

Advancing Application of NAMs and Evidence Integration in Risk Assessment: Dosimetry is Critical to Exposure Alignment

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Using In Silico and In Vitro Approaches for Next Generation Risk Assessment of Potential Respiratory Toxicants Inhalation Webinar Series organized by EPA OCSPP, PSCI, Syngenta and Unilever



May 19, 2021





- Challenges: Coherent evidence integration across large landscape of risk assessment applications
- Transitions: Conceptual and computational
 - "Big data" descriptions
 - New approach methods (NAMs)
 - AEP and AOP frameworks
- Translations: Mechanistic modeling and reporting standards
 - Exposure alignment
 - Quantitative AOP and IATA

Summary

Disclaimer: These views are those of the author and do not represent US EPA policy.



Risk Assessment Application Range



- Problem formulation: Fit for purpose
- Different data sources and strategies across landscape
- Mechanistic approach can create coherent context



Challenge: Evidence Integration



- Diverse exposure systems
- Dose at different levels of biological organization
- Various types of outcomes and modeling approaches
- Mechanistic data not considered in an integrated structure



Transitions: Pathways to Predictions

- More than manuscripts: Reproducibility and Rigor in Big Data Era
 (Waller and Miller, 2016) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26811418
- Era of the "3V": Volume (big) | Velocity (fast measurement and computing) | Variety (multiple sources)
- Define and realize the establishment of a data ecosystem or "commons" whereby data are shared for use by all in a common infrastructure (Boyles et al., (2019). Ontology-based data integration for advancing toxicological knowledge *Current Opinion Tox* 16, 67 – 74)
 - Common semantics and data repositories
 - Investment in making data "born interoperable"
 - Publication alone is insufficient



Transitions: Comprehensive Characterization



Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP)



Transitions: Novel Approach Methods (NAMs)

- EPA Strategic Plan published June 22, 2018 (<u>https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/strategic-plan-reduce-use-vertebrate-animals-chemical</u>)
- EPA views the term New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) as equivalent to alternative test methods and strategies (the language in the statute)



 EPA Work Plan for Reducing Use of Animals in Chemical Testing published June 2021 (<u>https://www.epa.gov/chemical-</u> <u>research/epa-new-approach-methods-</u> <u>work-plan-reducing-use-animals-</u> <u>chemical-testing</u>)



NAMs: Strategy for Success

- Strategic plan components
 - ID, Develop, Integrate
 - Build confidence
 - Implement
- Demonstrated approach for skin sensitization adapted to inhalation
- Create context to advance
 understanding
 - Target in vitro assays to evaluate key events
 - Bridge acute to chronic pathogenesis



Review

Pathway-based predictive approaches for non-animal assessment of acute inhalation toxicity



Amy J. Clippinger^{a,**}, David Allen^h, Holger Behrsing^c, Kelly A. BéruBé^d, Michael B. Bolger^e, Warren Casey^f, Michael DeLorme^g, Marianna Gaça^h, Sean C. Gehenⁱ, Kyle Glover^j, Patrick Hayden^h, Paul Hinderliter¹, Jon A. Hotchkiss^m, Anita Iskandarⁿ, Brian Keyser^d, Karsta Luettichⁿ, Lan Ma-Hock^b, Anna G. Maione^k, Patrudu Makena^o, Jodie Melbourneⁿ, Lawrence Milchak^g, Sheung P. Ng^d, Alicia Paini^c, Kathryn Page^g, Grace Patlewicz¹, Pilar Prieto^r, Hans Raabe^c, Emily N. Reinkeⁿ, Clive Roper[×], Jane Rose^w, Monita Sharma^a, Wayne Spoo^o, Peter S. Thorne^s, Daniel M. Wilson^m, Annie M. Jarabek^v



