



# Environmental Safety Assessment of Chemicals in the Marine Environment: Challenges & Opportunities.



**Professor Tom Hutchinson FRSB, FLS, FHEA**

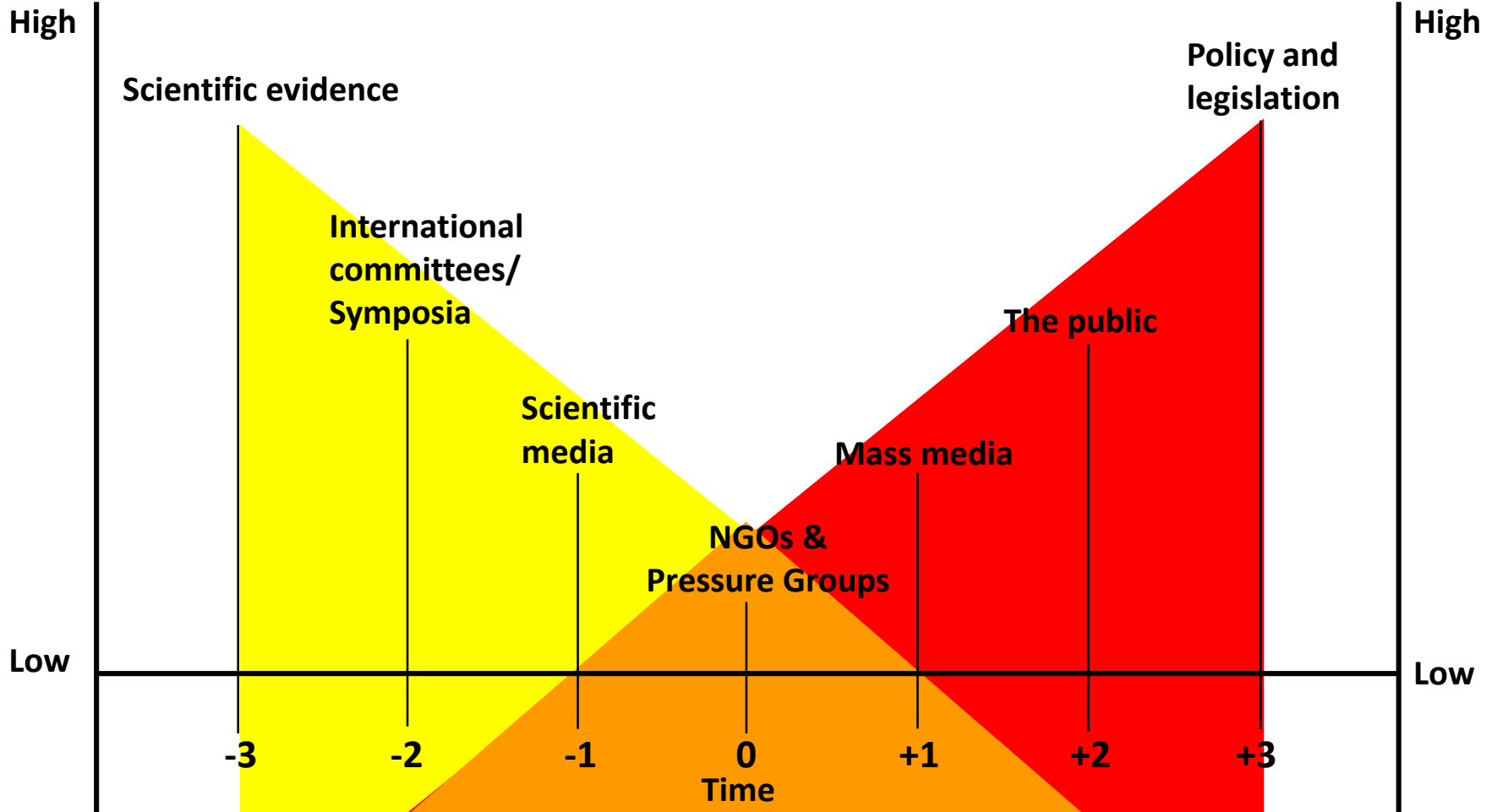
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# Strategic Issues Management

Effectiveness of scientific engagement

Impact on society & industry



# Strategic Issues Management

Effectiveness of  
scientific engagement

High

## Key Challenges for Chemical Assessment:

- Exposure concerns due to increased sensitivity of analytical chemistry
- Hazard assessment using integrated biological tools
- Growing pressure to replace animal testing

Impact on society  
& industry

High

Policy and  
regulation

Low

-3

-2

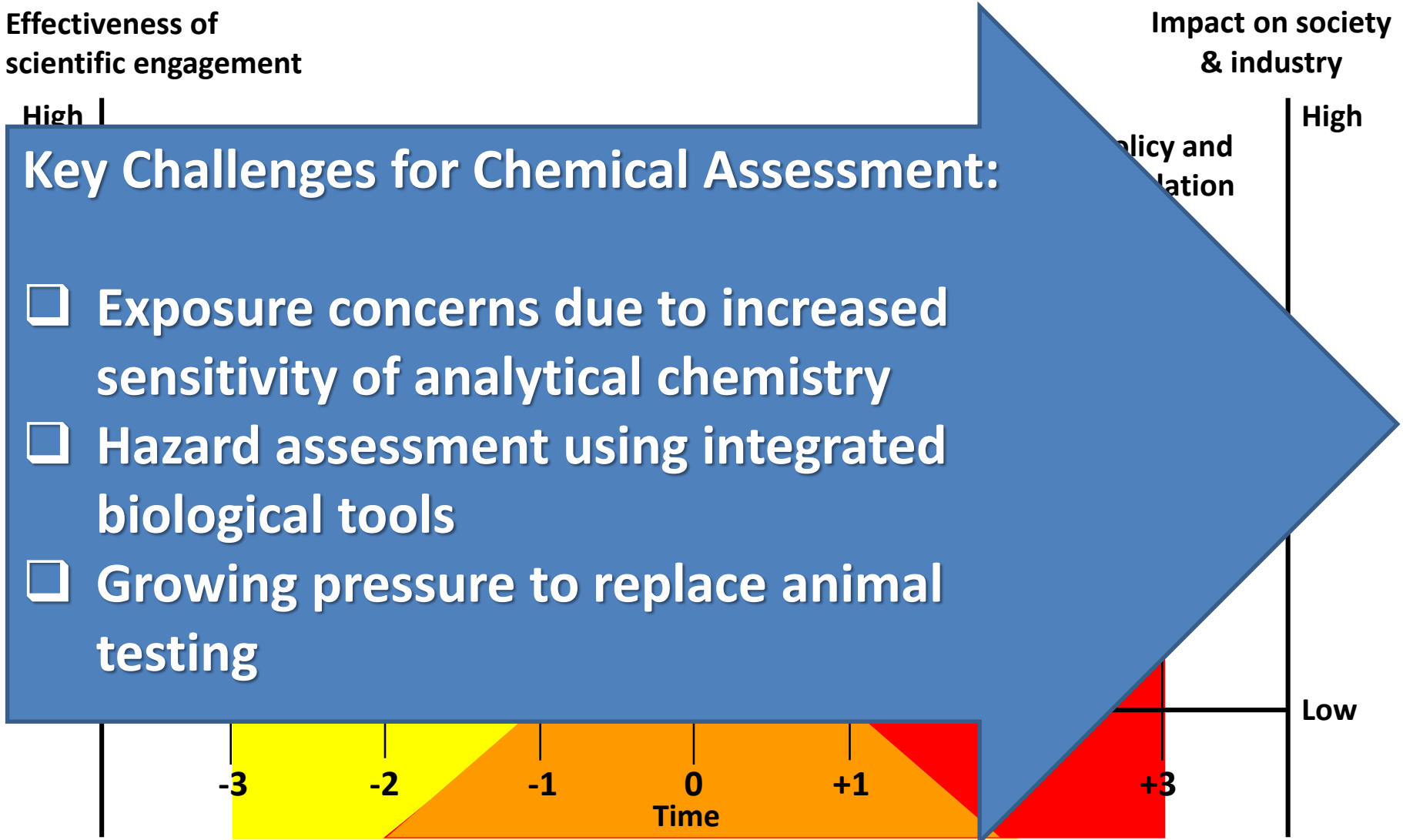
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0

