

## Predicting Estrogen Receptor Binding within Categories

**Rick Kolanczyk**  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Research and Development  
National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory  
Mid-Continent Ecology Division  
Duluth, MN

## Estrogen Receptor Toxicity Pathway

- Need is derived from Food Quality Protection Act – “estrogens”
- Chemical binding to ER is known to cause adverse effects
  - Toxicity Pathway
- Diverse chemicals bind to ER
- Drug bioassays for ER binding are not relevant
  - drug-design assays optimized for high affinity binders
  - environmental hazard may come from low affinity binding

## ***Development and use of a QSAR requires clear Problem Definition***

- The purpose of the QSAR application must be well-defined (e.g., **priority setting for testing**, and chemical-specific risk assessment are two very different purposes)
- The **chemicals of regulatory concern must be defined** to develop a database of tested chemicals (training set) for QSAR development

### EPA Office of Pesticide Programs: Food Use Inerts & Antimicrobials

- Get 'lists'
- Characterize structures
- Assess coverage of existing data (training sets, TrSets)
- Select chemicals for testing to strategically expand structure space to maximize information gained from every structure tested

## **Defining the Problem: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs *Food Use Inerts List - Structures***

List from OPP/RD included:

893 entries = **393** discrete chemicals + **500** non-discrete substances  
(44% discrete : 56% non-discrete)

**393 discrete chemicals** include:

366 organics (93%)  
24 inorganics (6%)  
3 organometallics (1%)

**500 non-discrete substances** include:

147 polymers of mixed chain length  
170 mixtures  
183 undefined substances

## Defining the Problem: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs *Antimicrobials/Sanitizers - Structures*

Lists from OPP/AD included:

299 = **211** discrete chemicals + **88** non-discrete substances  
(71% discrete : 29% non-discrete)

**211 discrete chemicals** include:

153 organics (72%)  
52 inorganics (25%)  
6 organometallics-acyclic (3%)

**88 non-discrete substances** include:

25 polymers of mixed chain length  
35 mixtures  
28 undefined substances

## *In-lab Testing = Training Set*

### The Issue:

Assay protocols optimized to increase confidence in quantifying activity of low potency compounds  
Compare EPA Office of Pesticide Programs chemical structures to existing ER data

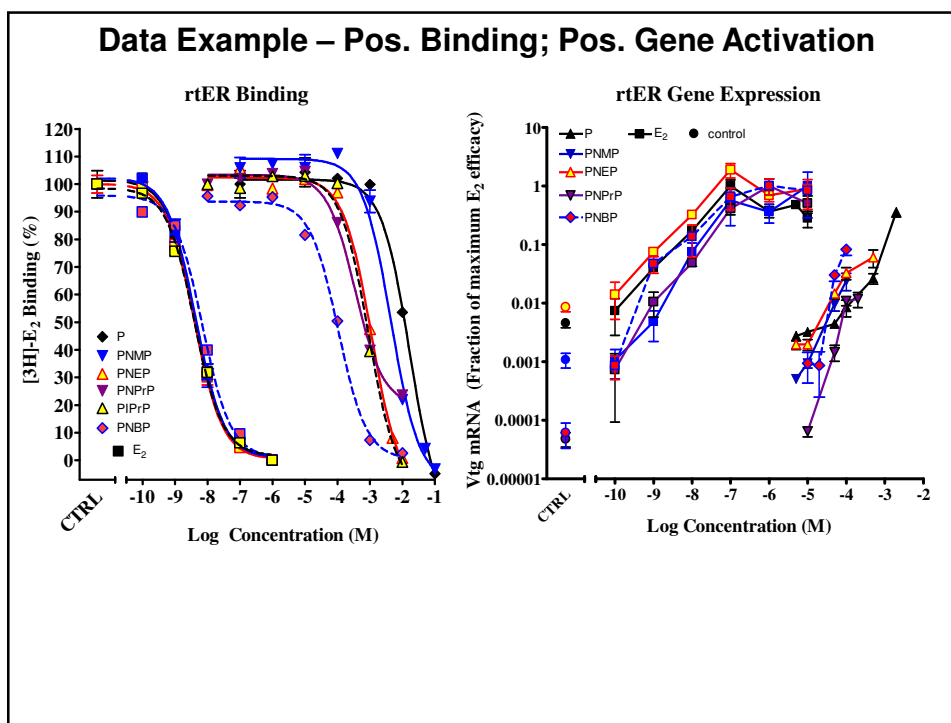
### The assays:

1) ER binding –

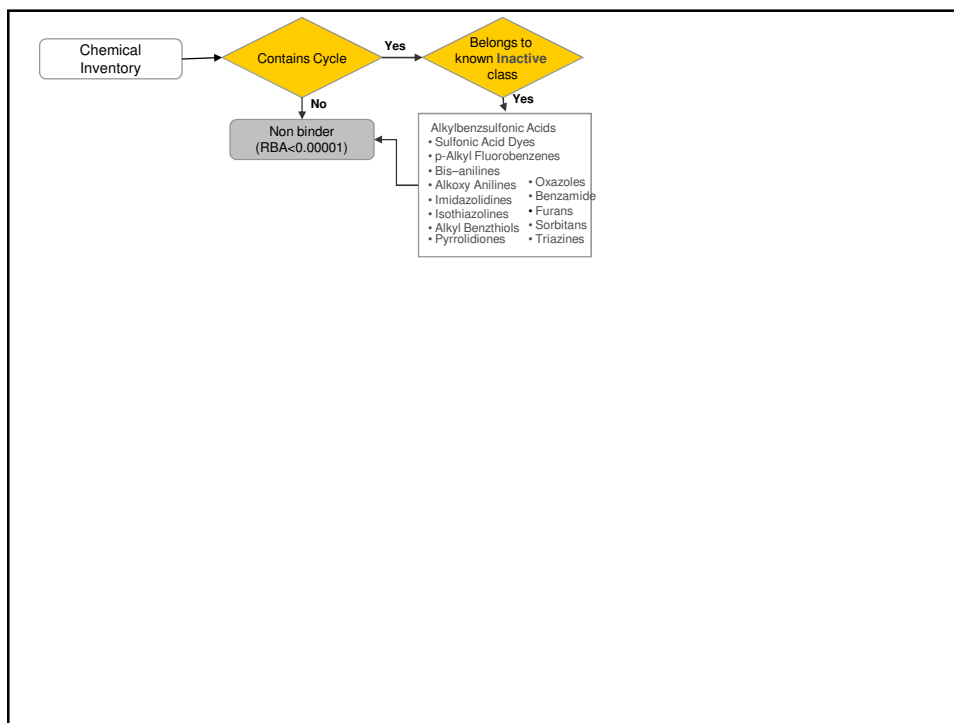
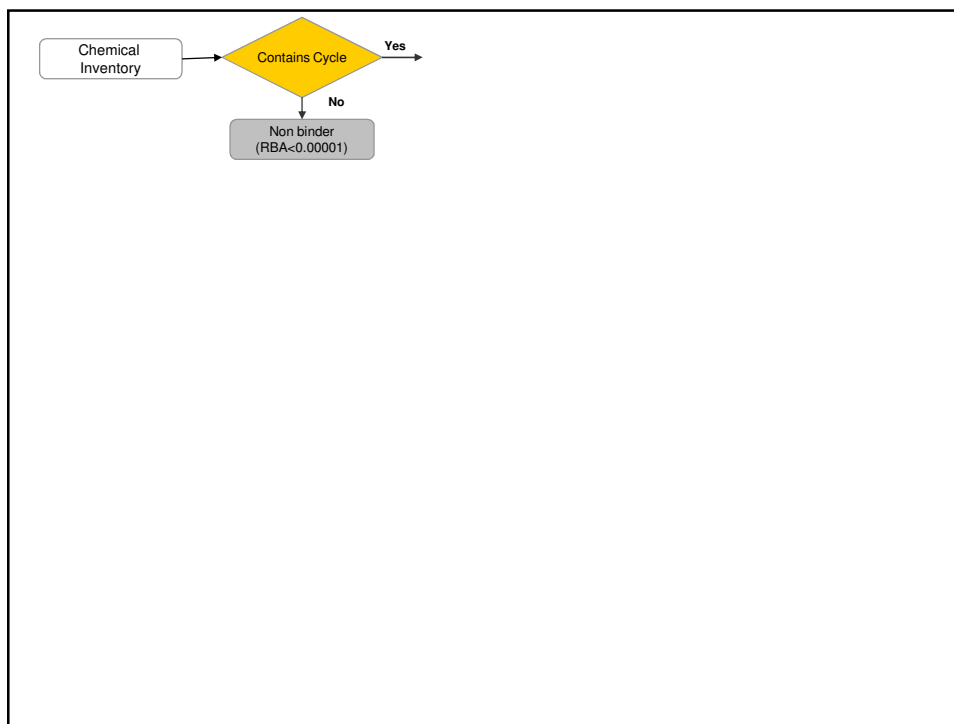
- standard competitive binding assay optimized for low affinity binders
- Rainbow trout liver cytosol (rtER)

