



Drug Repurposing For Antimicrobial Discovery

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- Department: Microbiology



Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)



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Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)



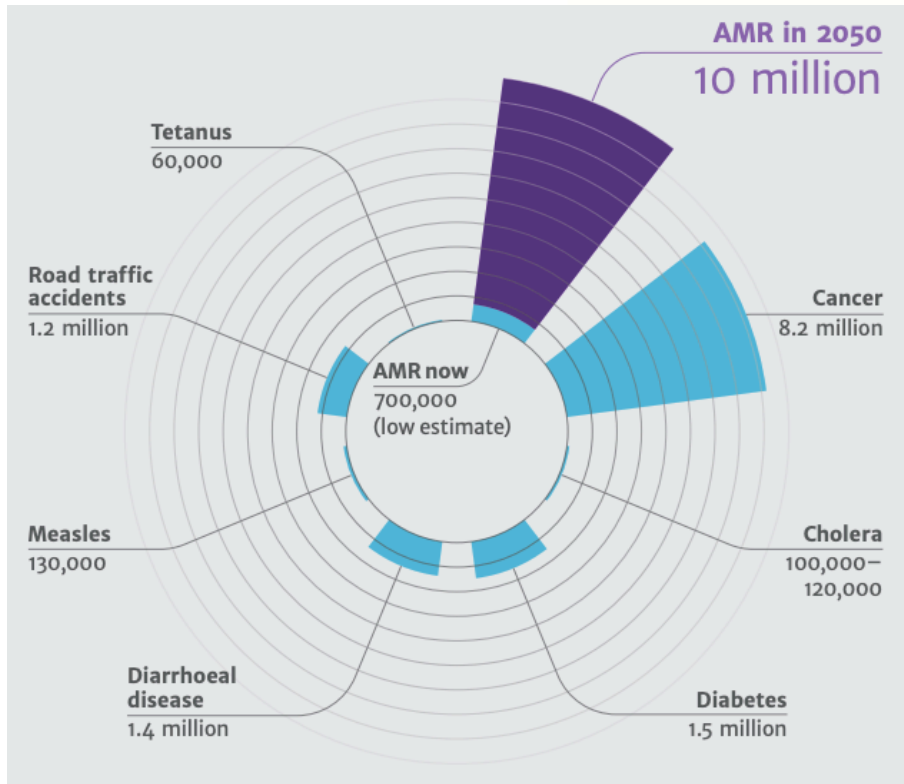
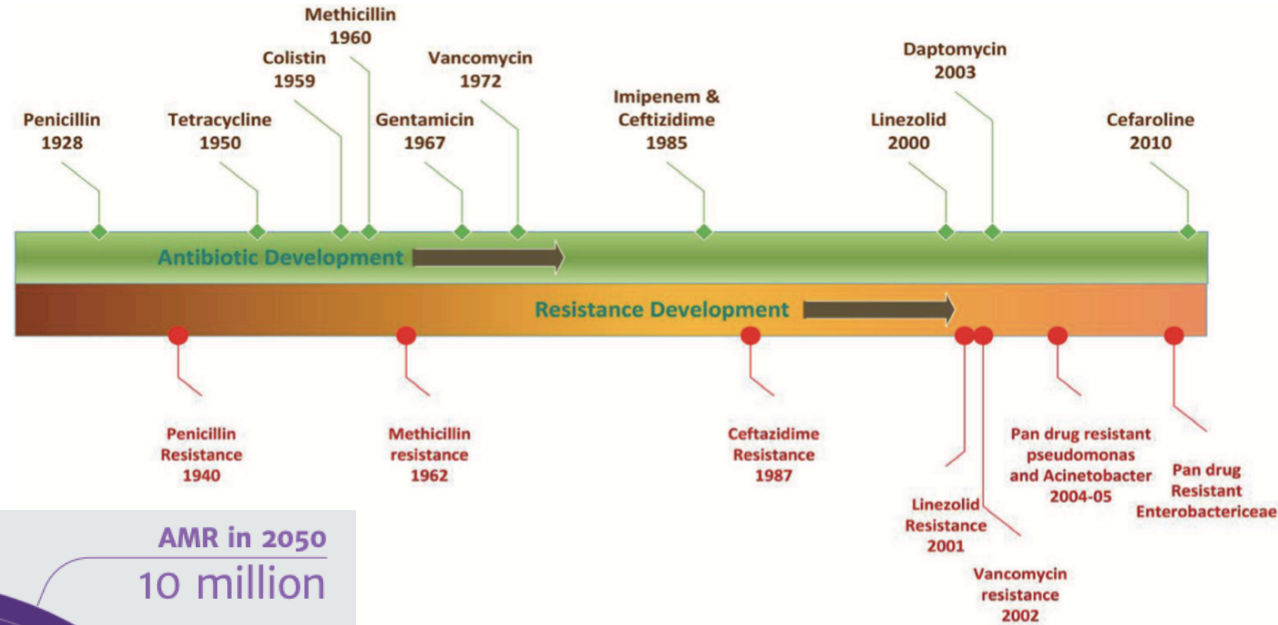
18 November 2019



Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2017-2022



Global situation



In 2050...

