



# SIMULATION STUDIES TO PREDICT DRUG PRECIPITATION *IN VIVO*



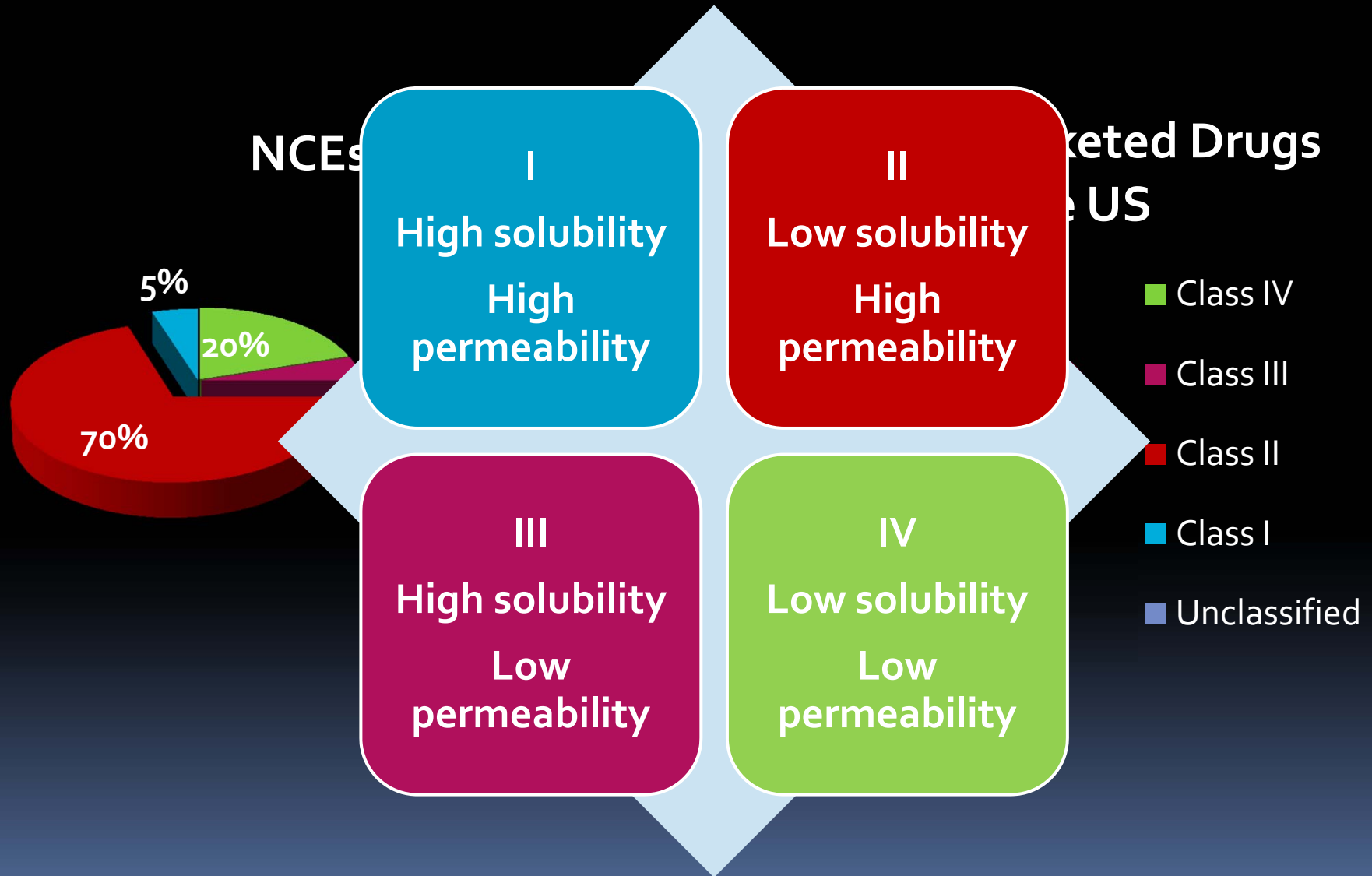
APM Forum, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013



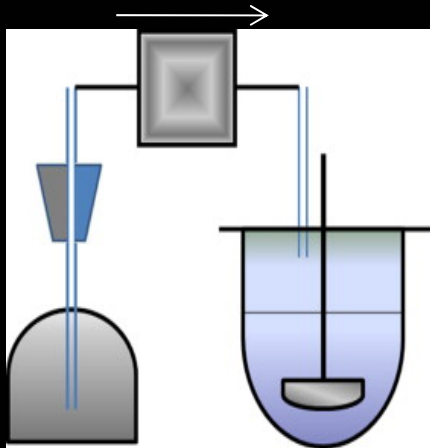
**Kaoutar Abbou Oucherif**

Co-advisors: Dr. Lynne Taylor  
Dr. Jim Litster

# Motivation



# Physical Models of the GI Tract



Donor phase    Acceptor phase

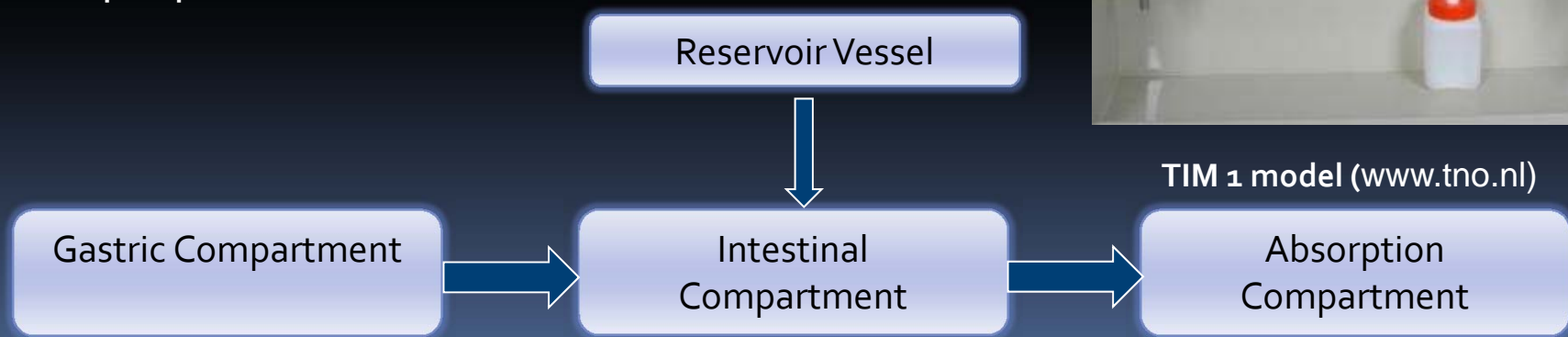
Experimental set up to  
examine dipyridamole  
precipitation

