

# Advantages of PBBM and PKPD modeling to define dissolution safe space

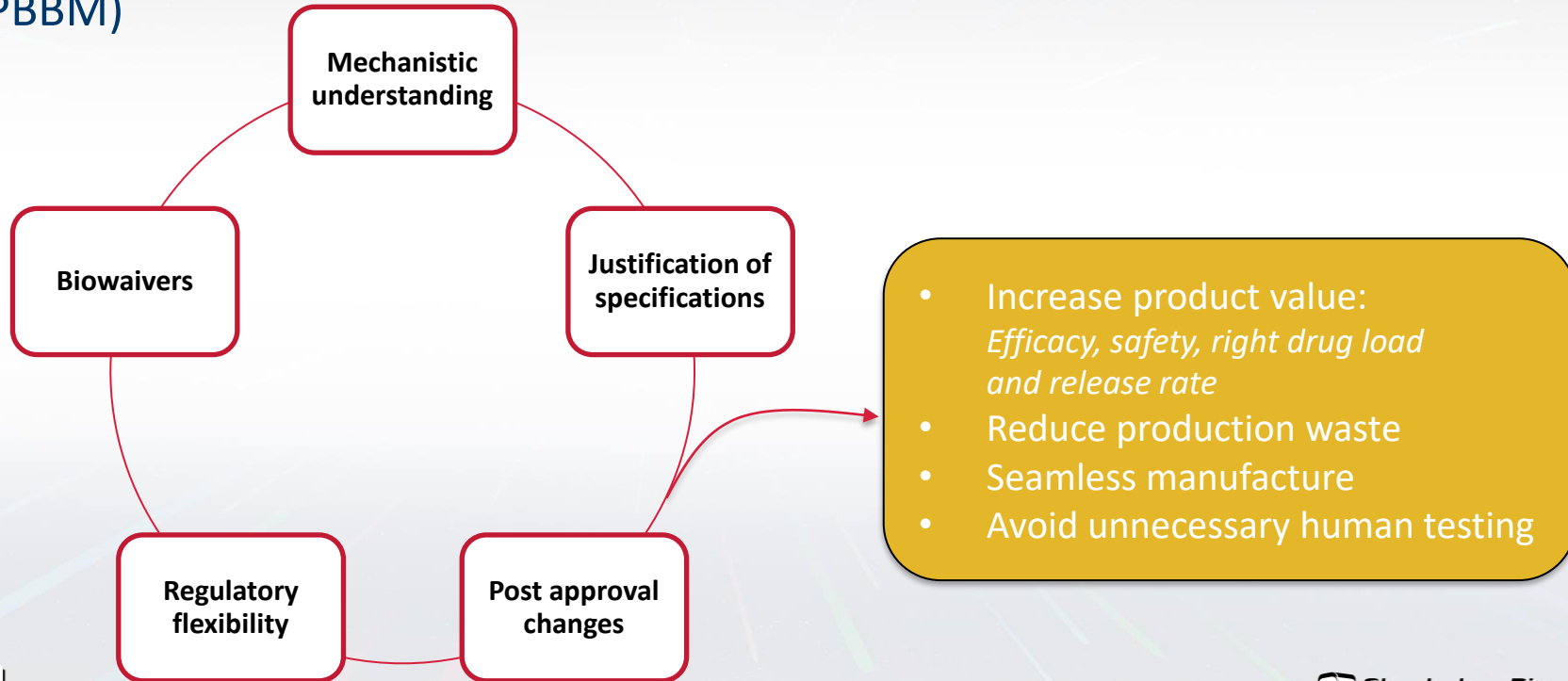
Xavier Pepin, PharmD, PhD  
Associate Vice President, Regulatory Affairs



Please note: this presentation, including questions from the audience, is being recorded and may be made available.

# PBBM in the pharma industry

- Various benefits of Physiologically-based biopharmaceutics models (PBBM)



# Why PBBM and PKPD ?

- PBBM links drug product quality attributes to in vivo exposure
  - In vitro dissolution
  - Polymorphic impurities
  - Manufacturing process and material attributes (through dissolution)
  - In vivo degradation
  - Effect of excipients on solubility, dissolution, precipitation or on the GI function

PBBM allows a safe space definition where all drug product batches are anticipated to be bioequivalent to one another

Typically, virtual bioequivalence studies are conducted with standard, or reference scaled BE criteria, to conclude on bioequivalence

# Why PBBM and PKPD ?, cont.

- PKPD links drug product exposure to efficacy and toxicity
  - They are based on observed efficacy data vs exposure (clinical endpoint or biomarkers of efficacy)
  - They can be mathematical relationships based on observations or mechanistic models based on the understood mechanism of action and cell signaling pathways

PKPD models allow to define an effective (and safe) space where all the batches are anticipated to have the same pharmacological efficacy without additional toxicity

Larger than BE effective spaces may be accessible through PKPD modeling



*Combination of PBBM and PKPD links product quality attributes to efficacy/safety*

# 2 case studies

- Case 1 : Acalabrutinib maleate tablet (AMT)
  - PKPD and PBBM were used to determine drug product dissolution space in the target patient population
- Case 2 : Drug X-salt tablet
  - PKPD model was developed for this poorly absorbable drug in combination to PBBM to evaluate the risk for delayed tablet disintegration

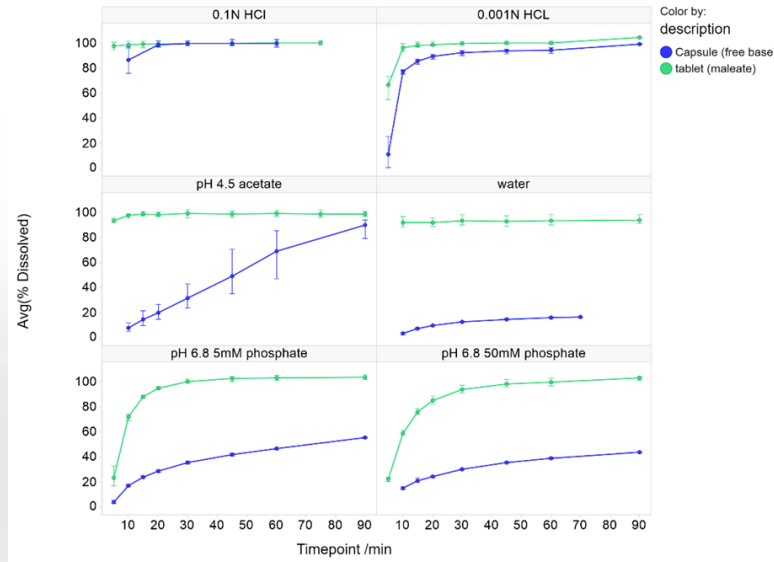
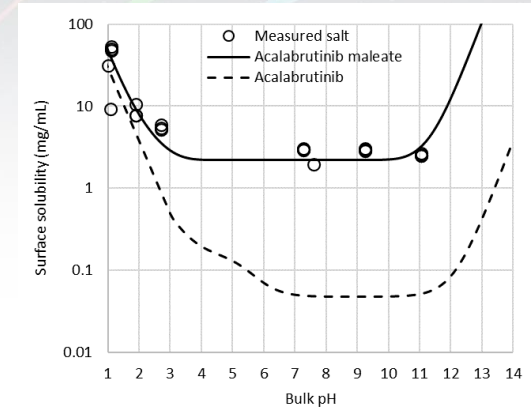
# Case 1 : Acalabrutinib maleate tablet (AMT)

