



**(4B) Chemical Analyses in Bio-medical
Investigations: the Foundation for Proving
Possible Damage to Human Health**

Olga Yurevna Ustinova

**The Federal Scientific Centre for Preventative Medicine and the Advancement of Technologies for
Managing Risks to Public Health —a division of the Federal Agency for Financing the Sciences.**

The goal of this presentation:

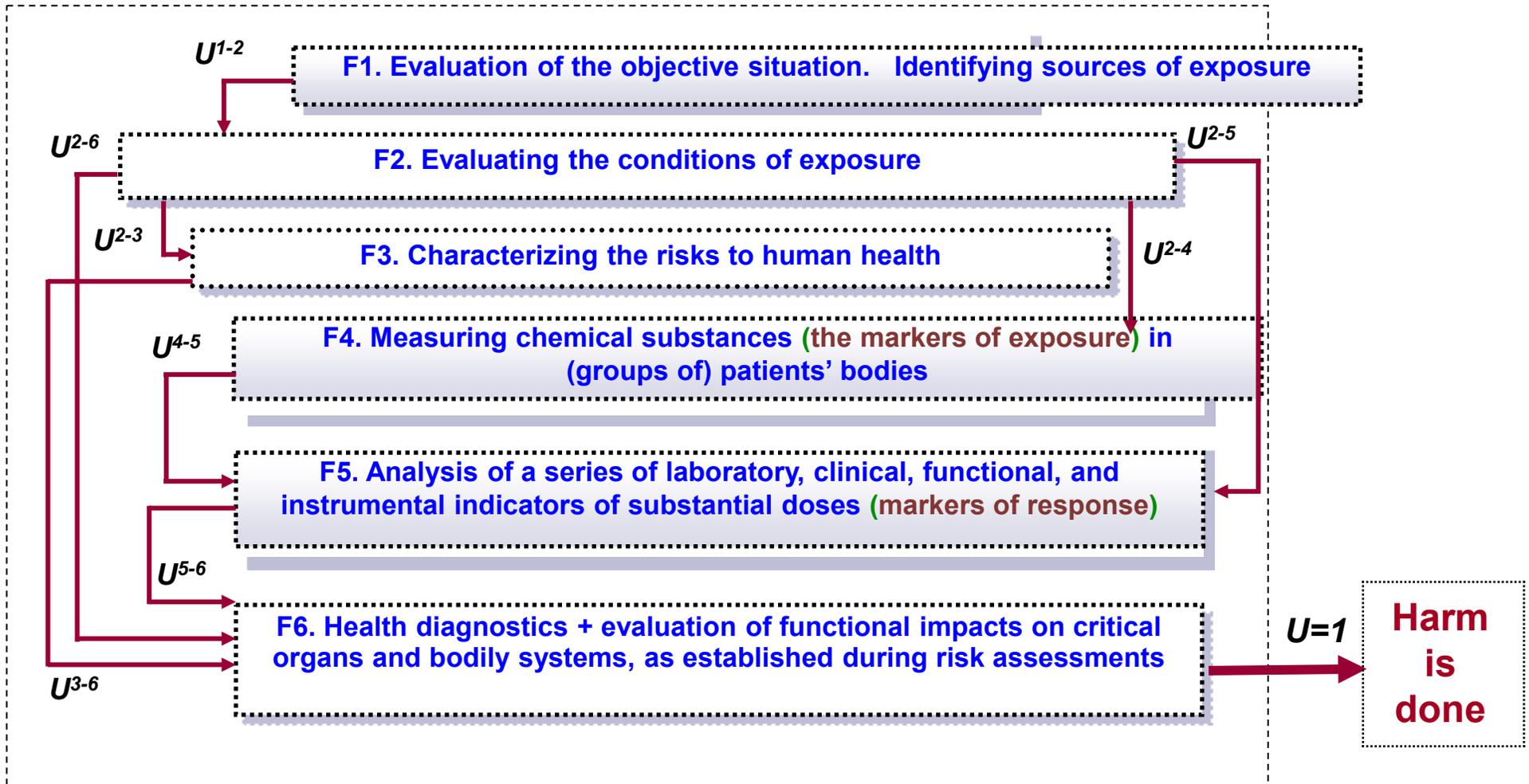
- **To open up discussion on the kind of bio-medical research programs that could uncover possible cause-and-affect “proof of damage” to public health in the town of Zakamensk.**

Theoretical background for this proposed program

In accordance with accepted methodologies for establishing possible damage to public health, it is required that evidence be brought forward step by step, mainly by:

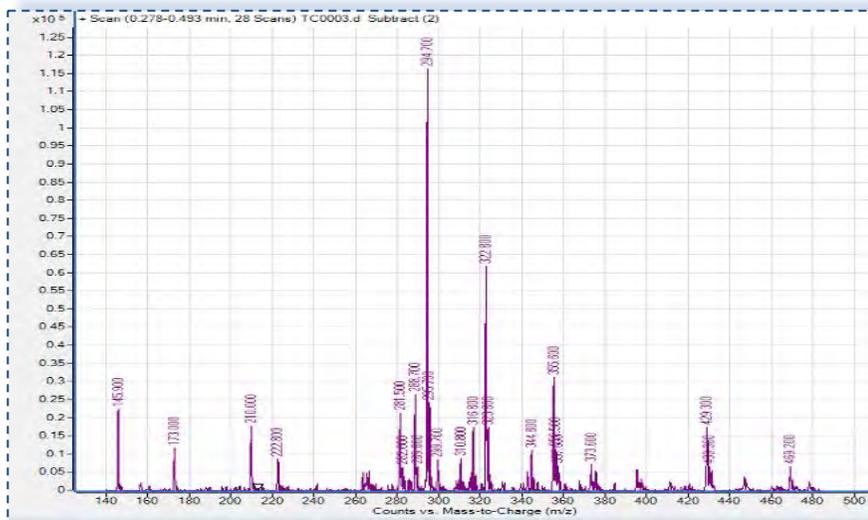
- Identifying Bio-Markers of Exposure**
-and by**
- Identifying Bio-Markers of Effect**

F4. Measuring chemical substances (Markers of Exposure) in patients' (or groups of patients') bodies

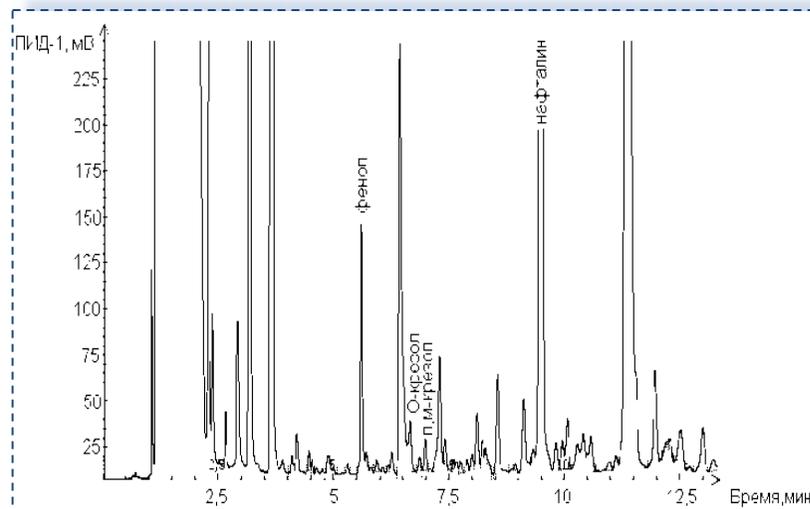


A working system of bio-monitoring can help substantiate that contact with certain materials can be hazardous to human health

The latest advances in gas and liquid chromatography, as well as in atom-absorption spectral-photometry and chromato-mass spectrometry, now allow us to identify and quantify concentrations in blood, urine, breast milk, hair, bile, etc., for **more than 150 different chemical substances** and their various metabolites (**including heavy metals, aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, alcohol compounds and aldehydes, as well as ketones, pesticides, dioxins, etc. etc.**)



Mass spectrograph of a group of aliphatic hydrocarbons and their derivatives in blood



Chromatogram of a sample of blood containing phenol as well as o-, p- and m-cresols—with an internal standard level of naphthalene

The rationale behind markers of exposure: confirming that humans have been in contact with some external impact factor

Chemical analyses of both qualitative and quantitative exposure to chemical substances in the surrounding eco-sphere should be adequate to establish actual risks

Target groups to be studied

- **Residents** living in exposure areas, esp.:
 - Children, 0-14 in age,
 - Expecting mothers,
 - Women in their reproductive years.
- **Workers** who handle hazardous production materials

Means for chemical and analytical testing (35 methods in all)

Contents of the human body

- Blood plasma
- Blood serum
- Urine
- Bile
- Gastric juices
- Mother's milk
- Hair

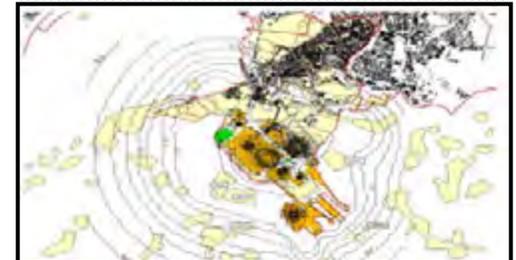
Chemicals of risk (> 50 classes of substances)

Chemical substances

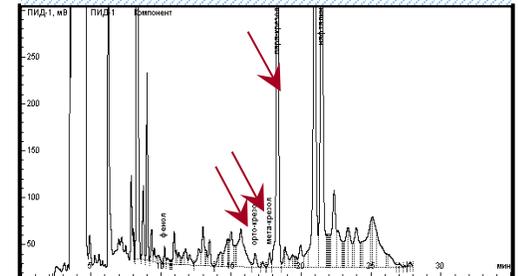
- Metals
- Aldehydes
- Aromatic hydrocarbons
- Aliphatic alcohols
- Aromatic amines
- Saturated hydrocarbons

*Studies should be conducted in accordance with ethical principles put forward in the **Helsinki Declarations (of 1975, 1983)**, whereby information is gathered with the full consent of the (volunteer) subject.*

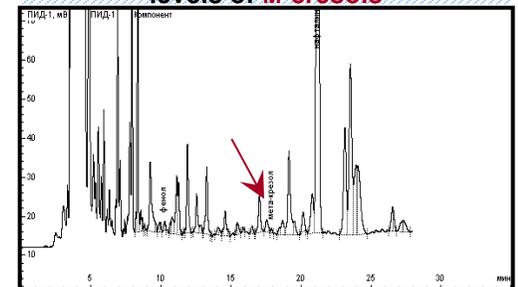
Populations exposed to cresols



Chromatogram of the blood of a baby living in an exposure zone shows high levels of **m-, o-, and p-cresols**

