

1 Letter to the Editor:
2 FAIR-ifying the Exposome Journal:
3 Templates for Chemical Structures and
4 Transformations
5

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12 **Running title:** FAIRifying Chemical Structures and Transformations
13

14 **Abstract**

15 The exposome, the totality of lifetime exposures, is a new and highly complex paradigm for health and
16 disease. Tackling this challenge requires an effort well beyond single individuals or laboratories, where
17 every piece of the puzzle will be vital. The launch of this new Exposome journal coincides with the
18 evolution of the exposome through its teenage years and into a growing maturity in an increasingly open
19 and FAIR (***findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable***) world. This letter discusses how both authors and
20 the Exposome journal alike can help increase the **FAIRness** of the chemical structural information and the
21 associated metadata in the journal, aiming to capture more details about the chemistry of exposomics.
22 The proposed chemical structure template can serve as an **interoperable** supplementary format that is
23 made **accessible** through the website and more **findable** by linking the DOI of this data file to the article
24 DOI metadata, supporting further **reuse**. An additional Transformations template provides authors with a
25 means to connect predecessor (parent, substrate) molecules to successor (transformation product,
26 metabolite) molecules and thus provide **FAIR** connections between observed (*i.e.*, experimental) chemical
27 exposures and biological responses, to help improve the public knowledgebase on exposome-related
28 transformations. These connections are vital to extend current biochemical knowledge and to fulfil the
29 current Exposome definition of “the cumulative measure of environmental influences and associated
30 biological responses throughout the lifespan including exposures from the environment, diet, behaviour,
31 and endogenous processes”.

32

33 Keywords

34 Open science, chemical information, FAIR, transformation products, data workflows, data sharing

35 Main Text

36

37 Motivation

38 The “exposome” is a concept first mentioned in 2005 by Wild¹ to offer an environmental complement to
39 the genome² in considering health and disease. Now that the exposome is in its adolescence and
40 “emerging from the primordial swamp” sufficiently to warrant its own journal², it is a good time to reflect
41 on what steps are required to enable exposomics to mirror the achievements of genomics. A quick search
42 reveals, for instance, that global investment in genomics is projected into the tens of billions in the coming
43 years^{3,4}, while the global investment in the exposome or exposomics is rather of the order of tens of
44 millions. Yet, exposomics is an extraordinarily complex paradigm that will certainly require concerted
45 global effort comparable to that of the human genome⁵. Although capturing “the cumulative measure of
46 environmental influences and associated biological responses throughout the lifespan including
47 exposures from the environment, diet, behaviour, and endogenous processes”⁶ may seem unachievable
48 for some, sequencing the human genome was also considered an almost impossible task only a few
49 decades ago. While the success of genomics is arguably due to many factors (including extensive
50 investment), one very significant factor in its success is the open exchange of genomics data and the
51 ecosystem of open resources that has been built around genomics, enabling scientists around the world
52 to achieve extraordinary progress in a relatively short time. Can exposomics achieve the same?

53 With this letter, we provide some perspectives and guidance on how both authors of articles in Exposome
54 and the Exposome journal itself can contribute to the cumulative efforts needed to tackle the exposomics
55 challenge from a chemical information and chemical informatics standpoint. Exposomics is inherently a
56 data-driven discipline. The interlinking of chemical, disease and reference information is already providing
57 support to exposomics efforts, as shown in Figure 1 using an examples from PubChem⁷ and the
58 Comparative Toxicogenomics Database (CTD)⁸, as well as from the CompTox Chemicals Dashboard^{9,10}.
59 Such information gathering and cross-resource integration efforts are much easier if data is both open
60 and **FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable)**. Providing guidance and coordinating at a journal
61 level is one way to enable such information gathering; genomics data deposition is mandated in most
62 major journals and this has been key to building the open genomics data resources that are so critical for
63 food-based pathogen surveillance, COVID-19 disease variant tracking, and so much more. If sufficient
64 information for exposomics was available, what can we as a community achieve?

65 Authors need guidance to properly and uniformly capture and report chemical structure information and
66 transformations, *i.e.*, connecting either endogenous or exogenous chemicals with their metabolites – thus
67 helping capture the associated biological responses. The flexible templates provided here (see sections
68 “Chemical Structure Data” and “Transformations Data”) show how authors can consistently submit this
69 information to the Exposome journal as supplementary materials with their articles. These templates are
70 designed such that authors can include as much or as little information as is available, yet still contribute
71 their knowledge and outcomes to the exposomics “pool” (and beyond) in an open and FAIR manner. The
72 “Chemical Structure Data” template is identical to the template introduced recently in the Journal of
73 Cheminformatics¹¹.