- Project information

- Acalabrutinib free base is associated with label restriction for patients undergoing acid reducing agent (ARA) treatment
- 20-40% hematological cancer patients are estimated to take ARAs
- Acalabrutinib maleate increases surface solubility compared to the free base leading to faster and complete dissolution in all media

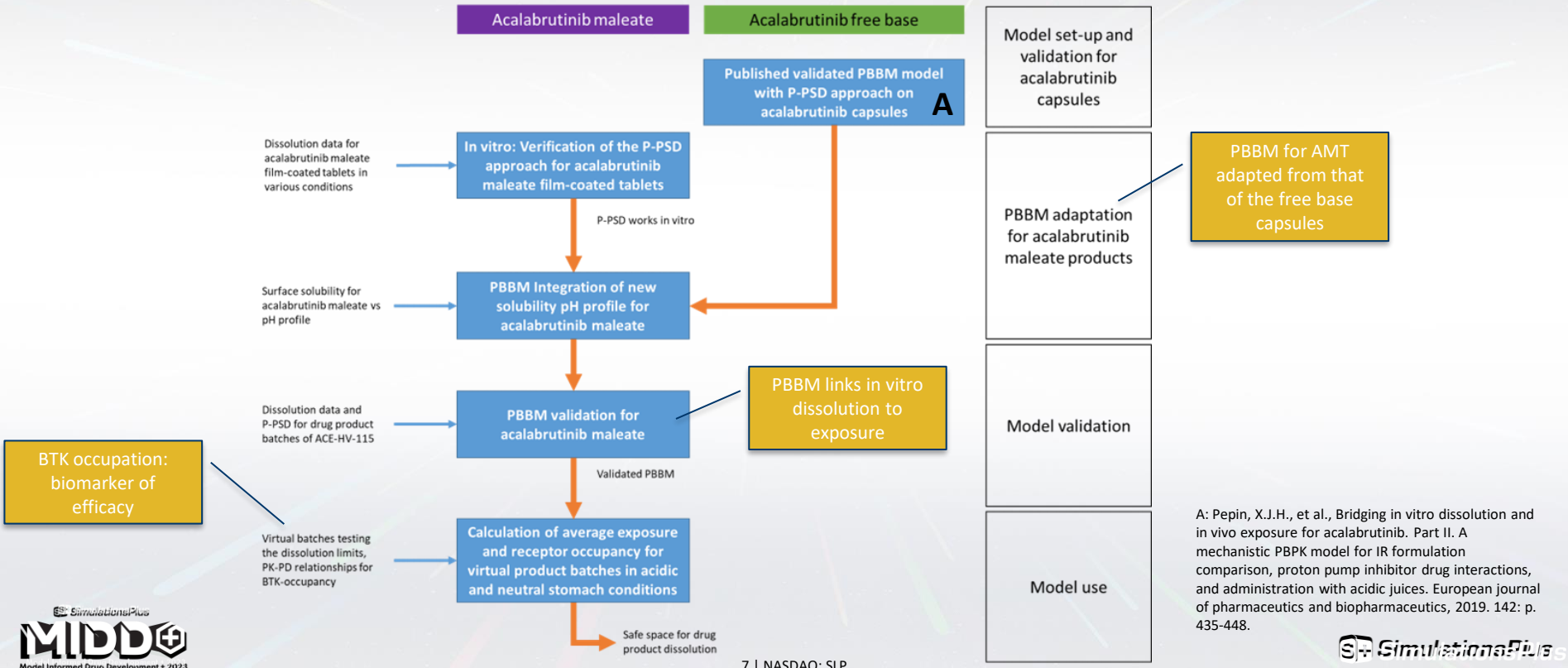
- Model purpose

- Justify proposed dissolution specification for AMT



# AMT : Modeling strategy

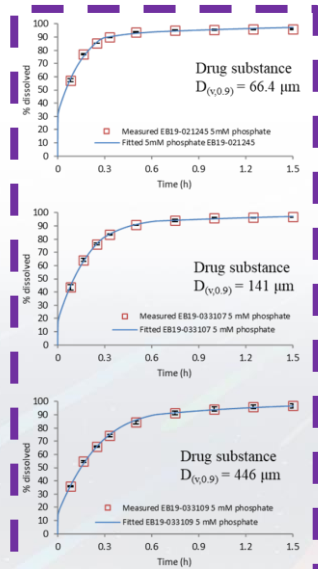
- Objective : Justify the dissolution acceptance criterion for AMT



# AMT : PBBM adaptations from free base

- Use surface solubility vs pH and crystal density for acalabrutinib maleate
- Use P-PSD approach on AMT batches after verification that they are predictive of other conditions (see below)
- Super-saturation identical between AMT and free base capsules: No precipitation
- All post dissolution processes are identical (same model as that of free base)

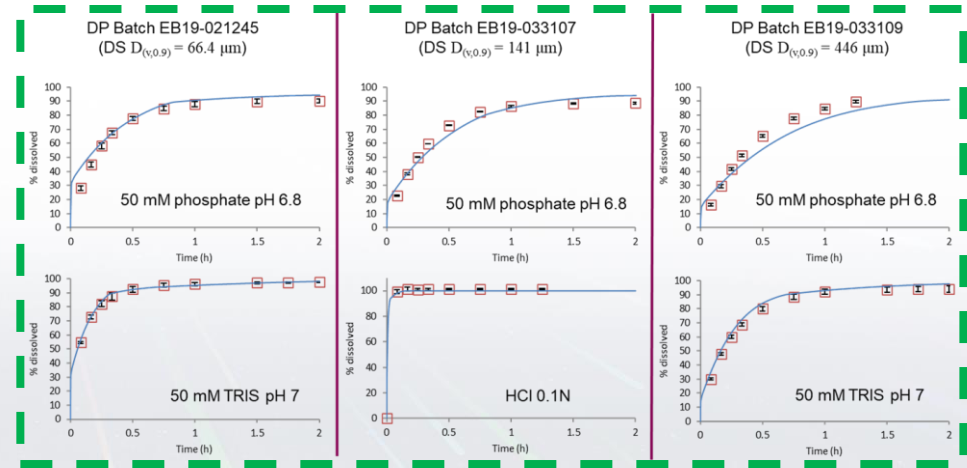
1-QC dissolution method  
P-PSD extraction



