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# Assessment of unbound target site-concentration in brain and lungs: methodological considerations and practical implications

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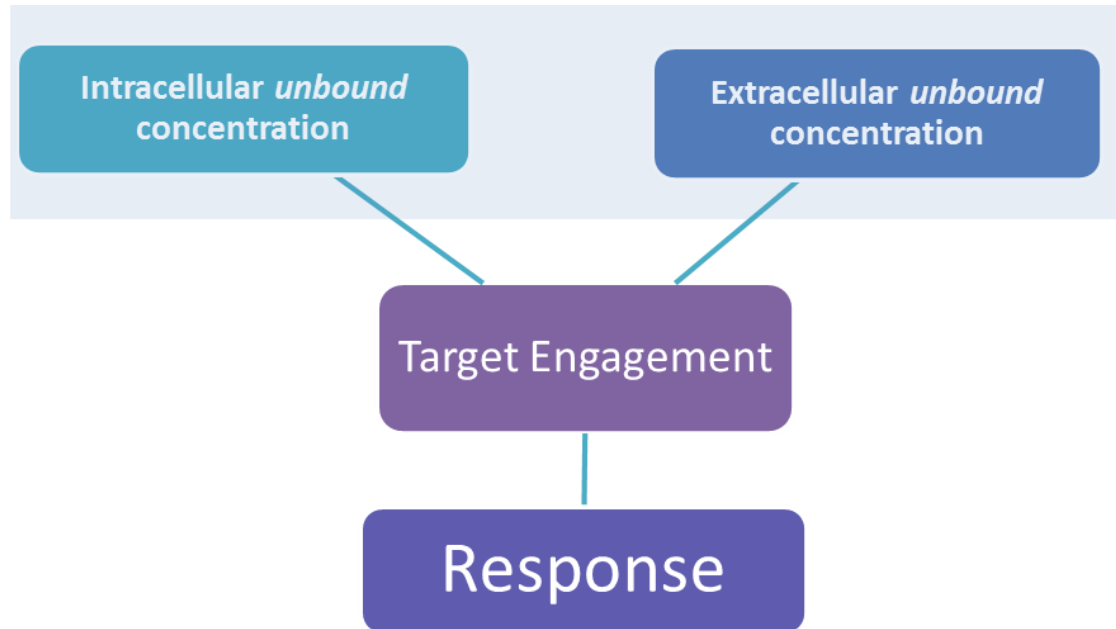
Translational PKPD Group  
Uppsala University, Sweden

8<sup>th</sup> Meet the Experts: Transporter Conference  
26-27 April, 2018  
Budapest, Hungary



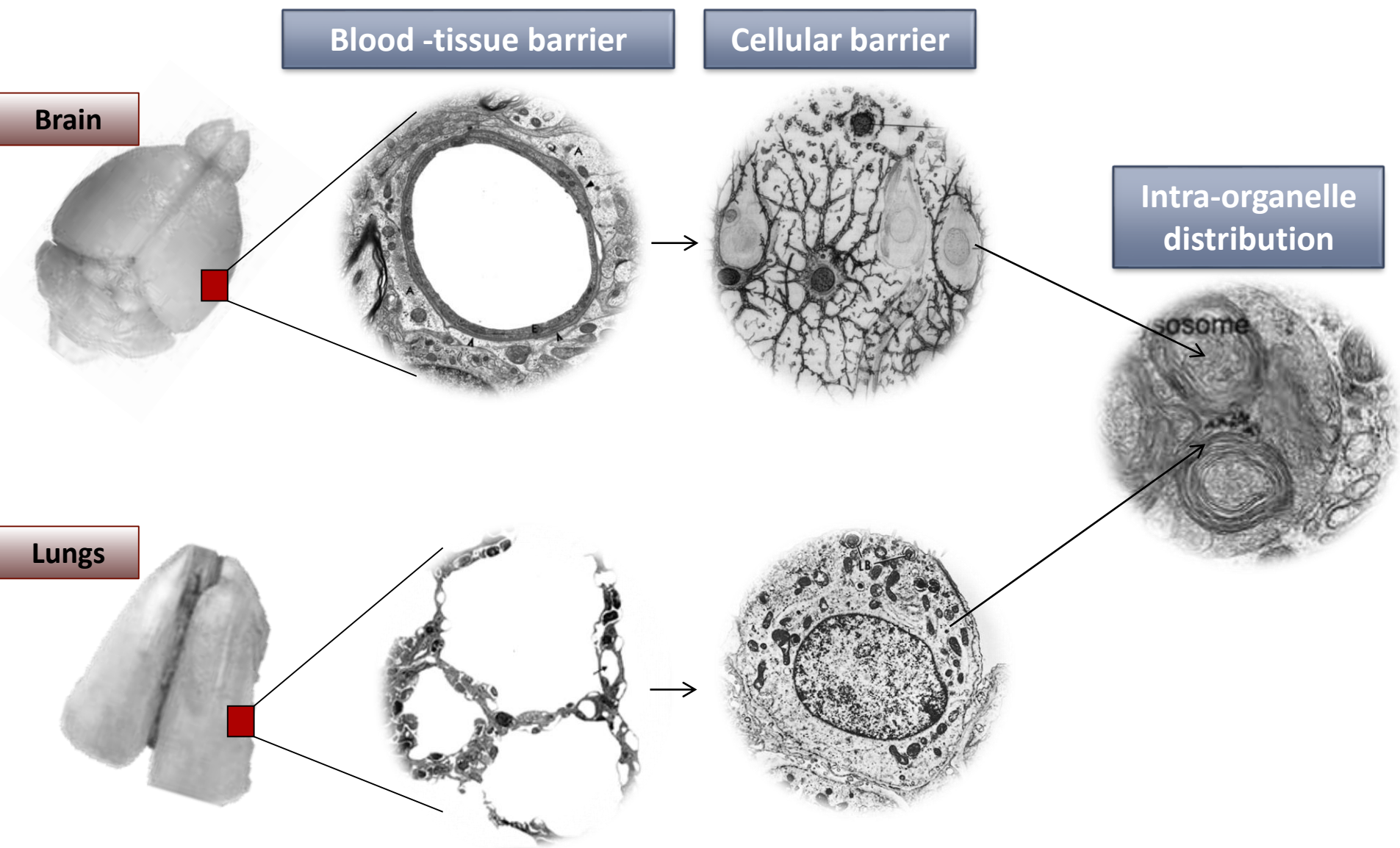


# Drug target-site exposure as a driver of response





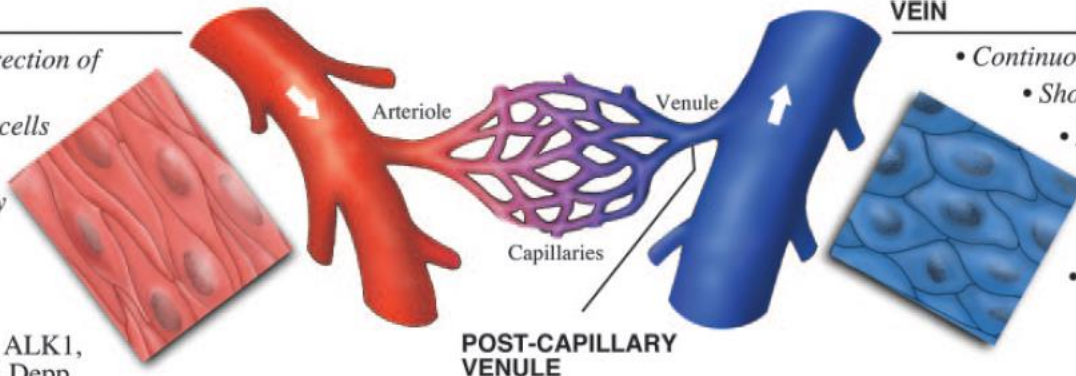
# Assessment of target-site exposure



# Heterogeneity of endothelium

## ARTERY

- ECs aligned in direction of undisturbed flow
- Long and narrow cells
- Continuous endothelium with many tight junctions
- No valves
- Specific markers  
Ephrin B2, DII4, ALK1, EPAS-1, Hey1/2, Depp, NRP1