Transitions: AOP as Mechanistic Scaffold

	Target Site Exposure	Molecular Initiating Events	Cellular Key Events	Tissue / Organ Key Events	Organism / Population Responses
	 Solubility Vapor pressure Particle size, density, distribution Mass transfer coefficient Chemical reactivity ADME Breathing mode, rate and volume 	 Oxidation of cellular molecules Acetylcholinesterase inhibition Cytochrome C oxidase inhibition DNA/protein alkylation Modulation of ion channels Receptor binding e.g., Activation of EGFR Activation of TRPA1 receptor Activation of glucocorticoid receptor Activation/inhibition of G protein coupled receptors Inhibition of muscarinic acetylcholine receptors Inhibition of NMDA receptors Binding to hormone 	ROS formation Antioxidant (e.g., glutathione) depletion Inhibition of energy (ATP) production Cytotoxicity Collagen deposition Increased mucous production Cytoskeleton disruption Cytokine/chemokine production Surfactant depletion Modulation of signal transduction pathways Inhibition of nucleotide synthesis Protein modification	 Cell proliferation Inflammatory response Cell transformation Squamous cell metaplasia Loss of epithelial barrier function Reduced ciliary beat frequency Goblet (mucous) cell hyperplasia, metaplasia, and proliferation Respiratory failure Tracheitis Bronchiolitis Alveolitis Pulmonary edema Bronchoconstriction 	Systemic toxicity Acute lethality Target organ effects (e.g., hepatotoxicity) Airway hyperreactivity Chemical narcosis
Clippinger et al (2018)		receptor	Modulation of protein synthesis	Alveolar distention Smooth muscle remodeling	
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov	//pubmed/2990	<u>)8304</u>	Vitamin interference	 Change in lung mechanics (resistance, compliance, pressure-volume curves, FEV1) 	

- Mechanistic data to characterize key events (KE)
- Transition assays from prioritization / hazard ID to quantitative AOP (qAOP) for in vitro to in vivo extrapolation (IVIVE)



Translation: Exposure Alignment



NAS (2017). Using 21st Century Science to Improve Risk-Related Evaluations http://www.nap.edu/24635



Translation: Mechanistic Modeling

- Evolves empirical modeling (observations of WHAT) → to HOW and WHY they occur
 - Qualitative agreement with current biological understanding of ADME and pathogenesis processes
 - Quantitative agreement with test measures of key events
- Provides insights on important physicochemical properties
- Translates dose across various experimental designs to improve data integration
- Addresses differences between test systems, species and humans to refine inferences
- Quantifies and explores properties systematically and consistently



Translation: TSE Alignment and Quantitative AOP

- Account for key characteristics of exposure
- Incorporate physicochemical properties
- Characterize anatomical or physiological parameters and processes determining dosimetry / ADME
- Describe <u>quantitative</u> relationships among key events (KE) in an AOP



Perkins et al (2019)



Dosimetry Models in Risk Assessment

- "Dose"
 - Exposure versus internal amount (deposited or retained)
 - Defined best as causal or at least a metric best associated (correlated) with toxicity or key event / endpoint used to evaluate "dose-response" relationship
- "Metric"
 - -Measurement: mass, surface area (SA), number (#)
 - Scale of metric should be same as observation or response endpoint (e.g., lung region versus local, specific cell type)
- "Model"
 - Conceptual or quantitative description of important processes
 - Simulate different exposure scenarios and experimental designs



- To integrate human / laboratory animal and in vitro data need to systematically account for differences in
 - Exposure systems and regimen (e.g., occupational vs laboratory vs in vitro)
 - Anatomy (e.g., species and age-specific architecture)
 - **Physiology** (e.g., breathing mode and ventilation activity pattern)



Historical Precedent

- Early appreciation: Coal dust
- Data rich: Radionuclide effort in 1940's
- Size-selective sampling strategies and standards
 - "Respirable"
 - Total suspended particulate (TSP) \rightarrow PM₁₀ / PM_{2.5}
 - National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM)
- Basis of dosimetric adjustment factor (DAF) used for interspecies extrapolation for risk assessment
- Evaluation criteria for refractory ceramic fibers (RCF) and man-made vitreous fibers (MMVF)
- Used to target pharmaceutical drug delivery







Physicochemical Properties

Particle / Fibers / Manufactured Nanomaterials

- Density / Dimensions and Distribution
- Hygroscopicity
- Shape and surface area
- Agglomeration state
- Solubility and dissolution rate
- Crystal structure
- Chemical composition (spatially averaged (bulk) and heterogenous)
 - Physiosorption or chemisorption of biomolecules (e.g., proteins)
 - Biochemically-induced changes in surface chemistry
- Surface chemistry
- Surface charge (Zeta potential)
- Porosity







Particle Dosimetry Modeling

Larvnx

Termina Bronchiole

- Modeling has matured into mechanistic structures: based on fit to data and theory
- Species-specific architecture and airflows, breathing modes and activity patterns
- Fundamental first
 principles of physics
 - Laws of conservation of mass and momentum for airflow and particle transport
 - Equivalent aerodynamic diameters derived based on dimensions and density for each deposition mechanism

Retained burden = (Inhalability + Deposition) - Clearance





Clearance Mechanisms

- Requires time course data
 - -Target tissues
- Clearance mechanisms
 - -Dissolution = opportunity for in vitro data
 - -Physical translocation (mucociliary)
 - -Phagocytosis by macrophages
 - -Lymphatic drainage

