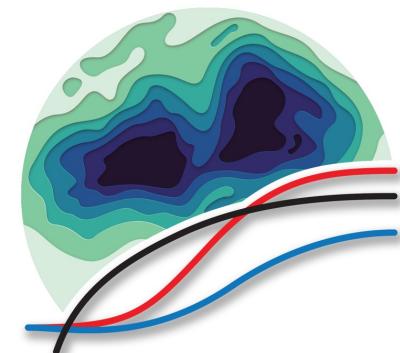


# Advancing Spatiotemporal Methods for Large-Scale Environmental Exposure and Mechanistically-Informed Risk Assessment

Kyle P Messier, PhD  
Stadtman Investigator

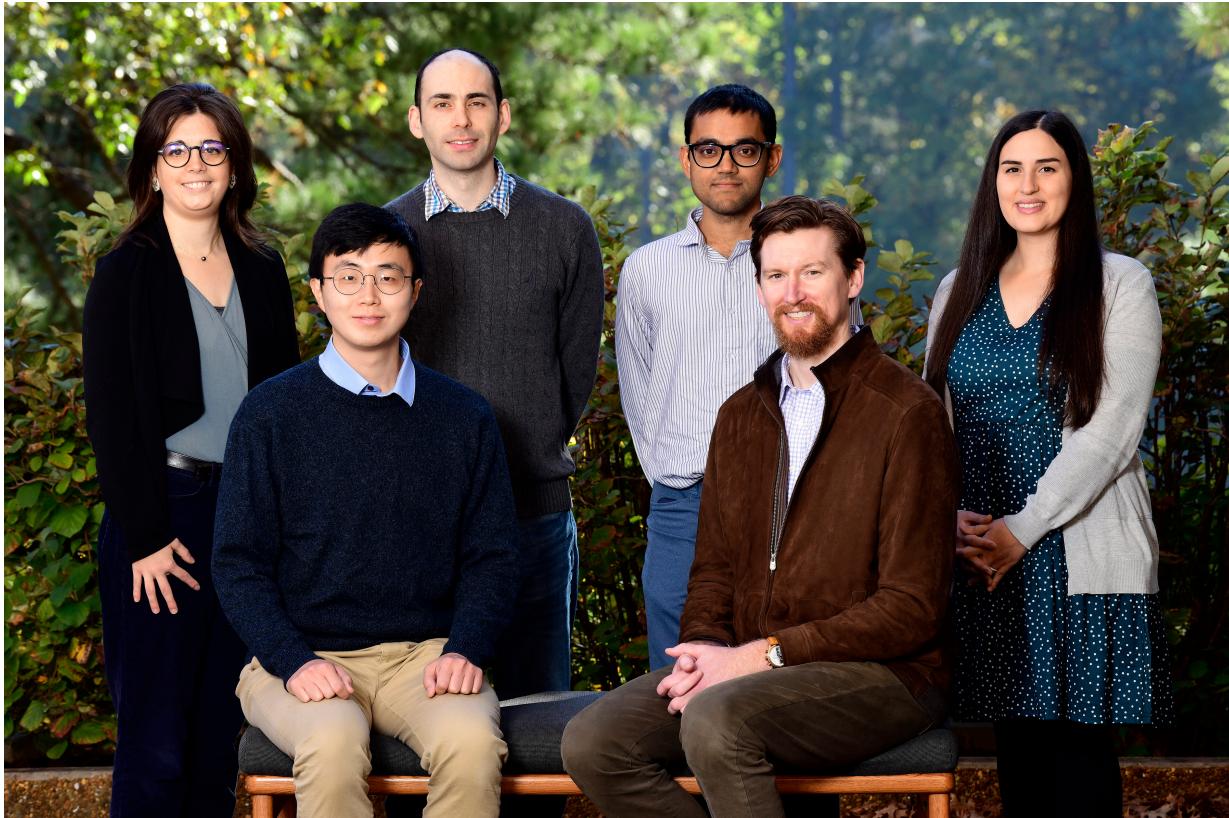


Spatiotemporal Exposures  
and Toxicology (SET) Group

Eva Marques

Daniel Zilber

Ranadeep Daw



Insang Song

Kyle Messier

Mariana Alifa

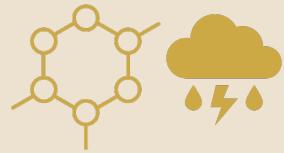


Mitchell Manware  
(Data Analyst)

# Spatiotemporal Exposures and Toxicology Group



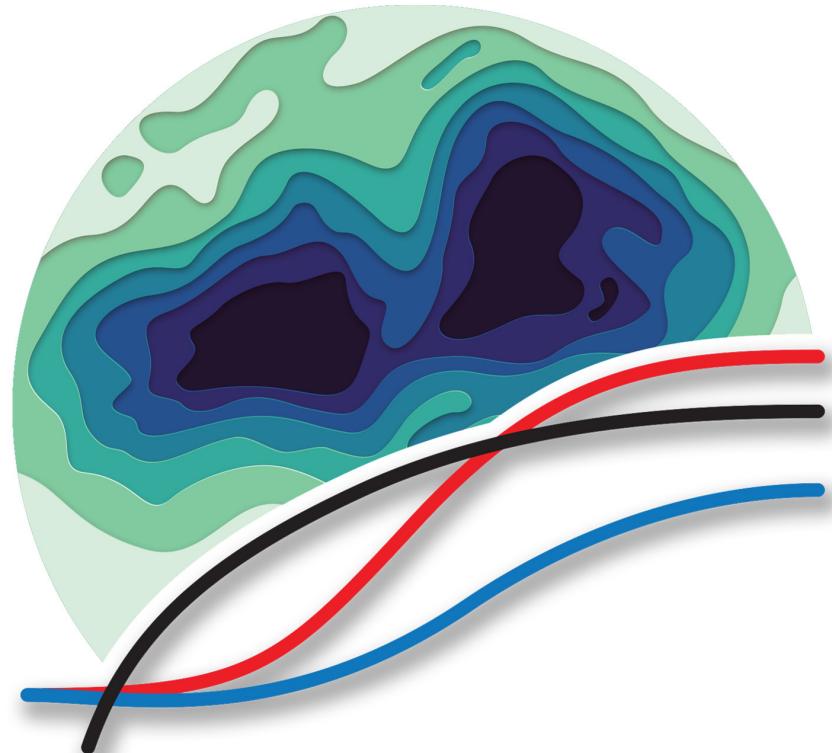
Spatiotemporal Exposure  
Mapping



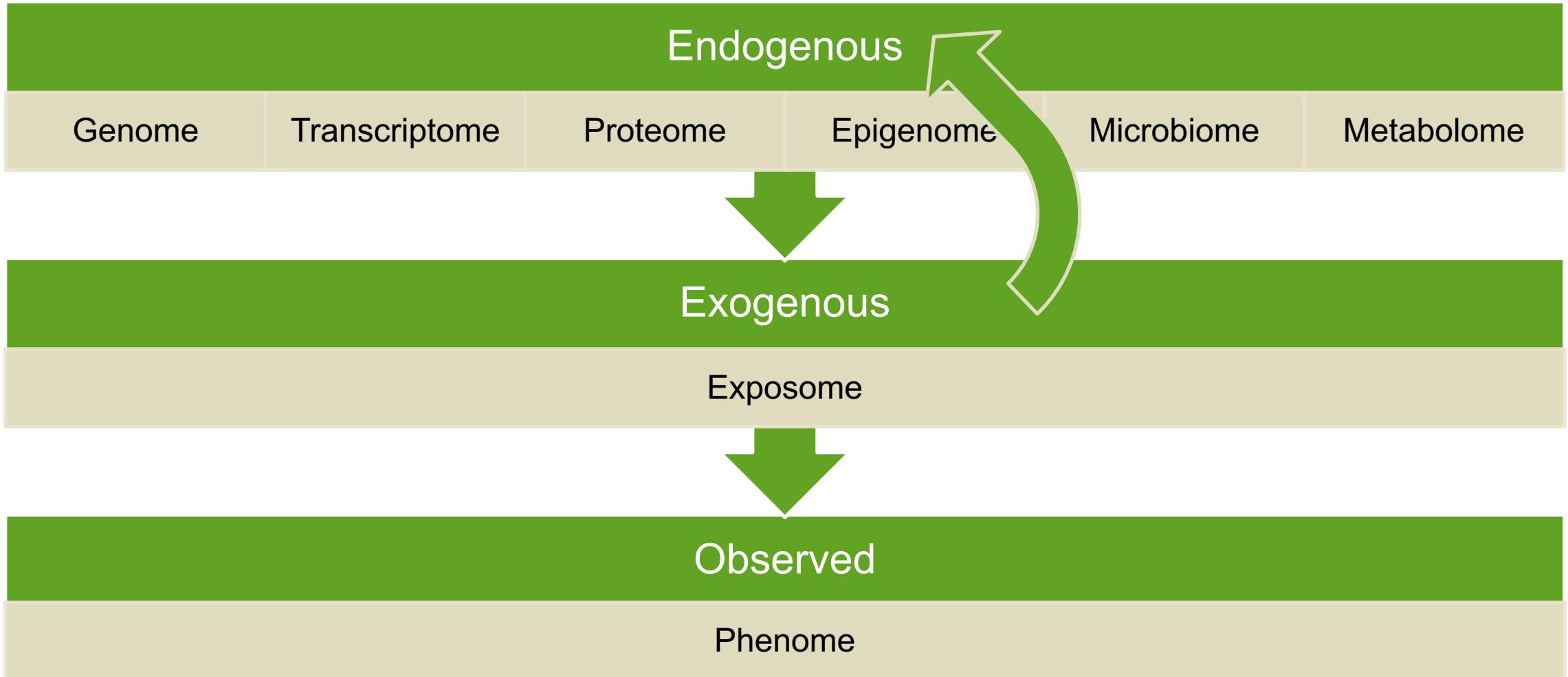
Chemical and Stressor  
Mixtures Prediction



