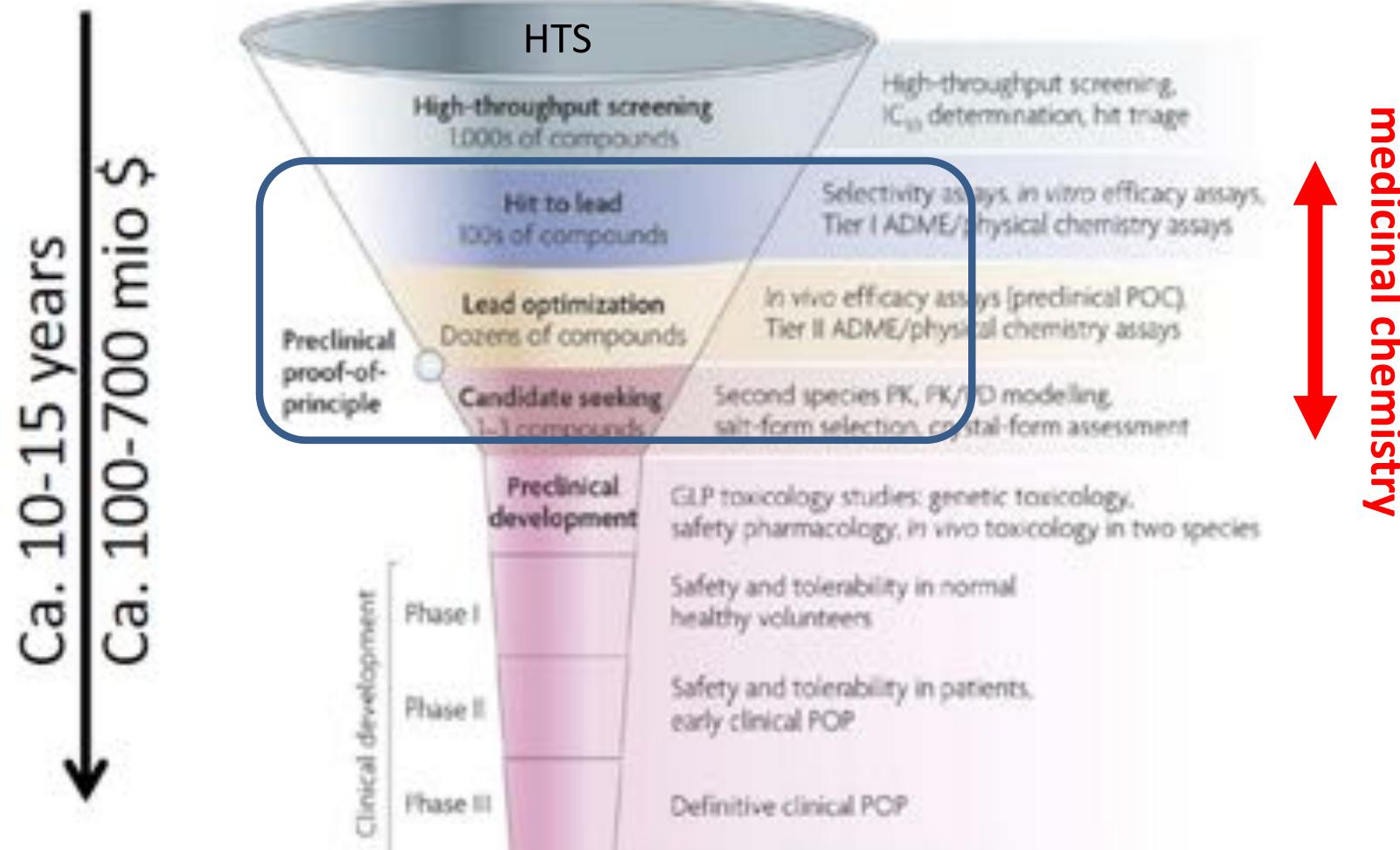


- **SMALL MW MOIETIES TYPICALLY POSSESS <100 ATOMS (MW <1000Da) WHICH ENDOW A SMALL OVERALL SURFACE AREA AVAILABLE FOR INTERACTION AND PHARMACOLOGICAL INTERVENTION**



- **A DRUGGABLE TARGET IS BEST KNOWN BY THE PRESENCE ON ITS SOLVENT ACCESSIBLE SURFACE OF AN HYDROPHOBIC “POCKET”**
- **(INVAGINATION LINED UP WITH HYDROPHOBIC AMINO ACID SIDE CHAINS)**

# The screening cascade 1:10 000 makes it !



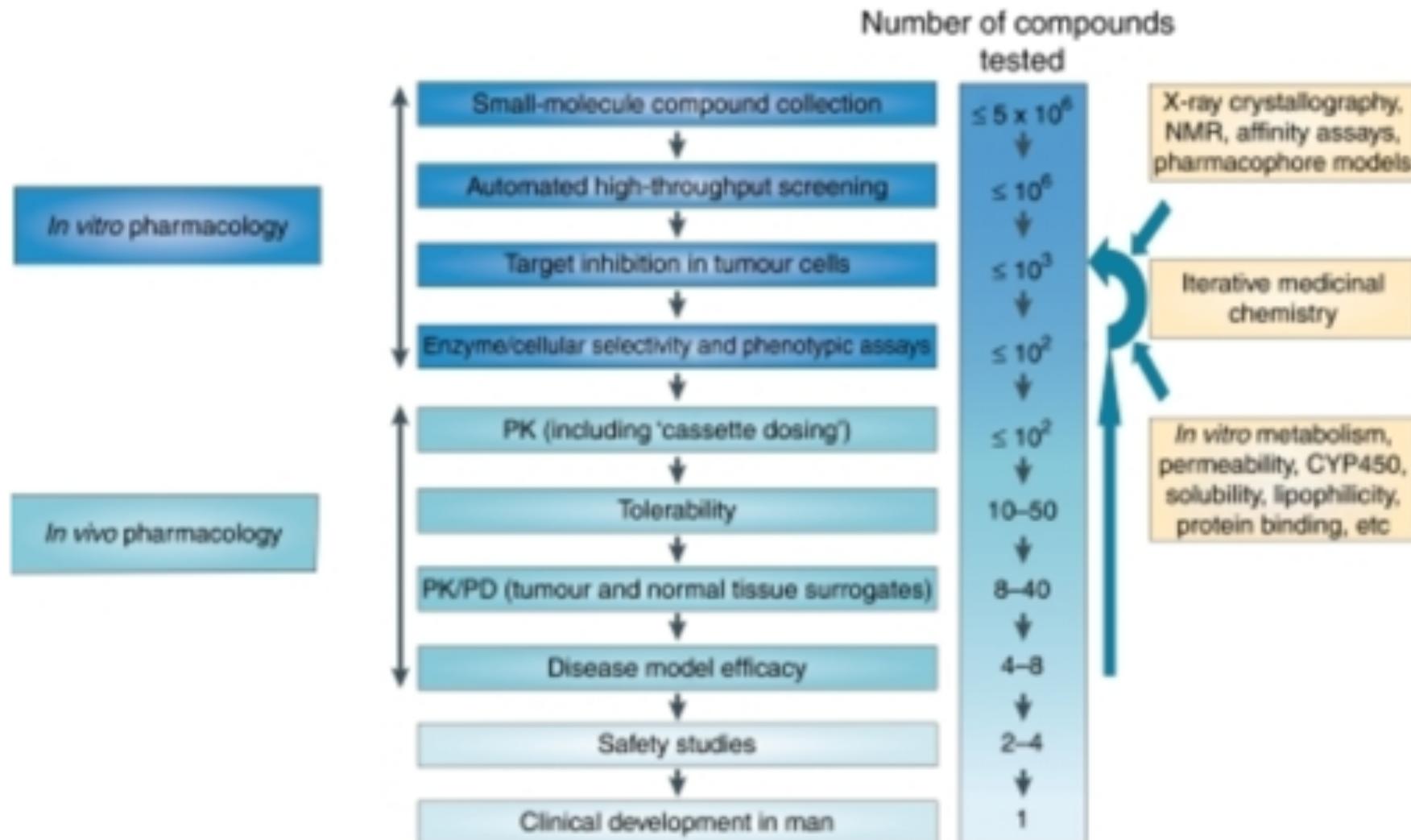
The application of discovery toxicology and pathology towards the design of safer pharmaceutical lead candidates

Jeffrey A. Kramer, John E. Sagartz & Dale L. Morris  
Nature Reviews Drug Discovery 6, 638-649 (August 2007)

Nature Reviews | Drug Discovery



## The screening cascade

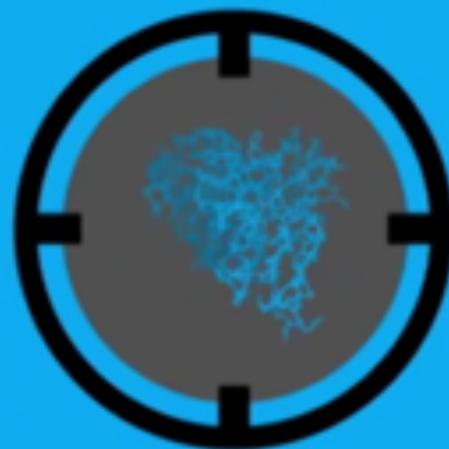


# High throughput screening : from hits to lead cpds



**HIGH THROUGHPUT SCREEN (HTS) – HIGH CONTENT SCREENS (HCS) :**

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN AGONIST/ANTAGONIST OR ALLOSTEROIC MODULATOR OF YOUR THERAPEUTIC TARGET ?**



**high-throughput tests**

**00248**

**Do we have the right lead cpd ?**



**BI**

**BI**

**BI**

**BI**

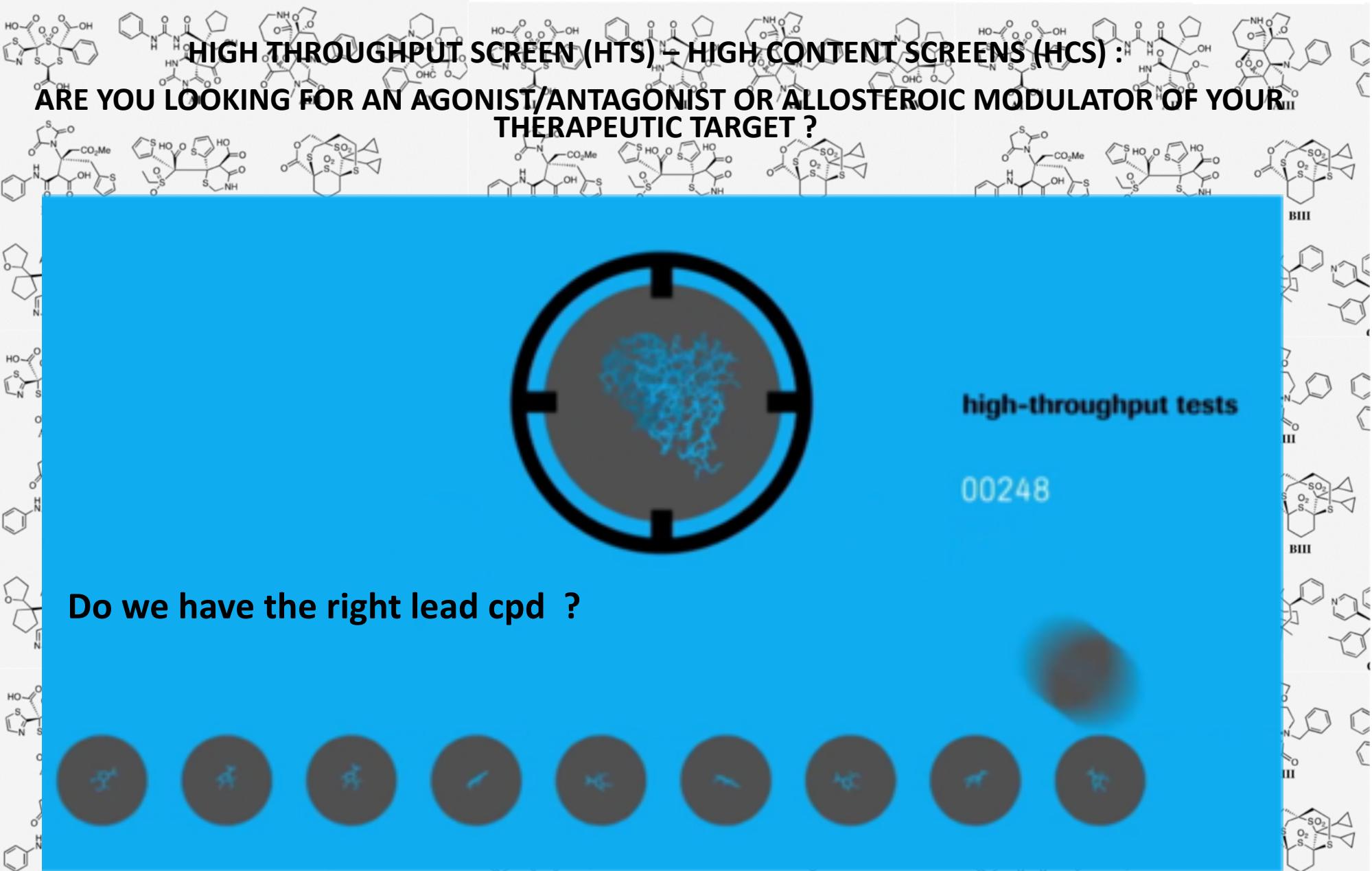
**BI**

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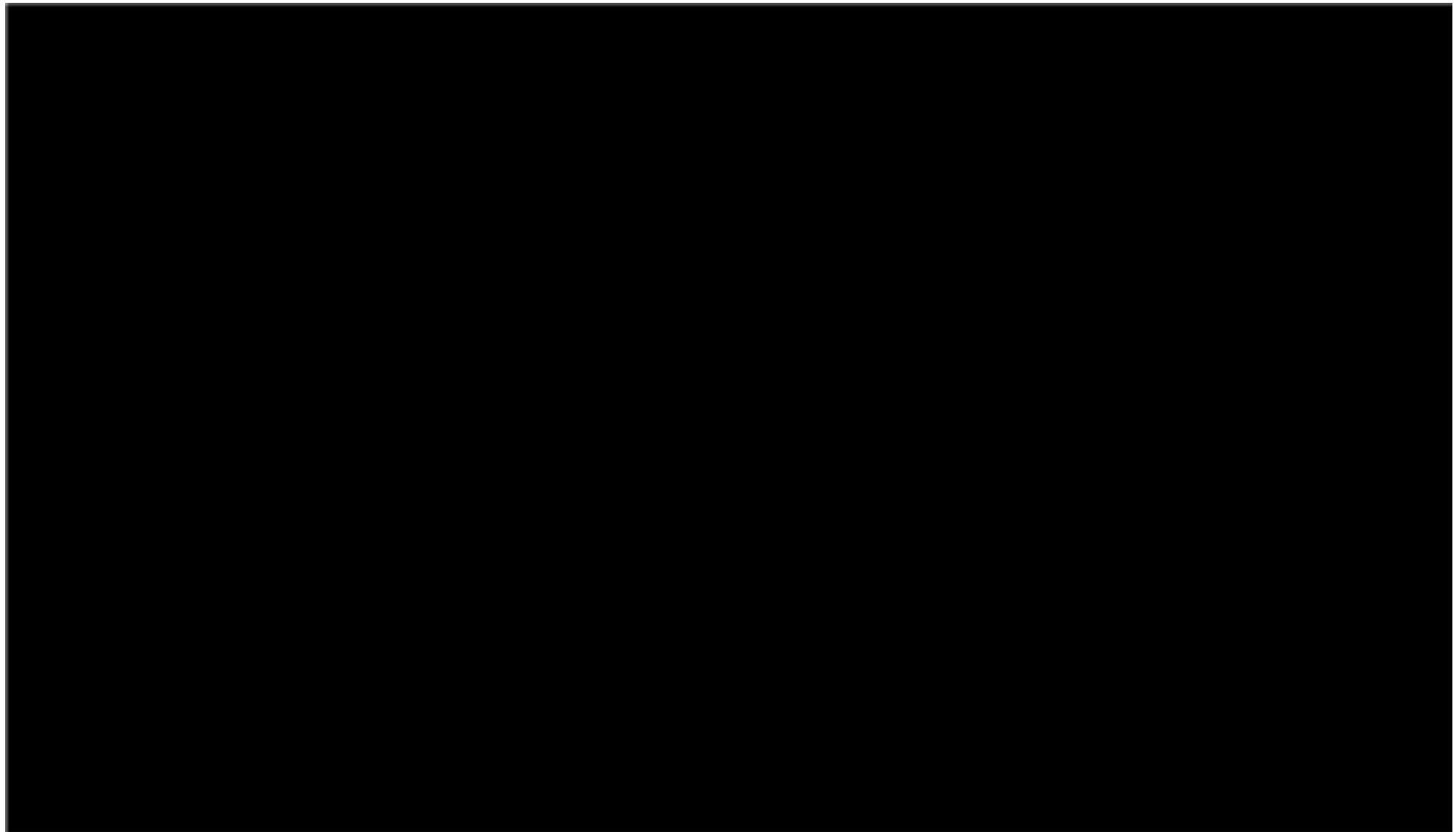
**BI**

**BI**



**The Making Of An Innovative Medicine: a look at the real world  
eg. «big pharma» Roche Inc. campus Basel Switzerland – 04:39 on**

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*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=attNofZ7AnY>*

# Robotics and medicinal chemistry : corner stone of HTS



High throughput screen (HTS) :  
agonist/antagonist to the therapeutic target



Automated CPD repository

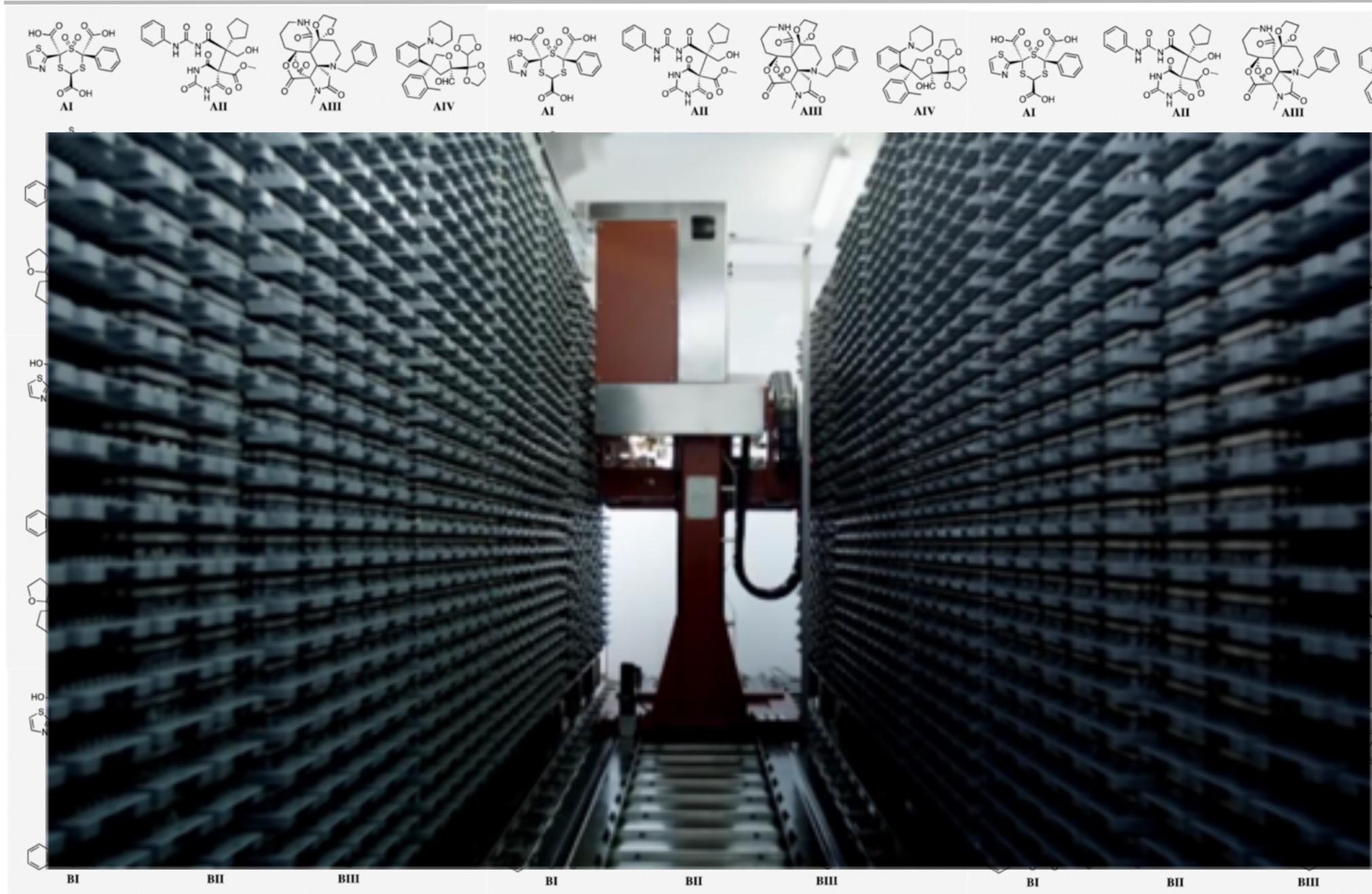
Every day thousands of novel cpds are  
synthesized and registered in cpd repositories

Do we have the right lead though ?

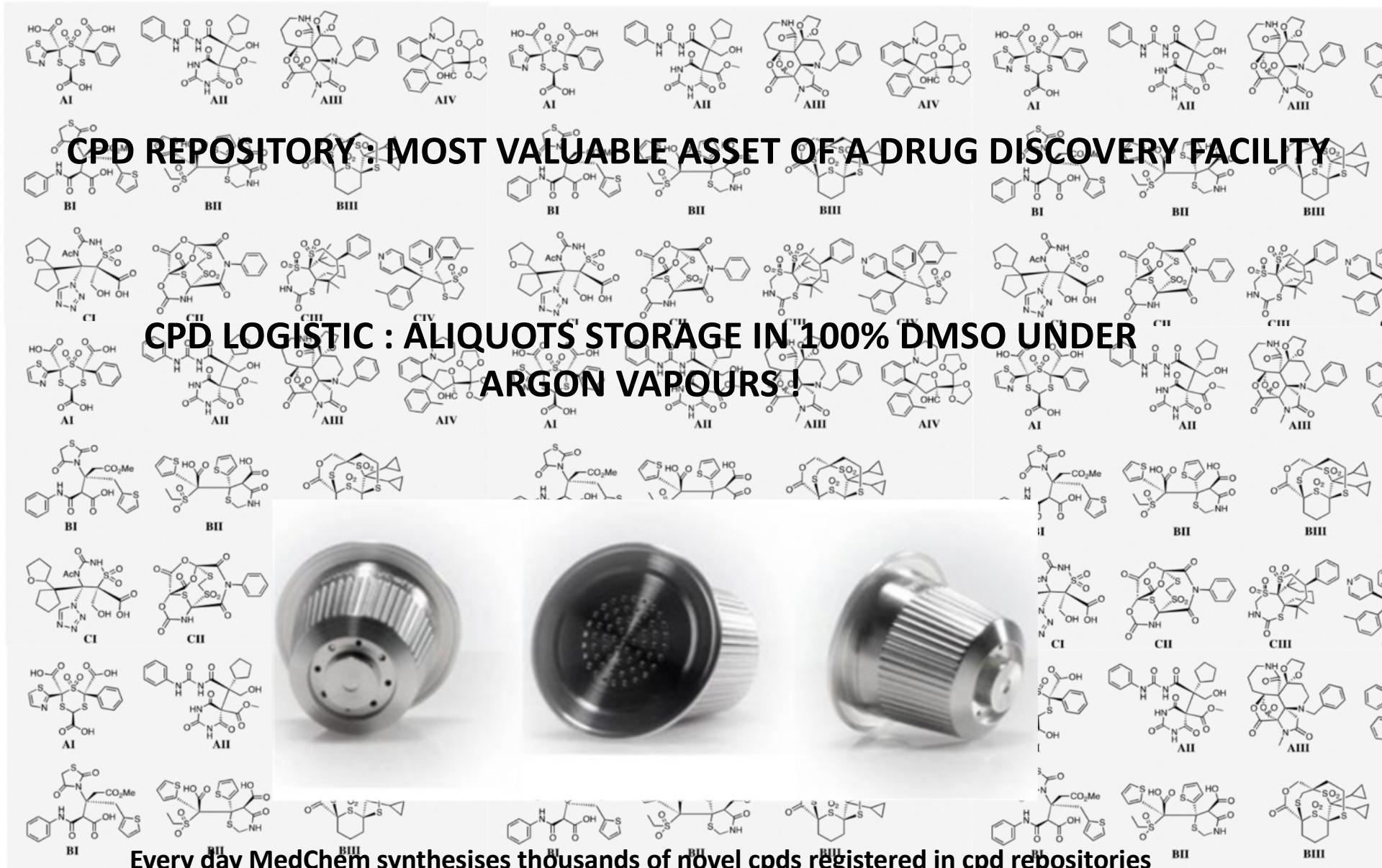


A million compounds selected on a specific  
therapeutic target in a few weeks time !  
Clinical candidate selected ! Patent pending !

