



Centrum pro výzkum  
toxických látek  
v prostředí

# BIOMARKERS AND TOXICITY MECHANISMS

## 13 – BIOMARKERS

### Summary and final notes

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Tento projekt je spolufinancován Evropským sociálním fondem a státním rozpočtem České republiky.



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

# Topics covered in the final presentation

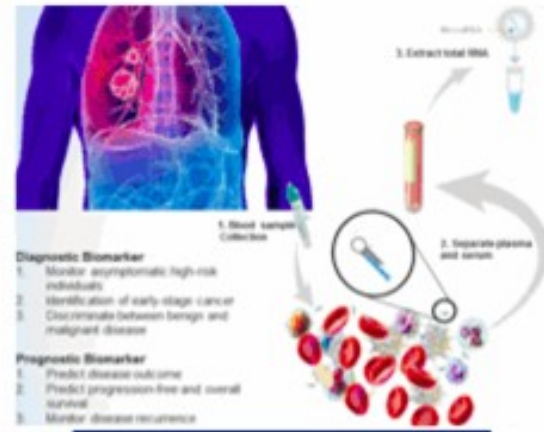
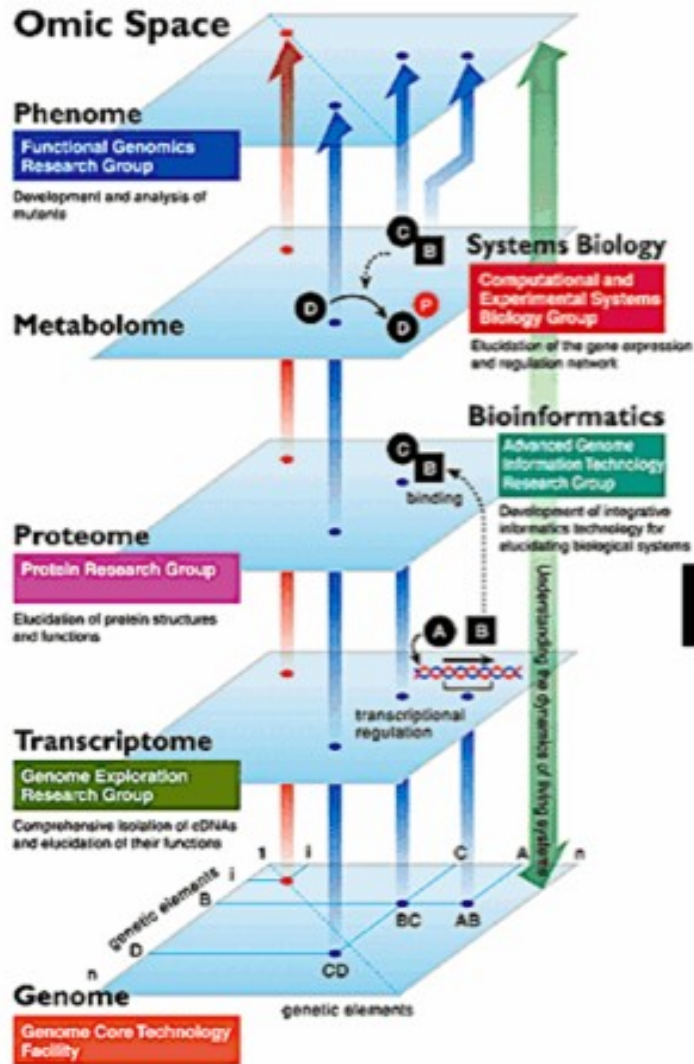
- Biomarkers at different levels
  - *Omics*
  - *... and beyond*
- Biomarkers in human medicine and drug development
  - Strategy and steps in development
  - Application examples



