

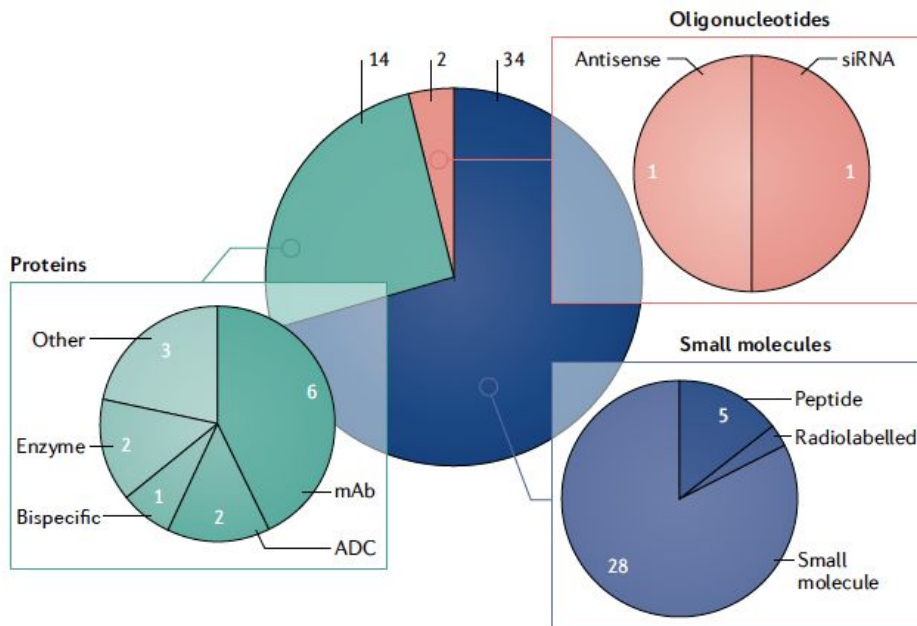
Lipid-based drug delivery systems

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Bioneer:FARMA
Department of Pharmacy
University of Copenhagen

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Oral Drug Delivery



New drugs approved by the FDA in 2021

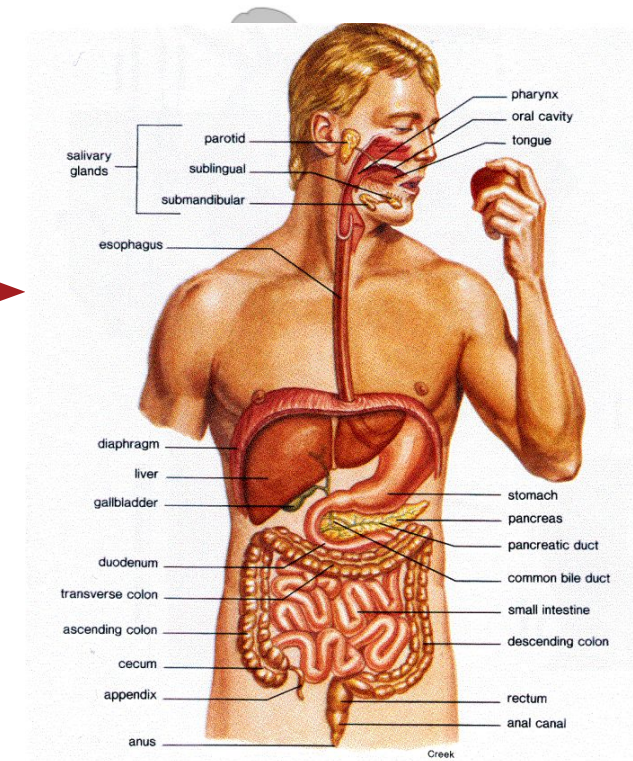
28 of 50 are small molecules

Oral Administration – preferred route

- Patient Compliance
 - No needles
- No healthcare personnel
- Drug stability
- Production Costs
 - No sterility



- Aqueous Solubility?
- Permeability?



Approx. 50% of all drugs are given orally

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Poorly water-soluble drugs

$$\frac{dC}{dt} = \frac{AD(C_s - C)}{h}$$

Noyes-Whitney equation
describing the dissolution process

$\frac{dC}{dt}$

$\frac{dC}{dt}$: dissolution rate

D : diffusion coefficient of the drug

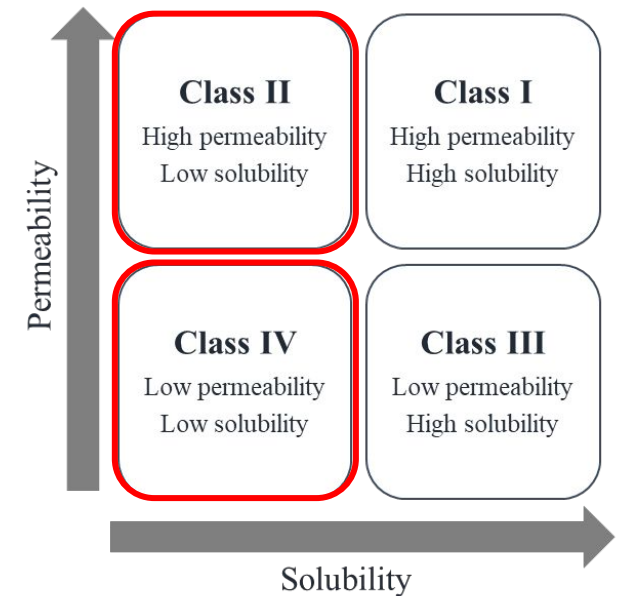
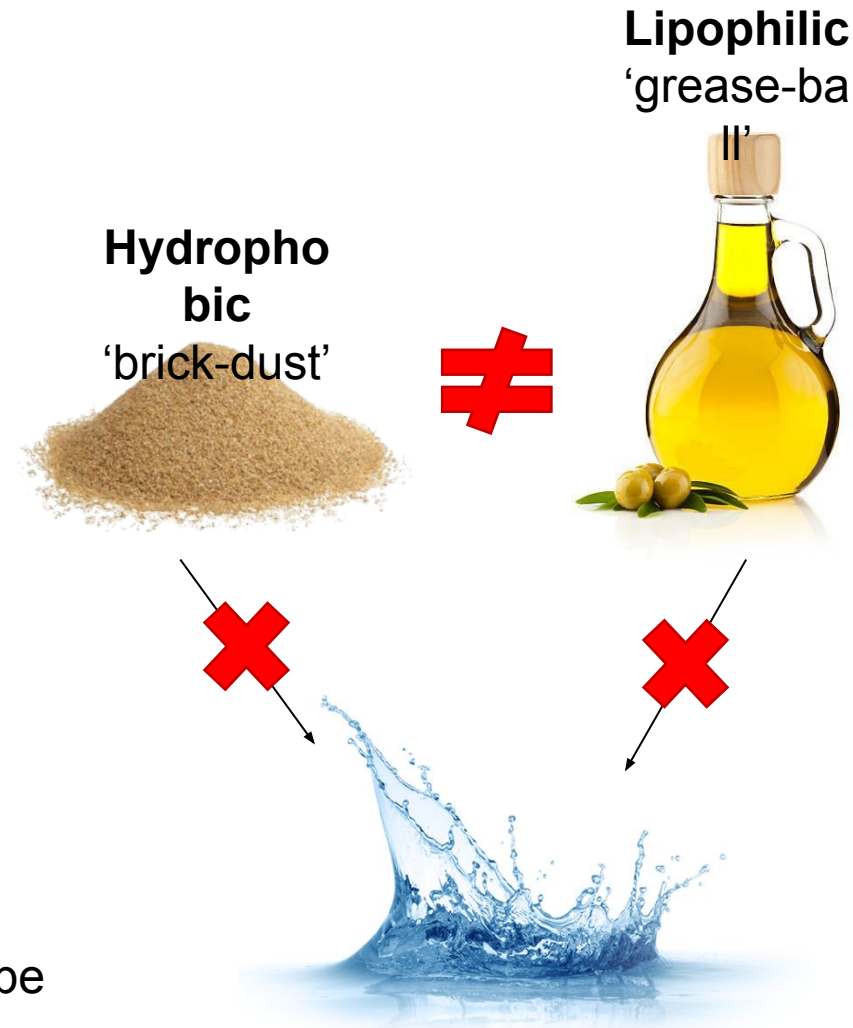
A : surface area of the drug particles

h : thickness of the diffusion layer

C_s : S_{eq} of the drug in the solution medium

C : concentration of the drug at a time t

Drug have to be in solution to be absorbed

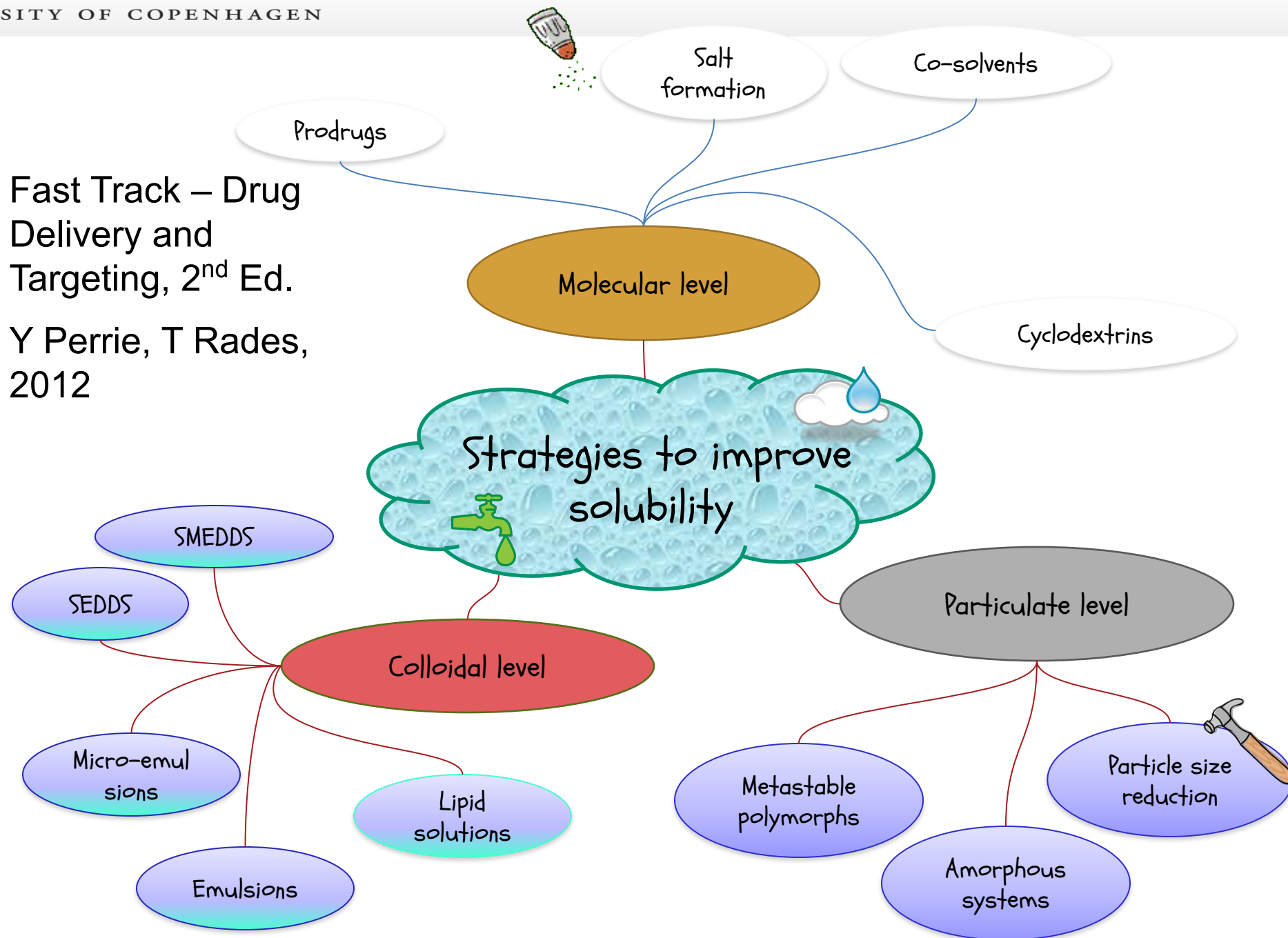


Biopharmaceutical
classification system.
Amidon *et al.* 1995



Fast Track – Drug Delivery and Targeting, 2nd Ed.

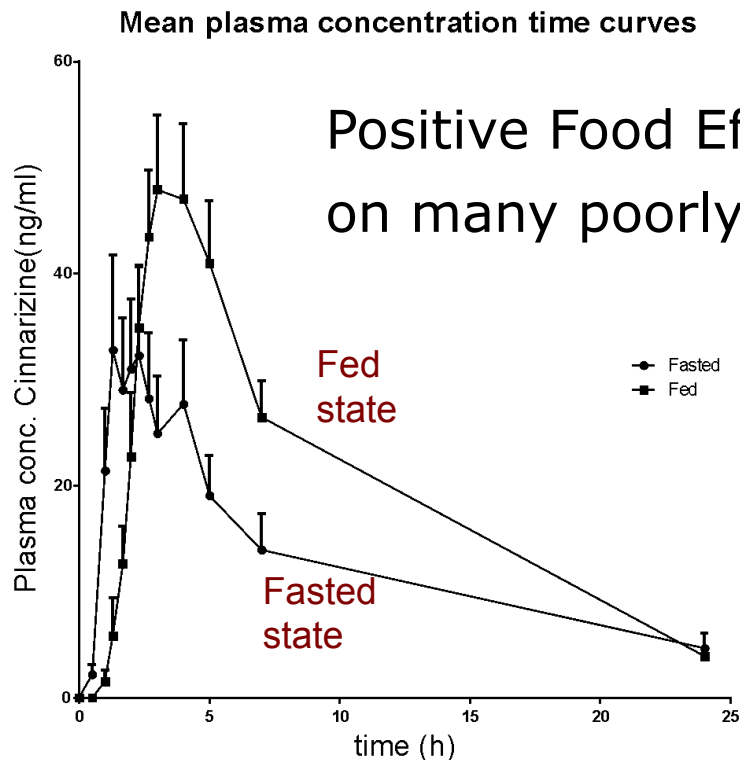
Y Perrie, T Rades, 2012



Lipid-based Drug Delivery Systems – “colloidal level”

Why lipids?

- Essential part of our diet
- Body well equipped for lipid digestion
- Uptake >95% absorbed



Christiansen et al EJPS, 2016



Propranolol
Metoprolol
Labetalol
Propafenone
Hydralazine
Griseofulvin
Nitrofurantoin
Mebendazole
Flubendazole
Halofantrine
Phenytoin
Dicoumarol

Lipid-based Drug Delivery Systems (LbDDS)

Deliver drug in **solution** in LbDDS
Bypass dissolution in the gastro-intestinal tract
Increase Bioavailability
Important: Transfer between **colloidal phases**
Avoidance of precipitation

Liposome
s

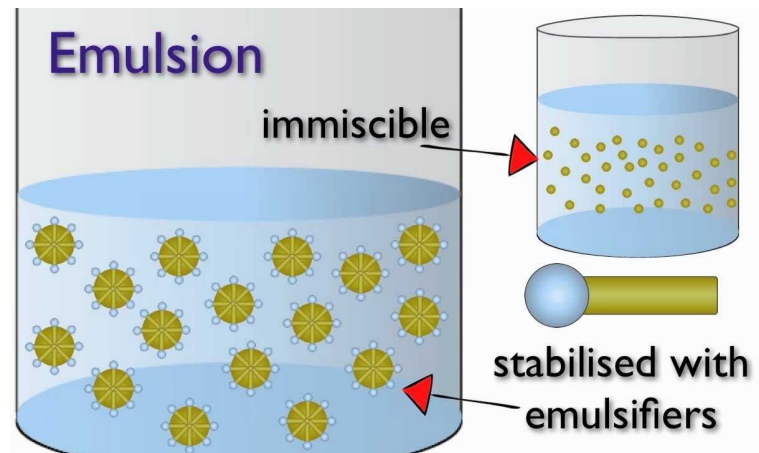
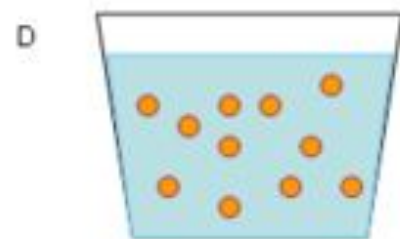
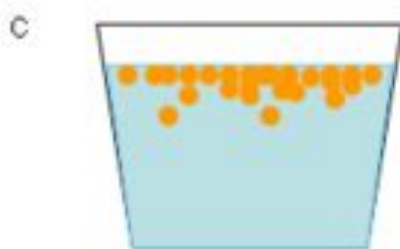
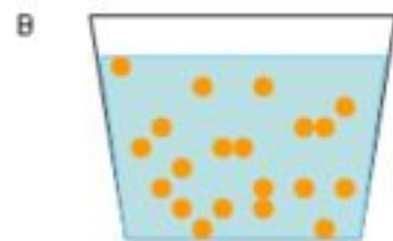
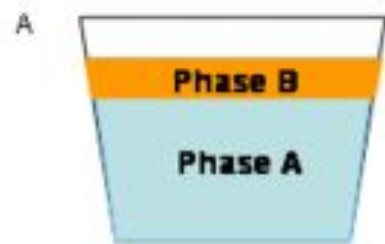


Oil solution

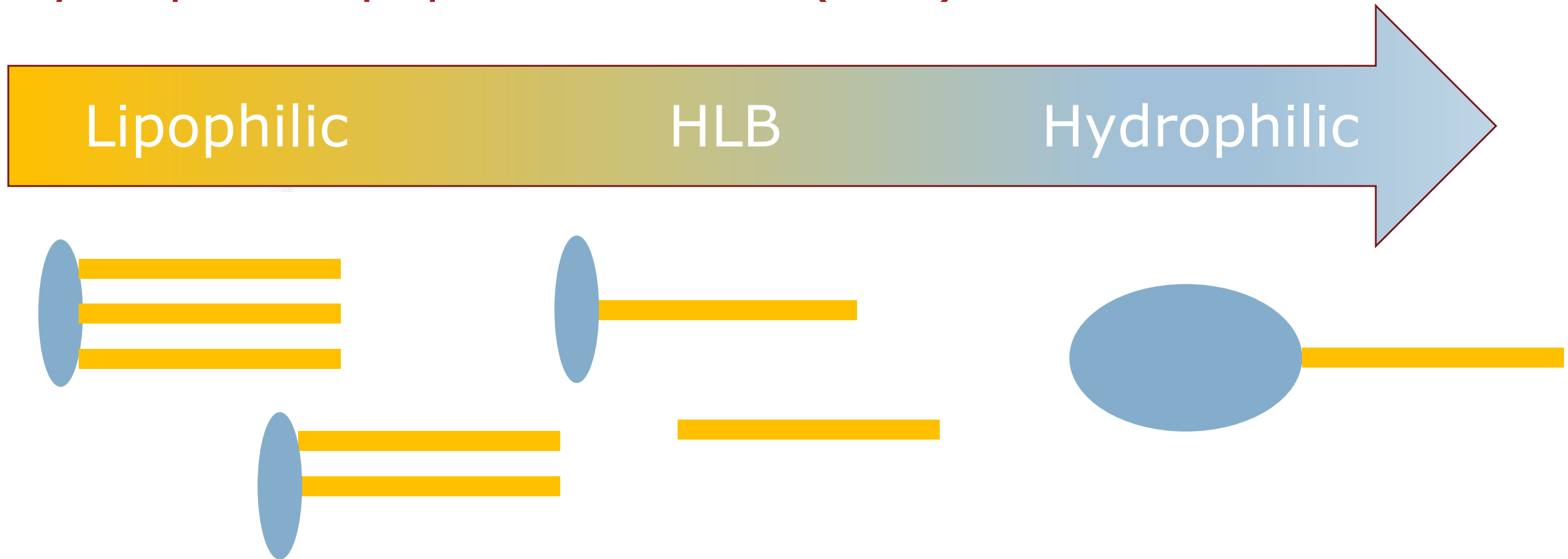
Emulsion
s

Self Emulsifying Drug Delivery Systems (**SEDDS**)
Self Nano-Emulsifying Drug Delivery Systems
(**SNEDDS**)

