

# **Antibiotic efflux pumps in eucaryotic cells: consequences for activity against intracellular bacteria**

**Françoise Van Bambeke**

on behalf of J.M. Michot, C. Seral, M. Heremans,  
M.P. Mingeot-Leclercq, P.M. Tulkens

Unité de Pharmacologie cellulaire et moléculaire

Université catholique de Louvain

Brussels, Belgium



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***Bienvenue à  
L'UCL-BRUXELLES***

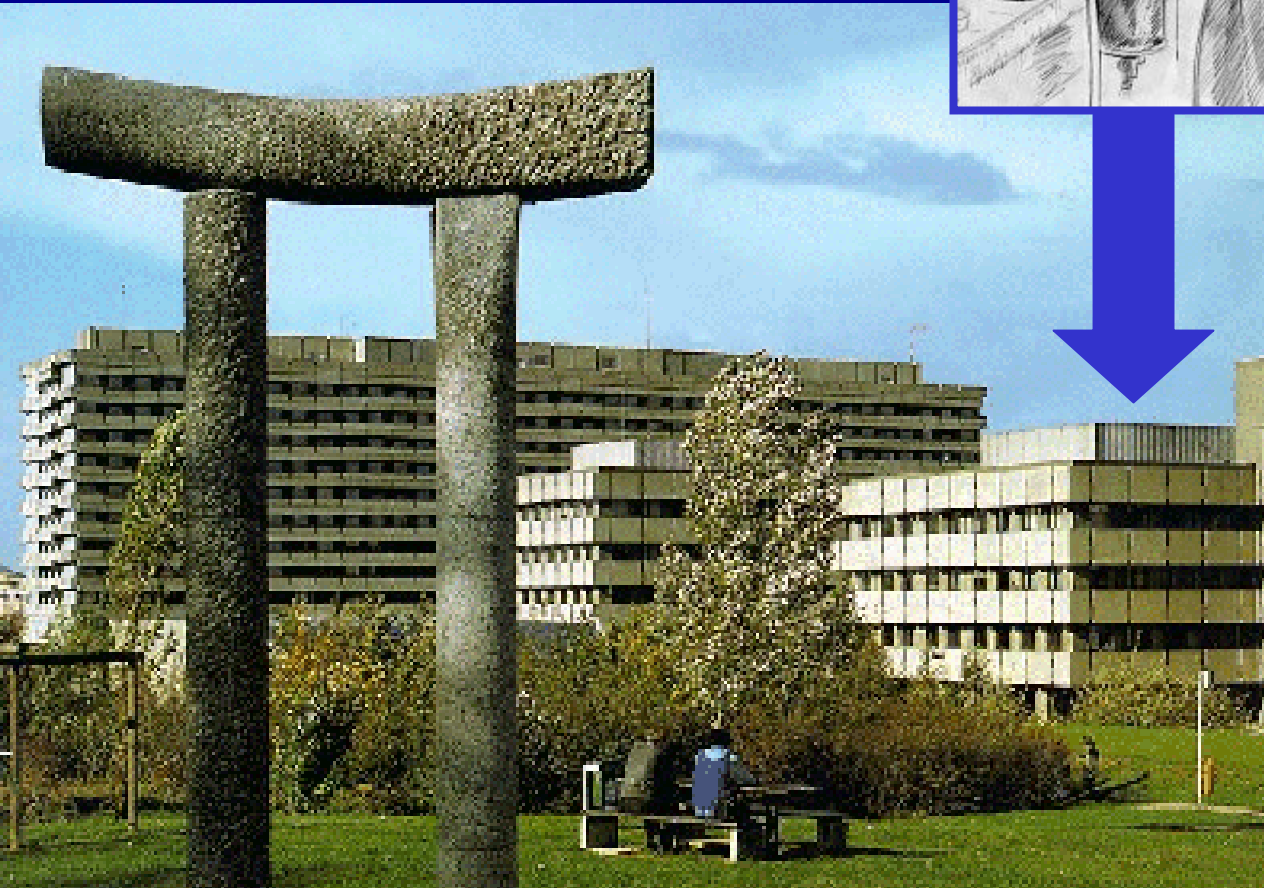
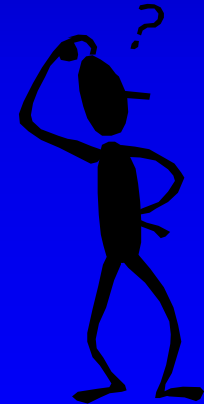
pharmacy



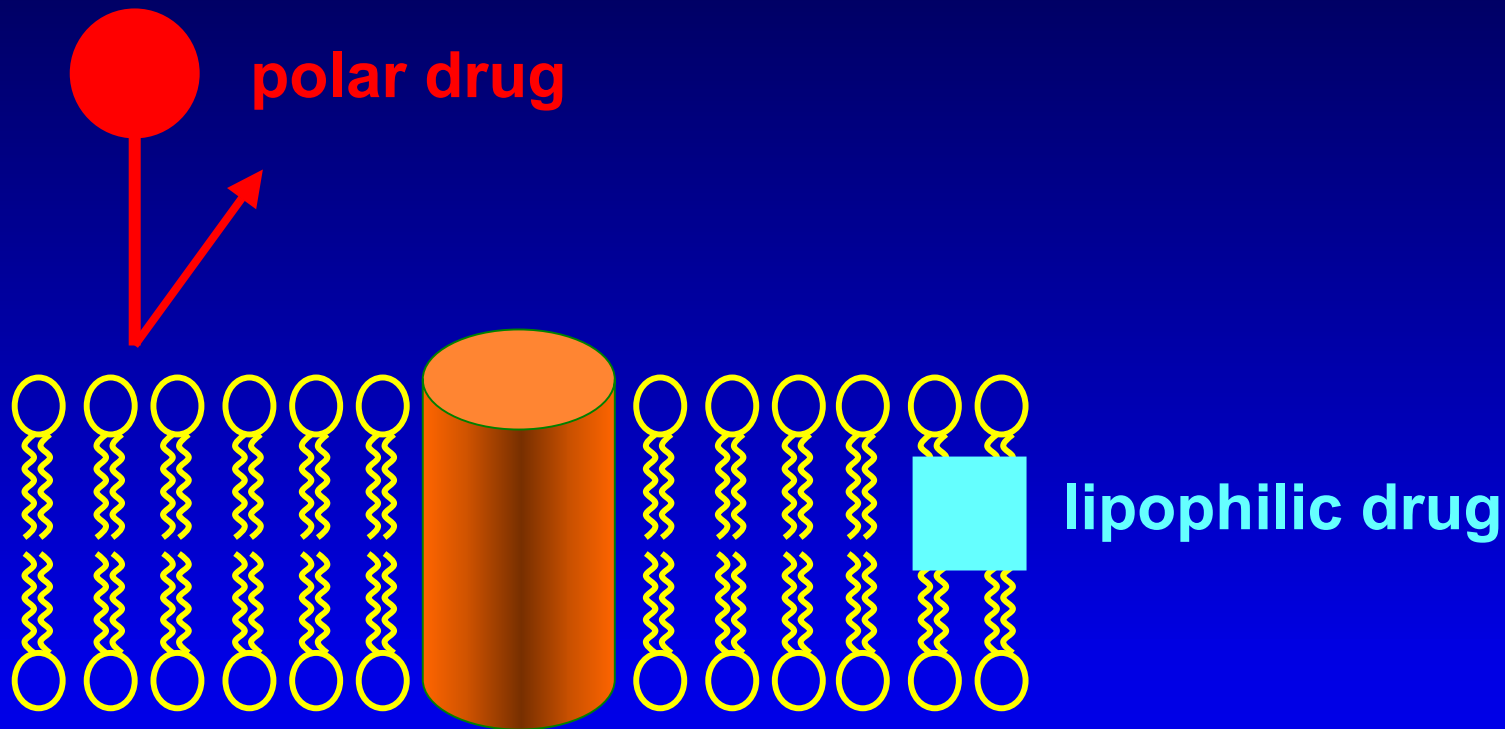
antibiotics as magic bullets



already  
concerned  
in efflux ?

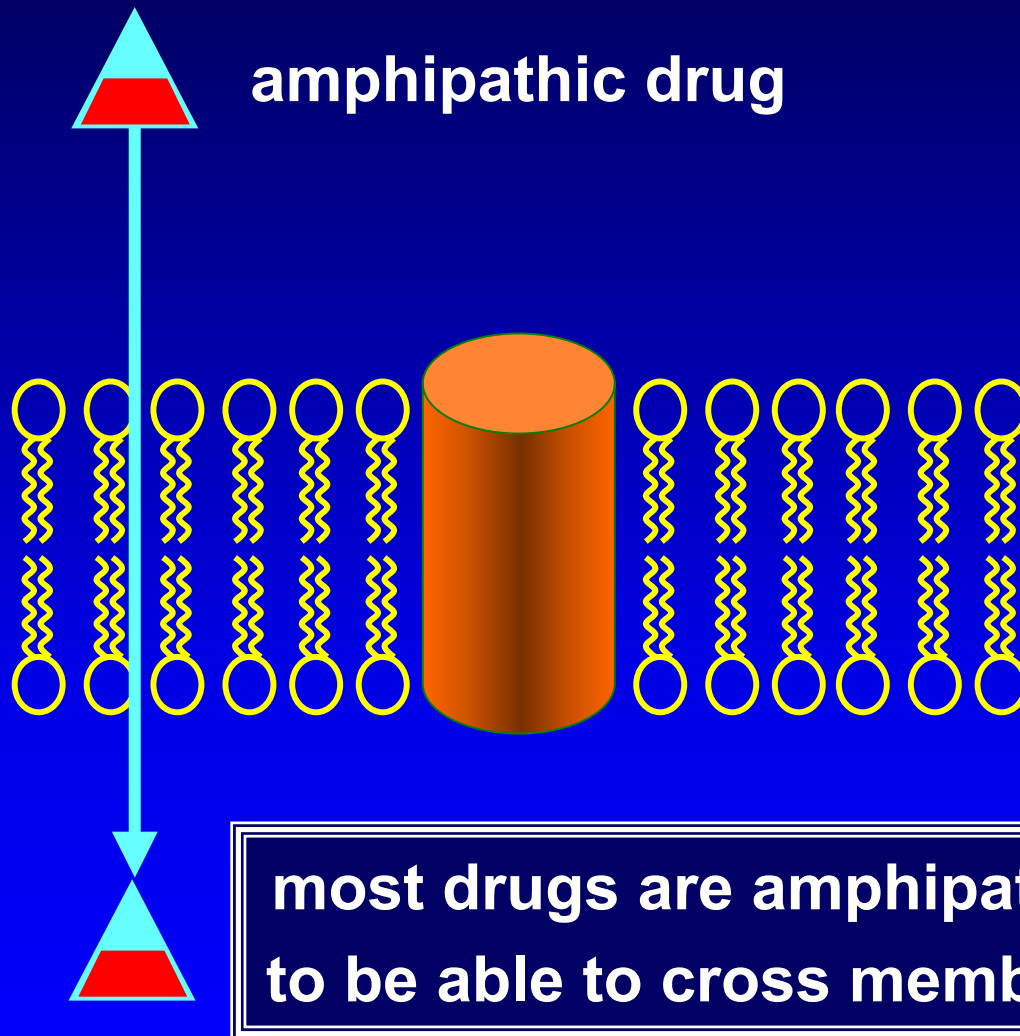


# Why drug efflux transporters ?

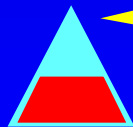
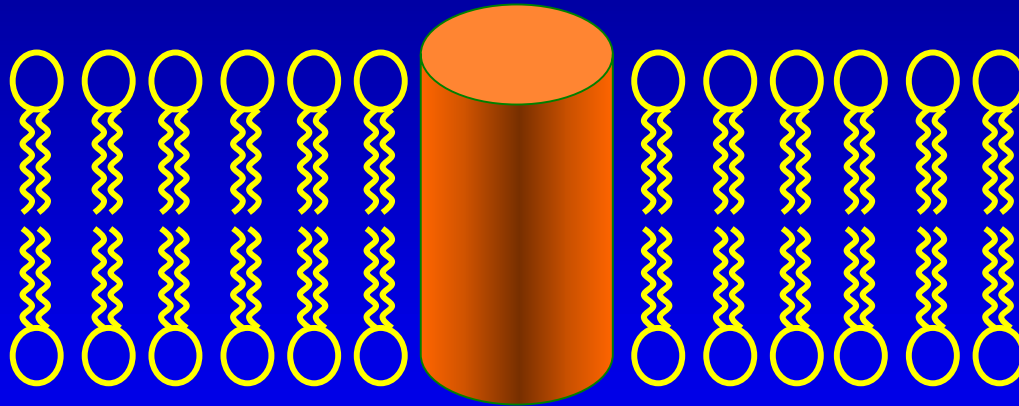


**physico-chemical properties are inadequate  
for reaching an intracellular target !**

# Why drug efflux transporters ?



# Why drug efflux transporters ?

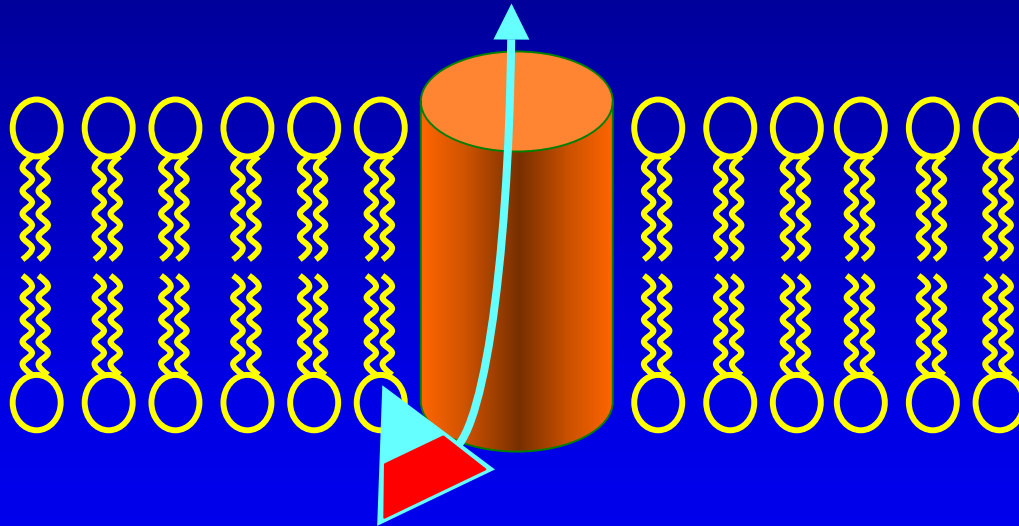


But a diffusible compound  
may have  
**potentially harmful effects !**



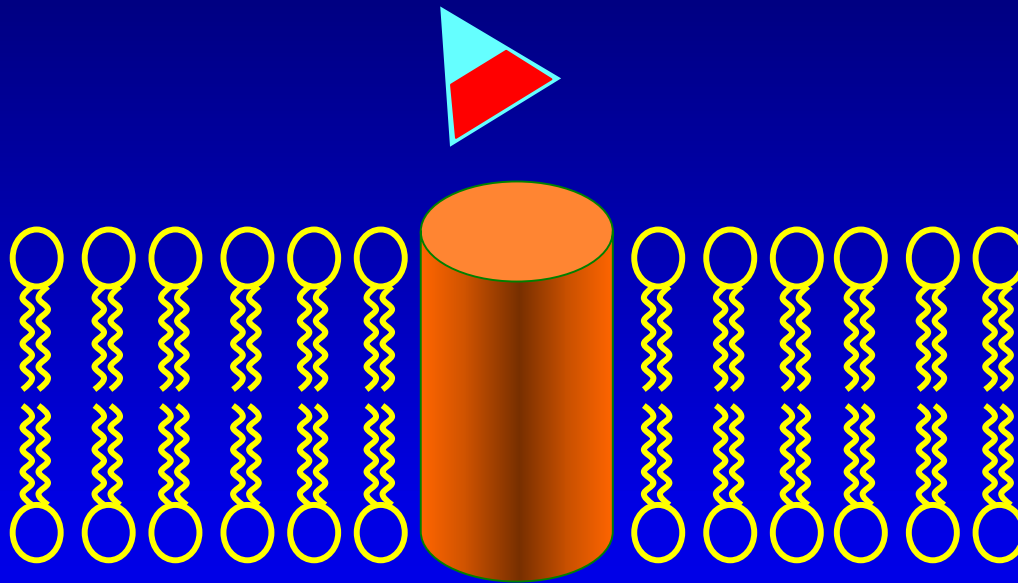
# Why drug efflux transporters ?

Extrusion by efflux pumps



# Why drug efflux transporters ?

Extrusion by efflux pumps



general mean of protection  
against cell invasion by diffusible molecules



# Typical 'toxic' diffusible substances well known as substrates for efflux pumps

antibiotics



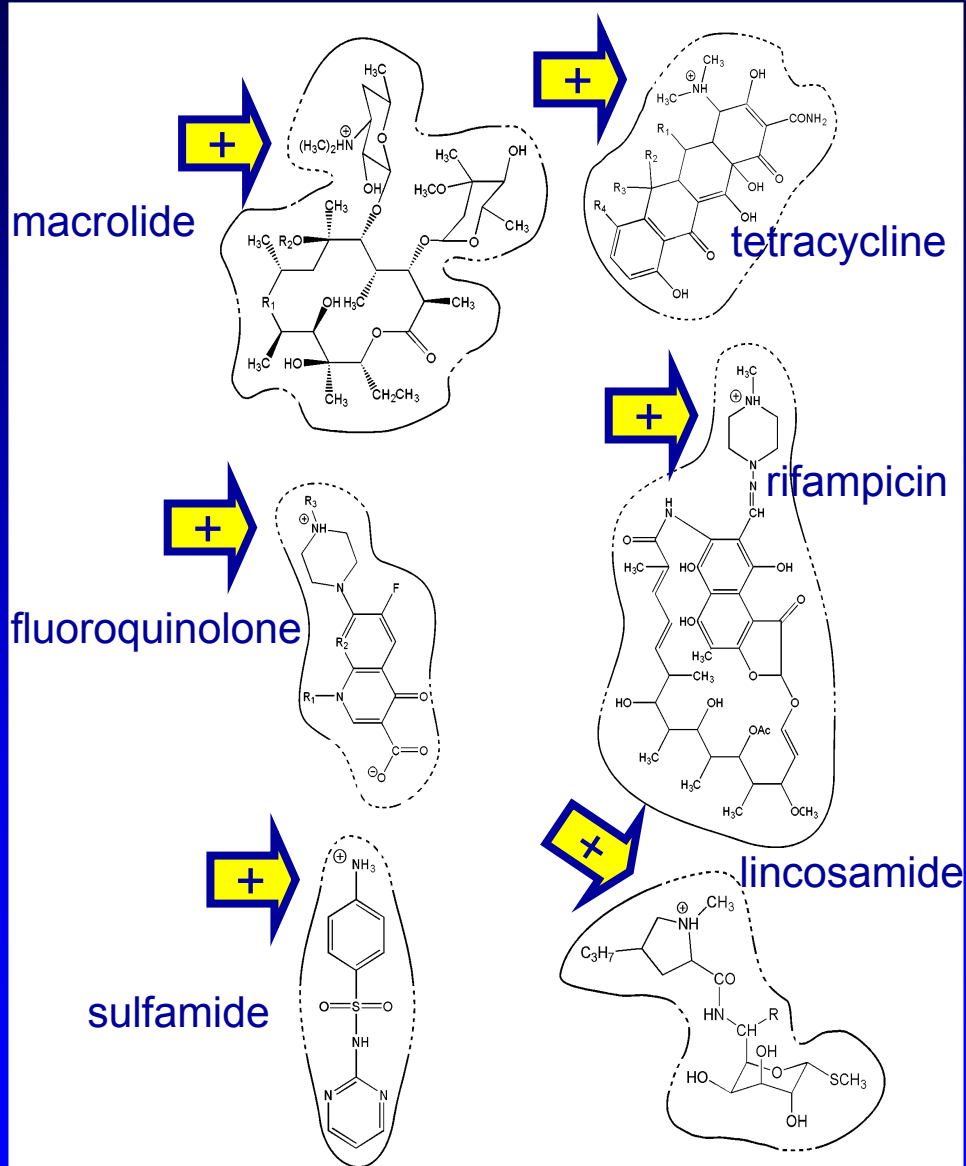
antifungals



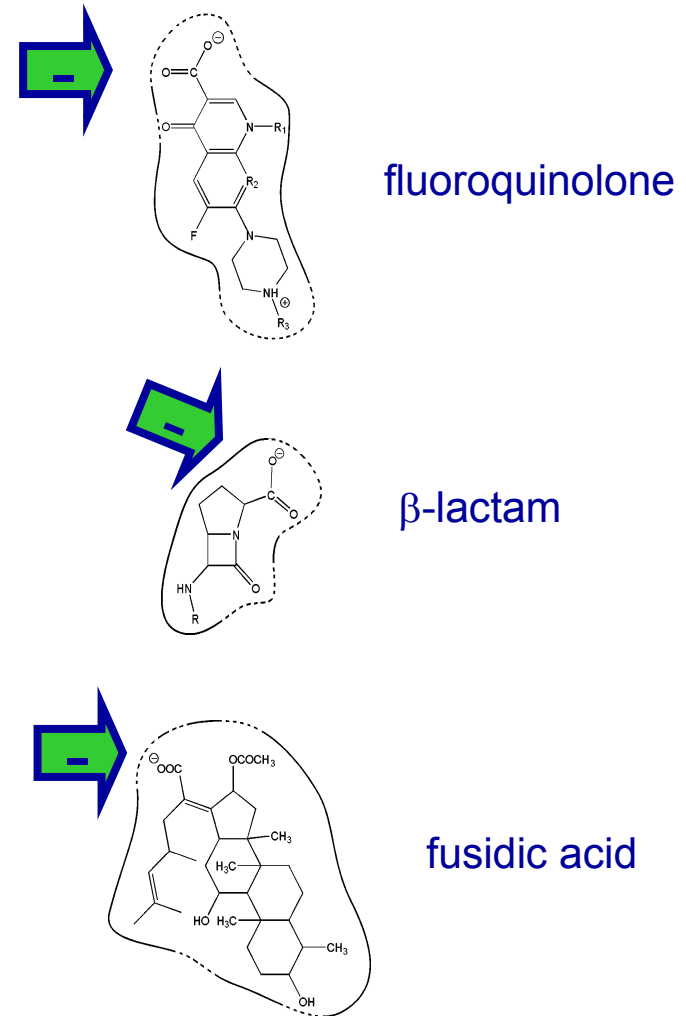
anticancer agents

# Most antibiotics are amphiphilic !

## cationic amphiphiles



## anionic amphiphiles



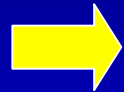
# Antibiotic classes recognized by efflux pumps in different types of organisms

