

Advancing the use of transcriptomic points of departure for regulatory decision-making

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Collaborators

Health Canada

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- Andrea Rowan-Carroll, Karen Leingartner, Anthony Reardon
- Matthew Meier, Geronimo Parodi-Matteo
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- Ivy Moffat, Julie Bourdon-Lacombe, Luigi Lorruso, Christine Levicki
- Reza Farmahin, Marjory Moreau, Anne Gannon, Ivan Curran, Andy Nong

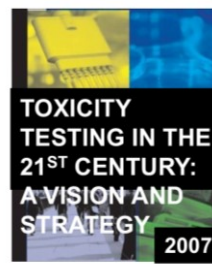


US NIEHS: Scott Auerbach, Steve Ferguson

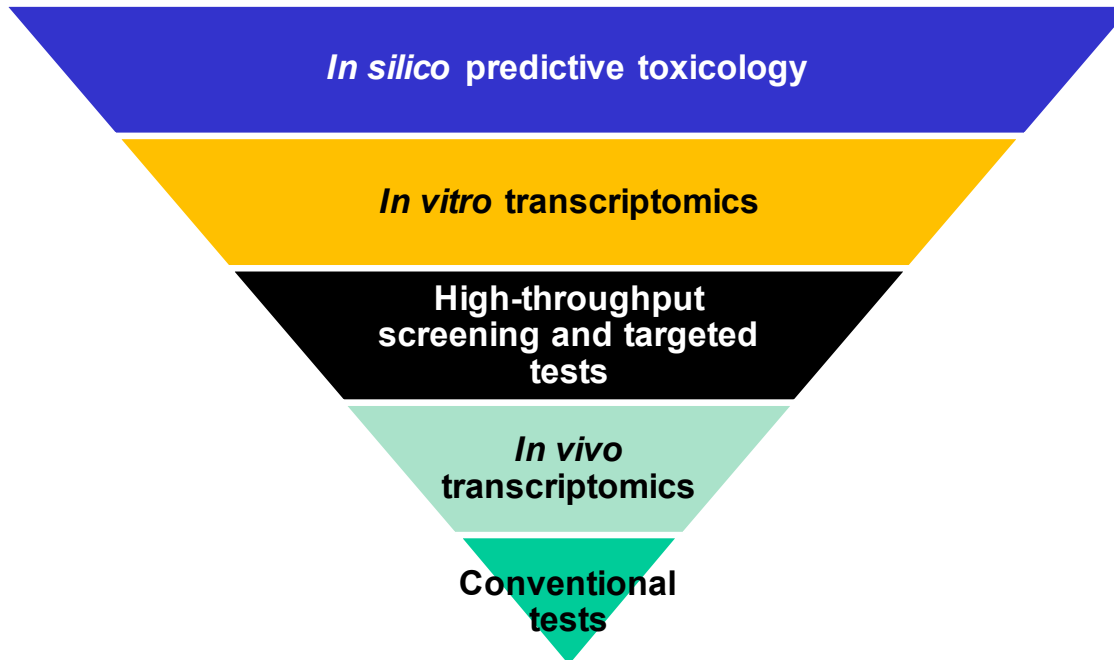
US EPA: Rusty Thomas



Toxicity testing is changing!



Toxicological Testing Paradigms



All chemicals



Few chemicals



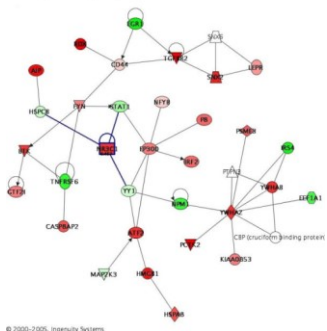
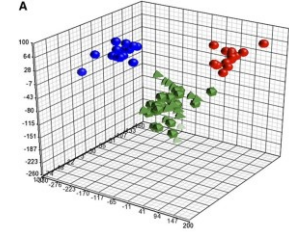
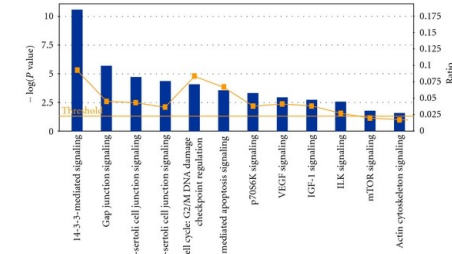
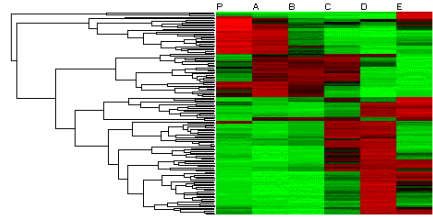
Challenge: How to efficiently analyze and interpret toxicogenomic (TGx) data?

Large gene lists

Complex analyses and interpretations



AssayID	Assay Name	Gene Symbol	25mg/kg/day FDR p-value	50mg/kg/day FDR p-value	75mg/kg/day FDR p-value
V_53_P1963017	NM_001082543	Bta1	0.89	2	0
V_86_P13397	NM_145126	Ctsh1	0.97	3.3	0
V_53_P2114187	XM_884904	LOC202515	0.95	1.4	0.05
V_51_P464703	NM_021443	Ctfr	0	0.6	0
V_86_P196618	NM_001082545	Duf2	0.99	2.2	0
V_53_P2007756	NM_008470	Krt16	0.43	2.3	0
V_52_P399623	NM_173869	Bta101	0.91	1.6	0.02
V_52_P2028649	NR_002880	Duf48-ps	0.98	1.2	0.07
V_53_P198943	NM_145211	Oas1a	0.19	2.4	0
V_52_P210598	NM_012783	Iac15	0.23	2.1	0
V_53_P2174143	NM_009265	Spr19	0.84	1.8	0
V_53_P38678	NM_011472	Spr15	0.94	1.5	0.04
V_51_P13906	NM_025407	Clec2	0.53	4.3	0.5
V_53_P167292	NM_009892	Ctsh3	0.98	1.2	0.84
V_86_P142683	NM_013756	Duf33	0.96	1.2	0.3
V_52_P2062246	NM_001145164	Tgfr2	0.64	2.2	0
V_86_P128377	NM_013783	Duf15	0.84	1.5	0
V_53_P196471	NM_009714	S100a9	0.57	2.1	0
V_53_P1978465	NM_021124	I2-Q8	0.92	1.6	0.03
V_86_P138462	NM_011474	Spr2b	0.97	1.2	0.15
V_51_P384170	NM_023386	Rp24	0.75	1.6	0
V_52_P2133064	NM_008204	I2-N2	0.76	1.7	0.01
V_53_P479628	NM_002048	Spr2a	0.9	1.5	0
V_53_P2120065	NM_009362	Tf1	0.55	3.1	0.04
V_51_P394815	NM_023238	S1001	1	1	0.41
V_53_P1953572	NM_011477	Spr2k	0.66	1.7	0
V_52_P194808	NM_008476	Krt6	0.94	1.4	0.02
V_86_P140193	NM_010669	Krt6b	0.92	1.5	0.01
V_51_P302140	NM_007482	Anp1	0.81	1.7	0
V_51_P126273	NM_010669	Krt6b	1.5	0.92	0.01
V_51_P112355	NM_018738	Ipp1	0.68	2	0
V_52_P2012965	NM_009362	Tf1	0.5	3.2	0.01
V_53_P2014662	NM_021274	Cwe10	0.89	1.6	0
V_51_P160997	NM_201363	Serpinb3a	0.06	2	0
V_53_P1970144	AK009466	S100f14	0.97	1.2	0.37
V_52_P36883	NM_183026	Duf14	0.26	2.1	0
V_53_P1963203	NM_013505	Dnc2	0.9	1.3	0.04
V_86_P140404	NM_001033207	Nfya5	2.2	0	0
V_30_P01019307	NM_001478461	Cux1b14	0.93	1.3	0
V_51_P198434	NM_001001892	I01-K1	0.73	1.6	0.01
V_52_P2003746	NM_009126	Serpinb3a	0.74	1.5	0
V_53_P2410184	NM_001140275	Iip1	0.29	1.8	0
V_53_P2472435	NM_018734	Cbp3	0.87	1.5	0



Use in risk assessment?

Vision for use of transcriptomics in regulatory decision-making

Large gene lists

Extract predictive signatures (biomarkers) and pathways

Dose-response modeling

Risk assessment

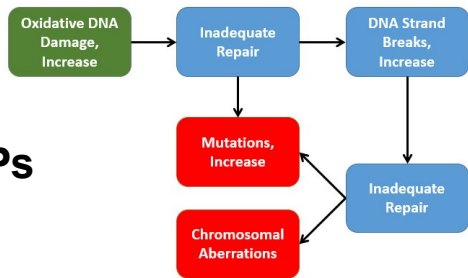
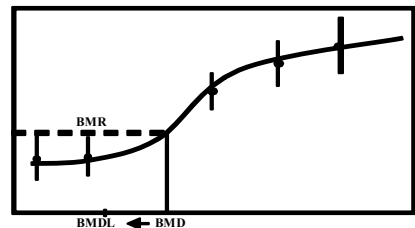
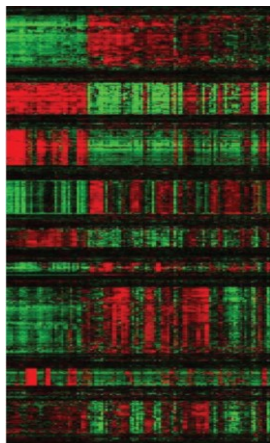
Human exposure levels?

At what dose do effects occur?
Reverse dosimetry (IVIVE) required?