10 million death/year

100 trillion dollars/year $\approx 275 \times$ Hong Kong GDP(2018)

Drug repurposing

- Using a drug that was developed or approved to treat one disease as a treatment for another
- Formulation / Dosage / Combination/ Delivery
- Re-write the fate of drug



Thalidomide

In the past

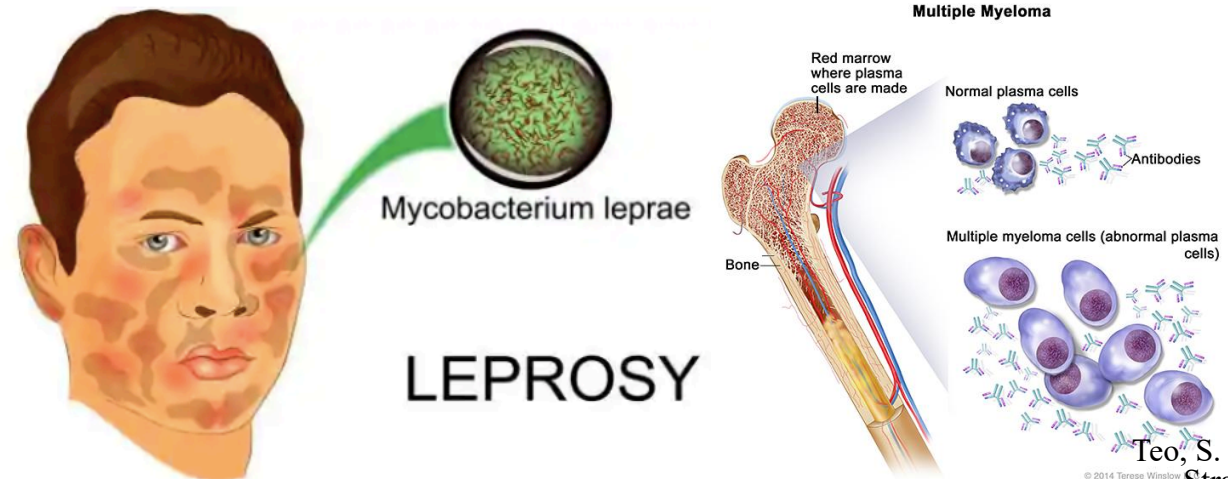
- Developed for morning sickness
- Birth defect: “seal limbs”

Now

- 1998: leprosy
- 2006: multiple myeloma



MUST CREDIT PHOTOS BY: Paul Cooper / Rex Features
Thalidomide victim and campaigner Freddie Asbury at home in Liverpool, Britain - 05 Apr 2012
Freddie Asbury was born with stunted arms and legs after his mother was prescribed the thalidomide combat morning sickness while pregnant with him. Thalidomide? was mainly prescribed to pregnant women for morning sickness in the late 50s and early 60s. Instead, the drug caused severe deformities in babies and most often resulted in missing limbs. The drug was w...



Aspirin

In the past

- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)
- Pain, fever, inflammation

Now

- 2015: Prevent colorectal cancer
——325 mg/day



Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Best Practice & Research Clinical Gastroenterology



Aspirin for the prevention of colorectal cancer

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Final Recommendation Statement

Aspirin Use to Prevent Cardiovascular Disease and Colorectal Cancer: Preventive Medication