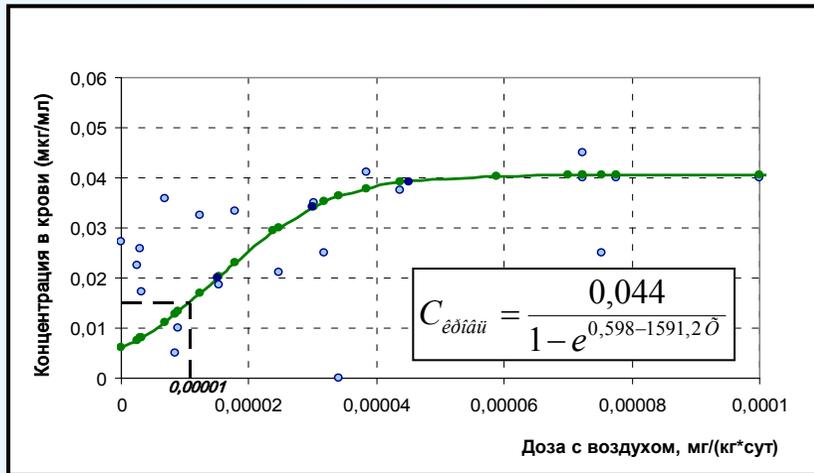


Chromatogram of the blood of a baby living *outside* of exposure zone shows normal (average) levels of **m-cresols**

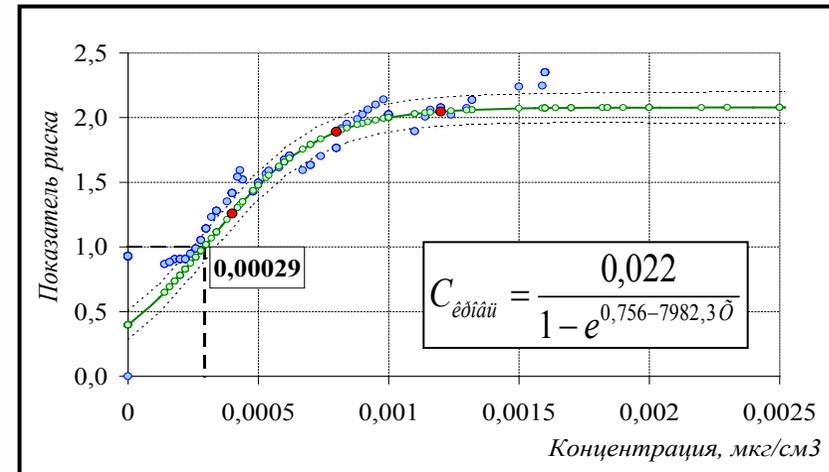


The Rationale behind Markers of Exposure

The association between higher concentrations of formaldehyde in the blood and the overall dose level from chronic exposure ($R^2 = 0,64$, $p \leq 0,05$)



The association between higher concentrations of manganese in the blood and the overall dose level from chronic exposure ($R^2 = 0,55$, $p \leq 0,05$)



Air-borne components of exposure

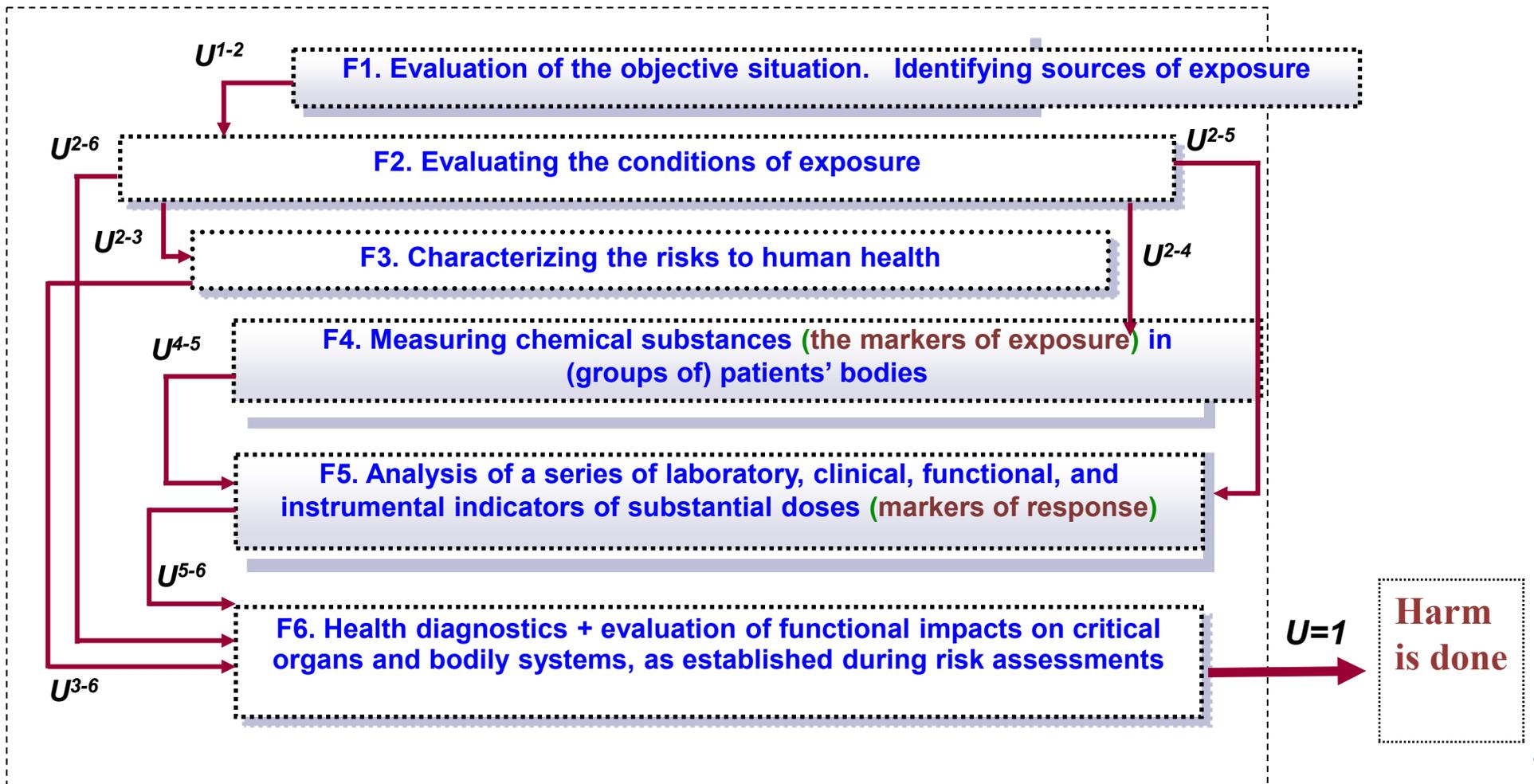
- manganese
- chromium
- benzole
- formaldehyde
- methanol

- manganese 3x > than referent concentration Rfc
- chromium – 7 to 8.5 times > than Rfc
- benzole – 0.0012 to 0.01 microgram / liter
- formaldehyde – 4 to 6 times > Rfc
- methanol – 3.5 to 45 times > Rfc

Markers of Exposure in the blood

A requisite stage for bio-monitoring is when we establish a direct tie between certain levels of chemical concentrations in body tissues (or bio-media) with specific levels of exposure ($p \leq 0.05$)

F5. Analyses of a combination of clinical, laboratory, functional, & instrumental indicators that show human impact (Markers of Response)





Chemical risk factors and incidence of disease in human populations

Risk Factors in the Environment

Triggers (or precipitating factors)

Adaptation

The level of additional morbidity, including from environmentally determined diseases (i.e. early manifestations, or rapid progression of disease, or premature disabilities) **12-20%**

Loss of adaptability and hypersensitivity to chemical toxicants

Primers (pathomorphoses)

Incapacity

The growth of certain types of environmentally determined pathologies (i.e., modified biological agents, goiter-related diseases, and diseases of the upper respiratory tracts and gastro-duodenal systems) is **30-35%** higher than in uncontaminated sites

The development of chronic pathological processes

Predictors (for direct and specific impacts)

Acute and chronic specific diseases

Specific Diseases (i.e. Minamata mercury syndrome, etc.) **0.3-0.5%**

Somatic causal factors (hereditary, auto-immune, and others)

Etiological factors

Somatic Diseases

Average incidence of disease (at independent levels) **65-80%**

Effects from chemical substances in the natural and industrial environment

Disruption of homeostasis and the failure of adaptive mechanisms



Level of impact

Molecular

Cellular

Body Tissues

Body Organs

Manifestations of Impact

Membrane and nucleotoxicity

Cytotoxicity

Dystrophy

Functional loss

Degeneration

Enzymopathy

Lack of nutrient balance

Neuro-endocrine dysregulation

Sensitization

Immunosuppression

Auto-immune processes

Active peroxidation

Microbial Imbalance

Pathological processes

Conditions for auto-immunity

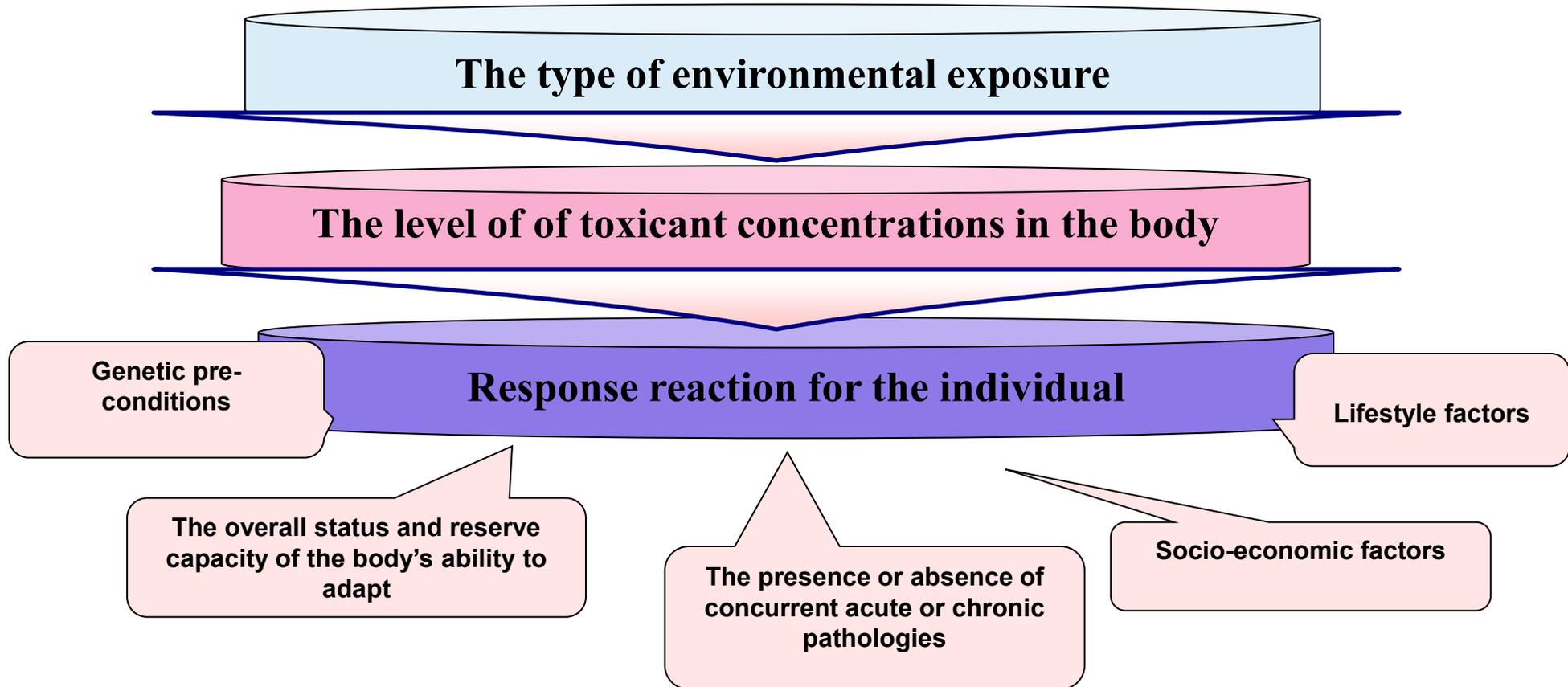
Allergy-related, acute inflammatory, and degenerative processes

