

# Pre- and postnatal exposure to pyrethroids in French children from the ELFE cohort

**Ophélie Gestin**, Elisa Thépaut, Michèle Bisson, Brice M.R. Appenzeller, Linda R. Macheka,  
Paul Palazzi, Alba Iglesias-González, Cécile Zaros, Cleo Tebby and Florence Zeman



# Pyrethroids (PYR) – Overview



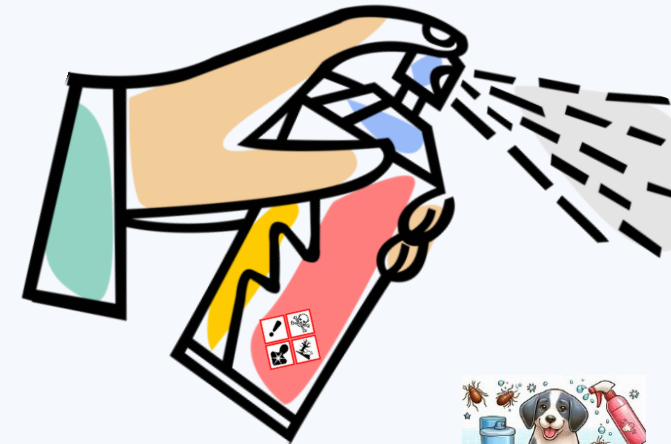
Synthetic insecticides molecules derived from pyrethrins, use since the 60's



Non-persistent molecules



Family comprising many molecules, widely used in various fields



# Pyrethroids (PYR) – Potential effects

 Many widely described effects, including neurotoxicity

 Interaction with voltage-gated sodium channels in neurons of insects, but also of mammals organisms





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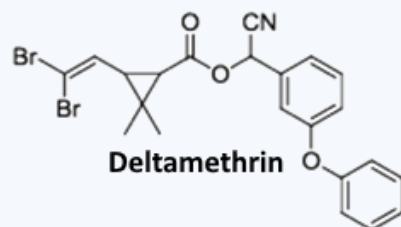
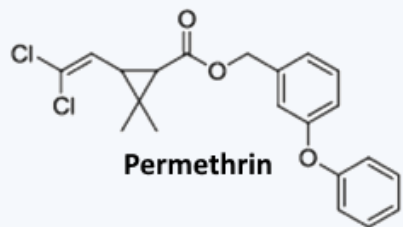
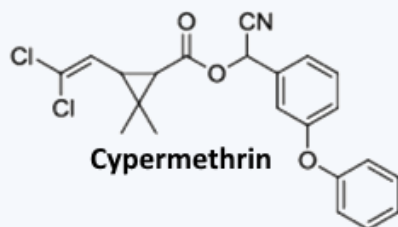
CC(=O)OC(=O)C#N Pre- and postnatal exposure can be associated with **neurodevelopmental disorders** (Furlong *et al.*, 2017, Xue *et al.*, 2013, Qi *et al.*, 2022)

CC(=O)OC(=O)C#N Childhood is a sensitive period for PYR exposure



# Pyrethroids (PYR) – ADME processes

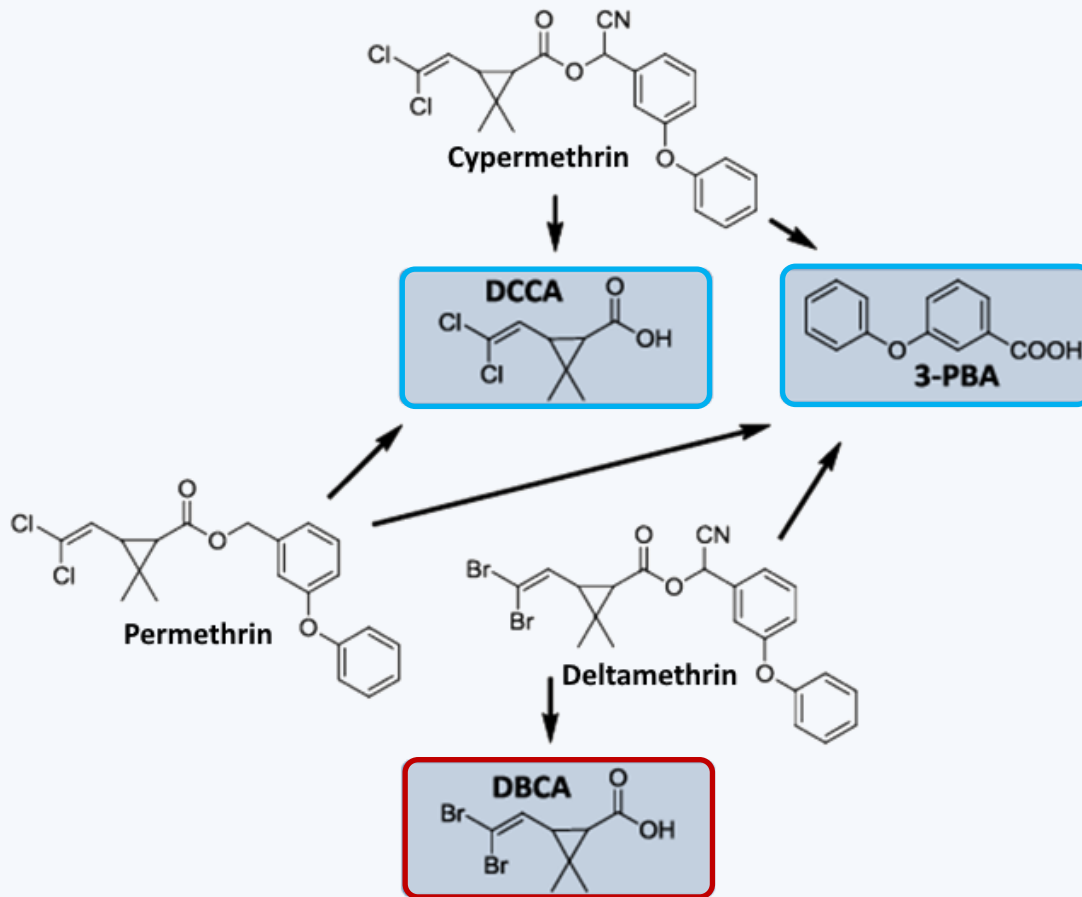
Parent molecules are supposed to be mainly absorbed by ingestion



# Pyrethroids (PYR) – ADME processes

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Parent molecules are metabolized into **specific** or **non-specific** metabolites, by P450 cytochromes, carboxylesterases

