

NTP Approaches to *In Vitro* Assessment of Dermal Hypersensitivity: Using Alternative Methods to Predict Skin Sensitization

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- Background
- *In vivo* and *in vitro* methods to evaluate potential sensitizers
- Developing confidence and expanding chemical space
- A quick success story
- Summary and Conclusions



“Allergic Contact Dermatitis”















Accounts for 10-15% of all occupational disease (*Anderson et al. 2011*)

Major safety issue for cosmetics, pesticides, industrial chemicals, etc.



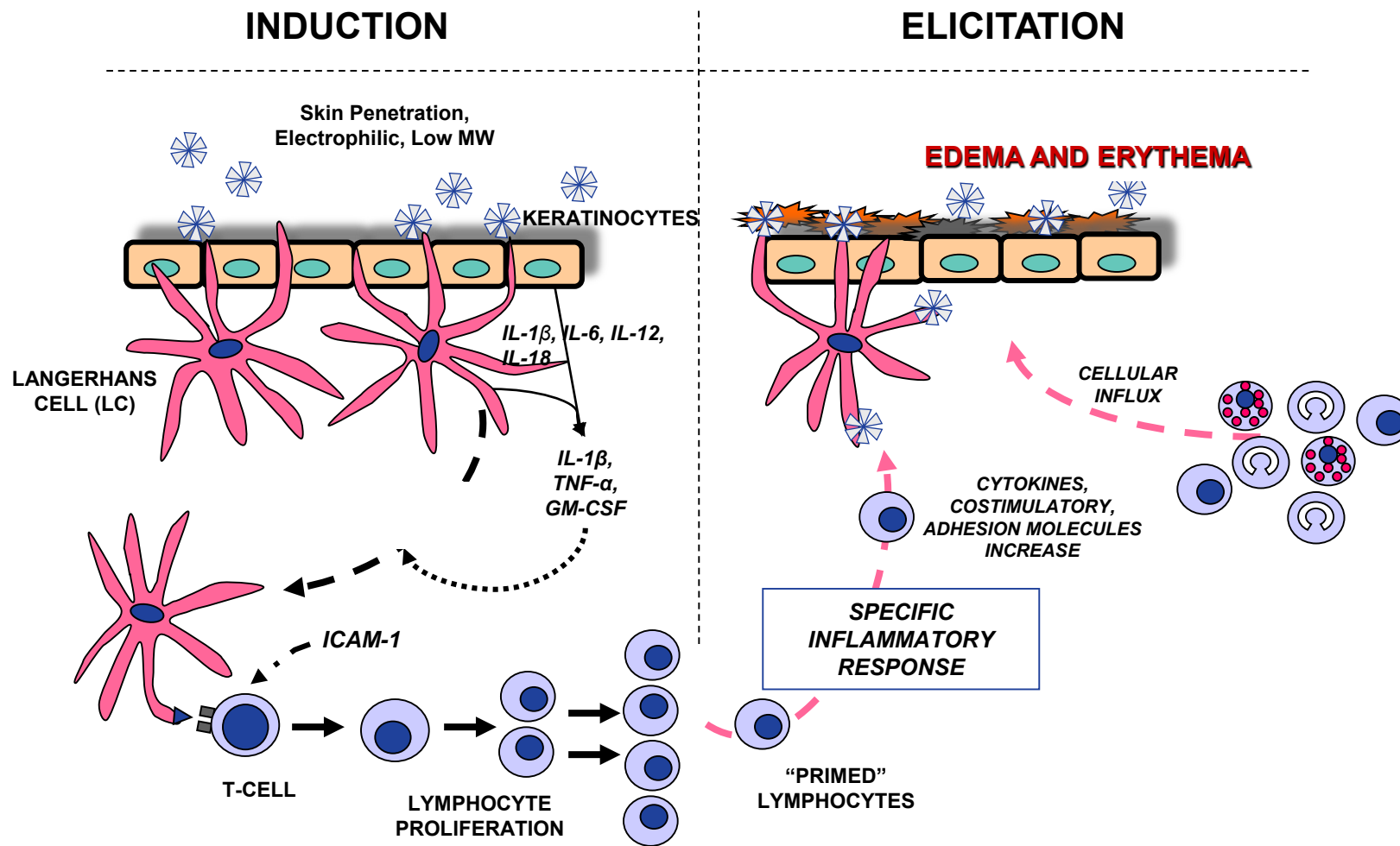
U.S. Regulatory Requirements/Considerations

