

In vitro approaches to cosmetic safety assessment

Paul Walker, Cyprotex Discovery Ltd.



Overview of the presentation

In vitro approaches to cosmetic safety assessment: ASCCT

- High Content Imaging (HCI) introduction.
- HCl in 3D cellular models.
- Designing a cell stress panel based on cell signalling pathways.
- Cell stress panel example data and images using HCI.
- Recent publication in collaboration with Unilever Identifying and characterising stress pathways of concern for consumer safety in next generation risk assessment — Hatherell et al., 2020.
- Concluding remarks.

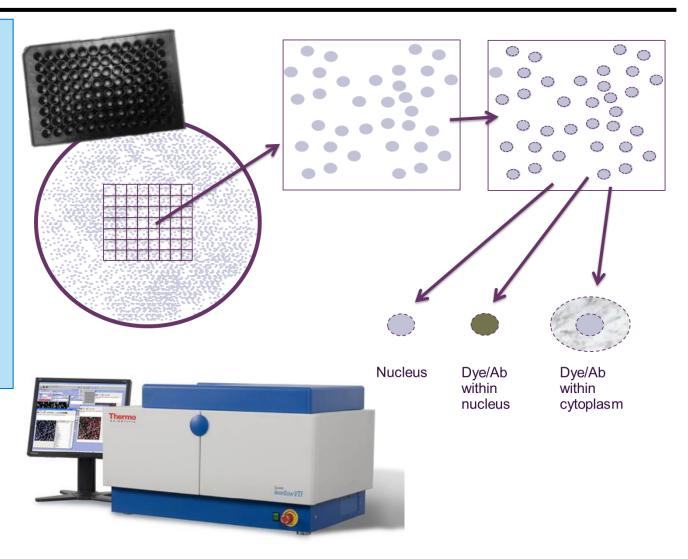


High Content Imaging (HCI)

Data capture and analysis

- HCI instruments used to image cells
 - Live cell chambers
 - Confocal imaging: 2D and 3D
 - Automated platform
- Cellular quantification: Organelles, nuclear, perinuclear and cytoplasmic regions.
- Automated fluorescence imaging and image analysis
- Multi-parametric indicators of cell toxicity (multiplexed in a single well).





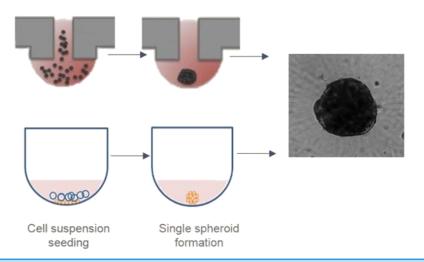


Confocal HCI in ULA spheroid microplates

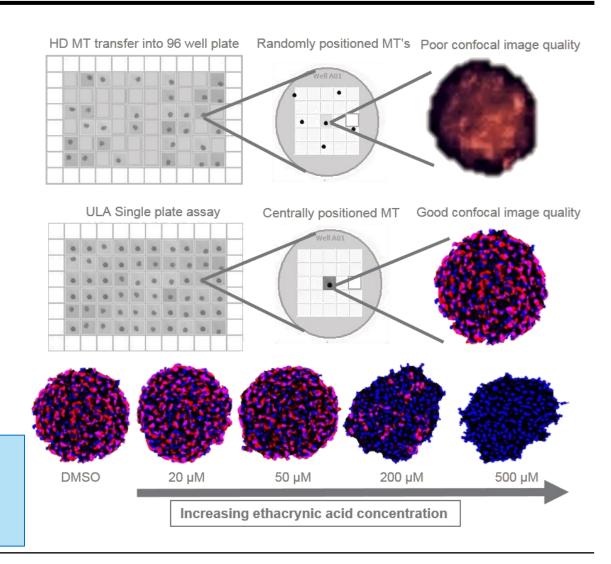
3D liver model imaging



Live Cell Confocal High Content Imaging (using ArrayScan XTI or CX7)



