



PMI RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

# High Content Screening-Based Analysis to Support Reduced Risk Products Development

Diego Marescotti PhD

High Content Screening Supervisor

PMI R&D

Philip Morris Products S.A. Neuchatel

*SLAS Dresden*

*29<sup>th</sup> June 2016*

# Reduced Risk Products

---

Reduced Risk Products (“RRPs”) is the term we use to refer to products with the potential to reduce individual risk and population harm in comparison to smoking cigarettes. PMI’s RRP’s are in various stages of development and commercialization, and we are conducting extensive and rigorous scientific studies to determine whether we can support claims for such products of reduced exposure to harmful and potentially harmful constituents in smoke, and ultimately claims of reduced disease risk, when compared to smoking cigarettes. Before making any such claims, we will rigorously evaluate the full set of data from the relevant scientific studies to determine whether they substantiate reduced exposure or risk. Any such claims may also be subject to government review and authorization, as is the case in the USA today



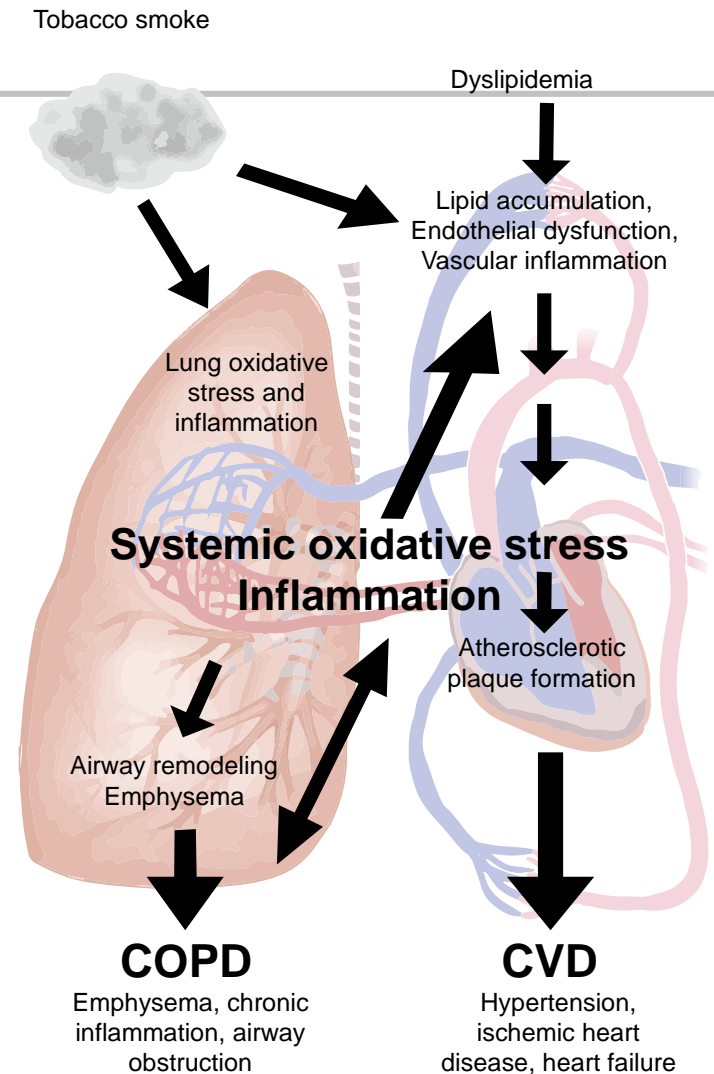
# Agenda

---

- Smoking-related disease
  - COPD
  - CVD
- HCS assays
  - 2D model
  - 3D model
- HCS for tox testing

# Smoking-Related Diseases

- Smoking causes a number of serious diseases including lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and cardiovascular disease (CVD).
- Inflammation and oxidative stress have been recognized as key processes driving the pathogenesis of smoking-related diseases.



*Lo Sasso G, J Transl. Med. 2016*

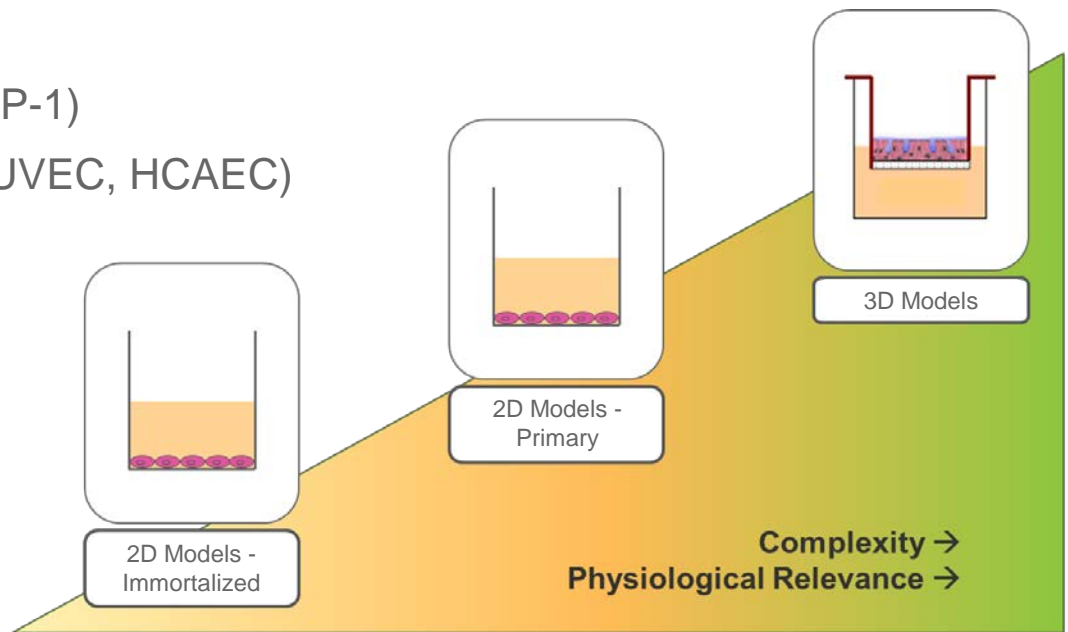
# Experimental Model Systems

## Lung

- Lung epithelial cell lines (BEAS-2B, BBM, BZR, A549)
- Primary epithelial cells (bronchial epithelial, small airway epithelial) and fibroblasts
- Organotypic models: MucilAir™ (Epithelix SàrL), EpiAirway™ (MatTek Inc.)

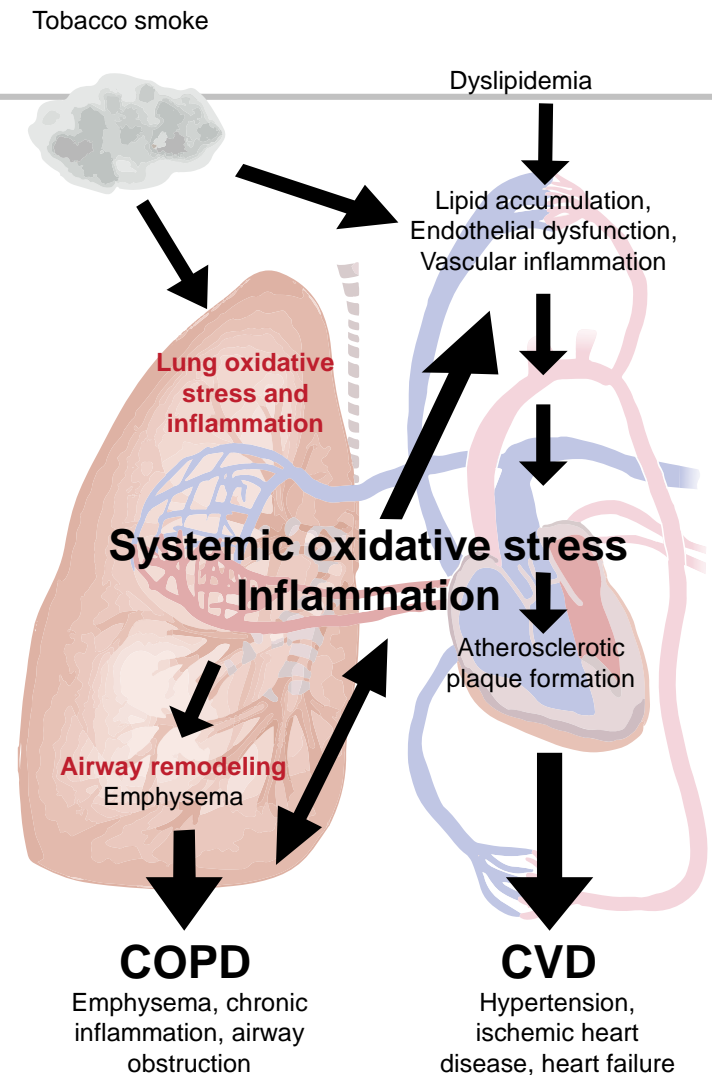
## CV System

- Immune cell lines (MM6, THP-1)
- Primary endothelial cells (HUVEC, HCAEC)



