

# HUMAN NEURAL PROGENITOR CELL (HNPC) AGING IS MIMICKED BY 3D CULTURES IN VITRO: AN 'ADVERSE OUTCOME PATHWAY' GAINS IMPORTANCE AT SUSCEPTIBLE LIFE STAGES

Ellen Fritsche

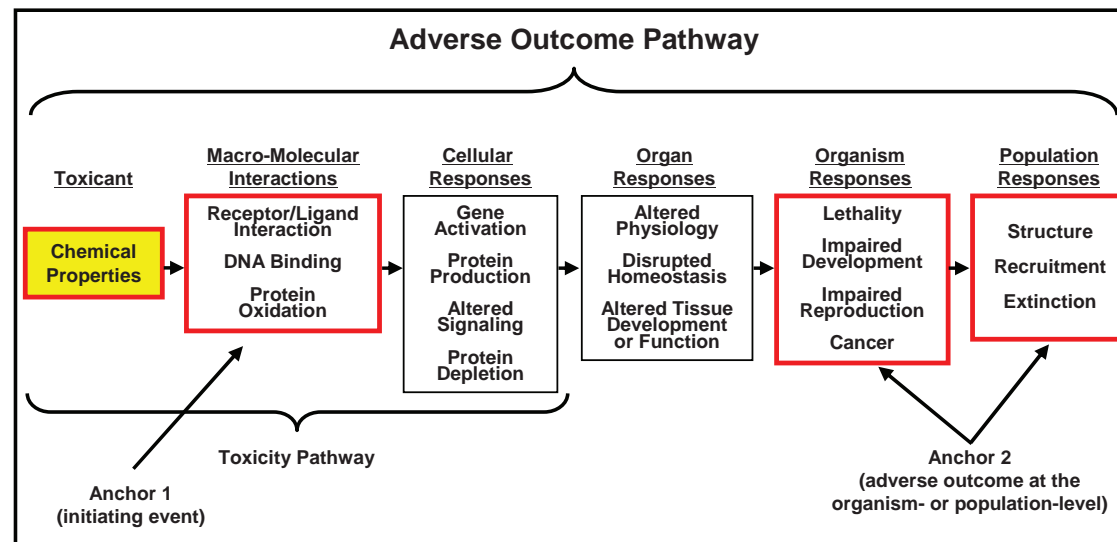
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# The Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) concept

- The NRC report (2007)<sup>1</sup> supports a paradigm shift in toxicological risk assessment.
- AOPs provide a structure to organize existing knowledge on mode of action of compounds from the initiating event to the adverse outcome on the organ and organism level for supporting safety decisions<sup>2</sup>.



Ankley et al. 2010. Adverse Outcome Pathways: A conceptual framework to support ecotoxicology research and risk assessment. Env Tox Chem 29:730-41

# The AOP concept

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
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[www.seurat-1.eu](http://www.seurat-1.eu)

## Workshop on

*"Using mechanistic information in developing the concept of the adverse outcome pathway (AOP) relevant to human neurotoxicity evaluation"*

*21 – 22 March 2013*

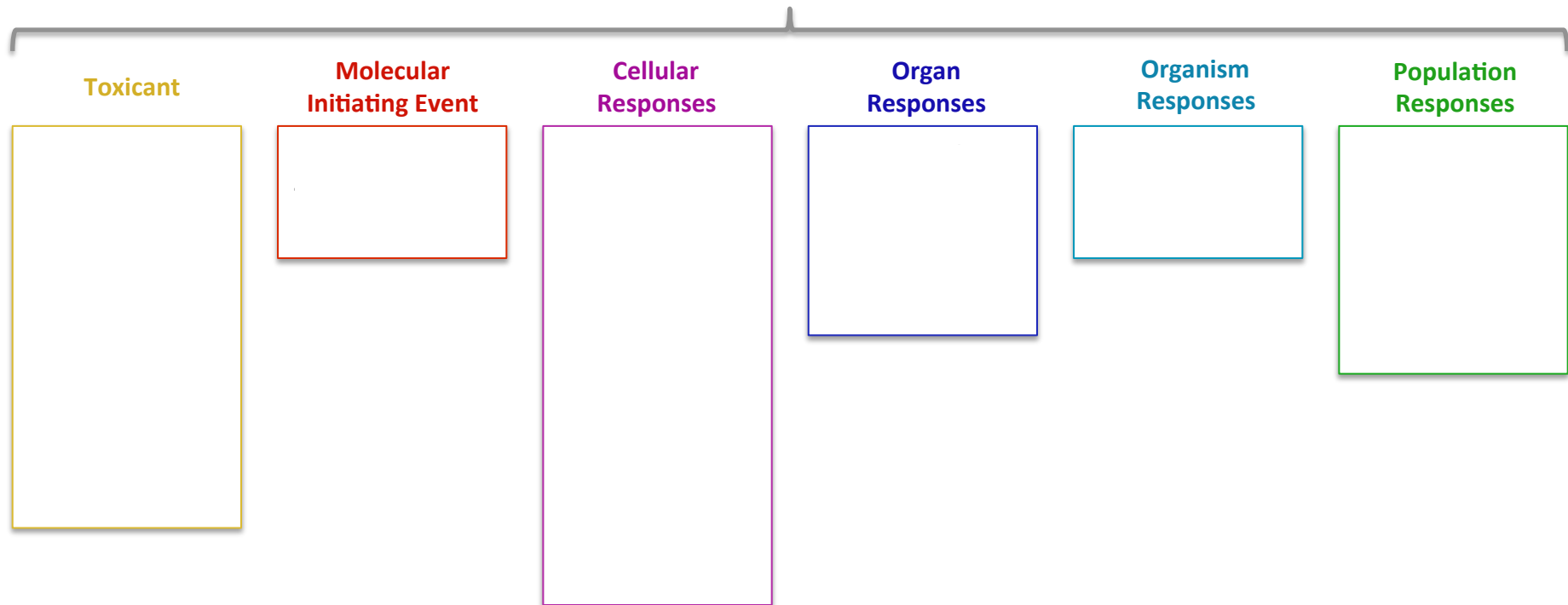
*JRC Ispra, Italy*

**Host: Maurice Wheelan, JRC**

**Chair: Anna Price, JRC**

# AOP on Impaired Adult Neurogenesis

## Adverse Outcome Pathway

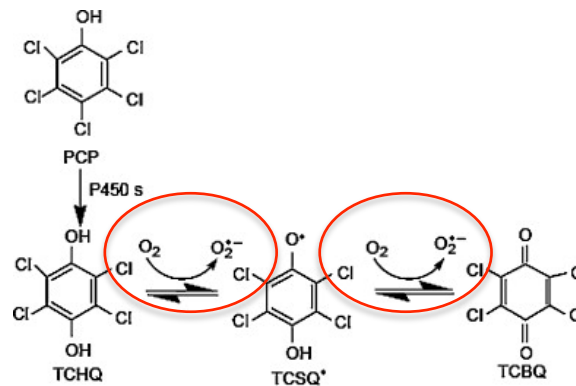
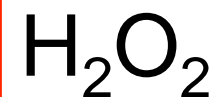
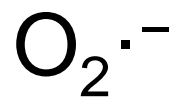


