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THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
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# Mechanisms Underlying Species Differences in Hepatotoxicity

November 7, 2018

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# Disclosure

**I chair the scientific advisory committee for the DILI-sim Initiative and have a financial interest in the success of DILIsym Services Inc.**

# Outline of Talk

- 1). The DILI-sim Initiative
- 2). Applications to understanding species differences
  - a). AMG 009
  - b). CKA
  - c). troglitazone
- 3). Conclusions

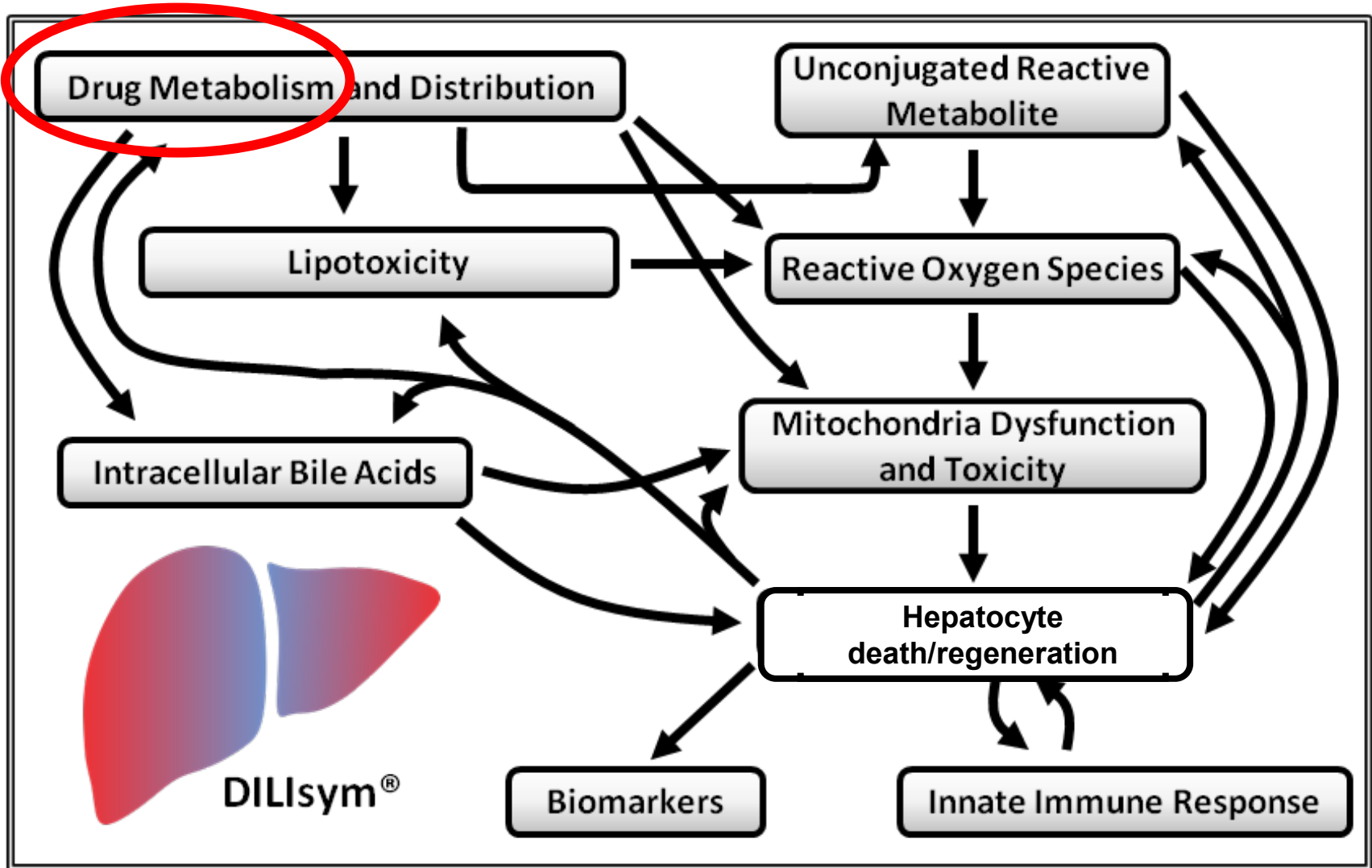
# UNC Institute for Drug Safety Sciences



