

Nov 30, 2017, JSSX Young Investigator's Award

Evaluation of drug-induced liver injury in sandwich cultured hepatocytes

薬物動態を基軸とした薬物誘発性肝毒性評価に関する研究

Shuichi Sekine, Ph.D., D.J.S.O.T

Department of Biopharmaceutics

Graduate school of Pharmaceutical Sciences,

CHIBA UNIVERSITY

Prediction of human DILI in preclinical study



Problems in prediction using “Animal study”

- ✓ High cost and Low throughput
- ✓ Differences in PKs and TDs
- ✓ Poor extrapolation from animal study to DILI risk in human

Problems in prediction using “human hepatocytes”

- ✓ Low reproducibility
- ✓ Loss function after isolation
- ✓ Culture conditions are not always appropriate

Highly functionalized cell-based assays are needed!!

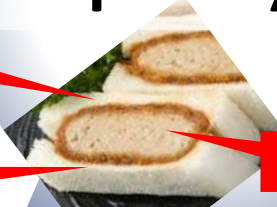
Sandwich-cultured hepatocytes are a powerful in vitro tool

“Highly functionalized cells”

Sandwich cultured hepatocytes

Gelled collagen

Gelled collagen

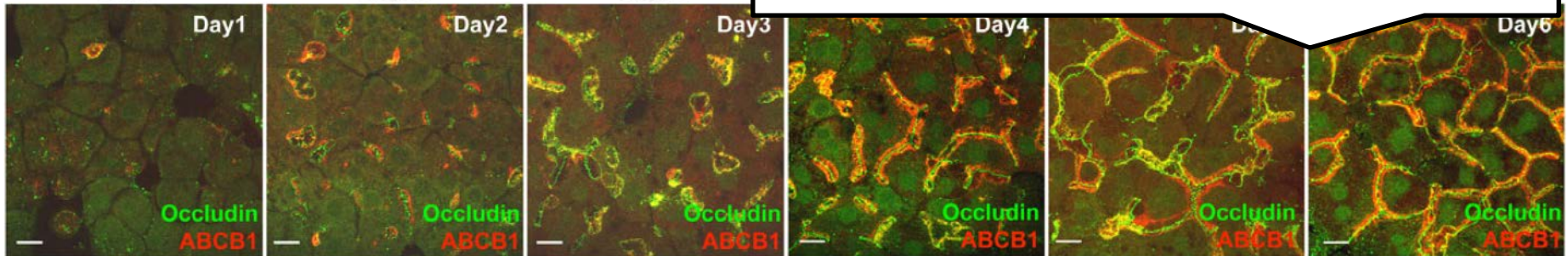
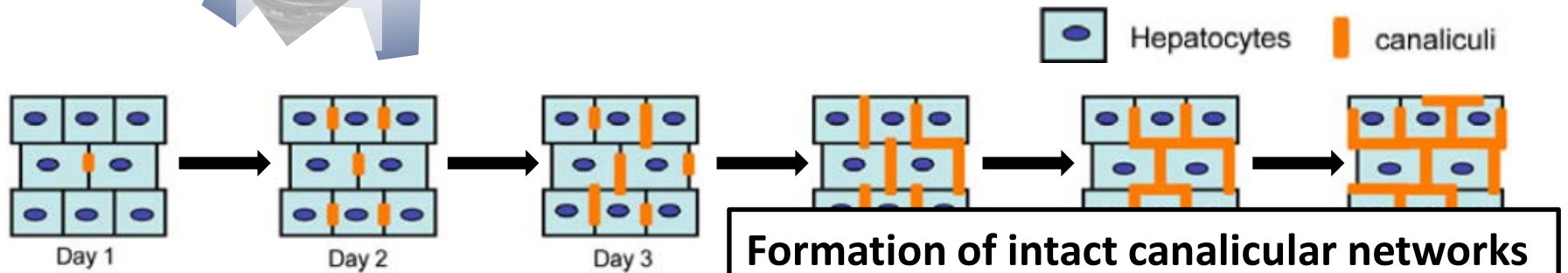


Hepatocytes

✓ Biliary efflux function

✓ Maintaining metabolic capability

✓ Easy to use and good reproducibility



Prediction of human DILI in preclinical study

“Highly functionalized cells”

**Sandwich cultured
hepatocytes**

Biliary efflux function

Maintaining metabolic capability

Easy to use and good reproducibility

“Optimization for prediction of DILI”

Onset mechanisms of DILI are multifactorial events!!

