



JOHNS HOPKINS  
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL  
of PUBLIC HEALTH



# Toward Toxicology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century 2.0

Slides available

## Thomas Hartung & team



CONFLICT  
OF  
INTEREST

 **frontiers**  
in Big Data

**Chief Editor**

 **frontiers**  
in Artificial Intelligence

AstraZeneca 

**MPS**

*in***sphero**



**ATCC**

**AxoSim**  
Human Data, Faster.  
VP, shareholder

**Apellis**

**Pyrogen**

**M**  
MERCK MILLIPORE



**A.I.**



 **Consultant**

**Green Chemistry  
Advisory Panel**

**ToxTRACK**

**Consultant, shareholder**

**In preparation: Insilica LLC**

# Almost 16,000 active learners



**Since 2018**

Toxicology 21:  
Scientific Applications

Johns Hopkins University

***8500+ enrolled learners***



**Since 2019**

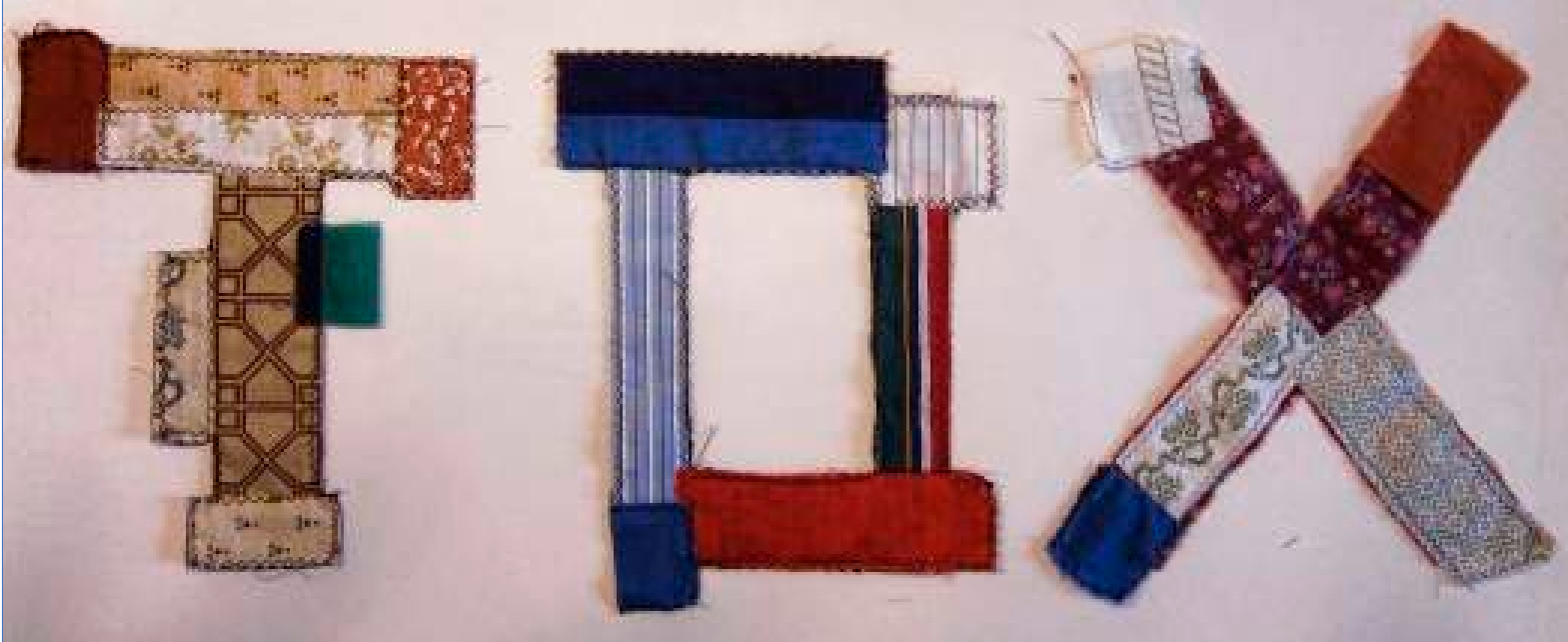
Evidence-based  
Toxicology

Johns Hopkins University

***7000+ enrolled learners***

**coursera**

**Massive Open Online  
Courses platform**



- Every scandal gives one patch
- Many patches are 50-80 years old
- No way to remove a patch
- Every patch is of its own appearance and workmanship
- Throughput, costs, reproducibility
- Public opinion

*The evolution of  
toxicology: patchwork*

Food for Thought ...

**The State of the Scientific Revolution in Toxicology**

Thomas Hartung<sup>1,2</sup> and Aristides M. Tsatsakis<sup>3</sup>

*No revolution  
in quite a while*



# Reproducibility

Six most frequent **toxicity tests**

Consuming 57% of animals in tox

350-750 chemicals with repeat tests  
(n = 2,839, up to ~100 repeats)