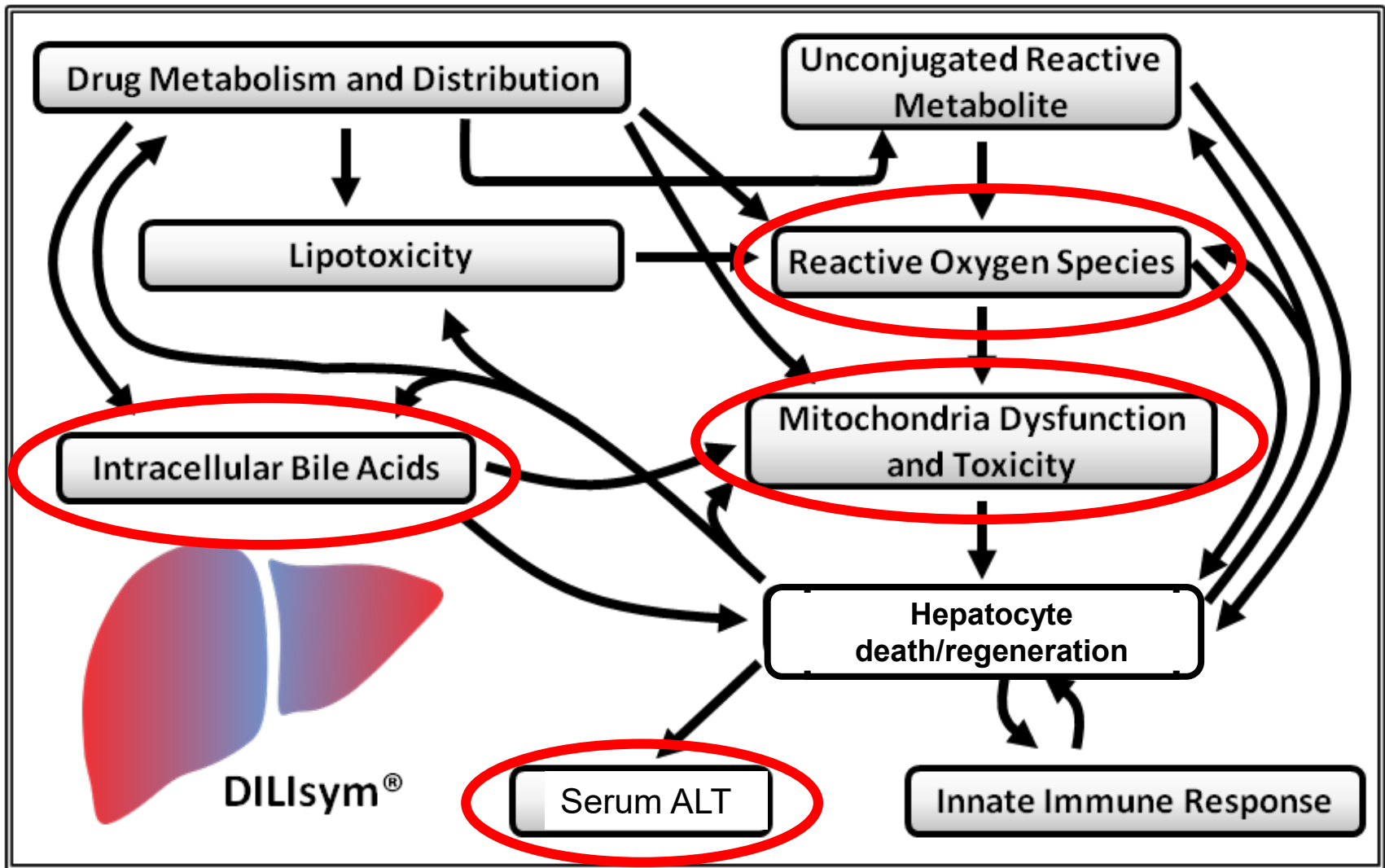
# DILI-sim Initiative Approach

- 1). Build mechanistic “modules” using differential equations  
– perform experiments to fill in knowledge gaps.
- 2). Integrate the modules with the outcome of hepatocyte death and release and clearance of traditional and novel serum biomarkers.
- 3). Vary model parameters to create simulated patient populations (SimPops™)
- 4). Refine the aggregate model through incorporating data obtained from successive “exemplar” drugs

# The model components- Rat and Human



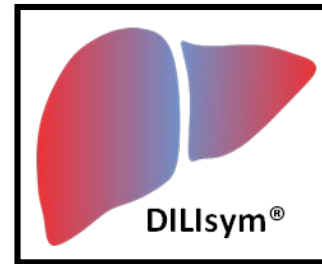
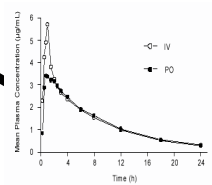
# The model components- Rat and Human



# DILIsym Input Data

**Exposure**

**Pharmacokinetics**



**Simulated Frequency  
& Severity of Liver  
Injury (ALT)**



# Outline of Talk

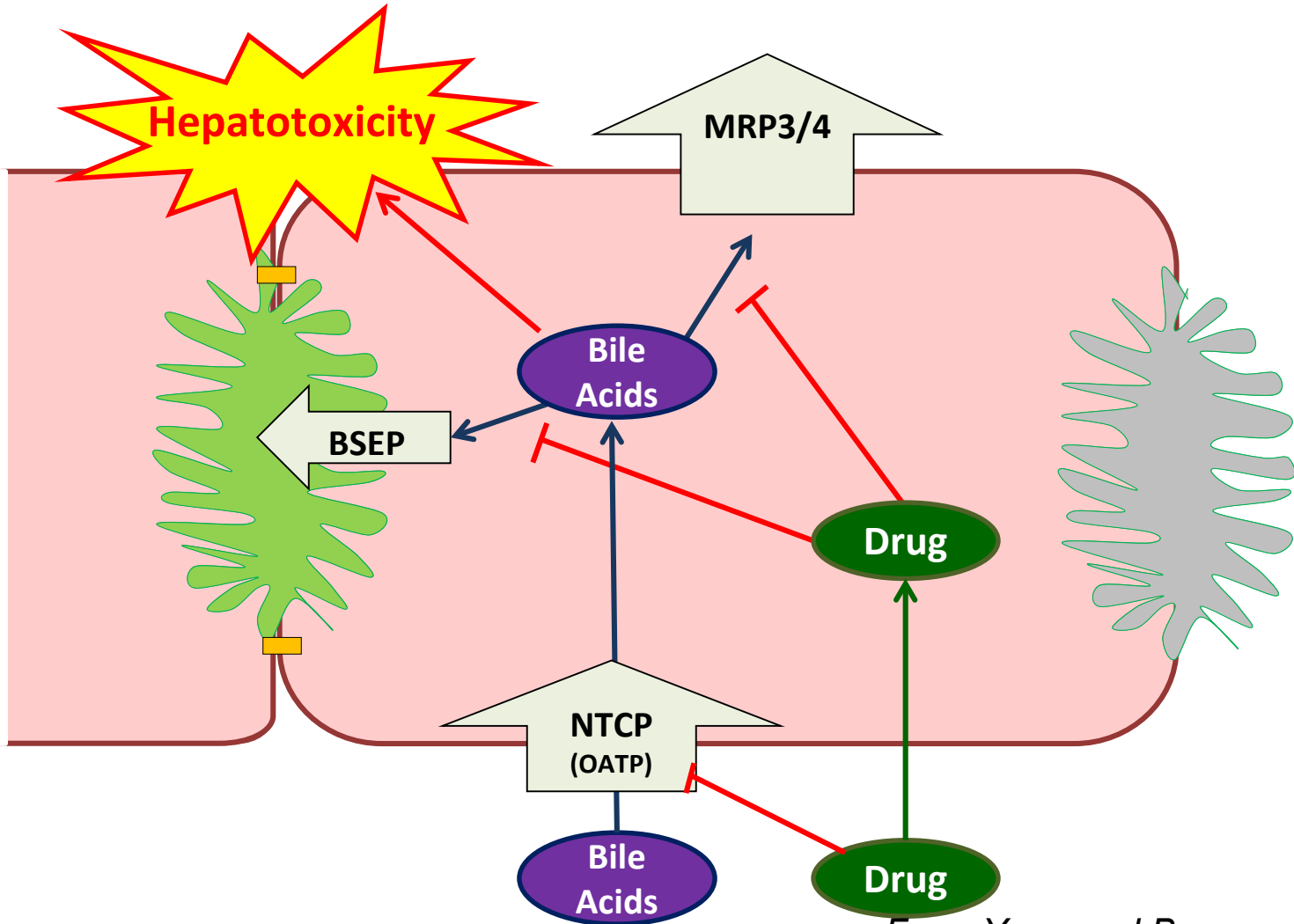
- 1). The DILI-sim Initiative
- 2). Applications to understanding species differences**
  - a). **AMG 009**
  - b). CKA
  - c). troglitazone
- 3). Conclusions

