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forward together  
sonke siya phambili  
saam vorentoe

# Introduction to Pharmacometrics

Modeling in the context of African Health

*Ahmed A Abulfathi*

10 July 2023

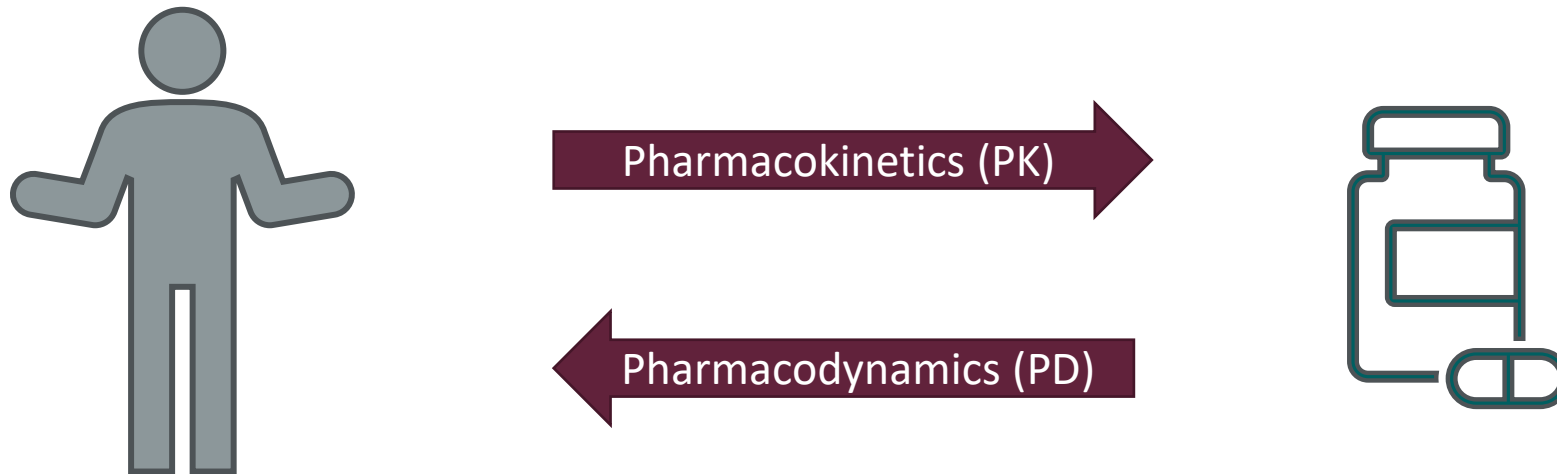
Presentation to 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference of PSSN





# Terminology

## Pharmacokinetics versus pharmacodynamics



# It's all about Dose-Response...

## Getting the right dose to the right patient

“All things are poison, and nothing is without poison; only the dose permits something not to be poisonous.”

Paracelsus (1493-1541)



Image from <http://www.swisstox.ch/>

# What is a model?

*A way to predict outputs from inputs*

Input: Mass =  $m$



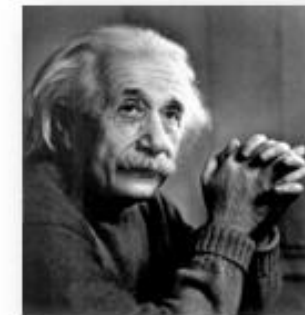
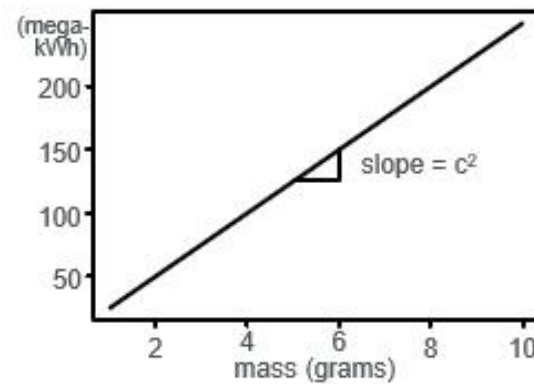
Output: Energy =  $E$



Input: Light =  $c$



Model:  $E = mc^2$

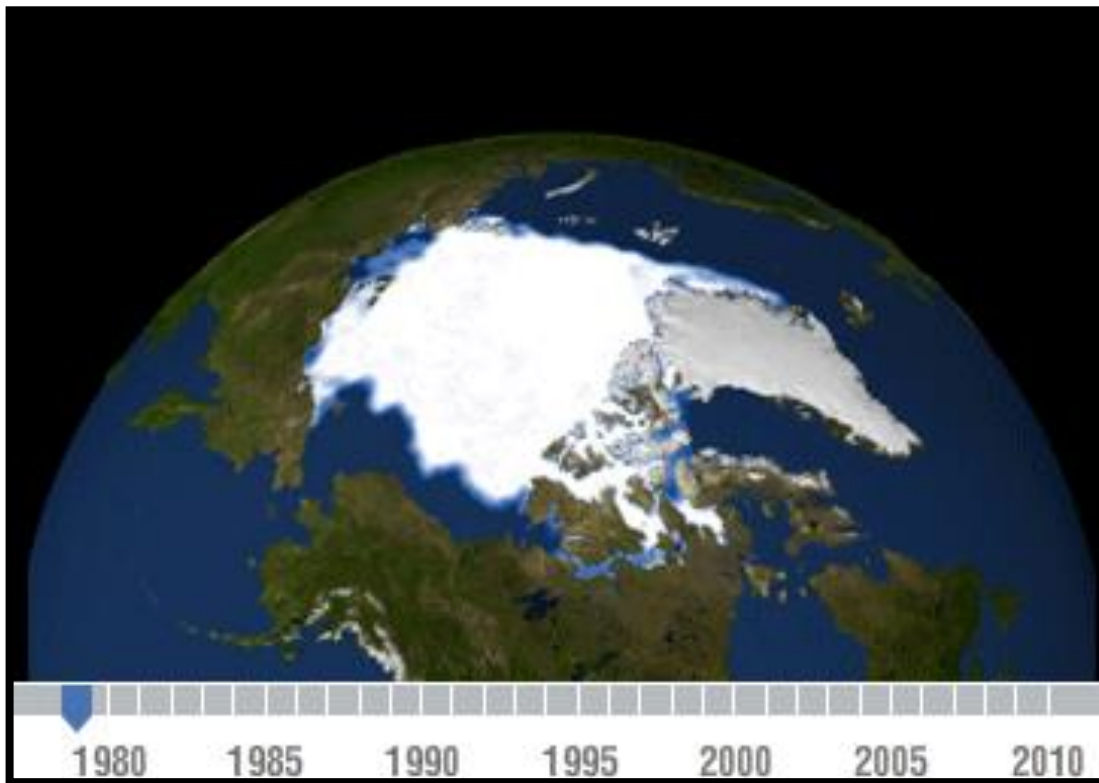




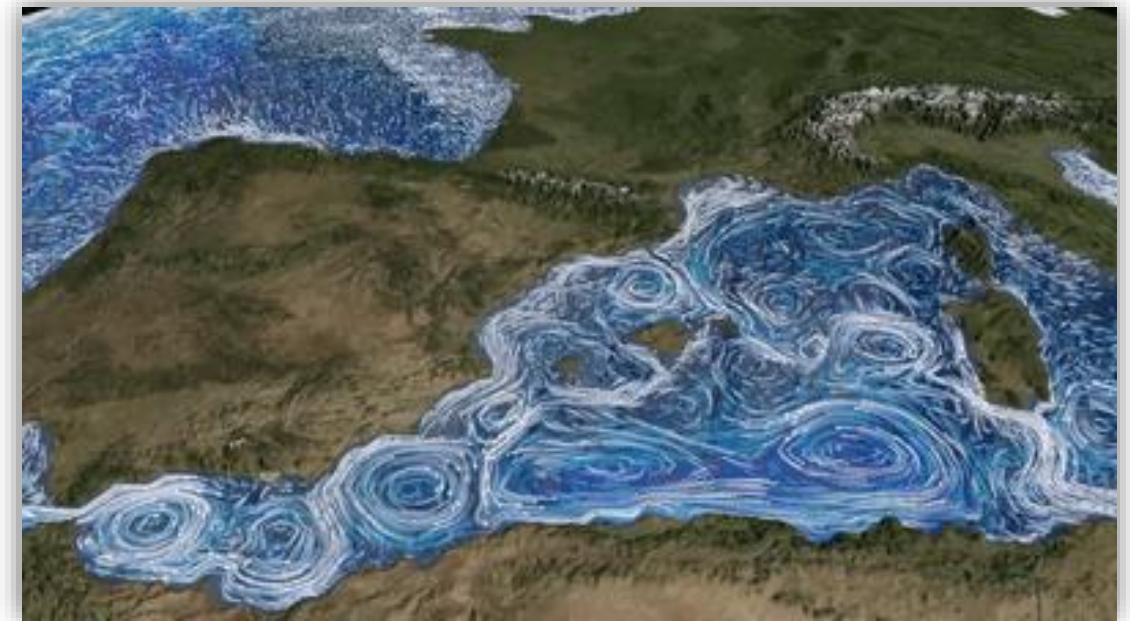
# What is a model?

Best examples - Climate change models

Model is a physical, and/or mathematical and/or conceptual representation of a system of ideas, events or process



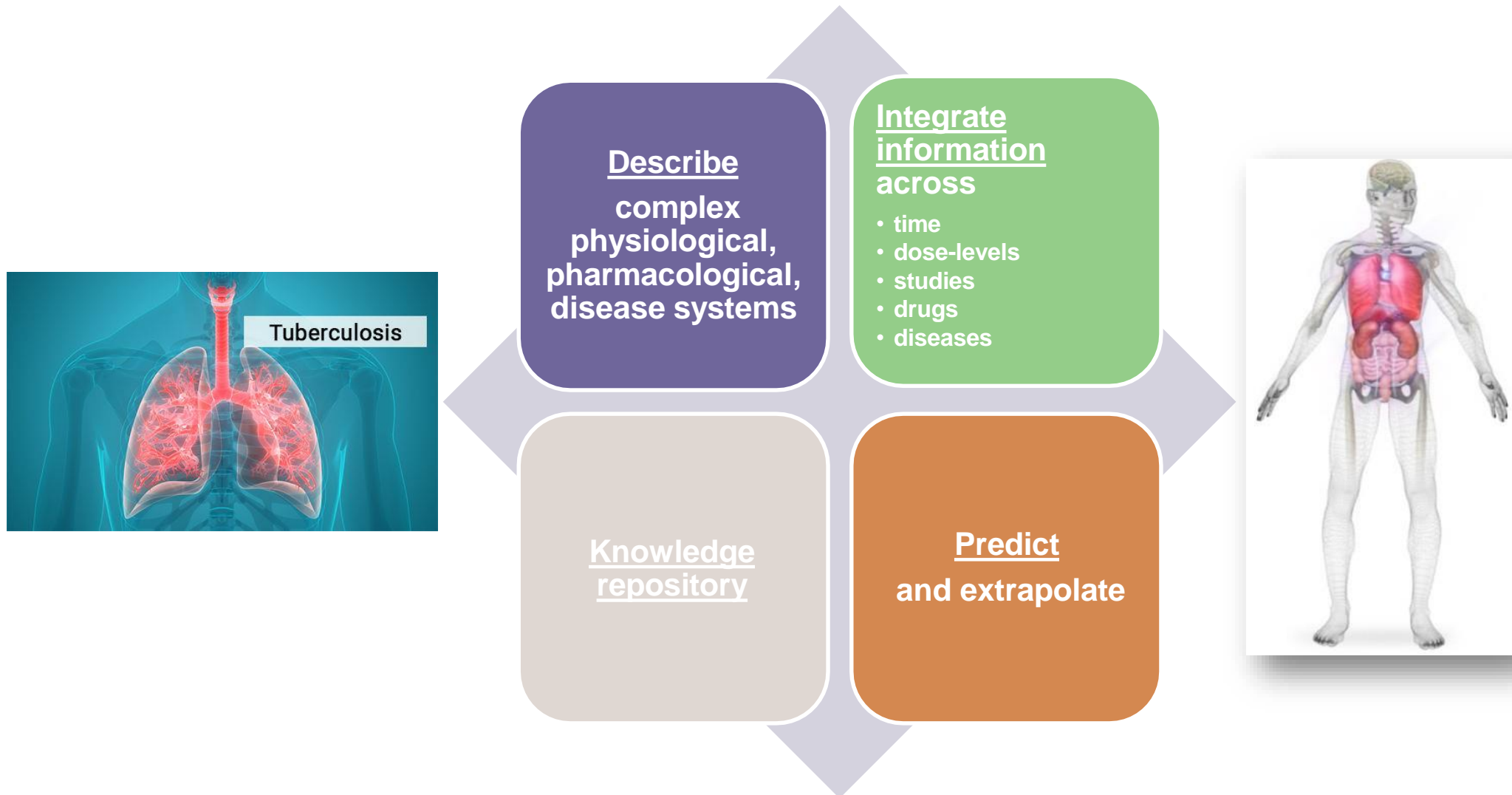
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<https://pin.it/4GLWEwA>



