



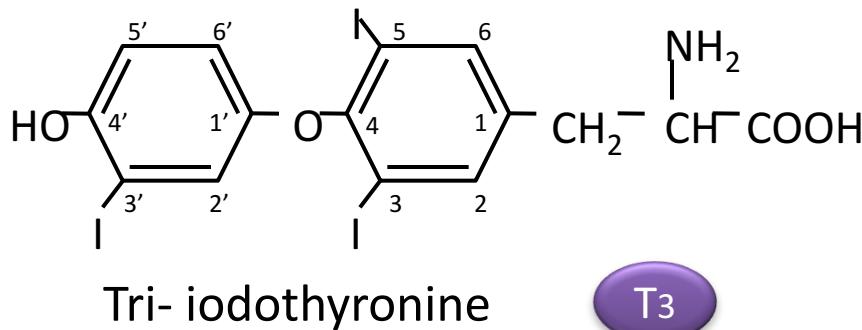
# Deciphering thyroid hormone disruption during development

Dr Jean-Baptiste Fini  
CNRS/ MNHN Sorbonne Universités Paris,  
France



# Thyroid Hormones are essential in vertebrates

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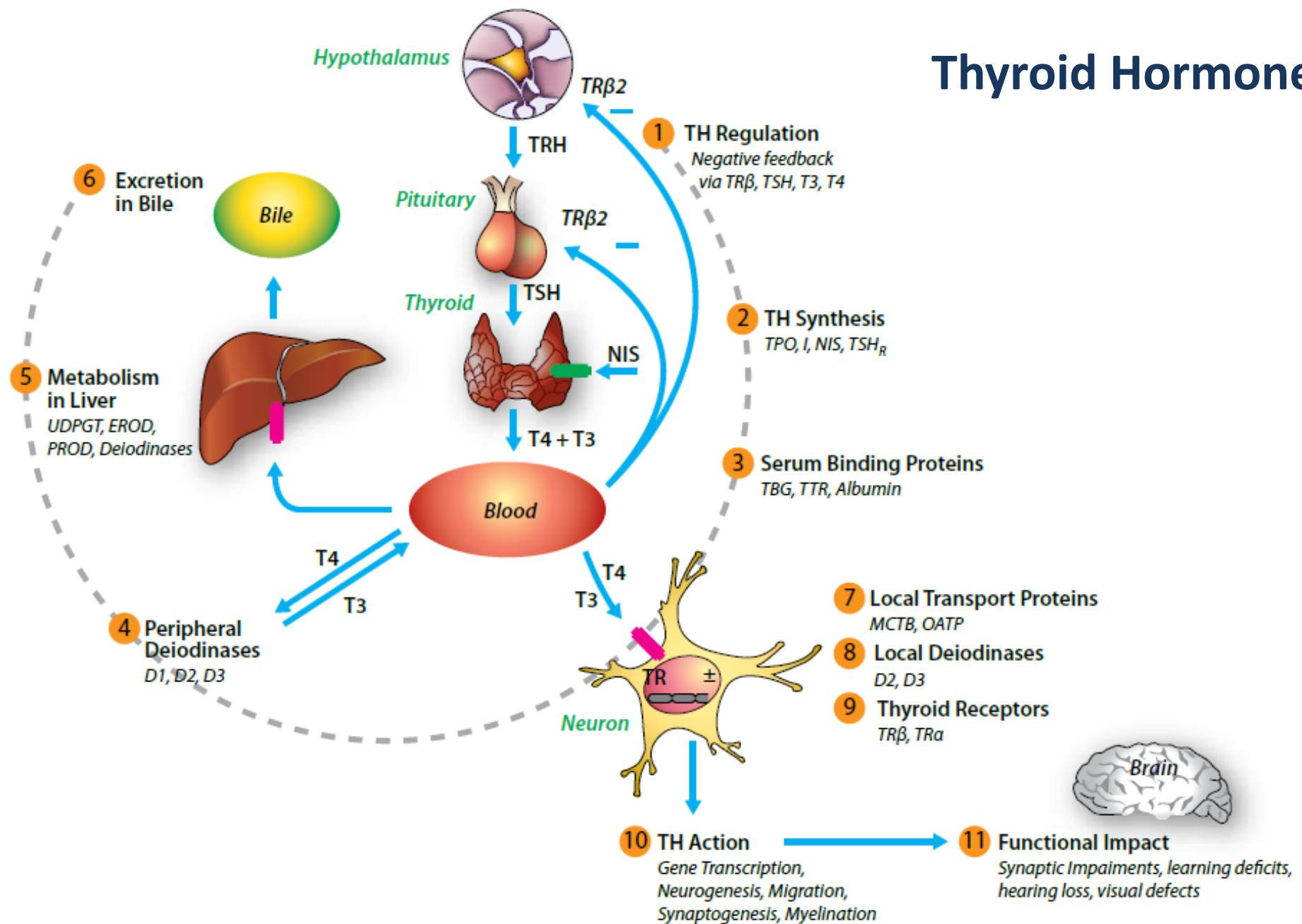
Thyroid hormone signalling conserved throughout 450 million years of vertebrate evolution

Amphibian metamorphosis, bird hatching, mammals brain maturation are all TH-dependent processes

Thyroid hormone is the most complex **halogenated** molecule synthetized by **vertebrates**

Only one to contain **iodine**, both **iodine and thyroid** hormone are essential for **brain development**

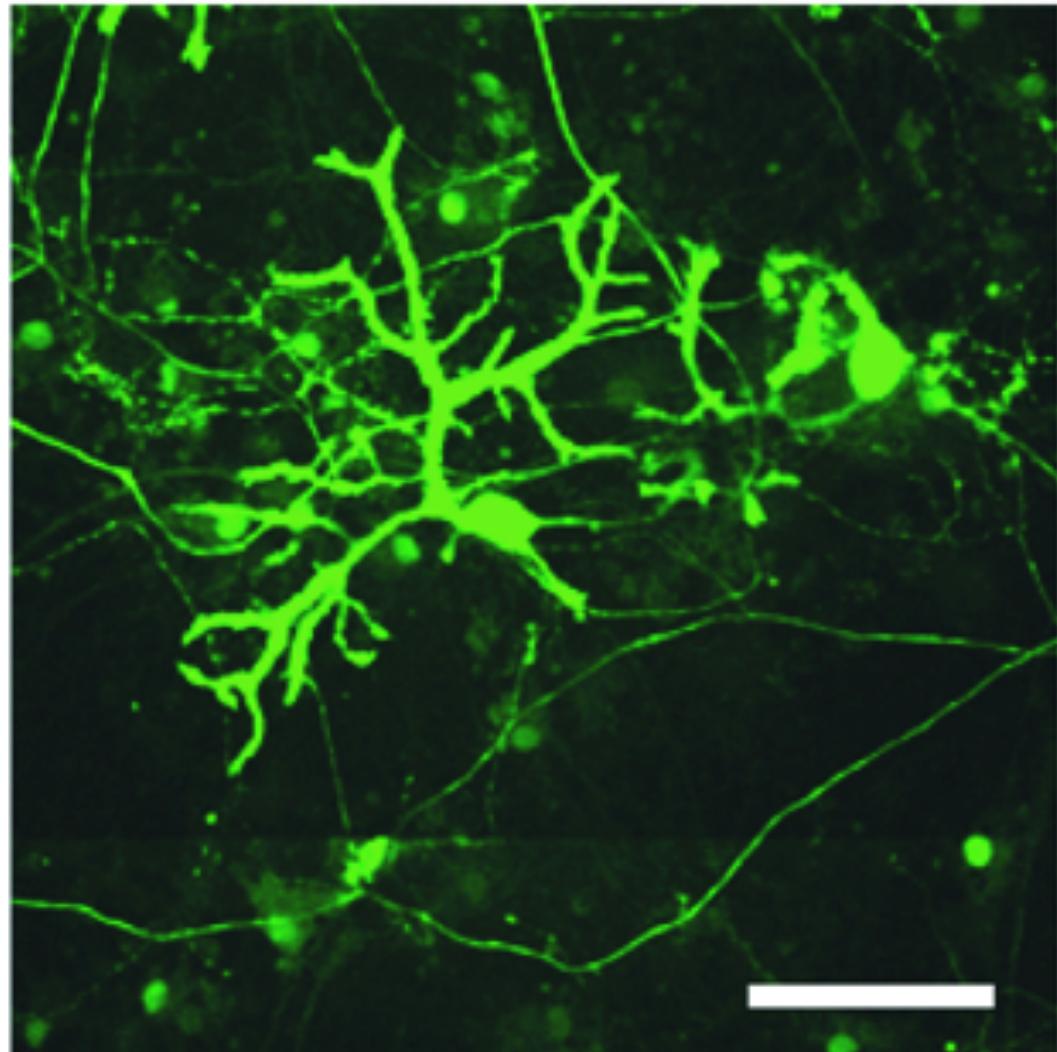
# Thyroid Hormone axis



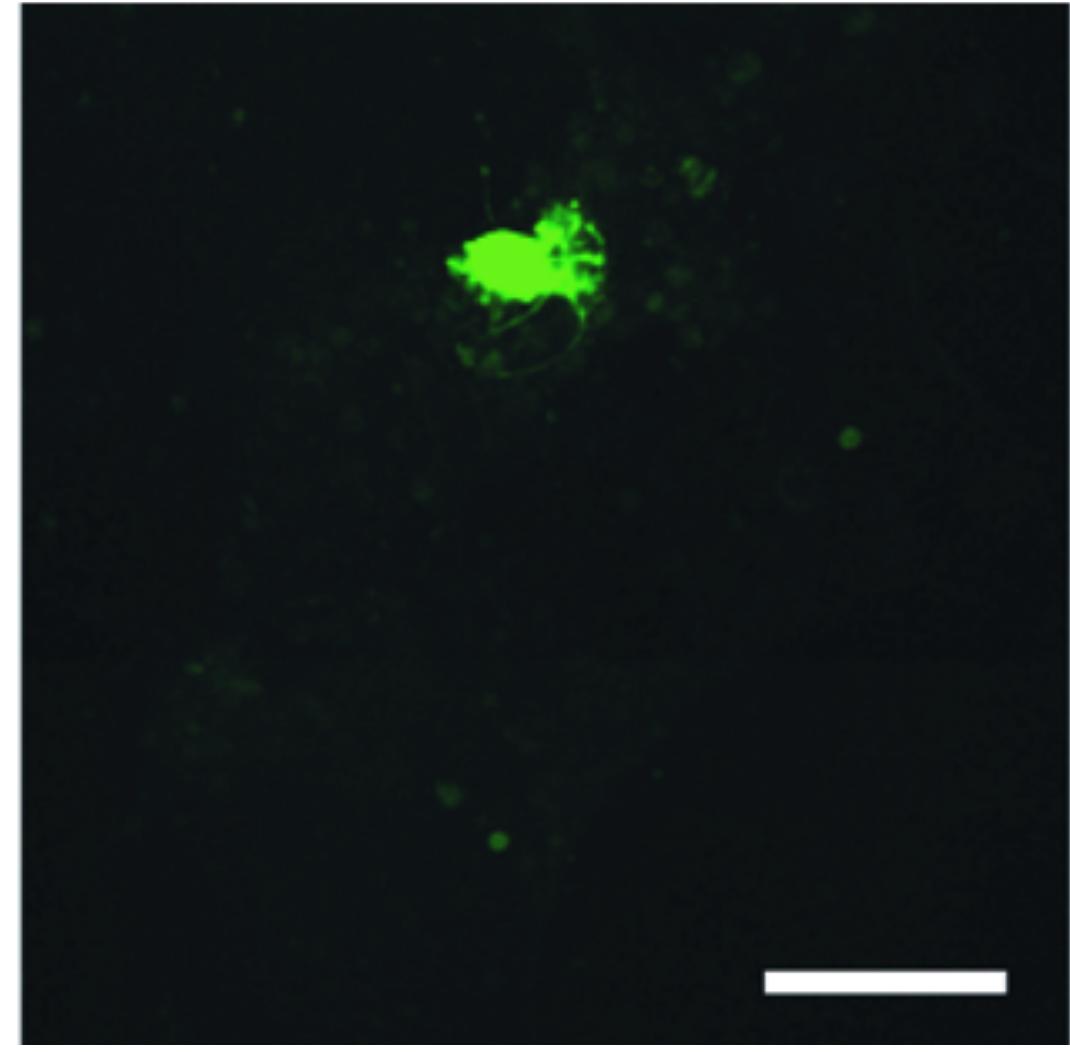
From Gilbert et al., 2011 (OMS2012)

# Thyroid hormone is essential for Purkinje cells arborization

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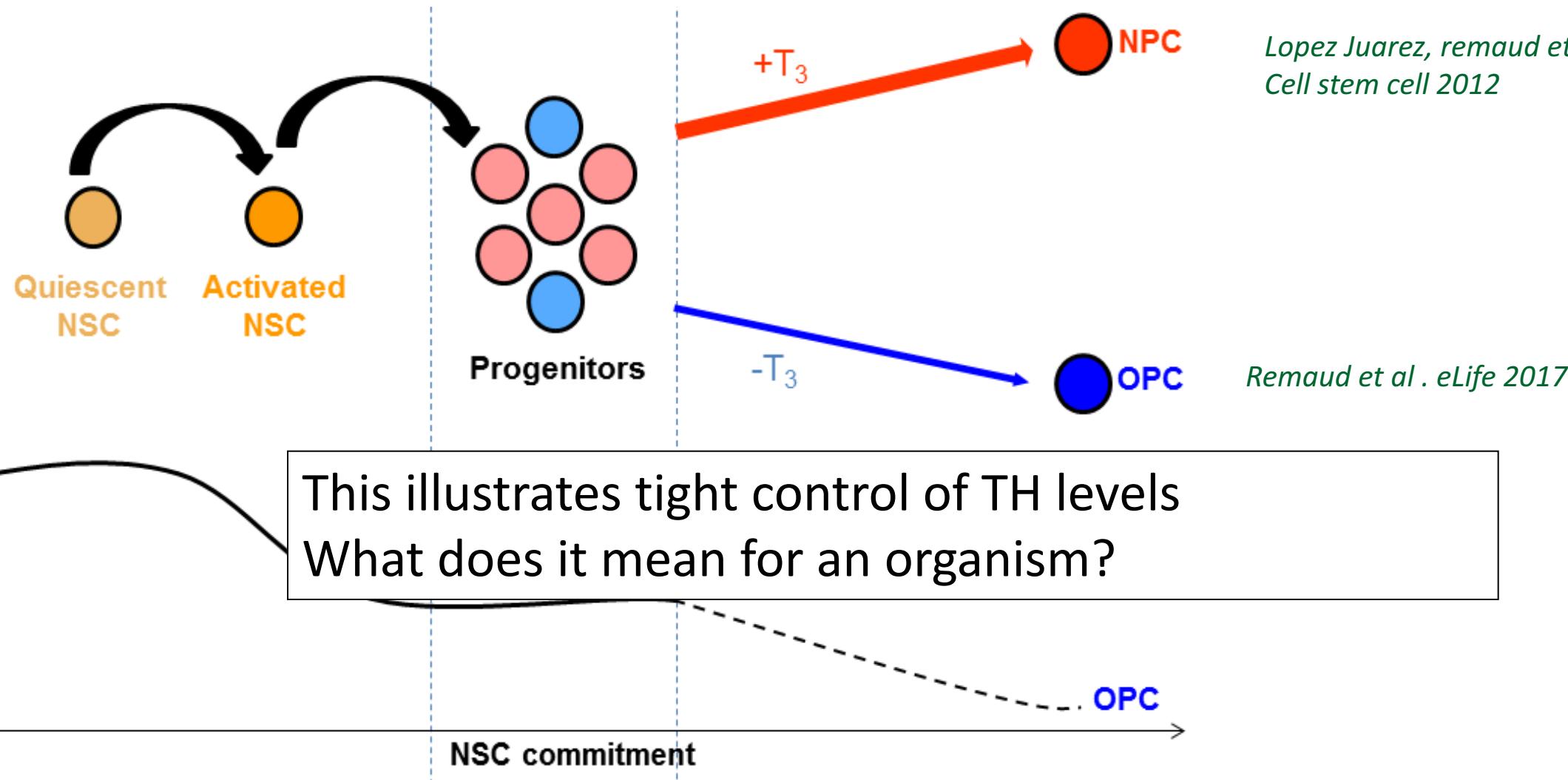
Presence of T4



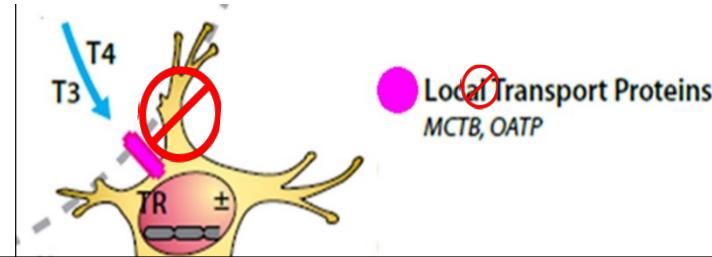
Absence of T4

*Ibhazehiebo et al. 2011, Environ Health Perspectives*

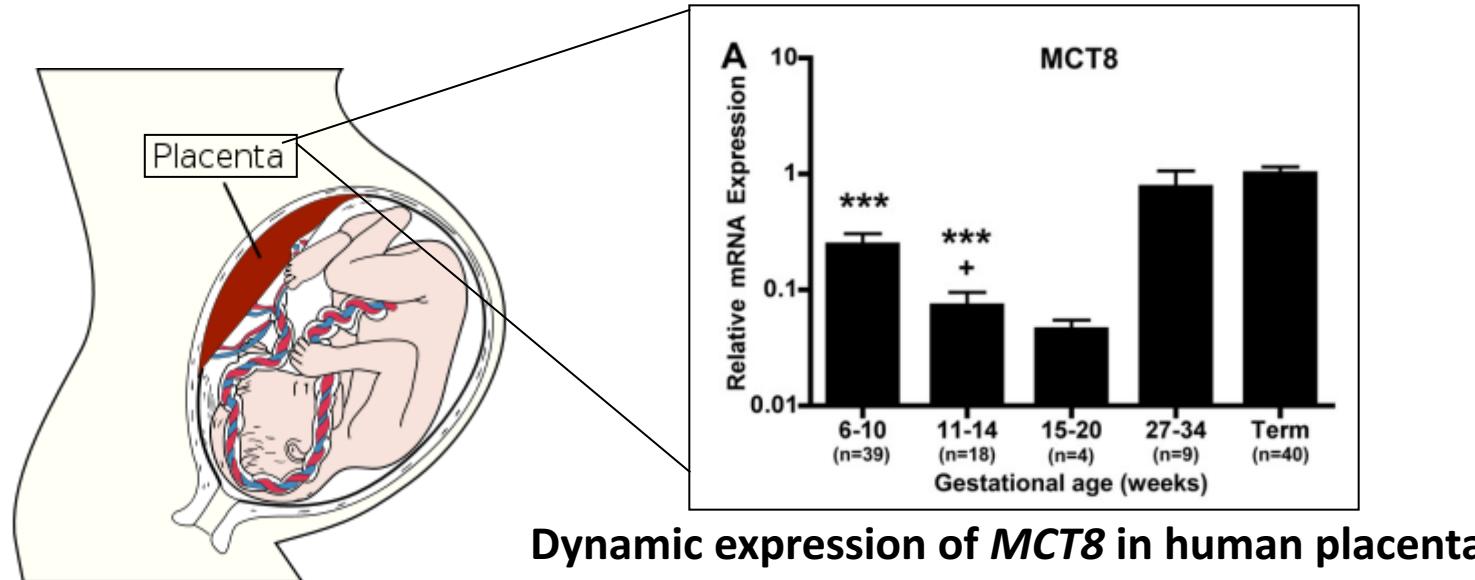
# Thyroid hormone is essential for neural progenitor commitment