Physical modeling of the GI  
tract:

- Two compartment model
- Multi-compartmental  
dissolution system

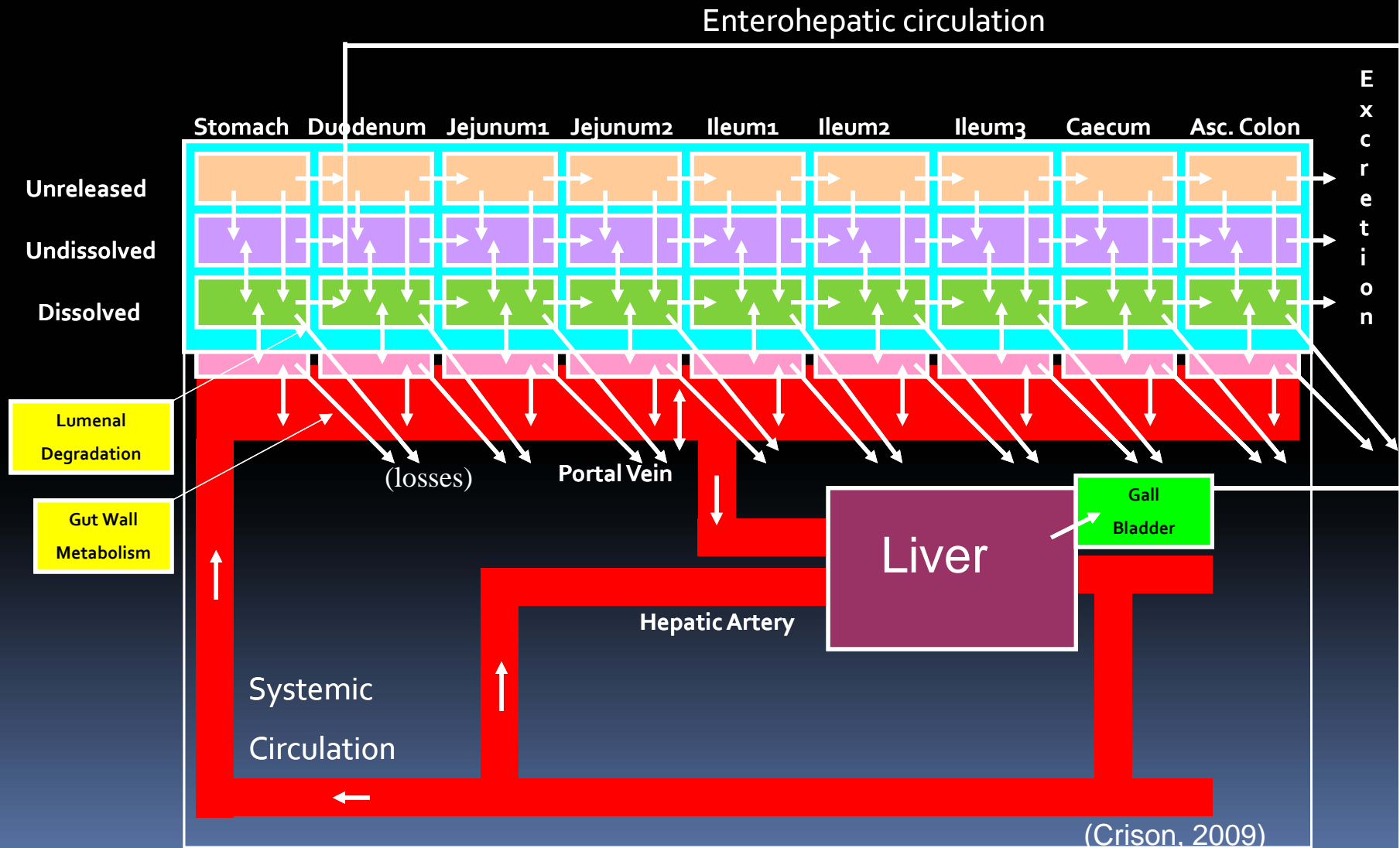


TIM 1 model ([www.tno.nl](http://www.tno.nl))



Scheme of a multicompartiment dissolution system

# ACAT Model



# Current Commercial Softwares



**Simulation Parameters: Human**

Species **Absorption** Distribution Metabolism & Excretion

GI-Anatomy GI-Physiology Active Transport Metabolism **Control**

Dissolution function **PARTICLE**

|                                    |       |                           |
|------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| Total amount of drug               | 50,00 | mg                        |
| Density of drug material           | 1,00  | g/cm <sup>3</sup>         |
| Aqueous diffusion coefficient      | 5,00  | x 1E-6 cm <sup>2</sup> /s |
| Thickness of unstirred water layer | 20,00 | μm                        |

Particle

☐ Monodisperse ☒ Polydisperse

|   |         |    |
|---|---------|----|
| Particle size distribution                  | Normal  |    |
| Mean particle radius                        | 10,00   | μm |
| Standard deviation of particle radius       | 3,00    | μm |
| Number of bins                              | 11,00   |    |
| Lower bound of particle radius              | 1,00    | μm |
| Upper bound of particle radius              | 19,00   | μm |
| Treat precipitated drug as                  | Soluble |    |
| Immediately dissolve particles smaller than | 10,00   | nm |



