

# Modelling the bioavailability of trace elements

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Unit 33: Epidemiology, Biostatistics  
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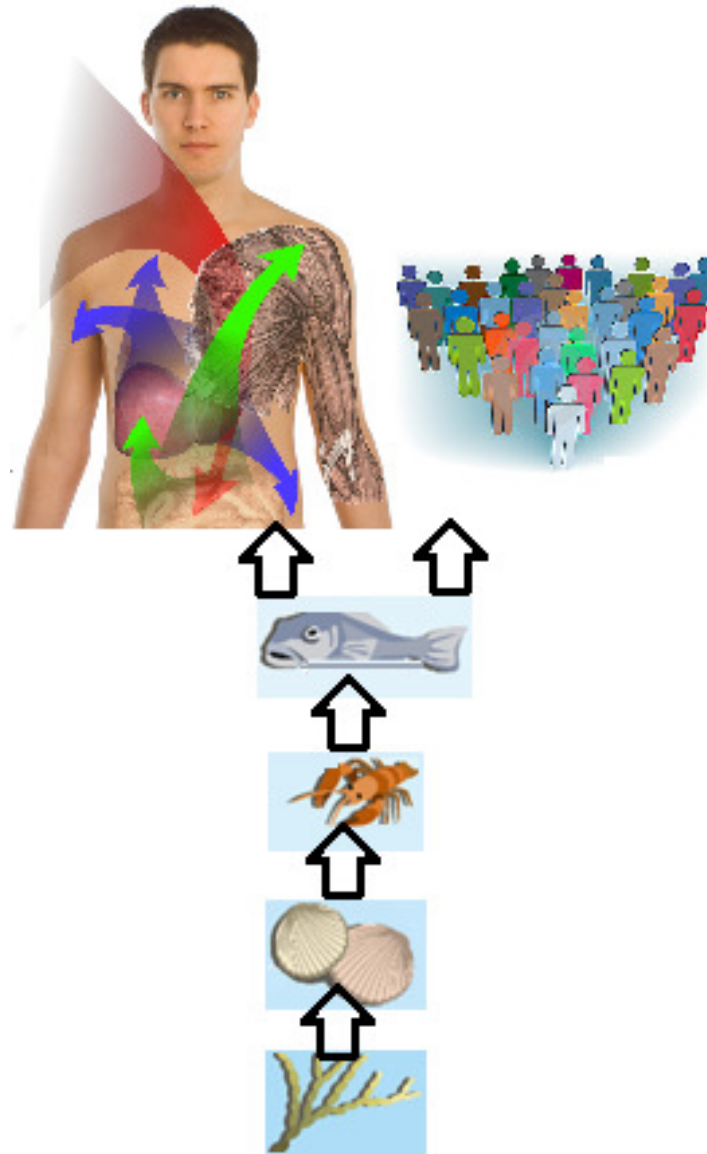
# Why use modelling?



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# Bioavailability models for trace elements



# Simulation of population absorption

Data:

Trace element chemical species

Popular co-ingested foods

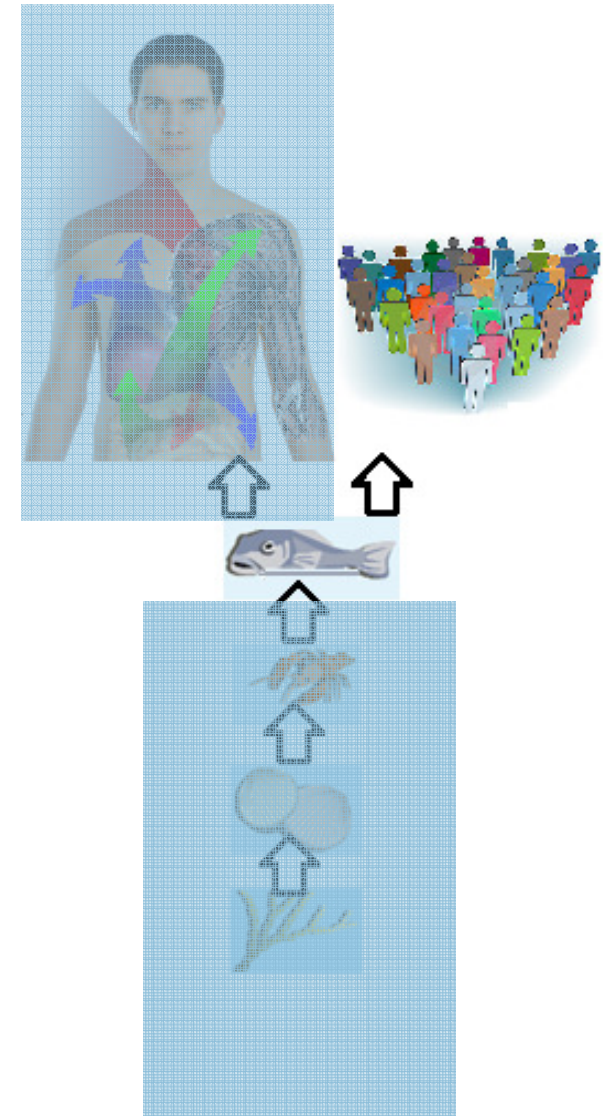
Nutritional status of population

Prediction:

Estimate of actual amounts absorbed

Aid in quantifying fortification strategies

Risk assessment for under/overdosing



# Simulation of Zn and Fe biofortification in Mexico

Data: Amounts of maize, wheat, beans and rice eaten, coingested foods, trace mineral contents, body reserves.

Model:

**Zn:** International Zinc Nutrition Consultative Group equation; total daily zinc intake and the phytate: zinc molar ratio

**Fe:** Bhargava Iron algorithm: promoters (vitamin C and meat), inhibitors (phytate)

Prediction: Biofortify maize with Zn to reduce ca. 50% of inadequacies. Fe inadequacy cannot be solved by biofortification.

**Study:** E Denova-Gutiérrez, A García-Guerra, M Flores-Aldana, S Rodríguez-Ramírez, C Hotz, Simulation model of the impact of biofortification on the absorption of adequate amounts of zinc and iron among Mexican women and preschool children, Food Nutr Bull, 29(3), p203-212, 2008



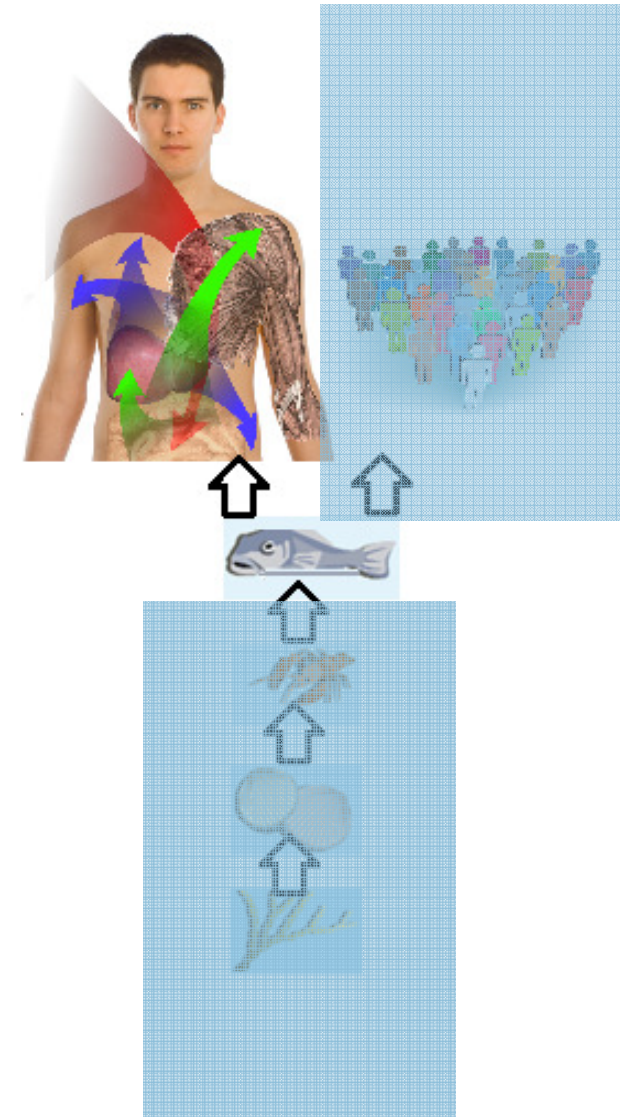
# Models of **ADME** kinetics (compartment models)