		Reference Animal Method	Classification Criteria	Alternatives Accepted
	Pesticides, Industrial chemicals	 LLNA	NS S   Hazard	Beginning in 2018 two specific non-animal integrated strategies are accepted by the USEPA, OPP/OPPT for pesticide actives and inert materials
	Household Products	 LLNA	NS S SS    Potency	Case by case basis
	Dermatological Products	 GPMT	 Potency*	As an alternative to accepted guinea pig tests, FDA will consider a battery of in silico, in chemico, and in vitro studies that have been shown to adequately predict human skin sensitization with an accuracy similar to existing in vivo methods

*preference



Skin Sensitization Process





In Vivo Tests for Assessment of Dermal Sensitization



Guinea Pig Maximization Test

- Intradermal and topical sensitization
- Topical challenge
- Measure erythema response 24 - 48 hours post challenge



Buehler

- Topical sensitization with closed patch
- Topical challenge distal to sensitization with closed patch
- Measure erythema response following removal of patch

Local Lymph Node Assay

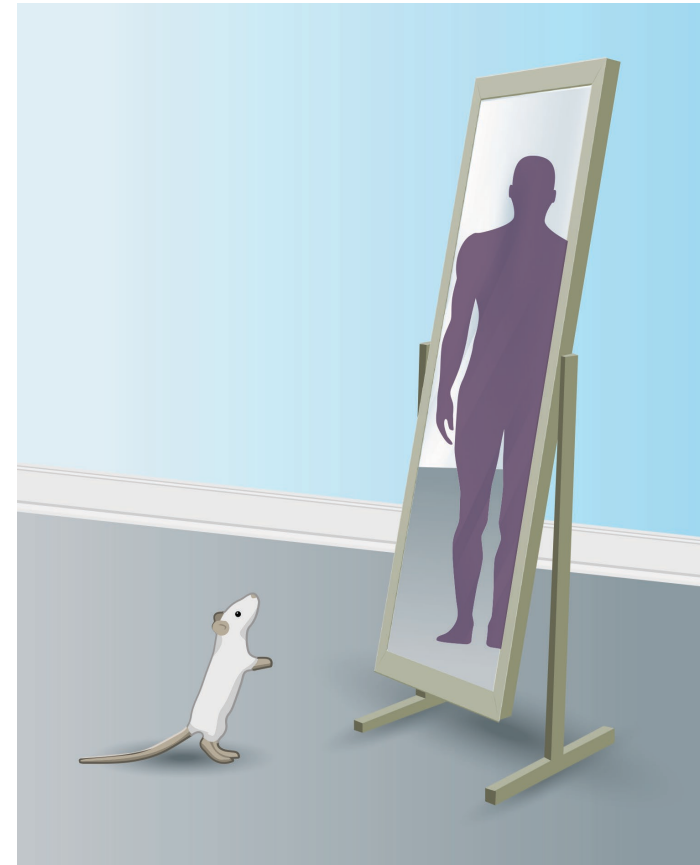
- Topical treatment on dorsal surface of the ear
- Inject with radiolabel or fluorochrome
- Measure cell proliferation in the lymph nodes associated with the site of application



Comparison of LLNA and Human Data

Accuracy:

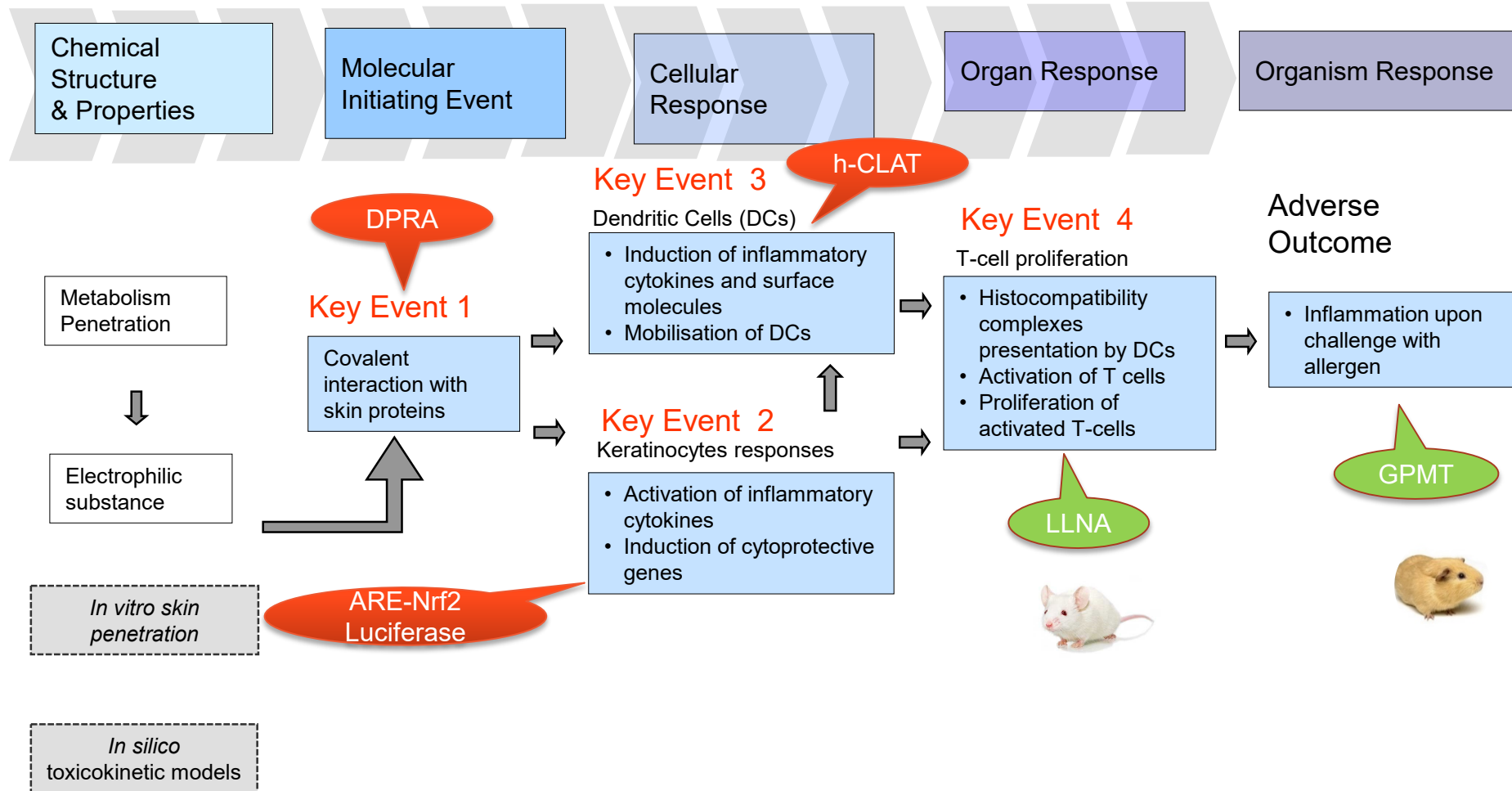
- **74 %** for Hazard (NS/S)
- **59 %** for Potency 3-class (NS, Weak/ Moderate, Strong/ Extreme)
- **45 %** for Potency 5-class (NS, Weak, Moderate, Strong, Extreme)



Provides a benchmark for comparison with new approaches



OECD AOP for Skin Sensitization





In Vitro Models Used by the NTP for Assessing Dermal Sensitization

– **Direct peptide reactivity assay**

- Assesses the ability of a substance to form a hapten-protein complex

– **KeratiNoSens**

- Assesses the ability of a substance to activate cytokines and induce cytoprotective genes in keratinocytes

– **h-CLAT**

- Assesses the ability of a substance to activate and mobilize dendritic cells in the skin



Individual Assays Compared to Human

	hCLAT vs Human	DPRA vs Human	Keratino vs Human																											
	<table><tr><td>↓</td><td>NEG</td><td>POS</td></tr><tr><td>NEG</td><td>20</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>POS</td><td>19</td><td>77</td></tr></table>	↓	NEG	POS	NEG	20	11	POS	19	77	<table><tr><td>↓</td><td>NEG</td><td>POS</td></tr><tr><td>NEG</td><td>29</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>POS</td><td>10</td><td>63</td></tr></table>	↓	NEG	POS	NEG	29	25	POS	10	63	<table><tr><td>↓</td><td>NEG</td><td>POS</td></tr><tr><td>NEG</td><td>31</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td>POS</td><td>8</td><td>67</td></tr></table>	↓	NEG	POS	NEG	31	22	POS	8	67
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Sensitivity %:	89.7	72.9	75.0																											
Specificity %:	52.5	74.4	77.5																											
Accuracy %:	78.0	73.4	75.8																											
	≥ LLNA		≥ LLNA																											
	n=127	n=124	n=128																											



