

Activities of the Developmental Neurotoxicity Health Effects Innovation Program

Helena Hogberg on behalf of the team

Division of the NTP, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM)

ICCVAM Public Forum May 26, 2022



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MTB (Mechanistic Toxicology Branch)
STB (Systems Toxicology Branch)
PTB (Predictive Toxicology Branch)

Division of Intramural Research (DIR)
NL (Neurobiology Laboratory)

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**Now with Inotiv

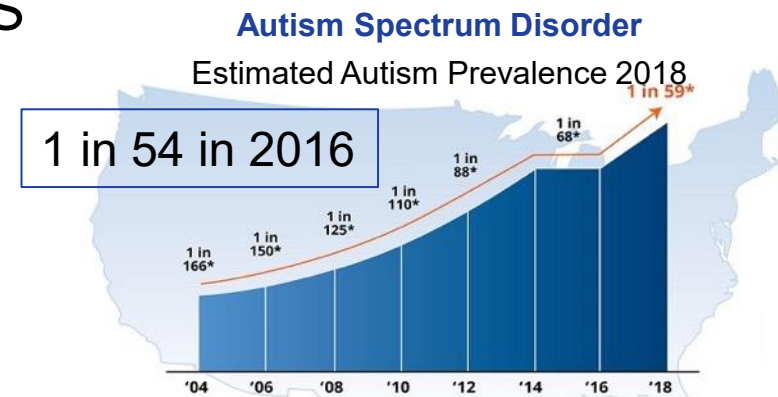


Importance of Assessing Developmental Neurotoxicity (DNT)

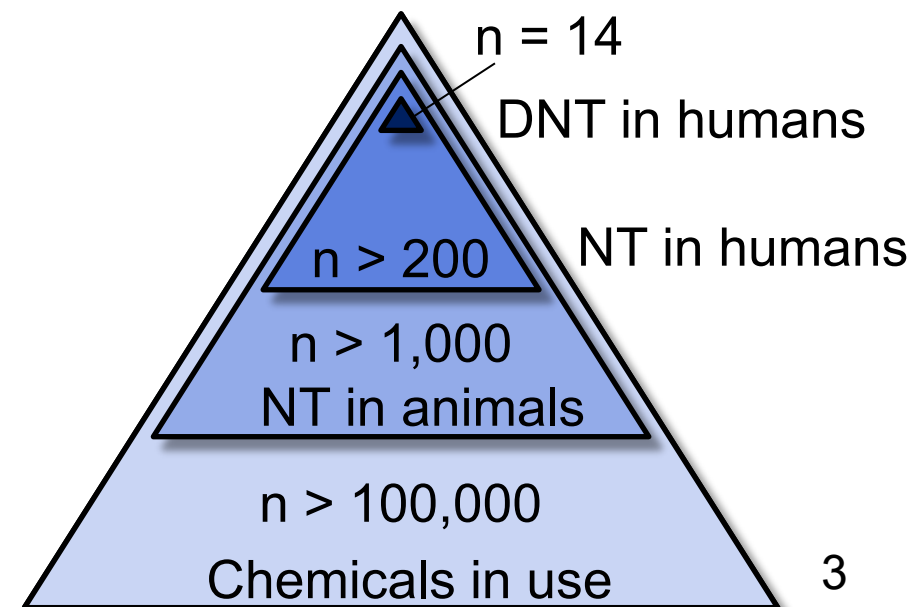
- Increase in prevalence of developmental disorders in the US and globally
 - WHO: 1 in 6 kids diagnosed
- *In vivo* DNT Guideline studies primary method of evaluation
 - Require an *a priori* trigger to be run
 - Time & resource intensive
 - Relevance of animal studies for human translation have been questioned
- Compounds with unknown DNT and NT potential remain untested



Revised from Grandjean and Landrigan 2006, Lancet



* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) prevalence estimates are for 4 years prior to the report date (e.g. 2018 figures are from 2014)
Source: autismspeaks.org, "CDC increases estimate of autism's prevalence by 15 percent, to 1 in 59 children"





Regulatory Focus on Developing New Frameworks

Perspectives | Brief Communication

Project TENDR: Targeting Environmental Neuro-Developmental Risks. The TENDR Consensus Statement

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1289/EHP358>

TOXICOLOGICAL SCIENCES, 167(1), 2019, 45–57

doi: 10.1093/toxsci/kfy211

Advance Access Publication Date: November 23, 2018

Forum

SOT | Society of Toxicology
www.toxsci.oxfordjournals.org

OXFORD

FORUM

International Regulatory and Scientific Effort for Improved Developmental Neurotoxicity Testing

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Consensus statement on the need for innovation, transition and implementation of developmental neurotoxicity (DNT) testing for regulatory purposes



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FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes and Final Report No. 2020-02

Peer Review of the Use of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) to Derive Extrapolation Factors and Evaluate Developmental Neurotoxicity for Human Health Risk Assessment