# AOP on Impaired Adult Neurogenesis

## Adverse Outcome Pathway

### Toxicant

Reactive  
Oxygen  
Species (ROS;  
Redox Cyler,  
Pesticides,  
Metals,  
Ionizing  
Radiation,  
Chemothera-  
peutics)



# AOP on Impaired Adult Neurogenesis

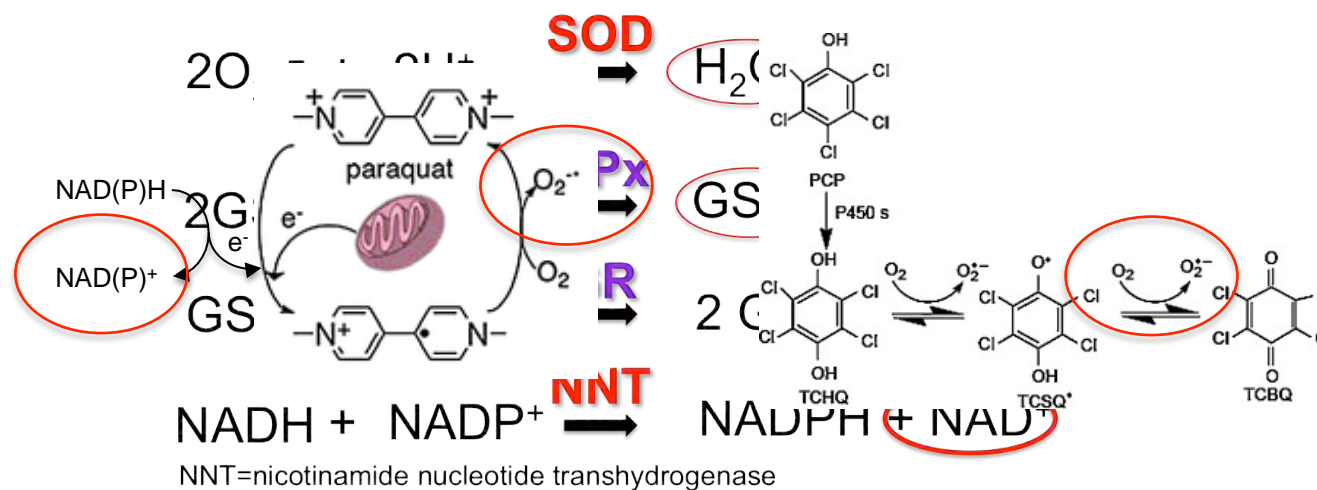
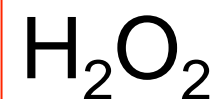
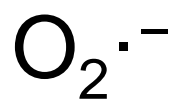
## Adverse Outcome Pathway

### Toxicant

Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS; Redox Cycler, Pesticides, Metals, Ionizing Radiation, Chemotherapeutics)

### Molecular Initiating Event

ROS causes formation of  $\text{NAD}^+$



# AOP on Impaired Adult Neurogenesis

## Adverse Outcome Pathway

### Toxicant

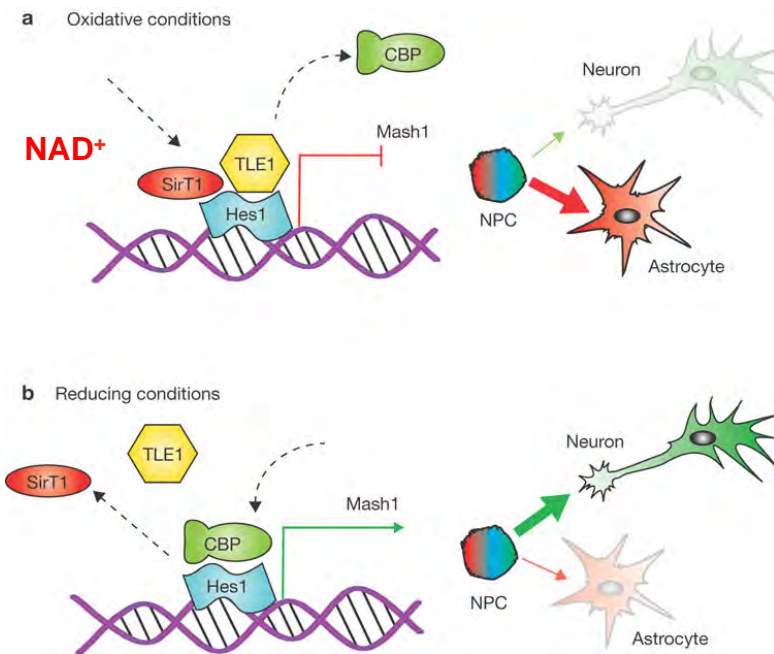
Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS; Redox Cycler, Pesticides, Metals, Ionizing Radiation, Chemotherapeutics)

### Molecular Initiating Event

ROS causes formation of  $\text{NAD}^+$

### Cellular Responses

- Activation of the HDAC Sirt1
- Co-repression of pro-neural genes



Libert et al. *Nature Cell Biology* 2008

# AOP on Impaired Adult Neurogenesis

## Adverse Outcome Pathway

### Toxicant

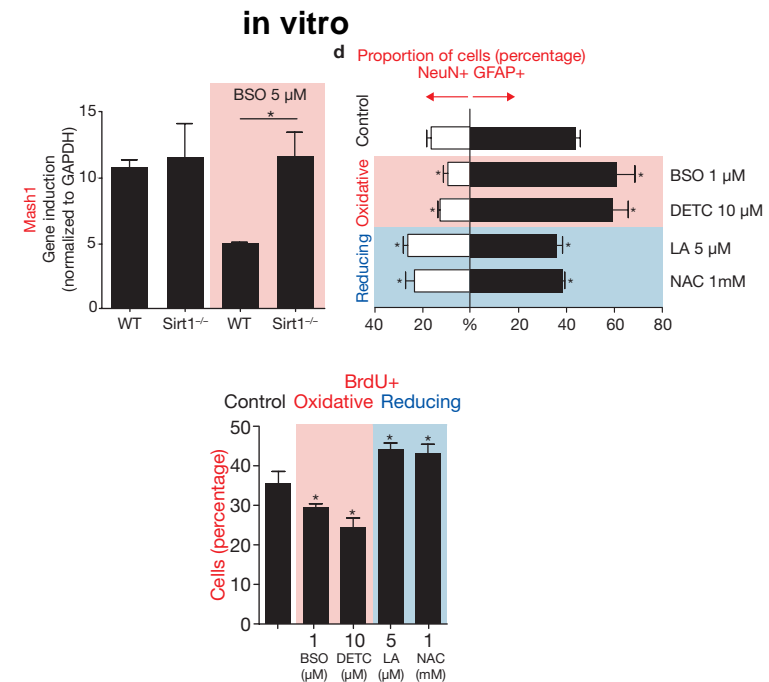
Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS; Redox Cycler, Pesticides, Metals, Ionizing Radiation, Chemotherapeutics)