Antibiotic class	bacteria		fungi	superior eucaryotes
	Gram (+)	Gram(-)		
β-lactams	●	●	●	●
fusidic acid		●		
macrolides	●	●	●	●
streptogramins	●			●
tetracyclines	●	●	●	●
aminoglycosides		●	●	
chloramphenicol	●	●	●	
rifamycins				●
sulfamides			●	
trimethoprim		●		
fluoroquinolones	●	●		●

# Consequences of antibiotic efflux from eucaryotic cells

- **alteration of pharmacokinetics**

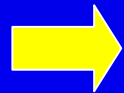
- whole organism: absorption, distribution, elimination



- single cell: accumulation, localization

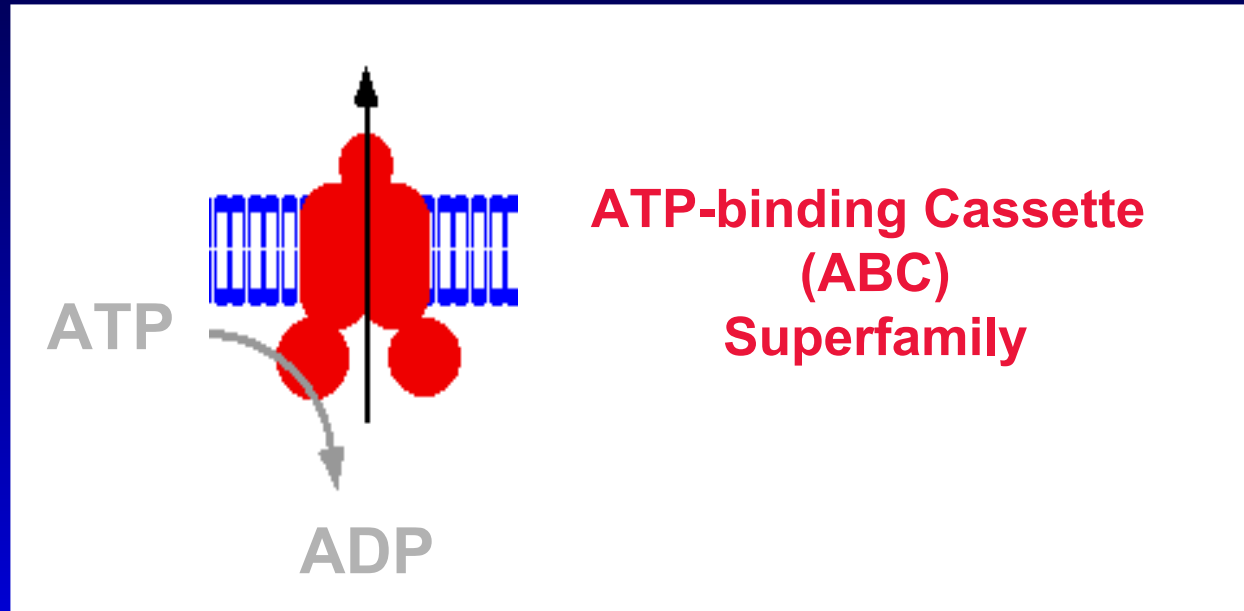
- **alteration of pharmacodynamics**

- body level: drug concentration in the infected compartment



- cellular level: activity against intracellular bacteria

# Main multidrug resistance efflux pumps in eucaryotic cells



**MDR-1 (P-glycoprotein)**

**MRP1-9**

**cationic amphiphiles**

**anionic amphiphiles**

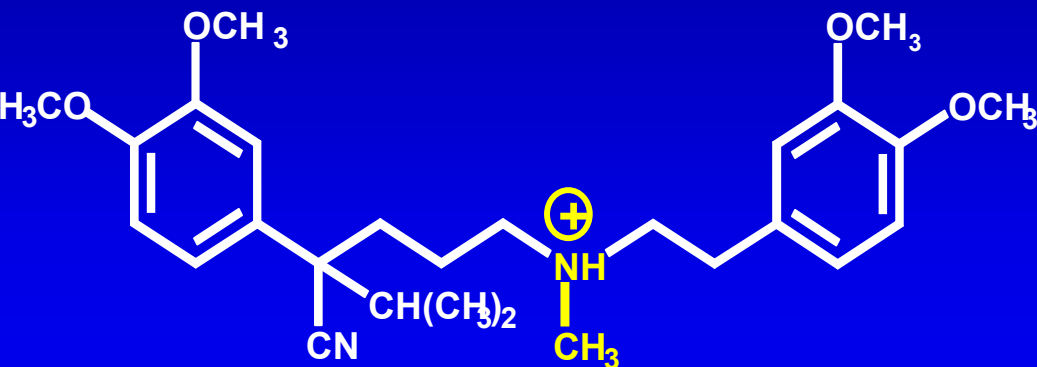
# Inhibitors and substrates share the same physicochemical properties