September 15-18, 2020

FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel Meeting



Battery of test: 12 *in vitro* assays + Zebrafish



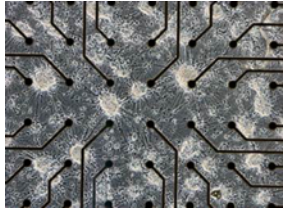
136 compounds



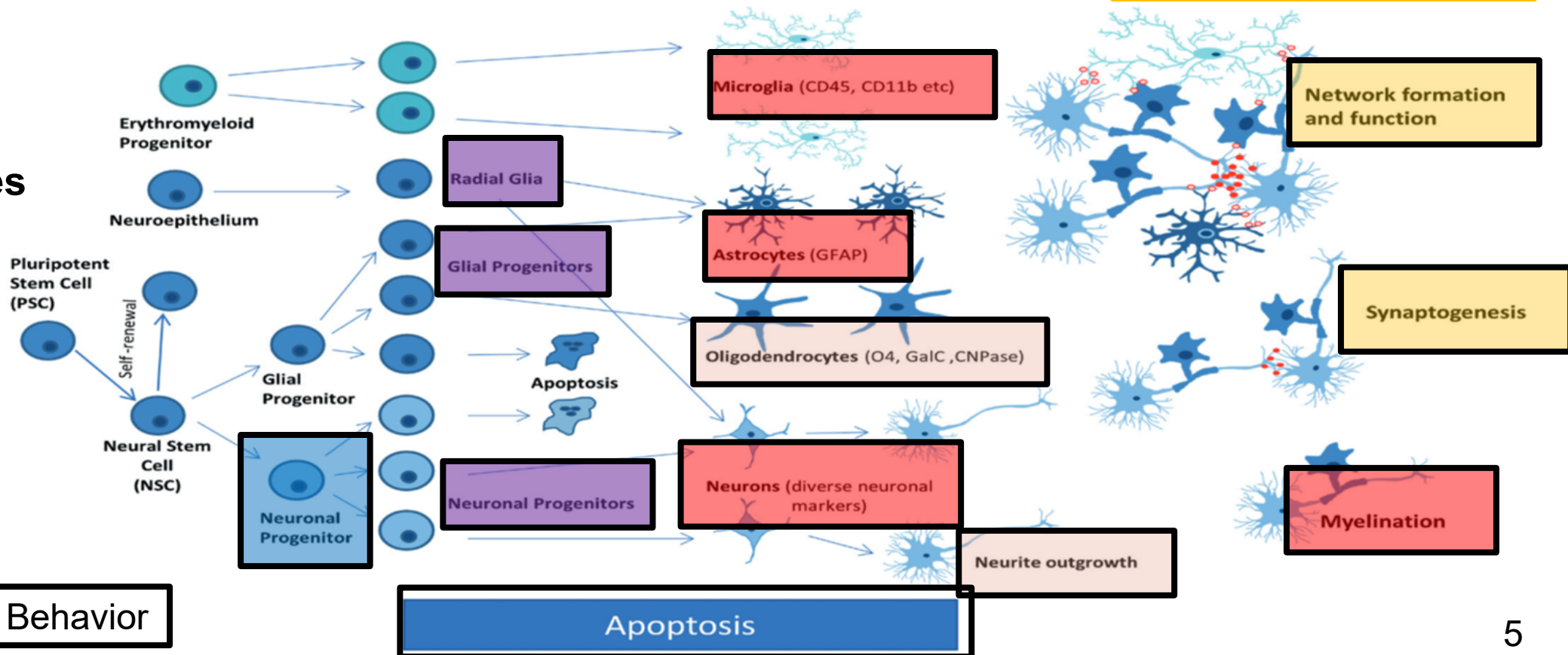
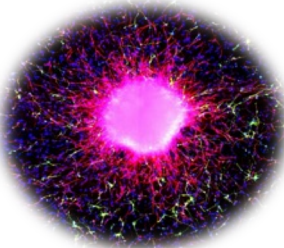
91 + 115 compounds