# Disease-Related HCS Endpoints COPD

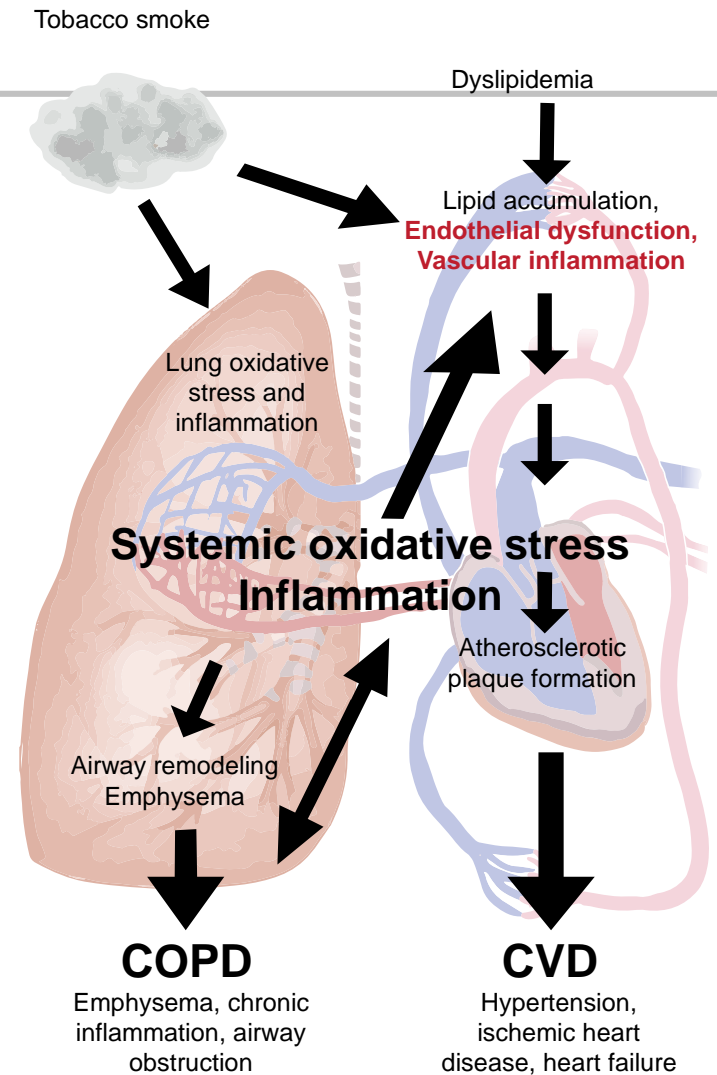
- Viability, cytotoxicity
- Proliferation, cell cycle
- ROS formation
- Intracellular GSH content
- DNA damage
- Cell fate (apoptosis, necrosis)
- NF $\kappa$ B translocation
- Cellular communication
- EMT marker expression
- Barrier integrity (junction protein expression)



*Lo Sasso G, J Transl. Med. 2016*

# Disease-Related HCS Endpoints CVD

- Viability, cytotoxicity
- Proliferation
- ROS formation
- Intracellular GSH content
- Cell fate (apoptosis, necrosis)
- NF $\kappa$ B translocation
- Monocyte adhesion

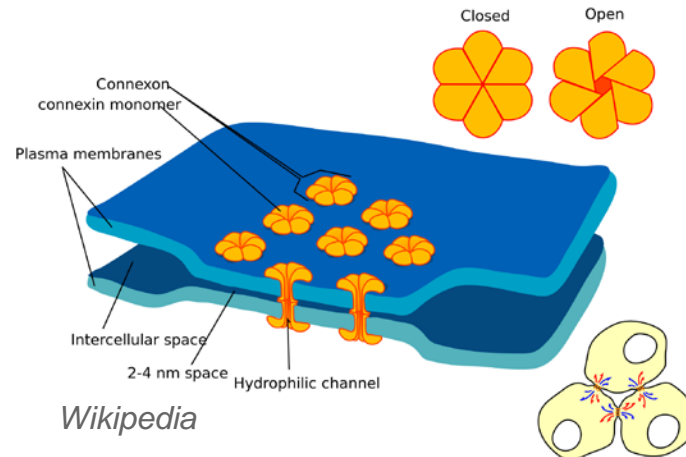


*Lo Sasso G, J Transl. Med. 2016*

# Gap Junction Intercellular Communication (GJIC)

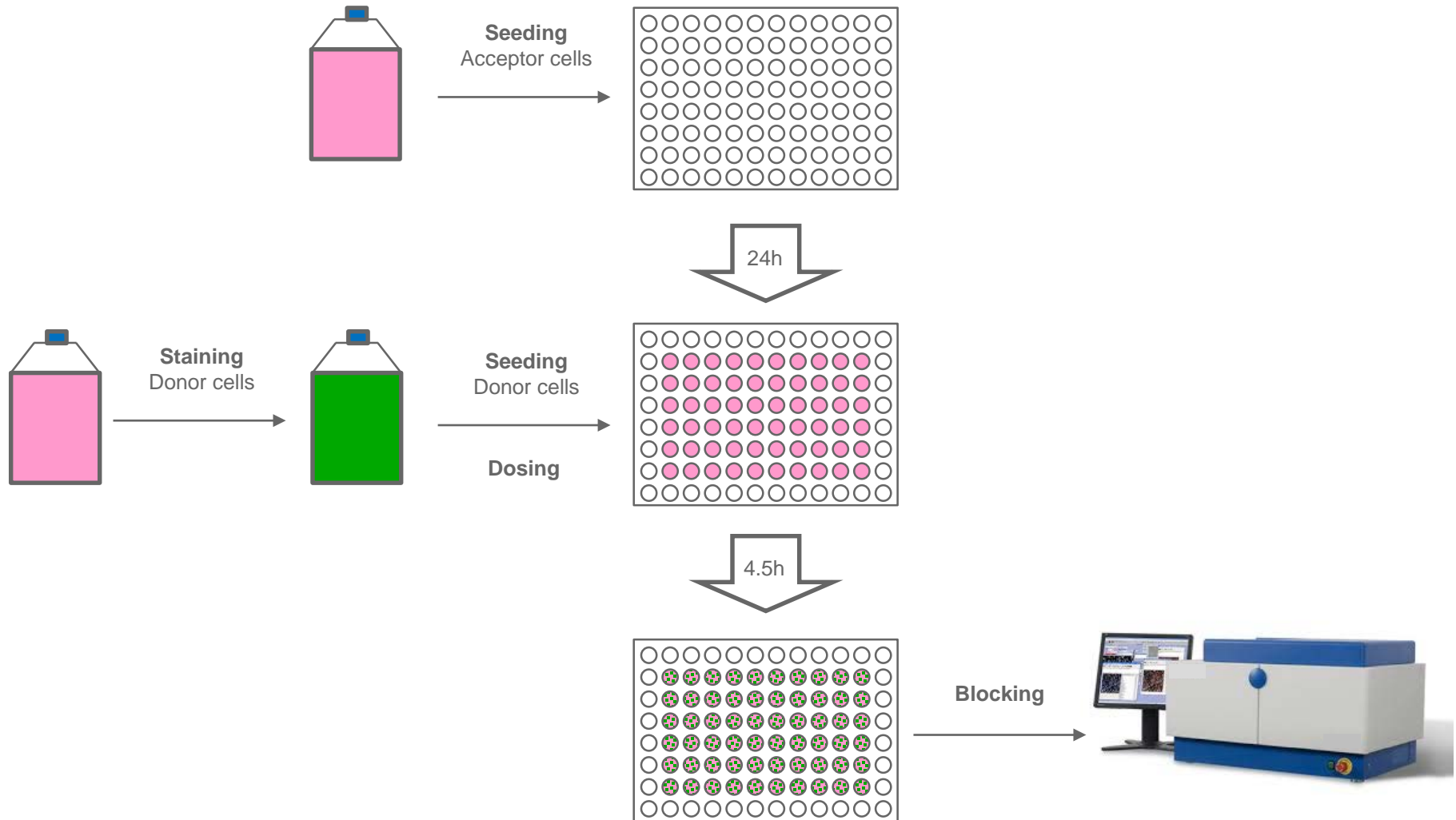
- Gap-junction plays an important role in tissue homeostasis and life-death balance, the impairment of this process during the tumor promotion stage has been linked to the later progression of tumors.
- Breakdown in communication prevents a cell being influenced in terms of growth suppression by its neighboring cells, leading to deregulated cell proliferation and metastatic properties.
- Cigarette smoking is a known risk factor for cancer development, and cigarette smoke is known to induce GJIC inhibition.

