



PMI RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

**TOPIC:**

**Assessing Risk Reduced Products (RRP) using Organotypic**

**Tissues Cultures Exposed at the Air-Liquid Interface**

*“ Systems Toxicology-Based Assessment of a RRP using Human*

*Organotypic Tissue Cultures of Nasal and Bronchial Epithelium*

*as well as Buccal Mucosa”*

# Background

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2009: Publication by the U.S. National Research Council of a new strategy plan for toxicology assessment to update and advanced our knowledge on the toxicity and the MoA of environmental agents.

Example of recommended approaches:

- Medium and high-throughput *in vitro* screening assays
- Computational toxicology
- Systems biology
- Pharmacokinetic modeling

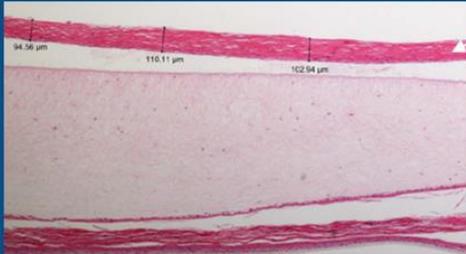
2009: European Commission published a report on «Alternative Testing Strategies for «Replacing, Reducing, and Refining» use of animals in research.

- Human organotypic tissues based on primary cells cultured in three dimensions, with proper cell-cell contact, recapitulating biological functions (e.g. mucus secretion, mucus ciliary clearance,..) and allowing whole cigarette smoke exposure at the air-liquid interface.

# Human Organotypic Epithelial Tissue Cultures

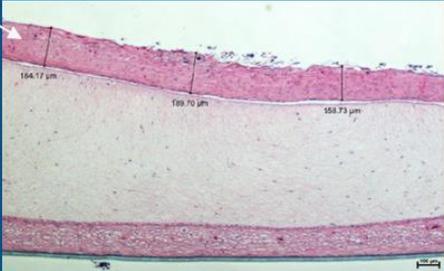
**Human Epithelial Organotypic Tissue Culture**

**Buccal Epithelium**



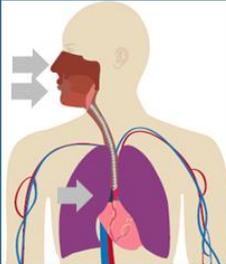
94.36 µm    110.11 µm    122.84 µm

**Gingival Epithelium**

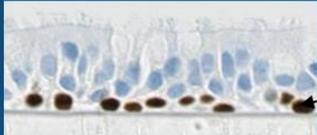


154.17 µm    189.70 µm    155.73 µm

Stratified squamous epithelial layer  
Collagen layer containing fibroblasts + dendritic cells (only Buccal)

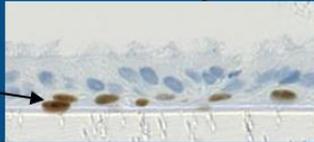


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Basal cells  
Ciliated cells  
Goblet cells

**Bronchial Epithelium**

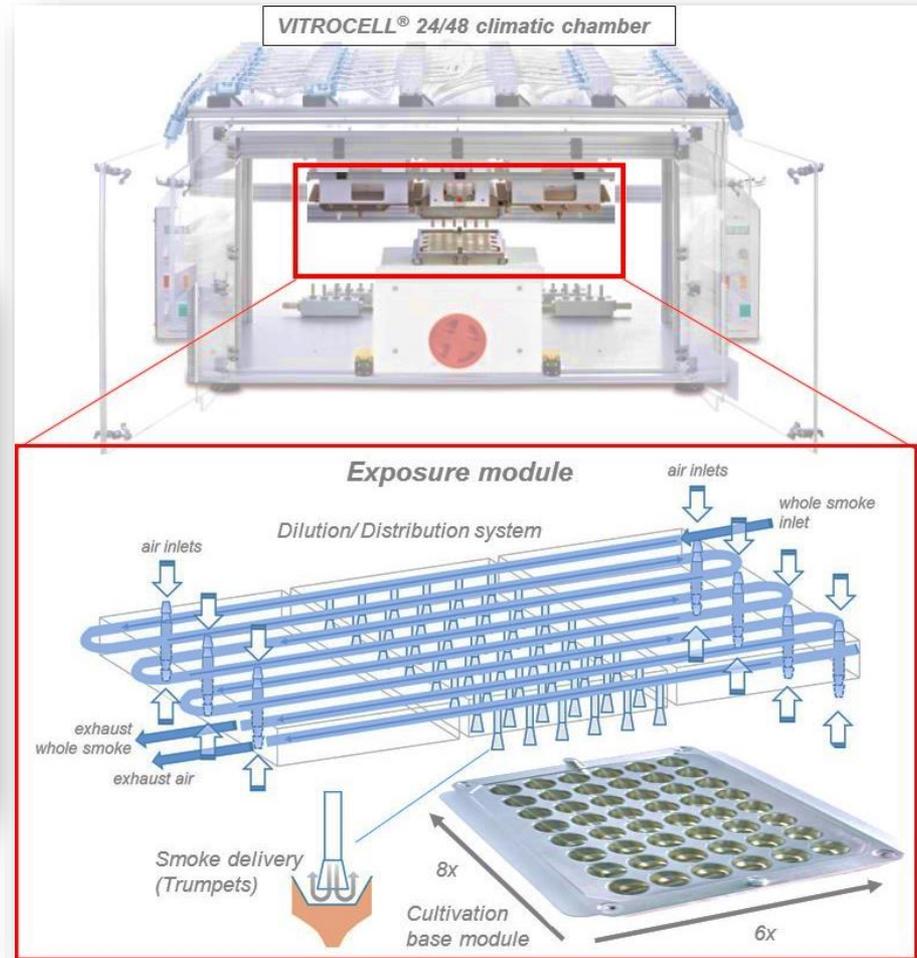


Basal cells  
Ciliated cells  
Goblet cells

**Nasal Epithelium**

# Whole Smoke Exposure System

- ❑ Humidification station
- ❑ Microbalance
- ❑ Climatic chamber
- ❑ Eight different dilutions in parallel
- ❑ Six replicates per channel

