

# The cellular transport of pharmaceutical drugs: a problem not of biophysics but of systems biology

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**<http://www.mib.ac.uk> [www.mcisb.org](http://www.mcisb.org)**



**MANCHESTER**  
1824

The University of Manchester

**mc/sb**

# Synopsis of talk

- **Philosophy, Systems Biology, 'Omics, and Pharma/AgChem industry issues**
- **The human metabolic network and its principled informatics/modelling**
- **The cellular uptake of pharmaceutical drugs: a problem not of biophysics but of systems biology**
- **An experimental system in yeast**
- **Implications, e.g. drug-metabolite similarities**
- **Conclusions**
- **Afterword – iron behaving badly**



**Here is the evidence, now  
what is the hypothesis?**

**The complementary roles of  
inductive and hypothesis-driven  
science in the post-genomic era**

**Douglas B. Kell<sup>1\*</sup> and Stephen G. Oliver<sup>2</sup>**

# Forward and reverse (chemical) genomics

## Classical

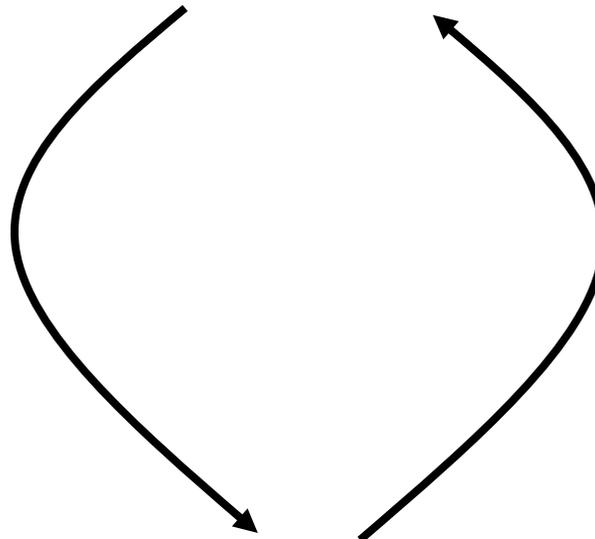
**Function-first**

**Screen  
Organism**

**Find mechanisms  
(plural) later**

IDENTIFY/  
FORWARD

PHENOTYPIC ASSAY



MOLECULAR TARGET(S)

## Modern

**Gene/target  
/mechanism  
-first**

**Screen  
target**

**Test in  
organism  
later**

VALIDATE/  
REVERSE

# Position statement ( $\equiv$ hypothesis)

- There is in fact no actual evidence (evidence = data plus correct theory and interpretation) that any significant 'passive' permeability goes through lipid bilayers in real (and undamaged) biological membranes, and in the presence of potentially 100s of carriers that might serve to transport drugs it is very hard to obtain it
- Think if your own data are consistent with this

# 3 counterfactuals that lipid-only theories need (and fail) to explain

1. why most drugs do not diffuse across the blood-brain barrier (and others) where the lipids are not significantly different
2. the substantially varying tissue distributions in cellular drug uptake
3. the very large species differences in cellular drug uptake

# Does CO<sub>2</sub> cross intact cellular membranes by using a transporter?

Biochimica et Biophysica Acta xxx (2013) xxx–xxx



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

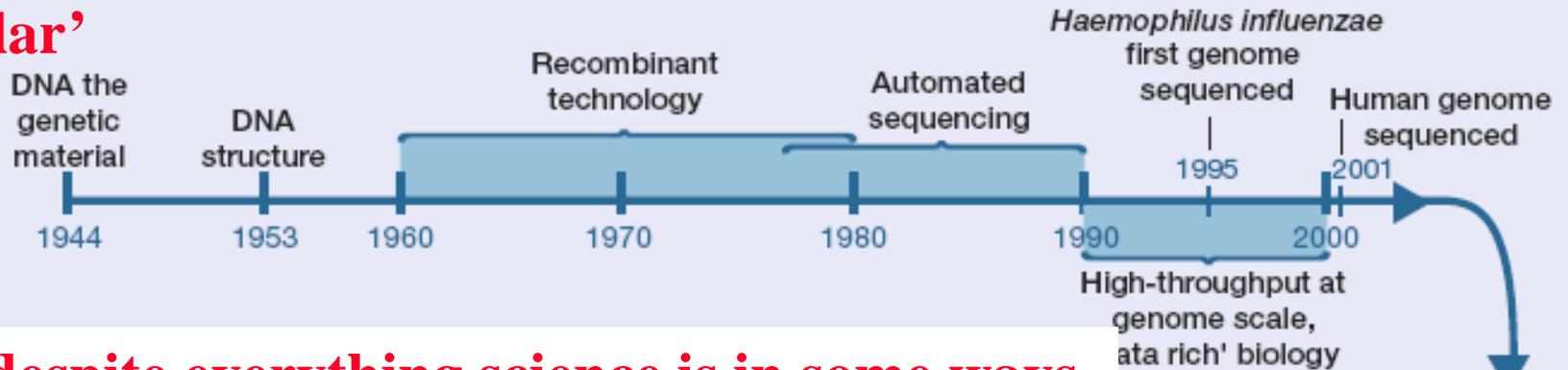
Review

## Aquaporins and membrane diffusion of CO<sub>2</sub> in living organisms

Ralf Kaldenhoff\*, Lei Kai, Norbert Uehlein

# Westerhoff & Palsson NBT 22, 1249-52 (2004)

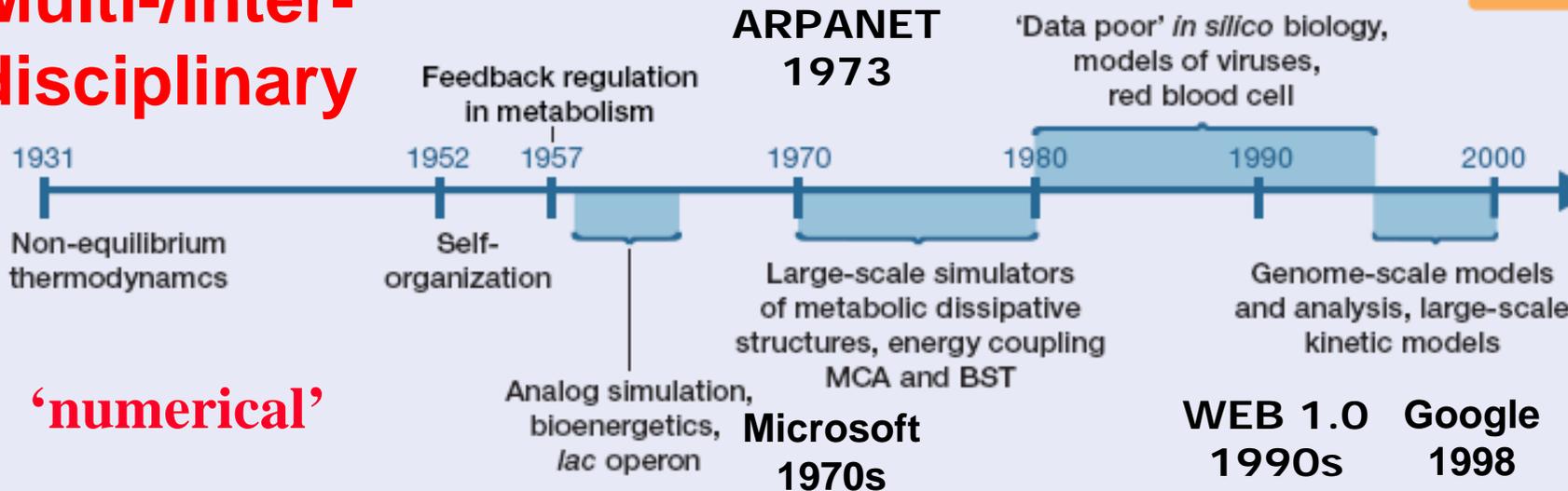
**‘molecular’**



**But despite everything science is in some ways becoming LESS effective in an applied context**

Systems analysis critical to molecular biology

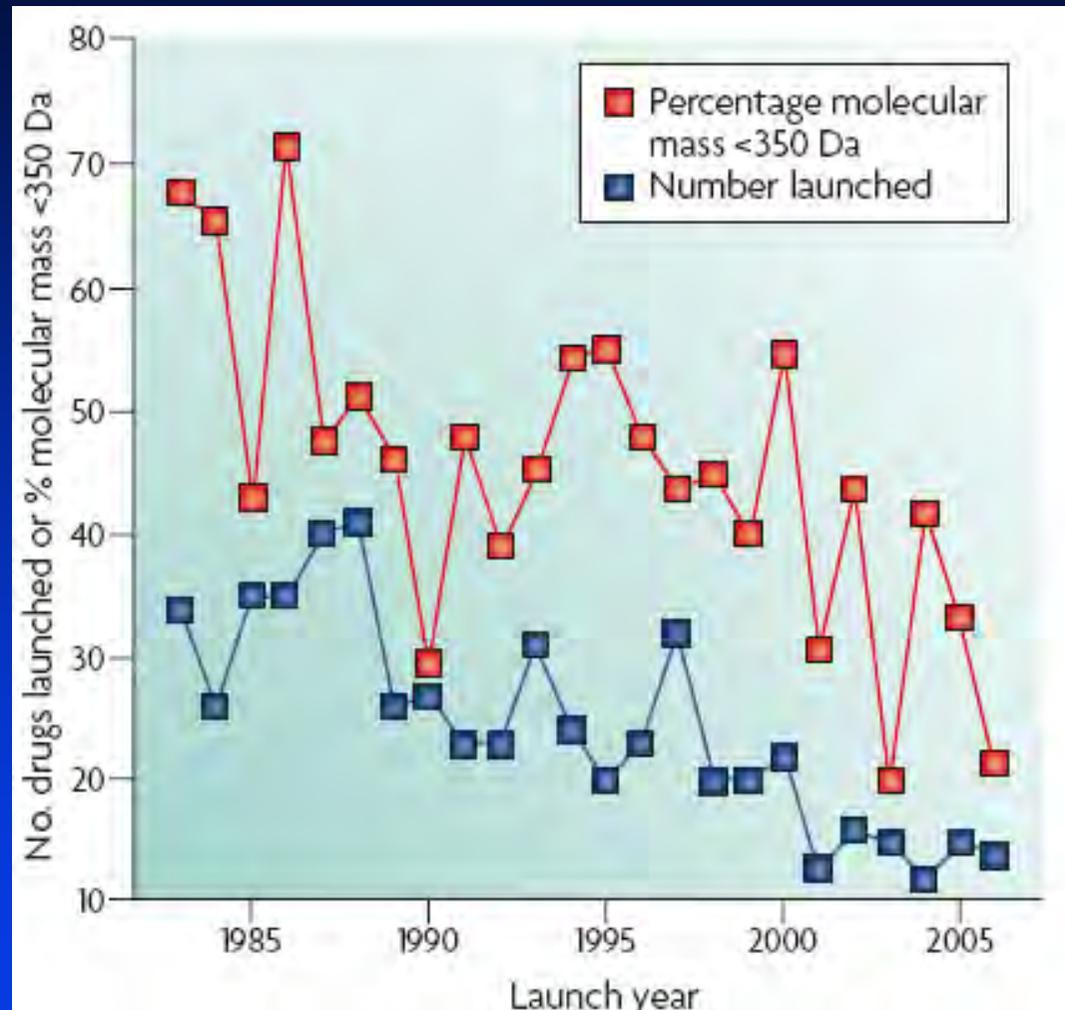
**Multi-/inter-disciplinary**



**WEB 2.0/ Semantic Web 2000s**

**‘numerical’**

# Declining numbers of drug launches

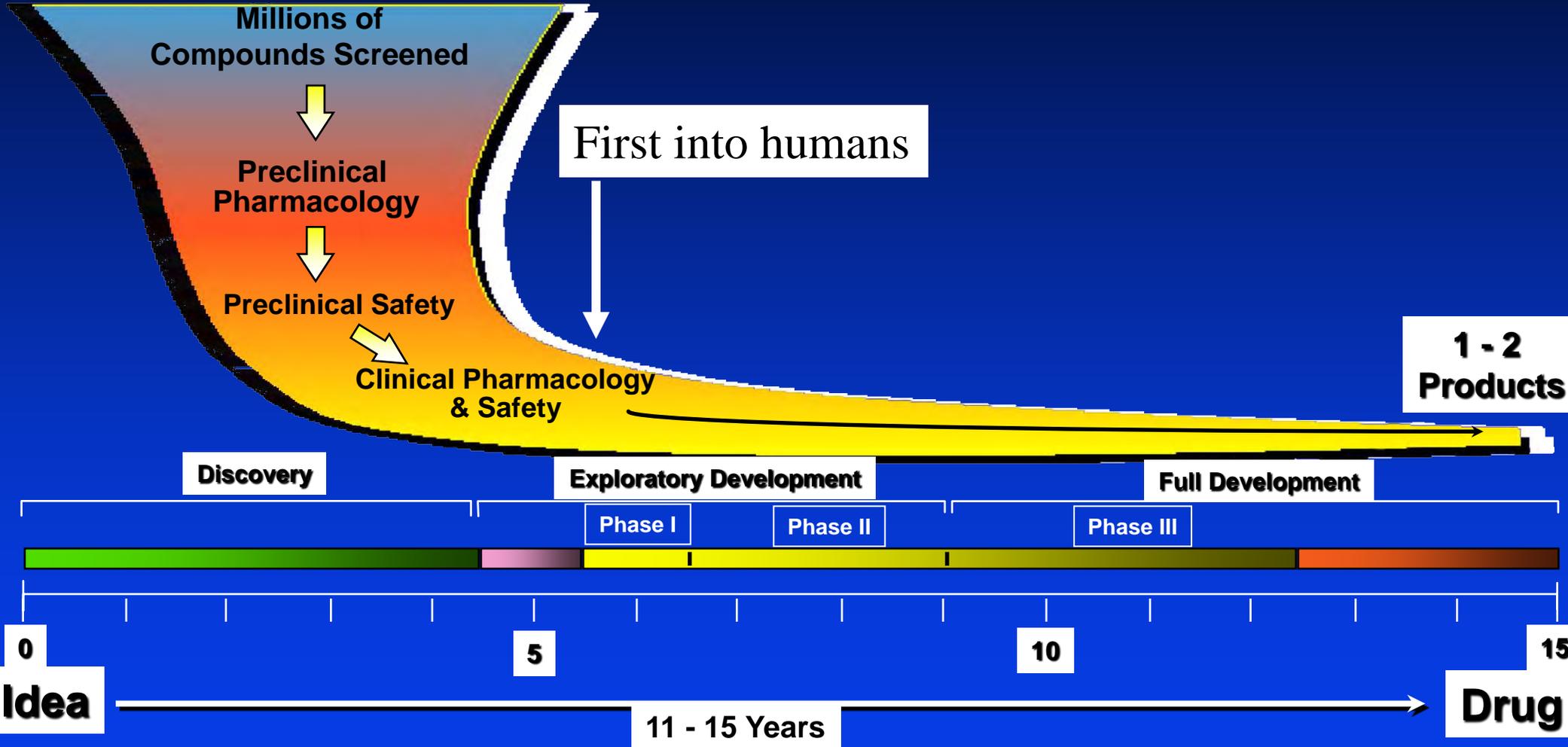


Leeson & Springthorpe, NRDD 6, 881-890 (2007)

**~100 Discovery Approaches**



*High Risk Process:  
11-15 Years, \$800M+*



From Lamattina, Pfizer [www.wpi.edu/News/Conf/Molecular/Presentations/lamattina.ppt](http://www.wpi.edu/News/Conf/Molecular/Presentations/lamattina.ppt)

# Attrition

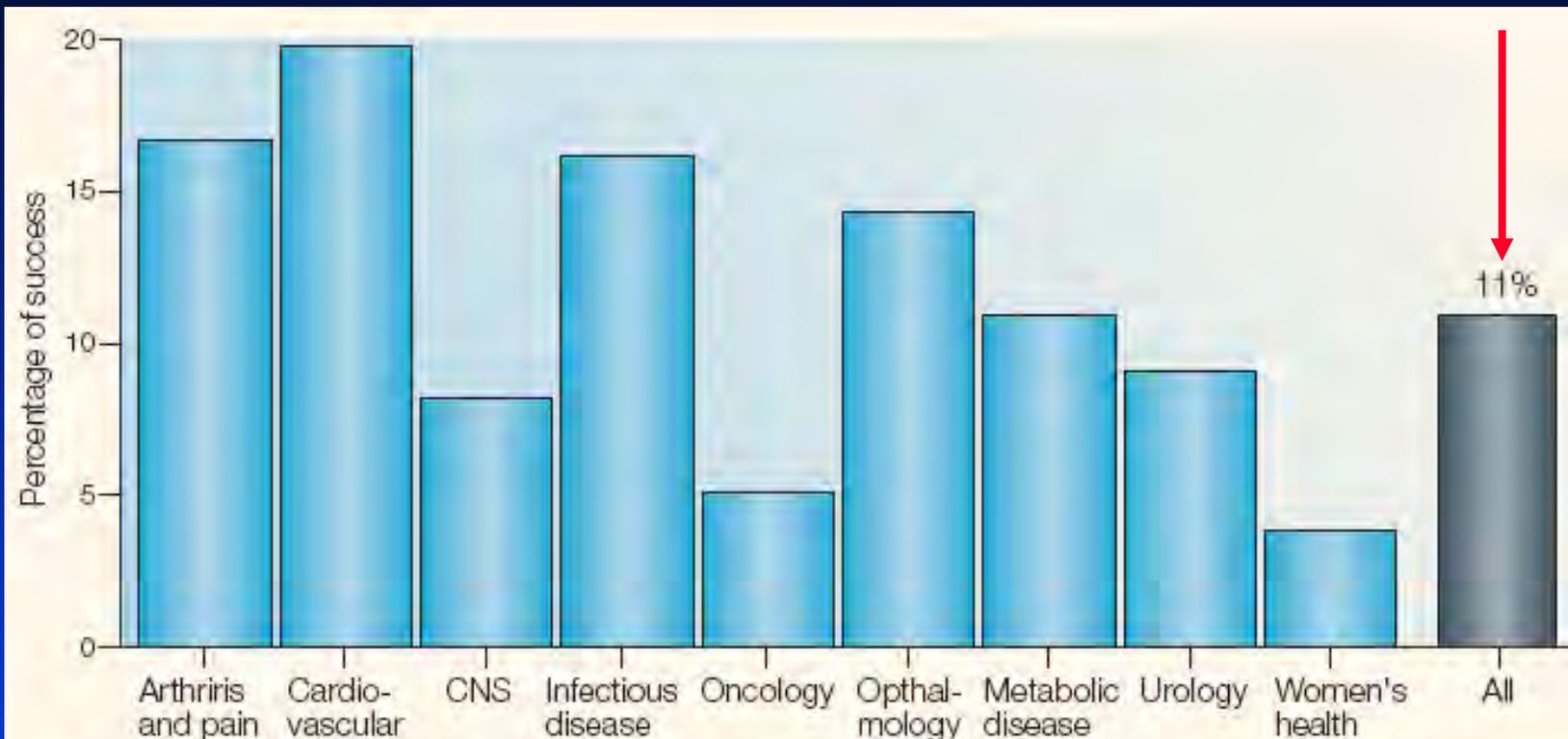


Figure 1 | **Success rates from first-in-man to registration.** The overall clinical success rate is 11%. However, if the analysis is carried out by therapeutic areas, big differences emerge. The data are from the ten biggest drug companies during 1991–2000. (The companies are AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, F. Hoffman-LaRoche, GlaxoWellcome, Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, Pfizer, Pharmacia, Schering-Plough and SmithKline Beecham; data were obtained by Datamonitor in the Pharmaceutical Benchmarking Study). CNS, central nervous system.

