

# Meta Analysis of a Battery Test of Reproductive Toxicity Assays

## *The ReProTect Experience*

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**2004-2009**

**([www.reprotect.eu](http://www.reprotect.eu))**

***Development of a novel approach in hazard and risk assessment of reproductive toxicity by a combination and application of in vitro, tissue and sensor technologies***

- **Integrated project funded through the EU FP6 program**
- **Total budget amounts: 13.2 mEUR**

**LSHB-CT-2004-503257**



## 33 partners

from Academia, Industry, SMEs and Governmental Institutes



**Reduction and/or replacement of animal use  
in reproductive toxicity testing**

**R.A. I: Fertility**

**R.A. II: Implantation**

**R.A. III: Prenatal  
Development**

**R.A. IV: Cross-cutting  
Technologies**

**Coordination:**

M. Schwarz, Tübingen

**Project management  
(Financial):**

S. Stoppel, Tübingen

**(Scientific)**

S. Bremer, ECVAM, Ispra

C. Pellizzer, ECVAM, Ispra

**Advisory Board (chair):**

Bernward Garthoff

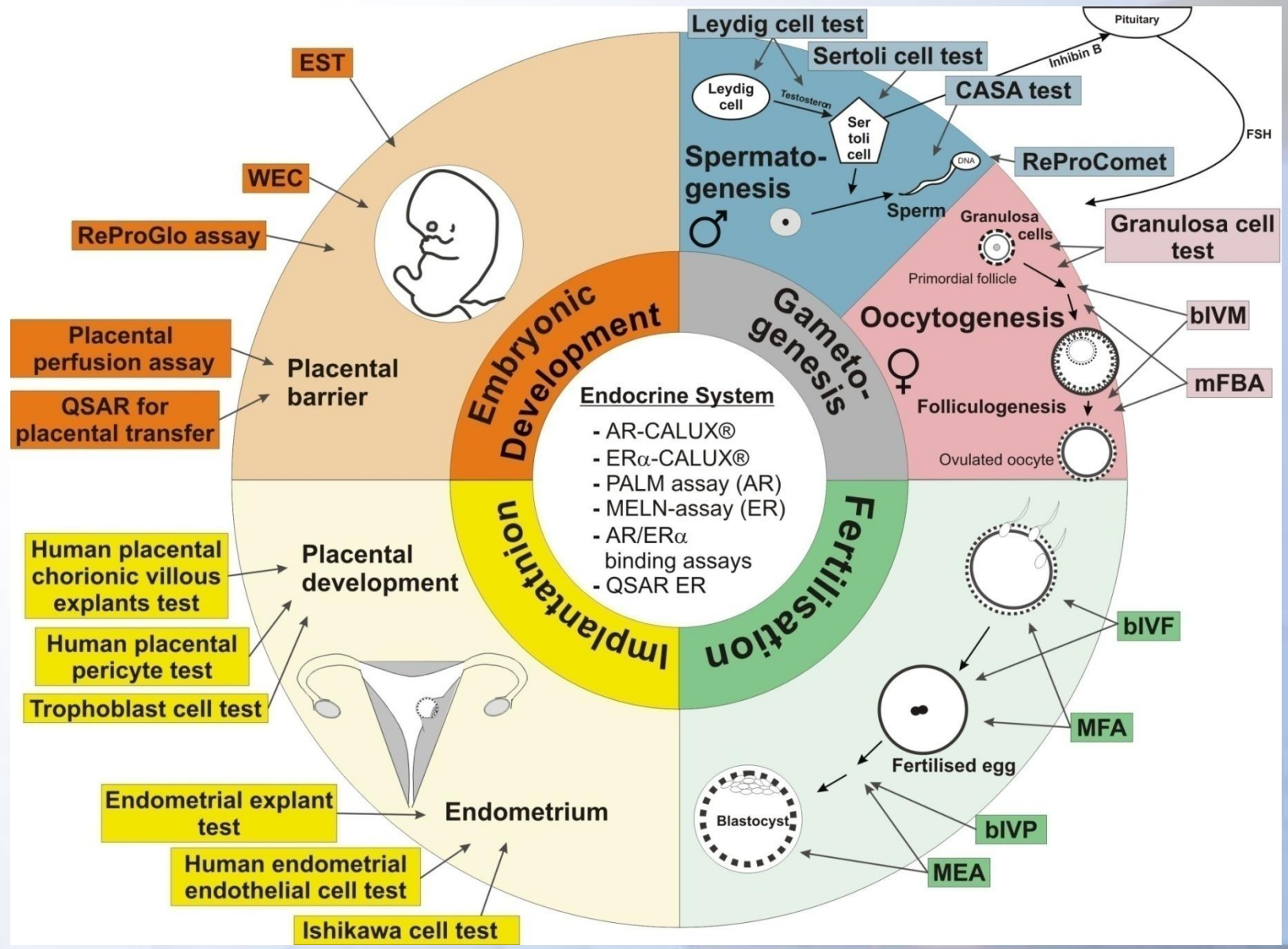
**Research Area leaders:**

I.: G. Lazzari, Cremona

II: L. Dencker, Uppsala

III: H. Spielmann, Berlin

IV: A. Mantovani, Rome



Server: localhost | Datenbank: ReProTect

Struktur | SQL | Suche | Abfrageeditor | Exportieren | Importieren | Operationen | Rechte | Löschen

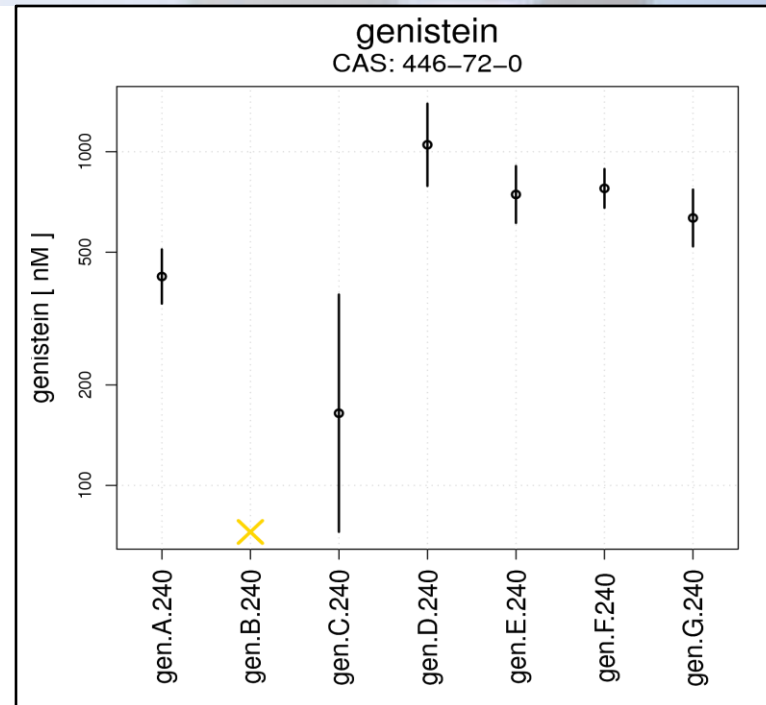
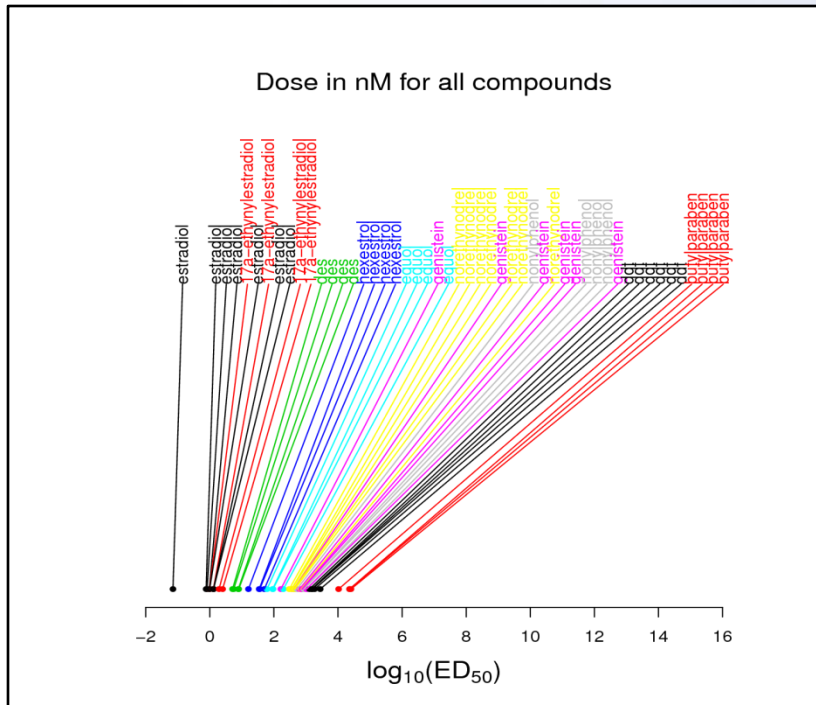
Tabelle	Aktion	Einträge	Typ	Kollation	Größe	Überhang
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<input type="checkbox"/> Lab		~15	InnoDB	utf8_general_ci	16,0 KiB	-
<input type="checkbox"/> Run		~1,522	InnoDB	utf8_general_ci	336,0 KiB	-
<input type="checkbox"/> Target		~7	InnoDB	utf8_general_ci	16,0 KiB	-
<input type="checkbox"/> Treatment		~338	InnoDB	utf8_general_ci	96,0 KiB	-
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12 Tabellen	Gesamt	~3,754	MyISAM	latin1_swedish_ci	896,0 KiB	0 Bytes

Alle auswählen / Auswahl entfernen | markierte: [ ]