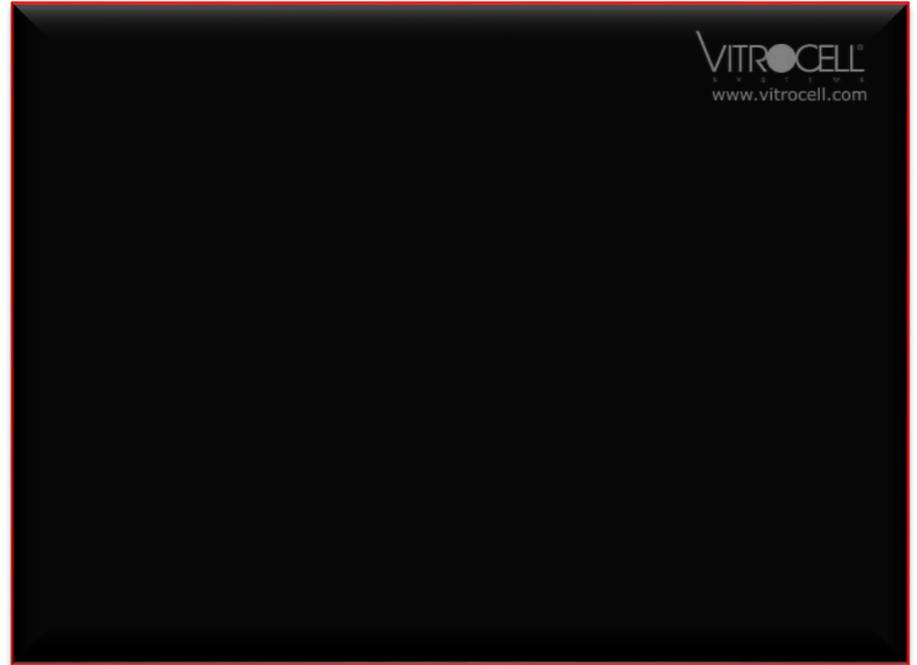


# Whole cigarette smoke/aerosol exposure system (Vitrocell®)

VITROCELL® EXPOSURE SYSTEM



VITROCELL® DEPOSITION SENSOR



# Organotypic tissue cultures: How close are they from *in vivo*?

- **Human bronchial epithelial cells exposed in vitro to cigarette smoke at the air-liquid interface resemble bronchial epithelium from human smokers.**

*Mathis C, Poussin C, Weisensee D, Gebel S, Hengstermann A, Sewer A, Belcastro V, Xiang Y, Ansari S, Wagner S, Hoeng J, Peitsch MC.*

*Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol.* 2013 Apr 1;304(7):L489-503.

- **Systems approaches evaluating the perturbation of xenobiotic metabolism in response to cigarette smoke exposure in nasal and bronchial tissues.**

*Iskandar AR, Martin F, Talikka M, Schlage WK, Kostadinova R, Mathis C, Hoeng J, Peitsch MC.*

*Biomed Res Int.* 2013;2013:512086.

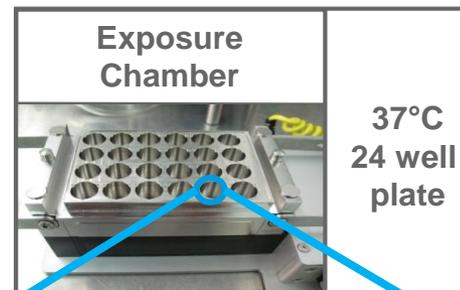
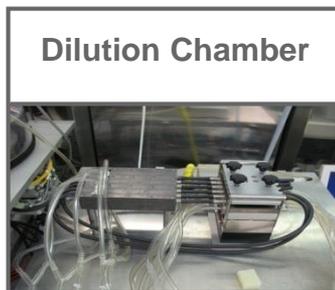
- **In vitro systems toxicology approach to investigate the effects of repeated cigarette smoke exposure on human buccal and gingival organotypic epithelial tissue cultures.**

*Schlage WK, Iskandar AR, Kostadinova R, Xiang Y, Sewer A, Majeed S, Kuehn D, Frentzel S, Talikka M, Geertz M, Mathis C, Ivanov N, Hoeng J, Peitsch MC.*

*Toxicol Mech Methods.* 2014 Jul 21:1-37.

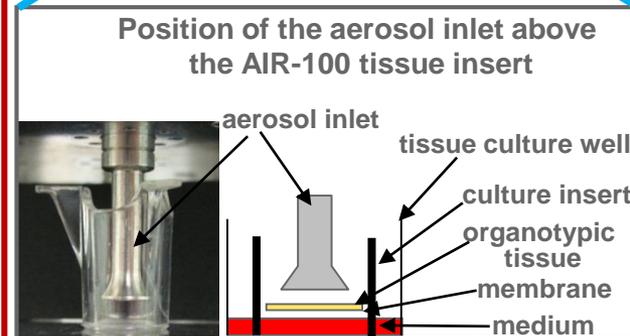
# Organotypic Cultures of Human Primary Bronchial Epithelial Cells Exposed to Whole Smoke

## Primary Organotypic Culture of Human Bronchial Epithelial Cells Exposed to Whole CS



### Experimental Design

TEST SUBSTANCE	SHAM				CIGARETTE SMOKE				ENDPOINTS
Exposure Time (Min)	7	14	21	28	7	14	21	28	Gene Expression
	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	MicroRNA
	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	MMP-1 Release
Post-Exposure (p-e)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Differential Cell Counts
Time (Hrs)	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	Survival
	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	



Experimental  
Data  
Production

Upper panel: Organotypic cultures of human primary bronchial epithelial cells were directly exposed to mainstream CS using the Vitrocell® system. Lower panel: The cells were exposed to CS during four different exposure times, then various endpoints were captured after different post-exposure times.

