

# Merck



# Agenda

1. Functional Area Overviews (1:00 – 2:15)
2. Coffee Break (2:15-2:30)
3. Panel Discussion (2:30 – 3:00)
4. Resume Review (3:00 – 4:00)

# OUR RESEARCH SITES

San Francisco, CA

Boston, MA

Cambridge, MA

London, United Kingdom

West Point, PA

Kenilworth, NJ

Rahway, NJ

**Maximizing presence in key scientific innovation hub cities**

# WHO WE ARE... INVENTING FOR LIFE

We are a global healthcare company with a 130+ year history of working to make a difference



## Patients First

- Deliver high-quality products & services to **improve the health and wellness** of people & animals
  - Expand access to our medicines and vaccines

## Respect for People

- Excel based on **integrity, knowledge, imagination, skill, diversity, safety, and teamwork**
  - Work in an environment of **mutual respect, inclusion, and accountability**

## Ethics and Integrity

- Committed to the **highest standards of ethics and integrity**
- Demonstrate **responsibility and transparency** in everything we do

## Innovation and Scientific Excellence

- Strive to **identify the most critical needs** of patients and customers
- **Science-driven** with strong support of R&D from the highest levels of leadership (\$12.2B investment in 2021)
  - Improve patients' health and quality of life through **continuous innovation**



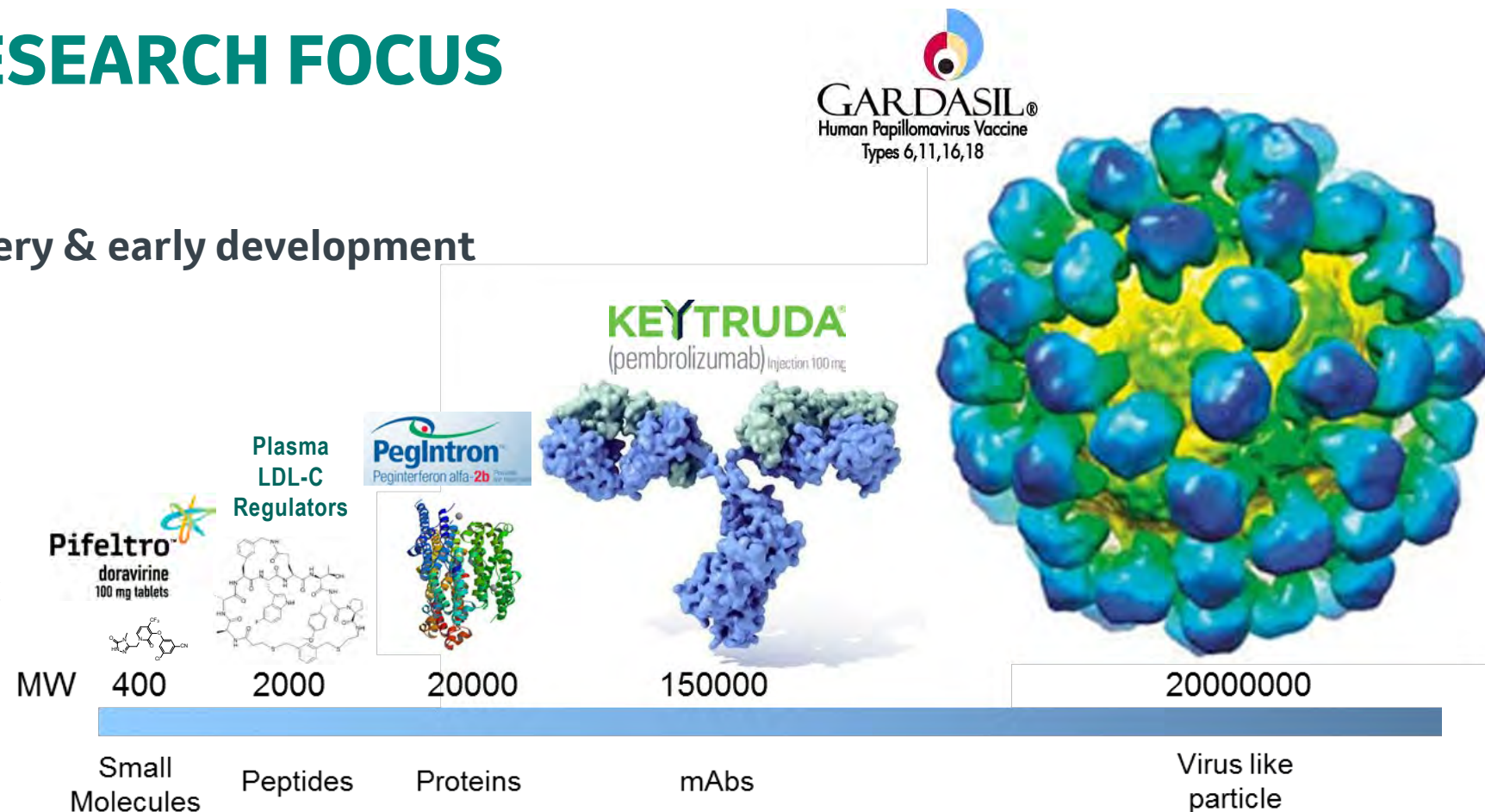
# OUR AREAS OF RESEARCH FOCUS

## Diverse and Robust Pipeline

### Over 150 programs in discovery & early development

- Oncology
- Infectious Diseases
- COVID-19
- Vaccines
- Cardio-metabolic Disorders

### We take a modality-agnostic approach to solving human health challenges:



### Clinical Development:

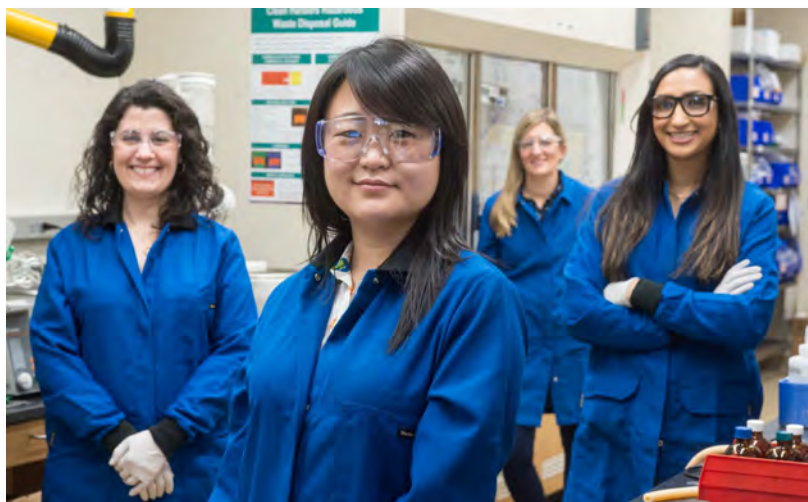


# OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

[DE&I video link](#)

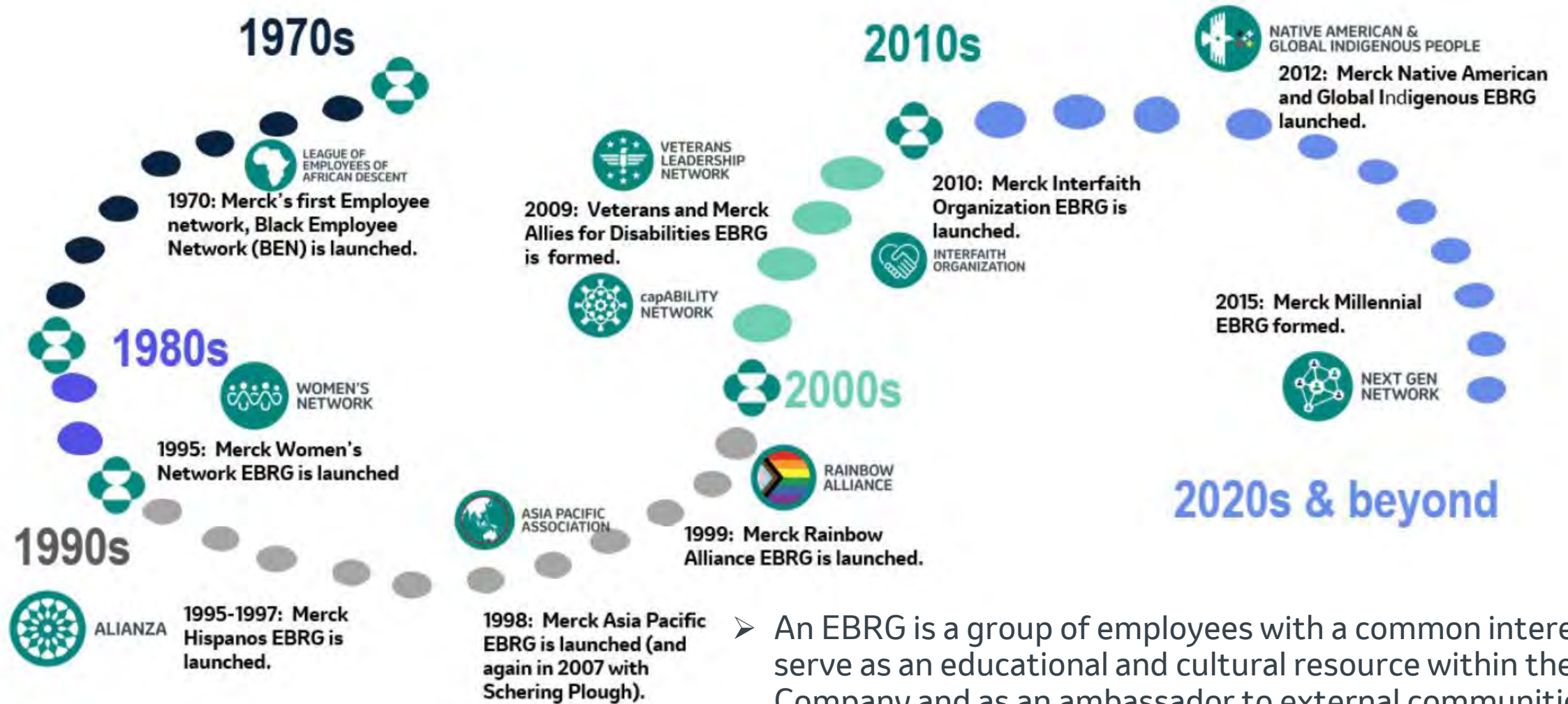
What...  
Who...  
How...  
Why...

Compel a more globally diverse and more inclusive workforce for our employees by creating an environment of belonging, engagement, equity, and empowerment so that we can ensure patients experience ultimate health outcomes.





# MERCK EMPLOYEE BUSINESS RESOURCE GROUPS (EBRGs)



- An EBRG is a group of employees with a common interest to serve as an educational and cultural resource within the Company and as an ambassador to external communities.
- Current EBRG efforts include:
  - Reducing healthcare disparities among diverse populations
  - Enhance diverse talent acquisition
  - Increase health literacy

# PRECLINICAL DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW



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# Brian Vega

## Background



**University of Notre Dame**  
B.S. in Biology



**Rutgers University**  
Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences  
Infection, Immunity, & Inflammation

- PI: Scott Kachlany
- Studied mechanisms of leukotoxin-mediated cell death



School of Dental Medicine

**RSDM**, Postdoctoral fellow  
Leukotoxin as a therapeutic agent for treatment of Crohn's disease and Ulcerative Colitis



**Actinobac Biomed, Inc.**  
Nonclinical Consultant  
Pharmacology and toxicology support for

IND filing  
Confidential

## Current role at Merck

**Joined Merck in 2020 at West Point**  
Investigative Toxicology

- Immunotoxicology Group
- NDS lead for pseudoanaphylaxis de-risking strategy
- Investigative lead for unexpected toxicities
- Develop animal models for immunotoxicology assessments
- Provide SME input on drug hapten immune activation and T-cell activation
- Program development support
  - Discovery Program Leader
  - Compound Leader

## Interests/Other

**Live in Conshohocken, PA**

- Grew up in North Jersey

**Hobbies:**

- Running
- Travel
- Cooking
- Beach
- Avid College Football fan



# Merck Preclinical Development (PCD) Ambassador Program

## Our Mission

- Engage and nurture future talent to fortify scientific progress, develop the next-generation of scientists, innovate and apply novel drug modalities, and advance healthcare.
- Continue our commitment to building a diverse and inclusive workplace where scientific excellence thrives.