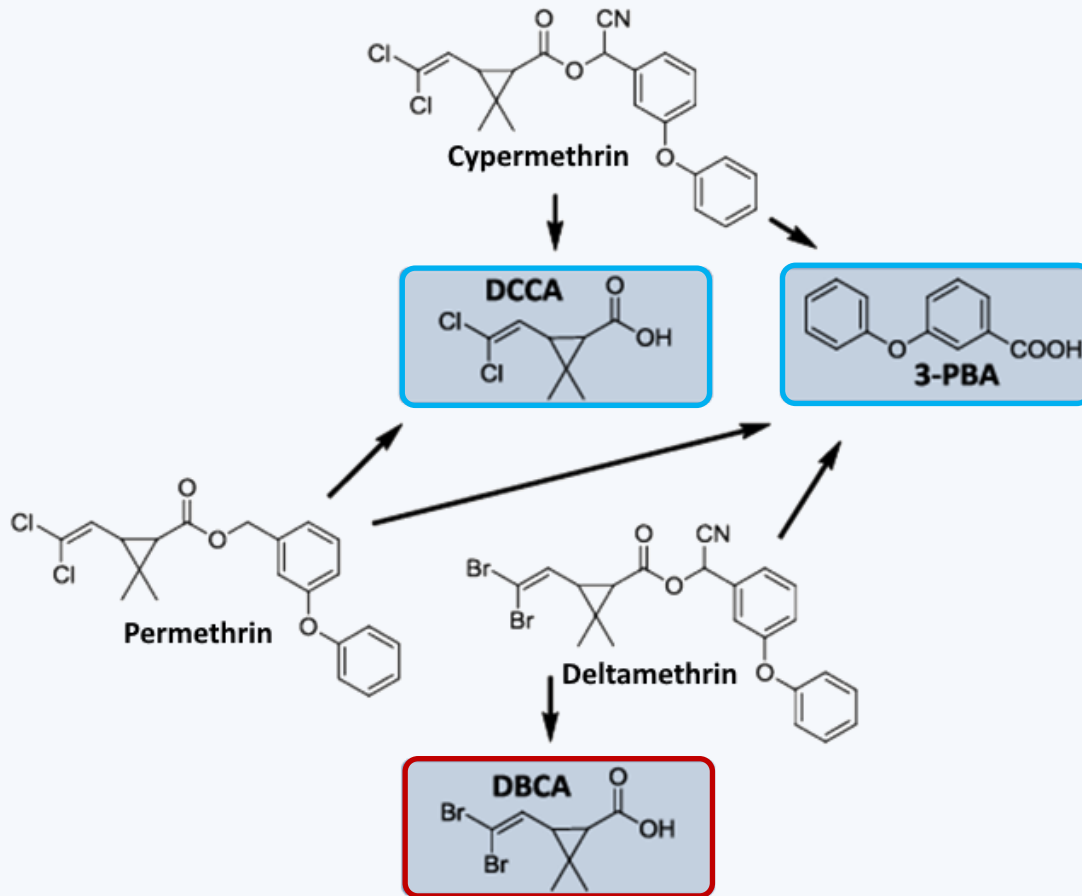


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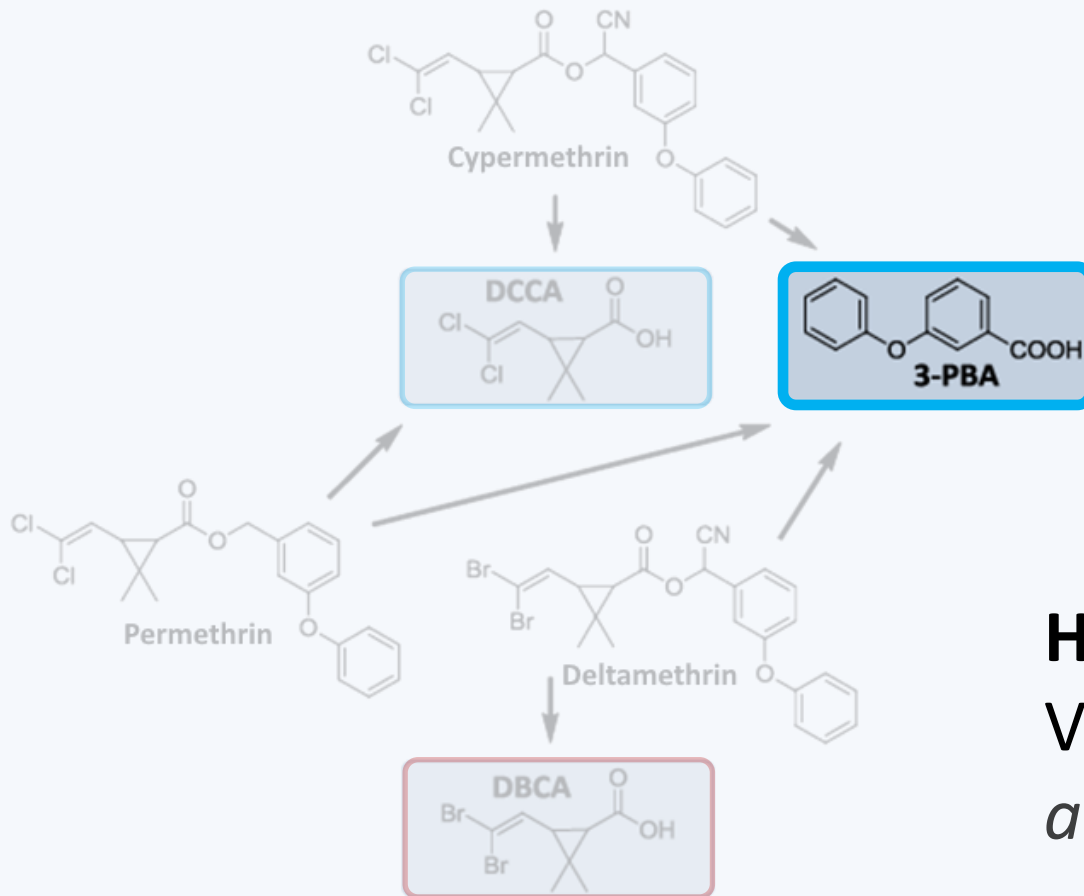
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Elimination of parent molecules and especially metabolites, mainly by urine



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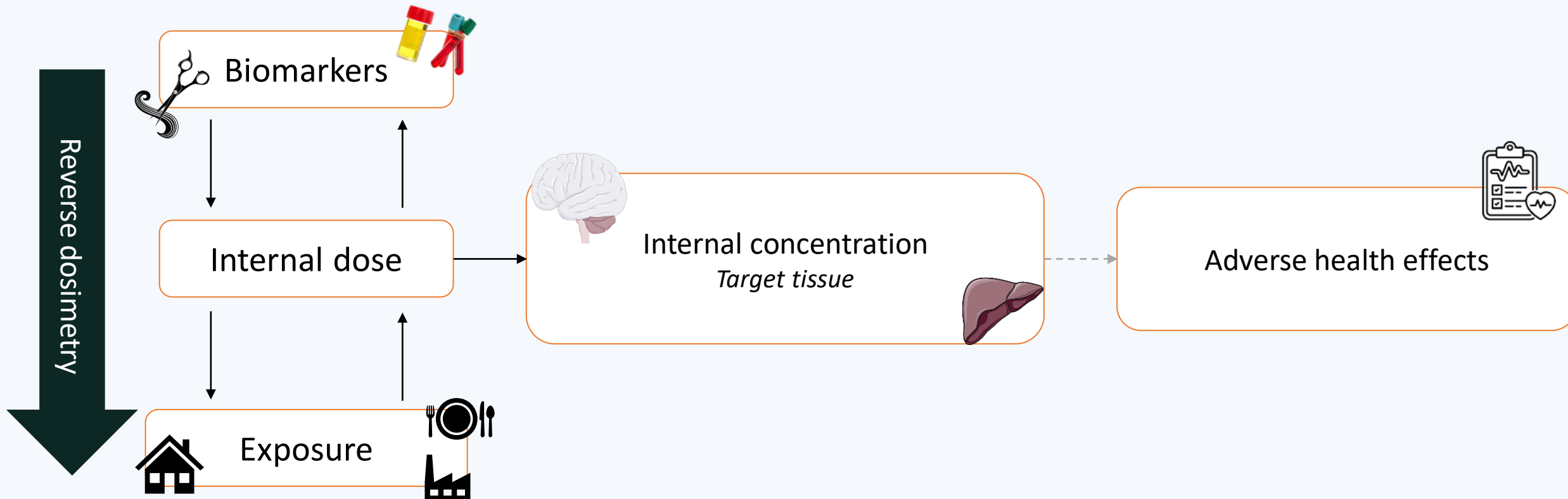
Elimination of parent molecules and especially metabolites, mainly by urine

**HBM-GV** (Human BioMonitoring – Guidance Value) =  $3.25 \mu\text{g } 3\text{-PBA.L}^{-1}$  urine (Tarazona *et al.*, 2022)



# Human biomonitoring data

## Reverse dosimetry

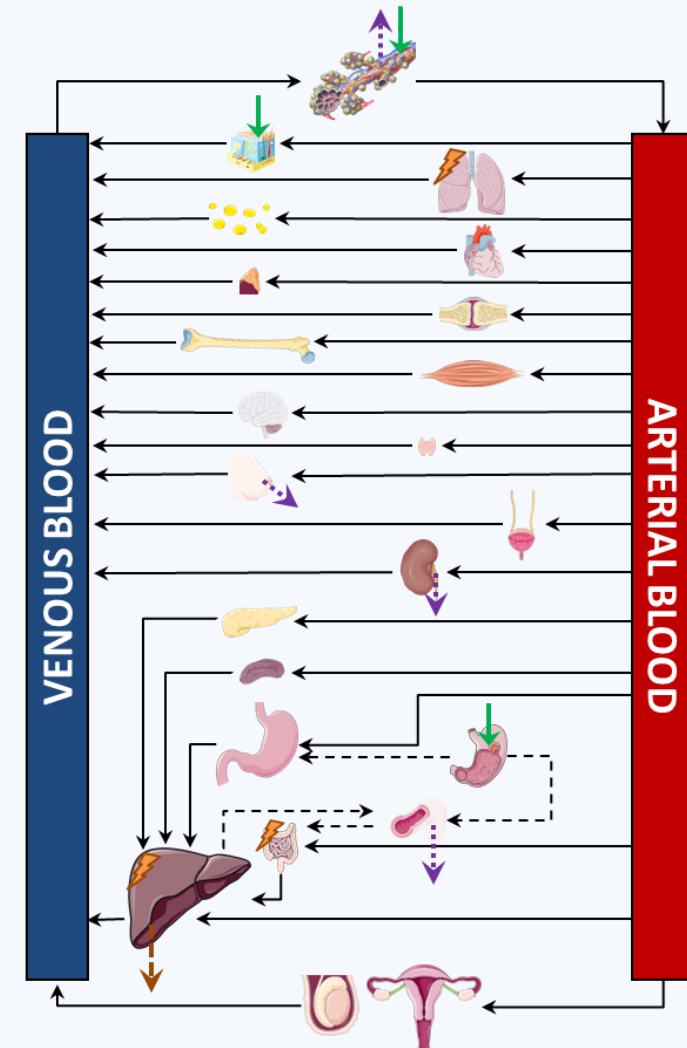


# Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) models

They describe the fate of a substance in an organism

They are composed by differential equations

The compartments represent tissues/matrices and arrows correspond to blood flows, as shown on the right



# Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) models

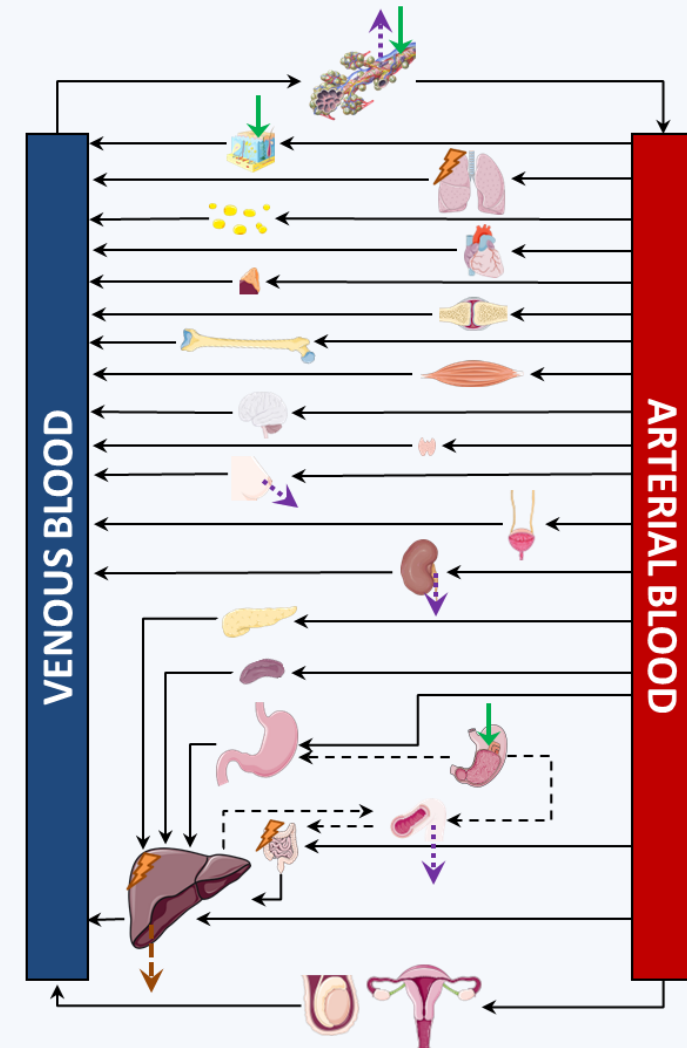
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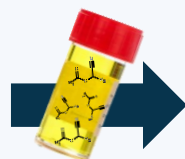
PBPK models include all the biological processes involved in ADME processes of a chemical substance