+1

+3

Time



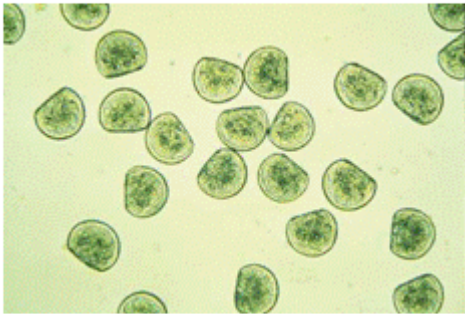
# Challenge 1

## Animal Testing



Growing pressure to replace, reduce or refine fish testing in environmental safety assessment

# Approaches to Marine Testing



Mollusc larvae

Acute fish tests  
(96 h)



Fish larvae

Acute invertebrate  
tests (24 – 48 h)



Crustaceans

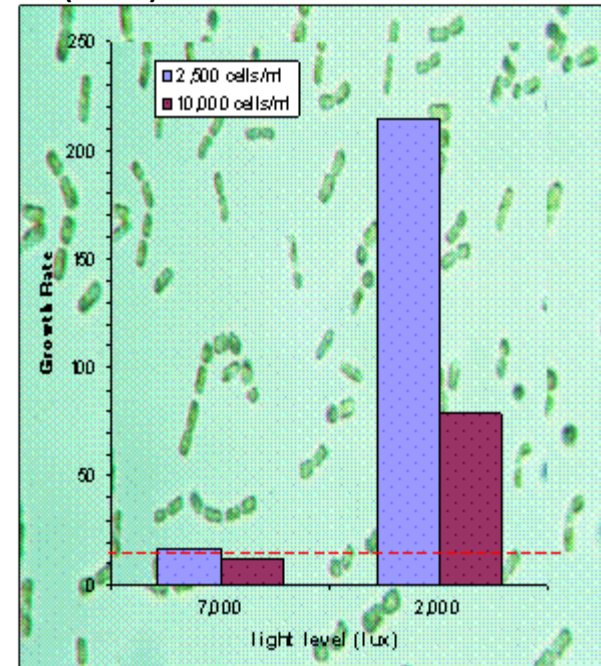


Mussels



Echinoderms

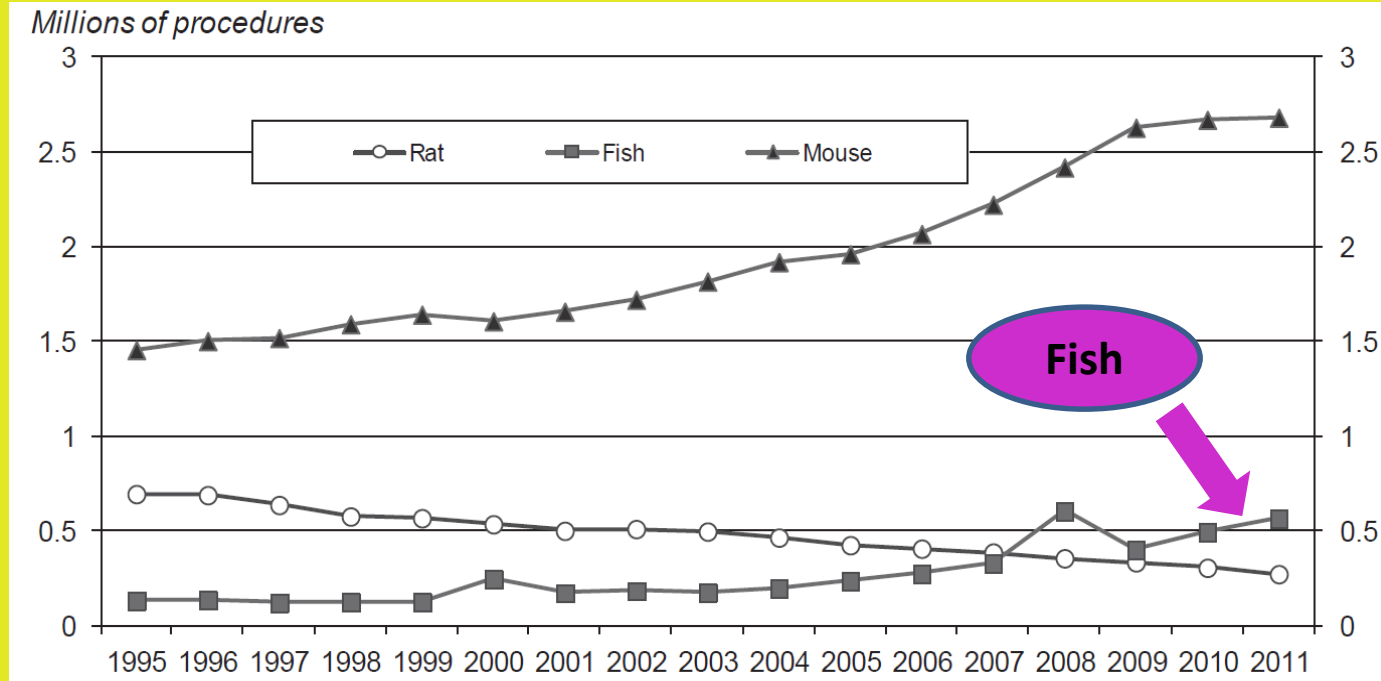
Acute microalgal tests  
(72h)



Diatoms (e.g. *Skeletonema* sp.)

# The Animal Testing Challenge ...

- Increasing demand for (eco) toxicity data ...



UK scientific procedures using rodents & fish 1995-2011

- Ethics & costs of animal testing – millions \$\$\$

Refs: UK Home Office (2012) report HC345 & Toxcast <http://www.epa.gov/comptox/toxcast>



# Challenge 2

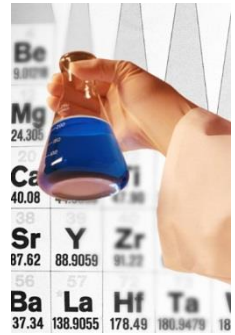
## Analytical Chemistry



Increasing sensitivity of analytical chemistry  
used in environmental safety assessment

# Chemical Contaminants

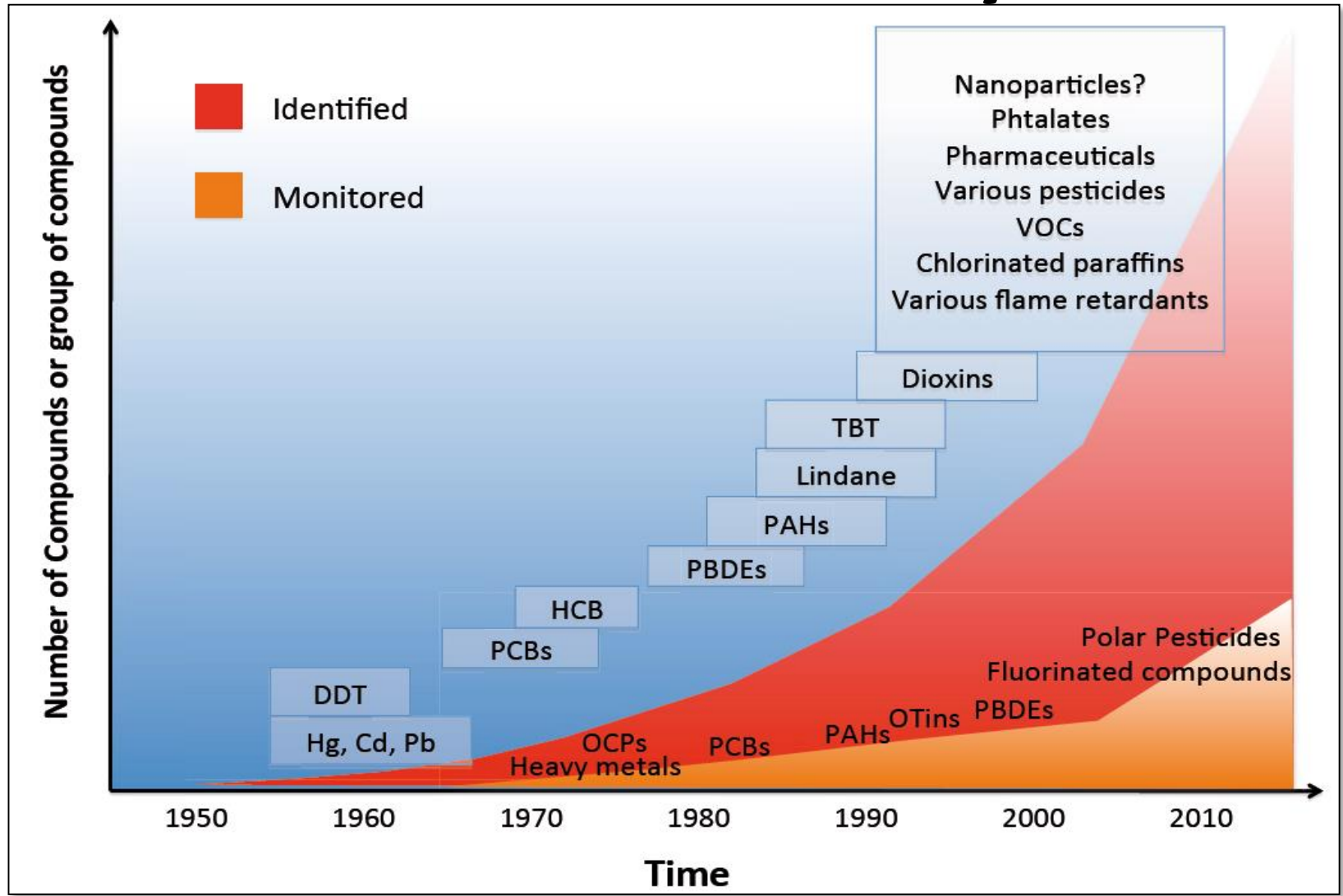
Analysts Can Find Anything, Anywhere If They  
Take a Large Enough Sample and Look Hard Enough