Recommendations made by the USPSTF are independent of the U.S. government. They should not be construed as an official position of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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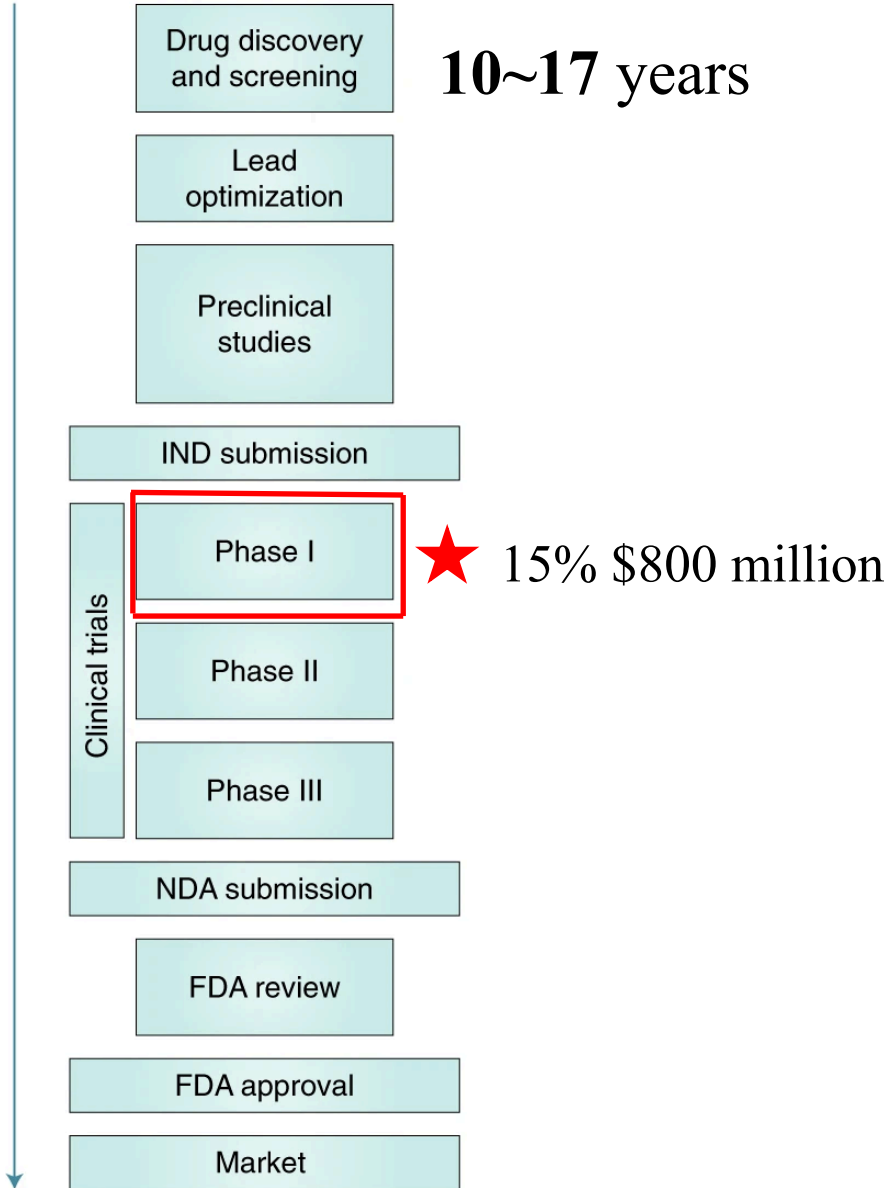
Preface	Update of Previous USPSTF Recommendation
Rationale	Recommendations of Others
Clinical Considerations	Members of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
Other Considerations	Copyright and Source Information
Discussion	References

Recommendation Summary

Population	Recommendation	Grade (What's This?)
Adults aged 50 to 59 years with a $\geq 10\%$ 10-year CVD risk	The USPSTF recommends initiating low-dose aspirin use for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and colorectal cancer (CRC) in adults aged 50 to 59 years who have a 10% or greater 10-year CVD risk, are not at increased risk for bleeding, have a life expectancy of at least 10 years, and are willing to take low-dose aspirin daily for at least 10 years.	B