## VEIN

- Continuous endothelium
- Shorter, wider cells
- Not aligned in direction of blood flow
- Possess valves
- Specific markers  
EphB4, NRP2, COUP-TFII

## POST-CAPILLARY VENULE

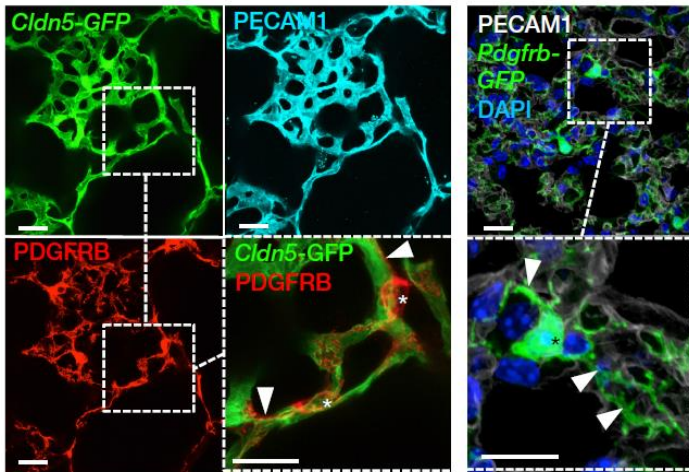
- Caveolae in thin areas, VVOs in thick portions

## CAPILLARY

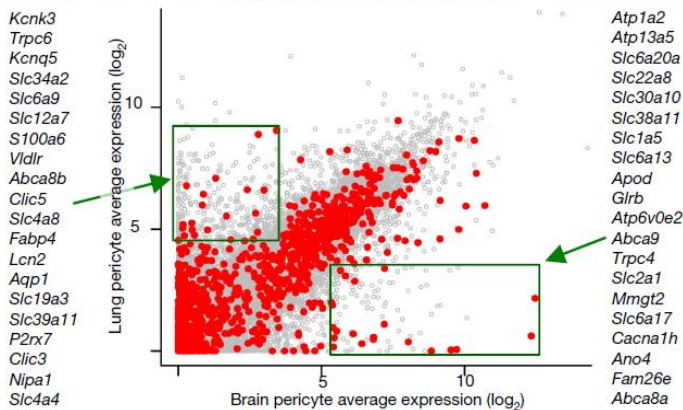
- More caveolae compared to artery and vein (except for the blood-brain barrier)
- ECs highly adapted to underlying tissues
- Many phenotypic differences between different vascular beds

TYPES		
CONTINUOUS		DISCONTINUOUS
Non-fenestrated	Fenestrated	
<p>Caveolae TE channel</p> <p>Caveolae VVO</p>	<p>Caveolae TE channel Fenestrae</p>	<p>Caveolae</p> <p>Gaps</p>
e.g. muscle; lung; skin; blood brain barrier	e.g. kidney glomerulus; gastrointestinal tract	e.g. liver; marrow sinus

# Organotypicity of cells

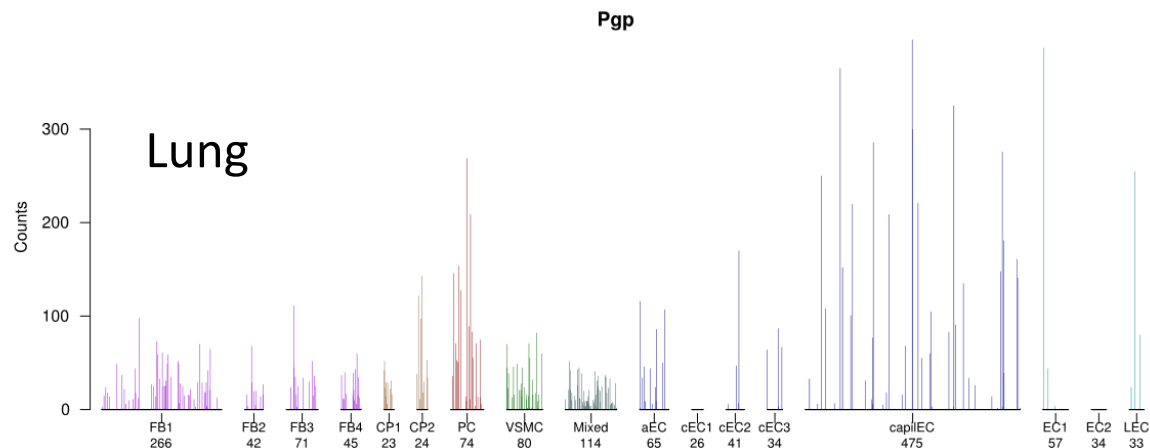
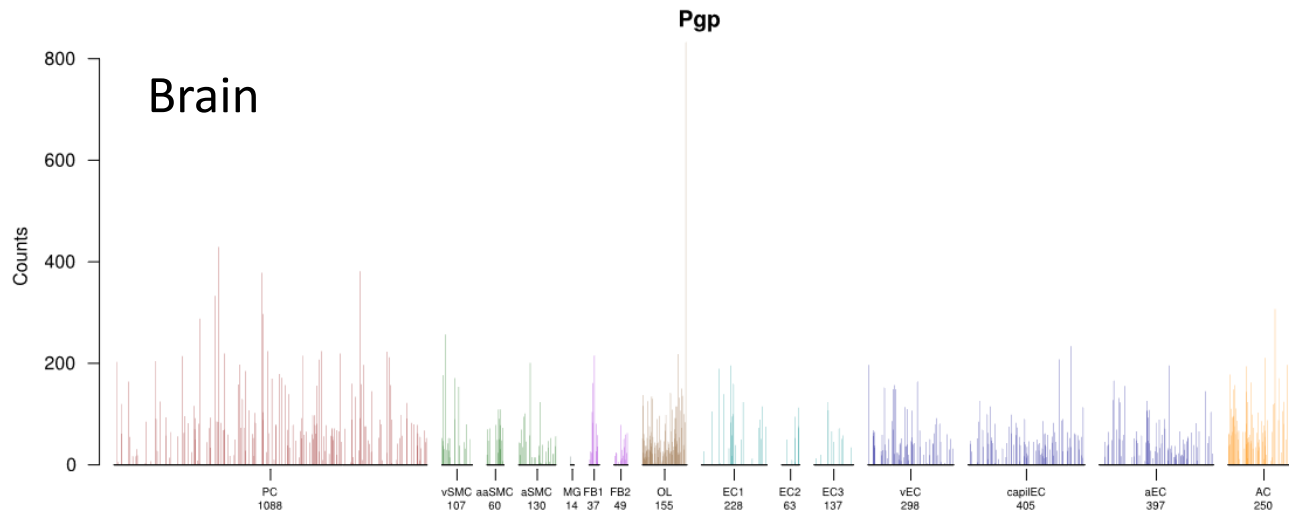


*Cldn5*-GFP and PECAM1 immunofluorescence mark endothelial cells, and *Pdgfrb*-GFP and PDGFRB immunofluorescence mark pericytes in mouse lung. Insets show pericytes at high magnification.



