

Introducing automated online multicolumn two-dimensional liquid chromatography screening as a rapid and efficient tool for method development of multiple pipeline modalities

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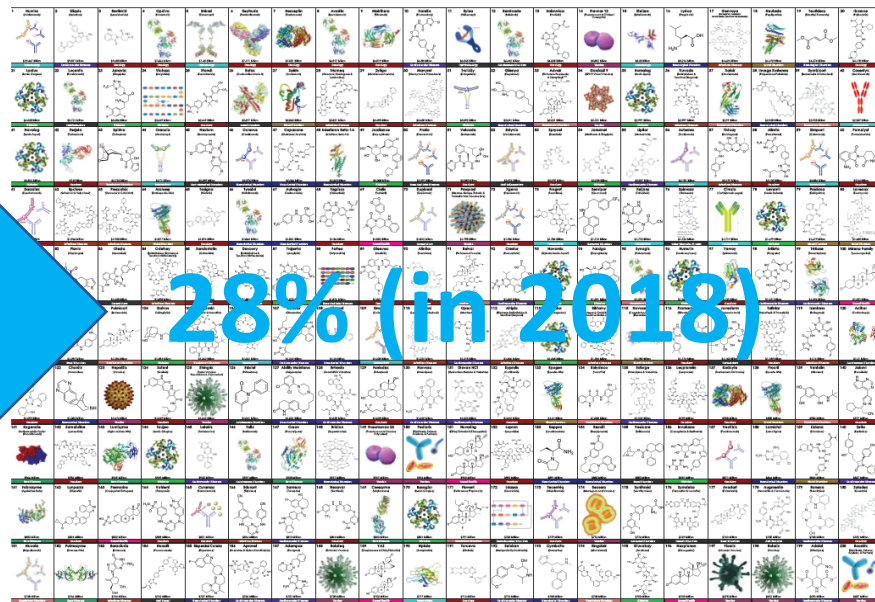
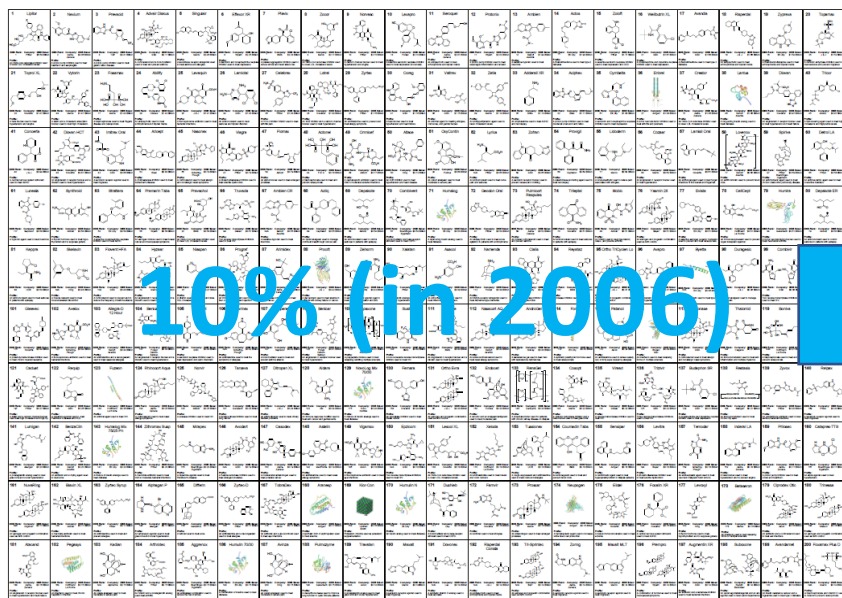
Outline

- Therapeutic modalities become more complex
- Challenges of the traditional analytical workflows
- Online multicolumn 2D-LC-DAD-MS screening system
- Applications

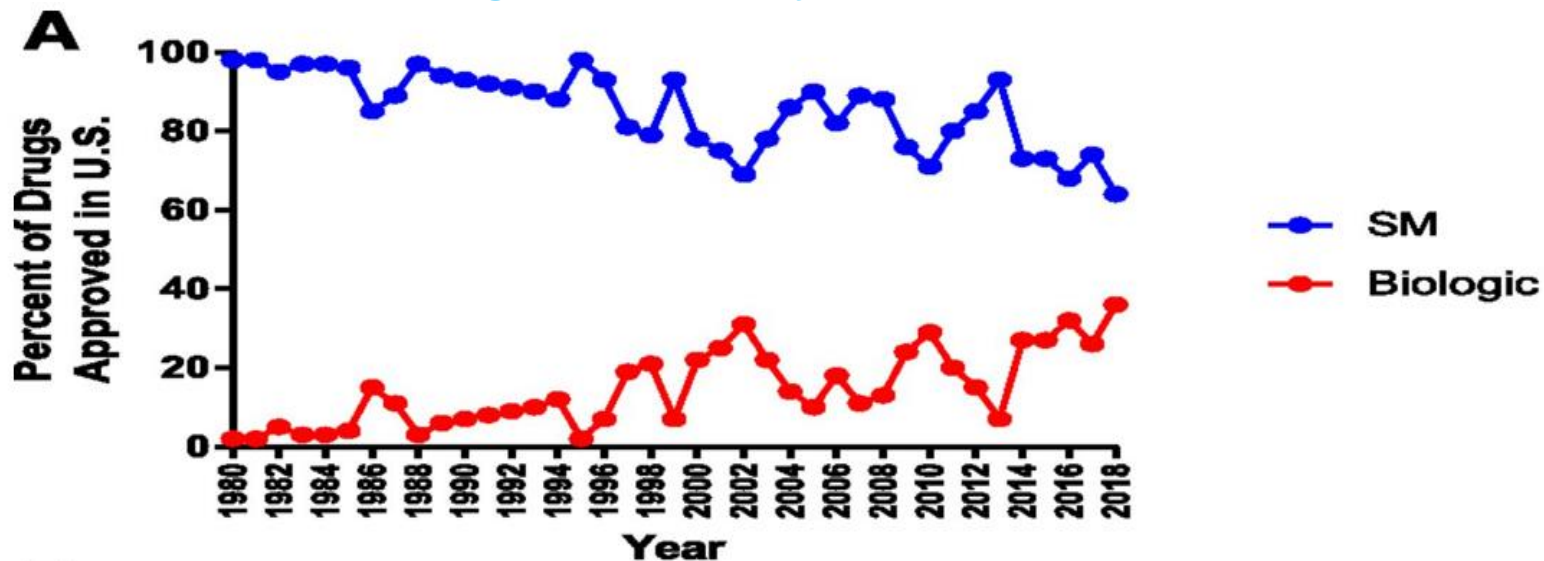
Transitioning from a small molecule–dominated focus to a more balanced portfolio

- Non-SM increased from 10% in 2006 to 28% in 2018
- “non–small molecule” drugs include monoclonal antibodies, engineered proteins, oligonucleotides, and vaccines