Defined Approach Evaluation

- Most non-animal testing strategies evaluated so far perform **better** than the LLNA at predicting human skin sensitization **hazard and potency**
- Combining multiple *in vitro* assays and *in silico* methods or physico chemical properties increases the ability to predict sensitizers
- Specific Defined Approaches for data analysis, hazard and potency prediction have been published



Expanding Coverage of Chemical Space

- **A significant number of chemicals used in the validation of non-animal test methods have been cosmetics ingredients**
- NTP is supporting testing of other types of chemicals in three alternative test methods: DPRA, KeratinoSens, hCLAT
 - Expanded chemical space includes: pesticides, agrochemical formulations, dermal excipients, personal care product ingredients, “challenge” chemicals
- **Chemical nominations from multiple agencies**
 - EPA: Office of Pesticides, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Office of Research and Development
 - Consumer Product Safety Commission
 - Food and Drug Administration
 - NTP
- Testing of >200 chemicals has been completed



Common Name	Chemical Name	CAS #	Product Name	Donor
BBIT	1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one, 2-butyl	4299-07-4	Vanquish 100	Lonza
BIT	1,2-Benzisothiazolin-3-one	2634-33-5	Mergal BIT Technical	Troy
CMIT/MIT	Mixture	55965-84-9	Mergal MITZ	Troy
DCOIT	4,5-Dichloro-2-octyl-3(2h)-isothiazolone	64359-81-5	KATHON 287T industrial Microbicide	Dow
MIT	2-Methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one	2682-20-4	KORDEK 573F BIOCIDES	Dow
OIT	2-n-Octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one	26530-20-1	ACTICIDE OIT	Thor

CMIT = 5-Chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one

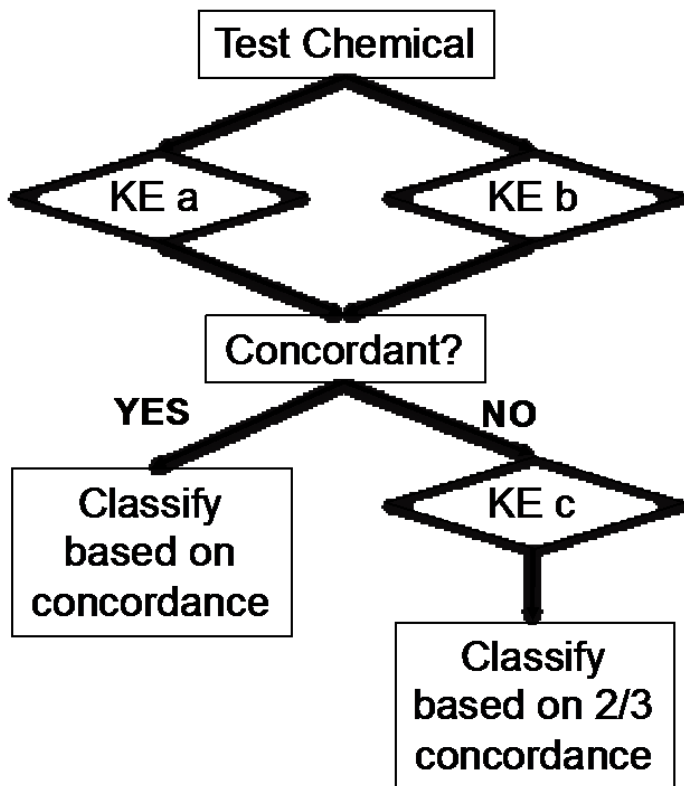
- Partnership between EPA OPP, ACC Isothiazolinone Task Force, and NTP/NICEATM
- Test 6 isothiazolinones donated by Task Force member companies in NTP in vitro assays
- Collect and analyze all available in vivo data
- Consider methods for using in vitro data for risk assessment and compare to results using in vivo methods



