

Adverse outcome pathways for grouping of nanomaterials

Sabina Halappanavar, PhD

Research Scientist, Genomics and Nanotoxicology Laboratory, HC

Adjunct Professor, Department of Biology, University of Ottawa

Environmental Health Science and Research Bureau, Health Canada,

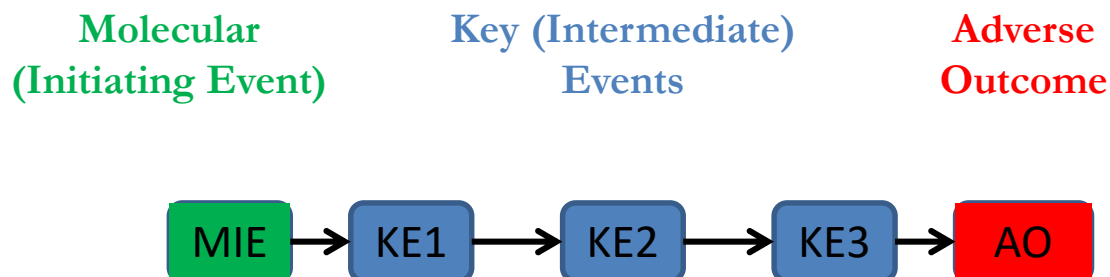
Ottawa, Canada



Adverse outcome pathways (AOPs)

- ‘Conceptual constructs that portray existing knowledge concerning the linkages between a direct molecular/initiating event and an adverse outcome at a biological level of organization relevant to risk assessment’

(Ankley et al 2010, Environ. Toxicol. Chem., 29(3): 730-741).



<https://aopwiki.org/aops>
AOP Knowledge Base
OECD's Series on Adverse Outcome Pathways
OECD AOP users' handbook

AOPs for categorising chemicals

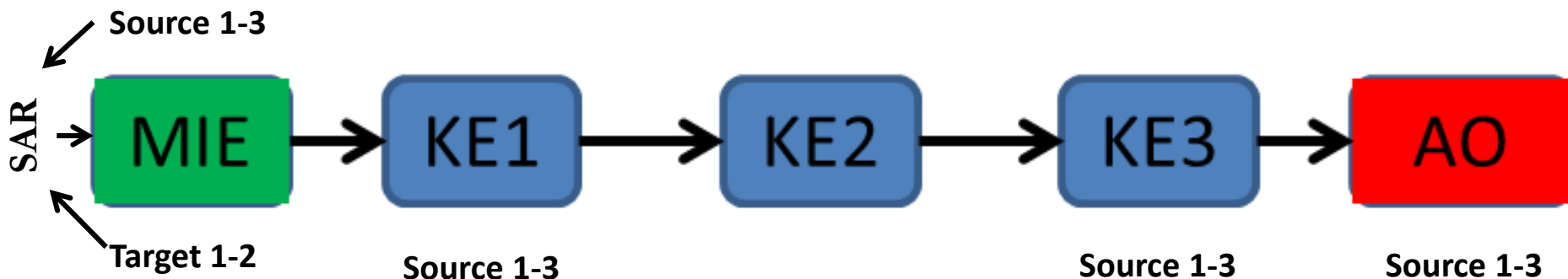
Chemicals that activate the same AOP are grouped together

Example: Exposure to a group of (Source chemicals) chemicals will induce the same AO

A new chemical (Target chemical) that is structurally similar lacks data

An AOP is available, SAR is established for the MIE.

