

# A GENERIC DRUGS PERSPECTIVE ON THE USE OF IN VITRO ASSESSMENT METHODS

*Bridging Results from Maximum Use Trials with Sunscreen Reformulations?*

Presentation at the  
New York Society of Cosmetic Chemists Meeting:  
**An Update on the FDA New Proposed Sunscreen Regulation**

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- This presentation reflects the views of the author and should not be construed to represent FDA's views or policies.
- The information discussed has not necessarily been evaluated by the relevant FDA centers or offices that regulate cosmetics or sunscreen products, and concepts discussed should not be misconstrued as representing policies currently under consideration by FDA centers or offices that regulate cosmetics or sunscreen products.

# Patient Access to Topical Products



- The vast majority (approximately 80%) of topical dermatological drug products have fewer than three generic competitors, and in many cases, have no approved generics at all.
- This may have been attributable to the historical barriers to the development of topical dermatological drug products, possibly including
  - Comparative clinical endpoint bioequivalence (BE) studies
  - The complex nature of topical formulations

# Modular & Scalable BE Standards



- **A Modular Framework for In Vitro BE Evaluation**
  - **Q1/Q2** sameness of inactive ingredient components and quantitative composition
  - **Q3 (Physical & Structural Characterization)** as relevant to the nature of the product
  - **IVRT** (In Vitro Release Test) for moderately complex products
  - **IVPT** (In Vitro Permeation Test) or another bio-relevant assay for more complex drug products
- **A Scalable Framework for BE Evaluation**
  - **In Vivo** pharmacokinetic (PK) studies may be appropriate
  - **In Silico** computational modeling may be useful

# Developing In Vitro BE Standards



- **Q1/Q2 Sameness** (components and composition of excipients)
  - Mitigates the risk of known failure modes related to:
    - Irritation and sensitization
    - Formulation interaction with diseased skin
    - Stability, solubility, etc. of the drug
    - Vehicle contribution to efficacy

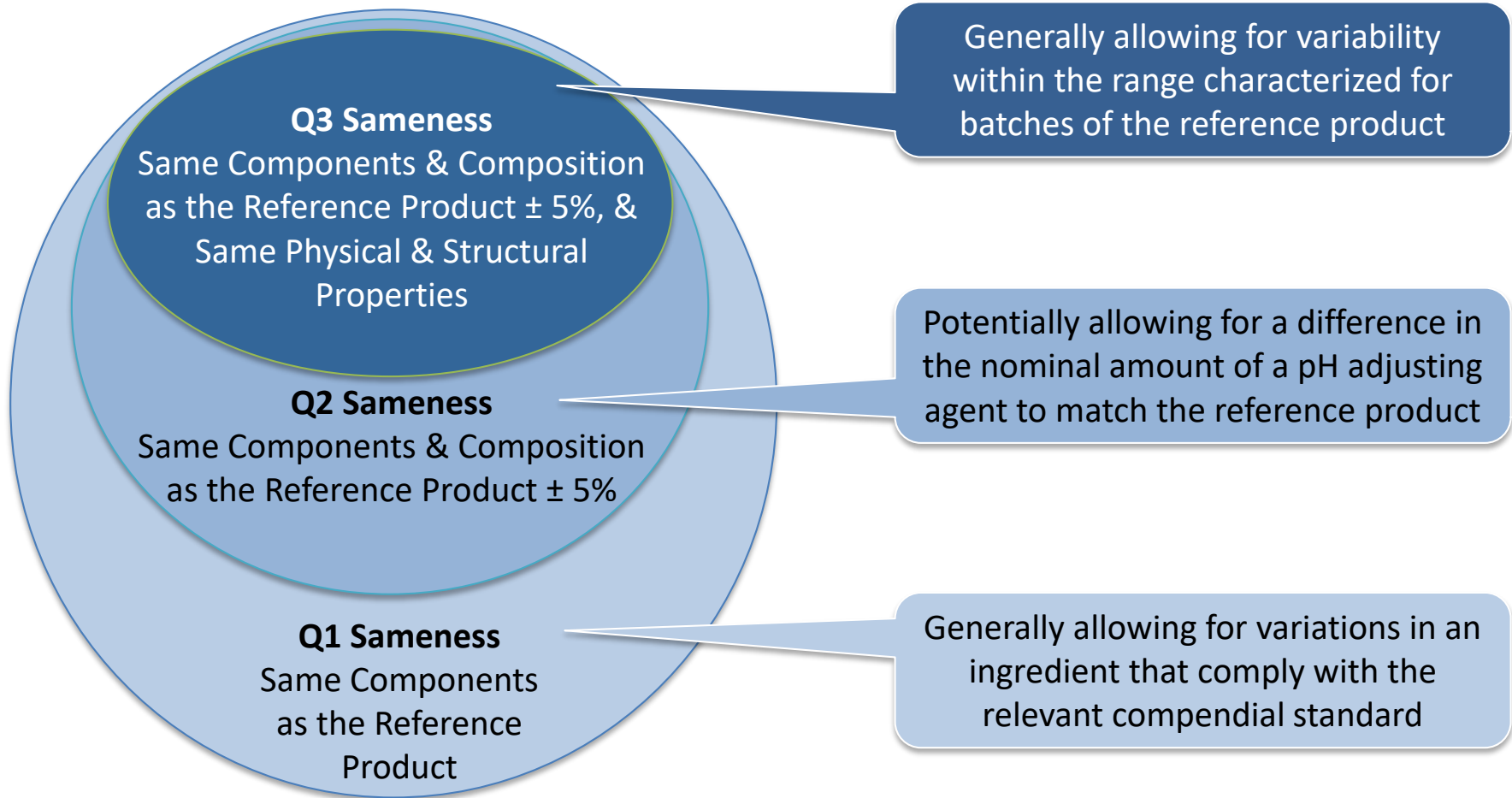
# Formulations Can Alter Bioavailability

- It is widely understood that the formulation of a topical semisolid dosage form can influence its performance
- It is now increasingly clear how excipients may exert their influence, by modulating the physicochemical and microstructural arrangement of matter in the dosage form
- The resulting physical and structural characteristics of topical dosage forms, and their metamorphic properties on the skin, can directly influence topical bioavailability

# Q3 Sameness for Topical Products



- An evolving concept for topical dermatological products



# Effects of Q1/Q2/Q3 on Bioavailability



- Q1, Q2 or Q3 differences can potentially affect:
  - The phase states and the arrangement of matter
  - Drug diffusion within the dosage form
  - Drug partitioning into the stratum corneum (SC)
  - Alteration of skin structure and chemistry
  - Drug diffusion within the skin itself
  - Drug delivery & bioavailability at the target site
  - Skin (de)hydration, irritation or damage
  - Metamorphosis of the dosage form on the skin
  - Thermodynamic activity profile of the drug
    - Thermodynamic effects and heat effects are areas of active research for topical semisolid products and transdermal delivery systems



# Developing In Vitro BE Standards



- **Q3 (Physical and Structural) Similarity**

Mitigates the risk of potential failure modes related to:

- Differences in Q1/Q2 sameness ( $\pm 5\%$  tolerances)
- Differences in pH that may sting or irritate diseased skin
- Differences in the polymorphic form of the drug
- Differences in rheology that alter the spreadability, retention, or surface area of contact with the diseased skin
- Differences in entrapped air and drug amount per dose
- Differences in phase states and diffusion, partitioning, etc.
- Differences in metamorphosis and drying rates

