



AARHUS  
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



# MERMISS I+II MILJØEFFEKTIV RENSNING AF HØJPOTENTE LÆGEMIDDELSTOFFER I HOSPITALSSPILDEVAND



– ET SAMARBEJDE MELLEM UNIVERSITETER, VIDENINSTITUTIONER  
OG PRIVATE VIRKSOMHEDER

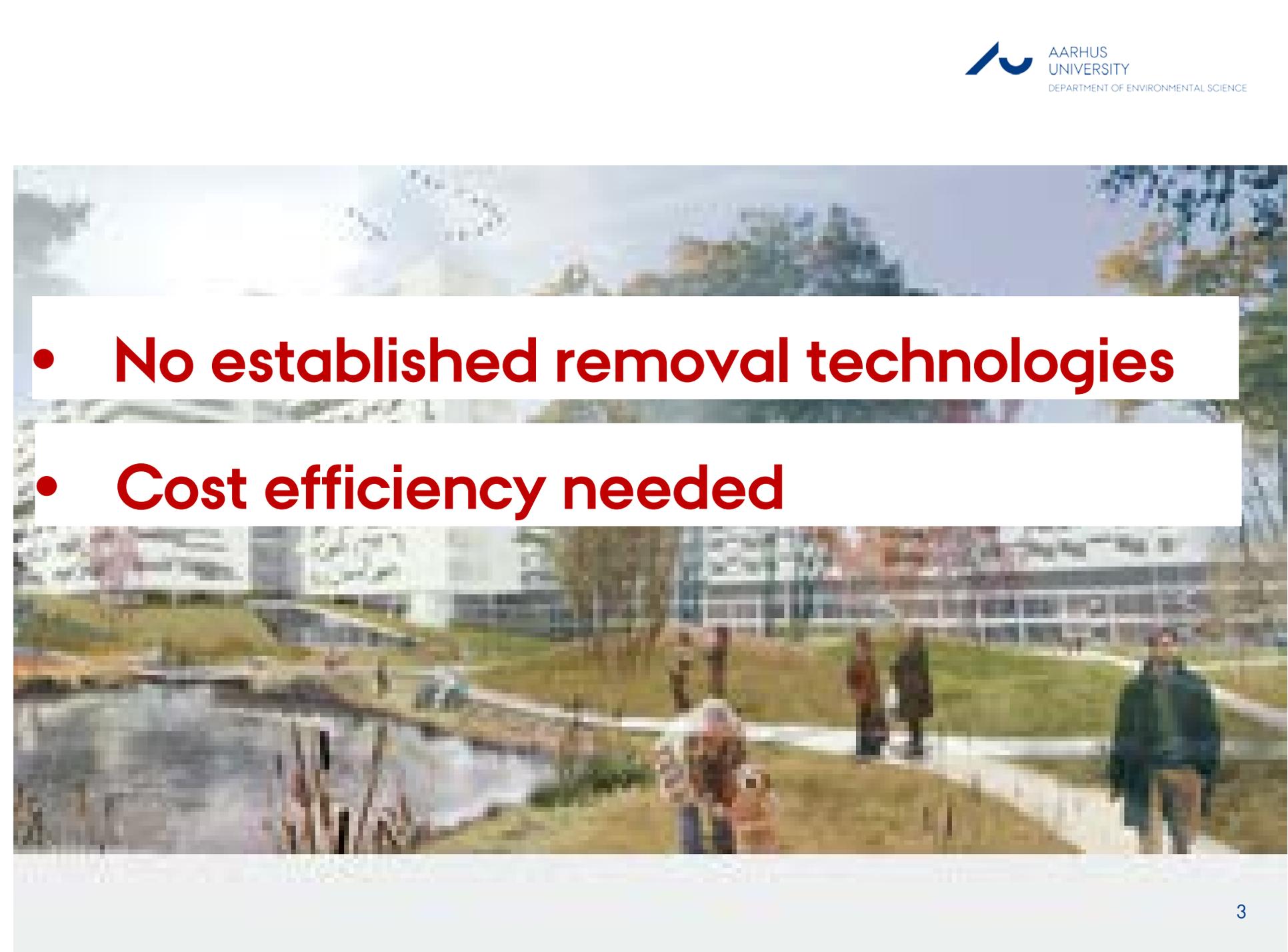
Kai Bester, Pilot center for Advanced Water Purification, Aarhus University