### Molecular Initiating Event

ROS causes formation of  $\text{NAD}^+$

### Cellular Responses

- Activation of the HDAC Sirt1
- Co-repression of pro-neural genes
- Decrease in NPC function in the hippocampus: Proliferation and Neuronal Differentiation

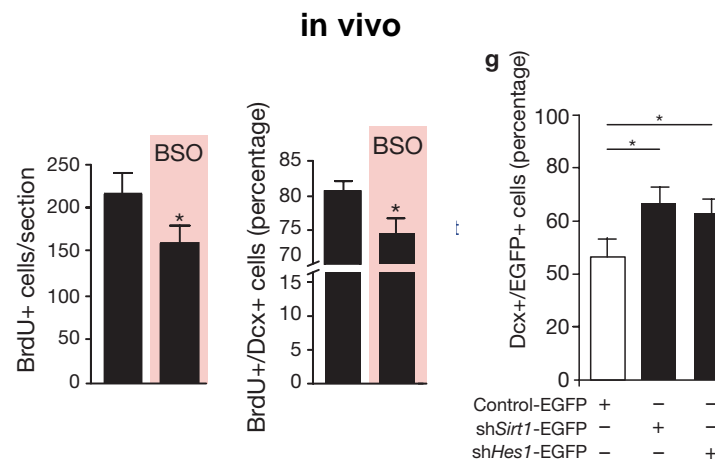
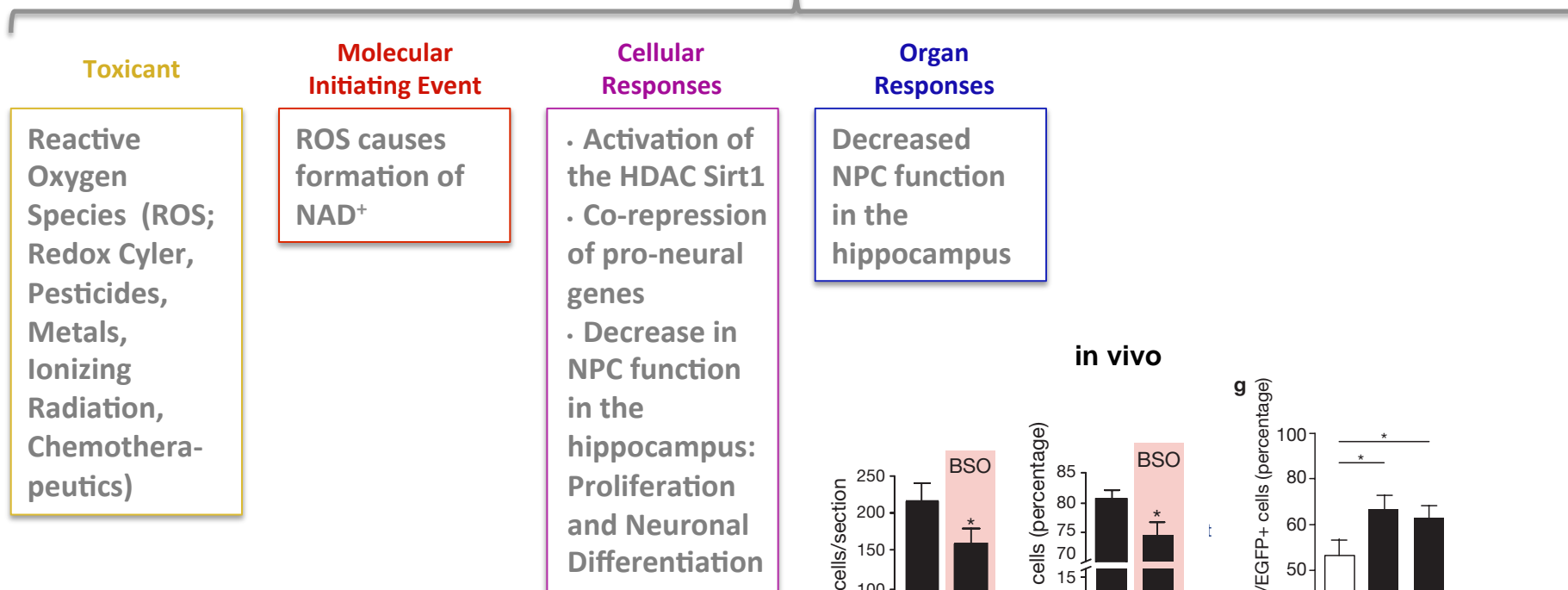