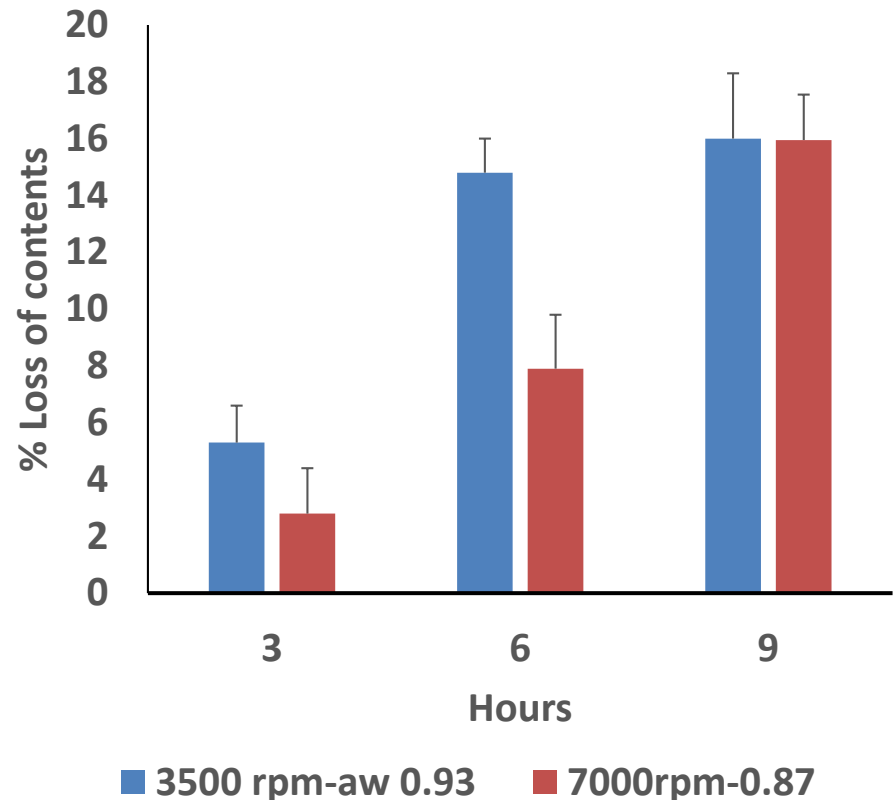
# Dosage Form Metamorphosis



- Solvent Activity of Q1/Q2 Identical Creams

Ingredients	Quantity (%w/w)
Cetostearyl Alcohol	12.5
White Wax	12
Mineral Oil	56
Sodium Borate	0.5
Water	19
Total	100

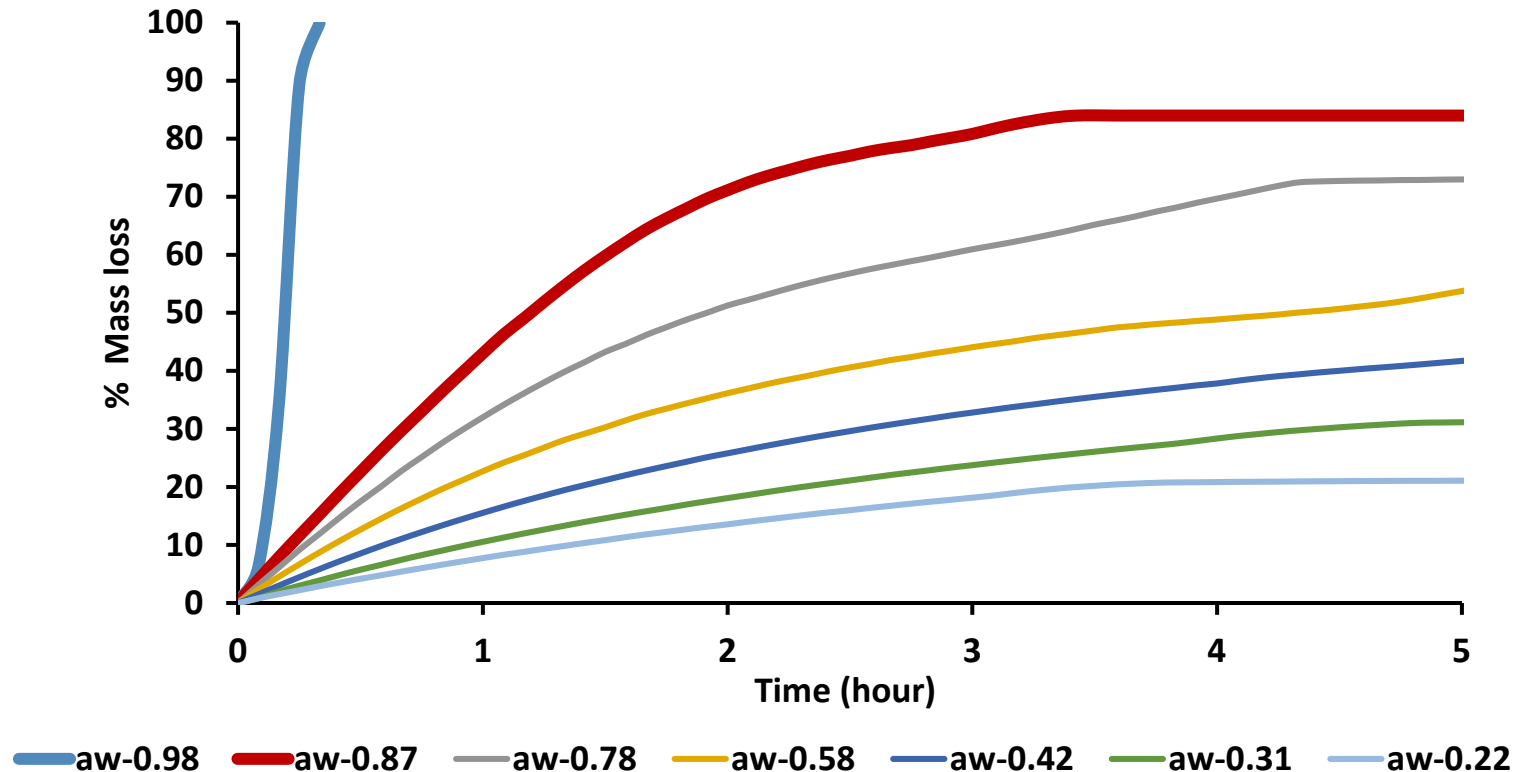
Manufacturing Conditions	Solvent Activity ( $a_w$ )
3500 RPM (15 min)	0.931 ± 0.002
7000 RPM (45 min)	0.875 ± 0.006



# Dosage Form Metamorphosis



- Solvent Activity ( $a_s$ ) =  $\rho/\rho_0$ 
  - $\rho$  = partial vapor pressure of Solvents in the product
  - $\rho_0$  = vapor pressure of pure Solvent system



# Developing In Vitro BE Standards

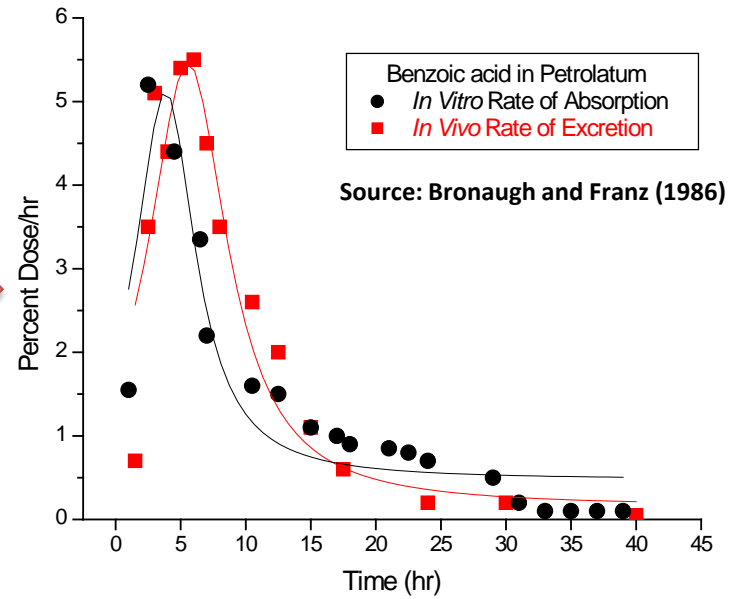
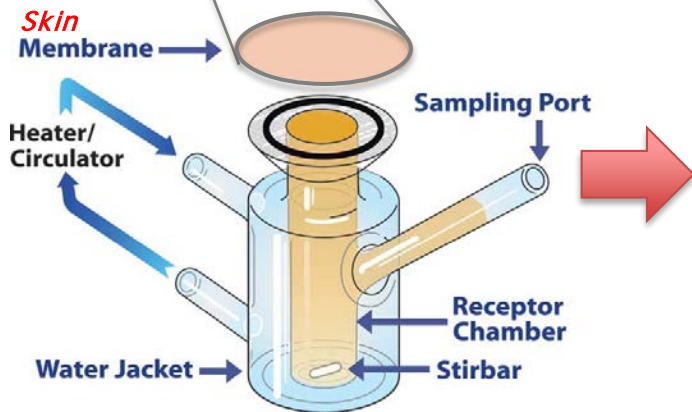
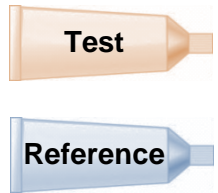
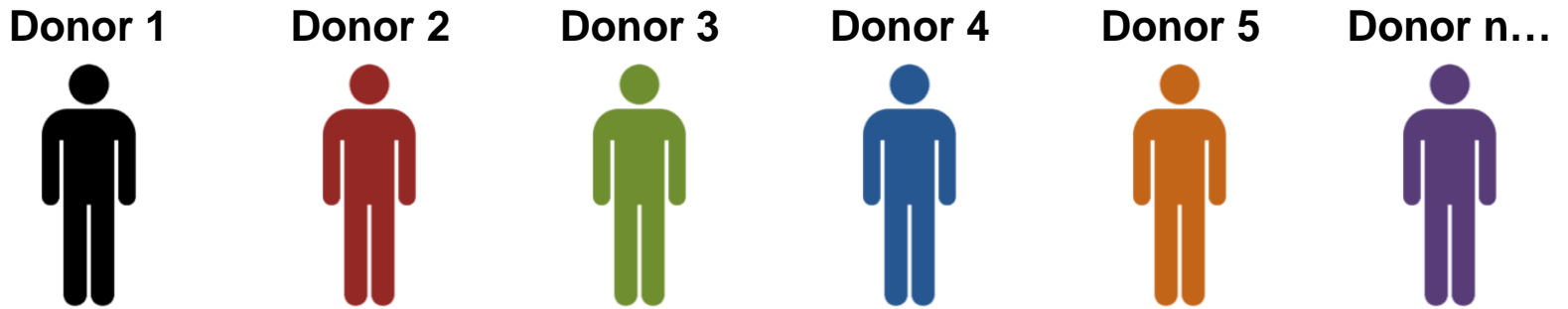


