

In Silico Approaches in Genetic Toxicology -Progress and Future-

Masamitsu Honma, Ph.D.

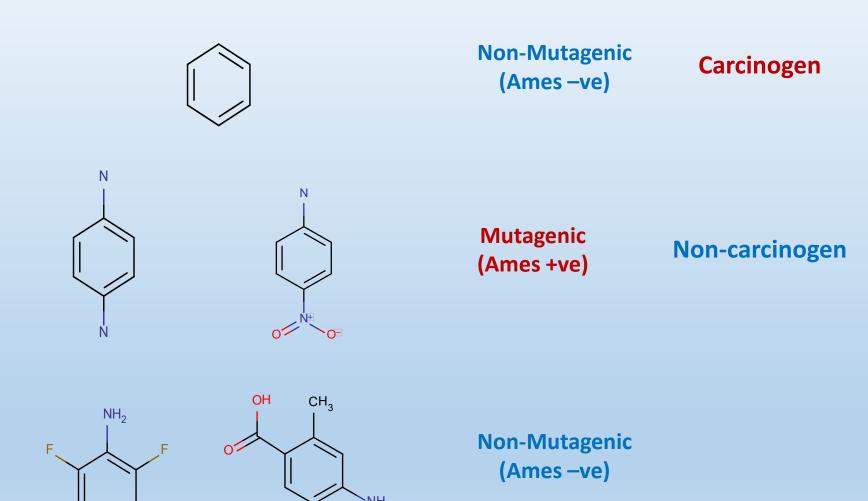
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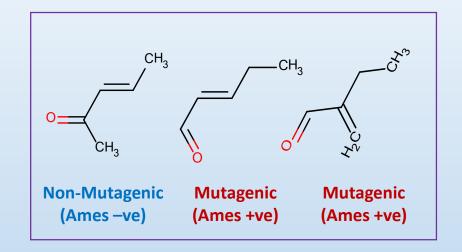
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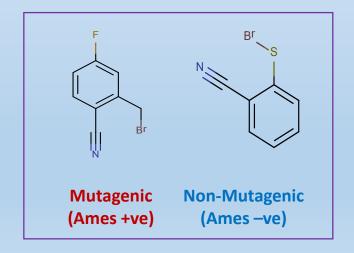
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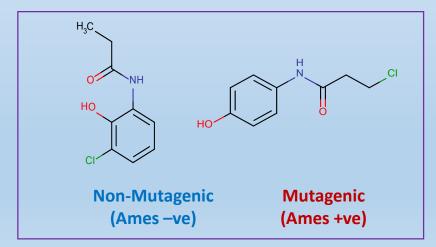
Mutagenicity?



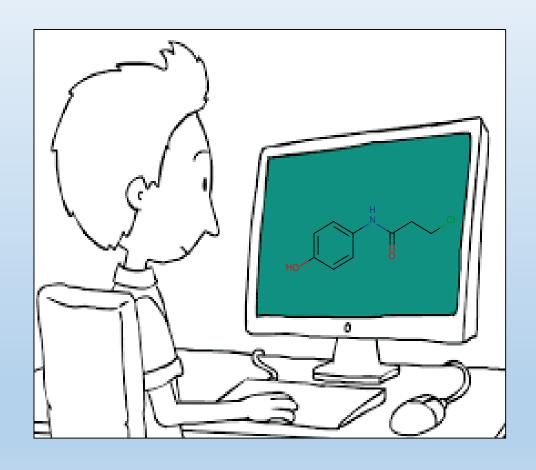
Mutagenicity?







What is *In Silico* and QSAR?



- In silico toxicology is a type of toxicity assessment that uses computational methods to predict the toxicity of chemicals.
- A QSAR (Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship) is a mathematical relationship between a biological activity of a chemical and its structures and characteristics.
- QSAR/ in silico toxicology attempts to find consistent relationship between toxicity and molecular properties, so that these "rules" can be used to evaluate the toxicity of new compounds.

Why Ames Assay?

- The electrophilic theory of chemical carcinogenesis was developed by James and Elizabeth Miller in the 1970s.
- Bruce Ames developed the Ames assay in 1972. It has a high positive predictivity for DNA-reactive chemical carcinogens based on the electrophilic theory. The Ames assay is an *in* vitro model of chemical carcinogenicity.



- Other reasons to develop QSAR models -----
 - Highly reproducible results among laboratories
 - Large number of data set
 - Binary results (positive or negative)