# Issues of attrition

- **Gross PK/PD less of an issue in last decade**
- **Now mostly due to (i) lack of efficacy, (ii) toxicity**
- **Both problems are underpinned by the fact that drugs are typically first developed on the basis of isolated molecular assays before being tested in the intact system**
- **These failures turn drug discovery – if it was not already – into a problem of systems biology**

# A recent manifesto

FEBS J 280, 5957-5980 (2013)

<http://dbkgroup.org/publications>

Open Access

the FEBS  
Journal

**Finding novel pharmaceuticals in the systems biology era using multiple effective drug targets, phenotypic screening and knowledge of transporters: where drug discovery went wrong and how to fix it**

Douglas B. Kell<sup>1,2</sup>

1 School of Chemistry, The University of Manchester, UK

2 Manchester Institute of Biotechnology, The University of Manchester, UK

# Need for an Open Access human metabolic network model

IUBMB *Life*, 59(11): 689–695, November 2007

**informa**  
healthcare

*Feature Article*

## A ‘grand challenge’....

### The Virtual Human: Towards a Global Systems Biology of Multiscale, Distributed Biochemical Network Models

**Douglas B. Kell**

*School of Chemistry and The Manchester Centre for Integrative Systems Biology, The Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre, The University of Manchester, Manchester, UK*

# The human metabolic network (1)

## Global reconstruction of the human metabolic network based on genomic and bibliomic data

Natalie C. Duarte, Scott A. Becker, Neema Jamshidi, Ines Thiele, Monica L. Mo, Thuy D. Vo, Rohith Srivas, and Bernhard Ø. Palsson\*

- 8 cellular compartments
- 2,712 compartment-specific metabolites
- ~ 1,500 different chemical entities
- 1,496 genes
- 2,233 metabolic reactions (1,795 unique)
- **1,078 transport reactions (32.6%)**

PNAS 104, 1777-1782 (2007)

# The human metabolic network (2)

Molecular Systems Biology 3; Article number 135; doi:10.1038/msb4100177

Citation: *Molecular Systems Biology* 3:135

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www.molecularsystemsbiology.com

molecular  
systems  
biology

## REPORT

### The Edinburgh human metabolic network reconstruction and its functional analysis

Hongwu Ma<sup>1</sup>, Anatoly Sorokin<sup>1</sup>, Alexander Mazein<sup>1</sup>, Alex Selkov<sup>2</sup>, Evgeni Selkov<sup>2</sup>, Oleg Demin<sup>3</sup> and Igor Goryanin<sup>1,\*</sup>

- Not yet compartmentalised
- 2,823 reactions (incl 300 ‘orphans’), of which 2,215 have disease associations, **plus 1189 transport reactions and 457 exchange reactions**
- 2,322 genes (1069 common with UCSD model)

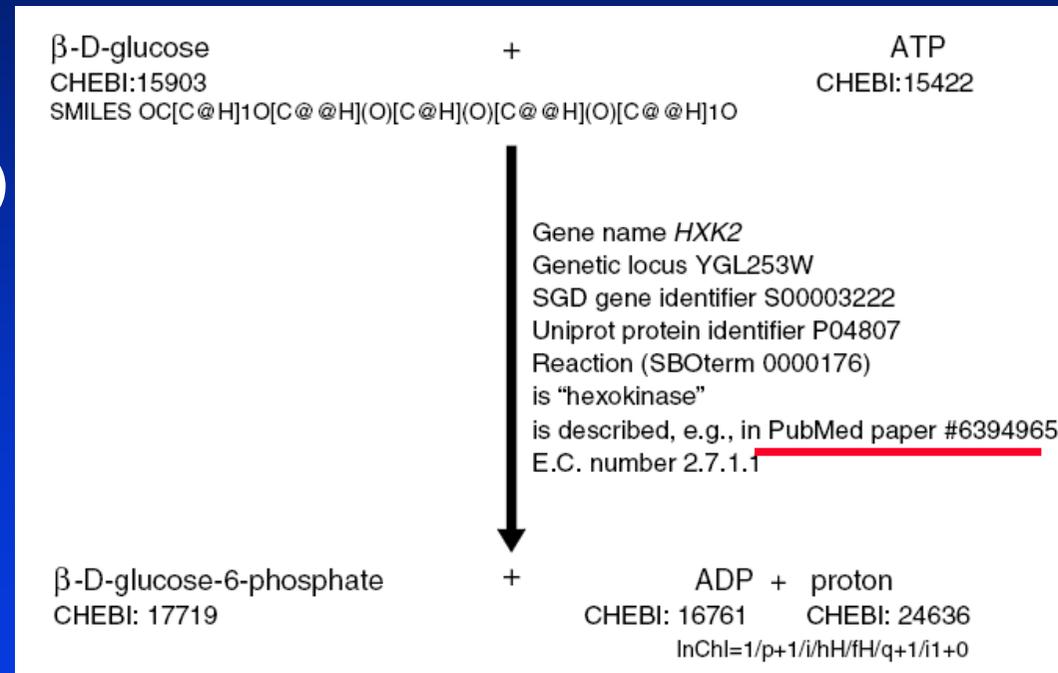
# Herrgård *et al.*, Nature Biotechnology 26, 1155-60 (2008)

## A consensus yeast metabolic network reconstruction obtained from a community approach to systems biology

Markus J Herrgård<sup>1,19,20</sup>, Neil Swainston<sup>2,3,20</sup>, Paul Dobson<sup>3,4</sup>, Warwick B Dunn<sup>3,4</sup>, K Yalçin Arga<sup>5</sup>, Mikko Arvas<sup>6</sup>, Nils Blüthgen<sup>3,7</sup>, Simon Borger<sup>8</sup>, Roeland Costenoble<sup>9</sup>, Matthias Heinemann<sup>9</sup>, Michael Hucka<sup>10</sup>, Nicolas Le Novère<sup>11</sup>, Peter Li<sup>2,3</sup>, Wolfram Liebermeister<sup>8</sup>, Monica L Mo<sup>1</sup>, Ana Paula Oliveira<sup>12</sup>, Dina Petranovic<sup>12,19</sup>, Stephen Pettifer<sup>2,3</sup>, Evangelos Simeonidis<sup>3,7</sup>, Kieran Smallbone<sup>3,13</sup>, Irena Spasić<sup>2,3</sup>, Dieter Weichart<sup>3,4</sup>, Roger Brent<sup>14</sup>, David S Broomhead<sup>3,13</sup>, Hans V Westerhoff<sup>3,7,15</sup>, Betül Kırdar<sup>5</sup>, Merja Penttilä<sup>6</sup>, Edda Klipp<sup>8</sup>, Bernhard Ø Palsson<sup>1</sup>, Uwe Sauer<sup>9</sup>, Stephen G Oliver<sup>3,16</sup>, Pedro Mendes<sup>2,3,17</sup>, Jens Nielsen<sup>12,18</sup> & Douglas B Kell<sup>\*3,4</sup>

# Some key features of yeast consensus reconstruction

- Precise and semantically aware (via InChI, SMILES, dB links and SBO)
- Available online, also as accurate SBML
- Live
- Directly linked to B-net database



<http://www.comp-sys-bio.org/yeastnet/>

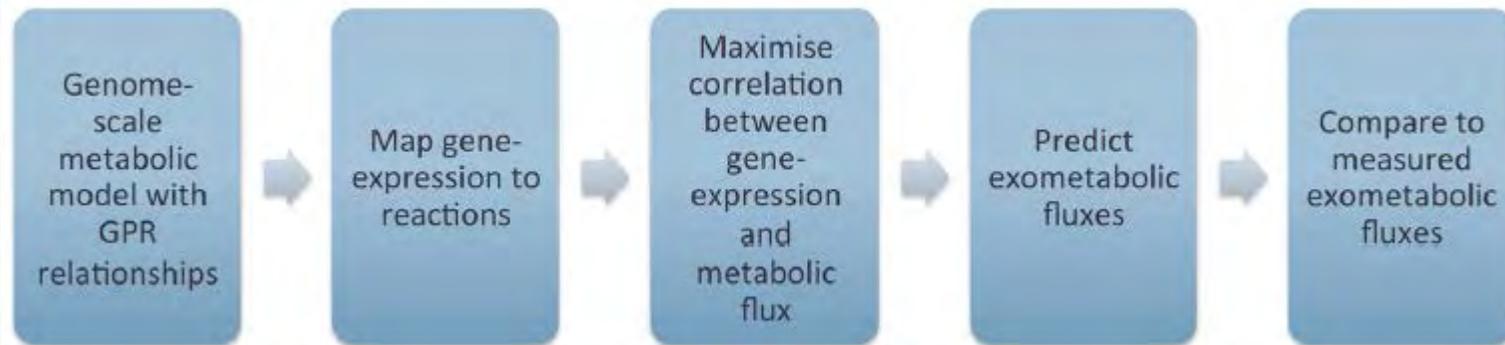
# Predicting metabolic fluxes for Industrial Biotechnology

## Improving metabolic flux predictions using absolute gene expression data

Open Access

Dave Lee<sup>1†</sup>, Kieran Smallbone<sup>1†</sup>, Warwick B Dunn<sup>1</sup>, Ettore Murabito<sup>1</sup>, Catherine L Winder<sup>1</sup>, Douglas B Kell<sup>1,2</sup>, Pedro Mendes<sup>1,3</sup> and Neil Swainston<sup>1\*</sup>

Lee *et al. BMC Systems Biology* 2012, **6**:73



**Table 2 Comparison of experimental with predicted exometabolome fluxes, at 85% maximal biomass level**

	Experiment	Predicted: Gene expression	Predicted: Standard FBA	Predicted: Fitted FBA	Predicted: GIMME	Predicted: iMAT
Ethanol	13.0	16.2	0	0	0	0
CO <sub>2</sub>	21.0	20.1	25.0	21.0	16.0	32.2
Glycerol	2.17	0.126	0	0	0	0
Acetate	0.239	0.00911	0	0	0	0
Trehalose	0.0215	0.0220	0	0	0	0
Lactate	0.00609	0.0176	0	0	0	0
R <sup>2</sup>		0.96	0.54	0.58	0.52	0.28

# Human network, NBT 31, 419-425 (2013)

A community-driven global reconstruction of human metabolism

Ines Thiele<sup>1,2,36</sup>, Neil Swainston<sup>3,4,36</sup>, Ronan M T Fleming<sup>1,5</sup>, Andreas Hoppe<sup>6</sup>, Swagatika Sahoo<sup>1</sup>, Maike K Aurich<sup>1</sup>, Hulda Haraldsdottir<sup>1</sup>, Monica L Mo<sup>7</sup>, Ottar Rolfsson<sup>1</sup>, Miranda D Stobbe<sup>8,9</sup>, Stefan G Thorleifsson<sup>1</sup>, Rasmus Agren<sup>10</sup>, Christian Bölling<sup>6</sup>, Sergio Bordel<sup>10</sup>, Arvind K Chavali<sup>11</sup>, Paul Dobson<sup>12</sup>, Warwick B Dunn<sup>2,13</sup>, Lukas Endler<sup>14</sup>, David Hala<sup>15</sup>, Michael Hucka<sup>16</sup>, Duncan Hull<sup>4</sup>, Daniel Jameson<sup>3,4</sup>, Neema Jamshidi<sup>7</sup>, Jon J Jonsson<sup>5</sup>, Nick Juty<sup>17</sup>, Sarah Keating<sup>17</sup>, Intawat Nookaew<sup>10</sup>, Nicolas Le Novère<sup>17,18</sup>, Naglis Malys<sup>3,19,20</sup>, Alexander Mazein<sup>21</sup>, Jason A Papin<sup>11</sup>, Nathan D Price<sup>22</sup>, Evgeni Selkov, Sr<sup>23</sup>, Martin I Sigurdsson<sup>1</sup>, Evangelos Simeonidis<sup>22,24</sup>, Nikolaus Sonnenschein<sup>25</sup>, Kieran Smallbone<sup>3,26</sup>, Anatoly Sorokin<sup>21,27</sup>, Johannes H G M van Beek<sup>28-30</sup>, Dieter Weichart<sup>3,31</sup>, Igor Goryanin<sup>21,32</sup>, Jens Nielsen<sup>10</sup>, Hans V Westerhoff<sup>3,28,33</sup>, Douglas B Kell<sup>3,34</sup>, Pedro Mendes<sup>3,4,35</sup> & Bernhard Ø Palsson<sup>1,7</sup> ▲

7440 reactions (~1/3 transport), 5,063 metabolites, 2,626 unique metabolites

**Freely available at <http://humanmetabolism.org/>**

Predicts e.g. Inborn errors of metabolism, exometabolites, drug actions, cellular differences

# PERSPECTIVES

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## OPINION

### Carrier-mediated cellular uptake of pharmaceutical drugs: an exception or the rule?

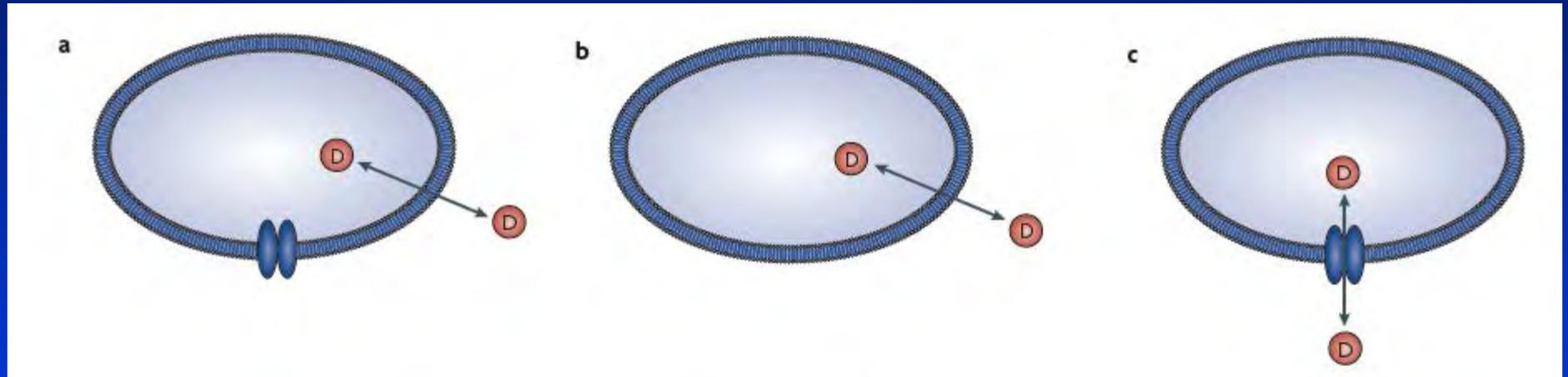
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*Paul D. Dobson and Douglas B. Kell*

The types of biophysical forces that determine the interaction of drugs with lipids (especially hydrophobic and hydrogen-bonding interactions) are no different from those involved in their interaction with proteins, especially hydrophobic transport proteins. Therefore, biophysical arguments alone cannot make a mechanistic distinction between the two modes of transport that are outlined in FIG. 1. Indeed, four lines of reasoning together suggest that carrier-mediated

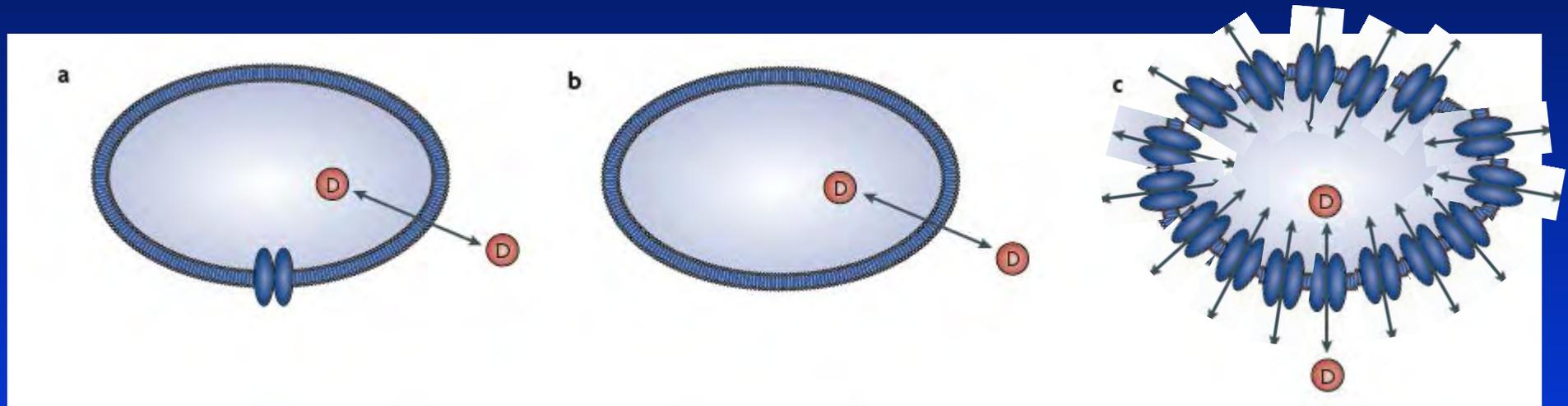
**Nature Rev Drug Disc 7, 205-220  
(March 2008)**

# How drugs can cross cellular membranes



By free diffusion or  
carrier-mediated?