Bal-Price et al., 2018 ALTEX

2D assays



3D Neurospheres



Zebrafish



Behavior

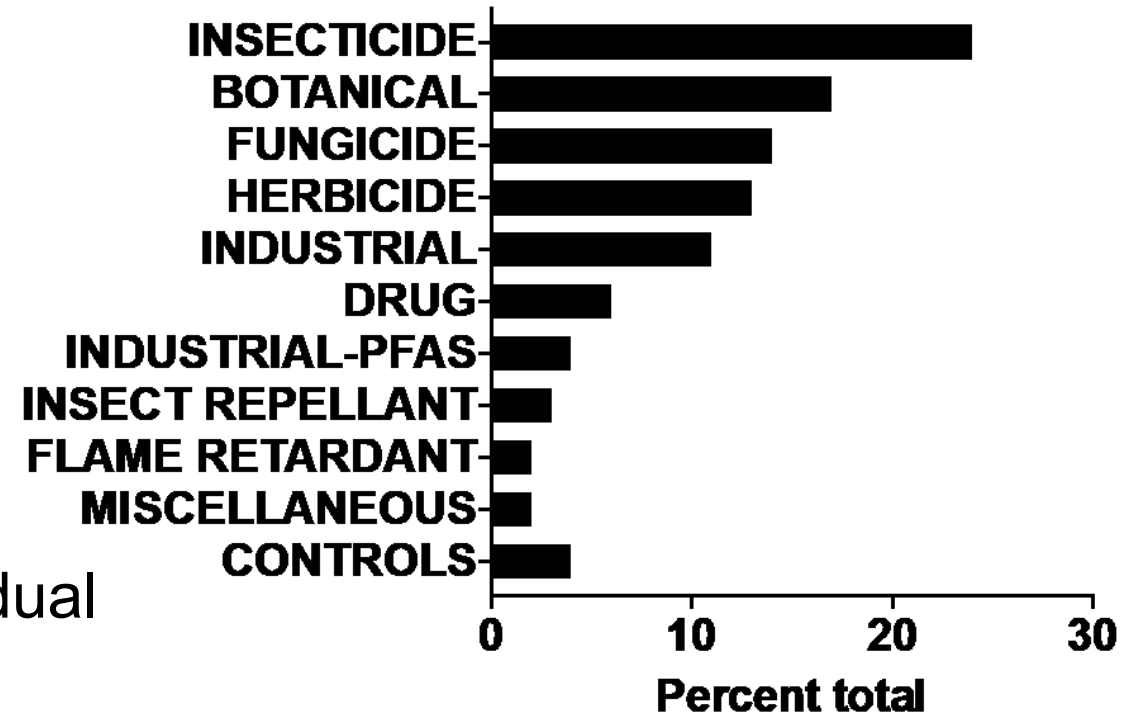


Phase 1: 115 chemical set

Selection Criteria

- Evidence of DNT *in vivo*
- Known human exposure
- Guideline study complete, lacking *in vitro*
- Suggested by multiple stakeholders
- Incomplete *in vitro* battery data

Currently tested in the battery in the individual labs, to be finalized in early fall



Phase 2: Chemical nominations received, selection is ongoing

Phase I chemicals

https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/atniehs/assets/docs/developmental_neurotoxicity_screening_assay_chemical_list_508.pdf



Integrated Approach to Testing and Assessment (IATA) for DNT

Expert Group on DNT

Crofton and Mundy 2020

Bal-Price et al., 2018 ALTEX



Guidance Document

To inform on the testing battery, its usage and interpretation. Case studies exemplifying different regulatory need e.g., prioritization, hazard assessment

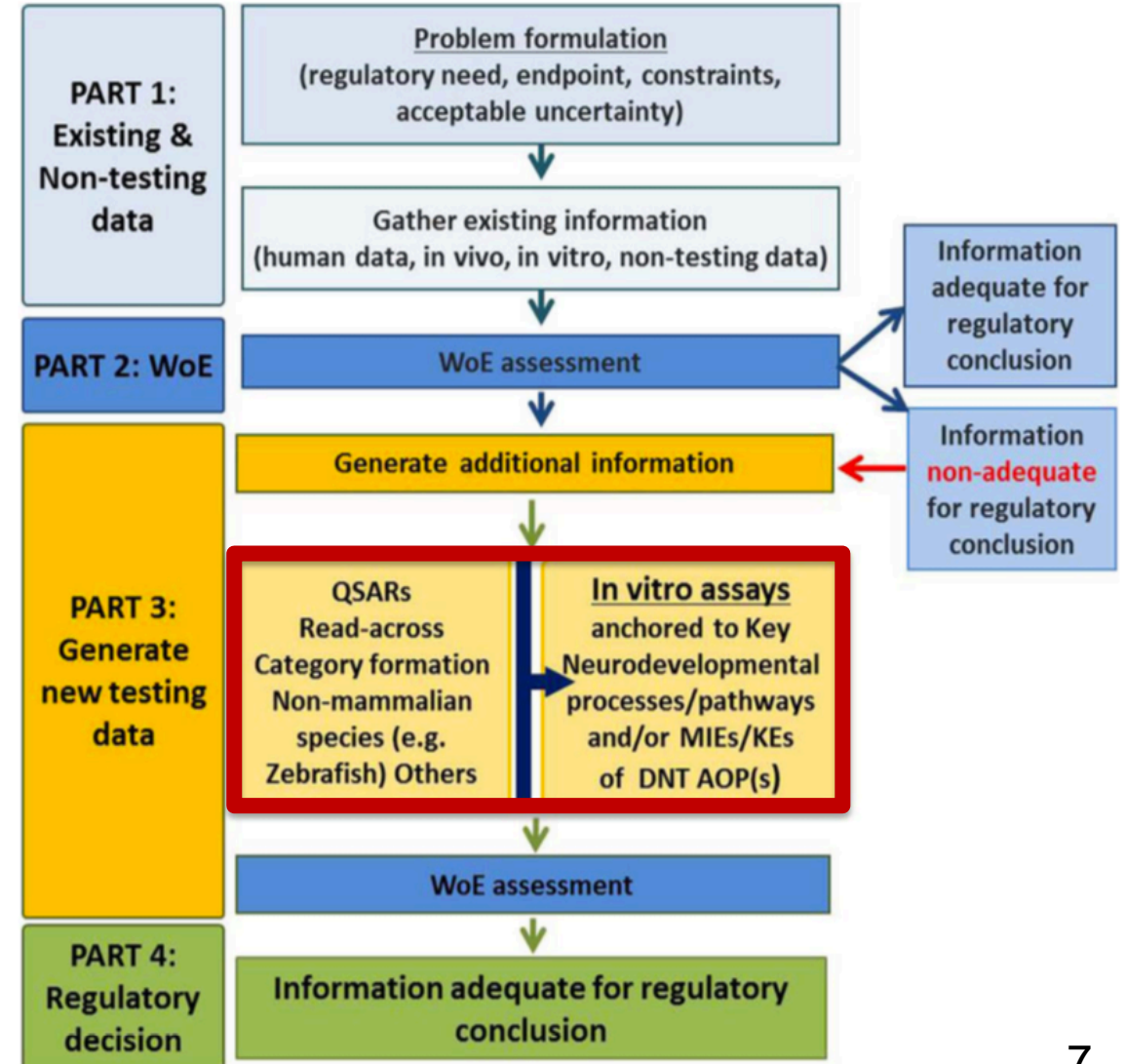
FIFRA review
NAMs for DNT



2021- EPA Uses
NAMs for DNT to
support waiving a
guideline DNT study

Dobrenieck et al., 2022

Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology





Case study led by DNTP



Title: Organophosphorus flame retardants, a case study on the use of IATA for DNT to prioritize a class of compounds