To use PBPK models we need data, as physiological parameters and substance-specific parameters

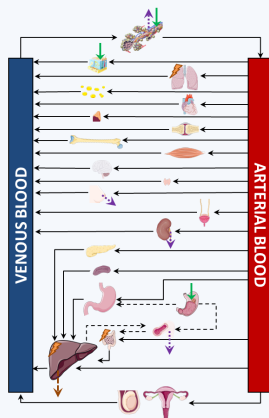


# Objectives of this work

To use data from the ELFE cohort to determine exposure of children (pre-natal and post-natal)



PBPK models



Exposure

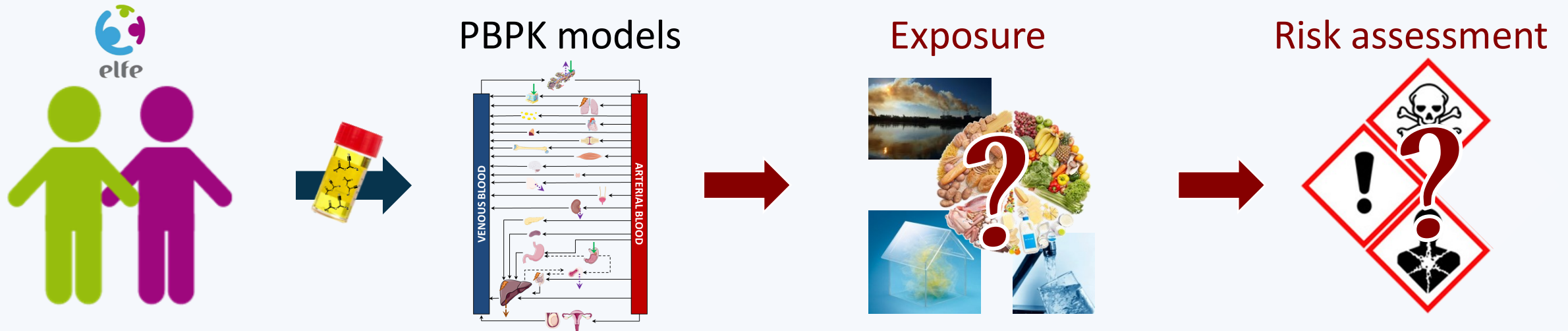


Risk assessment



# Objectives of this work



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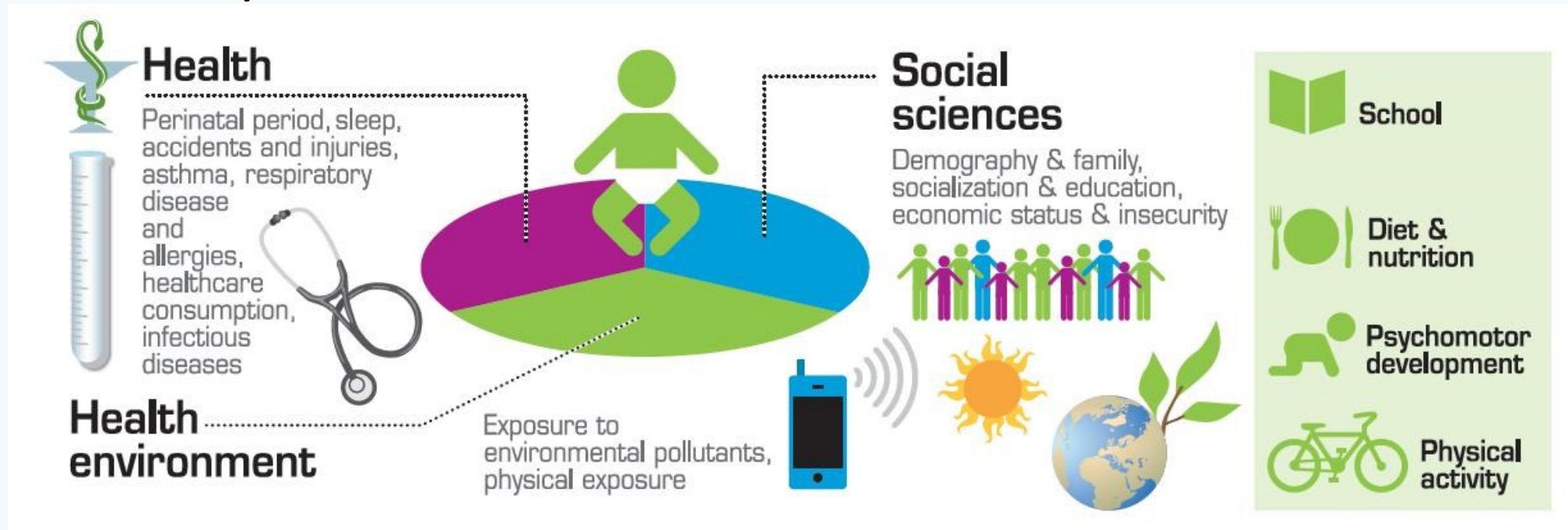


Objectives of today: focus on fetuses only



# ELFE cohort

-  French Longitudinal Study of Childhood
-  Objective: how children development, health and socialization are influenced by their environment, from the womb to adolescence

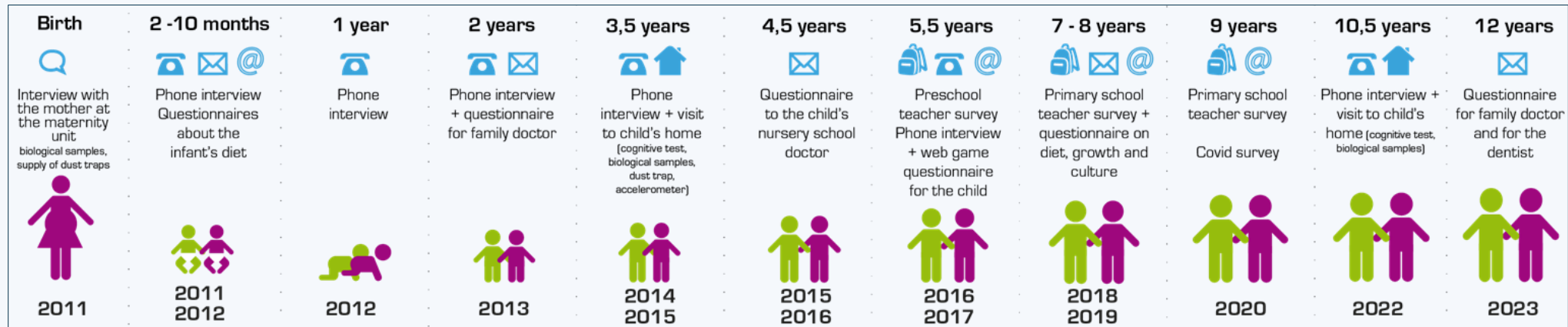


# ELFE cohort

 French Longitudinal Study of Childhood

 Objective

 Follow-up of children, from pregnant mother to age 20

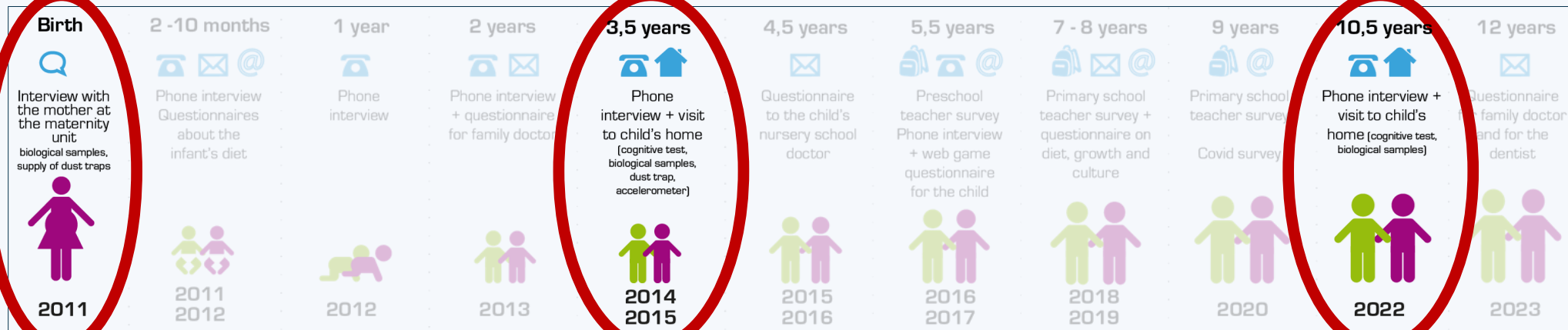


# ELFE cohort

 French Longitudinal Study of Childhood

 Objective

 Follow-up of children, from pregnant mother to age 20



 Sampling of different matrices (e.g. hair, urines or blood)

# ELFE cohort



Biomarkers were analyzed in the perinatal component of the French HBM program (Dereumeaux *et al.*, 2016) and by the Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH) in the POPEYE project (Beranger *et al.*, 2018)

Birth



Interview with the mother at the maternity unit  
biological samples, supply of dust traps



2011

Environment International 97 (2016) 56–67

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environment International

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/envint](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/envint)



Biomarkers of exposure to environmental contaminants in French pregnant women from the Elfe cohort in 2011



