



**METABO-OPEN 2021**

virtual training school in  
metabolomics fair data management

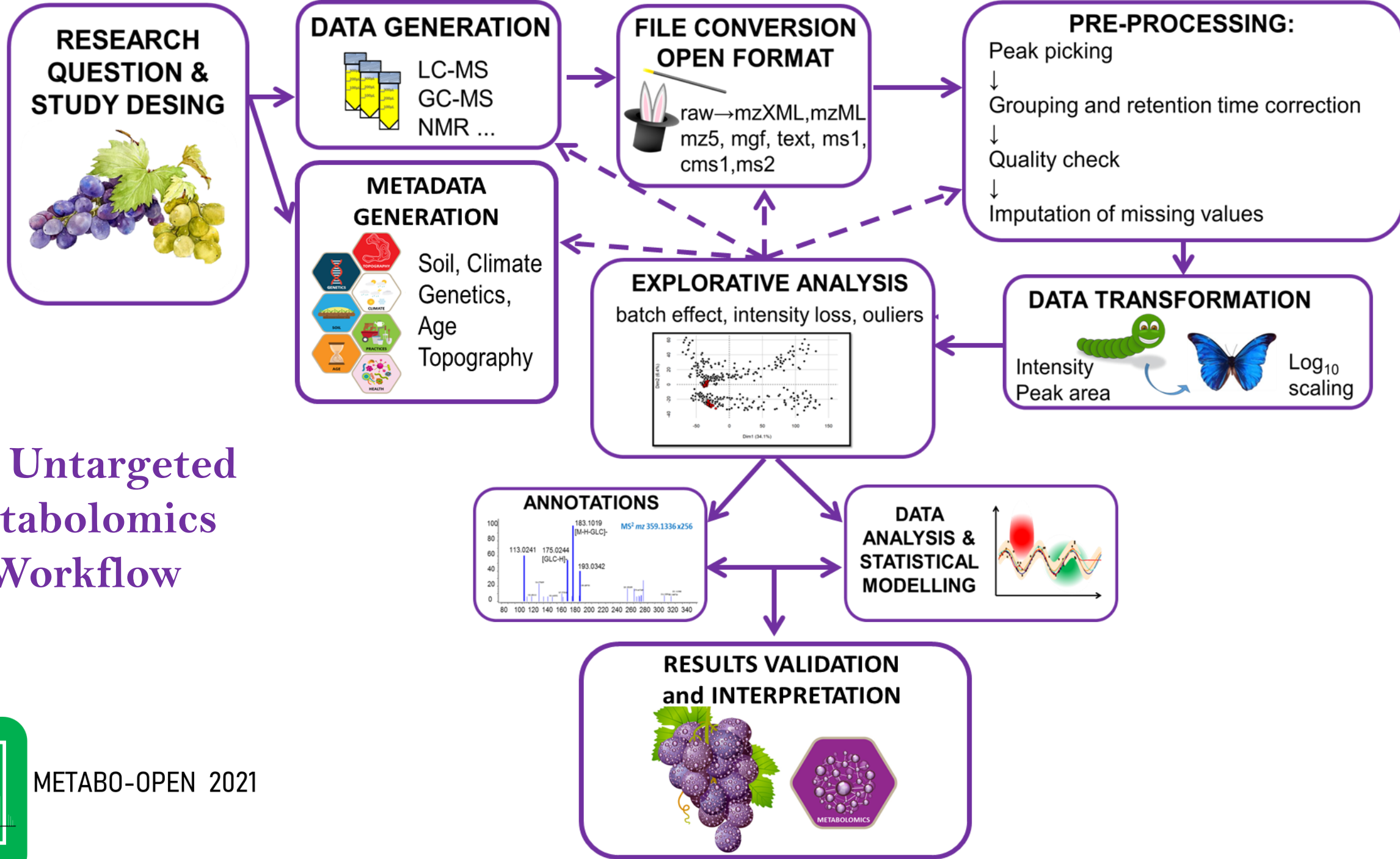
# Quality Control and Randomization in Metabolomics. Untargeted Metabolomic Workflow: From sample preparation to mass spectrometry analysis.

**Dr Marynka Ulaszewska- Tarantino**

Center for Omics Sciences,  
Protemics and Metabolomics Facility  
San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milano, Italy



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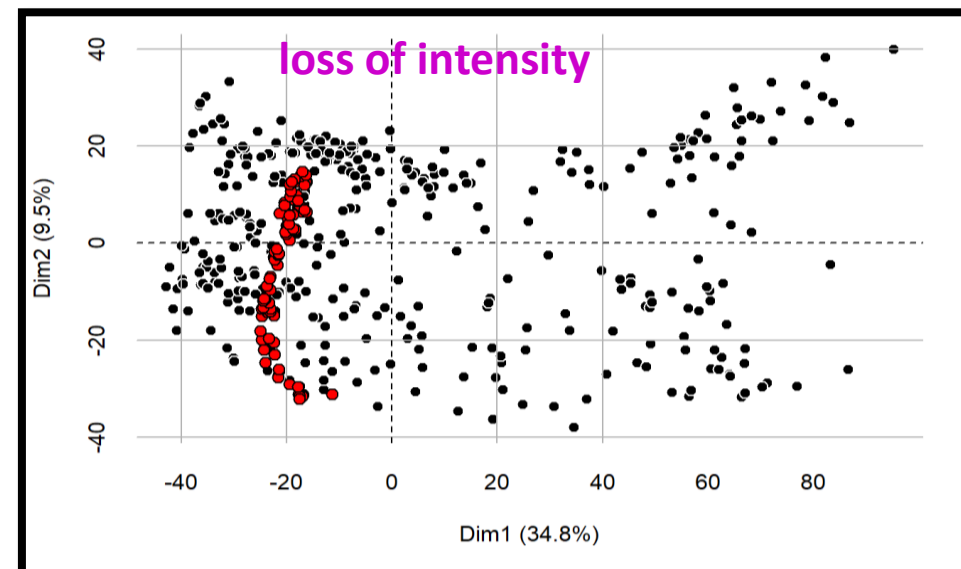
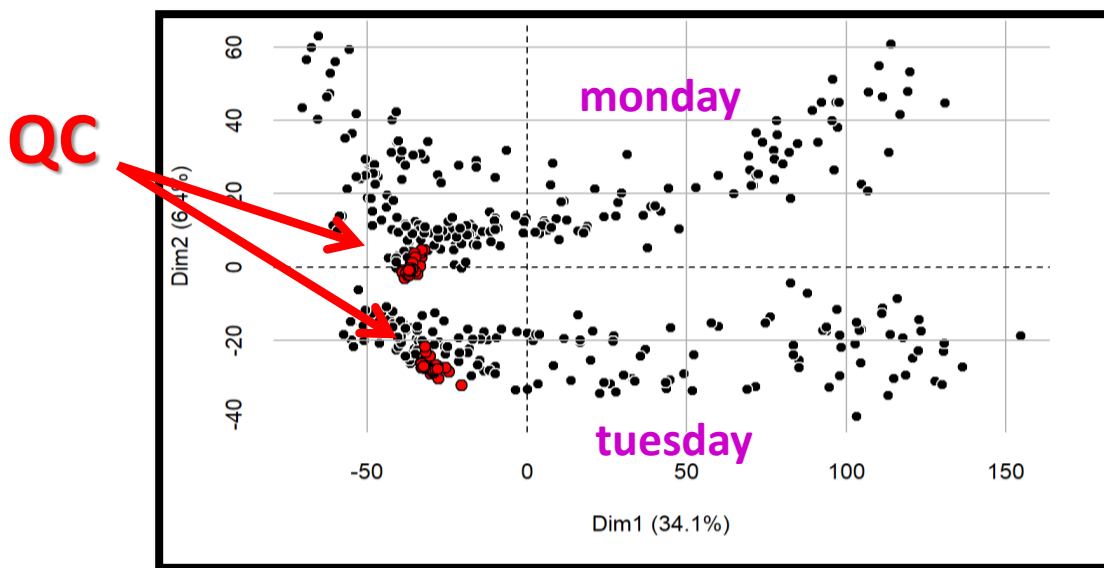
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# Quality Control and Randomization in Metabolomics



