



Using GastroPlus, PBBM and PKPD to define dissolution safe space in support of registration specifications

*Xavier Pepin, Simulations Plus
James Mann, AstraZeneca Ltd.*

27th April 2023



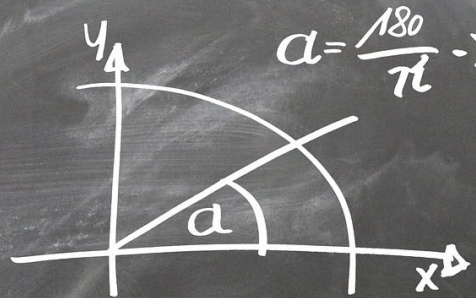
Presentation Outline

1. Some definitions
2. Scientific & Regulatory landscape for PBBM
3. Regulatory and Industrial applications of PBBM
4. PBBM and PKPD : a winning team !
5. Acalabrutinib maleate tablet dissolution specifications setting

1

Some Definitions

$$\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$



$$+q=0$$

$$x = 6 - 2y$$

$$x + a = b$$

$$f(x) = \tan x$$

$$f(x) = \sin$$

$$x_{1/2} = -\frac{p}{2} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{p}{2}\right)^2}$$



Definitions

PBPK Model: Physiologically-Based Pharmacokinetic model

Describes the software tool. Agnostic to the use

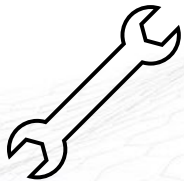
PBAM: Physiologically-Based Absorption Model

Focusses on drug absorption related parameters

PBBM: Physiologically-Based Biopharmaceutics Model

Fit for purpose application: Focusses on the use of the model to support biopharmaceutics/drug product quality applications

Graphical definitions



PBPK Model = the tool

The basis of PBAM and PBBM are PBPK models

Objective



Understand limitations
of drug absorption

Support drug product
specifications (e.g.,
dissolution)

Waive human studies for
DDI

Use the right
tool for the
objective



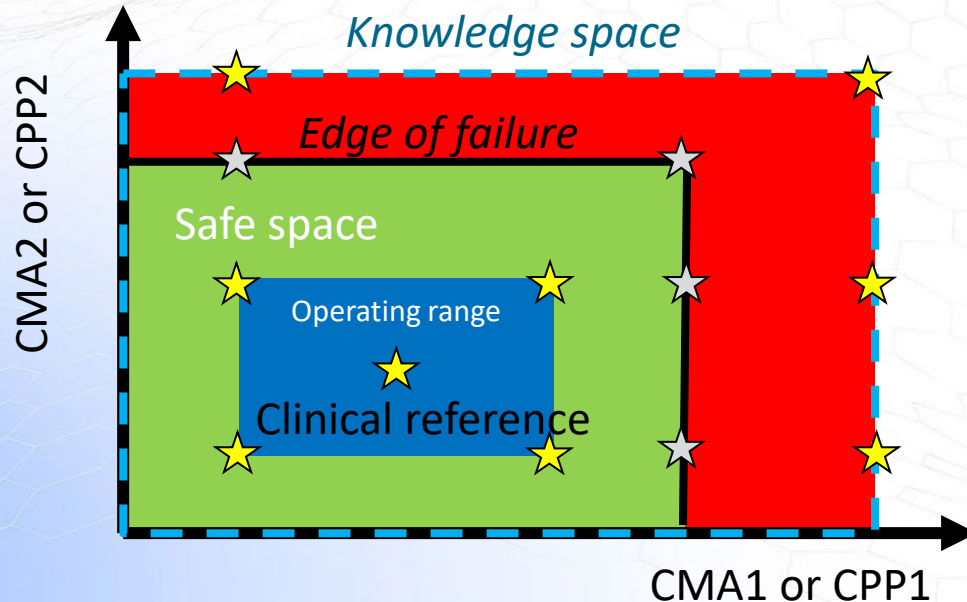
PBAM

PBBM

PBPK for DDI

The concept of safe space

Range of quality attributes for a drug product where all the batches manufactured are anticipated to be bioequivalent to one another



