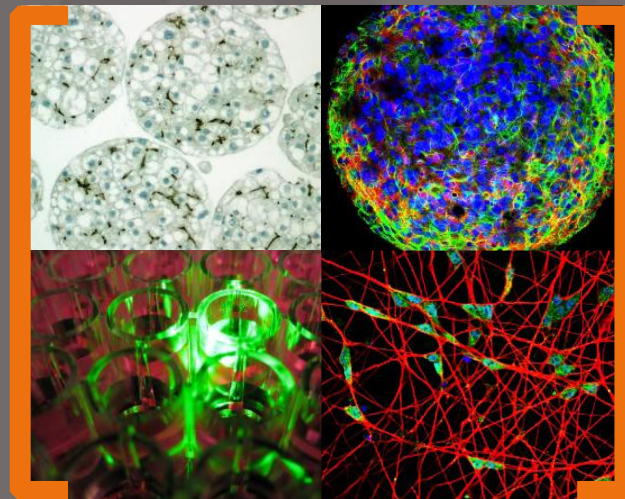
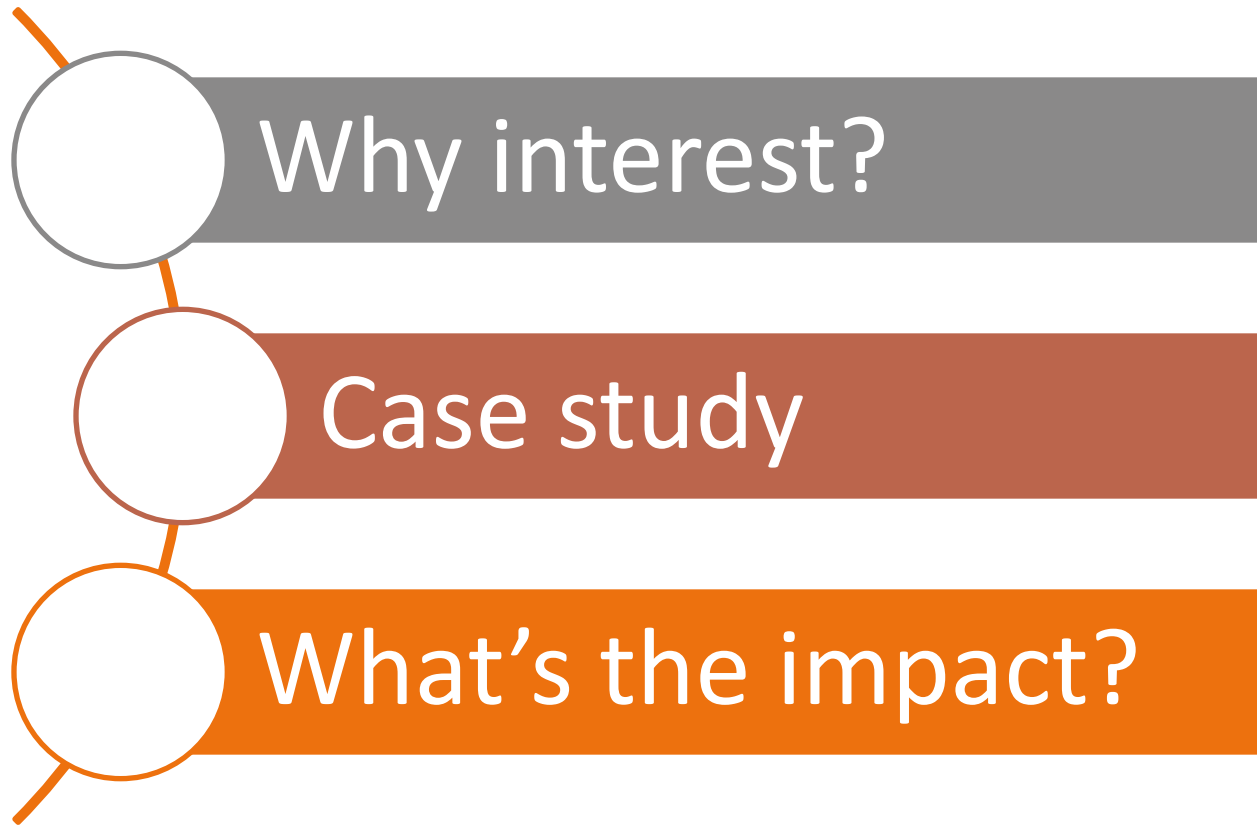