**MDR-1 (P-glycoprotein)**

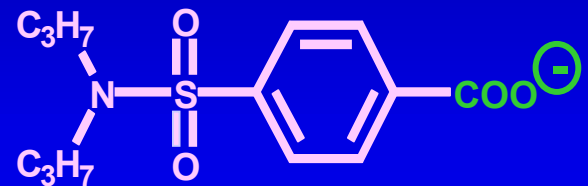
**MRP1-9**

**cationic amphiphiles**

**anionic amphiphiles**

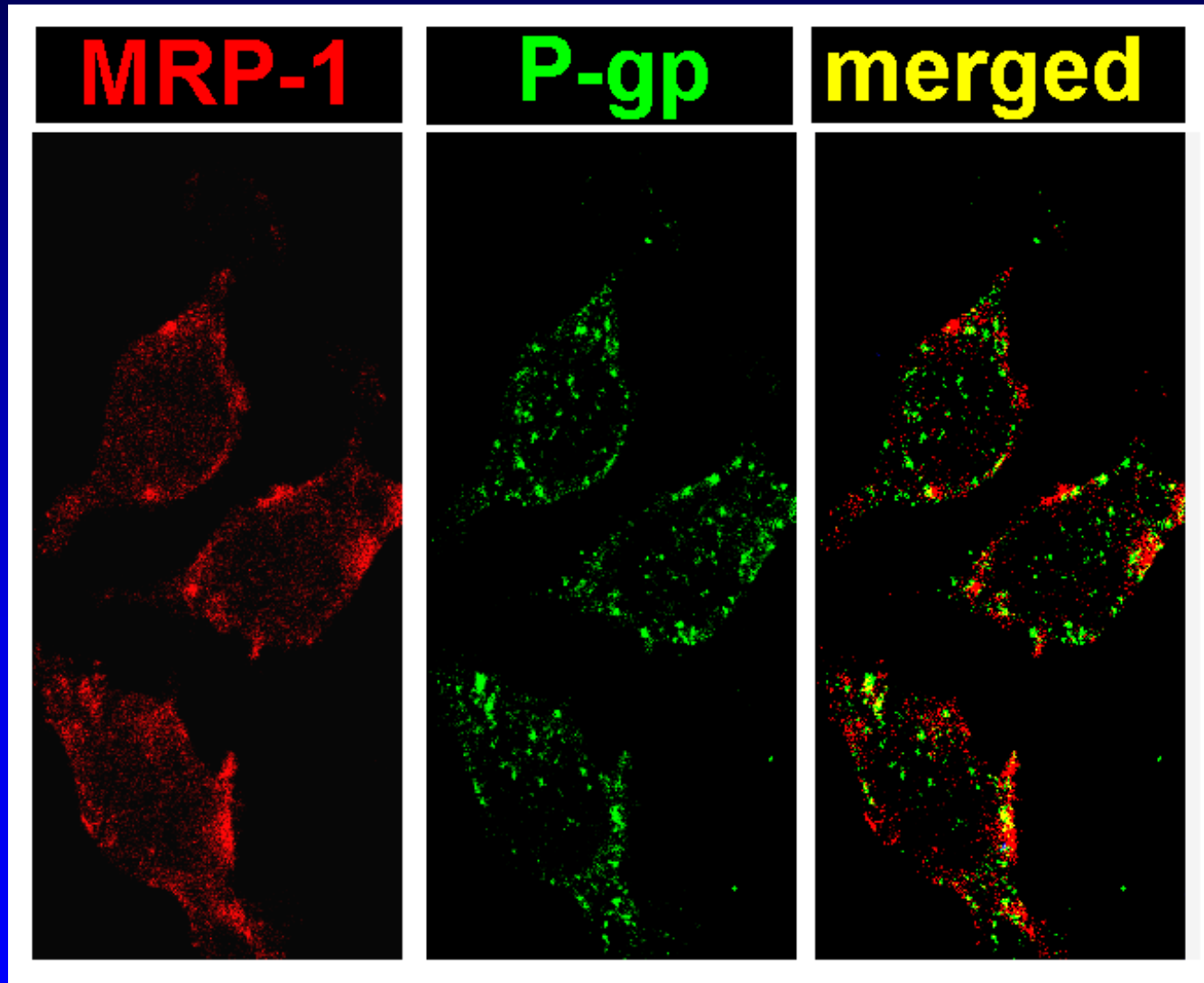


verapamil



probenecid

# Macrophages express at least MRP-1 and P-gp

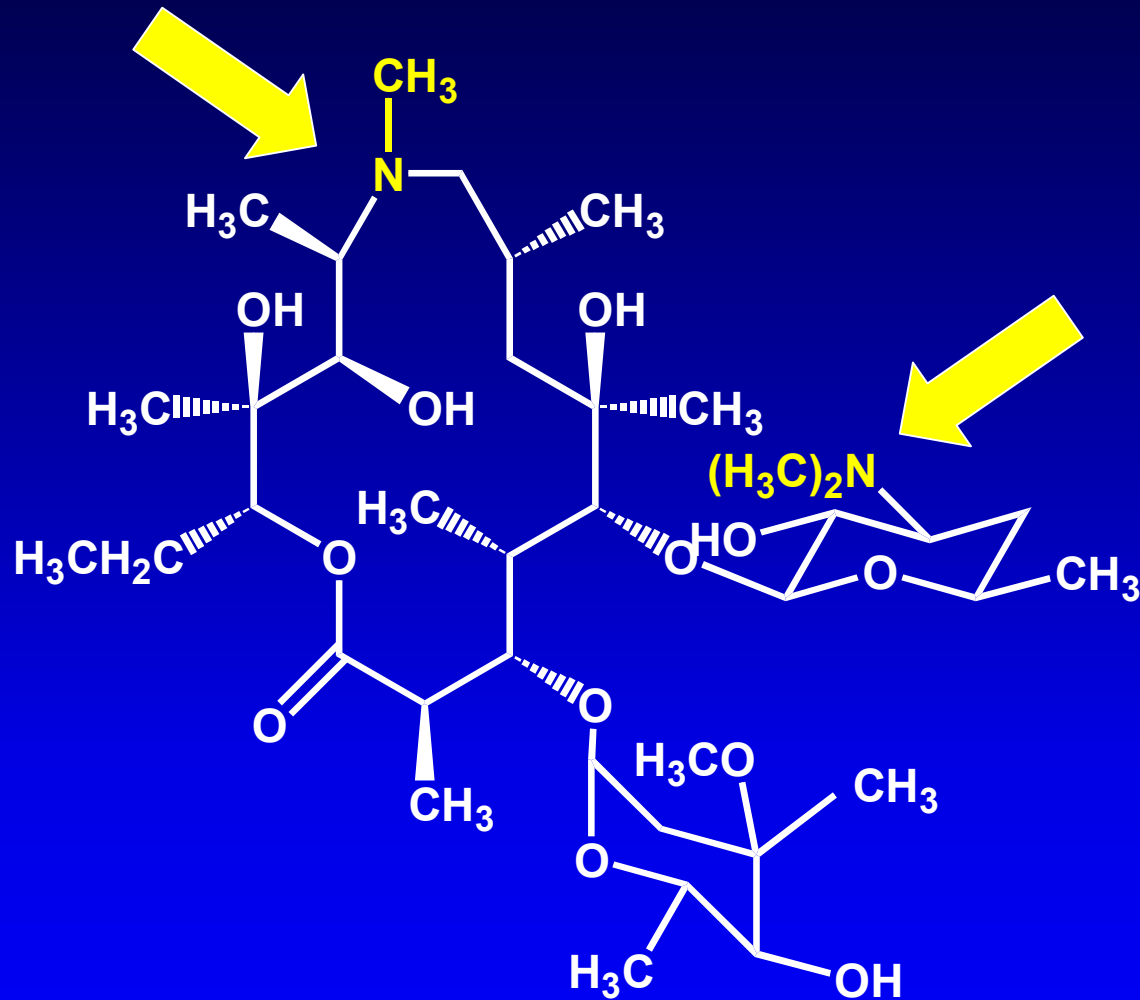


# **1. Influence of efflux pumps on antibiotic cellular pharmacokinetics**

macrolides

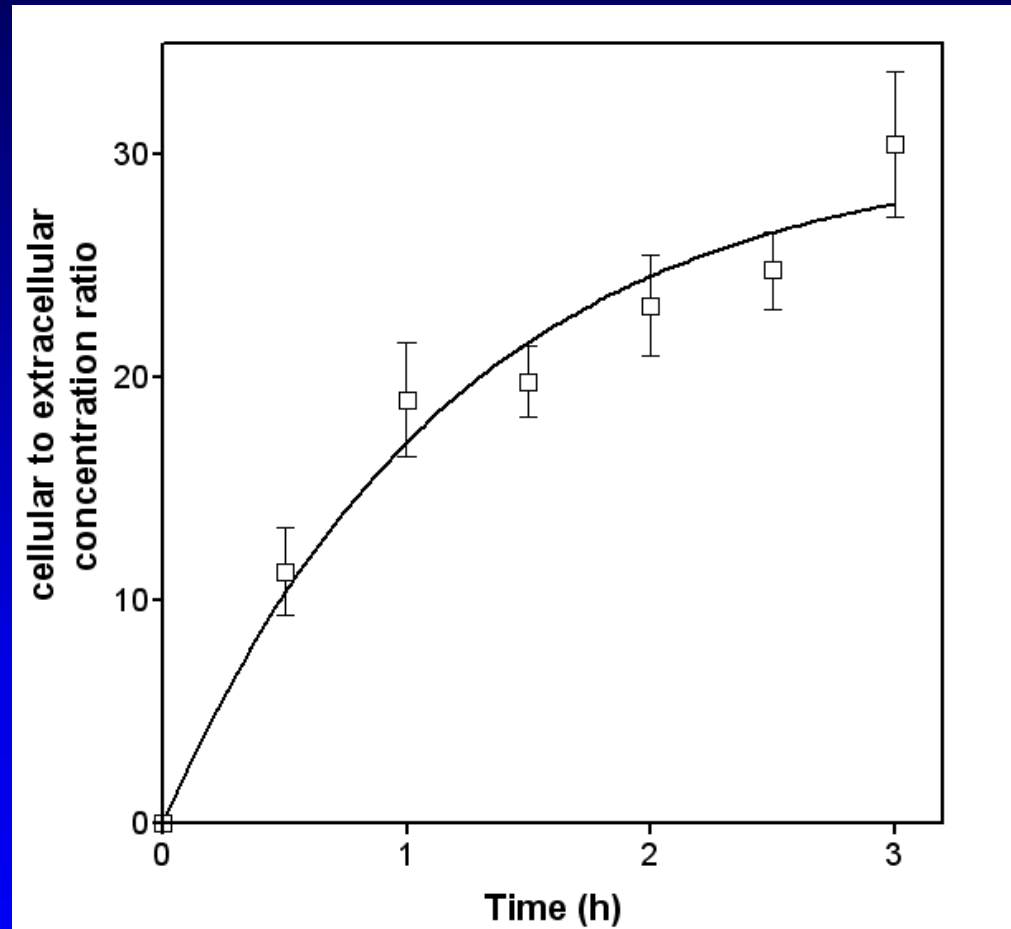


# Macrolide story

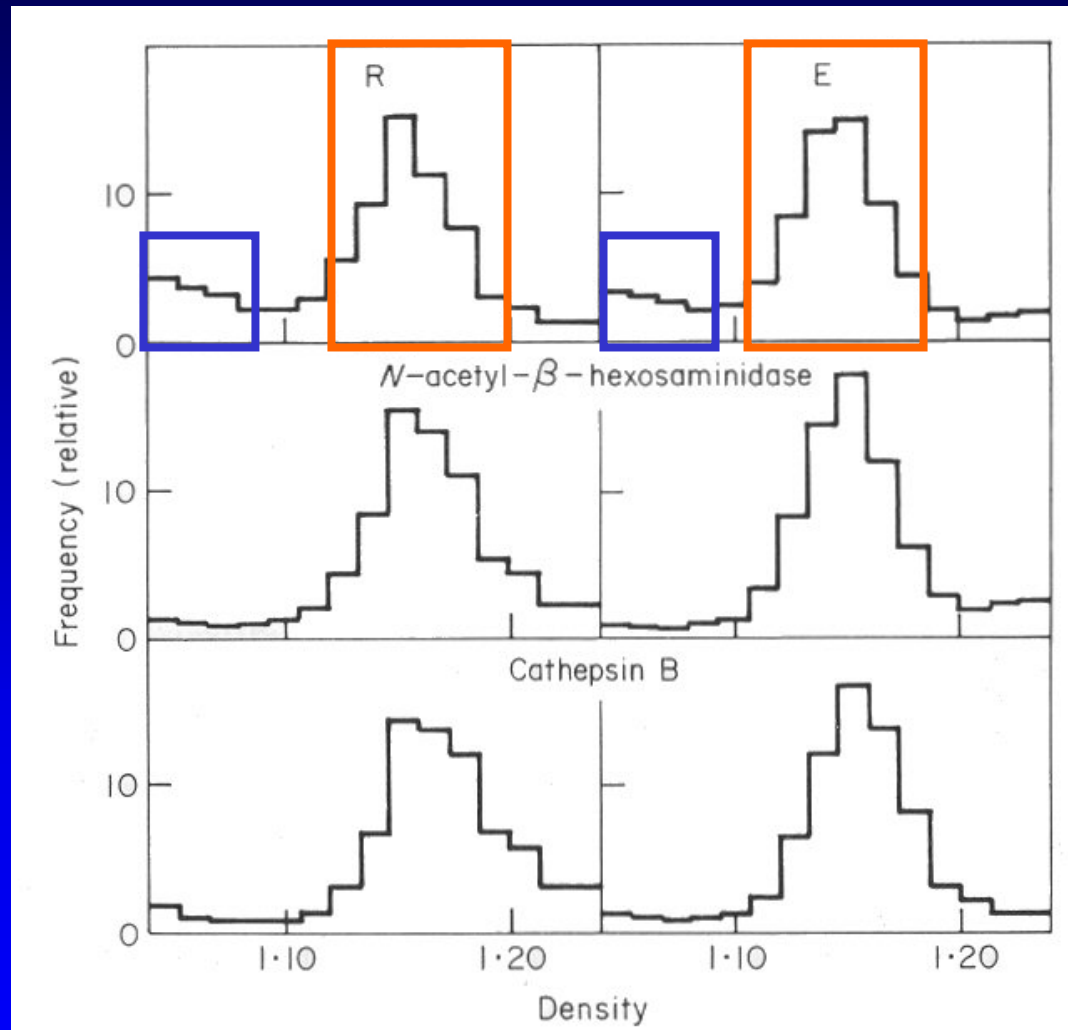


**Azithromycin is a dicationic amphiphilic molecule**

# Azithromycin accumulates to high levels in eucaryotic cells

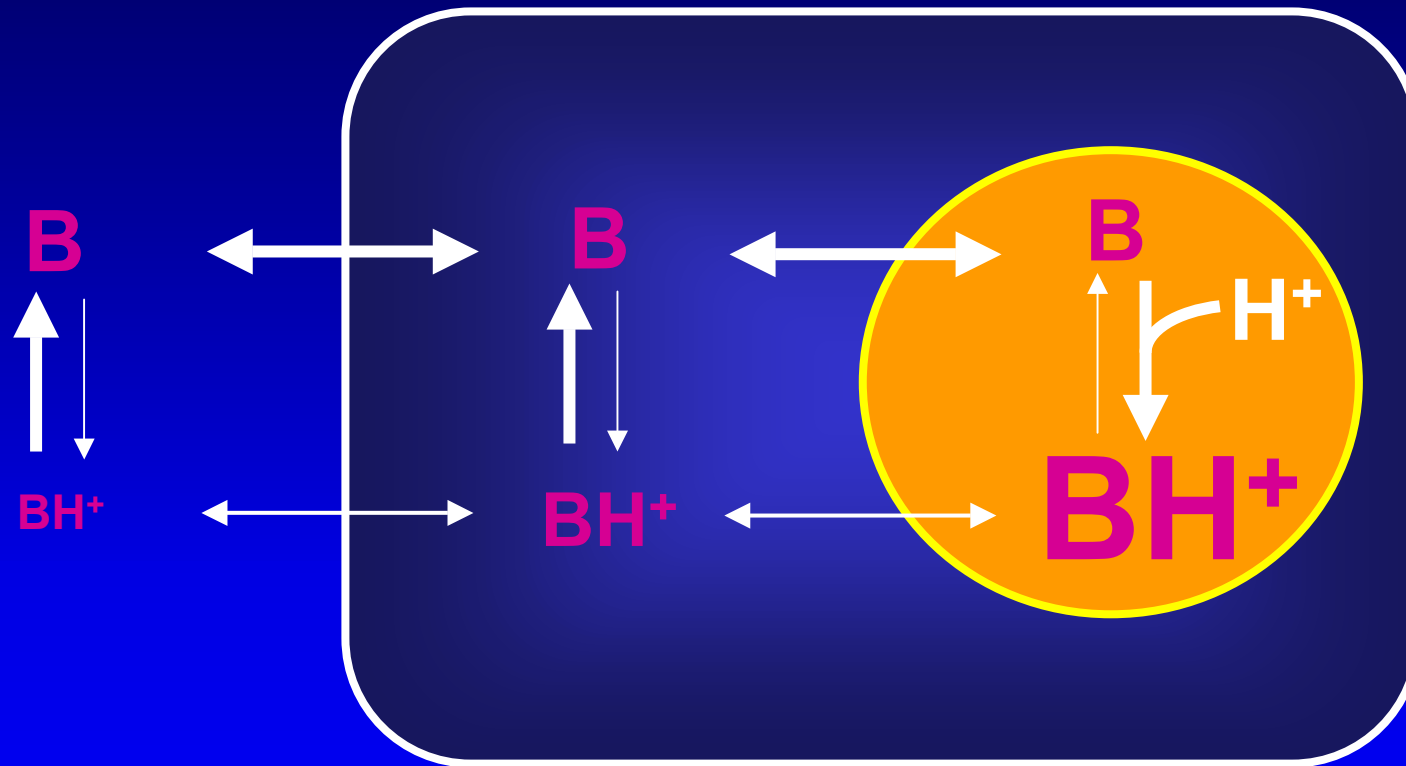


# macrolides accumulate mainly in the lysosomal compartment

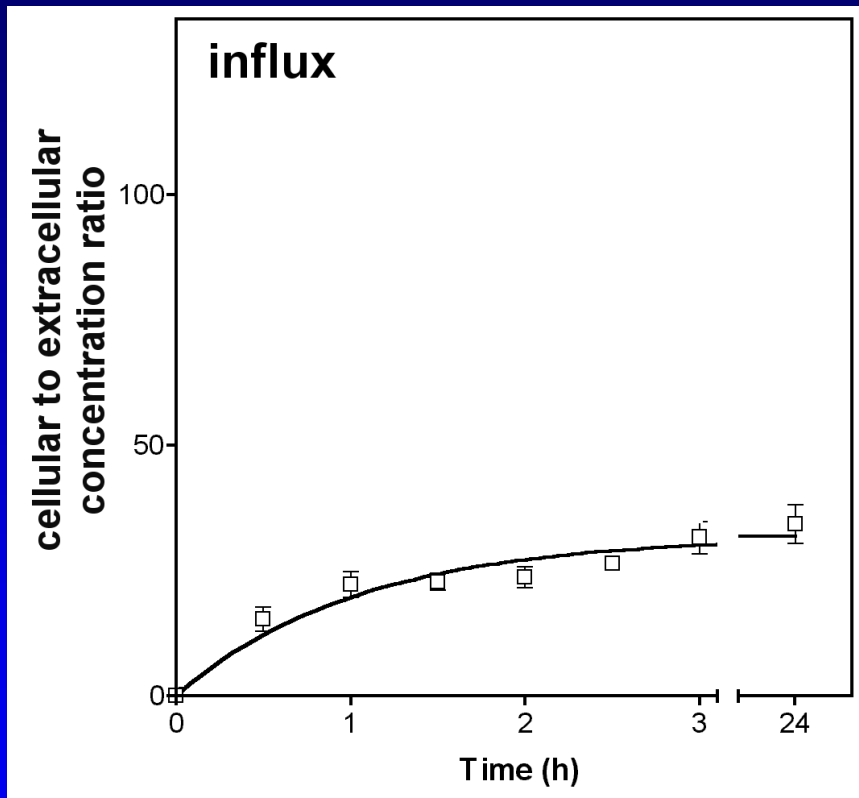


lysosomal  
enzymes

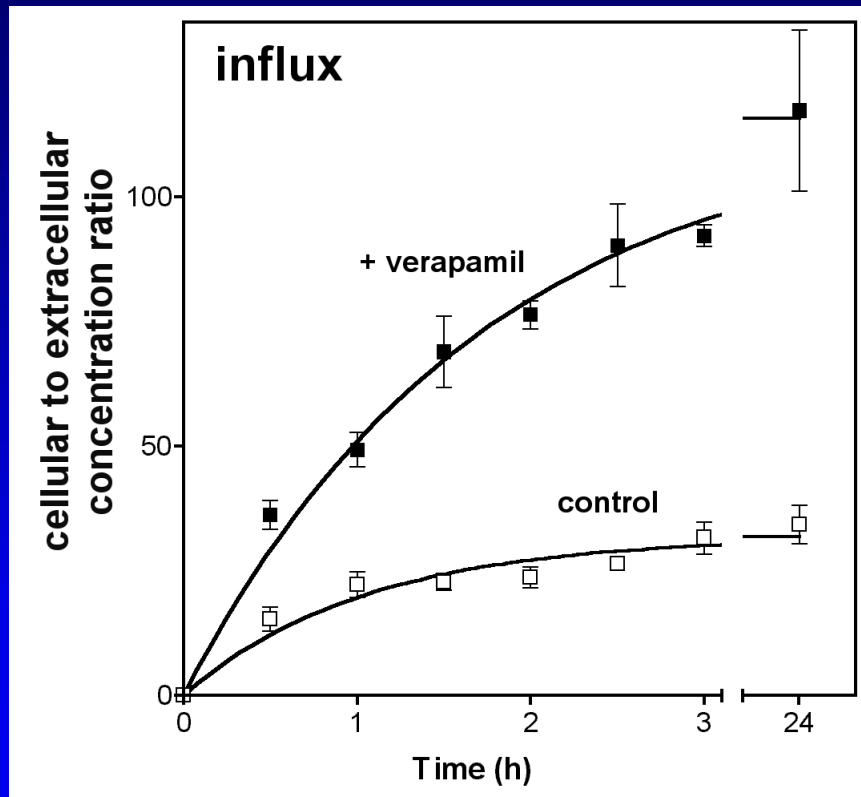
# macrolide accumulation proceeds by diffusion / segregation



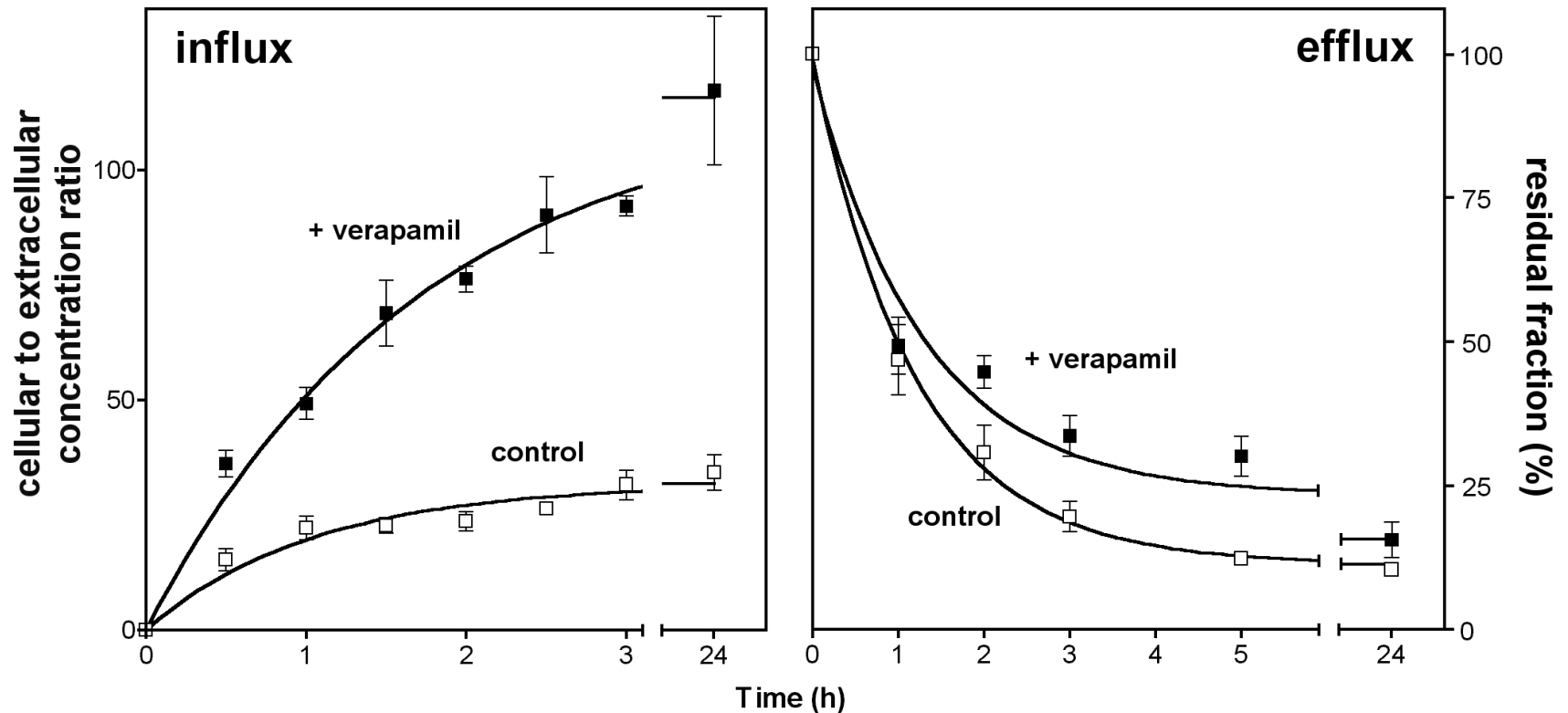
# Azithromycin concentration is high but still suboptimal ...



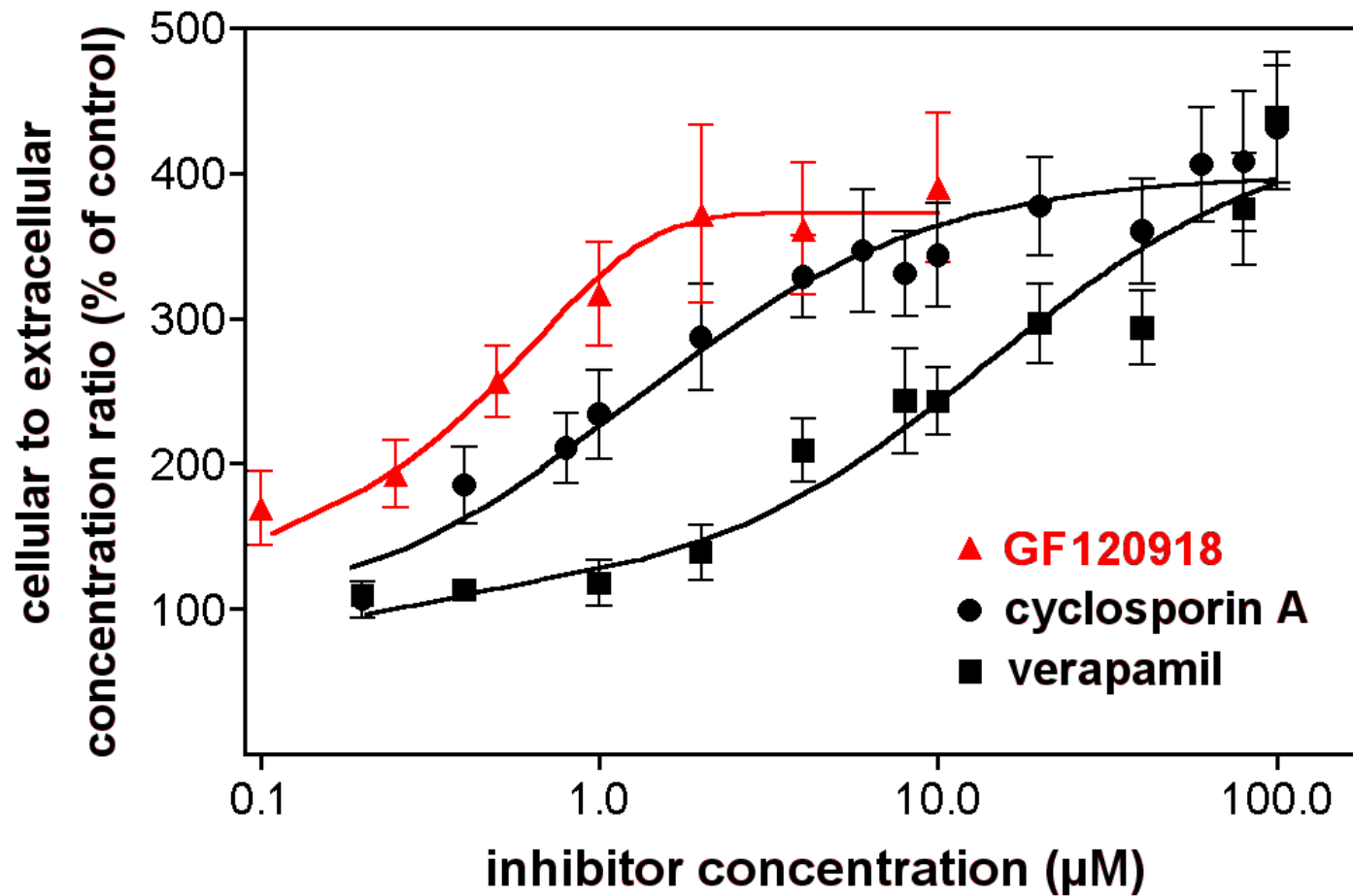
# Inhibition of P-gp by verapamil increases accumulation



# Inhibition of P-gp by verapamil increases accumulation and slightly slows down efflux



# Similar effects are obtained with more specific inhibitors of P-gp



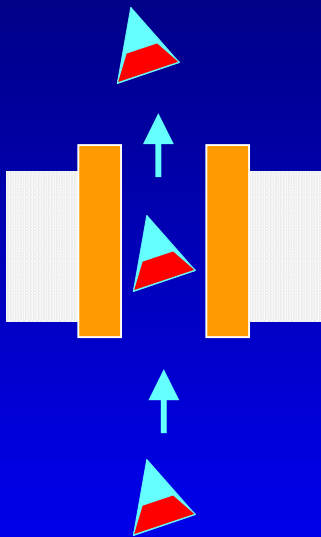


**How can efflux pumps increase  
azithromycin accumulation  
without markedly affecting its efflux ?**

 mechanism of action of efflux pumps

# Efflux pumps as pores ?

Probably not ...



## Experimental evidences

- substrates and inhibitors are amphiphilic
- rates and kinetics of efflux are not directly related to the cytosolic drug content

Higgins *et al*, Trends Biochem Sci (1992) 17:18-21

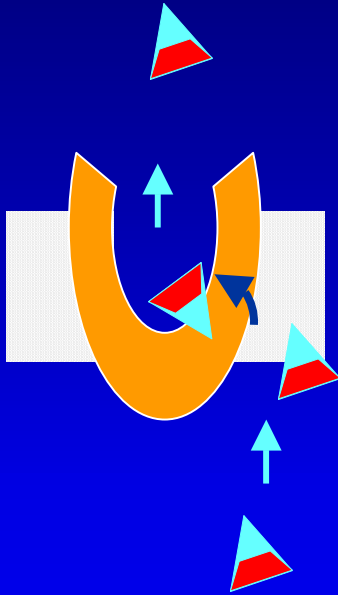
Wadkins *et al*, Biochem Biophys Acta (1993) 1153:225-236

Bolhuis *et al*, EMBO J (1996) 15:4239-4245

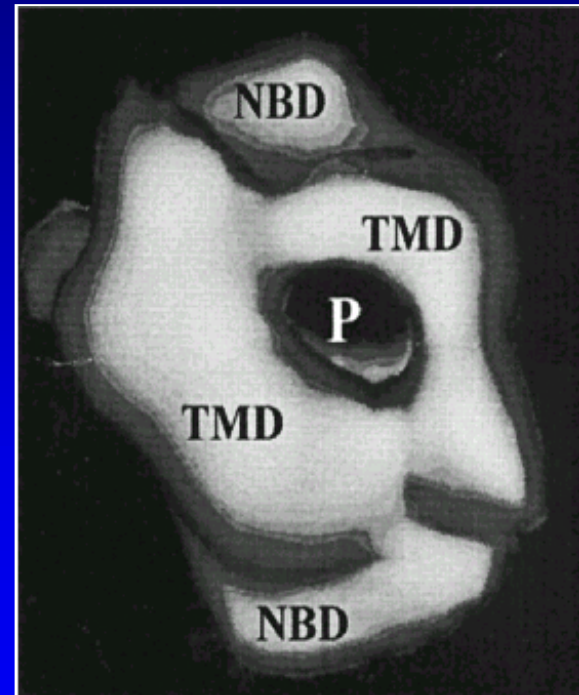
Ashida *et al*, J Theor Biol (1998) 195:219-232

# Efflux pumps as vacuum cleaners ?

Possibly ...

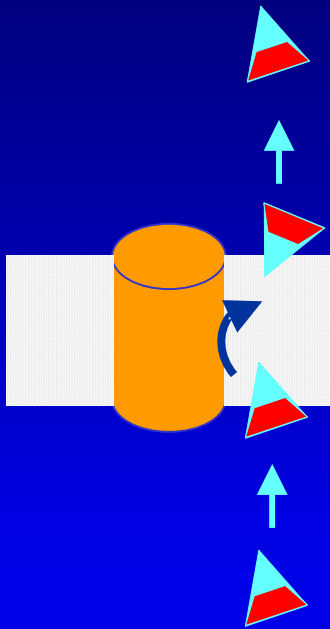


Structural evidence

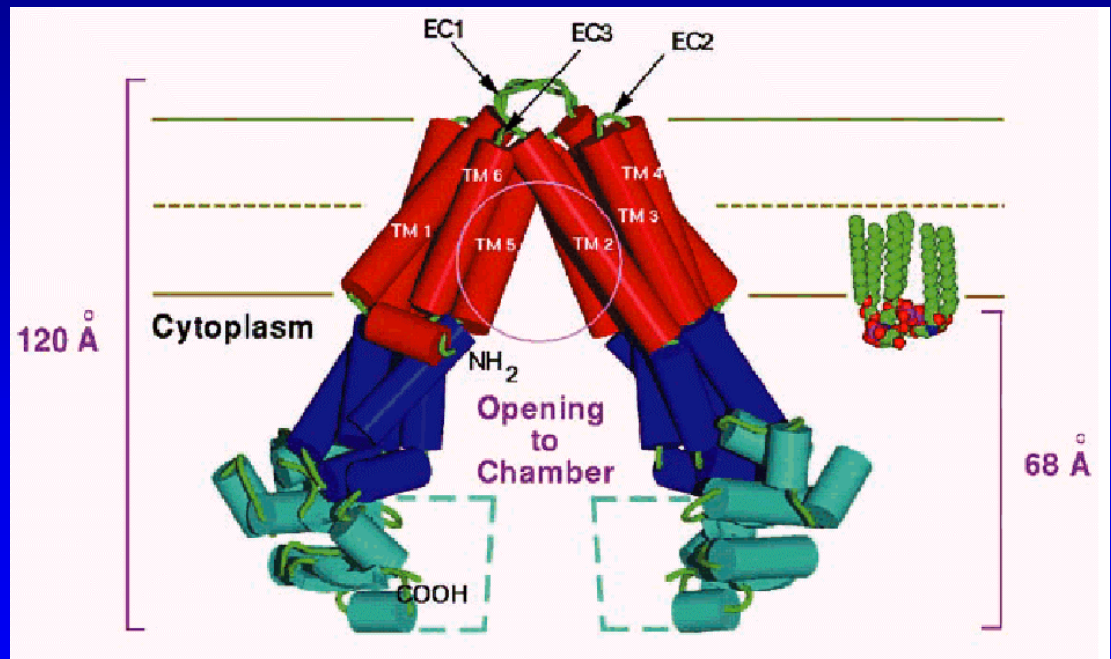


# Efflux pumps as flippases ?

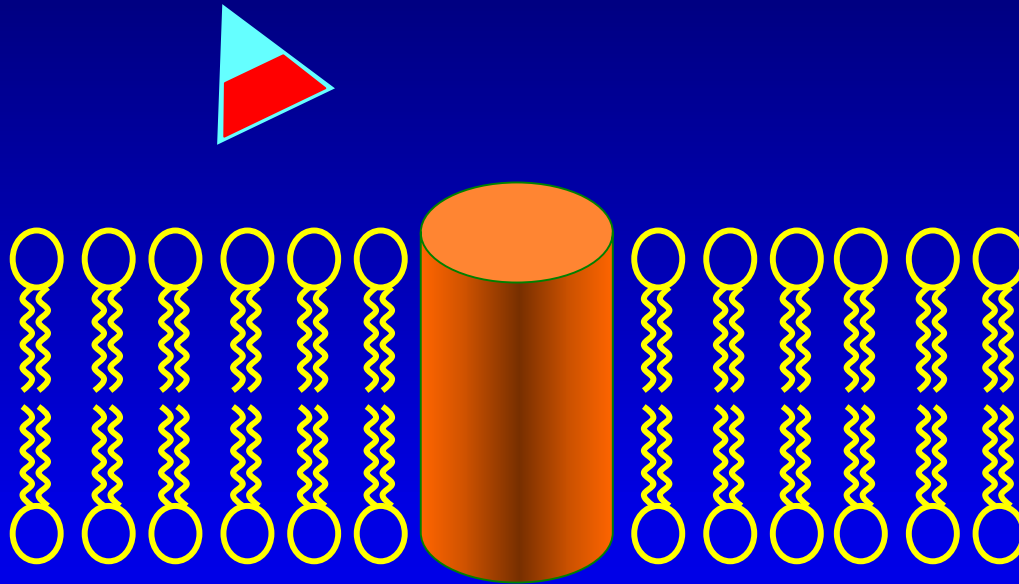
Possibly ...