Data:

Trace element chemical variants  
Concentration in food and blood

Prediction:

Quantification of  
**A**bsorption, **D**istribution,  
**M**etabolism (speciation) and **E**xcretion  
Physiological pathways by inference



# ADME kinetics: Bioavailability of calcium ascorbate > calcium acetate

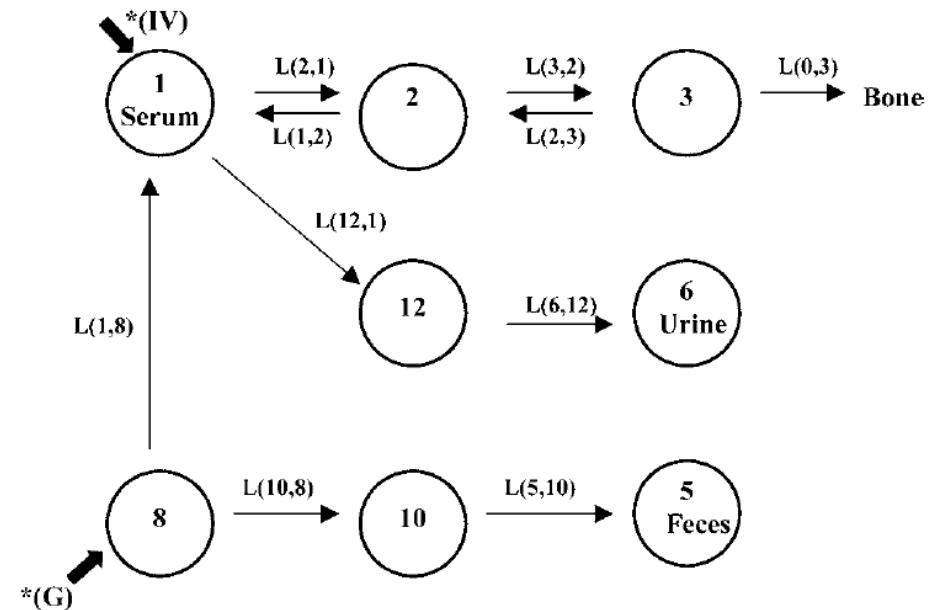
Experiment in rats with labeled  $^{45}\text{Ca}$  ascorbate and acetate

Data: Intake, urine, femur, fecal concentrations

Prediction:

Kinetic parameters

Ascorbate has faster uptake kinetics in 1 of 2 pathways

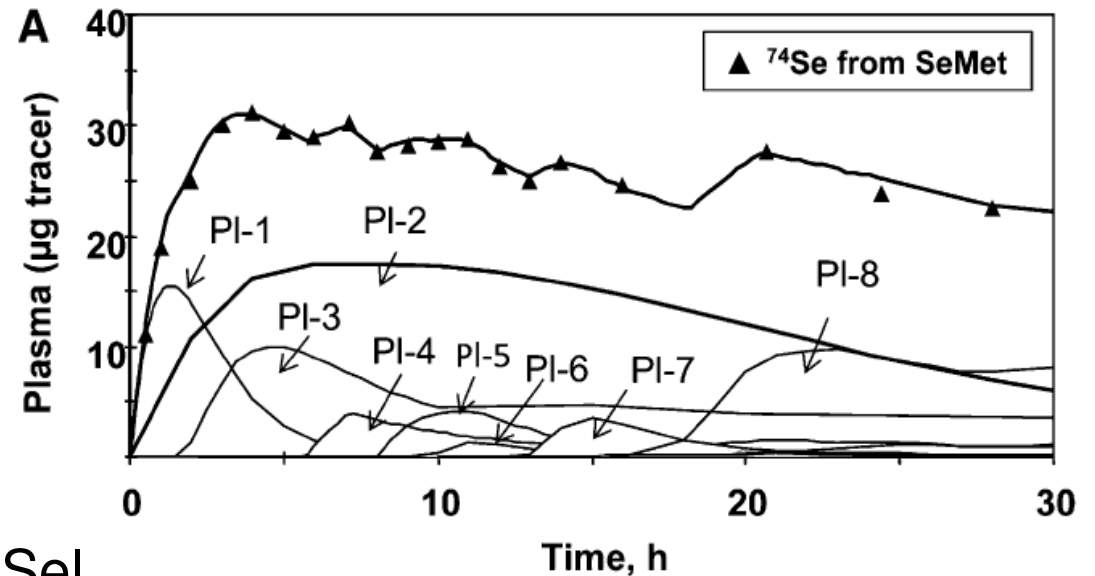


Study: J Cai, Q Zhang, ME Wastney, CM Weaver, Calcium Bioavailability and Kinetics of Calcium Ascorbate and Calcium Acetate in Rats, *Exper Biol Med*, 229, p40-45, 2004



# Inorganic Selenite ( $^{76}\text{Se}$ ) vs Selenomethionine ( $^{74}\text{SeMet}$ ) bioavailability human model

Data: 31 humans, 4 months  
feces, urine, red blood cells  
and plasma conc.  
Separate isotope tracers