Mechanistically Informed  
Risk Assessment



# What drives our health outcomes (i.e. phenotypes)?



### Ecosystems

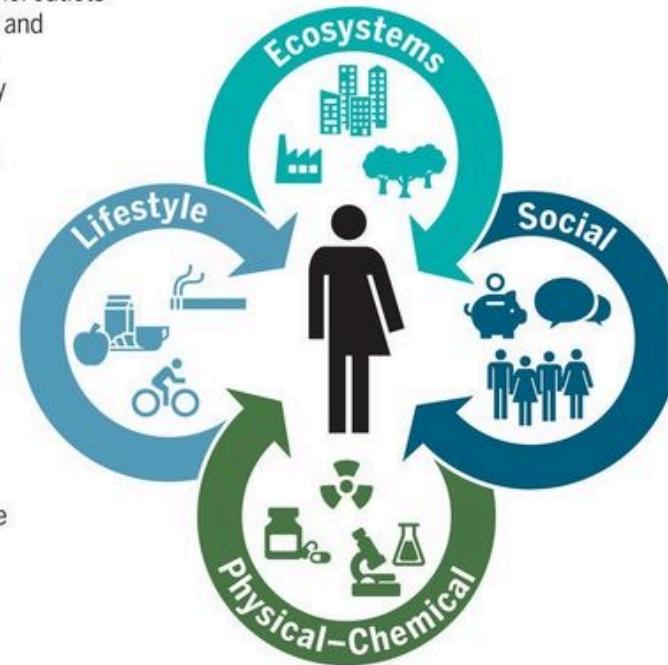
Food outlets, alcohol outlets  
Built environment and urban land uses  
Population density  
Walkability  
Green/blue space

### Lifestyle

Physical activity  
Sleep behavior  
Diet  
Drug use  
Smoking  
Alcohol use

### Social

Household income  
Inequality  
Social capital  
Social networks  
Cultural norms  
Cultural capital  
Psychological and mental stress



### Physical-Chemical

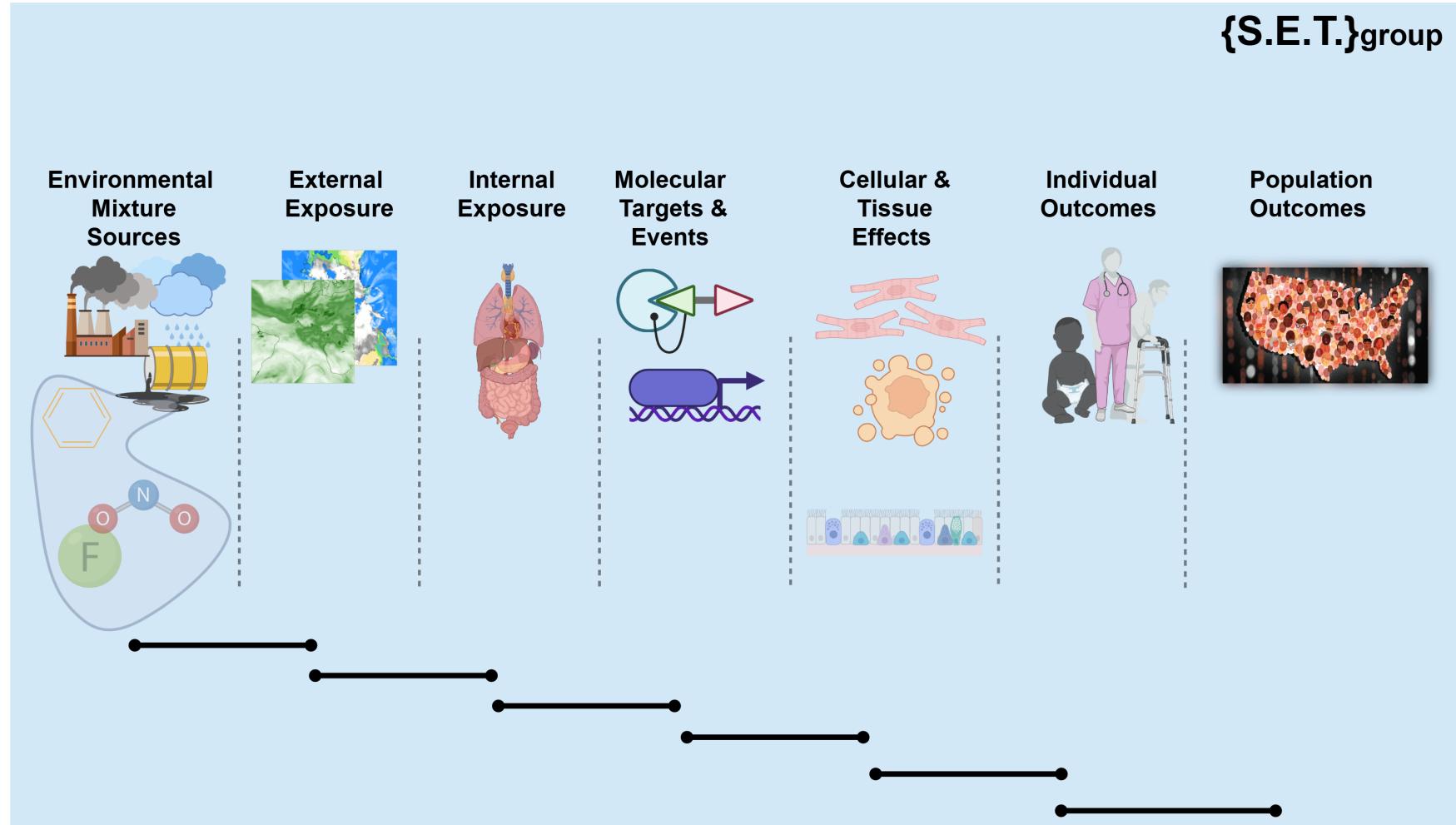
Temperature/humidity  
Electromagnetic fields  
Ambient light  
Odor and noise  
Point, line sources, e.g., factories, ports  
Outdoor and indoor air pollution  
Agricultural activities, livestock  
Pollen/mold/fungus  
Pesticides  
Fragrance products  
Flame retardants (PBDEs)  
Persistent organic pollutants  
Plastic and plasticizers  
Food contaminants  
Soil contaminants  
Drinking water contamination  
Groundwater contamination  
Surface water contamination  
Occupational exposures

The exposome and health: Where chemistry meets biology, Volume: 367, Issue: 6476, Pages: 392-396, DOI: (10.1126/science.aay3164)