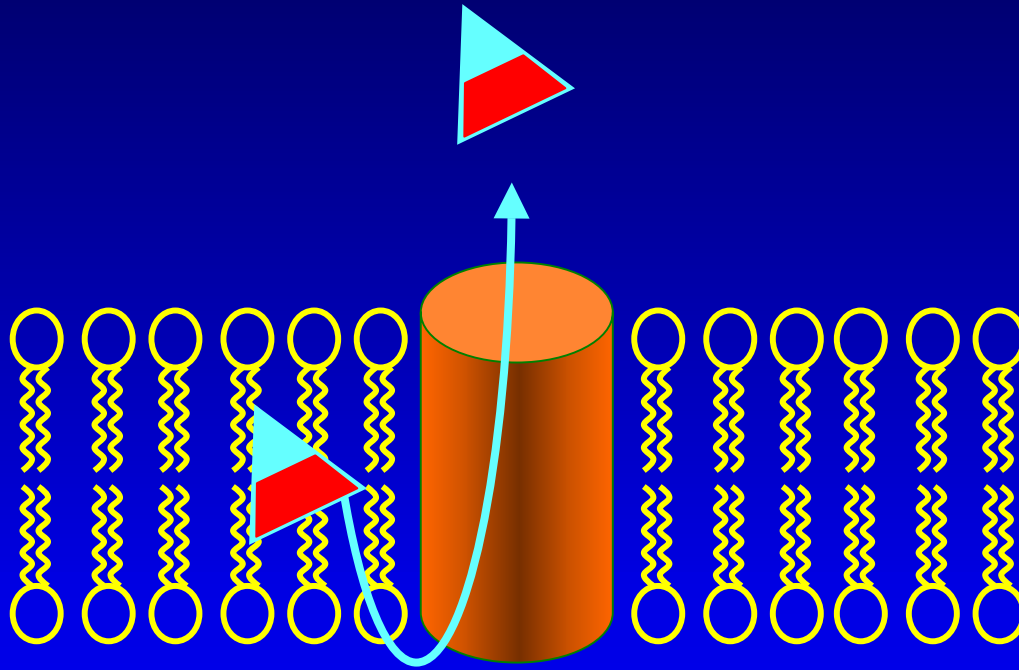
X-Ray structure of  
the lipid A transporter from *E. coli*,  
an homolog of P-glycoprotein



**substrates potentially extruded  
from the membrane !**



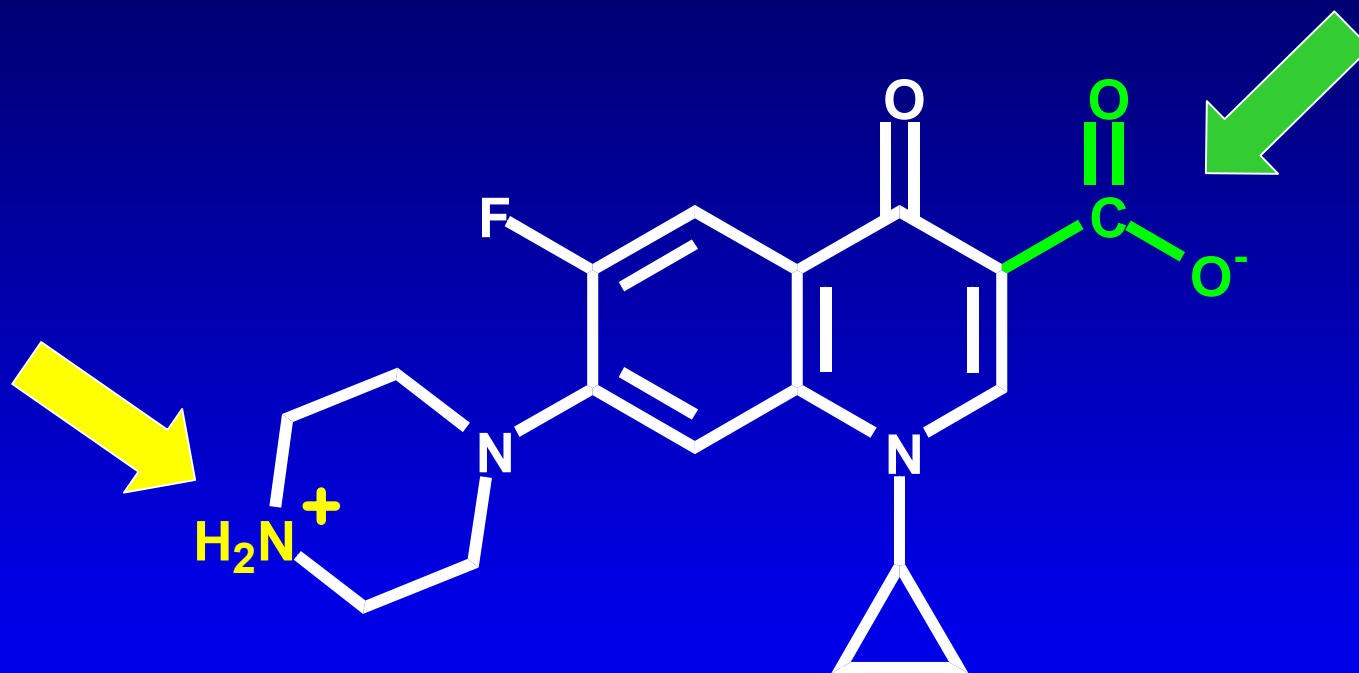
**substrates potentially extruded  
from the membrane  
without having seen the cytosol !**



## **2. Influence of efflux pumps on antibiotic cellular pharmacokinetics**

quinolones

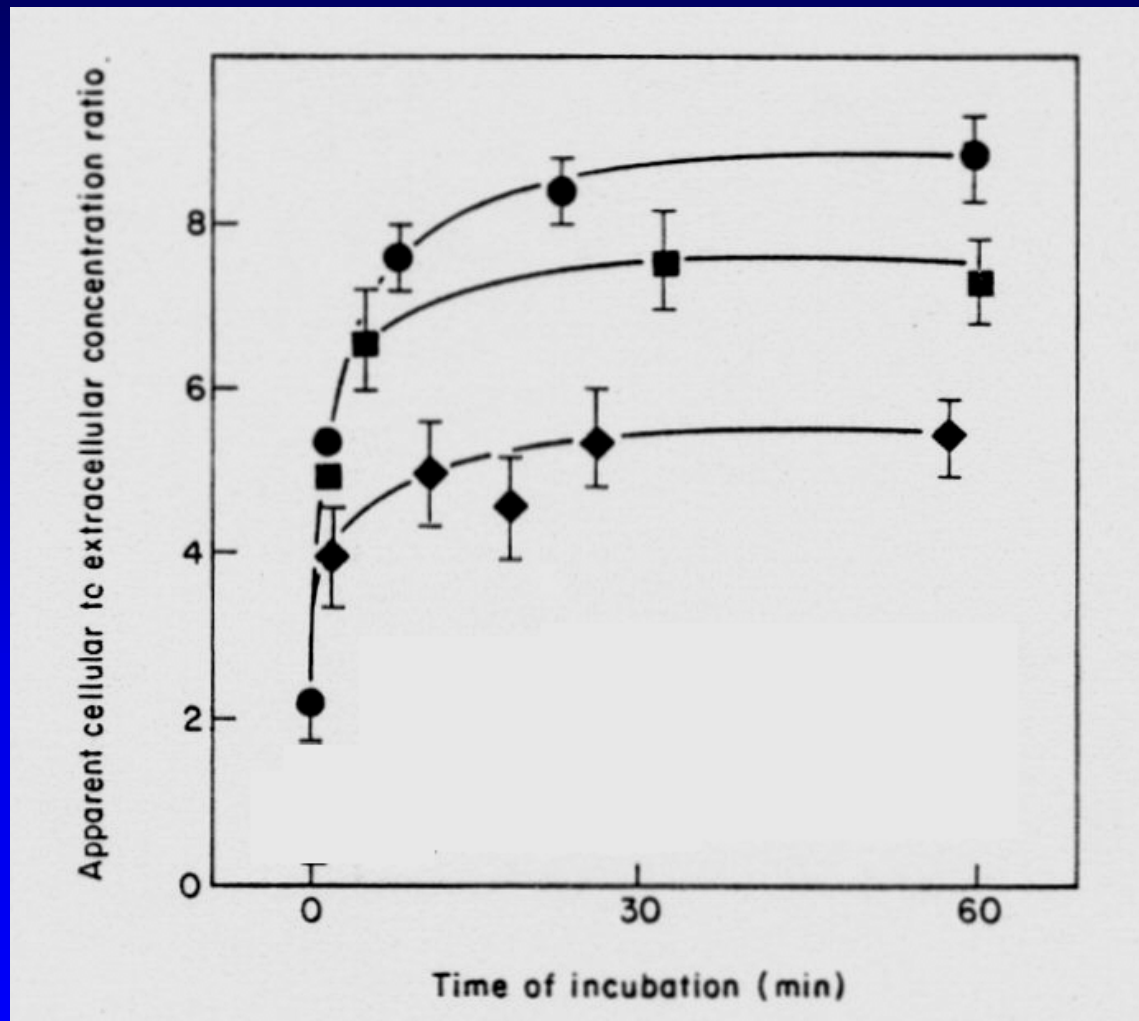
# Quinolone story



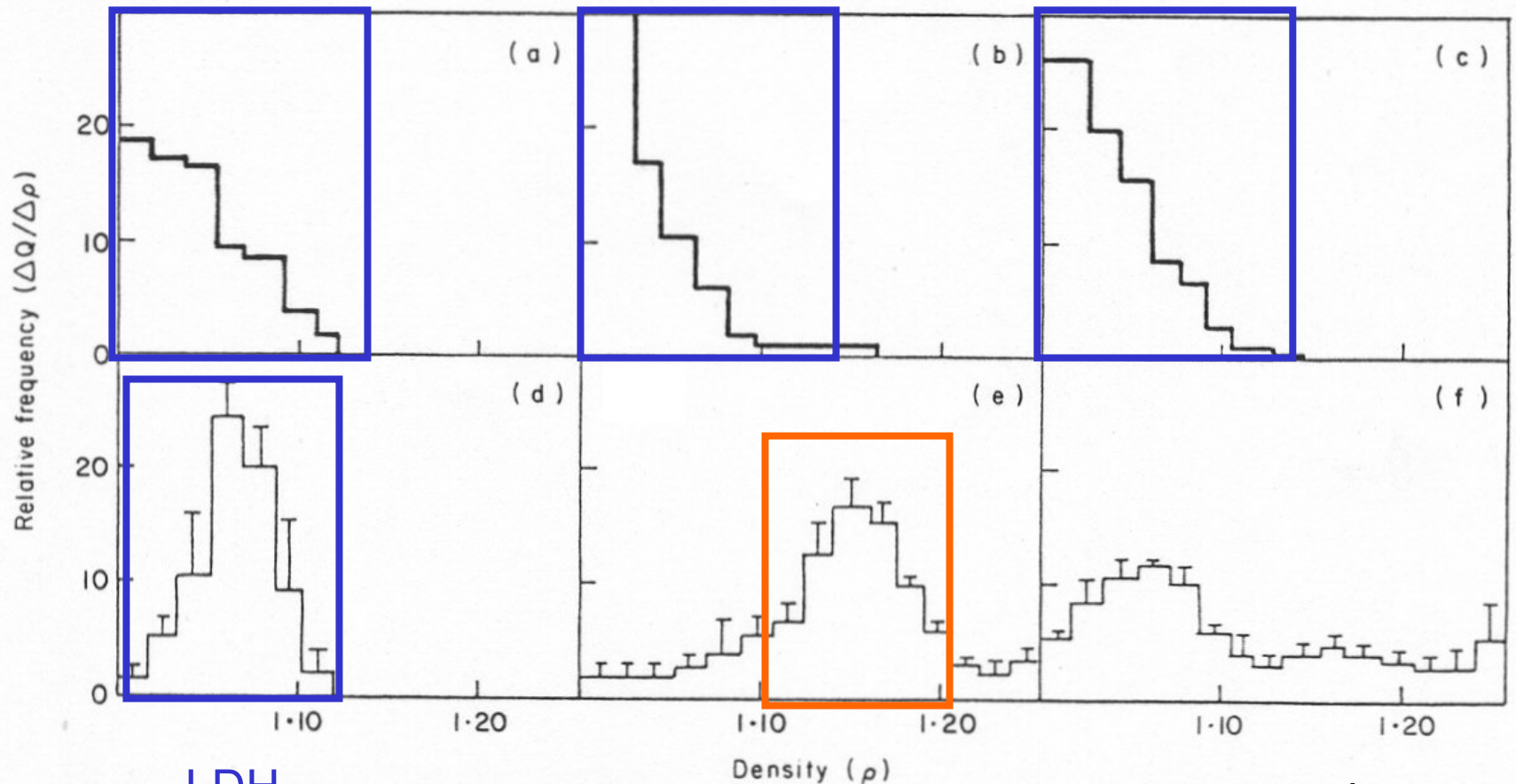
Ciprofloxacin is a zwitterionic amphiphilic molecule



# Quinolones accumulate to moderate levels in eucaryotic cells



# Quinolones are found in the soluble fraction of cell homogenates

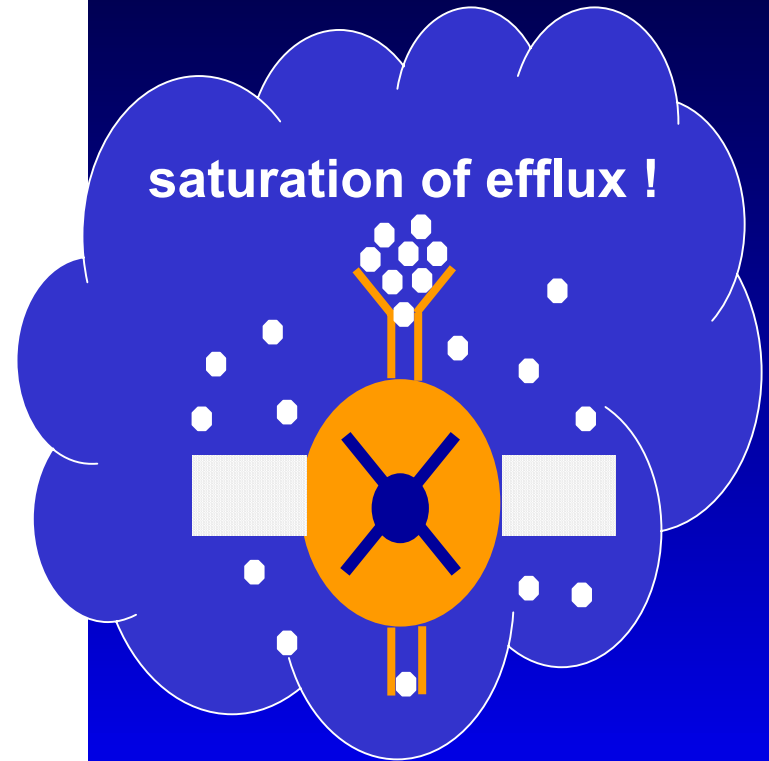
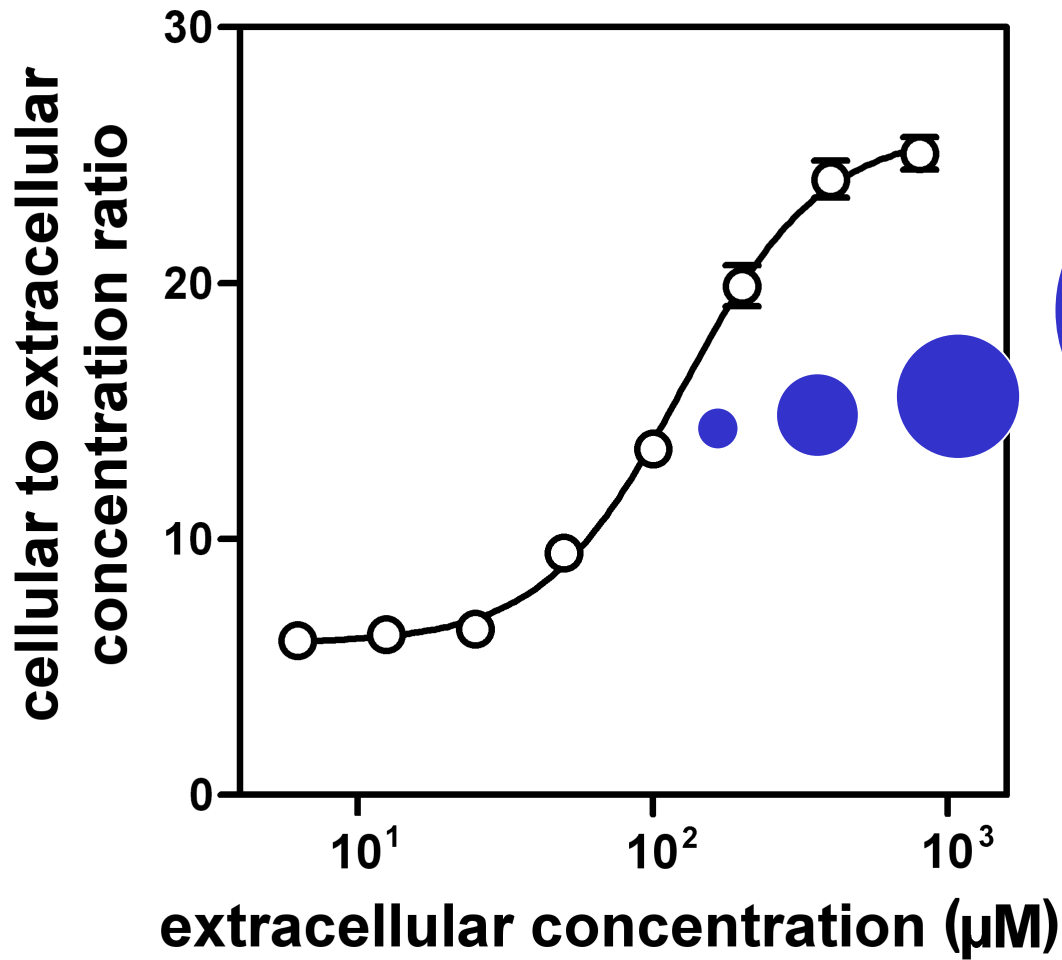


LDH  
(cytosol)