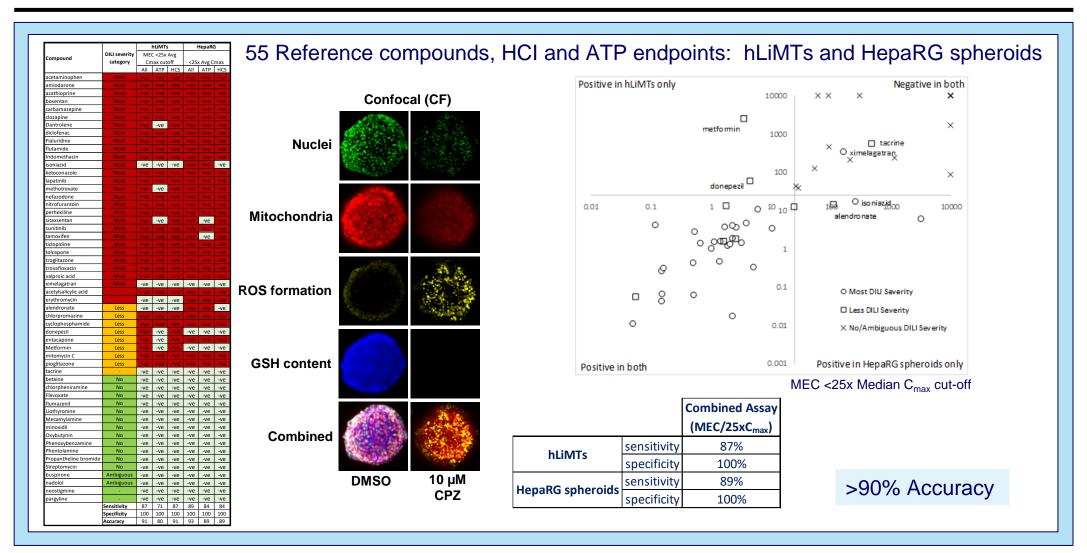
- Hanging drop technique compared with Ultra-Low Attachment microplates (ULA).
- High content imaging compatibility in 3D.





Prediction of 3D DILI using HCI Assay

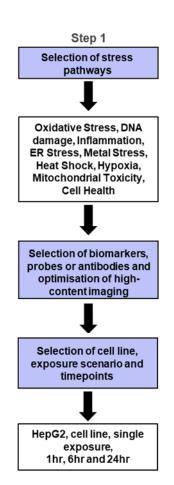
Comparison of hLiMTs and HepaRG spheroids using HCI