# Biomarkers at various levels “omics”



# Biomarkers at different biological levels – „omics“ approach

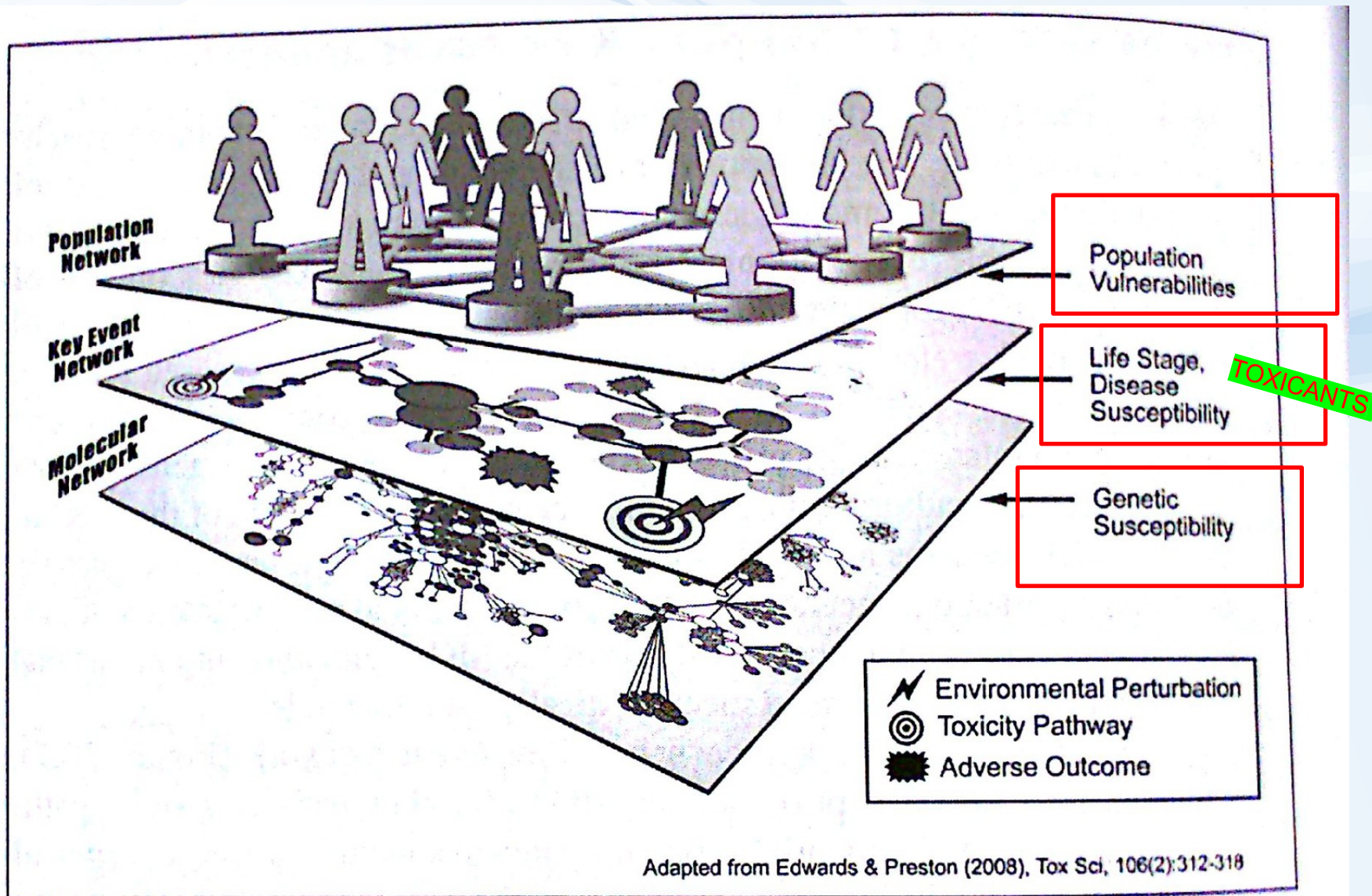


**Biomarker Identification**

# Biomarkers at different biological levels

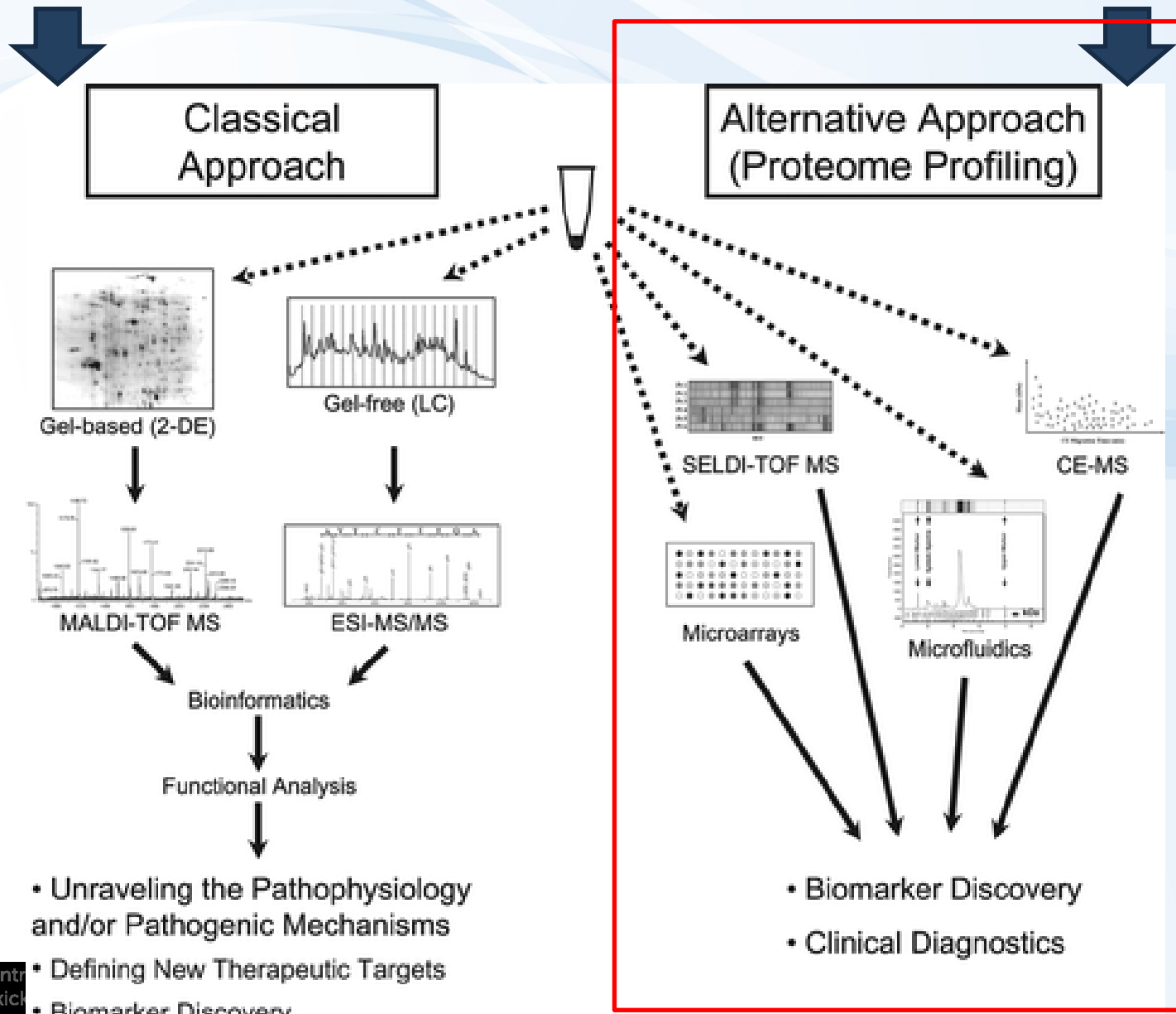
- **“Omics” techniques**
  - Systems biology research
  - Screenings of responses (differences) at all levels of biological organization
- **GENOMICS**
  - Relatively stable
    - not responding to environmental changes (e.g. Toxicants)
  - Can be used as “biomarkers of susceptibility” (SNPs and personalized medicine)
- **OTHER “OMICS” (Transcripts, Proteins, Metabolites...)**
  - **Responsive to environmental stress (including toxicants, therapy etc.)**

