



**University of São Paulo**  
**Institute of Biomedical Sciences**  
**Department of Parasitology**  
Unit for Drug Discovery  
Carsten Wrenger

# **Druggability of the Cofactor Metabolism in Malaria**





# Topics of main interest .....

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- **Aptamers as diagnostic markers in infectious diseases**

Brazilian-German network between the Universities of São Paulo (USP), Münster (WWU), Hamburg (UHH) and Leipzig

- **Oxidative stress control in infectious diseases (helminths and protozoa)**

UNIBRAL partnership INFECTBIO-USP-WWU

- **Rational drug design against the plasmodial energy metabolism**

jointly with University of Groningen within MALAR-ASP

- **Nuclear receptors in Cancer**

in collaboration with Fraunhofer IME

- **Druggability of the cofactor metabolism in malaria and MRSA**

with UHH/DESY, ANU, University of Pretoria



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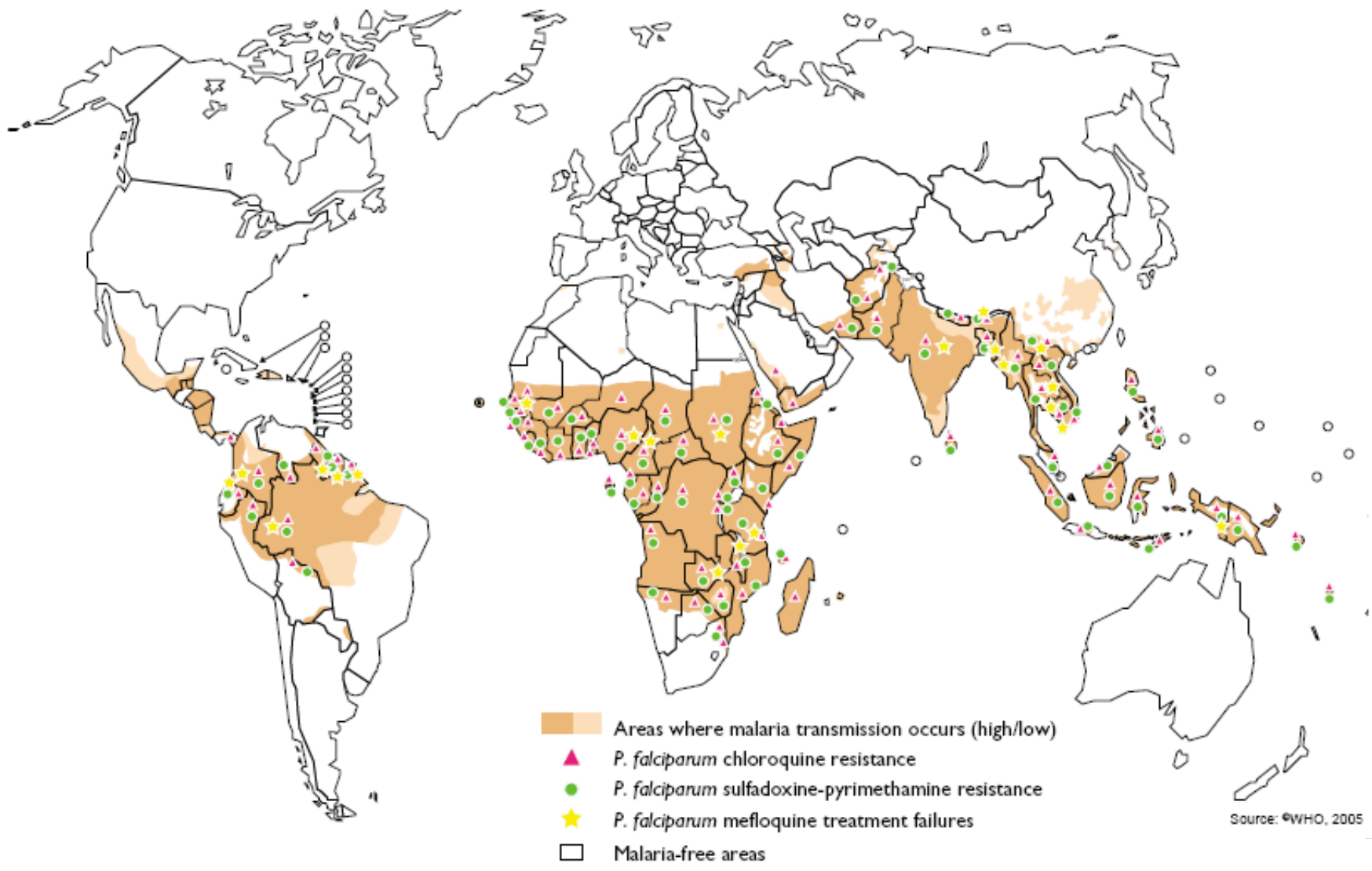
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- **Druggability of the cofactor metabolism in malaria** and MRSA

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# Why do we need novel antimalarials ?





# Development of novel chemotherapeutics

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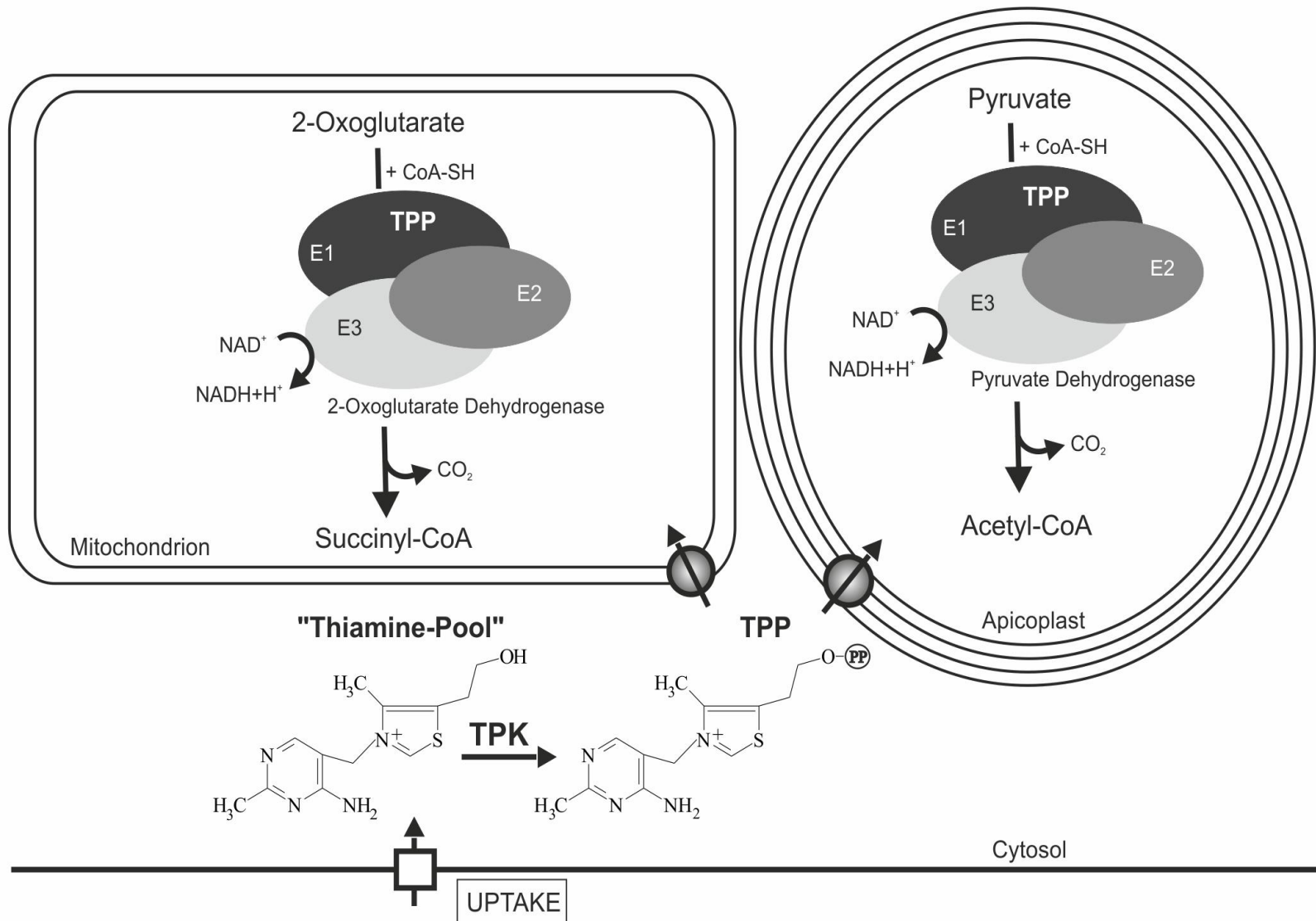
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  - we are focusing on the vitamin B6 metabolism
  - we are also focusing on the vitamin B1 metabolism