## Our Scope

- Build direct relationships between Merck PCD scientists and key future talent
- Provide an overview of the PCD organization and desired scientific skills
- Introduce potential opportunities within PCD - internships/co-ops, post-doctoral training, and full-time positions per availability
- Provide educational support such as scientific lectures, consultation on curriculum if desired
- Offer mentorship opportunities and guidance on preparing for biopharma industry careers
- Tailor student engagement with feedback from academic leaders.

## Our Team

- Merck PCD scientists with diverse expertise, educational, and cultural backgrounds.
- A volunteer-driven grassroots effort led by employees passionate about future talent engagement.
- Endorsed by Merck PCD Leadership.



### Preclinical Development (PCD):

- ADME & Discovery Toxicology
- Bioanalysis
- Quantitative Pharmacology and Pharmacometrics
- Non-clinical Drug Safety
- Outsourcing
- Strategic Operations
- Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR)

# Preclinical development designs, conducts and interprets studies that form the scientific basis of the decision to transition programs into and through clinical evaluation

- Establish the safety profile for evaluation in the target patient population.
- Determine the safe and efficacious dose based on the understanding of the pharmacology and pharmacokinetics of the potential new drug
- Provide high quality bioanalytical data that enable decisions on progressing therapeutics and vaccines across the pipeline
- Elucidate the intersection of target biology and drug disposition and define the ADME characteristics needed for clinical success for any modality
- Identify clinical dose, justify dose for special populations or drug interactions and define therapeutic window through quantitative knowledge integrations

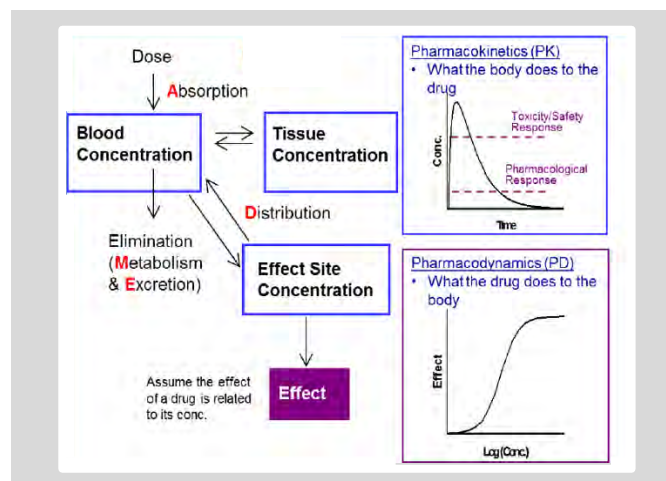


# Preclinical Development (PCD) – bridging drug discovery and development

## ADME & Discovery Toxicology (ADMEDT)

Mission: To influence molecular design to optimize drug disposition and biological properties that are integral to efficacy and safety through research and characterization that translate into differentiated labels.

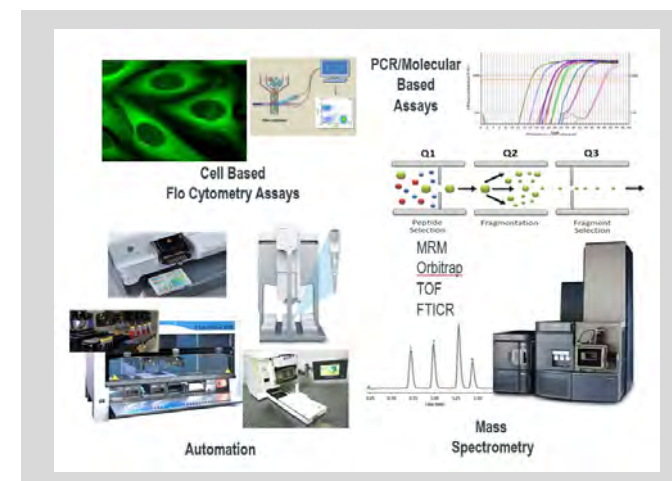
- Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism and Excretion (ADME) and Drug Metabolism Pharmacology
- Biotransformation and Distribution (BT&D)
- Transporter and In Vitro Technologies (T&IVT)
- Biochemical Toxicology (TK) and in vivo PK
- Discovery BA
- Genetic Toxicology (GT)
- In Vitro Toxicology
- In Vitro Safety Pharmacology



## Regulated Bioanalytics (BA)

Mission: To impact pipeline decisions across all therapeutics and vaccines by understanding the questions our data seek to address and developing appropriately targeted bioanalytical methods and providing high quality bioanalytical data that enable decisions on progressing therapeutics and vaccines across the pipeline

- PK & ADA
- Immunogenicity and Molecular
- Lab Systems and Sample Management



# Preclinical Development (PCD) – bridging drug discovery and development

## Nonclinical Drug Safety (NDS)

Mission: To empower ground-breaking discovery research that influences the development of safe therapeutics, develops insightful safety assessments for clinical trial safety & flexibility, and delivers the most appropriate commercial label

### ☐ Pathology

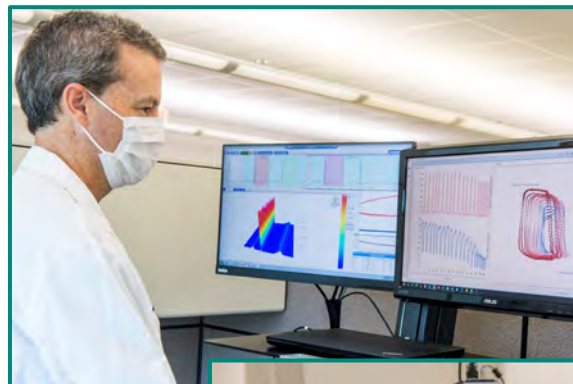
- Anatomical Pathology
- Clinical Pathology
- Investigative Pathology

### ☐ Toxicological Sciences

- Toxicology Operations
- Central Pharmacy
- Developmental & Reproductive Toxicology

### ☐ Program Discovery & Development

- Program Planning and Submissions
- Discovery Program Leaders (DPL)
- Therapeutic Area Leaders (TAL)
- Compound Leaders (CL)



### ☐ In Vivo Safety & Exploratory Pharmacology

- GLP Safety Pharmacology
- Investigative In Vivo Safety Pharmacology

### ☐ Investigative Toxicology

- Immunotoxicology
- Systems Toxicology
- Analytical & Biochemical Toxicology

### ☐ Occupational Toxicology

### ☐ Operations

- Project Planning & Sourcing
- Digital Operations & Innovation
- Information Management

# Preclinical Development (PCD) – bridging drug discovery and development

## Preclinical Development Outsourcing

Mission: To advance MRL's therapeutic and vaccine portfolio by proactively developing and leading a network of external partners to generate high quality, timely and cost effective PCD data

- Preclinical, NDS, QP2 Sourcing
- Regulated Vaccines BA Sourcing
- Regulated PK/ADA Sourcing
- Sourcing Operations



## Preclinical Development Strategic Operations

Mission: To generate, advance, and implement best practices that strengthen the broad PCD organization through innovative approaches, drive efficiencies in internal and external collaborative engagements, and create opportunities to ensure training compliance and professional development of PCD staff and leaders.

- Facilities and Project Management
- Regulatory Submissions and Document Management
- PCD Archives
- Training Strategy and Compliance





# Preclinical Development (PCD) – bridging drug discovery and development

## Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR)

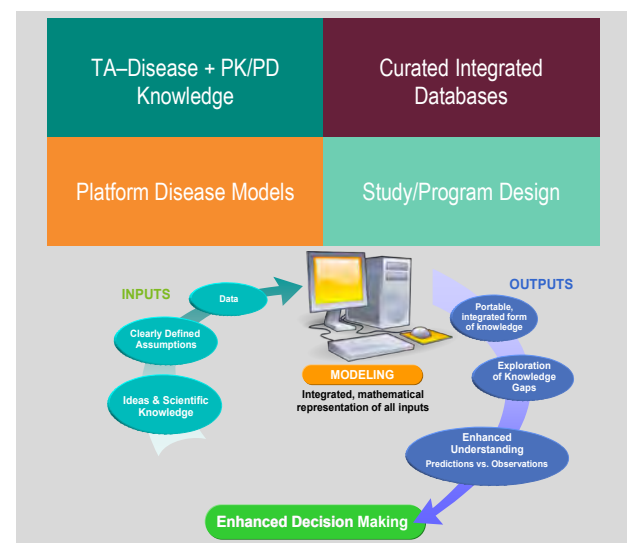
Mission: To provide collaborative research support and technical expertise to MRL research programs while promoting the health, well-being and responsible use of animal models through optimal veterinary medical care. LAR is dedicated to advancing the development of safe and effective pharmaceutical products through partnerships, innovation and adaptability while ensuring a resolute commitment to maintaining full regulatory compliance.

- LAR Boston
- LAR South San Francisco
- LAR West Point



## Quantitative Pharmacology and Pharmacometrics (QP2)

Mission: To deliver value through optimizing dosage, identifying opportunities to halt development of undifferentiated assets, and streamlining the development of promising compounds and biologics utilizing model-informed drug discovery/development and pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics.



## External Collaborations

Mission: To deliver thorough and timely stage-appropriate PCD endorsed reviews for external business development opportunities across all TAs and assuring optimal transitions towards integration for agreement(s) with full cross-functional PCD engagement and in partnership with BD&L.

# Summary

Identifying the *Right Target, Right Drug, Right Dose, Right Patient*

- PCD plays a pivotal role enabling the pipeline from early discovery through post-marketing
- Large lab footprint for experiment execution
  - In vitro assays
  - In vivo studies
  - Bioanalytical data generation
- We focus on understanding how the biological system impacts the molecule (ADME) and how the molecule impacts the biological system (Tox)
- We develop models based on our data to enable decisions across the portfolio (target selection, molecular design and compound selection, clinical study design)
- Collectively, our studies enable the translation of discovery data into clinically safe and effective doses for patients
  
- For more detailed information regarding our department and each sub-functional group please visit the PCD landing page in Merck Careers website
- If you have any questions, feel free to reach out!
  - James Schiller – BA – PCD Career Center Steward
  - Hillary Regan – PCD Strategic Operations

# QUANTITATIVE PHARMACOLOGY & PHARMACOMETRICS (QP2)



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# Shuai Hu

## Background



**Peking University**  
B.S. in life sciences

**University of Michigan  
College of Pharmacy**  
PhD in Medicinal Chemistry  
MS in Bioinformatics

- Drug discovery in pancreatic cancer using multiomics analysis



**FDA**

- Intern and one-year fellowship after graduation
- Clinical data analysis, modeling & simulation

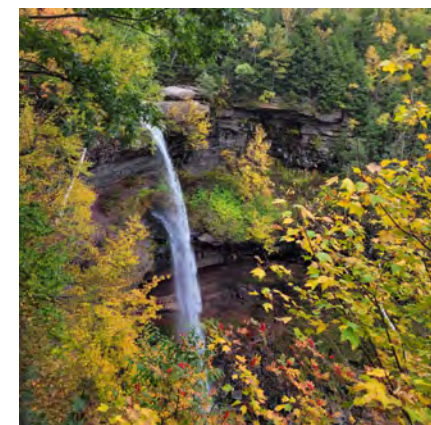
## Current role at Merck

- Joined in 2021
- Senior Scientist, CMD group
- Based in Rahway NJ
- QP2 leads on multiple pipeline work to support trial design, dose decisions, and other strategic discussions using modeling and simulation (M&S)
- Collaborate closely with other functional area reps and provide



## Interests/Other

- Travel
- Music
- Sports
- Family time



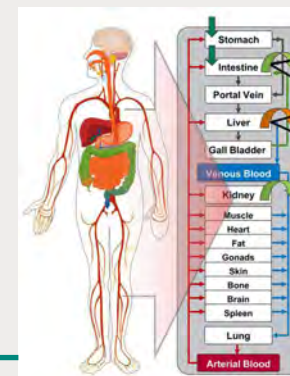
# Would you like to use quantitative tools to bring benefit to patients around the world?