NGRA of developmental neurotoxicity liabilities of neonicotinoids insecticides

Susanne Hougaard Bennekou
EU-ToxRisk Final symposium
4th. November 2021





Neonicotinoid pesticides

Designed to target insect nicotine acetylcholine receptors (nAChR). Less affinity to mammalian nAChRs

Use in EU declining due to concern for pollinators

Systemic uptake by plants – found as residue in food

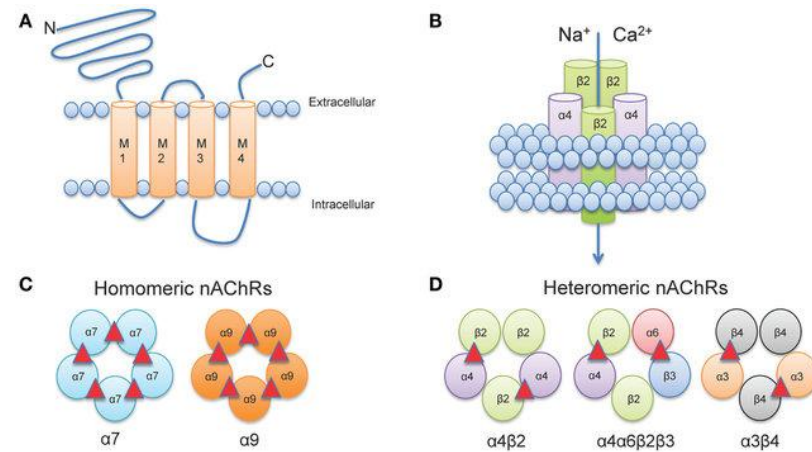
[HOME](#) / [NEWSROOM](#) / [neonicotinoids: risks to bees confirmed](#)

Neonicotinoids: risks to bees confirmed

Published: 28 February 2018



Most uses of neonicotinoid pesticides represent a risk to wild bees and honeybees, according to assessments published today by EFSA. The Authority has updated its risk assessments of three neonicotinoids – clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam – that are currently subject to [restrictions](#) in the EU because of the threat the pose to bees.



Hendrikson et al 2013

Regulatory concern?

Nicotine-Like Effects of the Neonicotinoid Insecticides Acetamiprid and Imidacloprid on Cerebellar Neurons from Neonatal Rats

Junko Kimura-Kuroda*, Yukari Komuta, Yoichiro Kuroda, Masaharu Hayashi, Hitoshi Kawano

Department of Brain Development and Neural Regeneration, Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Science, Setagaya-city, Tokyo, Japan

Acetamiprid & imidacloprid similar to nicotine - exert excitatory effects on nAChRs of rat neo-natal cerebellar granular cells in culture at low concentrations (from 1 μ M). ->May adversely affect the developing human brain



European Food Safety Authority

EFSA Journal 2013;11(12):3471

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

Scientific Opinion on the developmental neurotoxicity potential of acetamiprid and imidacloprid¹

 EUTOXRISK

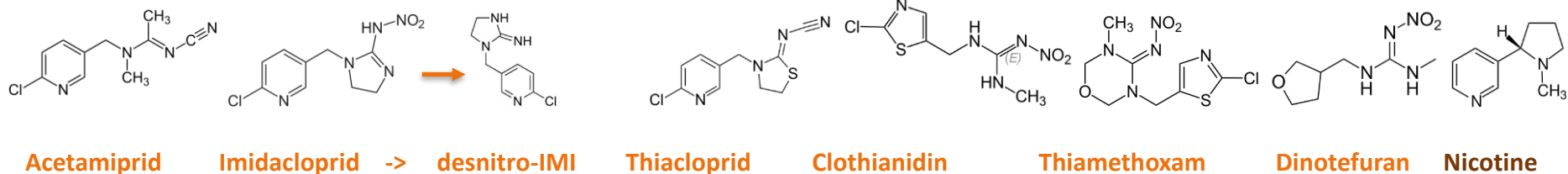
Regulatory developmental neurotoxicity (DNT)studies (TG426):

Imidacloprid: Effectson offspring, however the data was not be sufficient for a robust characterisation of dose-response. There were neuropathological finding at the top-dose.