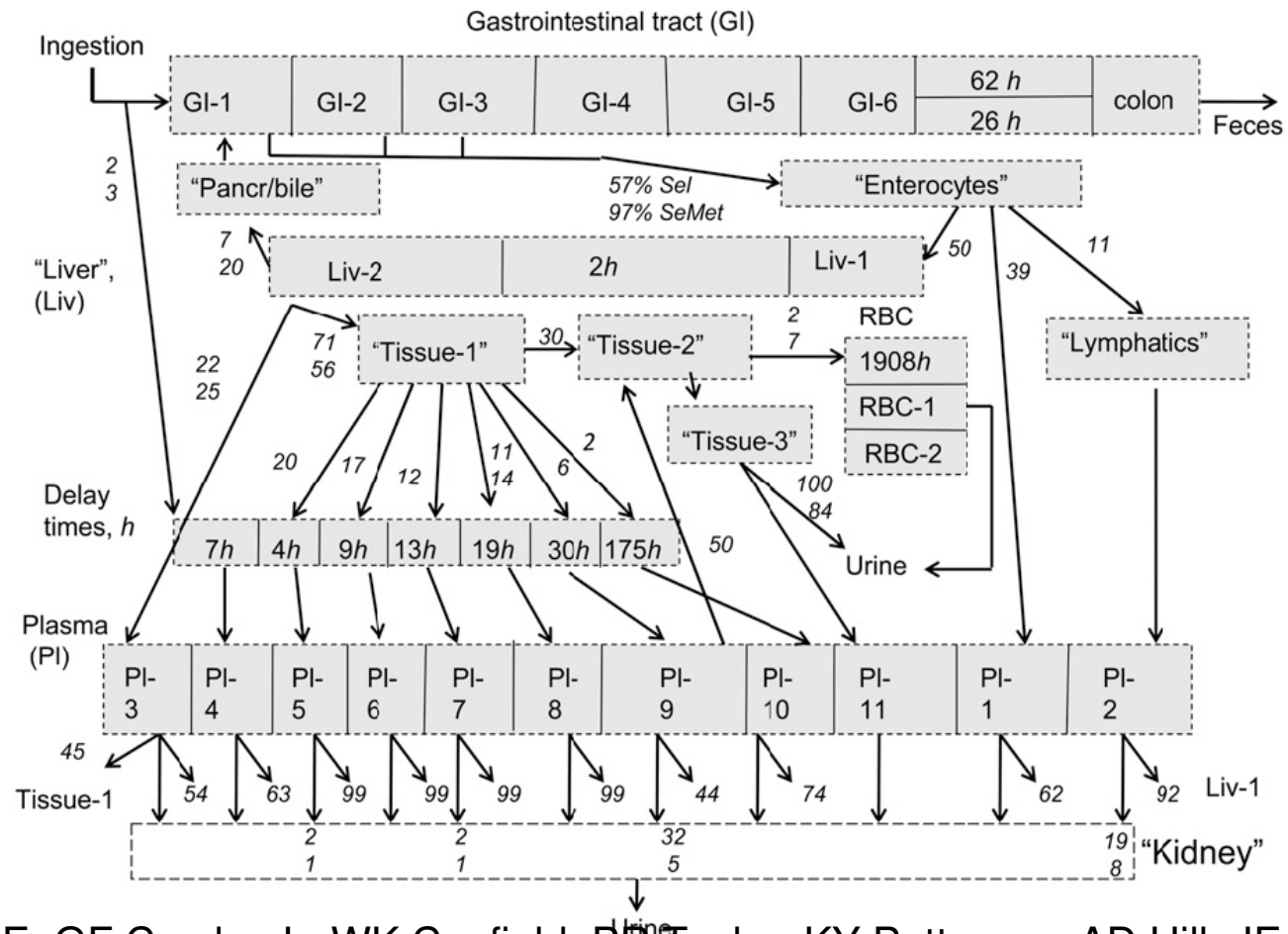


Prediction:  
SelMet 70% higher absorption than Sel  
Experimental multiple peaks → several plasma pools  
Sel turnover 213 d, SelMet turnover 430 d  
50% of absorbed Se uptaken by liver for Sel & SelMet

**Study:** ME Wastney ME, GF Combs Jr, WK Canfield, PR Taylor, KY Patterson, AD Hill, JE Moler, BH Patterson, A human model of selenium that integrates metabolism from selenite and selenomethionine, J Nutr, 141(4) p708-17, 2011

# Inorganic Selenite ( $^{76}\text{Se}$ ) vs Selenomethionine ( $^{74}\text{SeMet}$ ) bioavailability human model

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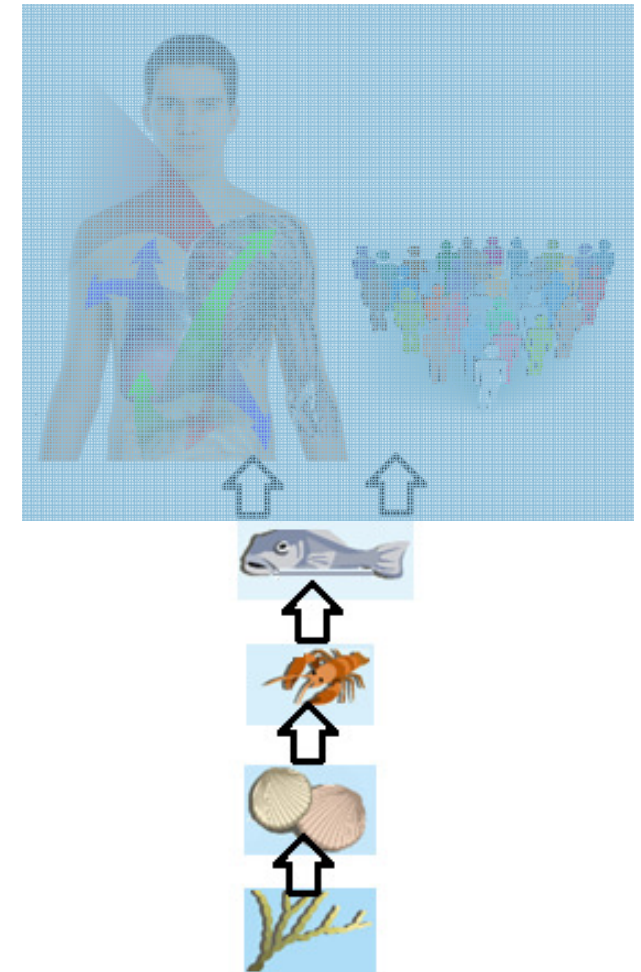


**Study:** ME Wastney ME, GF Combs Jr, WK Canfield, PR Taylor, KY Patterson, AD Hill, JE Moler, BH Patterson, A human model of selenium that integrates metabolism from selenite and selenomethionine, J Nutr, 141(4) p708-17, 2011

# Kinetics of trace elements: trophic transfer

Data: Kinetic parameters for  
individual organisms' ADME.