Science

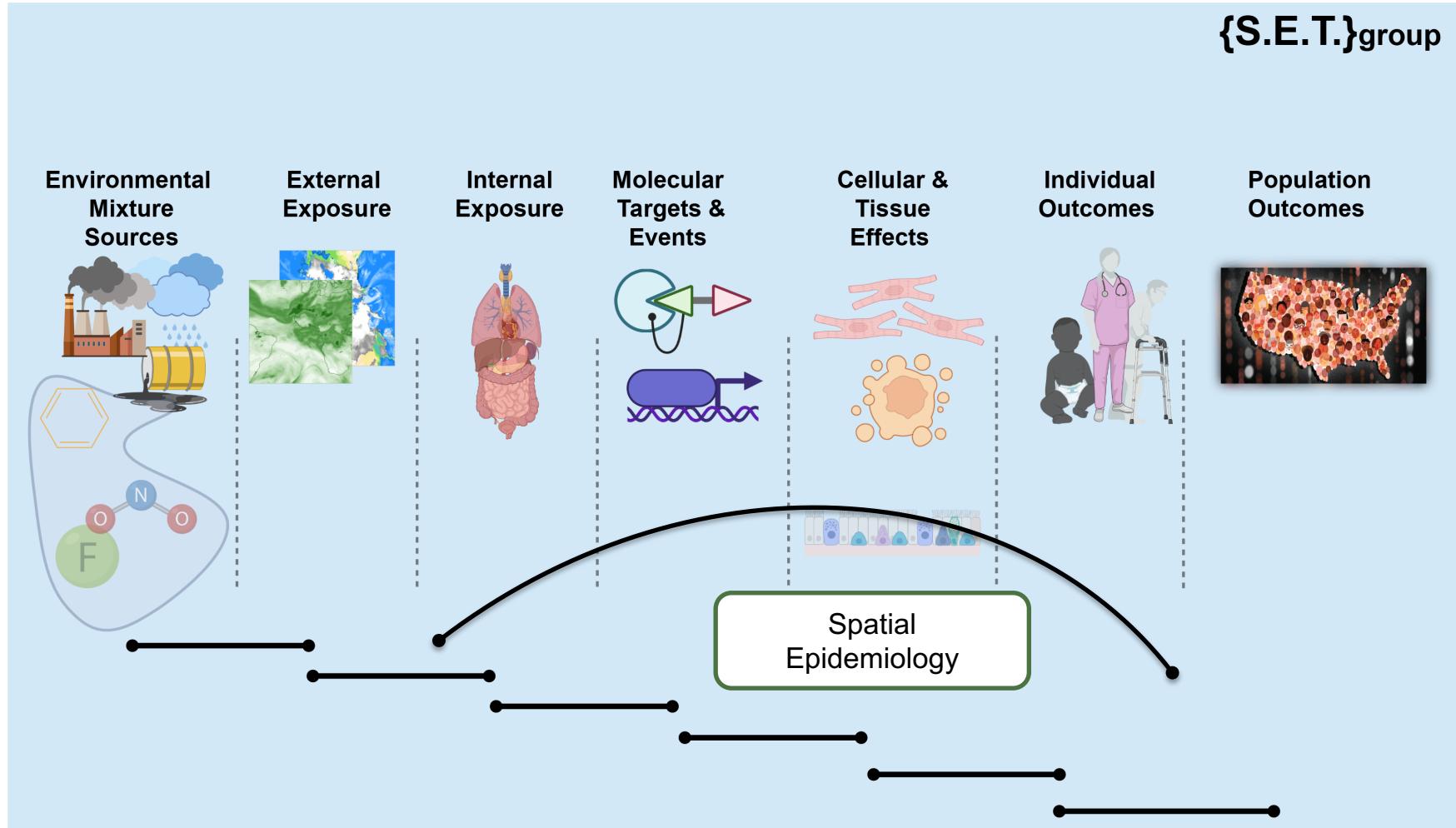
AAAS

{S.E.T.}group

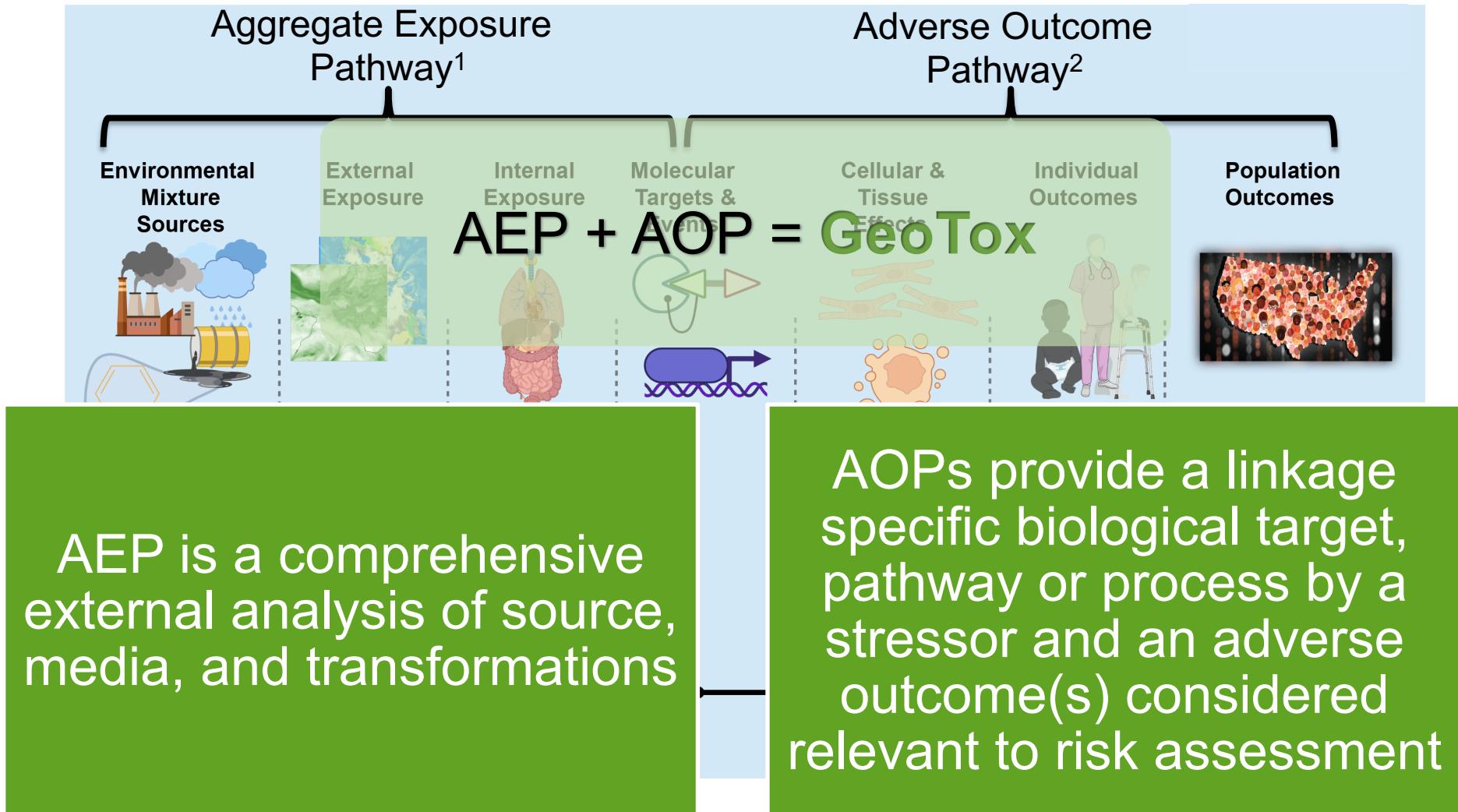


A Cascade of Events: The Events MUST Occur In This Order

{S.E.T.}group



Bypasses the Mechanisms



1. Teeguarden JG, Tan YM, Edwards SW, Leonard JA, Anderson KA, Corley RA, Kile ML, Simonich SM, Stone D, Tanguay RL, Waters KM. Completing the link between exposure science and toxicology for improved environmental health decision making: the aggregate exposure pathway framework.

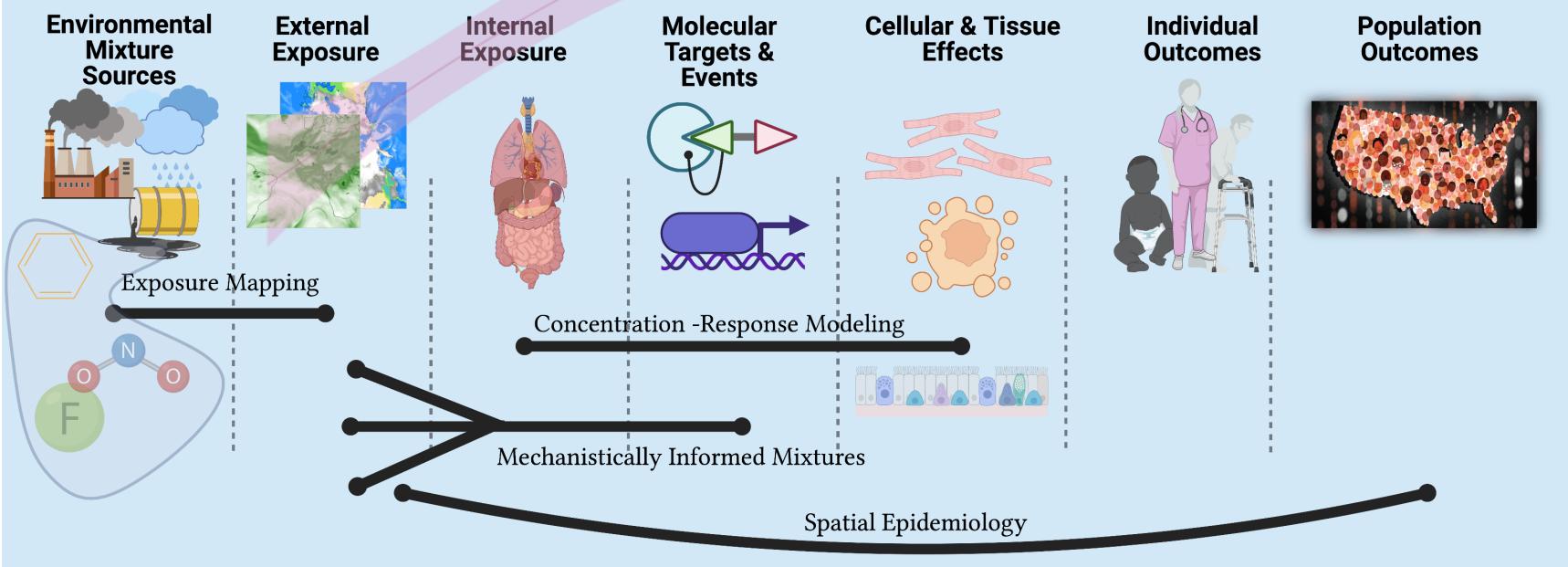
2. <http://aop.wiki.org>; Society for the Advancement of Adverse Outcome Pathways

## *Environmental Exposure Assessments and Mechanistically-Informed Mixture Risk Assessments Using Spatiotemporal Statistics*

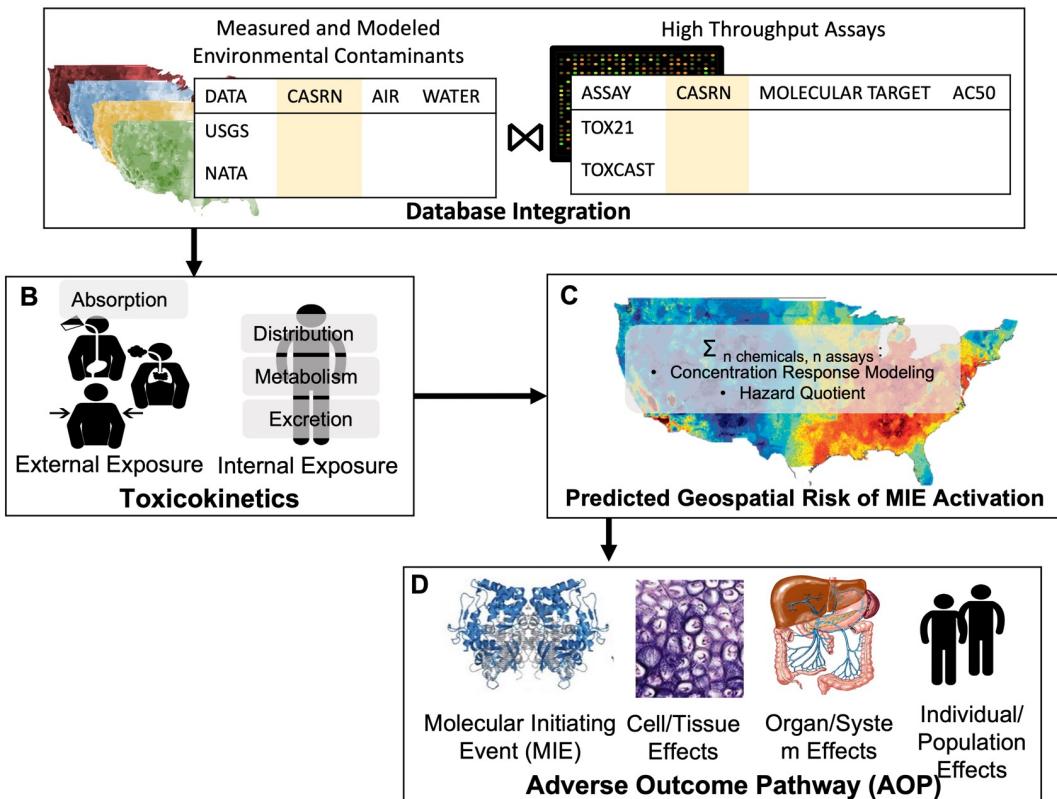
{ S.E.T. }<sub>group</sub>

$$\eta \sim GP(\mu, \Sigma)$$

$$\min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ \frac{1}{N} \|y - X\beta\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\beta\|_1 \right\}$$



# GeoTox Proof of Concept



**Group Alum:  
Kristin Eccles, PhD  
Health Canada**



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect  
**Science of the Total Environment**  
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv)

A geospatial modeling approach to quantifying the risk of exposure to environmental chemical mixtures via a common molecular target

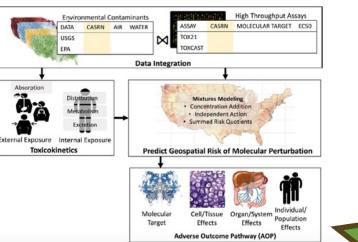
Kristin M. Eccles <sup>a</sup>, Agnes L. Karraus <sup>b</sup>, Nicole C. Kleinstreuer <sup>a</sup>, Fred Parham <sup>a</sup>, Cynthia V. Rider <sup>a</sup>, John F. Wambaugh <sup>c</sup>, Kyle P. Messier <sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> National Institute of Environmental Health Science, Division of the Translational Toxicology, Durham, USA  
<sup>b</sup> Integrated Laboratory Systems, an Inotiv Company, Morrisville, NC, USA  
<sup>c</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency, Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure, Durham, USA

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- We assess the geographic variation for the joint effect of many chemical exposures.
- This example workflow integrates NAMs with chemical exposure data.
- The biological perturbations were heterogeneously distributed across space.
- Exposure concentrations, demographics, and toxicokinetics influence variability.
- We provide methods for modeling the source-exposure-effect continuum.