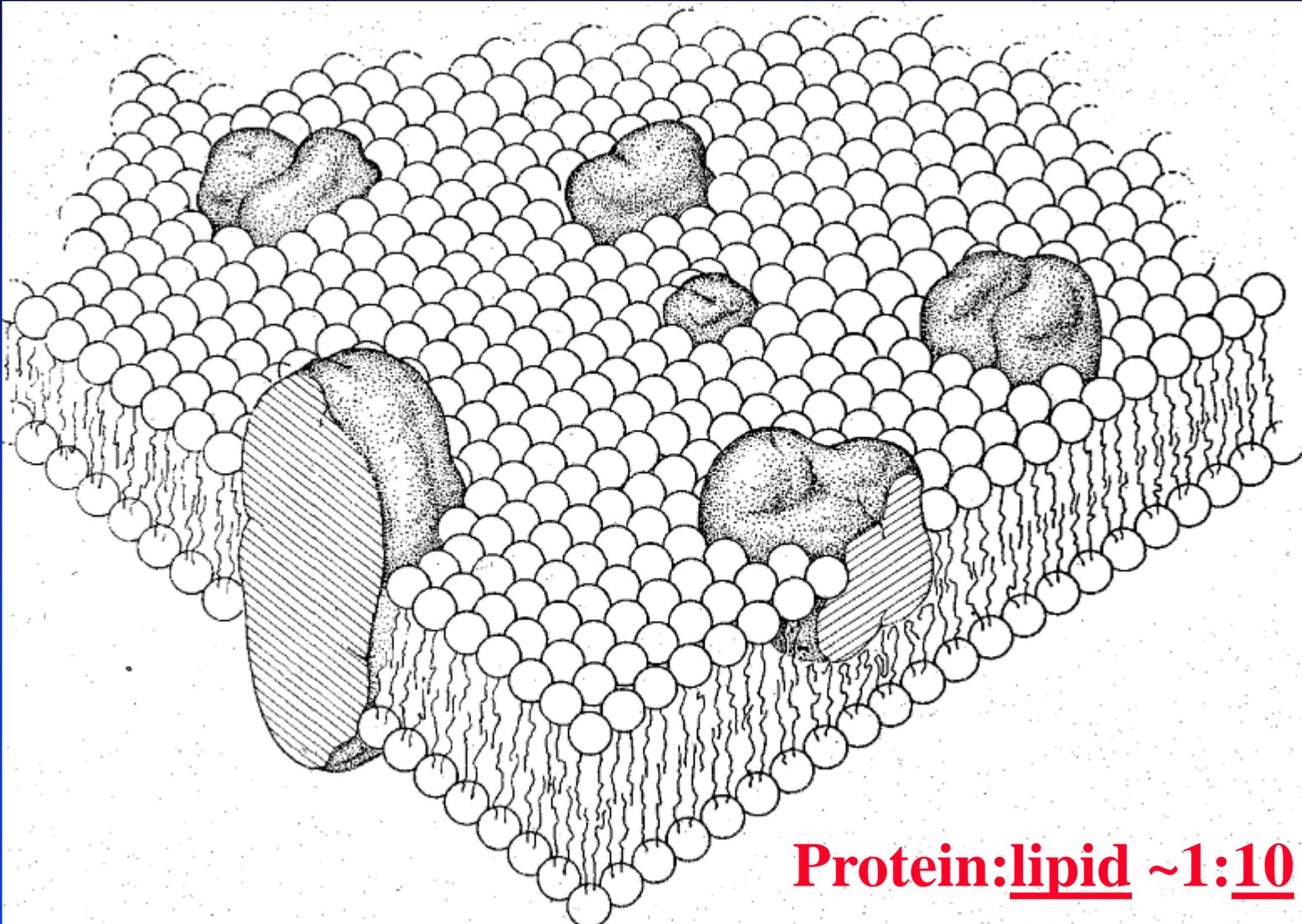
# How drugs can cross cellular membranes



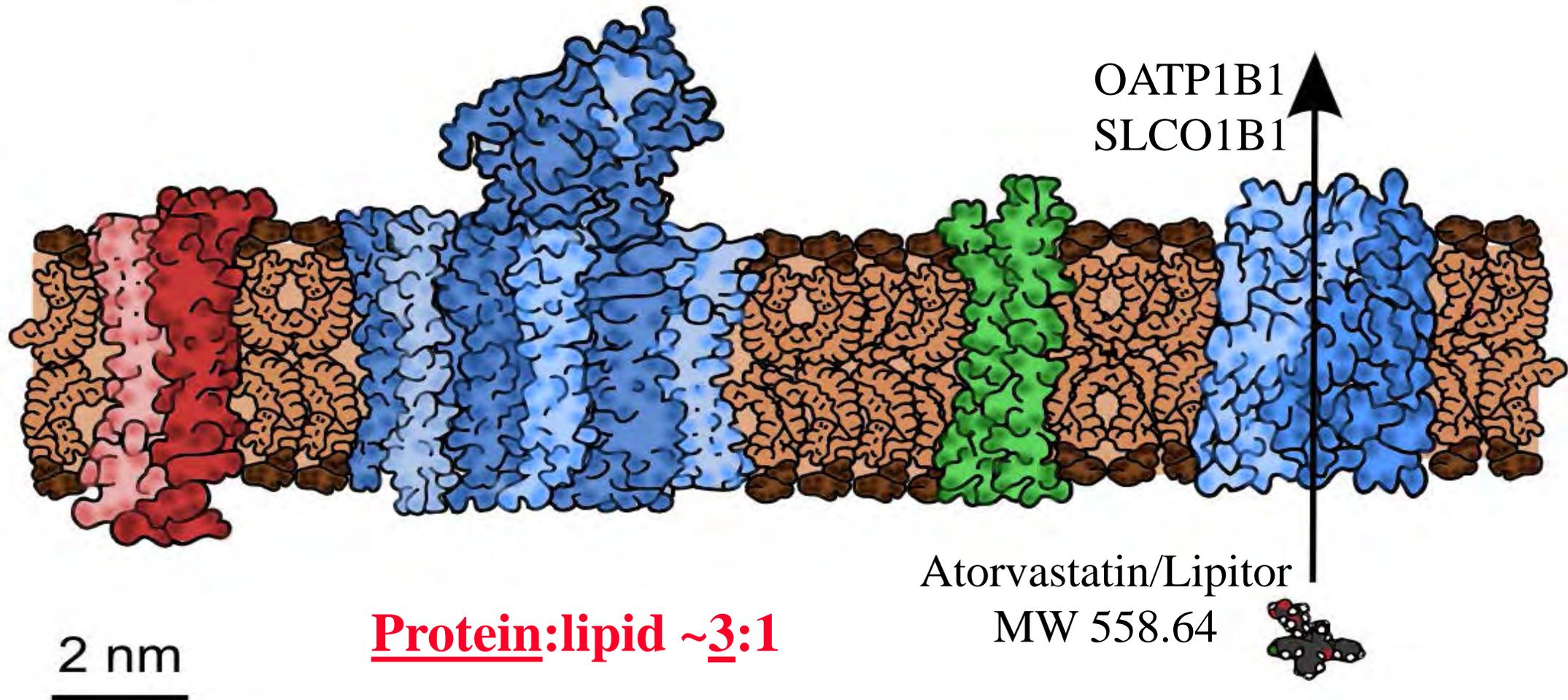
By free diffusion or  
carrier-mediated?

Note that in real biological membranes there is little or no unperturbed bilayer:  
Dupuy AD, Engelman DM: Protein area occupancy at the center of the red  
blood cell membrane. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 2008; 105:2848-2852.

# Singer & Nicolson, Science 1972



# A typical biomembrane drawn to scale

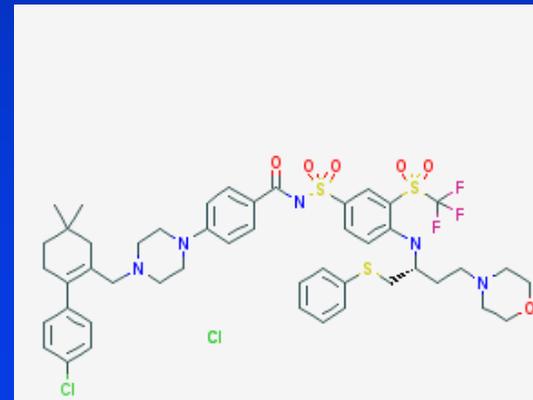


# Drug transport – Lipinski's 'Rule of 5'

- **Poor absorption or permeation is more likely when**
- **H-bond donors  $> 5$**
- **H-bond acceptors  $> 10$**
- **MW  $> 500$ , and**
- **calculated Log P (CLogP)  $> 5$**

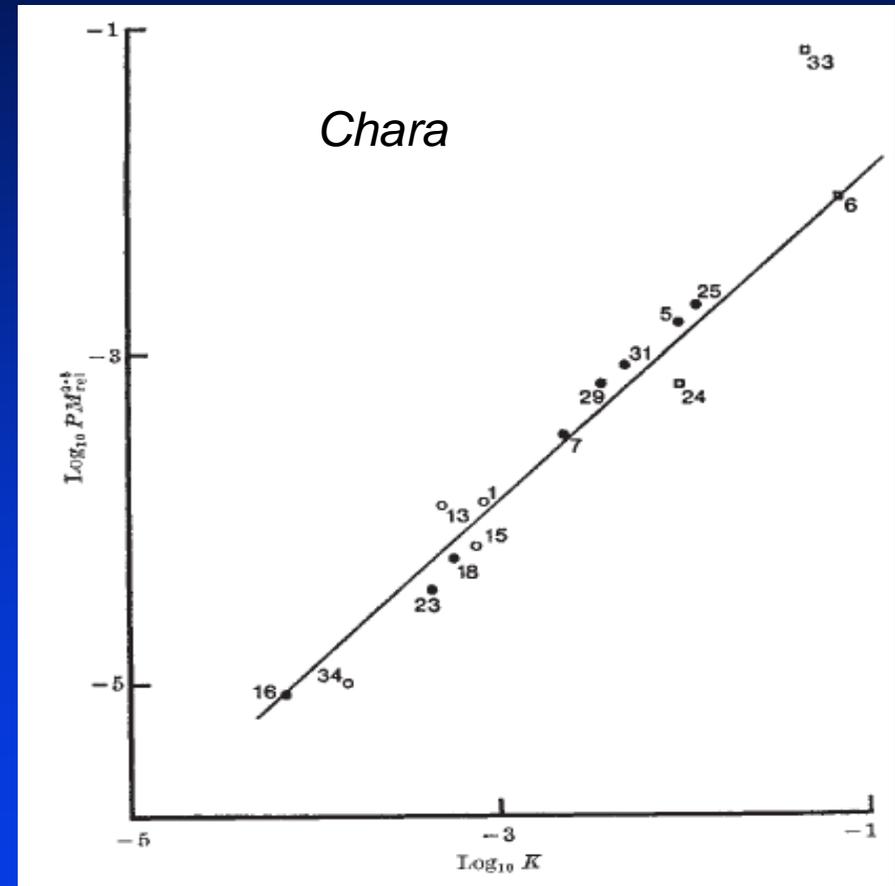
# Lipinski Ro5

- While empirical, it effectively imputes a trade-off between lipophilicity to cross membranes and hydrophilicity to ensure aqueous solubility
- Lipinski's Rule-of-5 for determining the likely bioavailability of a compound does implicitly assume the pre-eminence of the lipid diffusion route as it explicitly classes carrier-mediated transport as an exception
- Navitoclax.2HCl –  $C_{47}H_{57}Cl_3F_3N_5O_6S_3$ , MW1047.53, 7 ring systems!

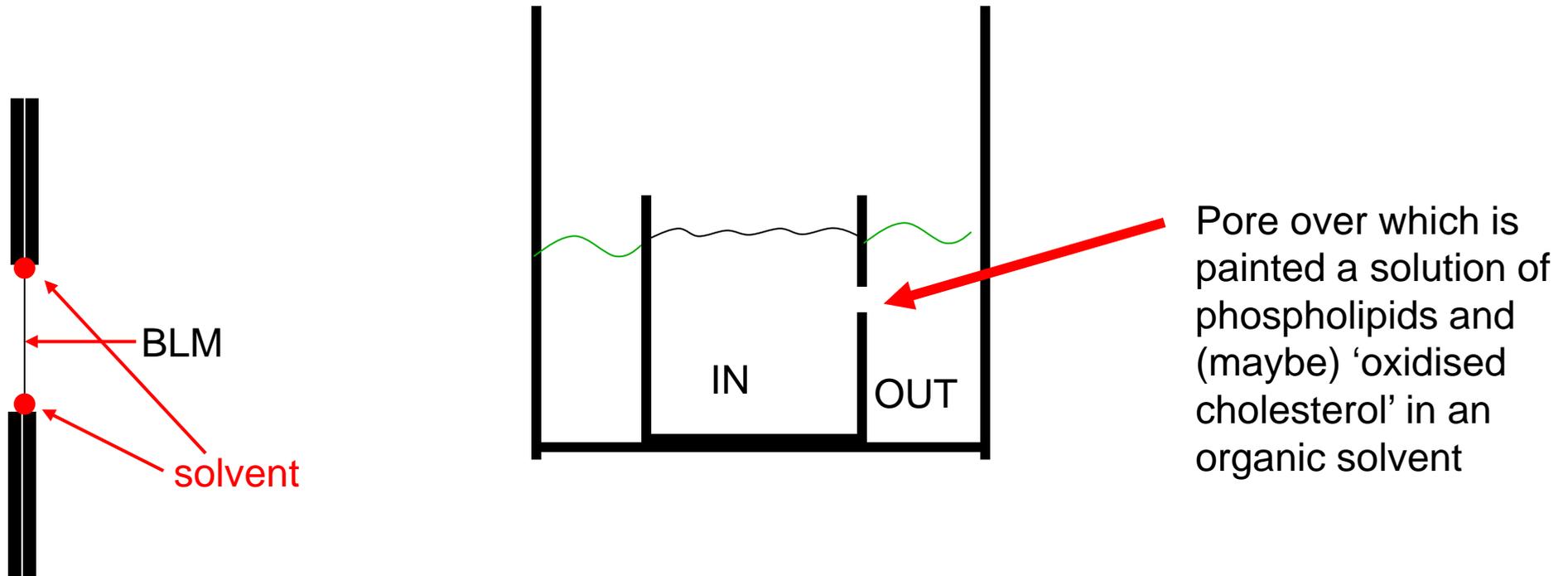


# “Overton’s Rule” (1899)

- Permeability coefficients of nonelectrolytes across biomembranes correlate well with olive oil/water partition coefficients.
- (nowadays octanol is more typically used)
- $\text{Log } K_{o/w} = \log D$  or sometimes  $\log P$



# Black (Bilayer) Lipid Membranes (BLMs) – Mueller, Rudin, Tien, Westcott 1962

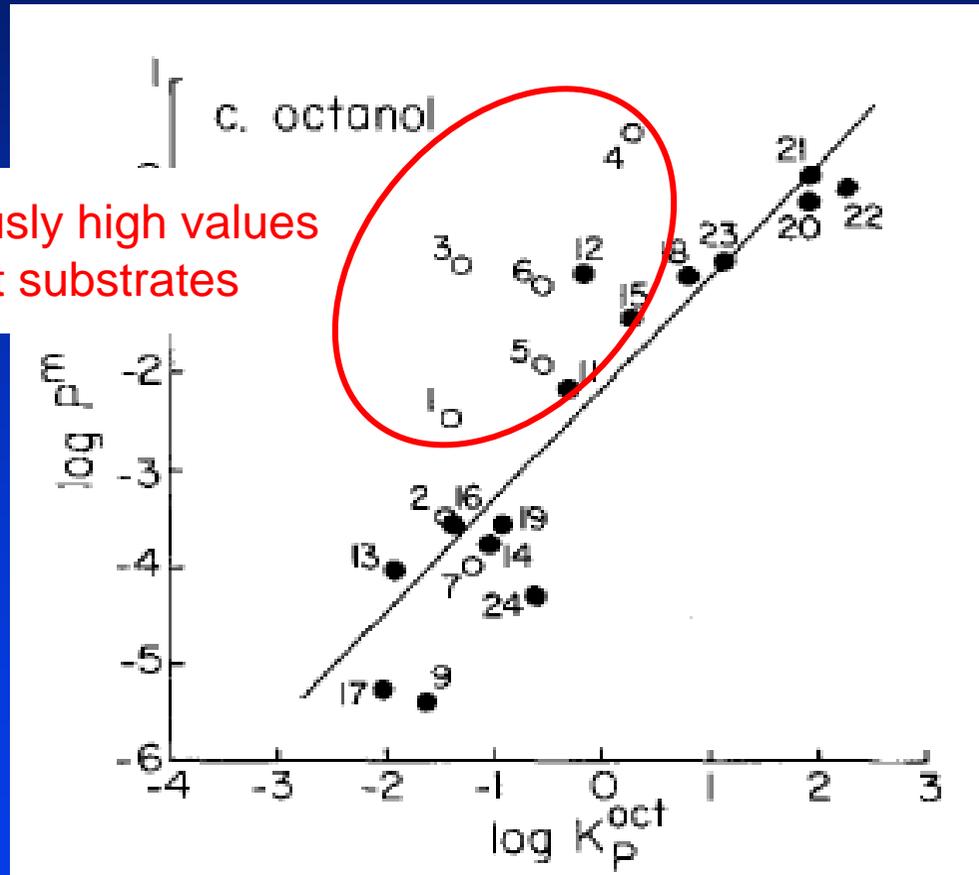


Transmembrane transport can be assessed by adding a substance 'outside' and observing the kinetics of its appearance 'inside' – **unfortunately most is through transient aqueous pores**

# Black (Bilayer) Lipid Membranes (BLMs)

- Many early studies (70s/80s) were conducted using BLMs
- Some (surprisingly few were performed) showed that uncharged molecules and **even metal ions** could cross them

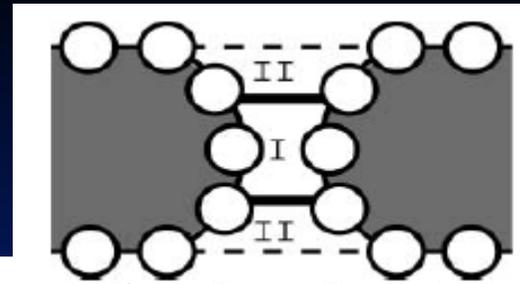
Note anomalously high values for smallest substrates



# BLMs vs biomembranes

- It is assumed therefore than they (can) similarly permeate biomembranes, but this is not a logical corollary since (i) biomembranes are NOT *per se* like BLMs as they contain high concentrations of protein, (ii) unlike biomembranes BLMs often contain solvents and always exhibit pore defects (that can be exacerbated by additives such as the molecule under test) such that most passage through BLMs is probably via pore defects

# Pore defects



Simulations of Pores in Lipid Bilayers

**REAL BIOMEMBRANES DO NOT DO THIS**

2159

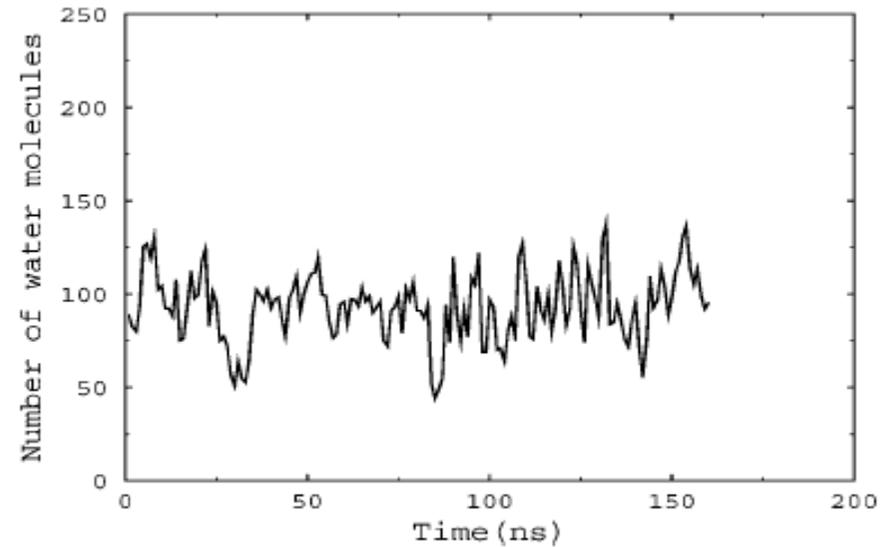
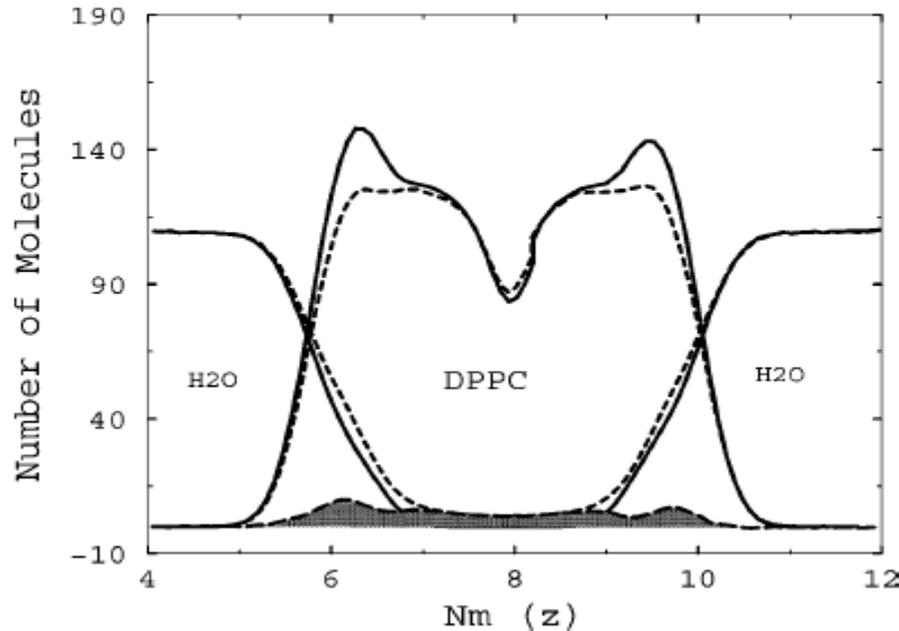


FIGURE 4 The number of water molecules in the central region of the pore as a function of time for the simulation with a lateral pressure of  $-30$  bar ( $\sim 25$  mN/m).