*Trosko et al. 2004*





# GJIC assay workflow

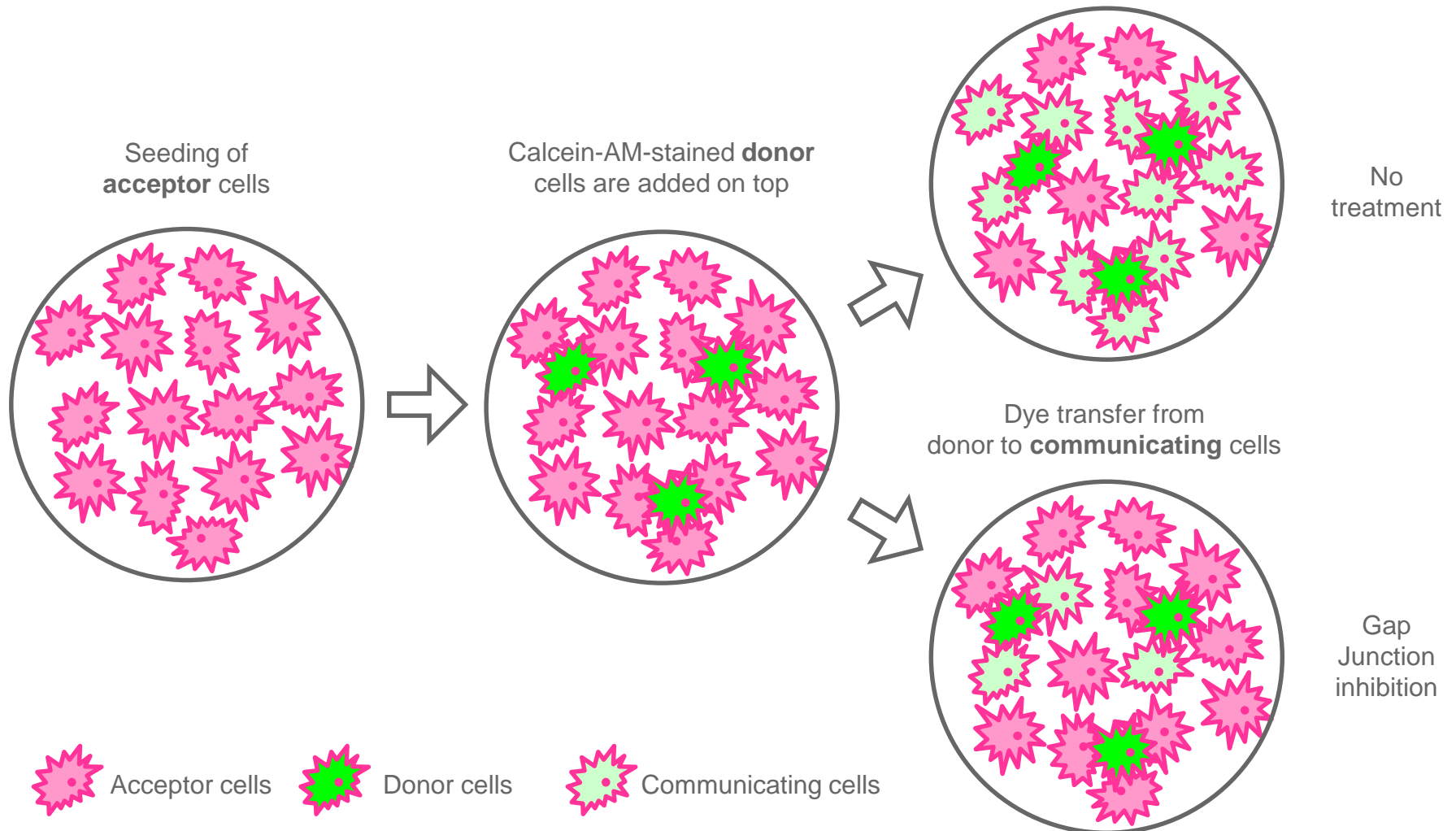


**CONFIDENTIAL** – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

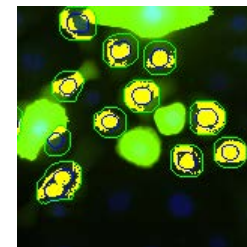
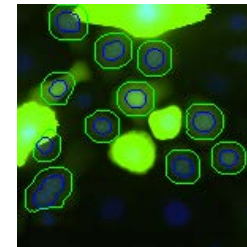
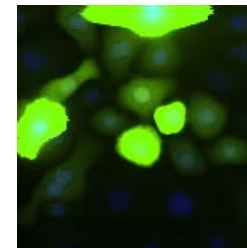
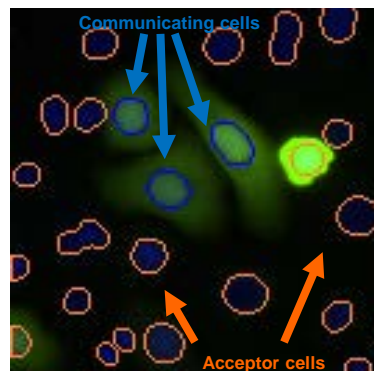
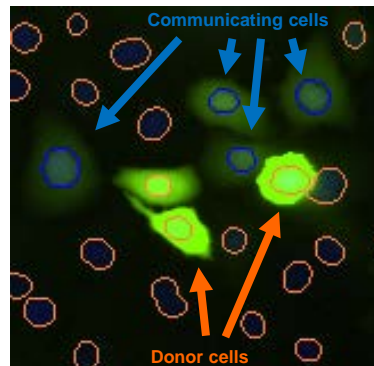
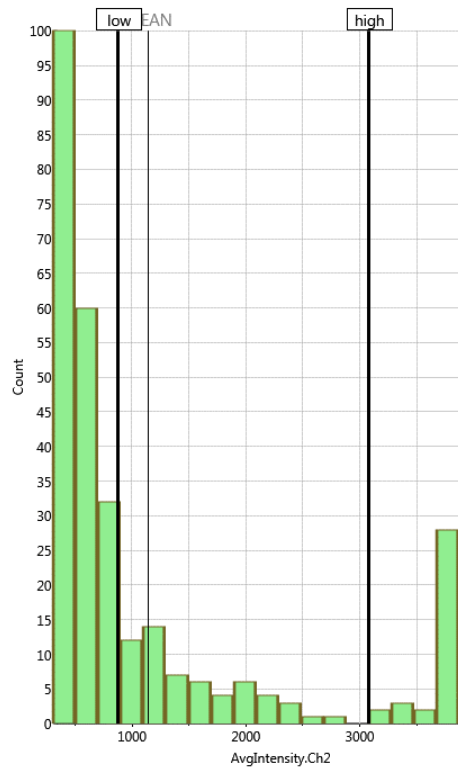