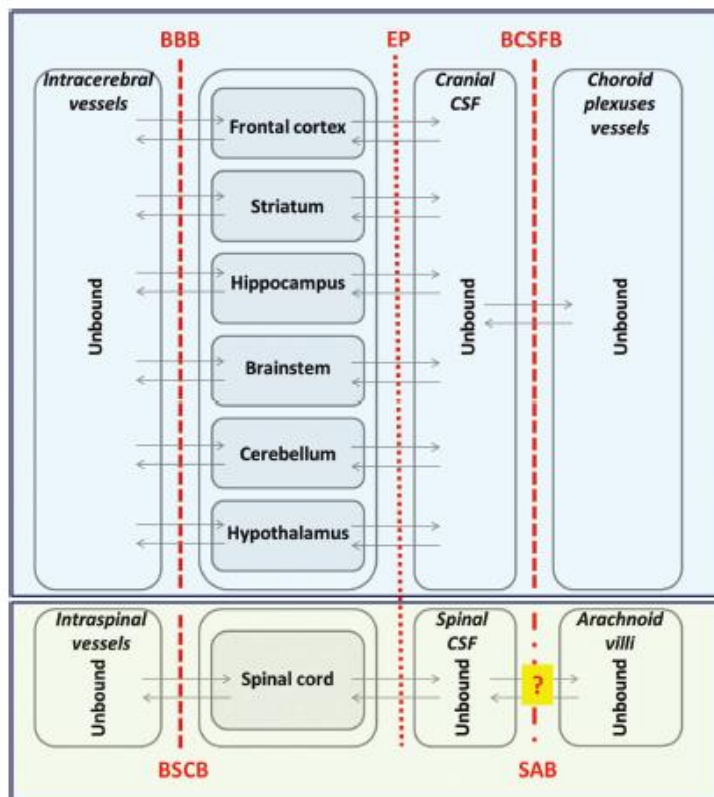
Transporters (red) in brain and lung pericytes. The 20 most differentially expressed transporters are indicated for each cell type.

# P-gp detailed expression in each cell in brain and lungs

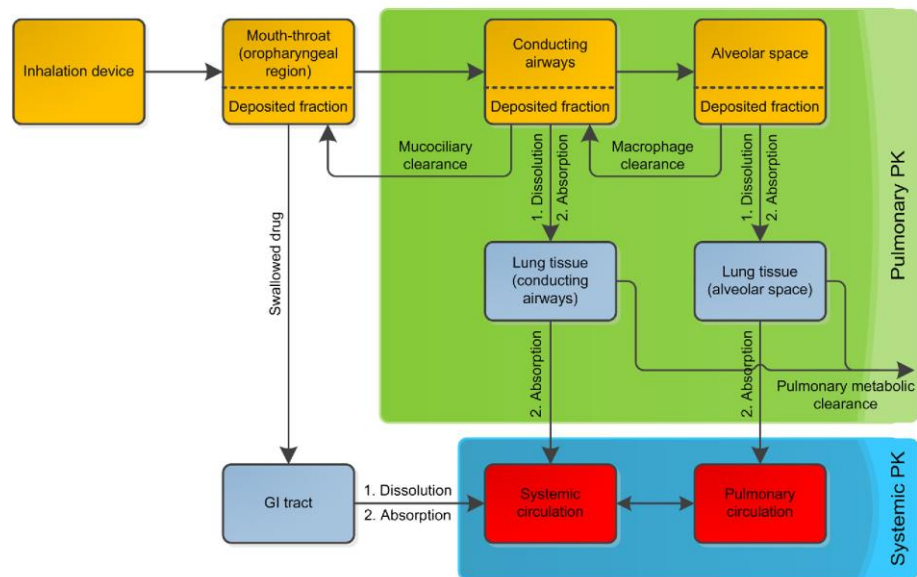


<http://betsholtzlab.org/VascularSingleCells/database.html>

# Where, when and how to measure drug concentration in CNS and lungs?



Loryan et al, MolPsychiatry, 2016



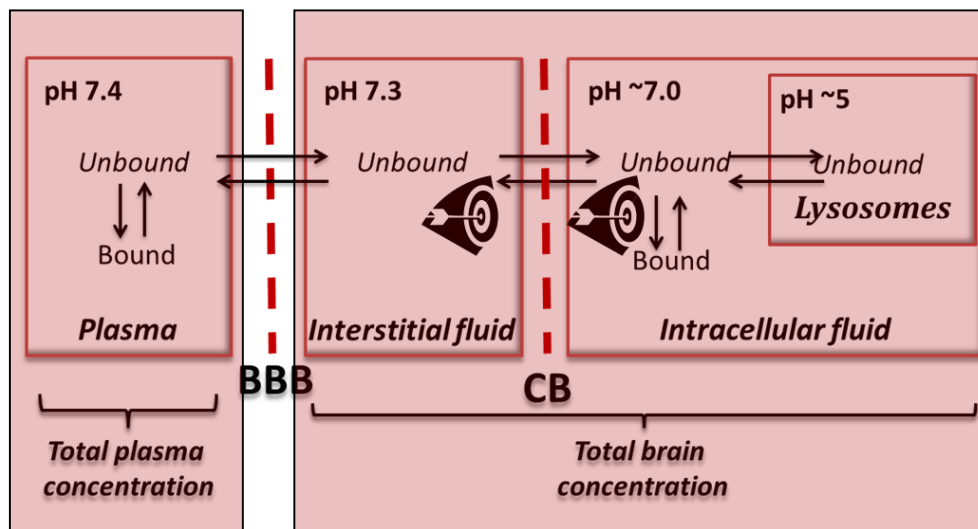
Borghardt et al, the AAPS journal, 2015





# Assessment of equilibrium distribution ratio in the brain regions of interest (ROI), $K_{p,ROI}$

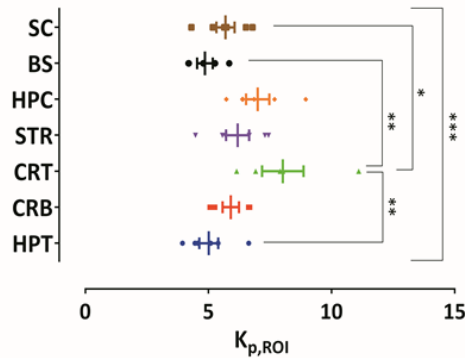
$$K_{p,ROI} = \frac{C_{tot,ROI,ss}}{C_{tot,plasma,ss}} = \frac{AUC_{tot,ROI}}{AUC_{tot,plasma}}$$



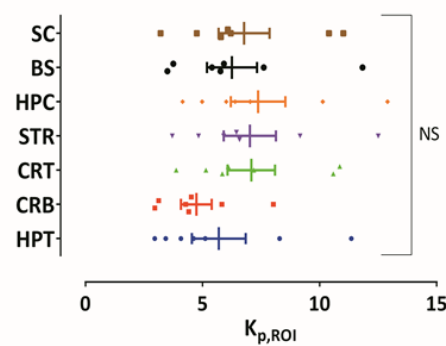
$K_{p,ROI}$  describes the extent of total drug transport across the BBB and is confounded by nonspecific binding

