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# Quadro della presenza dei farmaci nel ciclo idrico di Milano e Provincia

**Sara Castiglioni, Ettore Zuccato**

MICROINQUINANTI E CONTAMINANTI EMERGENTI,  
Politecnico di Milano, 11-12 Giugno 2018



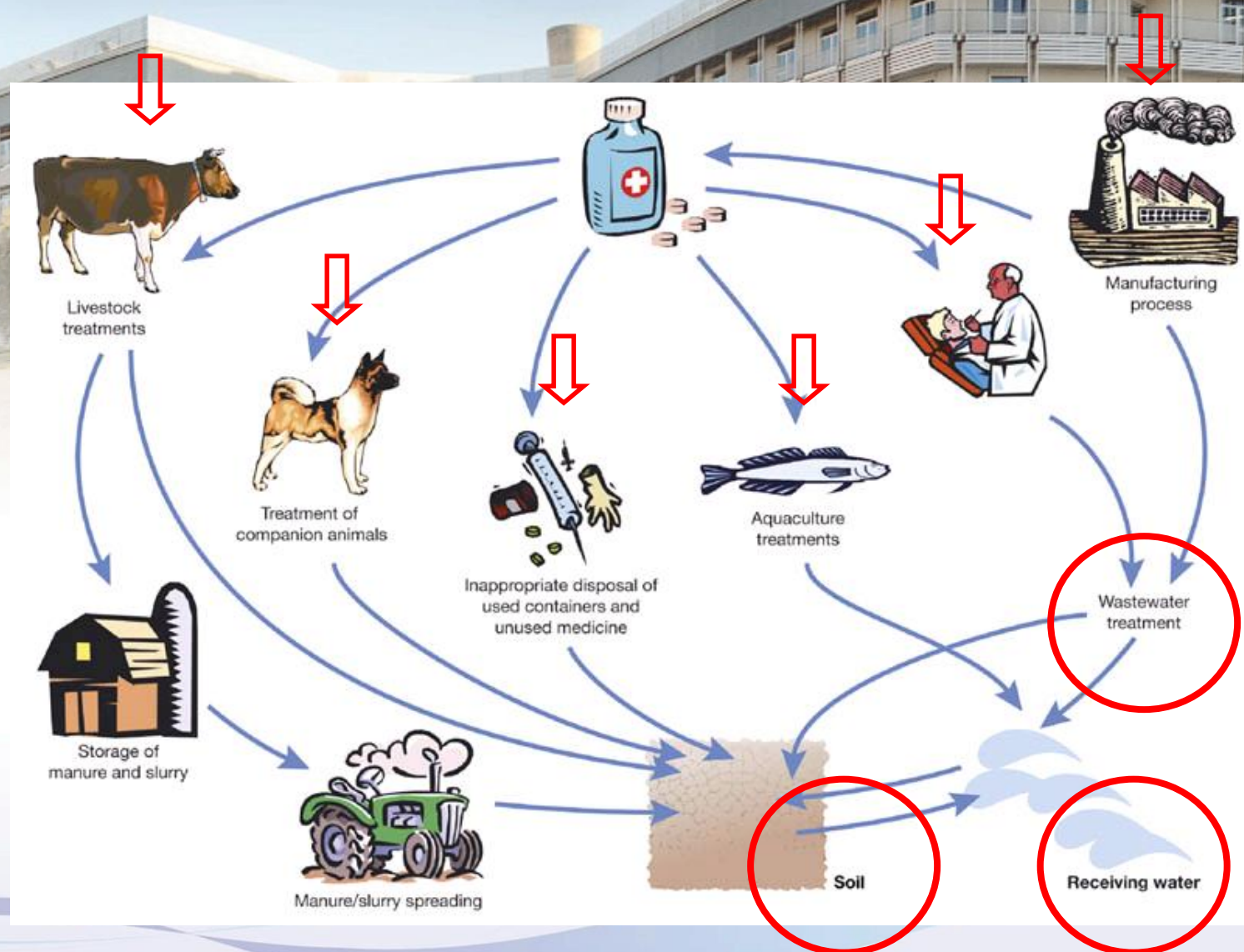
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*Environmental  
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# Pharmaceuticals in the environment

- ✓ Used in **high quantities**
- ✓ **Heterogeneous group**
- ✓ Continuous **discharge**
- ✓ **Polar compounds** (generally small)
- ✓ Biologically **active substances**
- ✓ Complex **mixtures** – potential **toxic effects**
- ✓ Not **regulated**

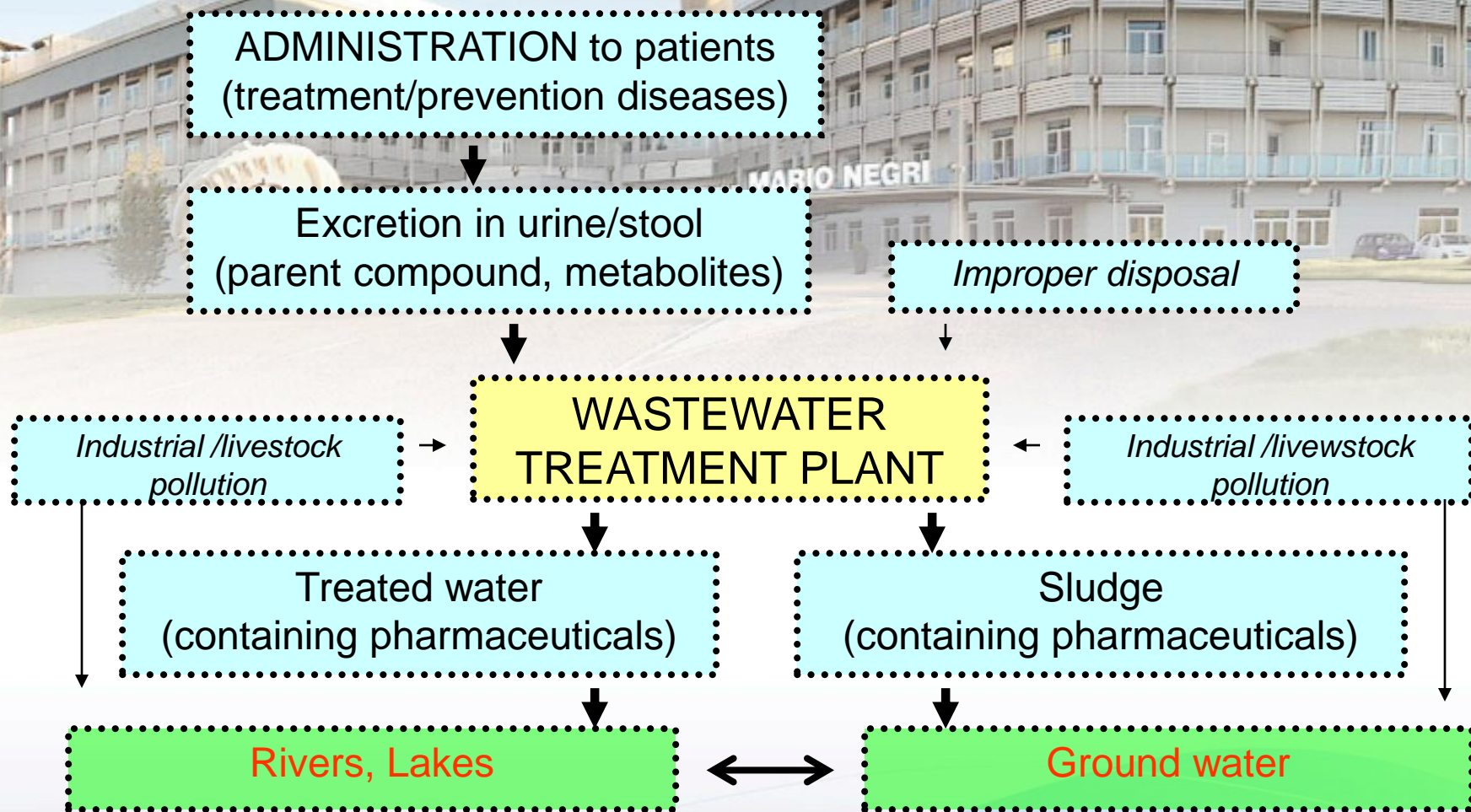
# Where pharmaceuticals comes from?