Chronic inflammatory and degenerative processes

Long-term affects:

- Fetal malformations
- Mutagenesis
- Carcinogenesis
- Gerontogenesis

Under normal conditions, where there is exposure of body tissues to even a certain amount of chemical toxicants, the response of each individual depends on a full variety of factors, such as :



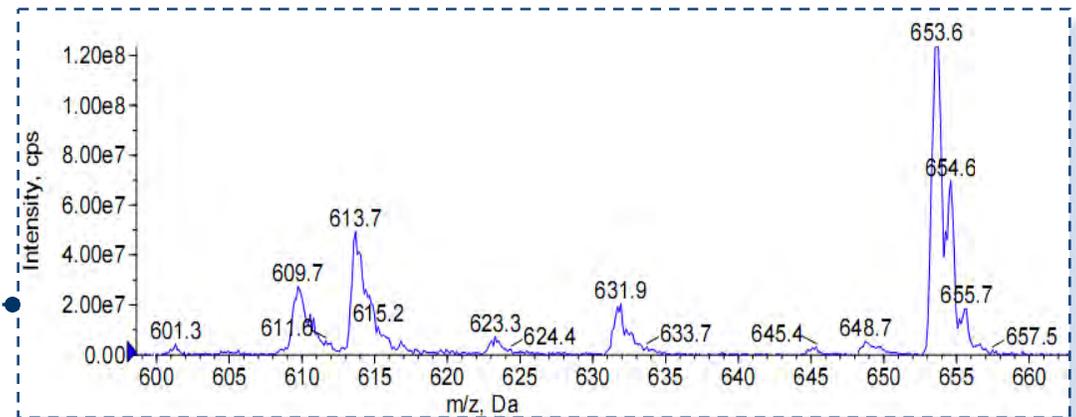
*From Baikan, Maklakova, Luzhetski, Rumlyantsev in "Fundamental Research" – 2013. - № 11. – C. 74-78, and
From Maklakova, Ustinova, Luzhetski, Baidan in "Reports from the Samar Scientific Center – 2013. – Volume 15 №3(6). - C. 1845-1849
And from Zaitsev: "Environmentally determined disease in gastro-duodenal systems of children" Perm .- 2009. – 320 p.*

Bio-markers of effect

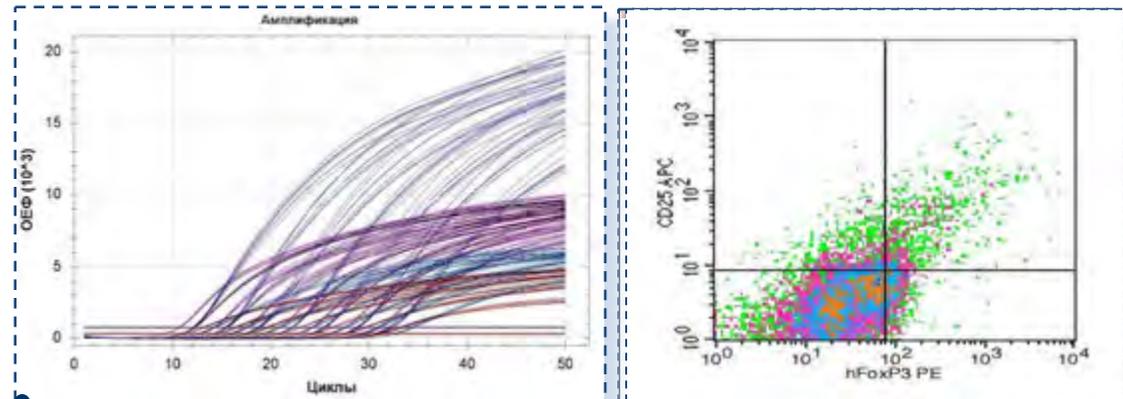
- **Epidemiological indicators**
- **Clinical data**
- **Results of research into the functional conditions of body organs and systems**
- **Laboratory findings**

By detecting Markers of Response that are proven to be tied to specific Markers of Exposure, we are allowed to talk of the existence of separate impacts (including—at the level of the proteome—such things as cell apoptosis, or metabolic issues, or other disruptions and predictors of somatic and reproductive pathologies).

Detailed mass-spectrum of peptides in children's plasma samples, in the range of 58.1 to 58.7 min.



Phenotypes and genotypes by flow-cytometry and polymerase chain reactions in real time



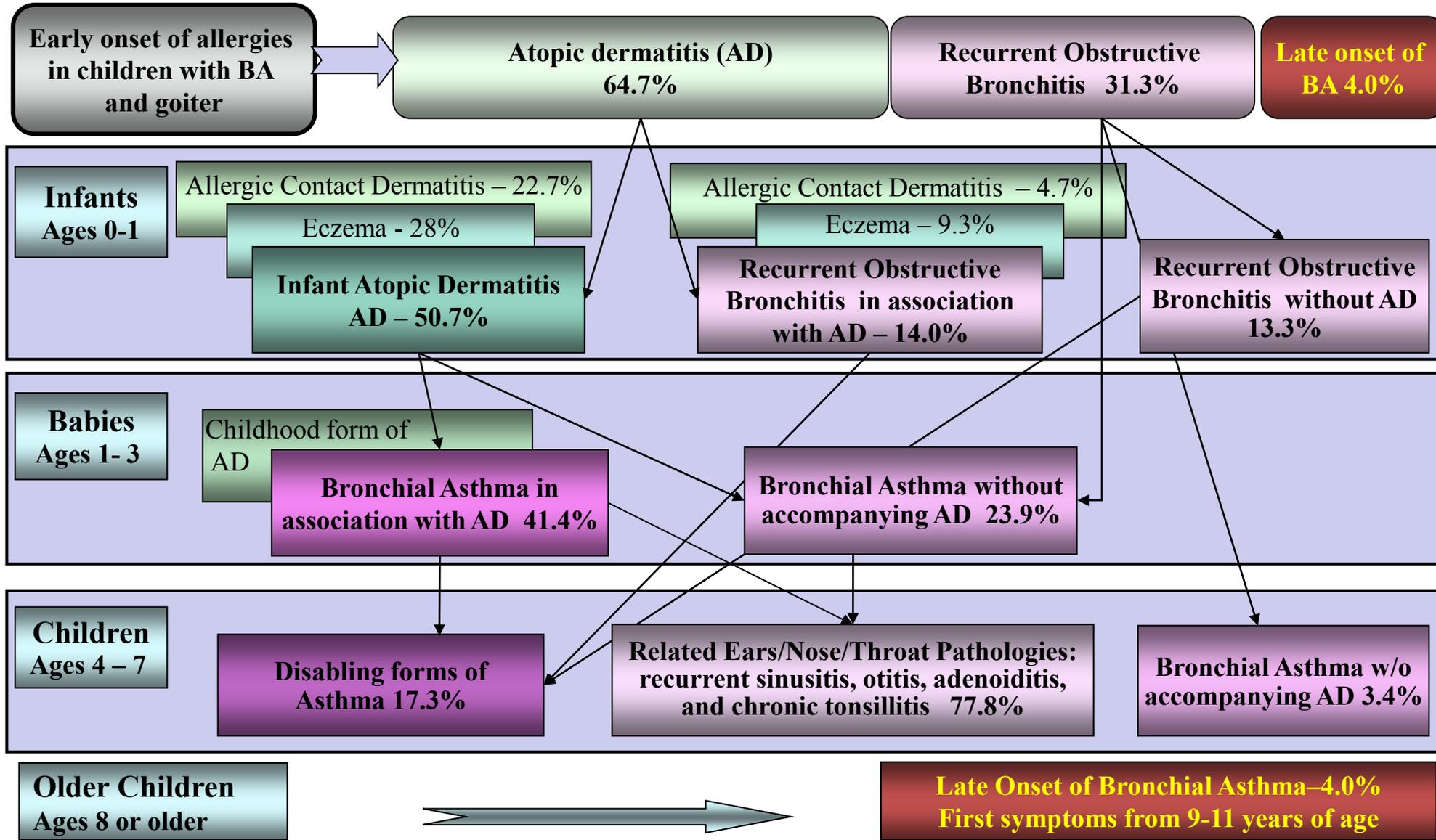
Chemical Elements, Critical Organs & Body Systems, with Referent Levels