Additional determinants of tissue response

- -Composition
- -Shape
- -Surface reactivity

Exposure ≠ internal dose

Retained burden = (Inhalability + Deposition) - Clearance





Multiple-path Particle Dosimetry (MPPD) Model

- New EPA version of the MPPD model software developed by Applied Research Associates, Inc. (ARA)
 - Revised graphical user's interface (GUI)
 - Some updated algorithms
- Multi-purpose: Technical support documentation and user's guide for broad audience
 - Introduction to inhalation dosimetry
 - Step-by-step explanation of input fields
 - Guidance on input parameters and procedures
 - Specific use case illustrations
- Base model: Coupling with computational fluid dynamics (CFD) underway and interface with other models in the future
- Recently completed external peer review





Dosimetry in the Dish

- Dosimetry is inherent issue for ALL experimental designs!
- Considerations of transport mechanisms for particles in an *in vitro* system shown to be a major factor in delivered dose to cells in culture.
- These considerations should be interfaced with predicted doses to respiratory tract of test species in question to best estimate dose range for realistic testing.



Hinderliter et al. (2010). ISDD: A computational model of particle sedimentation, diffusion, and target cell dosimetry for in vitro toxicity studies. Part Fibre Toxicol. Nov 30;7(1):36.



Dosimetry Models for in vitro Submerged Systems

Addressing in vitro sedimentation, diffusion (ISDD) and dissolution (ISD3)



https://nanodose.pnnl.gov/default.aspx?topic=ISDD

Hinderliter et al. 2010. Part Fibre Toxicol. 7(1) 36



https://nanodose.pnnl.gov/default.aspx?topic=ISD3

Thomas et al. 2018. Part Fibre Toxicol. 15(1) 6



Design of Air-liquid Interface (ALI) Exposure Systems



- Computer Aided Design (CAD) + Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) models allow virtual testing of air-liquid interface exposure technology:
 - Predicts VOC and aerosol delivery to allow CCES re-design for aerosol transport
 - Time- and cost-effective method to target appropriate dose and optimize operational parameters



Dosimetry Informs "Lung on a Chip"

- The **Reynolds number** is used to study fluids as they flow.
- The **Reynolds number** determines whether a fluid flow is laminar or turbulent. If a flow is laminar, fluids will move along smooth streamlines.
- Also used in the **scaling** of similar but **different-sized flow** situations.



$Re = \frac{\rho \upsilon L}{\mu}$
ρ = density of fluid
v = flow speed
L = characteristic linear dimension

 μ = dynamic velocity

Bajaj, P et al (2021). doi: 10.1021/acsbiomaterials.5b00480
Journal of Aerosol Science special issue: Inhaled aerosol dosimetry: Models,
applications and impact. https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-
aerosol-science/special-issue/10XFX3JRGMF

length (mm)	width (mm)	height (µm)	compartment volume (µL)	% of total blood (culture medium) volume	U (mm/s)	Re
			milli-device			
10000	7	597.21	41804.65	836.09	134.51	133.359
1000	70	188.85	13219.79	264.40	42.53	14.435
100	700	59.72	4180.46	83.61	13.45	1.447
10	7000	18.89	1321.98	26.44	4.25	0.145
1	70000	5.97	418.05	8.36	1.35	0.014
			micro-device			
1000	0.07	447.70	31.34	626.78	100.83	10.998
100	0.7	141.57	9.91	198.20	31.89	6.766
10	7	44.77	3.13	62.68	10.08	0.808
1	70	14.16	0.99	19.82	3.19	0.081
0.1	700	4.48	0.31	6.27	1.01	0.008

scale factor	body mass (g) (b = 1)	blood volume (mL) (b = 1)	area of the lung (mm ²) (b=1)	cardiac output (mL/s) (b = 3/4)
$1 \times 10^{0} = 1$	100000	5000	70000000	100
1 × 10 ⁻³ = 1/1000 (milli)	100	5	70000	0.5623
1 × 10 ⁻⁶ = 1/100000 (micro)	0.1	0.005	70	0.00316

Dosimetry Deployed to Compute the TSE

- **Range** from default to sophisticated forms
- Differ by physicochemical property
 - Particle: MPPD and CFD

nental Protection

- Gas: CFD, PBPK, hybrid PBPK-CFD
- Account for key characteristics of exposure:
 - Concentration, duration, and frequency
 - Regimen: Acute, episodic, ambient (constant), workplace
- Characterize anatomical and physiological determinants of ADME
 - Breathing rate, mode (oral, nasal), ADME and metric
- Determine dose in exposure test system
 - Submerged vs. air-liquid interface
 - Cell sample type







- Section 5 of TSCA does not require upfront testing for NCS; only extant data need be submitted
- Various methods to assess risks with limited data
 - –Evaluation based on comparator chemicals. A chemical category is defined as a group of chemicals with structurally similar physicochemical properties and whose toxicity follows relevant pathogenesis due to an analogous mode of action.
 - "Read across" approaches using analogues
- Two Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment (IATA) to define categories deploy dosimetry modeling and NAMs (accepted in Chem Res Tox)
 - -General Surfactants (Henry Salazar et al.)
 - -Poorly Soluble Low Toxicity (PSLT) Polymers (Jarabek Stedeford et al.)



