

pharm-analyt Labor GmbH

Your GxP Partner Lab/CRO for Sensitive and  
Selective Assays

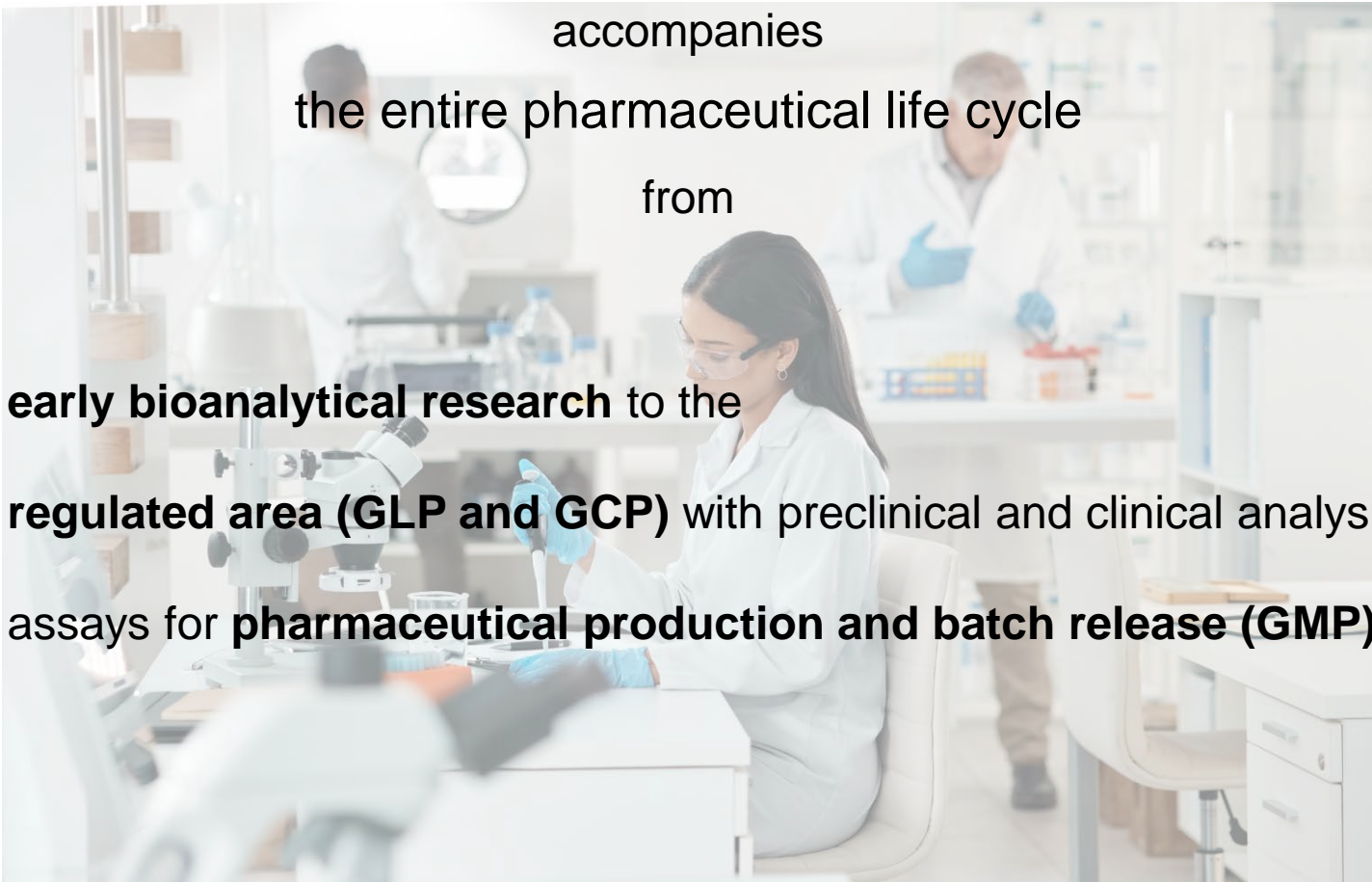
for Drugs and Metabolites in Biological Matrix and  
Detergents/Excipients in Drug Product/Substance



