

# A path to validation – SEURAT-1 case studies and the role of ECVAM

**Elisabet Berggren**

**ToxBank Public Forum, London, 26 October 2015**

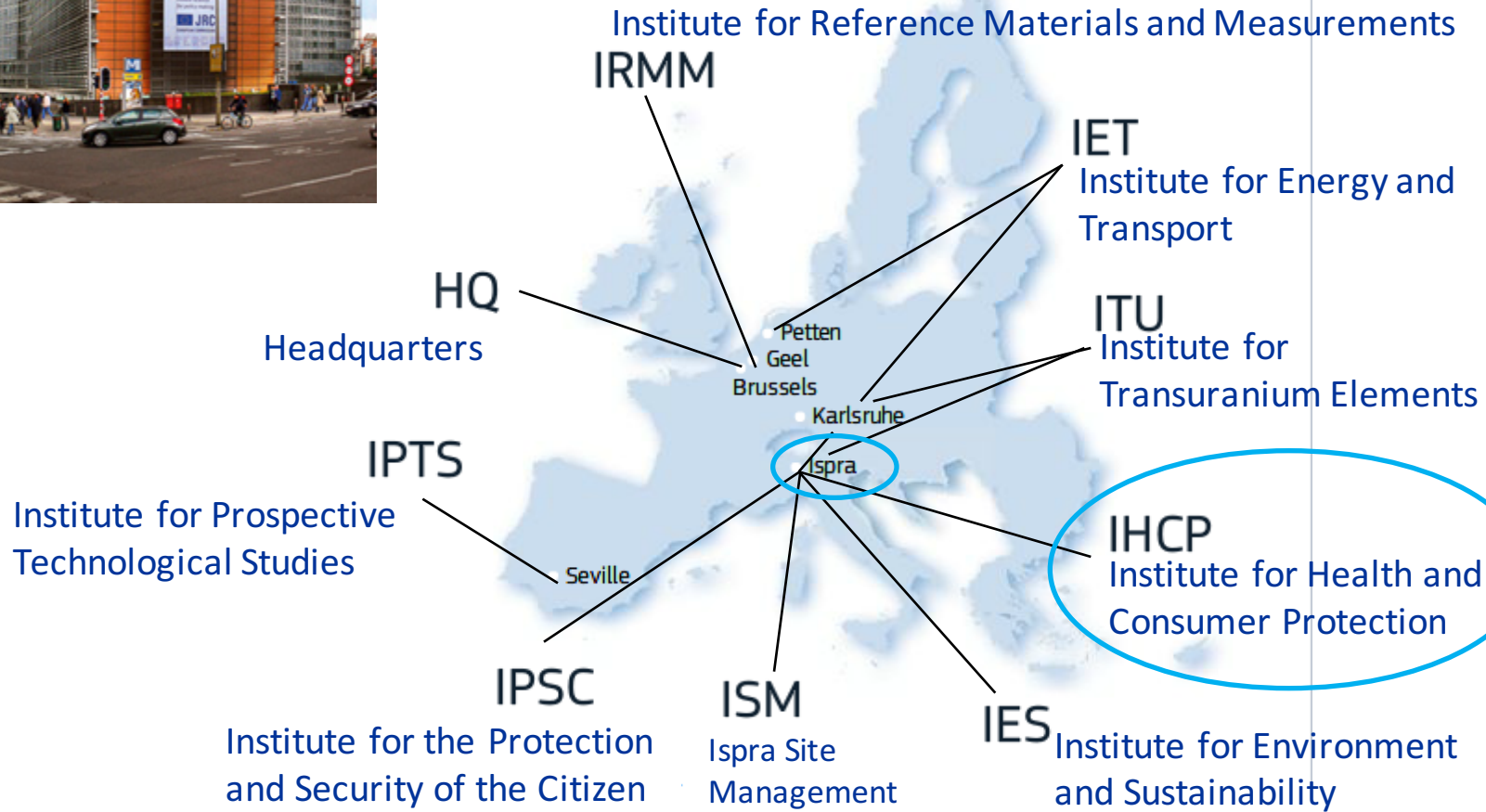


**EUR1**  
ECVAM

European Union Reference Laboratory  
for Alternatives to Animal Testing



# DG Joint Research Centre - JRC the Commission's in-house science service



# IHCP (Institute for Health and Consumer Protection), Ispra

European Union  
Reference  
Laboratory  
for alternatives  
to animal testing

IHCP  
Directorate

Chemical  
Assessment  
and Testing

Public  
Health  
Policy  
Support

Molecular  
Biology and  
Genomics

Nanobio-  
sciences

Systems  
Toxicology  
*Head of Unit:  
Maurice Whelan*



**EUROL**  
ECVAM  
European Union Reference Laboratory  
for Alternatives to Animal Testing

# Directive 2010/63/EU: Protection of animals used for scientific purposes

## AIM:

Improve the welfare of those animals still needed to be used, as well as to firmly anchor the principle of the 3 Rs, to Replace, Reduce and Refine the use of animals.

## MEASURES:

- Animal experiments are restricted to certain purposes
- Only certain types of animals can be used
- Authorisation of breeders, suppliers and users
- Avoidance of duplication and promoting alternative methods
- Establishment of a Union Reference Laboratory



# objectives:

**PREDICT**  
adverse outcome  
or disease in  
human  
caused by a  
chemical  
disturbing the  
biological system  
based on  
systems  
knowledge and  
integrated  
assessment and  
testing methods