Model prediction: Estimation of  
the capacity of each trace element to  
bioaccumulate.



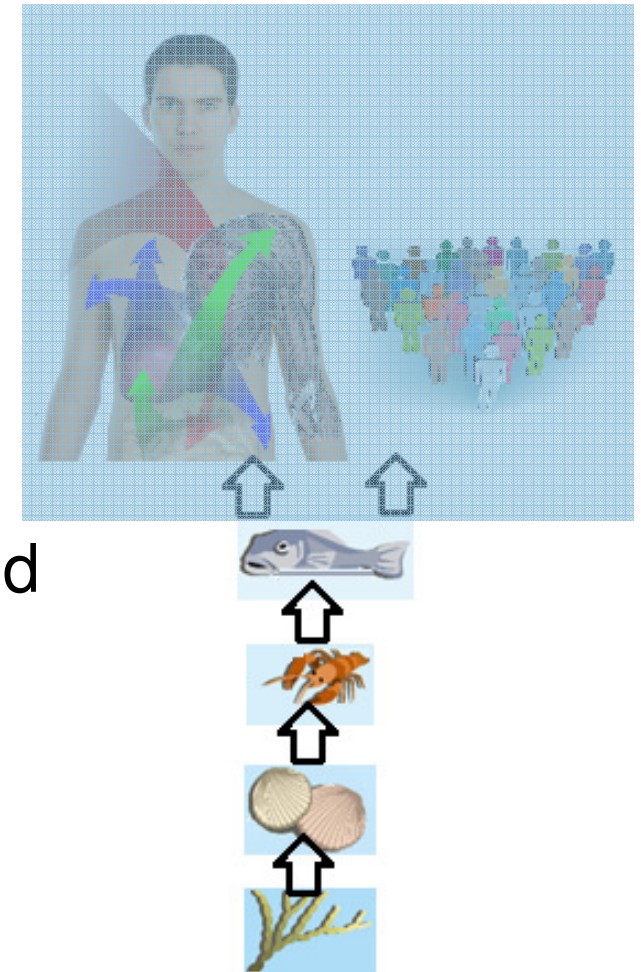
# Kinetics of trace elements: trophic transfer

Risk assessment for biomagnification.

Non-elemental Se biomagnification is predicted and observed for most organisms.

Cd biomagnification is only predicted for filter feeders.

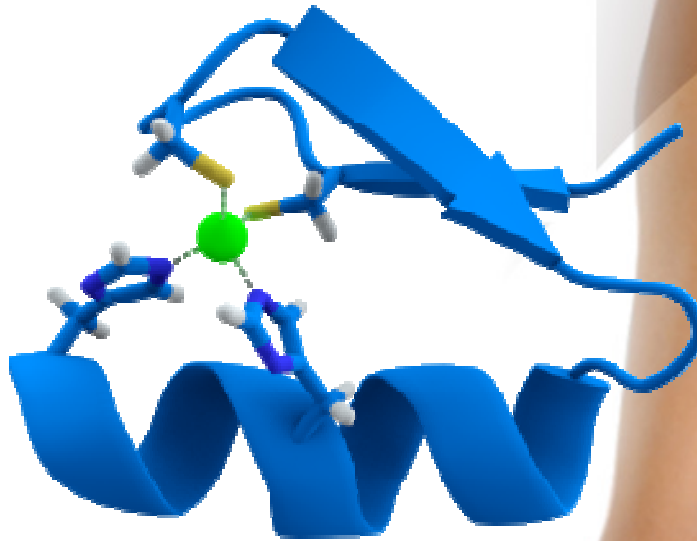
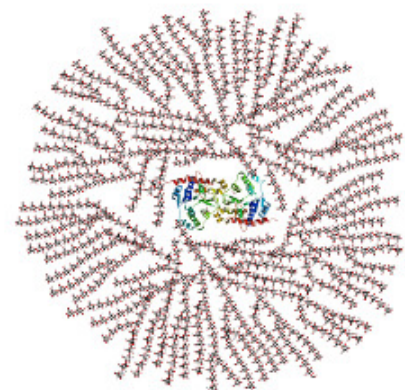
Cr is never expected to biomagnify.



