



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

ESR 11:

A transcriptomic and metabolomic approach to biomarkers of exposure and effect

Jinkang Zhang

Supervisors: Prof. Mark Viant

Prof. Kevin Chipman

School of Biosciences, University of Birmingham, UK

Antwerp, Belgium 14-09-2011

ME

• 2007-2010, M.S. in Marine Biology
(molecular biology),

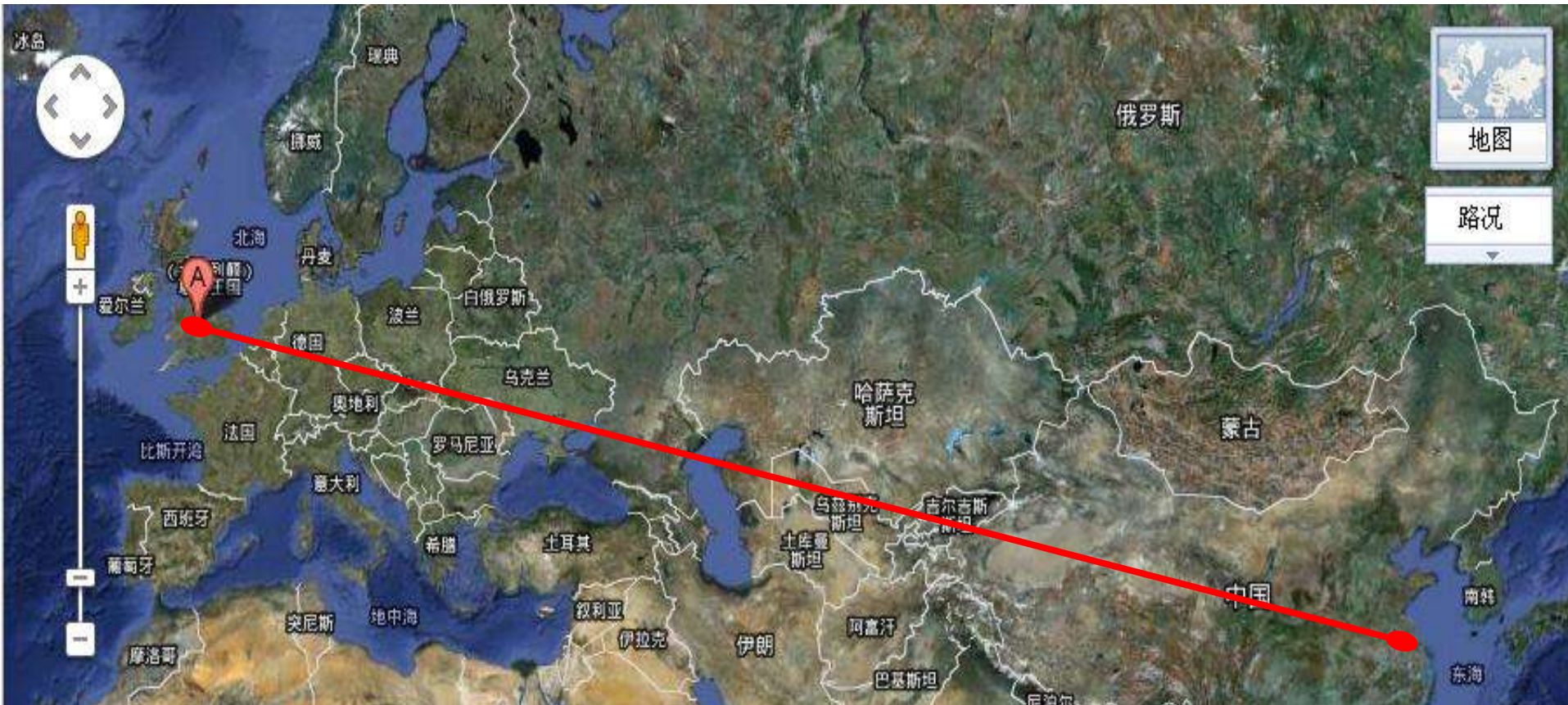
Institute of Oceanology, Chinese
Academy of Sciences (**IOCAS**), Qingdao,
China