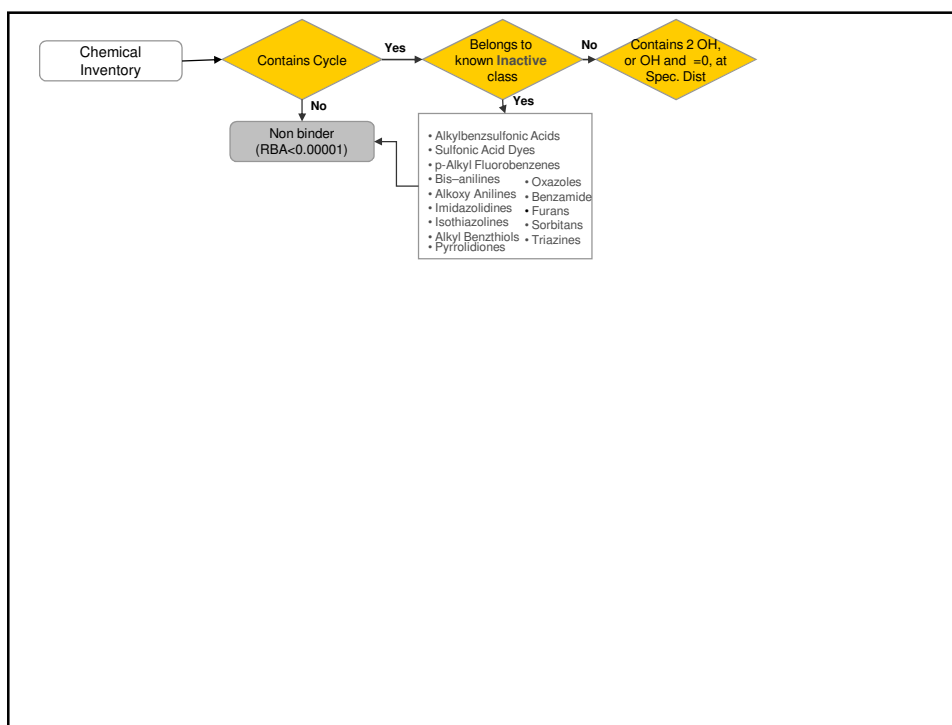
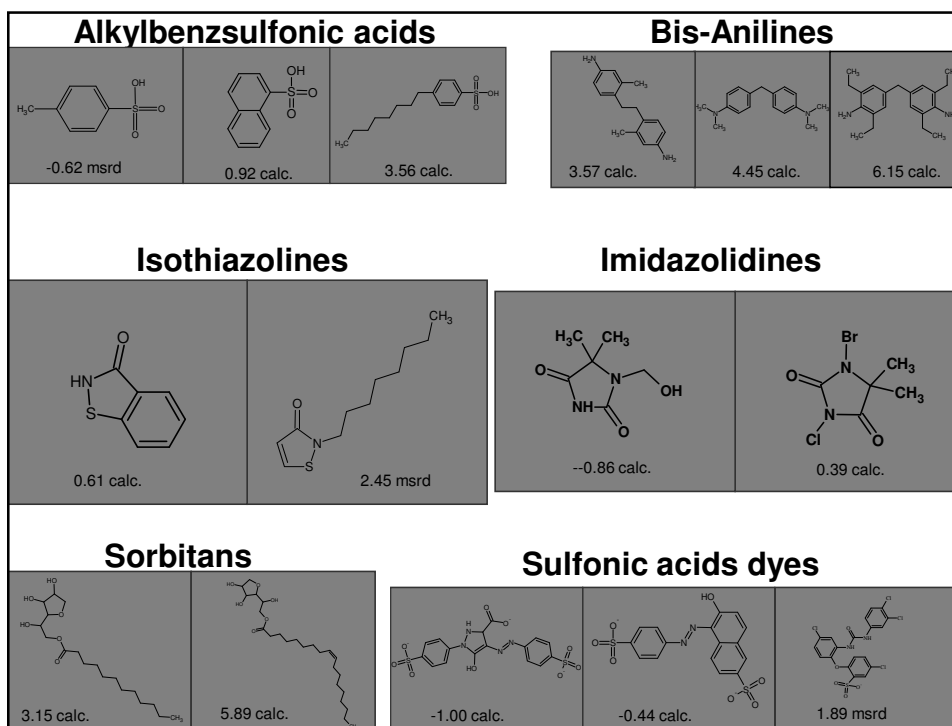
2) Gene Activation