Clémentine Dereumeaux<sup>a,\*</sup>, Abdesattar Saoudi<sup>a</sup>, Marie Pecheux<sup>a</sup>, Bénédicte Berat<sup>a</sup>, Perrine de Crouy-Chanel<sup>a</sup>, Cécile Zaros<sup>b</sup>, Serge Brunel<sup>a</sup>, Corinne Delamaire<sup>a</sup>, Alain le Tertre<sup>a</sup>, Agnès Lefranc<sup>a</sup>, Stéphanie Vandentorren<sup>a</sup>, Laurence Guldner<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Direction of Environmental Health, Santé publique France, 12 rue du Val d'Osne, 94415 Saint Maurice Cedex, France

<sup>b</sup> French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (Inserm), The "Elfe" INED-INSERM-EFS team, 133, boulevard Davout, 75020 Paris, France

Environment International 120 (2018) 43–53

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environment International

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/envint](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/envint)



Multiple pesticide analysis in hair samples of pregnant French women: Results from the ELFE national birth cohort



Rémi Béranger<sup>a,\*</sup>, Emilie M. Hardy<sup>b</sup>, Célia Dexet<sup>b</sup>, Laurence Guldner<sup>c</sup>, Cécile Zaros<sup>d</sup>, Alexandre Nougadère<sup>e,1</sup>, Marie-Astrid Metten<sup>a</sup>, Cécile Chevrier<sup>c,2</sup>, Brice M.R. Appenzeller<sup>b,2</sup>

# ELFE cohort



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An analysis of pyrethroid exposure in pregnant women and their fetuses using PBPK models **has just been published** by Thépaut *et al.*, 2024

Environmental Research 251 (2024) 118606

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

 Environmental Research

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/envres](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/envres)



PBPK modeling to support risk assessment of pyrethroid exposure in French pregnant women

Elisa Thépaut<sup>a</sup>, Michèle Bisson<sup>b</sup>, Céline Brochot<sup>a,f</sup>, Stéphane Personne<sup>c</sup>, Brice M.R. Appenzeller<sup>d</sup>, Cécile Zaros<sup>e</sup>, Karen Chardon<sup>c</sup>, Florence Zeman<sup>a,\*</sup>



Birth



Interview with the mother at the maternity unit  
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=> The results presented today are those of Thépaut *et al.*, 2024

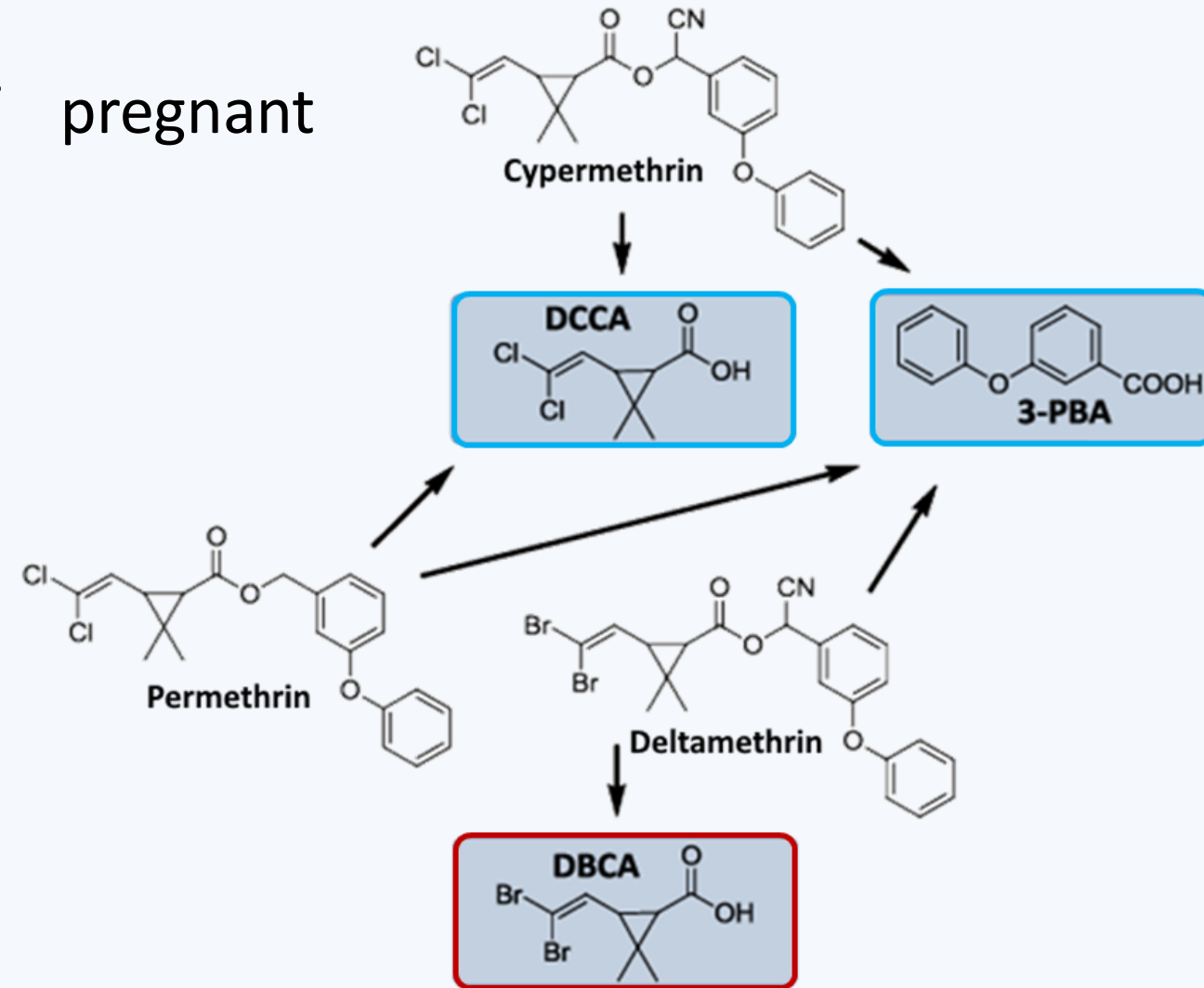


# Human biomonitoring data

Biomarkers measure in urine of pregnant women:

- cis- and trans- DCCA
- 3-PBA
- DBCA

Number of urine samples = 924

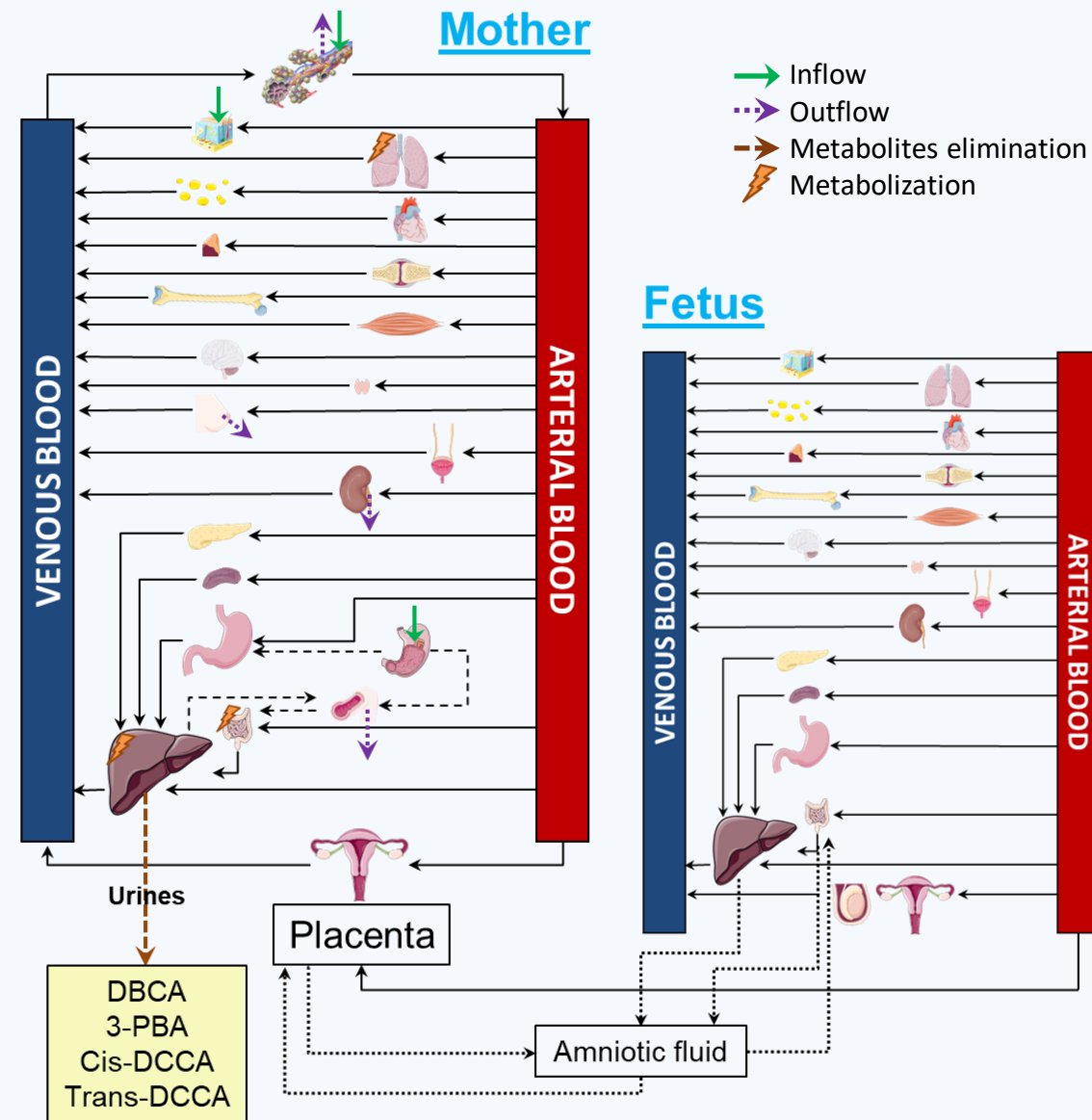


# p-PBPK model

Adapted to pregnancy from Quindroit *et al.*, (2019)