PMI RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

# Assay principle



# Software analysis



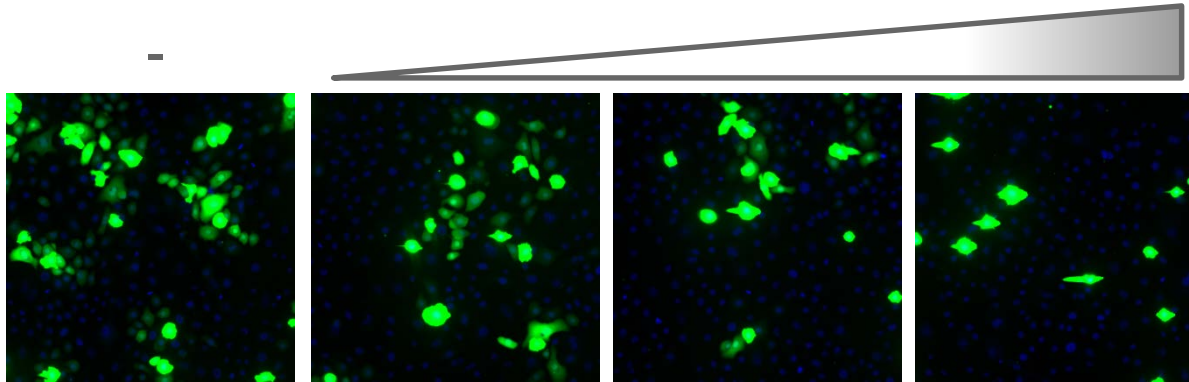
Dye transfer between donor and acceptor cells

Nuclear (**blue** line) and cytoplasmic (**green** line) area

Detected transferred dye (**yellow**)

# Results

18-alpha-glycyrrhetic acid (AGA)



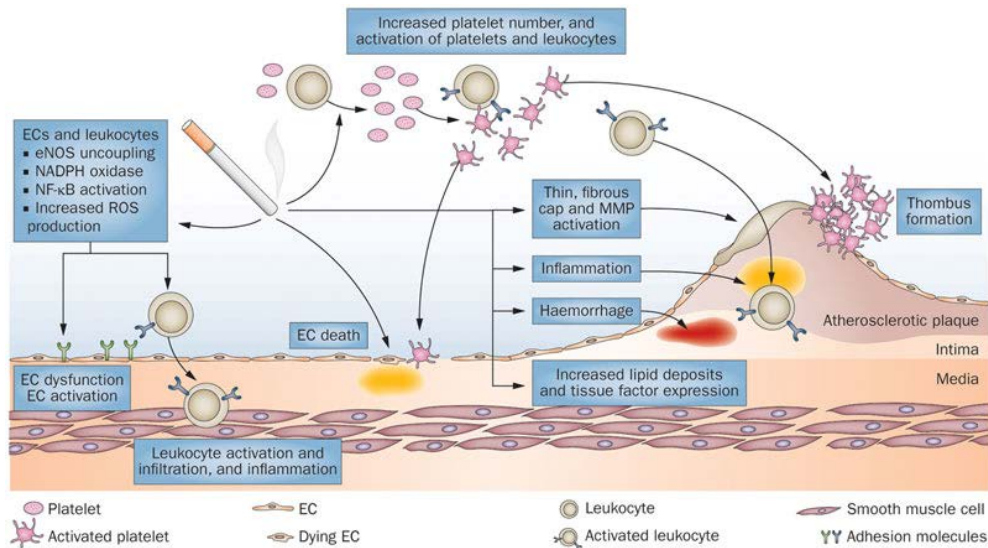
Ratio to vehicle

Ratio to vehicle

# Adhesion and atherosclerosis

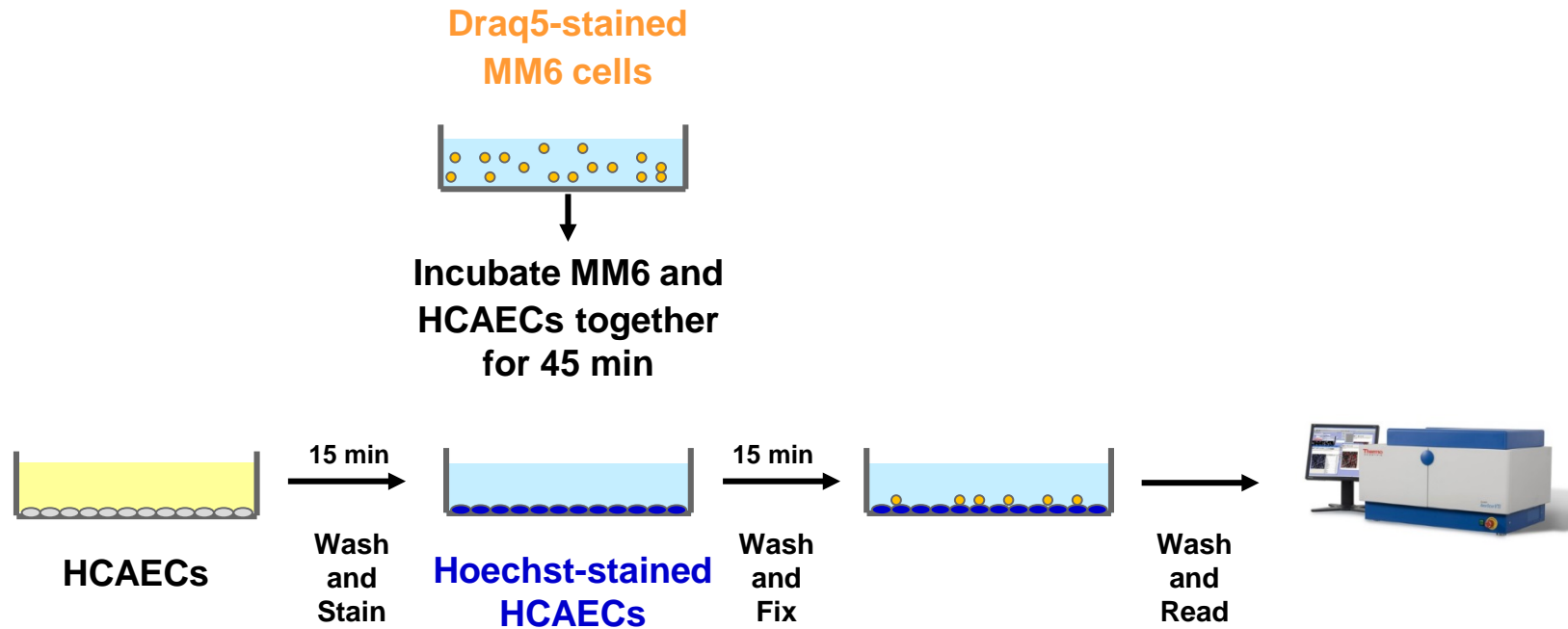
Exposure to cigarette smoke -

- induces multiple pathological effects in the endothelium, several of which are the result of oxidative stress.
- Interferes adversely with the control of all stages of plaque formation and development and pathological thrombus formation via the enhancement of inflammatory processes and the activation of matrix metalloproteases.