Graduate University of Chinese Academy
of Sciences (**GUCAS**), Beijing, China

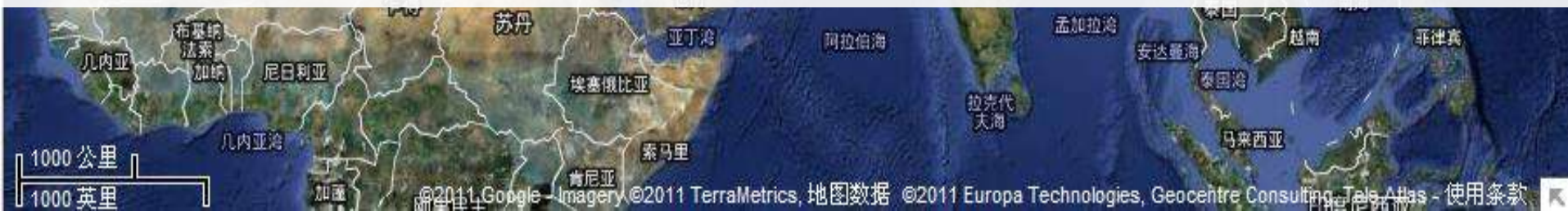
• Born in **Anhui**, China

• 2003-2007, B.S. in Biotechnology,
Sichuan Agricultural University
(**SAU**), Sichuan, China

ME



2011- present, PhD student (INFLAME_ESR11),
University of Birmingham, UK





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Outline

- Project objectives
- 3 years plan
- Progress to date
 - ✓ Literature review
 - ✓ Cell culture
 - ✓ MTT assay
 - ✓ Training in transcriptomics and metabolomics
- Next 6 months plan (Sept.2011- Feb.2012)