GlobalID	Assay	Target	Endpoint	Lab	Compound	CAS	Run	ED50
670			6 Standard		genistein	446-72-0	gen.A.240	422.6
672			6 Standard		genistein	446-72-0	gen.C.240	164.5
673			6 Standard		genistein	446-72-0	gen.D.240	1049.0
674			6 Standard		genistein	446-72-0	gen.E.240	744.5
675			6 Standard		genistein	446-72-0	gen.F.240	776.4
676			6 Standard		genistein	446-72-0	gen.G.240	633.1

Lower	Upper	DoseUnit	Mw	CompoundHarm	CompoundRef	RefED50	RefDoseUnit
350.2	509.9	nM	270.2369	genistein	genistein	4.226e-07	M
72.5	373.4	nM	270.2369	genistein	genistein	1.645e-07	M
788.8	1394.0	nM	270.2369	genistein	genistein	1.049e-06	M
611.3	906.6	nM	270.2369	genistein	genistein	7.445e-07	M
678.6	888.4	nM	270.2369	genistein	genistein	7.764e-07	M
520.1	770.7	nM	270.2369	genistein	genistein	6.331e-07	M



~150  
compounds

**Bart van der Burg**



**Hilda Witters**



**Alexius Freyberger**



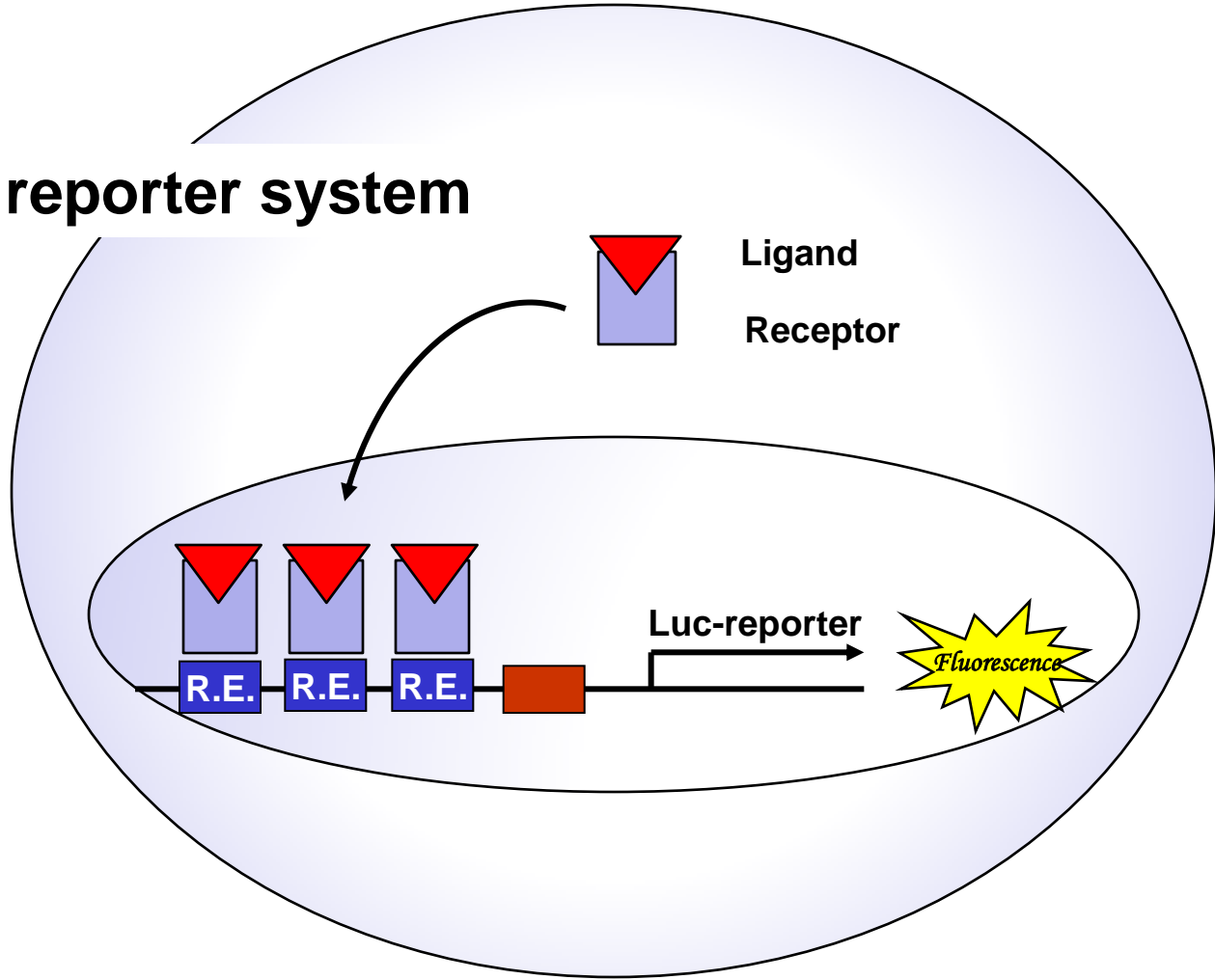
**Ovanes Mekenyan**



## Endocrine System

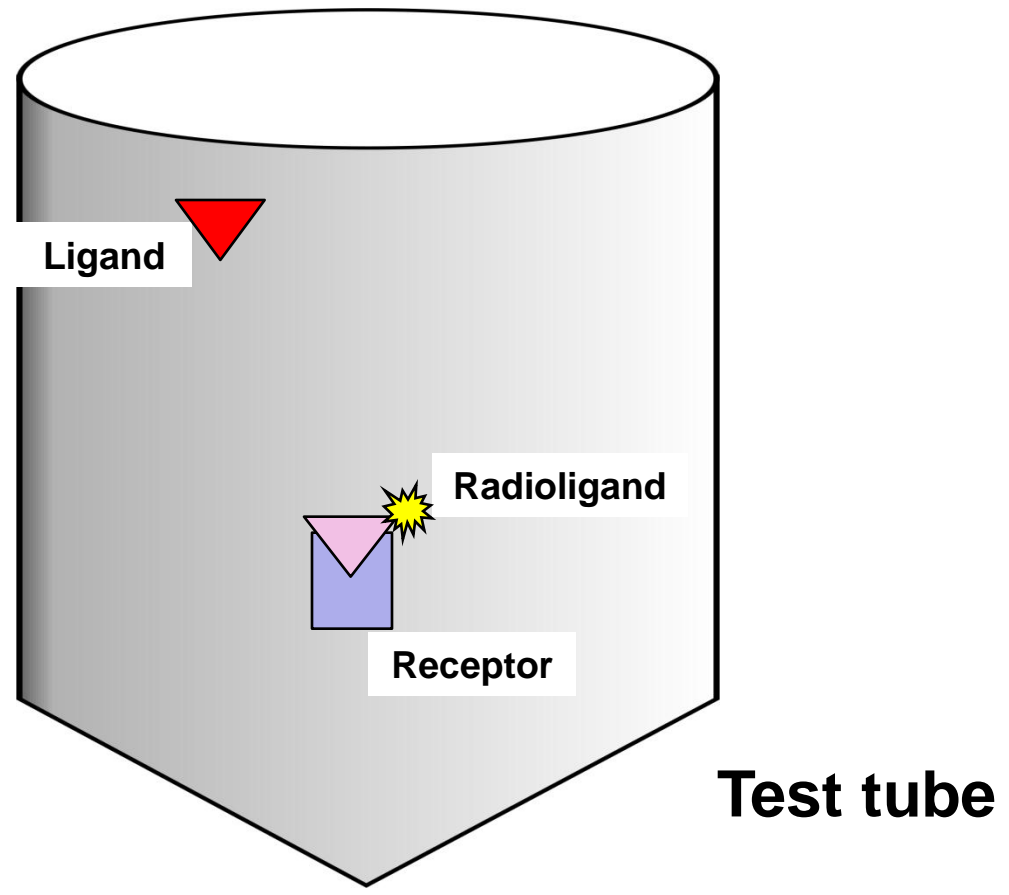
- AR-CALUX®
- ER $\alpha$ -CALUX®
- PALM assay (AR)
- MELN-assay (ER)
- AR/ER $\alpha$  binding assays
- QSAR ER