2-P-PSD verification:  
dissolution prediction  
in other media



AFE=1.02, AAFE= 1.06

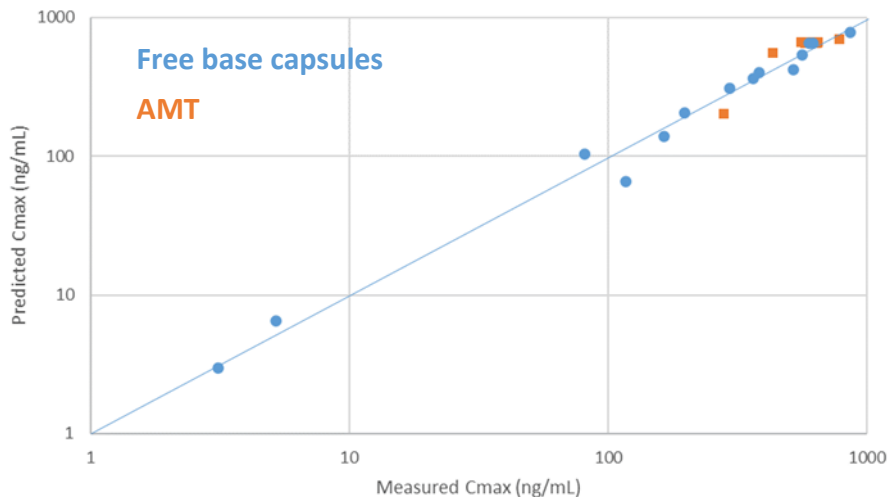




# AMT : PBBM validation

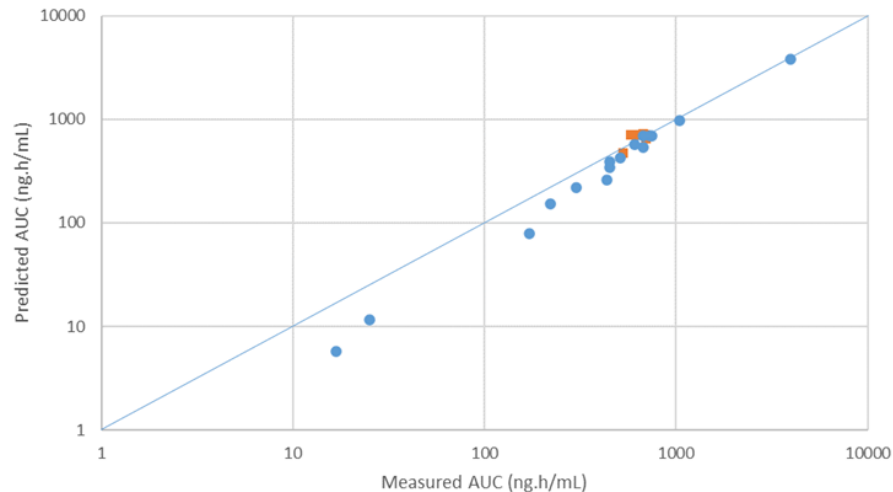
AFE = 1.01

AAPE = 6.7%



AFE = 1.05

AAPE = 8.5%

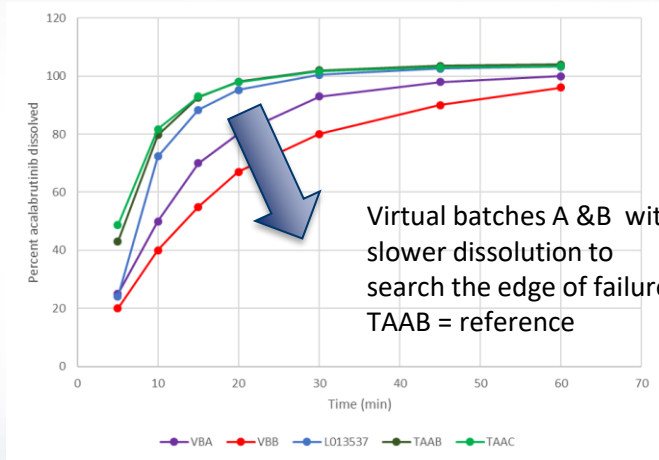


Acceptable model prediction performance across studies  
with no adjustment of the disposition parameters



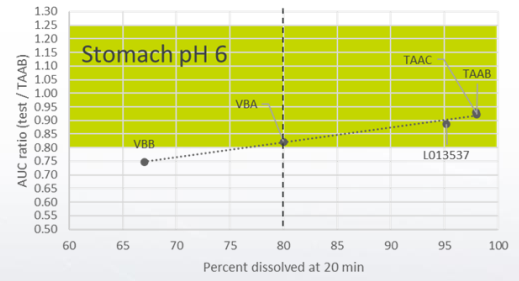
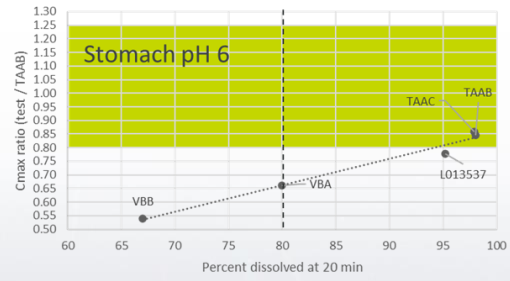
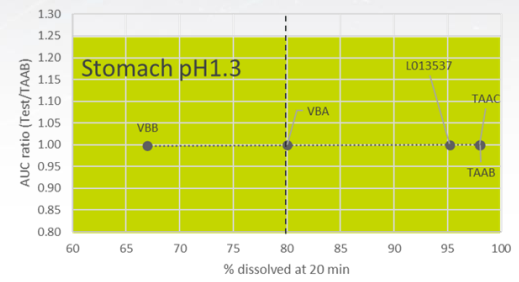
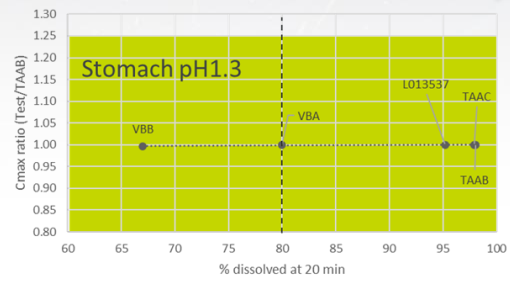
# AMT : PBBM use

