

# **De-Risking Clinical Hepatotoxicity in Early Drug Discovery**

Webinar

**December 3, 2024**

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# **Webinar Outline**

- *Simulations Plus Overview*
- *NEW! Liver Safety+ Package: De-Risking Clinical Hepatotoxicity in Early Drug Discovery*
	- *Introduction to the ADMET Predictor DILIsym (APD) module*
	- *Development of machine learning models to predict DILIsym toxicity inputs*
	- *How to use the APD module and interpret its predictions for next steps*
	- *How to use APD module predictions in DILIsym and interpret its predictions*
- *Questions*



# **Who We Are**

## NASDAQ: SLP



**Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetics (PBPK)** Software & Services

Clinical Pharmacology & Pharmacometrics (CPP) Software & Services

Quantitative Systems Pharmacology (QSP) Software & Services

Adaptive Learning & Insights (ALI) Software & Services

**Medical Communications (MC)** Software & Services

**Regulatory Agencies Using our Technology Health Canada ECHA MPA** MHRA EMA BfR NMPA **FDA** EPA **CDSCO** PMDA Anvisa **TGA** 

Pharmaceutical, biotechnology, chemicals, cosmetics, & consumer goods companies in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and South America **>280**

Employees 200+ Employees **200** Established

In 1996 **>25 yrs.**

#### **S**<sup>+</sup> SimulationsPlus

## **GastroPlus®/ADMET Predictor®: By the Numbers…**







# **Complementary Solutions**

Confidence Level on Clinical Performance

*Clinical Pharmacology & Pharmacometrics*

*Medical Communications*

## **Simulations Plus Has the World's Largest Library of Platform QSP and QST Models to Predict Disease and Injury Outcomes**

#### **QST: Liver and Kidney Safety**

- Drug induced acute kidney injury
- Drug induced liver injury (DILI)



#### **QSP: Metabolic Diseases**

- Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease / steatohepatitis (NAFLD/NASH or MASH)
- **Obesity**



#### **QSP: Immuno-Oncology**

- Acute myeloid leukemia (AML)
- Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL)
- Multiple myeloma (MM)
- **Myelofibrosis**
- Solid tumor (NSCLC, melanoma, prostate cancer, colorectal cancer, ovarian cancer, endometrial cancer)

#### **QSP: Inflammation and Immunology (including fibrotic diseases)**

- Asthma/COPD (*in development*)
- Atopic dermatitis (AD)
- Crohn's disease (CD)
- **Dermatomyositis**
- Dysregulation of alternative and terminal pathways (AP, TP) of complement
- Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF)
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD) associated with systemic sclerosis
- Multiple sclerosis (MS, *in development*)
- Psoriatic arthritis (PSA)
- Psoriasis (PSO)
- Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
- Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE including CLE)
- Ulcerative colitis (UC)
- Uric acid disposition in gout
- Wound healing after myocardial infarction (MI)

## **Highlights of DILIsym Version X (DSX)**

- Completely NEW software platform!
	- Much faster and more user-friendly design
	- Command line and GUI options
	- No reliance on MATLAB base or runtime
	- Server/cloud computing capability (HPGL)
- 4 NEW exemplar compounds included with varying clinical presentations
	- PF-04895162 *(Generaux 2019)*
	- Efavirenz
	- Anastrozole
	- Tamoxifen
- 2 NEW SimCohorts that include variability in susceptibility to liver injury and biomarker-related parameters (ALT and bilirubin)





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# **The ADMET Predictor 12 DILIsym (APD) Module Adds Liver Safety Insights to Evidence Informing Compound Selection**



- Liver safety liabilities are commonly identified when a compound enters the clinic, sometimes as late as phase 3 clinical trials, imparting considerable expense and potential delays to drug development
- Historical use of DILIsym, a QST model of drug-induced liver injury, required extensive *in vitro* assay data and PK exposure modeling, making it less amenable for use in early drug discovery
- New APD module empowers DILIsym use at the drug discovery stage, without the need for typical DILIsym toxicity assay data!



