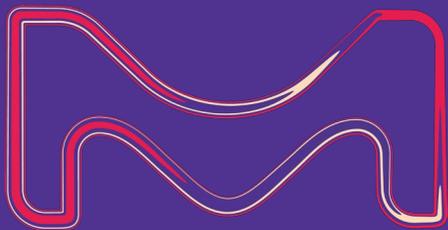


# What compound to synthesize next?

**Wie Machine Learning und KI das Wirkstoffdesign  
beeinflussen**

Daniel Kuhn  
Computational Chemistry & Biologics  
Merck Healthcare KGaA

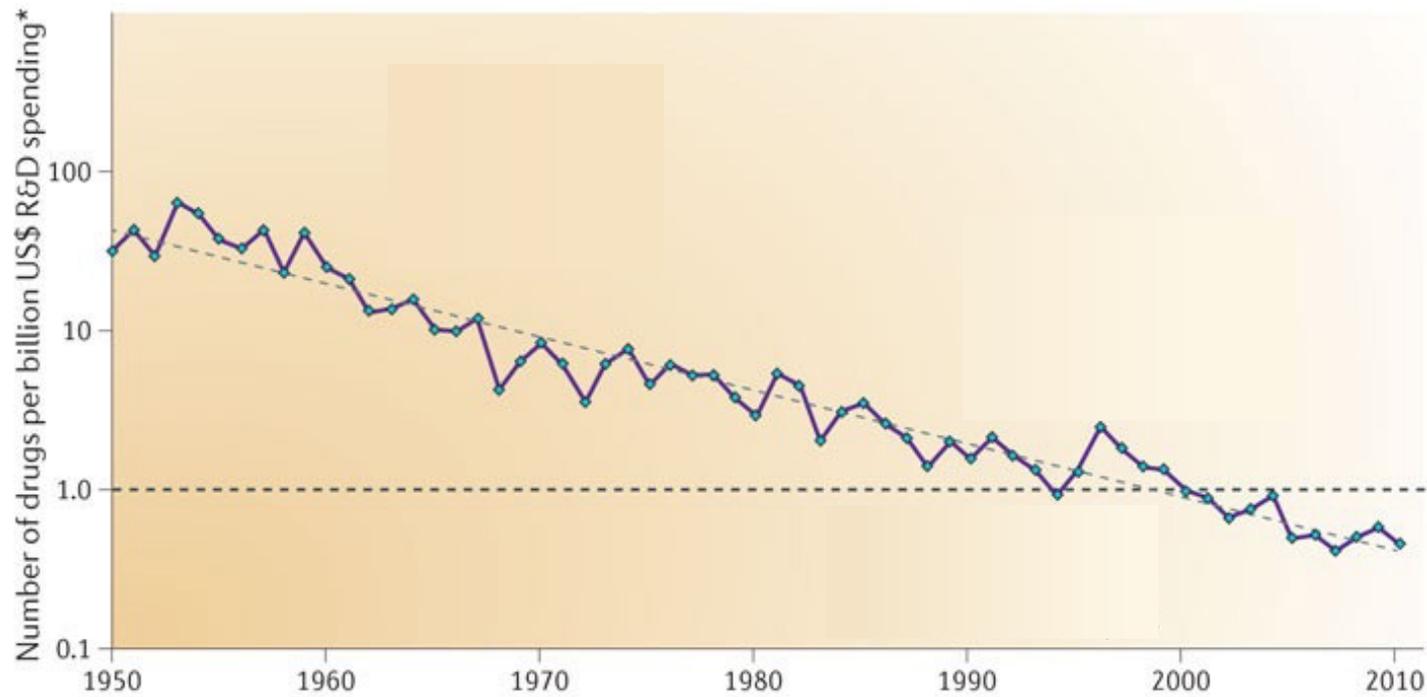
2021-04-14



**MERCK**

# Efficiency in drug discovery is declining over years

a Overall trend in R&D efficiency (inflation-adjusted)

