

### **Essential elements**

*Food*  
*Mineral supplements*  
*e.g. F, Ca, Fe, Co (vit B12)*  
*Zn, Se*

### **Therapeutic agents**

*(e.g. Li, V, As, Ru,*  
*Ag, Pt, Au)*

### **Radiopharmaceuticals**

*Therapeutic (e.g.  $^{188}\text{Re}$ )*  
*Diagnostic (e.g.  $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ )*

### **Metallomics**

*Transport and signalling*  
*pathways*  
*Genomic codes for elements*

## **Medicinal Inorganic Chemistry**

### **Protein/enzyme regulators**

*e.g metalloproteinases,*  
*angiotensin-converting enzyme*  
*O<sub>2</sub>, CO, NO*

### **Chelation therapy**

*Overload diseases (e.g. Fe, Cu)*  
*Removal of radionuclides*

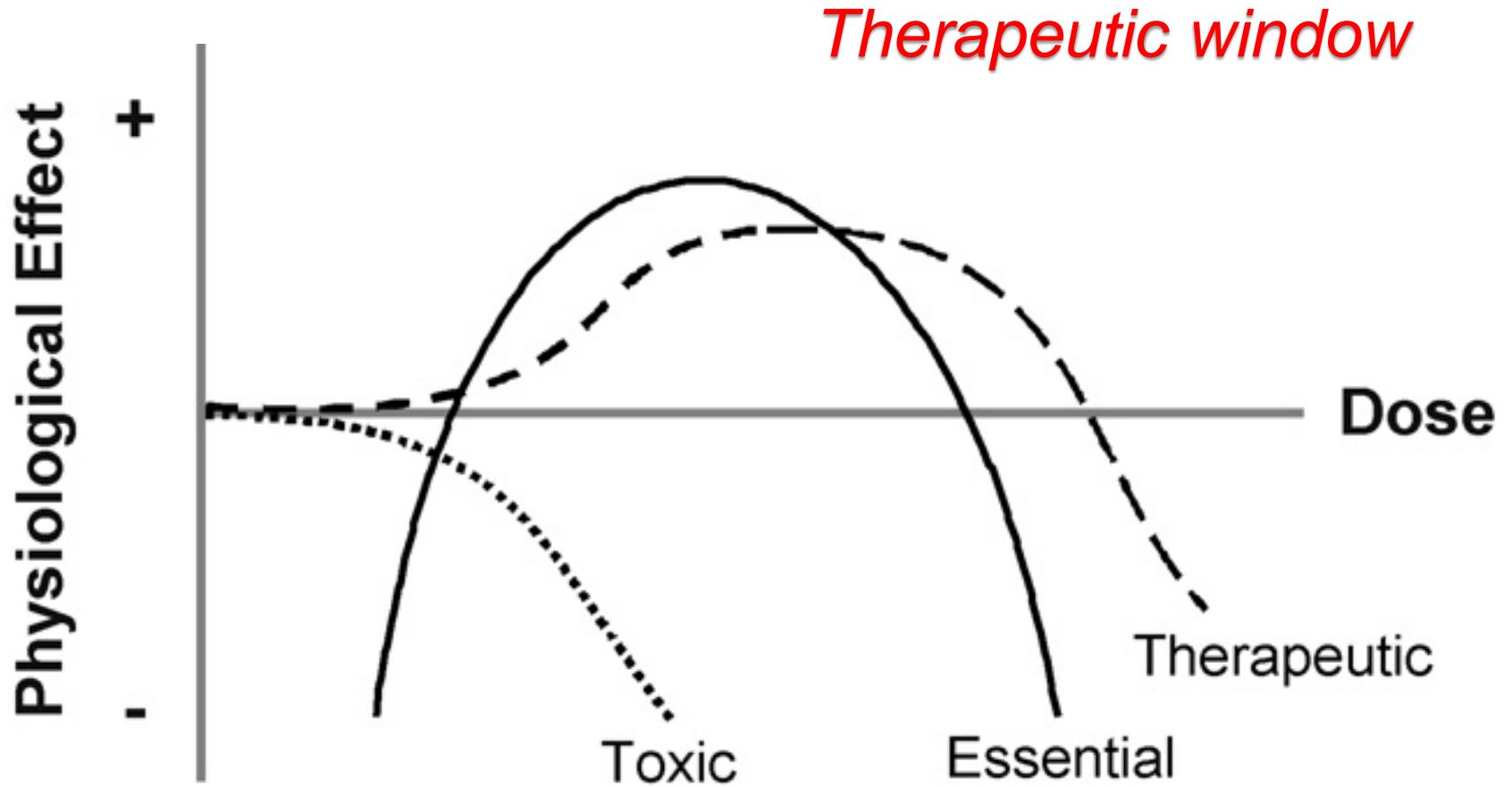
### **Enzyme mimics**

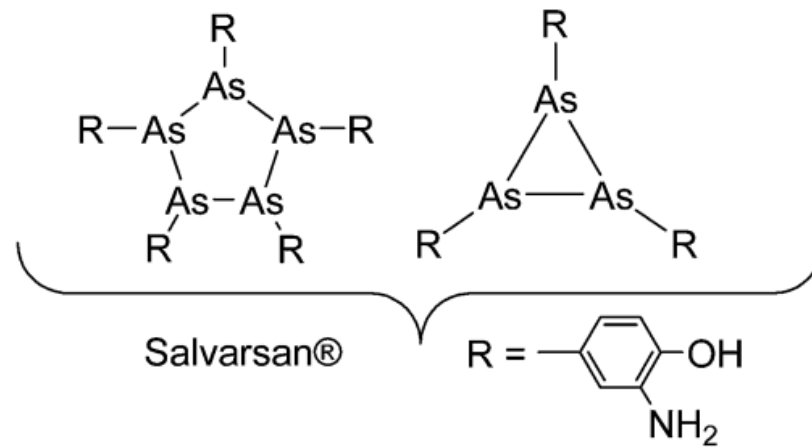
*Synzymes (e.g. for SOD)*

### **Contrast agents**

*MRI (e.g. Gd, Mn, Fe)*  
*X-ray (e.g. I)*

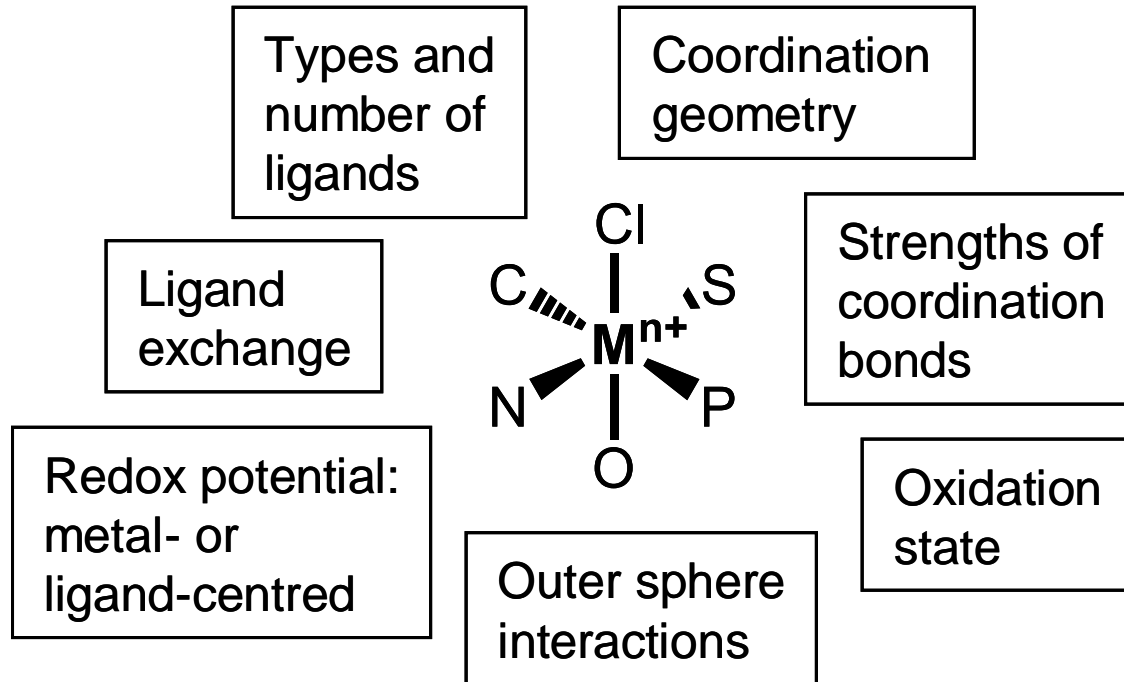
# Diagramma di Bertrand





Antimicrobial agent introduced in early 1900 for the treatment of the deadly bacterial infection *Syphilis*. Later replaced by modern antibiotics

# Speciazione



Proprietà	Commenti (esempi)
Numero di Coordinazione	Intero intervallo: 2 – 10; tipicamente da 4 a 6 per i metalli di transizione, può essere più variabile per i metalli dei gruppi principali ( <i>e.g.</i> Bi) e più grande per i lantanidi ( <i>e.g.</i> 9)
Geometria	Esempi: lineare ( $\text{Au}^{\text{I}}$ ), planare-quadrata ( $\text{Pt}^{\text{II}}$ ), tetraedrica ( <i>e.g.</i> complessi ‘piano-stool’ $\text{Ru}^{\text{II}}$ ), bipiramidale trigonale, ottaedrica ( $\text{Ti}^{\text{IV}}$ , $\text{Ru}^{\text{III}}$ , $\text{Pt}^{\text{IV}}$ ), possibile chiralità centrata sul metallo ( $\text{Co}^{\text{III}}$ , $\text{Rh}^{\text{III}}$ )