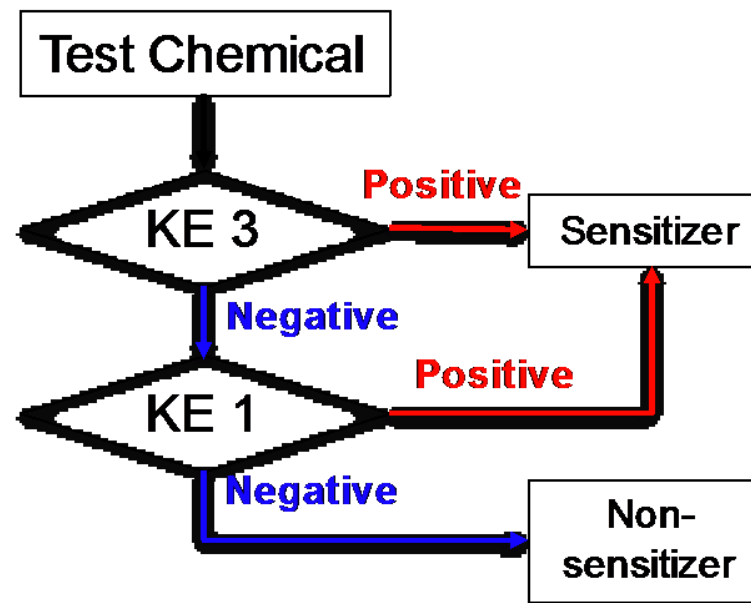
- *In chemico* and *in vitro* data from testing at Burleson Research Technologies (NTP CRO for Immunotoxicology Studies)
 - Direct Peptide Reactivity Assay (DPRA); OECD TG 442C
 - KeratinoSens™; OECD TG 442D
 - Human cell line activation test (h-CLAT); OECD TG 442E
- *In silico* predictions from OECD QSAR Toolbox v4.3
- Physicochemical properties from EPA OPP and OPERA v2.3 (OPEN structure-activity Relationship App) at <https://github.com/NIEHS/OPERA>
- LLNA data from Dow Chemical and scientific literature