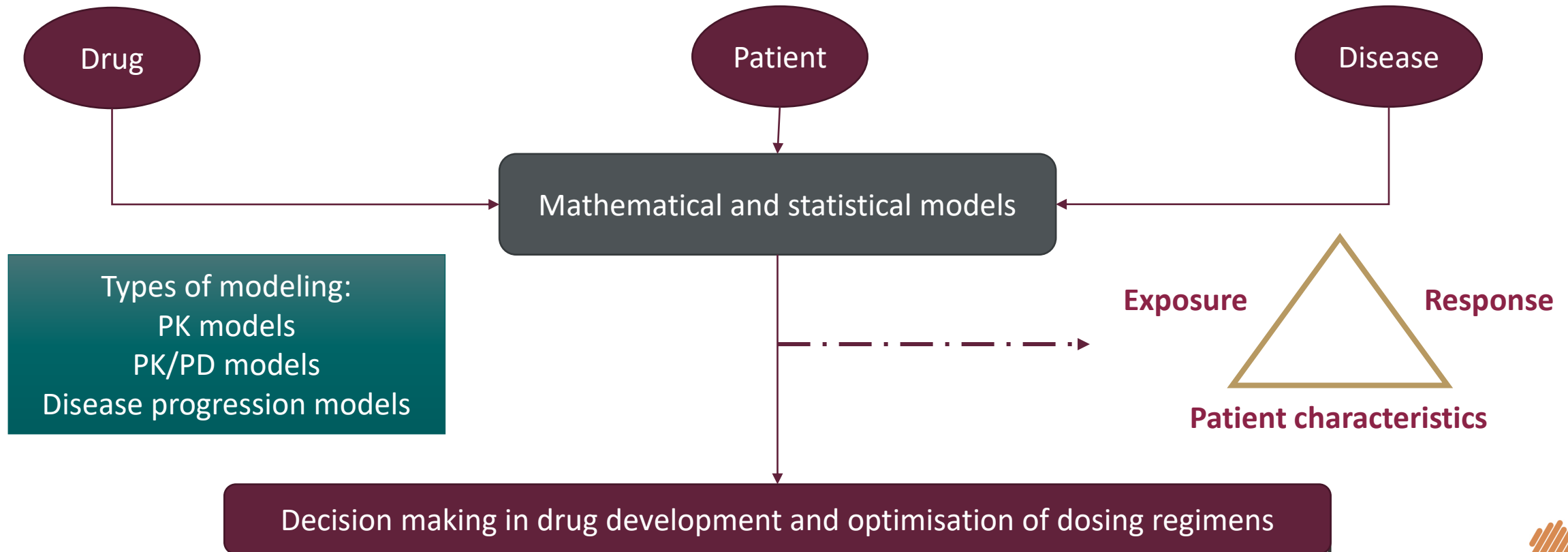
# Why do we perform mathematical modelling?





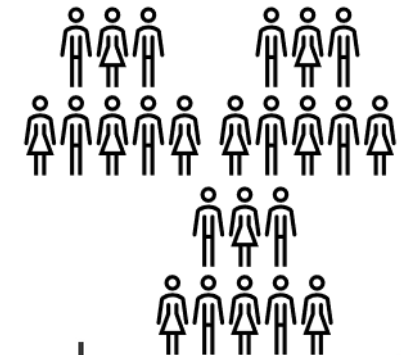
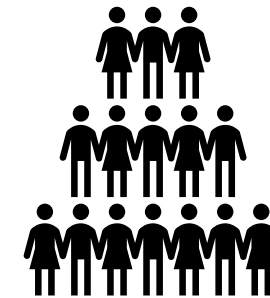
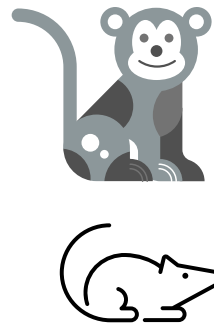
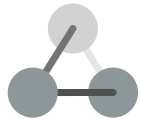
# What is Pharmacometrics?

