

*Characterizing, Navigating, and
Modeling the Chemical Space
Using Next-Generation
Cheminformatics Methods*

Denis Fourches, PhD

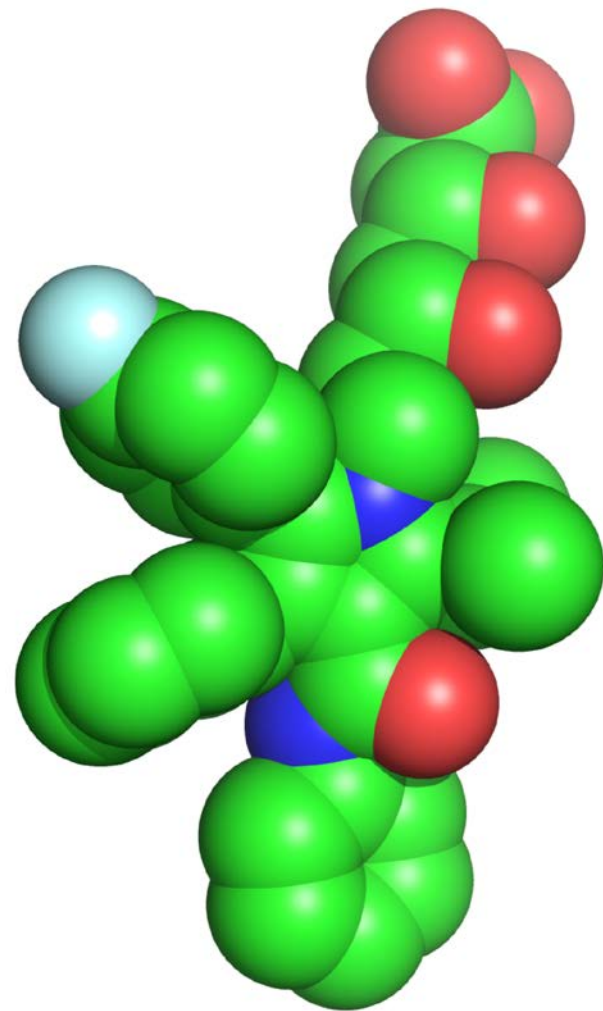
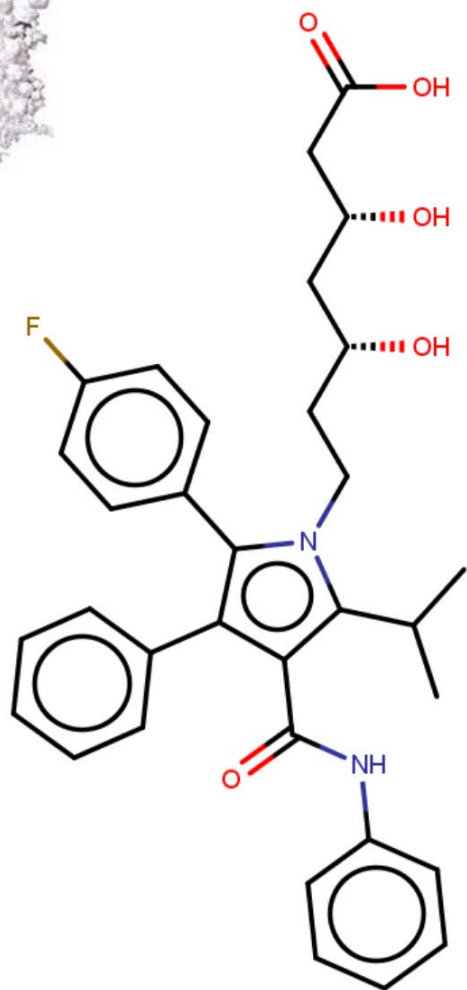
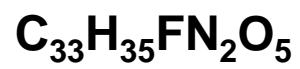
*Department of Chemistry, Bioinformatics Research Center,
North Carolina State University, USA
www.fourches-laboratory.com*

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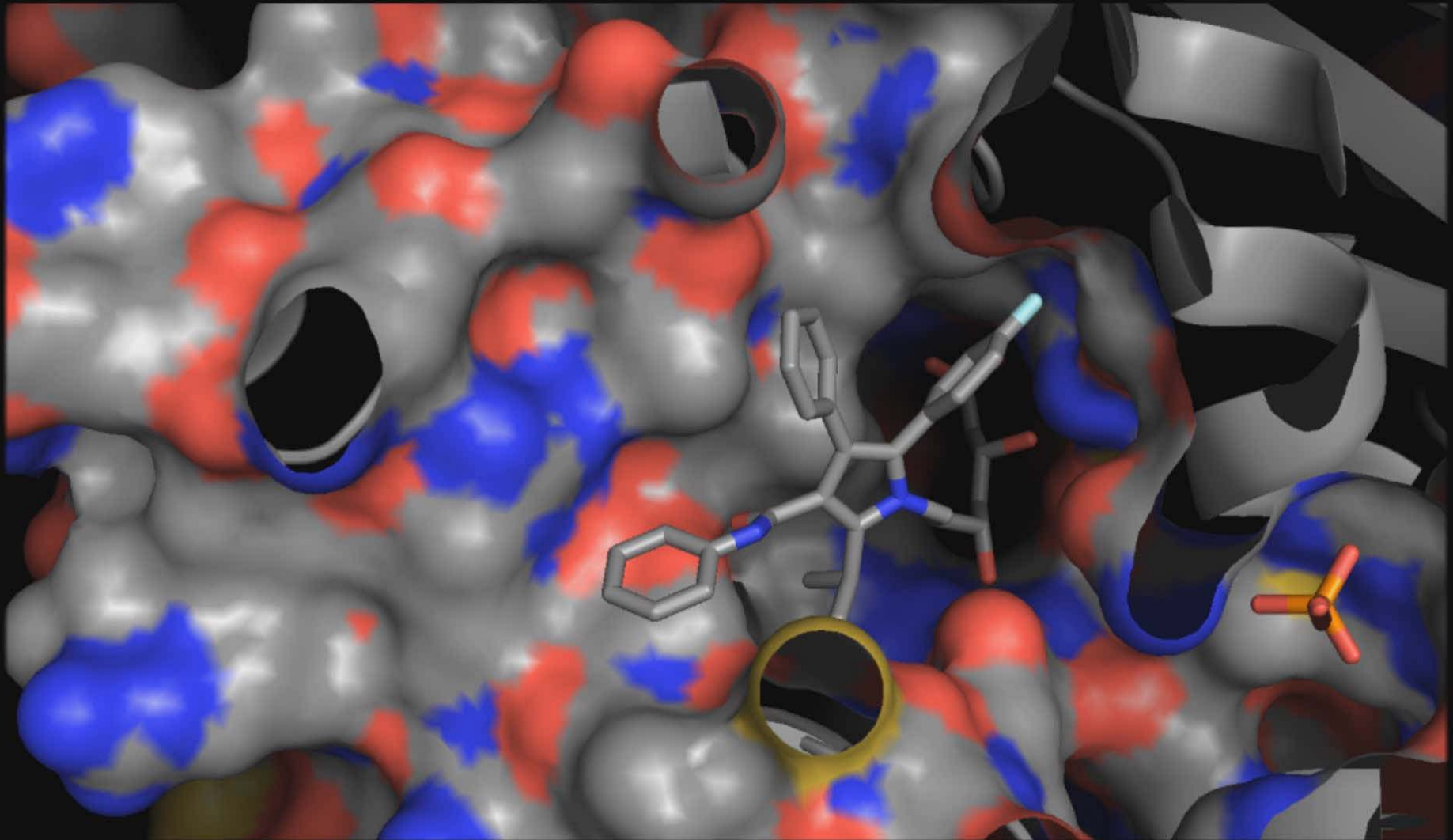
0D/1D

2D

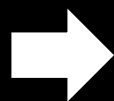
3D

LIPITOR (atorvastatin)

*World's best-selling drug of all time
(\$125 billion over 15 years)*



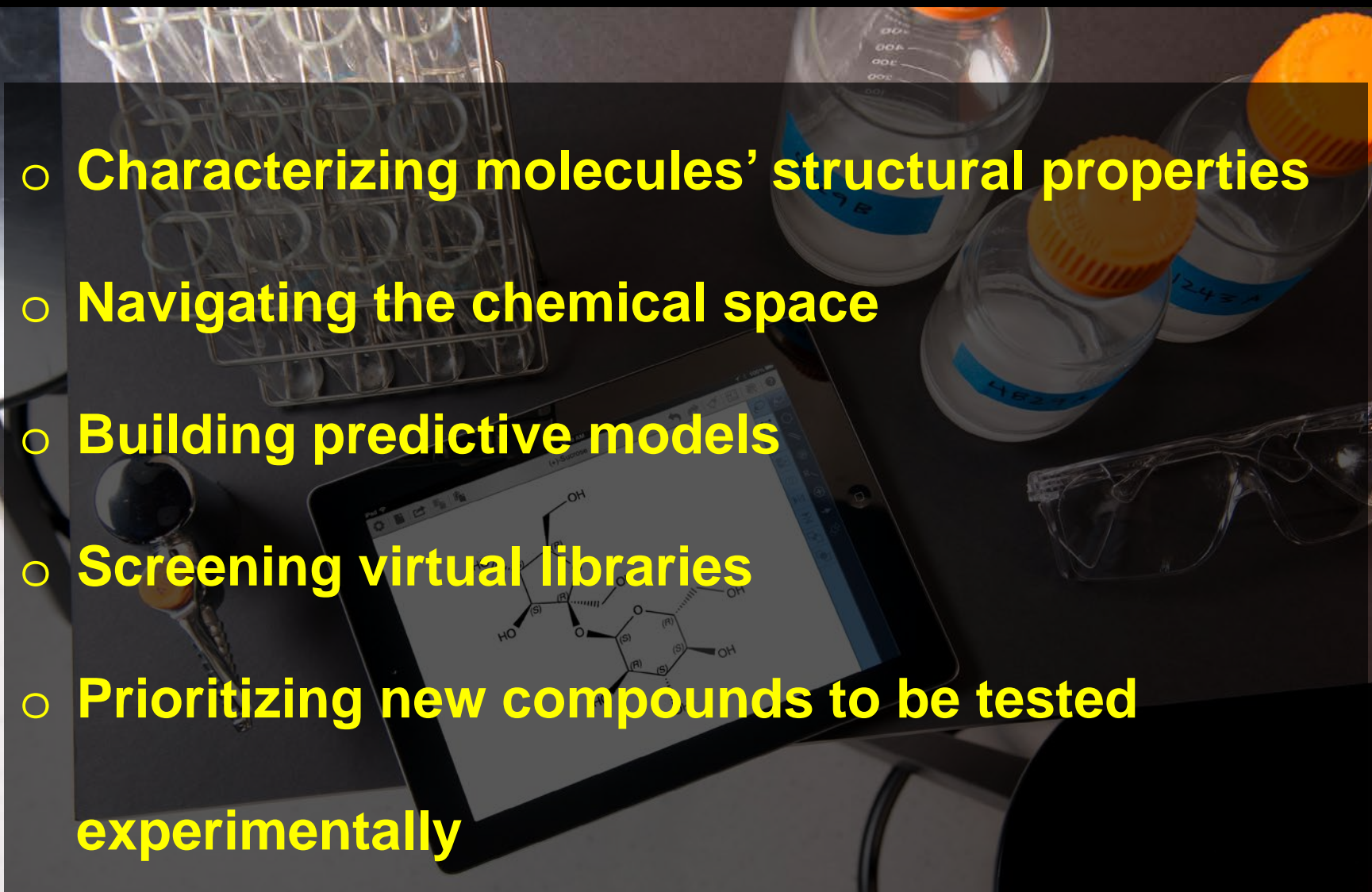
Competitive inhibitor of
HMG-CoA reductase in
liver



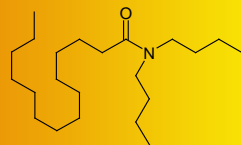
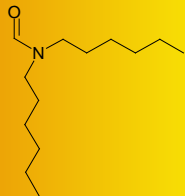
Lower blood cholesterol

PDB code = 1HWK

Cheminformatics is becoming an essential element in the chemist's toolbox

- Characterizing molecules' structural properties
 - Navigating the chemical space
 - Building predictive models
 - Screening virtual libraries
 - Prioritizing new compounds to be tested experimentally
- 
- A photograph of a laboratory workspace. In the center, a tablet computer displays a complex 3D chemical structure of a molecule with multiple hydroxyl groups and stereocenters. To the left is a multi-well plate. To the right are several vials with yellow caps and blue labels. In the foreground, a pair of clear safety glasses is visible. The background is dark, and the overall scene is lit with a soft, focused light.

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Thousands of molecular descriptors are available for organic compounds

constitutional, topological, structural, quantum mechanics based, fragmental, steric, pharmacophoric, geometrical, thermodynamical, conformational, etc.

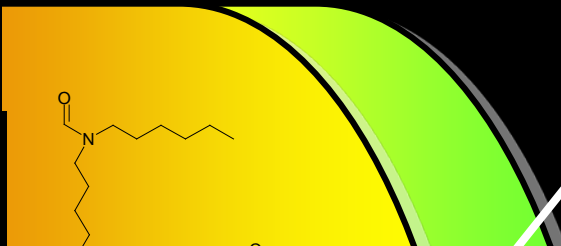
- **Building of models** using machine learning methods (NN, SVM, RF)

- **Validation of models** according to numerous statistical procedures, and their applicability domains.

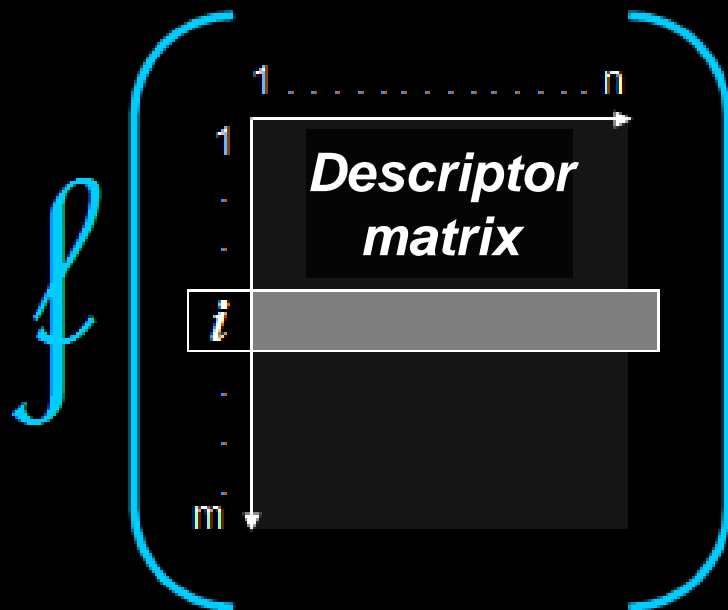
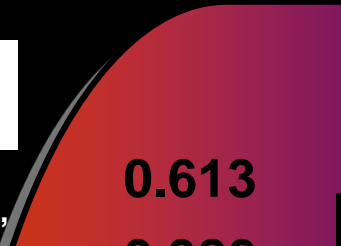
0.613
0.380
-0.222
0.708
1.146
0.491
0.301
0.141
0.956
0.256
0.799
1.195
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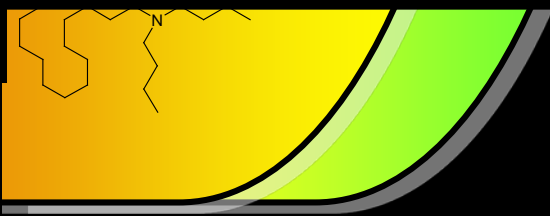


Thousands of molecular descriptors are available for organic compounds
constitutional, topological, structural, quantum mechanics based, fragmental, steric, pharmacophore, geometrical



= ACTIVITY (i)

With m molecules and n descriptors



- Validation of models according to numerous statistical procedures, and their applicability domains.

