



Software Verification, Validation, and (CoU) Qualification of Open Source M&S Software for Regulatory Use in Translational Model-Informed Drug Development

Stephan Schaller, on behalf of the OSP Management Team (Jörg Lippert, Rolf Burghaus, Ibrahim Ince, Andreas Kovar, Lars Küpfer, Thorsten Lehr, Stephan Schaller, Jan Schlender, Michaël Sevestre, Erik Sjögren, Juri Solodenko, Alexander Staab, and Donato Teutonico)



Today's Journey: From Open Source to Regulatory Confidence

- The Challenge: Regulatory Qualification in MIDD
 Why mechanistic models need robust verification & validation
- <u>Transparent Infrastructure: GitHub Ecosystem</u>
 How open source enables continuous validation & community review
- OSP's Three Pillars of Trust
 Software Validation CoU Qualification Installation Verification
- Qualification in Action: Real-World Applications
 DDI, pediatrics, special populations aligned with EMA/FDA frameworks
- Beyond PBPK: The Modular MIDD Future
 Expanding to PBPK-QSP integration and qualification for complex translational models





Disclosure & Acknowledgements

- Stephan Schaller is a member of the OSP Management Team
 (Jörg Lippert, Rolf Burghaus, Ibrahim Ince, Andreas Kovar, Lars Küpfer, Thorsten Lehr, Stephan Schaller, Jan Schlender, Michaël Sevestre, Erik Sjögren, Juri Solodenko, Alexander Staab, and Donato Teutonico)
- This presentation has been prepared for the "EMA multi-stakeholder workshop on reporting and qualification of mechanistic models for regulatory assessment (8 – 9 October 2025)"
- Acknowledging the Contributions of
 - Juri Solodenko (Software Verification & Validation)
 - OSP MT/Community/Publications: Other Content







The Challenge: Regulatory Qualification in MIDD

Why mechanistic models need robust verification & validation



Requirements of Mechanistic Model-based Assessment in a Regulatory Context

TRACEABLE

Models allow traceability of data, assumptions, and parameters across molecules (and species).

ACCESSIBLE

Open-access, shared libraries, ensuring equitable access and trust

MECHANISTIC

Enabling confidence in knowledge-based extrapolation across data gaps

REPRODUCIBLE

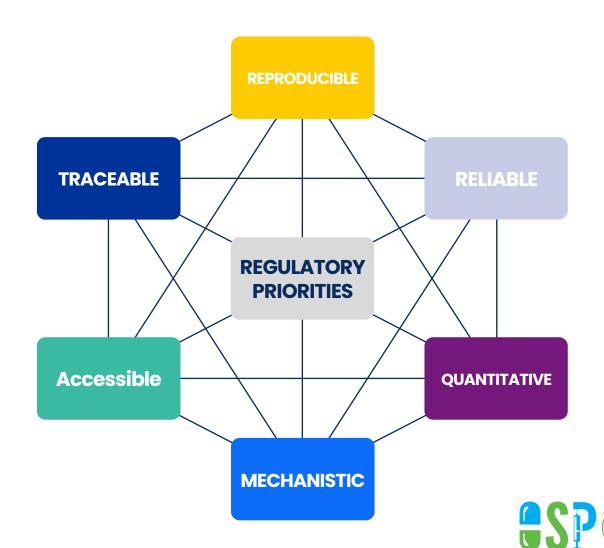
Transparent, reproducible predictions strengthen regulatory confidence.

RELIABLE

Continuous validation, automated testing and multiinstitutional verification

QUANTITATIVE

Support quantitative, human-relevant decision making.



COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

The Regulatory Challenge

Mechanistic models are pivotal but face qualification hurdles

The Qualification Paradox

The Promise

- Mechanistic models are pivotal for MIDD
- FDA & EMA guidances endorse PBPK/QSP use
- Regulatory decisions increasingly modelinformed

√ Growing acceptance

The Reality

- No universal qualification framework established
- Platform performance verification unclear
- Version control & lifecycle management complex
- Transparency requirements challenging
- Implementation barriers



The Regulatory Challenge

Mechanistic models are pivotal but face qualification hurdles

The Key Hurdle (Partially Solved for PBPK)

• Evidence Package:

Series of successful prospective predictions needed

• Full Transparency:

Processes, tools, and models must be auditable

• Technical Burden:

From scientific content to computerized system validation

• Resource Gap:

No single stakeholder can compile all requirements alone

"The EMA guideline's 'qualification for intended use' creates challenges that exceed any individual organization's capacity"







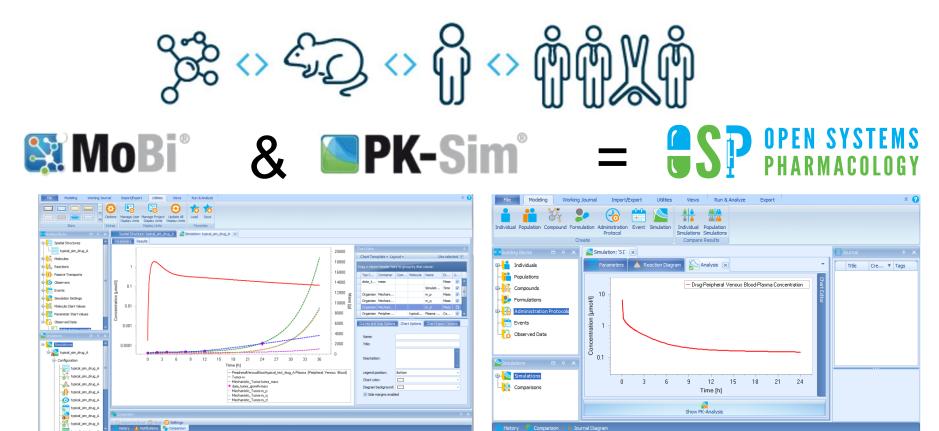
Transparent Infrastructure: GitHub Ecosystem

How open source enables continuous validation & community review



Open Systems Pharmacology Suite: PK-Sim® & MoBi®:

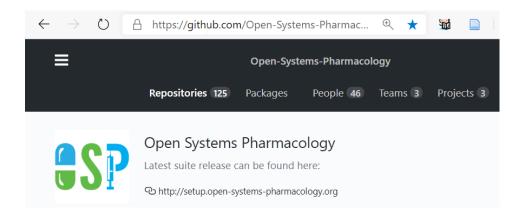
 An open-source Multiscale Physiologically-Based & Mechanistic Modeling platform which has been developed and refined for 20 years!





OSP Qualification

The OSP's Philosophy on Openness Open Access, Open Source, and Open Science



MANAGEMENT TEAM



Design2Code Inc.