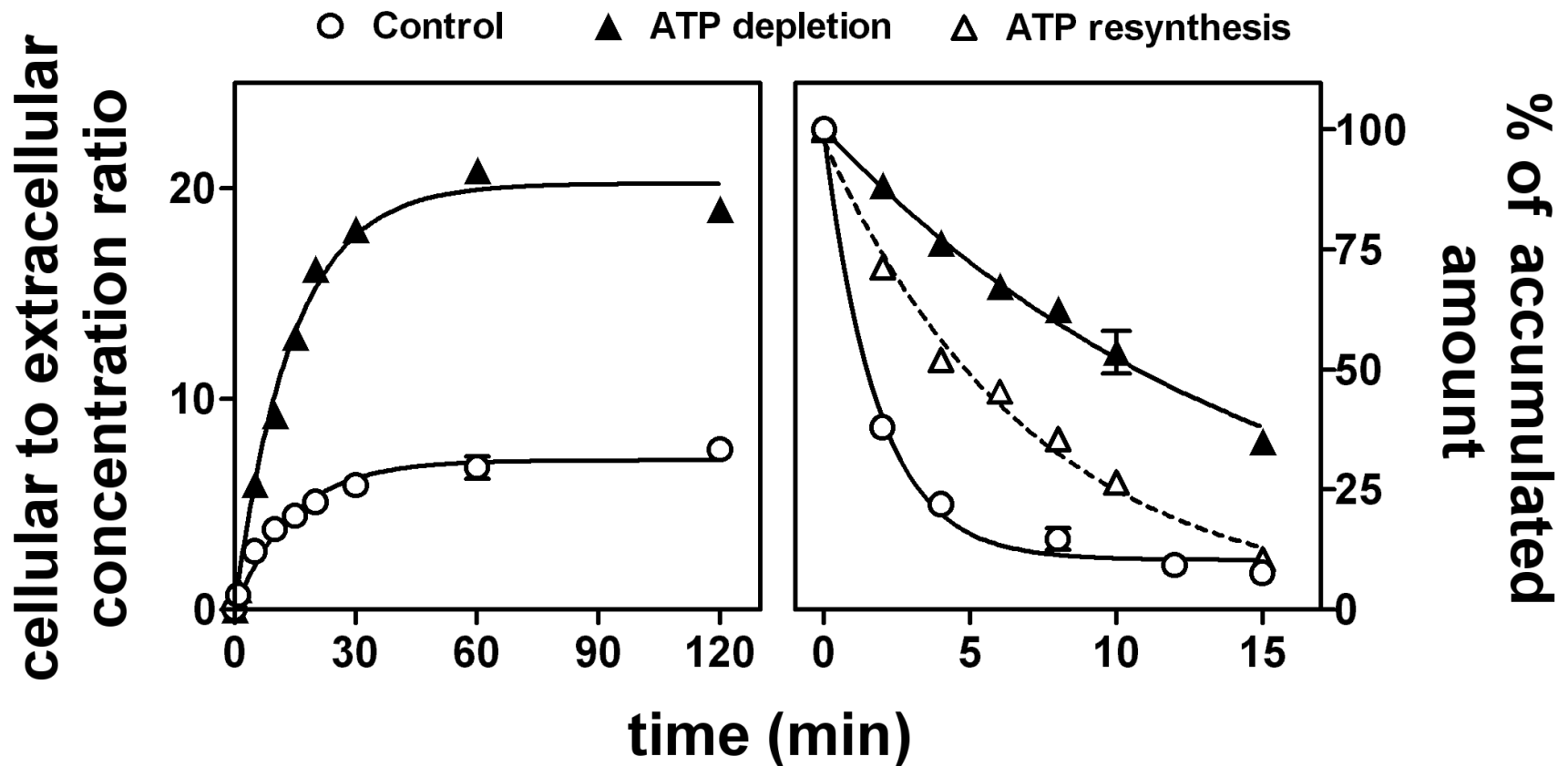
NABgase  
(lysosomes)

proteins

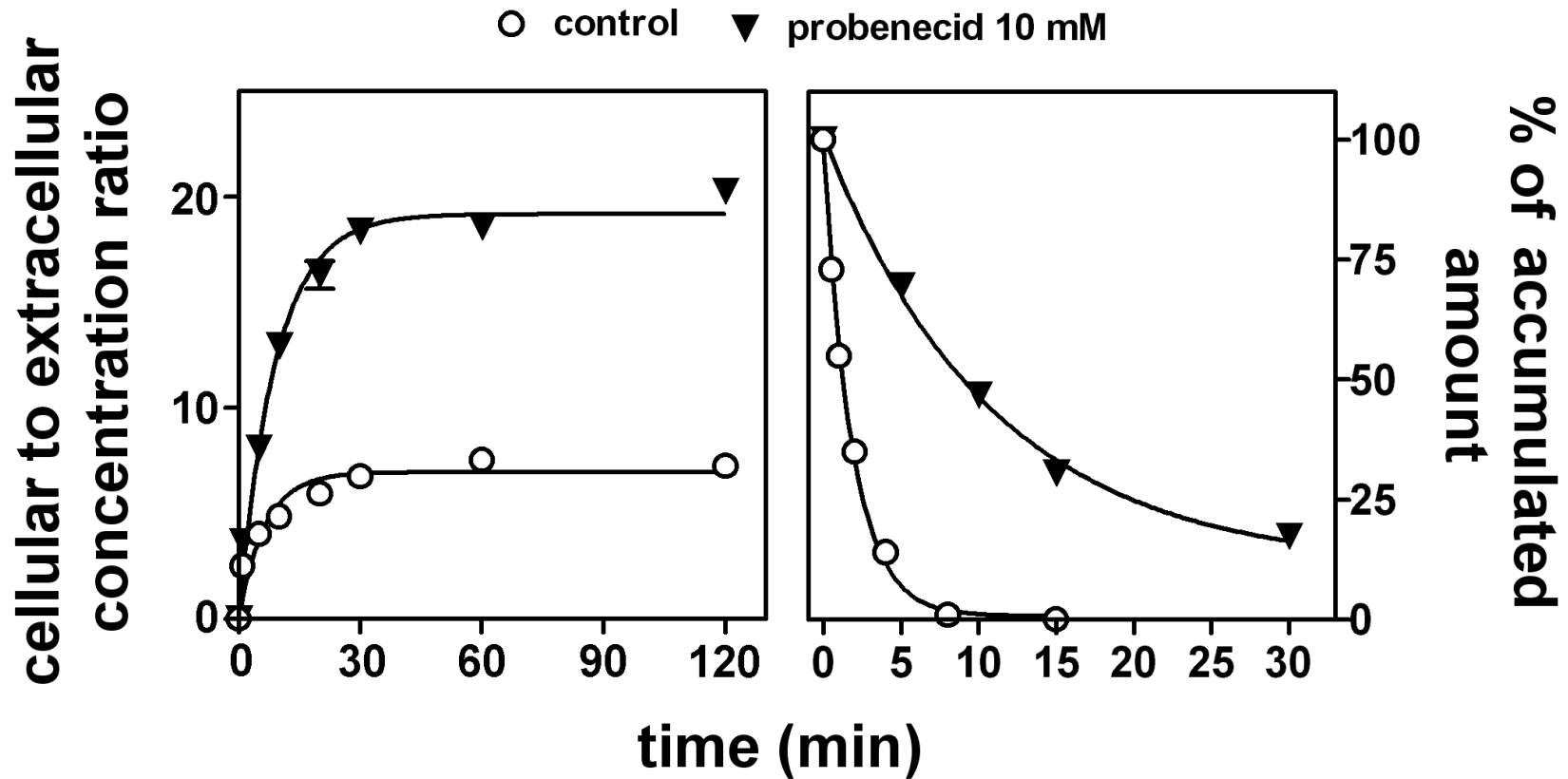
# Ciprofloxacin facilitates its own uptake



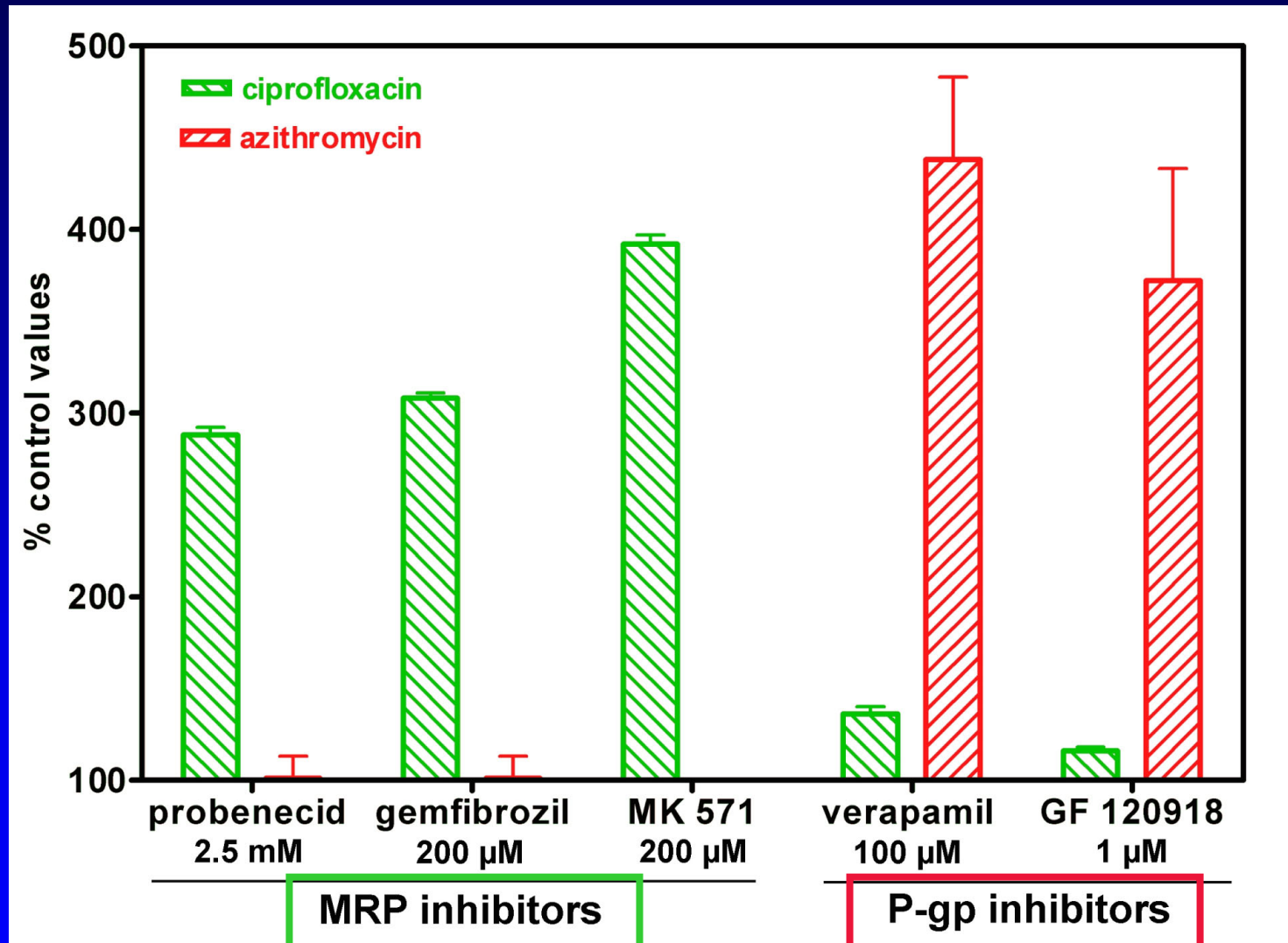
# Ciprofloxacin accumulation and efflux in ATP-depleted cells