# Equilibrium distribution ratio in brain regions and spinal cord, $K_{p,ROI}$

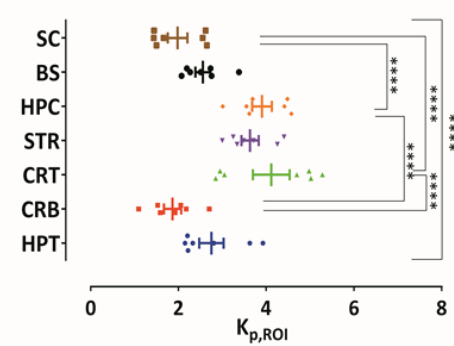
Haloperidol



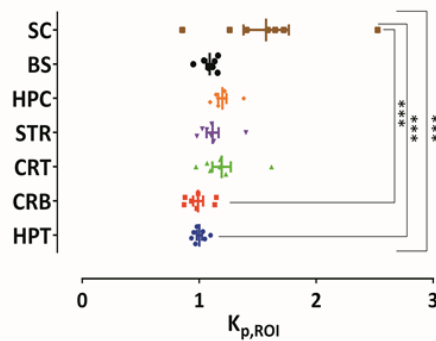
Clozapine



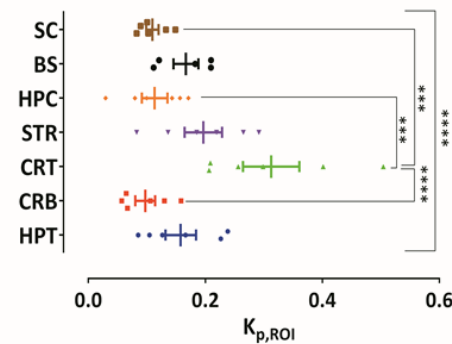
Olanzapine



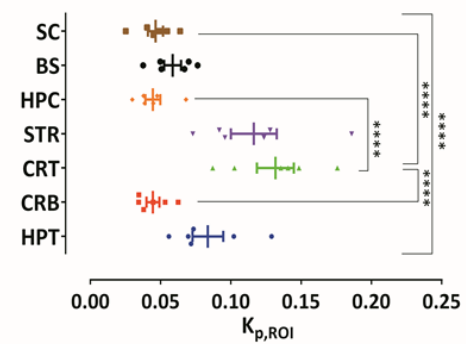
Quetiapine



Risperidone



Paliperidone



SC – spinal cord, BS – brainstem, HPC – hippocampus, STR – striatum, CRT – cortex, CRB – cerebellum, HPT – hypothalamus

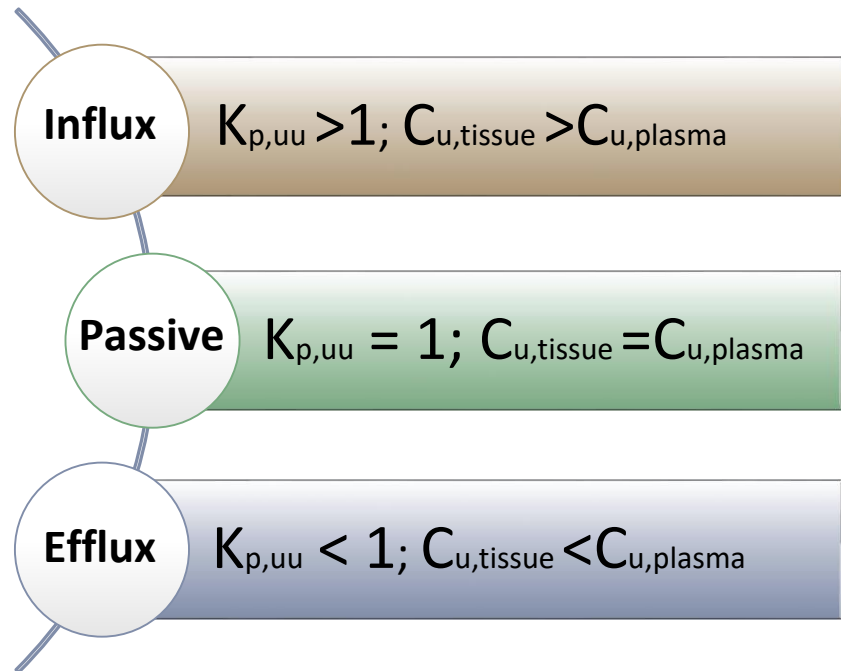
Loryan et al, MolPsychiatry, 2016

# Tissue-specific transport across the barrier, $K_{p,uu}$

$K_{p,uu}$  quantifies the net flux of drug across the BBB, including the quantitative role of transporters, without being confounded by nonspecific binding in blood and brain tissues.

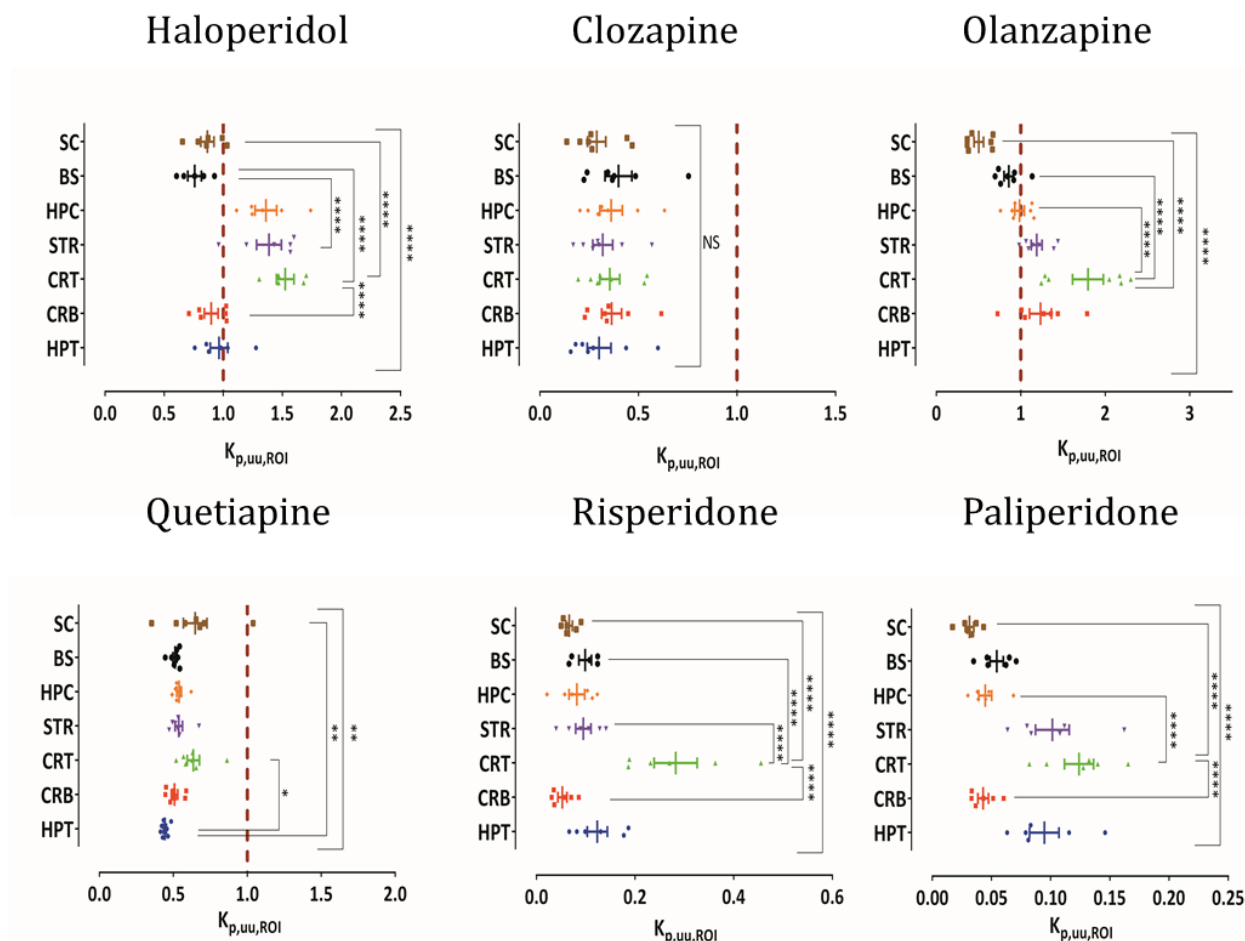
*Gupta et al, DMD, 2006; Hammarlund-Udenaes et al, PharmRes, 2008*

