

Introducing AOPs - Basics

Presented by Ludek Blaha, MU

... using and acknowledging materials from many others:

Dan Villeneuve – US EPA

Markus Hecker – University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Mirjam Luijten – RIVM, Netherlands

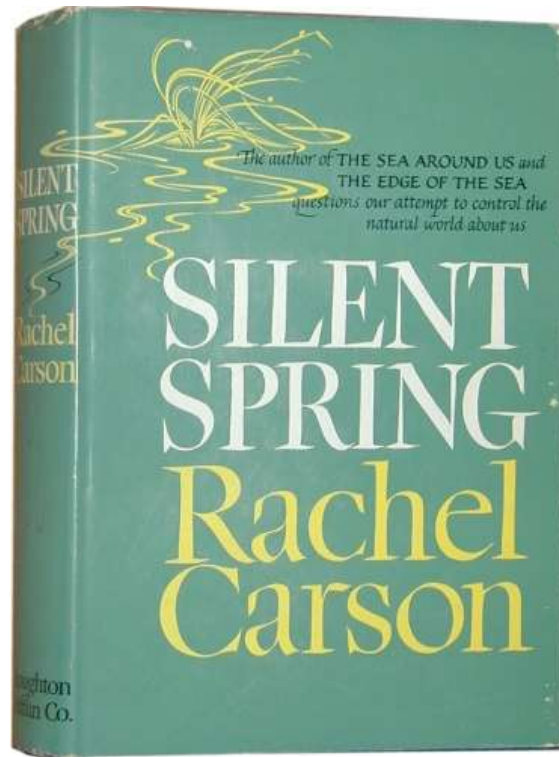
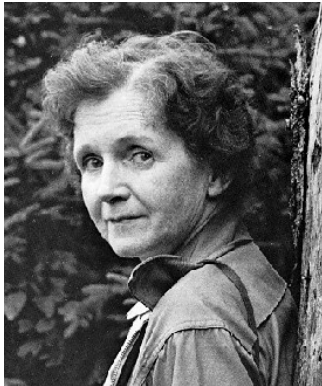
and many other AOP-developers and trainers

15th RECETOX Summer School
3rd HMB4EU Training School
Brno 18th June 2019, MU-RECETOX, Brno, Czech Republic

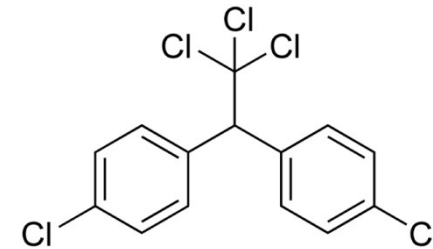


science and policy
for a healthy future

1962



© Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, MA, USA



"DDT is good for me-e-e!"

The great expectations held for DDT have been realized. During 1946, exhaustive scientific tests have shown that, when properly used, DDT kills a host of destructive insect pests, and is a benefactor of all humanity.

Pennsalt produces DDT and its products in all standard forms and is now one of the country's largest producers of this amazing insecticide. Today, everyone can enjoy added comfort, health and safety through the insect-killing powers of Pennsalt DDT products . . . and DDT is only one of Pennsalt's many chemical products which benefit industry, farm and home.

GOOD FOR STEERS—Beef grows sooner nowadays . . . for it's a scientific fact that—compared to untreated cattle—beef-steers gain up to 50 pounds extra when protected from horn flies and many other pests with DDT insecticides.

GOOD FOR THE HOME—helps **KNOX** to make healthier, more comfortable homes . . . protects your family from dangerous insect pests. Use **KNOX-OUT DDT Powders and Sprays** as directed . . . then watch the bugs "take the dust"!

GOOD FOR DAIRIES—Up to 20% more **KNOX** milk . . . more butter . . . more cheese . . . tests prove greater milk production when dairy cows are protected from the annoyance of many insects with DDT insecticides like **KNOX-OUT Stock and Barn Spray**.

GOOD FOR ROW CROPS—25 more barrels of potatoes per acre . . . actual DDT tests have shown crop increases like this! DDT dusts and sprays help truck farmers pass these gains along to you.

KNOX FOR INDUSTRY—Food processing plants, laundries, dry cleaning plants, hotels . . . dozens of industries gain effective bug control, more pleasant work conditions with Pennsalt DDT products.

PENN SALT
CHEMICALS
97 Years' Service to Industry • Farm • Home
PENNSYLVANIA SALT MANUFACTURING COMPANY
WIDENER BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA 7, PA.

<http://www2.ucsc.edu/scpbrg/>

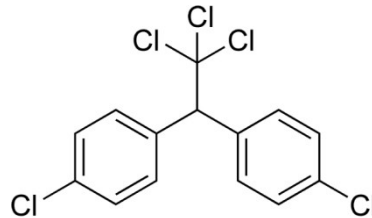
Bitman et al. *Science* 1970, 168(3931): 594



Biochemistry

bird carbonate dehydratase

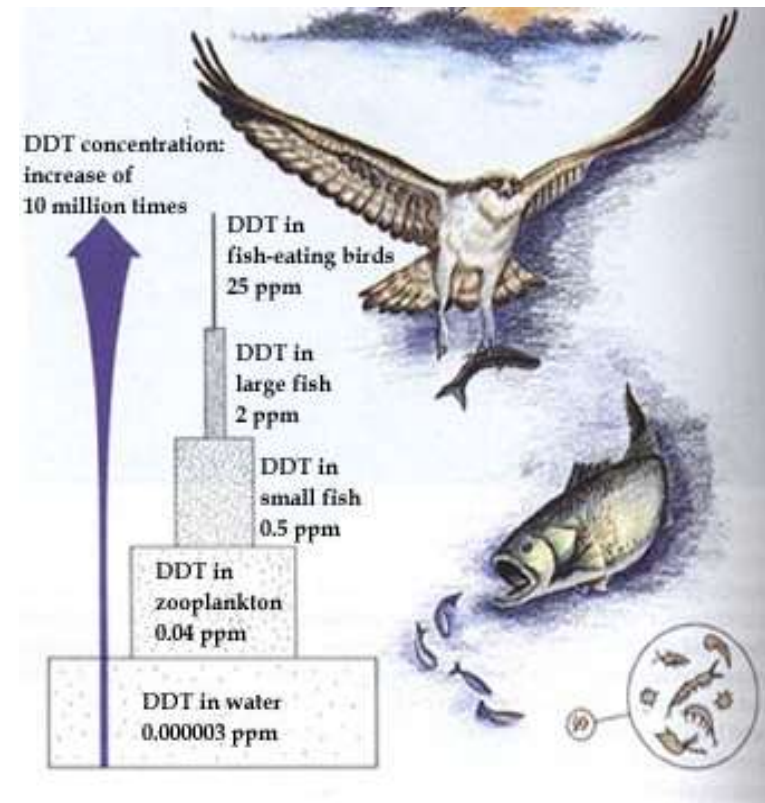
+ *several other mechanisms*



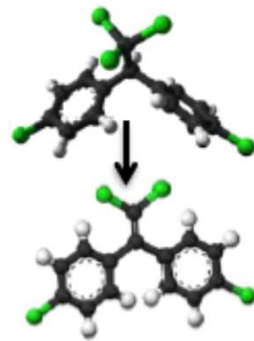
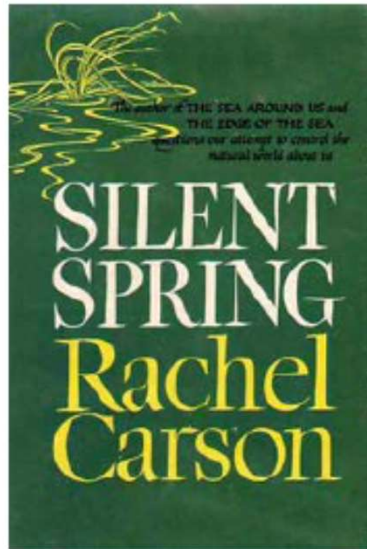
In vivo: shell thinning



In situ: bioaccumulation
-> **bird population decline**



Introduction



p,p'-DDE



Contribution of DDT to population declines in sensitive bird populations

Perhaps the most well known incident in wildlife ecotoxicology

Helped spark the environmental movement, and in part the mission of EPA



Introduction

A central challenge for regulatory toxicology

How do we identify the other chemicals that may cause similar adverse effects

Before we see impacts on human health or wildlife populations

Traditional Approach



Avian reproduction study
(OPPTS 850.2300; OECD 206)