# Roche Basel automatic cpd repository: millions of SMW awaiting HTS



## AUTOMATED CPD REPOSITORY : CAN HOLD UP TO >1 MILLION OF PURIFIED MOLECULES IN THE RANGE OF FEW HUNDREDS kDa

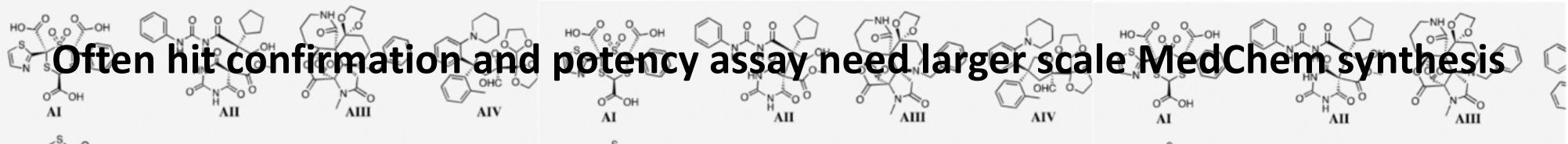


Every day MedChem synthesises thousands of novel cpds registered in cpd repositories

## Hit confirmation at single dose, followed by DRC and potency



**Often hit confirmation and potency assay need larger scale MedChem synthesis**

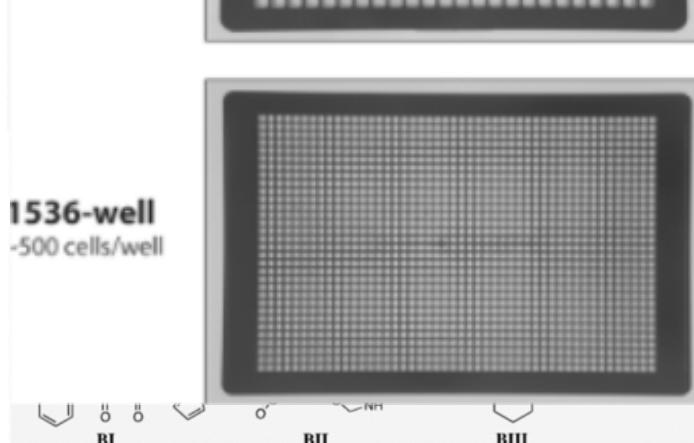
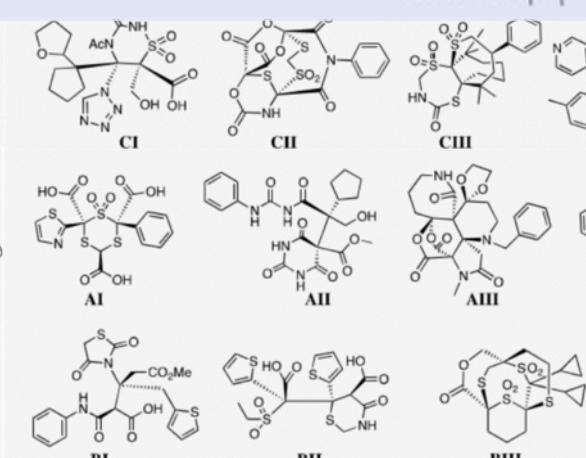
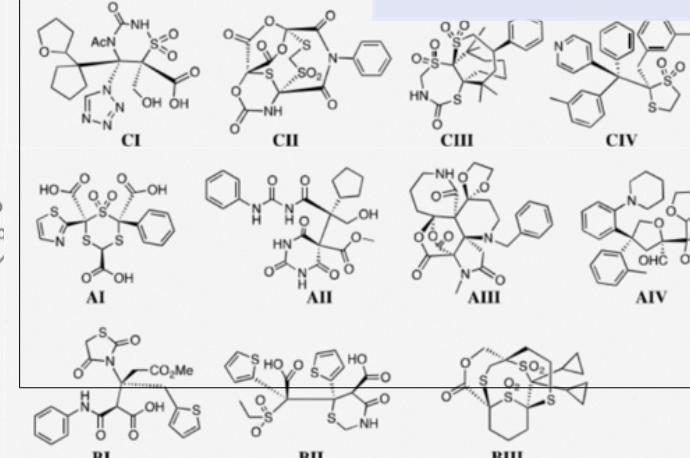
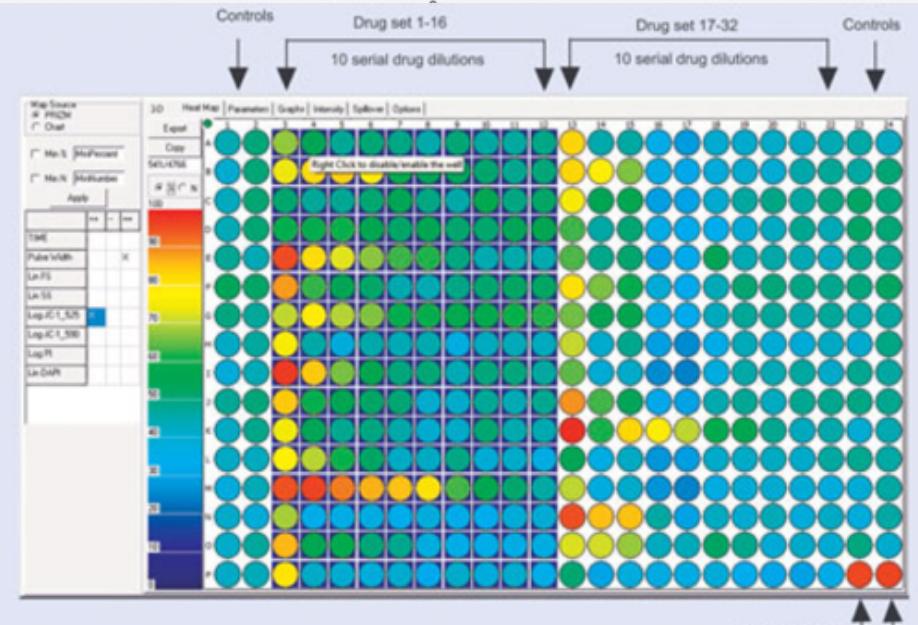
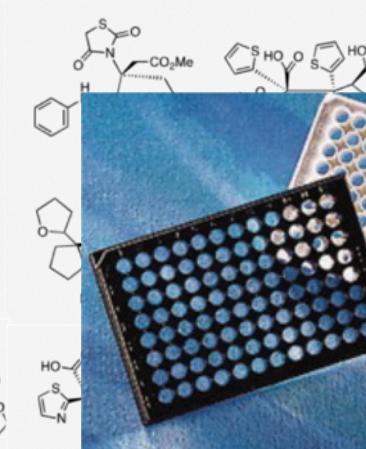
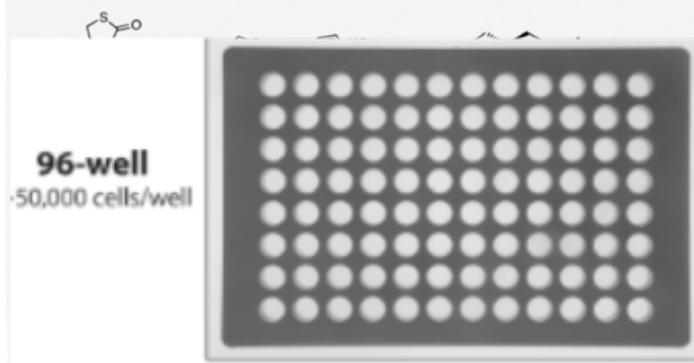


# High throughput screening assays formats for all season : miniaturization (2-10 $\mu$ l – 1536 wells) means cost effective HTS



High throughput screen (HTS) :  
agonist/antagonist to the therapeutic target

Every day thousands of novel cpds are  
synthesized and registered in cpd repositories  
Below layout of a 384 plate with controls !

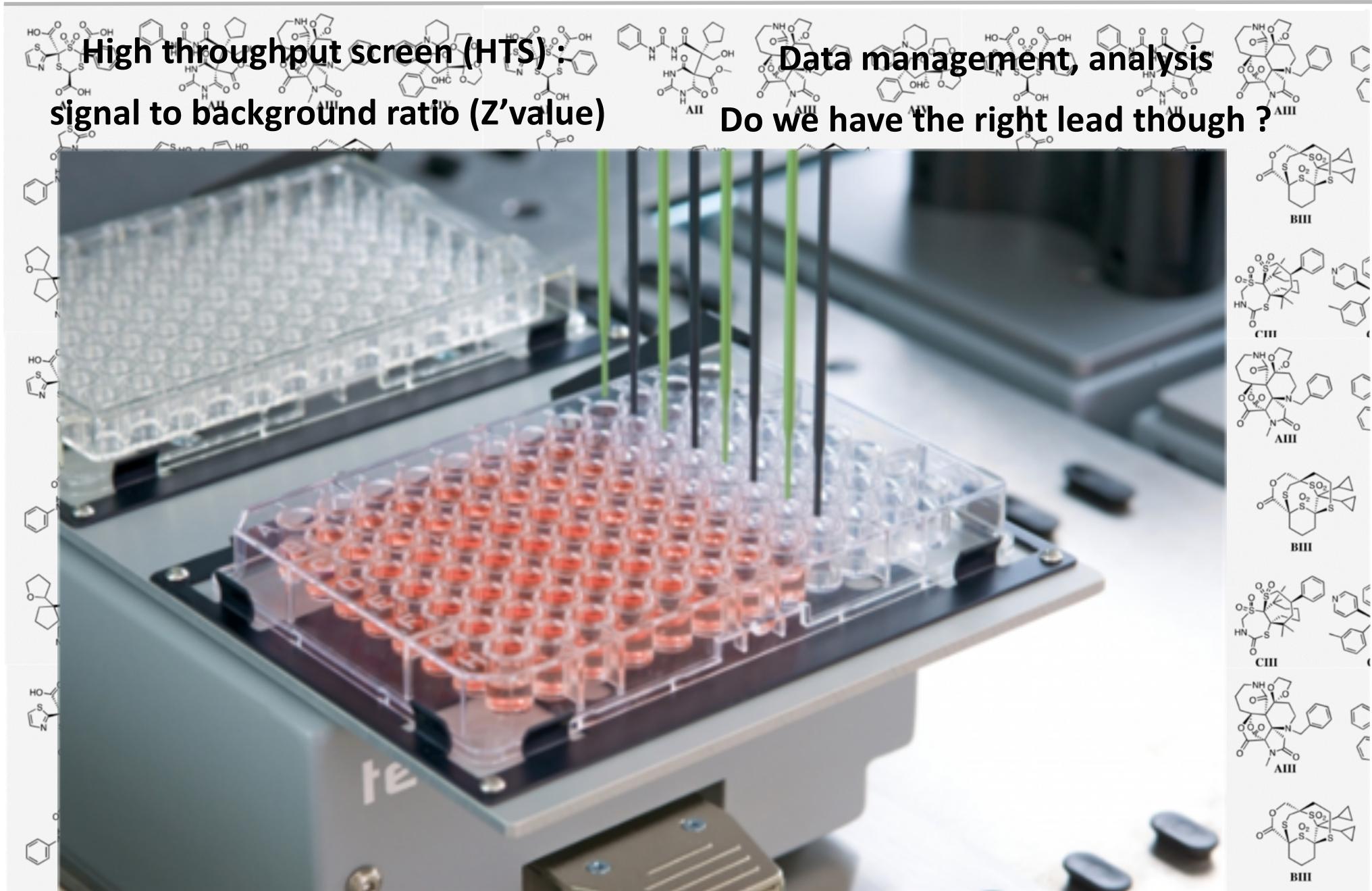


Finding the perfect match: most novel medicine design starts with an HTS (eg TECAN «Freedom EVO platform») see video on robotics

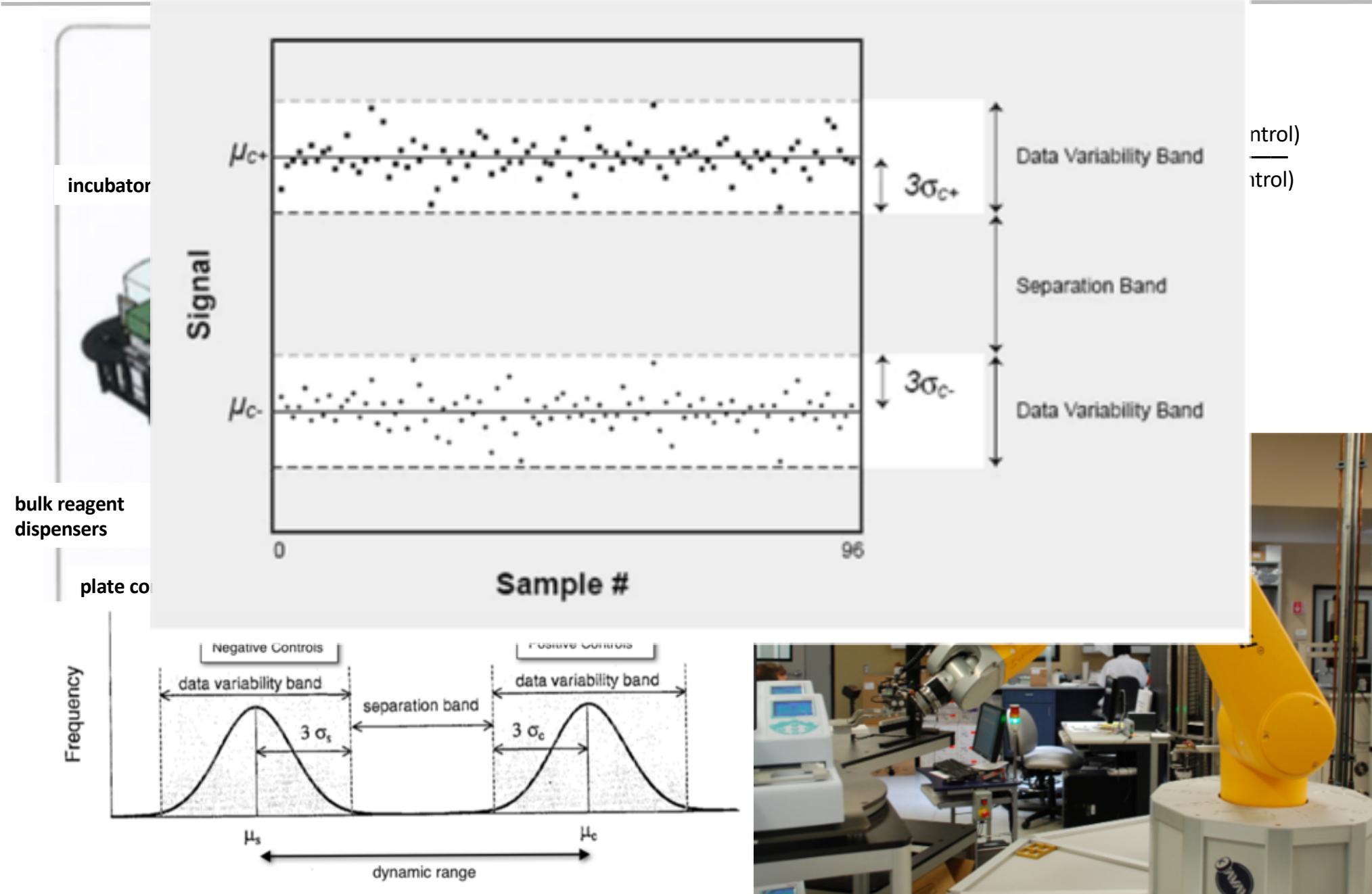


Automation on a Freedom EVO platform enables cost-effective, high throughput HLA typing

# Automatic liquid handling device : data validation, robustness



# Finding the perfect match: layout of an automatic HTS platform : assessing whether the response in a particular assay is large enough



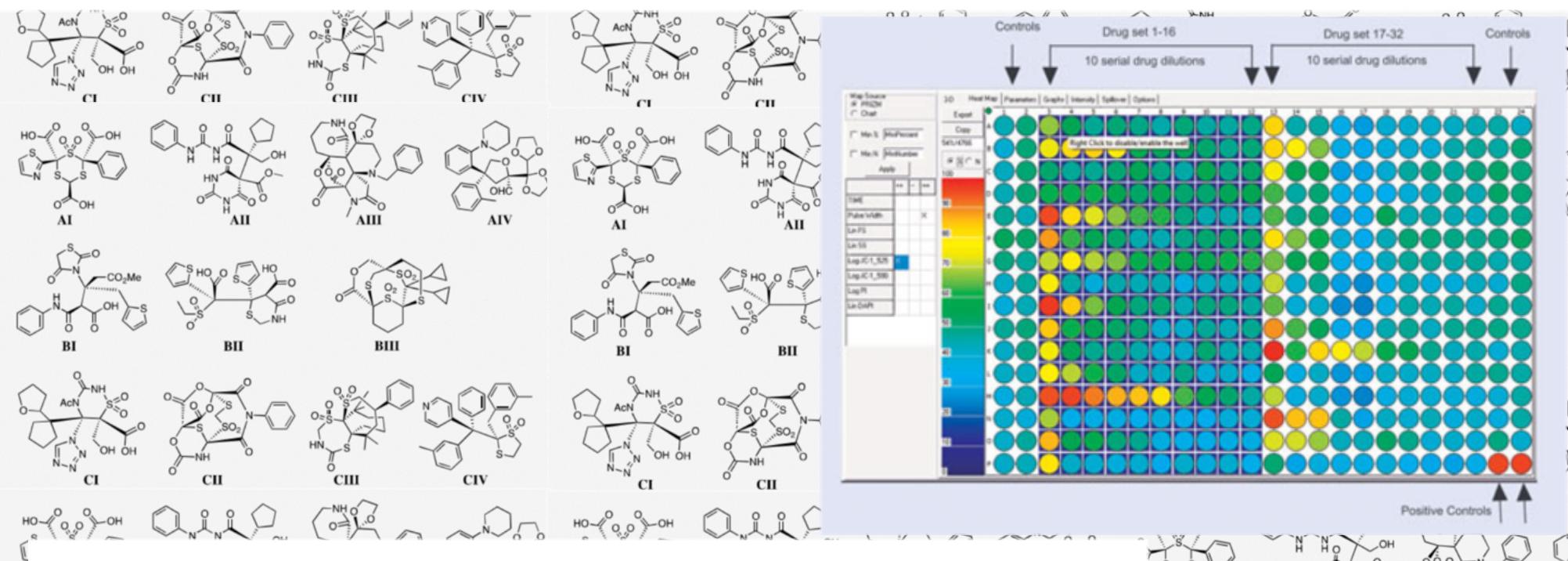
# “Needle screens” of selected bioactive molecules: fast track to the clinical candidate



## Bioactive Screening Libraries

Our ready-to-use **MedChemExpress (MCE)** compound libraries consist of over 4000 small molecules with validated biological and pharmacological activities. They are available for **high-throughput screening (HTS)** and **high-content screening (HCS)**. Compound libraries are useful professional tools for drug discovery and new indication research.

- Safety and effectiveness have been confirmed by literature, patent reports and clinical research. Many products are FDA-approved.



 **National Institutes of Health**  
Turning Discovery Into Health

 **DANA-FARBER**  
CANCER INSTITUTE

 **BROAD**  
INSTITUTE

 **Karolinska**  
Institutet

 **HARVARD**  
UNIVERSITY

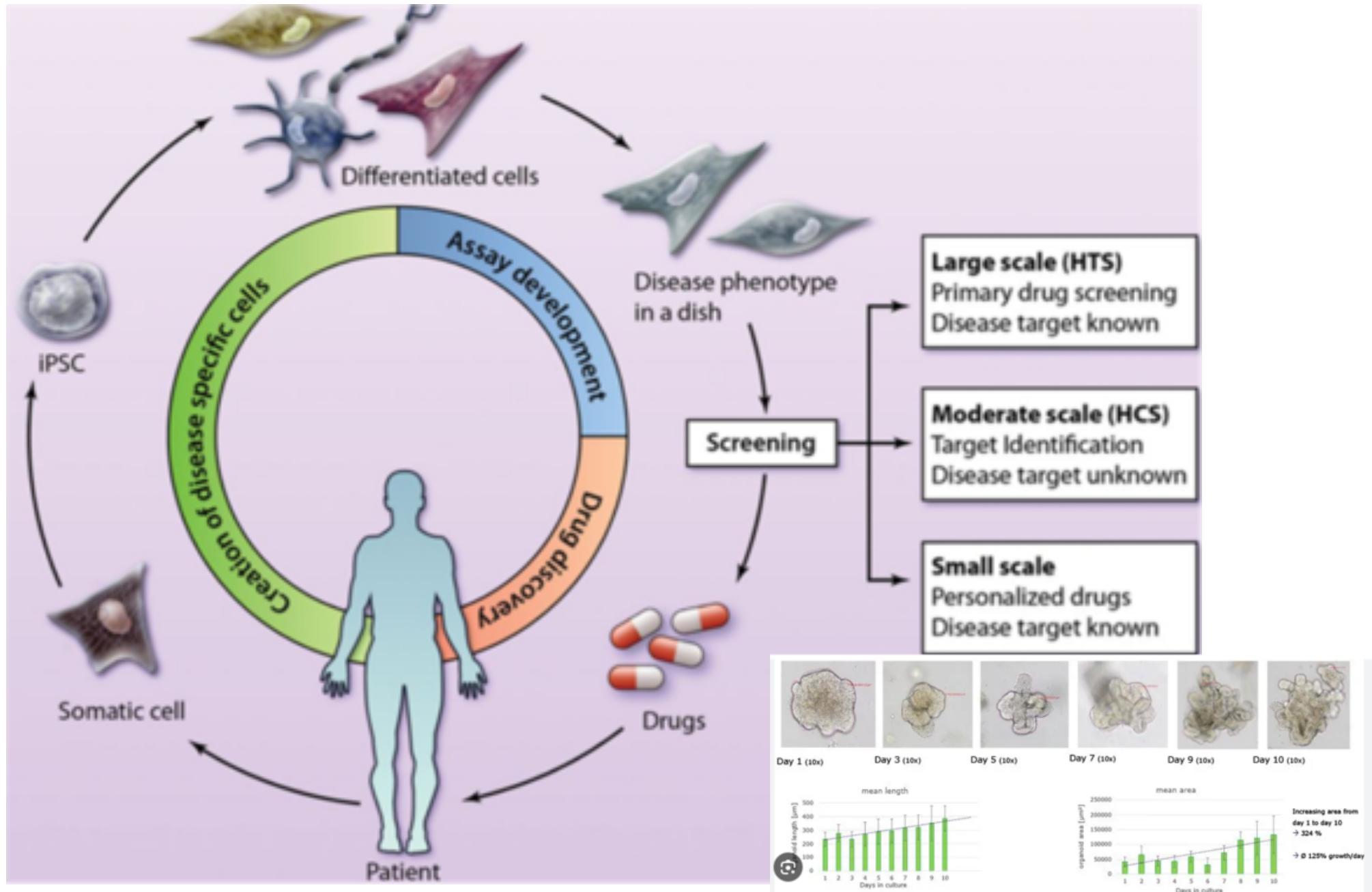
 **Northwestern**  
University

 **Takeda**

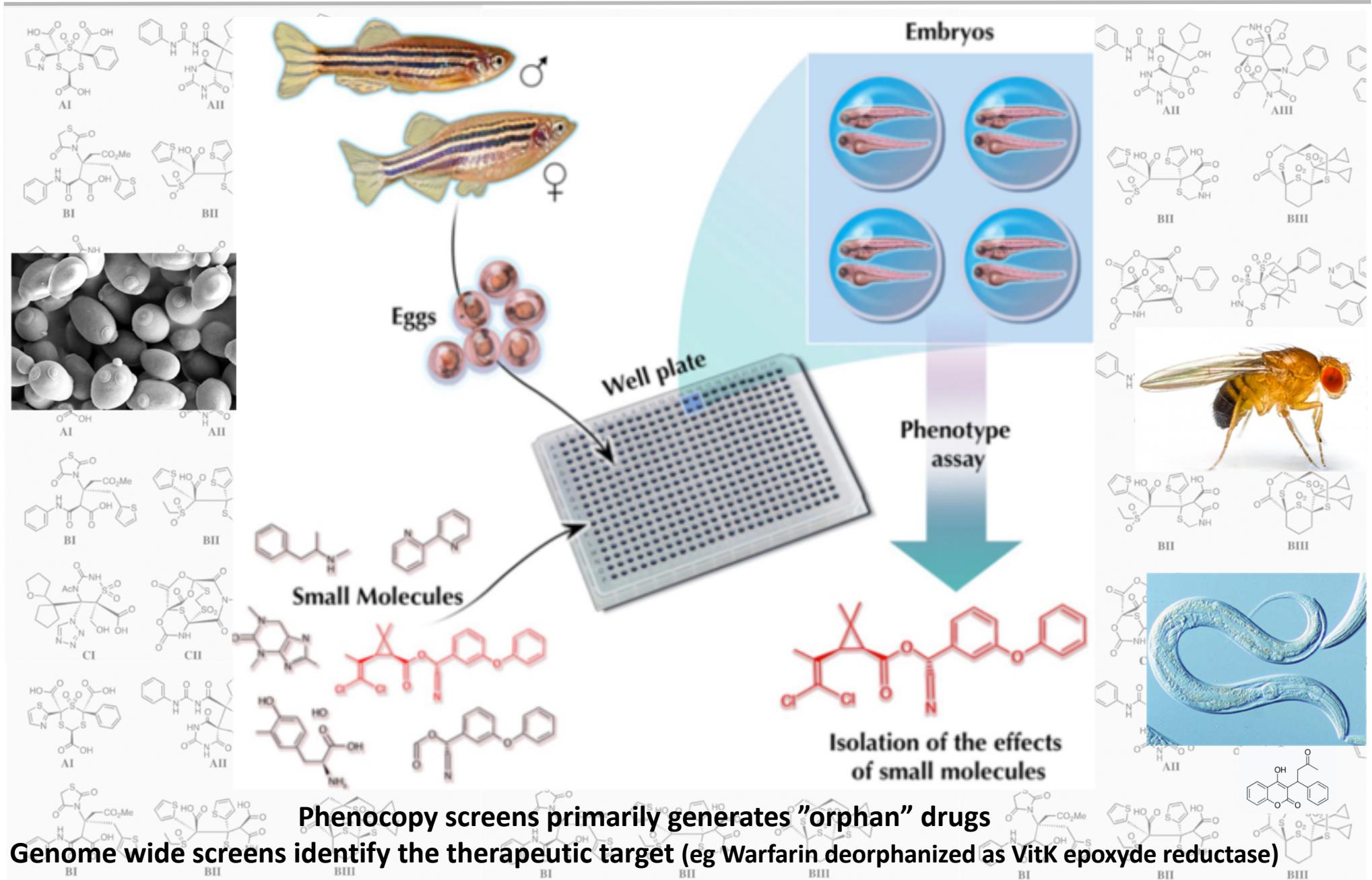
 **Tsinghua**  
University

 **PEKING**  
UNIVERSITY

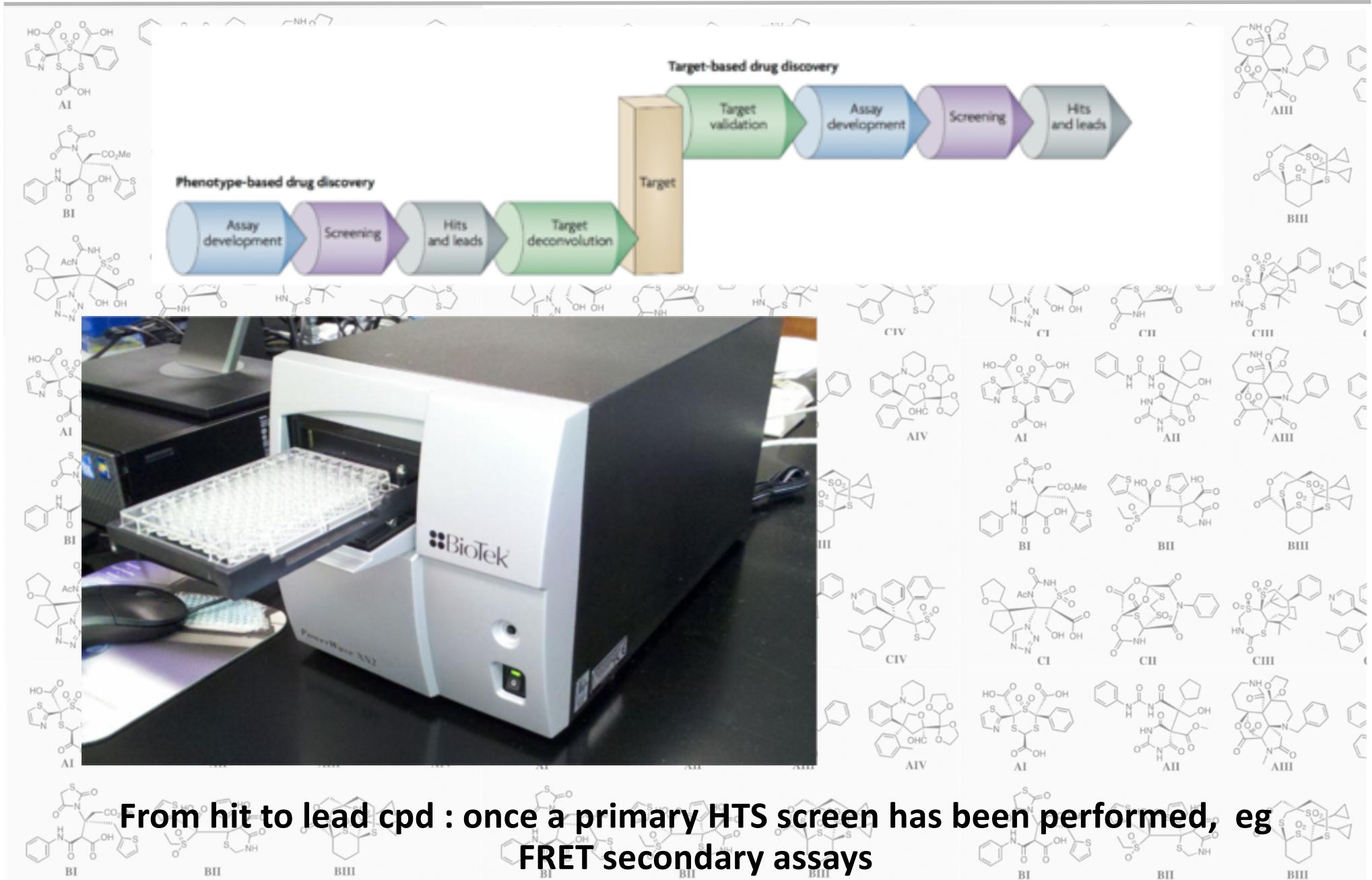
# The Making Of An Innovative Medicine: iPSC in translational research



Any robust biological readout may serve as HTS :  
**PHENOCOPY SCREENS**, eg *Danio rerio*, *D. mel*, *C. elegans*, *S. cerevisiae* etc