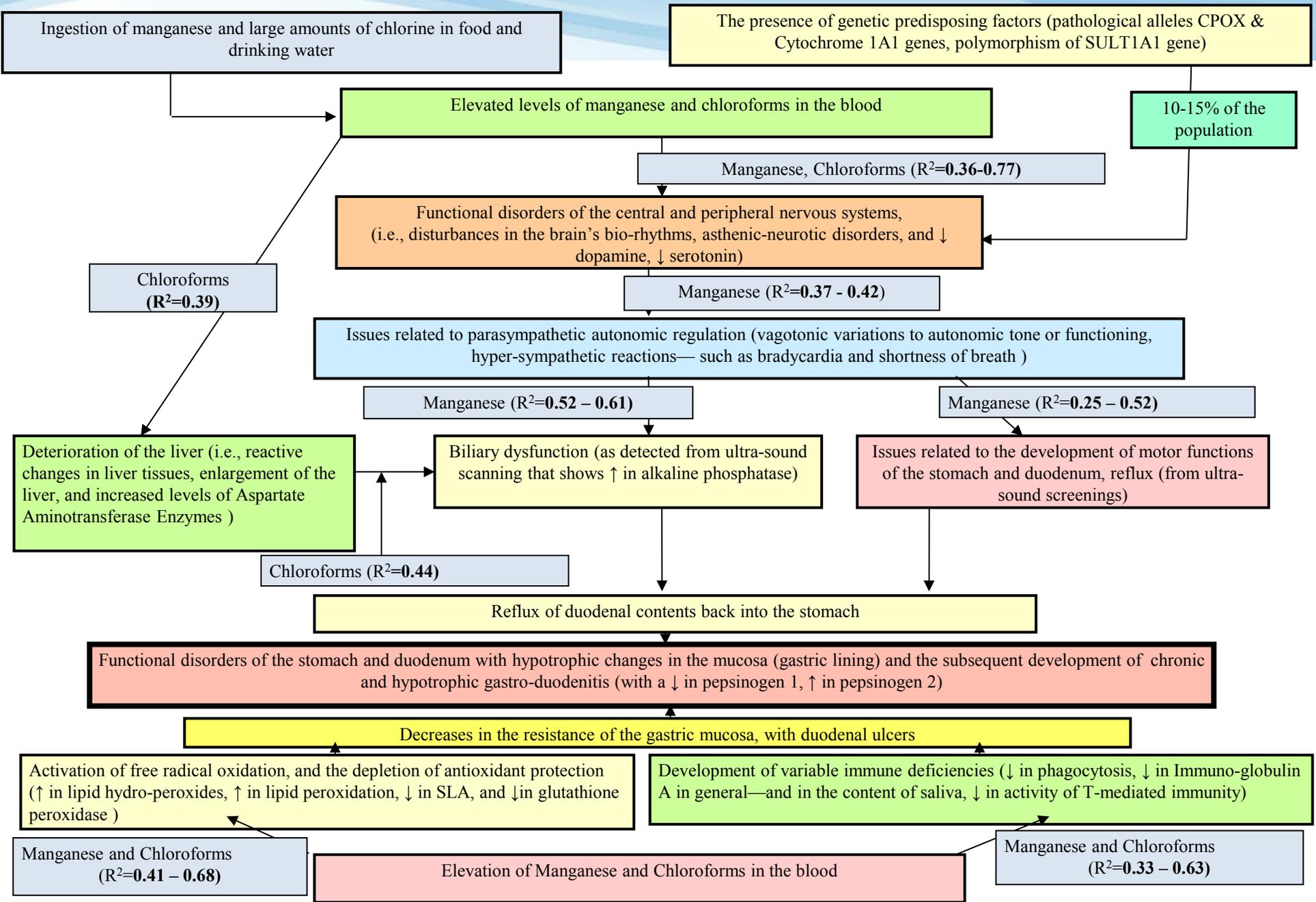
Substance	CAS	RfC,mg/m ³	Critical Organs and Systems	RFD, mg/kg	Critical Organs and Systems	Sfi
<i>Elements, the presence of which can be used to designate an area as an Environmental Disaster Zone in Russia</i>						
Copper (Cu)	7440-50-8	2.00E-05	Respiratory Organs	0.019	Digestive tract and liver	–
Zinc (Zn)	7440-66-6	0.0009	Respiratory organs, immune systems, blood	0.3	Blood, bio-chemicals (superoxide dismutase)	–
Arsenic (As)	7440-38-2	3.00E-05	Development (i.e., fetal development.), + nervous & cardio-vascular systems, + respiratory organs, cancer	0.0003	Skin, central nervous, immune, & cardio-vascular systems, hormones (diabetes), digestive tract	15
Lead (Pb)	7439-92-1	0.0005	Central nervous system, blood, development, reproductive and hormonal systems, kidneys	0.0035	Central nervous system, blood, bio-chemical balance, development, reproductive & hormone systems	0.042
Molybdenum (Mo)	7439-98-7	0.012	–	0.005	Kidneys	–
Tungsten (W)	7440-33-7	0.1	Respiratory organs	0.0025	–	–
Cadmium (Cd)	7440-43-9	2.00E-05	Kidneys, respiratory organs, hormone system, cancer	0.0005	Kidneys, hormonal system	6.3
Antimony (Sb)	7440-36-0	0.0004	Respiratory organs	0.0004	Biochemical balance. (glucose + cholesterol in blood), death	
<i>Other elements that could be included in this study</i>						
Cobalt (Co)	7440-48-4	2.00E-05	Respiratory organs	0.02	Blood	9.8
Manganese (Mn)	7439-96-5	5.00E-05	Central and overall nervous systems, respiratory organs	0.14	Central nervous system, blood	–
Mercury (Hg)	7439-97-6	0.0003	Central nervous system, hormones, kidneys	0.0003	Kidneys, reproductive, immune + central nervous systems, hormones	–
Chromium (Cr)	7440-47-3	0.0001	Respiratory organs, liver, kidneys, immune systems, digestive tract	0.005	Liver, kidneys, digestive tract, mucous	42
Nickel (Ni)	7440-02-0	5.00E-05	Respiratory organs, blood, immune and central nervous systems, cancer	0.02	Liver, cardio-vascular system, digestive tract, blood, body mass	0.84

Epidemiological Studies

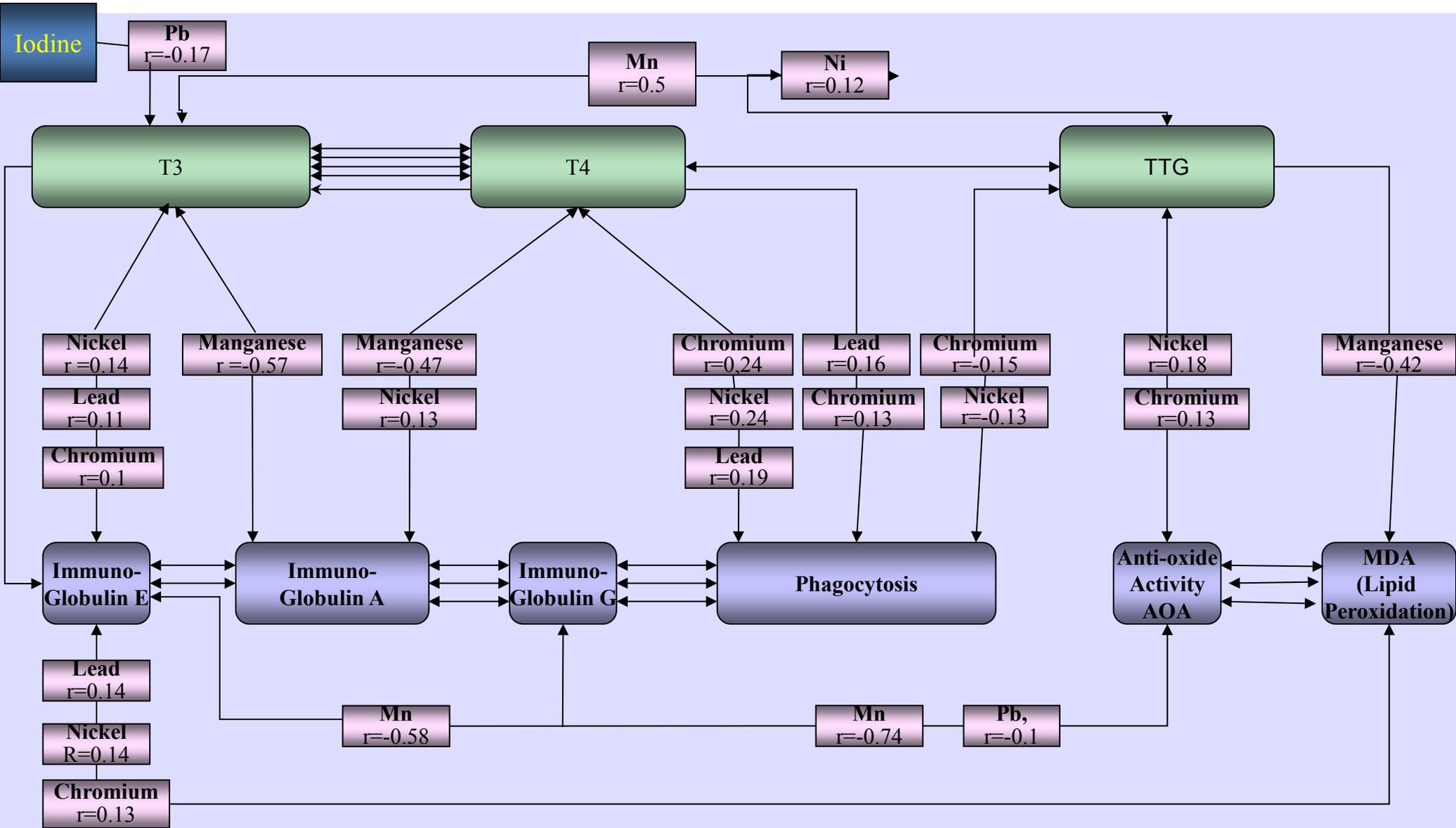
- **Analysis of the dynamics, structure, and tempo in which disease grows among the residents in the area under study**
- **Comparative study of the dynamics and structure of specific diseases between the target area and an analogous “relatively uncontaminated” area—or with data for the entire country**
- **Determining classes of high-priority diseases and disorders**
- **Epidemiological analysis of the target group itself**
- **Making correlations between the identified priority substances and the various factors of risk**

Clinical data regarding the onset and development of bronchial asthma (BA) in children, as well as goiter issues in the presence of environmental conditions that are subject to man-made impacts

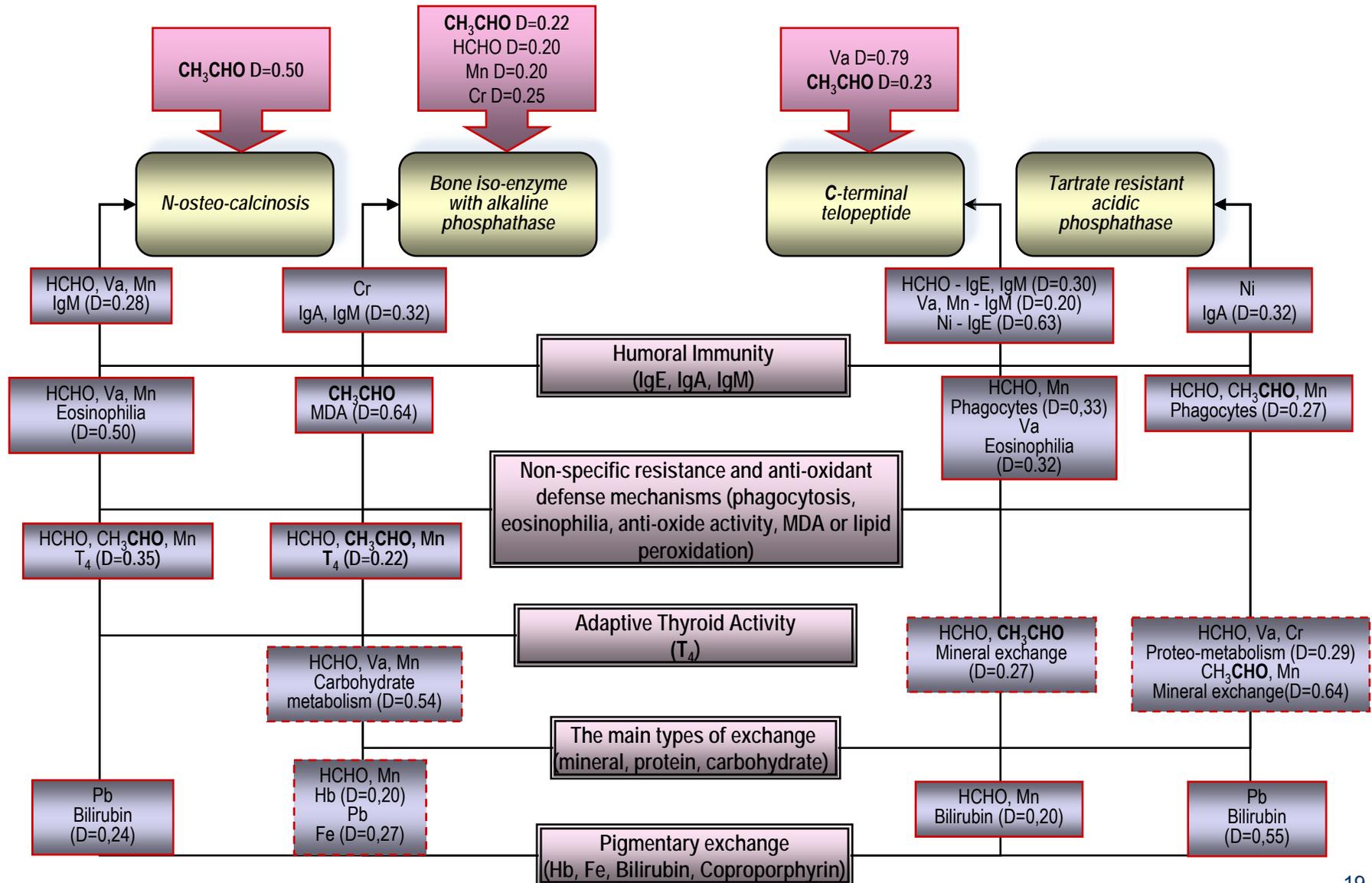




Analytic assessments of the role played by toxic metals in the onset of patho-genetic, immuno-allergic and thyroid issues in children with bronchial asthma and goiter, all in the face of man-made impacts