Hazard identification
Mode of action analysis

Align to AOPs

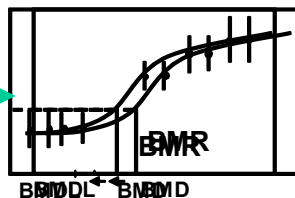
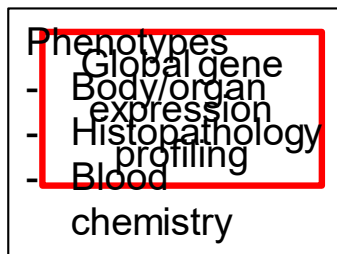
Accession Number	Gene Symbol	25mg/kg/day		50mg/kg/day		75mg/kg/day		
		FCID	Fold Change	FCID	Fold Change	FCID	Fold Change	
V.55 P196207	NM_001025243	0.89	2	0	0	0.59	0	78.5
V.55 P131937	NM_145126	0.97	1.3	0	0	1.2	0	36.6
V.55 P211487	NM_884904	0.95	1.4	0.60	3.7	0	0	29.2
V.55 P066700	NM_021442	0	0	0	0	13.8	0	16.7
V.55 P139018	NM_001082343	0.59	2.2	0	0	4.4	0	15.5
V.55 P2007700	NM_009476	0.43	2.3	0	0	7.3	0	13.1
V.55 P198925	NM_173809	0.91	1.6	0.62	2.8	0	0	11.4
V.55 P2020449	NM_022893	0.98	1.2	0.97	2.5	0	0	9
V.55 P199943	NM_145311	0.19	2.4	0	0	5.1	0	8.9
V.55 P210469	NM_013763	0.53	2.1	0	0	4.6	0	8.8
V.55 P2174143	NM_009265	0.84	1.8	0	0	3.7	0	8.5
V.55 P198976	NM_011472	0.84	1.5	0.66	3	0	0	7.2
V.55 P113906	NM_022467	0.53	4.3	0.5	3	0.01	6.8	6.8
V.55 P197292	NM_009492	0.96	1.2	0.86	1.4	0	0	6.6
V.55 P110206	NM_013756	0.98	1.2	0.3	1.7	0	0	5.7
V.55 P2062246	NM_001147104	0.64	2.2	0	0	4.4	0	5.6
V.55 P191837	NM_013763	0.84	1.5	0	0	2.7	0	5.4
V.55 P199871	NM_009114	0.57	2.1	0	0	4.1	0	5.2
V.55 P191840	NM_021224	0.92	1.6	0.93	3	0	0	5
V.55 P138462	NM_011474	0.97	1.2	0.15	2.3	0	0	5
V.55 P194176	NM_021366	0.79	1.6	0	0	1	0	5
V.55 P213084	NM_008204	0.76	1.7	0.61	2.3	0	0	5
V.55 P1970626	NM_001548	0.93	1.5	0	0	3.7	0	4.6
V.55 P2112085	NM_009362	0.53	3.1	0.64	4.3	0	0	4.6
V.55 P196817	NM_022208	0	1	0.41	1.9	0	0	4.6
V.55 P1935372	NM_011477	0.66	1.7	0	0	2.3	0	4.5
V.55 P196818	NM_008476	0.96	1.4	0.62	3.2	0	0	4.5
V.55 P191933	NM_019669	0.92	1.5	0.91	2.7	0	0	4.5
V.55 P190186	NM_007482	0.81	1.7	0	0	3.3	0	4.5
V.55 P192767	NM_019669	0.92	1.5	0.91	2.9	0	0	4.5
V.55 P112335	NM_018738	0.88	2	0	0	4.1	0	4.4
V.55 P2021382	NM_009362	0.53	3.2	0.61	4.5	0.01	4.3	4.3
V.55 P2036462	NM_021274	0.89	1.6	0	0	3	0	4.3
V.55 P190997	NM_201363	0.96	2	0	0	3.1	0	4.3
V.55 P1970144	AK009846	0.97	1.2	0.17	1.9	0	0	4.3
V.55 P196893	NM_118020	0.26	2.1	0	0	4	0	4.3
V.55 P196830	NM_011305	0.9	1.3	0.64	1.8	0	0	4.3
V.55 P2034094	NM_00103307	0	0	0	0	2.7	0	3.8
V.30 P01019307	NM_011474	0.59	1.5	0	0	2.1	0	3.8
V.55 P11044	NM_001474	0.96	2.3	0.85	2.3	0	0	3.8
V.55 P196434	NM_00100182	0.73	1.6	0.61	2.4	0	0	3.7
V.55 P2003746	NM_009128	0.74	1.5	0	0	2.3	0	3.6
V.55 P241034	NM_00114623	0.59	1.8	0	0	1.8	0	3.6
V.55 P247243	NM_018734	0.87	1.5	0	0	2.9	0	3.6



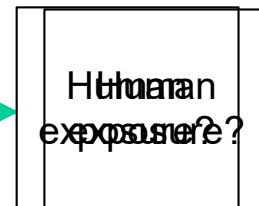
At what dose do effects occur?
Reverse dosimetry (IVIVE) required?

Hazard identification
Mode of action analysis

In the near-term: does a transcriptomic POD (regardless of hazard) provide protection from potential human health effects?



Lowest gene set BMD
Lowest adverse effect



Article Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 BMDExpress 2 software application
- 3 On-going development efforts
- 4 Conclusion

CORRECTED PROOF

BMDExpress 2: enhanced transcriptomic dose-response analysis workflow

Jason R Phillips, Daniel L Svoboda, Arpit Tandon, Shyam Patel, Alex Sedykh, Deepak Mav, Byron Kuo, Carole L Yauk, Longlong Yang, Russell S Thomas, ... Show more

Bioinformatics, bty878, <https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/bty878>

Published: 17 October 2018 Article history

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NTP
National Toxicology Program
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

NTP RESEARCH REPORT ON
NATIONAL TOXICOLOGY
PROGRAM APPROACH TO
GENOMIC DOSE-RESPONSE
MODELING

Context of use: various applications in regulatory decision making

Transcriptomic data set

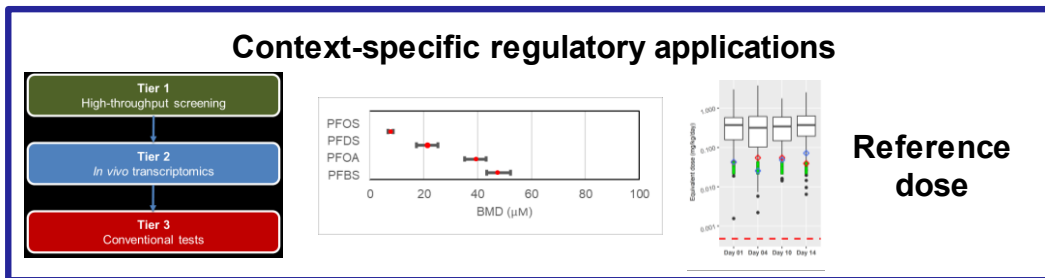
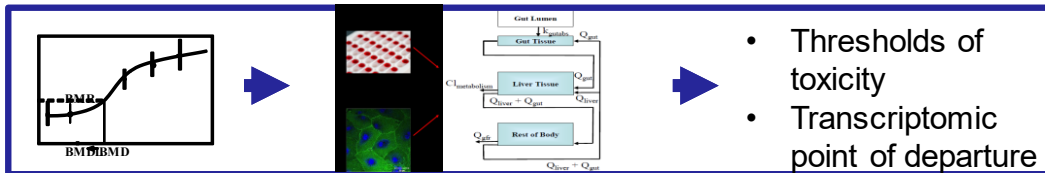
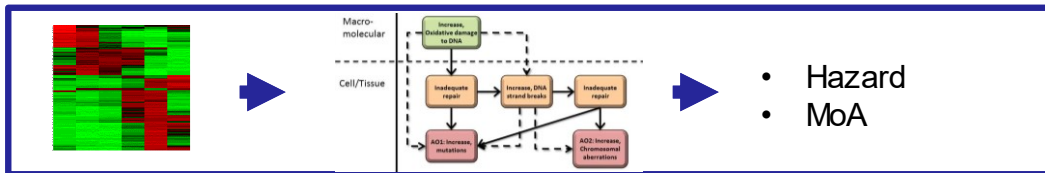
Extract predictive biomarkers

Dose-response modeling

Equivalent dose

Human exposure levels

Regulatory decision making



What are the regulatory concerns?

- Can we trust the new tools?
 - Validation – sensitivity, specificity, reproducibility, accuracy
- Will we miss toxicological effects?
 - Have we covered enough biology? Can we predict toxicological effects?
- Gene expression changes \neq adverse phenotypic changes
 - Are we basing decisions on adaptive versus adverse effects?
- Gene expression changes are the first cellular responses
 - Will the dose at which we see responses be extremely low?
 - i.e., Are we being overly conservative?
 - » Not feasible in terms of risk management
- What is the uncertainty associated with these new approaches?
- How do we do it (experience needed), who will generate the data, and will it give us comparable results?



