

Chadwick M. Thompson, Ph.D., M.B.A., ATS

SENIOR MANAGING SCIENTIST

MECHANISTIC AND COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Dr. Chad M. Thompson holds a doctoral degree in Biomedical Sciences and specializes in mechanistic and quantitative aspects of risk assessment. He has written extensively on the mode of action (MOA) of high-profile compounds such as formaldehyde, hexavalent chromium, PFAS, and dioxin. He has also helped design, conduct, and analyze multimillion-dollar research projects with a focus on understanding the toxicity of environmental contaminants and application of such information to risk assessment. Dr. Thompson has extensive experience in dose-response modeling (including benchmark dose modeling), and he helped develop dose-response packages for the R statistical language (www.r-project.org).

Dr. Thompson specializes in the integration of dose-response, toxicological, and mechanistic information in human health risk assessment. As a former health scientist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), he is a co-author of multiple IRIS chemical risk assessments, as well as several agency documents on risk assessment practices and policies, including the application of physiologically based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) models, toxicogenomic data, and lifestage susceptibility information in risk assessment.

Dr. Thompson is a coauthor of more than 100 publications in the peer-reviewed literature, many of which pertain directly to human health risk assessment. He is a former Risk Policy Fellow with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). In June 2025, in recognition of his deep expertise and sound scientific judgment in the field of toxicology, Dr. Thompson was named a Fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences (ATS).

EDUCATION AND DEGREES EARNED

- 2001 M.B.A., Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- 1999 Ph.D., Biomedical Sciences, University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston
- 1994 B.S., Psychology (*cum laude*), Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA

PROFESSIONAL HONORS/AWARDS

- 2025 Fellow, Academy of Toxicological Sciences (ATS)
- 2013 Society of Toxicology Risk Assessment Specialty Session (RASS) top 10 papers of 2012
- 2012 Society of Toxicology Risk Assessment Specialty Session (RASS) top 10 papers of 2011
- 2010 Society of Toxicology Risk Assessment Specialty Session (RASS) top 10 abstracts of the year award
- 2009 Level II Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA): Developing Guidelines for Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Modeling in Quantitative Risk Assessment
- 2009 Level III Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA): Outlining the Sensitivity of Inferences on Mode-of-Action and Cancer Risk Estimates using Clonal Growth Models
- 2009 Honorable Mention: A Groundbreaking Lifestage-Specific Approach to Health Risk Assessment of Environmental Exposures
- 2008 Superior Performance Award, cash award from U.S. EPA
- 2007 U.S. EPA Bronze Medal Award for preparing A Framework for Assessing Health Risk of Environmental Exposures to Children
- 2007 Superior Performance Award, cash award from U.S. EPA
- 2006 U.S. EPA Bronze Medal Award for preparing Approaches for the Application of Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic Models and Supporting Data in Risk Assessment
- 2006 Superior Performance Award, cash award from U.S. EPA
- 2004 2004–2005 AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowship
- 2003 2003–2004 AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowship
- 2003 Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows (declined in order to accept the AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowship)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Society of Toxicology, RASS Specialty Section, Mechanisms Specialty Section

SERVICE/PEER REVIEW

Biomedical and Environmental Sciences
Cell Biology & Toxicology
Chemical Research in Toxicology
Chemosphere
Critical Reviews in Toxicology
Drug & Chemical Toxicology
Environmental Research
Environmental Toxicology & Pharmacology
Expert Opinion on Drug Metabolism & Toxicology

Food & Chemical Toxicology
Human and Ecological Risk Assessment
International Journal of Medical Sciences
Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health
Journal of Applied Toxicology
Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology
Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology
Toxicology Letters
Toxicological Sciences

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Toxicological Risk Assessment

Evaluated and interpreted toxicology data on a variety of environmental contaminants, including formaldehyde, methanol, chromium, nickel, dioxin and dioxin-like compounds (DLCs), brominated flame retardants, and various VOCs. Areas of expertise include hazard characterization, and dose-response analysis, pharmacokinetics, and developments of toxicity and safety values.

Conducted toxicological evaluations of chemical substances present or potentially present in vaccines, and also derived safe levels for excipients, detergents, surfactants, and other chemicals used in the production or inactivation of vaccine products.