ROLF BURGHAUS
Systems Pharmacology & Medicine,
Bayer AG



STEPHAN SCHALLER
CEO, esqLABS GmbH



ALEXANDER STAAB

Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH

& Co. KG



Open Source since 2017 on GitHub 8+ releases, GPLv2 license



















http://www.open-systems-pharmacology.org/



The OSP's Philosophy on Openness Mission & Vision

OSP Roadmap

The OSP Roadmap builds on the Vision & Mission of Open Systems Pharmacology

Vision

Robust and reliable, easy-to-use modeling & simulation tools, processes and models for pharmaceutical and other life-sciences applications qualified and accepted by a scientific community from academia, regulatory agencies and industry available and open to everyone.

Mission

Provide a platform for joint development, review & qualification, and application of state-of-the-art tools for PBPK and Systems Pharmacology modeling and an open library of models for application as well as method & tool qualification purposes. Promote the idea of pre-competitive open collaboration for the advancement of modeling & simulation sciences in pharmaceutical and life science.



The OSP's Philosophy on Openness

Community-driven development model (Donations across components)

• DDI

Special Populations

- Absorption
- PD
- Statistical modelling
- First in Human (IVIVE)
- Omics
- Suite Release Management
- Automation/Qualification
- Community Engagement (PR)
- Biologics
- Nonclinical PBPK
- PBBM
- HT PBPK

Dedicated Focus Groups have been established to conceptualize, design and progress the individual areas, the Management Team will coordinate the interplay of focus areas and interfaces between them

Focus groups shall be the owner of the development in the respective focus area, they are expected to conceptualize and coordinate activities of the respective field.

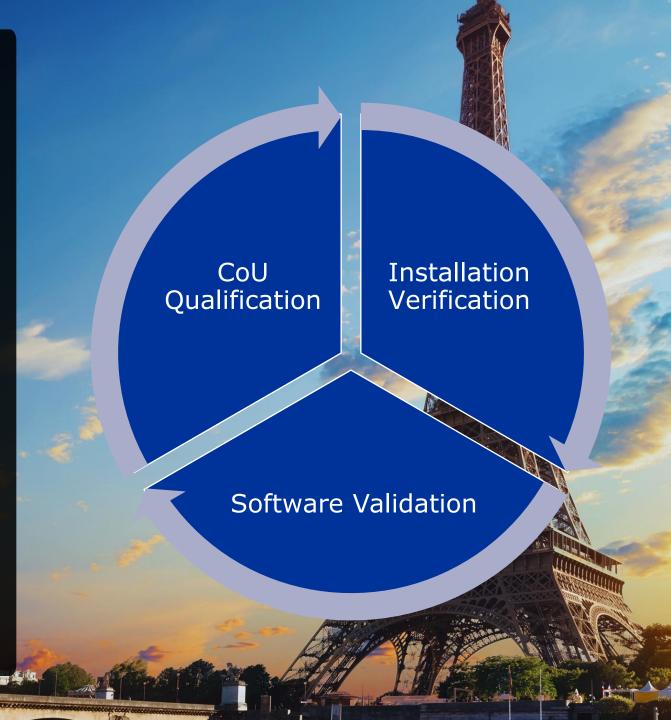
;	DDI	Quantitative DDI predictions (CYPs as well as transporters) are one of the key applications for PBPK and are a prerequisite for designing efficient clinical development programs and studies. A comprehensive library of well documented, qualified perpetrators and victims is a prerequisite for acceptance of DDI predictions from regulatory authorities.	Sebastian Frechen (@sfrechen)			
	IVIVE	 Improve and facilitate use of IVIVE in PK-Sim Provide guidelines on how to conduct IVIVE in PK-Sim Facilitate integration of in vitro data in prediction of DDI (e.g. integration of fraction metabolized) Extrapolation of Caco-2 permeabilities to effective permeabilities 	Donato Teutonico (@teutonicod)			
	Special populations	The addition of new or updated virtual populations is required to expand the application scope of the software in a consistent manner across users. The overall objectives are to define a process for 1. technical generation of populations destined for the OSP Suite and, 2. evaluation of those populations. This protocol will allow populations to be added more efficiently.	Andrea Edginton (@Aedginto)			
	Statistical Modelling	Statistical Modeling is a strategic theme of the OSP MT. Statistical modeling is a key enabler for PBPK and QSP M&S. Respective capabilities are required for all application areas to quantitatively assess population variability and uncertainty in prior knowledge and posterior results.	Christian Diedrich (@DiedrichC)			





OSP's Three Pillars of Trust

- Software Validation
- CoU Qualification
- Installation Verification



The OSP Suite Architecture: PK-Sim, MoBi & R components

Import

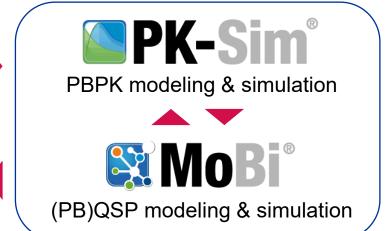
CSV Excel® NONMEM® SBML

Export

CSV **Excel® JSON PDF**

R packages

Modeling Tools



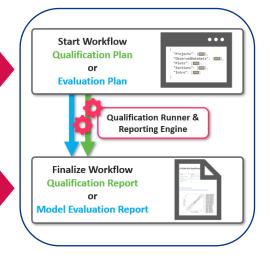
- Reporting **Engine**
- Plot-Library (TLF)
- Parameter Identification



R (statistical computing)

OSP Interfaces

Qualification Framework



Validation/Automation **Tools**

- Installation Validator
- **Command Line** Interface (CLI)

PBPK: Physiologically based pharmacokinetic

(Physiologically based) Quantitative systems pharmacology

TLF: Tables, listings and figures

Project

snapshots

(JSON)

OSP

Model

exchange

format

(PKML)



Quality Assurance of the OSP Suite Continuous Software Validation & Qualification

OSP Suite is an open-source platform that is developed in a fully transparent manner on **GitHub** (the largest hosting platform for open-source software).

Two main steps are used to ensure the quality of the OSP Suite: Validation and Qualification.

➤ <u>Platform Validation</u>: refers to the process of confirming that the PBPK software platform accurately represents the mathematical models and algorithms it is intended to implement.

This includes verifying that the software correctly performs the calculations and simulations based on the underlying physiological and pharmacokinetic principles.

➤ <u>Platform Qualification</u> for intended use: involves demonstrating that the PBPK software platform is suitable for the specific research or regulatory purpose for which it is intended.