Decade	Detection Limit	Ratio	Description
1900s	0.1%	1 in $10^3$	Parts per thousand
1930s	1 milligramme / litre	1 in $10^6$	Parts per million
1960s	1 microgramme / litre	1 in $10^9$	Parts per billion
1980s	1 nanogramme / litre	1 in $10^{12}$	Parts per trillion
1990s	1 picogramme / litre	1 in $10^{15}$	Parts per quadrillion
2000s	1 femtogramme / litre	1 in $10^{18}$	Parts per quintillion



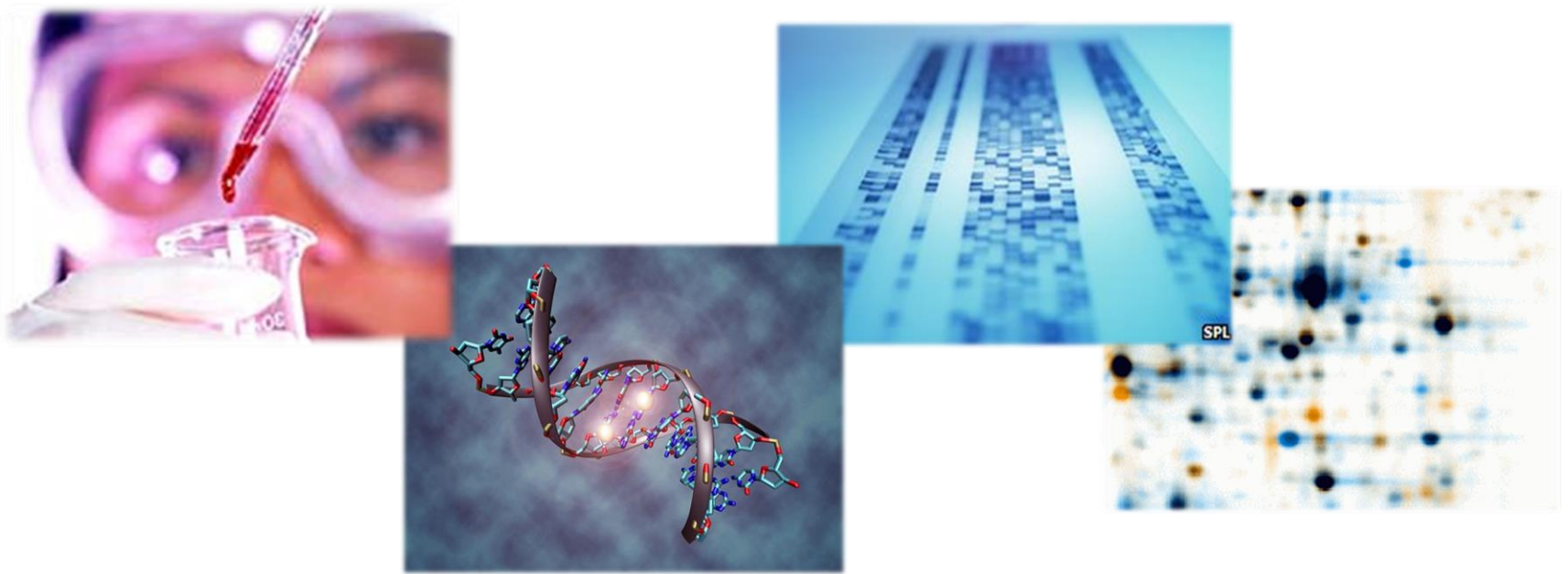
# Environmental Chemistry Trends



Timelag between the discovery and routine monitoring of chemicals (European Science Foundation (2011) Marine Pollution).

# Challenge 3

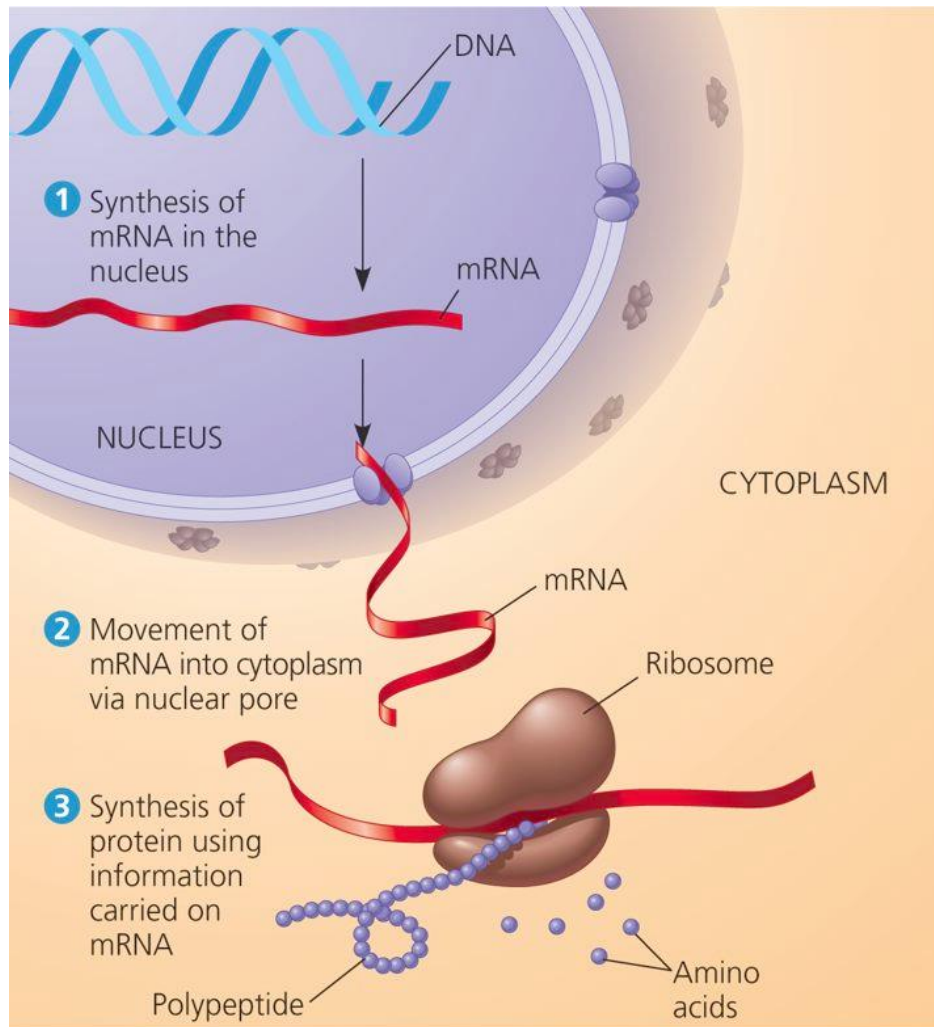
## Making Sense of Molecular Toxicology



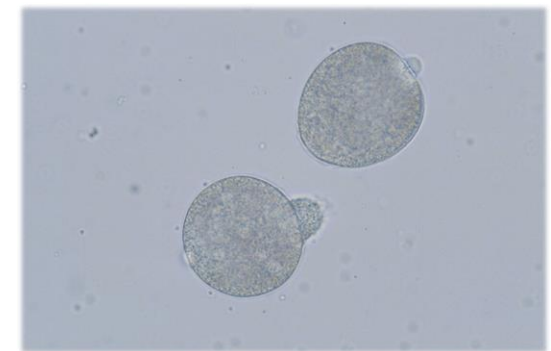
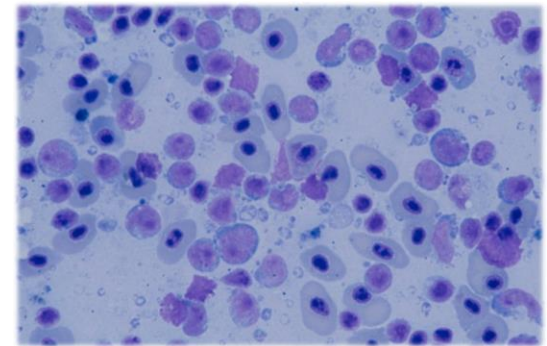
Increasing power of biological measurements in field and laboratory studies

