



**Quantitative high throughput screening methodologies
to assess biological activity of chemicals and water
samples; their use in the context of REACH and the
Water Framework Directive**

Bart van der Burg



Demonstration of promising technologies to address emerging pollutants in water and waste water





BioDetection Systems

Focus:

develops, markets and applies bio-based detection methods for safety assessment and quality control chemicals and pharmaceuticals, bio-based materials, food, water and the environment

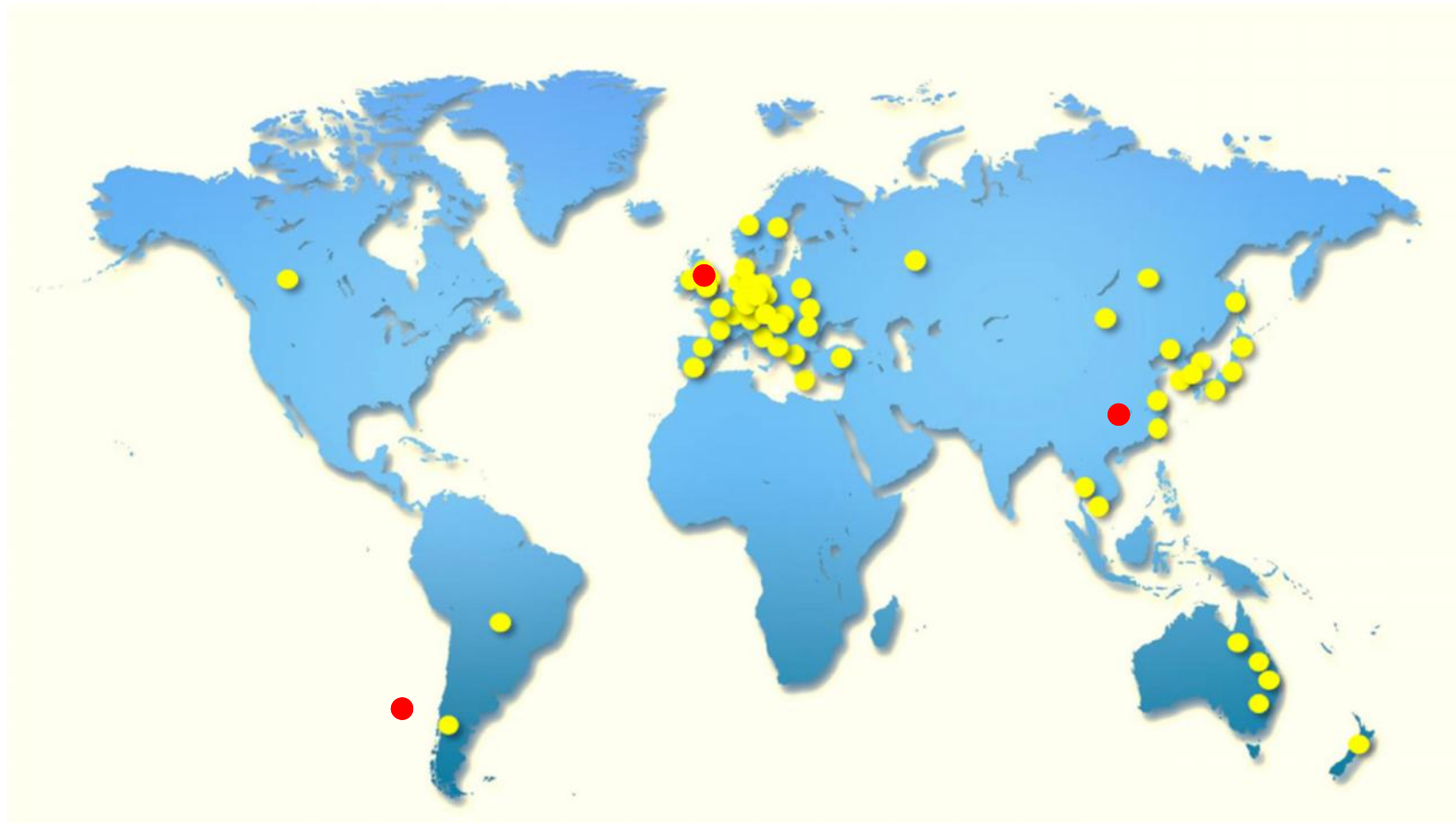
Activities:

- Analytical services
- Licenses
- Training
- Research and Development
- Consultancy





International marketing network





In vivo bioassays in animals: problem speed and capacity



- *100,106 industrial chemicals on the market in 1981 (“existing substances”):*
- *1% tested on toxicity!*
- *This lead to new legislation: REACH*

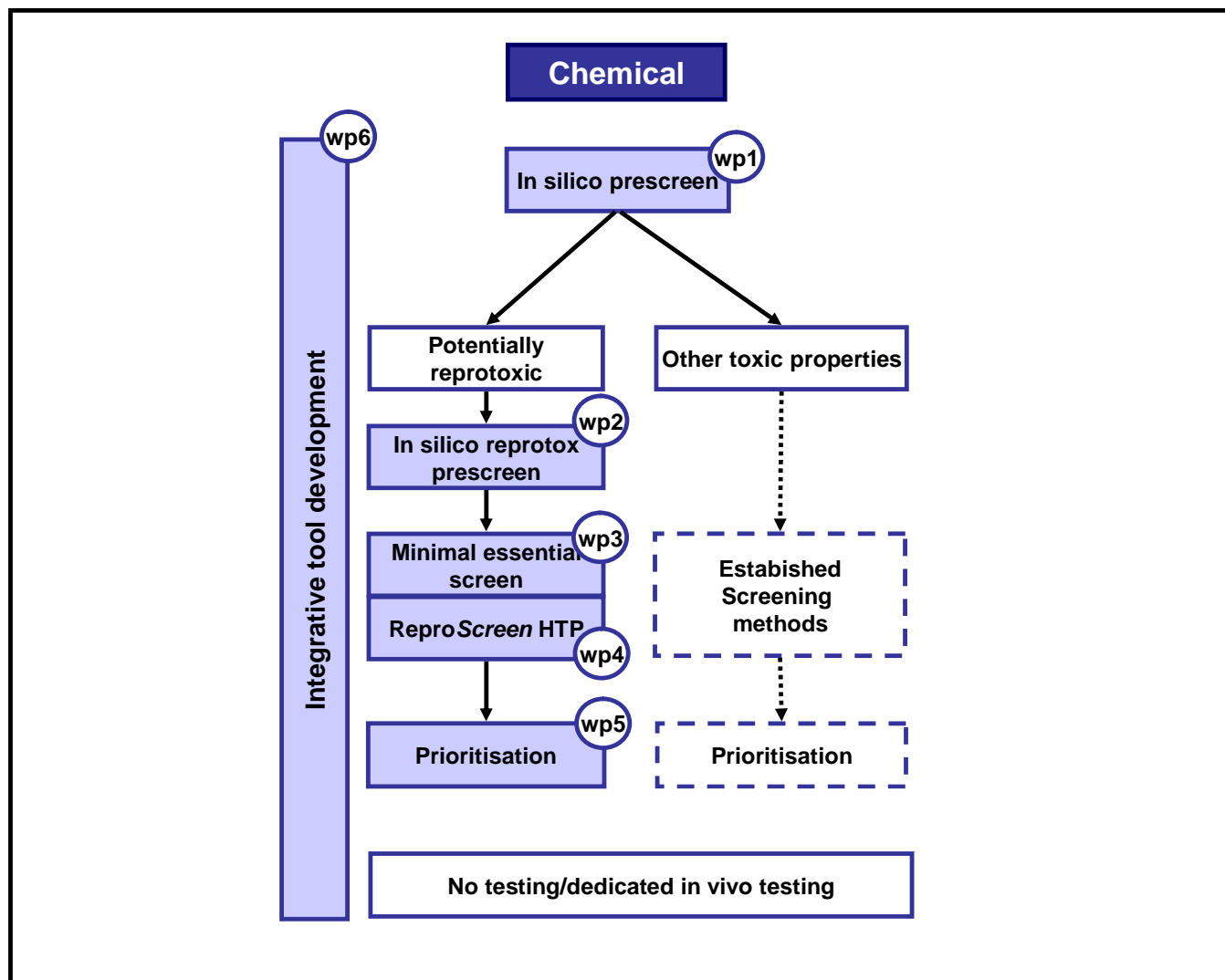
Chemical substance in vitro/in silico screening system to predict human- and ecotoxicological effects