Authors: Helena Hogberg, Jui-Hua Hsieh, Xiaoqing Chang, Nisha Sipes, Tim Shafer, Mamta Behl

- To be included in the OECD Guidance document on the use and interpretation of DNT battery for the aromatic OPFR
- Intended to provide an example for the use and application of the DNT battery for prioritization of a class of compounds
- Help inform organizations who are evaluating NAMs for use in prioritization and ultimately decision-making

Phased-out (BDE) or Extensively used (and studied): 2

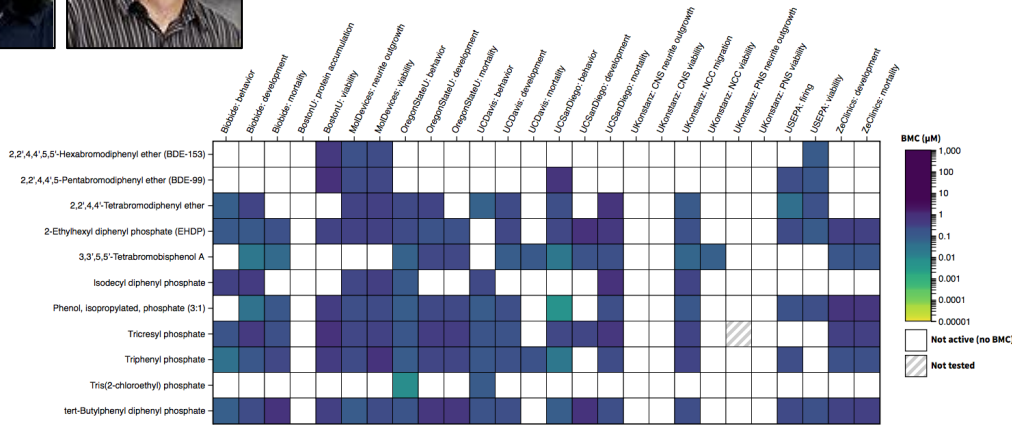
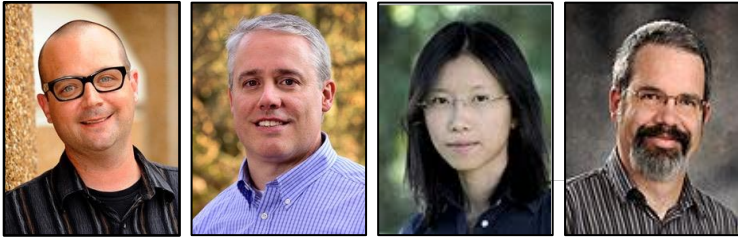
Aromatic phosphates (non-halogenated): 6

Aliphatic organohalogenes: 2

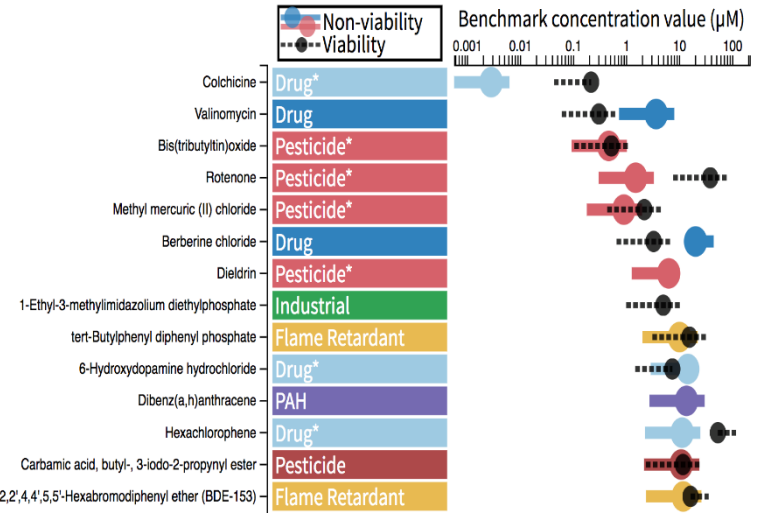


DNT- Data Integration and Visualization Enabling Resource

What can you do in DNT-DIVER?