Knowledge space: Range of product QAs tested in the clinic

Operating range: Range of product QAs normally used for routine batch production

Clinical reference: DP Batch(es) used for pivotal studies

Edge of failure: Max QAs beyond which batches are not BE to clinical reference

Critical Biopharmaceutics Attribute (CBA): QA (CMA or CPP) which impacts exposure

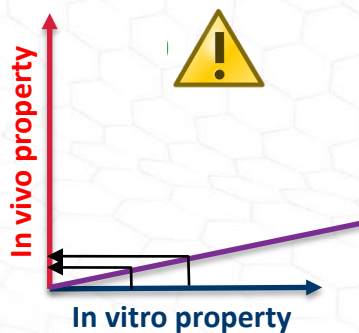
Dissolution methods

Discrimination: changes in product in vitro performance are shown when CMA and or CPP are varied

Rank order: Changes in product in vitro performance align with in vivo behaviour



Right level : changes of in vitro properties translate to in vivo performance



Over discriminative: large changes in vitro translate to smaller changes in vivo



Under discriminative: small changes in vitro translate to larger changes in vivo

Both these methods may be clinically relevant and biopredictive

Dissolution methods

QC release methods

- Simple
- USP apparatuses
- Often automated
- High throughput
- Single pot or open systems

Biorelevant release methods

- +/- complex media closer to physiology
- Relevant volumes
- Agitation closer to physiology
- Optional transfer of fluids and absorptive system

Biopredictive /
clinically relevant ?

Biopredictive dissolution method A set of testing conditions for which in vitro dissolution profiles are capable of predicting pharmacokinetic profiles. These are typically based on classical or mechanistic IVIVC or PBBM.

Clinically relevant dissolution specifications A set of in vitro dissolution testing conditions and acceptance criterion(ia) that can identify and reject drug product batches that are not expected to be bioequivalent to clinical pivotal product batches.

Going further : Heimbach, T., et al., *Dissolution and Translational Modeling Strategies Toward Establishing an In Vitro-In Vivo Link—a Workshop Summary Report. The AAPS Journal*, 2019. **21(2)**.

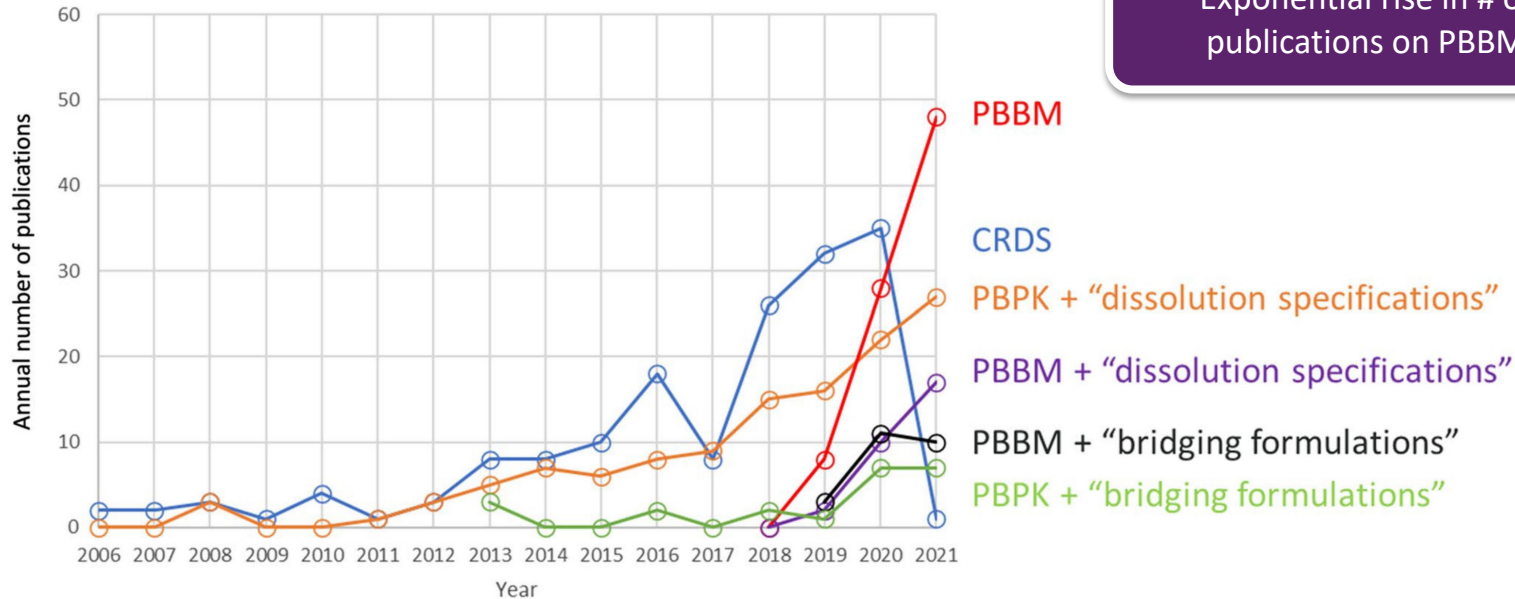
<https://doi.org/10.1208/s12248-019-0298-x>

