

# Acronym Soup Recipe for a Deoxynivalenol Probabilistic Risk Assessment

Workshop: Advancing Quantitative Analysis in Human  
Health Assessments through Probabilistic Methods

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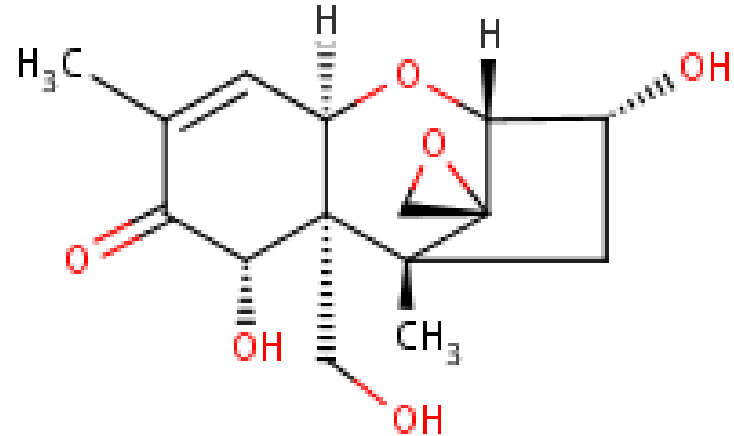
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# Background: Deoxynivalenol (DON)

- Mycotoxin found in cereals (aka vomitoxin)
- Animal experiments show multiple adverse effects, e.g.:
  - Body weight in mice (chronic feeding)
  - Prenatal development in mice (oral gavage)
  - Fertility in male rats (28 d oral gavage test)
- Human biomonitoring (HBM) data show global, widespread, and variable exposures



Source: TOXNET/ChemID plus



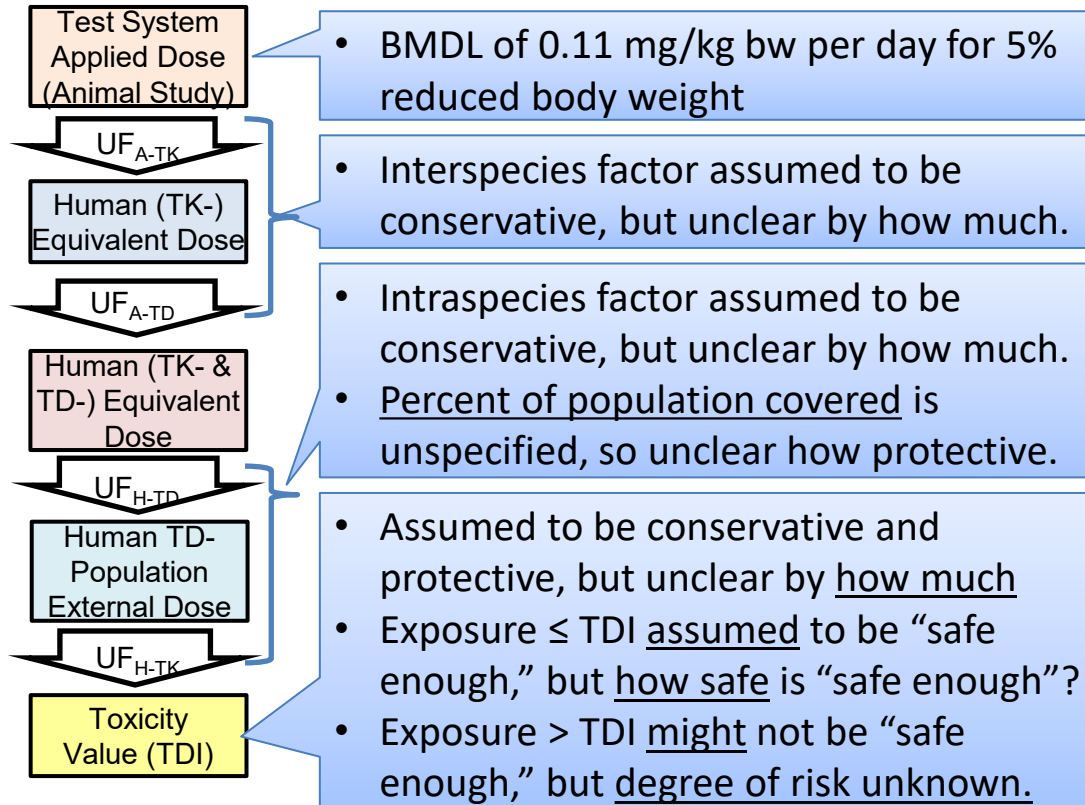
**Multiple studies report exposures exceeding the EFSA Tolerable Daily Intake (TDI) of 1 µg/kg-d**

