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# Development of a Physiologically Based Toxicokinetic (PBTK) model describing the bioaccumulation of a perfluorinated substance in rainbow trout (*Onchorynchus mykiss*)



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## INTRODUCTION

Due to their unique physico-chemical properties, such as good thermic and chemical stability, **perfluorinated compounds (PFASs)** are ubiquitous in the environment and bioaccumulate in aquatic organisms. However, mechanistic models explaining the PFAS fate are still limited in aquatic vertebrates. **PBTK model** is a powerful tool for describing the absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion processes of xenobiotics.

**This study aims to calibrate a descriptive PBTK model applicable to the perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in adult rainbow trout thanks to an experimental data set (Goeritz et al., 2013).**

## METHODOLOGY

### STARTING MODELS

• **Nichols et al., 2004**

**Advantage:** Dietary uptake modeled for rainbow trout

**Limitation:** Not directly applicable to PFASs

• **Ng and Hungerbühler, 2013**

**Advantage:** Applicable to PFAS

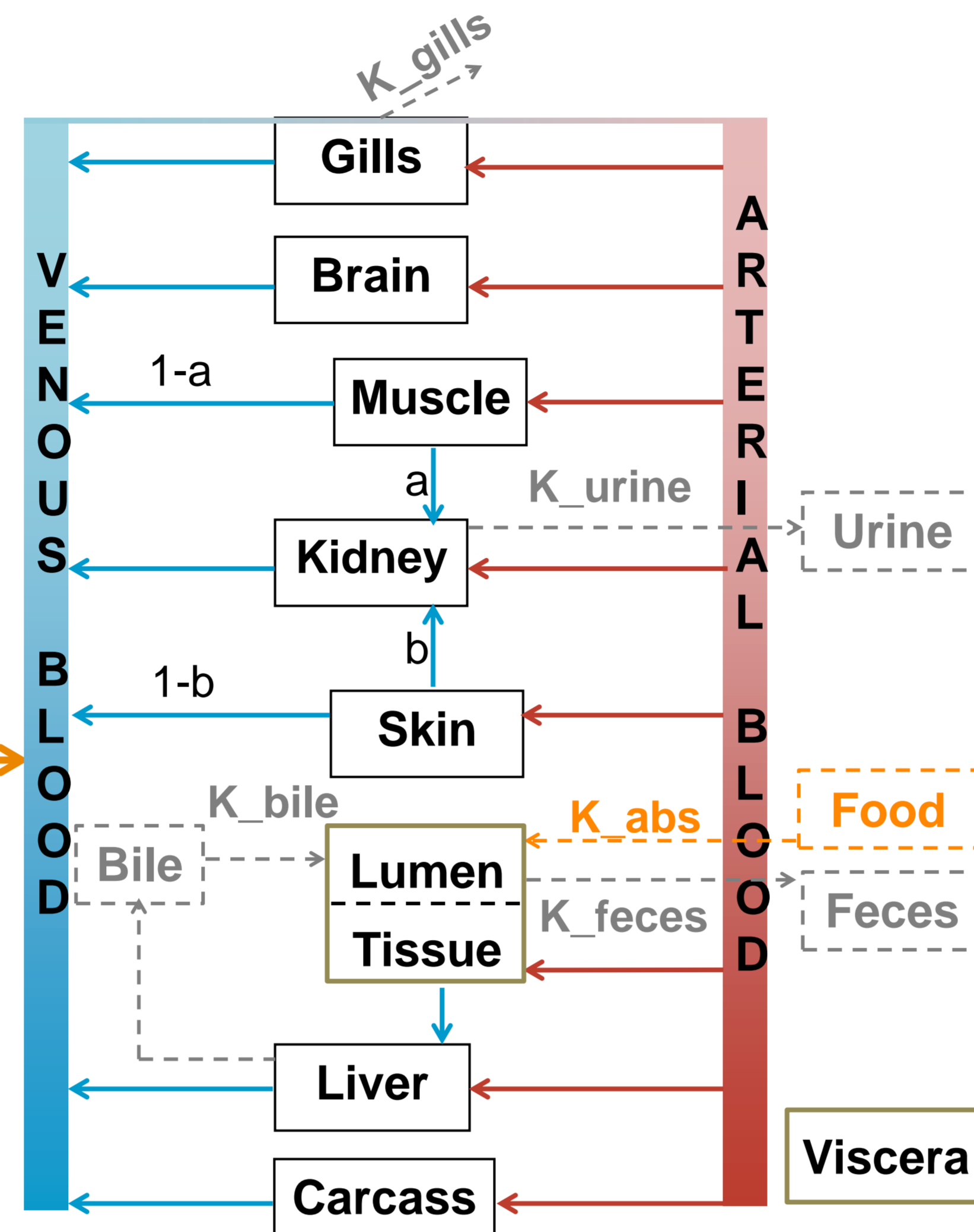
**Limitation:** Complex model implemented with mammal protein parameters and absorption from water only