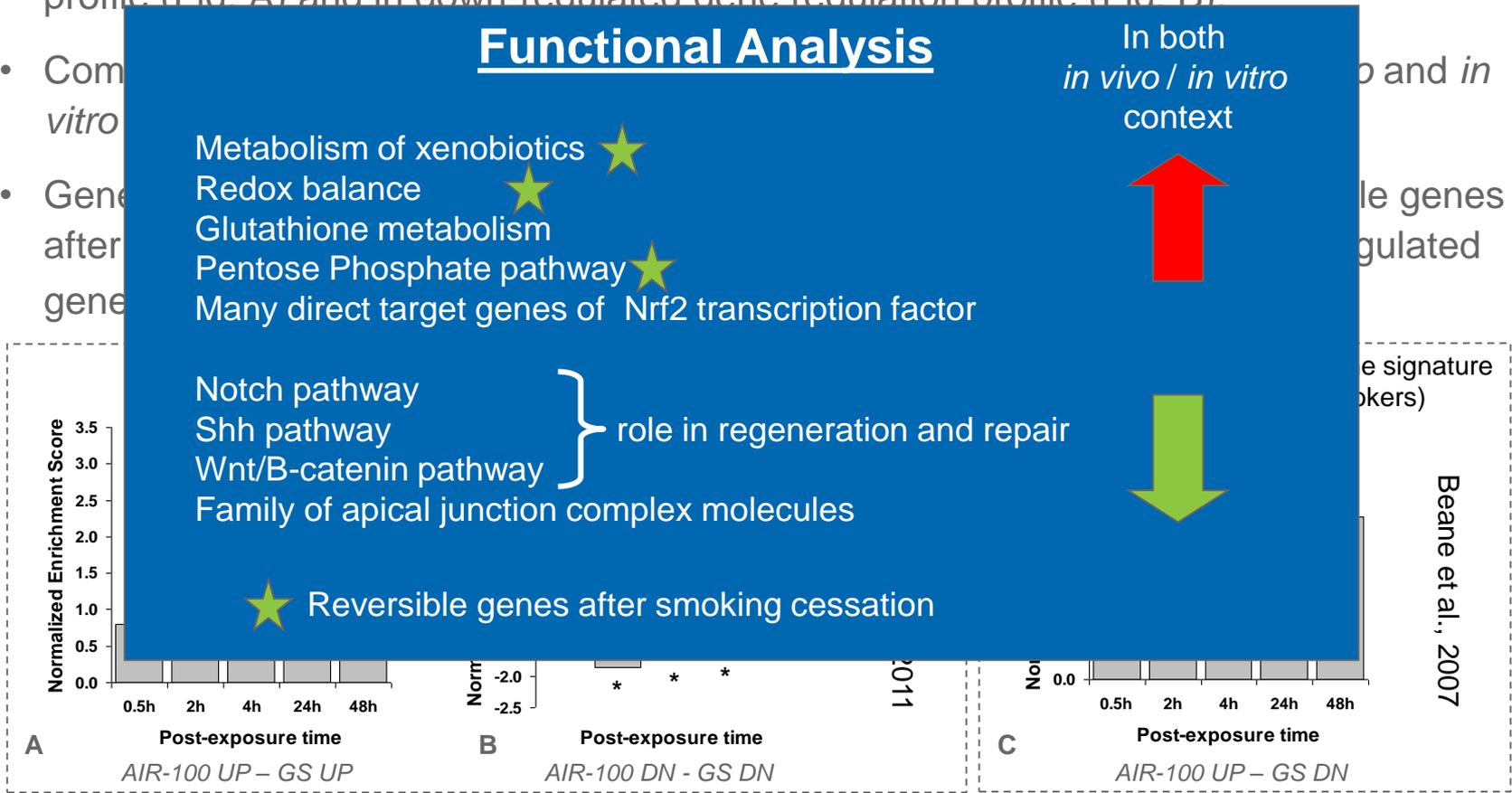


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# Human organotypic bronchial epithelial cells exposed to CS resemble bronchial epithelium from human smokers

- For all four *in vivo* smoking gene signatures used in the GSEA, a similar pattern of enrichment score was found in CS-exposed AIR-100 up-regulated gene regulation profile (Fig. A) and in down-regulated gene regulation profile (Fig. B)

- Com
- in vitro*
- Gene
- after
- gene

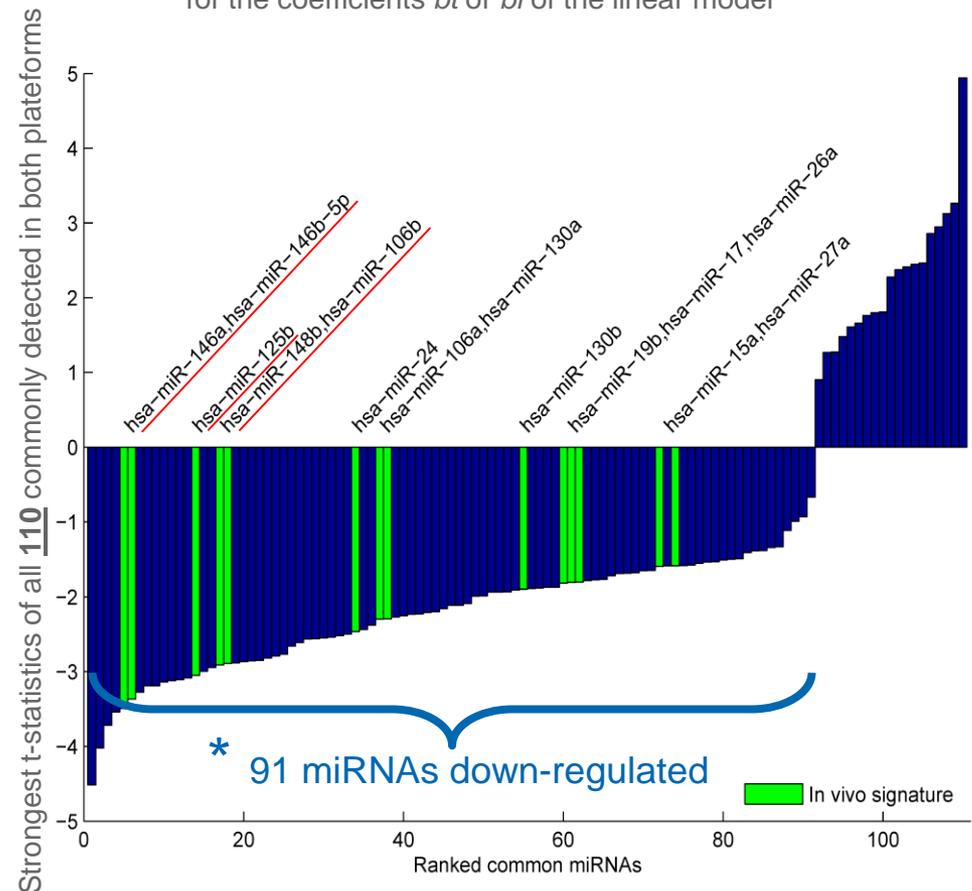


# Human organotypic bronchial epithelial cells exposed to CS resemble bronchial epithelium from human smokers

- Only one human *in vivo* miRNA from bronchial epithelial cells published so far (Schembri et al. 2009).
- Out of ~ 230 miRNAs detectable in this tissue context, half of them are commonly detected in both studies. Only 14 miRNAs differentially expressed are common between both *in vivo* and *in vitro* datasets (GREEN tag).
- CS down-regulates a large majority of miRNA expression (\*: 91 miRNAs out of 110) in both *in vivo* and *in vitro* situation.
- The biological functions associated with some of the highly “translatable” miRNAs are related to inflammation (miR-146b and miR-125b) and cell cycle processes (miR-106a and miR-106b) that are also known to be perturbed by CS in lung tissue context.