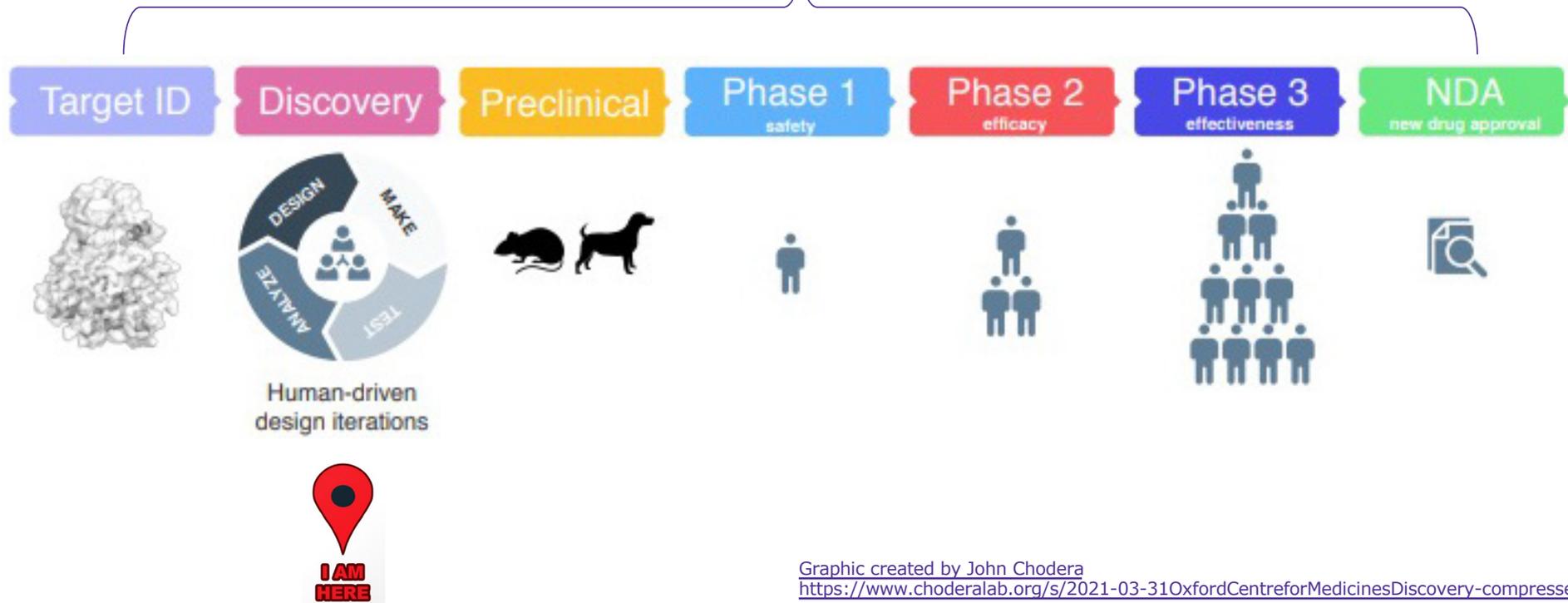


Scannell et al., Nat Rev Drug Disc 2012

<https://www.nature.com/articles/nrd3681>

# Drug discovery development is costly and timely

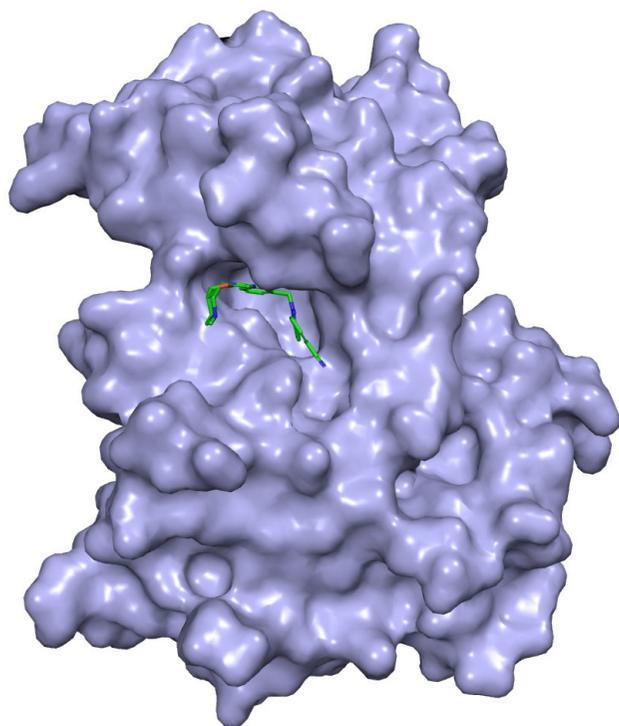
Duration: 12-14 years



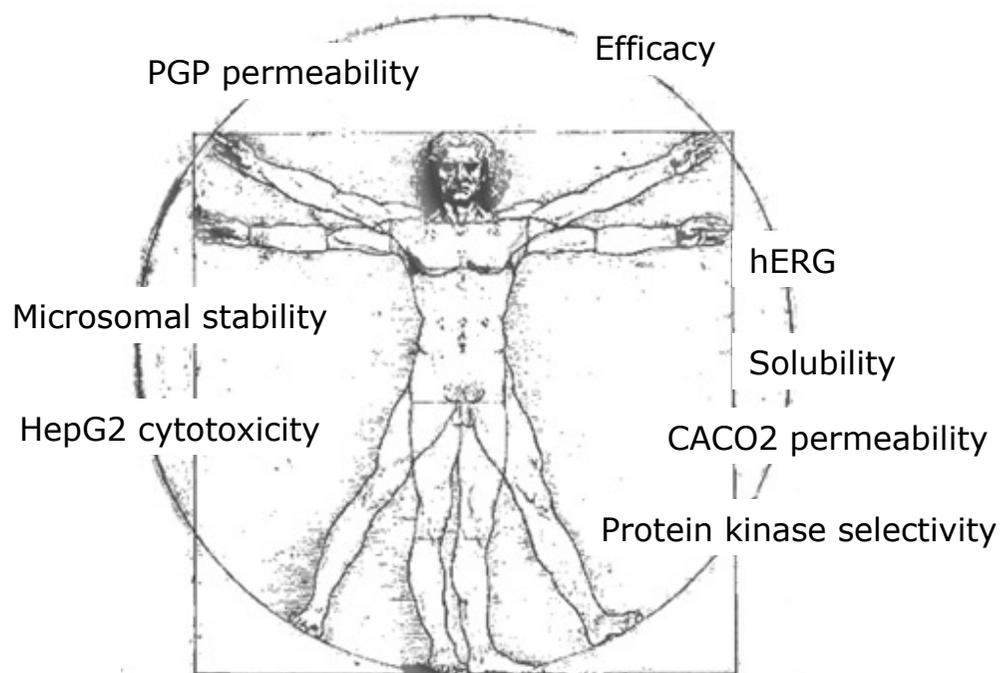
Graphic created by John Chodera  