# Limitations of the Existing TDI

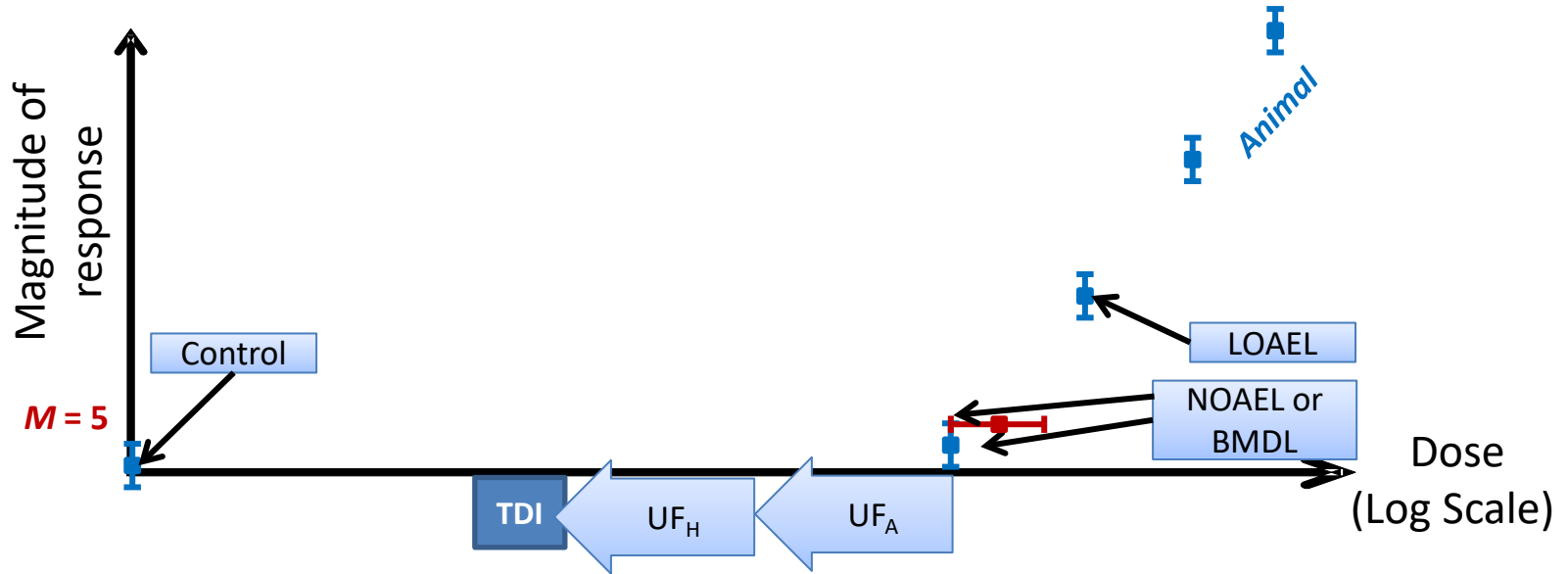
## TDI:

The tolerable daily intake (TDI) is an estimate of the amount of a substance in food or drinking water which is not added deliberately (e.g. contaminants) and which can be consumed over a lifetime **without presenting an appreciable risk** to health.

“without presenting” = ?  
“appreciable risk” = ?

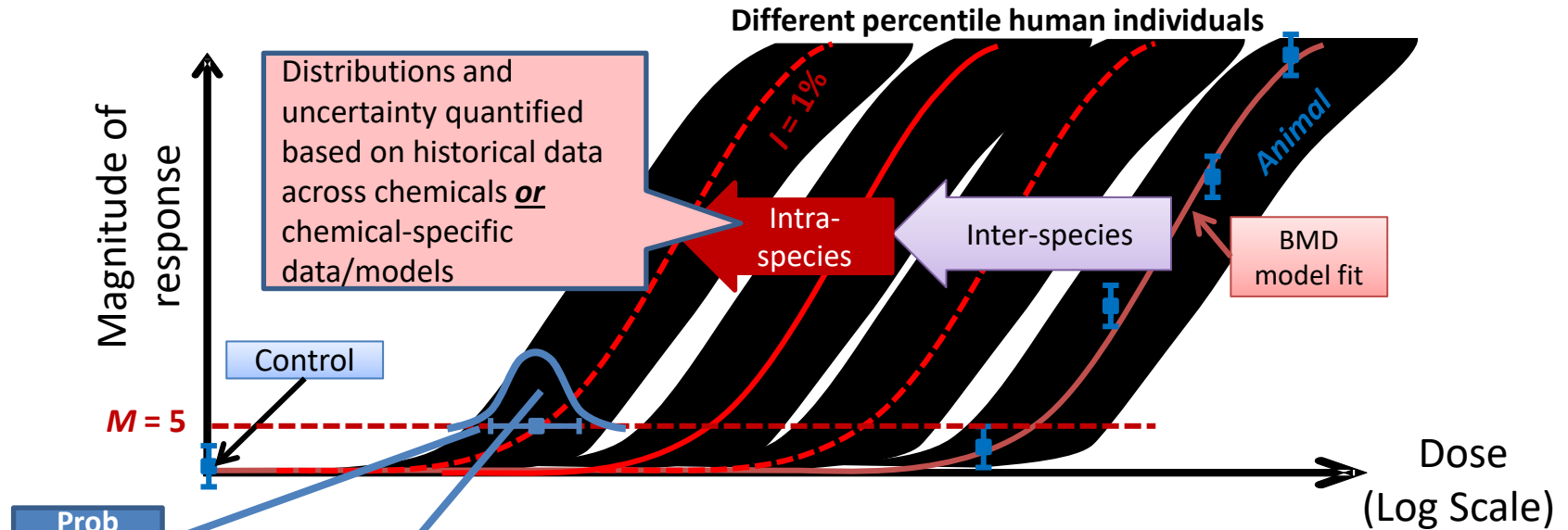


# Traditional Reference Value Determination Process



**The tolerable daily intake (TDI)** is an estimate of the amount of a substance in food or drinking water which is not added deliberately (e.g. contaminants) and which can be consumed over a lifetime without presenting an appreciable risk to health.