# AMG 009

No evidence of liver injury in multiple species

- Rats, mice, rabbits *and non-human primates*
- During Phase I clinical trials in healthy volunteers, 5/8 patients showed significant ALT elevations at the highest dose.
- Development of AMG 009 was halted
- Bile acid transporter inhibition was the only mechanism identified as likely contributors to AMG 009 hepatotoxicity
  - *No reactive metabolites, covalent binding, or mitochondrial toxicities were detected*

# Drugs Can Inhibit Bile Acid Transporters

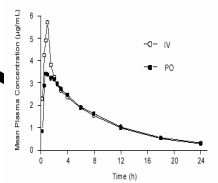


*From Yang and Brouwer*

# DILIsym Input Data

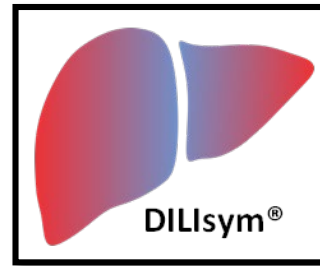
## Exposure

**Pharmacokinetics**



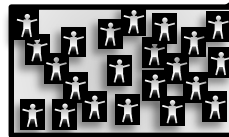
## Mechanisms

**Bile Acid Transporter Inhibition**



## Interpatient Variability

**Unique Parameter Combinations**



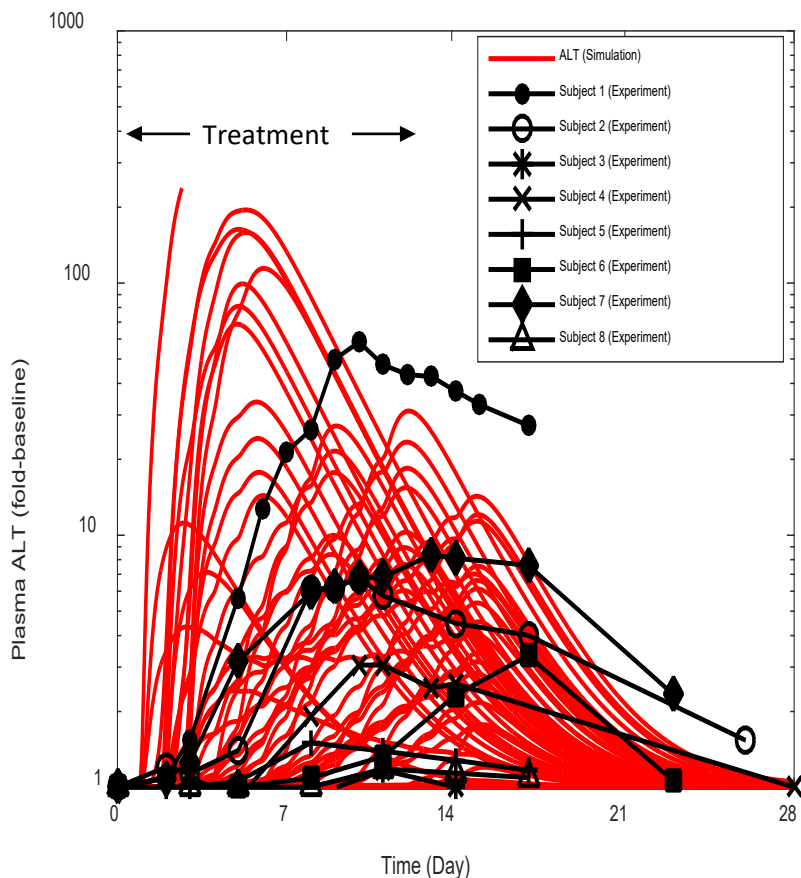
SimPops™

**Simulated Frequency & Severity of Liver Injury (ALT)**

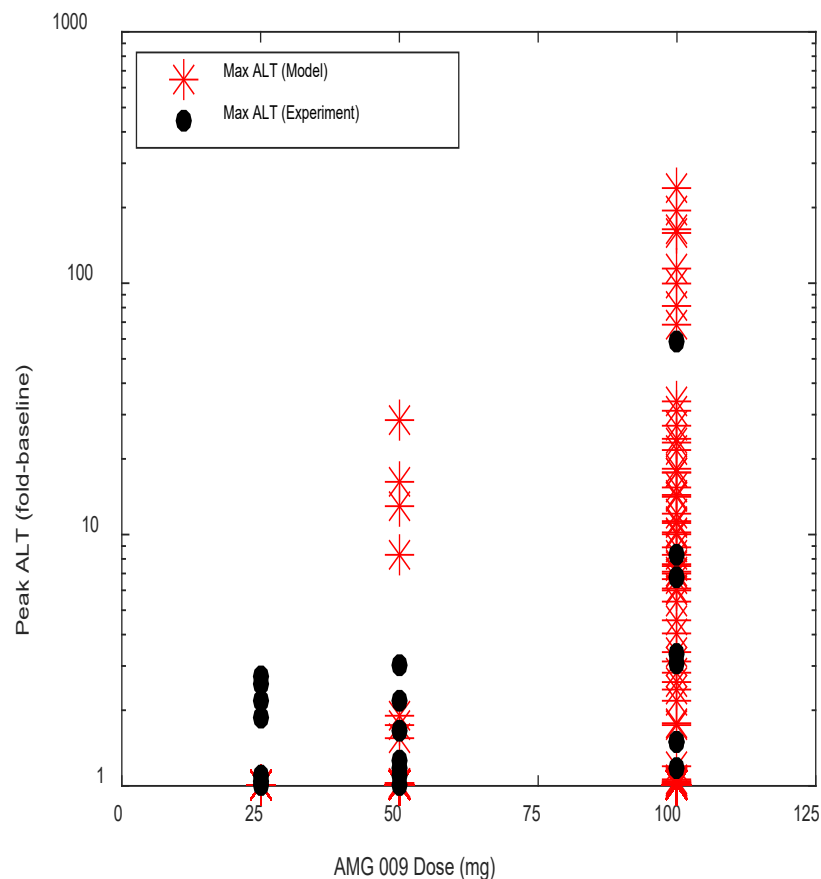
# DILIsym<sup>®</sup> Predicts Dose- and Time-Dependent AMG 009 Hepatotoxicity in Human SimPops<sup>™</sup>