## In vitro dissolution with QC method



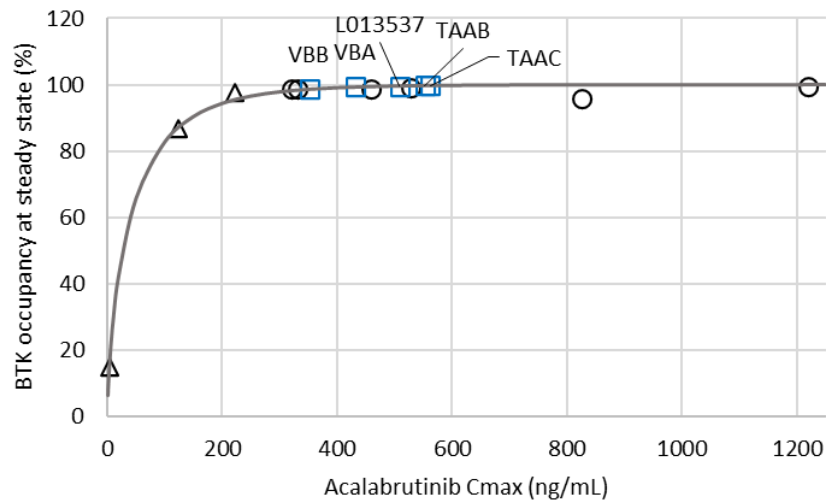
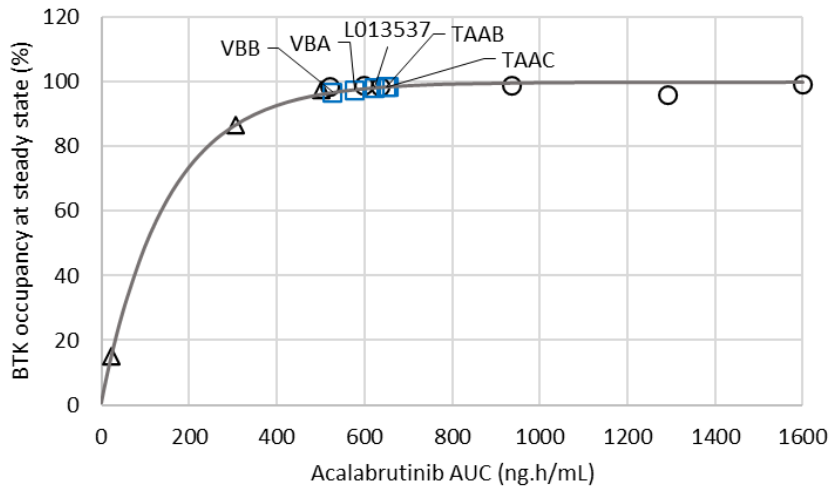
VBA: Virtual batch A  
VBB: Virtual batch B

VBA and VBB bioequivalent to reference in acidic stomach conditions



VBA and VBB with PPI not BE to reference (in acidic conditions)

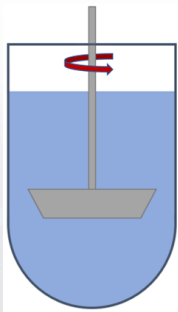
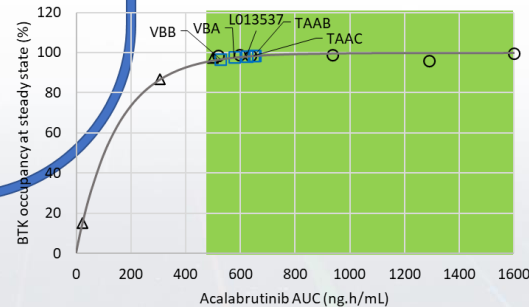
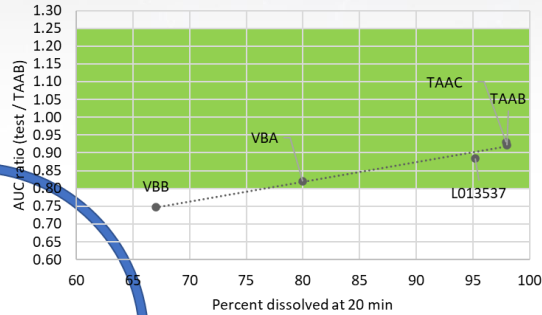
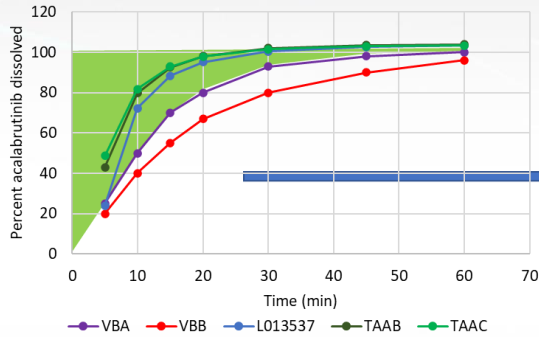
# AMT : PBBM + PKPD model



BTK-occupancy vs AUC or vs Cmax, show that exposure to VBA or VBB in neutral stomach conditions are anticipated to be safe and effective :  
Similar target engagement compared to pivotal efficacy study

# Acalabrutinib maleate tablet: conclusions

- VBA was used to delineate dissolution safe space identified using PBBM and PKPD

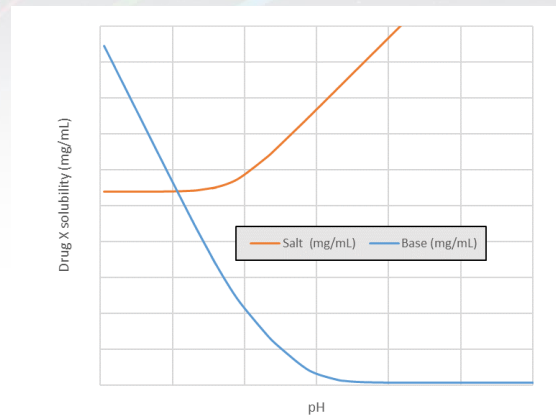


**DP dissolution Specification**

Q=80% 20-30 minutes is anticipated to be safe and effective for 100 mg AMT  
 Oral solution was administered in the clinic and proved BE to the tablet (upper bound of safe space)

# Case 2 : Drug X-salt

- Project information
  - Drug X is minimally absorbed from the GI tract and plasma concentrations are below LOQ.
  - Drug X salt solubility is high compared to free base
  - Systemic PK observable for main drug X inactive metabolite “M”
  - Drug X is locally acting in the gut
  - Existence of a biomarker “B”, which concentration is measurable in the feces as a direct result of the pharmacological action of Drug X
  - Existence of clinical data for M systemic concentration and existence of clinical PD data. All data were associated to batch dissolution
  - Drug substance shows evidence of precipitation
- Model purpose
  - Drug product dissolution shows variability of tablet disintegration upon storage @ high temperature : How does a worst-case delayed dissolution impact drug X efficacy ?