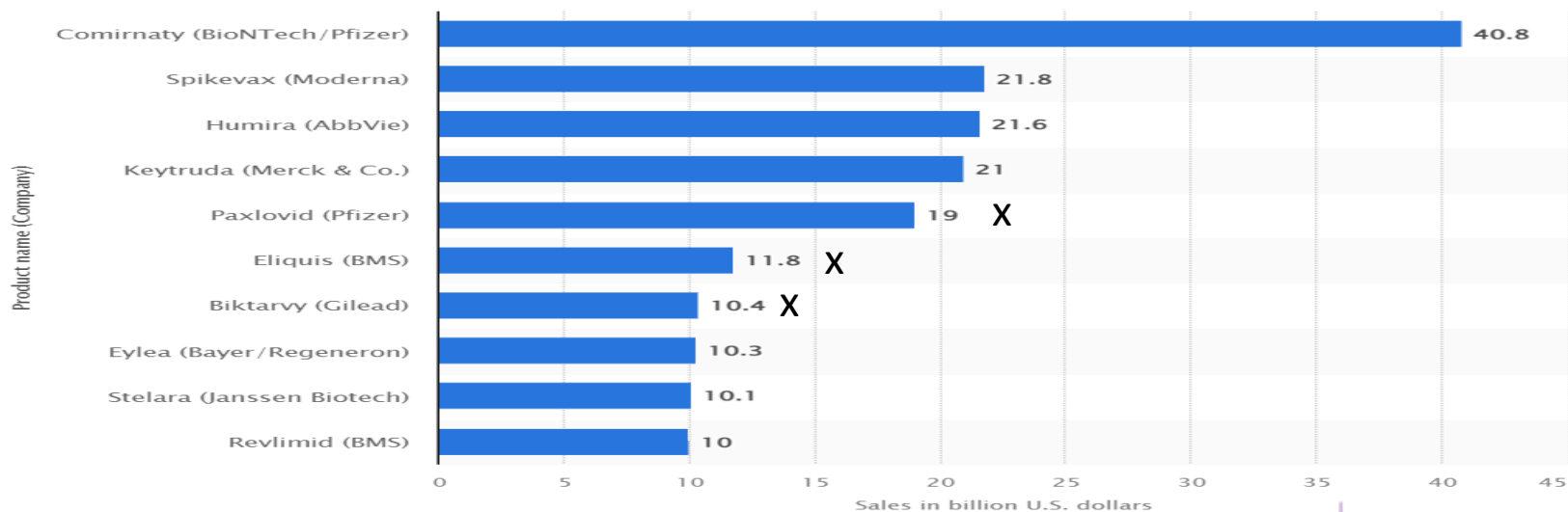
Percentage of Non-SM Drugs in Top 200 Drugs by sales by Njarðarson Group at University of Arizona



Drug approvals by FDA



Sales of top 10 best-selling drugs in 2022



Brooke M. Rock, and Robert S. Foti Drug Metab Dispos
2019;47:1097-1099

Increasing drug complexity

Complex Drugs

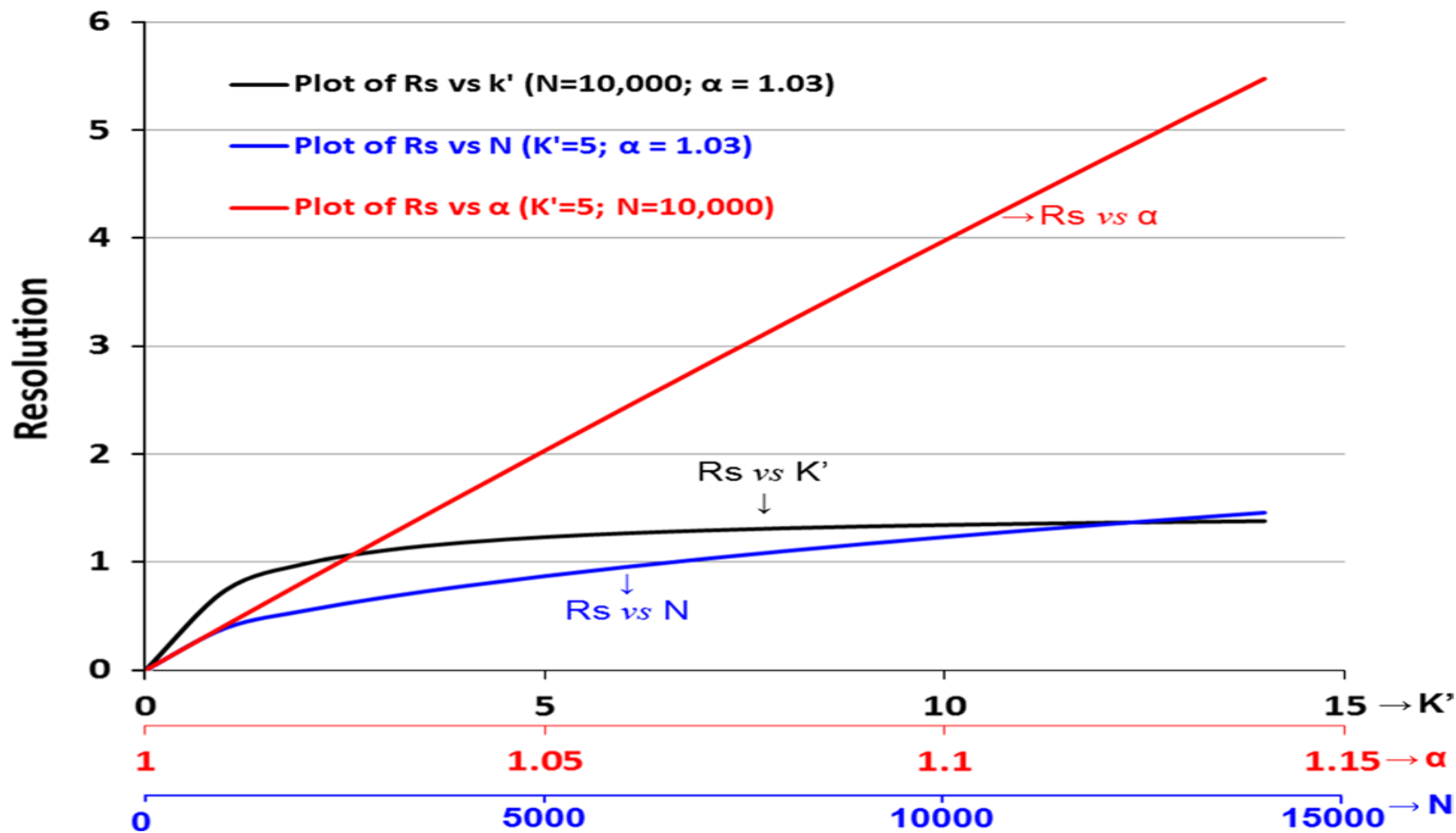


Challenge to method development

As more and more large molecule products are being developed, analytical characterization of biologics becomes incredibly challenging.

Goal: Pioneer analytical method development to handle increasingly complex targets

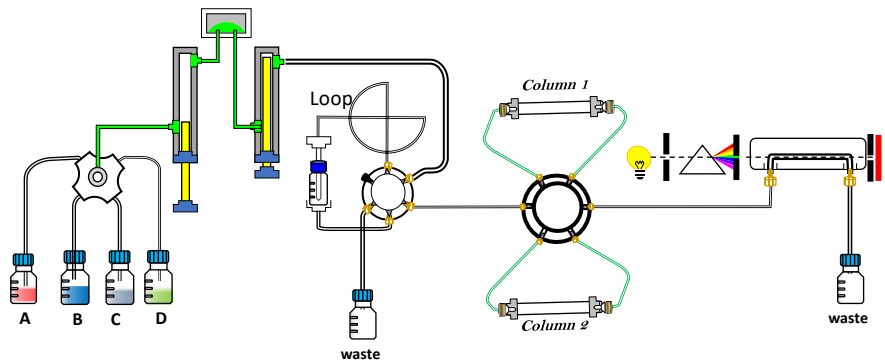
$$R_s = \frac{\sqrt{N_2}}{4} \cdot \left[\frac{\alpha - 1}{\alpha} \right] \cdot \left[\frac{k_2}{k_2 + 1} \right]$$



Standard Method Development Practices

- Following preferred method development scheme based on experiences
- Using method development software (ACD , LC-simulator, etc.)
- Evaluating and screening multiple columns/multiple mobile phases in a manual or automated fashion