PREDICT

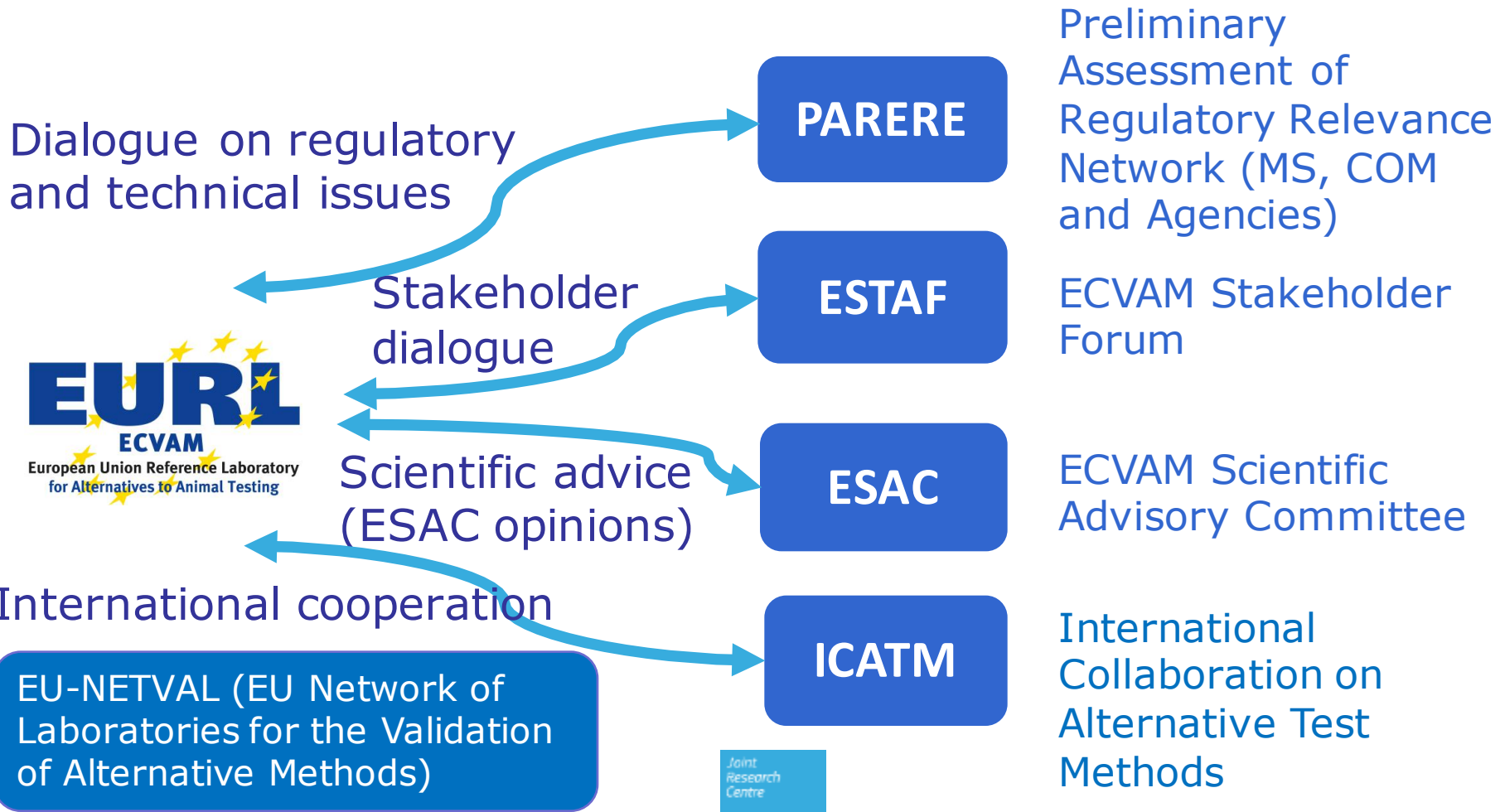
VALIDATE

DISSEMINATE

**VALIDATE**  
new in vitro methods to be  
applied in integrated safety  
assessment and identify the  
methods that best will  
contribute to testing  
strategies leading to full  
replacement

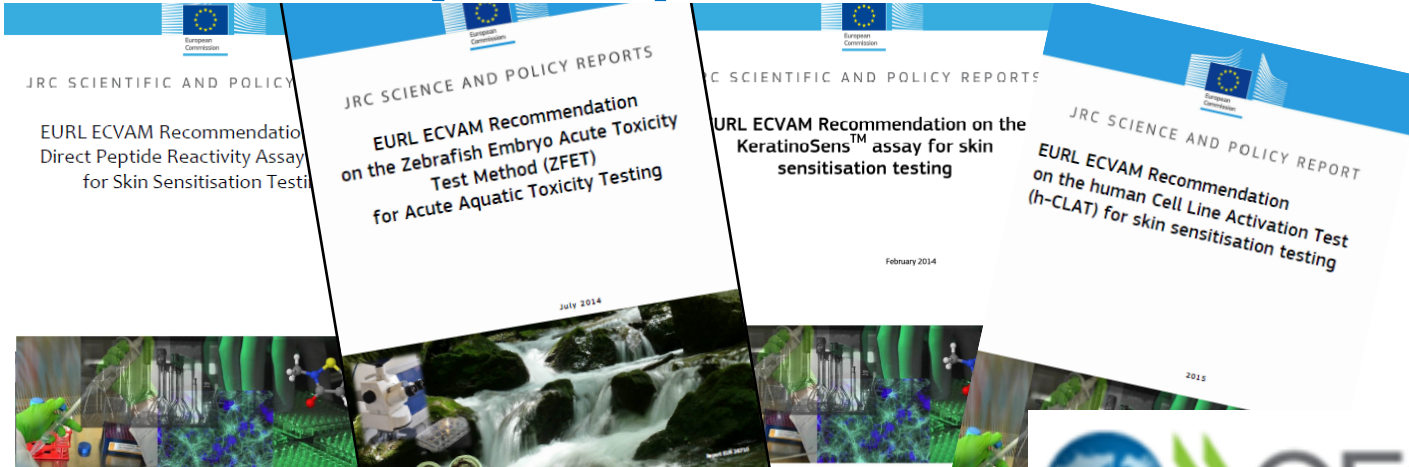
**DISSEMINATE**  
knowledge of alternative  
methods and their application  
to promote more efficient  
safety assessment of  
chemicals and to better  
support the 3R principle in all  
scientific research

# We try to promote dialogue between legislators, regulators, and stakeholders





# EURL ECVAM Recommendations & internationally accepted *in vitro* methods



- Skin Irritation TG 439
- Phototoxicity TG 432
- Skin Corrosion TGs 430, 431, 435
- Eye Irritation / corrosion TGs 437, 438, 460, 491, 492
- Toxicokinetics TG 428
- Genotoxicity TGs 471, 473, 476, 487, 490
- Skin Sensitisation TGs 442C, 442D
- Carcinogenicity GD on SHE CTA
- Skin Irritation / Corrosion GD on IATA



International  
Organization for  
Standardization

European Committee for Standardization  
Comité Européen de Normalisation  
Europäisches Komitee für Normung

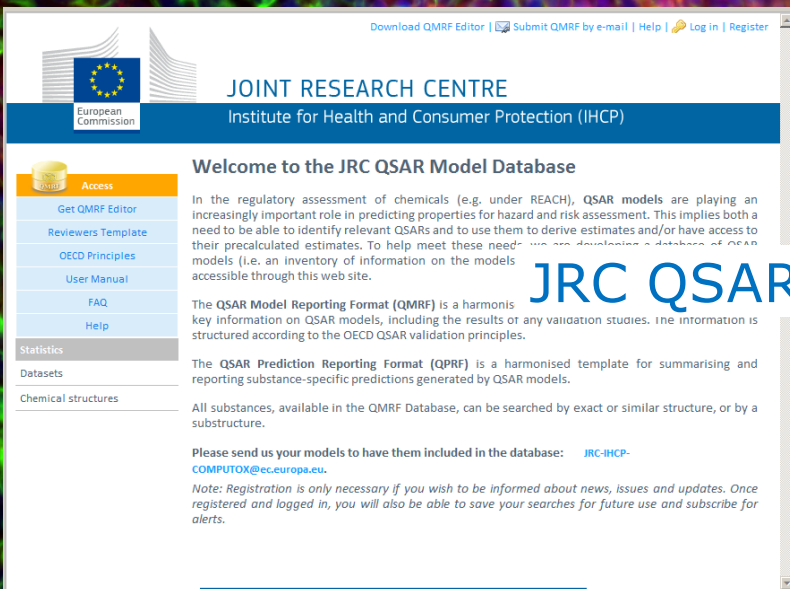
# EURL ECVAM Databases assisting in finding Alternatives

## DB-ALM: EURL ECVAM DataBase service on ALternative Methods

<http://ecvam-dbalm.jrc.ec.europa.eu>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the DB-ALM service. At the top, it features the European Commission logo and the text 'JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE' and 'EURL ECVAM DataBase service on ALternative Methods to animal experimentation (DB-ALM)'. A navigation menu includes 'Methods', 'Topic Summaries', 'Projects & Studies', 'Bibliography', and 'Persons & Institutions'. Below the menu is a banner with the text 'ALTERNATIVE METHODS' and the DB-ALM logo. A section titled 'About the DB-ALM' provides a welcome message and details about the service's public, factual nature and its focus on advanced and alternative methods to animal experimentation. A 'News' section on the right mentions a revised version and a search guide.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the JRC QSAR Model Database. It features the European Commission logo and the text 'JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE' and 'Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP)'. A navigation menu includes 'Access', 'Get QMRF Editor', 'Reviewers Template', 'OECD Principles', 'User Manual', 'FAQ', and 'Help'. Below the menu is a section titled 'Welcome to the JRC QSAR Model Database' which provides information about the role of QSAR models in regulatory assessment and the structure of the database. A 'Statistics' section is also visible.