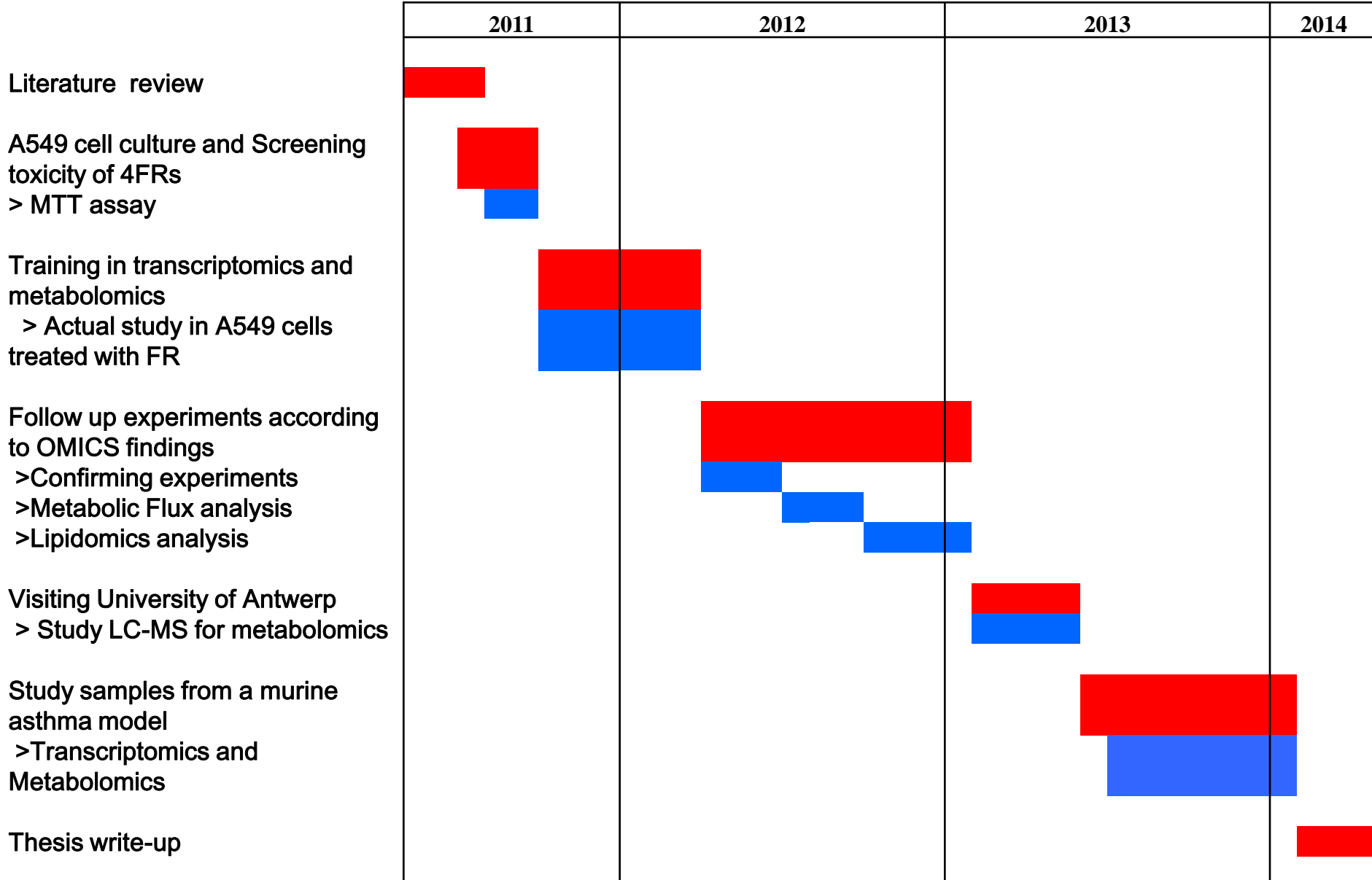
INFLAME-WP3

- **Research Objectives of WP3:** to advance our knowledge of the effects of exposure to FRs.
- ESR10: Mechanistic profiling of flame FRs in general systemic stress and endocrine disruption
- **ESR11: A transcriptomic and metabolomic approach to biomarkers of exposure and effect.**
- ESR12: The role of FRs in indoor dust in potentiating or facilitating allergic responses to inhaled allergens

Project objectives of ESR11

- The ESR 11 will focus on the molecular mechanisms via which FRs exert toxicity, using the state-of-the-art metabolomics (FT-ICR mass spectrometry and ^1H NMR spectroscopy) and transcriptomics approaches (Agilent microarrays).
- Specifically, the effects of FRs exposures will be studied

3 years plan



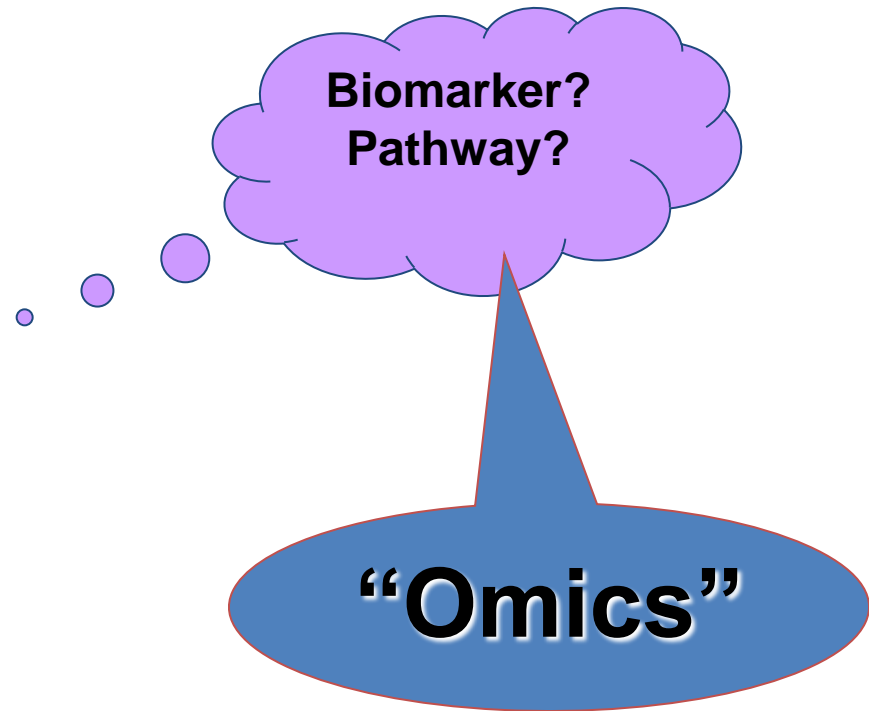
Flame retardants classes

- Inorganic FRs
- Halogenated organic FRs
- Organophosphorus FRs
- Nitrogen based FRs

(van Esch, 1997)