## Cell-based reporter system



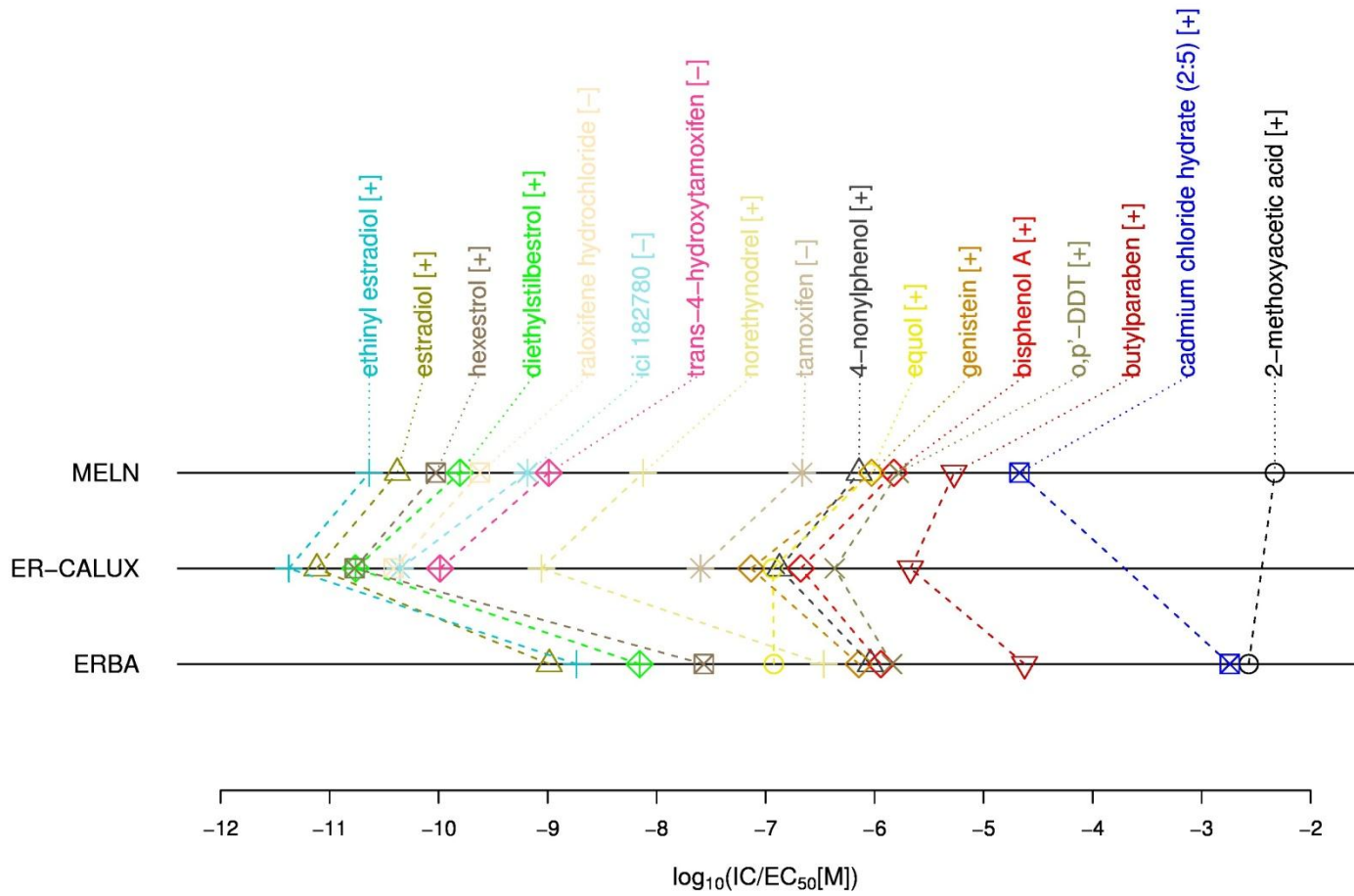


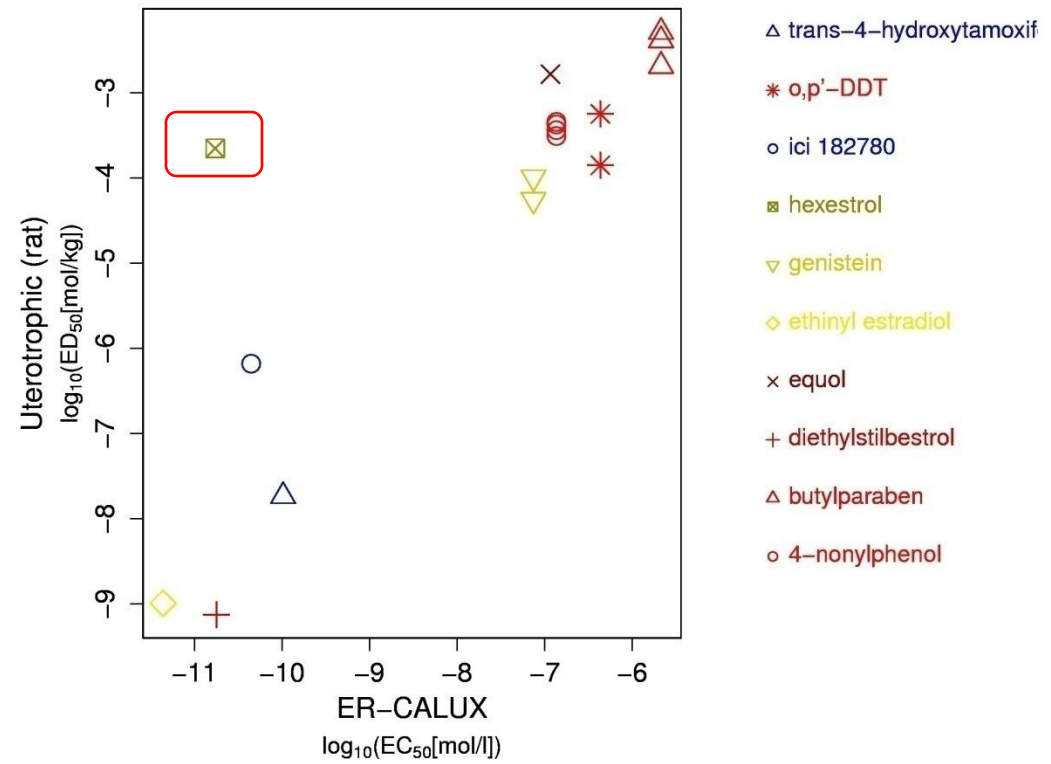
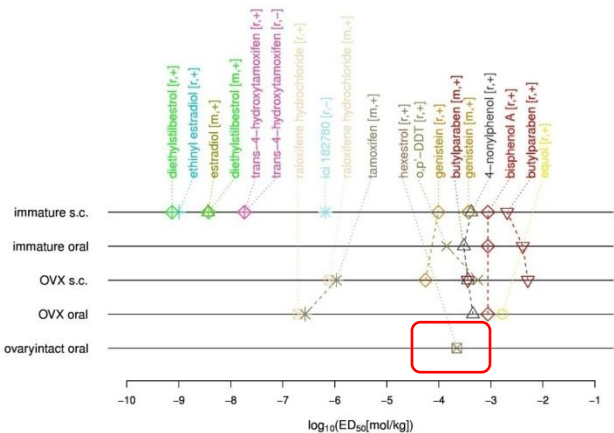
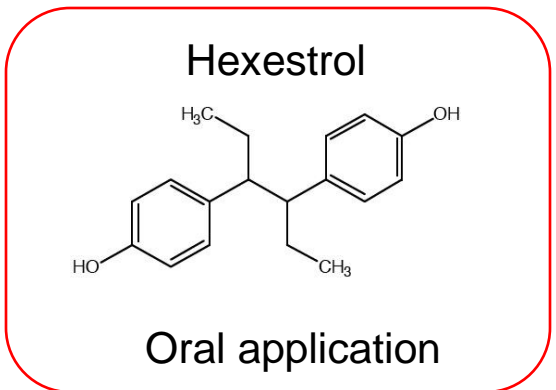
## Receptor Binding Assay



Cell-based  
reporter assays

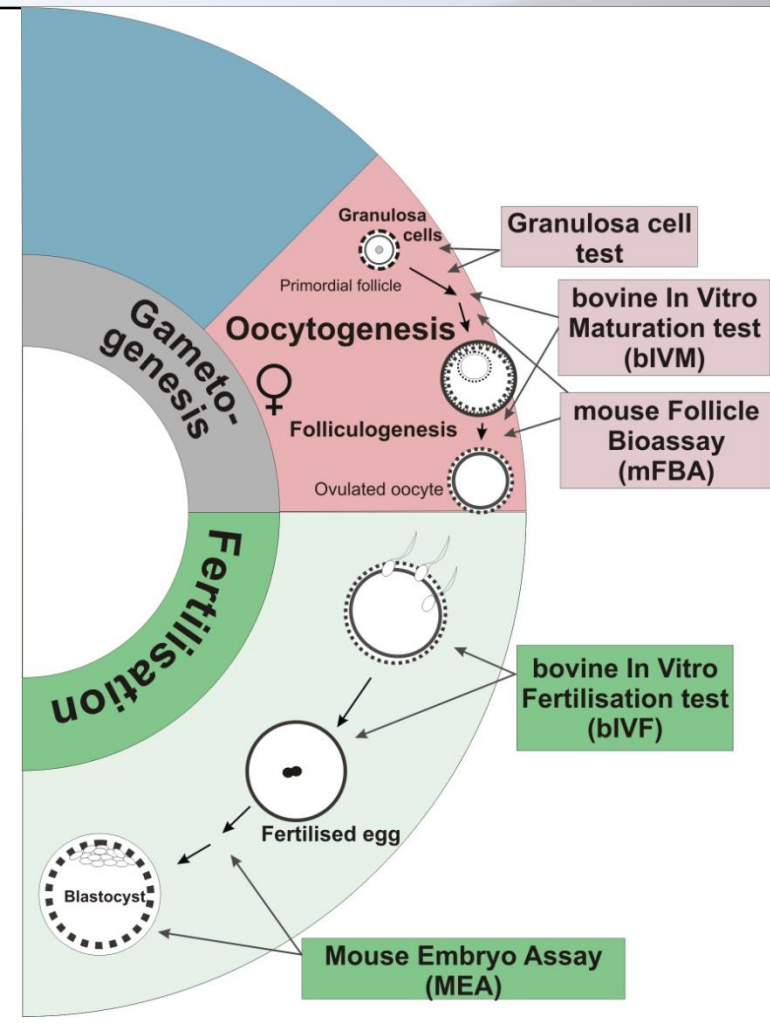
Receptor  
binding assay





Giovanna Lazzari

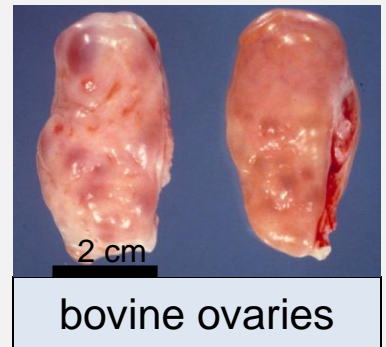
Rita Cortvrindt



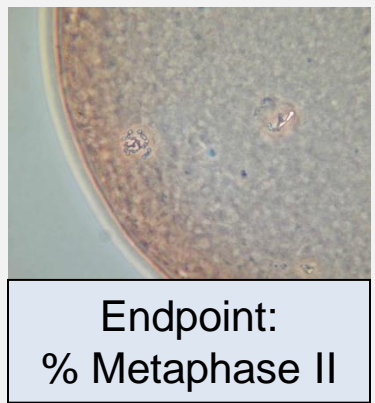
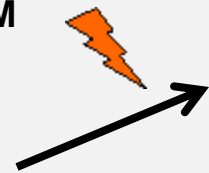
Giovanna Lazzari



