



Nitrosamine Impurities: Beyond a Compendial Standard - **Learnings from USP's Nitrosamines Exchange Community**

Naiffer Romero, MSc, MPH

Principal Scientist
USP Science Division
Rockville, MD



1

Development of a Standard

Components that Enable Impactful Standards



Aligned with
Public health and patient
safety priorities

Developed by
Independent experts
Industry and Volunteers



Practical for
- Users of the standard
- Enforcers of the standard

**Adapted &
Improved**
In response to public
health challenges

The journey of a potential standard is not a straight path and does not always end in “the monograph”



Engagement and collaboration are essential

Identifying

- Workshops
- Roundtables
- User forums
- 1:1 engagements with community members



Congeeing

- Research
- Collaborations



Refining

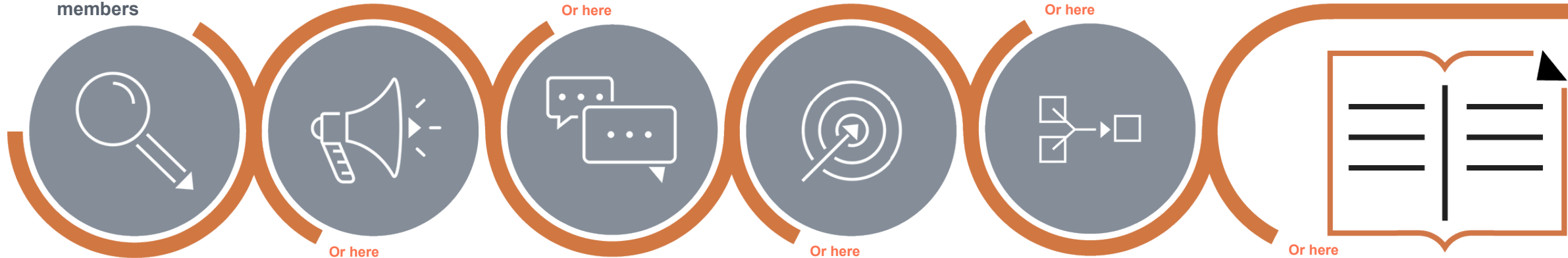
- PF
- Open Forums



Implementation Support



Start here



Incubating

- Workshops
- Roundtables



Distilling

- EP
- Stimuli or journal articles
- White papers
- Collaborations



Final Feedback

- PF
- EC

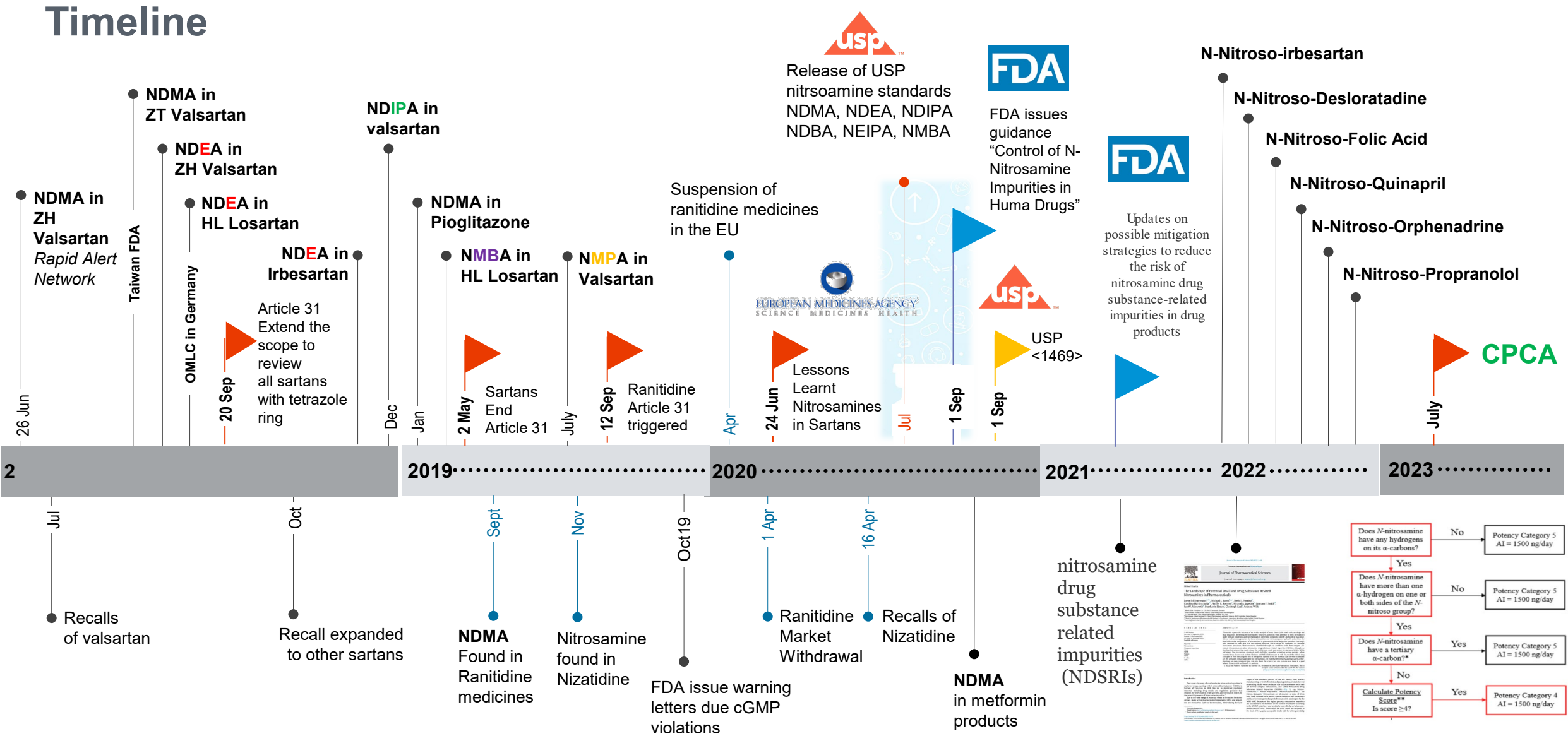




Beyond Compendial Solutions