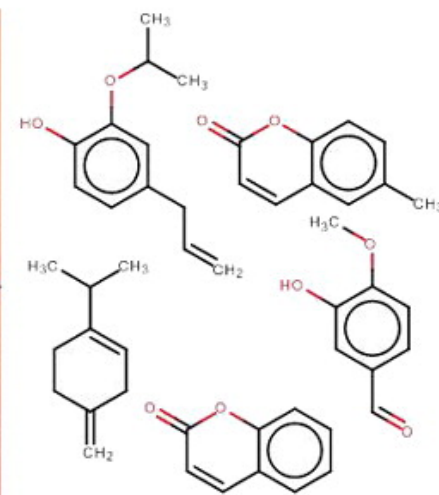
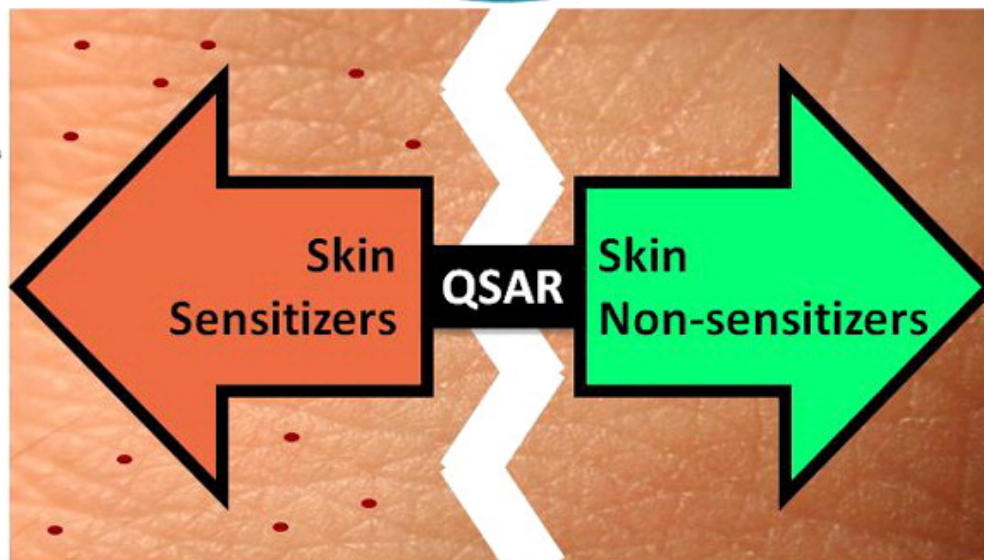
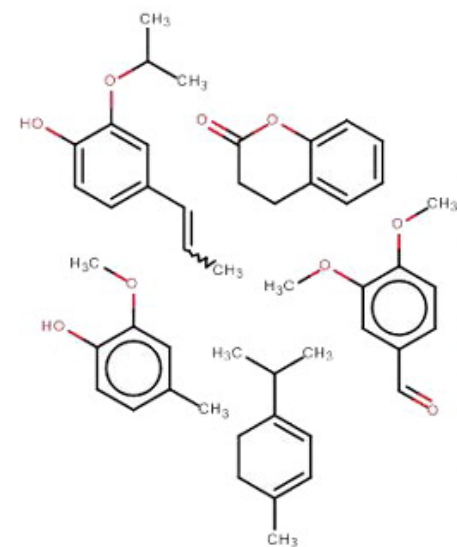


A
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ICCVAM Report (471 entries)

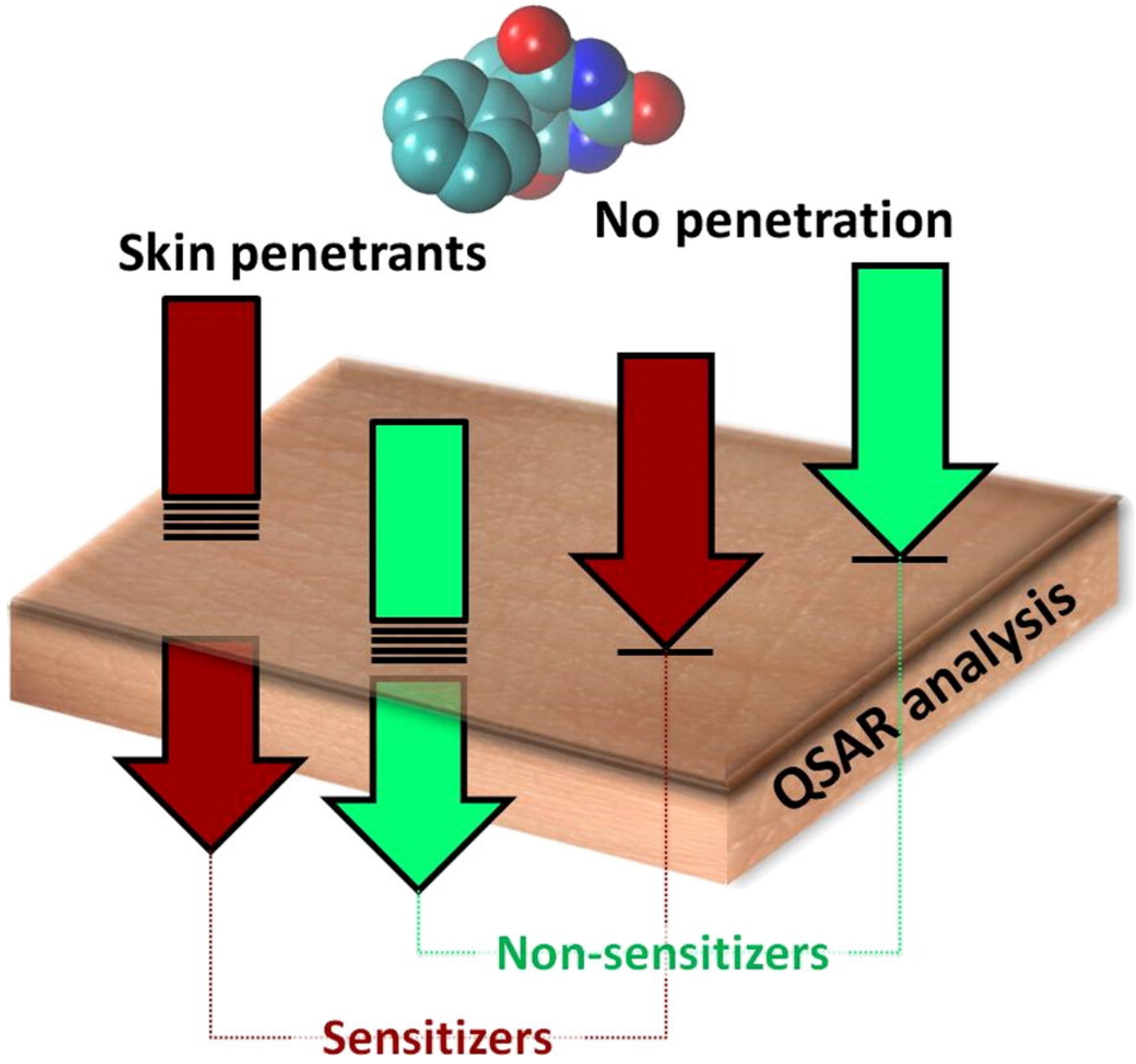
Curation

387
chemicals

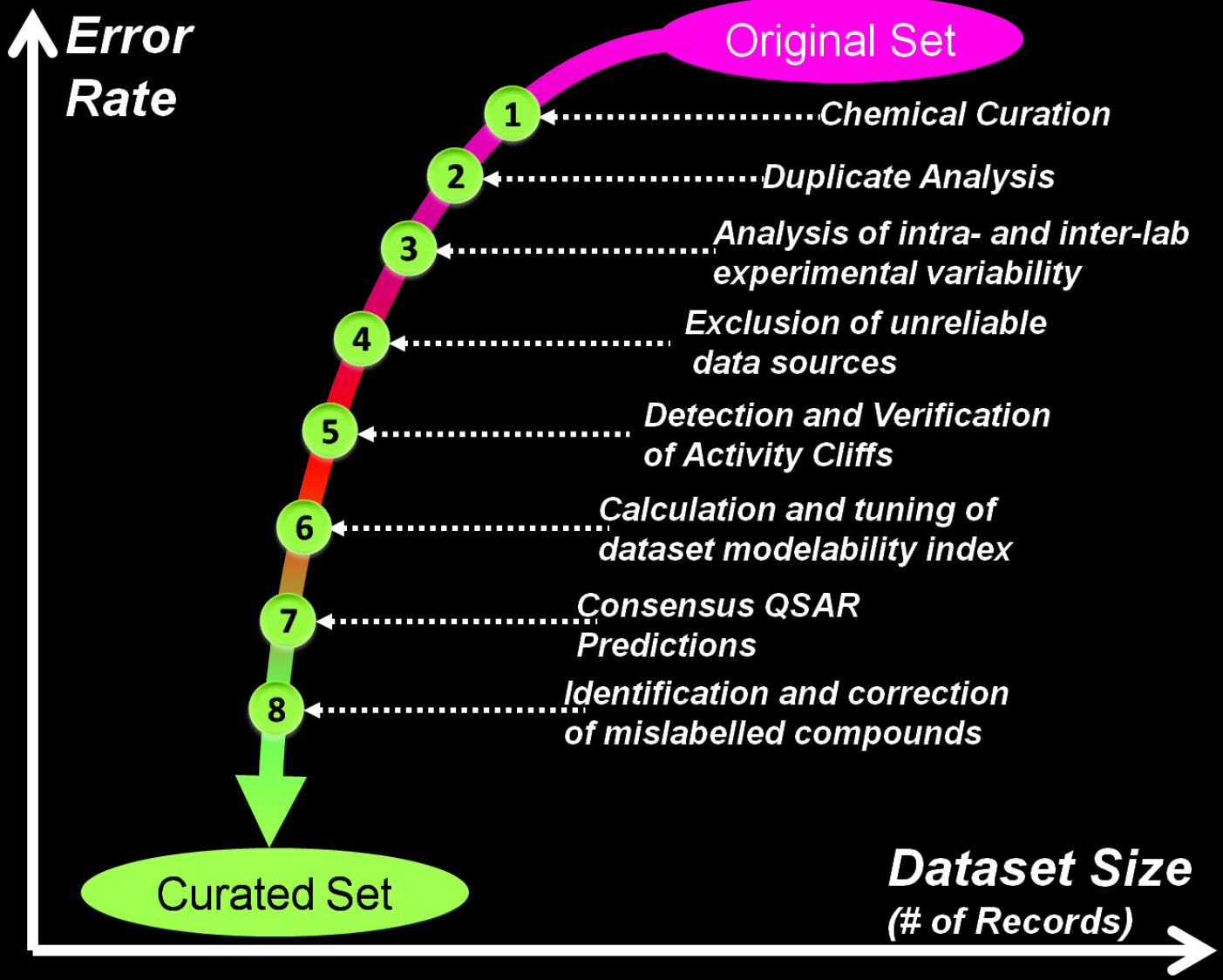


Correct Classification Rate (CCR) for QSAR models discriminating sensitizers from non-sensitizers was 71–88% when evaluated on several external validation sets, within a broad AD, with positive (for sensitizers) and negative (for non-sensitizers) predicted rates of 85% and 79% respectively.

Alves, Muratov, Fourches, Strickland, Kleinstreuer, Andrade, Tropsha. Toxicol Appl Pharmacol. 2015 Apr 15;284(2):262-72.

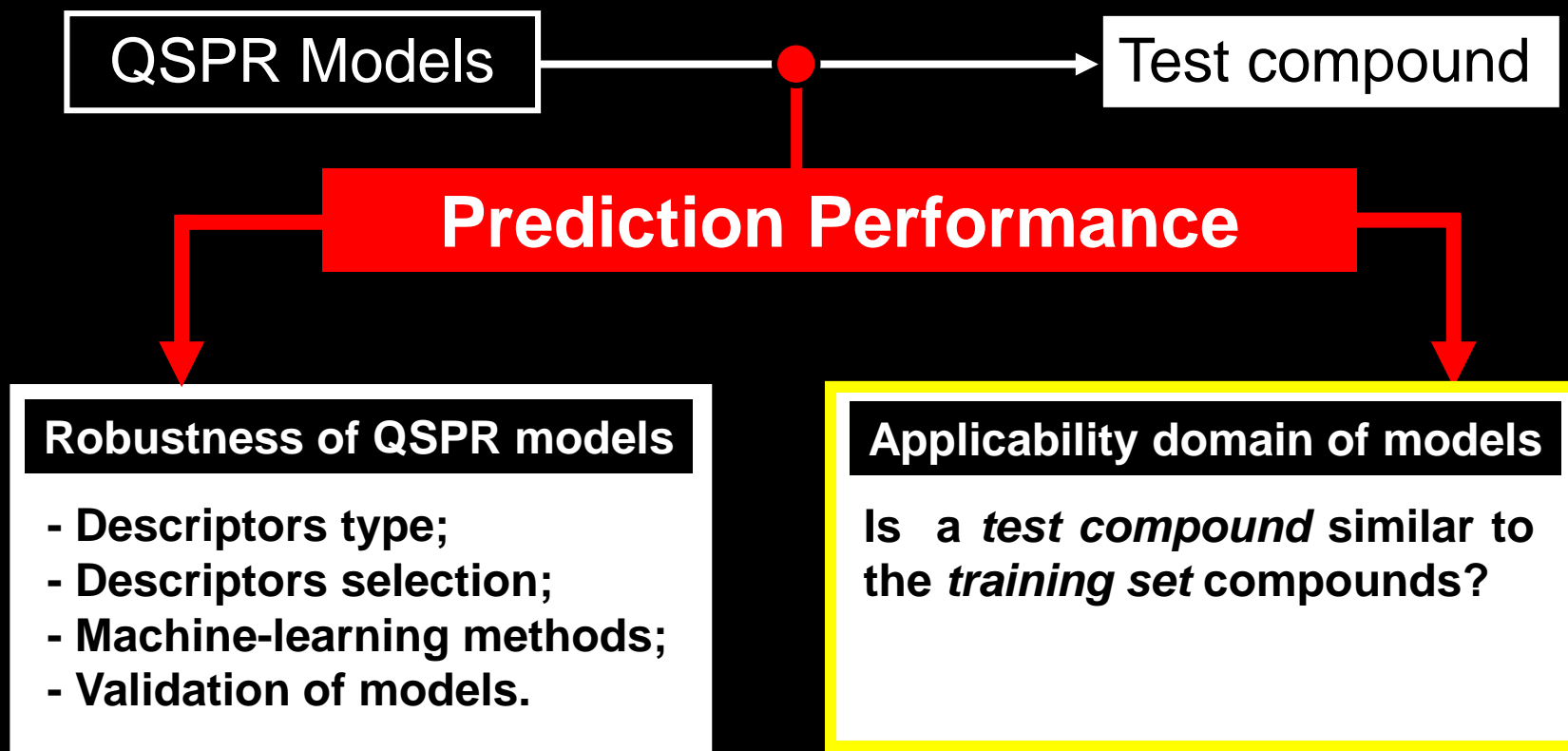


Curation of Chemogenomics Data



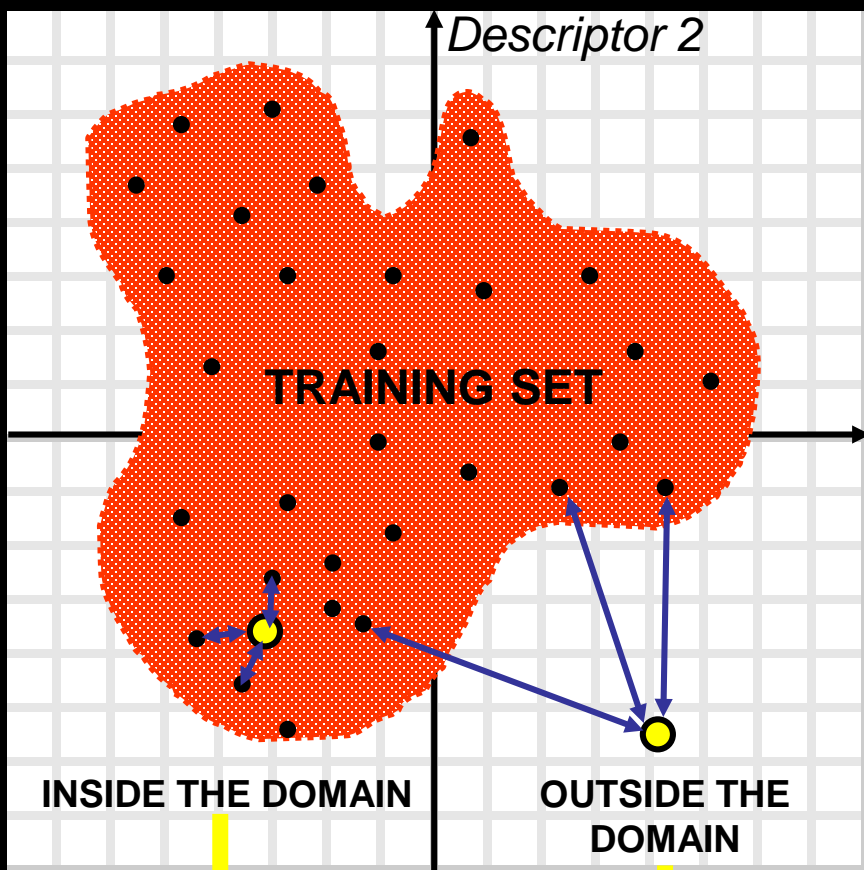
Fourches, Muratov, Tropsha. Nature Chemical Biology. 2015, 11, 535.
Fourches, Muratov, Tropsha. JCIIM. 2016, In Press.

Can any QSAR model, even if well validated, be applied to any molecule ?



Applicability Domain of a given QSAR model

● = TEST COMPOUND



The new compound will be predicted by the model, only if :

$$D_i \leq \langle D_k \rangle + Z \times S_k$$

with Z, an empirical parameter (0.5 by default)