$$K_{p,uu,brain} = \frac{K_{p,brain}}{V_{u,brain} \cdot f_{u,plasma}}$$





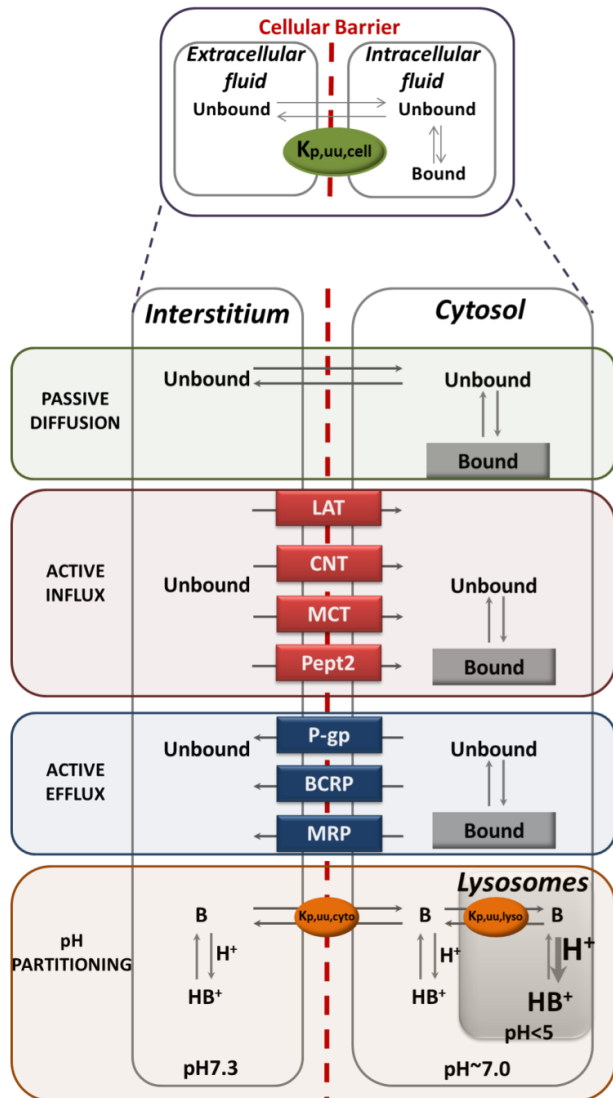
# Comparative characteristics of the extent of BBB/BSCB transport ( $K_{p,uu,ROI}$ ) of antipsychotics in CNS



SC – spinal cord, BS – brainstem, HPC – hippocampus, STR – striatum, CRT – cortex, CRB – cerebellum, HPT – hypothalamus

Loryan et al, MolPsychiatry, 2016

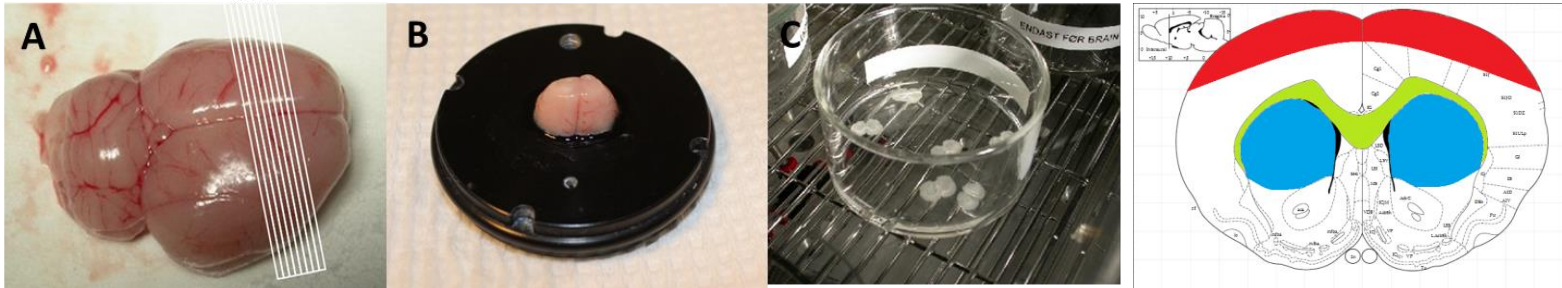
# Post BBB intra-brain drug distribution



Processes governing intra-brain distribution:

- nonspecific binding
- specific binding
- active transport at cellular barrier
- pH partitioning etc

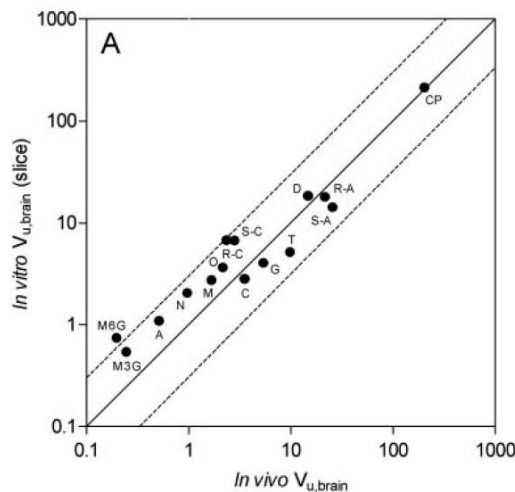
# Assessment of overall drug uptake into the brain



Preparation of fresh  
brain slices

Equilibration

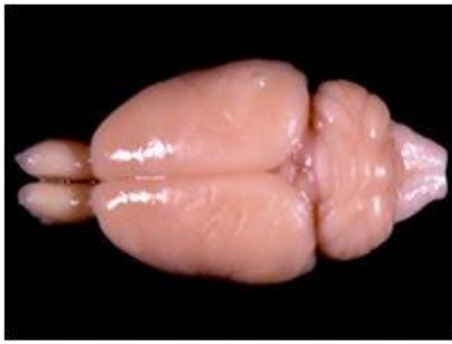
Measurement of  $C_{\text{buffer}}$   
and  $C_{\text{brain slice}}$



At equilibrium  $C_{\text{buffer}} = C_{\text{u,brainISF}}$

$$V_{u,\text{brain}} = \frac{A_{\text{brain}}}{C_{\text{buffer}}}$$

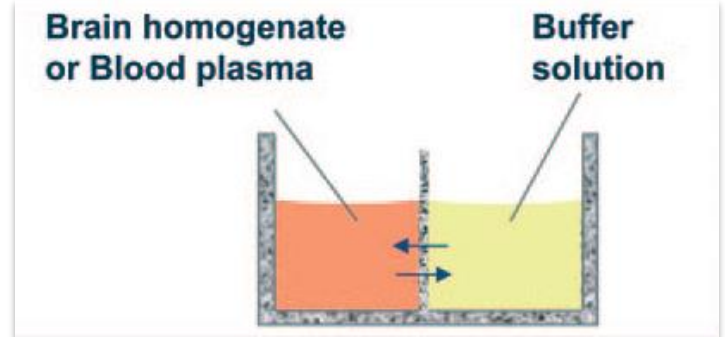
# Assessment of regional brain tissue binding (nonspecific)



