

Solid form screening and rational cocrystal design

Michael Grass, Head of Solid Form Services

Abhijeet Sinha, Senior Scientist in Solid Form Services

Small molecule technologies

Flexible model across the product development cycle



Drug Substances

full range of API inclusive of GMP intermediates, HPAPI, cytotoxic payloads for ADC's



Particle-Engineering

micronization, amorphous solid dispersions, melt-spray-congealing



Drug Products

tablets (IR and MR), encapsulated powder & MP, soft gels, liquid-fill hard caps



SimpliFiH® Solutions – rapid first-in-human services

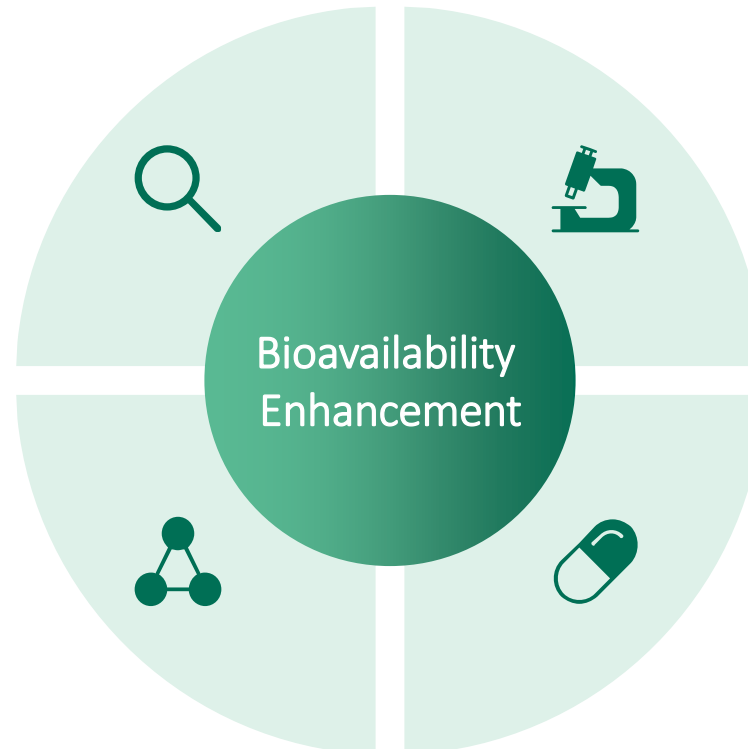
Designed for poorly soluble molecules and accelerated development

Solid State Characterization

- Salt screening
- Polymorph screen
- Chemical / physicochemical analyses

API Development & Supply

- Dedicated kilo-labs
- API / HPAPI (OEL 4)
- Toxicity study and first-in-human supply



Technology Selection

- Technology Review Board oversight
- Selection based on models, databases and reference maps
- Particle size reduction, spray dried dispersions (SDD), lipid based formulations (LBF)

Drug Product

- Powder (API)-in-capsule or bottle (PIC/PIB)
- Liquid-filled hard capsules (LFHC)
- Tablets

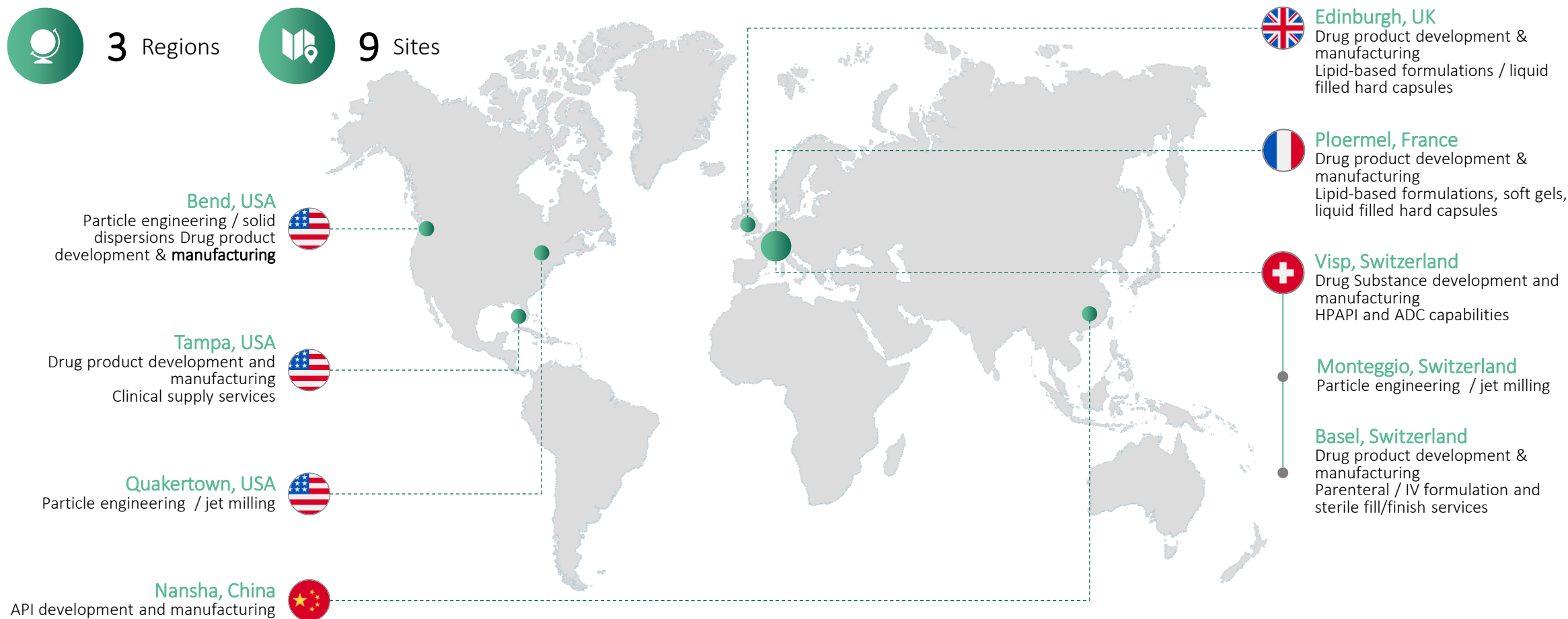
Our global footprint in small molecules...



3 Regions



9 Sites



Agenda



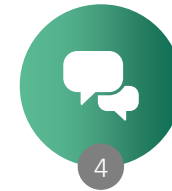
Crystal Form Basics



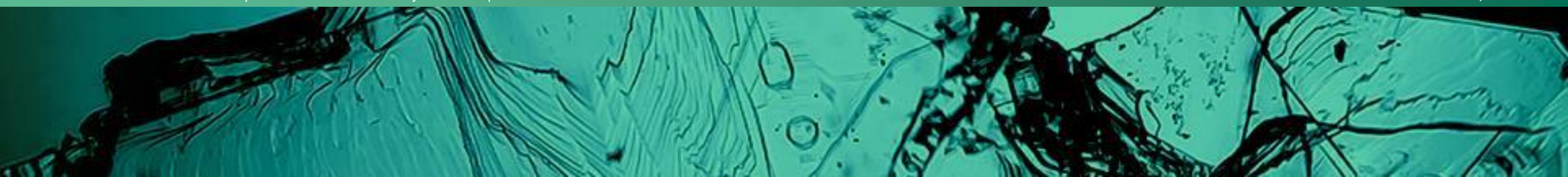
Why Crystal Form Matters



Rational Co-crystal Development

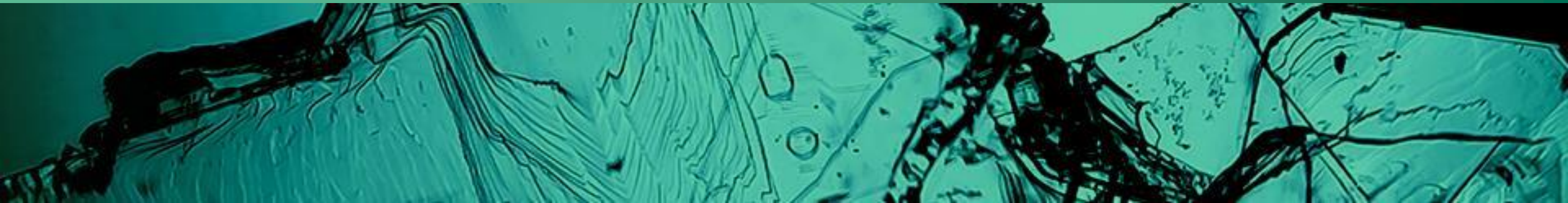


Q&A



SFS Overview

What are polymorphs, solvates, salts, and cocrystals?



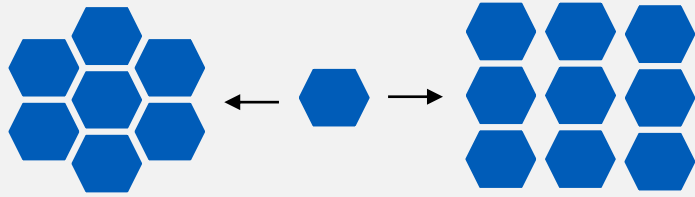
What is solid form services (SFS)?



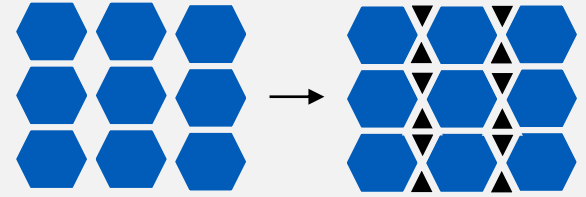
The **search, preparation, and characterization** of solid forms in order to **select** a preferred solid form, **design** processes to isolate the preferred form, and have **confidence** in the stability of that form and its downstream manufacturability into drug product.

What are solid forms?