# Drug X: Modeling strategy

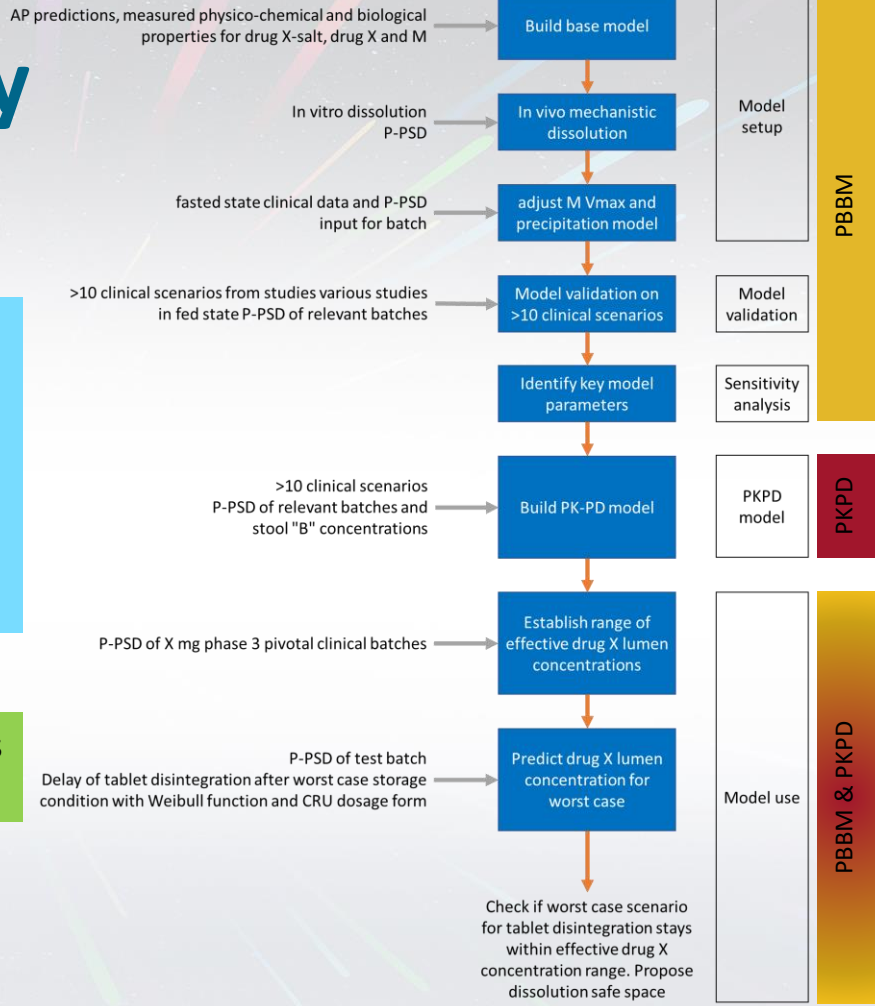
Biopharmaceutics risk analysis

3 types of formulations

- Salt in additional formulation (SAF)
- Tablet with salt
- Tablet with free base

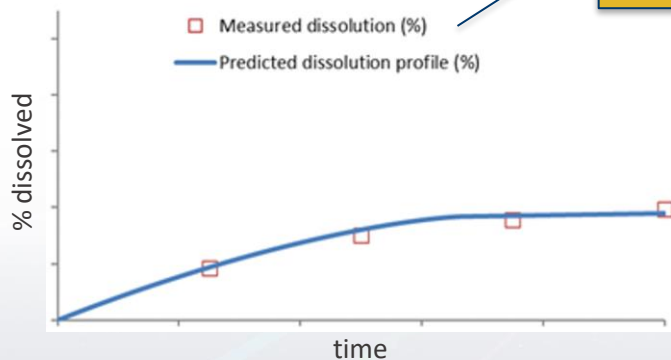
Clinical data for M systemic PK (mostly sparse)  
 Clinical data for drug X efficacy (stool biomarker)

In parallel to the PBBM effort, route cause analysis for tablet delay in dissolution.



# Input data and model parameters

Mix of in vitro measured values and ADMET Predictor® values for physico-chemical and biopharmaceutics properties of drug X and inactive metabolite M



P-PSD model for dissolution integration

GastroPlus(TM):

File Edit Database Simulation Setup Controlled Release Tools Modules (Optional) Help

Compound Gut Physiology-Hum Pharmacokinetics Simulation Graph

Compartmental Parameters

Reset All Values Excrete all un-absorbed drug at the end of gut transit time Zero-order gastric emptying

Compartment	Compartment Data										Enzyme and Transporter Regional Distributions			
	Peff	ASF	pH	Transit Time (h)	Volume (ml)	Length (cm)	Radius (cm)	SEF	Bile Salt (mM)	SA5 Expr	SA5 Turn	SA4 Expr	SA4 Turn	
Stomach	0	0.0	1.30	0.25	50.32	29.88	10.03	1.000	0.0	0.0	5.0E-4	0.0	5.0E-4	
Duodenum	0	2.686	6.00	0.26	8.829	14.92	1.58	4.235	2.800	0.985	5.0E-4	2.05E-3	5.0E-4	
Jejunum 1	0	2.633	6.20	0.94	33.18	61.67	1.51	3.949	2.330	1.002	5.0E-4	3.26E-3	5.0E-4	
Jejunum 2	0	2.637	6.40	0.75	25.90	61.67	1.34	3.489	2.030	0.991	5.0E-4	3.26E-3	5.0E-4	
Ileum 1	0	2.587	6.60	0.58	20.34	61.67	1.18	3.029	1.410	0.997	5.0E-4	1.03E-3	5.0E-4	
Ileum 2	0	2.568	6.90	0.42	14.87	61.67	1.01	2.569	1.160	0.996	5.0E-4	1.03E-3	5.0E-4	
Ileum 3	0	2.495	7.40	0.29	10.63	61.67	0.86	2.109	0.140	1.001	5.0E-4	1.03E-3	5.0E-4	
Caecum	0	8.771	6.40	4.48	10.57	13.71	3.50	1.790	0.0	0.998	5.0E-4	3.1E-4	5.0E-4	
Asc. Colon	0	18.47	6.80	13.44	11.22	28.84	2.49	2.480	0.0	0.989	5.0E-4	3.1E-4	5.0E-4	