Power of screening in method development



**2 x 2 x 2
Permutations**

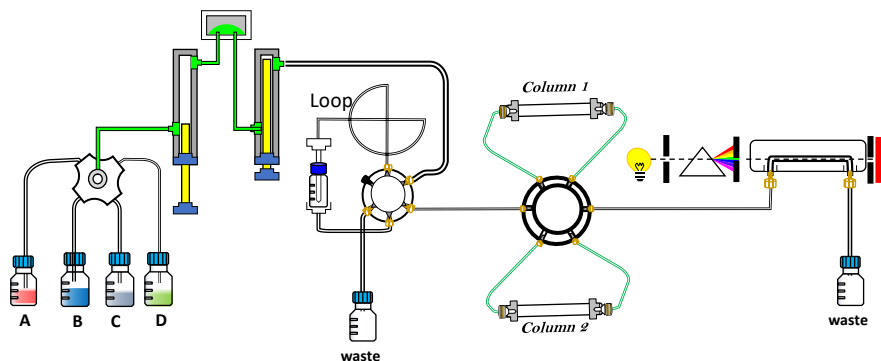
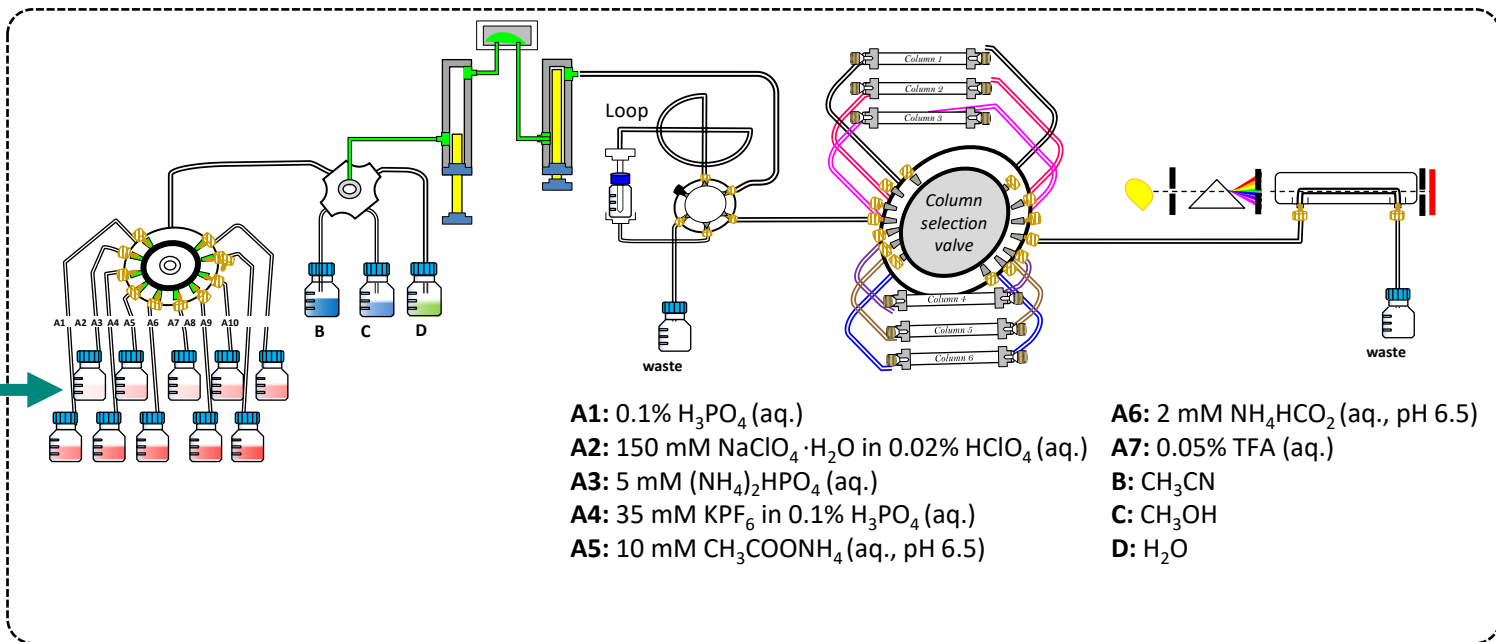