## Plus™ simulation

| Parameters                          | Pharmacokinetics                        |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| conditions                          | Body weight: 70 kg                      |
| Model: logD model                   | First pass extraction (fixed): 12.5%    |
| Intestine transit time: 0.1 h       | Blood to plasma concentration ratio = 1 |
| Stomach volume: 250 mL              | Clearance: 0.15 L/(h kg)                |
| Small intestine transit time: 3.3 h | Vc: 1.9 L/kg                            |
| Small intestine radius: 1.2 cm      | -                                       |
| Small intestine length: 300 cm      | -                                       |
| Colon volume: 1200 mL               | -                                       |
| -                                   | -                                       |

Tab

Gen

MW

clog

pK<sub>a</sub>

Dos

Low

Mean

Particle

Effective

Mean precipitation time: 1800 s

Particle density: 1.2 g/mL

Effective permeability:  $4.4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm s}^{-1}$

Effective particle radius: 5 μm

Small intestine transit time: 3.3 h

Small intestine radius: 1.2 cm

Small intestine length: 300 cm

Colon volume: 1200 mL

-

# gCOAS : a tool to Predict Oral Absorption

The screenshot displays the gPROMS ModelBuilder 3.7.0 (dev) software interface. On the left, a project tree shows the hierarchy of models and cases. The main workspace is divided into several panels. The top panel, titled 'GI\_tract001 (GI\_tract)', contains configuration options for the model. The 'Kinetics information' dropdown is set to 'Specified here', and the 'Physiology' dropdown is set to 'Human'. Below these, a 'Specify' section has a 'Nudeation' dropdown menu with options: 'Inactive' (selected), 'Inactive', 'Classical kinetics (Mullin)', 'Power law kinetics', and 'Custom kinetics'. At the bottom of this panel are buttons for 'OK', 'Cancel', 'Reset all', and 'Help'. The bottom panel shows a diagram of the GI tract with the label 'GI\_tract001'. To the right of the diagram is a graph titled 'absorption in GI tract' showing 'Cumulative fraction dissolved' (red line) and 'Cumulative fraction absorbed' (yellow line) over 'Time (s)' from 0 to 100. Below the graph is a table with two rows: 'Cumulative fraction dissolved' and 'Cumulative fraction absorbed', each with two empty columns for data entry.

gPROMS ModelBuilder 3.7.0 (dev)

File Edit View Entity Activities Tools Window Help

gCOAS Fundamentals  
gCOAS Kinetics  
gCOAS Modules  
Cases for testing  
Models  
fs\_GI\_sample  
Processes  
fs\_GI\_sample  
fs\_GI\_sample\_20130415\_052343  
fs\_GI\_sample\_20130415\_053922  
Original Entities  
Trajectories  
Problem Description  
Execution Output  
fs\_GI\_sample\_20130415\_054136

GI\_tract001 (GI\_tract)

Kinetics information Specified here

Physiology Human

Specify

Nudeation Inactive

Inactive  
Classical kinetics (Mullin)  
Power law kinetics  
Custom kinetics

Physiology Transit Permeation Precipitation Initial conditions

OK Cancel Reset all Help

absorption in GI tract

Time (s)

Cumulative fraction dissolved  
Cumulative fraction absorbed

Cumulative fraction dissolved  
Cumulative fraction absorbed

GI\_tract001

gCOAS

Interface Topology gPROMS language Properties

83.2 / 124.8 MB

# gCOAS: Nucleation Models

- **Classical nucleation:**

- $J_{prim} = \ln A_0 \left( \frac{-16\pi(\alpha\sigma)^3 v_0^2}{3k^3 T^3 \ln S^2} \right)$
- Parameters to be estimated: pre-exponential factor and the surface energy correction factor.

- **Power law kinetics:**

- $J_{prim} = \ln k_n \left( \frac{\Delta C}{\rho_c} \right)^n \exp\left(\frac{-E_{A,n}}{RT}\right)$
- Parameters to be estimated: nucleation coefficient, nucleation order, and the activation energy.

- **Custom kinetics:**

- E.g., extracting nucleation rates from probability distribution functions of induction time
- $P(t) = 1 - \exp(jV(t - t_g))$

- Input induction time (900 s)





# gCRYSTAL : a Tool to Estimate Crystallization Kinetic Parameters

- Case study: felodipine precipitation
- Objectives:
  - Extract the nucleation and growth kinetic parameters of felodipine to use as inputs in gCOAS
  - Quantify the inhibitory effect of HPMC on both the nucleation and growth rates of felodipine

Abbou Oucherif, K., Raina, S., Taylor, L. S. & Litster, J. D. Quantitative analysis of the inhibitory effect of HPMC on felodipine crystallization kinetics using population balance modeling.

*CrystEngComm* (2013).doi:10.1039/c2ce26490k



# Experimental Methods

- 18 mL 50 mM pH 6.8 buffer at 25 °C
- Felodipine supersaturations of 5 and 10
- HPMC concentrations: 0 to 3.5 ppm.
- Seeded experiments: 2 mg of seeds were prepared by grinding with a mortar and pestle
- Particle size characterized via a Malvern Mastersizer laser diffractometer (Worcestershire, UK).
- Concentration measured using Ocean Optics 6 channel fiber optic system

# Modeling Approach

- Extract the growth kinetic parameters from seeded experiments
  - Power law kinetics used to model crystal growth
  - $G = k_g \left( \frac{\Delta C}{\rho_c} \right)^g \exp\left(\frac{-E}{RT}\right)$
- Use growth data to extract the nucleation kinetic parameters from unseeded experiments
- Power law kinetics used to model crystal nucleation

- $J_{prim} = k_n \left( \frac{\Delta C}{\rho_c} \right)^n \exp\left(\frac{-E_{A,n}}{RT}\right)$