The repeated analysis of QC samples serves several purposes:

- i) the general **monitoring** of the performance of the **analytical system**, for example, concerning retention time ( $t_R$ ) and signal intensity stability, mass calibration, etc.;
- ii) the **determination** of a method's overall **precision** (including sample preparation, intraday and interday) if several QC sample aliquots are prepared independently per batch
- iii) the calculation of QC sample-based drift correction functions aiming to remove systematic trends and batch effects

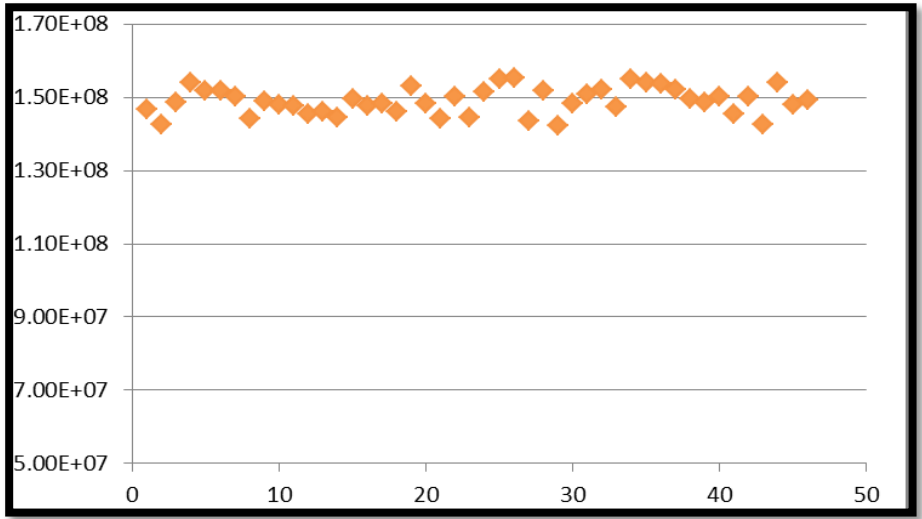




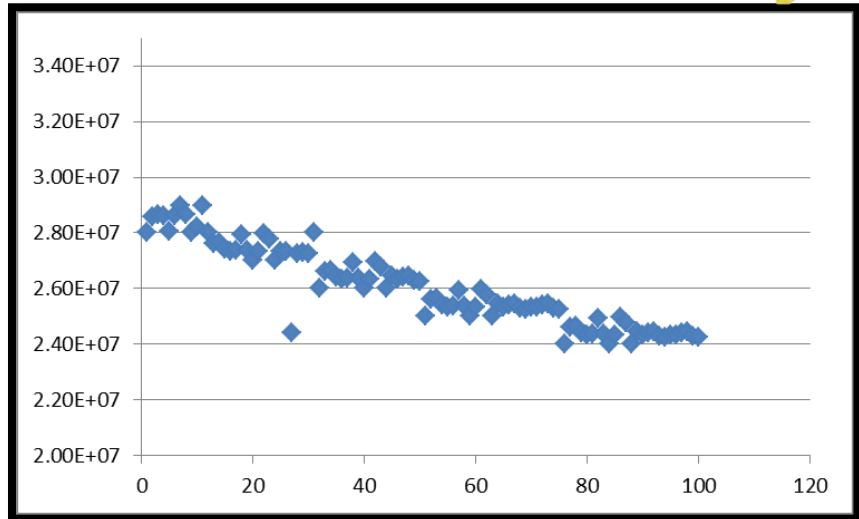
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Intensity of the MS signal during injection queue for QC samples



Expectation

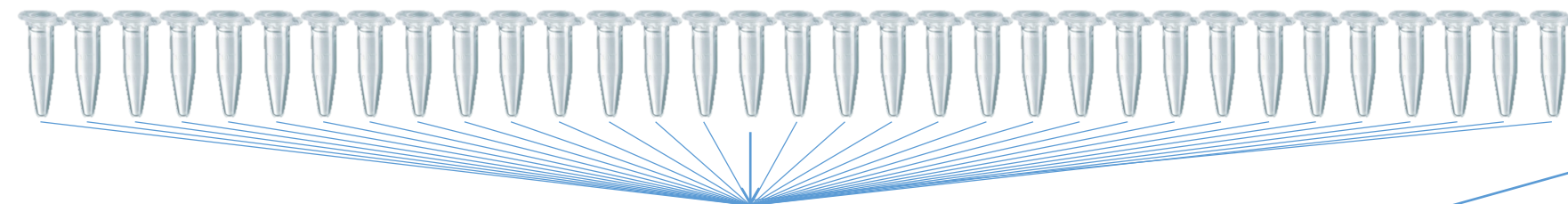


Reality





## Quality Control



### QC pool sample

Consists of small aliquote (10 uL or 50 uL)  
taken from each study samples

Pooled in one vial and injected along queue many times

Depending on retention time duration  
it can be ever 5, 8 or 10 samples

DAY1

x001_solvent
x002_solvent
x003_QC equilibration_run
x004_QC equilibration_run
x005_QC equilibration_run
x006_QC equilibration_run
x007_QC equilibration_run
x008_Blank1
x009_Blank2
x010_Blank3
x011_solvent
x012_QC pooled
x013_QC pooled
x014_QC pooled
x015_QC pooled
x016_sample_GR
x017_sample_IT
x018_sample_IT
x019_sample_GR
x020_sample_ES
x021_QC pooled
x022_sample_GR
x023_sample_ES
x024_sample_GR
x025_sample_IT
x026_sample_IT
x027_QC pooled
x028_sample_ES
x029_sample_ES
x030_sample_IT
x031_sample_GR
x032_sample_IT
x033_QC pooled