Acetamiprid: Motor activity and learning & memory could not be adequately assessed. The study can only provide supportive evidence, but is inadequate for a robust characterisation of effects and dose-response.

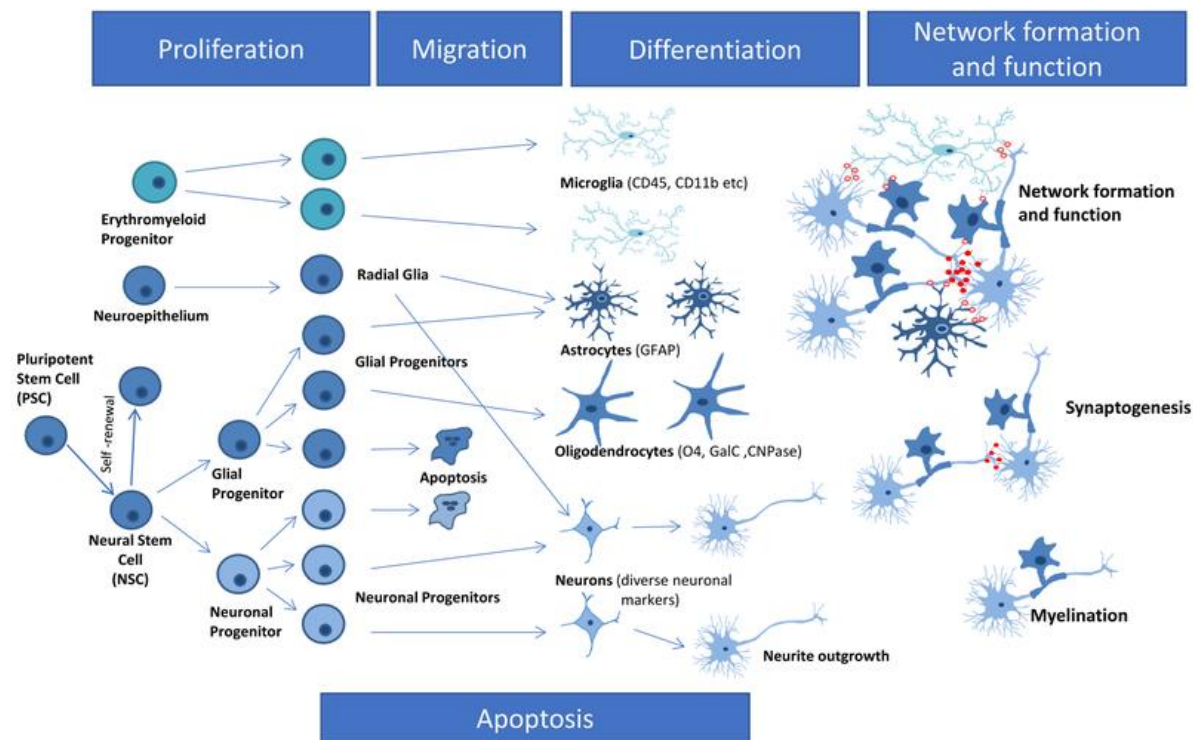
Consequence: Both studies had limitations -> Reference values were revised

Case study: Neonicotinoid pesticides



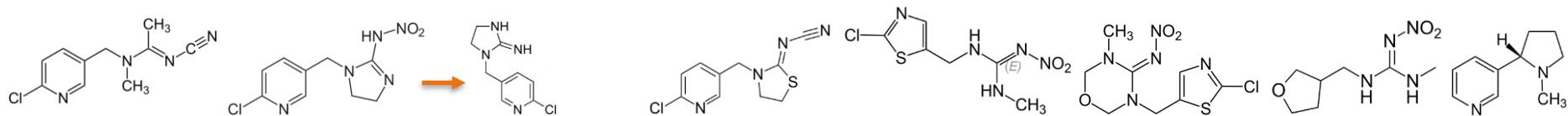
Fundamental neurodevelopmental processes relevant for DNT