81% reproducible

69% reproducible for toxic chemicals

Mice and rat predict  
each other ~60%  
for systemic tox



Luechtefeld et al., ToxSci 2018



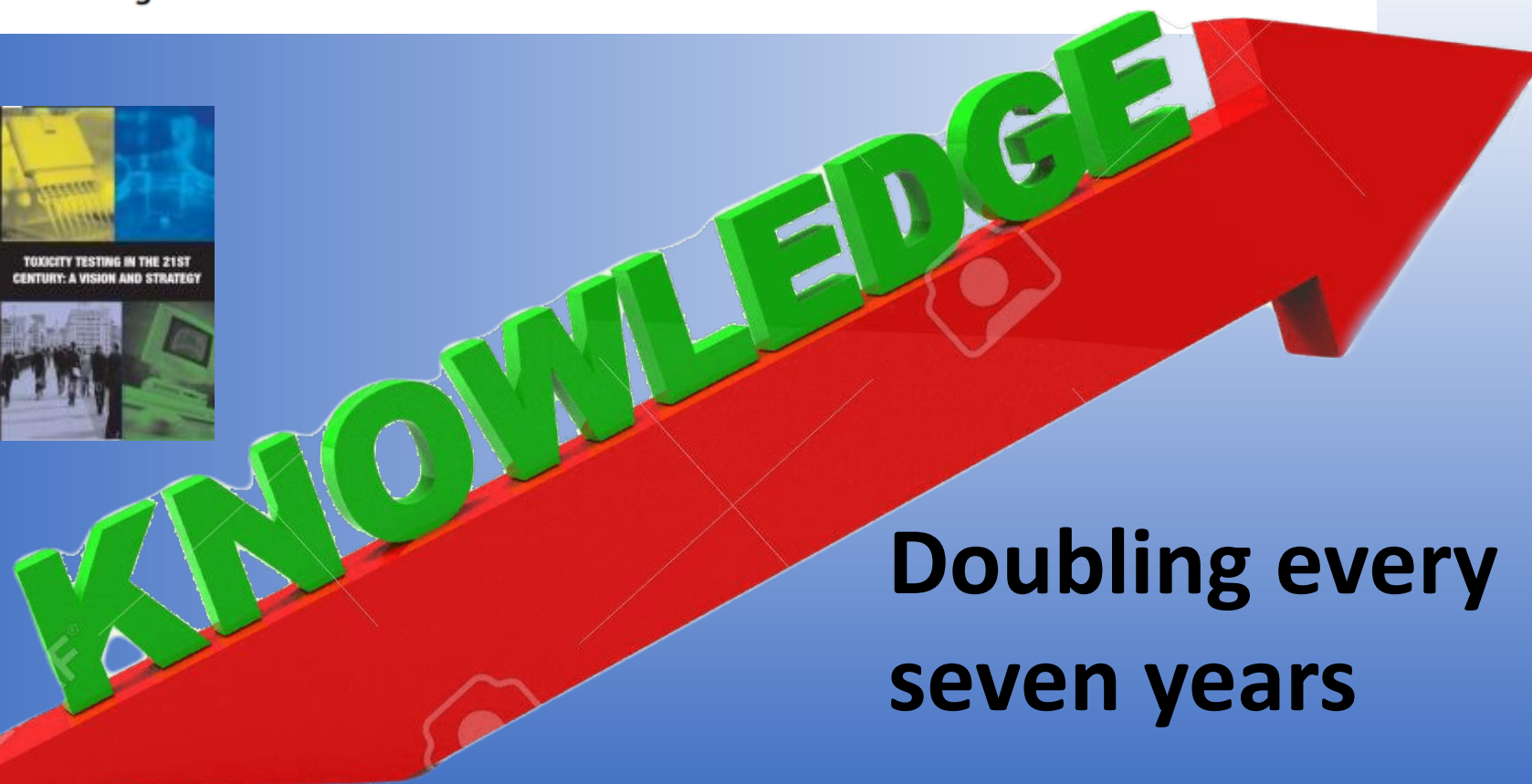
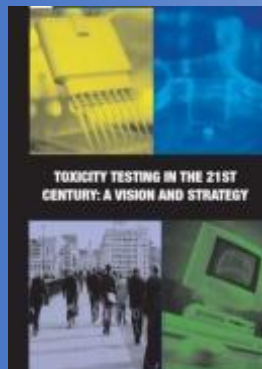
# Watershed moment 2007 NRC report



Toxicity testing in the 21st century: progress in the past decade  
and future perspectives

Arch Toxicol 2019

D. Krewski<sup>1,2,4</sup> · M. E. Andersen<sup>3</sup> · M. G. Tyshenko<sup>2,4</sup> · K. Krishnan<sup>2,5</sup> · T. Hartung<sup>6,13</sup> · K. Boekelheide<sup>7</sup> ·  
J. F. Wambaugh<sup>8</sup> · D. Jones<sup>9</sup> · M. Whelan<sup>10</sup> · R. Thomas<sup>8</sup> · C. Yauk<sup>11</sup> · T. Barton-Maclaren<sup>11</sup> · I. Cote<sup>12</sup>



Doubling every  
seven years





Future Directions  
Workshop: Advancing  
the Next Scientific  
Revolution in  
Toxicology

April 28-29, 2022

Thomas Hartung, Johns Hopkins University, University of Kentucky,  
and Georgetown University

Ana Navas-Acien, Columbia University

Weihsueh A. Chiu, Texas A&M University

Prepared by:  
Kathleen Kavanagh, Virginia Tech Applied Research Corporation  
Matthew Thomas, Virginia Tech Applied Research Corporation  
Steven S. Hwang, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense  
Research & Engineering, Basic Research Office

Future Directions Workshop series  
Workshop sponsored by the Basic Research Office, Office of  
the Under Secretary of Defense for Research & Engineering

VT-ARC  
Virginia Tech  
Applied Research Corporation

Reproducible to the US Government and its Contractors. Unclassified

# Call for a Human Exposome Project, in press

## Future Directions Workshop: Advancing the Next Scientific Revolution in Toxicology

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering OUSD(R&E)

April 28-29, 2022

Arlington, VA

## Co-Chairs

Ana Navas-Acien, Weihsueh A. Chiu &  
Thomas Hartung

**What is emerging that can help us?**

**Exposure science** (high throughput and  
untargeted exposomics, remote  
sensing, citizen science ...)

**Technologies** (~omics, high-throughput, MPS, A.I.)

**Evidence Integration** (Evidence-based Tox, IATA, Green Tox  
Investigative Tox, Mechanistic Validation, Probabilistic  
Risk Assessment, Systems Toxicology, virtual  
experiments...)





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# A.I. = Making big sense of