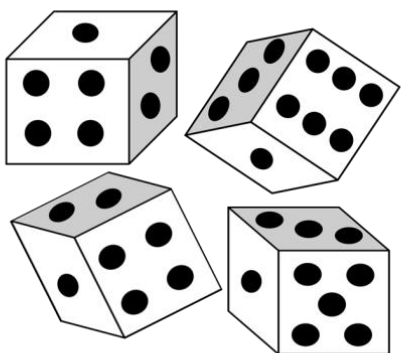


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# Quality Control and Randomization in Metabolomics

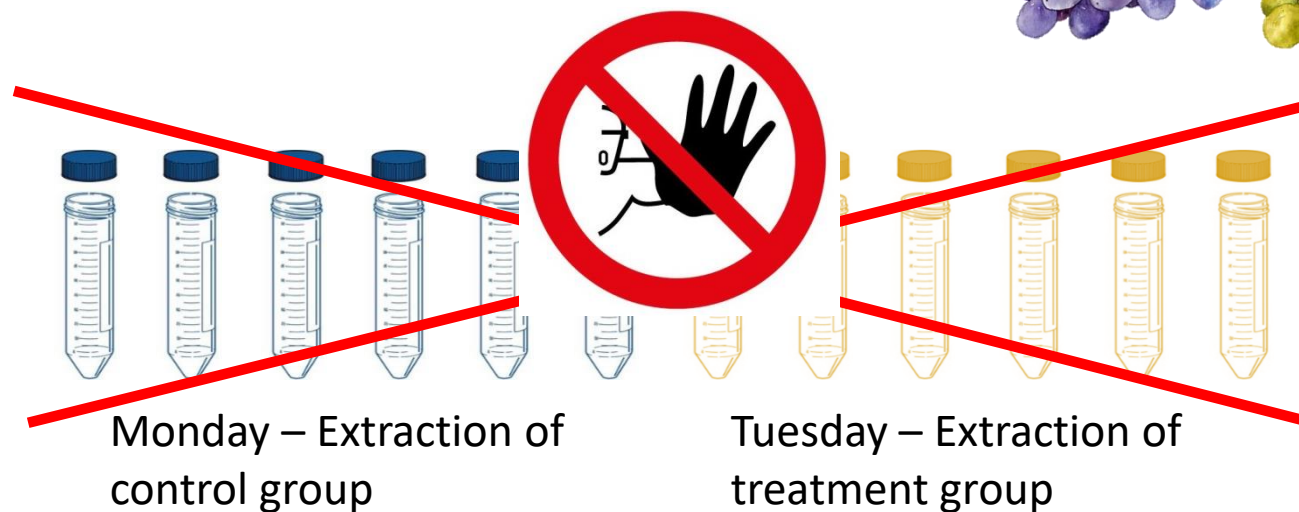


## RANDOMIZATION

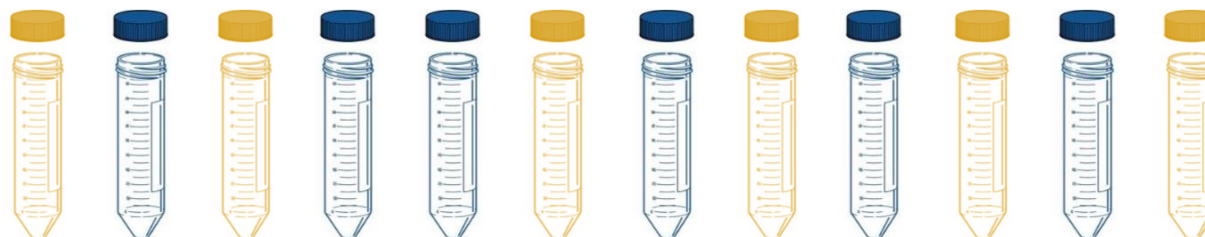


**IT'S  
A MUST  
!!!**

Link to randomize a sample list:  
<https://www.random.org/lists/>



**Randomize samples for extraction procedure**



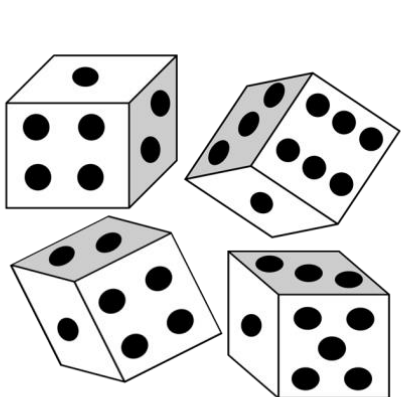


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# Quality Control and Randomization in Metabolomics

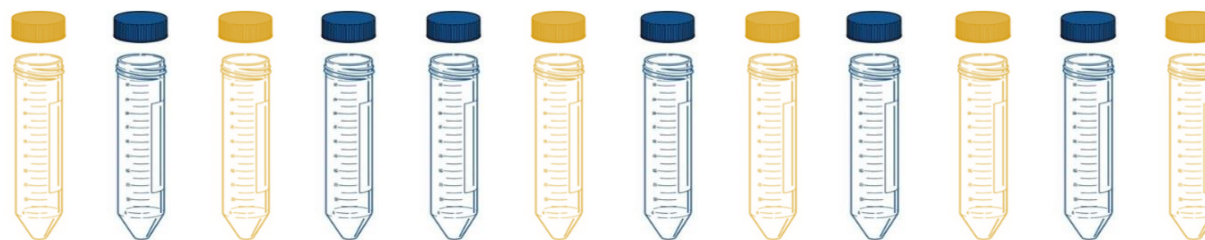


## RANDOMIZATION



Link to randomize a sample list:  
<https://www.random.org/lists/>

## Randomize samples for injection queue



The queue of samples for injection can be very long and take **several days of injections**.