2156

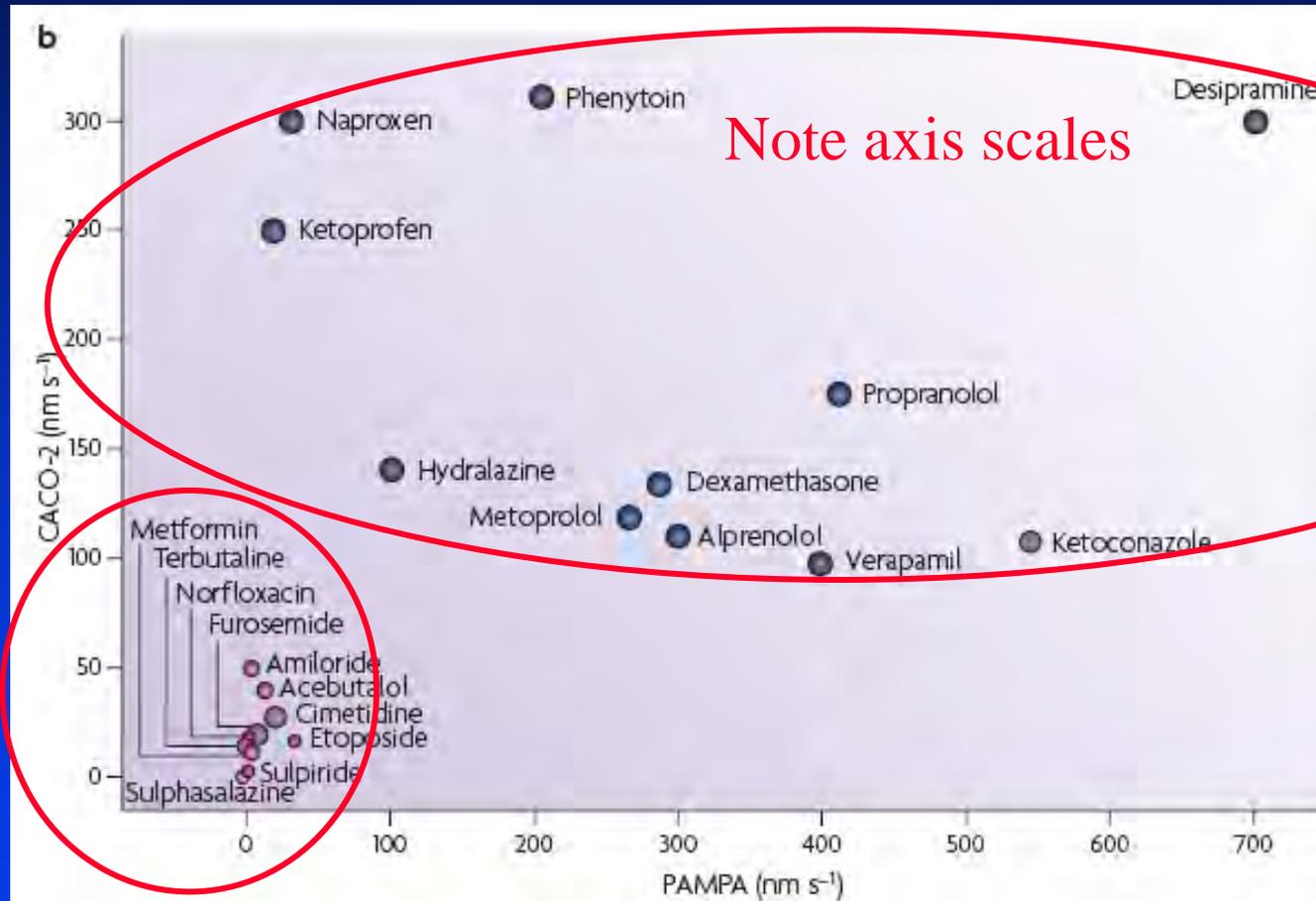
Biophysical Journal Volume 86 April 2004 2156–2164

## Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Hydrophilic Pores in Lipid Bilayers

Hari Leontiadou, Alan E. Mark, and Siewert J. Marrink

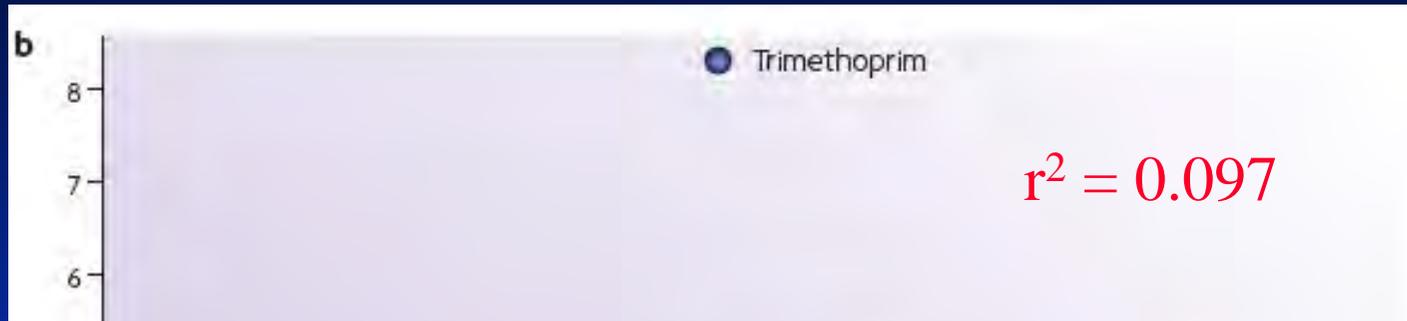
Department of Biophysical Chemistry, University of Groningen, Nijenborgh, Groningen, The Netherlands

# Poor correlation between Caco-2 cells and artificial membrane (PAMPA) assays

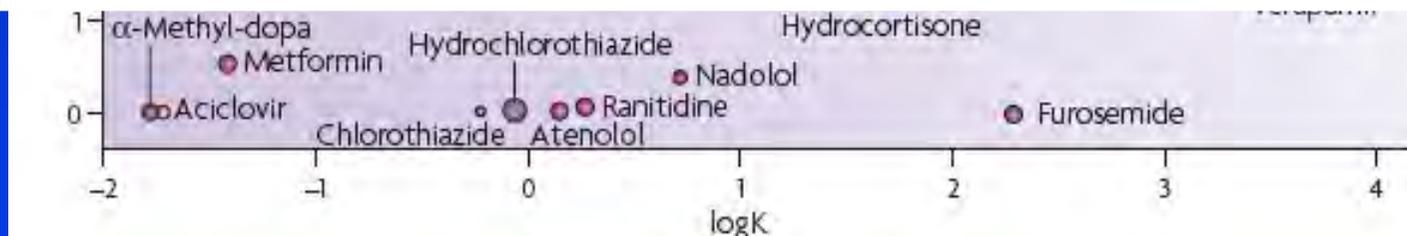


Balimane *et al.*, AAPS J 8, e1-e13 (2006)

# Poor relationship between Caco-2 permeability and log $K_{o/w}$ (log P)



THESE log P THEORIES OF DRUG UPTAKE ARE BIOPHYSICAL, 'LIPID-ONLY' THEORIES

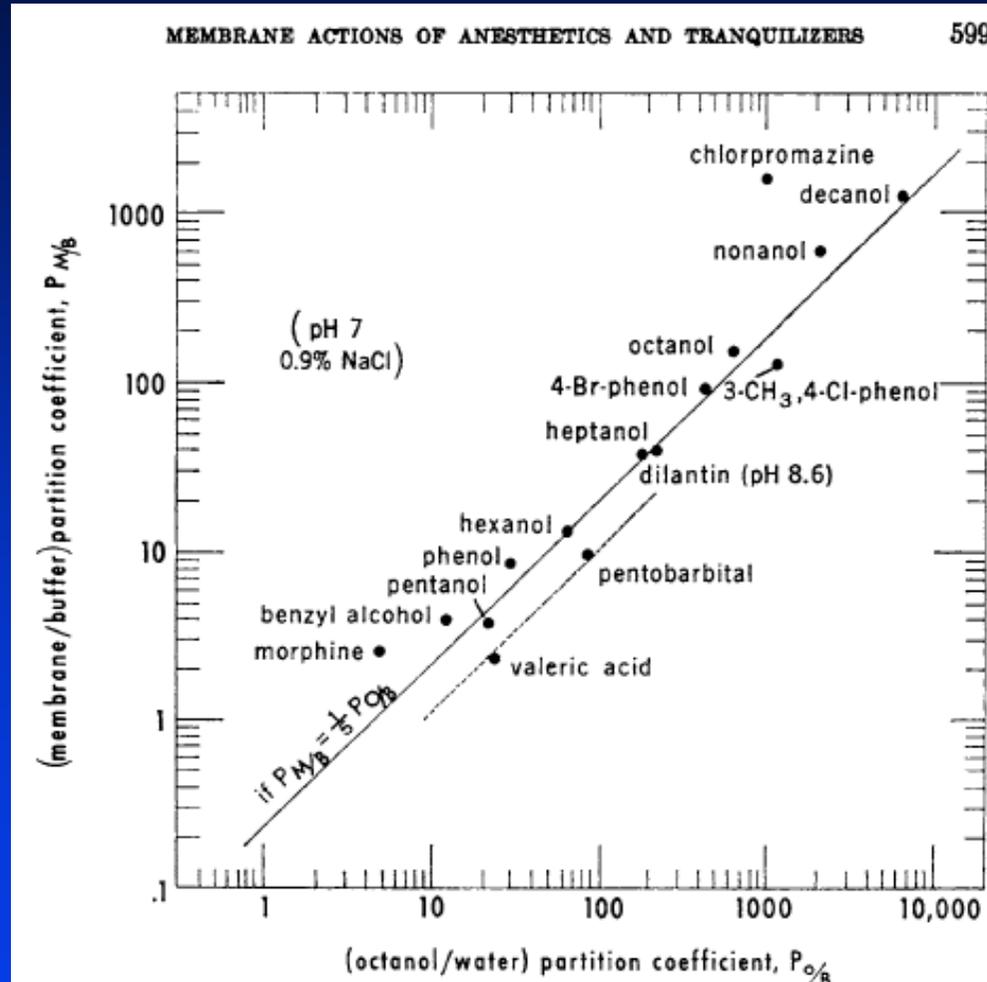


Corti *et al.* Eur J Pharm Sci 7, 354-362 (2006)

# Narcotics ('general anaesthetics')

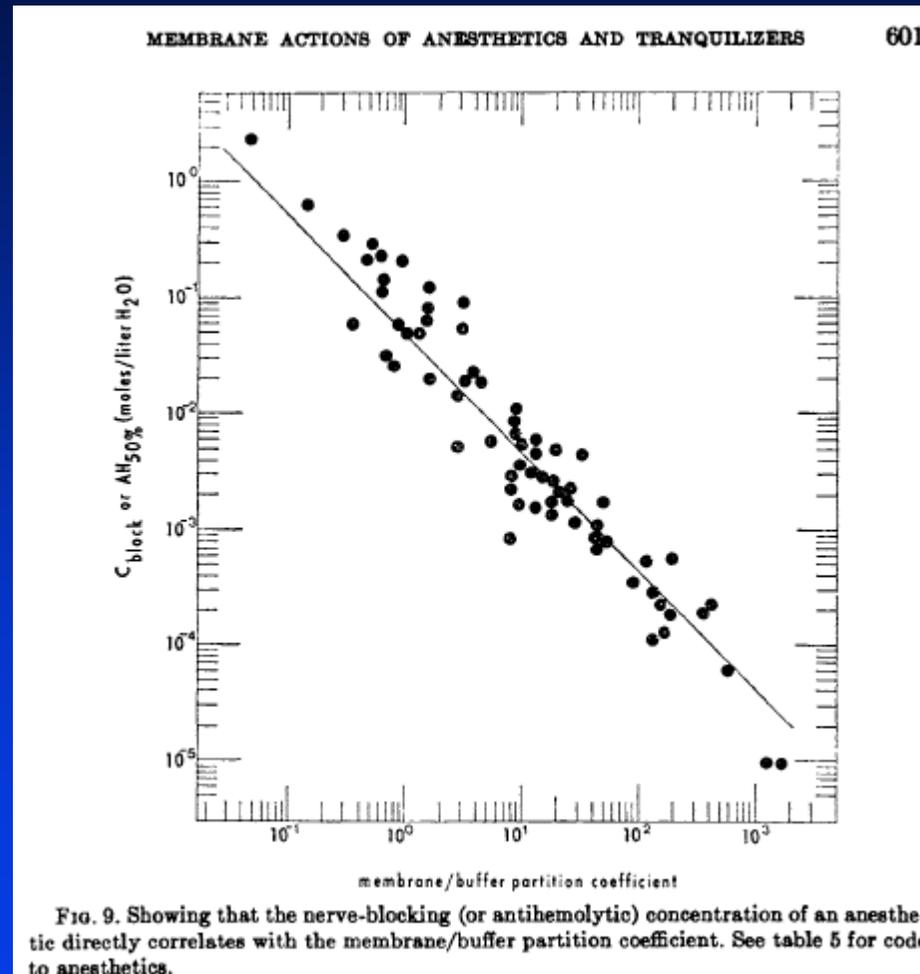
- Potency also correlates with  $\log P$  (up to a cut-off) (Meyer & Overton)
- Negligible structure-activity relationships
- Was assumed that they also act by a 'biophysical' mechanism by partitioning 'nonspecifically' into membrane and e.g. 'squeezing' nerve channels
- This too was a 'lipid-only' theory
- **None of this now withstands scrutiny of the facts**

# Membrane-buffer partition correlates with $K_{o/w}$ (though is about 1/5 as great)



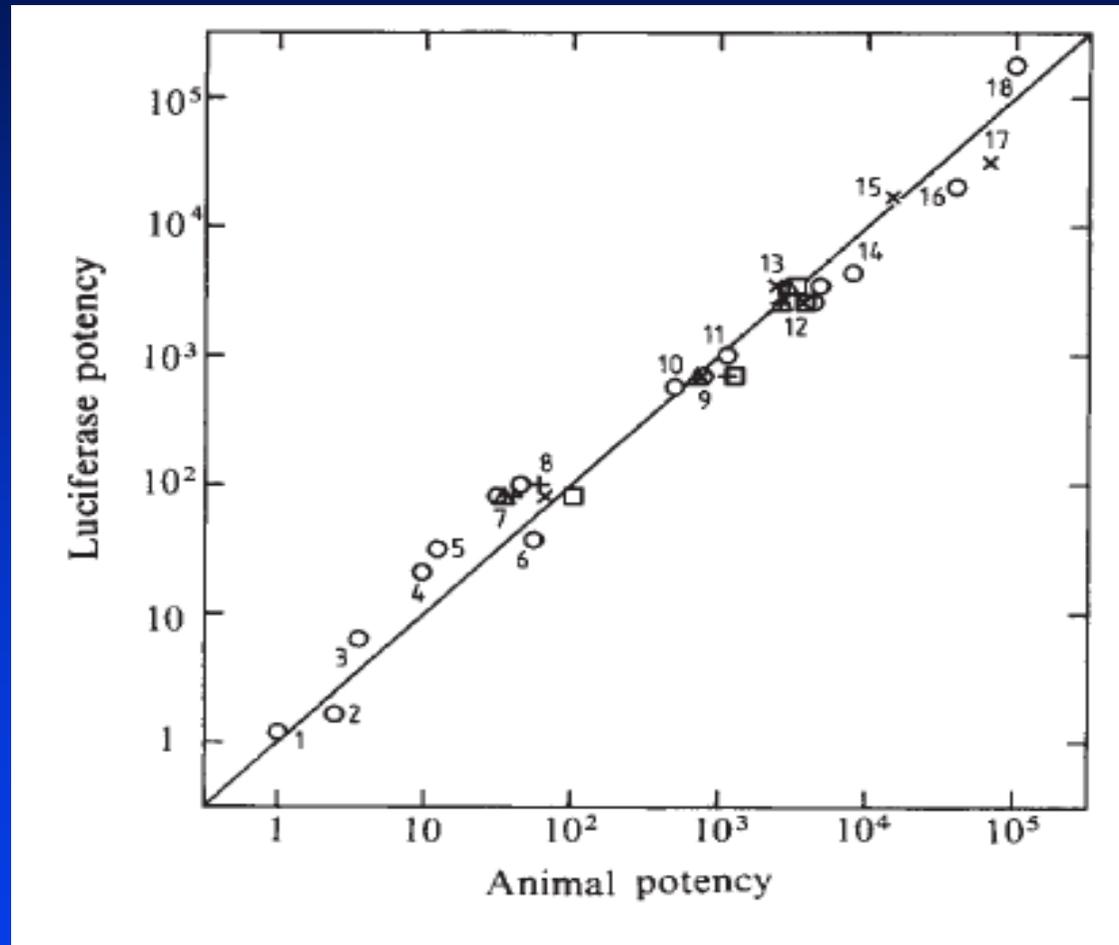
P. Seeman, Pharmacol Rev 24, 583-655 (1972) (>2700 citations!)

# Anaesthetic potency does largely correlate with partitioning into membrane



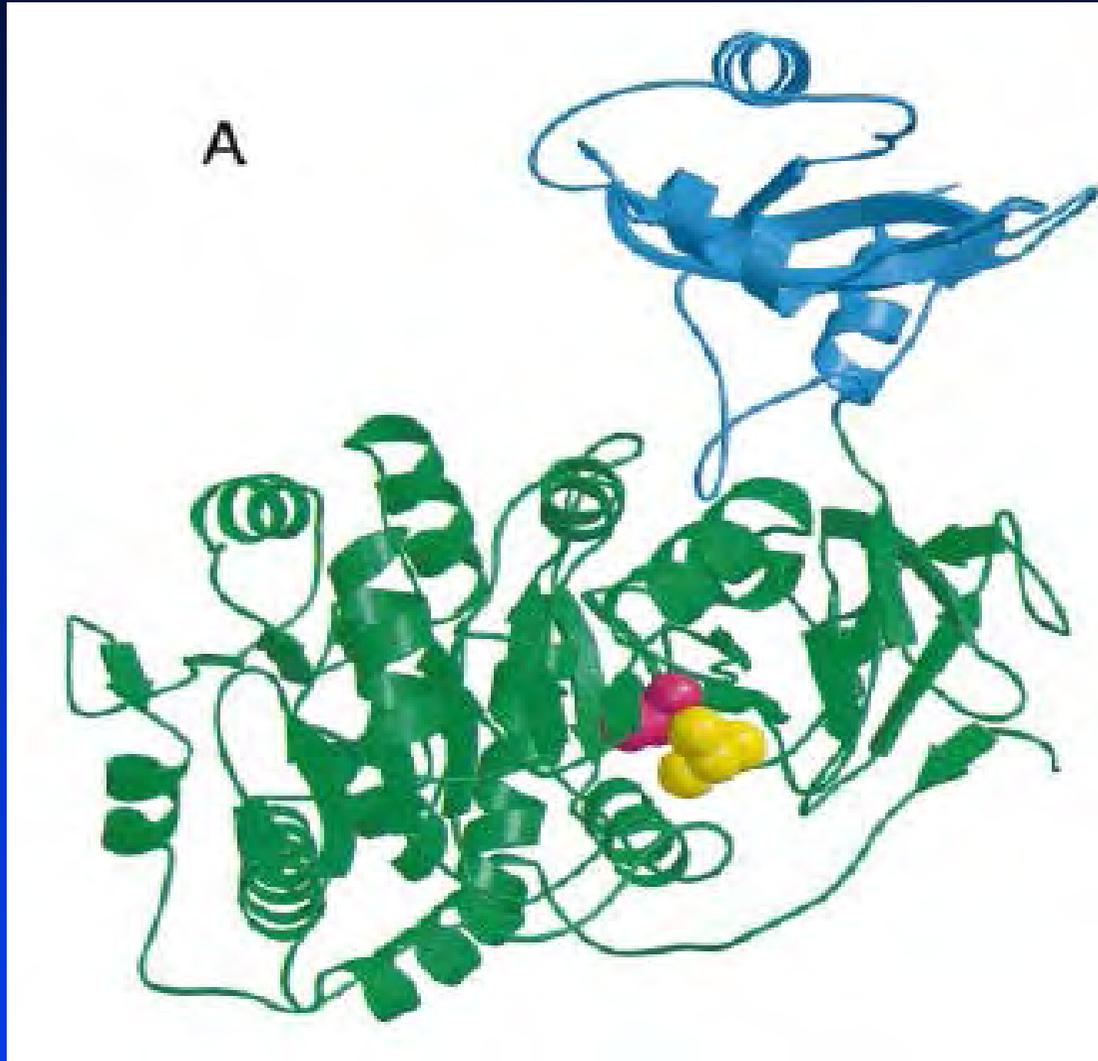
P. Seeman, Pharmacol Rev 24, 583-655 (1972) (>2700 citations!)