# Phenocopy vs target based cpd screens



# Benchtop low throughput screening LTS assays: confirmation of first HTS hits (secondary assays)

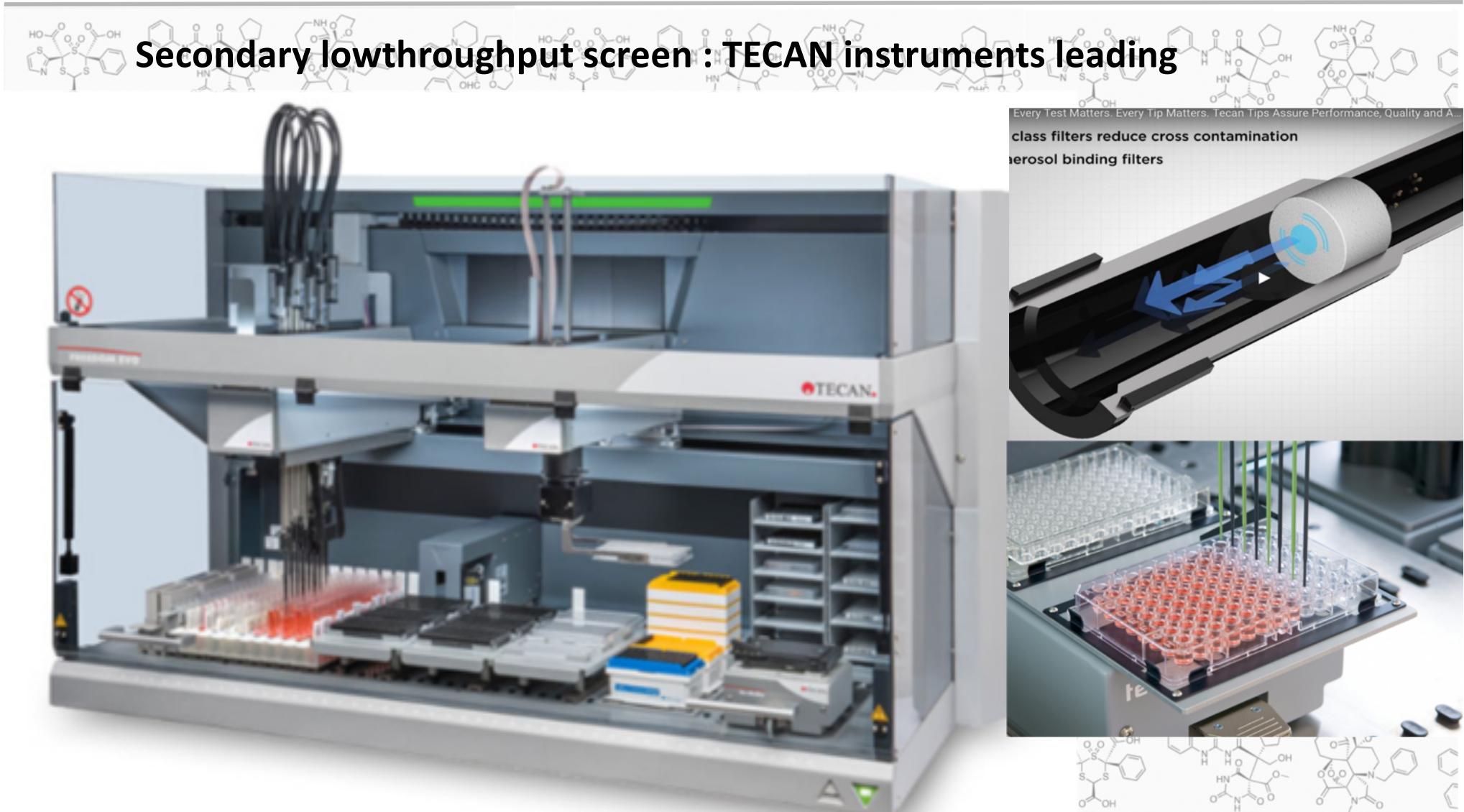
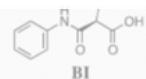
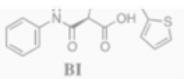


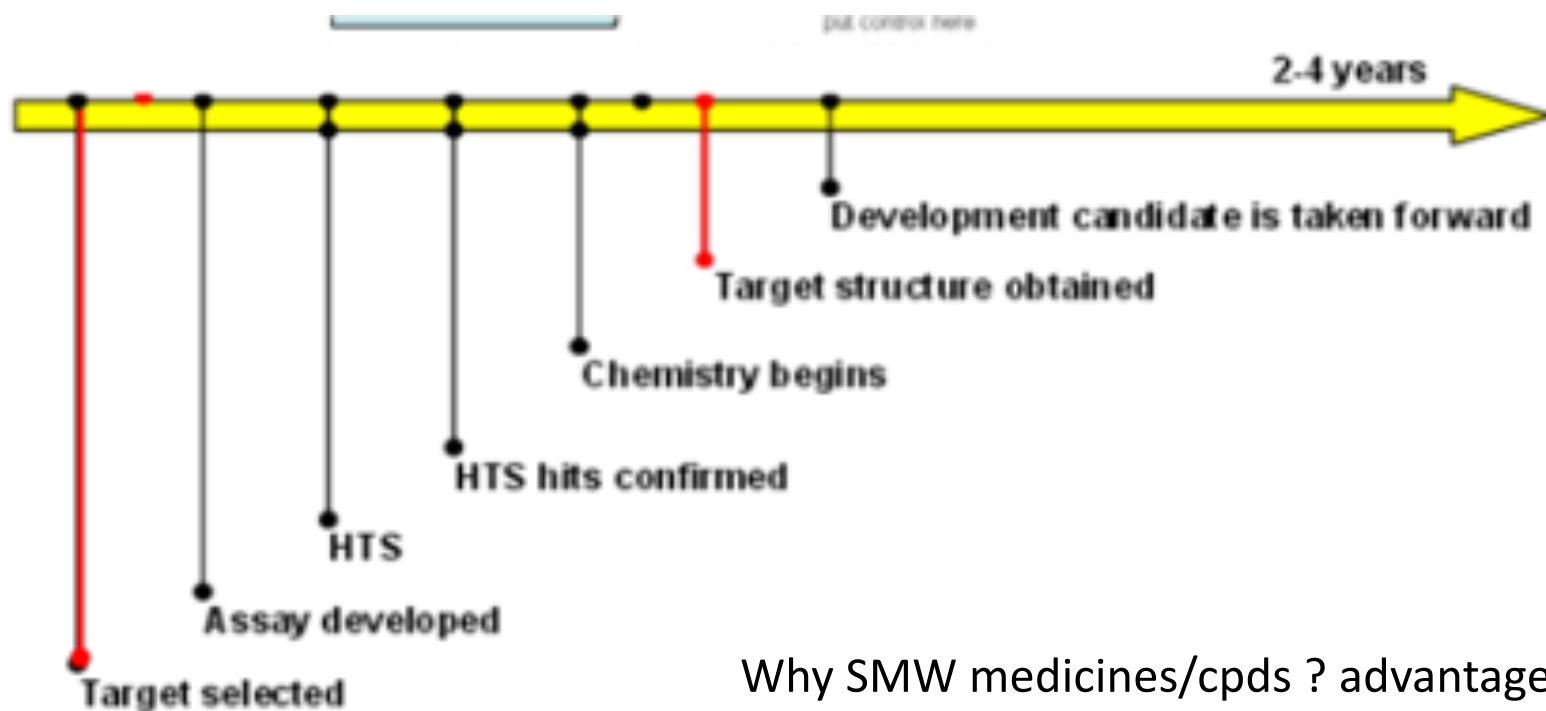
Table top precision liquid handling robotics once  
a primary “first hit” cpd has been selected



## From HTS hits to lead cpd and clinical candidate identified



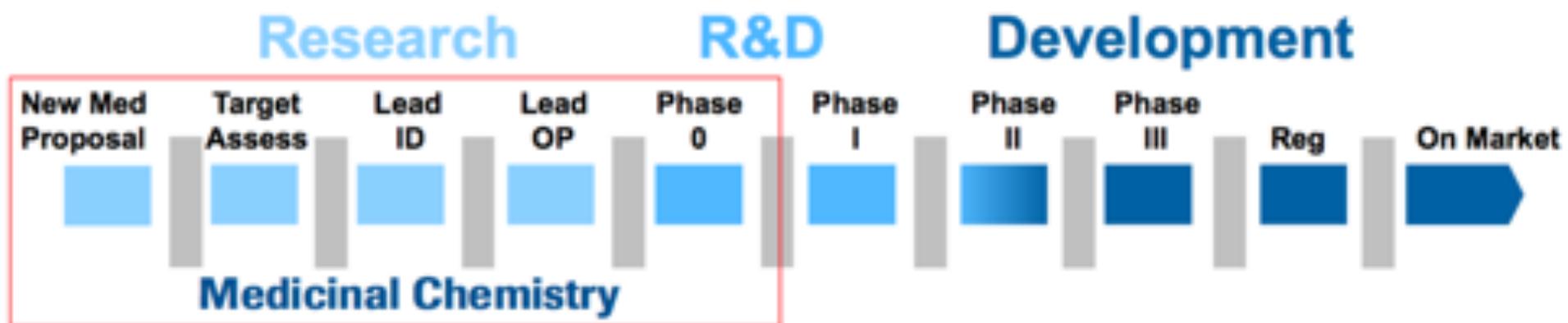
On average you are likely to take 15,000 SMW pills during the course of your life time !



Why SMW medicines/cpds ? advantages, cost of goods etc ! from ancient herbal medicine to modern chemotherapies, HAART etc !



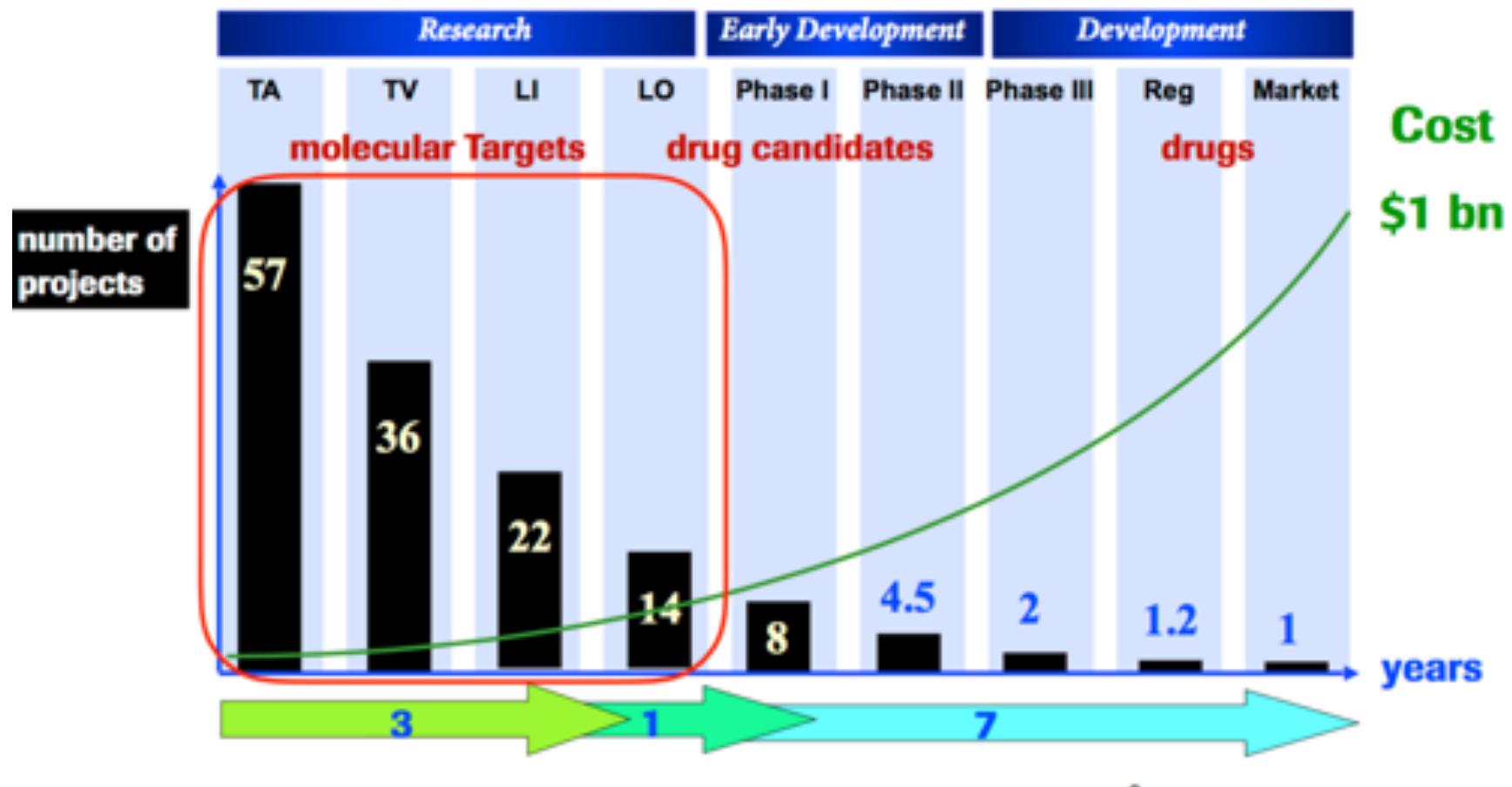
## *Medicinal Chemistry Strategy*



How to reduce pre-screening costs ? \$\$\$



## Compound optimisation is faced with attrition



Medicinal chemistry has high attrition – fail fast, fail early, fail cheap!

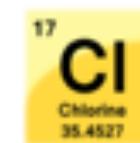
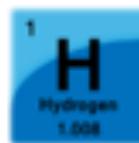
# medicinal chemistry driven drug design : which one is the good one ?



## The 'chemistry' in Medicinal Chemistry

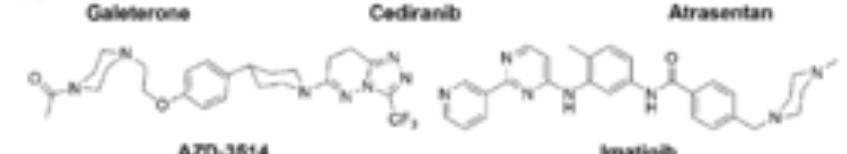
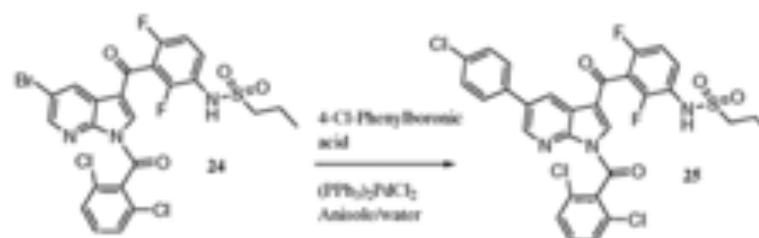
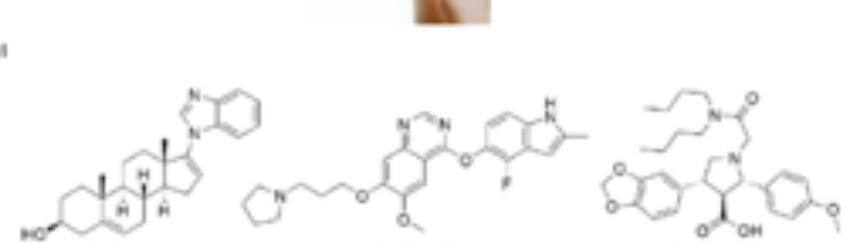
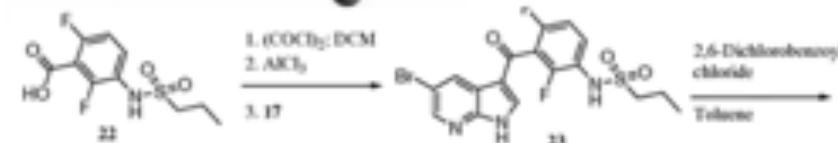
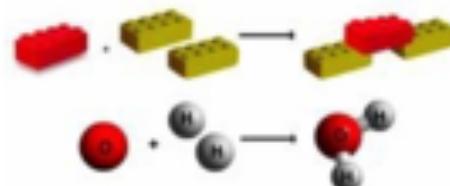
Chemistry basics in 30 seconds:

Atoms:

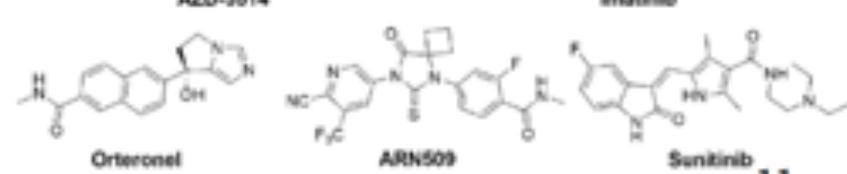
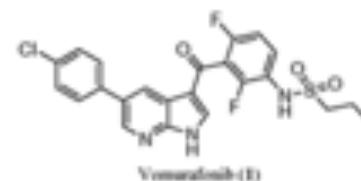


$10^{60}$   
theoretically  
possible  
molecules

Atoms to molecules:



Ammonia/MeOH  
DMA



11

We would have to make lot of molecules – how do we know which one's to make and test?

# MedChem : impact on clinical practice : HAART



1981 Discovery of HIV, shortly after monotherapy of AIDS patients on AZT

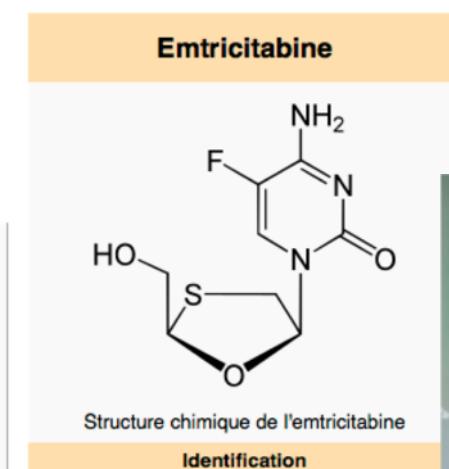
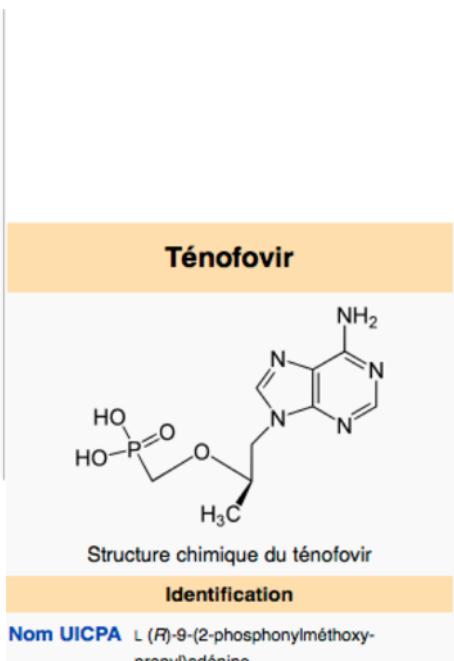
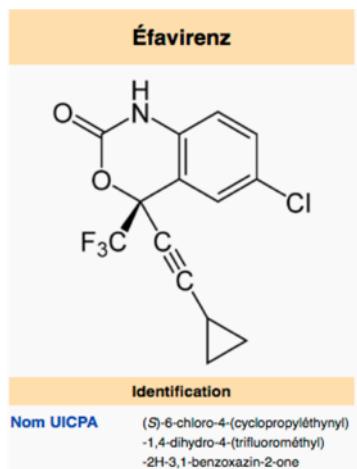
1982-1990 Monotherapies proved ineffective, due to HIV's ability to develop resistance to single drug treatments. death toll still massive

1995 Development of HIV drug cocktails was introduced and is known today as HAART for **HIGHLY ACTIVE ANTI RETROVIRAL THERAPY**

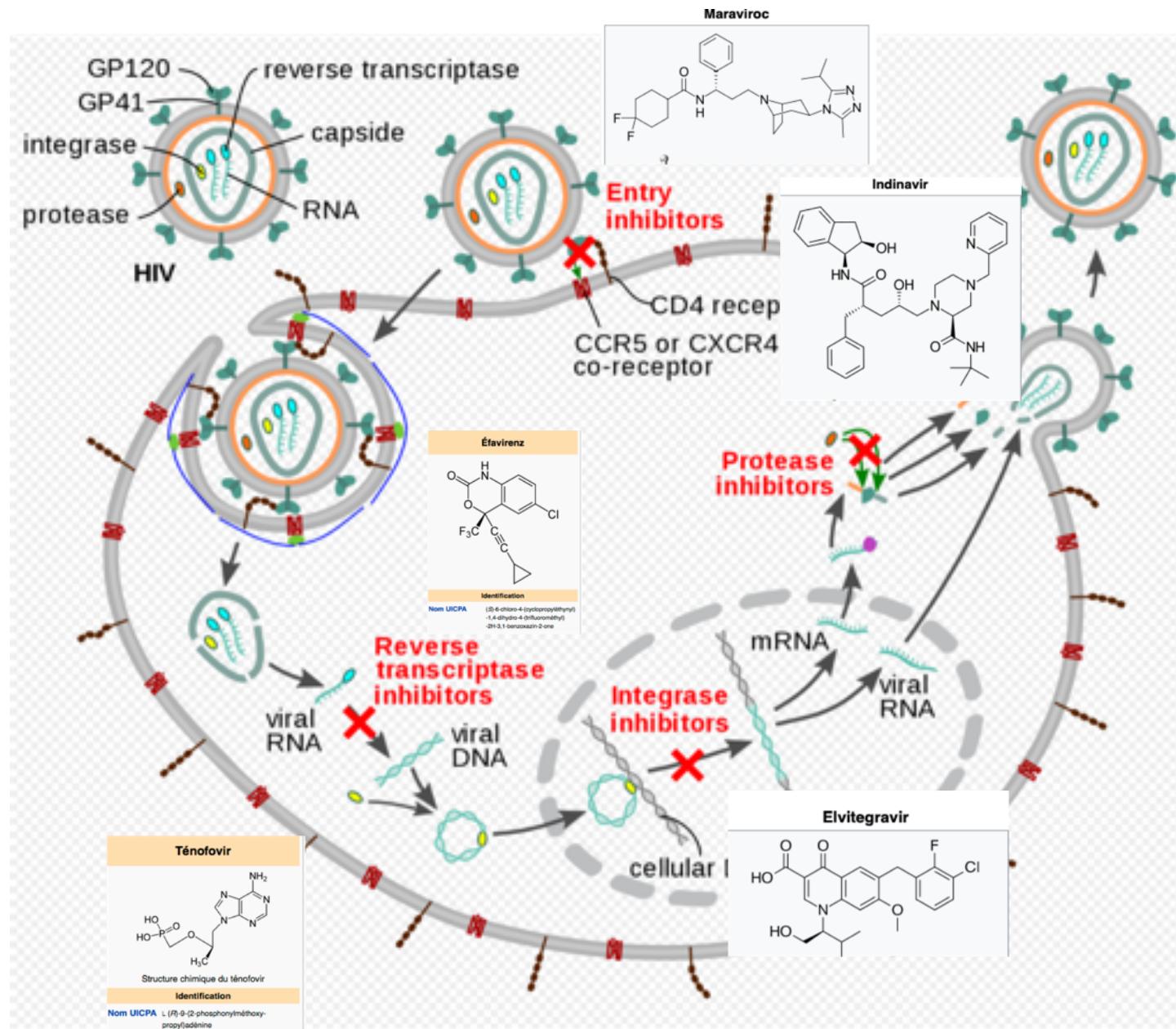


Diana shakes hands with an unidentified AIDS patient on April 19, 1987. John Redman/AP

AIDS patients experience a long life expectancy in seropositivity THANKS TO ESSENTIALLY only 3 PILLS A DAY ( yesterday patients swallowed « the entire pharmacy » )



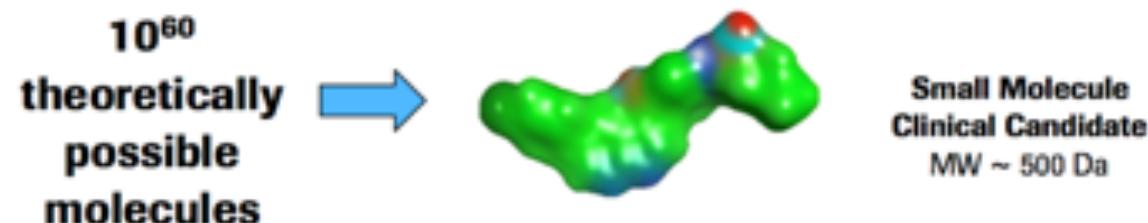
## MedChem : impact on clinical practice : HAART



# Medicinal chemistry : cryo EM allows prediction of enzyme function and medicinal chemistry driven drug design



## How can we know which compounds to make? The power of an optimal DSTA cycle!

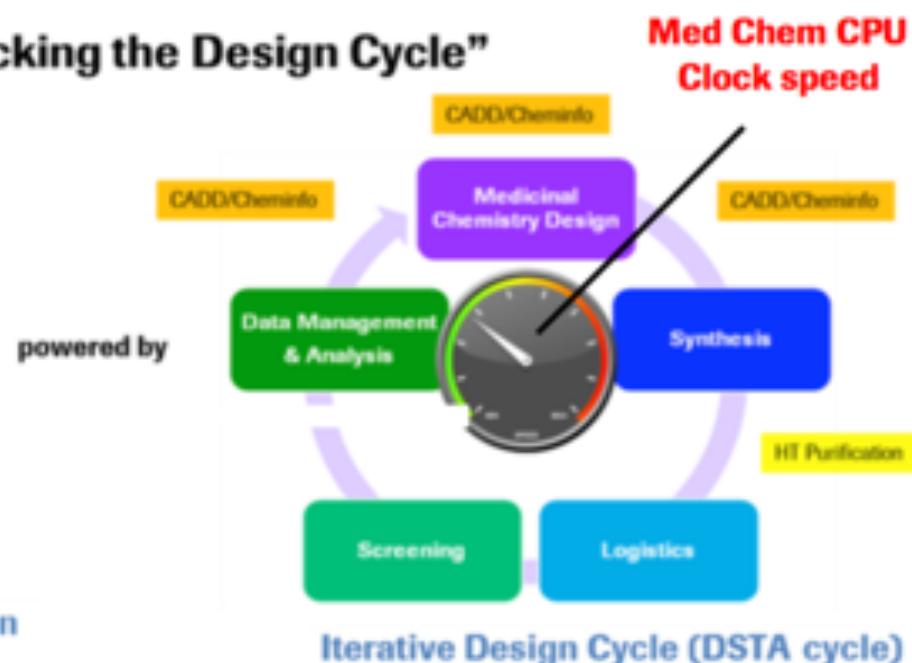


### Med Chem Design Quality and Speed

#### “Overclocking the Design Cycle”



Data driven predictive drug design  
by medicinal chemist

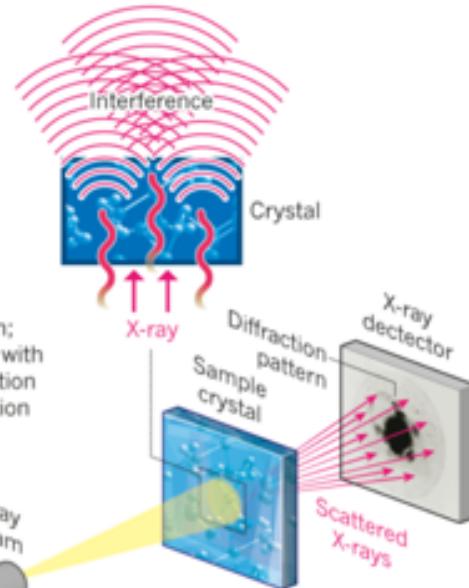


# Medicinal chemistry : cryo EM allows prediction of enzyme function and medicinal chemistry driven drug design



## STRUCTURE SOLVERS

X-ray crystallography has long been the dominant method for deducing high-resolution protein structures, but cryo-electron microscopy is catching up.



### X-RAY CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

X-rays scatter as they pass through a crystallized protein; the resulting waves interfere with each other, creating a diffraction pattern from which the position of atoms is deduced.



### CRYO-ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

A beam of electron is fired at a frozen protein solution. The emerging scattered electrons pass through a lens to create a magnified image on the detector, from which their structure can be worked out.

