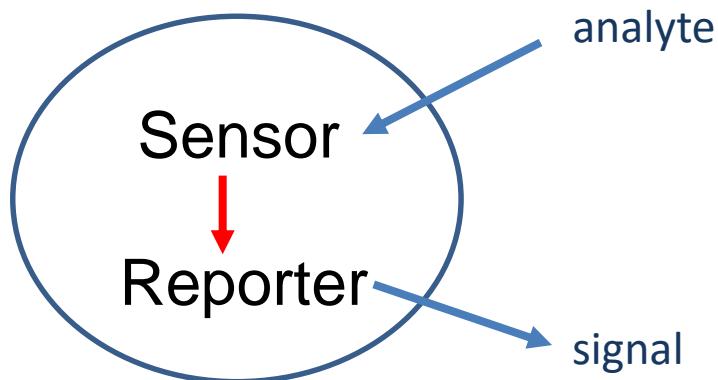


# New rapid cell-based assays for beta blocker and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug determination in wastewater effluents



[www.siz.stz-frey.de](http://www.siz.stz-frey.de)

## Biosensor cell lines



Time range: **seconds**



# Pharmaceuticals commonly found in the environment

Beta blocker

β-adrenergic  
receptor

## Antihypertensives

Metoprolol  
Propranolol  
Bisoprolol  
Atenolol  
Sotalol  
Enalapril  
Losartan  
Furosemide



NSAIDs

Cyclooxygenase

## Analgesics

Diclofenac  
Ibuprofen  
Naproxen  
Indometacin  
Ketoprofen

→ Identification of the resulting biological effect of unknown mixtures

# Target protein similarity

LOEC	
Diclofenac	µg/L

## prostaglandin G/H synthase 1 isoform 1

Query: [Homo sapiens] 599 aa ([NP\\_000953.2](#))

Subject: [Danio rerio] 597 aa ([AAK33030.1](#))

Score	Expect	Method	Identities	Positives	Gaps
851 bits(2199)	0.0	Compositional matrix adjust.	398/579(69%)	473/579(81%)	0/579(0%)
Query 4	SLLLWFLLFLPLLPLPVLLADPGAPTPVNPCYCQHQGICVRFGGLDRYQCDCTRIGY	+ LL + LLL P + NPCCYYCQ+QGICVR+GL+RY+CDCTRIGY	63		
Sbjct 5	NFLLKWTIVLLSVSFCAEGESPTSSNTANPCCYYCQNGQICVRYGLERYECDCCTRIGY				64
Query 64	SGPNCTIPGLWIWLRNSLRLPSPSFTFHFLLTHGRNFWEFVNATFIREMLMRIVLIVRSNLI	G NCTIP LWT + L+PSF+ H++LTH W W+ + + +F+R+ IML VLTVR+NLI	123		
Sbjct 65	YGENCTIPELWTRVYRLLKPKSNVVHYLTHFDWLNDLNRSLFLRDWLMRKVLTVRANLI				124
Query 124	PSPPTYNSAHDYISWESFSNVSYYTRILPSVKPDKCPTPMGTGKKQLPDAQLLARRFLLR	PSPPTYNS +DY+WE++SN++YTTRILP VP DCPTPMGTGKG +LPD +LL +F+LR	183		
Sbjct 125	PSPPTYNSRYDYLNWAEASNITYYTRILPPVNDCP TPMGTGKGKIKLPDPKLIVEKFMLR				184
Query 184	RKFIPDPQGTNLMFAFFAQHETHQFFKTSGRGMGPFTKALGHGVLDLGHYGDNLERQYQL	R F DPQGTNLMFAFFAQHETHQFFKT + +G GFTK LGHVGD GHIYGD+L+RQ +L	243		
Sbjct 185	RNFRLDPQGTNLMFAFFAQHETHQFFKTHNRVGLGFTKMGKLGHVGDAGHIYGDSLDRQLEL				244
Query 244	RLFKDGKLKYQVLGEMYPPSVEEAVLHMHYPRGIPBPPQSQMAVGQEVFGLLPGLMLYATL	RL KDGKLKYQVL+G++YPP+V A V M YP +FP+ Q+A+GQEVFGLLPGL +YAIL	303		
Sbjct 245	RLHKDGKLKYQVLNGD1YPPVTLHAQVKMSYPPSVPEQQLAIGQEVFGLLPGLGMYATL				304
Query 304	WLREHNRVC DLLKA EHTWGDEQLFQITRL LIGETIKIVIEEYVQQLSGYFLQLKFDPE	WLREHNRVC+++LK EHPTWGDEQLFQT RLI+IGETI+IVIEEYVQ LSGY L+L FDP	363		
Sbjct 305	WLREHNRVCEILKQEHPTWGDEQLFQITARLIIIGETIRIVIEEYVQHLSGYRLKLFDP				364
Query 364	LLFGVQFQYRNRIAMEFNHLHWNHPLMPDSFKVGSQEYSYEQFLFNTSMLVVDYGEALVD	LLF QFQY+NRK++EEN LYHWHPMLPDSF + Y +F+FNTS+L YG+E LV+	423		
Sbjct 365	LLFNSQFQYQNRISVEFNQLYHWNHPLMPDSFYIDGDHIQYSKEFINTSILTHYGLEKLVE				424
Query 424	AFSRQIAGRIGGGGNMDHILHVAVDVIRESMRLLQPFNEYRKRFGMKFYTISFQELVGE	AFS Q AG+IGGG N+ + VA VI ESRE+RLQPFNEYRKRF +KPYTSF EL GE	483		
Sbjct 425	AFSIQPAGQAGGGHNIHVVSGVAERVIVESRELRQLQPFNEYRKRFNLKPYTSFAELTGE				484
Query 484	KEMAAELEELYGDIDALEFYPGLLLEKCHPNNSIFGESMIEIGAPPSLKGILLGNPICSPEY	+EM+ ELEELYG IDA+EYP LLLEK P ++FGESM+E+GAPPSLKGGL+GNPICS+Y	543		
Sbjct 485	QEMSKEELEELYGHIDAMEFYPALLLEKTRPAGAVEGESVEMGAPPSLKGLMGNPICSPEY				544
Query 544	WKPSTFGGEVGFGNIVKTAI TLKKLVLCLN TKTCPYVSFRVP	WKPSTFGGG+ GF+IV +ATLKKLVLCLN TCKPYSF P	582		
Sbjct 545	WKPSTFGGGTGFDIVNSA I TLKKLVLCLN TCKPYSFHTP				583