**Narcotics inhibit luciferase, a soluble protein, with the same potency with which they anaesthetise animals, over 5 logs!**



Franks & Lieb, Nature 310, 599-601 (1984)

# The structural basis is known



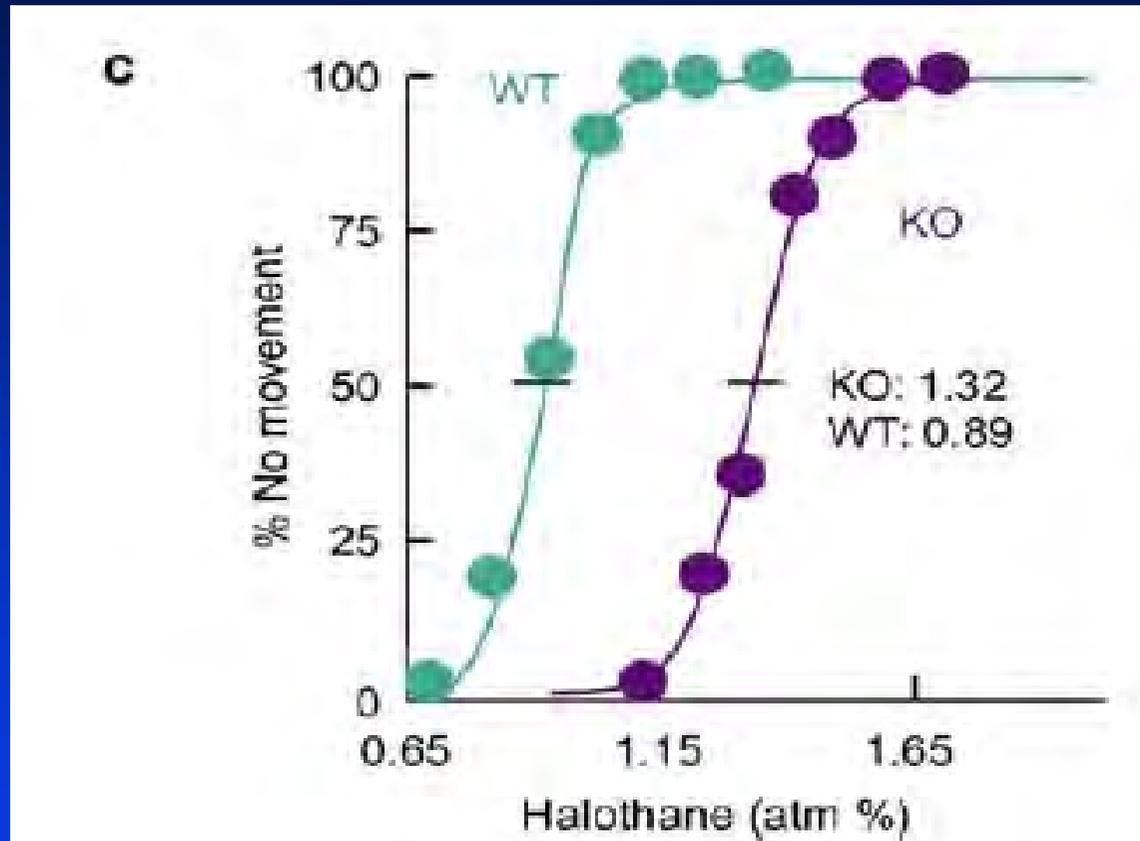
Binding of  
bromoform to  
luciferase

**The biophysical forces required to enter (and cross) a low dielectric are no different from those required to bind to a hydrophobic pocket of a protein**

- **Making and breaking H-bonds**
- **‘hydrophobic’ interactions**
- **Polarisation/ polarisability**

**Biophysical arguments alone cannot realistically discriminate mechanisms**

# Halothane affects narcosis in part via a **TREK-1 K<sup>+</sup>** channel



Heurteaux et al. EMBO J 23, 2684-95 (2004)

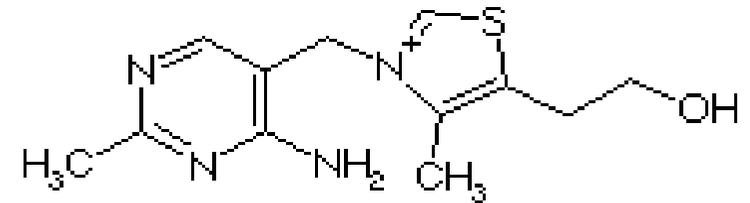
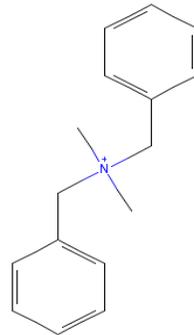
# In Support of the Pre-eminence of Transporter-mediated Uptake

There are five main sources of evidence that are considered to support the transporter(-only) view:

- 1) The existence of many proteins involved in drug efflux, which illustrates the widespread existence of the ability of natural proteins to transport xenobiotic drugs.
- 2) The demonstration of the requirement of carriers for molecules (such as lipophilic cations) that had been assumed on biophysical grounds to cross biological membranes without them.
- 3) The fact that drugs do concentrate in specific tissues and do not, in fact, leak out as they would if transmembrane diffusion on the basis of log P alone was the whole (or even most of) the story (of course this can also in part reflect intracellular binding sites).
- 4) The increasing and by now abundant evidence from specific cases that particular drugs do in fact enter cells via identified carrier molecules for which they are not the 'natural' ligand.
- 5) The ability to enhance permeability substantially by modifying the drug chemically to form a prodrug that can act as a substrate for drug carriers and thereby enter cells.

## 2) The demonstration of the requirement of carriers for molecules (such as lipophilic cations) that had been assumed on biophysical grounds to cross biological membranes without them.

Uptake of the lipophilic cation dibenzyl dimethyl ammonium (DDA<sup>+</sup>) is mediated via the transport system.



C00378

Thiamine (clog P ~ 2)

It is not *a priori* easy to guess from structures which xenobiotics use which carriers, though these can be rationalised post hoc via QSAR!

Barts, P. W. J. A., Hoeberichts, J. A., Klaassen, A. & Borst-Pauwels, G. W. F. H. (1980). Uptake of the lipophilic cation dibenzyl dimethyl ammonium into *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Interaction with the thiamine transport system. *Biochim Biophys Acta* **597**, 125-36.

**3) The fact that drugs do concentrate in specific tissues and do not, in fact, leak out as they would if transmembrane diffusion on the basis of log P alone was the whole (or even most of) the story (of course this can also in part reflect intracellular binding sites).**

- **In many cases it is far from clear why drugs should accumulate to high levels without any evidence for equivalently (stoichiometrically) increased levels of targets**
- **By contrast, active transport can easily account for this, and there is abundant evidence for major differences in the tissue distributions of carriers**

# Expert Opinion

## Drug and metabolite concentrations in tissues in relationship to tissue adverse findings: a review

Mario Pellegatti<sup>†</sup> & Sabrina Pagliarusco<sup>†</sup>  
<sup>†</sup>*GlaxoSmithKline, Via Fleming 2, Verona, Italy*

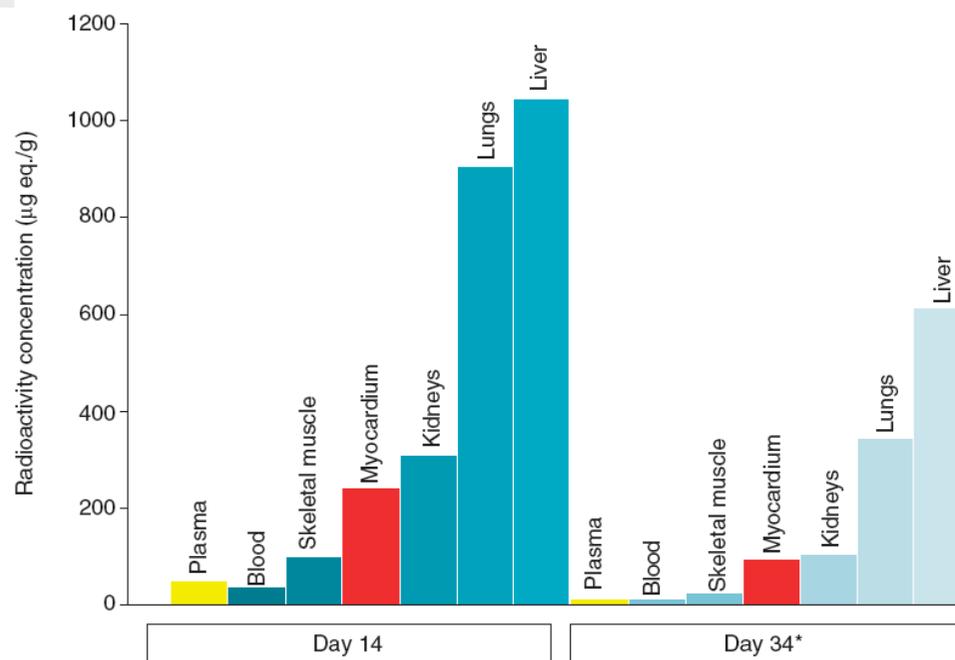
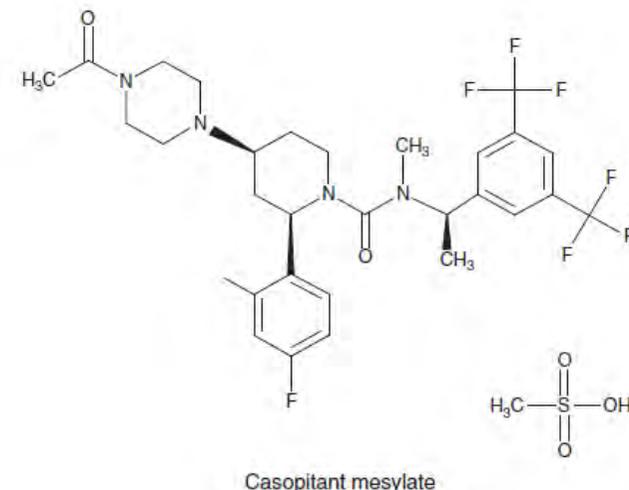


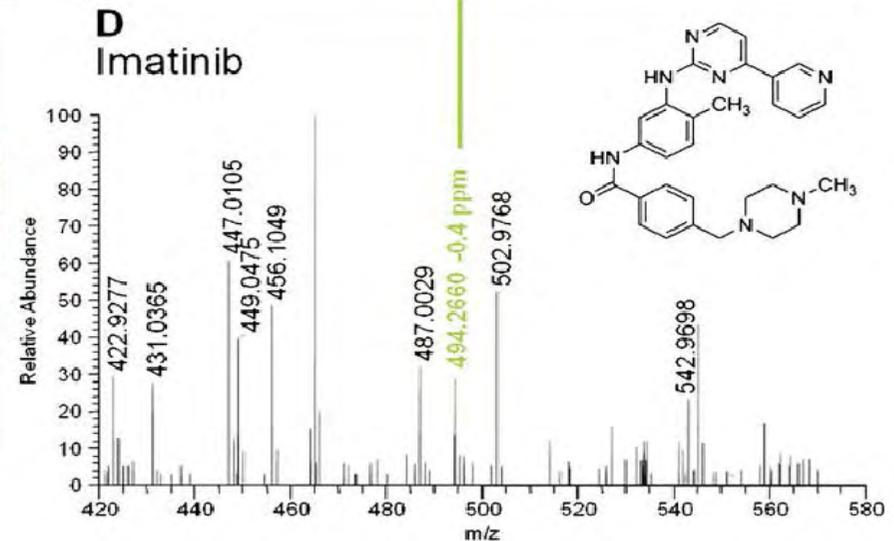
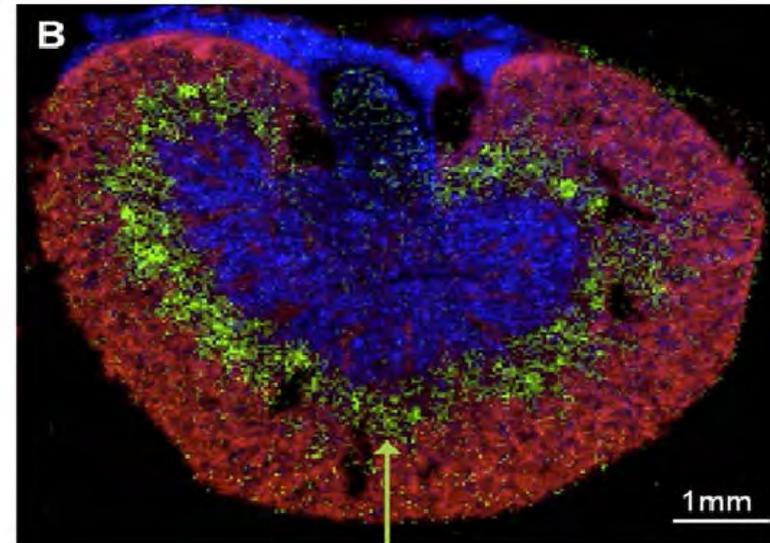
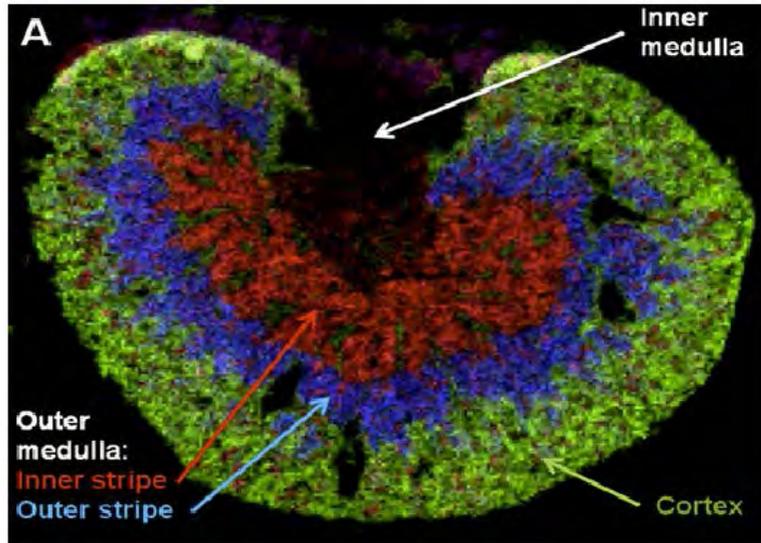
Figure 3. Concentration of drug related material in dog tissues after repeated oral doses of casopitant at 40 mg/kg.

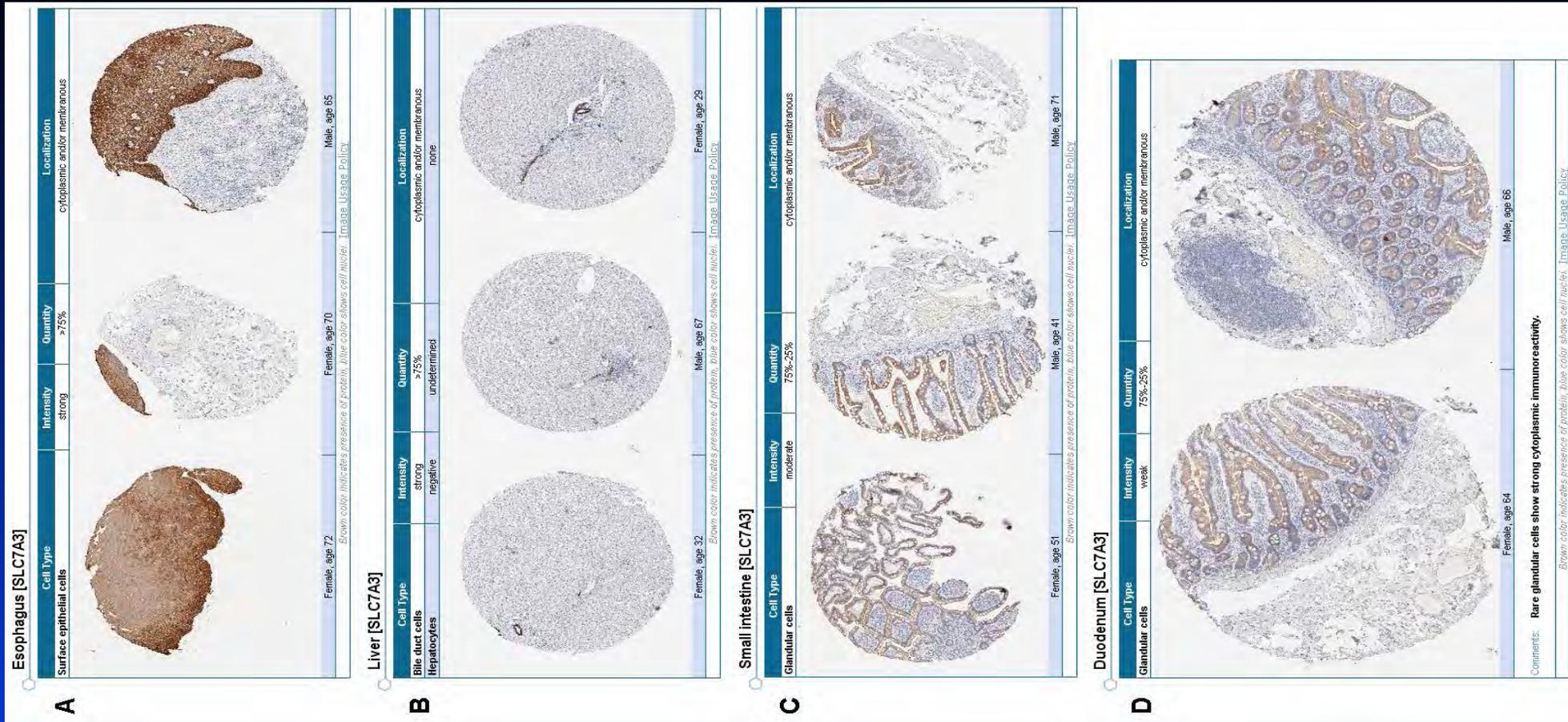
\*After a recovery period of 20 days.

1. Introduction
2. Casopitant: case study
3. Accumulation of drug related material in tissues and its effects

# Imatinib distribution in mouse kidney

Römpp, A. *et al.* (2011). *Anal Bioanal Chem* 401, 65-73.