**HUMANS**

**100 mg BID 14 d**



**Dose-Response**  
(25-100 mg BID 14 d)

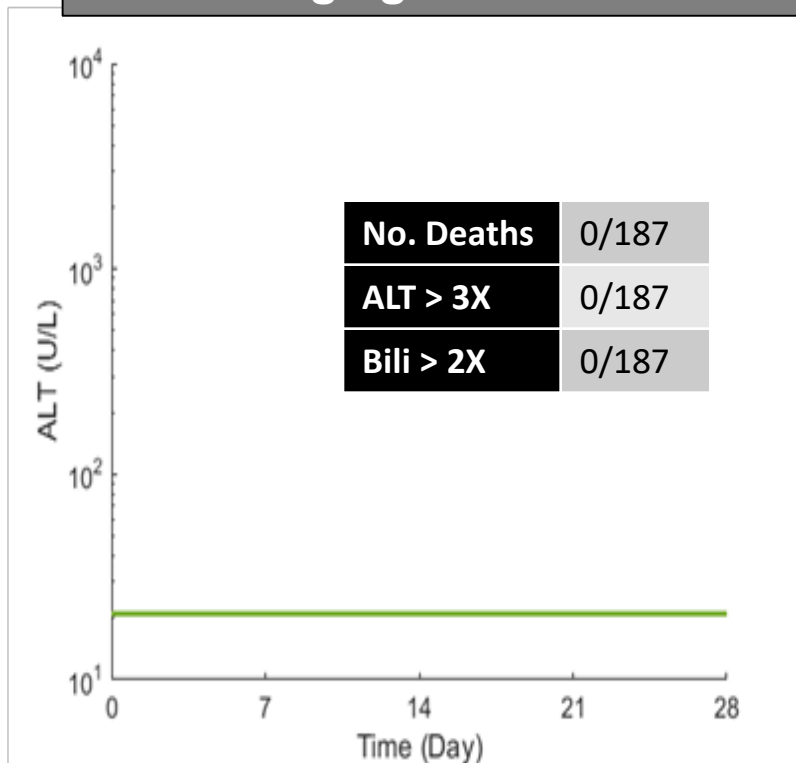


*Clinical Data and  
Simulation Results*

# No Hepatotoxicity Predicted in the Rat SimPops™ Administered AMG 009

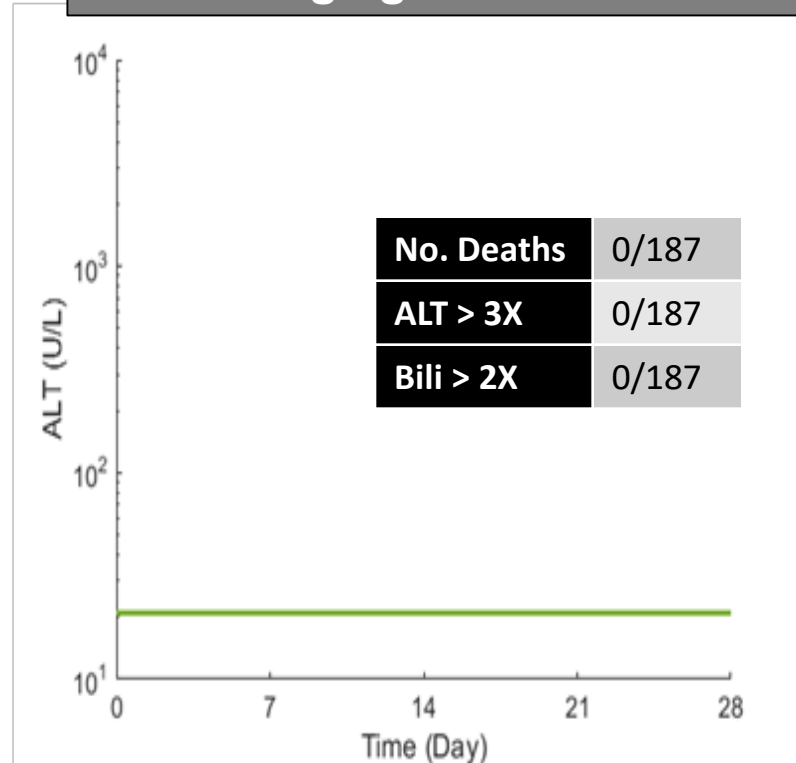
RATS

100 mg/kg IV for 1 month



Treatment

1500 mg/kg PO for 1 month



Treatment

Simulation Results

# What was the basis of this species difference?

- 1). It was not exposure, which was 100-fold higher in rats than humans
- 2). Differences in inhibition of bile acid transporters played some role

# Inhibition constants of AMG 009 for bile acid transport proteins in human and rat

Transporter	AMG 009
	Ki ( $\mu\text{M}$ )
Human BSEP	2.4 (1.8 – 3.1)
Rat Bsep	5.6 (4.8 – 6.3)
Human NTCP	126.5 (96.6 – 165.6) <sup>a</sup>
Rat Ntcp	48.2 (29.7 – 78) <sup>a</sup>

95% confidence interval in parenthesis.