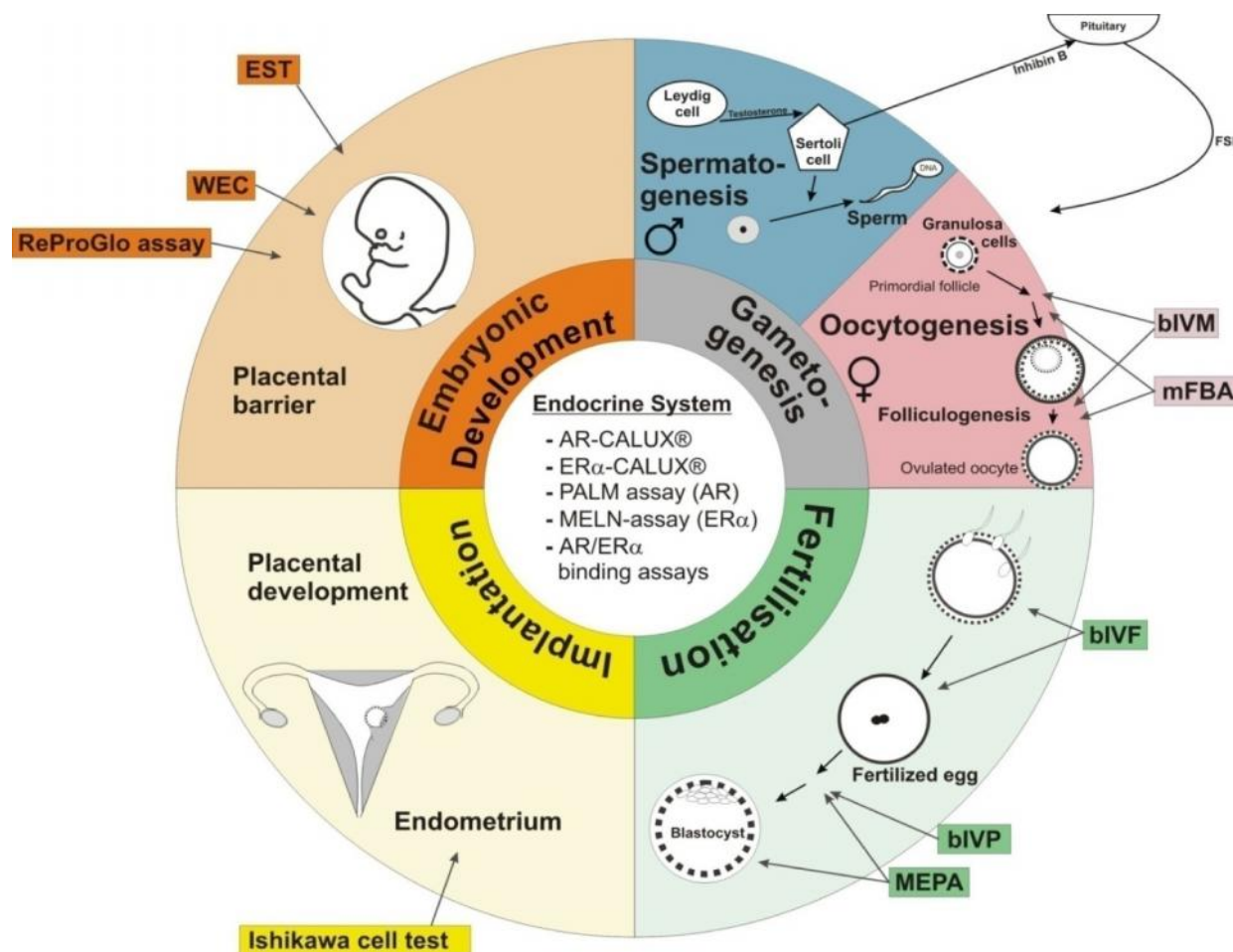
- **Generation of a simple, rapid screening system for reprotoxic effects of chemicals**
- **widespread implementation**
 - suitable for regulatory purposes**
 - within the tight time schedule of the REACH program**
 - mechanistic base**
 - OECD/ECVAM validated methods as anchors/quality control**
 - cost effective and transferable**



Why reprotox?

- **Prioritised in REACH**
- **Reproductive toxicity is important to assess both human and environmental toxicity**
- **Uses the most animals in toxicity testing**
- **Very little alternative methods**



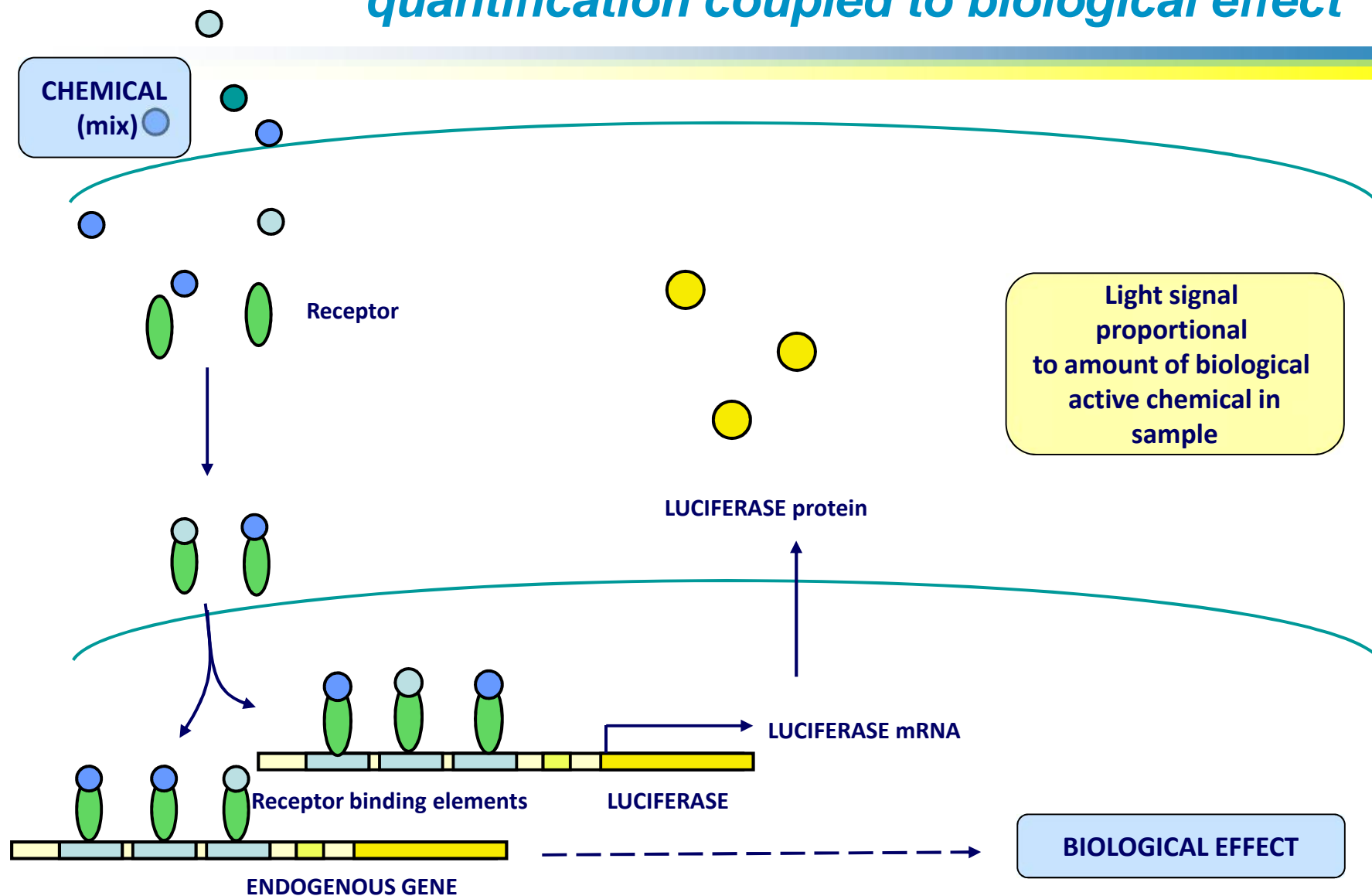


✓ **ReProTest:**
Complexity
reproductive cycle be
captured with a limited
amount of apical tests

✓ **ChemScreen:**
Is further
simplification/higher
throughput possible &
can we use these
methods in a
regulatory context?