## Comparison between *in vivo* human smoker miRNA signature and CS-exposed AIR-100 *in vitro* miRNA dataset.

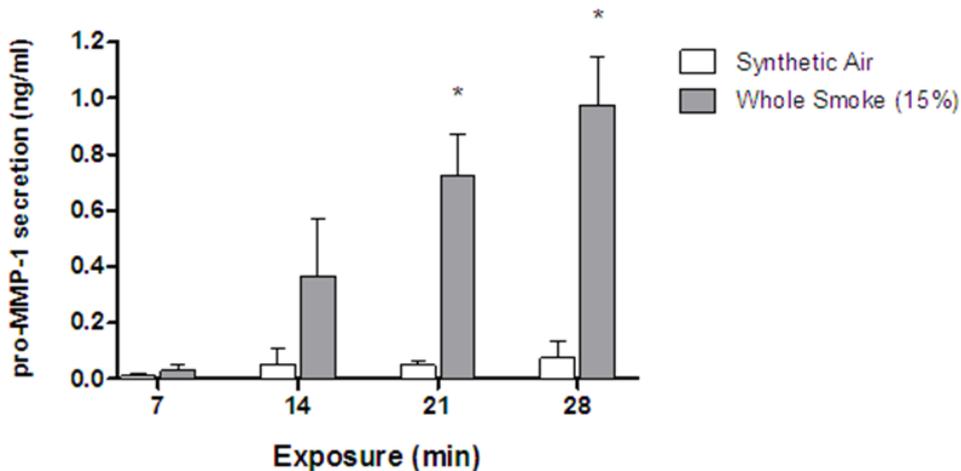
The vertical axis of the bar plot represents the best t-statistics (i.e. lowest negative or highest positive t-scores) obtained for the coefficients *bt* or *bi* of the linear model



# Human organotypic bronchial epithelial cells exposed to CS resemble bronchial epithelium from human smokers

BACKGROUND

- MMP-1 is an interstitial collagenase involved in tissue remodeling and repair during lung development and inflammation.
- MMP-1 is known to be up-regulated upon CS exposure both *in vivo* and *in vitro* (Mercer et al. 2004, Lahmann et al. 2001, Philips et al. 2005).
- Human MMP-1 promoter contains CS-regulatory elements (Mercer et al. 2009).



48 hours post-exposure time  
Detection of pro-MMP-1 protein in the AIR-100 culture medium via ELISA assay

**Human bronchial epithelial cells cultured at the air-liquid interface respond to CS exposure by releasing higher level of pro-MMP-1 as seen *in vivo* in smoker's tissue.**



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# Human organotypic bronchial epithelial cells exposed to CS resemble bronchial epithelium from human smokers

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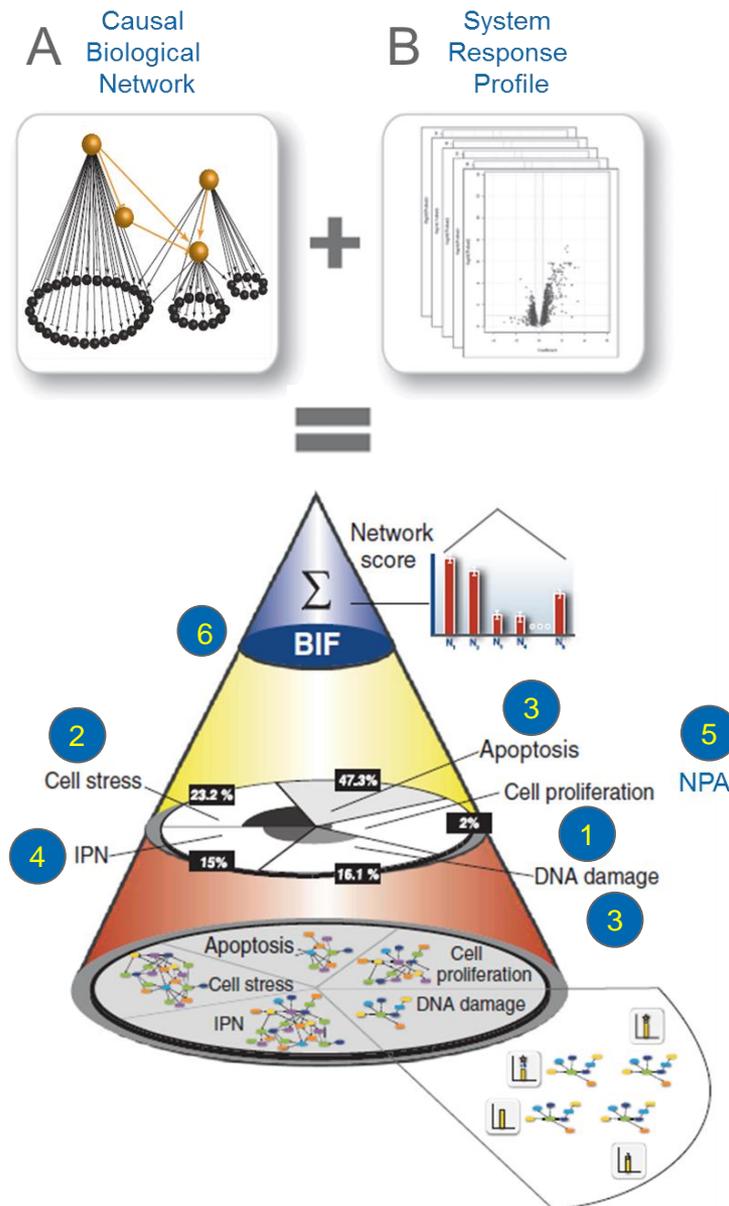
- Many of the biological functions known to be directly affected upon CS exposure, both *in vivo* and *in vitro*, were identified based on the functional analysis of the leading edges genes that participate to the highest enrichment score observed at 4 hours post-exposure.
- A single exposure to CS induces a similar biological perturbation (at the level of gene expression, miRNAs expression or MMP-1 secretion) in an *in vitro* human organotypic bronchial epithelium-like tissue culture to the one observed *in vivo* in the airway epithelium of human smokers.