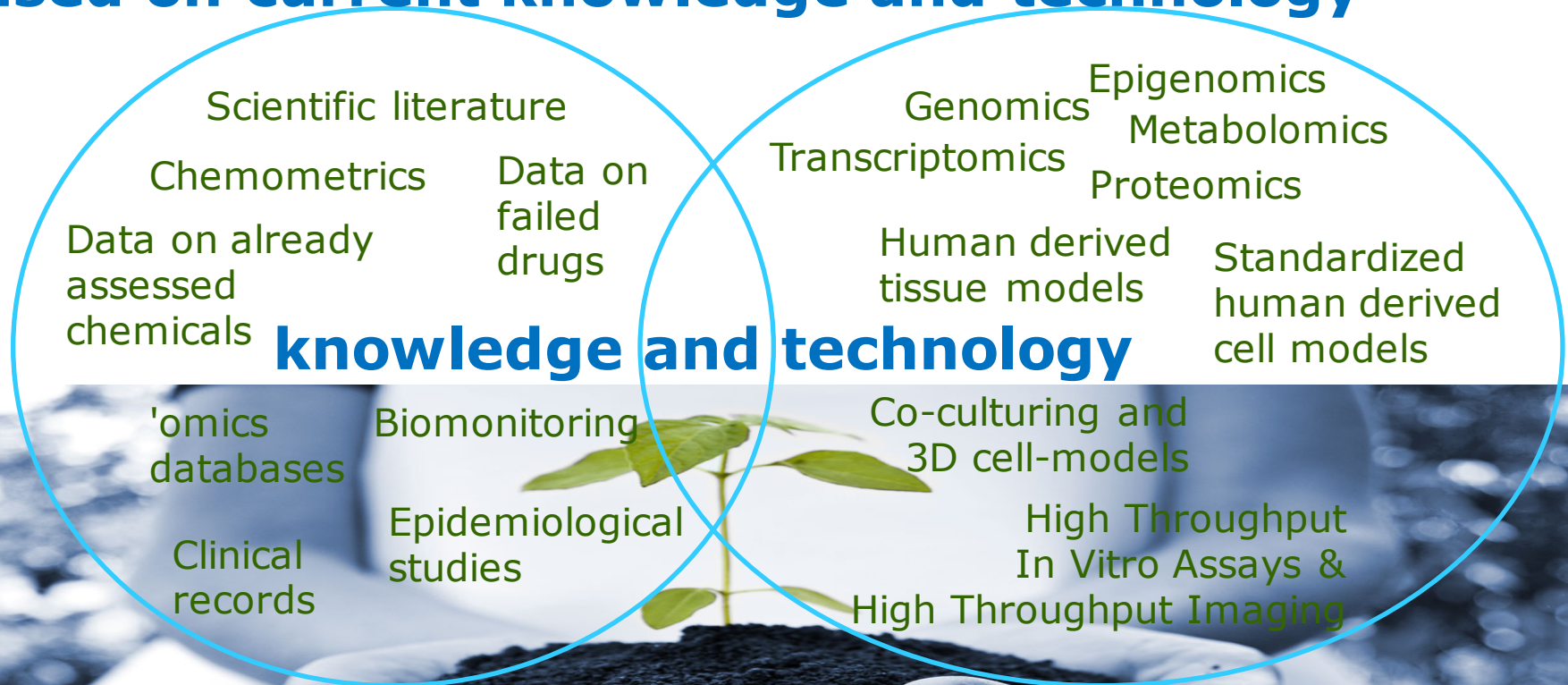
## JRC QSAR Model Database

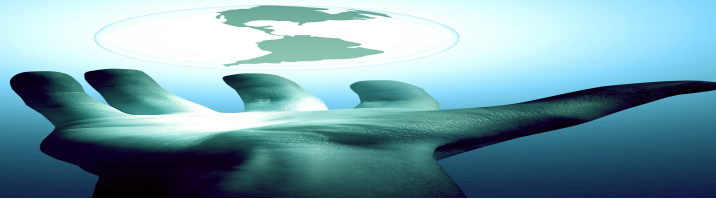
<http://qsar.db.jrc.ec.europa.eu>





# Development of more relevant models to human based on current knowledge and technology





# Stimulating innovation towards more reliable but also time and cost efficient approaches

Move away from



-thinking

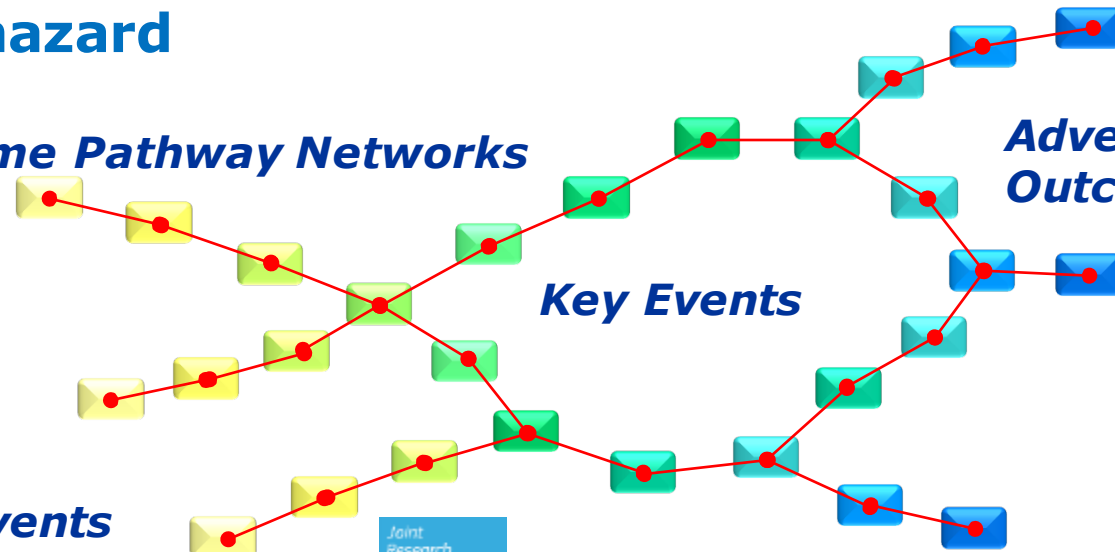
## Transitioning to a new way of describing toxicological hazard