Polymorphs have different molecular arrangements



Solvates, hydrates have solvent trapped in the crystal structure



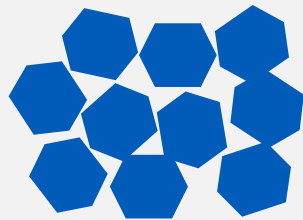
Salts are ionic crystals with 2 or more components



Cocrystals are non-ionic crystals with 2 or more components



Amorphous forms have no long range order

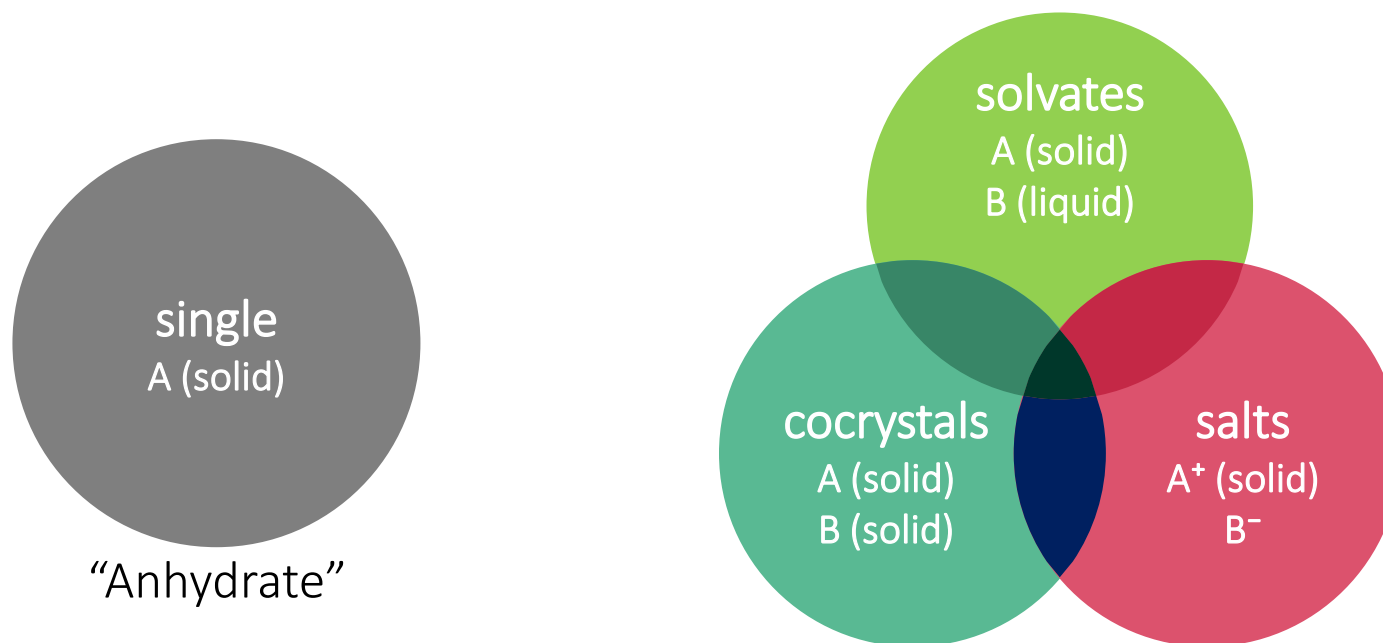


Classification of solid forms

“Polymorphic forms in the context of this guidance refer to crystalline and amorphous forms as well as solvate and hydrate forms” (ICH Q6A & FDA ANDAs: Pharmaceutical Solid Polymorphism)

EU: polymorphs, solvates, hydrates, salts, and cocrystals are considered to be the same active ingredient & eligible for generic application

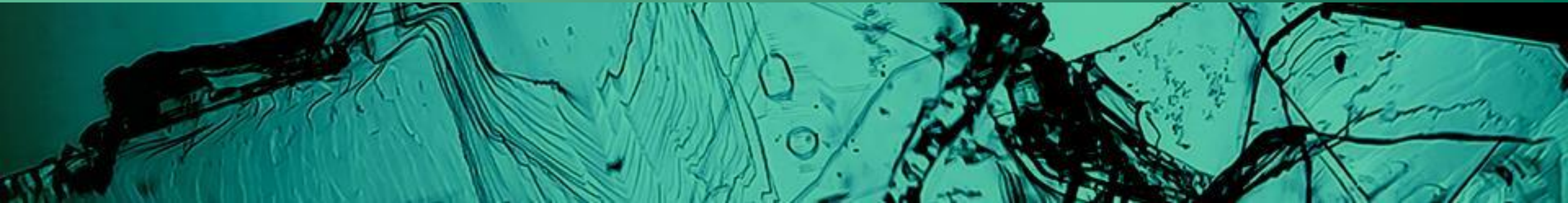
FDA: salts are not considered to be the same active ingredient



E. Grothe et al. “Solvates, Salts, and Cocrystals: A Proposal for a Feasible Classification System.” *Cryst. Growth Des.* 16, 2016, 3237 – 3243

Why Crystal Forms Matter

Lonza Solid Form Services | Michael Grass and Abhijeet Sinha | March 2021



Solid form services (SFS) are needed to enable success

✓ **Multiple forms are common:**

- 89% of screened compounds exhibit multiple forms (Stahly. *Cryst. Growth Des*, 2007, 7, 1007-1026)

✓ **Developing the right form first saves time and money**

✓ **Regulatory agencies require understanding of polymorphs, form stability, and risks to safety & efficacy**

✓ **IP**

Critical Properties Affected by Chemical and/or Polymorphic Form

➔ **Stability**

- Form stability
- Chemical stability
- Hygroscopicity
- Melting & sublimation temperature

➔ **Packing**

- Density
- Morphology

➔ **Purity & Appearance**

- Color
- Impurity profile

➔ **Bioavailability**

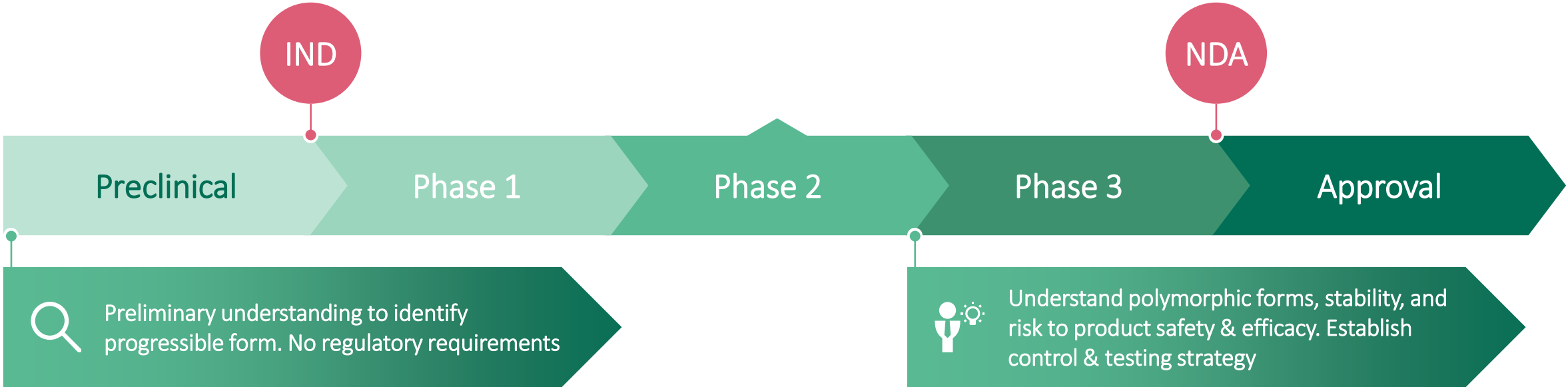
- Solubility
- Dissolution rate

➔ **Downstream Processing**

- Applicability to drug product technologies
- Hardness
- Tensile strength
- Compactibility
- Tabletability
- Handling & filtration
- Flow & blending
- Cleavage
- Milling

Solid form work is phase appropriate and product specific

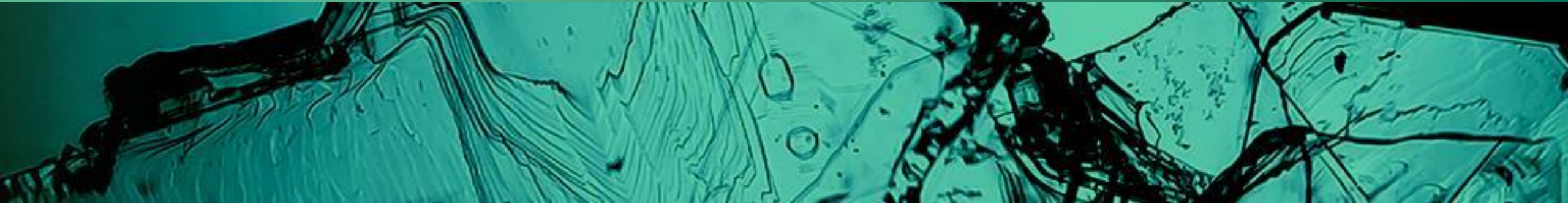
- Enable tox and FIH
- Focus on stable forms
- Risk mitigation
- Process development
- Control strategy
- Regulatory compliance
- IP protection
- Product Enhancement



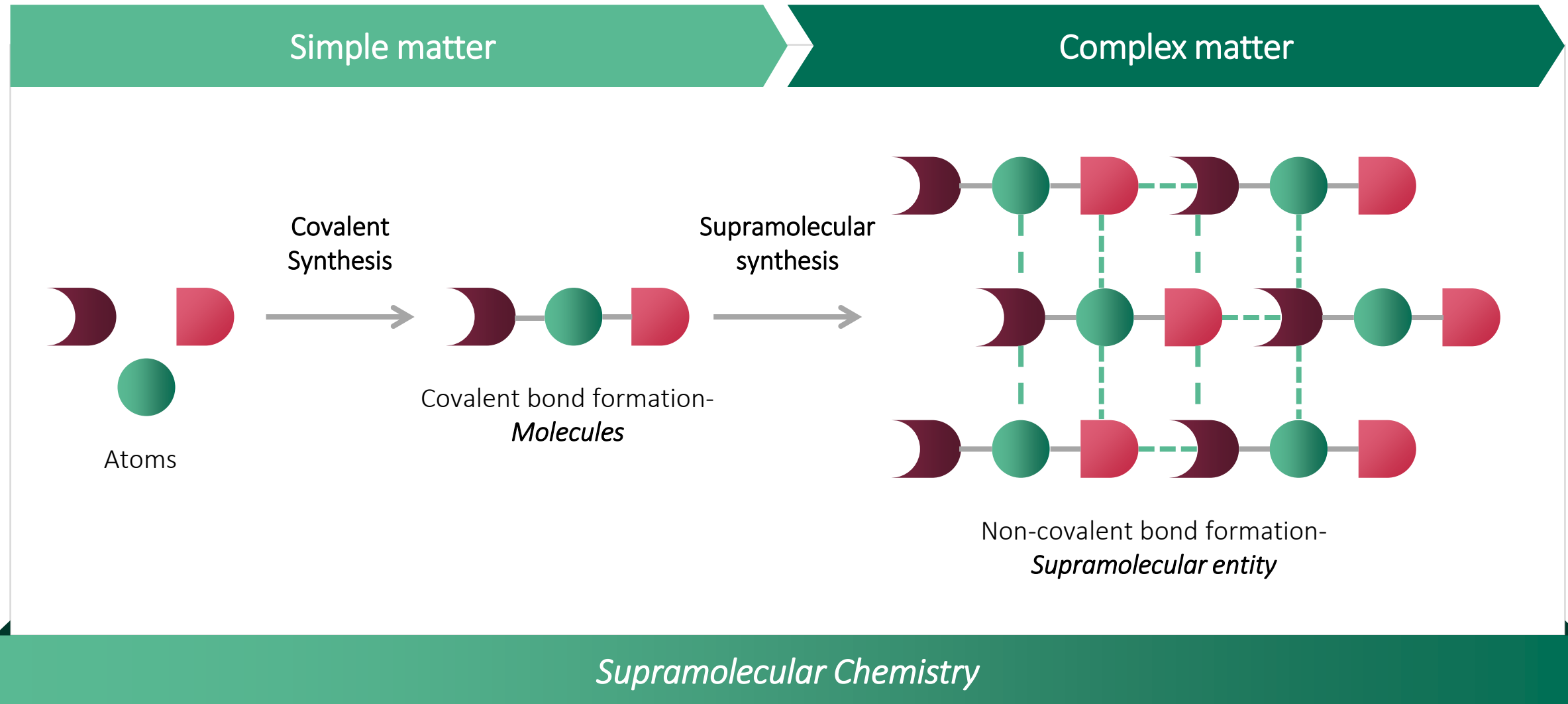
Case Study 1 – Traditional Cocrystal Screen

A. S. Sinha , U. B. Rao Khandavilli , E. L. O'Connor , B. J. Deadman , A. R. Maguire and S. E. Lawrence, *CrystEngComm* 2015, **17**, 4832–4841.