A

PubChem 1-Chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene (Compound)

13 Associated Disorders and Diseases ? ↗

Page 3 of 14 items [View More Rows & Details](#) ↗ ↓ Download

Disease	Evidence Type	Evidence PMID
Inflammation	marker/mechanism	19647056
		20096324
		25449201
Melanoma	therapeutic	12202904
		17334785
Necrosis	marker/mechanism	28826779
Respiratory Hypersensitivity	marker/mechanism	17693426

< Previous 1 2 3

▶ Comparative Toxicogenomics Database (CTD)

B

Chemical	CAS RN	DSSToxID	PMID Ct	Seizures	Nervous System Diseases	Peripheral Nervous System Diseases	Brain Diseases	Muscular Diseases	Basal Ganglia Diseases	Parkinson Disease, Secondary	Coma	Hallucinations	Tremor	Memory Disorders	Central Nervous
Cisplatin	15663-27-1	DTXSID4024983	1032	20	47	140	13	0	4	1	1	0	1	2	4
Ethanol	64-17-5	DTXSID9020584	768	100	23	11	18	26	1	3	20	6	17	54	2
Lead	7439-92-1	DTXSID2024161	740	28	107	68	102	4	2	2	1	3	4	19	30
Lithium	7439-93-2	DTXSID5036761	689	30	50	9	22	5	36	13	25	6	93	12	15
Valproic Acid	76584-70-8	DTXSID70227388	666	32	10	3	65	6	10	18	45	5	18	4	2
1-Methyl-4-phenylethylamine	28289-54-5	DTXSID8040933	638	1	24	0	11	0	6	289	0	0	5	0	1
Vincristine	2068-78-2	DTXSID8044331	567	17	59	125	15	5	1	1	5	3	2	1	8
Phenytoin	57-41-0	DTXSID8020541	560	37	24	25	16	9	3	1	9	3	8	4	6
Haloperidol	52-86-8	DTXSID4034150	555	6	6	1	10	6	153	51	4	4	11	1	0
Cocaine	50-36-2	DTXSID2038443	530	151	16	0	8	0	2	3	3	8	6	12	11
Aspirin	50-78-2	DTXSID5020108	489	8	3	0	3	2	2	0	9	4	1	0	5
Paclitaxel	33069-62-4	DTXSID9023413	485	4	43	217	9	14	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Aluminum	7429-90-5	DTXSID3040273	477	13	41	1	105	4	0	0	1	0	1	13	12
Lidocaine	6108-05-0	DTXSID80209953	464	150	26	15	3	2	0	0	8	4	6	2	10
Methotrexate	59-05-2	DTXSID4020822	451	17	25	1	79	4	0	1	5	0	1	9	18
Mercury	7439-97-6	DTXSID1024172	450	6	79	22	23	2	3	5	2	2	38	7	25

74 Figure 1: FAIRifying and opening up exposomics information is critical to “big data” exposomics, empowering information
 75 discovery and cross-resource integration. Top (A): associated disorders and diseases (and references) for a single chemical, 1-
 76 chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene in PubChem⁷, with information sourced from the Comparative Toxicogenomics Database (CTD)⁸.
 77 Source: <https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/6#section=Associated-Disorders-and-Diseases>. Bottom (B): Individual
 78 chemical – disease endpoint mappings via Name, Chemical Abstract Services Registry Numbers (CAS RN), CompTox Chemicals
 79 Dashboard identifiers (DSSToxID or DTXSIDs), plus total and endpoint-specific reference counts in the context of neurotoxicity,
 80 embedded in an excel macro^{10,12}.

81 An incredible amount of knowledge relevant for exposomics has already been gathered, yet current
 82 studies are based primarily on using public resources to find existing information. To extend exposomics
 83 into the future, we need to enable the discovery and reporting of new findings via rapid integration into

84 public resources. Thus, author contributions, no matter how small, will gradually help build the bigger
85 picture needed to unravel and comprehend the exposome. Before we launch into the template
86 descriptions, a few definitions are covered in the next section.