**Power of computers  
doubles every 2 years**

**Power of AI doubles every  
3 months**

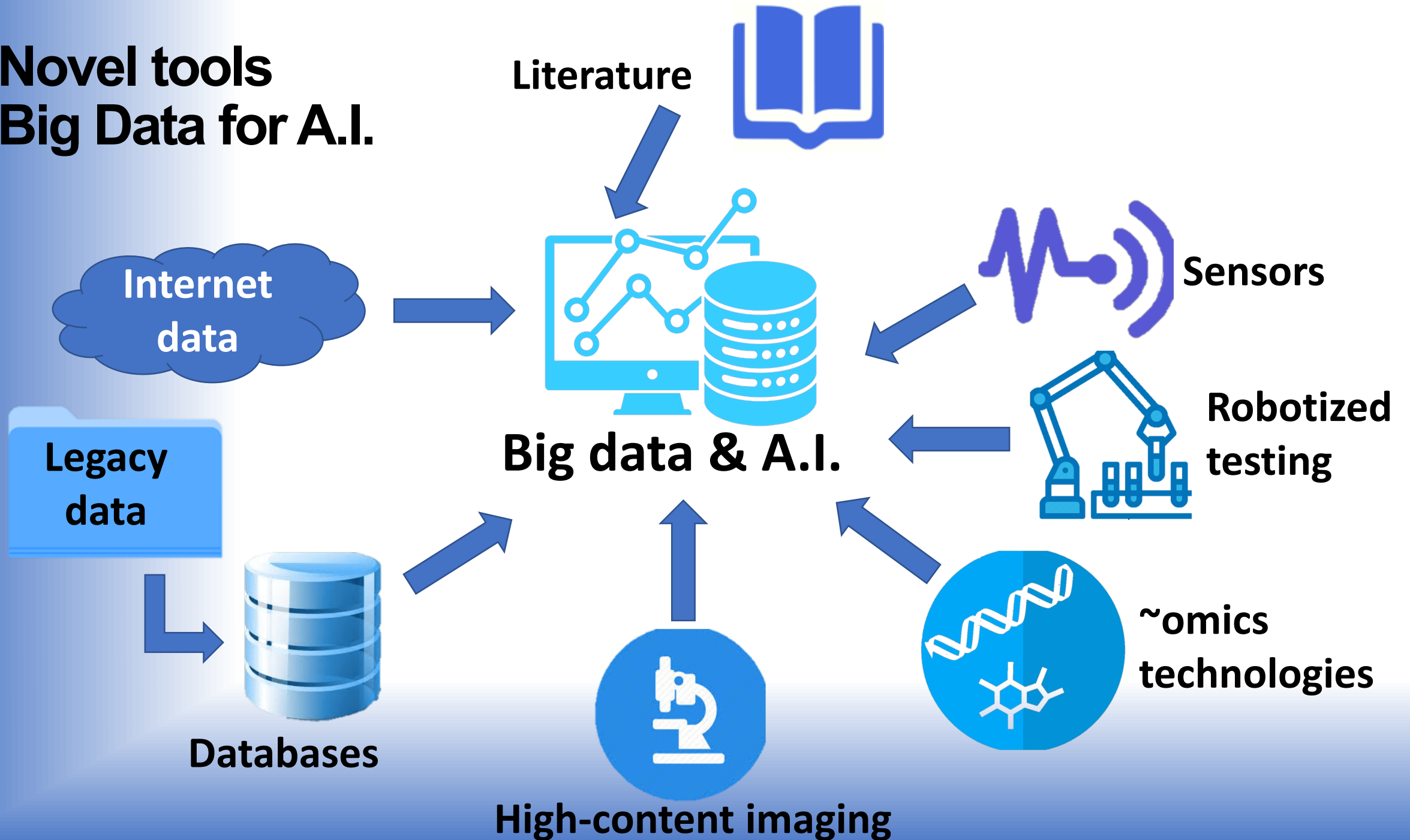
**84% of all data produced  
last 6 years**

**Natural language  
processing**

<https://theamericangenius.com/editorials/big-data-is-watching-you-some-will-panic-others-will-rejoice/>



# Novel tools Big Data for A.I.





# Digital pathology

Many (pathologists) see toxicology as the pathology caused by chemicals



**Image analysis**  
**High-content imaging**  
**Cloud storage**  
**Standardized**  
**interpretation**



Tom Luechtefeld

9 most common toxicity tests  
190,000 chemical's hazard  
cross-validation:  
87% correct

<https://sfmagazine.com/technotes/february-2019-wipo-u-s-and-china-lead-the-world-in-ai-innovation/>

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

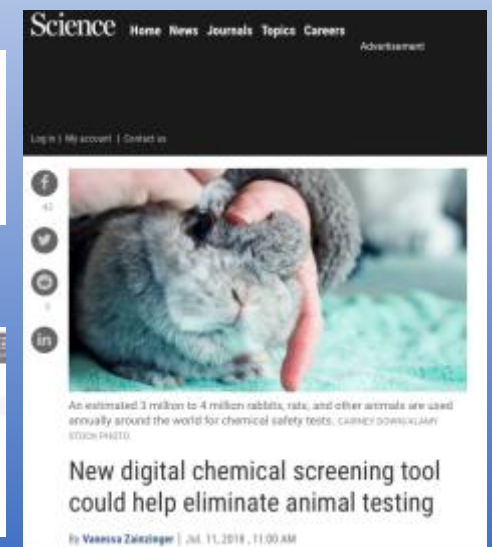
## Machine learning of toxicological big data enables read-across structure activity relationships (RASAR) outperforming animal test reproducibility



Thomas Luechtefeld, Dan Marsh, Craig Rowlands, Thomas Hartung ✉

Toxicological Sciences, kfy152, <https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfy152>

Published: 11 July 2018



# Ongoing RASAR developments

**79% (n=131) and 80% (n=375) accuracy in predicting HUMAN skin sensitization (Golden et al., ALTEX, 2020)**

**38,250 predictions for 4,729 food-relevant substances  
83% accurate (n=139) (Fu et al., 2022)**

**Preliminary (Luechtefeld et al., in preparation):**

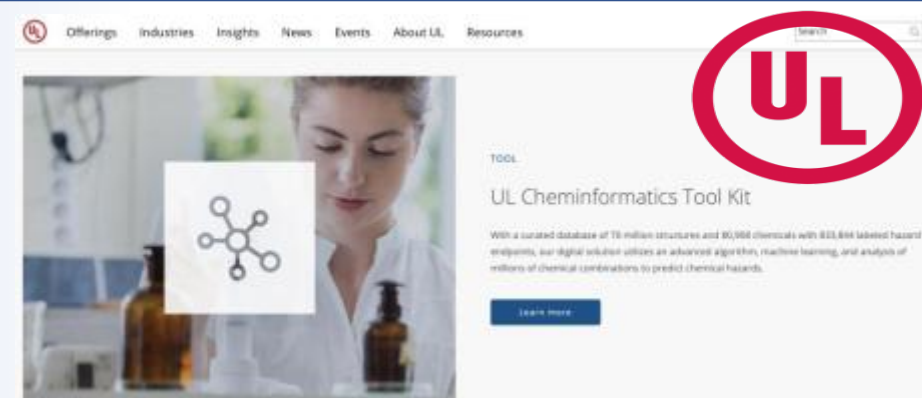
**Reproductive Tox 82% accurate (n=1152)**