# gCRYSTAL : Estimation of PSD Parameters

global specifications

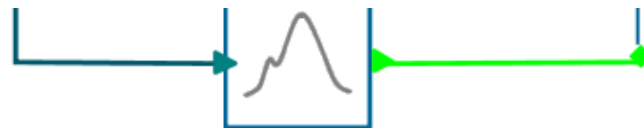


## Model Parameters



- Probability of parameter lying between (Final Value -  $\alpha\%$  Confidence Interval) and (Final Value +  $\alpha\%$  Confidence Interval) =  $\alpha\%$
- The t-value shows the percentage accuracy of the estimated parameters, with respect to the 95% confidence intervals.

| Model Parameter                                | Final Value | Initial Guess | Lower Bound | Upper Bound | Confidence Interval |        |        | 95% t-value | Standard Deviation |
|--|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|--------|--------|-------------|--------------------|
|  |             |               |             |             | 90%                 | 95%    | 99%    |             |                    |
| Flowsheet.<br>PSD_input_predicted.peak(1).LO_g | 11.263      | 11.751        | 1           | 30          | 2.284               | 2.849  | 4.217  | 3.953       | 1.205              |
| Flowsheet.<br>PSD_input_predicted.peak(1).sd_g | 2.30738     | 2.23454       | 1           | 5           | 0.3345              | 0.4174 | 0.6178 | 5.528       | 0.1765             |
| Reference t-value (95%):                       |             |               |             |             |                     |        |        | 1.89502     |                    |