Understanding of DILI onset mechanism is indispensable!

Inhibition of liver-specific functions associate with severe liver injury!!!

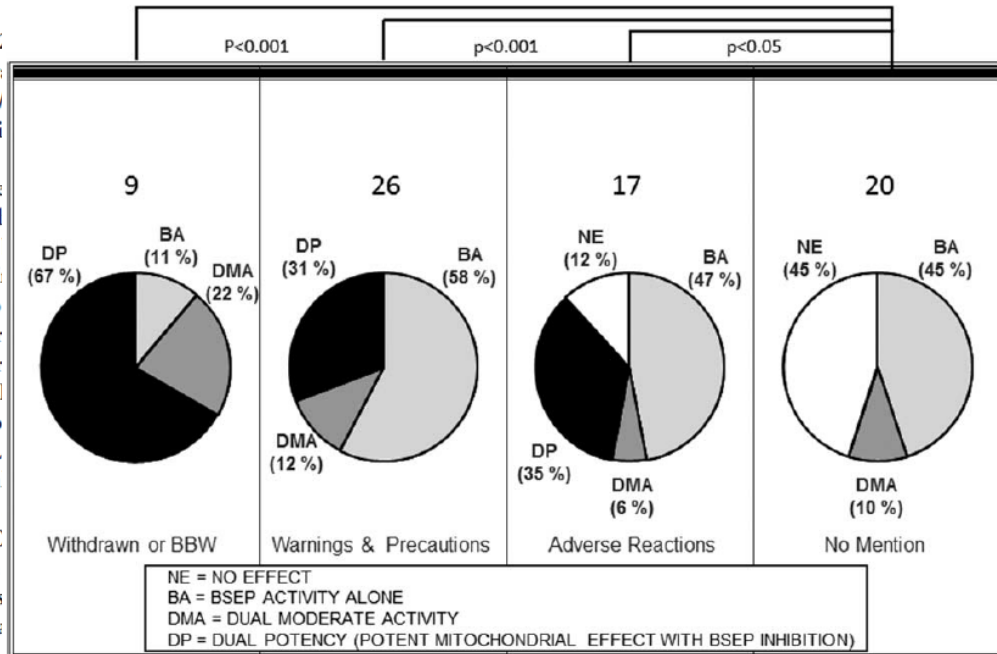
... which lead to loss of energy production

Human Drug-Induced Liver Injury Severity Is Highly Associated With Dual Inhibition of Liver Mitochondrial Function and Bile Salt Export Pump

... which leads to accumulation of toxic bile acids

Michael D. Aleo,¹ Yi Luo,³ Rachel Swiss,³ Paul D. Bonin,² David M. Potter,⁴ and Yvonne Will³

Drug-induced liver injury (DILI) accounts for 10% of hepatic failure and is a common reason for withdrawal of a potentially new drug from clinical trials. Individual risk factors contribute to the susceptibility of humans to DILI. Mechanisms linked to DILI include: cytotoxicity, reactive metabolites, inhibition of the bile salt export pump (BSEP), and mitochondrial dysfunction. We hypothesized that humans exposed to drugs that inhibit BSEP and mitochondrial function are more sensitive to DILI than drugs that only have a single liability factor. At the National Center for Toxicological Research Liver Toxicology Laboratory (LTKB), the inhibitory properties of 24 Most-DILI concern drugs were investigated. Drug potency for BSEP activity was generally correlated across human DILI with dual potency as mitochondrial and BSEP in more severe human DILI, more restrictive product labeling, and appear more sensitive to the drug exposure (C₅₀) than BSEP alone. **Conclusion:** These data affirm that severe DILI is multifactorial, highly associated with combinations of known mechanisms of DILI (like mitochondrial dysfunction with patient-specific factors, lead to differences in DILI severity associated with clinical DILI. (HEPATOLOGY 2014;60:



