

## The application of *in silico* models to support decision making in toxicology

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on behalf of Dr Richard Williams

#### Our ambition

# to eliminate animal studies without compromising safety

A guide to how in silico can play a key part



- A view of the future of safety toxicology
- Developing *in silico* methods to support safety decisions



## A view of the future of safety toxicology



In silico studies



#### Opportunities for in silico to support safety decisions

*In silico* is sufficient and accepted when making a safety decision

In silico identifies when a safety study is needed

In silico informs animal study design

Decisions accepted without animal studies

pharmaceuticals

cosmetics

Regulators demand them ... but we can reduce the animal burden



#### Opportunities for in silico to support safety decisions

*In silico* is sufficient and accepted when making a safety decision

In silico identifies when a safety study is needed

Negative prediction accepted from in silico

Positive prediction accepted from in silico

*In vitro* + *in silico* sufficient to make a decision

In silico informs animal study design

In silico to help reduce animal burden



## In silico can help reduce animal testing

- Better study design
  - Single species submissions
  - Use of historical data to select appropriate species, reduce study size...
  - Use of virtual control animals

ALTEX – Concept Article (Food for Thought) Introducing the Concept of Virtual Control Groups into Preclinical Toxicology Testing Thomas Steger-Hartmann<sup>1</sup>, Annika Kreuchwig<sup>1</sup>, Lea Vaas<sup>1</sup>, Jörg Wichard<sup>1</sup>, Frank Bringezu<sup>2</sup>, Alexander Amberg<sup>3</sup>, Wolfgang Muster<sup>4</sup>, Francois Pognan<sup>5</sup>, Chris Barber<sup>6</sup>

#### In vitro + in silico = sufficient to make a decision



Macmillan & Chilton, Reg. Tox. and Pharmacol., 2019, 101, 35

P601 Updated Dermal Sensitization Thresholds Derived Using an In Silico Expert System and an Expanded LLNA Dataset Donna Macmillan 18th March, pm, Exhibit Hall

#### Positive prediction accepted from in silico



#### Negative prediction accepted from in silico



It's difficult, but important, to make negative predictions. Williams. <u>Reg. Toxicol. Pharmacol., 2016, 76, 79</u> Applicability domain: towards a more formal definition. Hanser SAR QSAR Environ Res., 2016, 27, 893

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## Machine learning with proprietary data

- Solving the problem of limited public datasets...
  - Machine learning approach to harvest knowledge from proprietary data
    - <u>https://www.lhasalimited.org/products/Effiris.htm</u>
    - Late breaking poster P411, Thurs 08:30am-11:30am, 3595, T. Hanser

Avoiding hERG-liability in drug design via synergetic combinations of different (Q)SAR methodologies and data sources: a case study in an industrial setting T. Hanser. J. Cheminf., 2019, 11, 9



## AOPs to reduce the need for animal testing

- Linking assays and models through AOPs
- The Application of Adverse Outcome Pathways (AOPs) for Risk Assessment
  - 17<sup>th</sup> March, CC Room 205B, 9am-10am





Alternatively, activated ER may increase the expression of endogenous ligands, such as vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) [Stoner et al 2004] or secondary messengers such as calcium [Jeng et al 2009] which activate their respective signalling pathways. The increase in intracellular calcium concentration is thought to increase the expression of prolactin which can further promote activation of the Janus kinase/signal transducer and activator of transcription (JAK/STAT)



- In silico can play a critical part in risk assessment
  - Reducing costs, animals and uncertainty
- This demands new approaches to machine learning and to defining uncertainty
  - Lhasa is investing in pre-competitive collaborations to address these challenges

• Come and see how you can work with us - Booth 828



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