### HYPOTHESES OF THE PRESENT MODEL

- Growth of individuals taken into account
- Elimination from feces in addition to urine, bile, gills
- Dietary uptake only (absorption from gills considered as negligible)
- No metabolism of PFOS

### CONCEPTUALISATION

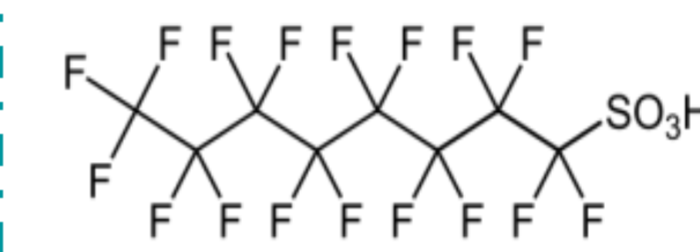


### PARAMETRISATION & CALIBRATION

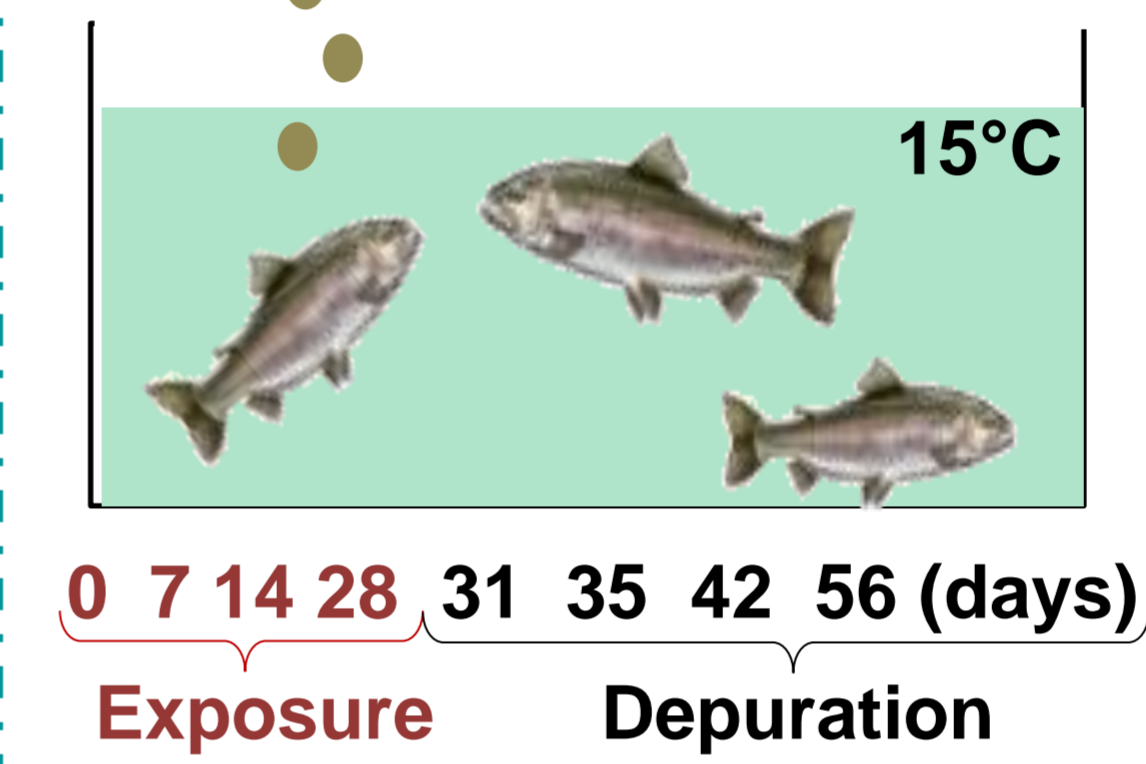
- Many physiological parameters for rainbow trout available
- Calibration with data from Goeritz et al., 2013 → Visual fitting

### EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

(Goeritz et al., 2013)



- [PFOS] in the food = 172 ng.g<sup>-1</sup>
- Quantity of food = 2.6% of the total biomass (twice a day)



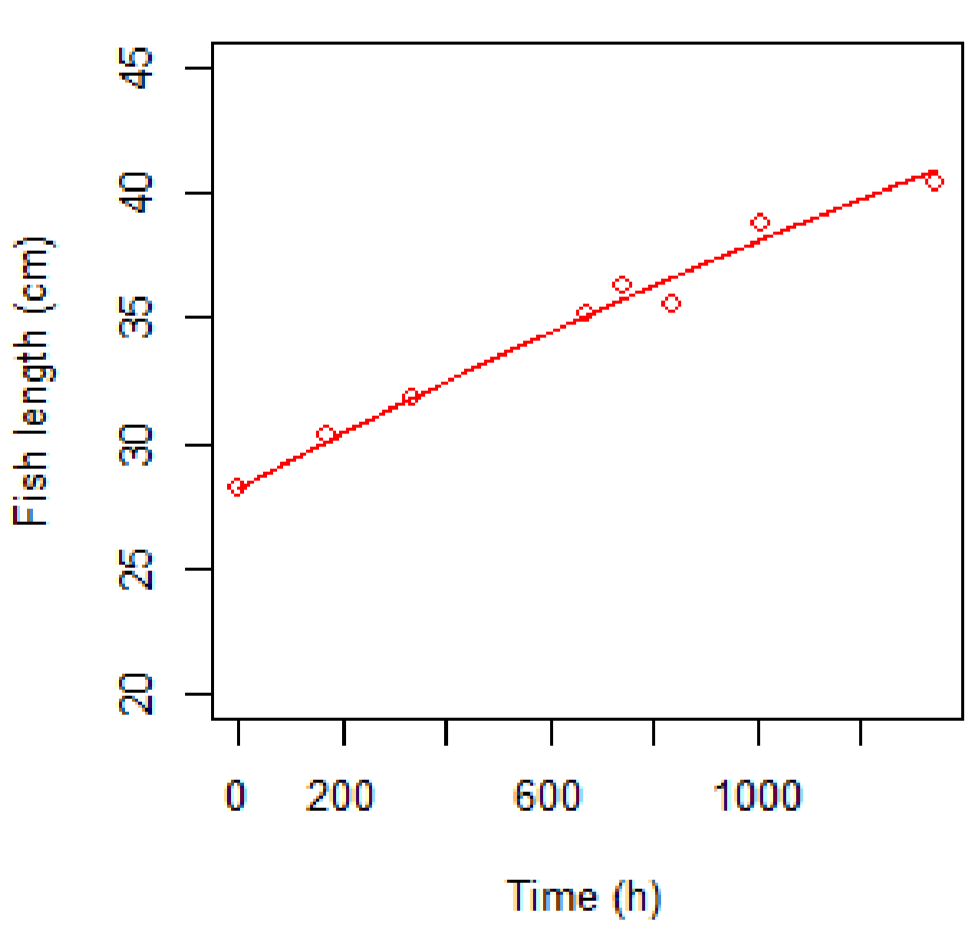
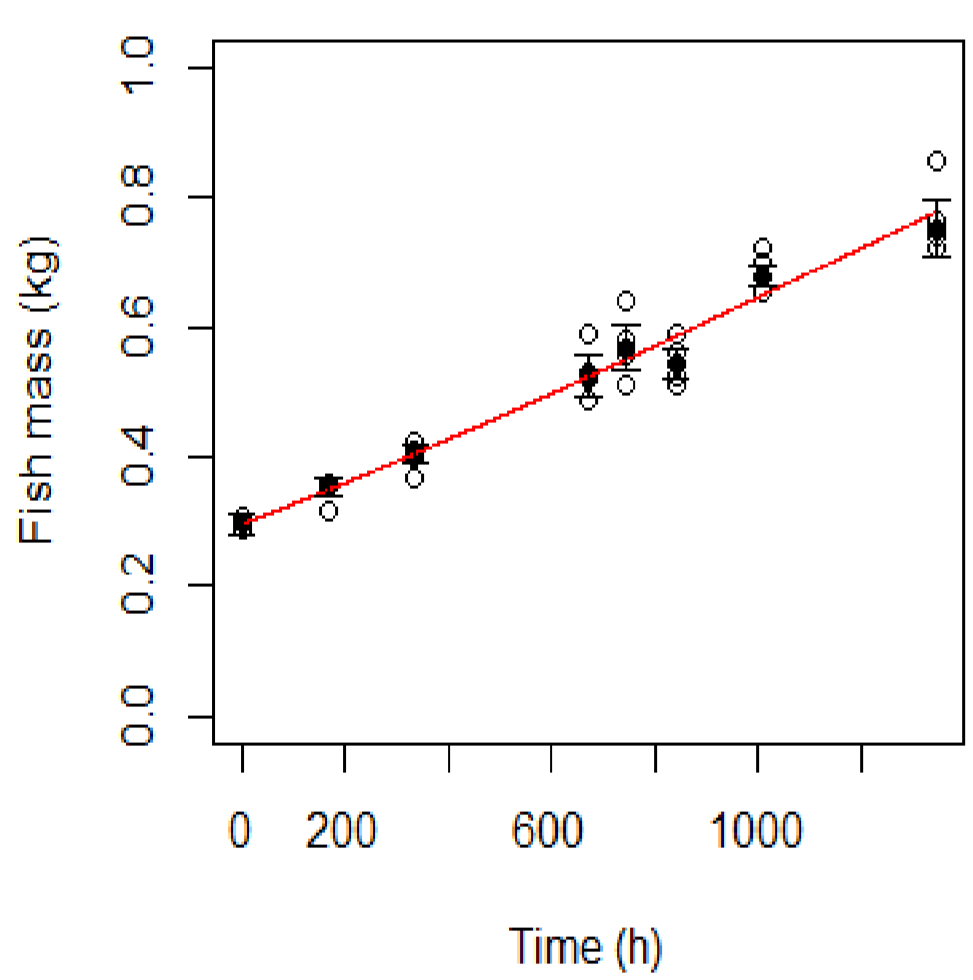
Sampled organs:

