

# Development of human milk for the delivery of poorly water-soluble drugs in neonatal and paediatric patients

Ellie Ponsonby-Thomas, Ben Boyd, Malinda Salim, Laura Klein



MONASH  
University

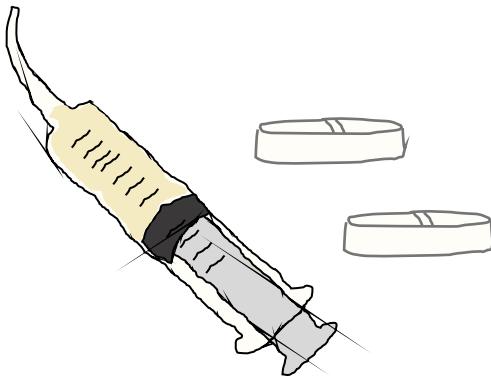


CRS 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo

July 11 – 15, 2022 | Montreal Congress Center, Montreal Canada

*Advanced Delivery Science*

# Delivery of therapeutics to neonatal patients



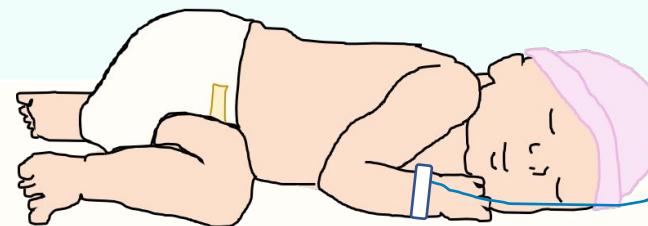
## Oral administration

- Preferred route of administration
- Designed for adult patients



Off-label use complications

NICU



## IV administration

- Default option to oral delivery
- Invasive
- Large associated health care cost



Human milk as a patient friendly option



CRS 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo

*Advanced Delivery Science*

July 11 – 15, 2022 | Montreal Congress Center, Montreal Canada



# Human milk as a vehicle for poorly water-soluble drugs

## Milk-based formulations

- ✓ Paediatric-friendly
- ✓ Lipid-based
- ✓ Orally delivered



Human milk



Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews 183 (2022) 114139



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/adr](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/adr)



Opportunities for milk and milk-related systems as 'new' low-cost excipient drug delivery materials



Malinda Salim <sup>a,\*</sup>, Thomas Eason <sup>a</sup>, Ben J. Boyd <sup>a,b,\*</sup>



Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

International Journal of Pharmaceutics

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ijpharm](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ijpharm)



A nipple shield delivery system for oral drug delivery to breastfeeding infants: Microbicide delivery to inactivate HIV

Stephen E. Gerrard <sup>a,b,c,\*</sup>, Mary Lynn Baniecki <sup>d</sup>, David C. Sokal <sup>d</sup>, Mary K. Morris <sup>b</sup>, Sandra Urdaneta-Hartmann <sup>c,f</sup>, Fred C. Krebs <sup>c</sup>, Brian Wigdahl <sup>c</sup>, Barbara F. Abrams <sup>c</sup>, Carl V. Hanson <sup>b</sup>, Nigel K.H. Slater <sup>a</sup>, Alexander D. Edwards <sup>g,✉</sup>

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Neonatal Nursing

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jnn](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jnn)



Drug and nutrient administration on the NICU – is delivery during breastfeeding an alternative to oral syringes?

Theresa Maier <sup>a,b</sup>, Oliver Bonner <sup>c</sup>, Paula Pearce <sup>d</sup>, Nigel K.H. Slater <sup>a</sup>, Kathryn Beardsall <sup>b,d,\*</sup>



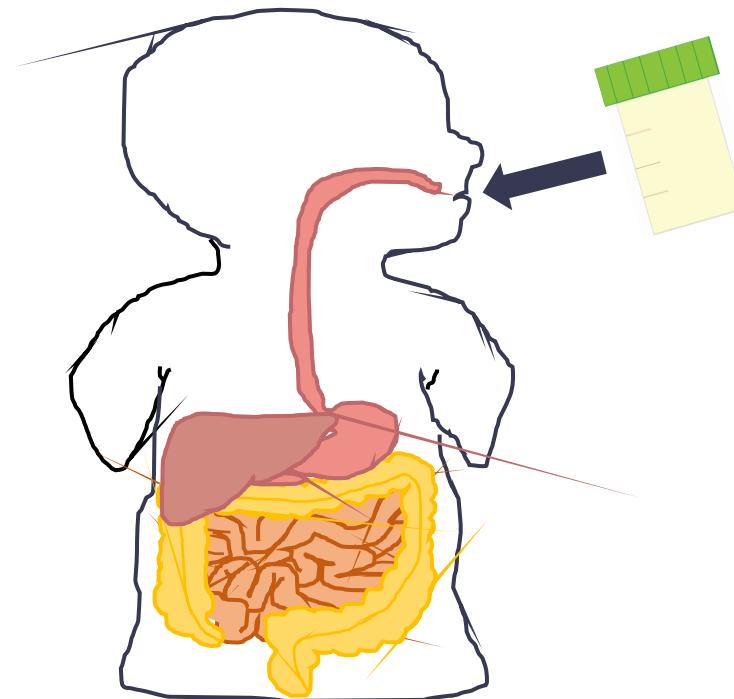
CRS 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo

*Advanced Delivery Science*

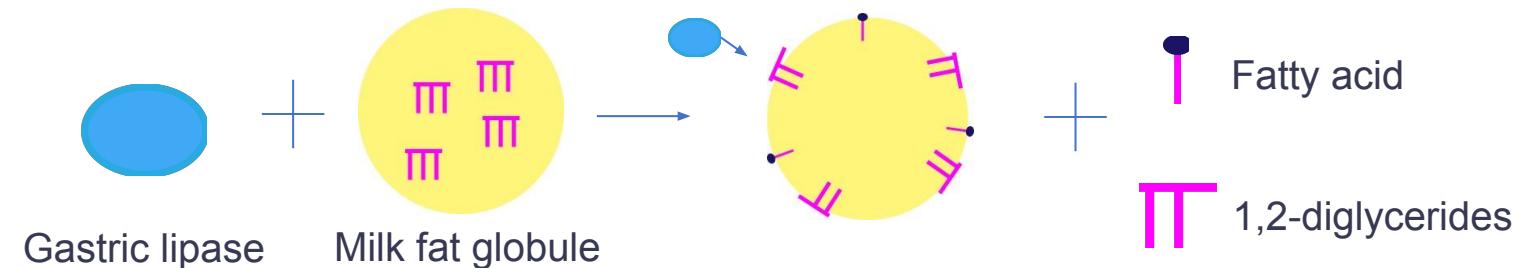
July 11 – 15, 2022 | Montreal Congress Center, Montreal Canada



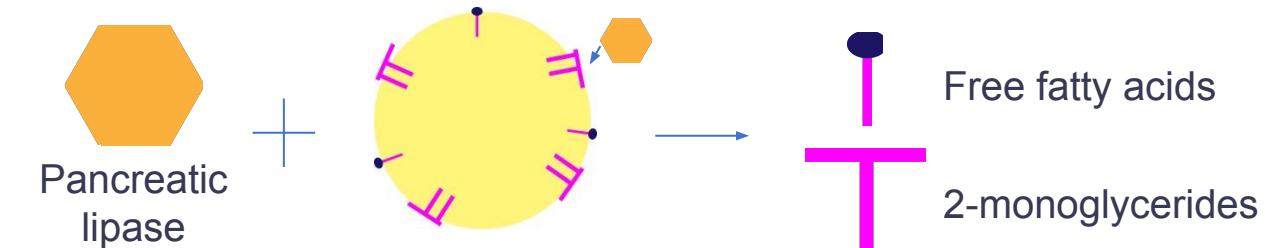
# Digestion of lipid formulations in infants