Randomize samples along queue so each day of analysis will consist of **balanced/similar number** of samples belonging to different **observation groups**



# Quality Control and Randomization in Metabolomics



Randomization of the sample extraction and sample analysis sequence

- **Complete randomization** - samples are randomized over all batches or the entire measurement series. This means that the samples from all groups are exposed to all sources of analytical errors (random or systematic) to approximately the same extent
- **Partial or groupwise randomization** - samples belonging to particular subgroups are analyzed in a batchwise fashion (equal amount of samples in each batch). This approach minimizes analytical errors within the group but accepts potentially higher systematic offsets between the groups

Experiment of 1000 samples divided in batches using partial randomization

## Batch 1

**200 samples**

Balanced for:  
~ N° CTRL vs OBS  
~ Timepoints in  
kinetics experiments of  
the same  
species/replicate should  
be kept together

## Batch 2

**200 samples**

Balanced for:  
~ N° CTRL vs OBS  
~ Timepoints in  
kinetics experiments of  
the same  
species/replicate should  
be kept together

## Batch 3

**200 samples**

Balanced for:  
~ N° CTRL vs OBS  
~ Timepoints in  
kinetics experiments of  
the same  
species/replicate should  
be kept together

## Batch 4

**200 samples**

Balanced for:  
~ N° CTRL vs OBS  
~ Timepoints in  
kinetics experiments of  
the same  
species/replicate should  
be kept together

## Batch 5

**200 samples**

Balanced for:  
~ N° CTRL vs OBS  
~ Timepoints in  
kinetics experiments of  
the same  
species/replicate should  
be kept together





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# Untargeted Metabolomic Workflow: From sample preparation to mass spectrometry analysis.



Entire berry

- Skin?
- Pulp?
- Seeds?

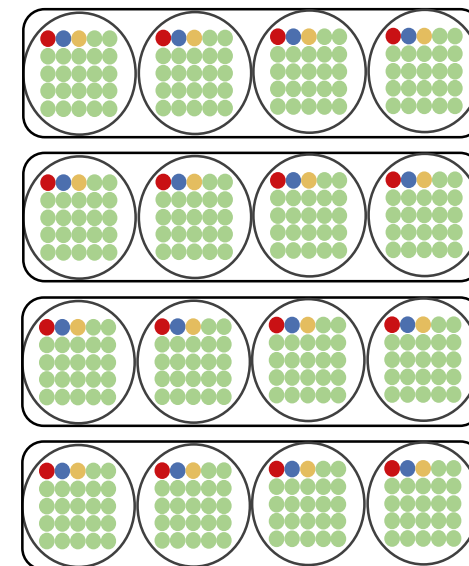
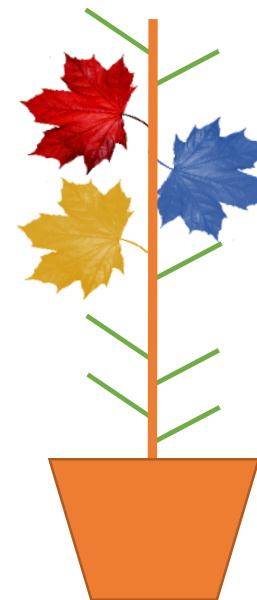


Plant Leaves

- Entire Leaf?
- Discs

Wine

- Fermentation trials
- Final product





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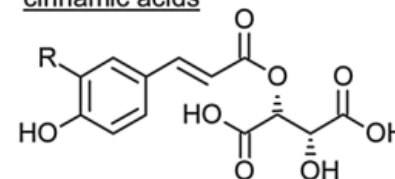
# Untargeted Metabolomic Workflow: From sample preparation to mass spectrometry analysis.

Untargeted profiling of:

- Lipidome
- Carotenoids
- Phenolics Compounds
- Volatile Compounds
- Sugars



cinnamic acids

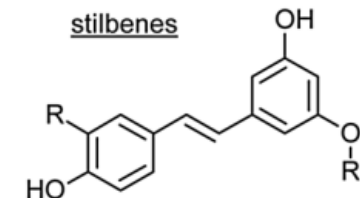


*trans*-caftaric acid    R = OH

*trans*-fertaric acid    R = OCH<sub>3</sub>

*trans*-coutaric acid    R = H

stilbenes



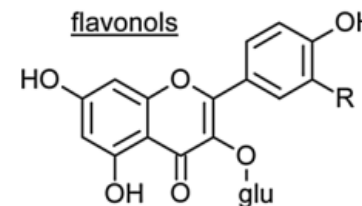
*trans*-resveratrol    R, R' = H

*trans*-piceid    R = H, R' = glucose

astringin    R = OH, R' = glucose

piceatannol    R = OH, R' = H

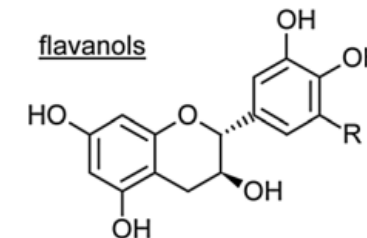
flavonols



keampferol 3-O-glu    R = H

quercetin 3-O-glu    R = OH

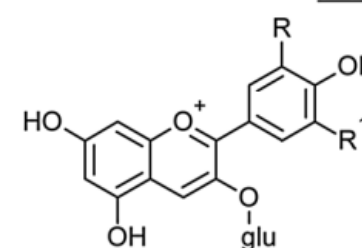
flavanols



(+)-catechin    R = H

(+)-gallocatechin    R = OH

anthocyanins



pelargonidin 3-O-glu    R, R' = H

delphinidin 3-O-glu    R, R' = OH

cyanidin 3-O-glu    R = H, R' = OH

peonidin 3-O-glu    R = OCH<sub>3</sub>, R' = H

petunidin 3-O-glu    R = OCH<sub>3</sub>, R' = OH

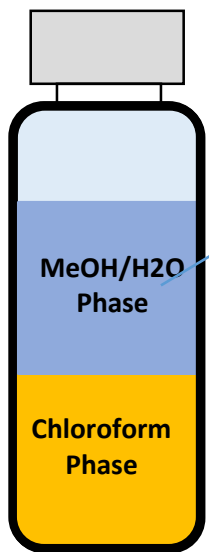
malvidin 3-O-glu    R, R' = OCH<sub>3</sub>



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# Multiple phenolic classes extraction protocol

- 1) 1 g of frozen powder of ground berries should be weighed into 15-ml amber vials
- 2) Add Internal Standards IS: 50  $\mu$ l o-coumaric acid (2 mg/ml MeOH)
- 3) Add 1.2 ml of H<sub>2</sub>O/ CH<sub>3</sub>OH (1:2)
- 4) Add 0.8 ml of CHCl<sub>3</sub> (chloroform)
- 5) Vortex for 1 min
- 6) Shake for 15 min at room temperature using an orbital shaker (Grant-Bio Rotator PTR-60)
- 7) Centrifuged at 4 °C and 1000 g for 10 min.