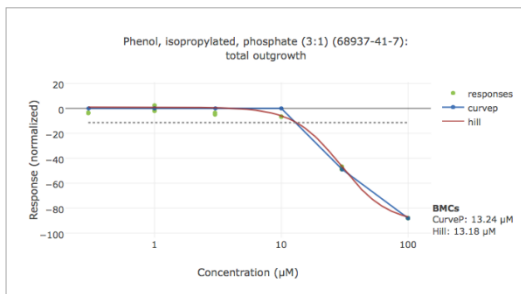


Decreasing order of potency



Compare activity of compounds/classes across multiple assays

Compare activity of compounds within an assay



Individual dose-response curves

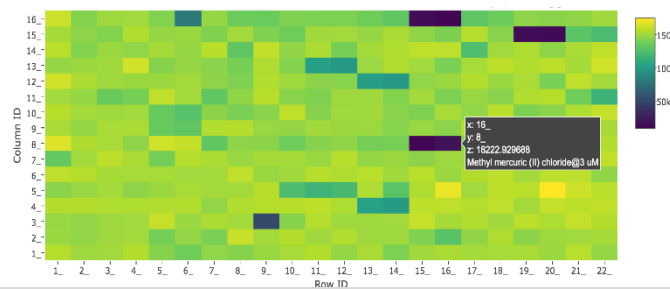
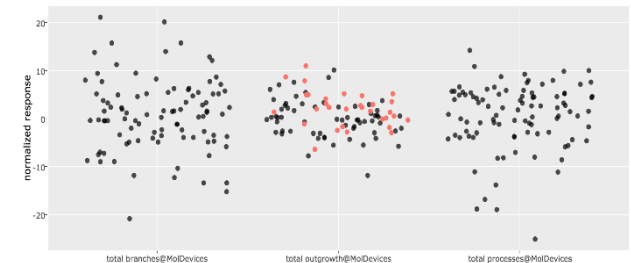