Advantages

Conventional

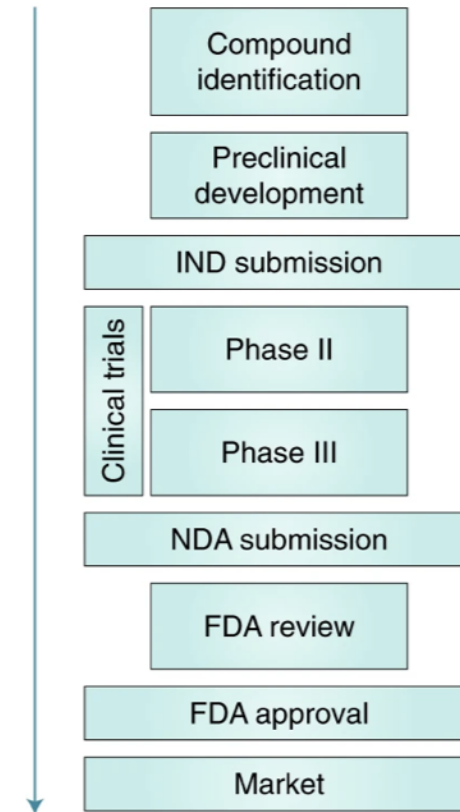


VS

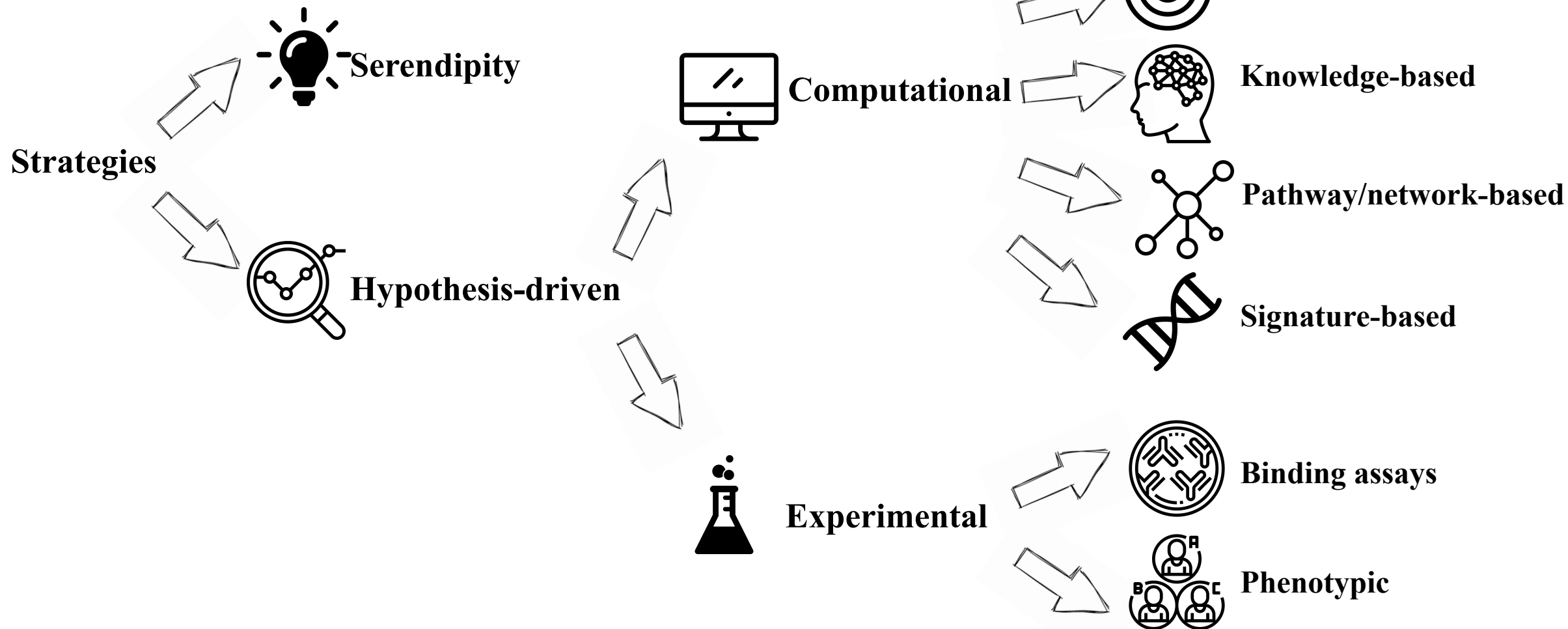
3~12 years

Faster
Cheaper
Safer

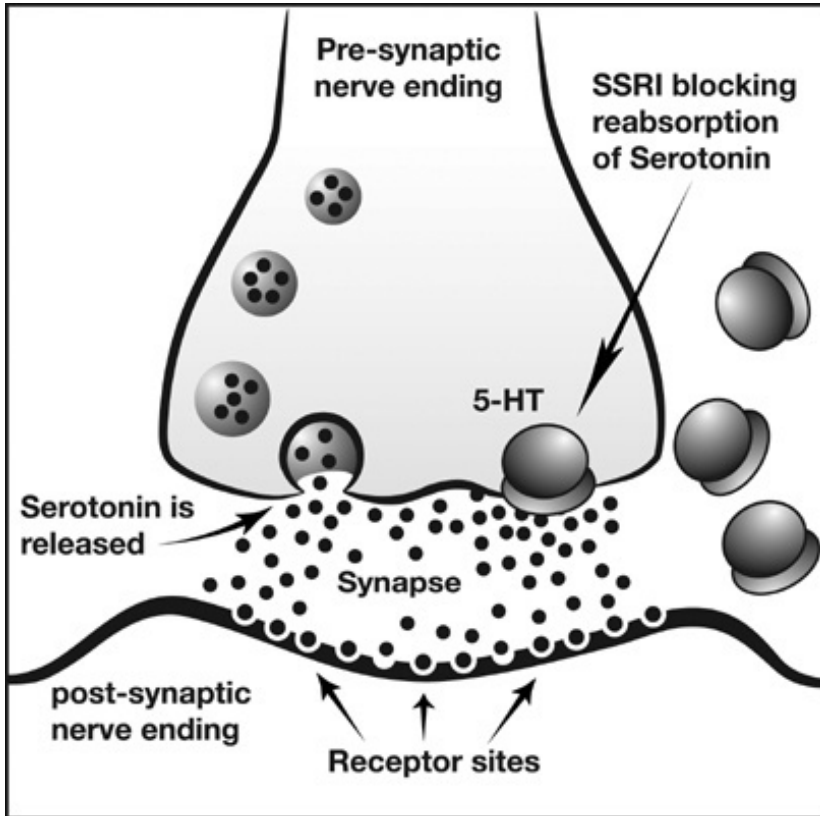
Repurposing



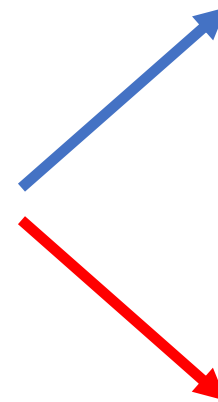
Strategies



Sertraline



SSRIs
Selective
Serotonin
Reuptake
Inhibitors



Depression

Antifungal



Timeline



Lass-Florl, C. *et al.* (2001)

Zhai, B. *et al.* (2012)

Rhein, J. *et al.* (2016)

2001 Clinical observation

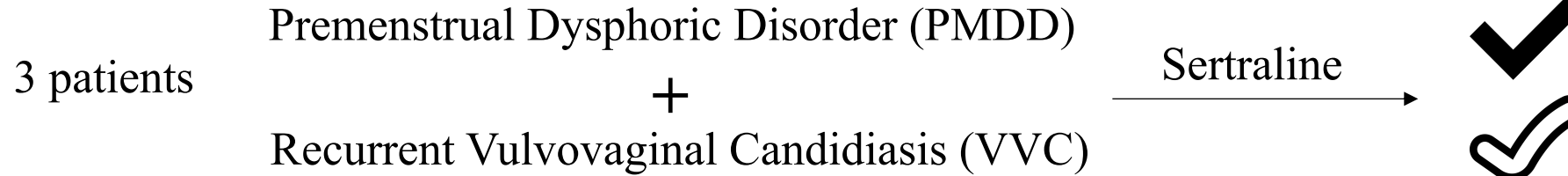


Table 1. Fungicidal concentrations of sertraline against *Candida* species.

Fungi, isolate	Yeast suspension, cfu/mL	MFC range at 48 h, $\mu\text{g/mL}$
<i>Candida albicans</i>		
1	$4.3\text{--}5 \times 10^3$	14–29
2	$2.7\text{--}4 \times 10^3$	7–14
CBS 5982	$1.4\text{--}4 \times 10^3$	3–7
<i>Candida glabrata</i>		
1	$1.2\text{--}2 \times 10^3$	14–29
2	$1\text{--}5 \times 10^3$	14–29
<i>Candida tropicalis</i>		
1	$1.3\text{--}2 \times 10^3$	7
2	$1.2\text{--}4 \times 10^3$	3–7
<i>Candida parapsilosis</i>		
ATCC 22019	$2\text{--}3.1 \times 10^3$	14–29