Surfactant / cosolvent systems



Hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB)



HLB ~ 1

Triacylglycerides
Diacylglycerides

2 > HLB < 6

Monoacylglycerides
Propylene glycol
esters

6 > HLB < 12

Polyoxyglycerides:
• Capryol 90,
PGMC
• Labrafil M1044

HLB > 12

Polysorbates
(Tweens)
Kolliphor RH40, EL
Labrasol

Lipid-based Formulation Classification System (LFCS)

	Type I	Type II	Type IIIA	Type IIIB	Type IV
Typical composition	Oil solution	SEDDS	SEDDS SNEDDS	SNEDDS	Micelles
TG, DG, MG	100	40-80	40-60	<20	-
Surfactants (HLB<12)	-	20-60	-	-	0-20
Surfactants (HLB>12)	-	-	20-40	20-50	30-80
Hydrophilic cosolvents	-	-	0-40	50-100	0-50
Droplet size (nm)	coarse	250-2000	100-250	50-100	30-80

Dispersion
in water



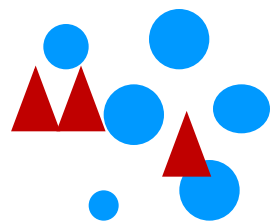


SNEDDS - Homogenous Preconcentrate in Capsule

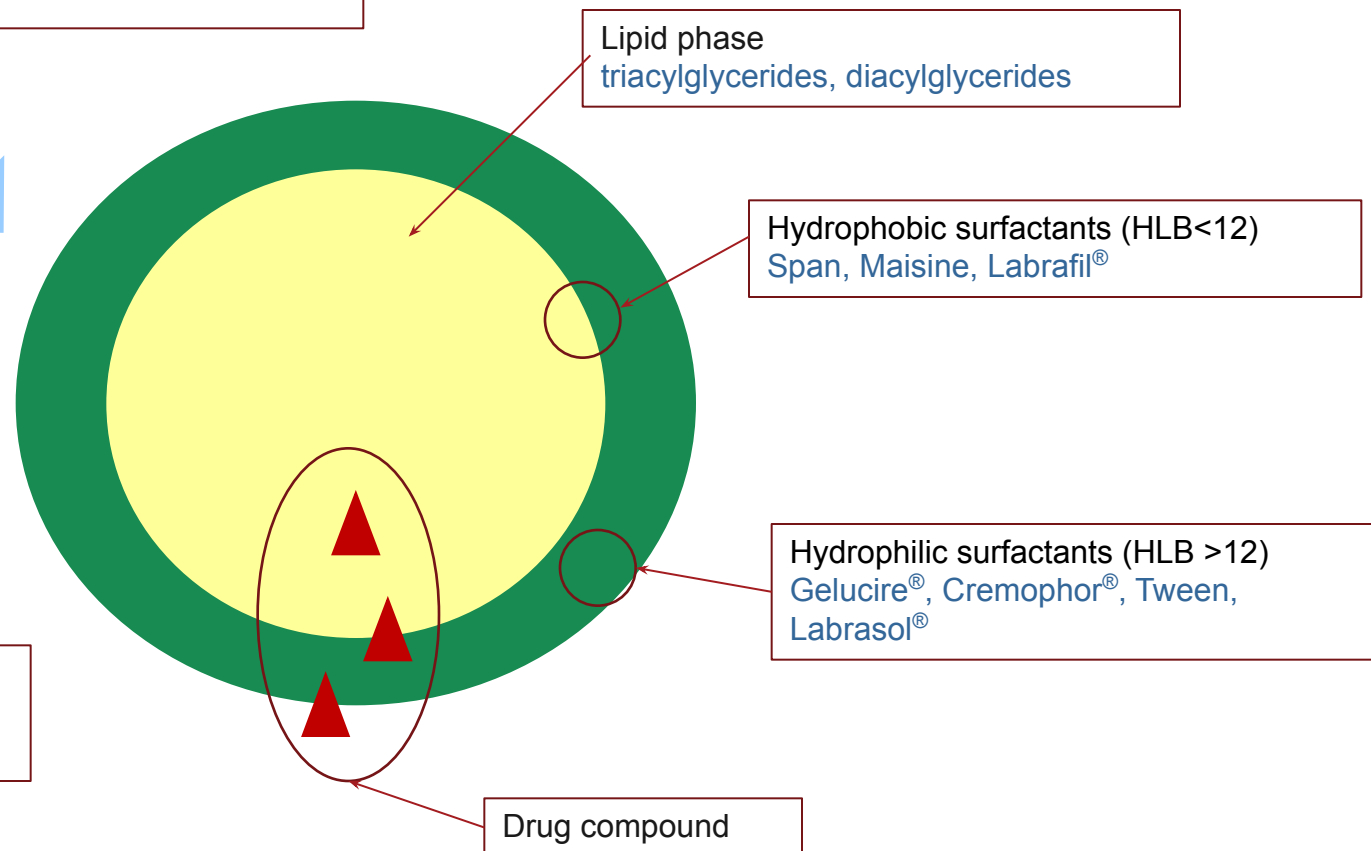
- Oil
- Hydrophilic Surfactants
- Co-surfactants (lipophilic)
- Co-solvent
- Drug

“SNEDDS are isotropic mixtures of oil and surfactants forming fine oil-in-water emulsions when introduced into water under gentle agitation”

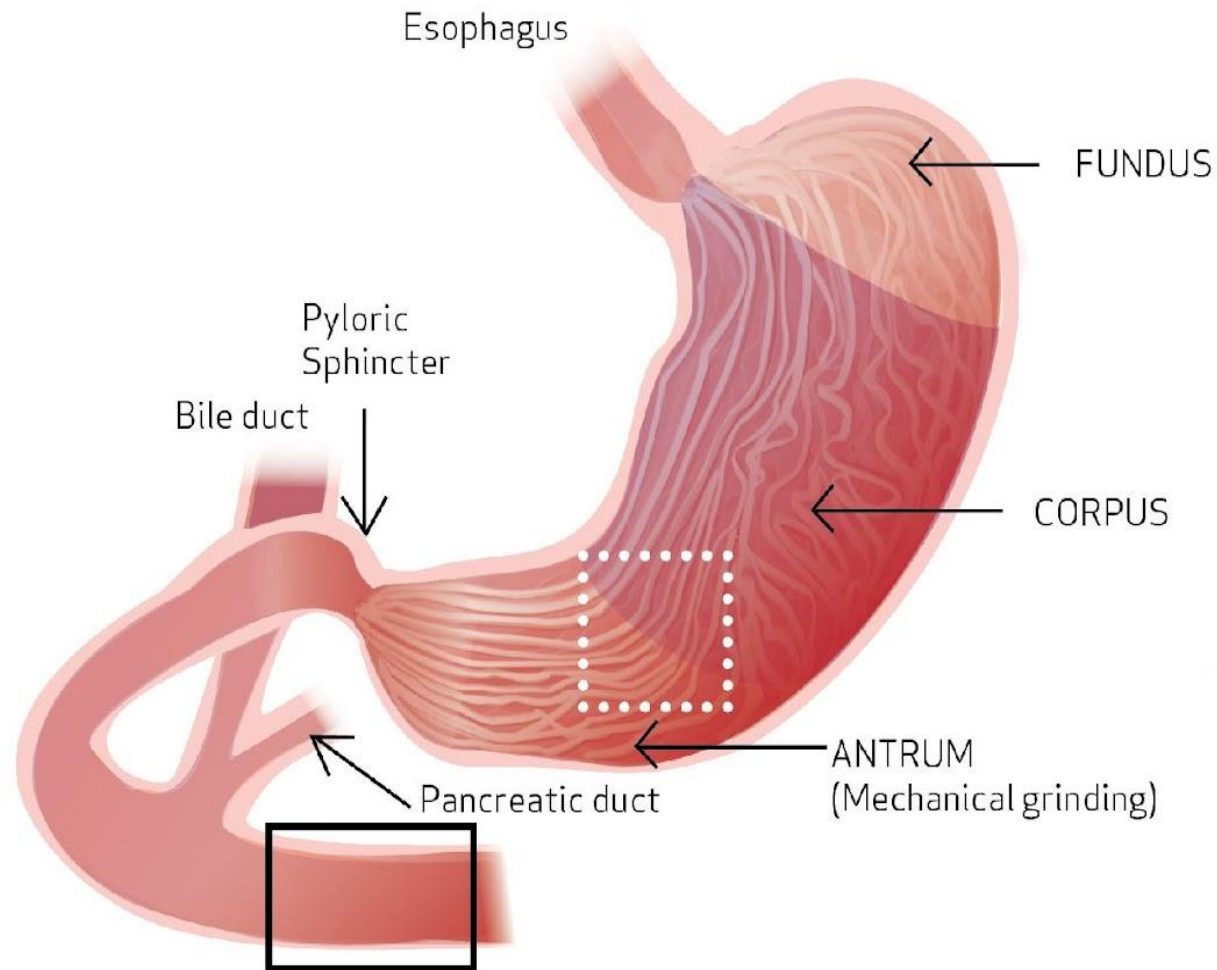
Dispersion
(not to scale!)



Hydrophilic co-solvents
ethanol, PEG,
propylene glycol, transcutol®



The Stomach



Gastric secretions:

Pepsin

Gastric Lipase

HCl

Mucins

Gastric content

Fasted state:

pH: 1.6 - 3

Vol: 25-75 ml

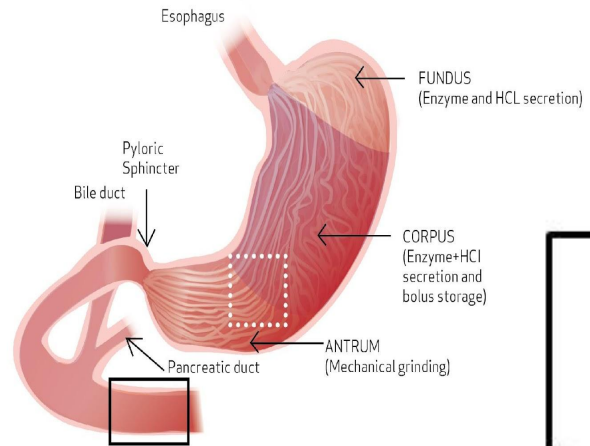
Fed state:

pH: Food dependent

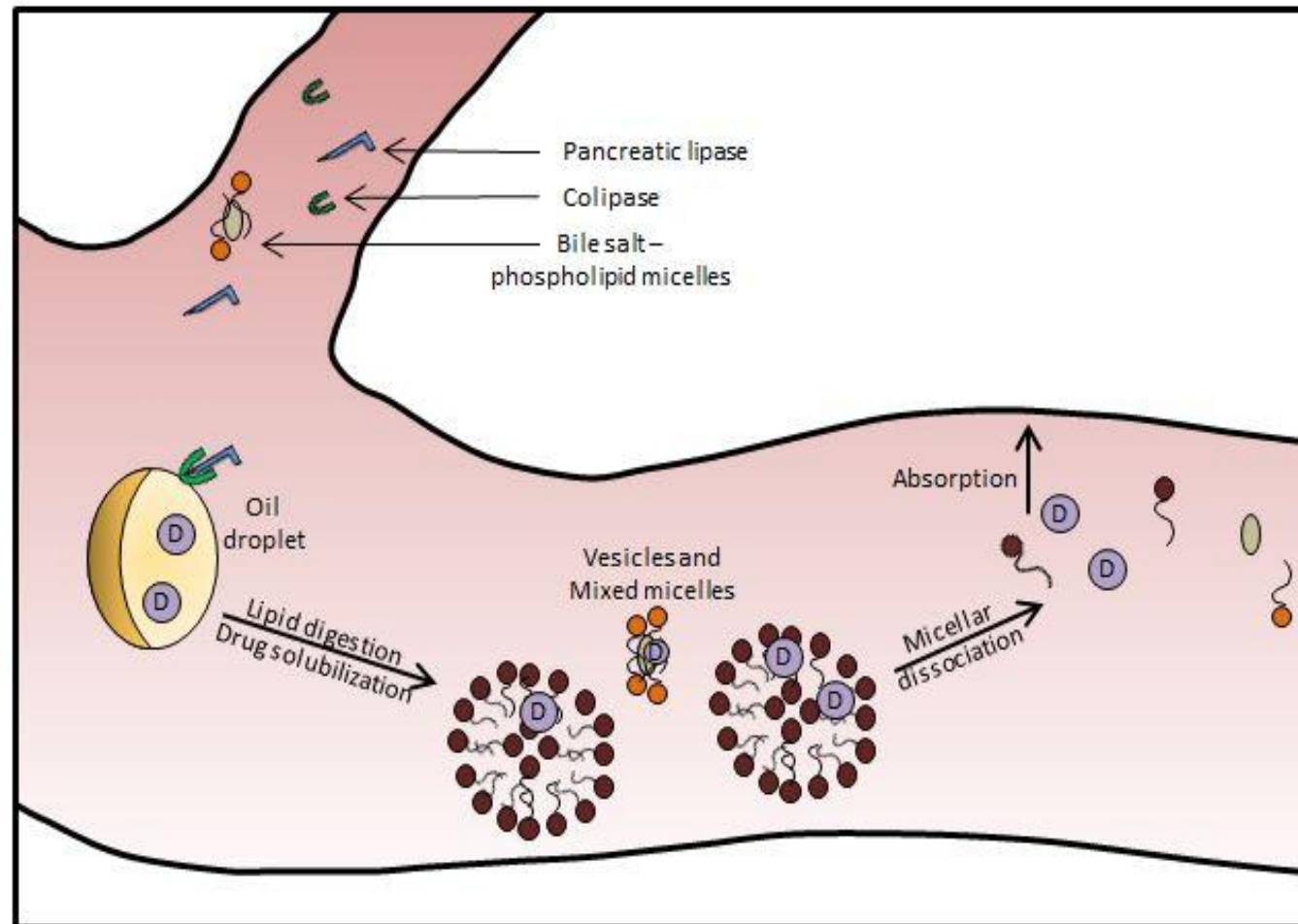
Vol: Food intake
dependent

Leaky container – releasing digested food
to the duodenum in a well controlled manner

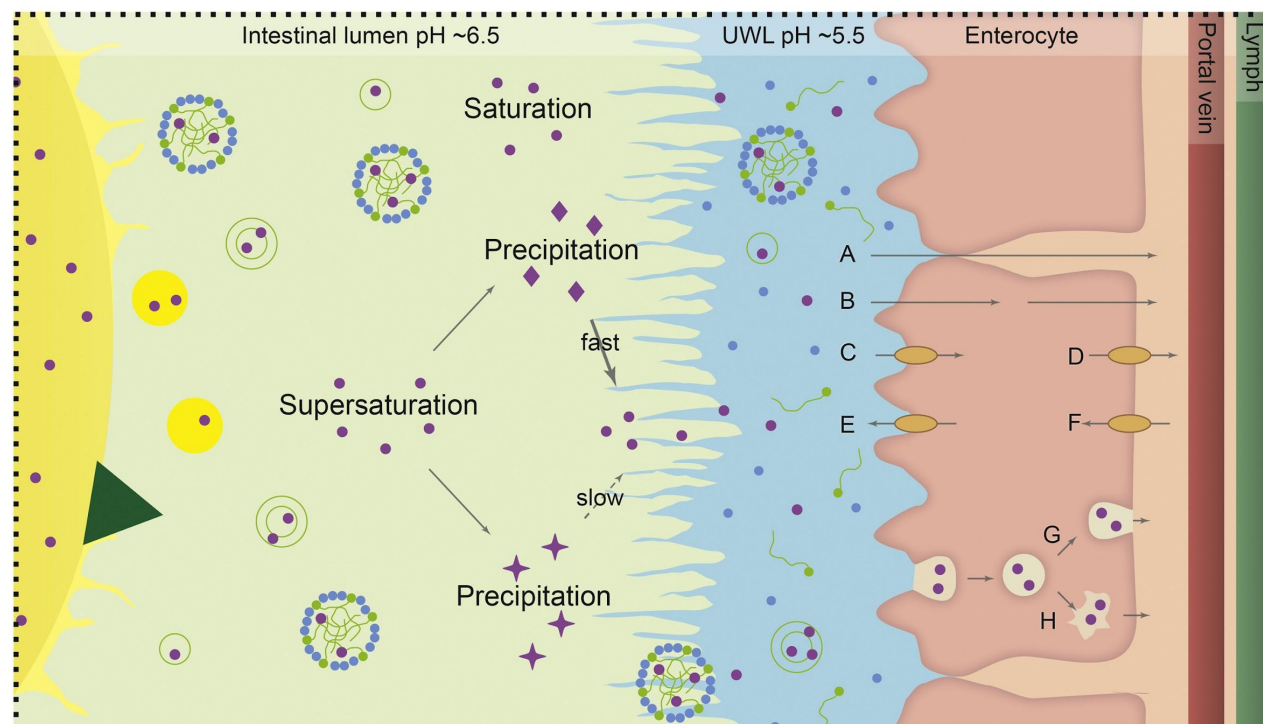
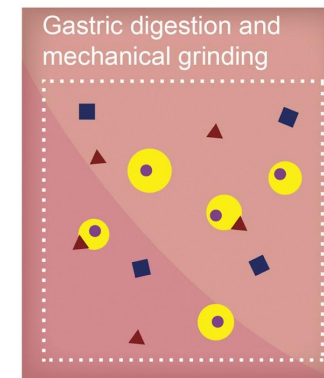
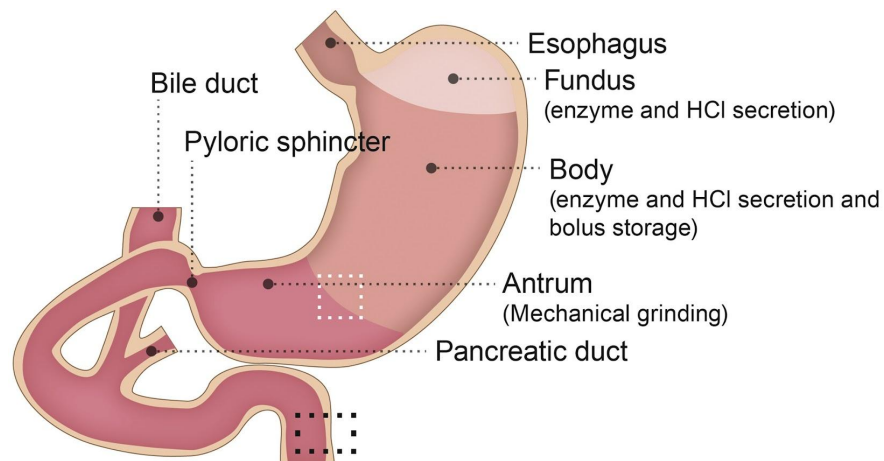
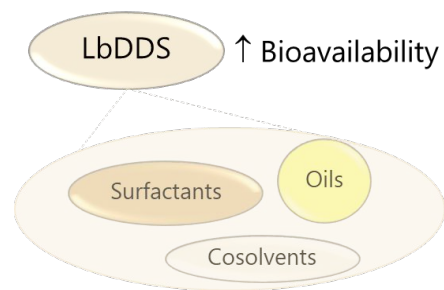
Digestion: Duodenum / Small Intestine