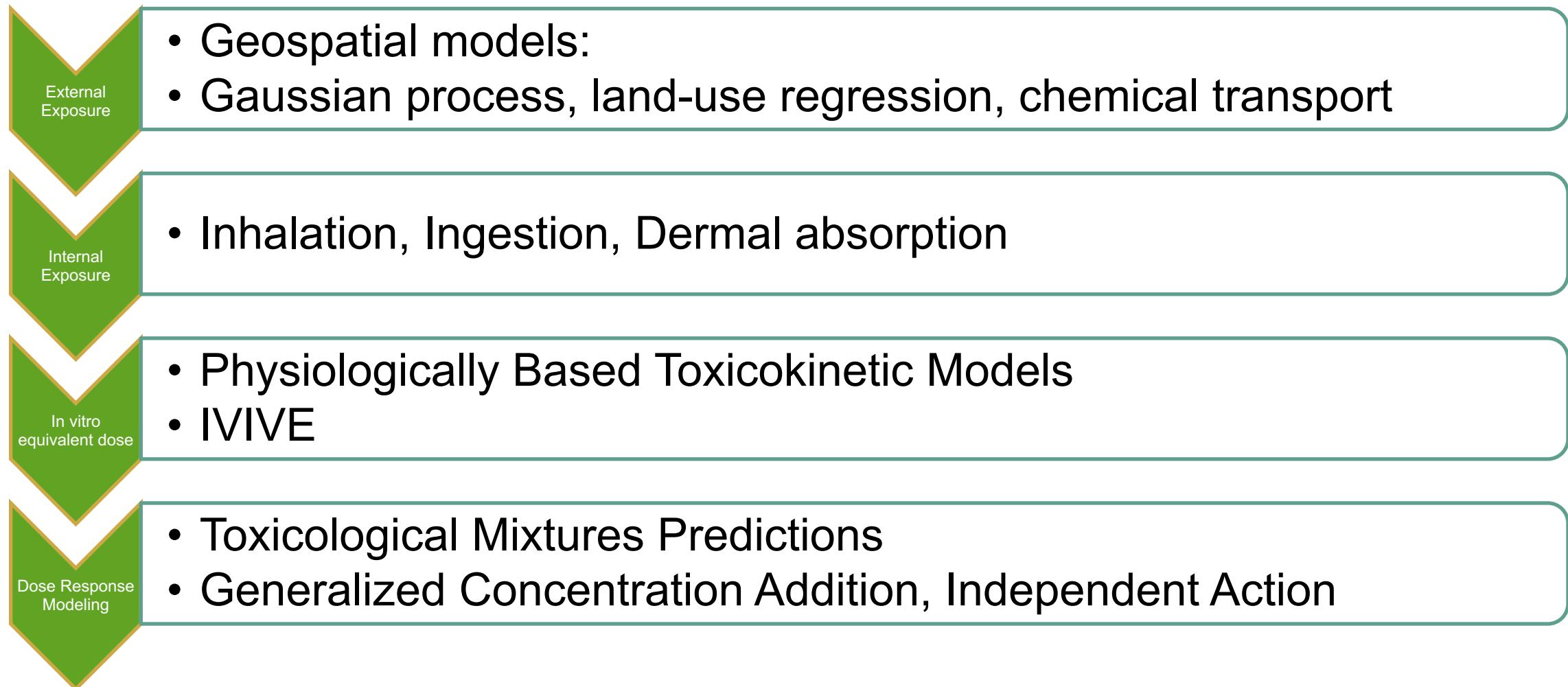
**GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT**



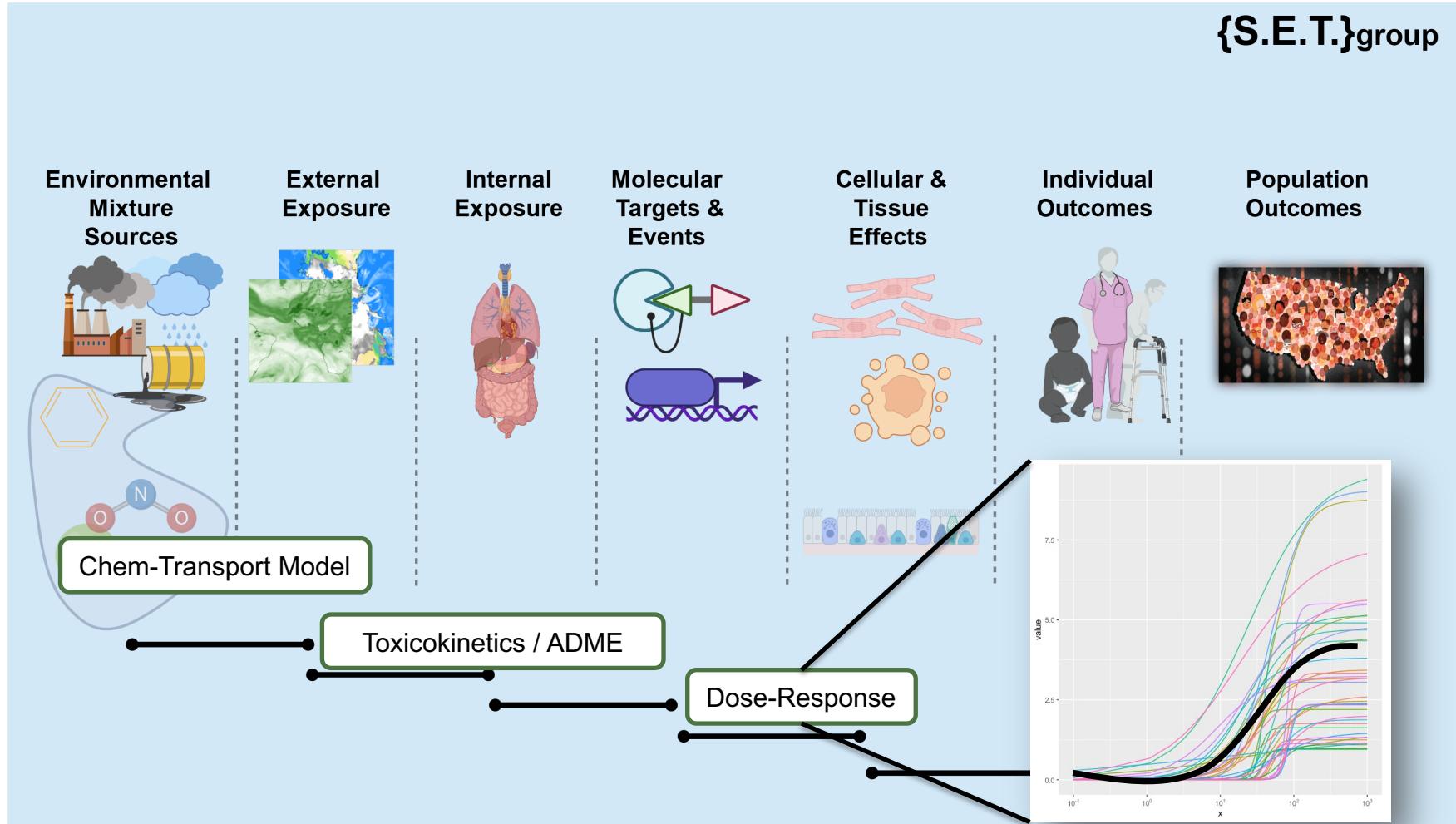
The graphical abstract summarizes the study's methodology and results. It shows the integration of environmental contaminants (USGS, EPA, DATA, CASRN, AIR, WATER) with high-throughput assays (TOX21, TOXCAST) to predict the geospatial risk of MIE activation. The process involves toxicokinetics (Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, Excretion) and leads to the final Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP), which includes Molecular Target, Cell/Tissue Effects, Organ/System Effects, and Individual/Population Effects.