**"Human bronchial epithelial cells exposed *in vitro* to cigarette smoke at the air-liquid interface resemble bronchial epithelium from human smokers."**

**Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol. 2013 Jan 25**



# Systems Toxicology Assessment of Whole Smoke Exposure

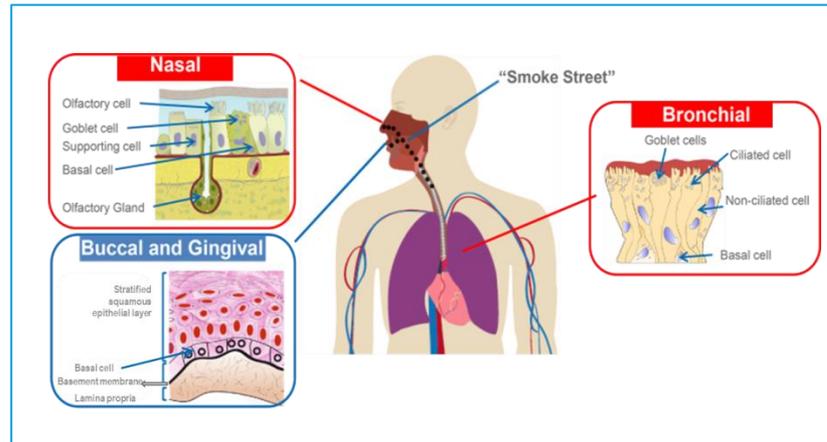


- 1. Construction of a computable cell proliferation network for non-diseased lung tissue.** *J. Westra, et al.* BMC Systems Biology, 2011 Jul 5:105.
- 2. Construction of a computable cellular stress network for non-diseased lung and cardiovascular tissue.** *W.K. Schlage, et al.* BMC Systems Biology, 2011 Oct 5:168.
- 3. Construction of a Computable Network Model for DNA Damage, Cell Death, Autophagy, and Senescence.** *S. Gebel, et al.* Bioinformatics and Biology Insights 2013 7:97-117.
- 4. A modular cell-type focused inflammatory process network model for non-diseased pulmonary tissue.** *J. Westra, et al.* Bioinformatics and Biology Insights 2013 Jun 20; 7:167-92.
- 5. Assessment of network perturbation amplitude by applying high-throughput data to causal biological networks.** *F. Martin, et al.* BMC Systems Biology 2012, 6:54.
- 6. Quantification of biological network perturbations for mechanistic insight and diagnostics using two-layer causal models assessment of biological impact using transcriptomic data and mechanistic network models.** *F. Martin, et al.* BMC Bioinformatics. 2014 Jul 11;15(1):238.