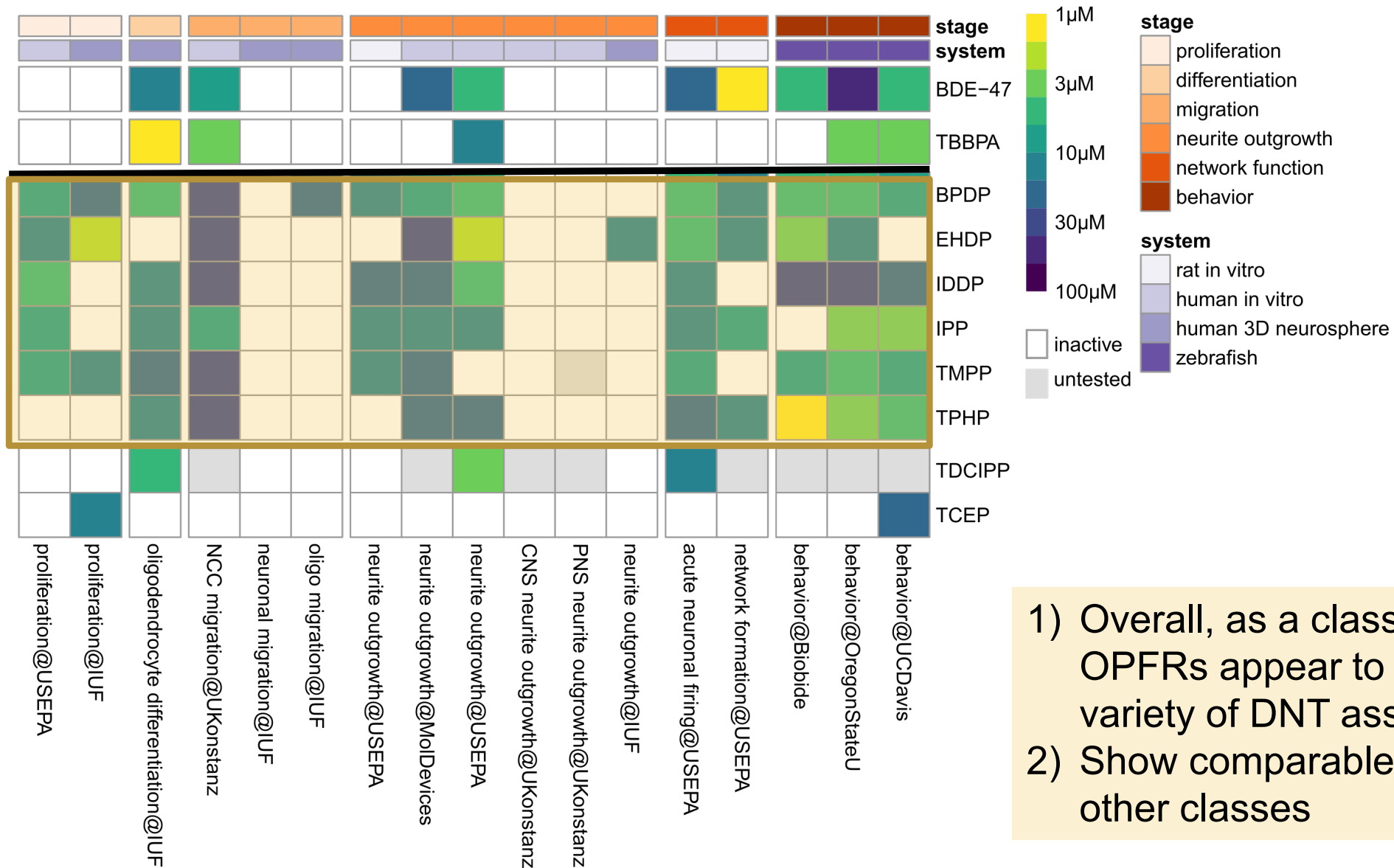
Plate and well level information



Control variability in assay



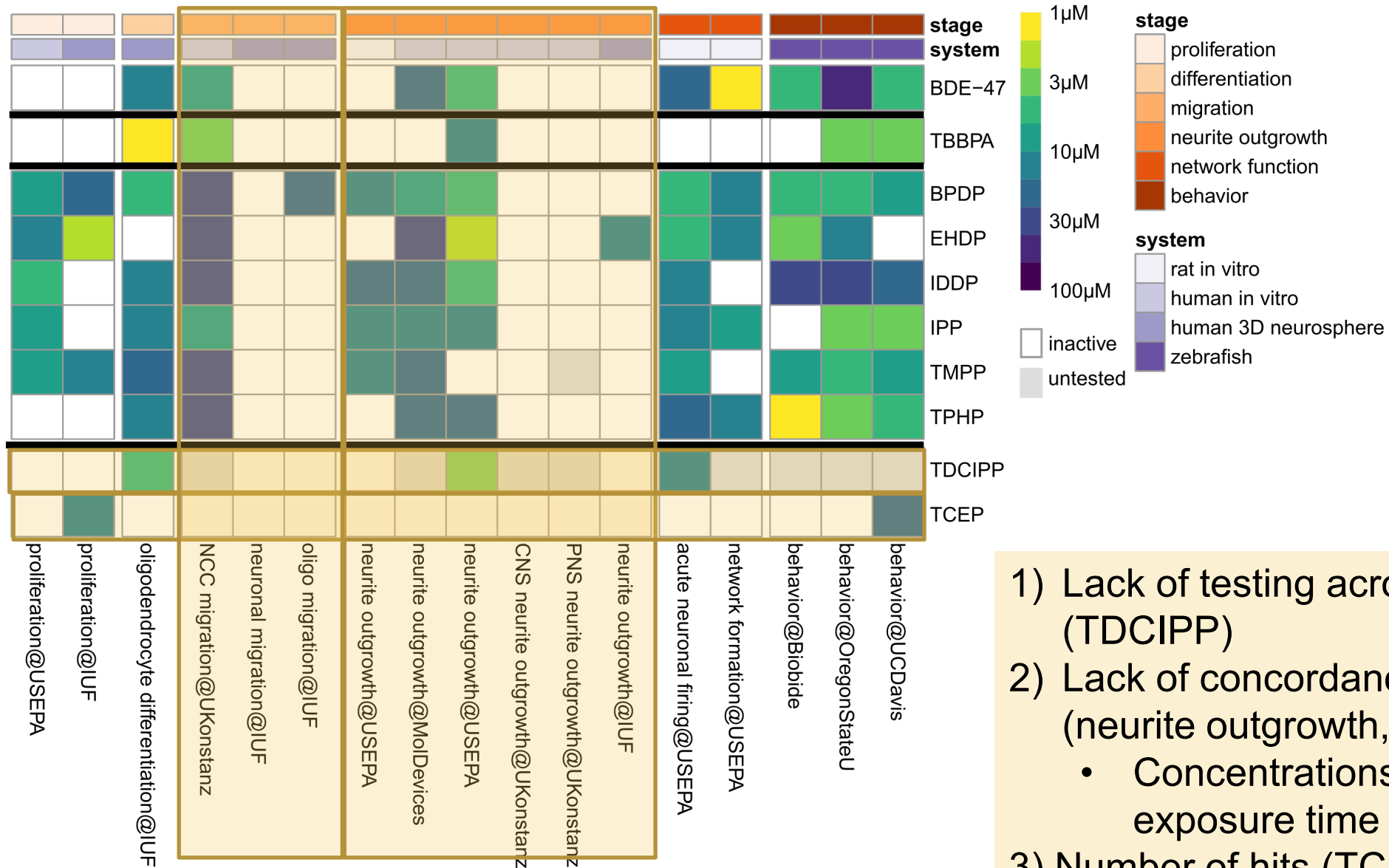
Summary of Findings



- 1) Overall, as a class the aromatic OPFRs appear to be active in a variety of DNT assays
- 2) Show comparable activity to other classes