# WHO/IPCS Framework based on Concept of Target Human Dose: $HD_M^I$



**Target Human Dose (e.g.,  $HD_{05}^{01}$ ):**  $HD_M^I$  = the human dose at which a fraction (or incidence)  $I$  of the population shows an effect of magnitude (or severity)  $M$  or greater (for the critical effect considered).

# Target Human Dose ( $HD_M^I$ ) has a more precise definition than the TDI

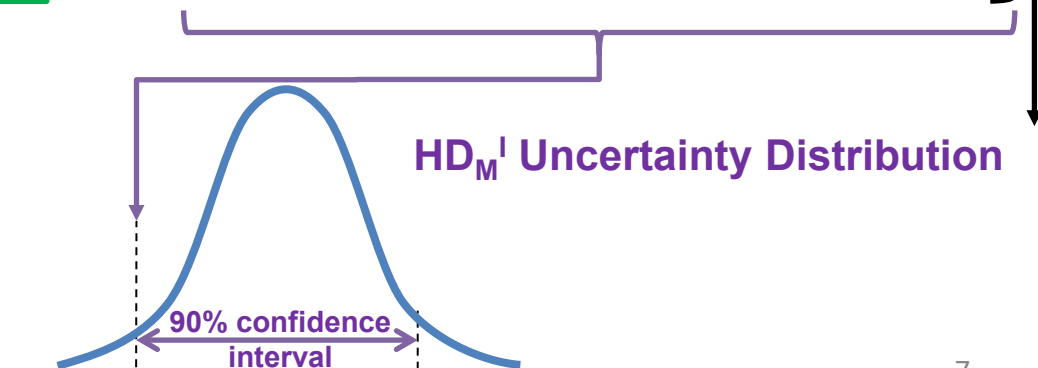
## TDI:

The tolerable daily intake (TDI) is an estimate of the amount of a substance in food or drinking water which is not added deliberately (e.g. contaminants) and which can be consumed over a lifetime **without presenting an appreciable risk** to health.

## Probabilistic TDI:

*A statistical lower confidence limit on the human dose that at which **a fraction I of the population** shows **an effect of magnitude (or severity) M or greater (for the critical effect considered).***

TDI should be viewed as an “approximation” of the  $HD_M^I$ !



# Benchmark Dose has a more precise definition than the NOAEL

*Deja vu all over again...*

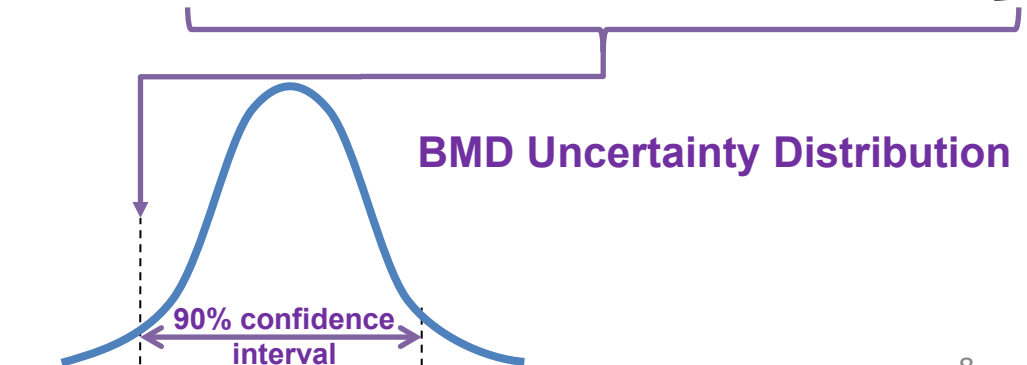
## NOAEL:

*Greatest concentration or amount of a substance*, found by experiment or observation, that causes **no adverse alteration ...of the target organism distinguishable from those observed in normal (control) organisms** of the same species and strain under the same defined conditions of exposure.

## BMDL:

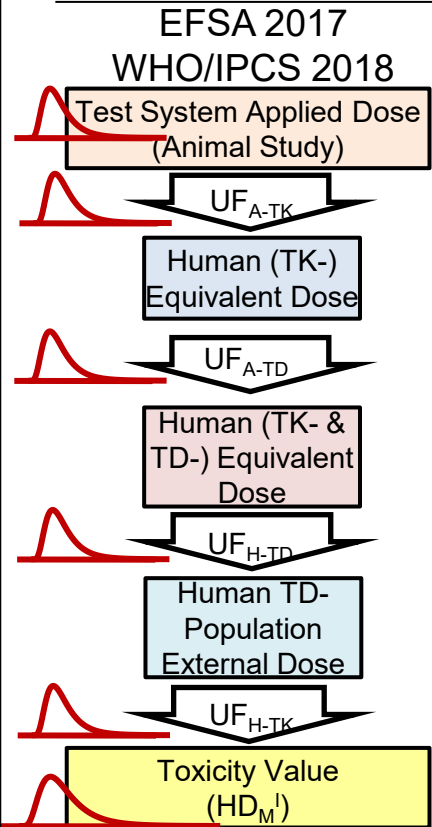
A statistical lower confidence limit on the dose that produces **a predetermined change in response rate of an adverse effect (called the benchmark response or BMR)** compared to background.