**Carcinogenicity 75% accurate (n=950)**

**Androgen effect 98% accurate (n=8492)**

**Estrogen transactivation 80% accurate (n=1660)**

**EU ONTOX project (\$20 million, 2021-2026) to expand to liver, kidney and developing brain**



**Accepted for Australian Industrial Chemical Legislation 2020**



<https://www.dreamstime.com/photos-images/sky-limit.html>



# Green toxicology

– the toxicology aspects of green chemistry



Alex Maertens

Green Chemistry Series

## Green Toxicology

Making Chemicals Benign by Design

Alexandra Maertens

Another use of  
alternatives methods

TOXICOLOGICAL SCIENCES, 161(2), 2018, 285–289

doi: 10.1093/toxsci/kfx243

Advance Access Publication Date: December 18, 2017

Editorial

ly About and Avoid Toxic

ng\*,†,1



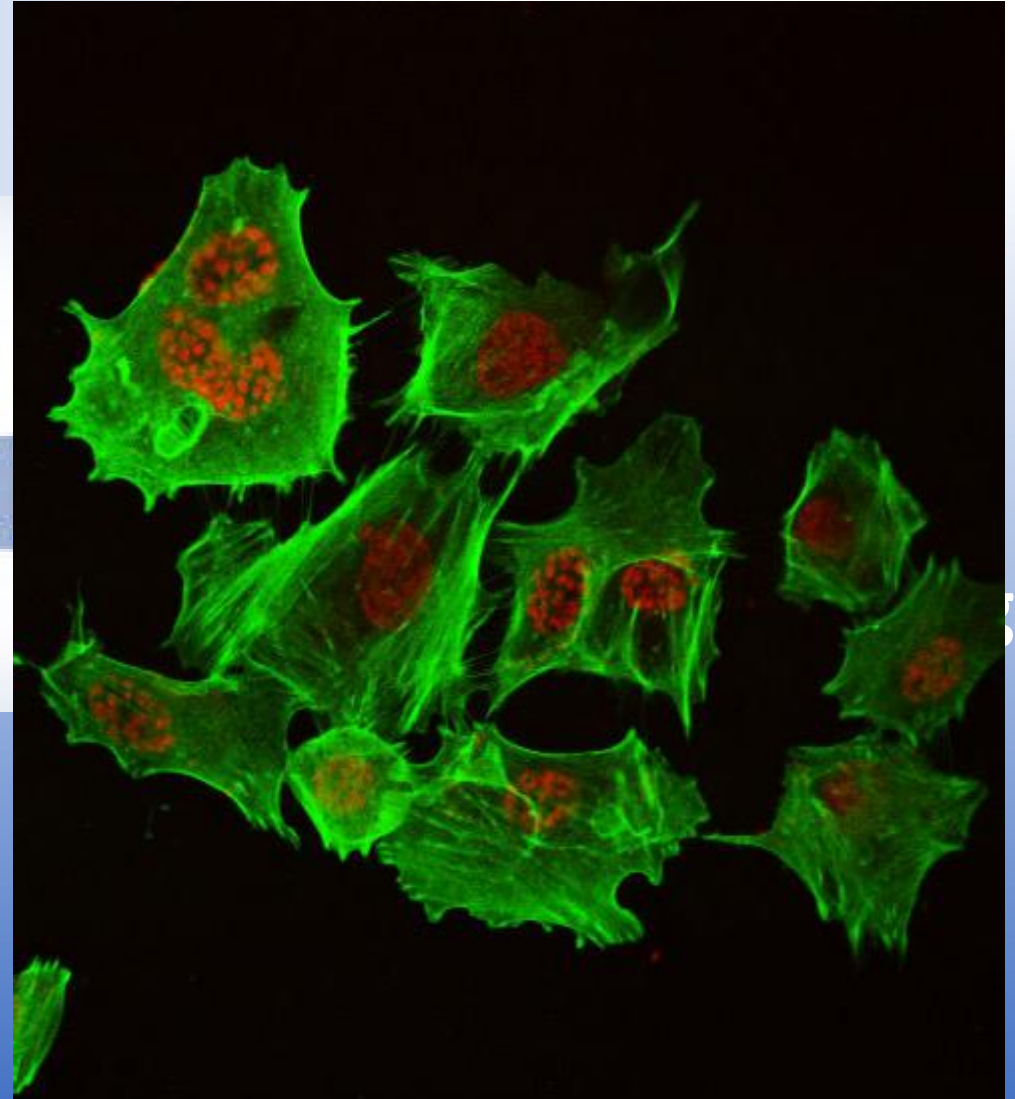
# Human cell and tissue culture

## Irreprodu-cel/-bility

Primary cells of  
limited access,  
quality, and  
quantity

Tumor cell lines

- Ca. 25% of cell lines misidentified
- 15-25% mycoplasma infected
- Genetic instability
- Culture artifacts

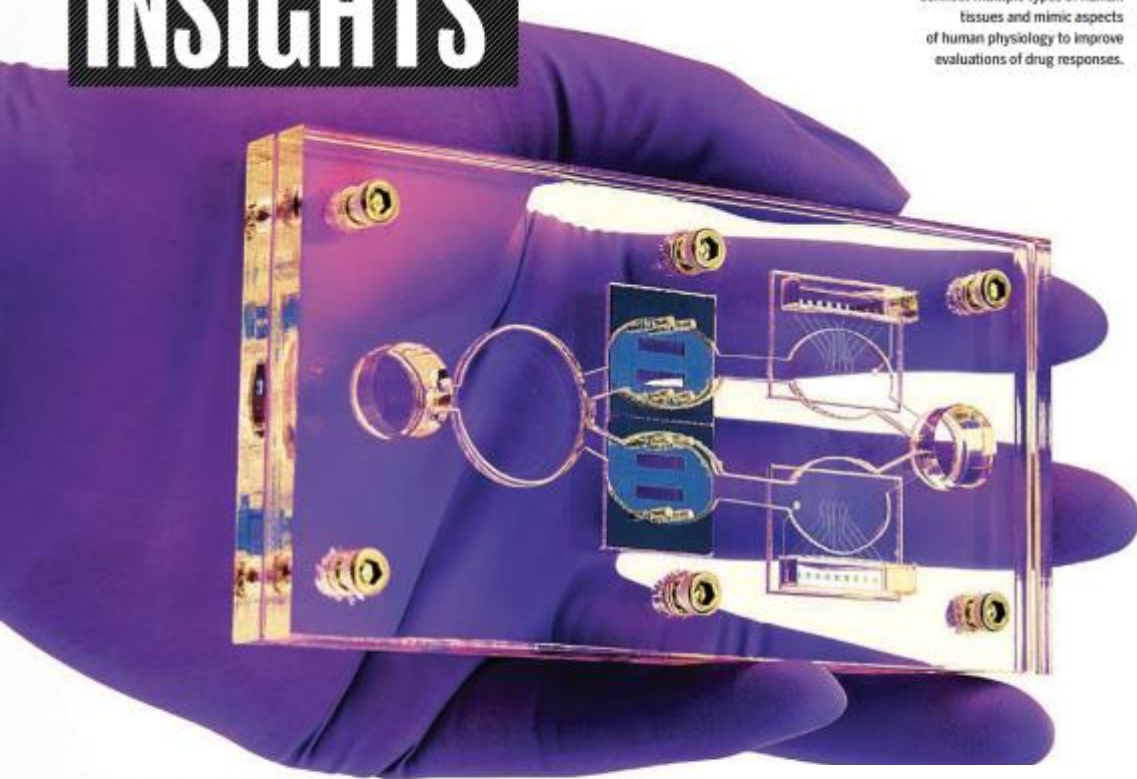


gical

# Evolution of Cell Culture - high-tech & business opportunity

## INSIGHTS

Microfluidic systems can connect multiple types of human tissues and mimic aspects of human physiology to improve evaluations of drug responses.