<https://www.choderalab.org/s/2021-03-31OxfordCentreforMedicinesDiscovery-compressed.pdf>

# Drug development

## A multi-parameter optimization problem



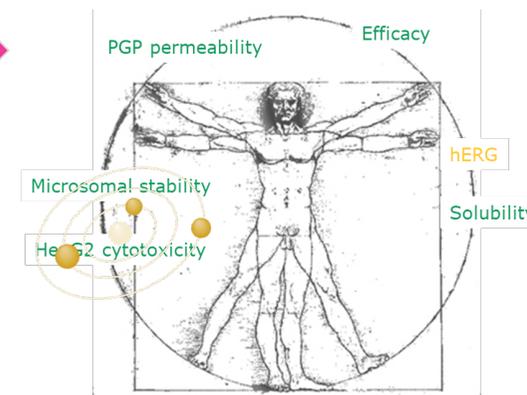
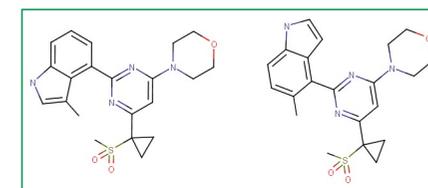
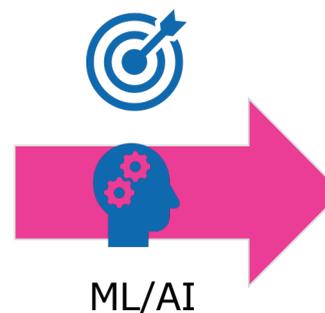
TEPMETKO (Tepotinib) bound to c-Met



Which compounds to make next?