**Main sources:** therapeutic treatment in human and veterinary medicine

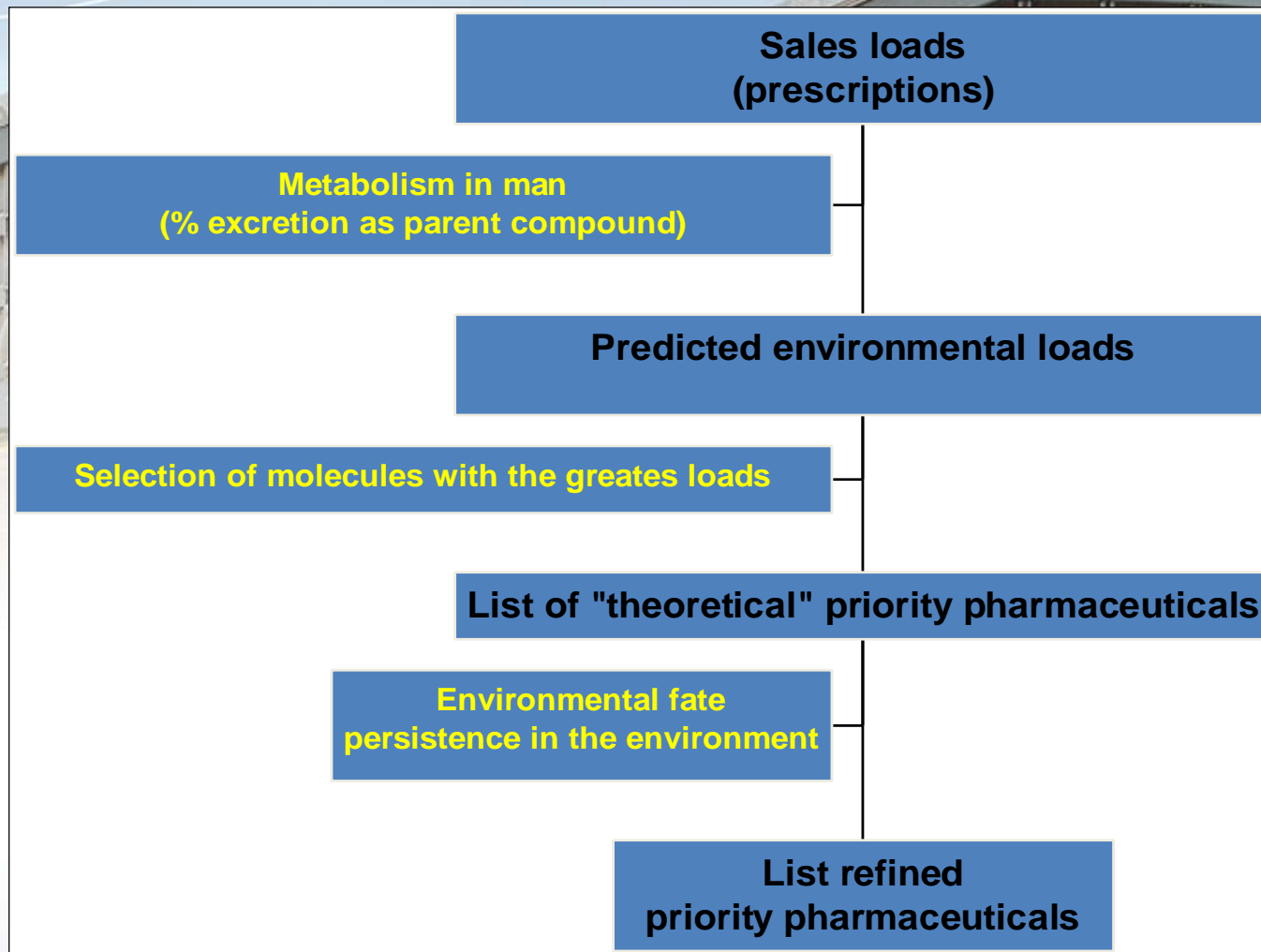


# Environmental contamination pathways

## Fate and behaviour in a wastewater treatment plant



# Pharmaceuticals Prioritisation



(Zuccato et al. Lancet 2000; Calamari et al. ES&T 2003)

# Pharmaceuticals Prioritisation

**Table 4**

Predicted environmental loads of the pharmaceuticals (priority list).

| Pharmaceutical (active substance – a.s.) | Prescriptions (tons/year of a.s.) | Excretion rate in man (%) | Predicted environmental load (tons/year of a.s.) |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Acetaminophen                            | 157                               | 54.5                      | 85.5   |
| Amoxicillin                              | 156                               | 60.0                      | 93.8   |
| Atenolol                                 | 17.6                              | 82.5                      | 14.5   |
| Atorvastatin                             | 10.2                              | 2                         | 0.2  |
| Ciprofloxacin                            | 21.9                              | 40                        | 8.8  |
| Clarithromycin                           | 28.5                              | 25                        | 7.1  |
| Diclofenac                               | 3.6                               | 61                        | 2.2  |
| Enalapril                                | 2.9                               | 19.5                      | 0.6  |
| Furosemide                               | 20                                | 78.5                      | 15.7   |
| Hydrochlorothiazide                      | 10.7                              | 95                        | 10.1   |
| Ibuprofen                                | 21.6                              | 12.5                      | 2.7  |
| Irbesartan                               | 31.2                              | 3                         | 0.9  |
| Ketoprofen                               | 0.7                               | 73.5                      | 0.5  |
| Lansoprazole                             | 14.2                              | 2                         | 0.3  |
| Levofloxacin                             | 17.5                              | 78                        | 13.7   |
| Losartan                                 | 8.3                               | 4.5                       | 0.37   |
| Metformin                                | 819                               | 79                        | 647  |
| Naproxen                                 | 2.9                               | 70                        | 2.03   |
| Paroxetine                               | 3.3                               | 2                         | 0.07   |
| Ramipril                                 | 3.5                               | 5                         | 0.18   |
| Rosuvastatin                             | 3.5                               | 5                         | 0.17   |
| Simvastatin                              | 10.2                              | 11                        | 1.13   |
| Valsartan                                | 43.6                              | 87                        | 37.9   |