Nitrosamine Quick Evolution

Timeline





- ▶ Unleashing the **power of online communities**
- ▶ Increase and **accelerate early scientific knowledge** exchange in select topics
- ▶ Strong **sense of community and belonging**, despite not operating in physical space
- ▶ *Democratization and inclusion of knowledge*
- ▶ Hosted by USP, BUT defined by the members
- ▶ A new tool in USP's ecosystem of engagement approaches

Join <http://nitrosamines.usp.org>

Knowledge Hub: Is & Is NOT



- ▶ ***It is*** supporting USP's efforts to increase early connectivity and engagement with *SMEs*
- ▶ ***It is*** a monitored community platform for scientific knowledge exchange on all-things nitrosamine
- ▶ ***It is*** a forum to incubate, learn and share knowledge/resources with a global community

- ▶ ***It is not*** focused on USP General Chapter <1469> *Nitrosamine Impurities*
- ▶ ***It is not*** a substitute for public comment in PF or compendial processes
- ▶ ***It is not*** a venue to influence or change policy

Nitrosamines Exchange

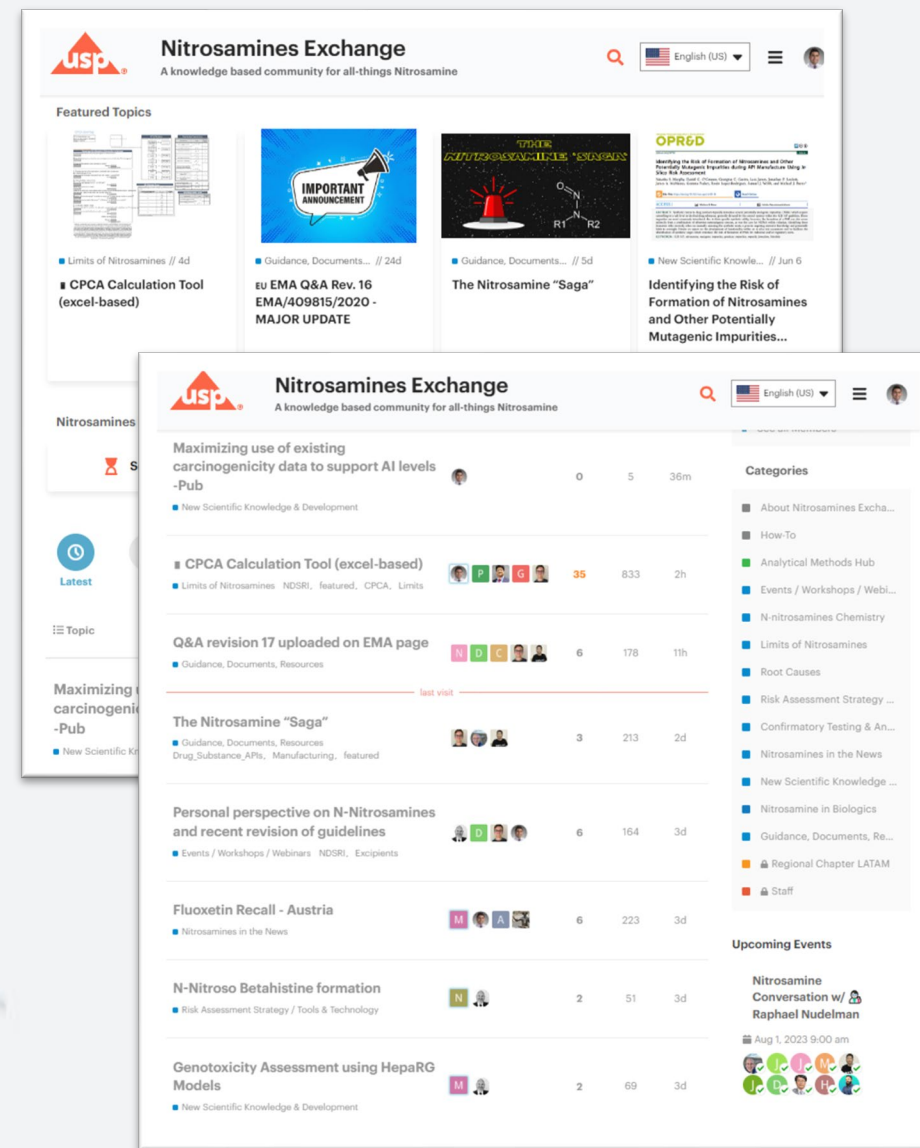
An online knowledge-based community on all-things nitrosamines