[kb@envs.au.dk](mailto:kb@envs.au.dk)



# Background

- **Hospitals use a lot of pharmaceuticals**
- **Pharmaceuticals are excreted**
- **High loads of Pharmaceuticals are in the wastewater**
- **Super hospitals increase this problem**

- 
- **No established removal technologies**
  - **Cost efficiency needed**

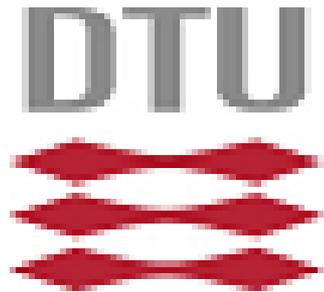
# The team



DANISH  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
INSTITUTE



AARHUS  
UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



# ANOXKALDNES

# KRÜGER



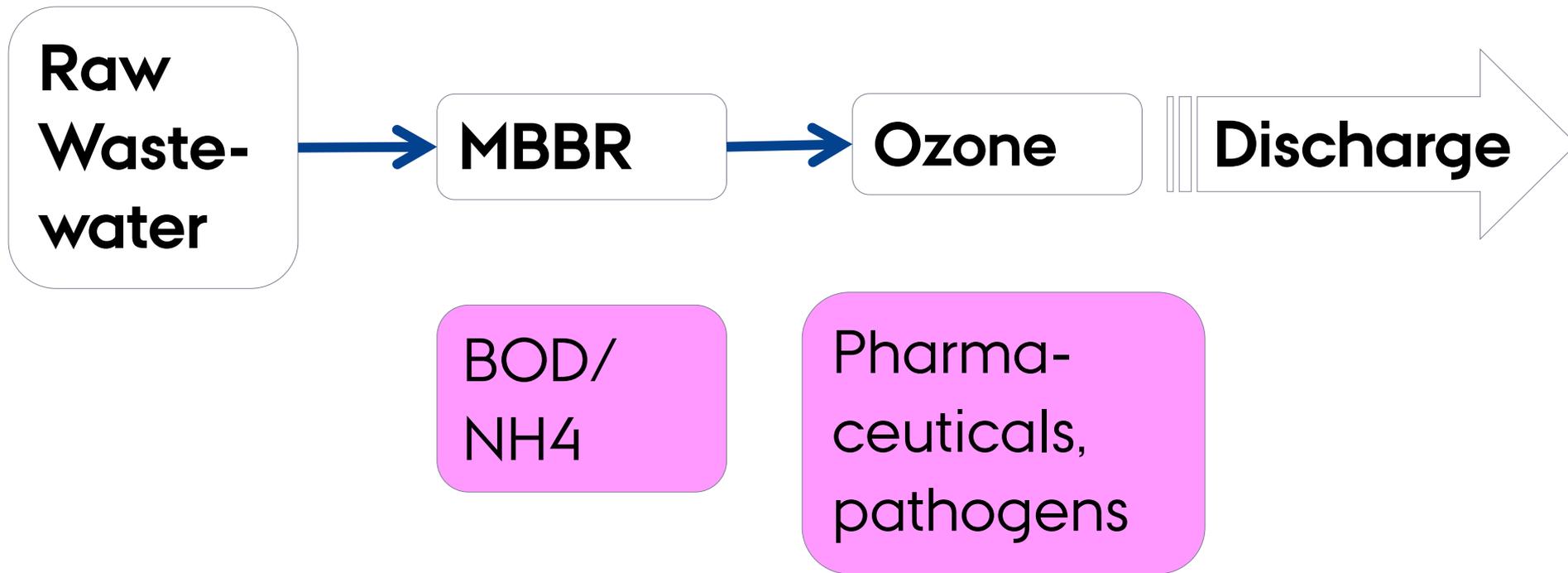
*Aarhus Universitetshospital*

**Teknisk Afdeling**

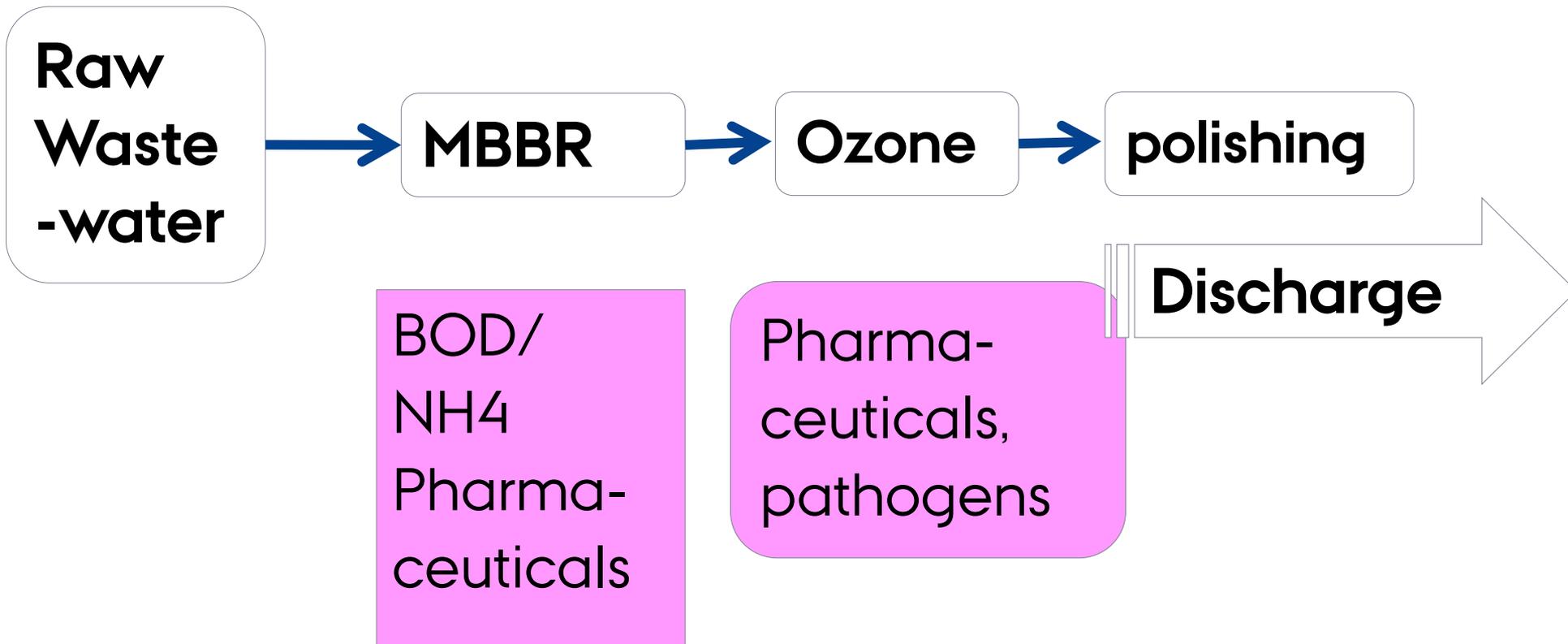
# The challenge

- **Some pharmaceuticals are recalcitrant**
- **Some pharmaceuticals are Antibiotics**