Pharmacy/  
Pharmaceutical Sciences



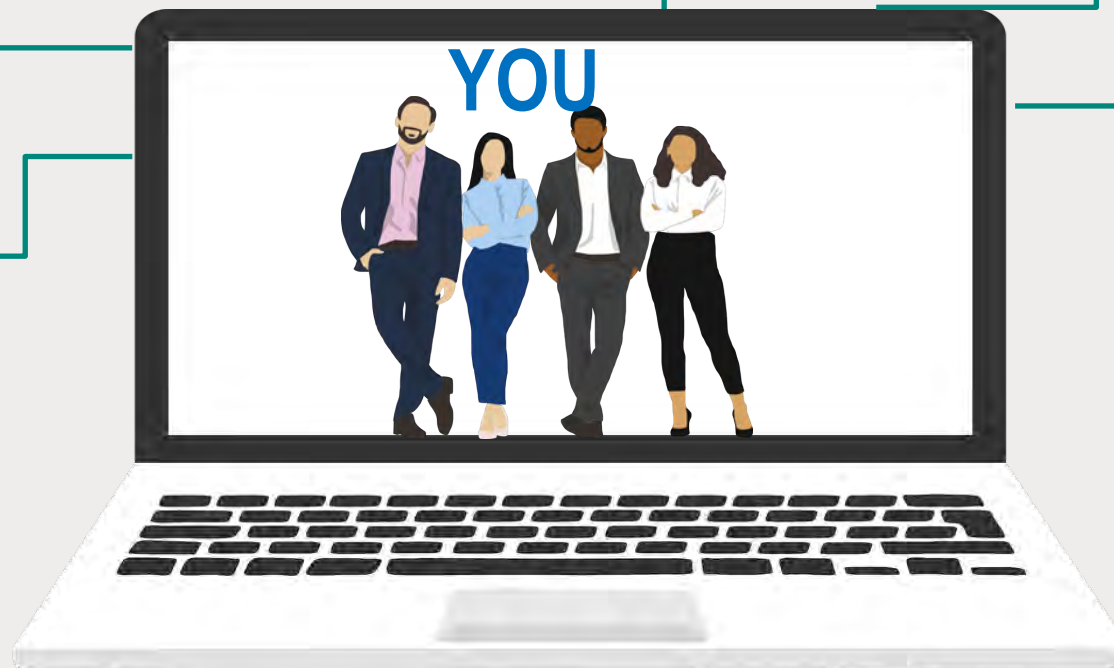
Data Science



Physiology

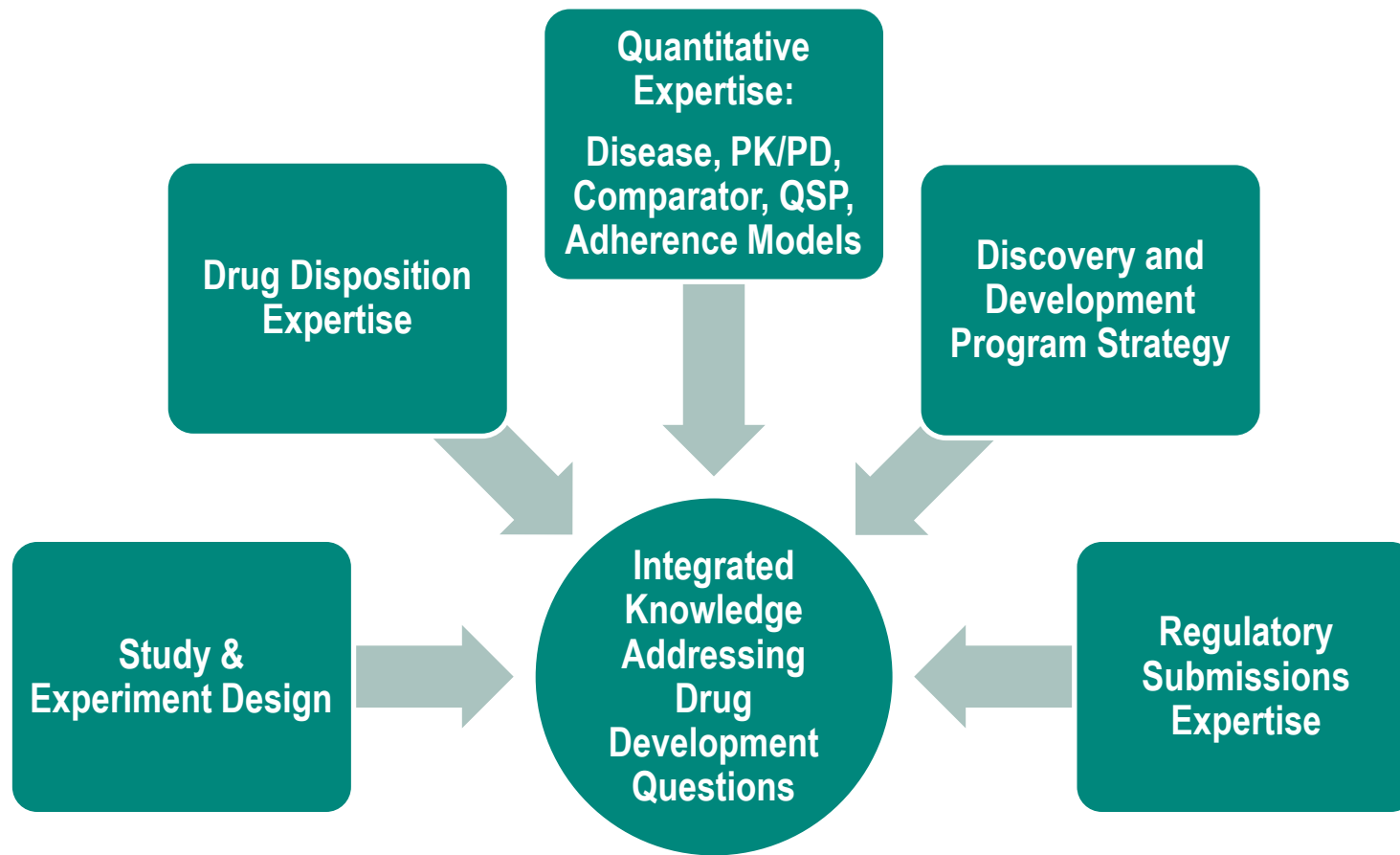


Mathematics/Statistics



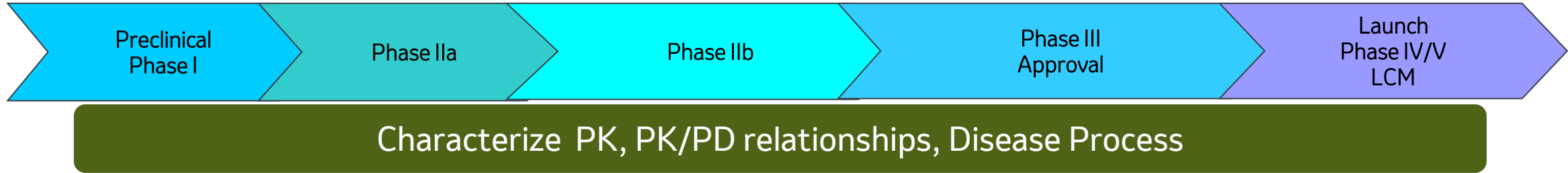
$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x_t, u_t, t, \theta)$$
$$\frac{dC}{dt} = \frac{V_{max} Q}{(K_m + Q)V} - \frac{CL}{V} C$$

Engineering

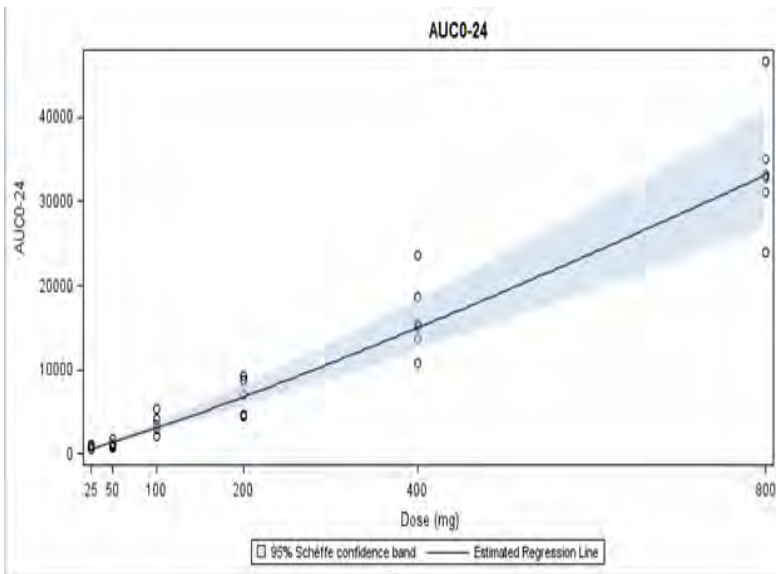


**Right Target  
Right Drug**      **Right Dose  
Right Patients**

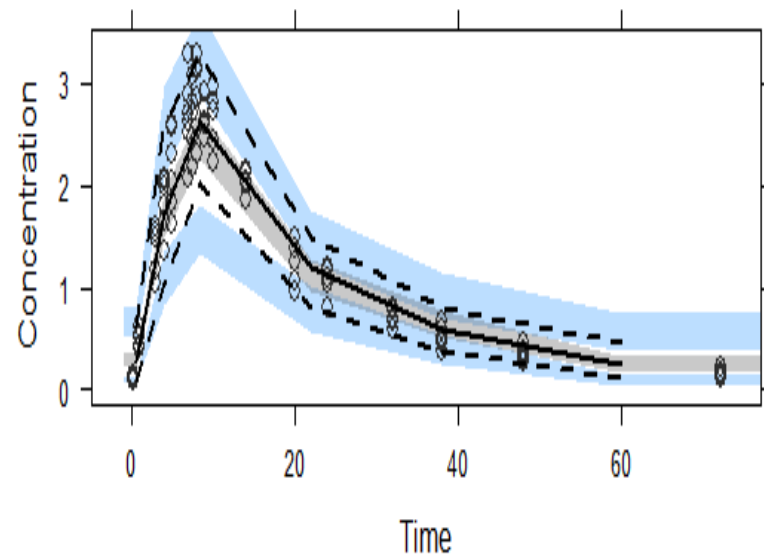
# Leveraging Quantitative Approaches to Advance Novel Therapies Across All Stages of Drug Development