Stato di Ossidazione	Ampio intervallo (tipicamente 0 – 7 in ambiente biologico); i diversi stati di ossidazione favoriscono diversi numeri di coordinazione e velocità di scambio dei leganti ( <i>e.g.</i> $\text{Pt}^{\text{IV}}$ vs $\text{Pt}^{\text{II}}$ )
Tipo di Legante	Ampio numero di atomi donatori <i>e.g.</i> C, N, O, alogenuri, P, S, Se. Leganti chelanti; denticità <i>e.g.</i> ( $\kappa^2$ ) 1,2-diamminoetano, ( $\kappa^6$ ) EDTA; apticità <i>e.g.</i> legami di tipo $\eta^6$ e $\eta^4$ per il benzene
Stabilità Termodinamica	Ampio intervallo di forza del legame M–L (tipicamente 50–150 $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$ ), molto più debole rispetto al tipico legame covalente, <i>e.g.</i> legame singolo C–C (250 – 500 $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$ )
Stabilità Cinetica	Il tempo di vita dei legami M–L copre un intervallo molto ampio (ns – anni). Dipende molto dallo stato di ossidazione del metallo e dagli altri leganti; può essere stereospecifico, <i>e.g.</i> effetto <i>trans</i> nel $\text{Pt}^{\text{II}}$ .
Proprietà dei Leganti	Interazioni relative alla sfera esterna dei leganti, <i>e.g.</i> legame a idrogeno, interazioni idrofobiche (< 50 $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$ ), possono servire al riconoscimento recettoriale (chiralità inclusa); possono subire trasformazioni <i>in vivo e.g.</i> di tipo redox, idrolisi, reazioni enzimatiche ( <i>e.g.</i> ad opera del P450 nel fegato).
Stabilità Nucleare	Nuclei radioattivi possono essere usati per seguire il metabolismo dei composti <i>e.g.</i> $^{195\text{m}}\text{Pt}$ ( $t_{1/2} = 4$ d) e $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ ( $t_{1/2} = 6$ h). A seconda del nuclide variano il tipo di decadimento ( $\alpha$ , $\beta$ , $\gamma$ ) e il tempo di semi-vita.