It is assumed that DNT toxicants exert their toxicity by disturbing at least one of these processes



Bal-Price et al. ALTEX 2018

Case study: Neonicotinoid pesticides



Acetamiprid

Imidacloprid

-> desnitro-IMI

Thiacloprid

Clothianidin

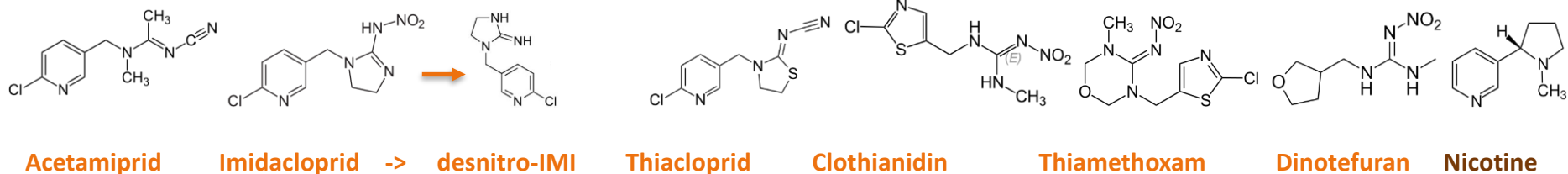
Thiamethoxam

Dinotefuran

Nicotine

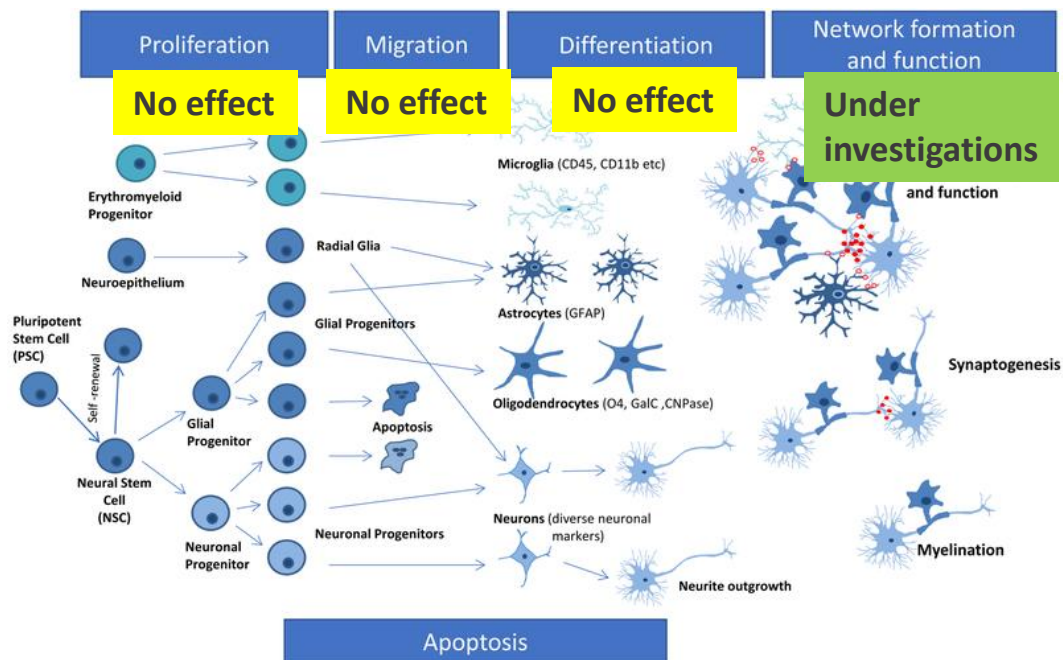
Key neurodevelopmental processes and cell survival						
Test Method	UKN2	UKN4	UKN5	RoFA	TD42 iPSCs	SHSY5Y cells
Test System	neural crest cells	LUHMES (CNS neurons)	hiPSC neurons (PNS neurons)	hiPSC differentiation into neuronal		
Endpoint 1	cytotoxicity	cytotoxicity	cytotoxicity	cytotoxicity	cytotoxicity	cytotoxicity
Endpoint 2	migration	neurite outgrowth	neurite outgrowth	rosette formation	-	-
	Biochemical/Signalling			Zebrafish	In silico	
Test Method	CALUX assays	Calcium measurements		FET (OECD 236)	Docking	PBTK/QIVIVE
Test System	reporter gene assays in U2OS	LUHMES	SHSY5Y	Fish embryos	IFD; Schrödinger Release 2020-2	in silico
Endpoint 1	cytotoxicity	Ca ²⁺ whole well and single cell	Ca ²⁺ whole well	Lethality	representative docking poses	Internal exposure
Endpoint 2	receptor- or stress pathway	patch clamp	-	developmental alterations	-	-