**Traditional
HPLC system**

Power of screening in method development

**7 x 2 x 6
Permutations**

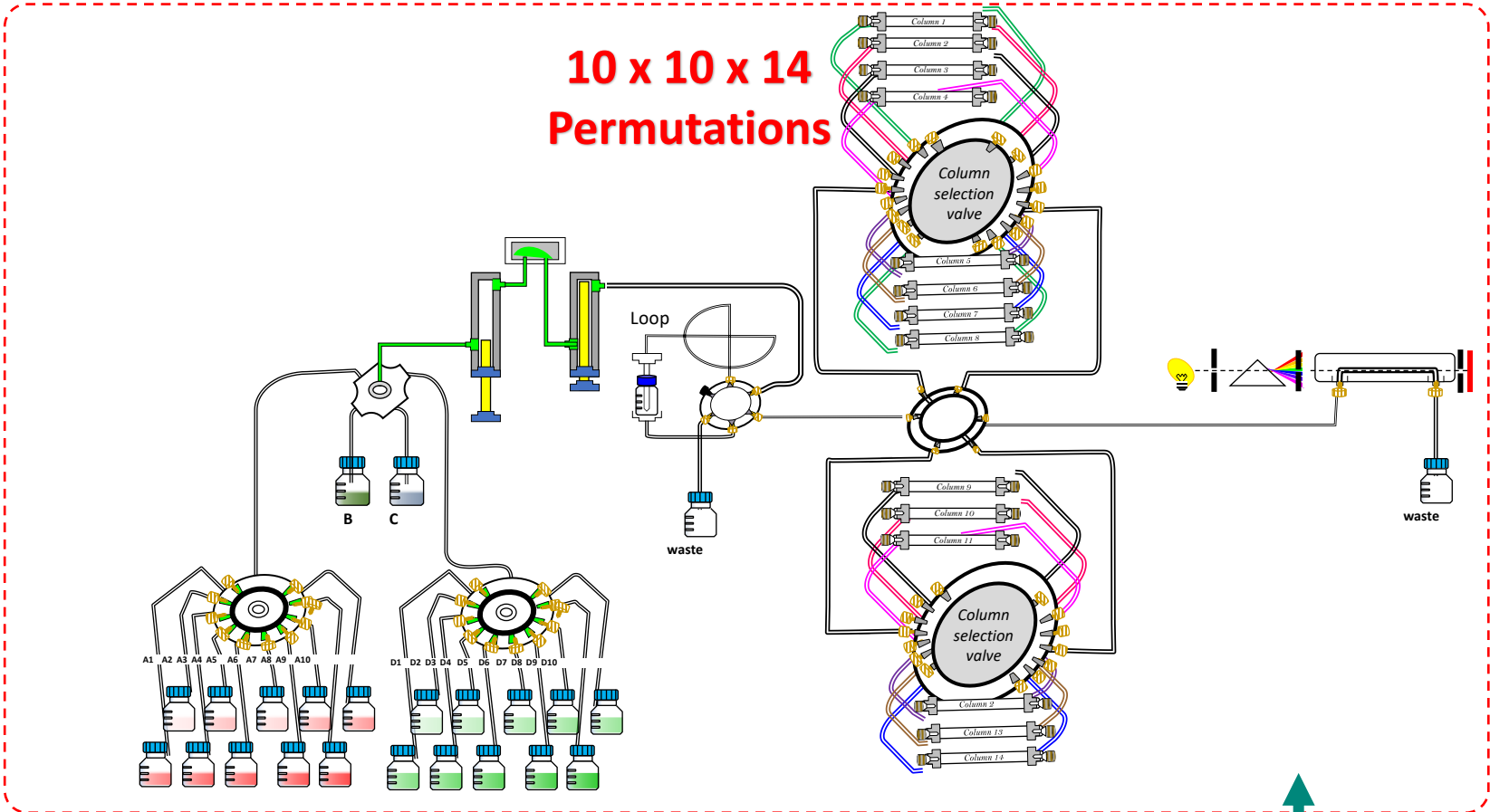
**UHPLC screening
system**



**2 x 2 x 2
Permutations**

**Traditional
HPLC system**

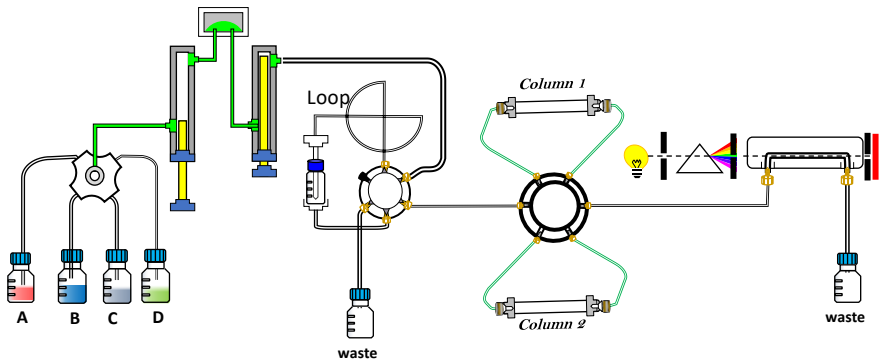
Power of screening in method development



Screening capability added

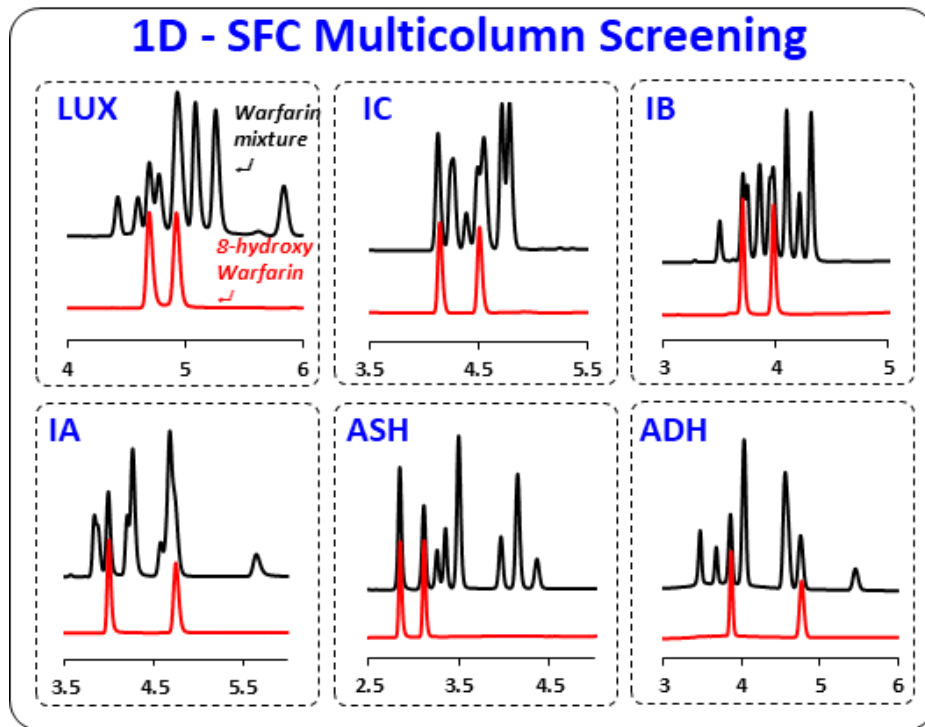
2 x 2 x 2 Permutations

Typical HPLC system

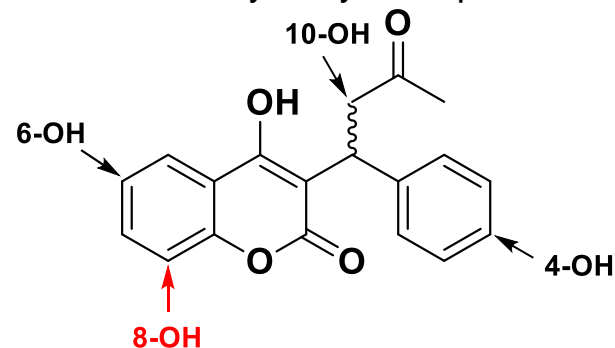


Challenges in One-Dimensional Liquid Chromatography

Challenges exist even with most powerful screening techniques...



Warfarin and hydroxylation positions



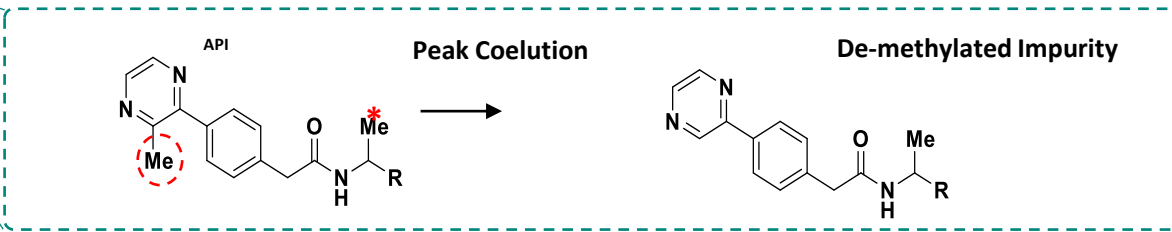
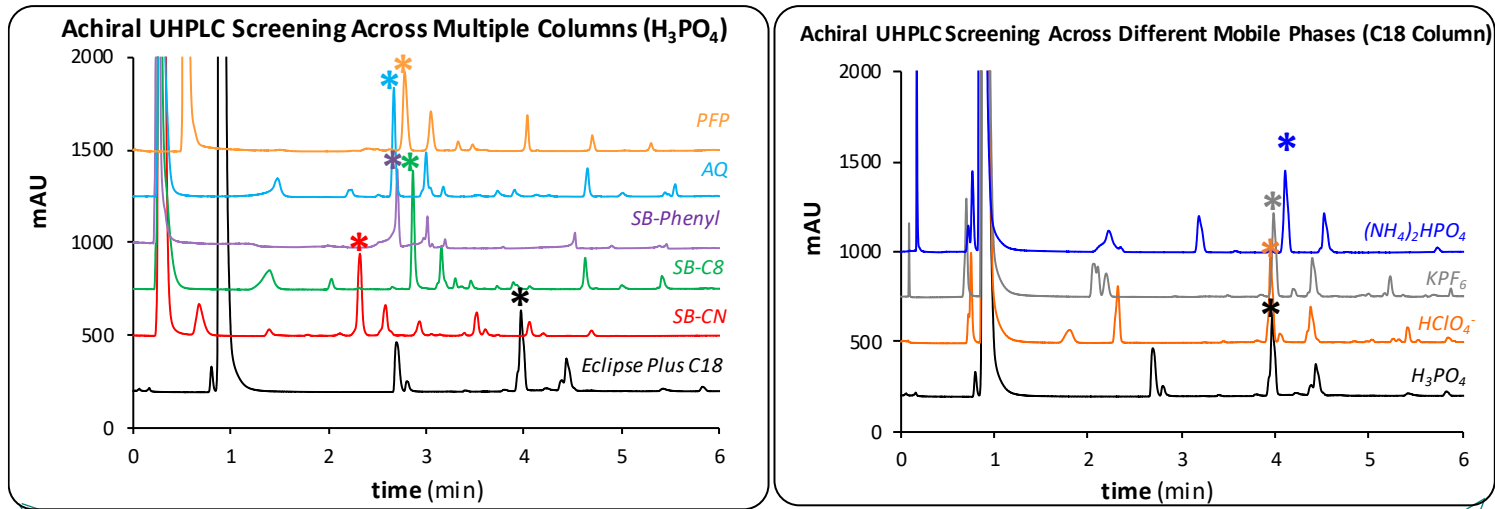
- Mixture contains species of multiple stereoisomers
- With SFC each screening, retention times of the enantiomer pair shifts
- Difficult to identify by peak areas
- MS does not help

Current analytical methods lack selectivity to handle the increasing complexity of pharmaceutical development

Multidimensional separation is a must-have tool

Challenges in One-Dimensional Liquid Chromatography

Challenges exist even with most powerful analytical techniques. . .



