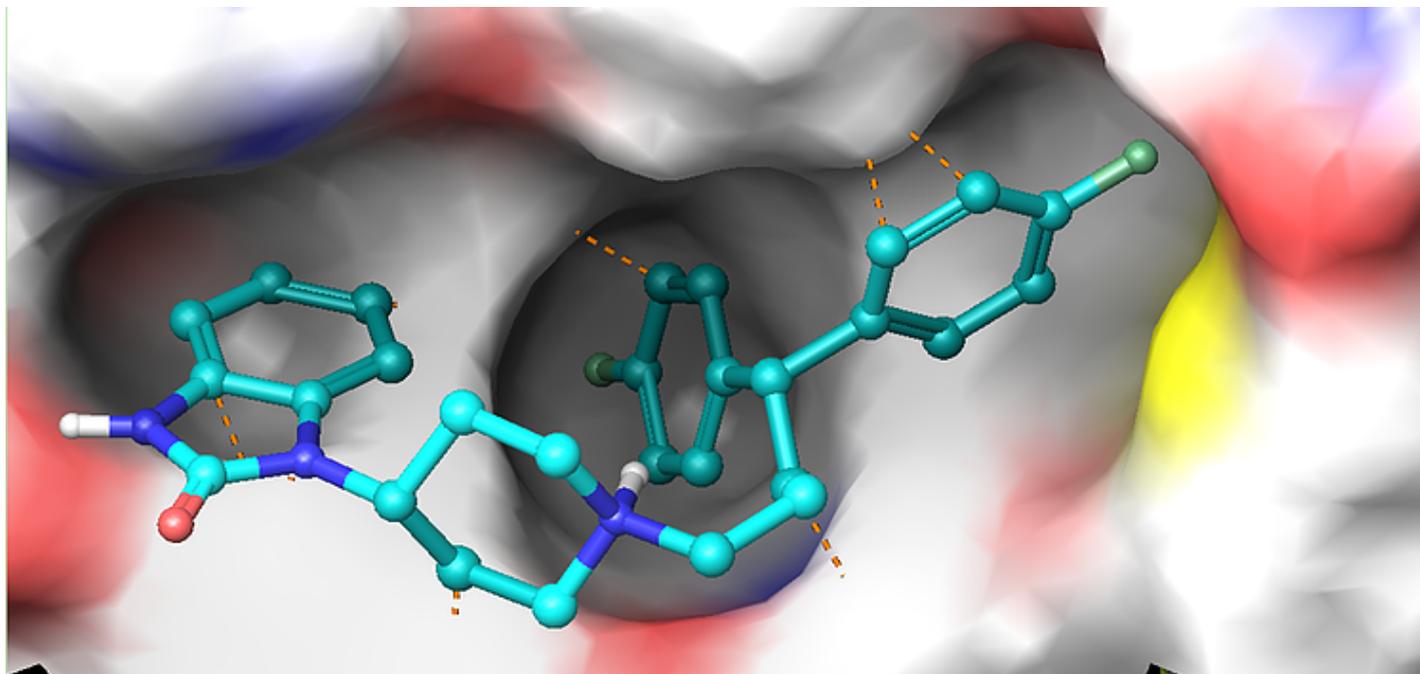


In Silico Drug Design and Development



Joseph Badillo

MacMillan Group Meeting

March 1, 2016

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Outline

■ General outline

1) *Some vocabulary*

2) Intro to docking and scoring functions

3) Examples of drug lead discovery using *in silico* methods

a) Mycobacterium tuberculosis

b) Type-II diabetes

c) Cancer

4) Computational method used to find modifiers for siRNA

In Silico Drug Design and Development

CADD

- **Computer aided drug design (CADD):** is the use of computing power to streamline the drug discovery and development process.

In silico vocabulary:

Virtual screening: computational technique used to evaluate vast libraries chemical structures as potential new drug compounds (docking a library of compounds).

Docking: predicts the orientation (or pose) in which a ligand will bind to a host protein.

Scoring: a fast approximate mathematical method used to predict the strength of non-covalent interactions (binding affinity) between two molecules after they have been docked.

The scoring function is one of the most important components in structure-based drug design.

Bioinformatics: Most important is structural information about potential biological targets

Chemical informatics: Design of *in silico* filters to eliminate compounds with undesirable properties.

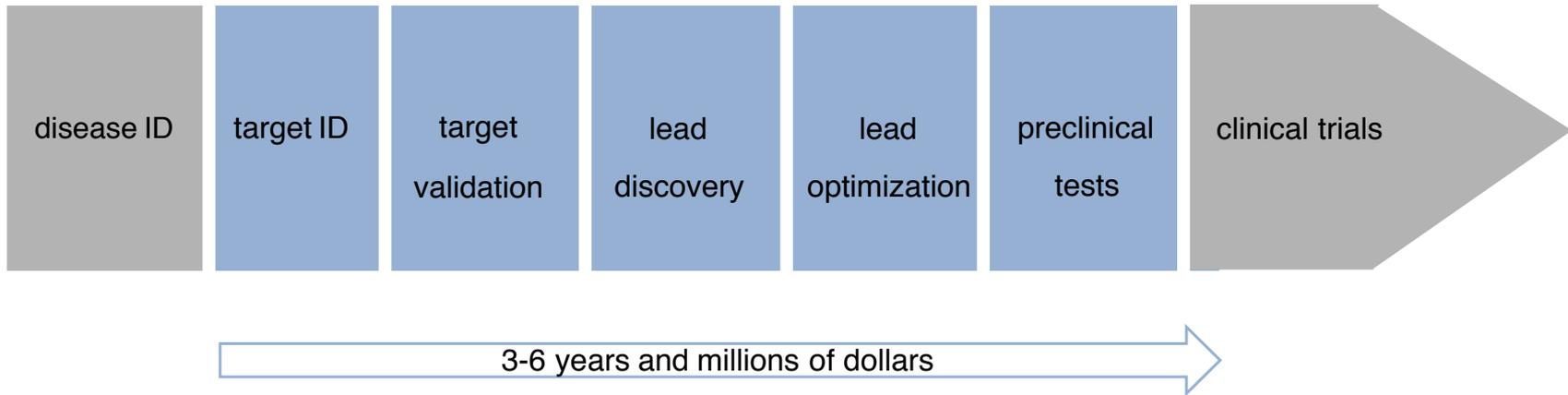
Prediction of Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, Excretion and Toxicity (ADMET) based on criteria such as polar surface area (PSA), calculated log P, and the number of H-bond donors and accepters.

How "druglike" are a set of compounds.

In Silico Drug Design and Development

traditional vs CADD

■ Traditional drug development:



■ Computer-aided drug design (CADD) applications in various stages of drug development:

Target ID: Bioinformatics, reverse docking, protein structure prediction

Target validation: Target drugability, tool compound design

Lead discovery: Library design, docking/scoring, virtual screening

Lead optimization: Quantitative structure-activity relationship, structure-based optimization

Preclinical tests: In silico ADMET (absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion, toxicity), physiologically-based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) simulations

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Docking

- **Molecular docking:** is a tool used in structural molecular biology and computer-assisted drug design. The goal of molecular docking is to predict the predominant binding mode(s) of a ligand with a protein of known three-dimensional structure.

The question:

"Given the structure of a protein and that of a potential ligand, can the two form a favorable complex? What are the bases for binding and specificity?" -Brian Shoichet (UCSF)

Three main challenges associated with docking:

Molecular flexibility: There are many states to consider in docking flexible molecules (both target and ligand).

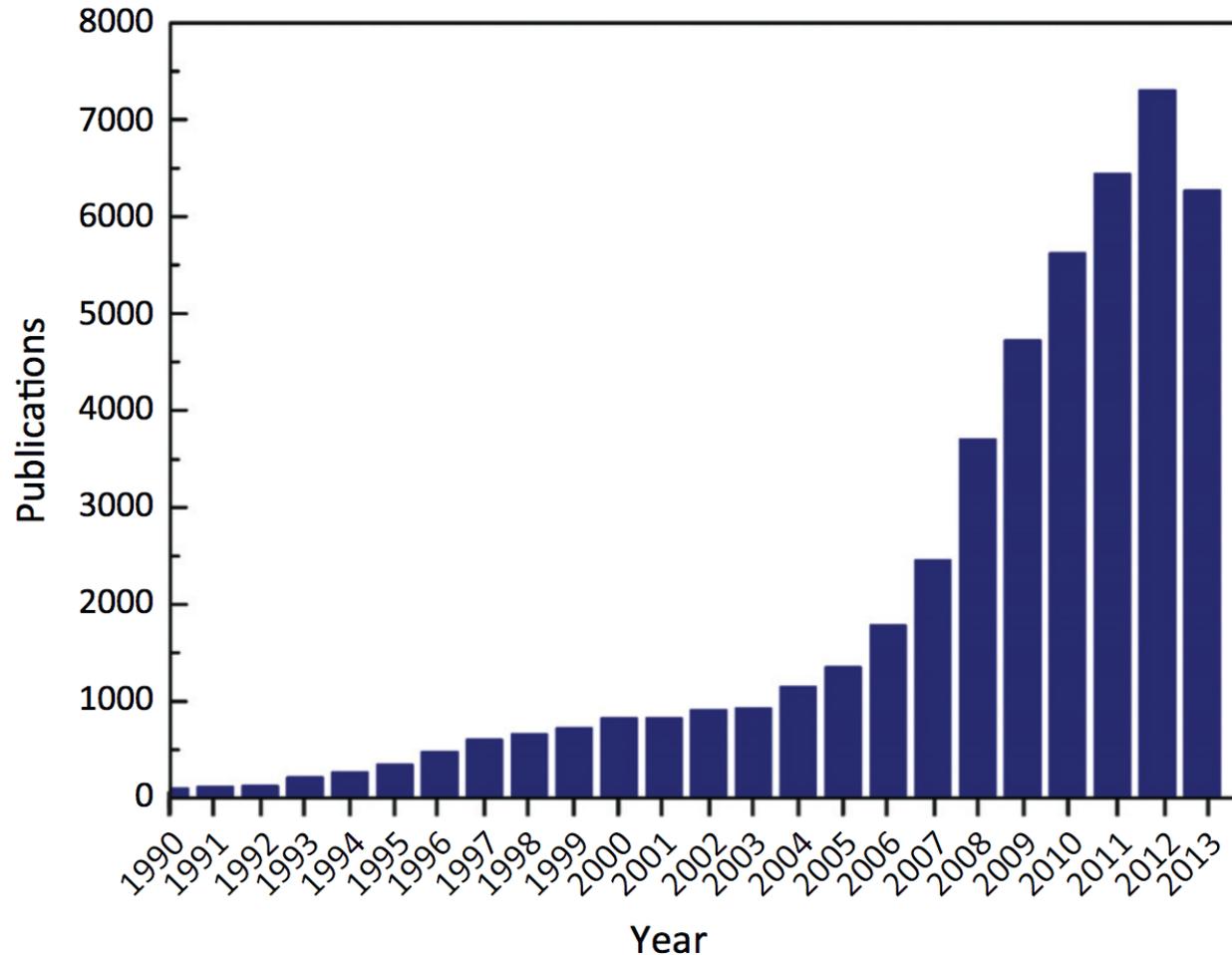
Accurate scoring: Evaluating fit for the docking molecules from a database, and ranking them accordingly.

Specificity: Understanding important interactions.

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Docking

■ Increase in the number of docking of papers from 1990 to 2013 (PMC-NCBI database):

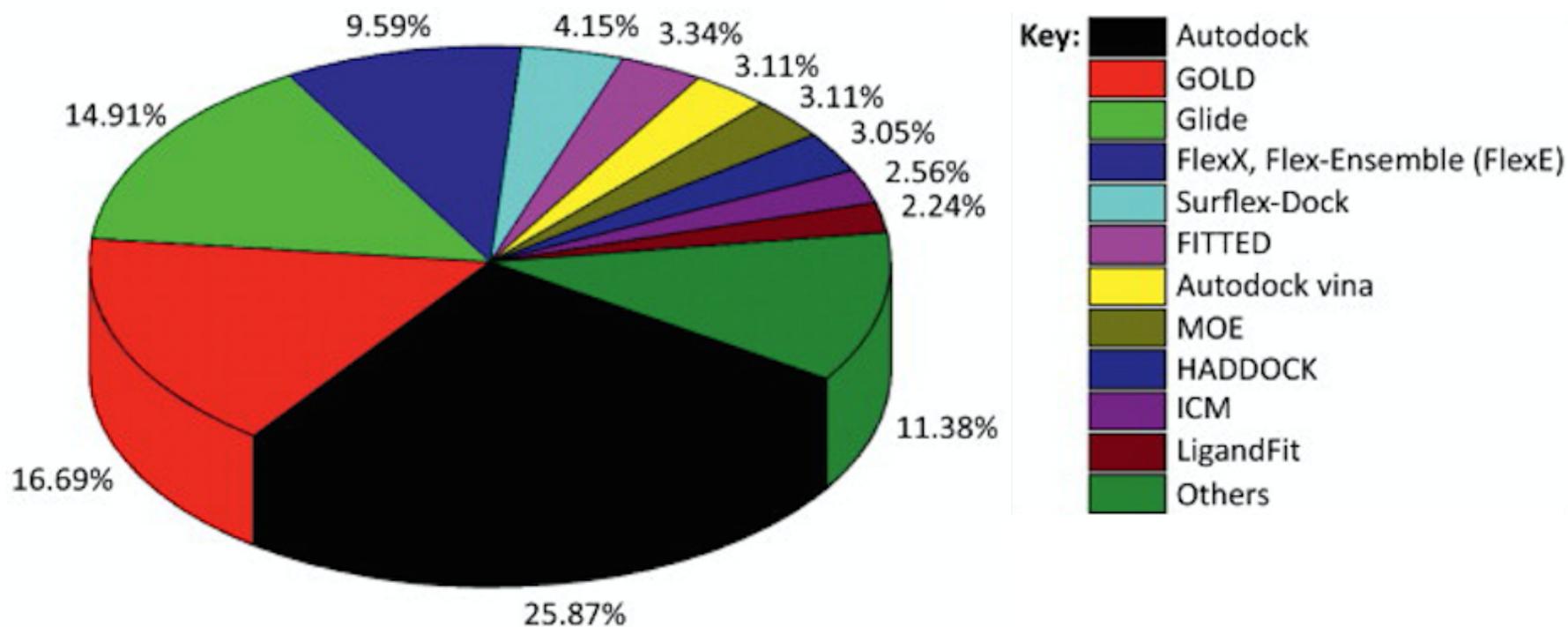


Keywords: 'dock' or 'docking'