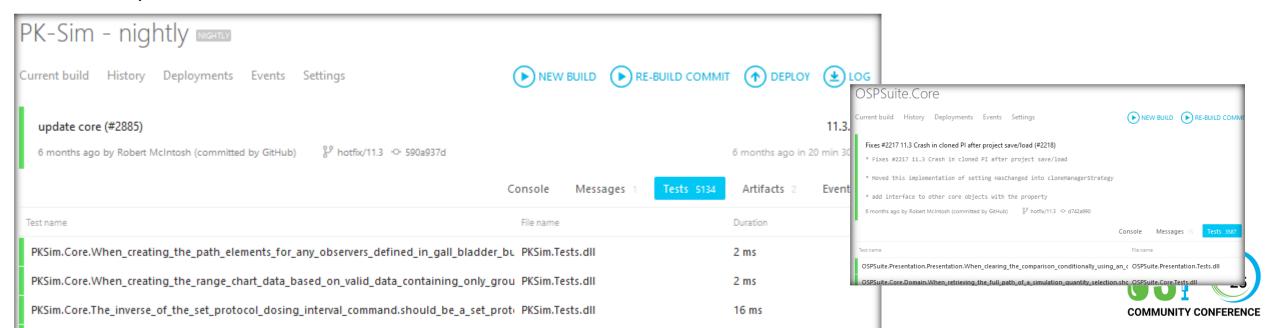
This goes beyond general validation and includes assessments of the platform's features, functionalities and performance metrics in the context of specific use cases.

For example, if a platform is intended to predict drug-drug interactions, qualification would include demonstrating that it can accurately model and predict these interactions for a range of compounds.



A growing, extensive library of test cases tested with validated programs

- 1. Automated testing of the correct behavior of software modules.
 - Tests (unit tests, integration tests...) are triggered with every software build (e.g. about 11600 automated tests for the 11.3 release).
 - New changes are integrated only if all tests are passed.
 - Full test logs for every software build and release are documented on GitHub and available for anyone to view.



A growing, extensive library of test cases tested with validated programs

- 1. Automated testing of the correct behavior of software modules.
- 2. Automated comparison of simulation results between software versions for specific combinations of compounds, organisms, calculation methods and model options..

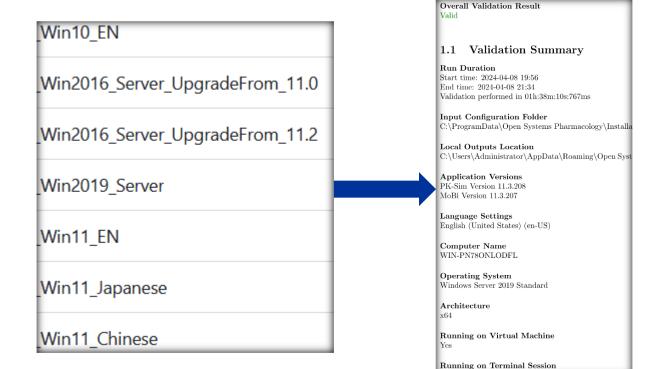
1	File	Modell	Sii	mulations	Individual Compound										Application				
2	▼	₩	155 ▼	Params ▼	Population 🔻	Gender •	Age ▼	Aging •	Enzymes •	Transp.	Bind. ▼	Type ▼	рКа ▼	Partition 🔻	Permeab. ▼	Process	Dosing •	Type ▼ F	ormulation
43	Human_SingleORAL_Weibull_AsSuspention	4Comp	3	fu/MW/Lipo	ICRP_2002	MALE	30					small	Acid	RR	Standard		Single	Oral	Weibull
44	Human_UncompetitiveInhibition	4Comp			ICRP_2002	MALE	30		CYP3A4			small	Acid	RR	Standard	Specific_MM CYP3A4	DI_12_12	2 IntravenousBolus	
45			1									small	Acid	RR	Standard	UncompetitiveInhibition CYP3A4	DI_6_6_6_6	6 Intravenous	Bolus
46	Minipig_SingleORAL_Dissolved	4Comp	3	fu/MW/Lipo	Minipig							small	Acid	RR	Standard		Single	Oral	Dissolved
4/	Monkey_SingleORAL_Dissolved	4Comp	3	fu/MW/Lipo	Monkey							small	Acid	RR	Standard		Single	Oral	Dissolved
48	Mouse_SingleORAL_Dissolved	4Comp	3	fu/MW/Lipo	Mouse							small	Acid	RR	Standard		Single	Oral	Dissolved
	Preterm_SingleIV_Age_0_GA_32_CYP3A4	4Comp	1		Preterm	MALE	0	Х	CYP3A4			small	Acid	RR	Standard	1stOrder CYP3A4	Single	gle IntravenousBolus	
50	Preterm_SingleIV_Age_0_GA_32_GFR	4Comp	1		Preterm	MALE	0	X				small	Acid	RR	Standard	GFR	Single	Intravenou	Dissolved
51	Preterm_SingleIV_Age_15_GA_32_CYP3A4	4Comp	1		Preterm	MALE	0,25	Х	CYP3A4			small	Acid	RR	Standard	1stOrder CYP3A4	Single	IntravenousBolus	
	Preterm_SingleIV_Age_15_GA_32_GFR	4Comp	1		Preterm	MALE	0,25	X				small	Acid	RR	Standard	GFR	Single	Intravenou	Dissolved
	Rabbit_SingleORAL_Dissolved	4Comp	3	fu/MW/Lipo	Rabbit							small	Acid	RR	Standard		Single	Oral	Dissolved
	Rat_MultiORAL_6_6_6_6_Dissolved	4Comp	1		Rat							small	Acid	RR	Standard		DI_6_6_6_6		Dissolved
	Rat_MultiORAL_6_6_12_Dissolved	4Comp	1		Rat							small	Acid	RR	Standard		DI_6_6_12		Dissolved
56	Rat_MultiORAL_8_8_8_Dissolved	4Comp	1		Rat							small	Acid	RR	Standard		DI_8_8_8	Oral	Dissolved
57	SingleIV_2Pores_Human	TwoPores	4	Kd (FcRn)_endo C_FcRn_endo(0)	ICRP_2002	MALE	30					Large	Acid	Standard	Standard		Single	IntravenousBolus	
58	SingleIV_2Pores_Monkey	TwoPores	3	Kd (FcRn)_endo C_FcRn_endo(0)	Monkey							Large	Acid	Standard	Standard		Single	IntravenousBolus	
59		TwoPores	4	Kd (FcRn)_endo C_FcRn_endo(0)	Mouse							Large	Acid	Standard	Standard		Single	Intravenous	Bolus
	SingleIV C1 4Comp																		



A growing, extensive library of test cases tested with validated programs

- 1. Automated testing of the correct behavior of software modules.
- 2. Automated comparison of simulation results between software versions for specific combinations of compounds, organisms, calculation methods and model options.

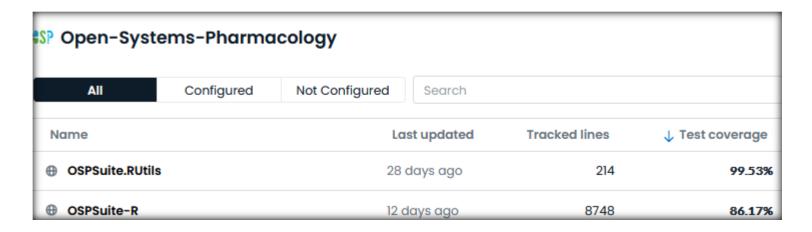
3. Automated testing in different software environments (different operating systems, etc.).