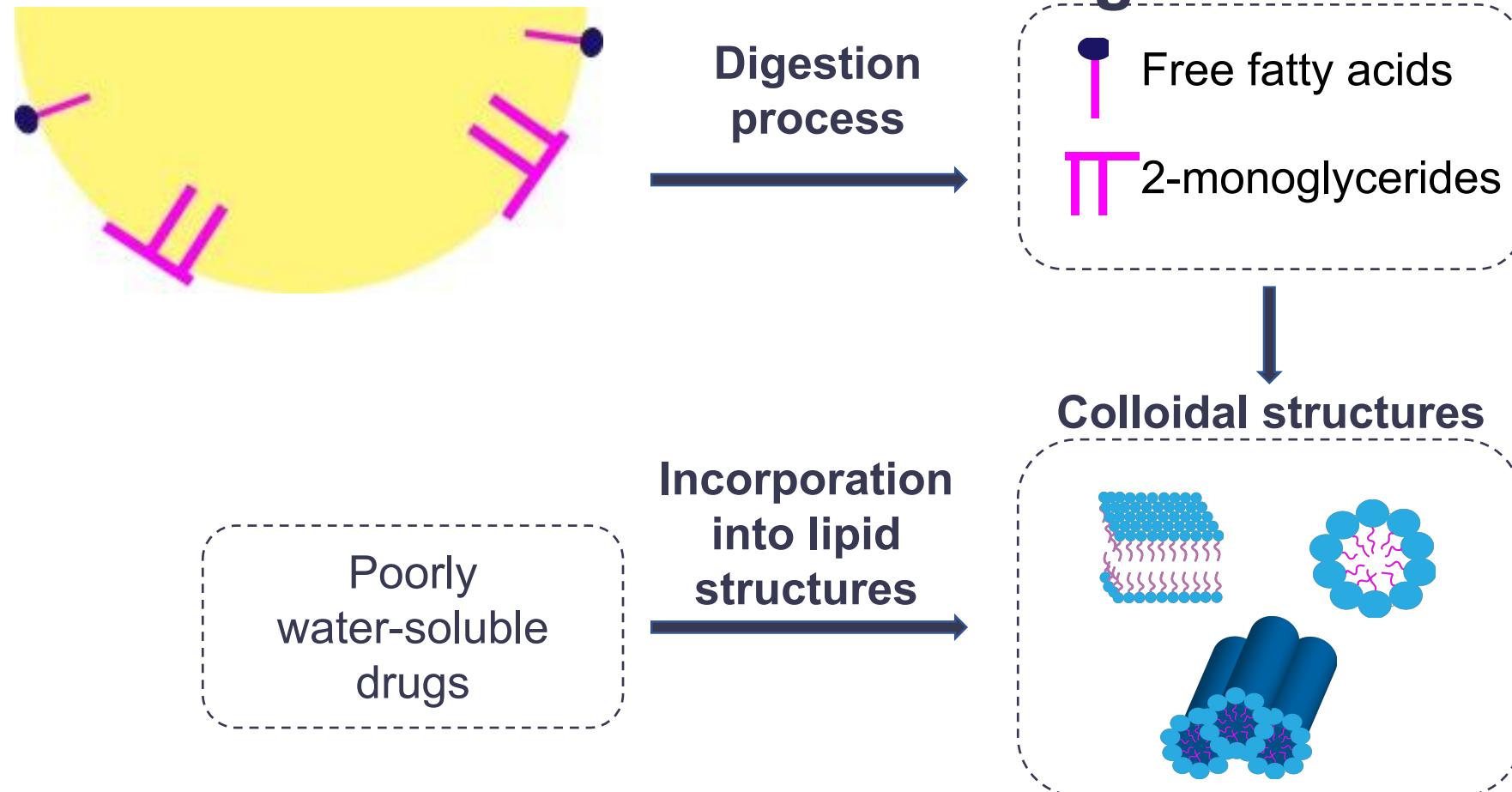
## Stomach



## Small intestines



# Digestion driven solubilisation of drugs

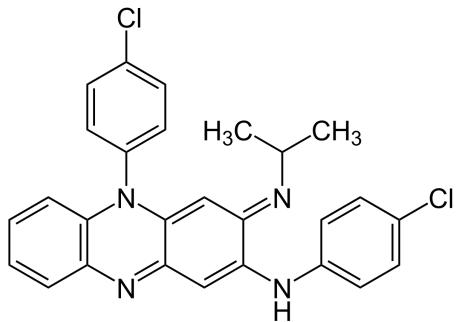


CRS 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo

*Advanced Delivery Science*

July 11 – 15, 2022 | Montreal Congress Center, Montreal Canada

# Solubilisation of poorly water-soluble drugs in human milk



**Clofazimine**

Aqueous solubility of  
1 µg/mL

To understand the self-assembly behaviour of lipids during digestion with clofazimine present.

To measure the *in vitro* solubilisation of clofazimine in digesting human milk.

Determine the dose of clofazimine solubilised and compare to the clinical requirements for preterm infants.

Bevan, C., & Lloyd, R. (2000). A High-Throughput Screening Method for the Determination of Aqueous Drug Solubility Using Laser Nephelometry in Microtiter Plates. *Analytical Chemistry*, 72(8), 1781-1787. doi: 10.1021/ac9912247