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Docking

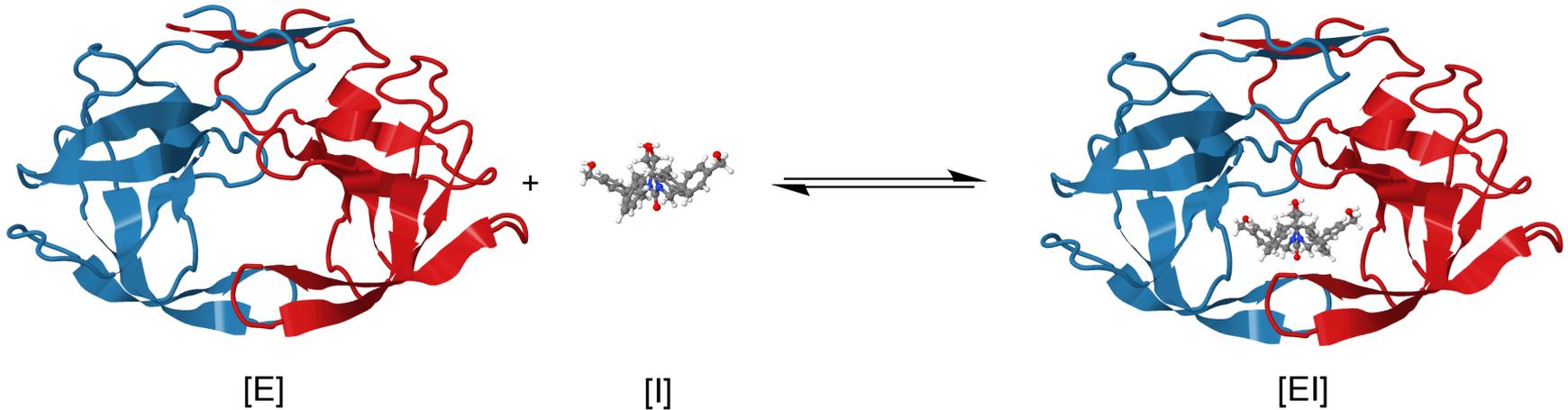
■ All docking publications from 1990 to 2013:



In Silico Drug Design and Development

Predicting binding affinity

- Free energy of binding (ΔG) is related to binding affinity (K_i):



$$\Delta G = -RT \ln K_A \implies K_A = K_i^{-1} = \frac{[EI]}{[E][I]}$$

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Scoring functions

■ Three common types of scoring functions:

Force field

affinities are estimated by summing the strength of intermolecular interactions between all atoms using a force field

Empirical

based on counting the number of various types of interactions between two binding partners

Knowledge-based

based on statistical observations of intermolecular close contacts in large 3D databases (aka statistical potentials)

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Scoring functions

■ Common scoring functions:

type	scoring function
Force field-based	DOCK, DOCK3.5 (PBSA), DOCK/GBSA(SDOCK), AutoDock, GOLD, SYBYL/D-Score, SYBYL/G-Score
Emperical	FlexX, Glide, ICM, LUDI, PLP, ChemScore, X-Score, Surflex, SYBYL/F-Score, LigScore, MedusaScore, AIScore, SFCscore
Knowledge-based	ITScore, PMF, DrugScore, DFIRE, SMOG, BLEEP, MScore, GOLD/ASP, KScore

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Docking

- Success rates of 16 scoring functions for a test set of 100 diverse protein-ligand complexes, using the criterion of $\text{rmsd} \leq 2 \text{ \AA}$

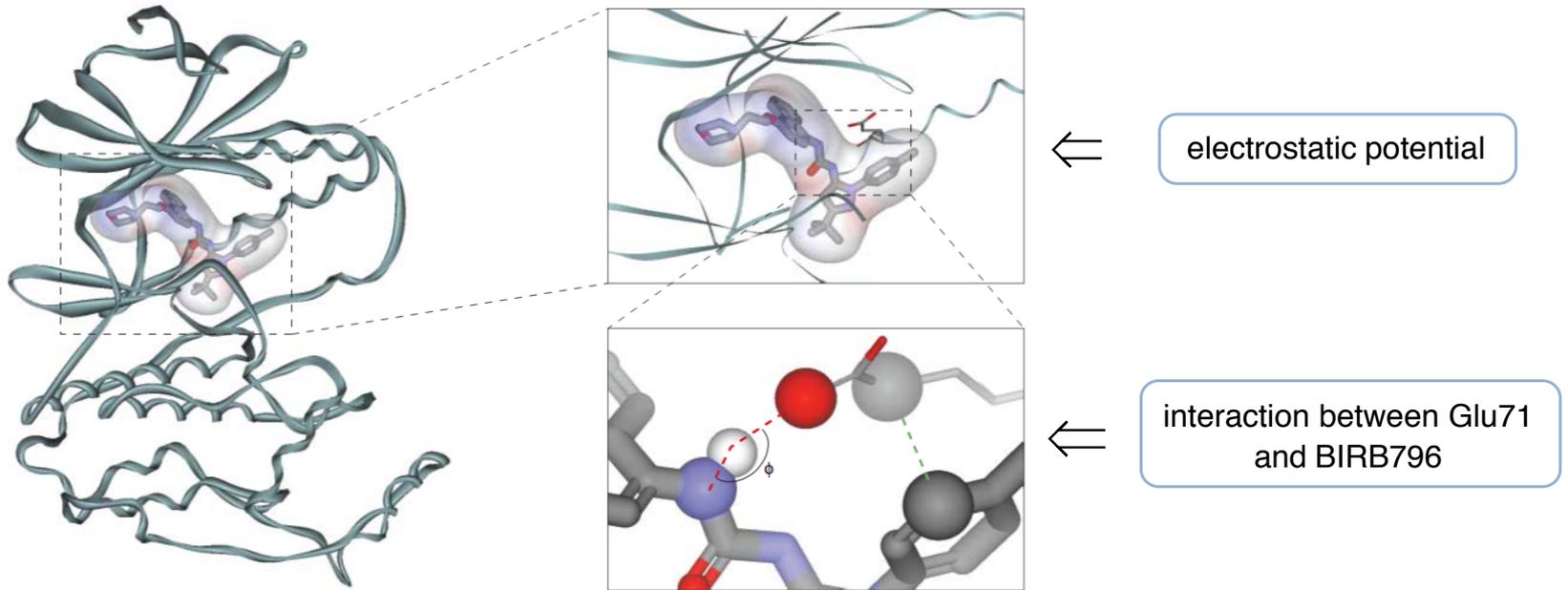
Scoring function	Type of scoring	Success rate (%)
ITScore/SE	K	91
DrugScore	K	87
ITScore	K	82
Cerius2/PLP	E	76
SYBYL/F-Score	E	74
Cerius2/LigScore	E	74
DrugScore	K	72
Cerius2/LUDI	E	67
X-Score	E	66
AutoDock	F	62
DFIRE	K	58
DOCK/FF	F	58
Cerius2/PMF	K	52
SYBYL/G-Score	F	42
SYBYL/ChemScore	E	35
SYBYL/D-Score	F	26

K = knowledge-based, E = empirical, and F = force field

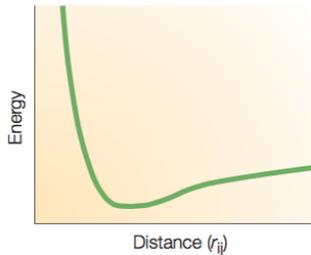
In Silico Drug Design and Development

Scoring functions

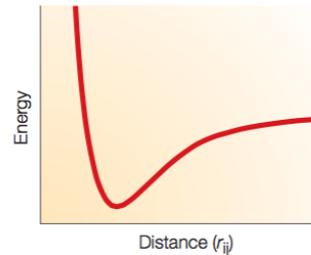
- **Common force field scoring functions:** Structure of p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase with bound inhibitor BIRB796 (PDB code: 1KV2).



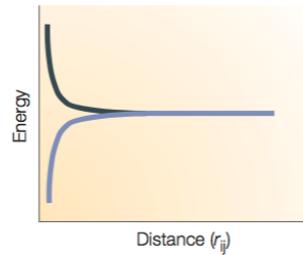
van der Waals



H-bond



Electrostatic



--- van der Waals

--- H-bond (angle dependent)

— 2 like charges

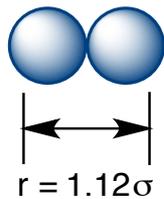
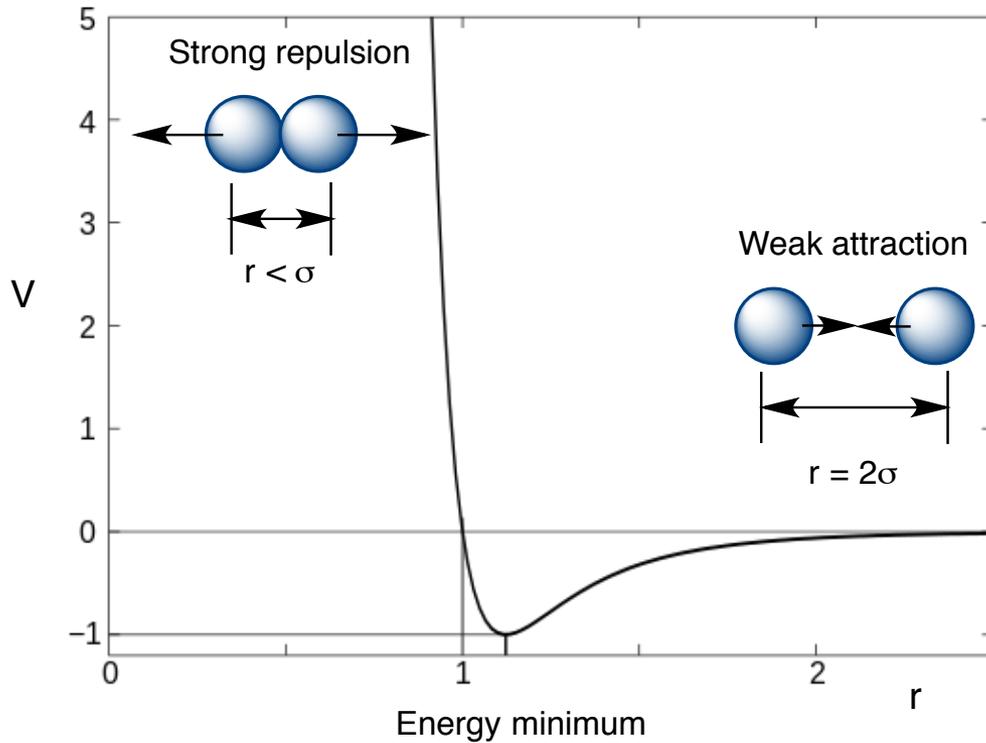
— 2 opposite charges

(PDB code: 1KV2)

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Scoring functions

■ Lennard-Jones potential:



$$V = 4\epsilon \left[\left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^{12} - \left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^6 \right]$$

ϵ = well depth

r = distance between particles

σ = finite distance at which the inter-particle potential is zero

In Silico Drug Design and Development

calculating free energy

■ In simple force-field potentials the individual terms are summed to give $\Delta G_{\text{binding}}$:

$$\Delta G_{\text{binding}} = \Delta G_{\text{vdw}} + \Delta G_{\text{H-Bond}} + \Delta G_{\text{electrostatic}} + \Delta G_{\text{torsional}} + \Delta G_{\text{solvation}}$$

Three main force-field scoring function limitations:

Implicit solvation models are often inadequate and based on a continuous medium instead of "explicit" solvent molecules.