QSAR Models

- 1. Rule-Based Models
- 2. Statistical-Based Models
- 3. Hybrid Models

















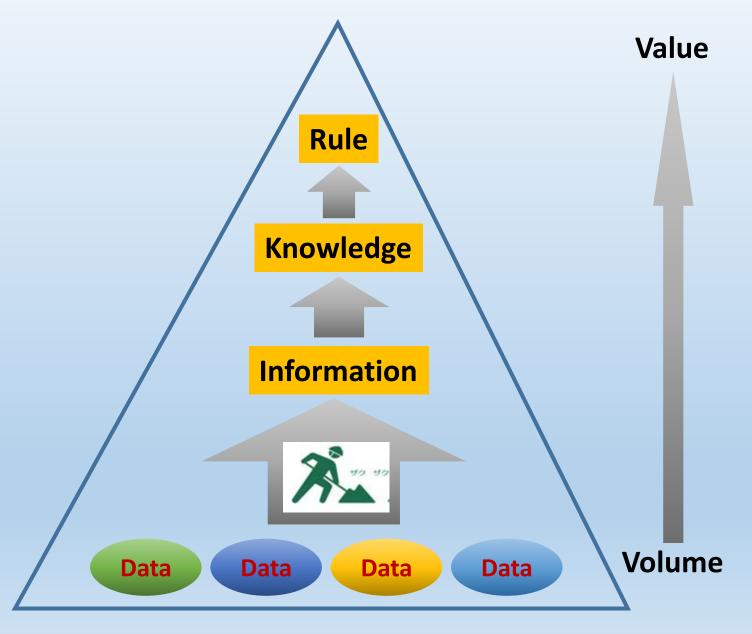


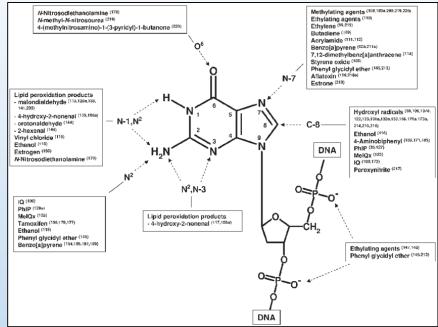


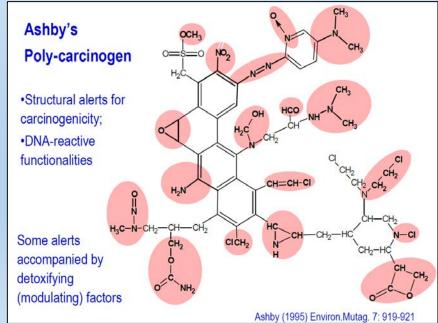




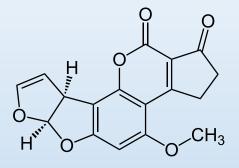
Rule-Based QSAR







Statistical-Based QSAR



Training set (thiadiazol)

NHA NHD MTI

8205

10835

25571

35529

45907

39911

Activity = F (descriptors)

Results



Internal and

Topological Geometric Electronic Physicochemical

14.330 4.752 5.141

13.080 4.353 5.023

10.070 4.124 4.469

8.800 0.805 4.167

0.141

8.310 3.311 4.511

7.820

Calculation of molecular descriptor

pIC₅₀ Obs.

2.533

2.204

0.634

0.681

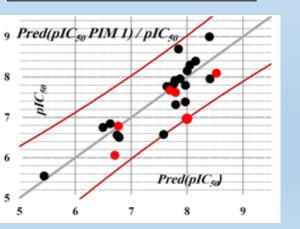
1.207

...

...

1.797

Statistical analysis



external validation

Machine Learning



Artificial neural net k-nearest neighbors Random forest Decision tree Support vector machine

Molecular descriptor

3.989

Activity

Rule-Based vs. Statistical-Based

Rule-Based

- Rules are suggested by experts.
- Mechanism is known or suggested.
- Validation sets are available for every rule.
- Longer development cycle.
- Can not extrapolate prediction new chemotypes.

Statistical-Based

- Alerts can be mined automatically from a training set of chemicals with known toxicity labels.
- The training data usually consists of positive and negative examples.
- Different machine learning approaches can be used.
- Extremely data dependent.

QSAR Approach for Toxicological Assessment



Great advantage

- High throughput screening for huge number of chemicals without cost and labor
- Test for unavailable chemicals (e.g., impurity, intermediates, flavoring chemicals)
- Strongly contribute to animal welfare

But----

- Can be applied to practical assessment?
- Is the QSAR prediction correct and reliable?