Inter-systemic connections of bone metabolism markers and other clinically and laboratory-derived indicators (within children) that can be traced to man-made impacts



Basis for Determining Markers of Effect

1. The study of how the body responds to elevated internal levels of target substances, where these elevated levels are caused by exposure

❖ List of indicative data sources for research – **the data bases of WHO, US-EPA, the US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the Russian On-line Information Retrieval System for “Hazardous Substances”**

High-standard analytical equipment

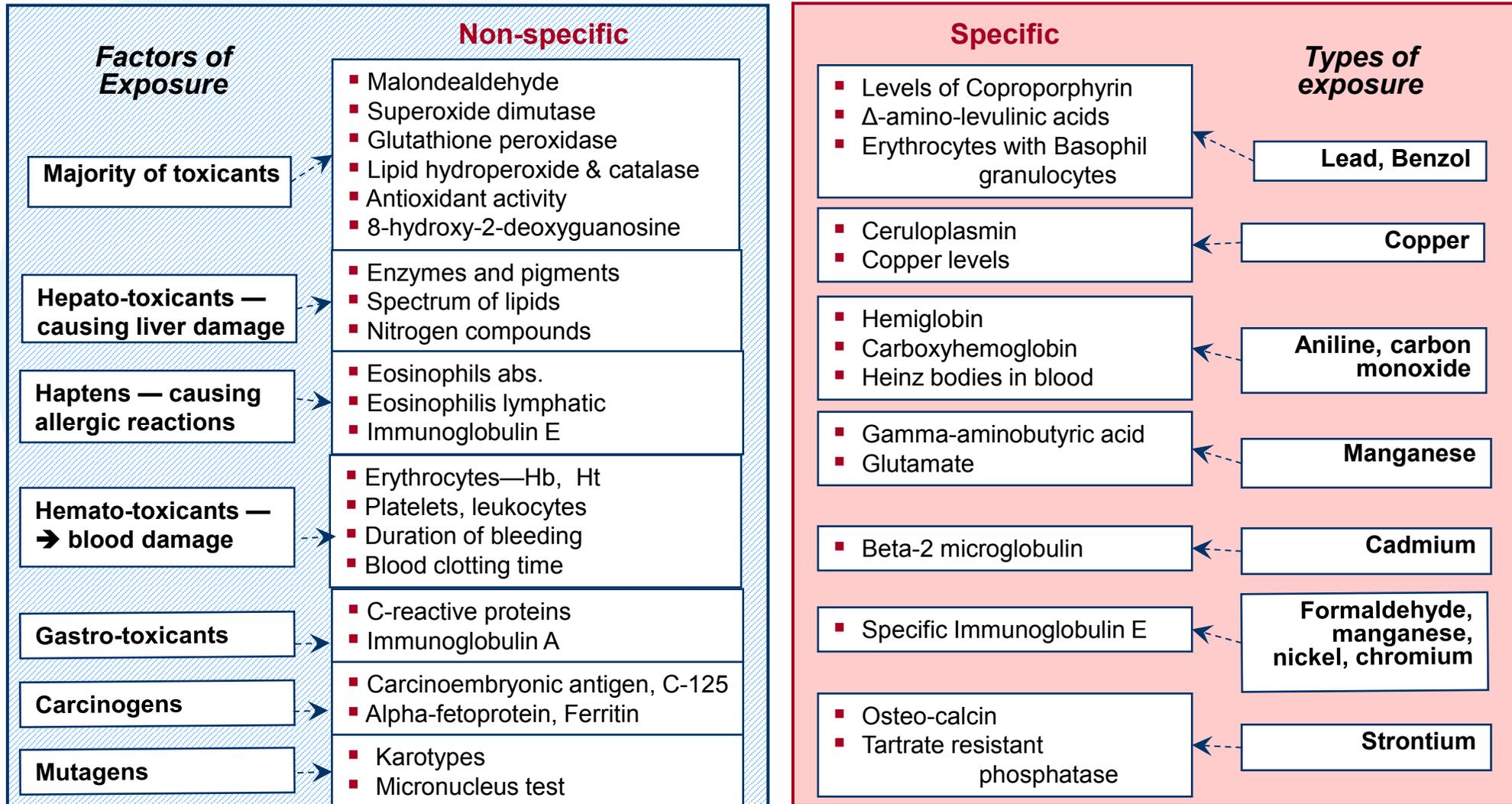


Indicators of response
on body systems and
separate organs, as well as
on cellular and molecular
levels

Research analyses methods for various
bio-substrates

- Electro-phoretic
- Bio-chemical
- Immuno-genetic
- Molecular cyto-genetic
- Chromato-Mass-Spectrometric
- Morphological

A list of diagnostic indicators for detecting response: overall principles and rationale, plus the adequacy of these indicators at given levels of exposure



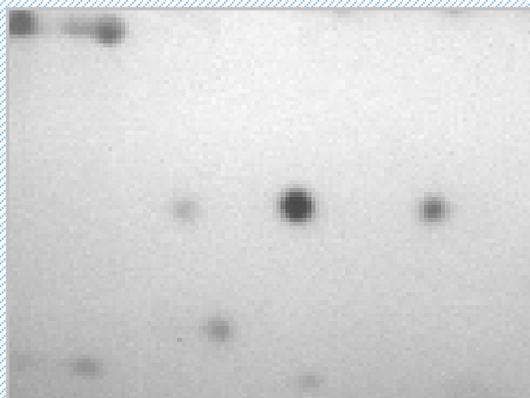
Analysis of proteomes: identifying basic new markers of effect

Factors of Exposure– **metals (Ni)**

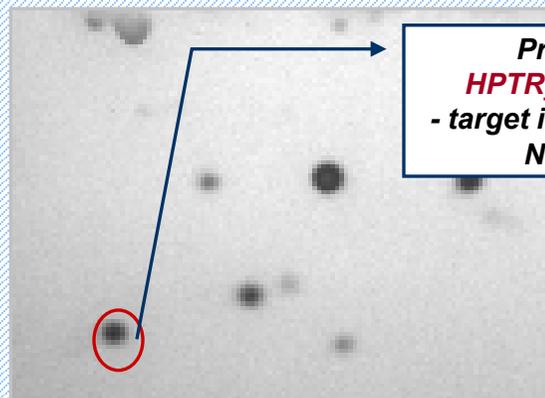
Molecular Level

1. 2D electrophoretogram of blood plasma in children

2. Mass-spectrum identification

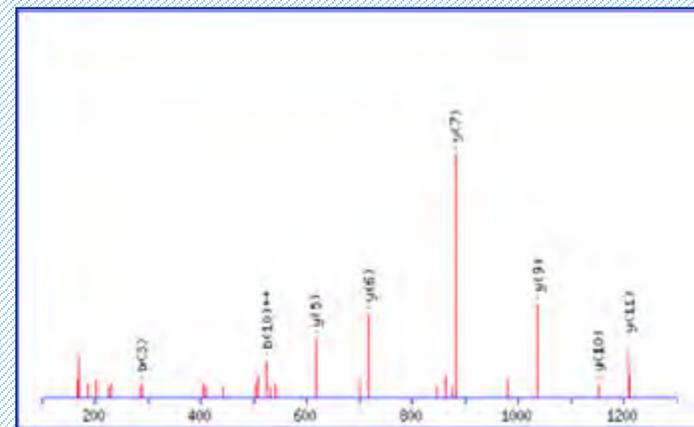
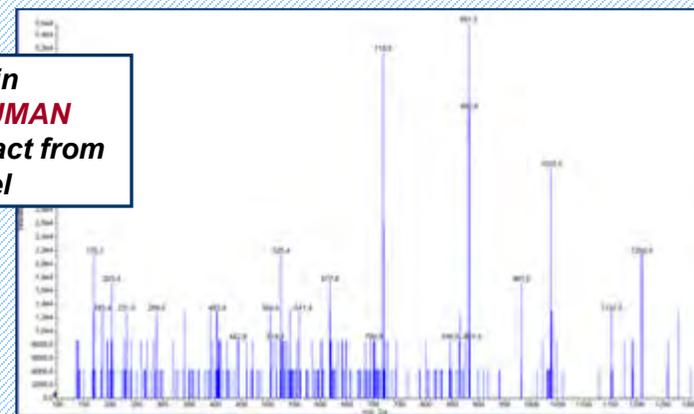


In a area with no exposure:
Ni in the blood at level of **1 RL**



In a area with exposure: **Ni** in
the blood at level of **2 RL**

Protein
HPTR_HUMAN
- target impact from
Nickel



HPTR_HUMAN (a haptoglobin-related protein) ensures the normal metabolism of hemoglobin