- **IVPT (In Vitro Permeation Test): Cutaneous PK Study**

Mitigates the risk of other unknown failure modes related to:

- Differences in Q1 and/or Q2
- Differences in physical and structural similarity
- Differences that may not be identified by other tests
- IVPT is a sensitive, discriminating indicator of relative BA
- IVPT results can exhibit in vitro in vivo correlation (IVIVC)
- IVPT studies can compare the relative bioavailability of sunscreen actives (or other components of interest) between a test and reference formulation

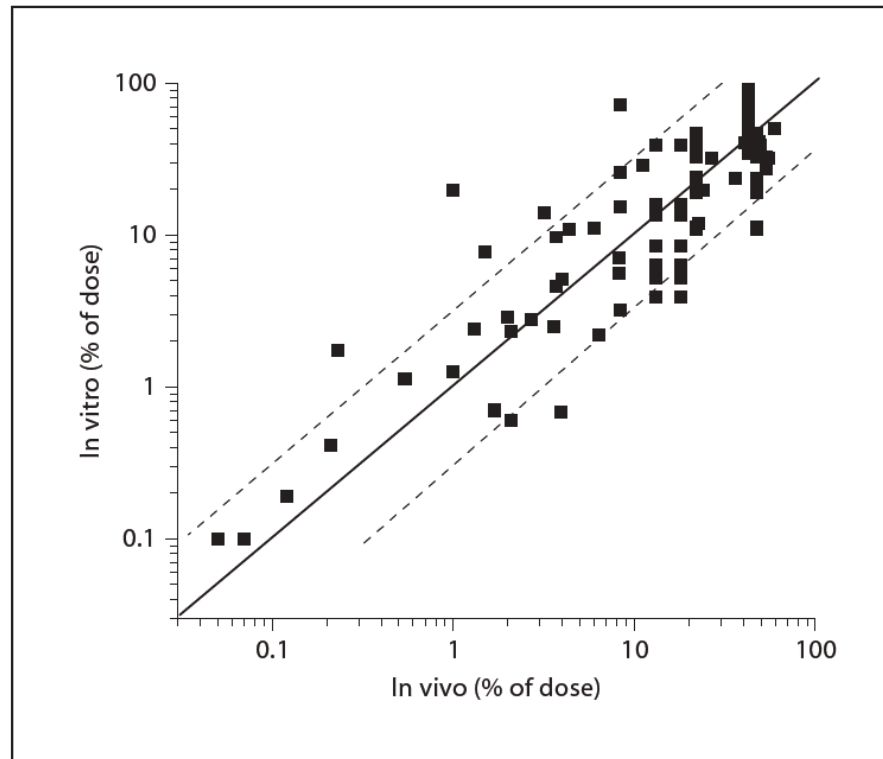
# IVPT Study Design



# IVPT: *In Vitro In Vivo* Correlation



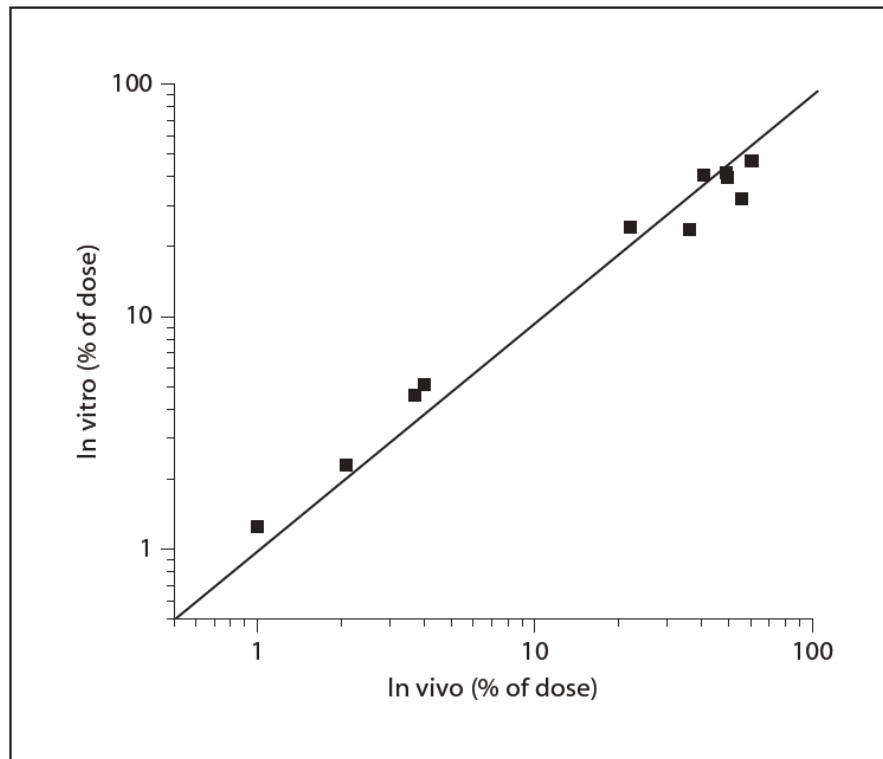
- Lehman et al., 2011 (92 IVIVC Data Sets)



**Fig. 1.** IVIV ratios of total absorption for all 92 data sets plotted on log-log scale. The IVIV ratios ranged from 0.18 to 19.7, with an overall mean of 1.6. Solid line: ideal 1:1 correlation. Dashed lines:  $\pm 3$ -fold difference from ideal.

# IVPT: *In Vitro In Vivo* Correlation

- Lehman et al., 2011 (92 IVIVC Data Sets)



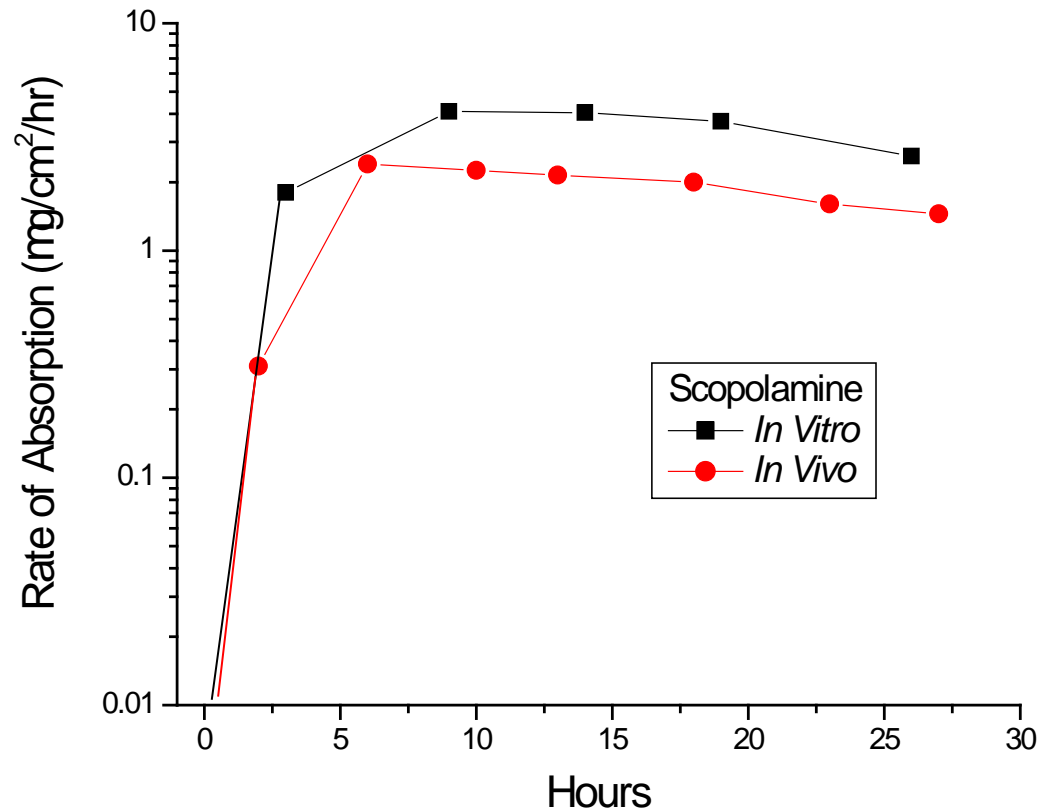
**Fig. 2.** IVIV ratios of total absorption for 11 fully harmonized data sets plotted on log-log scale. The IVIV ratios ranged from 0.58 to 1.28, with an overall mean of 0.96. Line: ideal 1:1 correlation.