# **Simulations Plus Has Developed a Roadmap to Derive an Early Assessment of Hepatotoxic Risk**

- New DILIsym module in ADMET Predictor 12 generates outputs that can be used to inform inputs within the quantitative systems toxicology (QST) modeling platform DILIsym
	- Permissive of liver safety assessment during **early** drug discovery efforts!
	- Predictions of the current roadmap are qualitative
		- Yes/no toxicity mechanism classifications
		- Rank ordering of a compound's toxicity assessment with other in-class compounds
	- Accuracy and use of outputs will improve iteratively, as more data become available to inform predictions
- Workflow permissive for early discovery applications
	- No need for data from typical DILIsym *in vitro* assays
	- Leverages ADMET Predictor informed structure-based compound properties
	- Applies ADMET Predictor Machine Learning from a library of DILI/clean compounds
	- Use of constant liver exposure based on molar concentrations OR use of ADMET Predictor High-Throughput PK (HTPK) results
	- Integration of the above in the DILIsym *in vivo* context for early insights into liver liabilities







# **DILIsym QST Model Predicts Liver Toxicity by Integrating Exposure, Mechanisms, and Inter-Patient Variability**





# **Predicted Liver Exposure Interacts with Data-Defined Mechanisms of Toxicity in the DILIsym** *In Vivo* **Environment**

### Mechanisms of toxicity in DILIsym

- Reactive oxygen species (ROS)
- Mitochondrial dysfunction
- Bile acid transporter inhibition
	- Bile salt export pump (BSEP)
	- Multidrug resistance associated protein 3 or 4 (MRP3/MRP4)
	- Sodium-taurocholate cotransporting polypeptide (NTCP)
- Phospholipid transporter inhibition
	- Multidrug resistance protein 3 (MDR3)





1

2

3

4

# **Liver Safety+ Prediction Package Tailored for Early Discovery Data**





# **APD Module Applies Machine Learning to Bridge from Compound Structure to DILIsym**



# **APD Module Outputs Include Values for Four Key Mechanisms of Hepatotoxicity**

- APD module provides classifications (yes/no) and key parameter values for each of the four main mechanisms of toxicity represented in DILIsym
- Outputs are evaluated for potential toxicity
- If outputs suggest toxicity, user can move to identifying parameter values for DILIsym simulations
- Details on each of the APD module outputs and machine learning model construction are available in the ADMET Predictor 12 Manual, and will be summarized in the next section



§ yes/no prediction for *in vitro* signals

† minimum effective concentration (MEC) that significantly crosses vehicle control threshold

‡ concentration at which 50% maximum effect is observed

‖ concentration at which 50% inhibition is observed



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# **The ADP Module Contains Three Mitochondrial Dysfunction Models**

## Mito Tox

- Classification model that predicts Yes or No for mitochondrial toxicity based on the Seahorse assay
- Based on dataset containing 204 molecules with a large percentage (86%) of experimental positives

## Mito MEC

- Predict the minimum effective concentration (MEC) that significantly crosses the control vehicle threshold
- Mito AC50
	- Predicts the concentration at which 50% maximum effect is observed



The single mispredicted negative from the test set is fenclozic acid, a compound that was withdrawn from the market due to jaundice



ETC inhibition with a complete knockdown of OCR at high concentrations



# **Mitochondrial Dysfunction Models With 2D and 2D+3D Descriptors Were Created: Mito\_MEC**

- The Mito MEC dataset contains 127 compounds with 13 (~10%) in the test set
- The most active compound is rotenone, with an observed MEC value of 0.001 μM



Plots show the log of the experimental Mito\_MEC value in micromolar units (μM) versus the log of the predicted value

# **Mitochondrial Dysfunction Models With 2D and 2D+3D Descriptors Were Created: Mito\_AC50**

- The Mito AC50 dataset contains 129 compounds with 22 (~17%) in the test set
- The two most active compounds are antimycin A (Mito  $AC50=0.01 \mu M$ ) and rotenone (Mito  $AC50=0.013 \mu M$ )



Plots show the log of the experimental Mito\_AC50 value in micromolar units (μM) versus the log of the predicted value

# **The ADP Module Contains Three Reactive Oxygen Species Models**

- ROS Tox
	- Classification model that predicts Yes or No for reactive oxygen species formation
	- $-$  Based on dataset containing 243 molecules with 25 ( $\approx$ 10%) in the test set
- ROS MEC
	- Predict the minimum effective concentration (MEC) that significantly crosses the control vehicle threshold
- ROS AC50
	- Predicts the concentration at which 50% maximum effect is observed





## **The ADP Module Utilizes the Existing BSEP Models in ADMET Predictor and Contains a New MRP3 Model for Bile Acid Transporter Inhibition**

- BSEP Inh
	- Classification model that predicts Yes or No for inhibition of the bile salt export pump (BSEP), a bile acid transporter on the canalicular membrane of hepatocytes
	- Based on dataset containing 615 compounds (Morgan et al. 2013), of which 127 inhibit BSEP below 60 µM
- BSEP IC50
	- Regression model, using 155 compounds with half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC $_{50}$ ) values below 133  $\mu$ M, that predicts BSEP IC<sub>50</sub> value
	- Test set consisted of 24 (~15%) compounds
- MRP3\_Inh
	- Classification model that predicts Yes or No for inhibition of the multidrug resistance-associated protein 3 (MRP3), a bile acid transporter on the basolateral membrane of hepatocytes
	- Based on dataset containing 107 compounds (Köck et al. 2014, Ali et al. 2017), of which 43 inhibit MRP3 below 100 µM