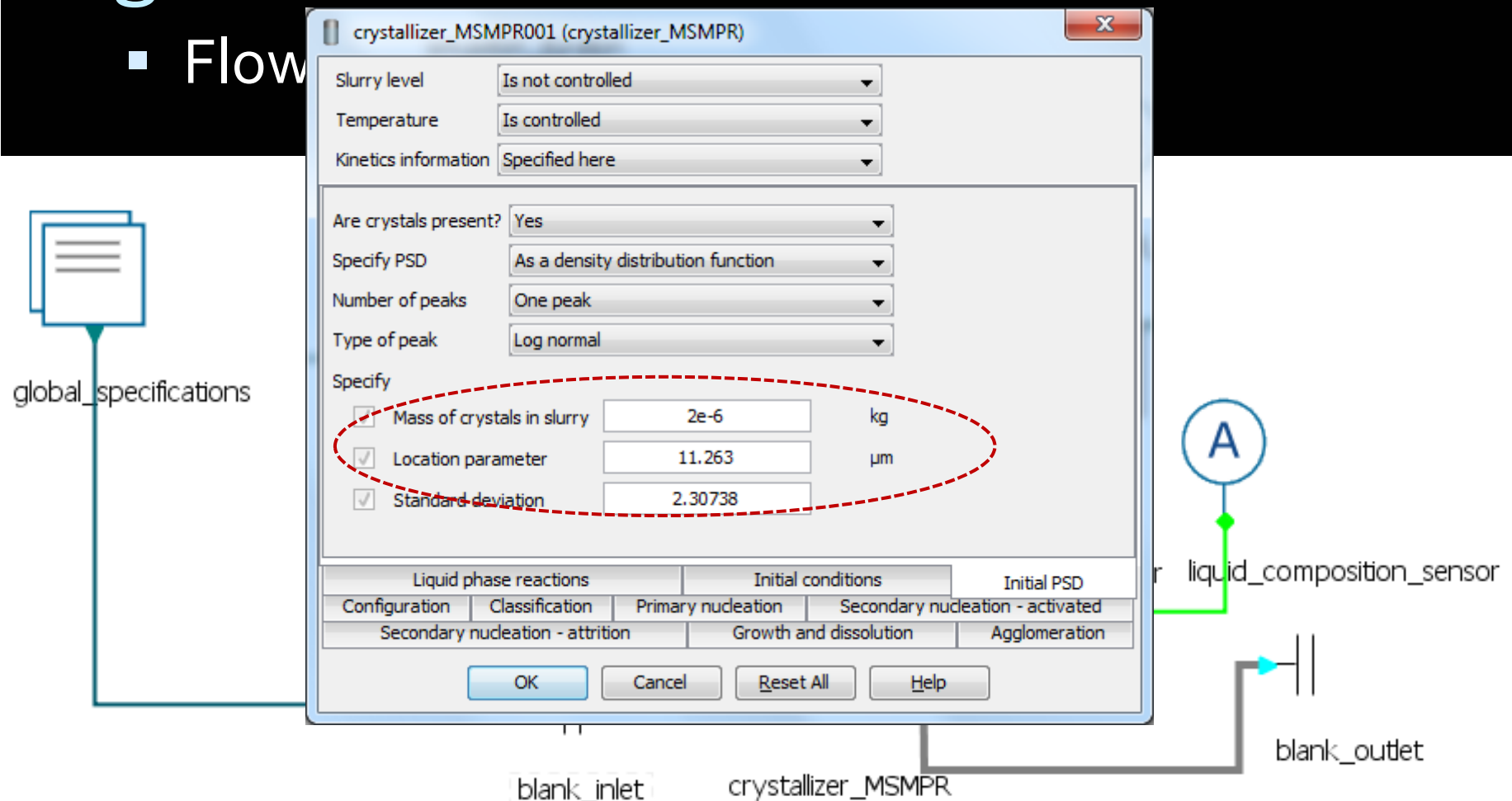
PSD\_input\_measured



simulation\_duration001

# Modeling Approach in gCRYSTAL

- Flow

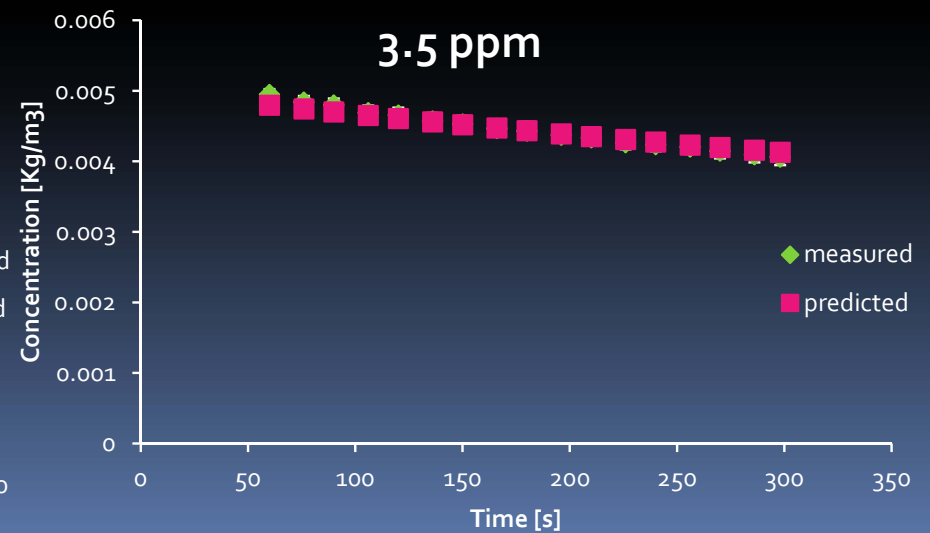
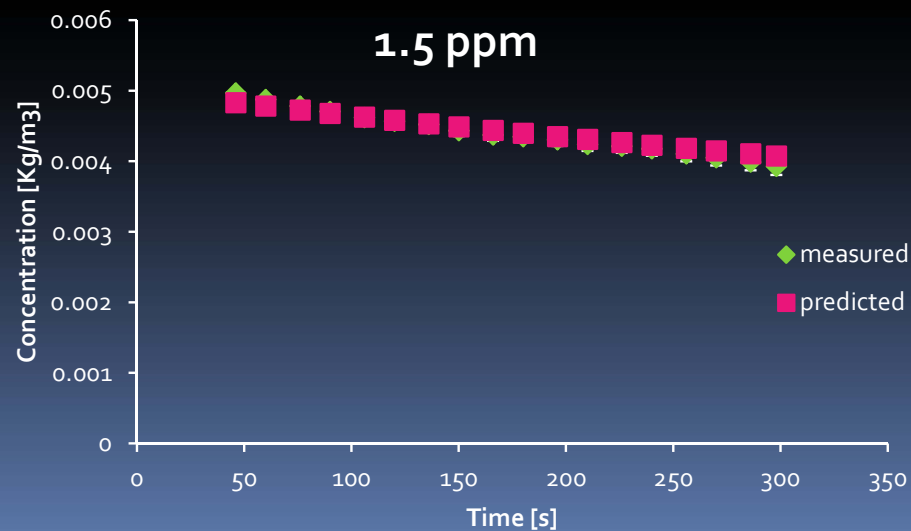
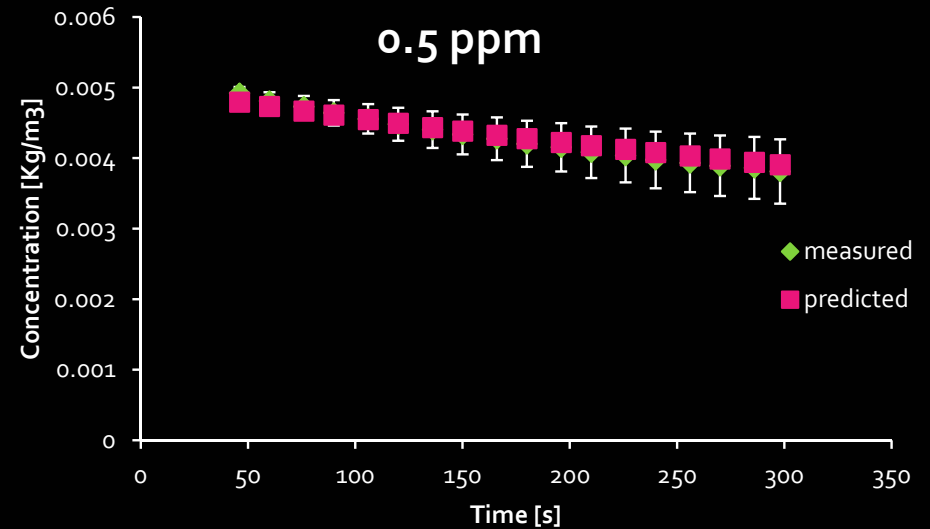
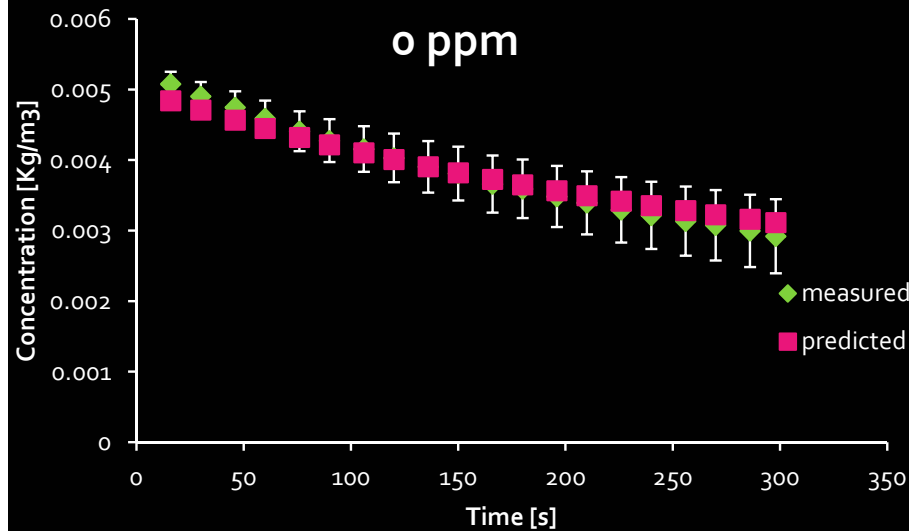