Conducted comprehensive literature reviews on the toxicology of nickel compounds in support of registration under the Registration, Evaluation & Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH) initiative. Populated an International Uniform Chemical Information Database (IUCLID) for each substance. Evaluated key studies for reliability and relevance, synthesized large volumes of data, and generated integrative reports.

Developed, managed, analyzed, and published research into the mode of action (MOA) of intestinal tumors in mice exposed to hexavalent chromium [Cr(VI)] in drinking water. Analyzed in vivo and in vitro toxicological responses, including toxicogenomic and genotoxic endpoints.

Analyzed dose-response data pertinent to the development of safety values for oral exposure to Cr(VI) using benchmark dose and constrained nonlinear regression modeling techniques.

Communicated toxicological study findings on Cr(VI) to regulatory authorities across North America.

Collaborated with international researchers to develop methods for assessing the presence or absence of potential thresholds in the dose response of genotoxic endpoints both in vitro and in vivo.

Assisted in the development of an R language script (viz., drsmooth) for using smoothing splines to determine point-of-departure values in toxicological dose-response data sets.

Explored techniques for deriving relative potency estimates for DLCs using toxicogenomics and dose-response modeling methods.

Prepared comments on several external review drafts developed by regulatory agencies, including draft risk assessments, toxicological bioassays, and risk assessment practices and policy documents.

Coordinated and co-wrote portions of U.S. EPA IRIS chemical risk assessments, including reactive gases (e.g., formaldehyde) and systematically distributing compounds (methanol).

Evaluated Provisional Peer-Reviewed Toxicity Values (PPRTVs) for benzene and propene derivatives for U.S. EPA's Superfund program.

Served as a member of the U.S. EPA Pharmacokinetic Workgroup that provides expert consultation to EPA chemical managers regarding the application of PBPK models for ongoing assessments.

Regulatory Toxicology

Coordinated the completion and review of several risk assessment documents—including those related to the use of PBPK models for application in risk assessment, qualitative and quantitative approaches to considering children's susceptibility, and the exploration of the use of "omics" data in hazard characterization and dose-response in risk assessment. Co-author of:

- Approaches for the Application of Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic Models and Supporting Data in Risk Assessment (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=157668>)
- A Framework for Assessing Health Risks of Environmental Exposures to Children (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=158363>)
- An Approach to Using Toxicogenomics Data in EPA Risk Assessments (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=213405>)

Research & Development

Managed the development of Access databases containing physiological data for supporting PBPK model development for humans of various life stages and health conditions, as well as laboratory species.

Collaborated and published with national and international academic scientists on the collection, characterization, and analysis of lifestage-specific physiological data and their application in PBPK modeling and risk assessment.

Collaborated and, with scientists at Karolinska Institute and the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, published on mechanisms of formaldehyde toxicity—including potential respiratory effects relating to the dual function of alcohol dehydrogenase 3 in the oxidation of formaldehyde and reduction of the endogenous bronchodilator S-nitrosoglutathione (GSNO).

Project Management

Assisted in the oversight of a multimillion-dollar research project on the mode of action of hexavalent chromium. Responsibilities included direct interaction with contract laboratories regarding aspects of final study design, contract review, schedule oversight, managing and authorizing payments to contractors, providing scientific consultation and judgment on technical issues, and providing final approval on delivered work products.

Served as the Technical Project Officer on several contracts with outside vendors. Responsibilities included developing cost estimates for bid proposals, managing and approving payments to contractors, writing statements of work, reviewing and selecting bid contracts providing scientific consultation and judgment on technical issues related to contracts, and providing final approval on delivered contract products.

Litigation Support

Prepared (and rebutted) expert reports for formaldehyde litigation relating to alleged adverse health effects from formaldehyde and mobile home exposures.

Taught CLE course related to causation and Havner guidelines.

COMPUTER AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

Ingenuity Pathways Analysis (IPA), IUCLID 5, U.S. EPA's Benchmark Dose Modeling Software (BMDS); PROAST, BMDEExpress, U.S. EPA's Regional Deposited Dose Ratio (RDDR) software v. 2.3, Multi-Path Model of Particle Deposition (MPPD) v. 2.1, Berkeley Madonna (ordinary differential equation solver); GraphPad Prism, @RISK Monte Carlo Software, Microsoft Office (including Access); Minitab Statistical Package, R statistical language.