**Challenge: Chemical space is huge – which compounds to make next?**

Chemical space is huge



Foot et al., *J. Med. Chem.* **2013**, 56, 2125–2138

Daniel Kuhn | 2021-04-14 | PharmaForum 2021

**MERCK**

## AI creatively inventing novel stuff

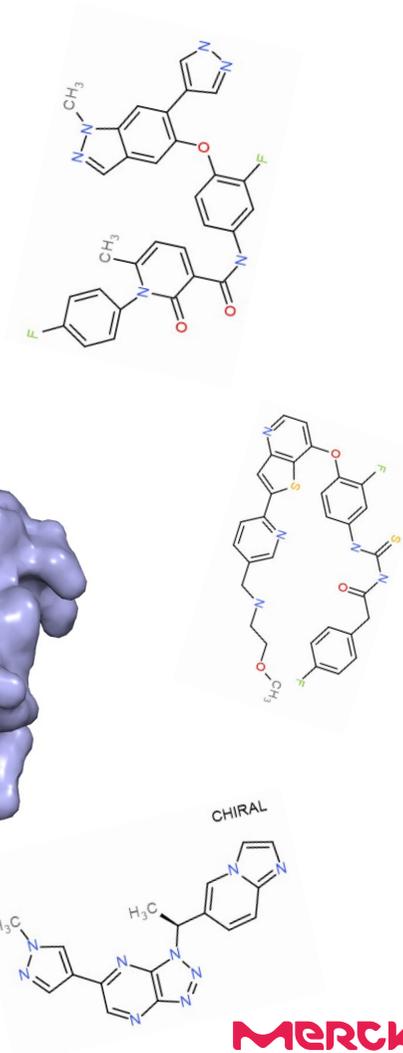
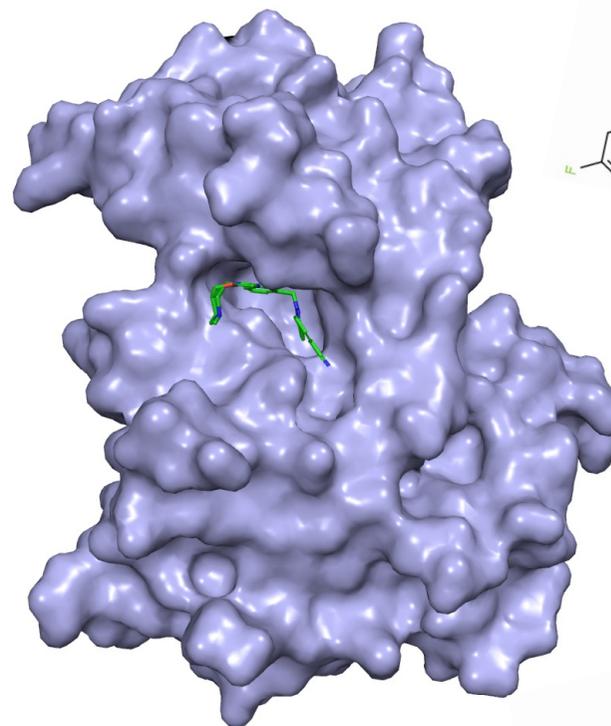
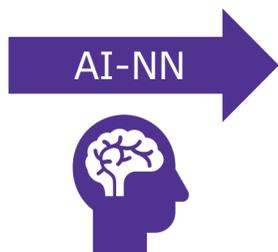
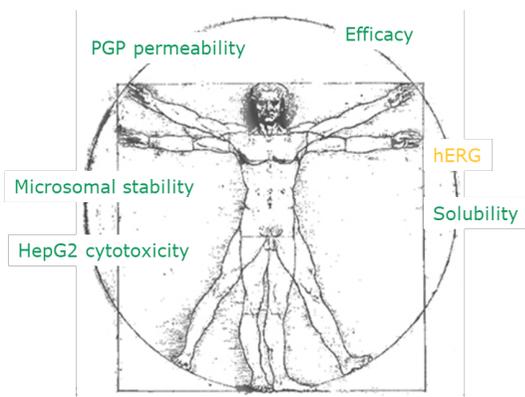
Neural network DALL·E is a 12-billion parameter version of GPT-3 language model trained to generate images from text descriptions