### PERSPECTIVES

#### MEDICINE

## Human microphysiological systems for drug development

Organs-on-chips could be used to assess drug efficacy and support personalized medicine

Science 16 Sep 2021



Current Opinion in Biotechnology

Marx et al., Biology-inspired micro-physiological system approaches to solve the prediction dilemma of substance testing using animals. ALTEX 2016, 33:272-321.



Marx et al., Biology-inspired microphysiological systems to advance medicines for patient benefit and animal welfare. ALTEX 2020, 37:365-394 .





**MPS WORLD SUMMIT**  
CONNECT, EXCHANGE, EDUCATE

**New Orleans 30 May-3 Jun '22**

**Hosts: Suzie Fitzpatrick, FDA**

**Thomas Hartung, Hopkins**

**Don Ingber, Harvard**



**<https://mpsworldsummit.com>**

**52 organizations**

**34 Scientific Advisory Board**

**665 Registered (215 Online, 65 FDA)**

**26 Countries**

**142 speakers, 189 posters**

**\$450k from NCATS**

**Forming the International MPS  
Society and Conference Series**



## 2<sup>nd</sup> MPS world Summit: June 26-30<sup>th</sup> 2023





# Guidance Document on Good Cell and Tissue Culture Practice 2.0 (GCCP 2.0)

**ALTEX 2022, 39:30-70**

*David Pamies<sup>1</sup>, Marcel Leist<sup>2,3</sup>, Sandra Coecke<sup>4</sup>, Gerard Bowe<sup>4</sup>, Dave Allen<sup>5</sup>, Gerhard Gstraunthaler<sup>6</sup>, Anna Bal-Price<sup>4</sup>, Francesca Pistollato<sup>4</sup>, Rob deVries<sup>7,8</sup>, Helena T. Hogberg<sup>9</sup>, Thomas Hartung<sup>2,9</sup> and Glyn Stacey<sup>10,11,12</sup>*



- **Quality of cell model (GCCP)**
- **Quality of reporting (GIVReSt)**
- **Quality of results (validation)**