Bile & pancreatic duct



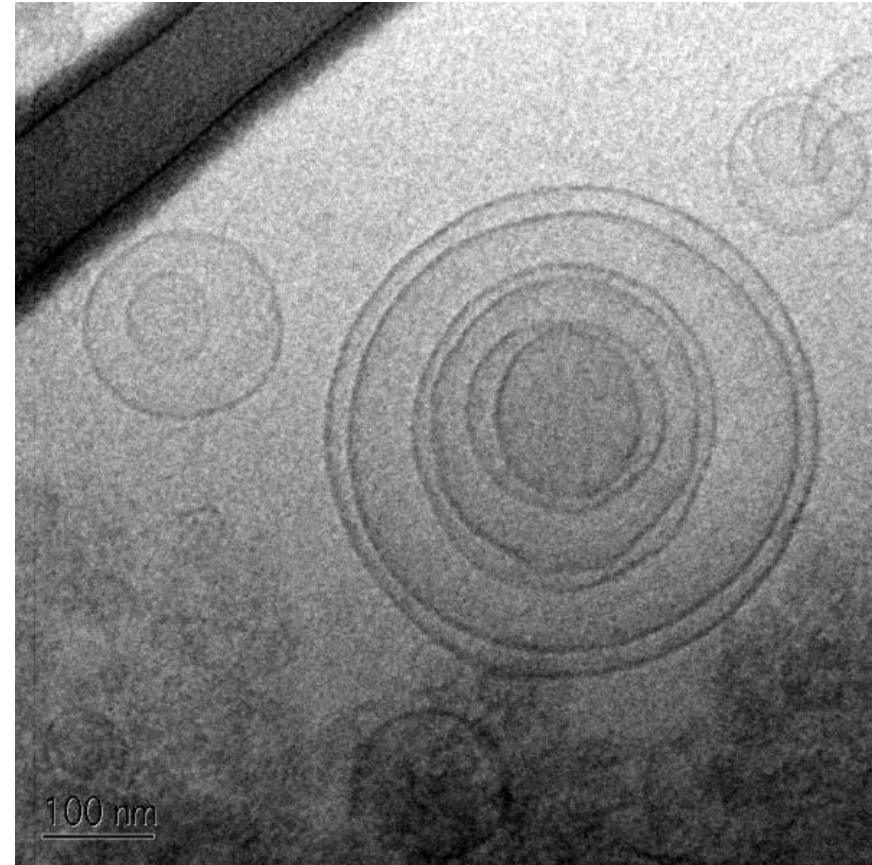
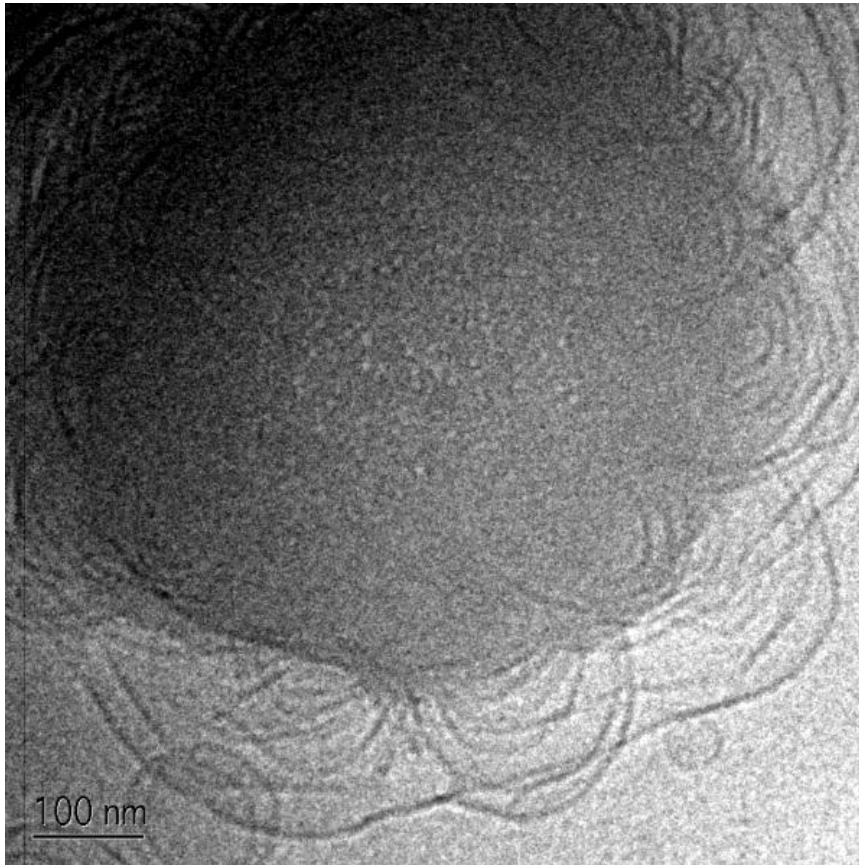
Absorption from Lipid Based Drug Delivery Systems



- Drug in solution
- ◆ Amorphous drug
- ✦ Crystalline drug
- Unilamellar vesicles
- ⊖ Multilamellar vesicles
- Oil droplet
- ▲ Gastric lipase
- ▲ Pancreatic enzymes
- Pepsin
- ⊕ Mixed micelles including BS, PL, cholesterol, MG, DG, TG and FA

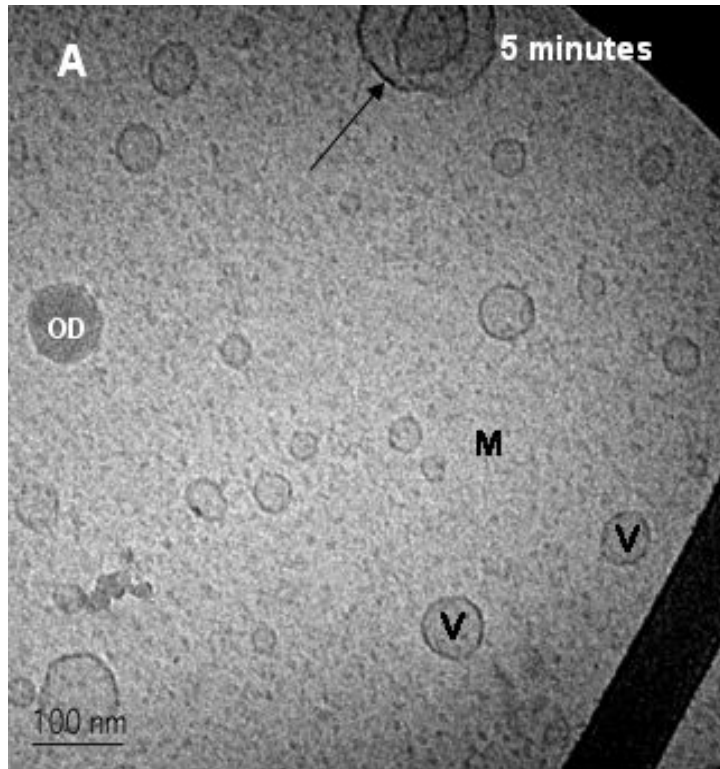
Human intestinal fluids

Fed state: 60 min after intake of an emulsion

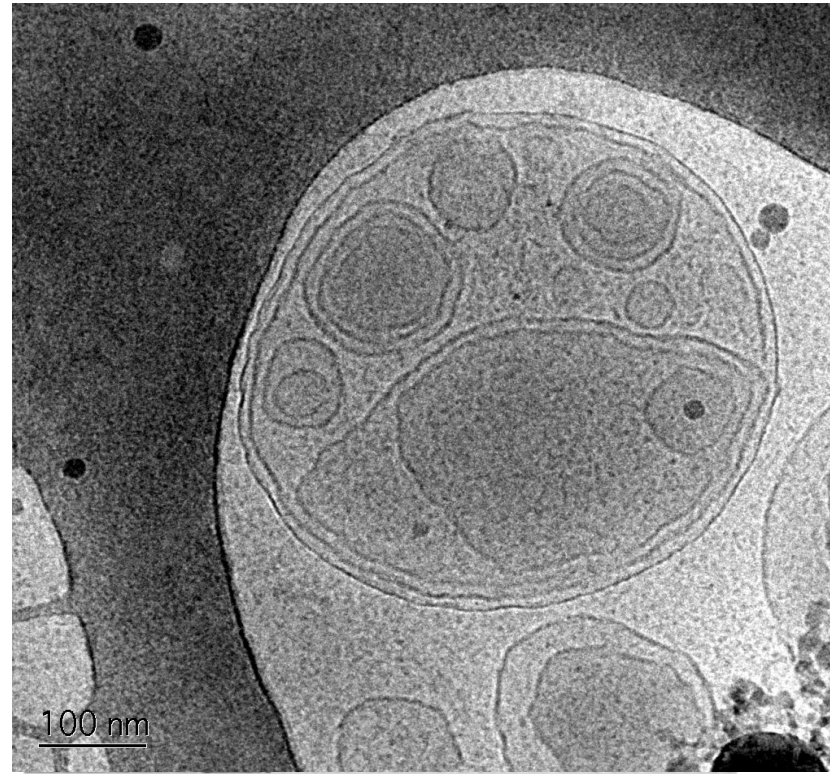


Cryo-TEM of Lipolysis media

Fasted state
5 mM BS / 1.25 mM PL

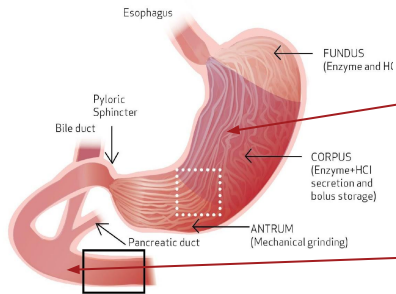


Fed state
20 mM BS / 5 mM PL



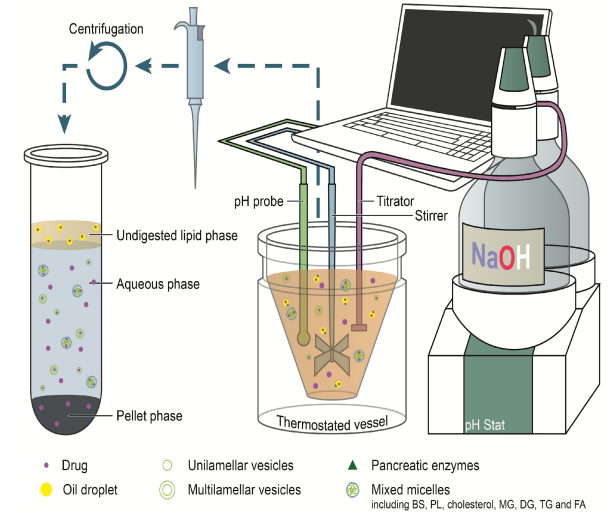
In vitro digestion (lipolysis) models

- simulating the gastro-intestinal tract



Including the stomach ?
Gastro-intestinal transfer ?

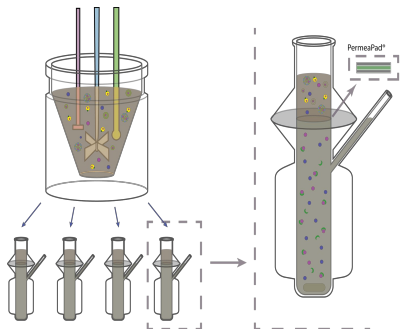
- Or only intestinal lipolysis ?



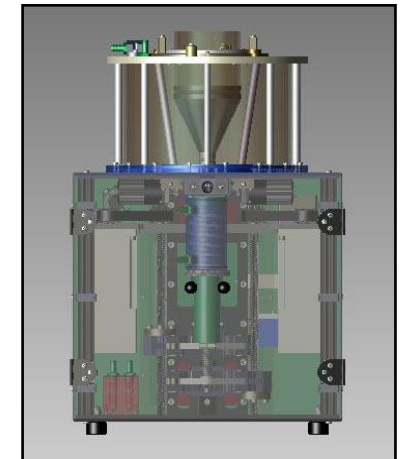
Simulating **special populations**: pediatrics, geriatrics – or inflammatory bowel disease

Simulating **gastric hydrodynamics** or emptying
(e.g. for entire dosage forms)?

Simulating **preclinical species**: Rats, dogs etc.



Including an **absorptive step** ?



Dynamic Gastric Model

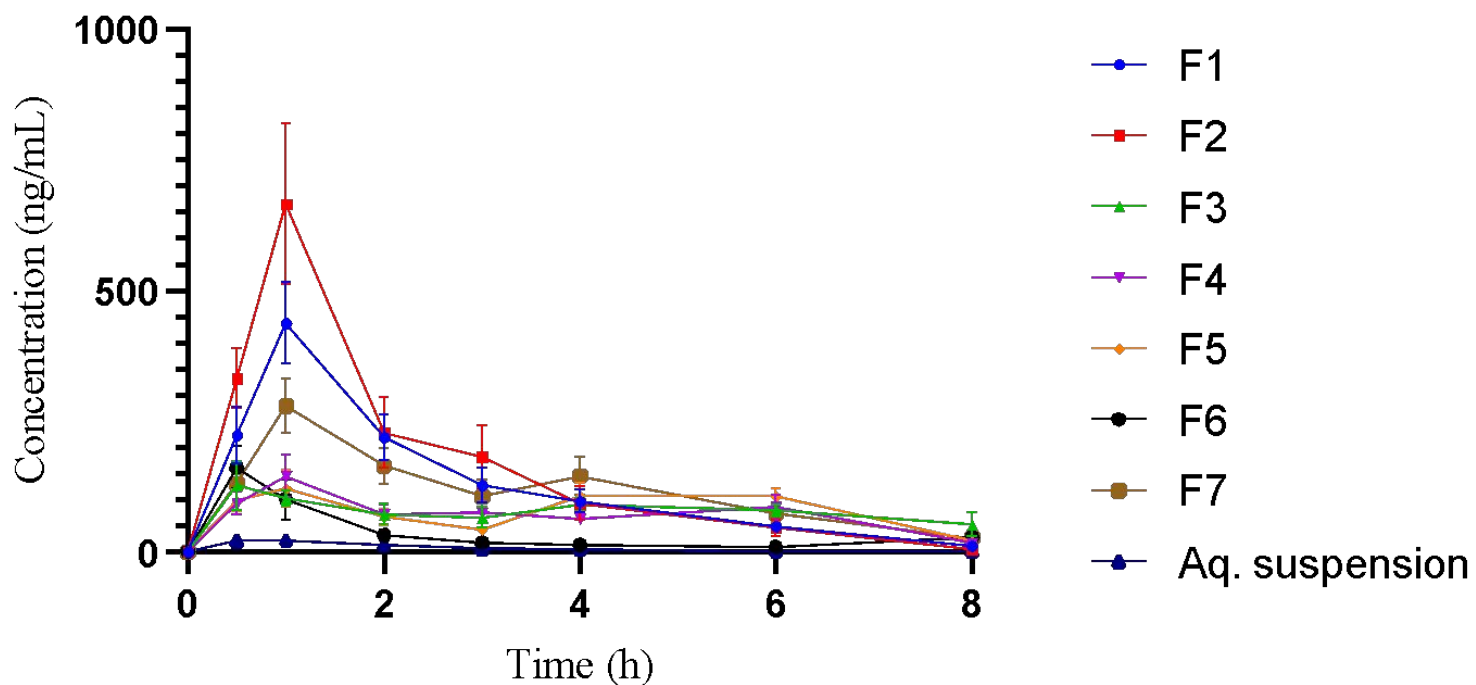
Case study - SNEDDS

In Vivo vs In Vitro

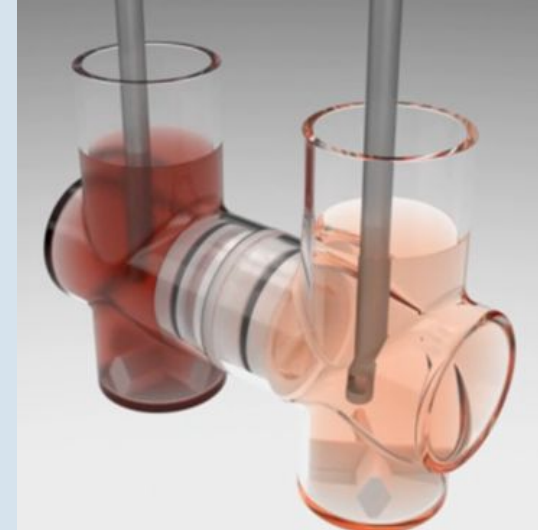


7 different SNEDDS – w. 80% drug load
– Oral gavage study in rats

$F2 > F1 > F7 > F3 = F4 = F5 = F6 > \text{Aq. Susp.}$

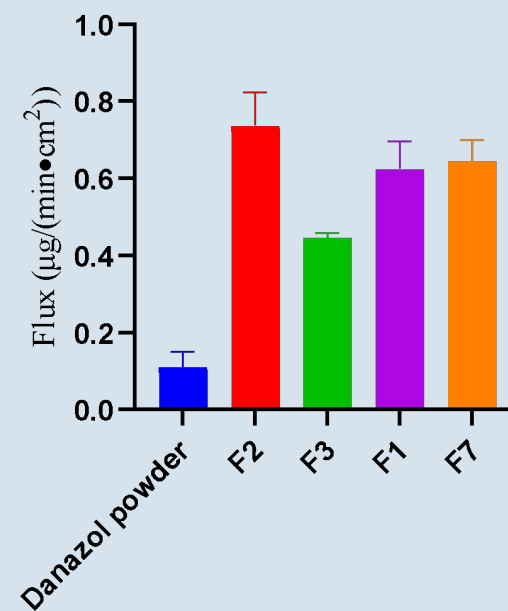


microFlux



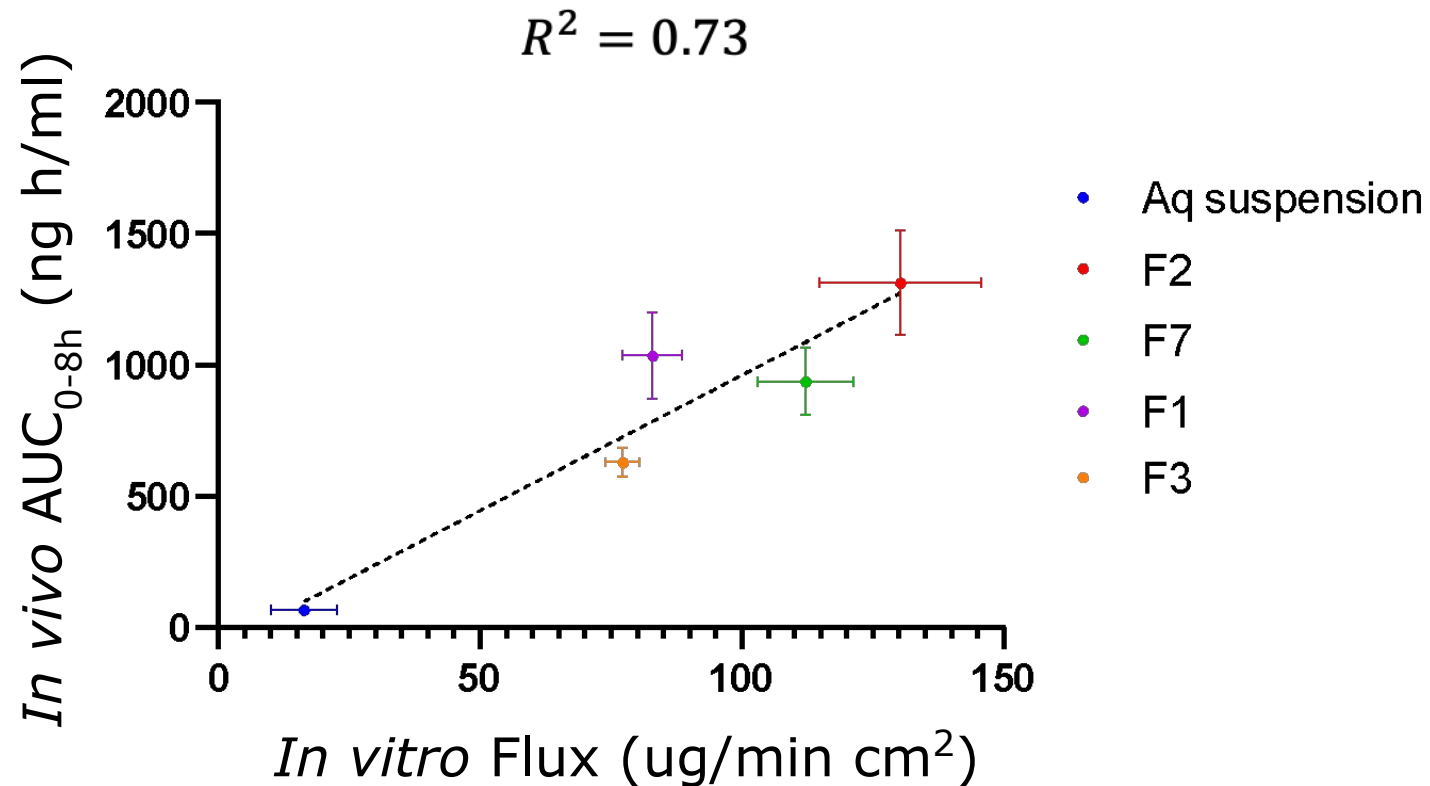
Donor: SNEDDS in
FaSSIF
PAMPA membrane
Receiver: 1% SLS