Damage to the structure and functioning of hemoglobin

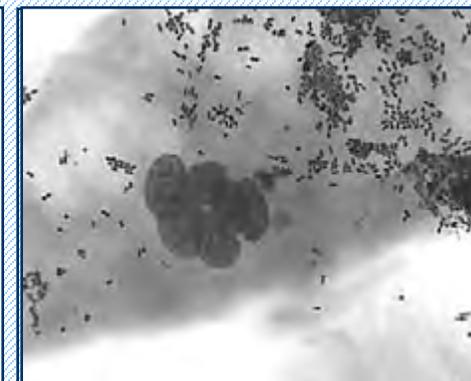
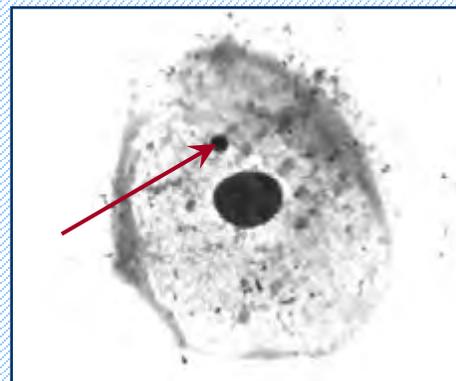
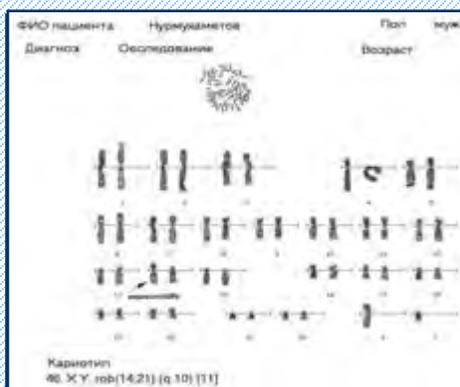
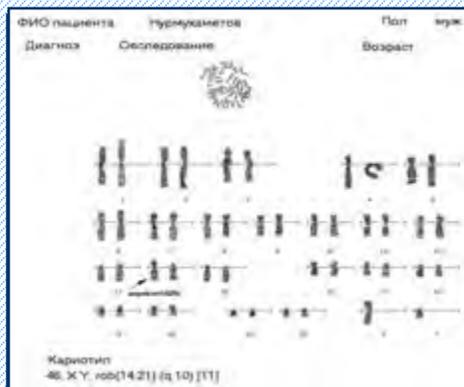
Cytogenetic analysis techniques: used for the purpose of determining markers of effect where conditions point to impacts from chemical mutagens or reproductive toxicants from the man-made environment

Factors for exposure - mutagens, reproductive toxicants

Cellular/Molecular Level

Chromosomal anomalies (chemical factors of risk for populated areas, odds ratio >7 , factors of risk at production, odds ratio >10 : Congenital malformations, infertility, miscarriages)

Nuclear anomalies in cells (chemical factors of risk for populated areas, odds ratio >5 , factors of risk at production, odds ratio >13)



Mother – **polymorphism in 14 and 21 chromosomes**
Formaldehyde in blood – **10RL**

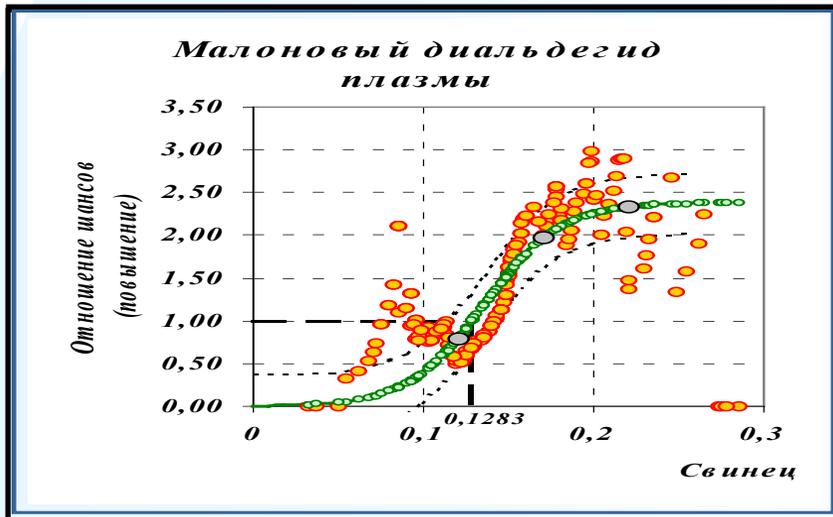
Offspring – **chromosomal pathology (Down Syndrome)**.
Formaldehyde in blood – **5RL**

Mother – **cell nucleus**.
Benzol in blood – **0.03 mg/dm³**

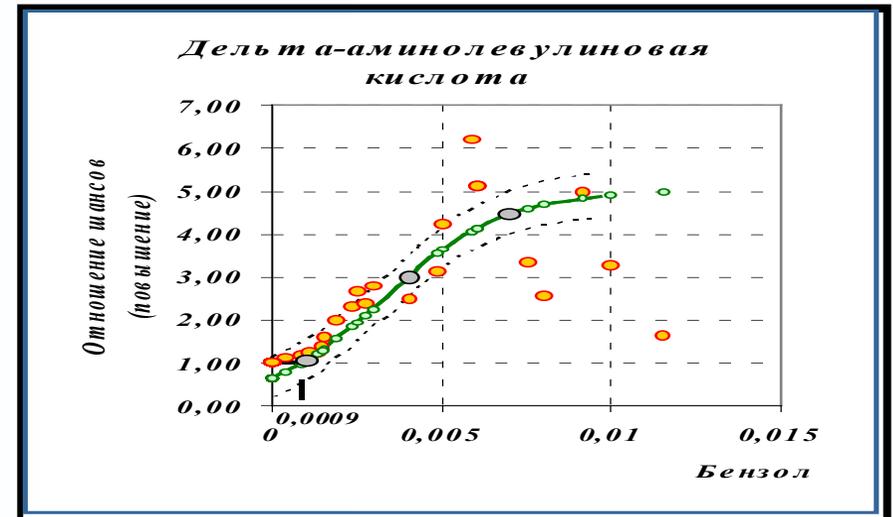
New-Born – **cells with multiple nucleuses**
Benzol in blood – **0.02 mg/dm³**

Establishing and assessing causal relationships between "markers of exposure – markers of response"

Relationship between «lead concentrations in the blood – levels of malondialdehyde in the blood» through inhalation exposure



Relationship between «benzol concentrations in blood – levels of delta-aminolevulinic acid in the urine» through inhalation exposure

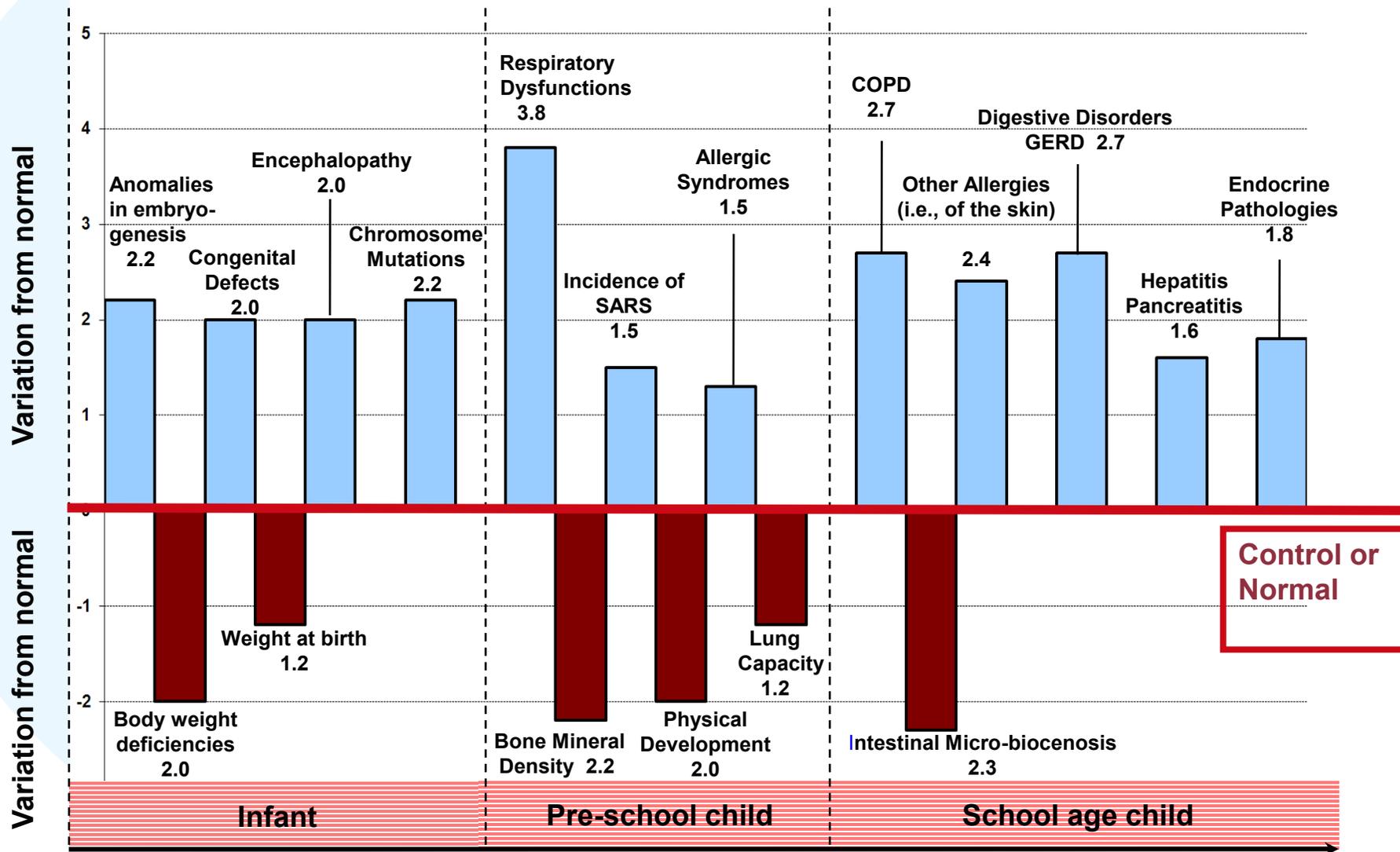


$$p_i = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(b_0 + b_1(x - x_i))}}$$

Modeling for the dependence between «marker of exposure for manganese – the marker of response» through oral exposure

Marker of exposure	Marker of response	b0	b1	R ²	F	P
Manganese	Aminobutyric acid ↑	-0.21 ± 0.02	5.24 ± 0.001	0.55	255.6	0.001
	Glutamate ↓	0.92 ± 0.05	31.03 ± 0.50	0.69	206.8	0.000
	Ca ²⁺ ↓	-7.66 ± 0.01	99.12 ± 0.05	0.48	178.4	0.001

A full array of response markers, in combination with the results from clinical studies, make it possible to verify that certain diseases or disorders are connected to a specific exposure



MEDICAL-BIOLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING POOLS OF CHILDREN THAT COULD UNDERGO PREVENTATIVE MEASURES FOR LOWERING THEIR CHANCES OF CHRONIC GLOMULAR AND TUBULO-INTERSTITIAL DISEASE OF THE KIDNEYS, RELATED TO INHALATION EXPOSURE TO CADMIUM AND PHENOL

№/№	CRITERIA	MINIMAL CHANGE (or URINE) SYNDROME (International disease class 10: R80-R82)	GLOMULAR AND TUBULO-INTERSTITIAL KIDNEY DISEASE (International disease class: N14.3, N15.8)
1	Age	4-7 years old	Older than 7
2	Genetic factors	Polymorphism of homozygous and heterozygous gene variants known as: CYPOX, RCYT 450; SULTA1	Polymorphism of homozygous and heterozygous gene variants known as: CYPOX, RCYT 450; SULTA1
3	Hereditary factors	History of kidney pathologies	History of kidney pathologies
4	Possible perinatal risk factors	+/-	+
5	Abnormalities in the urinary system	+/-	+
6	Relapse rates	2-3 times per year	3 or more per year
7	Duration of relapses	Up to 1 month	Up to 1.5 or 2 months
8	Clinical manifestations	Disruption of the circadian rhythm of urination (where ratio of nighttime to daytime production of urine is – 1 : 2.5)	Disruption of the circadian rhythm of urination (where ratio of nighttime to daytime production of urine is – 1 : 2.5)
		Polyuria	During flare-up periods
		Pressure in lower back region	During flare-up periods
		Reaction to temperature	Absent
		Symptoms similar to intoxication	During flare-up periods
		Arterial hypertension	Rare