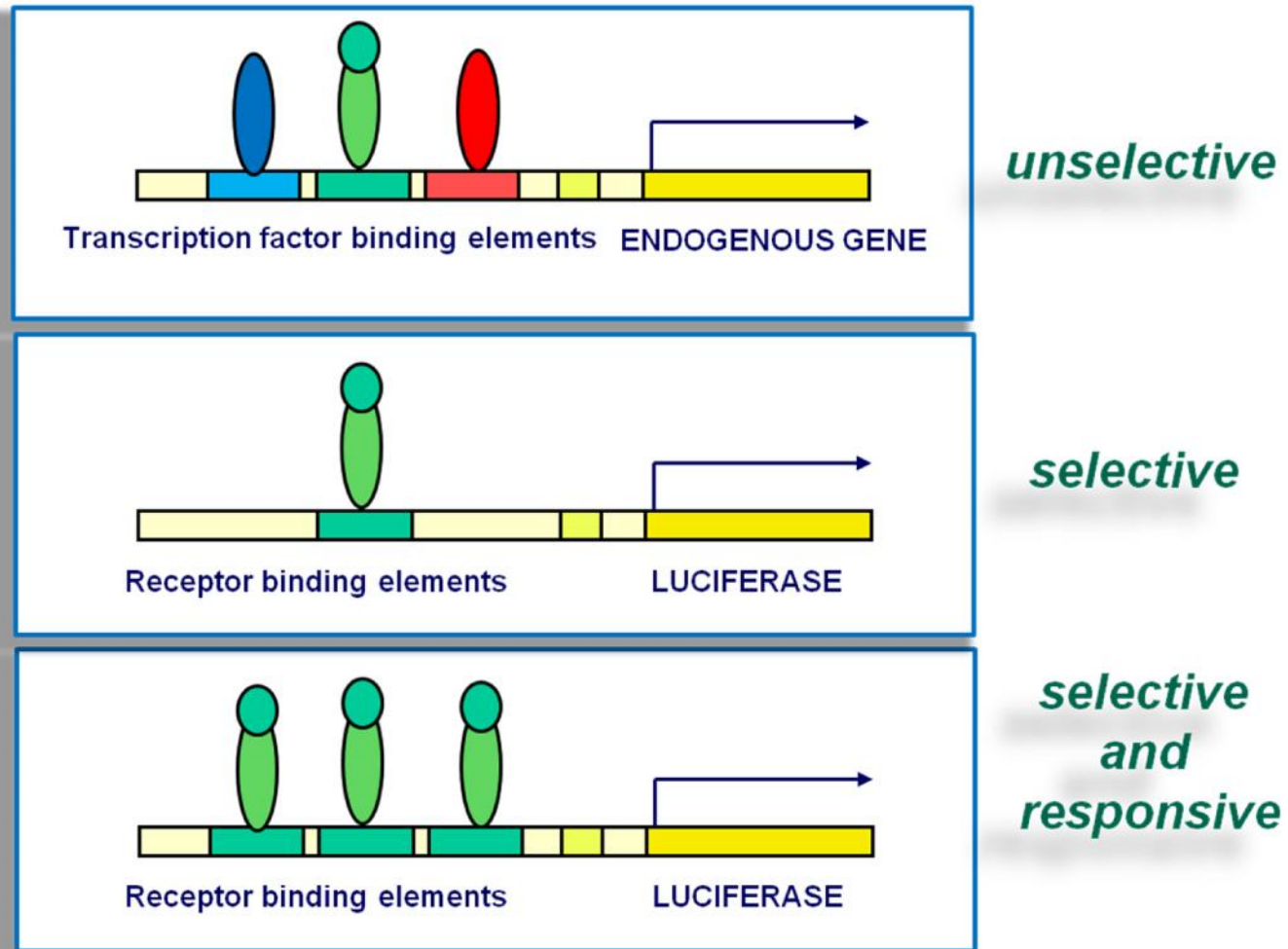


Rapid in vitro bioassays: CALUX[®] chemical quantification coupled to biological effect





CALUX human pathway selective and responsive reporter gene assays



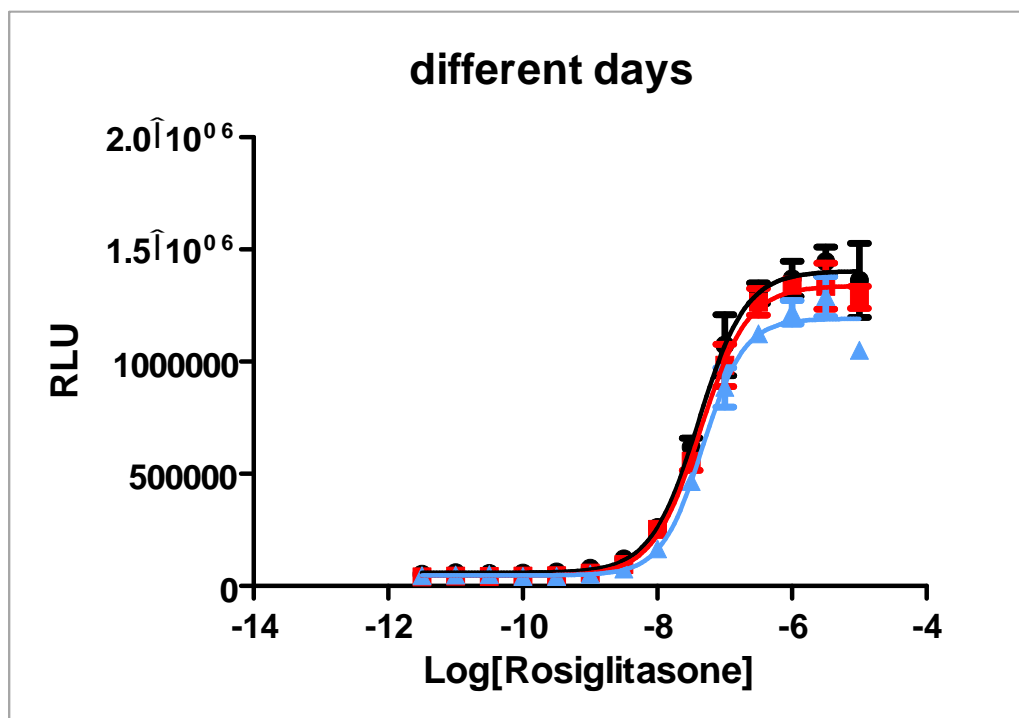
Legler et al (1999) Toxicological Sciences 48, 55-66.



CALUX[®] panel approach

Advantages low background, high selectivity and inducibility:

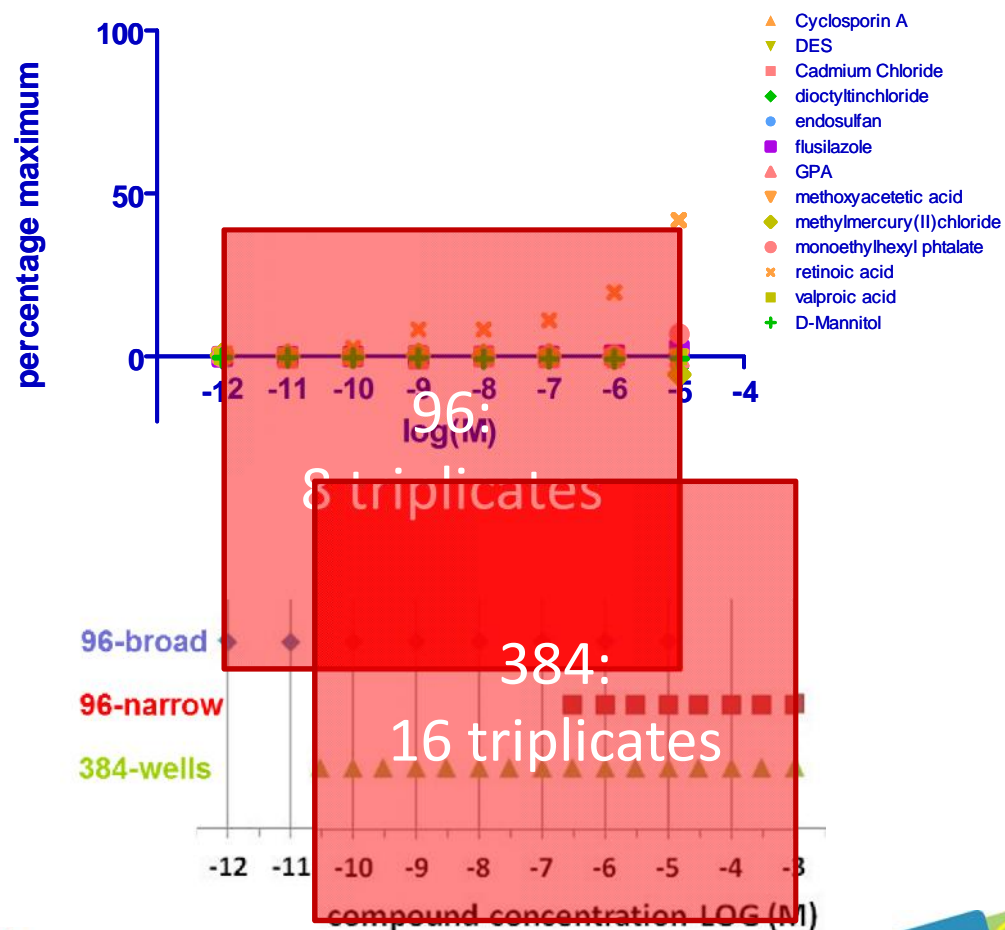
- **High sensitivity**
- **Better quantification**
- **Single mechanism, avoid cross-talk and artifacts**
- **Straight-forward interpretation and risk assessment**
- **Better extrapolation to other species**
- **Suitable to measure bioactivity in complex mixtures**