*Adverse Outcome Pathway Networks*

*Adverse Outcomes*

*Key Events*

*Molecular Initiating Events*

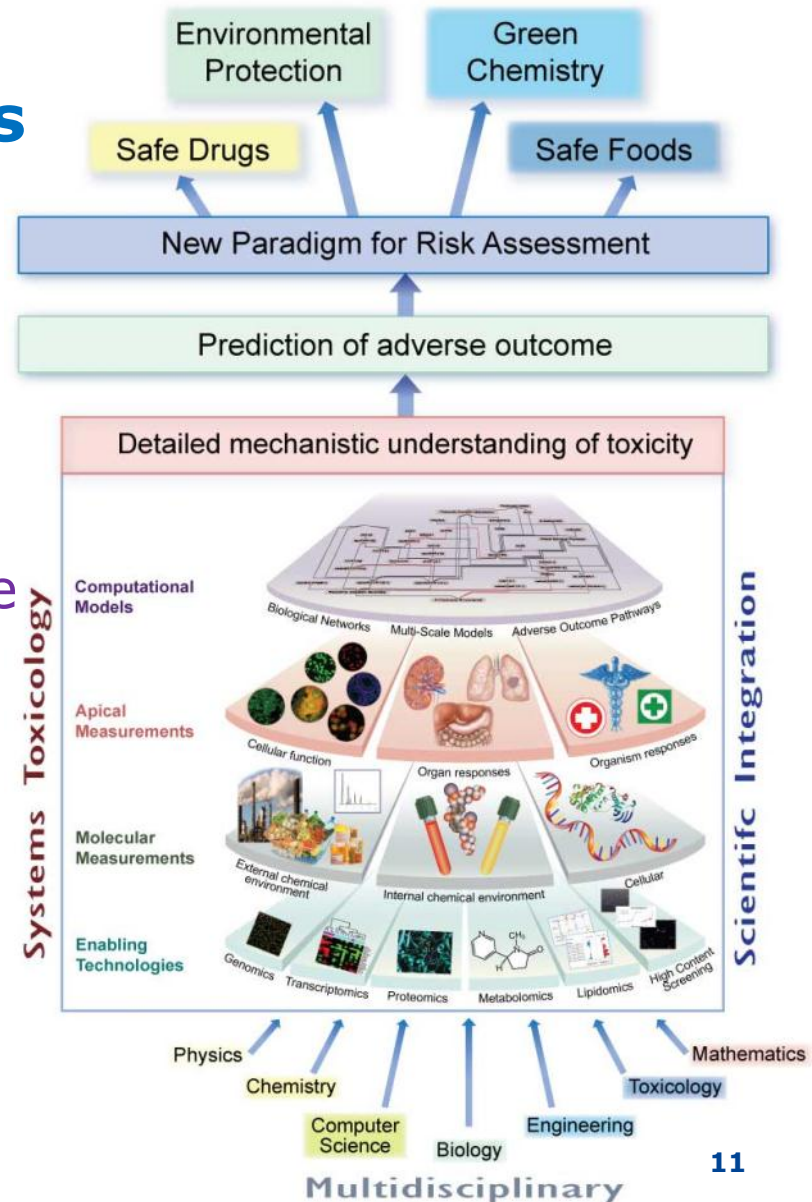


# Adverse Outcome Pathways – the systems failure

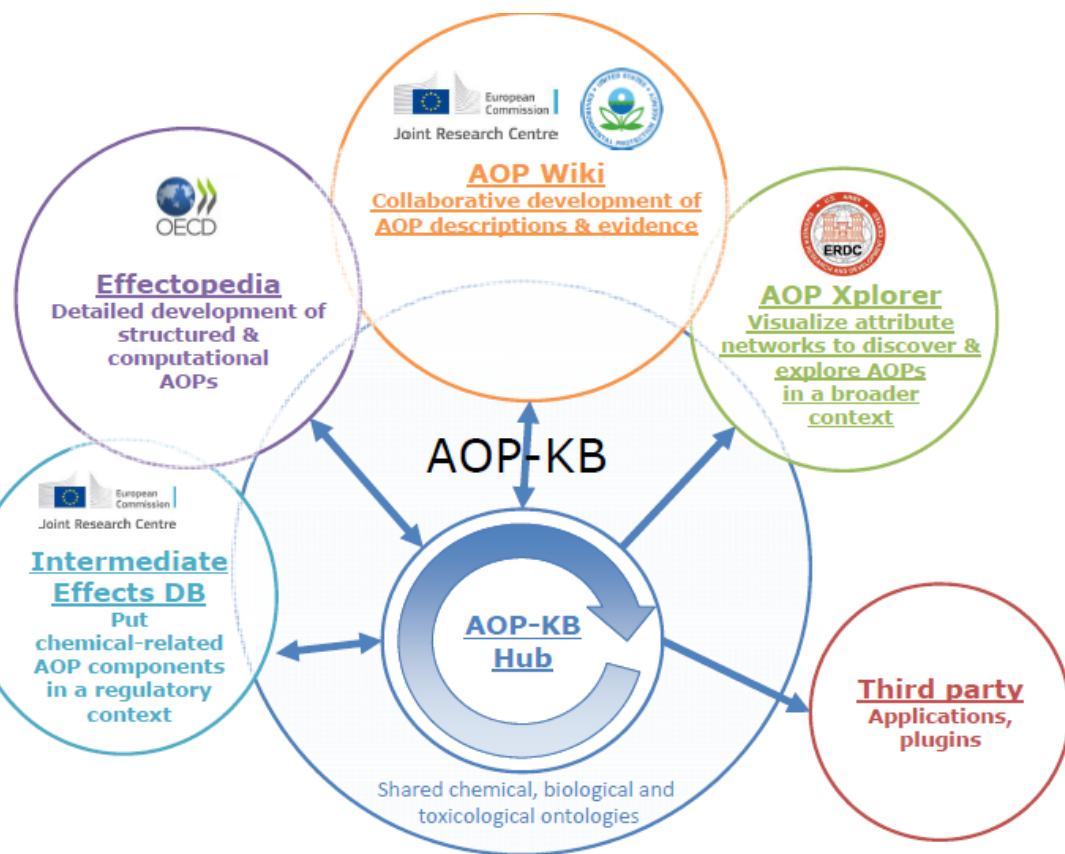
A description of how a biological systems fails and the necessary conditions that lead to the failure.