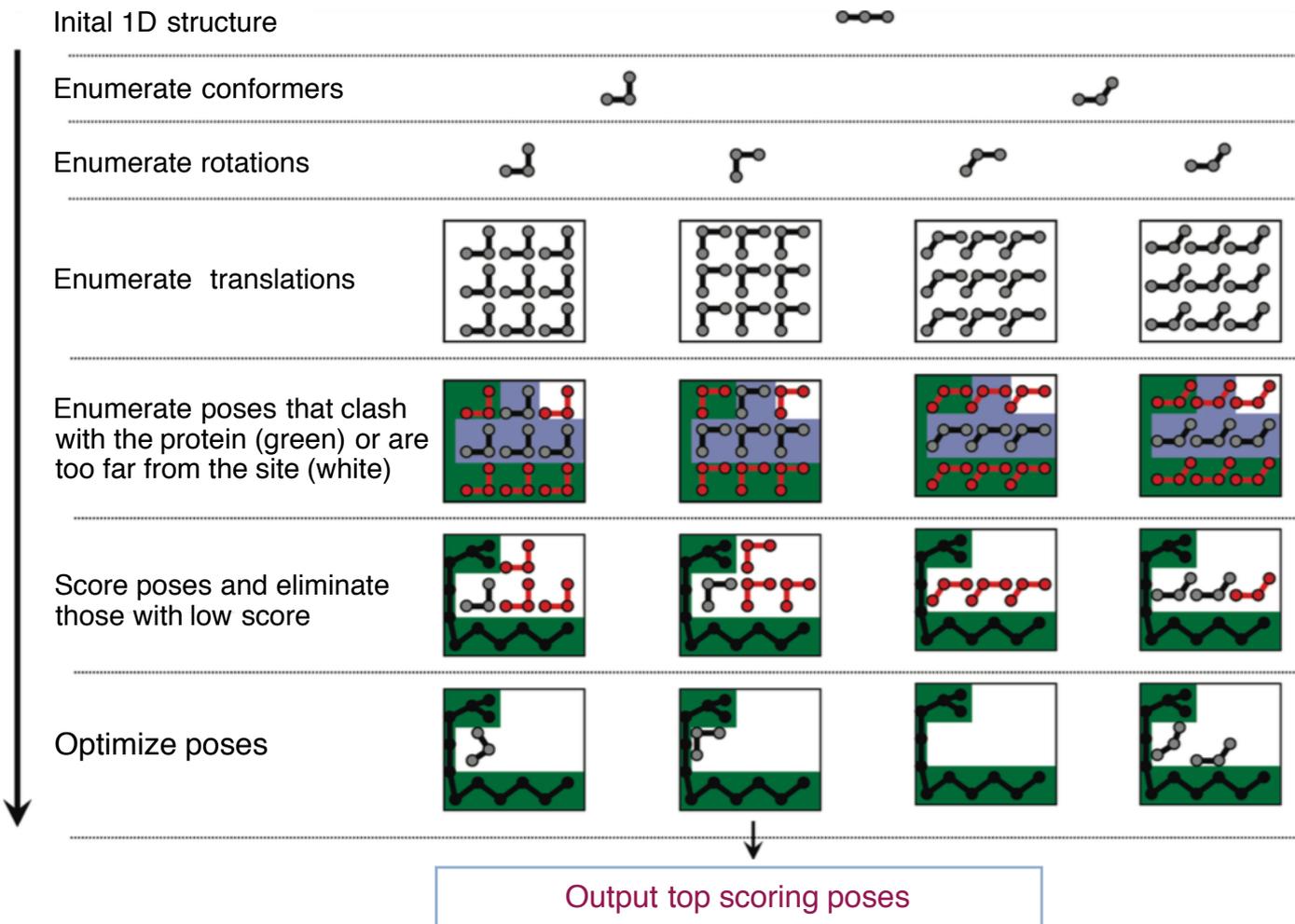
There are is universal set of weighting coefficients for different energy terms for diverse protein–ligand complexes.

Inaccurate treatment of entropic effects may easily render useless the accuracy of electrostatic calculations

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Docking

■ Docking ensembles using OpenEye FREAD: Finding a good pose.

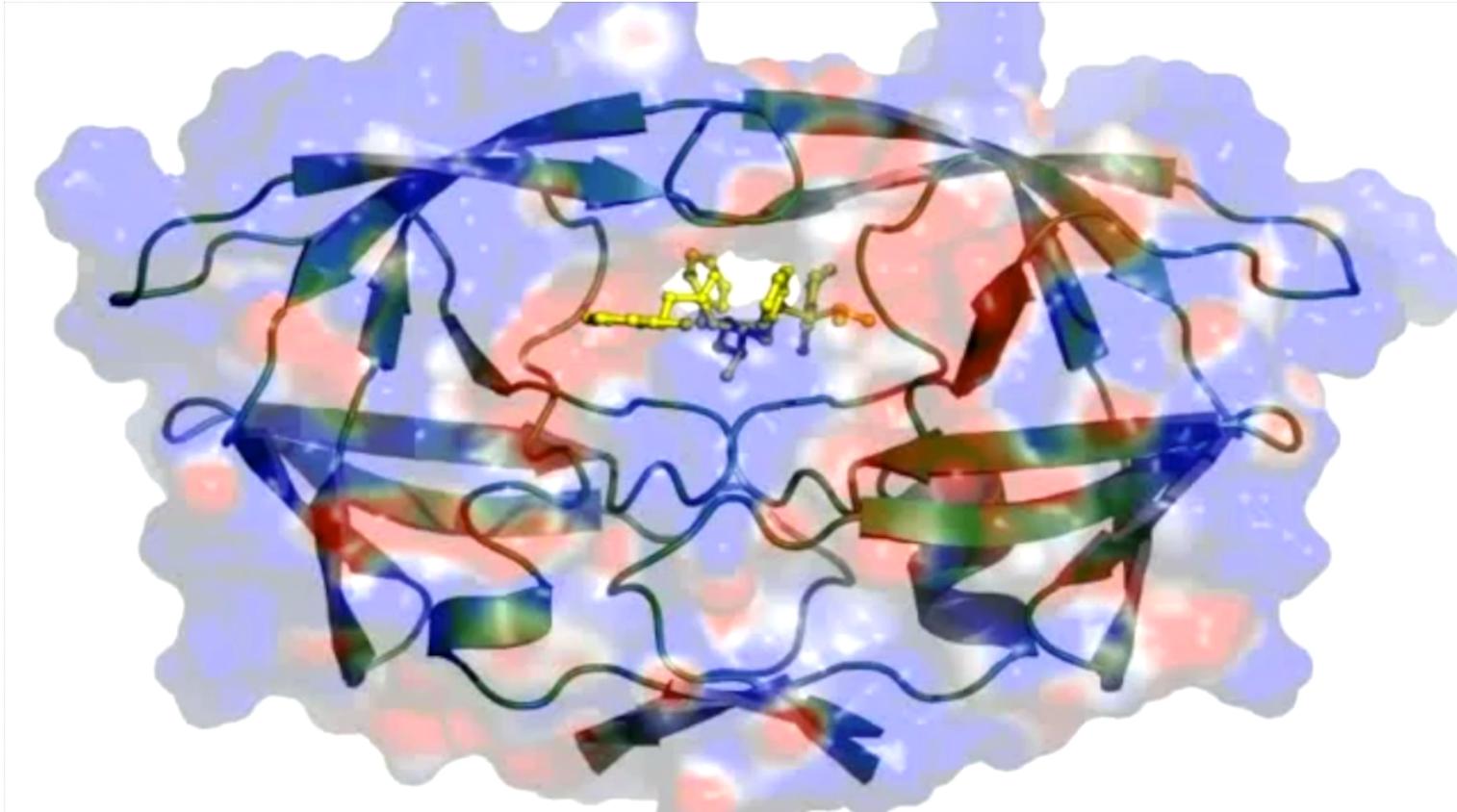


Typically evaluates 10^5 to 10^9 conformations for each molecule in seconds

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Docking

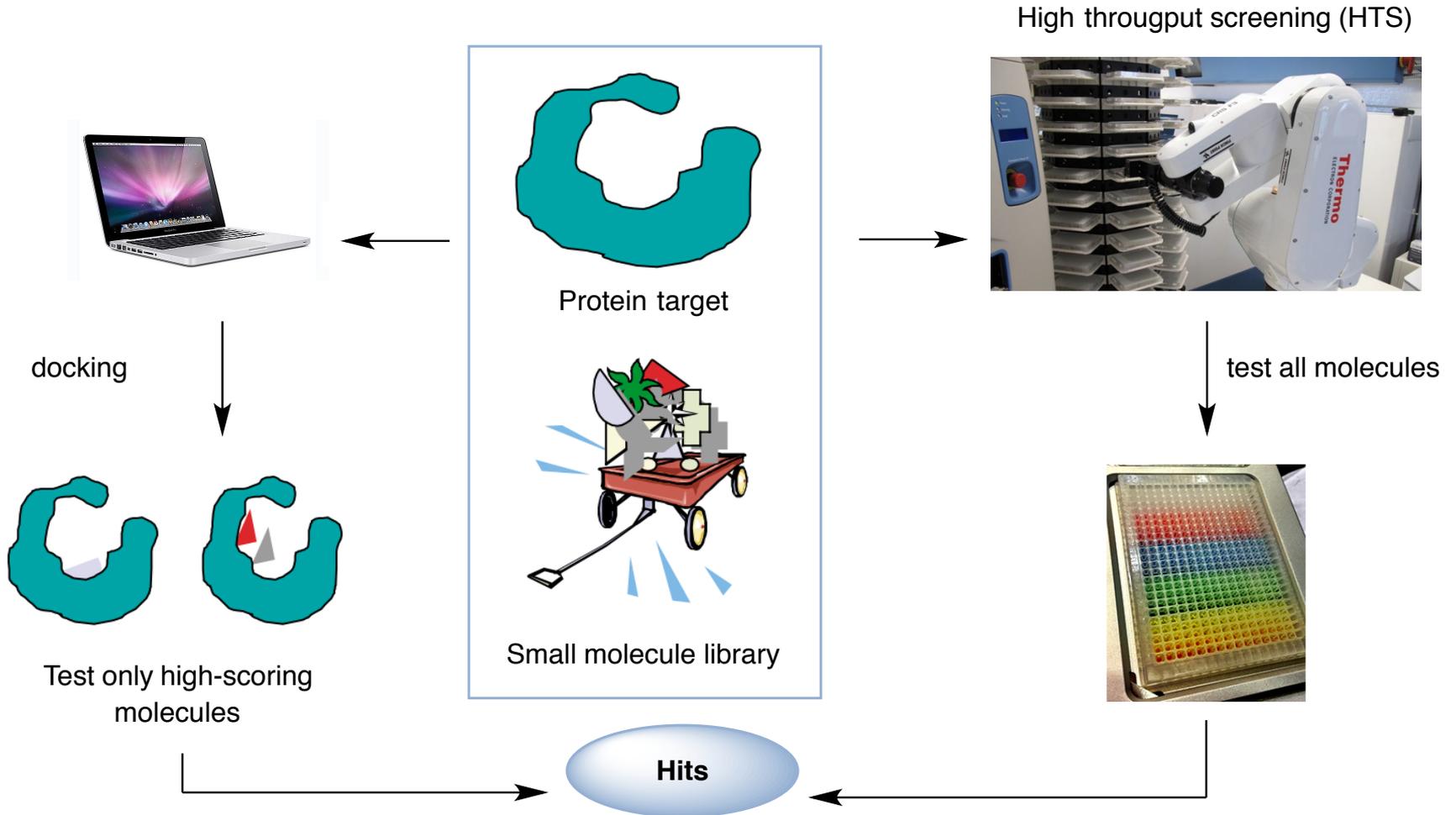
■ Flexx mechanism for drug fragment docking into HIV protease:



In Silico Drug Design and Development

Docking

■ Docking vs. HTS for lead discovery

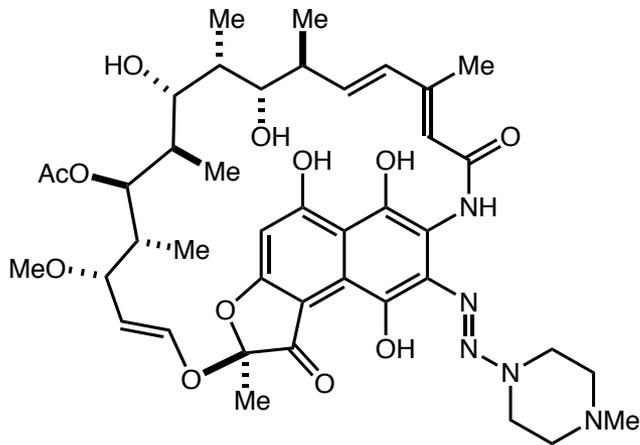


In Silico Drug Design and Development

Inhibitors of DHPR via in silico screening

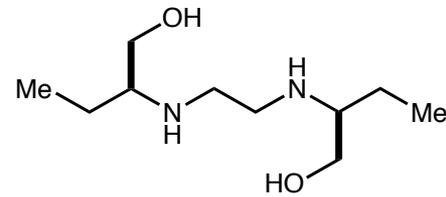
- ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB)**: a leading cause of death in developing countries, especially for people with compromised immune systems as a consequence of HIV infection.

Current treatments:



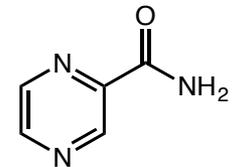
rifampicin

inhibits nucleic acid synthesis



ethambutol

disrupts cell wall bio-synthesis



pyrazinamide

(pro-drug for pyrazinonic acid)

inhibits translation

Resistance to these therapies have emerged so new new enzyme targets are needed

In Silico Drug Design and Development

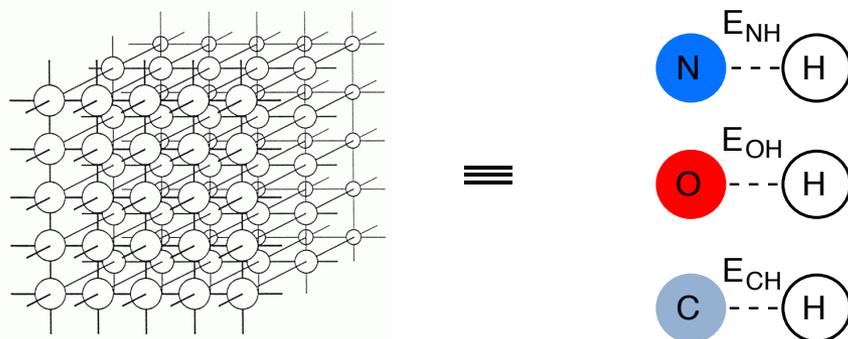
Inhibitors of DHPR via in silico screening

■ **Screening of compounds against DHPR from the Merck chemical collection by two approaches:**

DHPR (dihydrodipicolinate reductase): has been found to play an essential role in bacterial cell wall synthesis and is a potential therapeutic target for MTB.