Flux

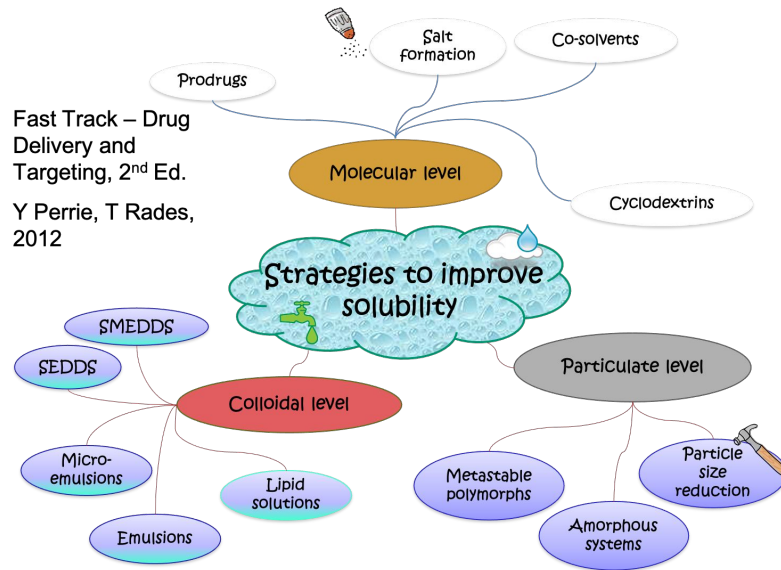


Case study - SNEDDS

In Vivo vs In Vitro



Good *in vivo in vitro* correlation



Enabling formulations
– what to use..... ?

SNEDDS or amorphous solid dispersions
(ASD)

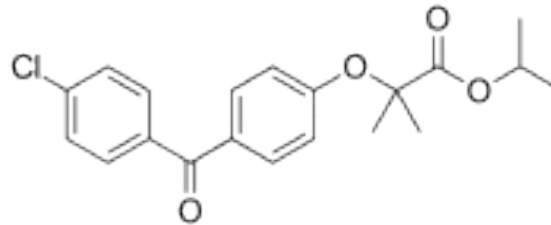
Fenofibrate

Comparison of SNEDDS and amorphous solid dispersions



Determination of fenofibrate solubility:

- In SNEDDS by HPLC
- In polymers by DSC
- and the Flory-Huggins model



Composition	%
Soybean oil	25.7
Maisine 35.1	27.5
Kolliphor RH40	35
EtOH	10

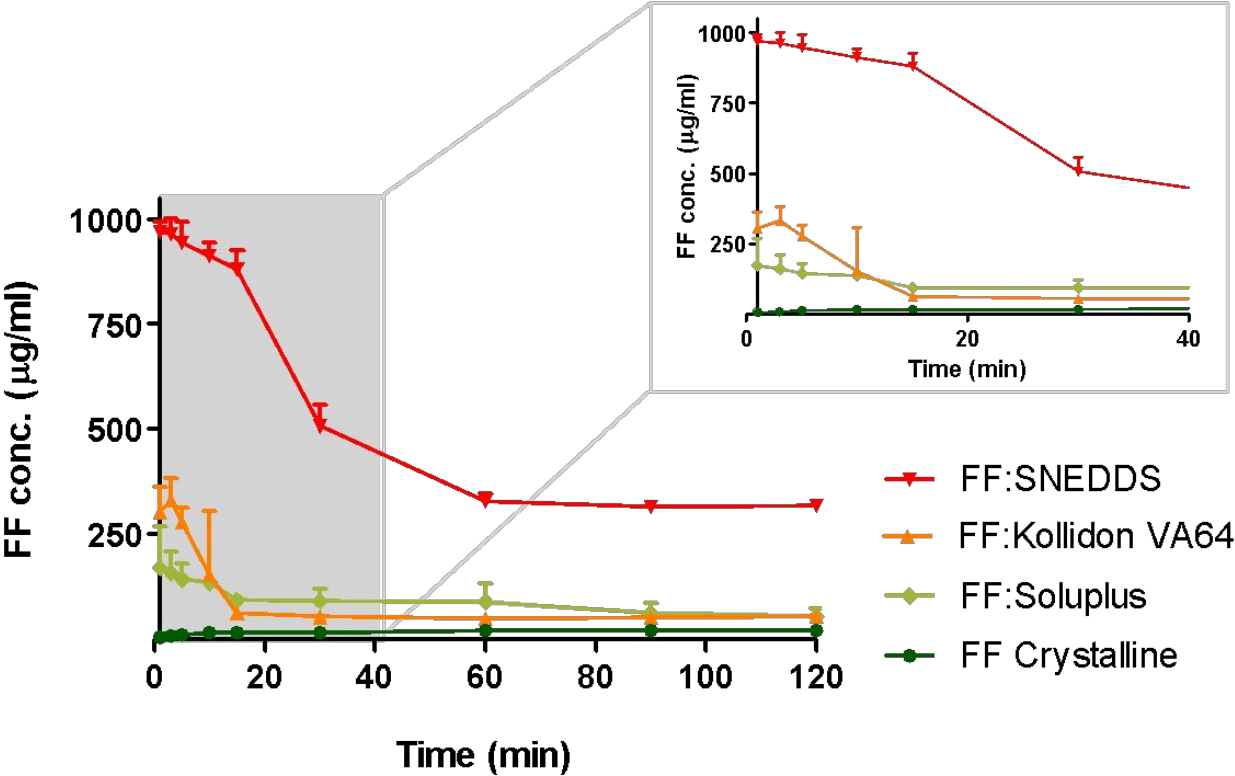
Fenofibrate selected
– due to rather similar solubility in excipients

Fenofibrate loaded to SNEDDS
at **85% of solubility**

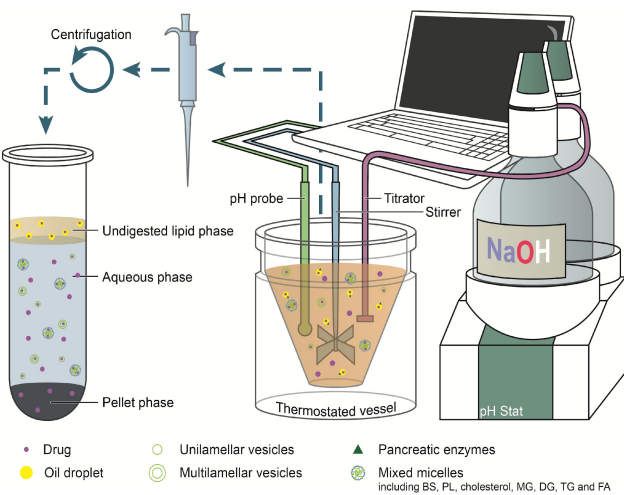
Fenofibrate solubility (mg/g)	
SNEDDS	62 ± 6
Kollidon VA64	42 (31.7-56.0)
Soluplus	43 (35.0-53.1)

Fenofibrate - *in vitro* lipolysis

Solubilisation of fenofibrate during lipolysis



Rat intestinal in vitro lipolysis



AUC - combination of dissolution rate and crystallization inhibition

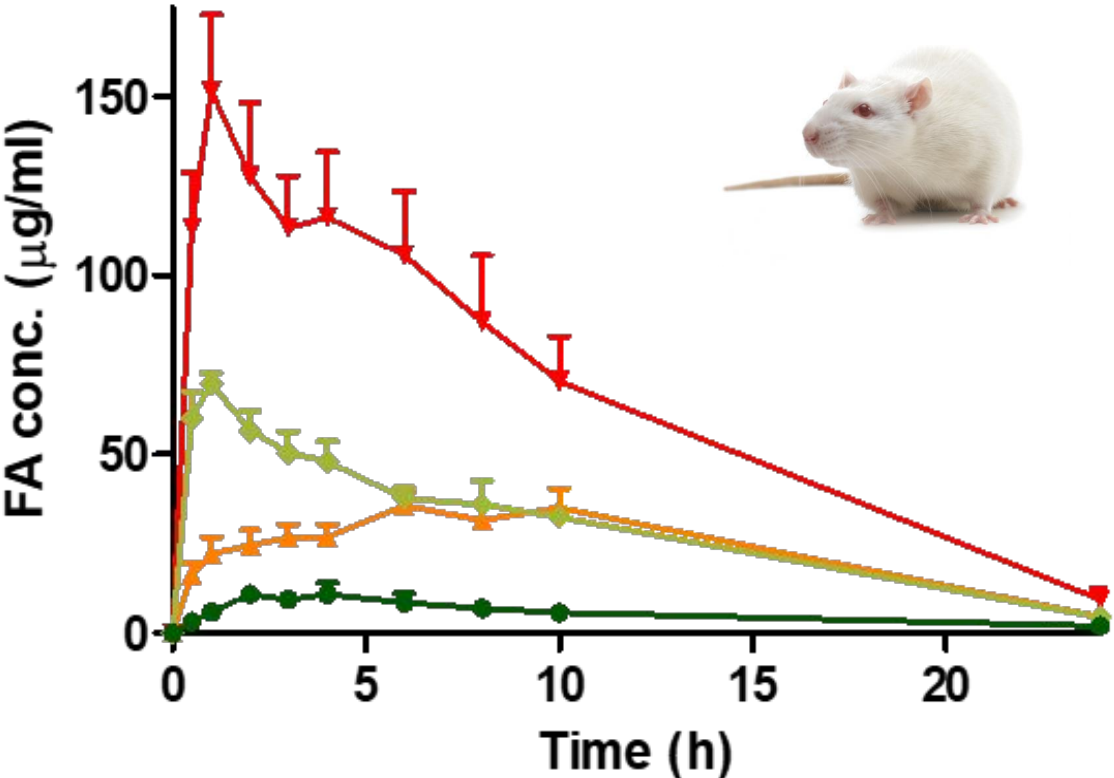
	AUC _{0-2h} (µg min ml ⁻¹)	Maximum conc. (µg ml ⁻¹)	Time to reach maximum conc. (min)
SNEDDS	5804 ± 282	969 ± 25	^a
Kollidon VA64	876 ± 85	330 ± 52	^a
Soluplus	1039 ± 240	158 ± 50	^a
Crystalline FF	227 ± 0	22 ± 1	120

^a Right after dosing the formulation in the vessel.

Fenofibrate - oral gavage PK study



30 mg/kg dosed
by oral gavage



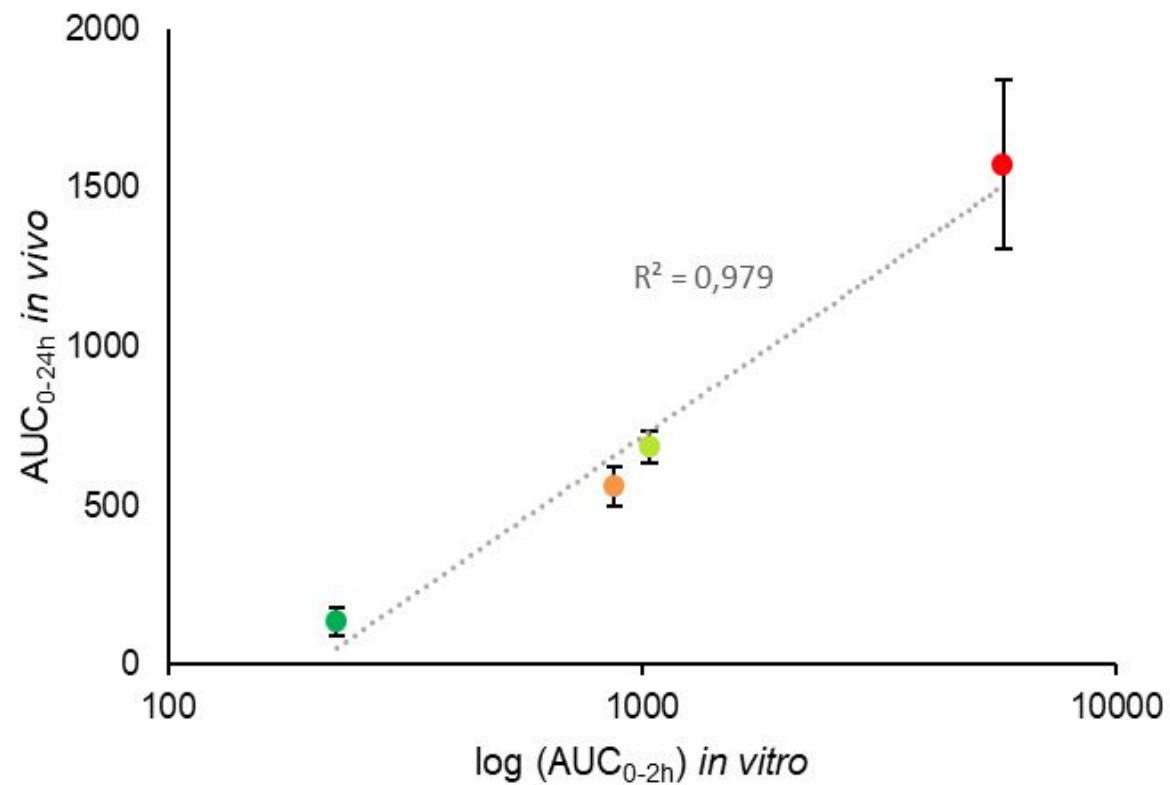
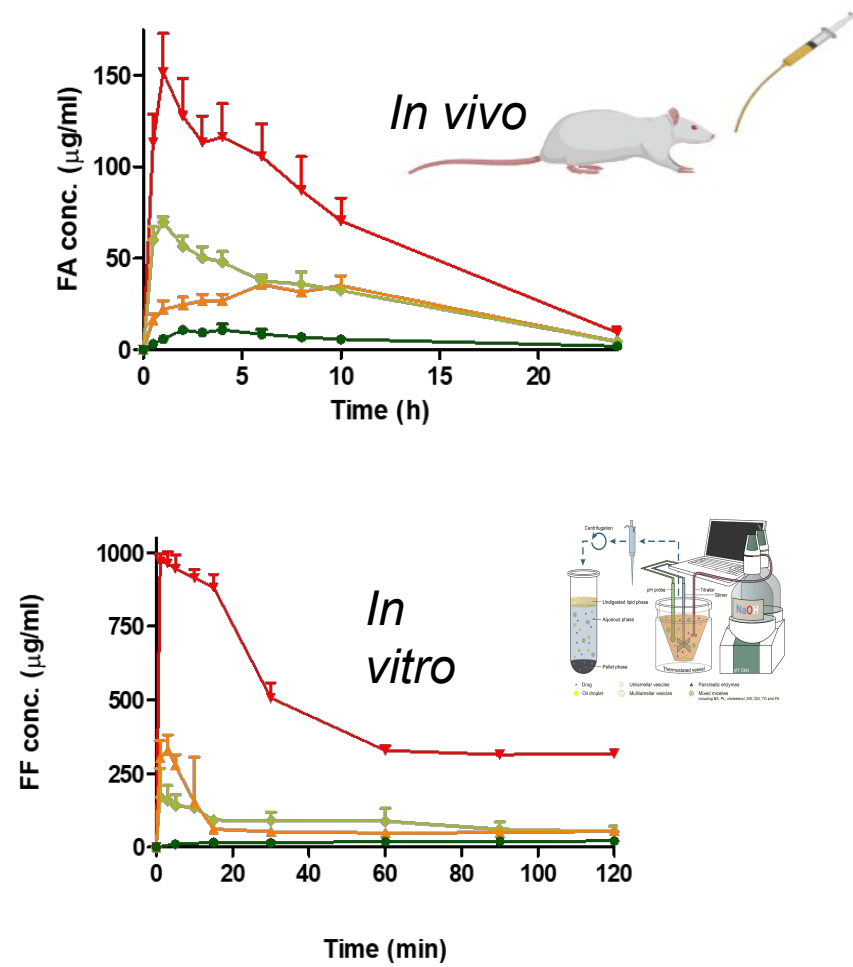
a)

Formulation s	T _{max} (h)	C _{max} (µg/ml)	AUC _{0-24h} (µg h/ml)
SNEDDS	1.3 ± 0.3	151.6 ± 47.2	1570 ± 265
Kollidon VA64	5.8 ± 1.3	35.5 ± 8.8	560 ± 63
Soluplus	1.0 ± 0.2	69.7 ± 7.4	684 ± 52
Crystalline FF	2.8 ± 0.4	10.9 ± 7.7	134 ± 44