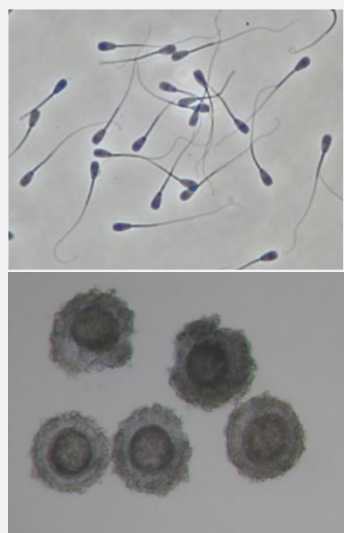
In vitro **maturation** (IVM) of bovine oocytes



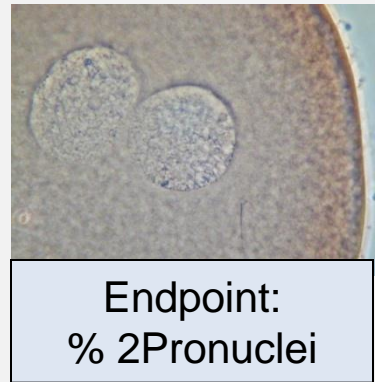
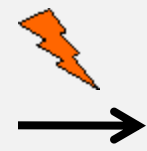
Chemical exposure (24h) during IVM



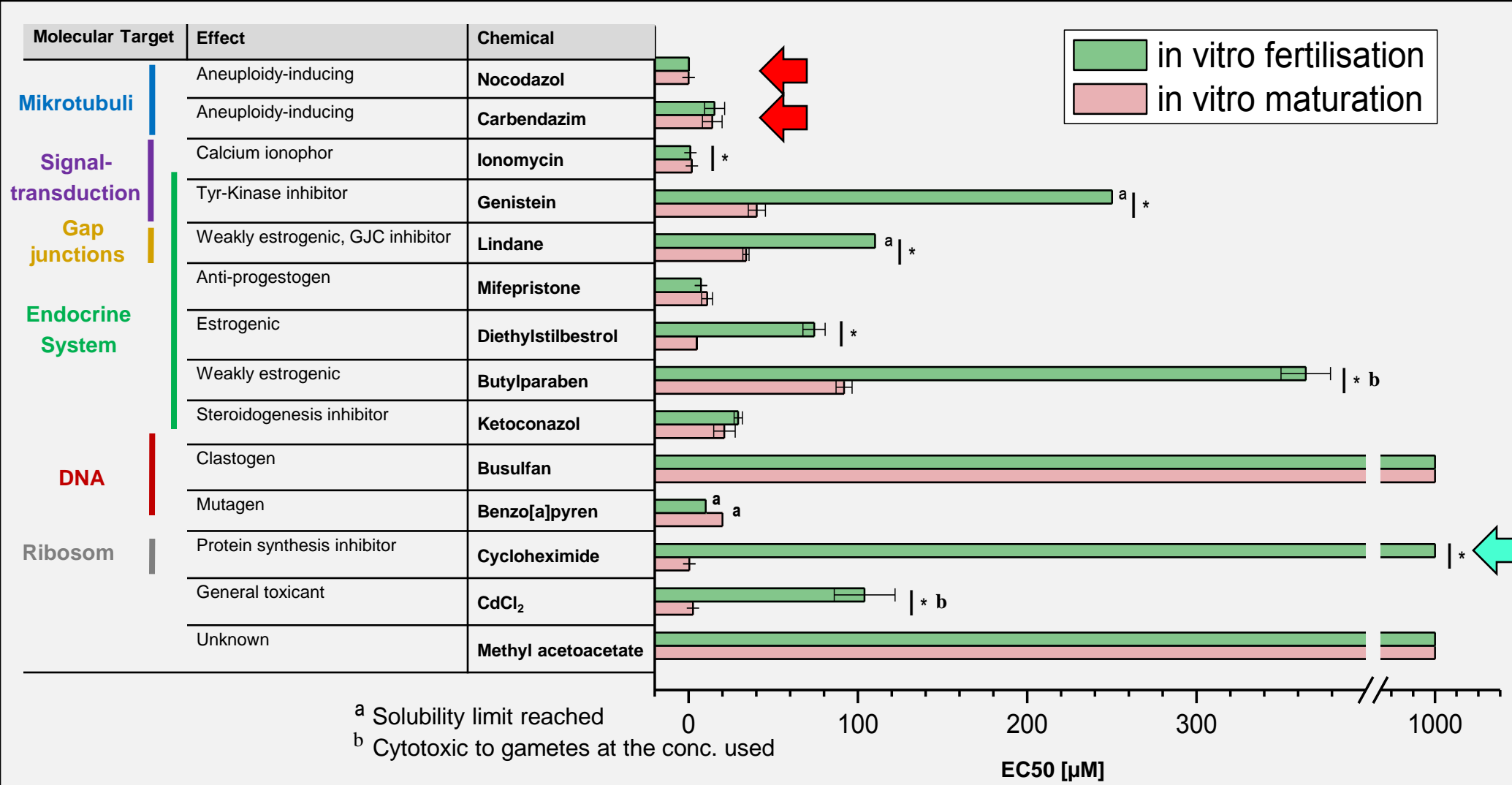
In vitro **fertilisation** (IVF) of bovine oocytes