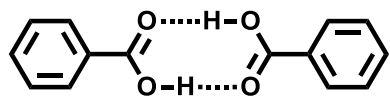
U. B. Rao Khandavilli, E. Skořepová, A. S. Sinha, B. R. Bhogala, N. M. Maguire, A. R. Maguire and S. E. Lawrence, *Cryst. Growth Des.* 2018, **18**, 4571–4577.



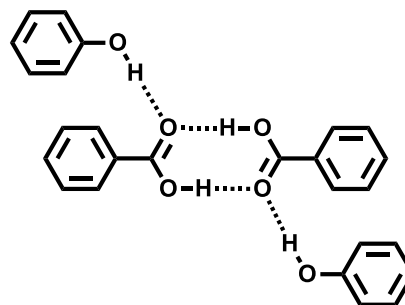
Chemistry beyond the molecule



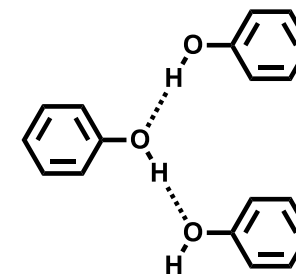
Rational cocrystal design



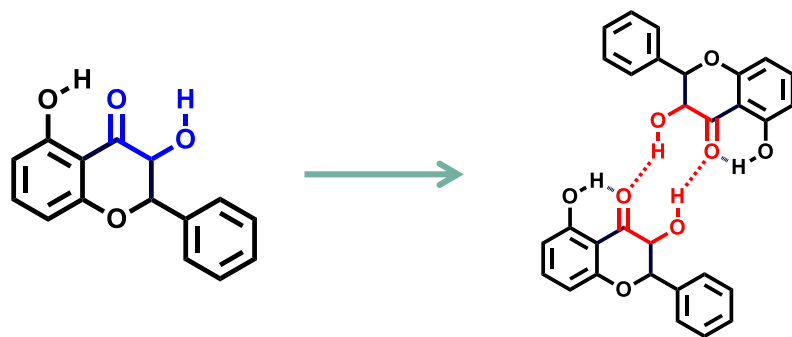
$R_2^2(8)$ dimer



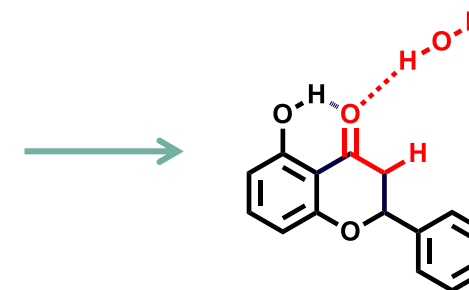
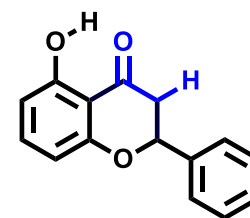
$R_2^2(8)$ dimer & D



C(2) chains



$R_2^2(10)$ dimer



D (discrete)

Robust supramolecular synthons

Why cocrystallization?



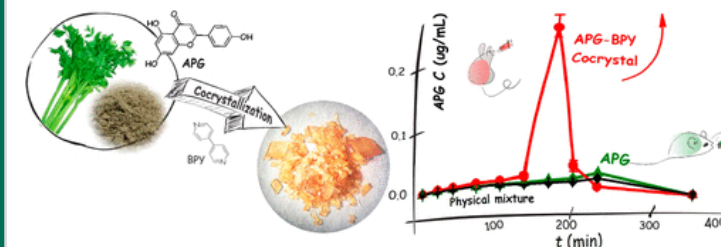
Improved solubility

Cryst. Growth Des. 2018, 18, 4571–4577



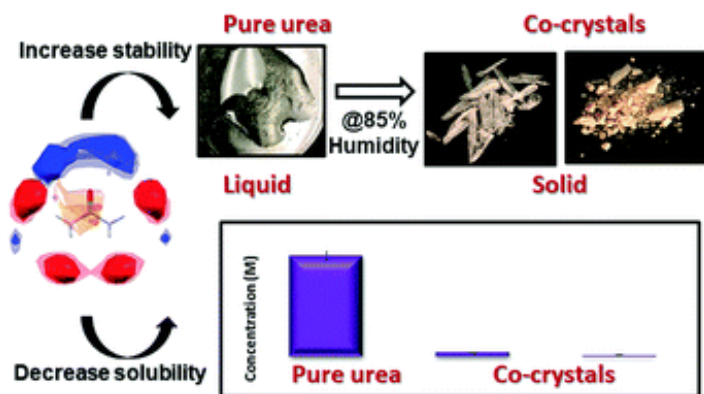
Improved bio-availability

Cryst. Growth Des. 2019, 19, 5531–5537



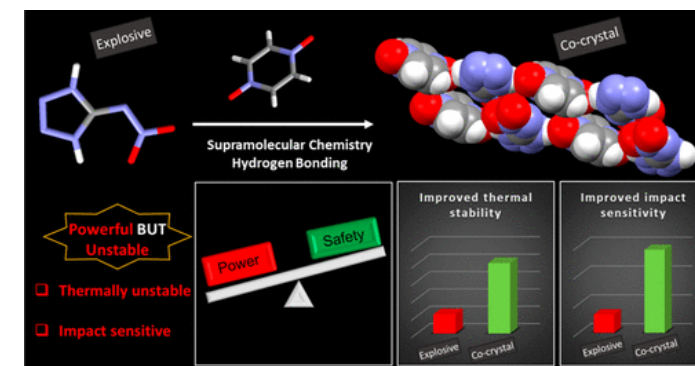
Altered solubility of agrochemicals

Chem. Commun. 2018, 54, 4657–4660

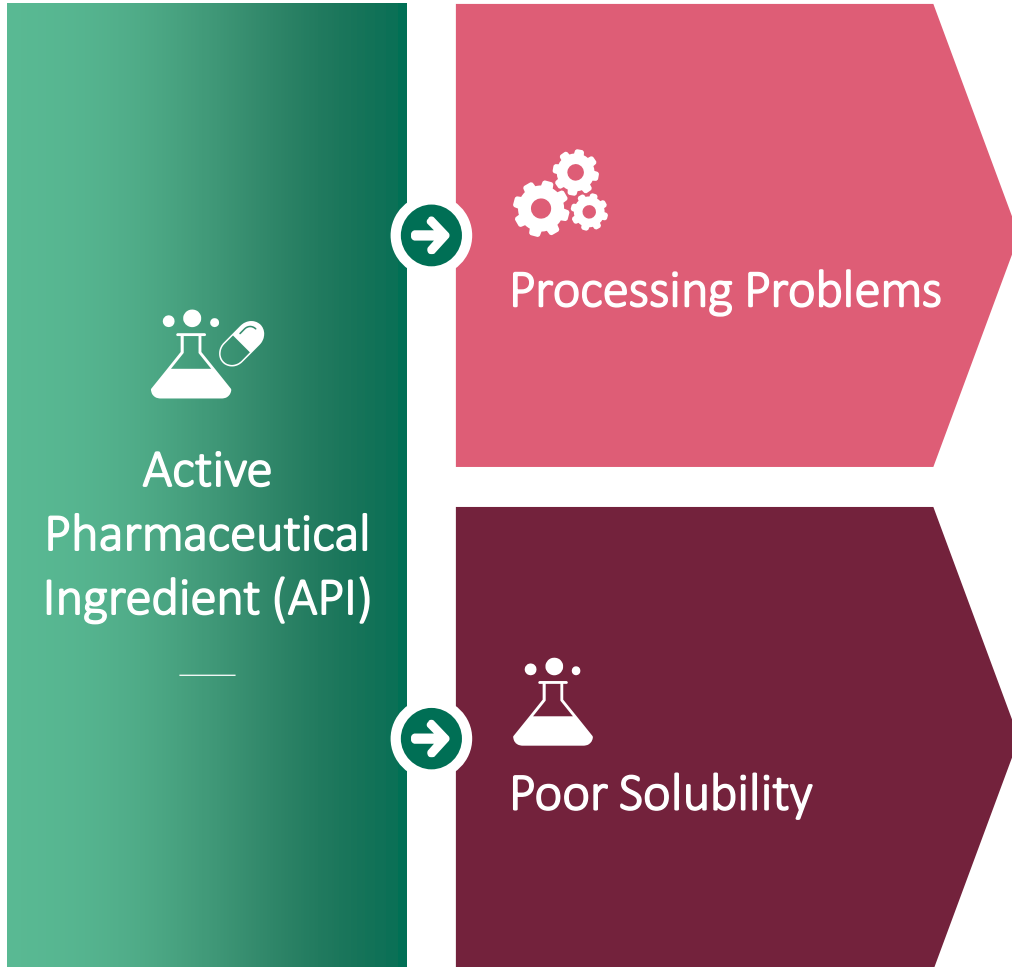


Improved energetic performance

Cryst. Growth Des. 2020, 20, 2432–2439



Challenges in API development



Flow



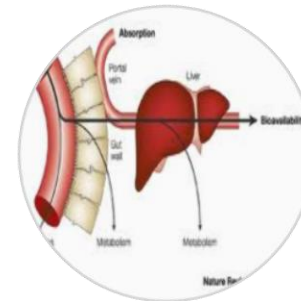
Compaction



Content Uniformity



Dissolution



Bioavailability

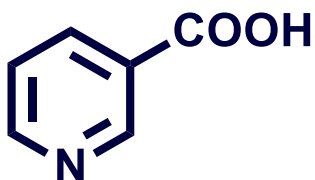
https://dev.rodpub.com/images/143/084_main.jpg