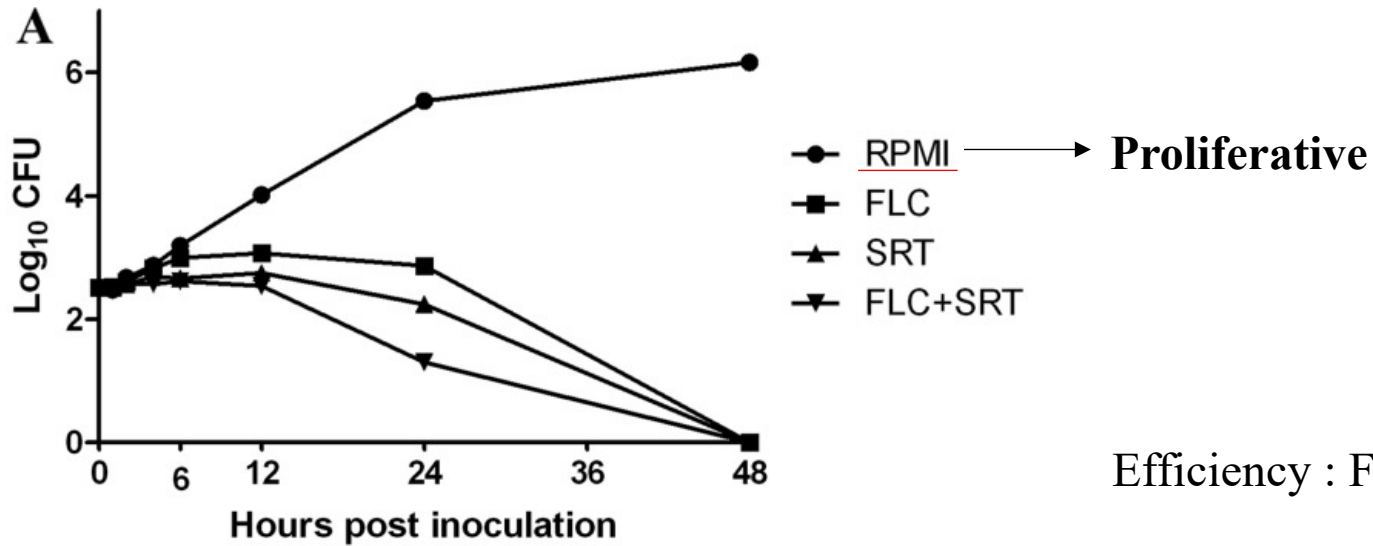
100 μL Fungal suspensions
 +
 100 μL Sertraline dilutions

48 h
 35 °C

→ **Antifungal activity was observed.**

2012 In vitro testing

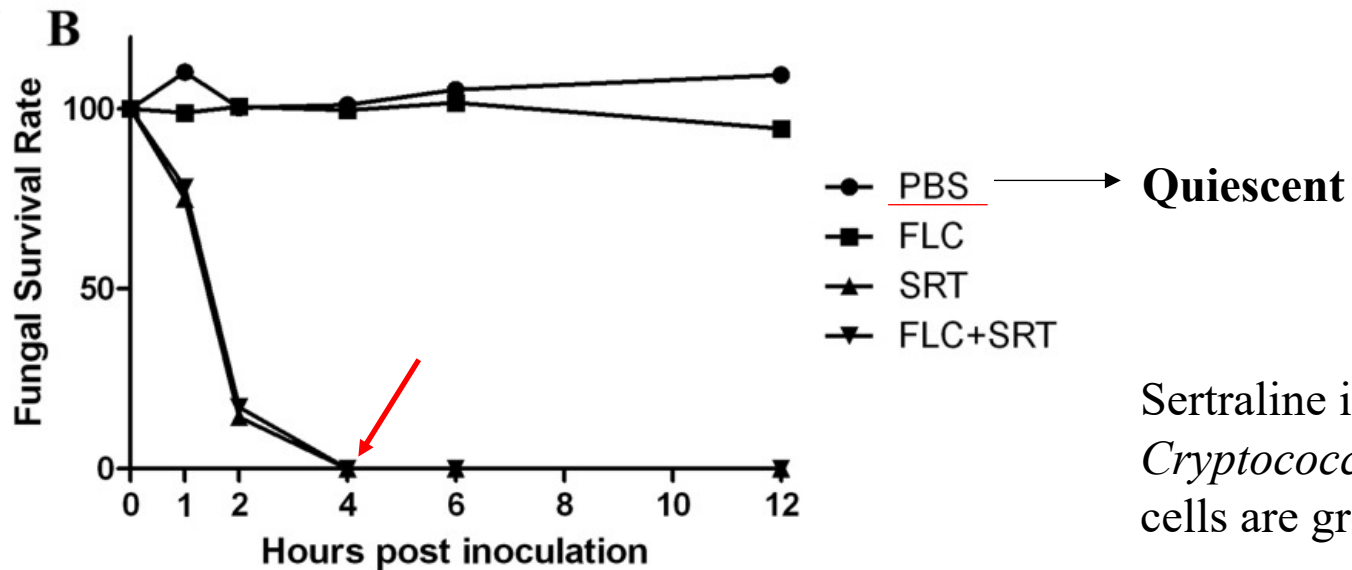
Time course assay of cell viability



Efficiency : FLC+SRT > SRT > FLC

MIC₉₀
Cryptococcus H99
 6 µg/ml

fungistatic ?
 fungicidal ?