## pharm-analyt Labor GmbH

accompanies  
the entire pharmaceutical life cycle  
from

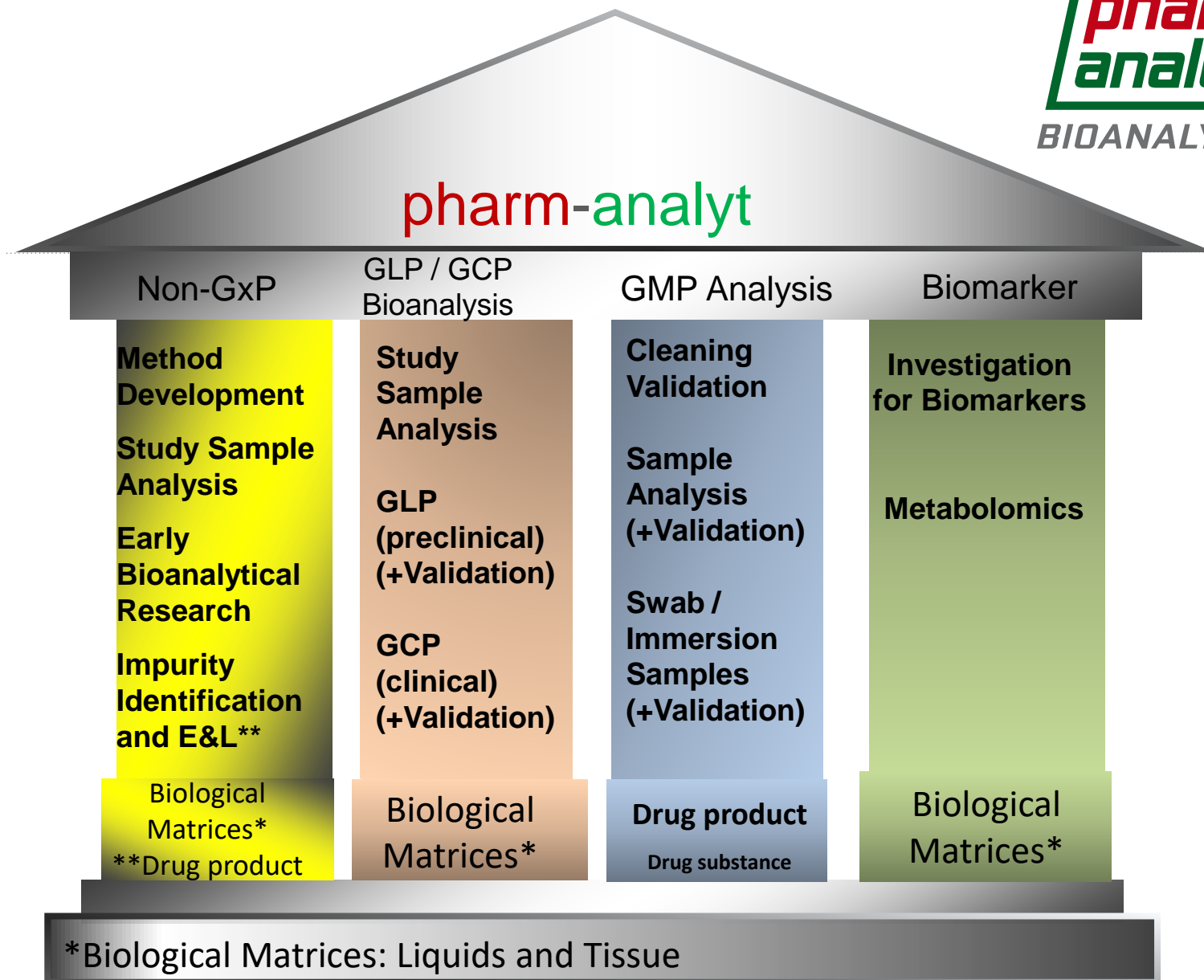
- **early bioanalytical research** to the
- **regulated area (GLP and GCP)** with preclinical and clinical analysis to
- assays for **pharmaceutical production and batch release (GMP)**



## Milestones – pharm-analyt

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- 1986      Founded by Hermann Mascher  
Specialized Bioanalytical Service Provider,  
now in Baden close to Vienna, Austria, EUROPE
- 1992      GLP Certification
- 1998      First HPLC-MS/MS system (AB Sciex API3000),  
→ 25 years of Tandem Mass Spec Experience
- 2006      GMP Certification
- 2019      More sensitive Mass Spec for small molecules and peptides with  
Waters XEVO TQ-XS additionally to API6500 from AB Sciex



# Equipment – HPLC-MS/MS-Systems

**HPLC/UPLC:** Shimadzu (400 bar), Thermo (600 bar), Waters (1000 bar)

**MS Ionisation:**

- ESI (electrospray ionization)
- APCI (Atmospheric-pressure chemical ionization)
- UniSpray

**MS/MS**  
SCIEX  
QTRAP 6500  
+SelexION



**MS/MS**  
Waters  
Xevo TQ-XS



**Ion-Trap-Mass Spectrometer**  
Thermo Fisher  
LTQ Orbitrap XL

Resolution up to 100,000  
Mass accuracy 0,00X of MW

## Equipment – Other Detectors with HPLC

Thermo Fisher

**HPLC UltiMate 3000 Systems with**



**UV Detector**  
Merck-Hitachi 7400



**Fluorescence Detector**  
Shimadzu RF-20A

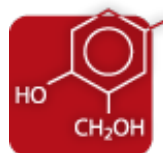


**ELSD Detector**  
SEDEX 90LT

# CRITICAL ASSIGNMENTS WISELY LEFT TO EXPERTS



QUANTIFICATION



IDENTIFICATION



INVESTIGATION



BIOMARKERS

Could we be of Service?