Both source and target chemicals induce SAR, thus assumed to induce the same AO

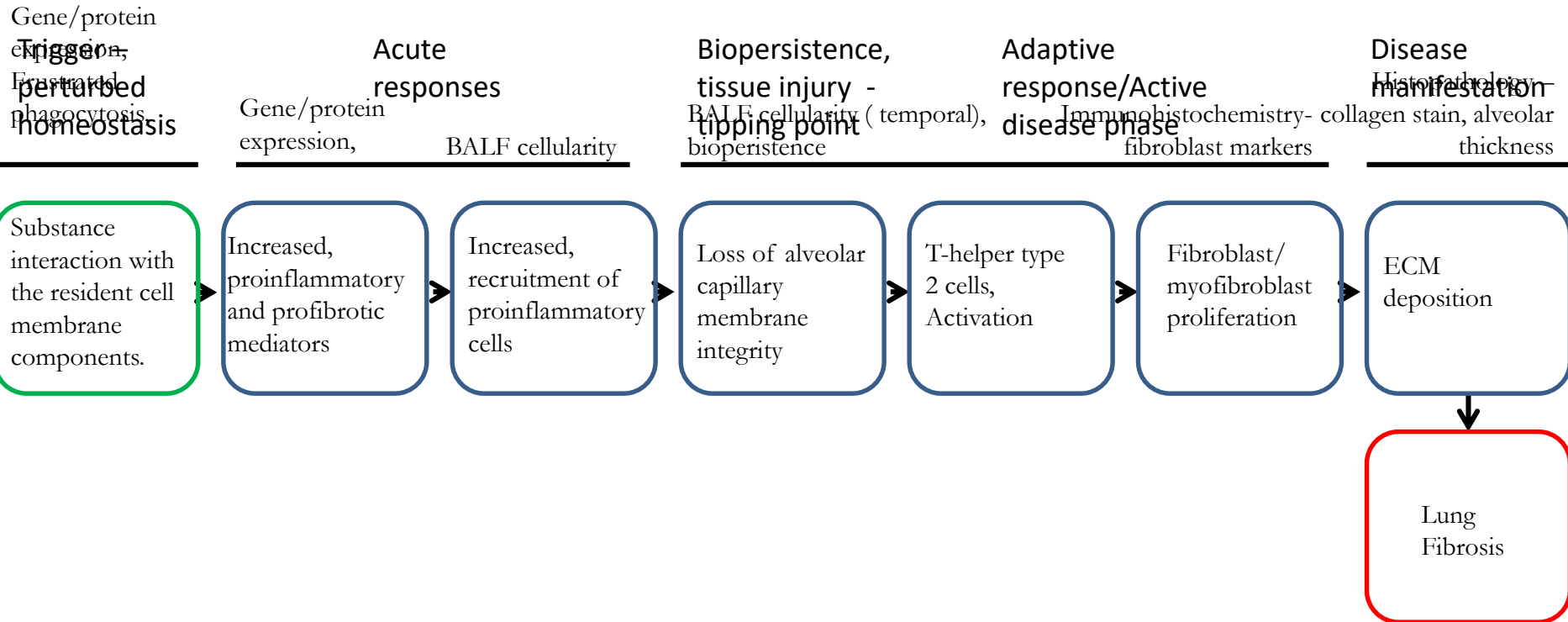


OECD(2017), Guidance document for the use of adverse outcome pathways in developing integrated approaches to testing and assessment (IATA), *Series on Testing & Assessment No. 260*, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD.

A putative/qualitative AOP for lung fibrosis

AOP 173: Substance interaction with the resident cell membrane components leading to lung fibrosis - OECD EAGMS internal review completed

Sabina Halappanavar, Monita Sharma, Hakan Wallin, Ulla Vogel, Kristie Sullivan, Amy J. Clippinger
Halappanavar et al., manuscript in preparation



Labib, S., Williams, A., Yauk, C. L., Nikota, J. K., Wallin, H., Vogel, U., & Halappanavar, S. (2016).

Nano-risk Science: application of toxicogenomics in an adverse outcome pathway framework for risk assessment of multi-walled carbon nanotubes. *Particle and Fibre Toxicology*, 13, 15.

Nikota, J., Banville, A., Goodwin, L. R., Wu, D., Williams, A., Yauk, C. L., ... Halappanavar, S. (2017).

Stat-6 signaling pathway and not Interleukin-1 mediates multi-walled carbon nanotube-induced lung fibrosis in mice: insights from an adverse outcome pathway framework. *Particle and Fibre Toxicology*, 14, 37.

AOP for categorisation and read-across

High aspect ratio materials (structural material)

SAR/CNTs, potentially fibrogenic to lungs upon inhalation

Experimental phagocytosis (MIE?)