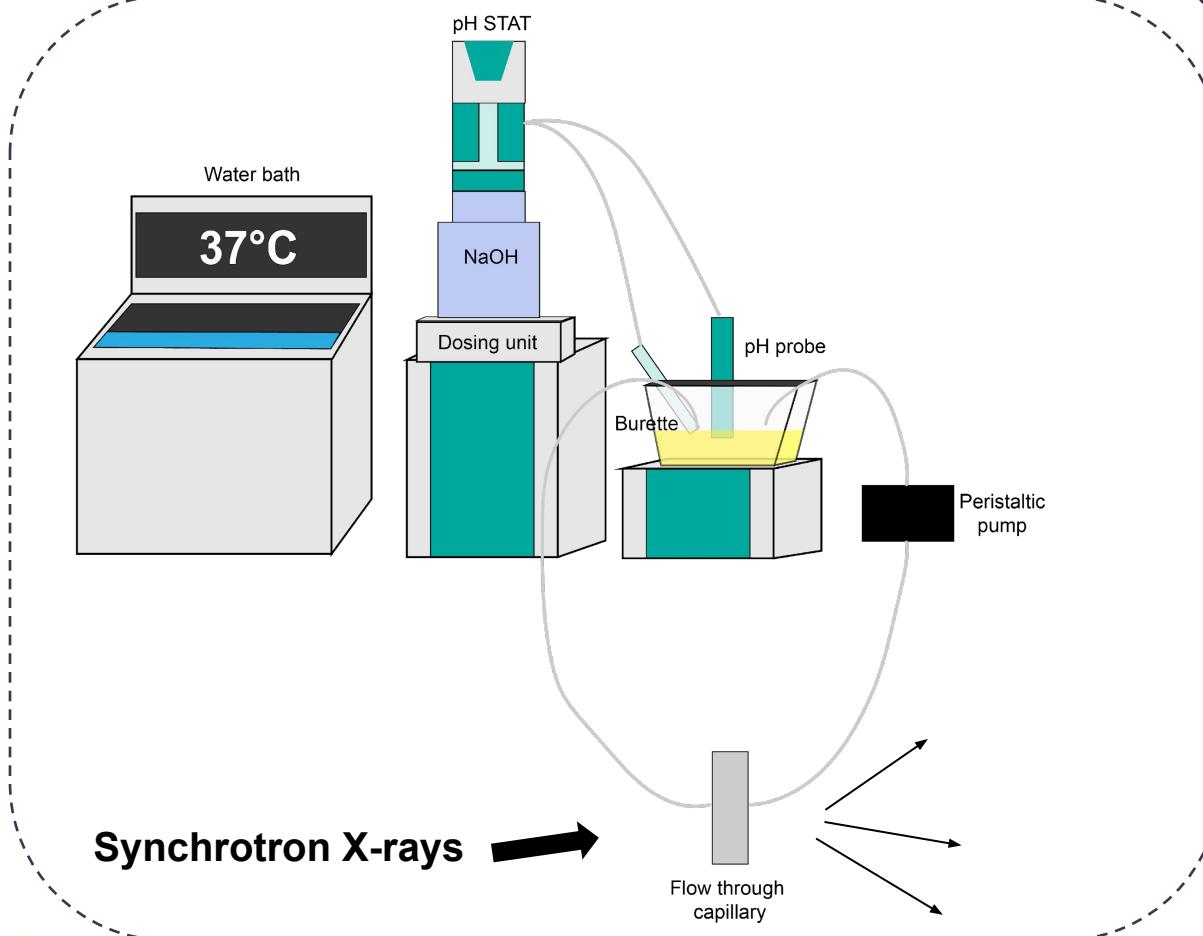
**CRS 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo**

***Advanced Delivery Science***

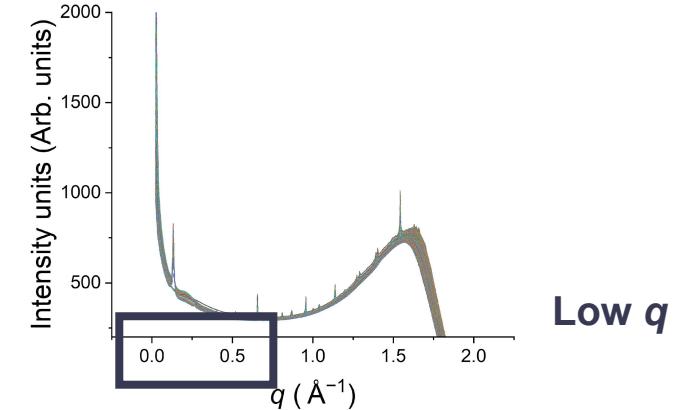
July 11 – 15, 2022 | Montreal Congress Center, Montreal Canada



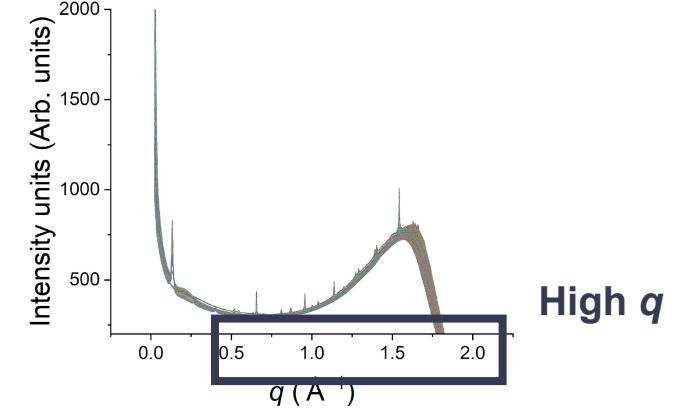
# Research methods – *in vitro* digestion