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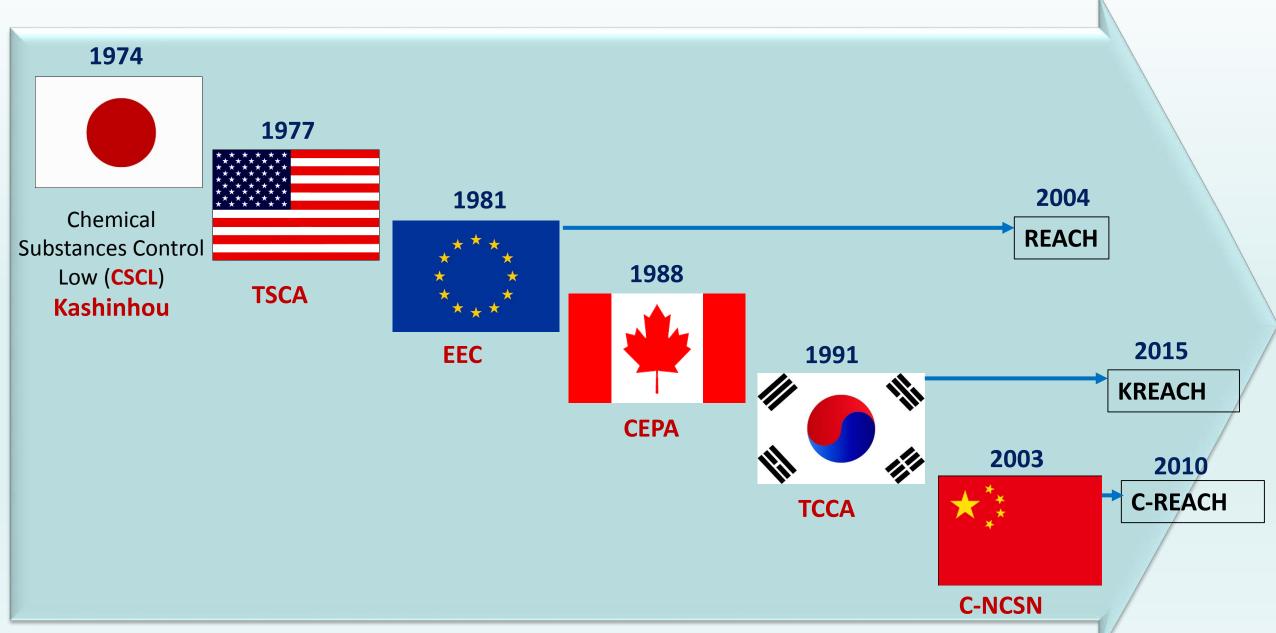
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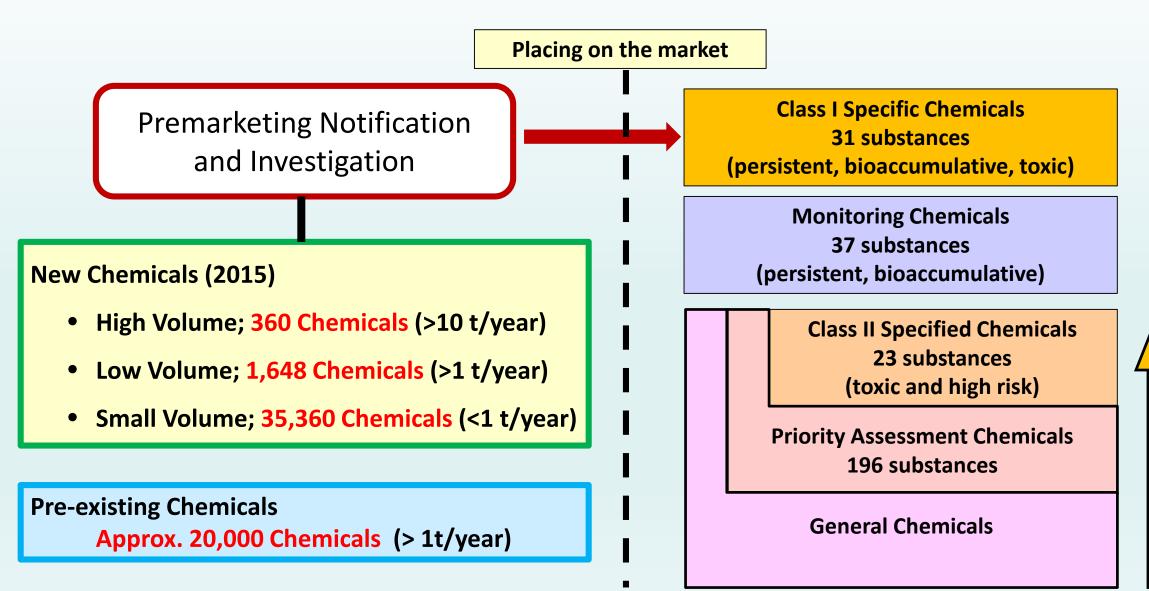


Global Management on Chemical Substances





Overview of "Kashinhou" for New Chemicals



KISK assessment

Evaluation for New Chemicals in "Kashinhou"

- High Volume; >10 t/year (360 Chemicals in 2015)
 - Biodegradability and Bioaccumulation (Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry)
 - Ecological Effect (Ministry of the Environment)
 - Human Health Effect (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare)
 - Ames assay
 - Chromosomal aberration test or mouse lymphoma assay
 - > 28-days repeated dose study
- Low Volume; >1 t/year (1,648 Chemicals in 2015)
 - Biodegradability and Bioaccumulation (Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry)
- Small Volume; <1 t/year (35,360 Chemicals in 2015)</p>
 - No evaluation

QSAR Tools Used in "Kashinhou" in Japan

	Endpoints	QSAR Tools
Ministry of Economy,	Biodegradation	BIOWIN5
Trade and Industry	_	BIOWIN6
(METI)		CATABOL
	Bioaccumulation	BCFWIN
		CERI Model
		Baseline Mode
Ministry of the Environment	Ecological Effect	TIMES ECOSAR
		KATE
Ministry of Health,	Human Health Effect	DEREK (Rule)
Labour and Welfare	(Ames Mutagenicity)	MCASE (Stat.)
		AWORKS (Stat.

Performance of 3 QSAR Tools for Ames Mutagenicity in "Kashinhou"

	Performance (%)	Existing 206 Chemicals (Hayashi et al, 2005)*	New 616 Chemicals (~2011)
DEREK	Concordance	86.4	89.3
	Sensitivity	73.1	50.0
	Specificity	88.3	91.9
	Concordance	88.0	89.3
MCASE	Sensitivity	65.0	39.6
	Specificity	91.1	95.3
	Concordance	70.1	89.3
AWORKS	Sensitivity	73.1	44.6
	Specificity	69.7	88.6

^{*}Hayashi et al., *In silico* assessment of chemical mutagenesis in comparison with results of Salmonella microsome assay on 909 chemicals, *Mutat Res.*, 588, 129–135, 2005

> A to Z



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OECD Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationships Project [(Q) SARs]

(Quantitative) Structure-Activity Relationships [(Q)SARs] are methods for estimating properties of a chemical from its molecular structure and have the potential to provide information on hazards of chemicals, while reducing time, monetary cost and animal testing currently needed.

To facilitate practical application of (Q)SAR approaches in regulatory contexts by governments and industry and to improve their regulatory acceptance, the OECD (Q) SAR project has developed various outcomes such as the principles for the validation of (Q)SAR models, guidance documents as well as the QSAR Toolbox. The OECD (Q)SAR Project is carried out with the financial assistance of the European Union.