Defined Approaches Accepted by EPA



AOP 2 out of 3

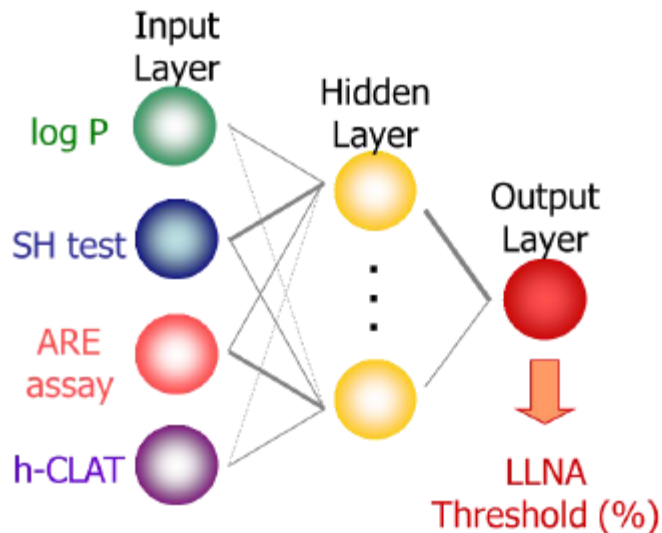


Key Event 3/1 Sequential Testing Strategy



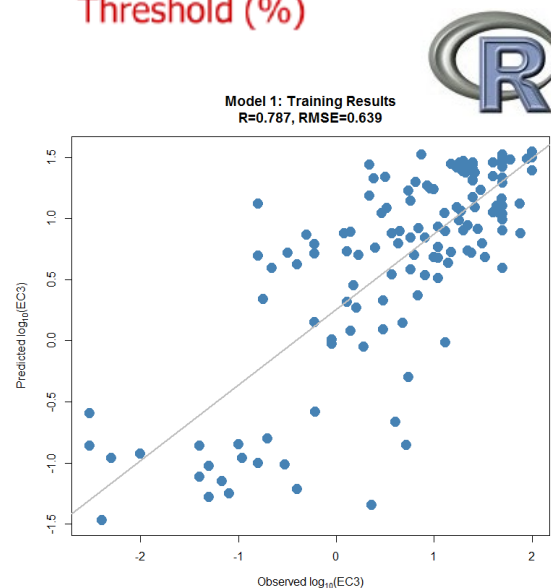
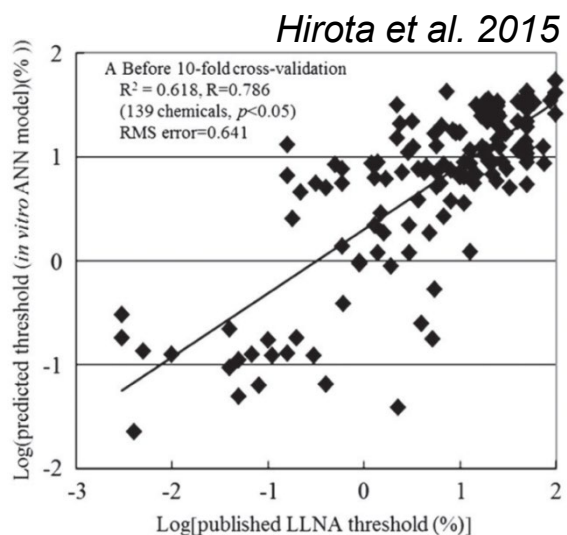
DAs for Quantitative EC3 Prediction

Future consideration for OECD GL



Artificial Neural Network Models

- Continuous EC3 prediction
- Can be translated into potency classes: NS, Weak/Moderate, Strong/Extreme
- Built using proprietary software (QwikNet), reproduced in R
- Two models: DPRA, hCLAT
- DPRA, hCLAT, KeratinoSens
- Run over multiple iterations and averaged





Skin Sensitization Measurement Endpoints for LLNA and Non-animal Methods

Chemical	Dow LLNA EC3 (%)	NICEATM EC3 (%) ^a	DPRA Mean Depletion (%)	Kerati-no-Sens EC1.5 (µM) ^b	Kerati-no-Sens I _{max}	h-CLAT Minimum Induction Threshold (µg/mL) ^b
DCOIT	0.004	0.008 (0-0.053)	55.2	1.32	4.37	0.92
CMIT/MIT	0.002	0.018 (0.0011-0.034)	55.3	3.41	5.61	2.63
OIT	0.2-0.25	0.361 (0.029-0.69)	50	2.19	3.70	0.95
MIT	0.863	1.154 (0-3.476)	50	9.54	15.84	11.6
BIT	1.54	10.57 (0-23.36)	NA	3.14	17.64	7.63
BBIT	NA	NA	50	3.84	19.61	3.01

Abbreviations: NA = not available

^a Numbers in parentheses are the 95% confidence limits for the mean EC3

^b Results corrected for % active ingredient

Potency Rank by Test Method

Chemical	Dow LLNA	NICEATM LLNA	Kerati-noSens	h-CLAT
DCOIT	2	1	1	1
CMIT/MIT	1	2	4	3
OIT	3	3	2	2
MIT	4	4	6	6
BIT	5	5	3	5
BBIT	NA	NA	5	4

NA = not available (no LLNA data for BBIT)

- Used by EPA for Draft Risk Assessment published in the FR in May, 2020
- The use of in vitro and in chemico assays and neural network-based defined approaches (DAs) is the first use of such information in regulatory risk assessment
- EPA is using the results of the ANN-EC3 DA to derive EC3 values to extrapolate dermal risk for the currently registered isothiazolinones as part of registration review



Summary and Conclusions

- Most non-animal testing strategies evaluated to date perform **better** than *in vivo* models at predicting human skin sensitization **hazard**
- Multiple models using different combinations of non-animal data demonstrate high accuracy in hazard classification predictions
 - This provides flexibility for investigators/companies to choose from among different test methods as their resources allow
- Global collaborations are addressing issues such as potency and further expanding the applicability domain
- The NTP has transitioned to using non-animal methods to screen for the potential to induce dermal sensitization
- *In vitro* data can (and has) be used for hazard identification and risk assessment



- Nicole Kleinstreuer, Warren Casey (NICEATM)
- Victor Johnson, Travis Gullede (Burleson Research Technologies)
- Bradley Collins (NTP Program Operations)
- Judy Strickland, Jim Truax, David Allen, Dan Zang, Mike Paris, Eileen Phillips (Integrated Laboratory Systems)
- Evisabel Craig, Anna Lowit (USEPA/OPP)
- ICCVAM agency representatives and SSEG members