→ Diclofenac Target: Cyclooxygenase (*Danio rerio*)

→ Effects caused by compounds with same MOA

# MOA (mode-of-action) based cellular assays

Reporter cell lines (reporter gene induction)

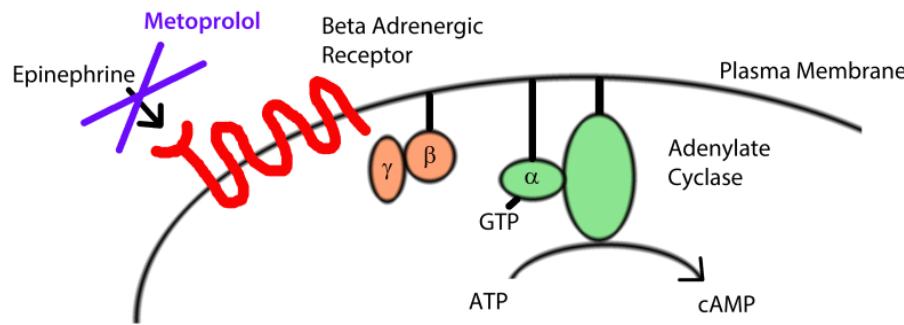
Response: 12-24 hours

**Biosensor cell lines** (immediate fluorescence signal)

Response: seconds

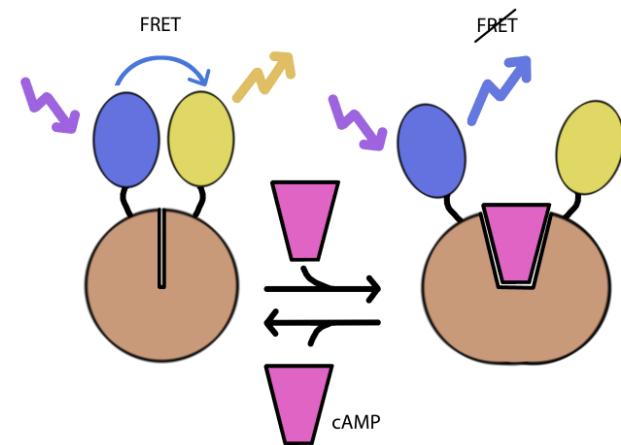
# Beta blocker biosensor cell line

## Sensor



↑ cAMP  
↑ ratio (470/535)