Metal-based  
Drug

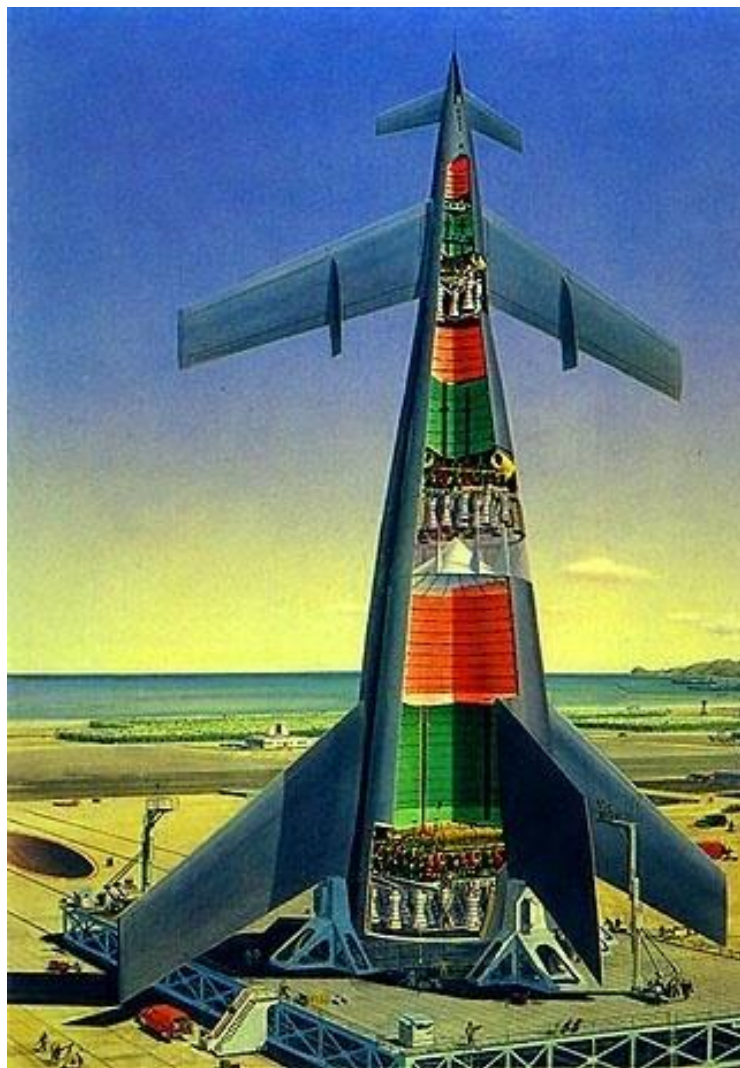
```
graph TD; A[Metal-based Drug] --> B[Functional compound]; A --> C[Structural compound];
```

Functional  
compound

*profarmaci*

Structural  
compound

# The *multi-stage rocket model*



M (+ inert ligands)

Exchangeable  
Ligands

Selectivity

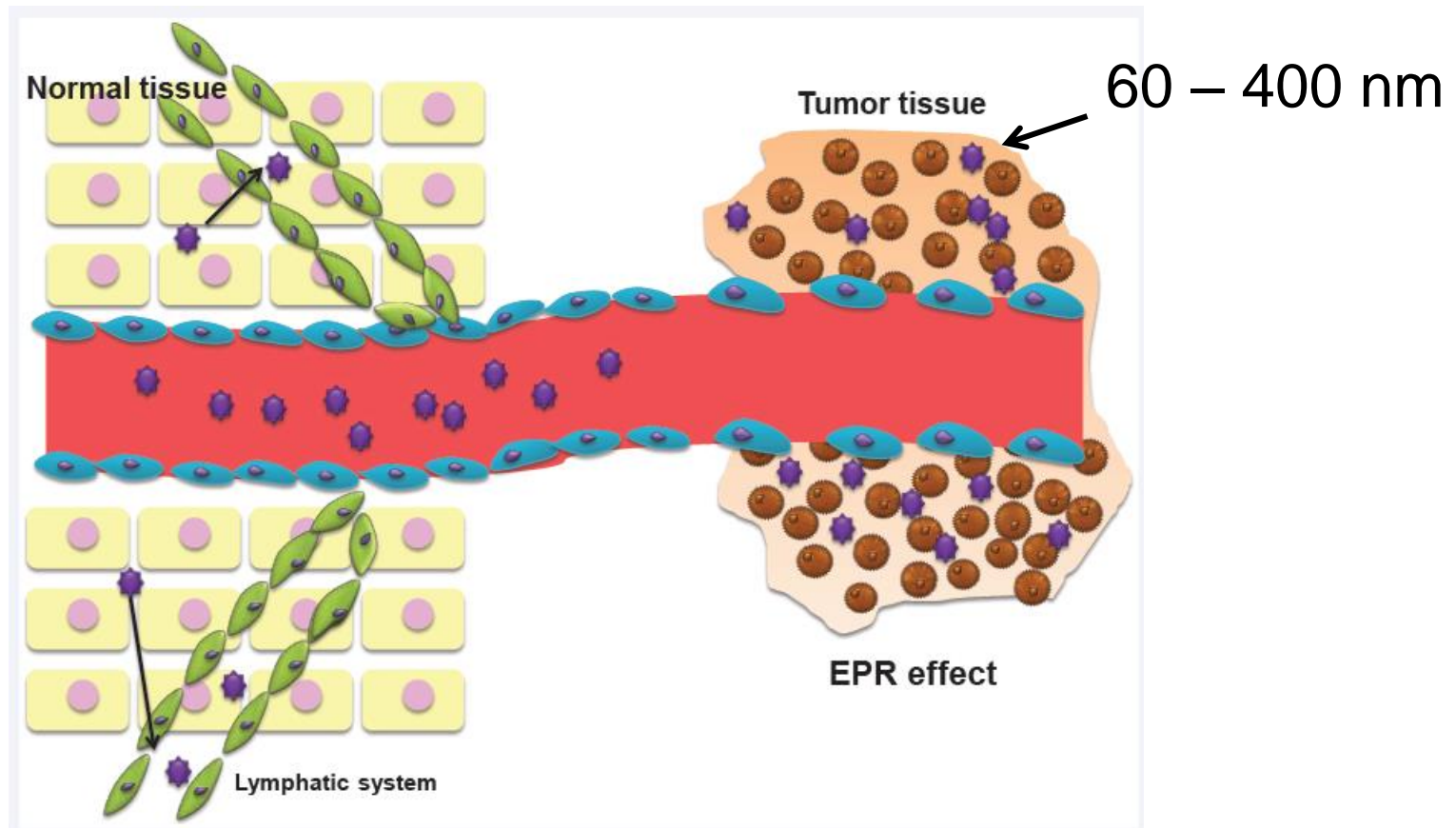
```
graph TD; A[Selectivity] --> B[Selective delivery (targeted therapy)]; A --> C[Selective activation];
```

Selective delivery  
(*targeted therapy*)