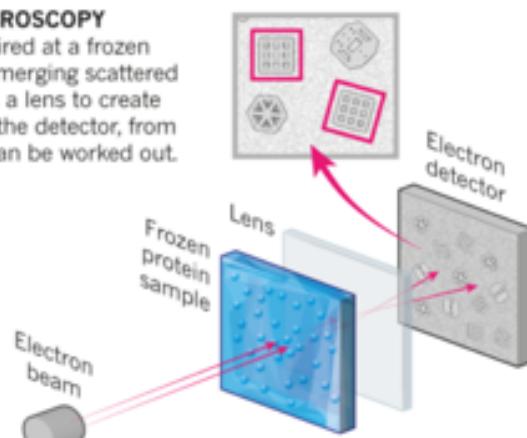
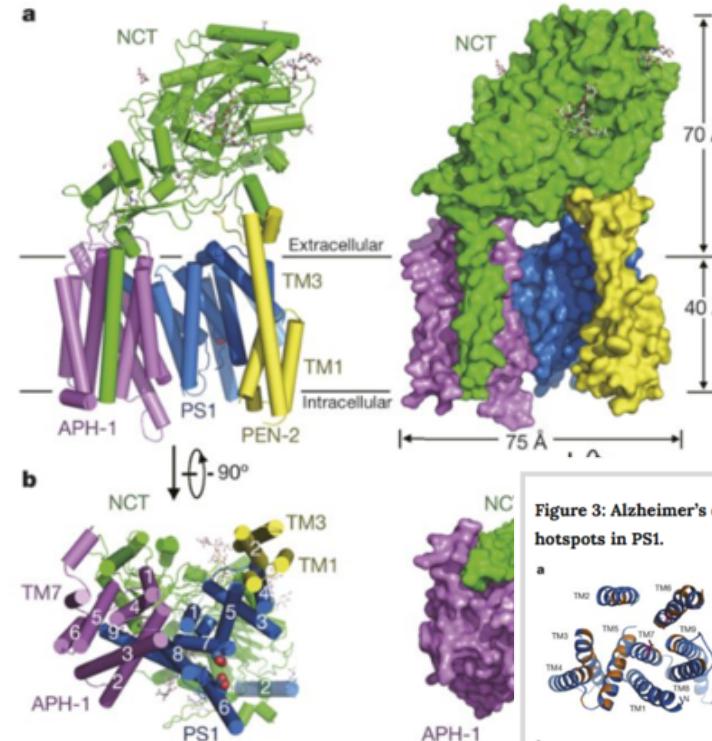
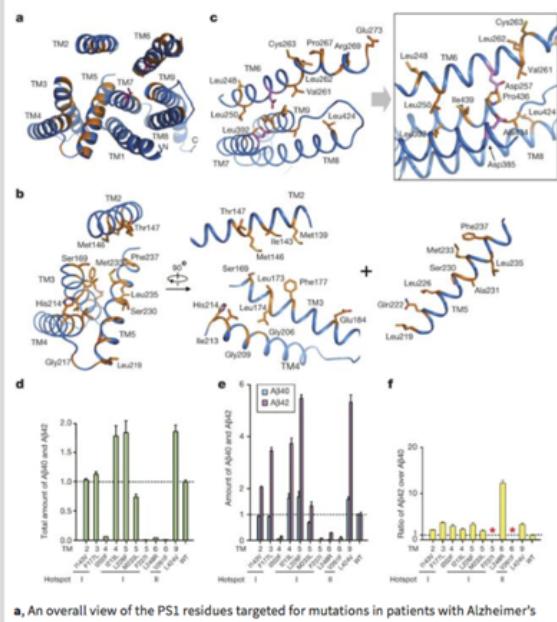


Figure 1: Atomic structure of human  $\gamma$ -secretase.



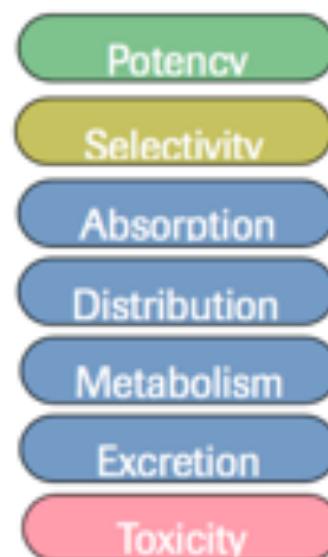
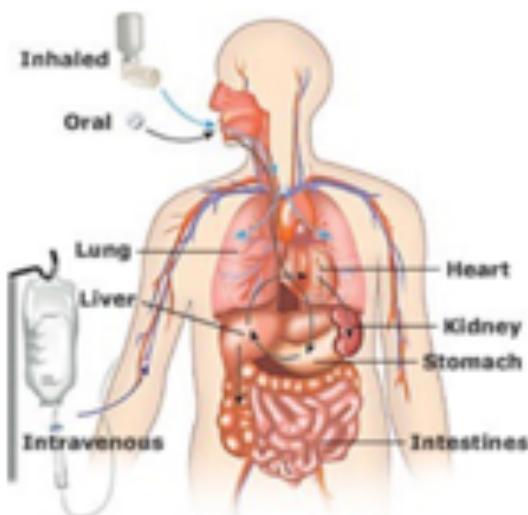
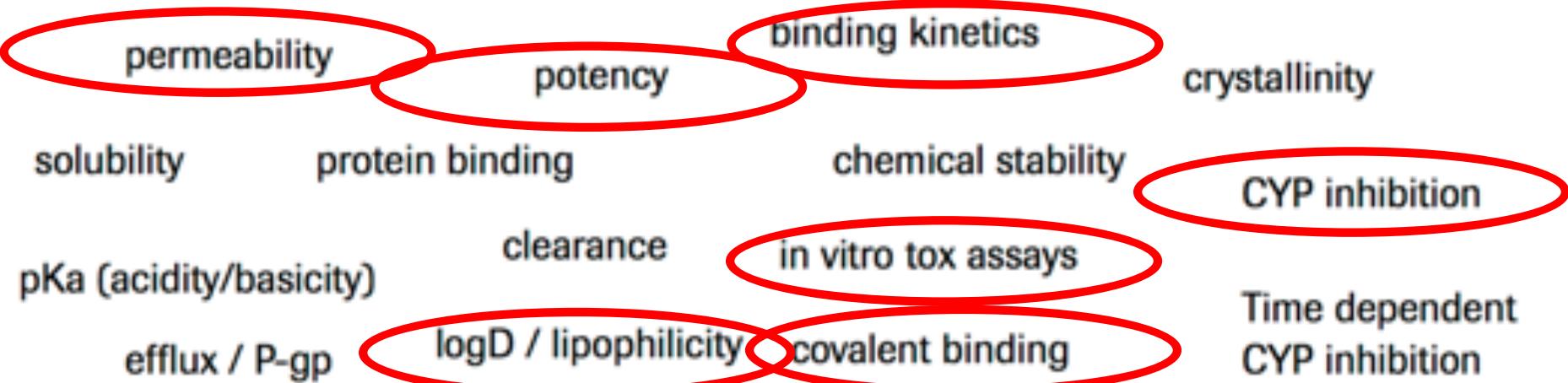
a, The  $\gamma$ -secretase structure is shown in cartoon representation (

Figure 3: Alzheimer's disease-derived mutations map to two hotspots in PS1.



Bai XC. 2015 Nature 535:212-217

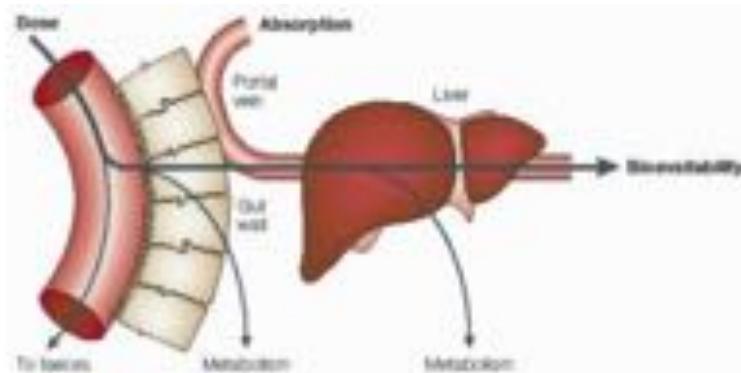
# MDO : parallel Multiple Drug Optimization





## *MDO simplified (drug likeliness or Pfizer's rules)*

- Solubility
- Lipophilicity (clogP) octanol water partition <5)
- Number of H donors (<5)
- Number of H acceptors (<10)
- Molecular weight (generally <500 Da)
- Permeability (PAMPA assay)
- CYP450s screen (eg. adverse drug metabolites)
- Metabolic stability (PK, PD, ADME)
- Cardiac ion channels (hERG, “torsade de pointes”)
- CEREP screens, kinase panels, GPCR panels



C.A. Lipinski et al. *Adv. Drug. Delivery Reviews* 23 (1997) 3.  
7th lecture

Modern Methods in Drug Discovery WS08/09





## Medicinal chemistry : what properties a drug need to have ?

DRUG DISCOVERY

P. Leeson. 2012. Nature 481:455-456

# Chemical beauty contest

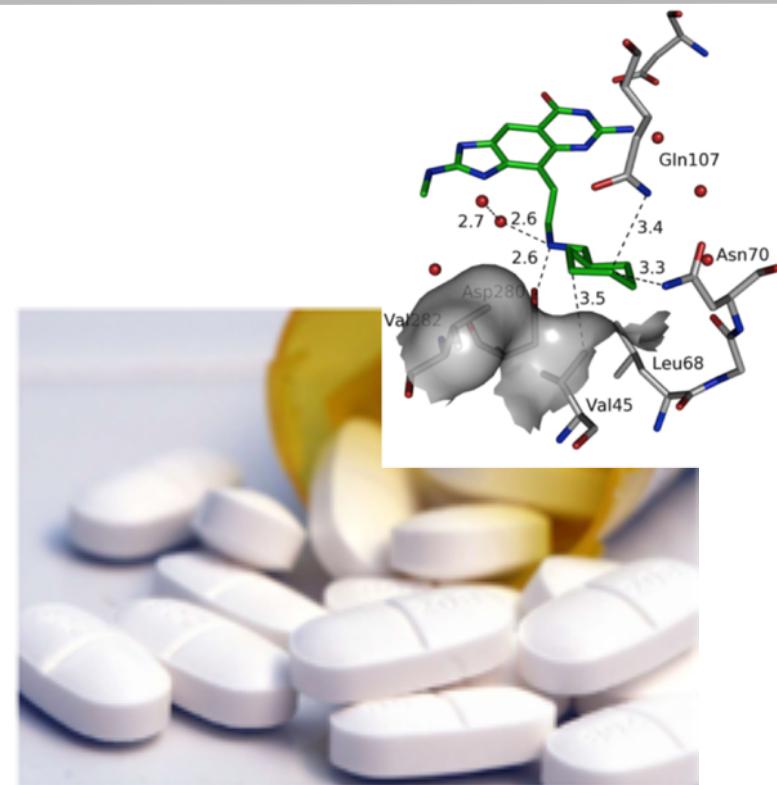
Most drug candidates fail clinical trials, in many cases because the compounds have less than optimal physico-chemical properties. A new method for assessing the ‘drug-likeness’ of compounds might help to remedy the situation.

- MedChem has still a bright future even with the advent of many other therapeutic modalities (MAB, RNA, DNA etc).
- Drug candidates are developed from the optimization of “lead” molecules (SAR) – selectivity versus off target (safety)– pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics – large production – cost of goods - manufacture
- Like all rules in biomedical research, Lipinski rules can be misleading (some cpd may pass through and dwell toxic in clinical trials, some excellent potential medicines may fail because of one criteria was not satisfied (eg high cLogP)

# Medicinal chemistry : what properties a drug need to have ?



- **Activity on biological target & mechanism of action:** < 10 nM
- **Selectivity versus off-targets:** highly selective or designed polypharmacology
- **Molecular Properties:** highly soluble & permeable, low MW, etc
- **Pharmacokinetics / ADME:** consistent with once a day dosing
- **Pharmacodynamics:** strong PD effect
- **Safety / Toxicities:** no serious adverse events
- **CMC/Chemistry, Manufacturing & Control:** short synthesis and low cost to produce





### BOX1

# The Lipinski rule of five

The medicinal chemist Christopher Lipinski and his colleagues analysed<sup>2</sup> the physico-chemical properties of more than 2,000 drugs and candidate drugs in clinical trials, and concluded that a compound is more likely to be membrane permeable and easily absorbed by the body if it matches the following criteria:

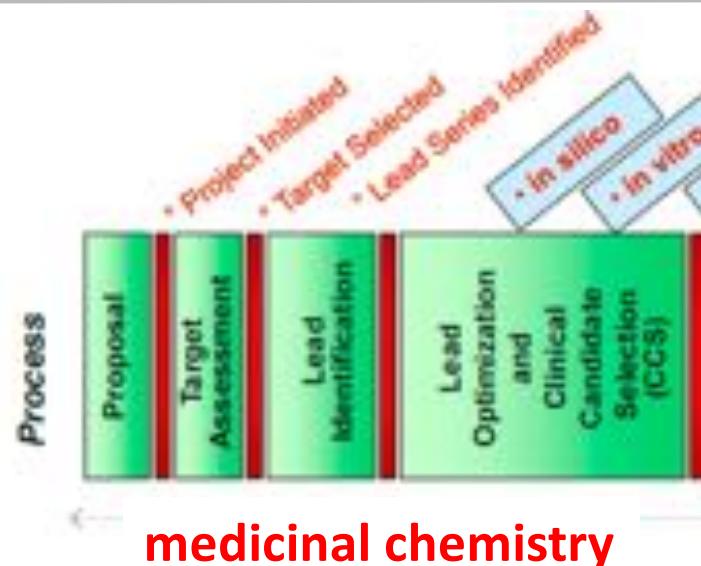
- Its molecular weight is less than 500.
- The compound's lipophilicity, expressed as a quantity known as  $\log P$  (the logarithm of the partition coefficient between water and 1-octanol), is less than 5.
- The number of groups in the molecule that can donate hydrogen atoms to hydrogen bonds (usually the sum of hydroxyl and amine groups in a drug

molecule) is less than 5.

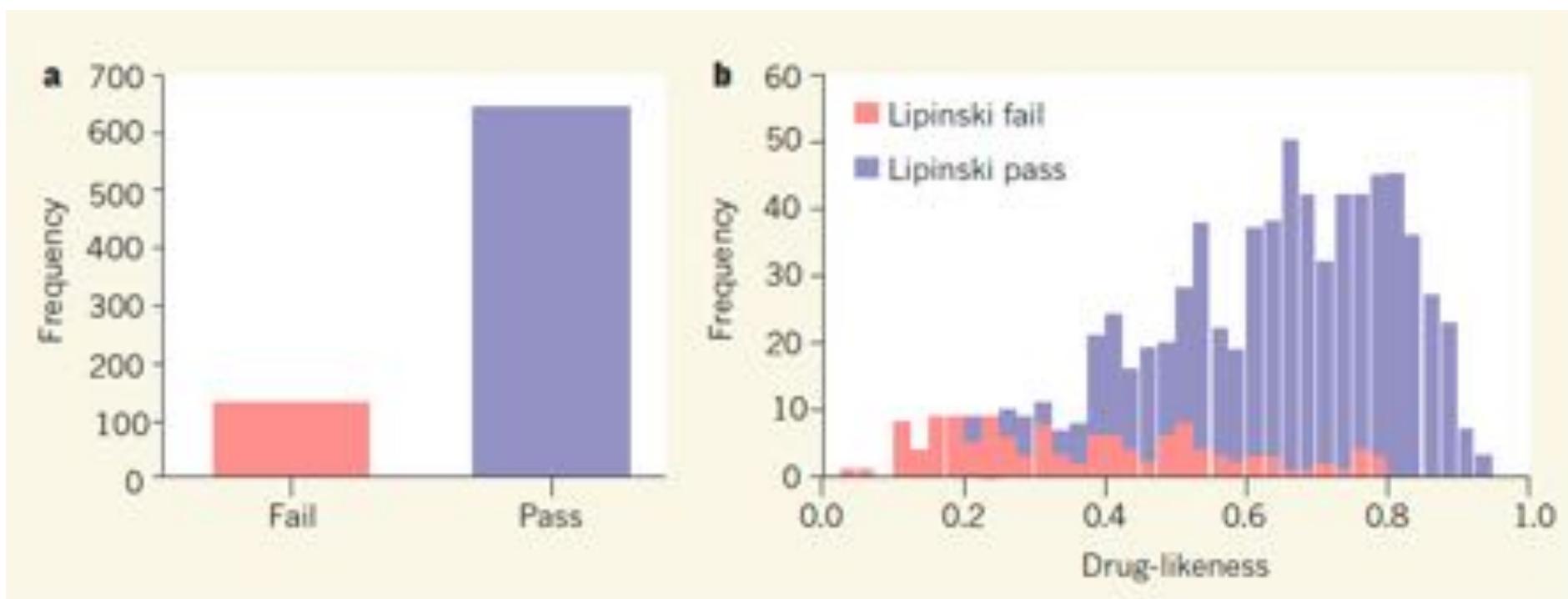
- The number of groups that can accept hydrogen atoms to form hydrogen bonds (estimated by the sum of oxygen and nitrogen atoms) is less than 10.

The rules, based on the 90-percentile values of the drugs' property distributions, apply only to absorption by passive diffusion of compounds through cell membranes; compounds that are actively transported through cell membranes by transporter proteins are exceptions to the rule. Due in no small part to their simplicity, the Lipinski criteria are widely used by medicinal chemists to predict not only the absorption of compounds, as Lipinski originally intended, but also overall drug-likeness.

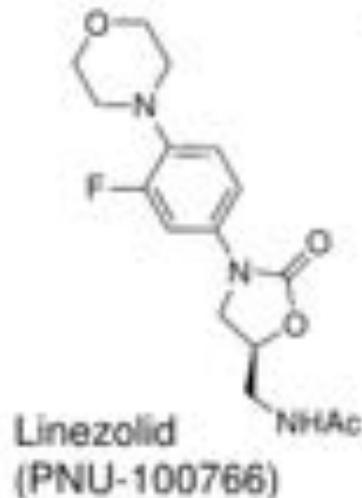
## «Pfizer's» rules or «rule of five»



Physico chemical criteria such as those defined by the “rule of five” are used to predict whether a cpd is drug like or not



# Medicinal chemistry : drug like compounds



## Drug-like compounds (Lipinski's rule)

- Not more than 5 hydrogen bond donors : 1
- Not more than 10 hydrogen bond acceptors : 6 (8)
- A molecular weight under 500 daltons : 337
- A partition coefficient logP less than 5 : 0.9
- Number of atoms from 20 to 70 : 44
- Number of rotatable bonds less than 10 : 5
- Polar surface area (PSA) less than 140 : 91

## Computed Properties - Chem3D Properties Broker

Good solubility : 3.7 mg/mL in pH 7 phosphate buffer

The oral bioavailability : 100% (rapid and complete absorption)

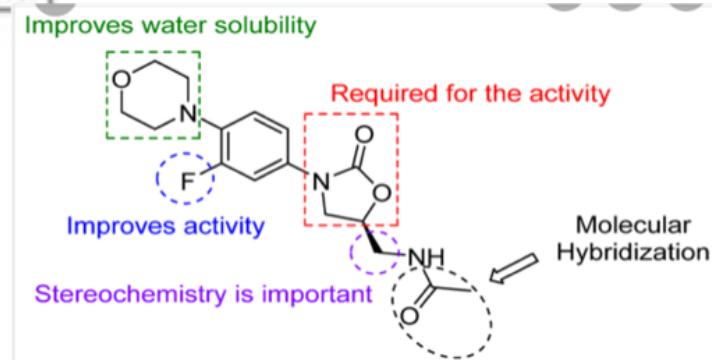
The excretion : 20–30% of the dose found in the urine as the parent drug

Has been approved by the FDA in 2000 under the trade name Zyvox

Ford, C. W.; Zurenko, G. E.; Barbachyn, M. R. *Cur. Drug Targets* 2001, 1, 181-199



Used to be a “last resort” antibacterial  
**Oxazolidinone** -Linezolid  
(peptidyl transferase center (PTC) blocker)



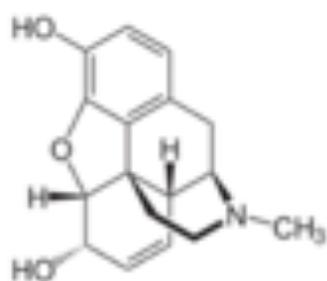
## SAR : eg. from poppy seeds to modern analgesics



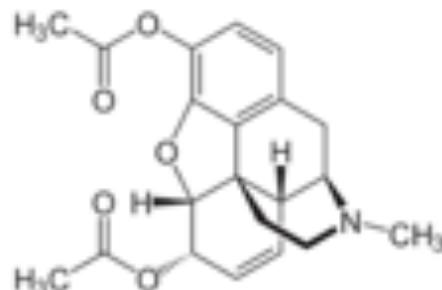
Opium



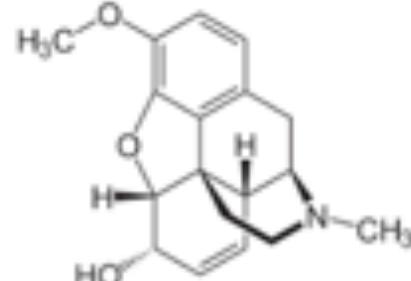
Morphine



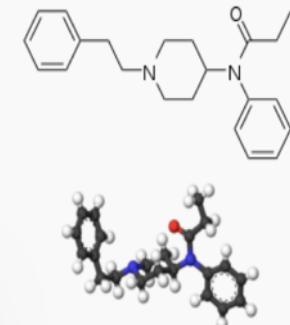
Heroin



Codeine



Fentanyl



strong analgesic  
bioavailability 25%

$\log D=0.04$

2-4x potent vs 1  
better brain penetrant

$\log D=0.93$

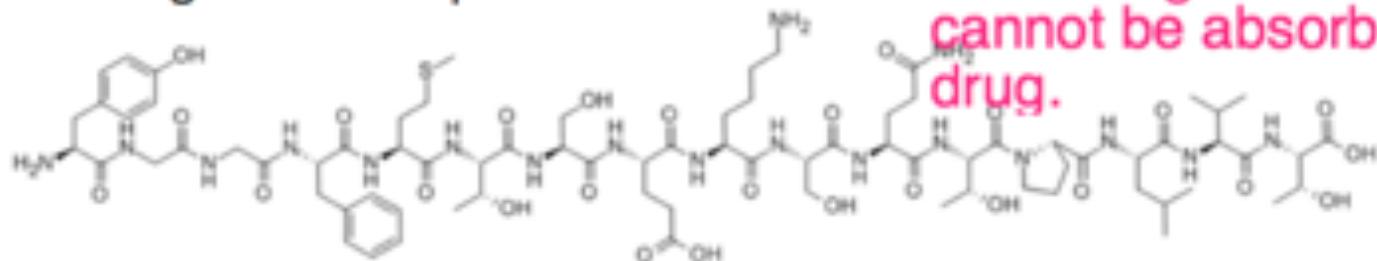
much less potent vs 1  
metabolised to 1  
by CYP2D6

$\log D=0.46$

more potent vs 1  
longer half life  
bioavailability 87%

$\log D=2.37$

Natural ligands: endorphins



such a big molecule  
cannot be absorbed as a  
drug.

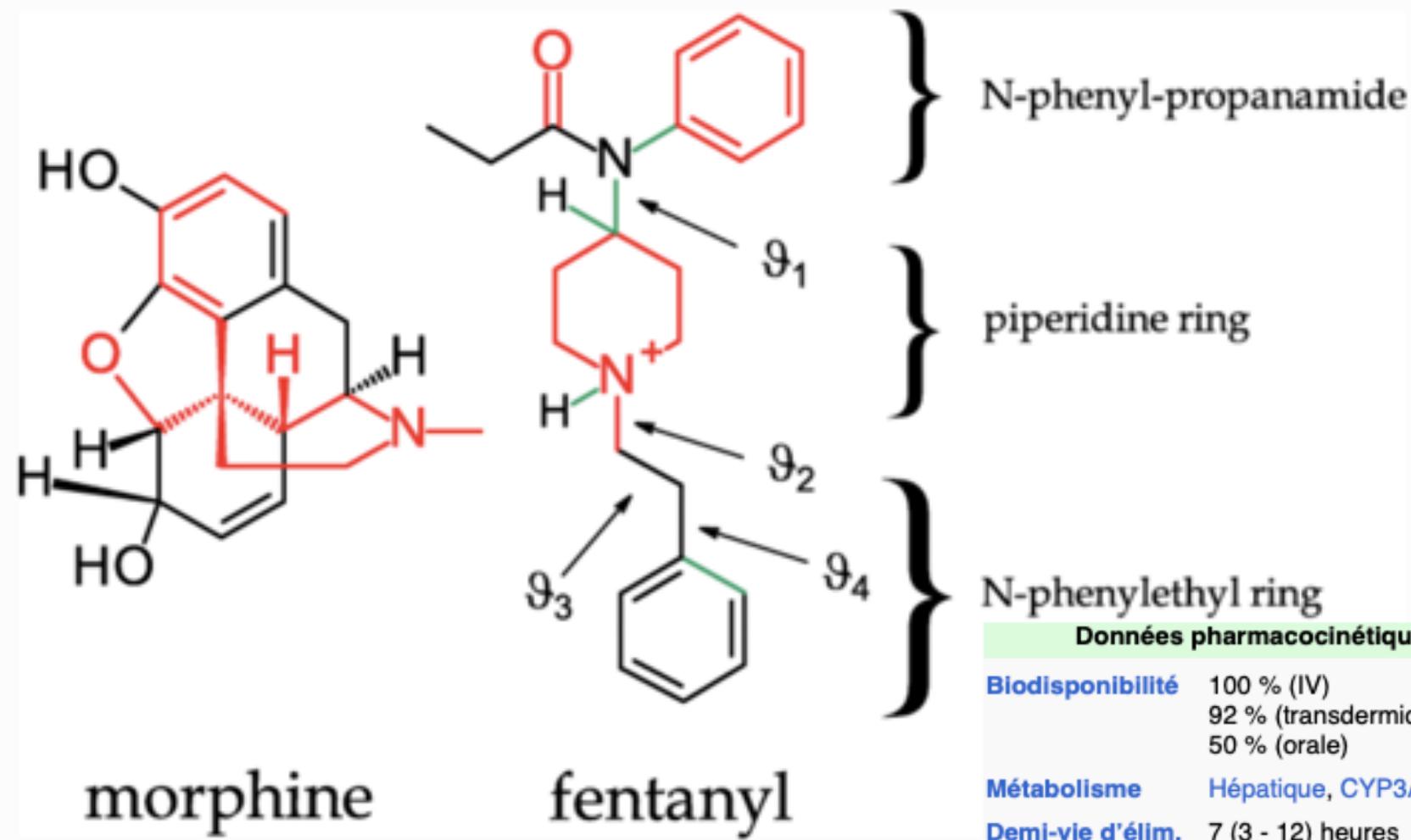
$\mu$ -opioid receptor ( $\mu$ OR) agonists are the most effective medicines in treatment of severe pain

**Structure activity relationships (SAR) and structure property relationships (SPR)**

## SAR : eg. from poppy seeds to modern analgesics



Scheme 1

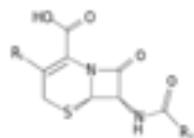


$\mu$ -opioid receptor ( $\mu$ OR) agonists are the most effective medicines in treatment of severe pain

# Medicinal chemistry : antibacterials



	Gram +	Gram -
Cocci	<p><b>Staphylocoque (coccis en amas):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>à coagulase neg</li> <li>aureus</li> </ul> <p><b>Streptocoque (coccis en chaînettes):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pyogenes du groupe A, pneumoniae</li> <li>autres streptocoques : groupe D (bovis)</li> </ul> <p><b>Enterocoques : (diplocoques)</b> enterococcus faecalis (ressemblent aux streptocoques)</p>	<p><b>Nesseria</b> (2 principaux cocci gram -)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>meningitidis (meningocoque)</li> <li>gonorrhoeae</li> </ul> <p><b>Cocco-bacilles (germes en pédiatrie):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moraxella</li> <li>Branhamella catarrhalis</li> </ul>
Bacilles		<p><b>Enterobactéries :</b> E. Coli (ETEC, EPEC, EHEC), Klebsiella, enterobacter, serratia, proteus, salmonella, shigella, yersinia pestis / enterocolitica</p> <p><b>Autres BGN :</b> campylobacter, helicobacter pilon et jejuni, vibrio cholerae, pasteurella, haemophilus influenzae, HACEK (Haemophilus, Actinobacillus, Cardiobacterium, Eikenella, Kingella), bordetella pertussis, legionella (intracellulaire facultatives), morsures griffures : Bartonella henselae, Francisella tularensis (griffe du chat) pseudomonas (a part)</p>