3 parent molecules and their isomers:

- Deltamethrin
- $\Sigma$ Cypermethrin = 42% cis + 58% trans
- $\Sigma$ Permethrin = 40% cis + 60% trans



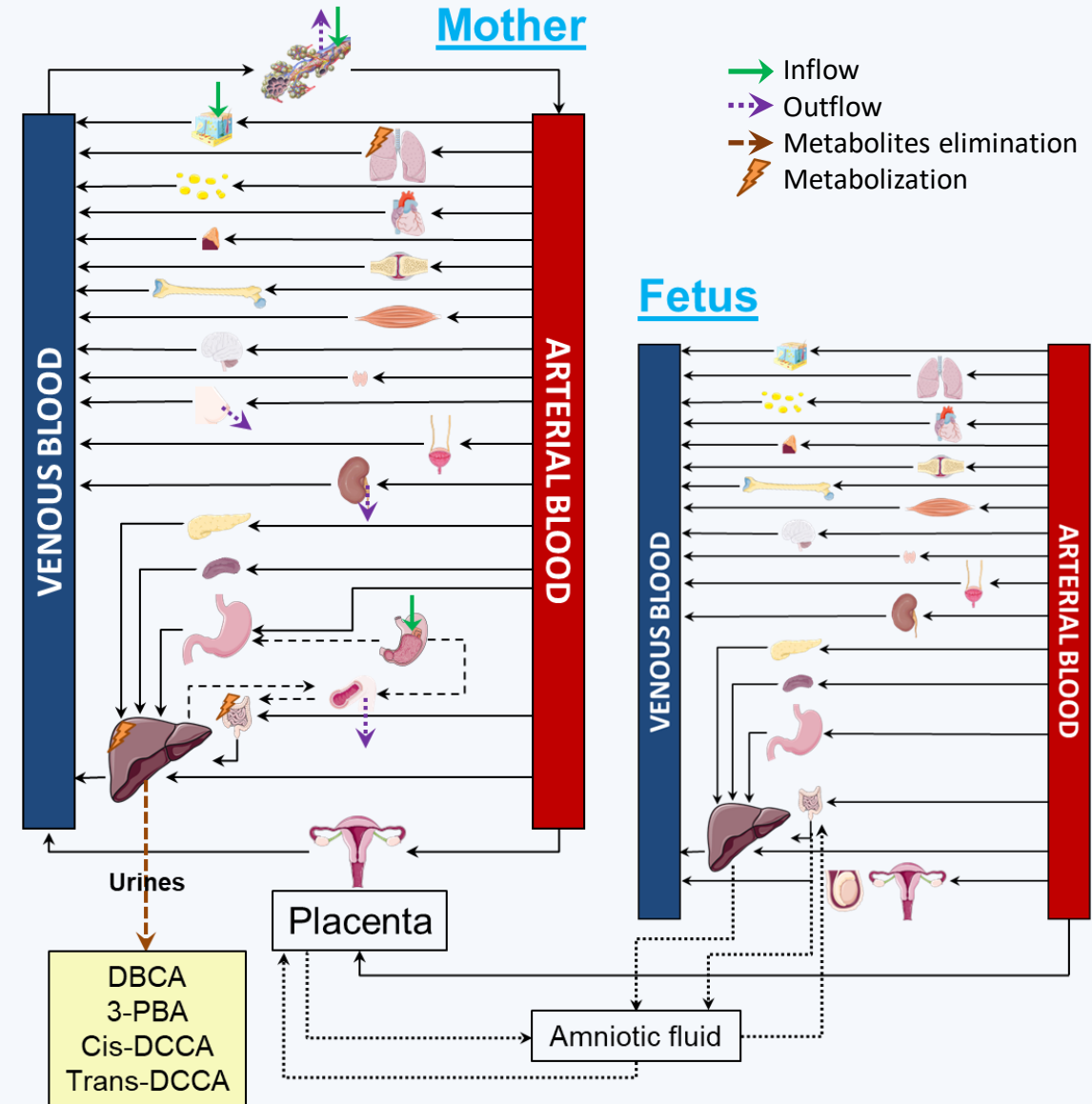
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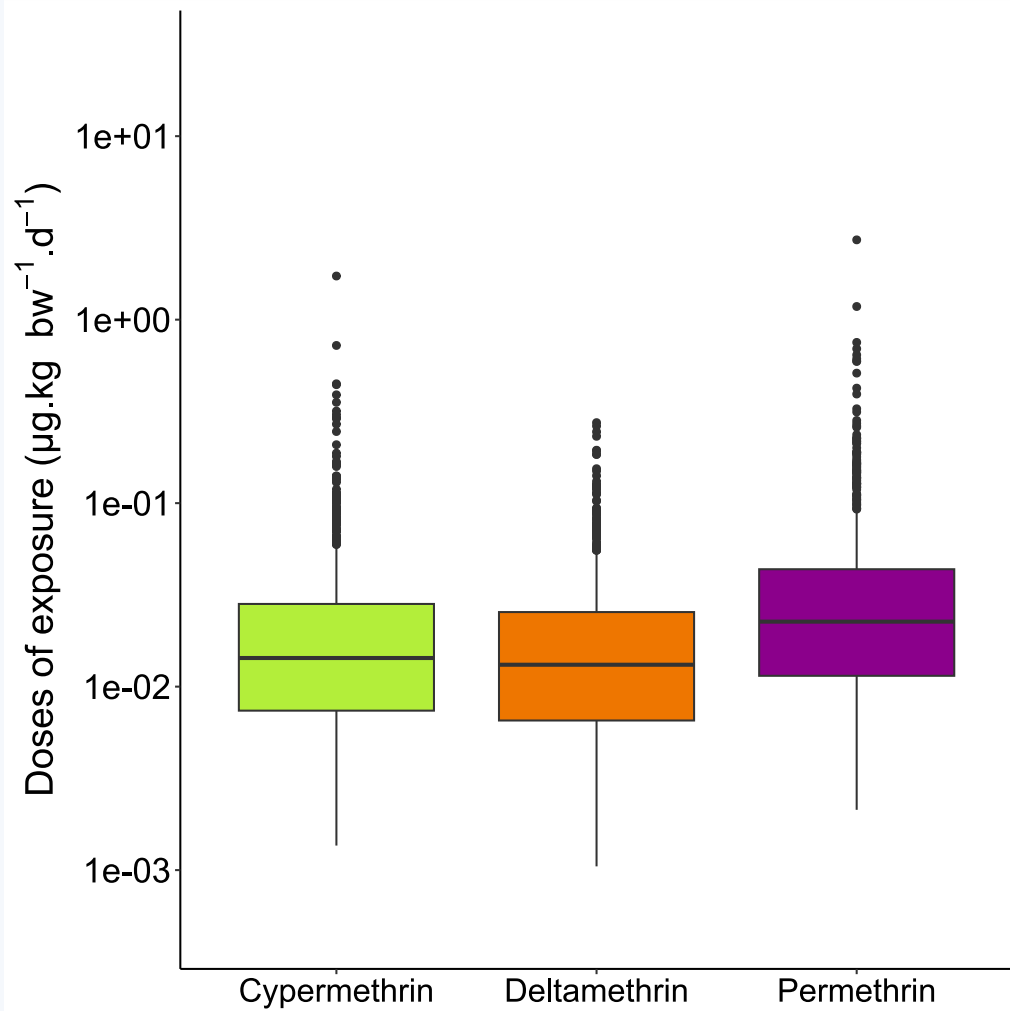
3 parent molecules and their isomers

Describe the excretion of 4 different urinary metabolites, at steady-state

With PBPK models, exposure and internal concentrations can be estimated from urinary data



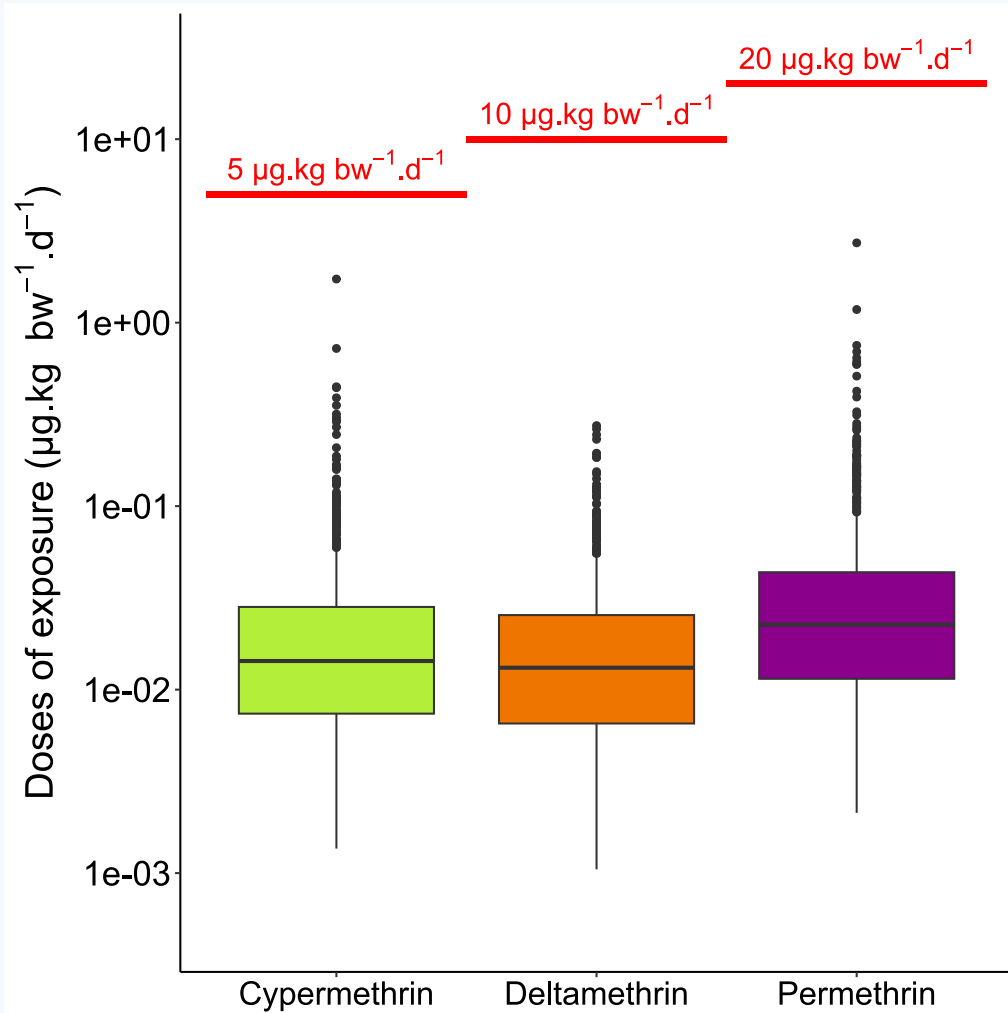
# Ingestion doses of pyrethroids by pregnant women