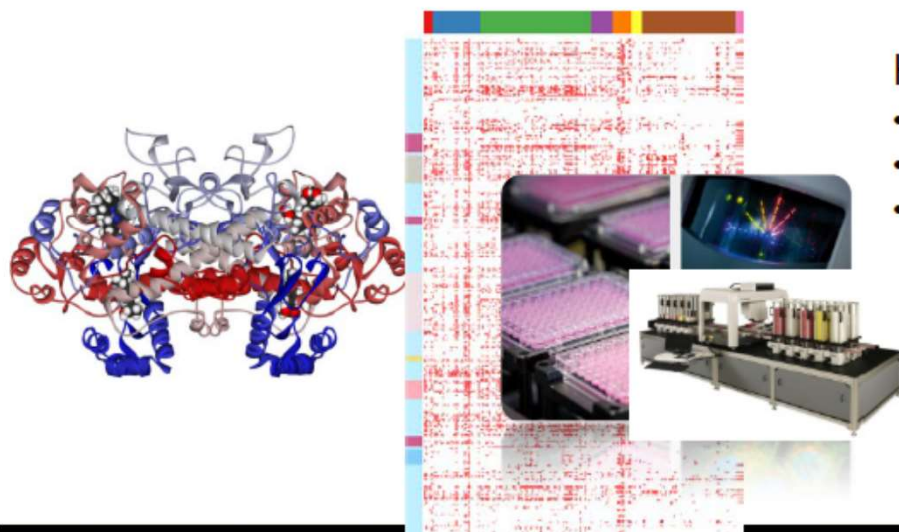
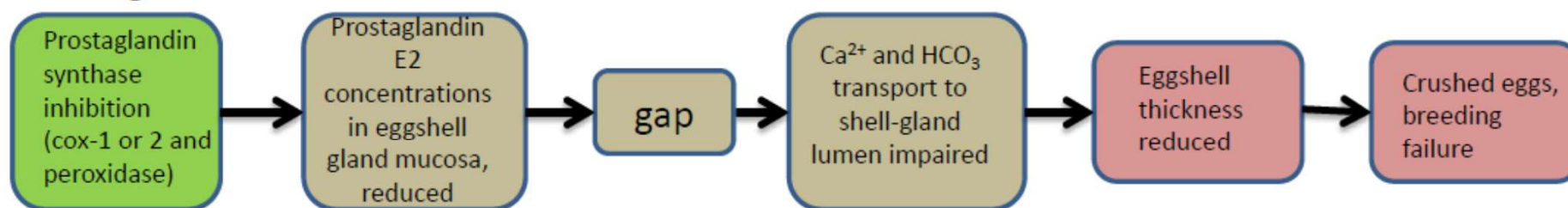
\$>250,000
>30 weeks to perform

Introduction

If we understand HOW chemicals cause adverse outcomes

And...biological activities that lead to/are associated with progression toward those AOs

Creates opportunities to use new types of data for hazard id and/or risk-based decision-making



High throughput toxicology

- > 600 in vitro assays
- days
- ≈ \$ 20,000



Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century

actor.epa.gov/dashboard/

EPA

TOXCAST HOME TOXCAST SELECTION CHEMICAL SELECTION ASSAY EXPLORER CHEMICAL EXPLORER BIOINTEGRATION COMING SOON

Assay Explorer

821 out of 821 assays selected 1052 out of 1058 chemicals selected [Report](#)

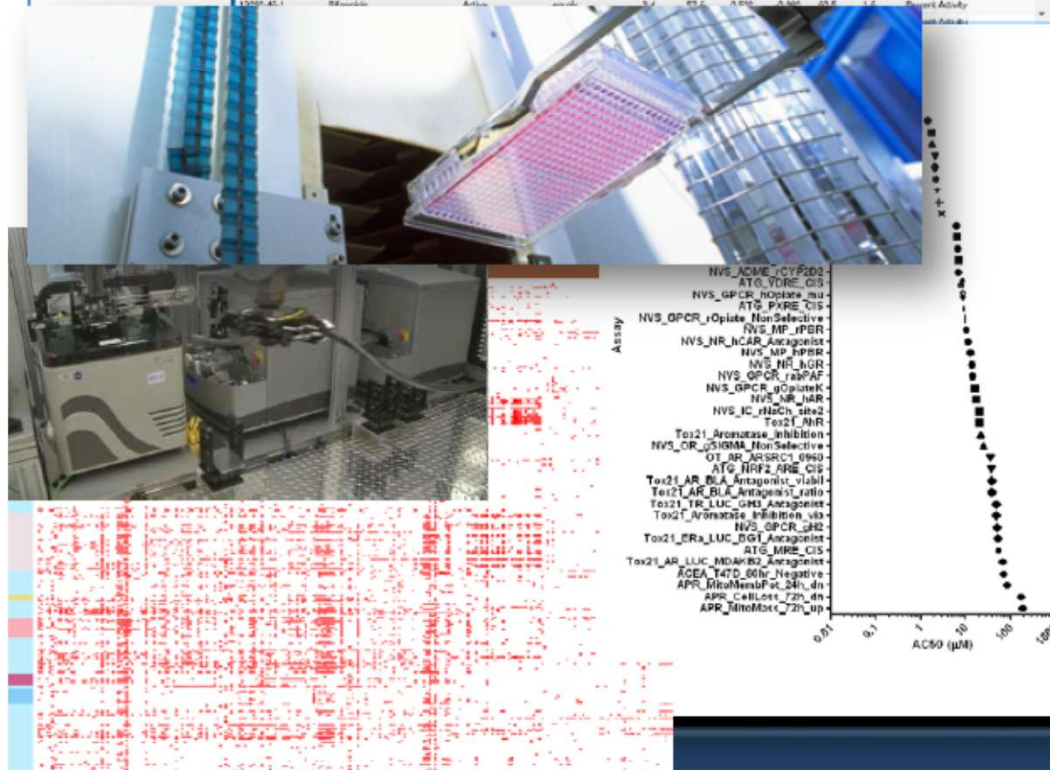
Assay	Chemical Name	Activity Call	Q	AC50	EPAC	logAC50	8	9	10	Data Type
Q289	Chemical Name	Activity Call	Q	AC50	EPAC	logAC50	8	9	10	Data Type
59-99-1	Indomethacin	Active	equal	9.098	100	-1.23	-12	95.7	1.02	Percent Activity
15301-99-6	Oxalic acid	Active	equal	9.156	100	-4.003	-4.34	97.1	1.17	Percent Activity
6153-44-4	Oxycodone hydrochloride	Active	equal	9.233	95.4	-4.136	35	96.4	2	Percent Activity
54-82-4	4-Aminobenzoic acid	Active	equal	1.54	105	0.188	-0.0934	939	1.41	Percent Activity
91-61-9	4,4'-Diaminodiphenyl ether	Active	equal	1.45	66.7	0.219	-3.77	92.4	1	Percent Activity
154-42-7	6-Thioguanine	Active	equal	1.85	92.5	0.269	3.67	94.5	1	Percent Activity
106424-86-0	940-33	Active	equal	1.96	92.4	0.292	1.04	98.2	1	Percent Activity
59-08-2	Methylenetetrahydrofolate	Active	equal	2.19	97	0.34	-1.19	932	1.09	Percent Activity
91372-08-1	Methylenetetrahydrofolate	Active	equal	2.23	100	0.349	7.05	929	1	Percent Activity
122-66-7	1,1-Diphenylhydrazine	Active	equal	2.49	100	0.396	6.375	935	1.22	Percent Activity
80-15-9	Cumene hydroperoxide	Active	equal	2.76	96.5	0.441	-3.98	95.9	1.08	Percent Activity
1401-55-4	Tartaric acid	Active	equal	2.89	101	0.461	-2.19	937	1.34	Percent Activity
7987-94-7	Mercaptoethanol	Active	equal	2.95	92.9	0.469	6.081	91.5	1.79	Percent Activity
27323-41-7	Octadecanone sulfonate	Active	equal	2.99	95.1	0.476	5.35	95.2	1	Percent Activity
1143-38-0	Aspirin	Active	equal	3.23	100	0.509	2.99	939	1.24	Percent Activity
12299-45-1	8-Hydroxyoctadecanoic acid	Active	equal	3.4	93.5	0.532	0.302	93.5	1.5	Percent Activity

21st Century Toxicity Testing is here....