Preparation of brain homogenate



Equilibrium dialysis



Measurement of  $C_{buffer}$  and  $C_{homogenate}$

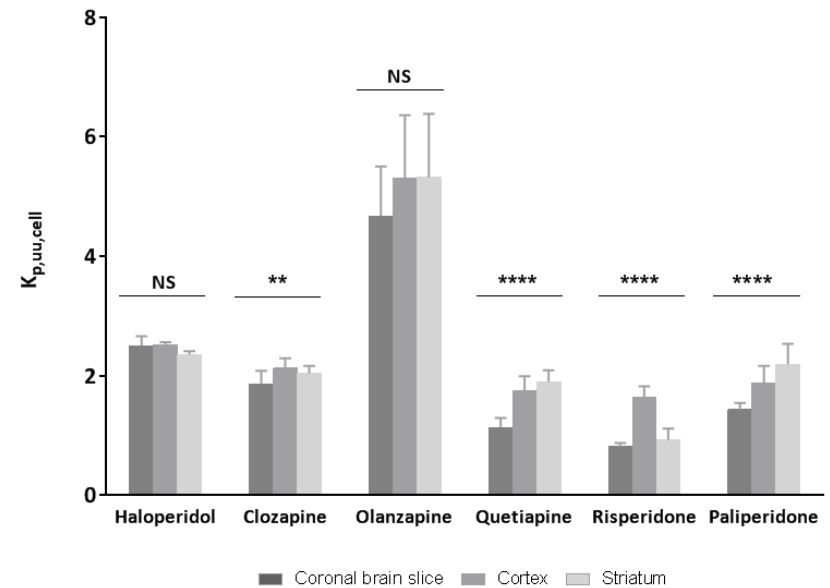
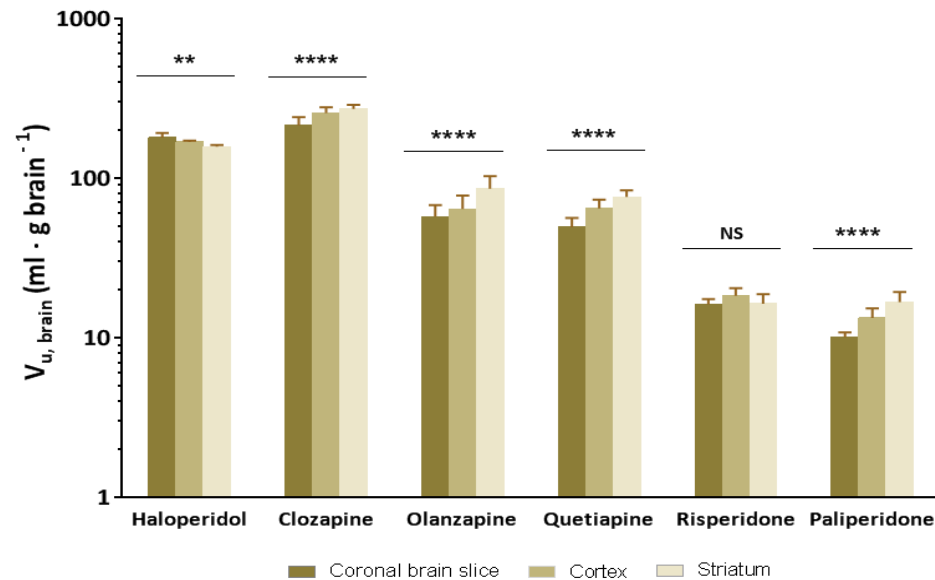
**Fraction of unbound drug in brain homogenate,  $f_{u,brain}$**

$$f_{u,hD} = \frac{C_{buffer}}{C_{homogenate}} \Rightarrow f_{u,brain} = \frac{\frac{1}{D}}{\left(\left(\frac{1}{f_{u,hD}}\right) - 1\right) + \frac{1}{D}}$$