<sup>a</sup> IC<sub>50</sub> values

*Ryan Morgan, Amgen*



# Conclusion

**The major explanation for reduced susceptibility to AMG009 hepatotoxicity in rats vs humans is that the profile of bile acids in rats is inherently less toxic than in humans.**

# Outline of Talk

- 1). The DILI-sim Initiative
- 2). Applications to understanding species differences**
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# CKA

A chemokine receptor antagonist intended for treating inflammatory conditions, **produced dose-dependent hepatotoxicity in rats** but advanced into the clinic where single doses of CKA up to 600mg **appeared safe in humans.**

## Using Quantitative Systems Toxicology to Investigate Observed Species Differences in CKA-Mediated Hepatotoxicity

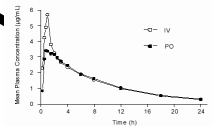
Christina Battista,<sup>\*,†</sup> Kyunghye Yang,<sup>\*</sup> Simone H. Stahl,<sup>‡</sup> Jerome T. Mettetal,<sup>§</sup> Paul B. Watkins,<sup>†</sup> Scott Q. Siler,<sup>\*</sup> and Brett A. Howell<sup>\*,1,2</sup>

Tox Sci epub July 2018

# DILIsym Integrates Multiple Inputs to Simulate/Predict Hepatotoxicity

## Exposure

**Pharmacokinetics**



## Mechanisms

**Bile Acid Transporter Inhibition**



**Mitochondrial Respiration**

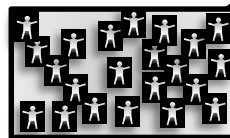


**ROS Generation**

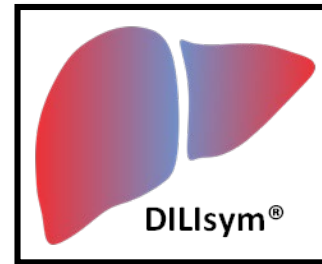


## Interpatient Variability

**Unique Parameter Combinations**



SimPops™



**Simulated Frequency & Severity of Liver Injury**

Table 2. Summary of CKA-Mediated Hepatotoxicity in Rat and Human SimPops and Preclinical and Clinical Observations

Species	Rat	Rat
	Simulations <sup>a</sup>	
Dose	200 mg/kg	500 mg/kg
Population size	n = 294	n = 294
ALT > 3× ULN (%) <sup>b</sup>	2.4	36.4
ALT > 5× ULN (%) <sup>b</sup>	0	20.1
ALT > 10× ULN (%) <sup>b</sup>	0	7.8

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	Preclinical/clinical trials	
Dose	200 mg/kg	500 mg/kg
Population size	n = 8	n = 4
ALT > 3× ULN (%) <sup>b</sup>	25	75
ALT > 5× ULN (%) <sup>b</sup>	0	50
ALT > 10× ULN (%) <sup>b</sup>	0	25

Table 2. Summary of CKA-Mediated Hepatotoxicity in Rat and Human SimPops and Preclinical and Clinical Observations

Species	Rat	Rat	Human Human Human		
			Simulations <sup>a</sup>		
Dose	200 mg/kg	500 mg/kg	300 mg	600 mg	900 mg
Population size	n = 294	n = 294	n = 285	n = 285	n = 285
ALT > 3× ULN (%) <sup>b</sup>	2.4	36.4	0	0	0
ALT > 5× ULN (%) <sup>b</sup>	0	20.1	0	0	0
ALT > 10× ULN (%) <sup>b</sup>	0	7.8	0	0	0
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Table 2. Summary of CKA-Mediated Hepatotoxicity in Rat and Human SimPops and Preclinical and Clinical Observations

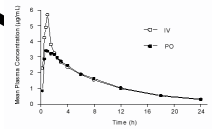
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ALT > 10× ULN (%) <sup>b</sup>	0	7.8	0	0	0
			Preclinical/clinical trials		
Dose	200 mg/kg	500 mg/kg	300 mg	600 mg	900 mg
Population size	n = 8	n = 4	n = 5	n = 4	n = 6
ALT > 3× ULN (%) <sup>b</sup>	25	75	0	0	16.7
ALT > 5× ULN (%) <sup>b</sup>	0	50	0	0	0
ALT > 10× ULN (%) <sup>b</sup>	0	25	0	0	0



# DILIsym Integrates Multiple Inputs to Simulate/Predict Hepatotoxicity

## Exposure

**Pharmacokinetics**



## Mechanisms

**Bile Acid Transporter Inhibition**



**Mitochondrial Respiration**

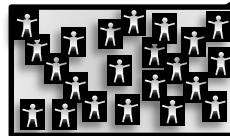


**ROS Generation**

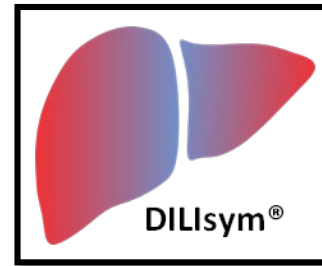


## Interpatient Variability

**Unique Parameter Combinations**



SimPops™



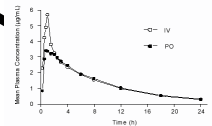
**Simulated Frequency & Severity of Liver Injury**

**Analysis of Mechanisms**

# DILIsym Integrates Multiple Inputs to Simulate/Predict Hepatotoxicity

## Exposure

**Pharmacokinetics**



## Mechanism

~~Bile Salt Transporter Inhibition~~

Mitochondrial Respiration

ROS Generation



Simulated Frequency & Severity of Liver Injury

Analysis of Mechanisms

## Interpatient Variability

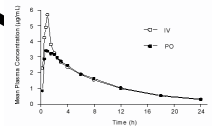
Unique Parameter Combinations



# DILIsym Integrates Multiple Inputs to Simulate/Predict Hepatotoxicity

## Exposure

**Pharmacokinetics**



## Mechanisms

**Bile Acid Transporter Inhibition**



**Mitochondrial Respiration**



**Receptor Activation**

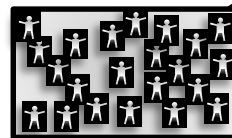


**Simulated Frequency & Severity of Liver Injury**

**Analysis of Mechanisms**

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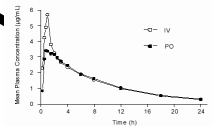


SimPops™

# DILIsym Integrates Multiple Inputs to Simulate/Predict Hepatotoxicity

## Exposure

**Pharmacokinetics**

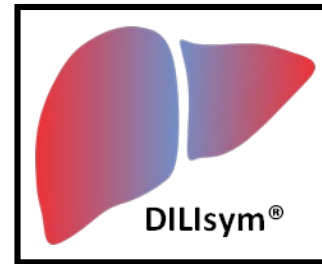


## Mechanisms

**Bile Acid Transporter Inhibition**

**Mitochondrial Response**

**ROS Generation**



## Interpatient Variability

**Unique Parameter Combinations**



**Simulated Frequency & Severity of Liver Injury**

**Analysis of Mechanisms**

# CKA DILIsym Parameters

Table 1. Toxicity Parameters for Human and Rat

	Human	Rat
Bile acid transporter inhibition constant ( $\mu\text{M}$ )		
BSEP	94 <sup>a</sup>	129.7 <sup>b</sup>
MRP3	11.2	11.2 <sup>c</sup>
MRP4	12.3	12.3 <sup>c</sup>
NTCP	19.5	19.5 <sup>c</sup>
Mitochondrial toxicity constant (mM)		
ETC inhibition constant	14.2	1.42
ROS production constant (mL/mol/h)		
ROS production constant	7278	9705