<http://5.imimg.com/data5/LN/LC/MY-36553/2-nitro-aniline-500x500.jpg>

<http://res.freestockphotos.biz/pictures/5/5483-round-biconvex-white-tablets-pv.jpg>

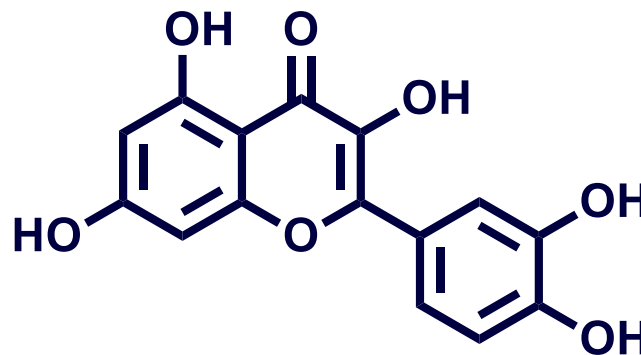
Traditional cocrystal screening of nutraceuticals

a



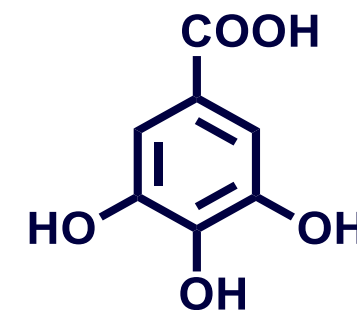
Nicotinic acid (vitamin B3)

b



Quercetin (flavonoid)

c



Gallic acid (phenolic acid)



Problem statement



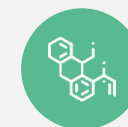
Poor solubility



Poor stability



Non-ionizable functional groups



Functional group compatibility



Goals



Pharmaceutically
acceptable
coformers

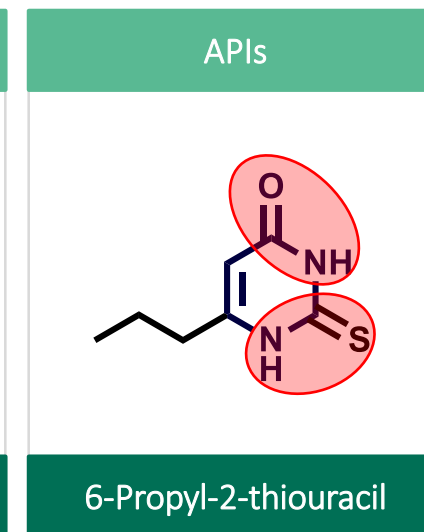
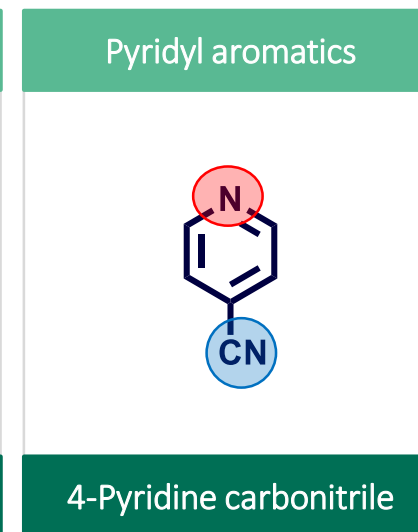
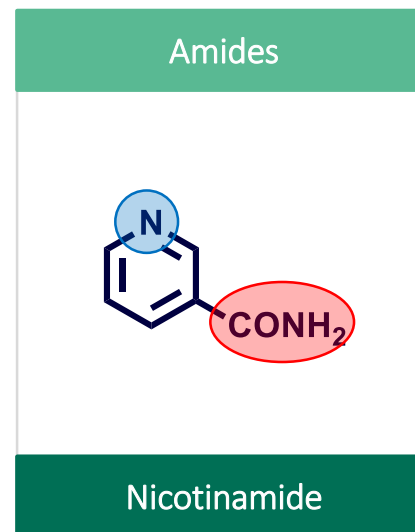
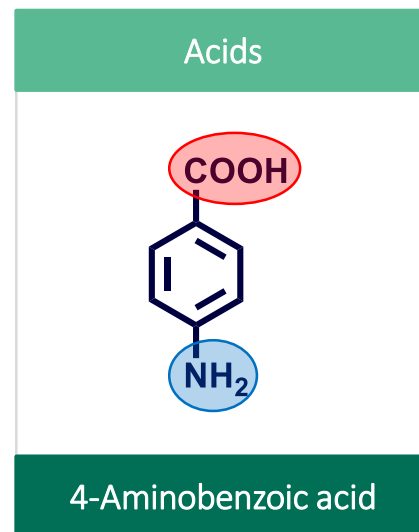
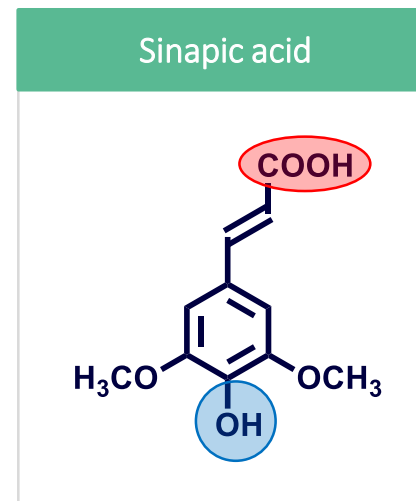
- 1 GRAS and EAFUS list
- 2 Improved physicochemical properties of nutraceuticals with health benefits



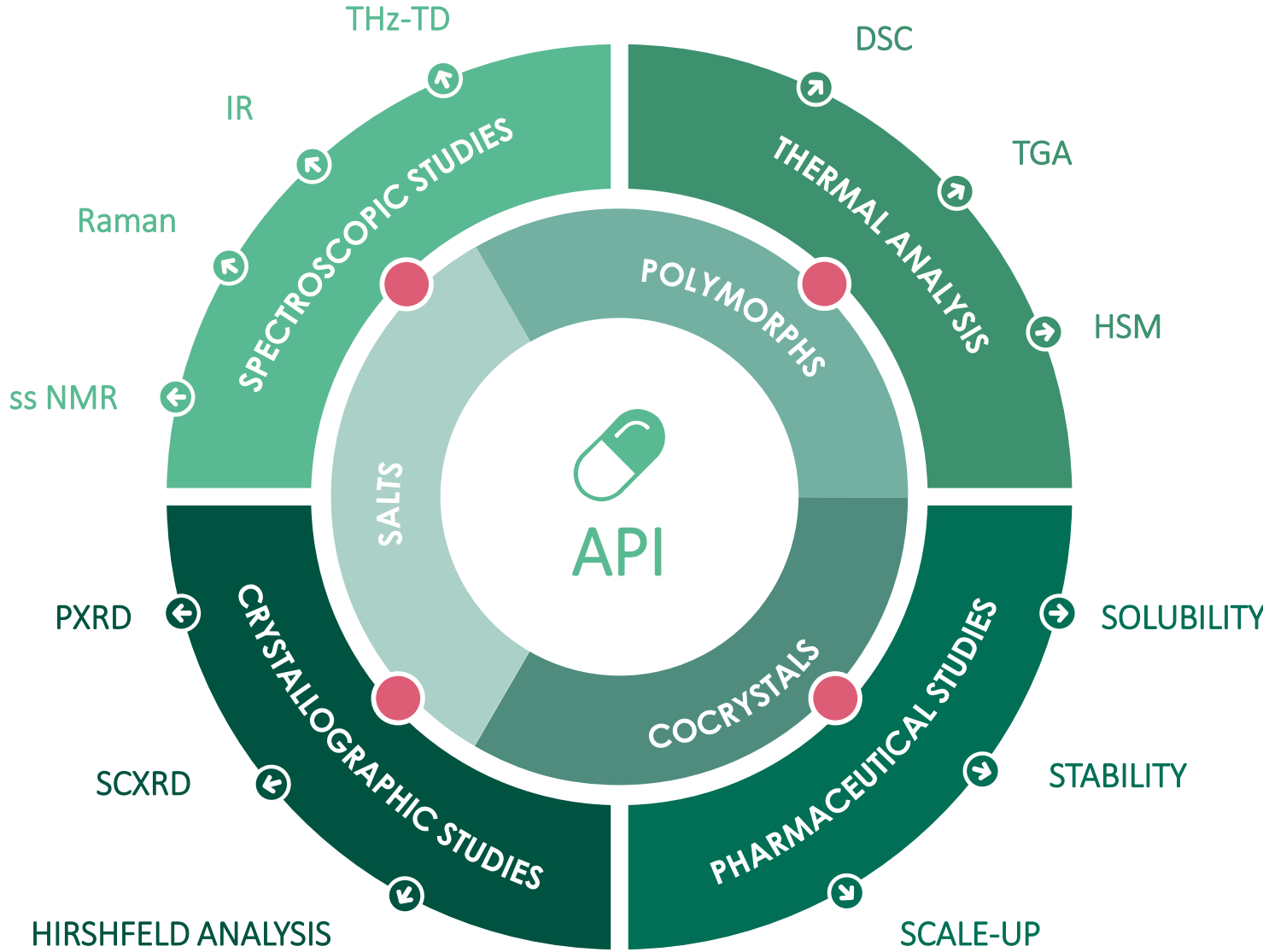
Cocrystals with
relevant APIs

- 1 Dual drug approach
- 2 Anti-oxidant properties of nutraceuticals ⇨ altered physicochemical properties of APIs?