# Pharmaceuticals occurrence in the environment

## Presence of therapeutic drugs in the environment

Ettore Zuccato, Davide Calamari, Marco Natangelo, Roberto Fanelli

**First monitoring** study of **pharmaceuticals** in surface, drinking water and river sediments in Italy

The Lancet, 2000, 355, 1789-1790

| Drug             | Drinking water (ng/L) |           |     | River water (ng/L) |              |           | LOD (ng/L) | River sediments (ng/kg) |              |           | LOD (ng/kg) |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----|--------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
|                  | Mi                    | Lodi*     | Va  | Lambro (Mi)*       | Po (Pc, Cr)* | Adda (So) |            | Lambro (Mi)             | Po (Pc, Cr)* | Adda (So) |             |
| Atenolol         | nd                    | nd        | nd  | 169.9-241.9        | 49.5-84.3    | nd        | 0.05       | nd                      | nd           | nd        | 24          |
| Bezafibrate      | nd                    | nd        | nd  | 134.3-202.7        | 15.1-22.4    | 1.6       | 0.05       | 130                     | nd           | nd        | 25          |
| Ceftriaxone      | nd                    | nd        | nd  | nd                 | nd           | nd        | 1.80       | nd                      | nd           | nd        | 88          |
| Clofibrac acid   | nd                    | 3.2-5.3   | nd  | nd                 | nd           | nd        | 1.50       | nd                      | nd           | nd        | 260         |
| Cyclophosphamide | nd                    | nd        | nd  | 2.2-10.1           | nd           | nd        | 0.02       | nd                      | nd           | nd        | 12          |
| Diazepam         | nd                    | 19.6-23.5 | 0.2 | 0.7-1.2            | 0.5-0.7      | nd        | 0.02       | nd                      | nd           | nd        | 9           |
| Erythromycin     | nd                    | nd        | nd  | nd-17.4            | 0.7-0.9      | nd        | 0.03       | 630                     | 400-600      | 10        | 1.2         |
| Furosemide       | nd                    | nd        | nd  | 85.1-88            | nd           | nd        | 4.30       | nd                      | nd           | nd        | 210         |
| Ibuprofen        | nd                    | nd        | nd  | 90.6-92.4          | nd-4.0       | 1.0       | 0.50       | 220                     | nd           | nd        | 40          |
| Lincomycin       | nd                    | nd        | nd  | 6.8-13.8           | 1.2-4.6      | nd        | 0.02       | 130                     | nd           | nd        | 0.8         |
| Oleandomycin     | nd                    | nd        | nd  | nd-0.8             | 0.4-4.8      | 2.7       | 0.02       | nd                      | nd           | nd        | 11          |
| Ranitidine       | nd                    | nd        | nd  | nd-9.4             | nd           | nd        | 0.01       | 150                     | nd-410       | nd        | 7           |
| Salbutamol       | nd                    | nd        | nd  | nd-3.1             | nd-4.6       | nd        | 0.02       | nd                      | nd           | nd        | 10          |
| Spiramycin       | nd                    | nd        | nd  | 8.4-68.3           | nd           | nd        | 0.75       | 2900                    | nd-380       | 380       | 375         |
| Tilmicosin       | nd                    | nd        | nd  | nd                 | nd           | nd        | 0.75       | nd                      | nd           | nd        | 375         |
| Tylosin          | nd                    | 0.6-1.7   | nd  | nd-2.2             | nd           | nd        | 0.25       | 2640                    | nd-130       | nd        | 125         |

Mi=Milan, Va=Varese, Pc=Piacenza, Cr=Cremona, So=Sondrio. Amoxicillin and ceftazidime excluded because analytical methods not sensitive enough.

\*Two sampling sites.

# Pharmaceuticals occurrence in the environment

## Removal of Pharmaceuticals in Sewage Treatment Plants in Italy

SARA CASTIGLIONI,<sup>†,‡</sup> RENZO BAGNATI,<sup>‡</sup>  
ROBERTO FANELLI,<sup>‡</sup>  
FRANCESCO POMATI,<sup>†</sup>  
DAVIDE CALAMARI,<sup>†</sup> AND  
ETTORE ZUCCATO<sup>\*,‡</sup>

Environmental Science and Technology,  
2006, 407, 357-363

**TABLE 6. Summary of Loads and Removal Rates (RR) in STPs and Attenuation Rates and Residual Loads in Surface Water for the Most Abundant Pharmaceuticals**

| pharmaceutical      | load in influent<br>(mg/day/1000 inh) <sup>a</sup> | RR in STP<br>(%) <sup>a</sup> | residual load in effluent<br>(mg/day/1000 inh) <sup>a</sup> | attenuation in river<br>(%) <sup>a</sup> | residual load in<br>surface water<br>(mg/day/1000 inh) <sup>a</sup> | occurrence in<br>particulate<br>(+/-) |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| atenolol            | 494  | 21                            | 281   | 28                                       | 257   | +                                     |
| ofloxacin           | 360  | 57                            | 233   | 27                                       | 94  | +                                     |
| hydrochlorothiazide | 354  | 44                            | 415   | 64                                       | 197   | +                                     |
| furosemide          | 277  | 15                            | 195   | 27                                       | 66  | -                                     |
| ciprofloxacin       | 259  | 63                            | 97  | 5  | 224   | +                                     |
| ranitidine          | 188  | 72                            | 96  | 17                                       | 33  | +                                     |
| ibuprofen           | 122  | 55                            | 28  | 21                                       | 35  | -                                     |
| sulfamethoxazole    | 65   | 24                            | 10  | 3  | 122   | -                                     |
| bezafibrate         | 50   | 30                            | 29  | 34                                       | 38  | +                                     |
| enalapril           | 31   | 69                            | 1.2   | 22                                       | 6   | +                                     |
| clarithromycin      | 21   | 0                             | 55  | 41                                       | 66  | +                                     |
| carbamazepine       | 12   | 0                             | 28  | 22                                       | 28  | +                                     |
| erythromycin        | 5  | 0                             | 5   | 35                                       | 3   | +                                     |
| spiramycin          | 5  | 0                             | 35  | 46                                       | 30  | +                                     |
| salbutamol          | 4  | 0                             | 4   | 27                                       | 2   | -                                     |
| lincomycin          | 3  | 0                             | 5   | 18                                       | 4   | -                                     |

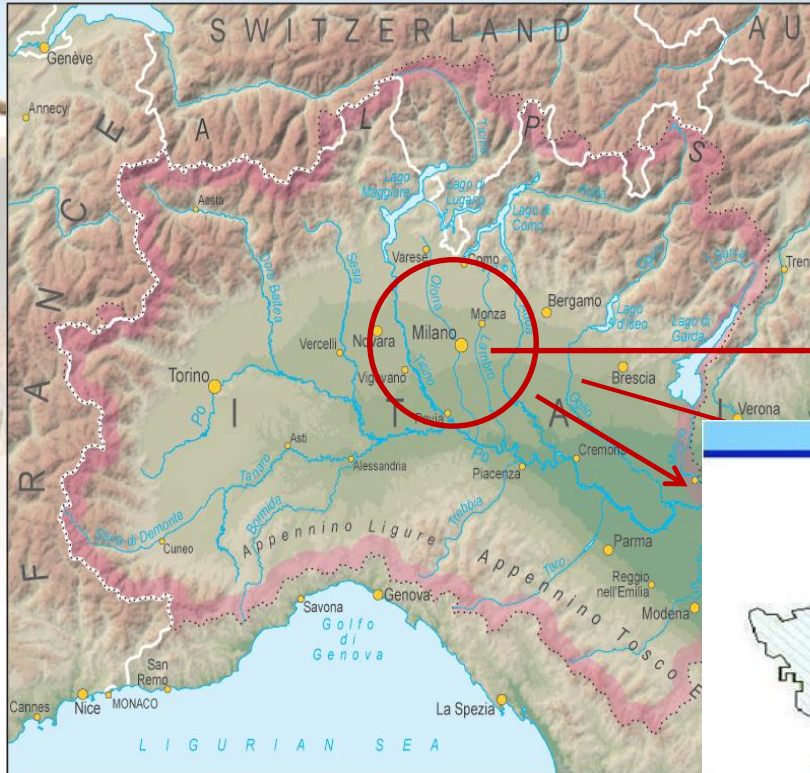
<sup>a</sup> Median values.