# Mutation of MCT8, the only thyroid hormone transporter expressed on human neurons, causes Allan Herndon Dudley Syndrome



This illustrates a need for tight control of maternal levels of thyroid hormone in early pregnancy



Rodrigues F et all 2014; L.S.  
Loubiere et al. 2010

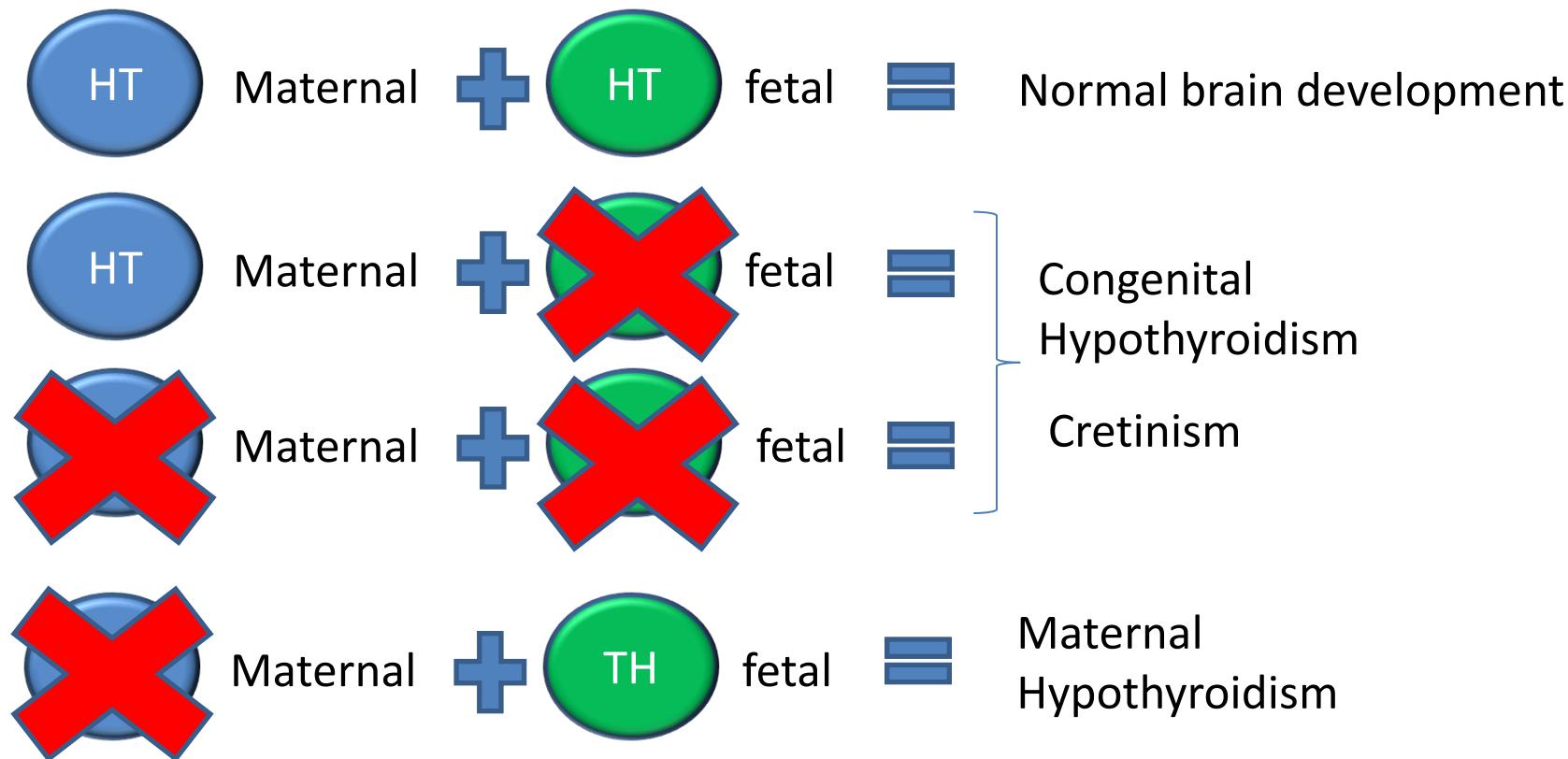
All babies in  
western countries  
are tested at birth  
for their  
Thyroid  
Stimulating  
Hormone

If  $>17 \text{ mIU/L}$   
sign of congenital  
hypothyroidism  
but...



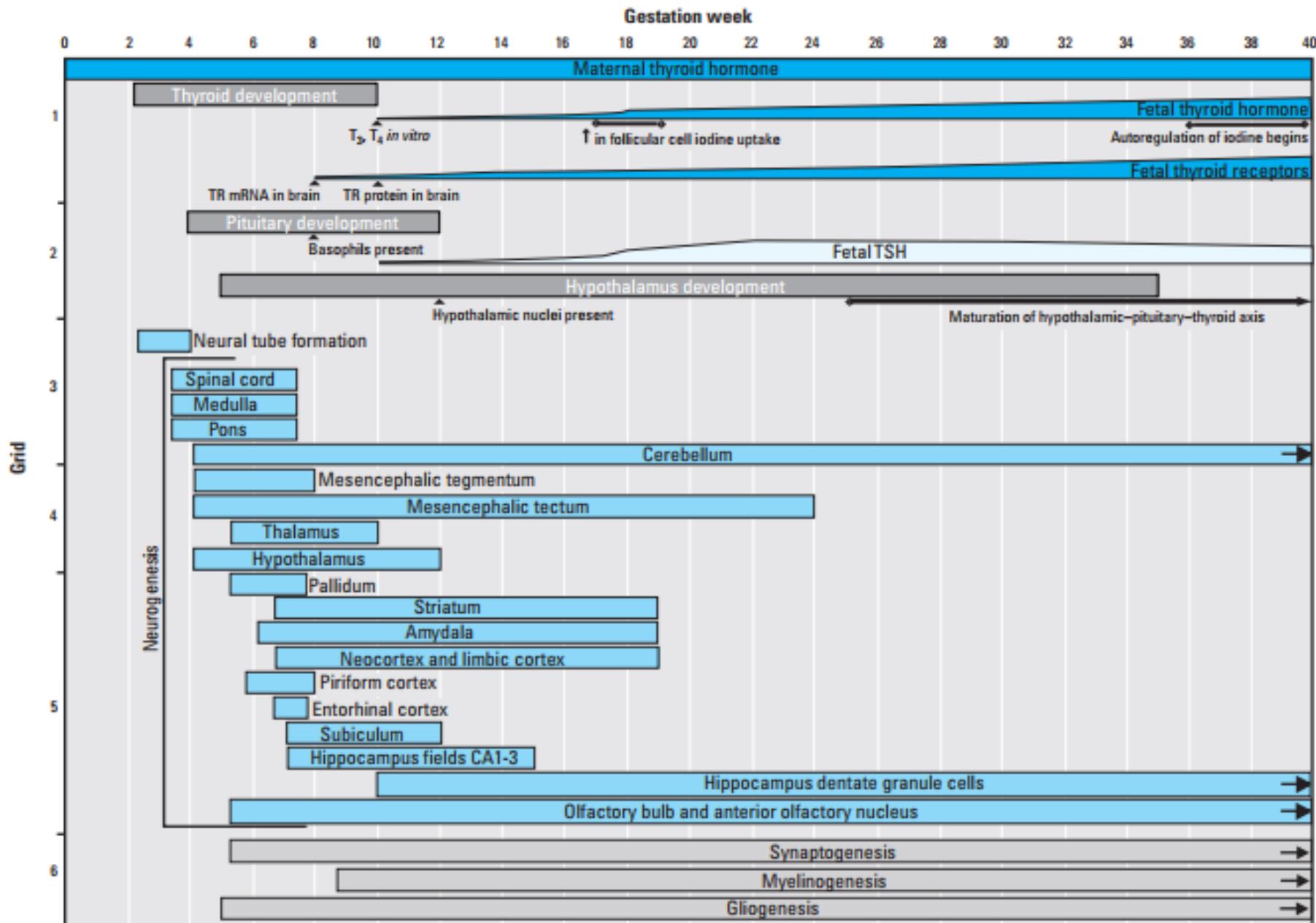
# Crucial role for thyroid hormone in normal brain development

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**Maternal hypothyroidism/disruption consequences?**

# Fetal brain development is tightly orchestrated



Howdeshell 2002 EHP

**Environment Special:**  
The oceans—why 70%  
of our planet is in danger

# TIME

**How the  
first nine  
months  
shape  
the rest  
of your life**

The new science  
of fetal origins  
**BY ANNIE MURPHY PAUL**

THREE

OCTOBER 4, 2013

**The Facebook Movie:**  
The secret history of  
social networking

## Association of maternal thyroid function during early pregnancy with offspring IQ and brain morphology in childhood: a population-based prospective cohort study

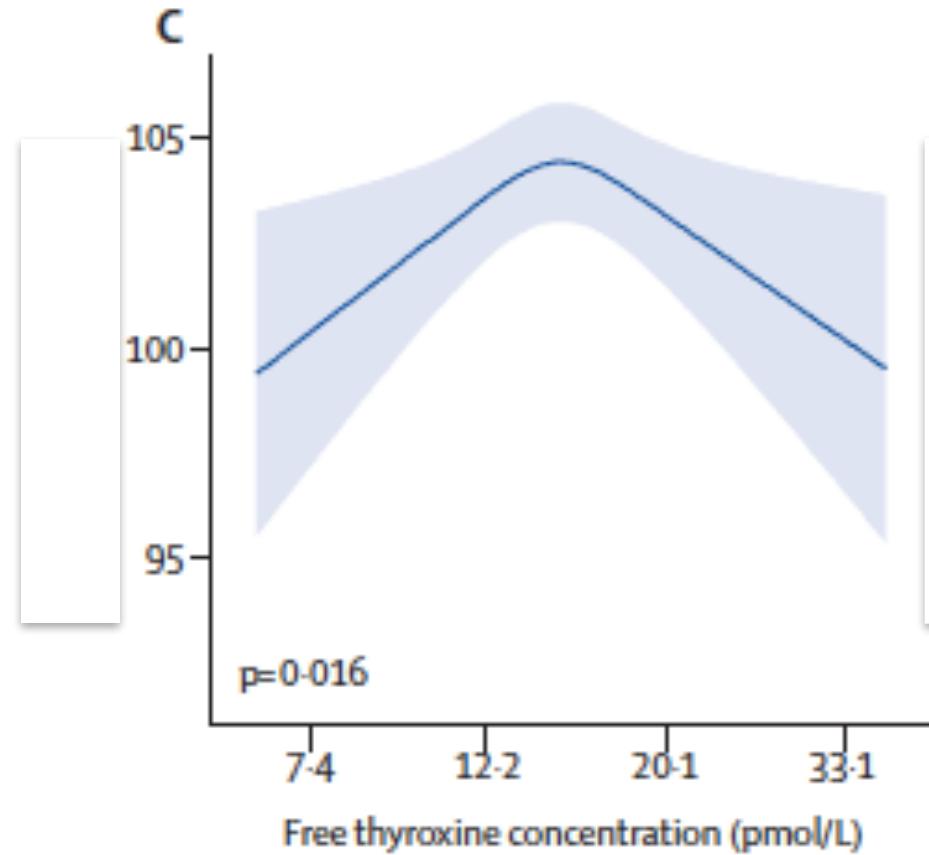
Tim I M Korevaar, Ryan Muetzel, Marco Medici, Layal Chaker, Vincent WV Jaddoe, Yolanda B de Rijke, Eric A P Steegers, Theo J Visser, Tonya White, Henning Tiemeier, Robin P Peeters

*Tim Korevaar ...Robin Peters,  
Lancet Diabetes Endocrinology 2016  
4, 35-43*

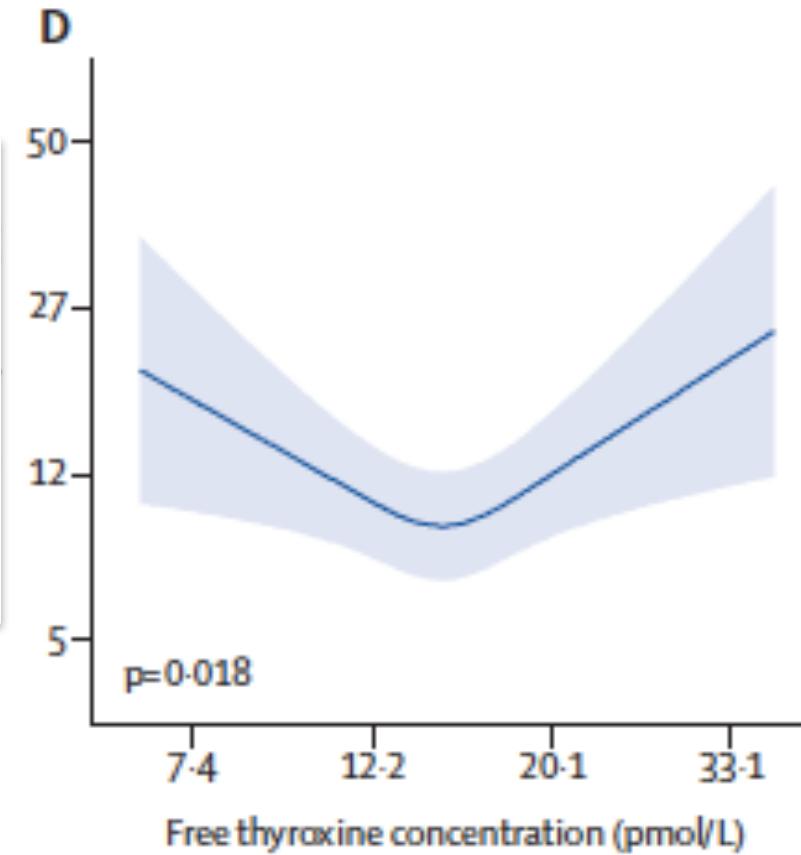
- Generation R Study (Rotterdam)
- Maternal thyroid hormone/TSH levels > 18 weeks of pregnancy
- Child IQ at 6 -8 yrs old
- MRI scans at 8 years old

# Too much thyroid hormone is as bad as too little

Mean Child IQ 6-8



%Child IQ < 85

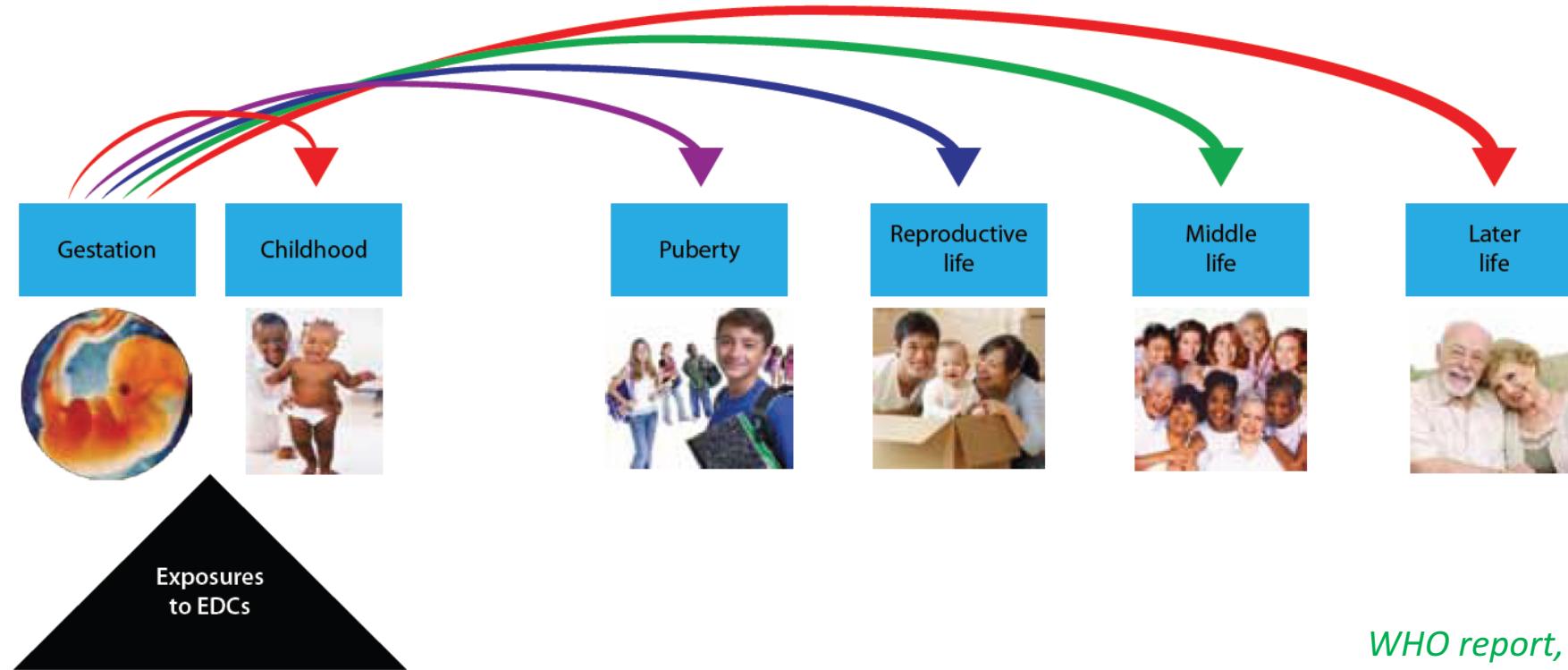


Koreevar et al., *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol* 2016

**Hypo and hyperthyroxinemia** also associated with lower white matter density and reduced cortical volume

# Central concept: developmental origin of adult health and disease

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*WHO report, 2012*

- Fetal development is a critical developmental window, **including for thyroid hormone availability**