# Thiamine pyrophosphate is a cofactor

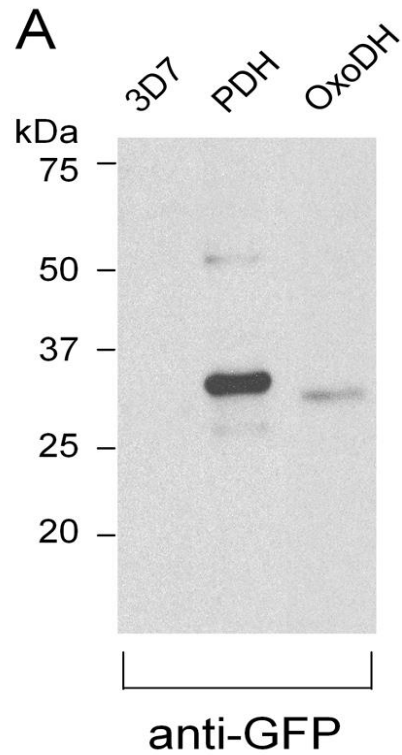
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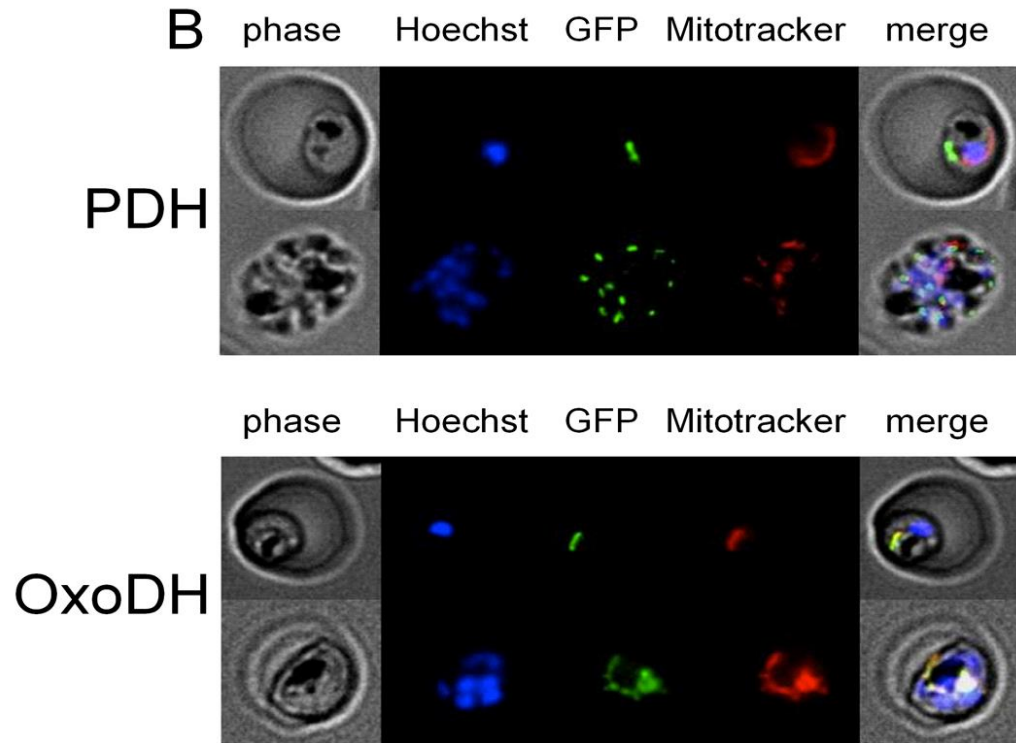
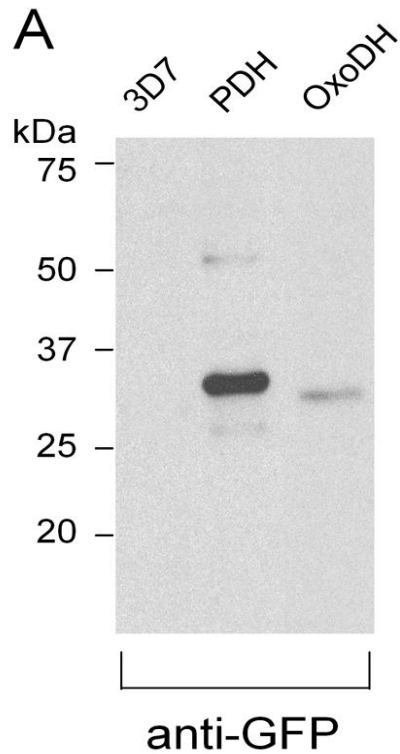