Evaluate **presence and distribution** of selected **emerging contaminants** in the **aquatic environment** in the area of Milan

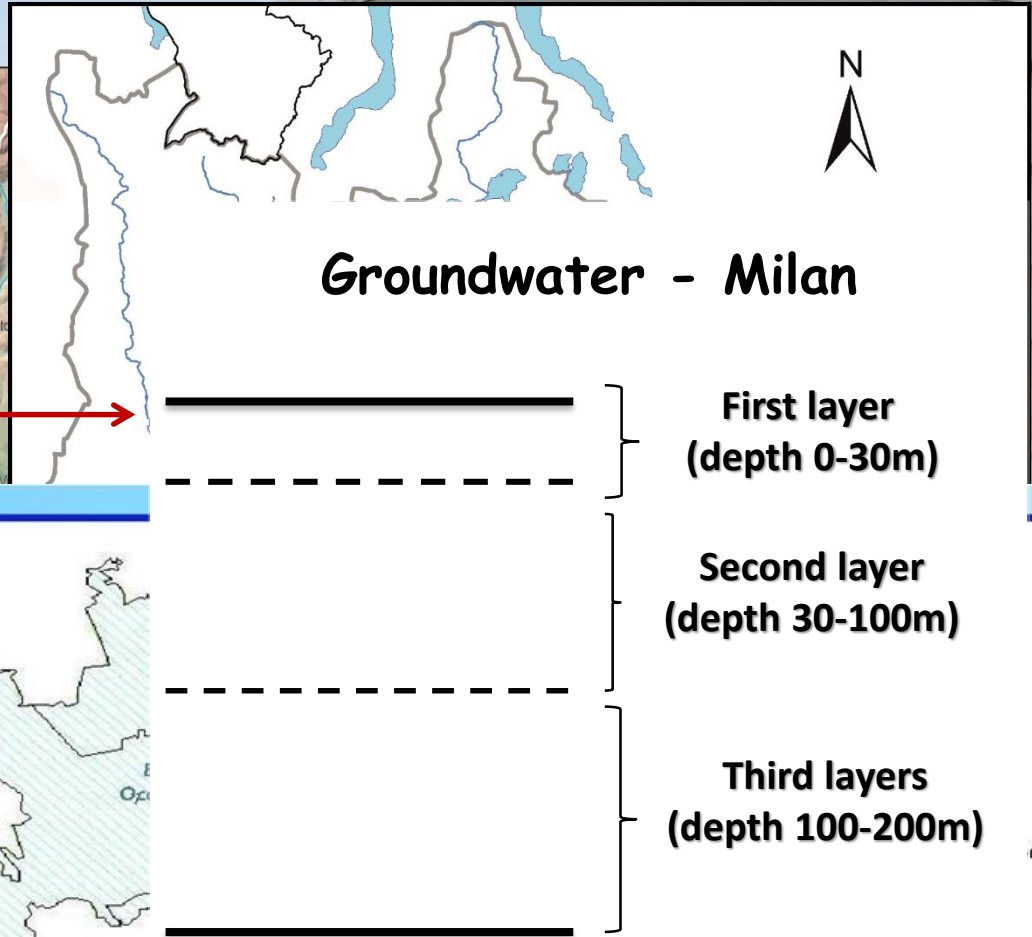
- Selection of **environmental pollutants**
- Set up of **analytical methods**
- **Monitoring occurrence** and **fate** in:
  - ✓ wastewater (raw and treated)
  - ✓ surface water
  - ✓ groundwater
- **Mass balance of pollutants** in the River Lambro basin
- Environmental and Human **Risk Assessment**

## North of Italy, Milan Area



Scale 1 : 3 000 000

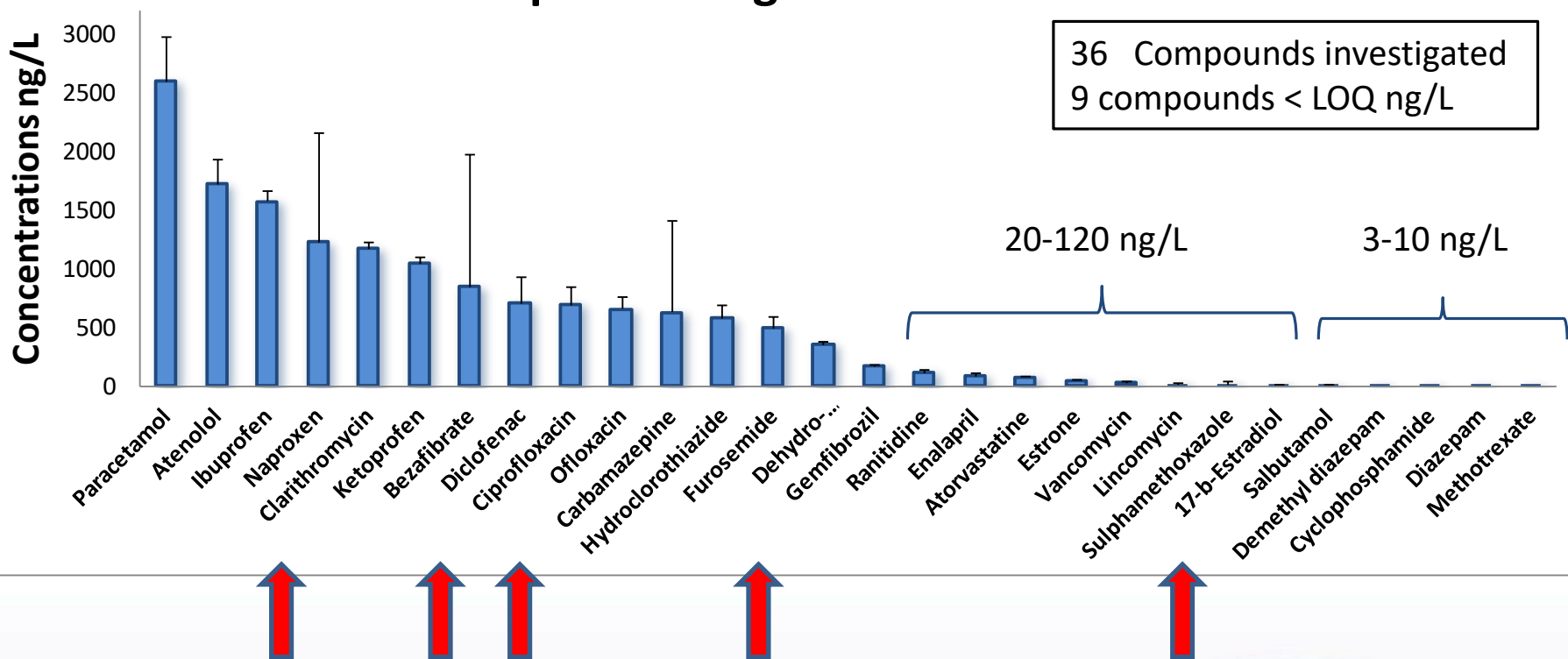
Kilometre



# Pharmaceuticals in Untreated Wastewater

Three plants, 7 days sampling for each plant, March 2011

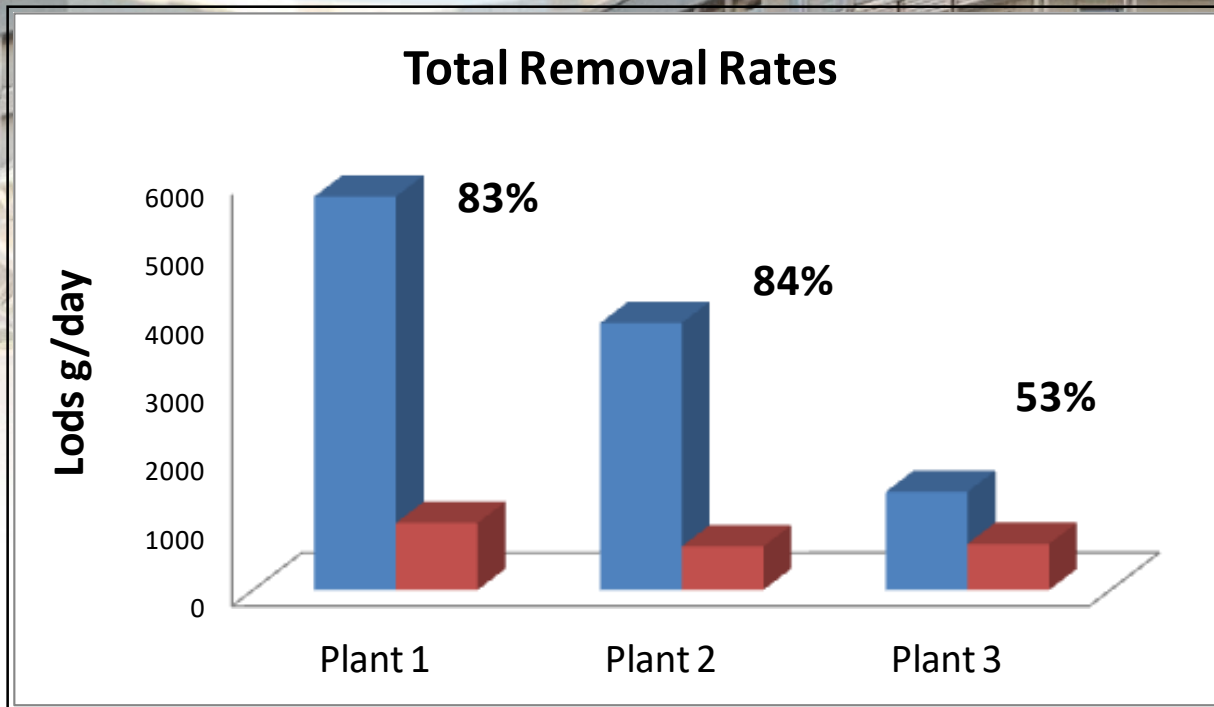
## Therapeutic drugs -Raw Wastewater



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# Removal of pharmaceuticals in WWTPs