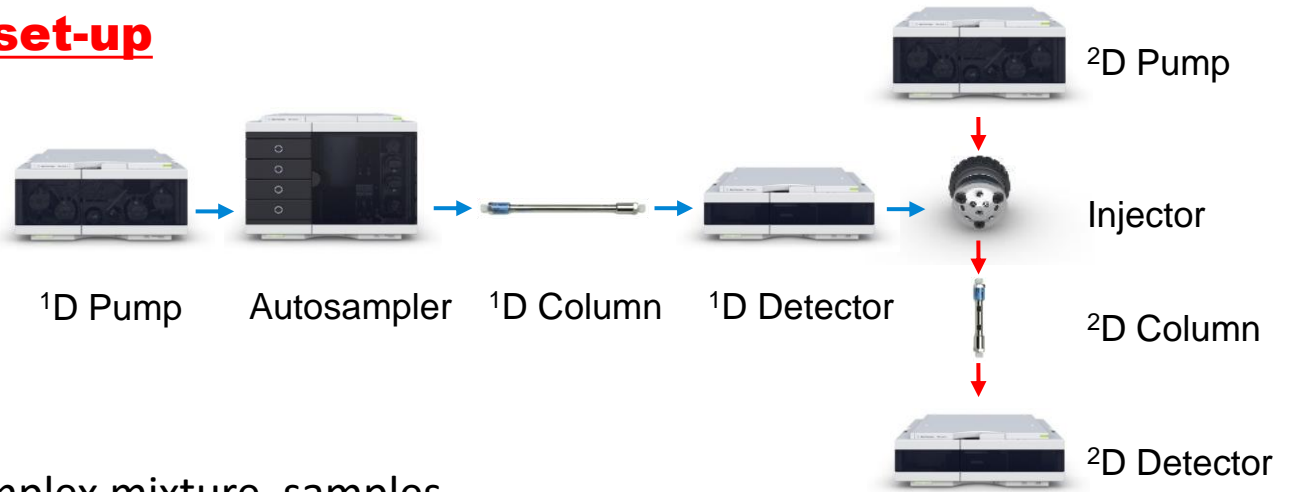
Current analytical methods lack selectivity to handle the increasing complexity of pharmaceutical development

Multidimensional separation is a must-have tool

Two-dimensional Liquid Chromatography

2-D liquid chromatography has become a valuable tool for improving peak capacity and selectivity.

Typical 2D-LC set-up

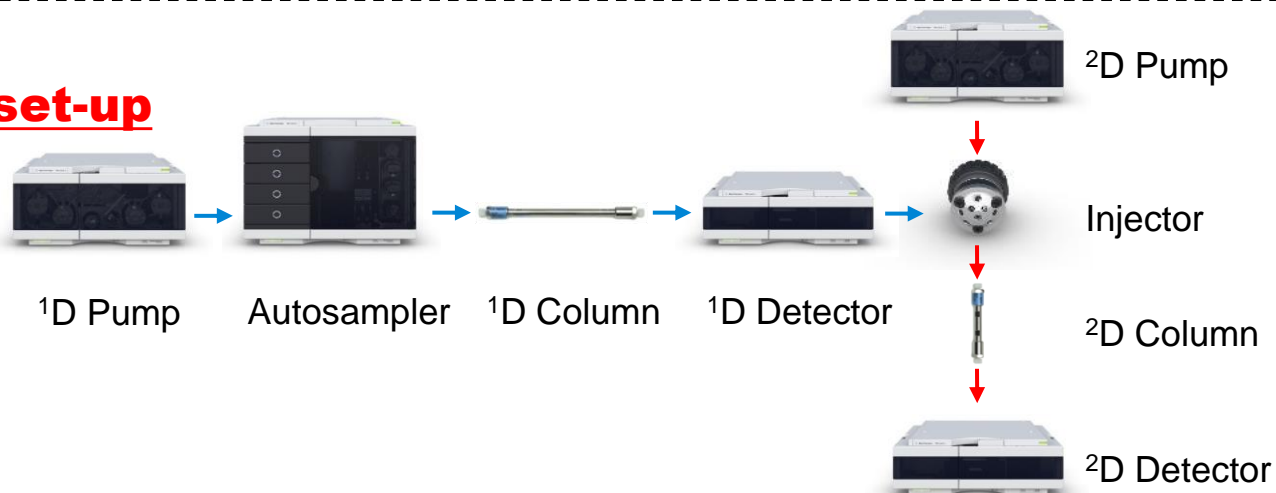


2D LC is for complex mixture samples

Courtesy of Agilent Technologies

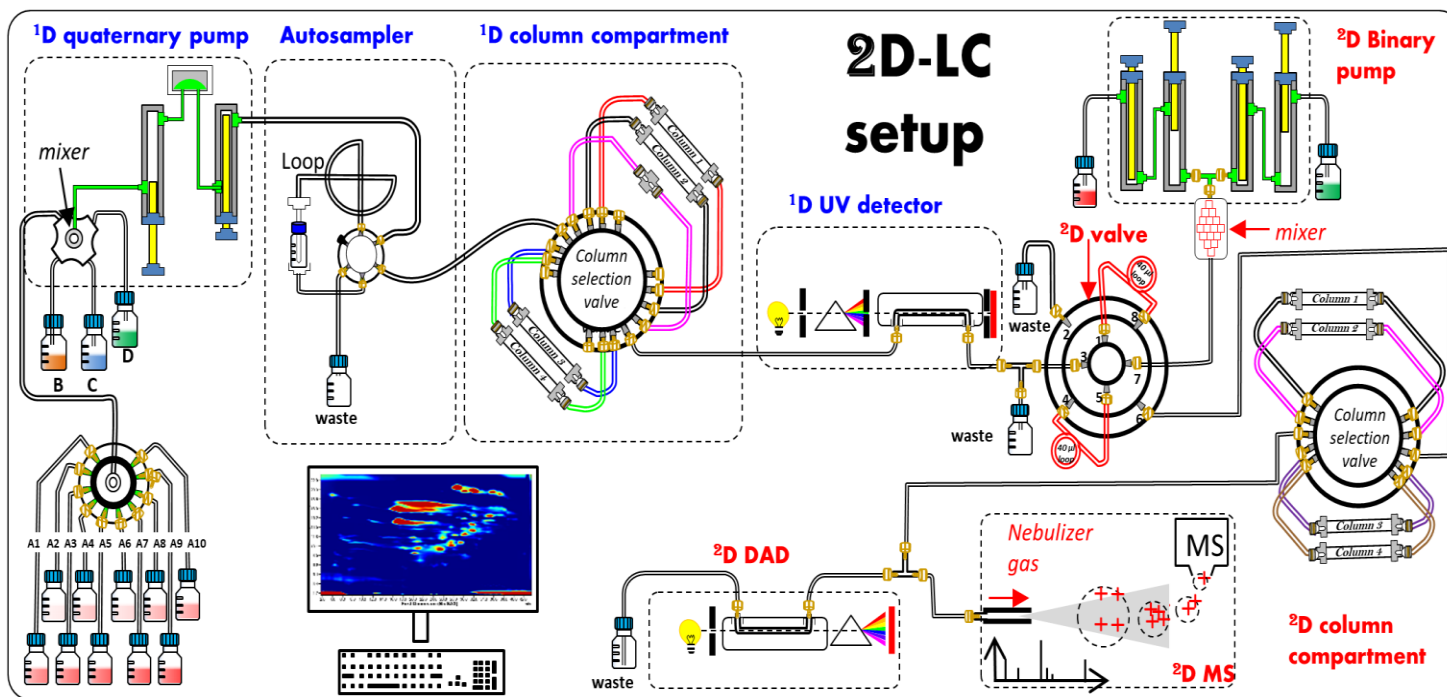
Online Multicolumn Two-dimensional Liquid Chromatography Screening