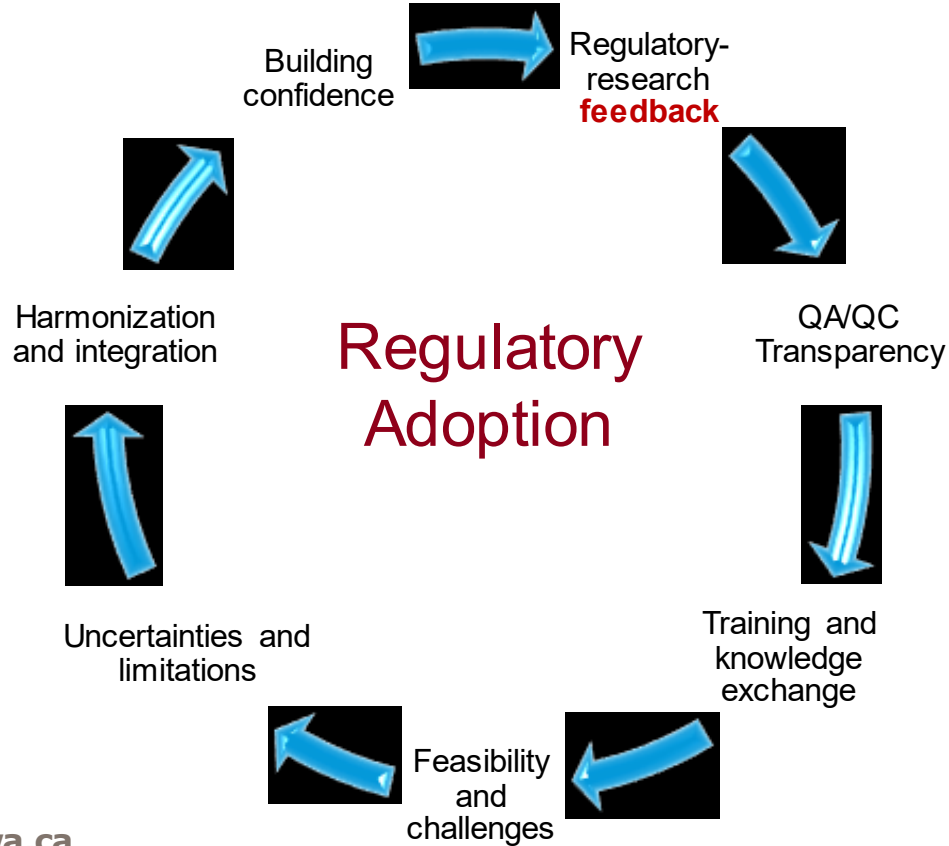


CASESTUDIES

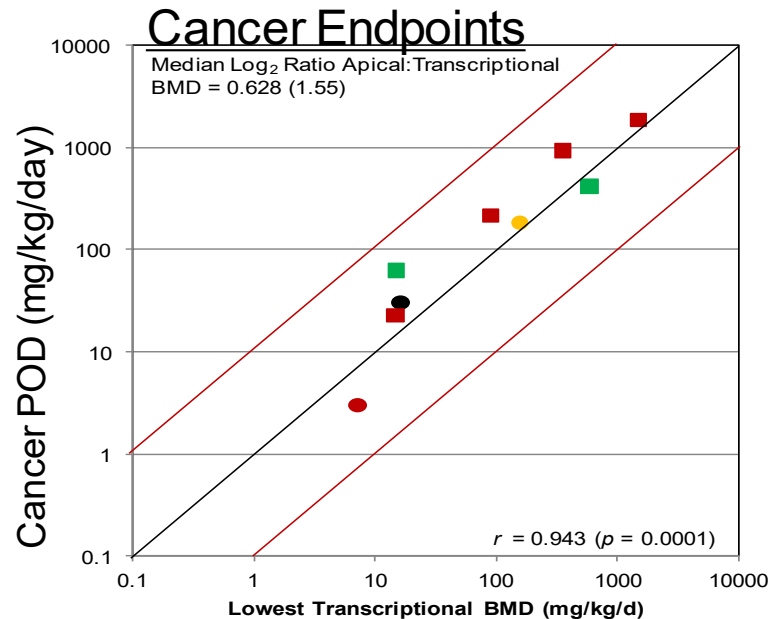
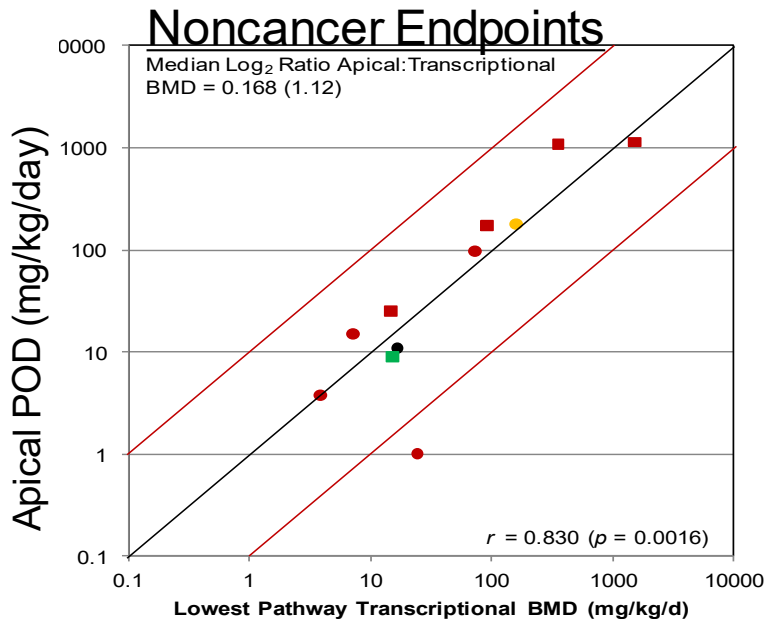


**Health Canada
Research-Regulatory
Collaboration**

Why case studies?

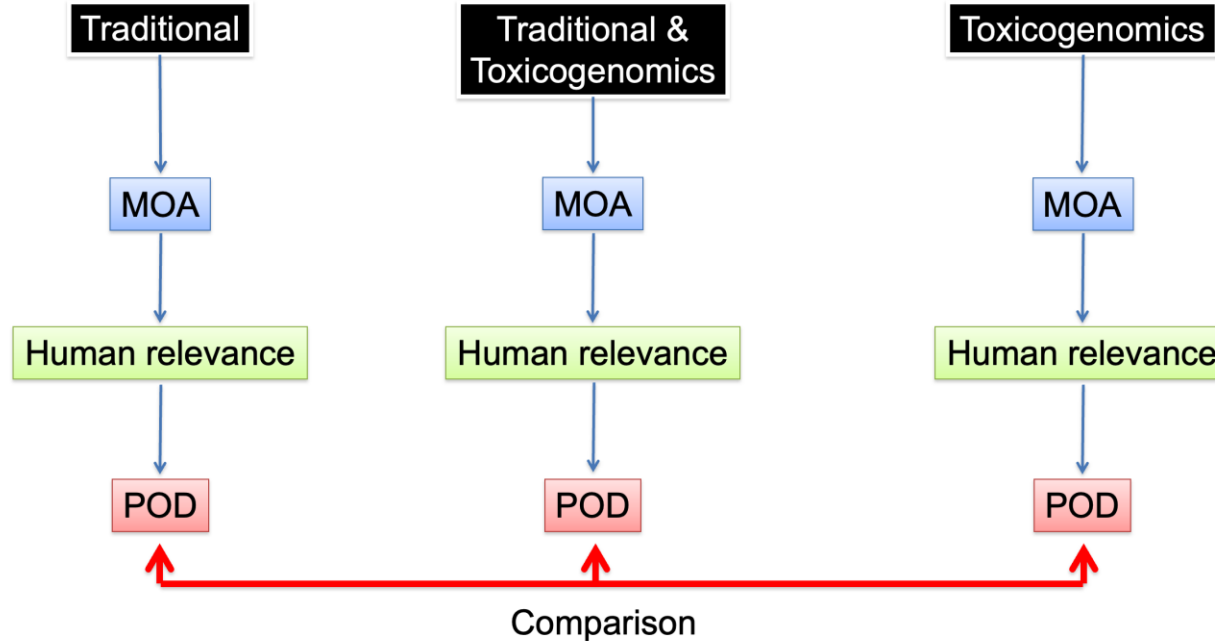


Foundational studies: Most sensitive (lowest) pathway BMD provides a reasonable estimate of the PoD



- Bladder
- Liver
- Thyroid
- Lung
- Rat
- Mouse

Initial case study focus



Hazard-agnostic tPOD within 10-fold (or less) of regulatory PODs (early DNA microarray studies)

Toxicant	Relevant Apical (mg/kd/day)	TGx PoD (mg/kg/day)	Apical: TGx	Reference
Benzo[a]pyrene Liver	1.2	1.0 (lowest pathway)	<2-fold	Moffat et al. <i>Crit. Rev. Tox.</i> 2014
Benzo[a]pyrene Lung	0.8	3.7 (lowest pathway)	~5-fold	Moffat et al. <i>Crit. Rev. Tox.</i> 2014
Benzo[a]pyrene Forestomach	0.5	7.4 (lowest pathway)	~10-fold	Moffat et al. <i>Crit. Rev. Tox.</i> 2014
Furan (mouse) Liver	2.3	3.6 (median gene BMD)	<2-fold	Jackson et al., <i>Tox Applied Pharm.</i> 2014
Furan (rat) Liver	1.8	1.0 (median gene BMD)	<2-fold	Dong et al. <i>Arch. Tox.</i> , 2015