Therapeutic drugs: different removals among STPs



**Plant 1 and 2:** Activated sludge secondary treatment followed by disinfection

**Plant 3:** Biofilters secondary treatment and UV disinfection

# Removal of emerging contaminants in WWTPs

## Removals depends on compounds and treatment

**Plant 1 and 2:** Activated sludge secondary treatment followed by disinfection

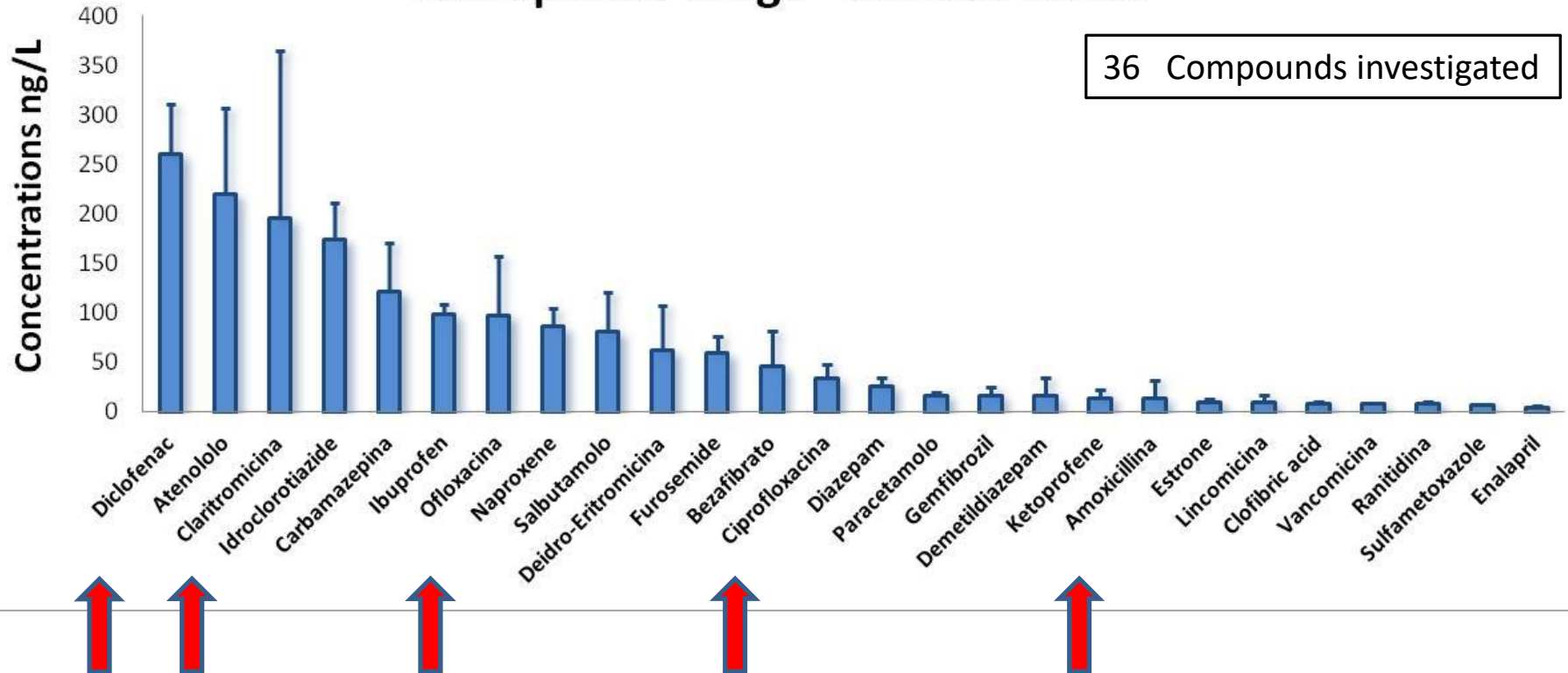
**Plant 3:** Biofilters secondary treatment and UV disinfection

| Selected Pharmaceuticals | Influent                        | Effluent                        | Influent                        | Effluent                        | Influent                        | Effluent                        | Removal rate (%) |         |         |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------|---------|
|                          | PLANT 1<br>(7 samples)<br>(g/d) | PLANT 1<br>(7 samples)<br>(g/d) | PLANT 2<br>(7 samples)<br>(g/d) | PLANT 2<br>(7 samples)<br>(g/d) | PLANT 3<br>(7 samples)<br>(g/d) | PLANT 3<br>(7 samples)<br>(g/d) | PLANT 1          | PLANT 2 | PLANT 3 |
| Atenolol                 | 731±189                         | 100±15                          | 593±53                          | 161±45                          | 132±18                          | 108±105                         | 86               | 73      | 18      |
| Bezafibrate              | 66±42                           | 5±2                             | 36±8                            | 50±22                           | 226±208                         | 132±105                         | 92               | 0       | 42      |
| Carbamazepine            | 138±40                          | 73±12                           | 104±13                          | 88±8                            | 133±143                         | 23±3                            | 47               | 15      | 83      |
| Ciprofloxacin            | 172±47                          | 35±9                            | 229±35                          | 51±16                           | 53±34                           | 30±8                            | 80               | 78      | 43      |
| Clarithromycin           | 445±90                          | 73±14                           | 152±29                          | 92±11                           | 89±16                           | 81±10                           | 84               | 39      | 9       |
| Furosemide               | 326±148                         | 117±32                          | 115±49                          | 528±57                          | 55±22                           | 49±3                            | 64               | 0       | 11      |
| Ibuprofen                | 668±192                         | 1.2±0.1                         | 485±106                         | 7±5.2                           | 87±18                           | 17±6                            | 100              | 99      | 80      |
| Hydrochlorothiazide      | 323±127                         | 417±403                         | 139±19                          | 289±28                          | 38±7                            | 13±9                            | 0                | 0       | 66      |
| Ketoprofene              | 621±296                         | 76.4±26                         | 265±17                          | 152±61                          | 86±21                           | 17±10                           | 88               | 42      | 80      |
| Naproxene                | 612±224                         | 23±5                            | 286±140                         | 55±69                           | 57±9                            | 51±6                            | 96               | 81      | 11      |
| Ofloxacin                | 106±28                          | 50±8                            | 191±28                          | 78±6                            | 47±29                           | 39±11                           | 53               | 59      | 17      |
| Ranitidine               | 36±11                           | 1.3±0.3                         | 45±13                           | 31±3                            | 11±3                            | 15±3                            | 96               | 31      | 0       |