2

Scientific & regulatory landscape for PBBMs



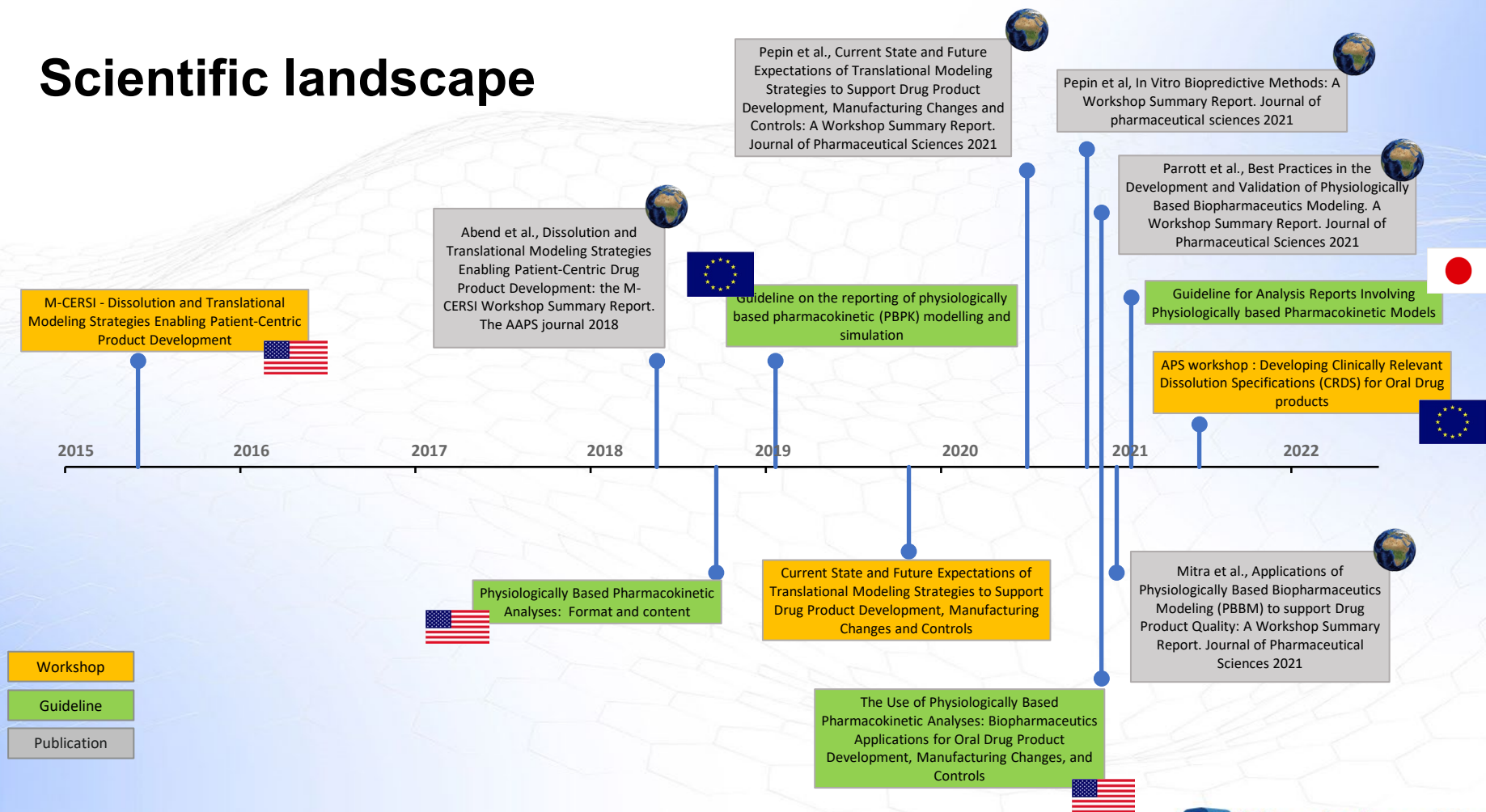
Scientific landscape



Exponential rise in # of publications on PBPM

Anand, O., et al., The Use of Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic Analyses—in Biopharmaceutics Applications -Regulatory and Industry Perspectives. Pharmaceutical Research, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11095-022-03280-4>

Scientific landscape



Regulatory landscape : Existing guidances

Model qualification (EMA only)

Model set-up

Model verification and modification

Model validation

Model use

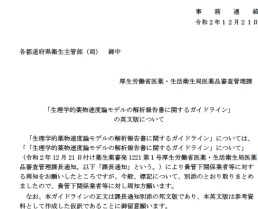
Submission of model and all raw data (FDA only)



FDA guidance on : “Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic Analyses — Format and Content Guidance for Industry”
<https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/physiologically-based-pharmacokinetic-analyses-format-and-content-guidance-industry>

EMA guideline on : “Guideline on the reporting of physiologically based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) modelling and simulation”
https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/scientific-guideline/guideline-reporting-physiologically-based-pharmacokinetic-pbpbk-modelling-simulation_en.pdf

JP guidance on: “Guidelines for Analysis Reports Involving Physiologically based Pharmacokinetic Models”



Model application focussing on biopharmaceutics

The Use of Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic Analyses —
Biopharmaceutics Applications for Oral Drug Product Development,
Manufacturing Changes, and Controls

<https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/use-physiologically-based-pharmacokinetic-analyses-biopharmaceutics-applications-oral-drug-product>

A. Development of Clinically Relevant Dissolution Specifications (Method and Acceptance Criteria)	9
1. <i>Aid in Biopredictive Dissolution Method Development.....</i>	<i>9</i>