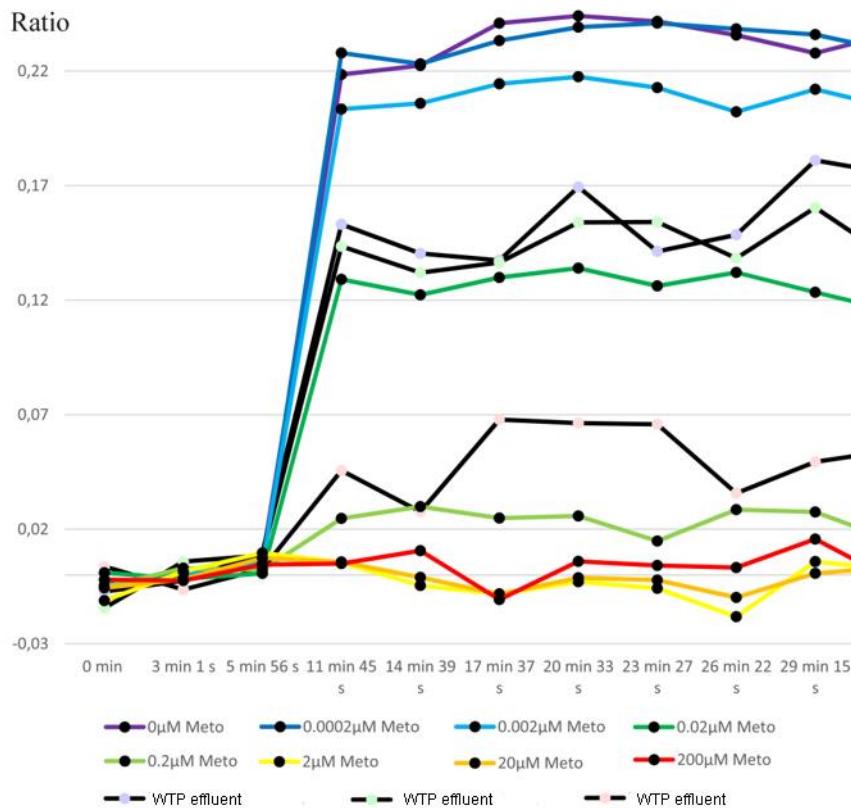
## Reporter



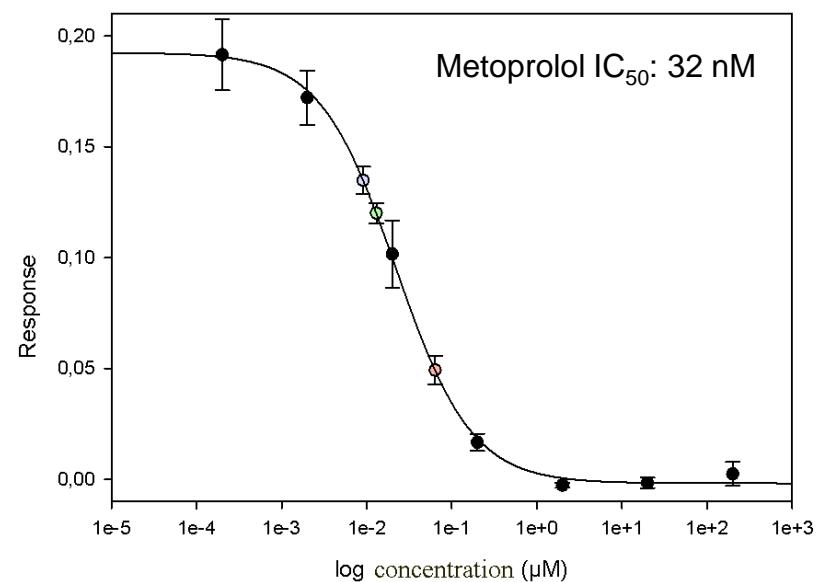
Measurement: Em470/Em535  
Excitation: 420 nm