It is not therefore a description of the system itself,  
but requires understanding of the system in order to be described

*Figure from Sturla et al. (2014). Systems Toxicology: from basic research to risk assessment. Chemical Research in Toxicology*

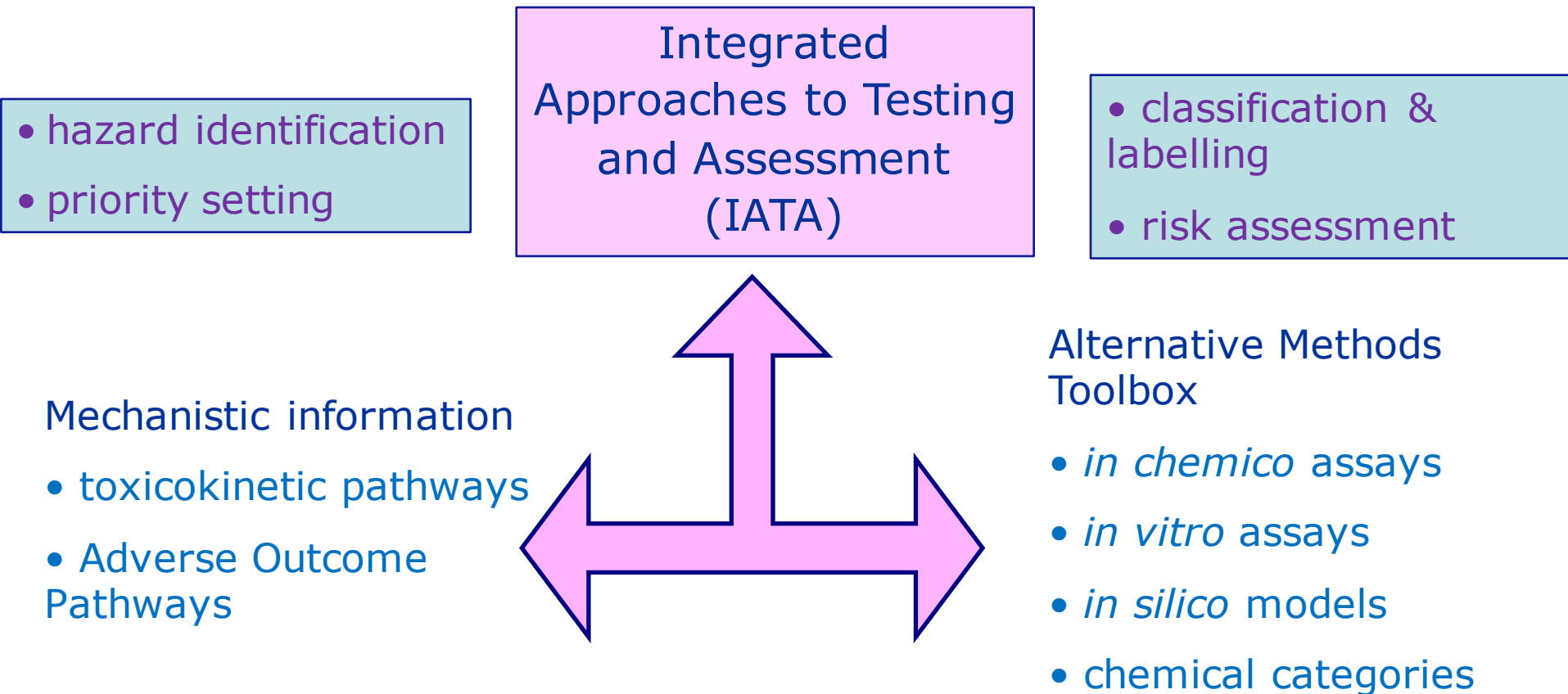


# Structure the AOP information in collaboration with the rest of the world



Visit AOP Wiki (<https://aopkb.org>) to explore currently mapped AOPs, improve them or add new ones.

# From Adverse Outcome Pathways to Practical Applications



# IATA (Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment): a way to structure the information

- Generic guidance on the evaluation and application of an IATA for a certain health hazard
- Reporting template for IATA, thereby providing a harmonised framework for the documentation and evaluation of IATA
- Range of IATA solutions, covering different regulatory goals (hazard identification, classification, and potency assessment)

# A GLOBAL THINKING - A LARGE HORIZON

Regulation 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed

Community Strategy on combined exposures 'Mixtures'

Proposal for a Regulation on Animal Health

Regulation 528/2012 on authorisation of biocidal active ingredients and products

Regulation 1907/2006 on registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemical substances (REACH)

Community Strategy on Endocrine Disrupters

Regulation 440/2008 on test methods

Directive 91/414 on authorisation of plant protection active ingredient and products

Regulation 726/2004 on authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human and veterinary use

Regulation 1290/2013 on participation in "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)"

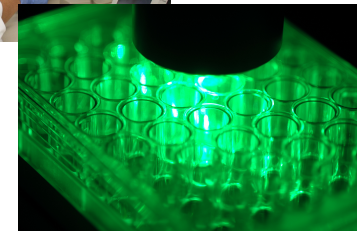
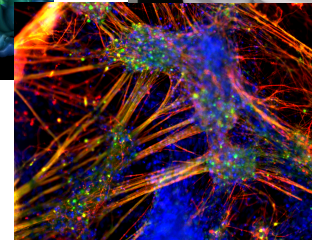
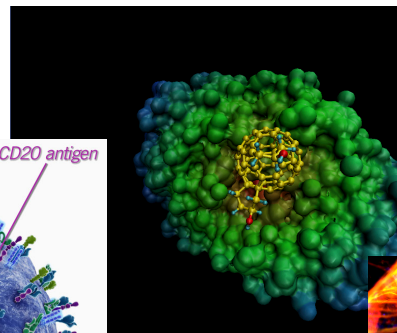
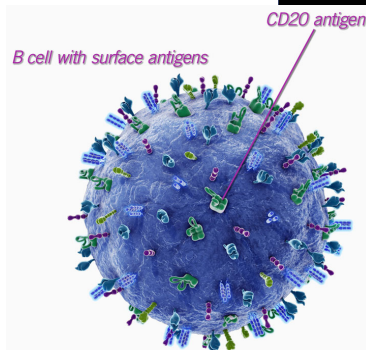
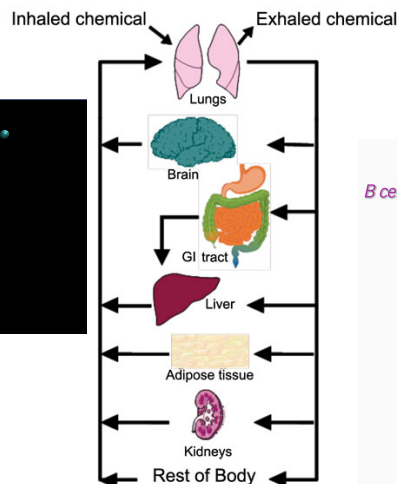
Regulation 1223/2009 on cosmetics products

Regulation 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of chemical substances and mixtures (CLP)

Proposal for a Regulation on veterinary medicinal products

# IATA an instrument for evolution

- The IATA is not validated, but indicates where methods are needed (relevance), and these methods might then be prioritized for validation, to guarantee robustness and reproducibility.
- The IATA is a structure encouraging flexibility providing space for development.