# Ciprofloxacin accumulation and efflux in probenecid-treated cells

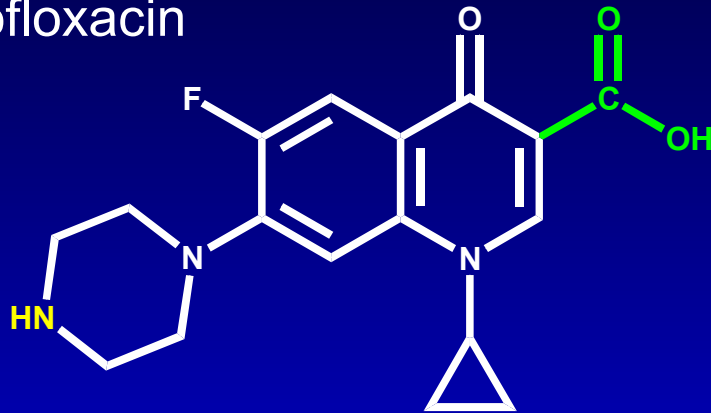


# Differential effects of pump inhibitors on ciprofloxacin and azithromycin accumulation

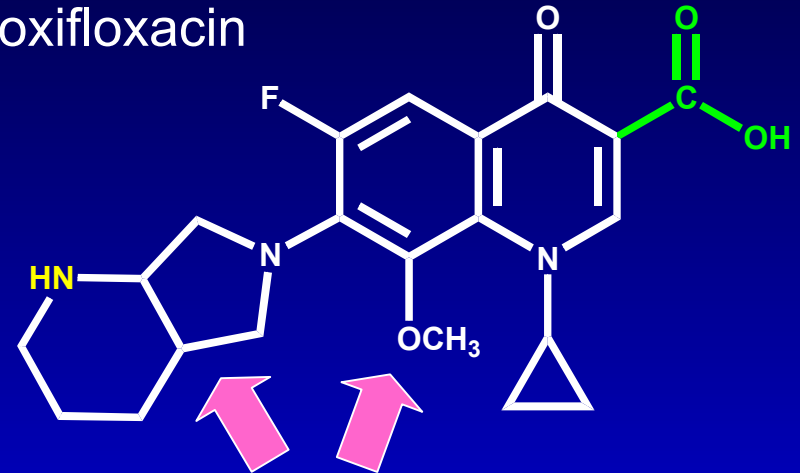


# Have all quinolones been made equal ?

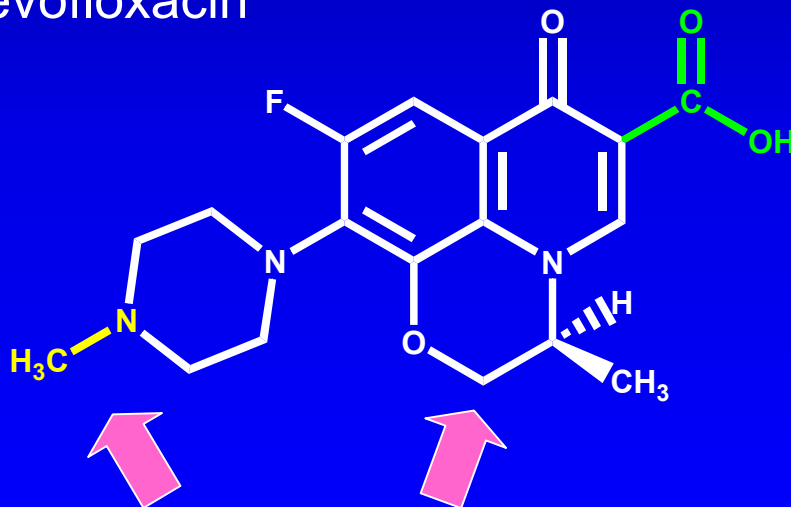
ciprofloxacin



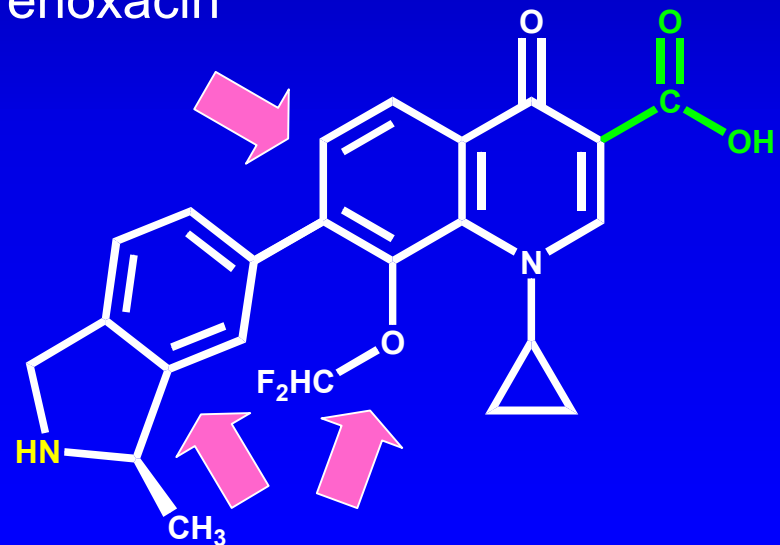
moxifloxacin



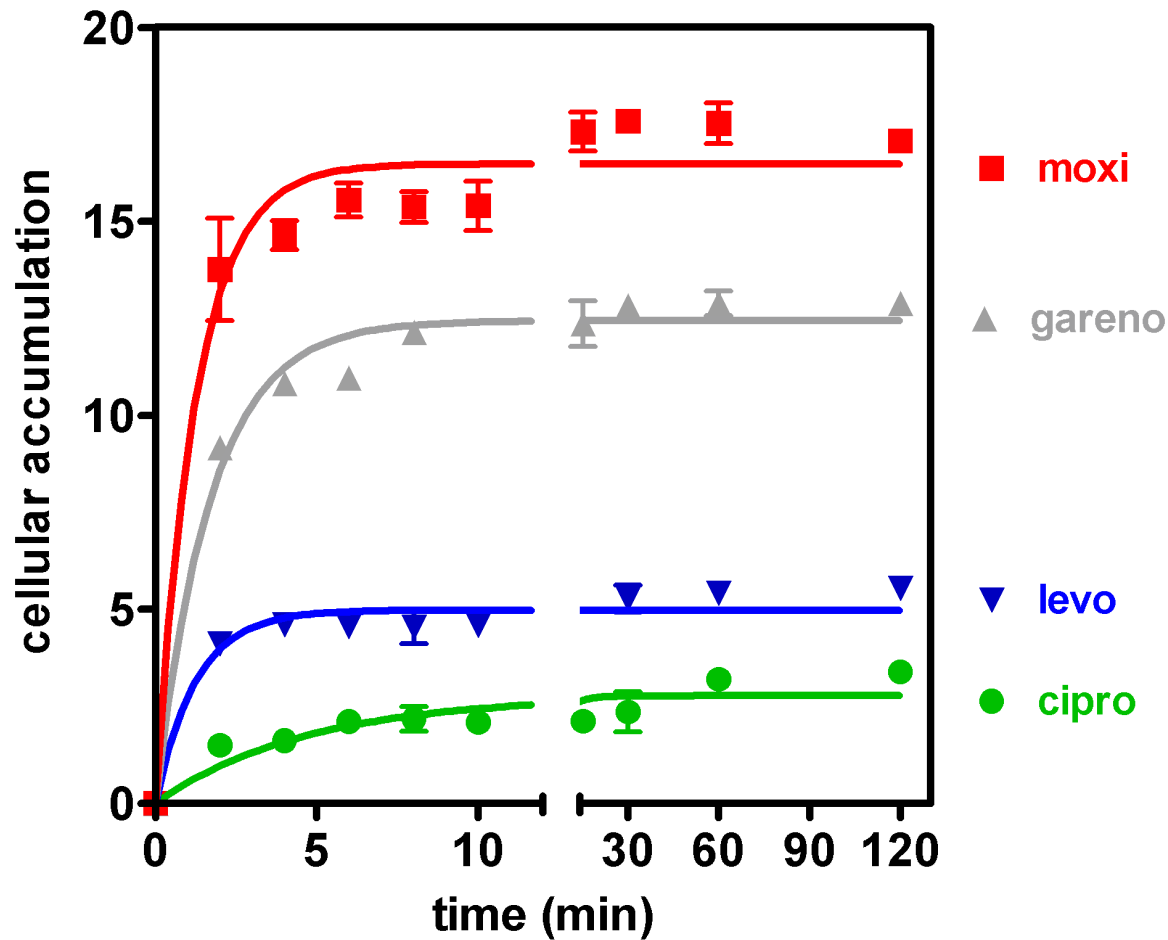
levofloxacin



garenoxacin

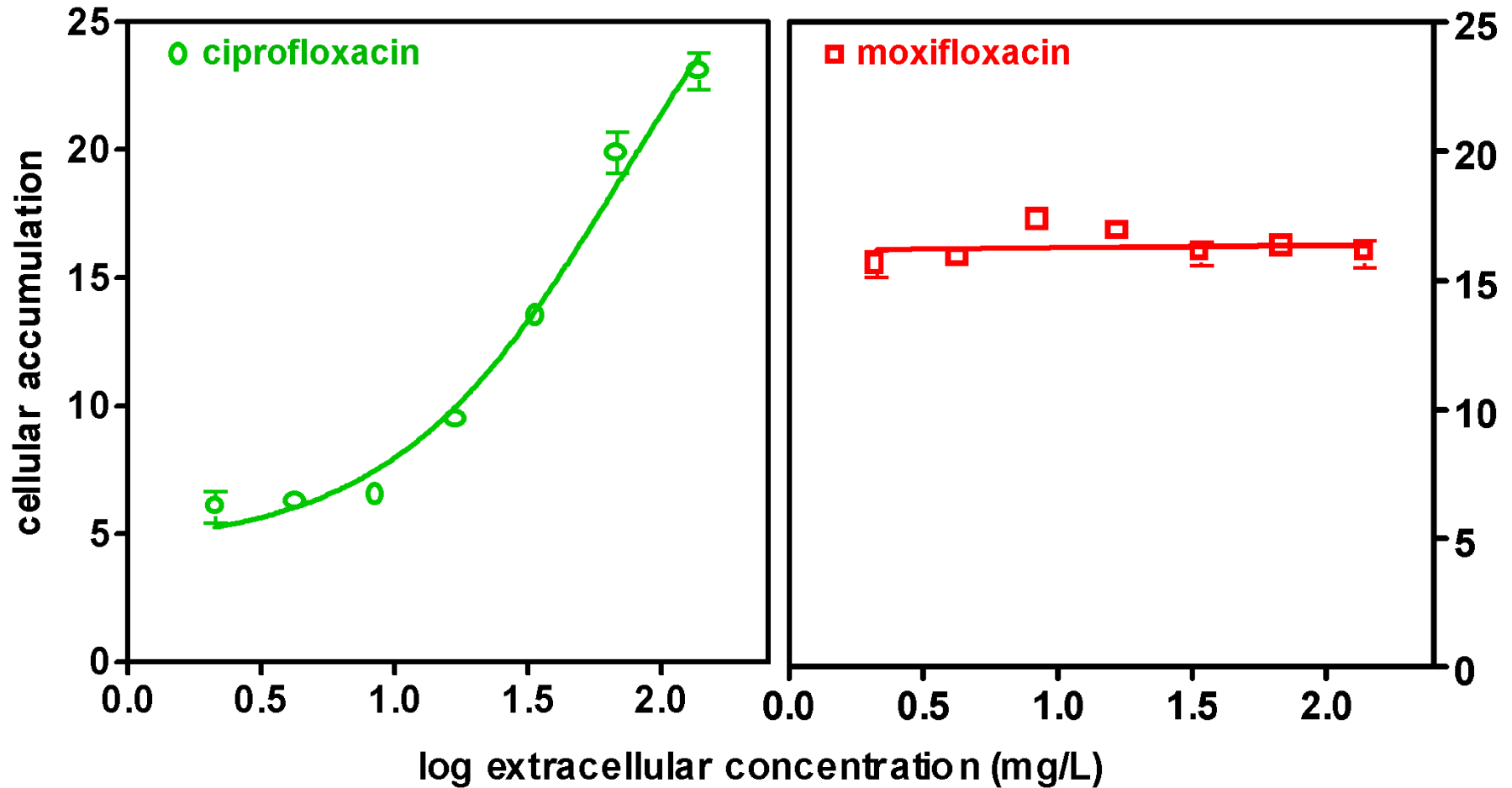


# Quinolones markedly differ by their accumulation level

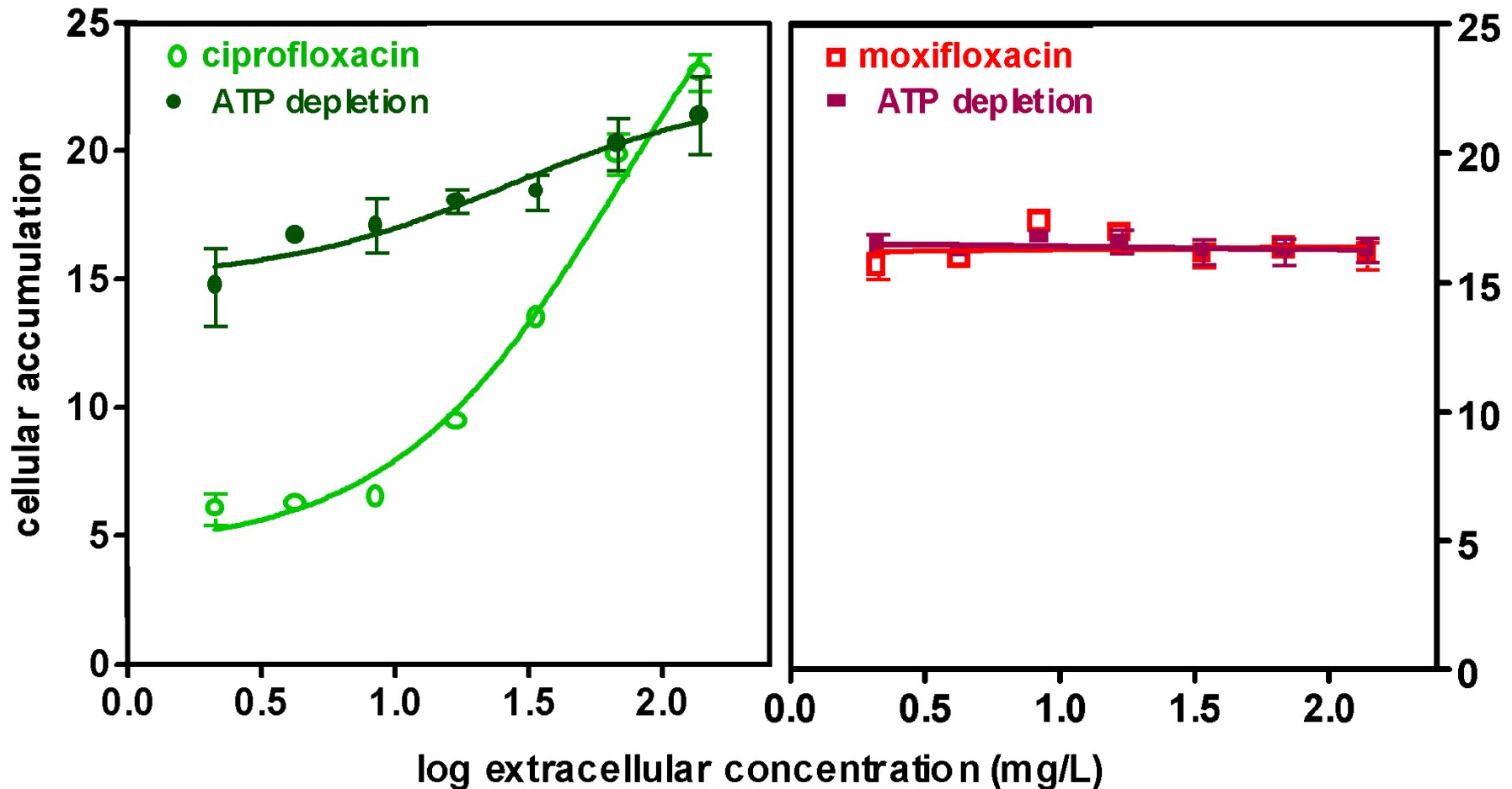




# contrasting effect of quinolone concentration on their accumulation

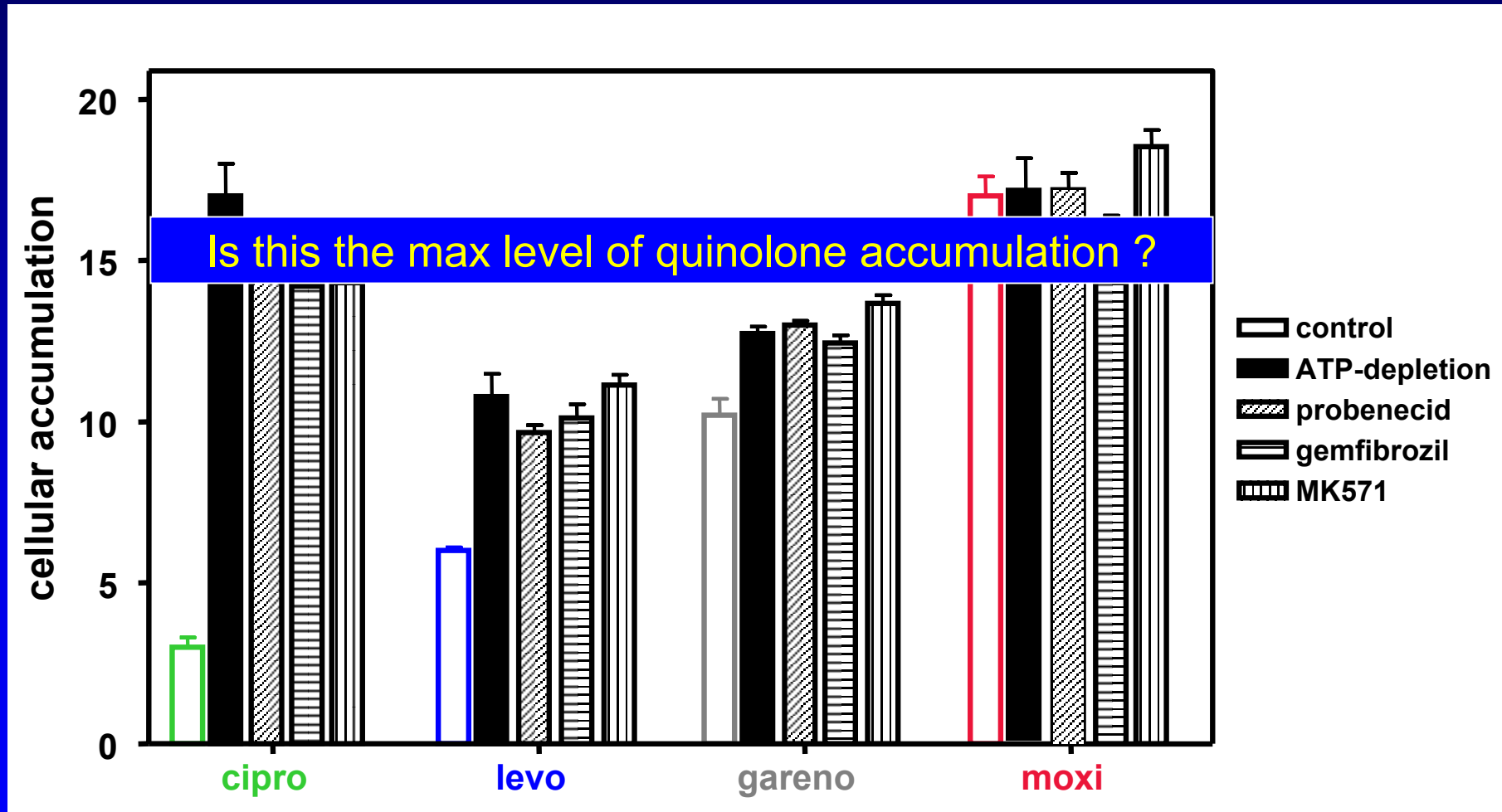


# contrasting effect of ATP-depletion on quinolone accumulation



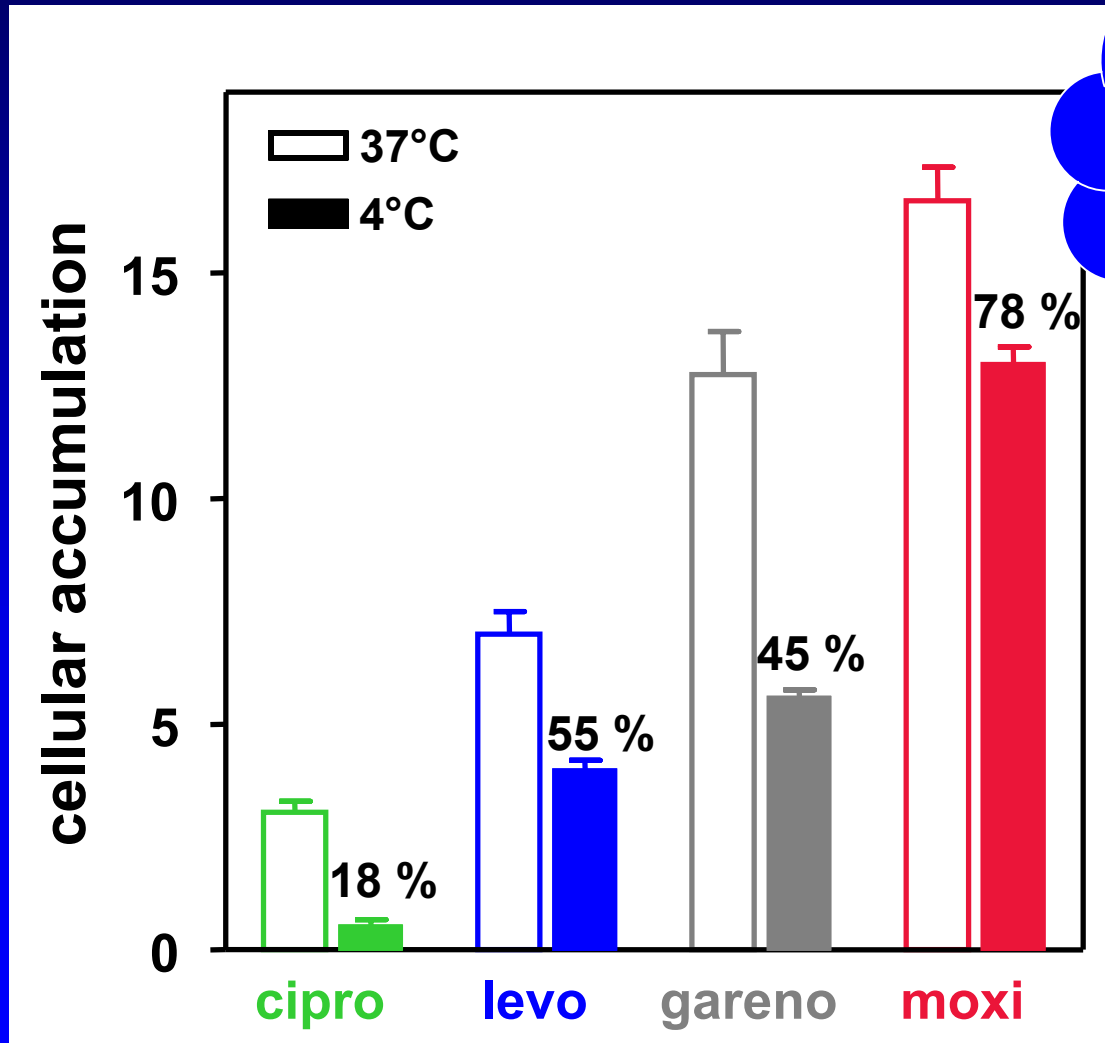
# comparative effect of pump inhibition on quinolone accumulation

2 h incubation, 5 mg/L, inhibitors :



# contrasting effect of temperature on quinolone accumulation – cooling

2 h incubation, 5 mg/L, temperature :

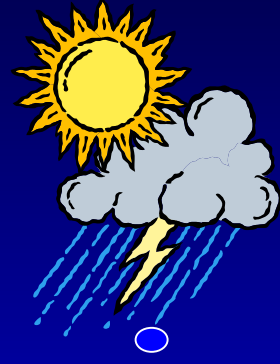
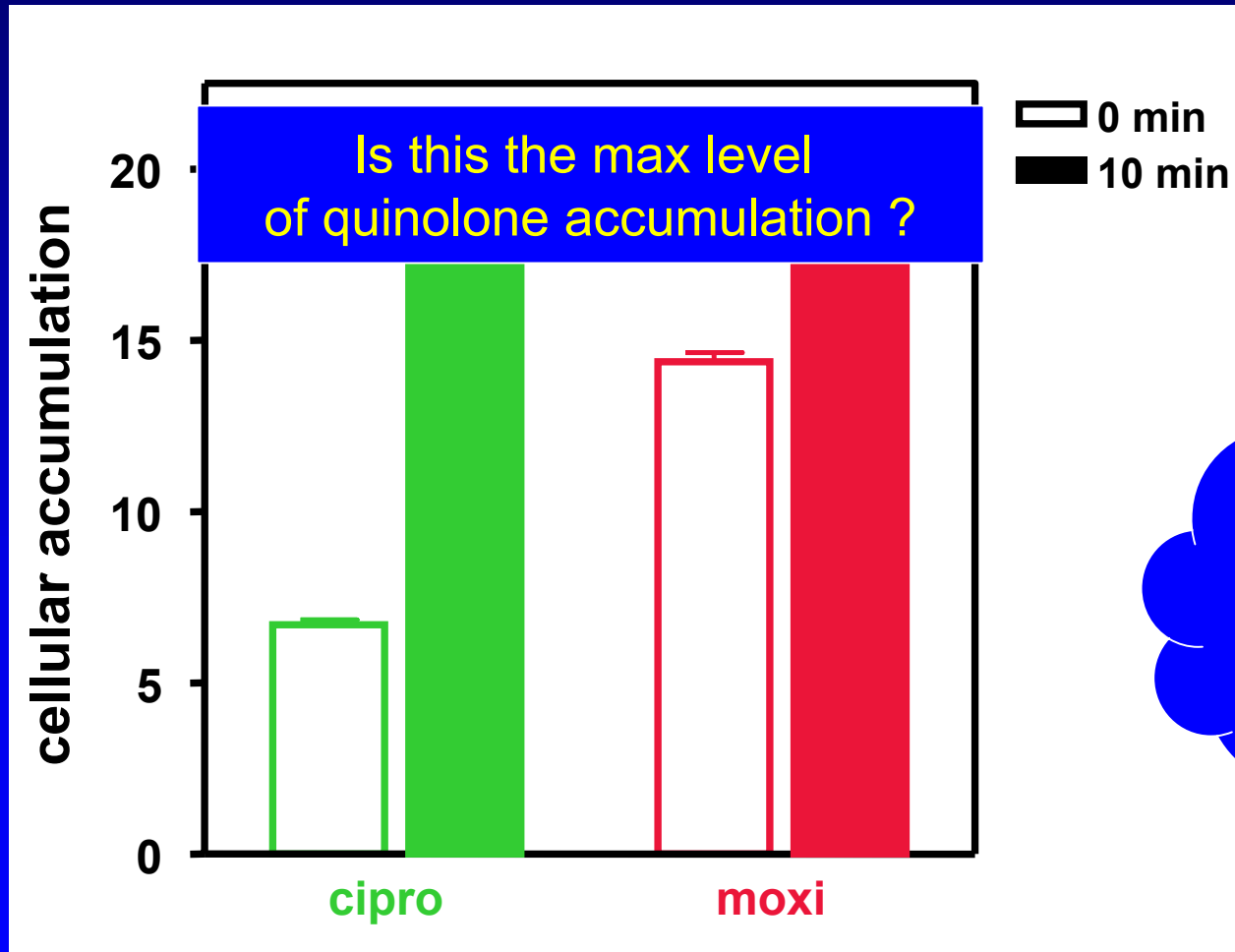


slowed  
diffusion  
through  
membranes



# contrasting effect of temperature on quinolone accumulation – heating

2 h incubation at 37°C, 17 mg/L, preexposure to 56°C:

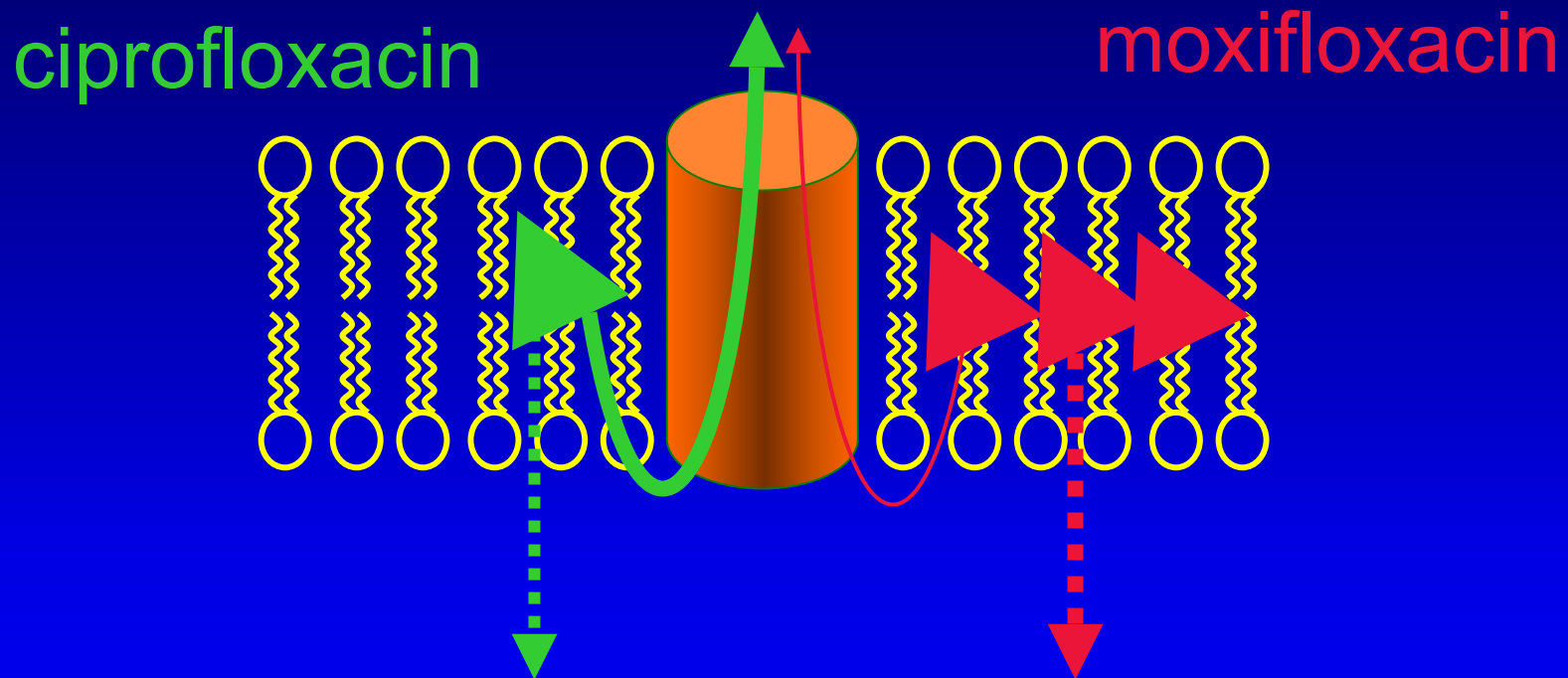


active  
processes  
impaired in  
death cells

**quinolone accumulation is passive  
but efflux is active**

 actual sorting site may be  
at the cell surface

**accumulation is inversely related  
to recognition by efflux transporters**

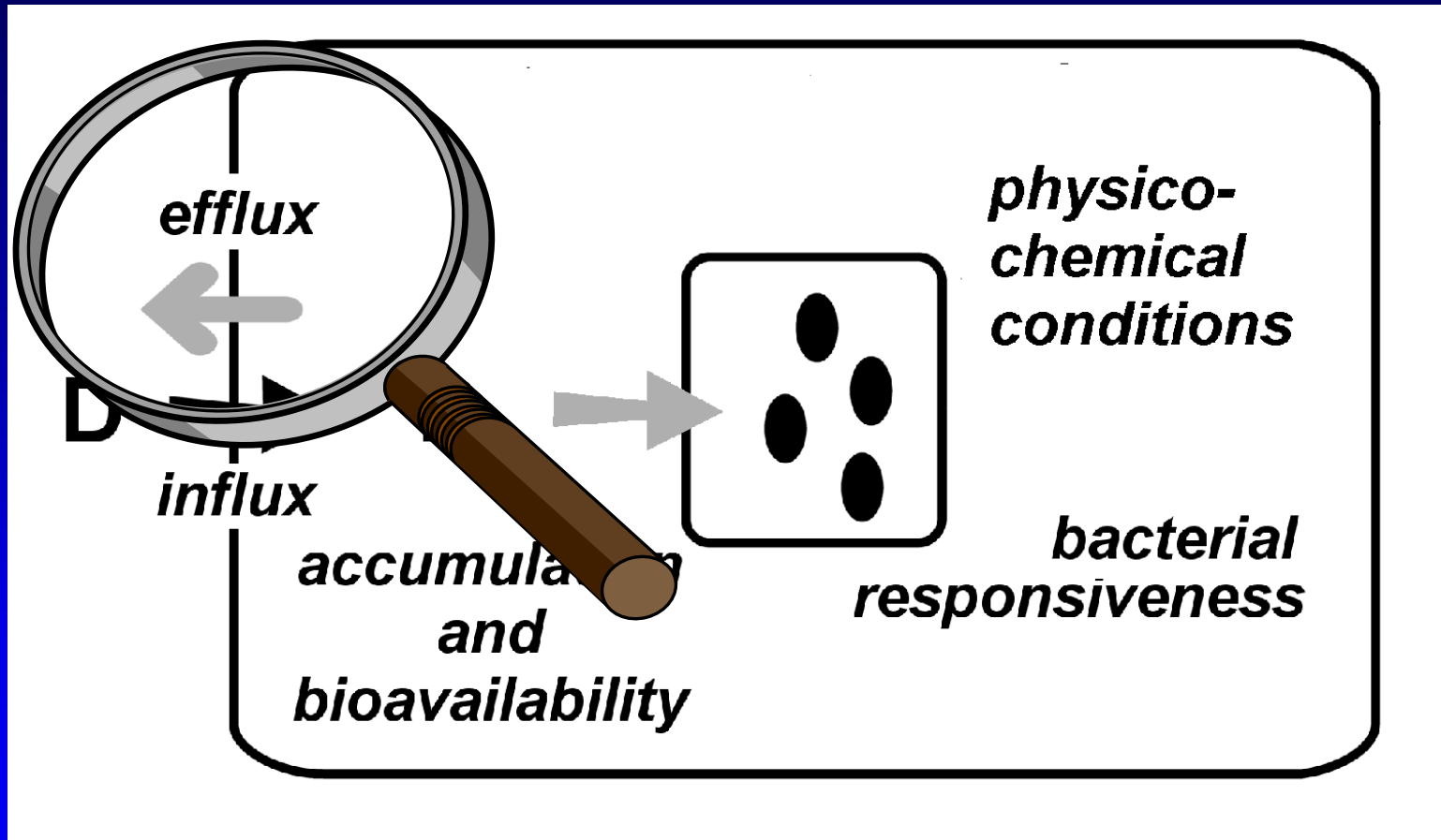


Is the amount of drug reaching the cellular medium  
high enough to kill intracellular bacteria ?