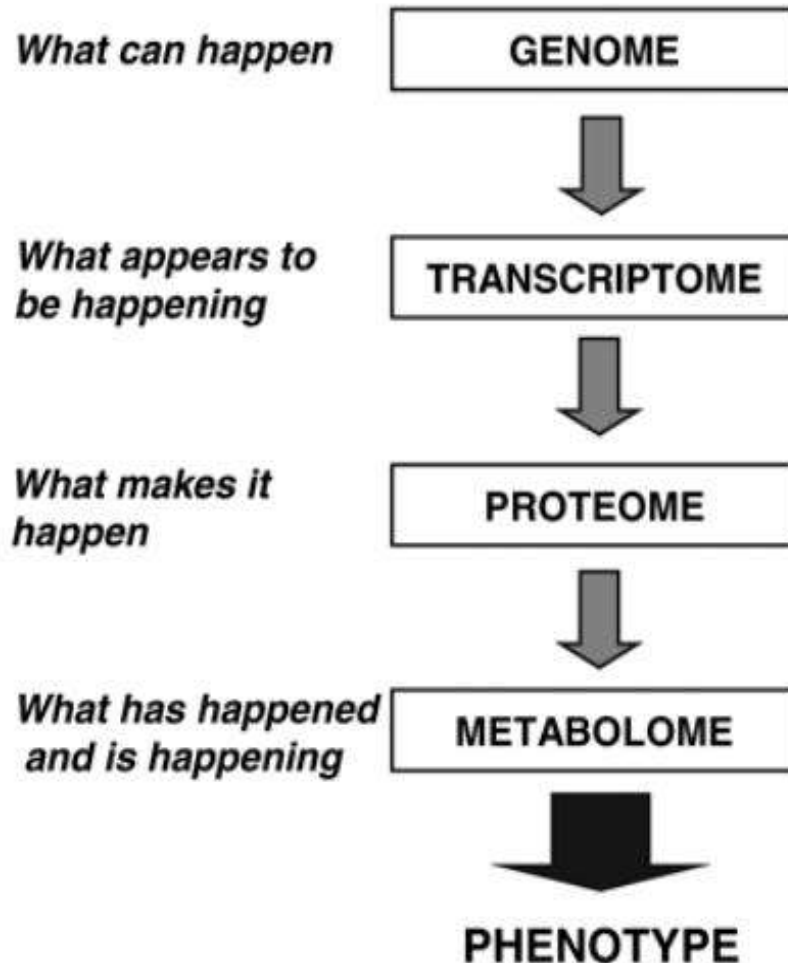
Potential toxicological effects of FRs

- Hepatotoxicity
- Endocrine toxicity
- Developmental toxicity
- Immunotoxicity
- Tumorigenicity



(Sjodin et al., 2003; Per Ola Darnerud, 2003; Dingemans, 2010)

The “Omics” cascade



Dettmer et al., Mass Spectrom Rev. 2007; 26(1): 51-78.