The information on the project and its products are available from the following links:

The Project	The Products
History	OECD (Q)SAR Toolbox
Introduction to (Q)SARs	QSAR Toolbox: FAQs
Grouping of Chemicals	OECD Guidance Documents and Report
Validation of (Q)SAR Models	Donators to the Toolbox
	OECD QSAR Toolbox: Discussion Forum

LINKS

- Animal welfare
- Hazard Assessment

QSAR Used for Assessing Mutagenicity of Impurities in Pharmaceuticals





Synthetic Route of Drug Substances (Byproducts)



Degradation from Drug Substances (Degradants)

Impurities

Mutagenic or non-mutagenic?

Major Points of ICH-M7 Guideline for Assessment of Genotoxic Impurities

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HARMONISATION OF TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS FOR HUMAN USE

ICH HARMONISED TRIPARTITE GUIDELINE

ASSESSMENT AND CONTROL OF DNA REACTIVE (MUTAGENIC)
IMPURITIES IN PHARMACEUTICALS TO LIMIT POTENTIAL
CARCINOGENIC RISK

M7

Current Step 4 version dated 23 June 2014

- The focus of this guideline is on DNA reactive substances which can be detected by the Ames assay
- Evaluation of mutagenicity of impurities using the QSAR
- Application of a Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) to control genotoxic impurities

This Guideline has been developed by the appropriate ICH Expert Working Group and has been subject to consultation by the regulatory parties, in accordance with the ICH Process. At Step 4 of the Process the final draft is recommended for adoption to the regulatory bodies of the European Union, Japan and USA.

(Q) SAR Analysis in ICH-M7

- Two (Q)SAR prediction methodologies that complement each other should be applied. One methodology should be expert rule based and the second methodology should be statistical based.
- The absence of structural alerts from two complementary (Q)SAR methodologies (expert rule-based and statistical) is sufficient to conclude that the impurity is of no mutagenic concern, and no further testing is recommended.

Performance of Four QSAR Models for Predicting Ames Mutagenicity

Data Source	QSAR Type	QSAR Tool	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	Concordance (%)
Hansen (Industrial chemicals) 2,647 compounds (67% positive)	Rule	DEREK Toxtree	80.9 85.2	59.1 53.1	73.7 74.6
	Statistical	Mcase LSMA	74.6 67.8	74.0 63.8	74.4 66.4
Roche (Pharmaceuticals) 2,335 compounds	Rule	DEREK Toxtree	43.4 42.9	91.6 77.5	85.5 73.1
(13% positive)	Statistical	Mcase LSMA	30.6 17.4	85.8 93.9	78.9 83.6

Hillebrecht A et al., Comparative Evaluation of *in Silico* Systems for Ames Test Mutagenicity Prediction: Scope and Limitations., *Chem Res Toxicol*, 24, 843–853, 2011)

How to Improve QSAR Prediction?

- ◆ New QSAR Algorithm/ Model
 - AI, Deep-learning?
- **♦** Training data set
 - New
 - Many
 - Reliable



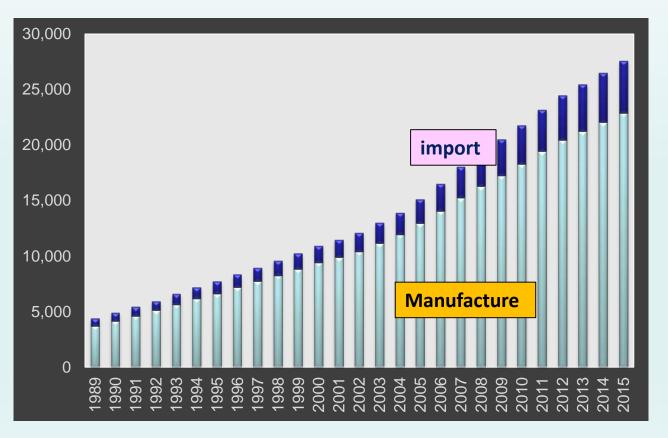
Ames Mutagenicity Data Sources in Major Public Domain

Database (name)	Information	Link
Benchmark Data Set for <i>In Silico</i> Prediction of Ames Mutagenicity (Hansen et. al., 2009)	Ames mutagenicity database for 6,500 compounds	http://doc.ml.tu-berlin.de/toxbenchmark/
Carcinogenic Potency Database (CPDB)	1,547 chemicals	http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cpdb/cpdb.html
GAP – Genetic Activity Profile Database by US EPA and IARC (Latest update in 2000)	Data on approx. 300 chemicals from volumes 1-50 of the IARC Monographs and on 115	http://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_Report.cfm?di rEntryId=44472&CFID=726518&CFTOKEN=15601022
Existing Chemicals Examination (EXCHEM) database (Japan)	Ames mutagenicity for more than 360 HPV chemicals	http://dra4.nihs.go.jp/mhlw_data/jsp/SearchPageENG.jsp
Istituto superiore di Sanità database (ISSCAN)	More than 1,150 chemical compounds tested with the long-term carcinogenicity bioassay on rodents, mutagenicity data.	http://www.iss.it/meca/index.php?lang=1&anno=2013 &tipo=25
National Toxicology Program (NTP) database	2,163 chemicals in genetic toxicity studies	ftp://157.98.192.110/ntp-cebs/datatype
Toxicity Reference Database (ToxRefDB)	Studies on 330 chemicals, many of which are active ingredients of pesticides	http://actor.epa.gov/toxrefdb/faces/SearchByEndpoint.j sp
TOXNET database: Carcinogenesis Research Information System database (CCRIS) and the Genetic Toxicology Databank (GENE-TOX)	CCRIS: over 9,000 chemical records with animal carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, tumor promotion, and tumor inhibition test results. GENE-TOX: on over 3,000 chemicals, from expert peer review of the open scientific literature.	http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/

Industrial Safety and Health Law "An-eihou" in Japan

Chemicals newly manufacturing produced or imported more than 100kg/year must be assessed its mutagenicity by Ames assay.