# Animal Physiology & Molecular Biology

(DNA → RNA → Protein → Function)

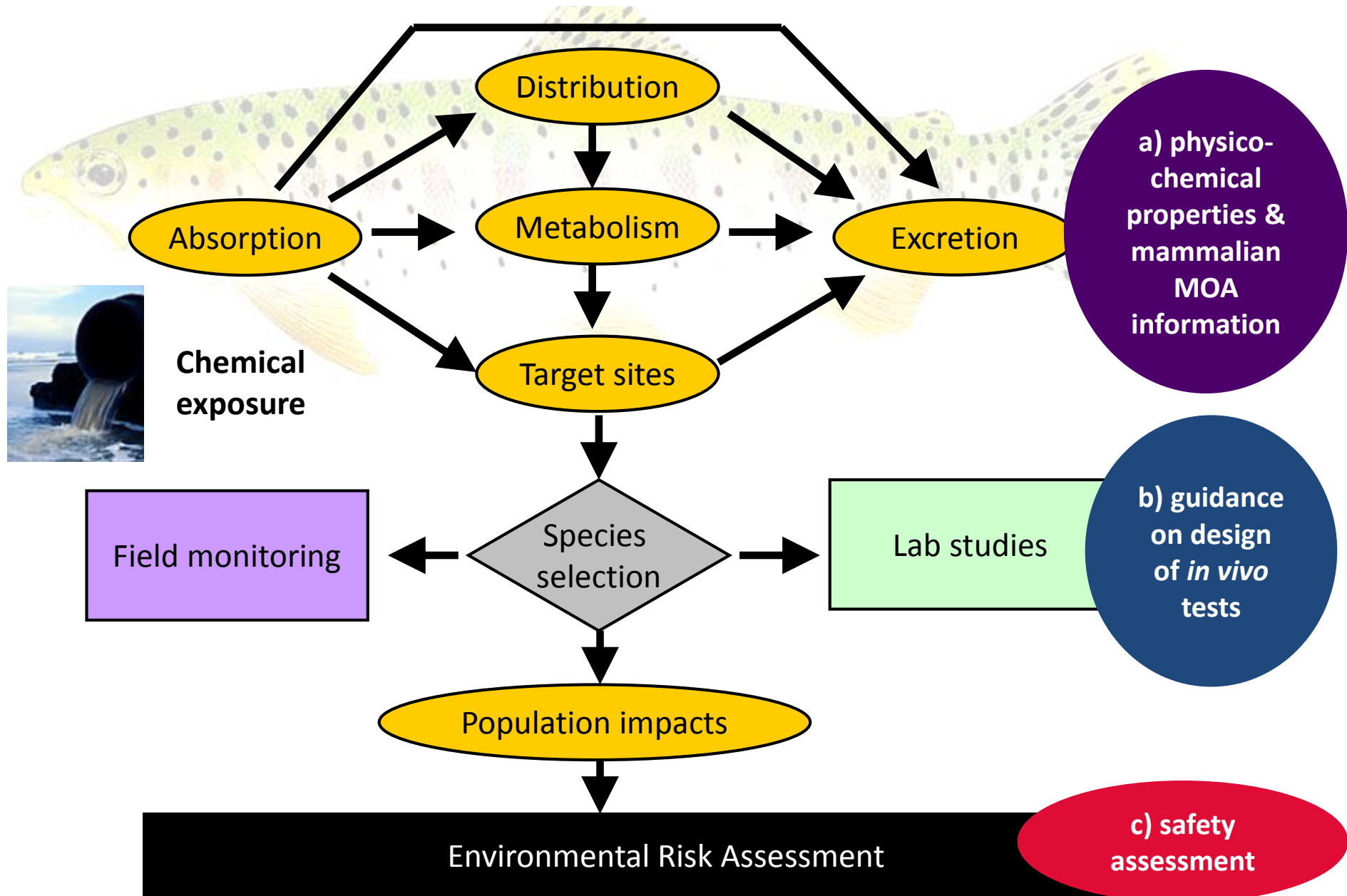


**Fish blood cells**



**Oyster eggs & sperm**

# Predictive Ecotoxicology



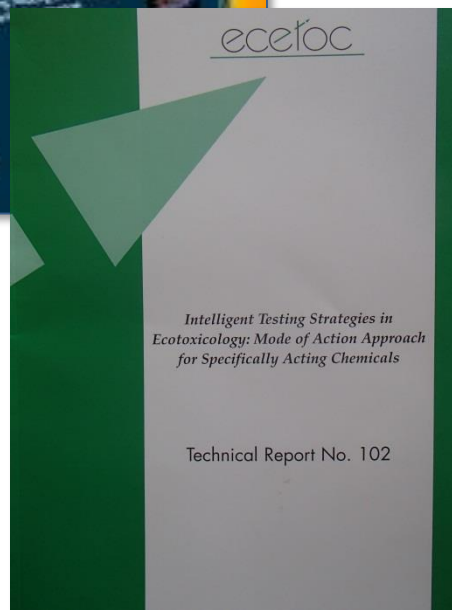
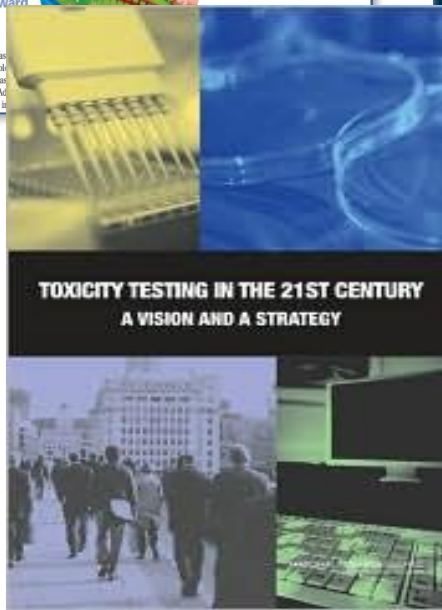
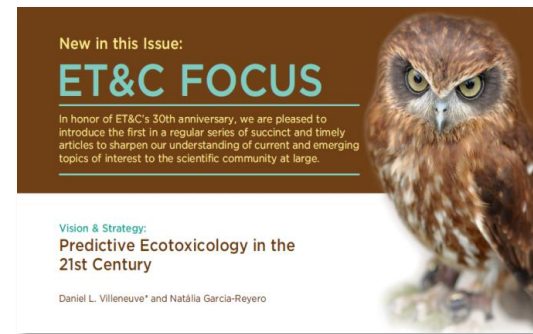
# Opportunities



Economics, ethics & environmental safety  
assessment



# Toxicity Testing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

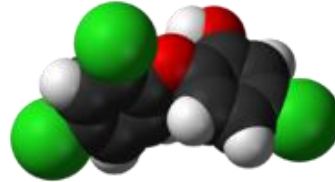


- Landmark NRC (2007) report focused on human health but also relevant to ecological risks
- Less reliance on whole animal testing
- Increased integration & use of mechanistic data
- Predictive, rather than empirical

Ref: National Research Council (2007) Toxicity Testing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

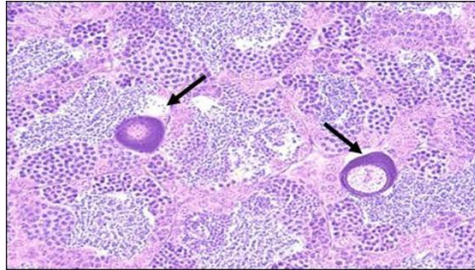
# OECD Adverse Outcome Pathways (AOP) Approach