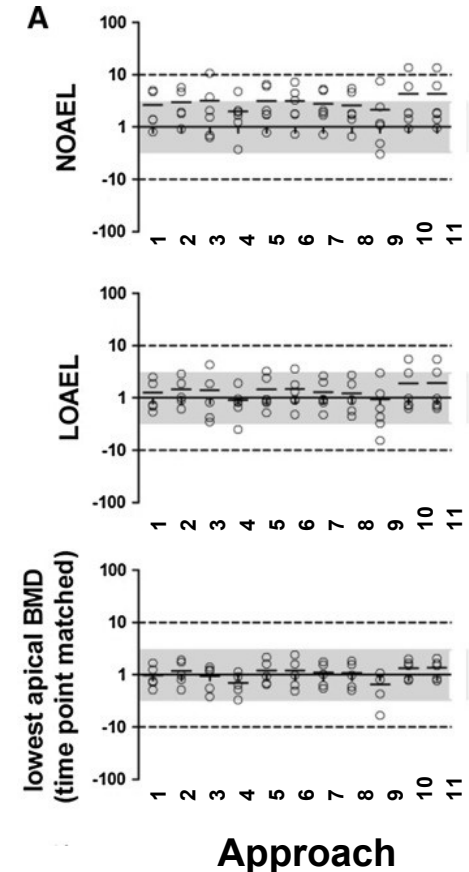
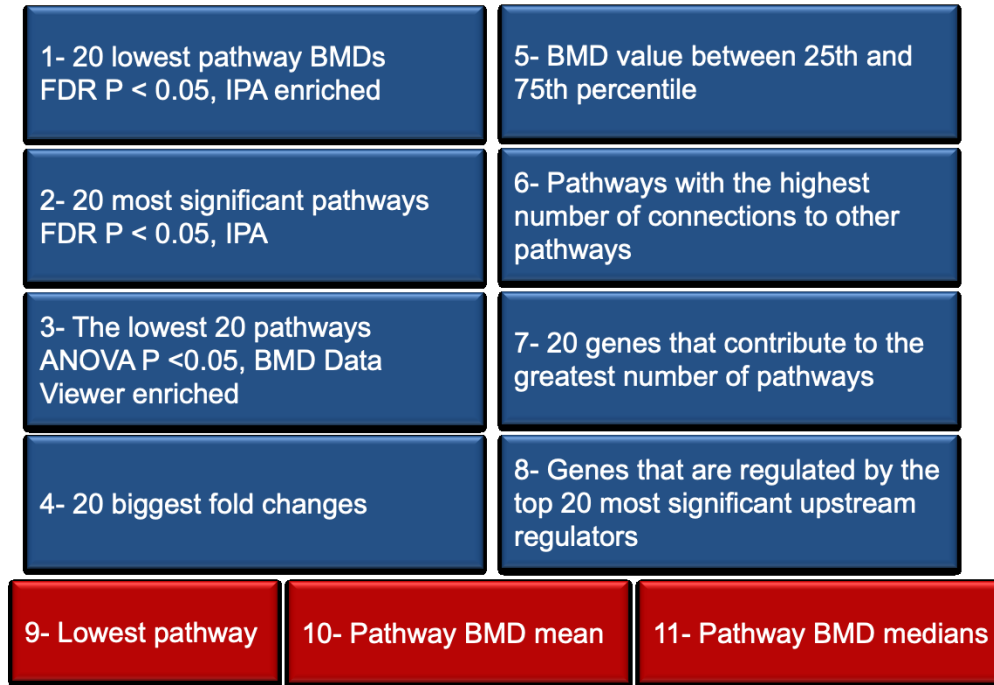
Water and Air Quality

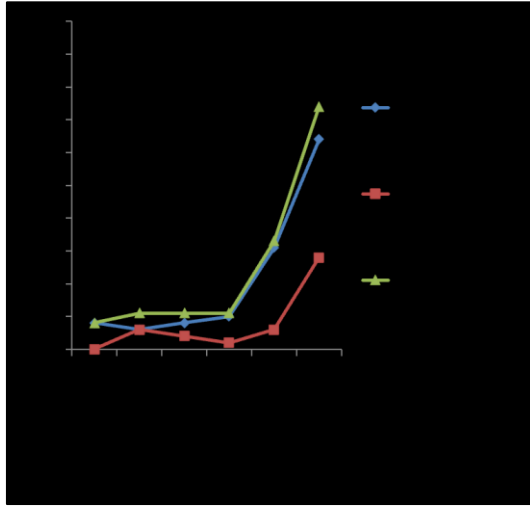
Food

Similar conclusions from case studies on carbon black nanoparticles and acrylamide
Many questions remaining about how to select a POD that represents a tipping point for adverse effects

Which tPOD?

- Different gene sets identify similar tPODs to each other and to apical endpoint PODs.

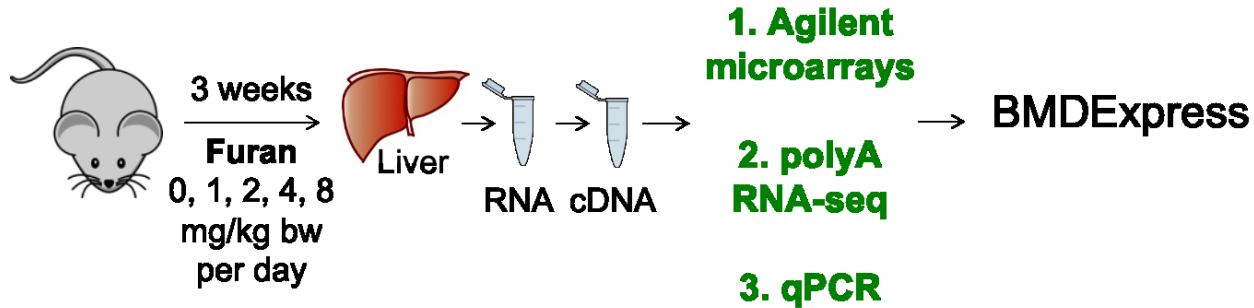




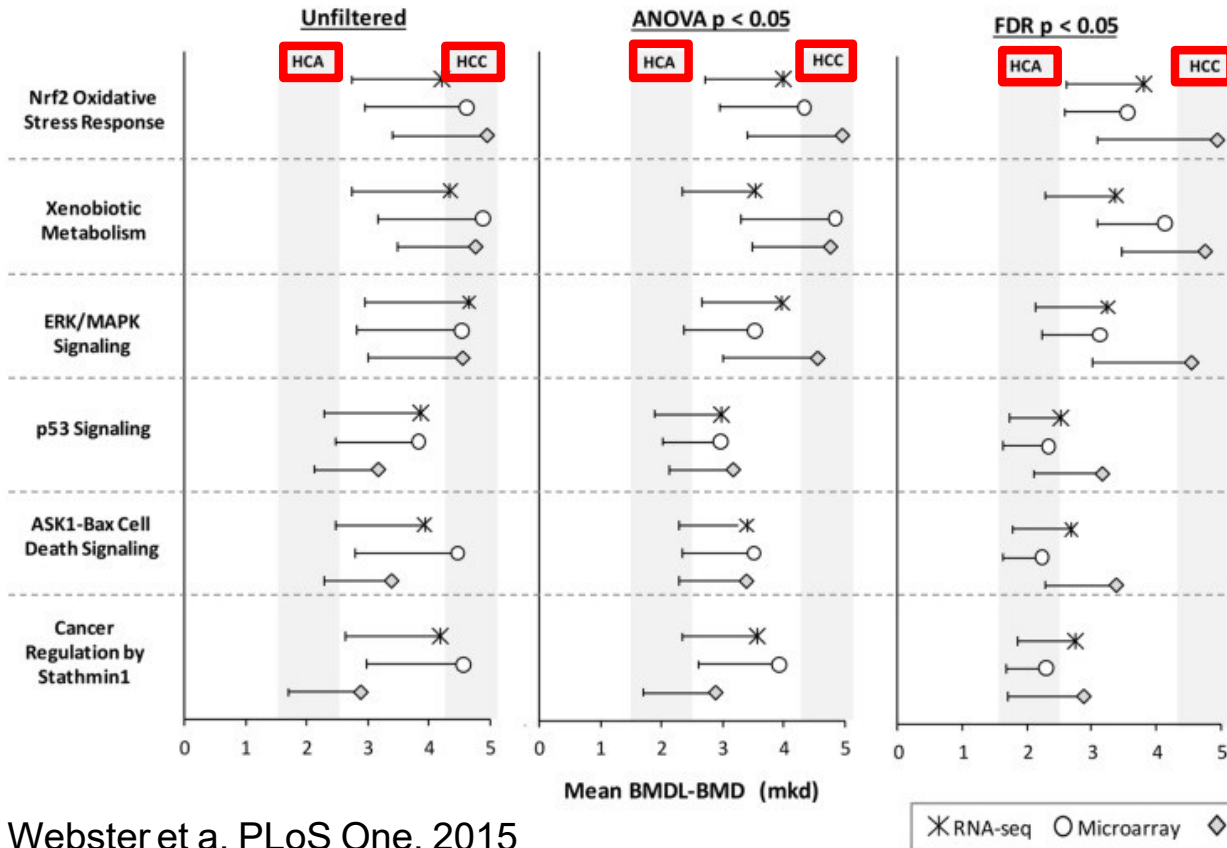
What if we use a hazard-based approach?

What if we used a different platform?

Impacts of more rigorous filtering?



MOA-specific pathway BMDs consistent with apical endpoint BMDs



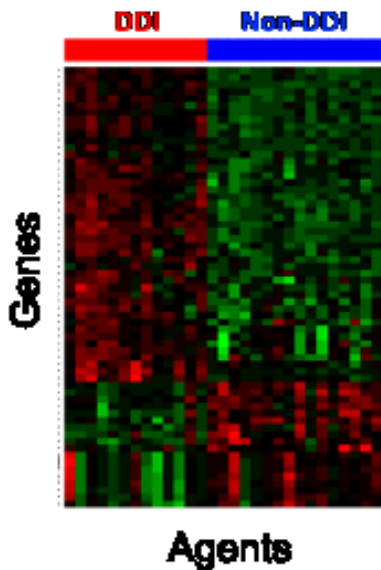
MoA pathways

- TGx BMD means are consistent across platforms
- TGx BMD means fall within interval between HCA and HCC
- Rigorous filtering had a small impact

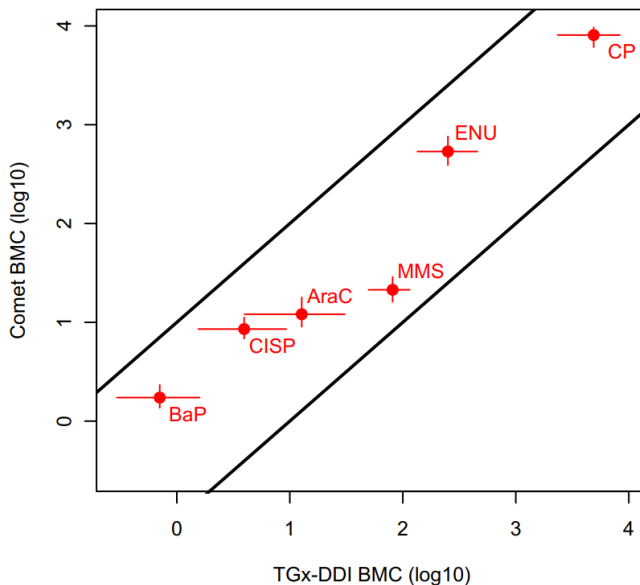
Does this work for TGx biomarker gene sets?