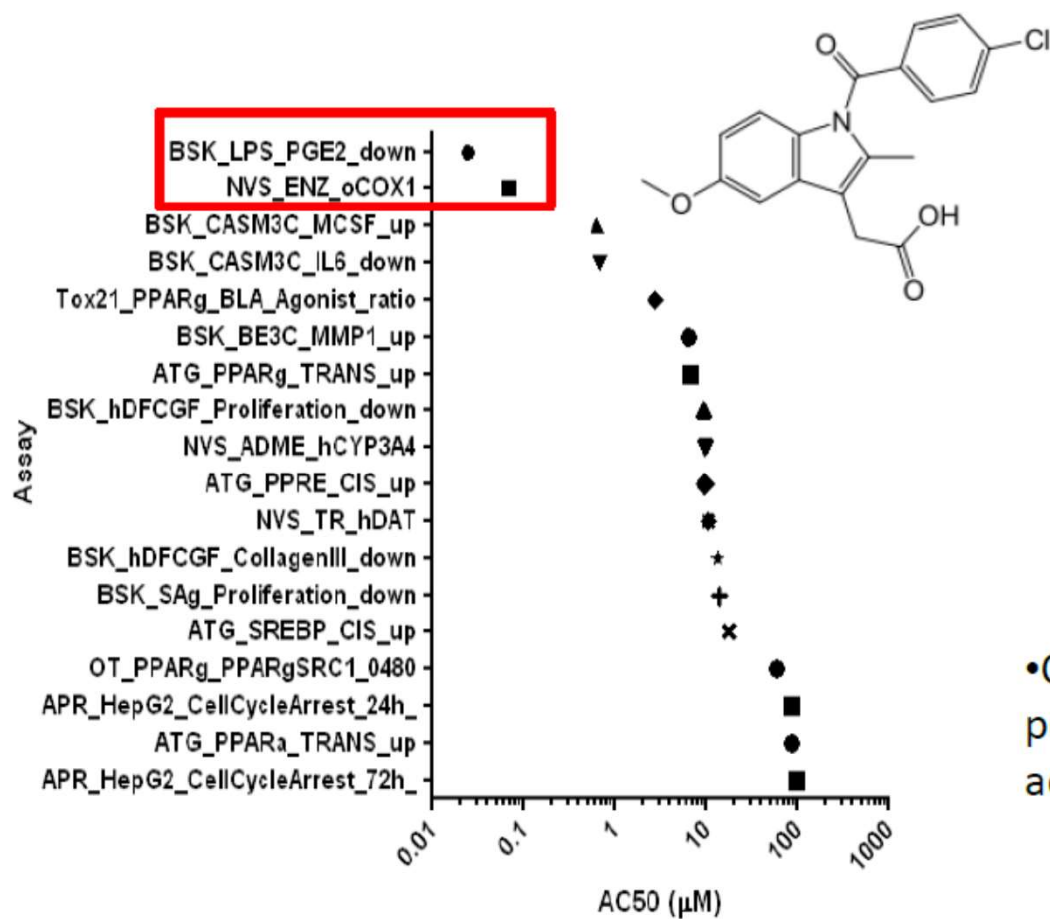
We can rapidly and cost effectively generate pathway-based data

- Activity of 1000s of chemicals in 100s of pathways.

Conceivable that majority of chemicals in commerce could be “tested” within the decade.



Example



So What?

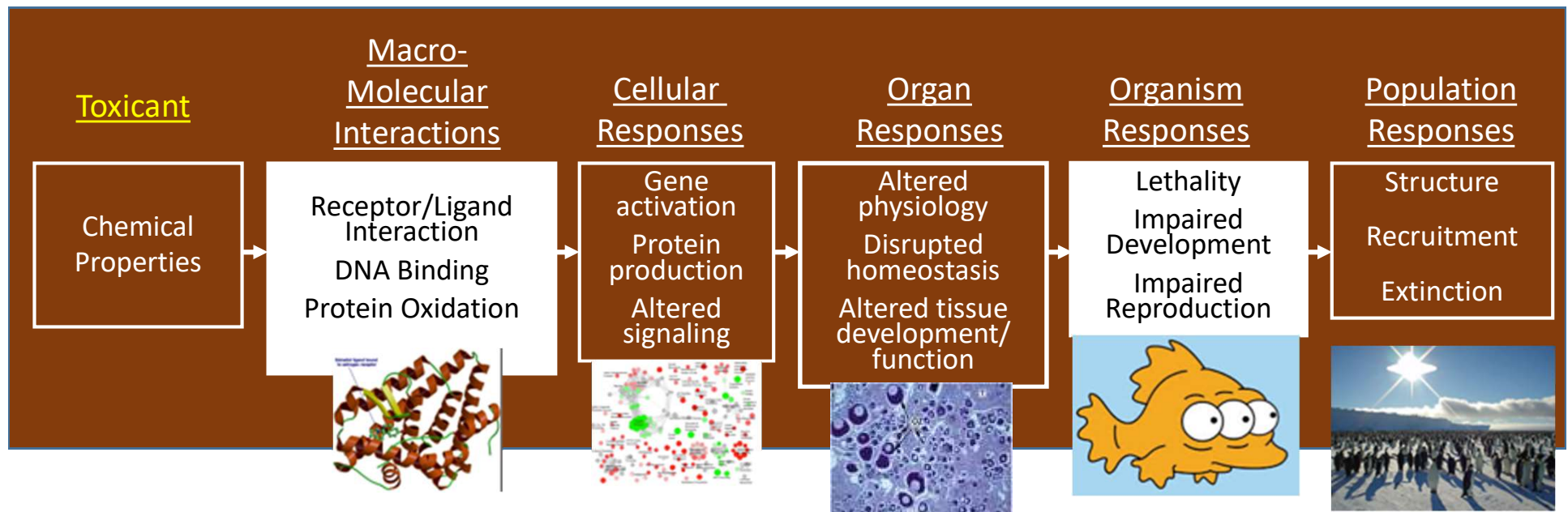


- Can we expect this perturbation lead to an adverse outcome?

Adverse Outcome Pathways ... **are new**

An Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) is a conceptual framework that portrays existing knowledge concerning the linkage between a direct molecular initiating event and an adverse outcome, at a level of biological organization relevant to risk assessment.

(Ankley et al. 2010. *Environ. Toxicol. Chem.*, 29(3): 730-741.)

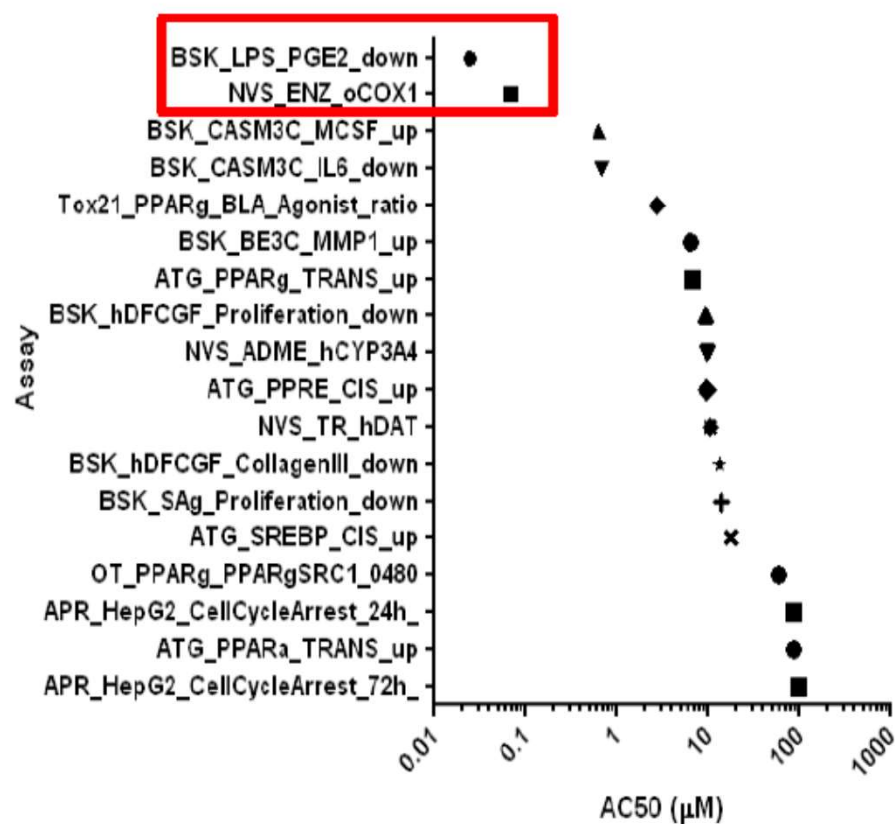
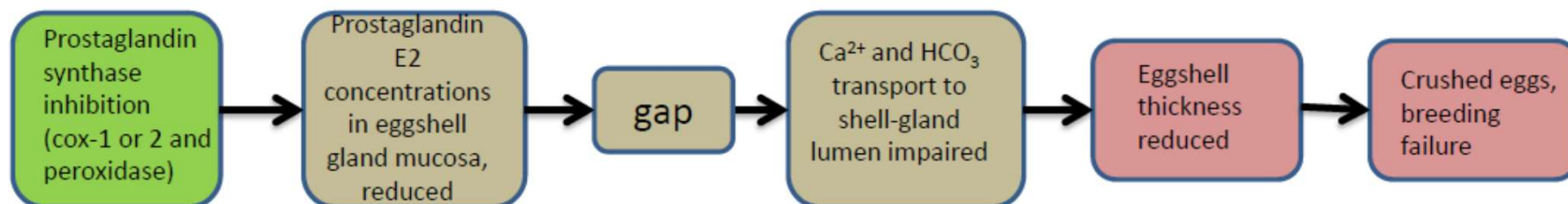