87

88 Definitions

89 While “FAIR” and “Open” are used somewhat interchangeably in this article as we strongly believe that
90 chemical data should be both where possible, there is a distinction that is particularly relevant for
91 exposomics, as sensitive human data cannot necessarily be made open. Data can be “open” but not
92 “FAIR”, and vice versa. Open science has many facets; of most relevance to this article is open access.
93 Open access (OA) is a set of principles and a range of practices through which research outputs are
94 distributed online, free of cost or other access barriers¹³. The FAIR principles for digital assets, on the other
95 hand, include guidance on how to make data more Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable^{14,15}.
96 For example, if you have open data that is not findable, no one can use it; whereas if you have “FAIR” data
97 that is not “open”, it is not available for integration into open community resources. Thus, the most
98 powerful data is both open and FAIR

99 In Table 1, we provide some definitions of chemical and transformation terms used later in this article.

100 *Table 1: Definition of chemical and transformation terms used in this article and/or templates.*

Concept	Definition
Biosystem	The medium in which the predecessor is transformed into the successor (e.g., environment, human liver, etc.)
Identifier	An identifier or name that you (the author) have for a chemical structure
InChI	IUPAC International Chemical Identifier is a descriptor of a chemical structure ¹⁶
InChIKey	A 27-character long, layered “hash” of an InChI ¹⁶
PubChem CID	PubChem Compound Identifier
Predecessor	Substrate/parent that is transformed (somehow) into a successor product
SMILES	Chemical structure notation expressed as a string
Successor	Transformation product/metabolite resulting from transformation (somehow) of a substrate/parent

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102

103 Templates for FAIR Exposomics Chemical Data

104

105 Chemical Structure Data

106 Better consideration of chemical factors in the exposome requires high-quality chemical information in
107 research articles. Many exposomics resources are based (mostly) on literature mining using name and
108 synonym matching, which can be notoriously prone to errors. In this section, we provide some guidance
109 on what information authors should consider providing, as well as the pros and cons of various choices.
110 Since this Chemical Structure Data template was presented recently to the Journal of Cheminformatics¹¹,
111 some of the material in this section overlaps with the previous article.

112 Authors should consider submitting their chemical structure information with their manuscript as
113 Supplementary Material using the suggested template as comma separated value (CSV; *.csv); or,
114 alternatively, as tab-separated value (TSV; *.tsv) or structure data file (SDF; *.sdf) formats. These formats
115 ensure maximum interoperability between resources and operating systems. The popular XLS(X) format
116 is not truly interoperable (options to save as CSV or TSV are offered), while the extraction of information
117 from PDF format is difficult without introducing errors. The content below describes the CSV/TSV formats,
118 SDF instructions are available elsewhere¹⁷ (however, the SD fields should match the CSV/TSV headers). In
119 our experience, so far CSV often proves most interoperable for the widest audience, although the other
120 formats also have certain advantages.

121 For CSV/TSV files, the header (first row) indicates the data content of each column; each subsequent row
122 corresponds to a complete chemical record description: chemical structure, chemical names, identifiers,
123 comments, and any other data the authors wish to provide (as additional columns). The interoperable
124 case-insensitive template CSV/TSV column headers (or SDF SD fields) are: **SMILES**, **InChI**, and **InChIKey** for
125 chemical structure; **Name** and **Synonym** for chemical names; and **Comment** for textual comments. Any
126 additional columns headers (e.g., for data, additional identifiers, or desired metadata) are up to the author
127 (e.g., the **PubChem_CID** identifier header in Figure 2). Note that there may be many **Synonym** and
128 **Comment** columns in the file to provide space for more chemical names and metadata, respectively.

129 The author-submitted template file¹⁸ should contain **at least one** of the following columns: **SMILES**, **InChI**,
130 **Name** or **InChIKey**. The **Name** column corresponds to a single primary name for the chemical structure.
131 Each **Synonym** column corresponds to an additional chemical name (one name entry per column). Each
132 **Comment** column can be added to provide additional text that may be important to the downstream user.
133 Authors can also provide additional CSV/TSV columns (or SDF SD fields) containing information about their
134 chemical substances (with unique, descriptive headers) for additional context. Chemical database
135 identifiers or registry numbers could be included in this manner (as additional columns or fields), or as a
136 **Synonym**. Note that chemical records indicating chemical structure with only **InChIKey** or **Name** will not
137 contain sufficient information to describe a chemical structure; and *can only be mapped to existing entries*
138 in destination resources. Batch services are available (e.g. from PubChem^{7,19} or CompTox^{9,20}) for authors
139 to add, e.g., **SMILES** and/or **InChI** to their records, based upon the **Name** or other identifiers.