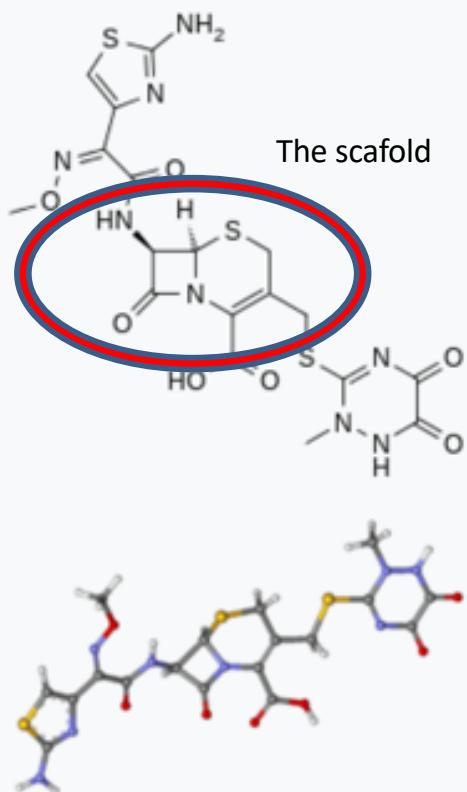


# Medicinal chemistry : the cephalosporin example



	$R_1 =$	$-R_2$					
Cefaclor	$CH_3COOCH_2-$	$-CH_2-CN$					
Cefadrin	$CH_3-$						
Cefixime	$CH_3O-$						
Cefaloglycin	$CH_3COOOC-$						
Cefaclor	$Cl-$						
Cefalexin	$CH_3-$						
Cefadroxil	$CH_3-$						
Cefazolin			imidazole			1,2,4-triazole	1,3,4-oxadiazole
Cefazidime							
Cefazolin			oxazole			thiazole	isothiazole
Cefazidime							
Cefazolin	$CH_3COOCH_2-$						
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Cefazolin		$\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{OH}$					
Cefazidone	$\text{CH}_3-\text{S}-\text{CH}_2-$	$-\text{CH}_2-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{C}_6\text{H}_3(\text{Cl})_2-\text{C}_6\text{H}_3(\text{Cl})_2-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{C}(=\text{O})-$					
Cefazpirin	$\text{CH}_3\text{COOCH}_2-$	$-\text{CH}_2\text{S}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{N}$					
Cefazol		$-\text{CH}_2-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{N}=\text{N}-$					
Cefazolin	$\text{CH}_3-\text{S}-\text{CH}_2-$	$-\text{CH}_2-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{N}=\text{N}-$					
Cefazafur		$-\text{CH}_2\text{S}-\text{CF}_3$					
Cefotin	$\text{CH}_3\text{COOCH}_2-$	$-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_3\text{H}_3-\text{S}$					
Cefotolidin		$-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_3\text{H}_3-\text{S}$					
Cefalonium	$\text{H}_3\text{N}^+-\text{CO}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{N}^+-\text{CH}_2-$	$-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_3\text{H}_3-\text{S}$					

## Ceftriaxone



## The scaffold



### Gonococcal ophtalmia neonatorum

NDC 0004-1963-02

## **Rocephin®**

### (Ceftriaxone for

## Clinical data

### Pronunciation /səftrə'æksoʊn/

**Trade names** Rocephin, Epicephin, others

AHFS/Drugs.com Monograph

Pregnancy category AU: B1  
US: B (No risk in non-human)

studies)

500 mg

**For intramuscular or  
Single-Use Vial**

Each vial contains ce-  
equivalent to 500 mc-

R<sub>only</sub>



500 mg/15 mL  
1 Vial



# Medicinal chemistry : covalent binding medicines time line

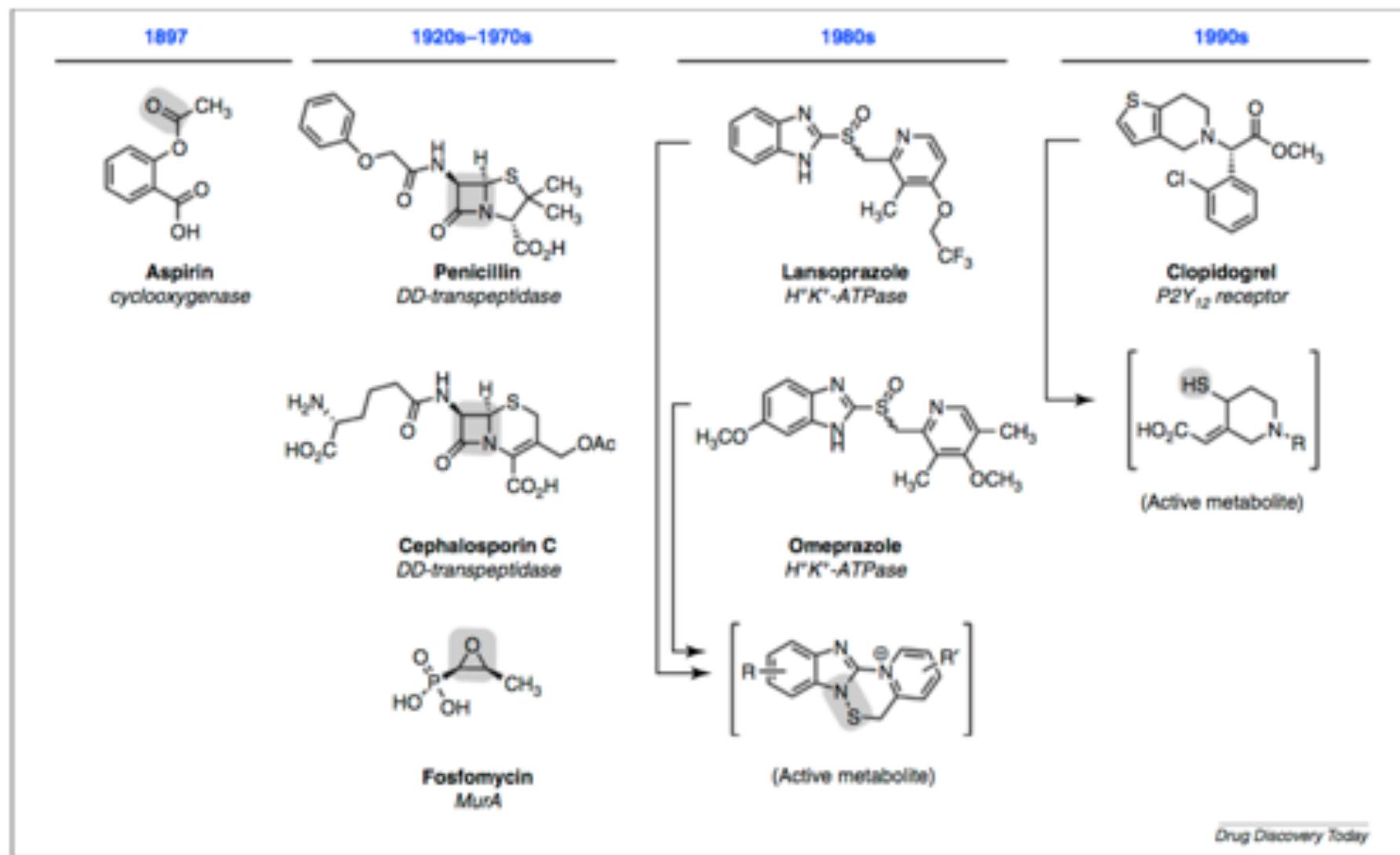


FIGURE 3

Historical examples of approved covalent drugs. Electrophiles are highlighted (sulphydryl, SH, is a pre-electrophile).

# MedChem: covalent binding medicines pros and cons



## BOX 1

### Summary of pros and cons for covalent inhibitors

#### Pros

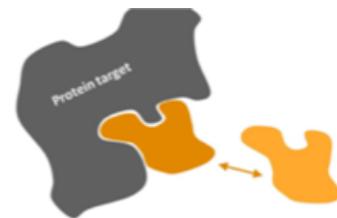
- High biochemical efficiency may translate to lower doses and reduced off-target effects
- Nonequilibrium binding might help to overcome competing endogenous substrate concentrations that bind to the same target site
- Covalent binding might mitigate the development of drug resistance resulting from mutation of a binding site.
- Uncoupled PK/PD and prolonged duration of action can result in less-frequent drug dosing
- Can potentially address targets with shallow, undruggable binding sites

#### Cons

- Potential risk of idiosyncratic toxicity and/or immune-mediated drug hypersensitivity
- Hyper-reactive warheads might lead to other drug-induced toxicity (e.g., hepatotoxicity, mutagenicity, or carcinogenicity)
- Not suitable for mechanisms requiring short residence time, transient or partial inhibition
- Little advantage for biological targets that are rapidly turned over by protein synthesis

#### Reversible inhibitors

Traditional reversible drugs are in equilibrium with their target – continually binding, unbinding, & rebinding



#### Covalent inhibitors

Covalent irreversible drugs bind specifically to a drug target and form a precisely directed, permanent bond with their target

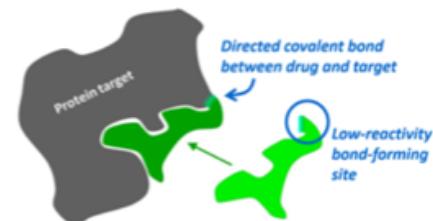
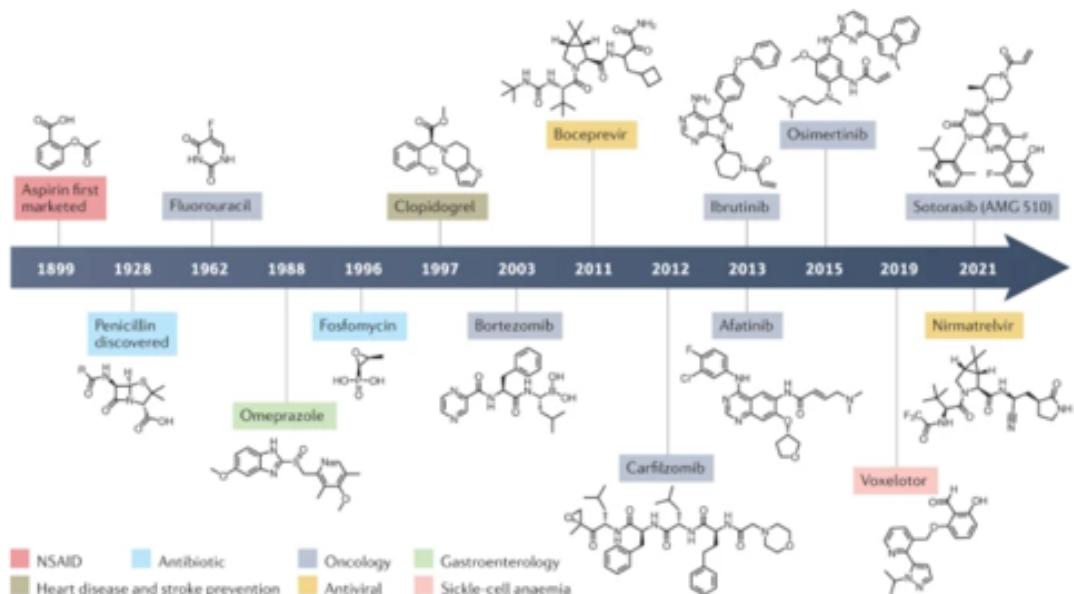


Fig. 1: Timeline of the development of major covalent drugs.



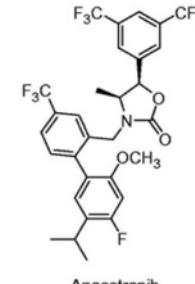
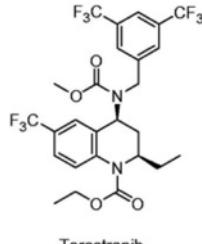
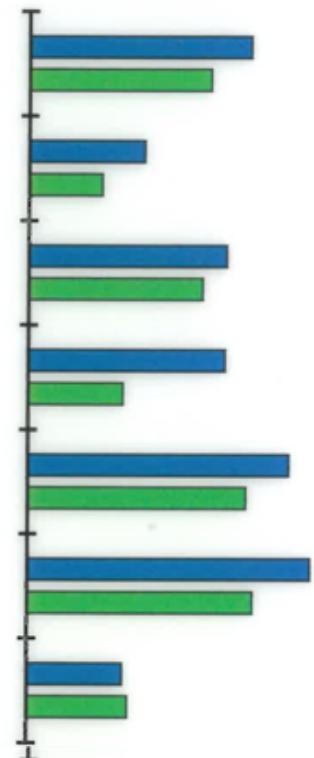
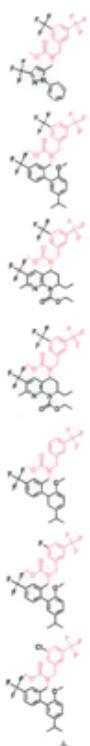
Each covalent drug is classified according to the drug type or type of disease it treats. Unless

1a. Compounds with methyl-(3-trifluoromethyl-benzyl)-carbamic acid methyl ester motif of torcetrapib (IN RED COLOUR) attached to a suitable THQ-replacement

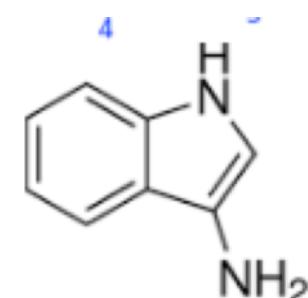
Compound ( $IC_{50}$   $\mu M$ ) Structure

■ Aldosterone ■ CYP11B2

a (>100)

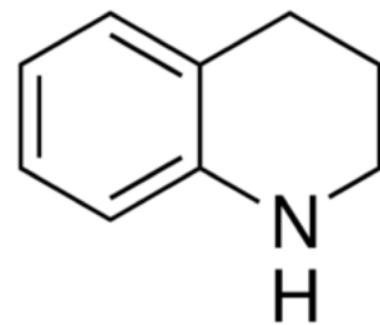


*An example of assay read out and medicinal chemistry MDO*



Indole

Composé organique

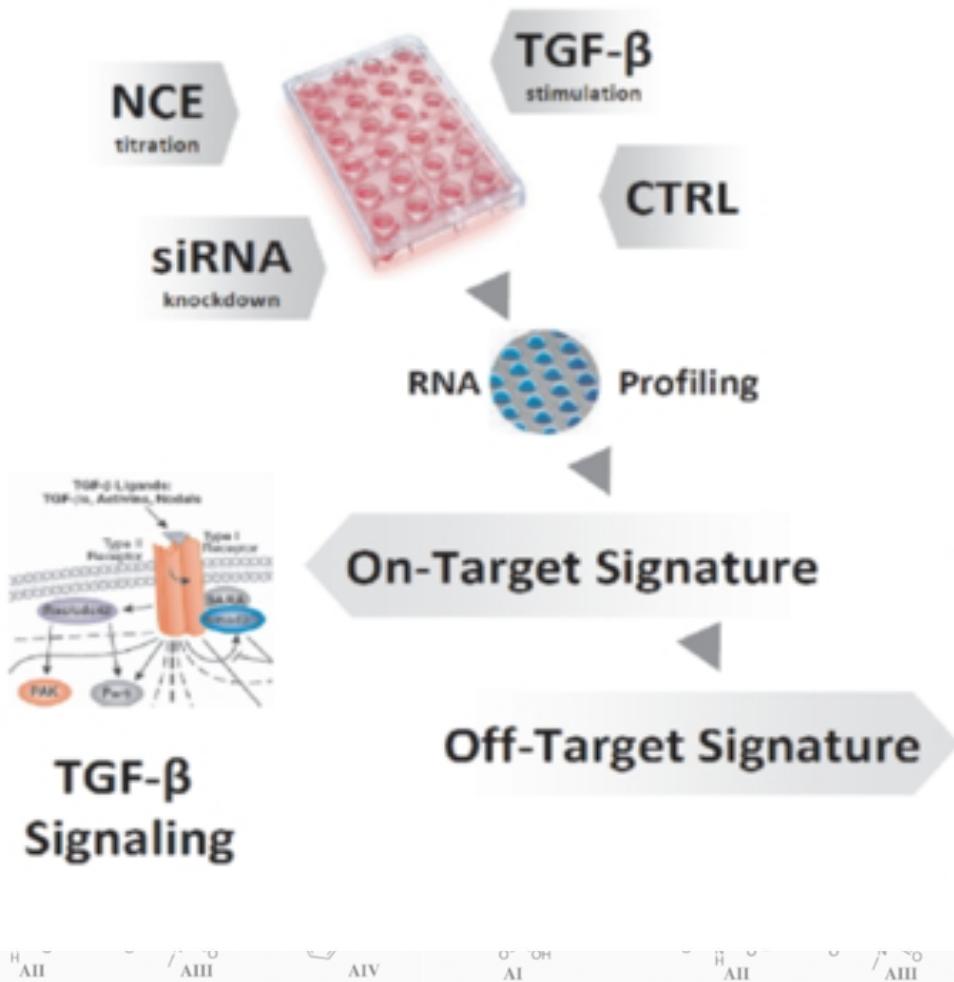
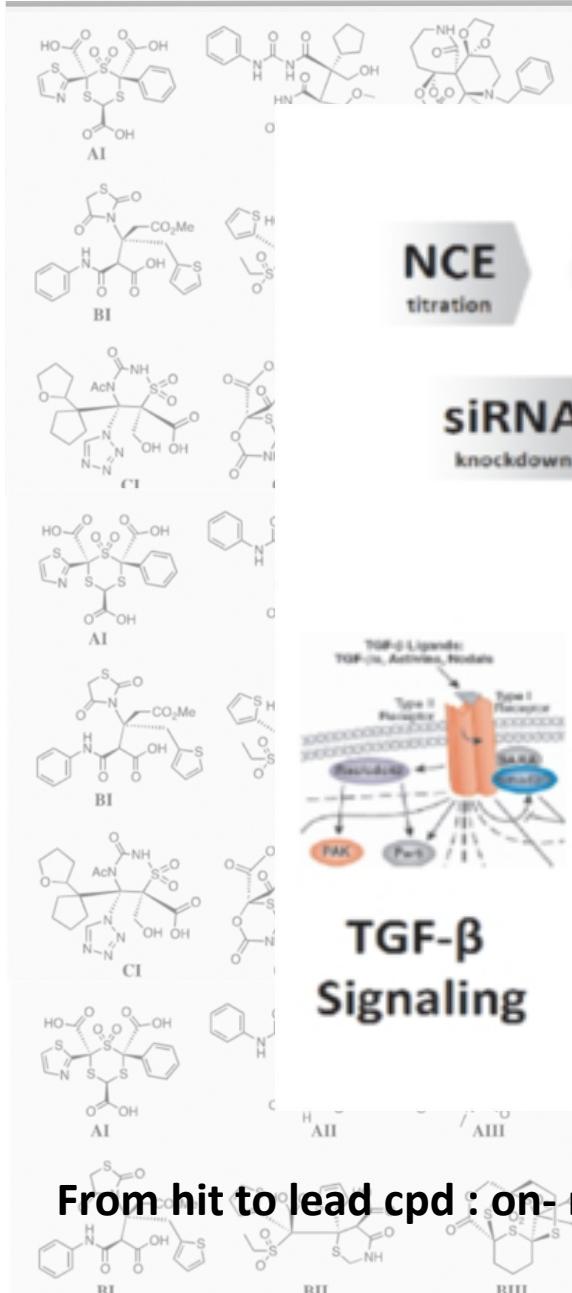


T15504 ALDRICH  
1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroquinoline  
98%  
Synonym: THQ

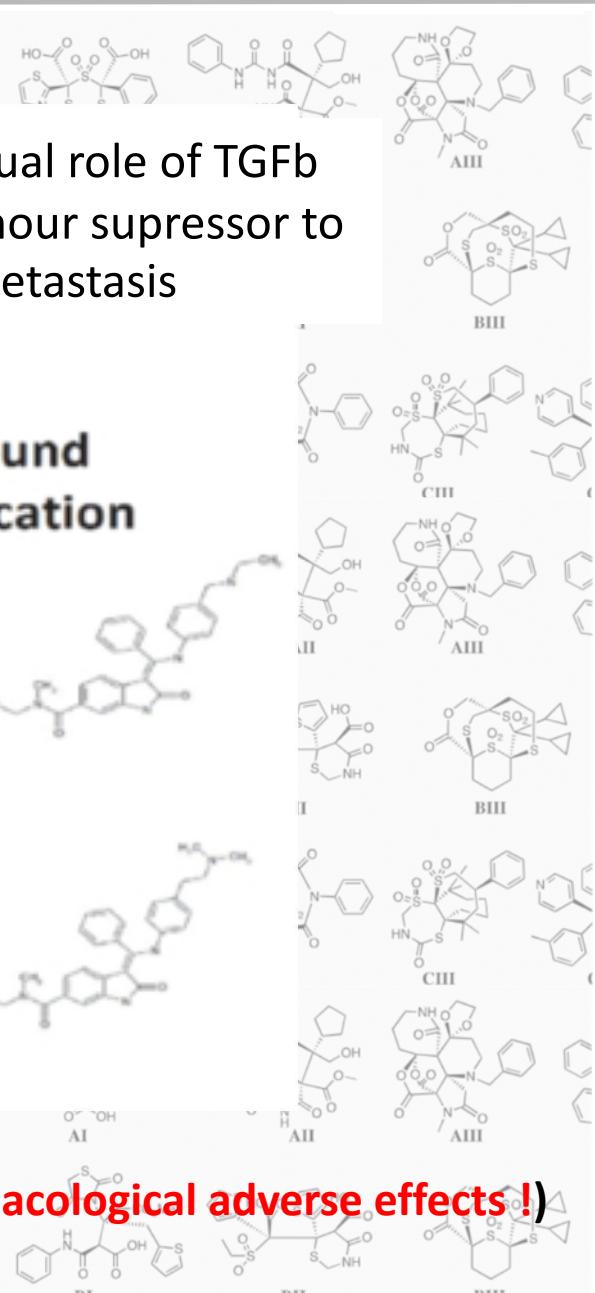
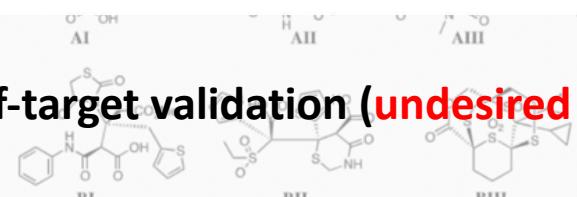
$IC_{50}$  of CETP activity determined using a scintillation proximity assay.  
nd, not determined (benzoic acid derivative).

Clerc RG. and Niesor EJ. American Heart Association Washington DC. USA

## Secondary assays to validate on/off therapeutic target



## From hit to lead cpd : on- resp. off-target validation (undesired pharmacological adverse effects !)



eg. the dual role of TGFb  
from tumour suppressor to  
cancer metastasis

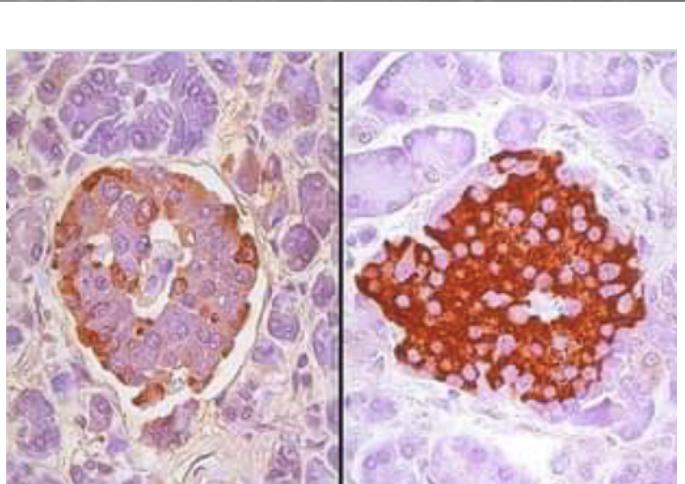
Advanced ..... : peripheral ischaemia-necrosis



MEDICAL NEED : IMPROVE  
..... USING A MEDICINAL  
CHEMISTRY DESIGN



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MACRO- AND MICROVASCULARIZATION IMPAIREMENTS

# Advanced ..... : peripheral ischaemia-necrosis



ISLETS OF LANGERHANS

INAUGURAL-DISSESSATION.  
AUS  
ERLANGUNG DER DOCTORWÜRDE  
IN DER  
MEDICIN UND CHIRURGIE  
VORGELEBT DER  
MEDICINISCHEN FACULTÄT  
DER FRIEDRICH-WILHELM-UNIVERSITÄT  
ZU BERLIN  
UND ÖFFENTLICH IN VORTRÄGEN  
am 18. Februar 1869  
VON  
Paul Langerhans  
aus Berlin.  
OPPONENTEN:  
G. Locillet de Mars, Dd. med.  
G. Soltmann, Dd. med.  
Paul Ruge, Stud. med.  
BERLIN.  
BAND DRUCKERIEN VON ULLMANN.