# IVPT: *In Vitro In Vivo* Correlation



- Shaw et al., 1975

“... *in vitro* accurately predicted the situation which pertains *in vivo*.”

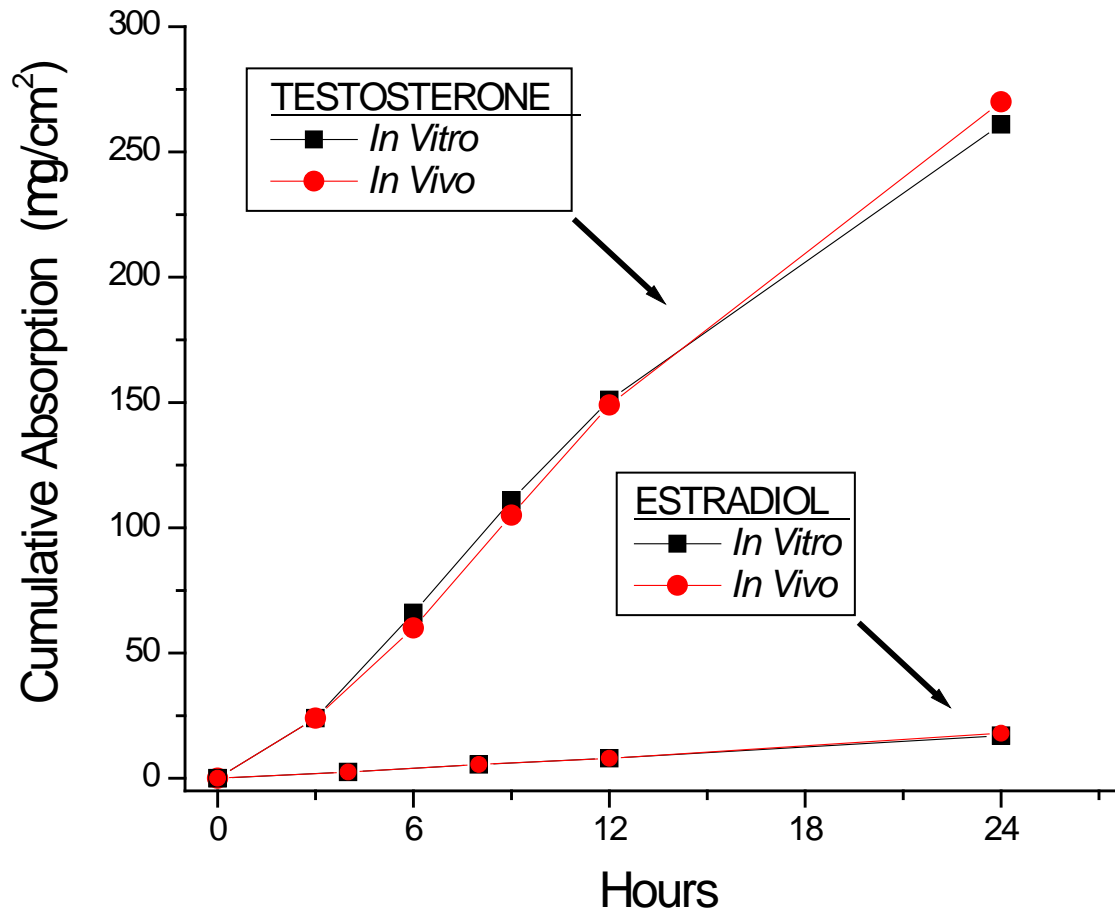




# IVPT: *In Vitro In Vivo* Correlation



- Venkateshwaran S, 1997

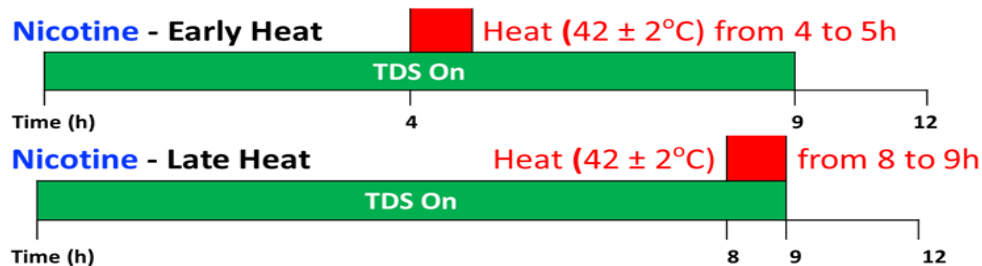
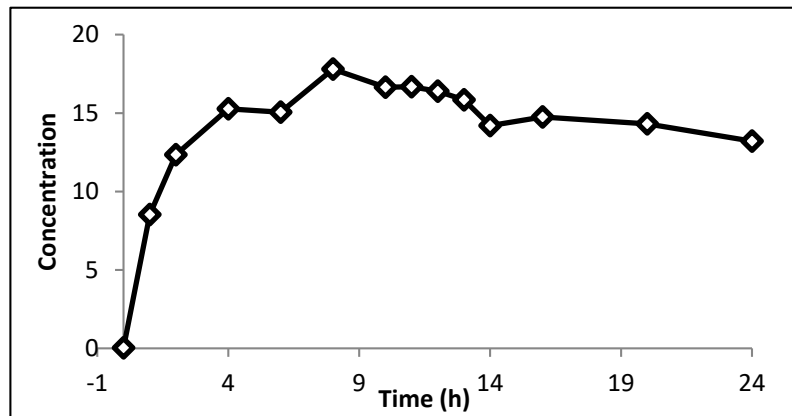


# Nicotine TDS\* Heat Effects Studies



\*TDS = Transdermal Delivery System

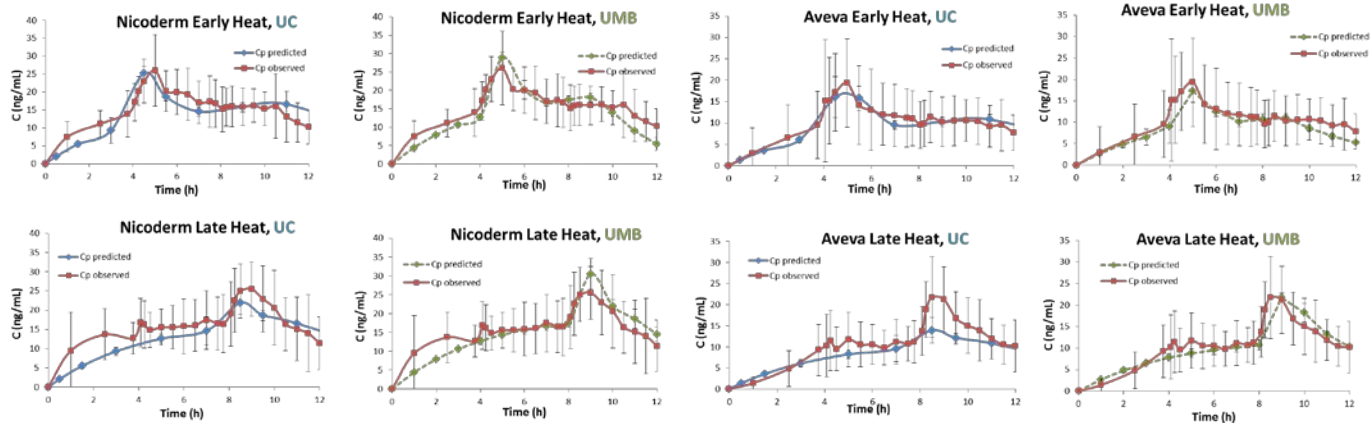
Nicotine TDDS 14 mg/24h	Patch size (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Rate/Area (µg/h/cm <sup>2</sup> )	Adhesive type	Other inactive ingredients
Nicoderm CQ®	15.75	37	Polyisobutylene	Ethylene vinyl acetate-copolymer, polyethylene between pigmented and clear polyester backing
Aveva	20	29	Polyacrylate/Silicone	Polyester backing