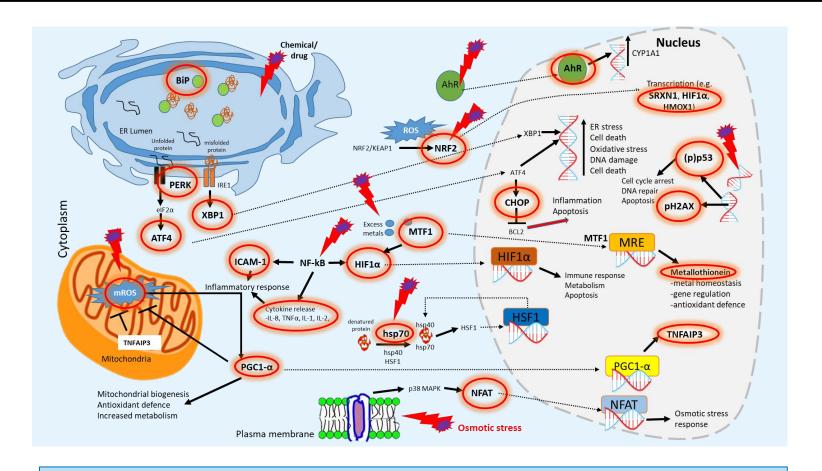




Selection of Cellular Stress Pathways

Collaboration with Unilever to develop NGRA cell stress panel



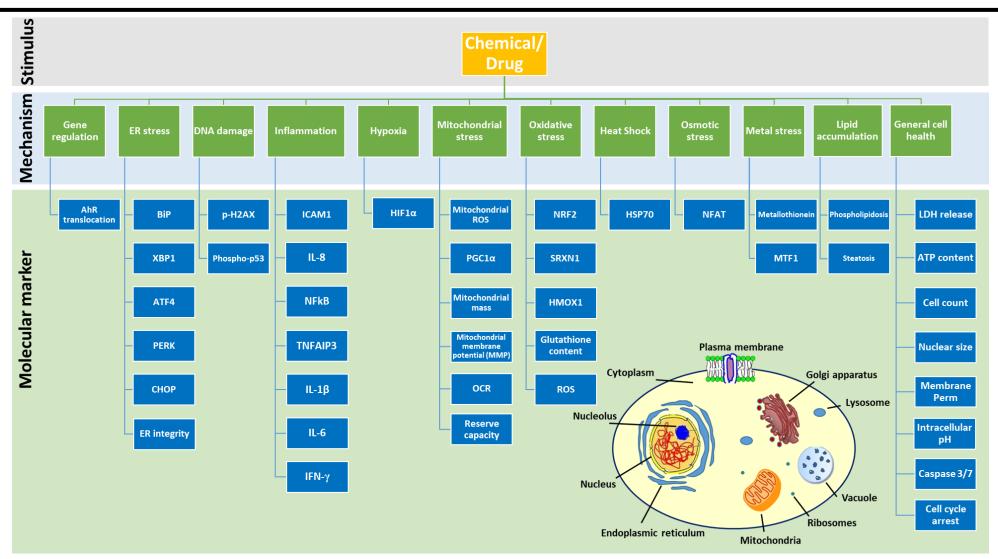


36 biomarkers identified that were representative of key stress pathways, mitochondrial toxicity and cell health.



Cell Stress Panel Assay development

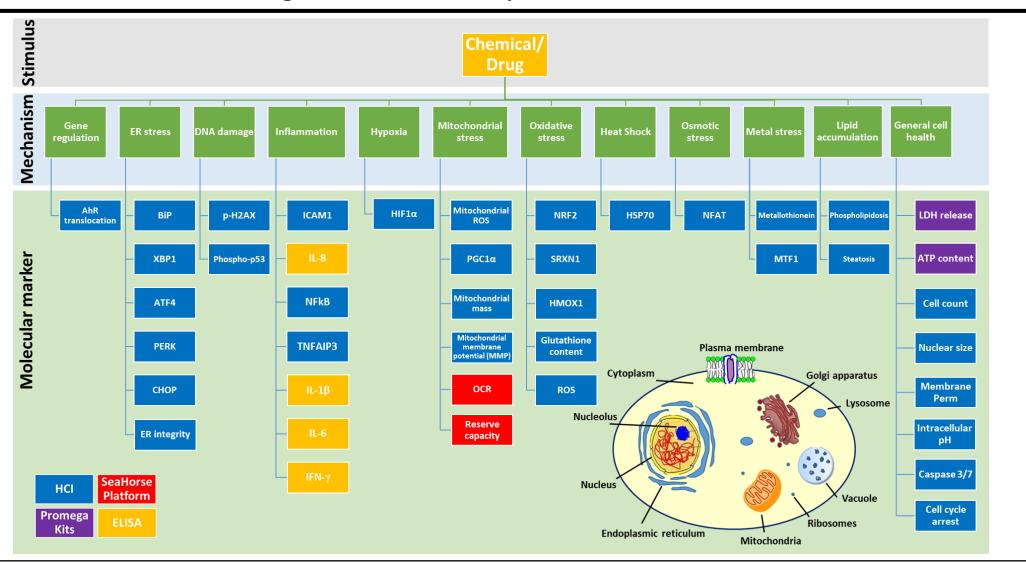
Cellular Markers identified for each mechanism, multiplexed were possible





Cell Stress Panel Design

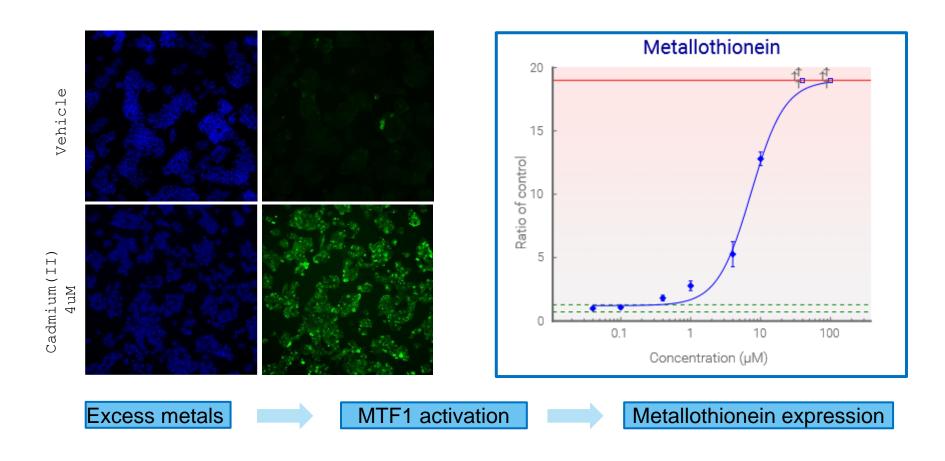
Design Involves cellular dyes, antibodies & ELISA's