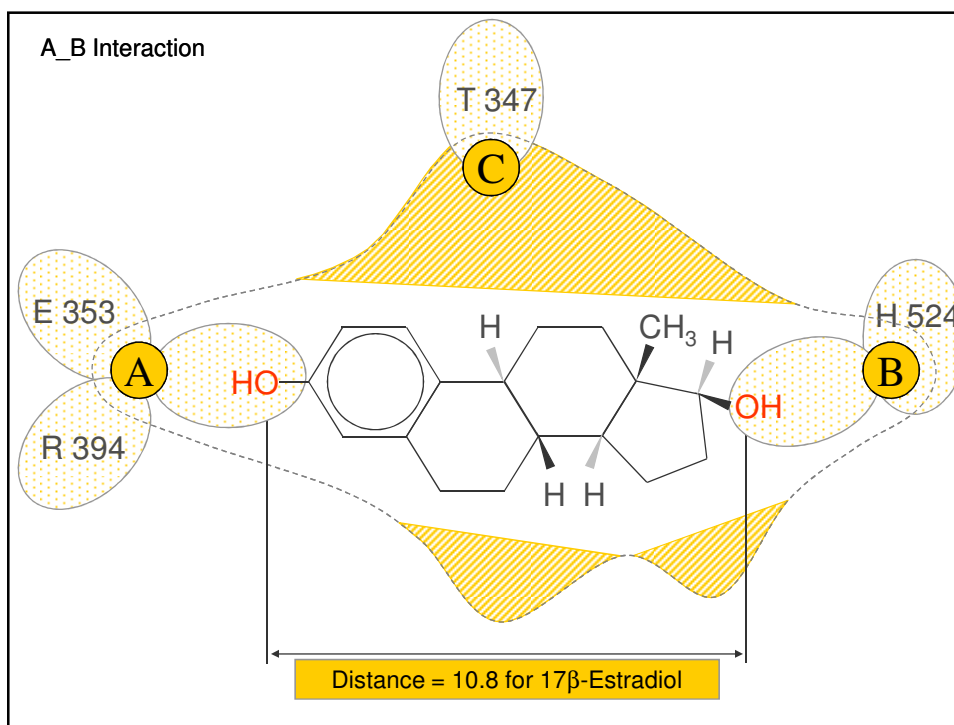
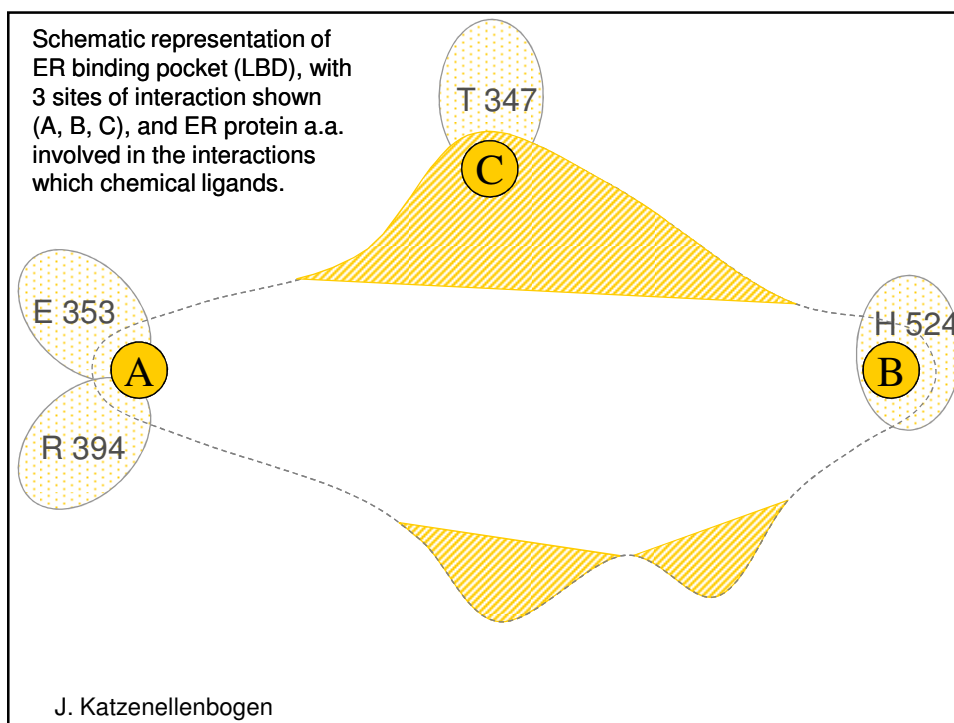
- trout liver slice - vitellogenin mRNA
- Endogenous metabolism

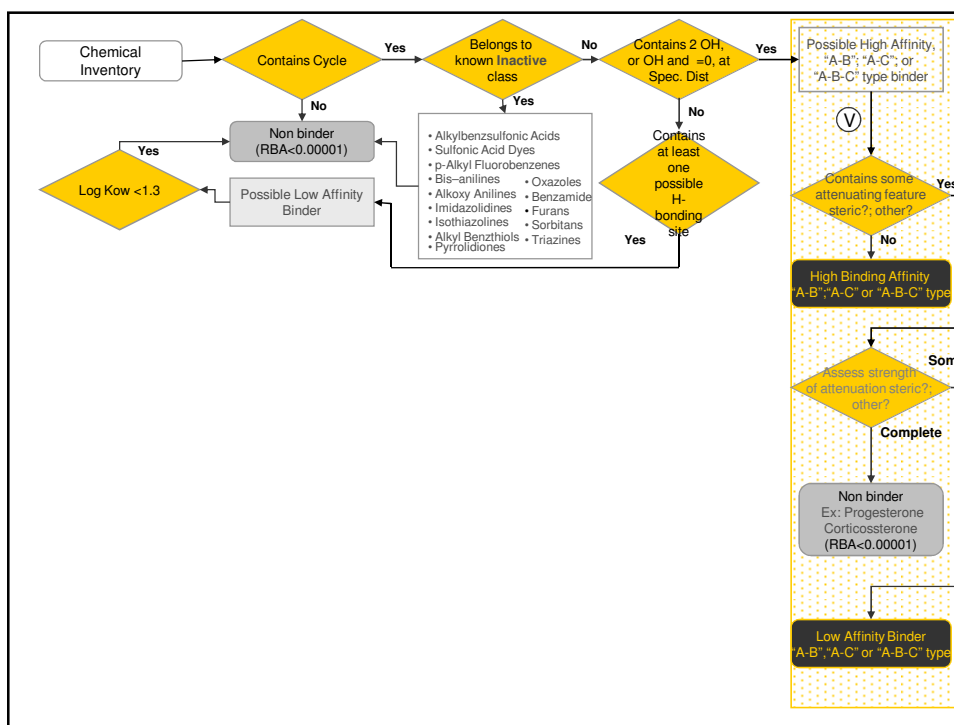
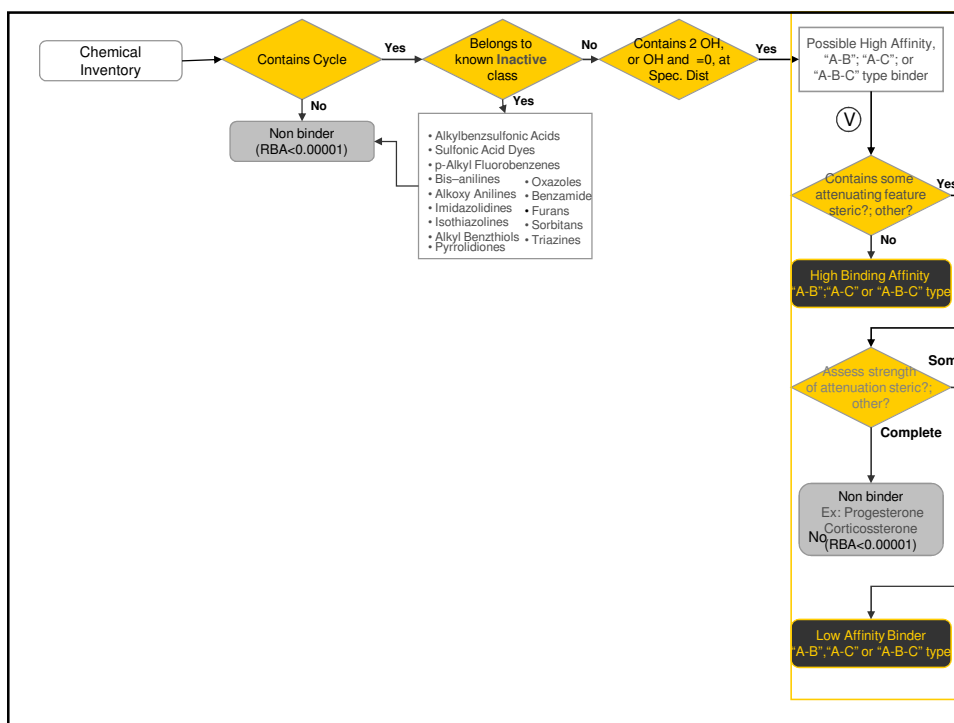