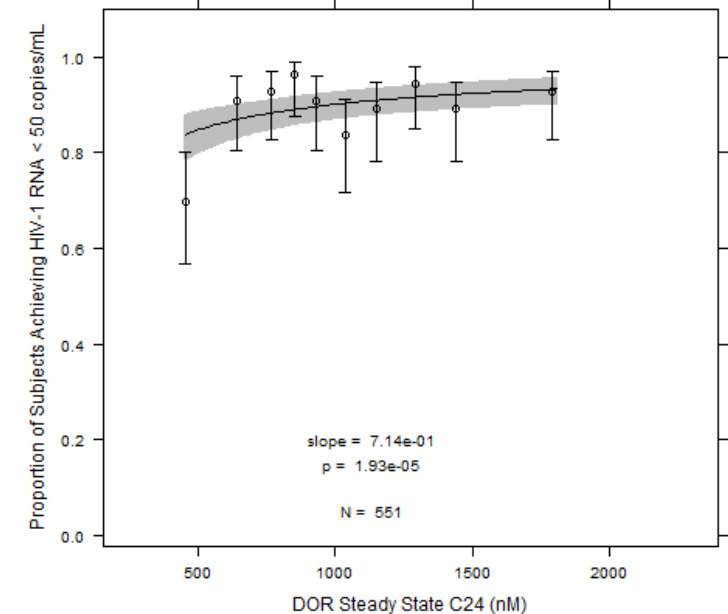
Dose and Exposure Relationship



Drug Concentration over Time Curve



Dose/Exposure- Response (PK/PD to define Therapeutic Window



To inform label recommendations for Marketed Product

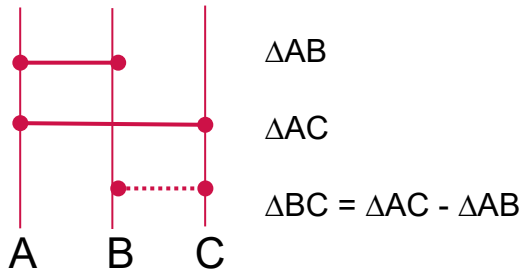
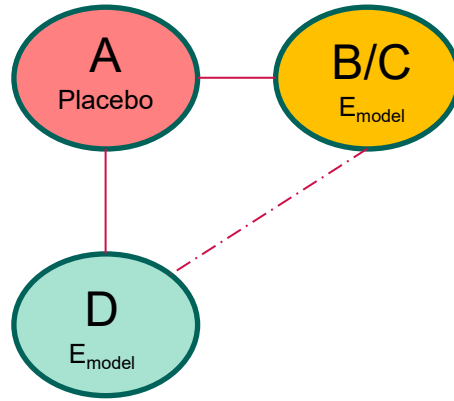
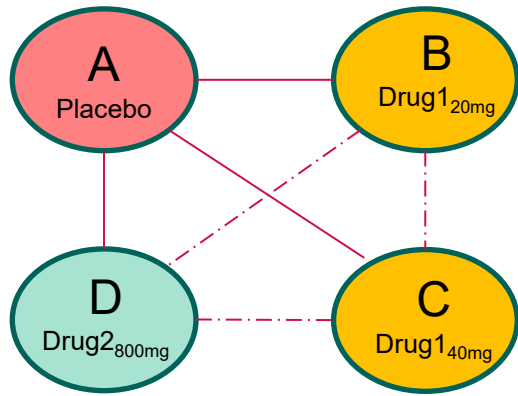


# Model-Based Meta-Analysis (MBMA)

## Network meta-analysis

$$\Delta Y_{ij} = A_i + f(E_j, x_i) + \epsilon_{ij}$$

$$\Delta Y_{ijt} = A_{it} + \frac{f(E_{max,class}, x_i) \cdot Dose_{ijt}}{Dose_{ijt} + f(ED_{50,drug}, x_i)} + \epsilon_{ijt}$$

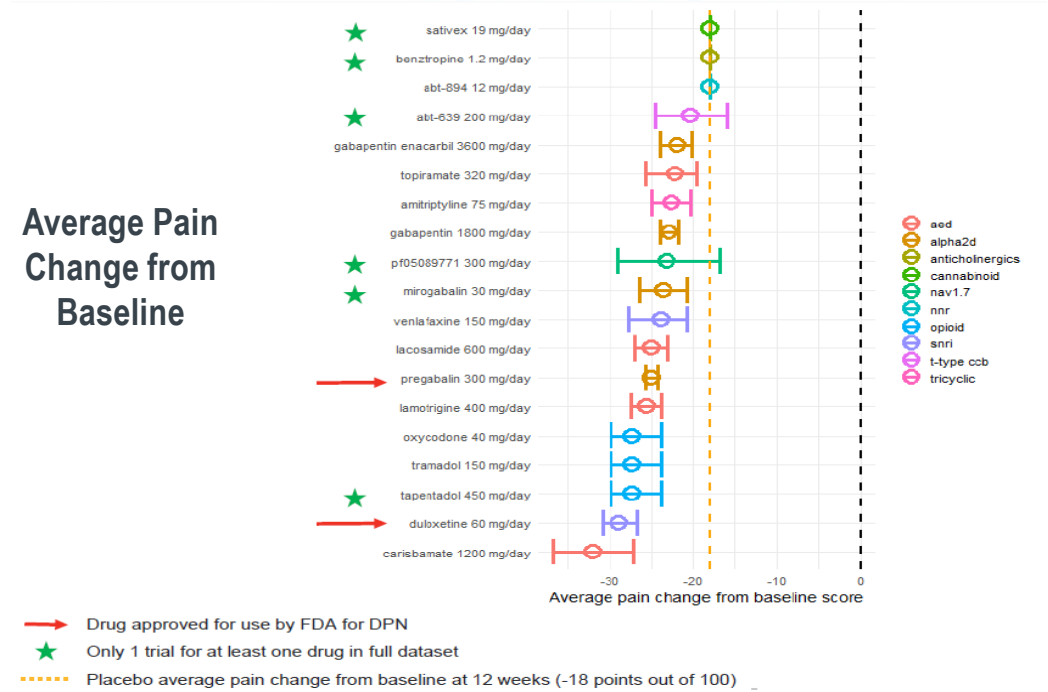


An extension of NMA, taking into consideration of dose responses, longitudinal effect and pharmacology.

## MBMA to Support Development of Medicines for Treatment of DPN, PHN and Fibromyalgia

Database: publicly available, summary-level clinical trial data from 74 trials, 26,000 patients, 21 drugs across 9 classes

$$Effect_{ijt} = Eo_{it} + Emax_{class} \cdot \frac{Dose_{ijt}}{ED_{50,drug} + Dose_{ijt}} \cdot \frac{time_{ijt}^Y}{ED_{50,drug}^Y + time_{ijt}^Y} + \epsilon_{ijt}$$



MBMA predicted relative treatment effect at 12 weeks relative to placebo in diabetic peripheral neuropathy in Standard of care for benchmarking of internal compound

# Interested? Want to learn more?

computational biology  
mathematical modeling  
strategic thinking  
communications experimental design data science  
informed drug development machine learning  
exposure clinical trial development collaboration  
pk pd  
response modeling  
pharmacology programming  
pharmacometrics



# GLOBAL BIOANALYTICS: ROLE AND IMPACT IN DRUG DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT



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# Nicole Revaitis

## Background

**B.S., Biology**  
Stockton University



**M.S., Biology**  
Rutgers University  
*PI: Nir Yakoby*



**Ph.D., Computational and Integrated Biology**  
Rutgers University  
*PI: Nir Yakoby*

### Areas of Study:

- EGFR signaling and its ligand, Gurken
- Tissue patterning and morphogenesis during *Drosophila* oogenesis

### WuXi Advanced Therapies: 2019-2021

- Based in Philadelphia
- Molecular Biology Group
- GMP testing (routine, assay qualification, and validation) for Residual Host Cell DNA, Mycoplasma, and Viral PCR platforms

## Current Role

### Joined Merck in 2021

Senior Scientist  
PDMB Regulated BA

- Molecular Biologist supporting qPCR, dPCR, and NGS studies to support phases in the vaccine life cycle
- Recently moved to a new facility in Springhouse Innovation Park (SHIP)

## Outside Work

### Live in Franklinville, NJ

with my husband, 2 children (Ella:13, Michael:4), and pets

### Interests:

- Outdoor activities (Gardening, Running, Beach)
- Crafting, Dining Out, Traveling
- Spectator for kids (Field hockey, Cheer, Soccer) and husband (Drag racing)



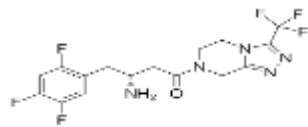


# Bioanalytics: Definition and Role in Drug Discovery and Development

**Bioanalytics (BA):** Quantitative measurement of drug and/or drug effect/response markers in samples from preclinical and clinical studies

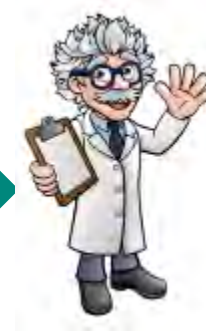
**Goal/Impact:** Create knowledge of drug and/or PD marker exposure at given time points in relevant sample types (e.g. serum, blood, saliva, urine, other) to enable establishment of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics relationship for a given drug in a specific study environment (preclinical animal efficacy model, PK/PD study, clinical studies)

**Global organization with site-based groups**

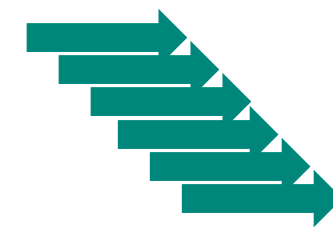


## Discovery BA

Analyte	Dose	Regimen	mPKq (µg/mL)	mL-1b (µg/mL)	mL-5 (µg/mL)	mL-4 (µg/mL)
mPK	30 mg/kg	Q12W3	< MRC	3.7	2.3	36.0
mPK	30 mg/kg	Q12W3	< MRC	2.8	3.3	107.6
mPK	30 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.4	4.0	1.7	98.6
mPK	30 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.8	5.5	2.8	13.5
mPK	30 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.6	5.3	3.3	95.2
mPK	30 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.7	2.4	2.1	100.4
mPK	30 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.7	5.4	3.5	127.7
mPK	30 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.5	2.4	2.5	65.6
mPK	30 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.4	5.3	3.1	43.0
mPK	30 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.6	11.0	2.6	31.1
ml04400	5 mg/kg	Q5W5	1.7	5.2	4.5	36.1
ml04400	5 mg/kg	Q5W5	2.9	6.2	10.0	22.1
ml04400	5 mg/kg	Q5W5	0.6	2.5	2.6	103.0
ml04400	5 mg/kg	Q5W5	0.8	8.4	2.7	23.8
ml04400	5 mg/kg	Q5W5	1.2	10.9	5.5	34.8
ml04400	5 mg/kg	Q5W5	1.6	4.0	9.5	18.6
ml04400	5 mg/kg	Q5W5	0.7	4.2	3.9	69.7
ml04400	5 mg/kg	Q5W5	1.2	6.2	8.9	17.3
ml04400	5 mg/kg	Q5W5	1.0	4.4	19.1	39.5
ml04400	5 mg/kg	Q5W5	1.5	4.2	96.0	14.9
ERG	0.3 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.4	6.7	2.6	25.7
ERG	0.3 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.4	4.2	2.4	32.1
ERG	0.3 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.7	3.9	2.3	33.1
ERG	0.3 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.4	2.2	2.5	82.3
ERG	0.3 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.5	3.9	1.0	41.3
ERG	0.3 mg/kg	Q12W3	1.5	2.6	2.2	64.0
ERG	0.3 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.4	6.9	2.2	45.0
ERG	0.3 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.4	11.2	2.1	39.8
ERG	0.3 mg/kg	Q12W3	0.8	10.5	4.2	50.9
ERG	0.3 mg/kg	Q12W3	1.1	4.4	3.2	46.6