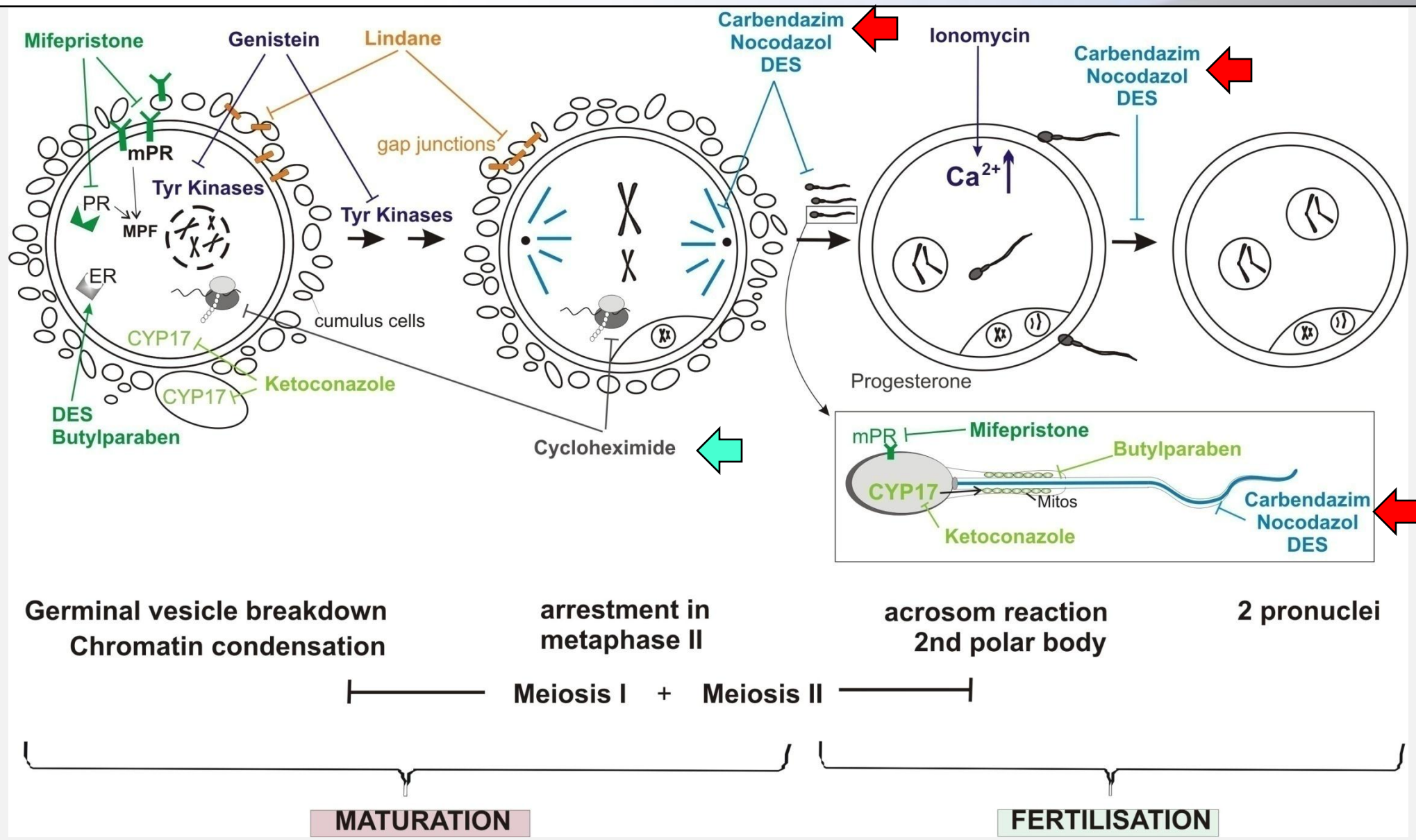


Chemical exposure (20h) during IVF



IVM, 24 h





**Horst Spielmann,  
Andrea Seiler**



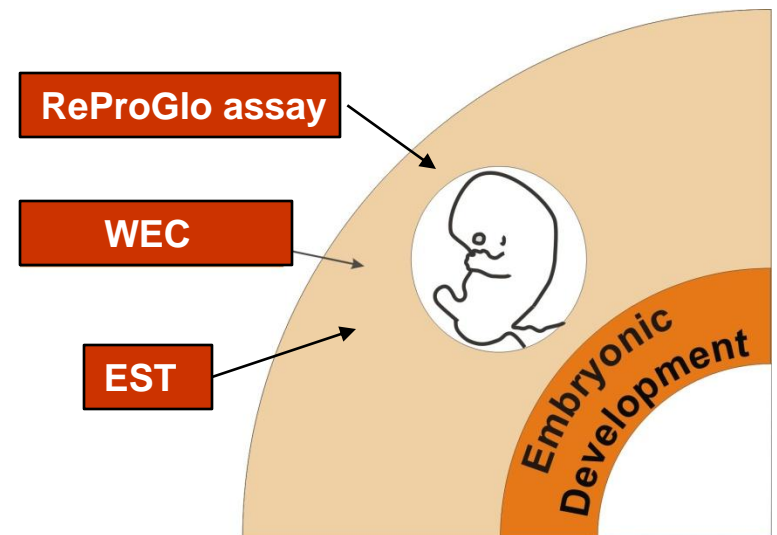
**Aldert Piersma**



**Michael Schwarz**

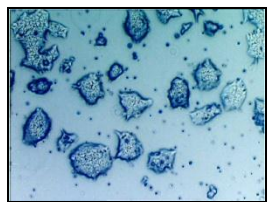


**Heinz Nau**

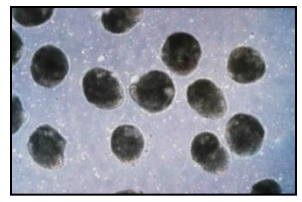




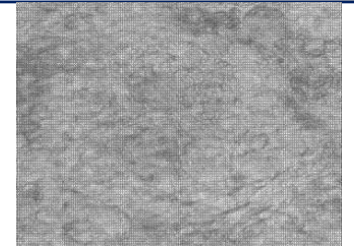
## EST



day 0: undifferentiated mouse-ES-cells



day 3-5: *in vitro* differentiation to „embryonic bodies“



day 5-10: *in vitro* differentiation to contracting heart muscle cells



## ReProGlo

Wnt/TCF-reporter-transfected mES cells



0

24

Test chemical

46

48

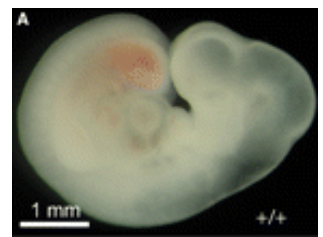
(h)



Alamar blue (cytotoxicity)



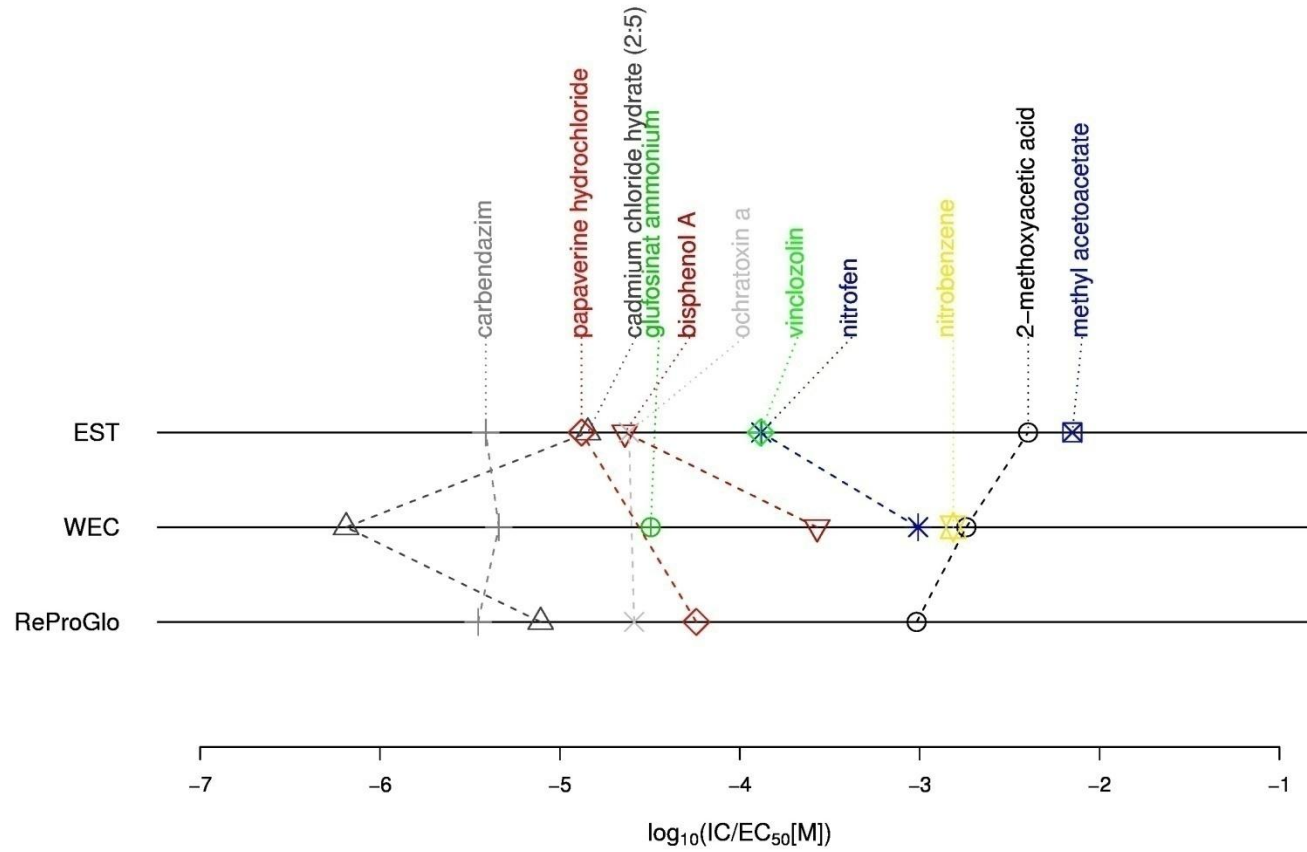
## Whole Embryo Culture (WEC)

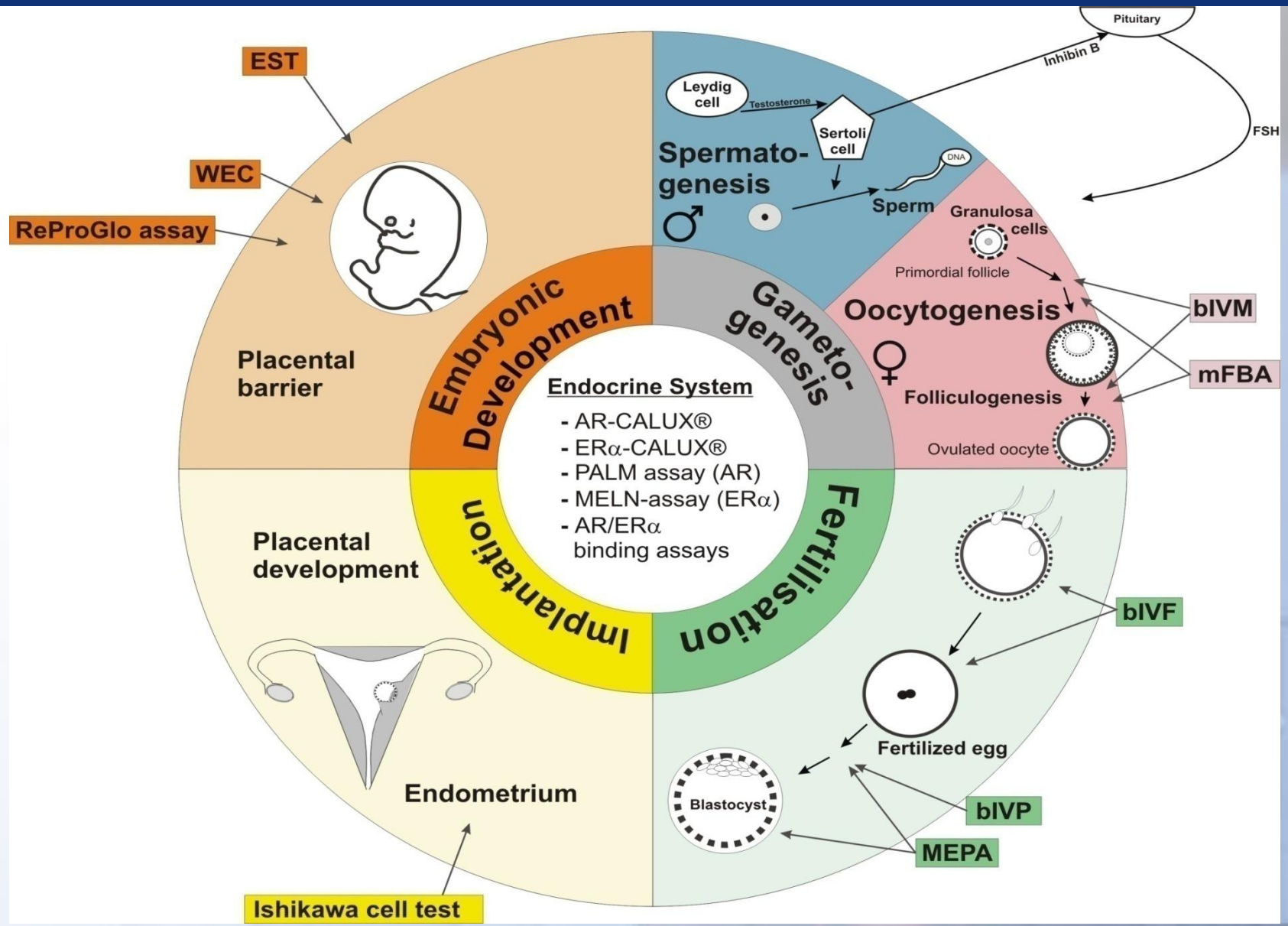


Embryo, day 9,5-11,5



Incubation with test chemical  
48h - max. 96h





~150 ReProTect  
chemicals

Selection of 10 chemicals  
by independent experts

Selection criteria:

- *In vivo* effects well characterized
- No metabolic activation (CYP450-mediated) required

**Blinding** of chemicals  
(chemical 1,2,3,...10)  
and distribution to the  
experimental groups

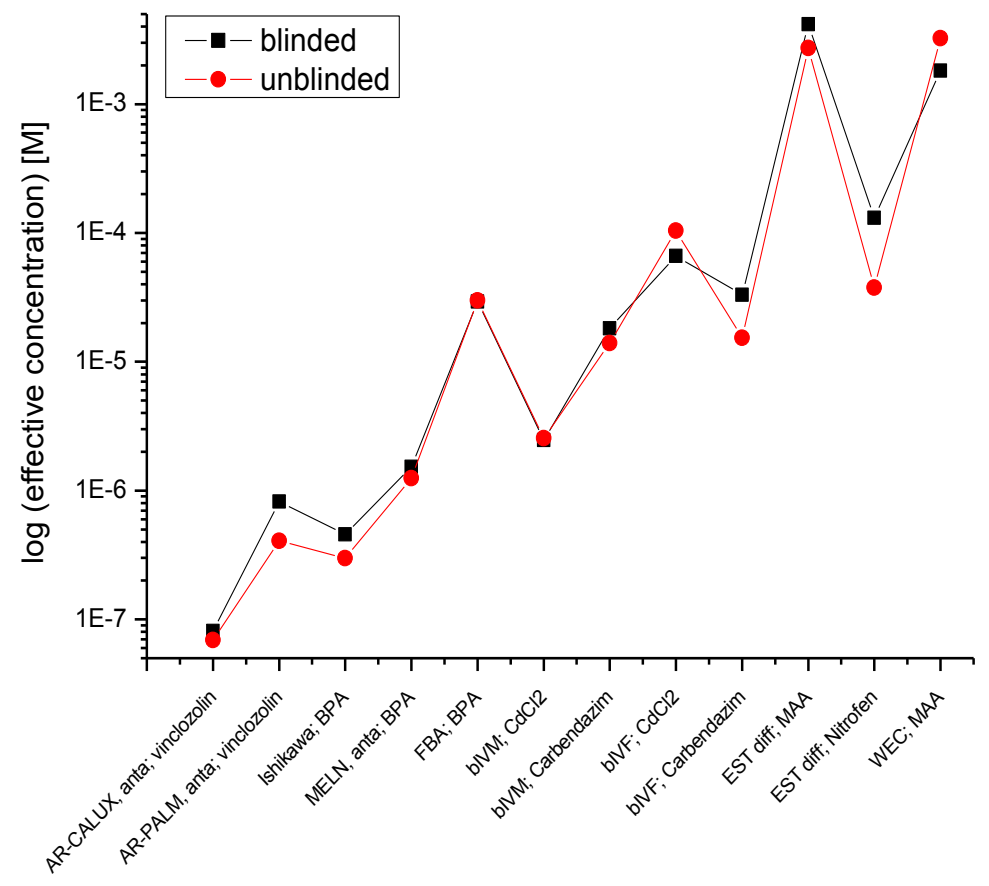
Determination of EC<sub>50</sub>-  
(or equivalent) values for  
all 10 chemicals in each  
of the assays



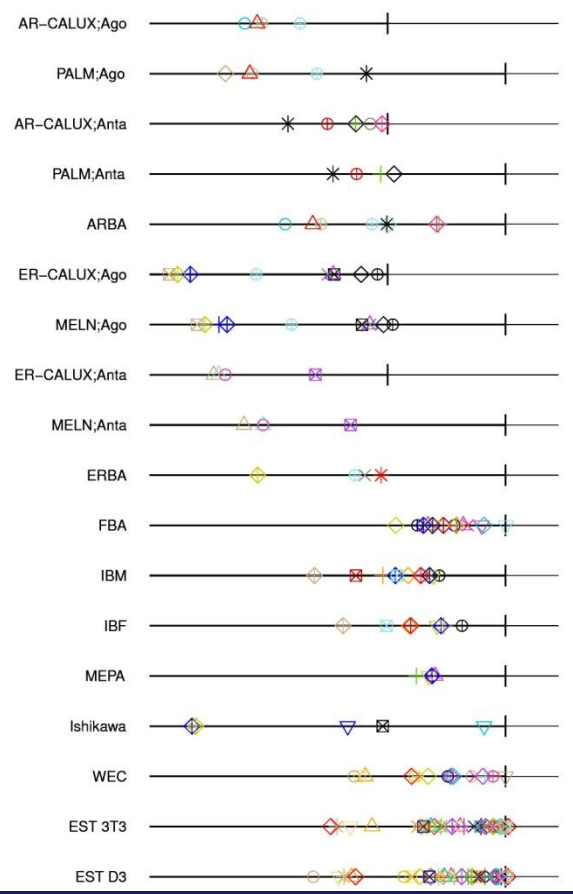
# The ReProTect Feasibility Study

Open Tox, Munich, August 9-12, 2011

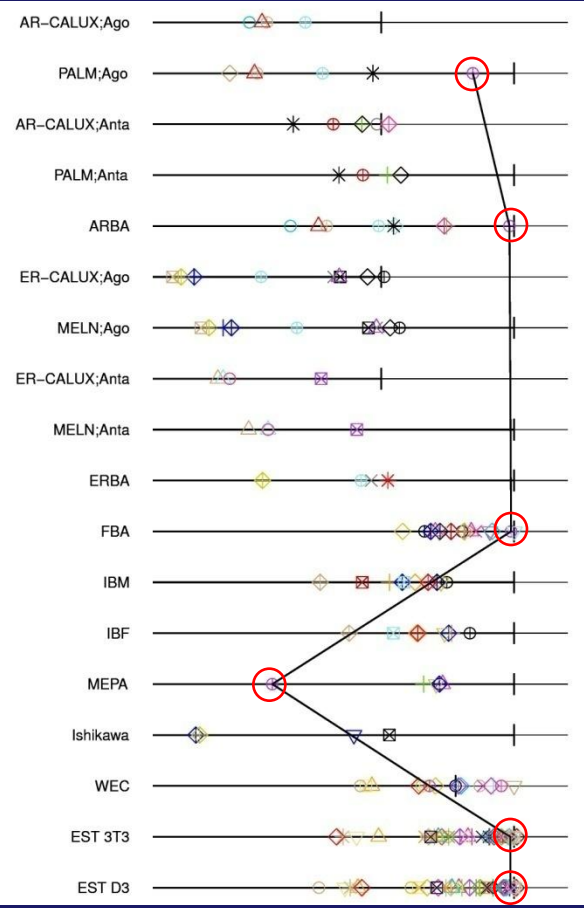
TEST	Known reference compounds out of the 10 test compounds
ARBA	1 / 10
AR -CALUX	1 / 10
AR-PALM	1 / 10
ERBA	- / 10
ER -CALUX	- / 10
MELN	- / 10
FBA	- / 10
bIVM	3 / 10
bIVF	3 / 10
MEPA	- / 10
Ishikawa cell test	1 / 10
WEC	1 / 10
EST	2 / 10
ReProGlo	- / 10



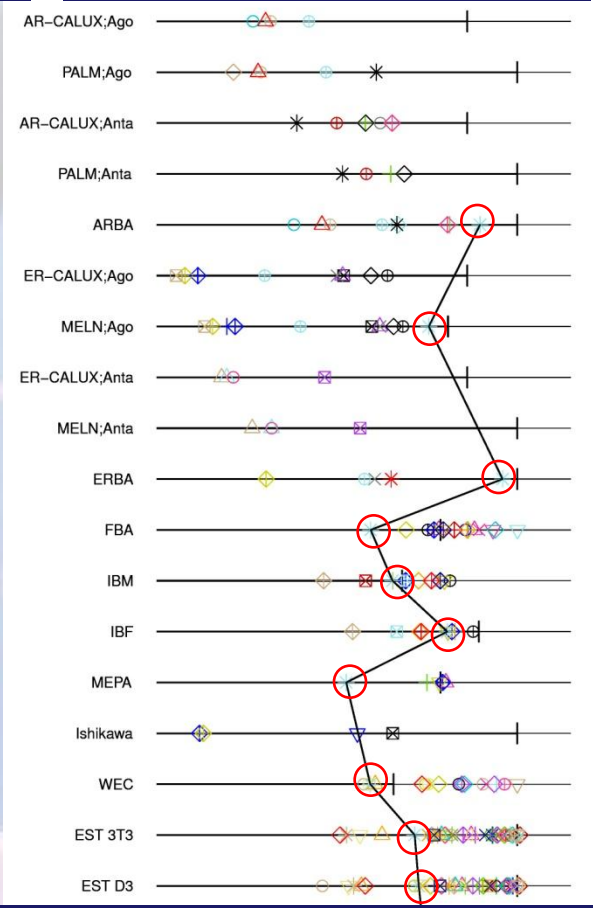
## Sodium chloride



## Glufosinate Ammonium



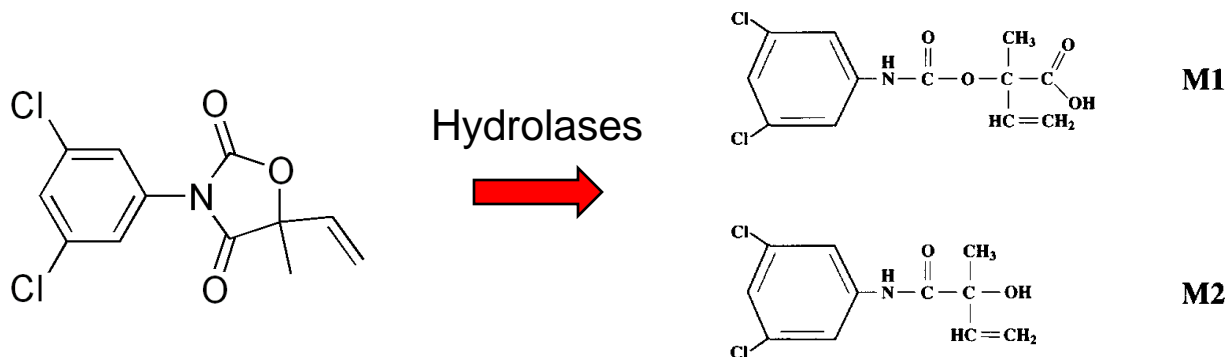
## Cadmium chloride



- **Nearest neighbor analysis** (Prediction models, if available, were NOT used)
- **Weight of evidence approach** (Expert knowledge)