140 Figure 1 in Schymanski & Bolton 2021¹¹ shows the template file, which is available for download¹⁸ and as
141 Supporting Information with this article. Figure 2 below shows an example submission according to the
142 proposed template, created by sub-setting the “HSDBTPS” dataset of literature-mined and curated
143 transformation products from the Hazardous Substance Data Bank (HSDB) in PubChem^{21,22}. This example
144 provides the **Name**, **SMILES** and **InChIKey** fields as suggested, and an identifier (the PubChem Compound
145 Identifier, CID) as an additional (optional) column (**PubChem_CID**) with a unique and easily recognizable
146 header that can be processed by other resources as they choose, helping with interoperability.

PubChem_CID	Name	SMILES	InChIKey
2256	Atrazine	CCNC1=NC(=NC(=N1)Cl)NC(C)C	MXWJVTOOROXGIU-UHFFFAOYSA-N
2328	Bentazone	CC(C)N1C(=O)C2=CC=CC=C2NS1(=O)=O	ZOMSMJKLGFBRBS-UHFFFAOYSA-N
3030	Dicamba	COC1=C(C=CC(=C1C(=O)O)Cl)Cl	IWEDIXLBFLAXBO-UHFFFAOYSA-N
3120	Diuron	CN(C)C(=O)NC1=CC(=C(C=C1)Cl)Cl	XMTQQYKAVHGBJ-UHFFFAOYSA-N
4169	Metolachlor	CCC1=CC=CC(=C1N(C(C)COC)C(=O)CCl)C	WVQBLGZPHOPFO-UHFFFAOYSA-N
7257	3,4-Dichloroaniline	C1=CC(=C(C=C1N)Cl)Cl	SDYWXFYBZPNOFX-UHFFFAOYSA-N
12584	Ammelide	C1(=NC(=O)NC(=O)N1)N	YSKUZVBSHIWEFK-UHFFFAOYSA-N

148 Figure 2: An example chemical structure data file constructed according to the proposed template¹⁸ by taking a subset of the
 149 HSDBTPS structure data²¹. Image created in RStudio (Version 1.2.5042). The HSDBTPS efforts resulted in the deposition of 5 new
 150 structures to PubChem all documented in HSDB text snippets, CIDs [146035700](#), [146035701](#), [146035702](#), [146035703](#) and
 151 [146037633](#).

152 Transformations Data

153 The advancement of modern science is data driven^{23,24}. Providing key data in a ready to use format helps
 154 to assist in its reuse in research articles, regulatory reports, or machine learning data models. Exposomics
 155 especially needs access to ready-to-use, high-quality chemical information from individual research
 156 articles (e.g., such as the connection of detected chemicals with the disease endpoint investigated or the
 157 aggregation of known metabolites of thousands of common chemicals). For instance, HSDB contains
 158 metabolites and metabolism information for 3220 chemicals gathered over 40 years, but these are only
 159 available as text snippets that need to be matched to chemical structures by synonyms followed by
 160 manual curation (initial efforts have covered only 1/100th of this dataset²²). However, as mentioned above,
 161 a key challenge in exposomics is to connect chemicals (e.g., of anthropogenic origin, but also endogenous
 162 or exogenous chemicals) that are associated with exposures with their biological response. Since
 163 metabolism is the most dynamic of the biological responses, and metabolites per definition fall into the
 164 same molecular mass category as many anthropogenic chemicals of concern, a key gap in exposomics
 165 knowledge is the connection between chemicals and their metabolites. The efforts of many will be needed
 166 to help fill this knowledge gap, and the timing could not be better for exposomics with several recent
 167 studies emerging using *in vitro* enzymes to investigate parent-metabolite relationships of drugs and other
 168 relevant chemicals^{25,26}.