## EURL ECVAM strategies

- ✓ Analysis of regulatory information needs
- ✓ Cross-sectorial scope
- ✓ Broad strategic aims
- ✓ Ambitious but pragmatic
- ✓ Solutions for regulatory acceptance
- ✓ International TGs and Guidance



# Seurat-1: towards replacement of *in vivo* repeated dose systemic toxicity testing

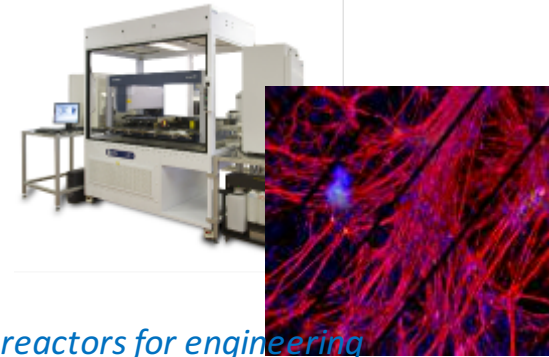


<http://www.seurat-1.eu/>

- *Cluster of seven collaborative projects*
- *50 million Euro investment*
- *Co-financed by EC and Cosmetics Europe*
- *Over 70 research partners*
- *16 countries plus EC*
- *6 year programme*

The SEURAT strategy is to adopt a toxicological **mode-of-action framework** to describe how any substance may adversely affect human health, and to use this knowledge to develop complementary theoretical, computational and experimental (in vitro) models that **predict quantitative points of departure** needed for safety assessment.

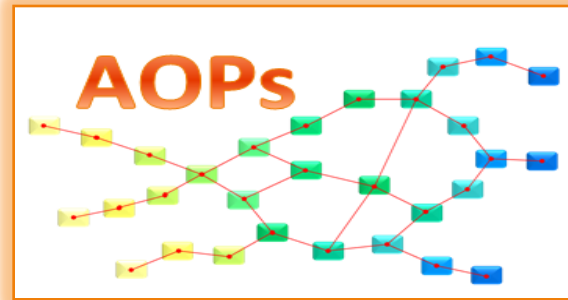
# SEURAT-1 Alternative Methods Toolbox



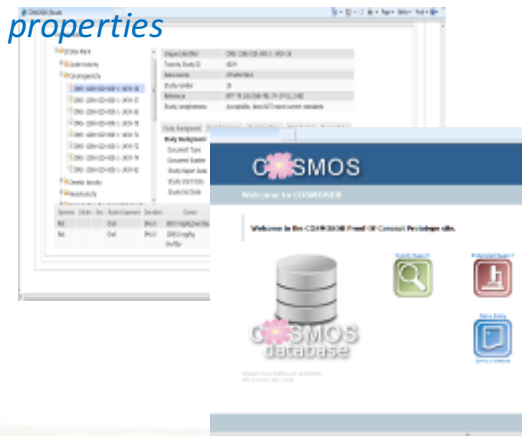
Bioreactors for engineering tissues



Project data and protocol warehouse

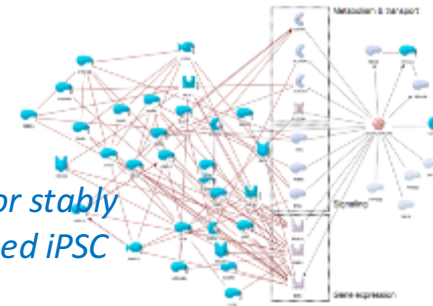
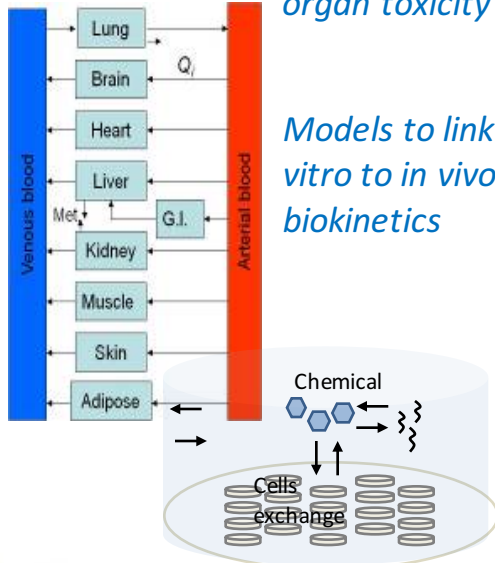


Database on cosmetics ingredients and properties

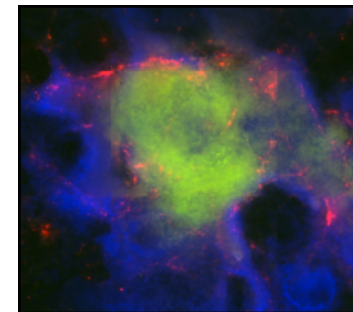


Multi-scale models of organ toxicity

Models to link in vitro to in vivo biokinetics



Protocols for stably differentiated iPSC



Genetically engineered reporter-gene cell lines

# Seurat-1 Proof of Concept on three levels



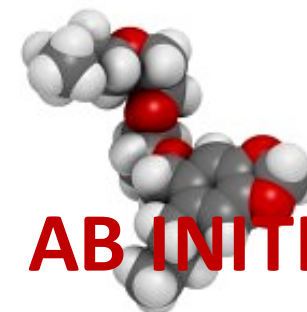
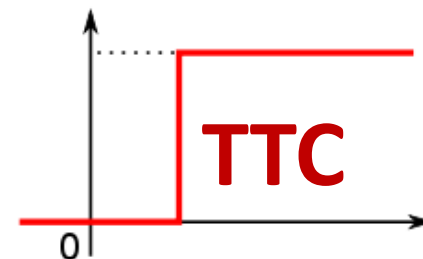
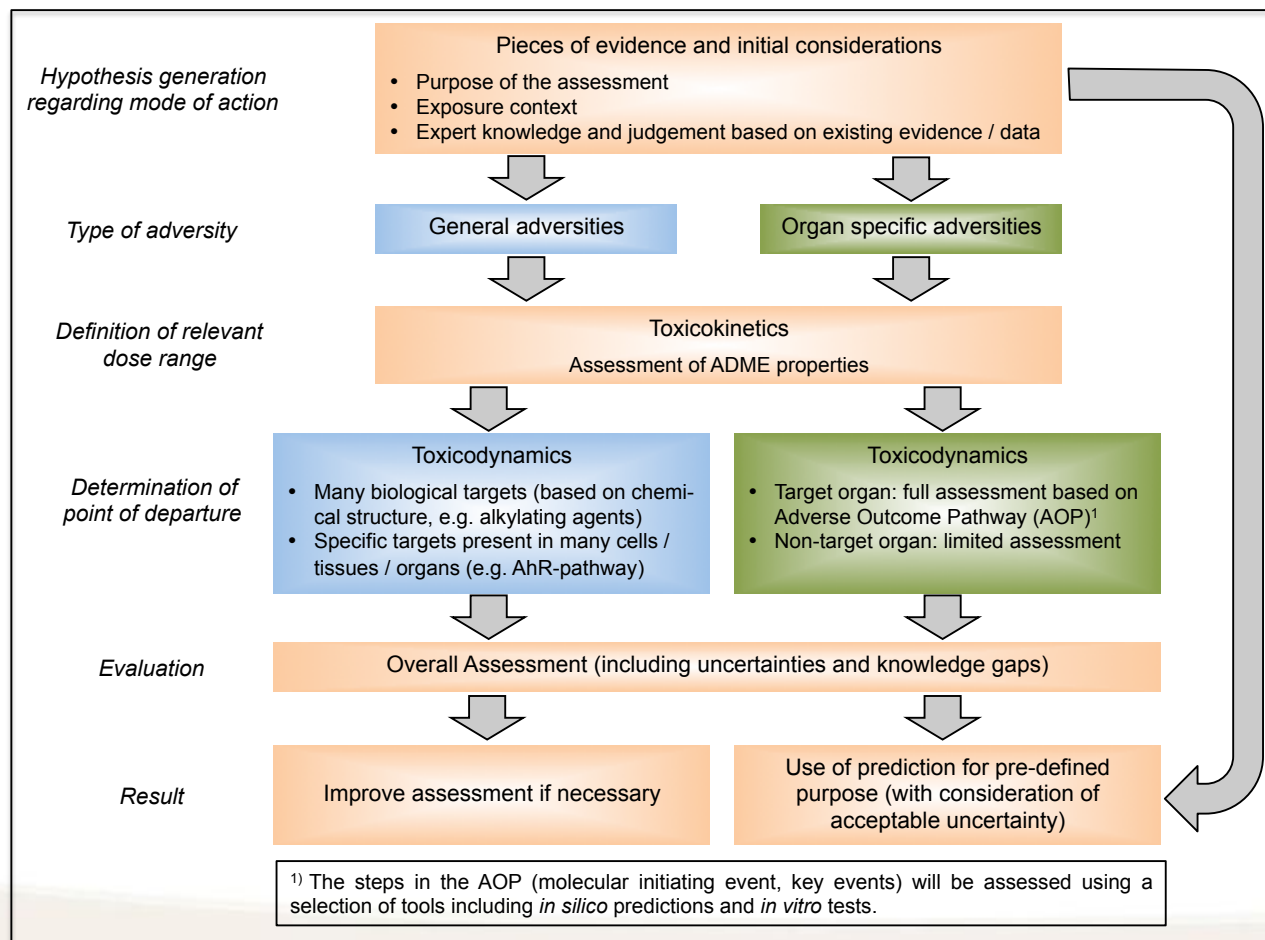
Level 3: Application of Predictive Systems to support regulatory Safety Assessment