Transfer into a 5-ml flask. The upper aqueous methanolic phase

- 8) Add again 1.2 mL of of H<sub>2</sub>O/ CH<sub>3</sub>OH (1:2)
- 9) Vortex for 1 min
- 10) Shake for 15 min at room temperature using an orbital shaker
- 11) Centrifuged at 4 °C and 1000 g for 10 min.

The aqueous-methanolic phase was collected and combined with the previous one, brought to a final volume of 5 mL with Milli-Q water,

- 12) filtered with a 0.2  $\mu$ m PTFE filter (Millipore).



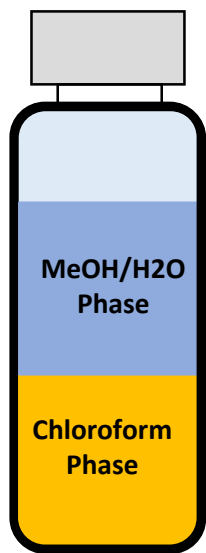
*Vrhovsek U, Masuero D, Gasperotti M, Franceschi P, Caputi L, Viola R, et al. A versatile targeted metabolomics method for the rapid quantification of multiple classes of phenolics in fruits and beverages. J Agric Food Chem. 2012;60:8831–40.*



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# Carotenoids extraction protocol

- From the previous vial you recover the chloroform phase



The chloroform phase of the extraction solution is collected in separate vial.

1. Add 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of trans- $\beta$ -apo-8'-carotenal (25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) was used as internal standard.
2. Add 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of a 0.1 % triethylamine solution to prevent rearrangement of carotenoids.
3. Dry samples with  $\text{N}_2$ , and resuspended in 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of ethyl acetate.
4. Transfer to dark vials for analysis

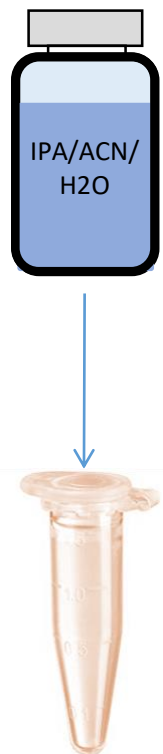
*Vrhovsek U, Masuero D, Gasperotti M, Franceschi P, Caputi L, Viola R, et al. A versatile targeted metabolomics method for the rapid quantification of multiple classes of phenolics in fruits and beverages. J Agric Food Chem. 2012;60:8831–40.*

*Wehrens R, Carvalho E, Masuero D, De Juan A, Martens S. High-throughput carotenoid profiling using multivariate curve resolution. Anal Bioanal Chem. 2013;405:5075–86.*





# Sugars – derivatization protocol



Take 0.1 g of fresh leaf or berry powder

1. Add 1 mL of cool ( $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) extraction solvent: isopropanol/acetonitrile/water (3:3:2 v/v/v).
2. Add Internal Standards: 20  $\mu\text{L}$  aliquot of palmitic-D3, nicotinic-D4, and glucose-D7 (1000 mg/L)
3. Vortex for 10 s and shake at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 min and Centrifuged at 12,000 g for 2 min at  $5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Take the supernatant to separate vial, and repeat extraction.

Merged two supernatants and re-suspend in a final volume of 5 mL using the extraction solvent.

4. Place a total of 250  $\mu\text{L}$  of supernatant in a 1.5 mL Eppendorf tube
5. Evaporated to dryness under  $\text{N}_2$ , and re-suspended in 500  $\mu\text{L}$  of acetonitrile/water (50:50 v/v),
6. Vortex for 10 s, sonicate and centrifuge at 12,000 g for 2 min.
7. Transfer supernatant into a 1.5 mL Eppendorf tube and dried out under  $\text{N}_2$ .
8. Derivatization: Add 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of methoxamine hydrochloride in pyridine (20 mg/mL) to inhibit cyclization of reducing sugars and shaken at  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 1 h;
9. Then add 80  $\mu\text{L}$  of N-methyl-Ntrimethylsilyl-trifluoroacetamide with 1% trimethylchlorosilane for trimethylsilylation of acidic protons and shaken at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 30 min.
10. Add 5  $\mu\text{L}$  of a solution containing decane and heptadecane (1000 mg/L) to monitor the chromatographic analysis and the instrumental conditions.
11. Transfer such extract into vials for analysis.





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# Volatile Compounds VOCs



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

Journal of Chromatography B

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

Quantitative metabolic profiling of grape, apple and raspberry volatile compounds (VOCs) using a GC/MS/MS method

Urska Vrhovsek<sup>\*,1</sup>, Cesare Lotti<sup>1</sup>, Domenico Masuero, Silvia Carlin, Georg Weingart, Fulvio Mattivi

Research and Innovation Centre, Edmund Mach Foundation (FEM), Food Quality and Nutrition Department, Via E. Mach 1, 38010 San Michele all'Adige, Italy

1. Add 80 mL of water MilliQ, 0.5 g of gluconolacton and 50 L of internal standard n-heptanol (100 mg/L) into 30 g of deep frozen sample powder.
2. Homogenise with ultra-turrax at 21000 rpm for 3 min
3. centrifuge at 21,000 rpm at 5 °C for 5 min.
4. Recover supernatant and centrifuge again for 10 min and filtrated through rapid paper filter.
5. Bring the solution to an exact volume of 110 mL with milliQ water.

The SPE: ENV+ cartridges, 1 g (Biotage, Sweden).

1. Pre-condition the cartridge with 15 mL methanol followed by 20 mL of water.
2. Load the aqueous extract onto the cartridge, and wash with 15 mL of water.
3. Elute the free aromatic compounds with 30 mL dichloromethane. Add 60 mL of pentane
4. Elute the bound aromatic compounds (i.e. the glycosides) with 30 mL of methanol.