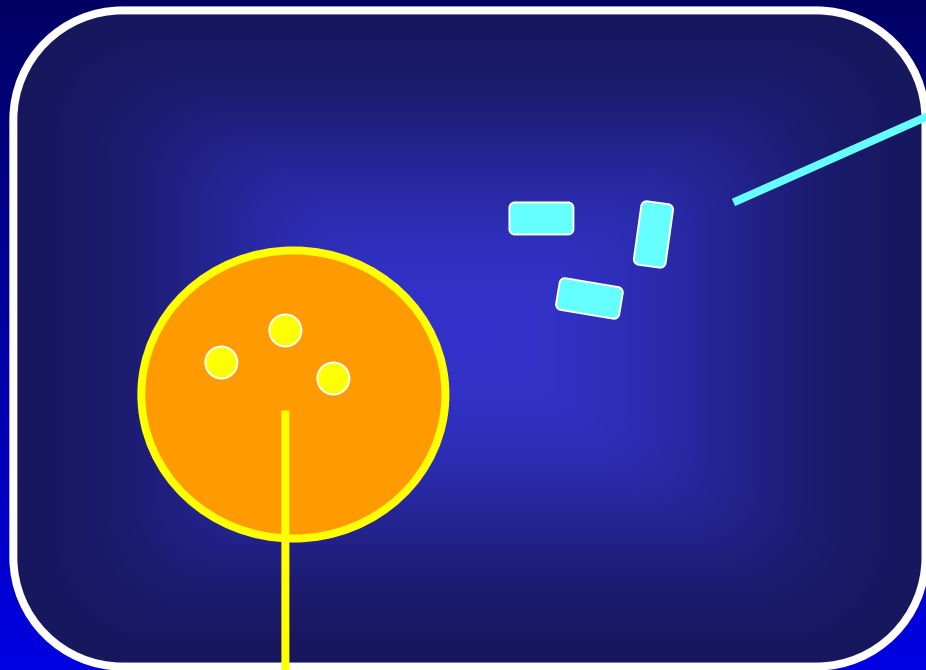
### **3. Influence of efflux pumps on antibiotic cellular pharmacodynamics**



# Does efflux from macrophages confer 'resistance' against intracellular infections ?



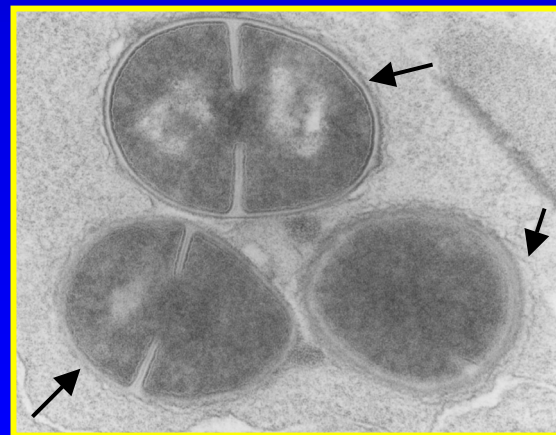
# Does efflux affect the intracellular activity of these antibiotics ?



*Listeria monocytogenes*

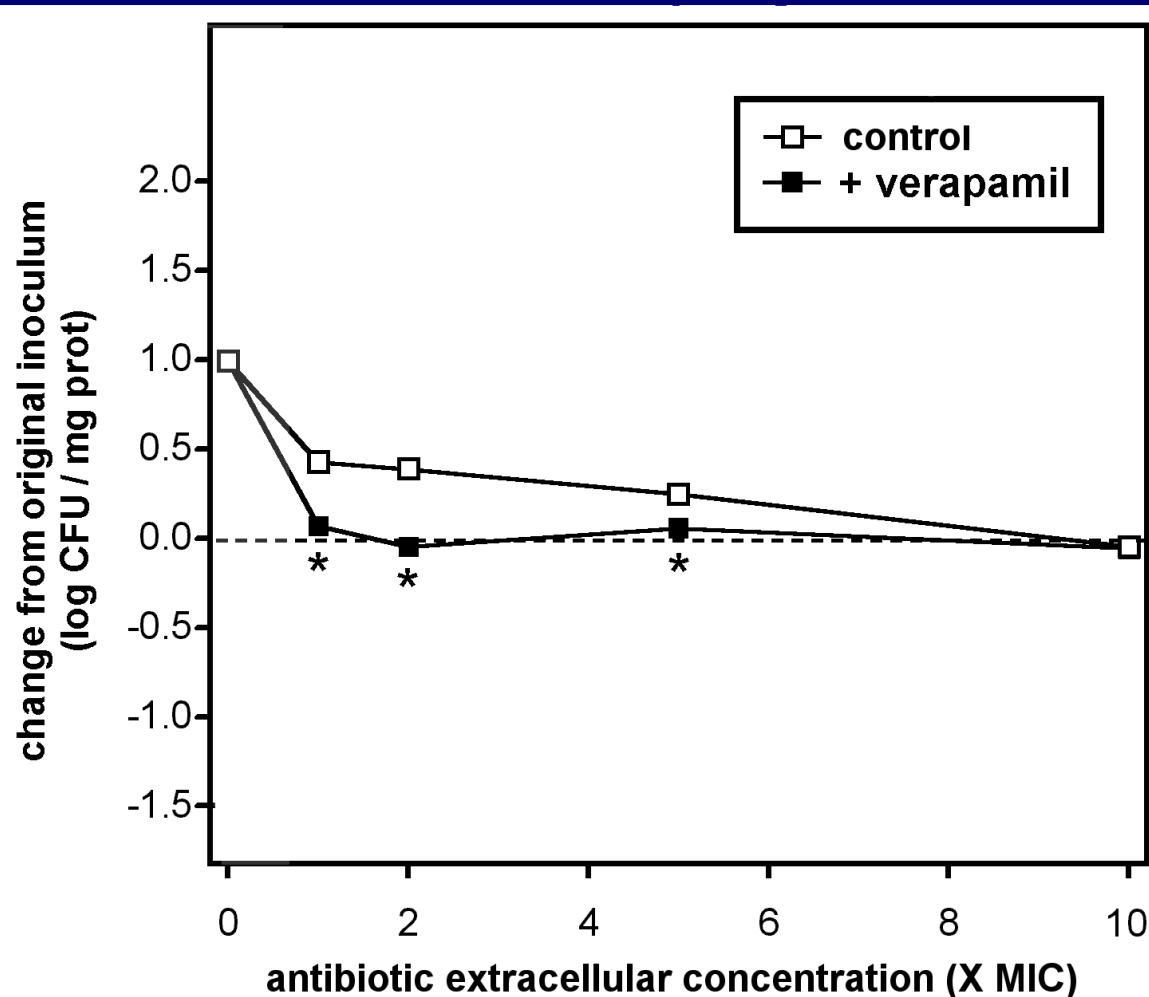
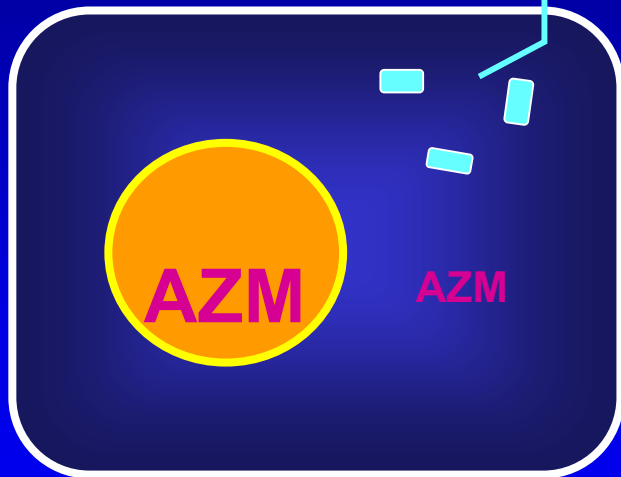


*Staphylococcus aureus*

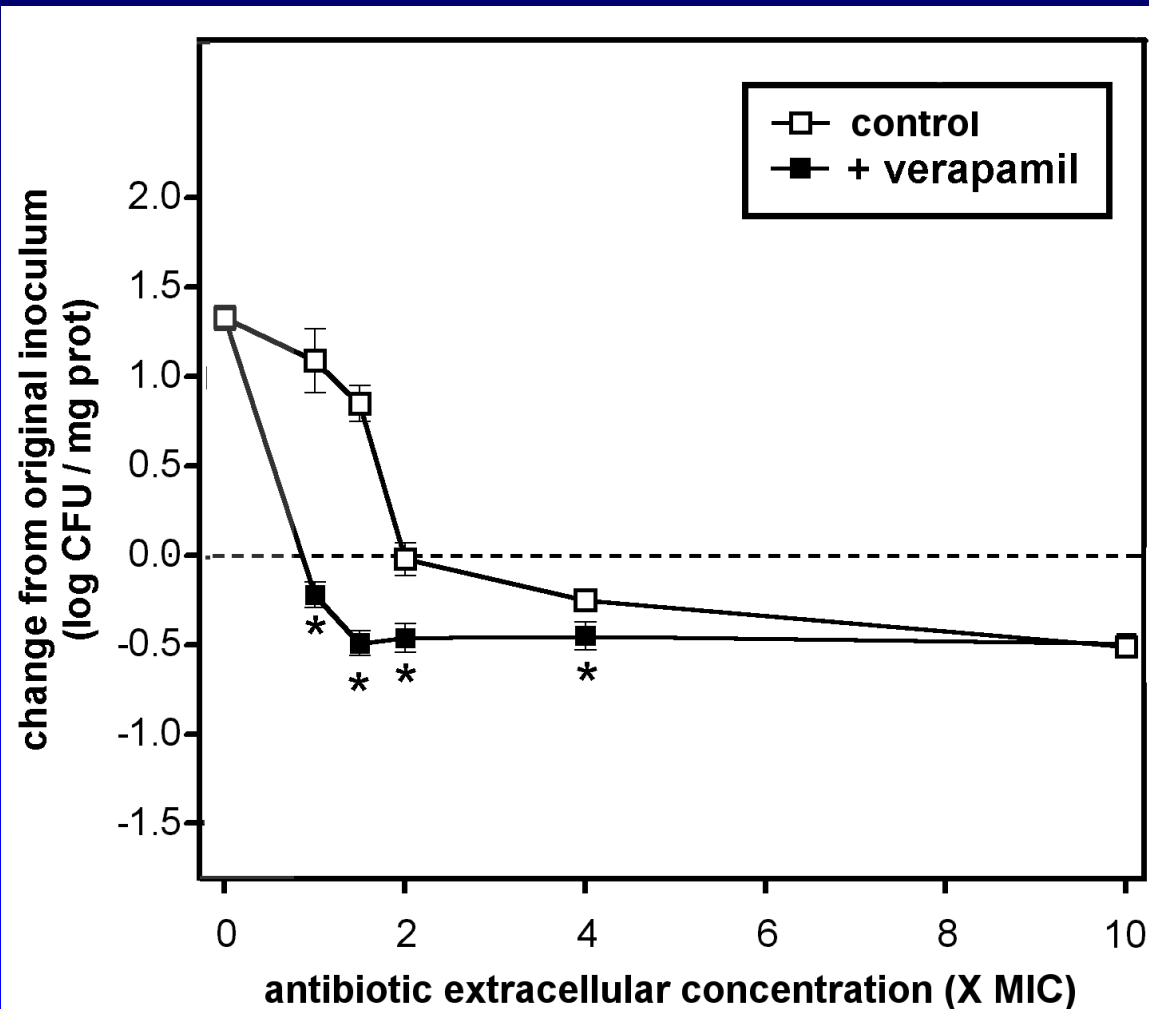
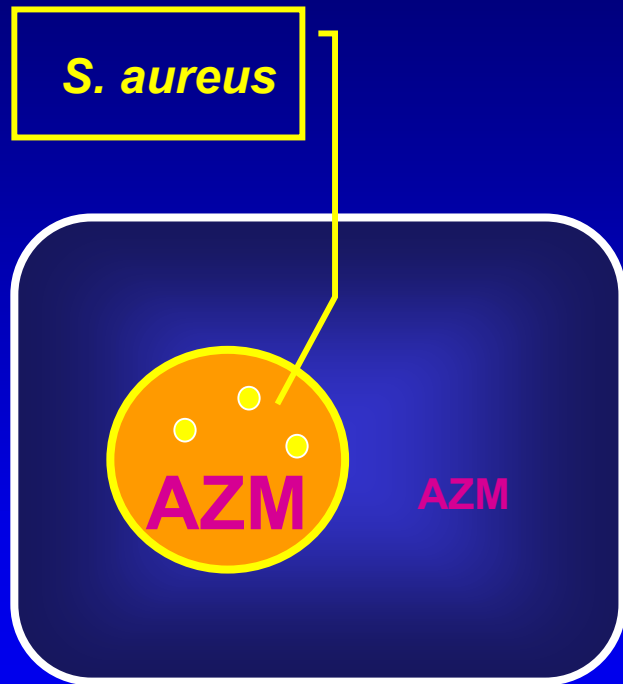


# Verapamil increases azithromycin activity against *L. monocytogenes*

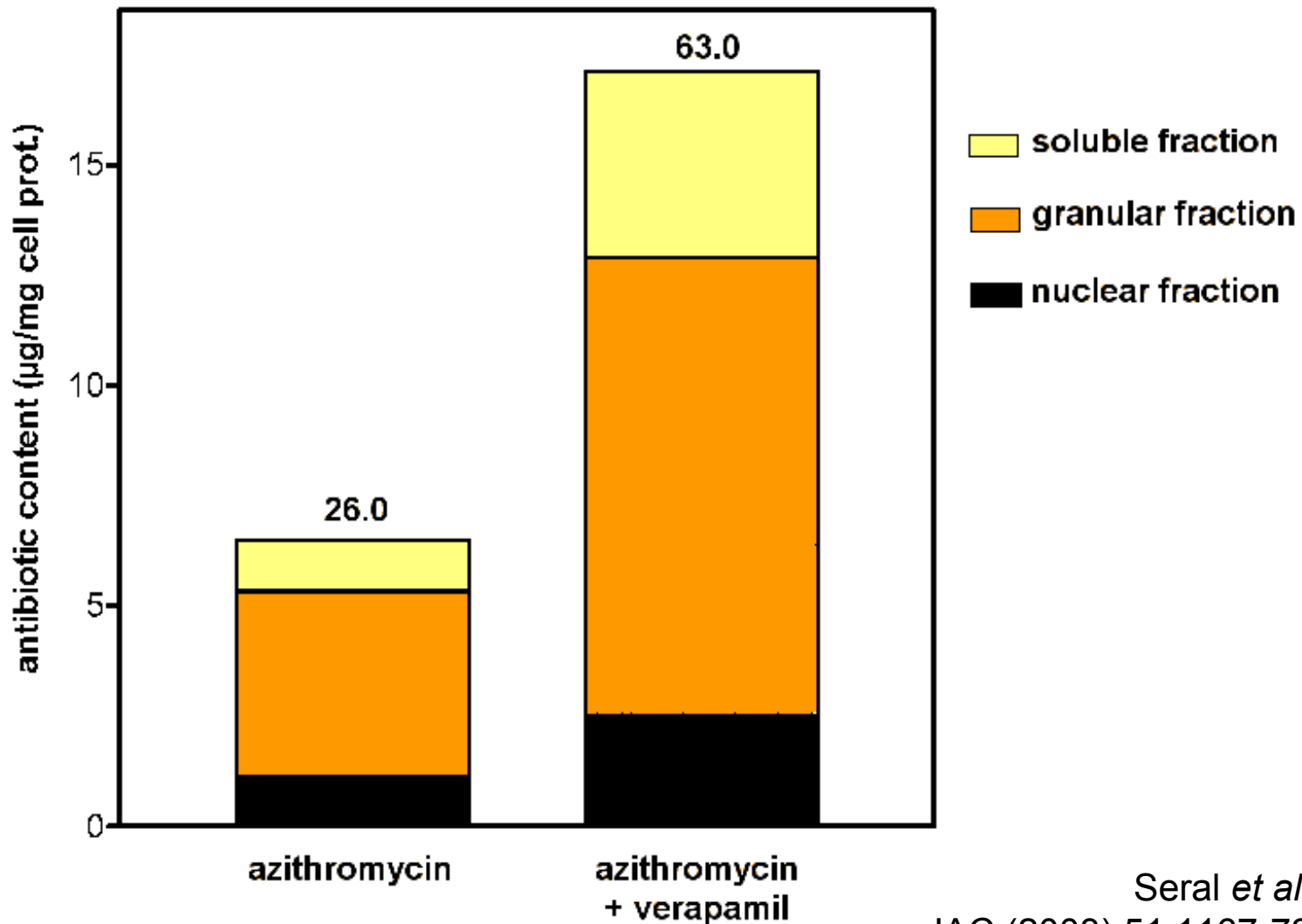
*L. monocytogenes*



# Verapamil increases azithromycin activity against *S. aureus*

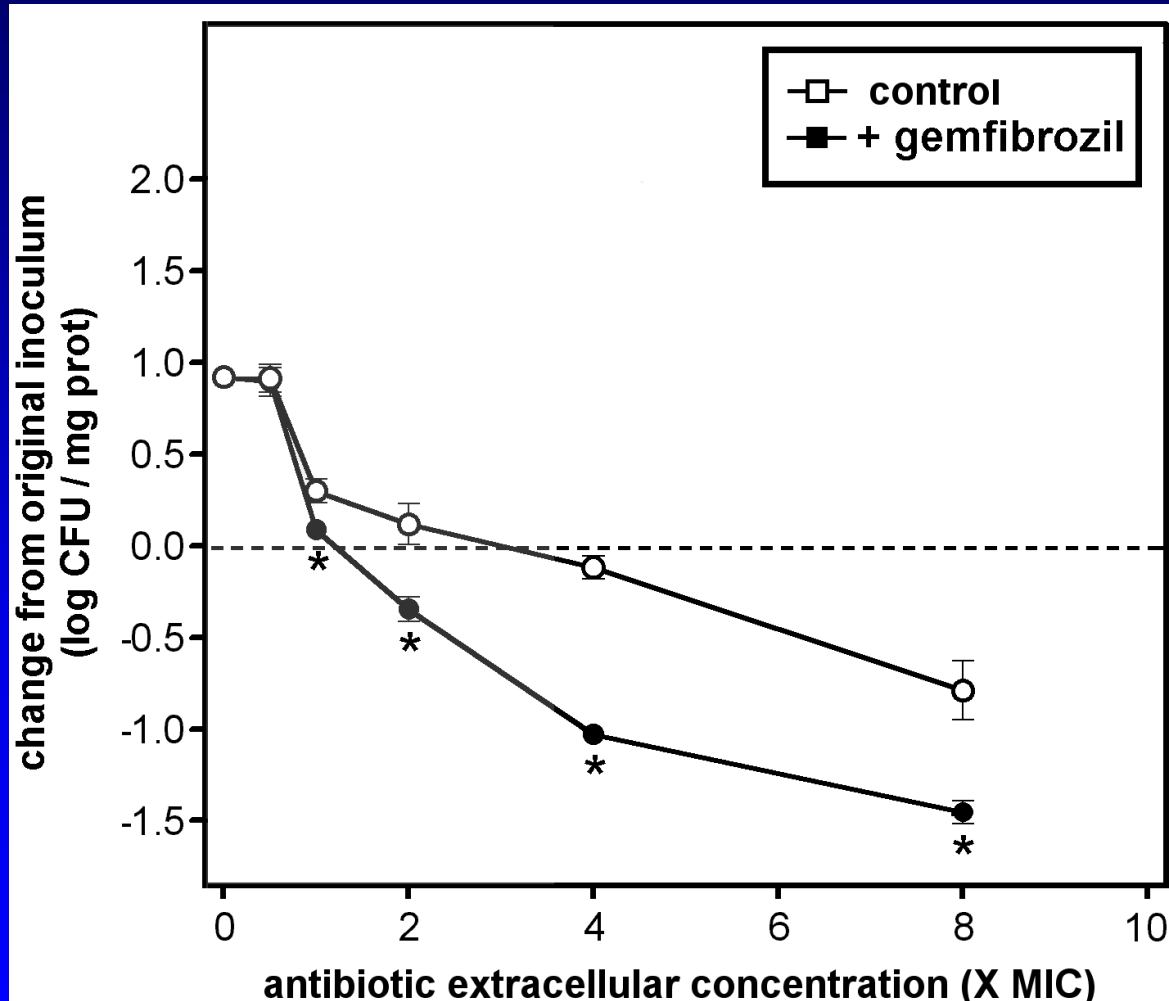
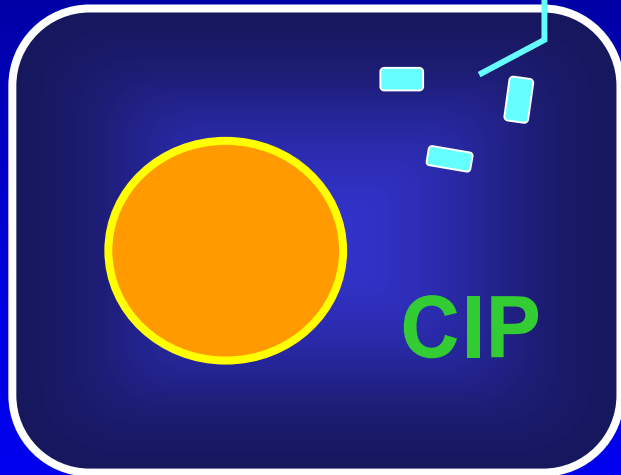