# Original concept



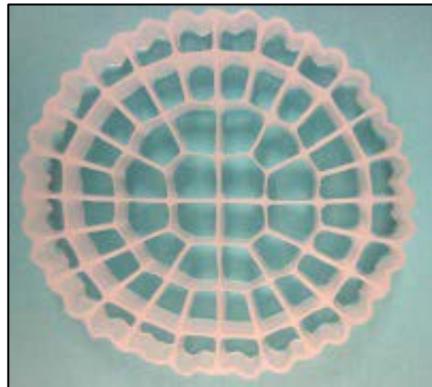
# Modified concept



## 4.2.1 Hospital-Wastewater Treatment

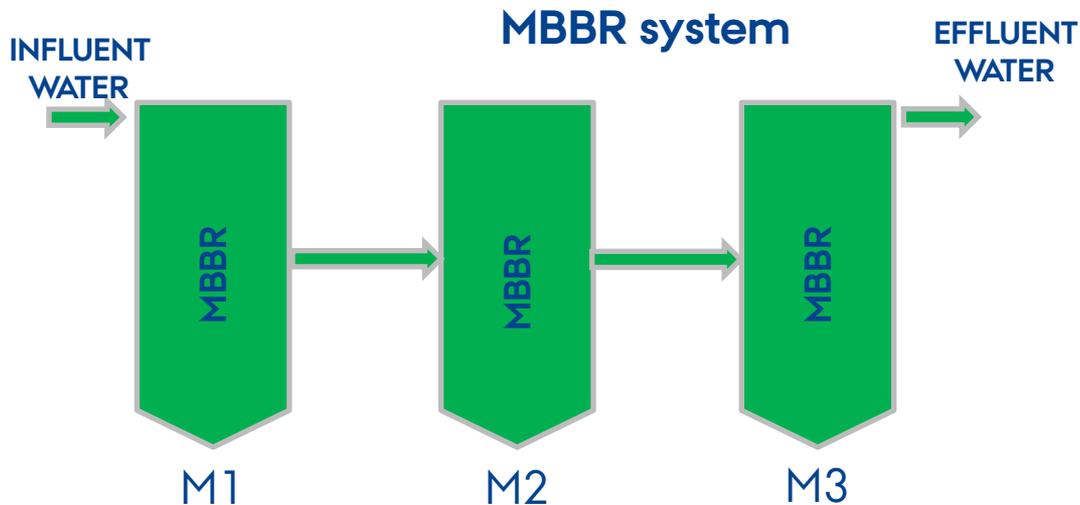
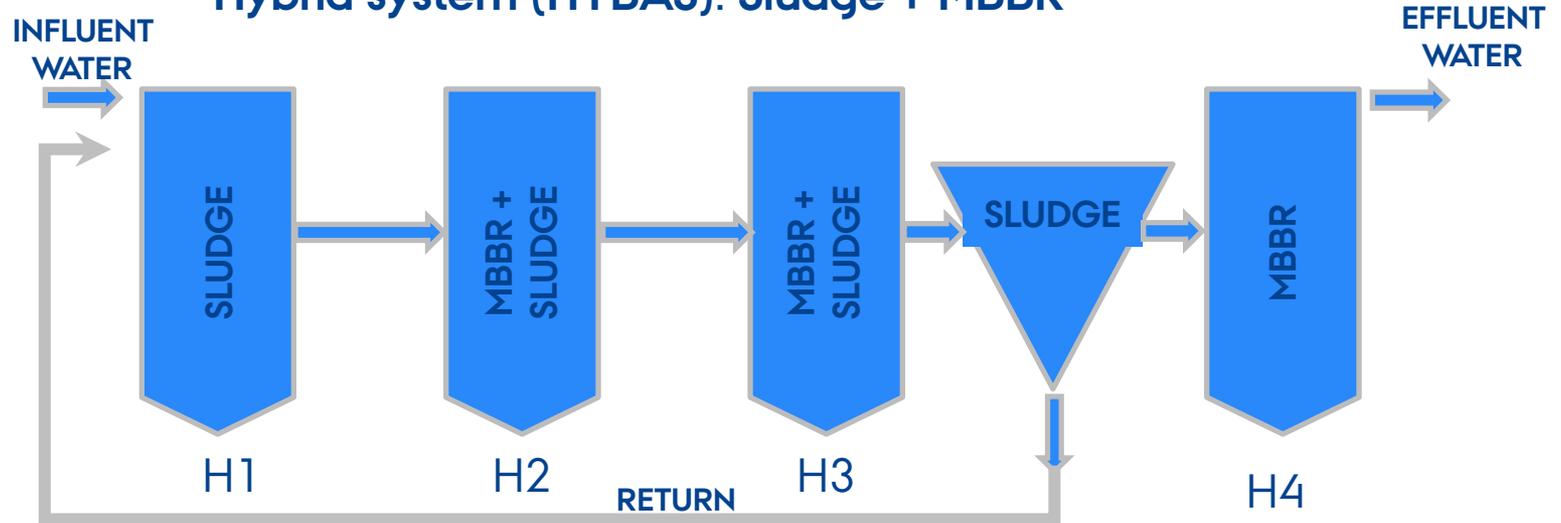
- > Biological/biofilm degradation of organic compounds
- > 30 relevant compounds
  - > 11 antibiotics
  - > 2 analgesic drugs
  - > 6 cardiovascular system drugs
  - > 5 central nervous system drugs
  - > 5 contrast media
  - > 1 disinfectant