Virtual sceening approach: Docking using FLOG (flexible ligands oriented on a grid) algorithm

FLOG: at each point (on a grid) the potential energy is calculated and stored for each atom type.



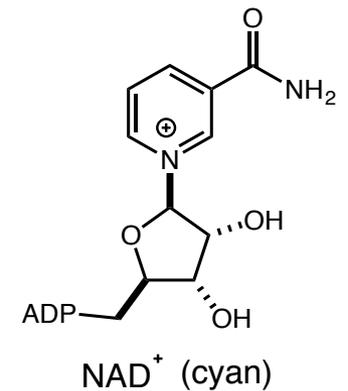
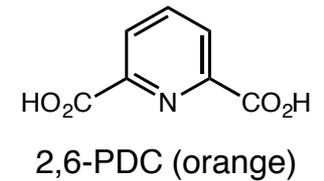
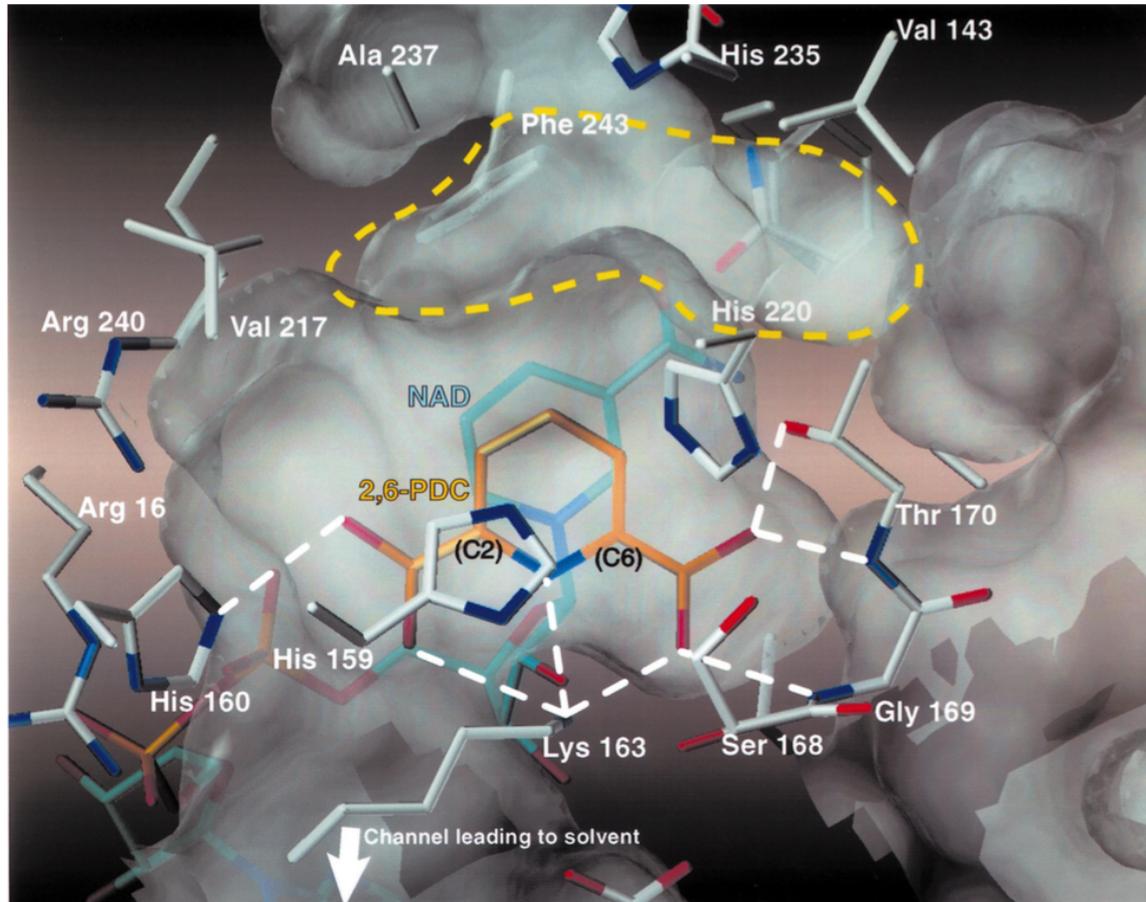
Traditional screening approach: Screen thousands of compounds *in vitro*

DHPR catalyzed hydride transfer was monitored by following NADPH oxidation to NAD⁺ (via absorbance or fluorometric analysis)

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Inhibitors of DHPR via in silico screening

Active site of dihydrodipicolinate reductase (DHPR):



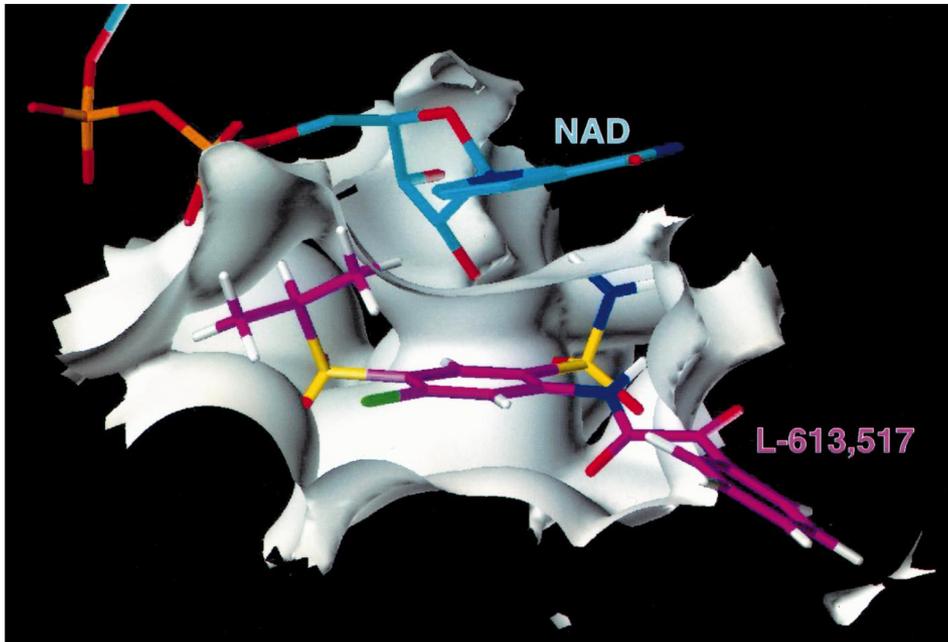
DHPR (carbons white)

X-ray structure of *E. coli* DHPR with 2,6-PDC bound in active site stacked with NAD⁺ cofactor

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Inhibitors of DHPR via in silico screening

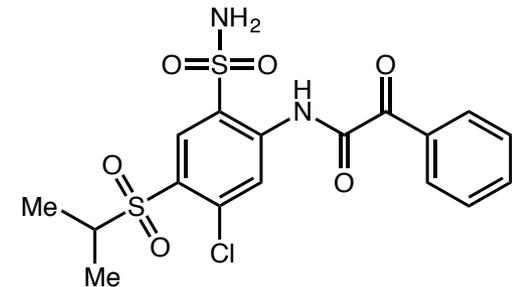
■ View of L-613,517 docked into the DHPR active site:



1.6 X 10⁶ compounds docked

500 scoring compounds chosen for *in vitro* assay

Lead compound:



L-613,517 (magenta)

IC₅₀ = 7.2 μM (*E. coli*)

IC₅₀ = 7.2 μM (*M. tuberculosis*)

The over all hit rate (IC₅₀ values < 100 μM) for the virtually screened compounds was 6%

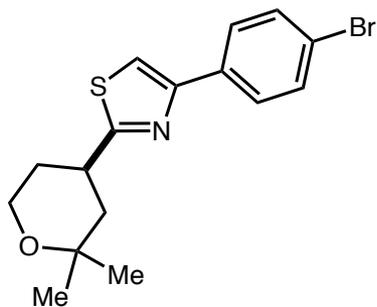
In Silico Drug Design and Development

Inhibitors of DHPR via in silico screening

■ Compounds identified through traditional HTS:

Thousands of compounds screened from the Merck Chemical Repository

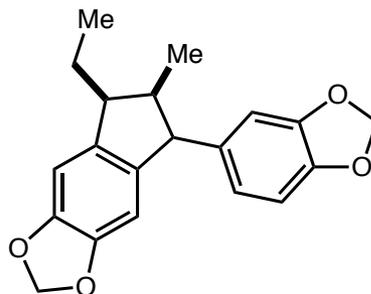
Lead compounds identified:



L-298,878

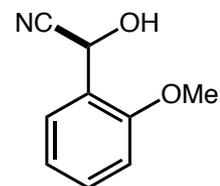
$IC_{50} = 54 \mu\text{M}$ (*E. coli*)

$IC_{50} = 35 \mu\text{M}$ (*M. tuberculosis*)



L-245,060

$IC_{50} = 20 \mu\text{M}$ (*E. coli*)



L-273,552

$IC_{50} = 93 \mu\text{M}$ (*E. coli*)

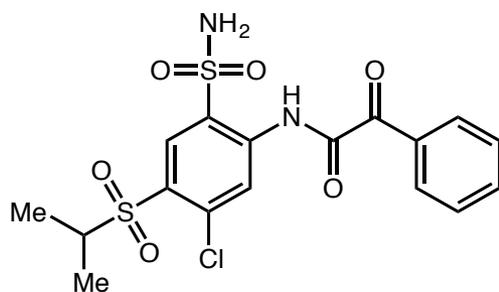
The over all hit rate (IC_{50} values $< 100 \mu\text{M}$) for the Merck HTS compounds was $\leq 2\%$

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Inhibitors of DHPR via in silico screening

■ Virtual screening vs. traditional high throughput screening:

Lead identified using VS:



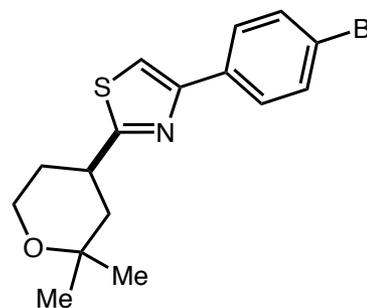
L-613,517

IC₅₀ = 7.2 μM (*E. coli*)

IC₅₀ = 7.2 μM (*M. tuberculosis*)

over all hit rate was 6%

Lead identified using HTS:



L-298,878

IC₅₀ = 54 μM (*E. coli*)

IC₅₀ = 35 μM (*M. tuberculosis*)

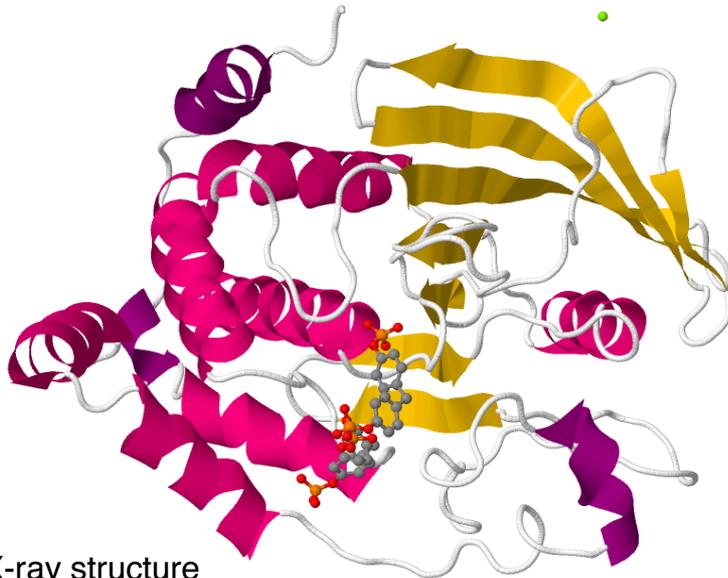
over all hit rate was ≤2%

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Inhibitors of protein tyrosine phosphatase-1B

- **Type-II diabetes:** metabolic disorder characterized by high blood sugar due to insulin resistance or lack of insulin. Long-term effects lead to heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, and nerve damage.

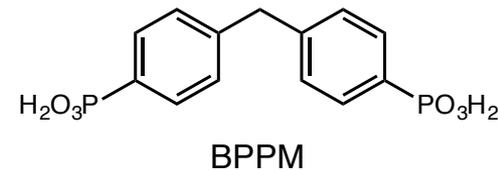
Protein tyrosine phosphate-1B (PTP1B): overproduction has been implicated in the onset of type-II diabetes, shown to deactivate the insulin receptor by hydrolyzing phosphotyrosines, and is therefore a potential drug target.