MEDICAL NEED : IMPROVE  
..... USING A MEDICINAL  
CHEMISTRY DESIGN

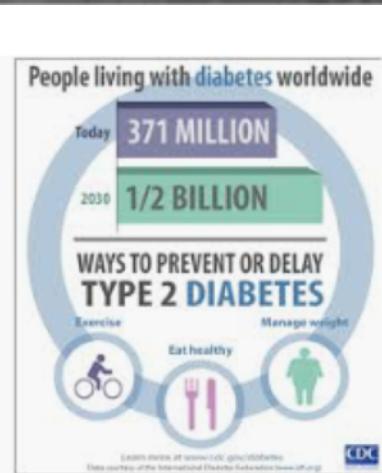


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# Advanced type II diabetes : peripheral ischaemia-necrosis



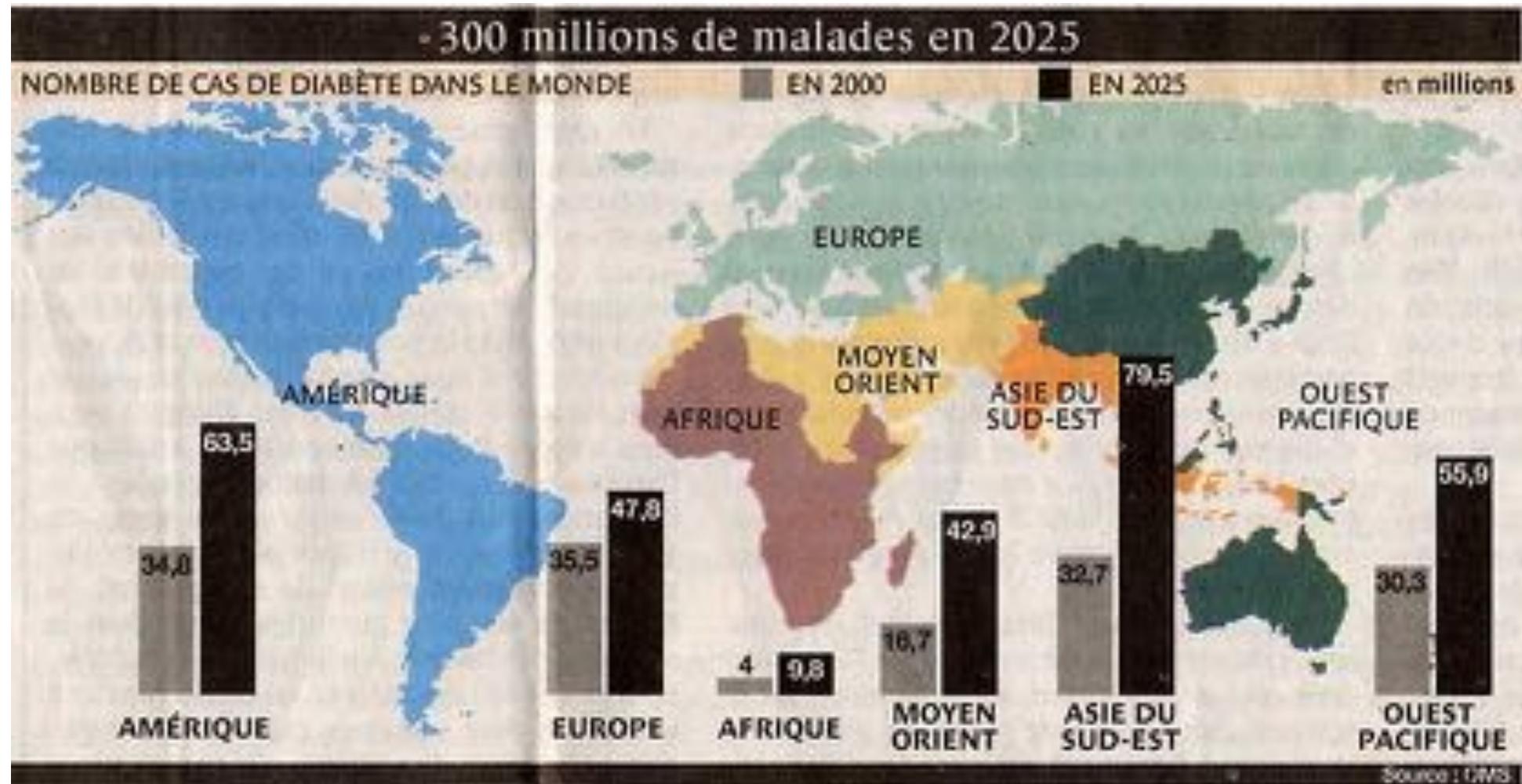
**MEDICAL NEED : IMPROVE  
INSULIN SENSITIVITY USING A  
MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY  
DESIGN**



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Metabolic syndrome – when patients become insulin resistant  
MACRO- AND MICROVASCULARIZATION IMPAIEMENTS

## Type II diabetes and metabolic syndrome global pandemia \_ 2025 : WHO



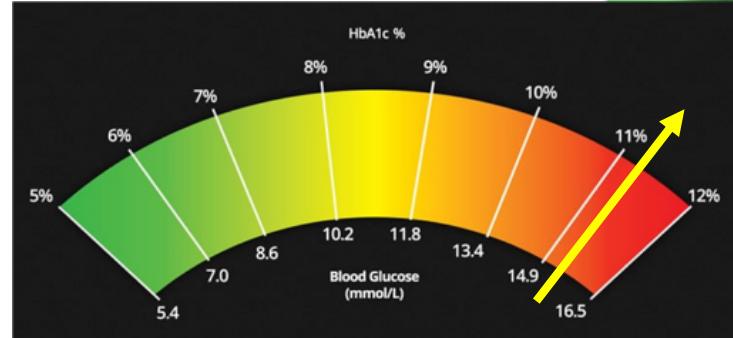
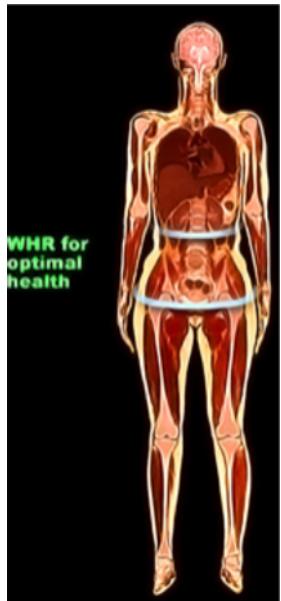
Le Monde



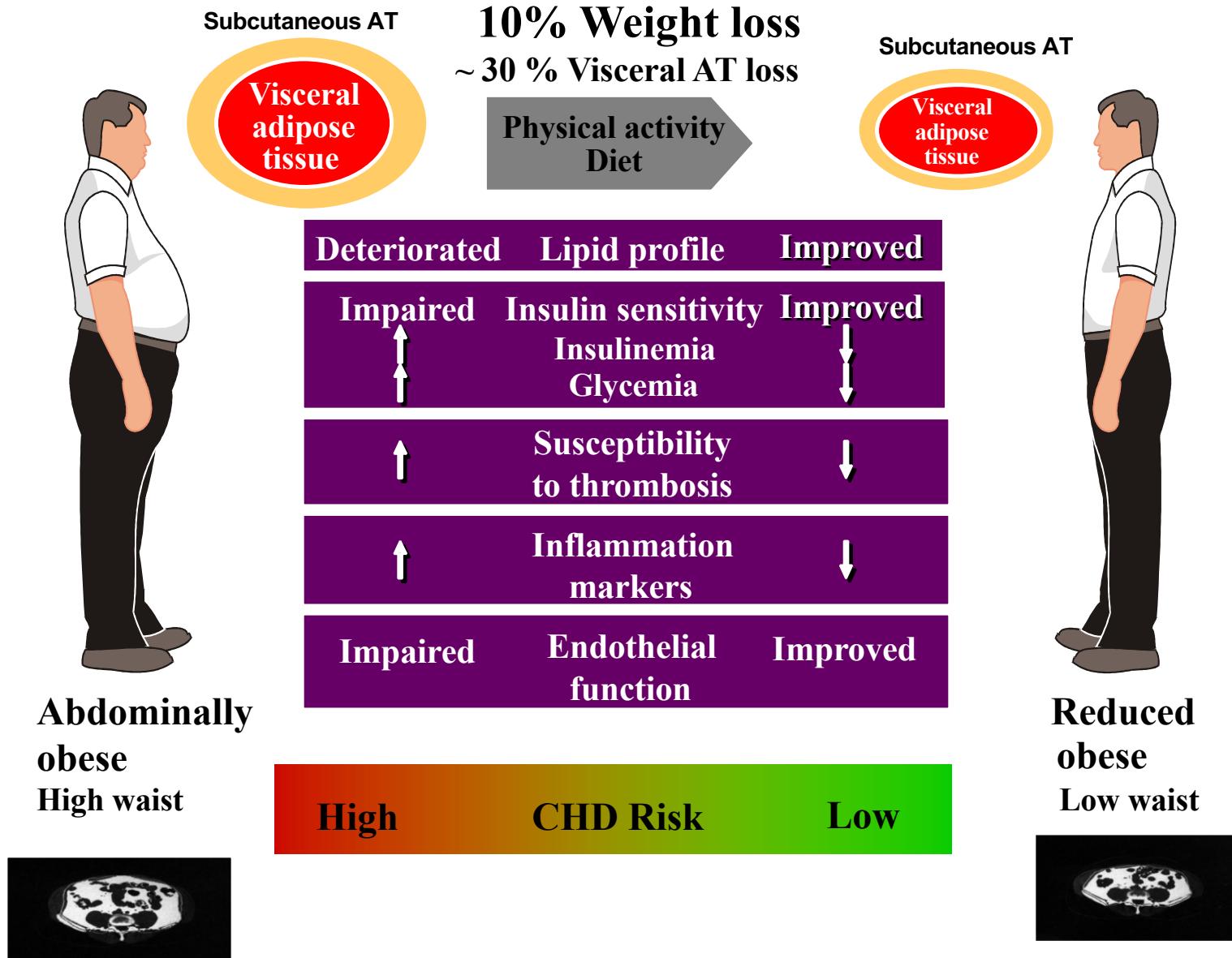
# Metabolic syndrome pandemia and short cuts: BMI body mass index, WHR waist hip ratio, visceral fat content



$$\text{BMI} = \frac{\text{weight}}{(\text{height})^2}$$

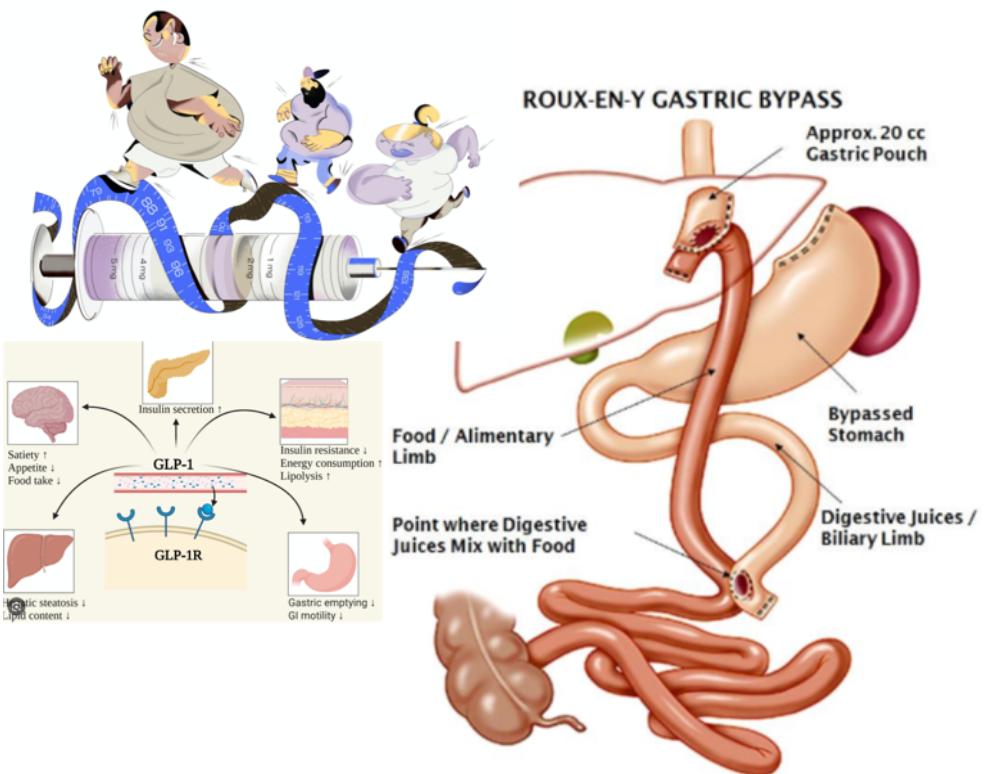


# Clinical Endpoint: Metabolic Syndrome



Adapted from Després et al. BMJ (2001) 322:716-720

# Type II diabetes and metabolic syndrome pandemia : a cartoonist view of a threat or towards the end of obesity ?



## Type 2 diabetes develops as a consequence of the metabolic syndrome diabetes is also known key risk factor for developing severe/fatal COVID-19

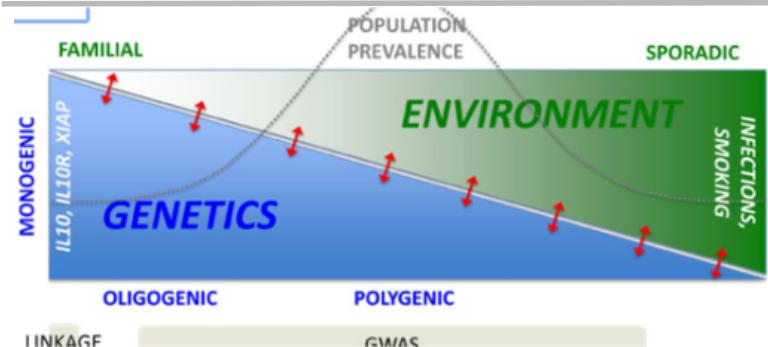


Diabetes itself is pandemic just like COVID-19 is pandemic :  
two pandemia that did clashed - looking at the underlying molecular mechanisms  
overactivity of the immune system - cytokine storm and more



Cases of type 1 diabetes, which is caused by the body's own immune system attacking pancreatic cells, rose in young people during the COVID pandemic Credit: BSIP/Universal Images Group via Getty Nature News July 21. 2023

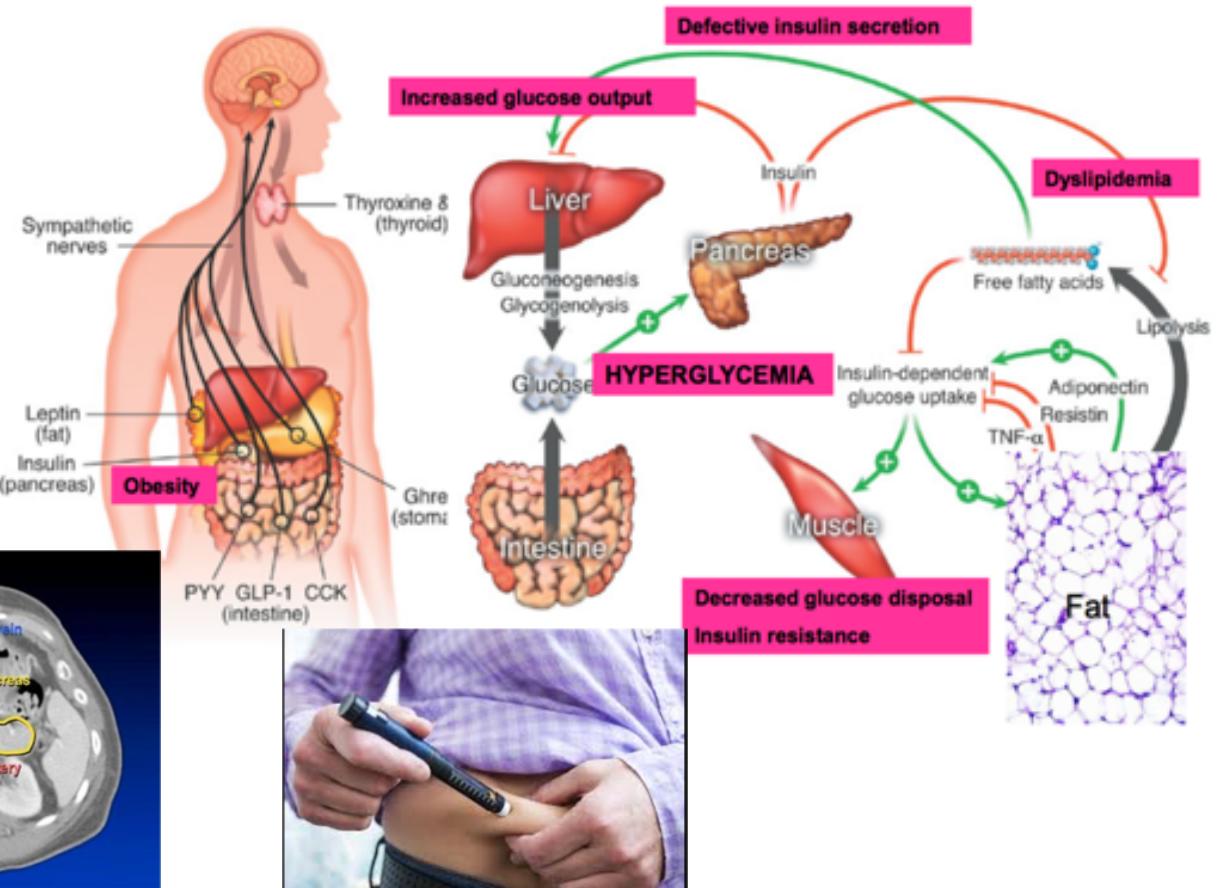
# Metabolic syndrome : when patients become insulin resistant



## Metabolic Syndrome and Tissue-Tissue Cross Talk

*MEDICAL CHALLENGE : COMPLEX TRAITS DISEASE :  
GENETICS AND ENVIRONMENT PLAY A COMBINED ROLE*

## Metabolic Syndrome and Tissue-Tissue Cross Talk



# Progression to type II diabetes : pathophysiology of pancreatic beta cells exhaustion



Stage

I

II

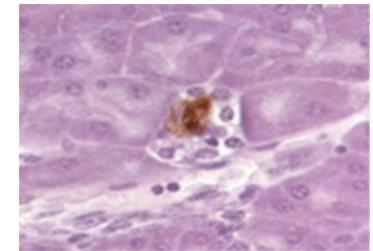
III

IV

**Obese**  
Peripheral  
insulin  
resistance

**Pre-diabetic/obese**  
Impaired  
glucose  
tolerance

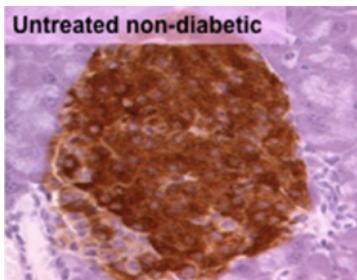
**β-cell failure and  
insulin resistance**



**diet**

**Prevention**

- insulin sensitization
- organoprotection ?
- decrease vascular risk?



**Early diabetes**

**Late diabetes**  
hyperglycaemia

**Vascular  
complications**

**insulin**

**Intervention**

- Normalize glucose
- Preserve β-cell insulin?
- decrease vascular risk?

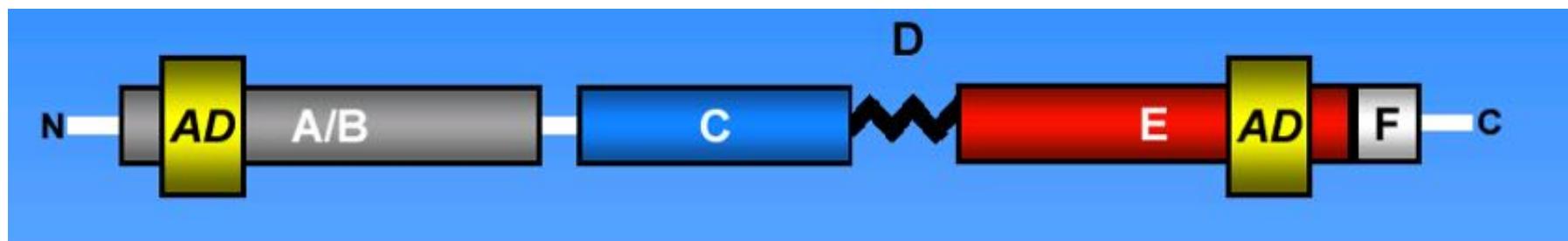
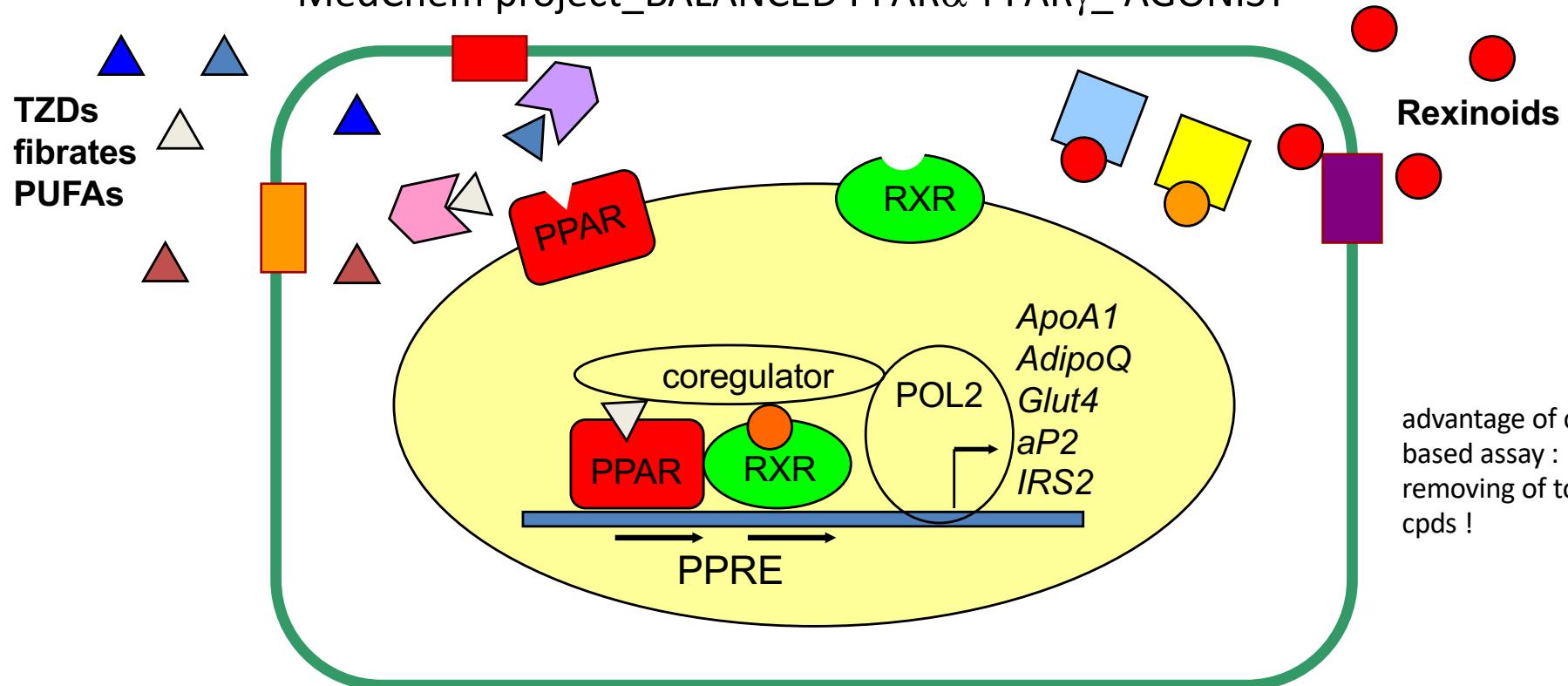
← Environment + “obesigenes” →

← “+diabetogenes” →

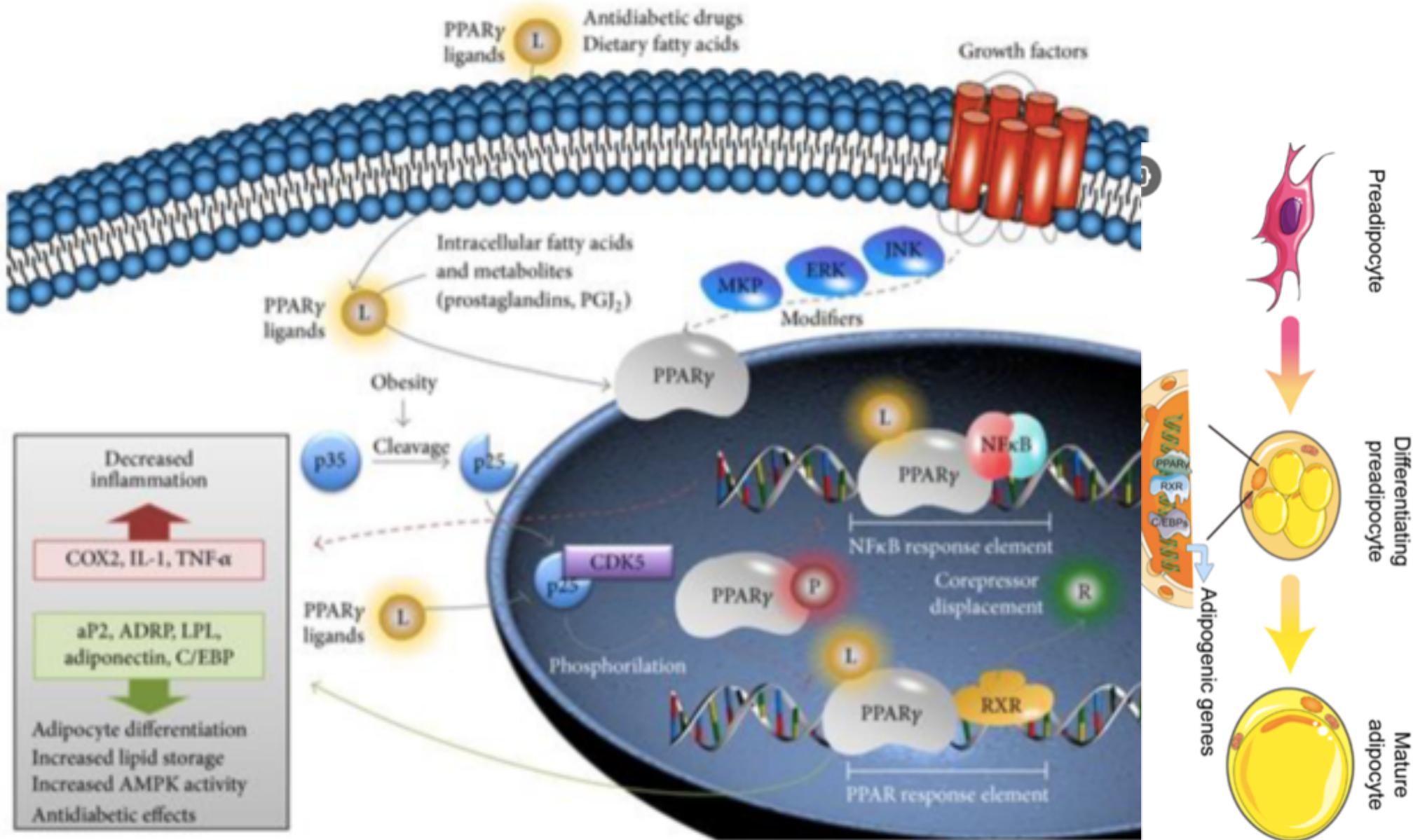


## PPAR/RXR-dependent cellular signaling

MedChem project \_BALANCED PPAR $\alpha$ -PPAR $\gamma$  \_ AGONIST



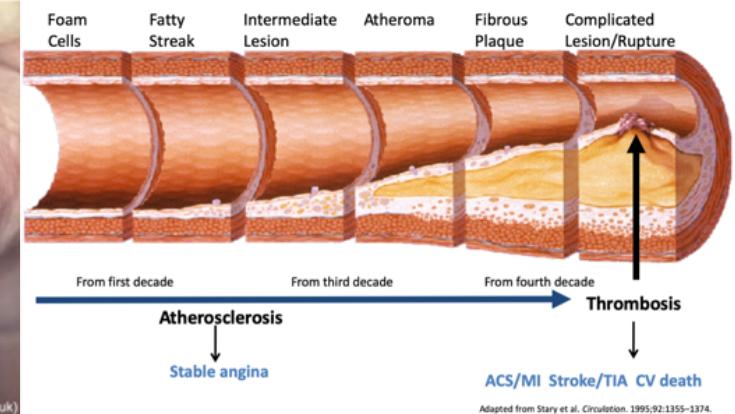
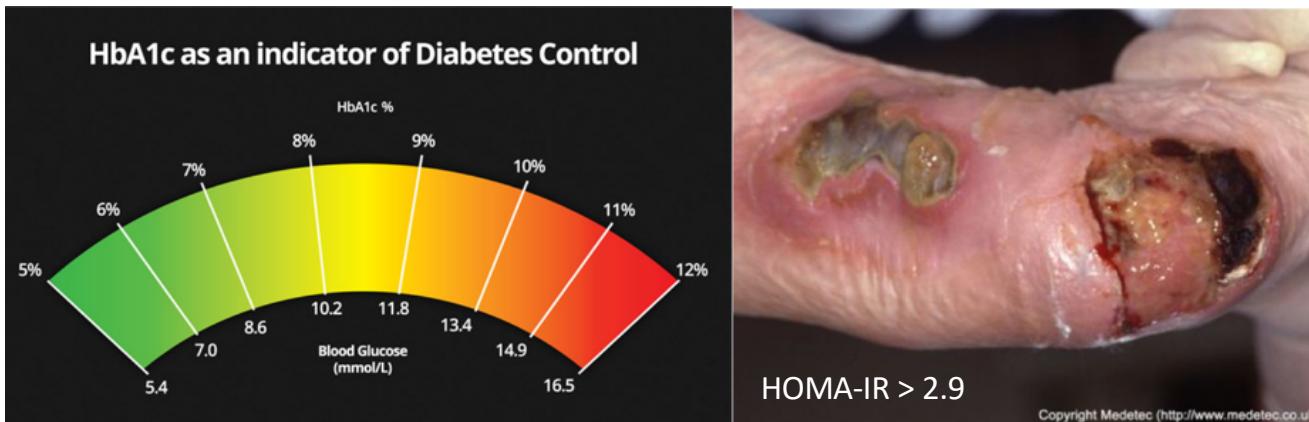
# Type II diabetes and insulin resistance : The underlying molecular mechanism