**Quantitative HTS in 384 wells:
hundreds of dose-response curves per day**

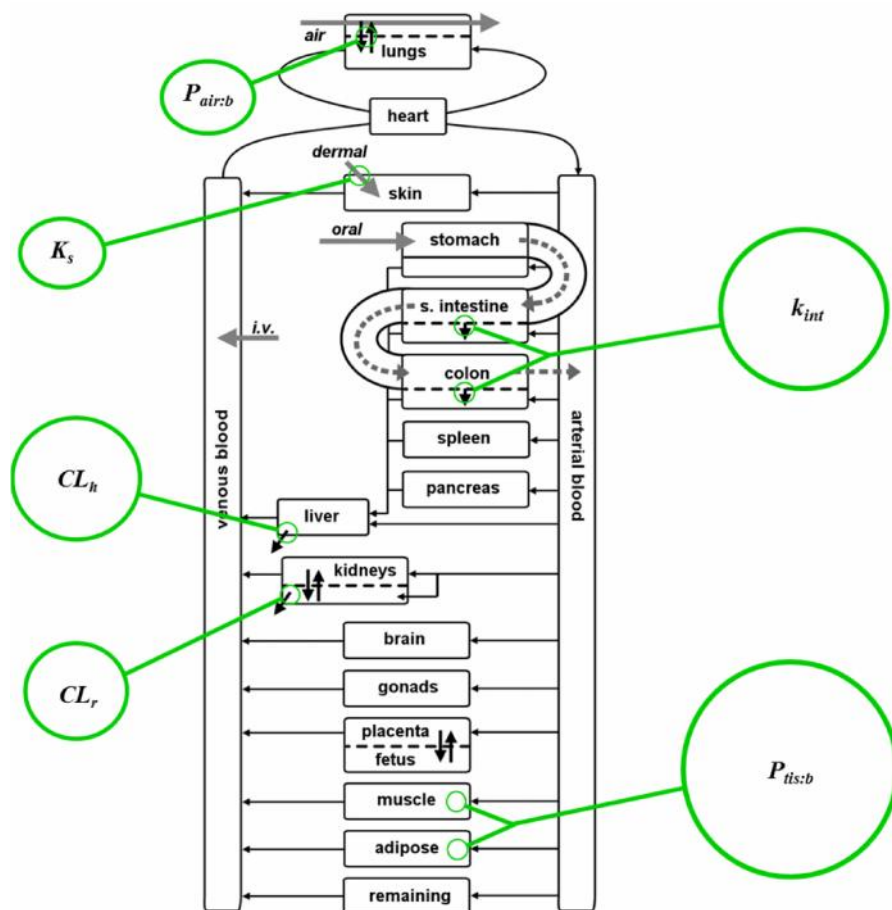


PPARG



- **Format 96 > 384 wells**
- **Use frozen cells**
- **Expansion-dose response: automated potency determination**





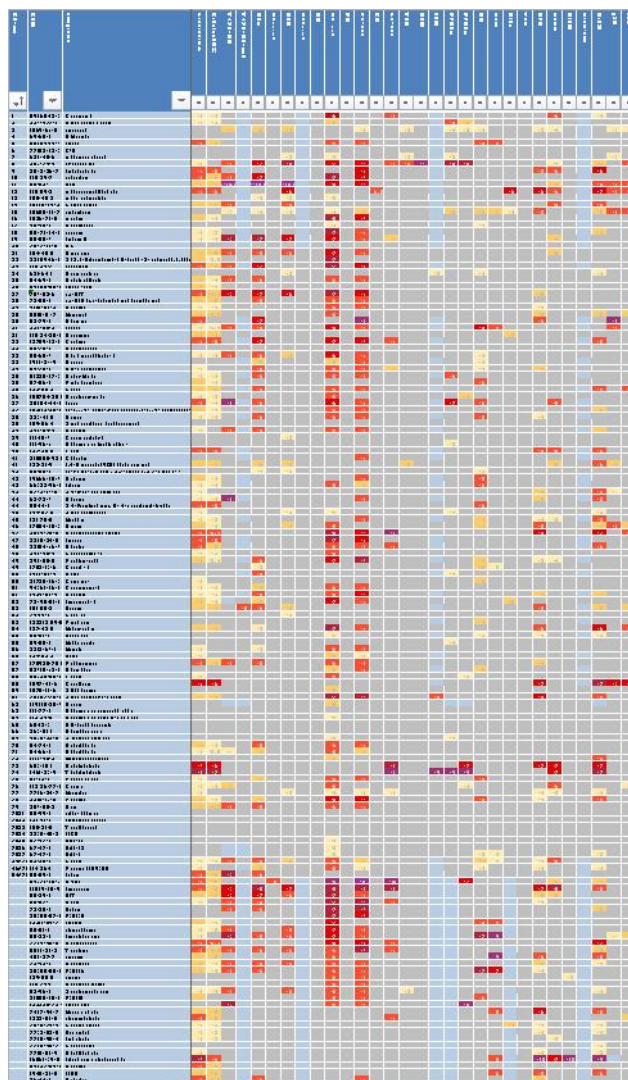
- Many compartments, processes included, but...
- Minimal input required:
 - High Throughput PK:
 - fraction unbound (f_u)
 - hepatic clearance ($CL_{h,int}$)
 - intestinal permeability (P_{app})
 - *in silico* (QPPR):
 - logP, ionization
 - Default assumptions: CL_r

Battery performance : Feasibility study 1

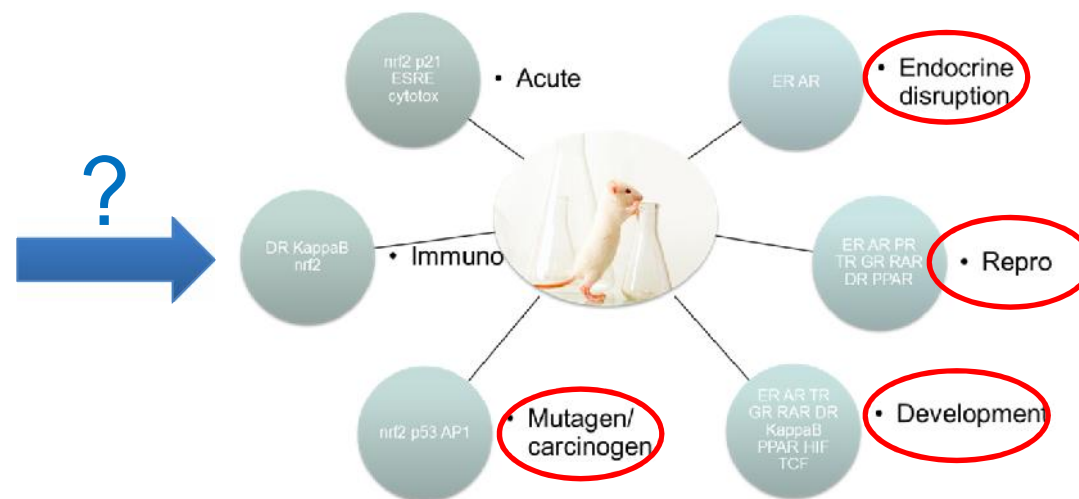
compound	Toxicity in vivo	EST	ZET	ReProGlo	Cyp17	Cyp19	CALUX	CALUX PBPK	battery
Cyclosporin A									
Monoethylhexyl phthalate									
Sodium valproate									
D-mannitol									
Flusilazole									
Glufosinate ammonium									
Methoxy acetic acid									
Retinoic acid									
Diocetyl tin chloride									
Endosulfan									
Diethylstilbestrol									
Methylmercury chloride									

- ✓ Correct prediction 11/12 compounds
- ✓ Like in ReProTest Glufosinate missed: mechanism bypassed in culture
- ✓ PBPK modeling improves predictions (e.g. in CALUX)
- ✓ Simple HTS model same prediction as EST/ZET

In vivo toxicity prediction possible?