Tropsha et al., J. Med. Chem, 2002, 45, p. 2811-2823

Descriptor 1

AD parameter of applicability domain

$$AD_i = D_i / (\langle D_k \rangle + Z \times S_k) \times 100$$

INSIDE THE DOMAIN

OUTSIDE THE DOMAIN

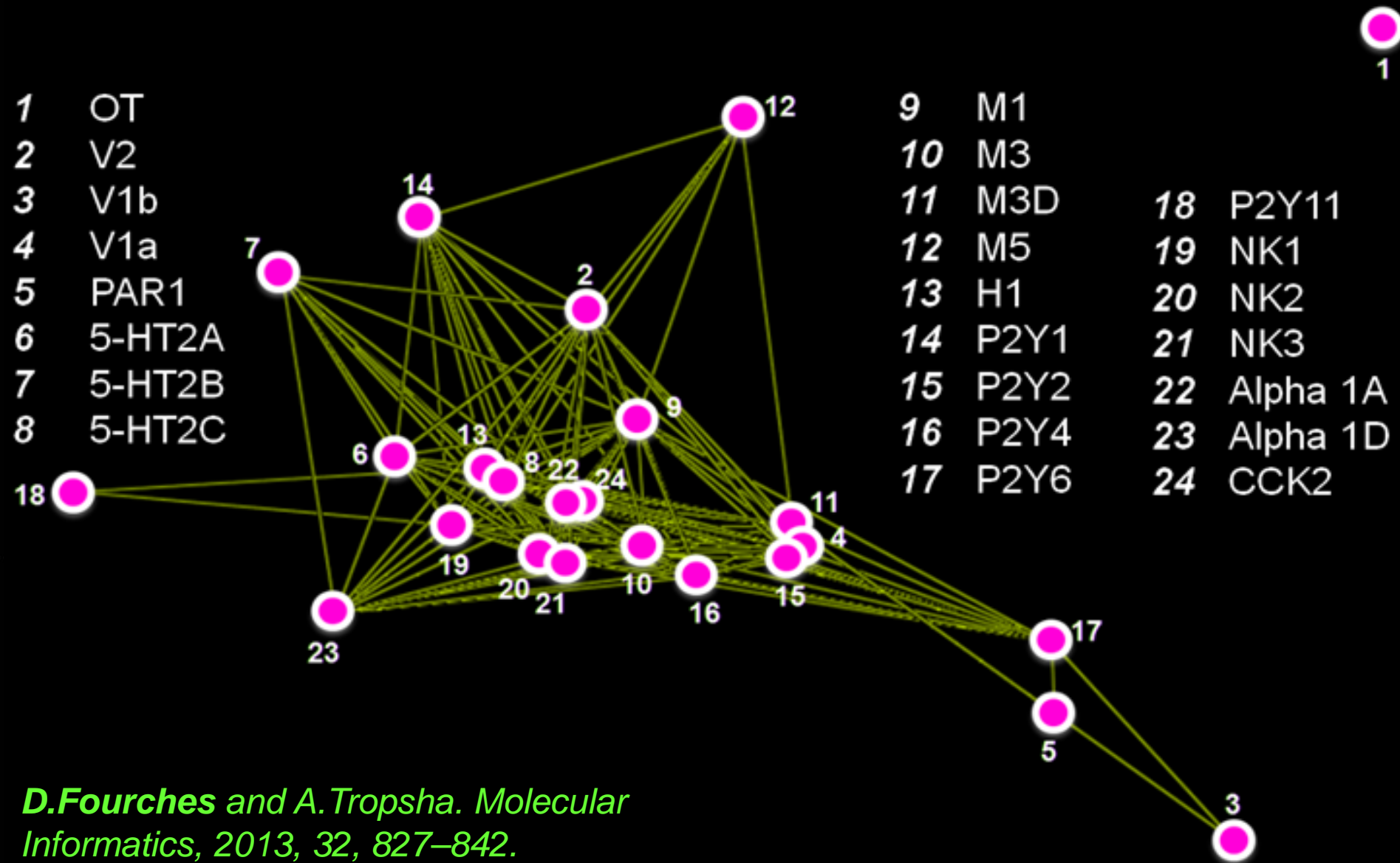
$AD_i \leq 100\%$

Will be predicted by the model

$AD_i > 100\%$

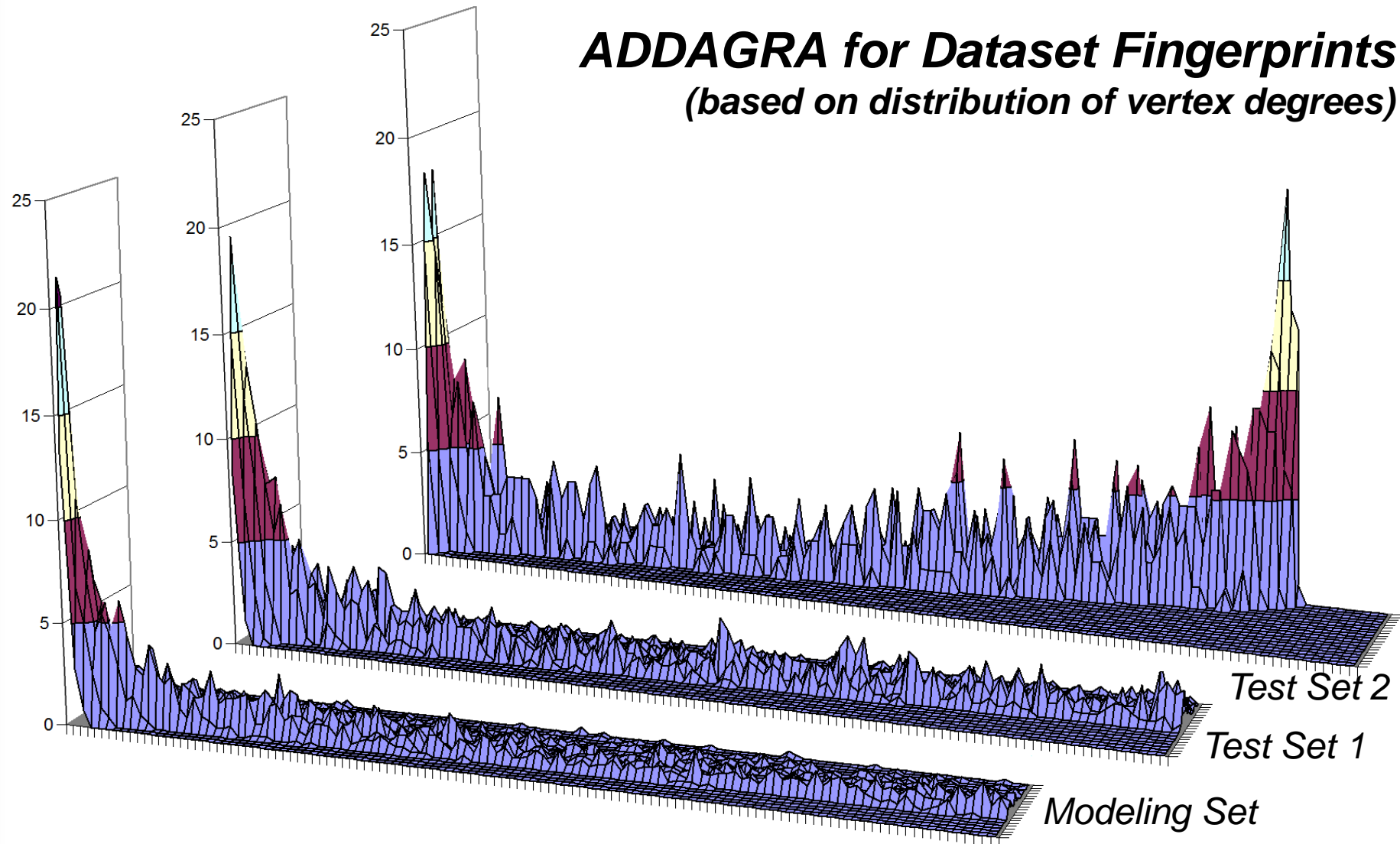
Will not be predicted by the model

Development of New Computational Tools Adapted to Hyper-Dimensional HTS data to Analyze Drugs' Polypharmacology



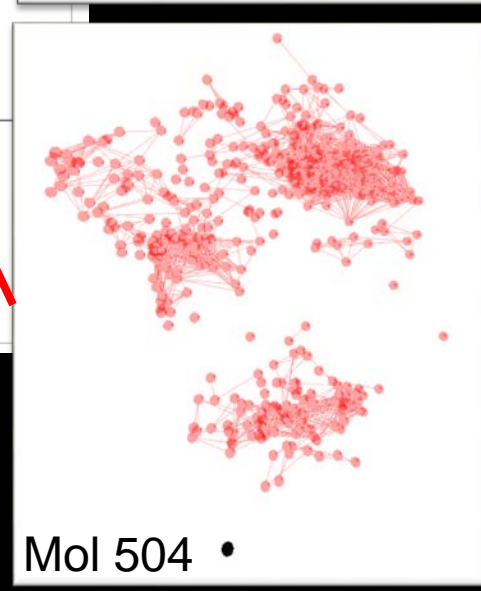
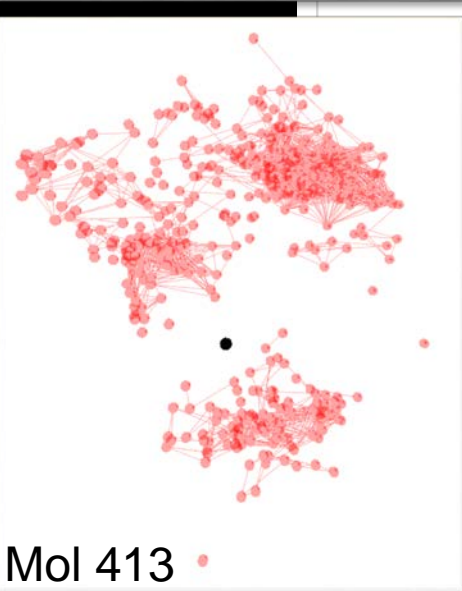
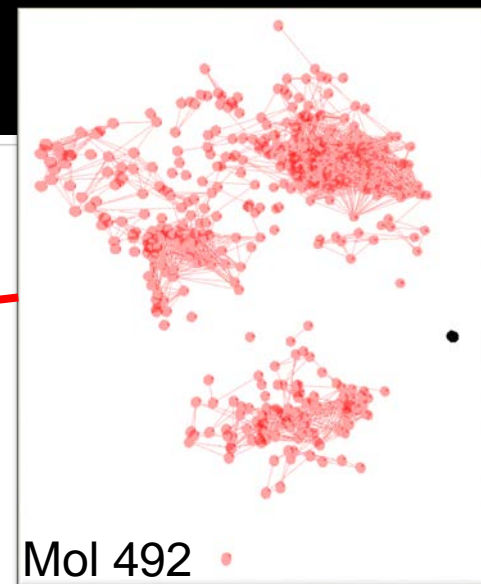
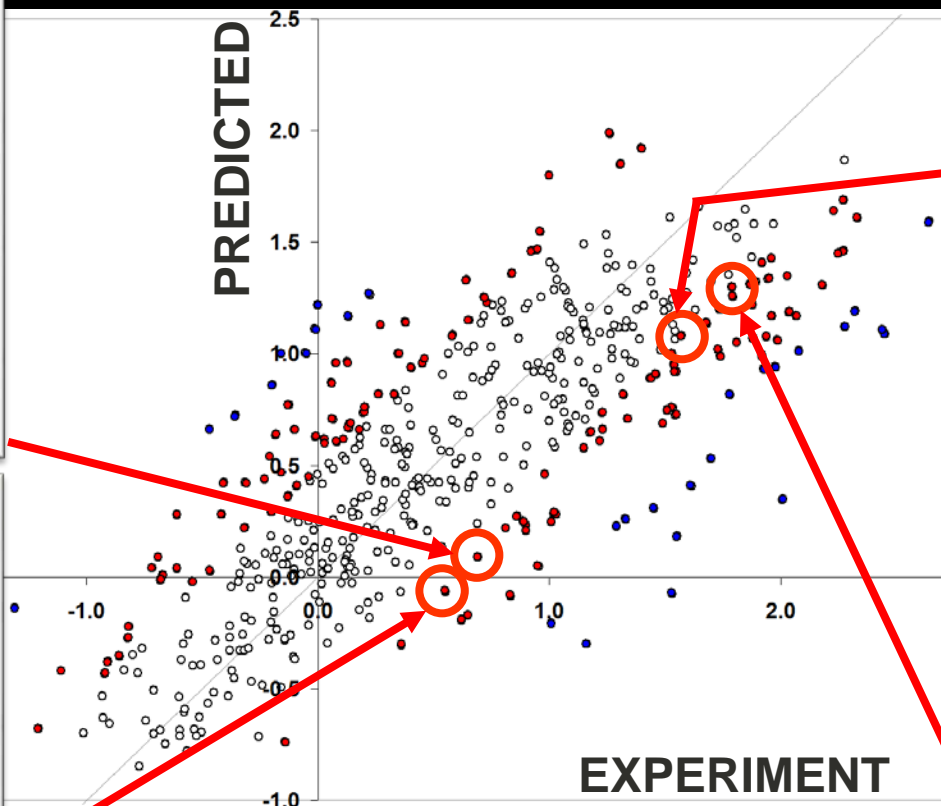
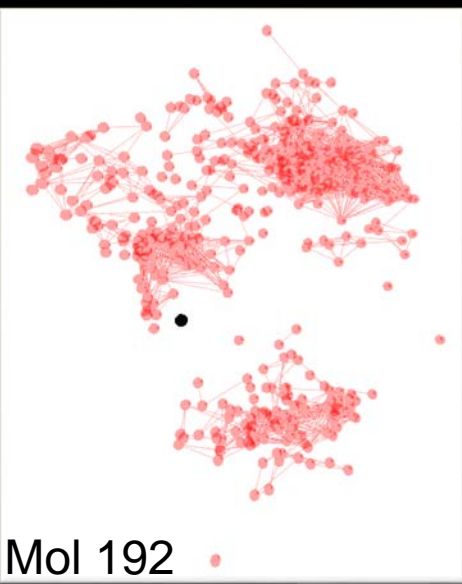
D.Fourches and A.Tropsha. Molecular Informatics, 2013, 32, 827–842.

Visualizing and comparing chemical datasets using the ADDAGRA approach



D.Fourches and A.Tropsha. Using Graph Indices for the Analysis and Comparison of Chemical Datasets. Molecular Informatics, 2013, 32, 827–842.

ADDAGRA for the analysis of prediction outliers

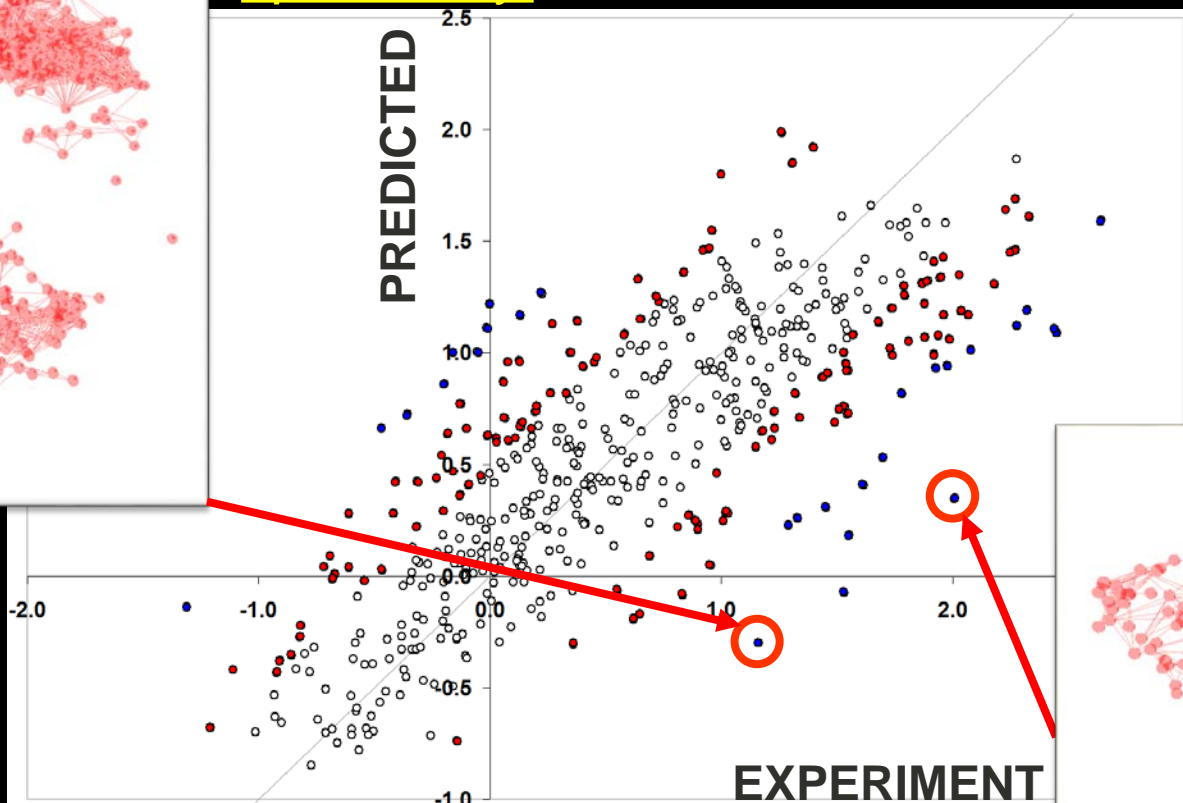


Many prediction outliers
also correspond to outliers in
the descriptor space.

ADDAGRA for the analysis of prediction outliers

ACTIVITY CLIFF

But still, some large outliers
cannot be identified in the chemical
space only.

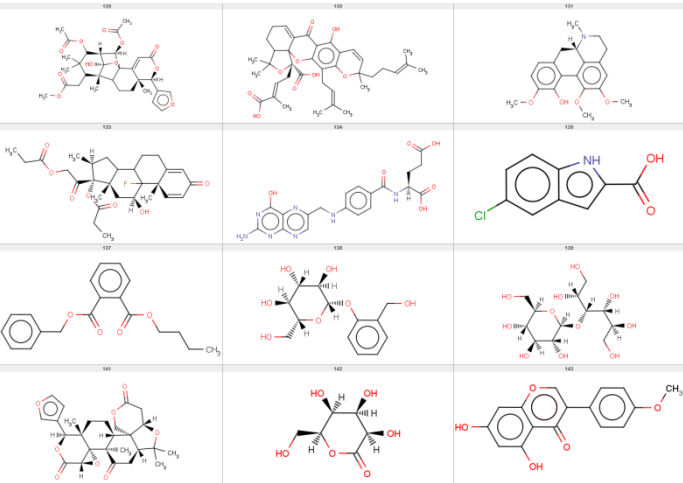


MISANNOTATED



Hybrid modeling using both chemical and biological descriptors

Environ Health Perspect. 2011, 119(3):364-70
Chem Res Toxicol. 2011, 24(8):1251-62



High Throughput Screening

Molecular weight, compositions and geometrical parameters, physico-chemical properties (acidic, basic, neutral, amphi- or lipophilic etc.)