Level 2: Development of Integrated Testing Strategies to Predict Toxicity

Level 1: Development of Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) constructs

# Level 3: Safety Assessment

One conceptual framework - three case studies:



**AB INITIO**



## Four different scenarios

- I. Chemical similarity of compounds that do not require metabolic transformation to exert a potential adverse human health effect
- II. Chemical similarity involving metabolic transformation resulting in exposure to the same/similar proximal toxicant
- III. Chemicals with general low or no toxicity
- IV. Distinguishing chemicals in a structurally similar category with variable toxicities based on Mode of Action hypothesis



*Environ Health Perspect*; DOI:10.1289/ehp.1409342

## Chemical Safety Assessment Using Read-Across: Assessing the Use of Novel Testing Methods to Strengthen the Evidence Base for Decision Making

Elisabet Berggren,<sup>1</sup> Patric Amcoff,<sup>2</sup> Romualdo Benigni,<sup>3</sup> Karen Blackburn,<sup>4</sup> Edward Carney,<sup>5</sup> Mark Cronin,<sup>6</sup> Hubert Deluyker,<sup>7</sup> Francoise Gautier,<sup>8</sup> Richard S. Judson,<sup>9</sup> Georges E. N. Kass,<sup>7</sup> Detlef Keller,<sup>10</sup> Derek Knight,<sup>11</sup> Werner Lilienblum,<sup>12</sup> Catherine Mahony,<sup>13</sup> Ivan Rusyn,<sup>14</sup> Terry Schultz,<sup>15</sup> Michael Schwarz,<sup>16</sup> Gerrit Schüürmann,<sup>17</sup> Andrew White,<sup>18</sup> Julien Burton,<sup>1</sup> Alfonso M. Lostia,<sup>1</sup> Sharon Munn,<sup>1</sup> and Andrew Worth<sup>1</sup>



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](http://ScienceDirect)

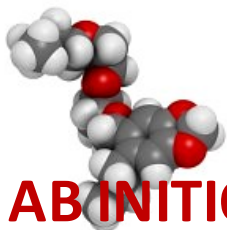
### Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology

Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology 72 (2015) 586–601



### A strategy for structuring and reporting a read-across prediction of toxicity ☆

T.W. Schultz<sup>a</sup>, P. Amcoff<sup>b</sup>, E. Berggren<sup>c</sup>, F. Gautier<sup>d</sup>, M. Klarić<sup>b</sup>, D.J. Knight<sup>e</sup>, C. Mahony<sup>f</sup>, M. Schwarz<sup>g</sup>, A. White<sup>h</sup>, M.T.D. Cronin<sup>i,\*</sup>



**AB INITIO**

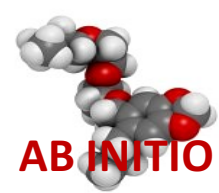
## Level 3: The Ab initio case study



Our case study:

Can we safely use 12.5% Piperonyl butoxide (PBO) in a body lotion applied twice a day (corresponding to 144.797mg/kg/day)?





# Level 3: Ab initio workflow

- 1 Set up relevant exposure scenario
- 2 Collect phys chem properties of the molecule
- 3 Identify molecular structure and active groups
- 4 Identify molecular structures and active groups of predicted/possible metabolites
- 5 Evaluation of 1-4 together and Tier 1 data (e.g. existing profiling data like omics and ToxCast data) ⇒ hypothesis
- 6 Toxicokinetic modelling based on exposure scenario ⇒ estimate internal dose and relevant dose for *in vitro* testing
- 7 Predict corresponding concentrations for substances with known effects (in target organ) for benchmarking.
- 8 Evaluate which alternative methods (in vitro tests and in silico models) could provide useful evidence.
- 9 Perform testing/modelling to confirm/dismiss the hypothesis.
- 10 Collect and evaluate all data.
- 11 Final risk assessment or summary on insufficient information.