C1-C4: [0.06944] [0.43028] [0.12147] [0.46632] Fed Meal Options: 
 fu,ent(%): [100] Qh (L/min): [1.48]

Physiology: Human - Physiological - Fasted Percent Fluid in SI: [7.5]

ASF Model: [Opt logD Model SAV 6.1] Colon: [2]

Luminal volumes representative of MRI studies (worst case for dissolution)

# Drug X Precipitation

Mechanistic Nucleation and Growth model

SimulationPlus Precipitation Model

Precipitation Model: Mechanistic

**Mechanistic Model Options:**

Nucleation Type:  Homogeneous  Heterogeneous Model Version: Lindfors

**General Nucleation Inputs:**

Nucleation Model: Diffusional Interf Tension (J/m<sup>2</sup>):

Surface Integration Factor (Lambda, um):  Exp Correction Factor: 1

**Heterogenous Nucleation Inputs:**

Add Surface Area (sq. cm.):  (Cos) Contact Angle:

**Precipitation Time Model Options:**

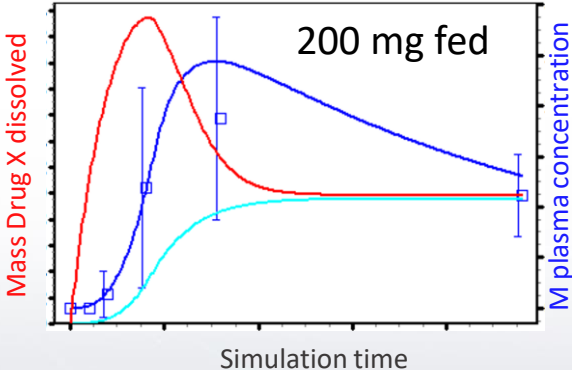
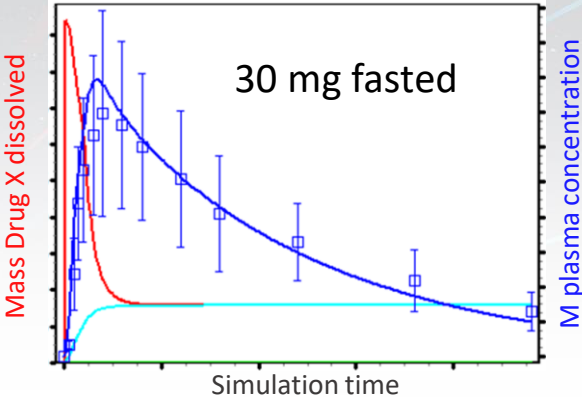
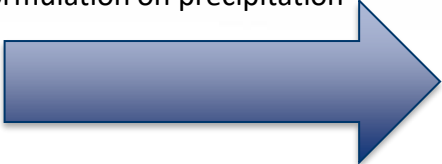
Mean Precipitation T<sub>me</sub> (sec): 7000

Precipitate Will:

- form new particles with radius (um): 1
- precipitate in first bin only
- precipitate in all bins

OK Cancel

1 set of parameters for MNG model can account for effect of prandial state, dose and formulation on precipitation

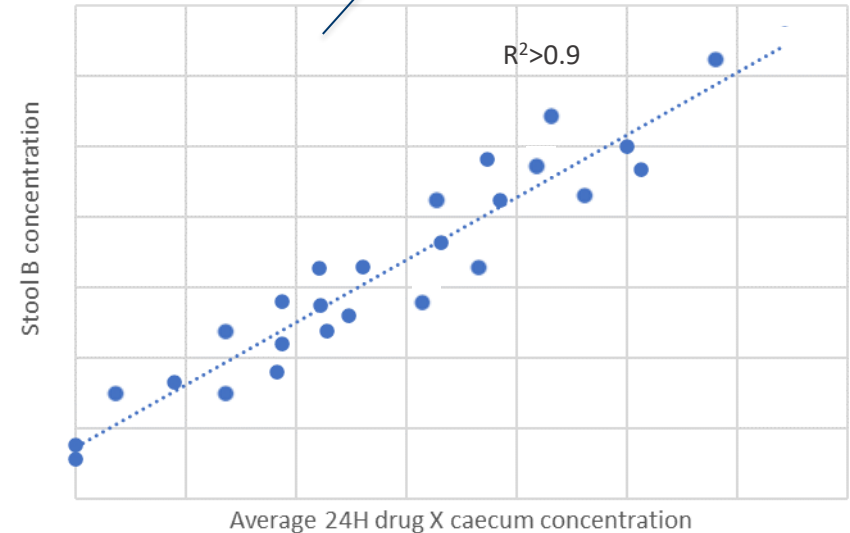




# PK-PD model

- Calculation of luminal drug X concentrations in all the GI tract for given clinical scenarios
  - Administration schedule
  - Dose
  - Formulation
  - Population characteristics
- Correlation with biomarker B concentrations in the stool
  - B stool concentration demonstrates drug efficacy

Best correlation of stool B concentration found with average 24H caecum drug X concentration