# Pharmaceuticals in Surface Water

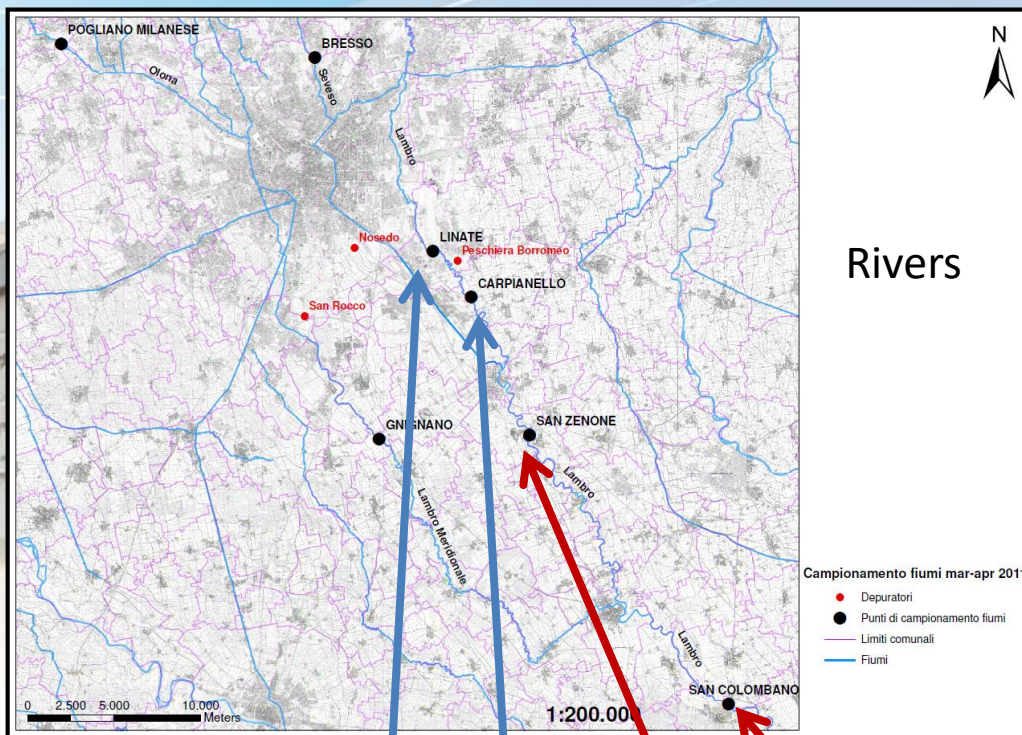
## Therapeutic drugs - Surface water

36 Compounds investigated



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# Pharmaceuticals in Surface Water



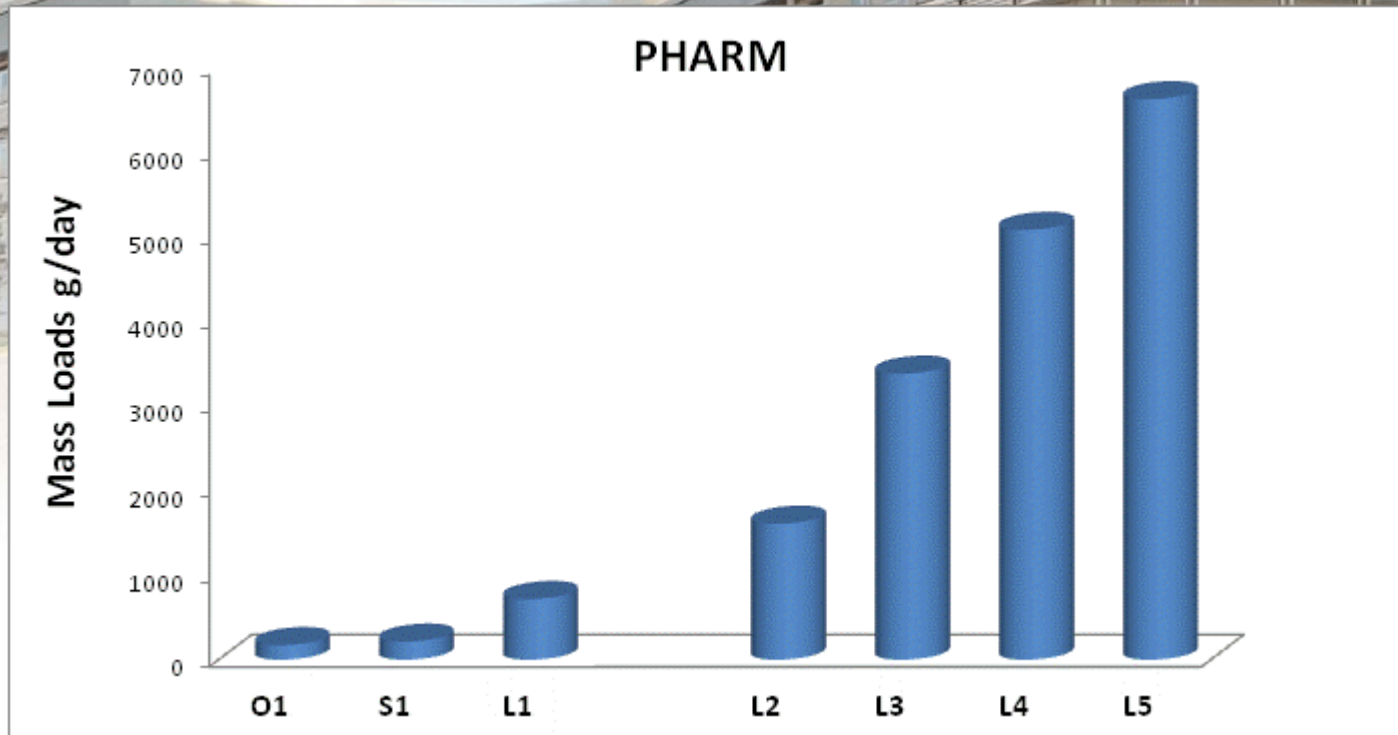
Suspected source:  
Use in **livestock**  
holdings

| Concentrations   | <b>Lambro</b> |             |            |               |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| ng/L             | Linate        | Carpianello | San Zenone | San Colombano |
| Atenolol         | 252           | 291         | 264        | 224           |
| Carbamazepine    | 71            | 131         | 98         | 119           |
| Clarithromycin   | 202           | 323         | 305        | 261           |
| Diazepam         | 0.3           | 0.8         | 84         | 52            |
| Demetil-Diazepam | 0.9           | 1.4         | 122        | 72            |
| Salbutamol       | 1.9           | 2.7         | 453        | 288           |

Castiglioni et al. *Water Research* 2018

# Pharmaceuticals in Surface Water

**Mass Loads** are calculated considering the mean concentrations of two analytical campaigns (March - September)



**Mass Loads** increase in the river Lambro basin

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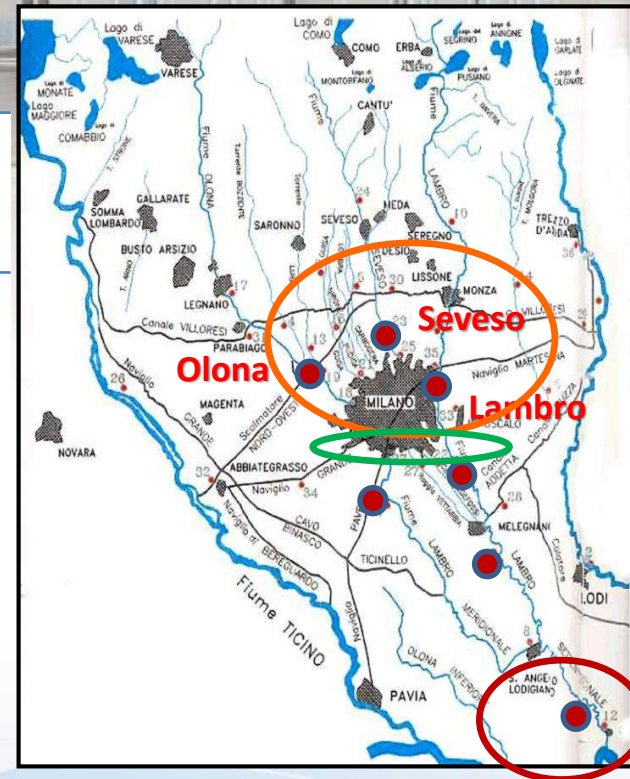