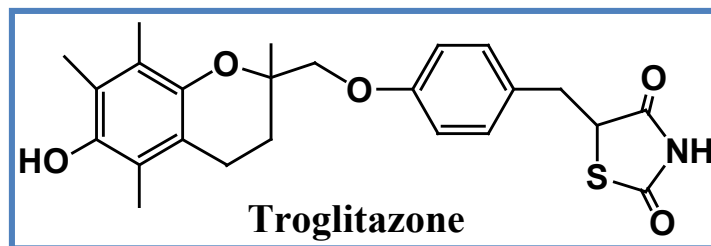
# Summary

The main reason for rats increased susceptibility to CKA hepatotoxicity was increased susceptibility to interference with mitochondrial function.

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## Troglitazone (TGZ)



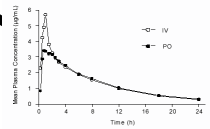
- First in thiazolidinedione class; PPAR $\gamma$  agonist
  - Approved for the treatment of type II diabetes
  
- Hepatotoxicity
  - **Not detected in preclinical studies**
  - Serum ALT elevations >3X ULN noted in the clinical trials
  - Withdrawn from the market due to **idiosyncratic hepatotoxicity**



# DILIsym Integrates Multiple Inputs to Simulate/Predict Hepatotoxicity

## Exposure

**Pharmacokinetics**

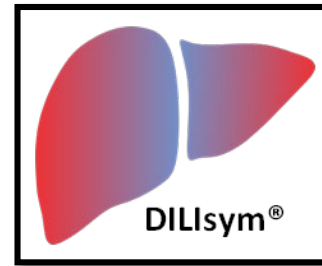


## Mechanisms

**Bile Acid Transporter Inhibition**

**Mitochondrial Respiration**

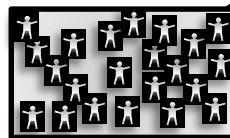
**ROS Generation**



**Simulated Frequency & Severity of Liver Injury**

## Interpatient Variability

**Unique Parameter Combinations**



**SimPops™**

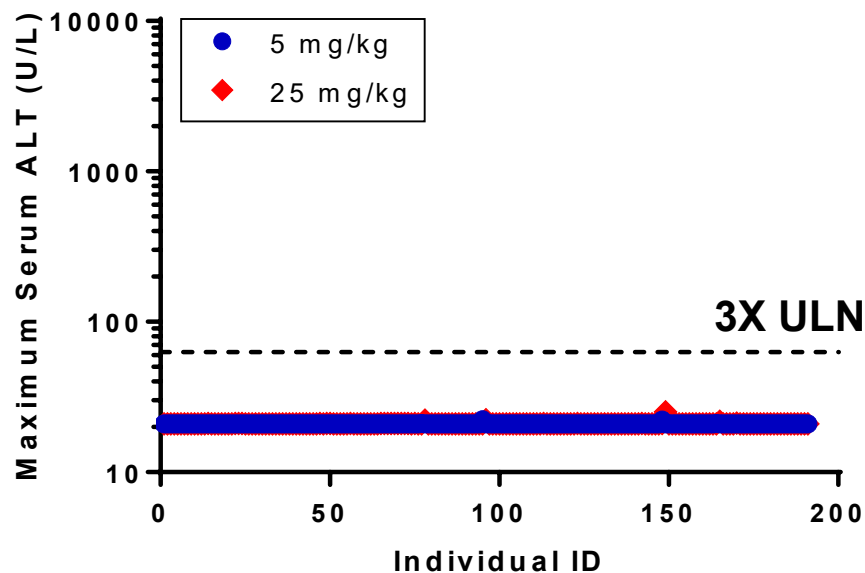
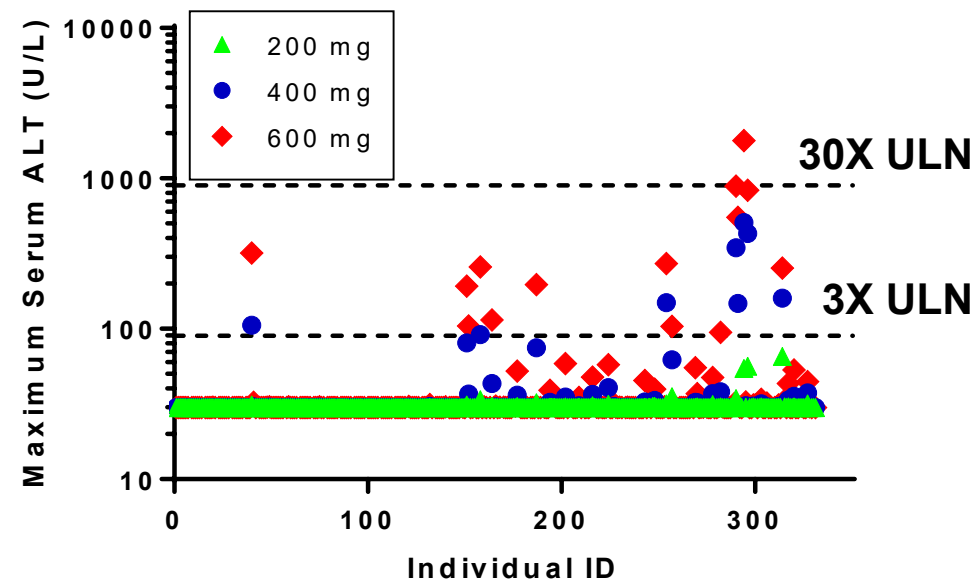
# DILIsym Predicted Species Differences in TGZ Hepatotoxicity

HUMAN

RAT

Serum ALT

Serum ALT



Simulated DILI responses in human SimPop™ (n=331) administered 200, 400, or 600 mg/day TGZ for 6 months

Simulated DILI responses in rat SimPop™ (n=192) administered 5 or 25 mg/kg/day TGZ for 6 months