# BRAIN ORGANOIDS

Lena Smirnova



**STANDARDIZED  
HUMAN 3D  
DEVELOPMENT  
FROM IPSC**



**GLIA CELLS,  
MYELINATION  
+ ADDED MICRO-GLIA**



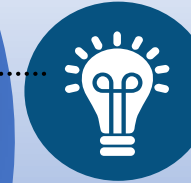
**INFECTION  
CANCER GRAFTS  
TOXICITY  
DNT  
NEURODEGENERATION**



**GENETIC  
BACKGROUNDS,  
+ RISK GENES, REPAIR  
+ REPORTER GENES**



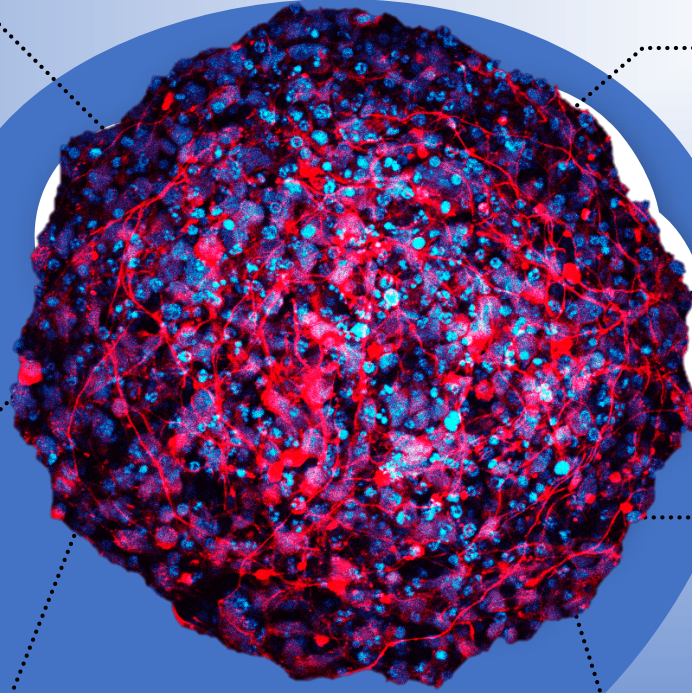
**GENE X ENVIRONMENT  
MIXTURES**



**FUNCTIONAL  
ASSAYS: NEURITES,  
SYNAPSES, 3D EEG**



**ORGANOID  
INTELLIGENCE (O.I.)**

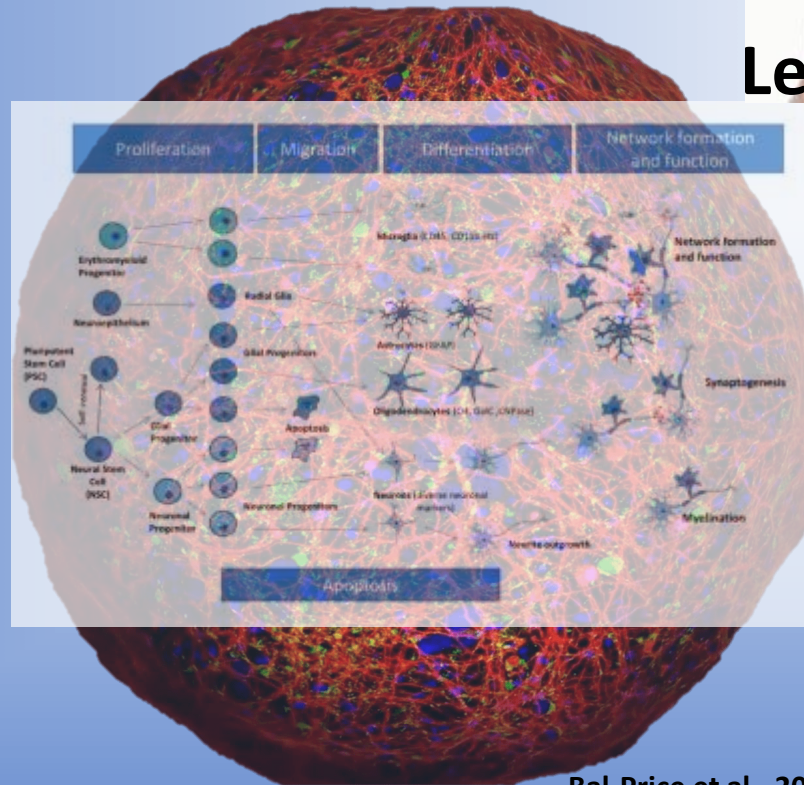


# 6-in-1 BrainSphere assay to test Neurodevelopment

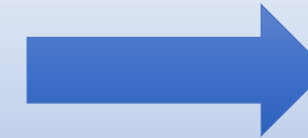


Lena Smirnova

Neuronal differentiation  
Myelination  
Neurite outgrowth  
Synaptogenesis  
Glia migration & Gliosis  
Neural network (E-phys)



CRISPR/CAS9



Reporter/  
Fusion  
proteins



## Mini- Brainbow

Neurons

Astrocytes

Oligodendrocytes

Synapses

3D electrophys



High content imaging  
Toxicant/drug screening





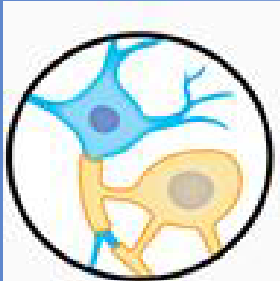
# CRISPR/Cas9 Knock-Ins

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Oligodendrocytes (PLP-GFP)

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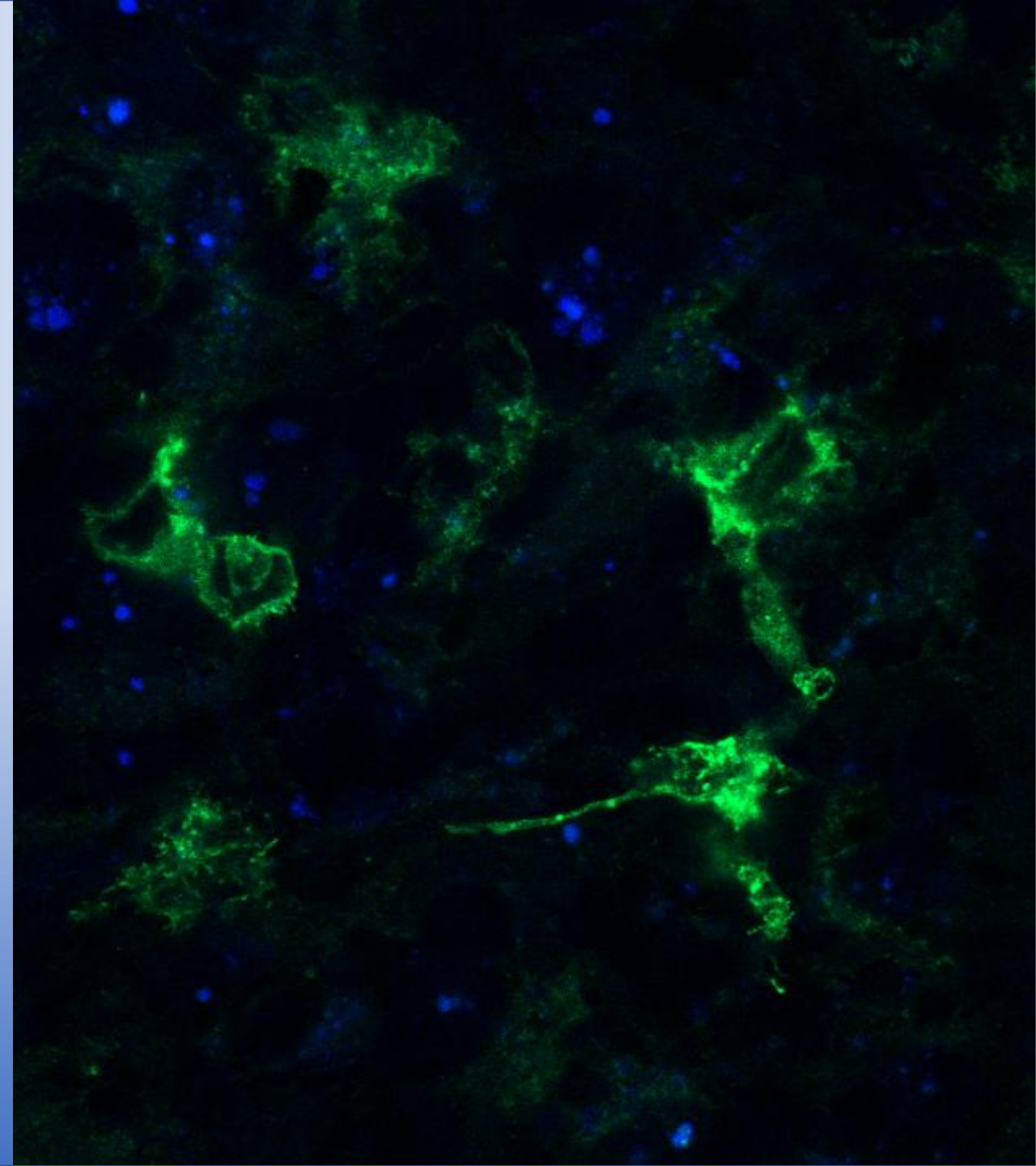
Synapsis (Synaptophysin-BFP)



Myelination



Synapse  
formation



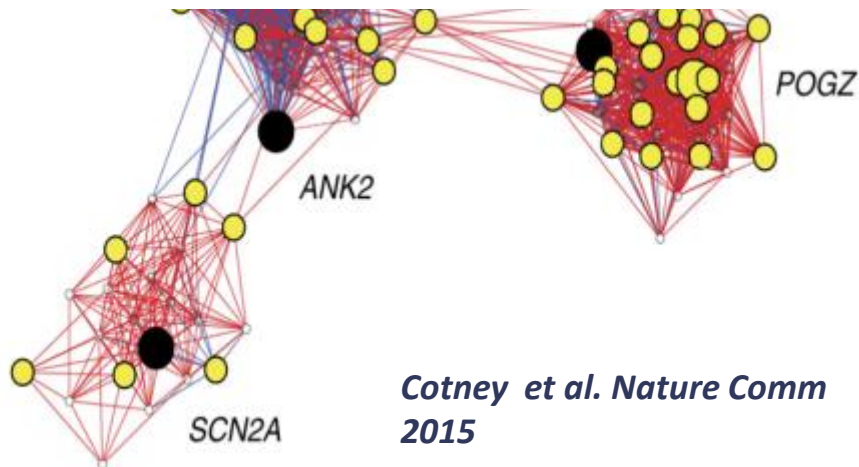


# Bloomberg School Researchers Awarded \$11.7 Million Five-Year NIH Grant to Build and Lead Autism Center of Excellence Network