MEDICAL-BIOLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING POOLS OF CHILDREN THAT COULD UNDERGO PREVENTATIVE MEASURES FOR LOWERING THEIR CHANCES OF CHRONIC GLOMULAR + TUBULOINTERSTITIAL DISEASE OF THE KIDNEYS RELATED TO INHALATION EXPOSURE TO CADMIUM & PHENOL

№/№	CRITERIA		MINIMAL CHANGE (or URINE) SYNDROME	GLOMULAR AND TUBULO-INTERSTITIAL KIDNEY DISEASE	
9	Characterization of Renal functions	Renal function of Re-absorption	Decreases in the amplitude of changes in the specific weight of urine over the course of 24 hours	Up to 0.006 conventional units (CU)	Less than 0.006 CU
			Decreases in tubular reabsorption	Up to 90-95%	Less than 90%
			β2-micro-globulin in urine	Absent	Present
			Blood in urine (<i>hematuria</i>)	Present	Present
			Excess protein in urine (<i>proteinuria</i>)	0.033‰	0.033-0.066‰
			Abacterial leukocytes in urine	Absent	Present
			Glycosuria	Absent	+/-
			Excess excretion of uric acid	Absent	+/-
			Excess oxalates in urine	Present	Present
			Excess phosphorous in urine	Present	Present
	Excess calcium crystals in urine	Absent	+/-		
10	Diagnostic Data	From ultrasound scanning of the kidneys		Shows up as reduction of blood flow during color-Doppler imaging of renal sub-capsular zones	Shows up as reduction of blood flow during color-Doppler imaging of renal sub-capsular zones; also as deviation from standard spectrograph values during pulsed-wave Doppler (for blood-flow velocity, and where resistance index is less than 0.6 CU., and pulsation index is less than 1.1 CU., along with a systolic-diastolic index with increases in the range of resistance from the core to the peripheral arteries up to 0.04 to 0.05 CU); also as increased echogenic quality of the functional part of the kidneys.

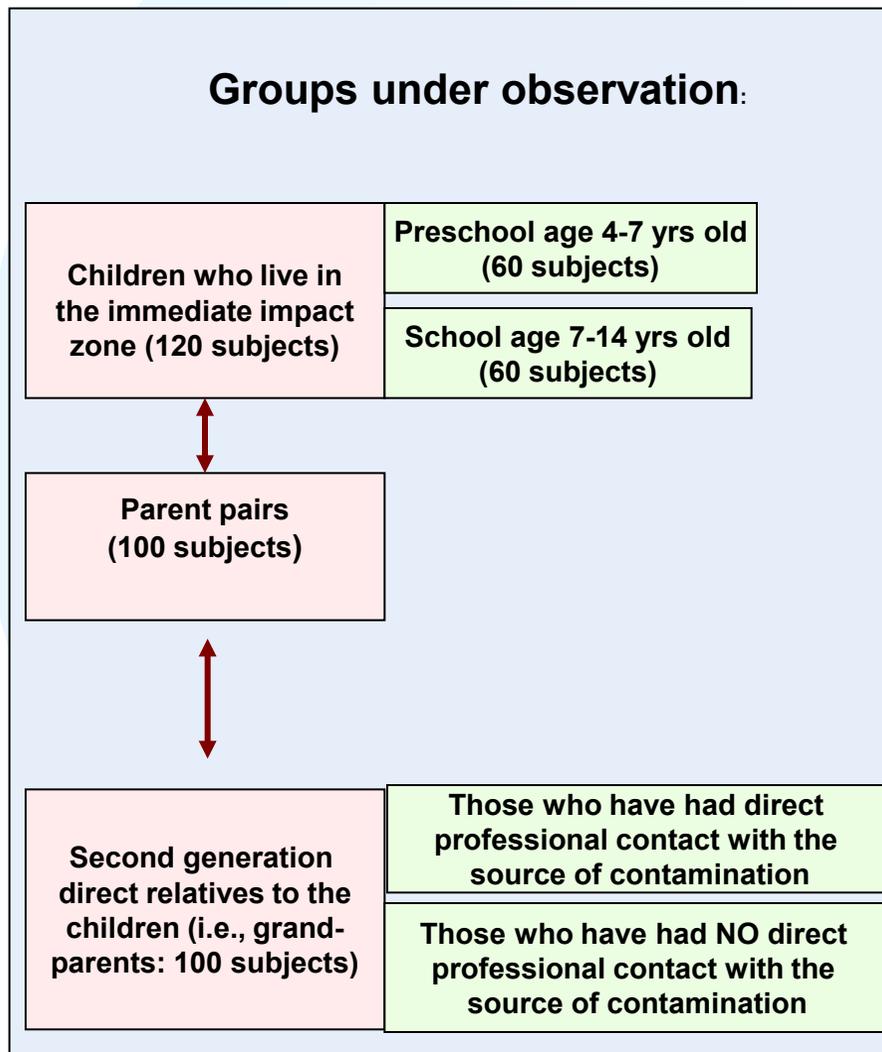
MEDICAL-BIOLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING POOLS OF CHILDREN THAT COULD UNDERGO PREVENTATIVE MEASURES FOR LOWERING THEIR CHANCES OF CHRONIC GLOMULAR + TUBULOINTERSTITIAL DISEASE OF THE KIDNEYS RELATED TO INHALATION EXPOSURE TO CADMIUM & PHENOL

№/№	CRITERIA		MINIMAL CHANGE (or URINE) SYNDROME	GLOMULAR AND TUBULO-INTERSTITIAL KIDNEY DISEASE
11	Laboratory Data	The state of oxidation and anti-oxidation processes	Increase in the total anti-oxidant activity of the blood, and increases in the amount of superoxide dismutase, glutathione peroxidase, and lipid hydroperoxide	Fluctuations in the total antioxidant activity of the blood, as well as in the content of superoxide dismutase, glutathione peroxidase, & catalase—also increases in lipid hydroperoxides & malondialdehyde
12		The state of nonspecific resistance factors	Increased rates of phagocytic activity in blood	Decreases in phagocytic activity in blood
13		State of specific sensitization (Specific IgE to Chromium, and IgG to cadmium, lead, & phenol)	Absent	Present
14		State of mineral metabolism	Unchanged	Reduction in the concentration of sodium, potassium, chloride
15	Chemical Analyses	Concentration of chemical substances in the blood	Cadmium concentrations exceed normal levels by a factor of 1.4 - 2.0; Lead concentrations exceed normal levels by a factor of 1.2 – 1.5; Chromium concentrations exceed normal levels by a factor of 1.2 – 1.7; Phenol concentrations exceed normal levels by a factor of 1.3 – 4.0.	Cadmium concentrations exceed normal levels by a factor of 2.0; Lead concentrations exceed normal levels by a factor of 1.5; Chromium concentrations exceed normal levels by a factor of 1.7; Phenol concentrations exceed normal levels by a factor of 4.0.

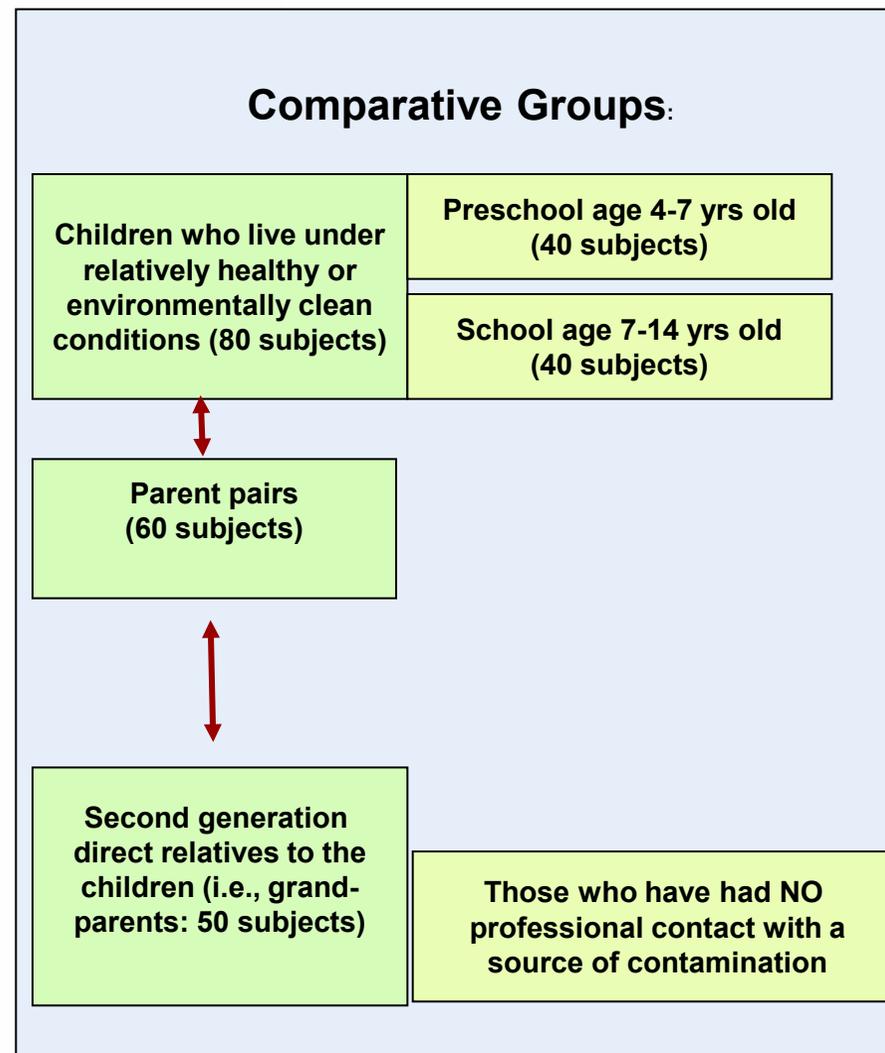
Research Design

(using the triad method)

Groups under observation:

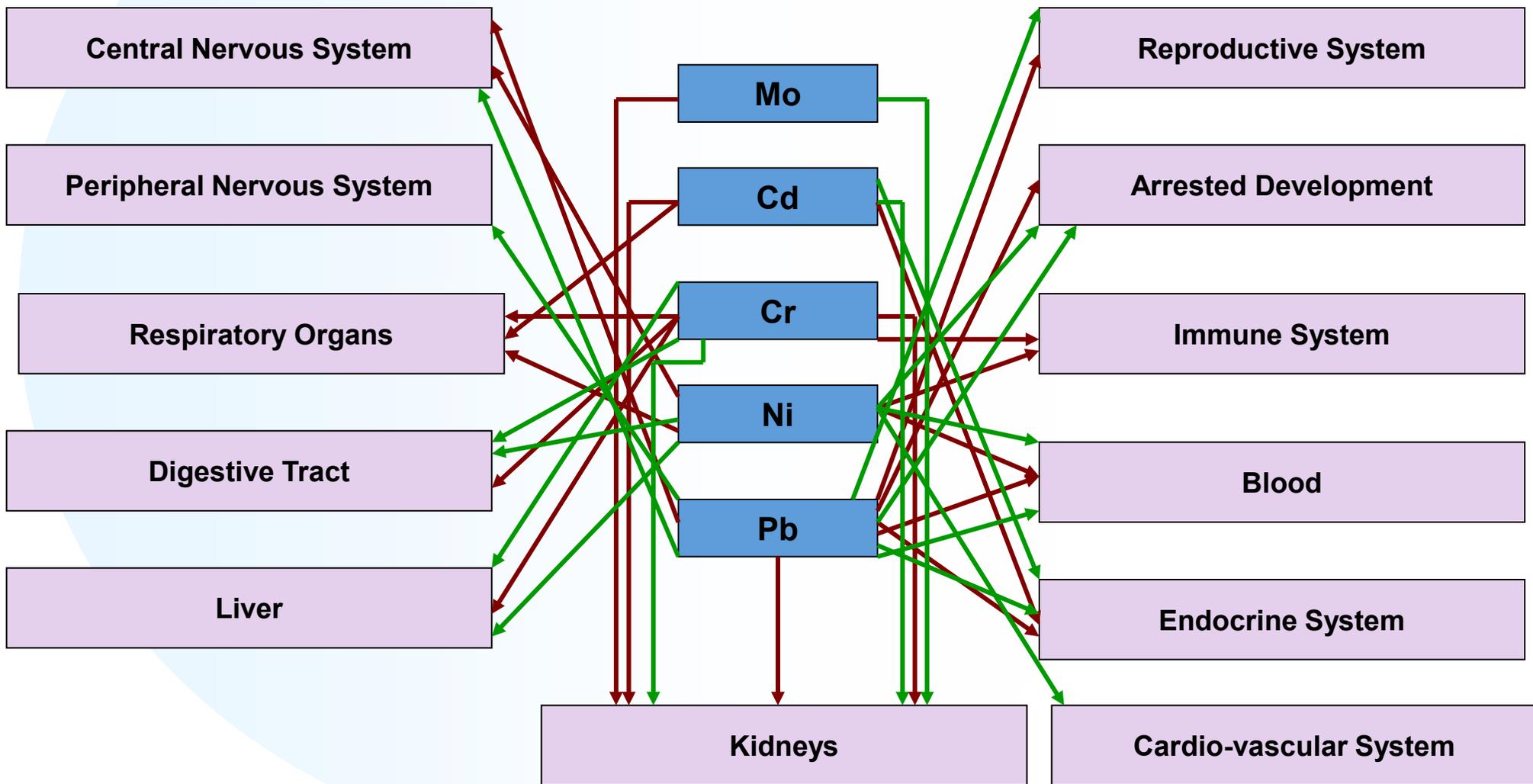


Comparative Groups:

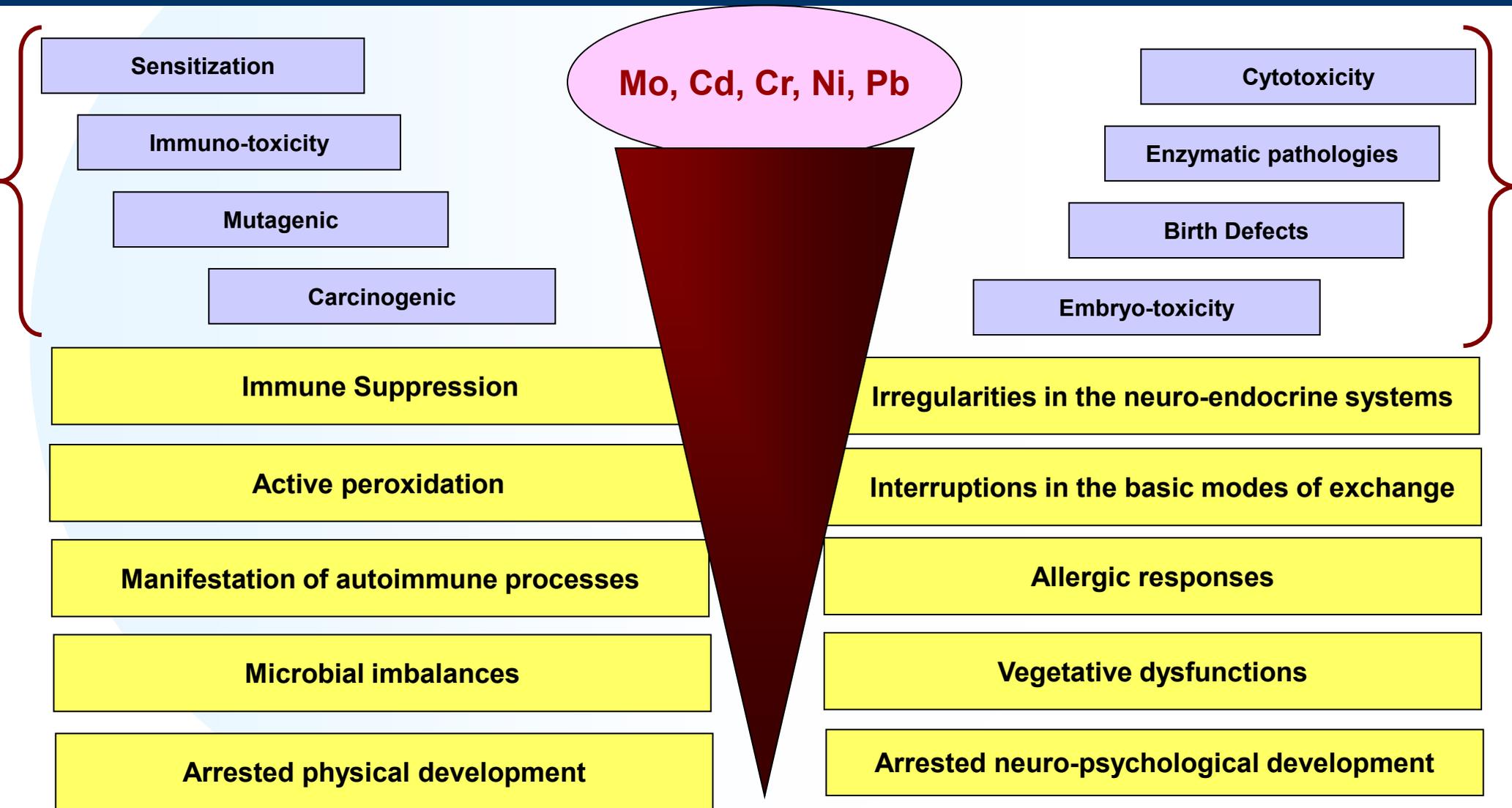


Target organs and body systems

(as associated with this list of important toxicants)



The Main Manifestations of Impact



Clinical-Laboratory Program Study on Non-Adult Populations

- ❖ **Epidemiological study of comparable sites** (looking at disease patterns, death-rates, birth statistics, frequency and amplitude of congenital defects, etc.—covering the last 25-35 years; using standardized format 12 and data as prescribed by the Federal Fund for Compulsory Medical Insurance)
- ❖ **Socio-Medical survey** with the use of specialized survey questions
- ❖ **Epidemiological study of target groups** (looking for patterns of chronic somatic diseases, as well as infectious diseases that also account for vaccination patterns)
- ❖ **Somato-metric studies** (assessing various indicators of the physical development of children and their maturity in biological terms)
- ❖ **Clinical studies** (by pediatricians, ear-nose-throat (ENT) doctors, neurologists, gastroenterologists, endocrinologists) evaluating the condition state of the:
 - Musculo-skeletal system
 - Cardio-vascular system
 - Respiratory system
 - Autonomic nervous system
 - Overall cognitive functions

Clinical and Laboratory Program for Surveying Non-Adult Populations

❖ **Functional tests**

- EKGs
- Spirography or pneumography
- Rhinomanometry
- Cardio-interval measurements
- Ultra-sounds of the liver, bile tract, and pancreas
- Ultra-sound tests of the thyroid gland
- Ultra-sound of the kidneys to determine blood flow

❖ **Lab tests:**

- Chemical analyses of the blood
- Nasal swabs
- General analyses of the urine, and specific analyses of urine using Nechiporenko methods
- Erythrocyte indices in detail; platelets; leukocyte levels
- Bio-chemical indices of the blood – anti-oxide activity; malondialdehyde (MDA) plasma; superoxide dismutase; glycerophosphate oxidase; the glucose, total protein, and cholesterol levels; both high- and low-density lipoproteins; triglycerides; alkaline phosphatase; urea content; creatinine; ionized calcium; alanine & aspartate aminotransferase; and Gamma-glutamyl
- Hormone profiles – adrenocorticotrophic hormones; thyroid-stimulating hormones and free T4; dopamine; serotonin; cortisol; adrenaline; norepinephrine
- β 2- micro-globulin
- Energy Exchange – Cyclic adenosine and guanosine monophosphates
- Genetic tests
- Immunological tests

Survey program in clinics and laboratories of adult populations

- ❖ **Socio-medical survey questions based on similar specialized surveys**
- ❖ **Epidemiological studies of target groups** (for patterns of chronic somatic diseases)
- ❖ **Clinical studies** (by internists, cardiologists, ENT doctors, neurologists, gastroenterologists, endocrinologists) evaluating the condition of the:
 - **Cardio-vascular system**
 - **Respiratory system**
 - **Central nervous system and autonomic nervous system**
 - **Kidneys**
 - **Gastro-intestinal tract**
 - **Endocrine system**

Clinical and Laboratory Program for Surveying Adult Populations

❖ **Functional tests**

- EKGs
- Spirography or pneumography
- Ultra-sounds of the liver, bile tract, and pancreas
- Ultra-sound tests of the thyroid gland
- Ultra-sound of the kidneys to determine blood flow

❖ **Lab tests:**

- Chemical analyses of the blood
- General analyses of the urine, and specific analyses of urine using Nechiporenko methods
- Erythrocyte indices in detail; platelets; leukocyte levels
- Bio-chemical indices of the blood – anti-oxide activity; malondialdehyde plasma; the glucose, total protein, and cholesterol levels; both high- and low-density lipoproteins; triglycerides; alkaline phosphatase; urea content; creatinine; alanine & aspartate aminotransferase; and Gamma-glutamyl
- Hormone profiles – adrenocorticotrophic hormones; thyroid-stimulating hormones and free T4; dopamine; serotonin; cortisol; adrenaline; norepinephrine
- β 2- micro-globulin
- Genetic tests
- Immunological tests

Survey program in clinics and laboratories for close relatives
(separated by no more than 2 removes from each other)

- ❖ **Epidemiological study of comparable groups (in search of disease patterns)**
- ❖ **Socio-medical survey questions**
- **Genetic studies of these groups**

Thank you!