Integrated Approach to Testing and Assessment (IATA)

- Dosimetry plays critical role in strategy for evidence integration and evaluation to aid assessments
 - Inclusion criterion
 - Translation of dose across experimental platforms
 - Target specific exposures
- NAMs can provide data to
 - Inform physicochemical properties and health effects
 - Refine model parameters (e.g., solubility rates)



Jarabek Stedeford et al. (accepted)



MPPD Model to Calculate HEC

- Human equivalent concentration (HEC) based on extrapolation of laboratory animal data
- Multiple-path particle dosimetry (MPPD) model deployed to simulate both the laboratory animal exposure regimen (e.g., 6 hr/day and 5 days/week for 28 days) and the human exposure scenario (e.g., occupational 8 hr/day and 5 days/week for 40 years)
- Human exposure scenario can be default or targeted (*) with specific data





Refining ChemSTEER "Exposure" Estimates

- Chemical Screening Tool for Exposures and Environmental Releases
 (ChemSTEER)
- Estimates exposure as either
 - Daily acute potential dose rate (PDR) which represents average exposure over an 8-hr workday, or
 - Lifetime average daily dose (LADD) which estimates long-term exposures to the chemical substance and is averaged over a lifetime exposure of 80 years
- The PDR or LADD is used to evaluate the margin of exposure (MOE) by comparison with the HEC
- Parameters used to calculate PDR or LADD are redundant with MPPD simulations to calculate the HEC based on internal dose and **do not target** specific exposures



Refining ChemSTEER "Exposure" Estimates



- Mass concentration based on National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) value for Particulates Not Otherwise Regulated (PNOR) and not specific to aerosol under evaluation
- Parameters in red already accounted for in MPPD simulations to predict HEC
- MPPD could be deployed again to predict targeted exposure estimate using specific data
 - Size distribution, density, solubility
 - Activity pattern and duration
- Incentivize quality data submissions



Data sharing: Standards

- MIAME: Minimum Information About a Microarray Experiment
- SEND: Standard for Exchange of Non-clinical Data

• FAIR Principles: Findable / Accessible / Interoperable / Reuseable

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4792175/pdf/sdata201618.pdf

Translate TSE across exposure systems to aid evidence integration

- Exposure system operating parameters and conditions
- $_{\odot}$ Rationale for choice of cells and assays
- $_{\odot}$ Support interoperability with modular, multi-scale dosimetry

- Develop data pipelines and analytical work flows: Meta data

- Experimental annotation: WHAT / HOW / WHY
- $_{\odot}$ Curation and consistency: Domain expertise and detail
- \circ Interdisciplinary dialogue
- Repurposing: Applicability



Reporting Standards: Exposure Systems

- Generation system and specifications
 - Dimensions and volume
 - Air flow rate
 - Delivery mechanism(s)
 - Plate size and number, inserts
- **Concentration** (delivered relative to nominal should be consistent)
- Analytical methods
- Temperature
- Humidity
- Relevance to target scenario
 - Regimen and duration
 - Physicochemical characteristics
 - Gas: Mass transfer properties
 - $_{\odot}$ Particle: Deposition mechanisms

Jarabek et al (in preparation)



Hinderliter *et al.* 2010. *Part Fibre Toxicol.* 7(1) 36 https://nanodose.pnnl.gov/default.aspx?topic=ISDD





Reporting Standards: Cell Systems

- Culture system
 - Demonstrated reliability
- Cell type(s)
 - Source(s)
 - Metabolic competency
 - Rationale for choice (e.g., relevance to target scenario)
- Media
 - Type (components / lot #)
 - Location (epithelial or endothelial)
 - Volume
- Viability
 - Evaluation
 - Duration

• Assays

Jarabek et al (in preparation)

- Relevance to key events and respiratory tract
- Established performance and variability
- Response levels and rationale



Figure adapted from Lacroix et al (2018). Appl in vitro Tox, 4(2), 91 - 106.

https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/full/10.1089/aivt.2017.0034