„Draw a picture of an armchair in the shape of an avocado “

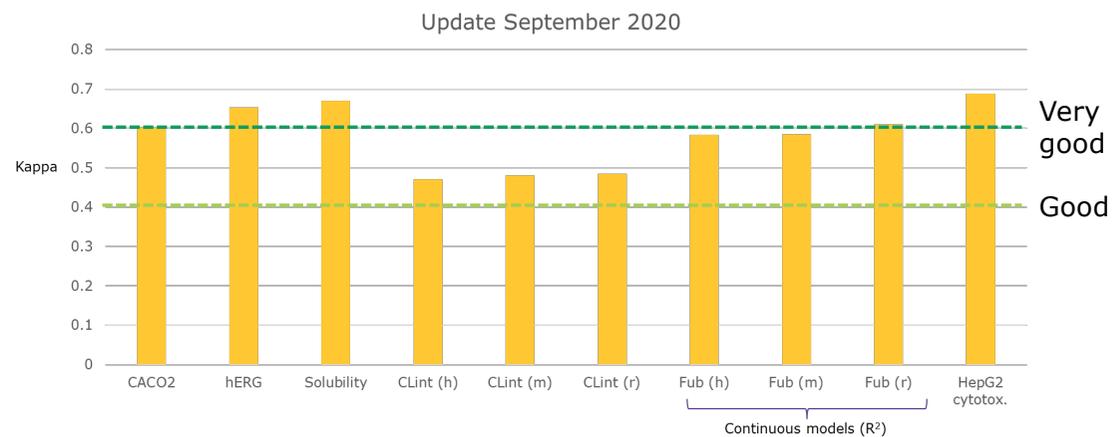
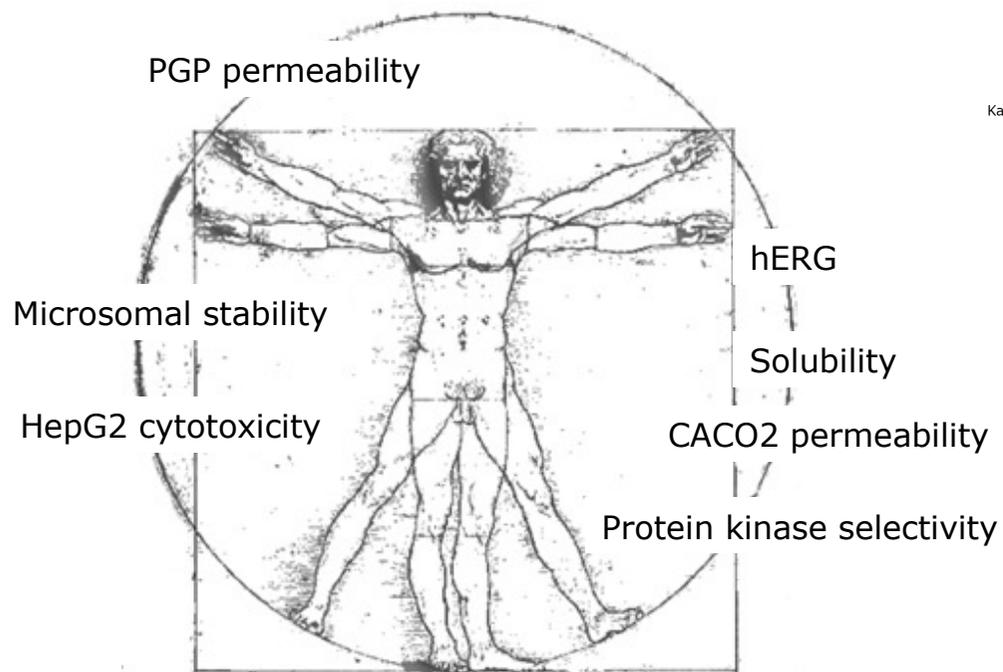