X-ray structure
1.90 Å

PTP1B complexed with two BPPM molecules

Size: 38 kD, 321 residues



In Silico Drug Design and Development

Inhibitors of protein tyrosine phosphatase-1B

■ Molecular docking and HTS for the discovery of novel PTP1B inhibitors:

HTS: a 400,000 "corporate" compound library was screened against PTP1B.

543 compounds inhibited the enzyme at 300 μM .

85 had IC_{50} values ranging from 1-100 μM .

Hit rate of 0.021%.

Moleculr docking: 250,000 commercial compounds from the ACD, Biospecs, and Maybridge databases were evaluated in DOCK 3.5.

An average of 350 conformations per compound ($\sim 90 \times 10^6$ conformers).

1000 compounds were considered for further evaluation (889 commercially available).

365 compounds (178 "spanners" and 187 "nonspanners") were tested *in vitro*.

127 compounds had $\text{IC}_{50} < 100 \mu\text{M}$

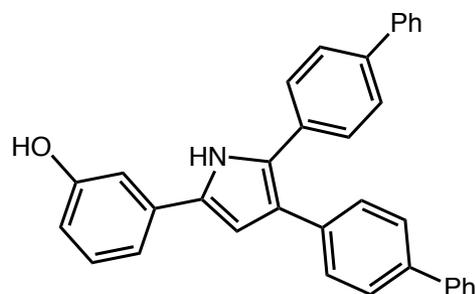
21 hits with $\text{IC}_{50} < 10 \mu\text{M}$

Hit rate of 34.6%.

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Inhibitors of protein tyrosine phosphatase-1B

■ **Kinetic analysis of docking hits:** 4 out of the 127 hits behaved as simple competitive inhibitors.

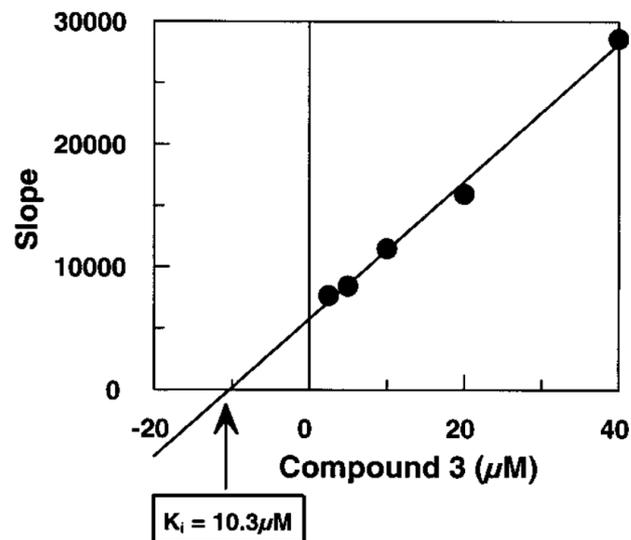
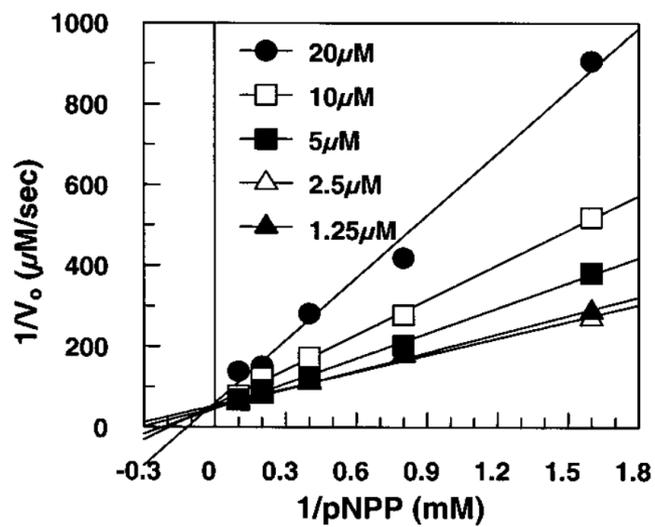


Compound 3

Docking rank: 39

Docking score: -39.6 kcal/mol

IC₅₀ = 8.6 μM (vs. PTP1B)

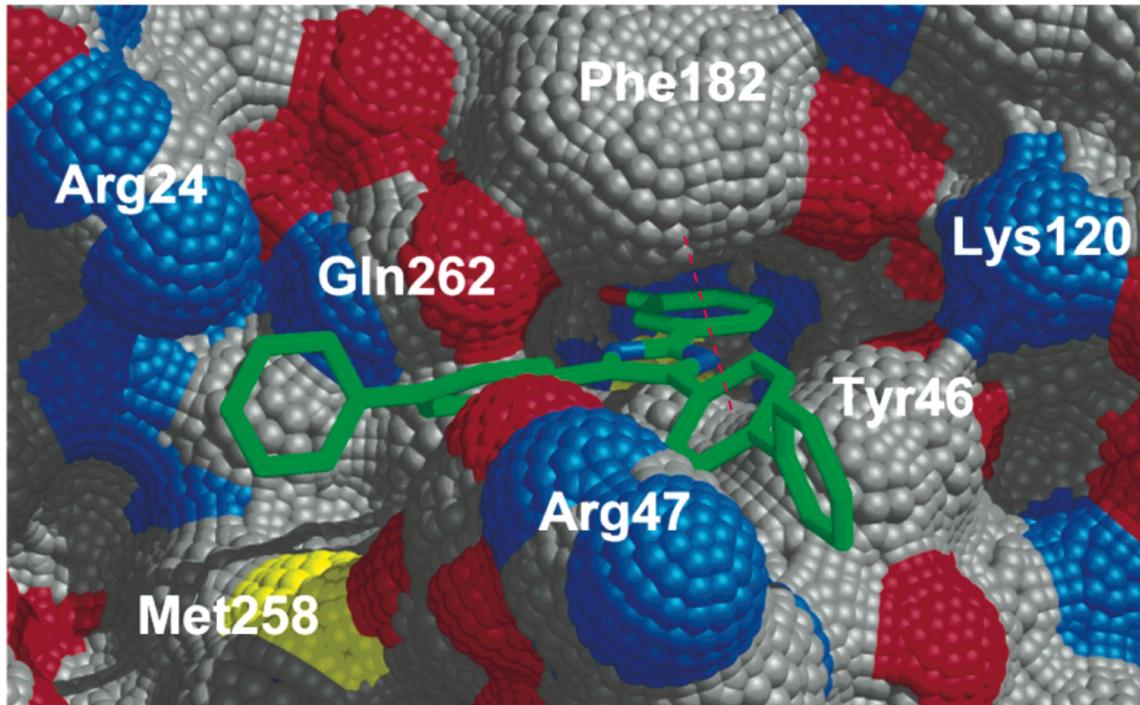


Lineweaver-Burk analysis of competitive inhibitor compound 3 (pNPP = *p*-nitrophenyl phosphate).

In Silico Drug Design and Development

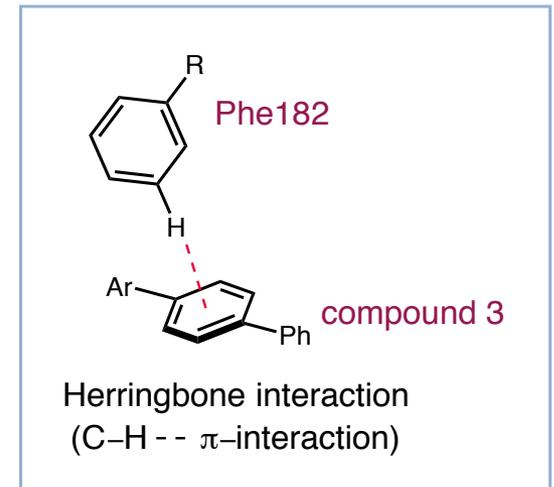
Inhibitors of protein tyrosine phosphatase-1B

- The molecular surface of PTP1B docked with compound 3 ($K_i = 10.3 \mu\text{M}$):



Extensive shape complementarity

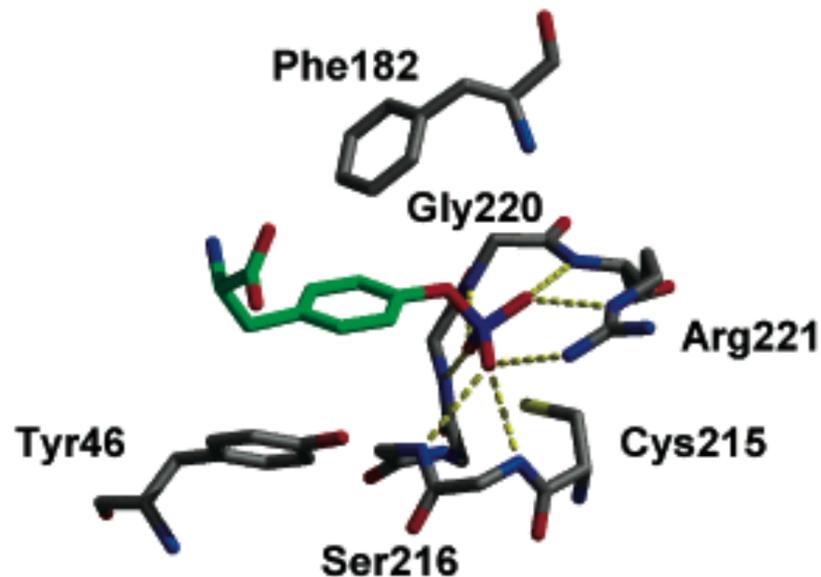
Aryl ring sandwiched in between Phe183 and Tyr46 (stacked with Tyr46)



In Silico Drug Design and Development

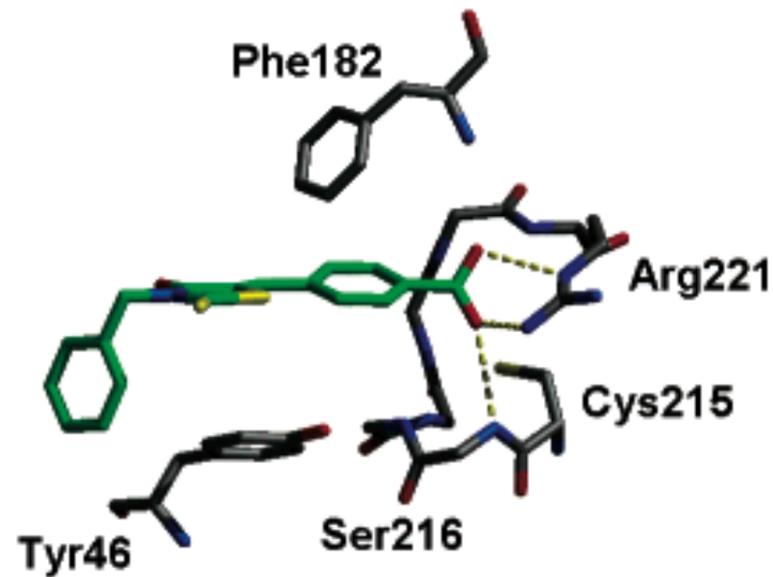
Inhibitors of protein tyrosine phosphatase-1B

■ Comparison of the docked ligands to phosphotyrosine:

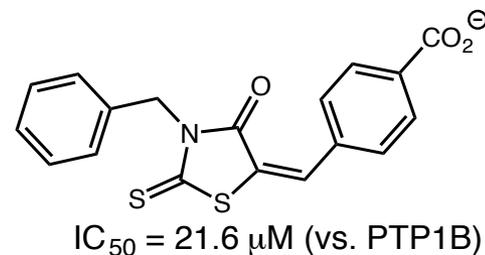


X-ray structure of the PTP1B catalytic site bound to phosphotyrosine.

Charged compounds featuring carboxylic or salicylic acid groups hydrogen bond with the phosphate recognition residues: Ser216, Gly220, and Arg221.



Compound 8 docking orientation



In Silico Drug Design and Development

Inhibitors of protein tyrosine phosphatase-1B

■ **Chemical informatics:** Compare and contrast the "druglikeness" of the docked vs. HTS hit list.

Lipinski's rule of five (RO5):

- 1) molecular weight ≤ 500
- 2) calculated $\log P \leq 5$
- 3) ≤ 5 hydrogen bond donors
- 4) ≤ 10 hydrogen bond acceptors

list	# of compounds	passing 3/4	passing 4/4	average RO5 score
HTS hits	81	49	19	2.73
high-scoring docking molecules	889	773	577	3.47
docking molecules selected for testing	365	332	248	3.57
bioactive docking hits	127	116	73	3.49

Bioactive hits from docking are more drug like!

In Silico Drug Design and Development

Inhibitors of protein tyrosine phosphatase-1B

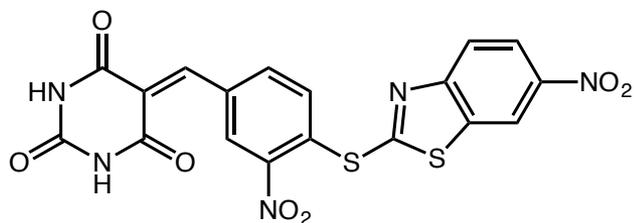
■ Important things to consider:

1) Although there is a 1700-fold enrichment in the docking hit rate vs. HTS.

These libraries contain fundamentally different structures. An apples to apples comparison is needed.

2) Are the docking molecules binding at the active site as predicted?

