# ASSESSING CHEMICAL INTEGRITY IN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN

Keith Solomon University of Guelph ksolomon@uoguelph.ca

# OUTLINE

- Identifying chemicals of concern
- Identifying sources
- Assessing effects
- Assessing risks of chemicals of concern
- Toxicity, hazard and risk
- Dealing with mixtures
- Conclusions



# IDENTIFYING CHEMICALS OF CONCERN

- The chemical is in the system
  - So what?
- By analogy because the chemical is in other systems

- Other systems are different?

• Must avoid Type-3 errors



Data from Weseloh et al, 1995

# **RESIDUES IN ORGANISMS**

 Presence in the organism does not mean that it is causing a problem.

- Canadian "Toxic Nation" report.

• Presence in the matrix does not mean that it is causing a problem.

Global Assessment

> of the State-of-the-Science of

#### Endocrine Disruptors

Edited by Terri Damstra Sue Barlow Aake Bergman Robert Kavlock Glen Van Der Kraak IPCS

6

WHO/PCS/EDC/02.5

CAUSAL CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS: A PROPOSED FRAMEWORK

IPCS. 2002. Global Assessment of the State-of-the-Science of Endocrine Disruptors. Geneva, Switzerland: International Programme on Chemical Safety of the World Health Organization Report No. WHO/PCS/EDC/02.2. August 2002. http://www.who.int/pcs

# **GUIDELINES FOR CAUSALITY**

Hill

- Temporality
- Strength of association
- Consistency
- Biological plausibility
- Recovery

Koch R. 1882. Die Aetiologie der Tuberculose. In: Clark DH, ed. Source Book of Medical History. Dover Publications, Inc. p 392–406
Hill AB. 1965. The environment and disease: association or causation? *Proc. Roy. Soc. Med.* 58:295-300

#### Koch









# **CAUSE FOR WORRY**

- The concentrations are increasing
  - PBDEs
  - PFOA and PFCs
  - Pharmaceuticals
- The substance biomagnifies
  - PBDEs, not tetrabromobisphenol A
  - PFOA/ long chain PFCs
- The substance is persistent or pseudopersistent
  - PBDEs
  - PFCs
  - Pharmaceuticals

# **IDENTIFYING SOURCES**

- Where is it coming from?
- Can we do anything about it?
  - Process changes
  - Source mitigation

# **PULP MILL EFFLUENTS**



# **EFFECTS IN FISH**



Data from Robinson et al, 1994

# IDENTIFYING THE KEY FRACTION



Hewitt ML, Smyth SAM, Dube MG, Gilman CI, Maclatchy DL. 2002. Isolation of compounds from bleached kraft mill recovery condensates associated with reduced levels of testosterone in mummichog (*Fundulus heteroclitus*). Environ Toxicol Chem 21:1359–1367.

# AGRICULTURAL PHARMACEUTICALS







Agricultural Surface Waters (n=97)



# ASSESSING RISKS OF CHEMICALS OF CONCERN

• Frameworks for risk assessment

# **RISK ASSESSMENT**



**USEPA 1998** 

## **TOXICITY, HAZARD, AND RISK**

• Toxicity is not Hazard is not Risk

Ranking of concerns in the absence of exposure information



# **EFFECTS CHARACTERIZATION**

- Laboratory studies
  - Surrogate species with standard protocols
  - Mechanisms of action
  - Simple mixtures



### ACUTE GROWTH INHIBITION ASSAYS







"All substances are poisons: there is none which is not a poison. The right dose differentiates a poison and a remedy"

#### **PARACELSUS**,1493-1541



# CARL FRIEDRICH GAUß 30 April 1777 - 23 Feb 1855



Assessment of risk based on likelihood of exposure and/or toxicity



### **PROBABILITY OF EFFECT**



# **DEALING WITH MIXTURES**

- Additive toxicity and using potency addition (TE).
- Whole effluent testing

### **TOTAL POTENCY AS TOXIC UNITS**



# **RISK ASSESSMENT**



- Special considerations
  - Chronic exposures from pseudopersistence
  - Non-traditional endpoints
  - Mixtures a reality and additivity likely

# **AQUATIC COSMS**



# EFFECT CHARACTERIZATION IN COSMS

- Community-down approach rapidly identify sensitive species in several trophic levels
- Observation of direct and indirect effects
- Structural and functional endpoints
- More realistic stressor exposure
- Range of concentrations upper and lower thresholds - multiple species - multiple responses
- Synthetic mixtures (Whole Effluent Test)



#### FATE OF TYLOSIN IN AQUATIC MICROCOSMS



# **MIXTURE CONCENTRATIONS**



# Zooplankton Community Response

Ciprofloxacin, Fluoxetine, Ibuprofen



Richards et al. 2004 ET&C

### Phytoplankton Community Response

Ciprofloxacin, Fluoxetine, Ibuprofen



Richards et al. 2004 ET&C

### **RESPONSE OF MYRIOPHYLLUM SIBIRICUM**

Tetracycline, oxytetracycline, chlortetracycline, and doxycycline



### **RESPONSE OF PLANKTON**



# CONCLUSIONS

- Identifying chemicals of concern
  - Need to consider causality
- Identifying sources
  - Not always easy
- Assessing effects
  - Need to consider effects above the level of the organism
- Assessing risks of chemicals of concern
  - Cannot rely on traditional tests with traditional endpoints
- Toxicity, hazard and risk
  - Probabilistic approaches are promising
- Dealing with mixtures
  - Complex but whole effluent testing offers advantages

# THANK YOU

ksolomon@uoguelph.ca