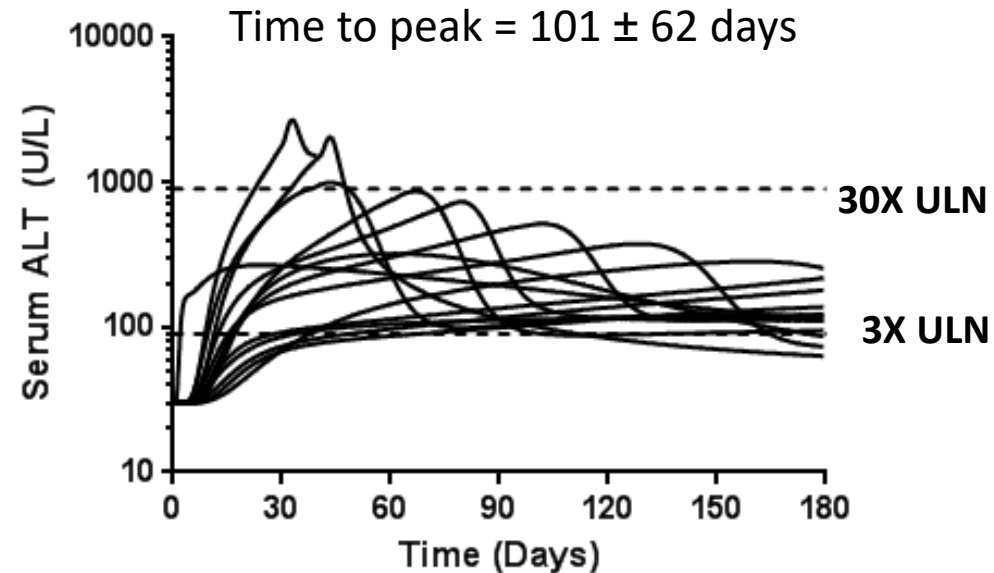
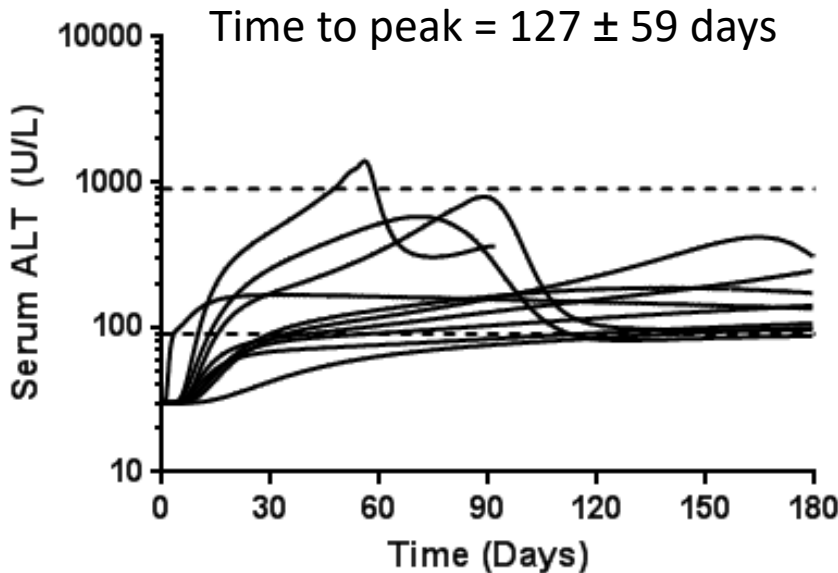
Yang ... Brouwer CPT 96 (5) 2014