NOAEL should be viewed as an “approximation” of the BMD!





# WHO/IPCS 2018 Case Study

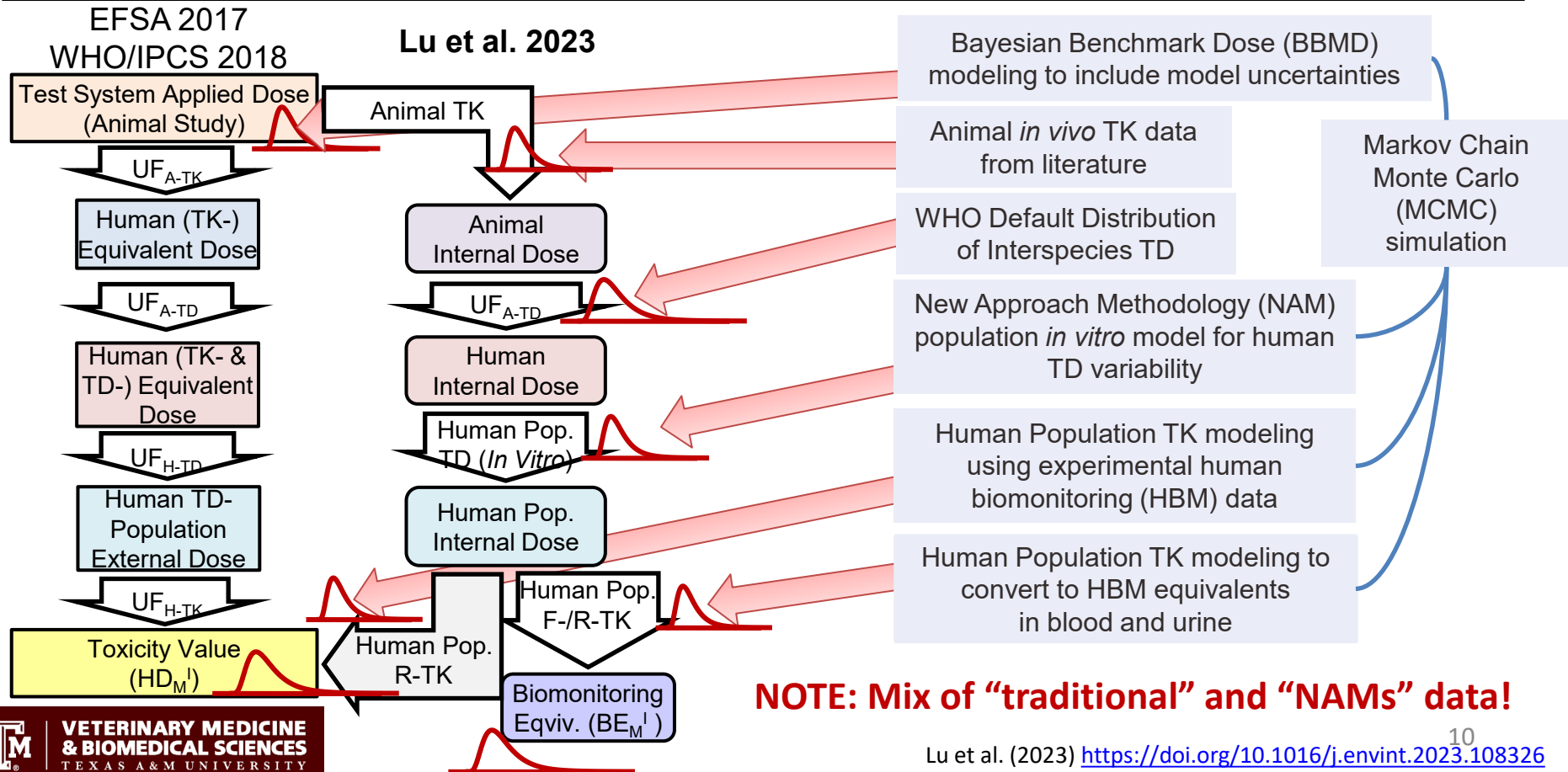


EFSA (2017)	WHO/IPCS (2018)
Point estimates	$HD_M^I$ Median [90% CI]
TDI = 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}\cdot\text{d}$	$HD_{M=05}^{I=1\%} =$ 2.92 [0.44 – 19] $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}\cdot\text{d}$
	ProbTDI = 0.44 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}\cdot\text{d}$