2022 NIEHS  
POY

## Key Steps in GeoTox Risk Mapping

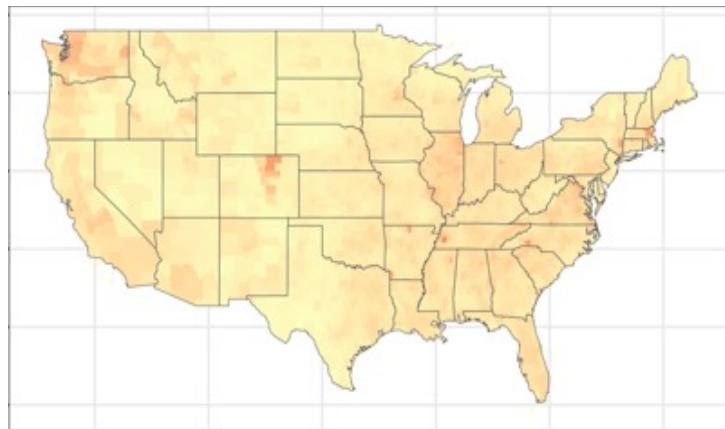


## {S.E.T.}group

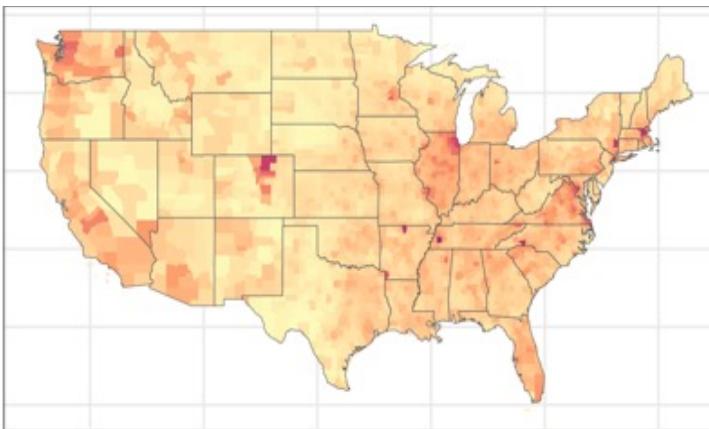


# Mapped Risk of Molecular Perturbation

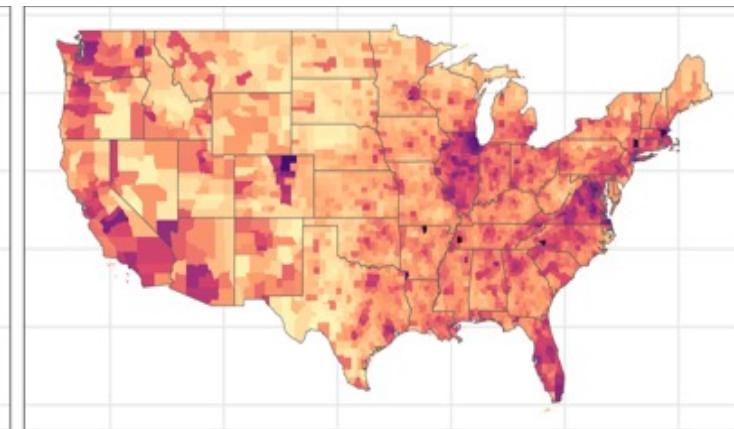
5th Percentile



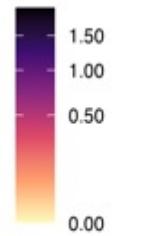
Median



95th Percentile



Predicted Response  
Log2 Fold Change  
mRNA Expression



1.50
1.00
0.50
0.00

## Current Applications of GeoTox



Ex 1: Air pollution causing impaired mucociliary clearance



Ex 2: VOC exposures in air and water leading to increased eczema



Mapped AOP Key Events



Large Scale Molecular Epidemiology

## Some of the Current Limitations of GeoTox

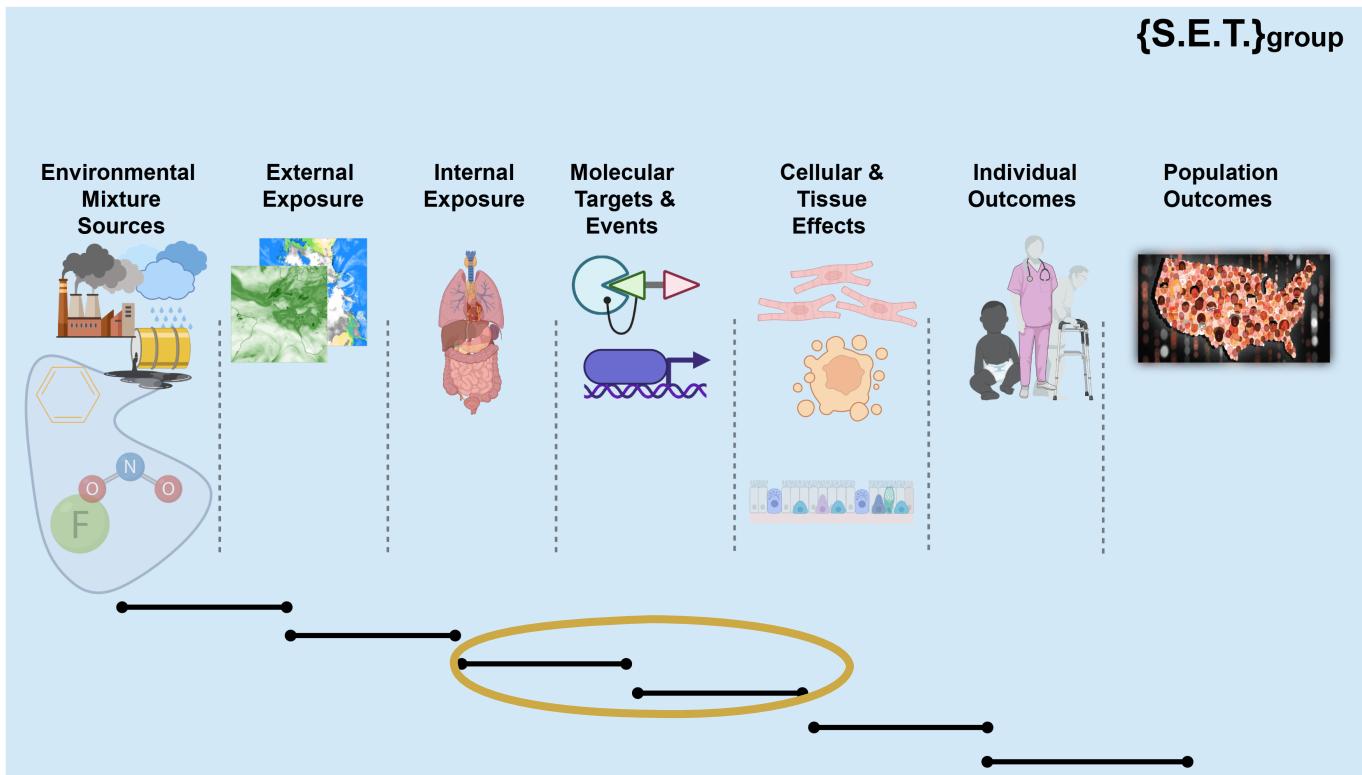


Infinite Mixtures Problem



Geospatial chemical exposure models have a “lamp-post” problem

# Improving Chemical Mixture Prediction



## A little math

$$R = f(c|\alpha, \theta, \beta) = \frac{\alpha}{1 + \left(\frac{\theta}{c}\right)^{\beta}}$$

3 parameter hill model

$$C = f^{-1}(R|\alpha, \theta, \beta) = \frac{\theta}{\left(\frac{\alpha}{R} - 1\right)^{1/\beta}}$$

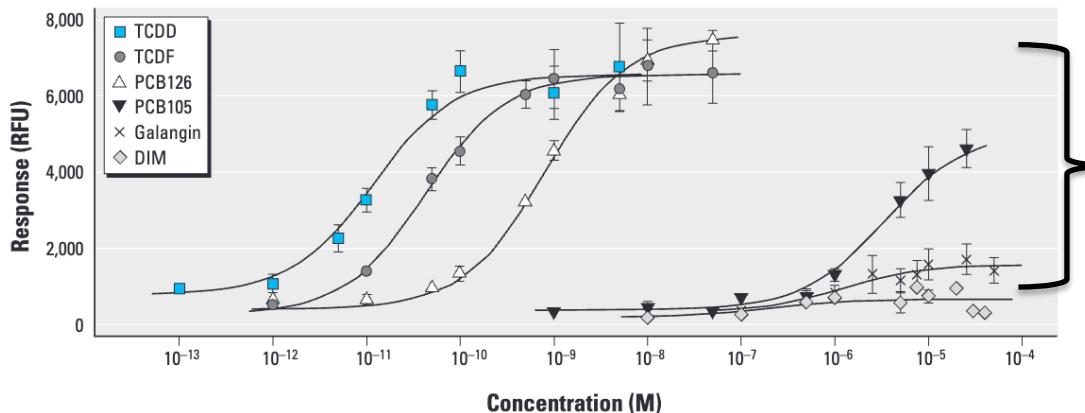
3 parameter hill model inverse

Parameters  $\begin{cases} \alpha & \text{Sill/maximal effect} \\ \theta & \text{Inflection/ Half maximal effect} \\ \beta & \text{Slope at inflection} \end{cases}$