Experimental data available

Target MWCNTs	Producer	CNT length (±SEM)	CNT diameter nm
1. NRCWE-026	Nanocyl (NC-7000)	847±102 nm	11
2. NRCWE-043	Cheap Tubes, Brattleboro, VT	771.3 (±3471)	26.73(±6.88)
3. NRCWE-044	Cheap Tubes, Brattleboro, VT	1330 (±2454)	32.55(±14.44)
4. NRCWE-045	Cheap Tubes, Brattleboro, VT	1553(±2954)	28.07(±13.85)
5. NRCWE-046	Cheap Tubes, Brattleboro, VT	717.2(±1214)	17.22(±5.77)
6. NRCWE-047	Cheap Tubes, Brattleboro, VT	532.5(±591.9)	12.96(±4.44)
7. NRCWE-048	Cheap Tubes, Brattleboro, VT	1604(±5609)	15.08(±4.69)
8. NRCWE-049	Cheap Tubes, Brattleboro, VT	731.1(±1473)	13.85(±6.09)

↗ Short

↗ Thin

Gene/protein expression, Frustrated phagocytosis

Substance interaction with the resident cell membrane components.

Gene/protein expression,

Increased, proinflammatory and profibrotic mediators

BALF cellularity

Increased, recruitment of proinflammatory cells

BALF cellularity (temporal), bioperistence

Loss of alveolar capillary membrane integrity

T-helper type 2 cells, Activation

Immunohistochemistry- fibroblast markers

Fibroblast/ myofibroblast proliferation

Histopathology – collagen stain, alveolar thickness

Excess ECM deposition/
Lung fibrosis

Source 1-2

Source 1-2

Source 1-2

Source 1-2

Source 1-2

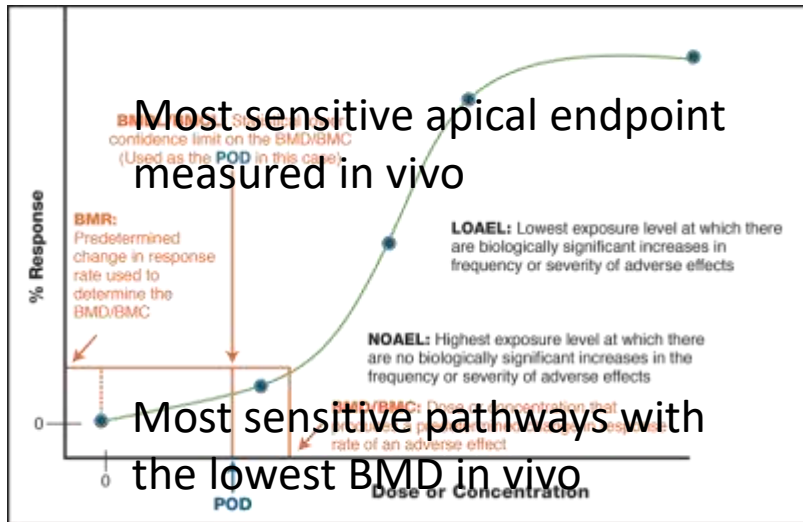
Target 1-8

Target 1-8

Target 2-8 ~

AOP for toxicity categorisation

Benchmark Dose (BMD)-response analysis



NCEA, USEPA ([USEPA 2010b](#)).