A growing, extensive library of test cases tested with validated programs

- 1. Automated testing of the correct behavior of software modules.
- 2. Automated comparison of simulation results between software versions for specific combinations of compounds, organisms, calculation methods and model options.
- 3. Automated testing in different software environments (different operating systems, etc.).
- 4. Automated code quality analysis (e.g. static code analysis, test coverage).



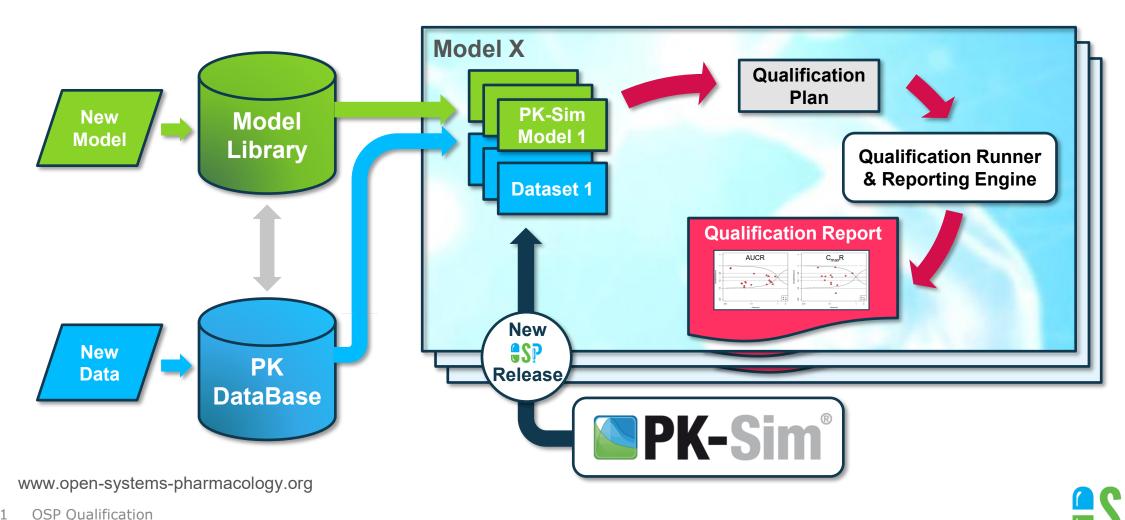


A growing, extensive library of test cases tested with validated programs

- 1. Automated testing of the correct behavior of software modules.
- 2. Automated comparison of simulation results between software versions for specific combinations of compounds, organisms, calculation methods and model options.
- 3. Automated testing in different software environments (different operating systems, etc.).
- 4. Automated code quality analysis (e.g. static code analysis, test coverage).
- 5. (Manual) testing of new features by scientific experts.



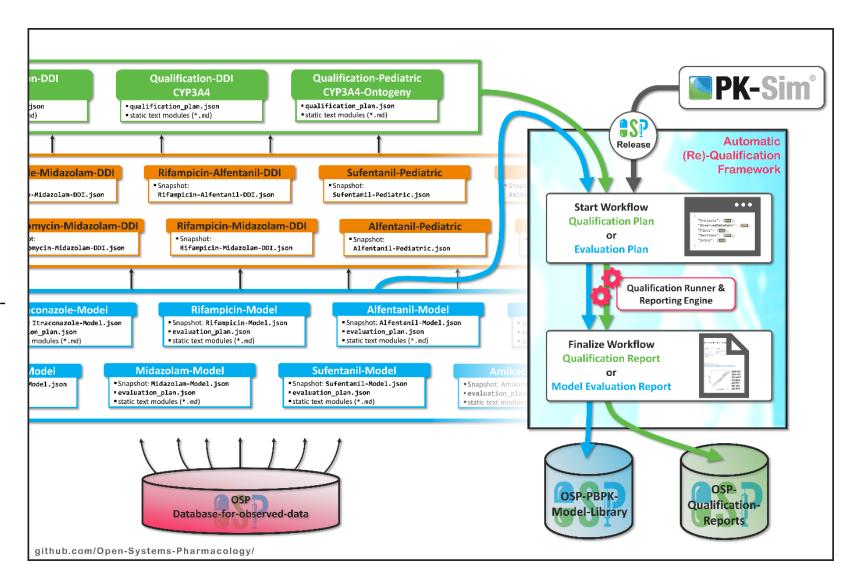
Community-Driven CoU Qualification Framework Automatic (Re)-qualification Workflow



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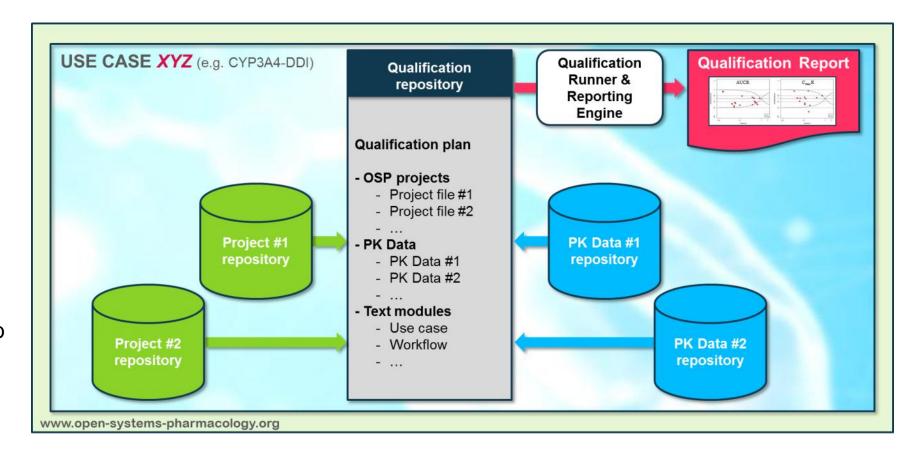
Community-Driven CoU Qualification Framework Qualification Repository Structure

- Repository landscape with the embedded qualification framework.
- Various input repositories:
 - Blue: model repositories for single
 PBPK substance models (including a snapshot file and an evaluation plan),
 - Orange: dependent (intermediate)
 model repositories needed for specific
 qualification scenarios (including a
 snapshot file for specific simulation setup),
 - Green: qualification repositories for specific qualification purposes, pink container
- The framework extracts PK data from the hosted database