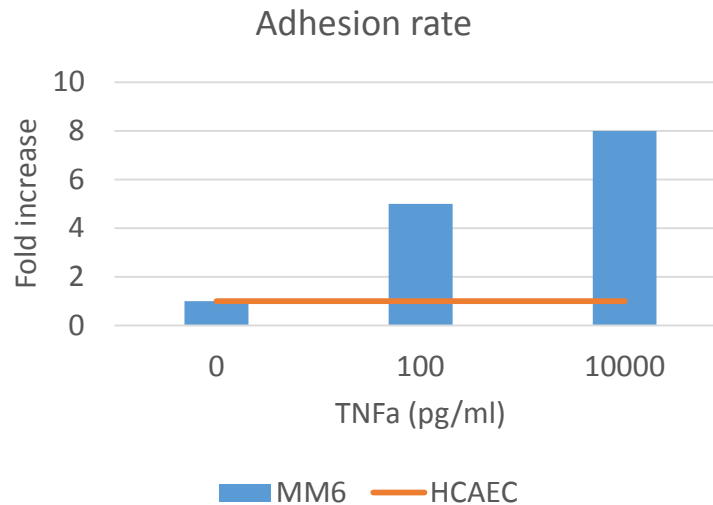
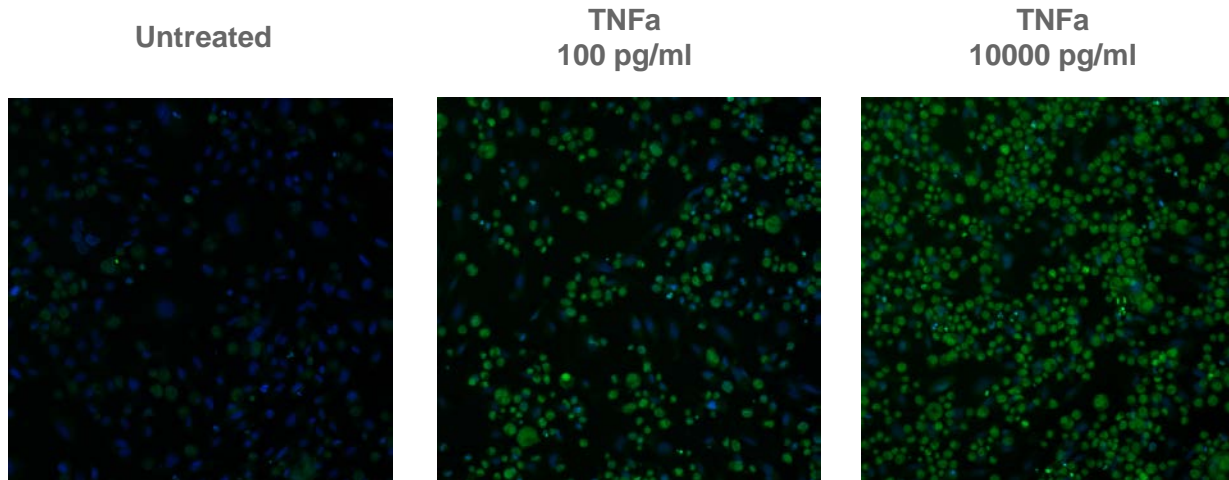
Adam Csordas & David Bernhard  
*Nature Reviews Cardiology* 2013

# Adhesion assay workflow



Poussin C. Toxicology 2016  
Poussin C. Toxicological Science 2015

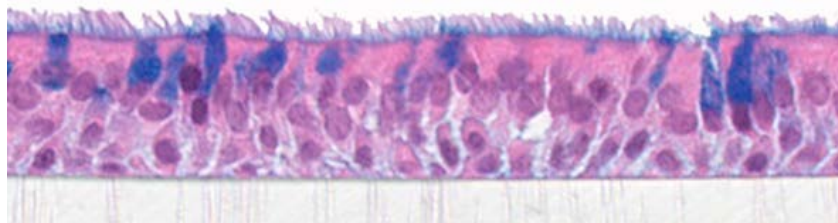
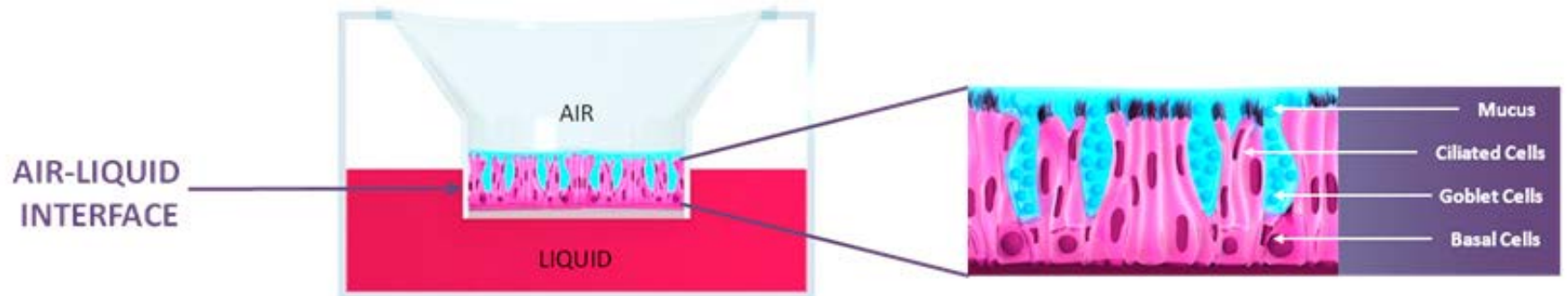
# Results



# HCS in 3D cellular bronchial organotypic tissues model

## MucilAir – Bronchial

- Reconstituted using human primary cells (single or pool of donor)
- Remains fully differentiated and functional for over one year in culture
- Ready and easy to use



Immuno Histochemistry section

*Epithelix Sarl*  
*Geneve*



# DNA Damage in 2D and 3D

NHBE

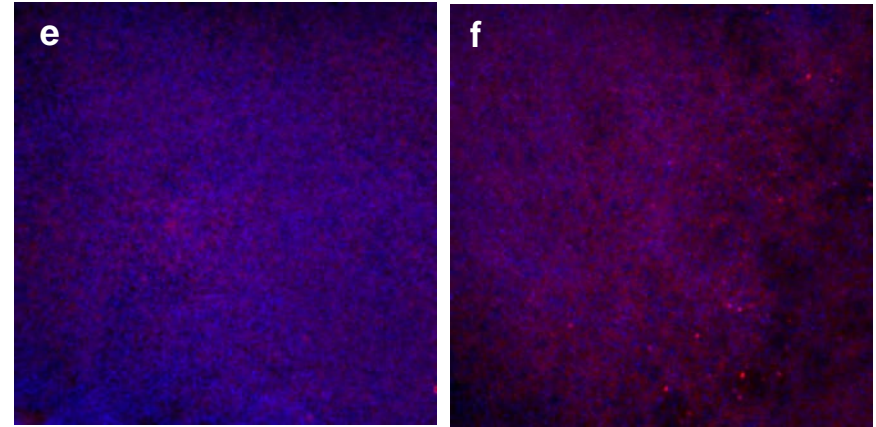
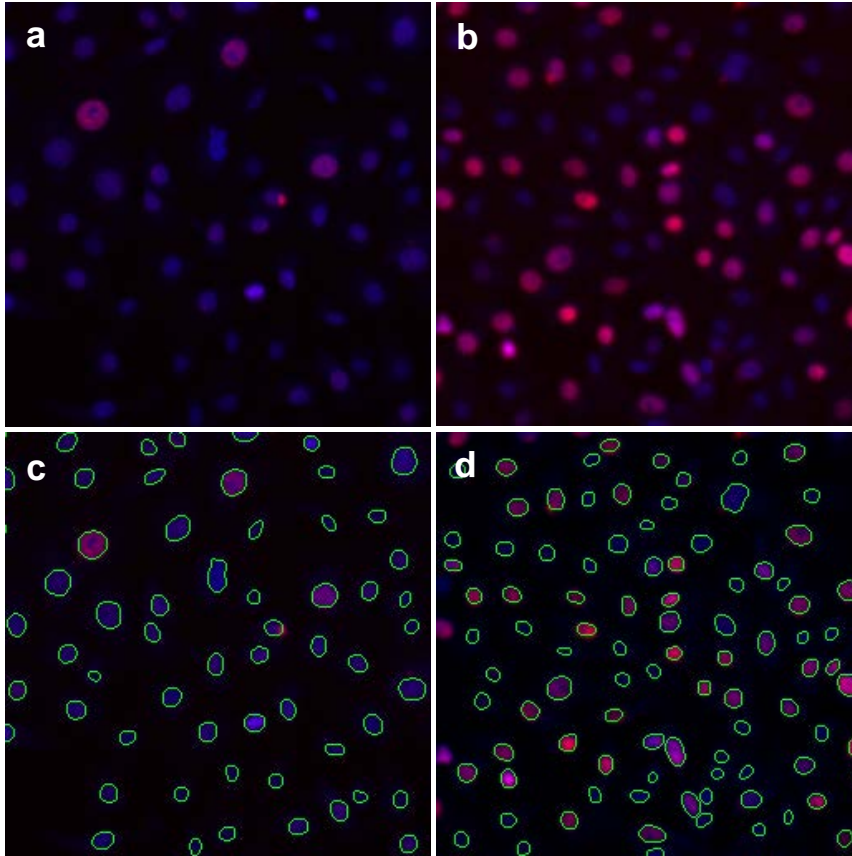
MucilAir