- 4600+ members, 80+ countries
- Ability to translate text between 22 languages



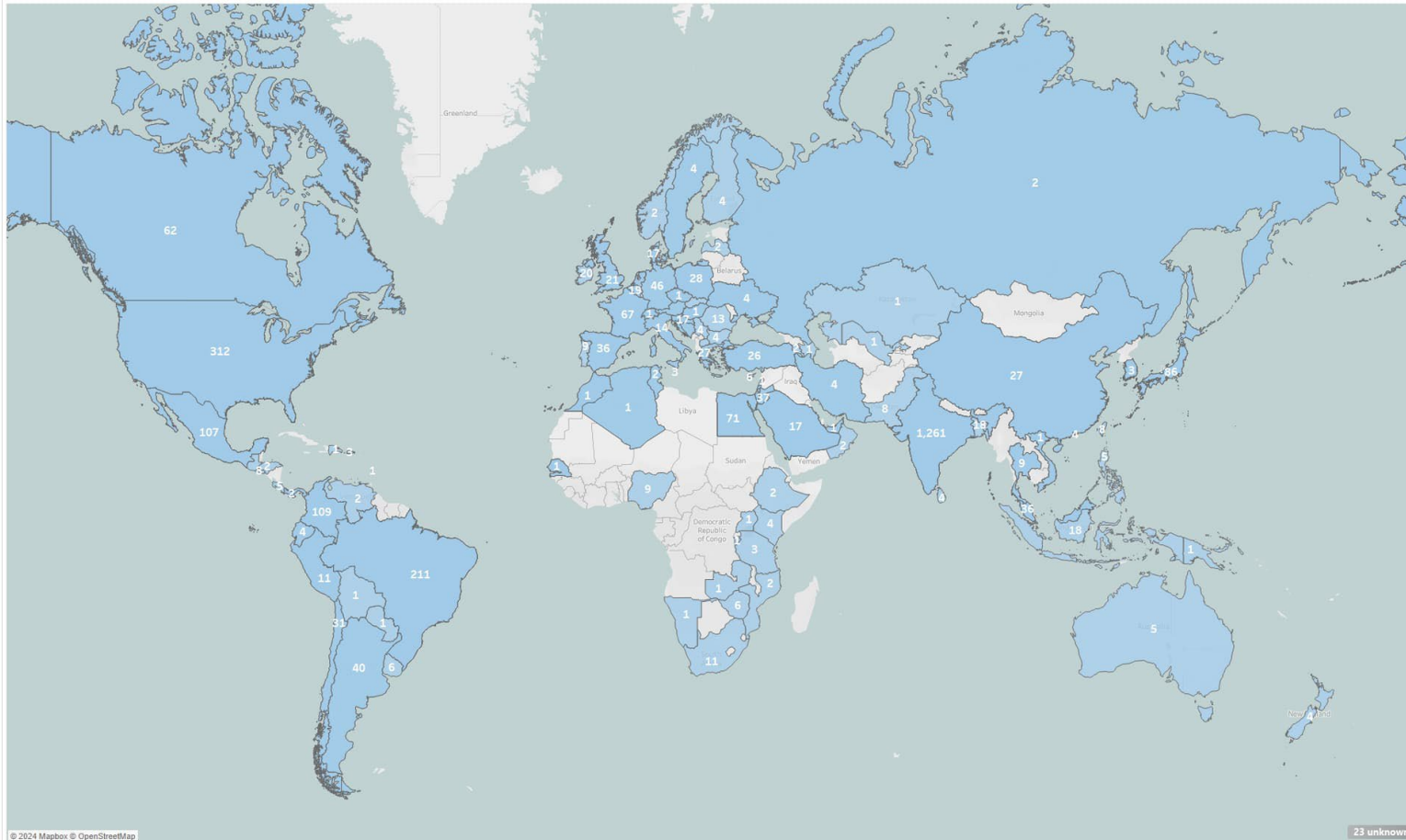
Join <http://nitrosamines.usp.org>



Nitrosamines Exchange today



Nitrosamine Exchange Community



▶ 4,600+ Members

▶ 89,000 page views/month

▶ 100+ user-to-user weekly interactions

USP Nitrosamines Analytical Hub

www.nitrosamines.usp.org

FDA-published testing method to provide an option for regulators and industry to detect NDMA impurities

The links below are to FDA-published testing methods to provide an option for regulators and industry to detect nitrosamine impurities in metformin drug substances and drug products. These methods should be validated by the user if the resulting data are used to support a required quality assessment of the API or drug product, or if the results are used in a regulatory submission.