# Results: growth kinetics

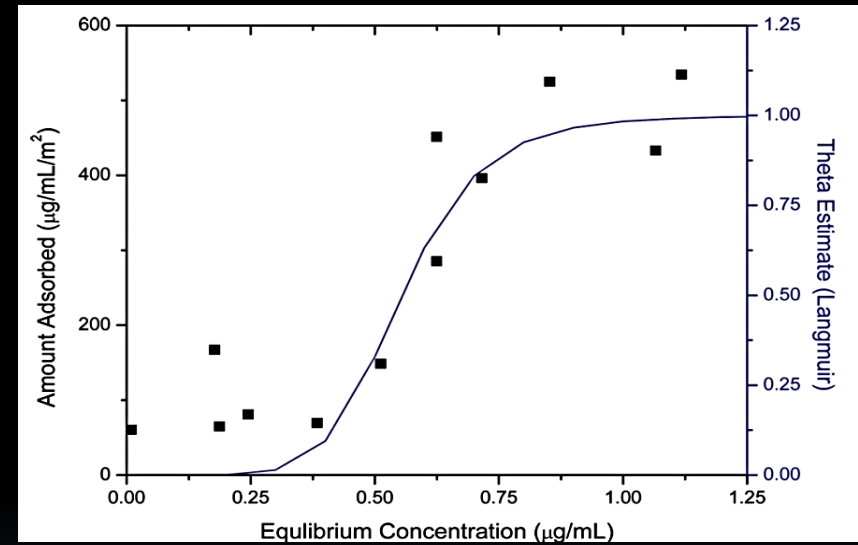
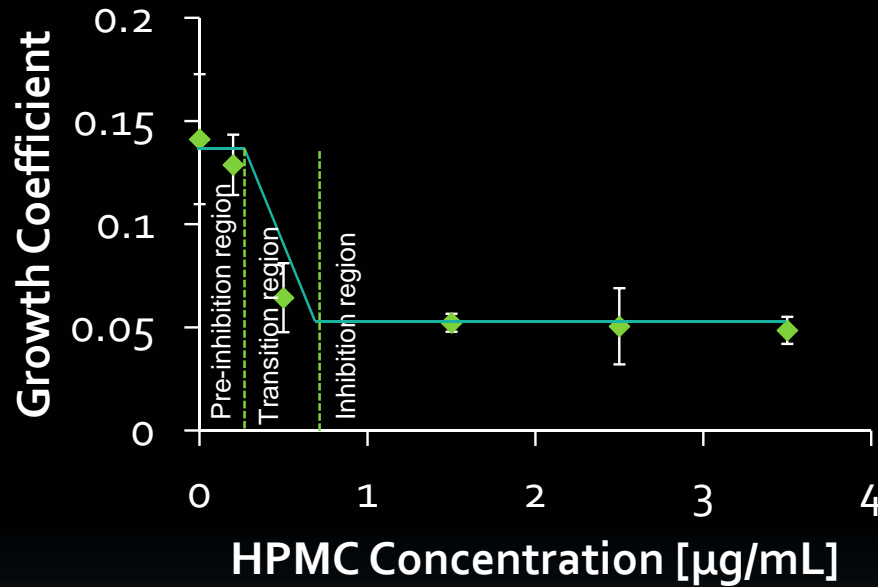
- High correlation between growth order and growth coefficient
- Growth order fixed to 1.6
- Felodipine growth is a hybrid between mass diffusion and surface integration controlled growth

| HPMC Concentration<br>[μg/mL] | Growth<br>order | Growth<br>coefficient | 95%<br>confidence<br>interval |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 0                             | 1.6             | 0.14122               | 0.03148                       |
| .2                            | 1.6             | 0.12878               | 0.01462                       |
| .5                            | 1.6             | 0.0644                | 0.0167                        |
| 1.5                           | 1.6             | 0.052235              | 0.004368                      |
| 2.5                           | 1.6             | 0.050515              | 0.01847                       |
| 3.5                           | 1.6             | 0.04856               | 0.006527                      |