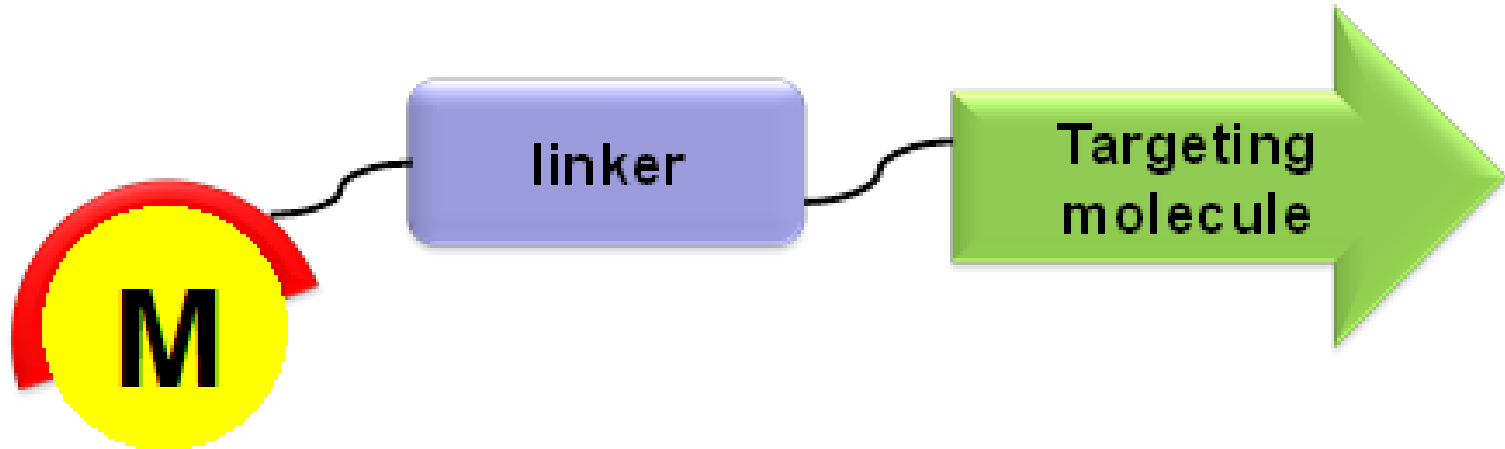
Selective activation



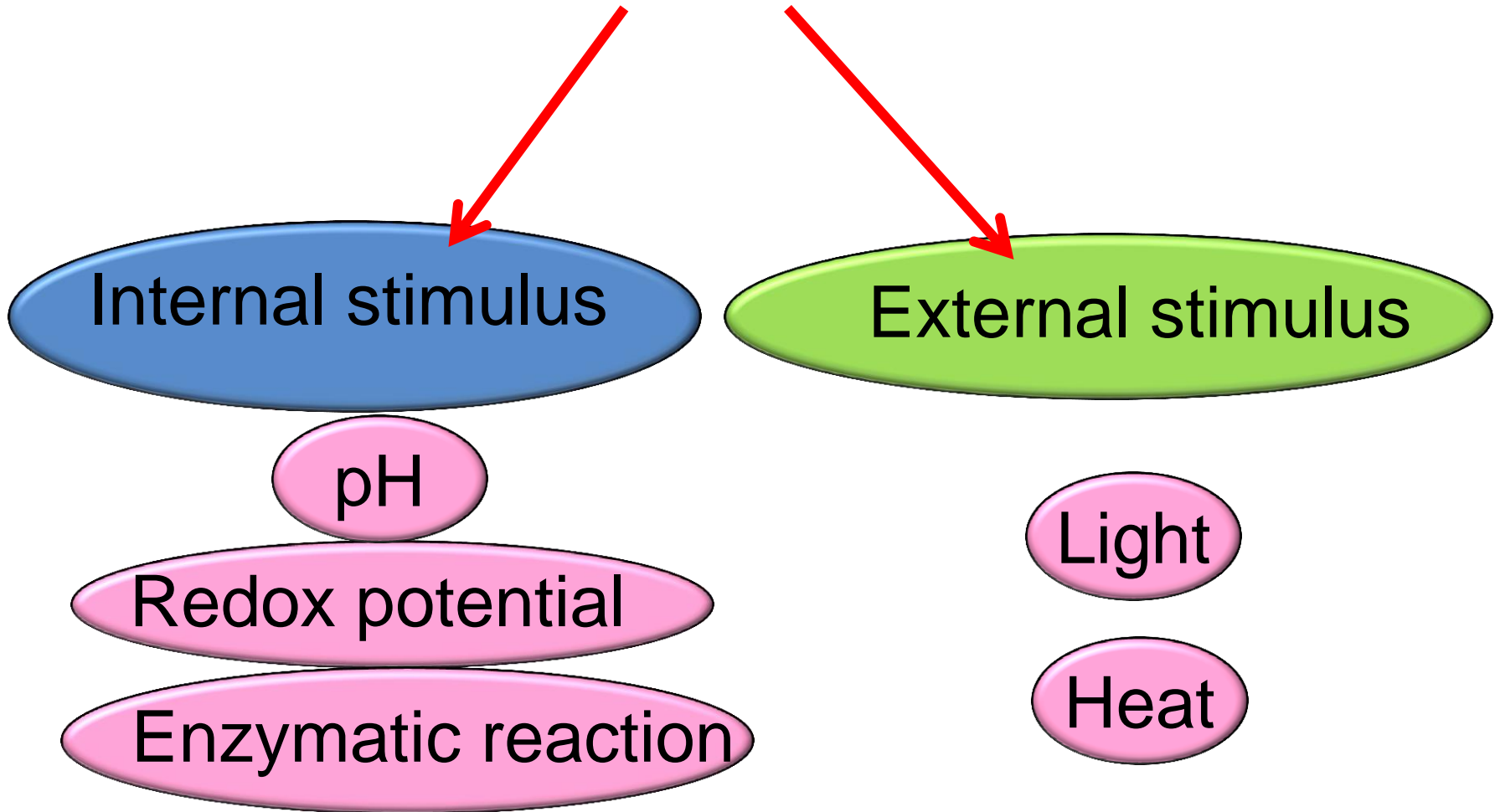
# Passive selectivity: EPR (*Enhanced Permeability and Retention*) effect