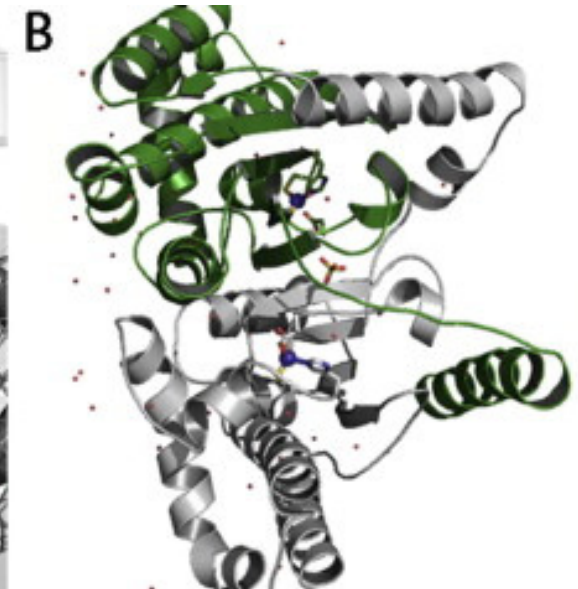
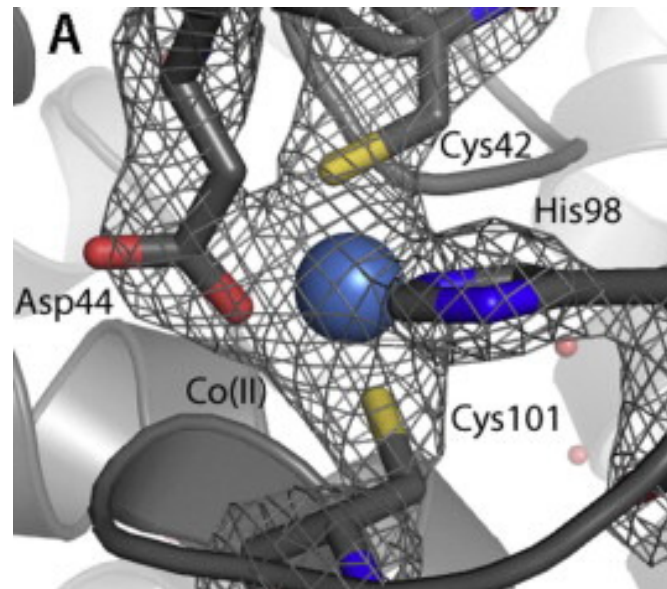
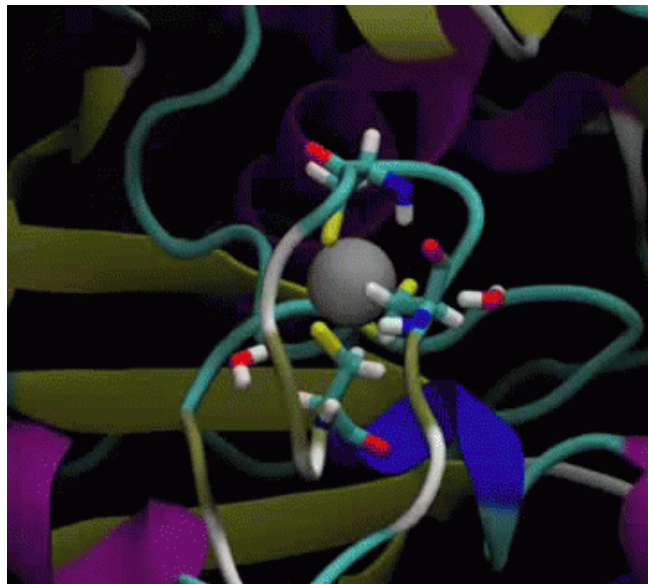
Study: JR Reinfelder, NS Fisher, SN Luoma, JW Nichols, WX Wang, Trace element trophic transfer in aquatic organisms: A critique of the kinetic model approach, *Sci Total Env*, 219, p117-35, 1998