# Goal: balanced pharmacological activation of PPAR alpha-gamma receptors

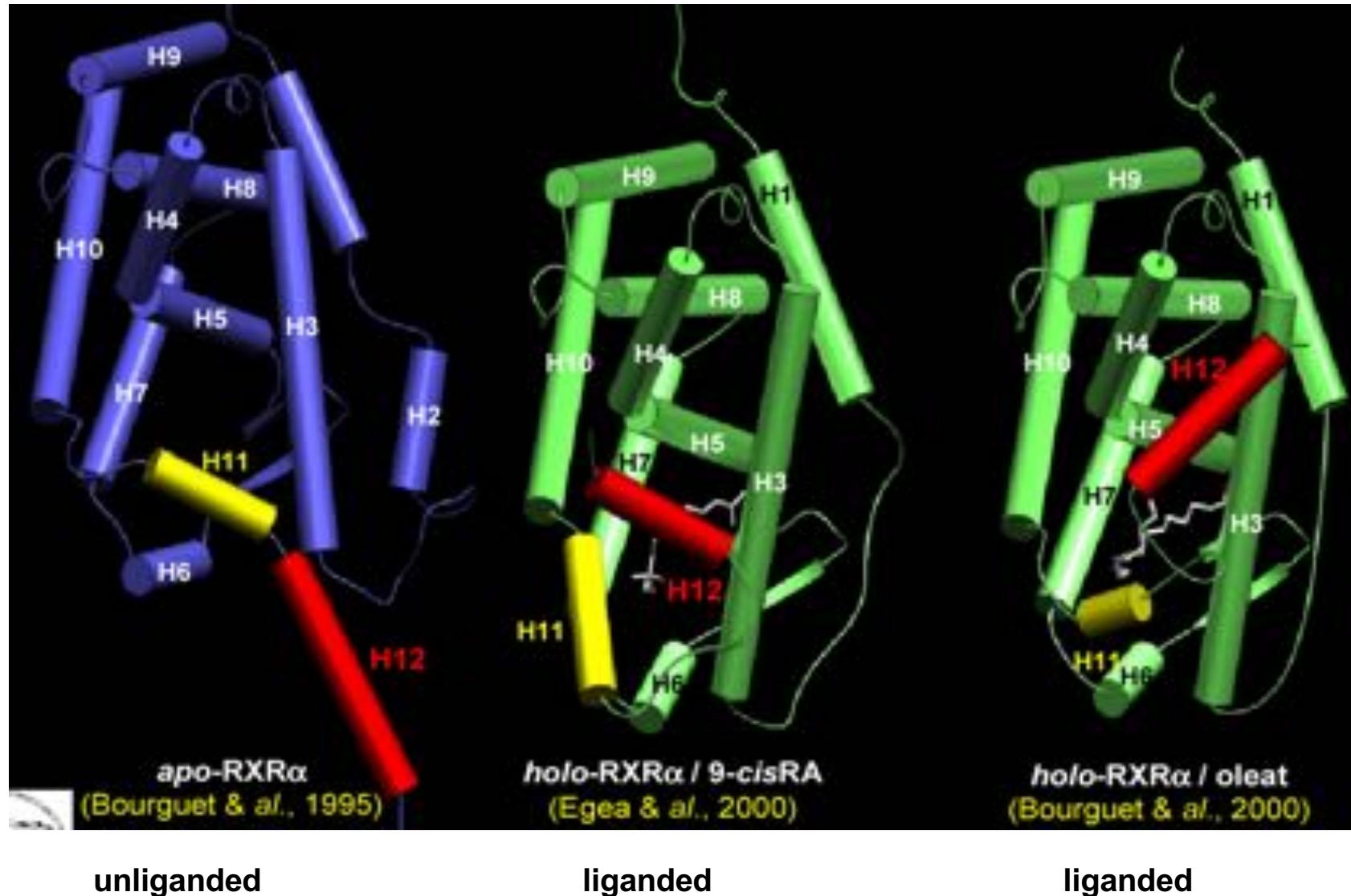
A medicinal chemistry approach to treatment of type II diabetes



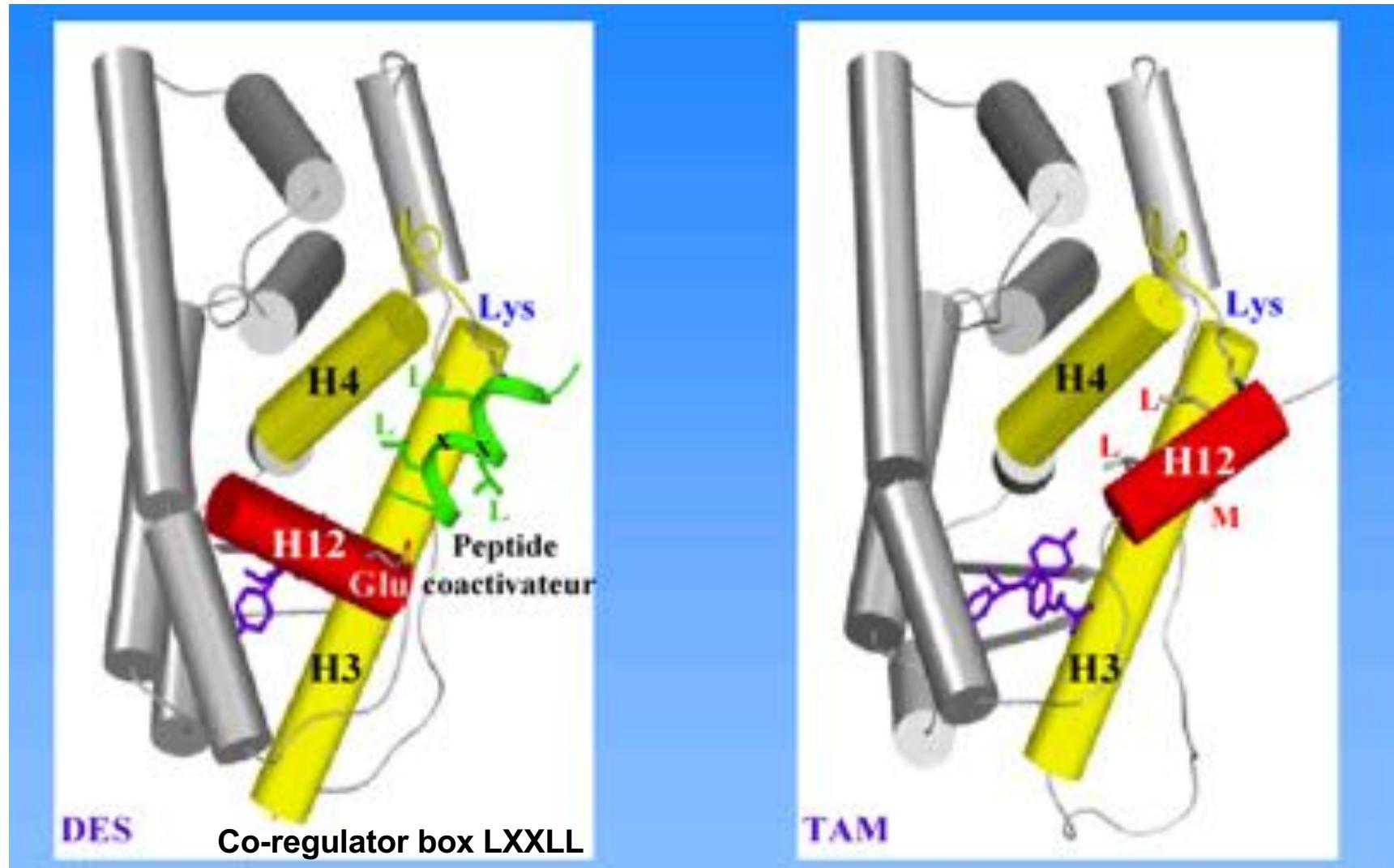
# RXR $\alpha$ co-crystal structure assisted modeling



## NHRs-dependent cellular-nuclear signaling



# Molecular Bases for Agonism vs, partial agonism vs antagonist: ER $\alpha$ co-crystals



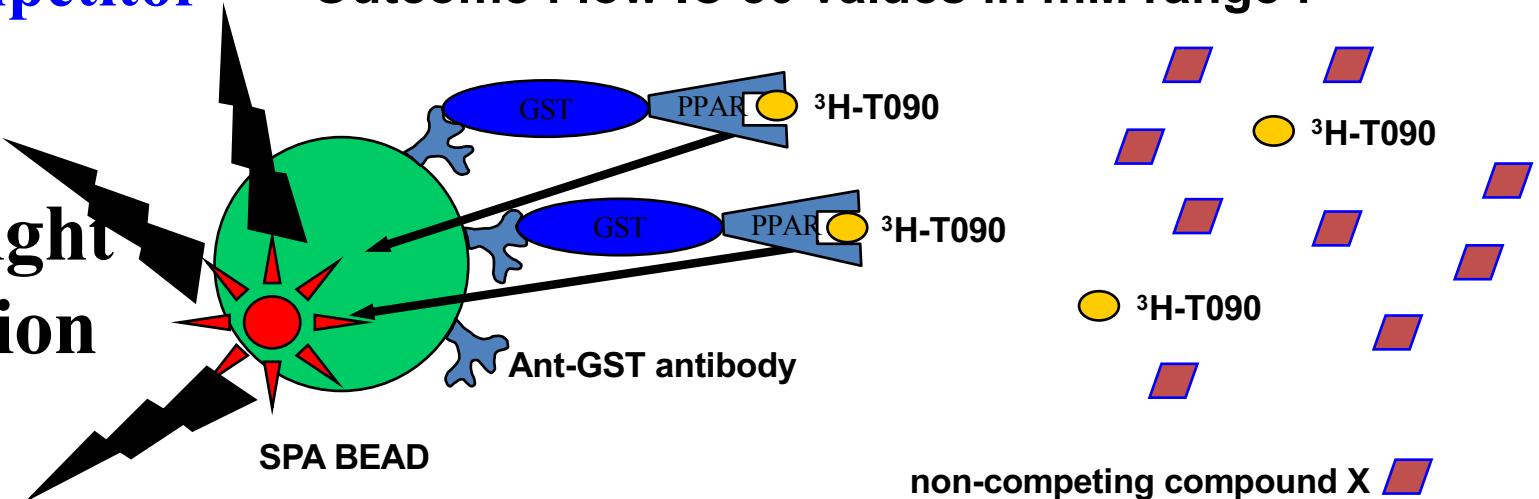
Primary biochemical HTS screen :  
cell free nuclear hormone receptor ligand affinity assay



**NON competitor**

high light emission

Outcome : low IC 50 values in mM range !



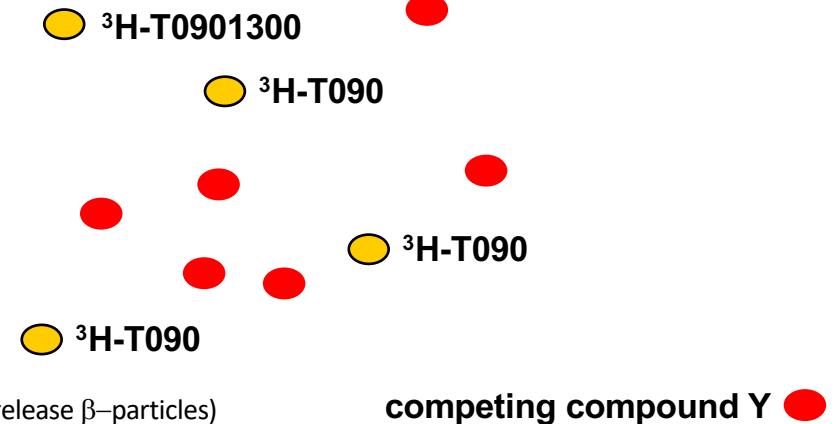
COMPETITION RADIOLIGAND BINDING SCREENING BY SCINTILLATION PROXIMITY DETECTION

**GOOD competitor**

Outcome : high IC 50 values in  $\mu\text{M}$  range !

lower light emission

SPA BEAD scintillation proximity assay beads – (release  $\beta$ -particles)



# Primary biochemical HTS screen : cell free nuclear hormone receptor ligand affinity assay



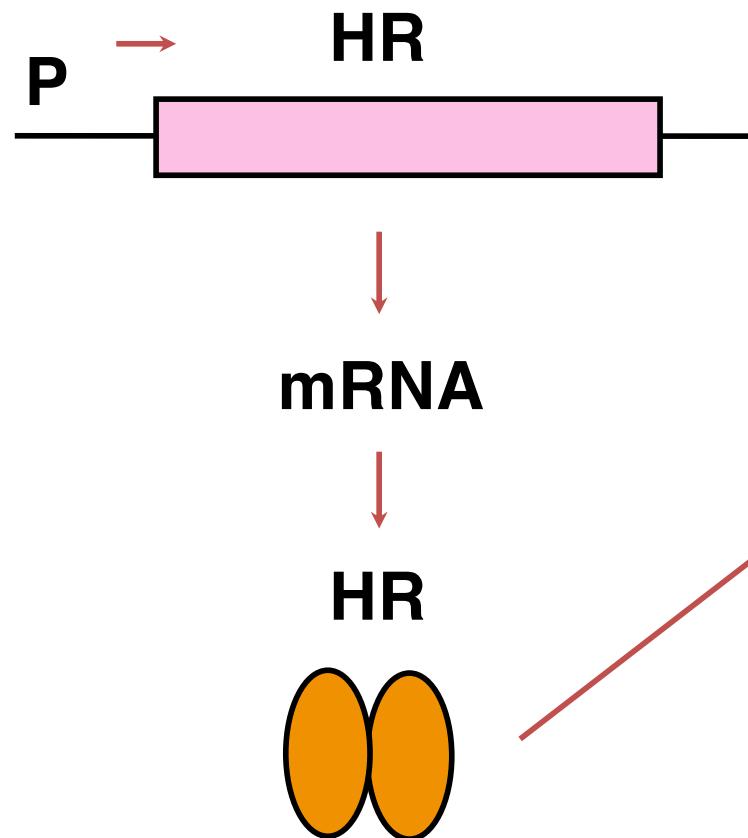
		EC <sub>50</sub> (μM)		
		PPAR $\alpha$	PPAR $\beta$	PPAR $\gamma$
GW501516		1.1	0.001	0.85
GW0742		1.1	0.001	2
L-165041		10	0.002	>10
MBX-8025		>10	0.002	>10
Bezafibrate		50	20	60

## Secondary LTS screen : cell based NHRs screening assay

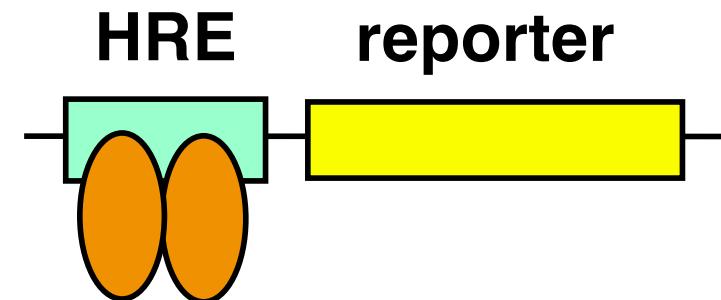


### Principle of Transactivation Assay (nuclear proteins)

#### receptor plasmids



#### reporter plasmid



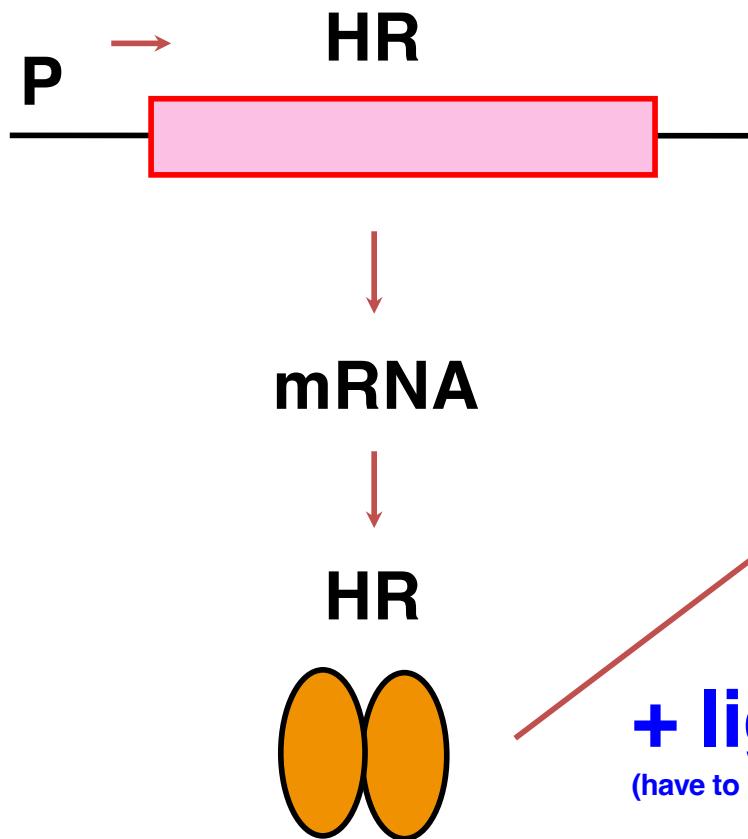
cellular assay \_ transient expression of  
nuclear receptors \_ reporter gene assay

## Secondary screen : cell based NHRs screening assay

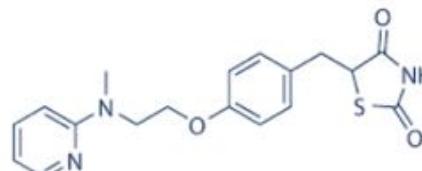
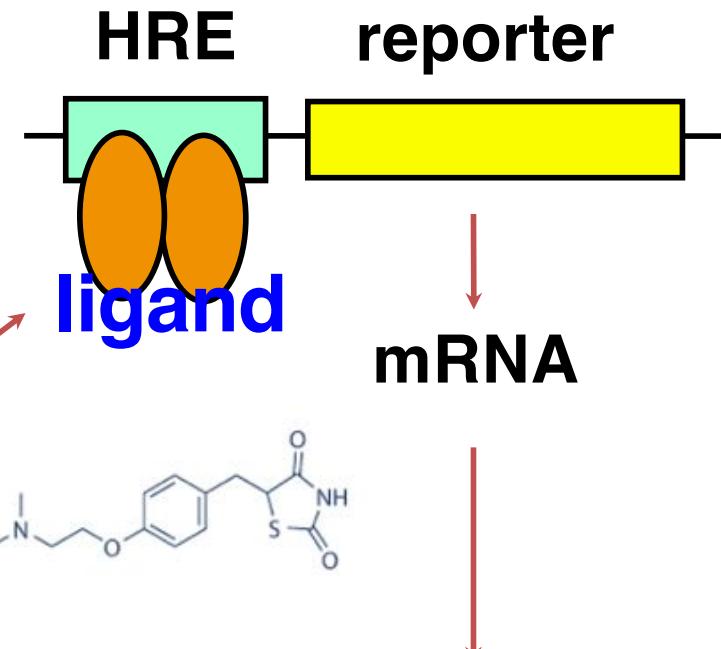


Principle of Transactivation Assay II (EC50 values)  
(nuclear proteins !)

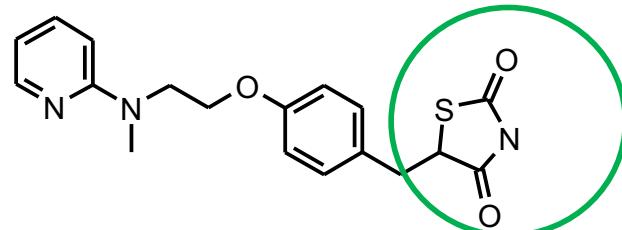
### receptor plasmids



### reporter plasmid



# Competitive medicinal chemistry : «me too» compounds - time to market



2-4 Thiazolidinedione  
controversial head  
piece in PPAR $\gamma$

**Rosiglitazone** (Prototypical PPARgamma Agonist)  
GSK

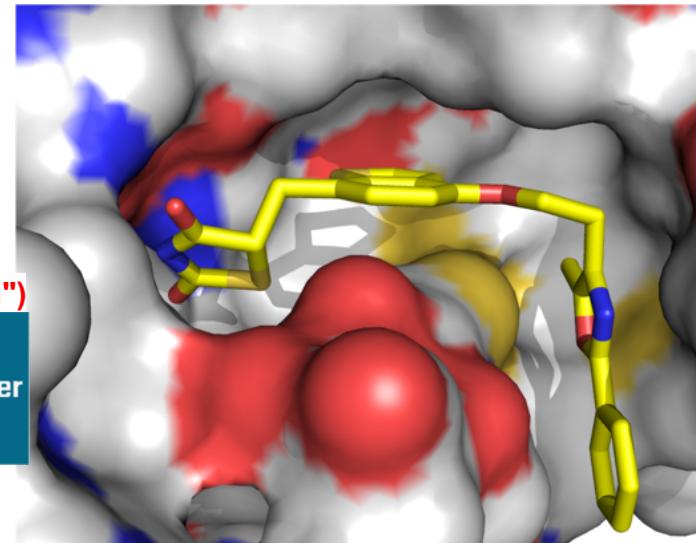
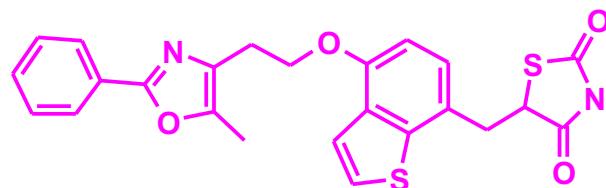
GSK-Tail (Phenyloxazole)



Benzothiophene Spacer (Boehringer "Invention")



**Edaglitazar**  
Boehringer Inc



Replacement of  
thiazolidinedione  
controversial head  
piece in PPAR $\gamma$

IC<sub>50</sub>  $\alpha/\gamma/\delta$  [nM]

35 / 66 / 21

EC<sub>50</sub>  $\alpha/\gamma/\delta$  [nM]

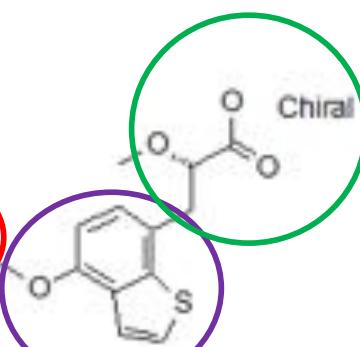
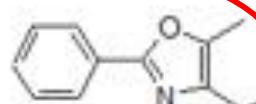
53 / 32 / 444 (22%)

**In vitro Activity**

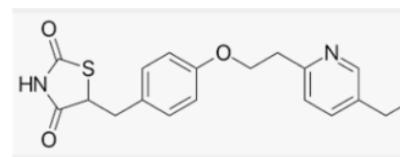


**Aleglitazar**  
Roche

Phenyloxazol  
GlaxoSmithKline  
patent space



benzothiophene  
Boehringer Manheim  
patent space



**ALECARDIO**

Late Breaking Clinical Trials – ACC 2014

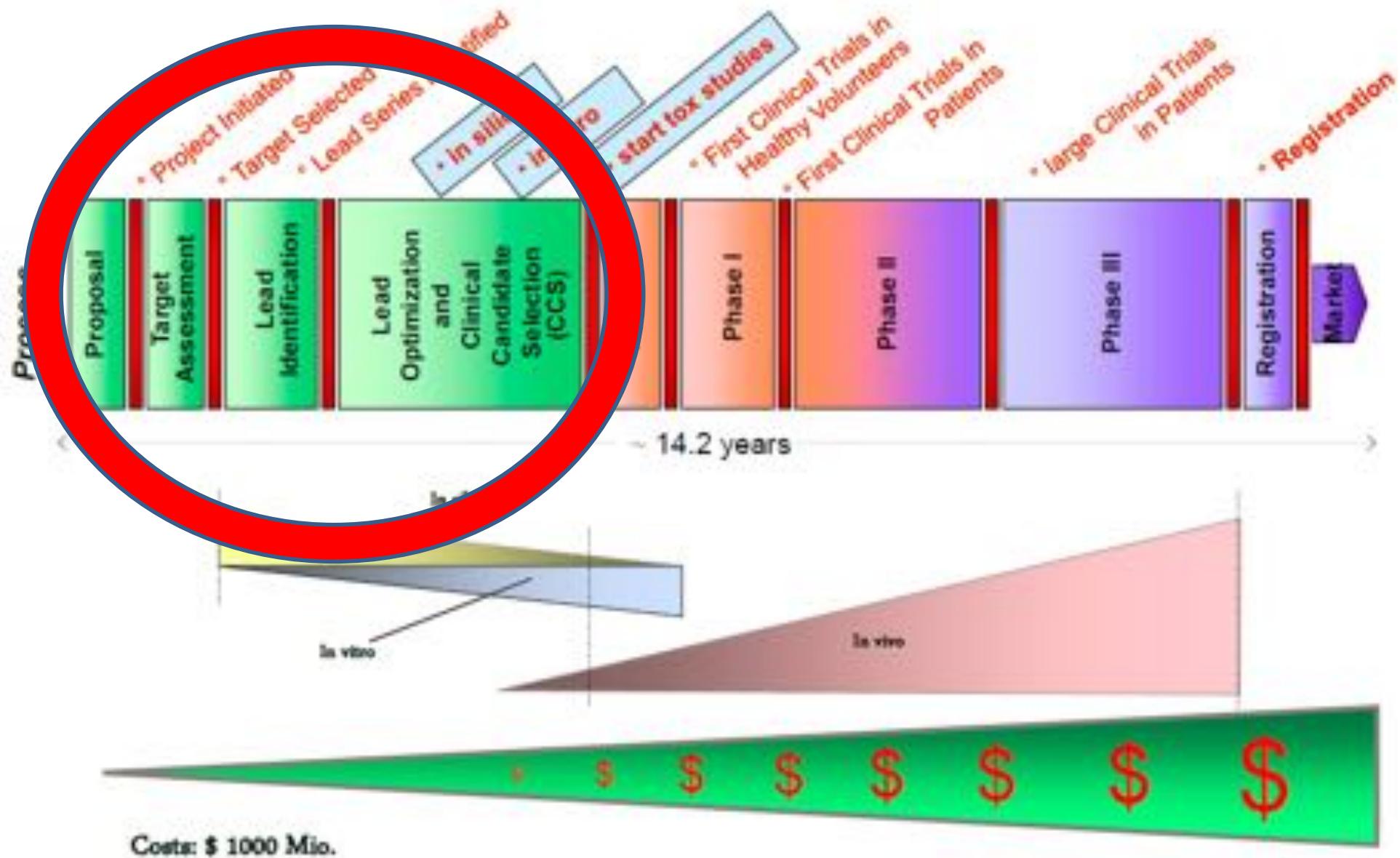
Effect of Aleglitazar on Cardiovascular Outcomes After Acute Coronary Syndrome in Patients With Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

The AleCardio Randomized Clinical Trial

# Early steps/assessment across the value chain : from „hits“ to lead compounds



THE BIGGEST RISK IN DRUG DEVELOPMENT IS NOT TO GET A MEDICINE : “FAIL EARLY” STRATEGY



## A pharmacological model of insulin resistance

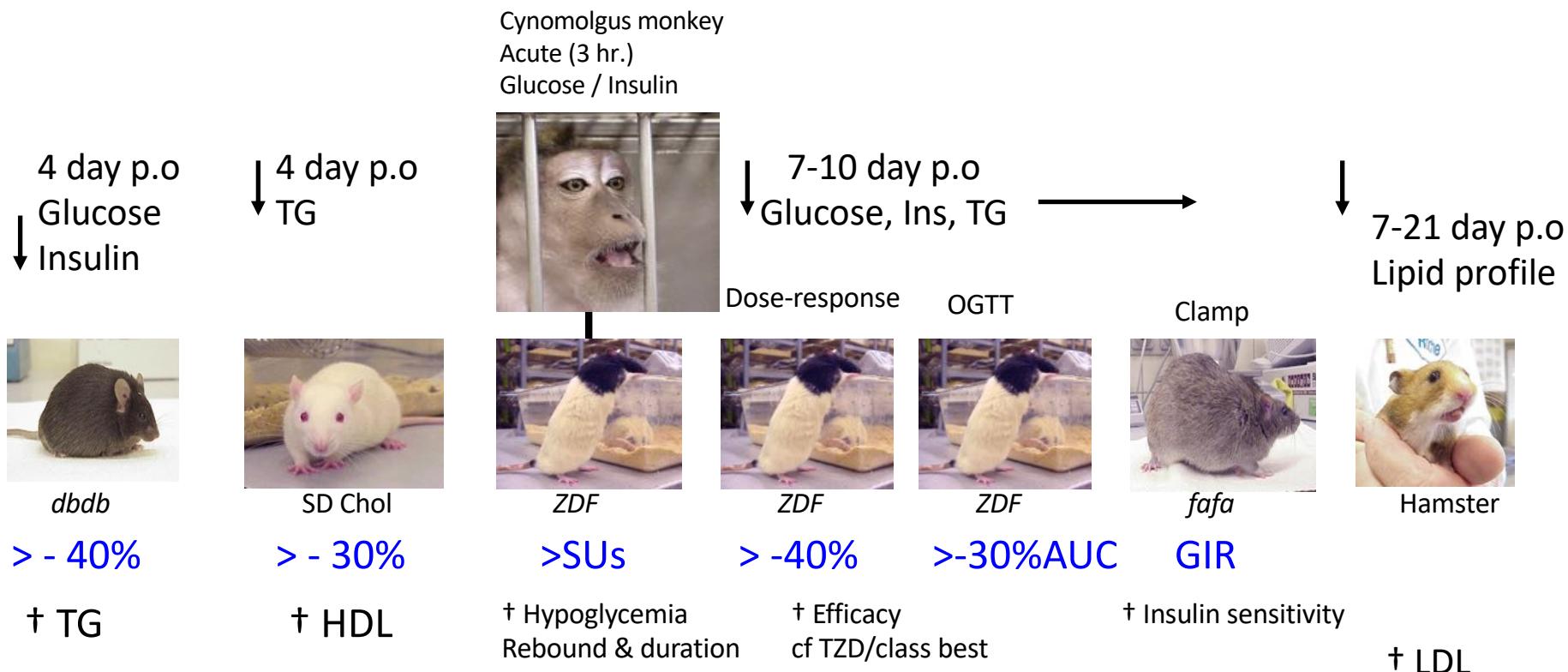


-/-

wt

obese (ob/ob) leptin mice pharmacological model are obese, hyperphagic, hyperglycemic and hyperinsulinemic (insulin resistant). They are commonly used as animal pharmacological models for developing diabetes medicines