- Ratio of internal doses used as adjustment factor across experimental designs
- Illustrated for regional deposited dose (RDD) of particles in animals (A) or in vitro (*) and humans (H) but can be calculated for any other particle dose metric (SA, #) or normalizing factor (# epithelial cells, # alveolar macrophages)
- **Minute volume** can be age-specific and incorporate a ventilatory activity pattern reflecting breathing mode (nasal, mouth, oronasal)

$$(RDDR)_{r} = \frac{(RDD)_{A^{*}}}{(RDD)_{H}} = \frac{(C_{1})_{A^{*}}}{(C_{1})_{H}} / \frac{(Normalizing Factor)_{A^{*}}}{(Normalizing Factor)^{\dagger}_{H}} \times \frac{(VE)_{A^{*}}}{(VE)_{H}} \times \frac{(F_{r})_{A^{*}}}{(F_{r})_{H}}$$

 $(\mathring{V}E)$ = Minute volume (ventilation rate)

 F_r = fraction of mass deposited in region predicted with model

r = Region of observed toxicity for extrapolation

‡ = Surface area (SA) for respiratory effects and body weight (BW) for remote effects

Ω



Example: Dose Metric Parameters

Recommended Incubation Parameters

Transwell Insert Diameter	Insert Membrane Growth Area	Multiple Well Plate or Dish Type	Volume Added per Plate Well	Volume Added to the Inside of Transwell Insert
4.26 mm	0.143 cm ²	96-well	0.235 mL	0.075 mL
6.5 mm	0.33 cm ²	24-well	0.6 mL	0.1 mL
12 mm	1.12 cm ²	12-well	1.5 mL	0.5 mL
24 mm	4.67 cm ²	6-well	2.6 mL	1.5 mL
75 mm	44 cm ²	100 mm dish	13 mL	9.0 mL

https://www.corning.com/worldwide/en/products/lifesciences/products/permeable-supports/transwell-guidelines.html

Volume/SA ml/cm ²	IV _{SA} /HU _{SA}
0.52	2.6 x 10 -5
0.30	.06 x 10 ⁻⁵
0.45	2.1 x 10 ⁻⁵
0.32	8.7 x 10 ⁻⁵
0.20	81 x 10 ⁻⁵

Potential impacts:

- Confluence and polarity
- Delivery mechanisms and dose
- Variability
- Inferences





Specific IVIVE Challenges

- Define relevant dose metric: Detail commensurate with data
 - Exposure versus internal dose
 - Generic, regional or mechanistic description
- Scale up to human equivalent concentration (HEC)
 - Exposure regimen, duration and relevance to target scenario
 - Default algorithm or quantitative PBPK-CFD model
- Specify degree of demonstration / verification for endpoint assays with prognostic value
- Determine disease dimension(s) evaluated (e.g., early or late key events)
- Characterize uncertainty and variability
 - UF for intra-human TK and TD are not necessarily obviated
 - Cell as target system surrogate
 - $\circ\,$ Target tissue specificity and viability
 - Spatial representation and variability
 - Metabolic competency and variability



"Black Box" to Toolbox

- Modeling must be iterative with data development
- Create coherent context and hierarchical modeling strategy across
 - In vivo
 - In vitro
- Exposure generation and characterization must consider the dynamics of physicochemical properties, transport and transformation in the system
- Methods and models used for interspecies extrapolation can be used to create context for characterizing *in vitro to in vivo* (IVIVE) extrapolation
- Foster interdisciplinary dialogue
- Navigation guides for users (e.g., MPPD)
 - Choice of models
 - Input parameter sources





Impacts: Inferences and Integration

- **Restructure workflows** so silos not separated
 - Appreciate assumptions and consequences
 - Integrate both downstream AND upstream
- Clarify terminology and context
- Elucidate study quality and utility
- Incorporate computational outputs
 - Rectify units

ental Protection

- Provide modular modeling capabilities
- Support reusability and interoperability
 - Develop reporting standards with sufficient meta data
 - Encourage targeted analyses
- TRANSFORM translation and improve evidence integration





Summary: Advancing Assessments

- Evolve empirical modeling (observations of WHAT) → to MECHANISTIC MULTISCALE MODELS (HOW and WHY)
- Bridge to systems biology: key events of pathogenesis and quantitative AOP (qAOP)
 - Different levels of observation
 - Various dimension of disease (e.g., early or late)
- Translate TSE across exposure systems to aid and transform evidence integration: develop ANALYTIC WORKFLOWS
 - Align human and animal exposures
 - Advance IVIVE and NAM applications
- Facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue
 - Transparency re: assumptions and foundational data
 - Modular to support interoperability with other models
 - Appreciate assumptions and impacts







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