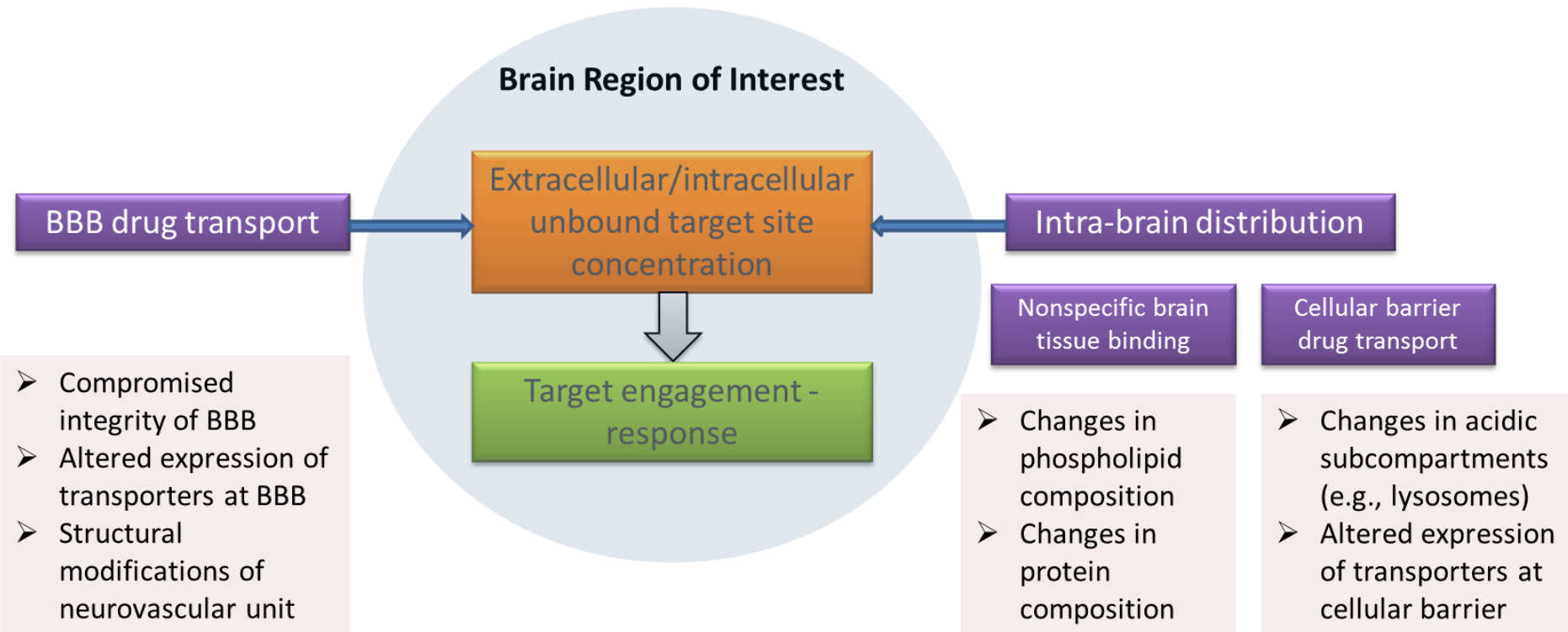
D – dilution factor



# Intra-brain distribution of neuroleptics in cortex and striatum



# Factors affecting the brain regional drug disposition

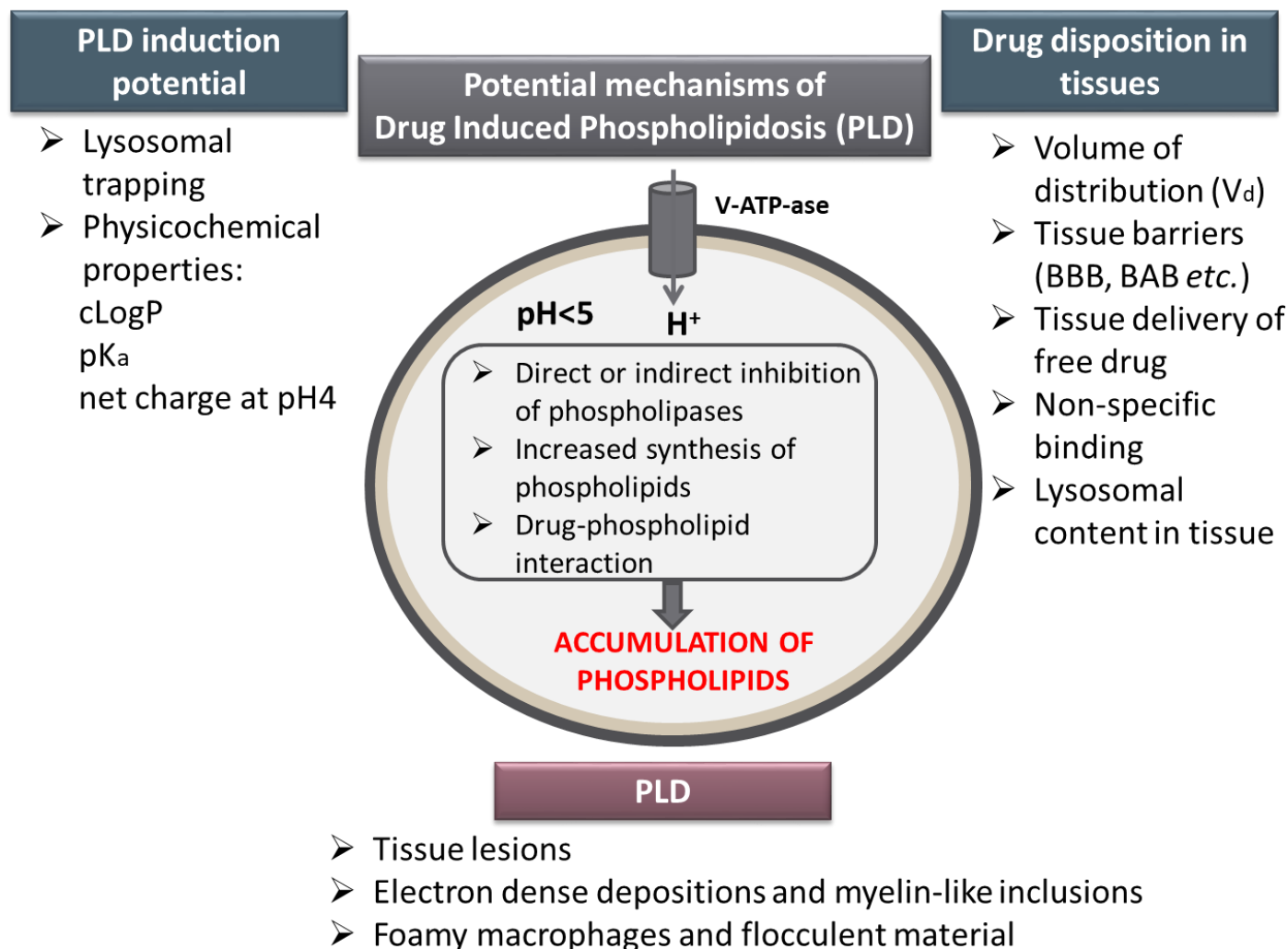


*Loryan and Hammarlund-Udenaes (in manuscript)*

# Summary I

- ✓ CMA-ROI was used for the assessment of target-site concentration in brain regions of the interest.
- ✓ Significant spatial differences were observed in the extent of transport of antipsychotics across the BBB and BSCB.
- ✓ The dissimilarities were more pronounced for the P-gp substrates risperidone (5.4-fold) and paliperidone (4-fold).

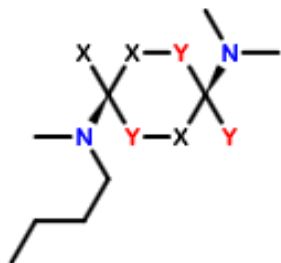
# Drug induced phospholipidosis (PLD): Interplay between drug-specific and tissue-specific features



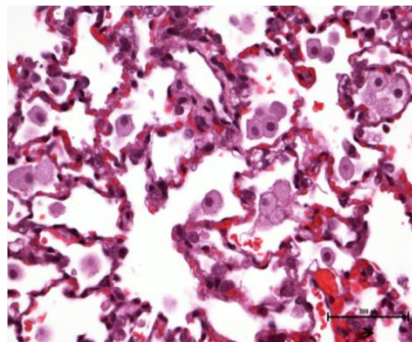


# Retrospective analysis on PLD in preclinical development

A

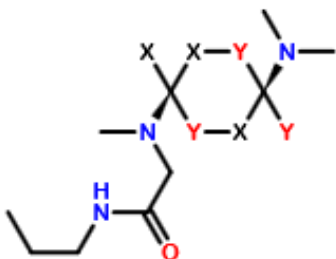


Log P= 5.6  
pKa=7.06/9.73



Representative micrograph from histopathological investigation of lung tissue after 14-day repeated oral administration of 100 mg/kg of A to Wistar rats.

B



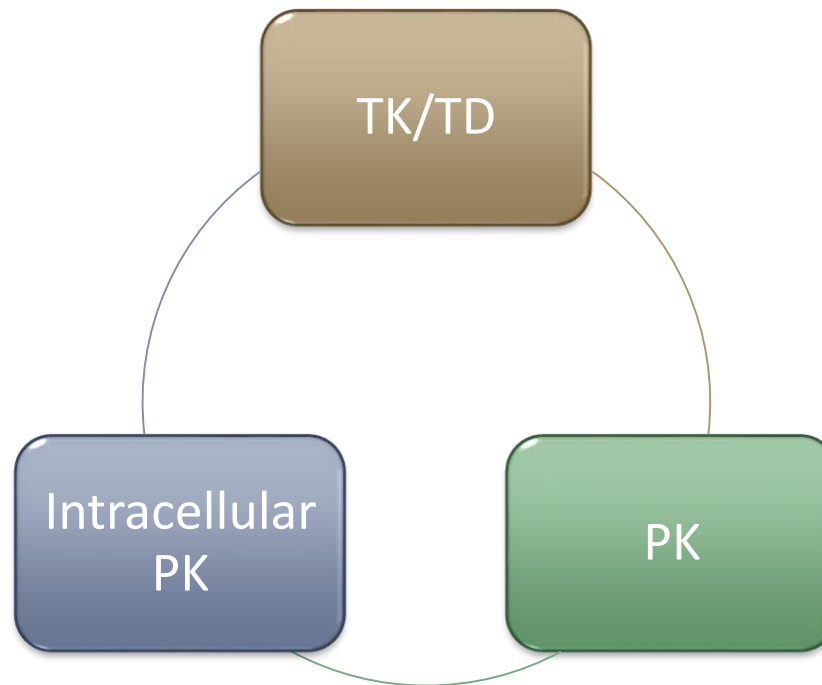
Log P= 4.7  
pKa=3.75/9.33



*Loryan&Hoppe et al, MolPharm, 2017*

## Aim & Specific tasks

To provide pharmacokinetic basis for mechanistic understanding of tissue-specific PLD development using CMA approach.