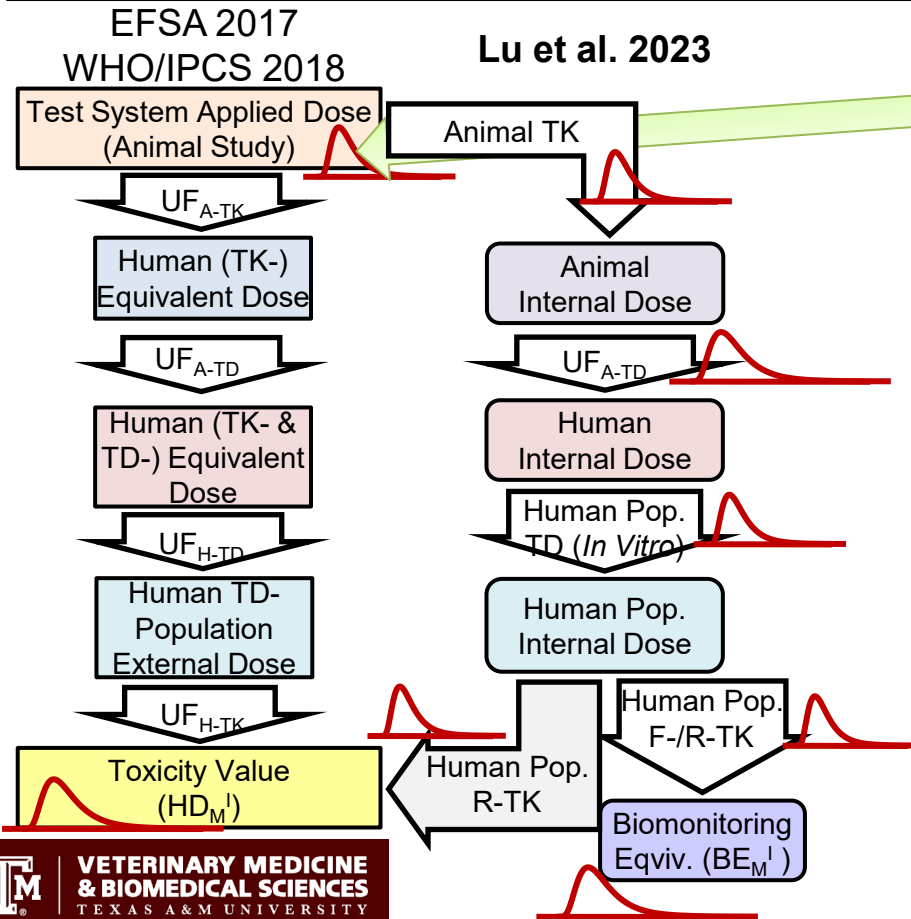
Can we reduce  
~40-fold  
uncertainty with  
chemical-  
specific data?

- Deterministic factors for inter- and intra-species differences replaced by default distributions from WHO/IPCS (2018)
- ProbTDI about 2-fold lower than EFSA TDI
- Confidence interval of  $HD_M^I$  extends from 2-fold below to 20-fold above the EFSA TDI – suggesting EFSA TDI is conservative, but not at 95% coverage.

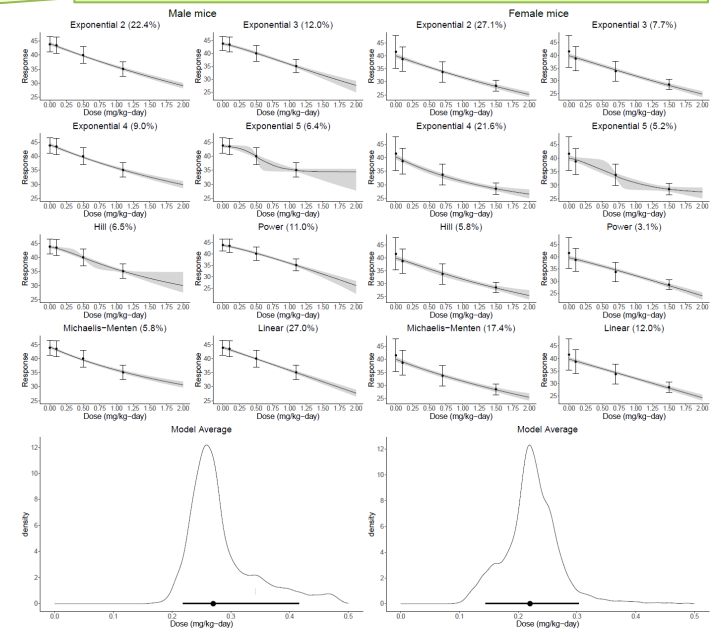
# Incorporating Chemical-Specific Data to Reduce Uncertainties in the Probabilistic TDI for DON