AUC_{0-24h}: SNEDDS>Soluplus>Kollidon VA64
>Crystalline FF

T_{max} varied from 1.0 to 5.8 h

IVIV correlation



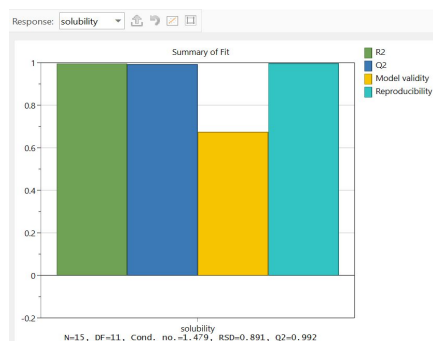
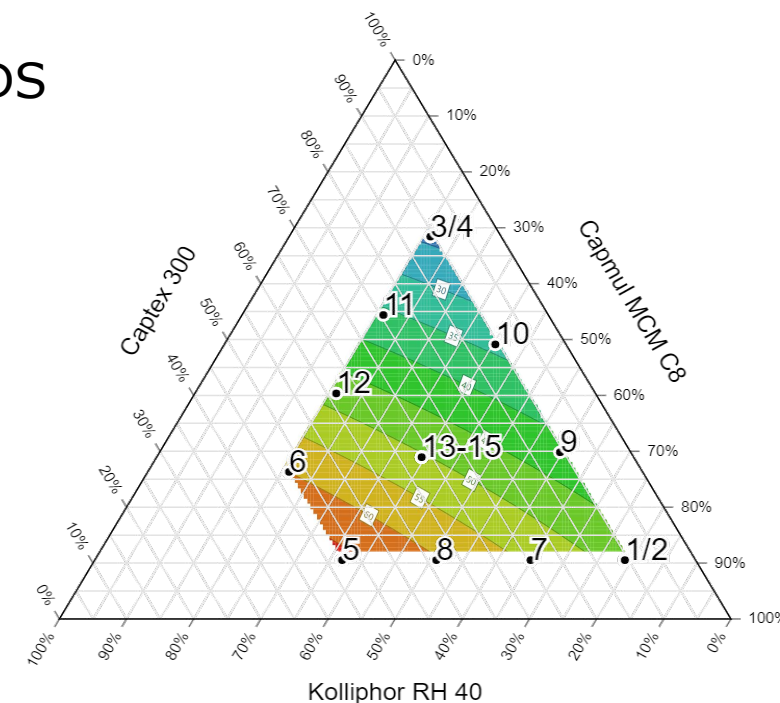
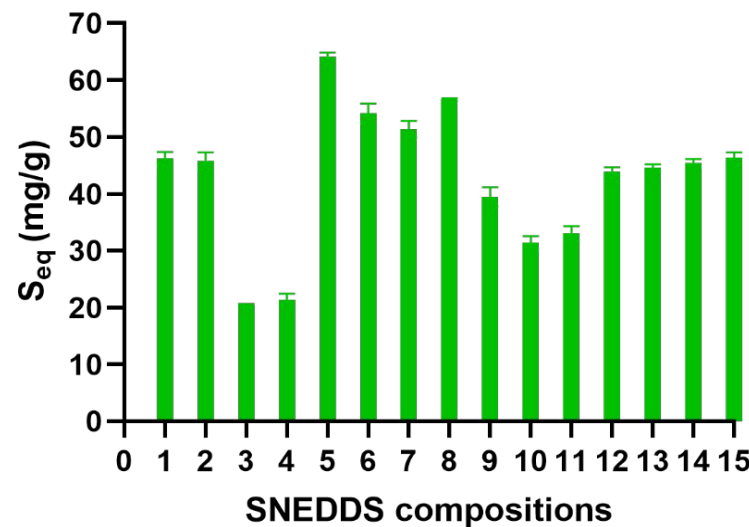
Good correlation between rat *in vivo* AUC and and *in vitro* lipolysis

Development Strategy – SNEDDS

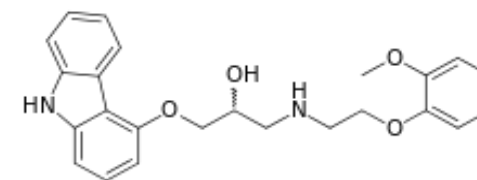
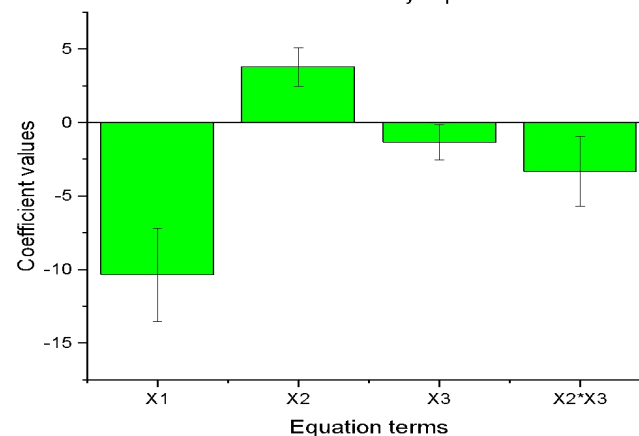
S_{eq} – carvedilol in SNEDDS (medium chain lipids & Kolliphor RH40)

SNEDDS compositions by DoE				
	MC-TG	Kolliphor RH40	MC MG/DG	Transcutol
1	0,1	0,1	0,75	0,05
2	0,1	0,1	0,75	0,05
3	0,65	0,1	0,2	0,05
4	0,65	0,1	0,2	0,05
5	0,1	0,5	0,35	0,05
6	0,25	0,5	0,2	0,05
7	0,1	0,23	0,62	0,05
8	0,1	0,37	0,48	0,05
9	0,28	0,1	0,57	0,05
10	0,47	0,1	0,38	0,05
11	0,52	0,23	0,2	0,05
12	0,38	0,37	0,2	0,05
13	0,275	0,3	0,375	0,05
14	0,275	0,3	0,375	0,05
15	0,275	0,3	0,375	0,05

Solubility (S_{eq}) in each SNEDDS



Solubility equilibrium



Equilibrium solubility:

- Kolliphor RH40 increases
- MCT decreases

Cases - Development of SNEDDS - and predictive in vitro models

Traditionally:

API in solution at 70-80% of SNEDDS solubility

BUT:

Solubility of API in SNEDDS is often LOW!

SO:

What about **supersaturation** etc.....?



super-SNEDDS preparation

prepare SNEDDS by mixing lipid, surfactant, cosolvent

add drug **above** s_{eq} (150%)

suspension

heating
cycle



3 h at 60°
C

cooling
cycle



overnight at
37°C

**supersaturated
solution**

**super-SN
EDDS**

in vitro characterisation
physical stability

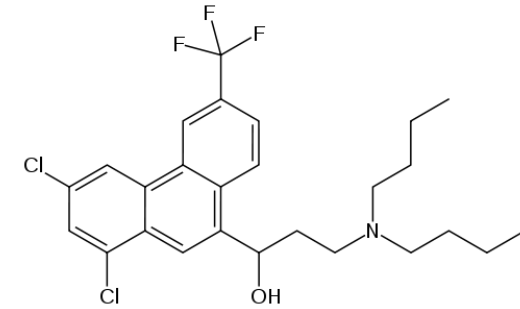
Physical & chemical stability
in focus
To be considered upon dosing



Halofantrine Super-SNEDDS

- Antimalarial drug: $pK_a \approx 9$, $\log P \approx 8.5$, BCS II
 - MC-SNEDDS: 28.2 mg HAL (75%); 1x, 2x
 - MC-super-SNEDDS: 56.4 mg HAL (150%); 1x
- Polarised light microscopy (PLM):
 - no drug crystals in MC-Super-SNEDDS detected
 - Stability > 8 months (25°C) in glass vials

Excipient	MC
Captex 300	18.3
Capmul MCM	36.7
Cremophor	35
RH40	
Ethanol	10



S-SNEDDS (200%)
day 0



S-SNEDDS (200%)
after 8 months



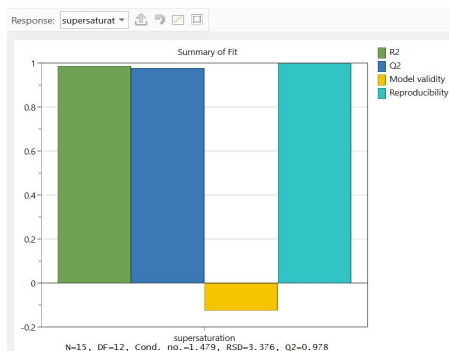
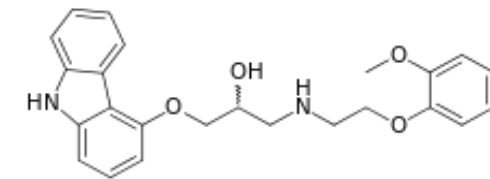
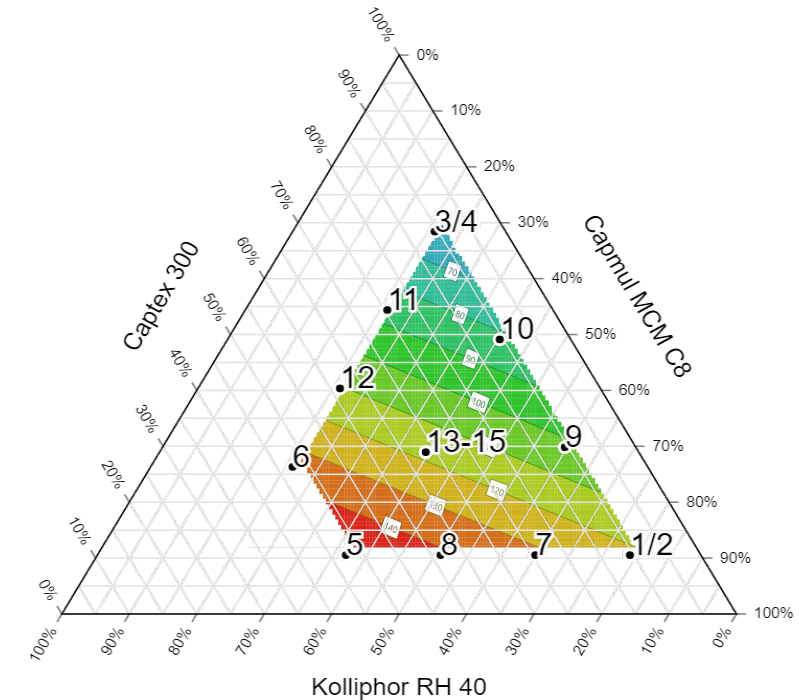
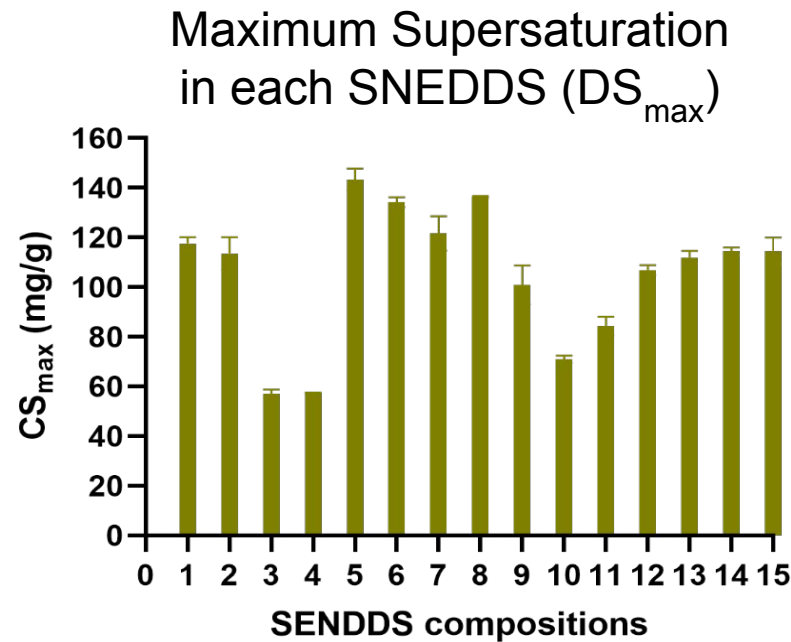
Spiked SNEDDS

Chemical stability:

97% of declared HAL content after 5 months storage at 25°C of MC-super-SNEDDS

SNEDDS Excipient impact on absolute supersaturation - carvedilol

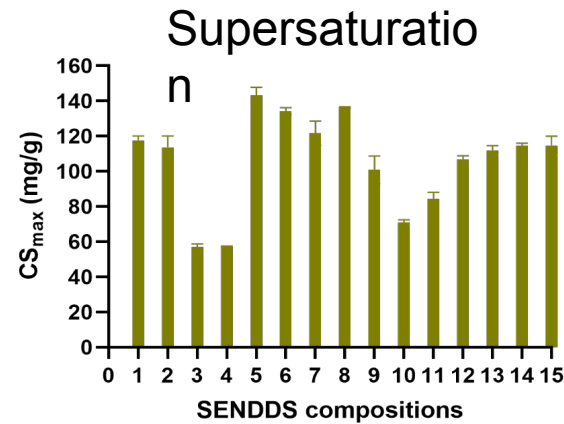
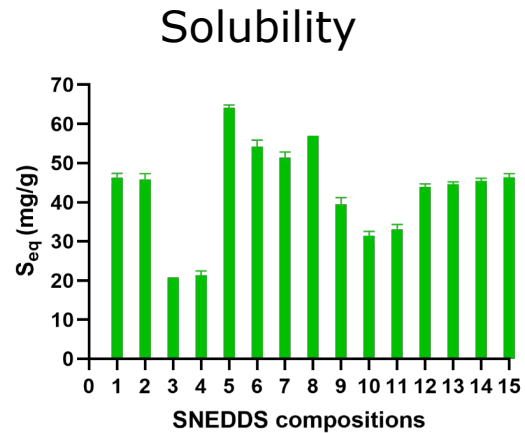
SNEDDS compositions by DoE				
	MC-TG	Kolliphor RH40	MC MG/DG	Transcutol
1	0,1	0,1	0,75	0,05
2	0,1	0,1	0,75	0,05
3	0,65	0,1	0,2	0,05
4	0,65	0,1	0,2	0,05
5	0,1	0,5	0,35	0,05
6	0,25	0,5	0,2	0,05
7	0,1	0,23	0,62	0,05
8	0,1	0,37	0,48	0,05
9	0,28	0,1	0,57	0,05
10	0,47	0,1	0,38	0,05
11	0,52	0,23	0,2	0,05
12	0,38	0,37	0,2	0,05
13	0,275	0,3	0,375	0,05
14	0,275	0,3	0,375	0,05
15	0,275	0,3	0,375	0,05



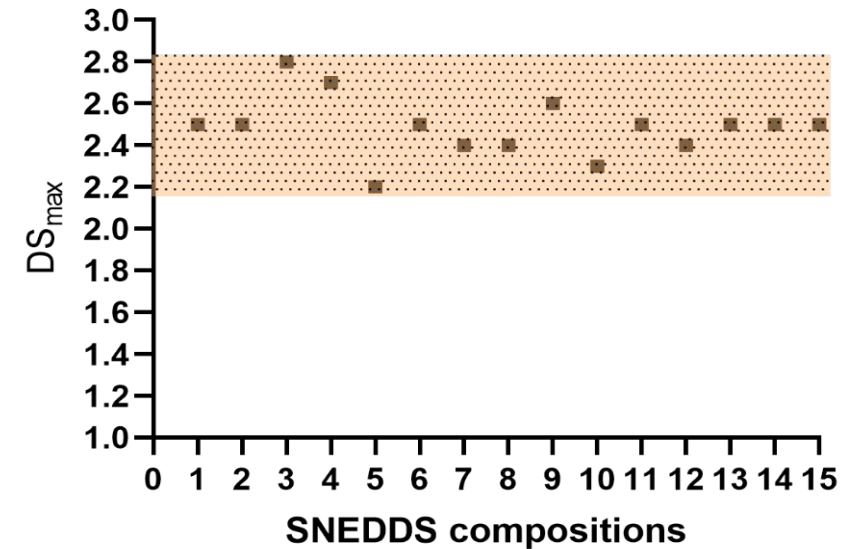
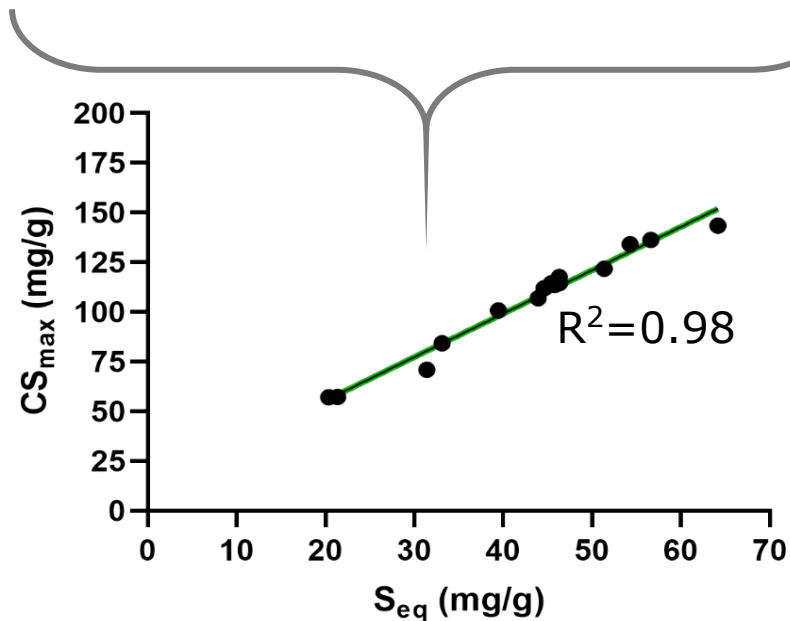
- Maximum Supersaturation
- RH40 & MC MG/DG increases
 - MC-TG decreases

SNEDDS Excipient impact on absolute supersaturation – carvedilol

Comparing solubility and supersaturation



S_{eq} and DS_{max} are correlating



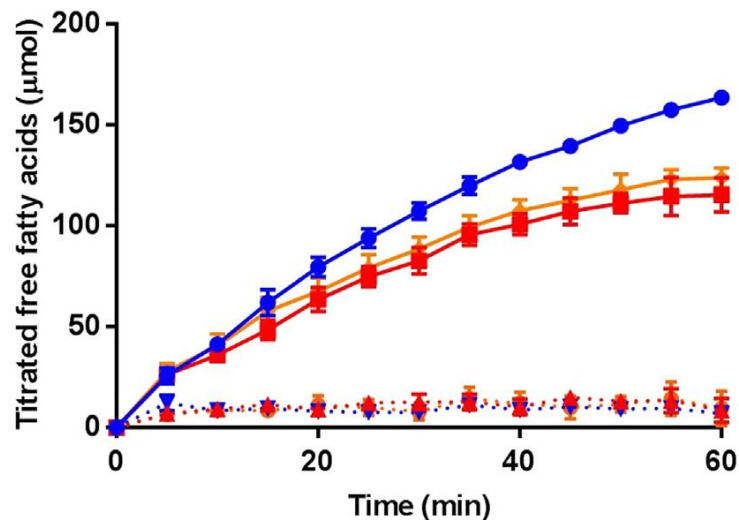
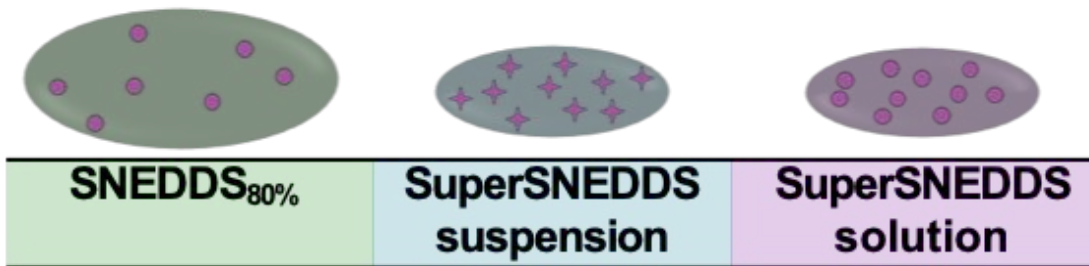
RSD%= 5.5%

The "preferred" preclinical species – the rat

Aims / research questions:

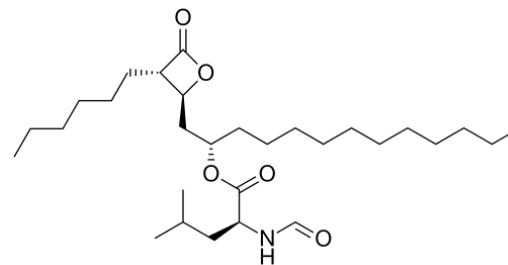
1. Does the SUPERSATURATION principle work?
2. How important is DIGESTION for absorption from SNEDDS?

