

Hydroxyzine

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# Introduction to Isosterism



**Irving Langmuir** 

N /// N



Compounds showing a relationship to one another like that between carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide will be called isosteric compounds, or isosteres.

# Introduction to Bioisosterism



**1951: H. L. Friedman coins "Bioisostere"** - Molecules or groups "which fit the broadest definition of isosteres and have the same type of biological activity."

# Talk Outline

#### Part 1 - Classical Bioisosteres

3 case studies of isosteric atom substitution:

Procaine vs. Procainamide

Haloperidol vs. Silahaloperidol

The importance of Celebrex-CH<sub>3</sub>

Part 2 - Nonclassical Bioisosteres

Common examples of Nonclassical Bioisosteres

Strained (hetero)cycles as Bioisosteres

**Bioisosteres of Aromatic Rings** 

examples of bioisosterism are abundant in medicinal chemistry, this talk is not comprehensive. For a more detailed review, see: Meanwell, N. A. *J. Med. Chem.* **2011**, 54, 2529

## Case Study in Classical Bioisosteres: Procaine vs. Procainamide





Developed for the treatment of neuropsychiatric disorders

Alleviates hallucinations and delusions associated with schizophrenia

Irreversible side effects associated with long-term use









incorporation of **non-native functionality** as bioisosteres often involves lengthy syntheses

# Case Study in Classical Bioisosteres: Celecoxib





## Case Study in Classical Bioisosteres: Celecoxib



isosteric substitution that removes benzylic metabolic handle results in undesirable pharmacokinetic properties

For an excellent review on rational incorporation of fluorine as a hydrogen isostere, see: Meanwell, N. A. *J. Med. Chem.* **2018**, *61*, 5822

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Introduction to Nonclassical Bioisosteres

Unlike their classical counterparts, nonclassical bioisosteres do not conform to Langmuir's broad definition of "isostere."

Nonclassical bioisosteres are groups capable of emulating the steric or electronic profile of the original functional group





losartan scaffold high blood pressure Introduction to Nonclassical Bioisosteres

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estrogen primary female sex hormone

diethyl stilbestrol "synthetic estrogen"

Prescribed to pregnant women 1940-1970

Thought to prevent miscarriages in pregnant women with low estrogen

Use discontinued after DES linked to development of clear cell carcinoma by women exposed *in utero*  **Bioisosteres of Common Functional Groups** 



...and many more

# Escaping Flatland

Incorporating highly saturated fragments in drug discovery correlates with clinical success

Greater three-dimensionality imparts higher specificity in binding



Aside from synthetic accessibility, is there a caveat to increased sp<sup>3</sup> character?

# Escaping Flatland



Escaping Flatland

Despite metabolic instability, saturated heterocycles remain some of the most utilized functionality in medicinal chemistry

#### Most frequiently used saturated nitrogen heterocycles in FDA approved pharmaceuticals



#### number of approved drugs containing each saturated heterocyclic core

expanding the scope of accessible functionality toward saturated heterocycles of increased metabolic stability could greatly impact the rate of success in drug development

# Spirocyclic Azetidines as Bioisosteres of Nitrogen Heterocycles



Melanin concentrating hormone receptor 1 (MCHr1) has been linked to regulation of appetite.

Small molecule antagonists of this receptor have been shown to prevent obesity

High throughput screening at AstraZeneca generated **compound 1** for lead optimization

compound 1 - antagonist of MCHr1



reduction of HERG activity (off target binding resulting in cardiac arrhythmia) is a priority



azetidine substitution had limited effect on activity, but allowed for greater freedom in exploring benzylic amine functionality







high levels of activity, but no marked improvement in metabolic stability





# "Spiromorpholine" metabolism



#### metabolism of morpholine dominated by C–H oxidation

"Spiromorpholine" metabolism







Other Analogues of Saturated Heterocycles



# Other Analogues of Saturated Heterocycles



spiro, fused, and bridged bicyclic compounds - lower oxidative lability, higher conformational rigidity



can a more modular approach to spiroheterocycles afford a broader range of medicinally relevant isosteres?



Gatifloxacin (BMS) antibiotic

Me.

HN

Mirtazapine (Organon) antidepressant

Indinavir (Merck) antiretroviral







spirocycles with exit vectors off of terminal heteroatoms are straightforward to synthesize from feedstock materials



pathways toward strained spirocycles with exit vectors on carbon and at orthogonal angles are limited, novel developments in this arena are in great demand

> For additional examples of spiroheterocycle construction, see: Carreira, E. M. & Fessard, T. C. *Chem. Rev.* **2014**, *114*, 8257

# **Bioisosteres of Benzene Rings**

While many pharmaceutical compounds contain saturated heterocycles, many, many more contain benzene rings (>500 as of 2014)



- high structural rigidity
- 6 exit vectors
- many methods for incorporation
  and functionalization



2D vectorial space

## **Bioisosteres of Benzene Rings**

some guidelines for phenyl isosteres

retained structural rigidity

reduced cLogP (lipophilicity) as compared to Ph

*increased sp<sup>3</sup> incorporation without intoducing metabolic instability* 

Eaton, ACIE 1992



Stephan, J. Med. Chem. 2012

Taylor, R. D., MacCoss, M. & Lawson, A. D. G. J. Med. Chem. 2014, 57, 5845

















### **Bioisosteres of Benzene Rings**



equipotent to BMS 708,163 improved permeability improved aqueous solubility

fluoro substitution in parent compound not required in bicyclic analogue

## Synthesis of Benzene Bioisosteres: [1.1.1]-bicyclopentane



## Synthesis of Benzene Bioisosteres: cubane



# Synthesis of Benzene Bioisosteres: Escaping Straightland?

incorporation of strained sp<sup>3</sup>-rich scaffolds has a major limitation: nonlinear exit vectors

**180°** 

# Synthesis of Benzene Bioisosteres: Escaping Straightland?

nonlinear exit vectors from bicyclopentane



Padwa et al. JACS, 1968, 90, 3717



## Synthesis of Benzene Bioisosteres: Escaping Straightland?

nonlinear exit vectors from bicyclopentane



Barborak et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1966, 88, 1328



Bashir-Hashemi, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1988, 110, 7234



### Additional Benzene Bioisosteres: Ortho and Meta





rigidity, increased 3 dimensionality improved physico-chemical properties?



Fuchs, J. & Szeimies, G. *Chem. Ber.* 1992, *125*, 2517Mykhailiuk, P. K. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* 2019,17, 2839

# Bioisosteres of Common Functional Groups

Bioisosteres are frequently employed in a medicinal chemistry setting to improve or alter physico-chemical properties of lead compounds

The abundance and diversity of bioisosteres is continuously growing as novel chemical methods for the installation of complex functionality are developed

While important in elucidating stucture-activity relationships, bioisosteres can often have hard-to-predict effects on the activity and properties of bioactive molecules

Synthetic strategies toward installation of novel exit vectors on spirocyclic, bridged-bicyclic, and polycyclic  $sp^3$ -rich scaffolds are in high demand in the medicinal chemistry community