- [LC-HRMS method](#): an LC-MS method for the detection of NDMA in metformin drug substance and drug products.
- [LC-ESI-HRMS method](#): an LC-HRMS method for the measurement of amounts of eight nitrosamine impurities in metformin drug substance and drug products

Nitrosamine testing activities of the OMCL Network

Methods for determination of nitrosamine drug substance-related impurities (NDSRIs) and intermediate-related contaminants

Methods for determination of nitrosamines in ranitidine

Method for determination of genotoxic substances in sartans as AZBT (azidomethyl biphenyl tetrazole) or AZBC (azidomethyl biphenyl carbonitrile)

Methods for determination of nitrosamines in sartans

Methods for determination of nitrosamines in metformin

SEE ALSO

EDQM 31/05/2022 STRASBOURG, FRANCE
OMCLs participate in international regulatory collaboration on the analysis of nitrosamines in metformin-containing medicines

> N-nitrosamine contamination in brief

- Public **online repository** containing **non-compendial** analytical procedures (analytical notes) for the testing of nitrosamine impurities and related substances.
- USP's scientists curate these analytical procedures through **internal development/validation** or through scientific review of non-compendial donations. They are **NOT** compendial standards.

Nitrosamines Exchange
A knowledge based community for all-things Nitrosamine

English (US)

Featured Topics

- Limits of Nitrosamines // 20d
■ **CPCA Calculation Tool (excel-based) - Updated**
- New Scientific Knowledge... // Jun 6
■ **Identifying the Risk of Formation of Nitrosamines and Other Potentially Mutagenic Impurities...**
- Guidance, Documents... // 21d
■ **The Nitrosamine "Saga"**
- Limits of Nitrosamines // Jul 8
■ **Visualization of Categorized Compounds by CPCA**

Nitrosamines Impurity Analytical Hub

- ⌚ Solvents
- ➡ Drug Substance
- ➡ Drug Products
- ➡ Excipients



Analytical Peer-to-Peer Support



Testig method for nitroso Ciprofloxacin

■ Confirmatory Testing & Analytical Challenges NDSRI

 This is the first time Rubenlalu has posted — let's welcome them to our community!

  Sep '23

We have been working trying to analyze N-nitroso Ciprofloxacin. This impurity has a very poor solubility and the only way we have found to perform testing is dissolving it with NaOH 1N. But we face a lot of reproducibility problems and loss of sensibility in HPLC/MS (triple quad). Have anyone found a more friendly solving media?



Peer-to-peer Support Sharing best practices





Oct '23

Yeah I have experience with this Nitrosamine earlier, please dissolve 5 mg in 200 ml acetonitrile and need to sonicate until it dissolves (might takes 15 to 20 minutes).





Nov '23

We recently had a case of analysing N-Nitroso-Ofloxacin (structural similar) and our approach was the following:

HPLC-MS (gradient)

Mobile phase A: 0.2% formic acid in water

Mobile phase B: 0.2% formic acid in acetonitrile

Solvent mixture: 0.2% Formic acid aqueous solution/Methyl alcohol (80:20)



Yosukemino Nitrosamine Exchange Ambassador

11d

I found a literature about Ciprofloxacin analysis.

Synthesis and Trace-Level Quantification of Mutagenic and Cohort-of-Concern Ciprofloxacin Nitroso Drug Substance-Related Impurities (NDSRIs) and Other Nitroso Impurities Using UPLC-ESI-MS/MS—Method Optimization Using I-Optimal Mixture Design

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsomega.3c05170> 



lucas10mauriz Nitrosamine Exchange Ambassador

Oct '23

@Rubenlalu , the addition of NaOH increases solubility; however, when dealing with analytes like N-nitroso ciprofloxacin, it hinders the ionization process and, consequently, sensitivity. In other words, do not use NaOH.

To address this issue, I recommend initially dissolving the N-nitroso ciprofloxacin in water. Ultrasonication (20 to 30 min., approx.) can aid in achieving a homogeneous solution. Subsequently, the addition of an organic solvent (methanol or acetonitrile), may be considered based on the requirements of the mobile phase and the MS ionization process. My suggestion: 50:50 (aqueous:organic).

Identify Emerging Challenges



A new root cause? NOx

■ New Scientific Knowledge & Development



1 Nov '23

To be honest, I had never considered the geographical location of the factory as a root cause, but I'll let you all read...

[N-Nitrosodimethylamine Formation in Metformin Drug Products by the Reaction of Dimethylamine and Atmospheric NO₂ | Organic Process Research & Development \(acs.org\)](#)

4 Reply

Nitrosamines evaluation in transdermal patches

■ Risk Assessment Strategy / Tools & Technology featured



4 27d



Hi all,

Recently, it got to our attention that several NDSRIs indicated in EMA Appendix 1 theoretically could be in transdermal formulations (i.e., Rotigotine, Lidocaine, Methylphenidate etc.). with NDSRIs in Category 1, 2, 3 or more. Under EMA/409815/2020 there is no difference between route of administration unless you provide data.

Nitrosamines from polybags to finished product

■ Root Causes ■ Packaging



27d

Hi,

I want to discuss about nitrosamines from Polybags. Can Nitrates/amines will be available in poly bags and transfer to API/Finished product during the storage. I have asked couple of vendors for the declaration, but they cannot arrange for it. So, do we need to consider the risk from polybags also?

Thank you...