## Building a Decision Tree with Categories

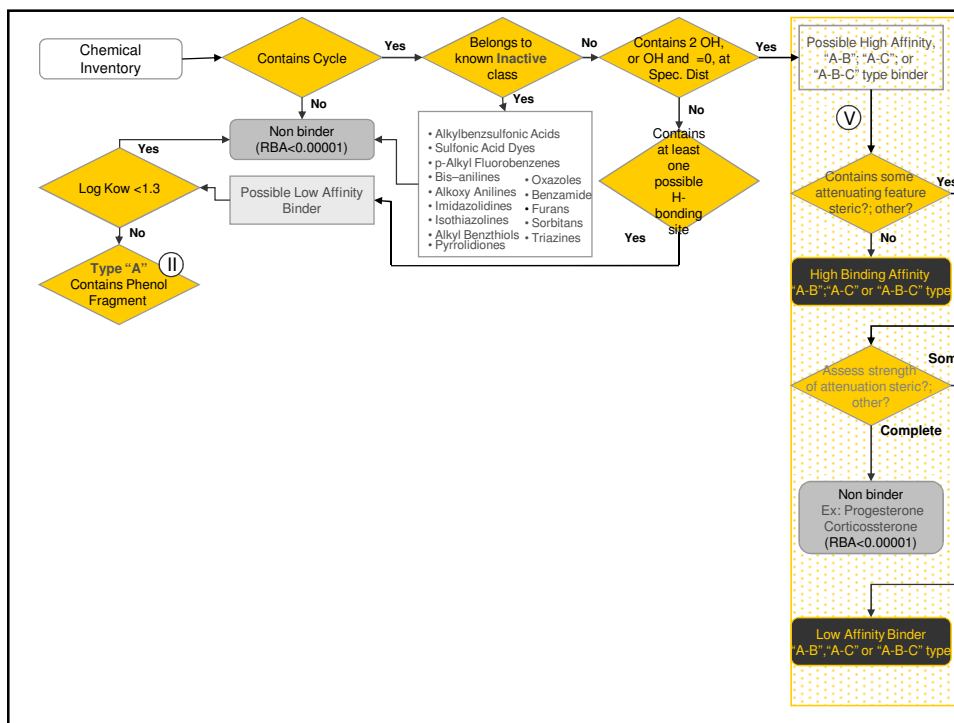
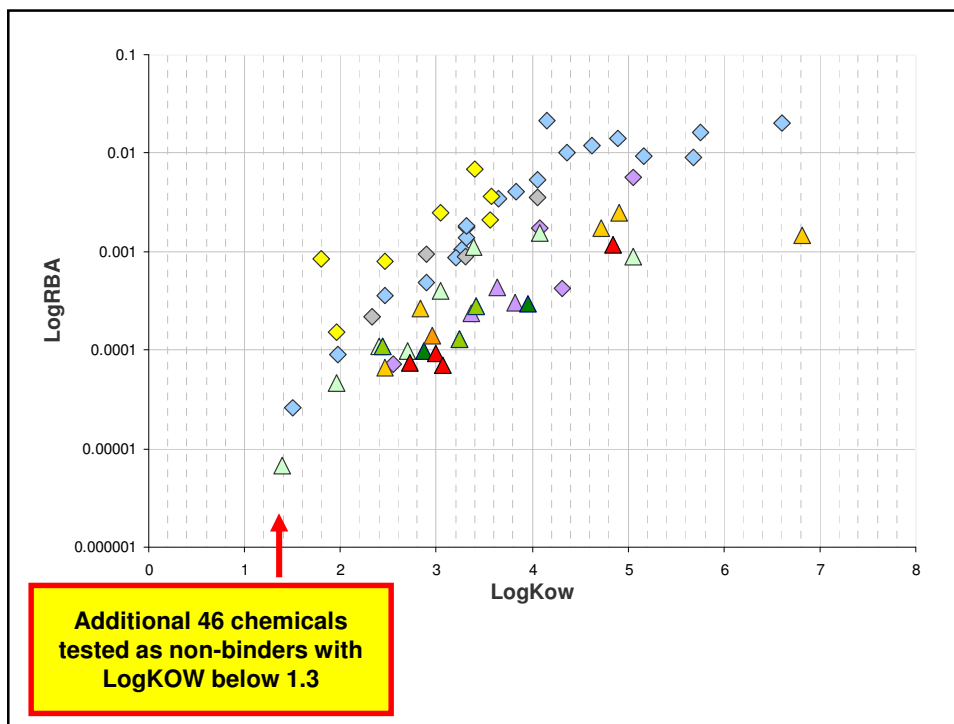