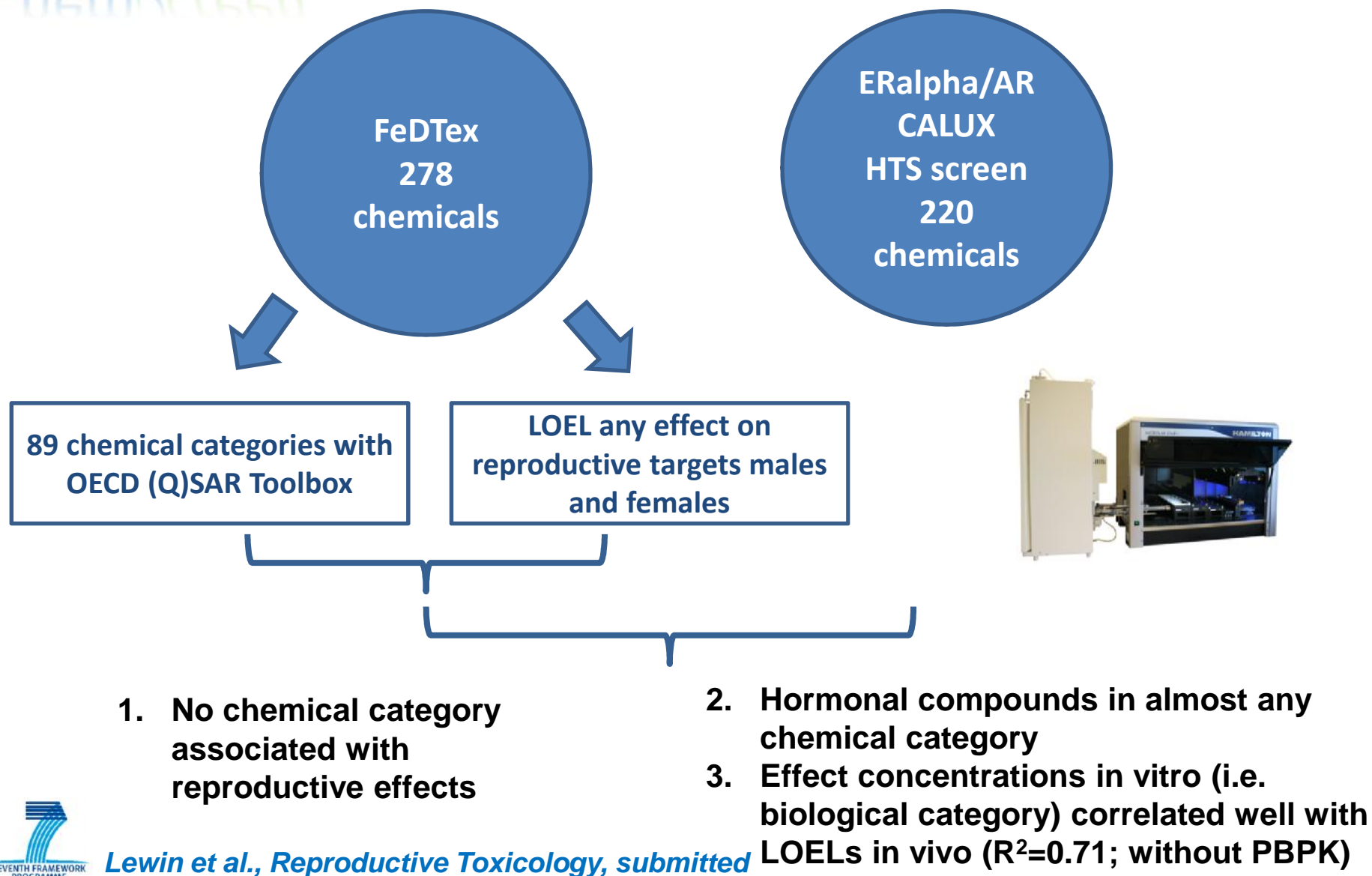


Identify subsets of assays to predict specific types of toxicity



Dominant responses: antiandrogenic, antiprogestagenic, estrogenic

Grouping & read across: feasibility study 2





all (NTD+RO, controls)

- ✓ **Estrogen receptor activation in ERalpha CALUX clearly links to structural deformities in reproductive organs**



CAS	compound	CALUX prediction	p53	p21	Nrf2	ESRE	AP1	H1h1a	PAH	DR	PPARg	PPARa	LXR	RAR	TRb	GR-anti	GR	PR-anti	PR	AR-anti	AR	ERbeta-anti	Erbeta	ERalpha-anti	ERalpha	CALUX Cytotox50%	CALUX Cytotox10%
1118-48-3	Monobutyltinchloride				-5															4,5						-6,3	-6,5
683-18-1	Dibutyltinchloride				-6,8	-6,8	-6,7				-6,5					-7,5										-6,3	-6,5
1461-22-9	Tributyltinchloride				-7,2	-6,9					-8,5	-8,5	-8,7			-8,5										-7,2	-7,5

- ✓ Examples with 3 chemical classes (Alkyl alkanoic acids, phthalates, organotin chlorides); all three successful
- ✓ Read-across used in approx. 30% reproductive tox dossiers (100-1000TPA) in REACH (ECHA 2014)
(new testing proposal only few %)