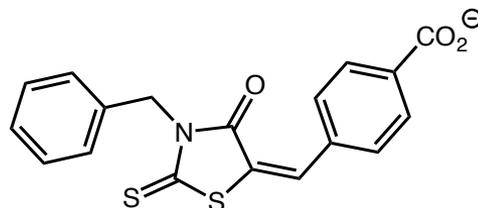
3) Are the scoring functions accurate?



compound 1

docking score -33.4 kcal/mol

IC₅₀ = 4.1 μM (vs. PTP1B)



compound 8

docking score -42.0 kcal/mol

IC₅₀ = 21.6 μM (vs. PTP1B)

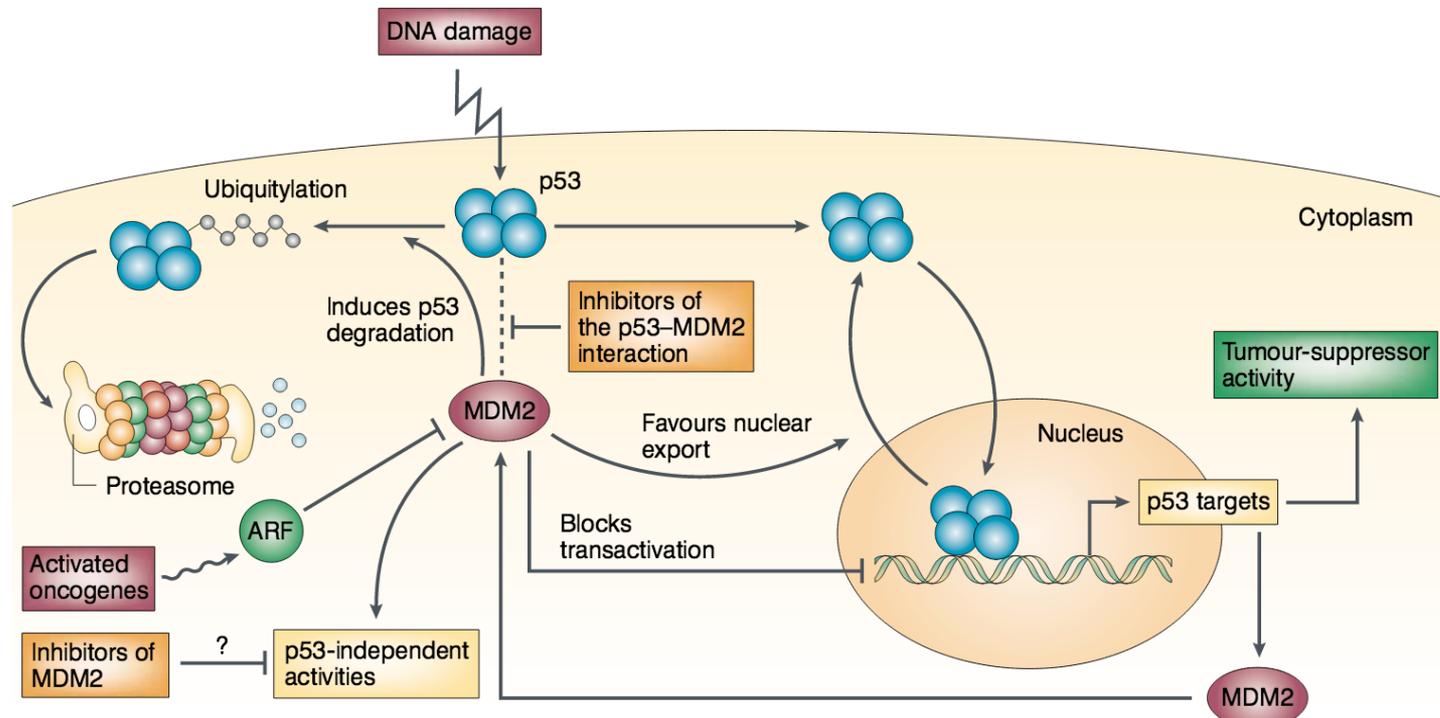
These inaccuracies may be attributed to failure to consider enzyme desolvation and conformational changes.

In Silico Drug Design and Development

p53-MDM2 inhibitor

■ New potential cancer therapy:

The tumor suppressor p53 is mutated in 50% of human cancers. In the remaining 50% it is rendered inactive due to interactions with the murine double minute 2 (MDM2) protein.



Inhibiting the p53-MDM2 interaction presents a novel strategy for the development of therapeutics against a variety of cancers.

In Silico Drug Design and Development

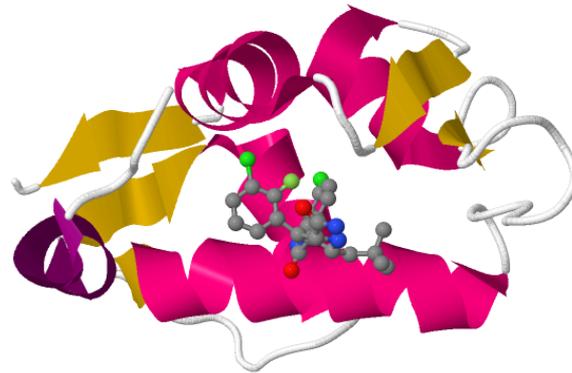
p53-MDM2 inhibitor

■ X-ray structures of MDM2 bound to 3 different inhibitors:

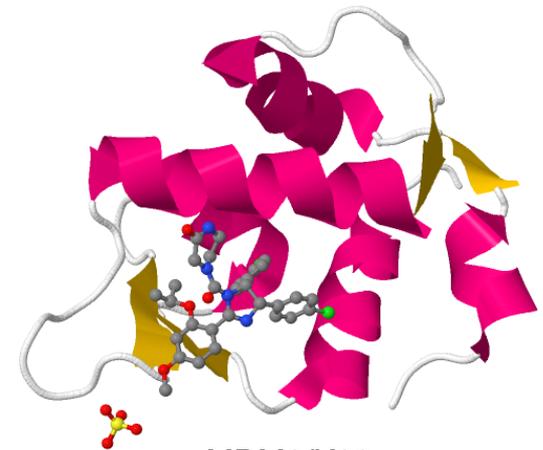
Each ligand type induces different MDM2 conformers used in docking analysis



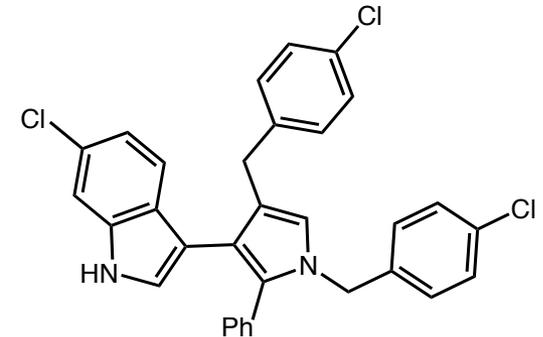
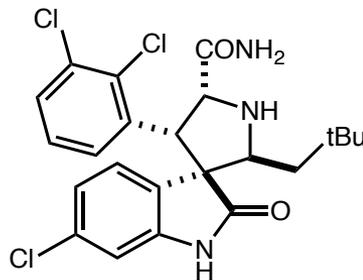
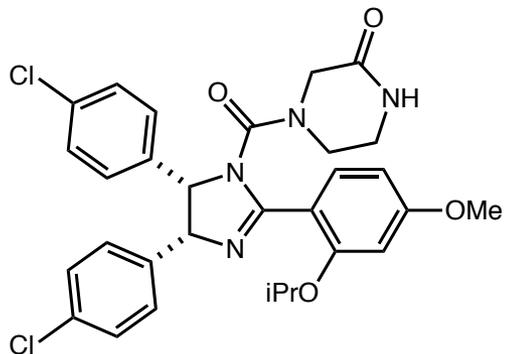
MDM2/nutlin



MDM2/MI63



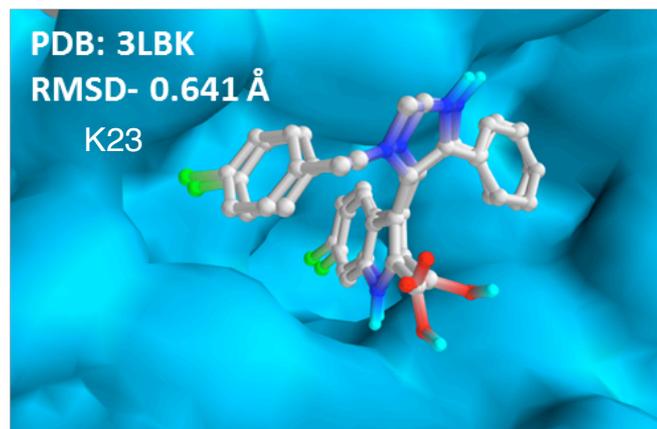
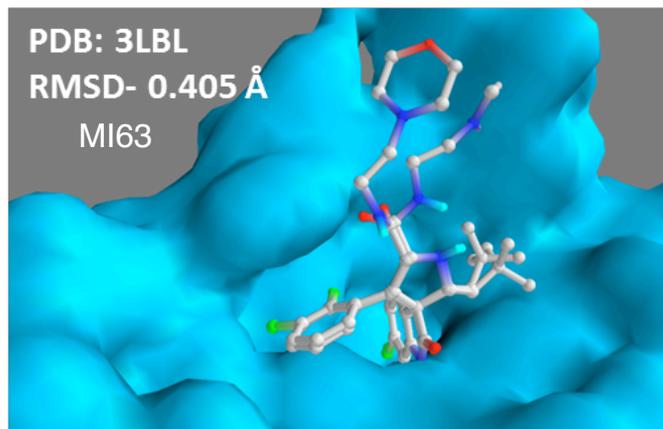
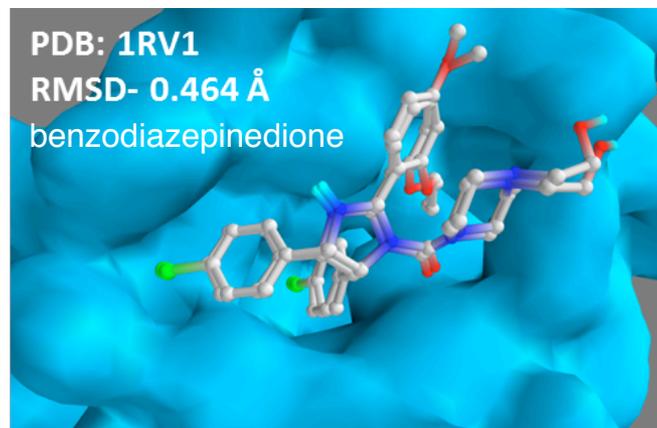
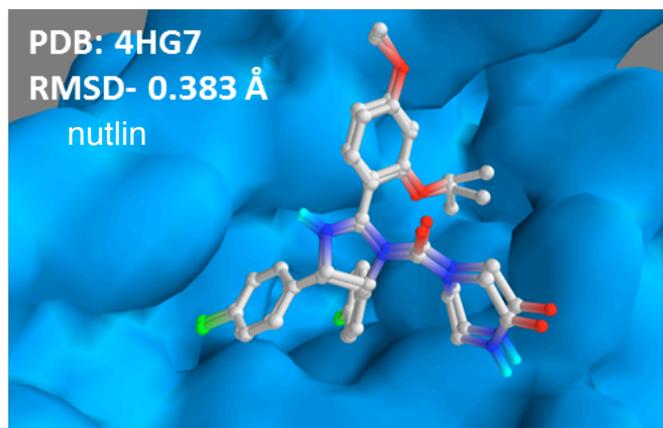
MDM2/K23



In Silico Drug Design and Development

p53-MDM2 inhibitor

■ The binding modes of MDM2 crystal ligands predicted by the AutoDock Vina:



Excellent agreement with X-ray pose

In Silico Drug Design and Development

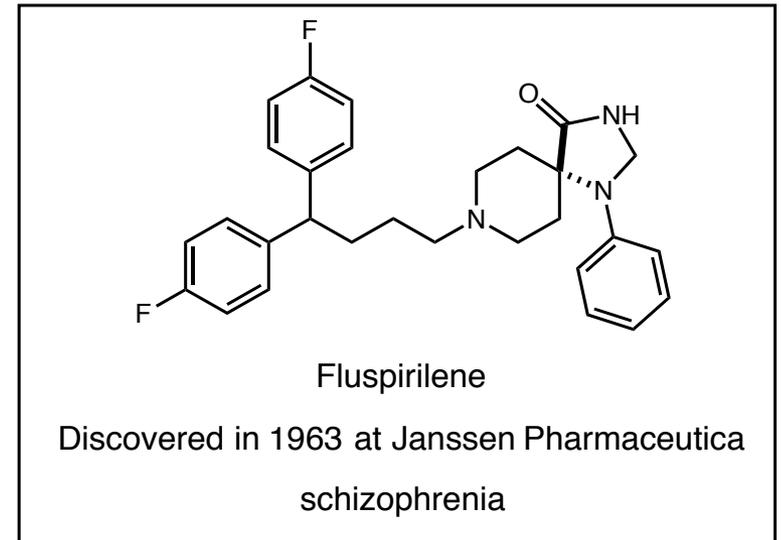
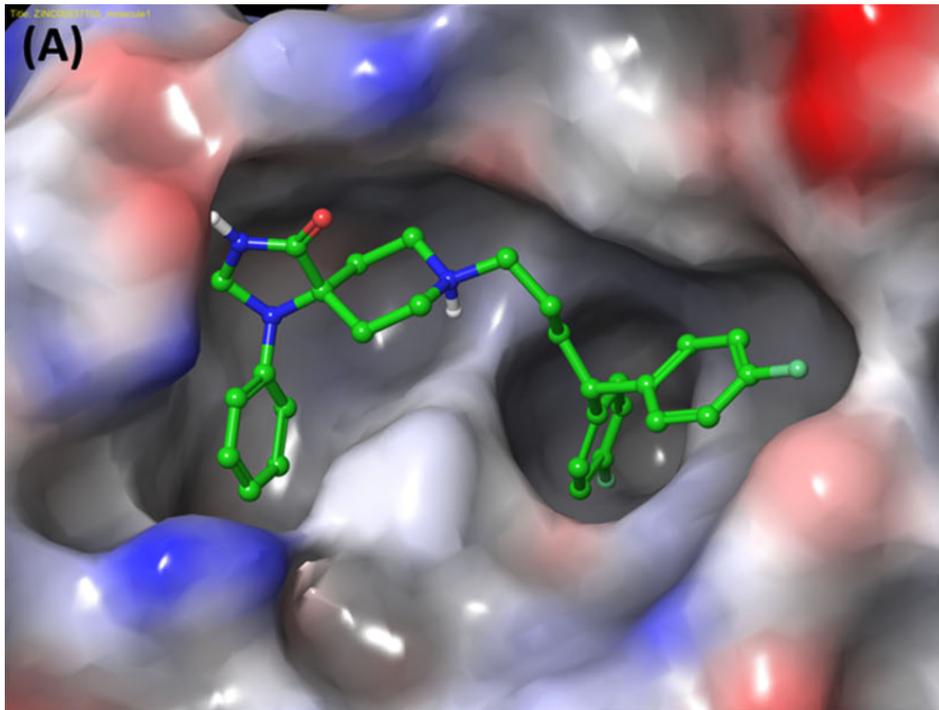
p53-MDM2 inhibitor

■ Repurposing drugs through virtual screening:

7,800 approved drugs from the ZINC database were selected for virtual screening against MDM2

6 hit compounds were identified.