*Vrhovsek, Lotti, Masuero, et al 2014. Quantitative metabolic profiling of grape, apple and raspberry volatile compounds (VOCs) using a GC/MS/MS method*



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# Separation columns and instrumental analysis

**RP C8 Column**

-> Lipidomics

**RP C18 Column**

-> Various Phenolics Classess

**RP C30 Column**

-> Carotenoids



**HILIC Column**

-> Polar Metabolites (i.e amino acids)

**VF-WAXms capillary column** -> VOCs

**Rxi-5Sil MS Columns fused silica** -> Sugars



	LC	GC	
Mobile phase			
Liquid: Methanol, Acetonitrile, Water, 2-propanol, with buffers		Gases: Hellium, Nitrogen, Argon	
Stationary phase			
Silica, C-8, C-18, modified silica, BEH Amide, Zirconia and titania stationary phases, Alumina, Porous graphitic carbon		Dimethylpolysiloxane, 5% Phenyl 95% dimethyl arylene siloxane, 14% Cyanopropyl-phenyl 86% dimethyl polysiloxane	
Column lenghts, temperature and flows, retention time duration			
5cm; 10 cm, 15 cm Usually constant 30-60 C Shot gun, 5 minutes up to 90 minuts		10m, 100m Gradient cycle 50 C -250 C 60 minutes, 90 minutes and longer	

*Basing on your needs a different mobile phases can be used and different types of column*

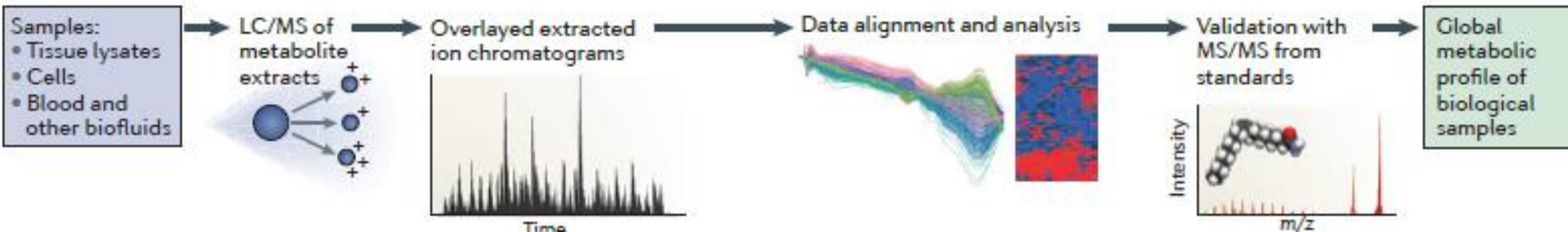


# Data acquisition modes



## b Untargeted metabolomics

Question:  
What is the global metabolic  
profile of a sample?



NATURE REVIEWS | **MOLECULAR  
CELL BIOLOGY**; April 2012

Gary J. Patti, Oscar Yanes and Gary  
Siuzdak Metabolomics: the apogee  
of the omics trilogy

## High Resolution Mass Spectrometer TOF and Orbitrap technologies



## GC×GC-HR-TOFMS





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# Data acquisition modes



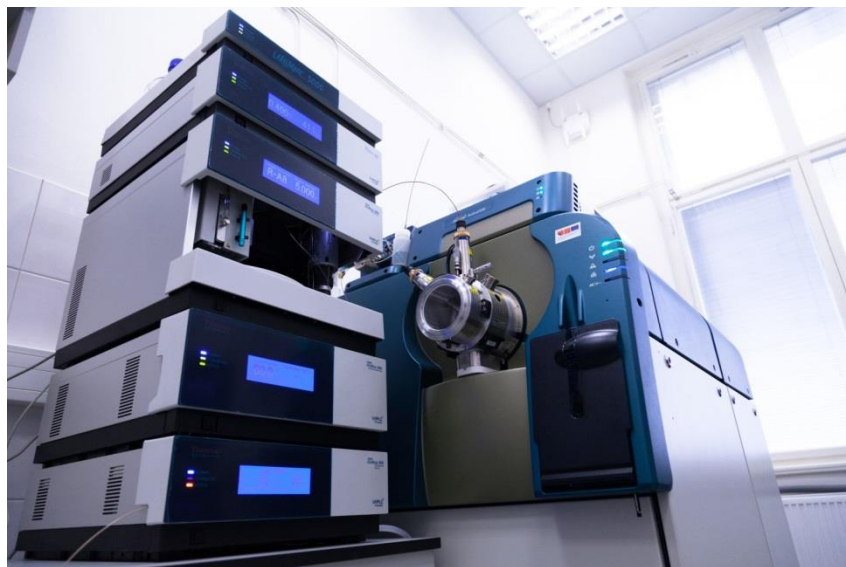
## General Strategies:

Full Scan injections → stat.analysis → re-injection for  $MS^n$

*(Manual setting for selected  $m/z$  features)*

Full Scan injections + DDA injections → stat.analysis

The DDA mode allows for automatic acquisition of  $MS^n$ ;



Thermo Scientific Orbitrap Fusion Tribrid LC-MS (I) with Thermo Scientific Dionex UltiMate 3000 Series UHPLC.





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# MS/MS data acquisition modes



## DDA: DATA DEPENDENT ACQUISITION

**dd-MS<sup>2</sup>** (Data Dependent MS<sup>2</sup>) by Thermo, **IDA** (Information Dependent Acquisition) by ABSciex, **AutoMS** by Bruker, **Auto MS/MS** by Agilent