Colloidal lipid structures

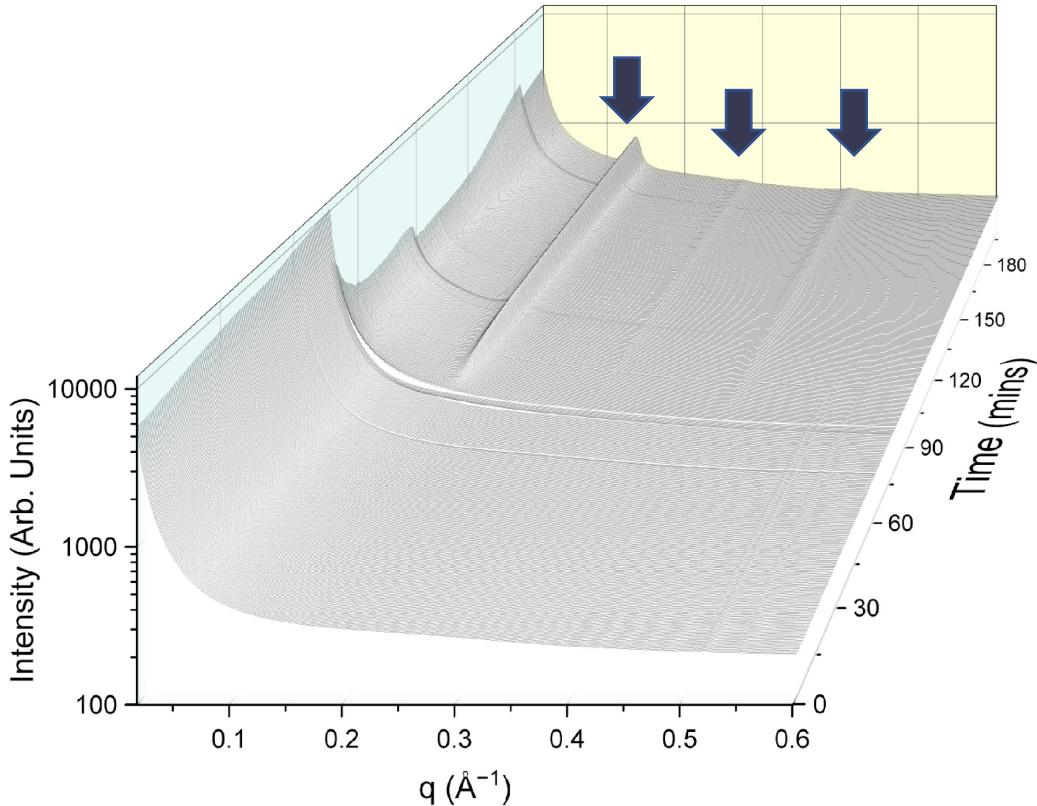


Presence of crystalline drug



# Formation of liquid crystalline structures in digesting human milk

## Digestion of human milk with clofazimine (50 mg)