# Beta blocker *in vitro* assay

Response



Concentration-response curve



Metoprolol  
GC-MS/MS

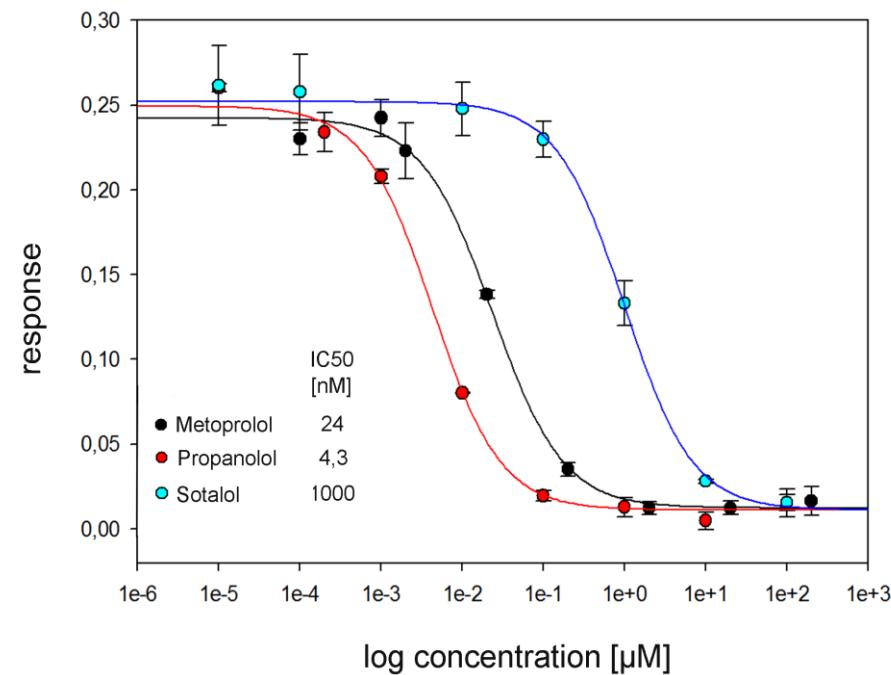
1.2 µg/L

Metoprolol equivalent quantity  
(MetEQ)  
*in vitro* Assay

4.2 µg/L

# Beta blocker *in vitro* assay

Beta blocker	IC <sub>50</sub> [nM]	Factor MetEQ
Metoprolol	32±14	1.0
Propranolol	6.5±3	5.02
Sotalol	1019±30	0.03
Bisoprolol	8.8±2,6	3.70
Atenolol	51.6±2	0.63
Metoprololsäure	426x10 <sup>3</sup>	0.0



## Wastewater treatment plant effluents

### Beta blocker *in vitro* Assay

WWTP effluent (SPE purified)	Metoprolol [µg/L] LC-MS/MS	MetoEQ [µg/L] <i>In vitro</i> Assay
February 2016	1.2	3.2±1.7
March 2016	1.2	4.2±0.9

WWTP effluent	Beta blocker (µg/L) LC-MS/MS	MetoEQ [µg/L]	total MetoEQ [µg/L]
February 2016	Bisoprolol (0.28)	0.85	2.05
	Metoprolol (1.2)	1.2	
	Propranolol (<BG)	0	
	Atenolol (<BG)	0	
March 2016	Bisoprolol (0.4)	1.22	2.69
	Metoprolol (1.2)	1.2	
	Propranolol (0.05)	0.23	
	Atenolol (0.07)	0.04	