**Is there direct fetal exposure to chemical?**

**“...exposure to  
multiple chemicals  
is inevitable...  
we live in a  
chemical soup...”**

Linda Birnbaum (NIEHS)

# Chemical substances cross placental barrier

BPA

Benzophenone-3

4-4'-DDE

Triclosan

Diethyl hexyl phthalate  
(DEHP)

Dibutylphthalate

PCB-153

perchlorate

PBDE

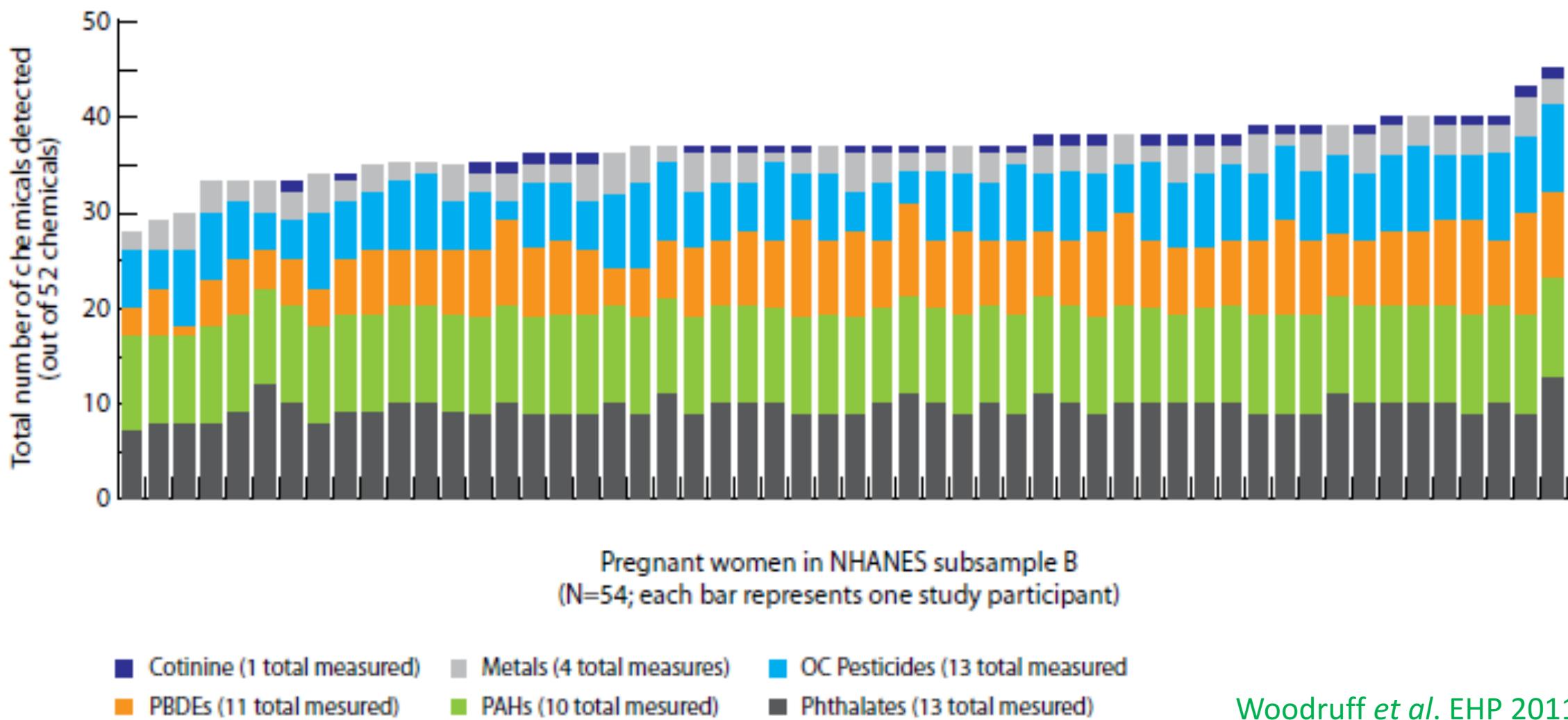
# Testing thyroid hormone disrupting potency ?

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- Mixture « Amniotic » vs single compounds
- Mixtures « Neurodevelopment » and « Growth »

Strategy #1: Starting from exposure

# On average pregnant women carry 33 compounds out of 52 analysed, 15 are ubiquitous



# Mixture made of the 15 common contaminants at levels found in human amniotic fluid



## Phenolic compounds

- Bisphenol A (BPA)
- Triclosan  $0.7 \cdot 10^{-7}$  M
- Benzophenone-3

## Phthalates

- DBP
- DEHP  $10^{-7} - 10^{-6}$  M



## Polyaromatic hydrocarbons

- 2-Naphthol

## Organochlorine pesticides

- HCB  $10^{-11}$  M
- 4-4' DDE  $10^{-9}$  M

## Perfluorinated compounds

- PFOS  $10^{-8}$  M
- PFOA  $10^{-8}$  M

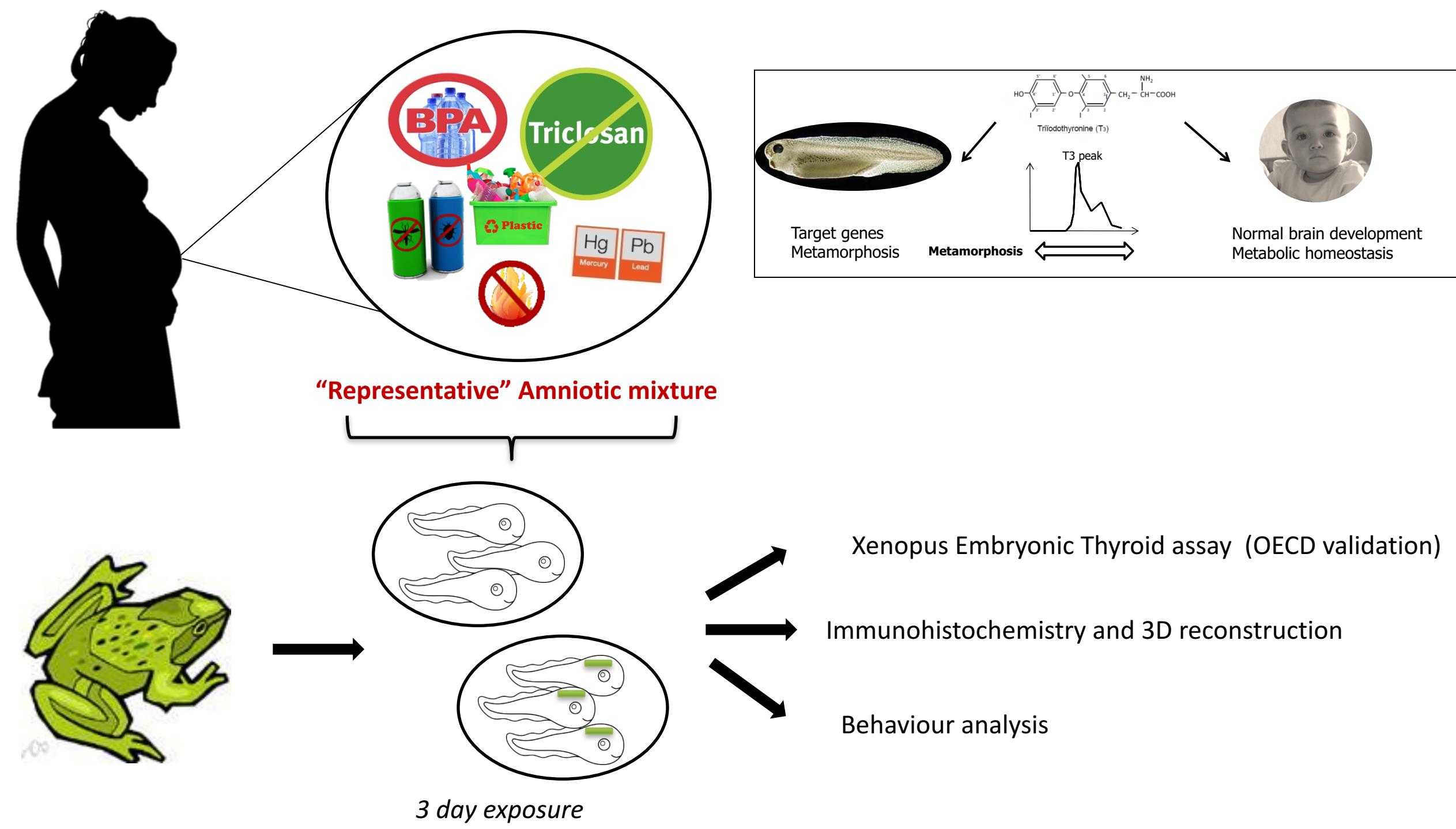


## Heavy metals

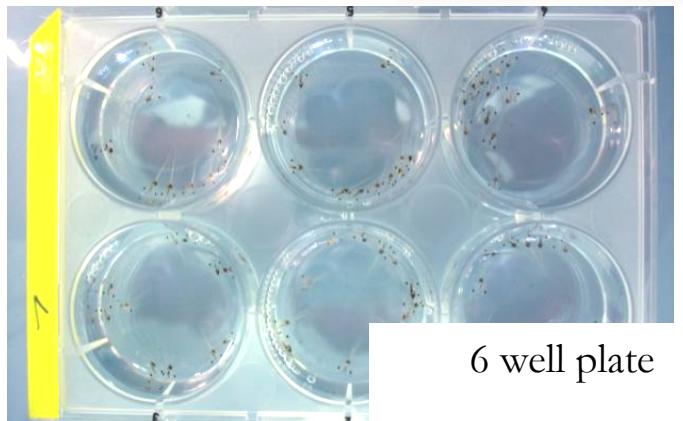
- Methyl Mercury  $10^{-7}$  M
- Lead



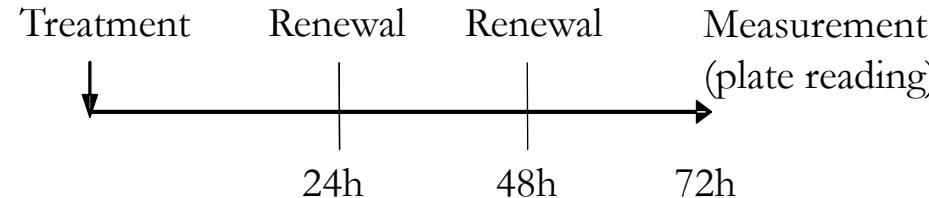
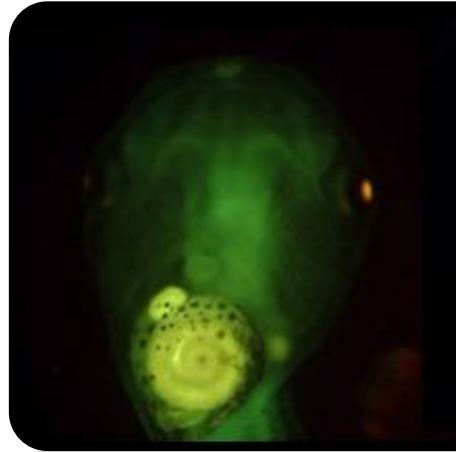
Which model to use?

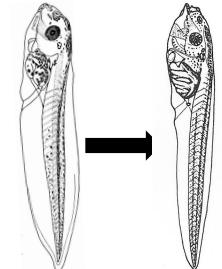


# Xenopus embryonic thyroid assay (XETA)



6 well plate



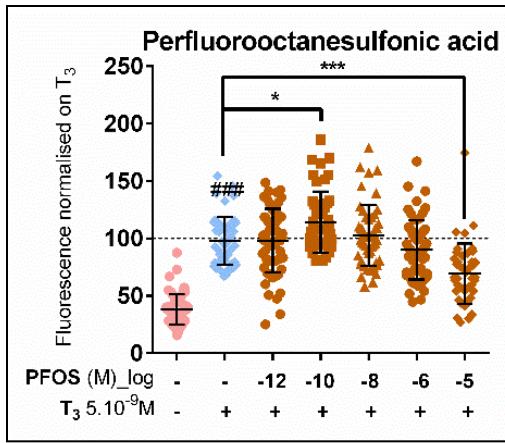
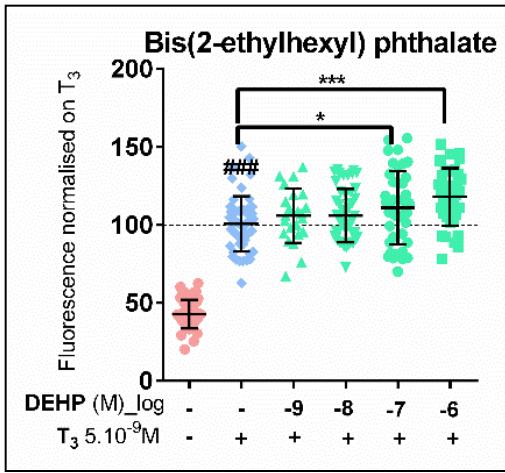


GFP  
measurement

NF45  
3 d treatment



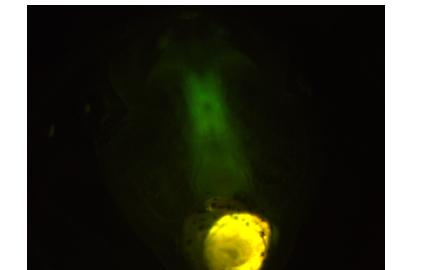
### Effects of single common chemicals



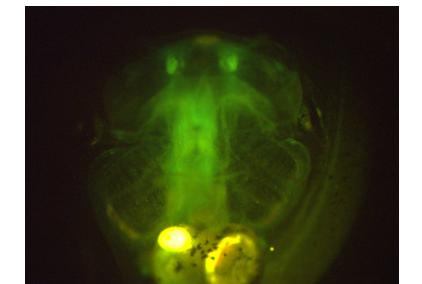
# Chemical mixture dose-dependently disrupts thyroid hormone signalling