# Biomarkers at different biological levels

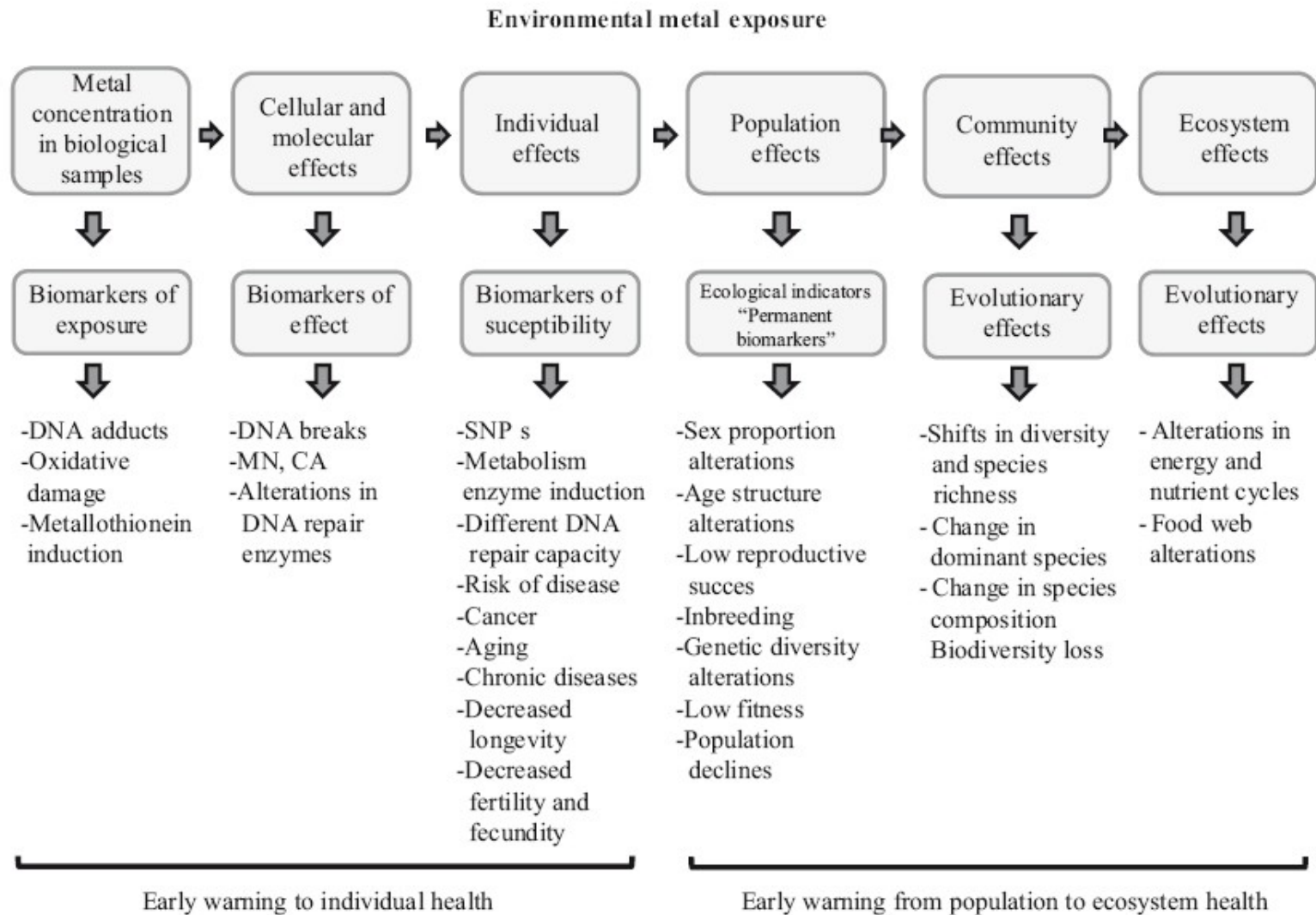


# Hypothesis driven research (focus on pathways)

# Data driven research (omics & profiling)



# Biomarkers at **even higher levels** – example: toxic metals



**Fig. 1.** Environmental pollutants –such as metals– can exert their effects at all levels of biological organization. Most used biomarkers for assessing toxic responses are listed in each level. MN= micronuclei, CA= chromosome aberrations, SNPs= single nucleotide polymorphisms.