<p>1</p>	<p>This water-soluble chemical is negative in all assays except in the FBA where it is positive at very high concentrations.</p> <p>➤ <b>Methyl acetoacetate</b></p>	<p>We regard chemical 1 as having a low potency. We do not expect that this compound would affect female fertility or -if at all- at high dose levels only. We do not expect the compound to cause embryotoxicity <i>in vivo</i>.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>This water-soluble chemical is negative in the receptor binding/activation assays (effects at very high concentrations are regarded as irrelevant). The compound is active at a very low concentration (<math>\sim 5 \times 10^{-7}</math> mg/ml) in the MEPA assay. We therefore predict that the compound negatively affects morulation or blastocyst formation. The compound is unsuspecting in all other assays that predict effects on female fertility.</p> <p>Compound 2 had no effect on D3 differentiation and is only toxic for 3T3 and D3 cells at a very high concentration. It is also negative in the ReProGlo assay. It produced effects at a concentration of <math>\sim 0.01</math> mg/ml in the WEC. Organ systems affected were brain and facial structures whereas the heart was unaffected.</p>	<p>We predict that chemical 2 will affect female fertility at a comparatively low dose <i>in vivo</i> and it is also expected to cause embryotoxicity.</p> <p>➤ <b>Glufosinate ammonium</b></p>
<p>3</p>	<p>This water-soluble chemical has a low cytotoxic potency. It is positive in the EST and WEC and ReProGlo but only at a rather high concentration.</p> <p>➤ <b>Methoxyacetic acid</b></p>	<p>The compound may cause embryotoxic effects <i>in vivo</i> with a low potency.</p>

<p><b>9</b></p>	<p>This lipophilic chemical has anti-androgenic activity that is detected both in the AR-CALUX and in the PALM assay. The compound is negative in the ARBA receptor binding assay <u>suggesting the compound needs metabolic activation to act as an anti-androgen.</u> Chemical 9 is unsuspecting in the female fertility assays. Chemical 9 is negative in the WEC and the ReProGlo assay and has a low potency in the EST. The effective concentration in this assay is close to solubility limits.</p>	<p>Chemical 9 is expected to affect male reproductive function and development. Furthermore, it may be a low potency embryotoxicant.</p> <div style="background-color: #002060; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>➤ <b>Vinclozoline</b></p> </div>

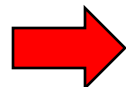


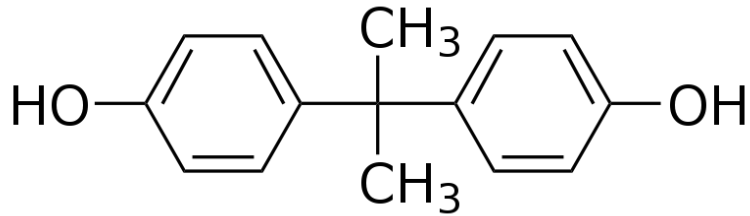


	Chemical	Female fertility	Male fertility	Developmental toxicity
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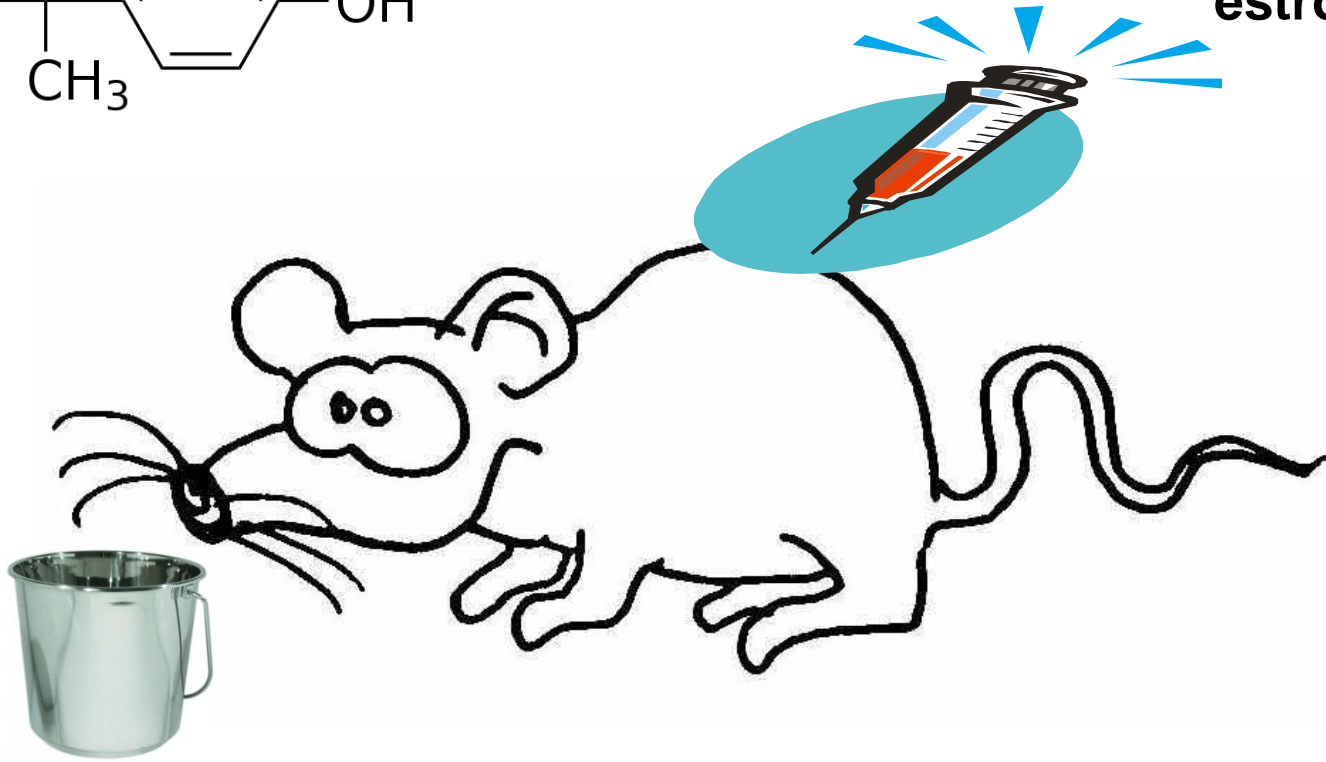
## But:

- Test chemicals mostly „black or white“ type while „grey“ might prevail in e.g. REACH chemicals
- No drugs included with a very specific MOA not easily predictable by an *in vitro* assay
- No chemicals included requiring metabolic activation through e.g. Cyp450s





**oral:**  
first pass effect  
not estrogenic



**s.c. injection:**  
estrogenic

Reproductive Toxicology 30 (2010) 200–218



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Reproductive Toxicology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/reprotox](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/reprotox)

## The ReProTect Feasibility Study, a novel comprehensive *in vitro* approach to detect reproductive toxicants

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Alexius Freyberger<sup>f</sup>, Giovanna Lazzari<sup>g</sup>, Cristian Pellizzer<sup>c</sup>, Aldert Piersma<sup>h</sup>,  
Wolfgang R. Schäfer<sup>i</sup>, Andrea Seiler<sup>j</sup>, Hilda Witters<sup>k</sup>, Michael Schwarz<sup>a,\*</sup>

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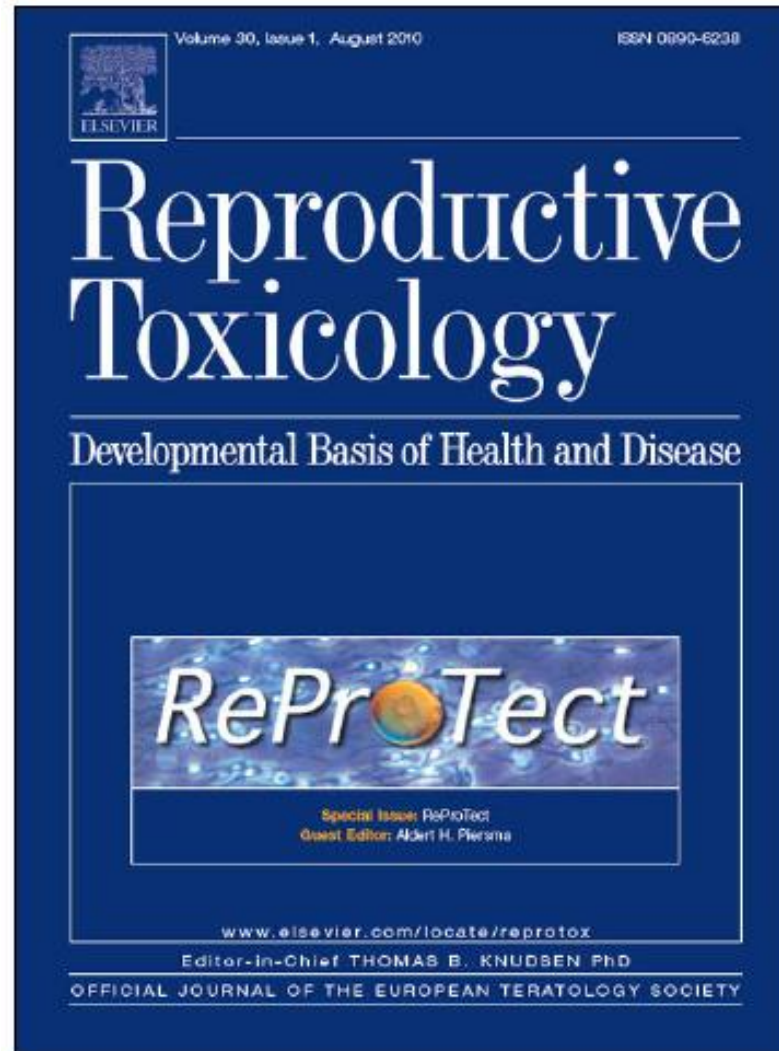
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<sup>i</sup> University of Freiburg, Dep. of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Hugstetter Str. 55, 79106 Freiburg, Germany

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**Volume 30, Issue 1  
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## Alternatives in Reproductive Tox. testing: **Present use**

- ➔ **Early drug development**  
(**“in-house” use for prioritization** during lead compound optimization)  
Selection of candidate compounds for further safety evaluation studies; early screen-out of compounds predicted to show undesirable reproductive toxicity properties
- ➔ **Early drug development and regulatory decision making**  
**Mode of action analysis** for compounds that have demonstrated reproductive toxicity *in vivo*.