Molecular properties

Human health risk

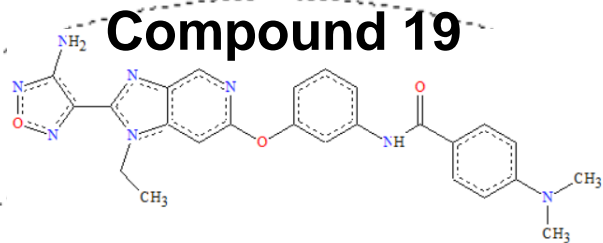
Toxicity testing

Rat
Mouse

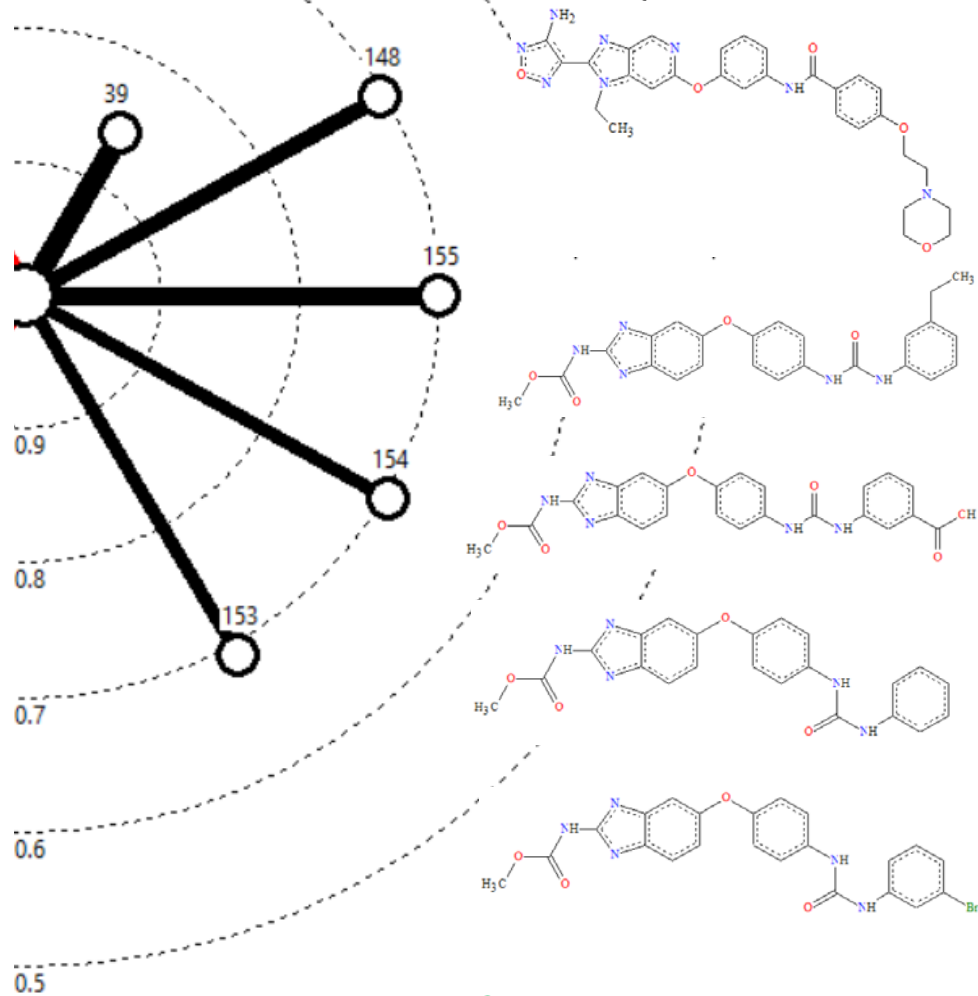
BIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTORS

CHEMICAL DESCRIPTORS

In Silico models



Chemical Neighbors
Structural Descriptors

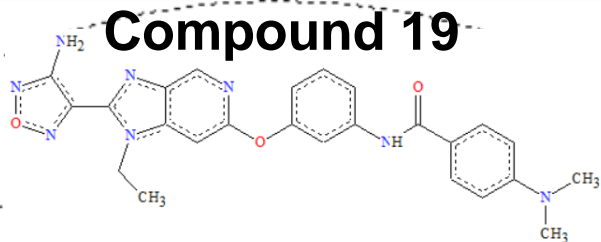


**Integrative Chemical
 Biological Read Across
 CBRA**

CBRA Radial Plots

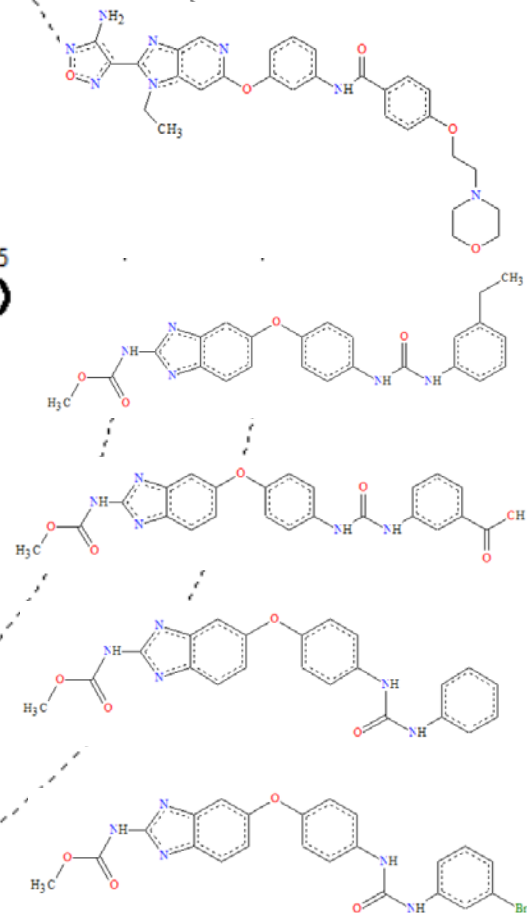
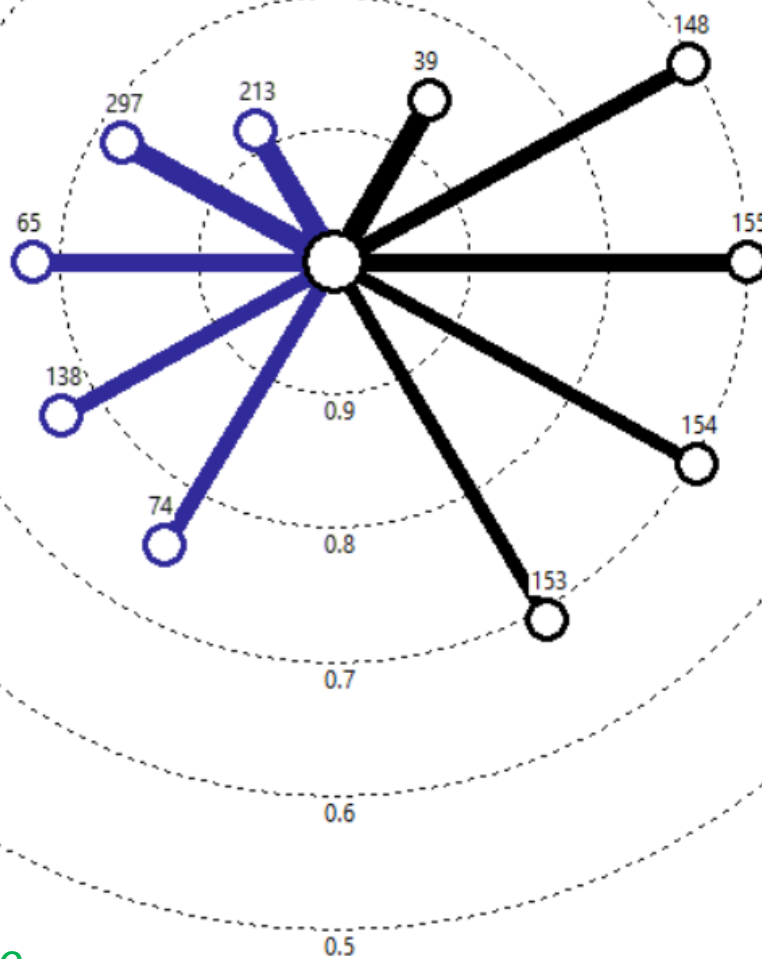
Low et al. CRT. 2013, 26(8):1199

Fourches et al. JCIIM, 2016, In Preparation



Biological Neighbors
GPCR BIOPROFILES

Chemical Neighbors
Structural Descriptors



**Integrative Chemical
 Biological Read Across
 CBRA**

CBRA Radial Plots

Low et al. CRT. 2013, 26(8):1199

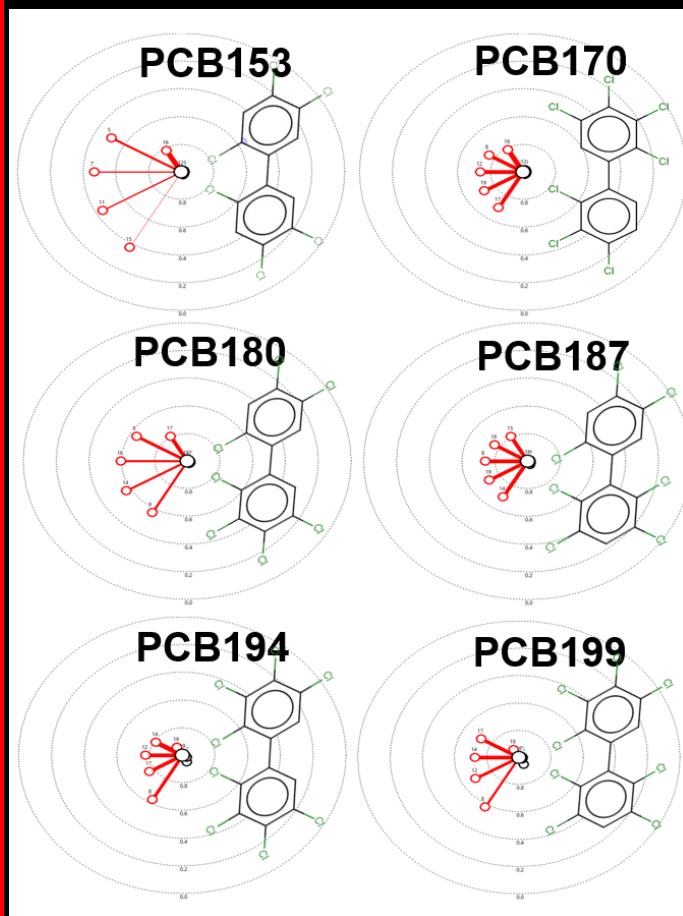
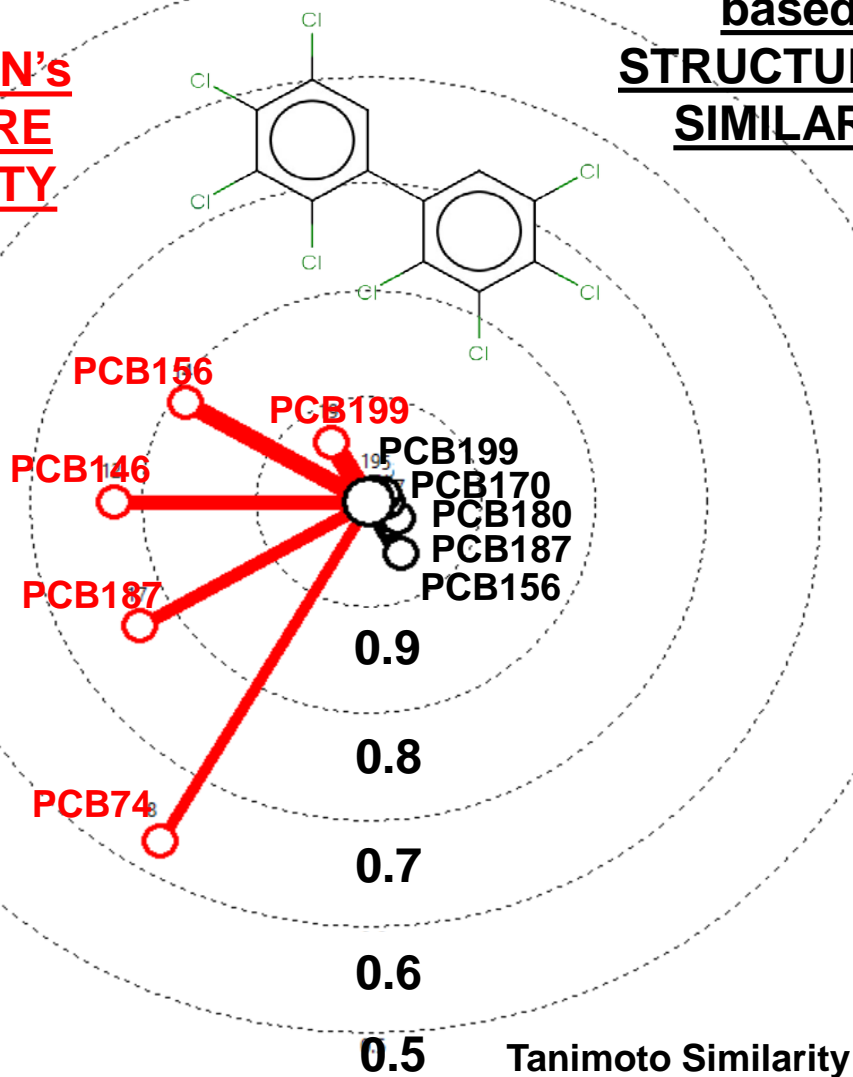
Fourches et al. JCIIM, 2016, In Preparation

Cheminformatics Approaches To Analyze the Similarity and the Effects of Environmental Chemical Mixtures

NEIGHBORS
based on
CHILDREN'S
EXPOSURE
SIMILARITY

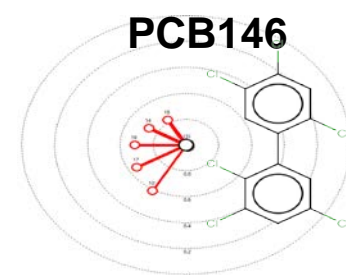
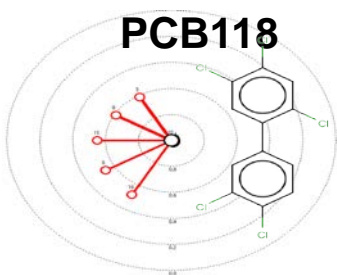
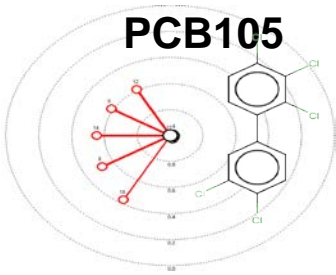
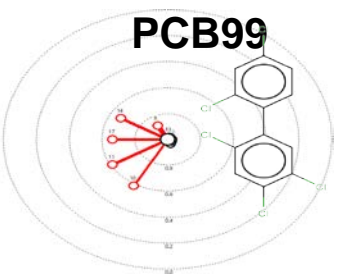
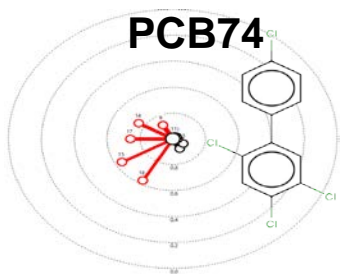
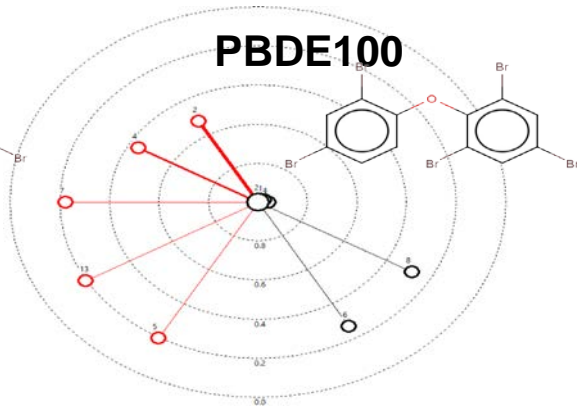
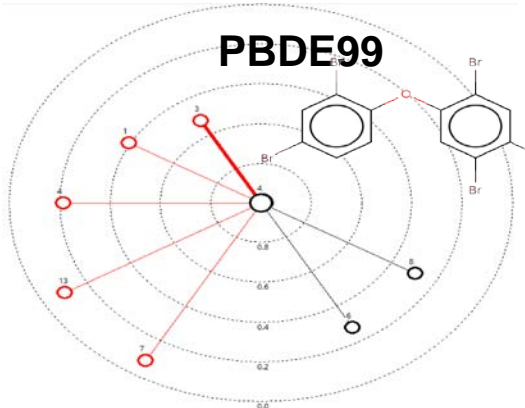
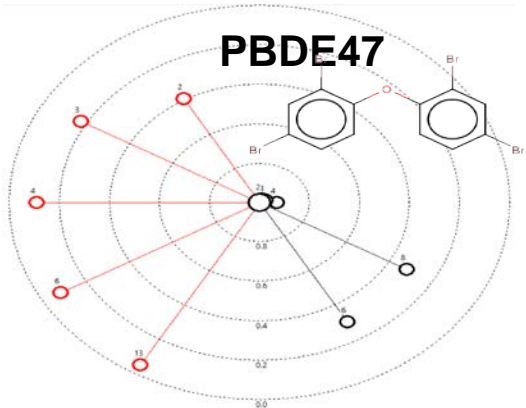
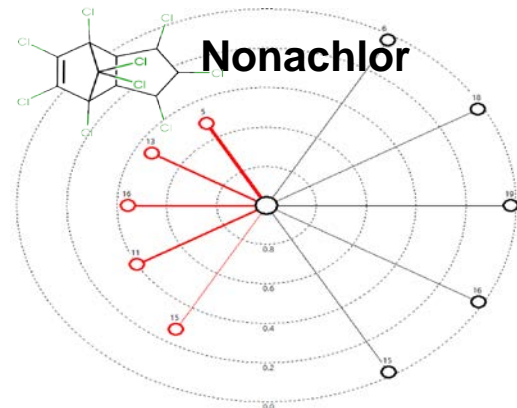
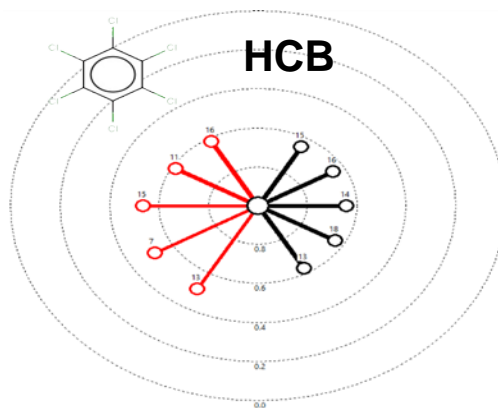
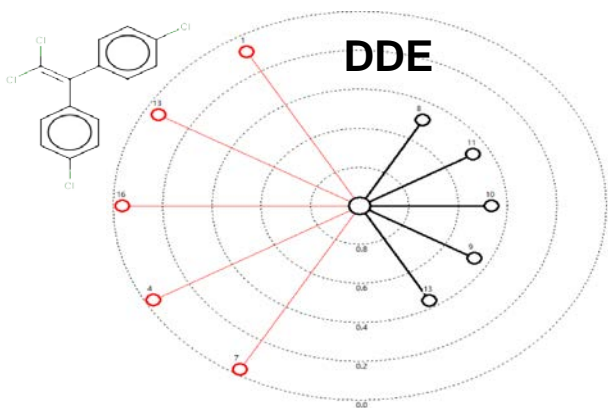
PCB194