# Results: growth kinetics (cont'd)



# Results: growth kinetics (cont'd)



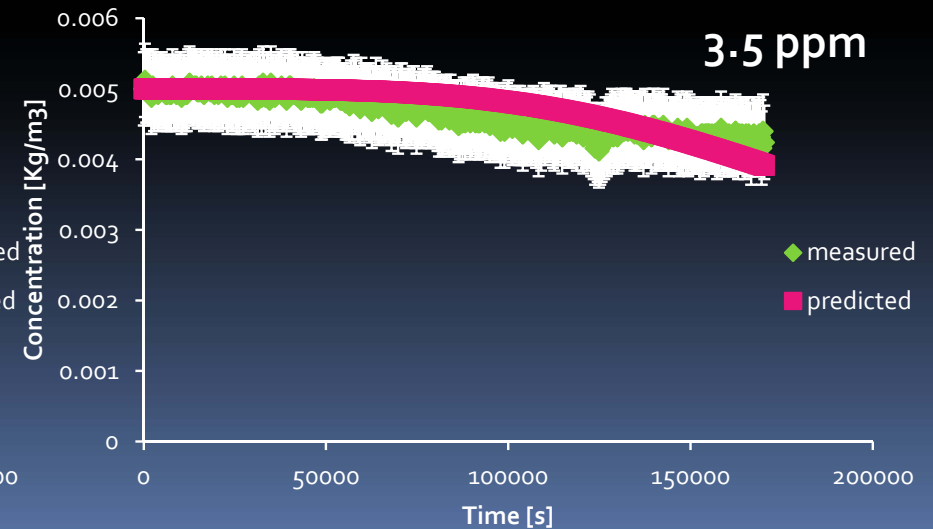
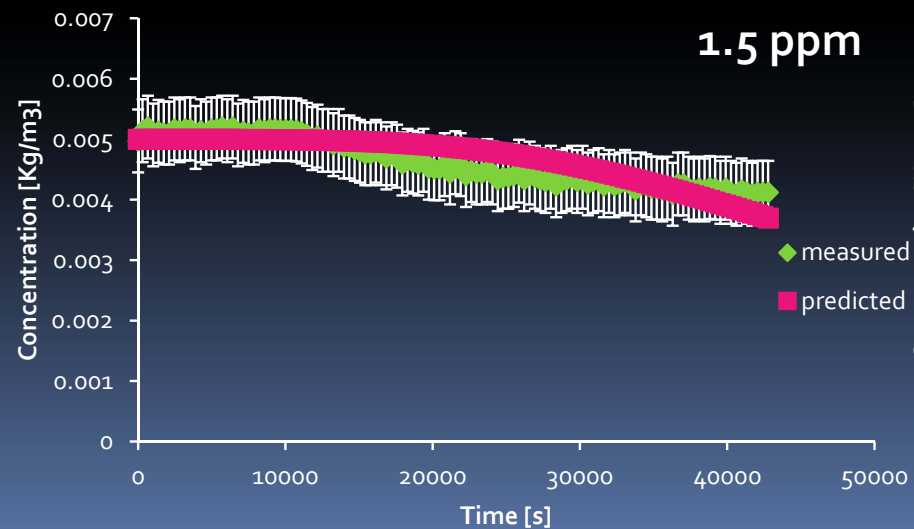
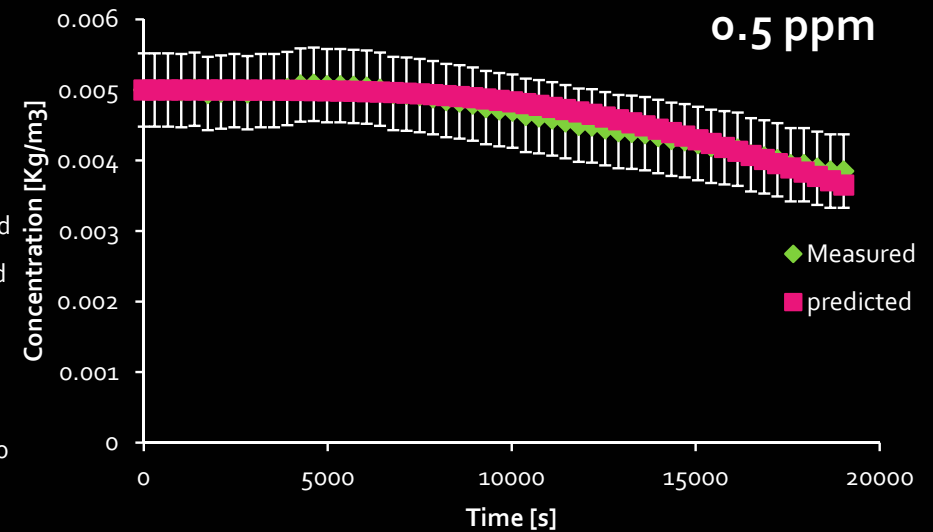
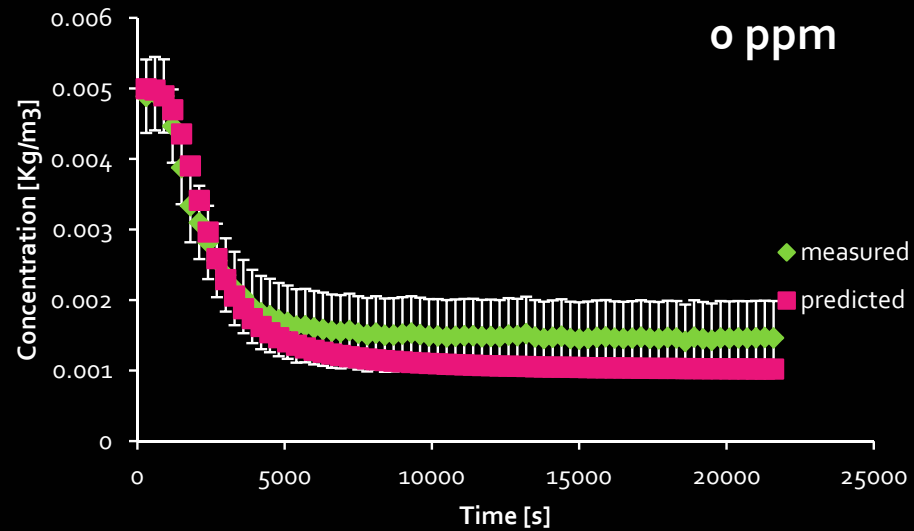