The permission of the use of the Ames data to improve QSAR models by Chemical Hazards Control Division, Industrial Safety and Health Department, Labor Standards Bureau in MHLW

Proposal of International Collaborative Studies to Improve Ames/QSAR models (QSAR2014, Milan, Italy, June 2014)







To QSAR Builders

-1st Circular for Ames (Q)SAR Collaborative Study-

June, 2014

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Japan has collected and evaluated new Ames mutagenicity results. The National Institute of Health Sciences has the results of approximately 12,000 new chemicals. The Ames assays were conducted under GLP according to Industrial Safety and Health Act in Japan. We can now provide the Ames data to improve the reliability and applicability of your QSAR models for predicting Ames mutagenicity.

We first provide a list of 4,021 chemicals without the results of Ames mutagenicity assay (Excel and SD files). After calculating the Ames mutagenicity by your QSAR tools, you return the excel file with the results (positive, negative, and others). We evaluate the performance of your QSAR tool (sensitivity, specificity, and others). Then, we disclose the Ames results. You can integrate the Ames results into your QSAR model as learning sets. Next, we provide another 4,000 chemicals list. According to this procedure, we provide 12,000 chemical data totally, and you can integrate these Ames mutagenicity results into your QSAR model. We believe that this project strongly contributes to improve the QSAR models as well as to promote QSAR studies.

If you are interested in this project, please contact with me.

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National Institute of Health Sciences

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Tokyo 158-8501, Japan

E-mail: honma@nihs.go.jp

Participants in Ames/QSAR Project

QSAR Venders	QSAR Model
1. Lhasa Limited (UK)	DEREK Nexus, SARAH
2. MultiCASE Inc (USA)	CASE Ultra rule-, statistical-based
3. Leadscope Inc (USA)	Leadscope rule-, statistical-based
4. Prous Institute (Spain)	Symmetry
5. Bourgas University (Bulgaria)	OASIS TIMES
6. Istituto Superiore di Sanita (Italy)	Toxtree
7. Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negiri (Italy)	SARpy + VEGA + CAESER (consensus model)
8. Swedish Toxicology Science Research Center (Sweden)	AZAMES
9. FUJITSU KYUSHU SYSTEMS (Japan)	ADMEWORKS
10. IdeaConsult Ltd. (Bulgaria)	AMBIT
11. Molecular Networks GmbH and Altamira LLC (USA)	ChemiTunes
12. Sumilation Plus (USA)	Mut_Risk-0

Ames Mutagenicity of Challenging Chemicals

Class A: Strongly positive, in which the chemical generally induces more than 1,000 colonies/mg in at least one Ames strains in the presence or absence of rat S9.

Class B: Positive, in which the chemical induces colonies more than 2-fold of the negative control at least one Ames strains in the presence or absence of rat S9, but not in class A.

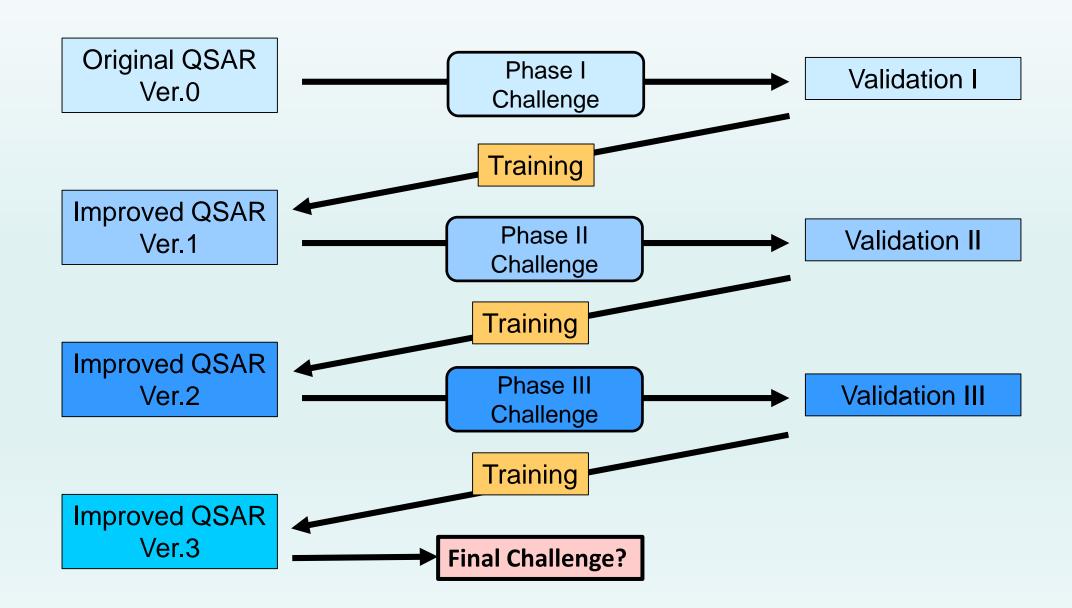
Class C: Negative, which is neither class A nor B.