# ... in plasmodial organelles

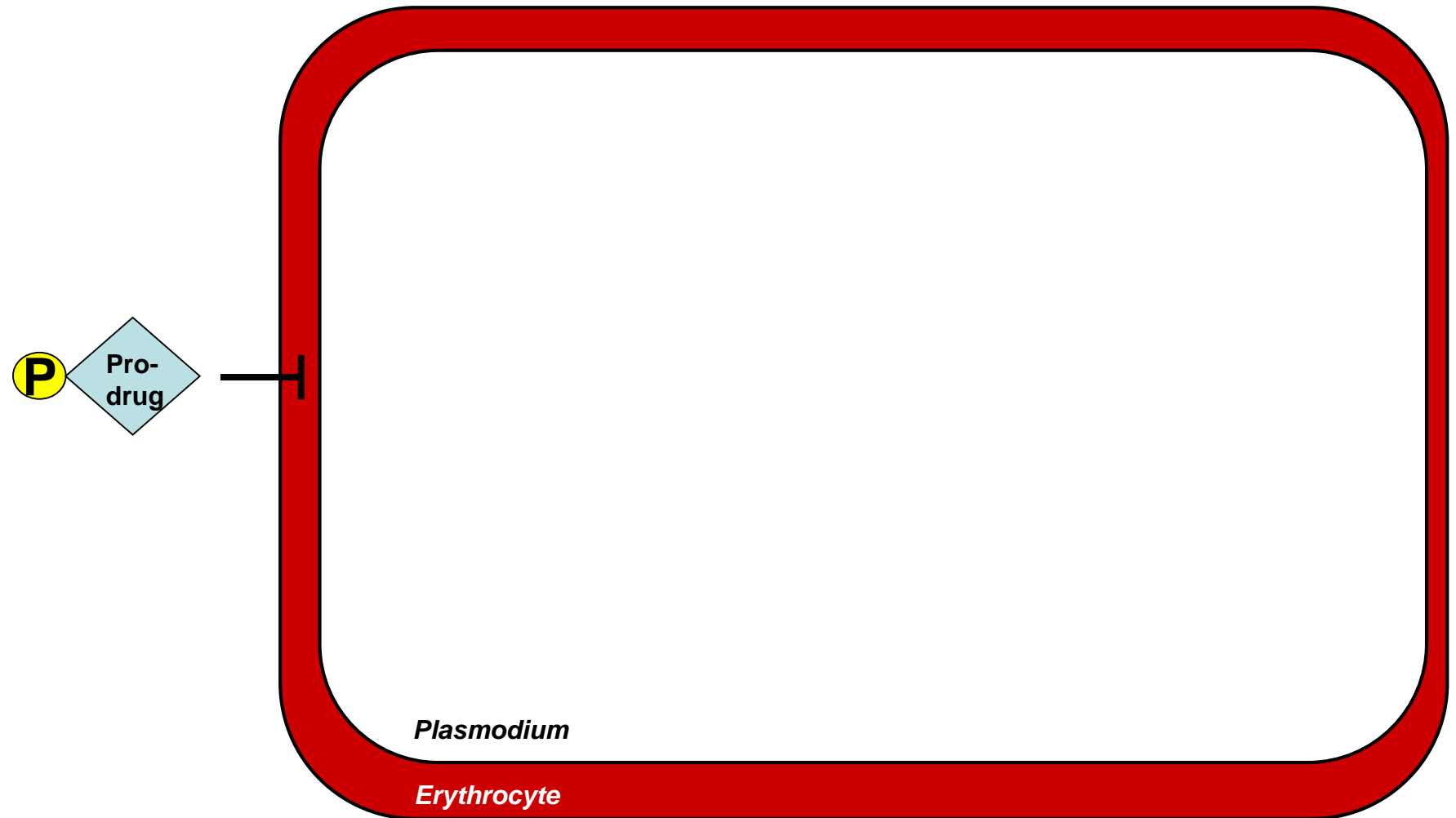


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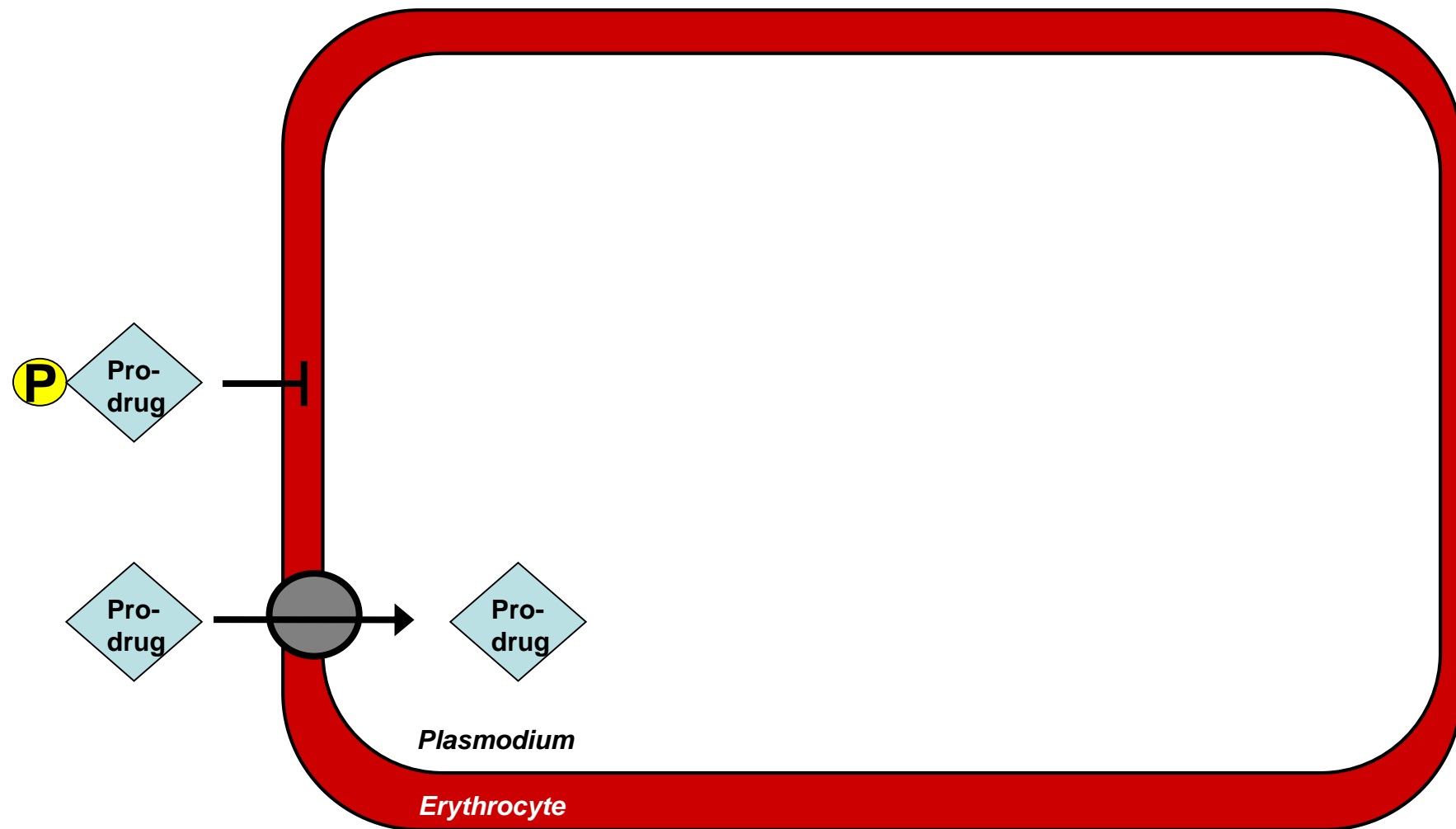