2. <i>Support Clinically Relevant Dissolution Acceptance Criteria.....</i>	<i>10</i>
B. Establishment of Clinically Relevant Drug Product Quality Specifications (Other Than Dissolution).....	11
C. Quality Risk Assessment for Pre- and Postapproval Changes and Risk-Based Biowaivers.	12

3

Regulatory and industrial applications of PBBM



Benefits of PBBM

Mechanistic understanding →
increase product value

Limitations to drug absorption (solubility, permeability, dissolution rate...) → guide formulators for 1st time right or LCM, Acceptable content of excipients,

Clinically relevant design spaces

Edge of failure for Critical Material Attributes and Critical Process Parameters

Justify drug product specifications

Enables the establishment of CRDPS

Support PACs

At submission, only a limited # of batches are manufactured. Product and process performance may deviate from initially filed specifications

Regulatory flexibility

Change in specifications: Flexibility granted within the safe space

Biowaivers

Reduction of unnecessary human testing. Best use of clinical resources combined with modelling and simulation

PBBM reduces the need for clinical trials and allows to optimize the clinical resources/timing, increase mechanistic understanding and allows informed decision making

Typical savings of PBBM along the value chain

Mechanistic understanding →
increase product value

Quality by design : Reduce the time to market.
Avoid bridging between phase 1-3 formulations

1-2 year per project

Clinically relevant design spaces

Justify drug product specifications

Support PACs

Regulatory flexibility

Biowaivers

Ensuring manufacturing ability:
Increase yield, reduce wastage

**5-10 percent annual
yield increase**

Answer regulatory authorities questions at time of
submission: (e.g. validation campaign to redo, clinical
evaluation and its reporting) + 6 Month of market value 10-15
mUSD per project