DILI Label Sections

Prediction of human DILI in preclinical study

“Highly functionalized cells”

**Sandwich cultured
hepatocytes**

Biliary efflux function

Maintaining metabolic capability

Easy to use and good reproducibility

“Optimization for prediction of DILI”

Cholestatic liver injury

➔ Bile acids

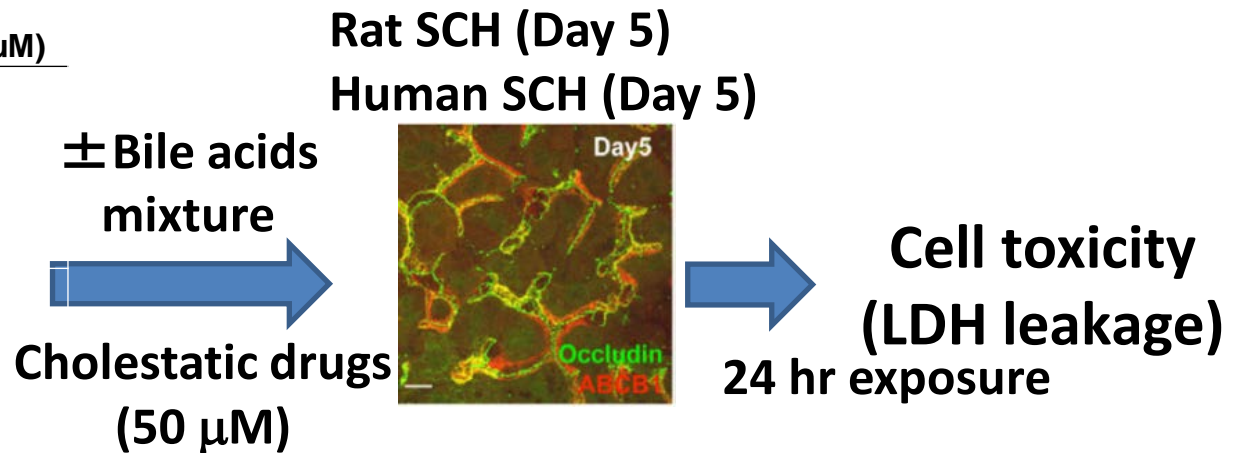
Mitochondrial toxicity

➔ Oxygen supply

Evaluation of cholestatic liver injury in SCHs

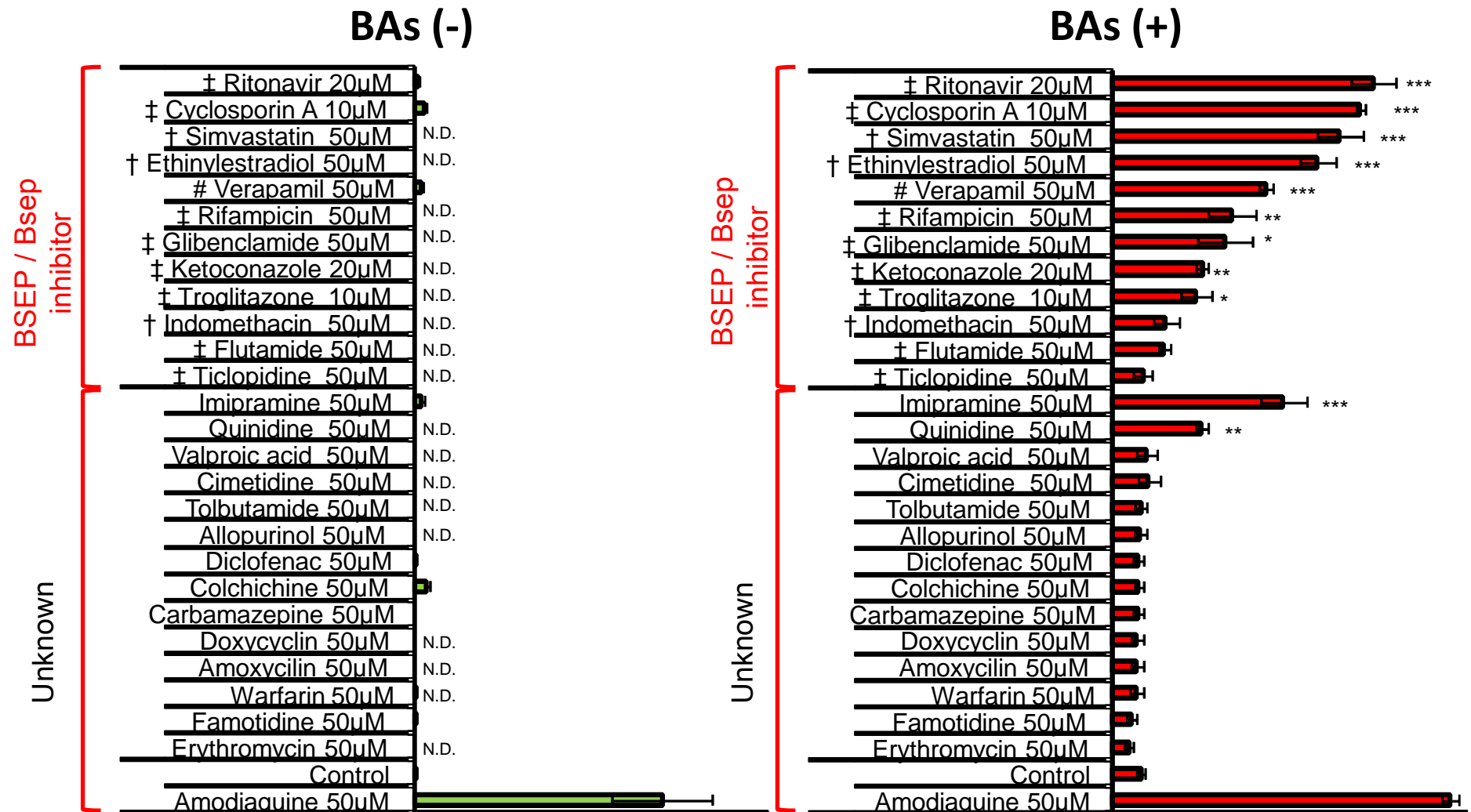
Even if, cholestatic drugs are exposed to sandwich-cultured hepatocytes, it is still difficult to detect cholestatic type liver injury ...