<http://openai.com> - DALL·E: Creating images from text

# „Design a cellular potent c-Met inhibitor with good microsomal stability and high CACO2 permeability“



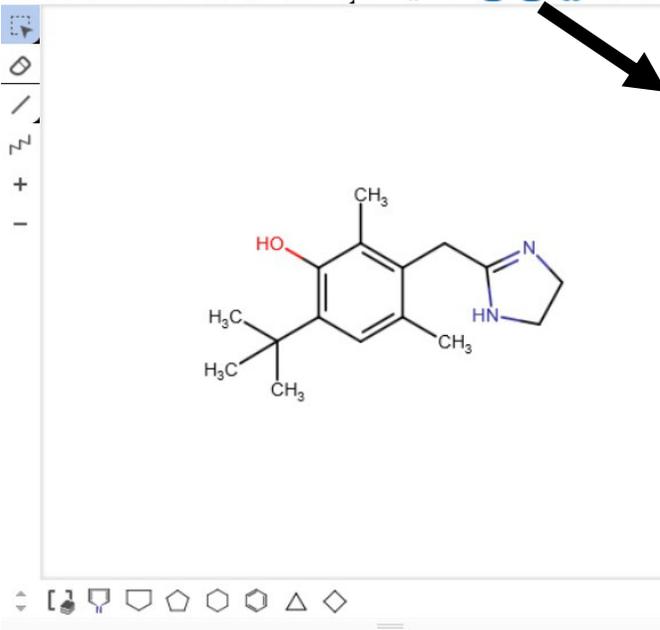
# Predictive models in MOCCA: Endpoints & performance





H  
C  
N  
O  
S  
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P  
Cl  
Br  
I  
\*

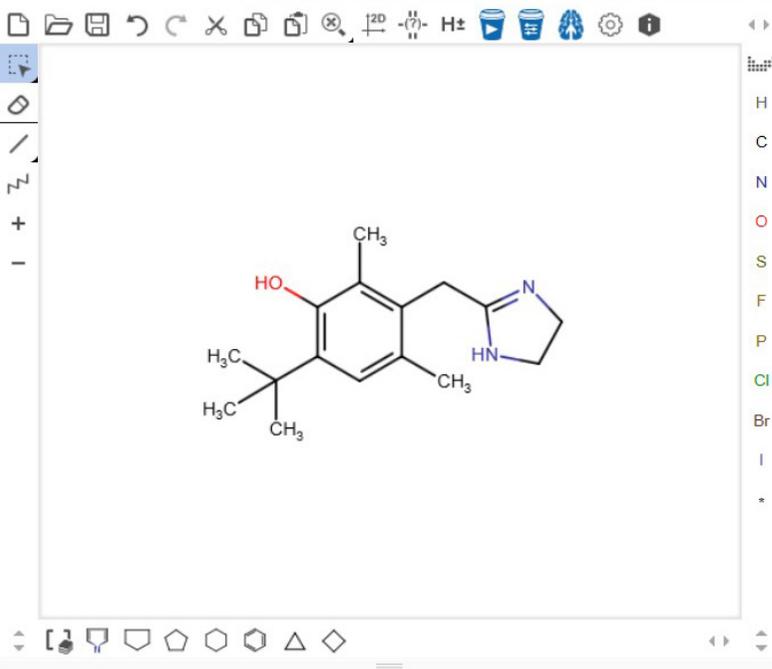




### Select properties

Predictive Models (10/10)		<input checked="" type="radio"/> CS	all	none
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CACO2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CS		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CLint_Human	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CS		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CLint_Mouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CS		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CLint_Rat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CS		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fub_rat			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fub_mouse			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fub_human			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	hERG_patchclamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CS		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	solubility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CS		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Micronucleus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CS		
Project-Specific Models (0/17)			all	none
Physchem Properties (0/10)			all	none
Kinases models (1/1)			all	none
Misc (1/1)			all	none





Flip

Predictive Models	
CACO2	perm...
CLint_Human	stable
CLint_Mouse	instable
CLint_Rat	instable
Fub_rat	23.1
Fub_mouse	21.4
Fub_human	21.1
hERG_patchclamp	inactive
solubility	soluble
Micronucleus	negat...
Kinases models	
All Kinases (Merck)	
Misc	
ReaxysID	886303

e.g. →

**solubility** x

Information Neighbours Confidence

3-class classification model to predict kinetic solubility (ROP1452, thresholds -4 and -5 log units in mol/L)

[Close](#)

**solubility** x

Information Neighbours Confidence

MSC2572868	MSC2569002	MSC1316021	MSC2395939
<b>Censored by Merck</b>	<b>Censored by Merck</b>	<b>Censored by Merck</b>	<b>Censored by Merck</b>
Tanimoto coefficient	Tanimoto coefficient	Tanimoto coefficient	Tanimoto coefficient
0.52	0.51	0.49	0.49
Experimental value	Experimental value	Experimental value	Experimental value
3.7	3.7	5.62	3.75
Unit	Unit	Unit	Unit
logS [M]	logS [M]	logS [M]	logS [M]
Classification	Classification	Classification	Classification
soluble	soluble	insoluble	soluble

[Close](#)

**solubility** x

Information Neighbours Confidence

CS = 0.65

The confidence score (CS) is the arithmetic mean of the maximum similarity to the training data and the model probability of the prediction.