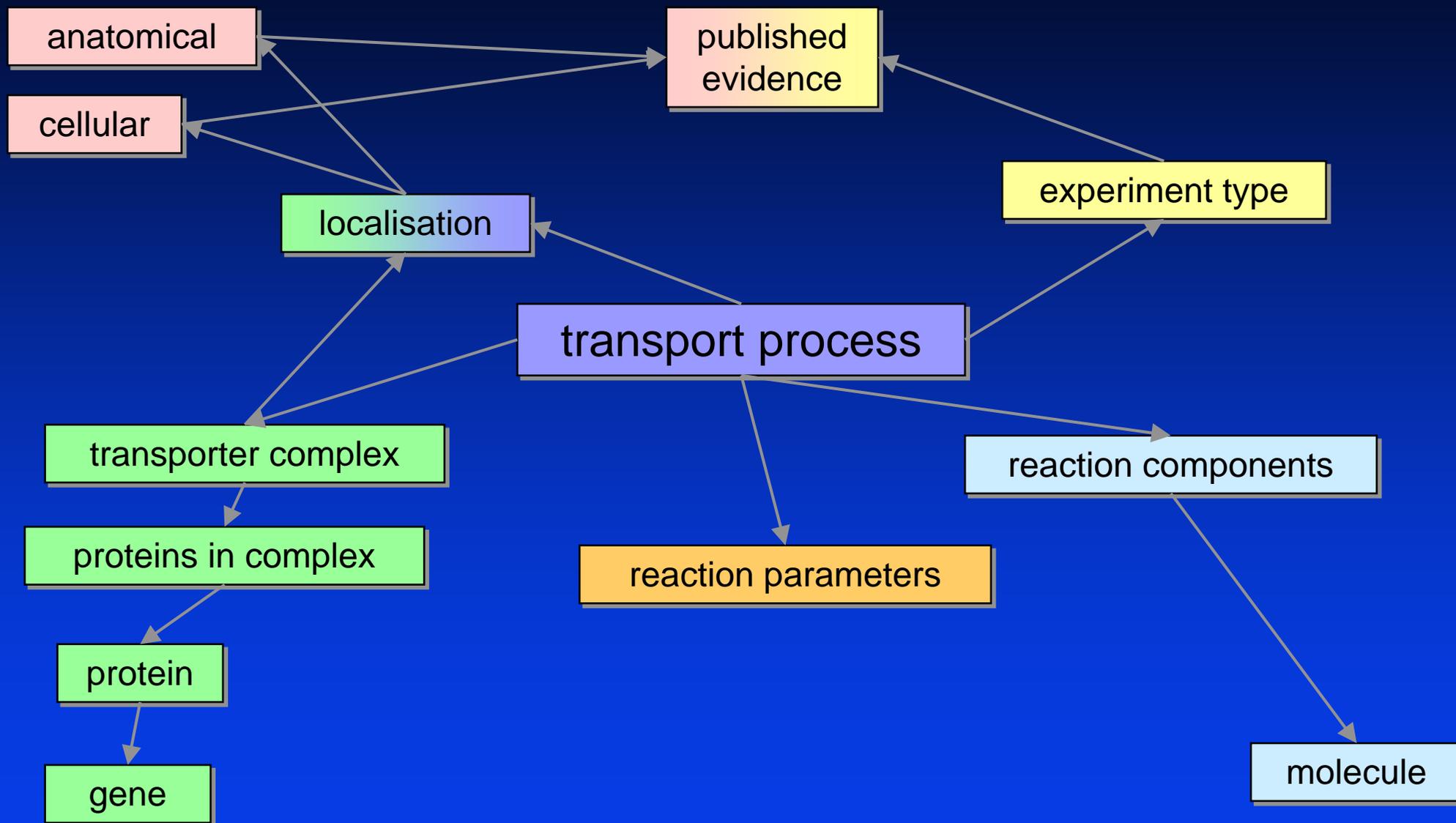
Tissue-selective expression of solute carrier molecules. Expression levels of SLC7A3 (cationic amino acid transporter,  $\gamma^+$  system) are high in oesophagus epithelial cells (A), low in liver bile duct cells (B), and moderate in glandular cells of the small intestine (C) and in glandular cells of the duodenum (D). Antibody-based histochemical staining pictures taken with its permission from the Human Protein Atlas [http://www.proteinatlas.org/tissue\\_profile.php?antibody\\_id=3629](http://www.proteinatlas.org/tissue_profile.php?antibody_id=3629)

# Literature review

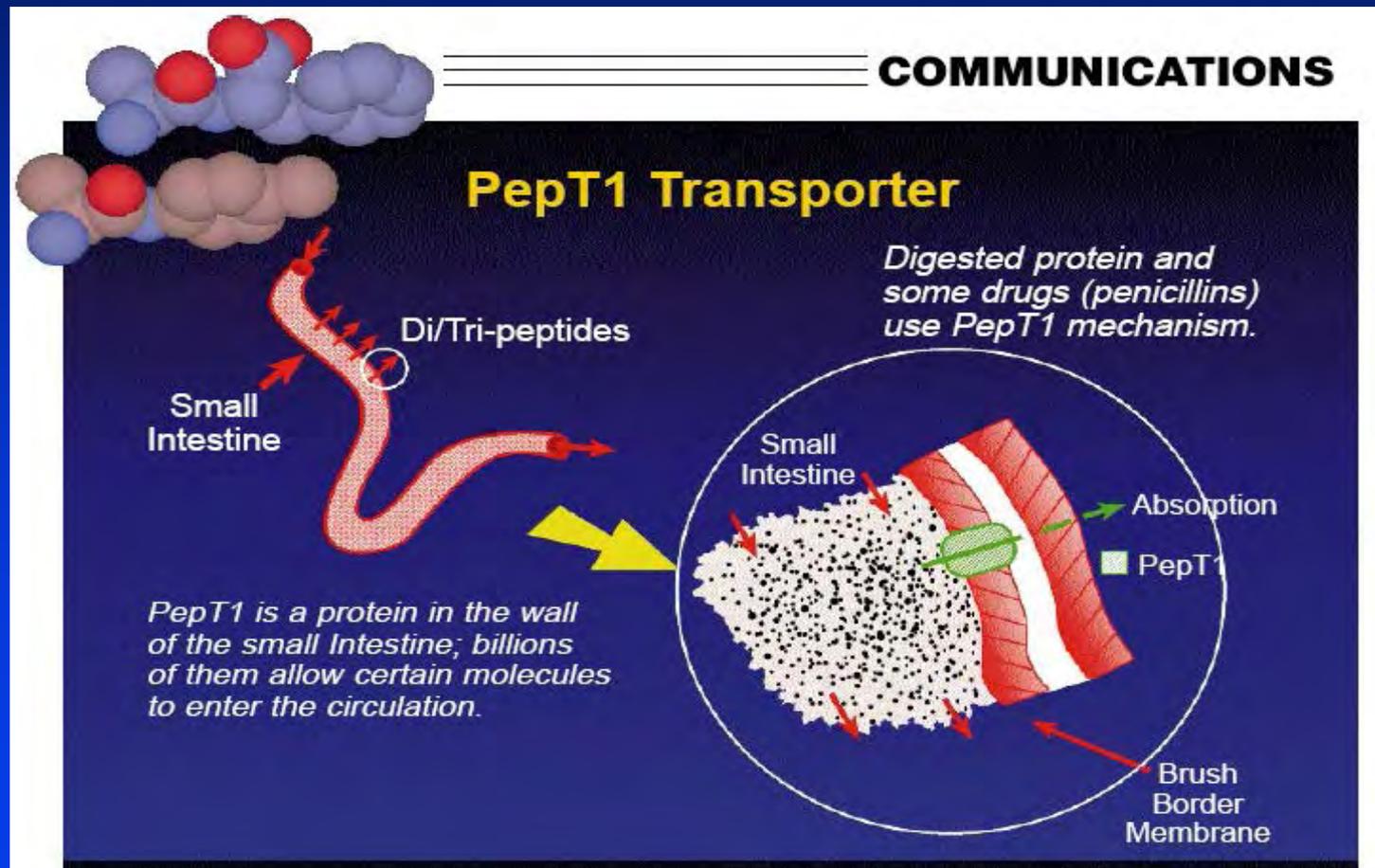
- Our 2008 review at **Nature Reviews in Drug Discovery** had over 300 references
- No doubt we have missed plenty of others!
- **Carriers now recognised to be required even for tiny molecules like water, urea, ammonium and glycerol**
- Many/most major drugs are known to interact with carriers, e.g. statins via the liver bile OATP



# Transport Process Database: Simplified Schema



5) The ability to enhance permeability substantially by modifying the drug chemically to form a prodrug that can act as a substrate for drug carriers and thereby enter cells.



## Ramifications of the view that drug transport is largely carrier-mediated

- A combination of substrate specificity and carrier distribution, additional to target distribution, can account for much of the different tissue distributions of drugs (**and hence warn of efficacy/toxicity issues**).
- Drugs may be designed to avoid specific tissues that lack carriers for them.
- It becomes much easier to understand in principle the tissue distributions of xenobiotics.
- Cross-species sequence homologies may allow better interpretation of tissue distributions in different organisms.
- Uptake carriers may provide novel and rational drug targets.
- Molecular cloning will allow the specificities of individual carriers for target drugs to be measured directly.
- Drug-drug and drug-nutrient interactions may be mediated via interactions with transporters
- **Successful (marketed) drugs will be more like endogenous (intermediary) metabolites**
- **But how do we tell which transporters are used by particular drugs?**

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

# Genome-wide assessment of the carriers involved in the cellular uptake of drugs: a model system in yeast

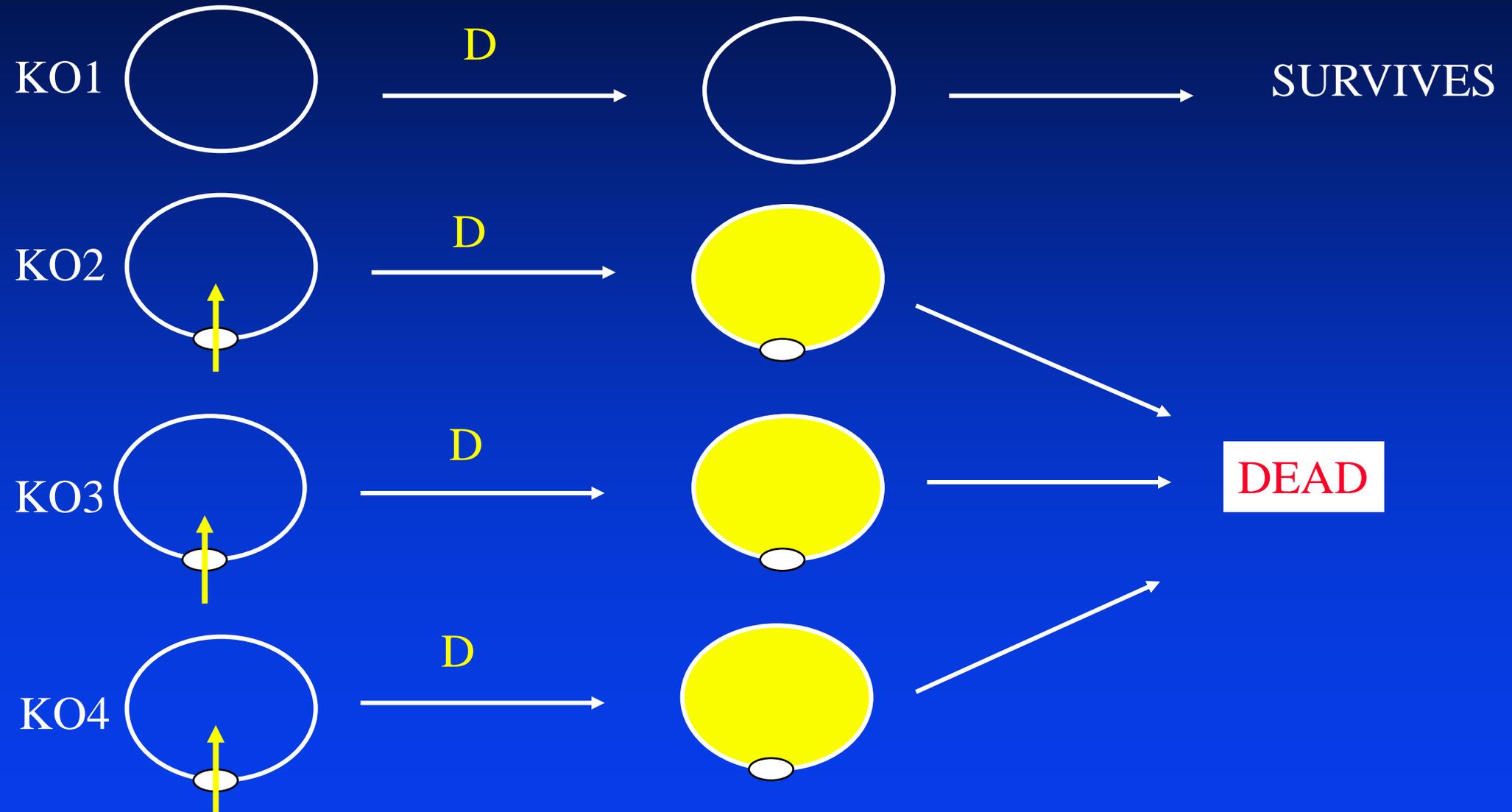
Karin Lanthaler<sup>1,2,3†</sup>, Elizabeth Bilsland<sup>4†</sup>, Paul D Dobson<sup>1,2</sup>, Harry J Moss<sup>4</sup>, Pinar Pir<sup>3,4</sup>, Douglas B Kell<sup>1,2</sup> and Stephen G Oliver<sup>3,4\*</sup>

# Bar-coded yeast knockout collection

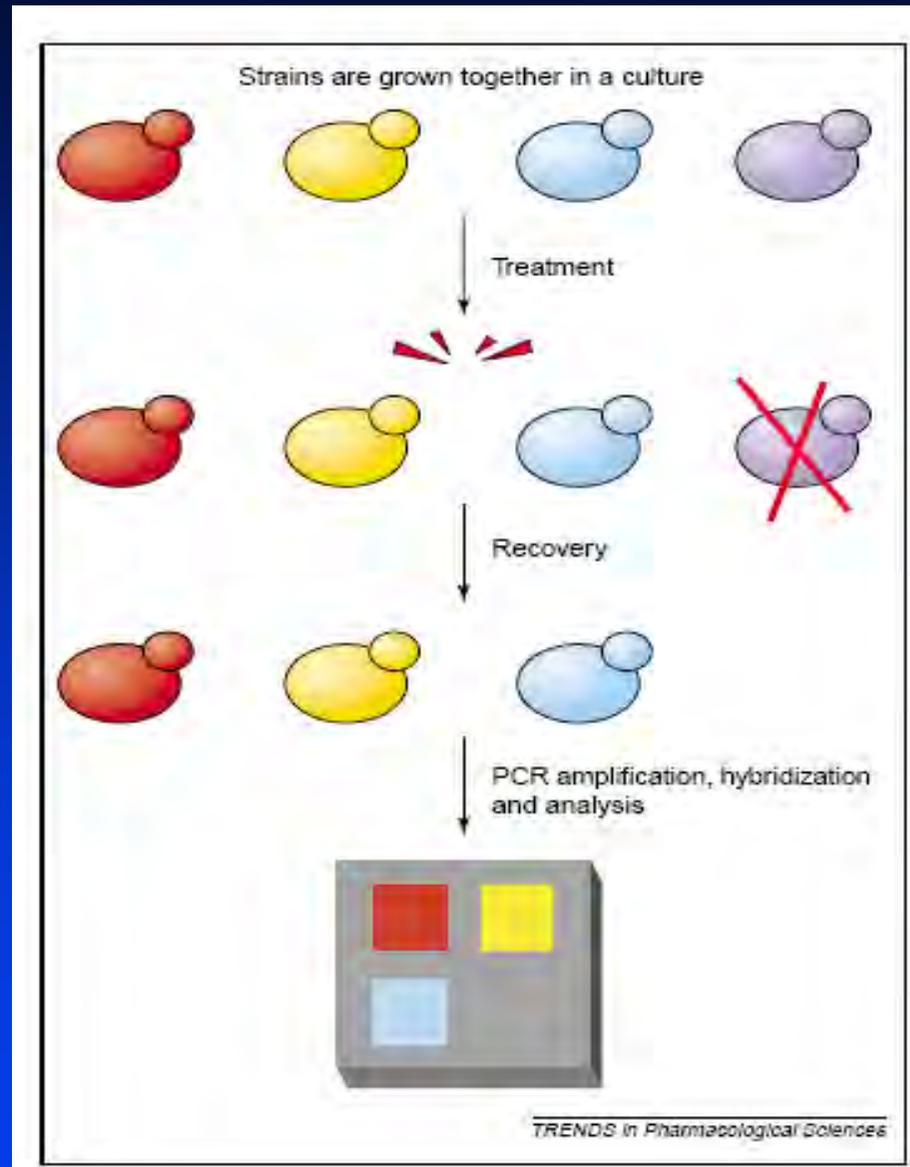
- Every yeast gene KO'd in an individual strain using a neutral replacement marker plus specific 20nt 'uptag' and 'downtag' sequences + a 'universal' PCR primer sequence
- Strains can be competed, DNA extracted, PCR'd and relative growth rates assessed via the tags (on a special Affymetrix chip HT, or by 'deep' sequencing)
- **If molecule X is toxic and transported via carrier Y then cells lacking carrier Y will grow faster than the WT in treated cells, thus identifying mode of uptake.**

# Principle of carrier identification

LACKS CARRIER Y



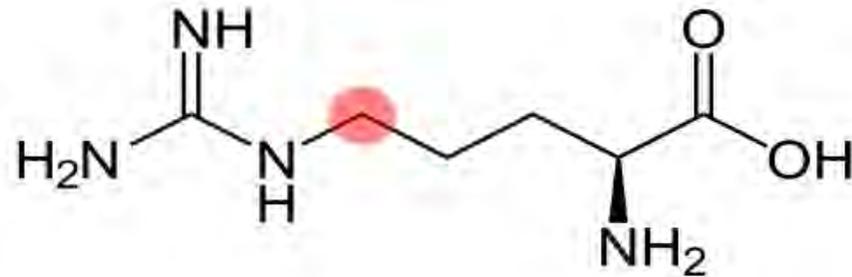
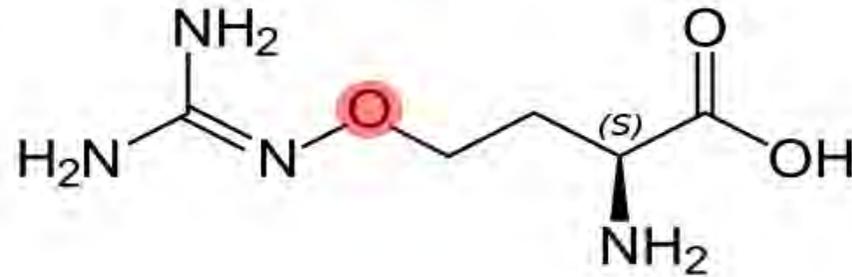
# Cartoon of barcode competitions