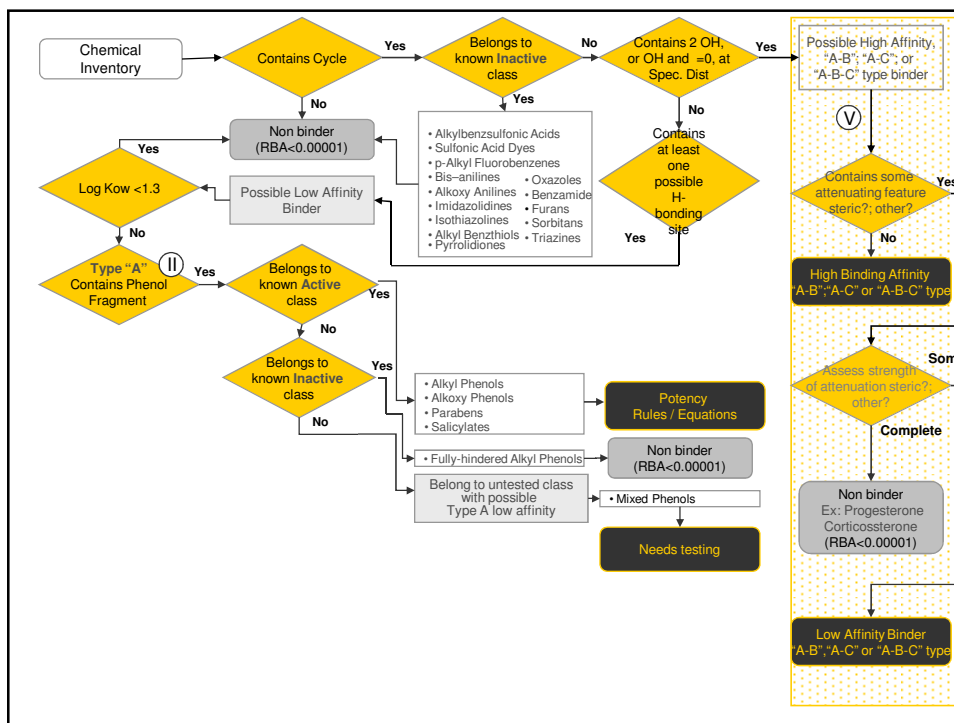
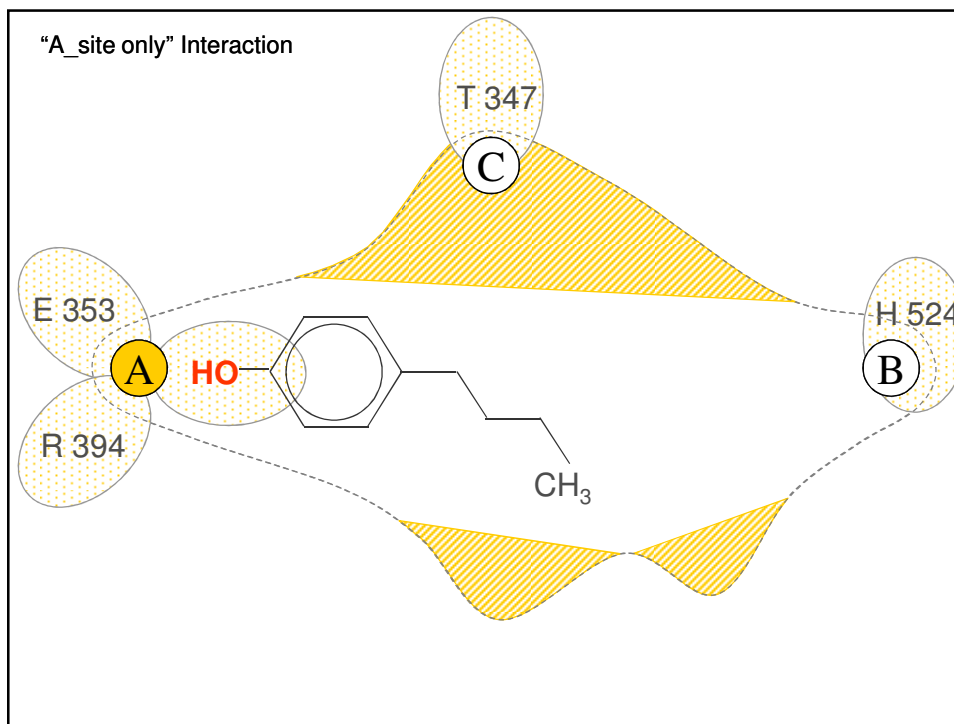


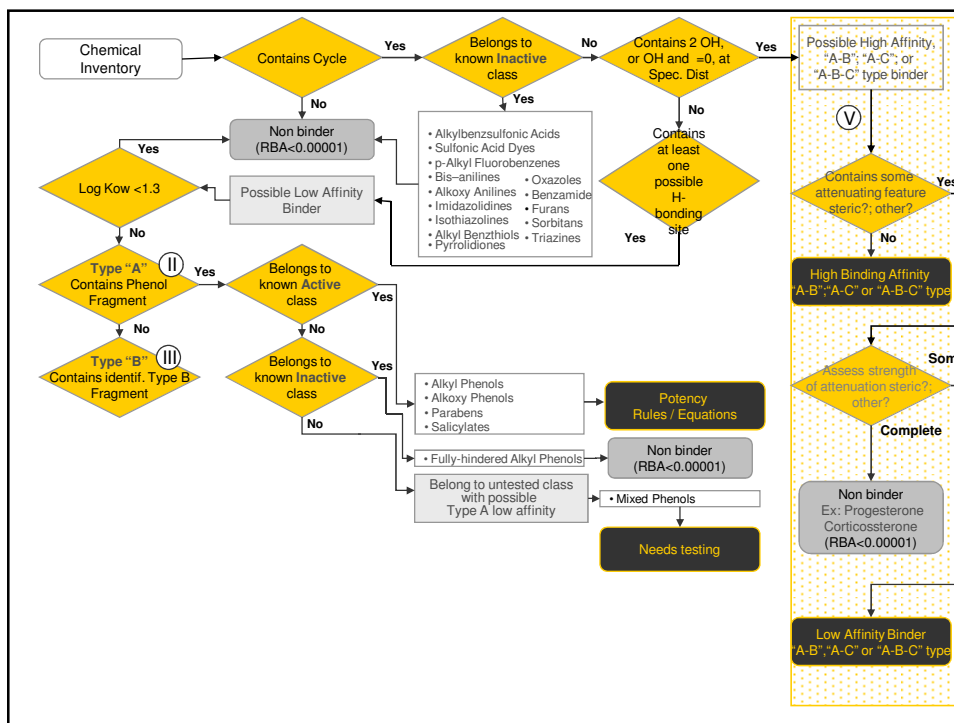
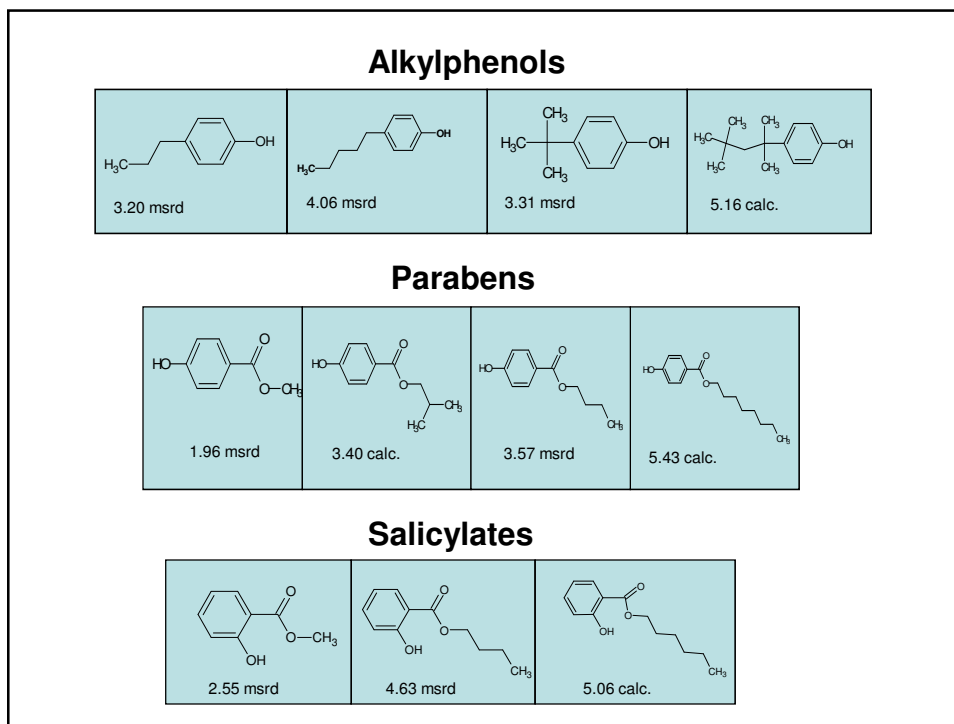