Published **September 08, 2022**

DISABILITY

Network will aggregate global research projects studying gene-environment interaction to understand autism's causes and to improve quality of life among autistic individuals



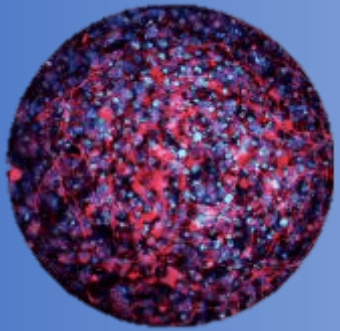
Functional and Molecular  
signatures

Lena Smirnova



# Organoid Intelligence (O.I.)

Discovery Grant



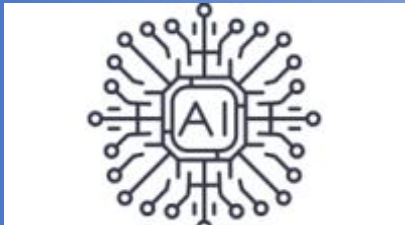
Brain  
Organoid

O.I.



Input

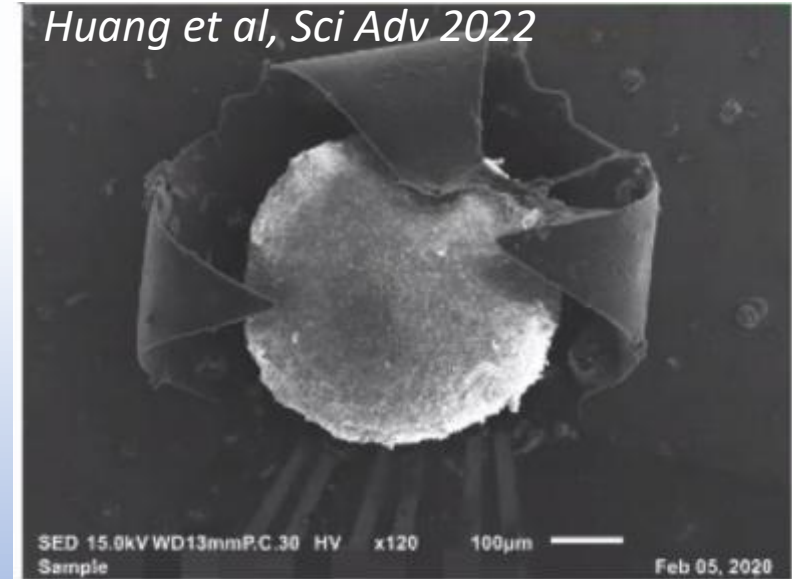
Output



A.I.



*Huang et al, Sci Adv 2022*



Human brain organoid  
caged in shell electrodes

Workshop 2022

Baltimore Declaration Toward OI

**What is emerging that can help us?**

**Exposure science** (high throughput and  
untargeted exposomics, remote  
sensing, citizen science ...)

**Technologies** (~omics, high-throughput, MPS, A.I.)

**Evidence Integration** (Evidence-based Tox, IATA, Green Tox  
Investigative Tox, Mechanistic Validation, Probabilistic  
Risk Assessment, Systems Toxicology, virtual  
experiments...)



# The challenge

[https://www.loopclosed.com.au/program\\_services/data\\_integration\\_and\\_analysis.html](https://www.loopclosed.com.au/program_services/data_integration_and_analysis.html)

**Similar for**

- Systematic reviews
- Risk assessments
- Integrated Testing Strategies



<http://phd.dia.uniroma3.it/multi-source-data-integration-with-humans-in-the-loop/>



# *In vivitrosi*

Replacement of animal testing by integrated approaches to testing and assessment (IATA): a call for in vivitrosi

Francesca Caloni<sup>1</sup>  · Isabella De Angelis<sup>2</sup> · Thomas Hartung<sup>3,4</sup>