- Helps us organize what we know
- And utilize that knowledge to support risk-based decision-making

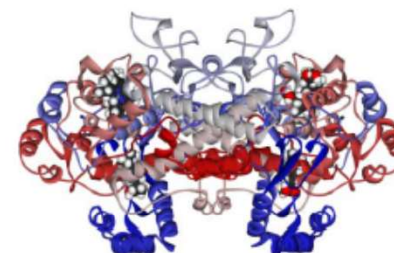
stressor



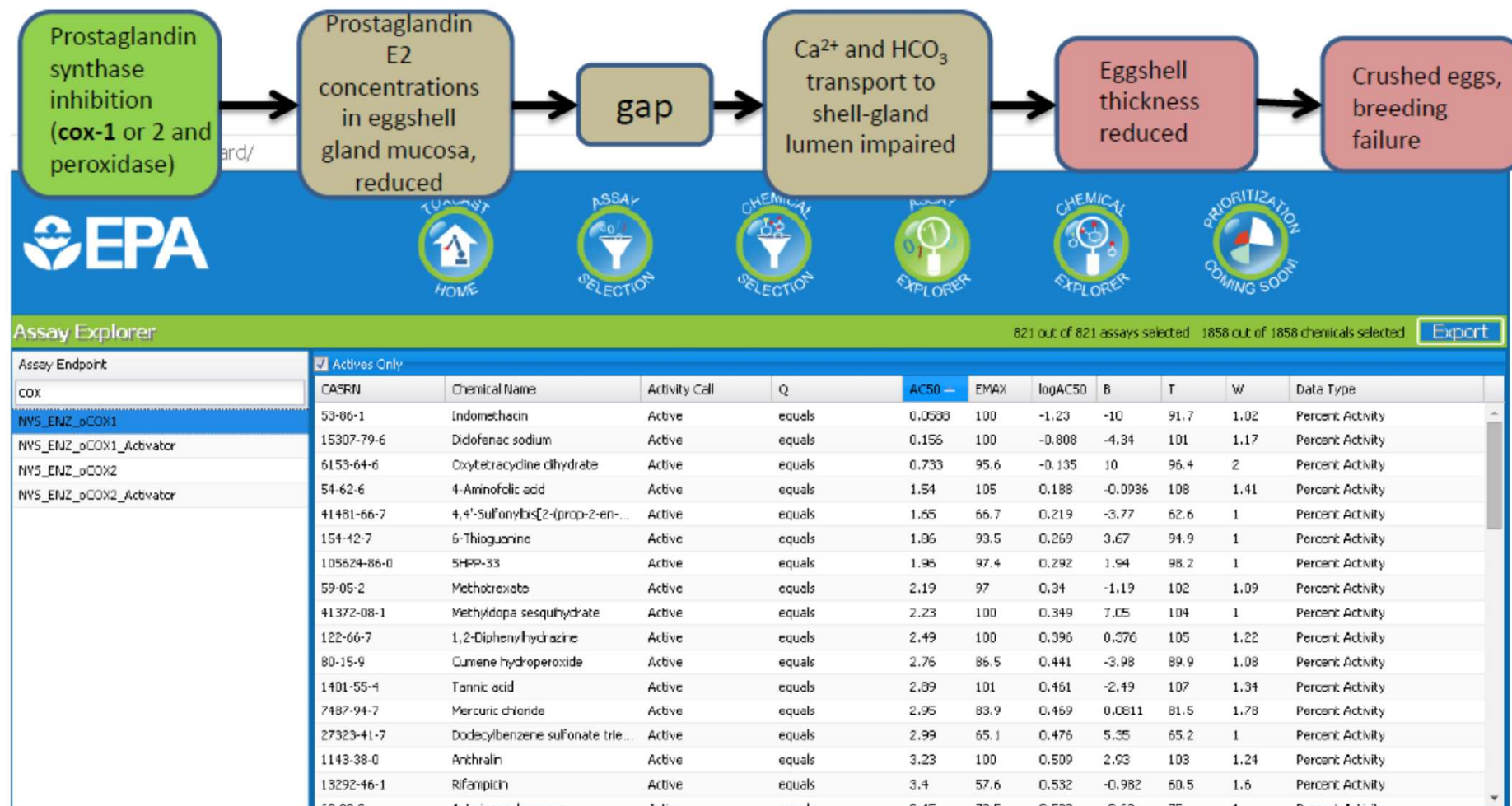
Example



Ah-ha

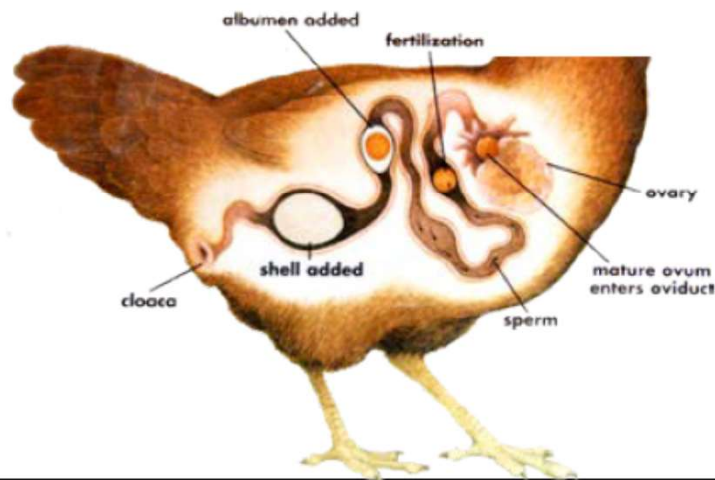
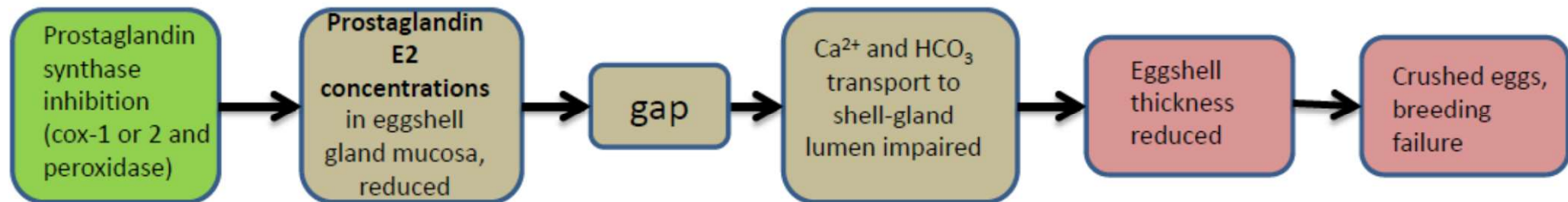


Introduction



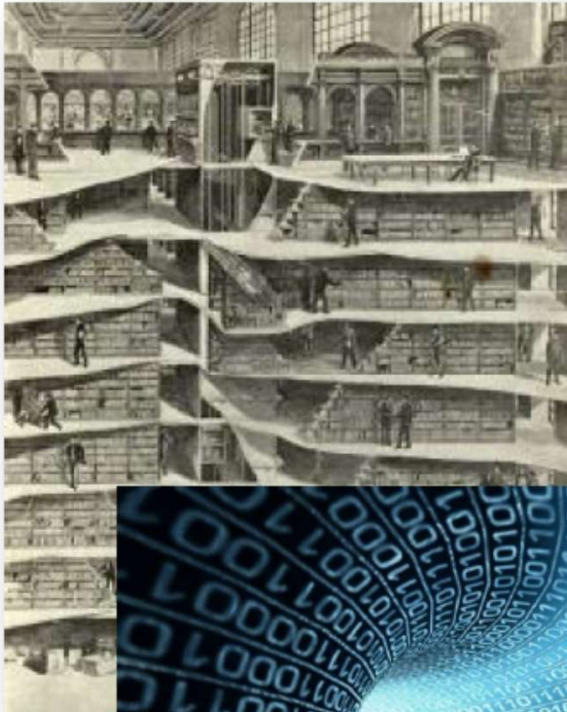
A set of chemicals for which there may be reason expect egg-shell thinning