# Molecular dynamics simulation: Understanding trace element binding to biomolecules



# CP Molecular dynamics simulation: probing speciation of Co and Zn bound to biomolecules



**Study:** C Bresson, C Lamouroux, C Sandre, C Moulin et al., An interdisciplinary approach to investigate the impact of cobalt in a human keratinocyte cell line, *Biochimie*, 88(11), p1619-29, 2006

**Video:** Cysteine coordinating Zinc, <http://youtu.be/o5-a39tbT9w>

**Image:** KM Hoffmann, D Samardzic, K van den Heever, RS Rowlett, *Arch Biochem Biophys*, 511, p80-87, 2011

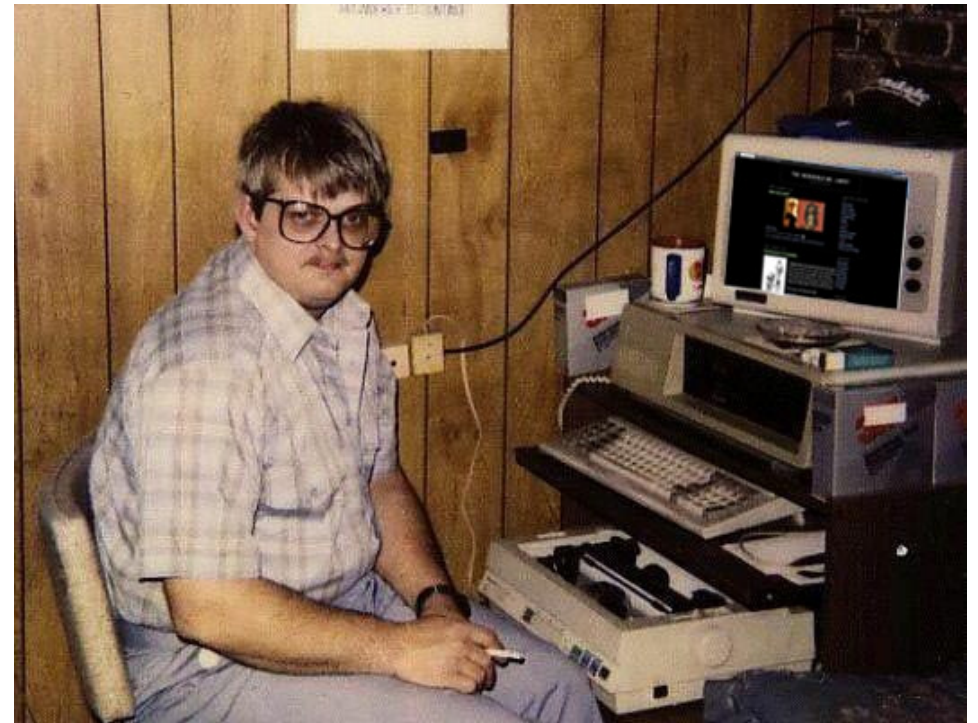
# Modeling Software

**WinSAAM:** Kinetic compartmental modeling software

**WinNonLin:** Pharmacokinetics software

**Charmm** and **NAMD:** Molecular dynamics simulation

**Matlab / Octave:** General purpose numerical math, many scripts available





# Models of Bioavailability

A model animates a mechanism with mathematics

Bioavailability is based on a mechanism

Bioavailability models deliver more than a “single number”

Dream: couple models of trophic transfer+animal feed+human metabolism

**Thank you for  
your attention**

**Dr. Jorge Numata**

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