TGx-DDI biomarker BMC predicts the BMC of DNA damage

High-throughput CometChip® and TGx-DDI biomarker assay measured by TempO-seq in HepaRG cells.



Li, HH et al. *PNAS* (2017)



Buick et al.,
Frontiers in Public Health, 2021

But how do we know we're not modeling noise?

- Need sufficient perturbations and rigorous filtering
- Gene sets to eliminate noise, or robust baseline required

Methods:

- HepaRG cells
- solvent controls assigned randomly to 'dose groups'
- Run BMD analysis
 - BMR 1SD and default filters in BMDEpress
- Derive PODs
- Determine FDR of PODs

		EMPIRICAL FALSE DISCOVERY RATE											
		Default Settings			Williams Trend Test			Background Filtering			Fold Change		
Study	Design	Median # BMCs	25th Gene	Lowest Pathway	Median # BMCs	25th Gene	Lowest Pathway	Median # BMCs	25th Gene	Lowest Pathway	Median # BMCs	25th Gene	Lowest Pathway
S1500	4 doses, n = 6	8	0.20	0.14	2	0.05	0.05	4	0.12	0.10	1	0.05	0.05
	6 doses, n = 4	8	0.17	0.17	2	0.02	0.03	4	0.11	0.11	1	0.03	0.03
	8 doses, n = 3	8	0.17	0.16	1	0.00	0.01	5	0.13	0.11	2	0.08	0.10
	12 doses, n = 2	6	0.10	0.10	1	0.01	0.01	3	0.08	0.07	2	0.07	0.06
	4 doses, n = 12	1	0.01	0.02	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.01	0	0.00	0.00
	6 doses, n = 8	2	0.07	0.06	1	0.02	0.01	1	0.05	0.05	0	0.05	0.05
Whole Transcriptome	8 doses, n = 6	5	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0.04	0.03
	12 doses, n = 4	8	0.14	0.14	1	0.04	0.04	4	0.10	0.09	2	0.07	0.06
	4 doses, n = 6	2	0.05	0.06	1	0.00	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	1	0.00	0.00
	6 doses, n = 4	15	0.12	0.07	2	0.00	0.00	7	0.02	0.01	3	0.00	0.00
Derive PODs	8 doses, n = 3	13	0.11	0.06	2	0.00	0.00	7	0.02	0.02	3	0.00	0.01
	12 doses, n = 2	10	0.07	0.06	1	0.01	0.01	5	0.04	0.03	4	0.04	0.03
	4 doses, n = 12	2	0.00	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	1	0.00	0.00
Determine FDR of PODs	6 doses, n = 8	5	0.01	0.01	2	0.00	0.00	3	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
	8 doses, n = 6	9	0.02	0.03	2	0.02	0.01	5	0.02	0.01	1	0.00	0.00
	12 doses, n = 4	14	0.13	0.07	3	0.01	0.00	7	0.03	0.03	2	0.00	0.00

Work done by Andrew Williams, Health Canada
(channeling previous work by Scott Auerbach)

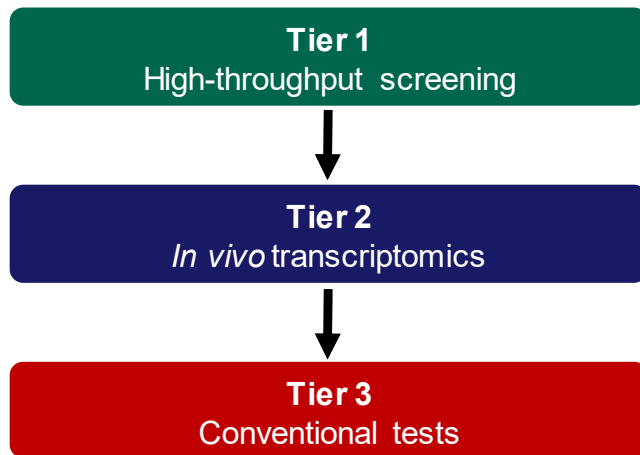
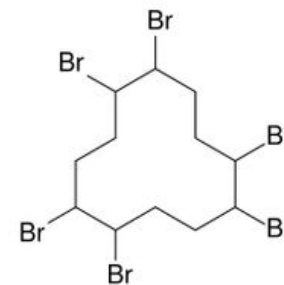


Recent Research-Regulatory case studies to advance our vision

#1. Tiered testing for human health risk assessment Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD)

Objectives

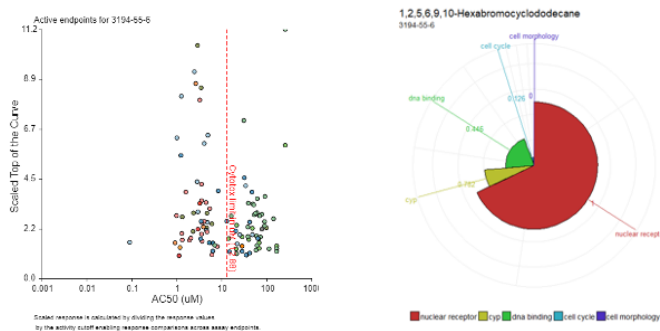
- Gain experience in applying a tiered testing paradigm;
- Explore consistency across tiers;
- Evaluate use in risk assessment.



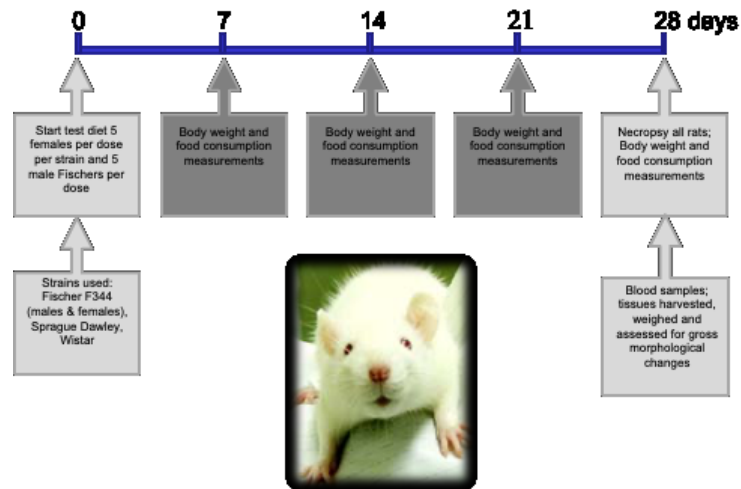
Gannon et al. *Food and Chemical Toxicology*, 2019.

Methods

Tier 1: ToxCast and Tox21 data



Tier 3: Rat sub-chronic studies



Tier 2: Rat liver RNA-sequencing

Male and Female Fischer F344 N = 10



Diet, 28 days



Liver

Extract RNA



- Dietary concentrations of 250, 1250, and 5000 mg HBCD/kg diet.



- Altered pathways, upstream regulators
- Signatures of toxicity

Gannon, Moreau, Farmahin et al. *Food and Chemical Toxicology*, 2019.

Transcriptomics is highly consistent with the other tiers for hazard ID

Confirmed effects observed *in vivo*

- Hundreds of differentially expressed genes

Identified sex-specific effects

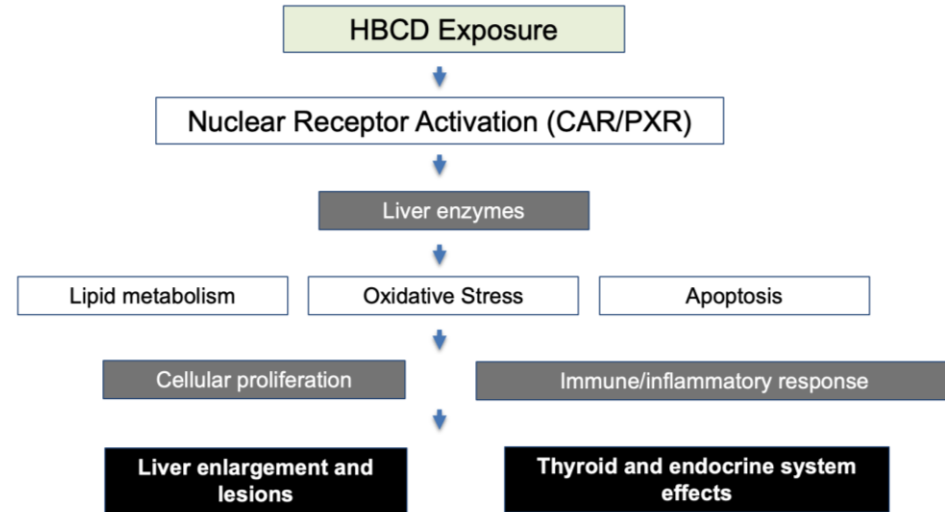
- More changes in males than females

Genes were associated with pathways suggesting:

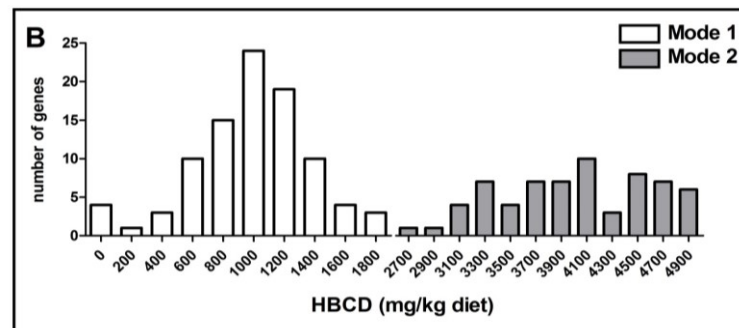
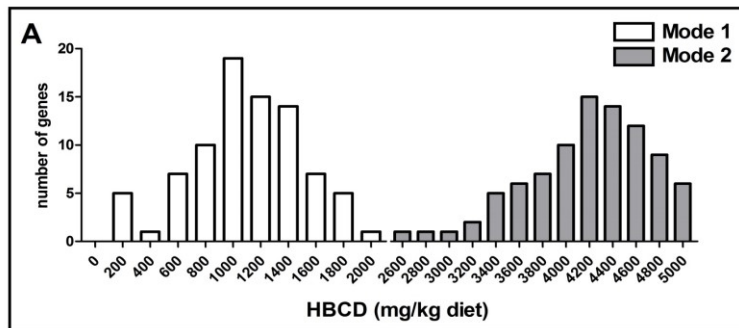
- Alterations in metabolism of xenobiotics and nuclear receptor activity, oxidative stress, cell proliferation and apoptosis, metabolism of glucose and lipid, immune response, fibrotic activity, and hormonal balance