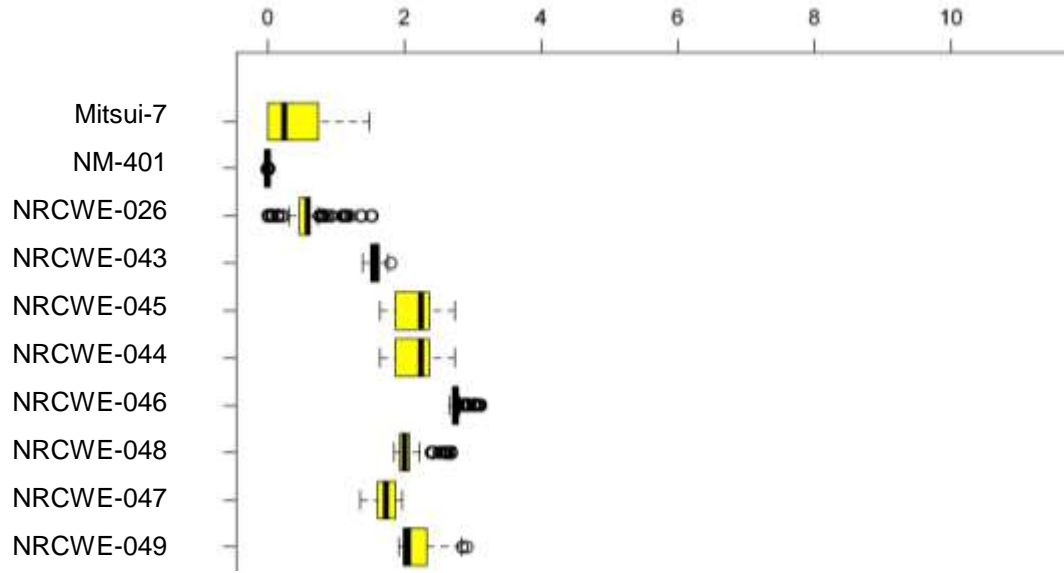
Apical endpoint
BMD –
pro-inflammatory
cell influx in lung
fluid – 24hr



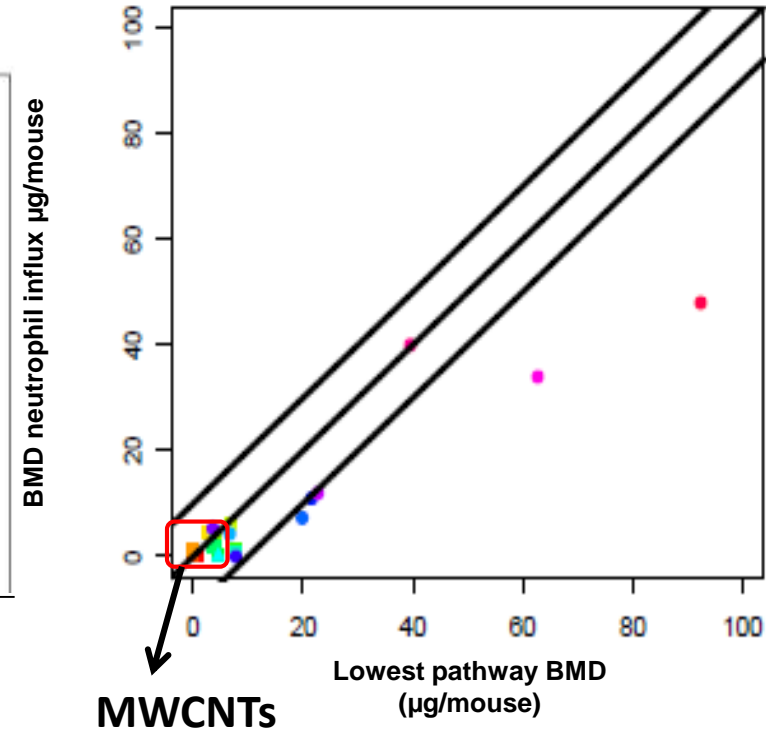
Transcriptomics
-pathway BMD
24hr
(MIE)