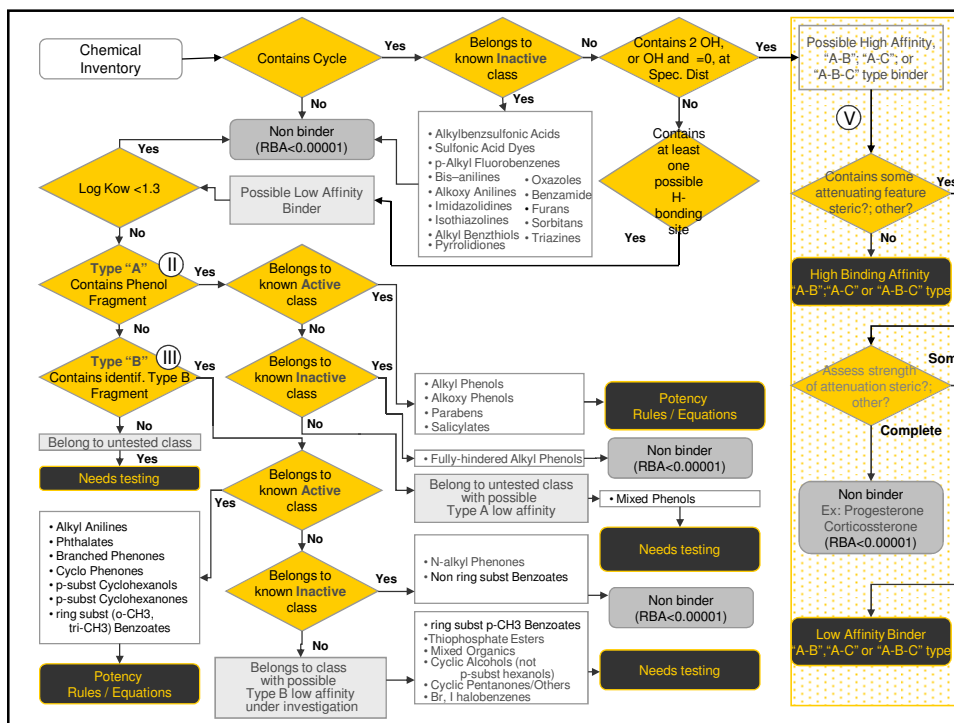
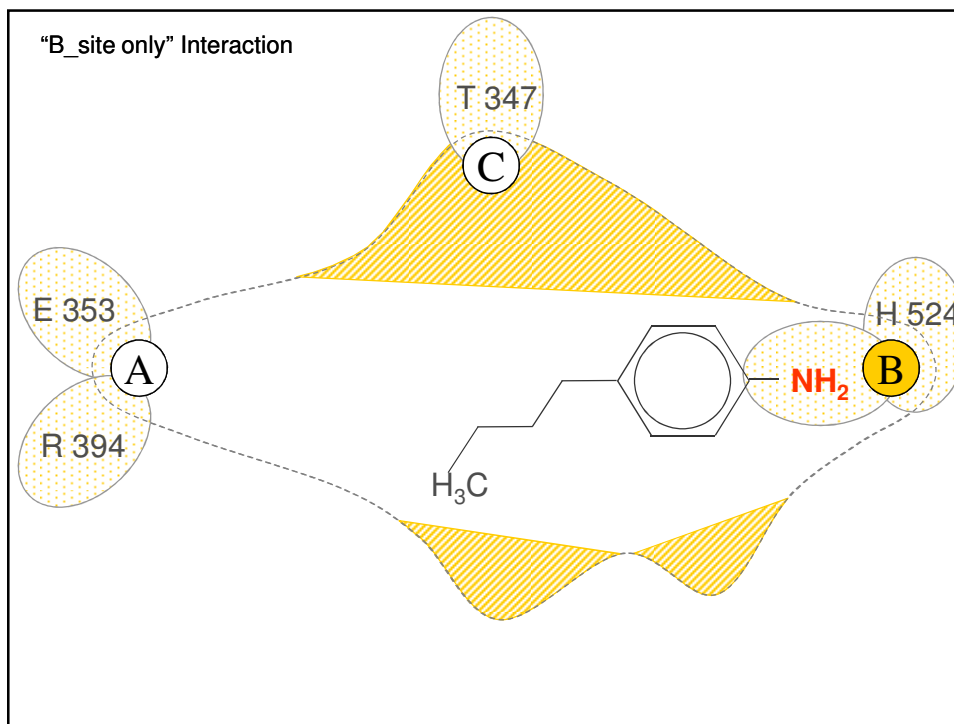


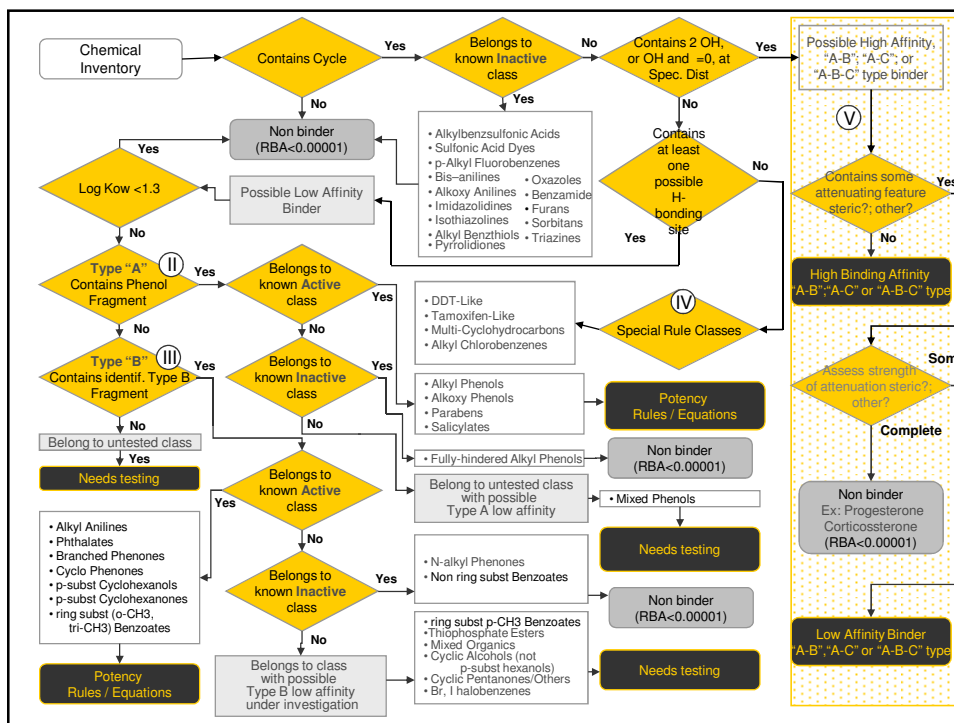
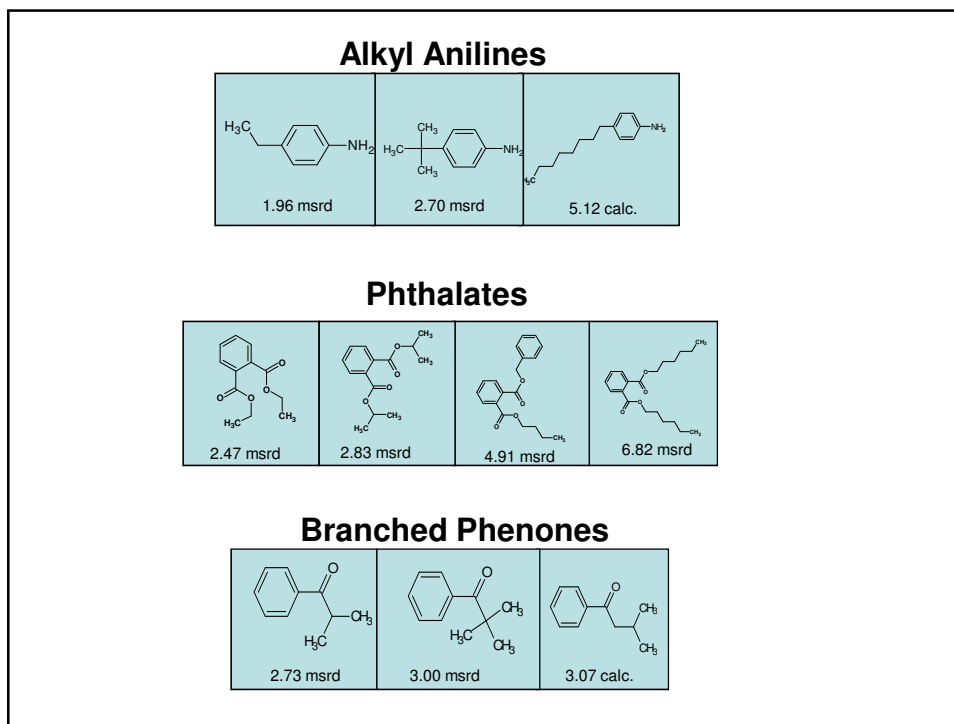