### Chemical mixture of 15 common chemicals

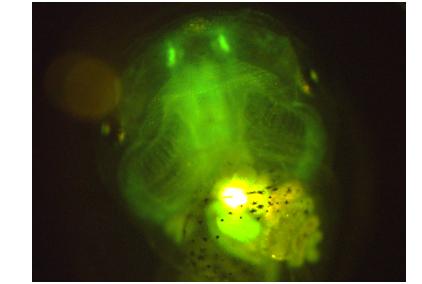
CTRL



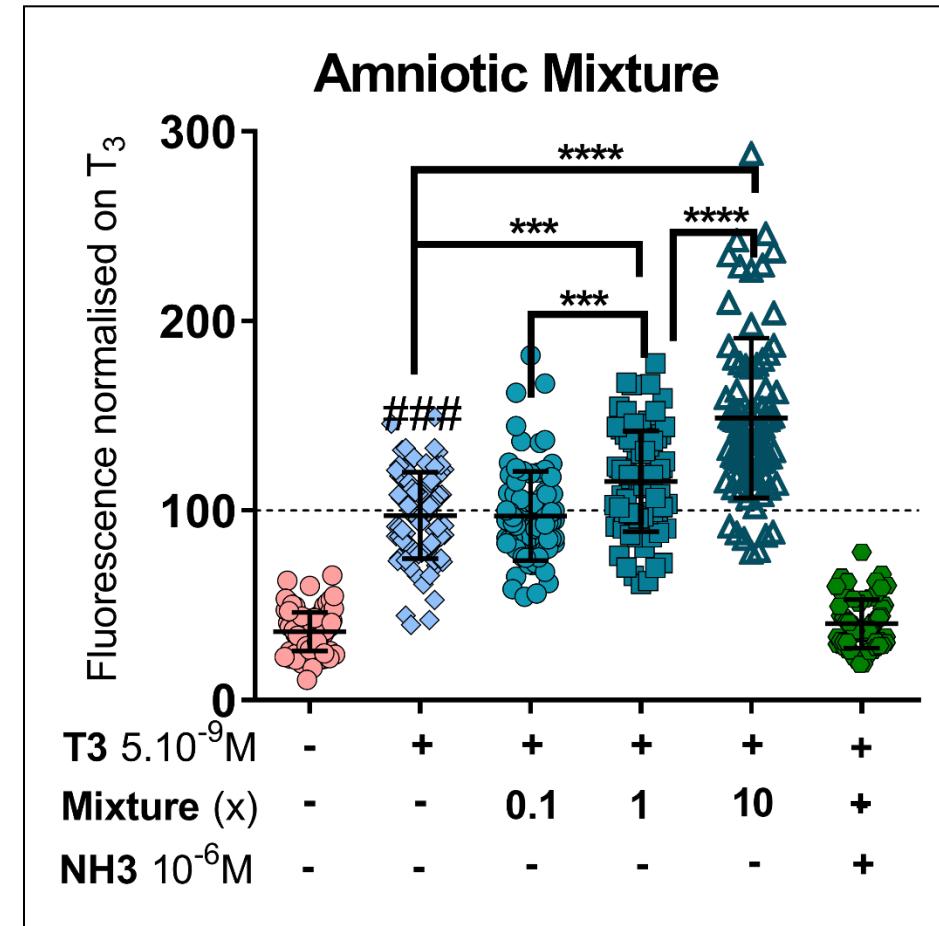
T3 5nM



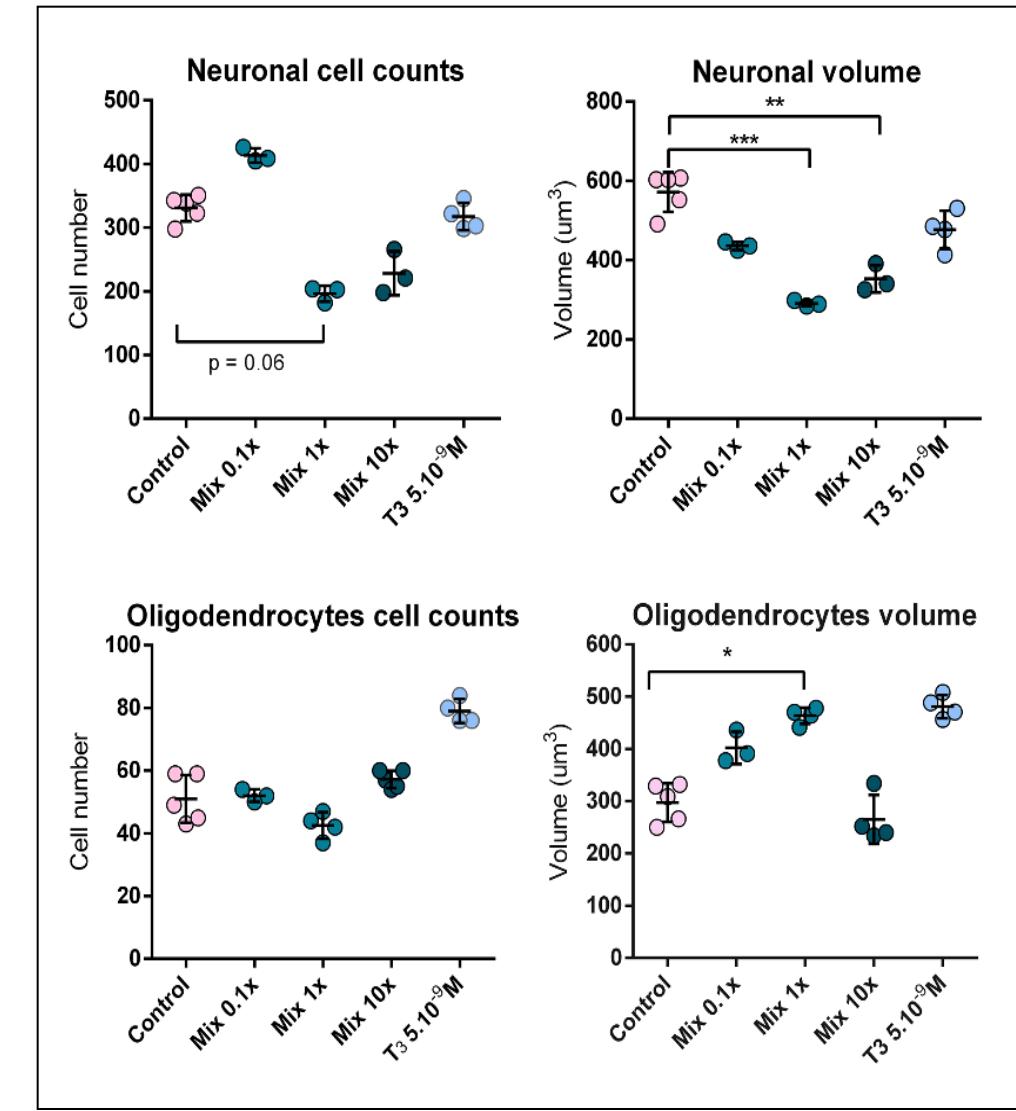
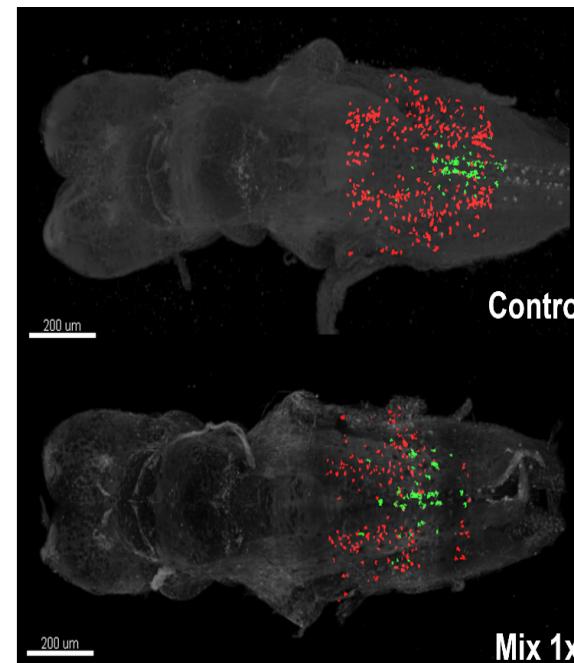
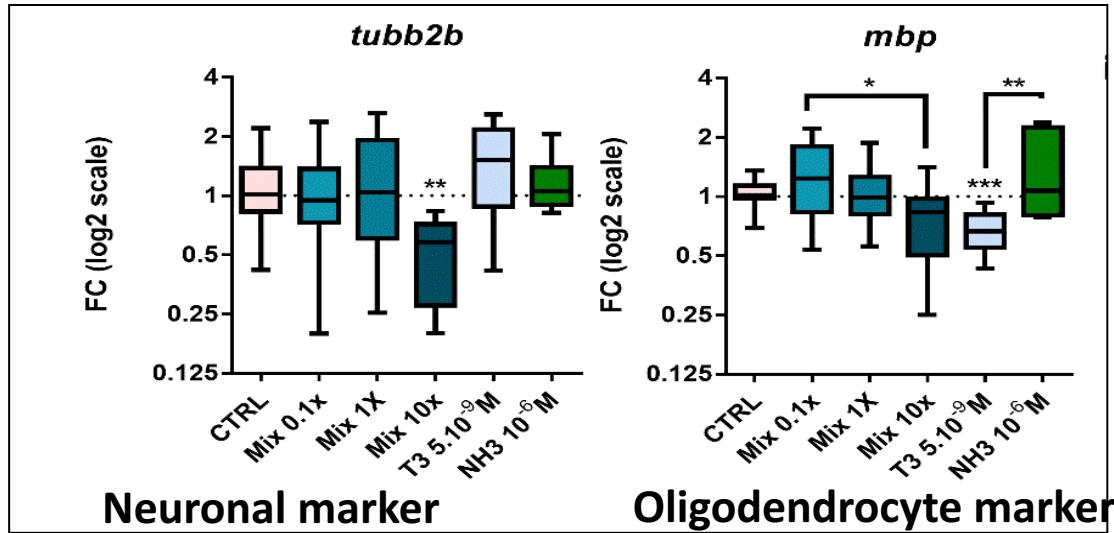
T3+ M 10X



### Amniotic Mixture

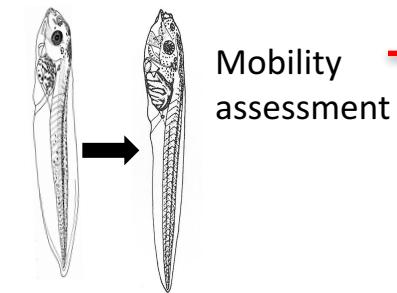


# Mixture modifies neural cell populations

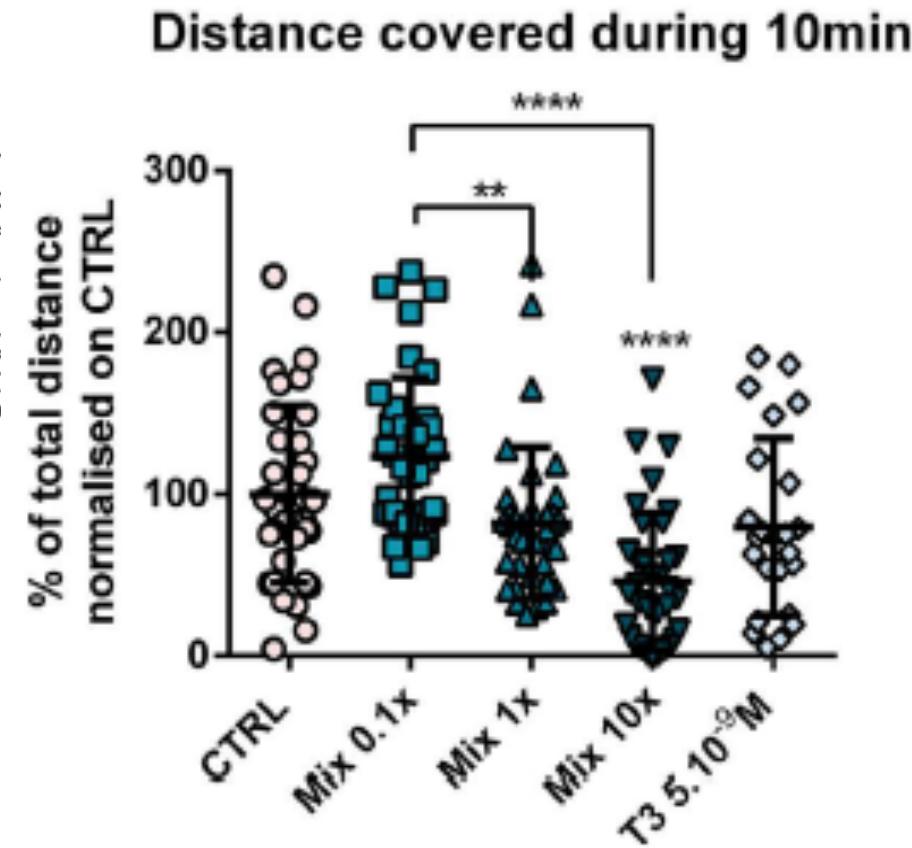
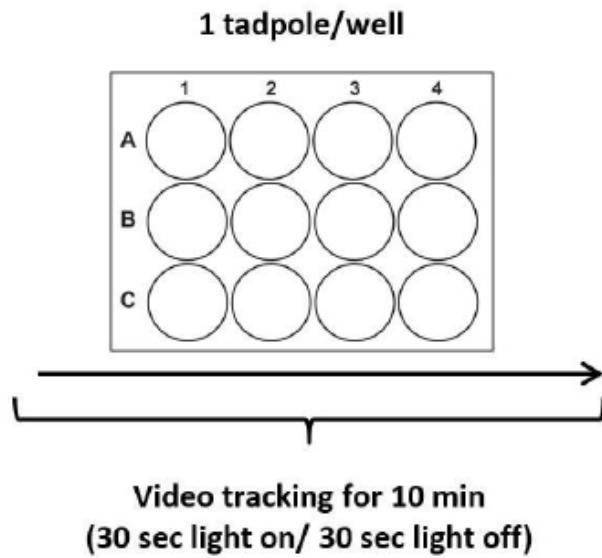


Fini et al., 2017 Sci Rep

# Thyroid hormone disruption in the brain: Affected behavior



NF45  
NF48  
3d treatment



DanioVision  
Noldus tracking  
system

Fini et al., 2017 Sci Rep

# Conclusions 1

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- Mixture of chemicals is thyroid hormone disruptive
- All halogenated compounds tested alone disrupt TH
- Mixture affects brain gene expression, cell volume and organisation
- Mixture affects mobility (behaviour) at human exposure levels

*B.Mughal*

# Testing thyroid hormone disrupting potency ?

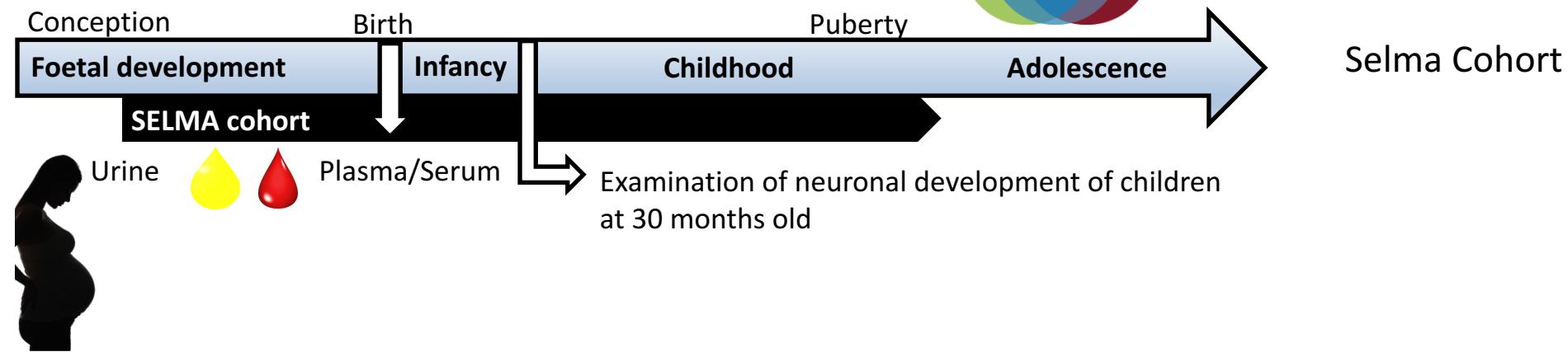
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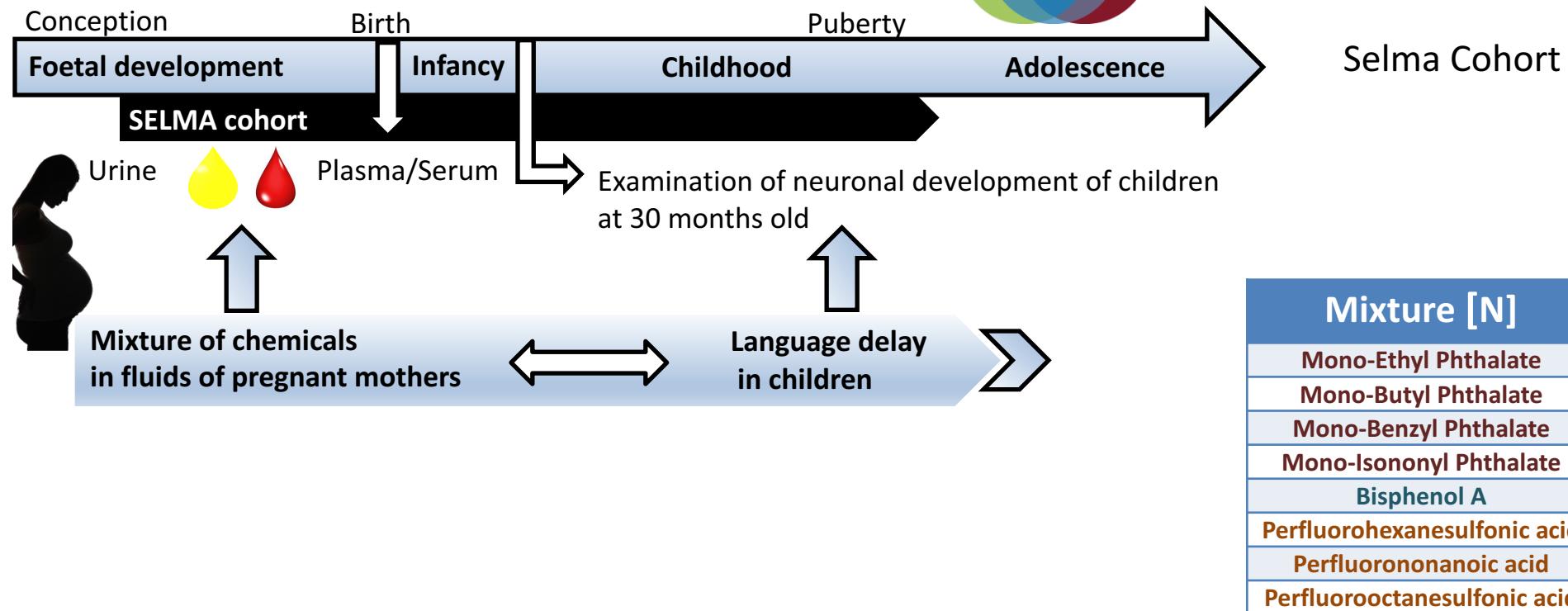
- Mixture « Amniotic » vs single compounds
- Mixtures « Neurodevelopment » \_ EDC MIX RISK