Prozorovski et al. *Nature Cell Biology* 2008



# AOP on Impaired Adult Neurogenesis

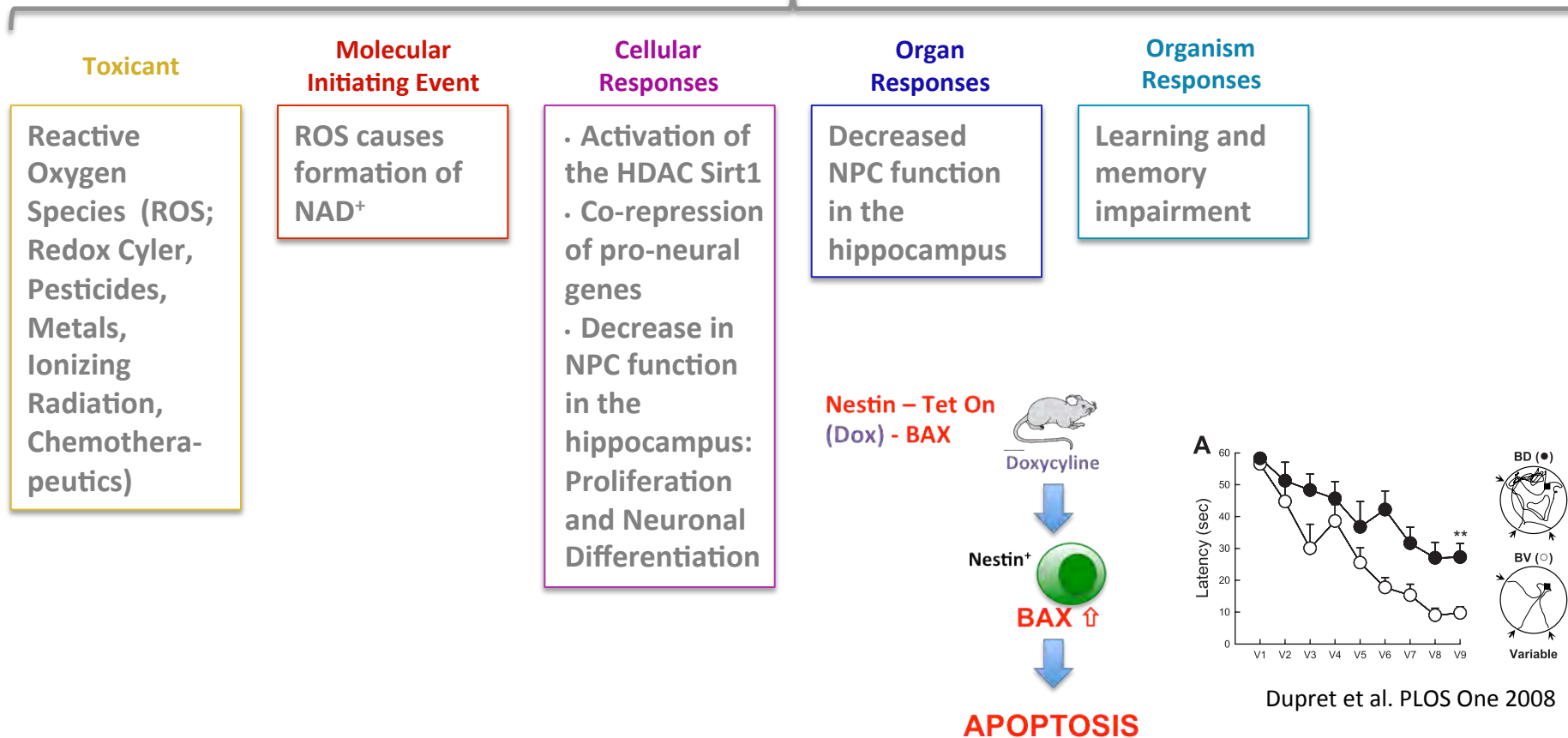
## Adverse Outcome Pathway



Prozorovski et al. *Nature Cell Biology* 2008

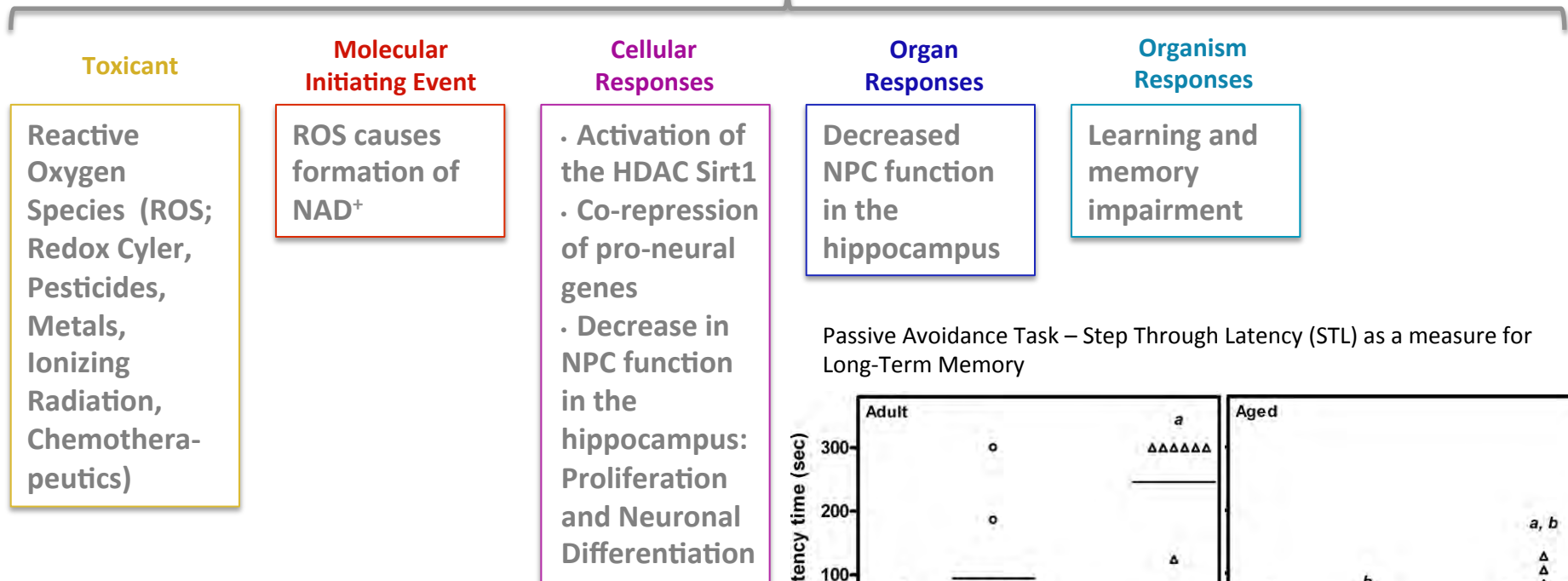
# AOP on Impaired Adult Neurogenesis

## Adverse Outcome Pathway

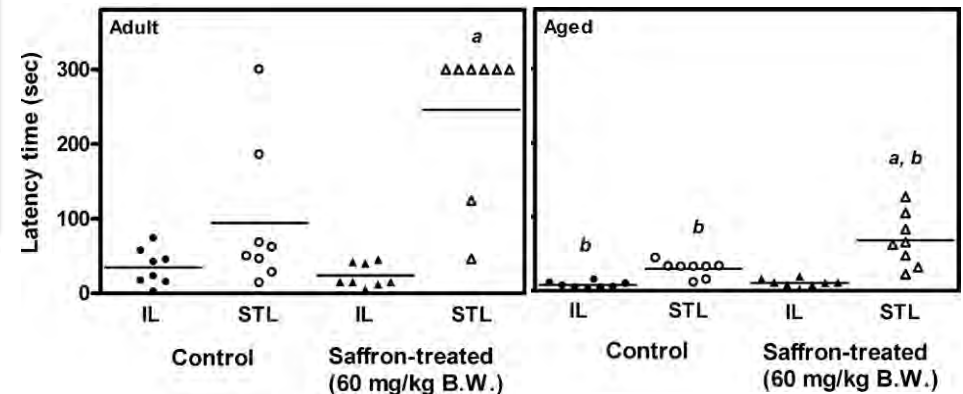
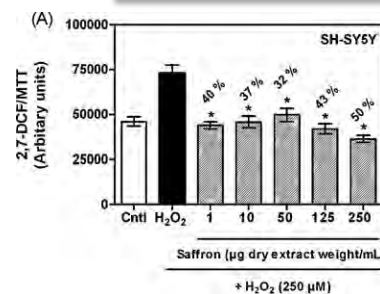