## An integrative and quantitative science





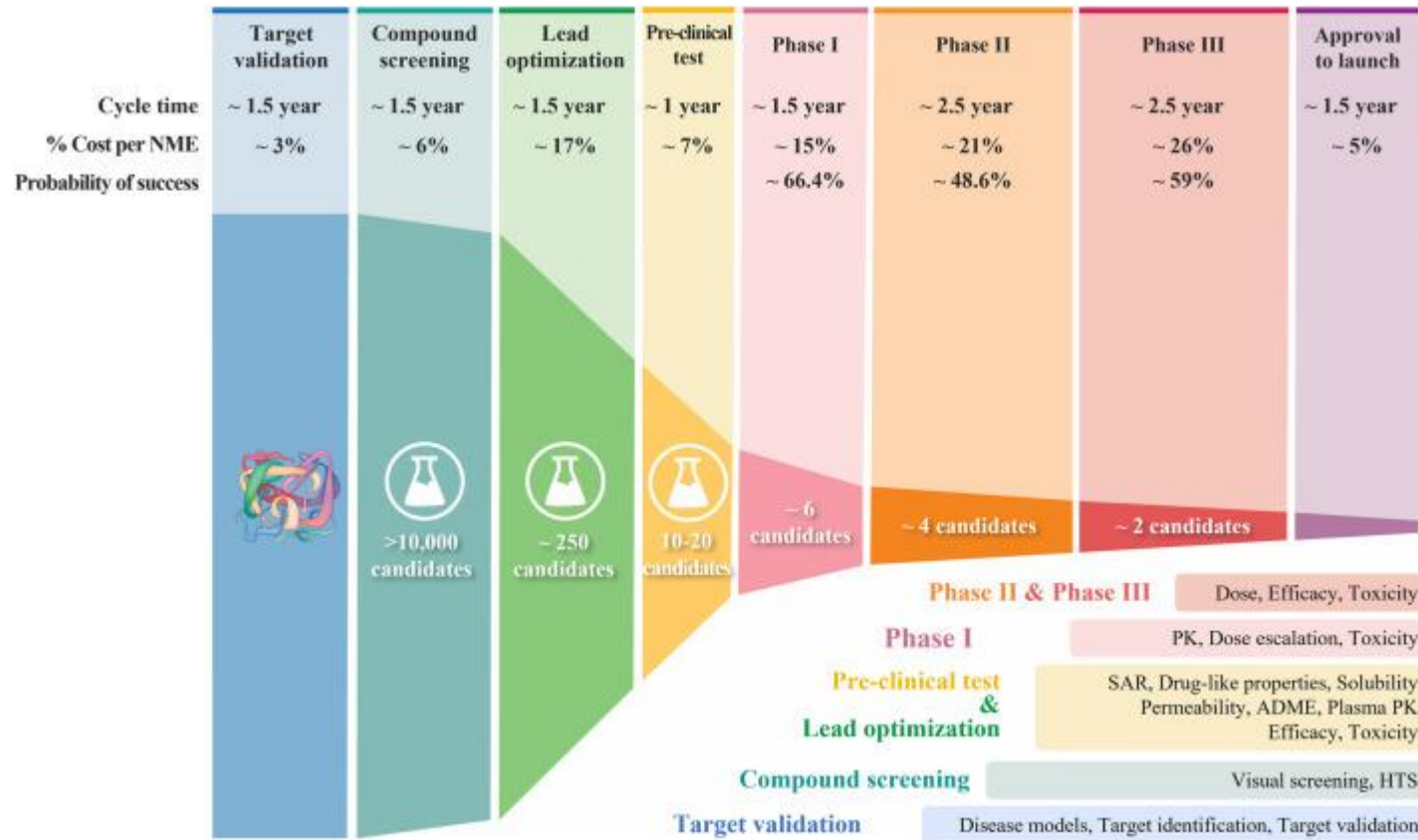
# Drug discovery and development





# High attrition rates

The process of drug discovery and development, and the failure rate at each step

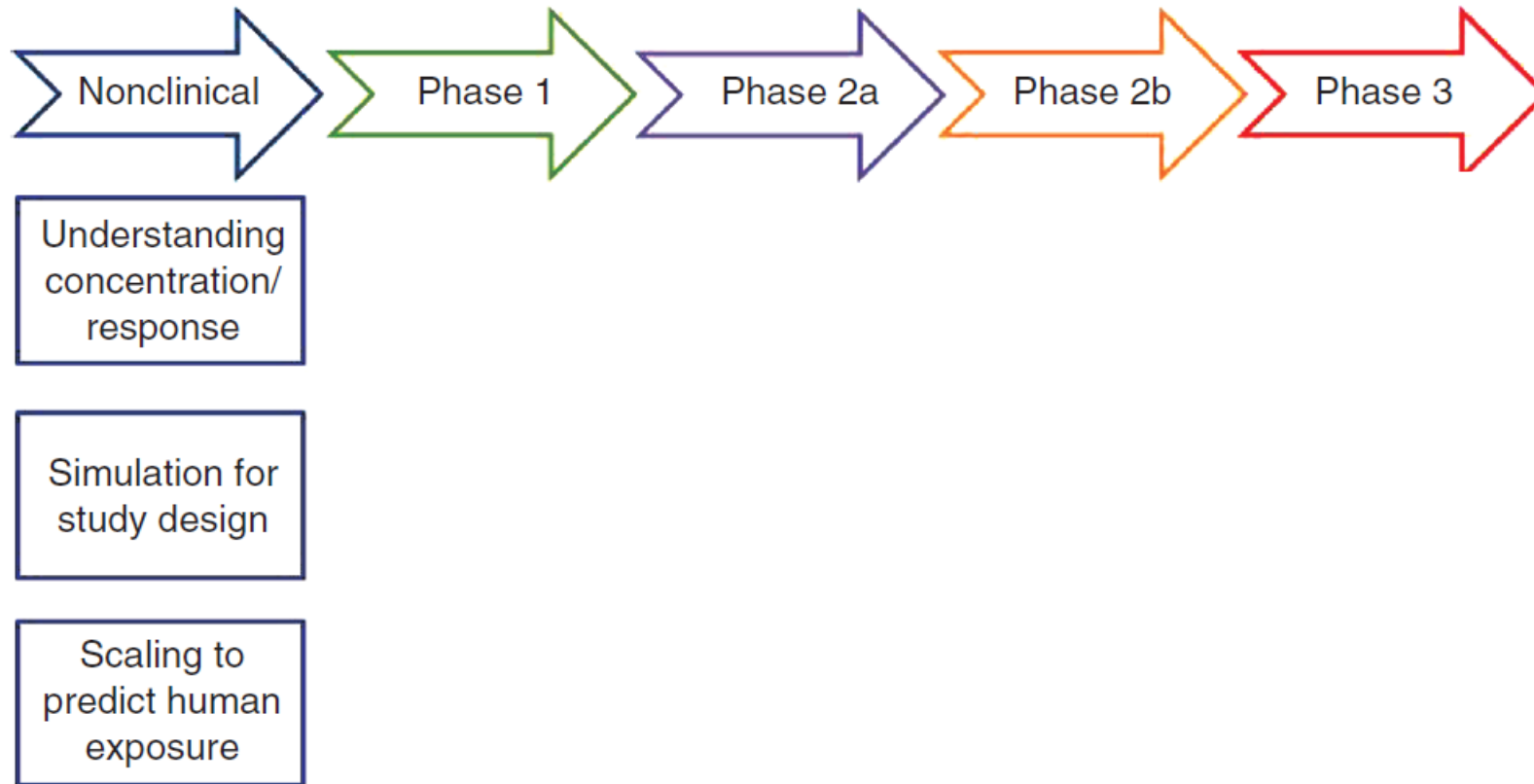


Analyses of clinical trial data from 2010 to 2017 show four possible reasons attributed to the 90% clinical failures of drug development:

- lack of clinical efficacy (40%–50%)
- unmanageable toxicity (30%)
- poor drug-like properties (10%–15%)
- lack of commercial needs and poor strategic planning (10%)

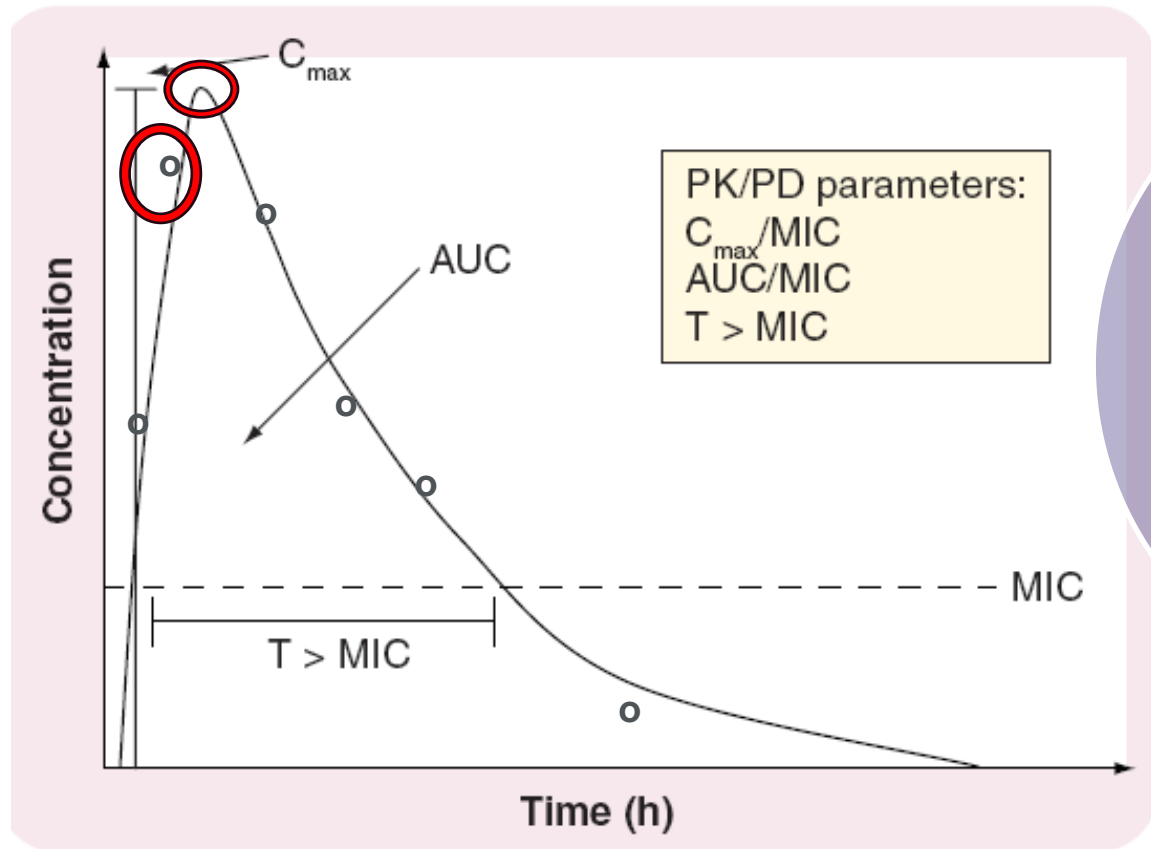


# Modelling and simulation during drug development



# Non-Compartmental Analysis in Pharmacokinetics

**S**lope **H**eight **A**rea **M**oments



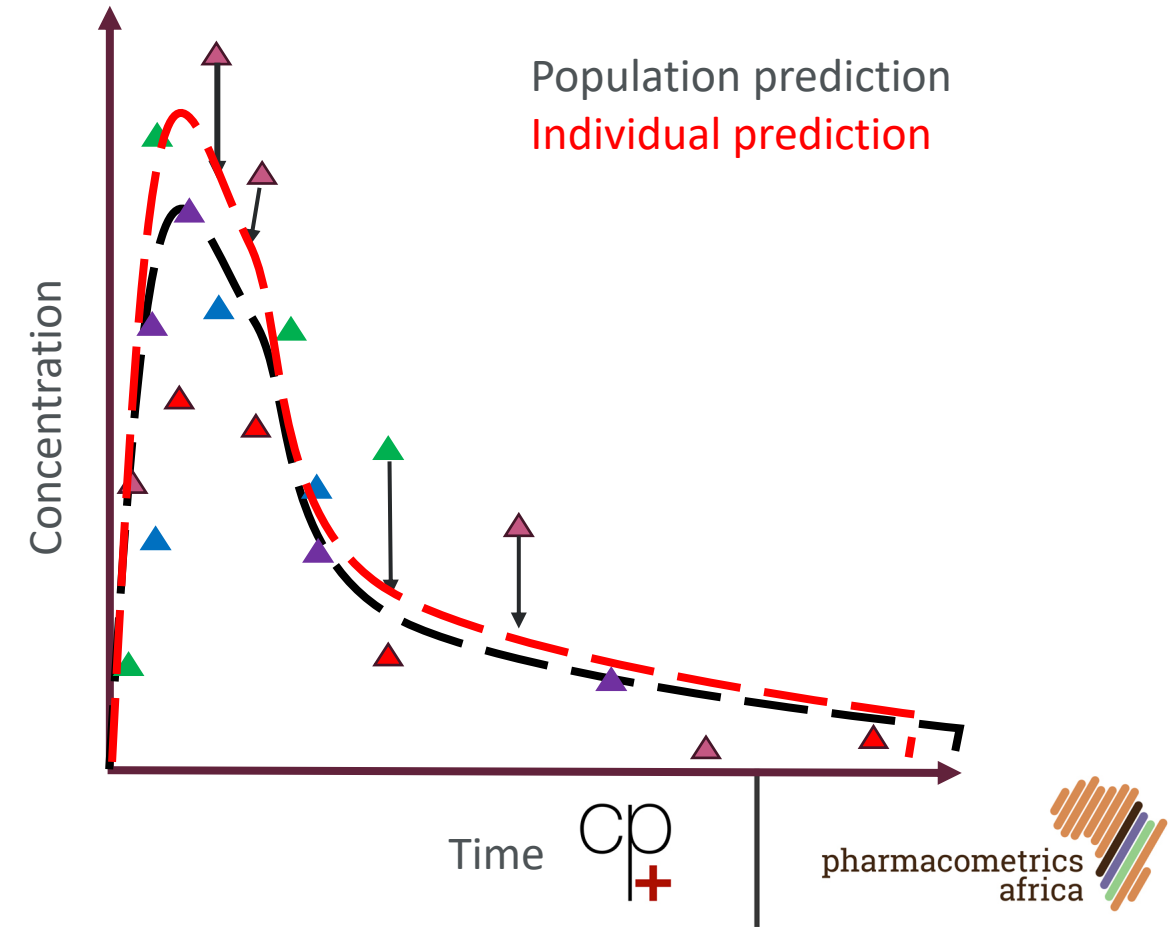
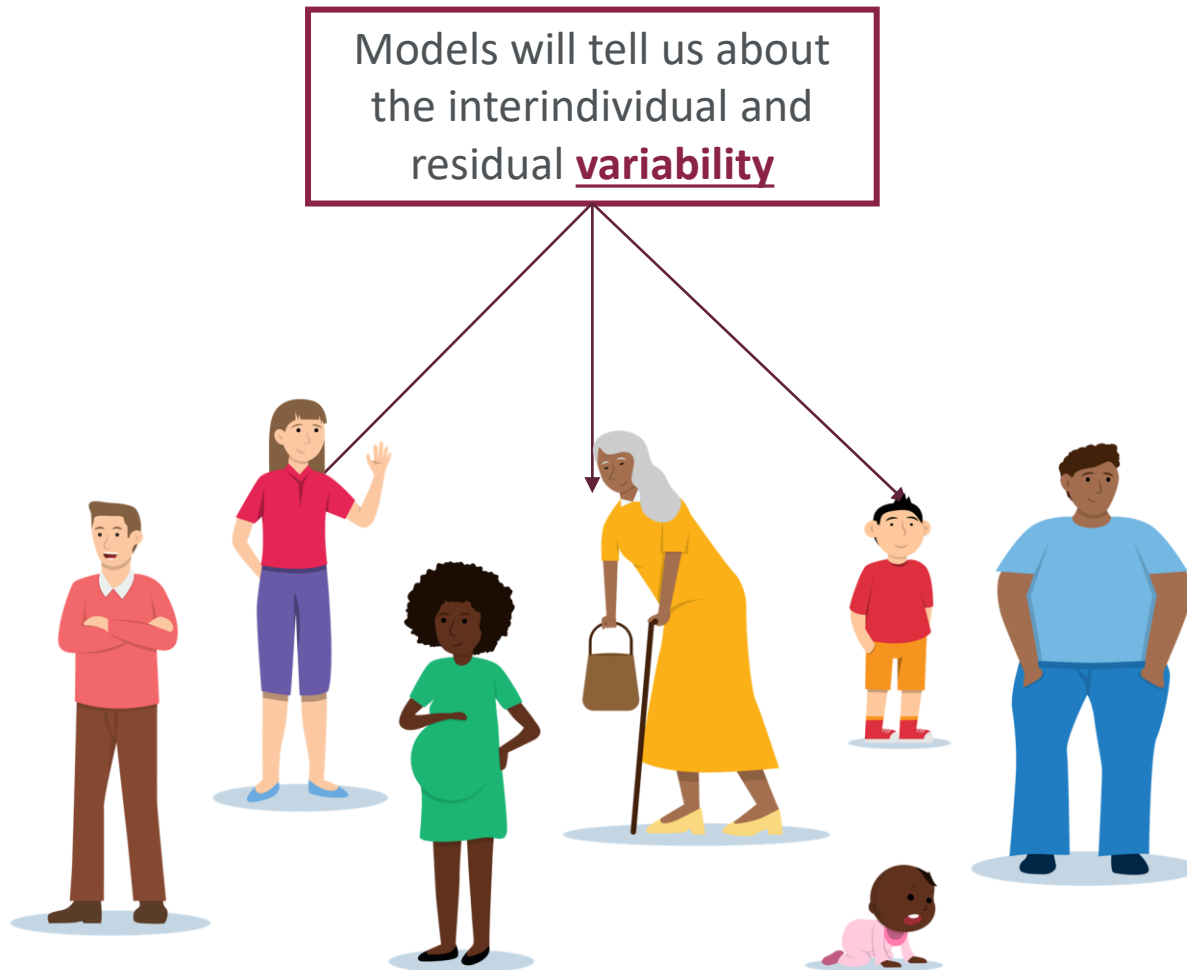
## Metrics of PK and PD Response (anti-infectives example)