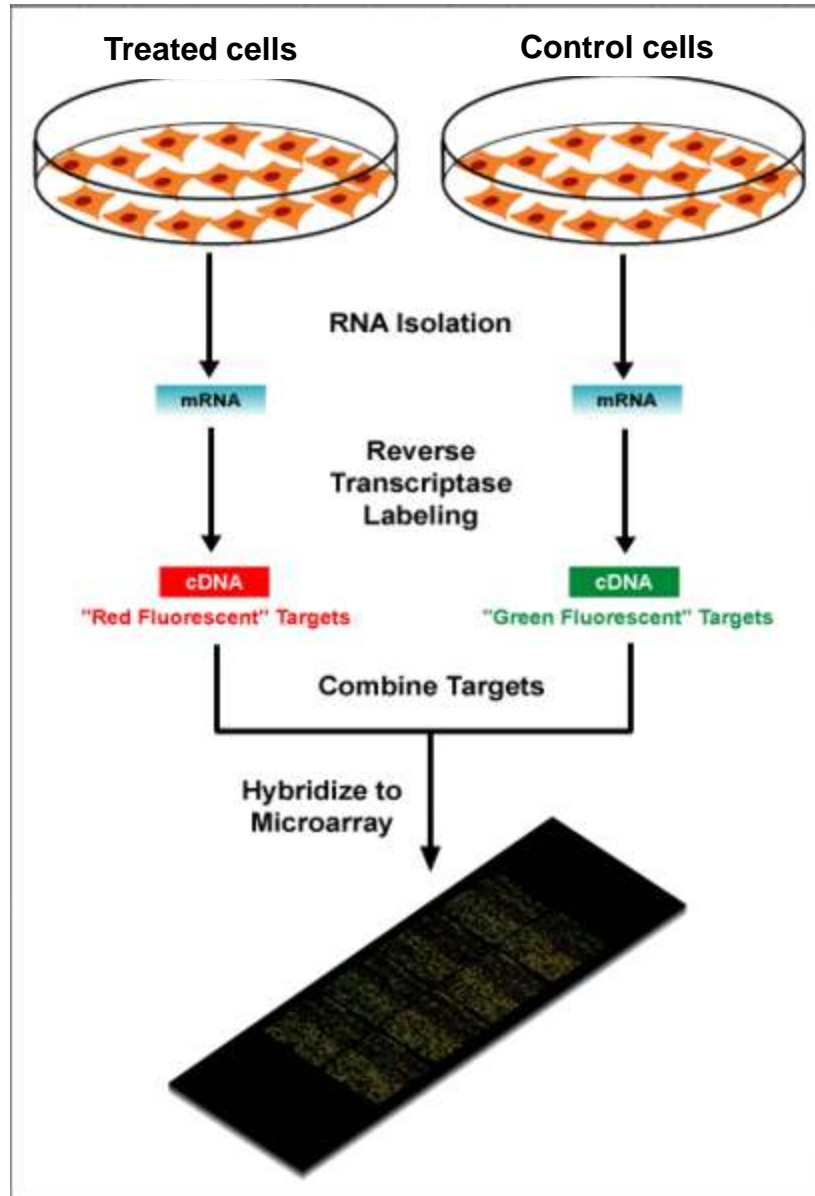
The “Omics” cascade comprises complex datasets that as an entity comprehensively describe the response of biological systems to disease, genetic, and environmental perturbations. The most powerful database will integrate data from all omic levels. However, of these databases, the metabolome is the most predictive of phenotype.

Why Omics?

- Can potentially identify presence of toxicity biomarkers
- Enormous potential to examine established and potentially new toxicity pathways
- Widespread use for screening metabolite changes



Transcriptomics workflow



(Picture from website)