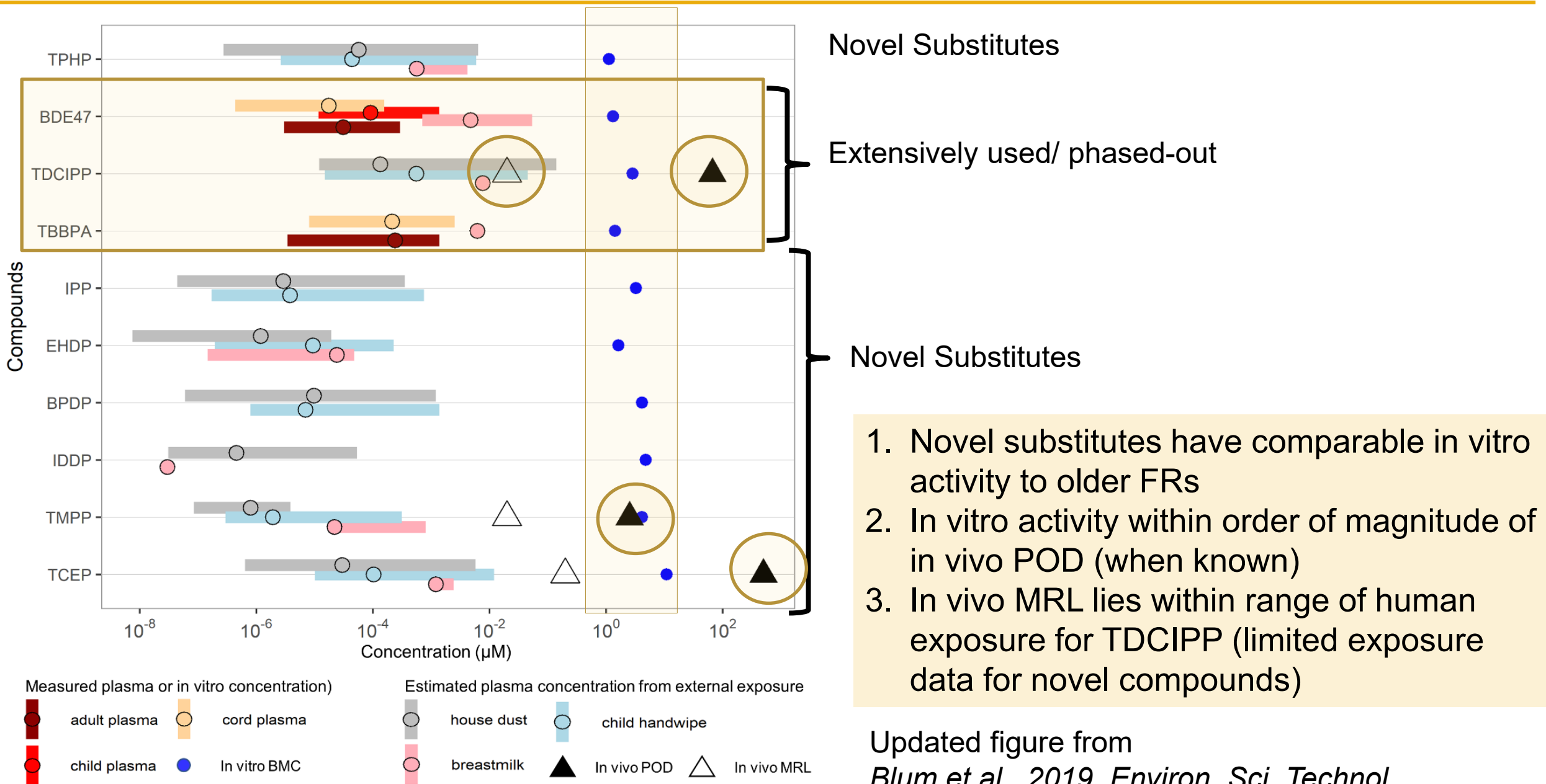
Sources of Uncertainty



- 1) Lack of testing across assays (TDCIPP)
- 2) Lack of concordance within assays (neurite outgrowth, migration)
 - Concentrations, models, exposure time
- 3) Number of hits (TCEP)



Relevance to Human Exposures





Consideration for Further Development of AOP

GLUTAMATE

Cellular and Organ Effects

- Monolayer in vitro cell culture**
 - Reduced response to glutamate¹
- 3D in vitro cell culture**
 - Alteration in expression of glutamate NMDA receptor⁶
 - NAA and L aspartic decrease⁶
 - Reduced levels of glutamate⁶
- Rodent in vivo**
 - Disruption of glutamate^{7*}
 - Disruption of NAA, creatine and lactic acid^{7*}
 - Increased levels of glutamate^{8*}
 - Neuronal death^{7,8*}

Organism Effects

- Rodent in vivo**
 - Impaired learning and memory^{7*}

Human Effects[†]

- Adverse impacts on cognitive development including early language ability, and fine motor skills²
- Adverse behavioral development including withdrawal, attention problems, depression, hyperactivity, and aggression³
- Decrease in IQ and working memory⁴
- Social behavioral problems including irresponsible behavior and more externalizing behaviors⁵

GABA (GAMMA-AMINOBUTYRIC ACID)

Cellular and Organ Effects

- Monolayer in vitro cell culture**
 - Inhibition of GABA R⁹
- 3D in vitro cell culture**
 - Decrease in genes involved in GABA production and signaling⁶
 - Decrease in GABA neurotransmitter⁶
- Zebrafish**
 - Altered levels of GABA neurotransmitter^{10,11}
- Rodent in vivo**
 - GABA antagonist^{13*}
 - Disruption of GABA neurotransmitter^{7*}

Organism Effects

- Zebrafish**
 - Hyperactivity¹²
- Rodent in vivo**
 - Impaired learning and memory⁷
 - Increased ambulatory behavior⁷

Human Effects[†]

- Adverse impacts on cognitive development including early language ability, and fine motor skills²
- Adverse behavioral development including withdrawal, attention problems, depression, hyperactivity, and aggression³
- Decrease in IQ and working memory⁴
- Social behavioral problems including irresponsible behavior and more externalizing behaviors⁵

OTHER NEUROTRANSMITTERS

Cellular and Organ Effects

- Monolayer in vitro cell culture**
 - 2D: Increase in differentiation of dopaminergic neurons¹⁴
- 3D in vitro cell culture**
 - Decrease in dopamine neurotransmitter⁶
- Zebrafish**
 - Dopamine levels decrease¹⁰
 - Dopamine and dopamine signaling related genes decreased¹⁰
 - Decreased serotonin and histamine levels¹⁰
- Rodent in vivo**
 - Dopamine signaling altered^{13*}
 - Disruption in serotonin pathways^{15,17}
 - Serotonin levels increased¹⁶

Organism Effects

- Zebrafish**
 - Vulnerability to anxiety-like behavior potentially due to decrease in dopamine¹⁵
- Rodent in vivo**
 - Increased ambulatory behavior^{13*}

Human Effects[†]

- Adverse impacts on cognitive development including early language ability, and fine motor skills²
- Adverse behavioral development including withdrawal, attention problems, depression, hyperactivity, and aggression³
- Decrease in IQ and working memory⁴
- Social behavioral problems including irresponsible behavior and more externalizing behaviors⁵

Beyond Cholinesterase Inhibition: Developmental Neurotoxicity of Organophosphate Ester Flame Retardants and Plasticizers