# Verapamil increases azithromycin conc. both in the soluble and granular fractions

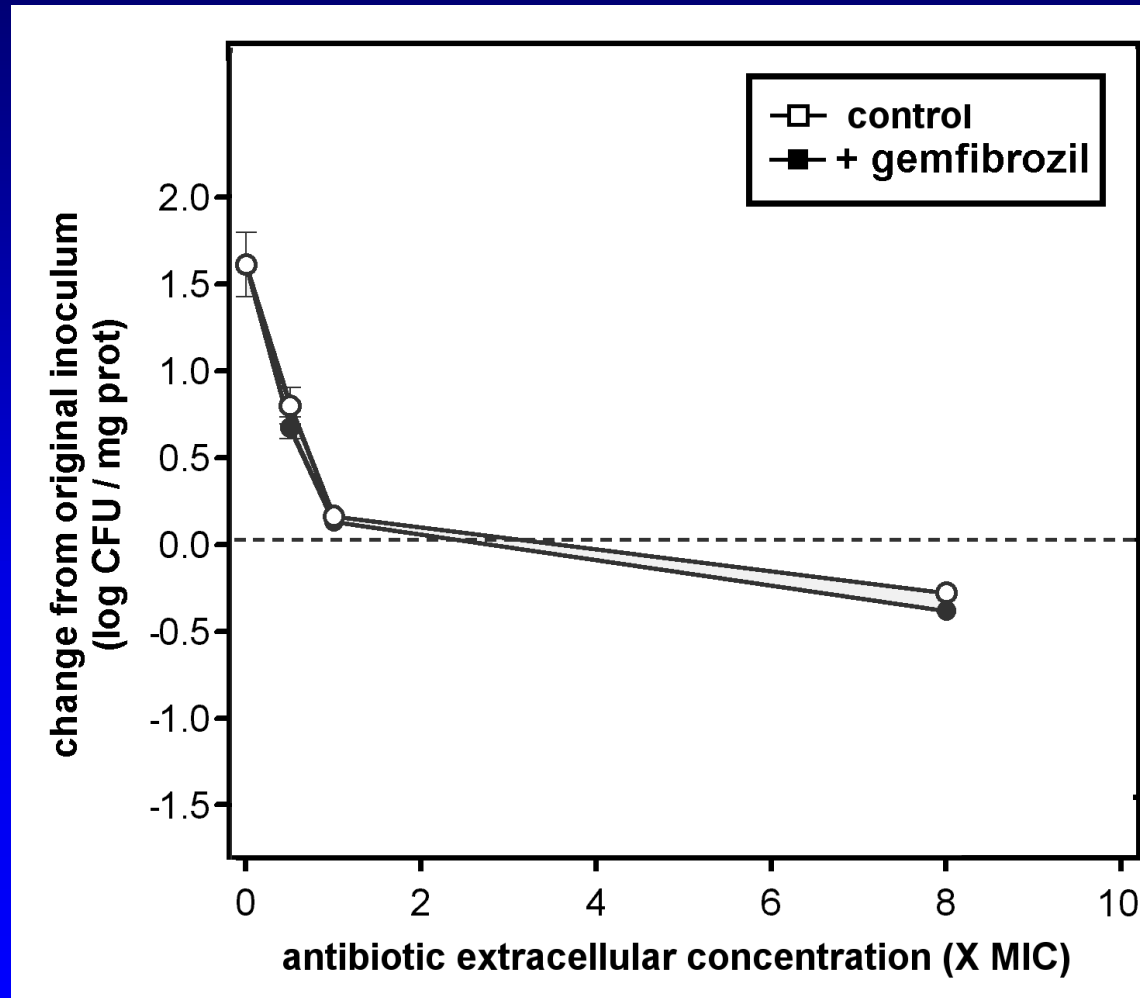
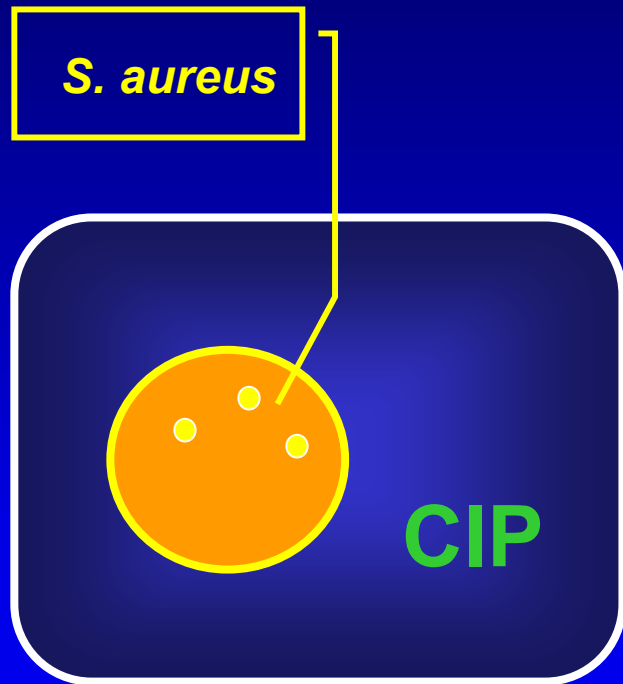


# Gemfibrozil increases ciprofloxacin activity against *L. monocytogenes*

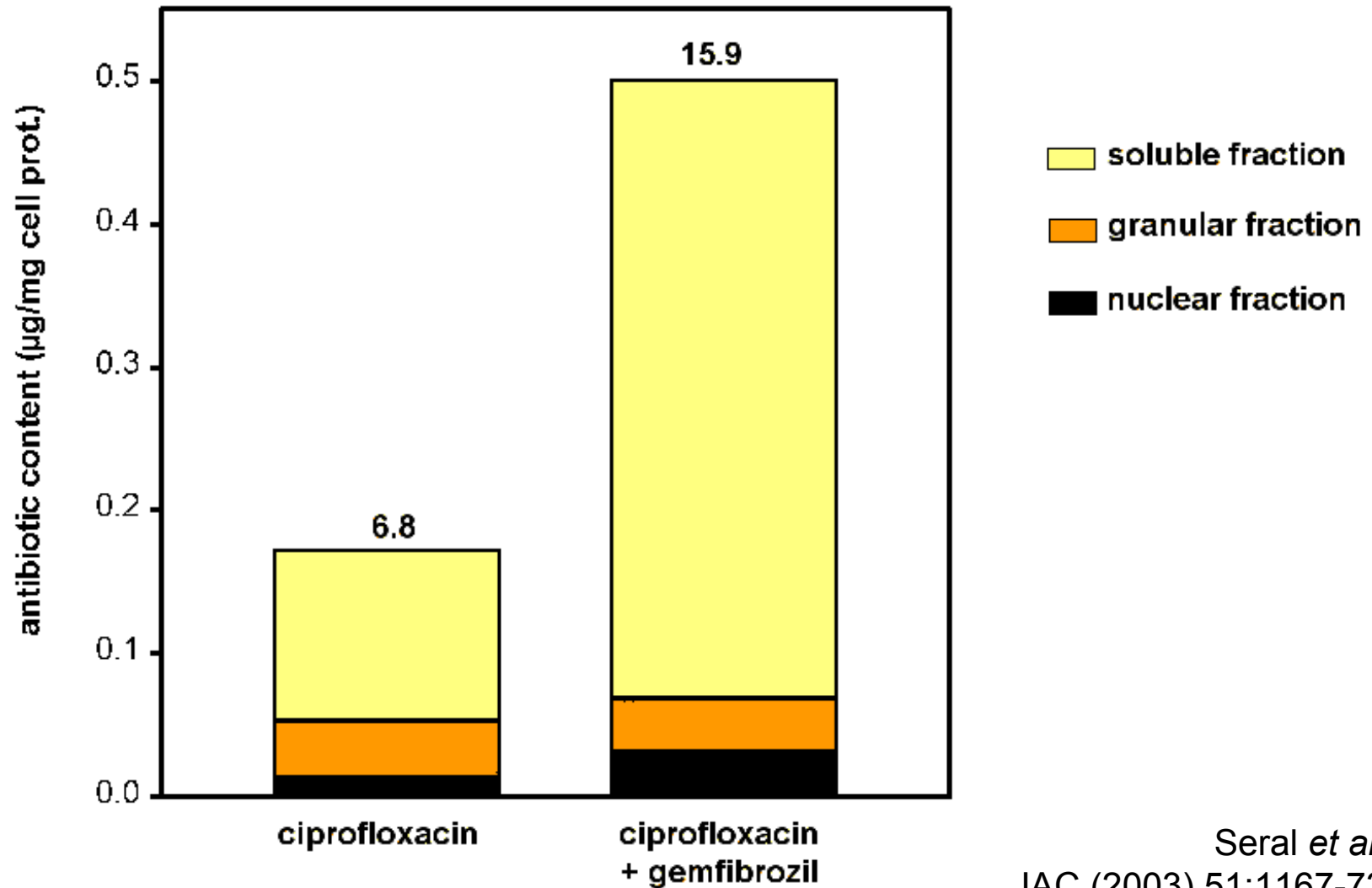
*L. monocytogenes*



# Gemfibrozil does not increase ciprofloxacin activity against *S. aureus*

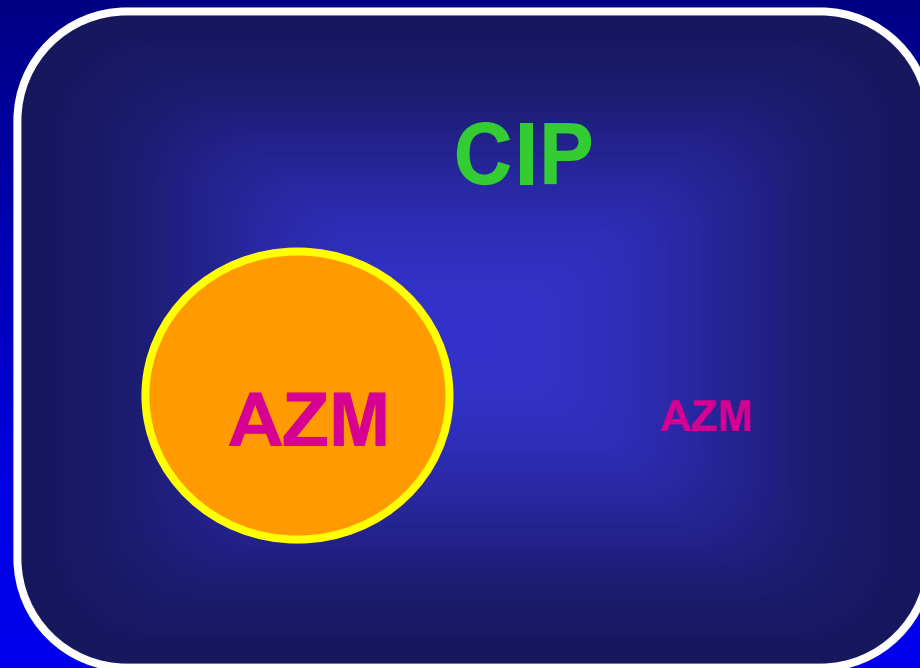


# Gemfibrozil increases ciprofloxacin conc. in the soluble fraction only





**Inhibition of efflux pumps may increase  
antibiotic activity in the compartments  
where they accumulate**

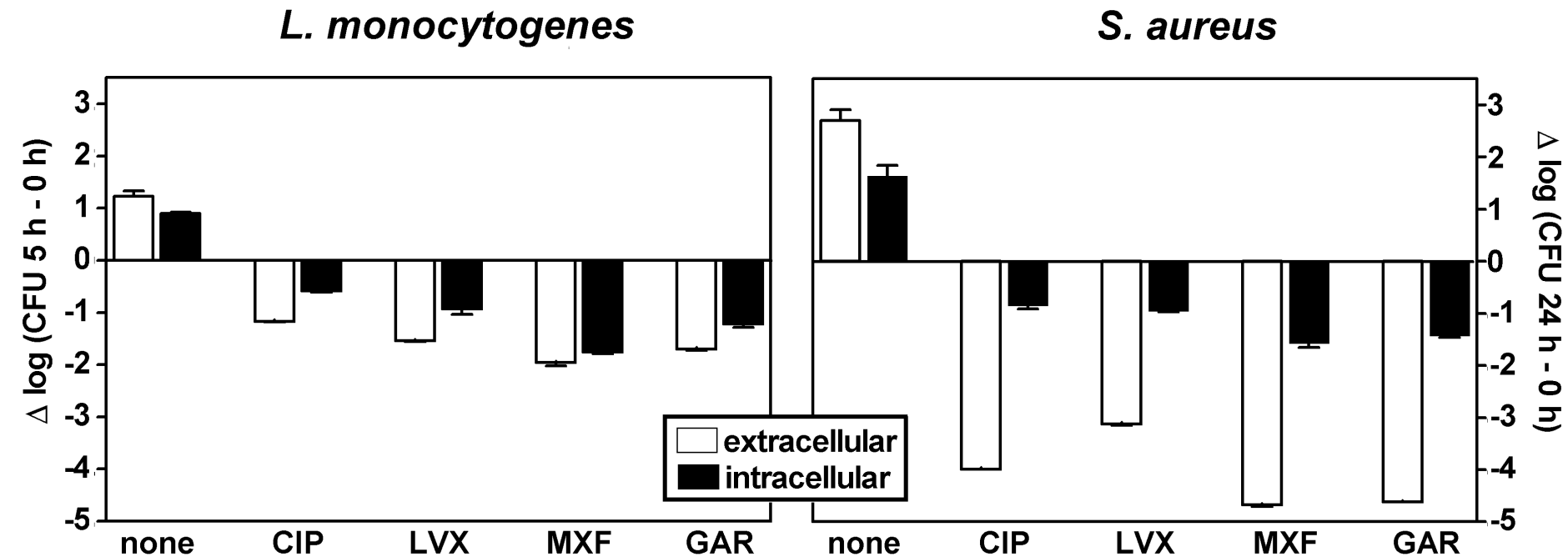


# Strategies for the future of antibiotherapy of intracellular infections



- use of poor substrates of efflux pumps (moxi vs cipro)
- caution for « cross – resistance » with other substrates (over – expression of efflux pumps)
- development of specific inhibitors of efflux pumps

# moxi/gareno are more active than cipro/levo against *L. monocytogenes* et *S. aureus*



# Strategies for the future of antibiotherapy of intracellular infections



- use of poor substrates of efflux pumps (moxi vs cipro)
- caution for « cross – resistance » with other substrates (over – expression of efflux pumps)
- development of specific inhibitors of efflux pumps

# Over-expression of efflux pumps as mechanism of resistance



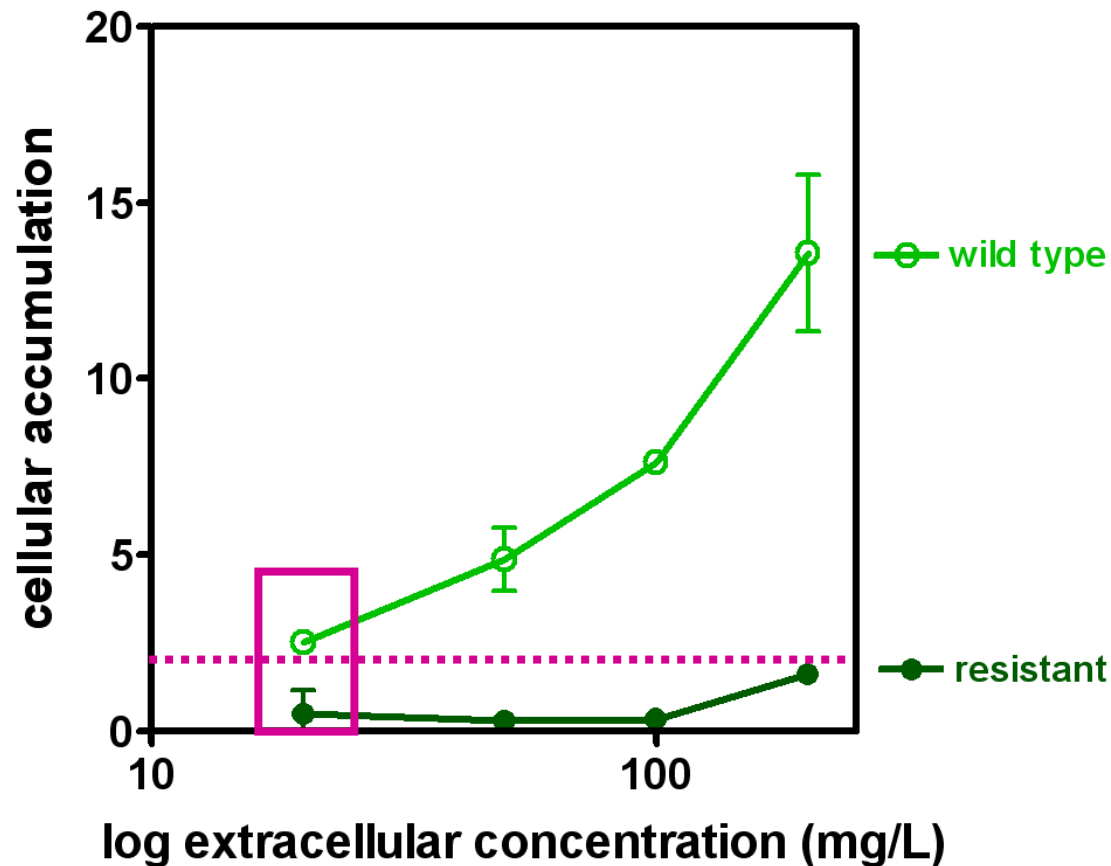
anticancer agent



antibiotic ?????

# Ciprofloxacin selects over-expression of efflux pumps as mechanism of resistance

2 h incubation at 37°C



macrophages exposed to increasing conc. of cipro (up to 80 mg/L)

# Strategies for the future of antibiotherapy of intracellular infections



- use of poor substrates of efflux pumps (moxi vs cipro)
- caution for « cross – resistance » with other substrates (over – expression of efflux pumps)
- development of specific inhibitors of efflux pumps

# Inhibitors of efflux transporters ...



should help you to keep your stuff in ...

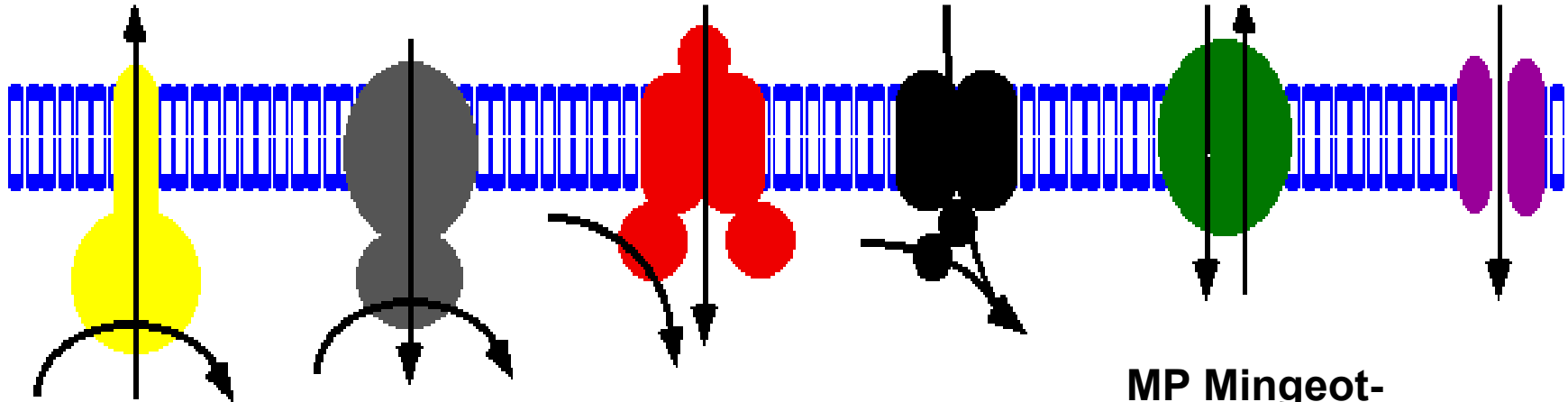
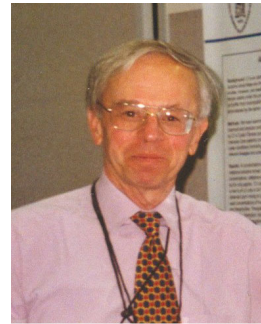


# Inhibitors of efflux transporters ...



But be careful not to turn off a useful pump ...

# Thanks to ...



F Van Bambeke JM Michot

C Seral M Heremans

MP Minget-Leclercq

PM Tulkens

come and see us at [www.md.ucl.ac.be/facm](http://www.md.ucl.ac.be/facm)