Transcriptomics workflow

QC : quality controls
QPCR : real-time quantitative PCR

Genome-wide gene expression studies

Experimental design

Biological Sample

RNA

QC

96-well PCR automated pipetting

RT

QPCRs

QPCR instrument

QPCR primers validation and optimization for SYBR Green Assays

Labeling

Nanodrop Bioanalyzer

QC

Hybridization / Washings

Agilent FE software

Scan

Image analysis

Statistical analysis

Analysis report

QC report

Raw data

Expertise Softwares

Targeted gene expression studies

QC

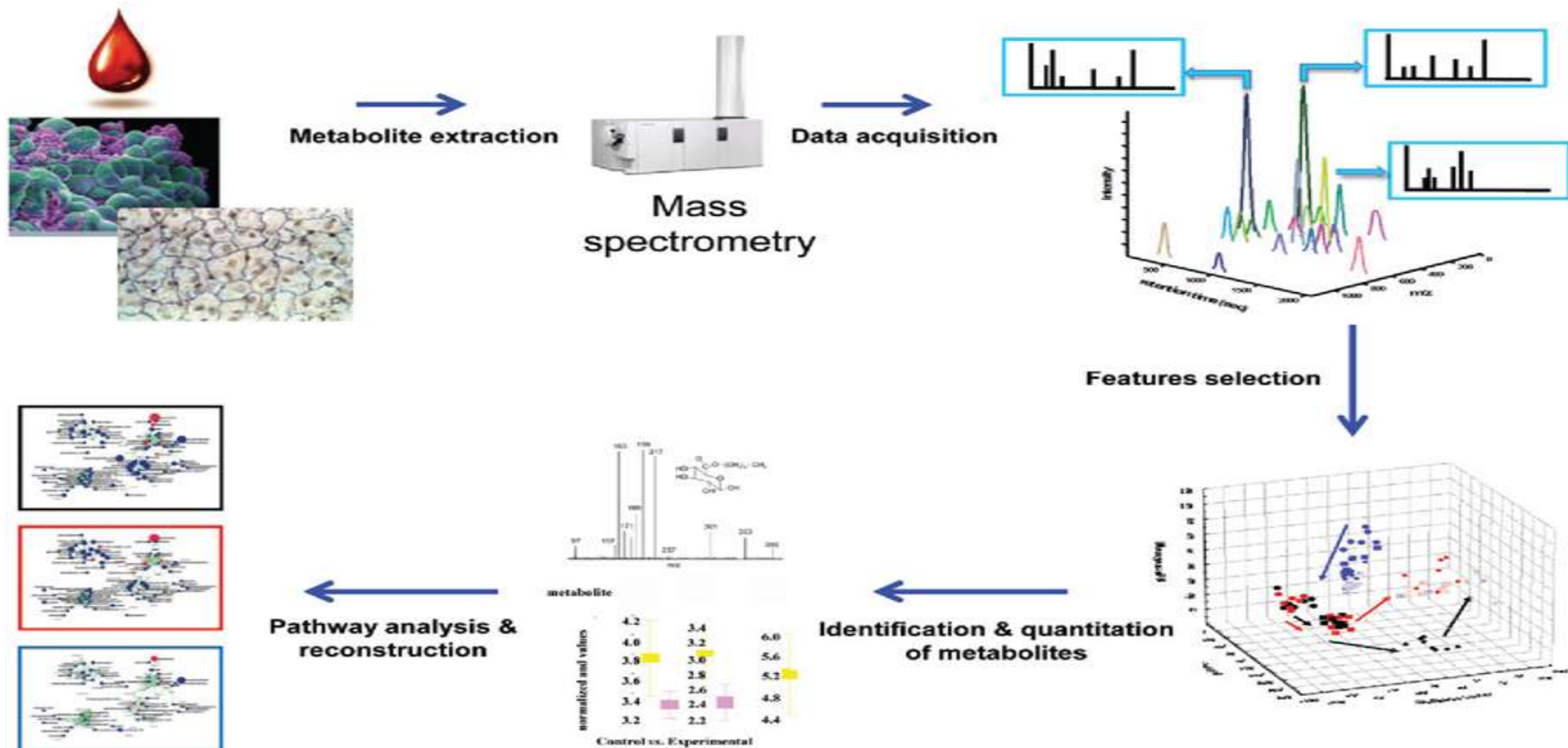
Data analysis

Analysis report

Raw data

(Picture from website)

Metabolomics workflow



Lee et al., BioTechniques, 2010, 49(2):557-65

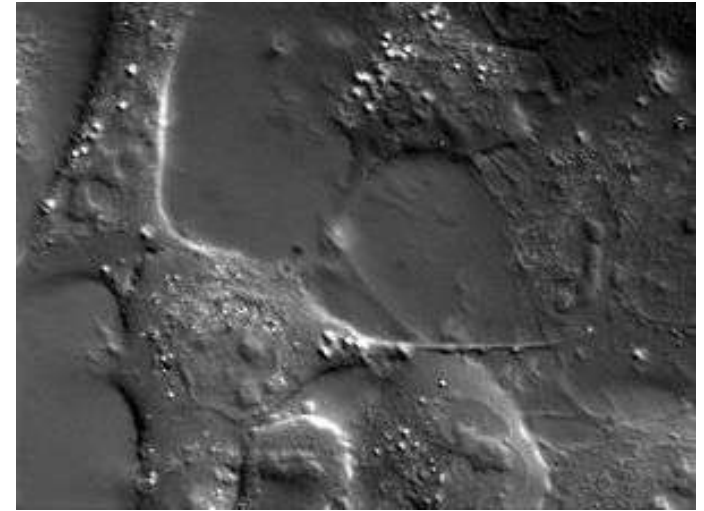
Small-molecule metabolites are extracted from the sample matrix. / Metabolites are separated using chromatographic steps, ionized, and analyzed using MS. / Features of interest are selected from raw data using univariate and multivariate statistical approaches. / Features are then identified using database searches, comparisons to authentic standards, and MS/MS. / Identified features can then be used for reaction monitoring, pathway analysis, and metabolic network reconstruction.

