# Article information:

Non-genetic cell-to-cell variability and the consequences for pharmacology - ScienceDirect  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1367593109001379>

# Article summary:

1. Even genetically identical cells can exhibit variability in drug sensitivity, cellular response, and phenotype due to stochasticity in gene expression.

2. Non-genetic cell-to-cell variability can have consequences for the cellular response to drugs and its potential impact for the treatment of human disease.

3. The distribution of protein abundance and resulting variability in phenotype should be considered when predicting the range of phenotypes that a single genotype can give rise to.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "Non-genetic cell-to-cell variability and the consequences for pharmacology" discusses the impact of non-genetic variability in cellular response to drugs and its potential implications for treating human diseases. The article highlights recent advances in single-cell assays that have revealed that even genetically identical cells can exhibit significant variability in drug sensitivity, cellular response, and phenotype due to stochasticity in gene expression.

The article provides a detailed explanation of the sources of cell-to-cell variability, including stochasticity in biochemical reactions such as gene expression, cytoskeletal rearrangement, protein localization, post-translational modification, and formation of protein complexes. The article also discusses the impact of network architecture on noise propagation in complex signaling systems and how negative feedback can reduce the effects of noise by compensating for deviations from a set point.

One potential bias in the article is its focus on non-genetic variability while downplaying genetic heterogeneity within a tumor or other cell populations. While the article acknowledges genetic heterogeneity briefly, it does not explore its potential impact on drug response or disease treatment.

The article also makes unsupported claims about the impact of non-genetic variability on drug response without providing sufficient evidence to support these claims. For example, while the article suggests that non-genetic variability may explain why some patients do not respond to certain drugs, it does not provide concrete examples or studies to support this claim.

Additionally, the article does not explore counterarguments or potential risks associated with targeting non-genetic variability in drug development or treatment. For example, targeting non-genetic variability may lead to unintended consequences such as increased toxicity or off-target effects.

Overall, while the article provides valuable insights into non-genetic cell-to-cell variability and its potential implications for pharmacology, it could benefit from a more balanced approach that considers both genetic and non-genetic sources of cellular heterogeneity and explores potential risks associated with targeting non-genetic variability.

# Topics for further research:

* Genetic heterogeneity and drug response
* Impact of tumor heterogeneity on treatment outcomes
* Risks of targeting non-genetic variability in drug development
* Off-target effects of drugs and non-genetic variability
* Single-cell sequencing and genetic heterogeneity
* Precision medicine and personalized treatment based on genetic variability

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/8ce7e6a25b28b1c1f8ea5b9bb78a55ec>