# Mass balance of emerging contaminants

## Mass Balance of the Emerging Contaminants in the Lambro River Basin



| Classes of compounds | Rivers before Milan | WWTPs Effluents in Milan | Closure of the Lambro River basin | Sources in the south of Milan |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Loads (g/day)</b> |                     |                          |                                   |                               |
| Therapeutic Drugs    | 1105                | 3009                     | 6634                              | 2520                          |
| All ECs              | 6822                | 3872                     | 22967                             | 12273                         |

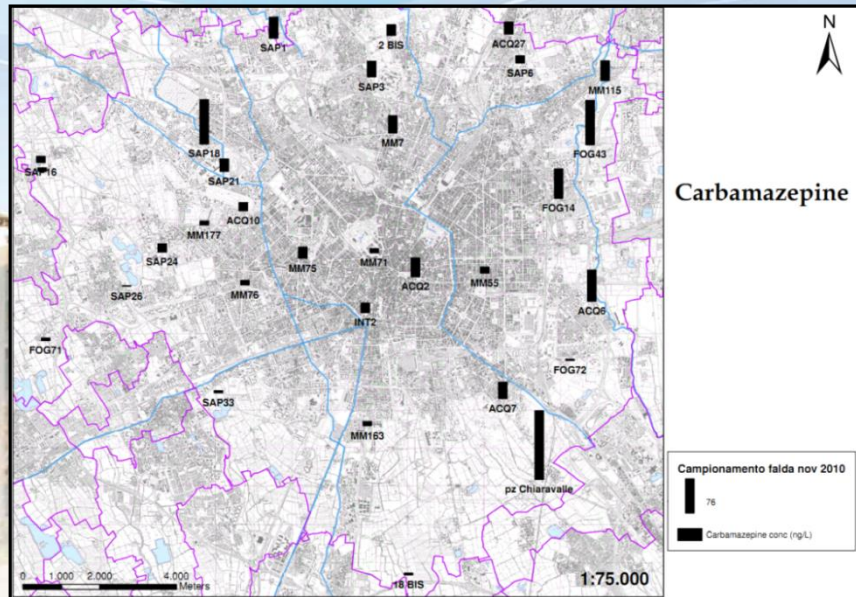


# Ground Water Contamination

**Table 3**  
ECs in groundwater from the surface and deeper layers in the city of Milan. Concentrations are in ng/L.

| Surface Layer (32 samples) | Frequency of detection | Median | Range    | Deep Layers (21 samples)   | Frequency of detection | Median | Range    |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------|----------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------|----------|
| <b>PHARM</b>               |                        |        |          | <b>PHARM</b>               |                        |        |          |
| <i>Atenolol</i>            | 2 (32)                 | 1.6    | 0.6–2.5  | <i>Atenolol</i>            | 4 (21)                 | 0.5    | 0.5–3.0  |
| <i>Diazepam</i>            | 4 (32)                 | 1.5    | 0.6–2.9  | <i>Diazepam</i>            | 3 (21)                 | 0.2    | 0.3–1.0  |
| <i>Carbamazepine</i>       | 32 (32)                | 20.0   | 1.5–152  | <i>Carbamazepine</i>       | 21 (21)                | 14.5   | 0.2–32   |
| <i>Lincomycin</i>          | 1 (32)                 | 0.4    | –        | <i>Lincomycin</i>          | 2 (21)                 | 0.6    | 0.4–0.9  |
| <i>Bezafibrate</i>         | 1 (32)                 | 0.8    | –        | <i>Bezafibrate</i>         | 1 (21)                 | 0.3    |          |
| <i>Hydrochlorothiazide</i> | 5 (32)                 | 1.1    | 0.9–14   | <i>Clofibric acid</i>      | 10 (21)                | 0.3    | 0.14–2.3 |
| <i>Sulfamethoxazole</i>    | 10 (32)                | 0.9    | 0.7–16   | <i>DehydroErythromycin</i> | 7 (21)                 | 9.6    | 3.7–13.2 |
| <i>Ibuprofen</i>           | 4 (32)                 | 1.1    | 0.6–14.2 | <i>Clarithromycin</i>      | 6 (21)                 | 7.4    | 4.7–10.4 |
| <b>IDS</b>                 |                        |        |          | <b>IDS</b>                 |                        |        |          |
| <i>Benzoylcegonine</i>     | 23 (32)                | 0.8    | 0.4–4.1  | <i>Benzoylcegonine</i>     | 18 (21)                | 0.3    | 0.2–0.7  |
| <i>Norbenzoylcegonine</i>  | 3 (32)                 | 0.8    | 0.6–1.0  | <i>Norbenzoylcegonine</i>  | 13 (21)                | 0.2    | 0.13–0.3 |
| <i>Cocaine</i>             | 10 (32)                | 0.8    | 0.5–2.7  | <b>PCPs</b>                |                        |        |          |
| <i>Hydrocodone</i>         | 1 (32)                 | 13.0   | –        | <i>PBSA</i>                | 5 (21)                 | 10.9   | 3.7–1853 |
| <i>Oxycodone</i>           | 6 (32)                 | 22.2   | 7.2–286  | <b>PERF</b>                |                        |        |          |
| <b>PCPs</b>                |                        |        |          | <i>PFOS</i>                | 19 (21)                | 2.4    | 1.2–9.0  |
| <i>PBSA</i>                | 2 (32)                 | 45.4   | 44–46    | <i>PFOA</i>                | 21 (21)                | 5.6    | 1.3–11.4 |
| <b>DIS</b>                 |                        |        |          | <b>Alk-BPA</b>             |                        |        |          |
| <i>Triclosan</i>           | 4 (32)                 | 62.50  | 32–85    | <i>Nonylphenol</i>         | 21 (21)                | 63.6   | 45–107   |
| <b>PERF</b>                |                        |        |          | <b>AM</b>                  |                        |        |          |
| <i>PFOS</i>                | 32 (32)                | 4.4    | 0.8–24   | <i>Caffeine</i>            | 13 (21)                | 11.9   | 7.3–58   |
| <i>PFOA</i>                | 32 (32)                | 10.3   | 3.7–36   | <i>Paraxanthine</i>        | 1 (21)                 | 17.7   |          |
| <b>AM</b>                  |                        |        |          | <i>Nicotine</i>            | 2 (21)                 | 42.8   | 28–58    |
| <i>Caffeine</i>            | 14 (32)                | 148.0  | 84–683   |                            |                        |        |          |
| <i>Paraxanthine</i>        | 3 (32)                 | 27.5   | 25–96    |                            |                        |        |          |
| <i>Nicotine</i>            | 27 (32)                | 518.0  | 51–14372 |                            |                        |        |          |
| <i>Cotinine</i>            | 19 (32)                | 8.2    | 2.7–28   |                            |                        |        |          |