1. Toxicant description



2. Macromolecular target site

3. Cellular response



4. Organ response

5. Organism response



6. Population response



# OECD Definition

ORGANISATION  
FOR ECONOMIC  
CO-OPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT



- Adverse Outcome Pathway:

*“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 Tox Chem 29: 730-741

Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Vol. 29, No. 3, pp. 730-741, 2010  
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Hazard/Risk Assessment

ADVERSE OUTCOME PATHWAYS: A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT ECOTOXICOLOGY RESEARCH AND RISK ASSESSMENT

GERALD T. ANKLEY,\* RICHARD S. BENNETT, RUSSELL J. ERICKSON, DALE J. HOFF, MICHAEL W. HORNING, RODNEY D. JOHNSON, DAVID R. MOUNT, JOHN W. NICHOLS, CHRISTINE L. RISSMAN, PATRICIA K. SCHMIEDER, JOSE A. SANCHEZ

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Ecotoxicology and Hazard Assessment

(Submitted 3 August 2009)

Abstract—Ecological risk assessors face increasing pressure to use fewer resources and experiment mechanistic information that could help them make better decisions. There is a need for effective translation of laboratory-based information into risk assessment. The practical utility of such information depends on the quality of the data used to develop it. The examples demonstrate how the use of mechanistic information can improve the quality of risk assessment. The examples demonstrate how the use of mechanistic information can improve the quality of risk assessment. The examples demonstrate how the use of mechanistic information can improve the quality of risk assessment.

Keywords—Toxic chemicals; Ecotoxicology

INTRODUCTION  
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ENVIRONMON(2010)136  
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Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  
17-Apr-2013  
English - Or, English

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE  
JOINT MEETING OF THE CHEMICALS COMMITTEE AND  
THE WORKING PARTY ON CHEMICALS, PESTICIDES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON DEVELOPING AND ASSESSING ADVERSE OUTCOME PATHWAYS

Series on Testing and Assessment  
No. 154

JT03338300  
Complete document available on OLES in its original format  
This document and any maps included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

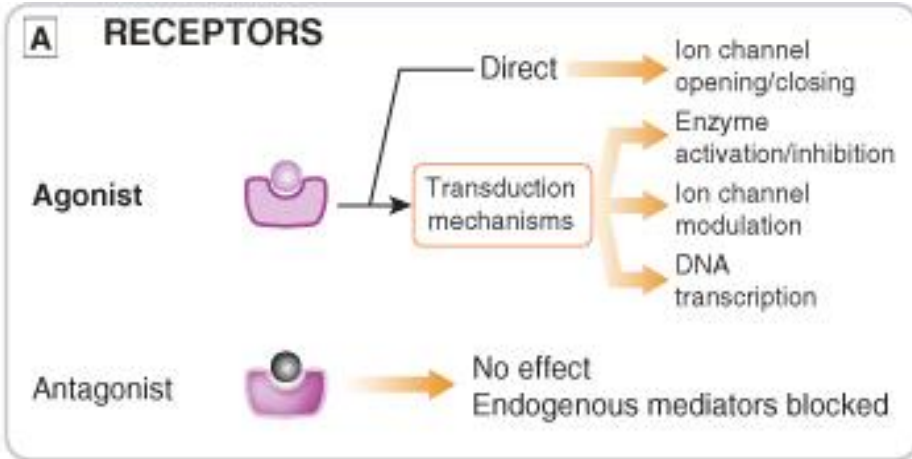
English - Or, English

# Modes-of-action in ecotoxicology

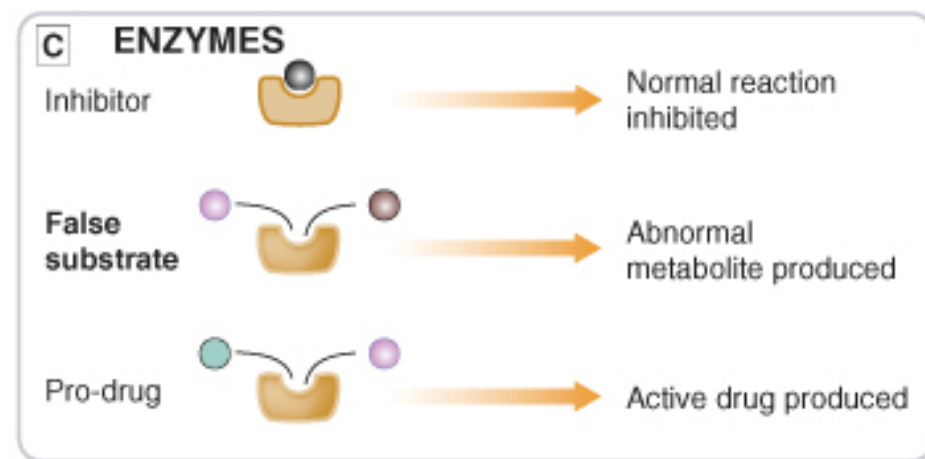
Verhaar et al (1992)		ECETOC (2007)	Chemical examples
1	MOA1 - Narcotics	-	Linear alkyl benzene sulphonate
2	MOA2 - Polar narcotic chemicals	-	Phenol
3	MOA3 - Reactive chemicals	-	Epichlorohydrin
4	MOA4 - Specifically acting	MOA4a – Enzyme	Chlorpyrifos Fadrozole
5		MOA4b - Ion channel blocker	Cypermethrin
6		MOA4c – Receptor	Atenolol Ethinylestradiol
7		MOA4d - Transporter protein	Fluoxetine Omeprazole

Refs: Verhaar *et al.* (1992) Chemosphere 25: 471-491;  
ECETOC (2007) Technical report 102, 145 pp

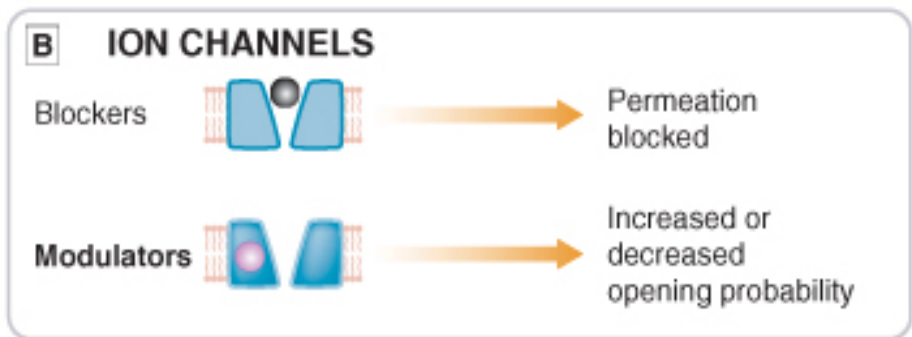
# Mode of Toxic Action: Key Protein Targets



(eg beta blockers, ethinylestradiol)

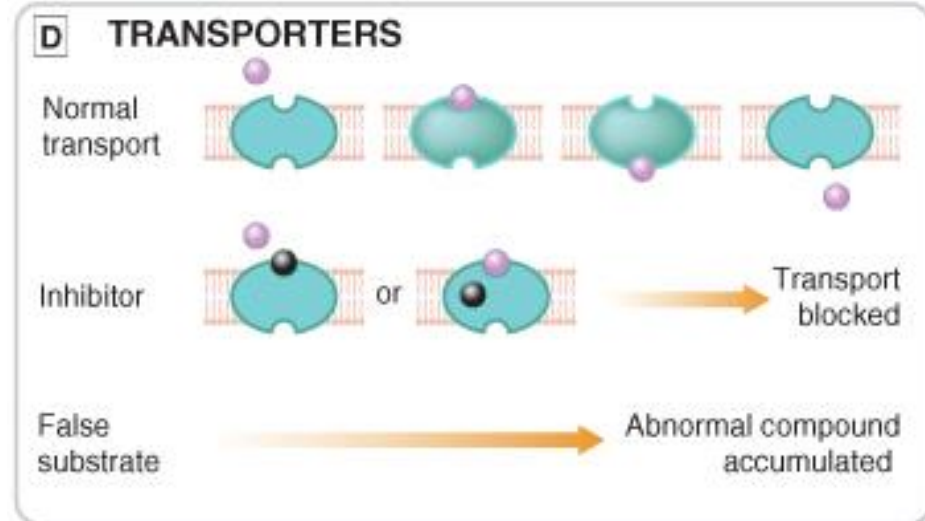


(eg aspirin, fadrozole)