# Generalized Concentration Addition (GCA)

- Concentration Addition

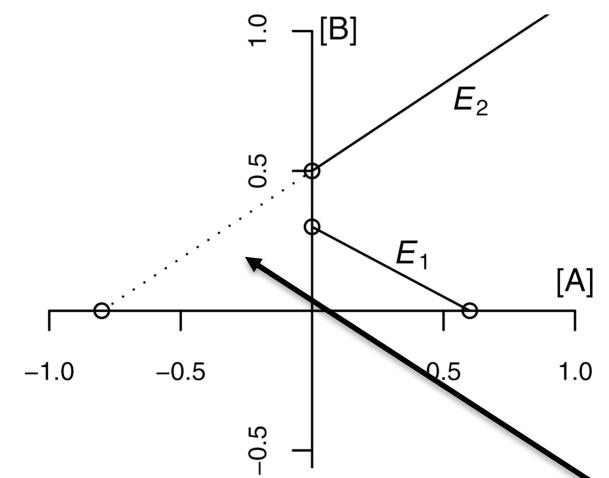
$$\sum_i \frac{c_i}{EC_i(R)} = 1$$



Mixture response can exceed the maximal response (sill) of partial agonists

- Generalized Concentration Addition

$$\sum_i \frac{c_i}{f_i^{-1}(R)} = 1$$

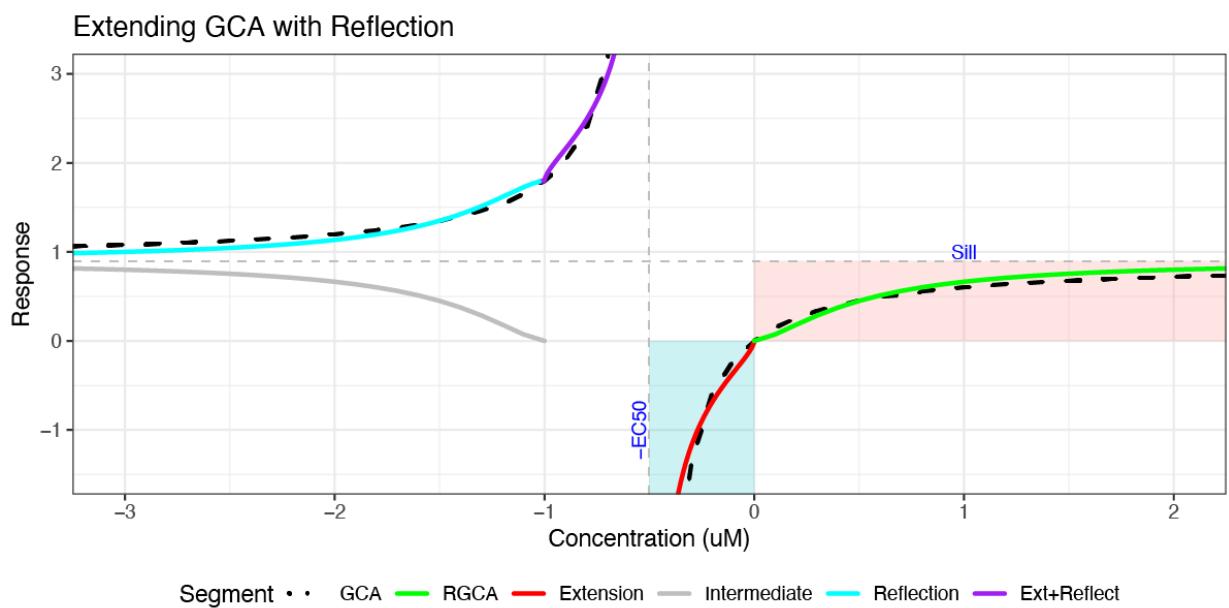


GCA allows for partial agonists to contribute a "negative" concentration to the mixture response

# Reflected Generalized Concentration Addition (RGCA)

- RGCA proposes a geometric technique that piece-wise reflects the inverse function such that it achieves defined inverse functions for 3+ parameter hill (i.e. sigmoidal) models

$$c = f^{-1}(R|\alpha > 0, \theta, \beta = 1) = \begin{cases} -\frac{\theta}{1 + (\frac{-\alpha}{R})^\beta} & R \in (-\infty, 0) \\ \theta \left(\frac{\alpha}{R} - 1\right)^{-1/\beta} & R \in [0, \alpha) \\ -2\theta - \theta \left(\frac{\alpha}{2\alpha - R} - 1\right)^{-1/\beta} & R \in (\alpha, 2\alpha) \\ -2\theta + \frac{\theta}{1 + (\frac{\alpha}{R-2\alpha})^\beta} & R \in (2\alpha, \infty) \end{cases}$$



## Some of the Current Limitations of GeoTox



### Infinite Mixtures Problem



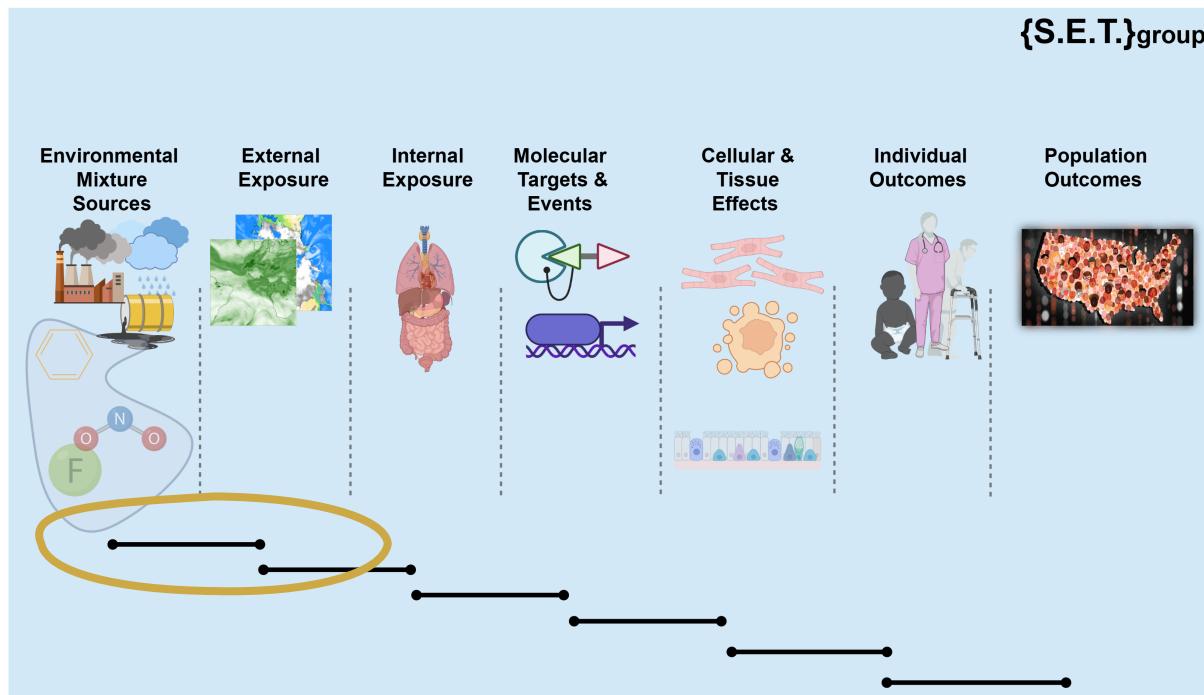
Geospatial chemical exposure models have a “lamp-post” problem

**“Remember who you are”**



Please don't sue me, Disney

# Advances in Geospatial Exposure Modeling



1. Modeling Data-Sparse Chemicals
2. Spatially-Explicit Machine Learning Methods
3. Climate Related Exposures
4. Scalable, Interpretable Geospatial Models that deal with censoring
5. Code Development and Accessibility

# Modeling Data Sparse Chemicals



Toxic Releases and National Emissions Inventory



In-vitro mechanistic and toxicity assays



Atmospheric Dispersion Model with ML



Goal: Exposure predictions for 100+ chemicals without information



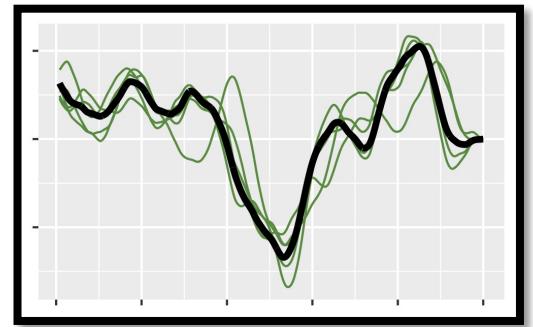
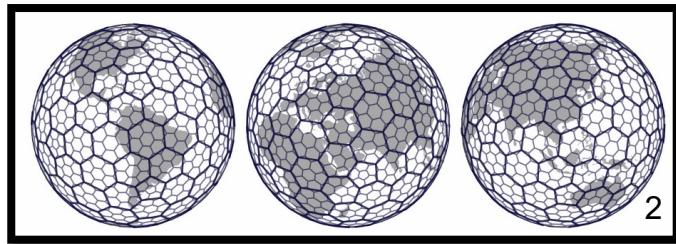
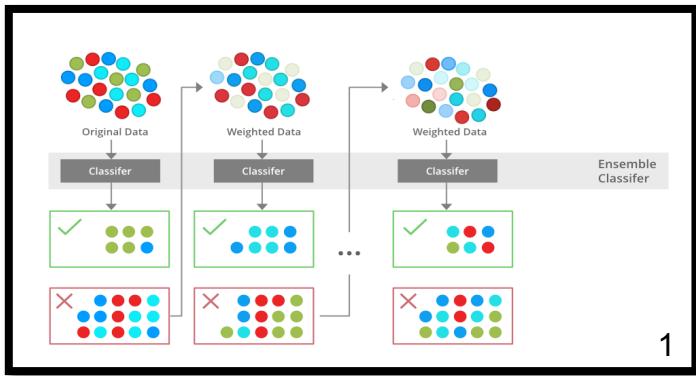
Postdoctoral Fellow:  
Mariana Alifa, PhD

# Spatially-Explicit Machine Learning Methods

Gradient  
Boosting

Spatiotemporal  
Random  
Subsampling

Scalable  
Gaussian  
Processes



$$\eta \sim GP(\mu, \Sigma)$$



Postdoctoral Fellow:  
Ranadeep Daw, PhD

# Climate Exposures Modeling



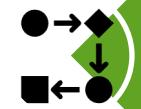
Data Source Integration: Satellite, Reference Monitoring, Citizen Sensors



High-Resolution Temperature and Humidity Maps



Hierarchical Spatiotemporal Model



Climate Modifications of AEP and AOP

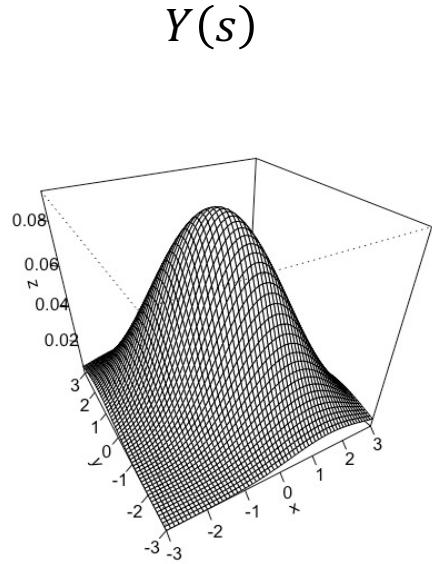


Epidemiological Relevant Exposure Metrics



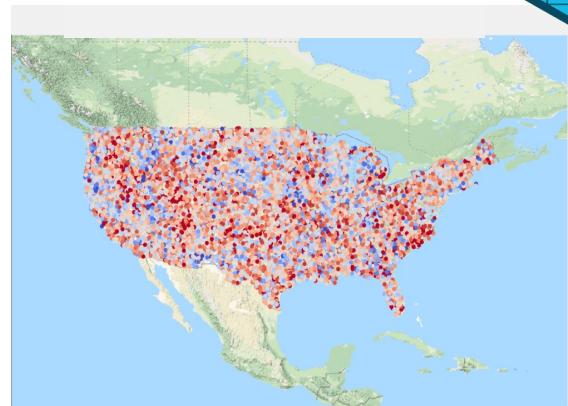
Postdoctoral Fellow:  
Eva Marques, PhD

# Scalable, Interpretable Geospatial Models with censoring



$$Y(s) = X^T(s) \beta + \varepsilon(s)$$

The equation shows a decomposition of a response variable  $Y(s)$  into a linear combination of covariates  $X^T(s) \beta$  and a residual error  $\varepsilon(s)$ . The term  $X^T(s) \beta$  is represented by a bracket containing two maps of North America. The top map shows a sparse set of red dots representing observed data points. The bottom map shows a much denser grid of blue and red dots, representing a full set of covariates or a fine spatial resolution.