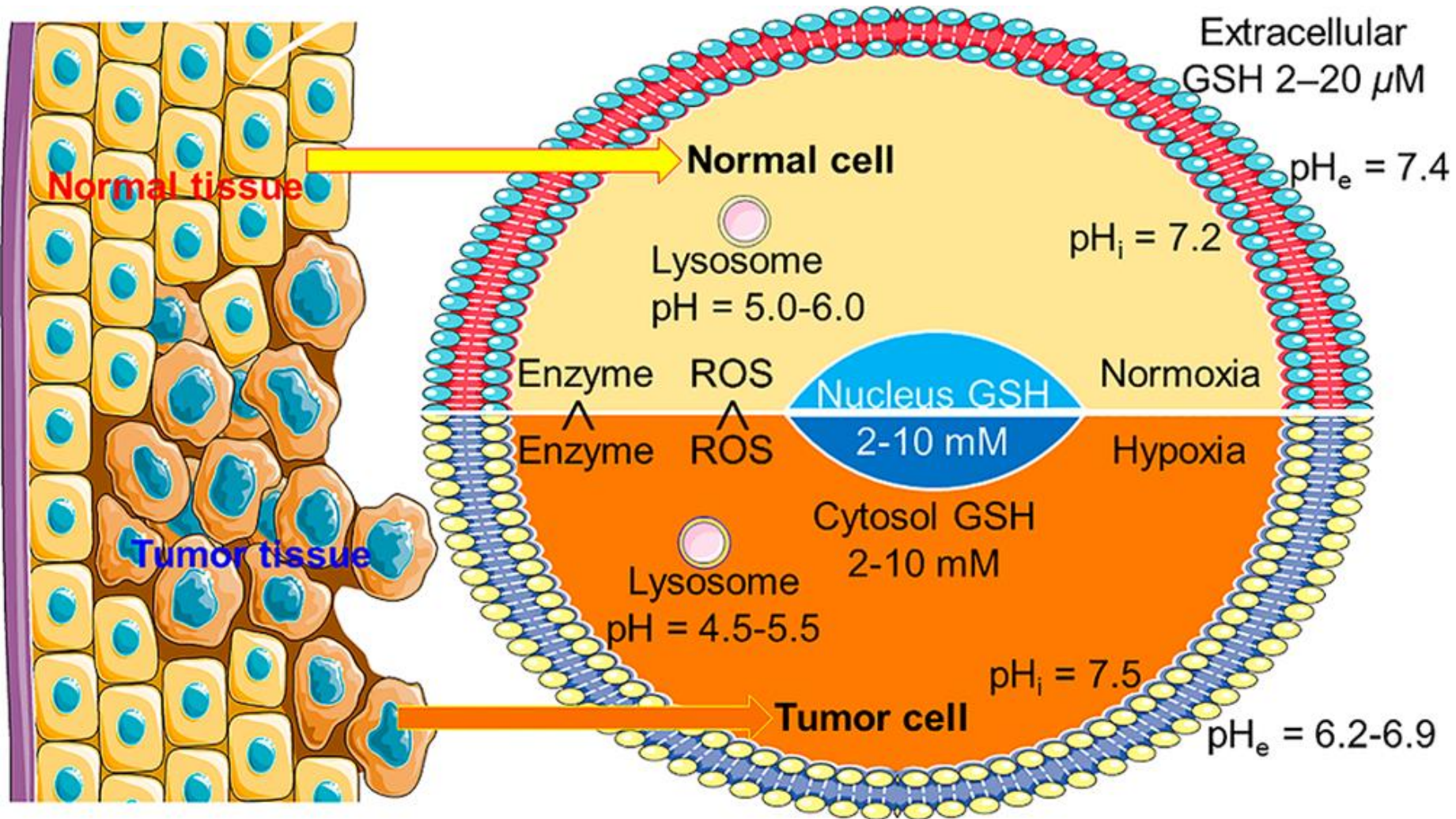


# Active selectivity: targeted approach



# Selective activation





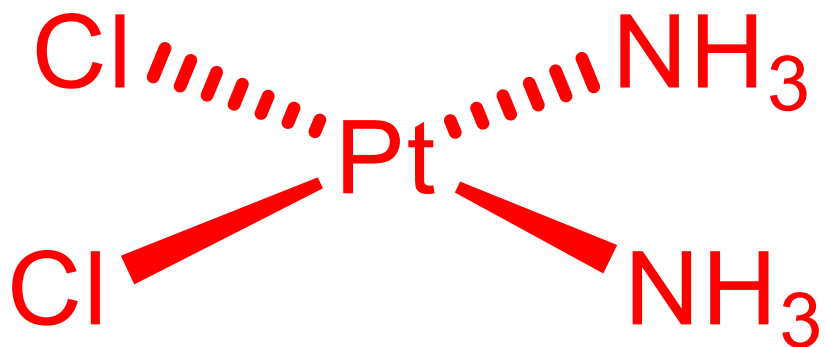
Platinum  
anticancer  
compounds

Worldwide most  
widely used  
anticancer  
compounds

Sales for billions of  
\$

Lifesaver  
compounds

# The story of cisplatin



*Cisplatin and few other platinum coordination complexes (i.e. without Pt–C bonds) are included in approximately 50–70% of therapeutic schemes used to treat cancer patients.*