(eg brevetoxin, cypermethrin)

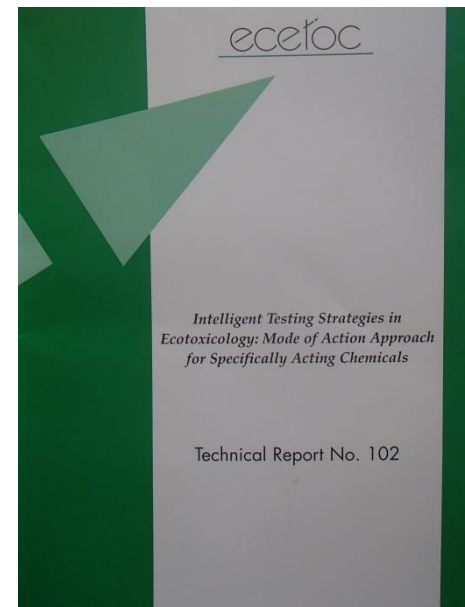
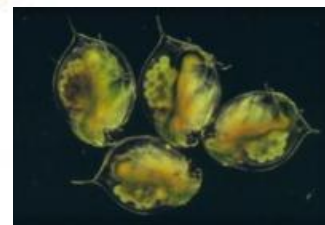
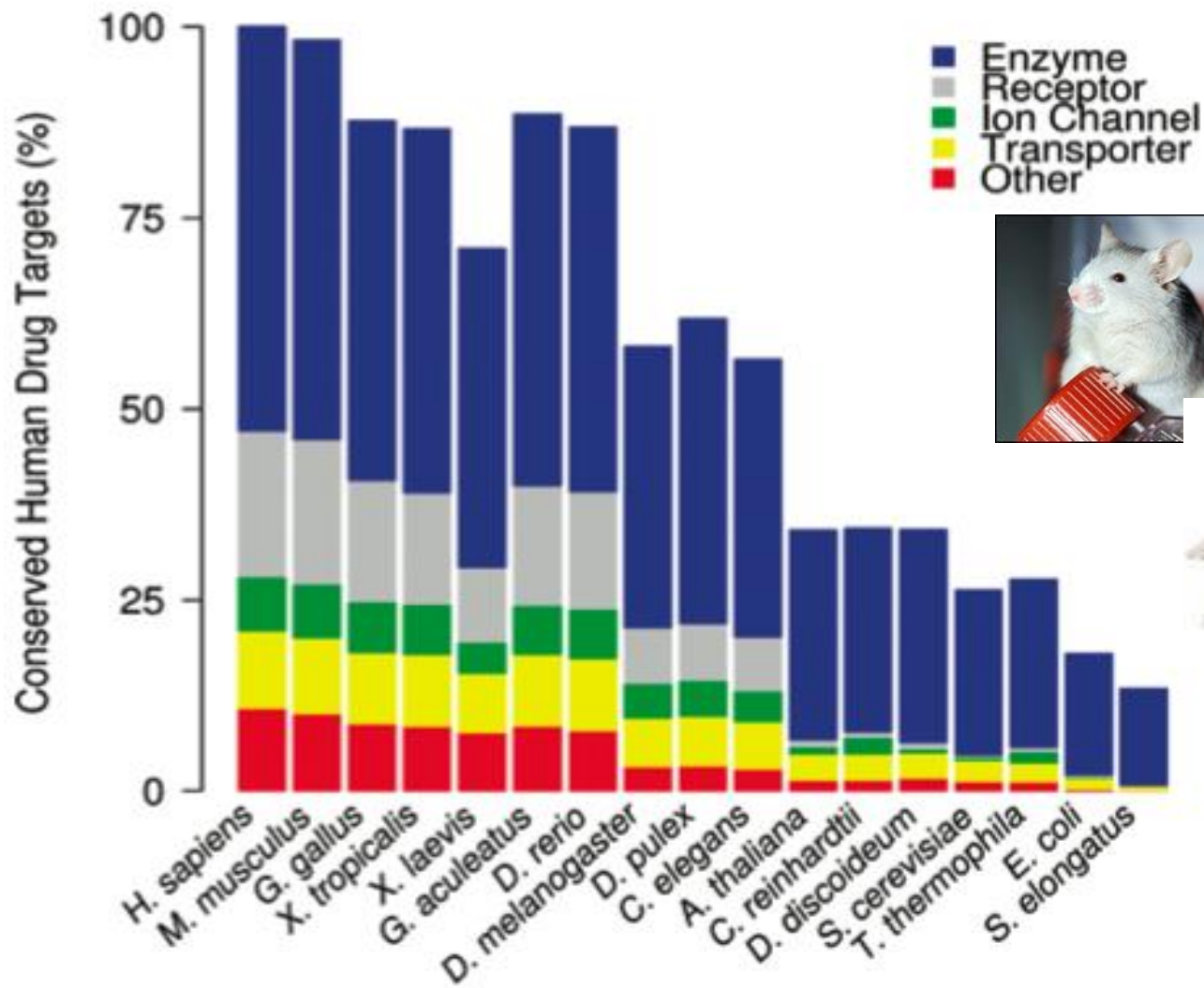
- Agonist/normal substrate
- Antagonist/inhibitor
- Abnormal product
- Pro-drug



(eg tricyclic antidepressants)

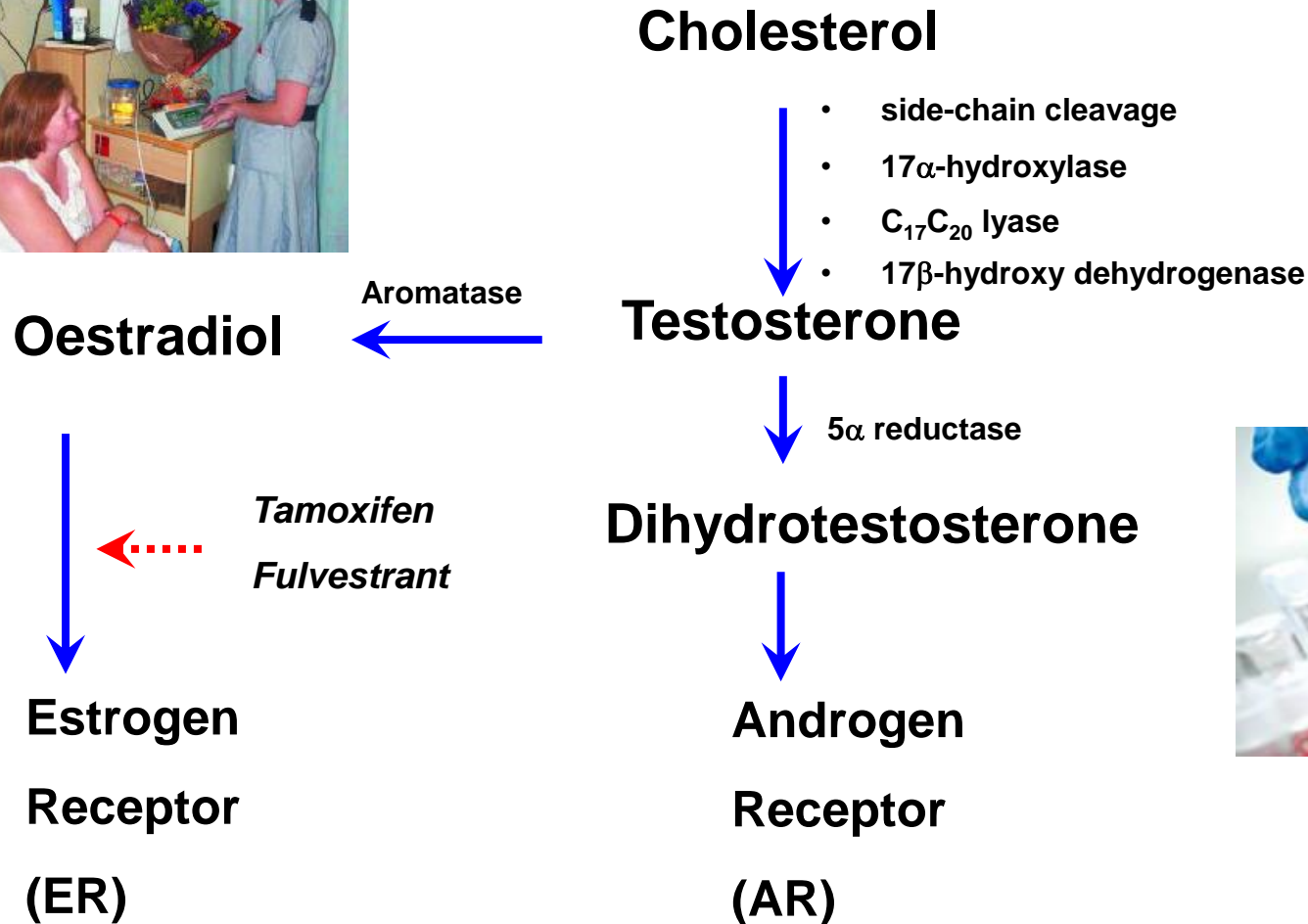
Ref: Rang et al (2003) & ECETOC (2007)