# Alternatives in Reproductive Tox. testing: Regulatory acceptance?

## Alternatives in Reproductive Tox. testing: Regulatory acceptance?

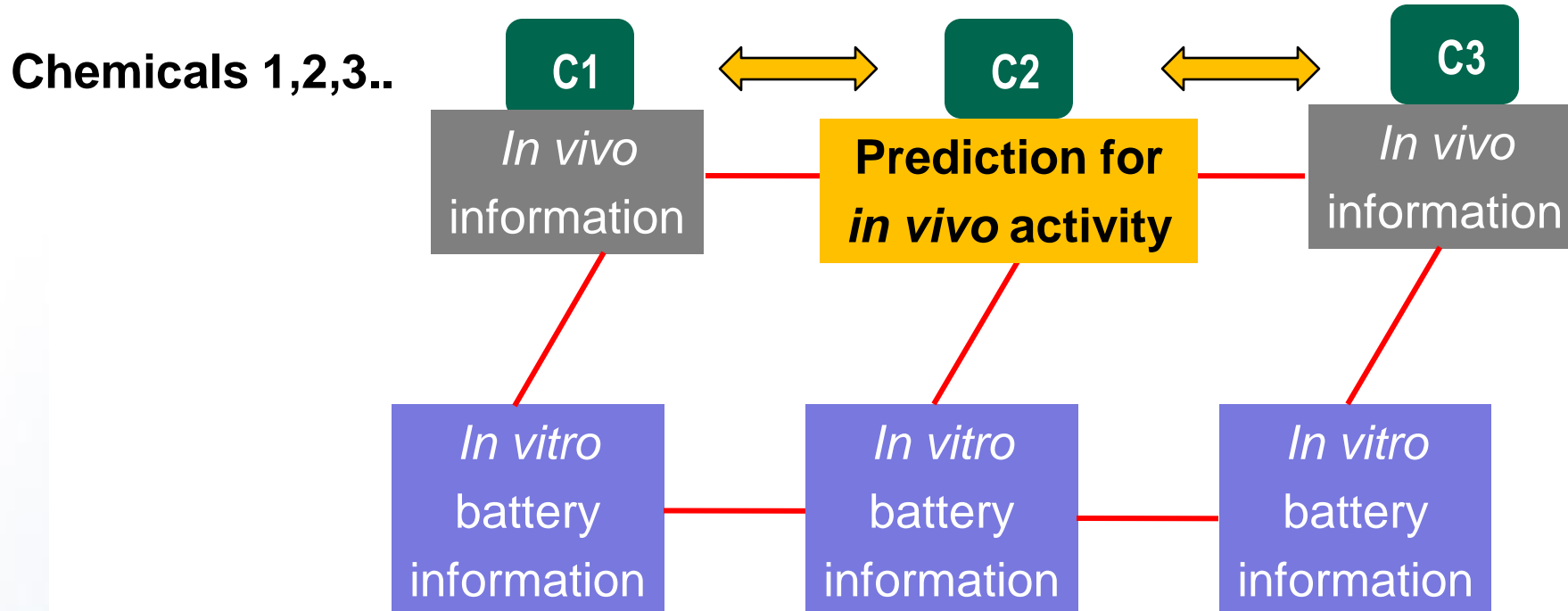
➔ **REACH:**  
Use in combination with other information  
in a **weight of evidence** approach

e.g., use for justification of **read across** if there is doubt on the  
validity of the read across

# Battery Approach in Reproductive Tox. Testing : Potential use

➔ Chemicals (REACH):

**“Parallelogram approach” for chemicals in a chemical category**





## Battery Approach in Reproductive Tox. Testing : Potential **future** use

**Chemical**



### **Problem:**

- **Industry** may not accept a **positive** *in vitro* result because of **false-positives**
- **Regulators** may not accept a **negative** *in vitro* result because of **false-negatives**

Uppsala  
2008

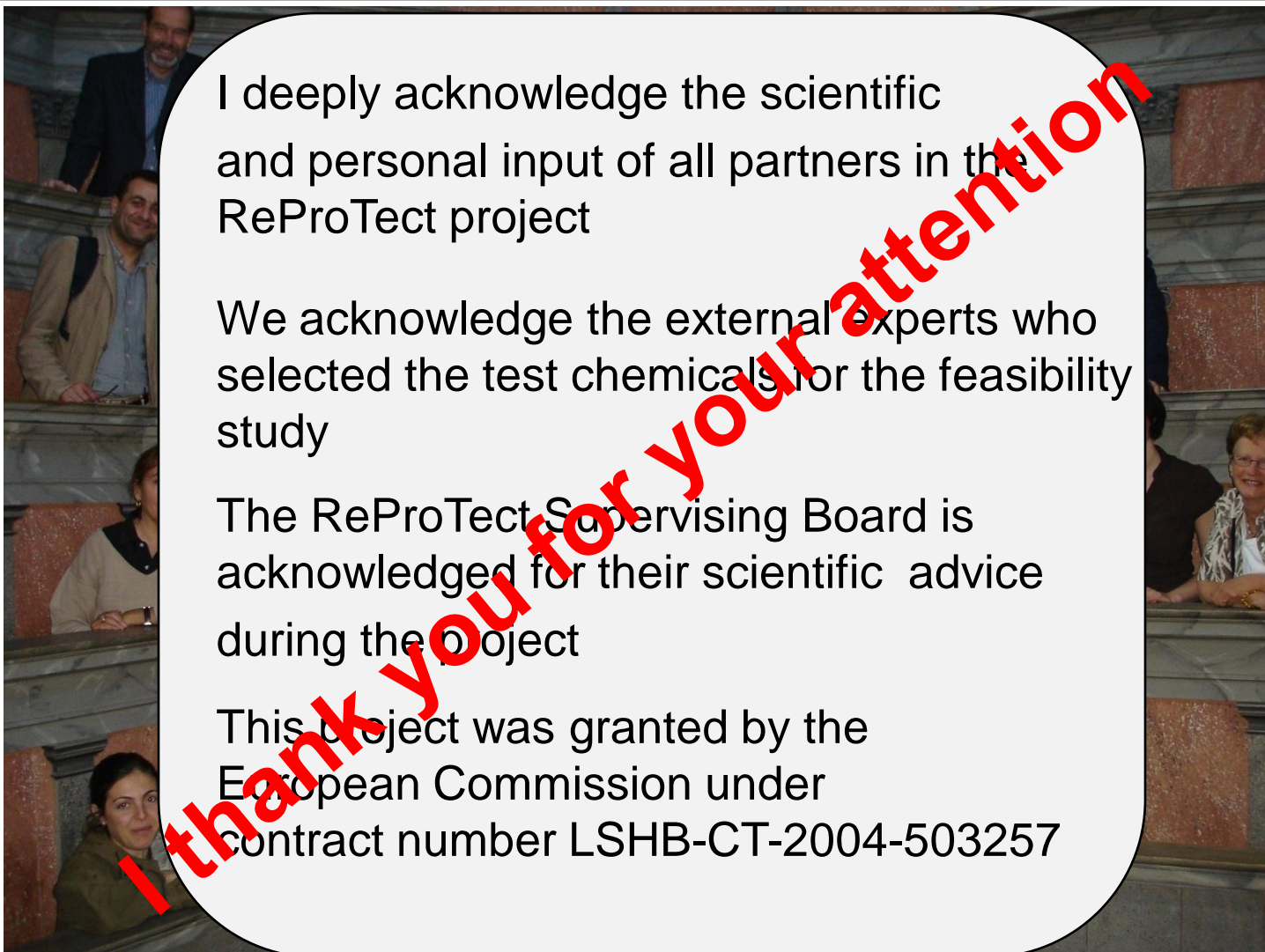
I deeply acknowledge the scientific and personal input of all partners in the ReProTect project

We acknowledge the external experts who selected the test chemicals for the feasibility study

The ReProTect Supervising Board is acknowledged for their scientific advice during the project

This project was granted by the European Commission under contract number LSHB-CT-2004-503257

**I thank you for your attention**





## Grouping of substances



**Substances** whose physicochemical, toxicological and ecotoxicological properties are likely to be similar or follow a regular pattern as a result of structural similarity may be considered as a **group**, or “**category**” of substances.




**Similarities may be based on:**

- common functional group
- common precursor or break-down products
- a constant pattern in changing of potency
- common constituents or chemical classes

## Chemical categories



- Common behaviour or consistent trends are generally associated with a **common mechanism/mode of action** 
  - The use of a category approach provides a basis on which to identify **possible trends in properties across the category**
  - A substance can belong to **more than one** category
  - Category would ideally include **all potential members** when first developed
-