

In Vitro Toxicology

Safety Prediction and Transcriptomics

Background Information



'The field of transcriptomics has evolved substantially over the past few decades and made remarkable contributions in biology and toxicology.'

¹Joseph P. (2017) *Food Chem Toxicol.* **109(Pt 1)**; 650-662

- The lack of translation from animal to human species, coupled with an ethical drive to reduce or ban animal testing has led to a push towards human-relevant cellbased models.
- Mechanisms of toxicity can be complex comprising of a multitude of different and often interlinking pathways resulting in manifestation of a particular toxic outcome.
- Transcriptomic analysis, which identifies transcriptional changes in mRNA and other RNA molecules, is now showing promise in defining these mechanisms and enhancing toxicology prediction.
- Cyprotex, in conjunction with parent company Evotec, has built a complete transcriptomics workflow for whole transcriptome analysis. Using this approach, we are able to evaluate organspecific models to investigate mechanisms of toxicity and potential safety liabilities.

Service Benefits

- Advanced cell culture systems for *in vitro* toxicology
- Optimised for cell lines, primary cells, iPSCderived cells, and complex ex vivo tissues
- Sophisticated high throughput 384 well transcriptomics platform using RNA-Seq
- Leading bioinformatics platform for interactive multivariate data analysis
- In depth analysis of complex data using the unique EVOpanHunter software
- Advanced machine learning capabilities
- Large and complex data sets interpreted by expert data scientists
- Toxicity mechanism investigation by expert computational toxicologists
- The largest DILI transcriptomic database in the world

Figure 1

Overview of the high throughput transcriptomics platform



Cyprotex, and parent company Evotec, offer an end-to-end *in vitro* toxicology transcriptomics service that can be customised according to the client's needs. Advanced cell culture systems are combined with the latest NGS sequencing technology (RNA-seq) and a leading bioinformatics platform. Sophisticated machine learning and artificial intelligence are used to interpret the large and complex datasets generated.

Figure 2

Transcriptomics data analysis using EVOpanHunter.



Our EVOpanHunter software provides a very thorough analysis of differential gene expression along with pathways and specific signatures for different types of toxic mechanisms. This knowledge is built using large databases of reference compounds where their mechanism is well understood. Artificial intellegence can then be used to cross-compare with the profiles of these reference compounds and predict safety profiles for new chemical entities.

Figure 3

An example workflow representation of how transcriptomic data and AI are used to predict DILI.



A combination of transcriptomics and AI have been shown to deliver a superior level of DILI prediction. Using the industry current gold standard method; 2D primary human hepatocytes or 3D human liver microtissues with a seven parameter high content imaging read-out, DILI prediction accuracy is reported at 69% and 77% respectively. However, using the new DILI prediction platform, which utilises RNA-seq transcriptomics data generation combined with EVOpanHunter data analysis, accuracies of 80% are achieved using primary human hepatocytes, and 86% using 3D human liver microtissues.