**Self-Assembly Structure Formation during the Digestion of Human Breast Milk\*\***

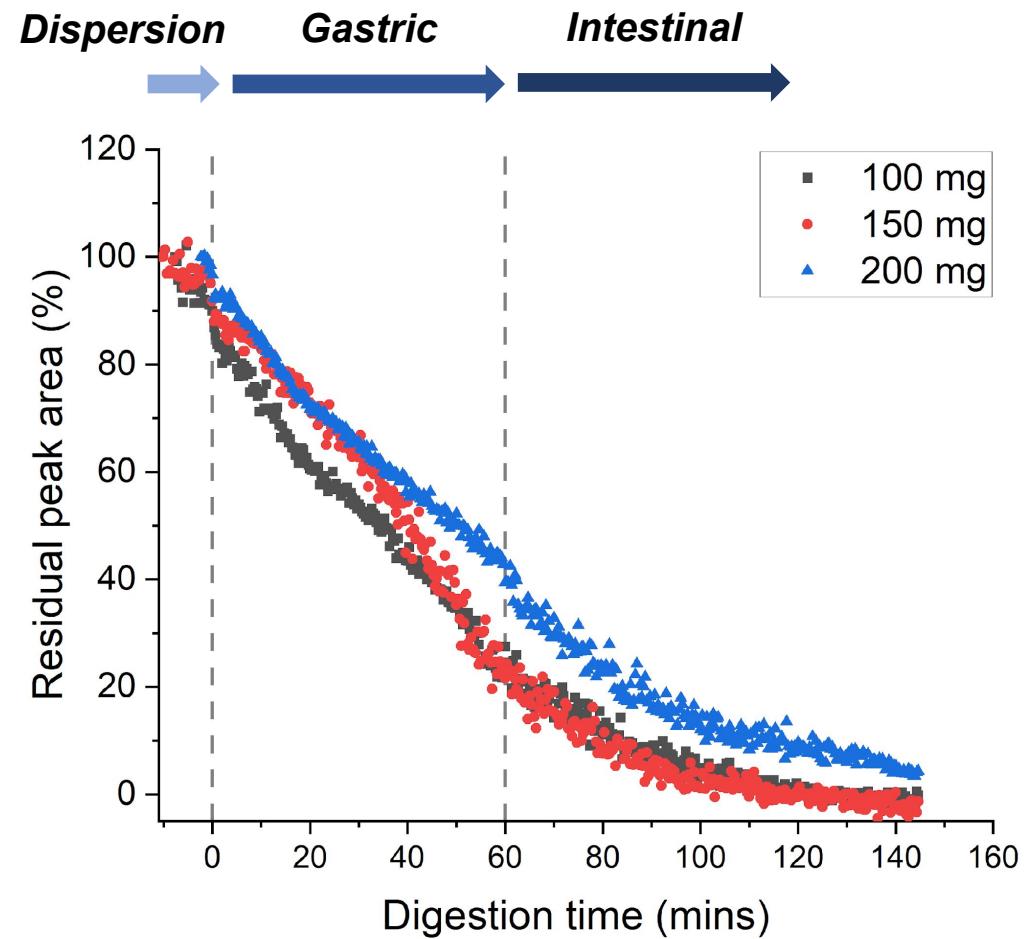
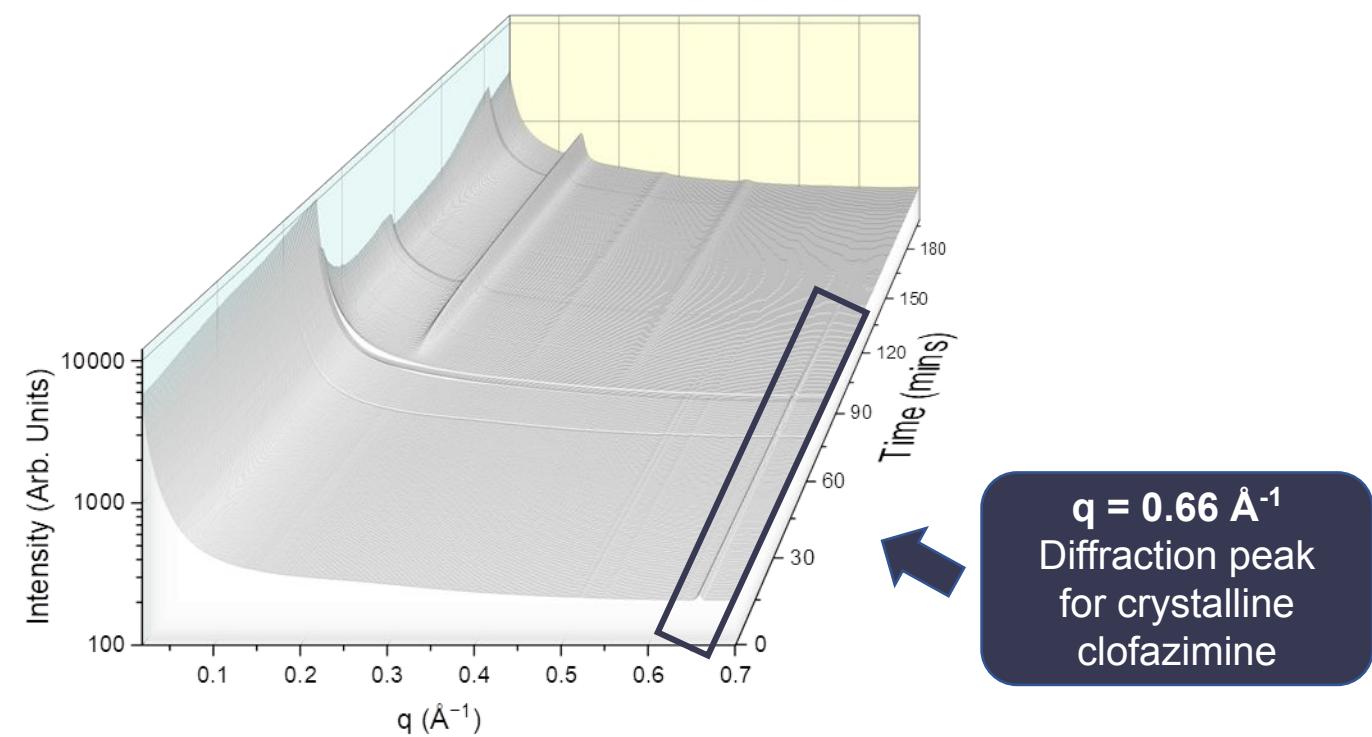
*Stefan Salentinig,\* Stephanie Phan, Adrian Hawley, and Ben J. Boyd\**

