OoCs, MoCs, & HoCs: Can organs-on-a-chip replace animal testing?

Dr Terry McCann Lush Prize Conference 16th November 2018

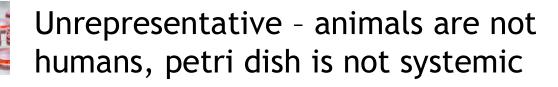
What's the problem?

- What do we do now?
 - Test on animals or test on human cells in artificial environment
- What's wrong with this?

WRONG BIGHT

\$2.6 BILLION to develop a new drug

EU Cosmetics Directive, REACH, Lautenberg Act



13 years to develop new drug

Unethical to use animals in chemical testing

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What's the alternative?

- OoCs, MoCs, and HoCs
 - Organs-on-a-chip, multiple organs-on-a-chip, humanon-a-chip - aka microphysiological systems (MPS)
- Precision-engineered human cell culture systems that recreate tissue-level functions
- Why are they better?
 - They allow cells to interact in a "living" way, to replicate the complex interactions found within a human
 - They are not rats, mice, rabbits, dogs, or monkeys
 - They are not cancerous cells stuck to an unnatural, flat, hard surface

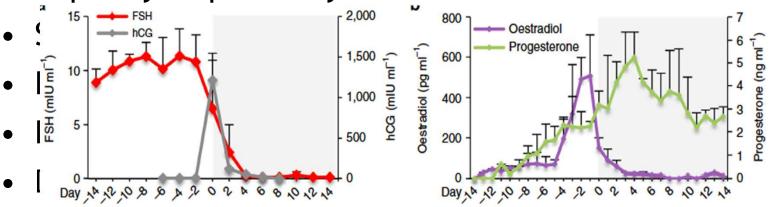
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What do OoCs look like?

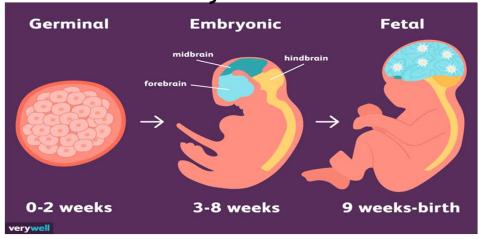


Can OoCs replace animals?

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Developmental toxicity



Xiao et al (2017) Nat Comm 8, 14584; Wang et al (2018) Lab Chip 18, 851 TJM Consultancy

Future of OoC technology

- Technical barriers to overcome
 - Cells, vascularisation, microstructure, immunocompetence, materials etc
- FDA willing to adopt technology for drug testing (involved since 2010) - OECD position is less clear
- Provide non-animal solutions to difficult toxicity tests
- Model diseases OoCs, MoCs, & HoCs could replace animals in drug testing
- Major companies are adopting technology

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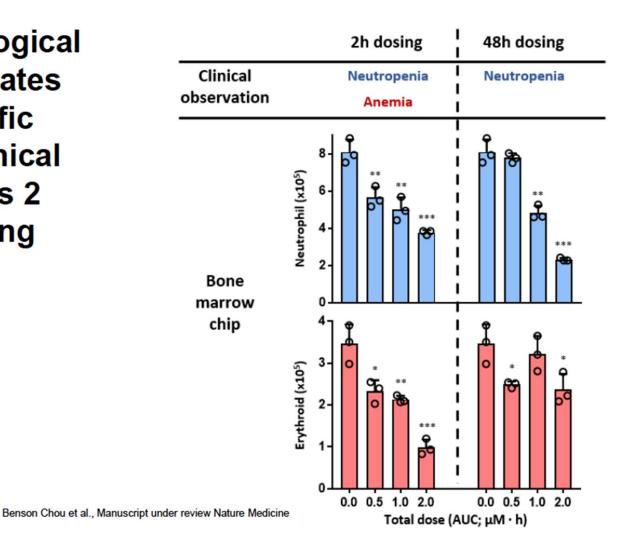




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Microphysiological system replicates lineage-specific toxicity of clinical asset 2 across 2 different dosing regimens

IMED Biotech Unit I MPS CoE





So can organs-on-a-chip replace animal testing?

- Yes, potentially
- Evidence required that OoC technology provides solutions to problems facing pharmaceutical, personal care, & chemical industries
- Many companies are already on the pathway AND creating the evidence
- Next 3 to 5 years critical to establish irreversible momentum for change