Vehicle

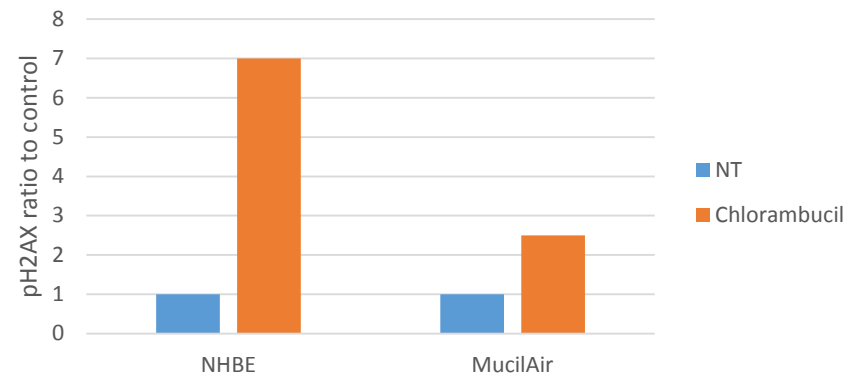
100µM Chlorambucil

Vehicle

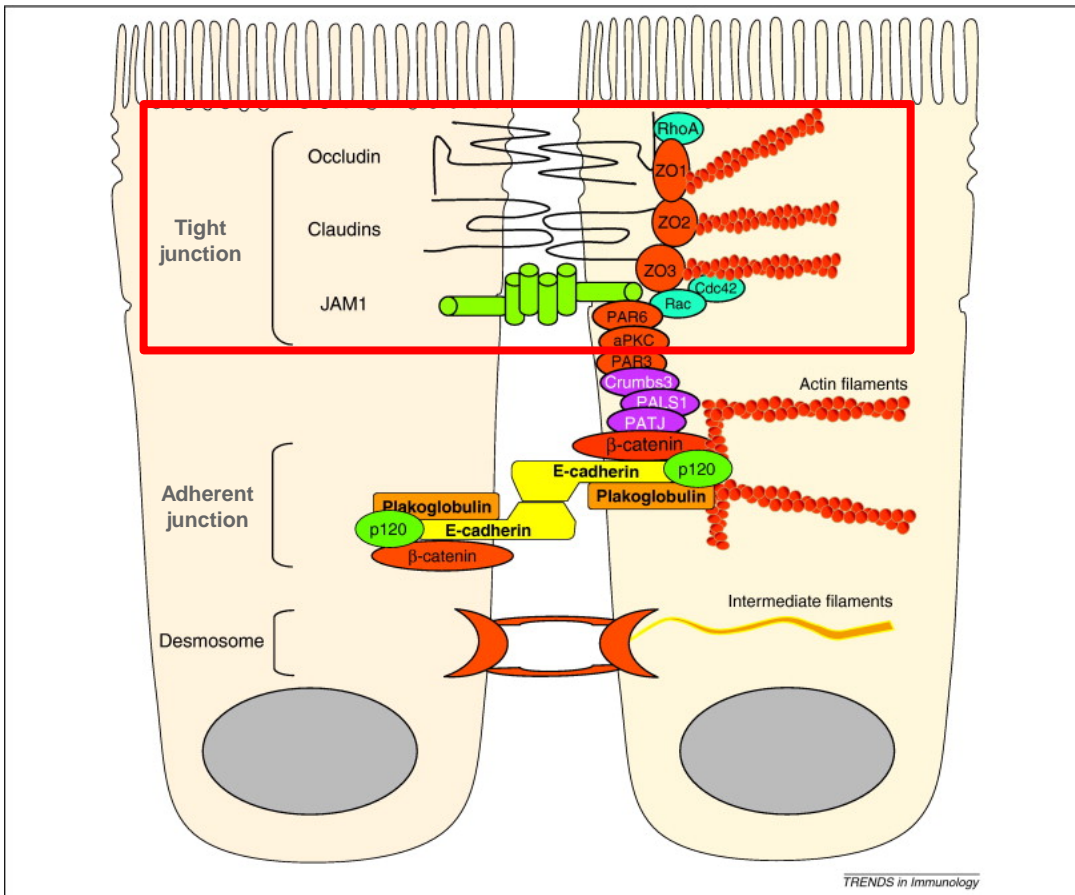
500µM Chlorambucil



DNA Damage



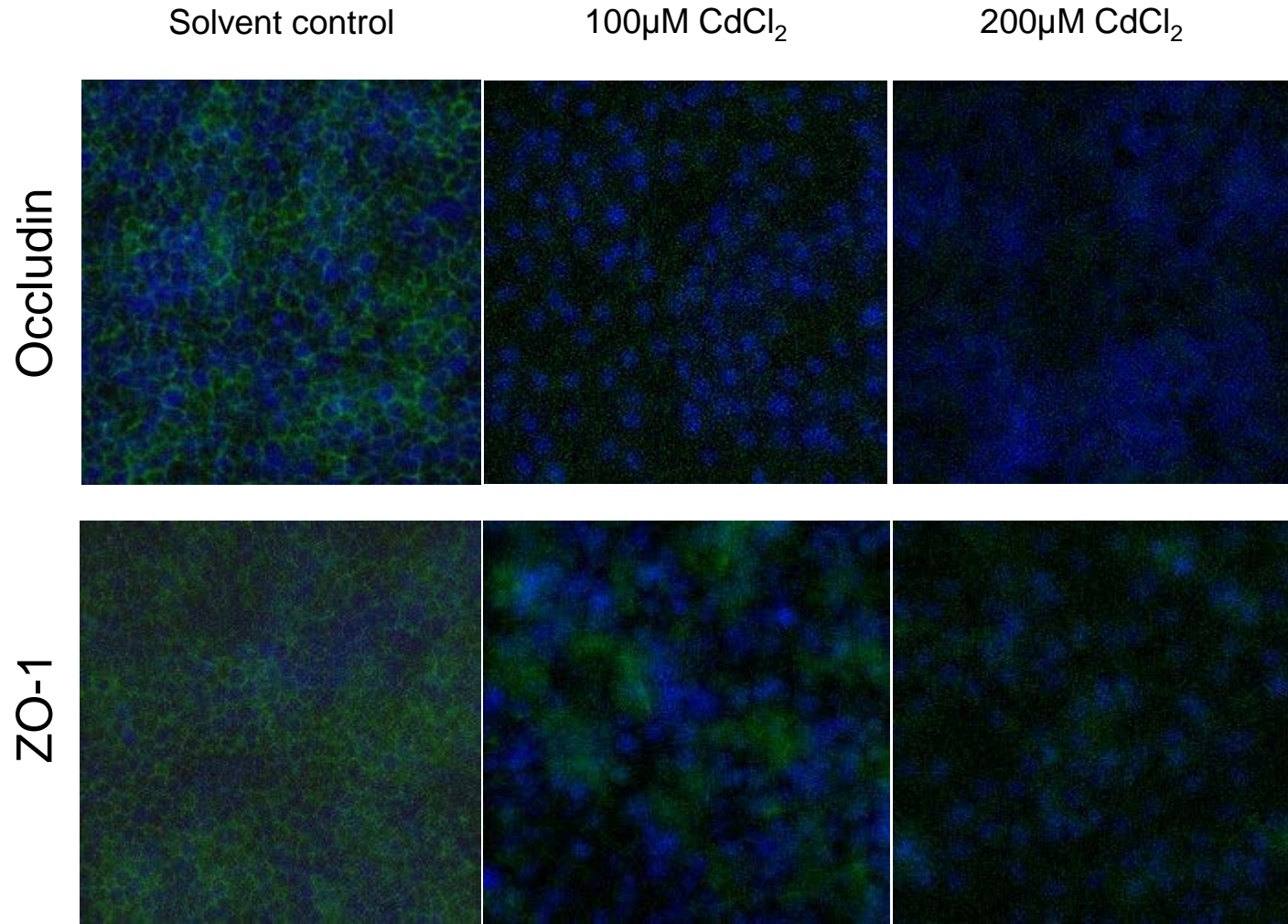
# Tight Junction in 3D



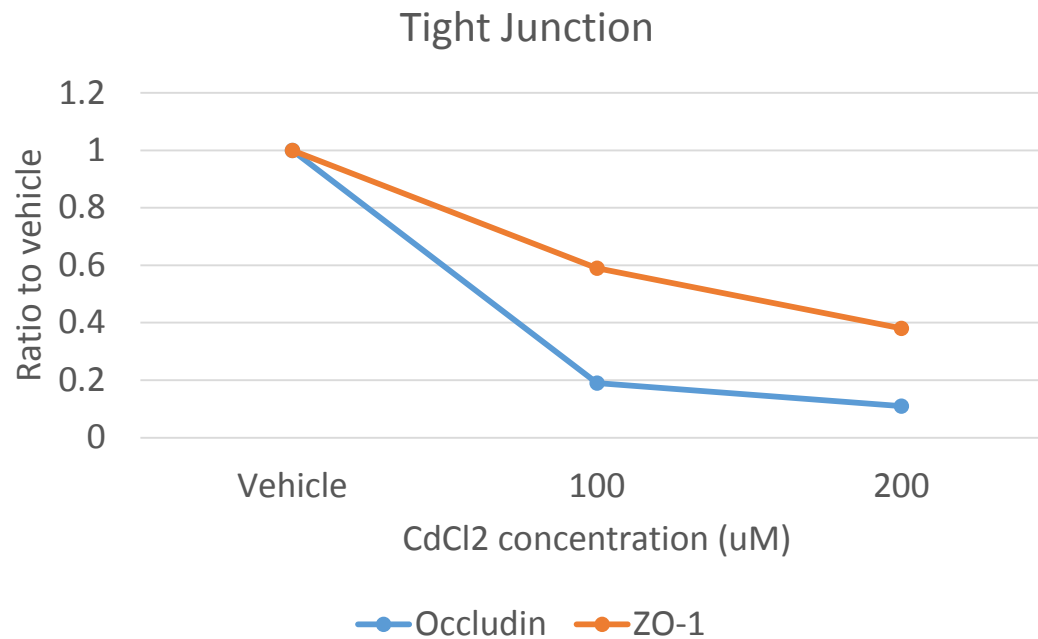
- The bronchial epithelium is responsible for preserving airway homeostasis in the lung. It possesses innate defense functions and acts as a barrier against inhaled particles or pathogens. Epithelial barrier function is maintained by adherens junctions and, most importantly, by intercellular **tight junctions**.
- Cigarette smoke exposure leads to damage and increased permeability of the airway epithelium.