Duplex Sequencing - Future of mutagenicity assessment

■ Risk Assessment Strategy / Tools & Technology



Naiffer_Host Community Host

Jul '23

With so much discussion around Limits and AI calculations, I want to debate for a moment to share information about 'Duplex Sequencing'. After the recent safety discussion at the Hesi/FDA meeting, I went down a rabbit hole to understand some of the proposed assays and testing that can be used to evaluate the safety or mutagenicity potential in Nitrosamines Impurities.

New paper - Use of molar, instead of weight-based, safety limits

■ New Scientific Knowledge & Development



Nitrosamine Exchange Ambassador

Oct '23

I've said a few times on here and in talks "watch this space" for more evidence for the use of molar limits for nitrosamines - the paper is now out!

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yrtph.2023.105505>

This should be particularly relevant for scaling read-across analogues, often far larger molecules than the compounds they are read-across from...

Regulatory guidelines (revisions)

www.nitrosamines.usp.org



Most active posts in the community

After the publication of Regulatory guidelines updates, community members are using the community to discuss the changes, considerations, impact and clarify cases where the framework can be challenging



EMA Q&A Rev. 16 EMA/409815/2020 - MAJOR UPDATE

■ Guidance, Documents, Resources
Drug_Substance_APIs, NDSRI, featured



FDA - Recommended Acceptable Intake Limits for NDSRIs Guidance for Industry

■ Guidance, Documents, Resources



Health Canada updated the guidance and Appendix 1(March 15, 2024)

■ Limits of Nitrosamines NDSRI

TGA (Australia) Updates Published Acceptable Intakes

■ Limits of Nitrosamines

Medicines: MAH' submission of Nitrosamine risk evaluation, risk assessment and confirmatory testing

■ Guidance, Documents, Resources Regulation

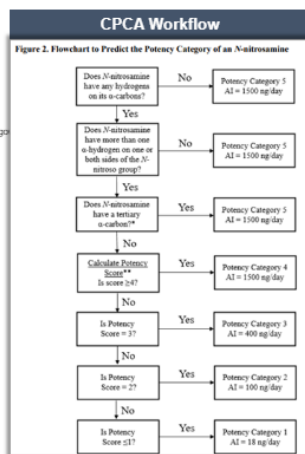
Korea Drug Review Briefing session on Nitrosamines

■ Guidance, Documents, Resources

Swiss Medic Guidelines

■ Guidance, Documents, Resources NDSRI

Carcinogenic potency categorization approach (CPCA) framework



Deactivating Feature Score		
Deactivating Feature	Example	Individual Deactivating Feature Score
Carboxylic acid group anywhere on molecule		-3
Nitroso group in a pyridine ring		-3
N-nitroso group in a 6-membered ring containing at least one sulfur atom		-3
N-nitroso group in a 5- or 6-membered ring		-2
N-nitroso group in a morpholine ring		-1
N-nitroso group in a 7-membered ring		-1
Chains of ≥5 consecutive non-hydrogen atoms (cyclic or acyclic) on both side of acyclic N-nitroso group. Not more than 4 atoms in each chain may be in the same ring.		-1
Electron-withdrawing group** bonded to α-carbon on only one side of N-nitroso group (cyclic or acyclic)		-1
Electron-withdrawing group** bonded to α-carbons on both sides of N-nitroso group (cyclic or acyclic)		-2
Hydroxyl group bonded to β-carbon*** on only one side of N-nitroso group (cyclic or acyclic)		-1
Hydroxyl group bonded to β-carbon*** on both sides of N-nitroso group (cyclic or acyclic)		-2



lucas10mauriz
Lucas Maciel Mauriz Marques
Nitrosamines LATAM



Yosukemino
Yosuke Mino
Nitrosamine Exchange Ambass...

Activating Feature Score		
Activating Feature	Example	Individual Activating Feature Score
Aryl group bonded to α-carbon (i.e., benzylic or pseudo-benzylic substituent on N-nitroso group)		-1
Methyl group bonded to β-carbon (cyclic or acyclic)		-1

α-Hydrogen Score

Table 2. Count of hydrogen atoms on each α-carbon (lowest count first) and corresponding α-Hydrogen Score. Examples are intended to be illustrative only and are not intended to be exhaustive.

Count of Hydrogen Atoms on Each α-Carbon, Lowest First	Example	α-Hydrogen Score
0,2		3*
0,3		2
1,2		3
1,3		3
2,2		1
2,3		1

*A score of 3 applies when the methyl α-carbon is not part of an ethyl group. If the methyl α-carbon is part of an ethyl group, a score of 2 should be applied.

CPCA Scoring

CPCA Classification ver.
Name of the product: XXXXXXX
Writer: YYYYYY

Paste the structure of the compound *

* For chemical information and draw structure (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>)

Credit: Yosuke Mino & Lucas Mauriz

Please input the information of the product in the boxes.