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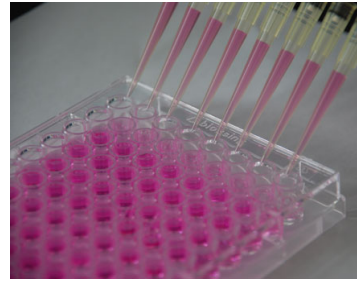
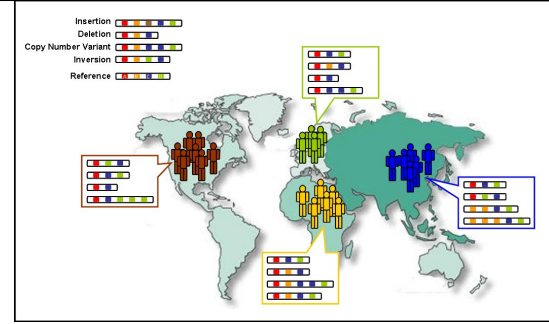
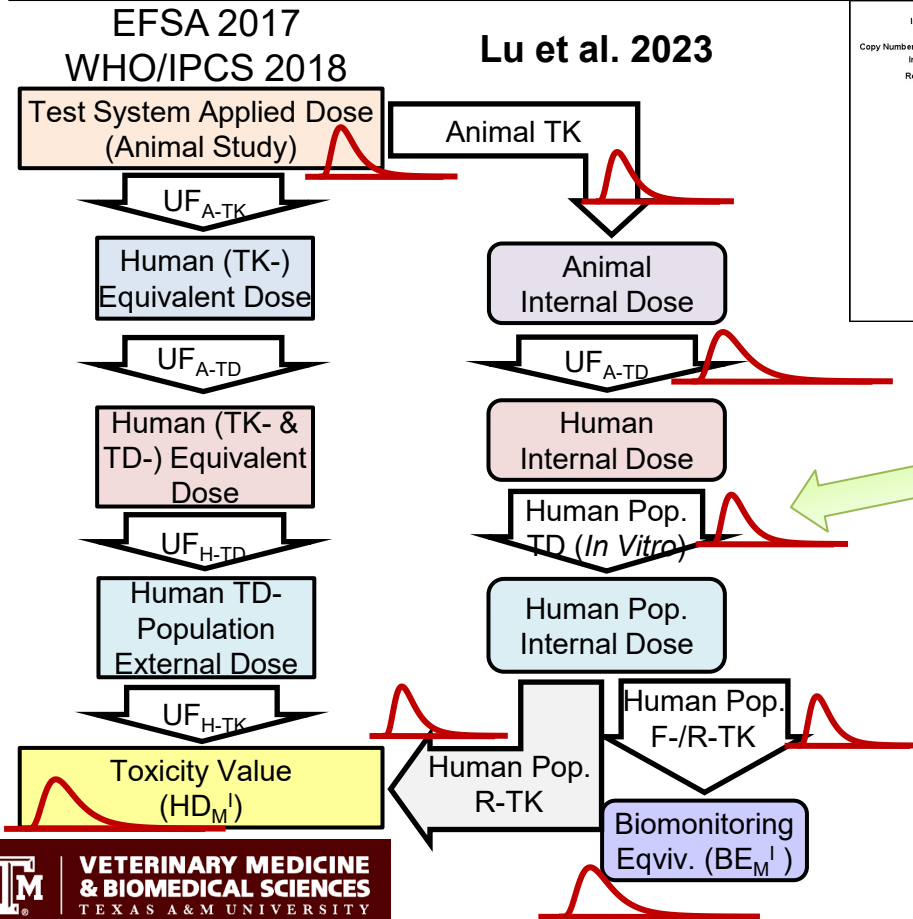


Bayesian Benchmark Dose (BBMD) modeling to include model uncertainties

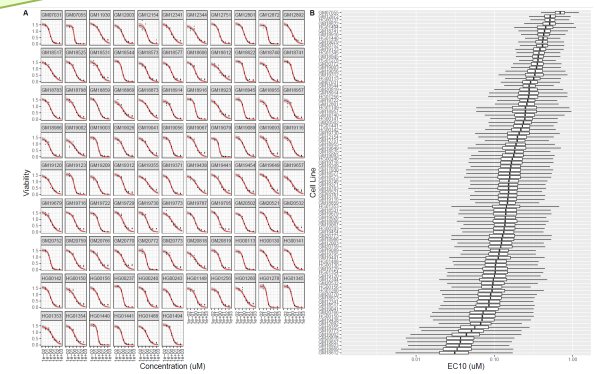


Data from Iverson et al. (1995) chronic feeding study in mice. Modeling based on methods from Shao and Shapiro (2018) <https://benchmarkdose.org>