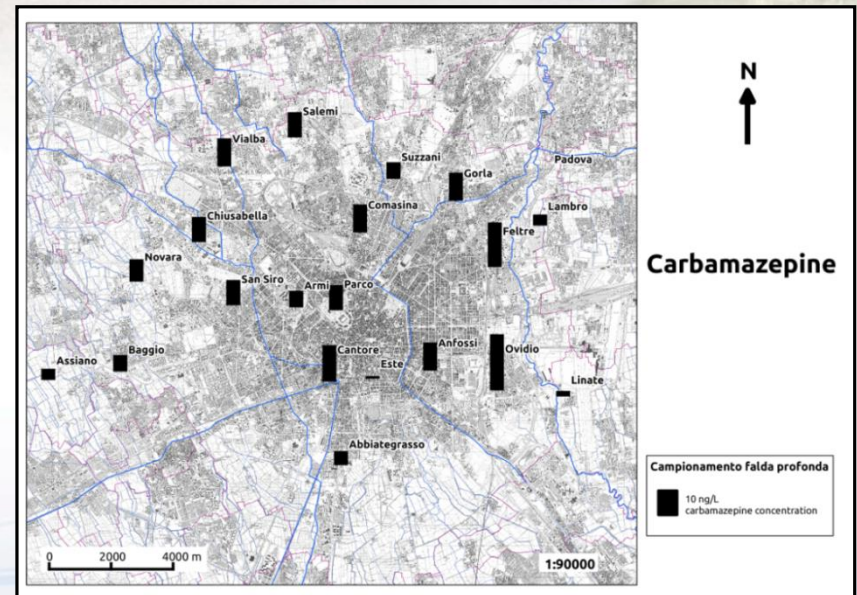
# Ground Water Contamination



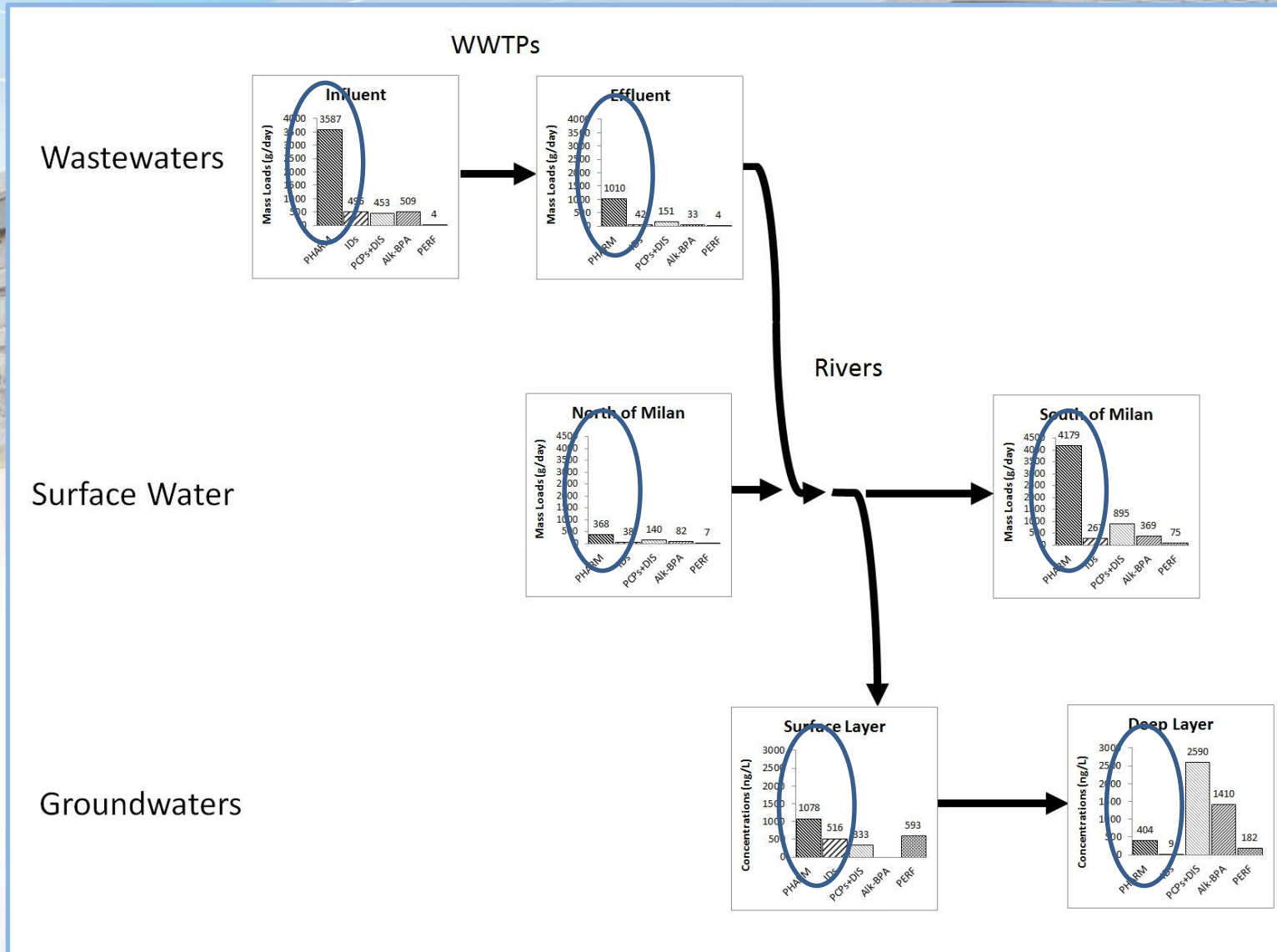
Different pattern of contamination between the layers analyzed

First layer groundwater (depth 0-30m)  
Concentrations 1.5-152 ng/L

Second and third layer groundwater  
(depth 40-200 m)  
Concentrations 0.2-32 ng/L



# Mass balance of emerging contaminants



# Conclusions

- ✓ Most of the **pharmaceuticals** investigated were **ubiquitous** in the River Lambro basin in a highly urbanised area
- ✓ **Behaviour** and **fate in WWTPs** depends on **chemicals structure** and **type of treatment** adopted
- ✓ **Mass Balance** calculation allowed the **identification of different sources** of contamination
  - **domestic** from treated or untreated wastewater
  - **livestock** in the river Lambro basin
- ✓ **Groundwater** resulted affected by pharmaceuticals contamination
- ✓ **Potential environmental risks** related to the reuse of surface water in a number of activities were identified

# Ringraziamenti

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**Istituto di Ricerche  
Farmacologiche  
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Milano**



**DEPARTMENT  
Environmental  
Health Sciences**



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## **Grazie per l'attenzione!**

# Pharmaceuticals occurrence in the environment

**Journal of  
Hazardous  
Materials**

www.elsevier.com/locate/jhazmat

Identification of the pharmaceuticals for human use  
contaminating the Italian aquatic environment

Ettore Zuccato<sup>a,\*</sup>, Sara Castiglioni<sup>a,b</sup>, Roberto Fanelli<sup>a</sup>

Journal of Hazardous Materials 122 (2005) 205–209

Table 4

Pharmaceuticals in effluents of urban sewage treatment plants (STP) (median of nine STPs), and in surface water from the River Po (median and maximum value of seven sampling sites), and River Lambro (sampling site Milan)

| ng/L                | STPs   | Lambro river | Po river |        |
|---------------------|--------|--------------|----------|--------|
|                     | Median |              | Maximum  | Median |
| Ofloxacin           | 600.0  | 306.1        | 37.0     | 33.1   |
| Furosemide          | 585.0  | 254.7        | 67.2     | 3.5    |
| Atenolol            | 466.0  | 241.0        | 41.7     | 17.2   |
| Hydrochlorothiazide | 439.1  | 255.8        | 24.4     | 4.6    |
| Carbamazepine       | 291.1  | 175.3        | 34.2     | 23.1   |
| Ranitidine          | 288.2  | 38.5         | 4        | 1.3    |
| Ciprofloxacin       | 251.0  | 14.4         | 26.2     | Nd     |
| Sulphamethoxazole   | 127.2  | Nd           | Nd       | Nd     |
| Ibuprofen           | 121.2  | 20.0         | 17.4     | 13.0   |
| Spiramycin          | 75.0   | 74.2         | 43.8     | 9.8    |
| Bezafibrate         | 54.8   | 57.2         | 2.7      | 1.9    |
| Erythromycin        | 47.4   | 4.5          | 15.9     | 3.2    |
| Lincomycin          | 30.5   | 24.4         | 248.9    | 32.6   |
| Clarithromycin      | 18.1   | 8.3          | 20.3     | 1.6    |
| Salbutamol          | 8.7    | 2.5          | 1.7      | 1.1    |
| Amoxicillin         | 4.7    | Nd           | Nd       | Nd     |
| Cyclophosphamide    | 0.6    | Nd           | Nd       | Nd     |
| Diazepam            | 0.0    | Nd           | Nd       | Nd     |
| Enalapril           | 0.0    | 0.5          | 0.1      | 0.1    |
| Ethinylestradiol    | 0.0    | Nd           | Nd       | Nd     |
| Methotrexate        | 0.0    | Nd           | Nd       | Nd     |
| Omeprazole          | 0.0    | Nd           | Nd       | Nd     |

Values are expressed in ng/L.