1. Does N-Nitrosamine have any hydrogens on its α-carbons?
Score:

2. Does N-Nitrosamine have more than one α-hydrogen on one or both sides of N-nitroso group?
Score:

3. Does N-Nitrosamine have a tertiary α-carbon?
Category:
AI = ng/day

4. Please check the following features included in the compounds.

4-1. α-Hydrogen Score
What count of Hydrogen Atoms on Each α-carbon, Lowest First?
Score:

4-2. Deactivating Feature Score
Carboxylic acid group anywhere on molecule?
Score:
What ring system is included?
Score:
Chains of ≥5 consecutive non-hydrogen atoms (cyclic or acyclic) on both side of acyclic N-nitroso group? Not more than 4 atoms in each chain may be in the same ring?
Score:
Electron-withdrawing group** bonded to α-carbon of N-nitroso group (cyclic or acyclic)?
Score:
Hydroxyl group bonded to β-carbon*** of N-nitroso group (cyclic or acyclic)?
Score:

4-3. Activating Feature Score
Aryl group bonded to α-carbon (i.e., benzylic or pseudo-benzylic substituent on N-nitroso group)?
Score:
Methyl group bonded to β-carbon (cyclic or acyclic)?
Score:
Potency Score:
Category:
AI = ng/day

Disclaimer: This Calculation Tool, including all of its features and content is made available and may be used solely under the following terms and conditions: a) This Calculation Tool is not for commercial exploitation. You may not decompile, reverse engineer, disassemble, rent, lease, loan, sell, sublicense, or create derivative works from this Calculation Tool. You may not copy, modify, reproduce, republish, distribute, display, or transmit for commercial, non-profit or public purposes all or any portion of this Calculation Tool. Any unauthorized use of this Calculation Tool is prohibited. b) The Calculation Tool is not intended to and does not constitute legal advice. The accuracy, completeness, adequacy or currency of the Calculation Tool is not warranted or guaranteed. Your use of this Calculation Tool or materials linked from this Calculation Tool is at your own risk. c) Except as expressly provided in these Terms of Use, nothing contained herein shall be construed as conferring any license or right, by implication, estoppel or otherwise, under copyright or other intellectual property rights. You agree that the Calculation Tool is protected by copyrights, trademarks, service marks, patents or other proprietary rights and laws. d) As a user of this Calculation Tool you are granted a nonexclusive, nontransferable, revocable, limited license to access and use this Calculation Tool in accordance with these Terms of Use. The Calculation Tool is protected by copyright pursuant to U.S. and international copyright laws.



Collaboration
Incubation



15,000+



1,000+

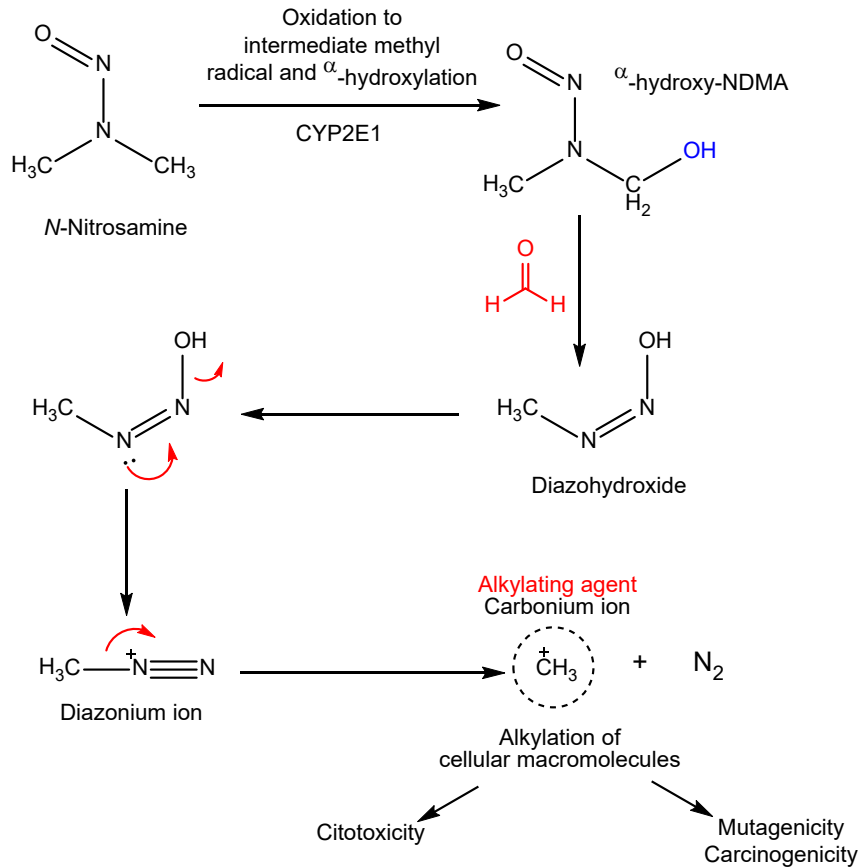


2 weeks



Voices of Nitrosamines Exchange

Understanding Safety ...