Introduction



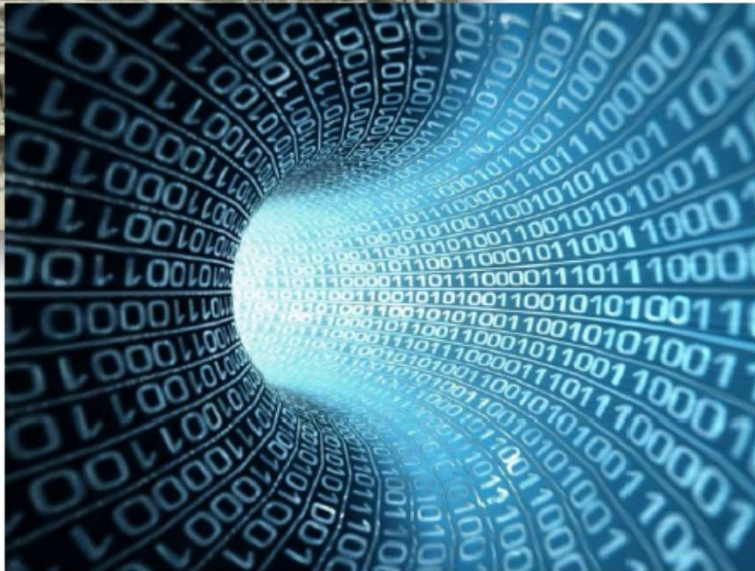
- **Alternative tests:** Suggests informative endpoints we may be able to measure more rapidly and cost-effectively in laboratory toxicity tests.
- **Biomarkers:** Suggests biomarkers we could measure in animals from the environment – early warning; diagnostic
- Particularly if we can translate into a quantitative prediction of probability or severity of AO.
- **Diagnostic potential:** Suggests an etiology for observed patterns of biological response – may help trace back to causative agents and/or sources.

21st Century Regulatory Decision-Making



The data are there....

We have entire libraries of scientific publications available at our fingertips.....



Scientific challenge of the 21st C....

How do we make effective use of those data and our wealth of existing scientific knowledge to support regulatory decision-making?

AOPs are part of the solution.

Mode of Action (MOA) Concept in HH

Critical Reviews in Toxicology, 36:781–792, 2006
ISSN: 1040-8444 print / 1547-6898 online
DOI: 10.1080/10408440600977677

informa
healthcare

IPCS Framework for Analyzing the Relevance of a Cancer Mode of Action for Humans

Alan R. Boobis

Critical Reviews in Toxicology, 36:781–792, 2006
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healthcare

IPCS Framework for Analyzing the Relevance of a Noncancer Mode of Action for Humans

Alan R. Boobis

Section of Experimental Medicine and Toxicology, Division of Medicine, Imperial College London,

Review Article

Journal of
Applied Toxicology

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(wileyonlinelibrary.com) DOI 10.1002/jat.2949

New developments in the evolution and application of the WHO/IPCS framework on mode of action/species concordance analysis[†]

M. E. Meek^a, A. Boobis^b, I. Cote^c, V. Dellarco^d, G. Fotakis^e, S. Munn^f, J. Seed^g and C. Vickers^h

ABSTRACT: The World Health Organization/International Programme on Chemical Safety mode of action/human relevance framework has been updated to reflect the experience acquired in its application and extend its utility to emerging areas in toxicity testing and non-testing methods. The underlying principles have not changed, but the framework's scope has been extended to enable integration of information at different levels of biological organization and reflect evolving experience in a much broader range of potential applications. Mode of action/species concordance analysis can also inform hypothesis-based data generation and research priorities in support of risk assessment. The modified framework is incorporated within a road map, with feedback loops encouraging continuous refinement of fit-for-purpose testing strategies and risk assessment. Important in this construct is consideration of dose-response relationships and species concordance analysis in weight of evidence. The modified Bradford Hill considerations have been updated and additionally articulated to reflect increasing experience in application for cases where the toxicological outcome of chemical exposure is known. The modified framework can be used as originally intended, where the potential effects of chemical exposure are unknown, as in hypothesis-based data generation from chemical exposure

- In many respects synonymous with AOP concept.

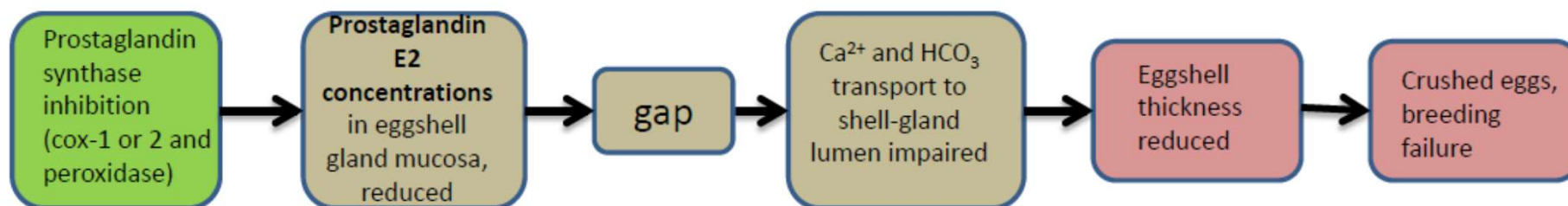
- Only major difference was the dominant applications to which they were applied.

- Strong focus on systematic documentation of WoE (Bradford-Hill considerations).



Regulatory Application

Until recently, AOP development has been an ad hoc process.



- When can you trust that the relationships depicted provide a sound/defensible foundation for regulatory decision-support?
- What is the biological/toxicological applicability domain?
 - Taxa, life stage, target organ(s), route of exposure
- How do we present in a systematic and transparent manner?

Trainings on AOPs

[AOPWiki → Training courses + Handbook](https://aopwiki.org/training/wiki/)

<https://aopwiki.org/training/wiki/>

Greetings

It's June!

Build an AOP with a friend.

AOP Welcome

Welcome to the Collaborative Adverse Outcome Pathway Wiki (AOP-Wiki)



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Welcome...

to the Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP)

AOP-Wiki Course

This course works best on Google Chrome, Safari or Internet Explorer

[Click on icons below to visit sites](#)



AOP Training committee

- Subgroup of OECD/EAGMST
- Established to share recent developments and solicit input from potential developers and users of AOPs
- Started in 2014

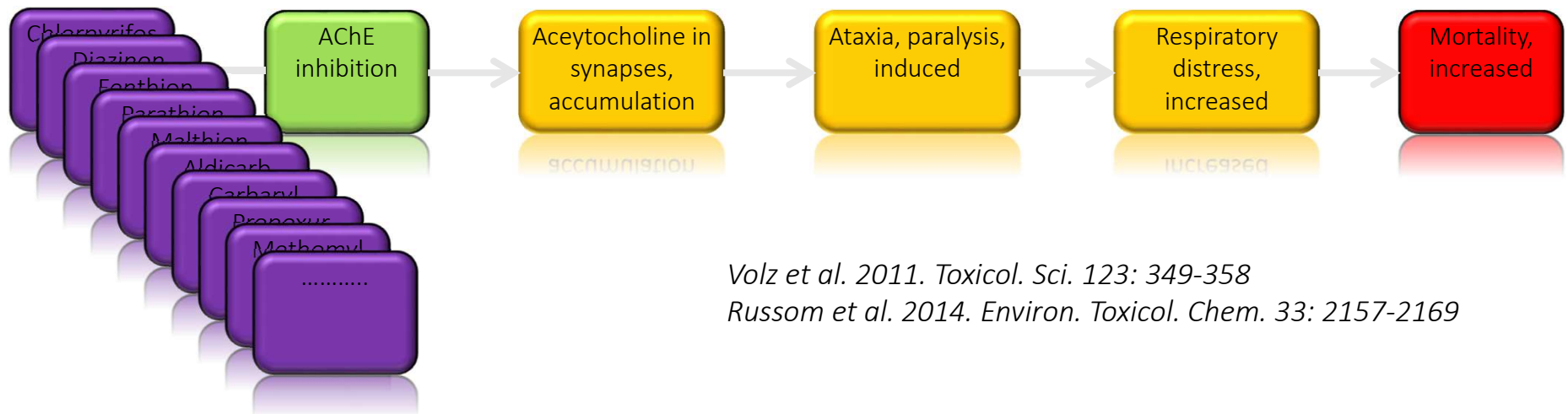
Training group members

Dan Villeneuve, Bette Meek, Steve Edwards, Kristie Sullivan, Brigitte Landesmann, Magdalini Sachana, Sharon Munn, Kate Willett, Kate Goyak, Sabina Halappanavar, Hristo Aladjov & Mirjam Luijten (chair)

Principles of AOP Development

1. AOPs are not chemical-specific

- Not trying to describe what a single chemical does
- Trying to describe what ANY chemical that perturbs the MIE with sufficient potency and duration is likely to do- Biological motifs of failure
- *Describing* AOP does not require chemical-specific information.
- *Applying* those motifs in a predictive context requires understanding chemical-specific properties (e.g., potency, ADME) that dictate the magnitude and duration of perturbation at the MIE.