# Core Competencies

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- **Polymers in Biological Matrix and Drug Substance/Product**
- **Small Molecules in Biological Matrix**
- **Detergents/Excipients in Pharmaceutical Production (GMP and non-GMP)**
- **Swab/Immersion Samples (GMP and non-GMP)**
- **Impurity ID / E&L**

# Core Competencies

## Polymers in Biological Matrix and Drug Substance/Product

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### **Polyethylene Glycol (PEG)**

Free and Total PEG in Liquids (e.g. Plasma, CSF), various Tissues and Pharmaceuticals

Range for PEGs between 4 kDa and 60 kDa  
Lowest validated LLOQ 15 ng/mL in Plasma

More than a decade of experience with clients from Biotech to Big Pharma

## Free PEG in Plasma \*)

Calibration Range

20.0 – 1,000 ng/mL

LLOQ – LLOQ x 50 (=ULOQ)

in 8 calibration standards

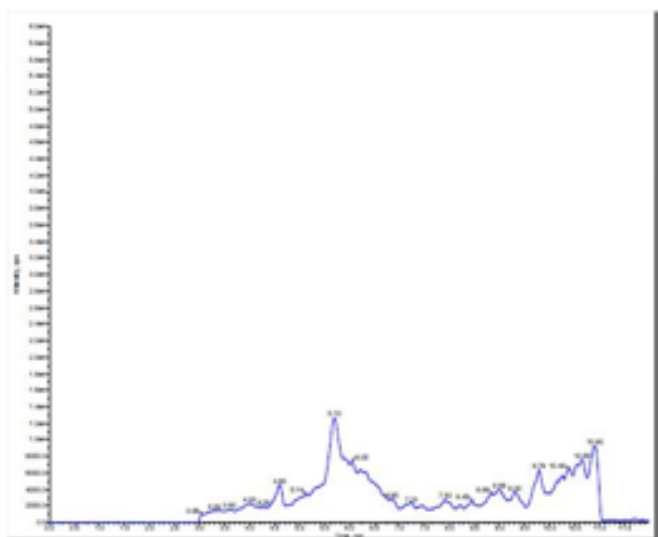
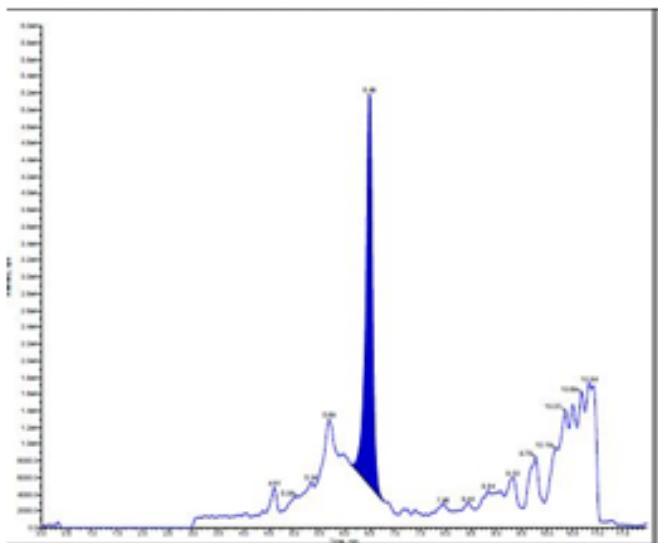
**Upper Chrom Std at LLOQ**

Lower Chrom Plasma blank

HPLC-MS/MS

Sample Volume for Prep. 50 µL

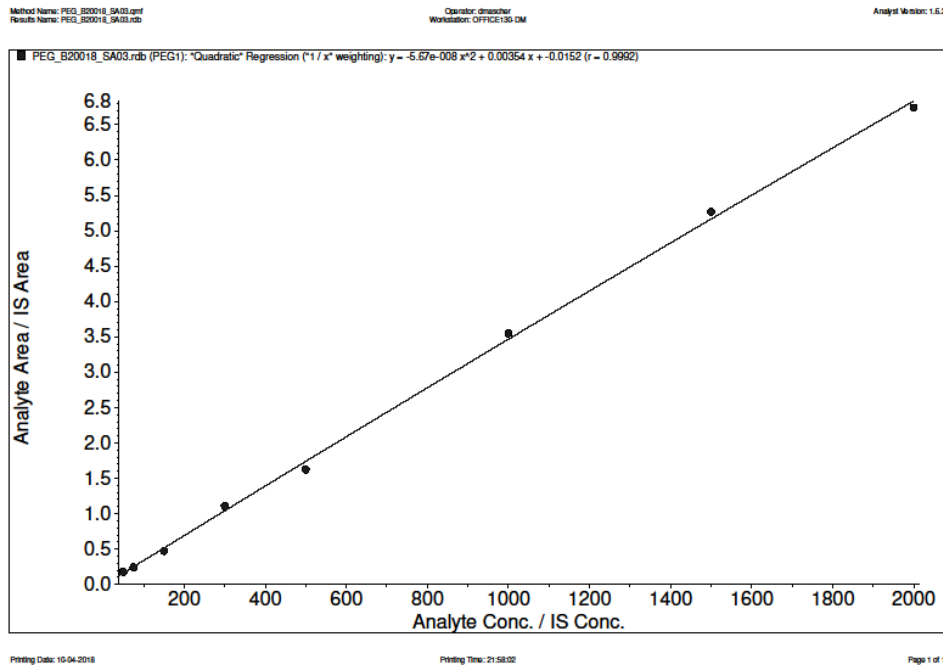
\*) > 30 kDa



## Free PEG > 30 kDa in CSF

Calibration Range 50.0 – 2,000 ng/mL

LLOQ – LLOQ x 40 (=ULOQ) in 8 calibration standards



## Randomly branched PEGs: No immunogenic response

Calibration Range 15.0 – 1,000 ng/mL for 30 kDa branched PEG

4 available randomly branched PEGs with various chain lengths and various degree of branching