- MIC: minimum inhibitory concentration
- $C_{max}$ : maximum plasma concentration
- AUC: area under the curve
- $T > MIC$ : duration of concentrations above MIC

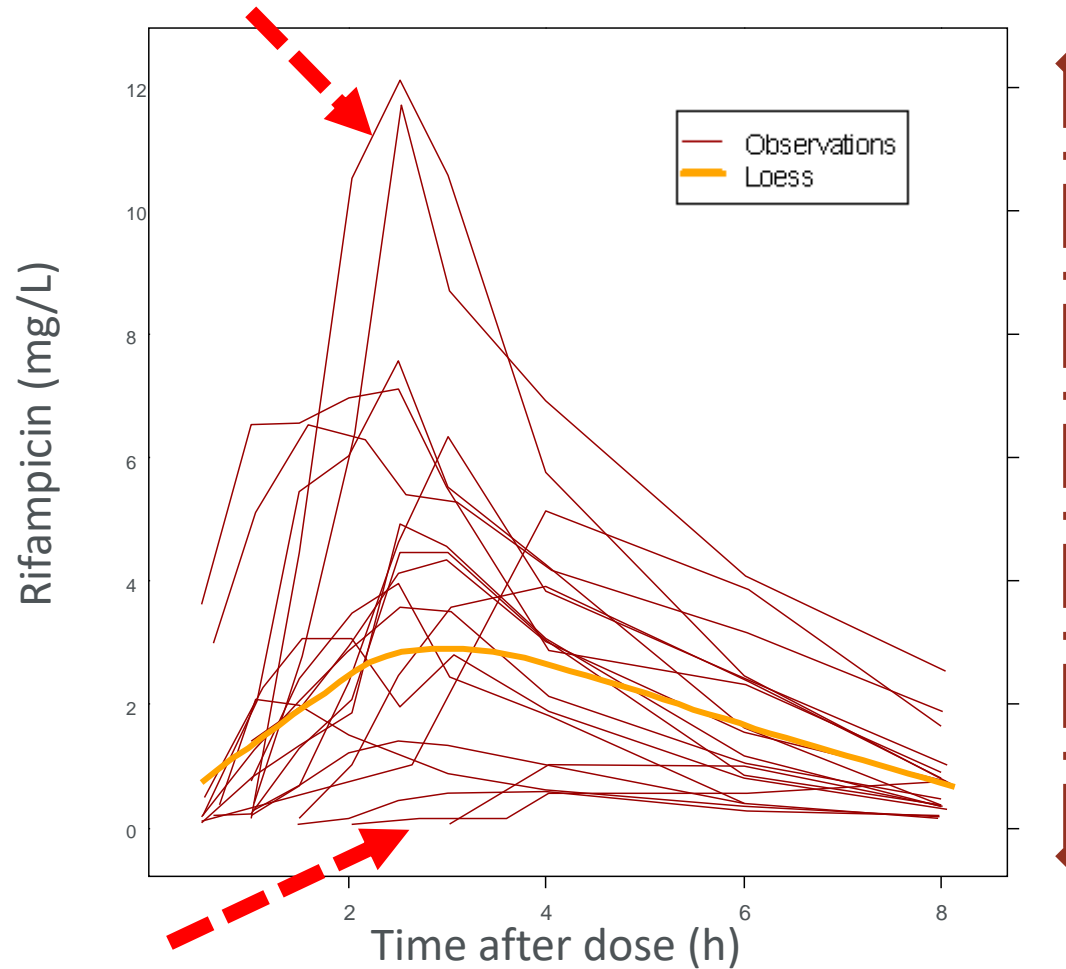
## Clinical pharmacology contributions to a product label

<p><b>INDICATIONS AND USAGE</b></p> <p>... (text) ...</p>	<p><b>CONTRAINDICATIONS</b></p> <p>... (text) ...</p>	<p><b>WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS</b></p> <p>... (text) ...</p>	<p><b>ADVERSE REACTIONS</b></p> <p>... (text) ...</p>	<p><b>DRUG INTERACTIONS</b></p> <p>... (text) ...</p>
<p><b>HOW TO USE</b></p> <p>... (text) ...</p>	<p><b>DOSE AND DOSAGE FORMS</b></p> <p>... (text) ...</p>	<p><b>PHARMACOKINETICS</b></p> <p>... (text) ...</p>	<p><b>PHARMACODYNAMICS</b></p> <p>... (text) ...</p>	<p><b>CLINICAL STUDIES</b></p> <p>... (text) ...</p>

# How is the model-based analysis approach different from non-compartmental analysis?

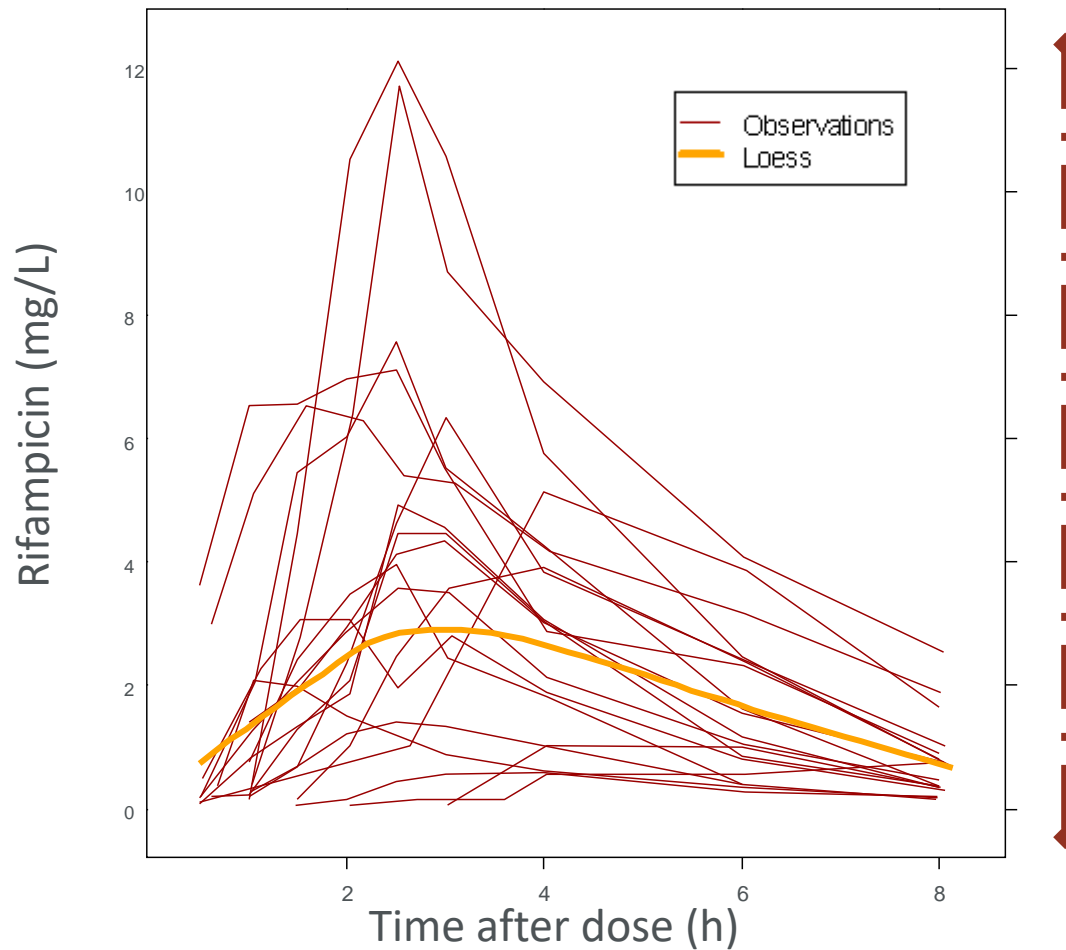


# Rifampicin - Anti TB drug



- Rifampicin: large number of apparently **delayed or incomplete absorption**
- Similar experience of **variable pharmacokinetics** with other first-line anti-TB drugs
- A mathematical model can describe the typical patient; and
- Quantify and identify **sources of variability**

# Naïve pooled analysis



Lines spread around  
the mean curve –  
presents variability

We can analyse the  
data together

Bundles all the  
sources of variability

Can give bias or  
imprecise results

Does not provide  
any information  
about variability  
between individuals

# Describing patient variability - Standard two stage

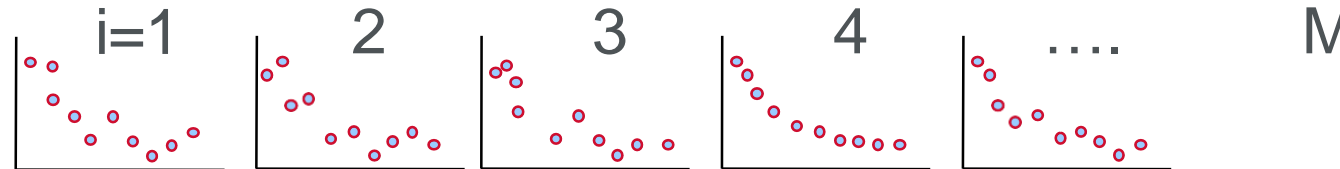
## Statistical analysis of the individual values