Model drug: Fenofibrate



Tool: **Orlistat** (tetrahydrolipstatin)

- Lipase inhibitor – lipid soluble
- Can be incorporated into SNEDDS (up to 10%)

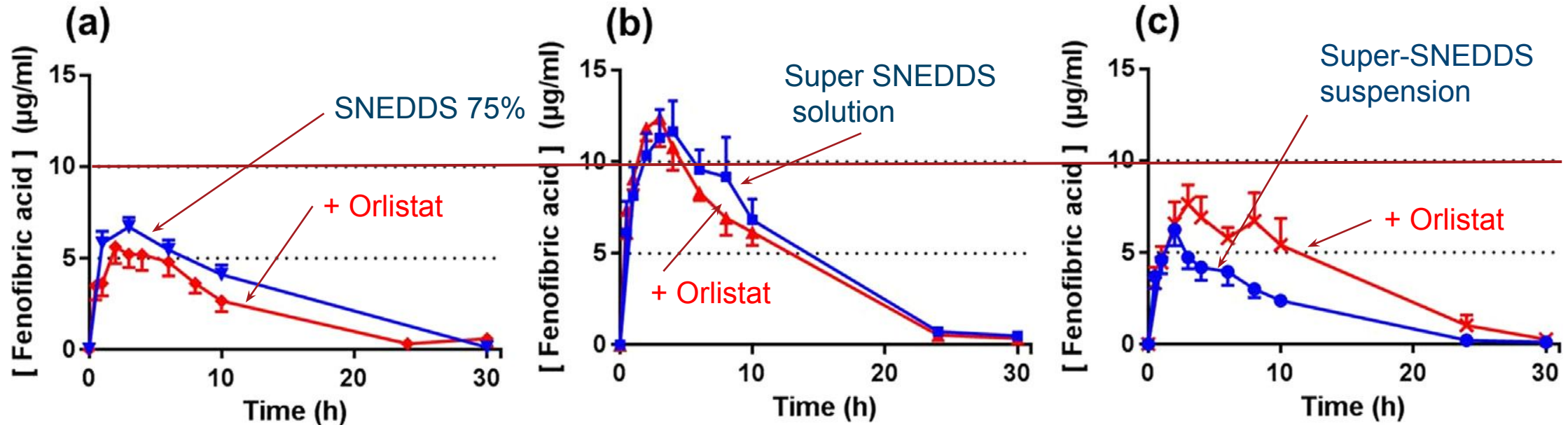


Michaelsen et al. AAPS J 2019

Excipient	%
Soybean oil	27.5
Maisine 35-1	27.5
Kolliphor RH40	35
Ethanol	10

Case study: Fenofibrate (Rats, 8 mg/kg)

SNEDDS approaches with & without Orlistat – in vivo PK data



Compared to SNEDDS 75%:

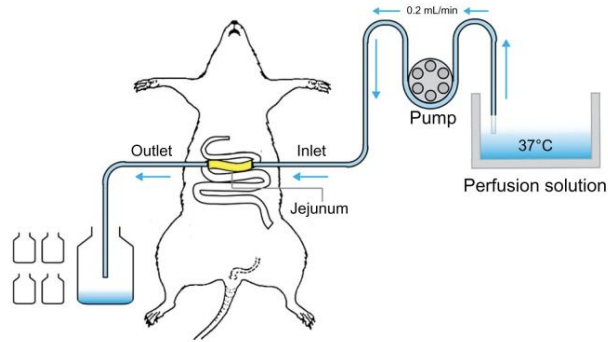
- Super-SNEDDS solution → AUC ↑
- Super-SNEDDS suspension → AUC →

Lipolysis needed
for drug absorption?

Orlistat:

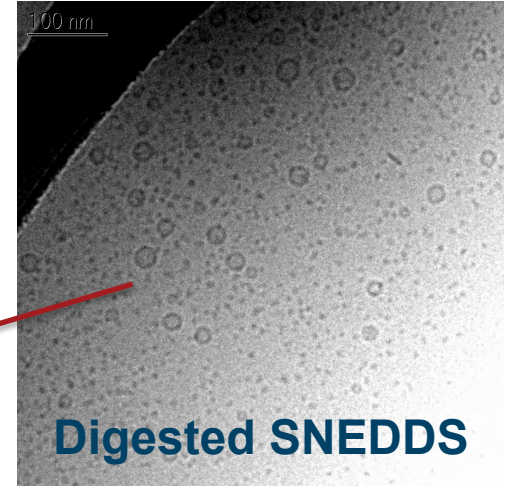
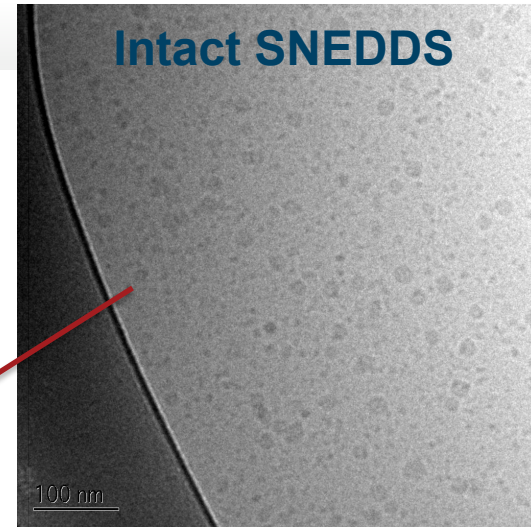
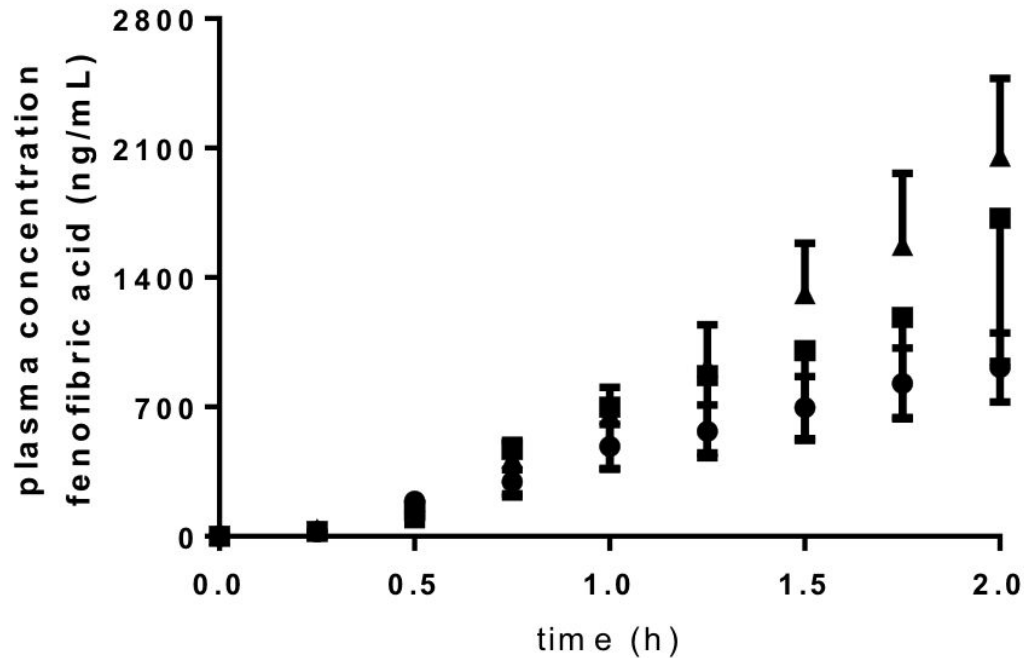
- SNEDDS 75% & Super-SNEDDS solution → AUC →
- Super-SNEDDS suspension → AUC ↑

Intestinal perfusion in rats



Digested SNEDDS:
Sesame oil replaced by fatty acids : monoglyceride (2:1) with the same fatty acid composition

Model drug:
Fenofibrate / Fenofibric acid



Excipient	SNEDDS
Sesame oil	20.6
Oleic acid	15.4
Cremophor RH40	45
Brij 97	9
Ethanol	10

Supersaturation and lipid drug delivery

	Halofantrin	Simvastatin	Cinnarizine	Danazol	Fenofibrate	R3040	Carvedilol	Loratidine
Phys chem	Weak base LogP 8 pKa 6.9	Neutral LogP 4.6	Weak base LogP 5.8 pKa ₁ 2.7 pKa ₂ 7.5	Neutral LogP 4.5	Neutral LogP 4.6	Neutral LogP	Weak base LogP 8 pKa 6.9	Weak base LogP 3.9 pKa 5.3
Supersaturation in oil (preconcentrate)	Yes (10 month)	Yes (10 month)	Short-term	Yes (days)	Short-term	Yes	?	?
Supersaturation during lipolysis	No	Yes (possibly)	No	Yes	?	No	?	?
Precipitate during lipolysis	amorphous	amorphous	amorphous	crystalline	crystalline	amorphous	amorphous	amorphous
Super-SNEDDS Increase BA compared to SNEDDS	Yes	Yes	No	?	Yes	=	?	?
Chasing Principle works ?	No	?	Yes	Yes	?	No	?	?

Supersaturation and lipid drug delivery

	Halofantrin	Simvastatin	Cinnarizine	Danazol	Fenofibrate	R3040	Carvedilol	Loratidine
Phys chem	Weak base LogP 8 pKa 6.9	Neutral LogP 4.6	Weak base LogP 5.8 pKa ₁ 2.7 pKa ₂ 7.5	Neutral LogP 4.5	Neutral LogP 4.6	Neutral LogP	Weak base LogP 8 pKa 6.9	Weak base LogP 3.9 pKa 5.3
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Precipitate during lipolysis	amorphous	amorphous	amorphous	crystalline	crystalline	amorphous	amorphous	amorphous
Super-SNEDDS Increase BA compared to SNEDDS	Yes	Yes	No	?	Yes	=	?	?
Chasing Principle works ?	No	?	Yes	Yes	?	No	?	?

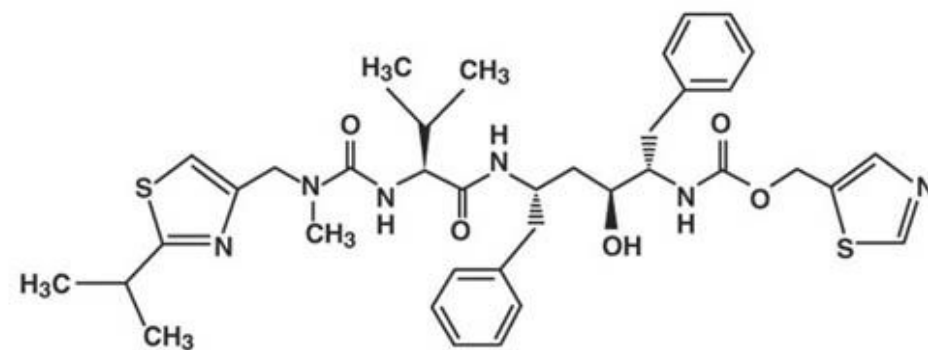
Other ways of increasing the dose in SNEDDS.... ?

SuperSNEDDS, polymers and amorphous solid dispersions
(ASD)

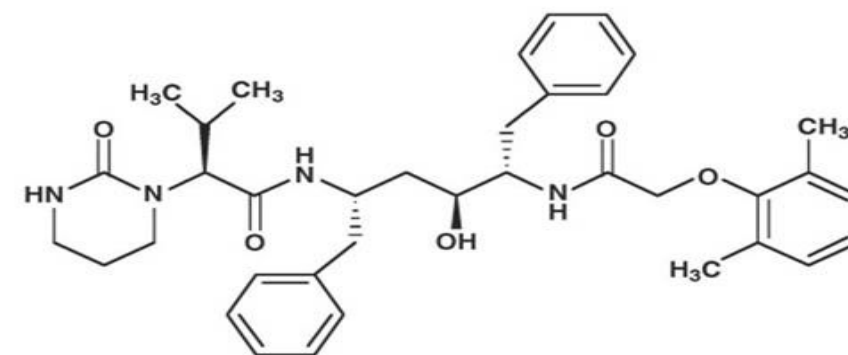
Model drugs

Physiochemical properties:

	Ritonavir	Lopinavir
Formula	$C_{37}H_{48}N_6O_5S_2$	$C_{37}H_{48}N_4O_5$
MW(g/mol)	720.95	628.8
Log P	3.9	5.9
Aqueous solubility at 25°C (µg/mL)	3	7
T _m °C	122.3	96
T _g °C	50	70
pKa	2.8	-
ΔH (Kcal/mol)	4.3	-3.8

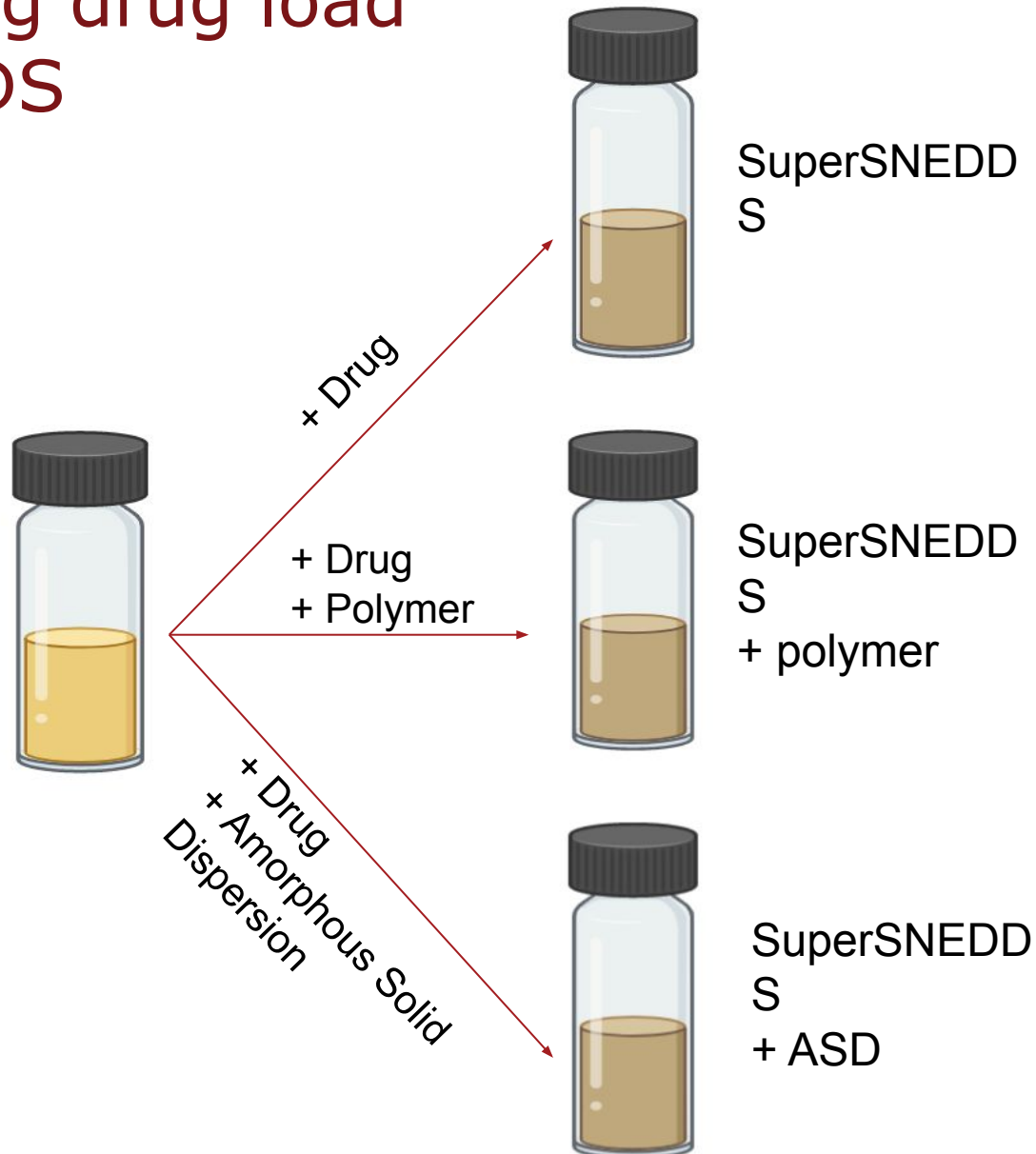


ritonavir



lopinavir

Increasing drug load in SNEDDS



Polymers:

Precipitation inhibitors

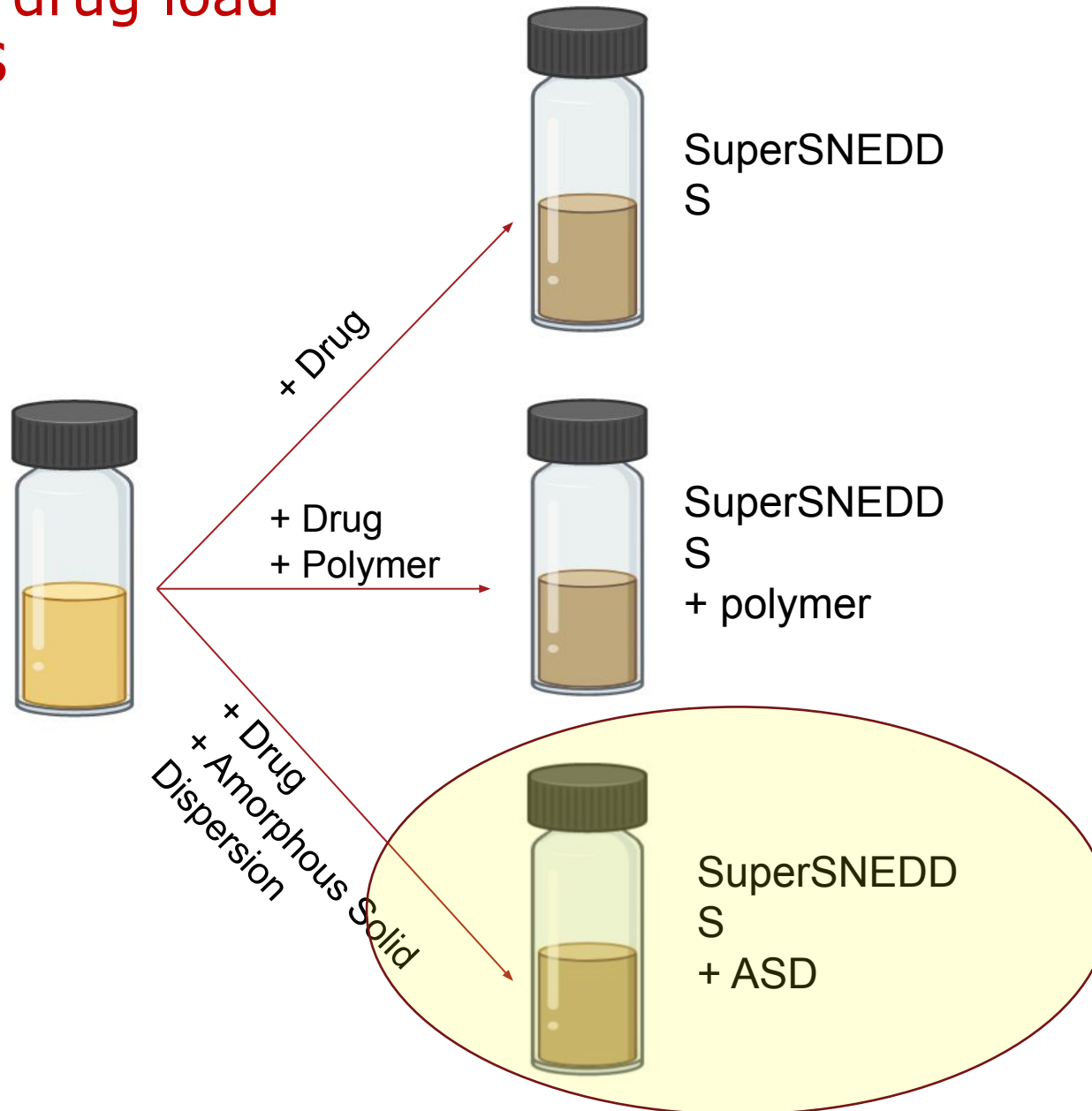
- in SNEDDS and dispersion

Effect on solubility in

SNEDDS?