NEIGHBORS
based on
STRUCTURAL
SIMILARITY

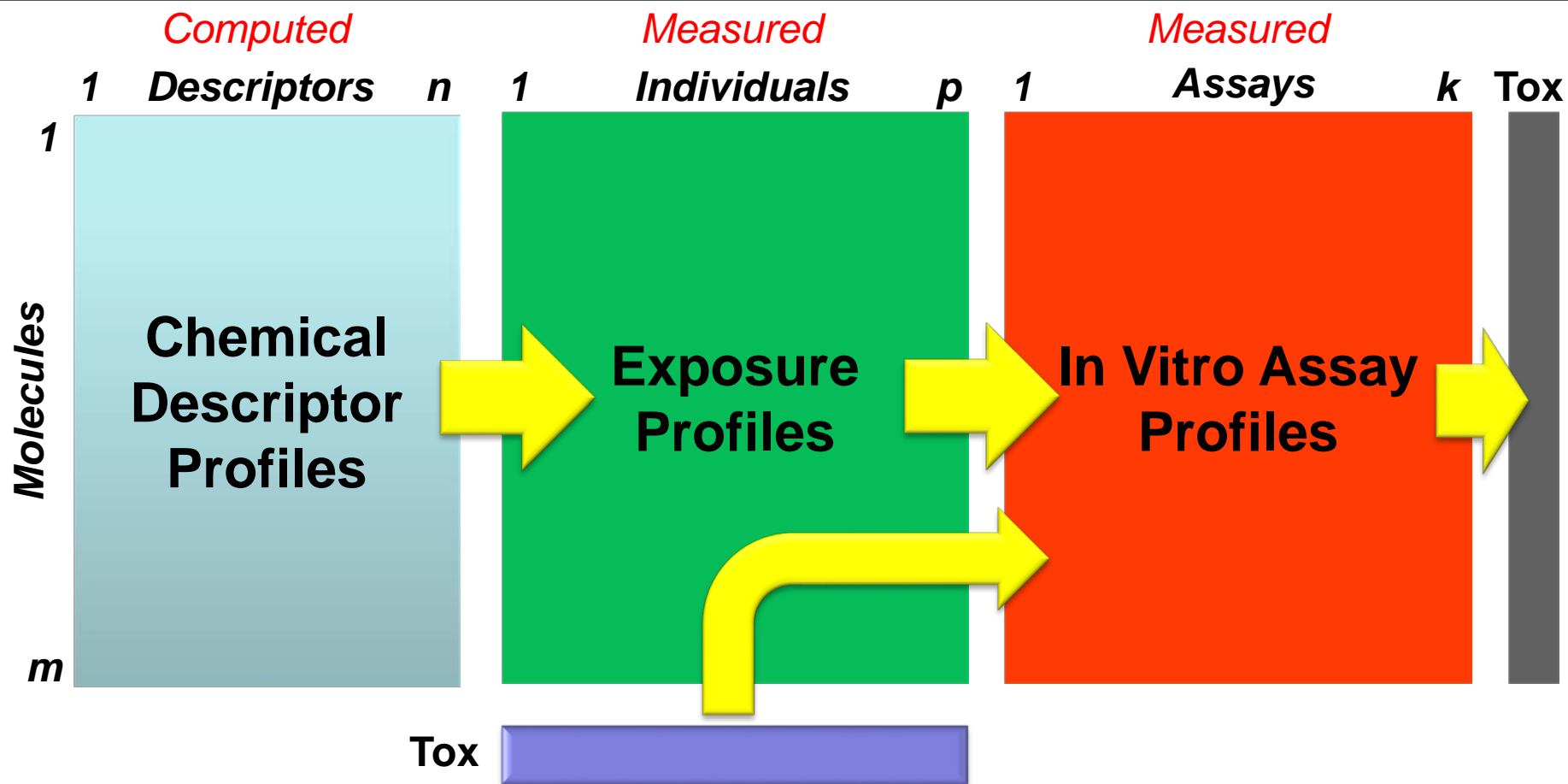


Cheminformatics Approaches To Analyze the Similarity and the Effects of Environmental Chemical Mixtures

CBRA Radial Plots Based on Both Chemical and Children's Exposures Similarity

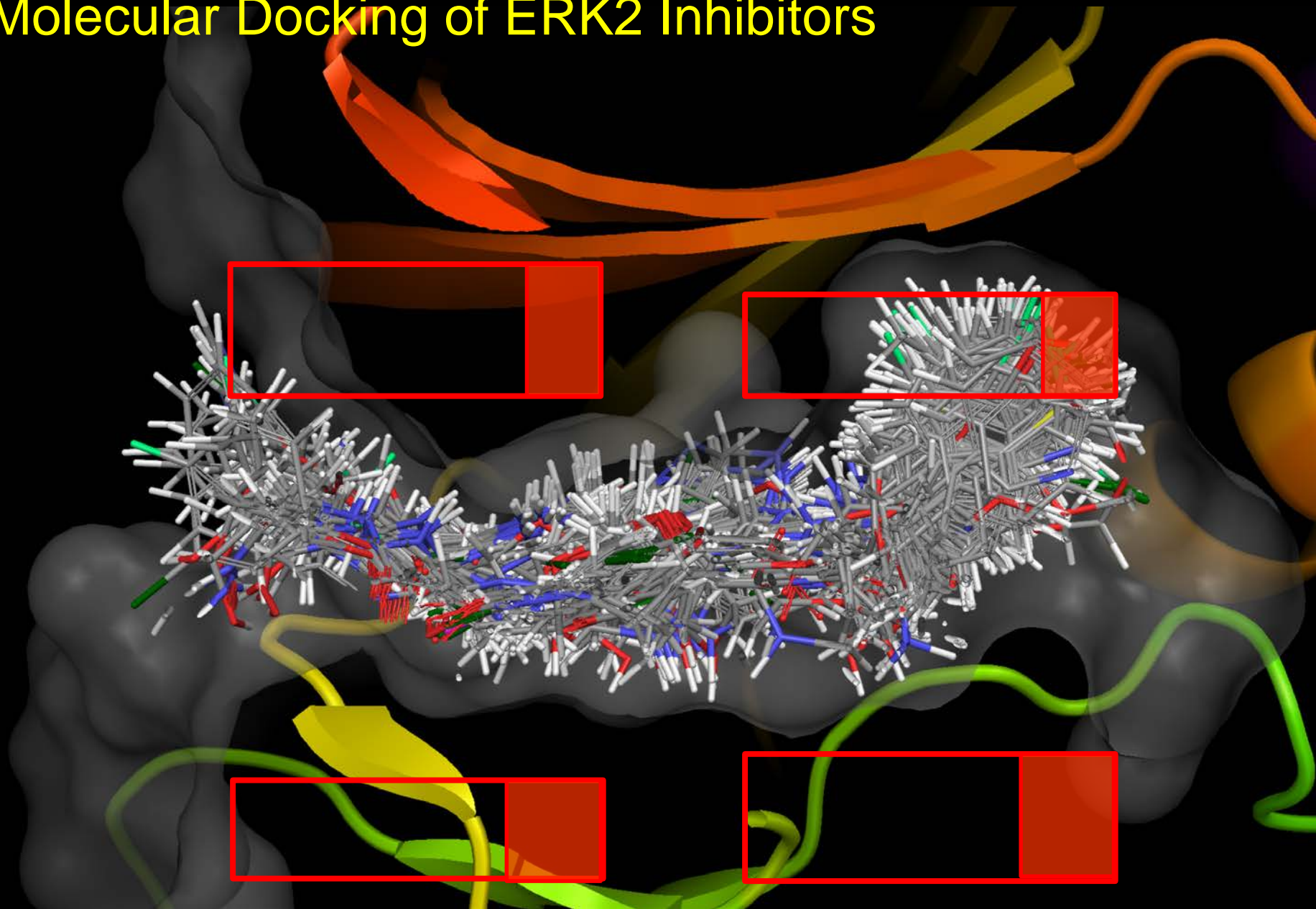


Concept of Quantitative Structure-Exposure-Toxicity Relationships (QSETR)

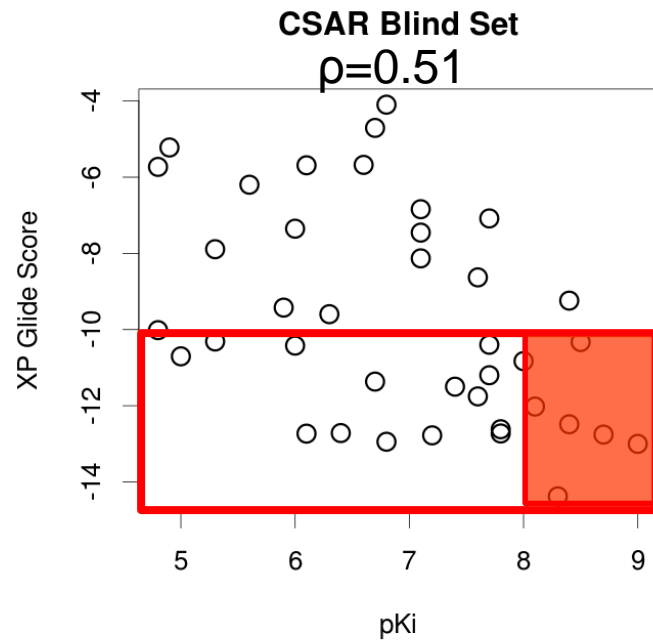
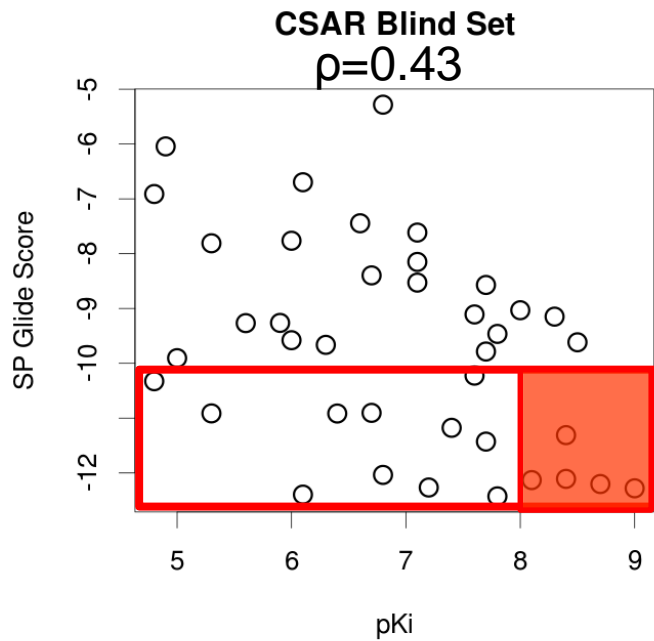
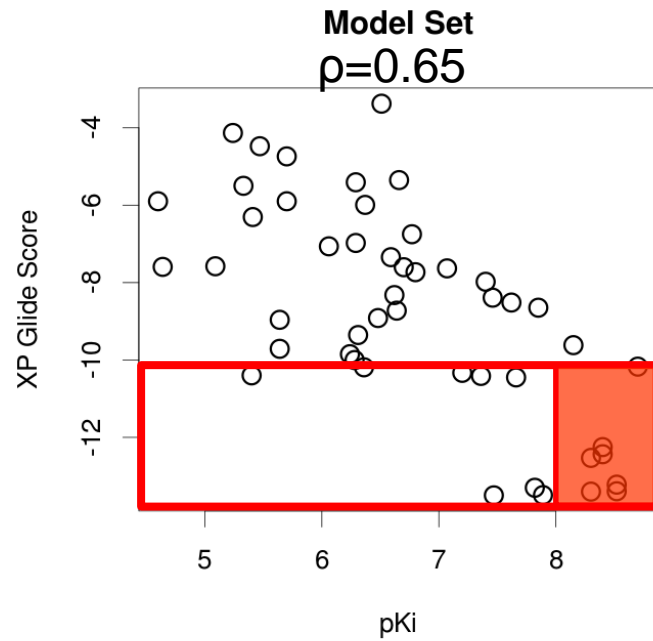
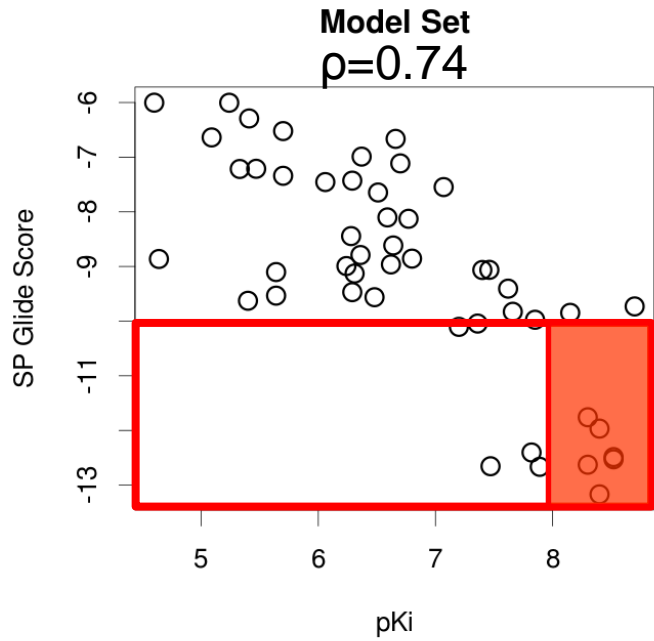


Need to develop new modeling workflow ...

Molecular Docking of ERK2 Inhibitors



ERK2 – Bad results with Glide 2015-1



GPU-accelerated molecular dynamics simulations

*Example: 1 ns simulation of ERK2 using Desmond
65Å*90Å*70Å, 42k atoms, explicit solvent (TIP3P water), step= 1 femtosecond*



Up to 1 μ s per day on high-end GPU workstations!