Transcriptomic biomarker analysis revealed

- CAR and PXR biomarker activation at all doses in both sexes (no other biomarkers)



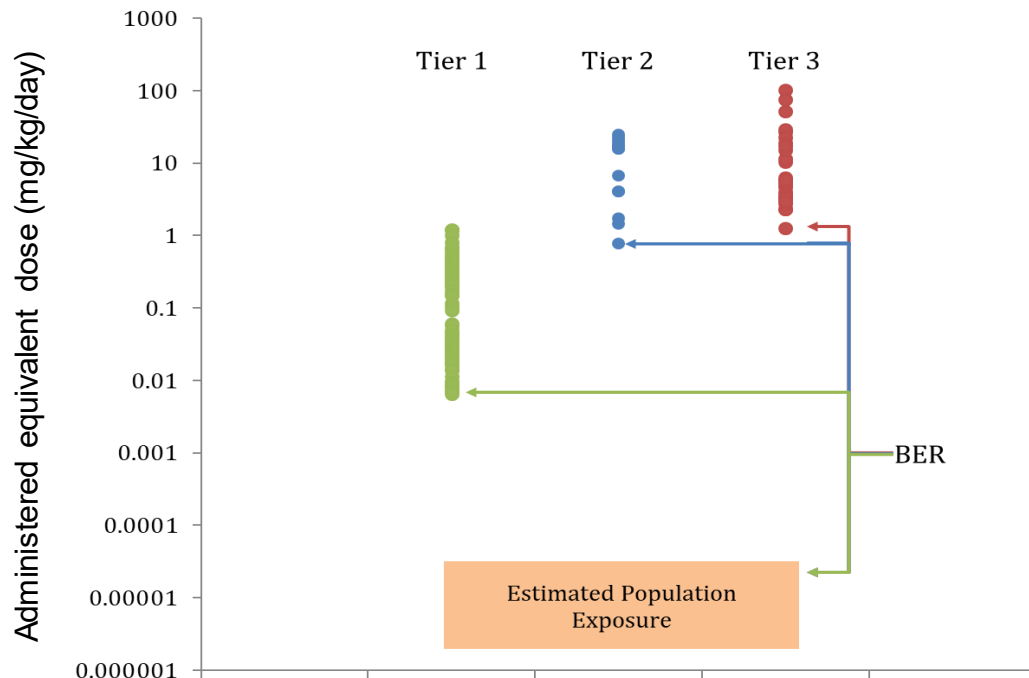
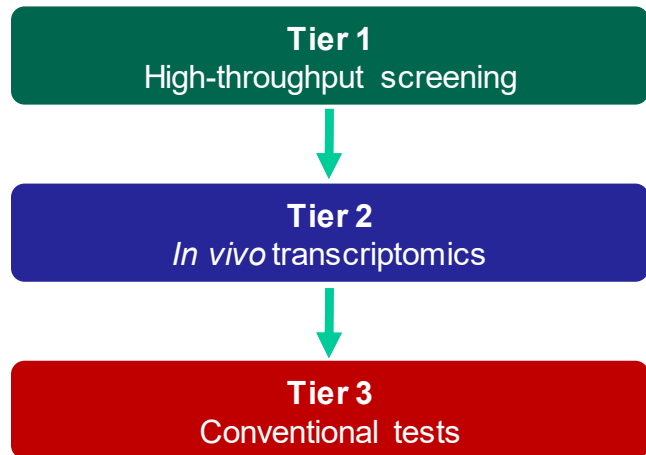
BMD analysis reveals bi-modal distributions and consistency between males (A) and females (B)



	Male	Female
Approach used to derive BMD	BMD (mg/kg.day)	BMD (mg/kg.day)
Median of significantly enriched pathway BMDs	77	73
20 genes with the largest fold changes	84	65
Lowest statistically significant pathway	66	71
Lowest overall pathways (5% and min 3 genes)	7.2	3.2

Tier 2 is highly overlapping with Tier 3

- human oral equivalent doses for ToxCast AC50s & rat liver transcriptomic BMDs, compared to apical endpoint BMDs in rats and relative to human exposure (Canadian Health Measures survey)

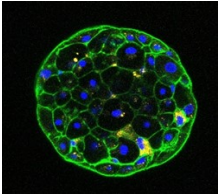


Gannon et al. *Food and Chemical Toxicology*, 2019.

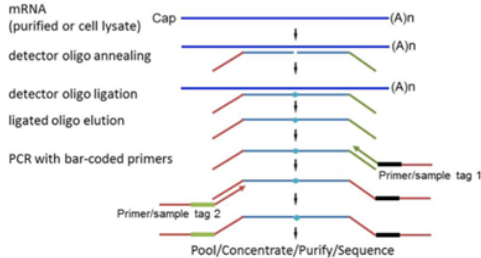
#2. PFAS regulatory needs

- Understand potential toxicity and potencies of emerging PFAS
- Acceptable concentrations of PFAS in drinking water and for cleanup of contaminated sites
- **Prototypes for comparison – PFOA and PFOS**

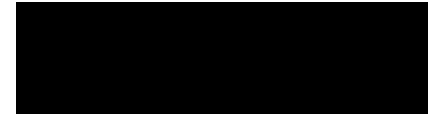
Methods



TempO||Seq™



Perfluorooctanoic acid
PFOA (C8)



Perfluorodecane Sulfonic Acid
PFDS (C10)

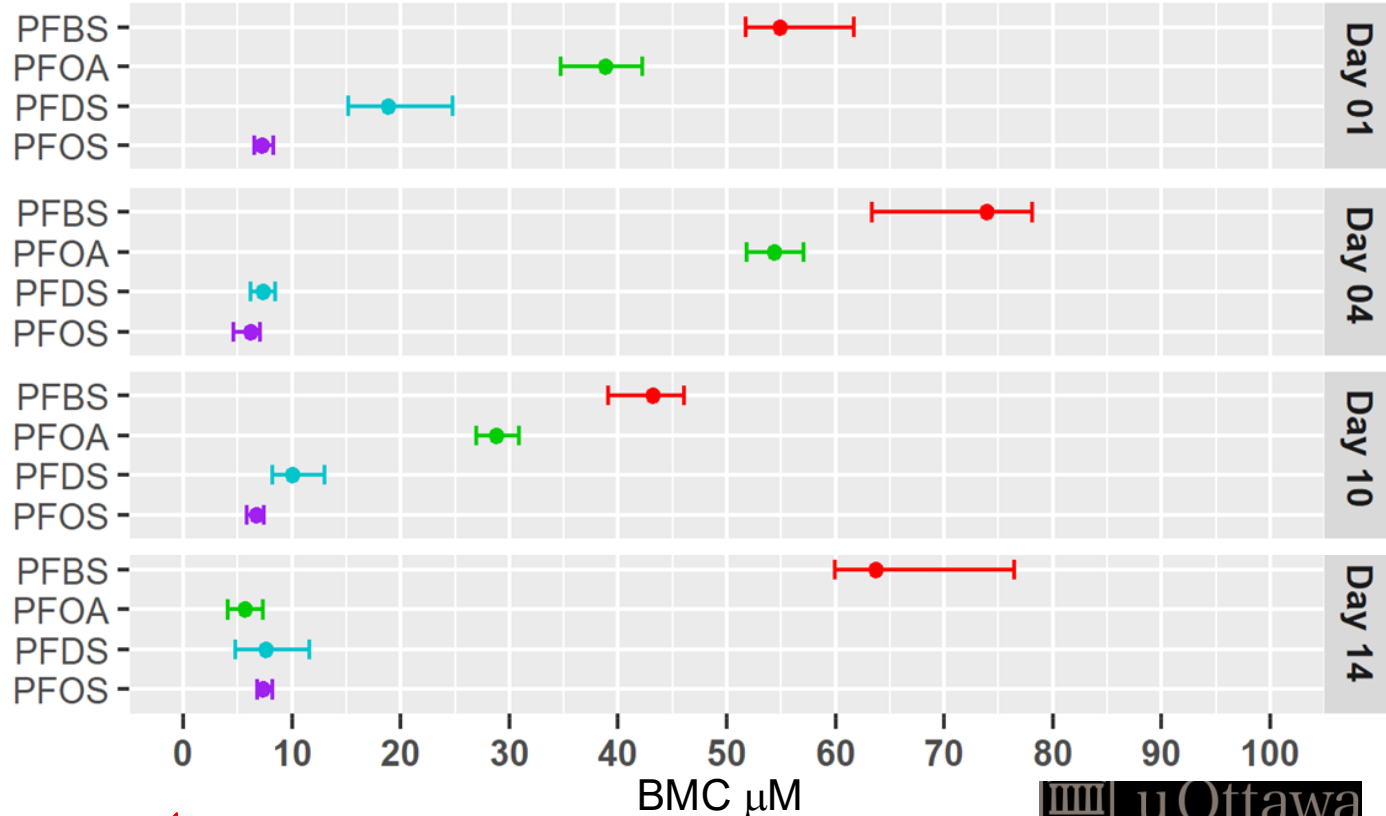
- 10 concentrations, 4 time points (1, 4, 10 and 14 days)
- Media changed every three days and cytotoxicity monitored

Rowan-Carroll et al., Tox Sci 2021

Median gene BMC (central measure of activity)

Potency comparison of prototypes: PFOS > PFDS > PFOA > PFBS

- PFBS – Least potent
- PFOS – Most Potent
- PFOA } ↑ potency with time
- PFDS } Equipotent to PFOS by Day 14