Cofomers based on functional group compatibility

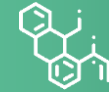
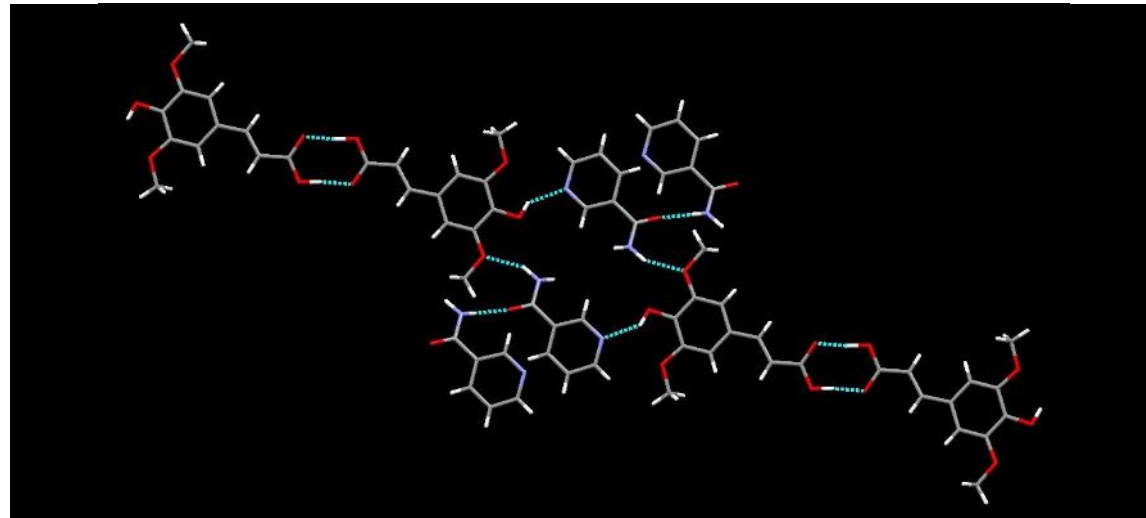
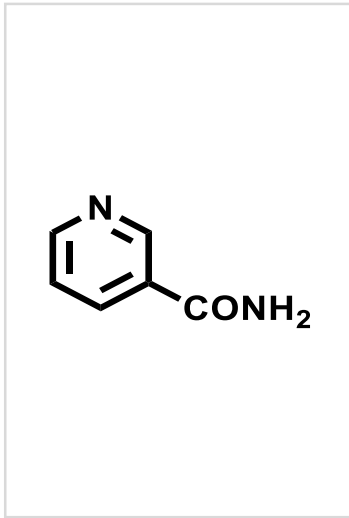
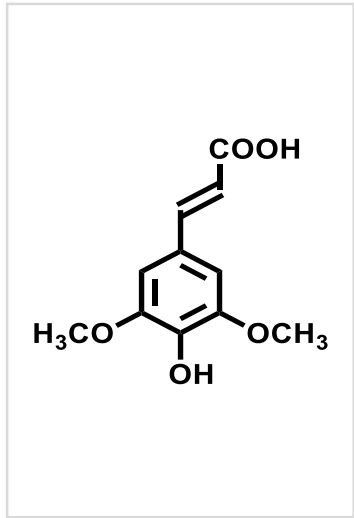


Characterization and scale-up

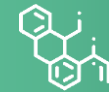
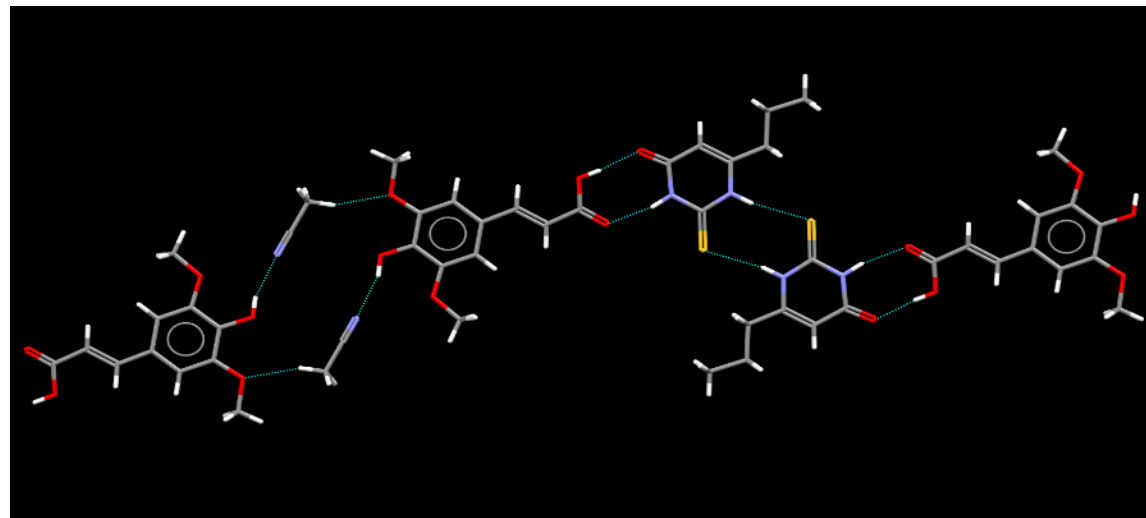
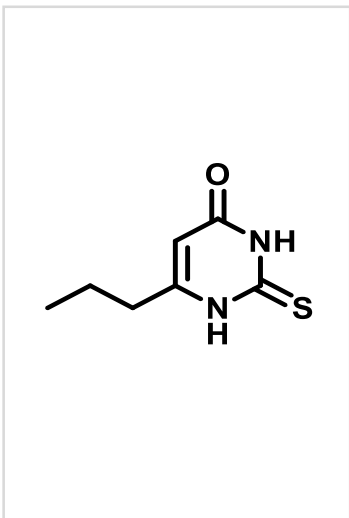
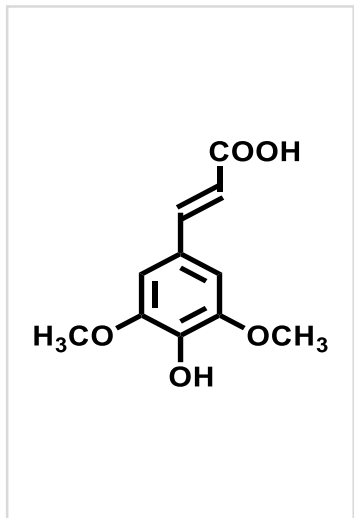


ADVANCED CHARACTERIZATION TECHNIQUES

Single-crystal structures of sinapic acid

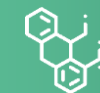
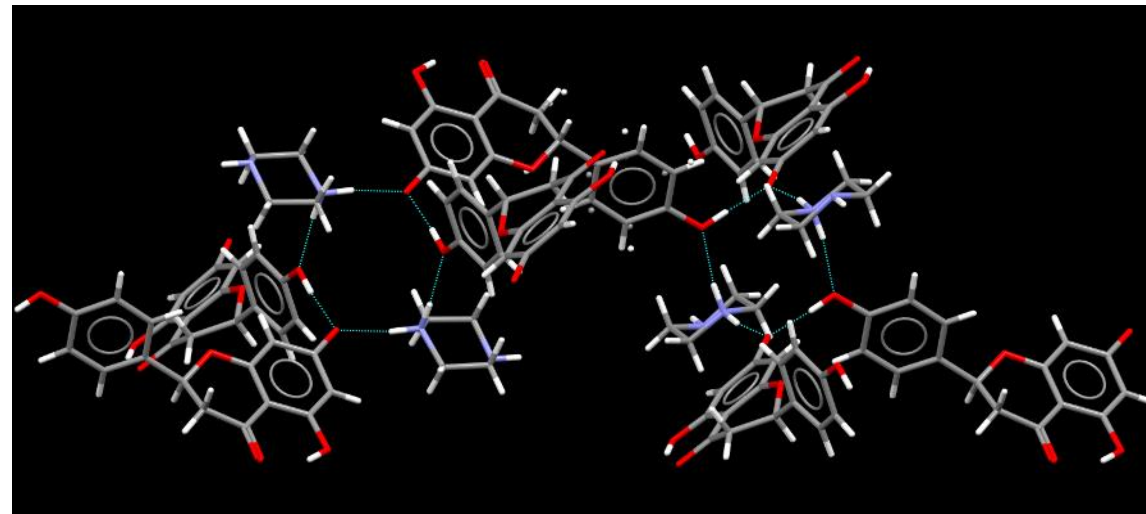
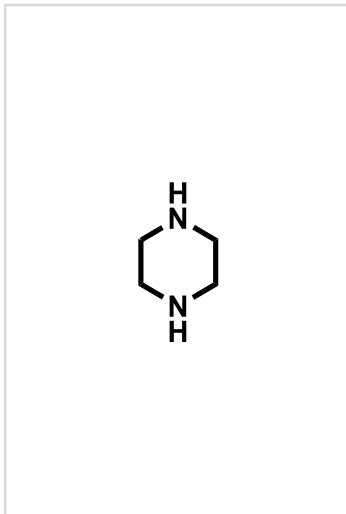
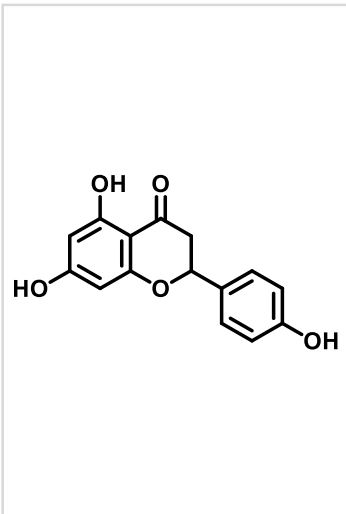


Triclinic $P\bar{1}$, 2; R = 5.36 %; a = 4.9109(11), b = 9.1732(18), c = 18.814(4); α = 99.563(7), β = 97.2740(10), γ = 90.531(7)



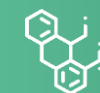
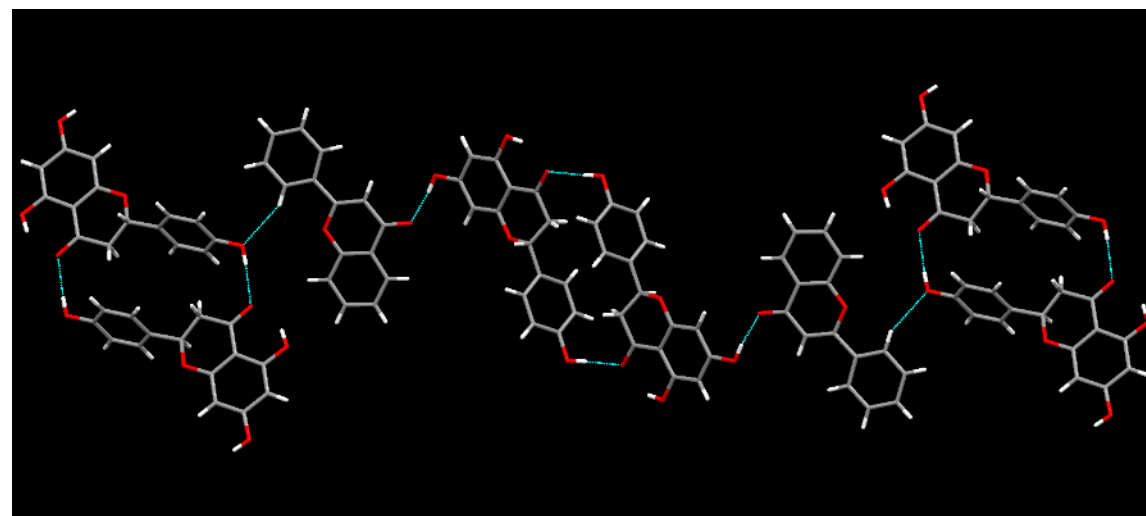
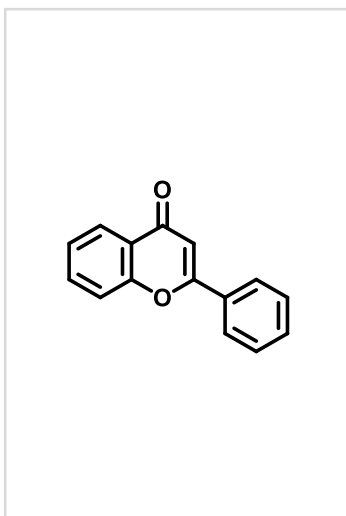
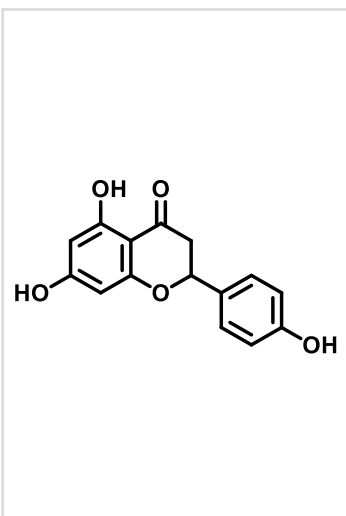
Triclinic $P\bar{1}$, 2; R = 3.93 %; a = 8.2922(8), b = 10.5857(10), c = 14.7818(15); α = 98.274(2), β = 94.315(2), γ = 105.620(2)

