

### **Bioassays for Establishing Equivalence** Linking API and Formulation to their Biological Effect

Sid Bhoopathy, PhD Chief Operating Officer



# Limited Access; Limited Success



Slow down of unique generic drug product approvals

IMS Report: Declining Medicine Use and Costs: For Better or Worse? May 2013 and AAPS Local BE Workshop, November 2016



In Vitro Based BE



## In Vitro Characterization Based Equivalence



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# Characterization Based Equivalence

### Limitations

- Which attributes to measure?
  - Identifying key factors that impact BA
- How to perform?
  - Outcome can be methodology dependent
- Open-ended process optimization
  - Interpretation of differences observed; do they matter?
- No insights on site of action vs. formulation interaction
  - Complex, multifactorial and layered biology
  - API molecular diversity or multiphasic formulations
- Q1/Q2 not possible
  - Unable to use approach; Constraint

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# **Opportunity for Innovation**



### In Vitro CBE API | Excipients | Physicochemical Characterization



# Augmented Q3 - Bioassays



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# Bioassay Development

#### Strategy

Endpoint, methodology and mode of measurement

### Optimization

- Various assay parameters
- Physiologically relevant conditions

### Qualification

- Validation feasible
- Sensitive over a range of concentrations
- Reproducible
- Discriminatory

### Validation

Comply with relevant guidelines

### **Pivotal Performance assessment**

- Multiple lots of RLD and Test formulations
- Quantitative Comparison



## **Bioassays** - Integrated Effect

#### Comparative Physicochemical Characterization

#### Local GI

Dissolution, pH, viscosity, acid neutralizing capacity, re-dispersibility, specific gravity, PSD

#### Ophthalmic

pH, rheology, crystalline habit, re-dispersibility, surface tension, osmolality, buffer capacity, PSD

#### Topical

Crystal habit, rheology, PSD, pH specific gravity, water activity

#### Inhibition Bioassay

 Combined effect of changes to viscosity, dissolution, and specific gravity





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## **Bioassays** - Orthogonal Measures

- Confirmation of the same endpoint using a different assay or methodology
- Closer to the targeted in vivo effect



- Assay outcomes are complementary
- Combined selectivity strengthens assurance of overall conclusions



#### **Bioassay 2-Diffusion**

Error bars are the standard deviation of the mean (SD); dotted lines bracket the range of the RLDs.

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## Bioassays – Greater Relevance

- Quantify a single formulation property
- Evaluate multi-faceted formulation-related effect mechanisms
- Assess relevant interactions between doses



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## Bioassays – Mitigate Q2 Differences

- Bioassays represent product effect via multiple mechanisms between doses
- Selective to compositional differences
- May be used to construct a zone of "no bio-impact" with Q2 differences





Pathways to Approval	In Vitro CBE	Bioassays- Integrated Approach that links API to Formulation	Clinical Studies
Approach	<ul> <li>Product Specific Guidance is required</li> <li>Q1/Q2/Q3</li> <li>IVRT comparison for test and RLD formulations</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Independent of Product Specific Guidance availability</li> <li>Q1 Similarity</li> <li>Q2/Q3 differences may be justifiable</li> <li>Orthogonal bioassays with in vivo relevance that complement physicochemical characterization</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Clinical Endpoint</li> <li>Site of Action PK</li> </ul>
Risks & Probability of Success	<ul> <li>Knowledge, capability and experience under progress</li> <li>Frequent revisions to guidance based on new knowledge</li> <li>Product guidance is a recommendation/guide not a roadmap</li> <li>Success based on Q1/Q2/Q3 being achieved limits utility</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>In vitro CBE risks mitigated with a "totality of evidence" approach</li> <li>Knowledge, bioexemption capabilities and experiences are growing</li> <li>Wider product development applicability</li> <li>Possible to overcome Q2 and Q3 differences</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Time consuming, expensive, potentially inconclusive</li> <li>FDA Guidances acknowledge difficulty in approach and requests Sponsors to propose alternative reproducible methods</li> <li>Opportunity to innovate to enhance patient access</li> </ul>