169 The Transformations template provided here has been designed on the basis of recent efforts to fill the
 170 gaps of transformation products in PubChem using literature data²⁷, in collaboration with the NORMAN
 171 Suspect List Exchange (NORMAN-SLE)²⁸⁻³⁰. Several datasets from a variety of sources have now been
 172 processed. Transformations from the NORMAN-SLE, where S## refers to the list number, followed by the
 173 list code, include: S60 SWISSPEST19^{31,32}, S66 EAWAGTPS^{33,34}, S68 HSDBTPS^{21,22}, S73 METXBIODB^{35,36}, S74
 174 REFTPS³⁷, S78 SLUPESTPS^{38,39}, S79 UACCSECEC^{40,41} and S81 THSTPS⁴² (list available from [https://git-
 175 r3lab.uni.lu/eci/pubchem/-/raw/master/annotations/tps/Transformation_Datasets.txt](https://git-r3lab.uni.lu/eci/pubchem/-/raw/master/annotations/tps/Transformation_Datasets.txt)). Of these,
 176 MetXBioDB also contains enzyme information, while the rest are primarily environmental data. Figure 3
 177 shows an example “environmental” dataset compiled from several of these lists, using the proposed
 178 template. In addition to the NORMAN-SLE datasets, a dataset of more than 1200 transformations from

179 ChEMBL⁴³ has also been added, including enzyme, gene and protein information (where available). An
 180 example of Transformations with more biological information available is given in Figure 4.

181 Information about both the predecessor (parent/precursor) and successor (transformation
 182 product/metabolite) must be given for a valid transformation. The template can accept *at least one* of
 183 **Name**, **SMILES** or **PubChem CID** for each, where **SMILES** or **CID** is preferred, and **SMILES** will be the most
 184 interoperable. Note that these need not be consistent – for instance, it is possible to provide **SMILES** of
 185 the successor and a **CID** of the predecessor if a **Name** or **CID** is not available for the successor. It is
 186 preferable to give two fields, Figure 3 shows the example of **Name** and **CID**, while Figure 4 an example of
 187 **SMILES** and **Name** (top panel on each figure).

Predecessor_CID	Predecessor_Name	Transformation	Successor_CID	Successor_Name
13101	6PPD	Ozone	154926030	6PPD-quinone
2256	Atrazine	Environmental	13878	Deisopropyl-atrazine
2256	Atrazine	Mammalian metabolism	135408770	Ammeline
2256	Atrazine	Fungal metabolism	22563	Desethyl-atrazine
2256	Atrazine	Dehalogenation	135398733	Atrazine-2-hydroxy
13450	Terbutryn	Mammalian metabolism	13019211	Desethyl-terbutryn
5216	Simazine	Plant metabolism	12584	Ammelide

Biosystem	Reference_ID	Reference_Description
Environment	DOI:10.1126/science.abd6951	Tian, Z. et al. (2020) A ubiquitous tire rubber-derived chemi...
Soil	DOI:10.5281/zenodo.4687924	S78 SLUPESTTPS Pesticides and TPs from SLU, Sweden
Mammal	DOI:10.5281/zenodo.3827487	Kearney, P.C., and D. D. Kaufman (eds.) Herbicides: Chemistr...
Fungus	PMID:8967773	S68 HSDBTPS Transformation Products Extracted from HS...
Environment	DOI:10.1007/s13361-017-1797-6	Schollee et al, Similarity of High-Resolution Tandem Mass S...
Mammal	DOI:10.1002/bms.1200050604	S68 HSDBTPS Transformation Products Extracted from HS...
Plant	DOI:10.5281/zenodo.3827487	USEPA/Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances; Simazine: ...

189 *Figure 3: An example of various environmental transformations constructed according to the proposed Transformations*
 190 *template⁴⁴ (using Name and PubChem CID), taking a subset of transformations from NORMAN-SLE datasets (REFTPS³⁷, HSDBTPS²¹,*
 191 *SLUPESTTPS³⁸, EAWAGTPS³³ and SWISSPEST19³¹). Image created in RStudio (Version 1.2.5042).*

192

Predecessor_Name	Predecessor_SMILES	Successor_Name	Successor_SMILES	Transformation
Carbamazepine	<chem>C1=CC=C2C(=C1)C=CC3=CC=CC=C3N2C(=O)N</chem>	Carbamazepine-10,11-epoxide	<chem>C1=CC=C2C(=C1)C3C(O3)C4=CC=CC=C4N2C(=O)N</chem>	Epoxidation of 1,2-disubstituted alkene / Human Phase I
Acrolein	<chem>C=CC=O</chem>	Acrylic Acid	<chem>C=CC(=O)O</chem>	
Furan	<chem>C1=COC=C1</chem>	(E)-2-Butenedial	<chem>C(=C(C=O))C=O</chem>	Oxidation / Human Phase I
Benzene	<chem>C1=CC=CC=C1</chem>	Phenol	<chem>C1=CC=C(C=C1)O</chem>	Hydroxylation of aromatic carbon / Human Phase I
Nicotinamide	<chem>C1=CC(=CN=C1)C(=O)N</chem>	MNAM	<chem>C[N+]=CC=CC(=C1)C(=O)N</chem>	