AOP for toxicity categorisation

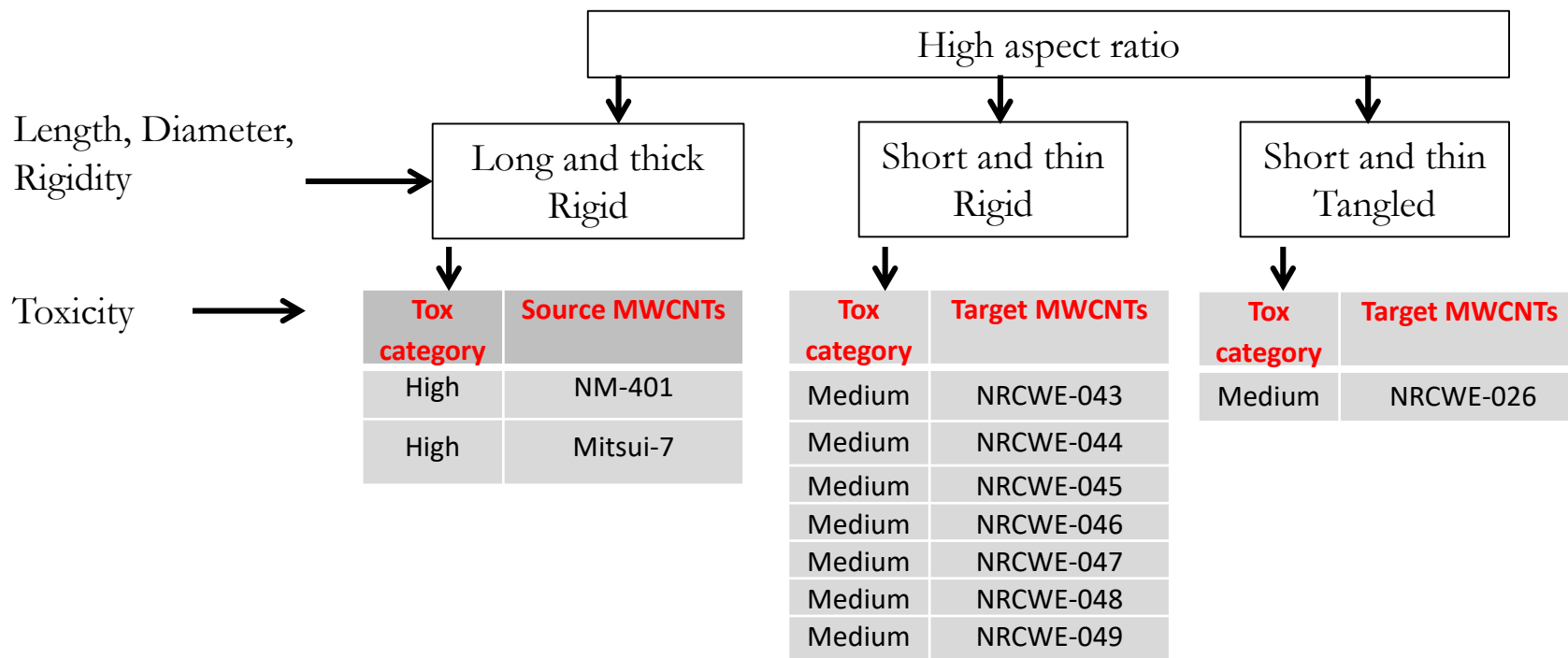
Dose-response analysis



Transcriptional/pathway BMD
(Square Rooted)
Reflective of the MIE – substance interaction with the
membrane components



AOP-guided categorisation or prioritisation (further testing)



AOP-aligned in vitro assays reflective of in vivo responses

Substance interaction with the resident cell membrane components.

Increased, proinflammatory and profibrotic mediators

Increased, recruitment of proinflammatory cells

Loss of alveolar capillary membrane integrity

T-helper type 2 cells, Activation

Fibroblast/myofibroblast proliferation

ECM deposition

Lysosomal uptake
DAMP release
Receptor signaling
Phys-chem
ROS synthesis

Pro-inflammatory cytokines
Fibrogenic factors
(Arg-1, IL1- β , TGF β 1, OPN)
Inflammasome activation

Th2 response genes/proteins

Fibroproliferation assays,
 α -SMA
Sircol collagen assay
Hydroxyproline assay
Collagen genes I, III/proteins