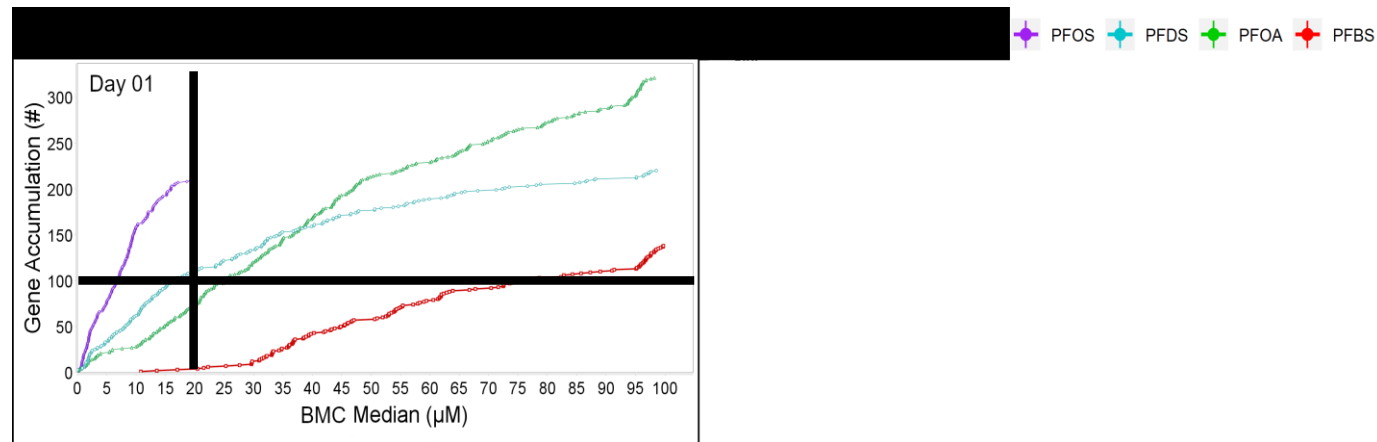


Rowan-Carroll et al.
Tox Sci, 2021

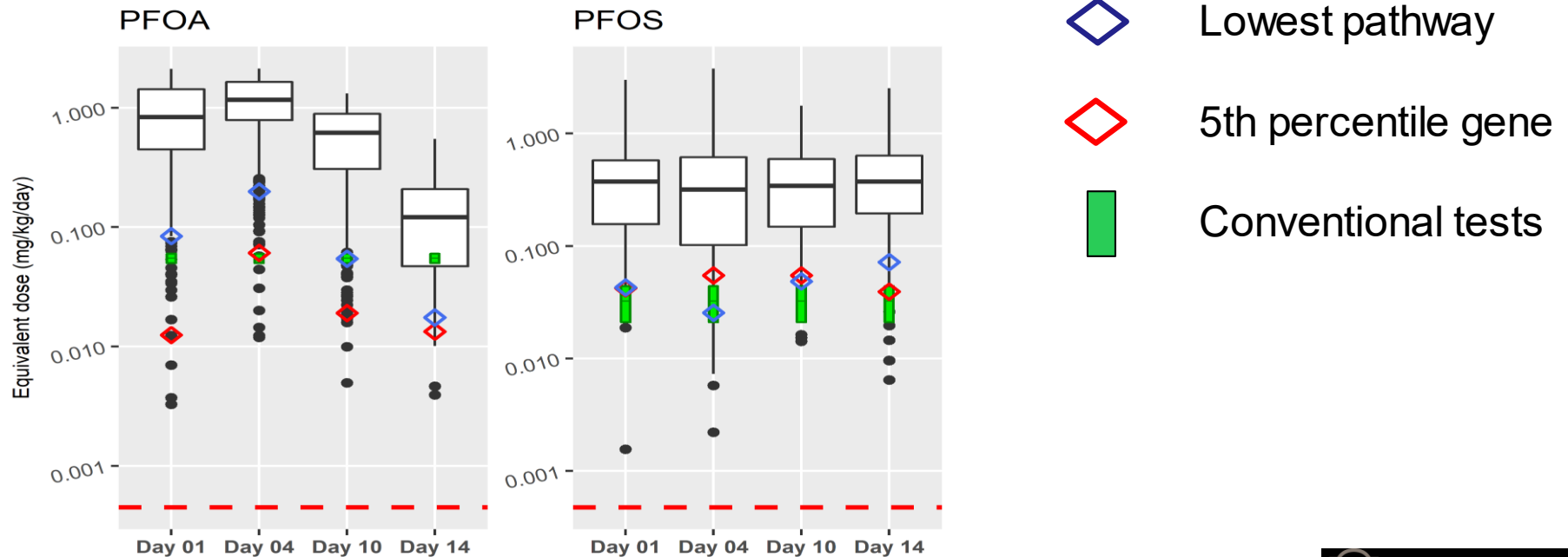
Similar potency rankings in overall BMC distribution

Potency: PFOS > PFDS > PFOA > PFBS

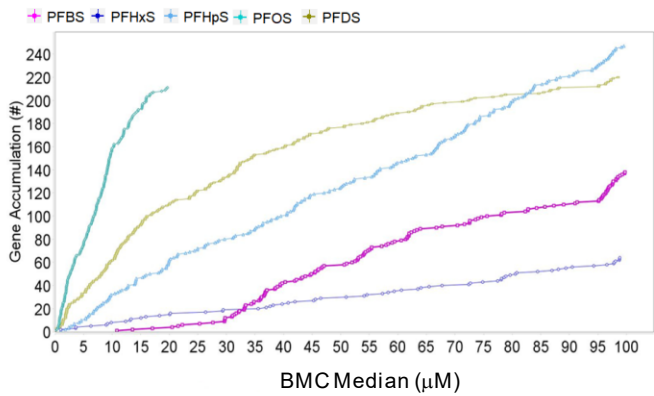
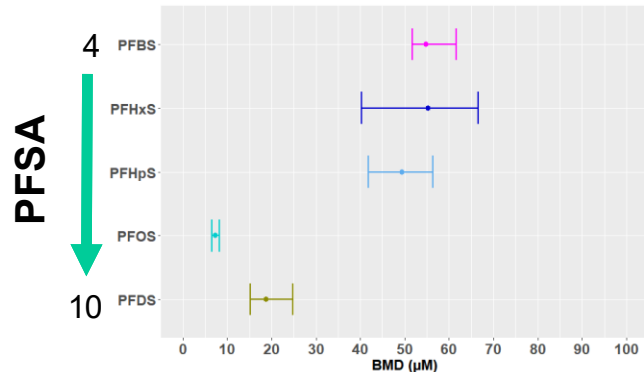
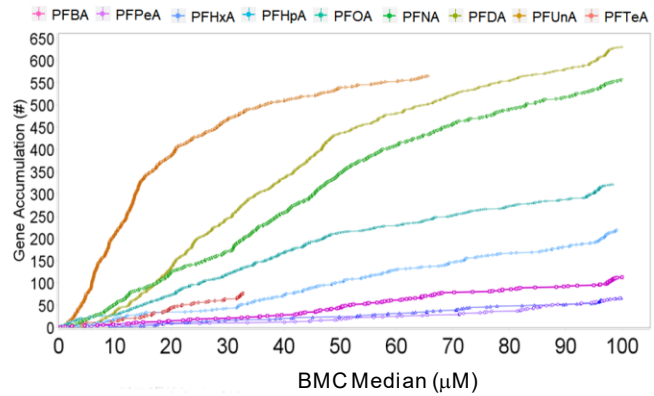
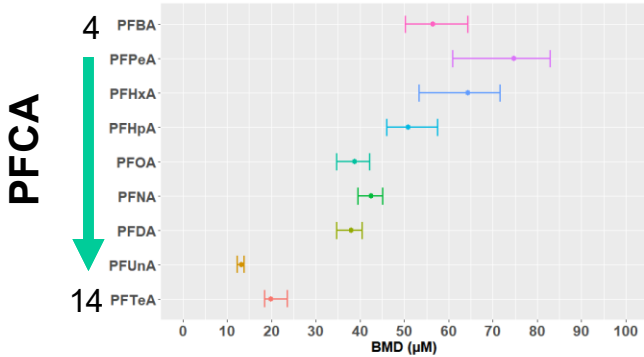
- Lowest effects occur at similar concentrations for PFOS, PFOA, PFDS (similar potencies)
- Transcriptional activity initiated: 1 – 15 μM
- PFOS has more genes fitting BMC models below 20 (biological activity)
- Potential use of liver toxicity thresholds (Ramaiahgari SC et al. *Tox Sci* 2019)



tPODs for PFOA and PFOS consistent with apical PODs and potential for human health risk