### TOF - IDA

**TOF – 8 ions: Total Cycle Time 1,25 sec**

Full Scan HR 250ms	8 MS <sup>2</sup> 120 ms each

**TOF – 20 ions: Total Cycle Time 1,30 sec**

Full Scan HR 250ms	20 MS <sup>2</sup> 50 ms each

**TOF – 50 ions: Total Cycle Time 1,50 sec**

Full Scan HR 250ms	50 MS <sup>2</sup> 20 ms each

### ORBITRAP - DDA

**DDA TOP4: Total Cycle Time 2,8 sec**

Full Scan HR, Res. 60,000; ca 1sec	4 MS <sup>2</sup> Res.7500 each; 0,45s each

**DDA TOP7: Total Cycle Time 4,15 sec**

Full Scan HR, Res. 60,000; ca 1sec	7 MS <sup>2</sup> Res.7500; 0,45s each

**DDA TOP12: Total Cycle Time 5,6 sec**

HR 7500 ca 0,25 ms	12 MS <sup>2</sup> Res.7500 each; 0,45s each





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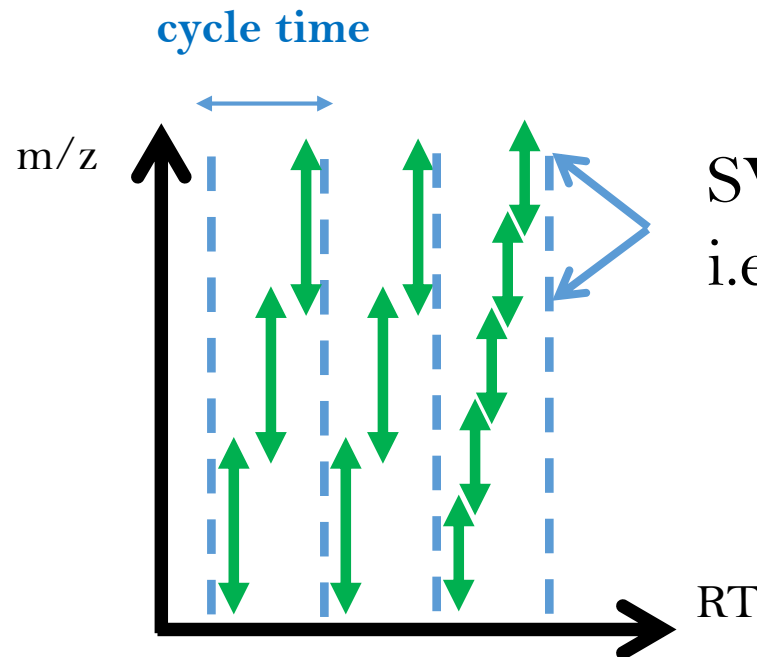
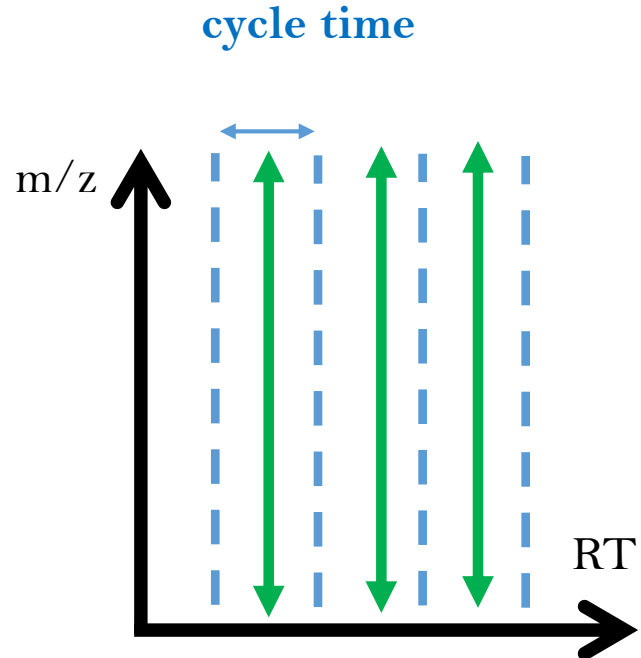
# MS/MS data acquisition modes



## DIA: DATA INDEPENDENT ACQUISITION

**MS<sup>E</sup>** by Waters; **AI** (All Ions) by Agilent; **MSc<sup>2</sup>** (Leco);  
**AIF-MS<sup>2</sup>** (All-Ion fragmentation) by Thermo Fisher Scientific;  
**vDIA** (Variable Data Independent) by Thermo Fisher Scientific;  
**bbCID** (Broad Band Collision Induced Dissociation) by Bruker

**SWATH MS<sup>ALL</sup>** (Sequential Window Acquisition of All Theoretical Mass Spectra) by ABSciex





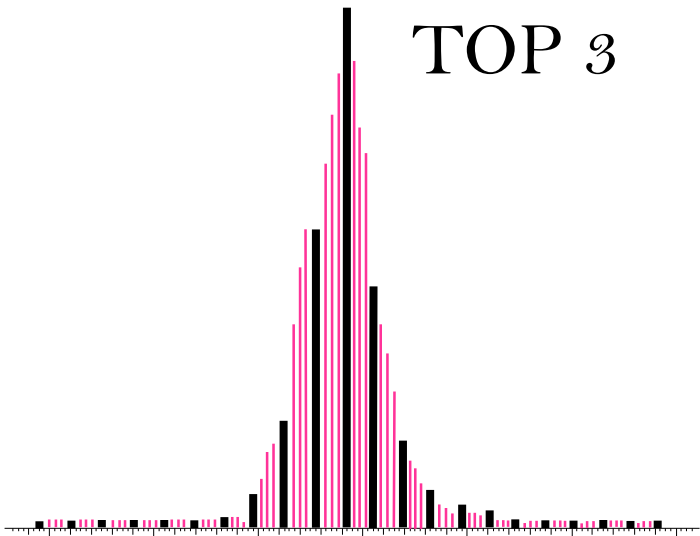
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# MS/MS data acquisition modes

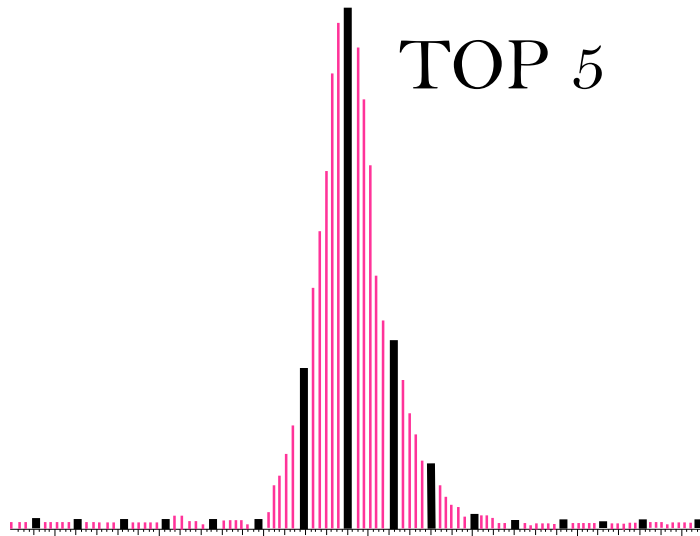


Full Scan and **DDA scans**

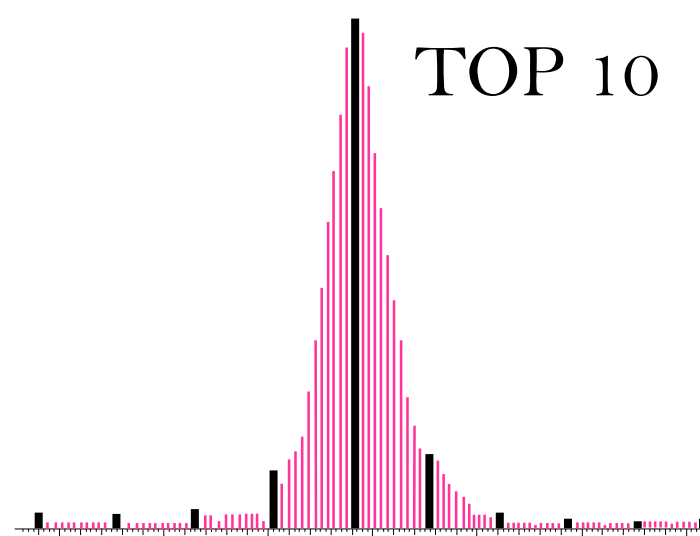
TOP 3



TOP 5



TOP 10



Strategy depends on you: **TOP 3, TOP 5, TOP 10**

*Dear Orbitrap:*

*Please do **1 Full Scan**, kindly check  $m/z$  features, and take 3/5 or 10 the most intensive ions and do fragmentation scan.*