**10-15 mUSD
per project
+6 months**

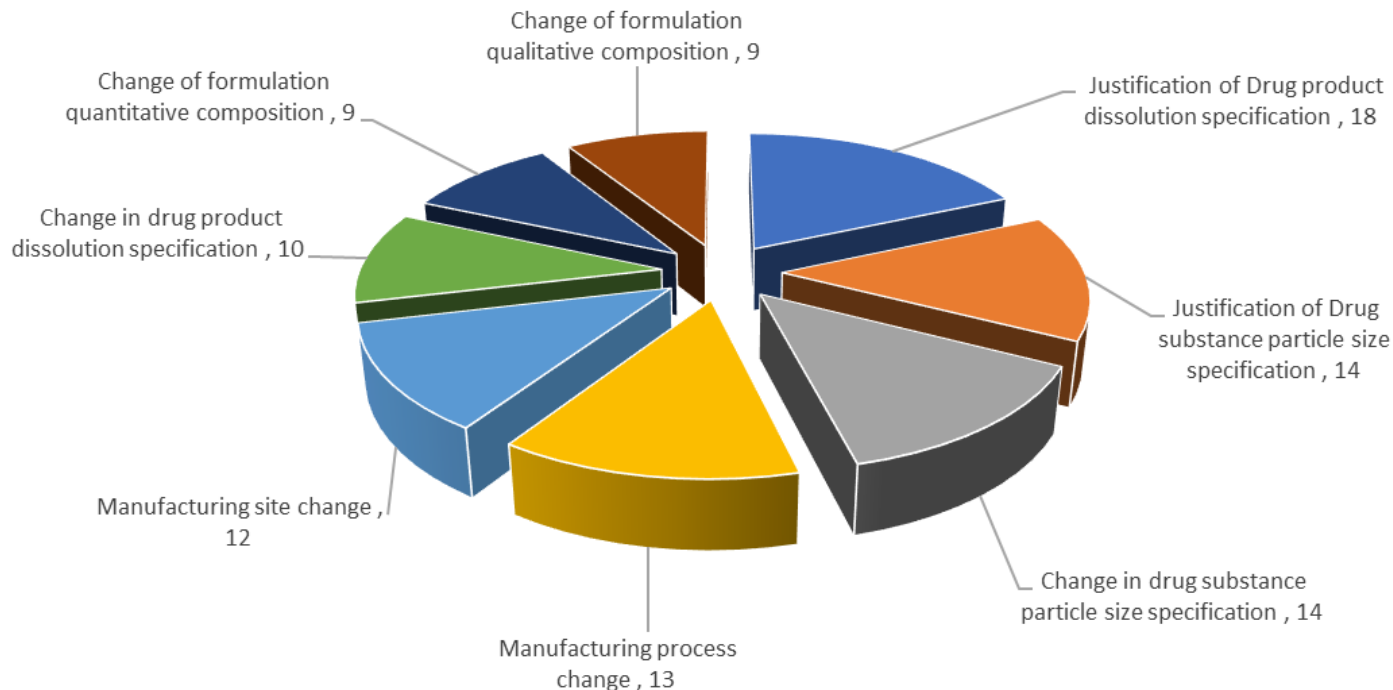
Typical BE study costs: variable if
healthy volunteers or patients