Weighted least  
squares  
parameter  
estimation

$p_1$   $p_2$   $p_3$   $p_4$   $p_{...}$   $p_M$

$P_1$  to  $P_M$ : Parameter 1 to M

Noisy  
experimental  
data



Subject under  
test



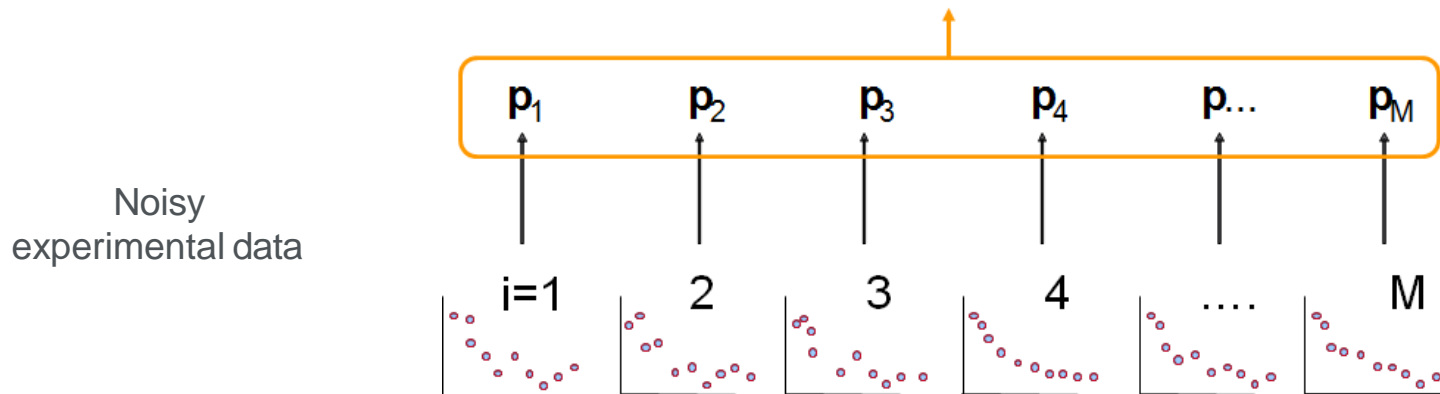


# Non-linear mixed effects modeling

Better in describing patient variability



Estimation of the population parameters



Subject under test



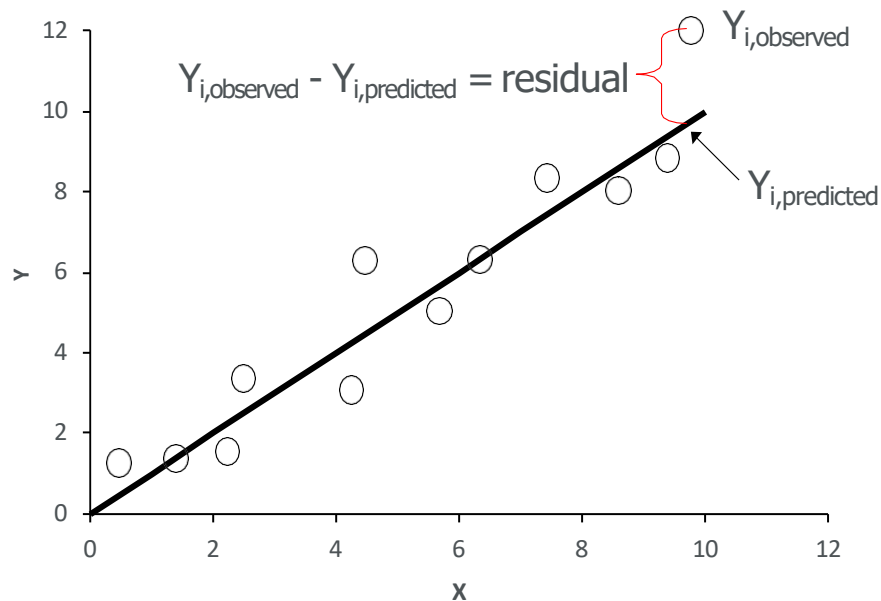
# Fitting the model

Linear regression

$$Y = a \times x + b$$

Minimisation of sum of squared residuals (SS)

$$\sum [Y_{i,\text{observed}} - Y_{i,\text{predicted}}]^2$$

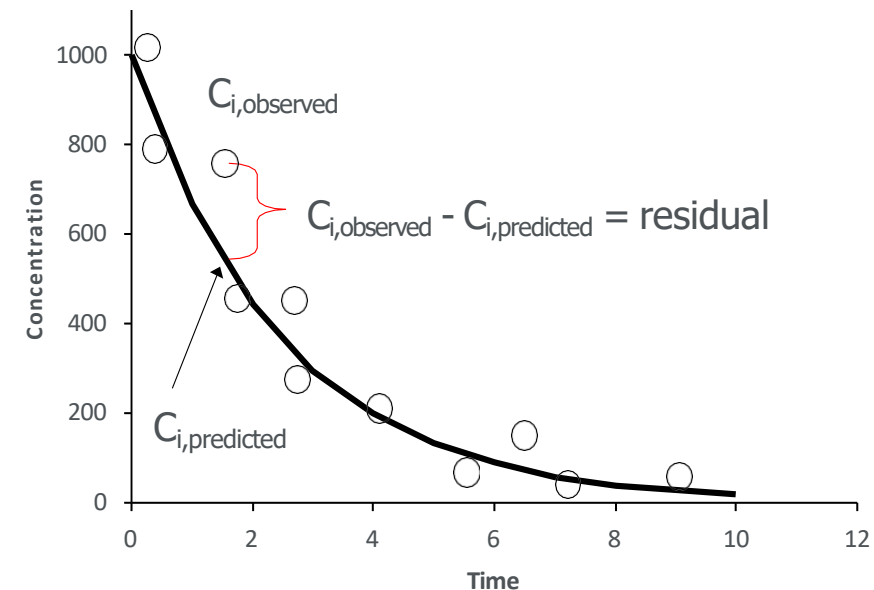


$$C = C_0 \times e^{-k \times t}$$

$$C_0 = \text{Dose}_{\text{IV}}/V \quad k = \text{CL}/V$$

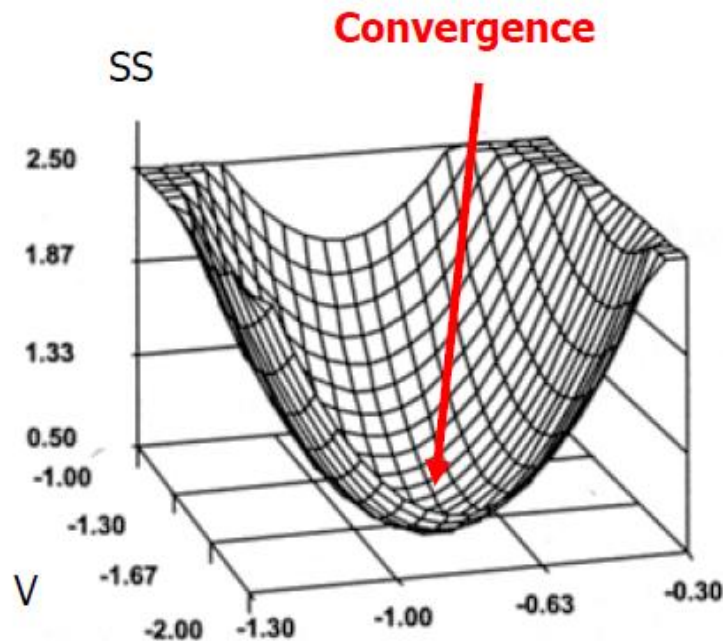
Reparametrisation:

$$C = [\text{Dose}_{\text{IV}}/V] \times e^{-(\text{CL}/V) \times t}$$

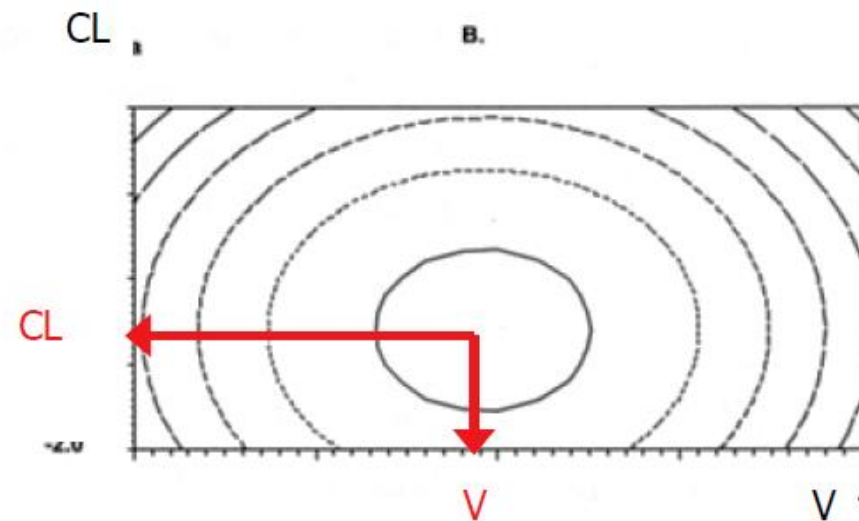


# Fitting the model

Sum of squared residuals (SS) surface



$$C = [\text{Dose}_{\text{IV}}/V] \times e^{-(CL/V) \times t}$$

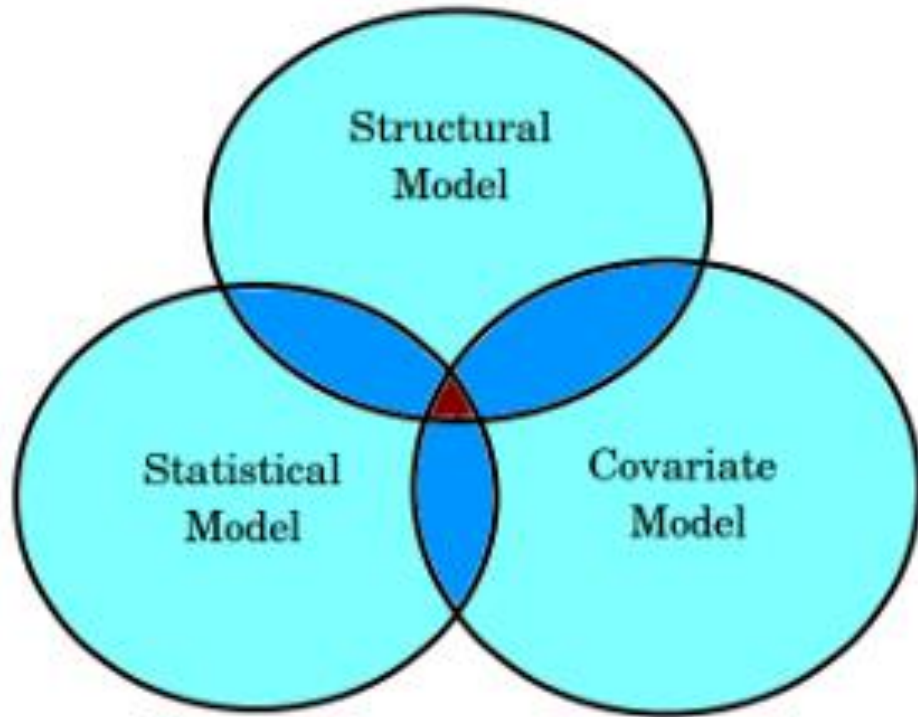


New combinations of parameter values are tested iteratively until convergence is reached.