# Mechanistic Model Reasonably Predicted Delayed Presentation of TGZ Hepatotoxicity

HUMAN

Serum ALT: 400 mg TGZ

Serum ALT: 600 mg TGZ



Time to peak ALT in clinical trials:  $147 \pm 86$  days

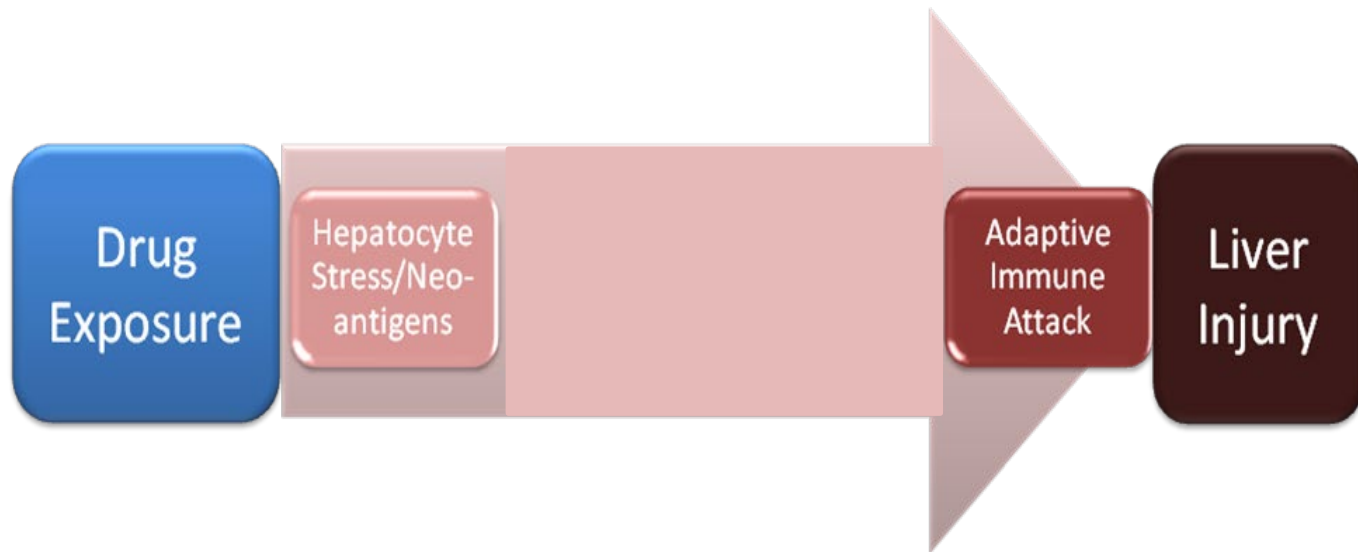
Yang ... Brouwer CPT 96 (5) 2014

# Involvement of Adaptive Immunity in Idiosyncratic DILI



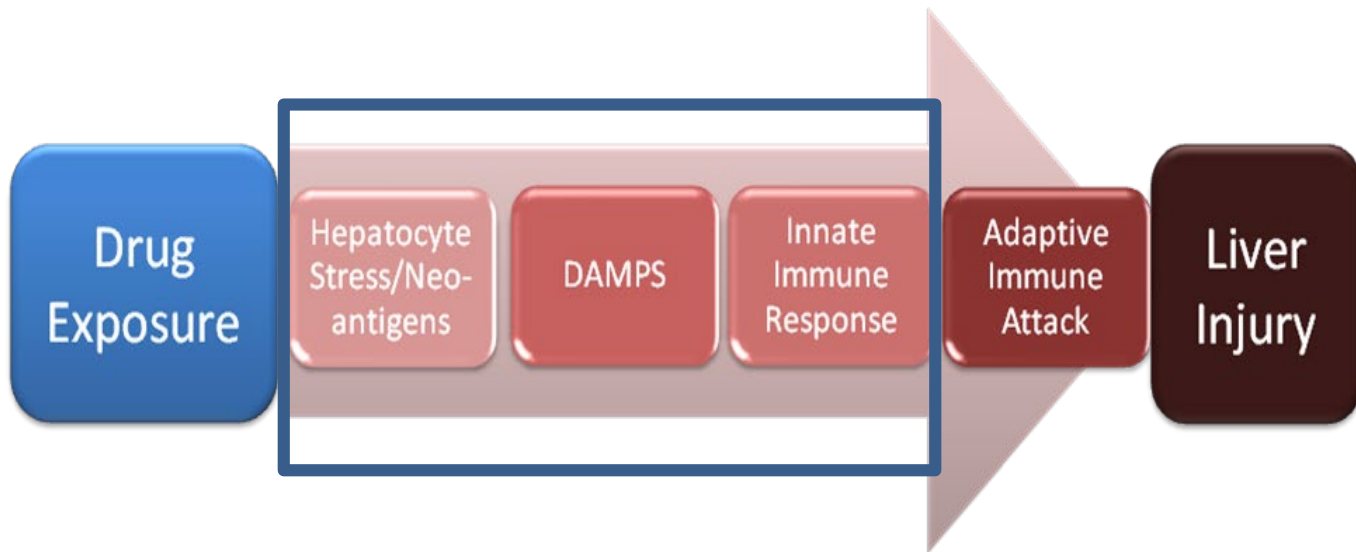
Clin Pharmacol Ther. 2017 Apr;101(4):469-480.

# Involvement of Adaptive Immunity in Idiosyncratic DILI



Clin Pharmacol Ther. 2017 Apr;101(4):469-480.

# Involvement of Adaptive Immunity in Idiosyncratic DILI



Clin Pharmacol Ther. 2017 Apr;101(4):469-480.

# DILIsym Predicts Liability for Idiosyncratic DILI

1). **Title:** Application of a Mechanistic Model to Evaluate Putative Mechanisms of **Tolvaptan** Drug-Induced Liver Injury and Identify Patient Susceptibility Factors

**Authors:** Jeffrey L. Woodhead,\* **William J. Brock,†** **Sharin E. Roth,‡** Susan E. Shoaf,‡ Kim L.R. Brouwer,§ Rachel Church,§,¶ Tom N. Grammatopoulos,k Linsey Stiles,k Scott Q. Siler,\* Brett A. Howell,\* Merrie Mosedale,§,¶ Paul B. Watkins,§,¶ and Lisl K.M. Shoda\*,1

**Tox Sci: 155(1), 2017, 61-74, 2017**

2). **Title:** Quantitative Systems Toxicology Analysis of *In Vitro* Mechanistic Assays Reveals Importance of Bile Acid Accumulation and Mitochondrial Dysfunction in **TAK-875**-induced Liver Injury

**Authors:** Diane M. Longo<sup>\*\*\*</sup>, Jeffrey L. Woodhead\*, Paul Walker†, Krisztina Heredi-Szabo‡, Karoly Mogyorosí‡, **Francis S. Wolenski§**, **Yvonne P. Dragan§**, Merrie Mosedale¶||, Scott Q. Siler\*, Paul B. Watkins\*¶||, Brett A. Howell\*

**Tox Sci 2018 – epub**

# Conclusions

- 1). Quantitative Systems Toxicology (QST) modeling can explain and predict species differences in dose-dependent hepatotoxicity.**
- 2). Species differences in the profile of bile acids often underlie unexpected hepatotoxicity in the clinic - species differences in susceptibility to mitochondrial toxicity can also contribute.**
- 3). Dose dependent hepatotoxicity may be relevant to delayed, idiosyncratic hepatotoxicity even if its immune-mediated.**



# DILIsym Services Inc. Team

**Scott Q Siler**  
Chief Scientific Officer  
Bay Area, CA



**Brett Howell**  
President  
RTP, NC



**Grant Generaux**  
Scientist II  
Philadelphia, PA



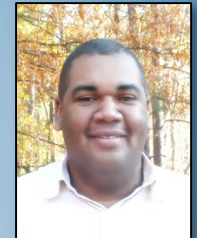
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**Corey Berry**  
Senior Software  
Engineer  
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RTP, NC



**Guncha Taneja**  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
RTP, NC



**Zack Kenz**  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
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**Christina Battista**  
Scientist I  
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**Kyunghee Yang**  
Scientist I  
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**Diane Longo**  
Scientist II  
Arlington, VA



**Yeshi Gebremichael**  
Scientist II  
RTP, NC



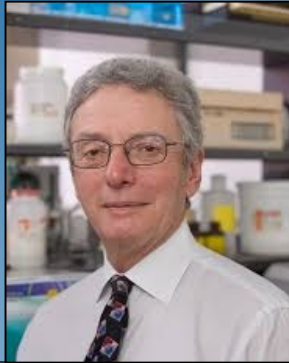
**Bud Nelson**  
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RTP, NC



**Patti Steele**  
Executive Assistant  
RTP, NC



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UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy



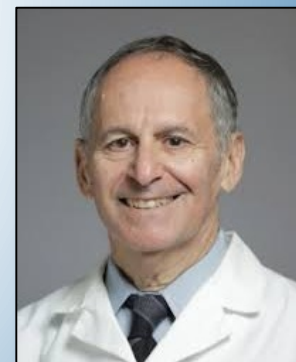
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**David Pisetsky**  
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Professor of Immunology  
Member of the Duke Cancer Institute  
Member of the Duke Human Vaccine Institute