# AOP on Impaired Adult Neurogenesis

## Adverse Outcome Pathway



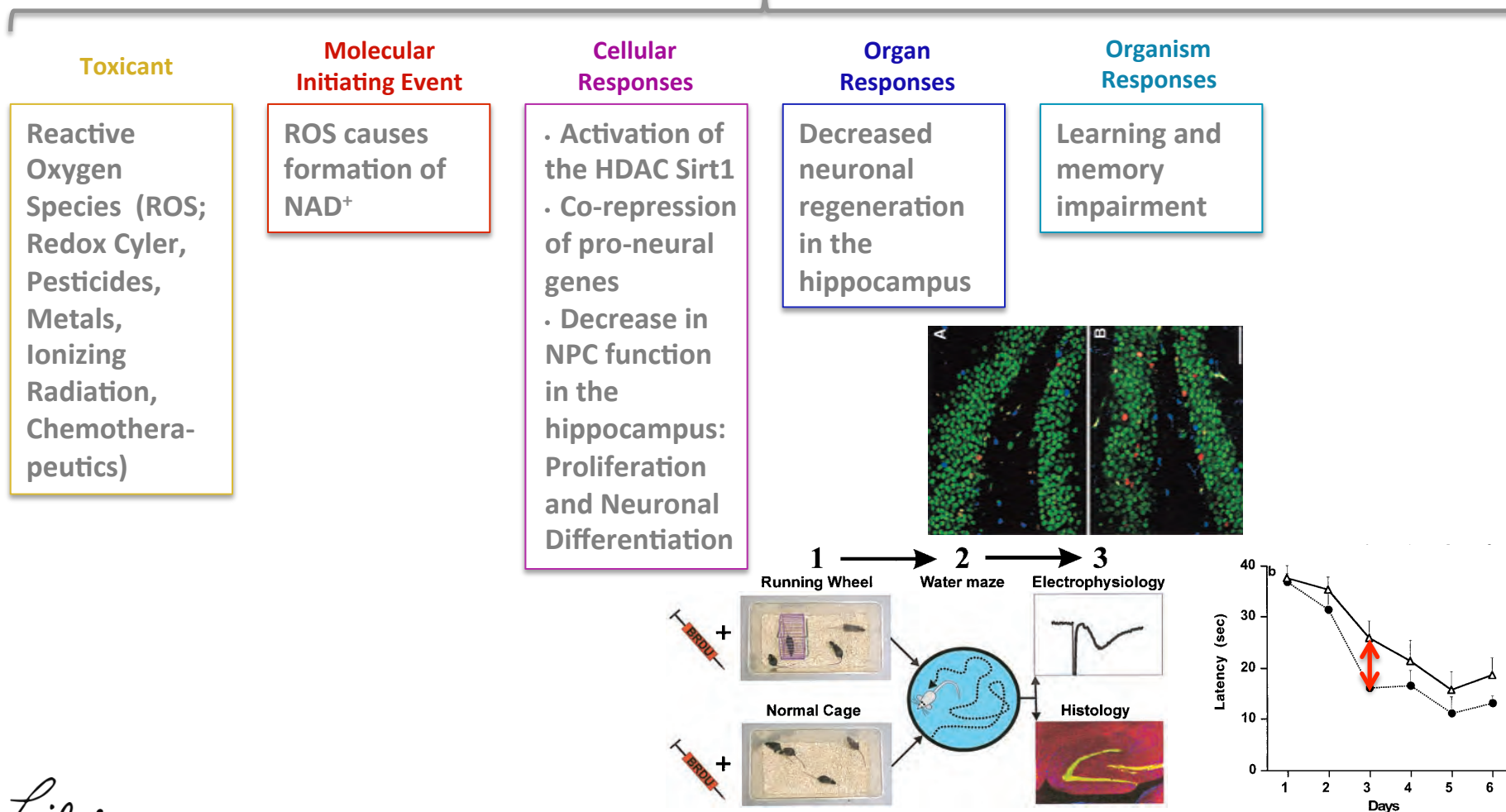
Passive Avoidance Task – Step Through Latency (STL) as a measure for Long-Term Memory



Papandreou et al. Beh Brain Res 2008

# AOP on Impaired Adult Neurogenesis

## Adverse Outcome Pathway



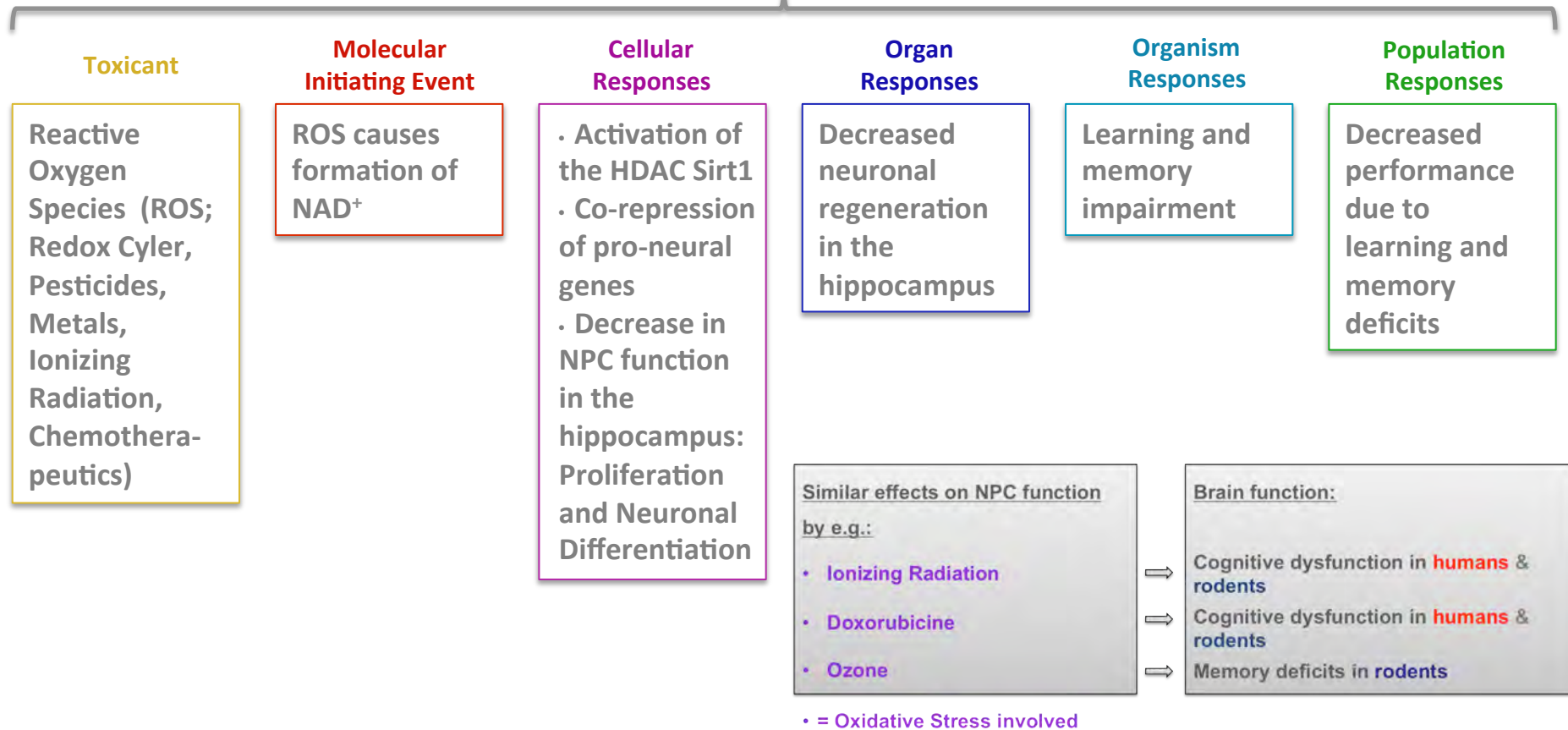
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van Praag et al. PNAS 2006