Tiered -
Combinations -
Defined approaches -
—

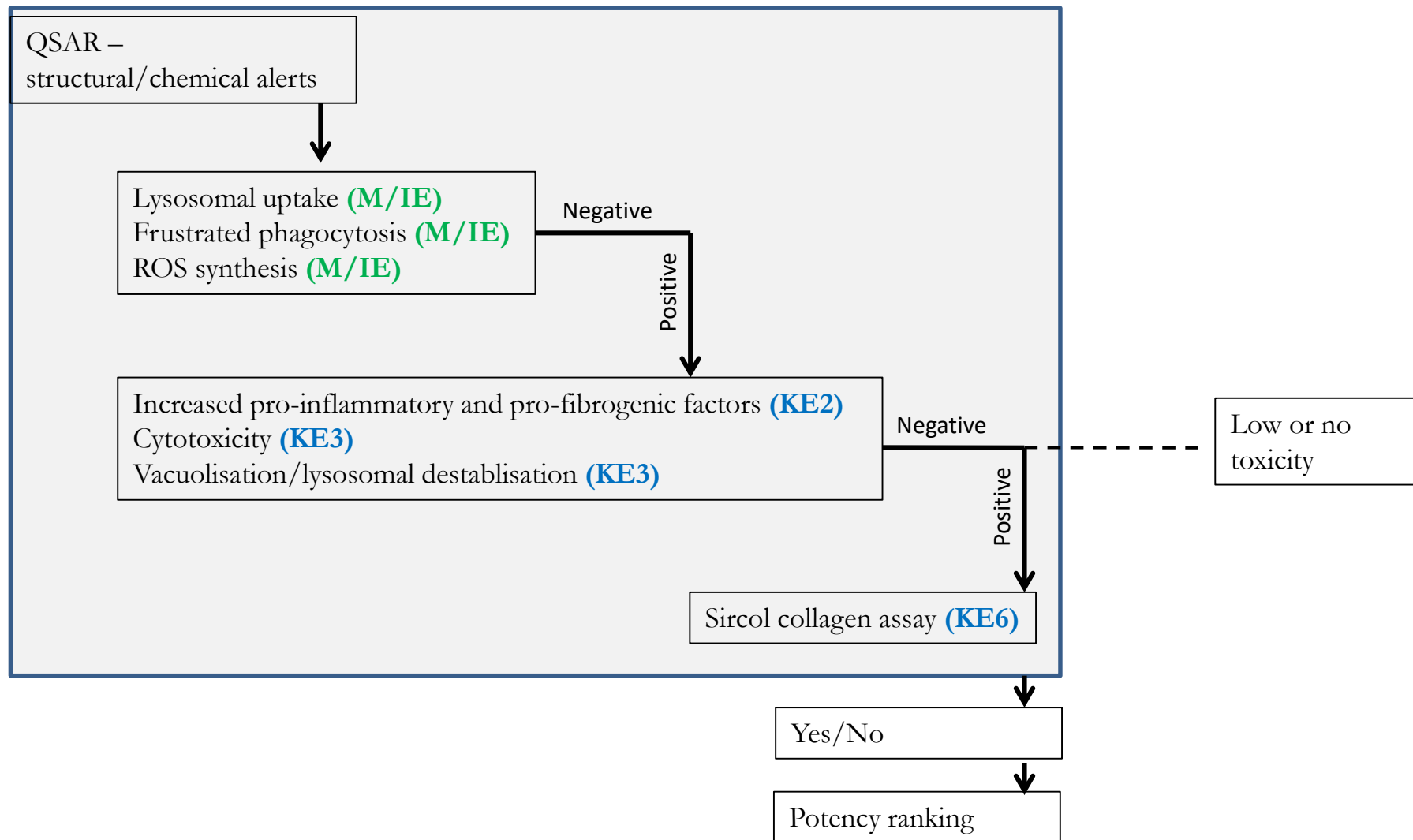
Cell models
Cell types

- Cell viability/cytotoxicity assays
- Colony forming/proliferation assay
- Loss of gap junctions
- Transepithelial electrical resistance— multi-cell type cultures
- Persistent ROS synthesis
- Lysosomal destabilisation
- Vacuolisation
- Imbalanced proteases/antiprotease
- TNF α , IL-1 β