MANUSCRIPTS

Buerger AN, Heintz MM, Haws LC, **Thompson CM**. 2026. Mode-of-action and human relevance assessment for diisononyl phthalate-induced liver tumors in rodents. *J Appl Toxicol*; doi: [10.1002/jat.70223](https://doi.org/10.1002/jat.70223). Online ahead of print May 5th. PMID: 42086044.

Buerger AN, **Thompson CM**, Heintz MM, Maberti S, Palermo CM, Haws LC. 2026. Application of quantitative and qualitative uncertainty assessment risk management decision-making: A case study with diisononyl phthalate. *Food Chem Toxicol* 214(Aug):116110; doi: [10.1016/j.fct.2026116110](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fct.2026116110). PMID: 42035978.

Thompson CM, Heintz MM, Rogers SI, Vincent MJ, Haws LC. 2026. Integration of mechanistic and repeat dose toxicity data in the derivation of an oral reference dose for HFPO-DA. *Toxicol Sci* 209(5):kfag045; doi: [10.1093/toxsci/kfag045](https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfag045). PMID: 41968070.

Heintz MM, **Thompson CM**, Wolf JC, Rogers JM, Haws LC. 2026. Hepatic transcriptomic responses in gravid and non-gravid rats exposed to HFPO-DA: Analyses to inform the role of maternal effects in neonatal toxicity. *PLoS One* 21(4):e0345643; doi: [10.1371/journal.pone.0345643](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0345643). PMID: 41920860.

Thompson CM, Heintz MM, Cullen JM, Haws LC. 2026. Evaluation of chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity of HFPO-DA in mice. *Regul Toxicol Pharmacol* 165(Feb)106014; doi: [10.1016/j.yrtph.2025.106014](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yrtph.2025.106014). PMID: 41391658.

Borghoff SJ, Heintz MM, Rivera BN, Haws L, **Thompson C**. 2025. Evaluation of an anti-thyroid mode of action for thyroid follicular cell adenomas in female mice exposed to tertiary butyl alcohol. *Regul Toxicol Pharmacol* 163(Dec):105936; doi: [10.1016/j.yrtph.2025.105936](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yrtph.2025.105936). PMID: 40914479.

Brorby G, Franzen A, **Thompson C**, Wikoff D, Doepker C. 2025. Human health risk assessment of three smoke flavoring primary products. *Food Chem Toxicol* 202(Aug):115490; doi: [10.1016/j.fct.2025.115490](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fct.2025.115490). PMID: 40320068.

Heintz MM, Buerger AN, Haws LC, Cullen JM, East AW, **Thompson CM**. 2025. Comparison of phenotypic and transcriptomic profiles between HFPO-DA and prototypical PPAR α , PPAR γ , and cytotoxic agents in wild-type and *Ppara*-null mouse livers. *Toxicol Sci* 206(1):183-201; doi: [10.1093/toxsci/kfaf049](https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfaf049). PMID: 40216583.

Proctor D, Jiang X, Reichert H, **Thompson C**. 2025. Why rat oral cavity tumors should not be the basis of quantitative cancer risk assessment for oral exposure to hexavalent chromium. *Toxicol Sci* 208(1):42-47; doi: [10.1093/toxsci/kfaf112](https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfaf112). PMID: 40795394.

Heintz MM, Klaren WD, East AW, Haws LC, McGreal SR, Campbell RR, **Thompson CM**. 2024. Comparison of transcriptomic profiles between HFPO-DA and prototypical PPAR α , PPAR γ , and cytotoxic agents in wild-type and PPAR α knockout mouse hepatocytes. *Toxicol Sci* 200(1):183-198; doi: [10.1093/toxsci/kfae045](https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfae045). PMID: 38574385.

Heintz MM, Klaren WD, East AW, Haws LC, McGreal SR, Campbell RR, **Thompson CM**. 2024. Comparison of transcriptomic profiles between HFPO-DA and prototypical PPAR α , PPAR γ , and cytotoxic agents in mouse, rat, and pooled human hepatocytes. *Toxicol Sci* 200(1):165-182; doi: [10.1093/toxsci/kfae044](https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfae044). PMID: 38574381.