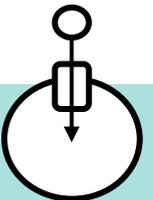
...or nowadays by  
'deep' sequencing

# Canavanine Resistance

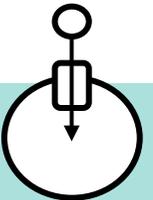
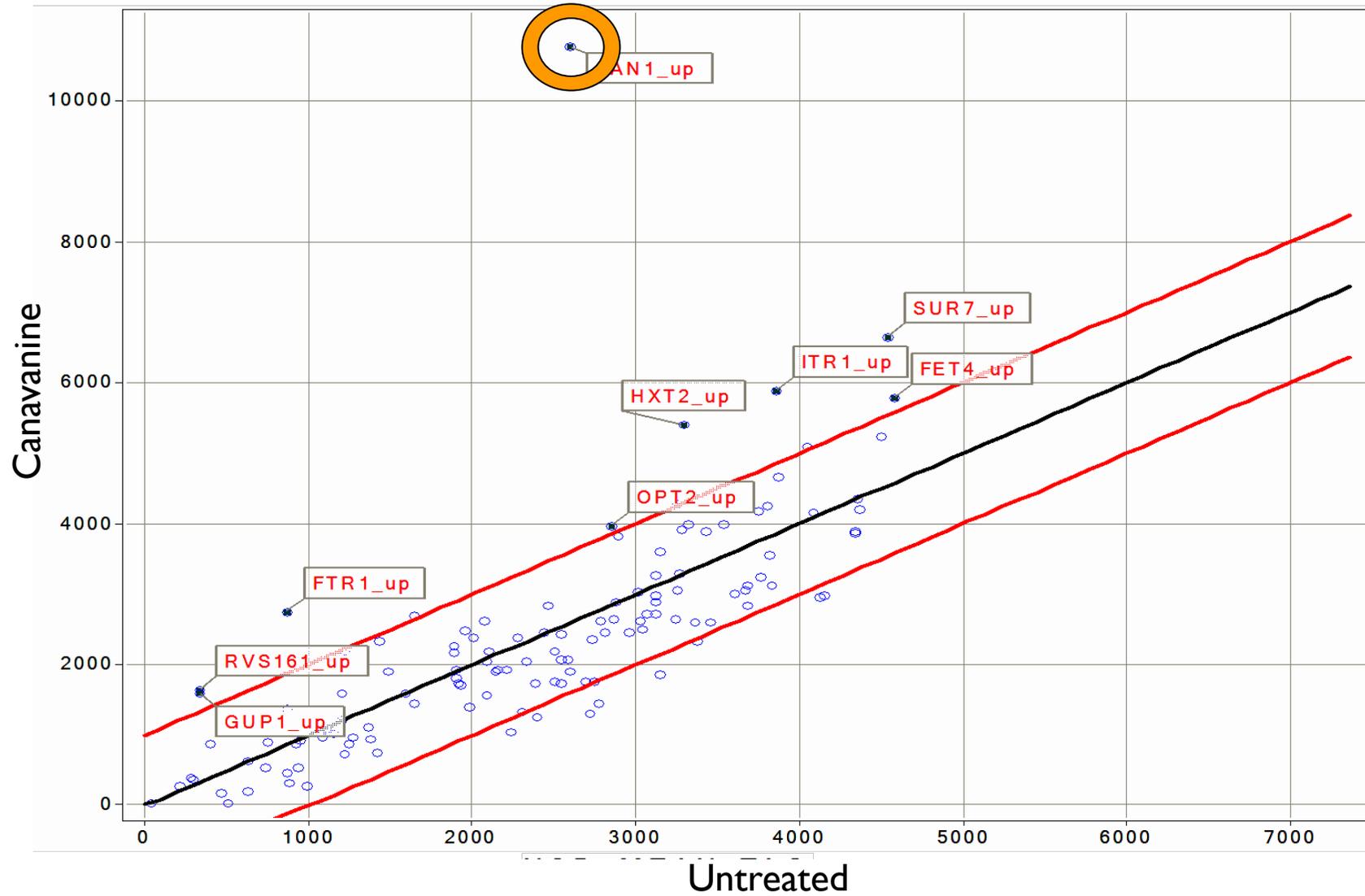
Canavanine



Arginine



# Canavanine Resistance

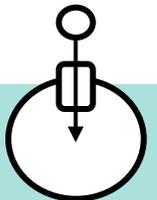
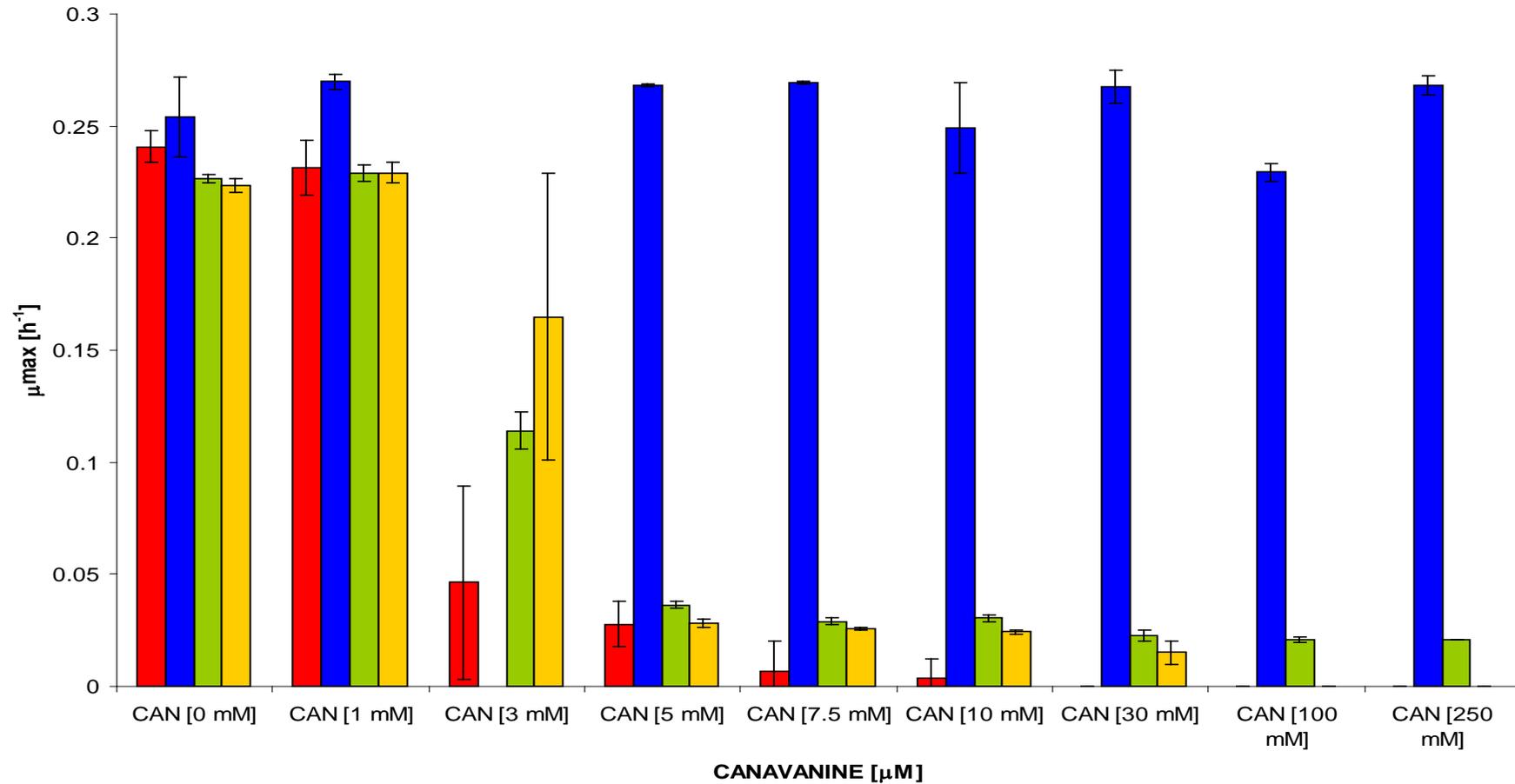


# Canavanine Resistance

The effect of L-canavanine on the maximum specific growth rate of *S. cerevisiae*

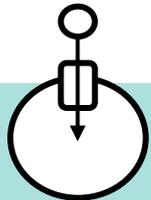
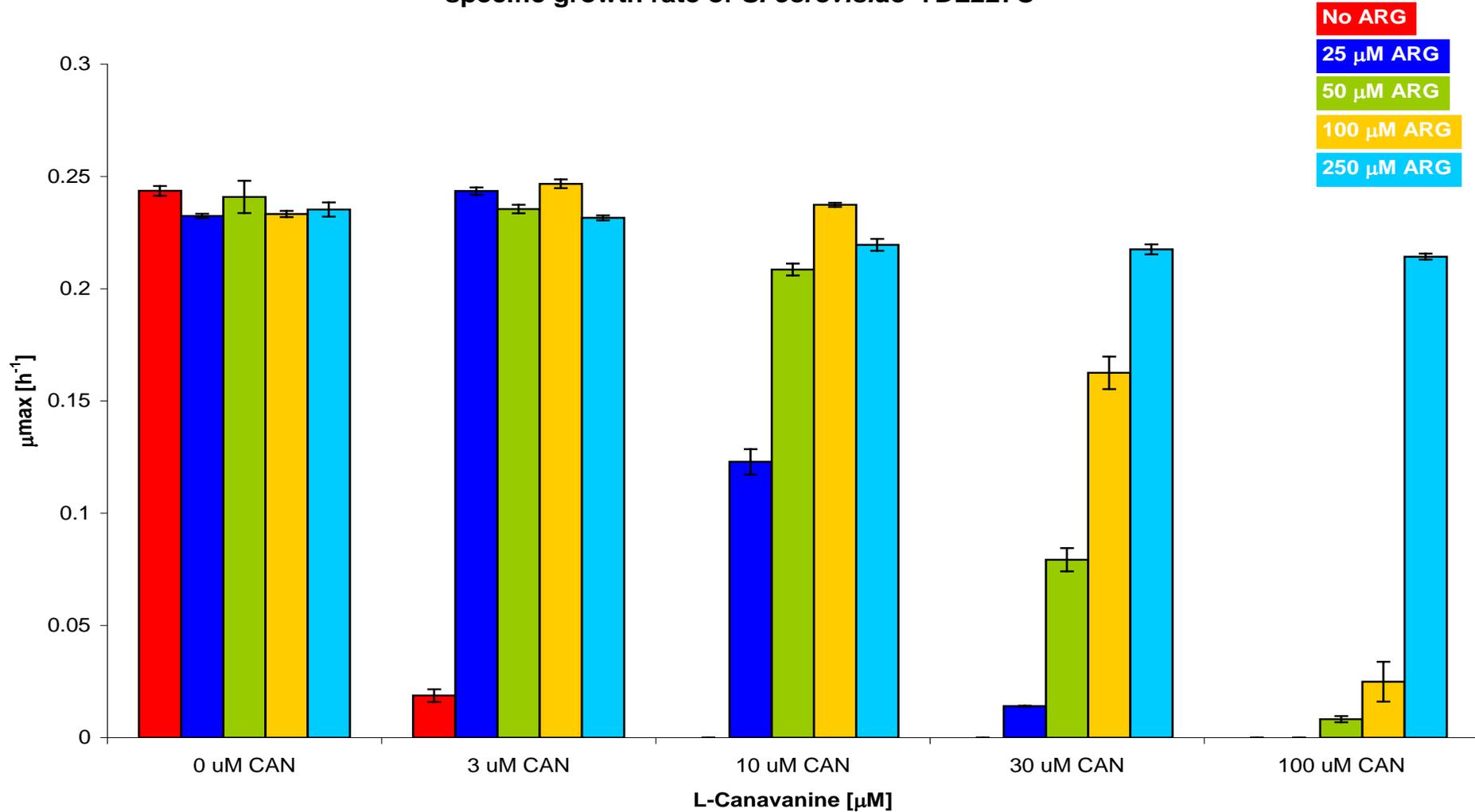
YDL227C (WT),  $\Delta$ CAN1,  $\Delta$ FTR1 and  $\Delta$ FET3

[IC<sub>90</sub>]=5mM

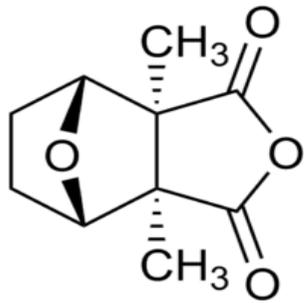


# Competition with the Natural Substrate

Competition between L-Arginine and L-Canavanine represented as reduction of the maximum specific growth rate of *S. cerevisiae* YDL227C

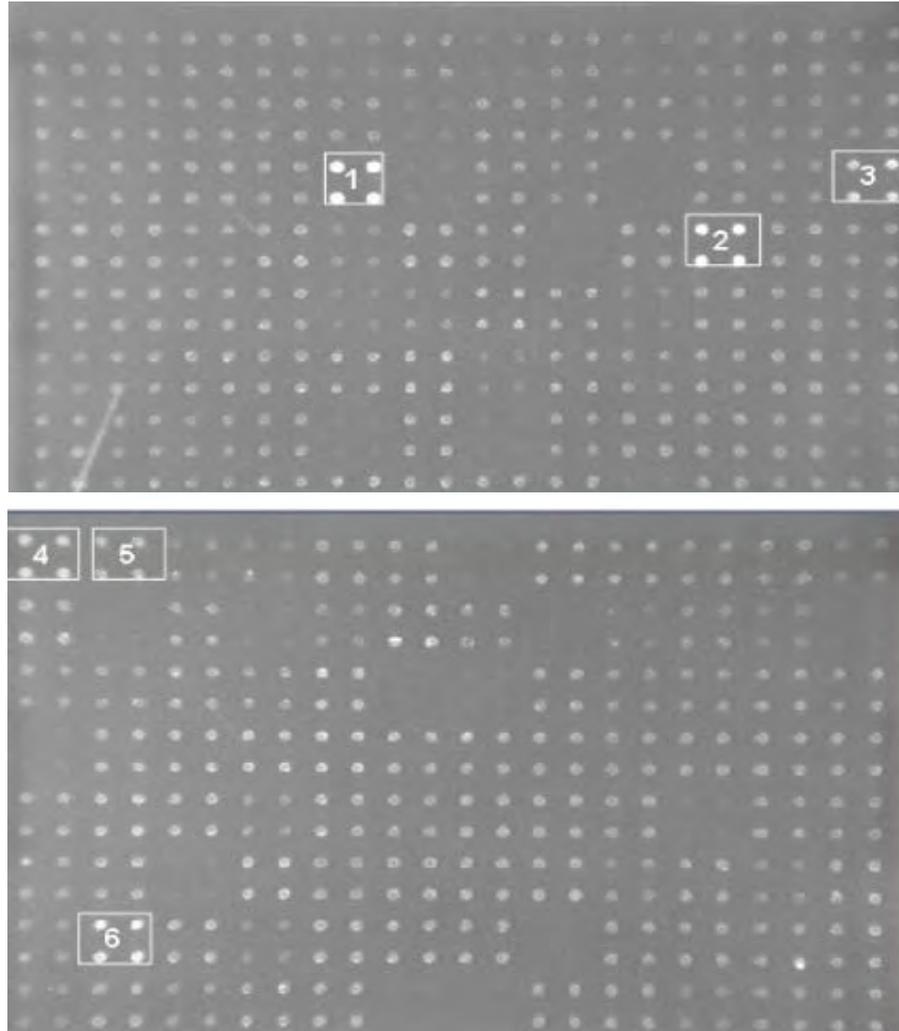


# Yeast Robotics



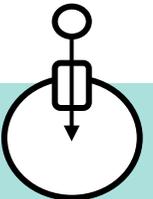
Cantharidin

**At least 6 transporters...**



1. *fen2* $\Delta$
2. *mal31* $\Delta$
3. *pca11* $\Delta$

4. *pho89* $\Delta$
5. *qdr3* $\Delta$
6. *snq2* $\Delta$



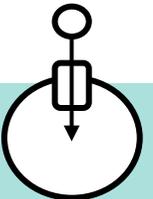
# Screening Results

The platforms work (robot is cleanest, fermenter is most parallel)

Broad agreement between solid and liquid robots, but pool effects complicate fermenter

Transporters found for 18/26 drugs

**NB – even this approach will miss cases in which there are very many transporters – as is probably often true for marketed drugs**



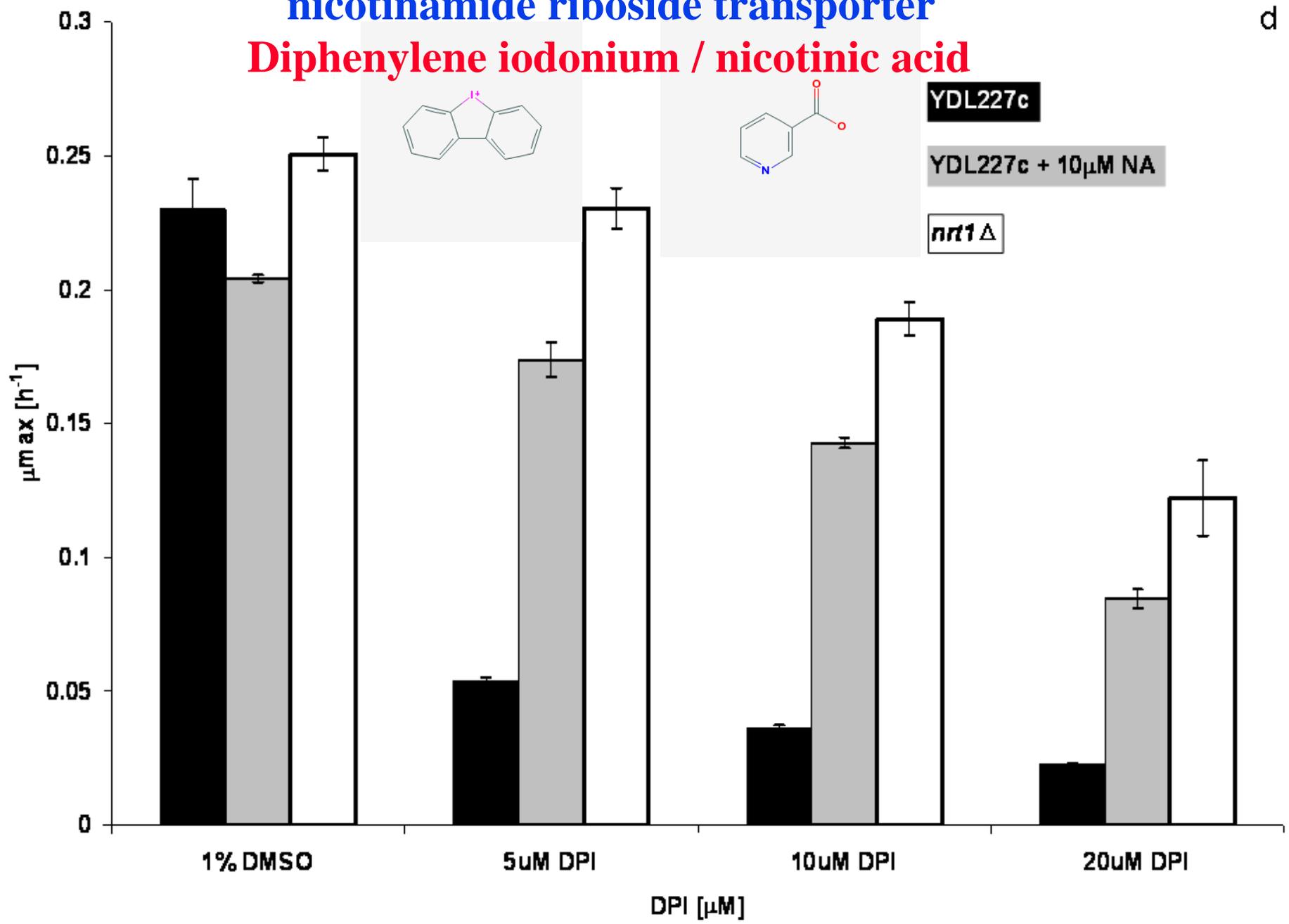
# **If drugs use transporters that metabolites normally use there are 2 other ramifications**