The best model parameters are those that correspond to the lowest SS

# Nonlinear mixed effects model summary

## Components of a population model



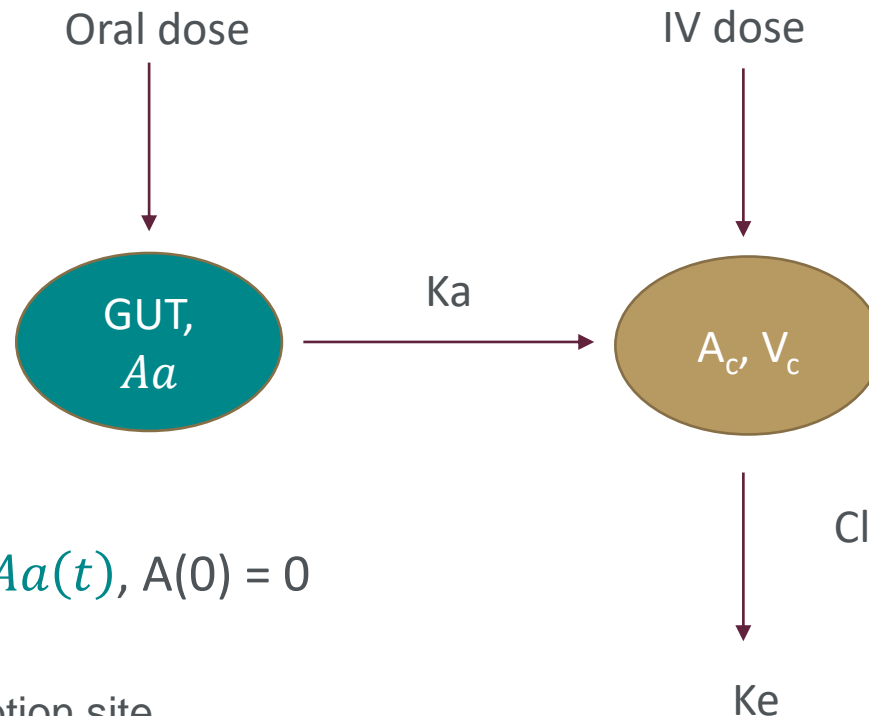
## Summary

- STRUCTURAL
  - The deterministic part, the equation defining average trend e.g.  $\frac{dA_c}{dt} = k_a A_a - k_e A_c$
- STATISTICAL
  - Inter-individual (parameter level)
  - Inter-occasion (parameter level)
  - Residual (observation level)
- COVARIATE
  - Demographic variable explaining variability e.g., weight, genotype, renal function

Specialist and general statistical software e.g., NONMEM, Monolix, Phoenix NLME, **R**, **nlmixr2**, etc.

# Example of a possible mathematical relationship after drug administration - Structural model

## One compartment model - oral or intravenous administration



Structural models are functions that describe the time course of a measured response, and can be represented as algebraic or differential equations.

$$\frac{dA_a(t)}{dt} = -k_a A_a(t), A(0) = 0$$

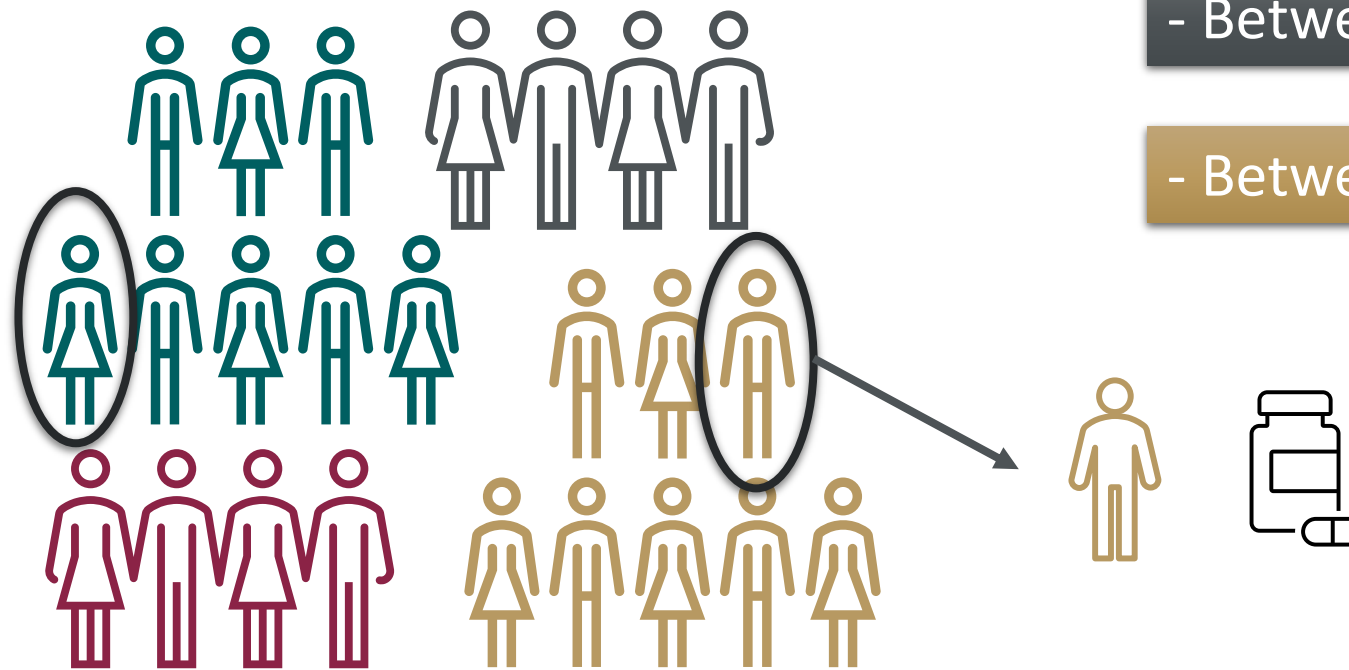
$A_a(t)$  = amount at absorption site

$K_e = Cl/V$ ,  $V$  = Volume of compartment,  $Cl$  = Clearance

$$\frac{dA_c(t)}{dt} = k_a A_a(t) - k_e A_c(t), A(0) = 0$$

# Quantifying variability becomes even more important with narrow therapeutic index

## Statistical Model



# Hierarchical variability in a non-linear mixed effects model



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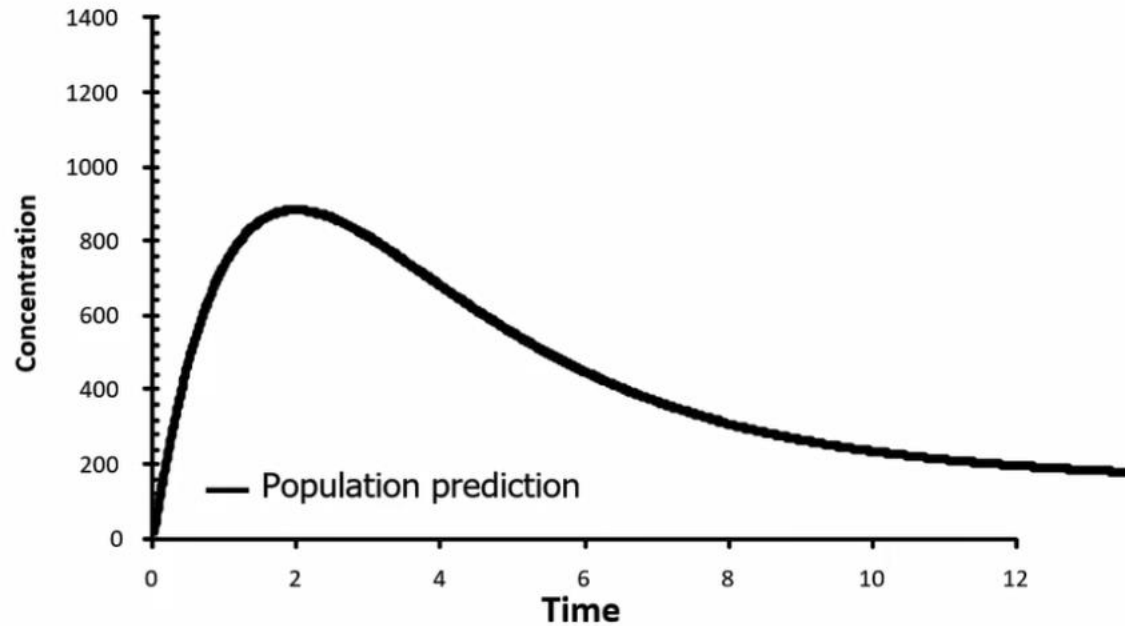
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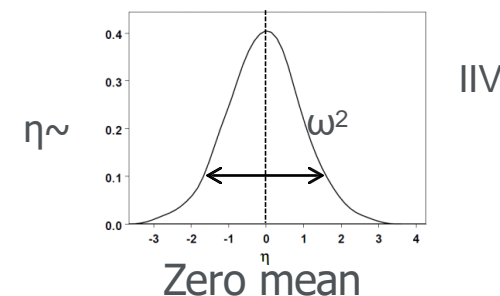
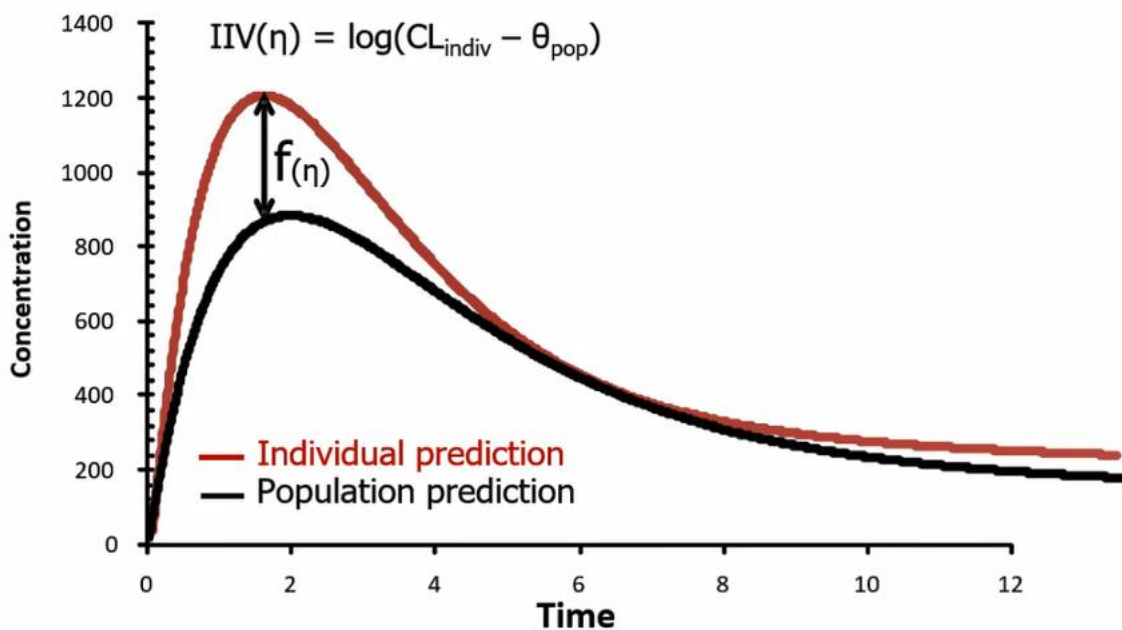
# Hierarchical variability in a non-linear mixed effects model