New MD-QSAR modeling approach

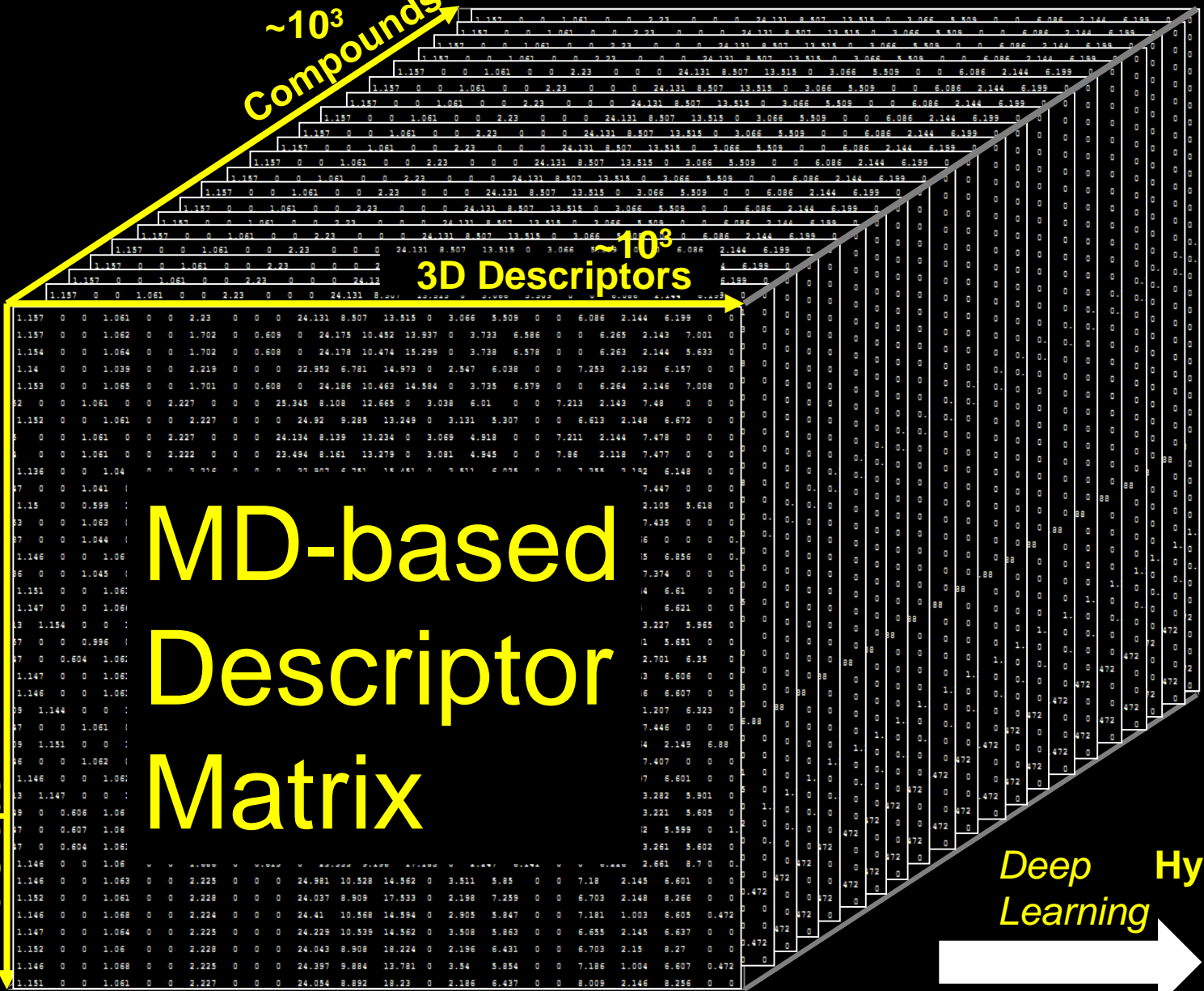
$\sim 10^3$
Compounds

$\sim 10^3$
3D Descriptors

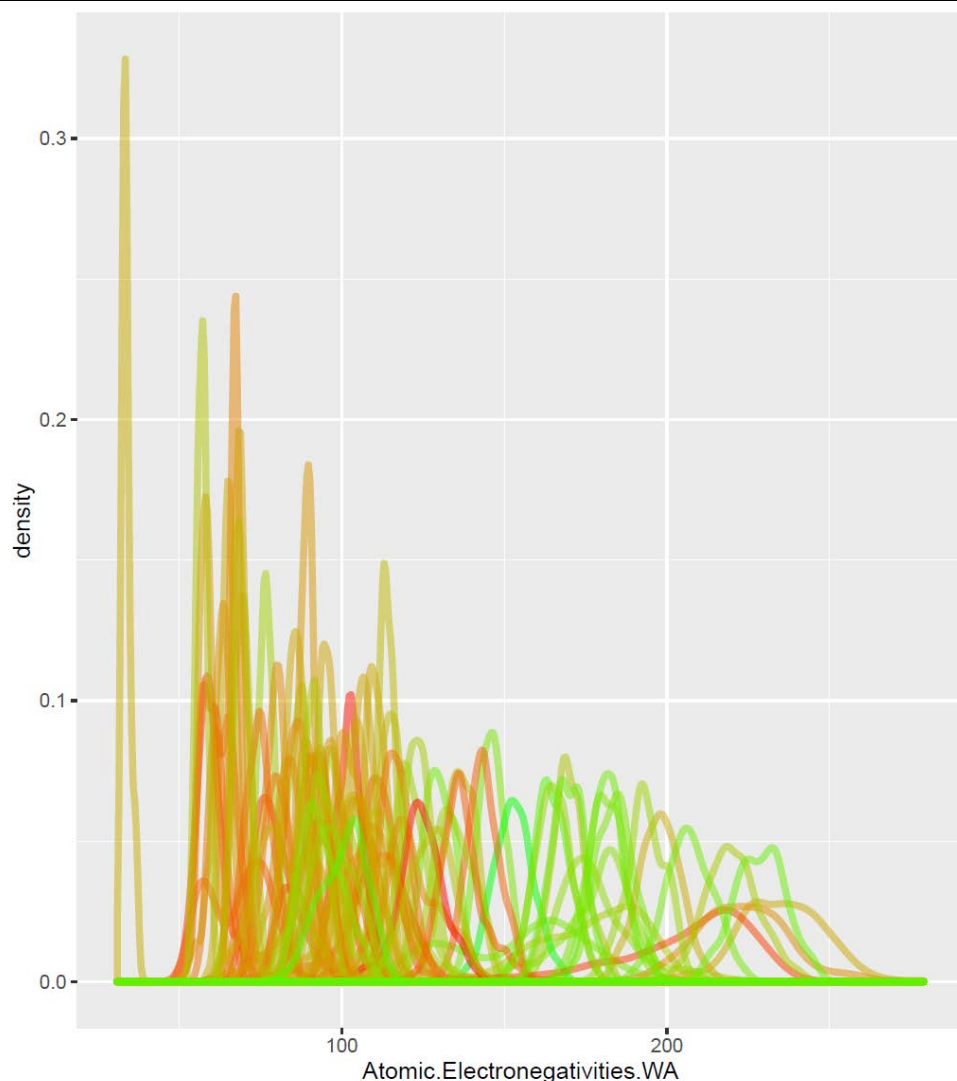
MD-based
Descriptor
Matrix

Time Steps
 $\sim 10^6$

Deep
Learning
Hyper-Predictive
QSAR
models



Computation of MD Descriptors



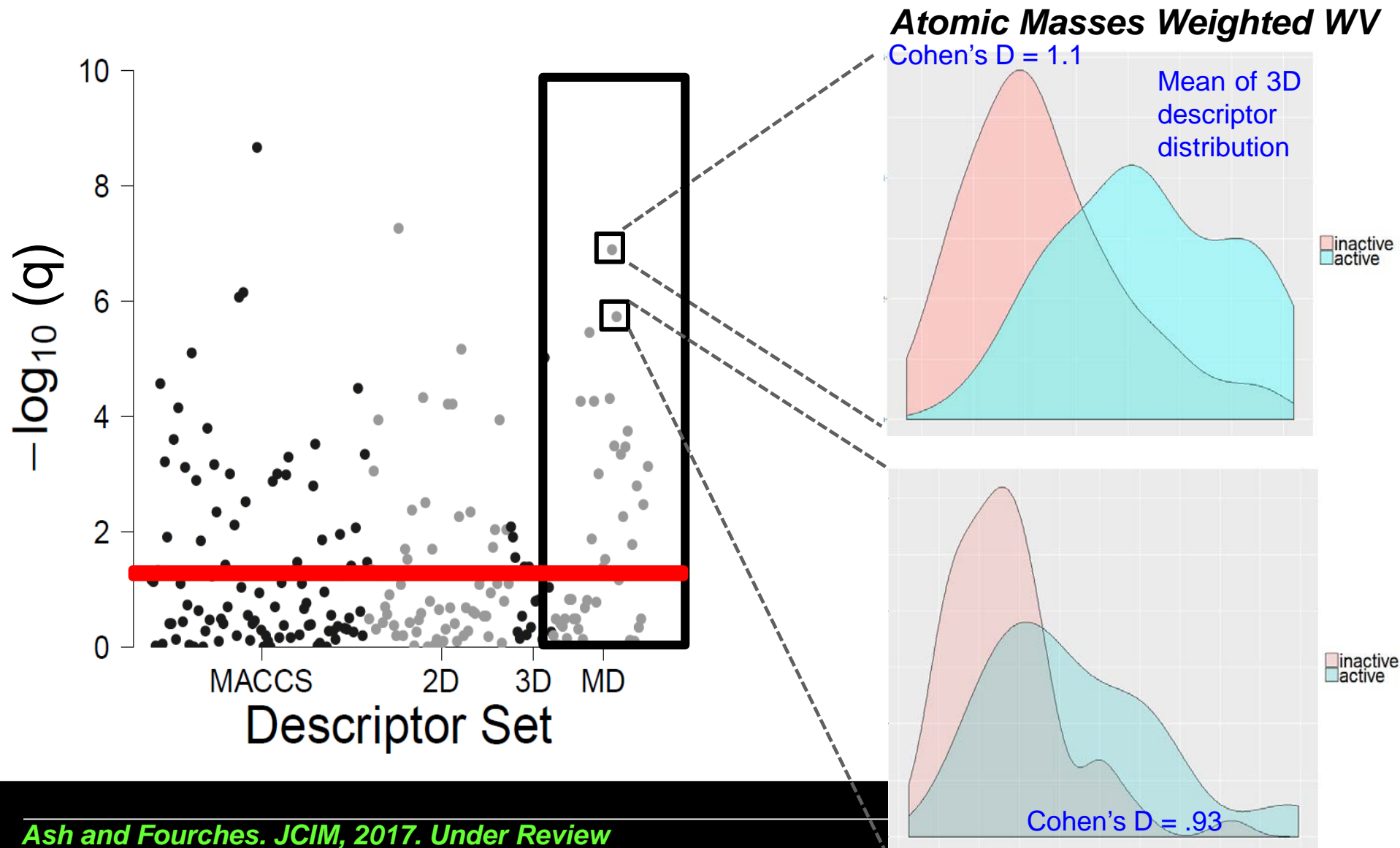
- 3D descriptors computed for all conformations sampled along ligand MD simulations
- MD descriptors were constructed by taking the mean and standard deviation of each 3D descriptor distribution for each ligand:

$$\bar{x}_i = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n x_{ij}}{n}$$

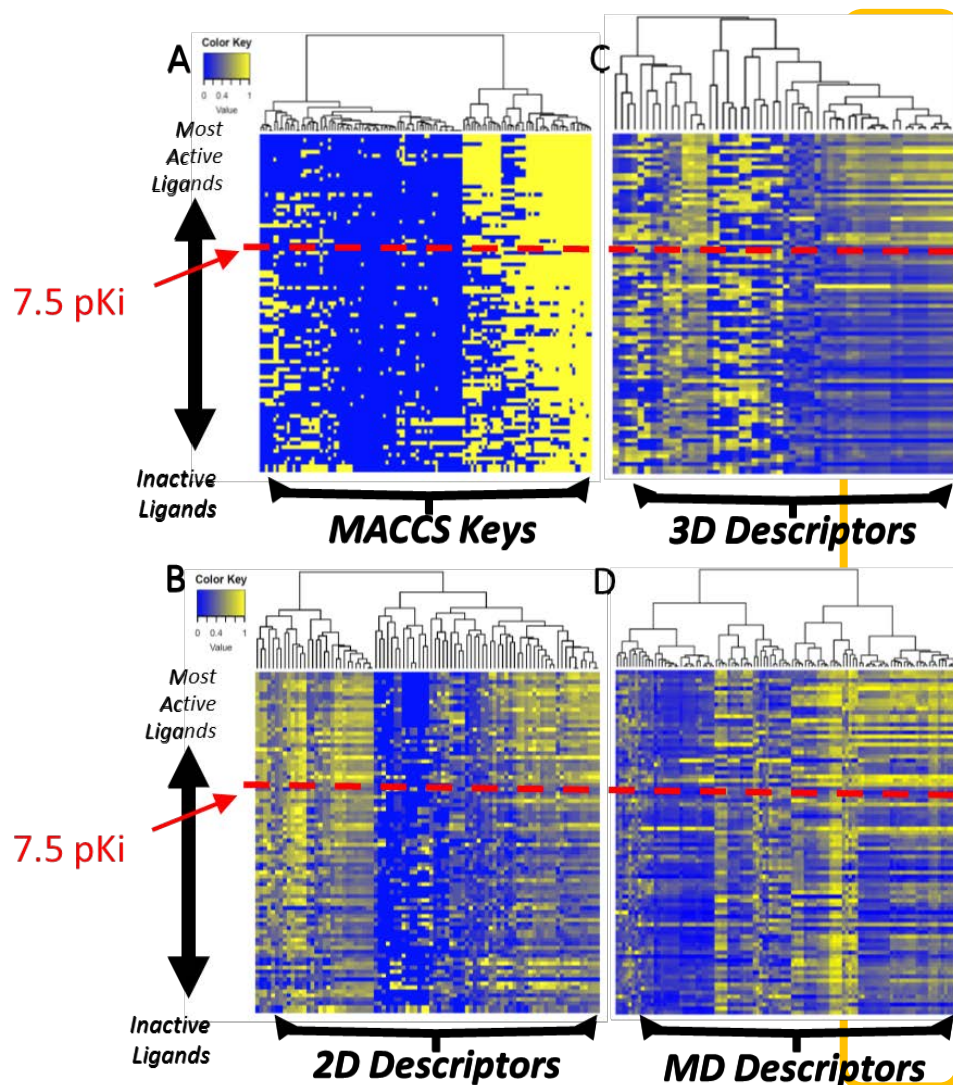
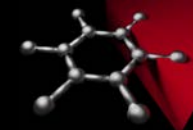
$$s_i = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{j=1}^n (x_{ij} - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}}$$

Chemical Descriptors Associated with Ligand Activity

Dataset: 87 ERK2 kinase inhibitors; pKi ranging from 4.6 to 9

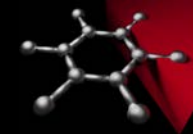


Descriptor Set Distributions

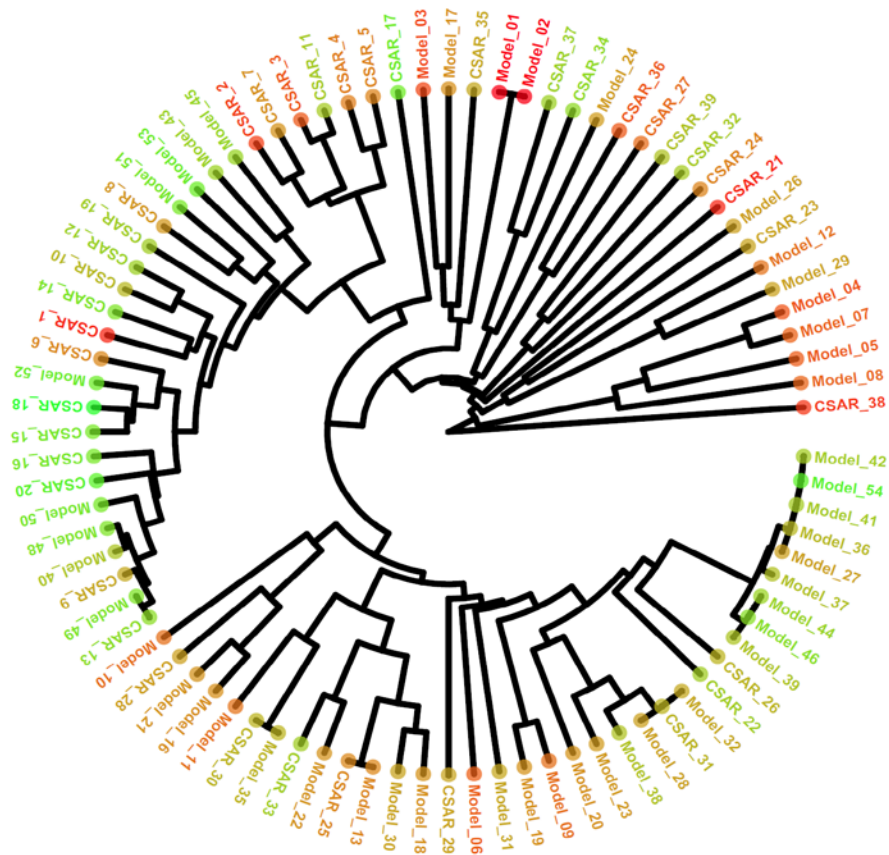


- Compounds were classified as
 - Active : $pK_i \geq 7.5$
 - Inactive : $pK_i < 7.5$
- For the 3D and MD descriptors, clear difference in the profiles of active and inactive compounds.
- For MACCS and 2D descriptors, the difference in active and inactive profiles is less apparent