# Discovery of suicide inhibitors

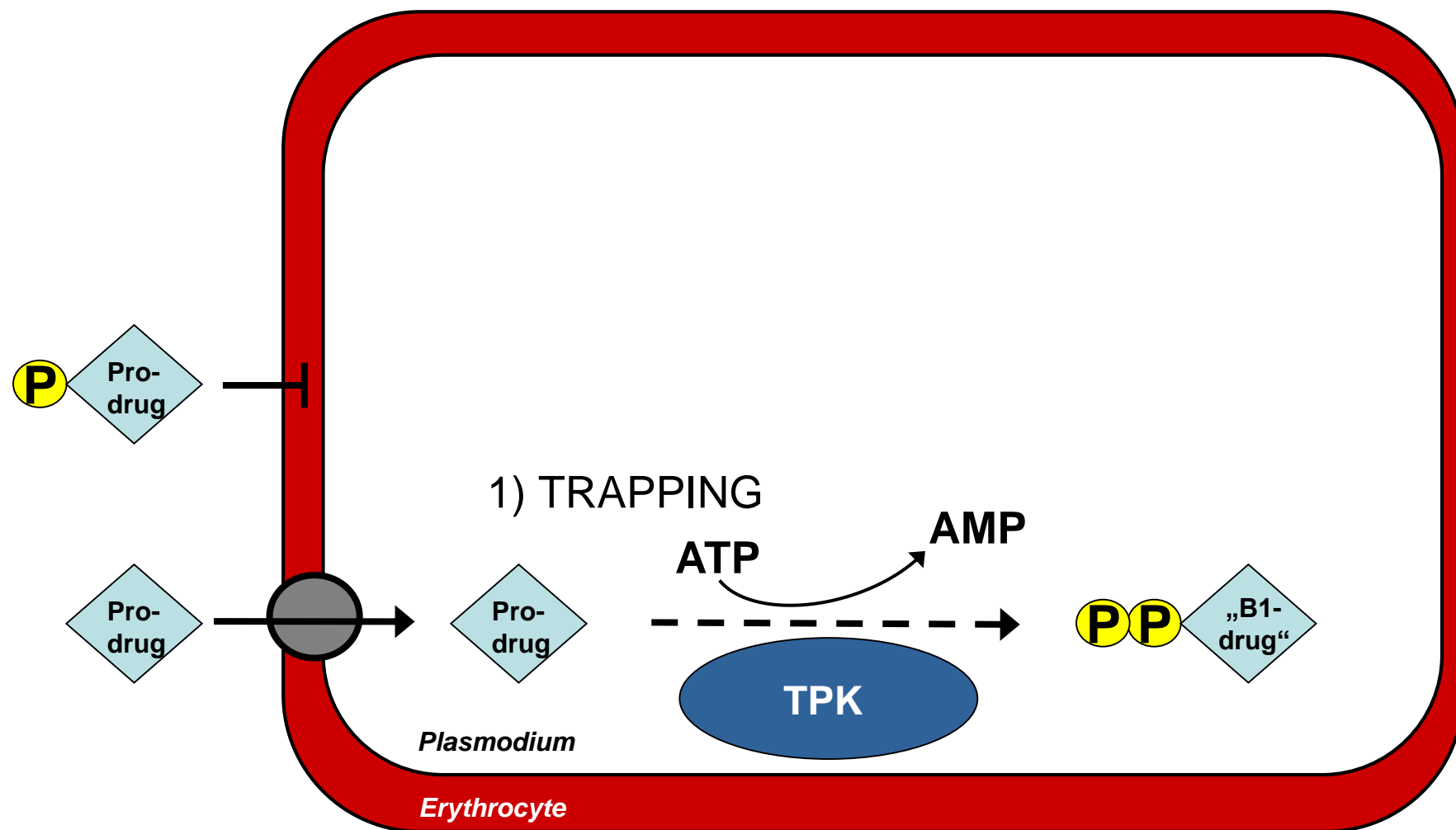


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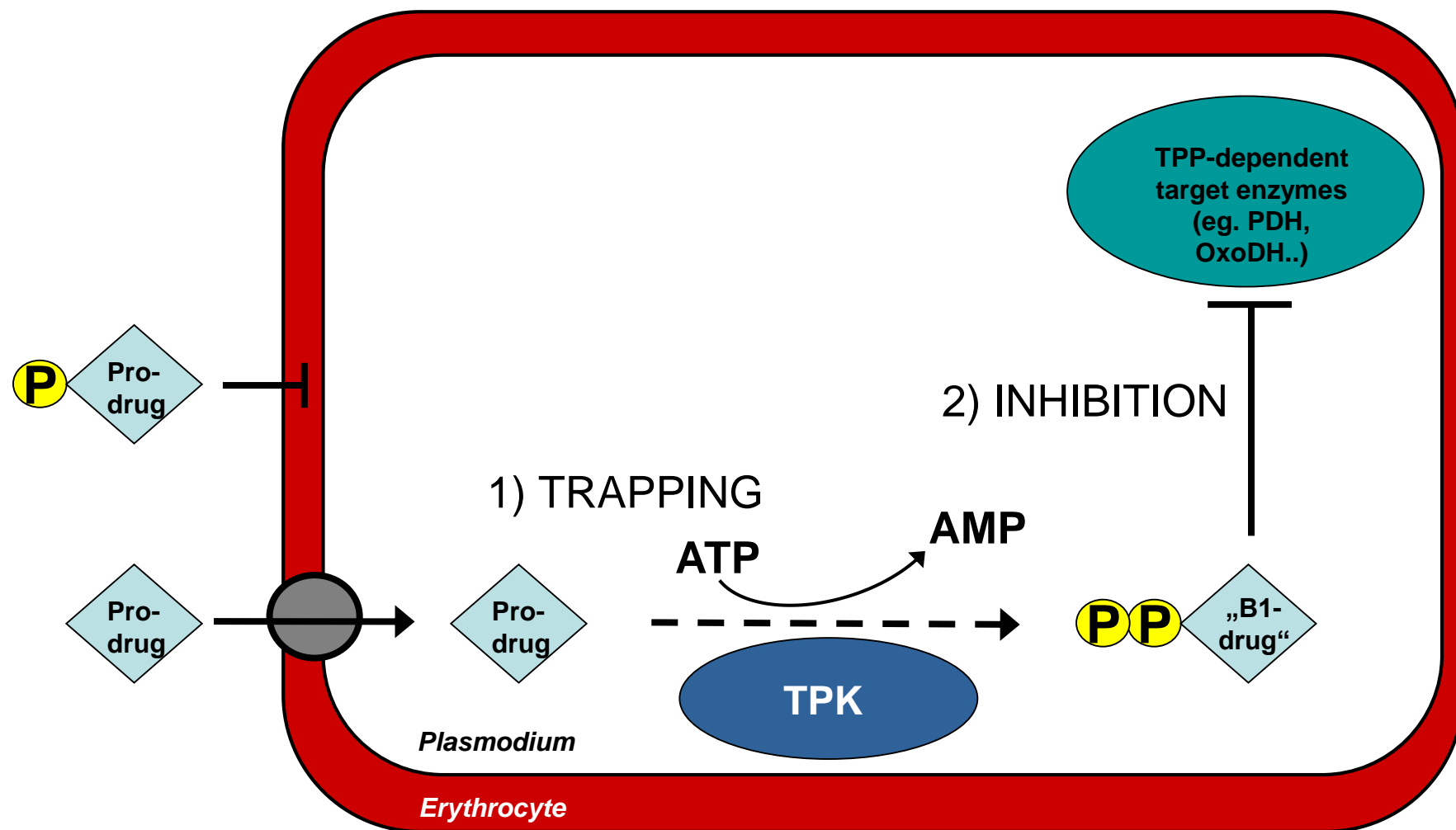