Typical 2D-LC set-up

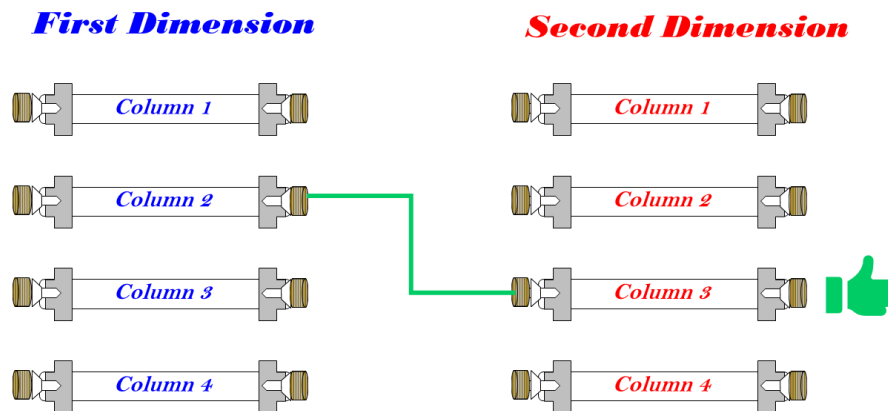


Online Multi-column screening 2D-LC set-up

Courtesy of Agilent Technologies



Online Multicolumn Two-dimensional Liquid Chromatography Screening



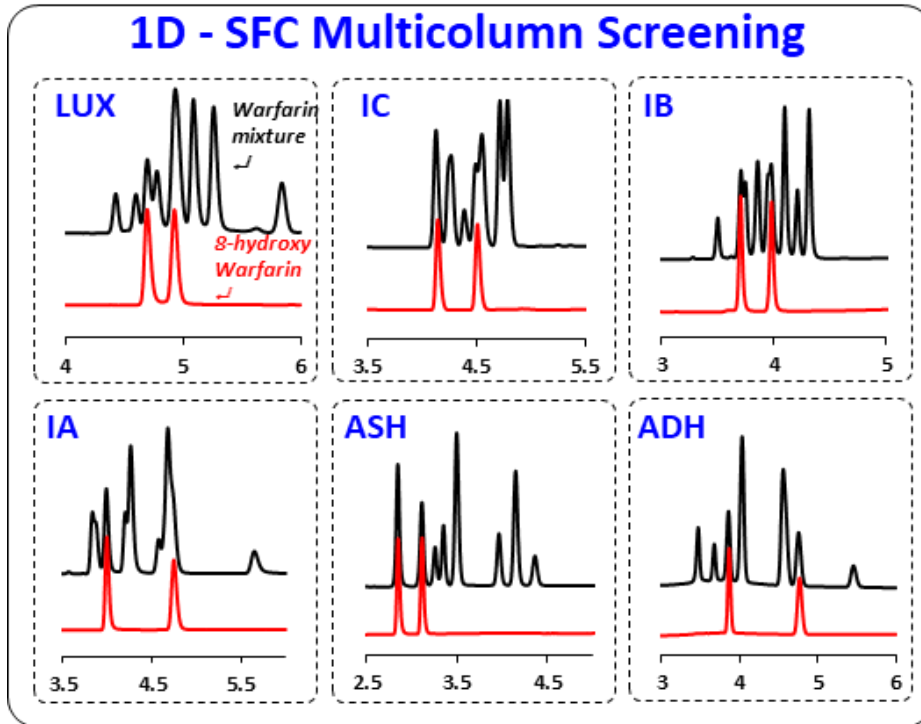
Online Multi-column screening 2D-LC set-up

- Automatic on-line heart cutting or high-resolution sampling
- DAD and MS as detectors
- Multiple column selection on both dimensions
- Multiple mobile phases selections
- In an automated fashion

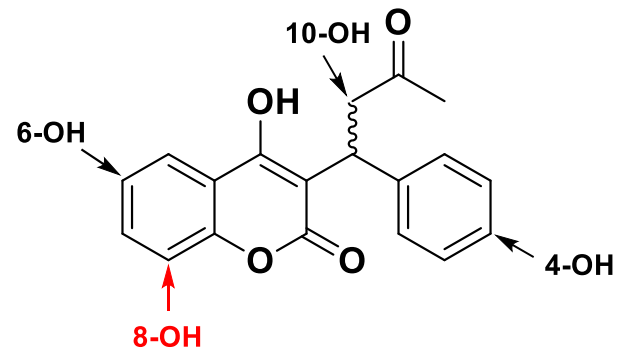
Solved the challenges we faced with one dimensional LC

Challenges in One-Dimensional Liquid Chromatography

Challenges exist even with most powerful screening techniques. . .



Warfarin and hydroxylation positions



- Mixture contains species of multiple stereoisomer
- With each screening, retention times of the isomers shifts

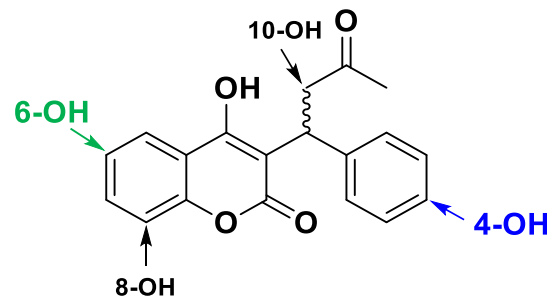
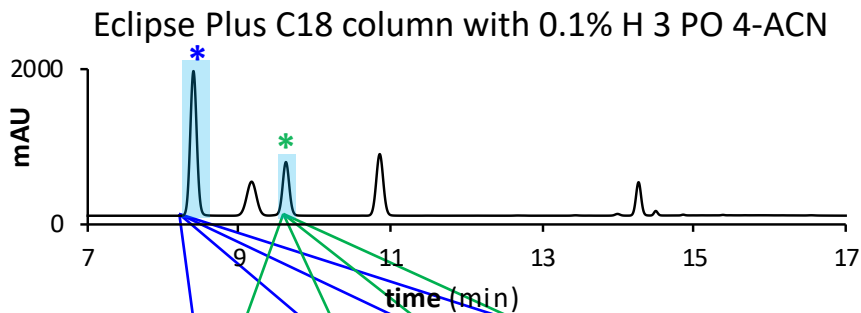
Current analytical methods lack selectivity to handle the increasing complexity of pharmaceutical development