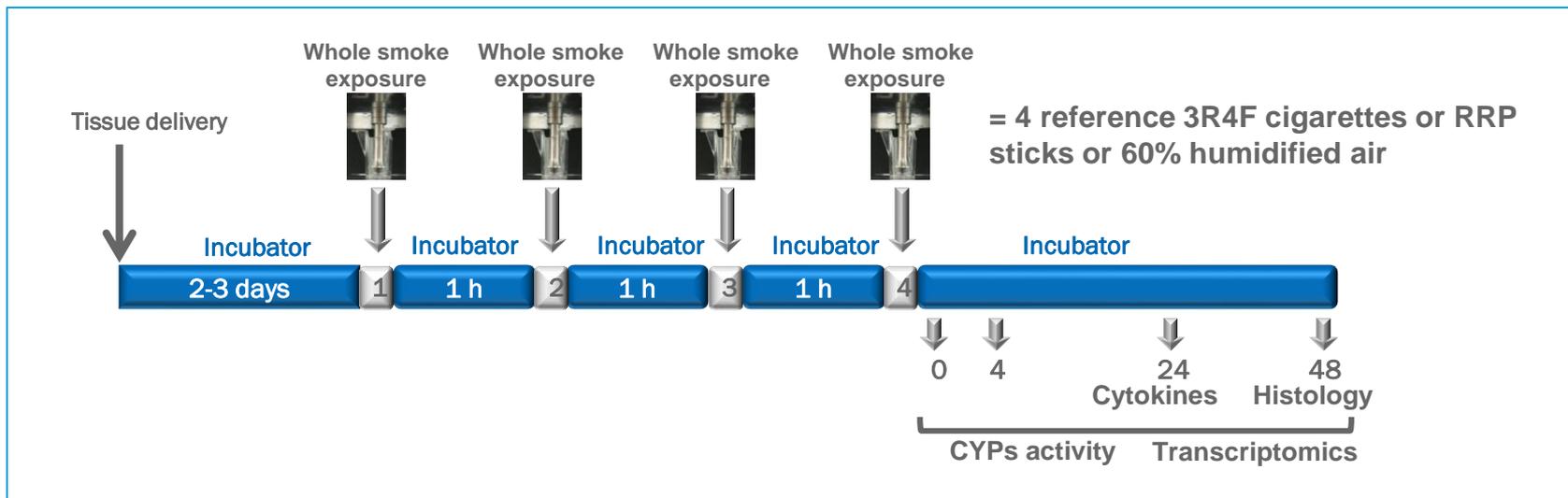


# Repeated Whole Smoke Exposure of Organotypic Cultures Derived from Human Primary Epithelial Cells

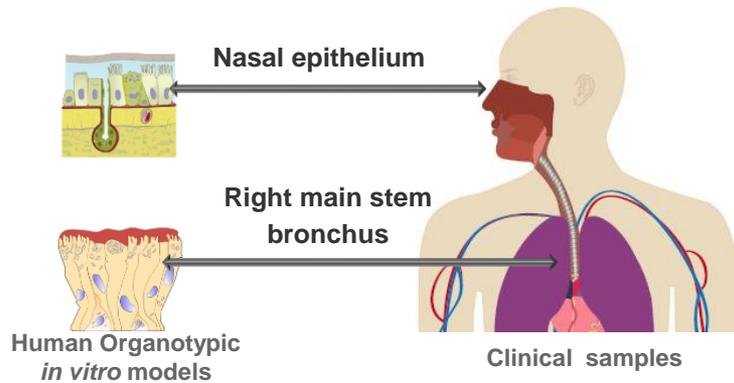
## FOUR HUMAN IN VITRO MODELS



## EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN



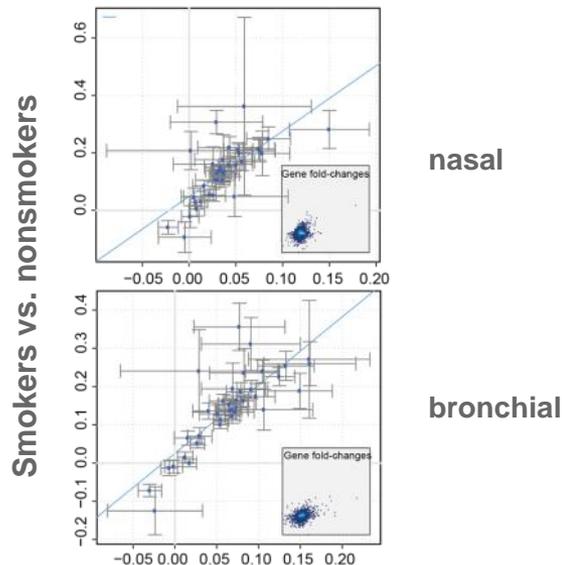
# Comparison of Clinical Samples from Smokers to CS Exposed Nasal and Bronchial Organotypic Cultures



Healthy Non-smoker (n=14) Age	Healthy Smoker (n=13) Age	Smoker Pack-years
31.6 ± 10.8	35.4 ± 9.9	10.77 ± 9.3

(Zhang X. et al., *Physiol. Genomics* 2010)

## Perturbation of the Xenobiotic metabolism network model



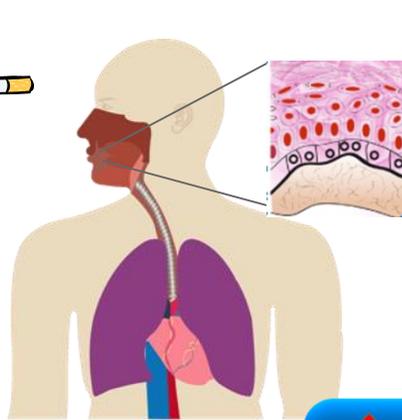
CS vs. air exposed organotypic

**Systems Approaches Evaluating the Perturbation of Xenobiotic Metabolism in Response to Cigarette Smoke Exposure in Nasal and Bronchial Tissues**

*Iskandar AR, Martin F, Talikka M, Schlage WK, Kostadinova R, Mathis C, Hoeng J, Peitsch MC.*  
Biomed Res Int. 2013 Oct 3

# Comparison of Clinical Samples from Smokers to CS Exposed Buccal Organotypic Cultures

**In vivo**  
Buccal  
Epithelial  
Cells  
Obtained  
from  
Smokers



Boyle JO, et al. "Effects of cigarette smoke on the human oral mucosal transcriptome." *Cancer Prev Res (Phila)* 2010 Mar;3(3):266-78. PMID: [20179299](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20179299/)

- 40 never smokers (<100 cigarettes per lifetime)
- 40 active smokers (≥ 15 pack year exposure)
- **Buccal biopsies**
- Age- and gender-matched

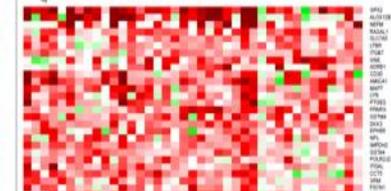


- *Metabolism of xenobiotics by P450s*
- *Steroid hormone biosynthesis*
- *Glutathione metabolism*
- *Drug metabolism*

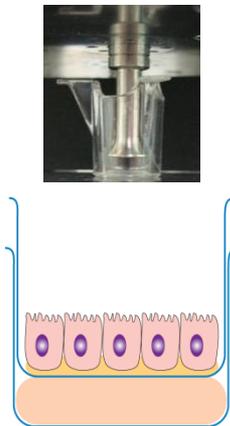
In Vitro



In Vivo



**In vitro**  
Organotypic  
Buccal  
Epithelial  
Exposed to  
Smoke



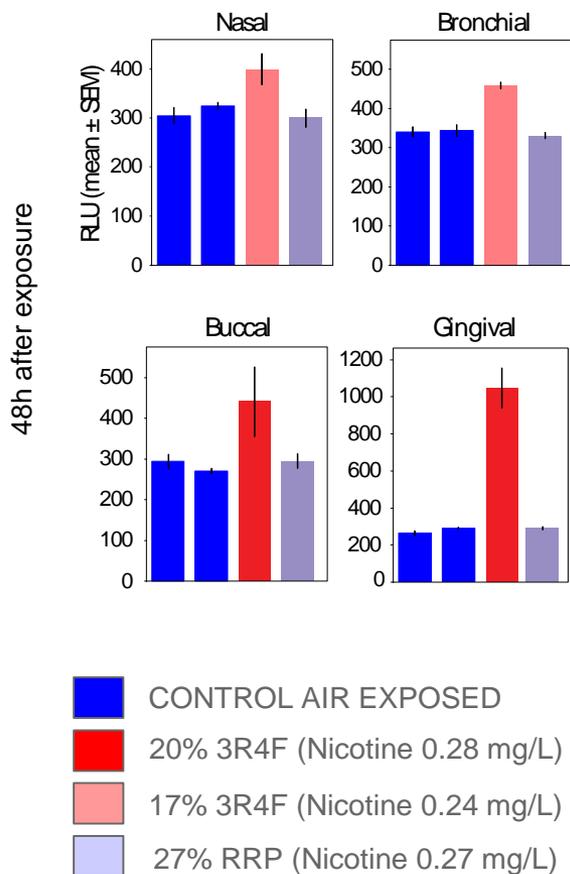
EXTRACT DNA,  
RNA, AND PROTEIN

**In vitro systems toxicology approach to investigate the effects of repeated cigarette smoke exposure on human buccal and gingival organotypic epithelial tissue cultures**