Case study: Neonicotinoid pesticides



- Neuronal signaling is altered by the neonicotinoids in a similar manner to nicotine
- Interactions with human receptors

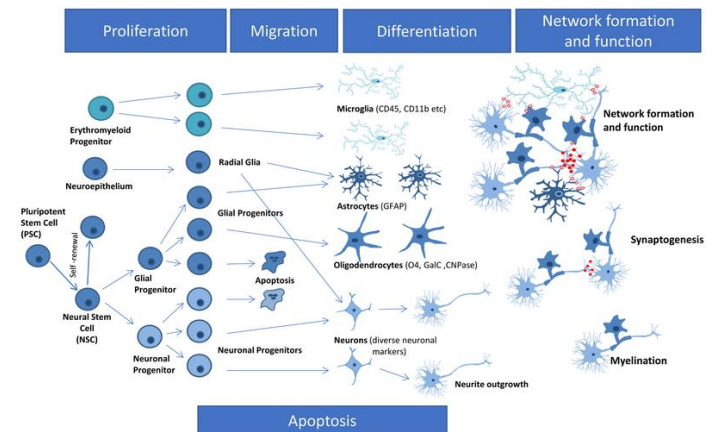
Nicotine	Active
Desnitro- Imidacloprid	Active
Imidacloprid	Active
Acetamiprid	Active
Thiacloprid	Active
Clothianidin	Active
Thiamethoxam	Inactive
Dinotefuran	Inactive



Regulatory impact?