Bile acid	1x standard concentration (μM)
CA	0.30
CDCA	0.50
GCDCA	2.60
DCA	1.10
LCA	0.045
UDCA	0.17
GCA	0.62
GDCA	0.57
TCA	0.070
TCDCA	0.32
TLCA	0.13
TUDCA	0.43



When cholestatic drugs are exposed with bile acids, toxic bile acids accumulate in the cells and are expected to show toxicity.

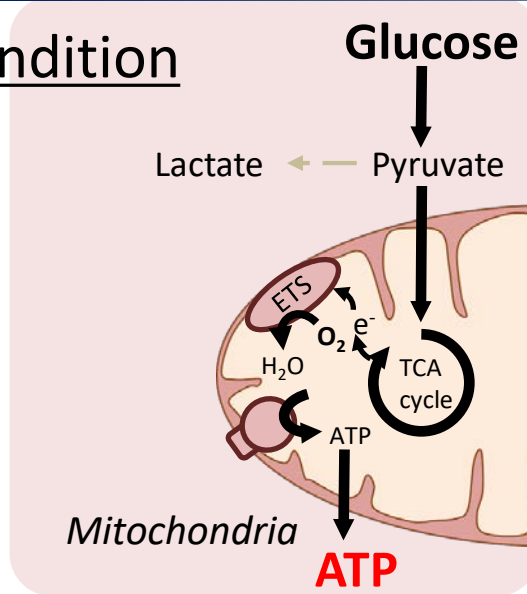
Evaluation of cholestatic liver injury in SCHs



It is possible to evaluate BAs-dependent drug-induced hepatocellular toxicity by cholestatic drugs

Problems in mitochondrial toxicity evaluation in vitro

In physiological condition
(In vivo)