**Correlating Digestion-Driven Self-Assembly in Milk and Infant Formulas with Changes in Lipid Composition**

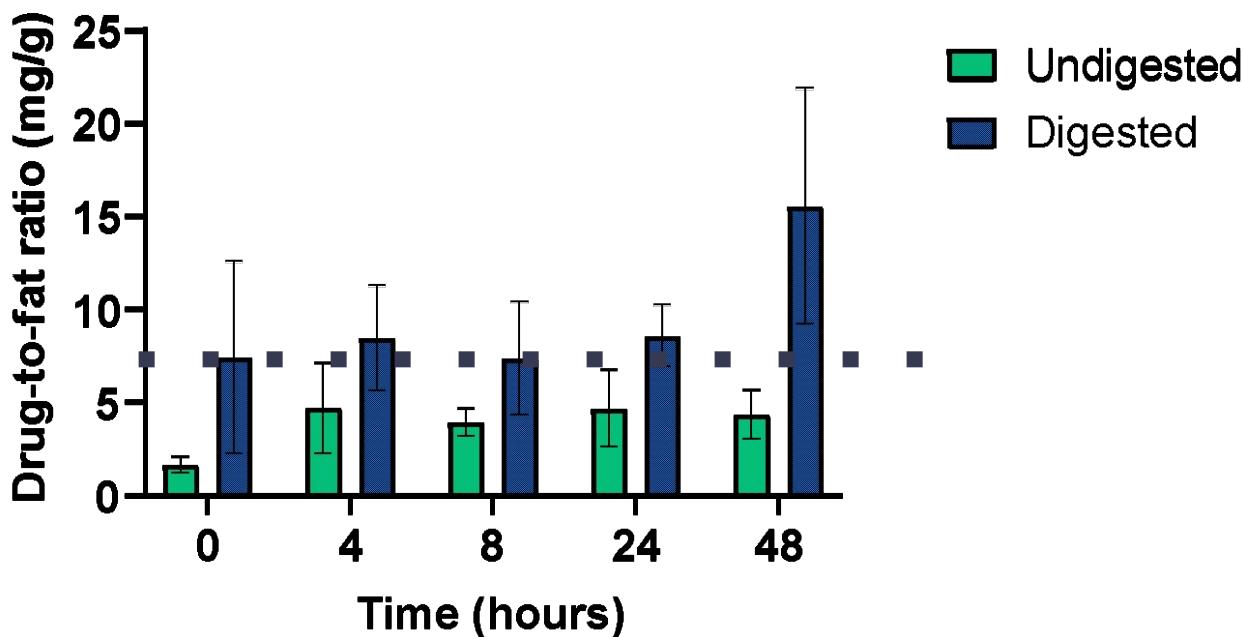
*Anna C. Pham, Kang-Yu Peng, Malinda Salim, Gisela Ramirez, Adrian Hawley, Andrew J. Clulow, and Ben J. Boyd\**



# Digestion driven solubilisation of clofazimine



# Solubilisation of clofazimine in human milk



Greater drug-to-fat ratio exhibited in digested human milk

Theoretical drug-to-fat ratio exceeds the dose required for a preterm infant (2.5kg)

Determined

30 mg  
solubilised  
in 100 mL

Required

2.5 mg  
solubilised  
in 8.5 mL

# Conclusions

Digestion process is necessary for the formation of colloidal lipid structures and drug solubilisation.

Theoretical drug-to-fat ratio of clofazimine solubilised was 7 mg/g human milk fat. Represents 2.5 mg of clofazimine solubilised in 8.5 mL of human milk for a single dose for a preterm infant.

## Next steps:

Expand the range of poorly water-soluble drugs investigated

- develop a framework for selection of drug candidates and infant friendly formulations



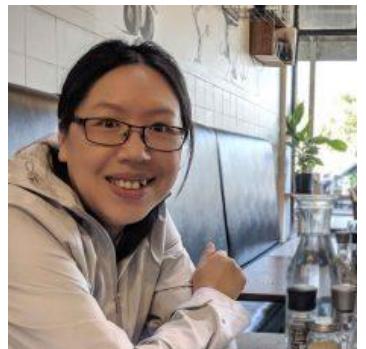
## CRS 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo

***Advanced Delivery Science***

July 11 – 15, 2022 | Montreal Congress Center, Montreal Canada



# Acknowledgements



[Ellie.Ponsonby-thomas1@monash.edu](mailto:Ellie.Ponsonby-thomas1@monash.edu)



[Nonlamellar.com](http://Nonlamellar.com)



[@group\\_boyd](https://twitter.com/group_boyd)