# PK-PD model exploration

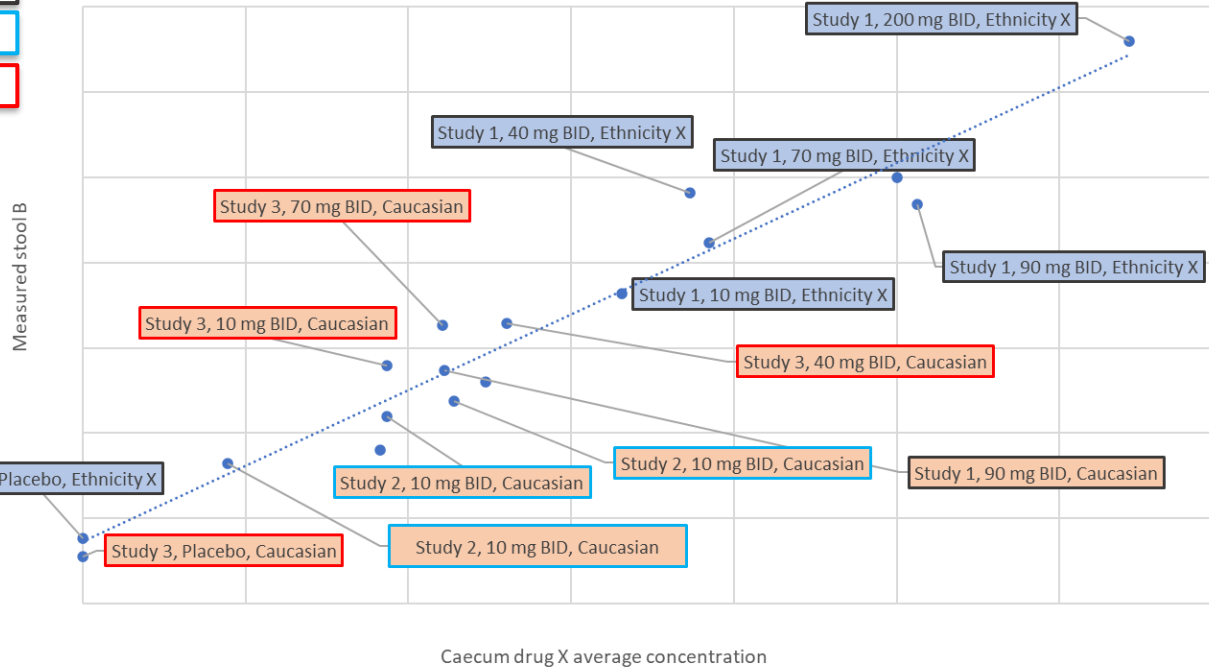
Ethnicity X

Caucasian

Study 1

Study 2

Study 3



Ethnic differences  
*X or Caucasian*  
Formulation differences  
*SAF, Salt tablet, free base tablet*  
Dose differences  
*0-200 mg*