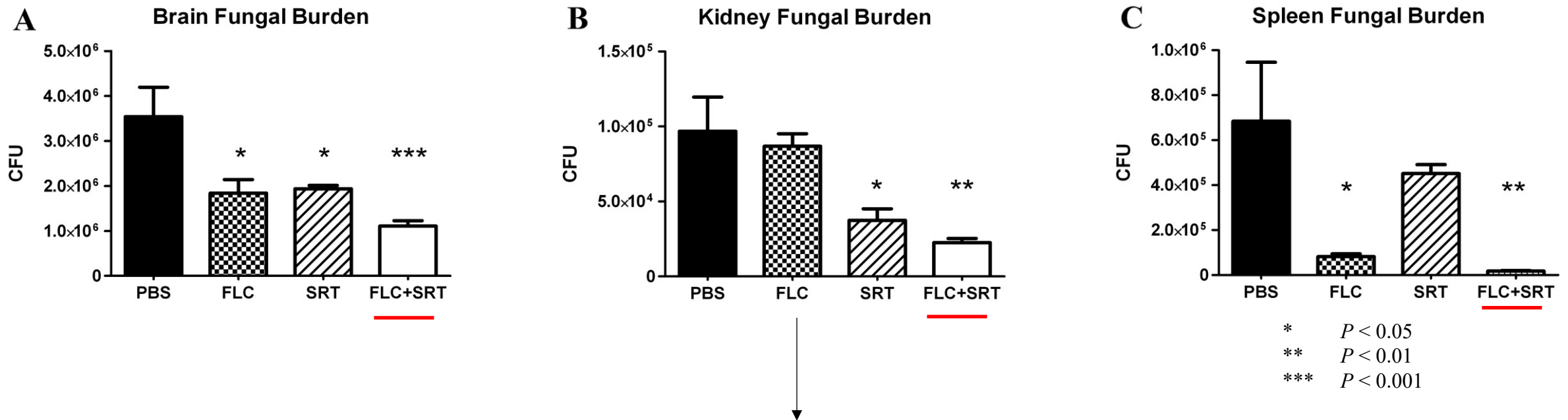


Sertraline is **fungicidal** against *Cryptococcus* regardless of whether cells are growing or not.

2012 In vivo efficacy

4 groups

Control (PBS)
Fluconazole(FLC),
Sertraline(SRT),
Fluconazole+ Sertraline(FLC+ SRT)



- Sertraline displays antifungal activity in systemic cryptococcosis.
- The combination is a more effective than either drug alone due to strong synergy.

2016 Clinical trial

172 HIV patients
+ cryptococcal meningitis

antifungal therapy
+
adjunctive sertraline

first **60** patients——assess safety and tolerability

2 weeks
induction therapy

100 mg/d (n=17)

200 mg/d (n=12)

300 mg/d (n=14)

400 mg/d (n=17)

+

8 weeks
consolidation therapy

200 mg/d

+

112 patients
randomly assigned (1:1)

2 weeks
induction therapy

200 mg/d (n=48)

300 mg/d (n=36)

400 mg/d (n=28)