Single-crystal structures of naringenin



Monoclinic $P2_1/C$, 4; R = 4.46 %; a = 9.572(2), b = 18.849(4), c = 10.520(2); β = 109.072(7)

Modeled in two orientations with the final refined occupancies of 0.57:0.43/0.43:0.57.



Monoclinic $P2_1/C$, 4; R = 5.55 %; a = 9.0624(2), b = 28.7469(6), c = 9.0586(2); β = 97.2740(10)

Challenges in crystallization of cocrystals

Cocrystal preparation methods



Slow evaporation ←

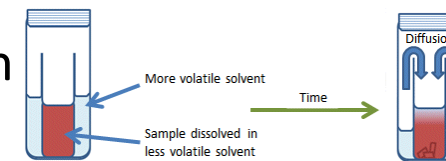


Liquid-assisted grinding (ball mill) ←

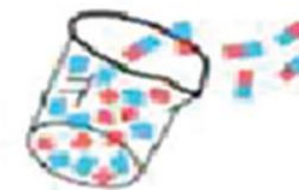


Solid-state grinding (ball mill) ←

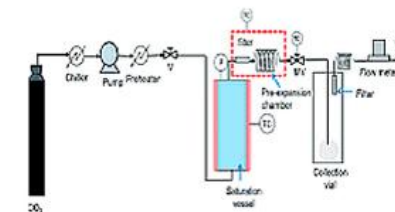
→ Vapor diffusion (SAS)



→ Slurry method

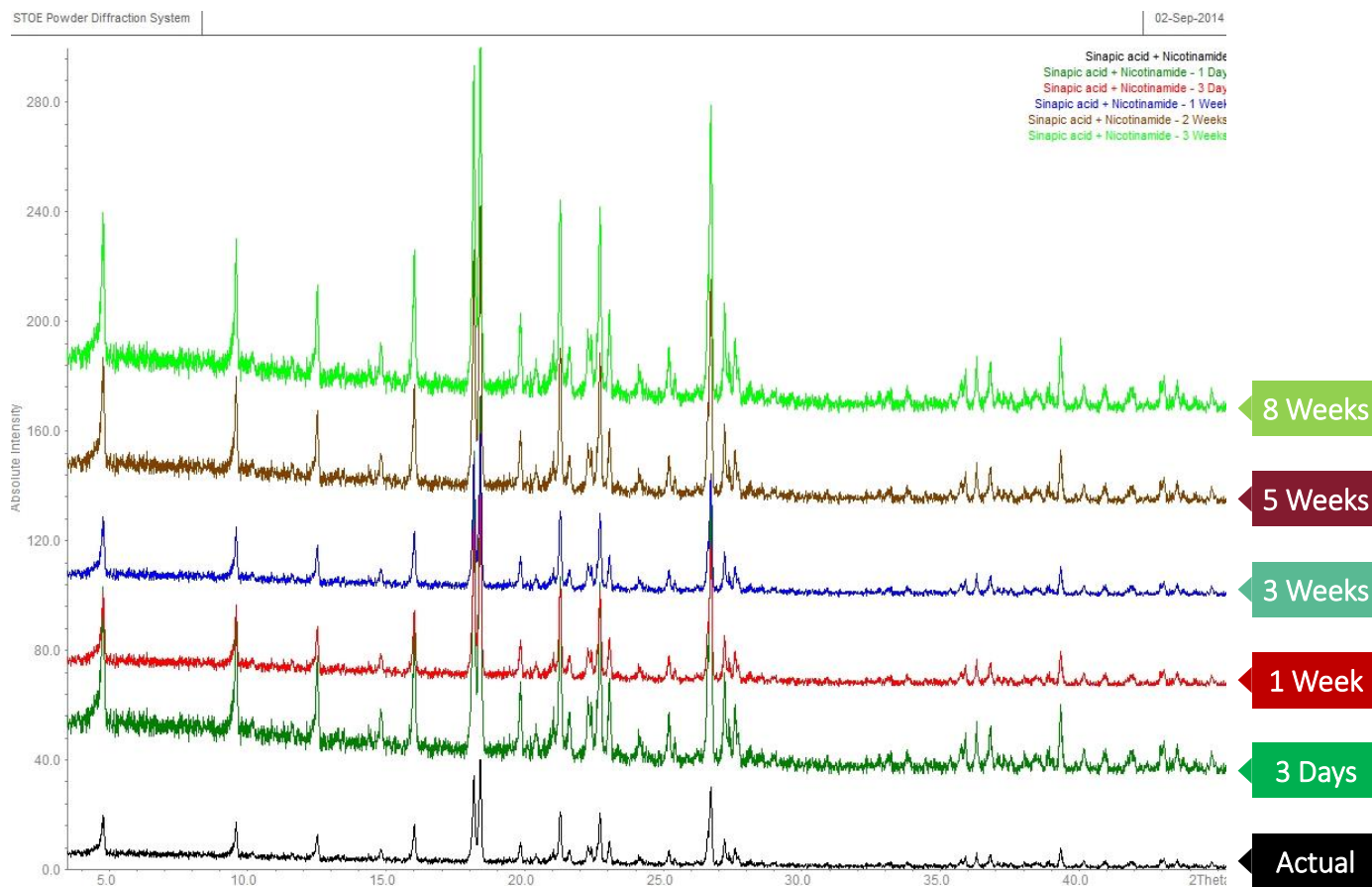


→ Supercritical fluids





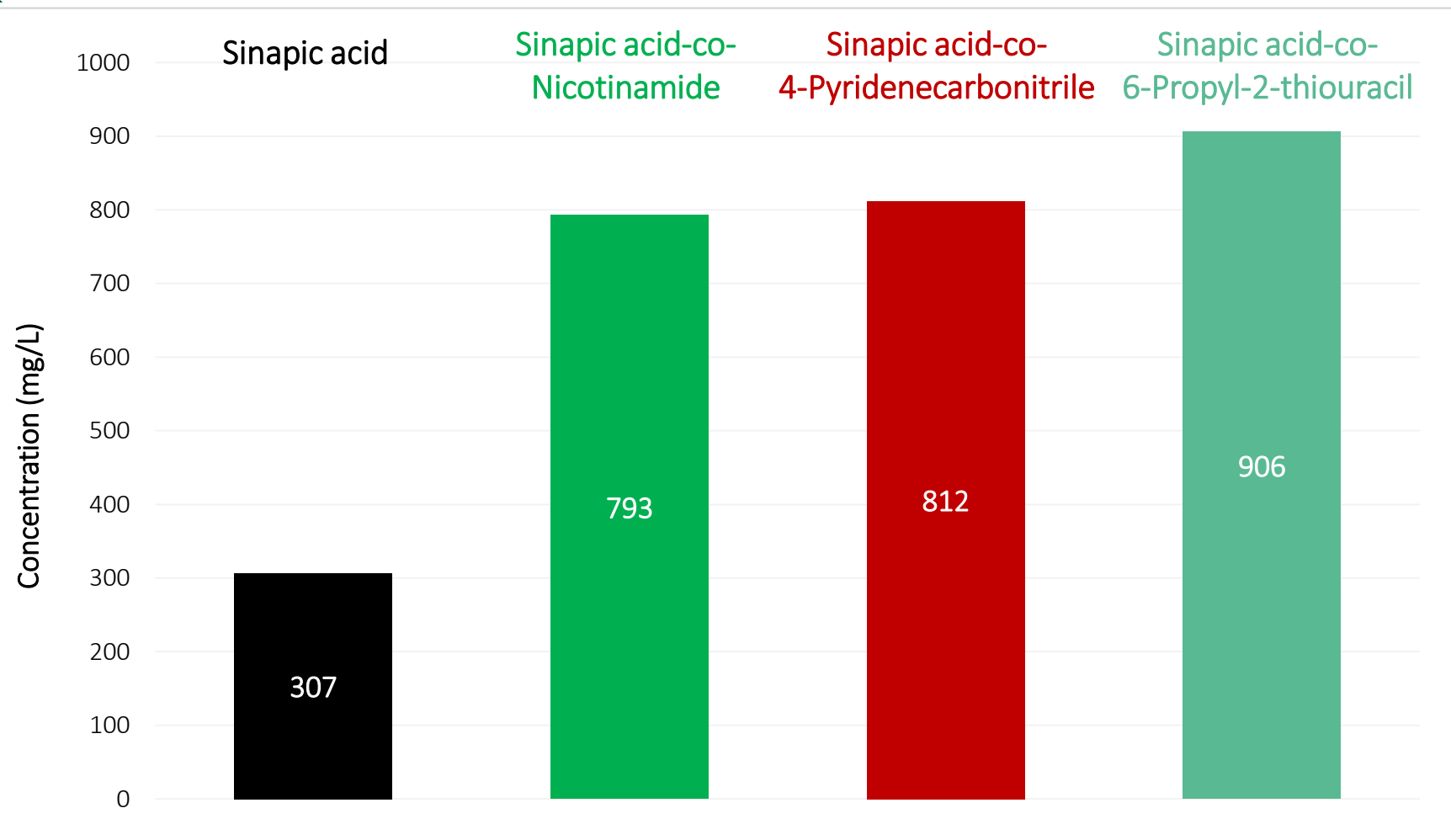
**Cocrystal is
physically
stable**



Sinapic acid +
Nicotinamide
(75 % RH
and 40 °C)



Equilibrium aqueous solubility of cocrystals



Summary of results for case study 1



Polymorph and co-crystal screening of 10 different nutraceuticals carried out.