# PK-PD model exploration : Dose & formulation

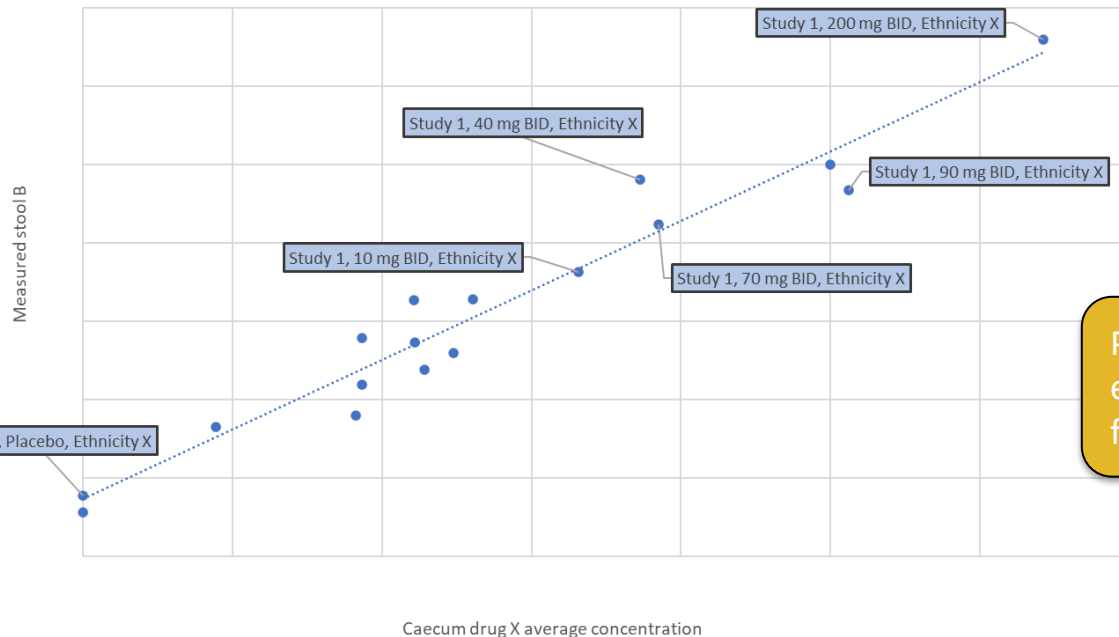
Ethnicity X

Caucasian

Study 1

Study 2

Study 3



PBBM+PKPD model  
explain dose and  
formulation differences

# PK-PD model exploration : Ethnicity

Ethnicity X

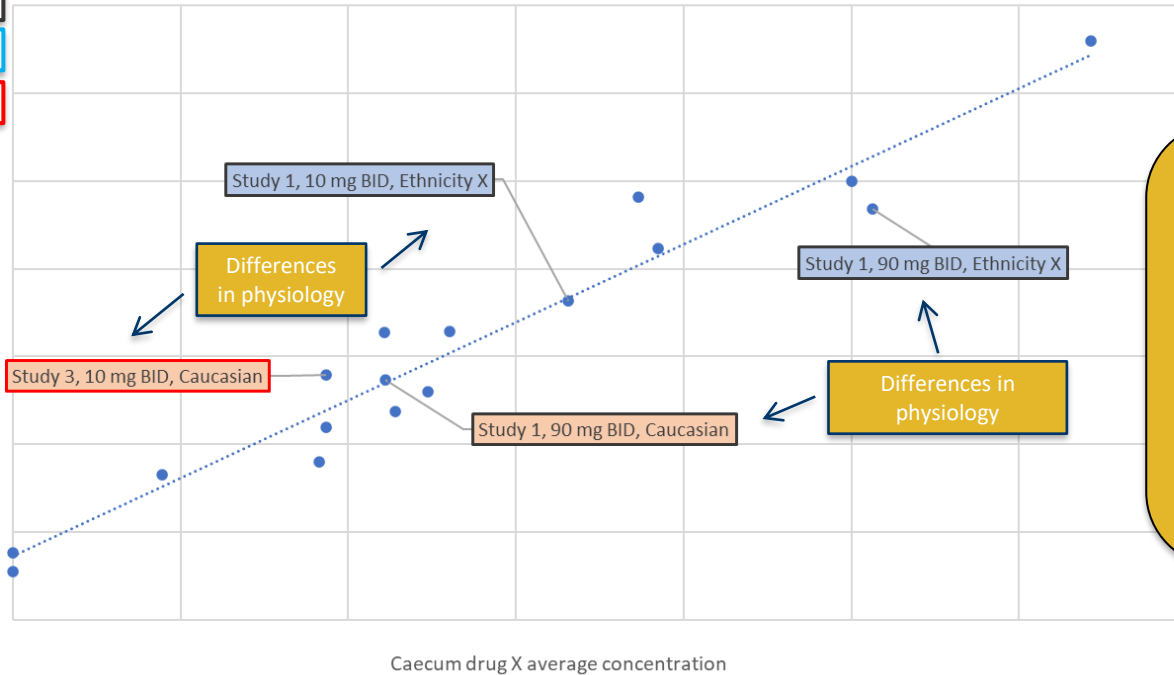
Caucasian

Study 1

Study 2

Study 3

Measured stool B

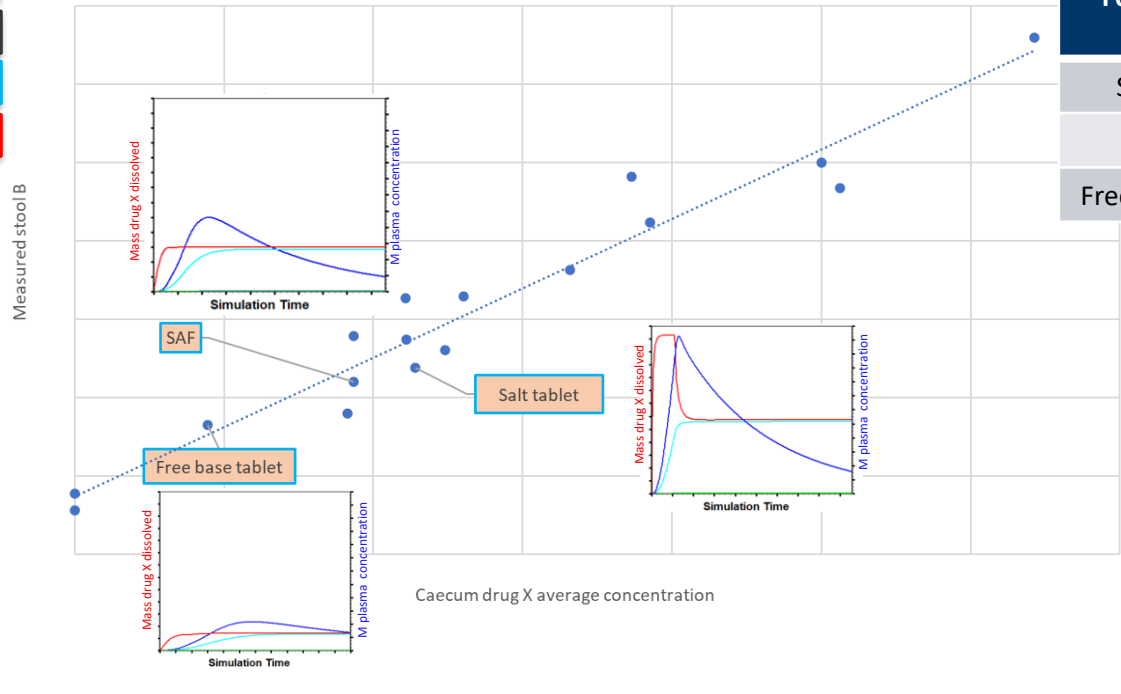


Subjects from ethnicity X have smaller caecum compared to Caucasian  
↗ drug X concentration  
↗ efficacy

PBBM comprised these differences and provided for mechanistic understanding

# PK-PD model exploration : formulation

- Ethnicity X
- Caucasian
- Study 1
- Study 2
- Study 3



Formulation (10 mg)	Supersaturation & precipitation	Dose dissolved
Salt tablet	Yes	X mg
SAF	No	X/2 mg
Free base tablet	No	X/4 mg

PBBM+PKPD model  
mechanistically explain  
observed formulation  
differences in efficacy

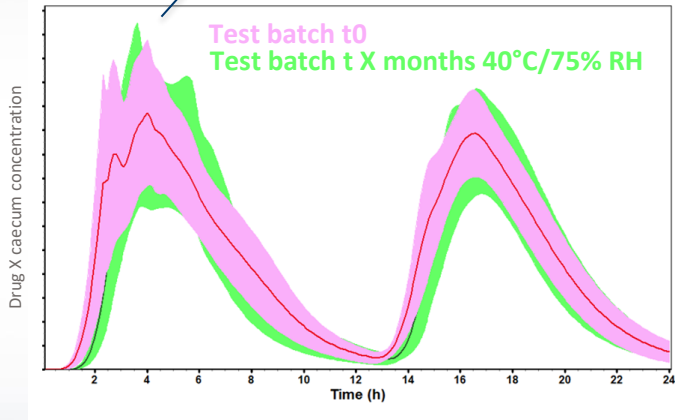
# Root cause analysis for slowed dissolution

- 2 hypotheses
  - A: Salt disproportionation to the free base
  - B: Disintegrant degradation due to exposure to heat
- Analysis
  - Spectral methods ruled out salt-disproportionation
  - Existing data with salt tablet batches spiked with free base provided a different profile evolution for dissolution
  - Literature already reported disintegrant susceptibility to heat exposure
  - Photographic evidence of slower disintegration during dissolution

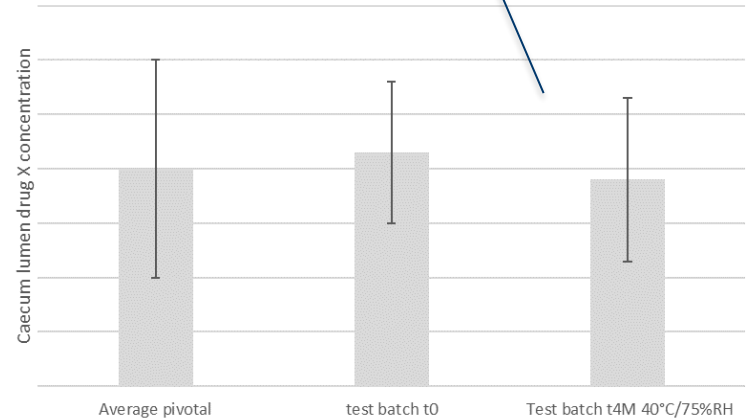
Tablet slower disintegration confirmed and tested in the PBPK-PKPD model

# Model use

Population simulation of 24H caecum drug X concentration from fresh and aged test batch



24H average caecum drug X concentration from fresh and aged test batch comparable to pivotal clinical references



Delay in disintegration is anticipated not to lead to differences in drug X efficacy  
Dissolution data for test batch and historical batch dissolution data used to propose a safe space and justify proposed specification

# Take-home messages

- PBBM allows to mechanistically link product quality attributes to exposure and is widely used to bridge formulations and support other manufacturing and control changes
- PKPD models coupled to PBBM allow to expand the product quality safe space beyond that offered by bioequivalence testing
- PKPD models coupled to PBBM allow to use efficacy biomarkers to further validate the PBBM and provide mechanistic explanation to differences in efficacy related to population characteristics, dose or formulation differences. This is particularly useful for non- (or poorly-) absorbed drugs, for which systemic PK is not available



 *SimulationsPlus*

# MIDD

Model Informed Drug Development + 2023

# Q&A

Questions & Answers