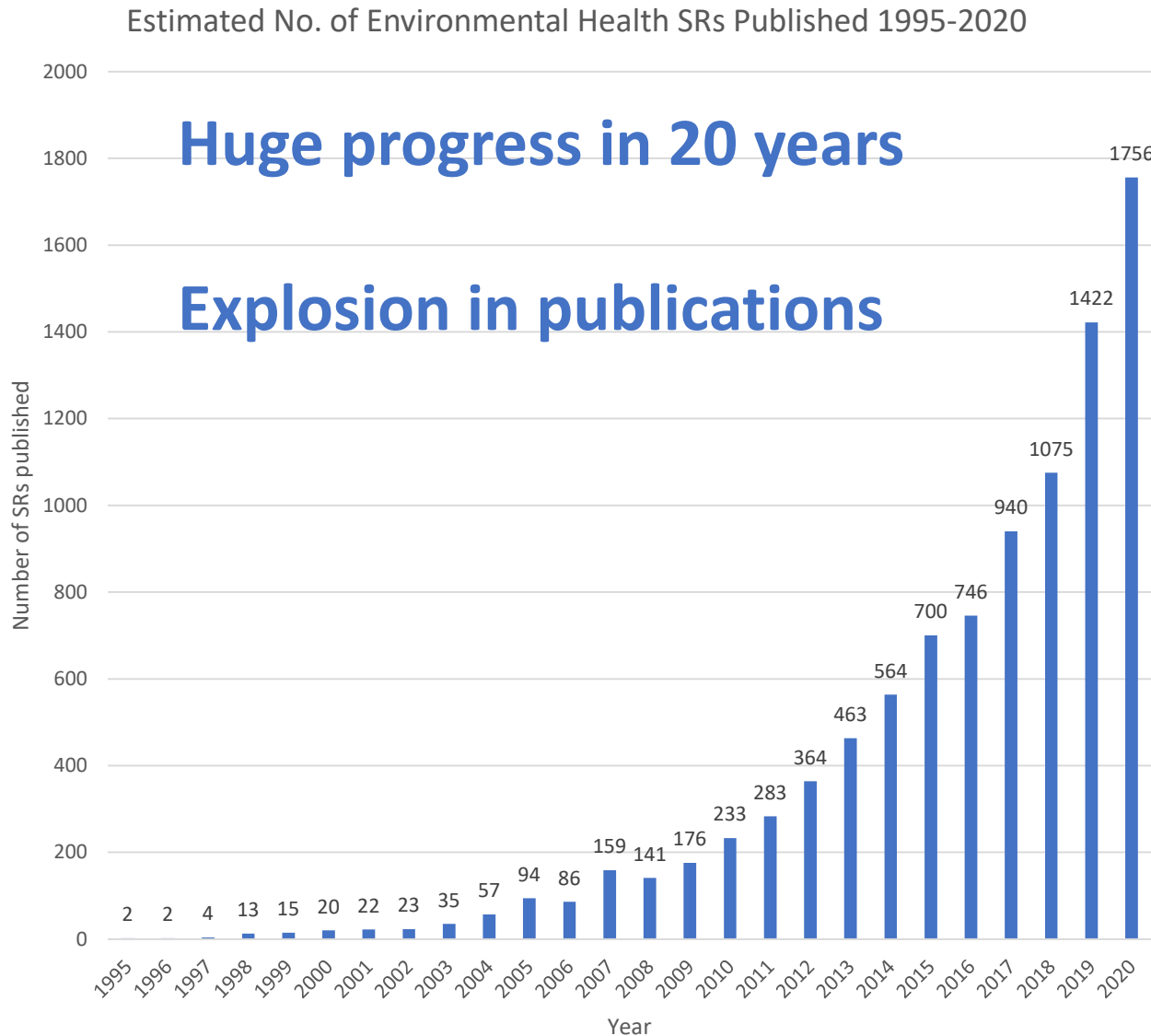
Arch Toxicol 2022



**Aka Integrated  
Testing Strategies,  
IATA, Defined  
Approaches...**

1 + 1 > 2 ?

# The explosion of systematic reviews



**Katya Tsaoun**

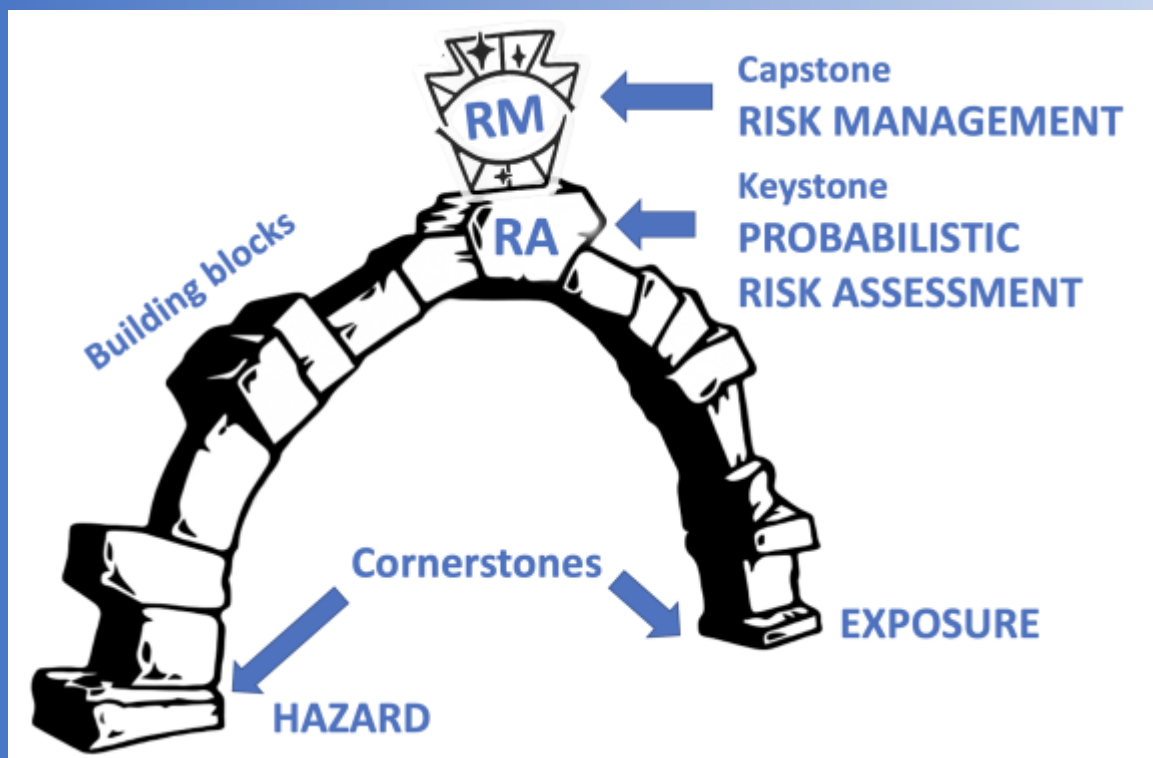


- ~1000 people engaged with EBTC in 12 years
- Stakeholders at every level, everywhere
- EBT journal from 2023
- EBT association forming

Food for Thought ...

## Probabilistic Risk Assessment – the Keystone for the Future of Toxicology

Alexandra Maertens<sup>1</sup>, Emily Golden<sup>1</sup>, Thomas H. Luechtefeld<sup>1,2</sup>, Sebastian Hoffmann<sup>1,3</sup>, Katya Tsaoun<sup>1</sup> and Thomas Hartung<sup>1,4</sup>



**it4** transatlantic  
think tank for  
toxicology



Workshop 4-6 July 2022  
Ranco, Italy



Chemicals  
Mixtures /products  
Metabolites

X

Humans  
Animals  
Ecosystems

X

Uses

X

Industries  
= legislations

X

Countries  
Regions

=

Tons of test needs  
Tons of discrepancies  
= Mission Impossible

Mixture  
Tox

One  
Health  
Cumulative  
Exposure  
OSOA

Harmonization

Exposomics, EI  
Exposure science, HT exposure



Prob Exposure



ProbRA



Prob Hazard

Evidence  
generation

Evidence  
integration

Legacy  
data

MPS,  
AI, HTS

Evid-based Tox  
Test strategies, AI

***The difficulty lies not in the new ideas,  
but in escaping from the old ones.***

**JM Keynes**

***Current Sponsors:***

***+philanthropy***



***Space for  
You!***



**Slides available:**