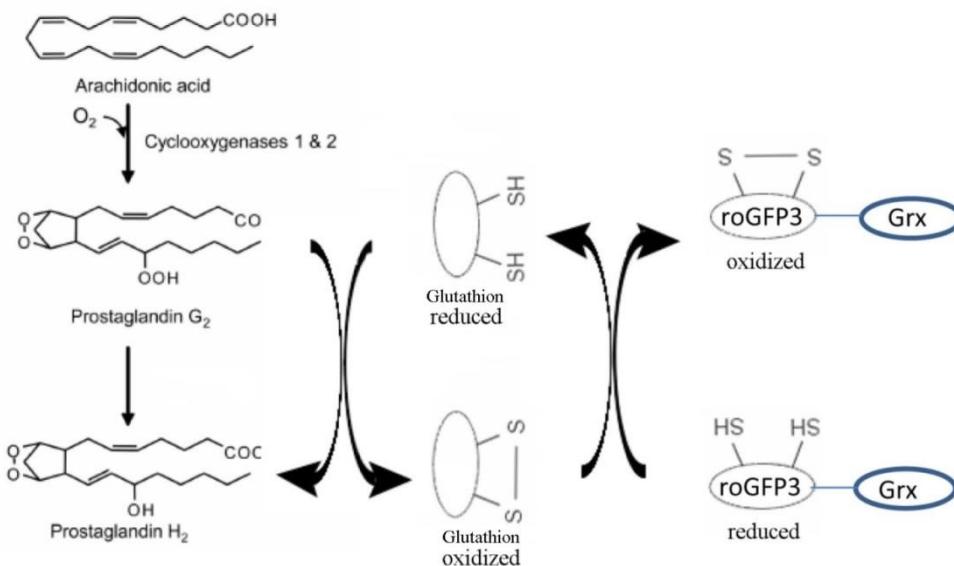
## Wastewater treatment plant effluents Beta blocker *in vitro* Assay

WWTP effluent	Metoprolol [µg/L] LC-MS/MS	total MetoEQ [µg/L] LC-MS/MS	MetEQ [µg/L] <i>in vitro</i> Assay
February 2016	1.2	2.05	3.2
March 2016	1.2	2.69	4.2

- MOA *in vitro* assay measures 1.6 fold beta blocker activity compared to the chemical analysis of beta blockers
- Additional beta blocker compounds not analysed by chemical analysis?  
Synergistic effects?

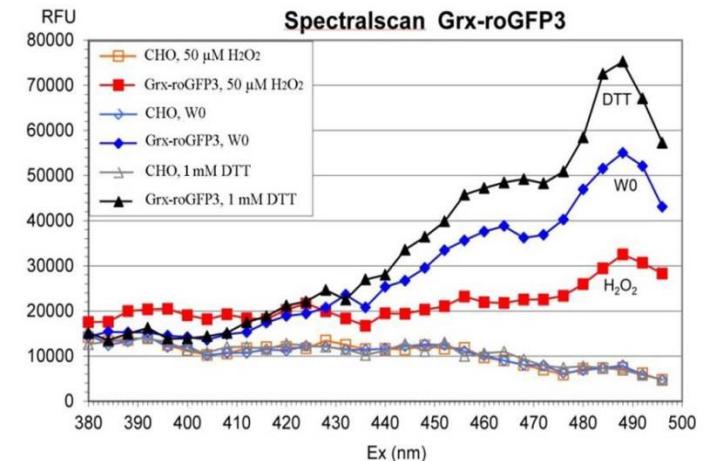
# NSAID biosensor cell line

## Sensor



↑  
Cox-1  
ratio (395/485)