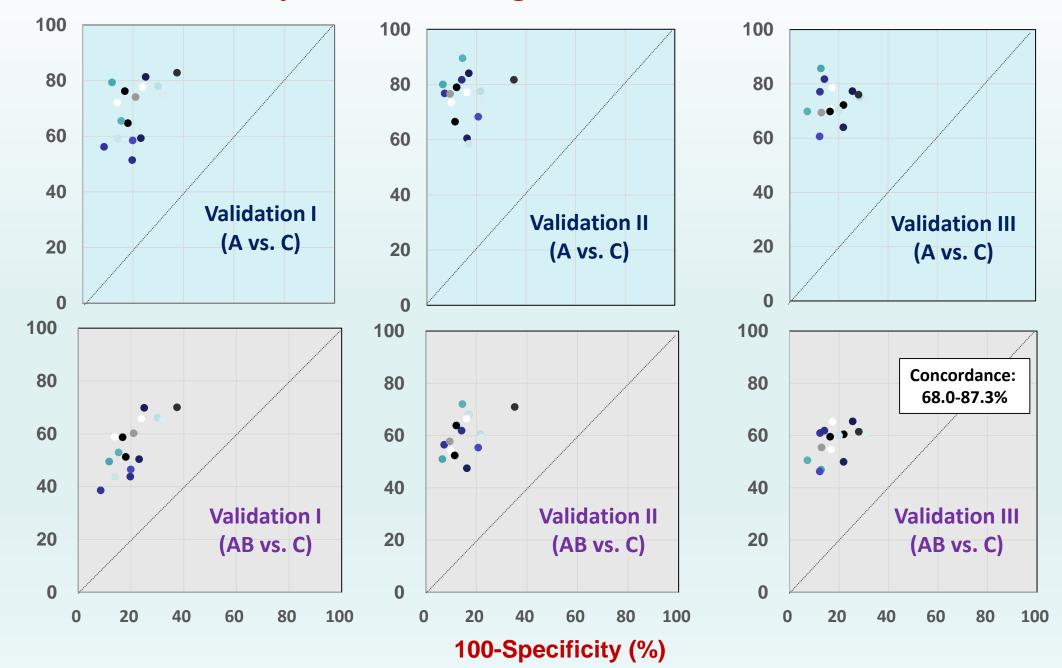
Ames/QSAR Project (Phase I-III) Challenged Chemicals

Category	Phase I (2014-2015)	Phase II (2015-2016)	Phase III (2016-2017)	Total (2014-2017)
Class A	183 (4.7%)	253 (6.6%)	236 (5.4%)	672 (5.5%)
Class B	383 (9.8%)	309 (8.1%)	393(8.9%)	1,085 (8.9%)
Class C	3,336 (85.5%)	3,267 (85.3%)	3,780 (85.7%)	10,383 (85.6%)
Total	3,902	3,829	4,409	12,140

Ames/QSAR Project (Phase I-III) Challenge Program



ROC Graphs for Challenged QSAR Models' Validation



False Negatives

Class A chemicals, but negative call by almost QSAR tools

$$CI = P$$

$$C$$



False Positive

Class C chemicals, but positive call by almost QSAR tools



Web-Site of AMES/QSAR International Collaborative Study



国立医薬品食品衛生研究所 安全性生物試験研究センター 変異遺伝部

DIVISION OF GENETICS AND MUTAGENESIS, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

AMES/QSAR International Collaborative Study

Robust Quantitative Structure–Activity Relationship (QSAR) models defining toxicological endpoints are desirable to enable regulatory authorities to identify chemicals possibly causing adverse effects without performing actual toxicological studies. Much effort has been invested in the development of QSAR models to predict Ames mutagenicity, among many toxicological endpoints, to exploit the large body of Ames data and the strong correlation between chemical structure and Ames mutagenicity. Ames results are important for decisions on the development of chemical products and pharmaceuticals and the assessment of chemical safety, given that a positive result corresponds to increased cancer risk from exposure to the chemical even at a low level. The ICH-M7 guideline (Assessment and control of DNA-reactive impurities in pharmaceuticals to limit potential carcinogenic risk) currently recommends two QSAR models (expert rule-based and statistical) to predict Ames mutagenicity for initially assessing DNA-reactive impurities in pharmaceuticals. This is the first international guideline addressing the use of QSAR in lieu of an actual toxicological study for human health assessment. Thus, QSAR models for Ames mutagenicity now require much greater prediction power to ensure the safety of chemicals. To increase this prediction power, experimental data sets as training data to build the models are important. Large numbers of highly reliable data sets will allow development and improvement of QSAR models with high predictive power.

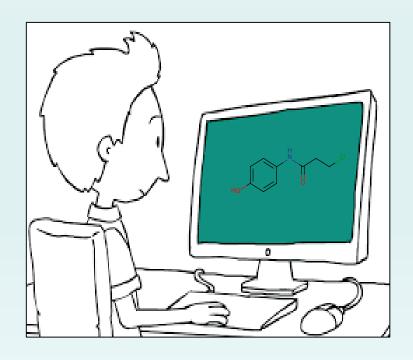
The Division of Genetics and Mutagenesis, National Institute of Health Sciences (DGM/NIHS) has Ames mutagenicity data for approximately 12,000 new chemicals. The Ames assays were conducted according to the OECD TG471 guideline and Industrial Safety and Health Act in Japan under GLP-compliant conditions. We now provide these Ames data to QSAR builders/vendors to improve their QSAR models for predicting Ames mutagenicity with the permission of the Industrial Safety and Health Department of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW), Japan. The Ames/QSAR international collaborative study leaded by DGM/NIHS launched on 2014. Because most of the Ames data are confidential, the QSAR builders/vendors participating in the project must execute a confidentiality agreement. Twelve QSAR builders/vendors from USA, UK, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Sweden, and Japan are currently participating in this project (Table 1).