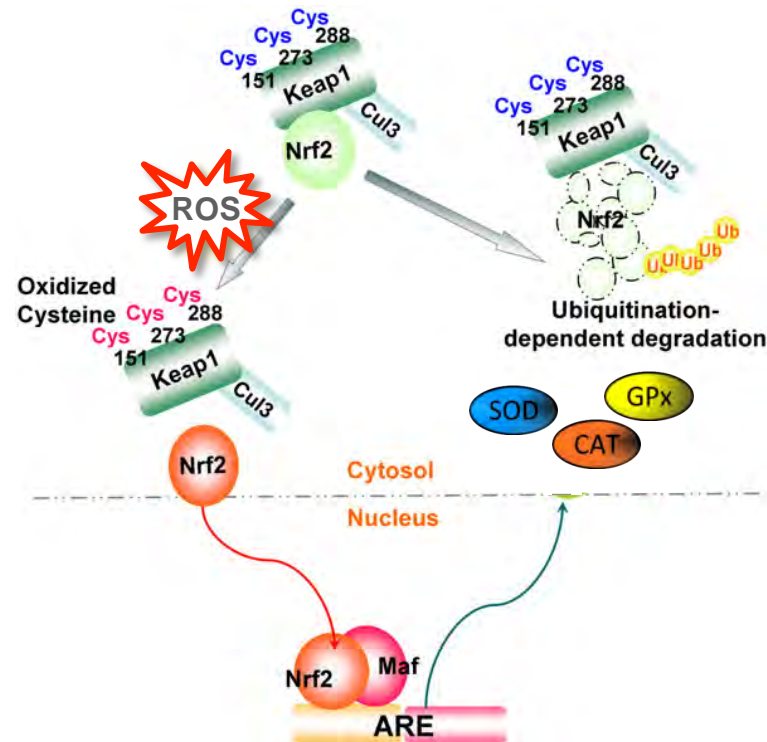
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# AOP on Impaired Adult Neurogenesis