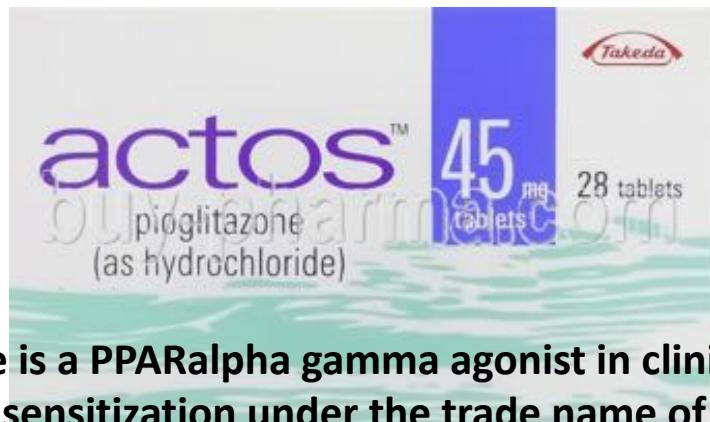
# Type II diabetes animal pharmacological screening cascade



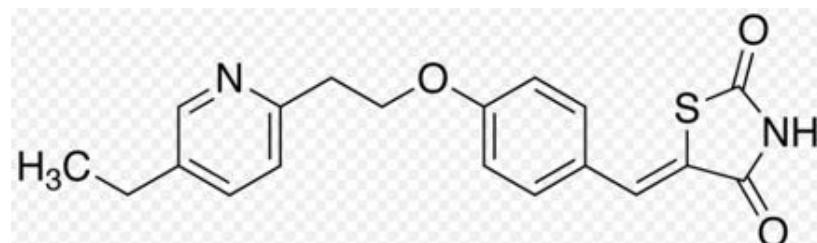
Only the combination of several critical animal pharmacological models may predict the therapeutic value of an innovative medicine in future first-in-human clinical settings/trials

Knock out, Knock in, TG animal models to reduce the amount of protein/RNA in the disease animal pharmacological model

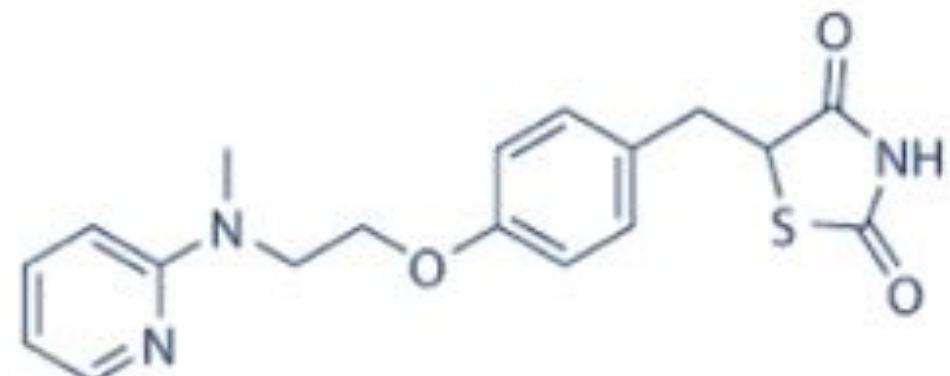
## PPARs and insulin sensitization and lipid disorder



**pioglitazone is a PPARalpha gamma agonist in clinical use for insulin sensitization under the trade name of Actos**



**rosiglitazone is a PPARgamma agonist in clinical use for insulin sensitization under the trade name of Avandia**



## Type 2 diabetes develops as a consequence of the metabolic syndrome diabetes is also known key risk factor for developing severe/fatal COVID-19

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Diabetes itself is pandemic just like COVID-19 is pandemic :  
two pandemia that did clashed - looking at the underlying molecular mechanisms  
overactivity of the immune system - cytokine storm and more

# Is PPAR $\gamma$ polymorphisms associated with an «unthrifty allele» ?



« A DAY WITHOUT UNI SPORT IS NOT A SUCCESSFUL DAY ! «

«Sparsame Gene»: Trainiere jeden Tag beim Unisport!

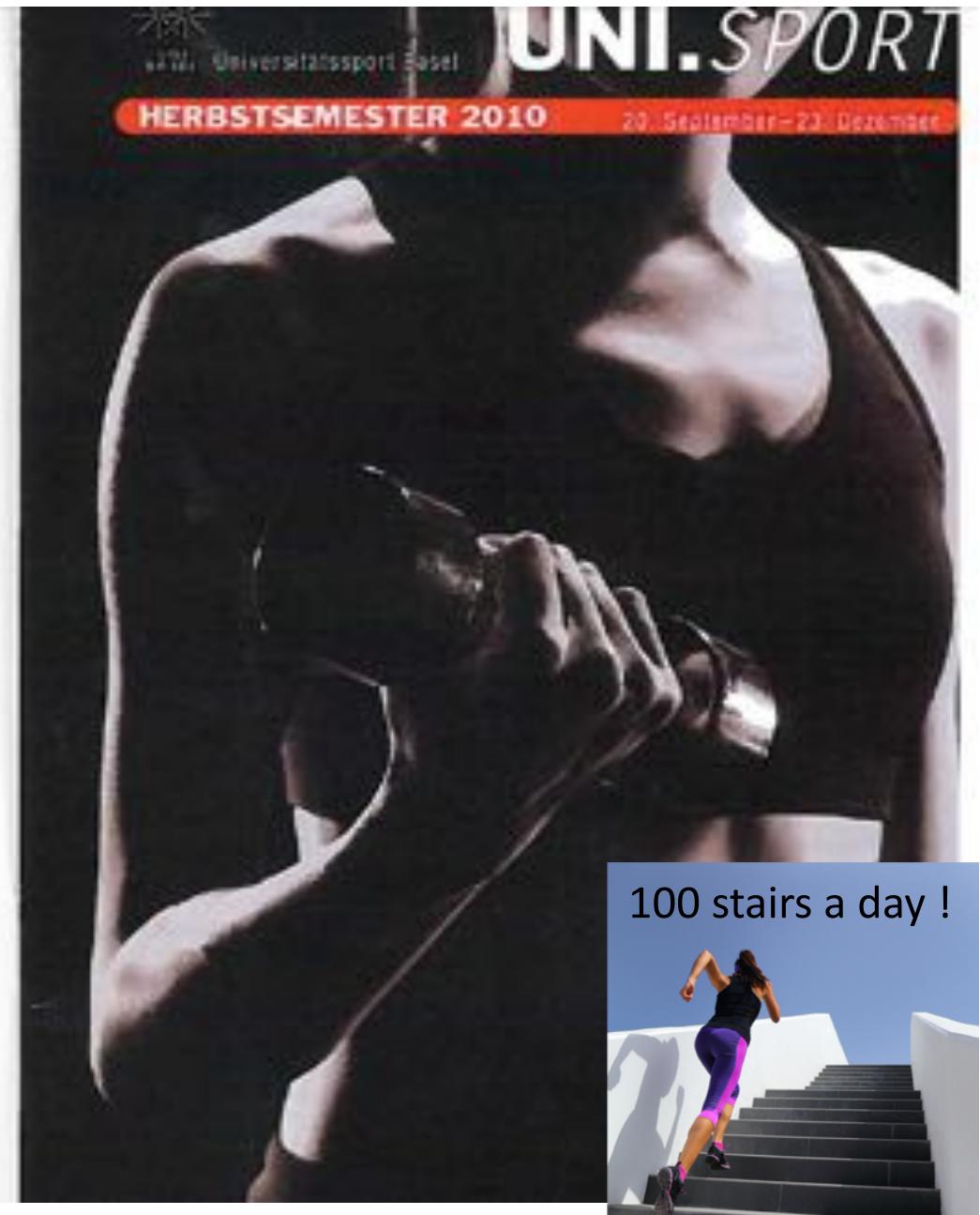
Das Universitätsstudium und insbesondere seine Prüfungen innerhalb bestimmter Fristen sind stressig. Wir sind so mit einem Lebensstil konfrontiert, welcher uns - nicht nur an der Universität - immer mehr gesunde Leistungen in immer kürzeren Zeithorizonten abverlangt, wobei wir uns oft nicht mehr ausreichend körperlich aktiv bewegen. Zu dieser Bewegungsarmut gesellt sich oft eine ungesunde Ernährung. Viele Menschen sind daher Übergewichtig und entwickeln metabolisches Syndrom mit u.a. erhöhtem Blutzucker, Bluthochdruck und erhöhten Blutfettwerten.

Unser Genom hat sich in Millionen von Jahren entwickelt, in denen Nahrungsangebot herrschte. Der Mensch der Urzeit war ein hoch beweglicher Jäger, der nur selten etwas zum Essen fand. Sein Körper passte sich evolutiv daran an, diese rare kalorische Energie in seinen Geweben dank der "sparsamen Gene" zu speichern. An der erst seit wenigen Jahrzehnten herrschenden „plötzlichen“ Überschuss an sehr kalorienreicher Nahrung und die mangelnde körperliche Bewegung heutzutage, konnte sich unser Genom noch nicht anpassen. Um das empfindliche Gleichgewicht unserer körperlichen und geistigen Gesundheit zu erhalten, ist es deshalb notwendig, regelmäßig sportliche Aktivitäten, die Spass machen, zu betreiben. Auch eine intelligente Ernährung, mit wenig Zucker und gesättigten Fetten, dafür aber reich an Ballaststoffen und Eiweiß, und ein nur moderater Alkoholkonsum, sind notwendig, um unsere "sparsamen Gene" so zu trainieren, dass wir kein metabolisches Syndrom entwickeln. Deswegen gibt es Unisport um die Balance zwischen Körper und Gehirn während dem Studium herzubringen.

Buchen Sie daher jeden Tag einen Sport-Termin im Kalender und profitieren Sie über aussergewöhnliche Sportangebot der Universität! Über 60 verschiedene Sportarten werden im neuen Unisport-Programm angeboten. Beteiligen Sie sich aktiv am Unisport: „A day without sport is not a successful day!“



Prof. Dr. Roger G. Dericq  
Dozent für Molekulare Biologie an der Universität Basel  
und Teilnehmer am Universitäts-Sport.

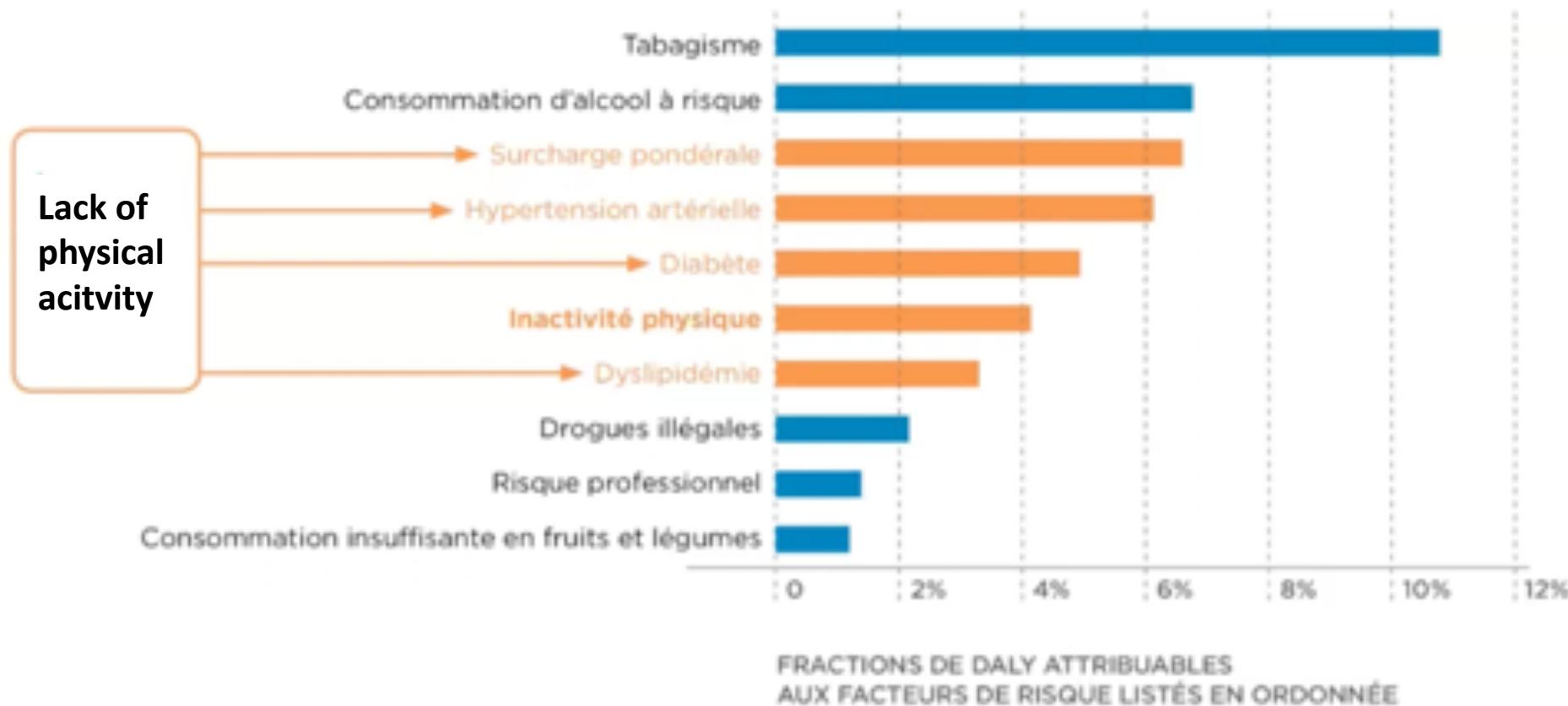


# Type II diabetes and metabolic syndrome pandemia : best preventive medicine : exercise every day !



FIGURE 3

CLASSEMENT DES PRINCIPAUX FACTEURS DE RISQUES RESPONSABLES  
DES ANNÉES DE VIE PERDUES DANS LES PAYS DÉVELOPPÉS, 2004 (ADAPTÉ DE WHO 2009)



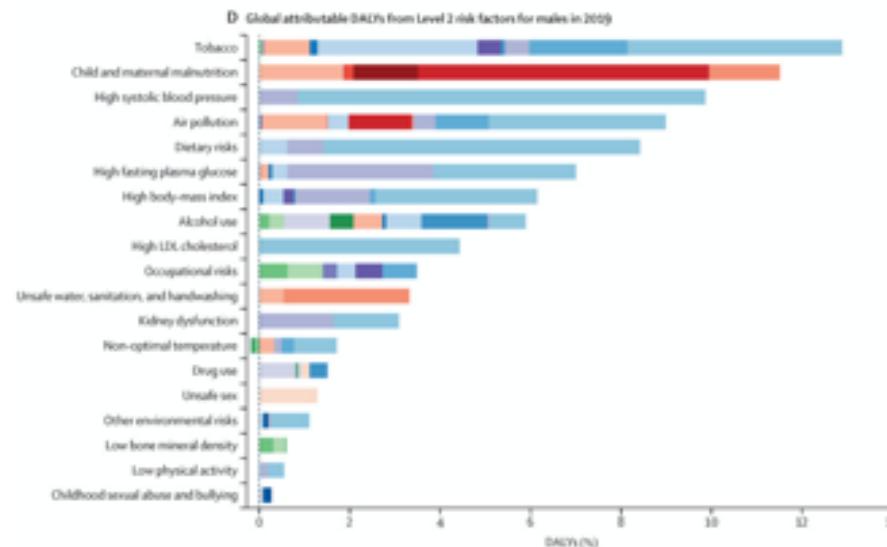
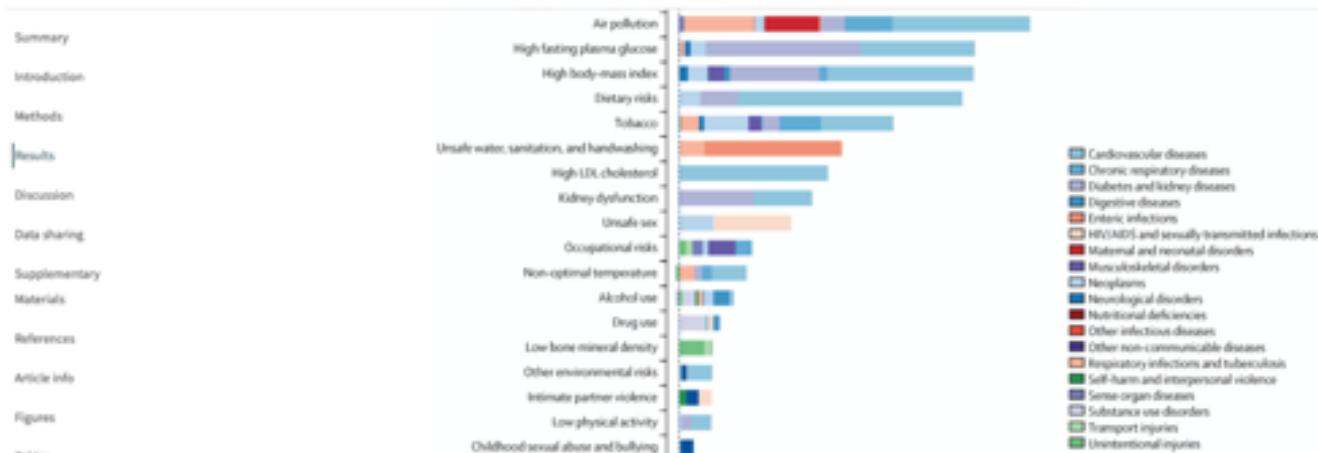
Risk factors involved in life expectation reduction in developed countries (loss of lived years)  
(adapted from WHO 2009)

# Global burden of 87 risk factors in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019

GBD 2019 Risk Factors Collaborators <sup>†</sup> • Show footnotesOpen Access • Published: October 17, 2020 • DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30752-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30752-2) •

## THE LANCET

Global burden of 87 risk factors in 204 countries and territories...



# Type II diabetes and metabolic syndrome pandemia : best preventive medicine : exercise every day !



## BENEFITS OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY : THE SEDENTARITY DISEASES

	ADULTES, TOUS ÂGES
MORTALITÉ, TOUTE CAUSE	Diminution du risque
SANTÉ CARDIOMÉTABOLIQUE	Diminution du risque de maladie cardiovasculaire et de mortalité cardiovasculaire Diminution du risque d'hypertension Diminution du risque de diabète de type 2
CANCER	Diminution du risque de cancer de la vessie, du sein, du colon, de l'endomètre, de l'œsophage, du rein, de l'estomac et du poumon
SANTÉ MENTALE	Réduction du risque de dépendance Amélioration des fonctions cognitives Amélioration de la qualité de vie Amélioration du sommeil Réduction du risque de dépression
STATUT PONDÉRAL	Effet supplémentaire sur la perte de poids lorsque l'activité physique est combinée avec une restriction alimentaire modérée Perte de poids et prévention de la reprise de poids lorsqu'une quantité suffisante d'activité physique d'intensité modérée a élevée est atteinte.
	PERSONNES ÂGÉES
CHUTES	Réduction du risque de chute Réduction du risque de blessure liée à une chute
CAPACITÉ PHYSIQUE	Amélioration de la capacité physique chez la personne âgée avec et sans fragilités.
	FEMMES ENCEINTES OU EN POST-PARTUM
DURANT LA GROSSESSE	Réduction du risque d'une prise de poids excessive Réduction du risque de diabète gestationnel Aucun risque pour le foetus lié à une activité physique d'intensité modérée
DURANT LA PÉRIODE DU POST-PARTUM	Réduction du risque de dépression post-partum

# Metabolic syndrome : a public health challenge



# Protein : protein interactions as drug target : flat contact surface with lack of surface groove/pockets

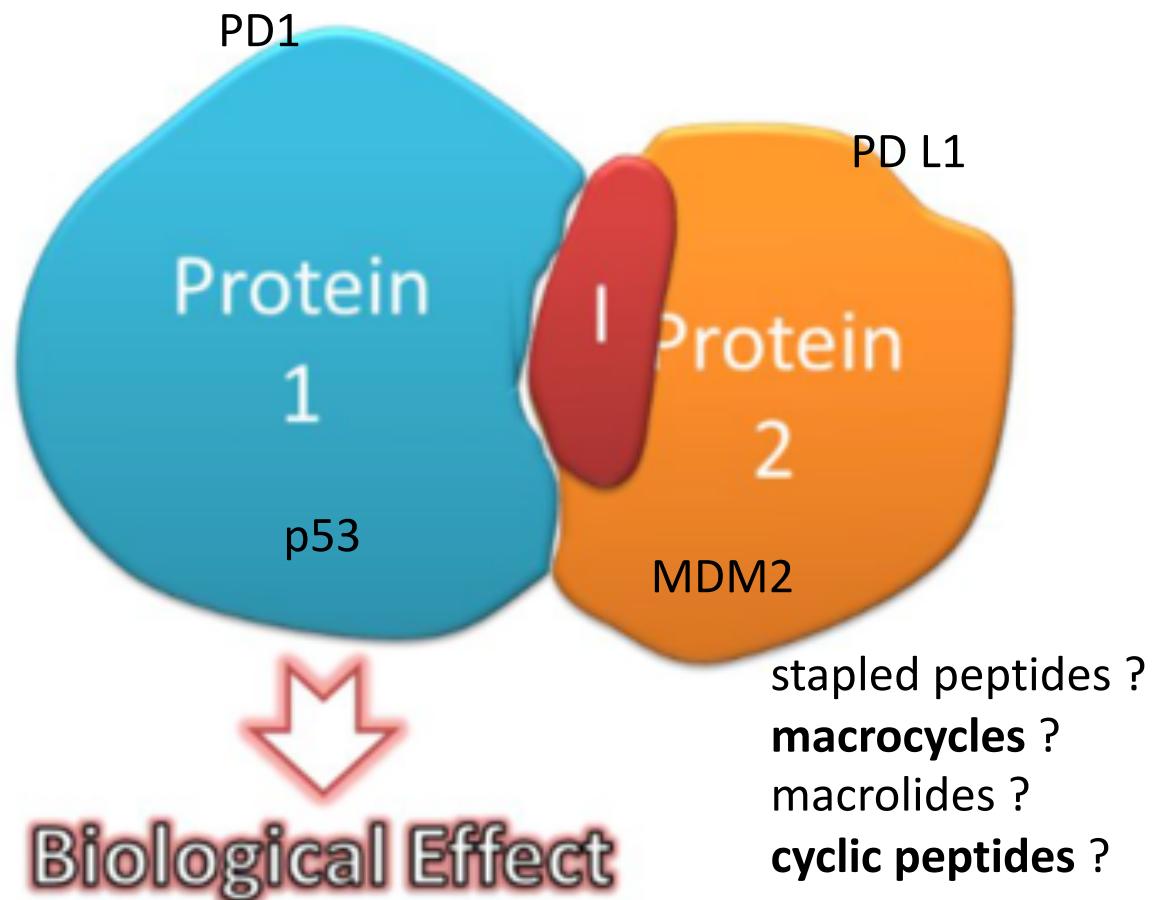


## The 'Undruggable?': Inhibiting Protein-Protein Interactions

Protein responsible  
for biological effect

Effect modulated  
by protein-protein  
interaction

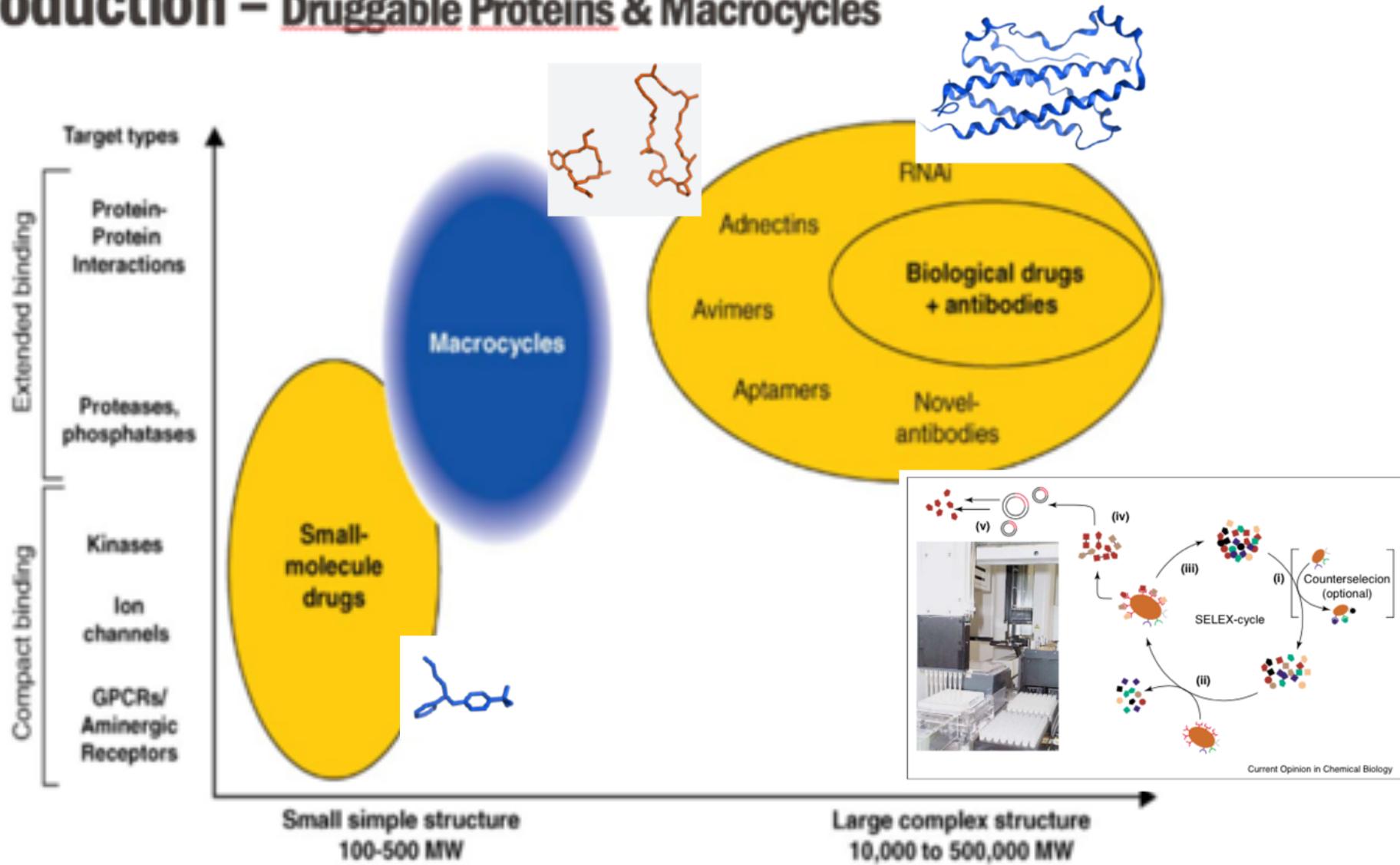
Inhibitor regulates  
effect by blocking  
protein-protein  
interaction



The druggable space : cyclic peptide therapeutics and macrocycles (medium sized molecules) covers undruggable targets between SMW cpds and biologicals



## Introduction – Druggable Proteins & Macrocycles



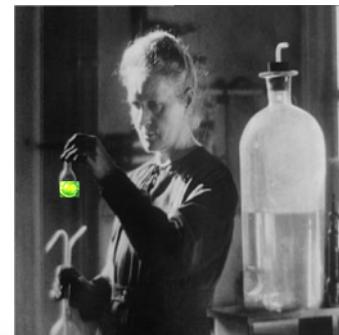
## Session 5



THANK YOU.....



DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ?



All my life through,  
the new sights of  
Nature made me  
rejoice like a child.

Marie Curie