## Development BA (preclinical, clinical)



# Quantitative Bioanalytical Assays In Support of Therapeutics

DISCOVERY

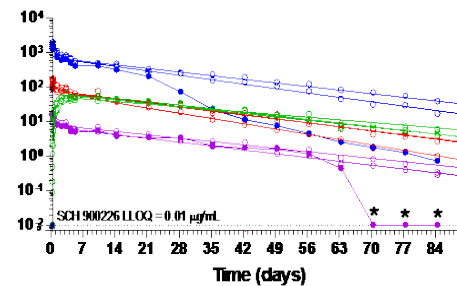
GLP

CLINICAL

## Pharmacokinetics

LC/MS

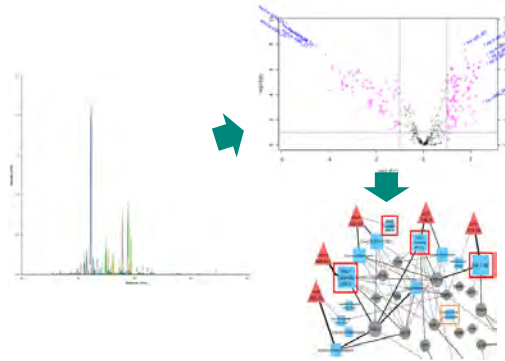
LBA



## Pharmacodynamics/Target Engagement

LC/MS

LBA



## Target/Protein Quant.

LC/MS

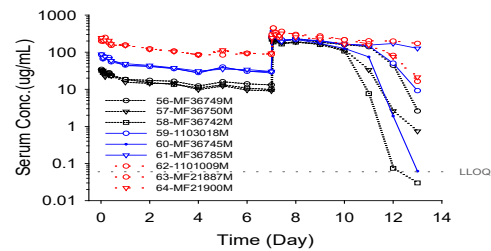
LBA



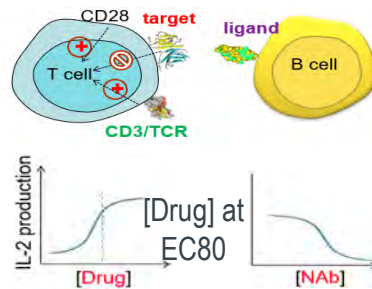
## Immunogenicity

Capillary Electrophoresis

LBA



Cell-Based



## New Technologies & Automation



High fidelity quantitative data are a foundation for model informed discovery and development (MIDD) work and decisions

# Quantitative Bioanalytical Assays In Support of Vaccines and Oncolytic Virus

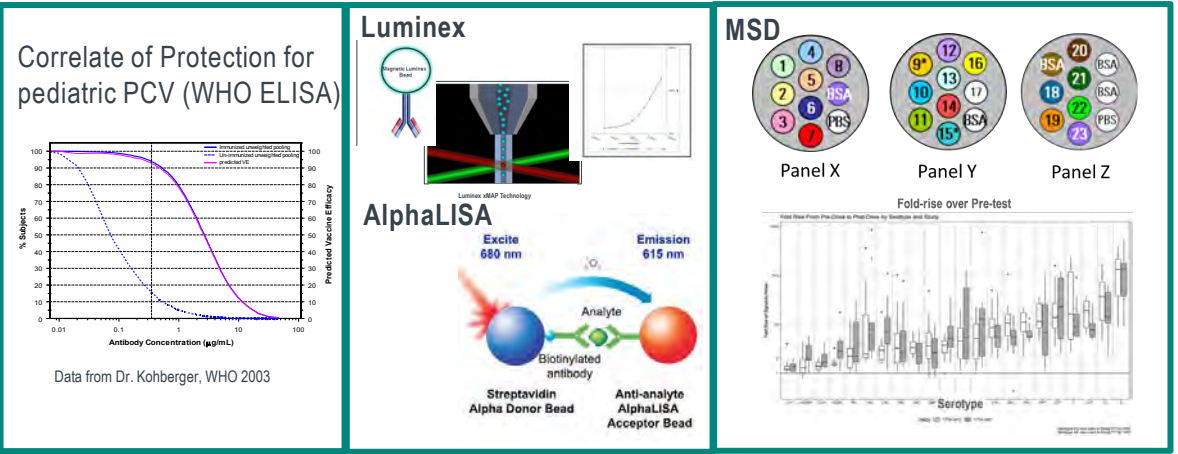
DISCOVERY

GLP

CLINICAL

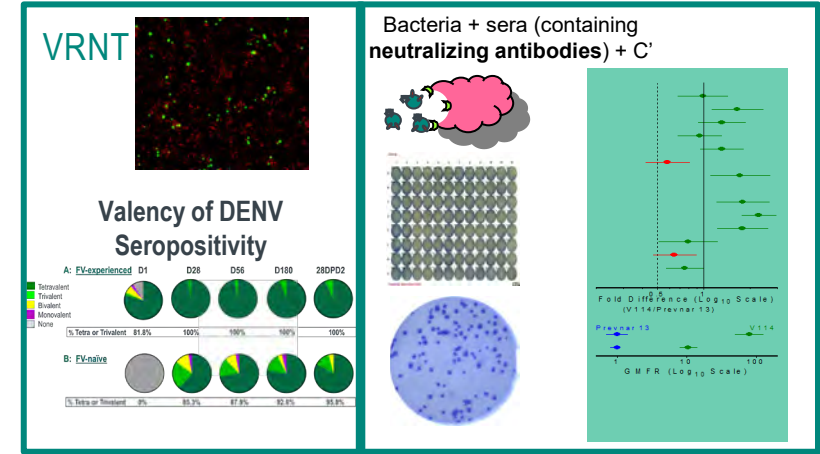
## Immunogenicity – Total Antibodies

LBA

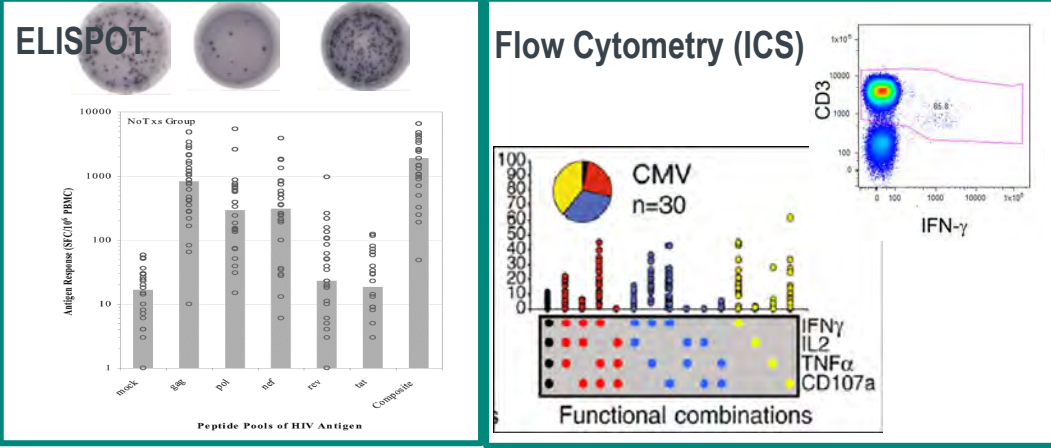


## Immunogenicity – Functional Antibodies

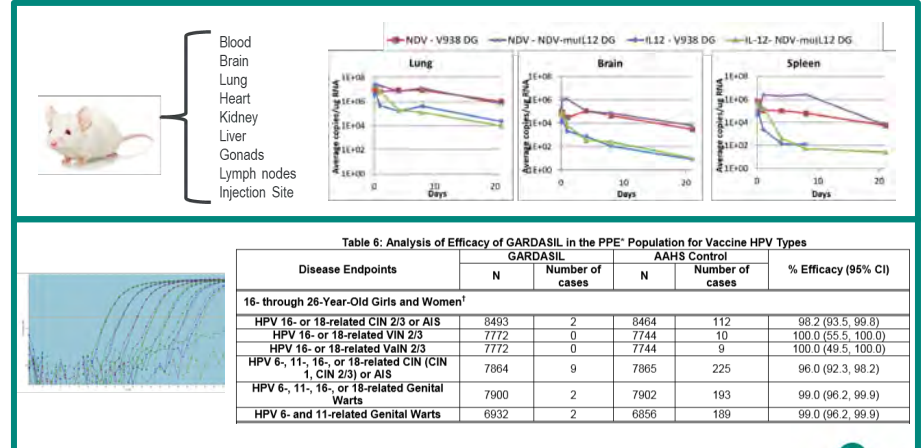
Cell-Based



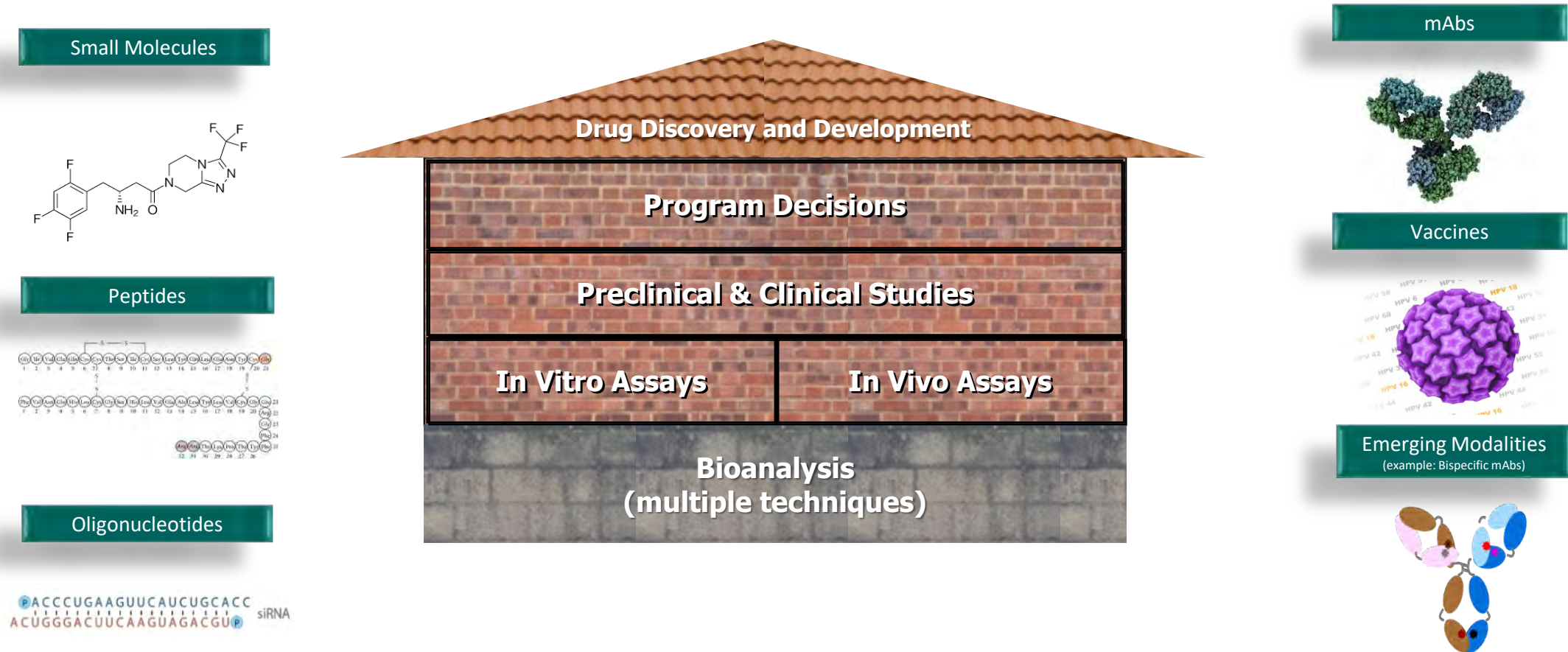
## Immunogenicity – Functional T-cell



## Molecular - qPCR



# Bioanalysis: The Foundation of Drug Discovery and Development



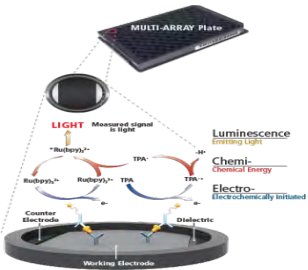
- Bioanalysis, or quantitative analysis, is used in all programs at Merck
- Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry, Ligand Binding Assays, PCR, Cell-based assays, etc.