Australian Red Cross  
**Lifeblood**®

Australian Synchrotron   
Turning bright ideas into brilliant outcomes

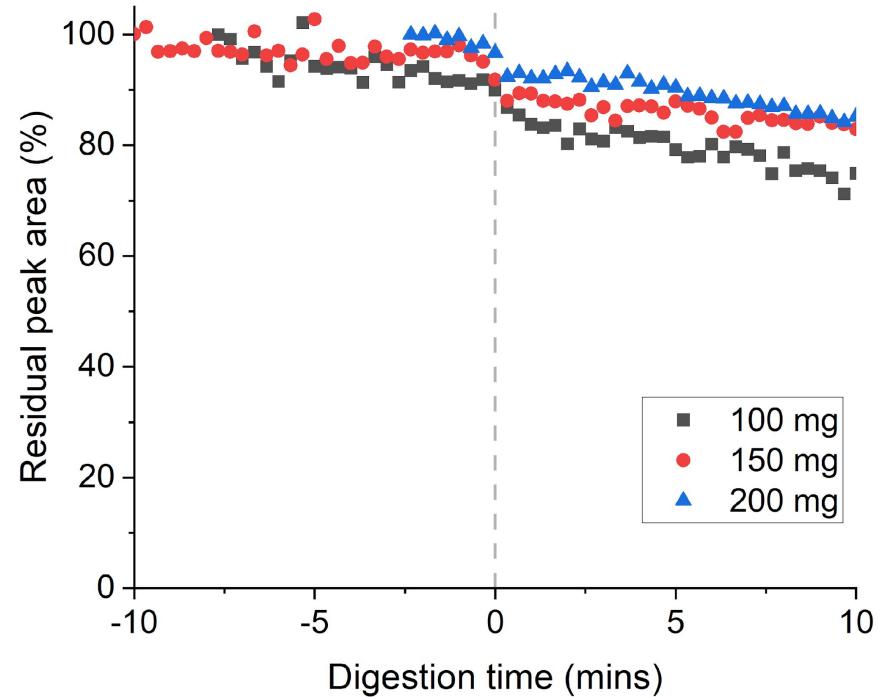


**CRS 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo**

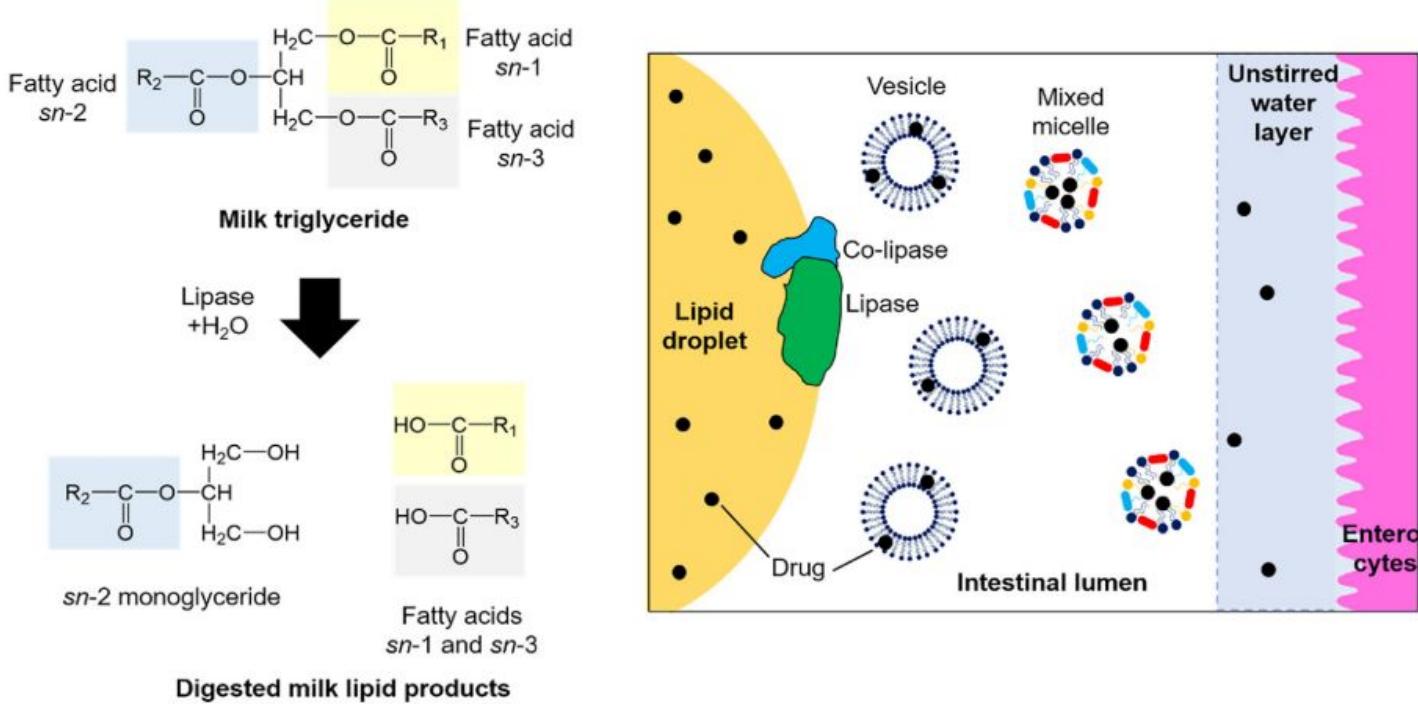
***Advanced Delivery Science***

July 11 – 15, 2022 | Montreal Congress Center, Montreal Canada

# Dispersion stage for *in vitro* digestion of clofazimine



# Solubilisation and absorption of poorly water-soluble drugs



# Click to Add Title

**CRS 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo**

*Advanced Delivery Science*

July 11 – 15, 2022 | Montreal Congress Center, Montreal Canada



# Click to Add Title

- Click to add text



## CRS 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo

*Advanced Delivery Science*

July 11 – 15, 2022 | Montreal Congress Center, Montreal Canada