## Adverse Outcome Pathway



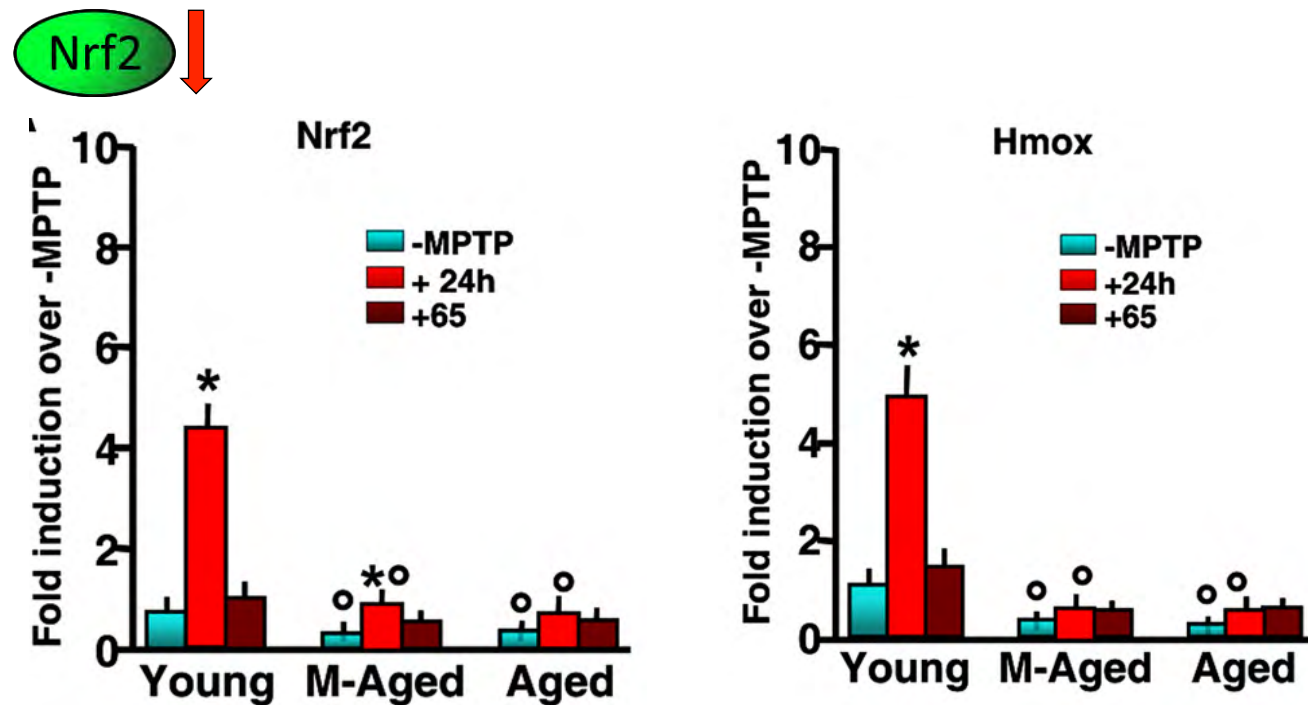
# The Nrf2 Signaling Pathway



- SOD Superoxide Dismutase
- CAT Catalase
- GPx Glutathion Peroxidase

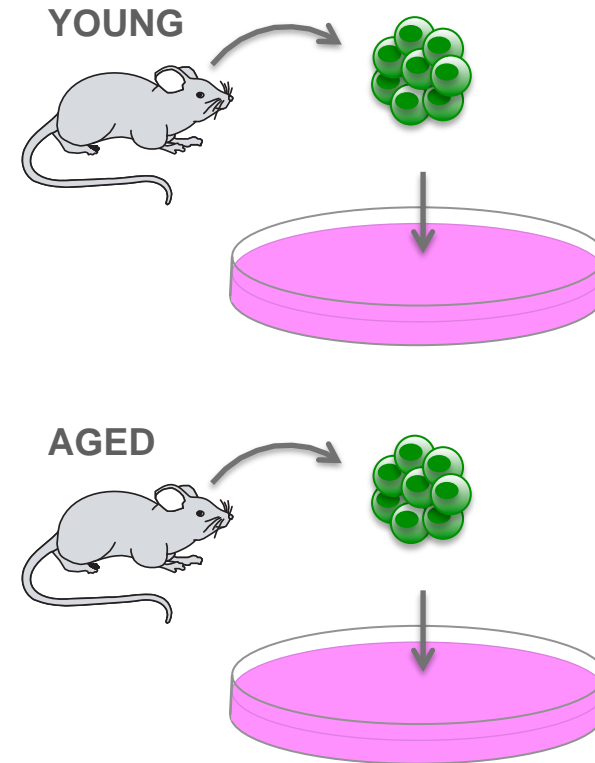
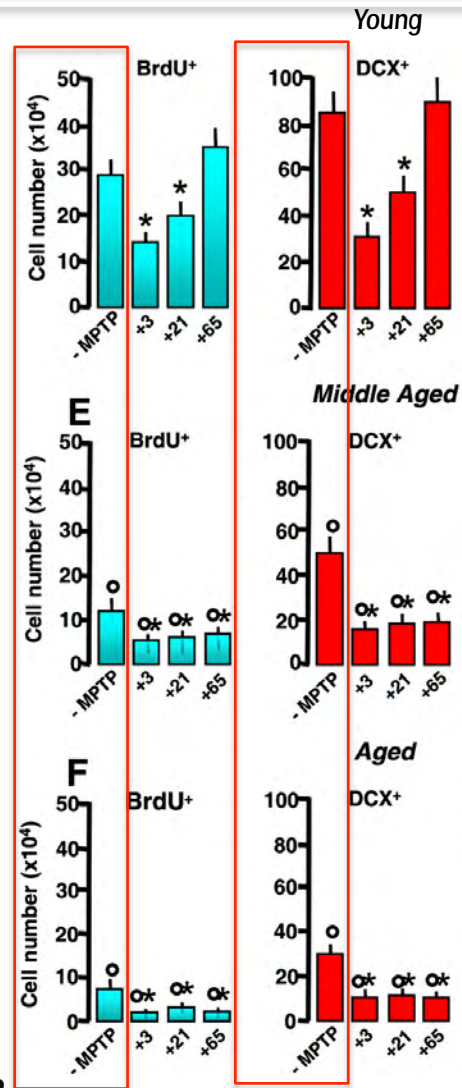
mod. after Ray et al. Cell. Signal. 2012

# Nrf2 Expression & Nrf2-dpdt gene expression decreases in aged SVZ in mice in vivo



L'Episcopo et al. J Neurosci 2013

# Age-related NPC function can be carried from brains *in vivo* to the dish *in vitro*



- NPC proliferation ↓
- DCX<sup>+</sup> & Tuji1<sup>+</sup> cells ↓

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L'Episcopo et al. J Neurosci. 2013

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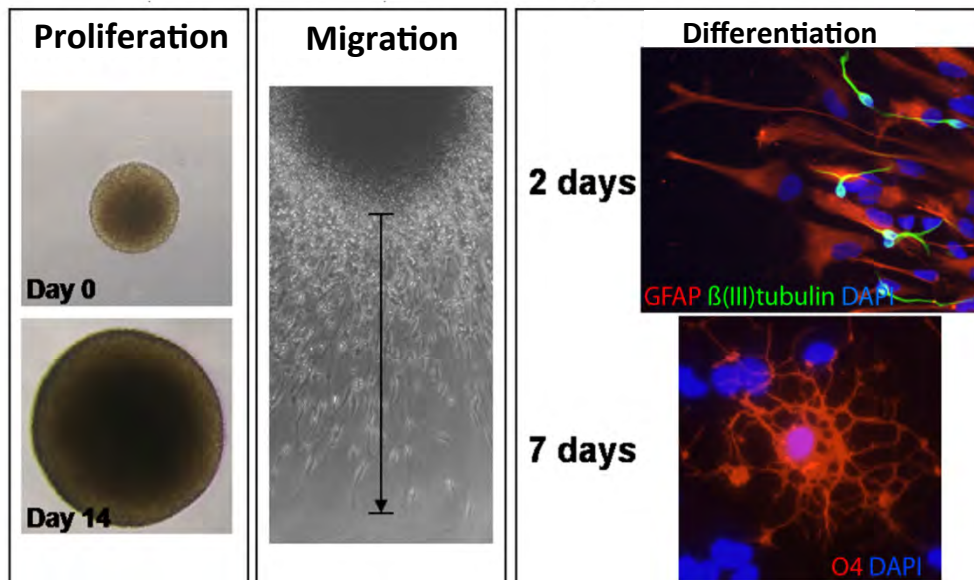
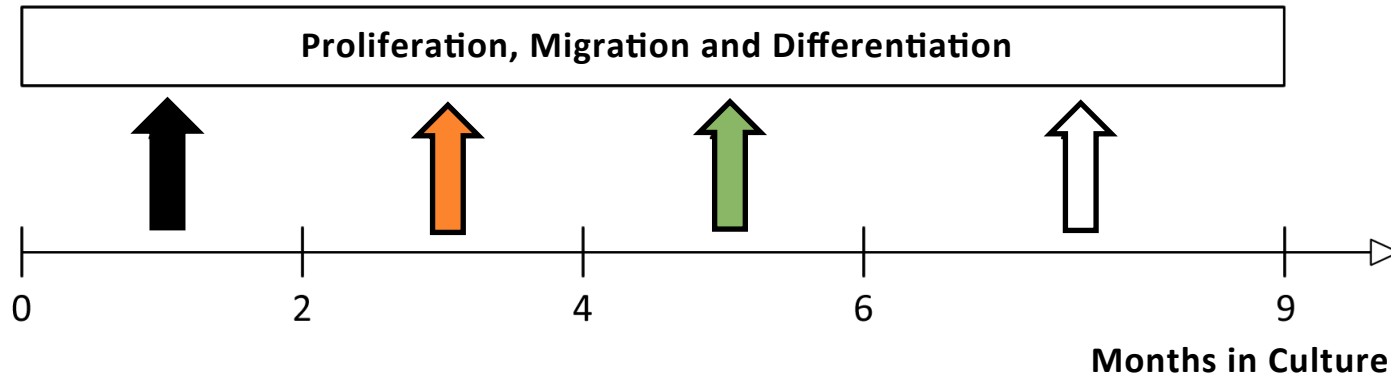