Nawijn MC Trends in Immunology 2011

# Tight Junction disruption



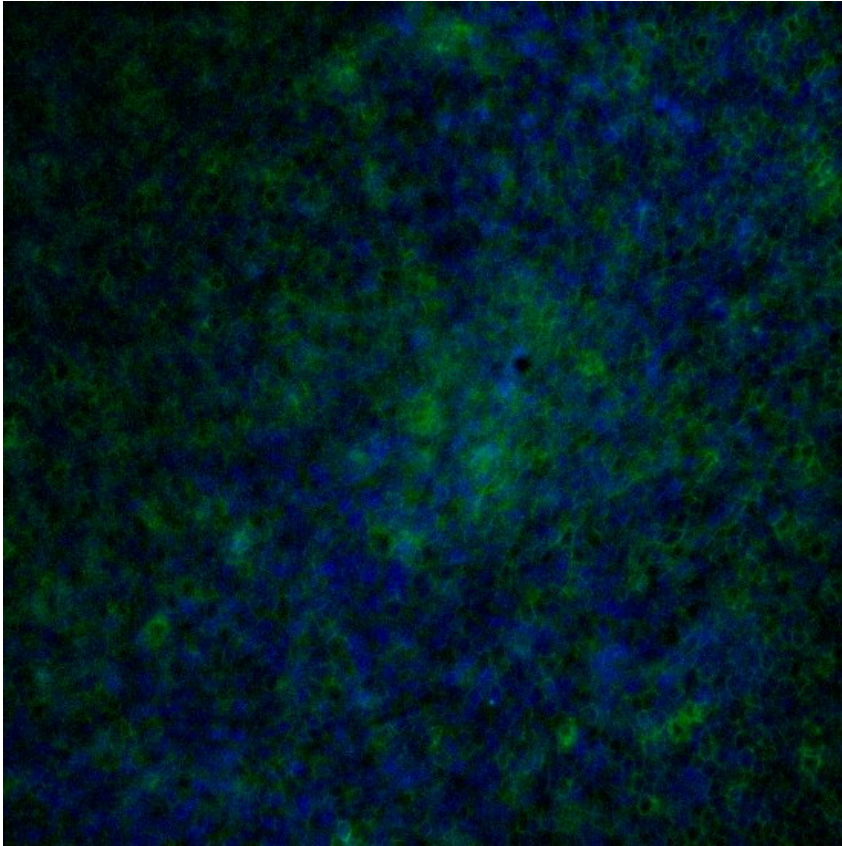
# Tight Junction disruption



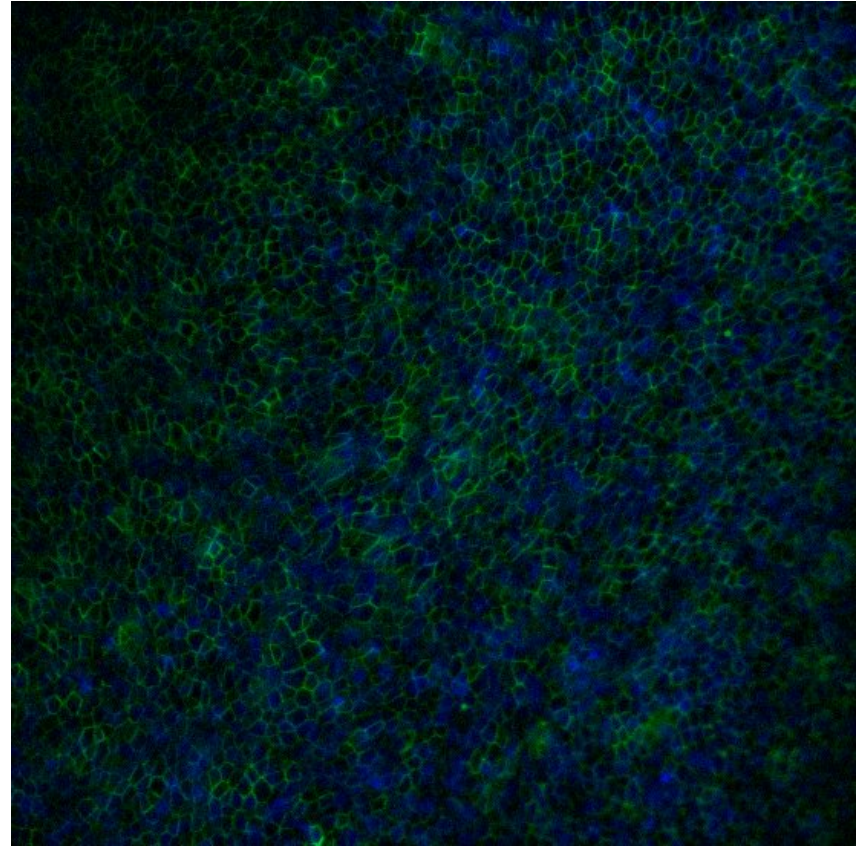
# Imaging improvement

---

Membrane in the insert



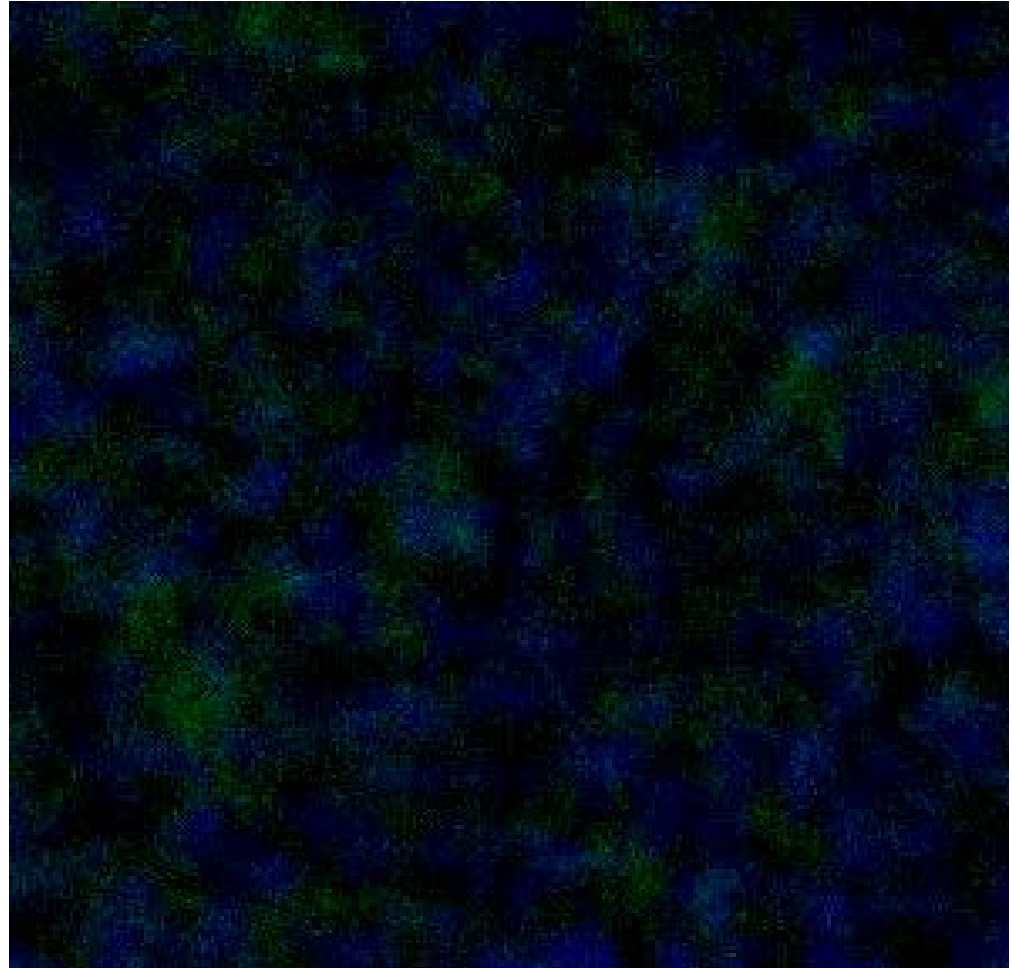
Membrane cut and placed in a well



# 3D reconstruction

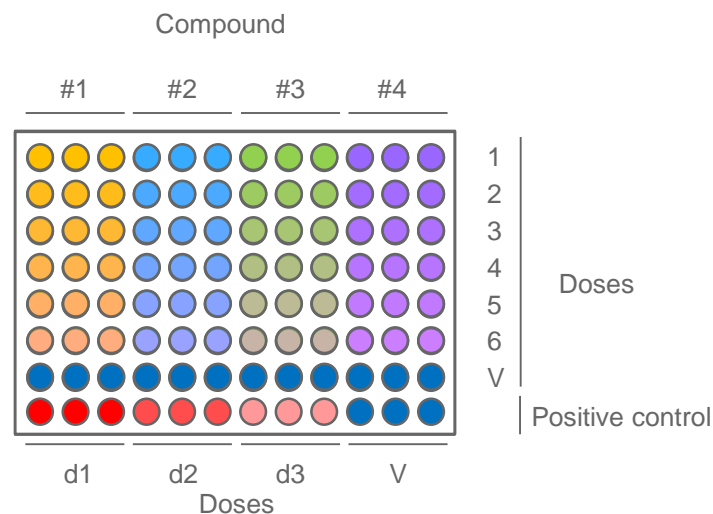
---

ImageJ<sup>®</sup> video  
reconstruction of **60** z-stack  
pictures with **1 $\mu$ m** gap



# HCS tox assessment

Assay	#	Biological endpoint
Nuclear parameters (Included in all assays)	1	Cell count
	2	Nuclear area
	3	DNA structure
Cytotoxicity	4	Mitochondrial mass
	5	Mitochondrial membrane potential
	6	Cytochrome C release
DNA damage & Stress kinase	7	phospho-H2AX
	8	phospho-cJun
Proliferation	9	EdU
	10	phospho-H3
NF-kB	11	NF-kB nuclear translocation
Oxidative stress	12	ROS
	13	GSH
Apoptosis & Necrosis	14	Caspase 3/7
	15	Cell membrane permeability



- 1, 4 and 24 hr timepoint for a total of 12 plates/plate set.
- 2 plate sets simultaneously
- 3 experiments/week

# HCS laboratory

- Thermo Arrayscan VTI (2X)
- Thermo CellInsight CX7
- Thermo Orbitor
- Biotek Platewasher
- CyBio Felix



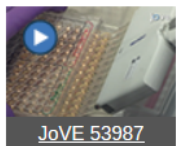
Stefano  
Acali



Alexandra  
Laurent



## High Content Screening Analysis to Evaluate the Toxicological Effects of Harmful and Potentially Harmful Constituents (HPHC)



Diego Marescotti<sup>1</sup>, Ignacio Gonzalez Suarez<sup>1</sup>, Stefano Acali<sup>1</sup>, Stephanie Johne<sup>1</sup>, Alexandra Laurent<sup>1</sup>, Stefan Frentzel<sup>1</sup>, Julia Hoeng<sup>1</sup>, Manuel C. Peitsch<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Biological System Research (BSR), Philip Morris International R&D

[Visit our HCS lab](#)

on Google indoor maps

**CONFIDENTIAL** – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY



PMI RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT



Thank you for your attention!!!