Exposure predictions are:

- in the **same range** as thus determined in the French adult population by Quindroit *et al.*, (2019)

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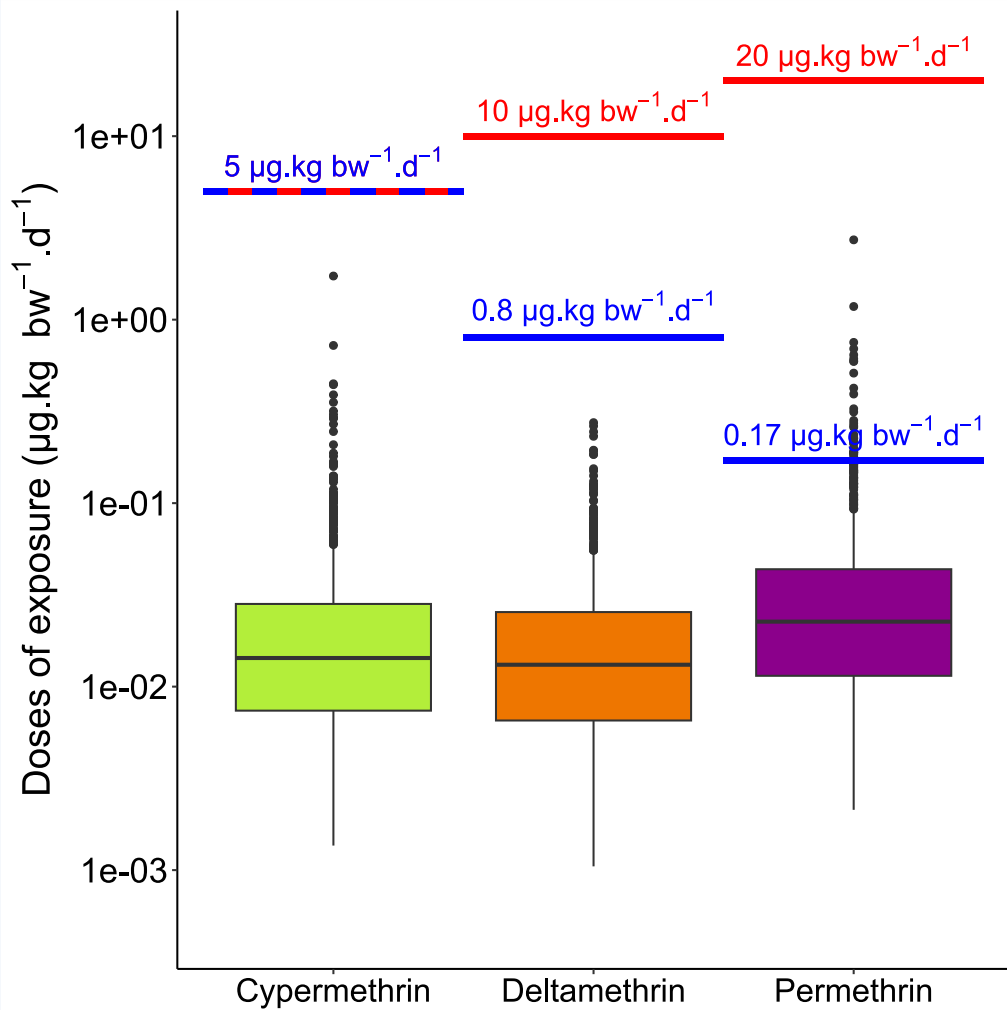


Exposure predictions are:

- in the **same range** as thus determined in the French adult population by Quindroit *et al.*, (2019)
- **below** the **Toxicity Reference Values (TRV, red lines)** determined by different public health institutions (ANSES 2021, WHO JMPR 2001, Health Canada 2017)



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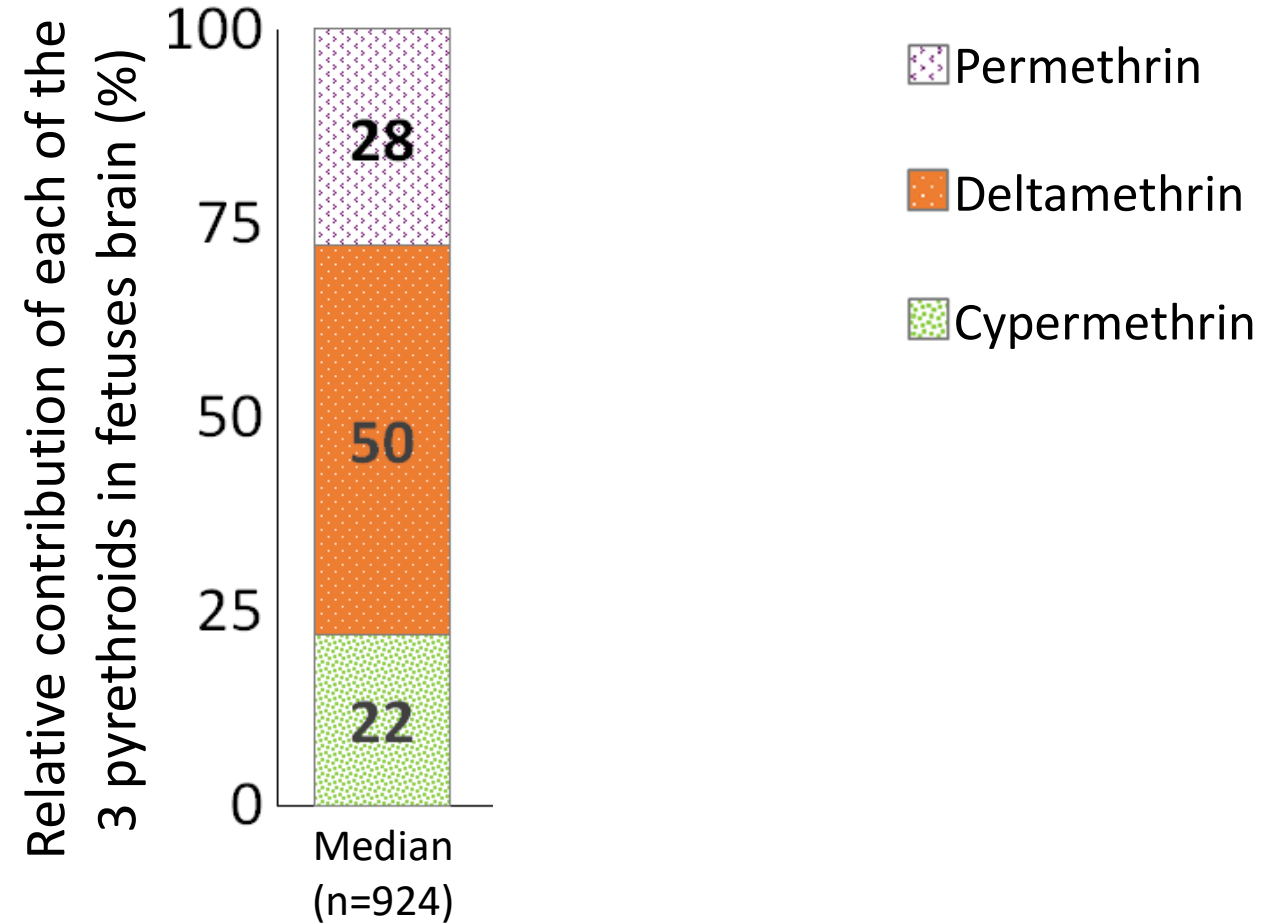


Exposure predictions are:

- in the **same range** as thus determined in the French adult population by Quindroit *et al.*, (2019)
- **below** the **Toxicity Reference Values (TRV, red lines)** determined by different public health institutions
- **exceed** the **new-child/fetuses specific TRV (blue lines)**, for permethrin, for 2.5% of pregnant women (Gomez-Gimenez *et al.* 2017, Pitzer *et al.* 2019, Saito *et al.* 2019)