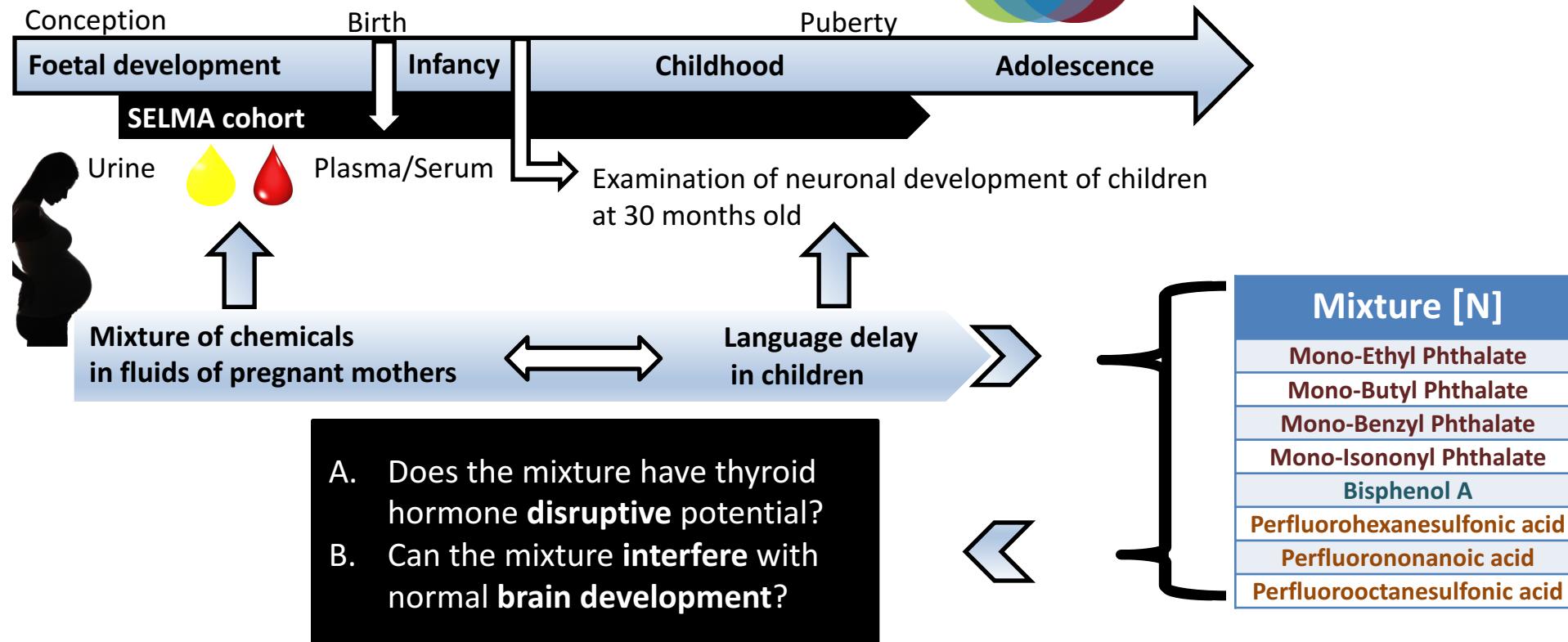
Strategy #2: Starting from epidemiology and adverse outcomes

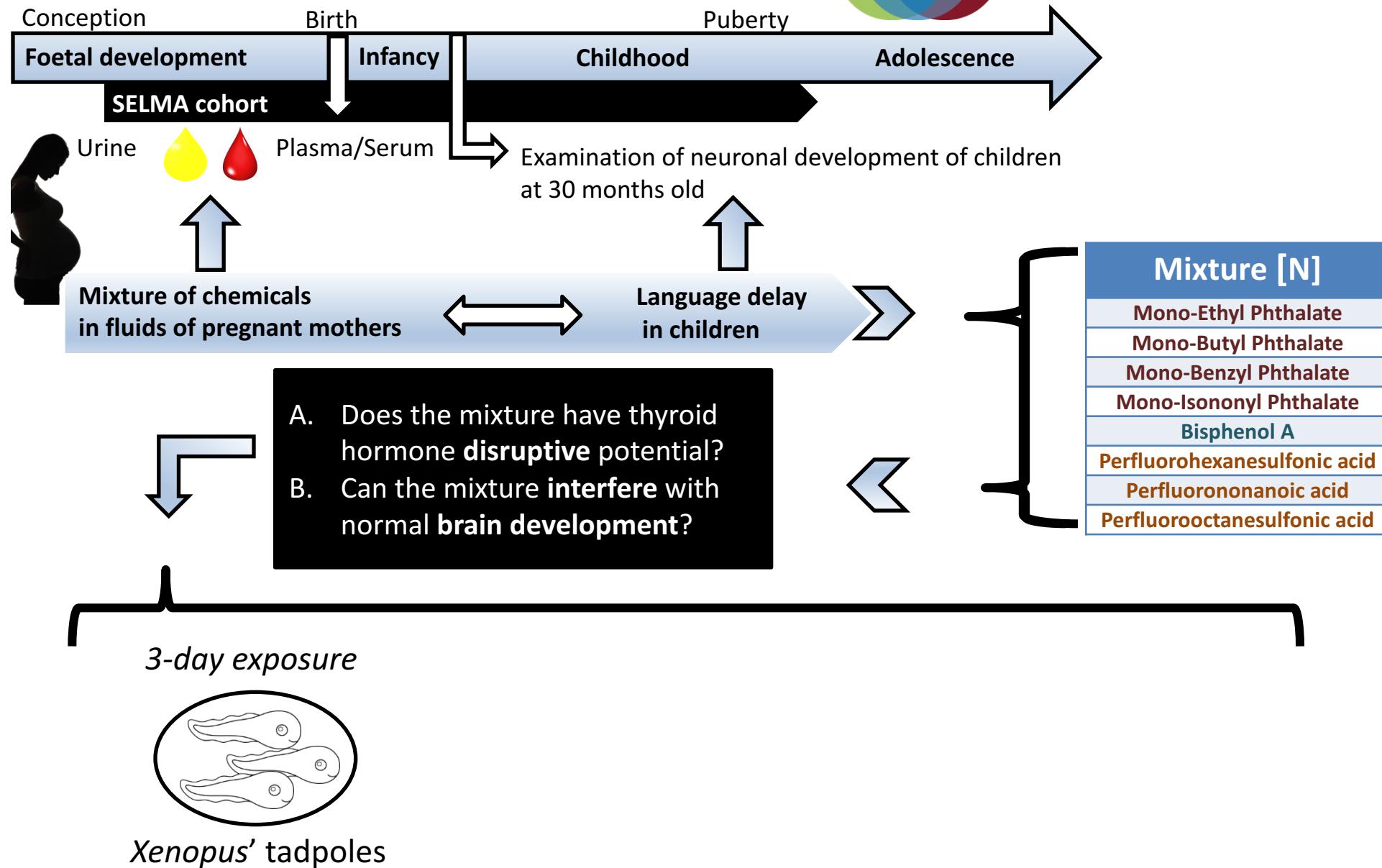


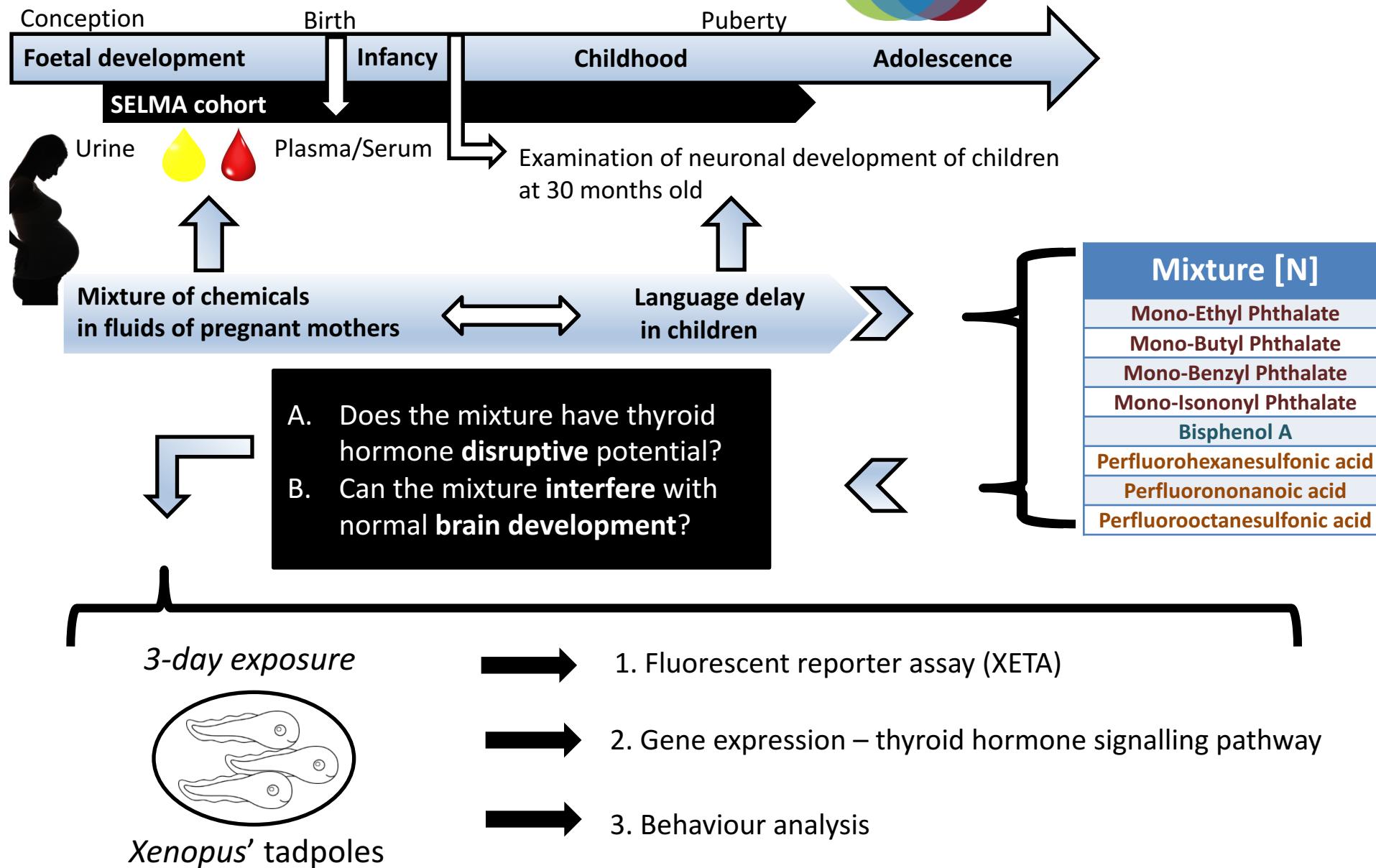
**EDC-MixRisk**  
safe chemicals for future generations







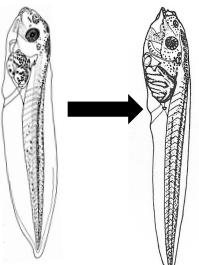




**1. Can mixture of chemicals found in fluids of pregnant women have TH-disruptive properties?**

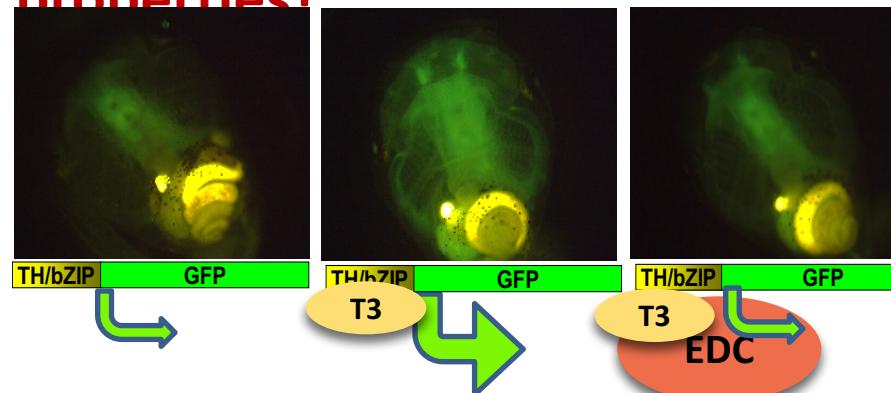
# 1. Can mixture of chemicals found in fluids of pregnant women have TH-disruptive properties?

3 d treatment/24h renewal



GFP quantification

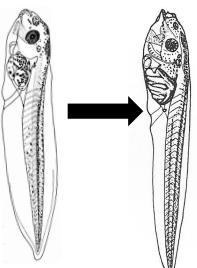
NF45    NF48



	1x N (mol/L)	10x N (mol/L)	100x N (mol/L)	1000x N (mol/L)
MEP	2.7E-08	2.7E-07	2.7E-06	2.7E-05
MBP	2.26E-08	2.26E-07	2.26E-06	2.26E-05
MBzP	1.05E-08	1.05E-07	1.05E-06	1.05E-05
MINP	2.06E-08	2.06E-07	2.06E-06	2.06E-05
BPA	4.0E-09	4.0E-08	4.0E-07	4.0E-06
PFHxS	3.20E-09	3.20E-08	3.20E-07	3.20E-06
PFNA	1.10E-09	1.10E-08	1.10E-07	1.10E-06
PFOS	1.03E-08	1.03E-07	1.03E-06	1.03E-05

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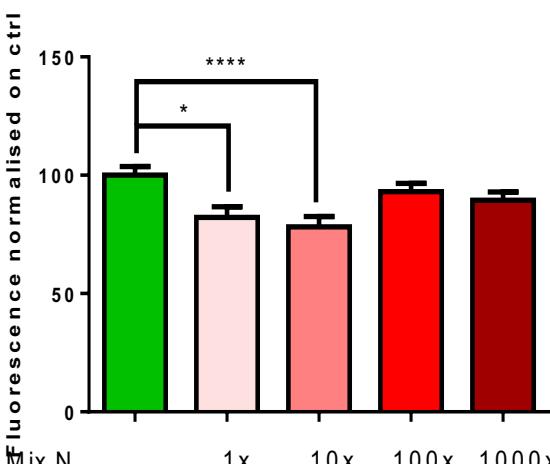
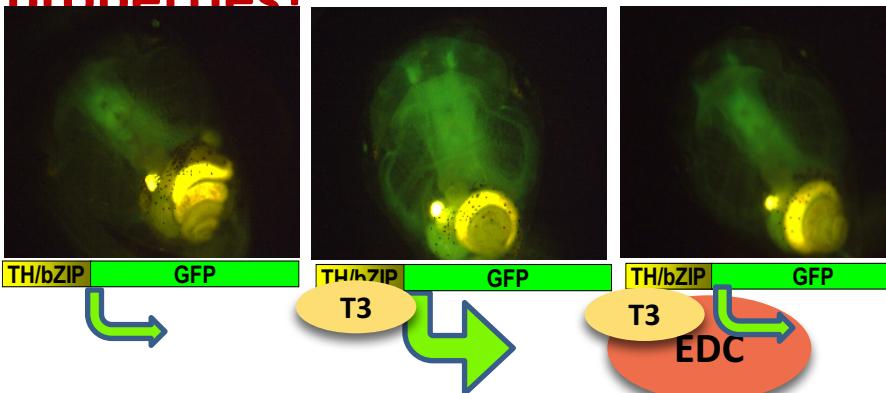
→ GFP quantification

NF45 NF48



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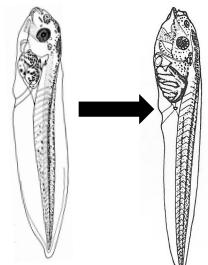
GFP quantification



- Parametric one-way ANOVA
- Pool 4 independent experiments with each n=15

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3 d treatment/24h renewal

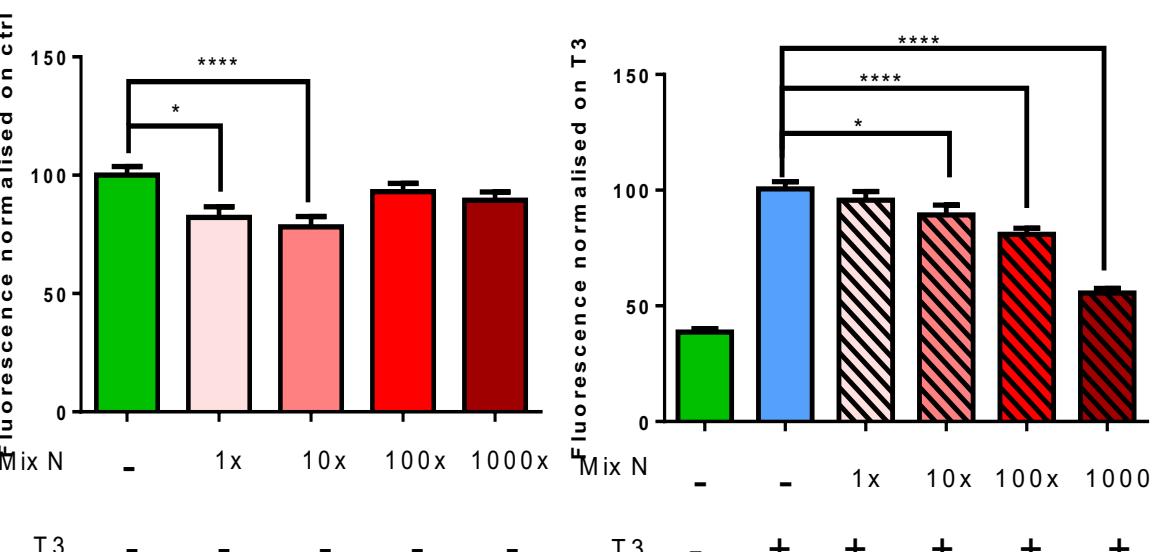
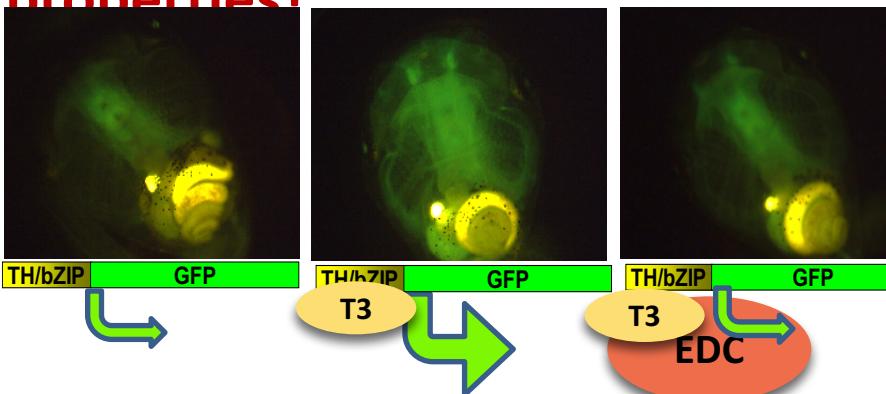