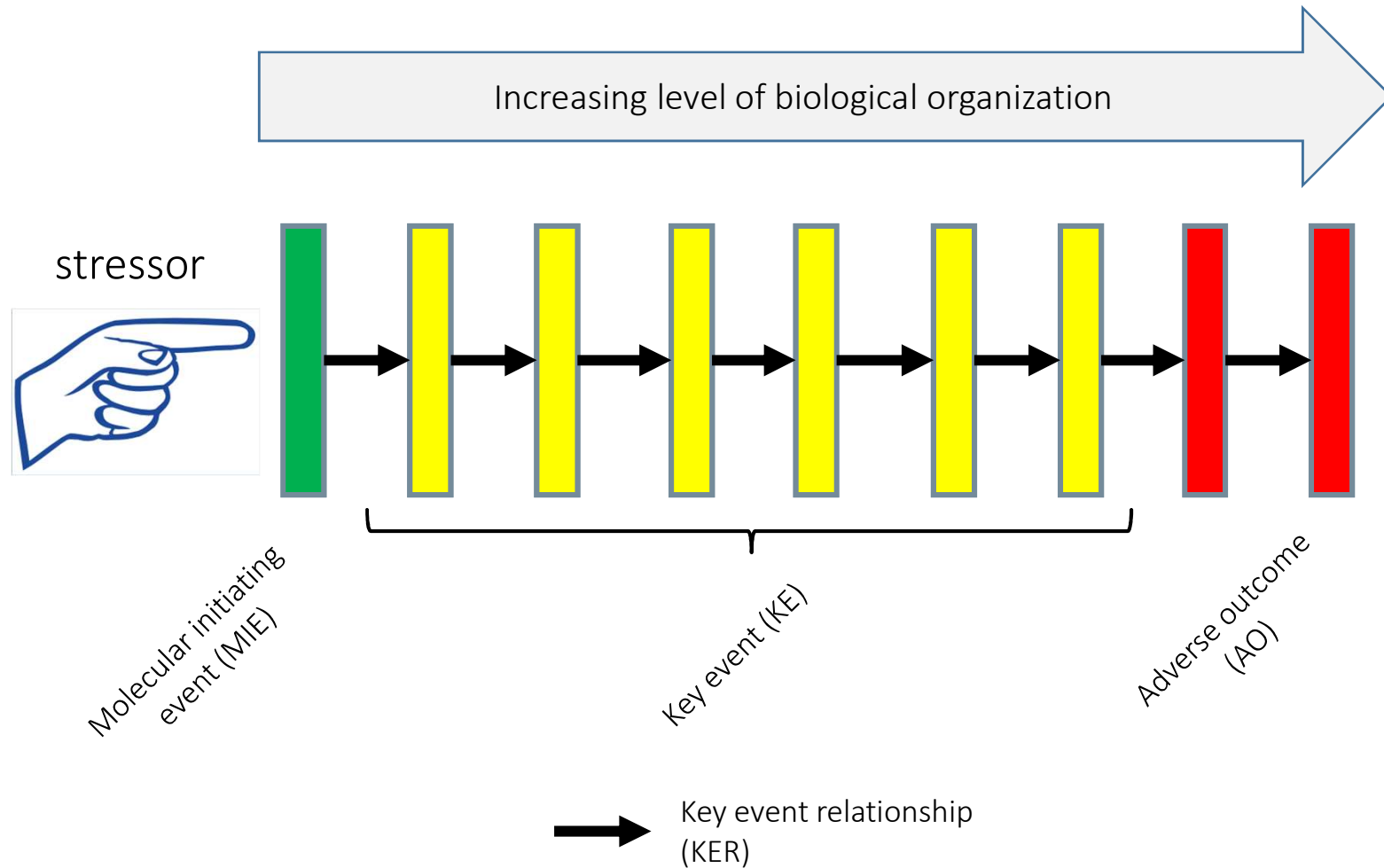


Volz et al. 2011. *Toxicol. Sci.* 123: 349-358

Russom et al. 2014. *Environ. Toxicol. Chem.* 33: 2157-2169

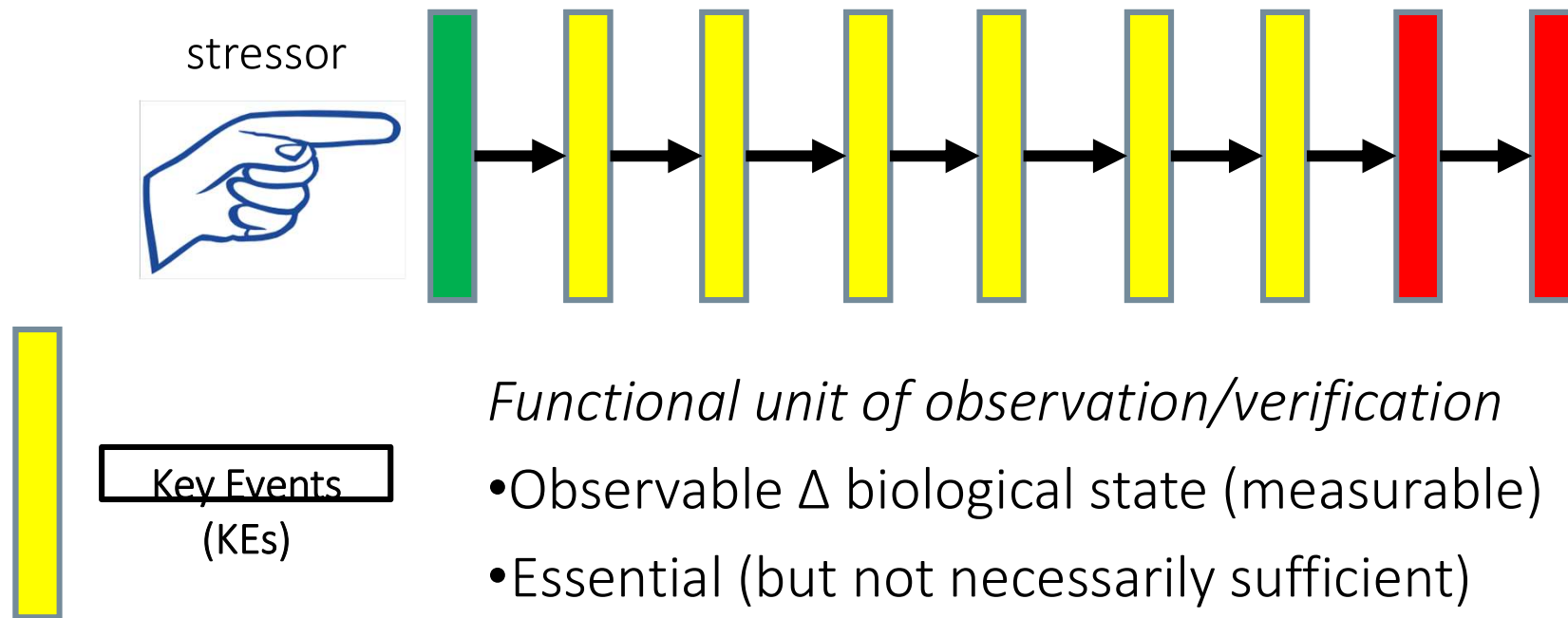
Principles of AOP Development

2. AOPs are Modular



Principles of AOP Development

Two Primary Building Blocks



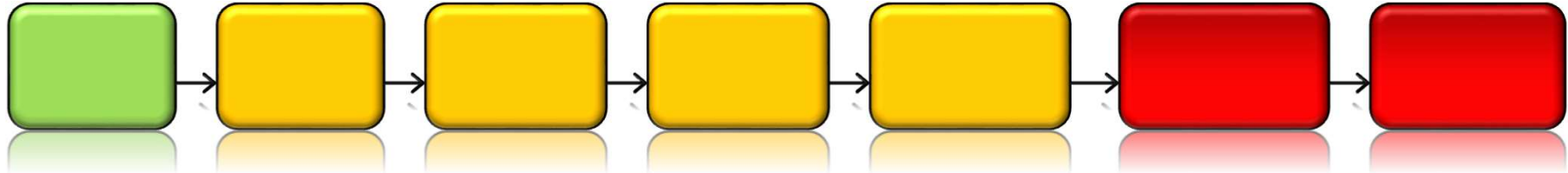
Functional unit of observation/verification

- Observable Δ biological state (measurable)
- Essential (but not necessarily sufficient)

Description

- Methods for observing/measuring
- Taxonomic applicability

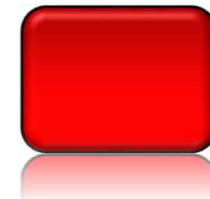
Principles of AOP Development



Molecular initiating event (MIE) – A specialized type of KE that represents the initial point of chemical interaction, on the molecular level, within an organism, that results in a perturbation that starts the AOP.