# Incorporating Chemical-Specific Data to Reduce Uncertainties in the Probabilistic TDI for DON

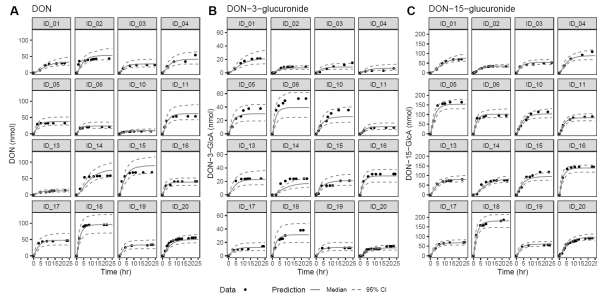
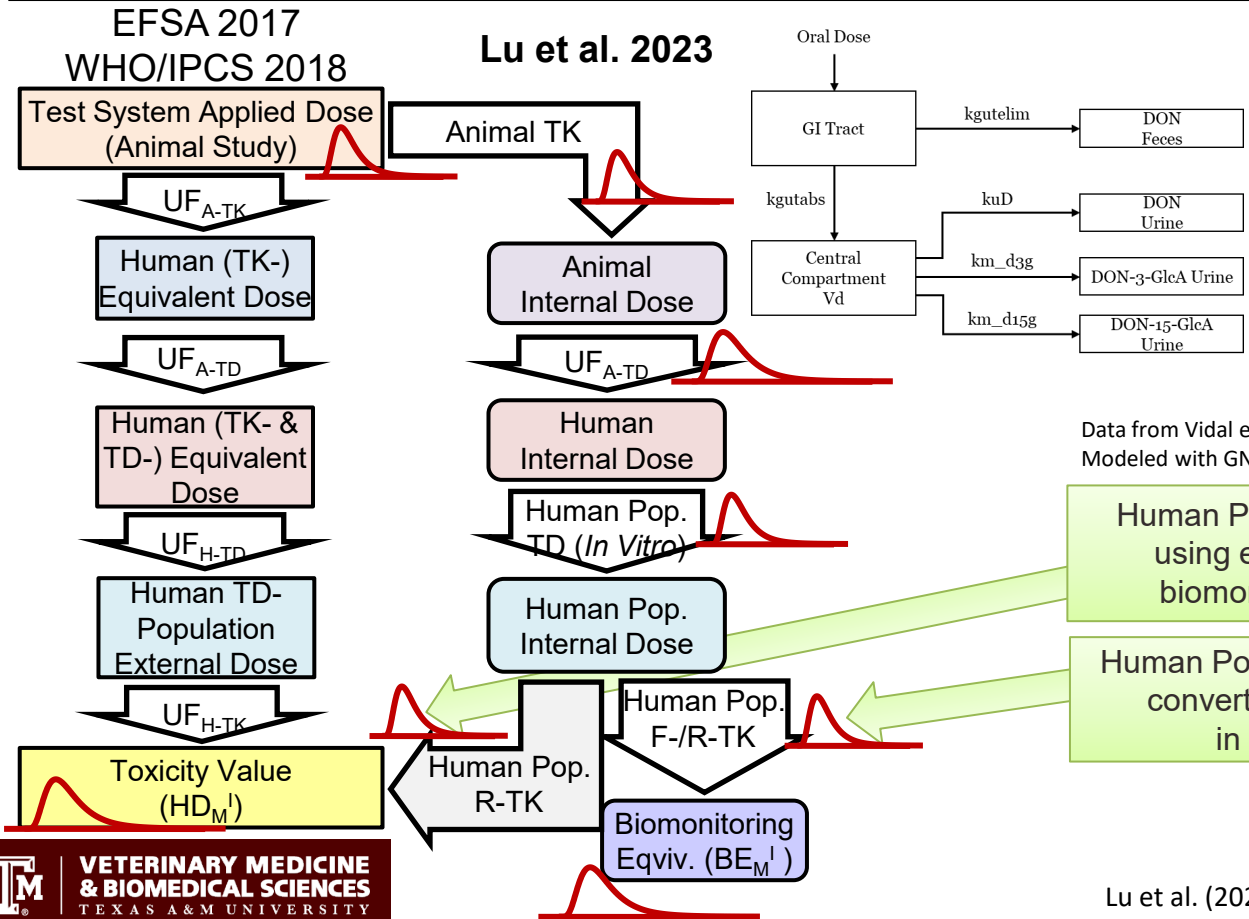


New Approach Methodology (NAM) population *in vitro* model for human TD variability



Experimental methods from Grimm et al (2019) Bayesian population modeling methods from Chiu et al. (2017)

# Incorporating Chemical-Specific Data to Reduce Uncertainties in the Probabilistic TDI for DON



Data from Vidal et al. (2018) in 16 volunteers  
 Modeled with GNU MCSim software (Bois 2009)

Human Population TK modeling using experimental human biomonitoring (HBM) data

Human Population TK modeling to convert to HBM equivalents in blood and urine

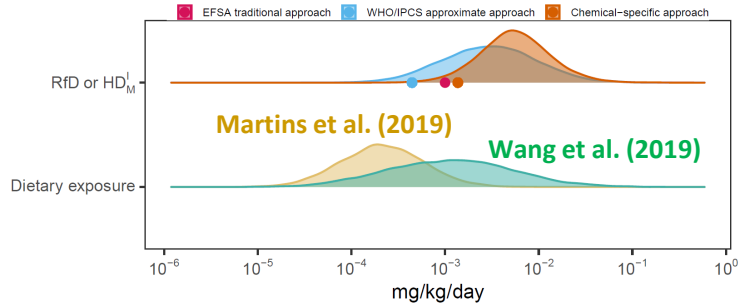
# Results

EFSA (2017)	WHO/IPCS (2018)	Lu et al. (2023)		
Point estimates	HD <sub>M</sub> <sup>I</sup> Median [90% CI]	HD <sub>M</sub> <sup>I</sup> Median [90% CI]	Blood BE <sub>M</sub> <sup>I</sup> Median [90% CI]	Urine BE <sub>M</sub> <sup>I</sup> (24 hr) Median [90% CI]
TDI = 1 µg/kg-d	HD <sub>M=05</sub> <sup>I=1%</sup> = 2.92 [ <b>0.44</b> – 19] µg/kg-d ProbTDI = <b>0.44</b> µg/kg-d	HD <sub>M=05</sub> <sup>I=1%</sup> = 5.48 [ <b>1.37</b> – 23.81] µg/kg-d ProbTDI = <b>1.37</b> µg/kg-d	BE <sub>M=05</sub> <sup>I=1%</sup> = 0.53 [ <b>0.17</b> – 1.62] µg/L ProbBE = <b>0.17</b> µg/L	BE <sub>M=05</sub> <sup>I=1%</sup> = 3.93 [ <b>0.98</b> – 16.37] µg/kg-d ProbBE = <b>0.98</b> µg/kg-d

- By coincidence, ProbTDI and EFSA TDI are about the same.
- Was all the effort to use probabilistic and chemical-specific methods a waste? NO!
  - Based on data rather than assumptions
  - Chemical-specific data reduced uncertainty from 40-fold to between 9.5- and 17-fold.
  - When exposures are above the TDI (like for DON) the probabilistic methodology provides a means for more accurate risk characterization.