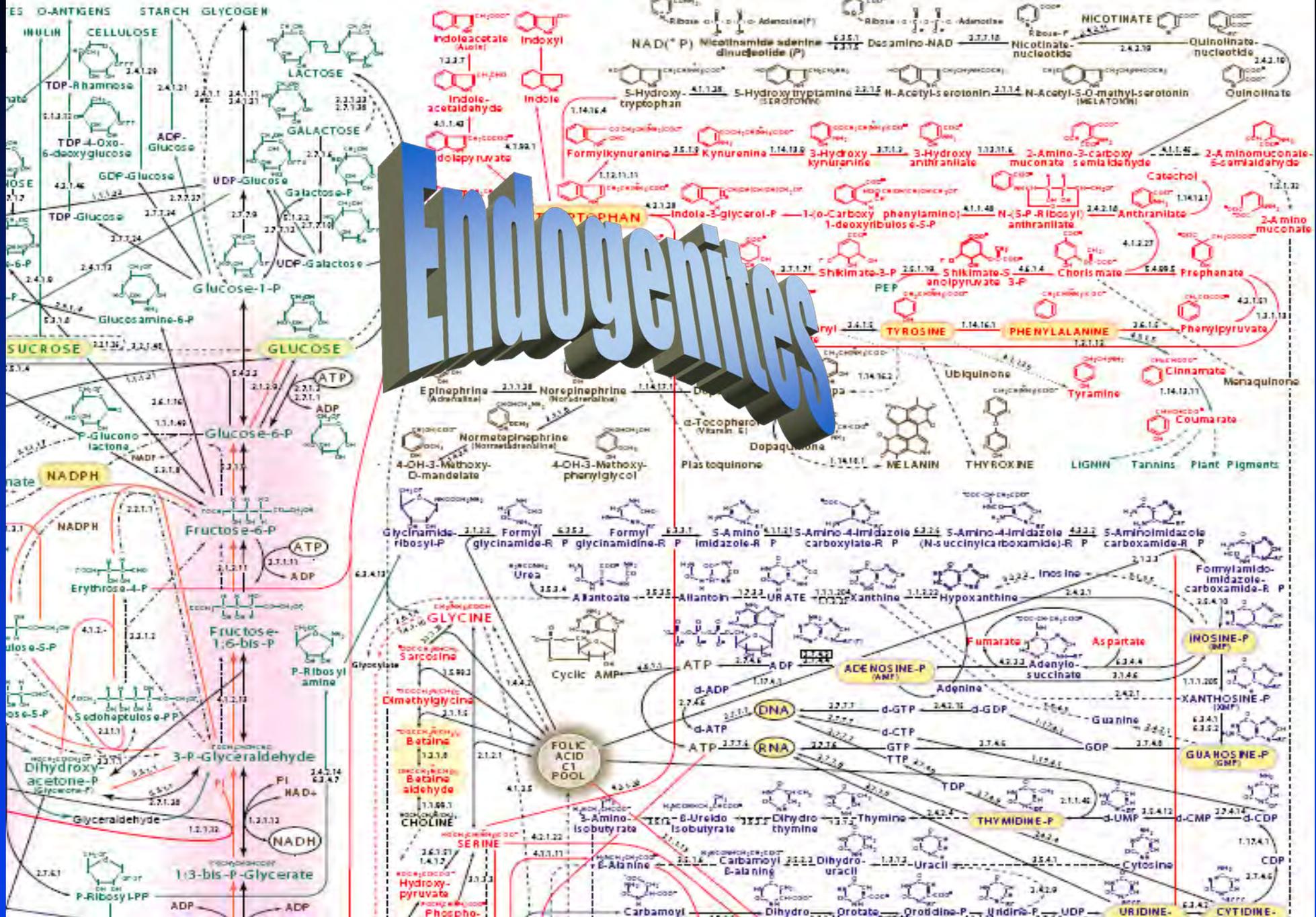
- **Drugs and metabolites should compete with each other**
- **Molecular similarity – successful (marketed) drugs should be more like metabolites than are typical library compounds (that albeit obey the Ro5)**

# nicotinamide riboside transporter

## Diphenylene iodonium / nicotinic acid

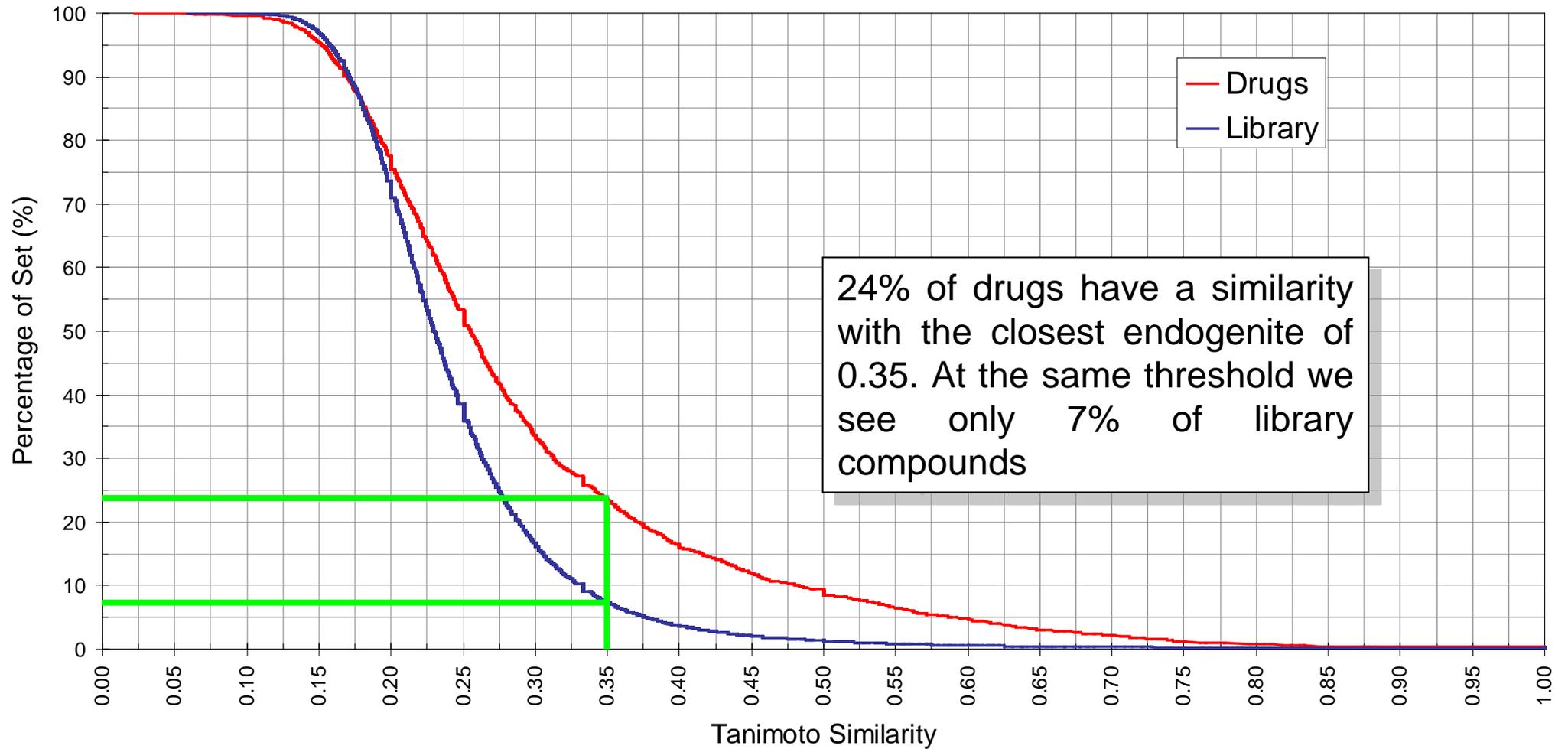
d





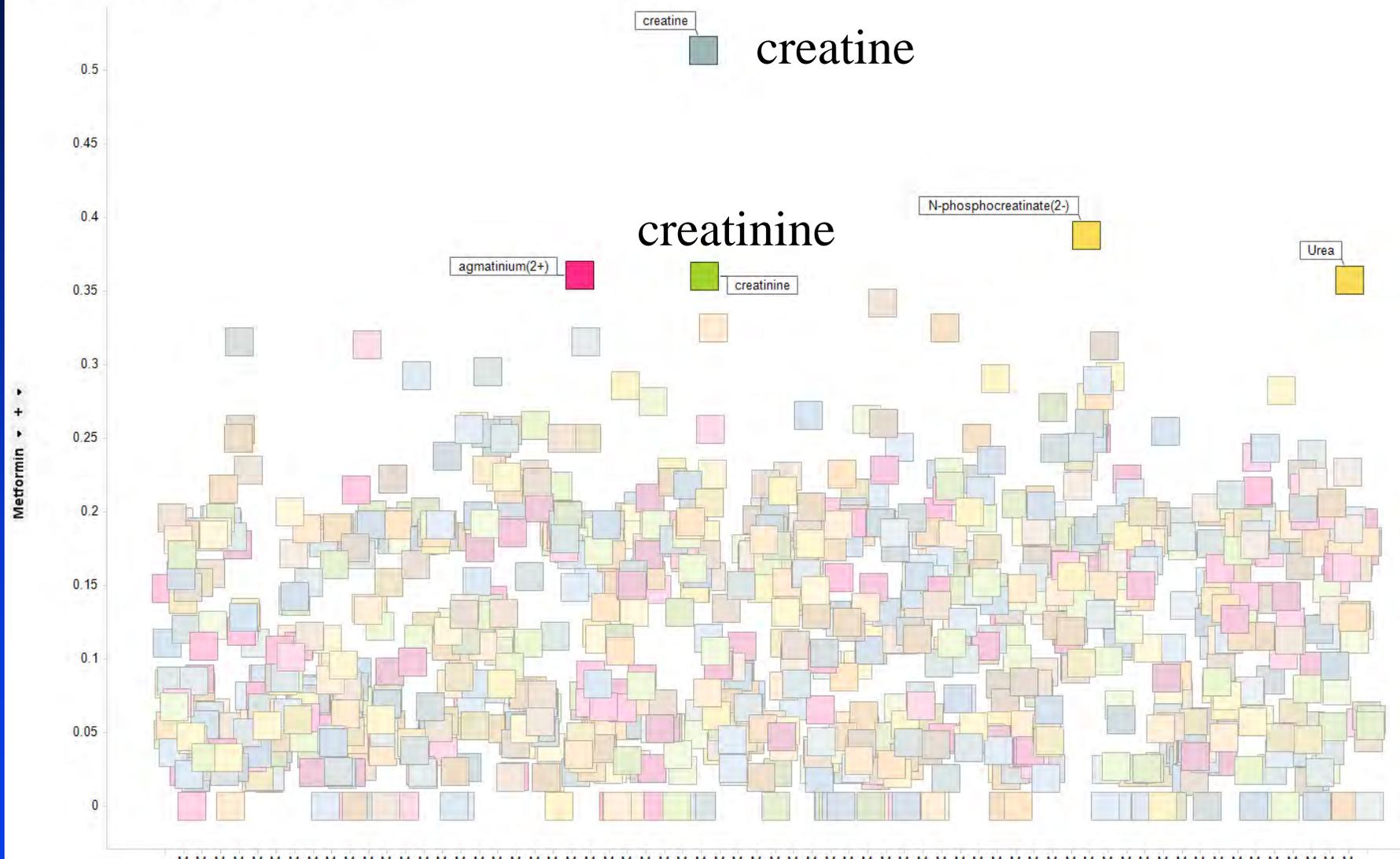
# Custom, Tanimoto 0.3

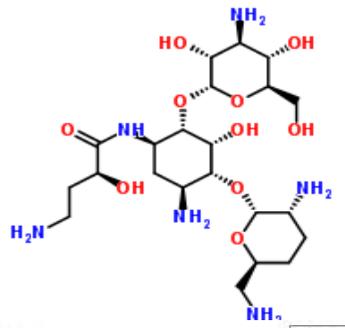
Similarity With Closest Metabolite, Custom Space



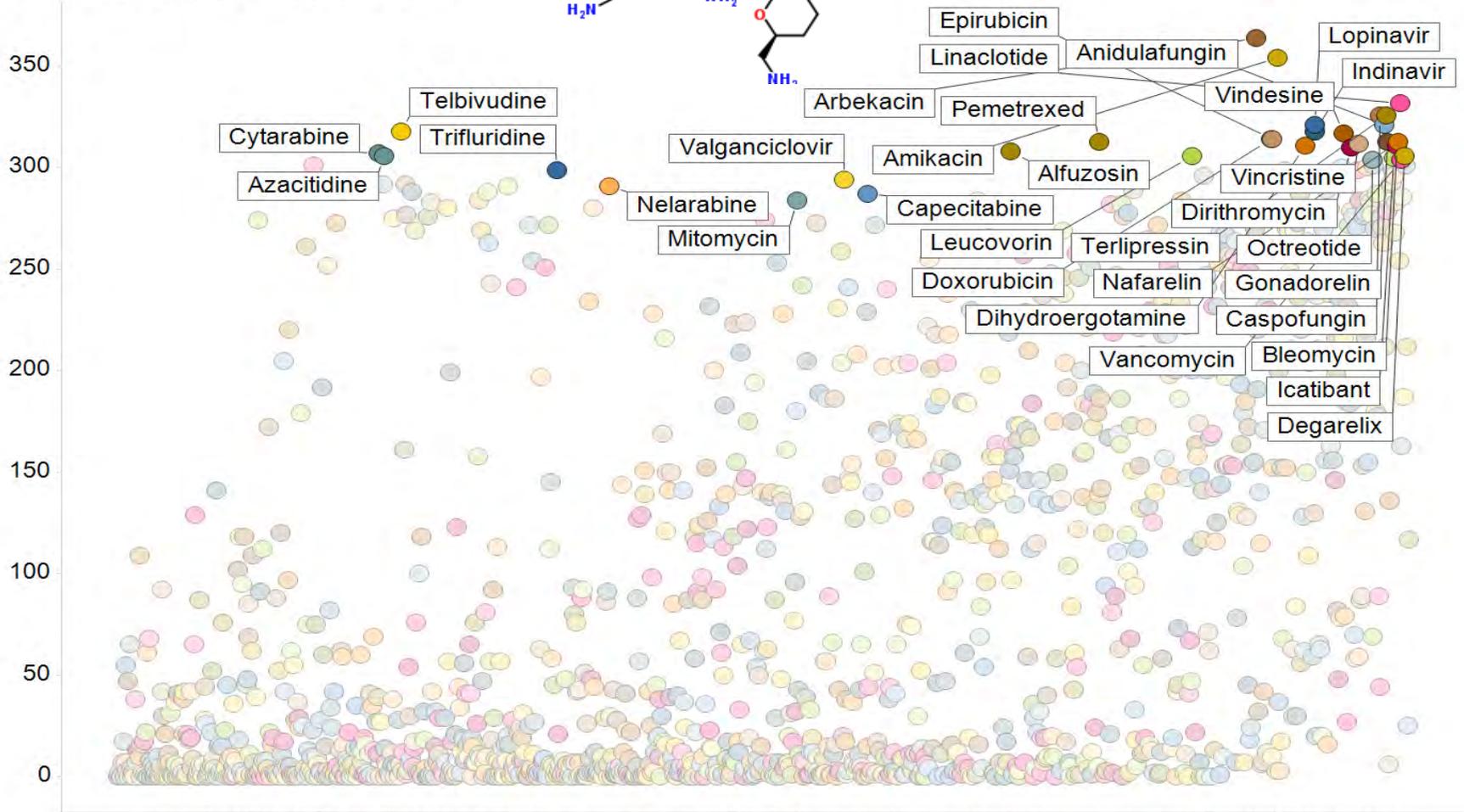
# Metformin vs metabolites

Metformin vs. Name, (Column Names)





Number of metabolites with a Tanimoto similarity  $\geq 0.5$



Various drugs

# Drug-Endogenite Likeness

These results hold in further descriptor spaces and at different redundancy thresholds

**Drugs are more similar to endogenites than are non-drugs**

The concept of endogenite-likeness will contribute to screening library design

Early results comparing drugs and non-drugs to transporter substrates indicate that a similar result holds. This suggests that interactions with transporters are a major component driving the endogenite-likeness of drugs

**'Metabolite-likeness' as a criterion in the design and selection of pharmaceutical drug libraries Drug Disc Today 14, 31-40 (2009)**

**Paul D. Dobson, Yogendra Patel and Douglas B. Kell**

# Latest transporter review

REVIEWS

Drug Discovery Today • Volume 18, Numbers 5/6 • March 2013



DDT 18, 218-239 (2013)

Reviews • FOUNDATION REVIEW

## The promiscuous binding of pharmaceutical drugs and their transporter-mediated uptake into cells: what we (need to) know and how we can do so

**Douglas B. Kell<sup>1,2</sup>, Paul D. Dobson<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Elizabeth Bilsland<sup>4,5</sup> and Stephen G. Oliver<sup>4,5</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> School of Chemistry, The University of Manchester, 131 Princess St, Manchester M1 7DN, UK

<sup>2</sup> Manchester Institute of Biotechnology, The University of Manchester, 131 Princess St, Manchester M1 7DN, UK

<sup>3</sup> ChELSI Institute, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, University of Sheffield, Mappin Street, Sheffield S1 3JD, UK

<sup>4</sup> Department of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge, Sanger Building, 80 Tennis Court Road, Cambridge CB2 1GA, UK

<sup>5</sup> Cambridge Systems Biology Centre, University of Cambridge, Sanger Building, 80 Tennis Court Road, Cambridge CB2 1GA, UK

A recent paper in this journal sought to counter evidence for the role of transport proteins in effecting drug uptake into cells, and questions that transporters can recognize drug molecules in addition to their endogenous substrates. However, there is abundant evidence that both drugs and proteins are highly promiscuous. Most proteins bind to many drugs and most drugs bind to multiple proteins (on average more than six) including

**Douglas Kell** took an MA (biochemistry) and DPhil (Oxon) in 1978. After several personal fellowships and other posts in what is now the University of Aberystwyth, he was awarded a Personal Chair (1992). He was a Founding Director of Aber Instruments Ltd (Queen's Award for Export Achievement, 1998). He moved to Manchester in 2002 and from 2005 to 2008 was Director, BBSRC Manchester Centre for Integrative Systems Biology ([www.mcisb.org/](http://www.mcisb.org/)). Awards include the Fleming Award of the Society for General Microbiology (1986), RSC Interdisciplinary Science Award (2004), the FEBS-IUBMB Theodor Bucher prize, Royal Society/Wolfson Merit Award RSC Award in Chemical Biology (all 2005), and the 2006 Royal Society of Chemistry/Society of Analytical Chemistry Gold Medal. Since 2008 he has been serving on secondment as Chief Executive, UK Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.



**Paul Dobson** holds a degree in biochemistry and a PhD (2005) in structural biology with machine learning from UMIST. Following short postdoctoral positions in text mining and Raman spectroscopy, in 2006 he joined the group of Professor Douglas Kell at The University of Manchester, where he led cheminformatics research on mechanisms of drug uptake into cells, and yeast systems biology. He moved to Sheffield in 2010.



# Conclusions

- The human metabolic network contains many transporters of unknown specificity
- Much evidence shows that specific drugs do enter cells by known carriers, and probably do so **only** via this route
- Carrier-mediated uptake is thus almost certainly the rule and not the exception, and **makes drug and xenobiotic transport a problem of systems biology**
- **This has considerable implications for the design of safe and efficacious drugs that behave at a SYSTEMS level**
- **We thus need to develop systems pharmacology**

# *Thanks to....* **MCISB Management Team**

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- **Simon Gaskell**
- **John McCarthy**
- **Pedro Mendes**
- **Steve Oliver**
- **Norman Paton**
- **Hans Westerhoff**

Dieter Weichart – Project manager   Carole Goble – Taverna  
Peter Li – workflows   Steve Pettifer – Utopia   Rick Dunn, Dave Broadhurst,  
Ludwig Neyses - HF

**Paul Dobson, Karin Lanthaler, Pinar Pir & Elizabeth Bilsland** – carrier-mediated drug uptake

Phil Baker – PE and lots of medical insights  
and the MCISB team.....



2,469 refs

Review

Open Access

**Iron behaving badly: inappropriate iron chelation as a major contributor to the aetiology of vascular and other progressive inflammatory and degenerative diseases**

Douglas B Kell\*

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1755-8794/2/2/>

<http://dbkgroup.org/dbkPubs.htm>

Arch Toxicol (2010) 84:825–889

DOI 10.1007/s00204-010-0577-x

REVIEW ARTICLE

1,716 refs

**Towards a unifying, systems biology understanding of large-scale cellular death and destruction caused by poorly liganded iron: Parkinson's, Huntington's, Alzheimer's, prions, bactericides, chemical toxicology and others as examples**

Douglas B. Kell

# The cellular transport of pharmaceutical drugs: a problem not of biophysics but of systems biology

**Douglas Kell**

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MANCHESTER M60 1QD, U.K.

**dbk@manchester.ac.uk**

**<http://dbkgroup.org/>**

**<http://www.mib.ac.uk> [www.mcisb.org](http://www.mcisb.org)**



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