**MBBR-**  
**technology**



# Experimental set-up

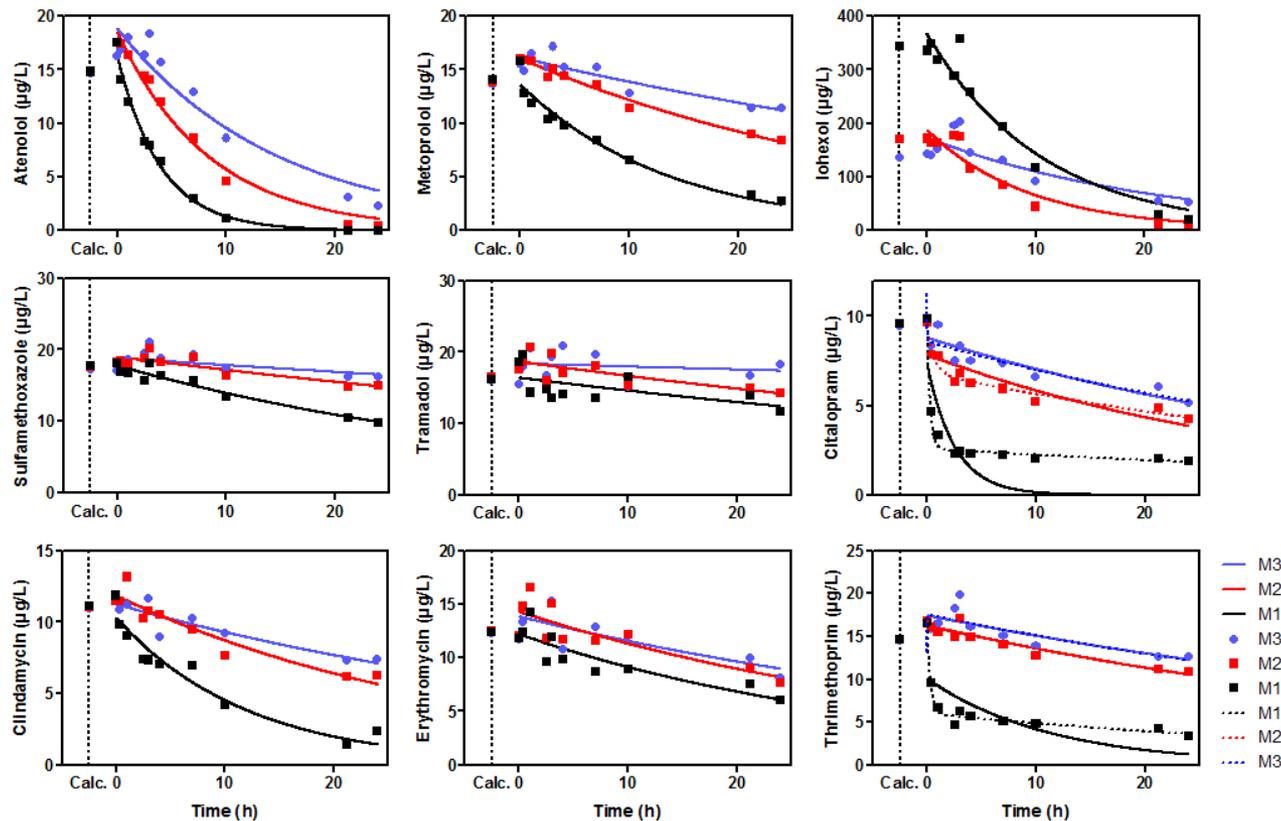
## Hybrid system (HYBAS): Sludge + MBBR



- On both systems:
- Baseline control
  - Degradation kinetics
    - ✓ Stop flow and spike
    - ✓ Continuous flow