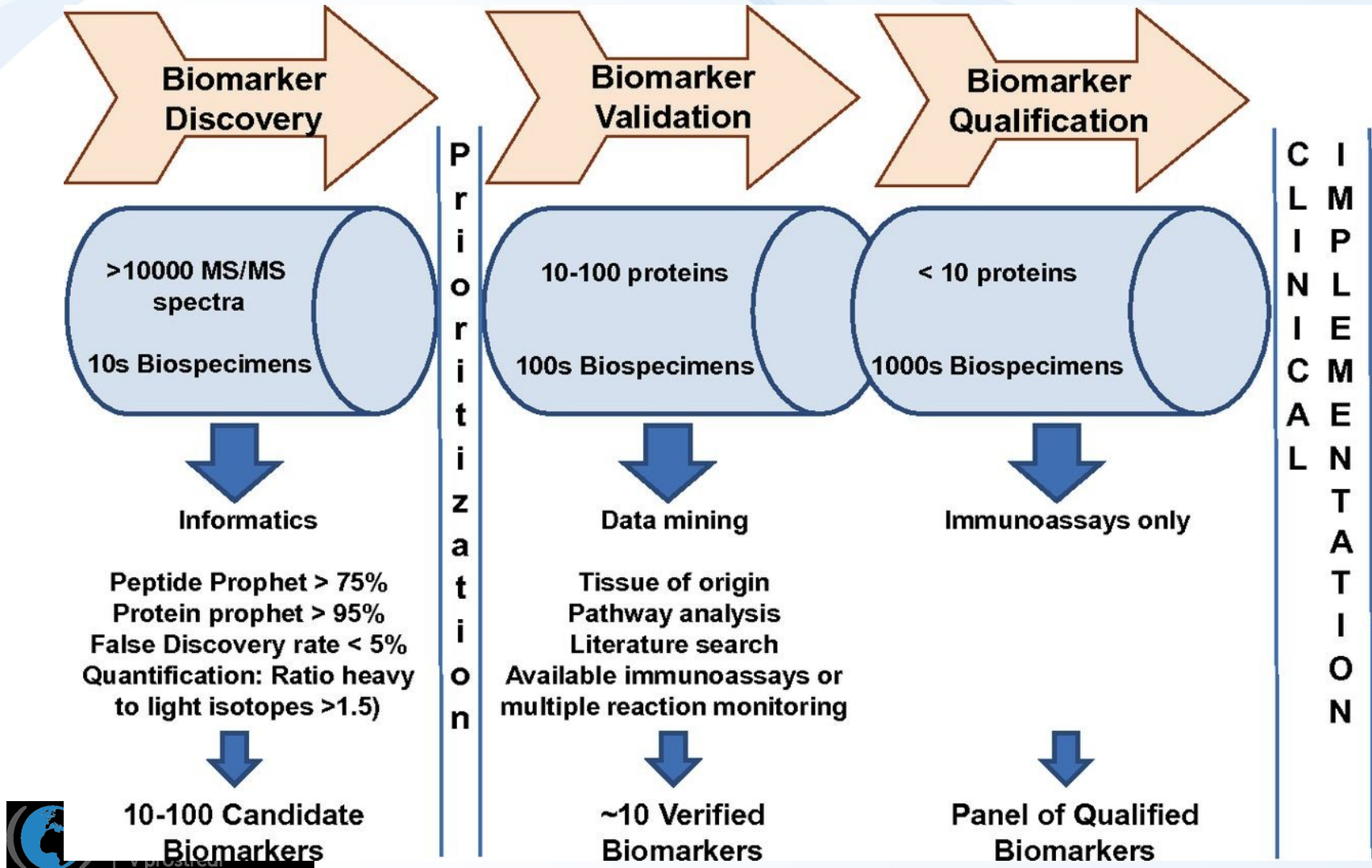


# Developments and applications of biomarkers



# 3 key steps towards the biomarker establishment

*An example of protein-based biomarkers*



## 3 key steps towards the biomarker establishment

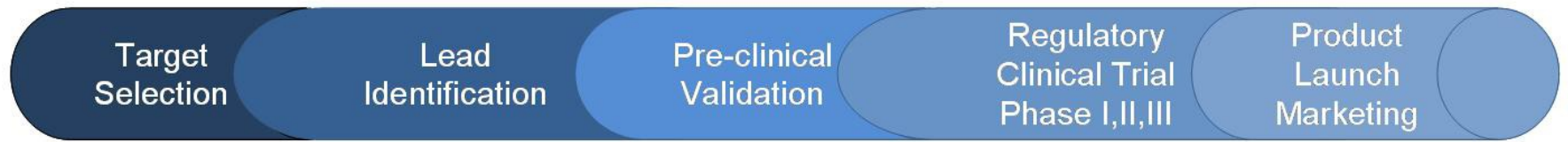
- **Biomarker development**
  - High numbers of endpoints (e.g. proteins)
  - Low numbers of samples compared (e.g. 10 controls vs 10 “treatments”)
- **Biomarker validation**
  - Decreasing number of markers
  - Increasing numbers of specimens (biological samples)
- **Biomarker qualification and approval**
  - Individual markers
  - Analytical methods validated and well established