# Results: nucleation kinetics

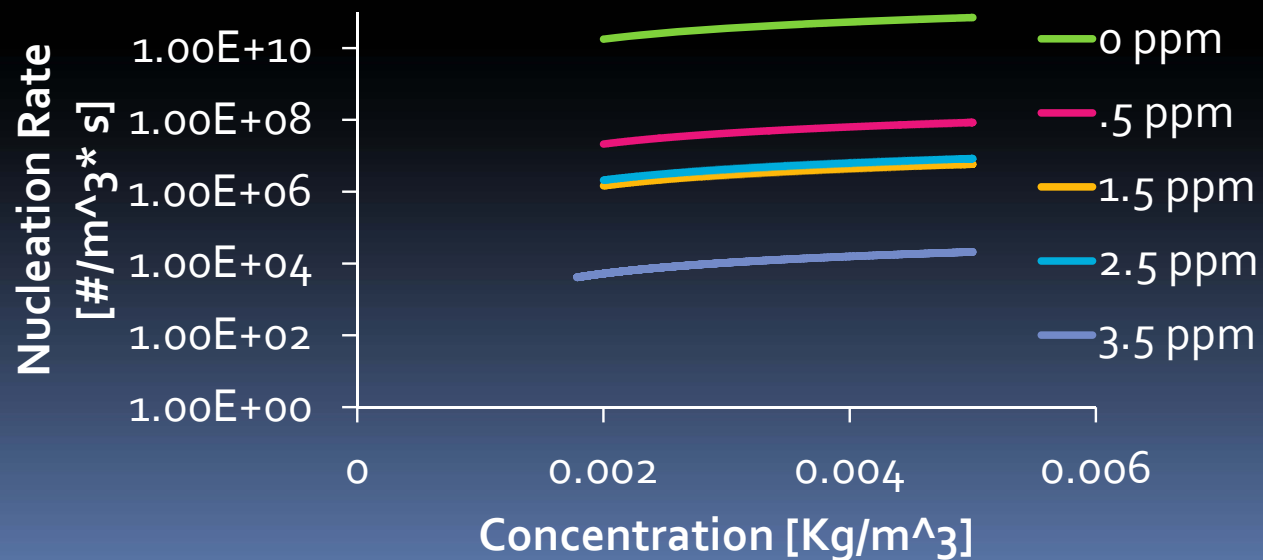
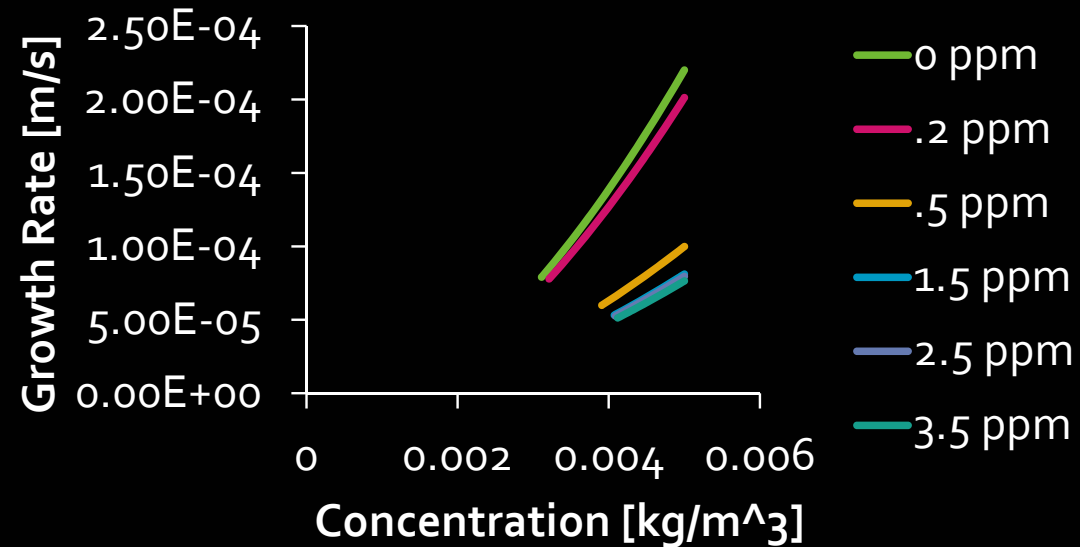
- Nucleation order fixed to 1
- Direct correlation between HPMC concentration and effect on the nucleation rate

| HPMC Concentration [μg/mL] | Nucleation order | Nucleation coefficient | 95% confidence interval |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 0                          | 1                | 37.66                  | 0.487                   |
| 0.5                        | 1                | 30.94                  | 0.102                   |
| 1.5                        | 1                | 28.26                  | 0.068                   |
| 2.5                        | 1                | 28.62                  | 0.269                   |
| 3.5                        | 1                | 22.63                  | 0.012                   |

# Results: nucleation kinetics (cont'd)



# Result Highlights



# Result Highlights

- HPMC has a much greater effect on inhibiting nucleation:
  - up to an 8 order decrease in nucleation rate vs. only a decrease by a factor of 2 for the growth rate
- Practical applications:
  - Better understanding of stabilization mechanism of inhibitors (decouple the effect of additives on nucleation and growth)
  - Develop better formulation strategies by facilitating the screening of polymers

## Future Work

- Conduct crystallization experiments of poorly soluble APIs in the presence of bile salts
- Use estimated crystallization kinetic parameters as inputs in gCOAS
- Predict API concentration and fraction of drug absorbed as a function of time and location in the GI tract

# Acknowledgments

- PSE
- Lilly Endowment Grant
- Dr. Lynne Taylor's research group
- Dr. Litster's research group



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# Felodipine as a Case Study

Objective: quantify the ability of hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC) to inhibit both the nucleation and growth of a model amorphous compound, felodipine.

- ▣ Significance of the study: stabilize amorphous solid dispersions via the use of carrier polymers to inhibit crystallization
- ▣ Benefits of amorphous materials:
  - ▣ Enhanced dissolution rates
  - ▣ Higher supersaturation levels in the GI tract

# Obtaining Nucleation Rates from PDF

- Probability of forming a nuclei follows a Poisson distribution:

$$P_m = \frac{N_m}{m!} \exp(-N)$$

- Probability that there is at least 1 nucleus:

$$P_{\geq 1} = 1 - P_0 = 1 - \exp(-N)$$

- Nucleation rate is:

$$N = JVt_j$$

Nucleation time  $t_j = t - t_g$

$$P(t) = 1 - \exp(jV(t - t_g))$$

# Project Road Map

## Mathematical Model

Kinetic expressions for:

- Dissolution
- Absorption
- Nucleation
- Growth

-Mass balances  
-Population balance equation

## Simulations

Compartmental modeling of GI tract in gPROMS

Solve the set of algebraic and differential equations

Link to the Hybrid Multizonal gPROMS-CFD

Generate concentration for each compartment

## Experiments

Measure thermodynamic data:

- Solubility curve
- Nucleation Thresholds

Measure:

- Nucleation kinetics
- Growth kinetics