# Bioanalytical Platforms (examples)

## Ligand Binding Assays

### Meso Scale Discovery



### Luminex®



### Gyrolab®



### CE

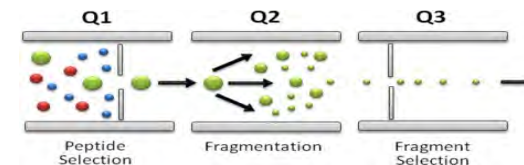


## Automation

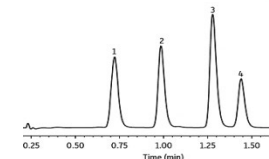


Deacon Automation System

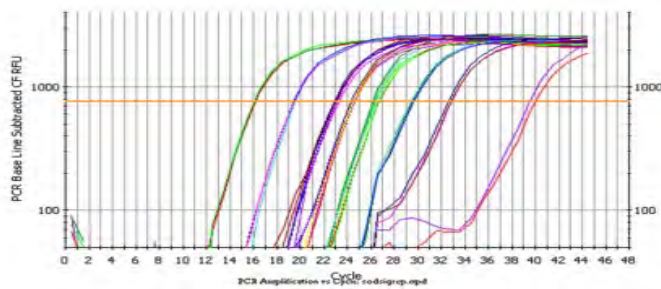
## LC-Mass Spectrometry



MRM  
Orbitrap  
TOF  
FTICR



## PCR/Molecular Based Assays



## Cell Based Assays



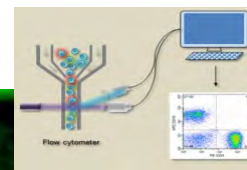
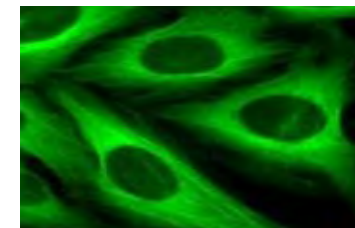
Hamilton®



I.DOT

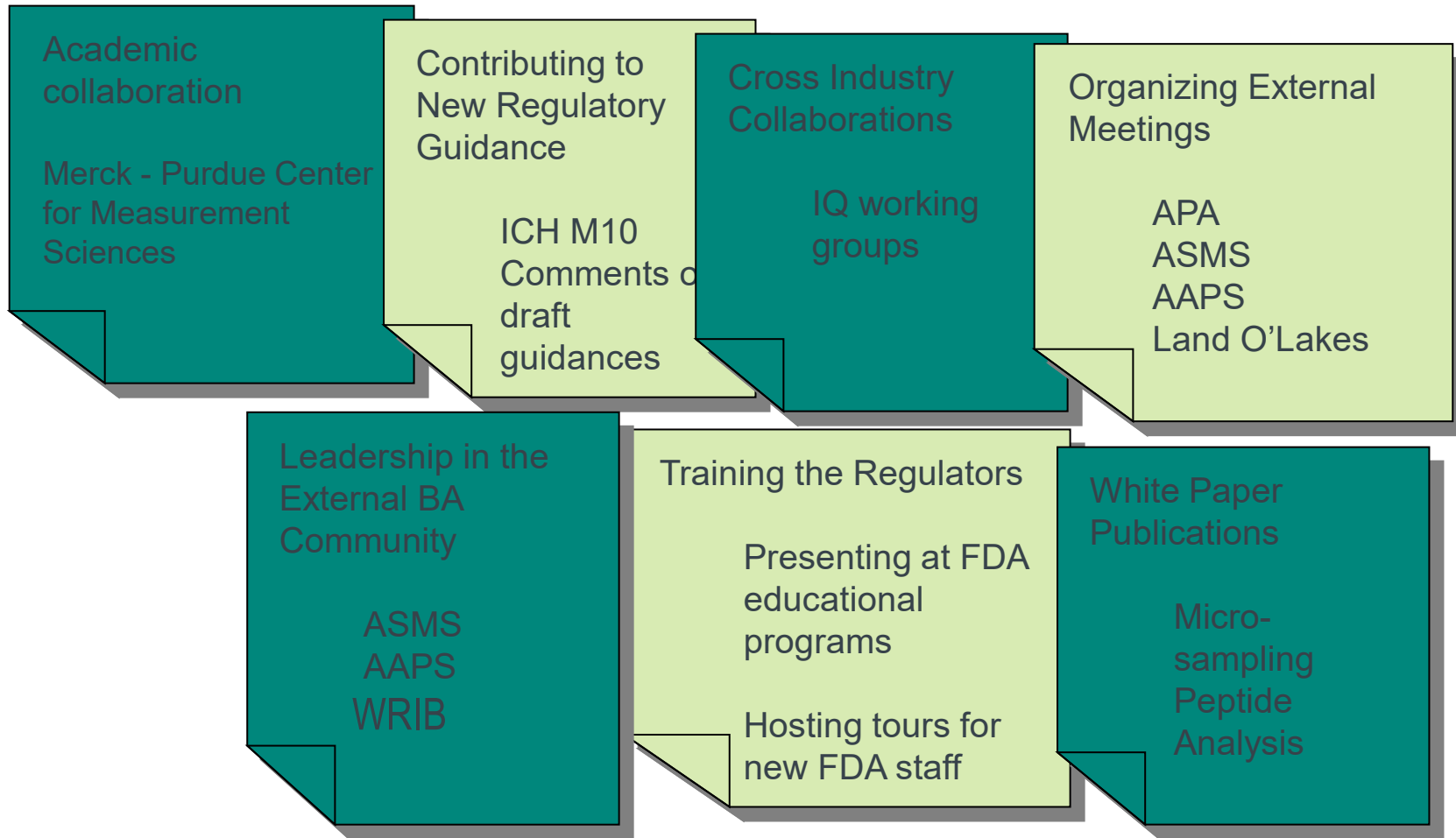
Assay Map

### Cytation/ EnSight Reader/Imager



LSRFortessa™  
X-20

# Academic, Regulatory, and Industry Engagement



AAPS Meeting on **Global harmonization of regulated BA guidelines**



PPDM Staff at EMA Discussing Use of DBS



PPDM Team at NIFDC  
Strengthening our relationship with regulatory authorities in China on vaccine clinical assays





# Training and Skillset for a BA Scientist

- A passion for new technology, data science, and problem solving
- Training in Analytical Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry, Cell Biology, Immunology, Molecular Biology, Engineering, etc.
- A team player with strong oral and written communication skills as evidenced by scientific publications and presentations at scientific meetings.
- Be able to work collaboratively in a fast-paced environment and communicate effectively in presentations to stakeholders in partner organizations or at external scientific meetings
- A quantitative mindset!



MERCK RESEARCH LABORATORIES  
GLOBAL PPDM BIOANALYSIS

**FOR SCIENTISTS DEDICATED  
TO PROTECTING HEALTH**

*"We try never to forget that medicine is for the people. It is not for the profits."  
—George W. Merck*

PPDM = Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics & Drug Metabolism

 **MERCK**  
INVENTING FOR LIFE

Our ability to excel depends on the integrity, knowledge, imagination, skill, diversity and teamwork of our Scientists

# NONCLINICAL DRUG SAFETY (NDS) & LABORATORY ANIMAL RESOURCES (LAR)



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# Mission: Discovery and Development of Safe Therapeutics

Values

High ethics and compliance

Mission

Innovation through ground-breaking research

Develop insightful safety assessments

Our actions

Advanced in vitro, in vivo, in-silico models

De-risk and advance mechanistic understanding of toxicity

Future focused usage of digital technologies

Enable clinical development

Deliver most appropriate clinical label

Seek regulatory endorsement

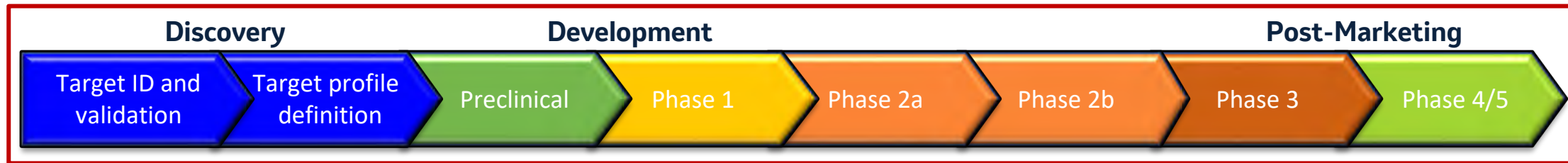
# High Attrition Rate of Molecules Before Start of Clinical Trials\*



Select molecules with the highest probability of success through early “predictive” screening

\*Source: *Current nonclinical testing paradigms in support of safe clinical trials: An IQ Consortium DruSafe perspective*, Lynne D. Butler et. al, *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology* 87 (2017) S1 S15

# Our Integrated and Coordinated Organization Provides High Quality Risk Assessment



PCC Approval

WMA Approval



*Communication is the key to success*



*Labs, Operations and Project Management are the foundation*



# Enabling Drug Development

## Help to Select Best Drugs, Cheaper, Faster

- Maximize safety attributes of successful Preclinical Candidates (PCCs)

## Help to Keep the Right Drugs Alive

- Implement effectual development strategies and effectively communicate risk assessments

## Learn From Failures

- Application of learning from tox-related drug failure

## Help Shape the External Environment

- Drive regulatory change through external scientific and regulatory engagement





# Encouraging Growth through Scientific Contributions



External Consortia & Partnerships

## Translational Safety Biomarkers of Kidney Injury

Sean P Troth<sup>1</sup>, Katerina Vlasakova<sup>2</sup>, Shashi Amur<sup>3</sup>, Rupesh P Amin<sup>2</sup>, Warren E Glaab<sup>2</sup>

Application of a Rat Liver Drug Bioactivation Transcriptional Response Assay Early in Drug Development That Informs Chemically Reactive Metabolite Formation and Potential for Drug-induced Liver Injury

James J Monroe<sup>1</sup>, Keith Q Tanis<sup>2</sup>, Alexei A Podtelezhnikov<sup>2</sup>, Truyen Nguyen<sup>1</sup>, Sam V Machotka<sup>1</sup>, Donna Lynch<sup>1</sup>, Raymond Evers<sup>3</sup>, Jairam Palamanda<sup>3</sup>, Randy R Miller<sup>3</sup>, Todd Pipperi<sup>1</sup>, Tamiara D Cabalu<sup>3</sup>, Timothy E Johnson<sup>1</sup>, Amy G Aslanikhan<sup>1</sup>, Wen Kang<sup>1</sup>, Alex M Tamburino<sup>2</sup>, Kaushik Mitra<sup>1,4</sup>, Nancy G B Agrawal<sup>3</sup>, Frank D Sistare<sup>1</sup>

Development and Application of a Transcriptomic Signature of Bioactivation in an Advanced In Vitro Liver Model to Reduce Drug-induced Liver Injury Risk Early in the Pharmaceutical Pipeline

Wen Kang<sup>1</sup>, Alexei A Podtelezhnikov<sup>2</sup>, Keith Q Tanis<sup>2</sup>, Stephen Pacchione<sup>1</sup>, Ming Su<sup>1</sup>, Kimberly B Bleicher<sup>1</sup>, Zhibin Wang<sup>1</sup>, George M Laws<sup>1</sup>, Thomas G Griffiths<sup>1</sup>, Matthew C Kuhls<sup>1</sup>, Qing Chen<sup>3</sup>, Ian Knemeyer<sup>3</sup>, Donald J Marsh<sup>1</sup>, Kaushik Mitra<sup>1</sup>, Jose Lebron<sup>1</sup>, Frank D Sistare<sup>1</sup>