Metabolic Studies

Formation of Alkane-diazonium

DNA adducts

Alkylation of DNA

Comet Assay

DNA Repair

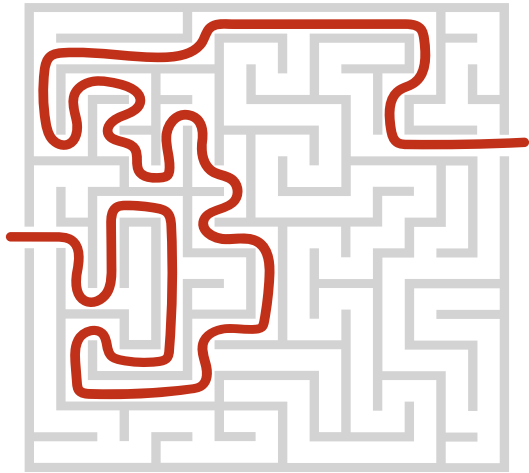
Gene-Mutation

Duplex Sequencing



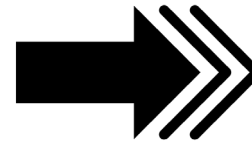
- ▶ Develop Additional Understanding
- ▶ Public Knowledge Sharing
- ▶ Evidence Generation for Standardization and Adoption

Understanding “Acceptable Intakes > Limits”

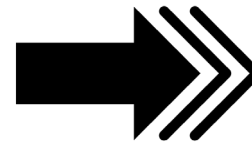


Default Limit:
26.5 ng/day

AMES



CPCA Framework

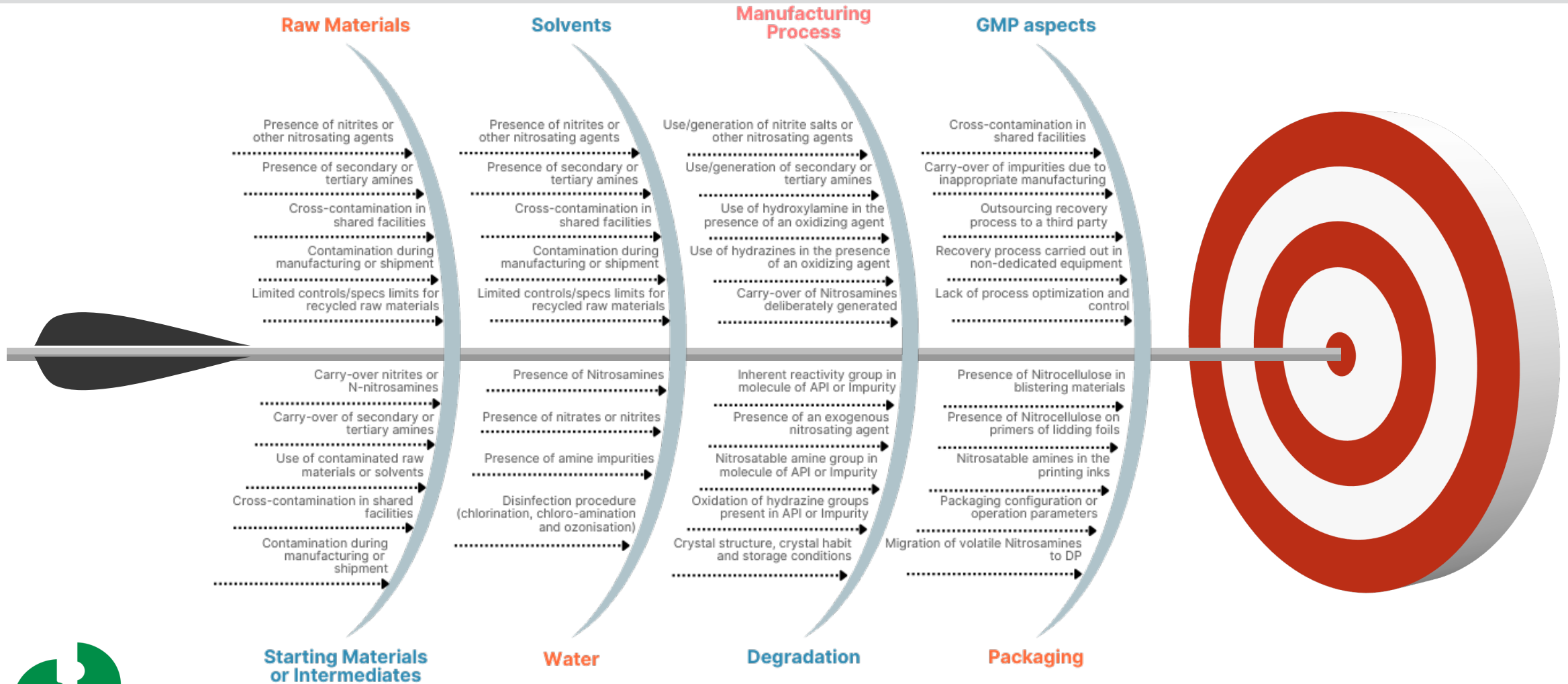


Enhanced-AMES



- ▶ Increase awareness and understanding of prediction tools that harvest Nitrosamines knowledge (Ex: reactivity & formation of impurities, toxicological assessment, Read-Across, QSAR models, etc.)
- ▶ Broadening adoption of in-silico tools through education, collaboration and experience sharing

Understanding 'Assess the Risk'



Development of Nitrosamine Impurities Risk Assessment toolkits anchored in best practices and shared knowledge