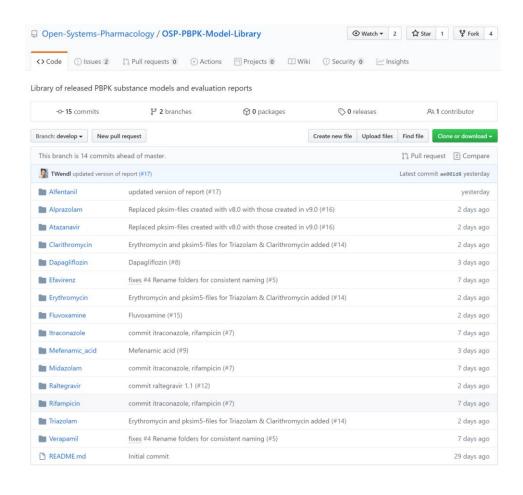
Community-Driven CoU Qualification Framework Qualification Plans Structure

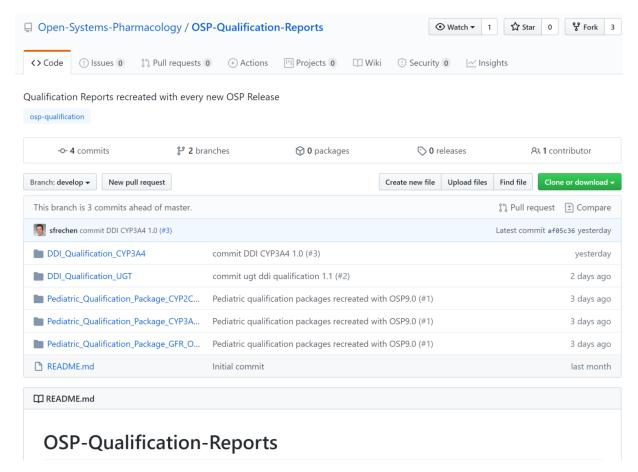
- PK-Sim snapshots
- Observed data sets (needed for model development and verification)
- Qualification scenario description text modules
- Detailed report settings to describe the generation of charts and qualification measures





Community-Driven CoU Qualification Framework OSPS Qualified Model Repository

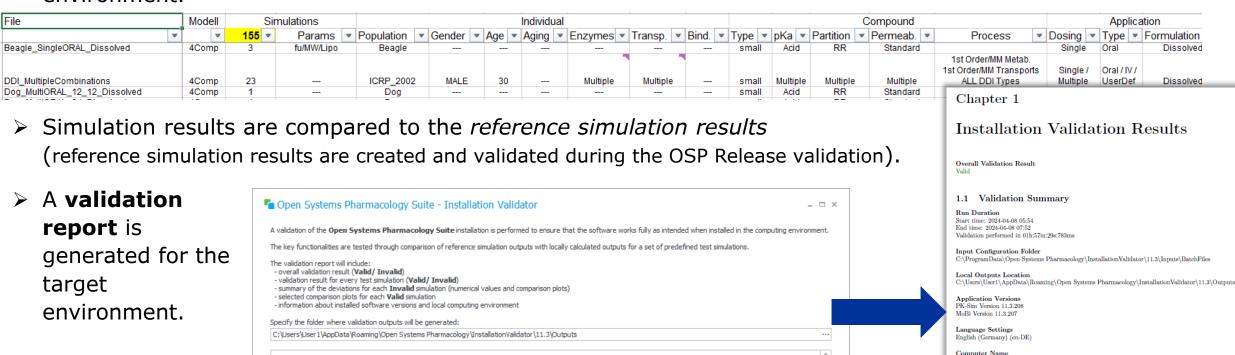






Installation Verification

- Installation validation on a target system is ensured by the **fully automated** Installation Validator tool installed as part of the OSP Suite.
- ➤ A set of predefined (PBPK) models is being created and simulated in a target modeling environment.