Fields of application CALUX[®] battery



Major challenge: risk assessment of complex mixtures



Toxic waste



Chemicals



Pharmaceuticals



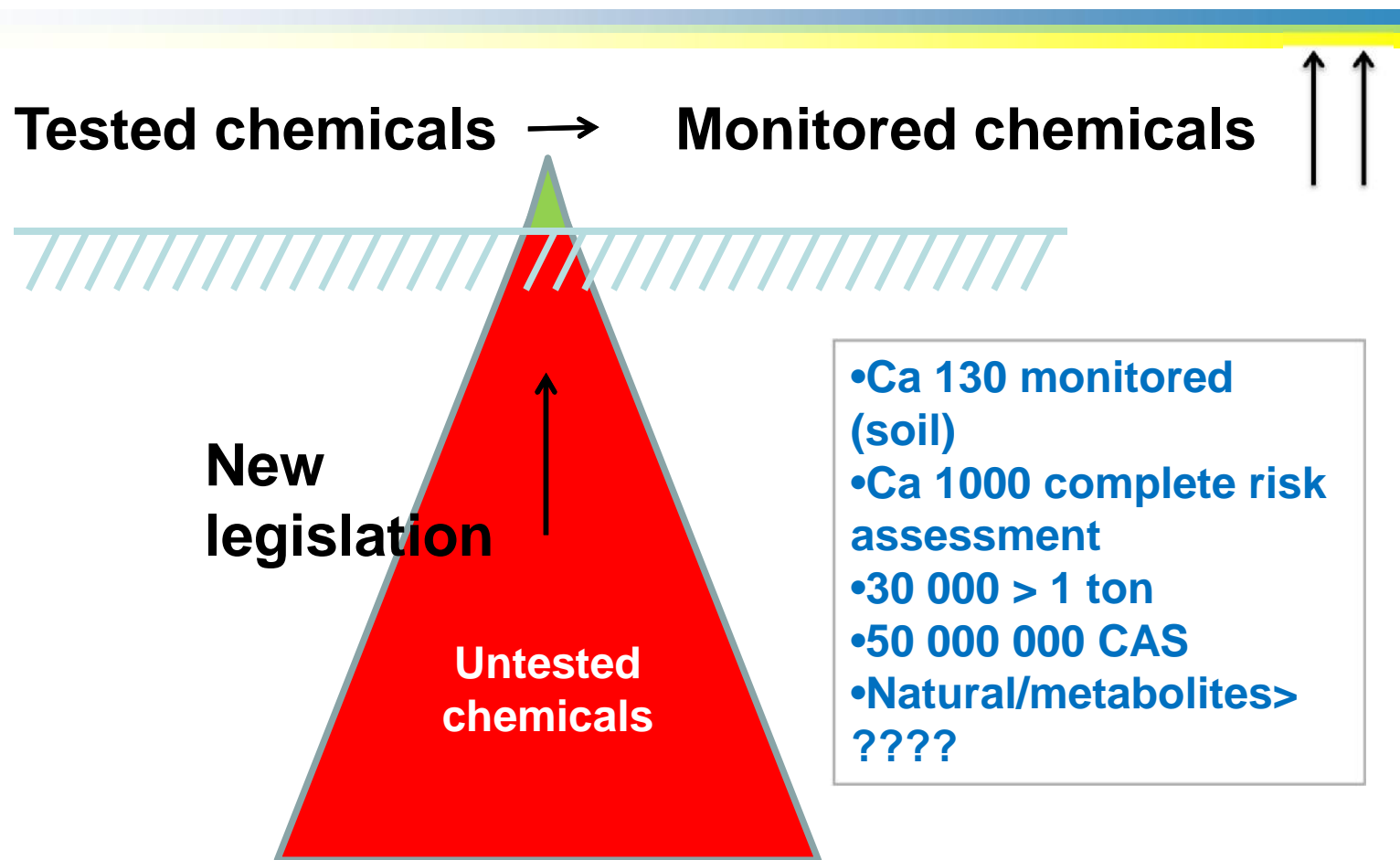
Toxins

Complex mixtures



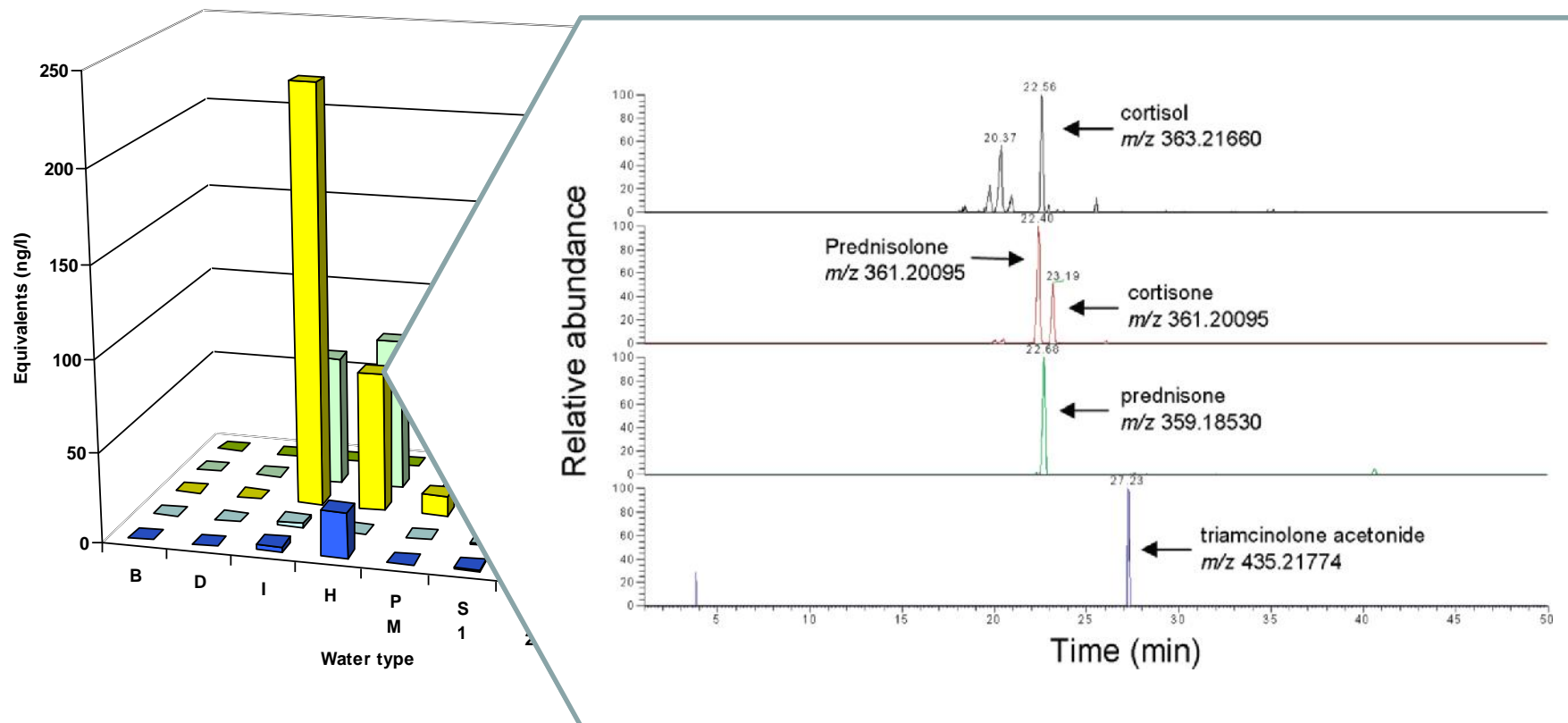
Environmental health, Food, Human health

Chemical monitoring alone insufficient





Effect profile water samples with CALUX[®] cells

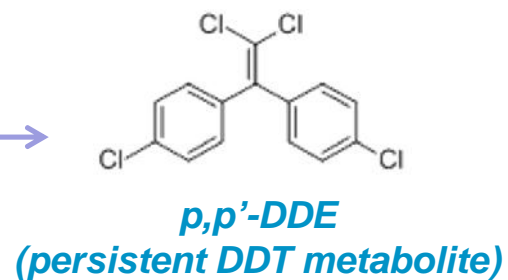
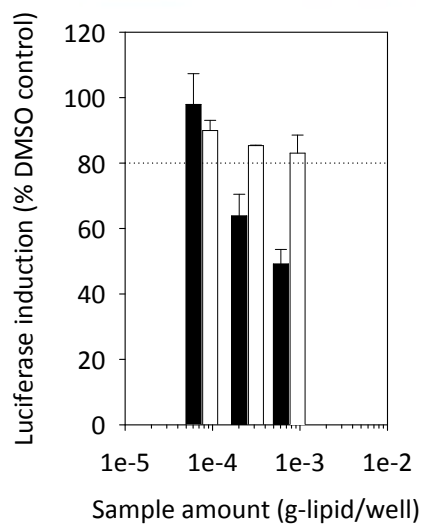


Selection assays:

- Priority effects & compound groups
- Overlapping chemical domains of assays: hot spots of activity?

Van der Linden et al. 2008, *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 42: 5814;
Schriks et al. 2010, *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 44: 4766-74.

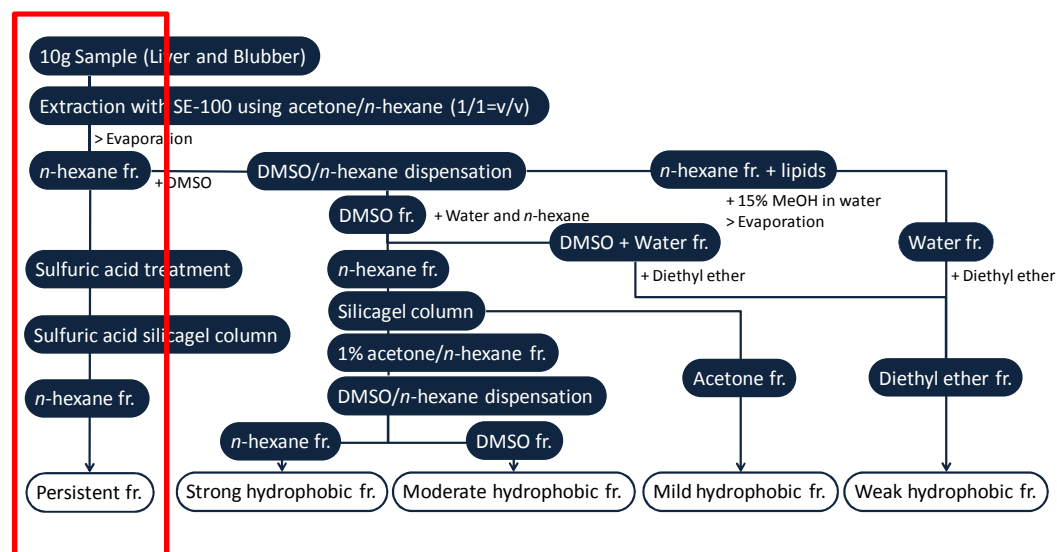
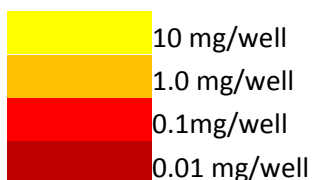
Occurrence and identification of androgen receptor antagonists in high trophic-level animals



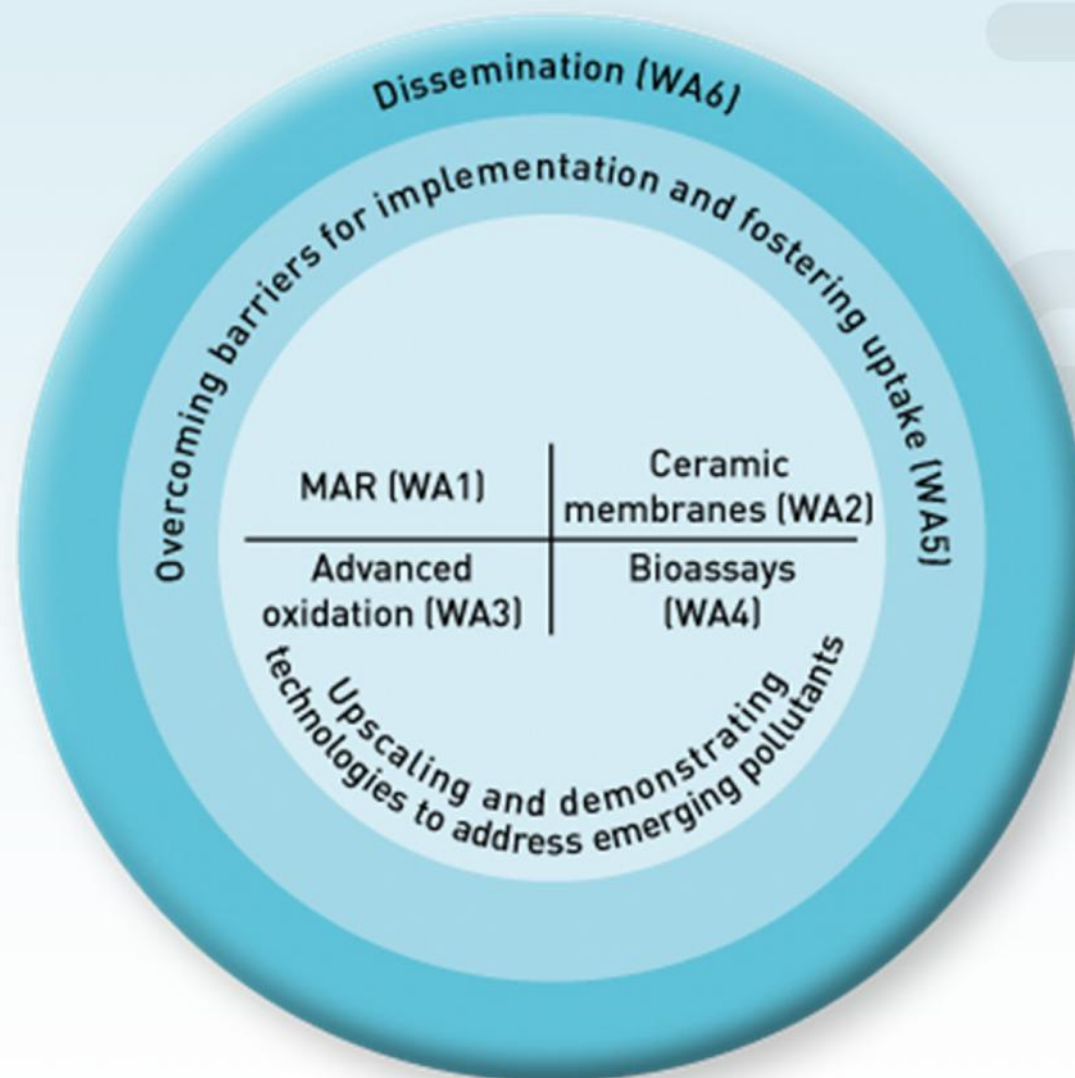


Bioactivities in persistent hydrophobic fractions

	Androgens		Estrogens		Glucocorticoids		Progestins		Dioxins	
	ago	antago	ago	antago	ago	antago	ago	antago	ago	antago
Baikal seal blubber 2005										
Baikal seal blubber 1992										
Baikal seal liver 2005										
Baikal seal liver 1992										
Common cormorant liver										
Raccoon dog liver										
Finless porpoise liver										