$Y(s)$  is assumed Gaussian →  
 The joint distributions are  
 multivariate normal with  
 mean  $X\beta$  and covariance  $\Sigma_\theta$

- GIS Covariates
- Spatial, temporal,  
spatiotemporal
- Easily 100 to 1000's

- Spatiotemporal error
- $$\text{Cov}(\varepsilon(s), \varepsilon(s')) = C(\mathbf{h}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

# Penalized Spatiotemporal Regression

$$f(\mathbf{z}; \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}_n(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}})$$

Multivariate Gaussian Density

$$Q(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = -2 \log f(\mathbf{z}; \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \lambda p(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = (\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})' \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{-1} (\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}) + \log |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}| + \lambda p(\boldsymbol{\beta})$$

Likelihood      Density      Penalty



- Simultaneous estimation of covariates and spatiotemporal error parameters
- Computational Scaling via the General Vecchia Approximation
- Model selection via a penalty
- Matérn Cross-Covariances
- Censoring Imputation via Truncated Normal Distribution

# Continuous Developments



## GeoTox R package

- R package expected by Society of Toxicology meeting (March 2024)
- Increase accessibility and extensibility of GeoTox
- Improve computational speed
- Incorporate time resolution



DTT Staff Scientist:  
Skylar Marvel, PhD

README.md

**GeoToxPackage** 

The GeoToxPackage can , as introduced in [Eccles KM, Karraus AL, Kleinstreuer NC, Parham F, Rider CV, Wambaugh JF, Messier KP. A geospatial modeling approach to quantifying the risk of exposure to environmental chemical mixtures via a common molecular target. Sci Total Environ. 2023 Jan 10;855:158905. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2022.158905. Epub 2022 Sep 21. PMID: 36152849; PMCID: PMC9979101.](#)

# Mixtures Predictions

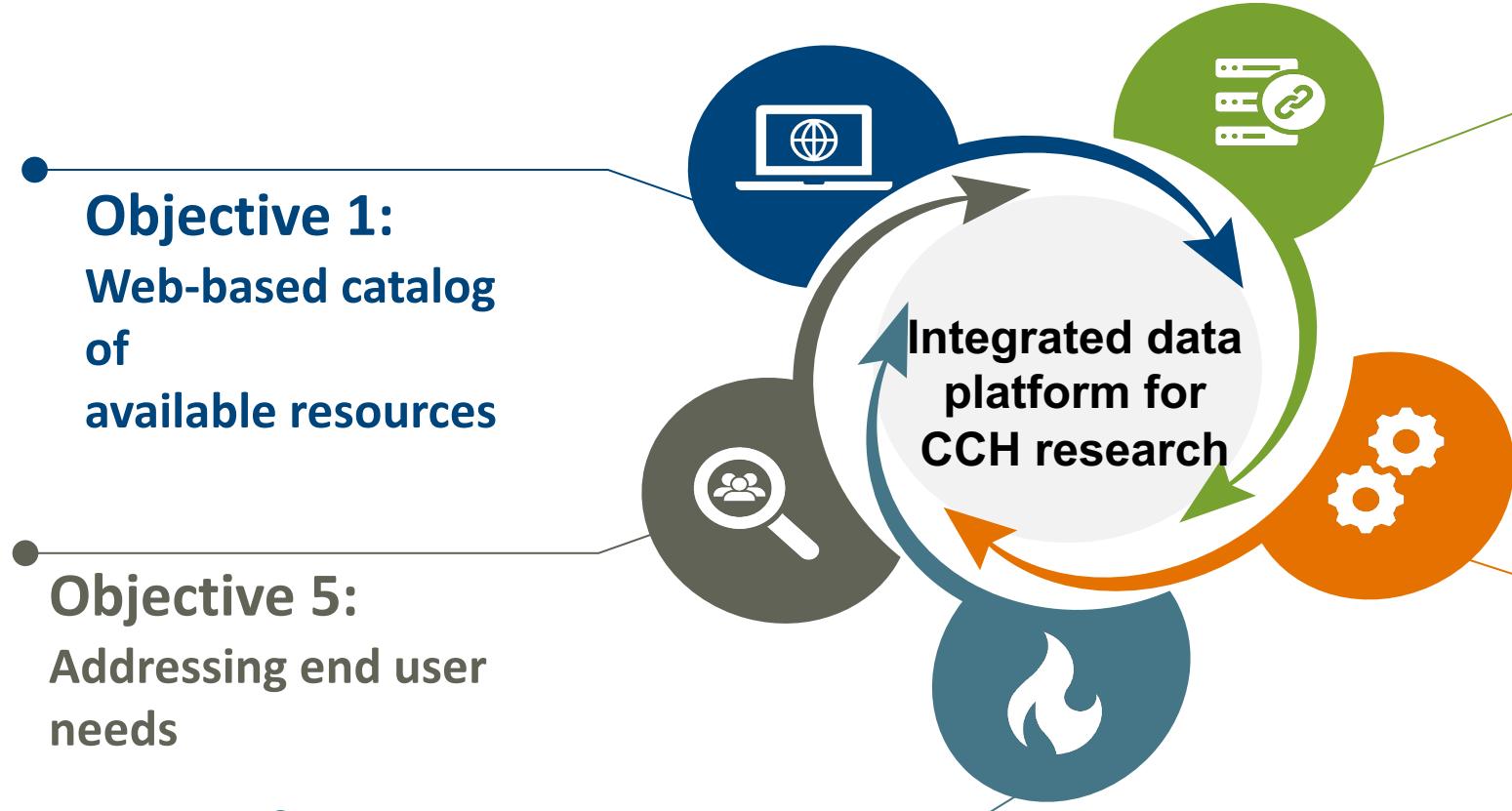


Synergy &  
Antagonism



QSAR and Docking  
Mechanisms

# Climate Health Outcomes Research and Data Systems → CHORDS



**Objective 2:**  
Standardized, linked  
datasets



CCH Data Analyst:  
Mitchell Manware, MS

**Objective 3:**  
Code and Tools

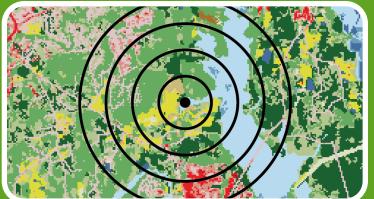
**CHORDS Leads:**  
Aubrey Miller, MD  
Charles Schmitt, PhD  
Trish Castranio  
Kyle Messier, PhD

**Objective 4:**  
Evaluation use  
case

**Objective 5:**  
Addressing end user  
needs

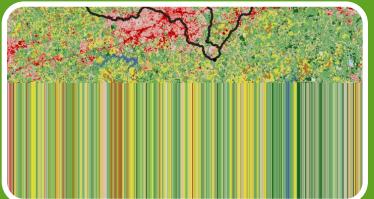
**Objective 1:**  
Web-based catalog  
of  
available resources

# Scalable GIS Tools for Environment, Climate, and Health



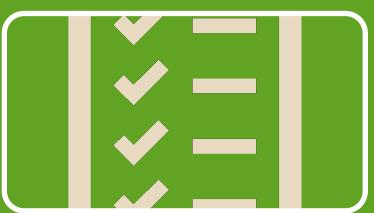
## Raster and Vector Processing

- Usable for a laptop
- Blazing fast on high-performance computing



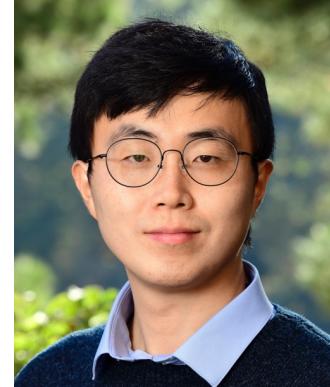
## Sophisticated GIS covariates

- Most common GIS covariates for environmental health
- Non-Isotropic buffers
- Mechanistic