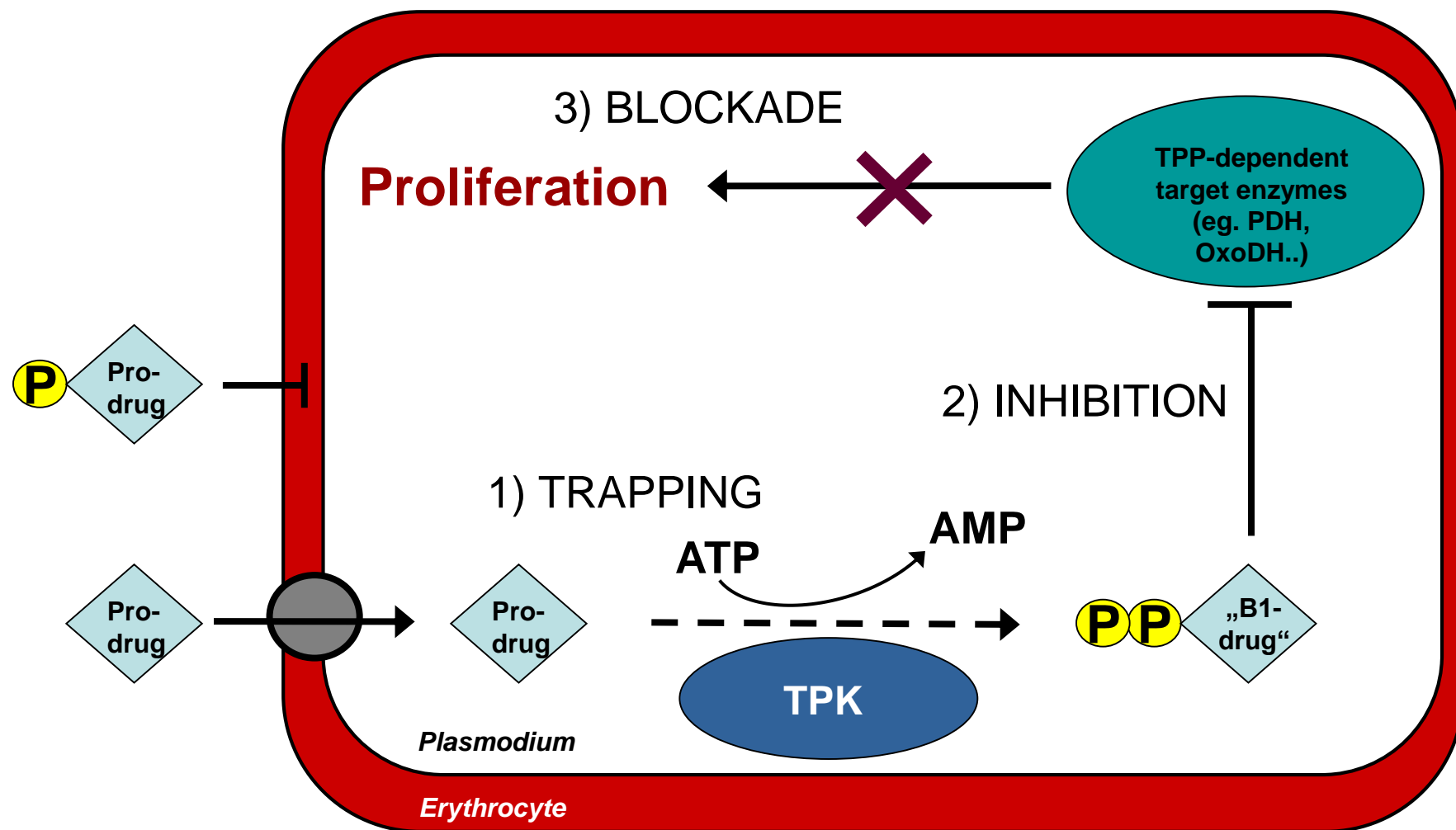
# Discovery of suicide inhibitors



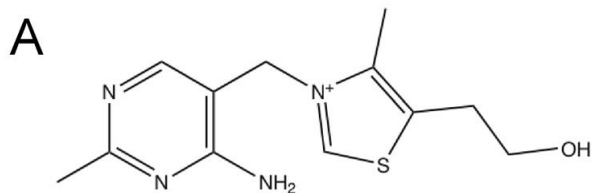
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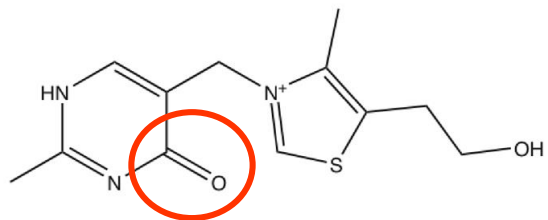
# Discovery of suicide inhibitors



# Druggability at the cellular level

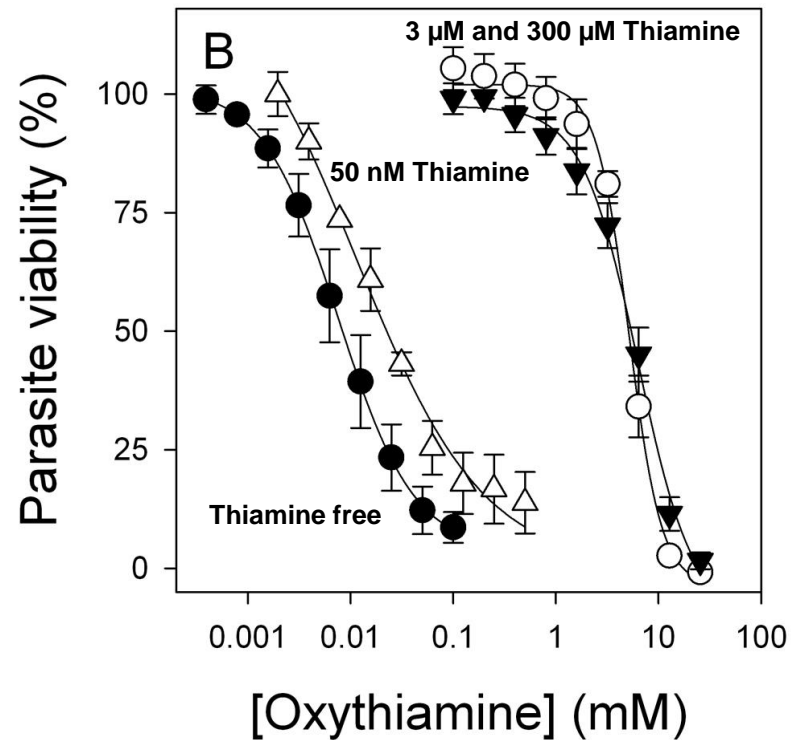
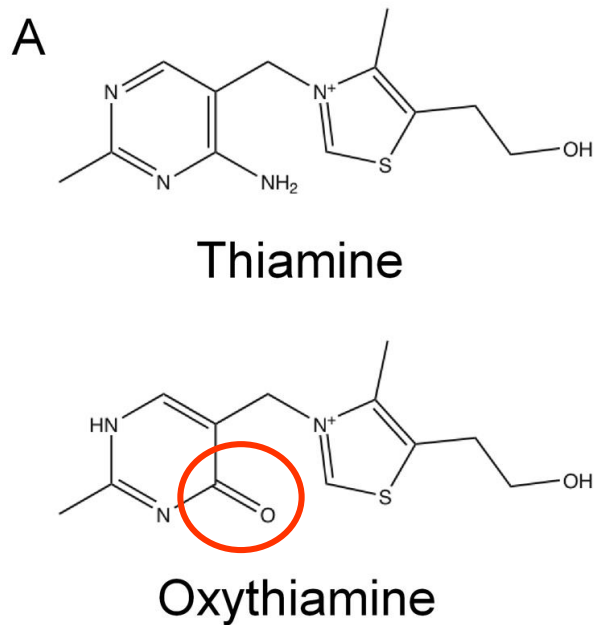