Heather B. Patisaul,¹ Mamta Behl,^{2,3} Linda S. Birnbaum,^{2,3,4} Arlene Blum,^{5,6} Miriam L. Diamond,⁷ Seth Rojello Fernández,⁵ Helena T. Hogberg,⁸ Carol F. Kwiatkowski,^{5,9} Jamie D. Page,¹⁰ Anna Soehl,⁵ and Heather M. Stapleton⁴

Patisaul et al., 2021 EHE

NEURONAL MORPHOLOGY AND FUNCTION

Cellular and Organ Effects

- Monolayer in vitro cell culture**
 - Decrease in neurite outgrowth^{13,14,15}
 - Decreased neuronal network activity^{14,16}
 - Cytotoxic to neural cells¹⁷
- 3D in vitro cell culture**
 - Decrease in expression of neurite skeleton genes³
 - 3D: Decreased expression of genes involved in synaptogenesis³
- Zebrafish**
 - Decrease in genes involved in cytoskeleton organization^{5,6}
 - Synaptogenesis marker altered^{5,6}

Organism Effects

- Zebrafish**
 - Altered locomotor behavior^{5,6,16,19}

Human Effects[†]

- Adverse impacts on cognitive development, including early language ability, and fine motor skills⁹
- Adverse behavioral development including withdrawal, attention problems, depression, hyperactivity, and aggression¹⁰
- Decrease in IQ and working memory¹¹
- Social behavioral problems including less responsible behavior, and more externalizing behaviors¹²

Example of using KEs + underlying mechanistic data in the absence of MIEs

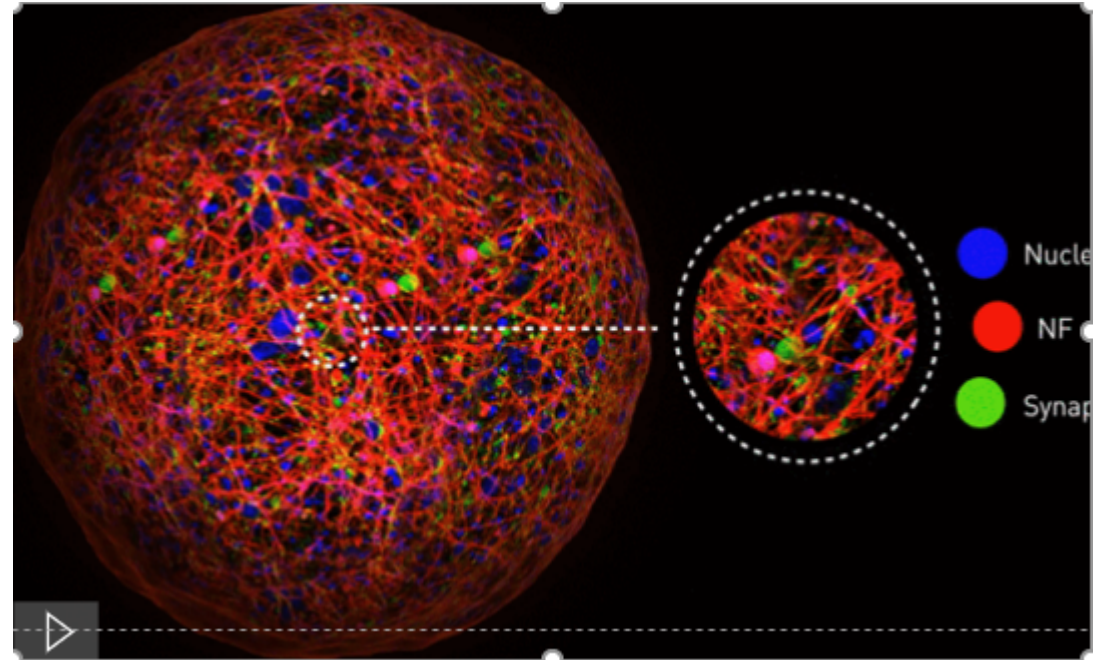


- Overall, evidence available and the approach taken in this IATA case study allowed to achieve an acceptable level of certainty in prioritization of compounds for further testing
- It also allowed for DNT hazard identification and characterization of the OPFRs which was one of the purposes of the assessment
- The analysis could likely be used by organizations like the CPSC to prioritize compounds for further testing and use the mechanistic data generated here as weight of evidence



Future Directions for the DNT IVB

- Reduce uncertainty levels
 - Anchor data to AOPs
 - Confirm IVIVE models with in vivo data
 - Harmonization of protocols
 - Transferability of assays
 - Understand bioavailability in the different assays
- Explore ways of weighting the different assays
 - How many assays need to be positive for different regulatory purposes?
 - Should assays with higher biological activity be given more weight?
- Develop assays for key events currently missing
 - E.g., Myelination, differentiation and proliferation of astrocytes and microglia, ontogeny of neurotransmitters and receptors





Additional Ongoing and Future Work by DNT-HEI

- Assay development and enhancement *in vitro* and *in vivo*
- Incorporating testing of mixtures in the DNT IVB (collaboration with Combined Exposures and Mixtures Program)
- Further develop the IATA FR case study to build AOPs
- Develop additional case studies in collaboration with EPA
- Support the development of an EFSA data base with *in vivo* DNT studies
- Explore computational tools for:
 - PBPK (placenta model and young children)
 - *IVIVE/IVIVC*
- Prioritize chemicals for further testing
- Population variability and susceptibility



The DNT HEI and NICEATM Groups