Typical value

$$y = f(\theta)$$

# Hierarchical variability in a non-linear mixed effects model



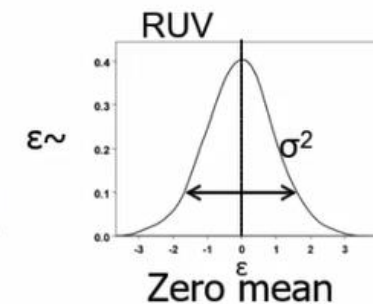
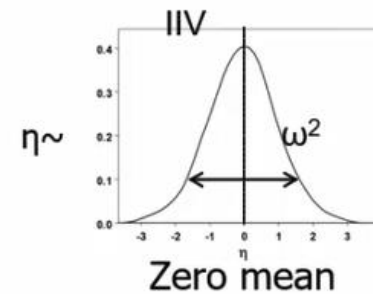
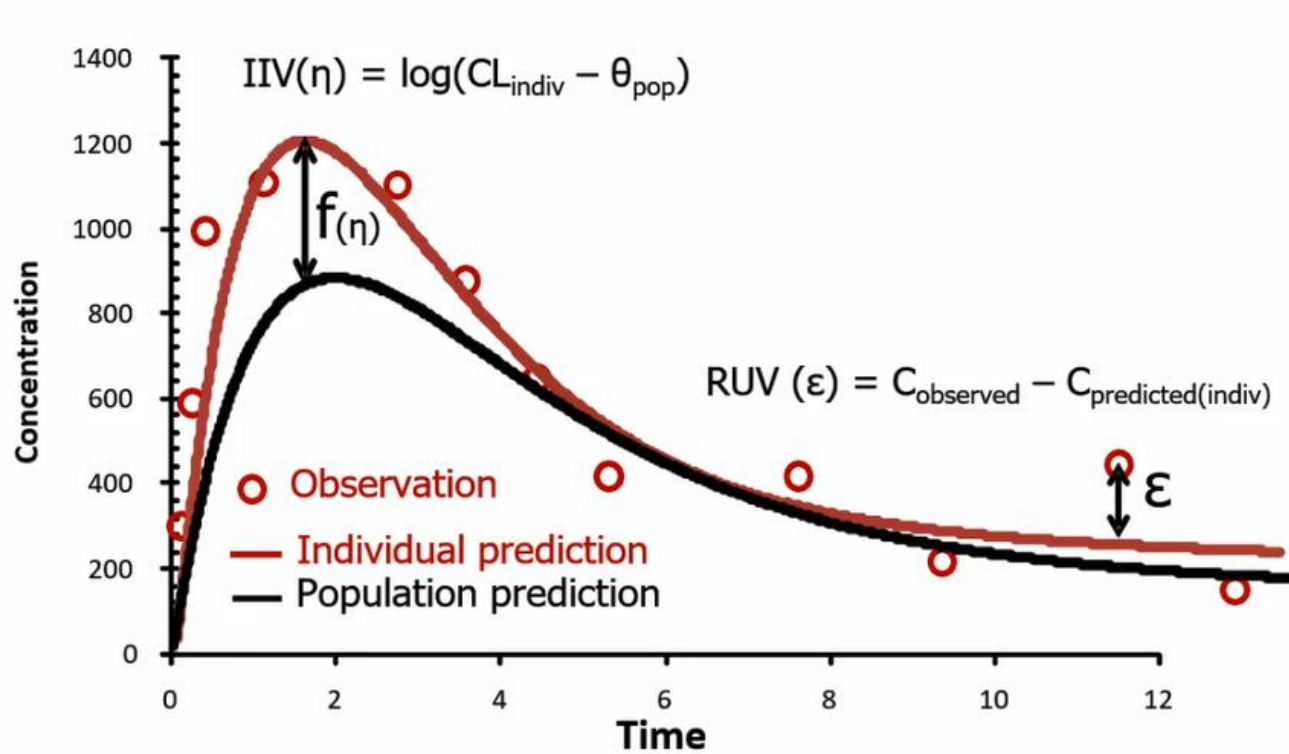
Typical value

Inter-individual  
variability

$$y = f(\theta)$$

$$y = f(\theta, \eta)$$

# Hierarchical variability in a non-linear mixed effects model



Typical value

Inter-individual  
variabilityResidual unexplained  
variability

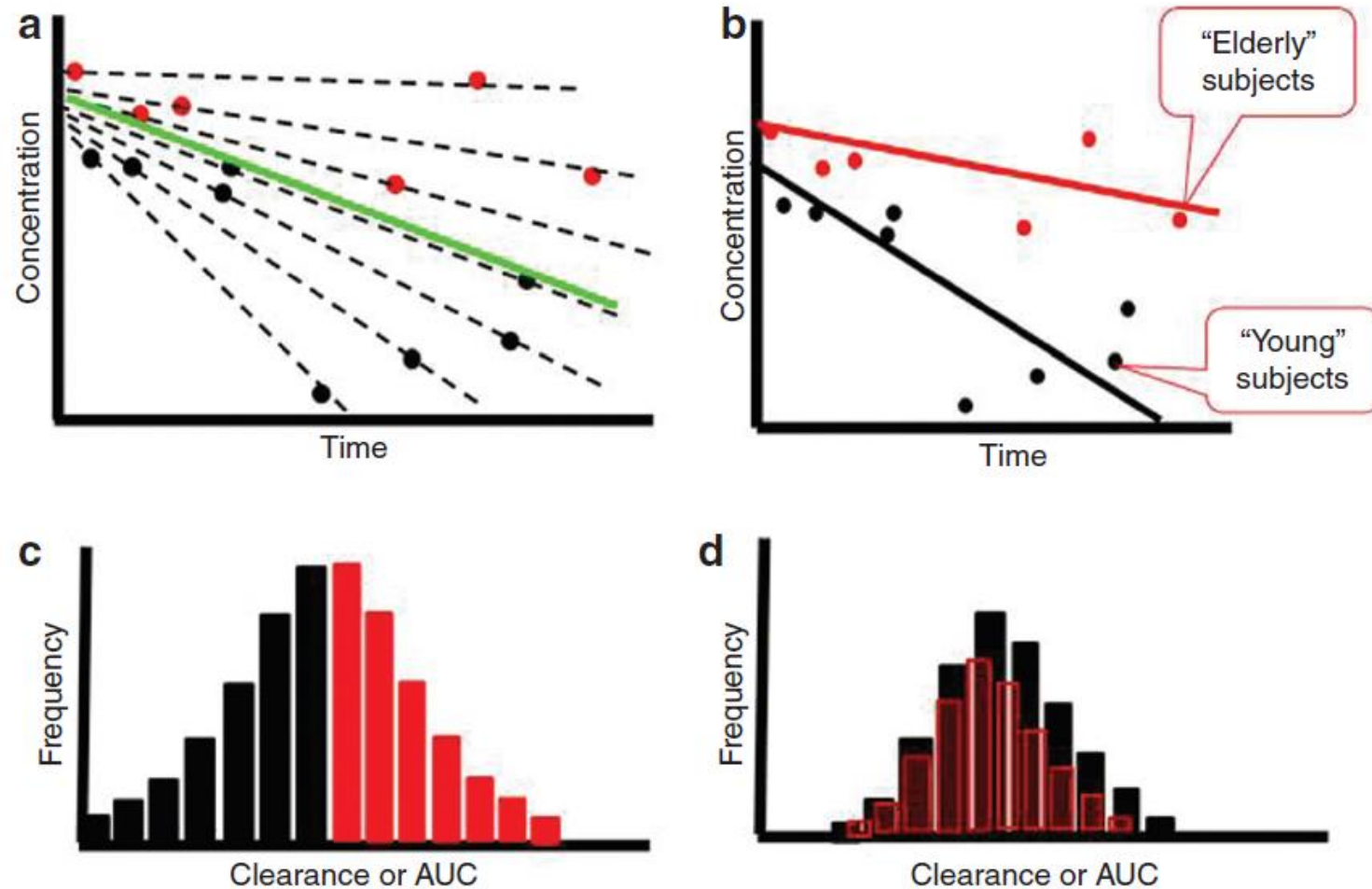
$$y = f(\theta)$$

$$y = f(\theta, \eta)$$

$$y = f(\theta, \eta) + \epsilon$$

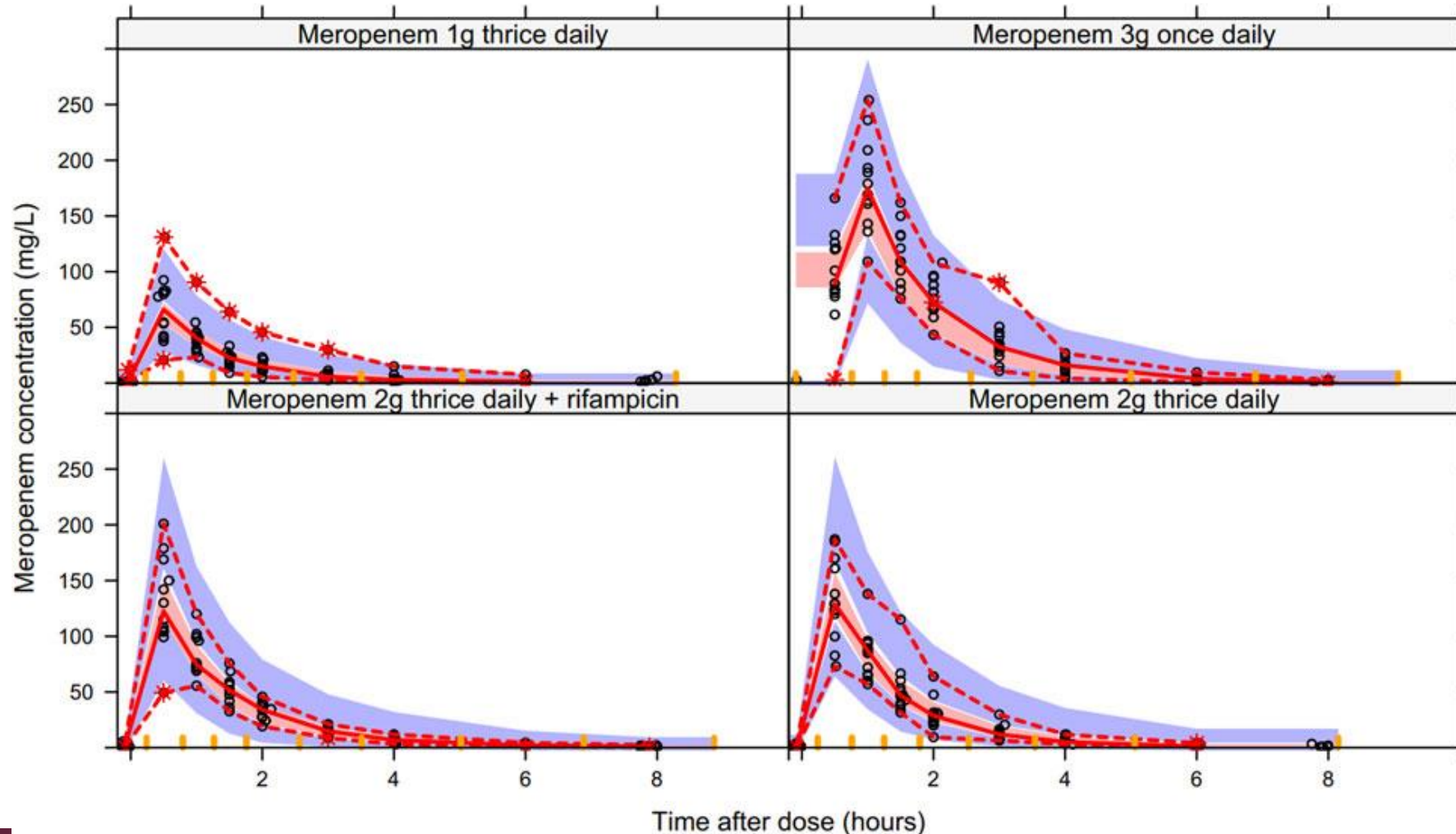


# Covariate model allows us to account for the source of variability



# Models are checked to confirm they reflect the original data,...

## Visual predictive checks





# Drugs don't have doses - people have doses

## Therapeutics



## Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Dose Individualization to Achieve Therapeutic Vancomycin Concentrations