Cell culture

- A549 cells

(adenocarcinomic human alveolar basal epithelial cells)

- Adherent cells
- Doubling time: ~ 22 hrs



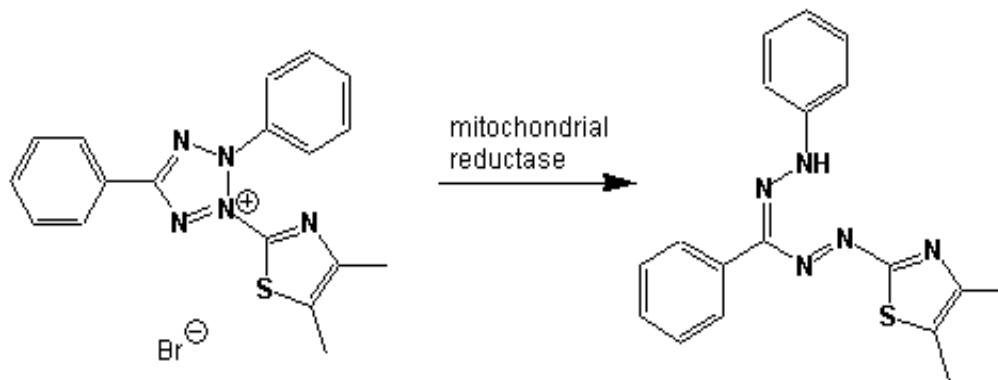
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A549_cell

- Media: DMEM supplemented with 2 mM glutamine, 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), and 100 U/mL penicillin/streptomycin

MTT assay

- are colorimetric assays for measuring the activity of enzymes that reduce MTT to formazan dyes, giving a purple colour.
- to assess the viability (cell counting) and the proliferation of cells (cell culture assays).

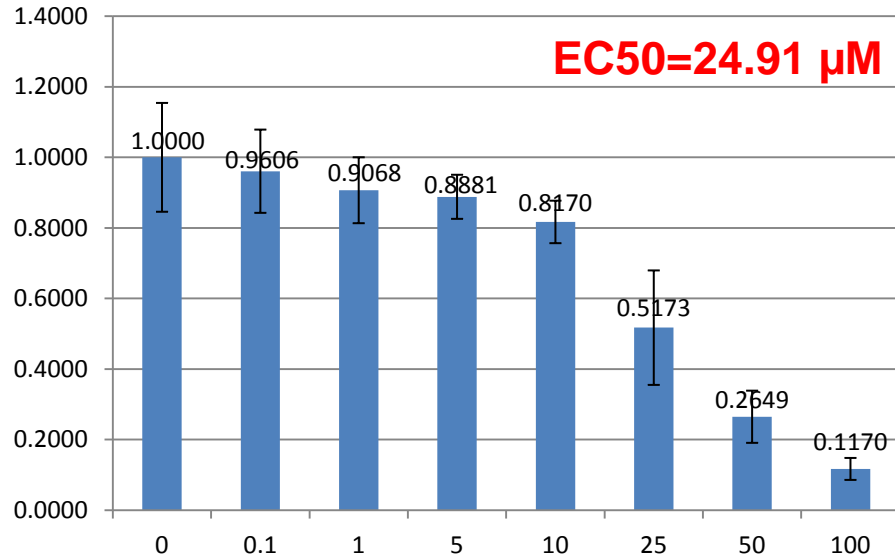
MTT (3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide)



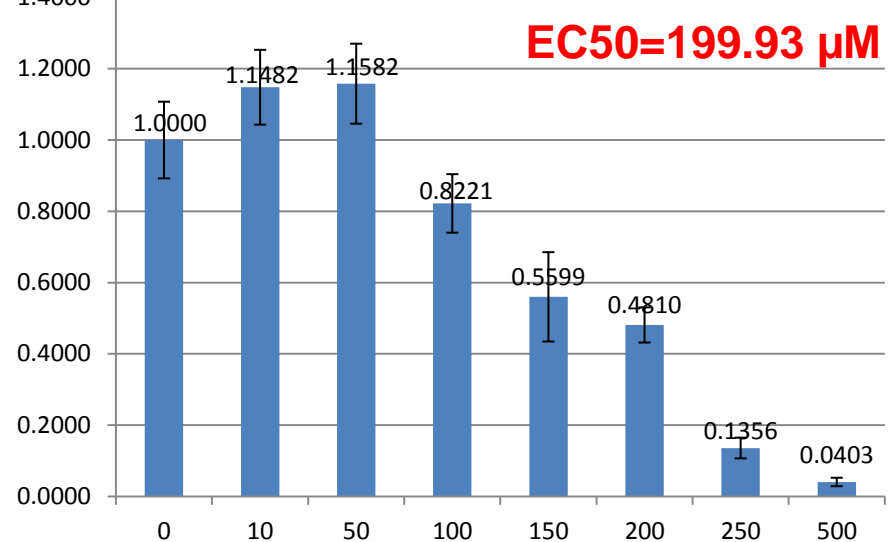
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MTT_assay)