2D-LC set up approach makes this analyses easier

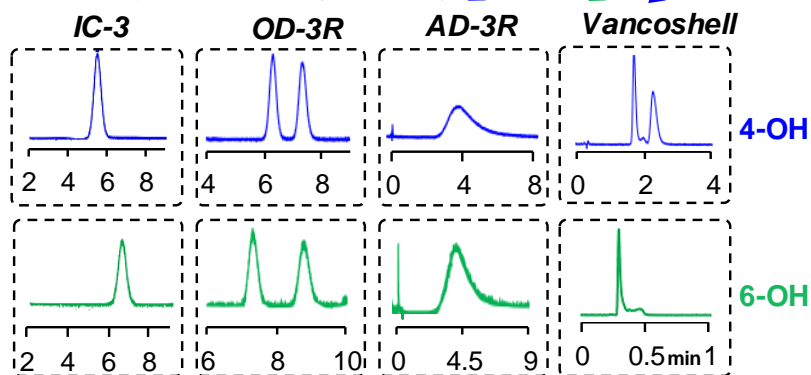
Online Multicolumn 2D-LC-DAD-MS

Analysis of Warfarin and Hydroxylated Isomers

1D



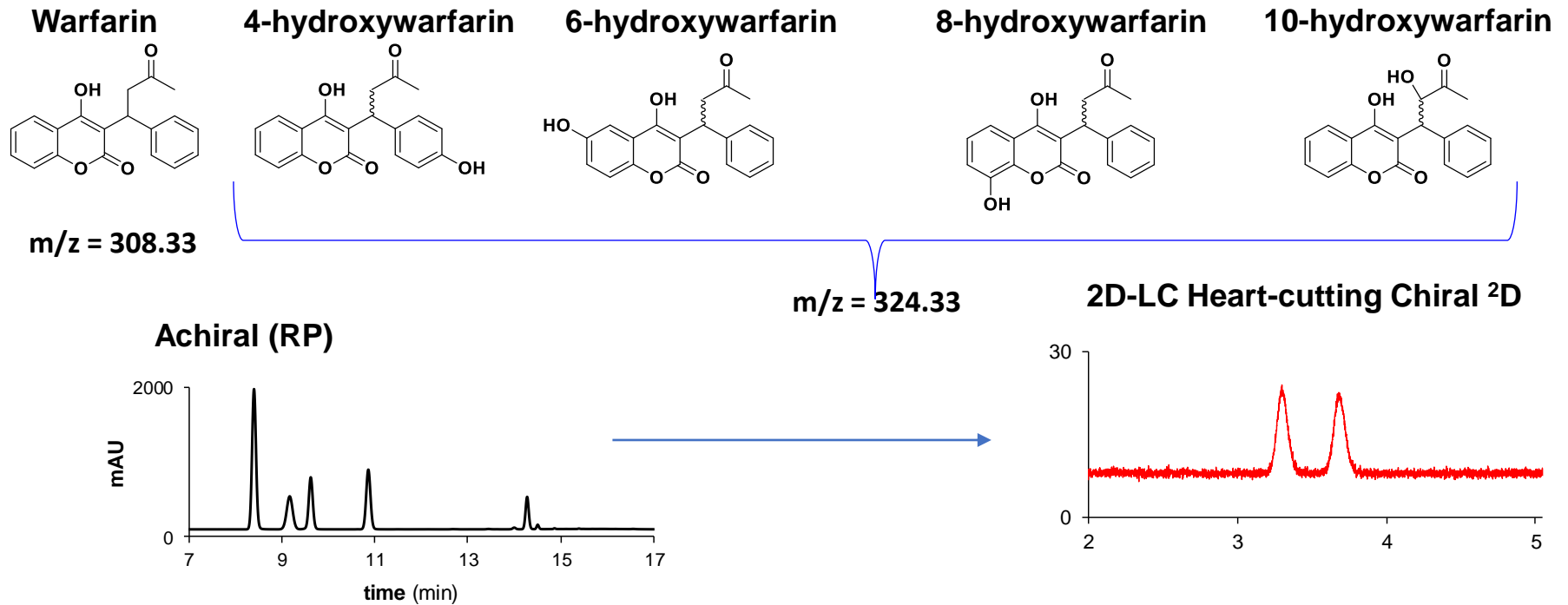
2D



For separation of the enantiomer pairs of both 4-OH and 6-OH, OD-3R outperforms all other chiral columns assessed.

Streamlined method development is only possible with *online multicolumn* functionality!

Heart-cutting Online Multicolumn 2D-LC Analysis of Closely Related Species



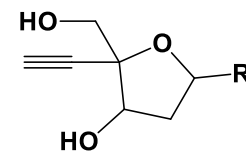
A: MS-incompatible buffers can be used in 1D to improve separation, without affecting MS analysis in the 2D

B: Heart-cuts can now be injected into the 2D using different columns.

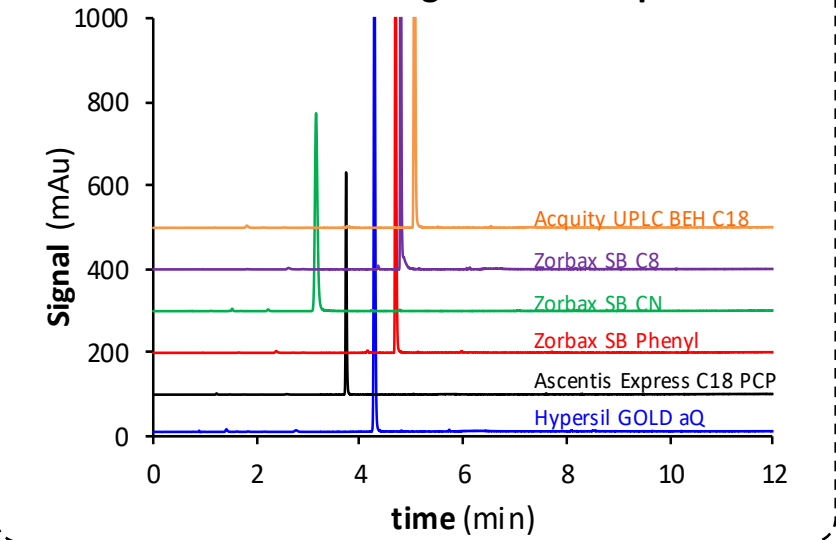
C: Achiral-chiral set up, stereoisomers of interested are selectively isolated from rest of chemical species.

Online Multicolumn 2D-LC-DAD-MS

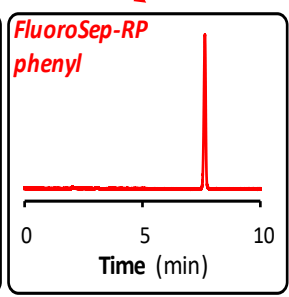
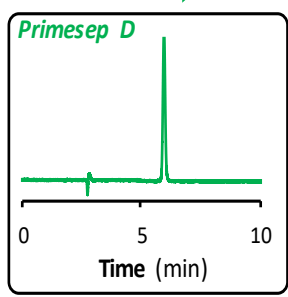
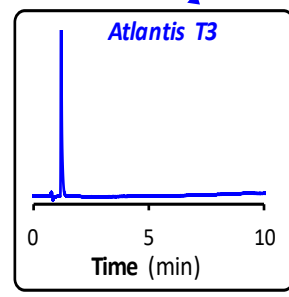
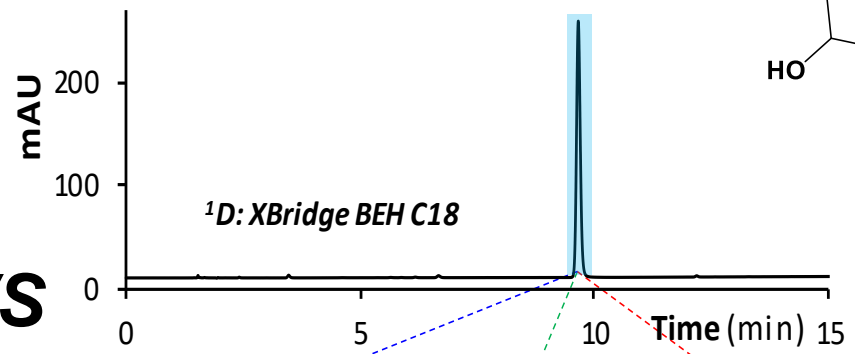
Confirmation of purity for peak of interest in pipeline drug substance