→ GFP quantification

NF45 NF48



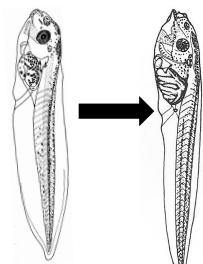
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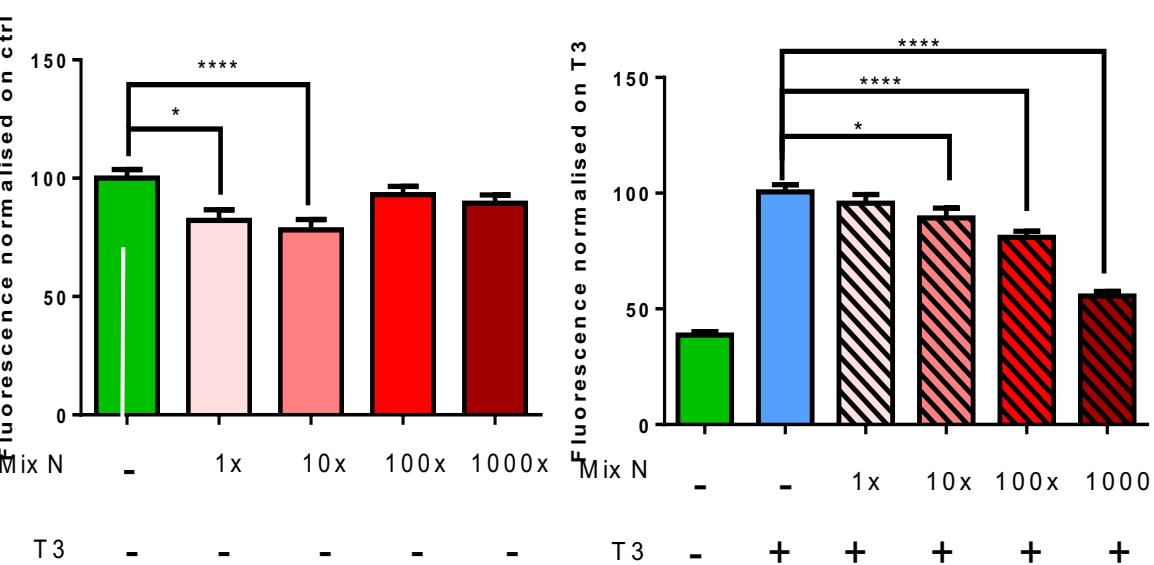
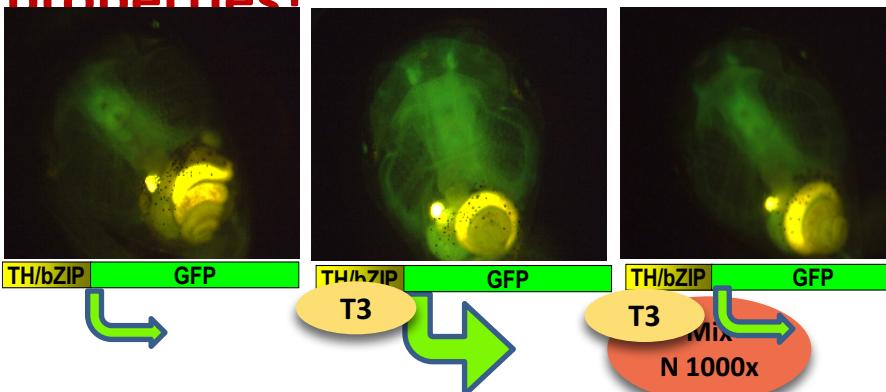
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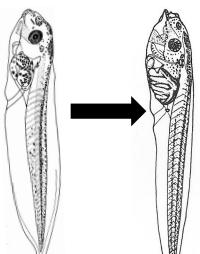


- Parametric one-way ANOVA
- Pool 4 independent experiments with each n=15

→ Mix N alters thyroid hormone availability at concentrations found in pregnant women only after 72 hours of exposure in *Xenopus*

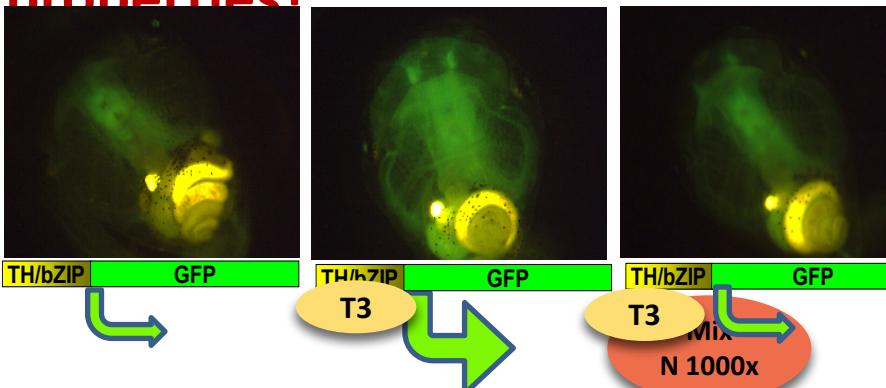
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NF45 NF48

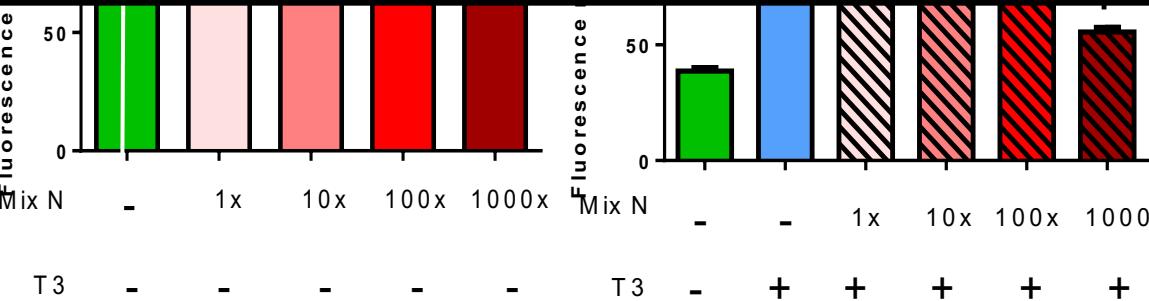
GFP quantification



	1x N (mol/L)	10x N (mol/L)	100x N (mol/L)	1000x N (mol/L)
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What are the consequences on TH related transcripts in brain with this mixture?

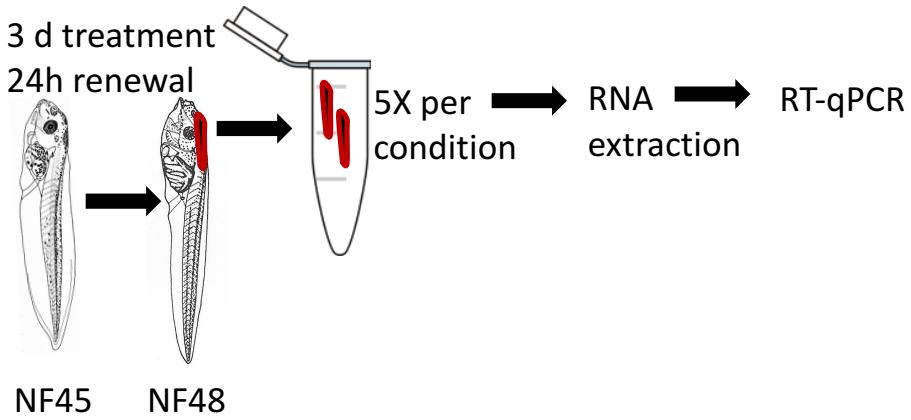
MINP	2.06E-08	2.06E-07	2.06E-06	2.06E-05
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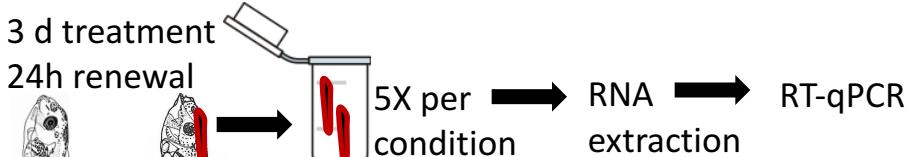
- Parametric one-way ANOVA
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## 2. Does the mixture affect brain gene expression in tadpoles?

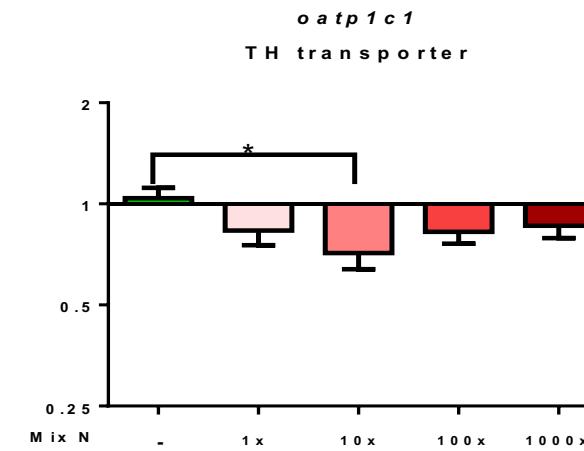
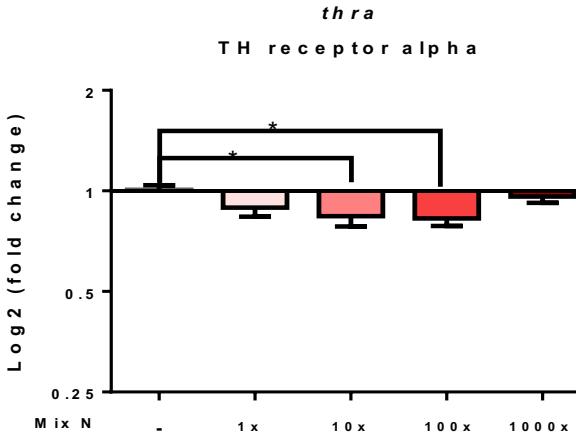


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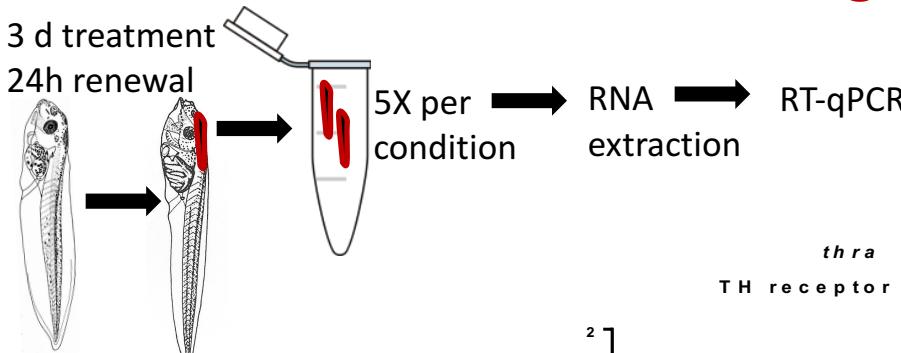


NF45    NF48

- Parametric one-way ANOVA
- 3 independent experiments with each exp n=5

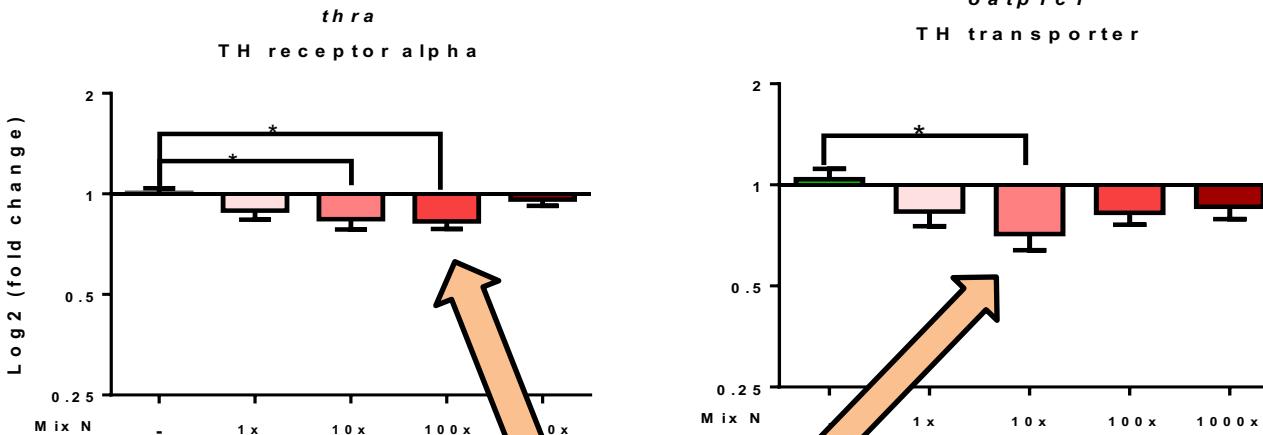


## **2. Does the mixture affect brain gene expression in tadpoles?**

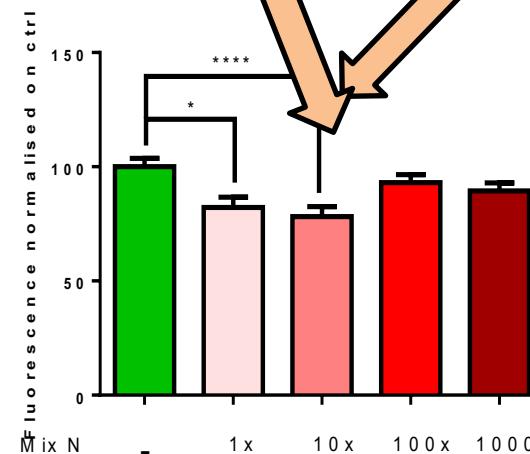
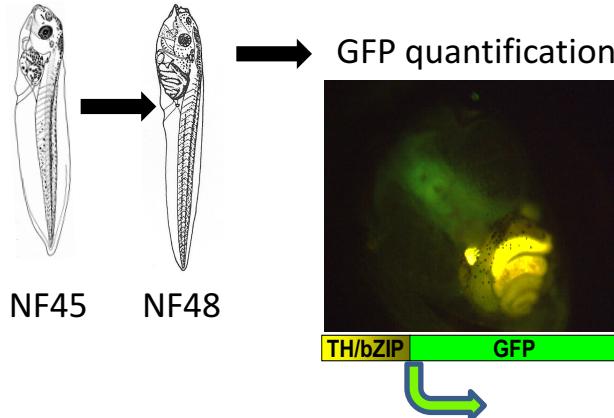


NF45      NF48

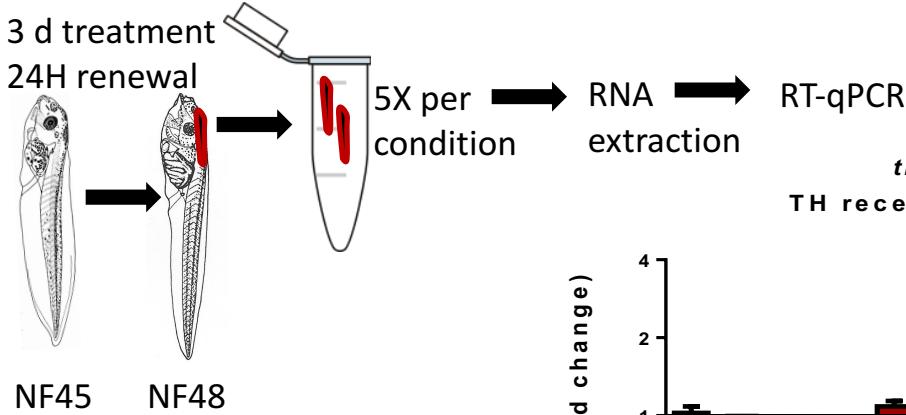
- Parametric one-way ANOVA
  - 3 independent experiments with each exp n=5



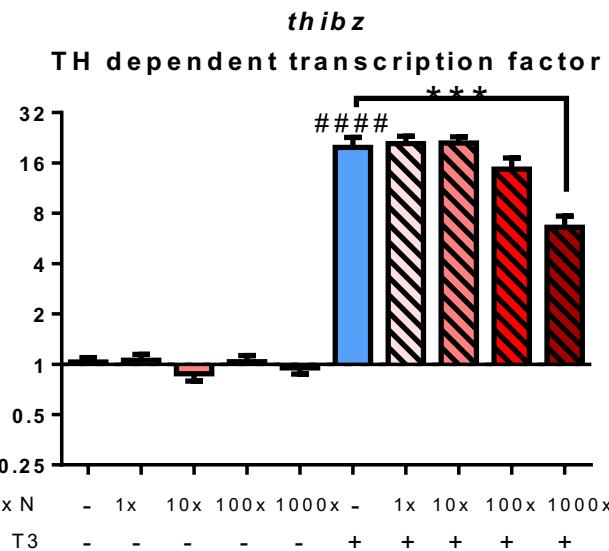
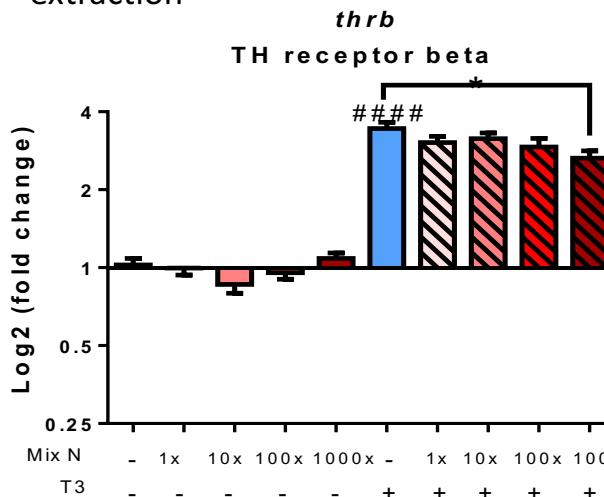
### 3 d treatment/24h renewal



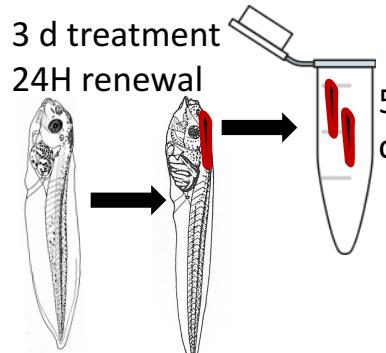
## 2. Does the mixture affect brain gene expression in tadpoles?