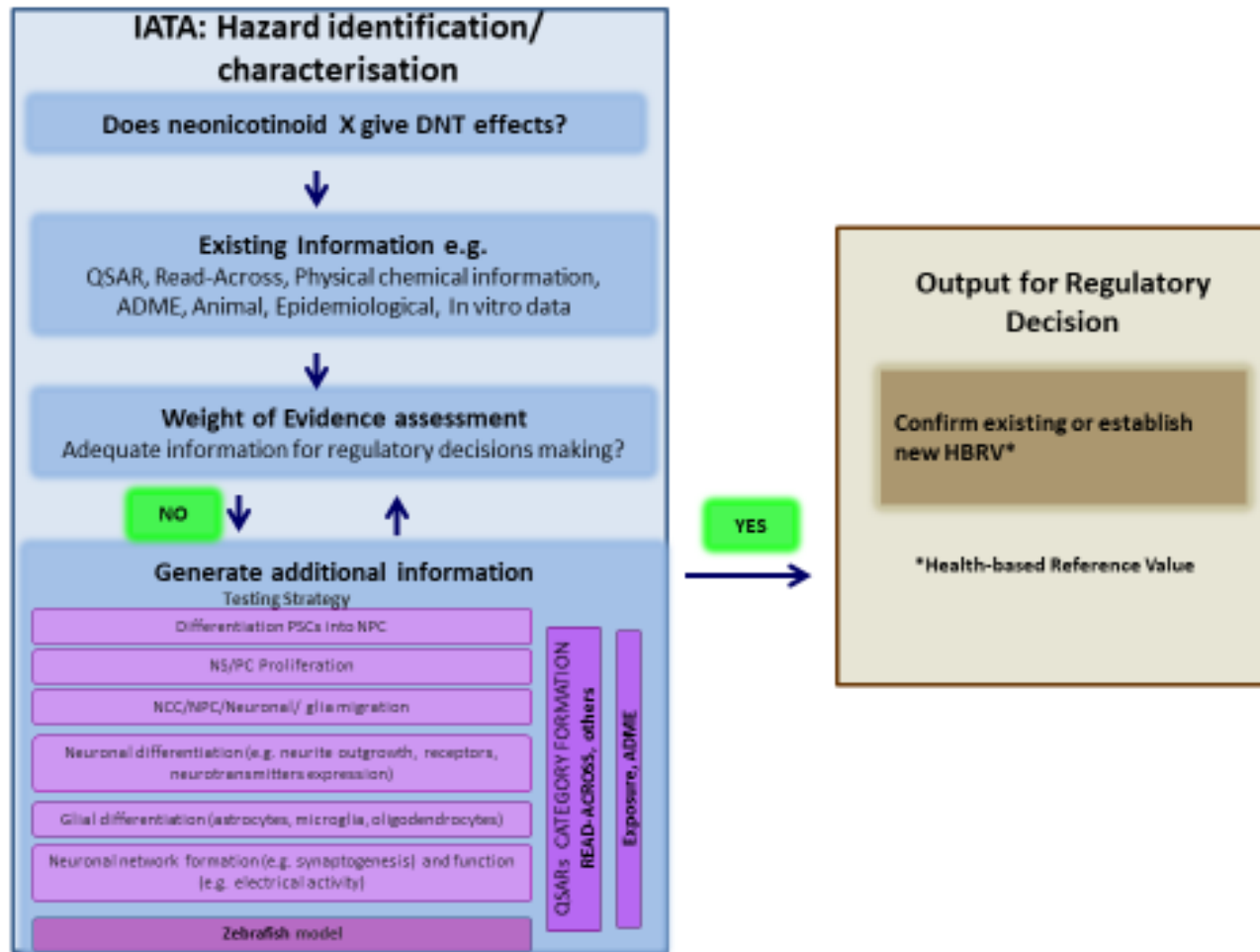
OECD Test guideline program: The DNT project

- Develop a **guidance** on application and interpretation of in vitro DNT assays
- Provide a flexible and tailored DNT **testing battery** to address different regulatory needs, identify the current suitability of different assays and provide elements for an Integrated approach to testing and assessment (IATA) of DNT modalities not related to the endocrine system
- Applicable to **all chemicals**

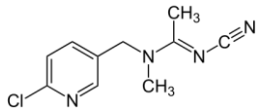


Regulatory Impact: Case Studies for OECD IATA project

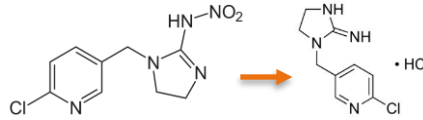
Problem formulation: Can new approach methods data in an IATA context (integrating existing information) on a neonicotinoid, sufficiently characterize DNT hazard?