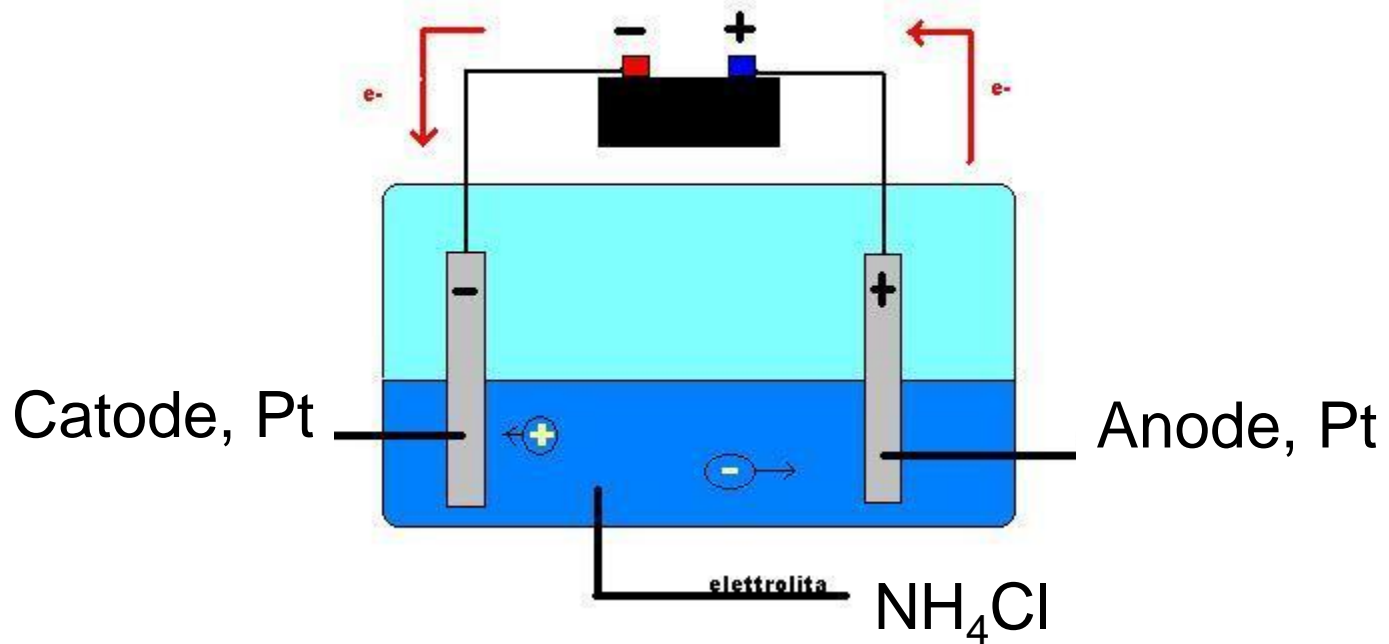
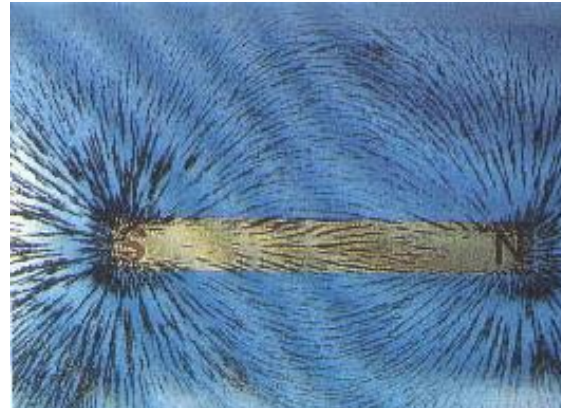
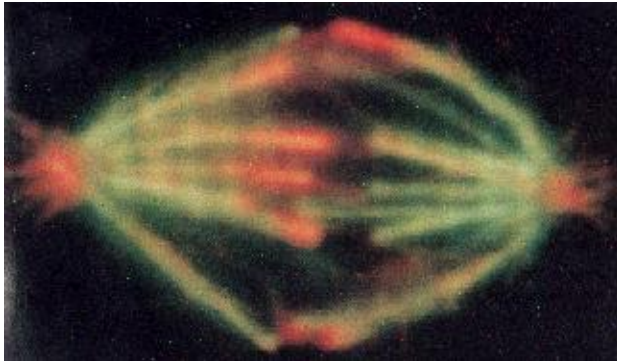
Barnett Rosenberg  
1927 - 2009



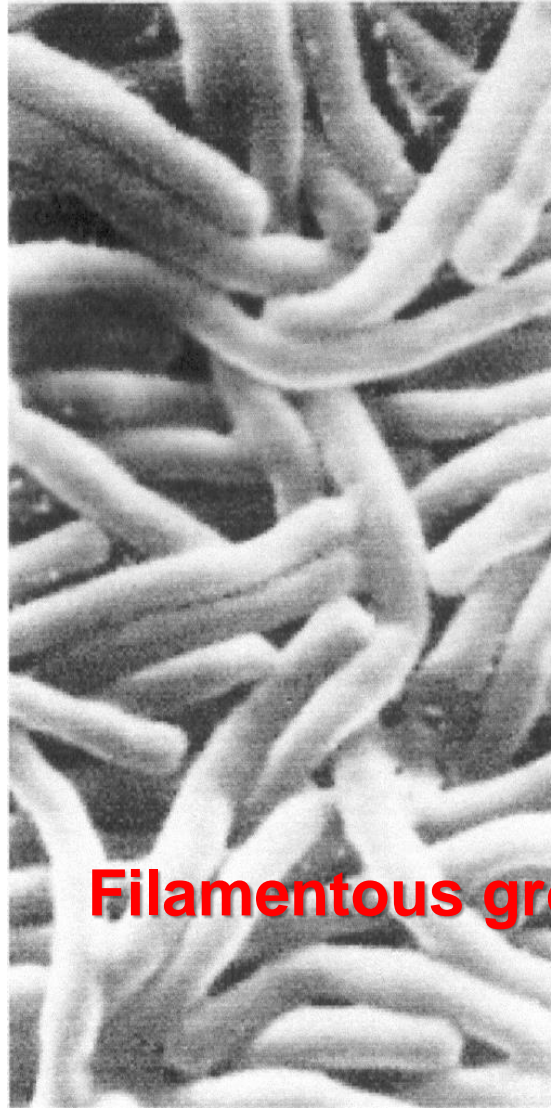
1961: Rosenberg joins the Biophysics Department at Michigan State University

***Serendipity: when you discover something unexpected and unsought for, while searching for something else.***

mitotic spindles





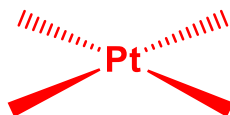


**1963 - 1964**

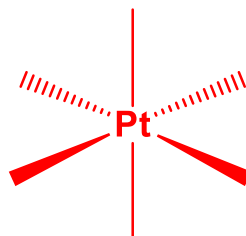
**Filamentous growth in *E. coli***

Platinum has two positive oxidation states:

Pt(II),  $d^8$ , diamagnetic, square planar

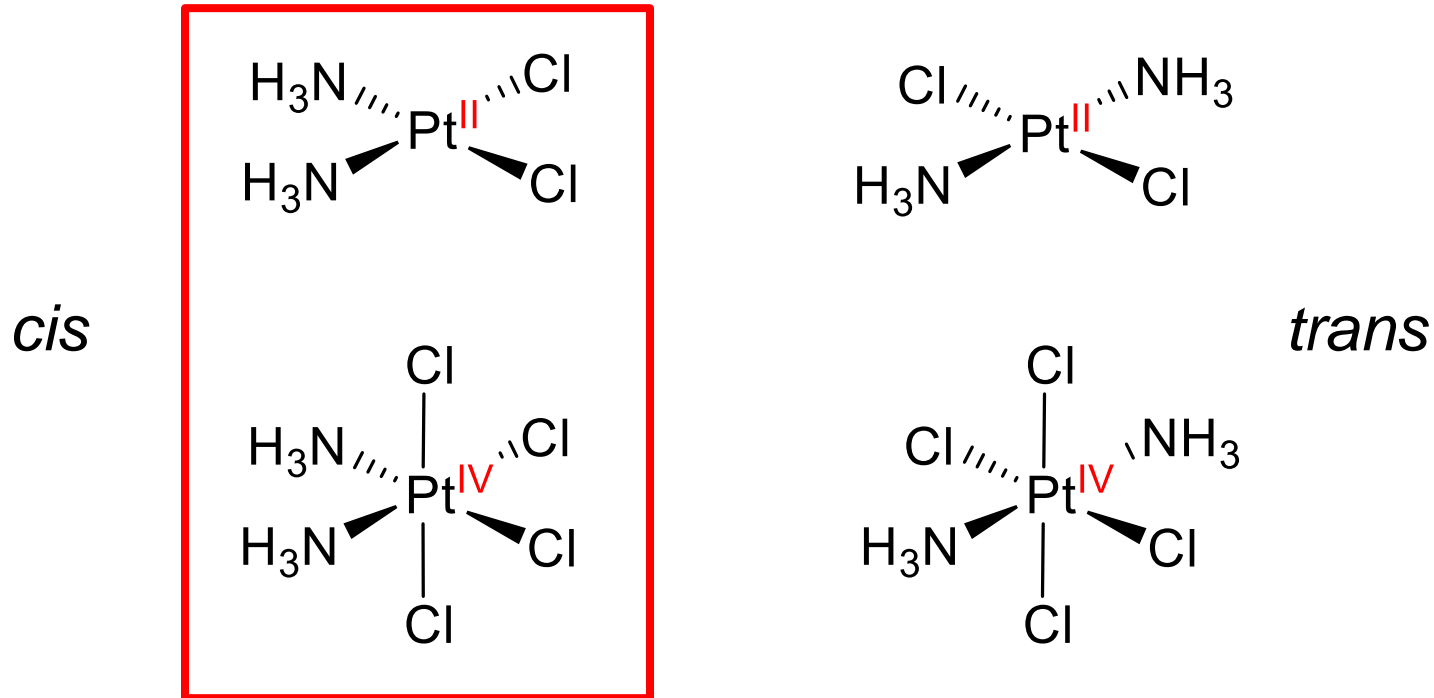


Pt(IV),  $d^6$ , diamagnetic, octahedral



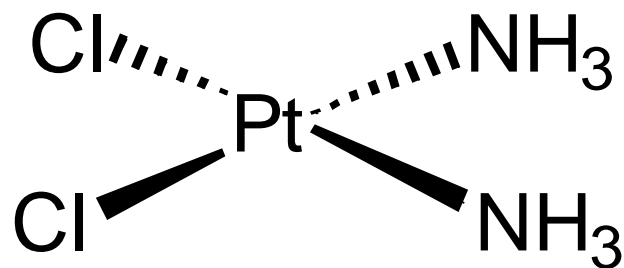
In both oxidation states platinum behaves as a *soft* Lewis acid (high affinity for sulfur ligands), makes stable compounds (strong coordination bonds) and is *very inert*.

Anionic complexes, e.g.  $[\text{PtCl}_4]^{2-}$ , are quite toxic at low concentrations, but induce no filamentous growth



The *cis* neutral species are active at sub-toxic concentrations

The *trans* neutral species are inactive at low concentrations (ppm), become toxic at higher concentrations.



*cis*-dichloridodiamminoplatinum(II)  
(*cisplatin*, *cisDDP*, *platinol*,...)



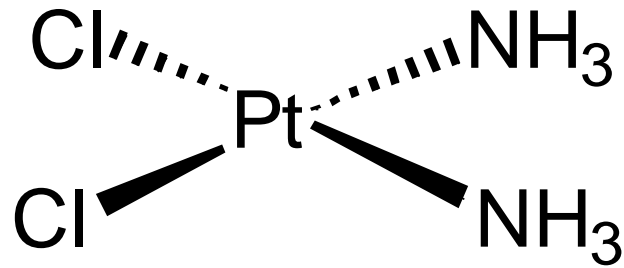
Peyrone's chloride, 1844

*Michele Peyrone (1813–1883)*

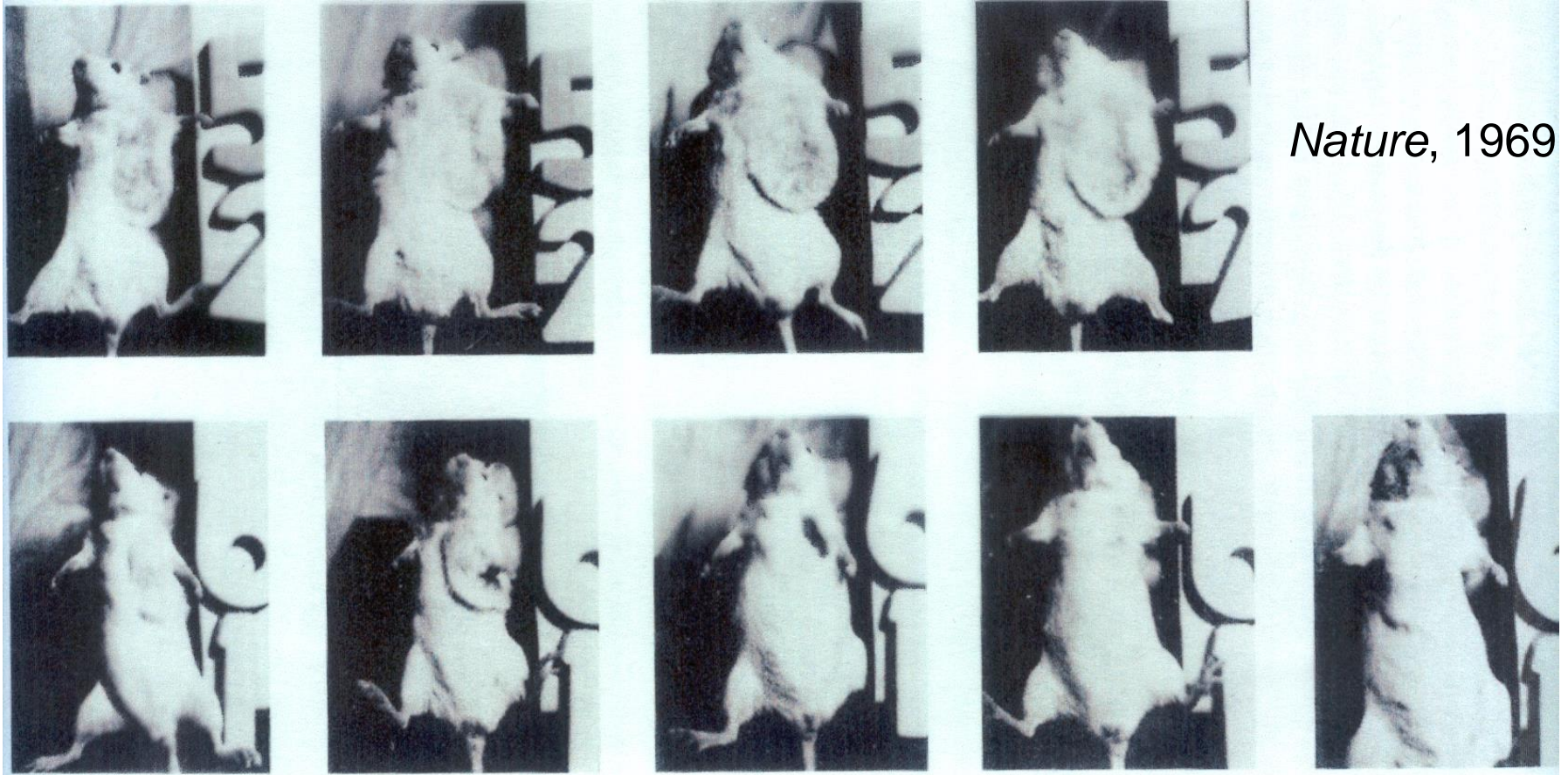
*..the complex stopped cell division in bacteria at concentrations without marked toxicity.*