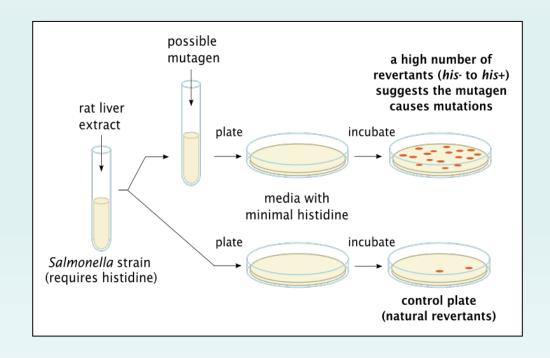


The next Ames/QSAR challenge program will start from the middle of 2018. Not only QSAR vendors, but also academia and IT companies are welcome to join the challenge. Hopefully, new QSAR models using Al and deep-learning will challenge.

Where is our goal?

Can we perfectly predict Ames mutagenicity by QSAR?





Inter-Laboratory Reproducibility of Ames Mutagenicity

-S9

Databases	Intersections	Concordance
GTP/NCI; TA 100	20 chemicals	85%
GTP/NTP; TA 100	39 chemicals	79%
GTP/NCI; TA 98	18 chemicals	88%
GTP/NTP; TA 98	21 chemicals	92%

82%

Databases	Intersections	Concordance
GTP/NCI; TA 100	15 chemicals	80%
GTP/NTP; TA 100	14 chemicals	(21%)*
GTP/NCI; TA 98	13 chemicals	90%
GTP/NTP; TA 98	23 chemicals	65%

+S9

GTP: Report of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Gene-Tox Program

NCI: Short-Term Testing Program in the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health,

US Department of Health and Human Services

NTP: NTP Program - P&G Inventory

*excluded for calculation

What means Ames positive?

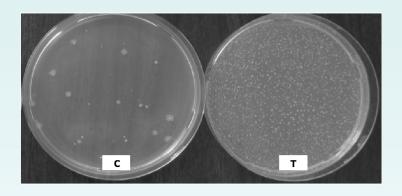
Class A: Strongly positive, in which the chemical generally induces more than 1,000 colonies/mg in at least one Ames strains in the presence or absence of rat S9.

Class B: Positive, in which the chemical induces colonies more than 2-fold of the negative control at least one Ames strains in the presence or absence of rat S9, but not in class A.

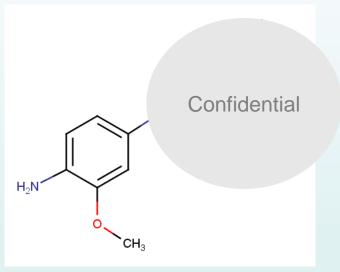
may contain false-positive.

Class C: Negative, which is neither class A nor B.

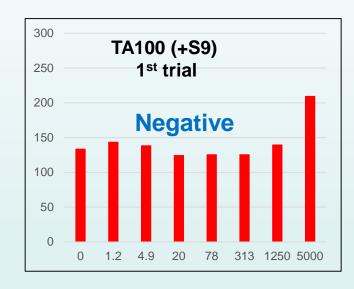
may contain false-negative.

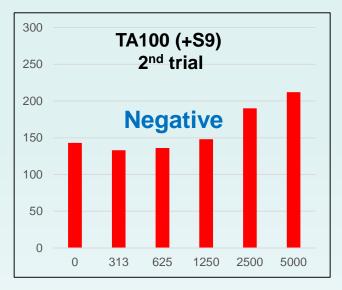


Is this Ames Positive? -Example A-

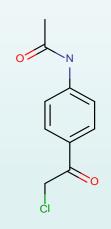


QSAR		Results
		PLAUSIBLE
Derek NX		Alert matched: 352 Aromatic amine or amide
CASE Ultra	PHARM_ECOLI	Negative
CASL OILIA	PHARM_SALM	Inconclusive

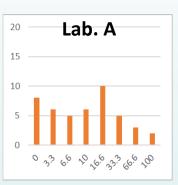




Is this Ames Positive? -Example C-



4'-(chloroacetyl) acaetanilde (Cas# 140-49-8)



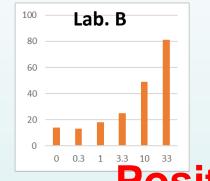
0 33 66 10 166 333 666 10

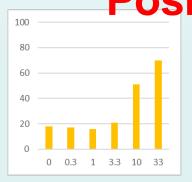
TA1537 (+S9) 5

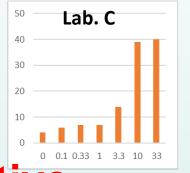
20

TA1537

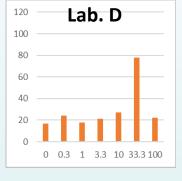
(-S9)