Suzuki et al. 2011 Environ. Sci. Technol. ePub 18 Oct



4.1 Selection and validation

- Selection criteria
- Bioassay selection
- Automation
- Trigger values
- Validation

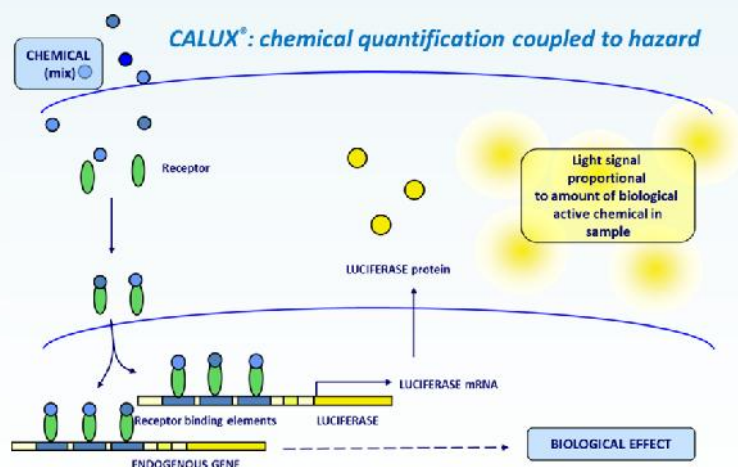


4.2 Implementation for monitoring

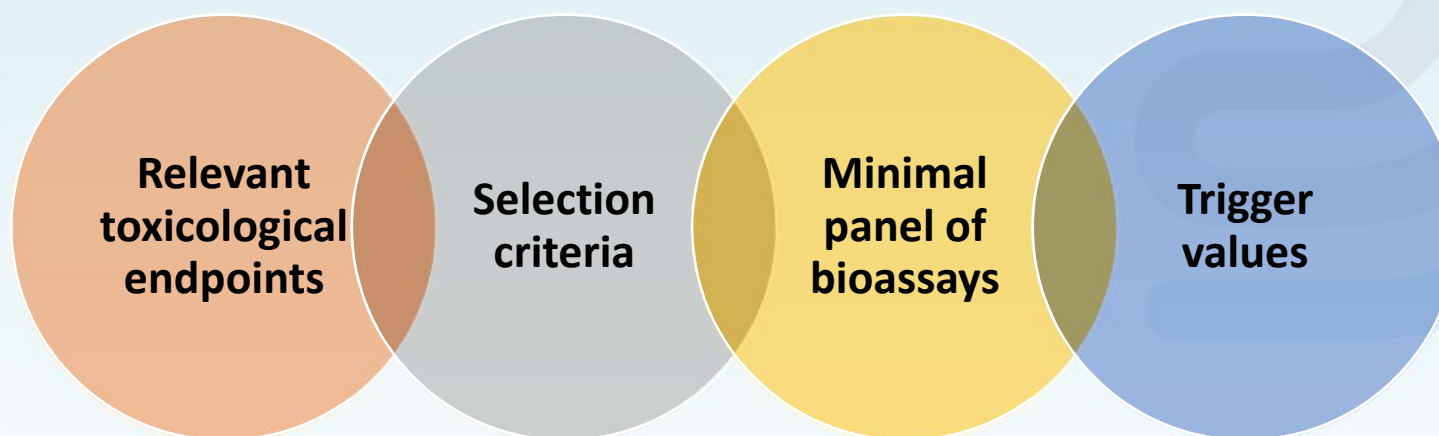
- Regulatory acceptance
- Testing framework
- Introduction to water utilities
- Demonstration



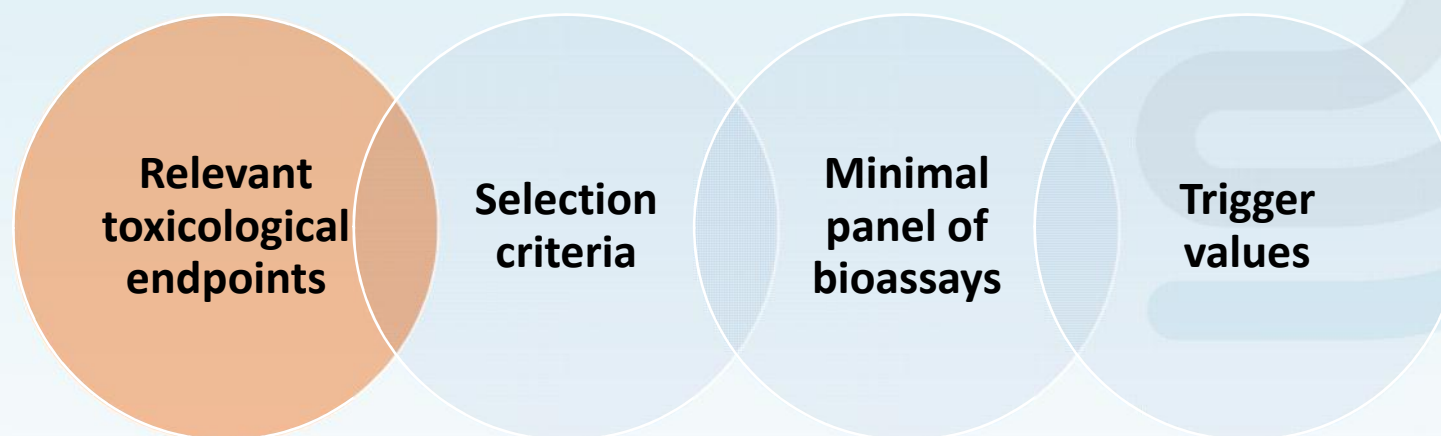
Market **application**



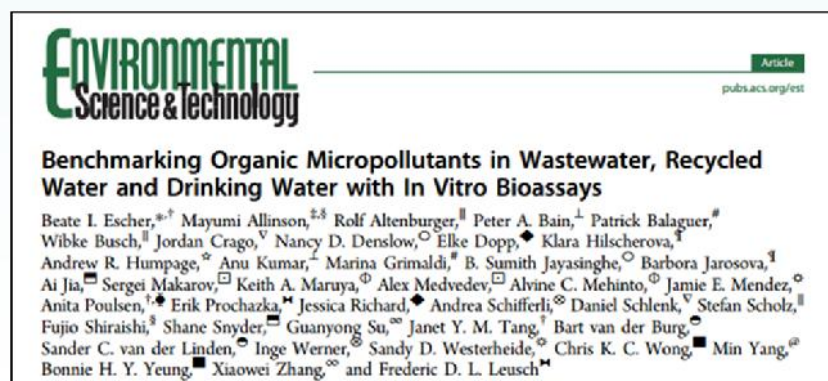
WP41 **SELECTION AND VALIDATION OF BIOASSAYS** **QUALITY ASSESSMENT**



WP41 SELECTION AND VALIDATION OF BIOASSAYS QUALITY ASSESSMENT



- Xenobiotic metabolism
- Hormone-mediated MoA
- Reactive MoA
- Developmental toxicity
- Adaptive stress response





Test panels emerging from case studies

(GWRC, Australia, Dutch)