Hierarchical Clustering of ERK2 Ligands Using 2D and MD fingerprints

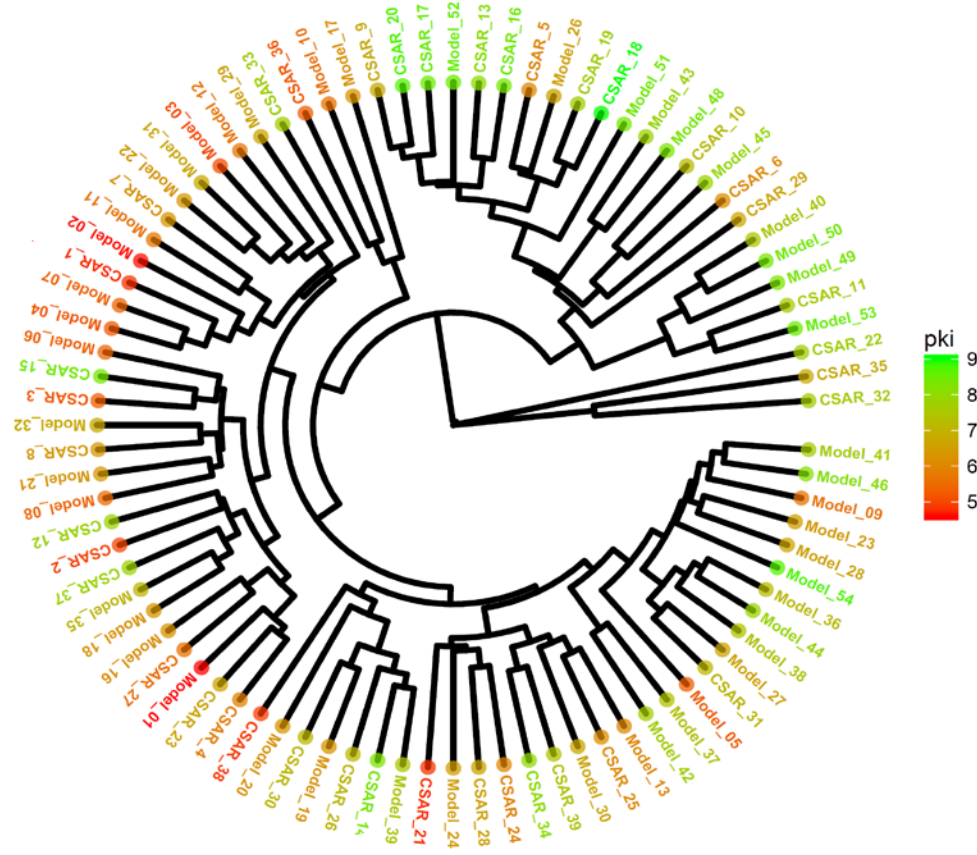


MACCS Fingerprints

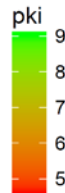


Cophenetic correlation coefficient: **0.89**

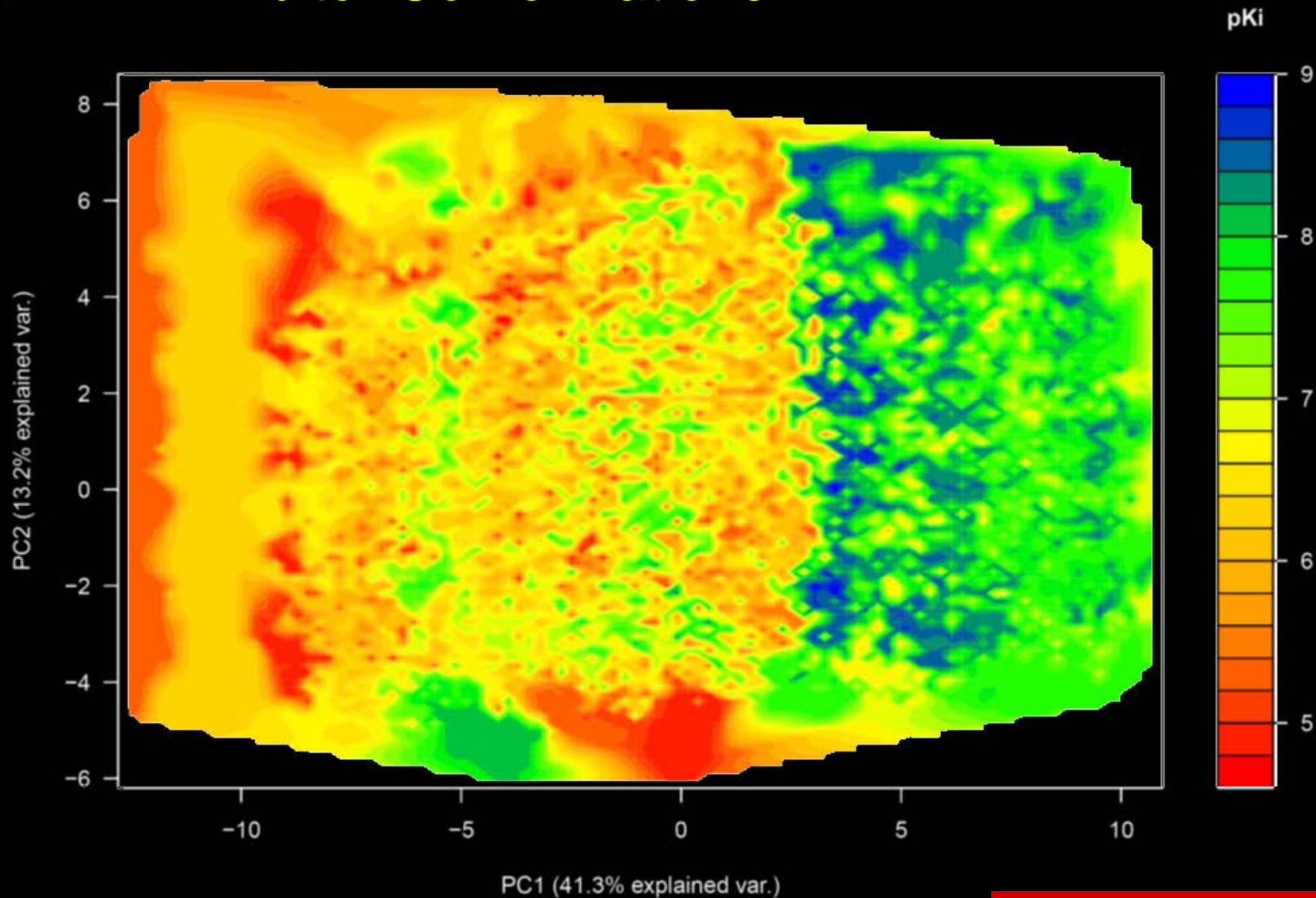
MD Descriptors

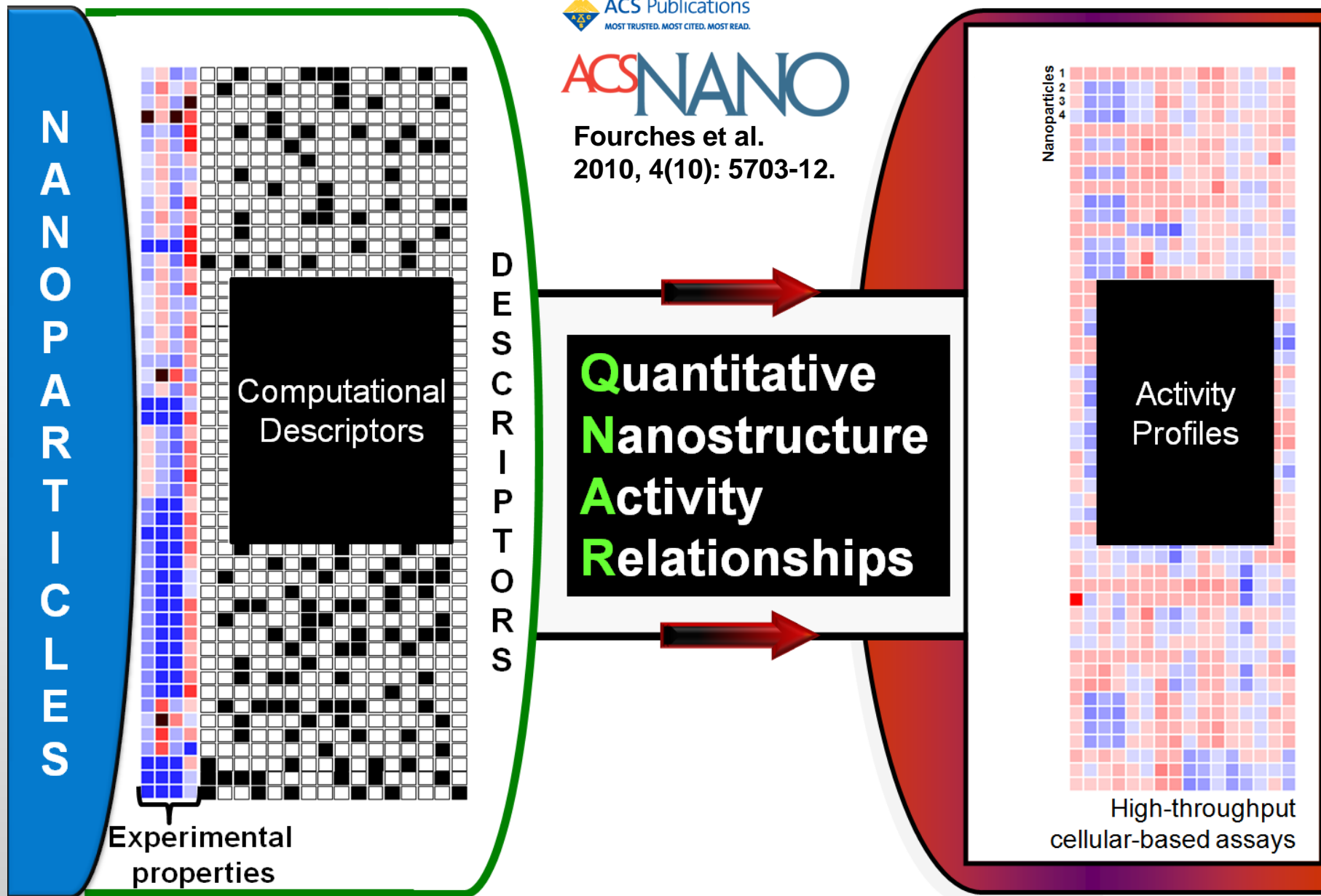


Cophenetic correlation coefficient: **0.74**

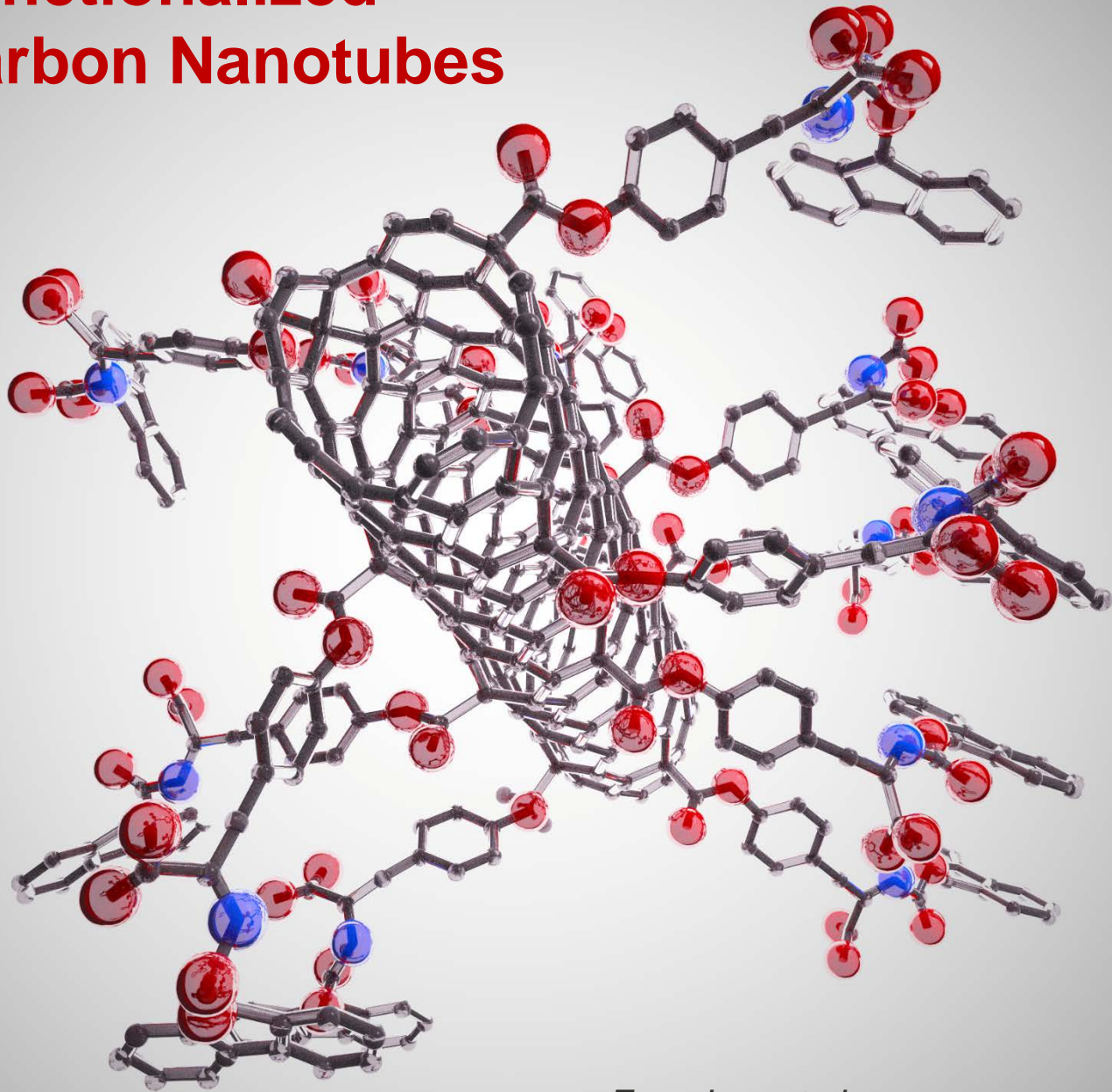


Characterizing the MD Chemical Space of ERK2 Inhibitor Conformations





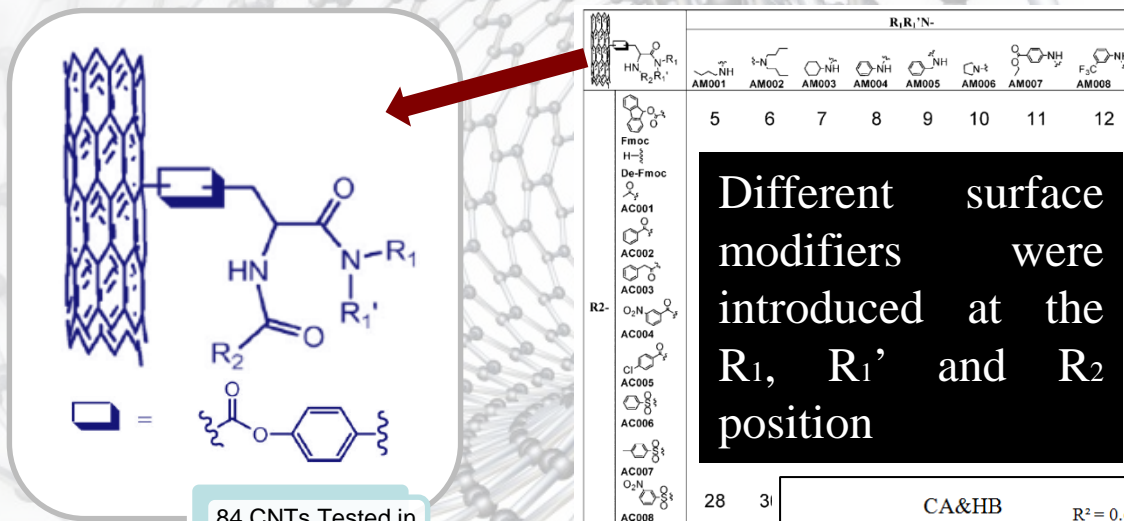
Functionalized Carbon Nanotubes



*Fourches et al.
Nanotoxicology. In Preparation*

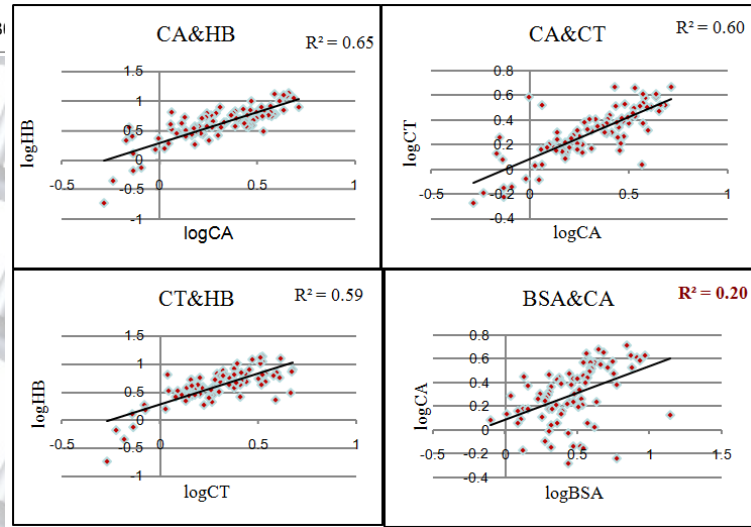
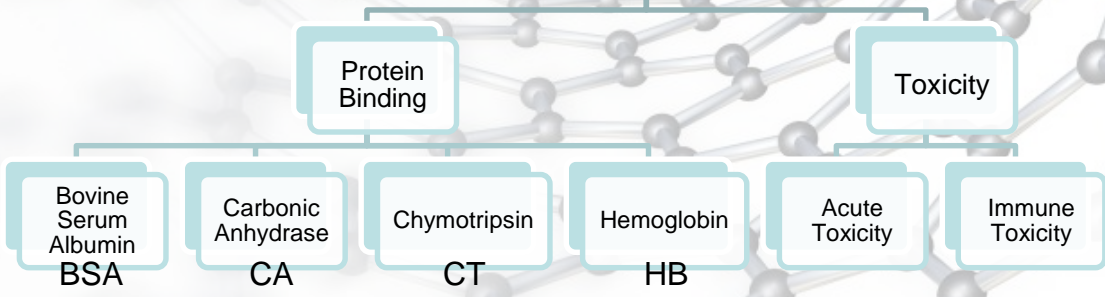
QNAR Modeling of Carbon Nanotubes

In 2008, Zhou et al* published *in vitro* protein binding, acute toxicity and immune toxicity assays for 84 Carbon NanoTubes (CNTs) decorated with different surface modifiers.



Different surface modifiers were introduced at the R_1, R_1' and R_2 position

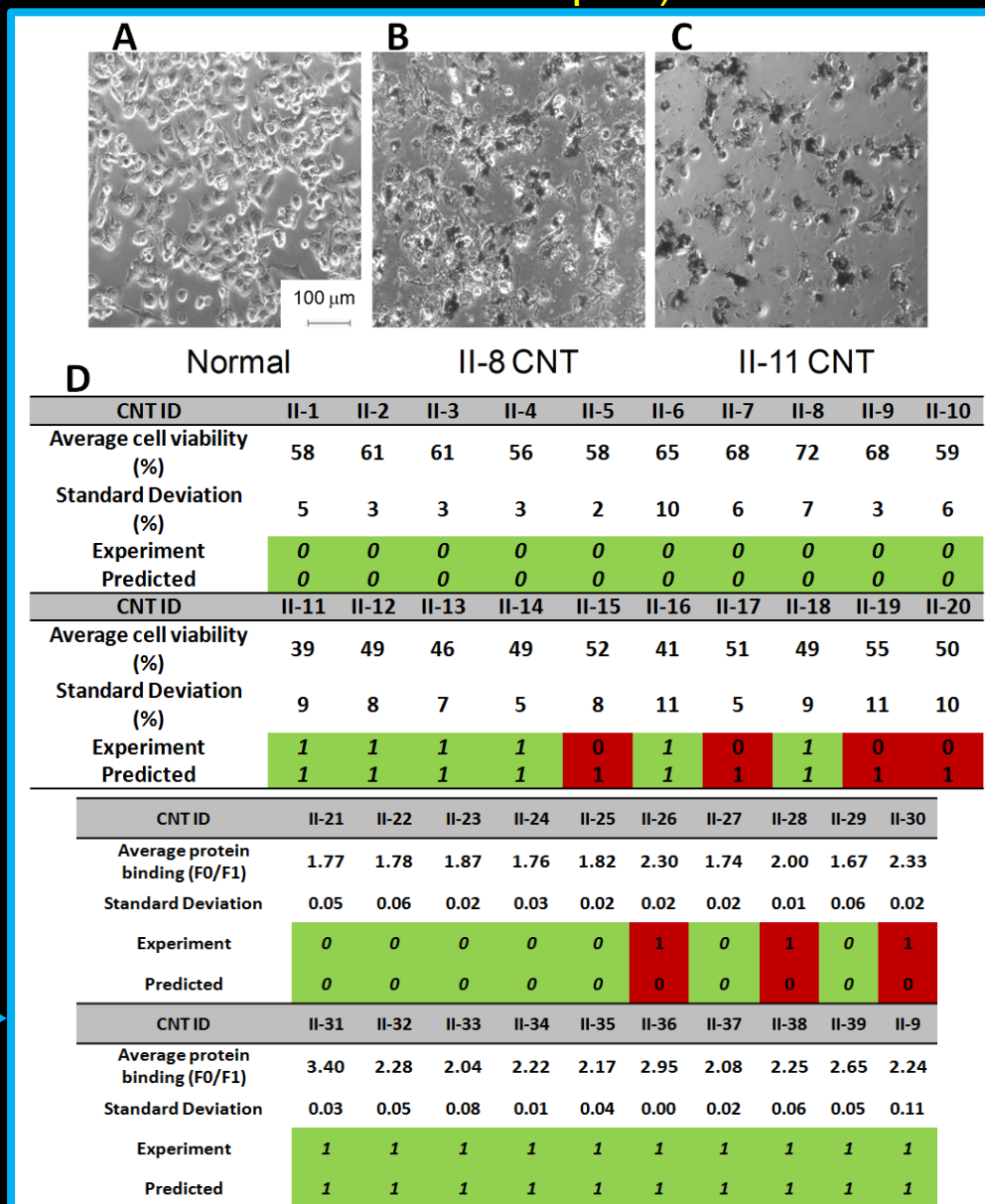
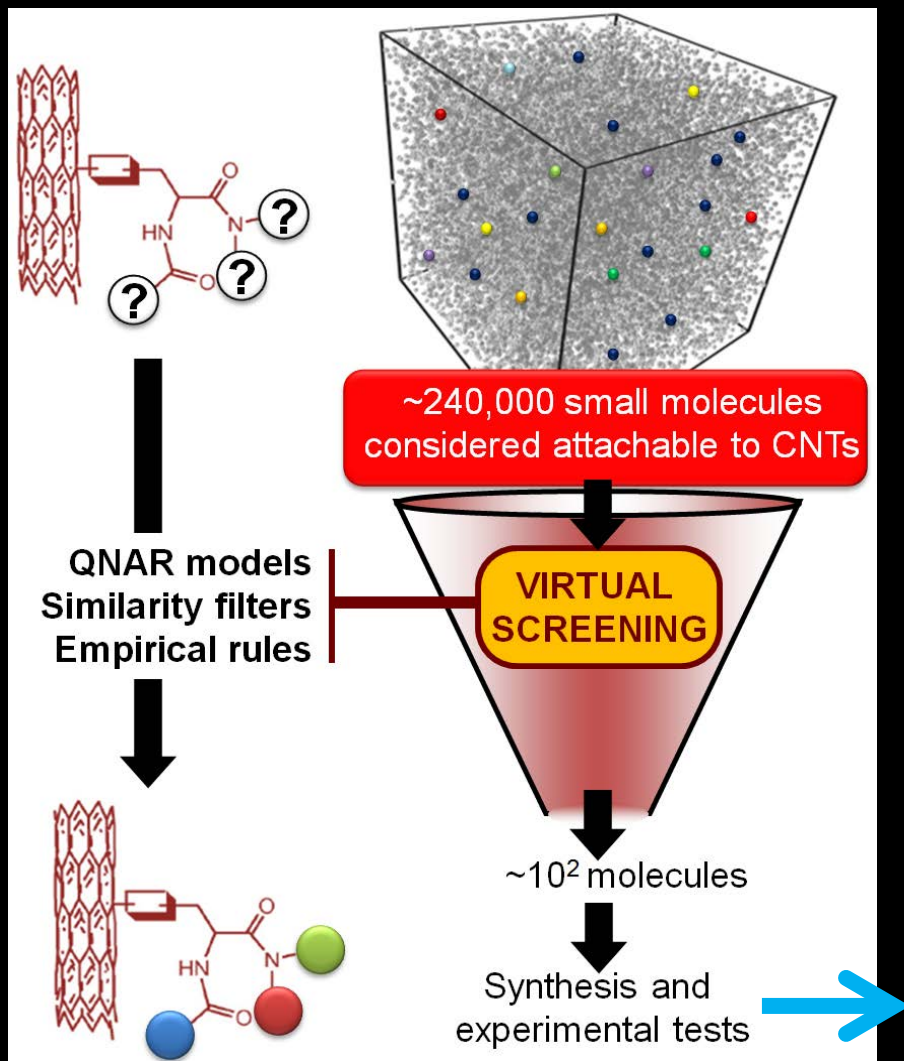
84 CNTs Tested in Two Different Types of Assays



*Zhou et al. *Nano Lett.*, Vol. 8, No. 3, 2008

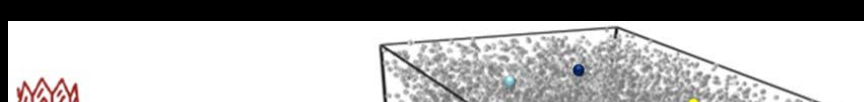
Computer-aided design of novel carbon nanotubes with desired biological properties

(in collaboration with Dr. Bing Yan, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital)



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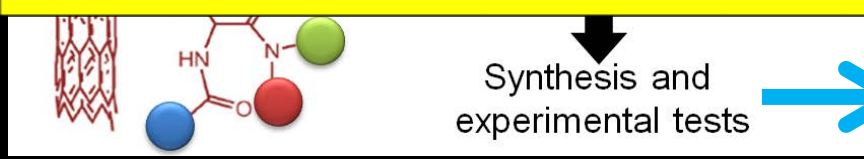


All rationally prioritized, synthesized, and tested CNTs predicted as non-toxic were confirmed experimentally.