# Questions

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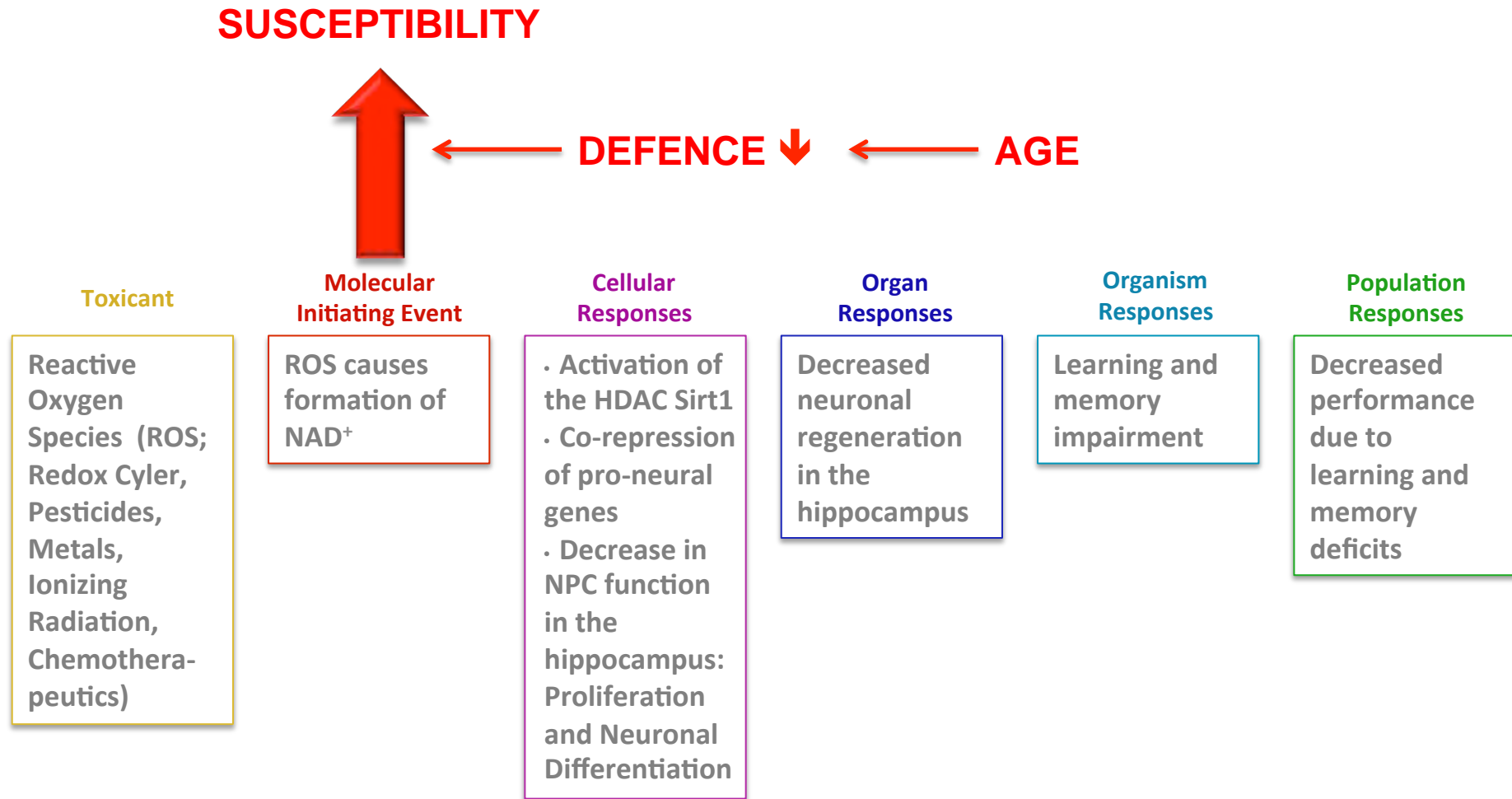
1. Is it possible to establish a human NPC aging assay *in vitro*?
2. What are the molecular mechanisms driving human NPC aging? Are they reflected by the AOP on 'Impaired Adult Neurogenesis'?
3. Can we develop a medium throughput test based on human NPC for assessing chemical effects on human adult neurogenesis?

# The Human Neurosphere Aging Assay



Fritsche et al. Environ Health Perspect 2005  
 Moors et al. Toxicol Appl Pharmacol 2007  
 Moors et al. Environ Health Perspect 2009  
 Moors et al. Genes & Immunity 2010  
 Tegenge et al. Cell. Mol. Life Sci. 2010  
 Schreiber et al. Environ Health Perspect 2010  
 Gassmann et al. Environ Health Perspect 2010  
 Verner et al. Toxicol in Vitro 2011  
 Fritsche et al. Methods Mol Biol 2011  
 Gassmann et al. Toxicol in Vitro 2012

# Age modulates AOP on Impaired Adult Neurogenesis



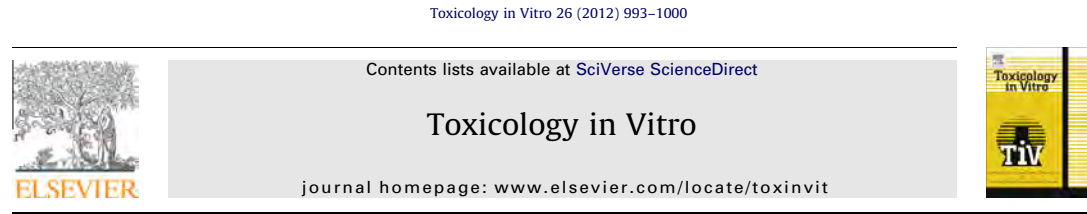
# Questions

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3. Can we develop a medium throughput test based on human NPC for assessing chemical effects on human adult neurogenesis?

# Applications of the Neurosphere Assay

- Medium Throughput:



Automated neurosphere sorting and plating by the COPAS large particle sorter is a suitable method for high-throughput 3D *in vitro* applications

K. Gassmann<sup>a,1</sup>, J. Baumann<sup>a,1</sup>, S. Giersiefer<sup>a,1</sup>, J. Schuwald<sup>a,1</sup>, T. Schreiber<sup>a</sup>, H.F. Merk<sup>b</sup>, E. Fritsche<sup>a,b,\*</sup>

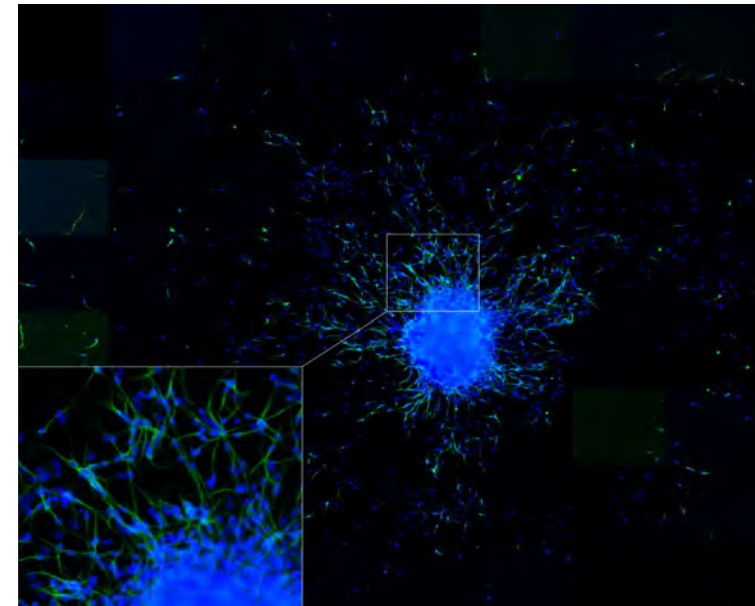
<sup>a</sup>Leibniz Research Institute for Environmental Medicine, Department Molecular Toxicology, Auf'm Hennekamp 50, 40225 Duesseldorf, Germany

<sup>b</sup>Universitaetsklinik, RWTH Aachen, Aachen, Germany

- High Content Image Analyses:

- Cell Biological or Molecular Endpoints reflecting AOP on 'Impaired Adult Neurogenesis'

- Chemical Testing with Species Comparison:  
**Poster**



# Acknowledgements

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Prof. Kai Stühler, HHU Düsseldorf



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**Thank you for your attention!**