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## **Import/Load a Chemical Structure (e.g., SMILES) in ADMET Predictor**



#### **S**: SimulationsPlus

## **Generate 3D Structure/Coordinates and Calculate ADMET: DILIsym Properties**





## **Review and Export APD Module Results**





# **Use and Interpretation of APD Module Classifications and Parameter Values**

- Model provides yes/no classification predictions for active toxicity mechanisms based on compound structure
	- Mitochondrial dysfunction (*solithromycin: yes*)
	- ROS production (*solithromycin: yes*)
	- BSEP inhibition (*solithromycin: yes*)
	- MRP3 inhibition (*solithromycin: yes*)
	- MDR3 inhibition (*solithromycin: no*)
- Within current framework, Simulations Plus recommends prioritizing yes/no classification before utilizing the predicted, quantitative toxicity effects (MEC,  $AC_{50}$ ,  $IC_{50}$ ), if available
- The predicted MEC and  $AC_{50}$  values predicted for mitochondrial dysfunction and ROS production can be used for subsequent toxicity parameter estimation in DILIsym
- The predicted BSEP and MDR3  $IC_{50}$  values can be used directly as DILIsym input parameters



# **Model-Predicted MEC and AC<sup>50</sup> for Mitochondrial Toxicity Used to Derive DILIsym Parameters for Mitochondrial Effects**



- **MEC**: minimum effective concentration that significantly crosses vehicle control threshold
- AC<sub>50</sub>: concentration at which 50% maximum effect is observed

\* Assume concentration of 0.001 μM causes no change in OCR compared to control

† Assume MEC causes OCR to drop to 0.8x control for ETC inhibitor

‡ Assume maximal reduction in OCR is complete inhibition (0x control)



# **Model-Predicted MEC and AC<sup>50</sup> for ROS Induction Used to Derive DILIsym Parameters for Effect on ROS Production**



- **MEC**: minimum effective concentration that significantly crosses vehicle control threshold
- AC<sub>50</sub>: concentration at which 50% maximum effect is observed

\* Assume concentration of 0.001 μM causes no change in ROS compared to control

† Assume MEC causes ROS production to increase 1.2x control

‡ Assume maximal ROS production response is 5x control



**Model-Predicted IC<sup>50</sup> Values for BSEP and MDR3 Can Be Utilized Directly as DILIsym Parameters for Bile Acid and Phospholipid Transport Inhibition Effects**







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# **Multiple Options for Liver Exposure in DILI Toxicity Ranking Process**

- APD module is designed to provide insight into DILI toxicity rankings at any stage in the drug development pipeline
- Based on where a compound is in the drug development pipeline, different information about exposure in humans is available
	- Compounds further along in the pipeline likely have more information available to define exposure
	- Compounds very early on in development may have minimal data to inform exposure



- Potential options for liver exposure to drive hepatotoxicity mechanisms in DILIsym:
	- Constant liver exposure based on molar concentrations [**focus in today's webinar**]
		- ➢ *DILIsym simulations to be performed at a range of constant liver concentrations*
		- ➢ *For rank-ordering hepatotoxicity risk of multiple in-class compounds using the "constant liver exposure" approach, liver concentrations need to be normalized using a relevant metric which provides consideration to compound-specific efficacy ranges*
	- Assume or estimate liver profiles from preclinical PK data
	- Estimate liver exposure from ADMET Predictor HTPK using predicted C<sub>max</sub> and liver partition coefficient from user-specified doses
	- Predict liver exposure from GastroPlus PBPK model