DESKTOP-CF7981D

Operating System Windows 10 Enterpris

Architecture

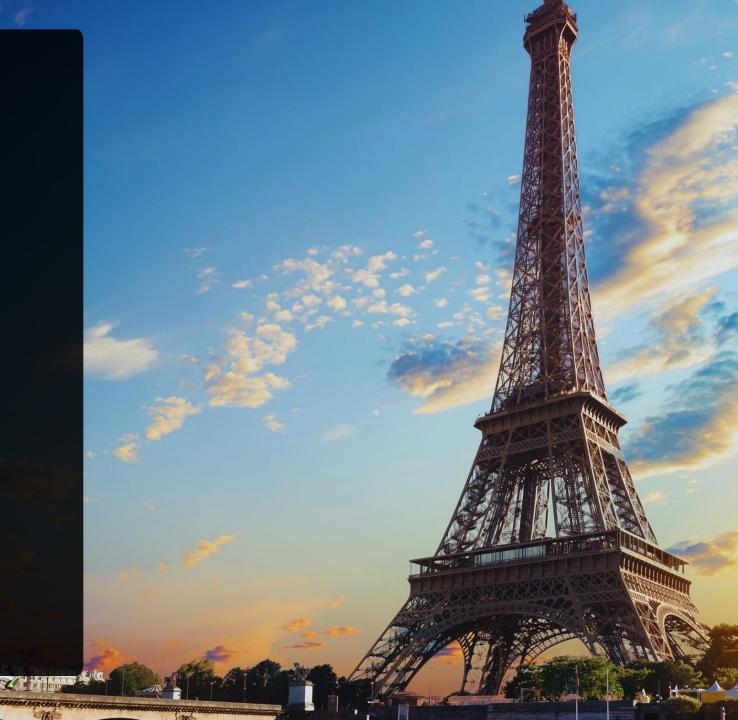
Start Validation





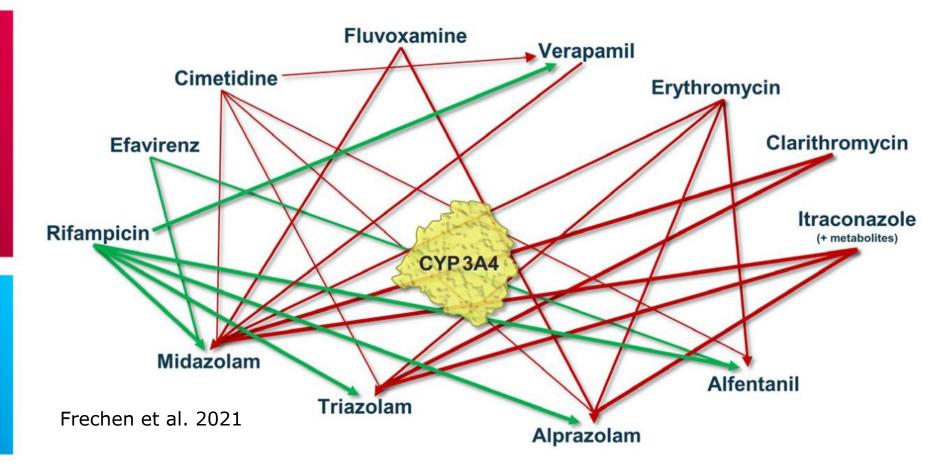
CoU Qualification in Action: Examples

DDI, pediatrics, special populations - aligned with EMA/FDA frameworks



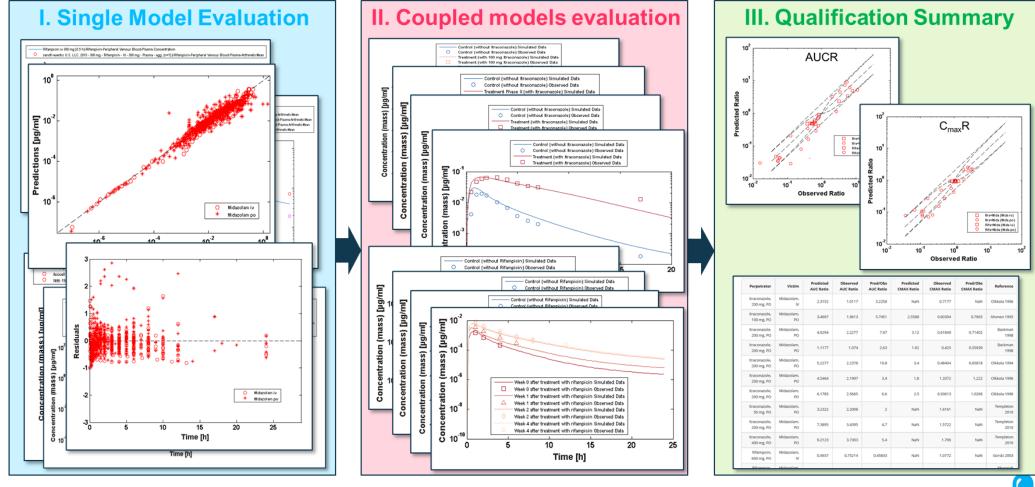
Community-Driven CoU Qualification Framework Example: CYP3A4 DDI qualification package

A complex network of index compounds ranging from strong induction to strong inhibition





Community-Driven CoU Qualification Framework Example: CYP3A4 DDI qualification package



Case Study - Successful Regulatory Application Finerenone PBPK DDI prediction informs US FDA label

The finerenone model validated using clinical data with moderate CYP3A inhibitors

The Division of Pharmacometrics has reviewed the PBPK reports, supporting modeling files, and the Applicant's responses to the FDA's information requests (IRs) submitted on January 28 and March 17, 2021, and concluded the following:

- The finerenone model is adequate to predict the finerenone PK profiles following a single 1 hour intravenous infusion (0.25, 0.5 or 1 mg), a single oral dose administration (1.25, 2.5, 5, 7.5 or 10 mg), or multiple oral dose administration (10 mg BID, 20 mg BID, and 40 mg QD) in healthy subjects.
- The finerenone model is adequate to predict the effect of itraconazole or clarithromycin on finerenone PK following a single oral dose administration of finerenone (10 mg) and multiple dose administration of itraconazole (200 mg BID) or clarithromycin (500 mg BID) in healthy subjects. Model predicted finerenone geometric mean AUC ratio was higher than 5 and 3.5, when co-administered with itraconazole and clarithromycin, respectively, in healthy subjects.
- The finerenone model is adequate to predict the effect of fluvoxamine on finerenone PK following a single oral dose administration of finerenone (10 mg) and multiple dose administration of fluvoxamine (100 mg BID) in healthy subjects. Model predicted finerenone geometric mean AUC ratio was approximately 1.55 when co-administered with fluvoxamine in healthy subjects.
- The finerenone model is adequate to predict the effect of efavirenz on finerenone PK following a single oral dose administration of finerenone (10 mg) and a single dose or multiple dose administration of efavirenz in healthy subjects. Model predicted finerenone geometric mean AUC ratio was approximately 0.2, 0.2, and 0.6, when co-administered with 400 mg QD, 600 mg QD or 400 mg single dose of efavirenz, respectively, in healthy subjects.
- The finerenone model is adequate to predict the effect of rifampicin on finerenone PK following a single oral dose administration of finerenone (10 mg) and multiple dose administration of rifampicin (600 mg QD) in healthy subjects. Model predicted finerenone geometric mean AUC ratio was approximately 0.07 when co-administered with rifampicin in healthy subjects.
- Model extrapolation of clinical study results with moderate inhibitors to the studies with strong modulators may result in uncertainties regarding the predicted exposure change with strong modulators.

Taken from: FDA - CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH Intergated Review

https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/index.cfm?event=overview.process&ApplNo=215341

→PBPK Review p. 202 - 211



Addressing EMA Qualification Requirements

Direct alignment with EMA qualification requirements:

- Platform Qualification and Validation √
- External evidence benchmarking and Model Evaluations √
- Clearly defined processes for development and qualification/validation √
- Version control & lifecycle ✓