*Perhaps then it would stop cell division in tumors which grow rapidly, without unacceptable toxicity to the host animal.*

B. Rosemberg



Sarcoma 180  
Cisplatin injection on  
day 8

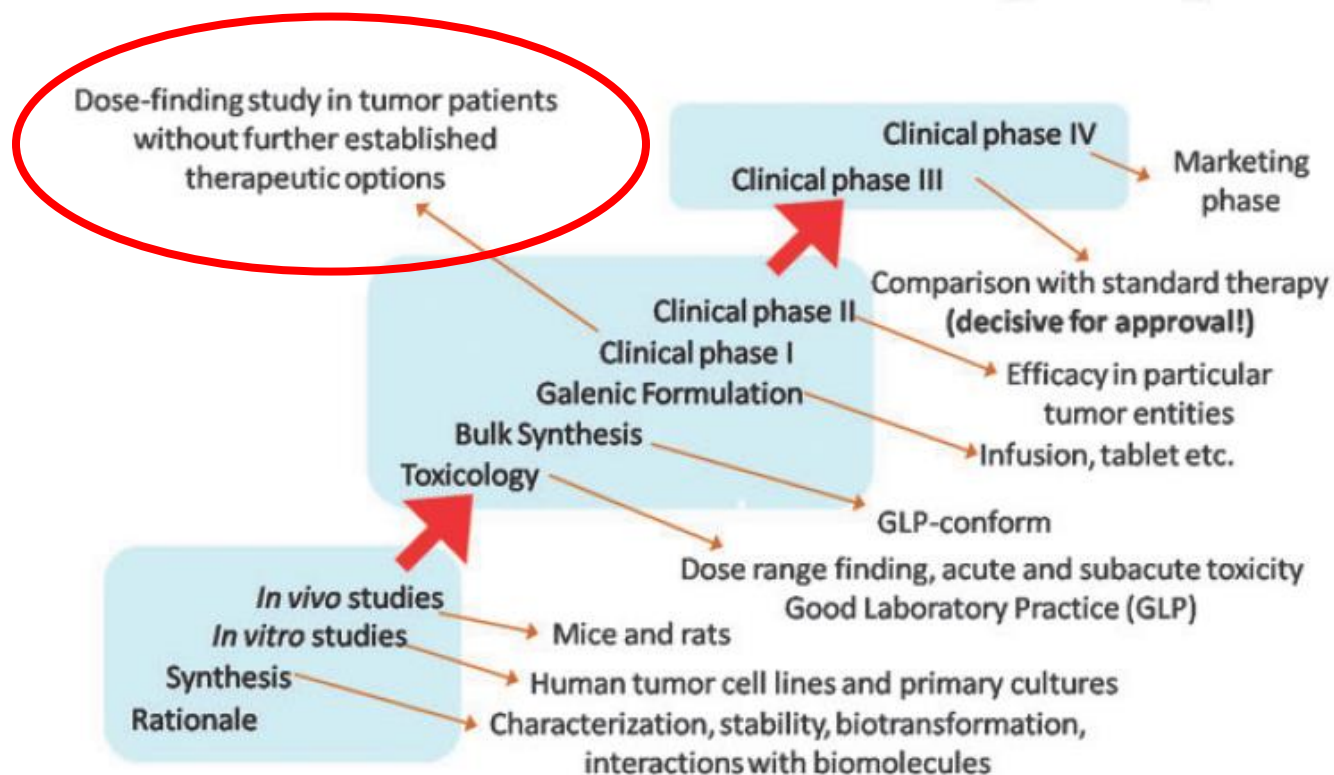


*Nature*, 1969



*In 1971 a phase I study of cisplatin, which included 11 patients with refractory testicular cancer was performed: 9 of 11 responded to cisplatin, including several CRs, an unprecedented finding for a phase I trial even today*

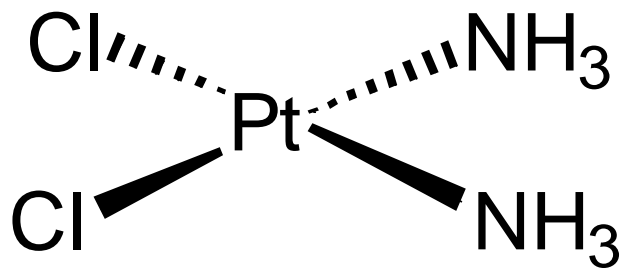
## From Bench to Bedside – Translational Drug Development



Lance  
Armstrong







1978  
FDA approval



*Shotgun Drug*

# Cisplatin

- **High Anticancer Activity**

Testicular and ovarian cancer, cervical, bladder, head/neck tumors.

- **Minor Anticancer Activity**

Breast cancer, lung, colon and rectum adenocarcinomas.

- **Toxic Side Effects**

Nausea, vomiting, neurotoxicity (*dose-limiting toxicity*), kidney and ear damage.

- **Resistance**

Spontaneous or acquired.