Addressing Analytical Challenges



**ROBUST
METHODS**



**RELIABLE
REFERENCE STD**



**STANDARDIZED
APPROACHES**



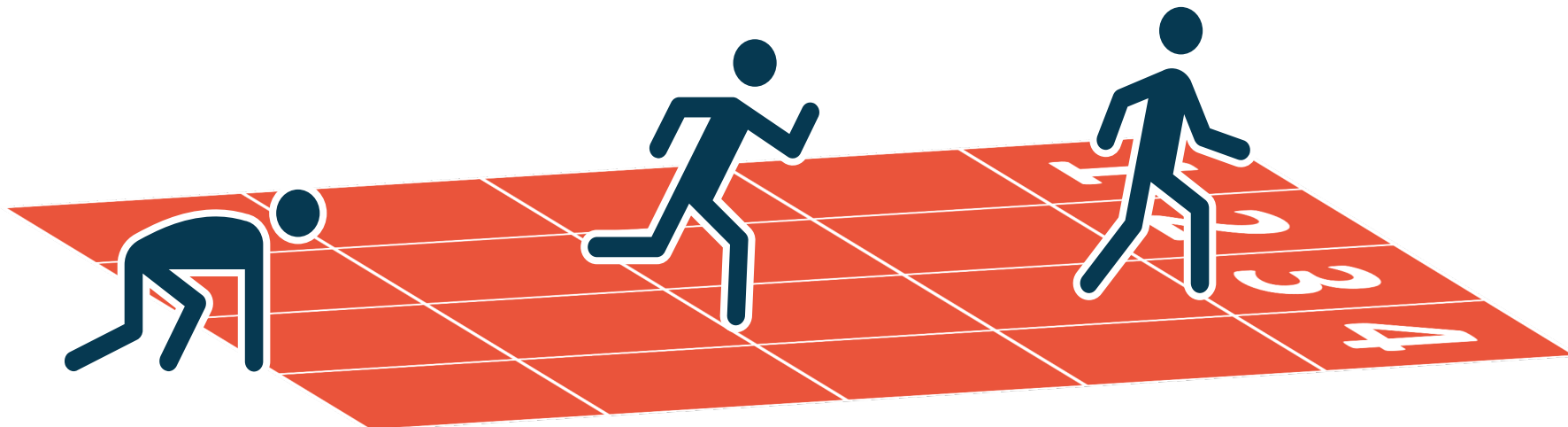
**PEER-TO-PEER
SUPPORT**



Understanding Future Challenges



- ▶ Gather Knowledge on Nitrosation beyond 'Nitrites in Excipients'
- ▶ Understanding and awareness of Nitroso-X beyond Nitrosamines
- ▶ Role of compendial tools to facilitate nitrosamines impurities control and/or mitigation



Scavenger as mitigation strategy

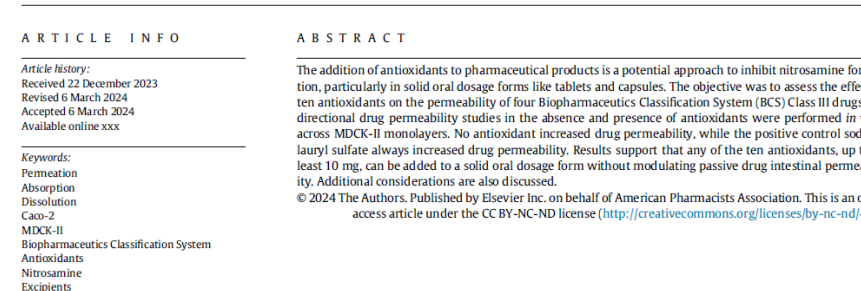
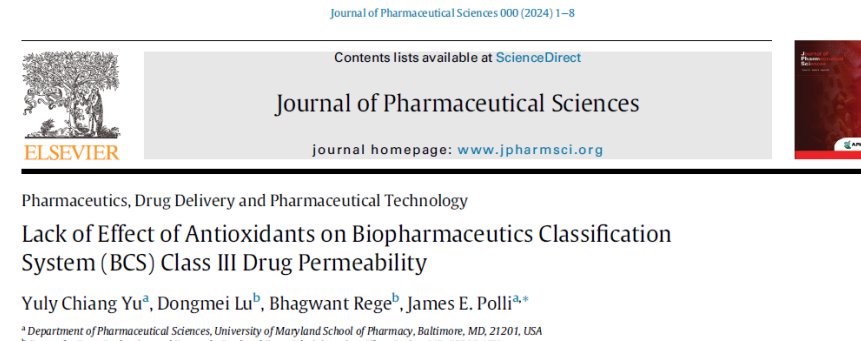
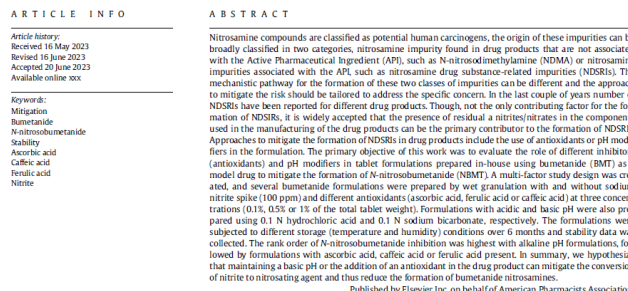


► Building mechanistic knowledge of scavenger agents (Mitigation & Prevention)

► Bridging Scavengers



Permeability & Absorption



<http://nitrosamines.usp.org>

Stay Connected



Naiffer Romero

NER@usp.org