# Pyrethroids concentrations in fetuses' brain


PBPK models are used to estimate the internal concentrations of molecules

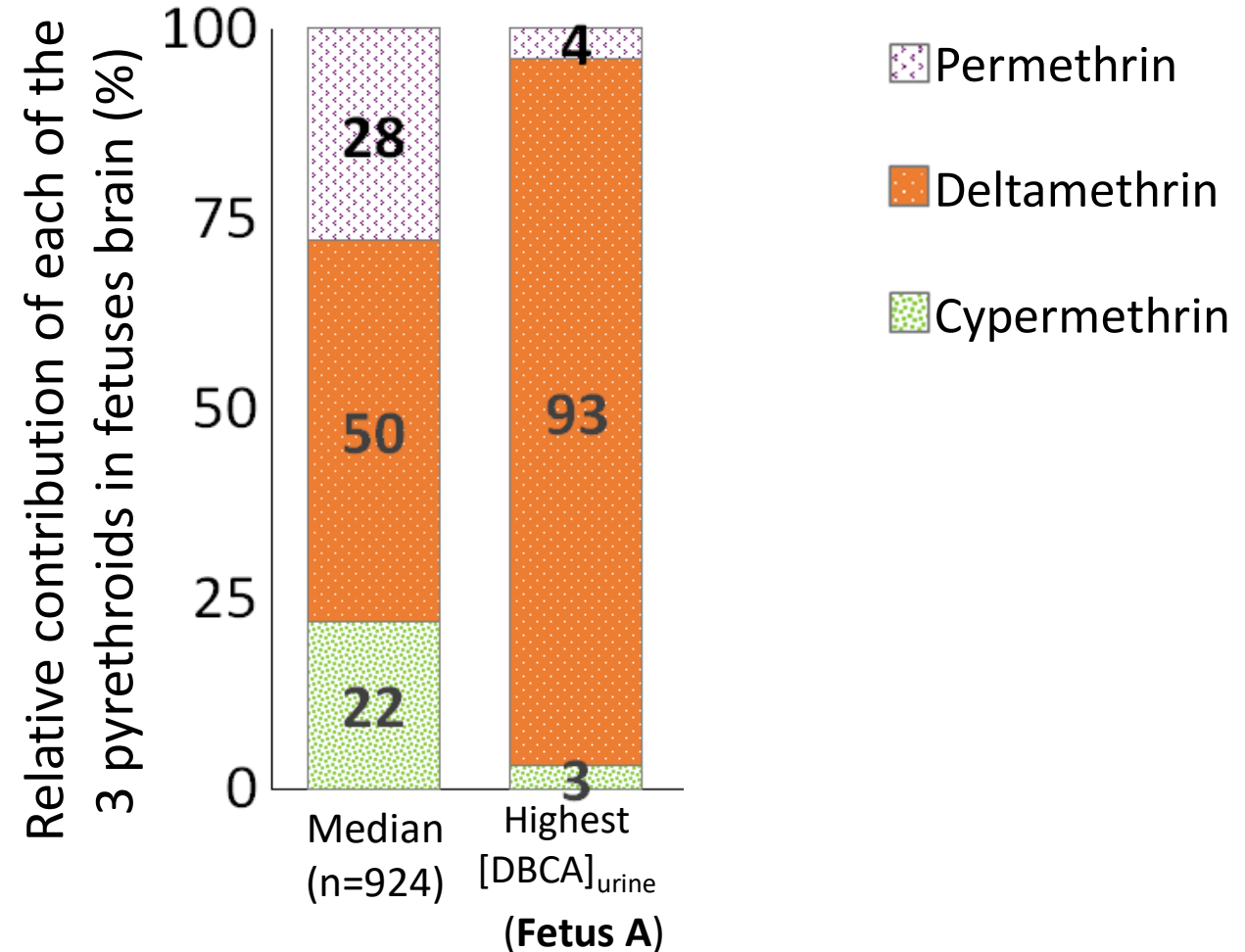


# Pyrethroids concentrations in fetuses' brain

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They also provide an individual contamination profile, such as:



 **Fetus A**, from the woman which have the highest  $[DBCA]_{urine}$

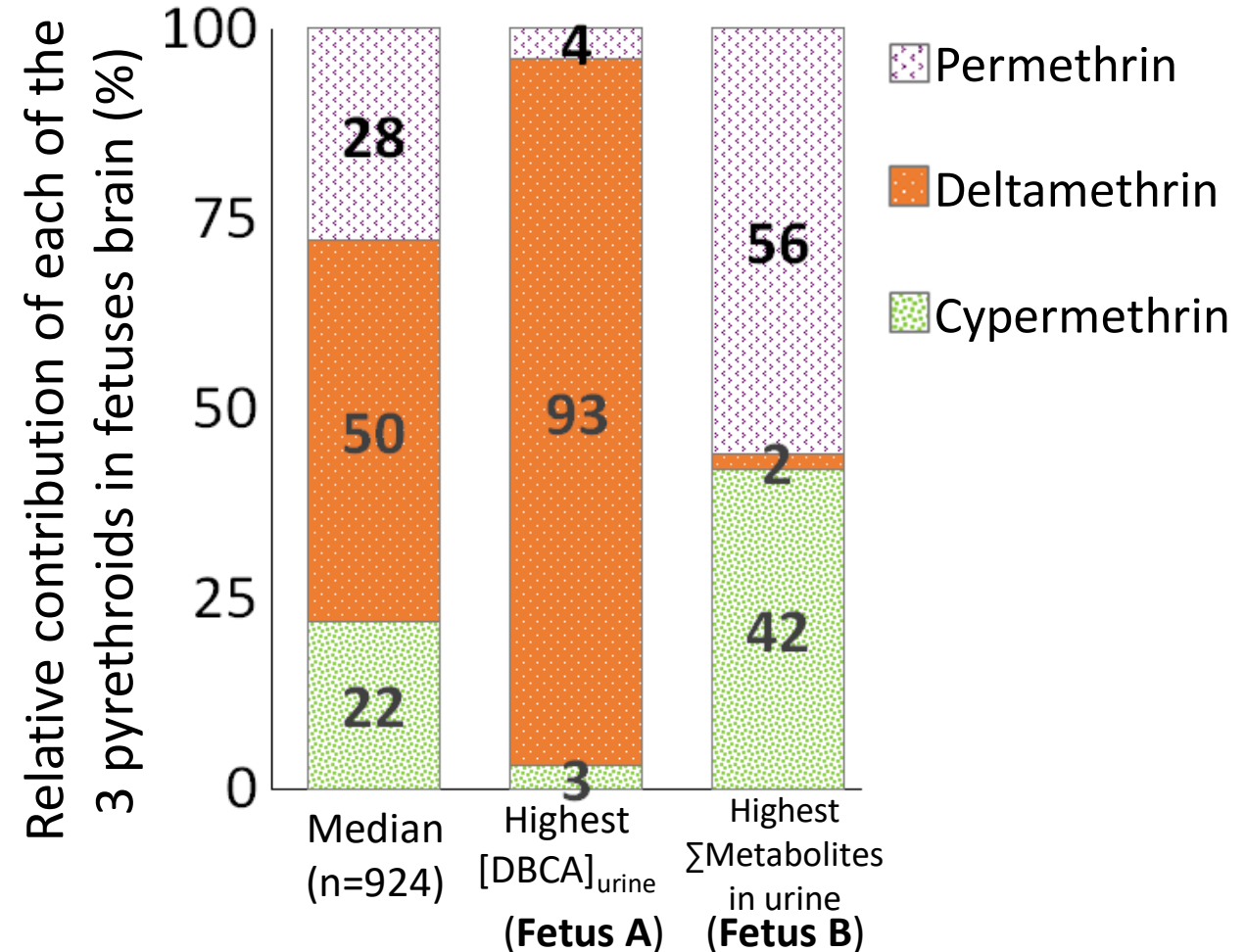


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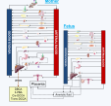
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They also provide an individual contamination profile, such as:

-  **Fetus A**, from the woman which have the highest  $[DBCA]_{urine}$
-  **Fetus B**, from the woman which have the highest sum of metabolites in urine



# Key facts to remember



A PBPK model specific to pyrethroids was adapted to pregnancy (p-PBPK model)



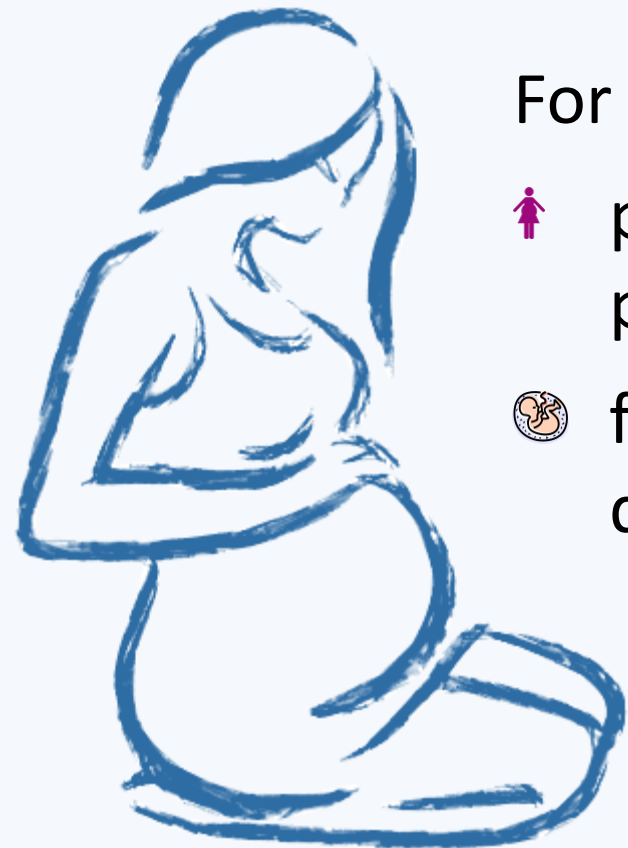
# Key facts to remember



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For the first time:

- 👤 pyrethroids exposure of French pregnant women was predicted
- 🌐 fetal exposure to pyrethroids and their internal doses was determined



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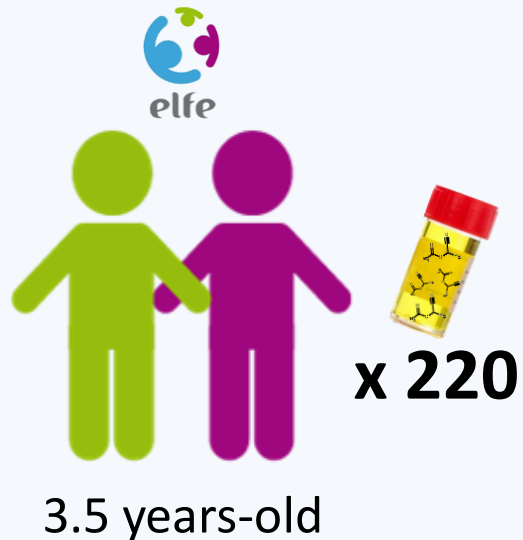
- 2.5% of the pregnant women from the ELFE cohort exceeded child specific TRV (toxicological reference value) for the permethrin