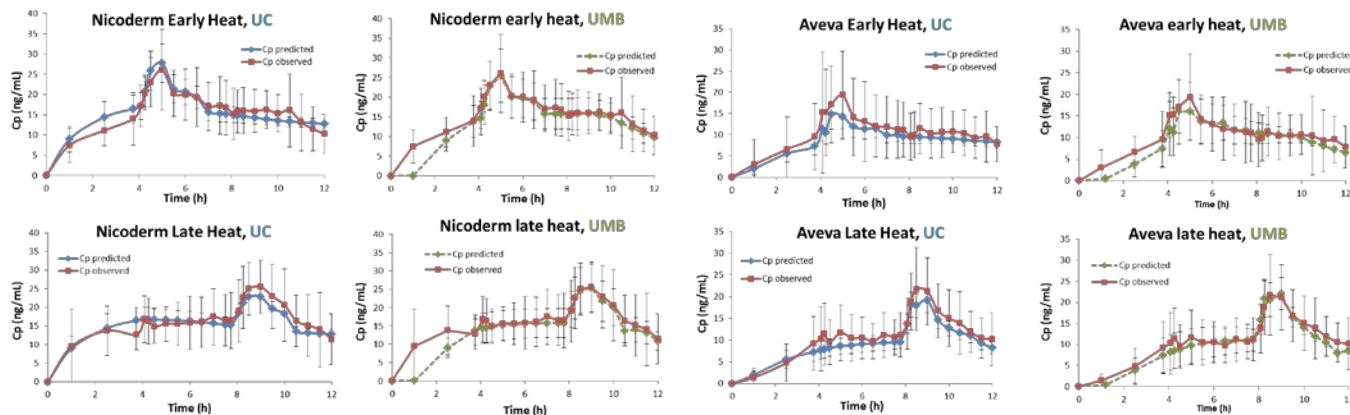
# Level A IVIVC/IVIVR for Nicotine TDS



- Approach I (prediction based upon in vitro data only)

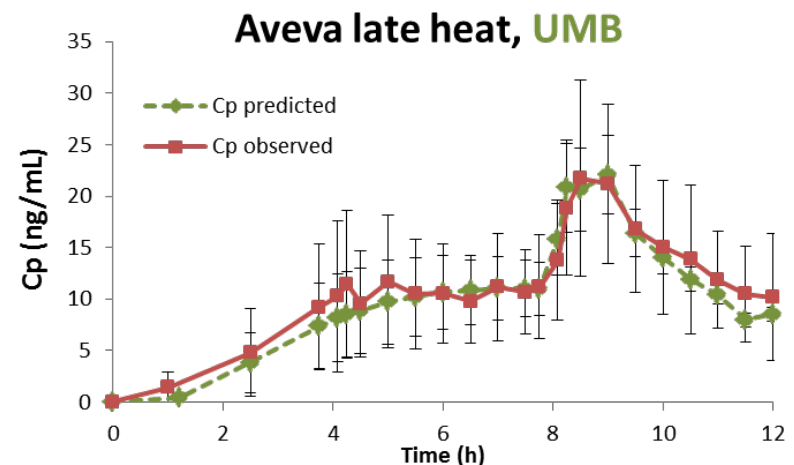
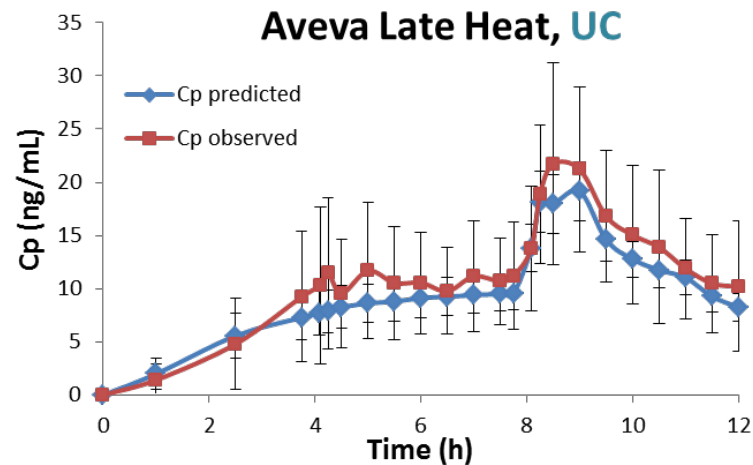
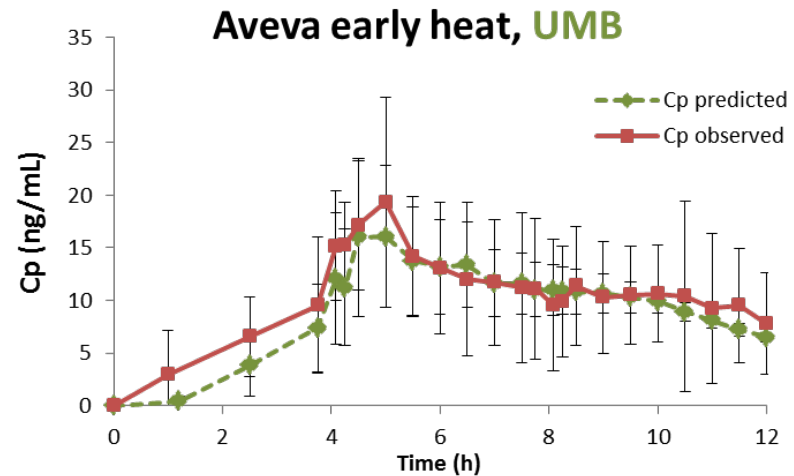
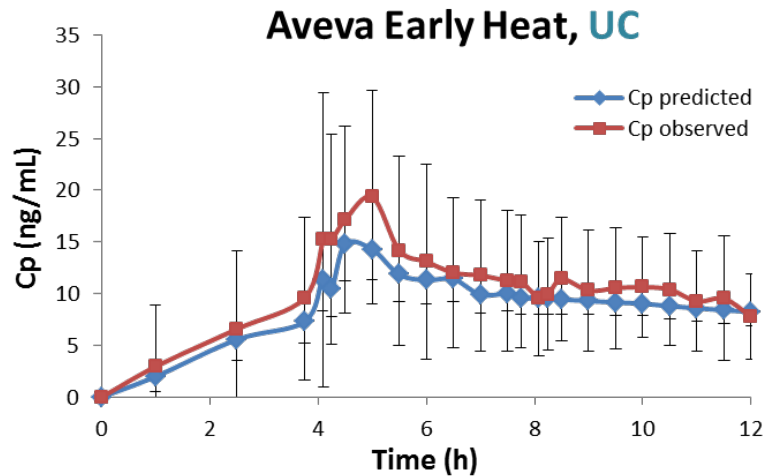


- Approach II (including an in vivo-derived heat factor)



Refer to Shin et al. (2018) *In vitro-in vivo correlations for nicotine transdermal delivery systems evaluated by both in vitro skin permeation (IVPT) and in vivo serum pharmacokinetics under the influence of transient heat application. J Control Release.* 270: 76-88. (Funded, in part, through **FDA award U01FD004955** (Dr. Audra Stinchcomb; University of Maryland, Baltimore) and **FDA award U01FD004942** (Dr. Kevin Li; University of Cincinnati)) [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)

# Level A IVIVC/IVIVR for Nicotine TDS



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# Comprehensive Research Strategy



## • Q3 Product Quality Characterization

-  • FDA/CDER/OTS/DPQR (USA) Q3 Tests
-  • University of Mississippi (USA) Q3 Tests
-  • University of South Australia (and Germany) Q3 Tests



## • In Vitro Release Test (IVRT)

-  • FDA/CDER/OTS/DPQR (USA) IVRT
-  • Joanneum Research (Austria) IVRT

## • Cutaneous PK: In Vitro Permeation Test (IVPT)

-  • University of Mississippi (USA) IVPT
-  • University of Maryland (USA) IVPT
-  • University of South Australia IVPT

## • Cutaneous PK: In Vivo Methods

-  • Joanneum Research (Austria) dermal Open Flow Microperfusion (dOFM)
-  • University of Maryland/Bath (USA/UK) Tape Stripping