Journal of Medicinal Chemistry

Journal of Pharmacological and Toxicological Methods



Publications & Awards



Academic Collaborations & Internships





**We Want You To Join Our Team!**

## In vivo Experts



## **Education, training and specialized certifications**

Experience, BS, BA, MS, MBA, PhD, DVM, VMD

**Biology**

**Pharmacology**

**Biochemistry**

**Zoology**

**Toxicology**

**Data Science**

**Molecular Biology  
Pathology**

**Chemistry**

**Immunology**

**Animal Science**

**Management**

# Career Opportunities at Merck

# MRL Intern/Co-op Program

Intern/Co-Op positions in 4 states (CA, MA, NJ, PA)

Programs are open to undergraduate and graduate students

Merck covers travel expenses between school & Merck, while Intern/Co-Op responsible for housing

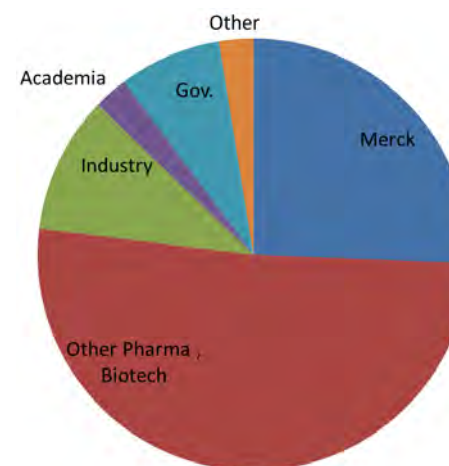
- **Co-Op:** 4- to 6-month assignments throughout year
- **Internship:** 9- to 11-week assignments between June and August
  - Intern job posting available late fall with offers extended before April
  - Final interview conducted by phone

For more info visit: <https://www.merck.com/careers/student-opportunities.html>



# MRL Postdoctoral Program

- Program launched in 2012
  - Around 60 postdocs at any time, across all Merck sites
  - 30-36 new postdocs added each year - up to three years duration for each postdoc
- Original research projects in Merck Labs
  - Related to Merck's discovery and development work, but pre-competitive/non-proprietary projects
  - Objective is high profile publications and presentations by the postdoc
- Provides immersion for the postdoc in collaborative industrial research teams
  - an academic focus in a commercial environment
- Positions posted January-March
- More information: <https://www.merck.com/research/fellow/home.html>



Postdoc destinations - over 140 alumni have graduated from the MRL postdoc program

# How to Apply – Finding open positions

- On the web -
  - Merck website: <https://jobs.merck.com/us/en>
    - Search Keywords such as:
      - Preclinical development, Bioanalytics, ADME, QP2, Toxicology
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/merck/careers>
  - Twitter: [@MerckIMInspired](https://twitter.com/MerckIMInspired)
- Resumes and applications are only processed and screened through our online Workday portal
- E-mail confirmation sent when your application is submitted

- Some example positions:

1. [Senior Scientist, Data Science job in West Point, Pennsylvania, United States of America | Research & Development jobs at Merck](#)
2. [Boston ADME & Discovery Toxicology – Associate Principal Scientist job in Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America | Research & Development jobs at Merck](#)
3. [Senior Scientist, Quantitative Pharmacology and Pharmacometrics job in West Point, Pennsylvania, United States of America | Research & Development jobs at Merck](#)
4. [Associate Principal Scientist, Infectious Disease and Vaccines, Quantitative Pharmacology and Pharmacometrics job in West Point, Pennsylvania, United States of America | Research & Development jobs at Merck](#)
5. [Senior Scientist job in Rahway, New Jersey, United States of America | Research & Development jobs at Merck](#)

# Contact Information for Merck Participants

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Nicole Revaitis, Ph.D.	Bio-analytics (BA)	<a href="mailto:nicole.revaitis@merck.com"><u>nicole.revaitis@merck.com</u></a>
Brian Vega, Ph.D.	Nonclinical Drug Safety (NDS)	<a href="mailto:brian.vega@merck.com"><u>brian.vega@merck.com</u></a>



**MERCK**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!





Backup

# Preclinical Development (PCD) – bridging drug discovery and development

- **ADME & Discovery Toxicology:** Characterizing absorption, distribution, metabolism, elimination, and toxicology profiles for drugs.
- **Quantitative Pharmacology and Pharmacometrics:** clinical PK/PD data analysis and trial design
- **Bioanalysis:** Quantification of critical drug and biomarker analytes to support PK/PD assessments
- **Non-clinical drug safety:** Assessing drug safety in preclinical species
- **Lab Animal Resources:** Preclinical species facilities and resource management
- **Strategic Operations:** Project Management & Facility Operations, Archiving, Submission Management, Training Strategy & Compliance
- **Outsourcing:** Managing Contract Research Organization partnerships and external studies

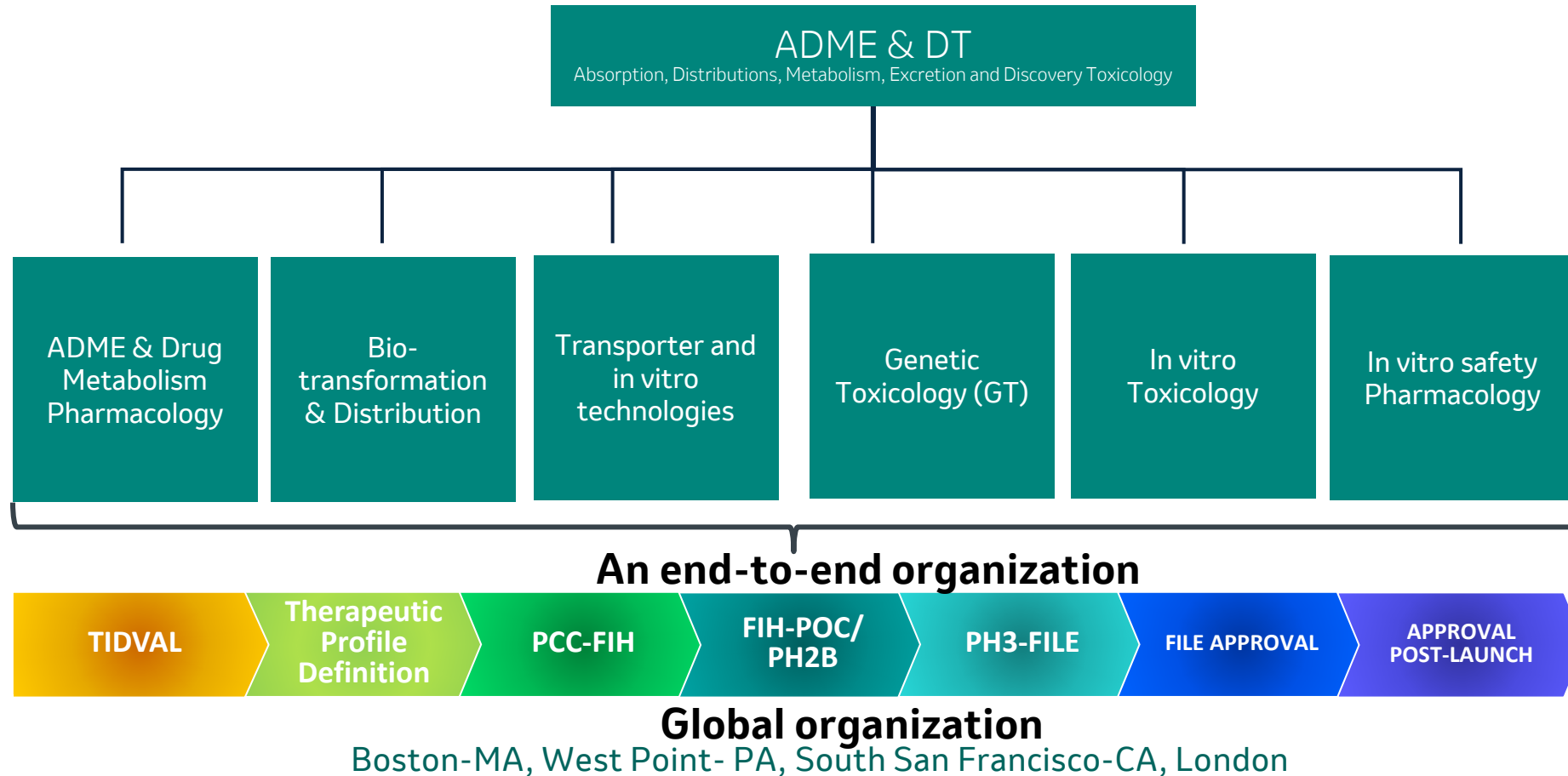
# ADME & DISCOVERY TOXICOLOGY (DT)



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# Global ADME-DT Organization



## Our Vision:

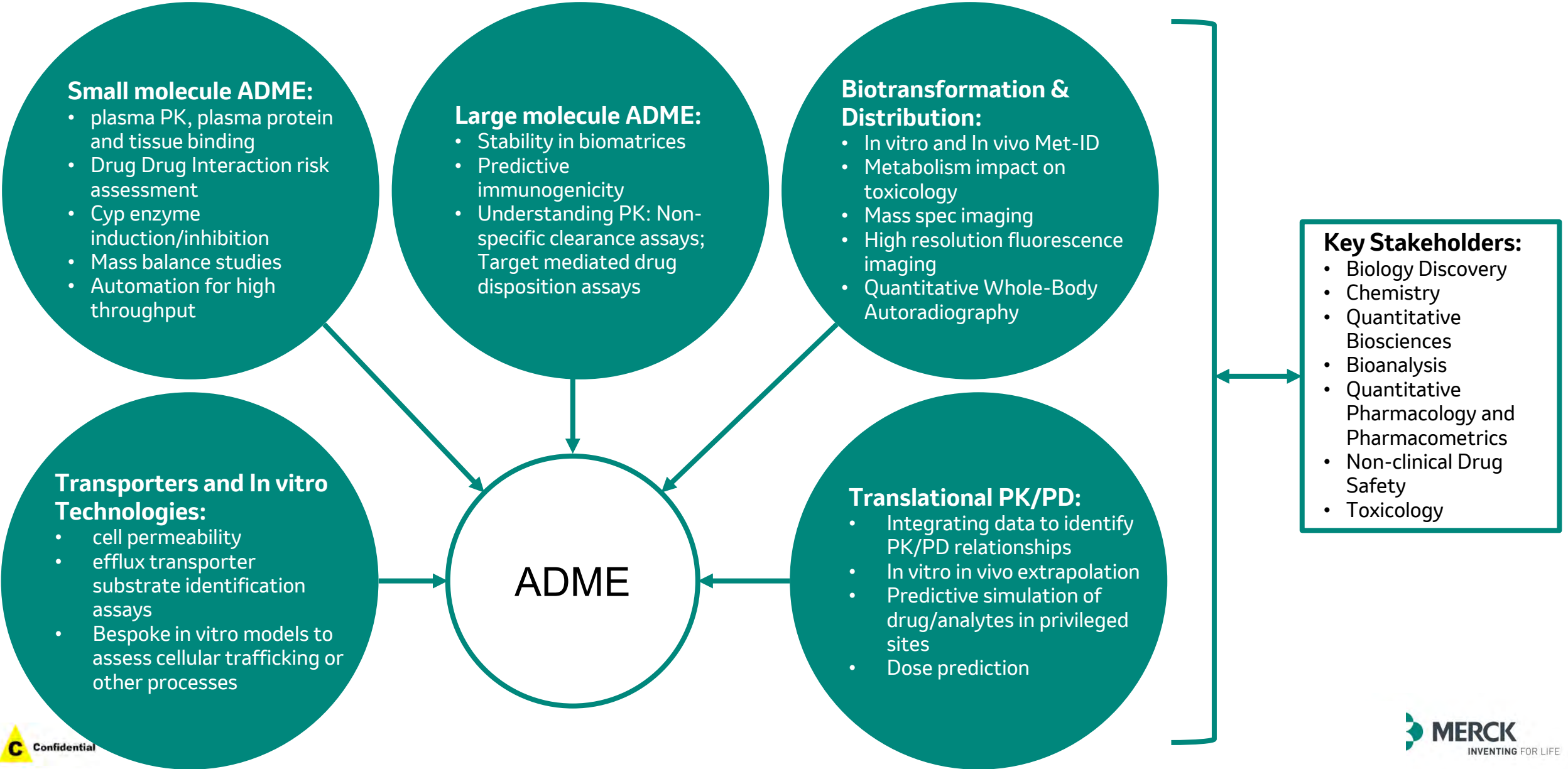
To be the industry leader in advancing novel medicines to patients with unbridled efficacy and safety.