[Close](#)

# Combination is key for impact in compound optimization



2

**MOCCA:**

Application of ML/DNN predictive models

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1 Score
ADMET_prediction	0.95	0.92	0.98	0.95
ADMET_prediction	0.90	0.88	0.92	0.90
ADMET_prediction	0.85	0.83	0.87	0.85
ADMET_prediction	0.80	0.78	0.82	0.80
ADMET_prediction	0.75	0.73	0.77	0.75
ADMET_prediction	0.70	0.68	0.72	0.70
ADMET_prediction	0.65	0.63	0.67	0.65
ADMET_prediction	0.60	0.58	0.62	0.60
ADMET_prediction	0.55	0.53	0.57	0.55
ADMET_prediction	0.50	0.48	0.52	0.50

Scaffold A

1

**MASSIV:** Enumeration of synthetically accessible chemical space

**Generative design**

+ Primary alcohols R-CH2-OH

**MASSIV & Generative Design**

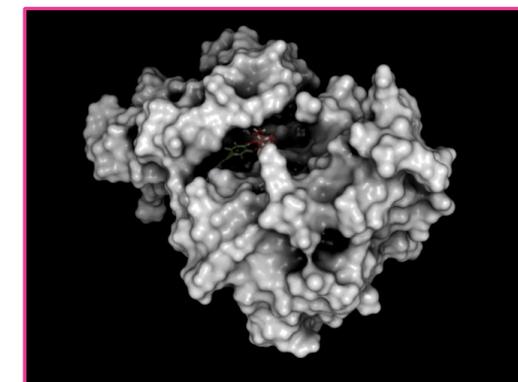
**Virtual Screening as 1st filter**

**MOCCA**

**FEP calculations**

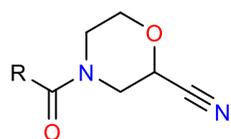