ZINCC00537755 (fluspirilene) had the highest binding energy

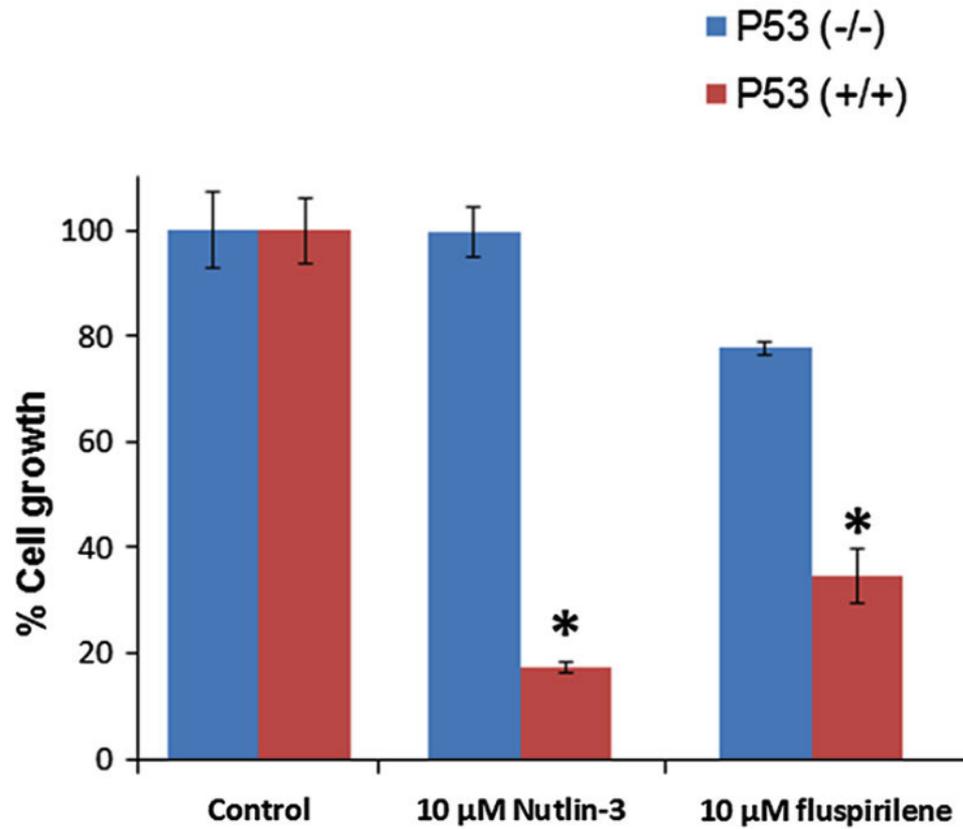


molecule	binding free energy
fluspirilene	-122 kcal/mol
MI63	-126 kcal/mol

In Silico Drug Design and Development

p53-MDM2 inhibitor

■ Fluspirilene showed comparable inhibition to known inhibitor nutlin:

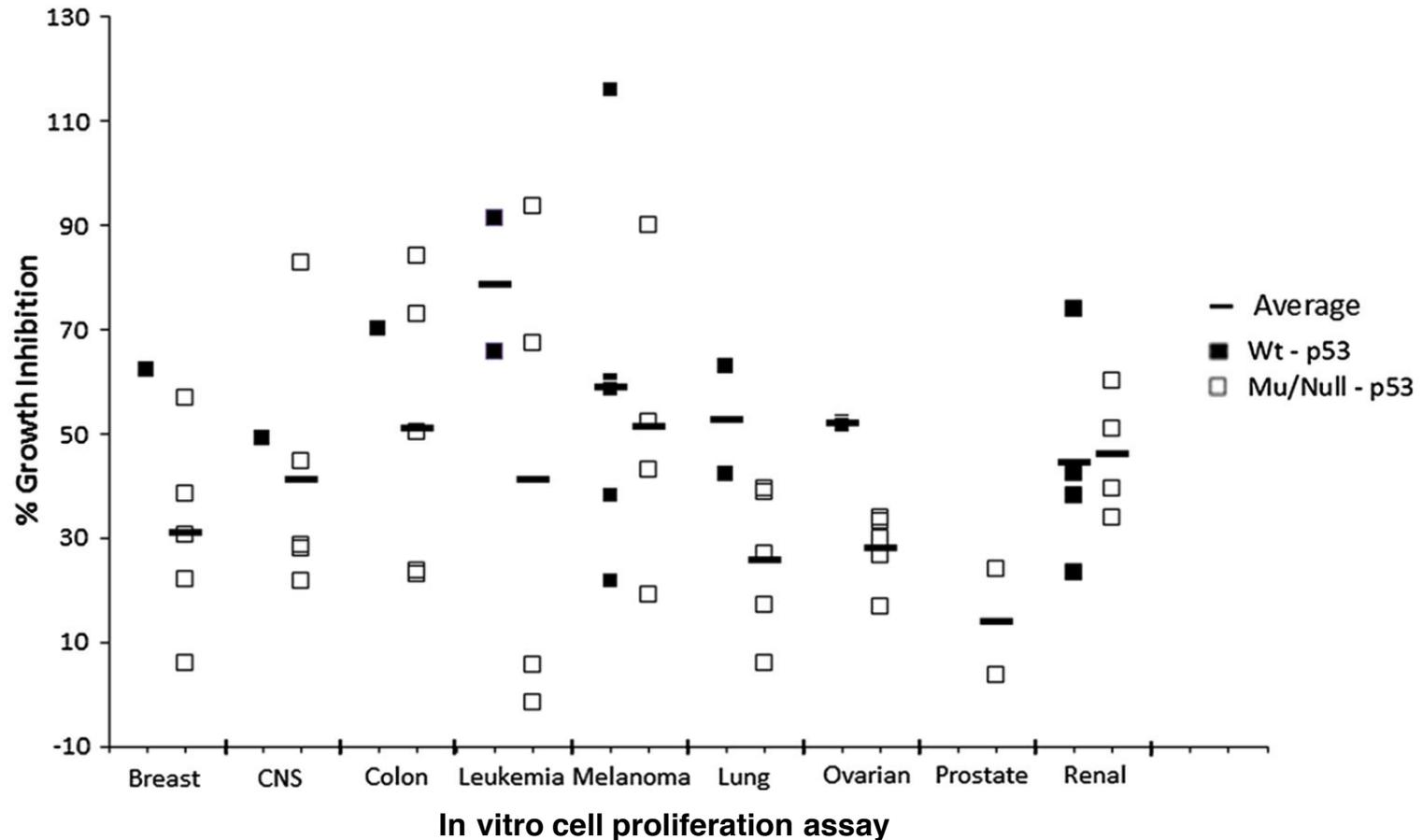


In vitro cell proliferation assay

In Silico Drug Design and Development

p53-MDM2 inhibitor

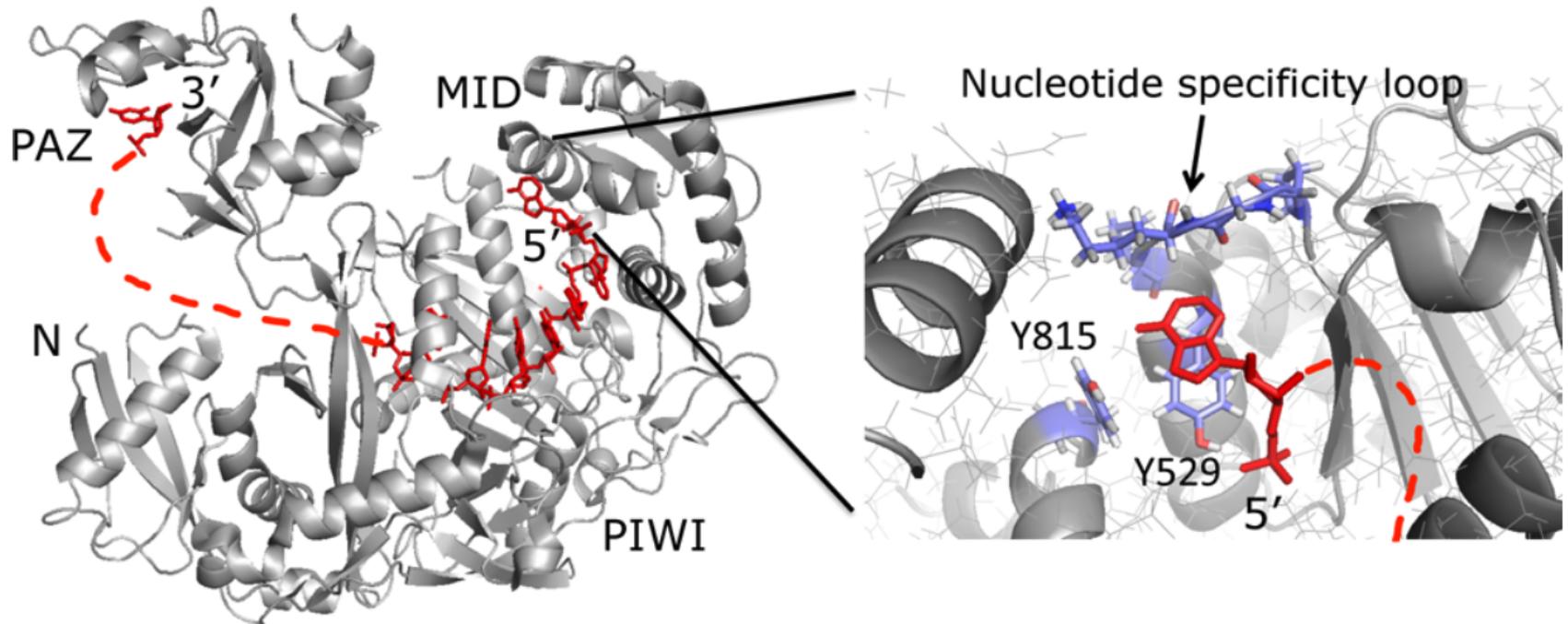
■ Fluspirilene (10 μ M) showed a broad-spectrum in the NCI60 human tumor cell lines:



In Silico Drug Design and Development

siRNA

■ Argonaute proteins form complexes responsible for RNA silencing in eukaryotes :



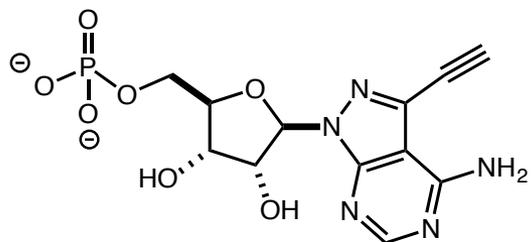
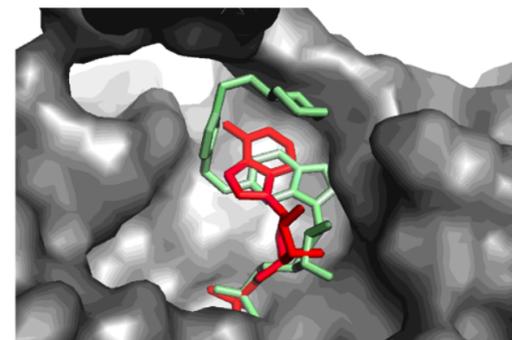
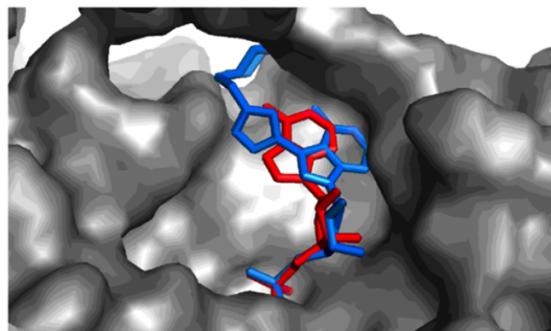
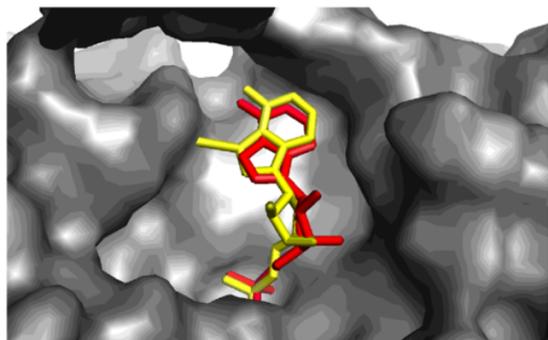
X-ray structure of hAgo2 interactions with the RNA '5-guide strand

siRNAs are promising targets for potential therapeutics many of which have been considered to be "undruggable"