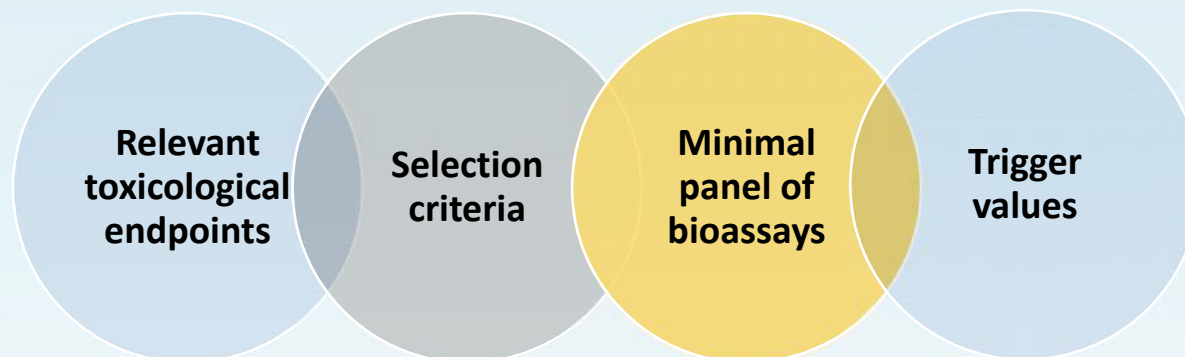


Screening toolbox



Relevant endpoints	B. Escher et. al	BE-Basic case study
Xenobiotic metabolism	PXR activation AHR activation CAR	DR/PAH-CALUX
Hormone-mediated MoA	Estrogenicity Anti-androgenicity Glucocorticoid activity Progestagenic activity Thyroid activity	Erα-CALUX AR-CALUX PR-CALUX GR-CALUX TRβ-CALUX RAR-CALUX
Reactive MoA	Mutations (AMES, SOS) DNA repair (umuC) DNA damage response (Micronucleus)	P53-CALUX P53 S9+ CALUX (?)
Adaptive stress response	Oxidative stress pathway	Nrf2-CALUX
Developmental toxicity	Preimplantation toxicity Embryonic development Placenta	ZFET
Lipid metabolism	PPARα, PPARγ	PPARα, PPARγ, PPARδ
Photosynthesis	Photosynthesis	-
General response	Cytotoxicity Viability Vibrio fischeri (Microtox) Algae growth	Cytotoxicity Cytotoxicity S9+

WP41 SELECTION AND VALIDATION OF BIOASSAYS FOR WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT



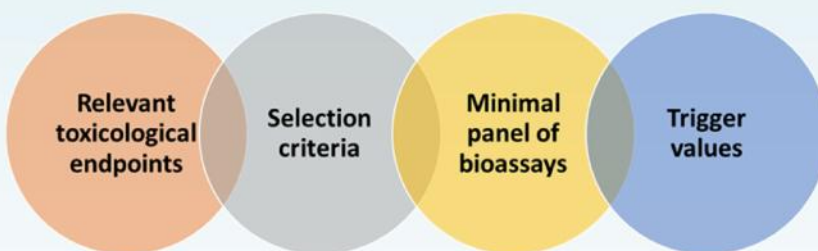
- Performance
- Validation status
- Cost
- Service
- etc

1	poor
2	good
3	excellent
NA	Not Available

		Assay 1	Assay 2	Assay 3	Assay 4	Assay 5
Assay applicability	Applied to environmental samples	1	3	2	3	2
	Validated to water samples	1	3	3	2	1
	Generic sample handling and/or preparation is adequate	1	3	2	3	2
	Standardized protocol available/maturity	2	3	2	3	2
	Service and support available	1	3	2	3	1
	Ease of use	1	3	2	2	2
	Costs	3	3	1	3	1
Score		10	21	14	19	11
Assay performance	Selectivity	1	3	1	2	3
	Accuracy	1	2	1	2	3
	Reproducibility	1	3	2	3	3
	Robustness	1	3	2	3	2
	Sensitivity	1	3	3	3	3
	Specificity	1	2	2	3	3
	LOD	1	3	2	2	2
	Cytotoxicity control	3	3	3	3	3
	Quick	3	2	2	3	1
	Clear/Straightforward read-out	1	3	2	2	2
	High-throughput capacity	3	3	2	3	2
Score		17	30	22	29	27
Total score		27	51	36	48	38

25.06.2014

Toxicity endpoints	DEMEAU bioassay(s)
Xenobiotic metabolism	DR/PAH-CALUX PXR-CALUX
Hormone-mediated MoA	ER-CALUX antiAR-CALUX GR-CALUX
Reactive MoA	P53-CALUX
Developmental tox	ER-CALUX antiAR-CALUX
Adaptive stress response	Nrf2-CALUX

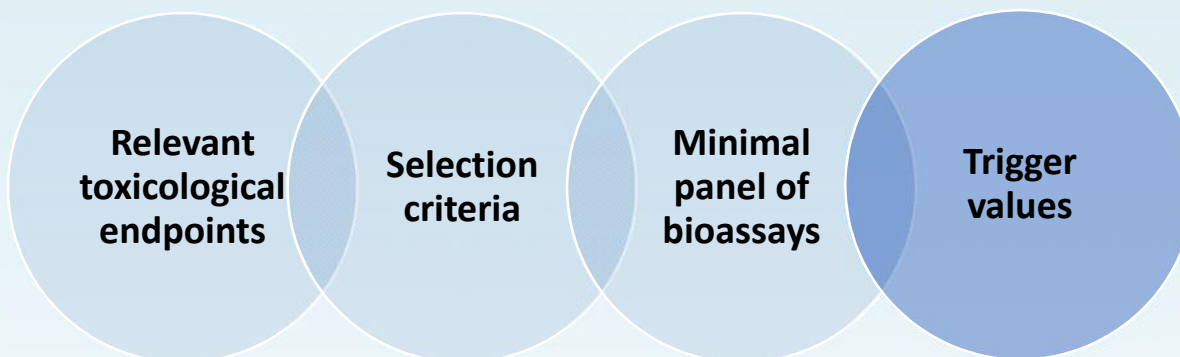


TEQ approach



Assay	Trigger value
ER-CALUX	3.8 ng E2-eq / L
AR-CALUX	11 ng DHT-eq / L
GR-CALUX	3.8 ng DEX-EQ / L
PR-CALUX	3.8 ng Org2058-eq / L

WP41 SELECTION AND VALIDATION OF BIOASSAYS FOR WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT



	Developmental toxicity	Estrogen receptor	Androgen receptor	Progesterone receptor	Glucocorticoid receptor	Thyroid hormone receptor	Retinoid acid receptor	Peroxisome proliferator receptor	Peroxisome proliferator receptor	Peroxisome proliferator receptor	Transcription factor	Aryl hydrocarbon receptor	Oxidative stress	Genotoxicity	Genotoxicity	General response	General response
Large volume grab samples	ZFET	Erα	AR	PR	GR	TRβ	RAR	PPARα	PPARγ	PPARδ	DR total	PAH	Nrf2	p53	p53 S9+	Cyto	Cyto S9+
Bottled water																	
Drinking water																	
Surface water Lekkanaal (Rhine)																	
Surface water Keizersveer (Maas)																	
Waste water Cuijk																	
Waste water Hapert																	
Waste water Grouw																	

4.1 Selection and validation

- ✓ Selection criteria
- ✓ Bioassay selection
- ✓ Automation
- ✓ Trigger values
- ✓ Validation

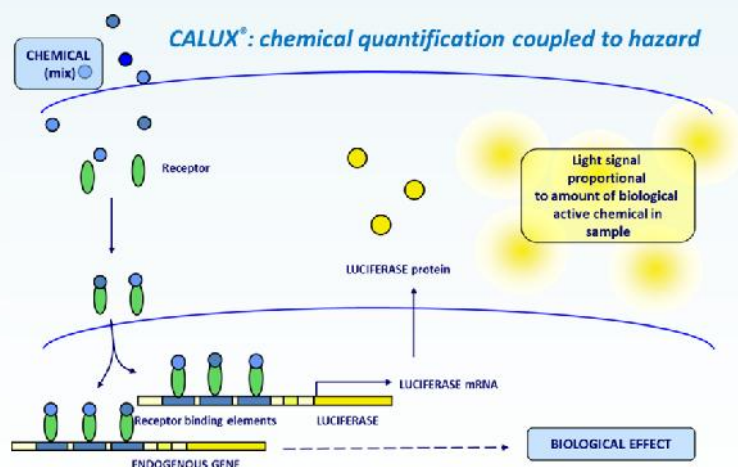


4.2 Implementation for monitoring

- ✓ Regulatory acceptance
- Testing framework
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Market application





Conclusions

- **Mechanistic bioassays available that can predict various important types of toxicity in animals (and humans)**
- **Quantitative**
- **Validated and accredited**
- **Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) modeling improves predictions**
- **Even without complete coverage of toxicity mechanisms applicable for prioritization and read-across of pure chemicals**
- **Particularly suitable for complex mixtures: e.g. prioritized effects (endocrine disruptors, genotoxicity, etc), and to identify pollution hotspots vs clean samples, efficiency of purification processes.**



Partner	
BioDetection Systems (BDS)	Bart van der Burg
Fraunhofer Institute for Toxicology and Experimental Medicine (FhG)	Inge Mangelsdorf
Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)	Dinant Kroese
Simpple (SIM)	Eduard Pauné
National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)	Aldert Piersma
Danish Technical University Food Institute (DTU)	Jay Niemalä
Procter & Gamble Eurocor (P&GEN)	Joanna Jaworska
Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen (EKUT)	Michael Schwarz
University of Konstanz (UKON)	Daniel Dietrich



Towards a bio-based economy

- Increased (re)use of biological materials: safety issues related to complex mixtures rather than single compounds