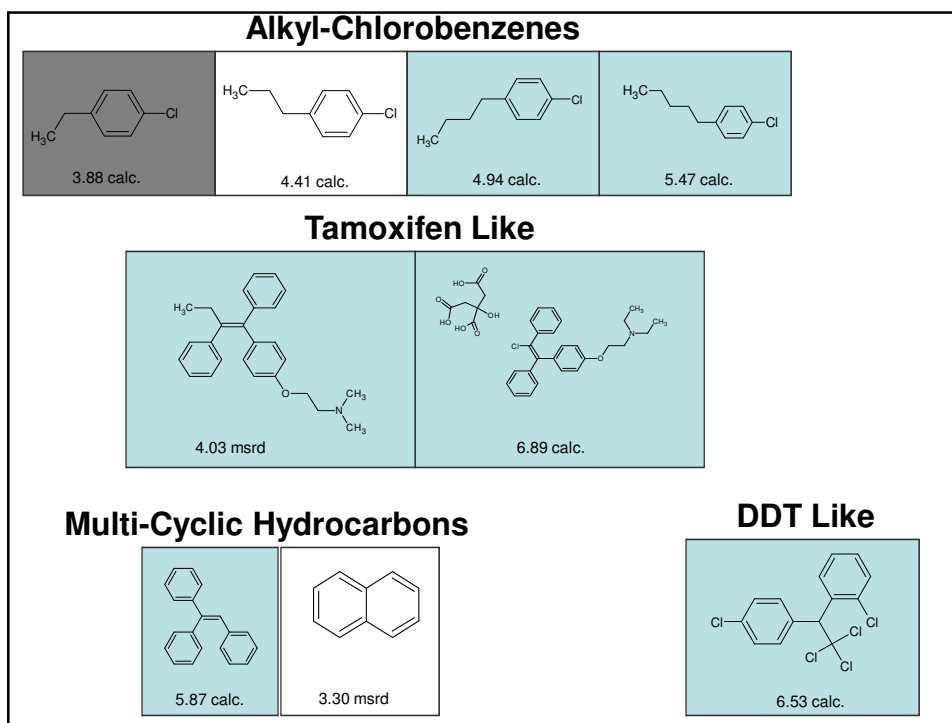












## Setting Priority for Further Testing: Food Use Inert and Antimicrobial Lists

### Lower Priority if:

- Chemical belongs to a class where testing showed no evidence of ER interaction (RBA < 0.00001);
- LogP < 1.3, or meets other class specific LogP cutoffs

### General characteristics of these chemicals:

- Acyclic (e.g., no benzene rings)
- Cyclic but does not contain a likely H-bonding group;

RBA = relative binding affinity; (a ratio of measured chemical affinity for the ER relative to 17-beta-Estradiol = 100%)  
 Log P = log of octanol/water partition coefficient (also known as Log Kow); is an indicator of lipophilicity

## Setting Priority for Further Testing: Food Use Inert and Antimicrobial Lists

### Higher Priority if:

- Chemical belongs to class with evidence of ER interaction, and:
- LogP > 1.3 (or other class-specific cutoffs)

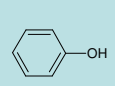
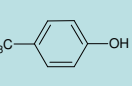
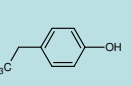
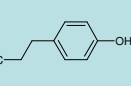
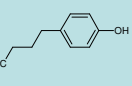
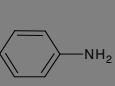
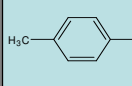
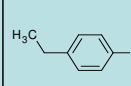
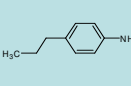
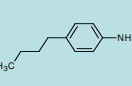
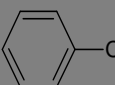
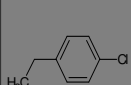
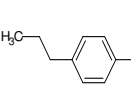
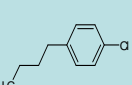
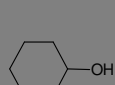
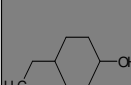
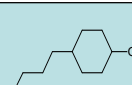
### General characteristics of these chemicals:

- Contains at least one cycle (e.g., benzene ring);
- Contains a possible H-bonding group;

## **Inactive Classes – Lower Priority**

<u>Inactive Classes</u>	<u>FI</u>	<u>AM</u>
Acyclics	230	122
Alkylbenzenesulfonic Acids	78	3
Sulfonic Acid Dyes	9	1
Sorbitans	7	0
Monocyclic Hydrocarbons	7	0
Cyclic caged Hydrocarbon	1	0
Pyrrolidines	3	0
Furans	3	0
N-chain Phenones	1	0
Oxazoles	0	3
Triazines	1	13
Isothiazolines	3	7
Imidazolidines	0	8
Cyclic Inorganics	0	3
Fully-Hindered Alkylphenols	1	0
Cyclic Pentanones/Others	2	0
<u>Inactive ranges in Otherwise Positive Classes</u>		
Cyclic Hexanones of LogP<1.5	1	0
Cyclic Hexanols of LogP<1.5	1	0
Chlorobenzenes of LogP<4	1	0
<u>Inactives in Mixed Functional Grps/Heteratom Classes</u>		
Mixed Phenols	4	1
Mixed Organics	14	13
Organometallics	0	1
<b>Total Inactives</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>175</b>

**Classwise Differences in Lower LogKow Cutoff**

<b>p-n-Alkyl Phenols</b>	 1.50 msrd	 1.97 msrd	 2.47 msrd	 3.20 msrd	 3.65 msrd
<b>p-n-Alkyl Anilines</b>	 0.90 msrd	 1.39 msrd	 1.96 msrd	 2.40 msrd	 3.05 msrd
<b>p-n-Alkyl Chloro benzenes</b>	 2.84 msrd	 3.88 calc.	 4.41 calc.	 4.94 calc.	
<b>n-Alkyl Cyclohexanols</b>	 1.23 meas	 2.32 calc.		 3.37 calc.	