- **RP HPLC-MS/MS** could be used for all 4 of them, either after protein precipitation alone or after protein precipitation followed by liquid-liquid extraction
- **SEC HPLC-MS/MS** could be used for all 4 of them, only after protein precipitation followed by liquid-liquid extraction. Strong matrix effects result if protein precipitation is used alone
- **Randomly branched PEGs** can be a great alternative for pegylation of APIs that were previously pegylated with linear PEGs only. Randomly branched PEGs do not trigger an immune response, making them very unique and far superior to linear PEGs

## Other Polymers

**Polylactic Acid (PLA)**, LLOQ 50 ng/mL  
with good linearity for calibration range in Plasma

**Polyethyloxazoline (PEtOx)**,  
LLOQ 2 ng/mL for a 5 kDa PEtOx in Plasma

**Polyethylenimine (PEI)**  
LLOQ 1 µg/mL in Drug Substance

**Poloxamer (POL)**  
LLOQ 0.7 µg/mL in Drug Substance and Drug Product

# Core Competencies

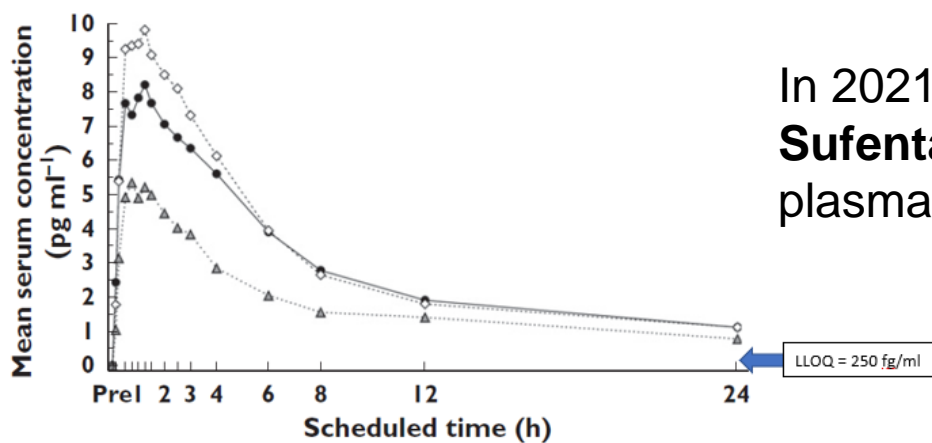
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# Core Competencies

## Small Molecules in Biological Matrix

## LLOQ Record FP in 2012 (250 fg/mL plasma)



In 2021 record equalled for **Sufentanil** (using only 0.1 mL plasma)

### Figure 1

Study 1: Mean fluticasone propionate (FP) serum concentration–time curves after intranasal single dose administration of 200 µg FP delivered by three different nasal spray products; ● MP29-02; ◇ MP29-02-FP-mono (i.e. MP29-02 formulation without azelastine); △ Marketed comparator product FP-BI (Fluticasone propionate Boehringer-Ingelheim/Roxane Laboratories Nasal Spray)

### Publication:

Bioavailability and disposition of azelastine and fluticasone propionate when delivered by MP29-02, a novel aqueous nasal spray

Hartmut Derendorf,<sup>1</sup> Ullrich Munzel,<sup>2</sup> Ursula Petzold,<sup>2</sup> Joachim Maus,<sup>2</sup> Hermann Mascher,<sup>3</sup> Robert Hermann,<sup>4</sup> & Jean Bousquet,<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pharmaceutics, College of Pharmacy, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32610, USA,

<sup>2</sup>MEDA Pharma GmbH & Co. KG, 61352 Bad Homburg, Germany, <sup>3</sup>pharm-analyt Labor GmbH, 2500

Baden/Vienna, Austria, <sup>4</sup>cr.appliance, Rossittenstrasse 15, 78315 Radolfzell, Germany and <sup>5</sup>Hopital

Arnaud de Villeneuve University Hospital, Montpellier, and Inserm CSP1018, France

# Core Competencies

## Small Molecules in Biological Matrix

### APPI: Expanding the horizon to very apolar compounds

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An APPI source was purchased for the Xevo TQ-XS providing:

- **Improved sensitivity** even for **medium-polar substances** such as budesonide, fluticasone propionate and fluticasone furoate by up to a **factor of 5**
- **Access to the field of (aromatic) hydrocarbons and heteroaromatic compounds** which are either not commonly detectable with other HPLC-MS/MS ion sources or lack in ionization efficiency when using e.g. APCI
- **Easy handling of dopant delivery** (acetone, toluene, anisole...)
- Hence selective ionisation possible due to ionisation energies of common mobile phase constituents and additives being above the delivered energy of the used UV lamp