+

8 weeks
consolidation therapy

200 mg/d

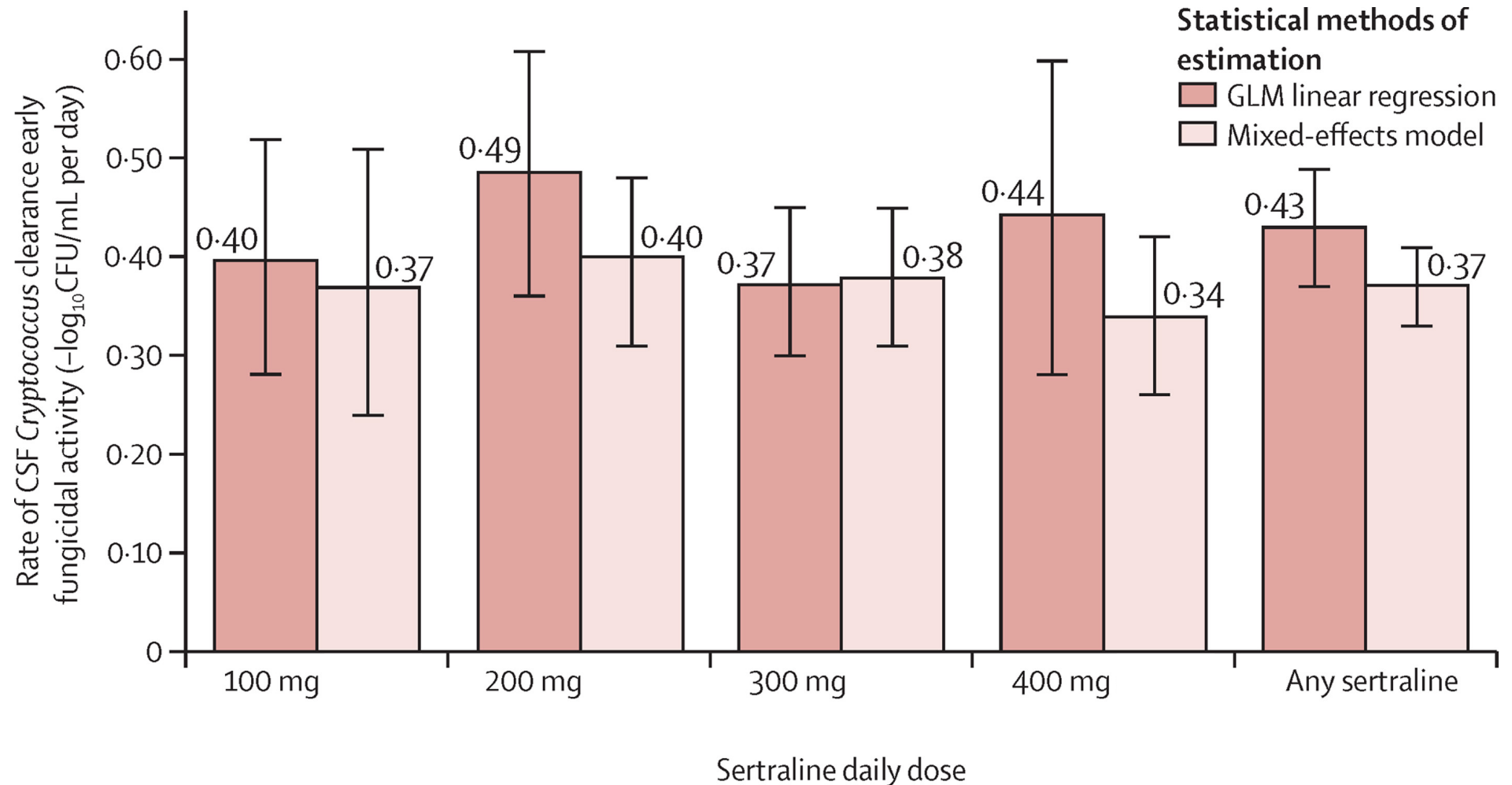
Final population

100 mg/d (n=17)

200 mg/d (n=60)

300 mg/d (n=50)

400 mg/d (n=45)



1. Participants receiving any sertraline dose averaged a CSF clearance rate of -0.37 colony forming units/mL/day (95% CI -0.41 to -0.33).

	Sertraline dose cohort				Sertraline, all (n=172)	Sertraline, p value (n=172)
	100 mg (n=17)	200 mg (n=60)	300 mg (n=50)	400 mg (n=45)		
14-day CSF sterility*	6/14 (43%)	25/41 (61%)	22/43 (51%)	20/40 (50%)	73/138 (53%)	0.61
Paradoxical IRIS†	0/3 (0%)	1/14 (7%)	0/15 (0%)	1/11 (9%)	<u>2/43 (5%)</u>	0.58
Culture-positive relapse‡	0	0	0	0	0	..
2-week mortality	5/17 (29%)	8/60 (13%)	12/50 (24%)	13/45 (29%)	38/172 (22%)	0.21
12-week mortality	10/17 (59%)	20/60 (33%)	21/50 (42%)	18/45 (40%)	69/172 (40%)	0.30

2. Incidence of paradoxical immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS) was **5%**.

IRIS: a collection of inflammatory disorders associated with paradoxical worsening of preexisting infectious processes following the initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART) in HIV-infected individuals.

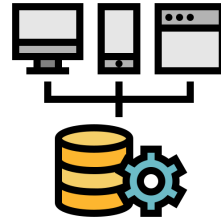
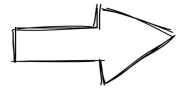
3. **No** cases of relapse occurred over the 12-week study period.

- Faster cryptococcal CSF clearance
- Lower incidence of IRIS
- Lower relapse rates



**Sertraline is a promising
adjunctive antifungal therapy.**

Challenges



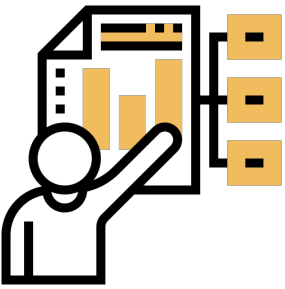
- Experimental data
- Clinical data

- Integrative platforms
- Clinical pharmacology

- Regulatory requirements
- Intellectual property

Conclusion

- Drug repurposing holds strong promise in complementing traditional drug discovery.
- A systematic application of repurposing strategies improves its feasibility.
- Repurposing drugs could provide breakthrough therapies for antimicrobial resistance.



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Thank you