## Our Core Mission:

Optimize the translation of preclinical ADME and Discovery Toxicology data to design molecules with maximal therapeutic safety and pharmacodynamics to achieve clinical success at unparalleled speeds.



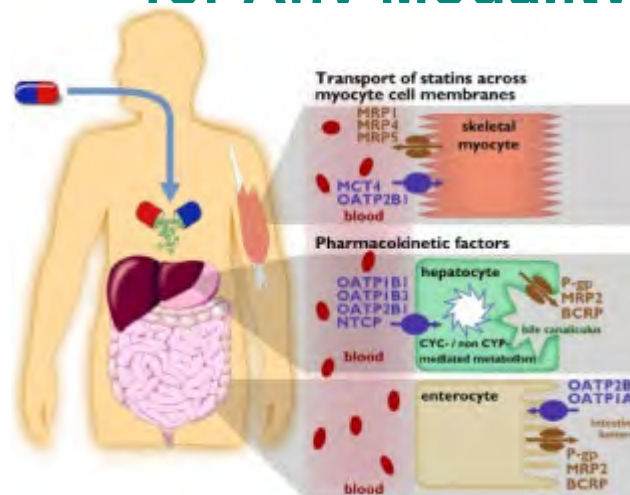
# ADME functions support our diverse discovery and development pipeline



# ADME's Goal: Elucidating the Intersection of Target Biology and Drug Disposition and Defining the ADME Characteristics Needed for Clinical Success for Any Modality

## In silico, In Vitro, and In Vivo Relationships

- Inform on therapeutic strategy and molecular design.
- Build understanding of key factors affecting human dose.
- Incorporate tPKPD thinking on teams.



## Regulatory Filings and Interactions

- Integrated mechanistic interpretation of clinical DDI data.
- Considerations of special populations (Pharmacogenomics- PGx)
- Drug product labeling

PRE-LEAD OPT

LEAD OPT

PCC-FIH

FIH-POC/  
PH2B

PH3-FILE

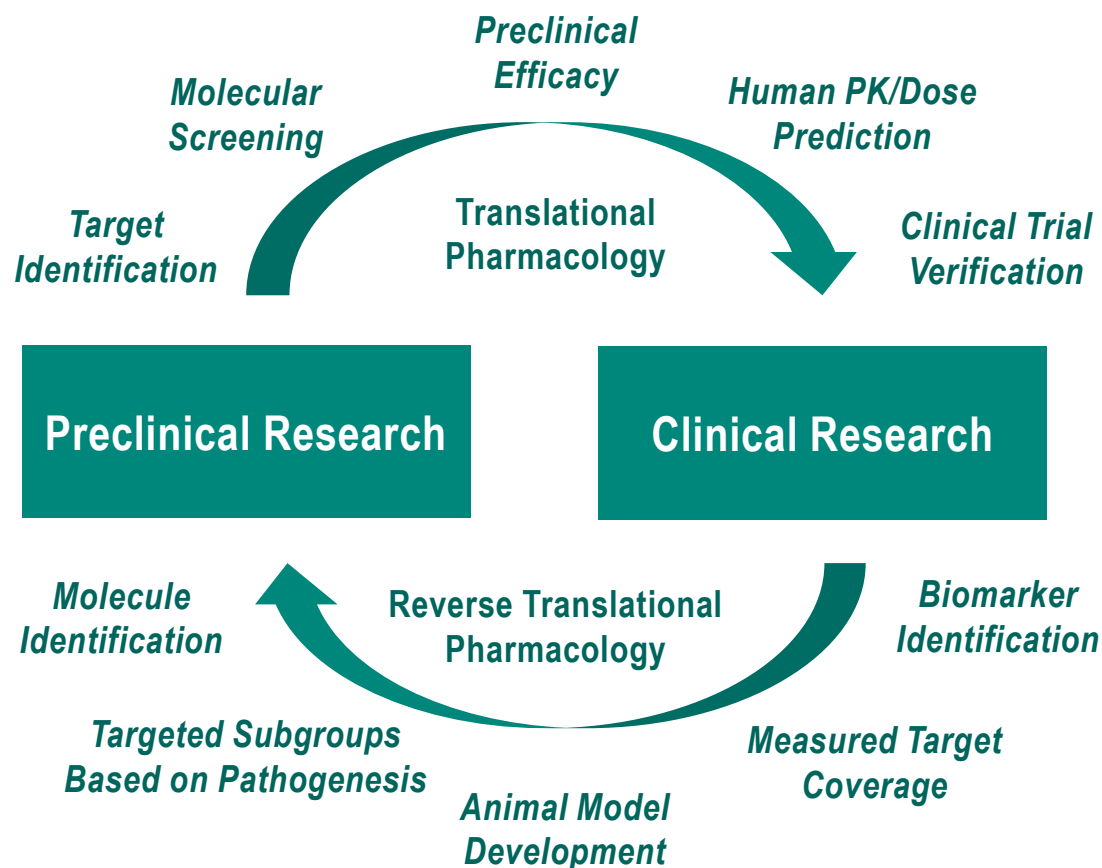
FILE APPROVAL

APPROVAL POST-LAUNCH

## Examples of ADME Characterization

- End-to-end and modality agnostic.
- Small molecules: Influencing ROP design, transporter assessments, CYP metabolism, DDI predictions, rolling dose predictions in conjunction with tPKPD.
- Biologics: PK/PD of bispecific mAbs, immunogenicity characterization.
- Peptides: Membrane permeability, stability, intracellular exposure, distribution to site of action.
- Vaccines: Biodistribution and tissue PK.
- Regulatory document authoring (IND/ IMPD/ IB/ NDA).

# Translational and Reverse Translational ADME Capabilities



## Translational ADME

- Analysis of parent drug, metabolites, target engagement and PD biomarkers
- Tumor imaging platforms
- 3D cell culture systems
- Flow cytometry capabilities

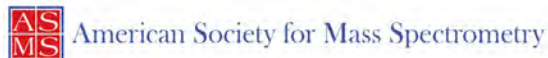
## Reverse Translational ADME

- Modeling of target coverage and subsequent PK/PD relationships based on reported clinical biomarkers and patient outcomes
- Exploring relationships between TMDD, PK/PD and MOA in existing pembrolizumab samples and data sets

# ADME-DT Encouraging Growth through Scientific Contributions



International Society for the  
Study of Xenobiotics



External Consortia  
& Partnerships



Publications & Awards



Academic Collaborations  
& Internships



The ADME-DT  
team is looking for  
talent like YOU!



**Analytical Chemistry**  
**Biochemistry**  
**Bioinformatics**  
**Biology**  
**Biophysics**  
**Cell Biology**  
**Chemistry**  
**Data Science**  
**Engineering**  
**Immunology**  
**Mathematics**  
**Molecular Biology**  
**Pharmaceutical Sciences**  
**Pharmacology**  
**Project Management**  
**Toxicology**  
**& MANY MORE ....**

# PRECLINICAL DEVELOPMENT (PCD) OUTSOURCING



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INVENTING FOR LIFE

# PCD Outsourcing Mission

To advance MRL's  
therapeutic and  
vaccine portfolio by:



Proactively developing and leading a network of external partners to generate high quality, timely and cost-effective data that drive PCD portfolio decisions

# PCD Outsourcing... Who are we?

## Preclinical, Nonclinical Drug Safety (NDS), Quantitative Pharmacology & Pharmacometrics (QP2) Sourcing

Preclinical – supports most small molecule discovery screening assays (in vivo & in vitro) and biologics in vivo assays  
 NDS – supports GLP and non-GLP studies (in vivo & in vitro)  
 QP2 – supports modeling & simulation, NCA, MBMA, QSP, PKPD, PopPK

## Regulated Vaccines Bioanalytical Sourcing

Supports clinical and non-clinical vaccine sample analysis externally.  
 Assays are externalized after internal method development, qualification and Ph1 support, to ensure robustness.  
 Vaccines antigen/antibody binding, cell-based and molecular assays, many of which are multiplexed

## Regulated Pharmacokinetics (PK)/Anti-Drug Antibody (ADA) Bioanalytical Sourcing

Supports clinical and GLP small molecule and biologics PK/ADA/NAb sample analysis externally.  
 Assays are externalized after internal method development, validation, and Ph1 support, to ensure robustness.  
 LC/MS and ligand binding assays

## Sourcing Operations

Sourcing Operations align with Outsourcing subfunction  
 Liaison with procurement and finance (**forecasting**/budget, PO generation, invoicing)  
 Support Partner Relationship Management, Sourcing Management Process, Vendor Performance Process

### Each PCD outsourcing subfunction:

- Aligns sourcing activities with the appropriate functional area scientific strategy
- Has robust quality processes and partnership with PCD Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to ensure control over external work. Quality is #1.
- Provides access to flexible external resources.



# PCD Outsourcing Provided Access to External Resources



- **Build** a reliable external partner base
- **Source** well established & niche activities which are aligned with PCD scientific strategy. We have a global partner footprint.
- **Focus** spend on commoditized activities
- **Result** - internal resources focus on novel/complex work & partners focus on commoditized activities
- **Share/learn** –best practices



All working to ensure that data collected from external vendors matches Merck PCD expectations

# Qualifications

Excellent Communication Skills  
(Written and Oral)

Project Management Skills

Strong Scientific Background  
(BS-PhD Degree in Biology, Chemistry, or related field)

Ability to work independently  
and with cross functional teams

Ability to influence internal and  
external customers

# Responsibilities



## Quality

Ensure external data meet internal quality expectations



## Flexibility

Provide flexible pool of quality providers to drive portfolio needs



## Speed

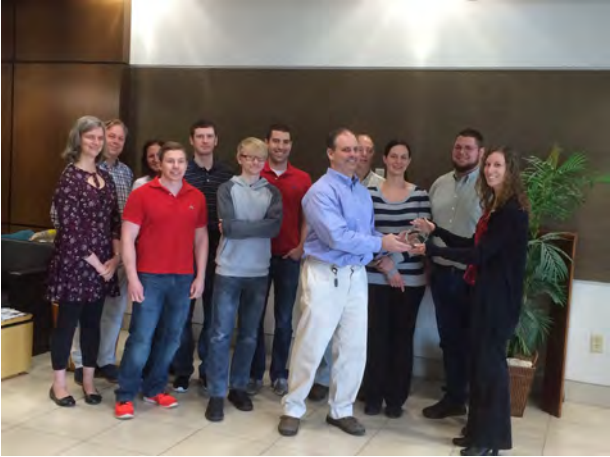
Ensure timely delivery of external data to our internal customers



## Value

Provide high quality data at the best value for Merck

# Activities



Our team works together to support charitable organizations and travels to vendor sites to complete performance reviews.