Thiamine

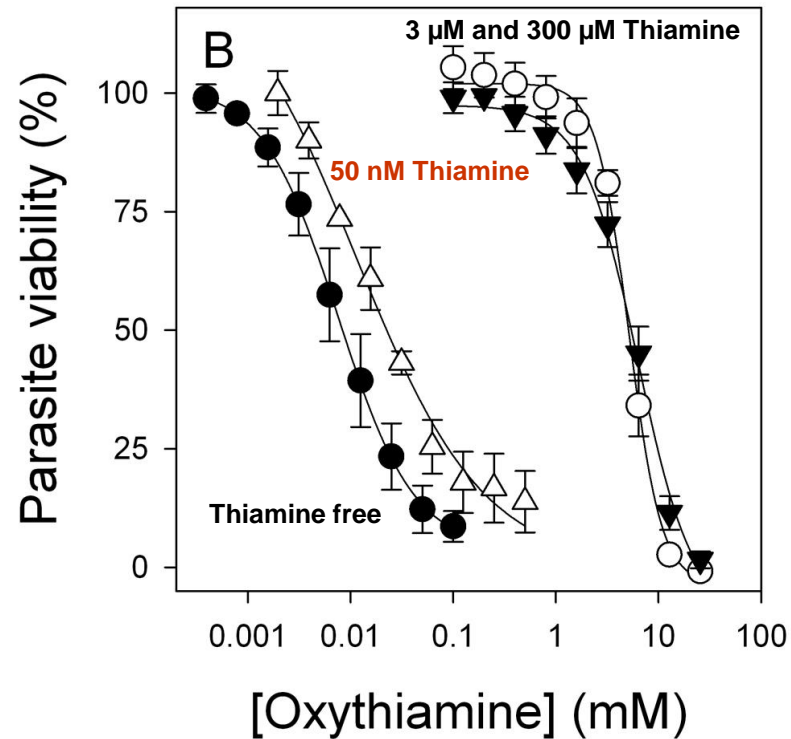
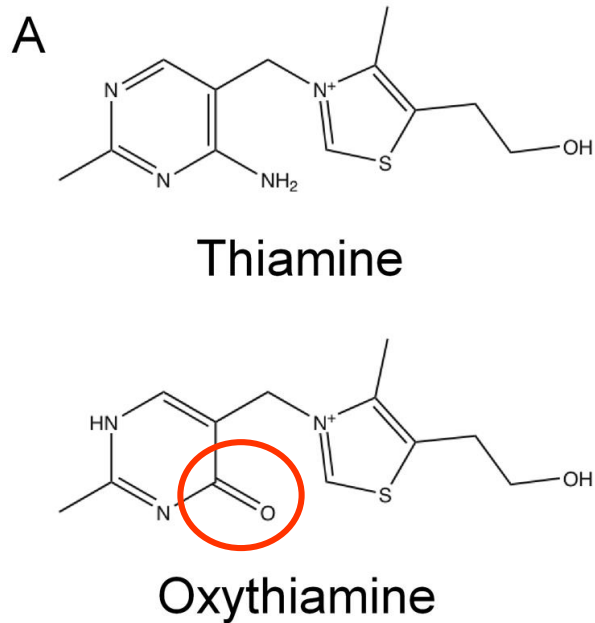


Oxythiamine

# Druggability at the cellular level

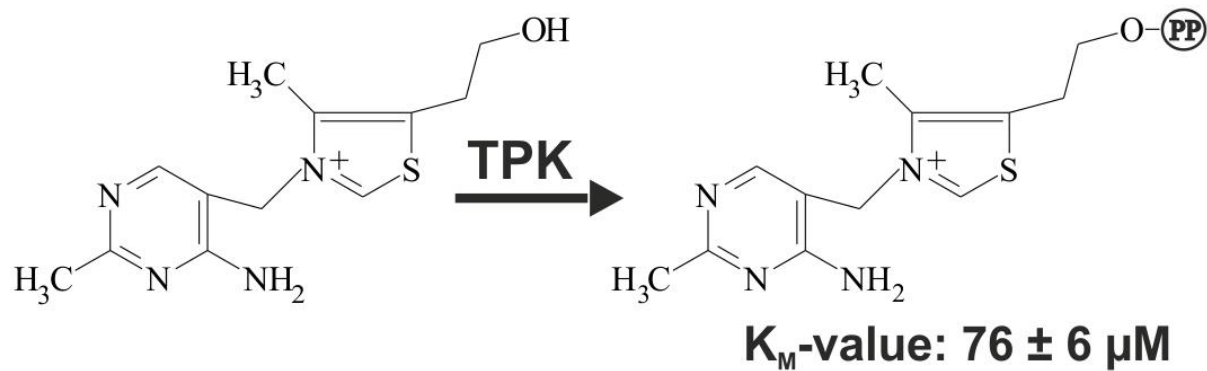


# Druggability at the cellular level



Thiamine concentration in human serum has been determined to be about 7 - 43 nM.

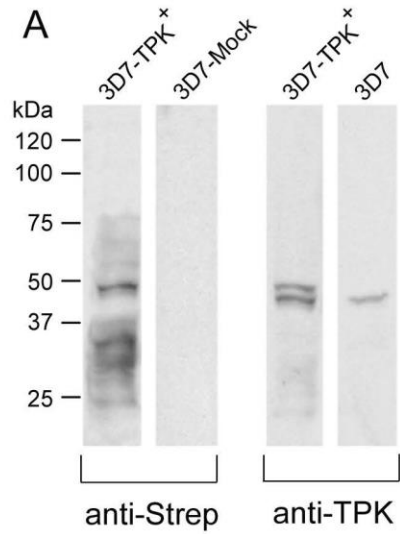
# Is the drug accepted by the recombinant TPK?