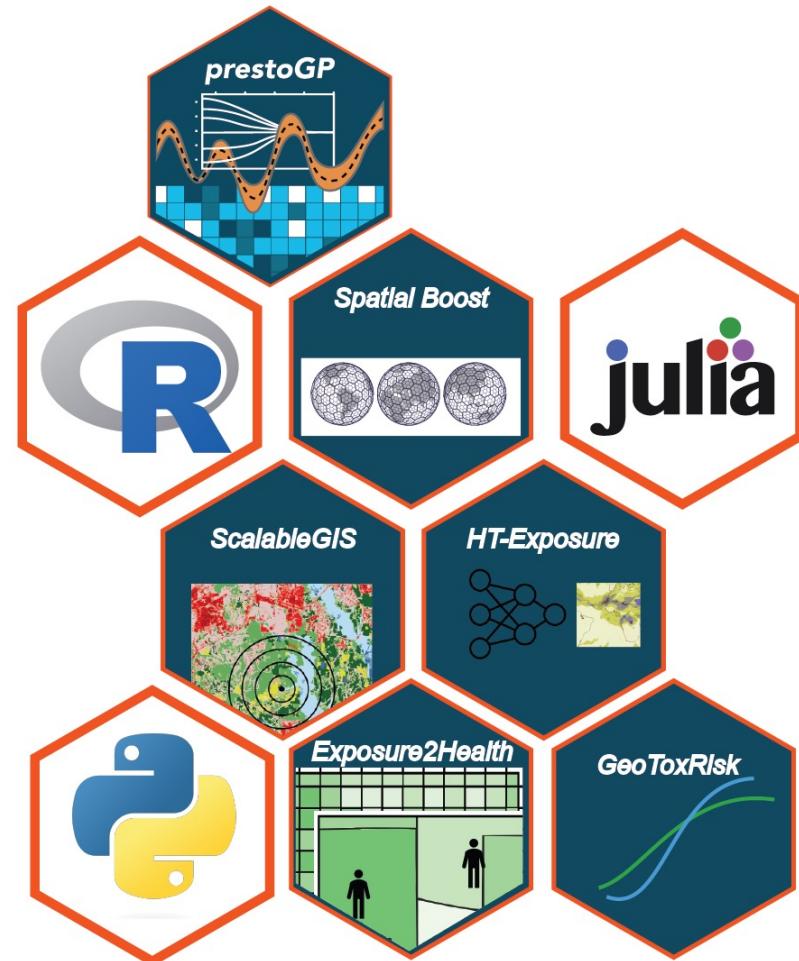
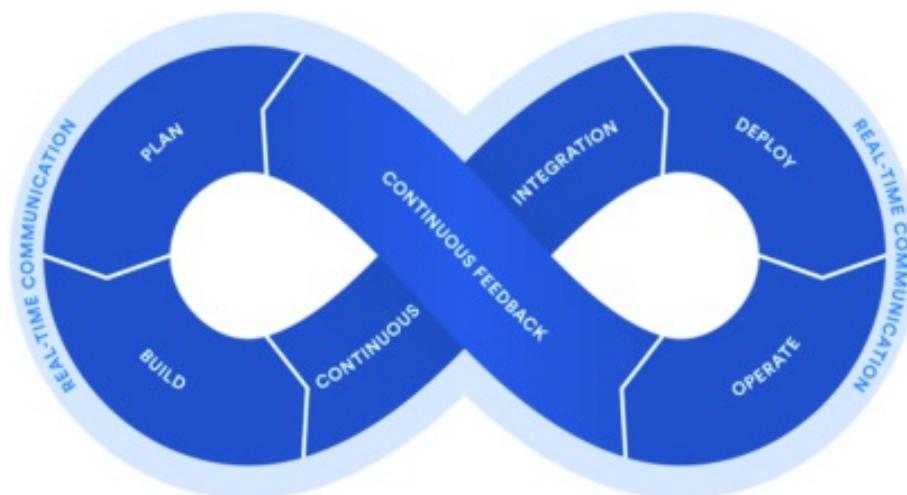
## Documented and Tested

- Documentation
- Vignettes
- Unit Tests
- Build and System Tests

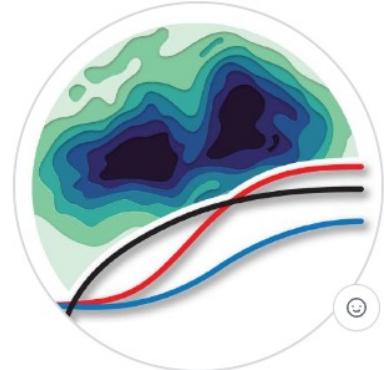


Postdoctoral Fellow:  
Insang Song, PhD

# FAIR+ Data Science Standards



# Documented, Tested, and Open



## {SET}group

Spatiotemporal-Exposures-and-Toxicology

Kyle P Messier, PhD Stadtman  
Investigator -- Geospatial exposure and risk assessment methods with tox data integration. He/Him @NIEHS

[Edit profile](#)

5 followers · 2 following

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina  
13:08 (UTC -04:00)  
<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/atniehs/labs/ptb/spatiotemporal/index.cfm>

Spatiotemporal-Exposures-and-Toxicology / README.md

## { Spatiotemporal Exposures and Toxicology }

Github for open-source code and projects from [{SET}](#).

### Methods Used

- Spatial and Spatiotemporal Statistics
  - Gaussian processes
  - Penalized Regression
- Geographic Information Systems
- Land Use Regression
- Artificial Neural Networks

### Software We Use

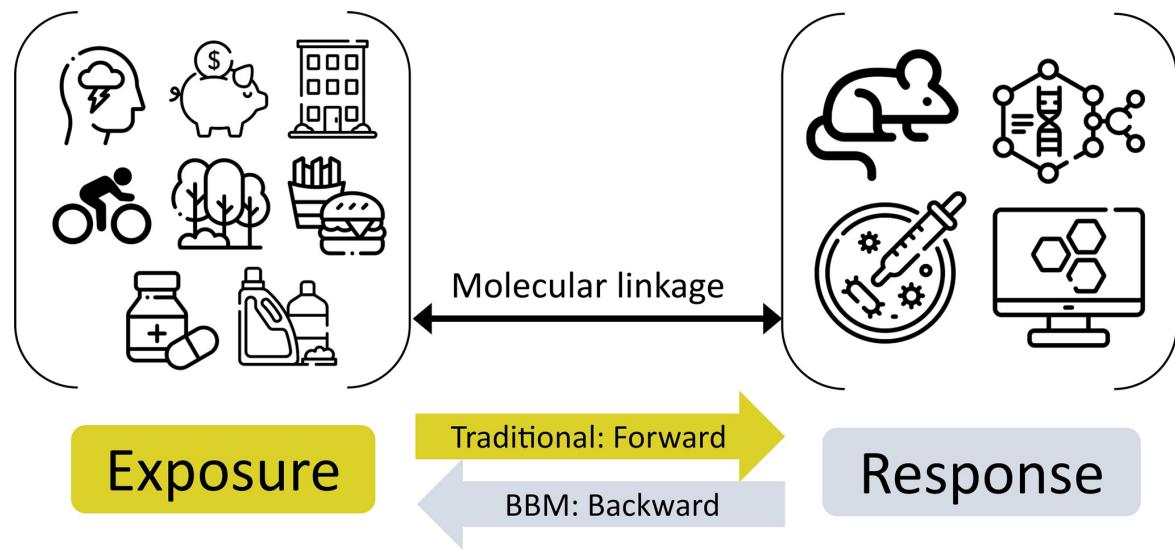
- R, RMarkdown, RShiny
- Julia
- Python, PyTorch
- Linux
- Jupyter Notebooks

### README.md

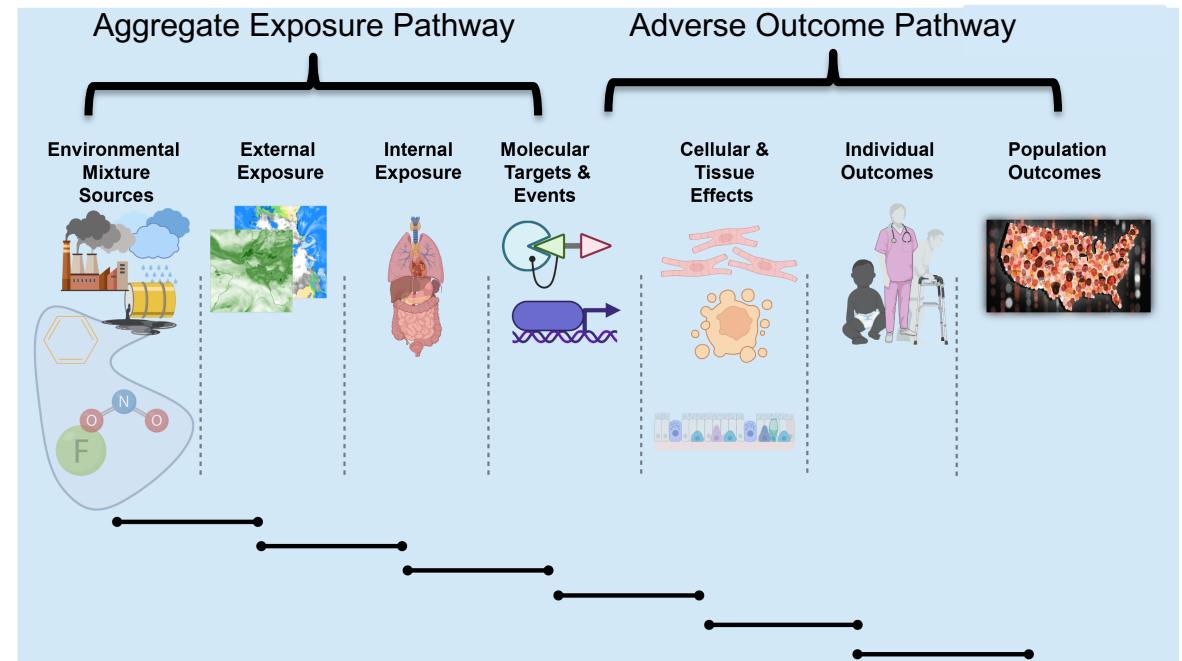
## Air Pollution Data for the Masses: An Open-Access, Tested, Updated PM<sub>2.5</sub> Hybrid Model

Group Project for the Spatiotemporal Exposures and Toxicology group with help from friends 😊👑🌐

# Competing and Complementary Ideas



**AEP + AOP = GeoTox**



# Acknowledgements

SET group	CHORDS	DTT	Biostatistics and Comp Biology	University of Wisconsin	Sciome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Daniel Zilber, PhD</li><li>• Insang Song, PhD</li><li>• Mariana Alifa, PhD</li><li>• Ranadeep Daw, PhD</li><li>• Eva Marques, PhD</li><li>• Alumni:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kristin Eccles, PhD</li><li>• Melissa Lowe, MS</li><li>• Taylor Potter, BA</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aubrey Miller, MD</li><li>• Charles Schmitt, PhD</li><li>• Trisha Castranio, MS</li><li>• Ann Liu, PhD</li><li>• Gwen Collman, PhD</li><li>• Mike Conway, PhD</li><li>• Deep Patel, PhD</li><li>• Richard Kwok, PhD</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• David Reif, PhD</li><li>• Skylar Marvel, PhD</li><li>• Kristin Eccles, PhD</li><li>• Cynthia Rider, PhD</li><li>• Nicole Kleinstreuer, PhD</li><li>• Fred Parham, PhD</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alison Motsinger-Reif, PhD</li><li>• Matt Wheeler, PhD</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Matthias Katzfuss, PhD</li><li>• MJ Kang, PhD</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ruchir Shah, PhD</li><li>• Eric Bair, PhD</li><li>• Brian Kidd, PhD</li><li>• Deepak Mav, PhD</li><li>• Bekki Elmore, MS</li></ul>