- Degree of supersaturation
- Stability
- In vitro lipolysis
- In vivo pharmacokinetics

Increasing drug load in SNEDDS



Polymers:

Precipitation inhibitors

- in SNEDDS and dispersion

Effect on solubility in

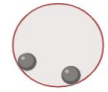
SNEDDS?

- Degree of supersaturation
- Stability
- In vitro lipolysis
- In vivo pharmacokinetics

Ritonavir - amorphous solid dispersion (ASD)

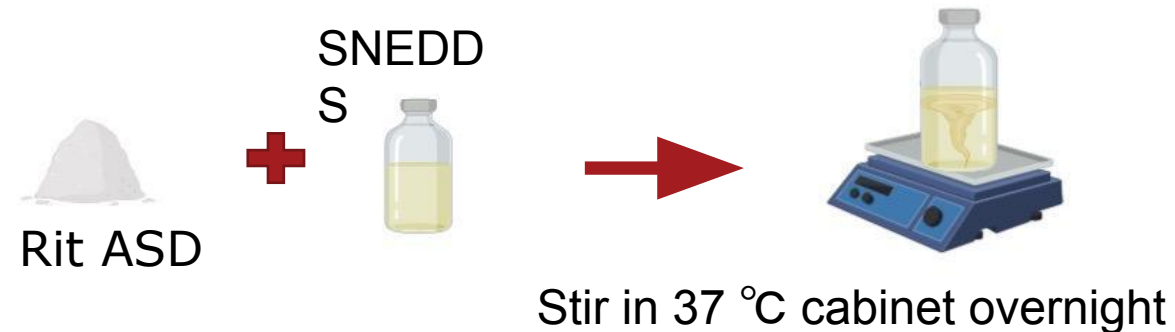
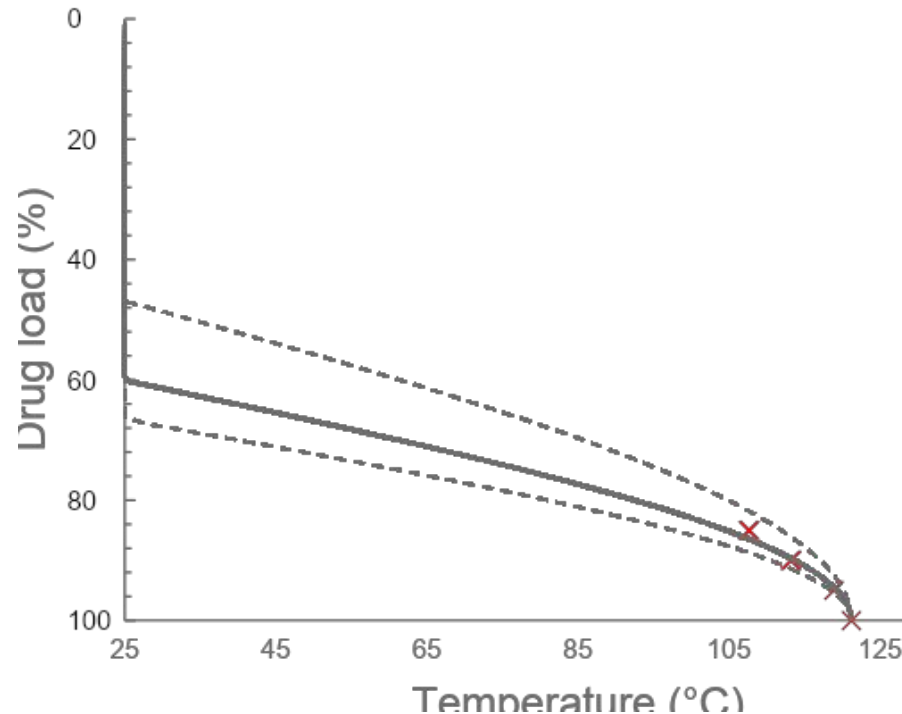
Ritonavir solubility in PVPVA64
Determined by DSC
- and the Flory-Huggins model

ASD with ritonavir – at **50% of solubility**
in PVPVA64 - was produced by ball-milling

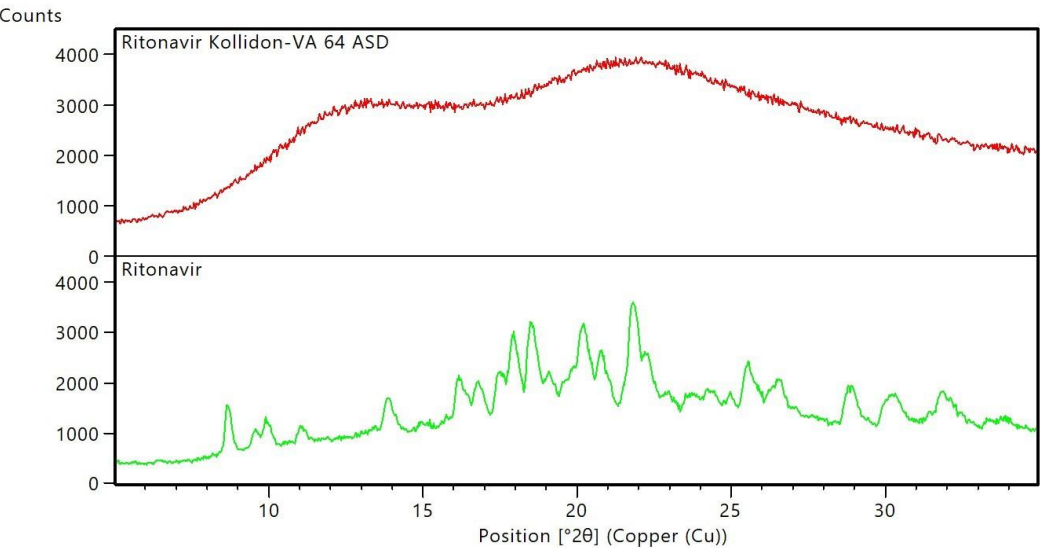


- and added to SNEDDS

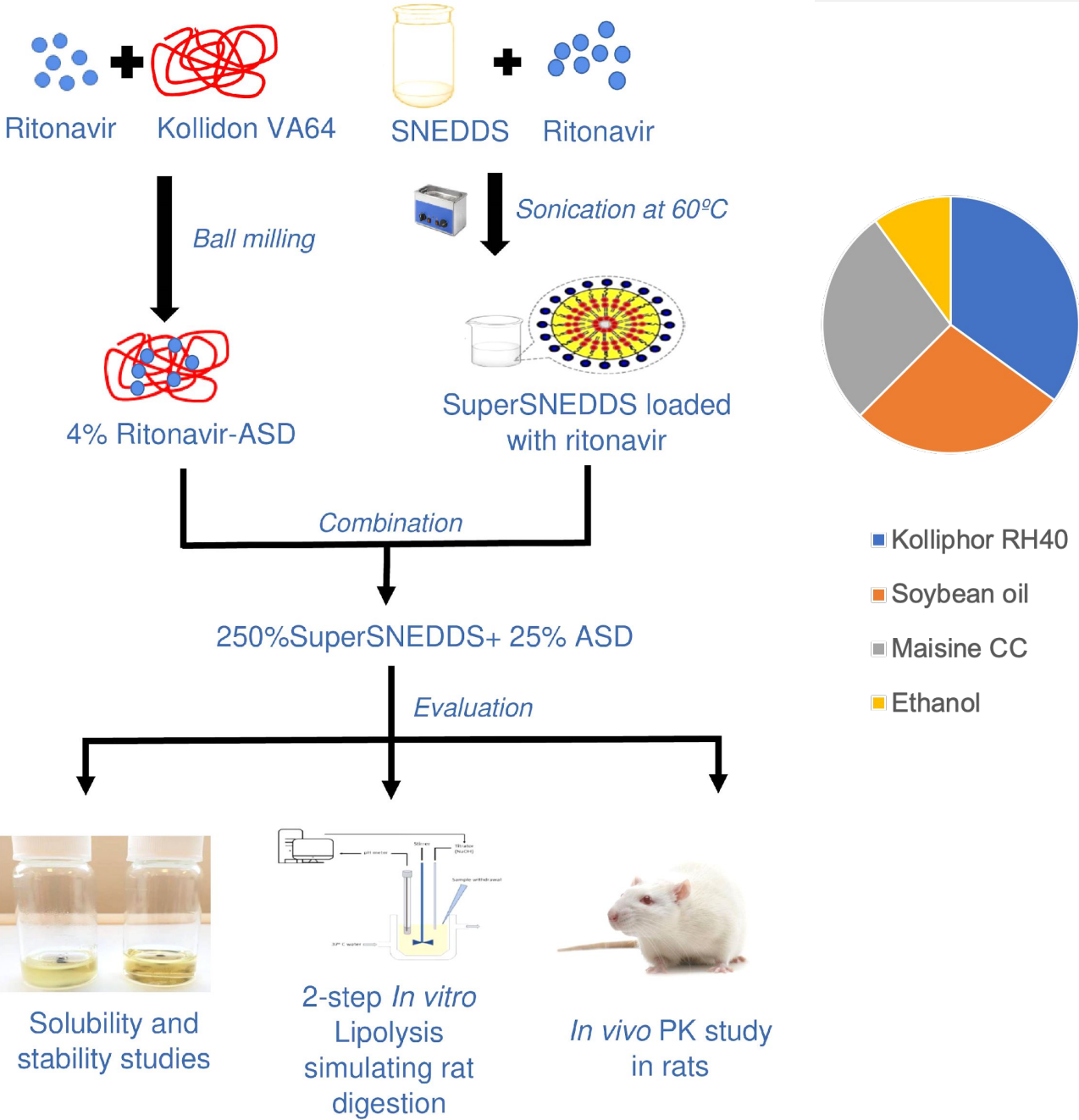
Solubility
in polymer
= 0.60 w/w



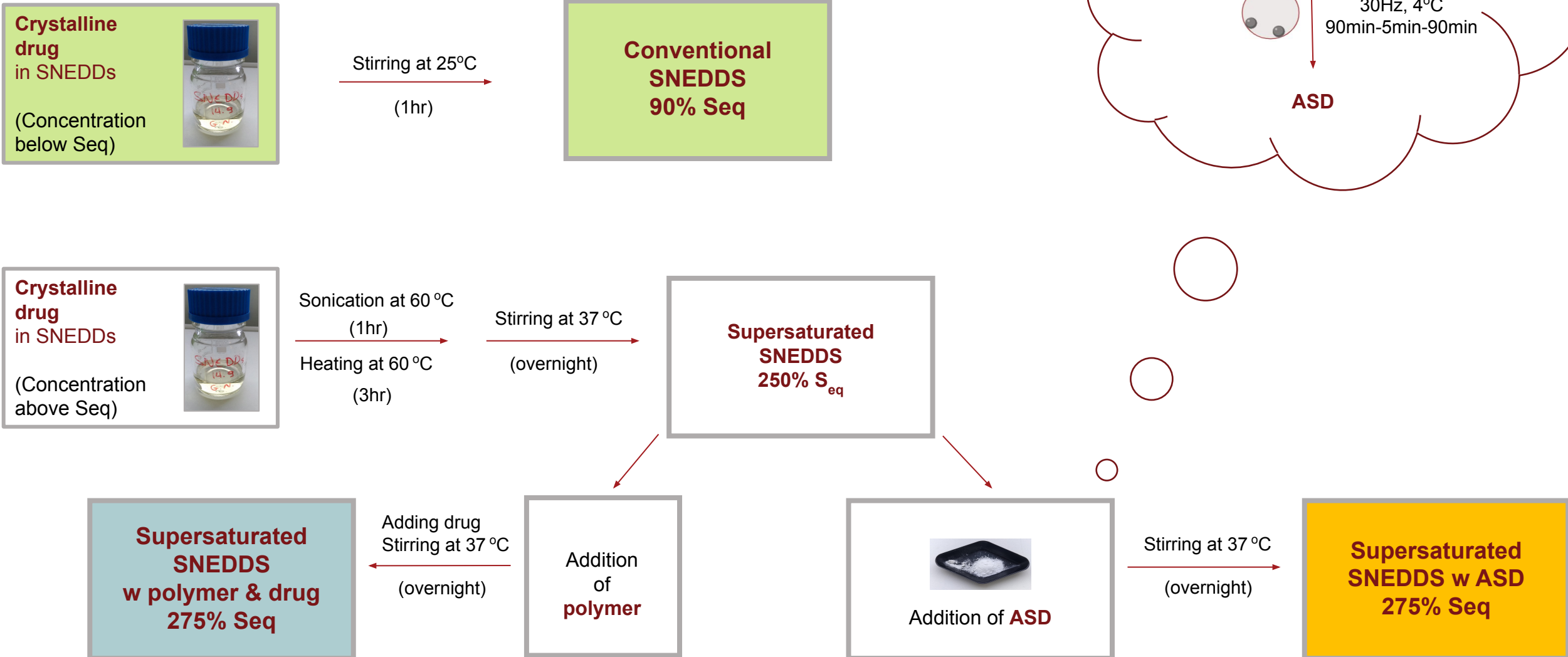
Combining SNEDDS and ASD: Ritonavir, Kollidon VA64 and SNEDDS



	%Saturation*	Concentration	Stability
Ritonavir 250%	250%	22.6±1,7 mg/g	48 hours
Ritonavir 250% +25%ASD ^a	275%	25.0±0,2 mg/g	1 month



Combining SNEDDS and ASD



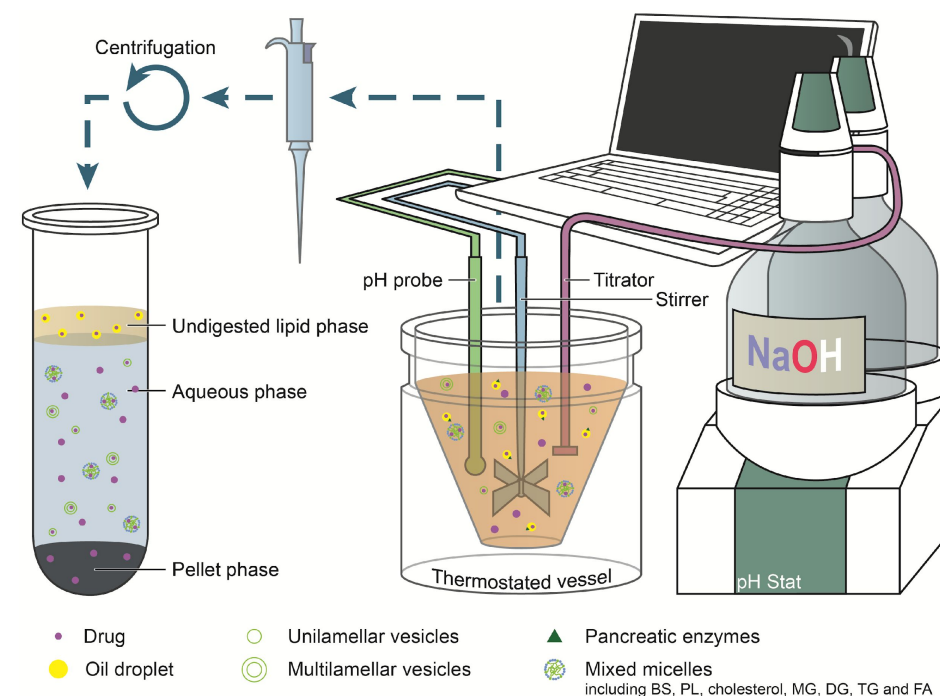
Gastro-intestinal *in vitro* lipolysis (rat model)

Composition of simulated gastric and intestinal media

Two-compartment *in vitro* lipolysis

Components	Gastric Medium composition	Intestinal Medium Composition
Bile salts (mM)	1.3	24.1
Phospholipids (mM)	0.8	3.7
Sodium Chloride (mM)	111.7	119.6
Hepes (mM)	-	17
HCl (mM)	4	-
Calcium Chloride (mM)	-	1.4
pH	2.4	7.5
Enzyme activity (U/mL)	450 U/mL (pepsin) 50 U/mL (Rhiz. Lipase)	179 USP/mL (pancreatin)

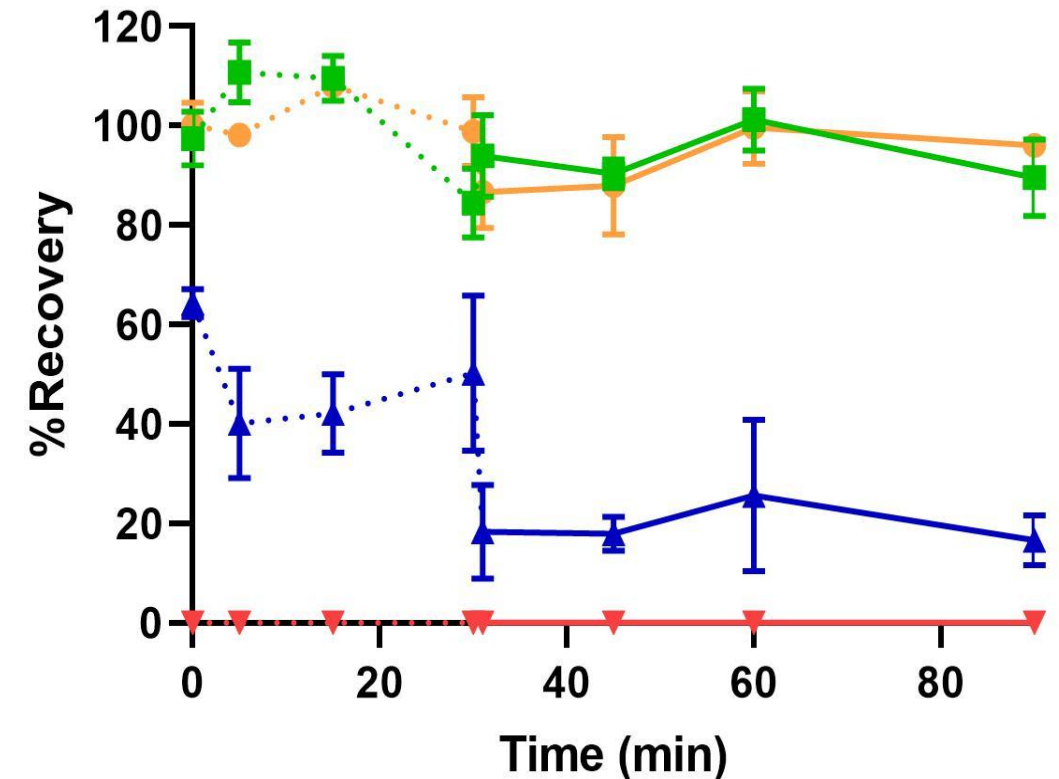
Enzyme inhibition



Two-compartment *in vitro* lipolysis (rat model)