**YES!**

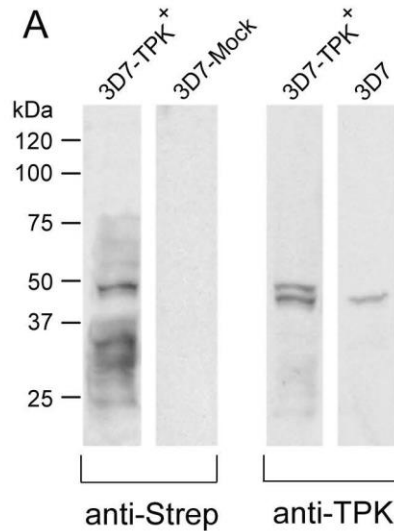


# Is the drug also working at the cellular level?





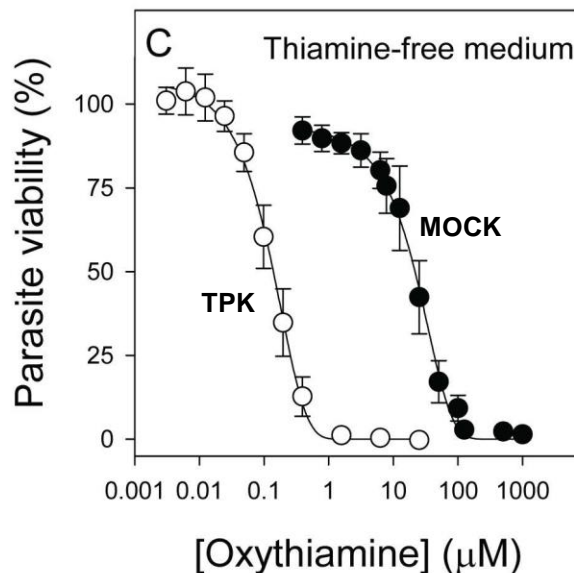
# Is the drug also working at the cellular level?



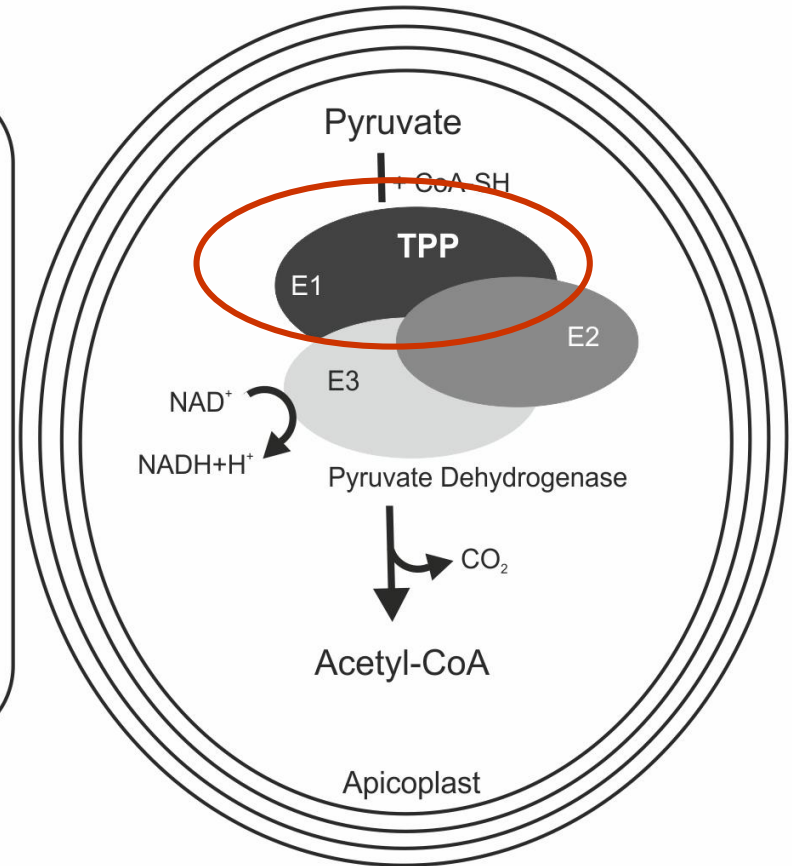
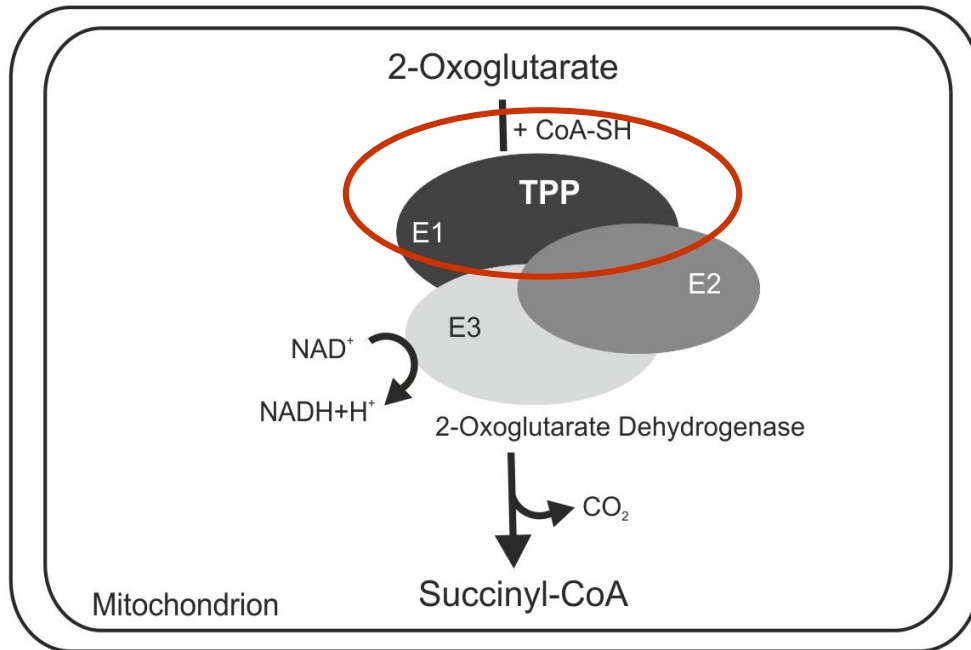
Over-expression of the *Pf*TPK resulted in an approx. **1000-fold**

**higher sensitivity to oxythiamine**

**YES!**

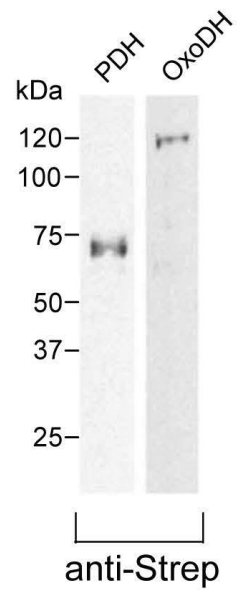


# The down-stream effect

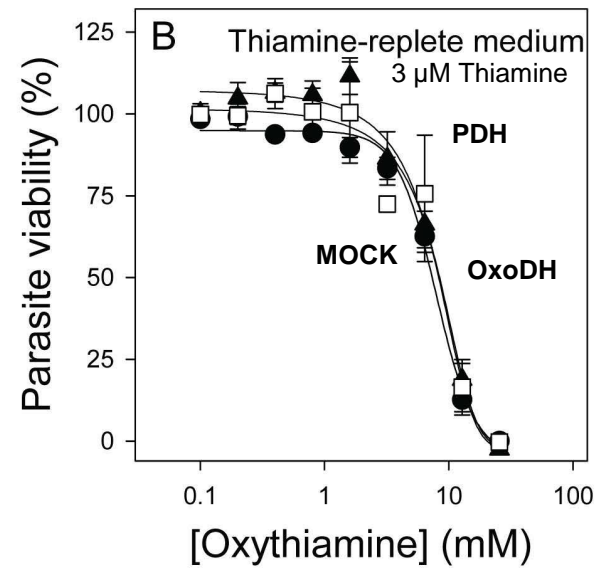
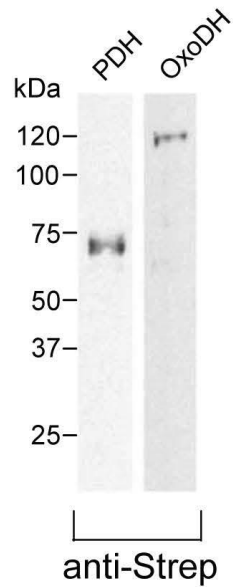