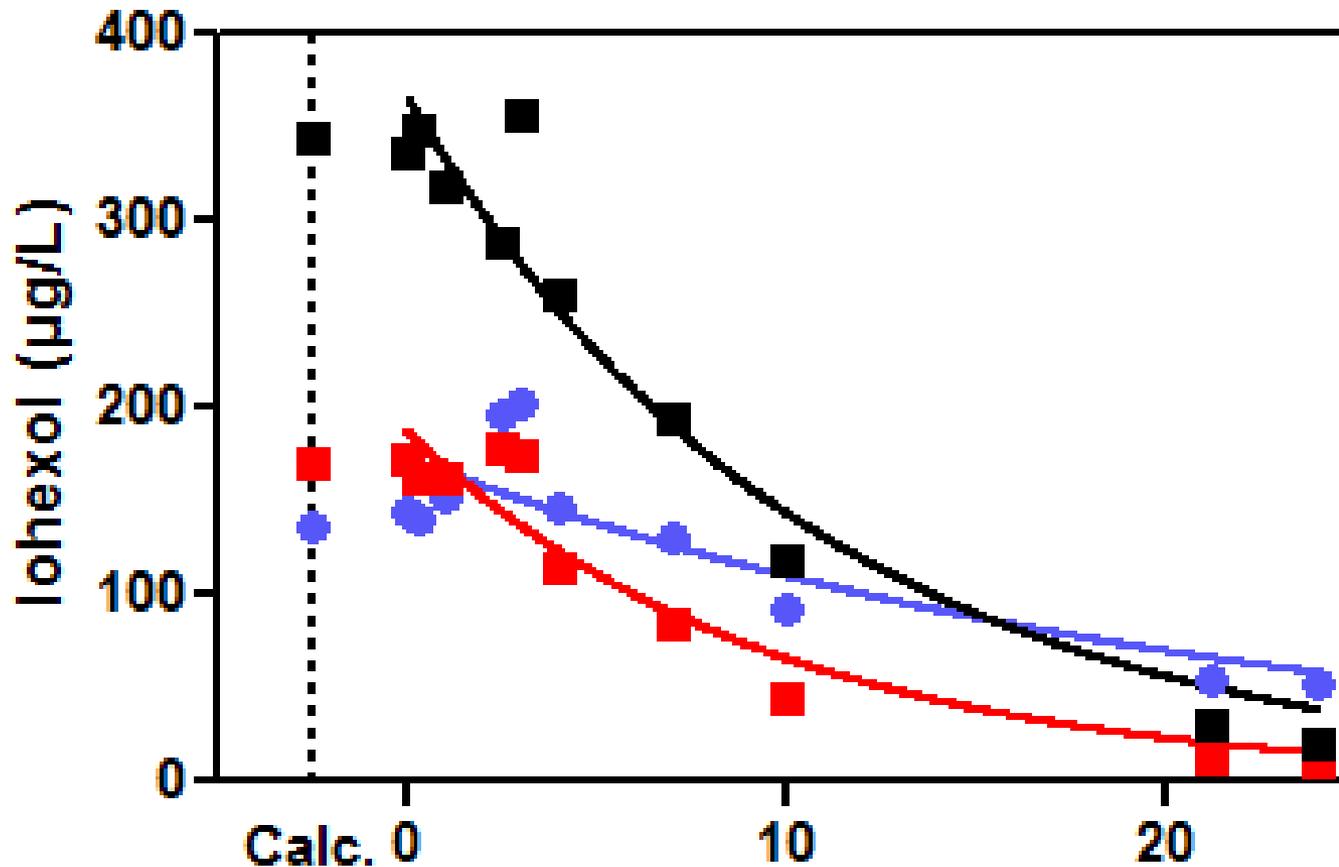
# Moving-Bed Biofilm Reactors: MBBR

## Batch experiment



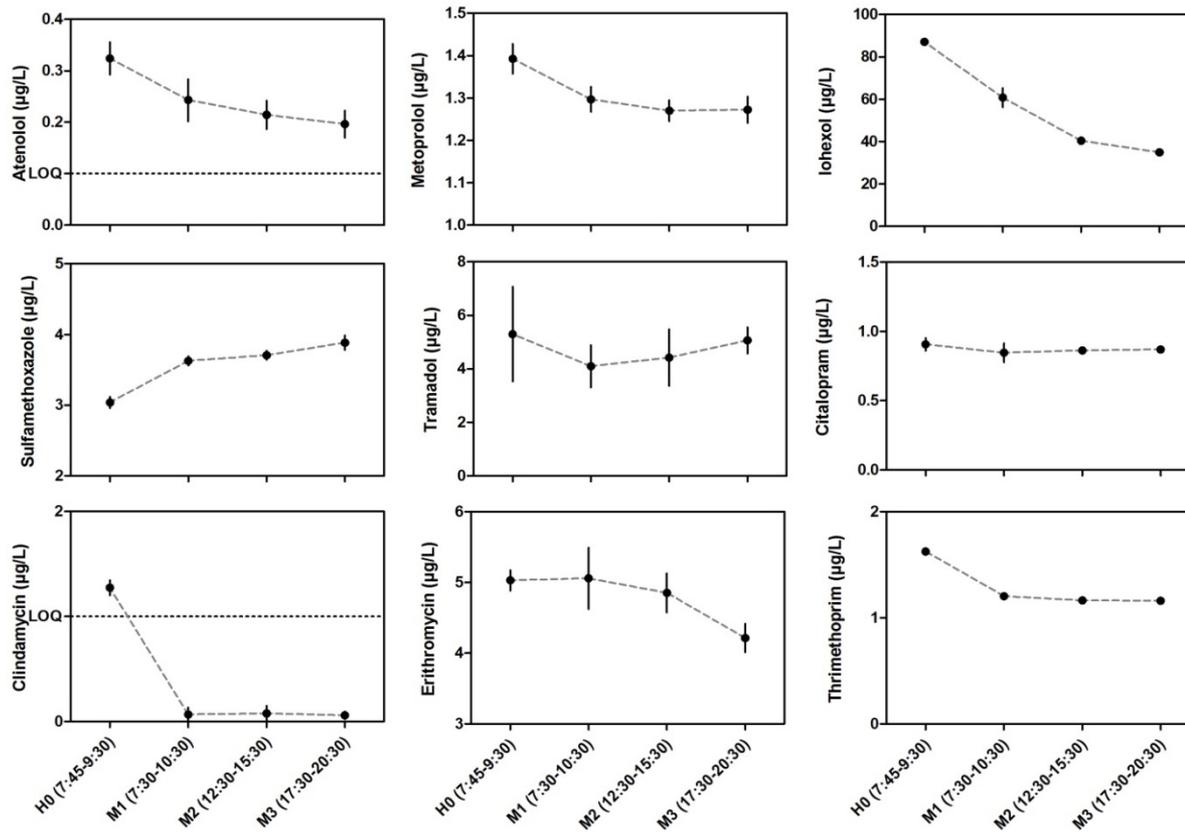
- 21/26 compounds degraded >20%
- First order kinetics for most compounds.
- Two phase kinetics for four compounds.