# More detailed view: 5 steps leading to biomarker use in practice

DISCOVERY →

VALIDATION STEPS →

APPROVAL

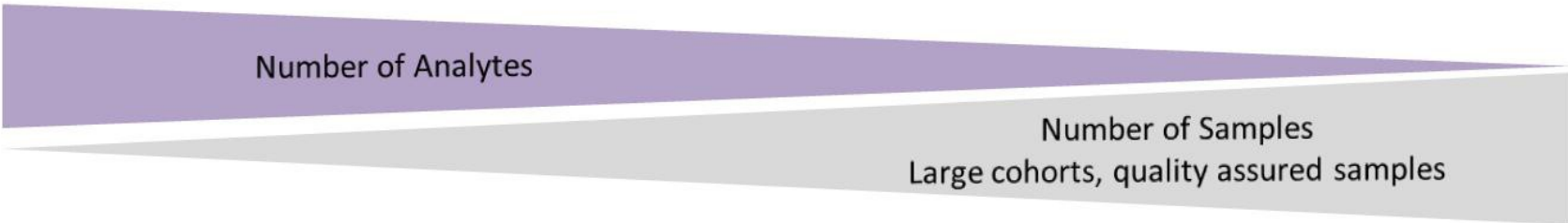


- Proteomics
- Genomics
- Metabolomics
- Imaging Technologies

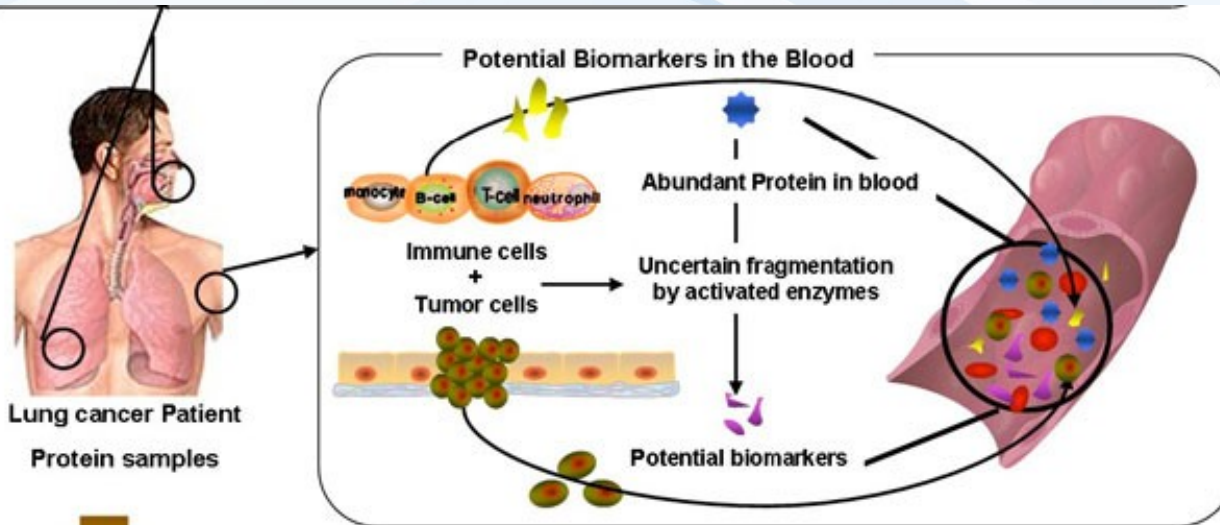
- Integrated Technologies
- Multi-analyte assays

- Robust validated high-throughput assays
- Development of a Clinical Assay

• Clinical Assay

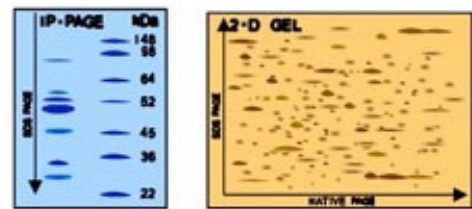


# EXAMPLE process of biomarker establishment – lung cancer diagnosis



**Protein preparation and separation**

- Protein Enrichment: Glycoproteome  
Phosphoproteome
- SDS-PAGE: 1-DE, 2-DE
- In-gel trypsin digestion



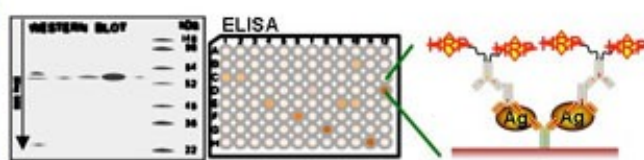
**Biomarker discovery**

- LC-ESI-MS/MS
- MALDI-TOF/MS



**Biomarker candidates verification & validation**

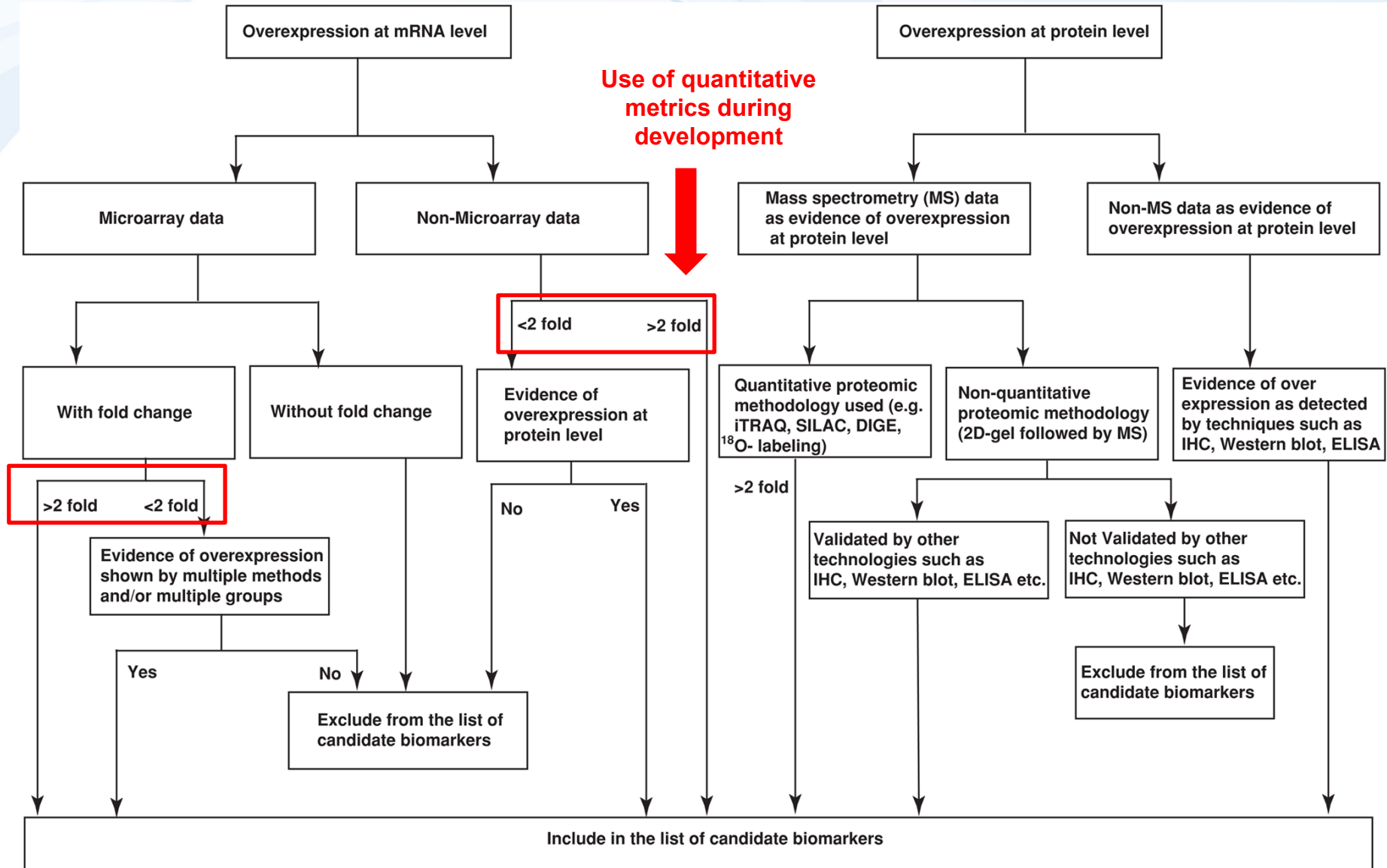
- MRM (Multiple Reaction Monitoring)
- Western Blot
- ELISA