- ✓ Blood
- ✓ Gills
- ✓ Muscle
- ✓ Kidney
- ✓ Skin
- ✓ Liver
- ✓ Carcass

Analysis of PFOS: LC-MS/MS

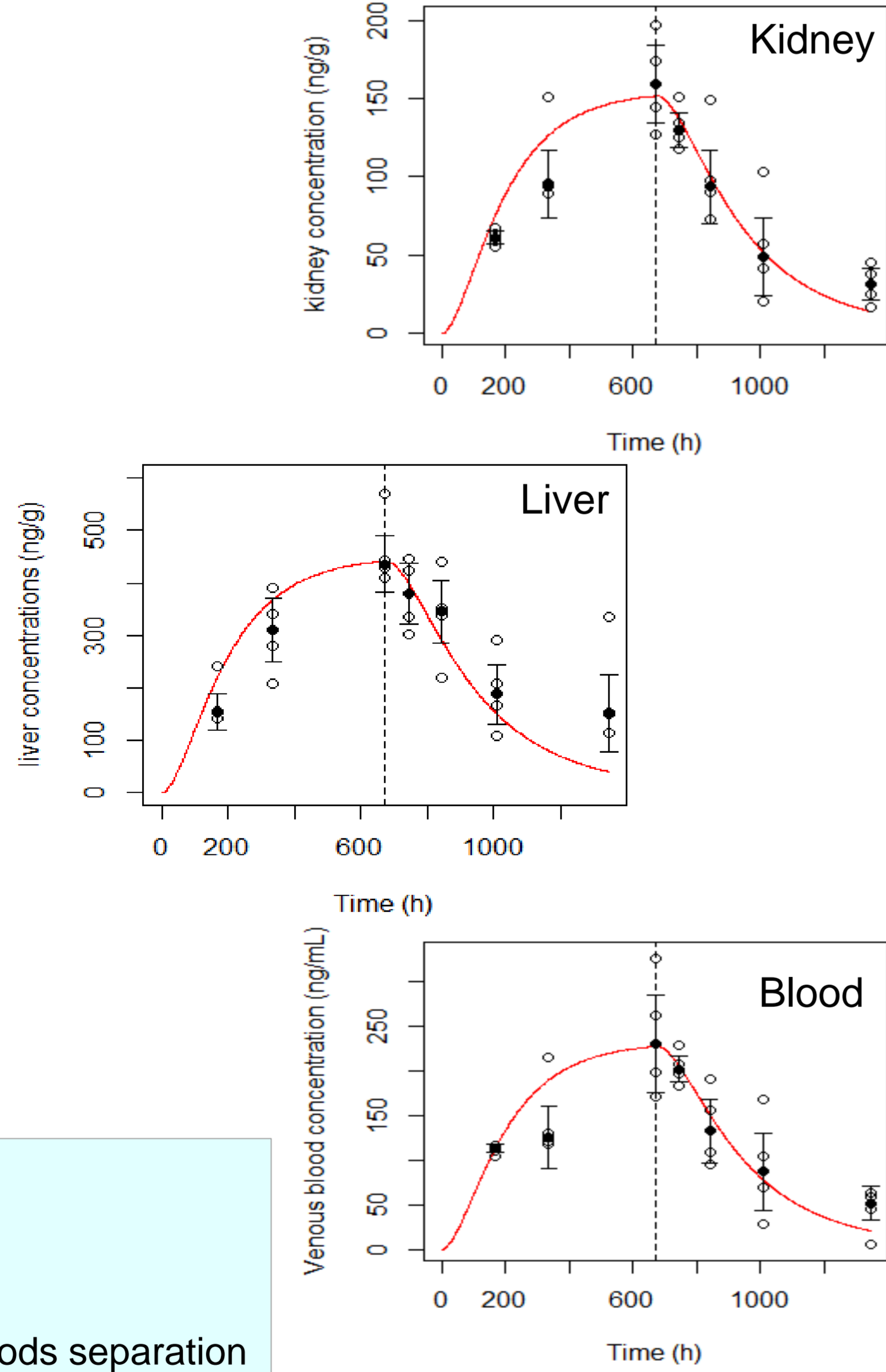
## RESULTS OF MODELLING

### FISH GROWTH



- Observed data
- Mean of observed data
- Prediction
- Prediction
- Exposure/depuration periods separation