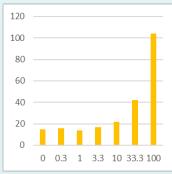






0 0.1 0.33 1 3.3 10 33 100

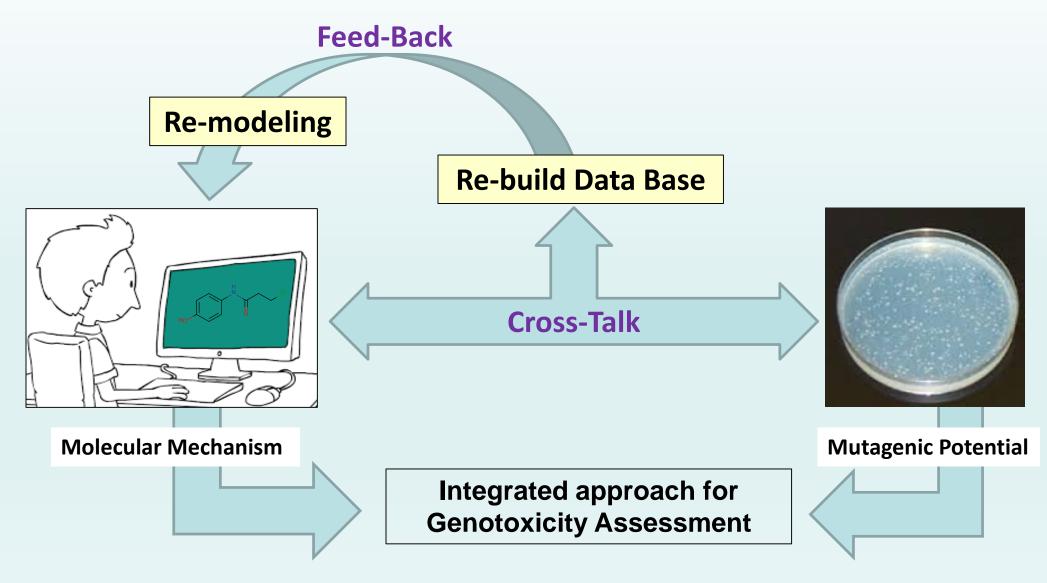




QSAR		Results
De	erek NX	INACTIVE
CASE Ultra	PHARM_ECOLI	Negative
CASE Offia	PHARM_SALM	Negative

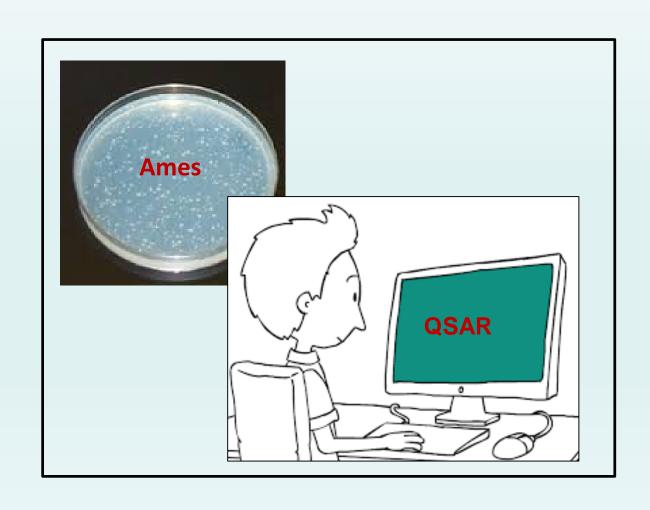
Dunkel et al., Environ Mutagen, 7, Suppl. 5, 1-248 (1985)

QSAR beyond Ames



QSAR is not only a tool for the prediction. It can support to judge the results of actual Ames test.

Use of Integrated Ames/QSAR approach



Genotoxicity vs. Carcinogenicity



Genotoxicity test: +ve Carcinogenicity test: +ve

Genotoxic Non-carcinogen

Genotoxicity test: +ve Carcinogenicity test: -ve **False Positive**

False Negative

--but, non-genotoxic carcinogens are possible.

Non-genotoxic Carcinogen

Genotoxicity test: -ve Carcinogenicity test: +ve

Non-Genotoxic Non-carcinogen

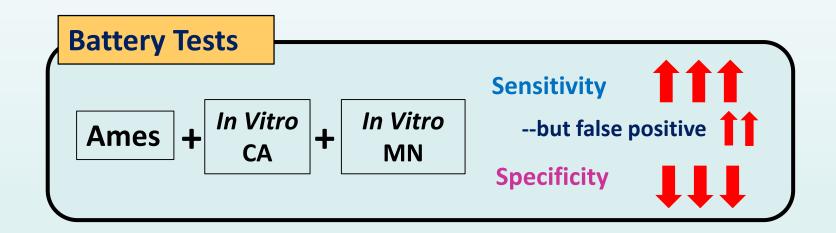
Genotoxicity test: -ve Carcinogenicity test: -ve



Performance of Genotoxicity Tests for Detecting Rodent Carcinogens (2)

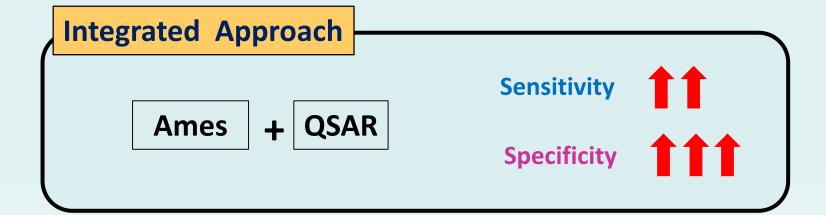
		In vit	ro	In vivo	Ames +	Ames +	Ames +
Reports		Ames	CA	MN	CA	MN	CA + MN
Morita et al., Mutat. Res. 802, 1, 2016	Sensitivity (%)	59.0	62.8	41.0	74.3	68.7	80.8
	Specificity (%)	73.9	48.5	60.5	37.5	45.3	21.3
Ames /QSAR integrate approach	Sensitivity (%)	71.3					
and re-evaluation of Morita's data	Specificity (%)	84.1					

Battery Tests vs. Integrated Approach



Expert Judgement





But, should be considered----

- Exposure level
- A class of mutations
- *In vivo* metabolites
- Human metabolites



They will also be predicted by QSAR near future.

Summary



- QSAR is an ideal tool as high throughput screening for huge number of chemicals without costs, labors and animals.
- The ICH-M7 guideline is the first international guideline addressing the use of QSARs for evaluating human health effect.
- A large number of highly reliable data sets are essential to allow the development and improvement of QSAR models.
- The Ames/QSAR international collaborative study is successfully ongoing. Its outcome gives a lot of benefits to QSAR vendors, QSAR users, and regulatory.
- The integrated approach with QSAR results increases the sensitivity and specificity of the Ames assay for predicting rodent carcinogens. It can support to judge the Ames results with molecular mechanism.

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