- Parametric one-way ANOVA
- 3 independent experiments with each n=5

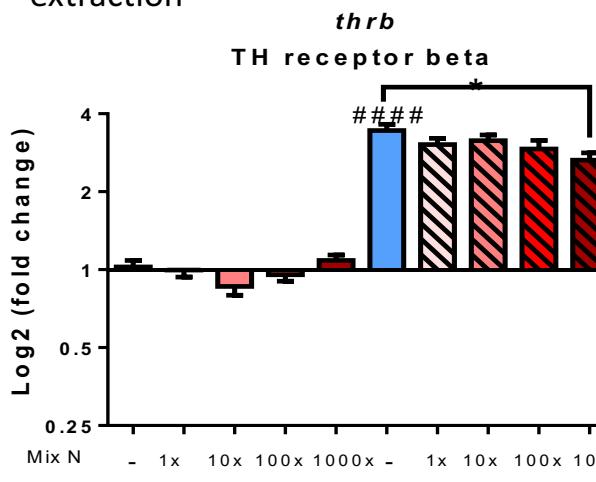


## 2. Does the mixture affect brain gene expression in tadpoles?

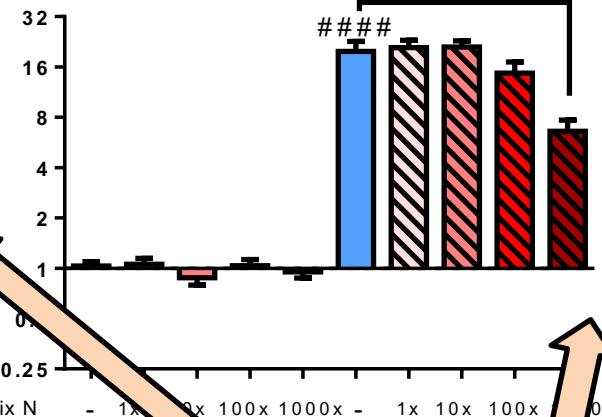


NF45    NF48

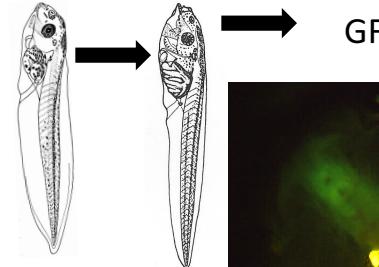
- Parametric one-way ANOVA
- 3 independent experiments with each n=5



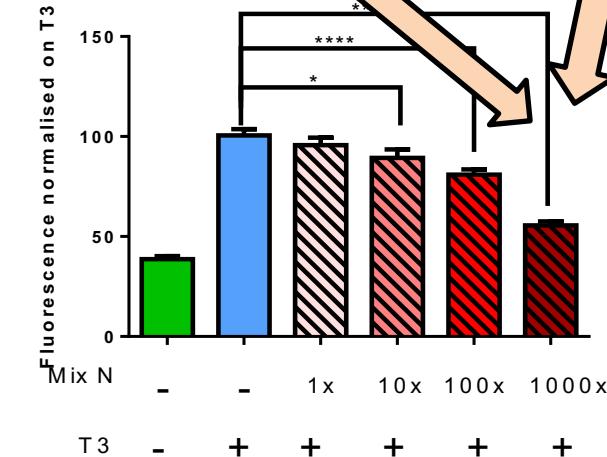
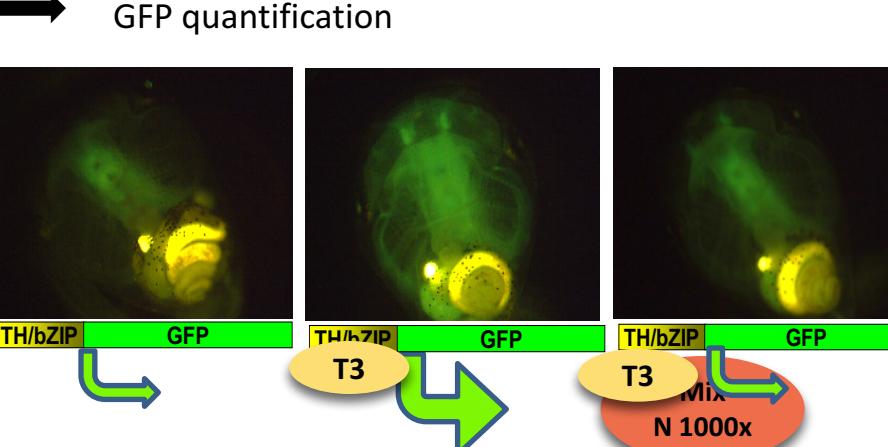
*thibz*  
TH dependent transcription factor



3 d treatment/24h renewal

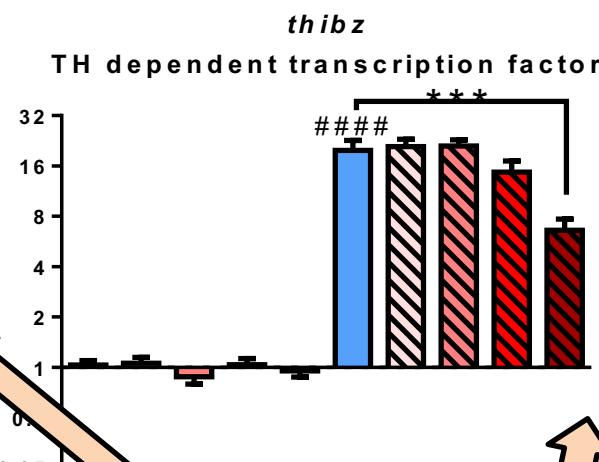
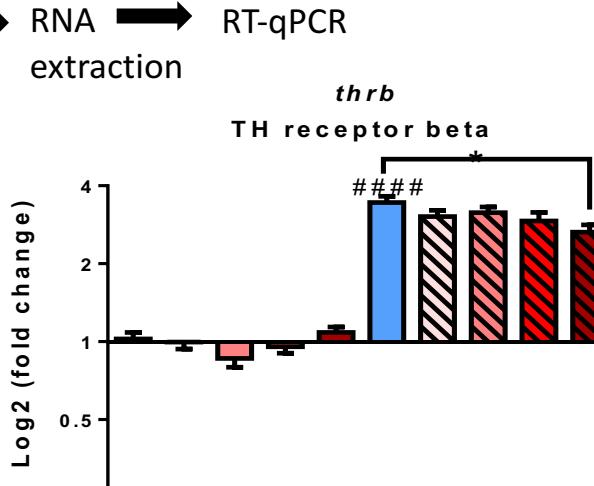
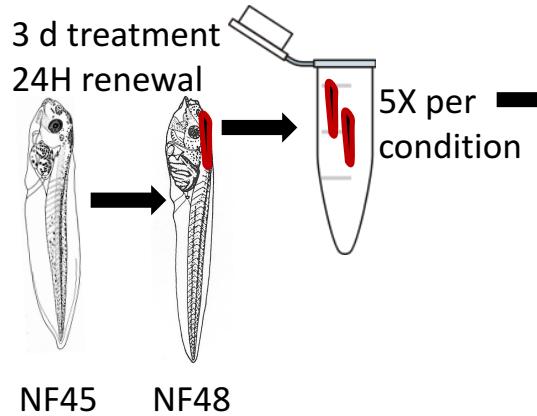


NF45    NF48



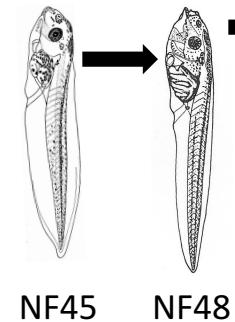
→ Key genes of the TH signalling pathway are dysregulated in brains of exposed tadpoles to mixture N

## 2. Does the mixture affect brain gene expression in tadpoles?

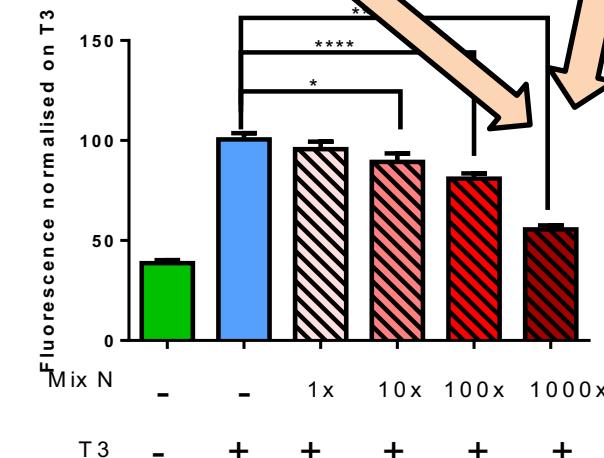
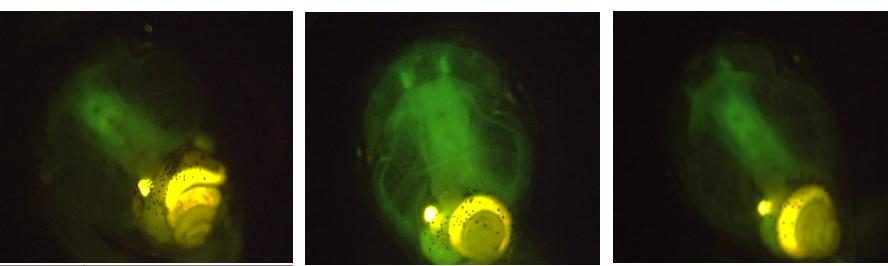


Does this TH-disruptive mixture alter behaviour?

3 d treatment/24h renewal



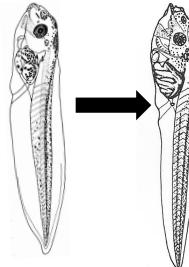
GFP quantification



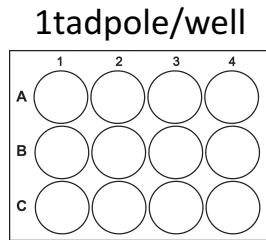
→ Key genes of the TH signalling pathway are dysregulated in brains of exposed tadpoles to mixture N

### 3. What are the consequences on behaviour of embryonic exposure with the identified mixture ?

3 d treatment  
24H renewal



Mobility tracking



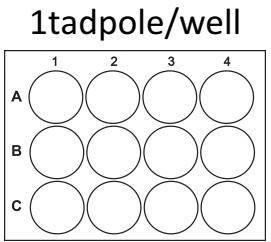
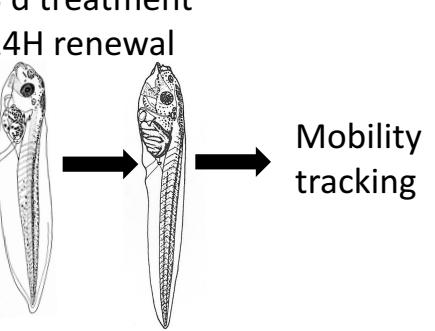
Video tracking for 10 min  
(30 sec light on/ 30 sec light off)

- Non-parametric one-way ANOVA
- 3 independent experiments with each n=12



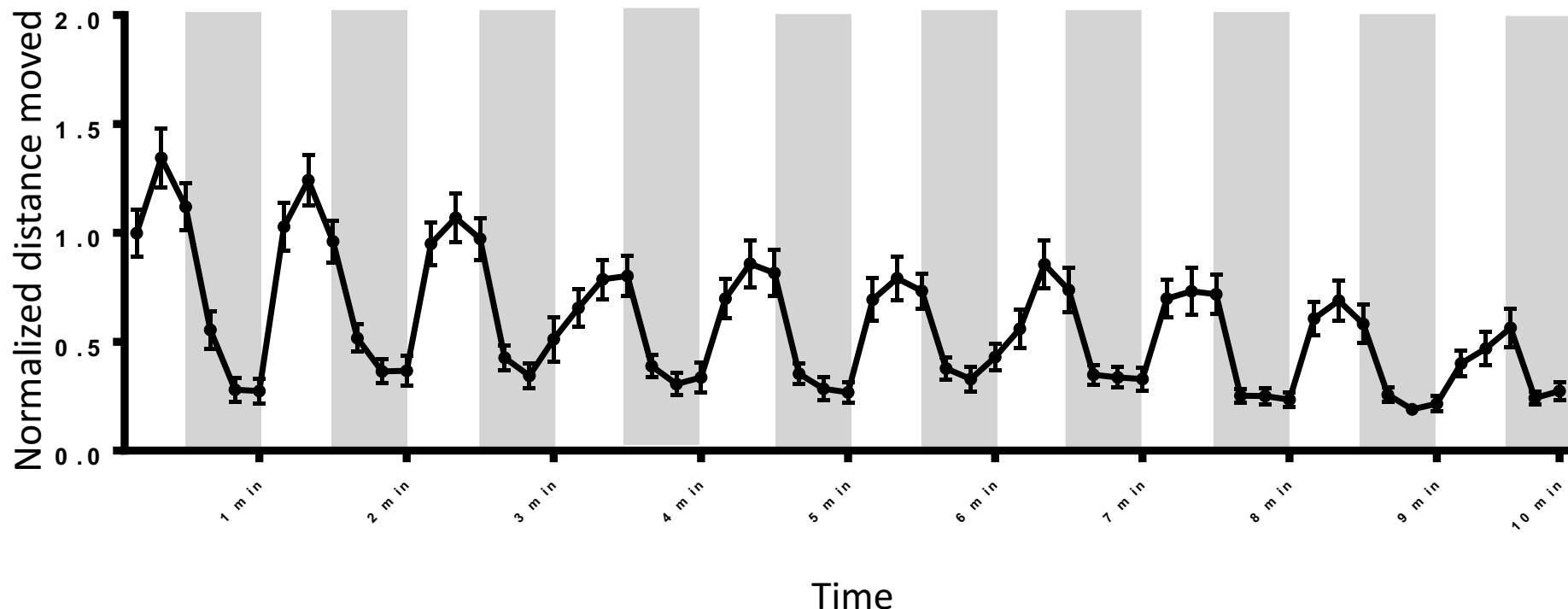
### 3. What are the consequences on behaviour of embryonic exposure with the identified mixture ?

3 d treatment  
24H renewal



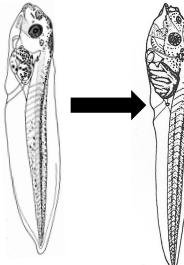
Video tracking for 10 min  
(30 sec light on/ 30 sec light off)

- Non-parametric one-way ANOVA
- 3 independent experiments with each n=12

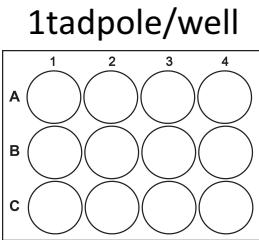


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24H renewal

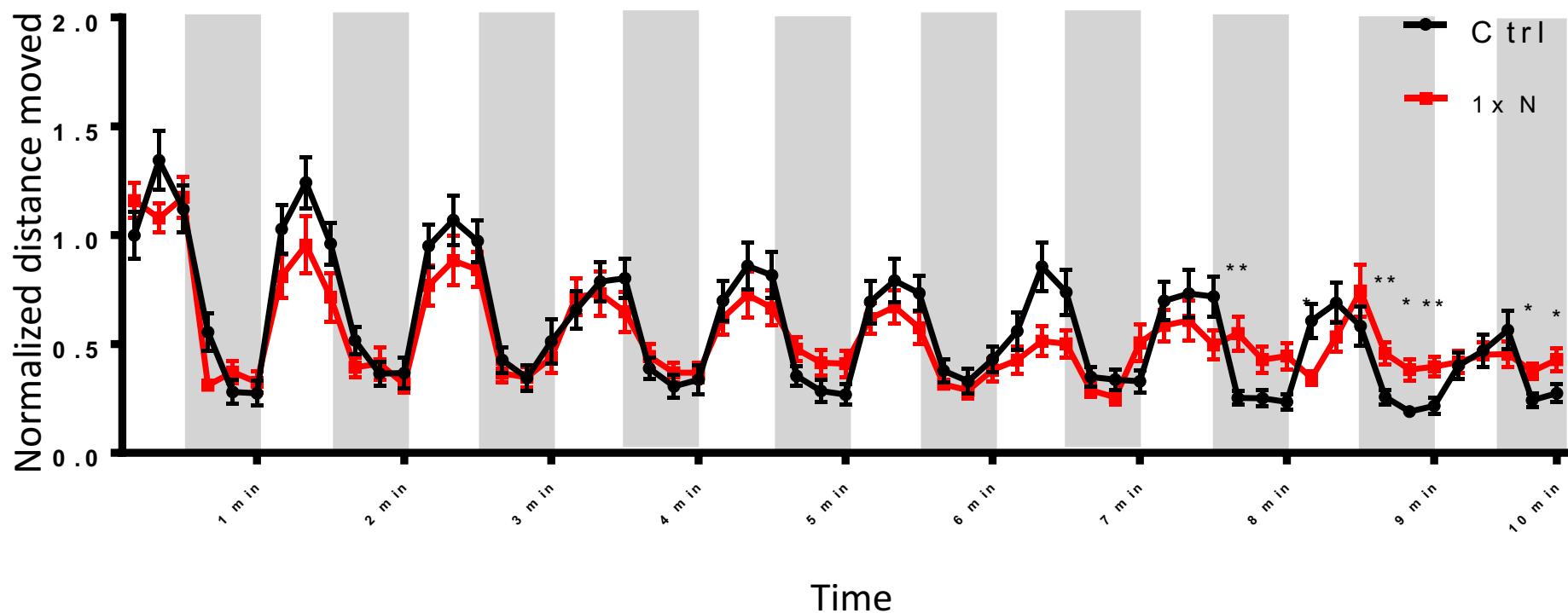


Mobility tracking



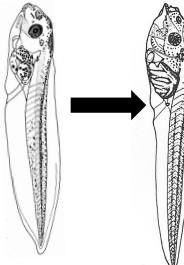
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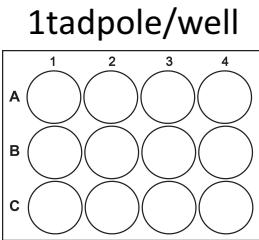