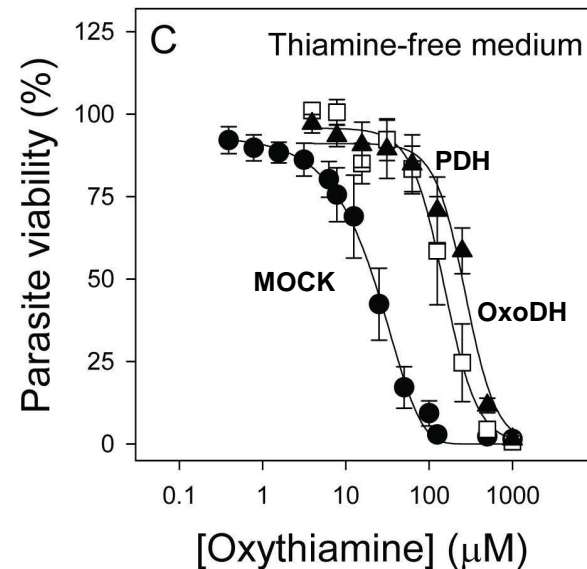
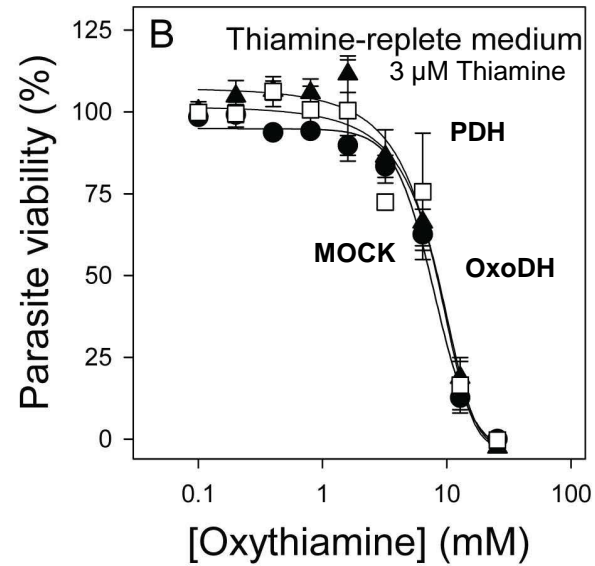
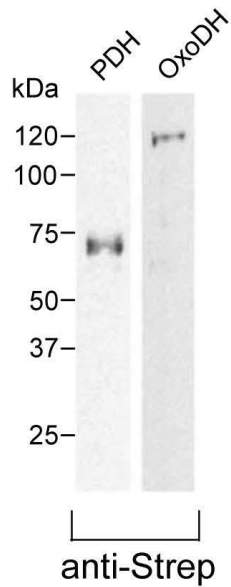
# Evaluation of the down-stream effect



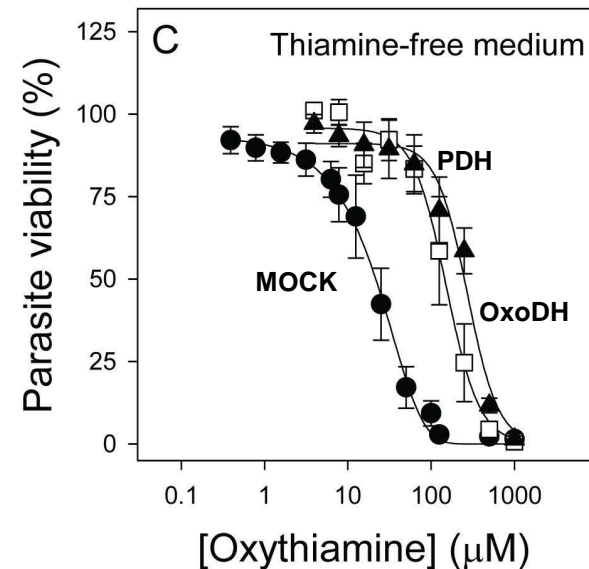
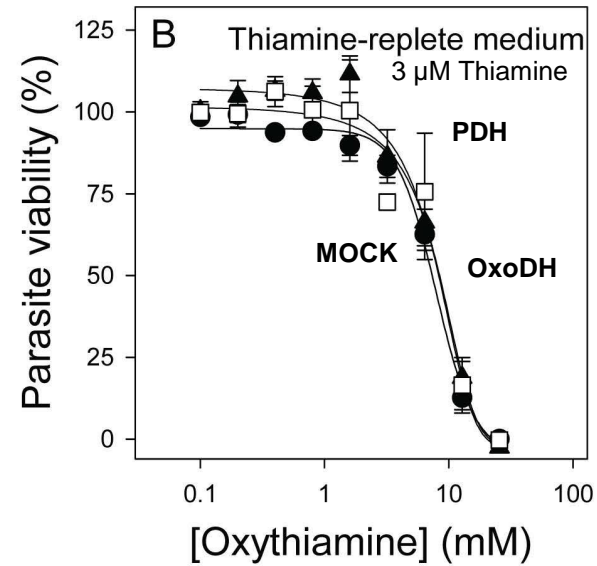
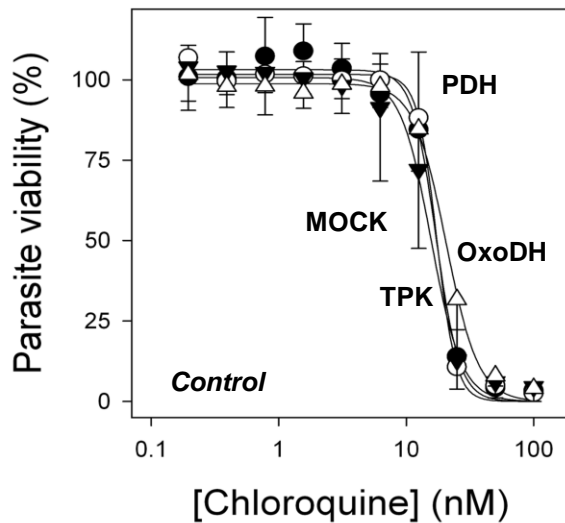
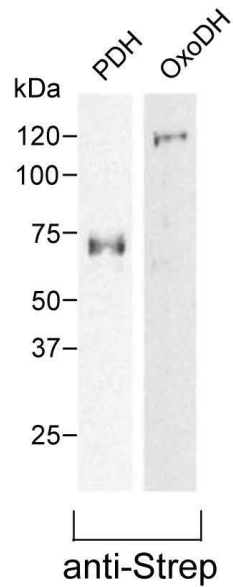
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# Thanks

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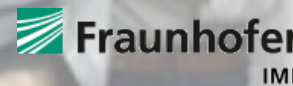
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