Which of the many changes are “significant” ?

→ Use quantitative metrics (see Following slide)

# What is (what is not) a candidate biomarker: example flowchart



# Biomarkers have MANY APPLICATIONS ... such as:

- **Biomarkers in research**

- Search of “potential” therapies/drugs
  - Changes in biochemical responses provide information on efficiency and mechanism of action
- Identification of “early markers” of chronic diseases
  - Early diagnosis (e.g. identification of developing cancer, coronary disease...)

- **Biomarkers in medicine**

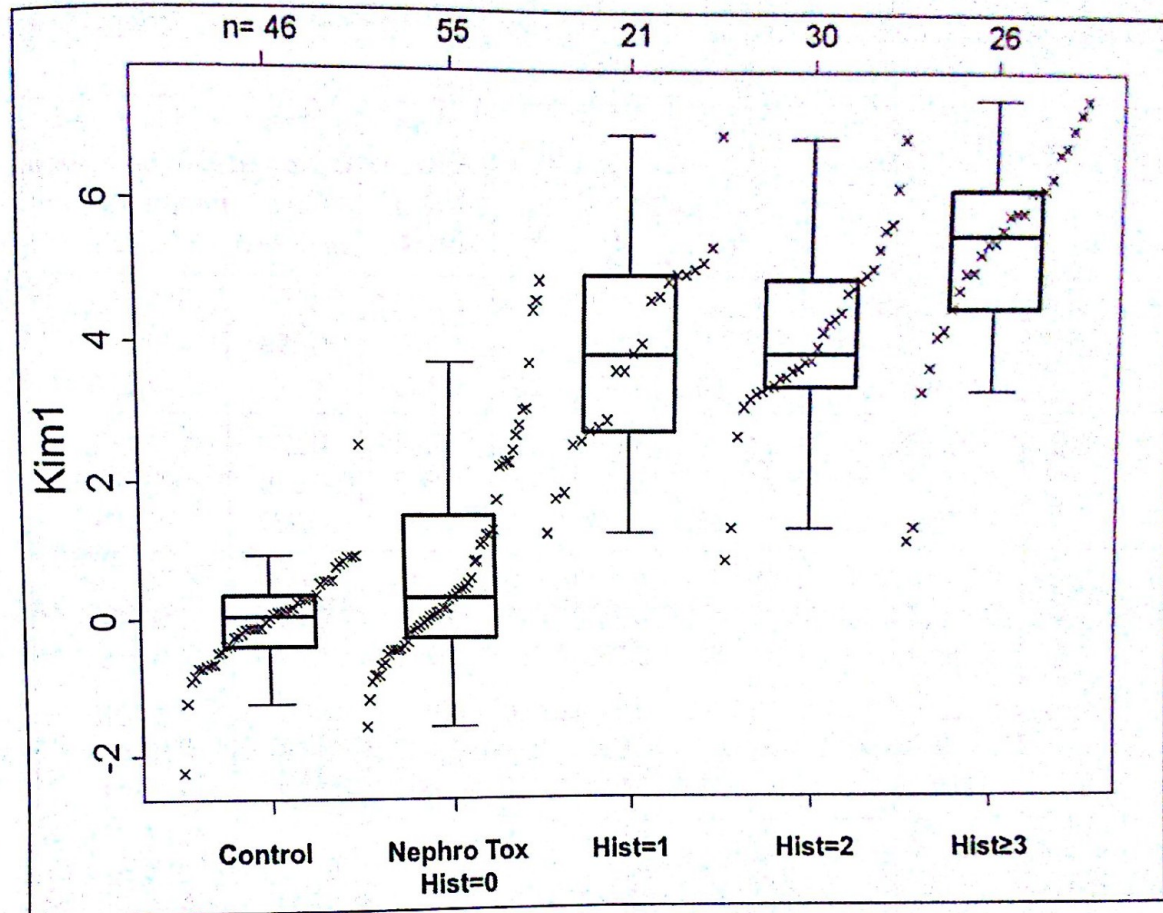
- Identification of **status** of an individual
  - Healthy vs Disease
- Assessment of therapy/treatment
  - Efficiency – Did treatment improved situation? (improvements in biomarker responses)
  - Adverse or side effects of therapy