# Beyond the TDI: Estimating Individual and Population Risks

## (A) Comparing $HD_M^I$ and dietary exposure



Martins et al. (2019) study population      Wang et al. (2019) study population

### Population (%) exceeding (prob)TDI

EFSA (2017)	6.2%	53.4%
WHO/IPCS (2018)	23.5%	73.3%
<b>Lu et al. (2023)</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>45.4%</b>

Comparing population HBM exposure distributions with TDI overestimates risk because TDI (including Prob TDI) is a conservative estimate for a sensitive individual, and neglects TK uncertainty & variability in converting biomonitoring data to dose.

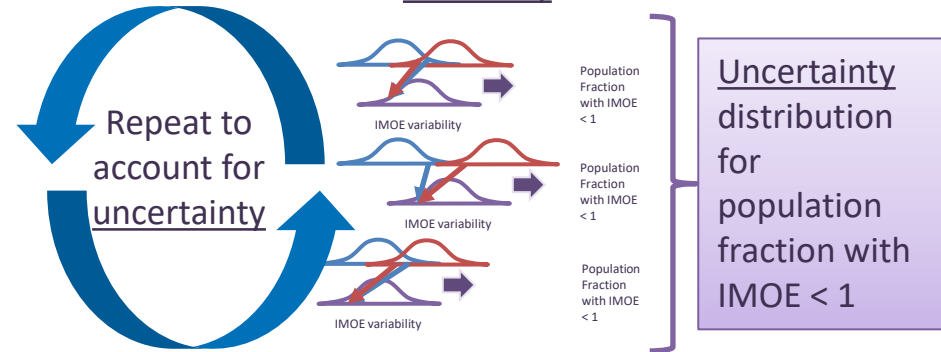
Exposure variability

Toxicity value variability  
(different I in  $HD_M^I$ )

Random individuals

IMOE variability

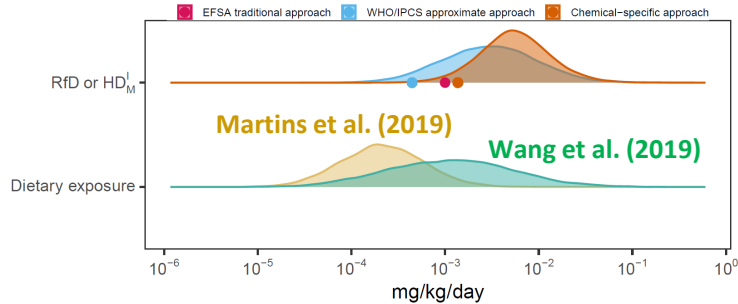
Population fraction with IMOE < 1



Full Monte Carlo simulation for Individual Margin of Exposure (IMOE) comparing individual HBM exposures and BE-based  $HD_M^I$  values gives more accurate estimates of fraction of population at risk (with confidence intervals for uncertainty).

# Beyond the TDI: Estimating Individual and Population Risks

(A) Comparing  $HD_M^I$  and dietary exposure



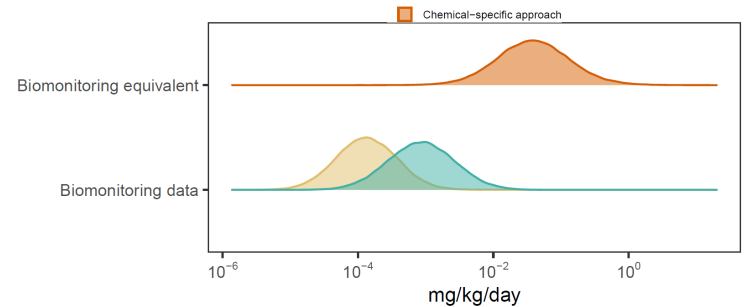
Martins et al. (2019) study population

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Comparing population HBM exposure distributions with TDI overestimates risk because TDI (including Prob TDI) is a conservative estimate for a sensitive individual, and neglects TK uncertainty & variability in converting bi monitoring data to dose.

(B) Comparing bi monitoring equivalent and urinary exposure data



Martins et al. (2019) study population

Wang et al. (2019) study population

Probabilistic individual margin of exposure (IMOE)	Martins et al. (2019) study population	Wang et al. (2019) study population
Random individual IMOE	289 [20.7 – 4250]	44.6 [2.8 – 718]
Population 1%ile IMOE	10.3 [2.8 – 40.6]	1.4 [0.4 – 5.2]
% of population with IMOE ≤ 1	0.003% [0%-0.14%]	0.57% [0.03%-4.46%]

Full Monte Carlo simulation for Individual Margin of Exposure (IMOE) comparing individual HBM exposures and BE-based  $HD_M^I$  values gives more accurate estimates of fraction of population at risk of effects > M (with confidence intervals for uncertainty).



# Acronym Recipe Soup for Probabilistic Risk Assessment