Biosystem	Enzyme	Gene_ID	Protein_ID	Reference_ID	Reference_Description
Human	CYP3A4/CYP2C8			DOI:10.1186/s13321-018-0324-5	Brown, C.M. et al. (2008) Cytochromes P450: A Structure-Bas...
	Aldehyde dehydrogenase 1A1	216	P00352	DOI:10.1111/j.1365-2125.2006.02690.x	Data from ChEMBL - IDs (pred.succ.enzyme): ChEMBL721[C...
Human	CYP2E1			PMID:20043645	S73 METXBIODB Metabolite Reaction Database from BioT...
Human	CYP2E1			DOI:10.1186/s13321-018-0324-5	Brown, C.M. et al. (2008); Cytochromes P450: A Structure-Ba...
	Nicotinamide N-methyltransferase	4837	P40261	DOI:10.1124/dmd.112.049734	Data from ChEMBL - ChEMBL IDs (pred.succ.enzyme): CHEM...

194 *Figure 4: An example of biological transformations constructed according to the proposed Transformations template⁴⁴ (using*
 195 *Name and SMILES), taking a subset of transformations from NORMAN-SLE dataset MetXBioDB³⁵ (from BioTransformer³⁶) and*
 196 *the ChEMBL⁴³ datasets on PubChem; both datasets have some degree of enzyme, gene and/or protein information available.*

197 If available, a brief description of the transformation is useful and can be provided in the “**Transformation**”
198 field (top panel, Figure 3 and Figure 4). Short, informative descriptions are preferred; the current entries
199 have been either extracted automatically from existing datasets or entered manually. In the future, it may
200 be possible to provide some guidance via an ontology as the public dataset grows to improve the machine
201 readability. Similarly, if information on the biosystem is available (*i.e.*, where the transformation takes
202 place), this can be included in the **Biosystem** column (see Figure 3 and Figure 4 for examples).

203 For datasets with biological information, this can be provided (optionally) in the **Enzyme**, **Gene_ID** and
204 **Protein_ID** columns. At this stage the template allows flexible input (see Figure 4 for examples) but
205 recommend **Enzyme** are provided as either: Enzyme Commission (EC) number,^{45–47} such as “EC 2.3.2.23”;
206 gene symbol, such as “CYP1A1”; or as enzyme names, such as “Aryl hydrocarbon hydroxylase”. The
207 **Gene_ID** is expected to be an NCBI Gene⁴⁸ ID, such as “1543”. The **Protein_ID** is expected to be either an
208 NCBI Protein⁴⁹ accession, such as “NP_059488.2” or an UniProt identifier,⁵⁰ such as “P08684”. If multiple
209 entries for **Enzyme**, **Gene_ID** and **Protein_ID** are provided, they should be separated by a “pipe” symbol
210 (“|”) or provided as new rows.

211 Finally, the **Reference_ID** and **Reference_Description** columns provide the opportunity to credit the
212 original sources of the information. **Reference_ID** entries should be either PubMed identifiers⁵¹ (PMIDs)
213 or Digital Object Identifiers⁵² (DOIs), preceded with “PMID:” or “DOI:”, respectively, for easy recognition,
214 and separated by a “pipe” (“|”) if multiple IDs exist (they can be mixed – for example,
215 “PMID:33929905|DOI:10.1186/s13321-018-0324-5”). The **Reference_Description** can be used to provide
216 a free text form of the reference, to describe the data source (if no PMID / DOI available) or to describe
217 evidence of the transformation. Only **Reference_ID** can be processed automatically. Again, see Figure 3
218 and Figure 4 and the Transformations template⁴⁴ for examples.