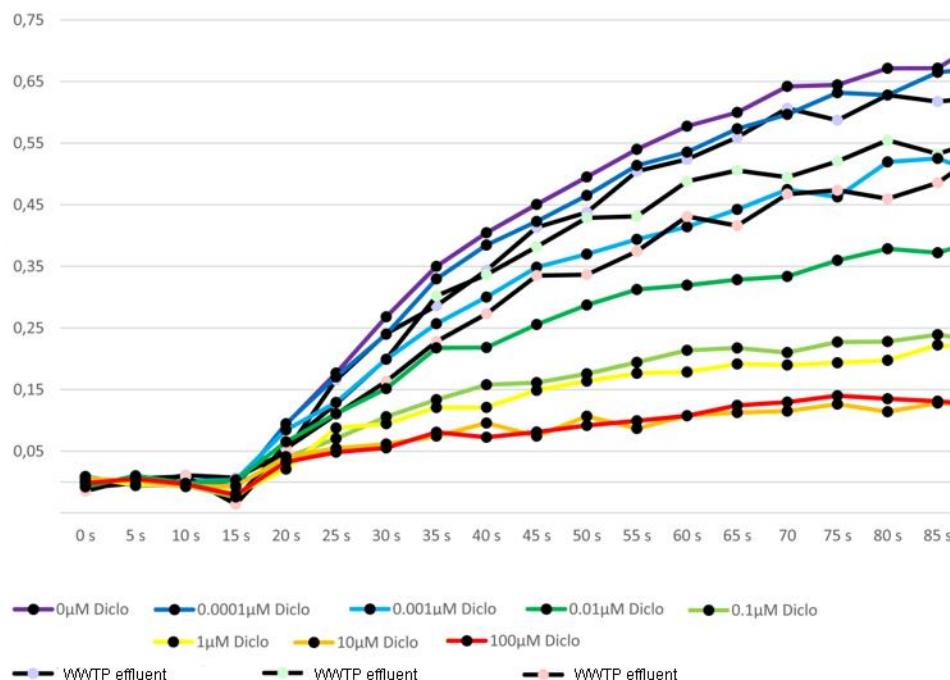
## Reporter



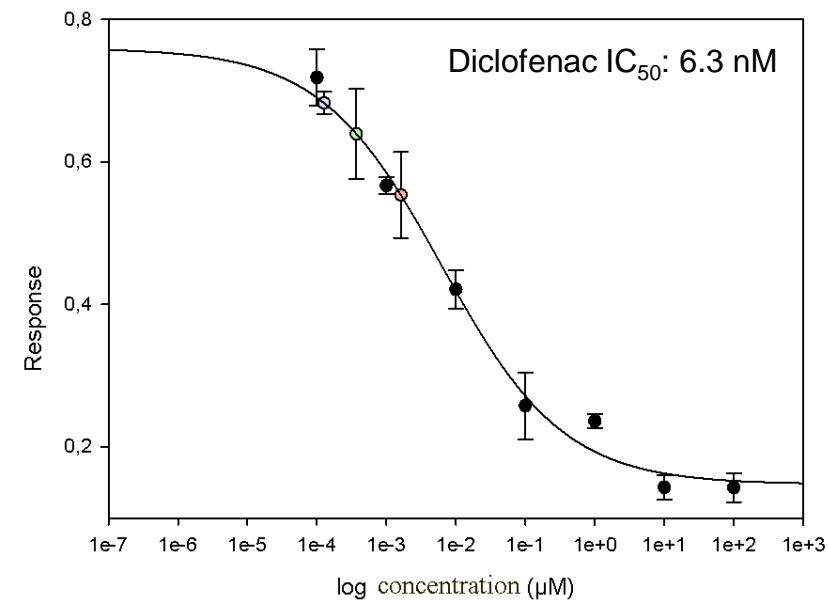
Measurement: Em528 (Excitation 395nm)  
Em528 (Excitation 485nm)

# NSAID *in vitro* assay

Response



Concentration-response curve



Diclofenac GC-MS/MS	Diclofenac Äquivalent <i>in vitro</i> Assay
2.2 μg/L	3.5 μg/L

## Wastewater treatment plant effluents NSAID *in vitro* Assay

WWTP effluent	Diclofenac [µg/L] LC-MS/MS	DicloEQ [µg/L] <i>in vitro</i> Assay
March 2016	2.2	3.5

- MOA *in vitro* assay measures 1.6 fold NSAID activity compared to the chemical analysis of diclofenac
- Additional NSAID compounds not analysed by chemical analysis?

WWTP effluent	NSAID	[µg/L] LC-MS/MS
March 2016	Diclofenac	2.2
	Ibuprofen	1.1
	Naproxen	1.4

## Wastewater treatment plant effluents NSAID *in vitro* Assay

NSAID	IC <sub>50</sub> [nM]	Factor DicloEQ
Diclofenac	6	1.0
Naproxen	38	0.16
Ibuprofen	260	0.02

WWTP effluent	NSAID	[µg/L] LC-MS/MS	DicloEQ [µg/L] LC-MS/MS	DicloEQ [µg/L] <i>in vitro</i> Assay
March 2016	Diclofenac	2.2	2.2	3.5
	Naproxen	1.4	0.28	n.a.
	Ibuprofen	1.1	0.04	n.a.
	total NSAID	4.7	2.52	



MOA *in vitro* assay measures 1.4 NSAID activity  
compared to the chemical analysis of NSAIDs

# MOA based *in vitro* assays using biosensor cell lines

- ✓ Appropriate throughput capacity to allow for routine application
- ✓ Specificity
- ✓ Sensitivity
- ✓ Robustness
- ✓ Reliability
- ✓ Matrix effects / proven suitability for environmental samples

Application: Monitoring of WWTP effluent, surface waters  
Assessment of sewage treatment technologies

Aim: Development of MOA based biosensor cell lines  
for the monitoring of additional pharmaceuticals

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**Many thanks for your interest  
and attention.**



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