1D Achiral UHPLC Screening Across Multiple Columns



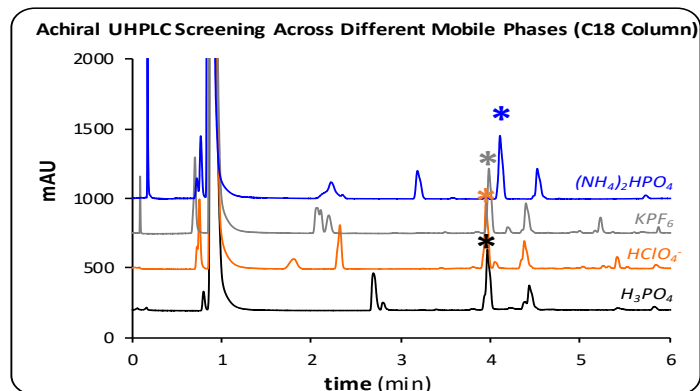
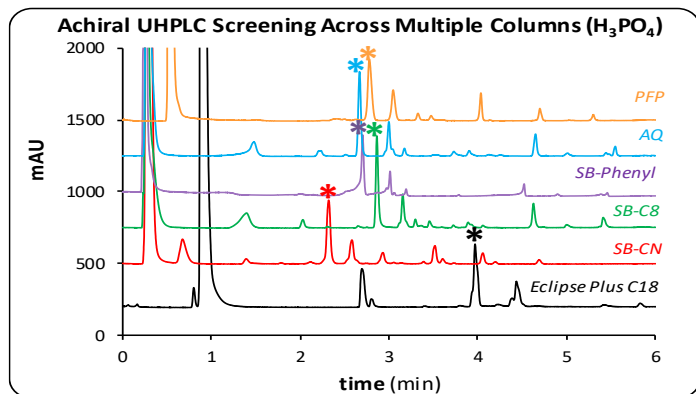
VS



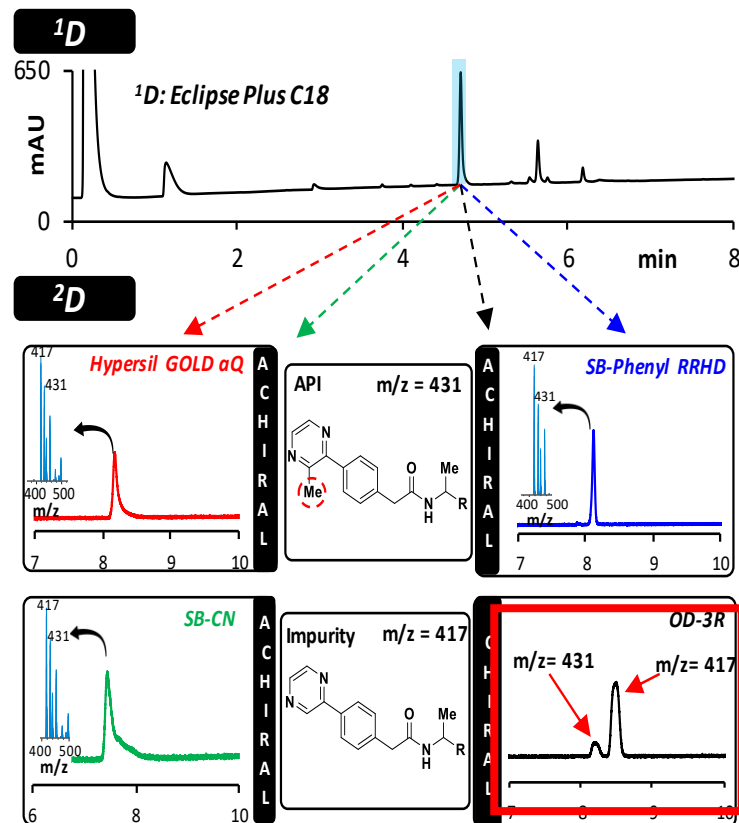
Peak purity confirmed by automated online multicolumn heart-cutting 2D-LC

Online Multicolumn 2D-LC-DAD-MS

Discovery of a de-methylated major impurity

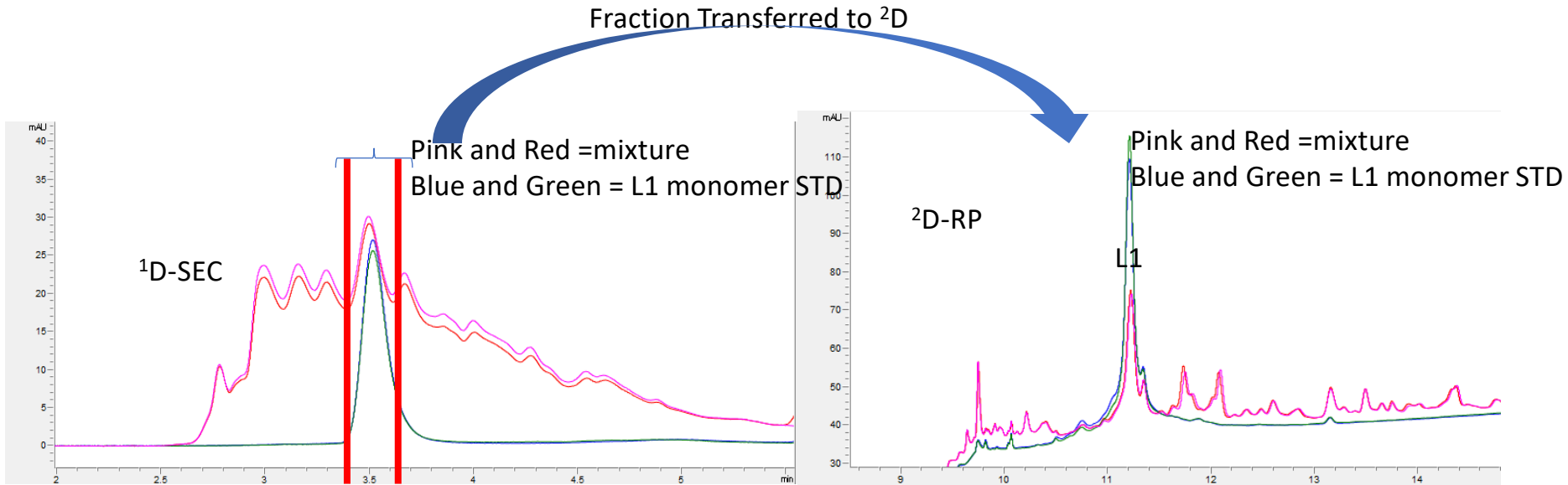


VS.



Heart-cutting Achiral – Chiral is the only method that reveals the major impurity and enables reaction monitoring

Example SEC-RPLC separation for L1 protein



1D condition:

Acquity protein BEH SEC-200A at 25C

MPA: 0.1% SDS 15mM Na phosphate and 150mM NaCl pH3

F=0.3ml/min isocratic for 15minues

Waters Protein BEH C4 300 Å, 1.7um 2.1x100mm

Bioshell IgG 1000A C4 2.7um 2.1x100mm★

HALO C4 1000A 2.7um 2.1x75mm at 70C

BEH peptide C18 300A 1.7um 2.1x100mm at 75C

YMC Triart BIO C4 300A 1.9um 150x2.1mm at 70C

Conclusions

- ❑ Automated multicolumn online 2D-LC-DAD-ESI-MS approach are developed for the separation and analysis of complex pharmaceutical mixtures.
- ❑ Multi-column selection valve technology in both dimensions showed excellent chromatographic performance and repeatability.
- ❑ This technique enables rapid and efficient identification of column/eluent combinations, as well as sample analysis across multiple columns in both dimensions overnight with a single click.

Acknowledgments

- Merck & Co., Inc. leadership
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