# Coordinated Research Strategy



- Pharmaceutically Equivalent Acyclovir 5% Creams
  - **Positive** and **Negative** Controls for BE

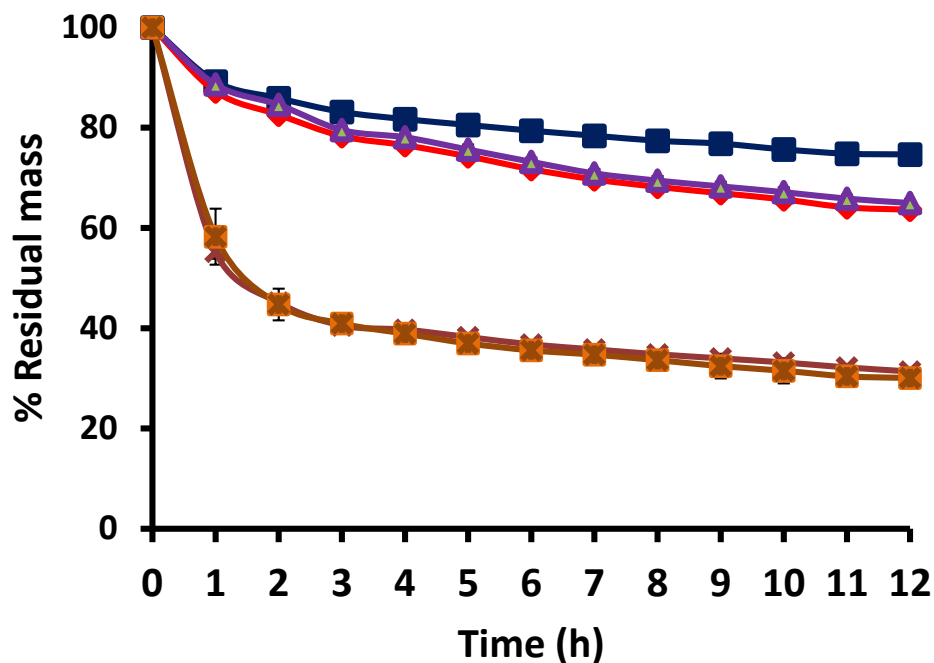
Zovirax (USA)	Zovirax (UK)	Zovirax (Austria)	Aciclostad (Austria)	Aciclovir-1A (Austria)
Water	Water	Purified water	Water	Water
Propylene glycol	Propylene glycol	Propylene glycol	Propylene glycol	Propylene glycol
Mineral oil	Liquid Paraffin	Liquid Paraffin	Liquid Paraffin	Viscous Paraffin
White petrolatum	White soft paraffin	White Vaseline	White Vaseline	White Vaseline
Cetostearyl alcohol	Cetostearyl alcohol	Cetostearyl alcohol	Cetyl alcohol	Cetyl alcohol
SLS	SLS	SLS		
Poloxamer 407	Poloxamer 407	Poloxamer 407		
	Dimethicone 20	Dimethicone 20	Dimethicone	Dimethicone
	Arlacel 165	Glyceryl Mono Stearate	Glyceryl Mono Stearate	Glyceryl Mono Stearate
	Arlacel 165	Polyoxyethylene stearate	Macrogol stearate	Polyoxyethylene stearate

# Dosage Form Metamorphosis



- Solvent Activity and Drying Rate

**Prof. Narasimha Murthy** FDA Award U01-FD005223



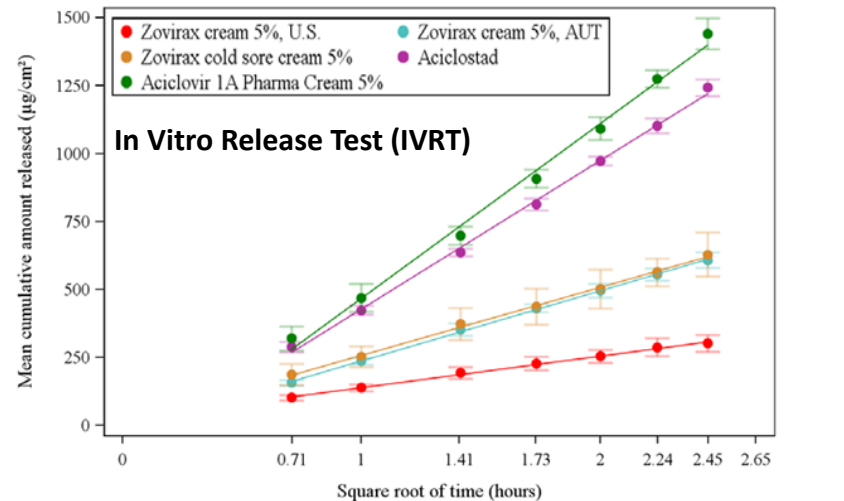
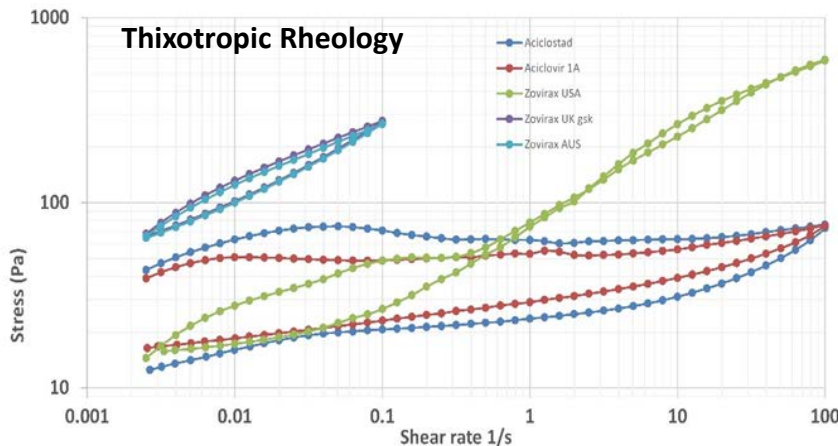
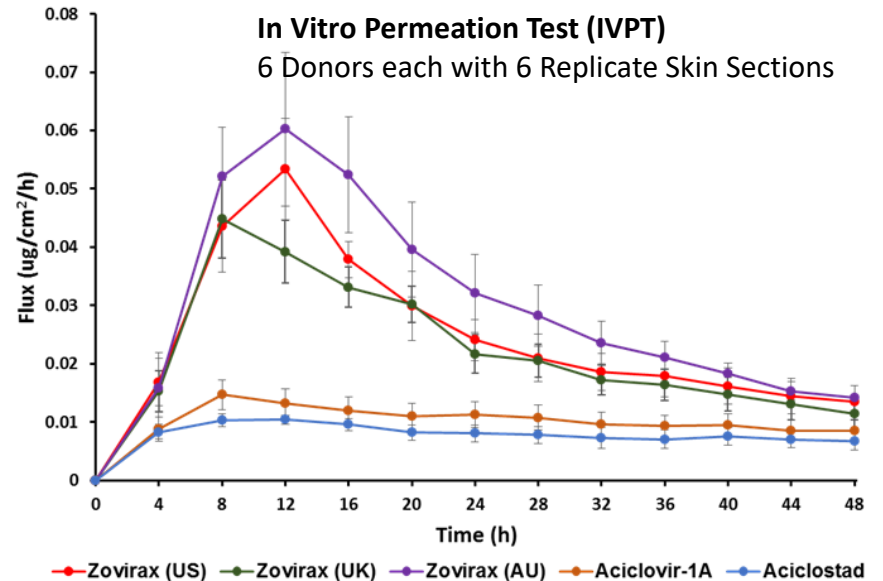
Product	Solvent Activity ( $a_w$ )
Zovirax (US)	0.753 ± 0.002
Zovirax (AUT)	0.735 ± 0.000
Zovirax (UK)	0.732 ± 0.002
Aciclovir 1A	0.948 ± 0.001
Aciclostad	0.948 ± 0.003

■ Zovirax (US)    ◆ Zovirax (AUT)    ◇ Zovirax (UK)  
✕ Aciclovir-1A    ■ Aciclostad