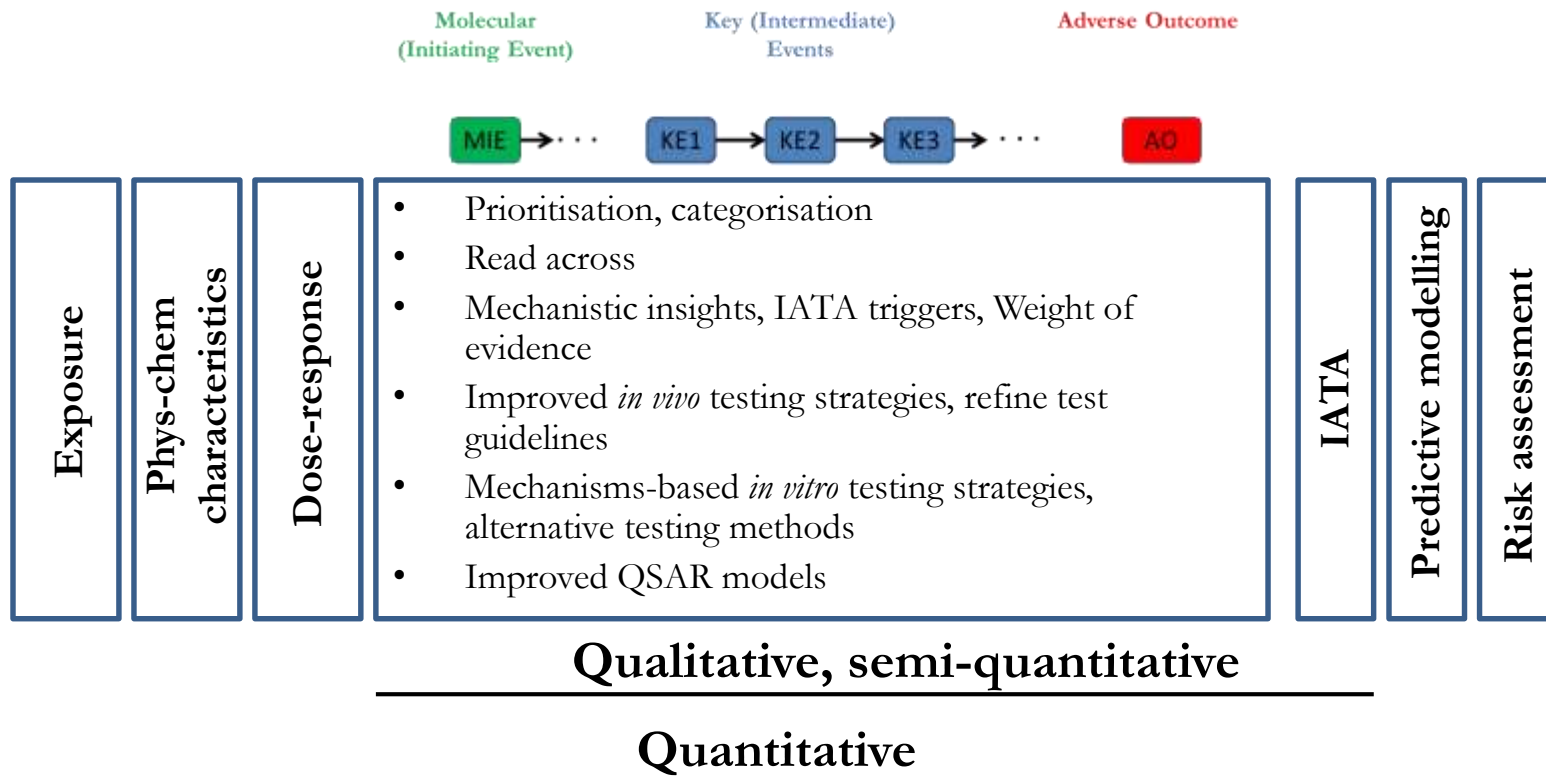
AOP-aligned in vitro assays reflective of in vivo fibrogenic responses in lungs

Decision tree

IATA



Conclusions



For further reading, refer to ‘Validation of Alternative Methods for Toxicity Testing’, Chantra Eskes, Maurice Whelan (eds). Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology 856, Springer.

Acknowledgements

Genomics and Nanotoxicology Laboratory, Health Canada

Dongmei Wu

Luna Rahman, PhD

Jake Nikota, PhD

Andrew Williams - Biostatistician

National Research Center for the Working Environment

Ulla Vogel

Hakan Wallin

Funding



**Health
Canada**

**Santé
Canada**

Chemicals Management Plan Nano

Genomics Research and Development Initiative