Thompson CM, Dewhurst N, Moundous D, Borghoff SJ, Haws LC, Vasquez MZ. 2024. Assessment of the genotoxicity of tert-butyl alcohol in an in vivo thyroid comet assay. *Environ Mol Mutagen* 65(3–4):129–136; doi: 10.1002/em.22601.

Thompson CM, Heintz MM, Cullen JM, Haws LC. 2024. Letter to the Editor of Environmental Pollution: In regard to Wan et al. (2024) "GenX caused liver injury and potential hepatocellular carcinoma of mice via drinking water even at environmental concentration." *Environ Pollut* 355(Aug 15):124171; doi: 10.1016/j.envpol.2024.1241741.

Vincent MJ, Fitch S, Bylsma L, **Thompson C**, Rogers S, Britt J, Wikoff D. 2024. Assessment of associations between inhaled formaldehyde and lymphohematopoietic cancer through the integration of epidemiological and toxicological evidence with biological plausibility. *Toxicol Sci* 199(2):172–193; [open access](#).

Heintz MM, Haws LC, Klaunig JE, Cullen JM, **Thompson CM**. 2023. Assessment of the mode of action underlying development of liver lesions in mice following oral exposure to HFPO-DA and relevance to humans. *Toxicol Sci*. 192(1):15-29; doi: 10.1093/toxsci/kfad004. PMID: 36629480; PMCID: PMC10025879.

Rogers JM, Heintz MM, **Thompson CM**, Haws LC. 2023. A putative adverse outcome network for neonatal mortality and lower birth weight in rodents: Applicability to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and relevance to human health. *Birth Def Res* 115:1011–1062.

Thompson CM, Brorby G, Keig-Shevin Z, Smith R, Franzen A, Ulrich K, Blanchette AD, Doepker C. 2023. Assessment of the in vivo genotoxic potential of three smoke flavoring primary product mixtures. *Environ Mol Mutagen* 64(8–9):420–431; doi: 10.1002/em.22576.

Thompson CM, Heintz MM, Wolf J, Cheru R, Haws LC, Cullen JM. 2023. Assessment of mouse liver histopathology following exposure to HFPO-DA with emphasis on understanding mechanisms of hepatocellular death. *Toxicol Pathol* 51(1-2):4-14; doi: 10.1177/01926233231159078. PMID: 36987989.

Thompson CM, Kirman C, Harris MA. 2023. Derivation of oral cancer slope factors for hexavalent chromium informed by pharmacokinetic models and *in vivo* genotoxicity data. *Regul Toxicol Pharmacol* 145:105521; doi: [10.1016/j.yrtph.2023.105521](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yrtph.2023.105521).

Thompson CM, Proctor DM, Harris MA. 2023. Letter to “Chepelev et al. Establishing a quantitative framework for regulatory interpretation of genetic toxicity dose-response data: Margin of exposure case study of 48 compounds with both in vivo mutagenicity and carcinogenicity dose-response data.” *Environ Mol Mutagen* 64(4):259–260; doi: [10.1002/em.22537](https://doi.org/10.1002/em.22537).

Chappell GA, Wolf JC, **Thompson CM**. 2022. Crypt and villus transcriptomic responses in mouse small intestine following oral exposure to hexavalent chromium. *Toxicol Sci* 186(1):43-57; doi: 10.1093/toxsci/kfab152. PMID: 34935971.

Heintz MM, Chappell GA, **Thompson CM**, Haws LC. 2022. Evaluation of transcriptomic responses in livers of mice exposed to the short-chain PFAS compound HFPO-DA. *Front Toxicol* 4:937168; doi: [10.3389/ftox.2022.937168](https://doi.org/10.3389/ftox.2022.937168).

Lea IA, Pham LL, Antonijevic T, **Thompson C**, Borghoff SJ. 2022. Assessment of the applicability of the threshold of toxicological concern for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. *Regul Toxicol Pharmacol* 133:105190, [open access](#).

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Felter SP, Zhang X, **Thompson C**. 2021. Butylated hydroxyanisole: Carcinogenic food additive to be avoided or harmless antioxidant important to protect food supply? *Regul Toxicol Pharmacol* 121:104887.