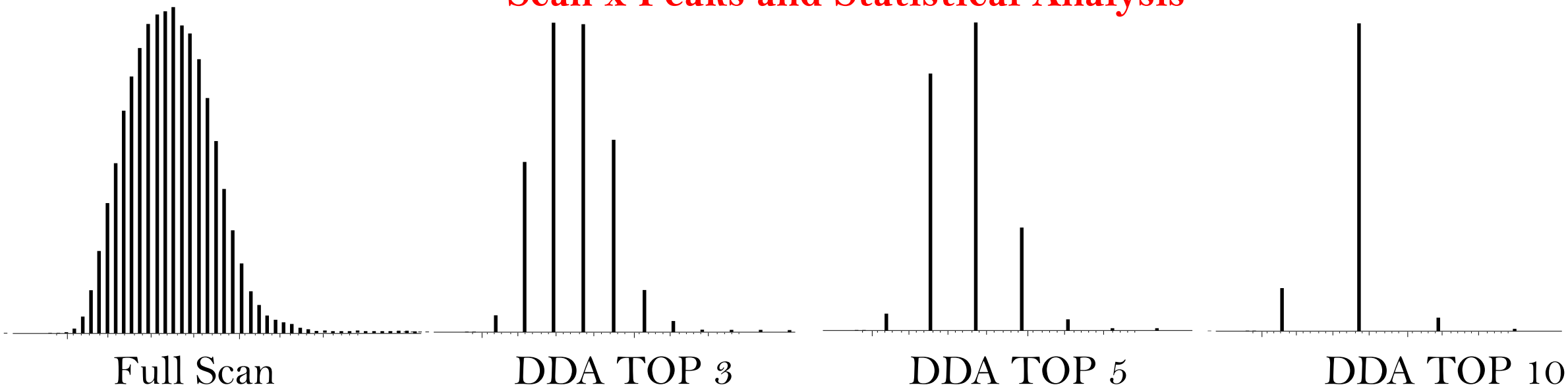


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# MS/MS data acquisition modes



## Scan x Peaks and Statistical Analysis



Information from Full Scan spectra is introduced to statistical analysis –  
it is clear why DDA is hard to be used for this issue

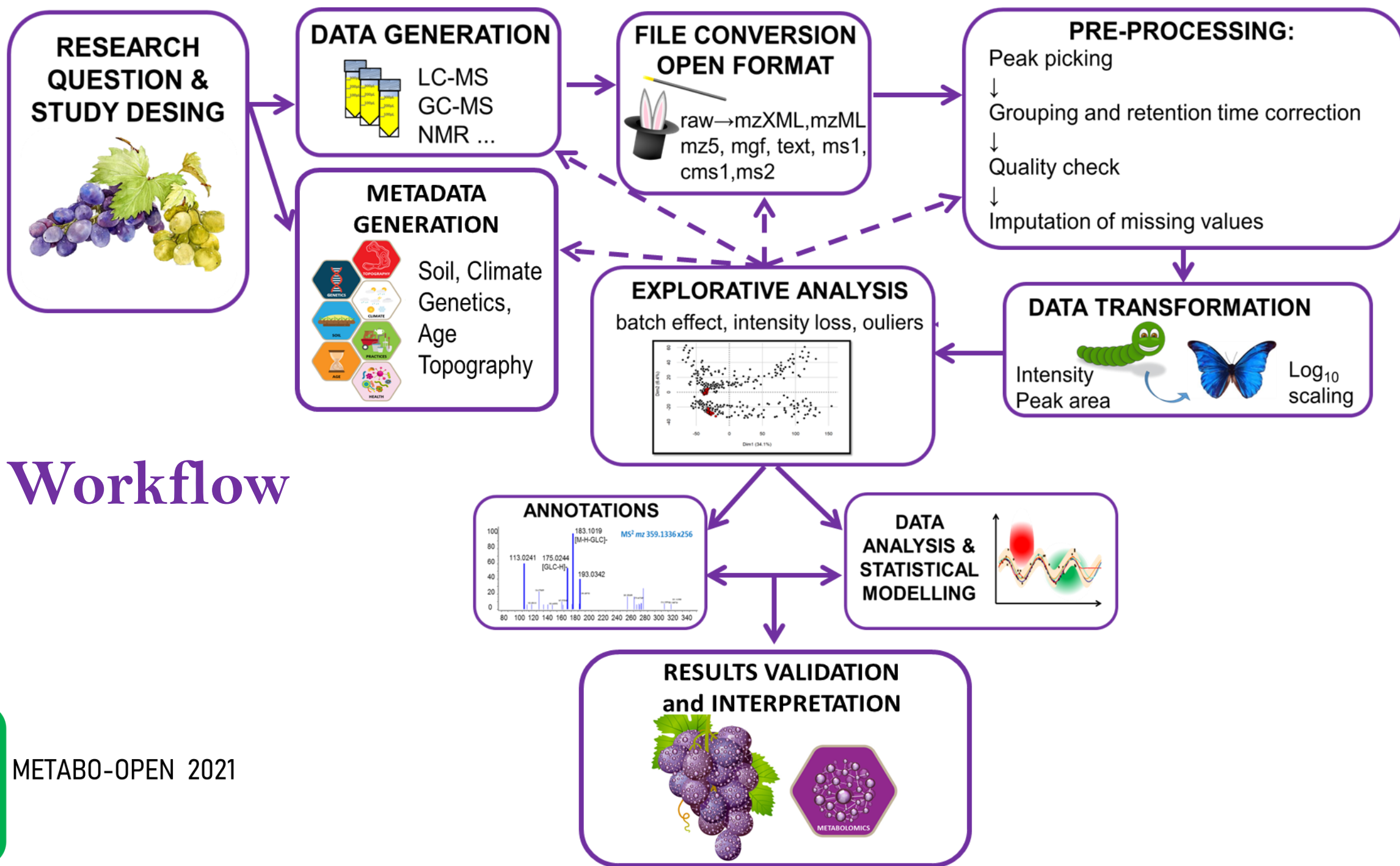


Biostatistician  
won't be happy

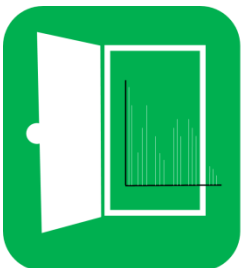
**TIP:**

**DDA is good** strategy for **automatic MSn spectra acquisition.**

However, **statistic analysis** must be done on **Full Scan data**, thus, check which TOP2, or TOPx would be the best for your chromatography!



# The Workflow



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virtual training school in  
metabolomics fair data management

**Thank you for your kind attention**



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