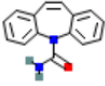
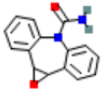
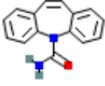
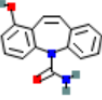
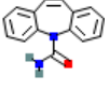
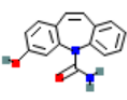
219 So far, about 6000 Transformations have been processed using these templates, from nine different
220 sources (many of these being composite data from several sources themselves, including ChEMBL⁴³,
221 MetXBioDB³⁵ and REFTPS³⁷). The Transformations are being integrated into current computational mass
222 spectrometry workflows (such as patRoan⁵³ and as documented in Krier *et al.*²²) and are openly available
223 for all. The summarized files are likewise available for comprehensive efforts such as BioTransformer³⁶ to
224 add this new data to their training set (MetXBioDB³⁵ is the library behind BioTransformer) and likewise
225 improve predictions. Overall, FAIR transformations data will greatly support exposomics, and discussions
226 to extend these templates into fields with formal ontologies and/or other formats such as mzTab^{54,55} in
227 the future are welcomed. As demonstrated in Figure 5 and Figure 6, one can see the benefits of arranging
228 data in FAIR templates. Figure 5 is an example of a resulting Transformation entry in PubChem, while
229 Figure 6 can be created automatically in CDK Depict using simple code in R to create annotated reaction
230 SMILES from the fields shown in Figure 3 only.

8.10 Transformations



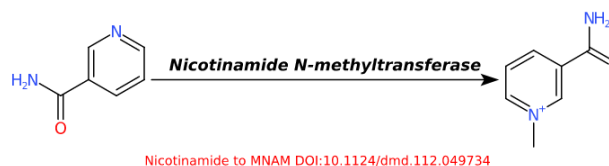
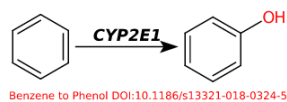
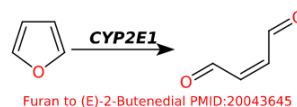
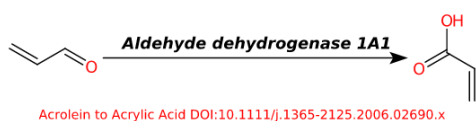
7 items View More Rows & Details

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Predecessor	Predecessor Name	Successor	Successor Name	Transformation	Enzyme
	carbamazepine		Carbamazepine 10,11-epoxide	Epoxidation of 1,2-disubstituted alkene / Human Phase I	CYP3A4 CYP2C8
	carbamazepine		9-Hydroxycarbamazepine	Aromatic hydroxylation of fused benzene ring / Human Phase I	CYP3A4 CYP2C8
	carbamazepine		3-Hydroxycarbamazepine	Aromatic hydroxylation of fused benzene ring / Human Phase I	CYP3A4 CYP2C8

232 Figure 5: Example "Transformations" table in PubChem for Carbamazepine, demonstrating possible display options (including
 233 hyperlinking) for FAIR Transformations. Source: <https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/2554#section=Transformations>.

234



236 Figure 6: Example reactions corresponding with the last four rows of Figure 3, automatically created and depicted with CDK
 237 Depict⁵⁶ (<https://www.simolecule.com/cdkdepict/depict.html>) directly from template content shown in Figure 3 (SMILES, Name,
 238 Enzyme and Reference_ID fields).

239

240 Closing

241 Exposomics is a data-driven science, and vast quantities of information will be needed for it to be
242 successful. By making the output of exposomics research available in a more machine-readable way, we
243 can accelerate our progress and rise to the challenge. The templates provided here are a means to make
244 primary outputs FAIR (**Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable**). When authors provide this content
245 as Supplementary Information, it can be readily accessed and utilized, ideally without human intervention.
246 When the journal interlinks these Supplementary Material files with the article DOI and associated
247 metadata, other resources can rapidly find and integrate this content and provide enhanced services for
248 the entire community. Improving the **FAIR**ness of Supplementary Material greatly decreases the effort to
249 combine and aggregate information between papers and improves the correctness of the information
250 over text-mining based approaches. It also greatly enhances the visibility of the individual works and
251 research outputs. As a young scientific discipline, the exposome should learn from its closely related
252 ‘elder’ disciplines. Genomic approaches gained incredible traction due to the widely encouraged and
253 eventually mandated sharing of information. Let us take these lessons to heart and advance together as
254 a field. We need to share information – and lots of it – to help make sense of the exposome. The use of
255 these facile, ready-to-use templates will help advance exposomics by contributing vital information to
256 complete the exposomics “puzzle”.

257

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272

273 Supplementary Materials

274 The chemical structure data submission template and transformations template are provided as
275 Supplementary Material and are also available online^{18,44,57}.

276 All Transformations mentioned in this article are openly available on the NORMAN-SLE and PubChem.

277

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279

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