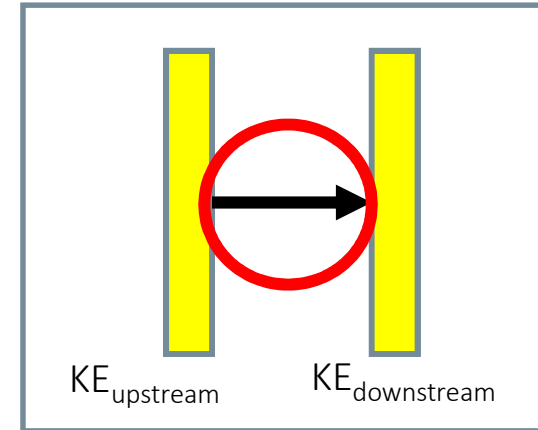
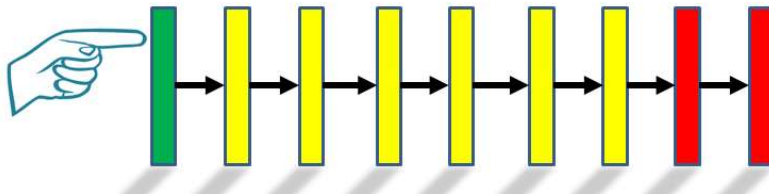


Adverse Outcome (AO) – A specialized type of KE that is generally accepted as being of regulatory significance on the basis of correspondence to an established protection goal or equivalence to an apical endpoint in an accepted regulatory guideline toxicity test.



Principles of AOP Development

Two Primary Building Blocks

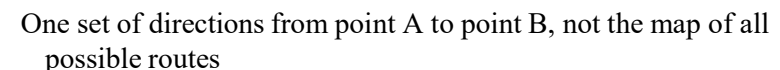
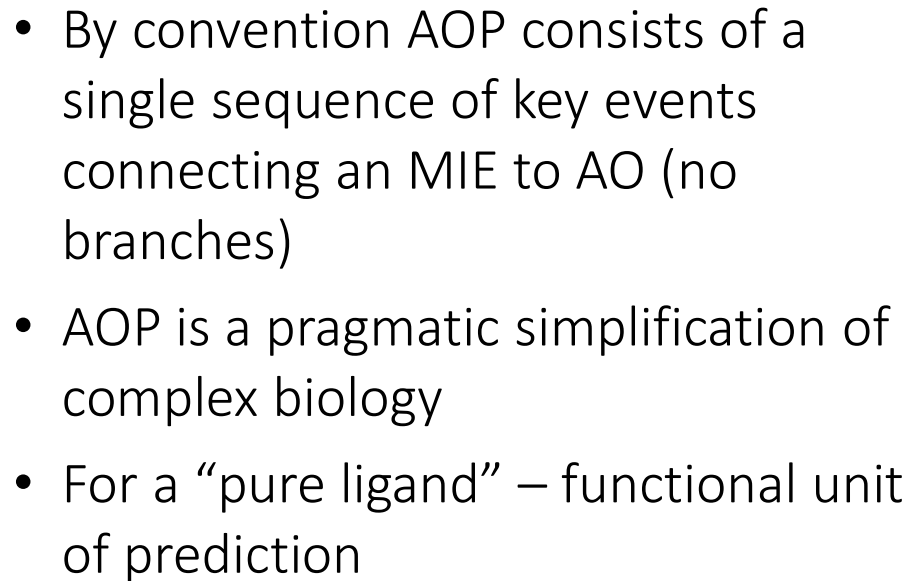


Key Event Relationships (KERs):

Functional unit of inference/extrapolation

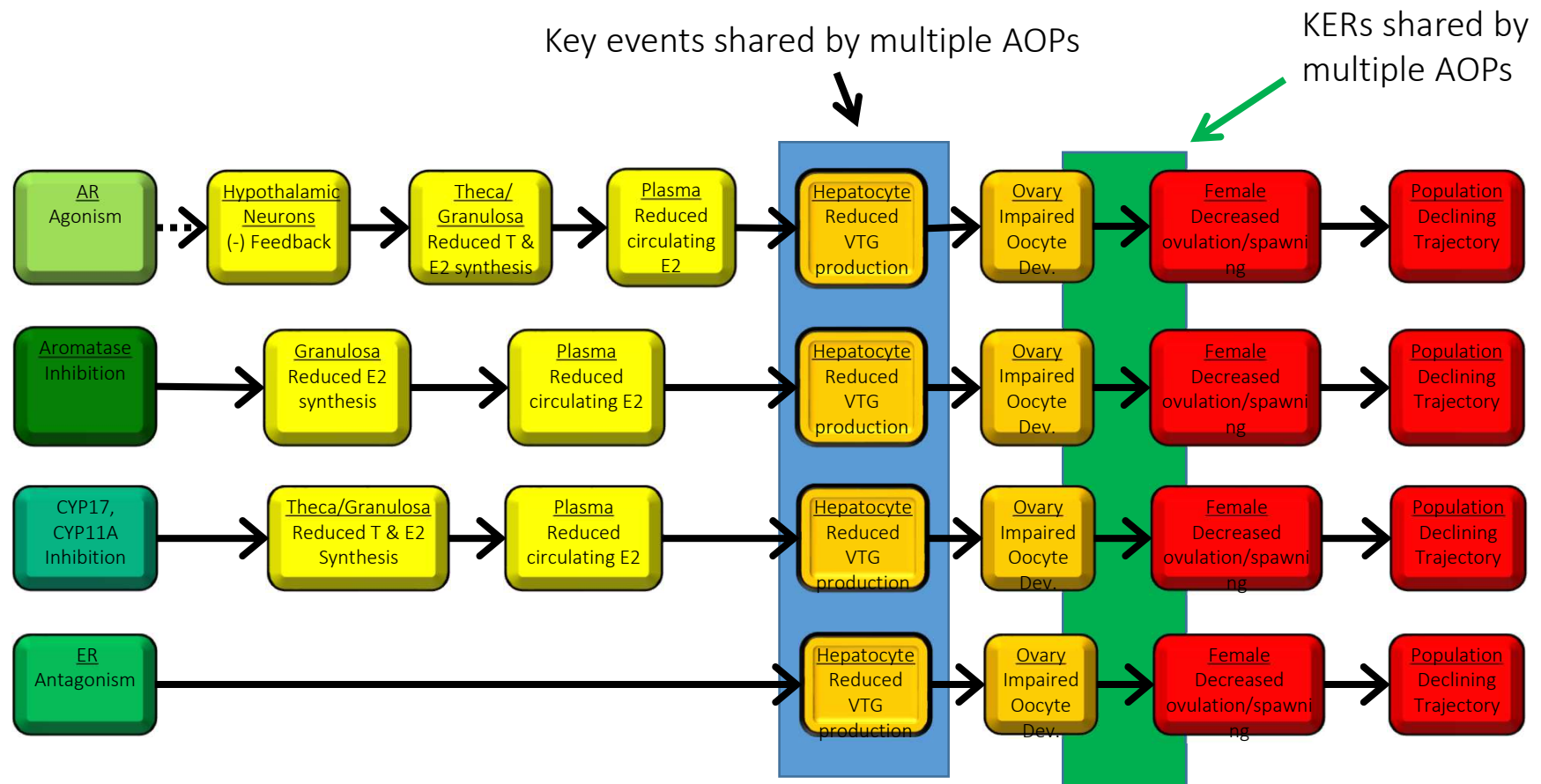
- Define a directed relationship
- Describes the conditions and likelihood KE_{up} will trigger KE_{down} .
- State of KE_{up} provides some ability to predict or infer state of KE_{down}
- Supported by plausibility and evidence
- Quantitative understanding