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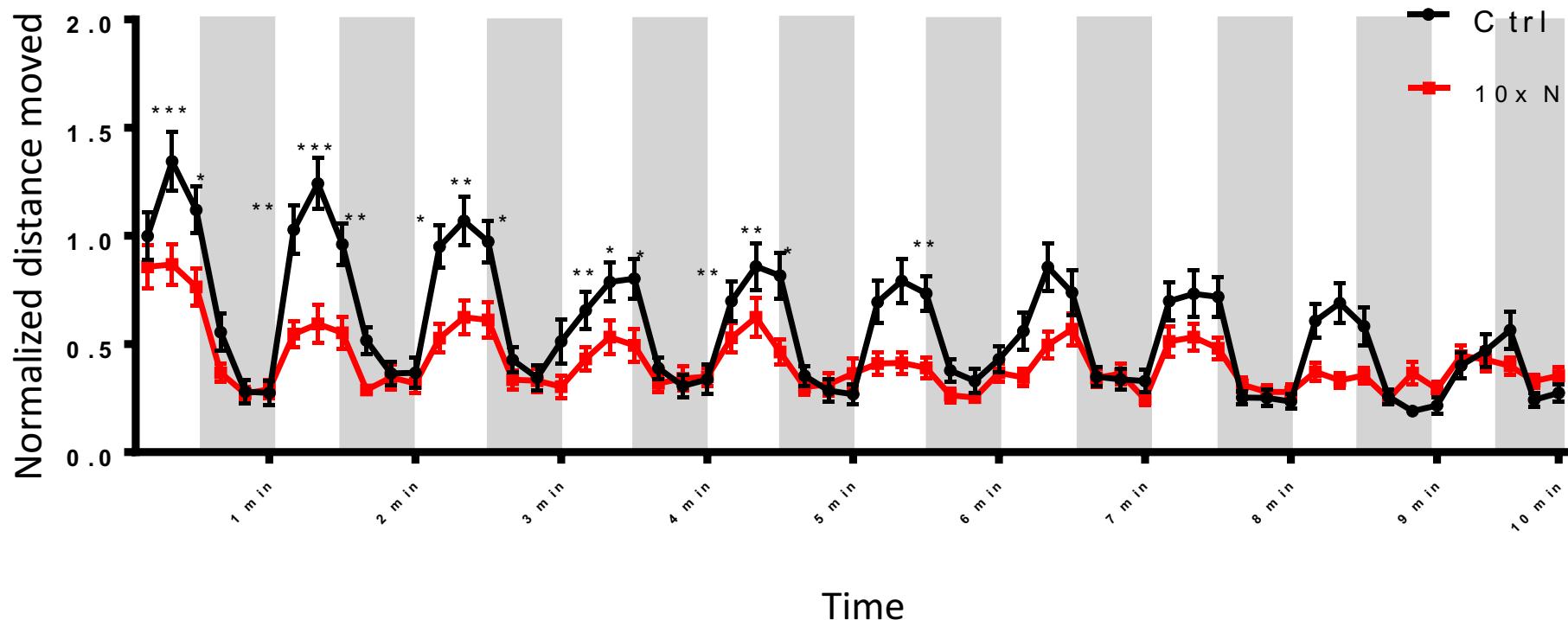


Mobility tracking

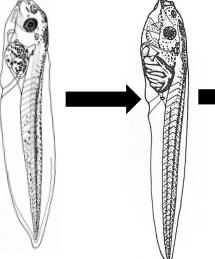


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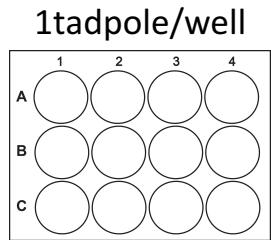
- Non-parametric one-way ANOVA
- 3 independent experiments with each n=12



### 3. What are the consequences on behaviour of embryonic exposure with the identified mixture ?

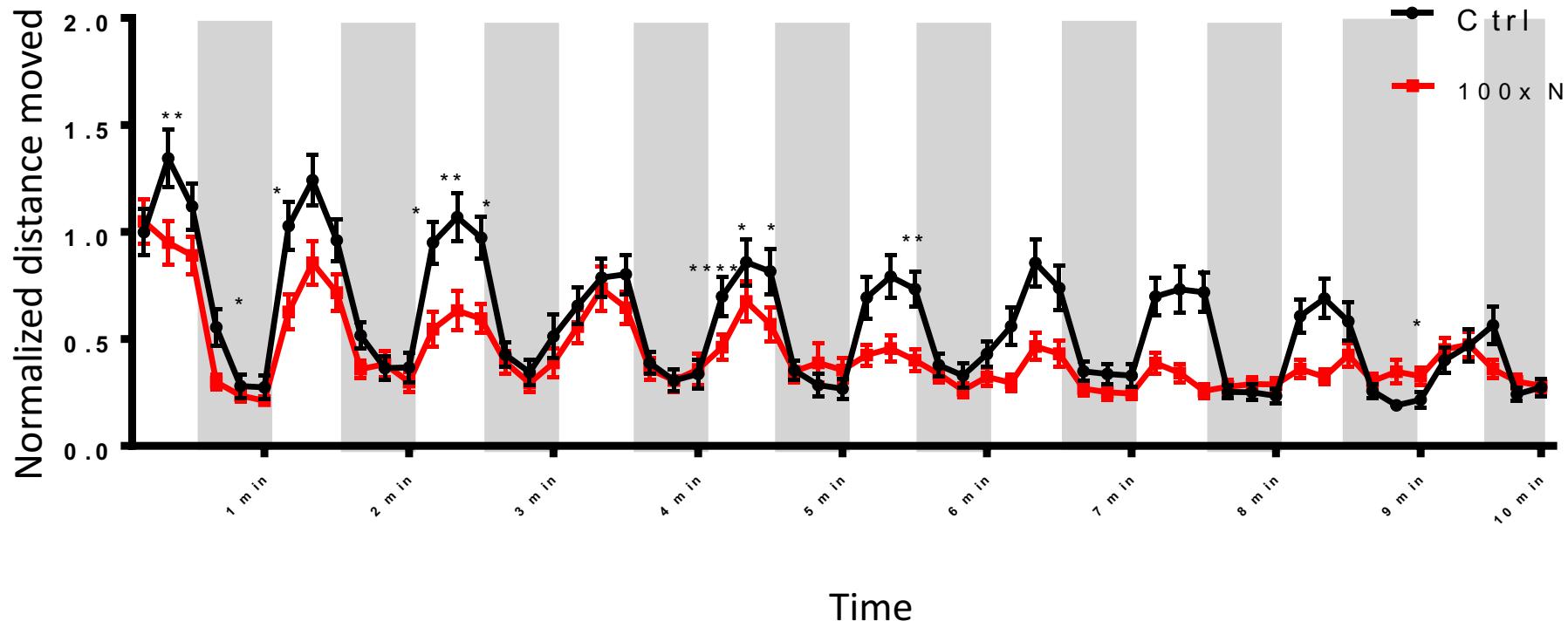
3 d treatment  
24H renewal  
  
NF45      NF48

Mobility tracking



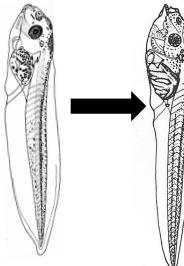
Video tracking for 10 min  
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- Non-parametric one-way ANOVA
- 3 independent experiments with each  $n=12$

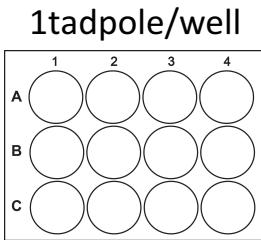


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3 d treatment  
24H renewal

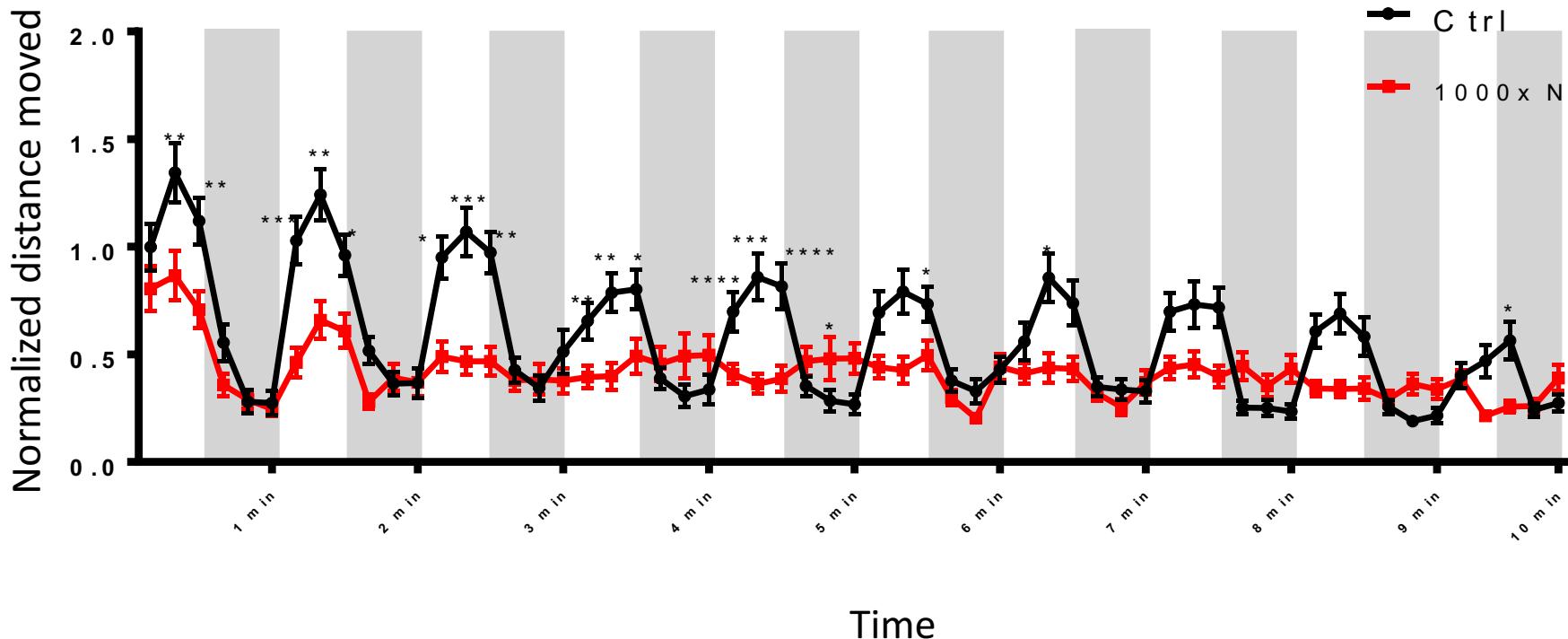


Mobility tracking

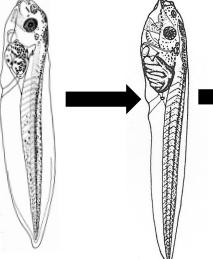


Video tracking for 10 min  
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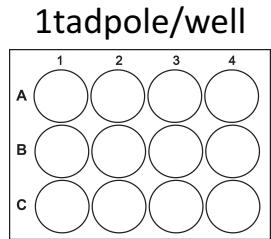
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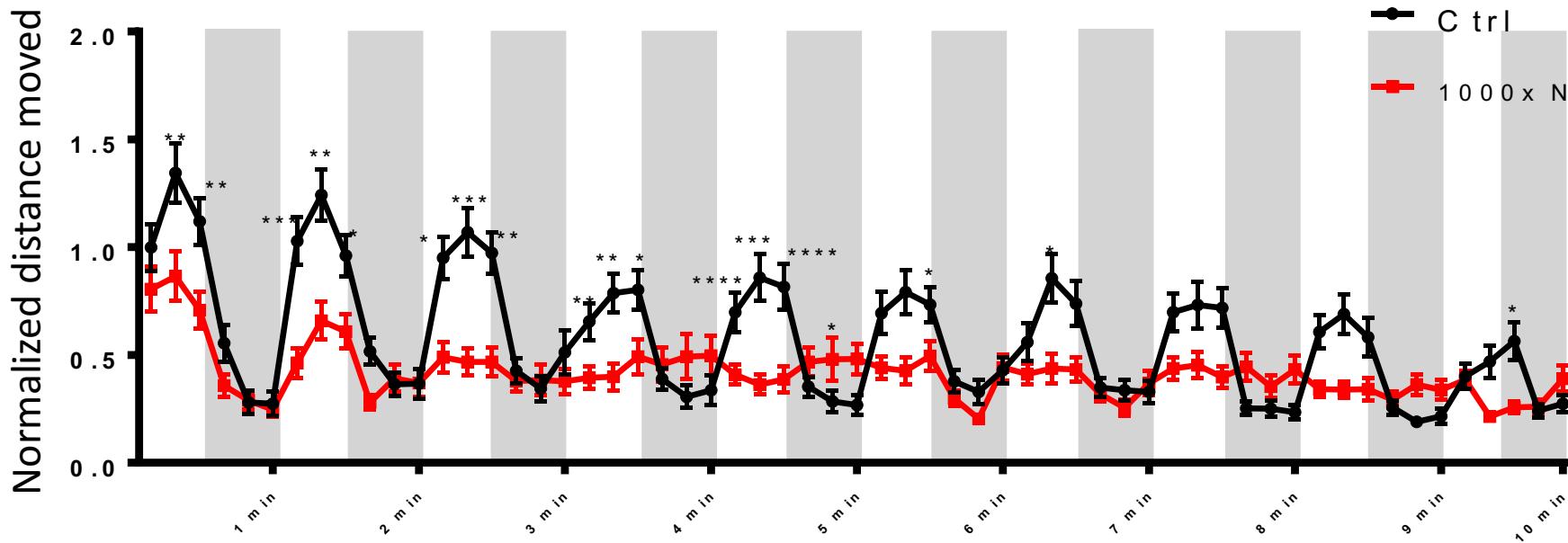
3 d treatment  
24H renewal  
  
NF45      NF48

Mobility tracking



Video tracking for 10 min  
(30 sec light on/ 30 sec light off)

- Non-parametric one-way ANOVA
- 3 independent experiments with each n=12



→ 10-, 100-, 1000-times more concentrated mixture N reduced mobility and reduced response to light stimuli after 8 minutes

## Conclusions 2: on Neuronal related mixture

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The mixture associated with neurodevelopmental delay in children:

*M.Leemans*

1. Disrupts TH signalling
2. Affects brain gene expression
3. has potential to impede behaviour  
= possible indication of aberrant brain development

## New Results

### From Cohorts to Molecules: Adverse Impacts of Endocrine Disrupting Mixtures

Lina Birgersson, Gabor Borbely, Nicolo Caporale, Pierre-Luc Germain, Michelle Leemans, Filip Rendel, Giuseppe D'Agostino, Raul Bardini Bressan, Francesca Cavallo, Nadav Even Chorev, Vesna Munic Kos, Maddalena Lazzarin, Steven Pollard, Birgitta Sundstrom, Alejandro Lopez Tobon, Sebastiano Trattaro, Matteo Zanella, Ake Bergman, Pauliina Damdimopoulou, Maria Jonsson, Wieland Kiess, Efthymia Kitraki, Hannu Kiviranta, Mattias Oberg, Panu Rantakkoko, Christina Ruden, Olle Soder, Carl-Gustaf Bornehag, Barbara Demeneix, Jean-Baptiste Fini, Chris Gennings, Eewa Nanberg, Joelle Ruegg, Joachim Sturve, Giuseppe Testa

**doi:** <https://doi.org/10.1101/206664>

This article is a preprint and has not been peer-reviewed [what does this mean?].

*In revision at Nature*

# Conclusions & thoughts

- Fine tuning of Thyroid hormone signaling is crucial for proper brain development
- Over two thirds of the chemicals tested disrupt thyroid hormone signalling
- These chemicals pass the placenta and are found in fetal compartment

Our chemical environment could interfere with thyroid hormone

- 1) A chimeric mixture made from « exposure data » showed impaired TH regulation, brain development and behavior
- 2) Mixture identified from language delay endpoint in human was validated in experimental models especially in disrupting TH signaling in vivo

Chemical may have direct or indirect effects and act in a mixture way which make the legislation difficult

Early chemical exposure disrupt harmonized development and could make vulnerable to disease development



MUSÉUM  
NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE

## Pr Barbara DEMENEIX

Sébastien LE MEVEL

Michelle LEEMANS

Melodie LETTMANN

Dr Bilal MUGHAL

Dr Petra ŠPIRHANZLOVÁ

Stephan COUDERQ



**EDC-MixRisk**  
safe chemicals for future generations

CG BORNEHAG  
Chris GENNINGS  
Christian LINDH  
Ake BERGMAN  
Joelle RUEGG



Jean-Stéph JOLY  
Pierre AFFATICATI  
Laurie RIVIERE  
Elodie De JOB

# Acknowledgements



# MIXTURE has T3 like effect and increases cell proliferation in hindbrain

Immunos IN TOTO

X. Laevis brain

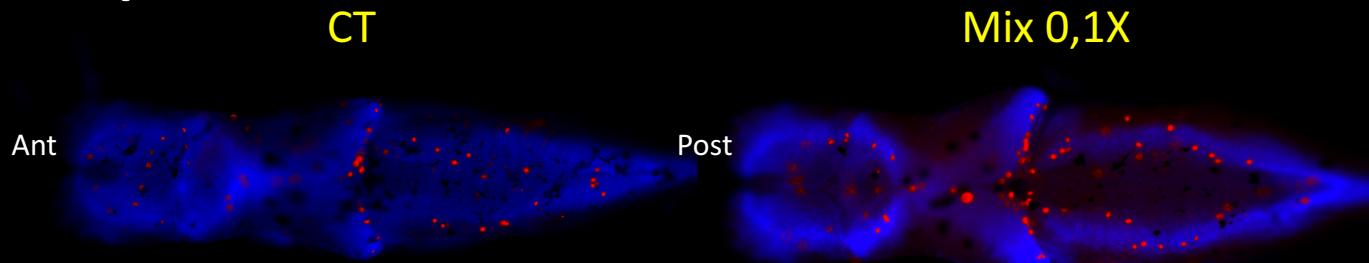
NF48 (3 d treated)

Dorsal view

Whole brain

Anti PH3 (red dots)

DAPI (blue)



CT

Mix 0,1X

Mix 1X

Mix 10X

T3

T3 + Mix 10X