- **Biomarkers in toxicology**

- Identification of status
  - Intoxicated (exposed) vs Controls
  - Forensic toxicology (e.g. consumption of drugs of abuse, alcohol etc)
- Early warnings of future health consequences
  - Biochemical changes are detectable before the actual health problems

# Biomarker validation EXAMPLE

Kim-1 protein levels and kidney clinical signs (histopathology grades 0-3)

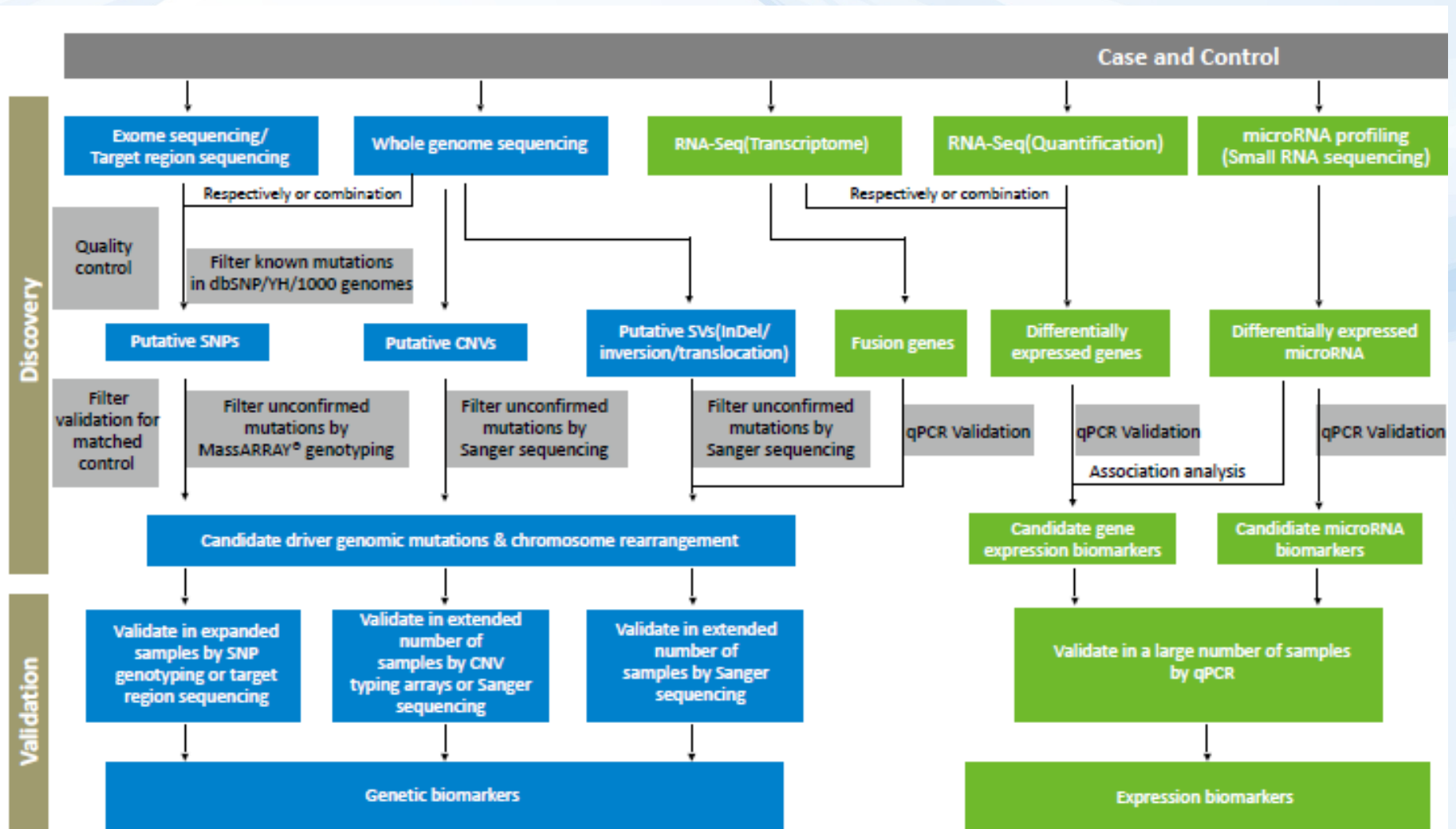
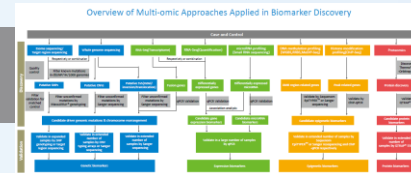


**FIGURE 22.4** Boxplots of Kim-1 values by kidney histopathology injury grade. A plot of the individual values sorted by Kim-1 value is superimposed over each, giving a finer scaled picture of the distribution of the data. The figure indicates that median Kim-1 values generally increase with an increased histopathology score. Also, some samples in the group of animals treated with a nephrotoxicant but with histopathology scores of zero have elevated Kim-1 levels. (See color insert for a full color version of this figure.)