Enhancement in physical stability of the new forms observed.

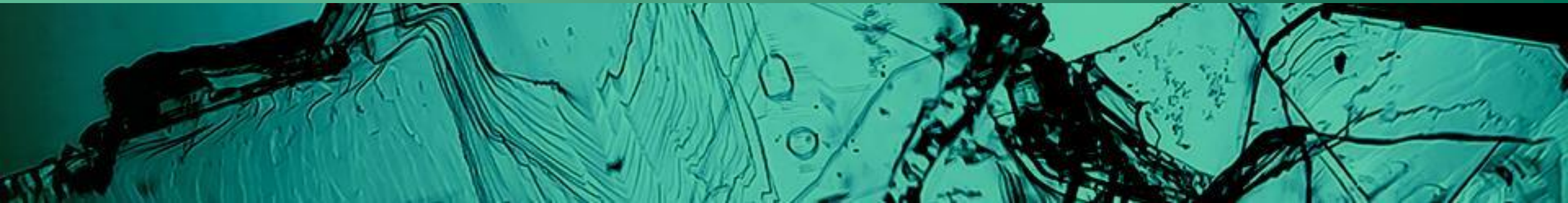


Achieved a 2-3-fold enhancement in solubility of the nutraceutical.



Case Study 2 – Virtual (in-silico) Cococrystal Screen

B. Sandhu, A. McLean, A. S. Sinha, J. Desper, A. A. Sarjeant, S. Vyas, S. M. Reutzel-Edens and C. B. Aakeröy, *Cryst. Growth Des.* 2018, **18**, 466–478.





Problem statement



Goals

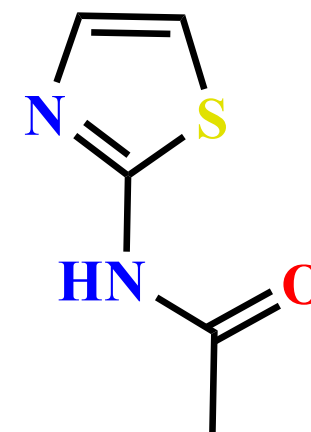
- ✓ Experimental cocrystal screening is expensive

- ✓ ...and time consuming.

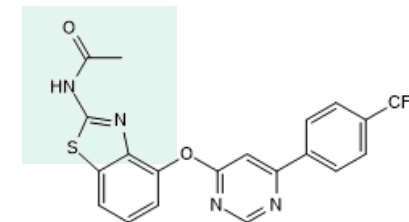
- ✓ Reduce cost and labor extensive screens via in-silico methods.

- ✓ Validate results by comparing to experimental screen.

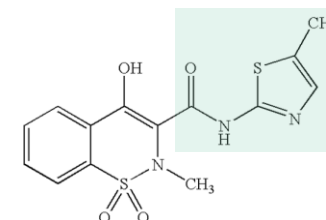
H → methyl



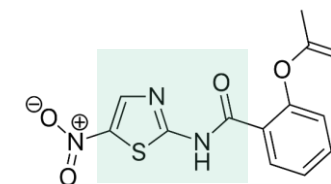
Alkyl chains → Phenyl → Pyridyl



Nitazoxanide



Meloxicam



AMG 517



Experimental cocrystal screening

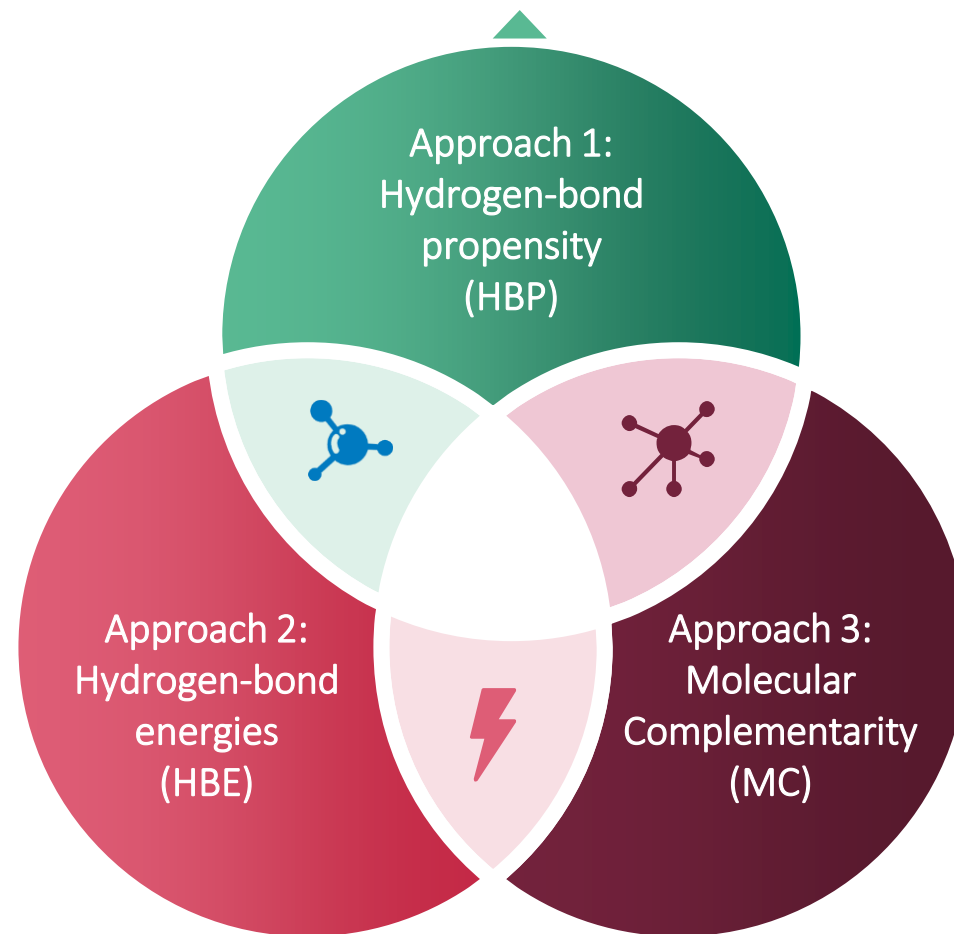
ACID	Group 1						Group 2						Success rate
	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7	T8	T9	T10	T12	T12	
Suc	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	58%
Adi	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	58%
Sub	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	58%
Seb	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	50%
Dod	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	50%
Fum	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	67%
Mal	Red	Green	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	75%
Glu	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	58%
Pim	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	50%
Aze	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	42%
3-HydroxyBA	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	100%
4-HydroxyBA	Green	Green	Red	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	83%
3-AminoBA	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	92%
4-AminoBA	Green	Green	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	67%
3-NitroBA	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	100%
4-NitroBA	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	50%
BA	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	67%
4-IodoBA	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	8%
4-BromoBA	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	16%
PentaFBA	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	100%
Positive outcomes	7	8	4	5	6	11	19	18	19	18	18	18	151/240
Success rate	35%	40%	20%	25%	30%	55%	95%	90%	95%	90%	90%	90%	63%

Red = No Green = Yes

Methods to predict cocrystallization outcome

$$\text{HBP score} = \left(\text{Propensity of the best heteromeric interaction} \right) - \left(\text{Propensity of the best homomeric interaction} \right)$$

0.00 as cut off



$$\text{HBE score} = \left(\text{Energy of the best heteromeric interaction} \right) -$$

$$\left(\text{Energy of the best homomeric interaction} \right)$$

0.00 as cut off

10 by 10 conformations
Hit rate: >50% (positive cocrystal)



Approach 1: Can we use HBP to predict cocrystallization?

$$\text{HBP score} = \left(\text{Propensity of the best heteromeric interaction} \right) - \left(\text{Propensity of the best homomeric interaction} \right)$$

0.00 as cut off

		Predicted outcome	
		Cocrystal	No cocrystal
Experiment	Cocrystal	True positive	False Negative
	No cocrystal	False Positive	True Negative

Group 1

Group 2

MC _{cutoff} : >0.00		Predicted outcome	
		Cocrystal	No cocrystal
Experiment	Cocrystal	49	31
	No cocrystal	17	63

MC _{cutoff} : >0.00		Predicted outcome	
		Cocrystal	No cocrystal
Experiment	Cocrystal	48	25
	No cocrystal	0	7

112/ 160 = 70%

55/ 80 = 68%

Overall success rate = 69%

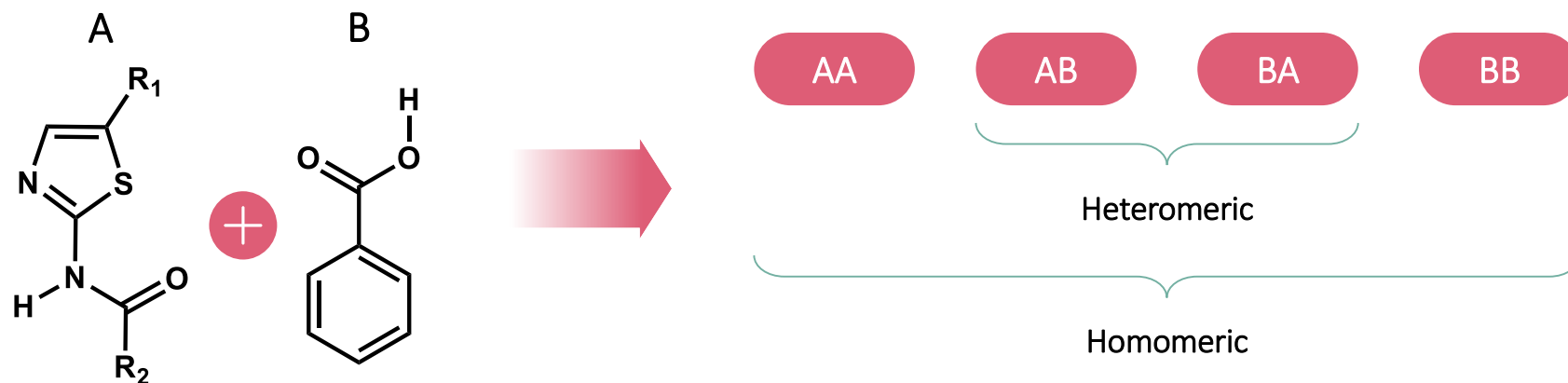


**Approach 2:
Can we use HBE
to predict
cocrystallization?**

$$HBE\ score = \left(\text{Energy of the best heteromeric interaction} \right) - \left(\text{Energy of the best homomeric interaction} \right)$$