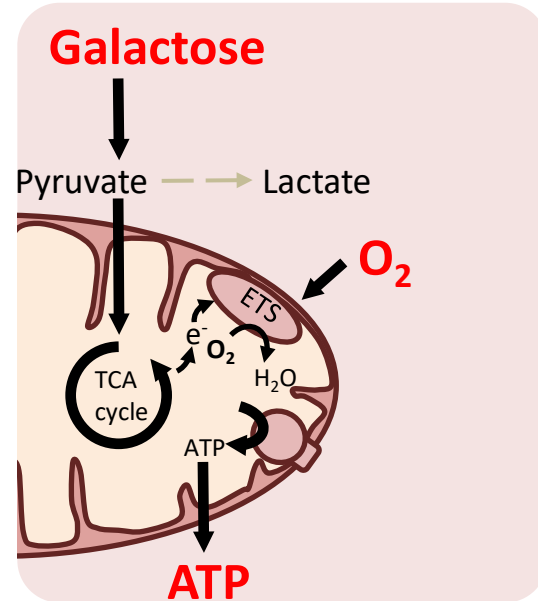
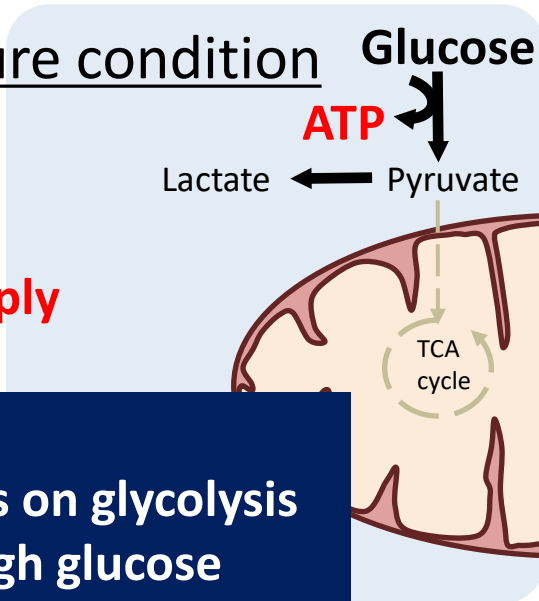


ATP production relies on oxidative phosphorylation in mitochondria

Conventional culture condition
(In vitro)

High Glucose
Limited Oxygen supply

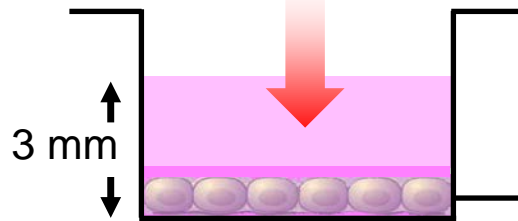
Crabtree effect:
ATP production relies on glycolysis in the presence of high glucose