3. AOPs are a pragmatic functional unit of development and evaluation

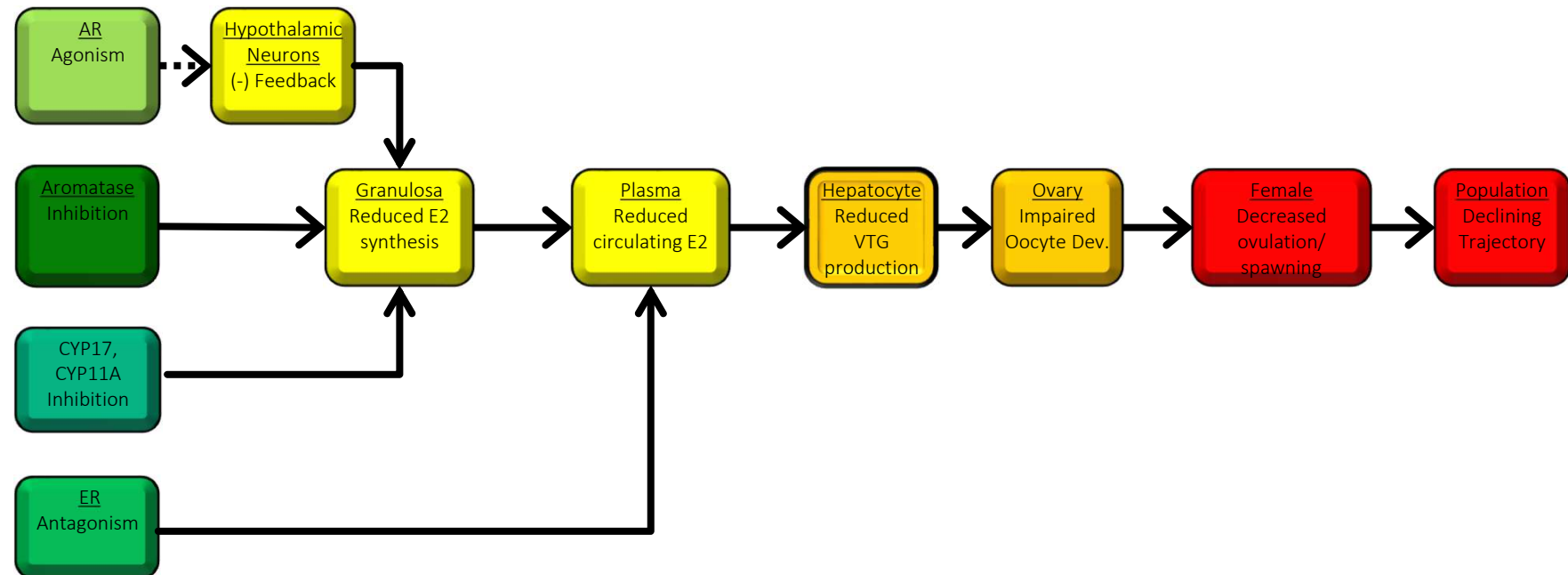


Principles of AOP Development

4. For most real-world applications, AOP networks are the functional unit of prediction

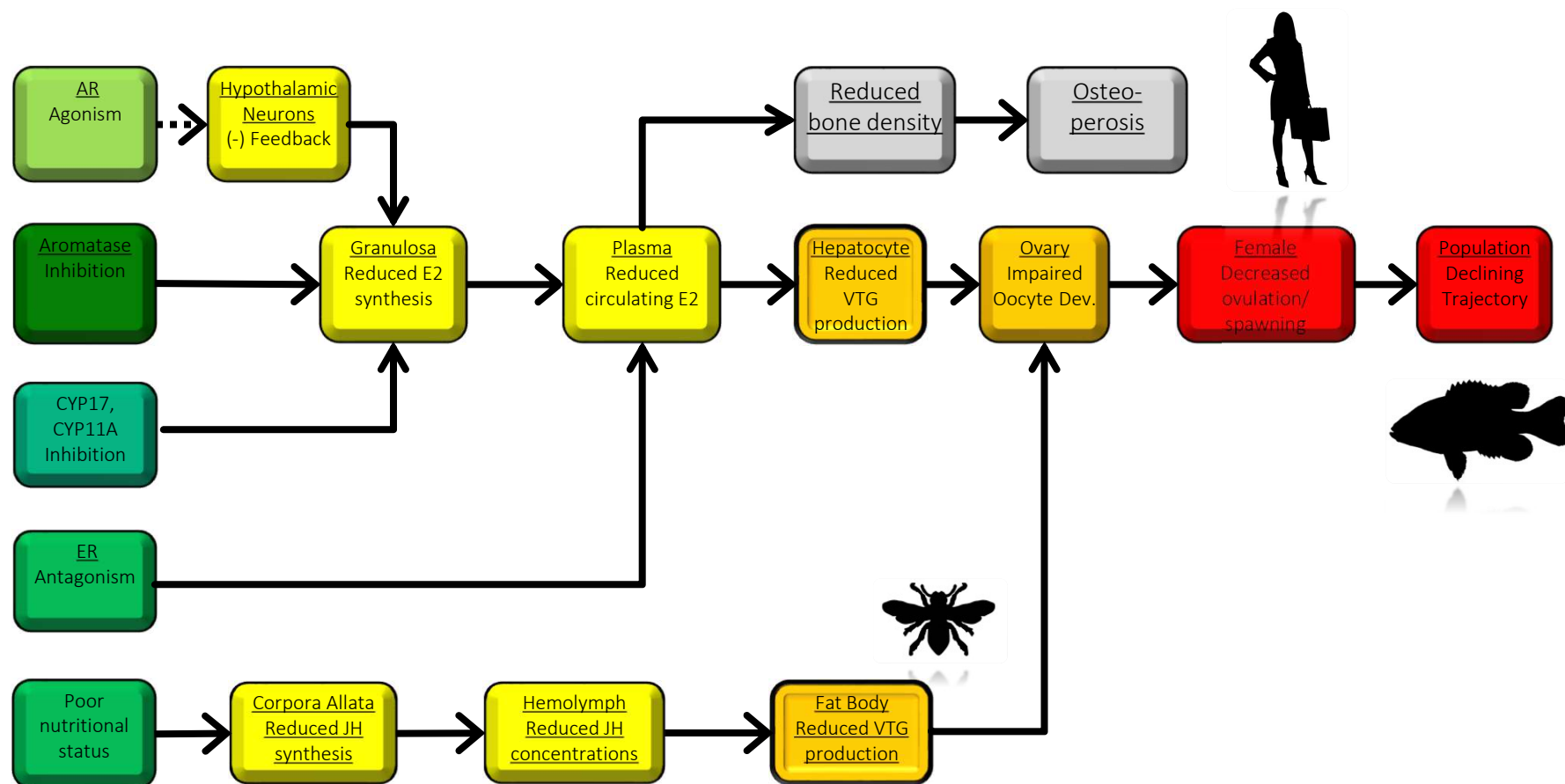


Principles of AOP Development



- By building modular AOPs, we gradually describe the complexity of potential interactions.
- AOPs meet systems biology

Principles of AOP Development



AOP networks also a way to represent conservation and divergence of toxicological responses across taxa, life stages, etc.

Principles of AOP Development

5. AOPs are living documents

- ✧ AOPs are a way of organizing existing knowledge
- ✧ As methods for observing biology evolve:
 - ✓ New possibilities for KEs
 - ✓ Ability to measure KEs with greater precision/accuracy
- ✧ As new experiments are published:
 - ✓ Weight of evidence supporting (or rejecting) KERs grows
 - ✓ New AOPs and new branches in AOP networks discovered
- ✧ There is no objective “complete”

Principles of AOP Development

5. AOPs are living documents

Operationally-defined “stages” of AOP development

Stages of AOP Development	Characteristics	
Putative AOPs:	Hypothesized set of KEs and KERs primarily supported by biological plausibility and/or statistical inference	<div>Increasing</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depth of evidence /understanding• Transparency /defensibility• Quantitative precision <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost• Data needs• Time</div>
Formal AOPs:	Include assembly and evaluation of the supporting weight of evidence – developed in AOP knowledgebase in accordance with internationally-harmonized OECD guidance	
Quantitative AOPs:	Supported by quantitative relationships and/or computational models that allow quantitative translation of key event measurements into predicted probability or severity of adverse outcome	

- All stages have potential utility
- Level of development desired/required depends on the application



MUNI | RECETOX
SCI

WP13 leader

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