Example data: Metal Stress

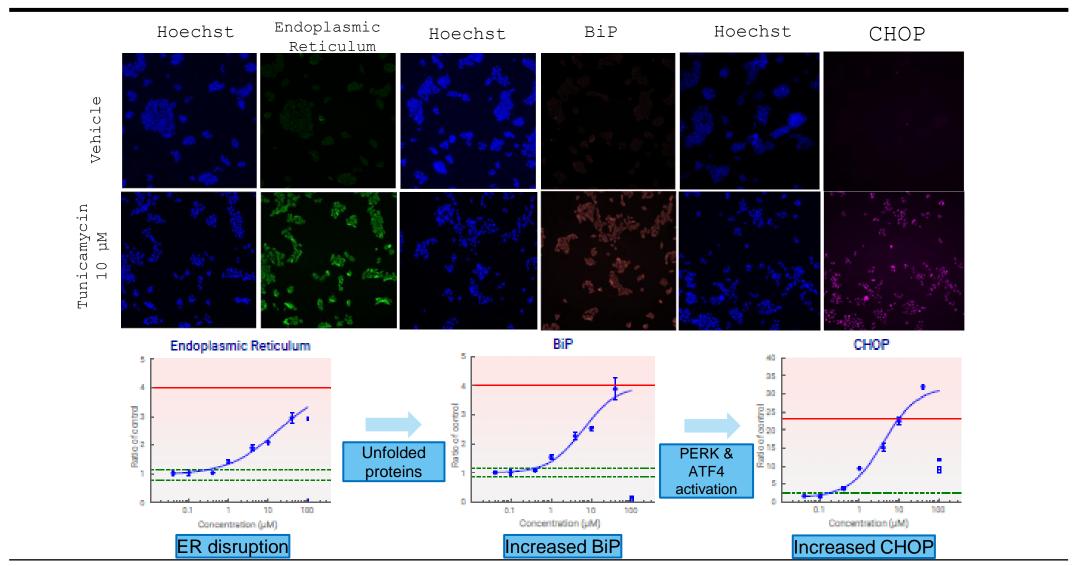
Metallothionein response to metal stress





Example data: Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER) Stress

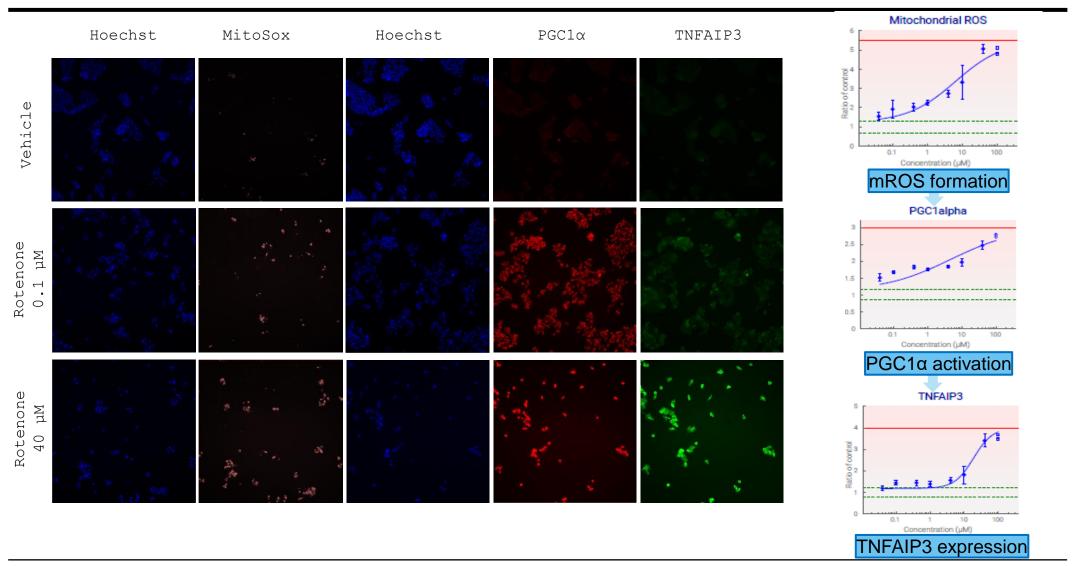
ER disruption, BiP & CHOP signalling pathway