0.00 as cut off

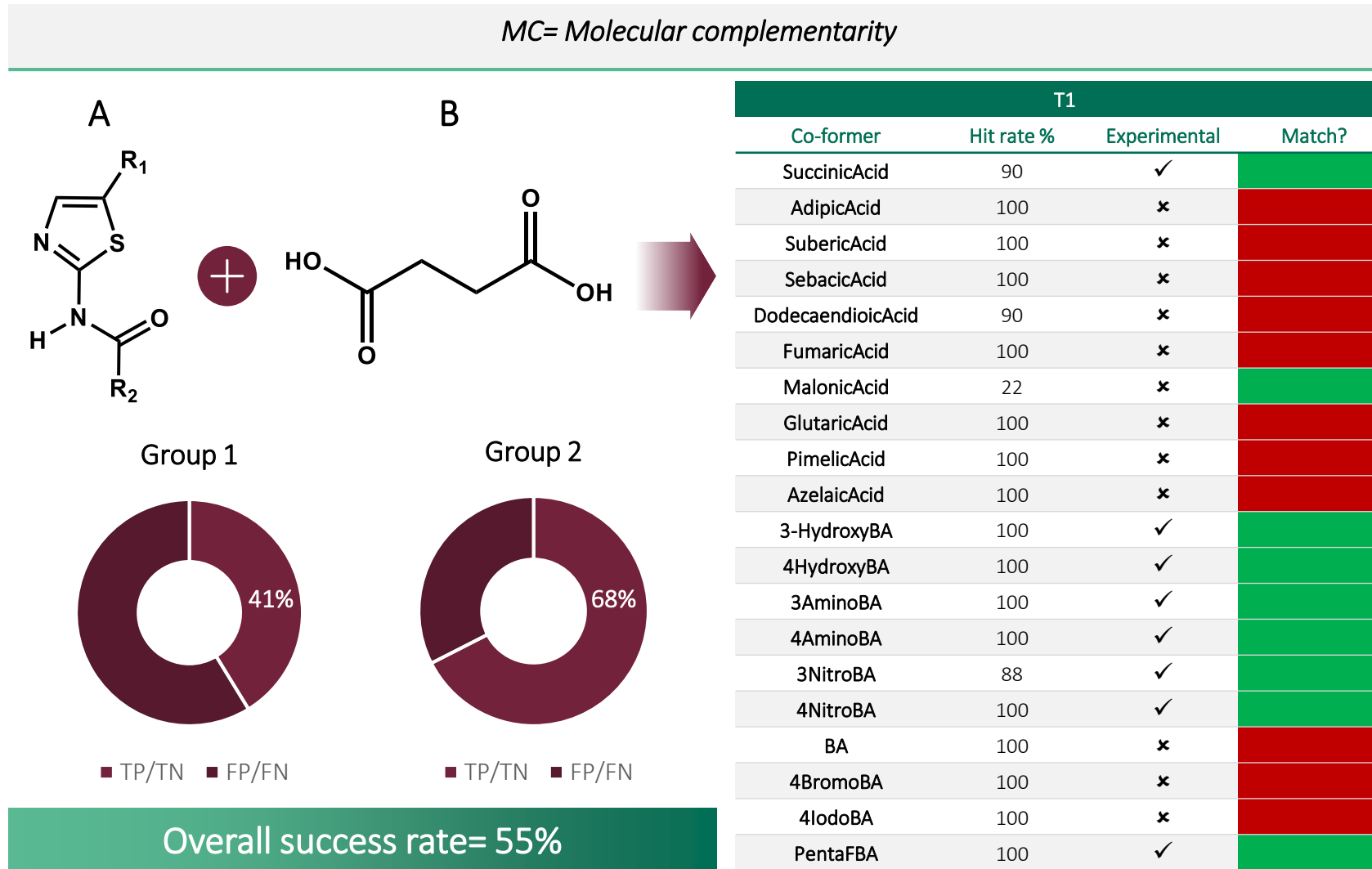
E= best Donor × best acceptor
E= α × β



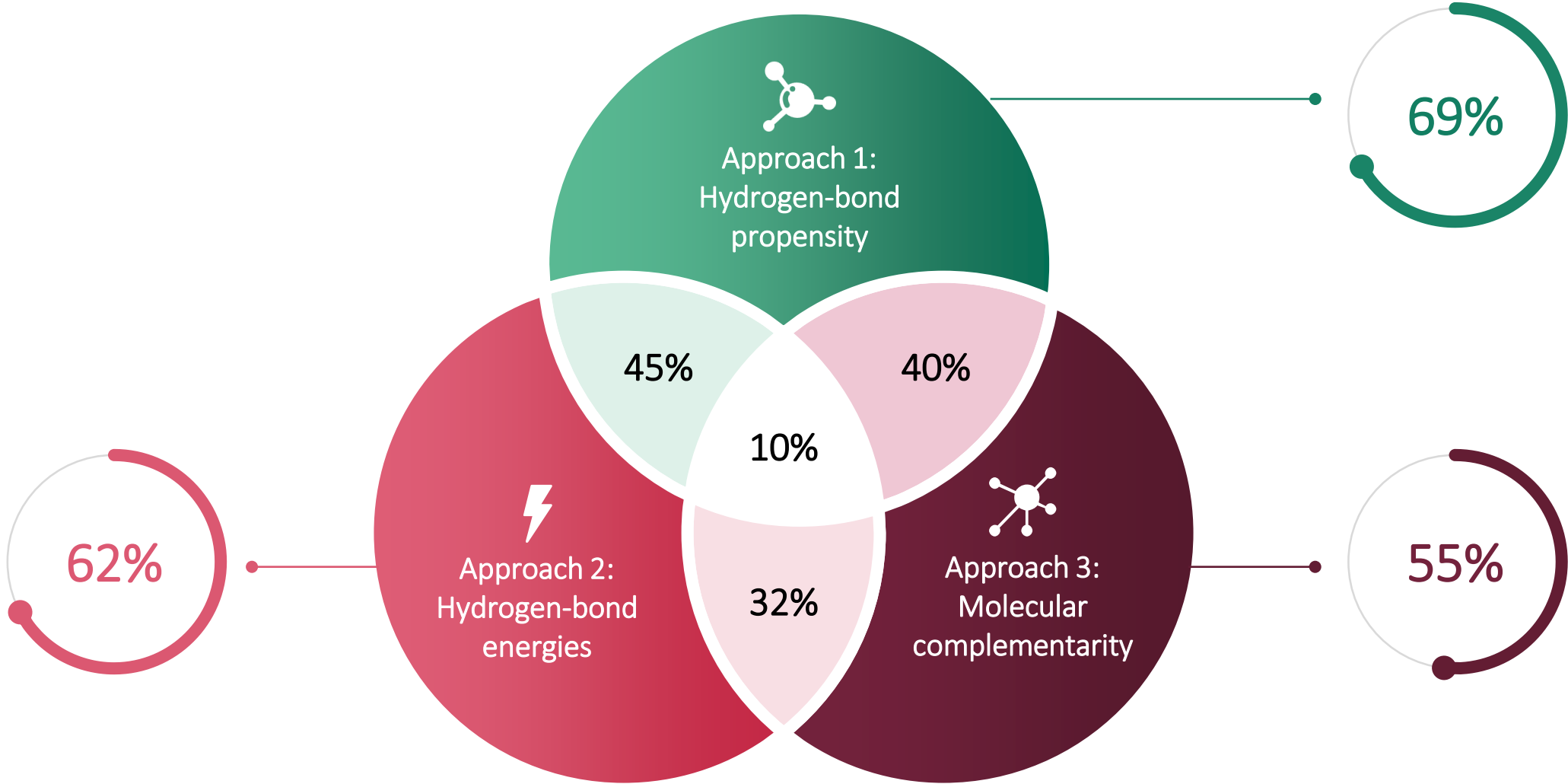
Overall success rate = 62%



Approach 3: Can we use MC to predict co- crystallization?



Summary of results for case study 2



Conclusions

- ❖ Solid form screening and selection is a key aspect of drug development and clinical readiness.
- ❖ Identifying robust supramolecular synthons and understanding their hierarchy within different intermolecular interactions is key to rational cocrystal design.
- ❖ Cocrystallization of 10 nutraceuticals resulted in multiple new solid-state forms with GRAS and EAFUS acceptable cofomers.
- ❖ A 2-3 fold increase in solubility of the nutraceutical was observed in the cocrystals.
- ❖ Virtual cocrystal screening is important for saving time and cutting costs associated with traditional screens.
- ❖ For the examined pharmacophore, hydrogen bond propensity (HBP) method had the highest success rate for predicting cocrystals.

Solid Form Screening

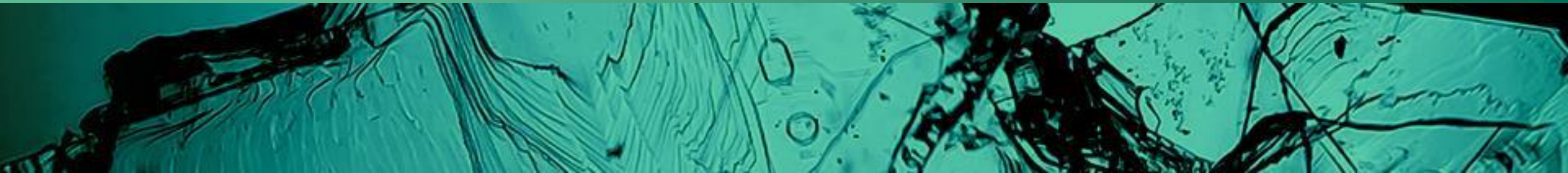
Webinar - Solid Form Screening and Rational Cocrystal Design

This presentation (“Presentation”) is the property of Lonza AG and its affiliates (“Lonza”) and any unauthorized use or interception of this Presentation is illegal.

The information contained herein is believed to be correct. However, no warranty is made, either expressed or implied, regarding its accuracy or the results to be obtained from the use of such information. Lonza disclaims any liability for the use of this Presentation and the use of the information contained herein is at your own risk.

All trademarks belong to Lonza or to their respective third-party owners and are used here only for informational purposes.

All copyrighted material has been reproduced with permission from their respective owners, all other materials ©2021 Lonza.



A photograph of three men in an industrial setting, likely a factory or laboratory. They are all wearing white hard hats. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and dark jeans. The man in the middle is wearing a blue jacket over a striped shirt and blue jeans. The man on the right is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and blue jeans. They appear to be in a conversation, with the man on the left gesturing with his hand. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

the next relationship...

Working in partnership.

pharma.lonza.com
small.molecules@lonza.com