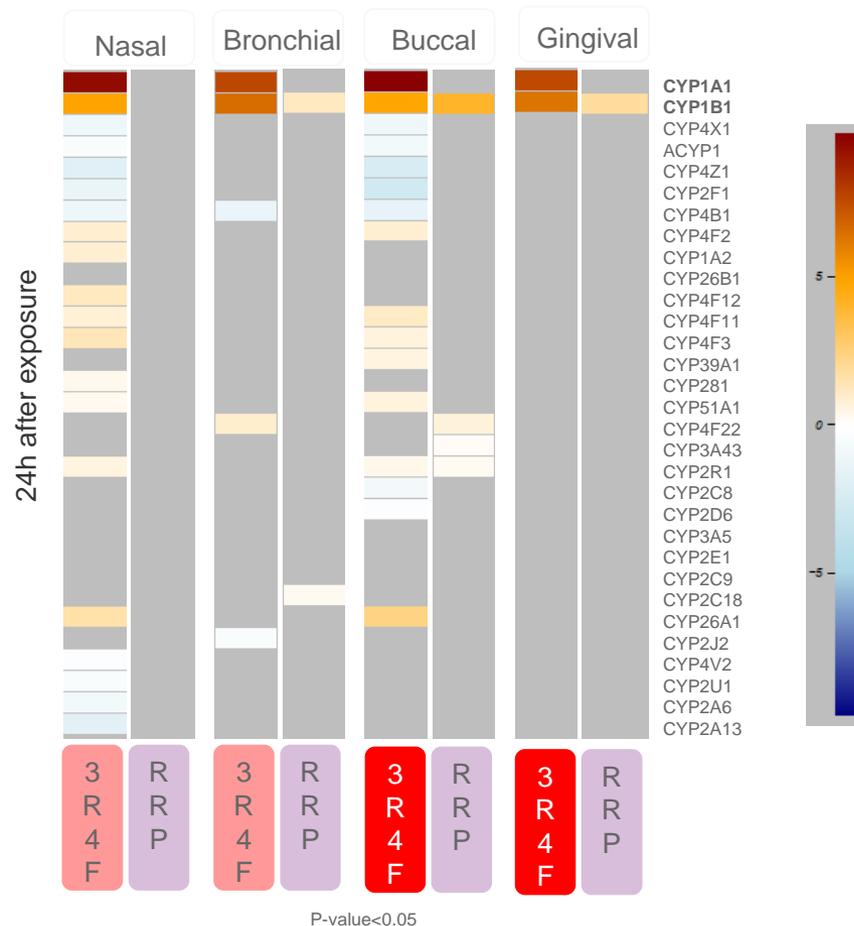
Schlage WK, Iskandar AR, Kostadinova R, Xiang Y, Sewer A, Majeed S, Kuehn D, Frentzel S, Talikka M, Geertz M, Mathis C, Ivanov N, Hoeng J, Peitsch MC. *Toxicol Mech Methods*. 2014 Jul 21:1-37

# Repeated exposure to RRP's aerosol does not induce CYP1A1/1B1 activity and/or CYPs genes expression change

## CYP1A1/CYP1B1 enzymatic activity

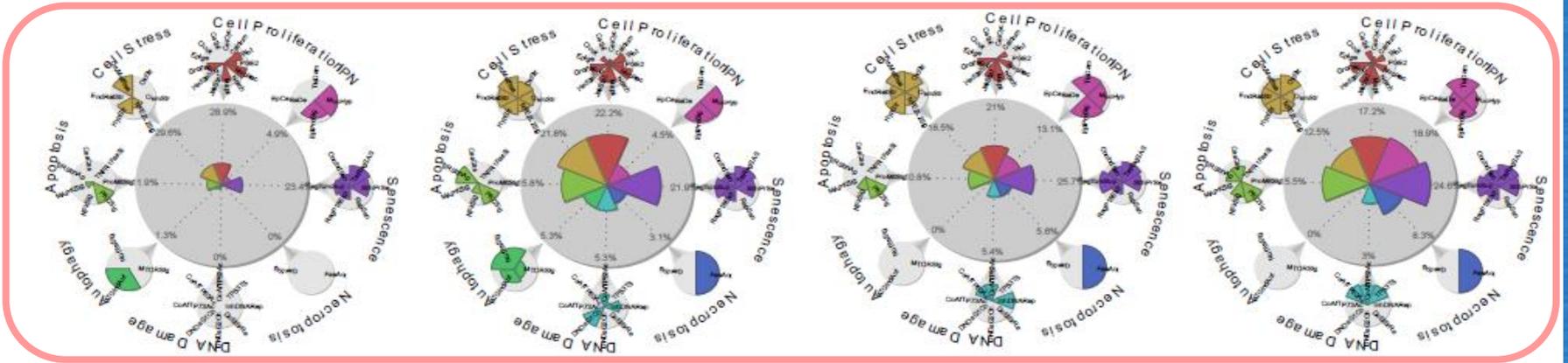


## CYP genes expression



# Repeated exposure to RRP's aerosol has a lower impact on network perturbations compared to conventional CS

17% 3R4F (Nicotine 0.24 mg/mL)