EXIT

EXIT

EXIT

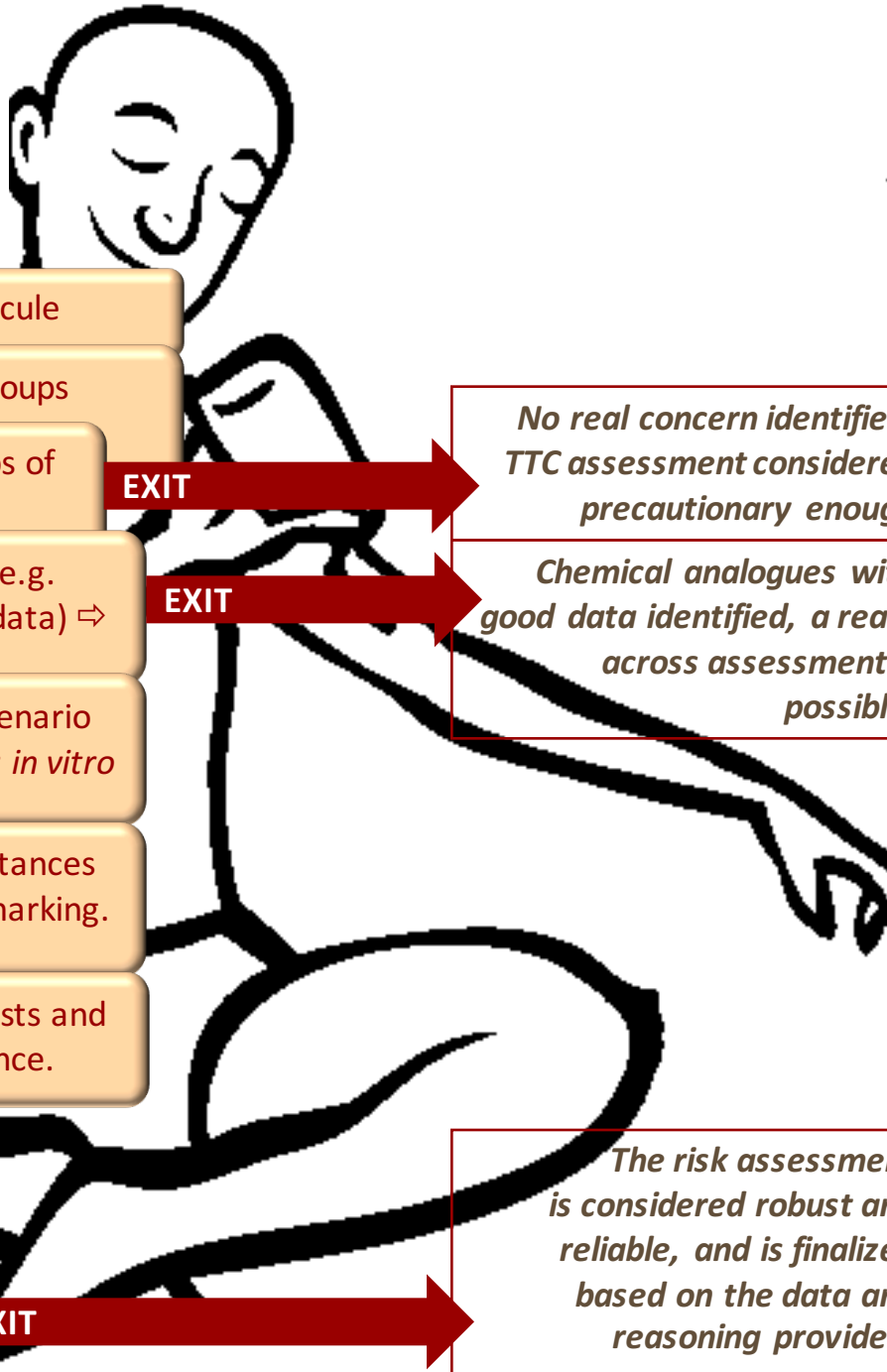
*No real concern identified  
TTC assessment considered  
precautionary enough*

*Chemical analogues with  
good data identified, a real  
assessment possible*

*The risk assessment  
is considered robust and  
reliable, and is finalized  
based on the data and  
reasoning provided*

NEW  
HYPOTHESIS

MORE  
EVIDENCE  
NEEDED



# Final Reporting

Everyone is welcome



**SEURAT-1 Symposium**

**Painting the future animal-free safety assessment of  
chemical substances: Achievements of SEURAT-1**

4 December 2015, Brussels, Belgium

Register at:  
<http://www.seurat-1.eu/>

Arch Toxicol  
DOI 10.1007/s00204-014-1421-5 November 2014

RESEARCH ARTICLE

## **SEURAT: Safety Evaluation Ultimately Replacing Animal Testing—Recommendations for future research in the field of predictive toxicology**

George Daston · Derek J. Knight · Michael Schwarz ·  
Tilman Gocht · Russell S. Thomas · Catherine Mahony ·  
Maurice Whelan

Horizon 2020 project: EUToxRisk21  
Starting this autumn will continue  
what SEURAT-1 started.

[About Us](#)[Regulations](#)[Addressing Chemicals  
of Concern](#)[Information on  
Chemicals](#)[Chemicals in o](#)[ECHA](#) > [News and Events](#) > [Events](#) >

## Topical Scientific Workshop - New Approach Methodologies in Regulatory Science

**19-20 April 2016 | Helsinki, Finland**

Topical scientific workshops of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) aim to foster discussion among academia, regulators, industry and other stakeholders on the possible regulatory impacts of the latest scientific developments. An anticipated outcome of these workshops is the emergence of new or improved approaches which may be applied to the implementation of the REACH, CLP and biocides regulations.

### Aim of the workshop

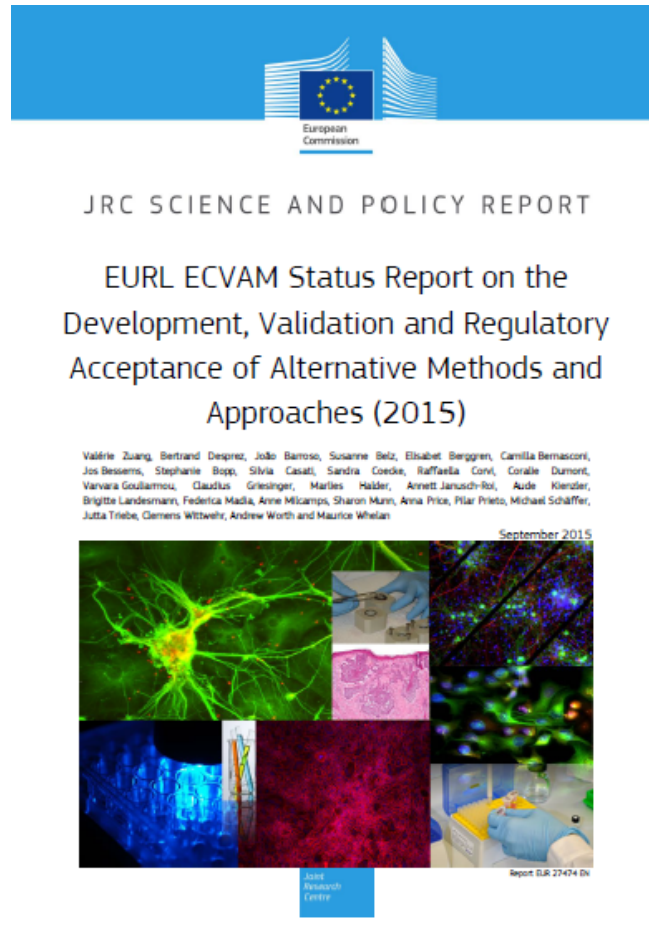
The Topical Scientific Workshop on New Approach Methodologies in Regulatory Science will explore the potential regulatory benefits arising from fundamental change in scientific thinking. Complex toxicological apical endpoints cannot be predicted by a single non-standard test. Instead, it is necessary to combine multiple lines of evidence (including '-omics' and high-throughput screening methods) to predict the hazardous property with tools to facilitate th

Two motivating drivers for the workshop are:

- ▶ A better understanding of the underlying biology behind how chemicals cause adverse effects to human health; and
- ▶ New tools and techniques that provide a huge amount of data to be used in solving regulatory issues.

The workshop draws inspiration from the EU research programme SEURAT-1 and the US Tox21 initiative, but also takes from the scientific field.

# The yearly update on alternatives: The EURL ECVAM Status Report



Just published & available at

<http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC97811>

# Thanks for your attention!

[elisabet.berggren@ec.europa.eu](mailto:elisabet.berggren@ec.europa.eu)

# THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION



**EUROL**  
**ECVAM**

European Union Reference Laboratory  
for Alternatives to Animal Testing