## 2023 Record for Tiotropium

Calibration Range

**50.0 – 8,000 fg/mL**

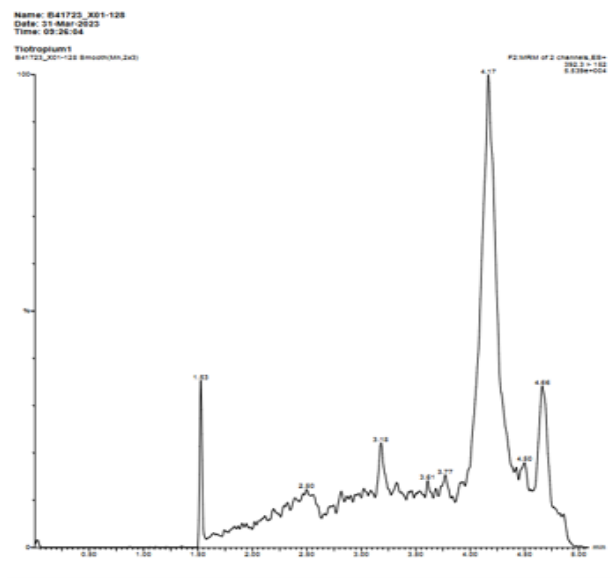
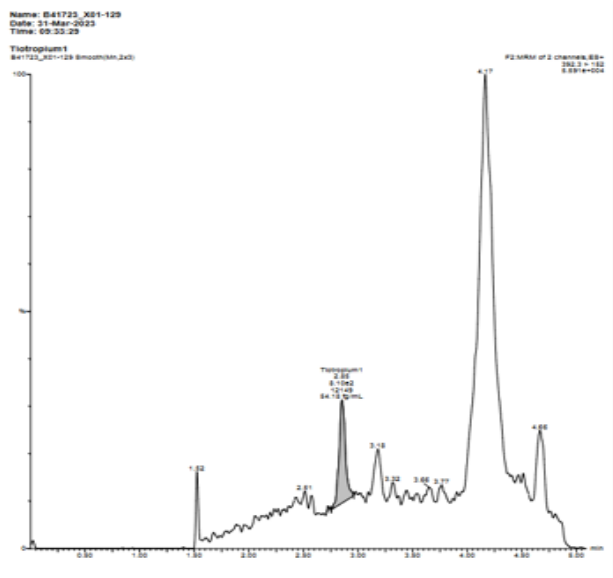
LLOQ – LLOQ x 160 (=ULOQ)  
in 8 calibration standards

**Upper Chrom Std at LLOQ**

Lower Chrom Plasma blank

HPLC-MS/MS

Sample Volume for Prep. 1 mL



# Experience with various peptides in plasma in the molecular weight range of 1 to 6 kDa

D. Mascher et al., J. Chromatogr. B 908 (2012) 18–22

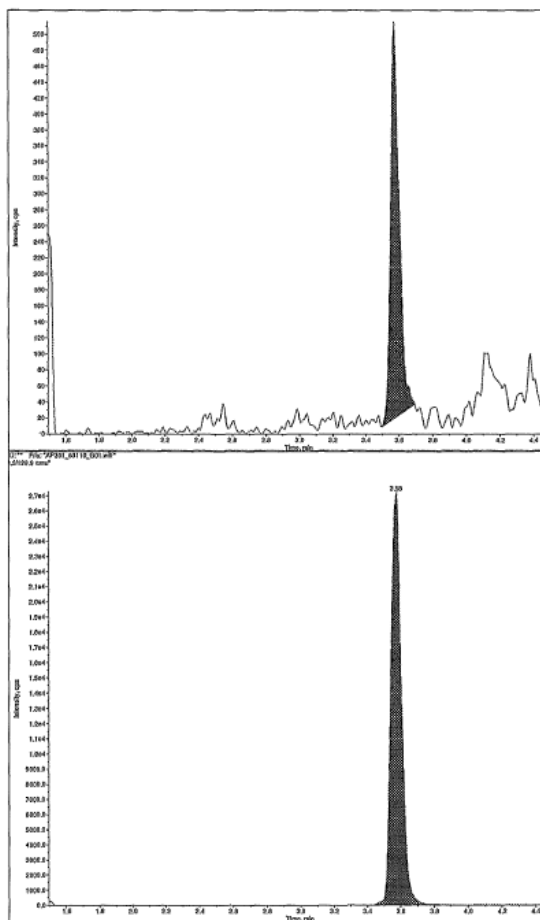


Fig. 2. Chromatograms of plasma Std. 1 at 1.00 ng/mL, upper trace AP301 (642–129 m/z), lower trace IS (644–129 m/z).

Journal of Chromatography B, 908 (2012) 18-22

Sensitive determination of the peptide AP301 – A motif of TNF- $\alpha$  –  
From human plasma using HPLC-MS/MS

Daniel Mascher et al.

Molecular weight 1923.1 amu for AP301

Upper chromatogram at LLOQ (= 1 ng/mL plasma)

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# Core Competencies

Detergents/Excipient in Pharmaceutical Production  
(GMP and non-GMP)

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Detergents: Triton, Tween/PS, TnBP, Poloxamer, PEG ...  
Excipients: Sorbitol, Cyclodextrin...

Fast Turnaround Time (maximum of 4 weeks) with 2 Qualified  
Persons at pharm-analyt

