

For Immediate Release

NiKem Research introduces the Explora ADMET Service

Milan— September 3rd, 2003— The Explora ADMET Service consists of a range of in vitro assays that are tailored toward incorporating early ADMET information into Medicinal Chemistry efforts. In vitro early ADMET is already a key component of NiKem Research's OptiLead Platform, and a constant investment into early ADMET prediction has enabled NiKem to develop their internal capacity to the point where they can now offer the Explora ADMET Service as a standalone service.

The Reveal Assays are a collection of basic, essential in vitro assays for the quick identification of the important developability information that helps guide the lead optimization process. The Focus Assays are available to probe developability parameters in finer detail when needed, for example in the later stages of lead optimization or when a promising class of compounds exhibited unfavorable results from the initial Reveal Assays.

| | Reveal Assays | Focus Assays |
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| CYP450 Inhibition (1A2, 2D6, 2C9, 2C19, 3A4) | % Inhibition | IC ₅₀ Higher fidelity LC-MS assay |
| Metabolic Stability | % Remaining at 30' in rat and human microsomes | Intrinsic Clearance (CLi) in rat and human microsomes CLi in rat hepatocytes Biotransformation Analysis |
| Permeability (Caco-2) | A-B determination | A-B / B-A determination A-B / B-A with PGP inhibitors |
| Cellular Toxicity | LD ₅₀ in HepG2 cells | LD ₅₀ in rat hepatocytes |

In addition, NiKem Research is currently putting in place a Blood Brain Barrier permeability assay and a HERG Channel-based QT Prolongation assay.

The Explora ADMET Service delivers the essential pharmacological information necessary to guide medicinal chemists in making new chemical entities with enhanced prospects to survive the pre-clinical development stage of drug discovery.

About NiKem Research. Based on decades of pharmaceutical chemistry research experience and now operating at small company speed, NiKem Research offers a full range of medicinal and combinatorial chemistry services and partnering opportunities to the pharmaceutical industry. NiKem's mission is to help our partners and clients advance their pipelines by taking discovery biology output and translating it into quality development candidates.

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