Decreasing BMC with increasing PFAS chain length



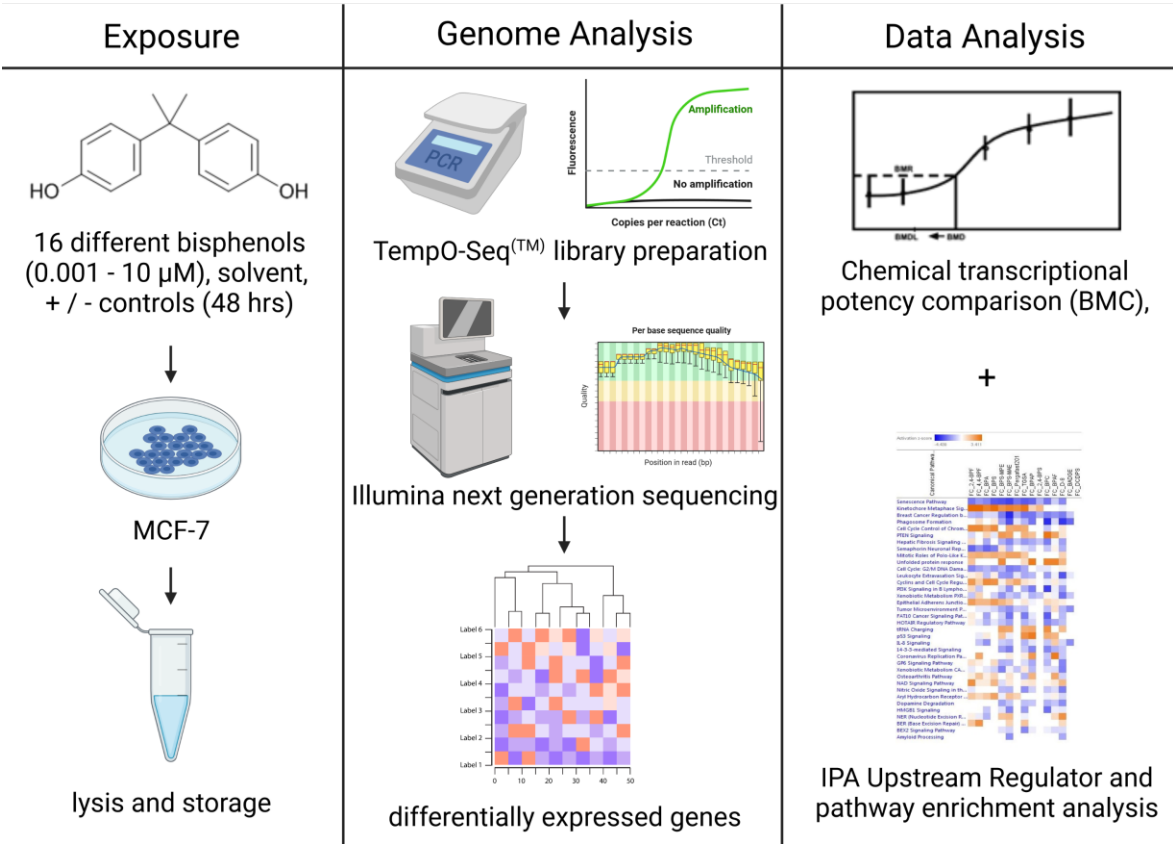
- Analysis separated by functional groups
- Relationship between chain length and potency
- Use of information for read-across to inform data-poor and untested PFAS



#3. Bisphenol and bisphenol replacements: tPODs to compare potencies and identify active/inactive chemicals

- Estrogenic activity and potency analysis of BPA alternatives
- MCF7 cells, 9 concentrations, 48 hr exposures

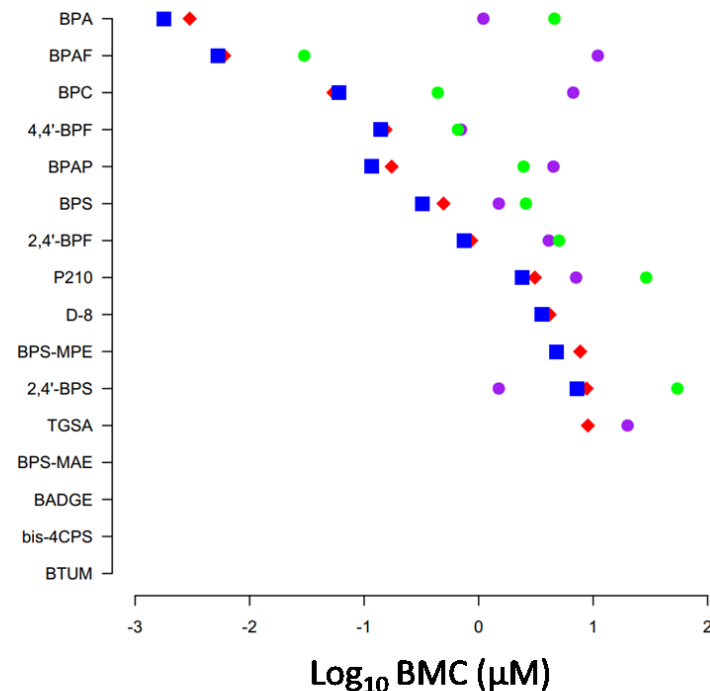
Parodi-Matteo *in preparation*



#3. Bisphenol and bisphenol replacements: tPOD approach identifies active/inactive chemicals and enable potency ranking

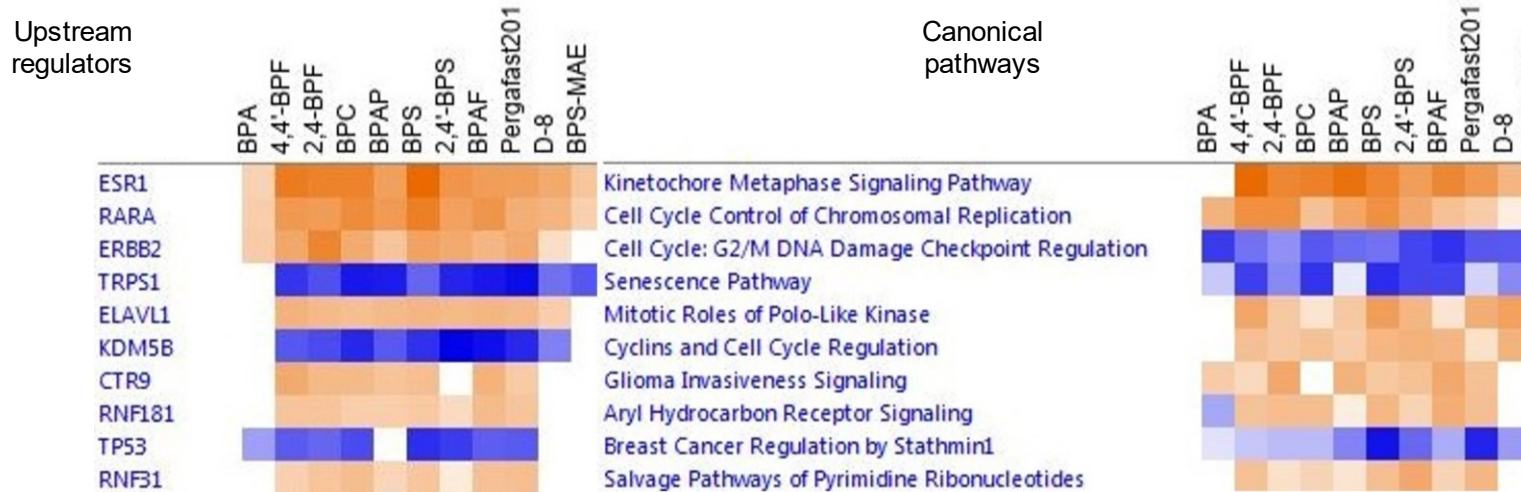
	ER α	25th gene	Lowest Pathway		
	Prediction		Median	IPA ER Median	ER α BM Median
BPA	Agonist	0.003	0.0018	1.1	4.59
BPAF	Agonist	0.006	0.0053	11	0.03
BPC	Agonist	0.054	0.0604	6.7	0.44
4,4'-BPF	Agonist	0.154	0.1406	0.7	0.66
BPAP	Agonist	0.174	0.1170	4.5	2.47
BPS	Agonist	0.494	0.3252	1.5	2.59
2,4'-BPF	Agonist	0.861	0.7511	4.1	5.04
P210	Agonist	3.102	2.3989	7.1	29.08
D-8	Inactive	4.172	3.5581		
BPS-MPE	Inactive	7.715	4.8011		
2,4'-BPS	Agonist	8.774	7.2158	1.5	54.45
TGSA	Agonist	8.999		20	
BPS-MAE	Inactive				
BADGE	Antagonist				
bis-4CPS	Inactive				
BTUM	Inactive				

↑
Rooney et al.
*Chem Res
Toxicol.* 2021



- Lowest Pathway Median
- ◆ 25th Gene
- IPA ER Median
- ER α BM Median

Gene set enrichment analysis of genes fitting BMC models (concentration-responsive genes) reveals high similarity across the chemicals



What does this mean?

- Dose at which we see transcriptional perturbations (i.e., tPOD) in short-term studies predicts the dose at which adverse effects occur following longer-term exposures
- tPODs are generally conservative, but not overly conservative
- A variety of approaches work, both hazard-based and agnostic
 - When the transcriptome is robustly perturbed, prolonged exposed at this dose is likely to lead to adverse health consequences
- Approach taken should be context specific
 - Selecting the lowest tPOD is protective of adverse health effects
- Case studies useful for informing regulatory applications and building confidence

Major needs

- Socialize this idea
 - Paradigm-changes are challenging
- Establish best practices for deriving tPODs for different contexts of use
 - OECD Transcriptomic Reporting Framework has a BMD module, which ensures transparency in regulatory submissions and may facilitate developing acceptable practices
- Identify model-specific baseline filtering requirements
- Studies to establish confidence that hazard-agnostic tPOD can be protective of human health effects
- Demonstrate applicability across broad chemical and biological space
 - Critical to mainstream integration for decision making
- Determine how to address uncertainty



Conclusions

Program	Potential uses for toxicogenomics in risk assessment			
	Weight of evidence	Mode of Action analysis	Prioritization	Chemical Grouping to support Read across
Existing substances	✓	✓	✓	✓
New substances and nanomaterials	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water	✓	✓	✓	✓
Air	✓	✓	✓	✓
Controlled substances	✓	✓	✓	✓
Radiation	✓	✓		
Consumer products, cosmetics and workplace chemicals	✓	✓	✓	✓
Food	✓	✓	✓	✓
Biologics and genetic therapies	✓	✓		
Marketed health products	✓	✓		
Therapeutic products	✓	✓		
Pesticides	✓	✓	✓	✓

These case studies build confidence in the application of tPODs in regulatory evaluations and help to define suitable contexts of use

- Much to learn from focused collaborative studies on individual chemicals or small chemical groupings
- Demonstrating applicability across broad chemical and biological space will be critical to mainstream integration for decision making
- Growing interest in use across regulatory bureaus

Toxicogenomic applications in risk assessment at Health Canada. *Current Opinions in Toxicology*. Volume 18, December 2019, Pg 34-45.

HESI eSTAR POD Working Group

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