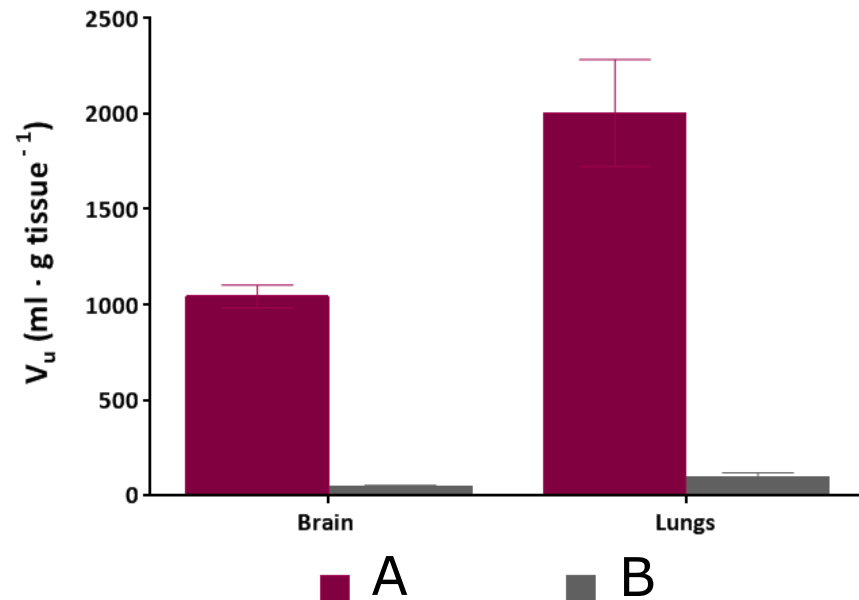
# Intra-cerebral and intra-pulmonary distribution, $V_u$

Preparation of fresh  
brain / lung slices

Equilibration

Measurement of  $C_{buffer}$   
and  $C_{slice}$

$$V_u = \frac{Amount_{slice}}{Concentration_{buffer}}$$

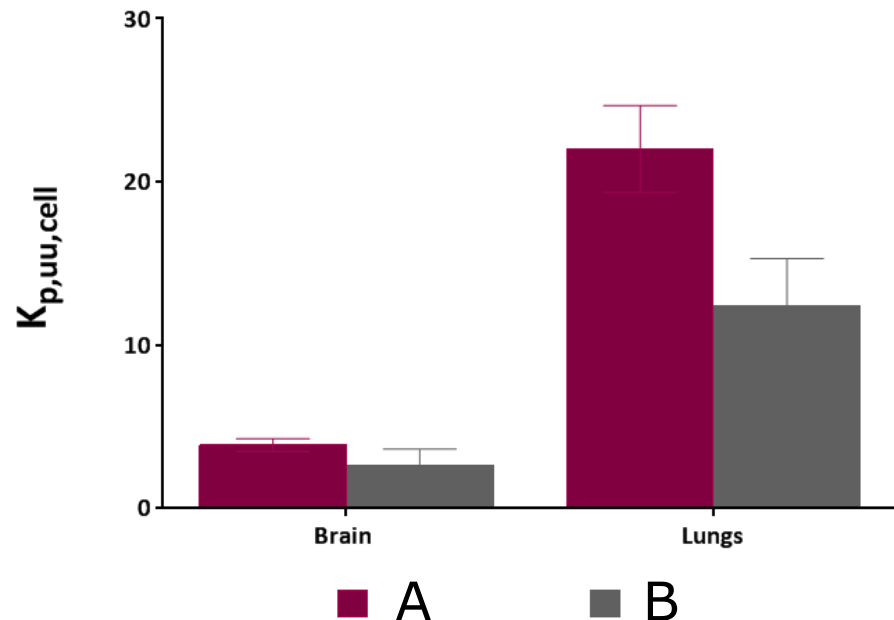


# Tissue-specific cellular barrier transport, $K_{p,uu,cell}$

$K_{p,uu,cell}$  is intracellular-to-extracellular unbound drug concentrations ratio and it describes the average concentration ratio for all cell types within the brain/lung.

*Friden et al, DMD, 2007; Bäckström et al, JPharmSci, 2016*

$$K_{p,uu,cell} = V_u \cdot f_u$$





# Tissue-specific transport across the barrier, $K_{p,uu}$

$$K_{p,uu,tissue} = \frac{K_{p,tissue}}{V_{u,tissue} \cdot f_{u,plasma}}$$

**Influx**

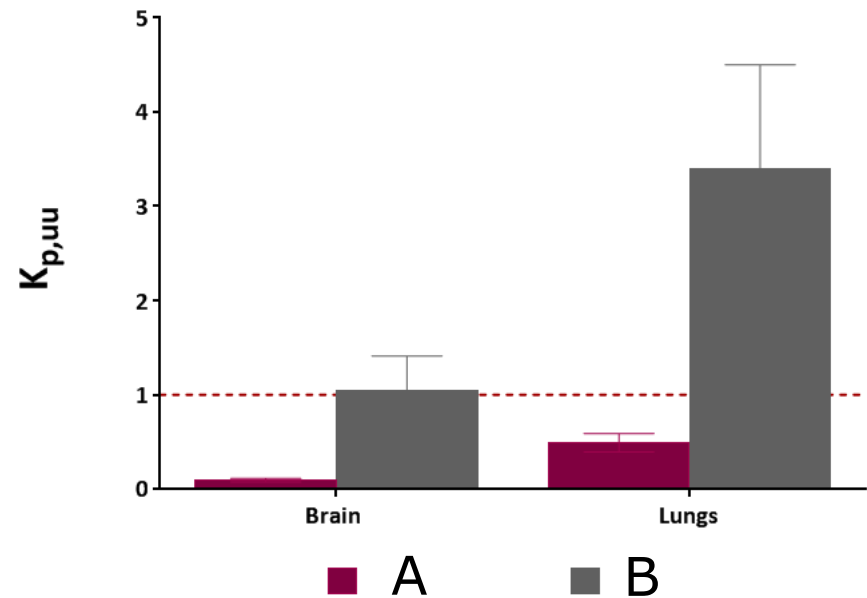
$K_{p,uu} > 1; C_{u,tissue} > C_{u,plasma}$

**Passive**

$K_{p,uu} = 1; C_{u,tissue} = C_{u,plasma}$

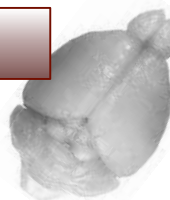
**Efflux**

$K_{p,uu} < 1; C_{u,tissue} < C_{u,plasma}$



# Summary

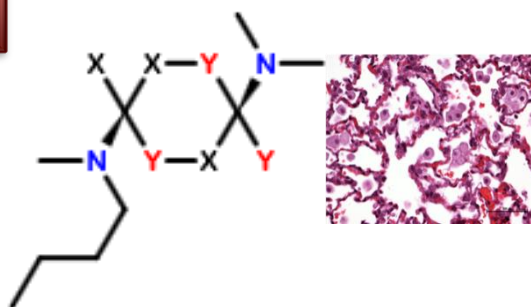
Brain



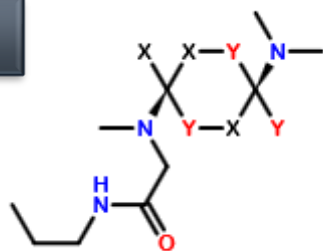
Lungs



A



B



↓↓↓ BBB transport  
 ↑ cellular barrier uptake  
 ↑↑ lysosomal trapping

= BBB transport  
 ↑ cellular barrier uptake  
↑ lysosomal trapping

↓ BAB transport  
↑↑↑ cellular barrier uptake  
↑↑↑ lysosomal trapping

↑ BAB transport  
 ↑↑ cellular barrier uptake  
↑↑ lysosomal trapping

## Summary II

- ✓ CMA was applied for assessment of tissue-specific target-site concentration.
- ✓ The compound and tissue-specific differences in the blood-tissue barrier and cellular barrier transport were observed.
- ✓ Tissue-specific target-site exposure assessment was beneficial for understanding of potential pharmacokinetic mechanisms of PLD.

# Acknowledgments



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