Example data: Mitochondrial Oxidative Stress

Mitochondrial ROS, PGC1α & TNFAIP3 signalling pathway





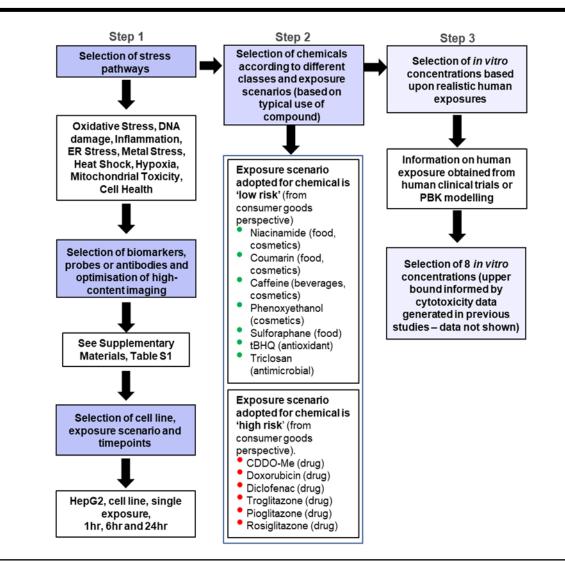
Cell stress panel development steps

Joint publication with Unilever accepted

- Stage 1: Development of cell stress panel
- Stage 2: Benchmark substance selection
- Stage 3: Does selection based on C_{max}

Data generated for **13 benchmark substances** – mix of substances known to cause adverse effects in humans due to cellular stress (e.g. doxorubicin) or history of safe use (e.g. caffeine).

Hatherell *et al.*, 2020, Identifying and characterizing stress pathways of concern for consumer safety in next generation risk assessment, Tox. Sci. in Press.

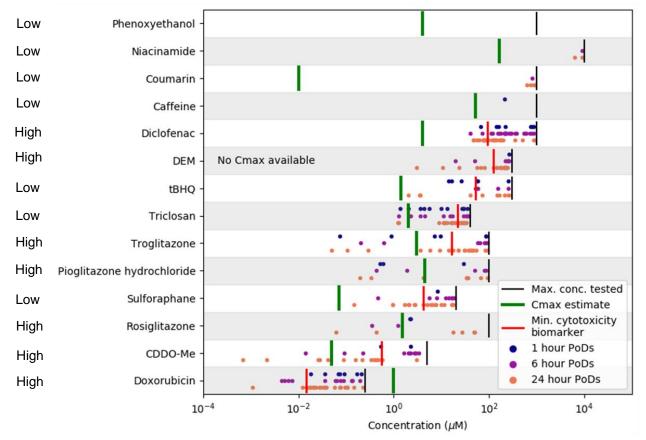




Evaluation of the 13 Benchmark Chemicals/drugs

PoD established for each biomarker in the cell stress panel

Chemicalexposure classification (risk)



Overview of PoD modes and associated mean C_{max} estimates for each substance.

- For all the chemical-exposures categorized as low-risk (except triclosan), the estimated C_{max} was below the minimum PoD detected or no response was detected.
- By contrast, for chemical-exposures categorized as high risk (except diclofenac), the estimated C_{max} values were above the minimum PoD.
- Using the *in vitro* cellular stress panel and statistical approach described in Hatherell *et al* (2020) it was possible to identify substance exposures that may be associated with adverse health effects due to cellular stress.



Concluding remarks

Cell stress panel developed for NGRA

- We have presented the development and initial characterisation of a Cell Stress Panel Assay for NGRA. The panel consists of multiple cellular stress signalling pathways using both live cell organelle dyes (e.g. *ER tracker, MitoSox*) alongside specific antibodies e.g. transcription factors (*ATF4*) and chaperone proteins (*BiP*), 36 biomarkers in total.
- Initial validation of the cell stress panel in press (Hatherell *et al.*, 2020) whereby this predominately high content imaging (HCI) strategy has the potential to improve our understanding of chemical exposure outcomes using PoD in relation to C_{max} with a set of 13 benchmark substances.
- In combination with other cellular assays and in silico approaches this panel could provide a powerful NGRA tool to use in non-animal safety decision making.