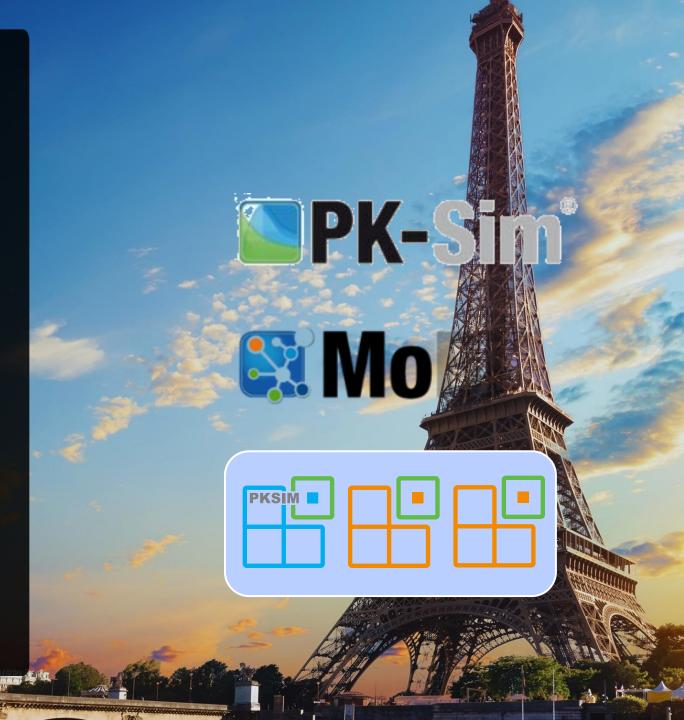


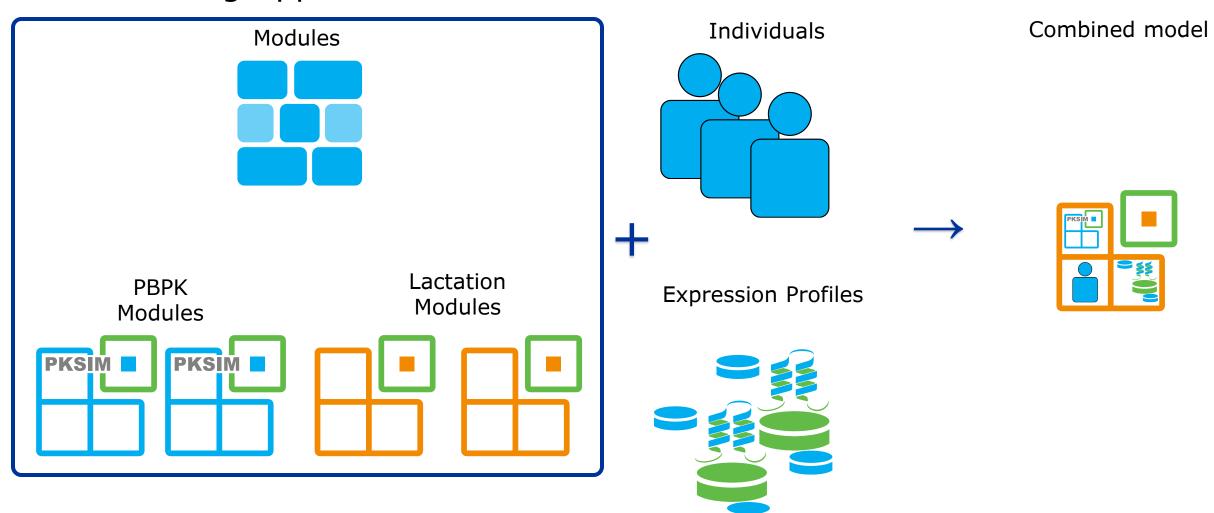




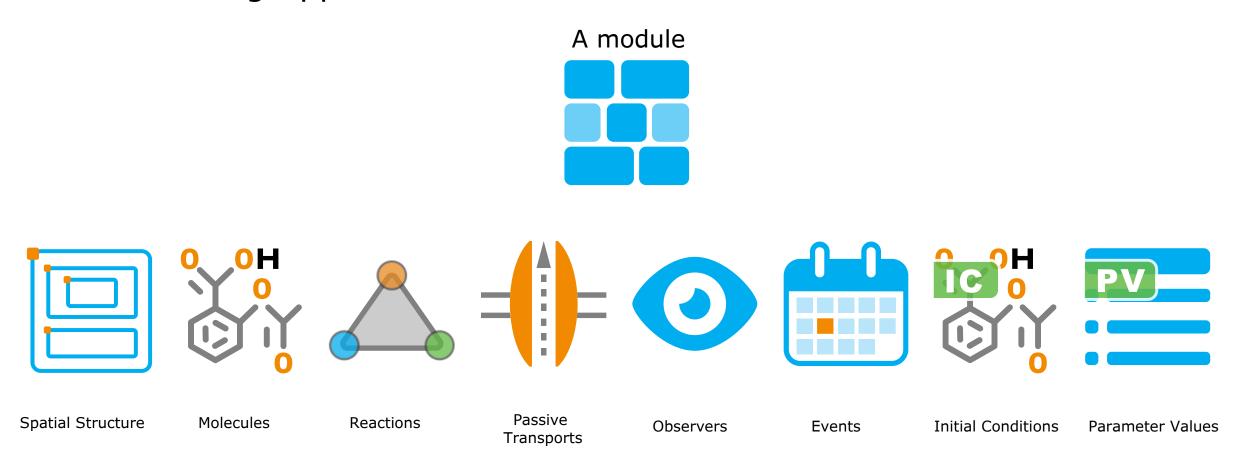
Beyond PBPK: The Modular MIDD Future

Expanding to PBPK-QSP integration and qualification for complex translational models

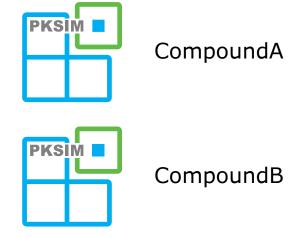




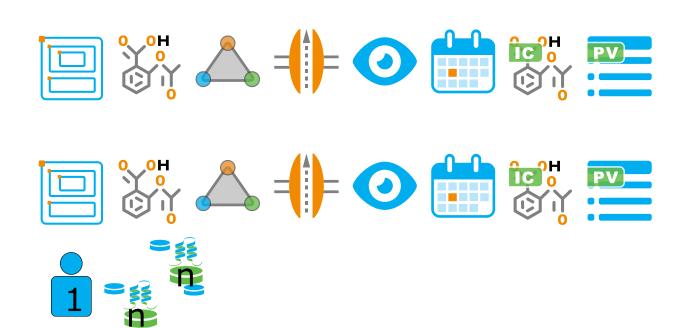




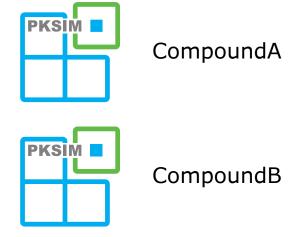




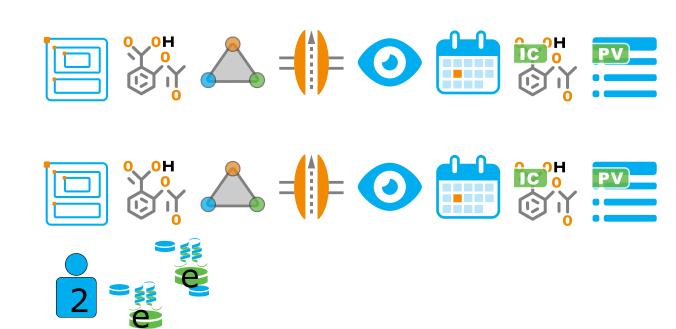
31 years old female extensive metabolizer