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Thompson CM, Bhat VS, Brorby GP, Haws LC. 2021. Development of updated RfD and RfC values for medium carbon range aromatic and aliphatic total petroleum hydrocarbon fractions. *J Air Waste Manag Assoc* 71(12):1555–1567; doi: 10.1080/10962247.2021.1974123.

Bhat VS, Cohen SM, Gordon EB, Wood CE, Cullen JM, Harris MA, Proctor DM, **Thompson CM**. 2020. An adverse outcome pathway for small intestinal tumors in mice involving chronic cytotoxicity and regenerative hyperplasia: A case study with hexavalent chromium, captan, and folpet. *Crit Rev Toxicol* (open access); doi: [10.1080/10408444.2020.1823934](https://doi.org/10.1080/10408444.2020.1823934).

Chappell GA, **Thompson CM**, Wolf JC, Cullen JM, Klaunig JE, Haws LC. 2020. Assessment of the mode of action underlying the effects of GenX in mouse liver and implications for assessing human health risks. *Toxicol Pathol* 48(3):494–508; doi: 10.1177/0192623320905803. PMID: 32138627.

Gentry R, **Thompson CM**, Franzen A, Salley J, Albertini R, Lu K, Greene T. 2020. Using mechanistic information to support evidence integration and synthesis: A case study with inhaled formaldehyde and leukemia. *Crit Rev Toxicol* 50(10):885–918; doi: [10.1080/10408444.2020.1854678](https://doi.org/10.1080/10408444.2020.1854678).

Pham LL, Borghoff SJ, **Thompson CM**. 2020. Comparison of threshold of toxicological concern (TTC) values to oral reference dose (RfD) values. *Regul Toxicol Pharmacol* 113:104651 (open access); doi: [10.1016/j.yrtph.2020.104651](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yrtph.2020.104651).

Thompson CM, Gentry R, Fitch S, Lu K, Clewell HJ. 2020. An updated mode of action and human relevance framework evaluation for formaldehyde-related nasal tumors. *Crit Rev Toxicol* 50(10):919–952; doi: [10.1080/10408444.2020.1854679](https://doi.org/10.1080/10408444.2020.1854679).

Thompson CM, Donahue DA, Hobbs C, Costecalde Y, Franzen A, Suh M, Proctor DM, Harris MA. 2020. Exposure to environmentally-relevant concentrations of hexavalent chromium does not induce ovarian toxicity in mice. *Regul Toxicol Pharmacol* 116:104729; doi: [10.1016/j.yrtph.2020.104729](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yrtph.2020.104729).

Andersen ME, Gentry PR, Swenberg JA, Mundt KA, White KW, **Thompson C**, Bus J, Sherman JH, et al. 2019. Considerations for refining the risk assessment process for formaldehyde: Results from an interdisciplinary workshop. *Regul Toxicol Pharmacol* 106:210–223.

Chappell G, Rager J, Wolf J, Babic M, Leblanc, Ring C, Harris MA, **Thompson CM**. 2019. Comparison of gene expression responses in the small intestine of mice following exposure to three carcinogens using the S1500+ gene set informs a potential common adverse outcome pathway. *Toxicol Pathol* 47(7):851–864; doi: [10.1177/0192623319873882](https://doi.org/10.1177/0192623319873882).

Clewell RA, **Thompson CM**, Clewell HJ. 2019. Dose-dependence of chemical carcinogenicity: Biological mechanisms for thresholds and implications for risk assessment. *Chem Biol Interact* 301:112–127.

Klaren WD, Ring C, Harris MA, Thompson CM, Borghoff S, Sipes NS, Hsieh J-H, Auerbach SS, Rager JE. 2019. Identifying attributes that influence *in vitro*-to-*in vivo* concordance by comparing *in vitro* Tox21 bioactivity versus *in vivo* DrugMatrix transcriptomic responses across 130 chemicals. *Toxicol Sci* 167(1):157-171; doi: [10.1093/toxsci/kfy220](https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfy220).

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Thompson CM, Fitch SE, Ring C, Rish W, Cullen JM, Haws LC. 2019. Development of an oral reference dose for the perfluorinated compound GenX. *J Appl Toxicol* 39:1267–1282; doi: [10.1002/jat.3812](https://doi.org/10.1002/jat.3812).

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ABSTRACTS, PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS

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