# Drug Target Conservation: Bioinformatics Approach

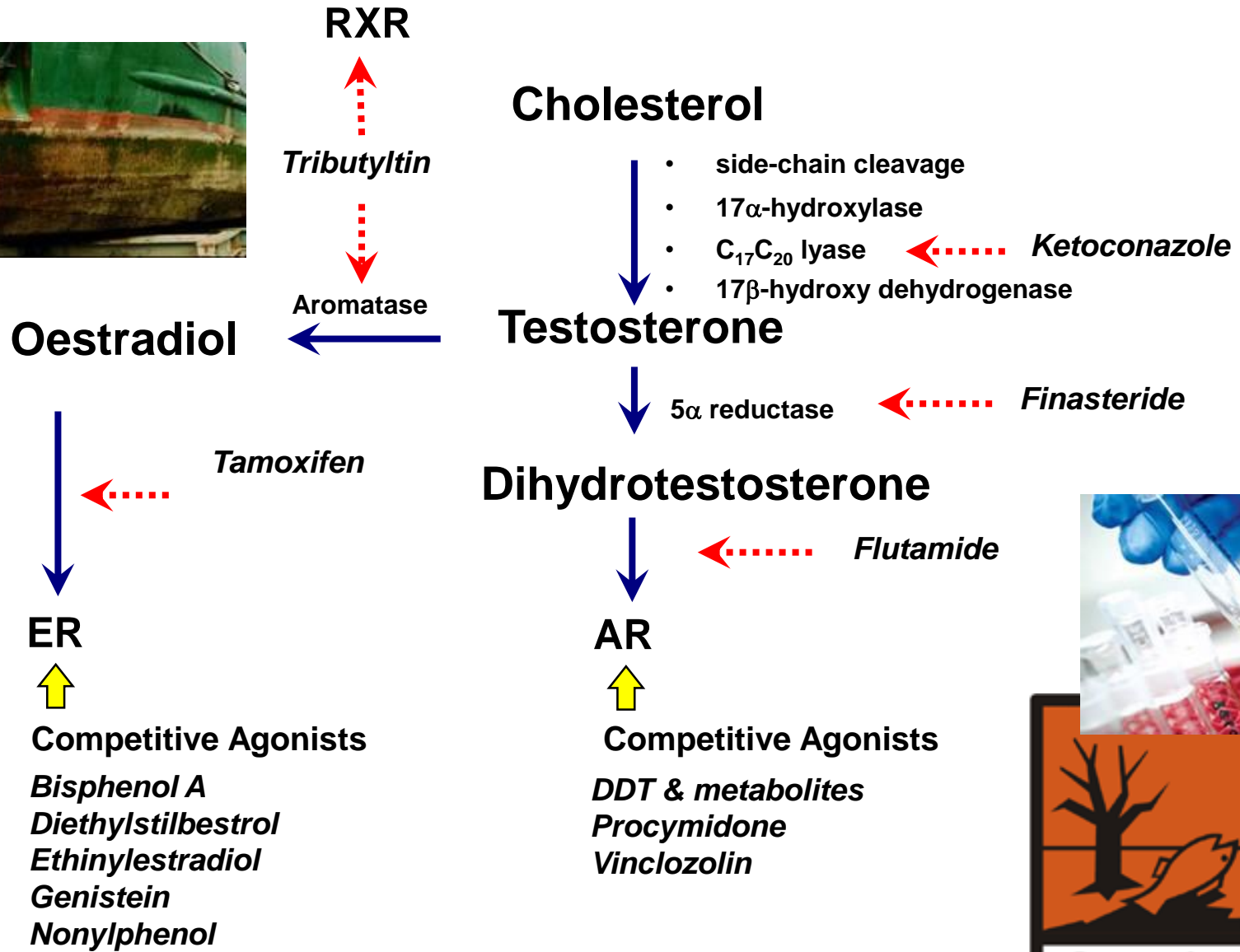


Ref:  
Gunnarsson *et al.* (2008)  
Env Sci Technol  
42: 5807-5813

# Medical endocrine disruptors



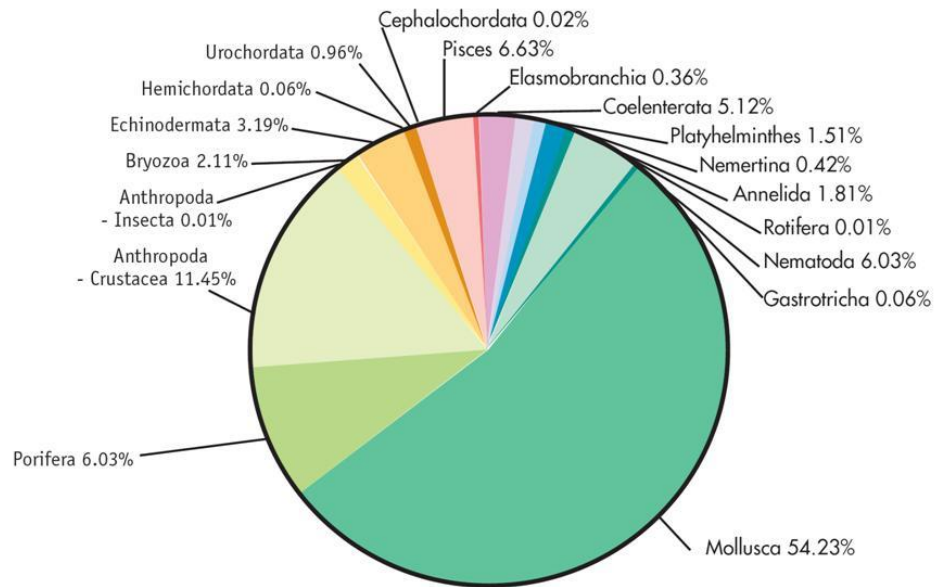
# Environmental endocrine disruptors





# Marine Biodiversity >> Freshwater

- Problem of 'base set' of algae, crustacean & fish testing: 82% marine species not represented (18 phyla marine only)