# No other technology can remove x-ray contrast media



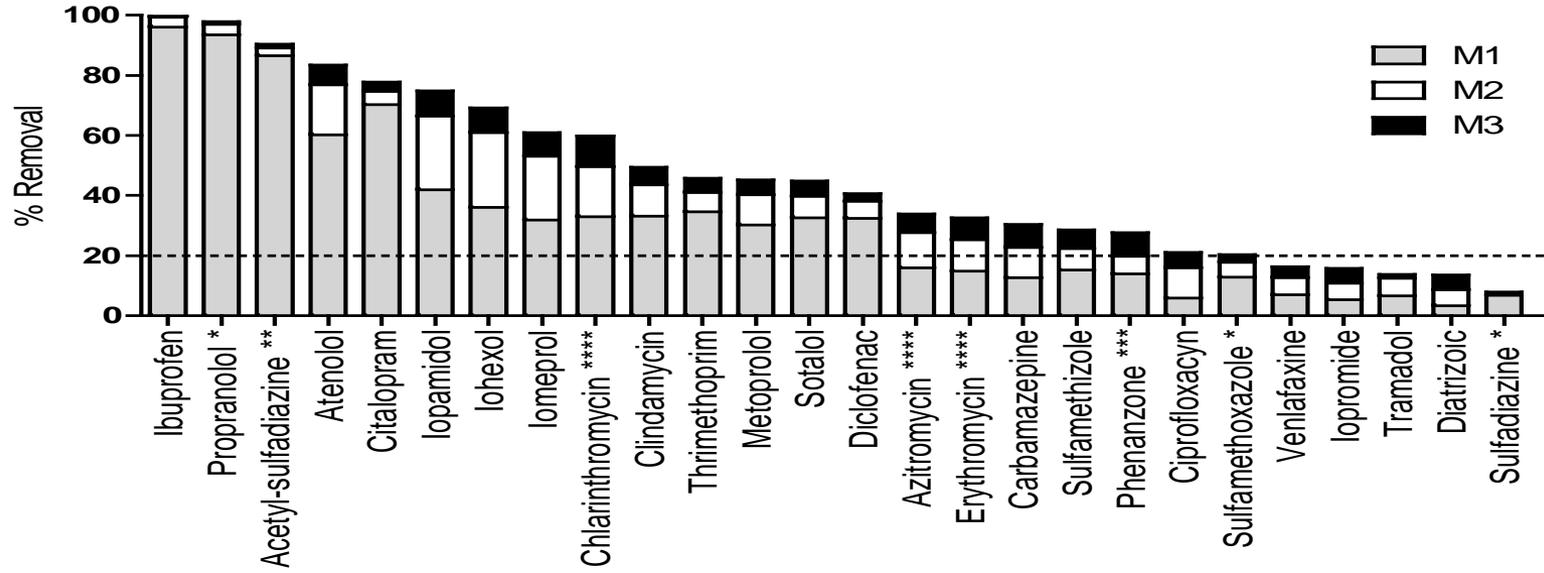
# Moving-Bed Biofilm Reactors: MBBR

## Continuous flow experiment

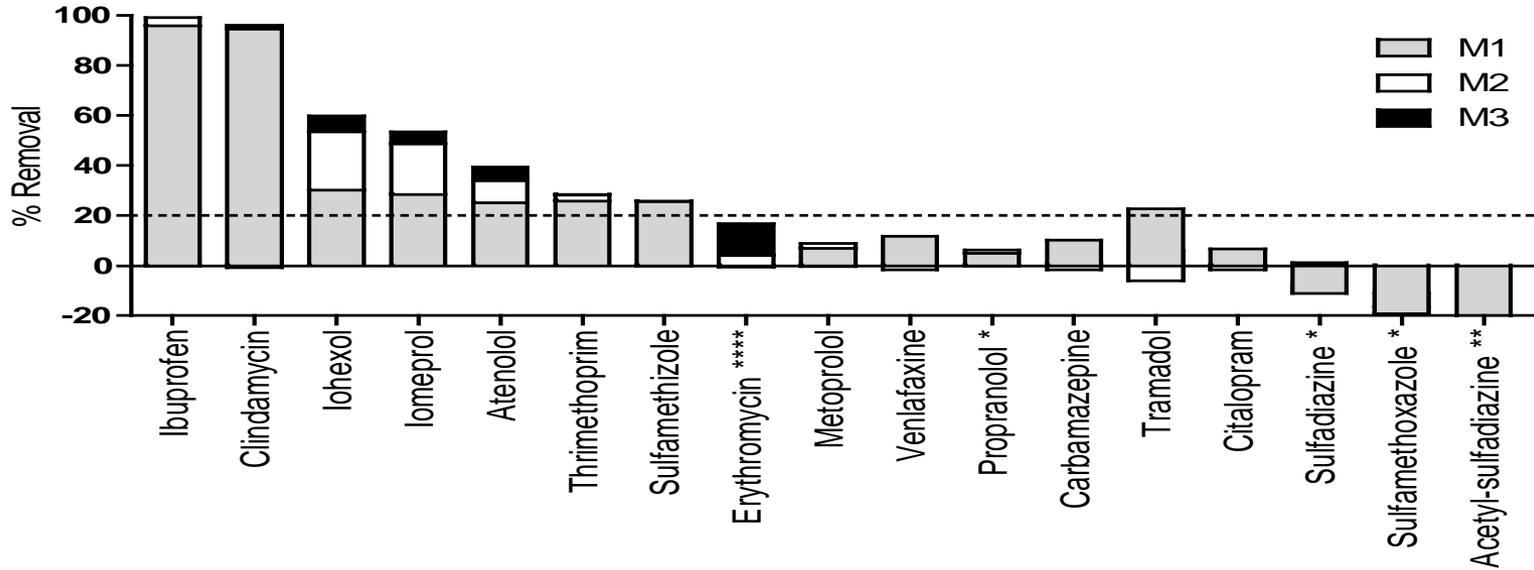


- 7/17 compounds degraded >20%
- Reasons for no degradation or production
  - Recalcitrant
  - Conjugate

**Calculated removal (Batch experiment)**



**Measured removal (Continous flow experiment)**



- MBBR and ozone reactor together can solve the problem
- Still a lot of open scientific questions
- Getting close to an operational system

# Benefits

## ➤ DNU

A good solution to a striving problem

## ➤ AU

One master thesis supported  
Partial support for a PhD thesis  
co-supervision DTU PhD thesis  
Postdoc and permanent staff hours  
A foot into a strategic technology  
3-4 papers authored/co-authored

## ➤ Annox/Kruger

A proven solution to be sold to more hospitals  
With a strategic involvement into polishing wastewater

Thank you for your attention