31 years old female extensive metabolizer







CompoundA



CompoundB

31 years old female extensive metabolizer



Pregnancy















































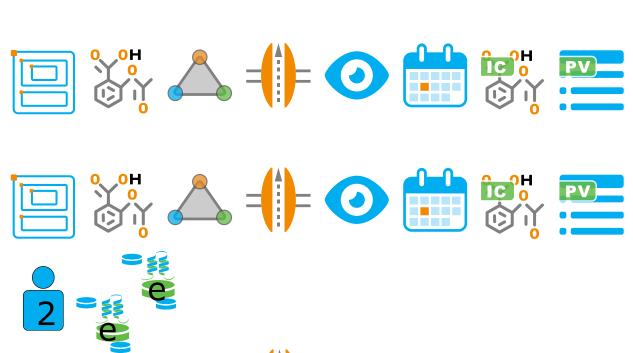
CompoundA

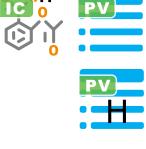


CompoundB

31 years old female extensive metabolizer











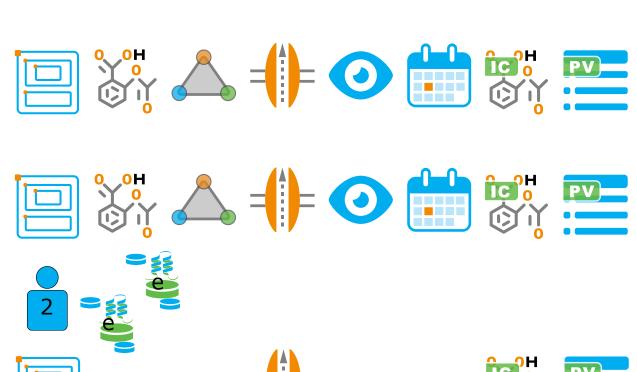
CompoundA

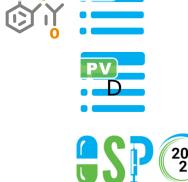


CompoundB

31 years old female extensive metabolizer



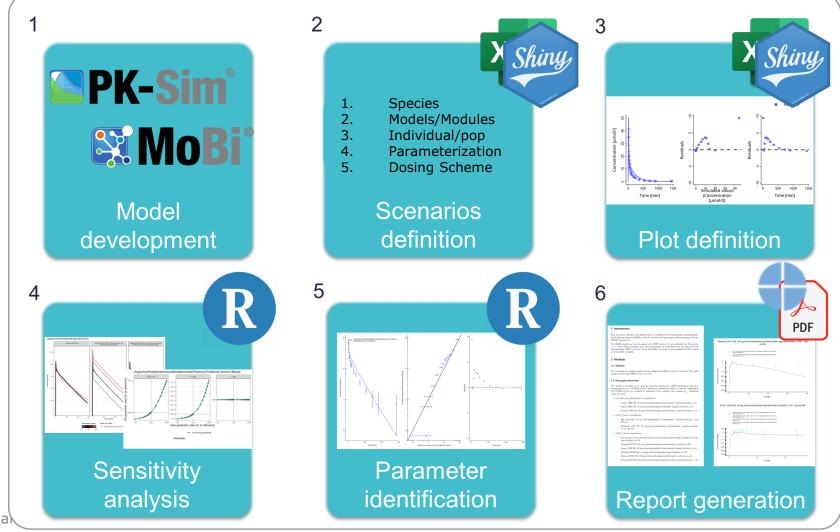




COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

Discovery, Toxicology, Modular MIDD Ecosystem Translational, Beyond PBPK to PBPK-QSP **Clinical teams** Development Lifecycle Discovery, HTS, (Pre)Clinical chem/biodata informatics data Clinical trial **PBPK-QST Modelling &** AI/ML analysis **Qualification &** Reporting PBPK model **QST** model library library Extension PBPK PKSIM Modules Model ____ **QST PBPK** Lifecycle Lifecycle PK-Sim **MoBi COMMUNITY CONFERENCE**

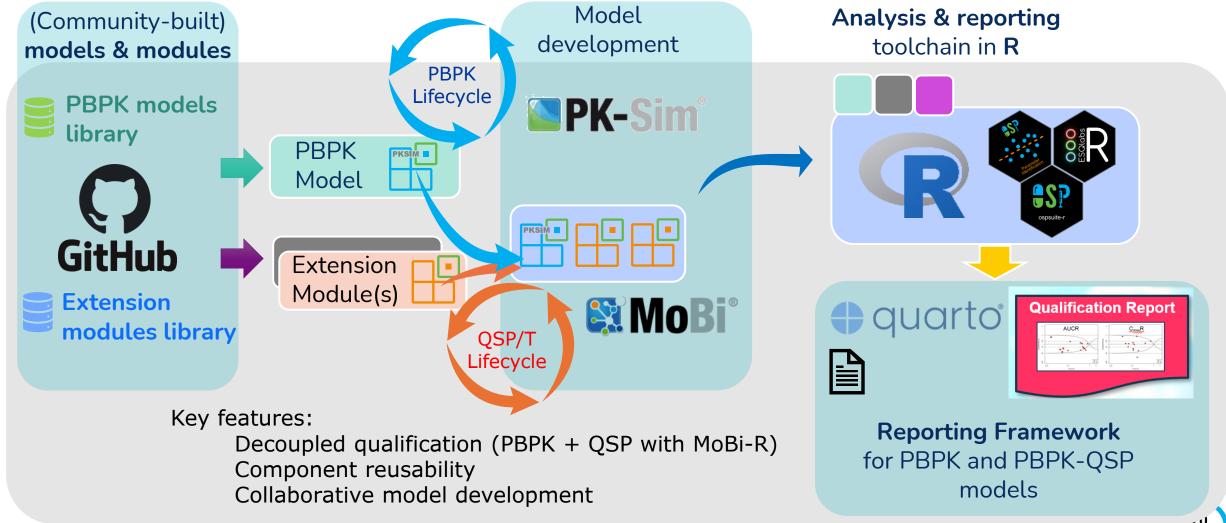
Modular MIDD Ecosystem Supportive (R-based) Packages / Workflows





Modular MIDD Ecosystem

Qualification and Reporting with the Modularization Concept







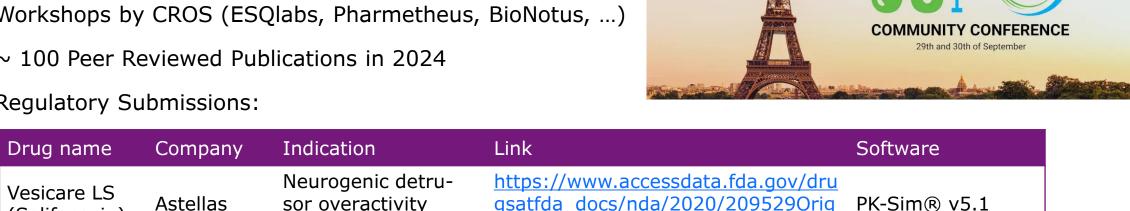
Take-Aways

OSP = Equitable high-quality Solutions for Mechanistic Model Development and Qualification



Community Impact & Adoption

- OSP Community Conference (~100 Participants yearly)
- Online Training Platform (ESQlabs, ~200 subscribers)
- Workshops by CROS (ESQlabs, Pharmetheus, BioNotus, ...)
- ~ 100 Peer Reviewed Publications in 2024
- Regulatory Submissions:





Future Vision & Call to Action

Streamlining regulatory qualification:

- Standardized (Cross-platform / Cross-agency) qualification templates
- Cross-platform benchmarking
- Regulatory agency collaboration
- Data sharing across stakeholders

 OSP Initiates preparations for submissions to FDA MMF and EMA Qualification



Conclusions

Key takeaways:

- Open source ≠ lower quality, and = higher quality with a community
- Transparency builds trust
- Community approach enables transparent qualification
- Framework ready for regulatory use





Wider Acknowledgements

- OSP Management Team members
- Funding agencies (EU, BMBF, Gates, EFSA, NC3R, ...)
- Community contributors