In vitro lipolysis of ritonavir formulations

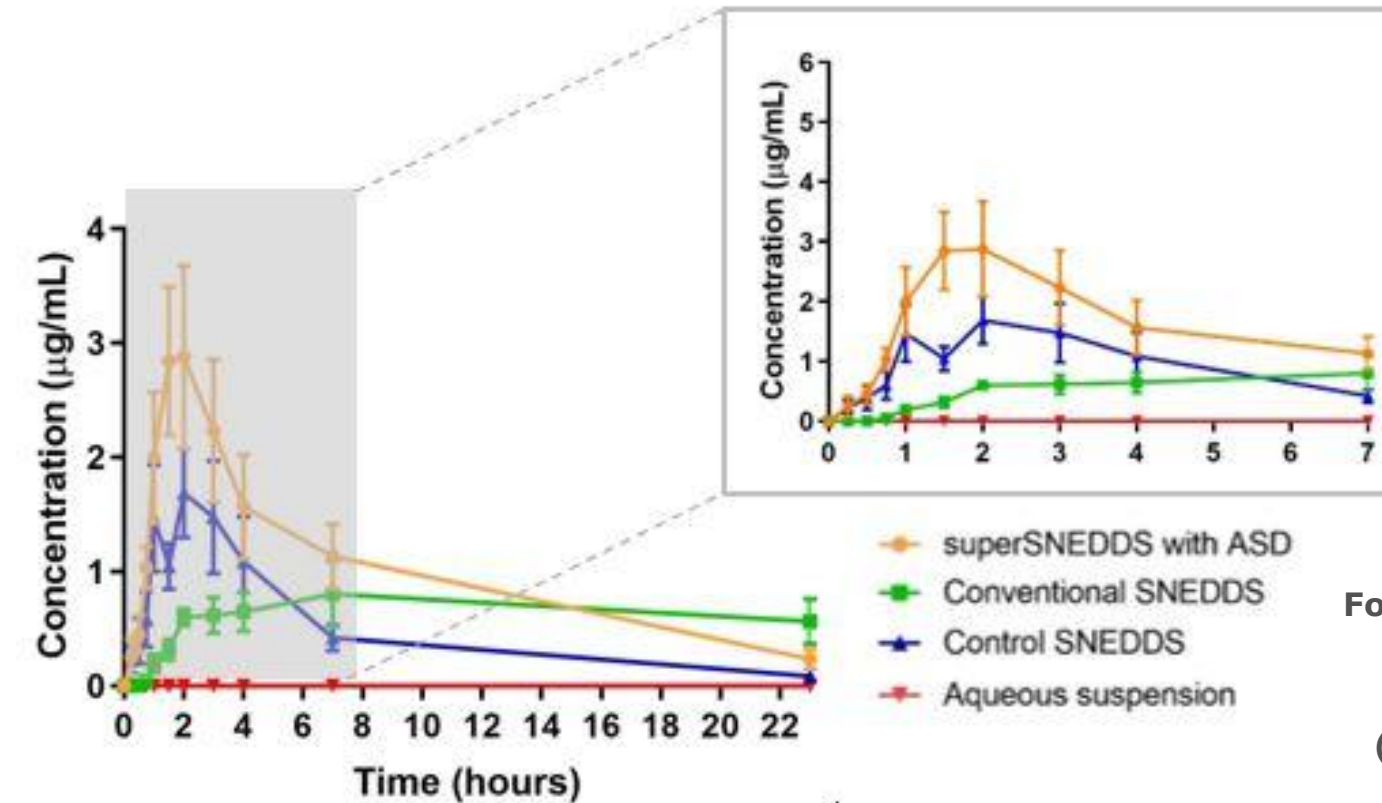
Sample	Composition of formulations					Ritonavir in formulation (mg)	Ritonavir dosed (mg)	Lipid dosed (mg)
	Cryst. Ritonavir (mg)	ASD (mg)	Kollidon VA 64 (mg)	SNEDDS (mg)	H2O (mg)			
Super SNEDDS with ASD	23.3	55.3	-	976.7	-	25.7	25.7	976.7
Conventional SNEDDS	8.4	-	-	991.6	-	8.4	25.7	3024.4
Super SNEDDS w P & C	25.7	-	53.0	976.7	-	25.7	25.7	976.7
Aqueous Suspension	25.7	-	-	-	974.3	25.7	25.7	-



%Recovery – time profile of ritonavir in SNEDDS after *in vitro* lipolysis.

%Recovery = Danazol conc in aqueous phase *100/ danazol conc in total Sample

Pharmacokinetic study in rats

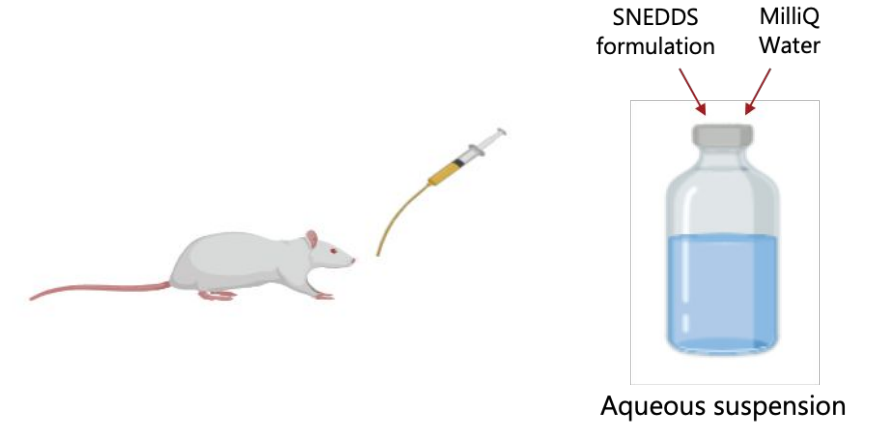


Ritonavir dose: 11 mg/rat

SNEDDS dose:

SuperSNEDDS - 418 mg/rat

Conv. SNEDDS - 1294



Formulation

C_{max}
(µg/mL)

T_{max} (h)

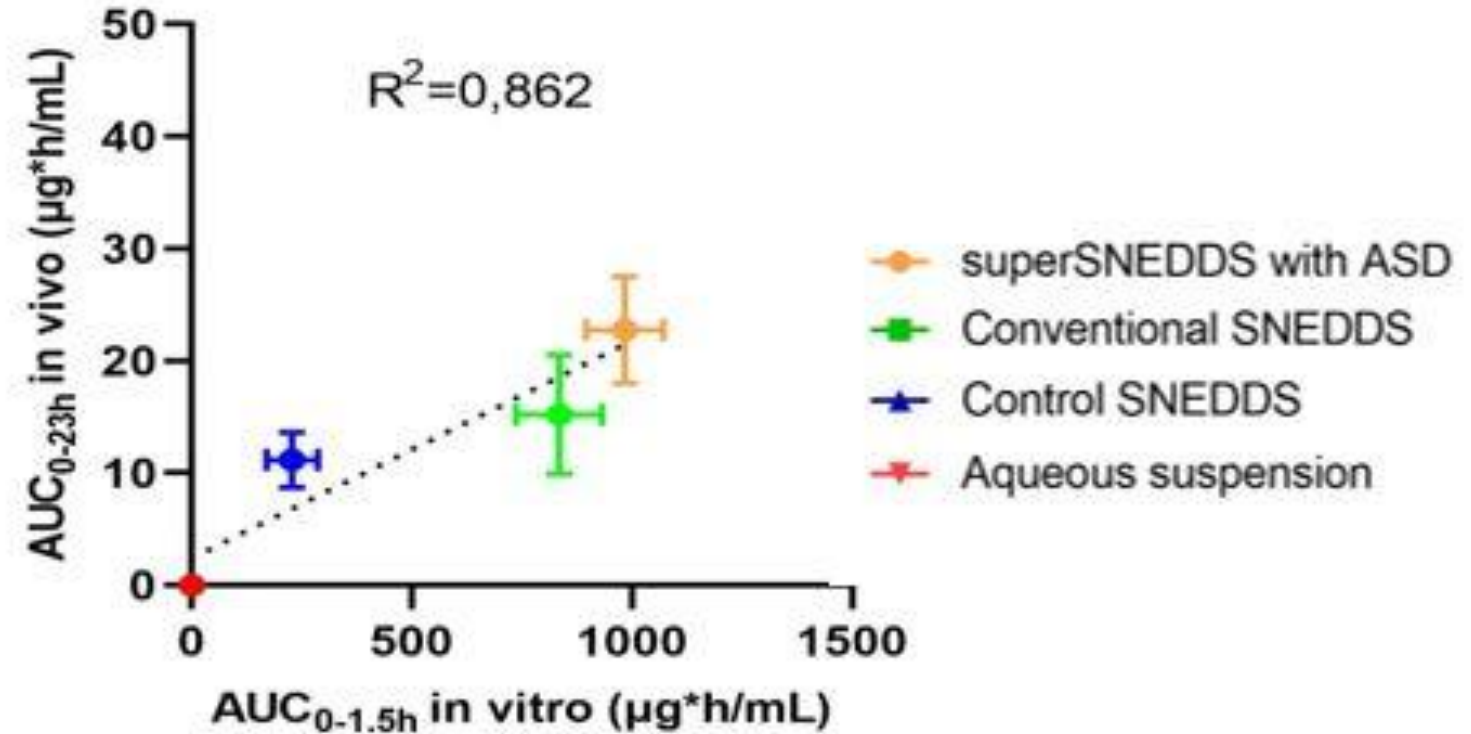
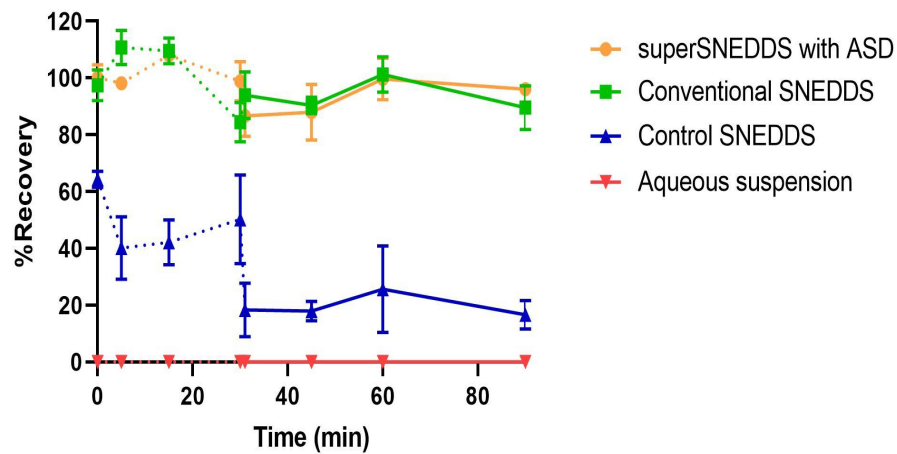
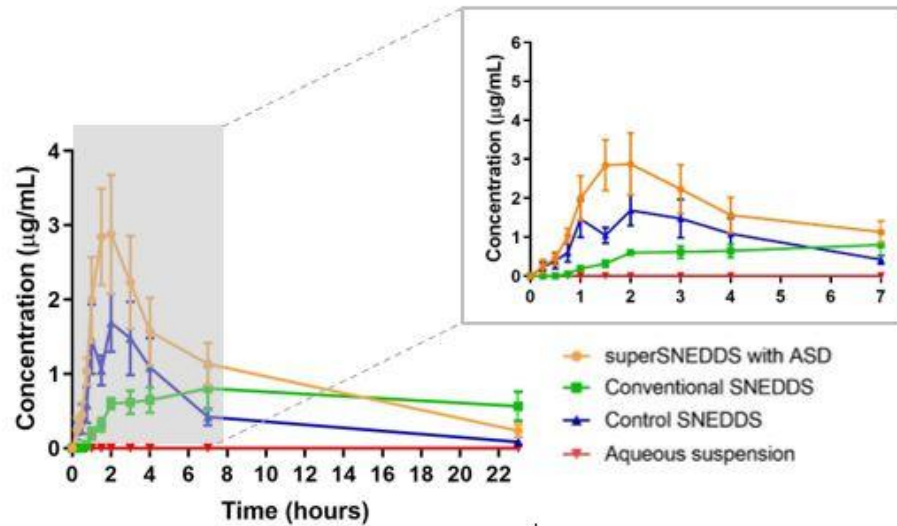
AUC_{0-7h}
(µg.h.mL⁻¹)

AUC_{0-23h}
(µg.h.mL⁻¹)

Formulation	Super SNEDDS w ASD	Conven-tional SNEDDS	Super SNEDDS w P D	Aqueous suspension
C_{max} (µg/mL)	3.2 ± 0.6	1.0 ± 0.2	1.9 ± 0.3	0.0 ± 0.0
T_{max} (h)	1.7 ± 0.2	4.5 ± 1.3	1.5 ± 0.2	0.0 ± 0.0
AUC_{0-7h} (µg.h.mL ⁻¹)	11.8 ± 5.7^e	3.9 ± 1.7^f	7.2 ± 4.0	0.0 ± 0.0
AUC_{0-23h} (µg.h.mL ⁻¹)	22.8 ± 5.8	14.8 ± 5.7	11.0 ± 2.9	0.0 ± 0.0

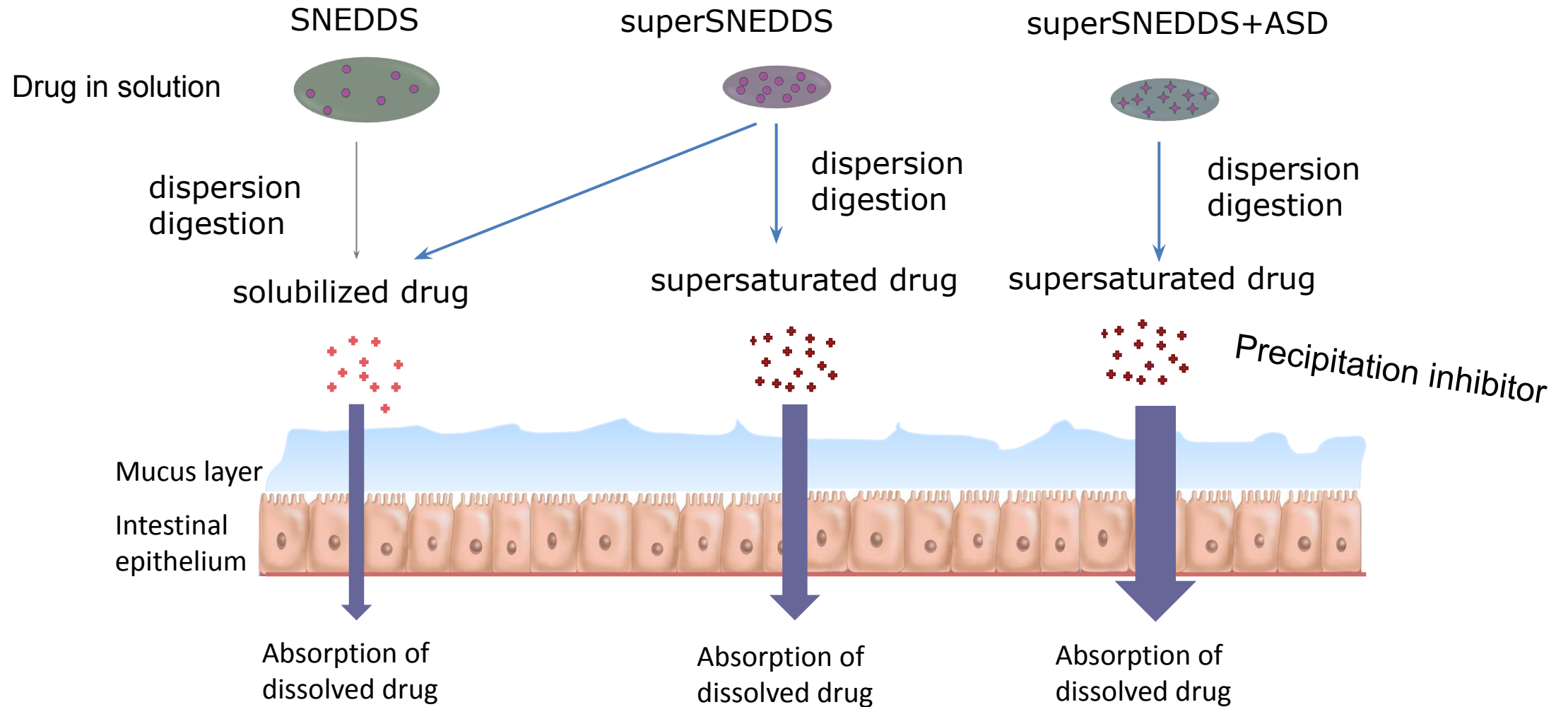
Data presented as mean ± SEM (n=4-6)

In vivo – in vitro correlation



Correlation between in vitro and in vivo rat model obtained – for AUC

Drug absorption from SNEDDS



Conclusion I - superSNEDDS



Drug are dosed in **solution** – below S_{eq}
in Lipid-based Drug Delivery Systems (LbDDS)

Solubility in SNEDDS is often low – leading to high excipient dose

Supersaturated SNEDDS – and suspensions also work – for some drugs!

- This makes the use of lipids more versatile!

When developing SNEDDS, consider API properties:

- Propensity to supersaturate in lipids
- Propensity to supersaturate during *in vitro* digestion
- Crystalline / amorphous precipitation *in vitro* digestion
- Etc

Conclusion II – SuperSNEDDS with Polymer or ASD

Polymer in SNEDDS:

- The polymer (PVP VA64) dissolve in SNEDDS
 - and acts as a **precipitation inhibitor in the SNEDDS**



ASD in SEDDS:

- ASD can dissolve in SEDDS - and stabilise supersaturation

In vitro / in vivo:

- Creating **supersaturation** – often **promote absorption**
- But what is the **mechanism?**
 - Where is the drug ?
 - in the oil droplets ?
 - In the aqueous phase ?
- PVP VA64 also work as **precipitation inhibitor in the aqueous phase** after dispersion

The Physiological Pharmaceuticals Research Group



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Phospholipid
Forschungszentrum / Research Center
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Innovation Fund Denmark
RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY & GROWTH

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Thank you for your attention

Questions?

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