# Future outlook – next steps?

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Biomarkers were analyzed in the NEUROPHYTO project by the LIH



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They quantified other pyrethroids, such as  $\lambda$ -cyhalothrin and its metabolite CFMP, which we will also consider

At 3.5-year-old, 11% of children of the ELFE cohort exceed the HBM-GV of  $3.25 \mu\text{g 3-PBA.L urine}^{-1}$

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At 3.5-year-old, 11% of children of the ELFE cohort exceed the HBM-GV of  $3.25 \mu\text{g 3-PBA.L urine}^{-1}$

- Characterize the exposure of the ELFE children, at 3.5 yo, using PBPK models, to better assess the risks

# Thank you for your attention

## Any questions?



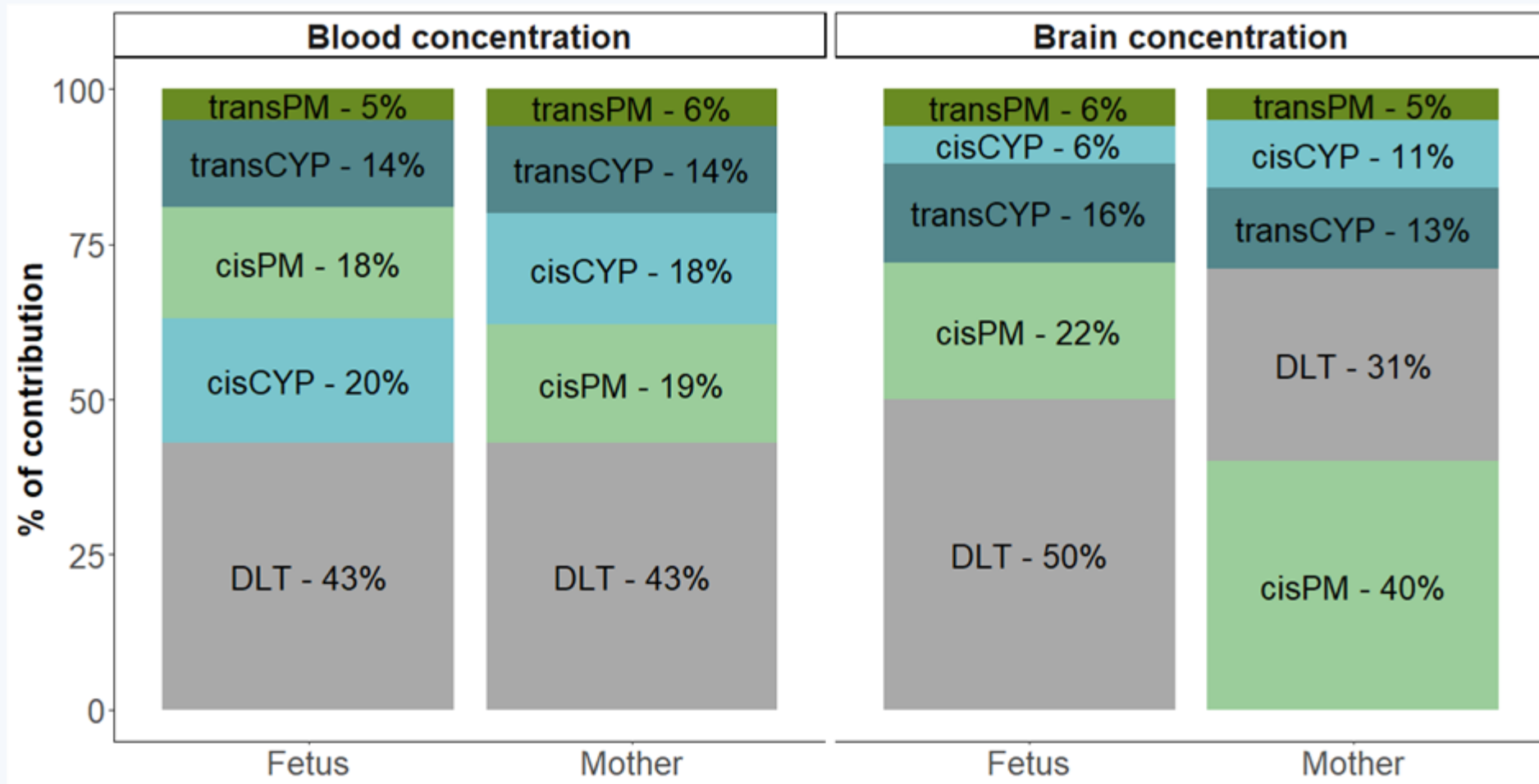
To contact us: [ophelia.gestin@ineris.fr](mailto:ophelia.gestin@ineris.fr)  
 or [florence.zeman@ineris.fr](mailto:florence.zeman@ineris.fr)

# Prenatal and postnatal exposure to pyrethroids in French children from the ELFE cohort

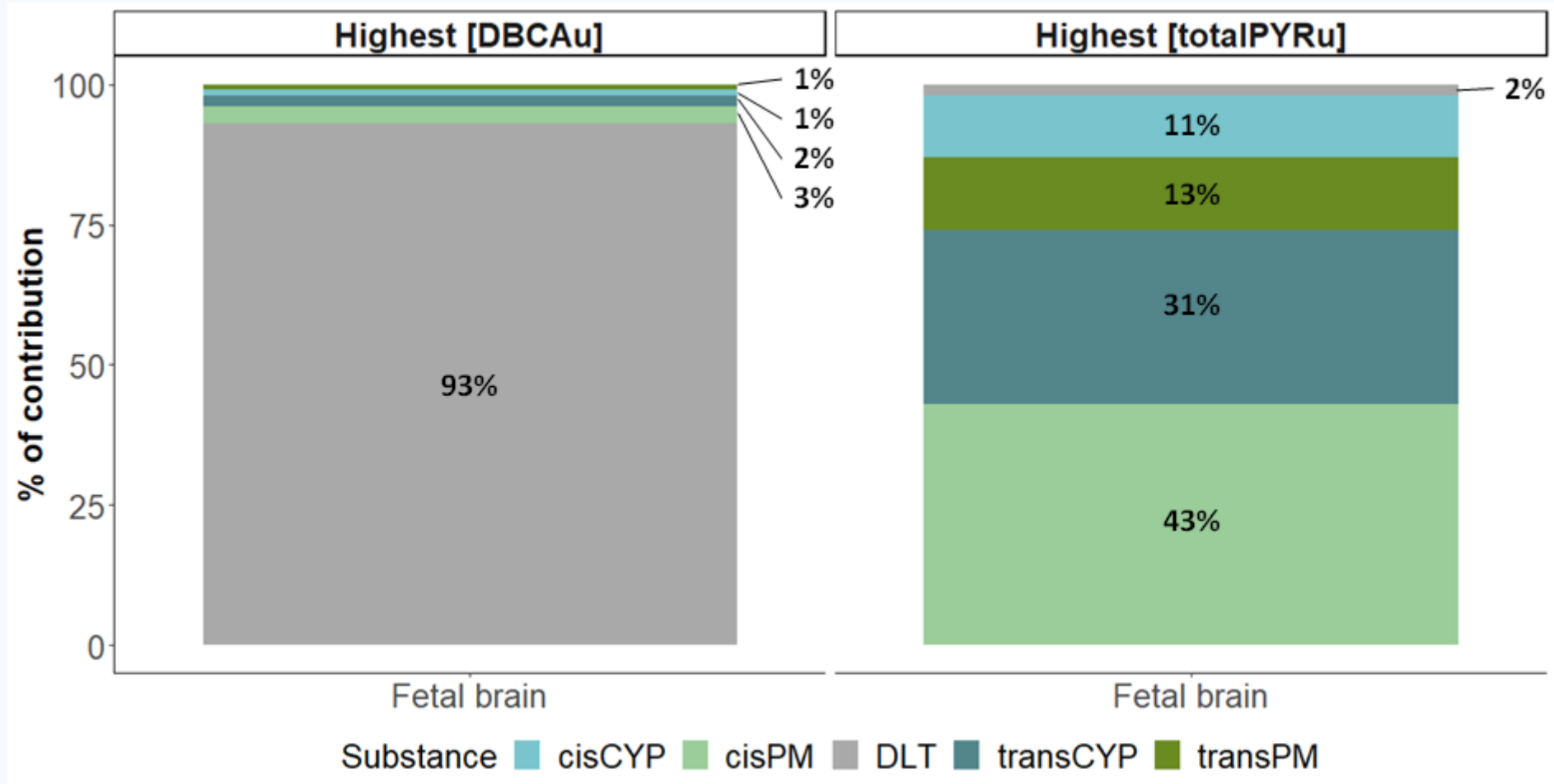
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This work is supported by the Ministries for Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, for an Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, for Health and Prevention and of Higher Education and Research, with the financial support of the French Office for Biodiversity, as part of the call for research projects “Phytopharmaceutical products: from exposure to impact on human health and ecosystems”, with the fees for diffuse pollution coming from the Ecophyto II+ plan», and of the French Ministry of Ecological Transition (P-190 and P-181 MIV 34).



Mean contributions to internal concentrations in pyrethroids for both blood and brain for mothers and fetuses from the Elfe cohort. DLT: deltamethrin, cisPM: cis-permethrin, transPM: trans-permethrin, cisCYP: cis-cypermethrin, transCYP : trans-cypermethrin.



Contributions of each pyrethroids to the total pyrethroid fetal brain concentrations for two women from the Elfe cohort. On the left, the woman with the highest urinary DBCAu concentration measured in urine (5.4  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) and on the right the woman with the highest overall (3-PBA: 36 $\mu\text{g/L}$  and trans-DCCA: 38 $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) urinary metabolite concentrations. DLT: deltamethrin, cisPM: cis-permethrin, transPM: trans-permethrin, cisCYP: cis-cypermethrin, transCYP : trans-cypermethrin.