# Product Quality and Performance



	Zovirax (USA)	Zovirax (UK)	Zovirax (Austria)	Aciclovir (Austria)	Aciclovir-1A (Austria)
Water	Water	Water	Purified water	Water	Water
Propylene glycol	Propylene glycol	Propylene glycol	Propylene glycol	Propylene glycol	Propylene glycol
Mineral oil	Liquid Paraffin	Liquid Paraffin	Liquid Paraffin	Liquid Paraffin	Viscous Paraffin
White petrolatum	White soft paraffin	White Vaseline	White Vaseline	White Vaseline	White Vaseline
Cetostearyl alcohol	Cetostearyl alcohol	Cetostearyl alcohol	Cetyl alcohol	Cetyl alcohol	Cetyl alcohol
SLS	SLS	SLS			
Poloxamer 407	Poloxamer 407	Poloxamer 407			
	Dimethicone 20	Dimethicone 20	Dimethicone	Dimethicone	Dimethicone
	Arlacel 165	Glyceryl Mono Stearate	Glyceryl Mono Stearate	Glyceryl Mono Stearate	Glyceryl Mono Stearate
	Arlacel 165	Polyoxyethylene stearate	Macrogol stearate	Polyoxyethylene stearate	Polyoxyethylene stearate
Density (g/cc)	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.01
Content Uniformity (%)	97.9 ± 0.7	99.6 ± 1.4	100 ± 2.2	99.7 ± 1.7	98.3 ± 2.6
Polymorphic Form	2,3 hydrate	2,3 hydrate	2,3 hydrate	2,3 hydrate	2,3 hydrate
Crystalline Habit	Rectangular	Rectangular	Rectangular	Ovoid	Ovoid
Particle size (d50) (µm)	3.8	2.5	3.4	6.8	6
pH	7.74	7.96	7.54	4.58	6.05
Work of Adhesion	59	81	60	17	18
Drug in Aq (mg/g)	0.49	0.64	0.49	0.37	0.26
Drying Rate (T-30%)	>12h	~8h	~7h	<1h	<1h
Water Activity	0.75	0.73	0.74	0.95	0.95

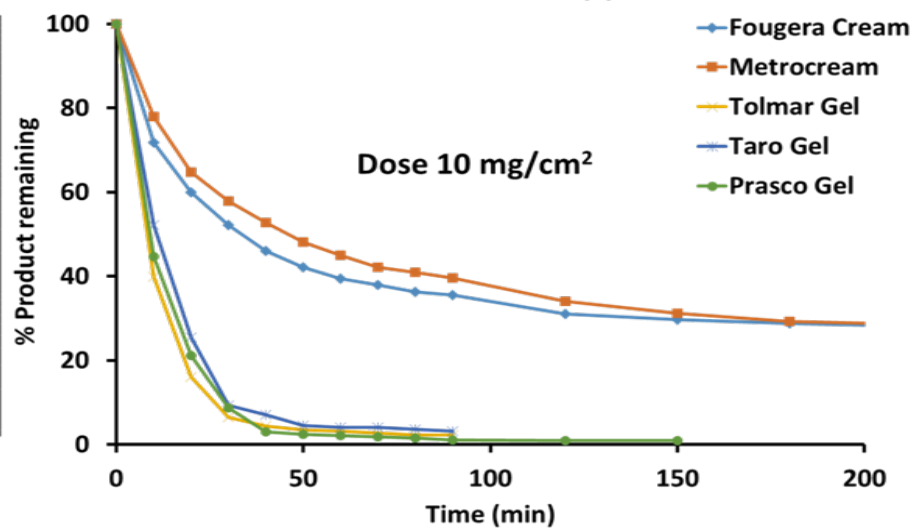
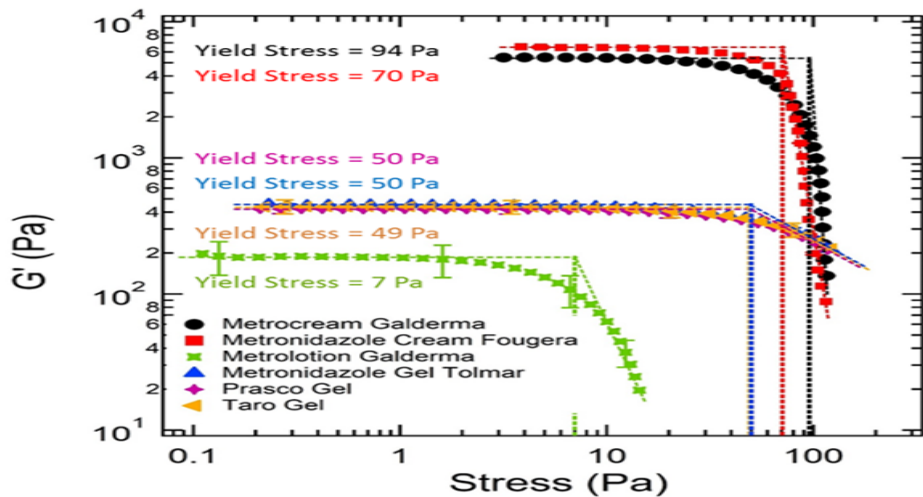
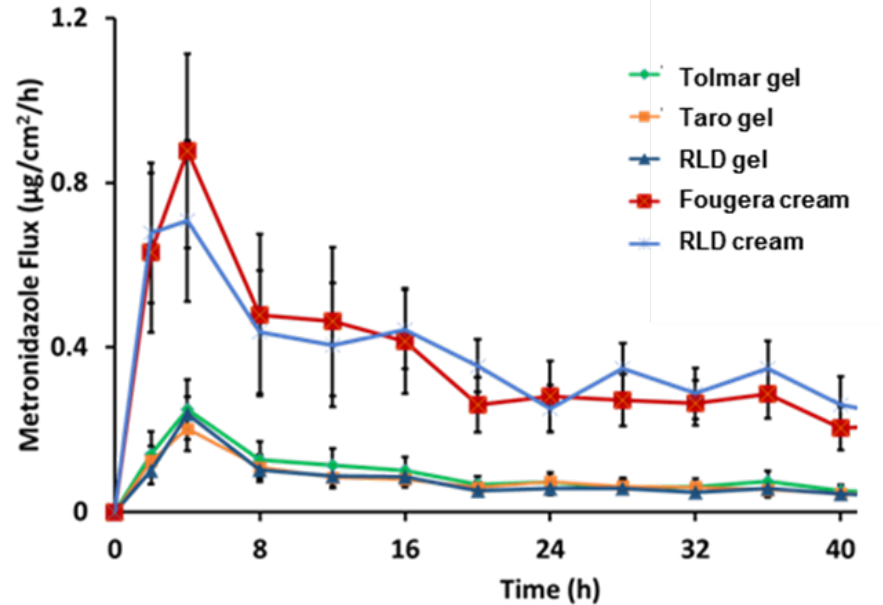