Standard Deviation (%)	5	3	3	3	2	10	6	7	3	6
Experiment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Predicted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

6 out of 10 rationally prioritized, synthesized, and tested CNTs predicted as toxic were confirmed experimentally

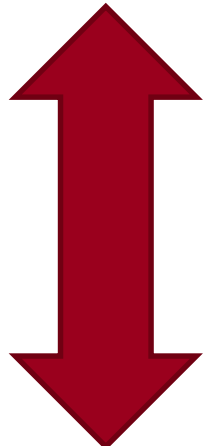


Experiment	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Predicted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CNT ID	II-31	II-32	II-33	II-34	II-35	II-36	II-37	II-38	II-39	II-9
Average protein binding (F0/F1)	3.40	2.28	2.04	2.22	2.17	2.95	2.08	2.25	2.65	2.24
Standard Deviation	0.03	0.05	0.08	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.02	0.06	0.05	0.11
Experiment	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Predicted	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

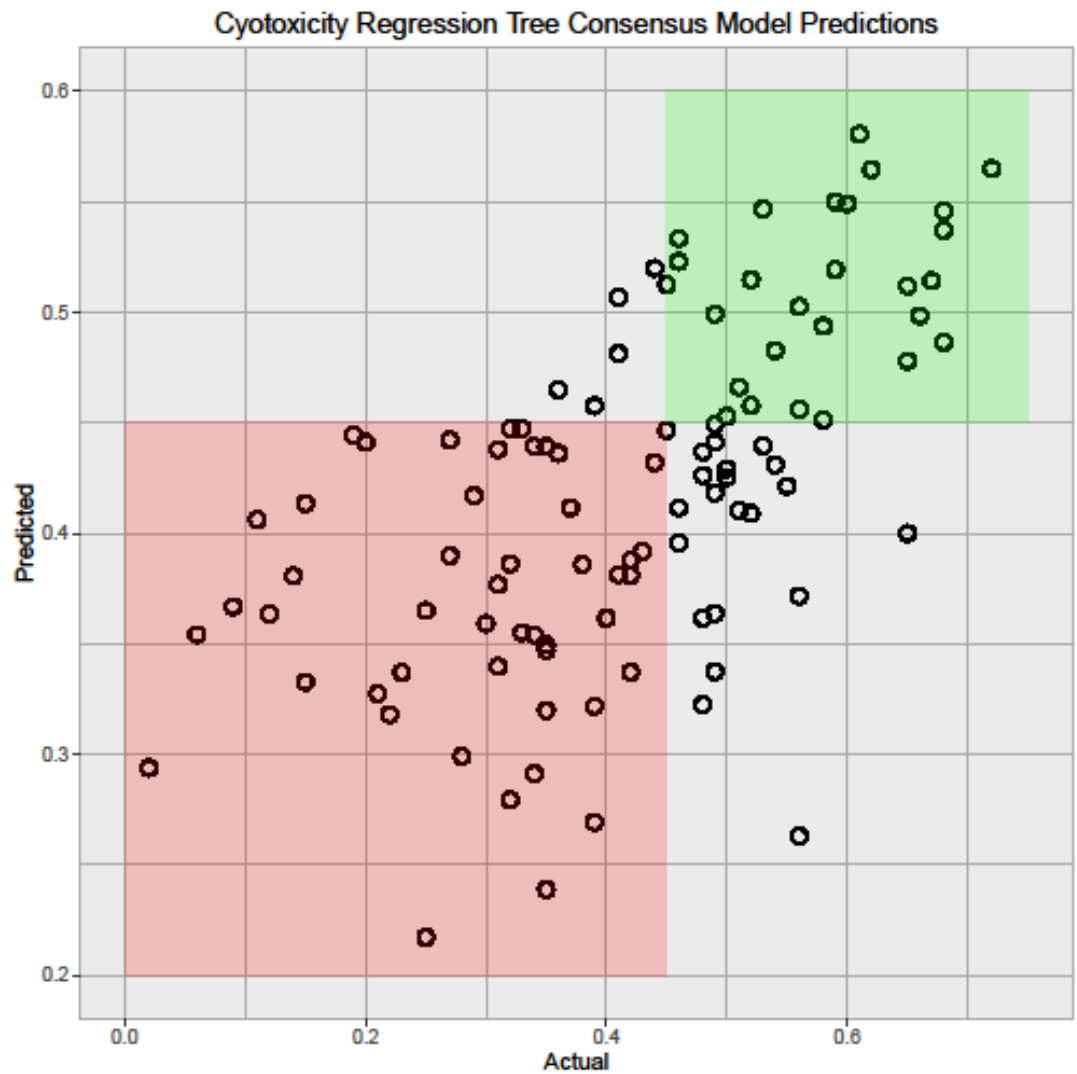
QNAR models for the enhanced set of f-CNTs

Classification Models (LOO)

Cytotoxicity	Threshold	Sensitivity		Specificity		Accuracy
Random Forest	0.45	79.25%	42	62.00%	31	70.87%
SVM-C Model	0.45	74.40%	41	56.00%	28	66.99%

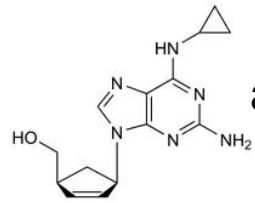


Continuous Models (LOO)



HLA-induced drug adverse effects

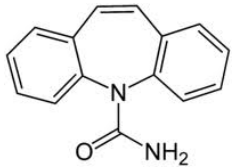
Small molecule drugs bind specifically to certain type of HLA proteins.



abacavir

HLA-B*57:01

Abacavir
Hypersensitivity
Syndrome (AHS)



carbamazepine

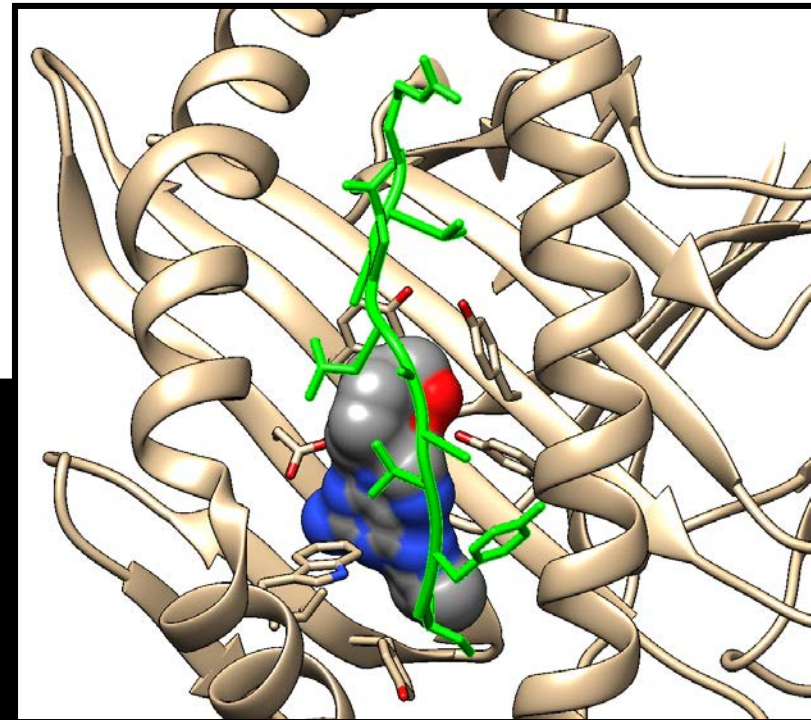
HLA-B*15:02

Stevens-Johnson
Syndrome (SJS)

- ➡ Binding pocket of HLA proteins is slightly modified
- ➡ Range of “self” peptides able to bind the given HLA type is modified
- ➡ Immune reaction

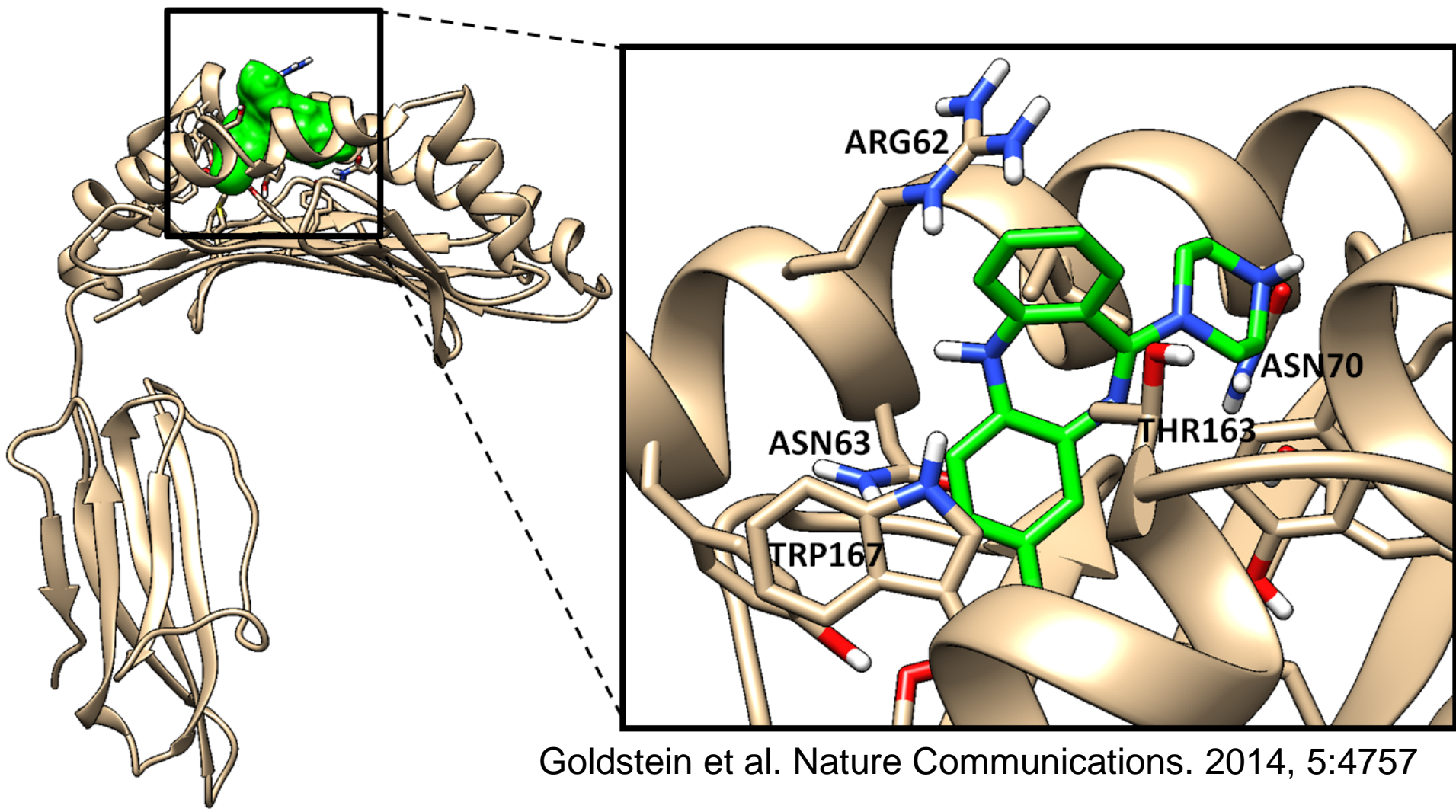
➡ **HLA proteins as important off-targets**

➡ **Need predictive models to assess HLA-induced ADR**



Clozapine-induced agranulocytosis is associated with rare HLA-DQB1 and HLA-B alleles.

GWAS + Docking



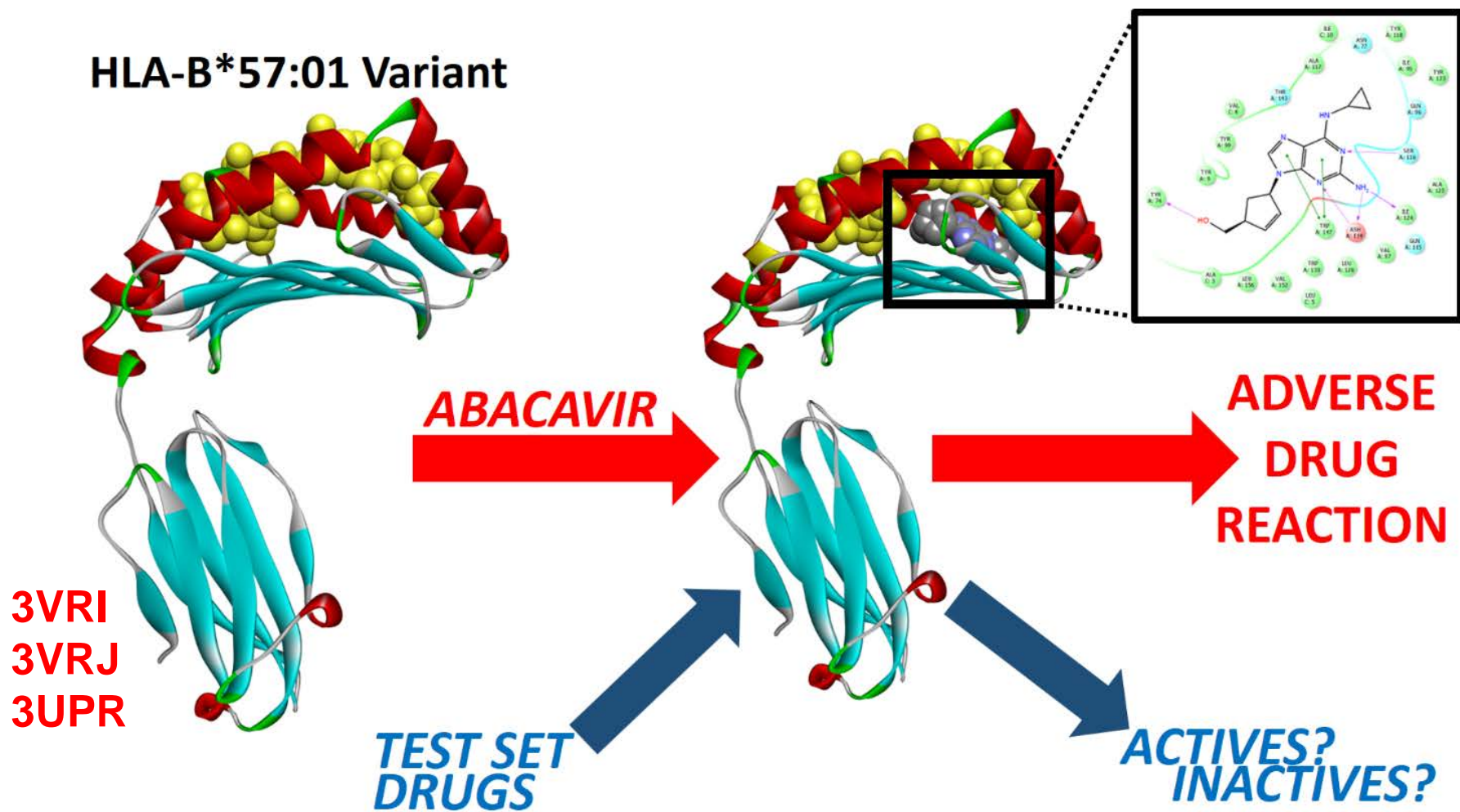
Goldstein et al. Nature Communications. 2014, 5:4757

Homology model of HLA-B39

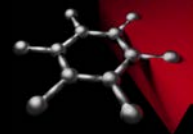
Molecular Docking Study at HLA-B*57:01



Develop a virtual screening model using molecular docking at the HLA-B*57:01 variant using three X-ray crystals of abacavir bound to HLA-B*57:01.



Summary



- Cheminformatics is becoming mandatory in all projects involving the curation, integration, characterization, analysis, testing, modeling, visualization, screening of chemicals.
- The skyrocketing amount of freely-available data in the public domain is boosting the development of new cheminformatics approaches to fully exploit that data, especially when it comes to chemical risk assessment and *in silico* toxicity predictions.
- New methods such as MD-QSAR or QSETR are poised to boost the prediction performances of cheminformatics predictors.
- Structure-based docking and pan-target screening have never been so relevant for chemical risk assessment, especially for key targets such as ER, AhR, or HLA.

Acknowledgements



Lab members

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