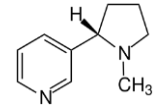
IATA case studies



Acetamiprid

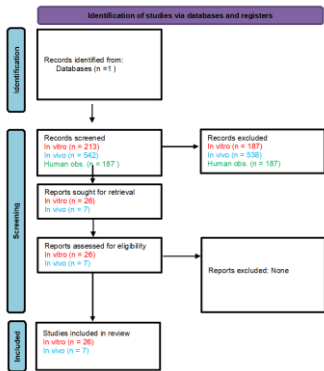


Imidacloprid -> desnitro-IMI

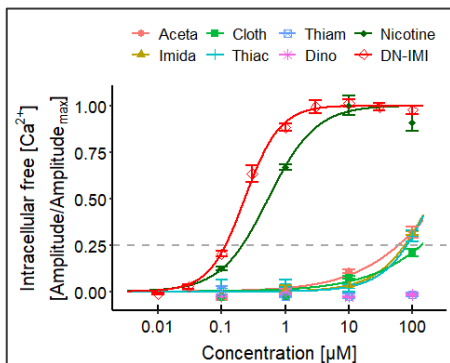


Nicotine

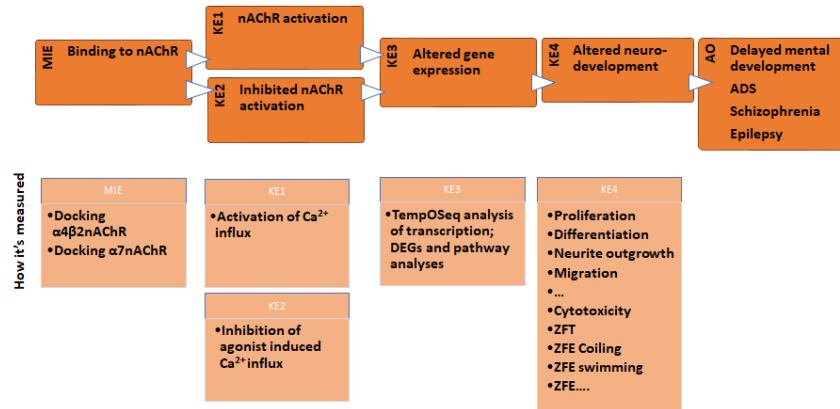
Literature review



In vitro testing - battery



AOP



Human exposure

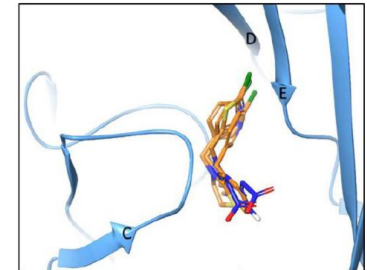
SCIENTIFIC REPORT

APPROVED: 25 February 2021
doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6491

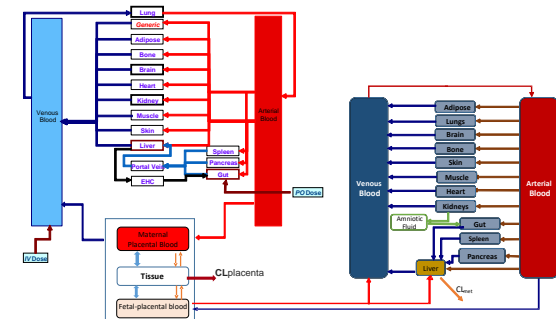
The 2019 European Union report on pesticide residues in food

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA),
Luis Carrasco Cabrera and Paula Medina Pastor

In silico – receptor docking



IVIVE-PBK



Case study

IATA Case Study on the use of Integrated Approaches for Testing and Assessment for developmental neurotoxicity hazard characterisation of imidacloprid and the metabolite desnitro-imidacloprid

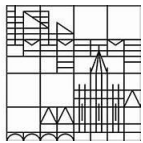
Jonathan Blum, Ylva Johansson, Rebecca von Hellfeld, Thomas Braunbeck, María Hinojosa, Melinda Zana, Andras Dinnyes, Dominik Loser, Marcel Leist, Karin Grillberger, Gerhard Ecker, Barbara M.A. van Vugt-Lussenburg, Bart van der Burg, Iain Gardner, Anna Forsby, Susanne Hougaard Bennekou

IATA Case Study on the use of Integrated Approaches for Testing and Assessment for developmental neurotoxicity hazard characterisation of acetamiprid

Ylva Johansson, Jonathan Blum, Rebecca von Hellfeld, Thomas Braunbeck, María Hinojosa, Melinda Zana, Andras Dinnyes, Dominik Loser, Marcel Leist, Karin Grillberger, Gerhard Ecker, Barbara M.A. van Vugt-Lussenburg, Bart van der Burg, Iain Gardner, Anna Forsby, Susanne Hougaard Bennekou

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[:::] EUTOXRISK

Thank you