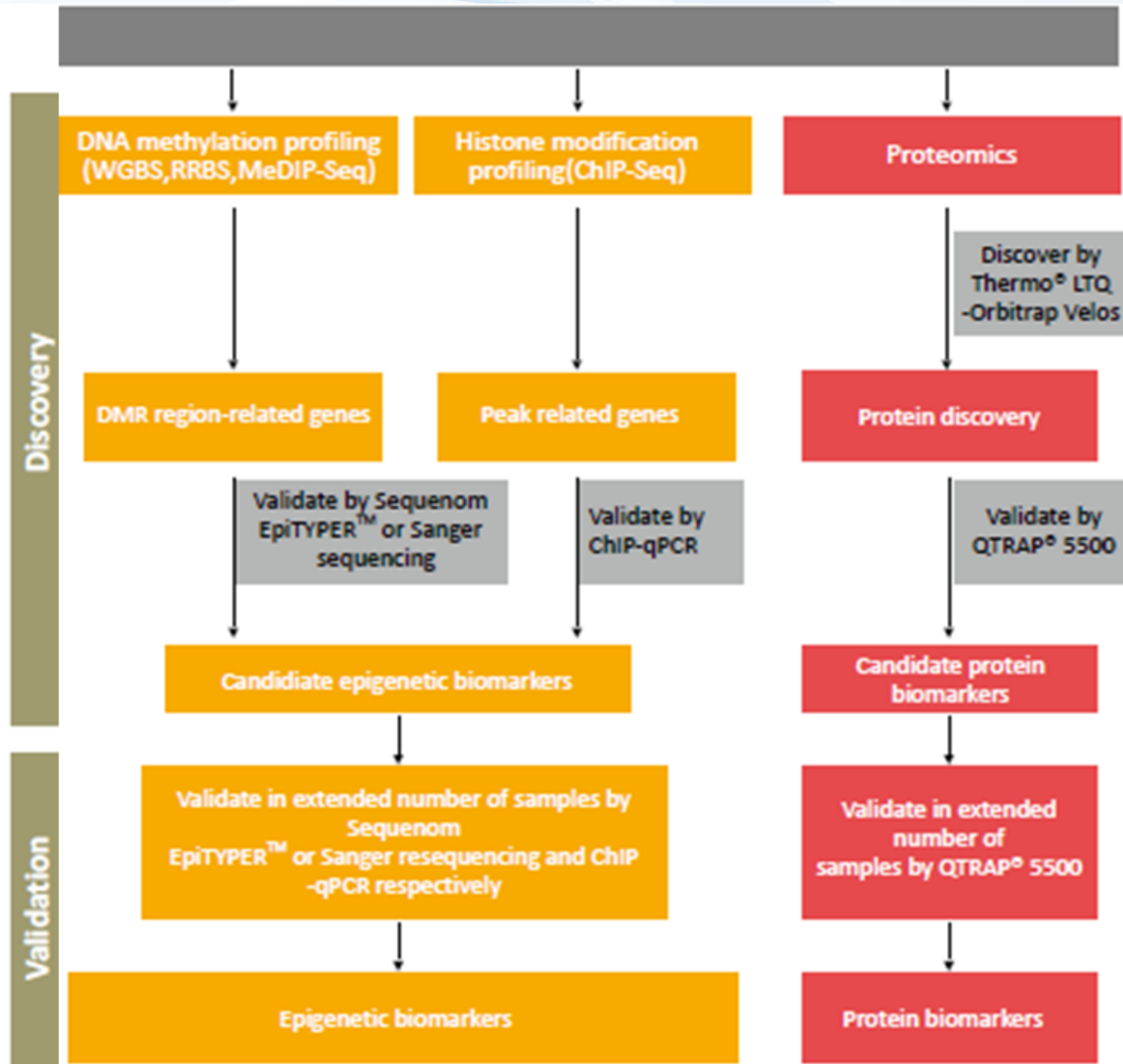
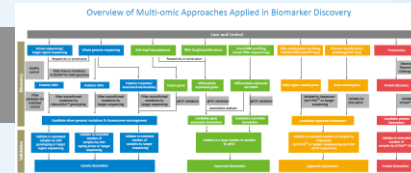




# OMICS biomarkers in discovery and validation (1/2)



# OMICS biomarkers in discovery and validation (2/2)



## Summary and overview

### Toxicity mechanisms (MoA) and biomarkers



# Class summary and take home message

- \* Molecular effects of toxicants = MoAs (1)
- \* Propagate to higher levels (2),
- \* ... where they induce measurable "responses" - biomarkers (3)

1

## MoAs

- \* Molecular interactions
- \* Key targets ...:
  - DNA, RNAs
  - proteins (and their functions)
  - membranes
- \* Complex mechanisms
  - Oxidative stress
  - Signalling and hormones
  - Detoxification



3

## Biomarkers

- types
- examples
- methods

Biological  
organization

# Summary on toxicity mechanisms (MoA) and biomarkers

## For excellent performance and successful exam student should:

1. have an **overview** of different types of MoAs (see also point 2 below) and be able to **link** MoAs to higher level effects (toxicity)
  - *Example: What is the in vivo manifestation (effect) after inhibition of AcCholE enzymes (mechanism)? [AcCholE inhibition propagates as neurotoxicity (effect)]*Be ready to discuss also in a opposite way
  - *Example: What MoA can be beyond immunotoxicity? [Immunotoxicity can e.g. be caused by disruption of signaling pathways – LPS as an example]*
2. know some **details for selected example MoAs** for different toxicant targets  
*= based on your own preference select one example from the following 7 categories, learn details, and be ready to discuss (i.e. learn details for 1 out of 7 example modes of toxic action)*
  1. nucleic acids
  2. proteins
  3. membranes (lipids)
  4. cellular
  5. Complex 1 – detoxification/metabolization
  6. Complex 2 – intra- and inter-cellular signalling, hormones
  7. Complex 3 – oxidative stress
3. have **understanding of biomarker** issues
  - What is a biomarker and what properties it should have (or not to have)?
  - Why we search for them = how can they be used?
  - What different types and groups of biomarkers can be recognized?
  - What are suitable matrices for sampling and further analyses?
  - What methods do we use for analyses of biomarkers? (LCMS, ELISA, PCR, Proteins-WBs, Enzyme activities)
  - What approaches are applied in biomarker discovery („hypothesis“ vs omics)?
4. and **know example biomarkers**  
*Related to the point 2 above*  
*= based on your own interest (in point 2) learn about the effect biomarkers relevant for your selected toxicity mechanism*