Source: ECETOC (2001) Technical Report number 82

SETAC Seville: Marine Risk Assessment Short Course





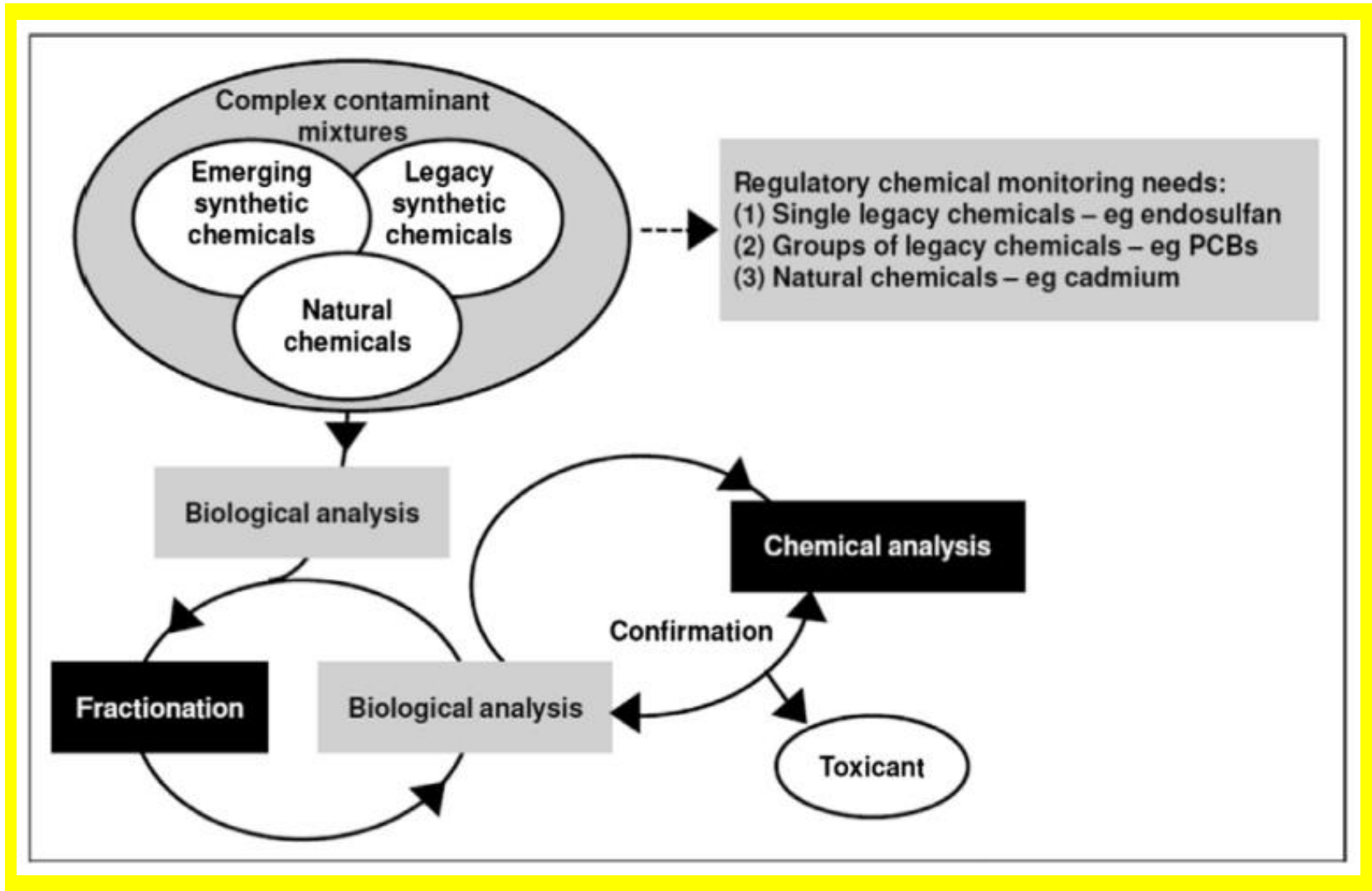
International QSAR Foundation

# Effectopedia

The Online Encyclopedia of Adverse Effect Pathways

Organizing the AOP knowledge – the Effectopedia way.

# Integrated Approach



Hutchinson *et al.* (2013) *Mar Poll Bull* 74: 517-525

# Conclusions

Effectiveness of  
scientific engagement

High

## Key Challenges for Chemical Assessment:

- Exposure concerns due to increased sensitivity of analytical chemistry
- Hazard assessment using integrated biological tools
- Growing pressure to replace animal testing

Impact on society  
& industry

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Policy and  
regulation

Low

-3

-2

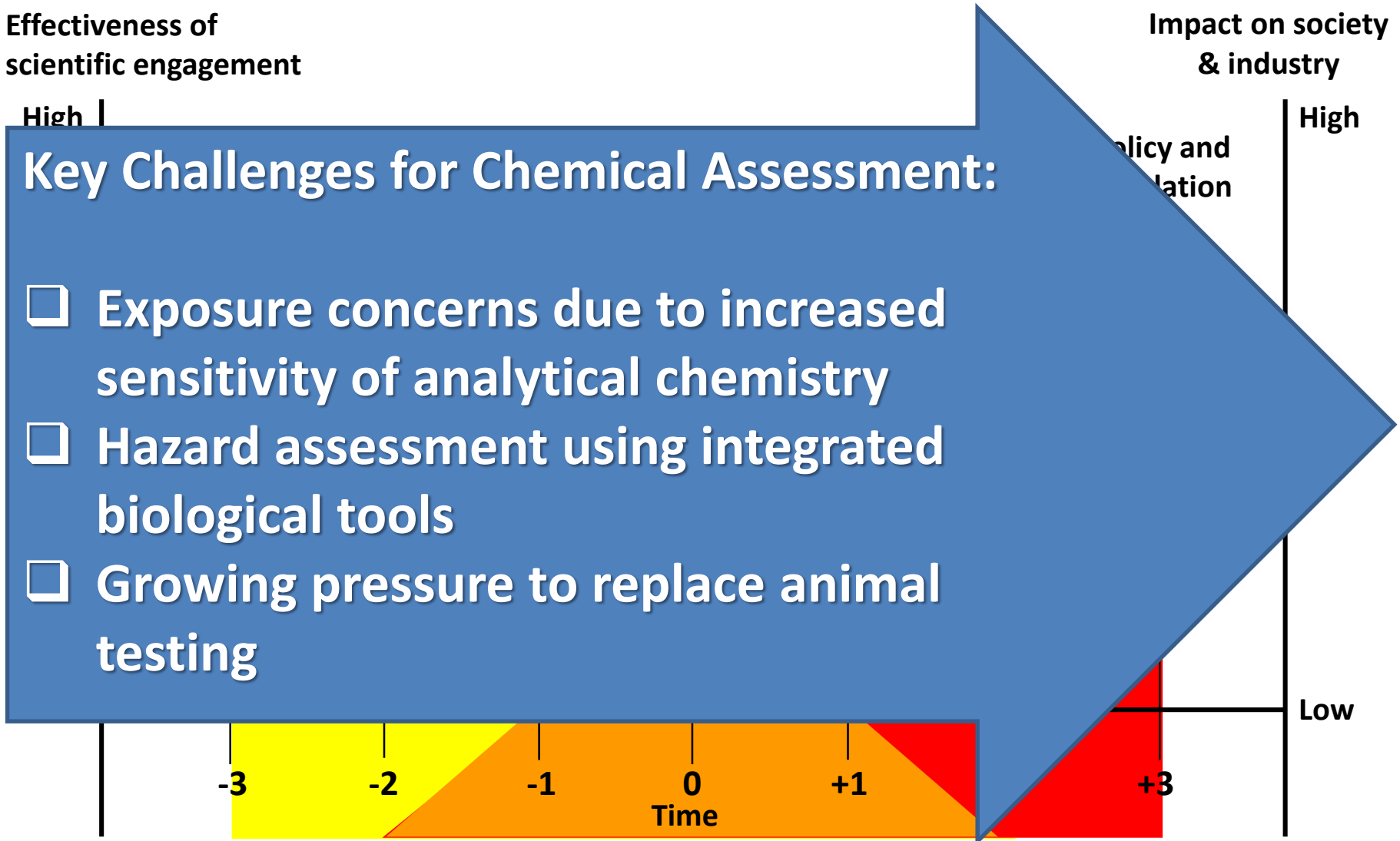
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+1

+3

Time



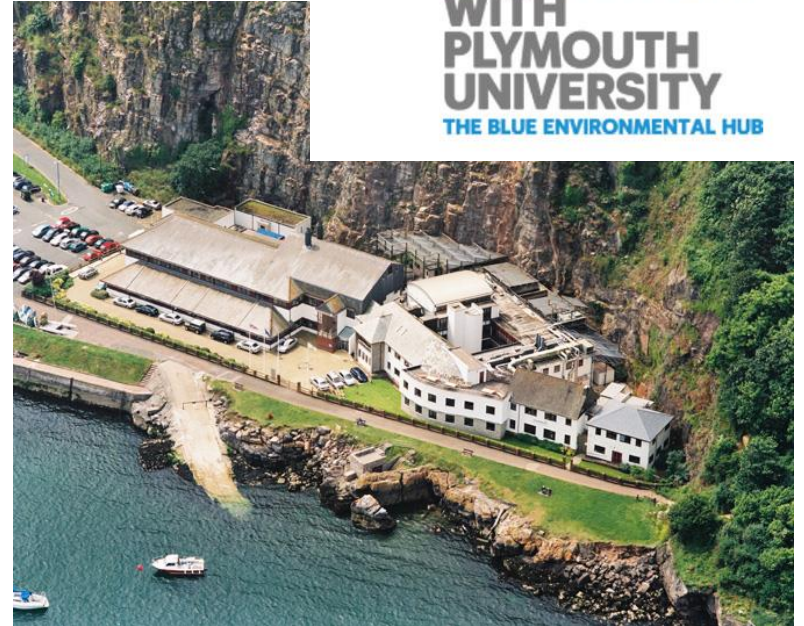


# Thank you for listening ...

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