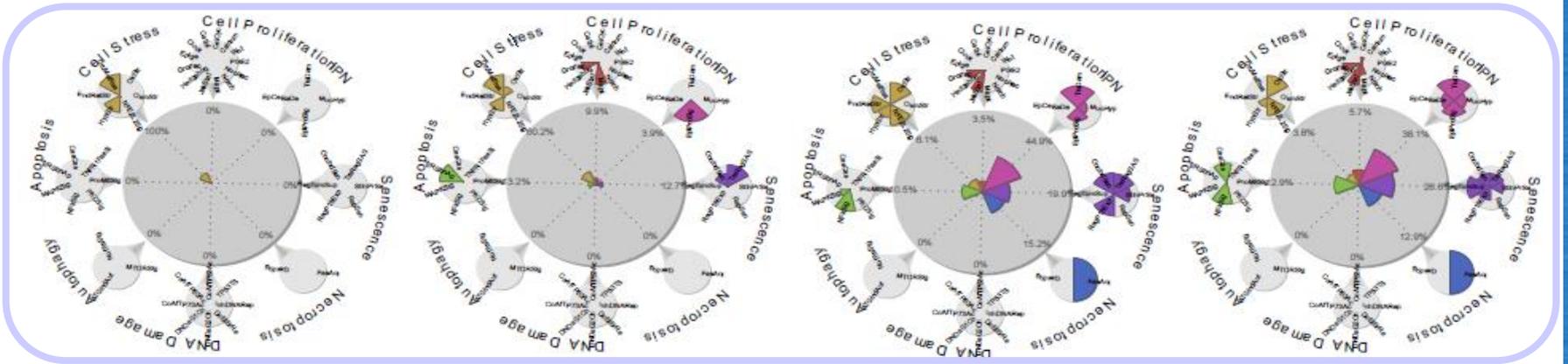


0h

4h

24h

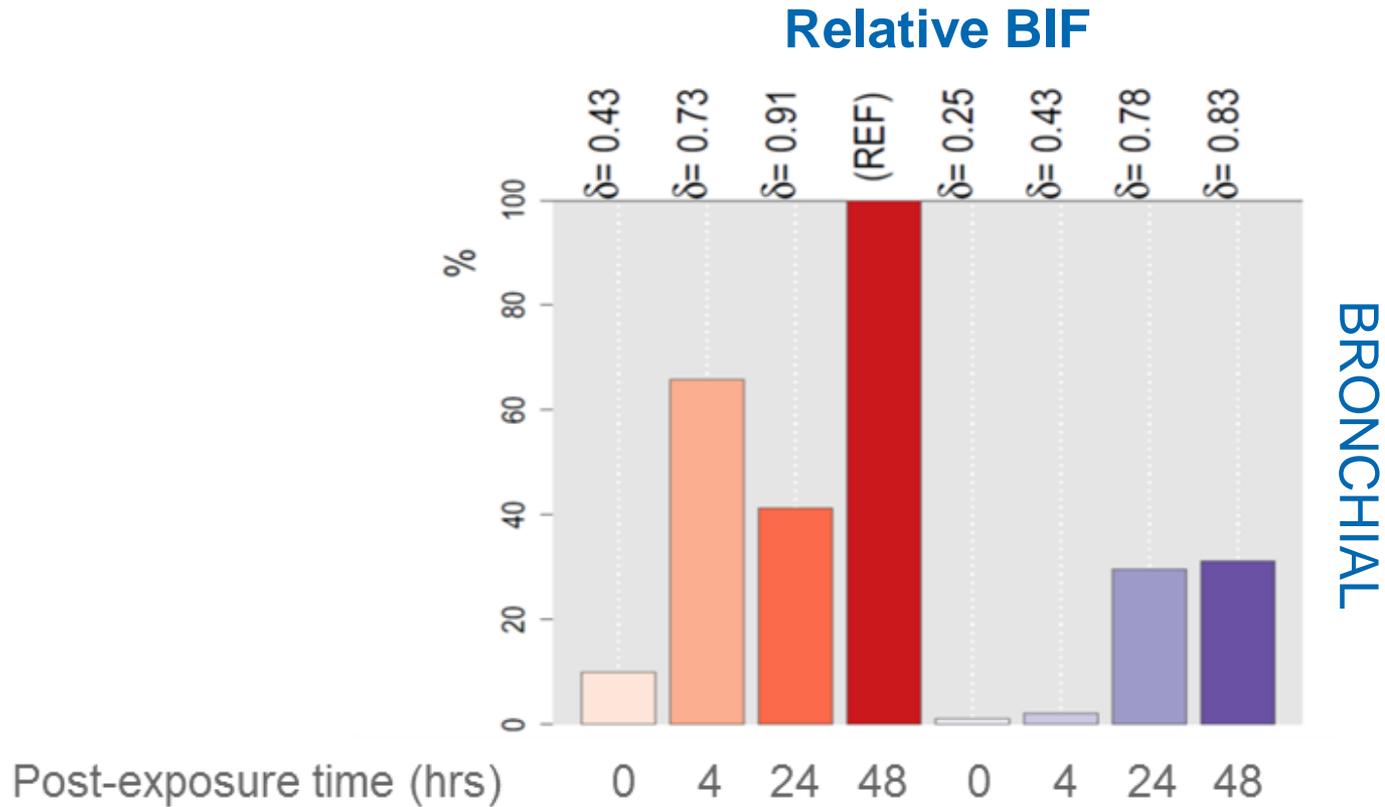
48h



27% RRP (Nicotine 0.27 mg/mL)

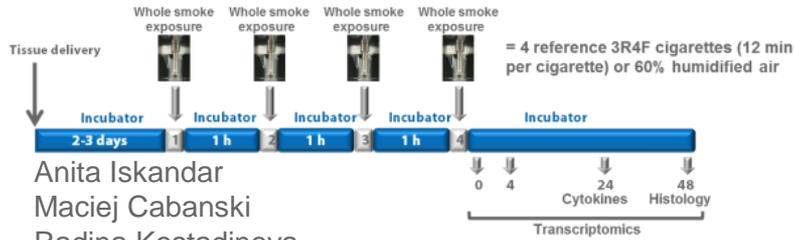
BRONCHIAL

# At Similar Dose of Nicotine, the Biological Impact Factor of RRP Exposure Is Lower Than Conventional Cigarette



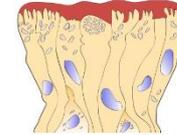
- 17% 3R4F (Nicotine 0.24 mg/L)
- 27% RRP (Nicotine 0.27 mg/L)

# Acknowledgment

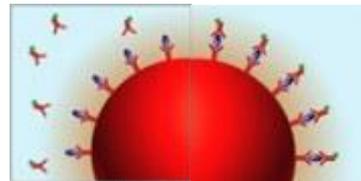


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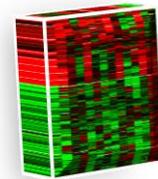


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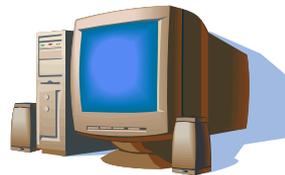


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# Organotypic tissue cultures: How close are they from *in vivo*?

- **Human bronchial epithelial cells exposed in vitro to cigarette smoke at the air-liquid interface resemble bronchial epithelium from human smokers.**

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