1-10 mUSD per study +6 months

**Total savings per project : up to 3-4 years time = sales
10% increase in yield and 20-30 mUSD savings**

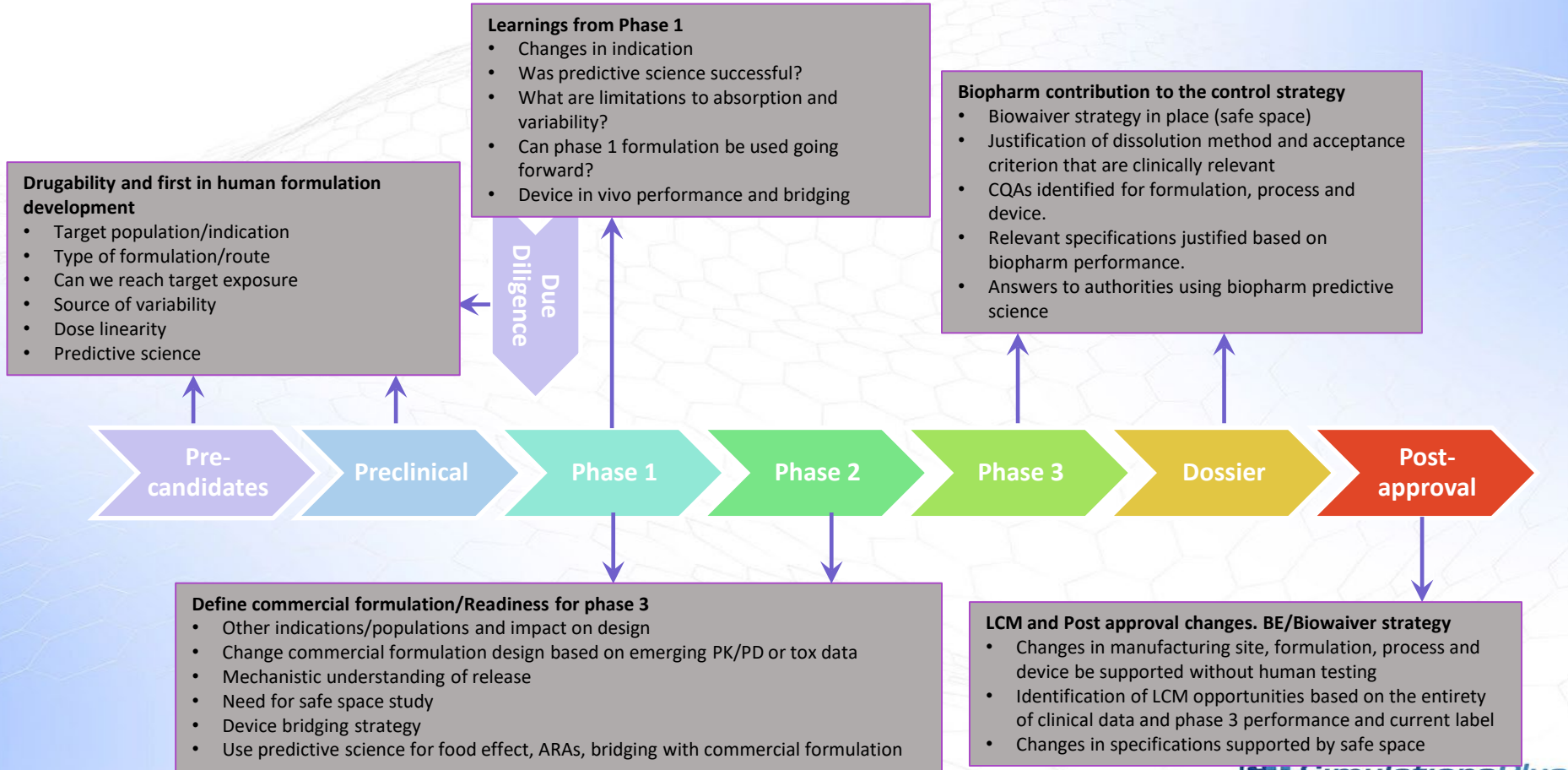
Objectives of PBBM

Uses cover R&D and PAC applications



Mitra, A., et al., Applications of Physiologically Based Biopharmaceutics Modeling (PBBM) to support Drug Product Quality: A Workshop Summary Report. Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2021. 110: p. 594-609. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xphs.2020.10.059>

PBBM in the pharmaceutical industry



4

**PBPK and PBBM:
A winning team !**



Why PBBM and PKPD ?

- PBBM links drug product quality attributes to in vivo exposure
 - In vitro drug product dissolution
 - Drug substance particle size distribution
 - 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

The size of the safe space is bound by the bioequivalence criteria

Why PBBM and PKPD ?, cont.

- PKPD links drug product exposure to efficacy and safety
 - 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 safety issues



Larger than bioequivalent bound safe spaces may be accessible through PKPD modeling

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

5

**Acalabrutinib maleate
tablets : Justification of
Clinically Relevant Drug
Product Specifications**