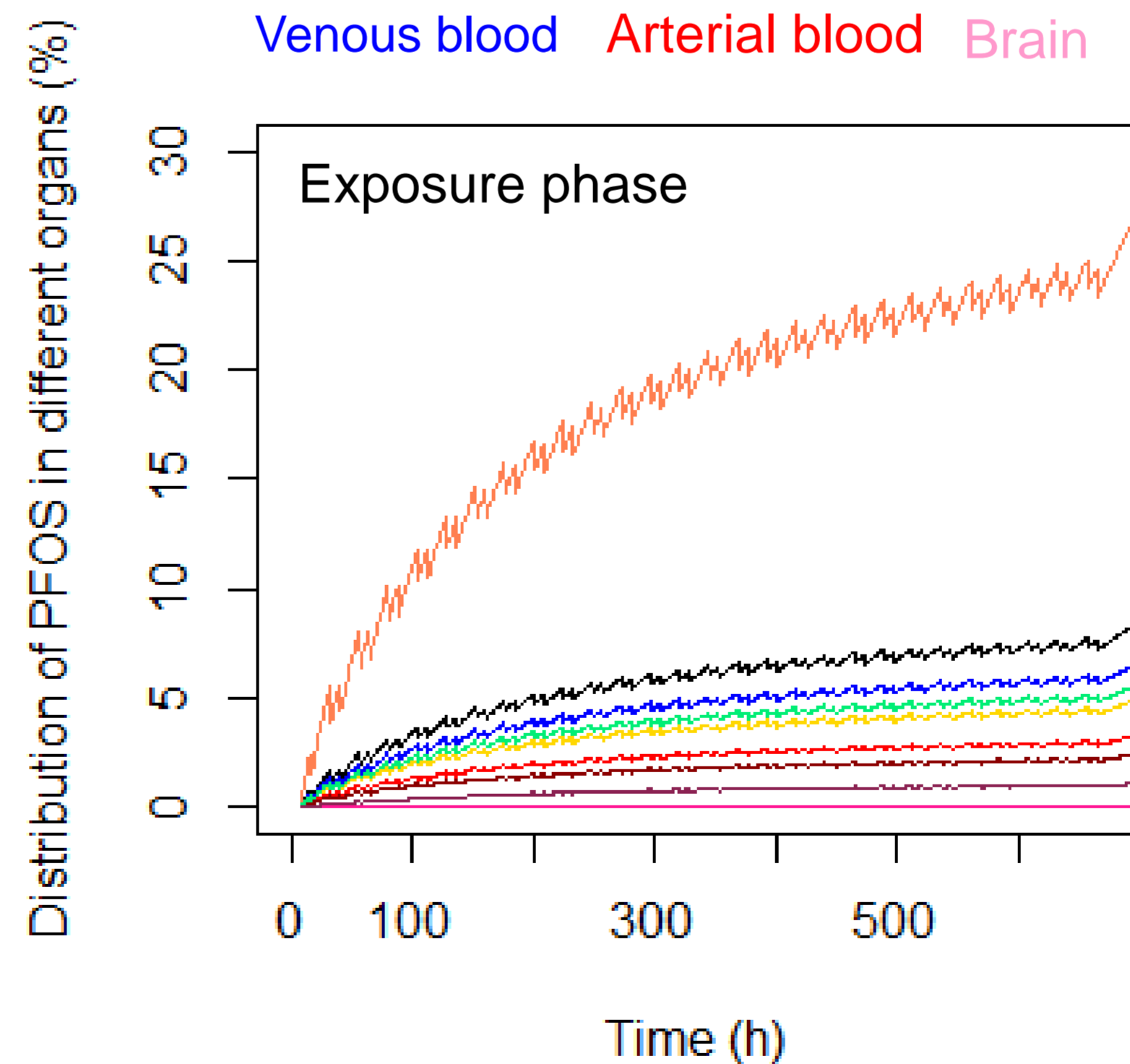
### PFOS KINETICS IN ORGANS



### CONTRIBUTION OF ORGANS IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF PFOS

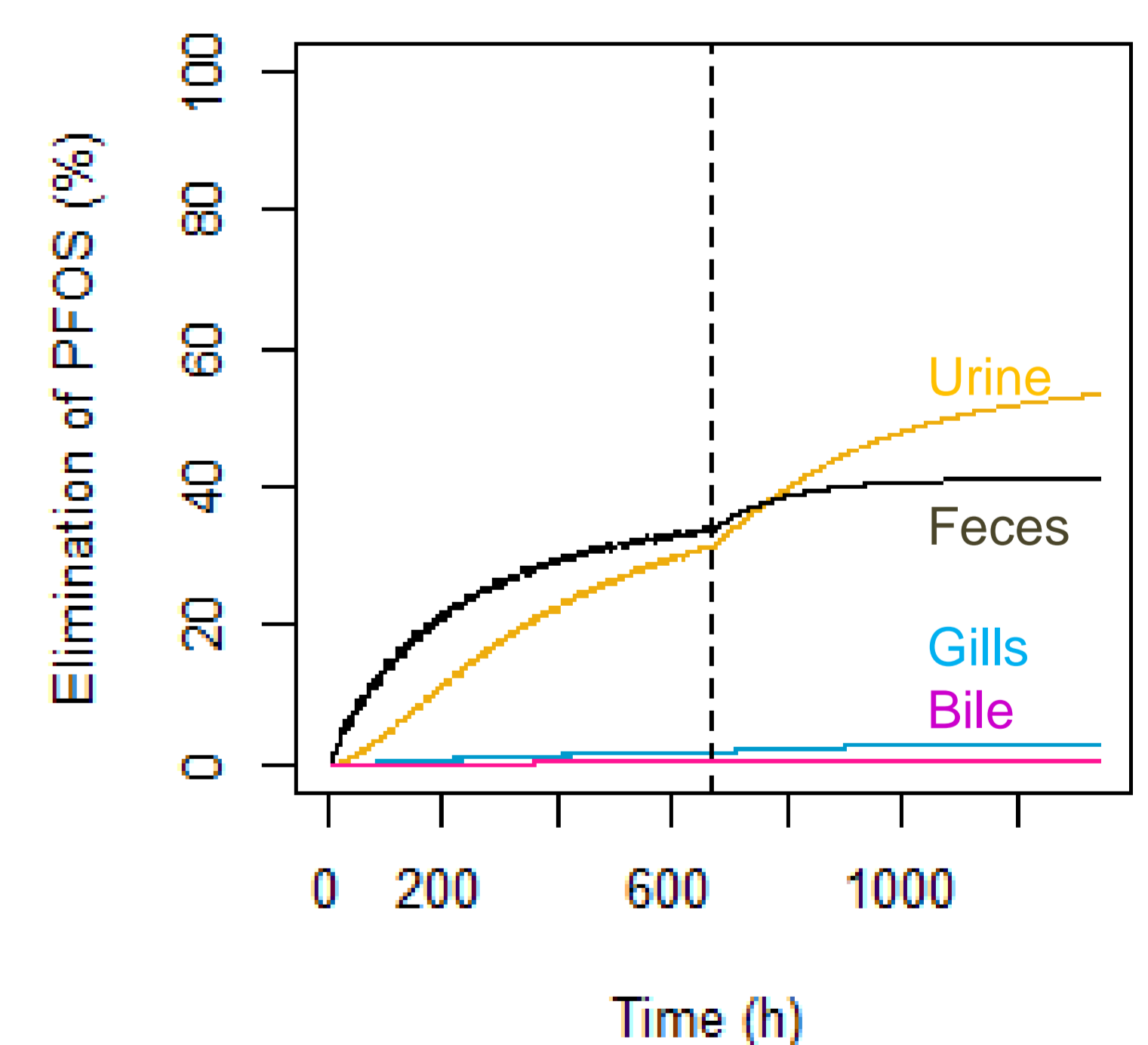
$$\text{Relative distribution (\%)} = \frac{[\text{PFOS}] (\text{ng.g}^{-1}) \times \text{mass organ (g)}}{\text{Quantity of PFOS in all organs (ng)}}$$

- Muscle
- Carcass
- Venous blood
- Skin
- Liver
- Arterial blood
- Kidney
- Gills
- Brain



### CONTRIBUTION OF THE ELIMINATION PATHWAYS

$$\text{Relative contribution (\%)} = \frac{\text{Quantity of PFOS eliminated by urine, bile, feces or gills}}{\text{Quantity of PFOS administered to fish}}$$



## DISCUSSION & PERSPECTIVES

- Fish growth and PFOS kinetics in organs fit well with data of Goeritz and al. (2013)
- Fecal elimination is shown to be an important elimination pathway of PFOS for rainbow trout exposed to contaminated food

However:

- There are still some uncertainties of elimination rates and elimination pathways
- The modeled kidney and liver elimination is faster than experimental data at the end of the experiment → Additional processes to consider, such as enterohepatic or urinary reabsorption (PFOS-Oats bindings)
- The modeled blood elimination is faster than experimental data at the end of the experiment → Additional interactions to consider: PFAS-serum albumin and PFAS-L-FABP

**Perspectives: Water temperature controls many physiological processes in fish. Since this variable is important for mechanisms of absorption, distribution and elimination of contaminants, the present PBTK model will take into account variations of the water temperature**

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2. Ng, C.A., Hungerbühler, K., 2013. Bioconcentration of Perfluorinated Alkyl Acids: How Important Is Specific Binding? *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 47, 7214–7223.
3. Nichols, J.W., Fitzsimmons, P.N., Whiteman, F.W., Dawson, T.D., 2004. A physiologically based toxicokinetic model for dietary uptake of hydrophobic organic compounds by fish: I. Feeding studies with 2,2', 5,5'-tetrachlorobiphenyl. *Toxicol. Sci.* 77, 206–218.