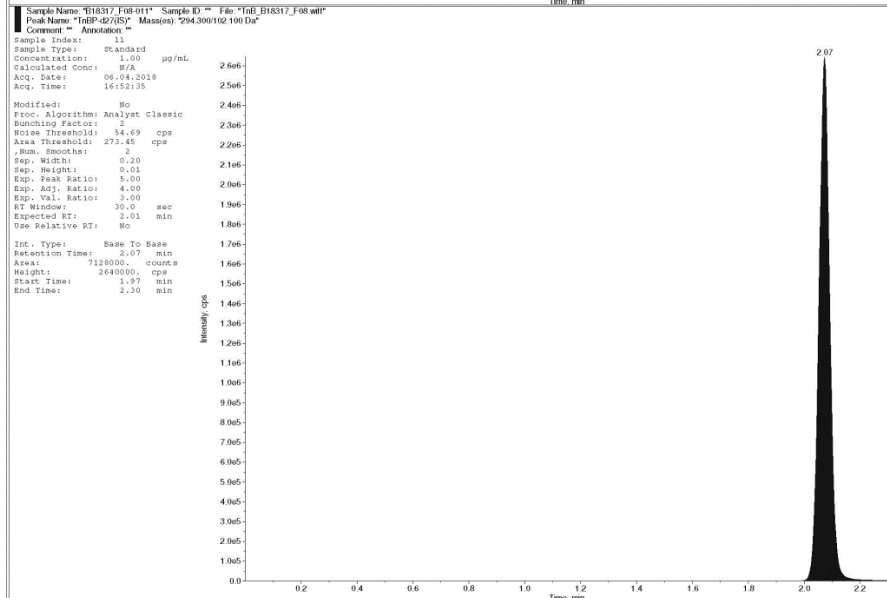
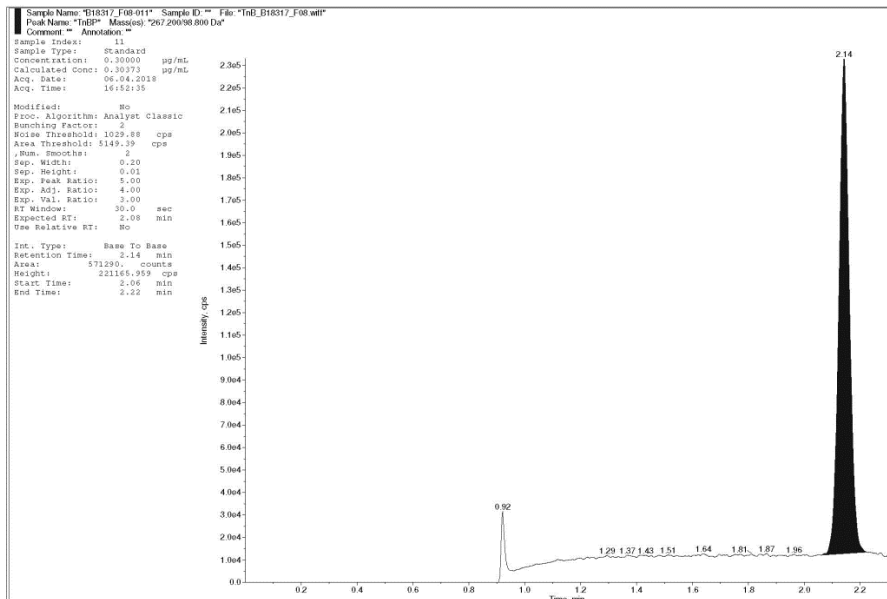