## **DILIsym Drug Parameter Set and Use of Specified Data Feature to Define Constant Liver Concentrations**





# **APD Module Predictions Are Used to Set Up Active Toxicity Mechanisms in DILIsym**

#### *Machine Learning Algorithms* **DILIsym** • Mitochondrial dysfunction • Oxidative stress • Bile acid efflux transporter inhibition **ED** DILI Mechanism Selector for Solithromycin (Solithromycin\_1nM) • Phospholipid transporter inhibition **Select Molecul Select Mechanism** ₩ ₩ CompY incRNSRO Spro duction1 **ADMET Predictor 12 Customized Variable** Filter By Name **DILIsym module**Molecule / Mechanism Value Units CompY Mech inhBAtransport Compound Y NTCP inhibition constant 1.000000e+10 umol/l Compound Y NTCP alpha constant for inhibition  $1.000000e+10$ dimensionless  $1.000000e+00$ dimensionless Compound Y NTCP switch Compound Y BSEP inhibition constant 8.86 umol/L Compound Y BSEP alpha constant for inhibition dimensionless Compound Y BSEP switch dimensionless Compound Y basolateral inhibition constant  $1.000000e + 10$ umol/l **Novel**  Compound Y basolateral alpha constant for inhibition 1.000000e+10 dimensionless Compound Y basolateral switch 1.000000e+00 dimensionless **Compound**  CompY Mech inhETC3 Coefficient for ETC inhibition 3 0.040746 umol/L **(Solithromycin)** Max inhibitory effect for ETC inhibition 3 0.39355 dimensionless CompY Mech inhETC1 Coefficient for ETC inhibition 1 2379.481 umol/L CompY Mech incRNSROSproduction4 Liver RNS-ROS production rate Vmax 4 5.8195 1/hour Liver RNS-ROS production rate Km 4 9.1224 umol/L Liver RNS-ROS production rate Hill 4 4.5496 dimensionless CompY\_Mech\_incRNSROSproduction1 -Liver RNS-ROS production rate constant 1 0.053744 mL/nmol/hour Structure **Identifier** Geometry 3D Quality AP FWeight ISSEP Inh ISSEP ICSO MDR3 ICSO MDR3 Inh Mito ACSO Mito MEC Mito Tox MRP3 Inh ROS ACSO ROS MEC ROS Tox Save As New with Custon Clear Save with Custom Save As New Cancel



o

# **APD Module Predictions Are Used to Set Up Active Toxicity Mechanisms in DILIsym**





*\* For the compounds tested in this class of compounds (macrolide antibiotics), IC<sup>50</sup> values for OATP1B1 were measured consistently for all compounds; IC<sup>50</sup> used as normalization metric in this example*



## **Interpretation of Toxicity Ranking Results**

For drugs early on in development pipeline (using constant liver exposure method)



For drugs further along in development pipeline (using known liver concentrations or predicted using ADMET Predictor HTPK module or PBPK model

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*Lowest potential for hepatotoxicity*

3

Dose

-Compound A

Compound B

3xULN

5

*Highest potential for hepatotoxicity*

# **APD Module Outputs Reproduce Clinical and Previous DILIsym Simulation Toxicity Rankings: Macrolide Antibiotics**

## **ML Tox Model Predictions Clinical Data & Previous DILIsym Simulation Results**

the Literature (3,10.31)

Protocol

Oral (CE01-300)

IV-to-Oral (CE01-301)

500 mg BID 7 days

800 mg OD 10 days

250 mg OD days 2-5

500 mg OD day 1

 $500 \, \text{m}$ 

Upper limit of normal (ULN) in DILlsym is 40 U/L <sup>a</sup>(9); 2.8% among patients with normal baseline ALT <sup>b</sup> (8): 6.6% among patients with normal baseline ALT

OID 10 days

Compound

Solithromyan

Clarithromycin

Erythromyan

Telithromycin

Azithromycin

rm Res (2019) 36: 48

ttps://doi.org/10.1007/s11095-019-2582-

Results in the v4A | SimPops for Each of the Five Macrolides in DILIsym v5A Compared to Reported Clinical data. Observed Data are from

Peak ALT > 3X ULN

Simulated<sup>®</sup>

3.9%

6.0%

2.8%

 $(8/285)$ 

2.8%

 $(8/285)$ 

0%

0%

CrossMar

**S**<sup>+</sup> SimulationsPlus

 $(11/285)$ 

 $(17/285)$ 

Observed

 $5.4%$ <sup>3</sup>

 $9.1%^{b}$ 

 $1 - 2%$ 

 $1 - 296$ 

 $-0.5%$ 

1.2%

 $(38/417)$ 

 $(22/411)$ 



**■** Liver concentrations were normalized to OATP1B1 IC<sub>50</sub> values for macrolide antibiotics



# **APD Module Outputs Reproduce Clinical and Previous DILIsym Simulation Toxicity Rankings: CGRPR Antagonists**

## **ML Tox Model Predictions Clinical Data & Previous DILIsym Simulation Results**



■ Liver concentration were normalized to CGRP receptor Ki values for CGRP receptor antagonists



## **Workflow: APD Module Enables Efficient Assessment of Hepatotoxic Rankings for In-Class Compounds at Any Stage of Drug Development!**



#### **S** : SimulationsPlus

## **How to Engage with SLP?**

### **Business Development**

### andrew.mueller@simulations-plus.com - Director, Business Dev.

#### **Today's Presenters**

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