Appropriate oxygen supplement suppresses glycolysis

O₂ supplement through liquid-vapor interface

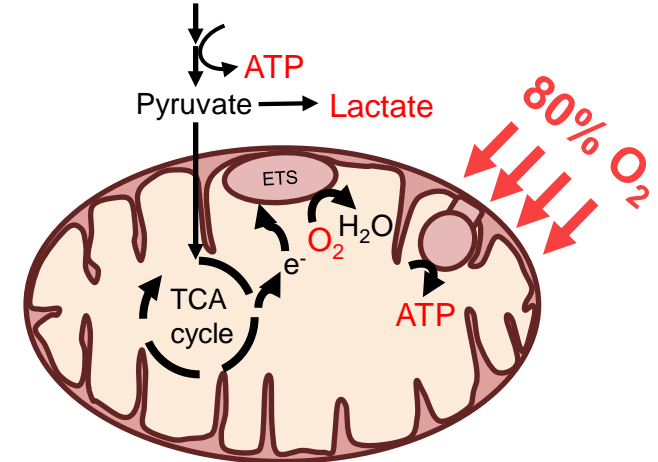
17 pmol/s/cm²



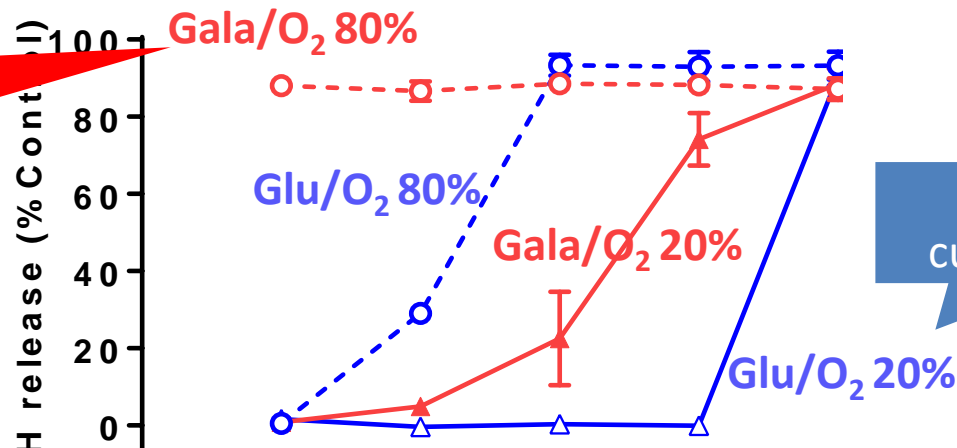
O₂ consumption in physiological condition
40-90 pmol/s/cm²

(Sakai et al., Liver Stem Cells, 2011)

Galactose



Physiologically relevant culture condition



Conventional culture condition

Culture with **Galactose medium** and appropriate **Oxygen supply** enhances sensitivity to mitochondrial toxicant in SCHs

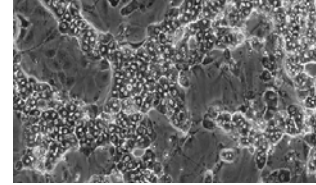
Mitochondrial toxicity screening under optimum conditions using rat SCHs

Drugs	Mechanism of mitochondrial dysfunction	Conventional culture condition	Physiologically relevant culture condition	TC _{50,Glu} /TC _{50,Gala}
		TC _{50,Glu} (μM)	TC _{50,Gala} (μM)	
Amiodarone		>500	121	>4.13
Rotenone		1.51	<0.50	>3.02
Phenformin	Lactic acidosis → Withdrawn	267	<150	>1.78
Flutamide	OXPPOS inhibitor	85.3	52.2	1.63
Oligomycin		0.39	0.27	1.42
Antimycin		2.98	2.14	1.39
Ketoconazole		54.3	45.3	1.20
Metformin		>500	>500	1.00
Amitriptyline	Oxidative stress inducer	176	96.5	1.82
Imipramine		215	129	1.67
Nortriptyline		69.6	68.4	1.02
Troglitazone		64.1	63.0	1.02
Benzbromarone	MPT inducer	10.2	10.3	0.99

The distinct toxicities of phenformin and metformin were appropriately evaluated and reflected the rank order of risk in human

Perspectives

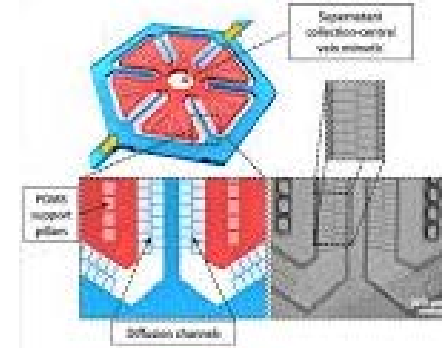
“Highly functional **hepatocytes**”



☑ eg. iPS cells, PXB cells, HepaRG cells etc.

“Highly functional **liver**”

☑ New **microphysiological system (MPS)**



What can they do??

Understanding their functions and features
(eg. Biliary efflux?, Mitochondrial function?)

How to use them??

Optimization for better prediction of DILI
(eg. Supplement missing items (Bile acids, Oxygen))



Acknowledgments



Prof. Toshiharu Horie
(Teikyo Heisei University)



Prof. Kousei Ito
(Chiba University)

Chiba University



Collaboration and Support

Toru Horie (D3 Institute)
Oshimura Mitsuo (Tottori University)
Kazuki Yasuhiro (Tottori University)
Satoh Daisuke (Tottori University)
Ohe Tomoyuki (Keio University)
KAC Co., Ltd.
Biopredic International
LSI Medience Corporation
Sekisui medical co., ltd