# TnBP in FDP/FC

LLOQ 100 ng/mL

Upper Chrom Std at LLOQ  
Lower Chrom Internal Standard

HPLC-MS/MS



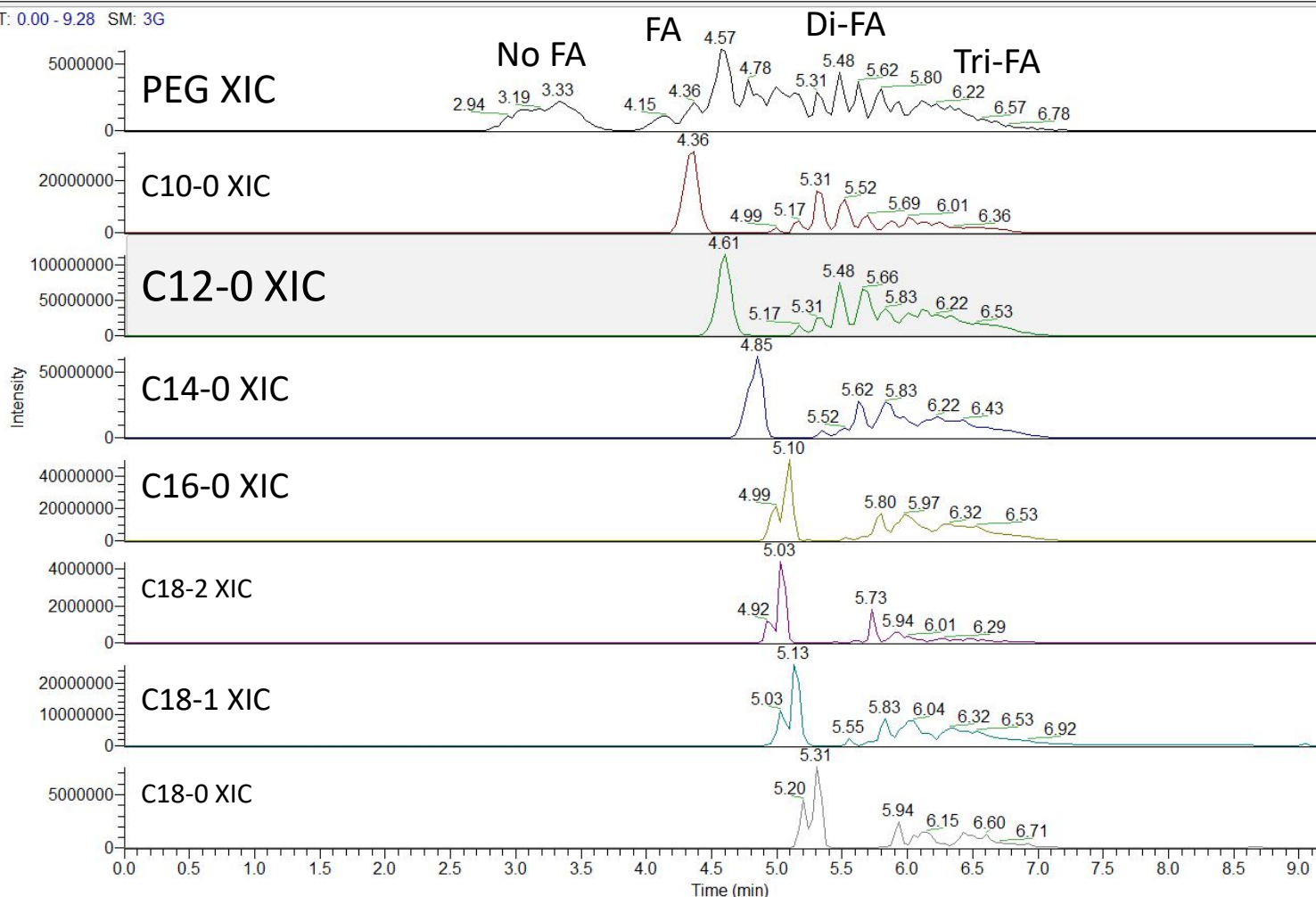
# Tween 20

Twe\_B41323\_T01-018

13.12.2024 14:47:16

Mono-

RT: 0.00 - 9.28 SM: 3G



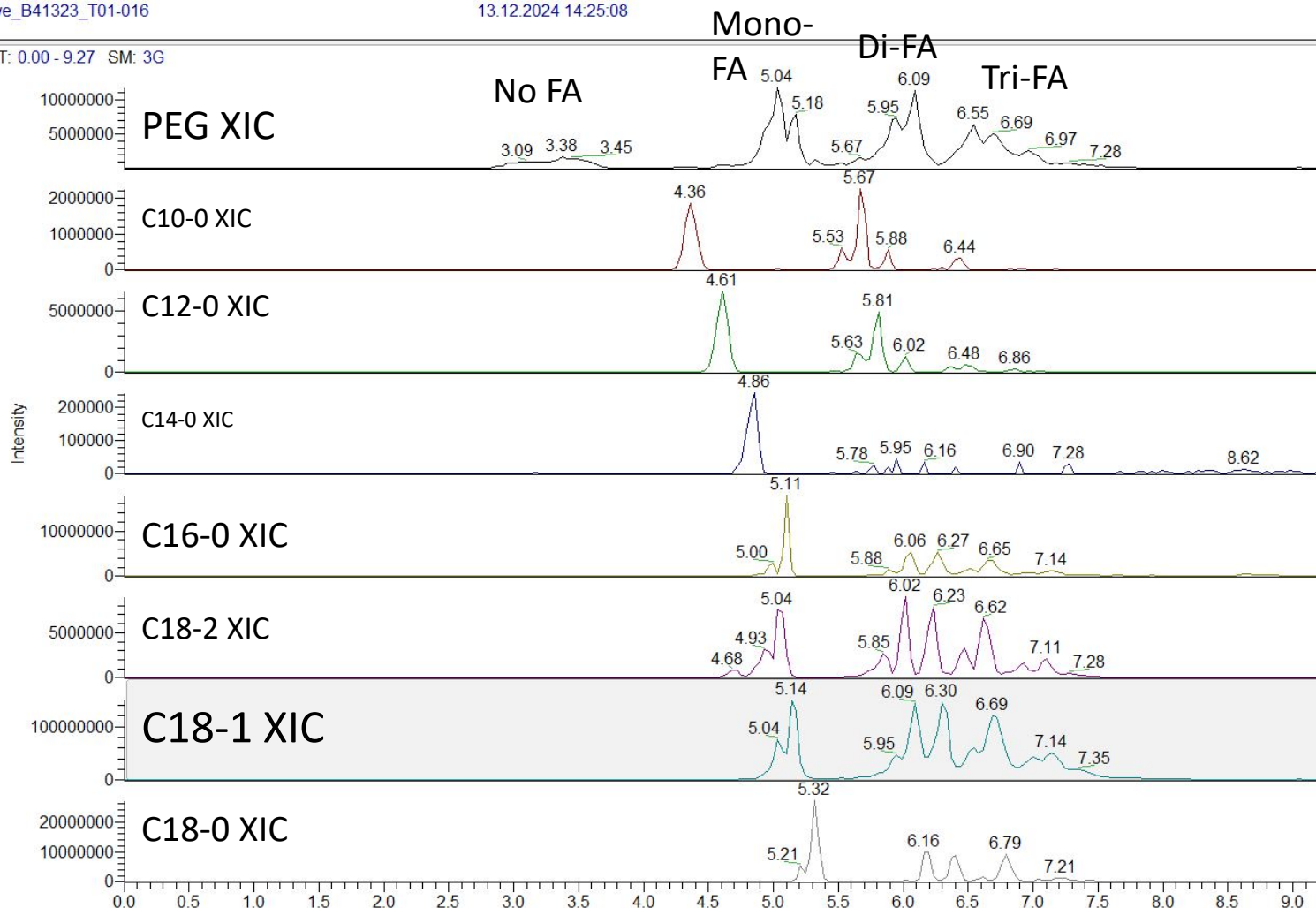
Data generated on Orbitrap SID @80V, in order to see respective fragment ions typical for PEGs (upper trace) and some of the fatty acid residues