### Active Classes – High Priority

Active Classes	FI	AM
Alkyl Phenols	4	9
Parabens	3	0
Salicylates	1	0
Phthalates	3	0
Actives in Mixed Functional /Heteratom Classes		
Mixed Phenols	1	6
Mixed Organics	1	0
<b>Total Positives</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>



## Classes – Under Investigation

<u>Classes</u>		<u>FI</u>	<u>AM</u>
Mixed Phenols	(?)	3	2
Mixed Organics	(?)	7	16
Organometallics	(?)	2	3
Thiophosphate Esters	(?)	1	0
<b>Total Under Investigation</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>

## Summary of Current Findings Food Use Inert and Antimicrobial Lists

### **Inventory Status – September 20, 2007**

#### **Food Use Inventory**

393

367 (94%)

13 ( 3%)

13 ( 3%)

#### **Antimicrobials**

211

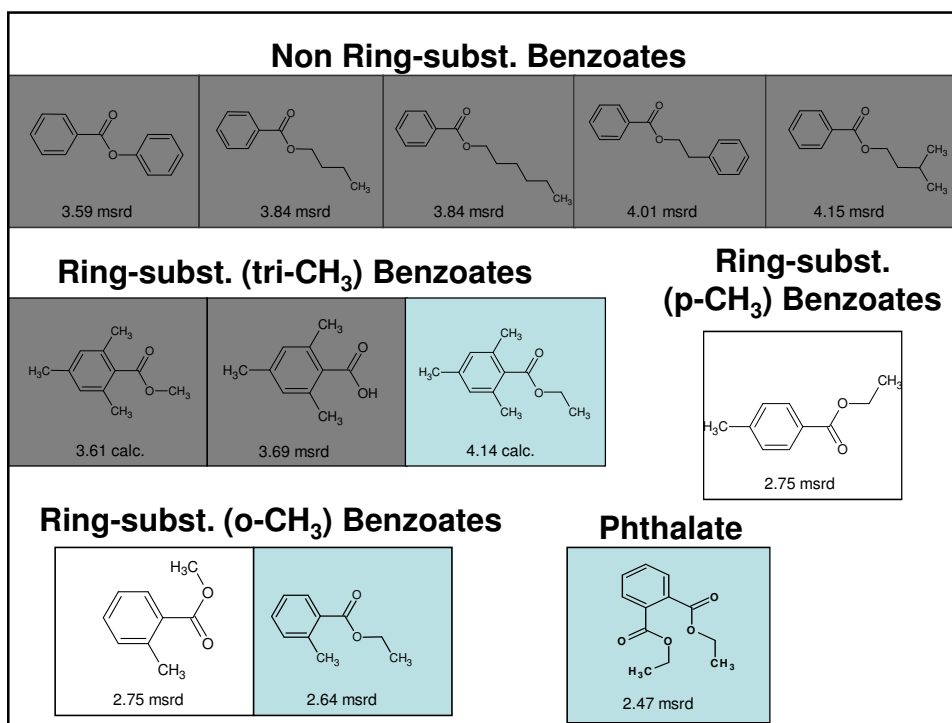
175 (82%)

15 ( 7%)

21 (10%)

*Total Chemicals**Lower Priority**Higher Priority**Under Investigation*





## Summary

- The decision support system has been coded to perform an automatic classification of discrete chemical inventories.
- Decision support system was designed to categorize chemicals with similar activity (ER binding potential) to determine common aspects of structure.
- Modifications to the decision tree are made as needed as new inventories are examined which contain new structure/activity classes

## Acknowledgements

### **EPA Mid-Continent Ecology Division-Duluth:**

Pat Schmieder, Mark Tapper, Jeff Denny, Barb Sheedy,  
Mike Hornung, Hristo Aladjov

### **Student Services Contractors:**

Carlie Peck, Beth Nelson, Tori Wehinger, Ben Johnson,  
Luke Toonen, Rebecca Maciewski, Will Backe, Melissa Dybvig,  
Megyn Mereness

### **International QSAR Foundation:**

Gil Veith

### **EPA Office of Pesticide Programs:**

Steve Bradbury, Jonathan Chen, Jean Holmes, Kerry Leifer,  
Betty Shackelford, Najim Shamim, Deborah Smegal, Pauline Wagner

### **OASIS software (Laboratory of Mathematical Chemistry):**

Burgas, Bulgaria – Ovanes Mekenyan

Assessment	GROUP	Total	Binders	Non-binders	Testing
(+)	A, B or A, C Type	31	20	5	0
(+)	Alkyl Anilines	9	8	1	0
(+)	Alkyl Phenols - Alkoxy	5	5	0	0
(+)	Alkyl Phenols - m-Branched	1	1	0	0
(+)	Alkyl Phenols - o-Branched	2	2	0	0
(+)	Alkyl Phenols - p-Branched	6	6	0	0
(+)	Alkyl Phenols - Phenyl	4	4	0	0
(+)	Alkyl Phenols - p-nChain	10	10	0	0
(+)	Benzoates - ortho-CH3	2	1	0	1
(+)	BSP Like	9	9	0	0
(+)	Parabens - monohydroxy	8	8	0	0
(+)	Parabens - trihydroxy	2	1	0	1
(+)	Phenones - Branched	7	5	2	0
(+)	Phthalates	8	5	3	0
(+)	Salicylates	5	4	1	0
(+)	Tamoxifen Like	3	3	0	0
?	Alkyl Phenols - Hindered	2	1	1	0
?	Benzoates - para-CH3	1	0	0	1
?	Benzoates - tri-CH3	3	1	2	0
?	Cyclic Alcohols - hexyl	9	3	2	4
?	Cyclic Hydrocarbons - Multi	10	3	5	2
?	Cyclic Ketones - hexyl	6	3	2	1
?	Halobenzenes	8	2	5	1
?	Mixed Organics	58	3	33	22
?	Mixed Phenols	16	4	8	4
?	Organometallic	6	0	1	5
?	Steroidel Backbone	9	3	6	0
?	Thiophosphate Esters	4	1	2	1
negative	Acetanilides	4	0	2	2
negative	Biphenyls	28	0	23	3
negative	Alkyl Anilines - Alkoxy	4	0	2	2
negative	Alkyl Benothiois	2	0	2	0
negative	Alkylbenzenesulfonic acids	6	0	6	0
negative	Benzamide	2	0	2	0
negative	Benzoates - not subst	5	0	5	0
negative	Bis-Anilines	8	0	8	0
negative	Cyclic Alcohols - other	2	0	1	1
negative	Cyclic Hydrocarbons - Mono	4	0	4	0
negative	Cyclic Ketones - other	4	0	4	0
negative	Furans	3	0	3	0
negative	Imidasolidines	4	0	4	0
negative	Isothiazolidines	2	0	2	0
negative	Oxazoles	2	0	2	0
negative	Phenones - n-chain	3	0	3	0
negative	Pyrazolidones	2	0	2	0
negative	Sorbitans	2	0	2	0
negative	Sulfonic Acid Dyes	9	0	9	0
negative	Triazines	4	0	4	0
	TOTALS	344	124	180	51