The Journal of Clinical Pharmacology  
2018, 58(9) 1134–1139  
© 2018, The American College of  
Clinical Pharmacology  
DOI: 10.1002/jcph.1254

Ahmed A. Abulfathi, MMed<sup>1\*</sup> , Maxwell Chirehwa, MSc<sup>2†</sup>, Bernd Rosenkranz, PhD<sup>1†</sup>, and Eric H. Decloedt, MMed<sup>1\*</sup>

### Abstract

The glycopeptide antibiotic vancomycin is used for treatment of methicillin-resistant Gram-positive cocci. Adequate vancomycin plasma concentrations are related to bacterial cure. However, inter- and inpatient variability make it difficult to achieve therapeutic vancomycin concentrations. The primary objective of this study was to determine the effectiveness of using computerized therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) to assist in achieving therapeutic vancomycin concentrations at a tertiary hospital in South Africa. This was a 2-period study consisting of a retrospective 1-month observational period followed by a prospective 1-month period in which computerized TDM was implemented as an intervention to assist with vancomycin dose individualization. During the prospective period, all vancomycin TDM results were followed by dosage individualization using computerized TDM. The retrospective period included 77 patients with 292 vancomycin concentrations: 69% (53/77) adult and 31% (24/77) pediatric patients. The prospective period included 80 patients with 217 vancomycin concentrations measured: 69% (55/80) adult and 31% (25/80) pediatric patients. Fewer vancomycin TDM data were requested during the prospective period with a median (interquartile range) of 2 (1–3) samples per patient compared with 3 (1–5) samples per patient during the retrospective period. The odds ratio of achieving therapeutic trough concentrations was 3.63 (95%CI 1.81–7.3) in the prospective period when TDM-adjusted vancomycin dosing and appropriate TDM procedures were applied. The use of computerized TDM resulted in a higher frequency of therapeutic vancomycin concentrations in a middle-income setting. Trough vancomycin concentrations alone correlate poorly with the area under plasma concentration-time curve from 0 to 24 hours.

### Keywords

Vancomycin, Population Pharmacokinetics, Individualized, Dosing, Computerized TDM, Therapeutic





# Pharmacometrics at the patient bedside

## Dose optimization (Dose to targeted AUC 400 mg.h/L)

- Mrs Y, 54-year-old female was admitted in ICU. During the ICU stay she was diagnosed with MRSA requiring vancomycin. She was given a loading dose of 2mg followed by 2g over a 24-hour infusion. Creatinine 41 mmol/L.

1<sup>st</sup> vancomycin  
concentration: 11,92  
mg/L



In response  
the doctor  
administers  
2.5 g over  
24 hours.

Are we dosing appropriately –  
given this is a critically ill patient  
with augmented renal function?

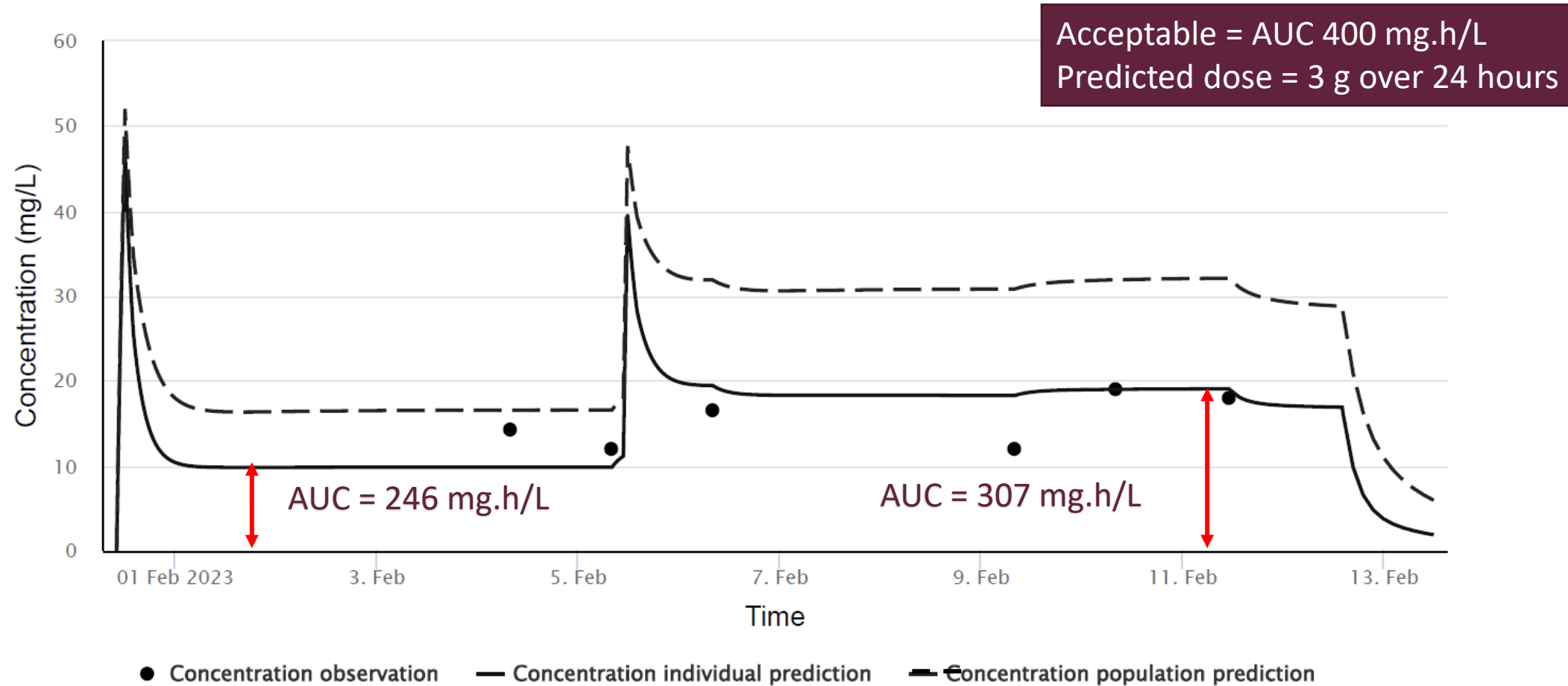


2<sup>nd</sup> vancomycin concentration: 17,92 mg/L



# Pharmacometrics at the patient bedside

## Model informed dosing prediction - vancomycin



# It's all about Dose-Response...

## Getting the right dose to the right patient

“All things are poison, and nothing is without poison; only the dose permits something not to be poisonous.”

Paracelsus (1493-1541)



Image from <http://www.swisstox.ch/>



# A skill to be developed in Africa...

Citation: CPT: Pharmacometrics & Systems Pharmacology (2013) 2, e1; doi:10.1038/psp.2013.45  
© 2013 ASCPT All rights reserved 2163-8306/12

[www.nature.com/psp](http://www.nature.com/psp)

## PERSPECTIVE

# Pharmacometrics: Opportunity for Reducing Disease Burden in the Developing World: the Case of Africa

G Pillai<sup>1</sup>, G Davies<sup>2</sup>, P Denti<sup>3</sup>, J-L Steimer<sup>4</sup>, H McIlleron<sup>3</sup>, S Zvada<sup>3</sup>, E Chigutsa<sup>3</sup>, E Ngaimisi<sup>5</sup>, F Mirza<sup>1</sup>, B Tadmor<sup>6</sup> and NHG Holford<sup>7</sup>

Pharmacometricians are virtually nonexistent in Africa and the developing world. The unrelenting burden of infectious diseases, which are often treated using medicines with narrow effectiveness, safety dose ranges, and the growing prevalence and recognition of noncommunicable diseases represents a significant threat for the patients although affording an opportunity for advancing science. This article outlines the case for pharmacometricians to redirect their expertise to focus on the disease burden affecting the developing world.

*CPT: Pharmacometrics & Systems Pharmacology* (2013) 2, e1; doi:10.1038/psp.2013.45; published online 00 Month 2013



pharmacometrics  
africa





# Pharmacometrics Africa

A non-profit company - goal to develop quantitative clinical pharmacology among African scientists



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## What is Pharmacometrics?

Pharmacometrics is an emerging discipline that uses mathematical and statistical tools to quantify drug, disease, and trial information to aid efficient drug development and/or regulatory decisions. It designs and applies mathematical models to describe the relationship between drug exposure (pharmacokinetics) and response (pharmacodynamics) for both desired and undesired effects, and aims to include in such models the effects of individual patient characteristics.

## Welcome to Pharmacometrics Africa

Pharmacometrics Africa is a platform for interested groups to establish and run open access quantitative clinical pharmacology educational programs in partnership with local research organisations and academic groups.

Learn more about **what we're up to**, **who we are** and **what you can do to help**.

<https://pmxafrica.org/>



# WCoP 2022 - free recordings available



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the website of the 3rd World Conference on Pharmacometrics (WCoP) that was held in 2022 on the continent of Africa in Cape Town, South Africa.

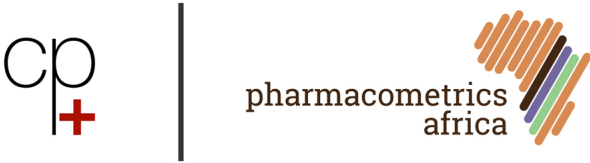
**WCoP 2022 was a hybrid conference**, with both live attendance from the delegates that joined in person in Cape Town, and virtual attendance via an online platform. This followed our decision to postpone our originally scheduled 2020 meeting due to COVID-19. The flexibility afforded by the HYBRID conference format allowed us to host 462 delegates of which 110 joined the meeting in-person at the **Century City Convention Centre in Cape Town**.

Welcome Letter

In our welcome letter to delegates, we highlighted how the success previous meetings in Seoul, South Korea in 2012 and Brisbane, Australia in 2016 has been a source of motivation for the Executive Committee to expand the global reach of our science beyond Europe and the US. We quoted the familiar statistics of how Africa accounts for 15% of the global population and 25% of the global disease burden: yet only produces about 2% of the world's research output and holds only 0.1% of the world's patents. Research and development pipelines for the diseases that disproportionately affect African countries are grossly inadequate. Furthermore, clinical pharmacology studies that underpin drug label claims for efficacy and safety are rarely studied in Africa. Such assessments are important to understand dosing requirements in communities that might have different intrinsic (e.g. genetics, physiology, comorbidity) and extrinsic (local medical practice, diet) factors compared to patients in the more developed economies where these studies are usually conducted.



Your hosts:





# WCoP 2022 - free recordings available

- <https://wcop2022.org/>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phhsh8R\\_sYQ&t=22s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phhsh8R_sYQ&t=22s)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqzVdV0NcR0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgIc6bkGQCY>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxdonlgps8>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2k8fJfUw6oo&t=2s>





# Acknowledgements

- Slide compilation done with:
  - Colin Pillai – CP and associates, Pharmacometrics Africa
  - Paolo Denti – University of Cape Town
  - Veshni Pillay-Fuentes Lorente – Stellenbosch University
  - Joe Standing – University College London







thank you | enkosi | dankie