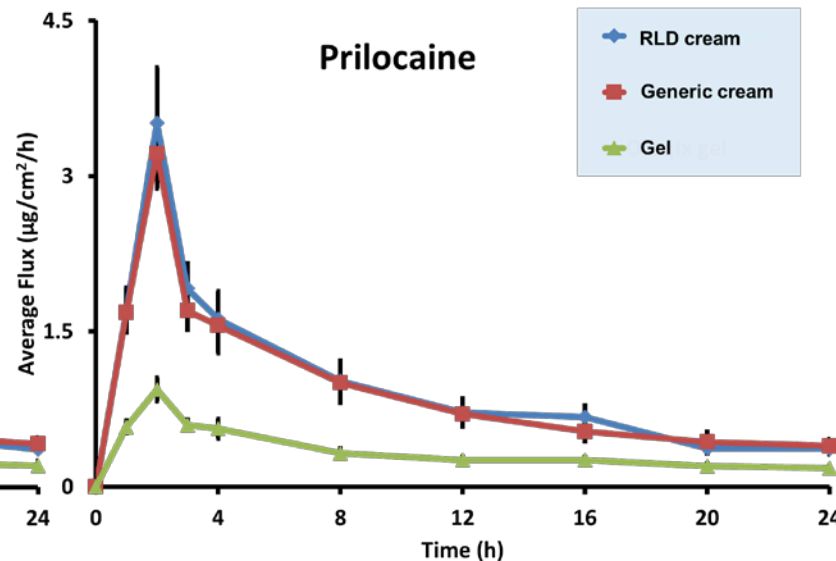
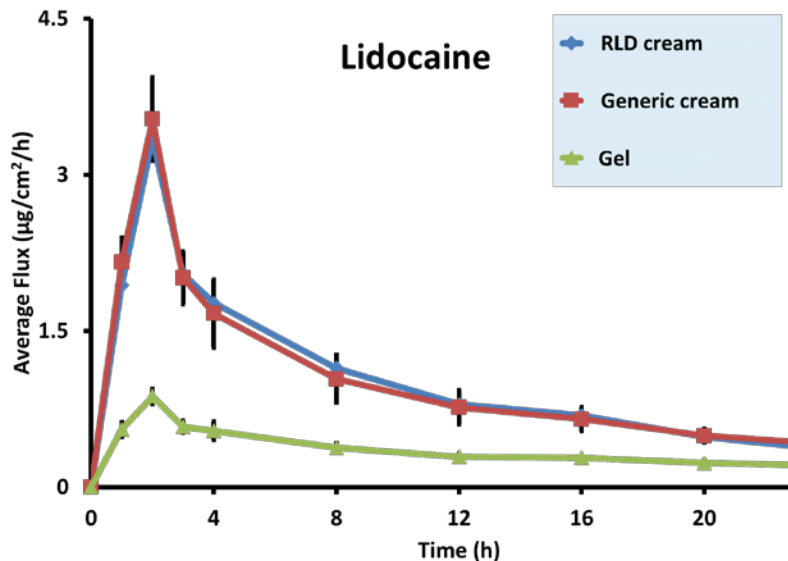
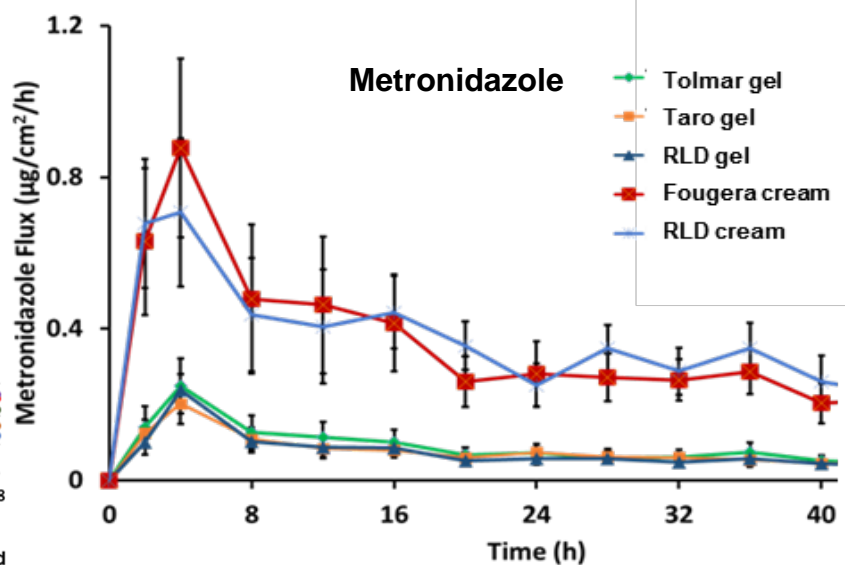
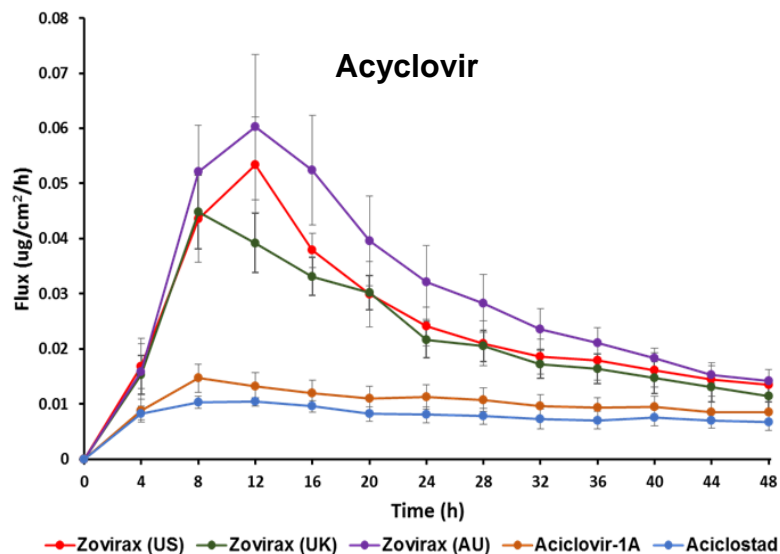
# Product Quality and Performance



Quality Attribute	Metrocream®	Generic Cream (Fougera)	Metrogel®	Generic Gel (Tolmar)	Generic Gel (Taro)
pH	4.8	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.4
Density (g/cc)	1.02	1.02	1.01	1.02	1.02
WOA (g.sec)	57.6	63.9	39.4	43.9	42.0
Particle size (µm)	Active ingredient is completely dissolved				
Drug in Aq (mg/g)	4.20	2.92	---	---	---
Drug in Oil (mg/g)	2.58	3.94	---	---	---
Solvent Activity	0.977	0.974	0.992	0.994	1.002
Globule size, d <sub>50</sub> (µm)	2.8	2.2	---	---	---
Drying, T <sub>30</sub> (min)	17	11.4	5.5	4.7	6.5



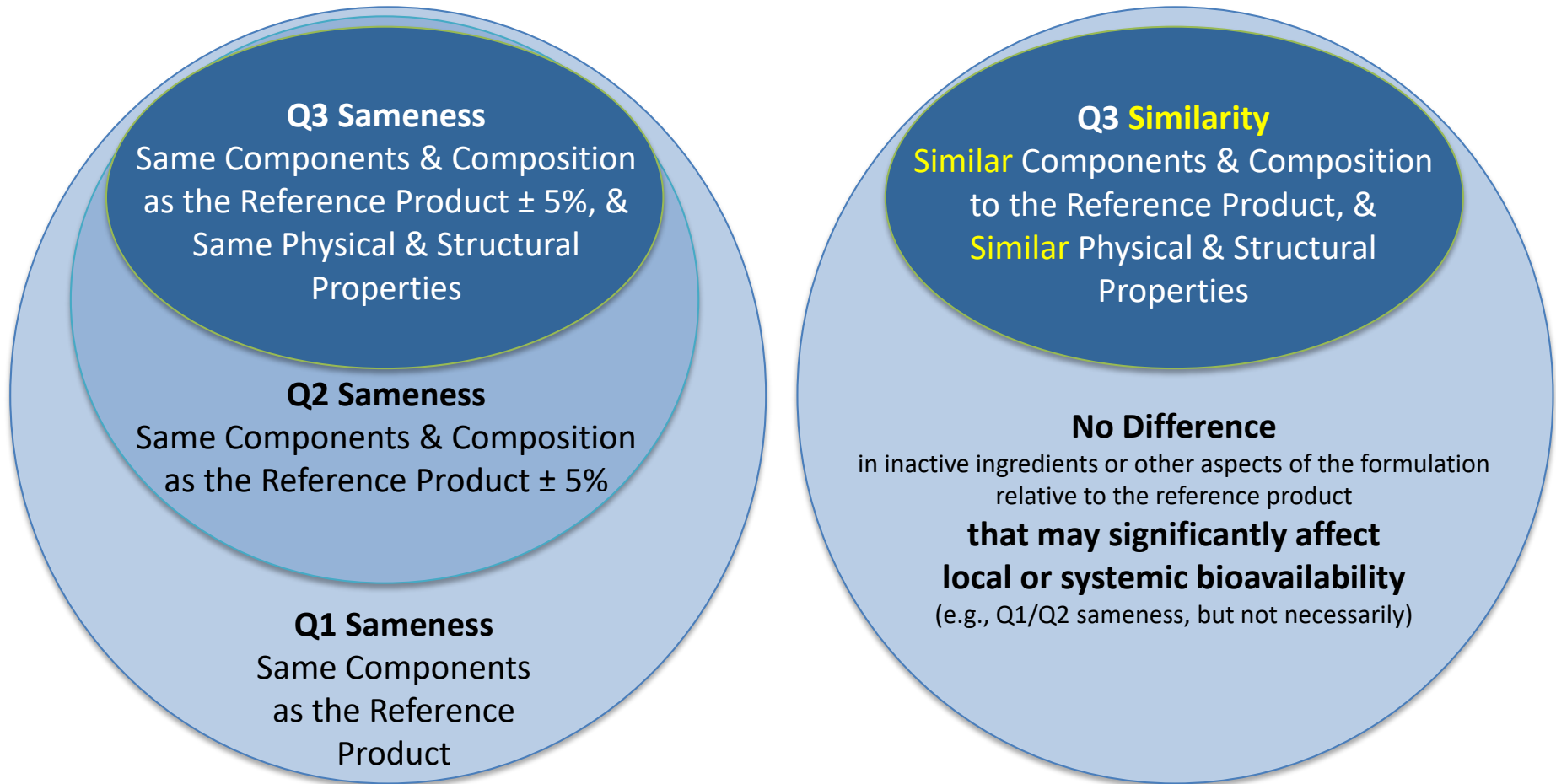
# IVPT Results for Different Products



# Q3 Sameness for Topical Products



- An evolving concept for topical dermatological products



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## OGD (ORS)

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