MTT assay

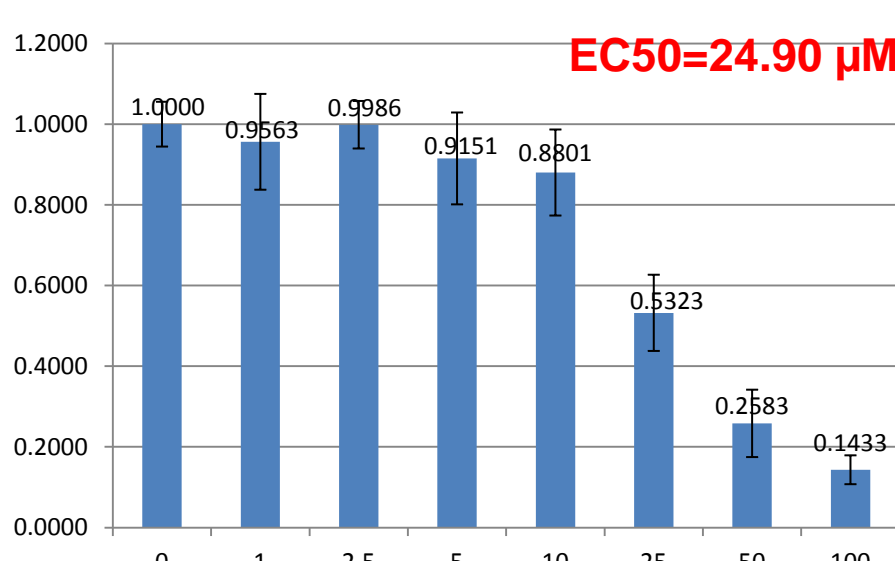
A549 cells incubated with HBCD1 24h



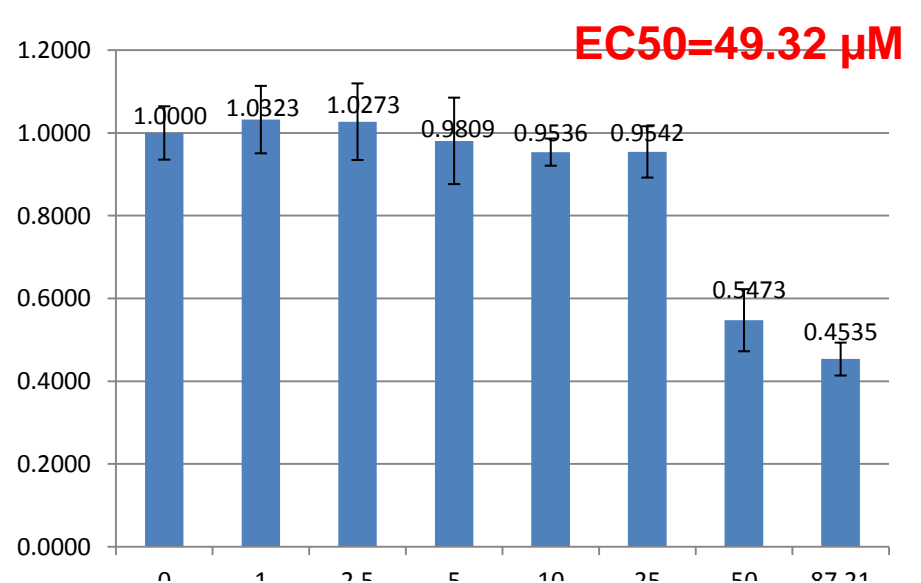
A549 cells incubated with TBBPA 24h



A549 cells incubated with HBCD2 24h



A549 cells incubated with BDE47 24h



Preliminary training in transcriptomics and metabolomics

- Preparing protocols for extraction of RNA and metabolites in A549 cells
-

Next 6 months plan

(Sept.2011- Feb.2012)

- Finish standard protocols for RNA and metabolites extraction in A549 cells study
- Practical skills training in transcriptomics and metabolomics
- Data collection and analysis
(Multivariate and univariate statistical analysis)
- Primary data of A549 cells exposure to HBCD
(Pathway analysis and mechanism interpretation)

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**THANK
YOU!**