3

**FEP:** Binding constant prediction

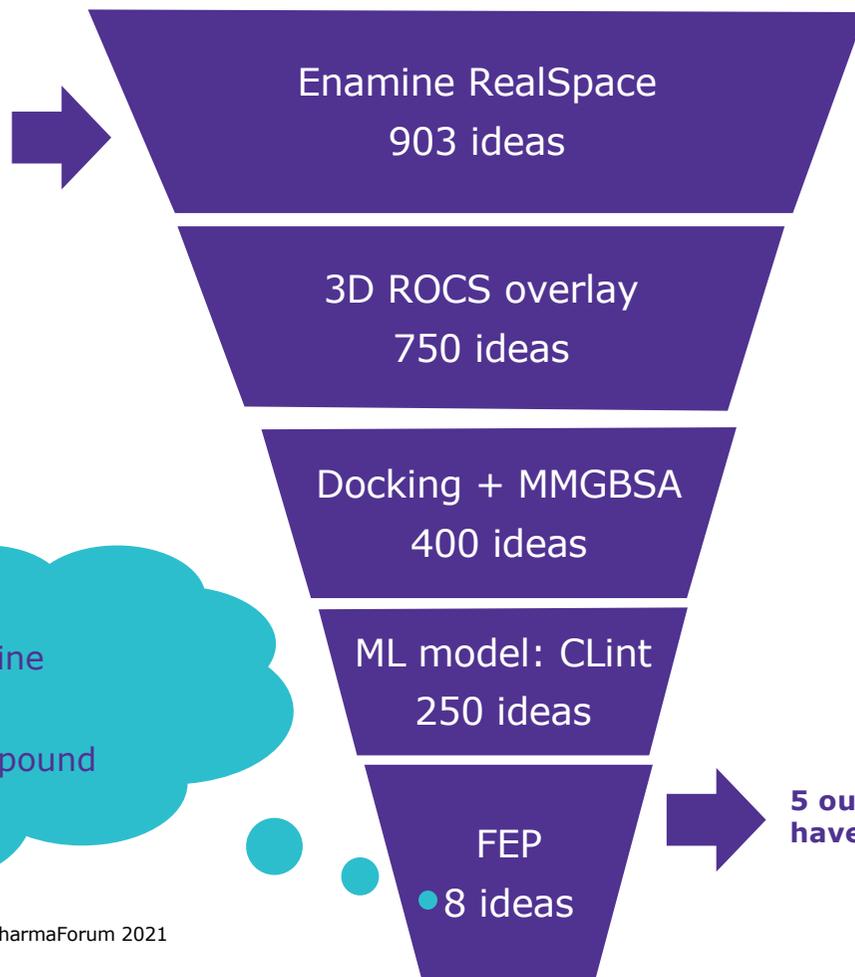


# Discovery of new chemical starting points with FEP+ML

## Use case 3: From fragment to hit

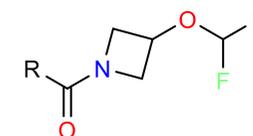


SPR KDss = 300  $\mu$ M  
LE = 0.25

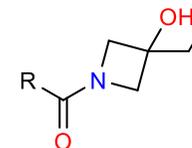


### Synthesis at Enamine

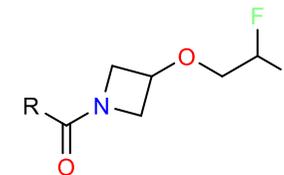
- 4 weeks
- < 100 EUR per compound



Top 1 in FEP  
IC50 = 1.2  $\mu$ M  
ITC KD = 1  $\mu$ M  
LE = 0.41



IC50 = 24  $\mu$ M



IC50 = 47  $\mu$ M

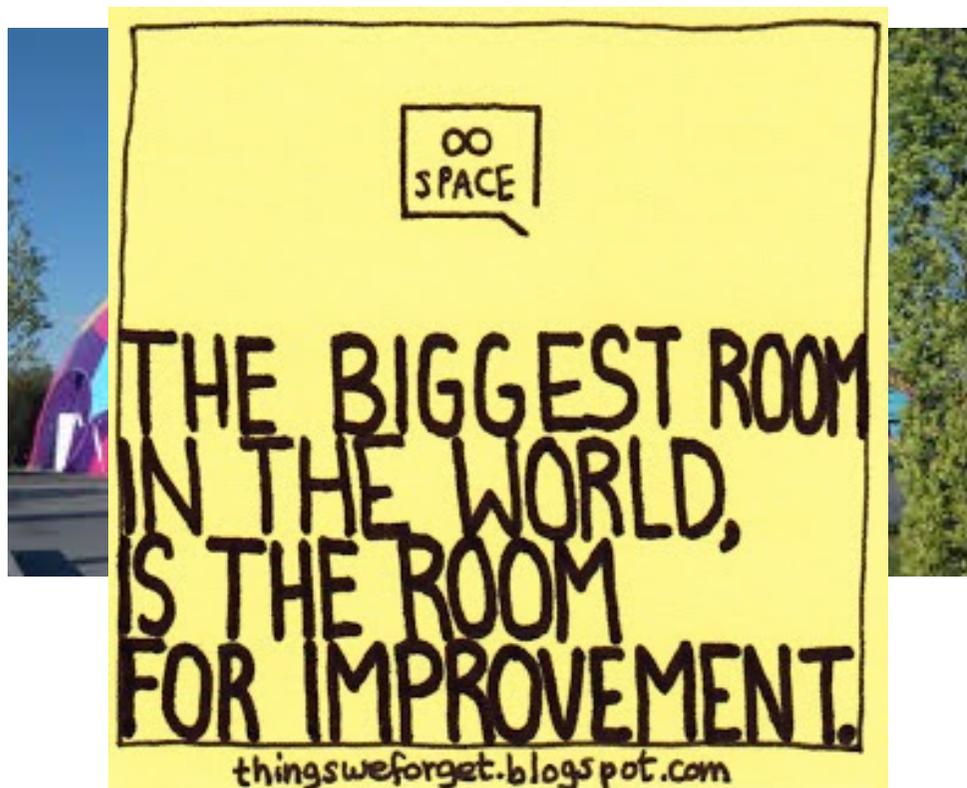
5 out of 8 molecules  
have IC50 < 100  $\mu$ M



The next ten years

## Predictive modelling & AI driving drug design

Merck celebrated it's 352<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 26<sup>th</sup> 2020



## Acknowledgements



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