# Tween 80

Twe\_B41323\_T01-016

13.12.2024 14:25:08

RT: 0.00 - 9.27 SM: 3G



Data generated on Orbitrap SID @80V, in order to see respective fragment ions typical for PEGs (upper trace) and some of the fatty acid residues

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# Core Competencies

## Swab/Immersion Samples (GMP and non-GMP)

Analytes with LLOQ in ng/mL (depending on ng/100 cm<sup>2</sup> criterion of cleaning validation), e.g.:

Cyclosporin A: 4 ng/ml

Testosteron Enanthate: 1 ng/ml

Fulvestrant: 2 ng/ml

Palonosetron: 2 ng/ml

## Core Competencies

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## Core Competencies

### Impurity ID with Ion-Trap-Mass Spectrometer (Non-GxP)

You detect in your pharmaceutical product an

- **Unknown peak**
- **unexpected color during manufacturing etc.**

We deliver:

- a proposal for a **molecular formula**
  - a proposal for a structure
  - or the ID of a **molecular structure**
- within 1-4 days** incl. exemplary chromatograms



the success of the detection depends on the hypothesis, MS-compatible buffers and the size of the molecule

pharm-analyt has started with **E&L** in 2023 (e.g. tubes, bags)

## Inorganic Excursion: Cations and Anions

Determination on a Trinity column with CAD, ELSD and Orbitrap

**Anions** determined were e.g. chloride, bromide, iodide, nitric acid, nitrous acid, perchloric acid, methane sulfonic acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid and citric acid.

- CAD was more sensitive than ELSD, **LLOQ in low  $\mu\text{M}$  range achievable** for some compounds
- **Orbitrap** provided of course **more selectivity**, **plasma analysis possible** with it, **LLOQ** down to **mid nM range** achievable for some



**Cations** determined were e.g. lithium, sodium, potassium, cesium, magnesium, calcium, barium, manganese, silver, cobalt, zinc, iron(II), cerium:

- Comparable results as for anions in terms of sensitivity and selectivity
- **Monovalent ions are more readily detectable** and easier in chromatography

# Nitrite/Nitrate/Nitrosamine Determination

## On XEVO TQ-XS and with Electrochemical Detection (EC)

1. pharm-analyt was involved in NDMA and related substance determination in the first Nitrosamine „Wave“ in 2019. Some products indeed showed critical levels of NDMA in regards to daily intake.
2. In 2022/2023 the second Nitrosamine „Wave“ followed where the actual API specific Nitrosamines got into the regulator's focus with us also being involved in this phase analytically.
3. Since nitrite is the direct precursor regarding Nitrosamine formation we looked at determination of it.
4. Nitrite is unfortunately a very small molecule not ideal for LC-MS/MS determination with its mass of 46 amu only (poor ion transmission and poor fragmentation). With the XEVO TQ-XS about 200 ng/L could be achieved using UNISpray, however nitrate – which is ubiquitous, in pipette tips, solvents etc. – interferes since it degrades in the ion source of the mass spec to nitrite. So nitrate-free environment would be needed.
5. Nitrite however is perfect when using EC Detection. Nitrate is practically not oxidizable and shows only at about 0.05 %. 50 ng/L nitrite could relatively easily be achieved as LLOQ without much optimization.

# PUBLICATIONS – pharm-analyt

Over 100 Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals

## 4 Representative Publications of the Last Years

- **Lethal versus surviving sepsis phenotypes displayed a partly differential regional expression of neurotransmitters and inflammation and did not modify the blood–brain barrier permeability in female CLP mice**

Author: F. Azizian-Farsani, K. Weixelbaumer, D. Mascher, A. Klang, S. Högler, N. Dinhopf, B. Bauder, H. Weissenböck, A. Tichy, P. Schmidt, H. Mascher, M. F. Osuchowski  
Publisher: Intensive Care Medicine Experimental volume 12, Article number: 96 (2024)

- **Letermovir in Paediatric HSCT Recipients**

Author: V. Strenger, D. Sperl, K. Kubesch, J. Donnerer, W. Schwinger, K. Zach, H. Lackner, M. Benesch  
Publisher: Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, October 2019, 1093

- **Effect of Particle Deposition Density of Dry Powders...by an In Vitro Test System Simulating Dissolution – and Absorption Rates in the Lungs**

Author: M. Malmlöf, M. Nowenwik, K. Meelich, I. Radberg, E. Selg, J. Burns, H. Mascher, P. Gerde  
Publisher: European Journal of Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics, 2019, 139, 213-223

- **A FIM Study to Assess Safety and Exposure of Inhaled Single Doses of AP301 – A Specific ENaC Channel Activator for the Treatment of Acute Lung Injury**

Author: R. Schwameis, S. Eder, H. Pietschmann, B. Fischer, H. Mascher, S. Tzotzos, H. Fischer, R. Lucas, M. Zeitlinger, R. Hermann, Publisher: J. Clin. Pharmacol, 2013, 54, 341-350