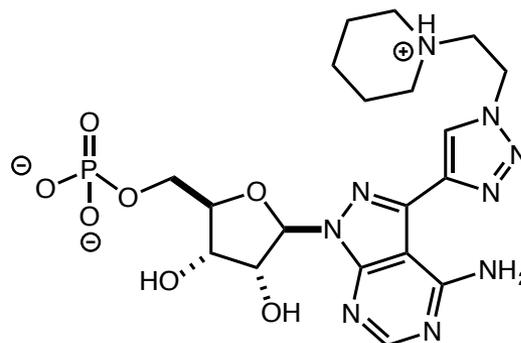
In Silico Drug Design and Development

siRNA

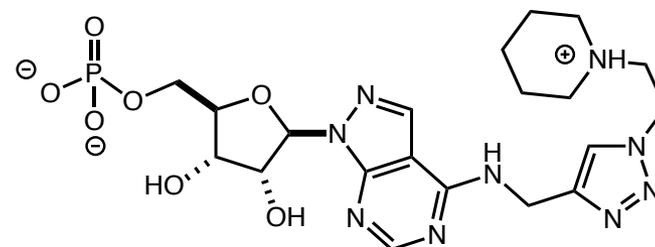
■ Predicted hAgo2 binding modes for 5'-end guide strand analogs purine analogs :



7-EAA



7-EAA triazole



2-AP triazole

In Silico Drug Design and Development

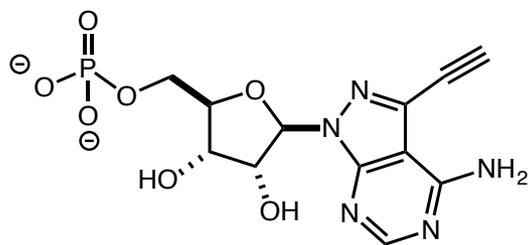
siRNA

■ Predicted hAgo2 binding modes for 5'-end guide strand analogs purine analogs :

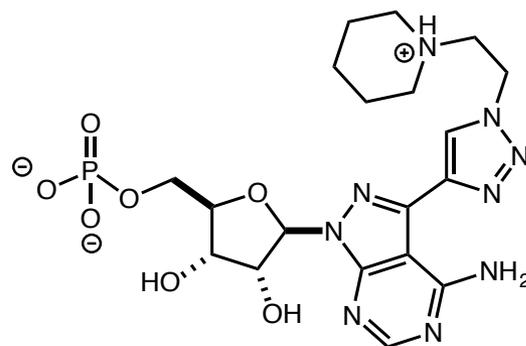
	predicted hAgo2 binding ^a	siRNA activity ^b
adenosine	1.0	++
7-EAA	8.8	+
7-EAA triazole	9.2	+
2-AP-triazole	9.5	+

^aLower number represents better-predicted binding

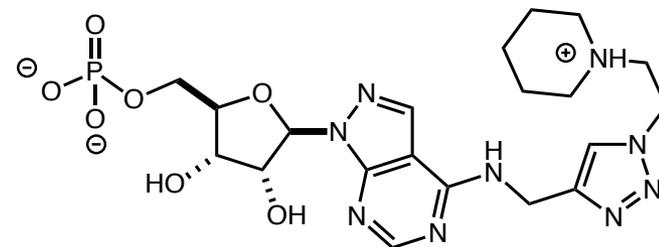
^b+++ = <10% luciferase activity remaining after knockdown; ++ = 10-40%; + = 41-70%; , - = >70%



7-EAA



7-EAA triazole

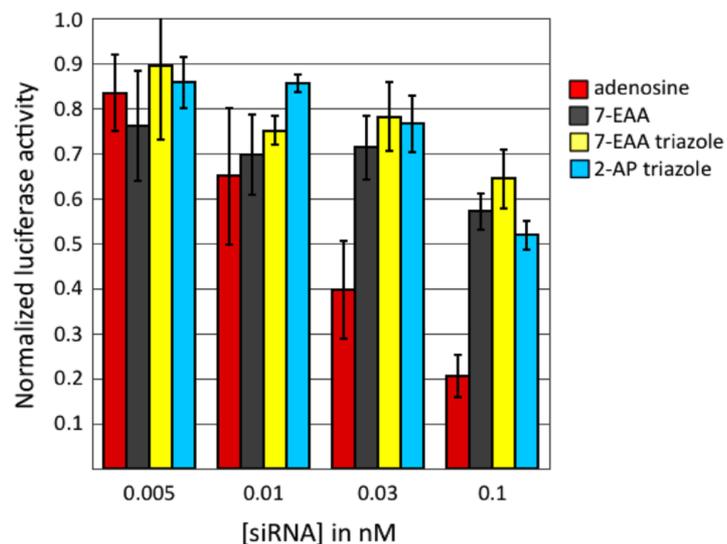


2-AP triazole

In Silico Drug Design and Development

siRNA

■ Luciferase knockdown activity in HeLa cells :



All siRNAs were prepared with a 5'-phosphorylated guide strand



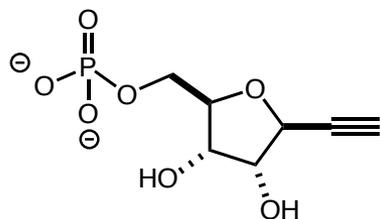
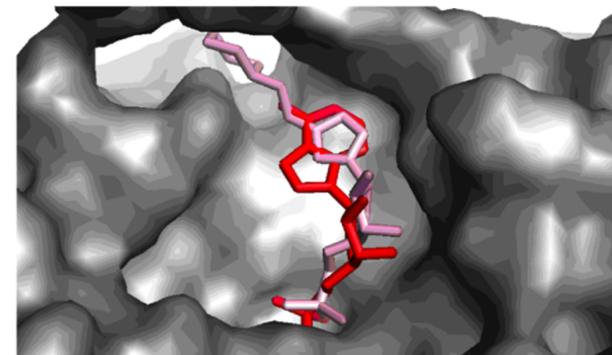
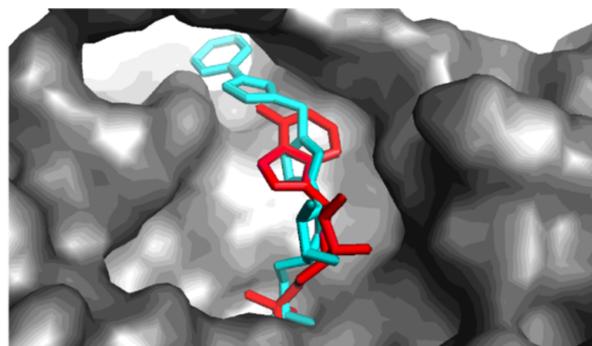
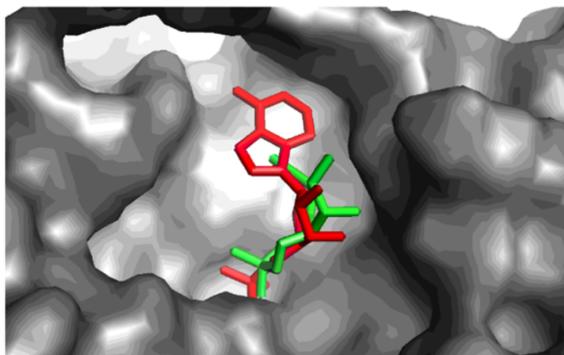
X = adenosine or nucleoside analog

Sequence of siRNA used in this study. X indicates guide strand position 1.

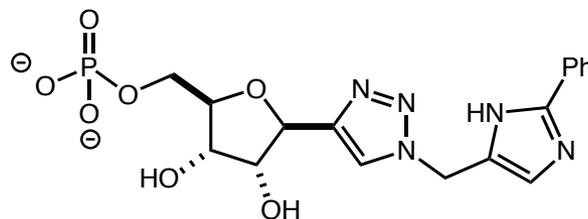
In Silico Drug Design and Development

siRNA

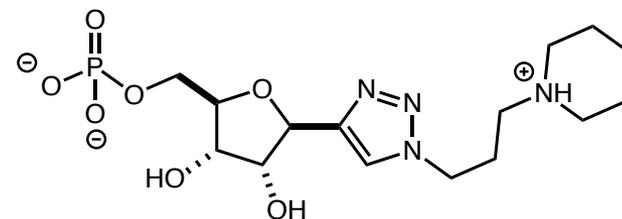
■ Predicted hAgo2 binding modes for 5'-end guide strand 1-ethynyl ribose derivatives :



7-ER



7-ER triazole 1

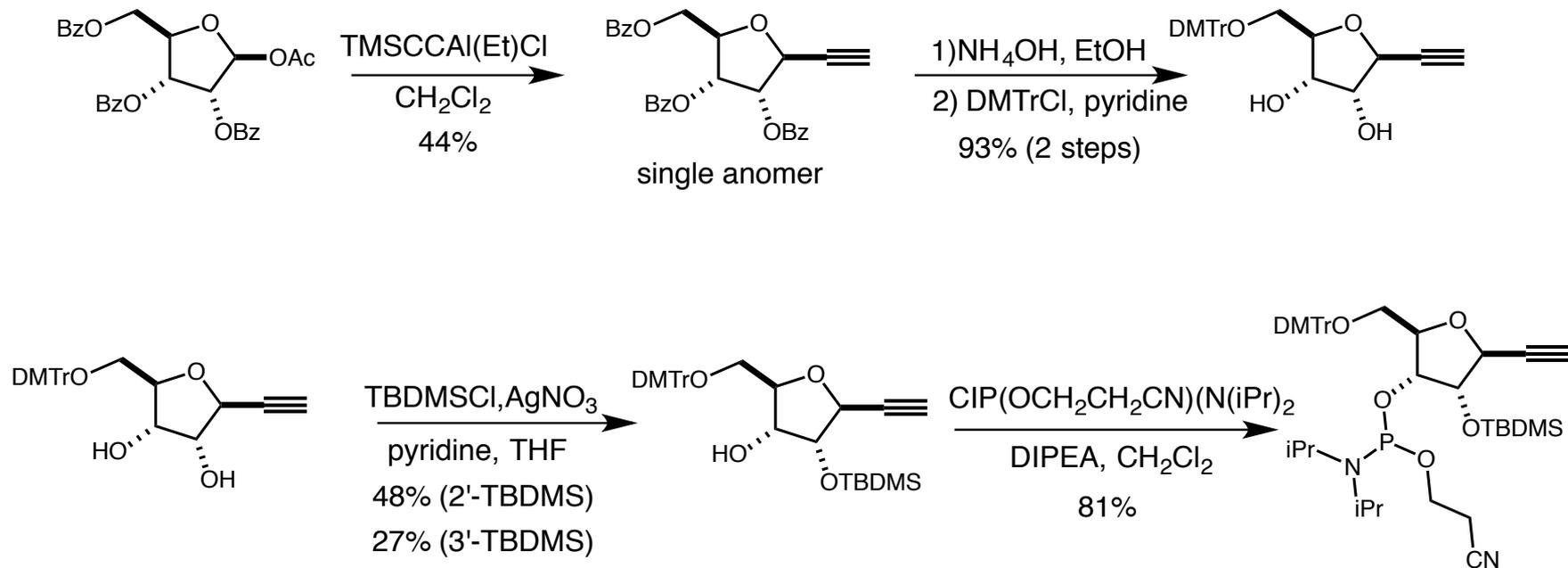


7-ER triazole 2

In Silico Drug Design and Development

siRNA

■ Synthesis of 1-ER Phosphoramidite :



In Silico Drug Design and Development

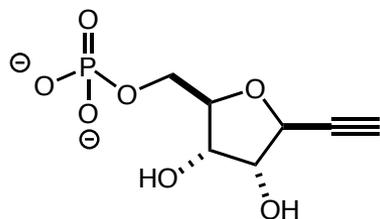
siRNA

■ Predicted hAgo2 binding modes for 5'-end guide strand 1-ethynyl ribose derivatives :

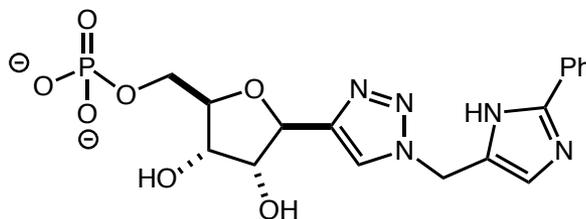
	predicted hAgo2 binding ^a	siRNA activity ^b
adenosine	1.0	++
1-ER	2.1	++
1-ER triazole I	1.2	+++
1-ER triazole II	1.3	+++

^aLower number represents better-predicted binding

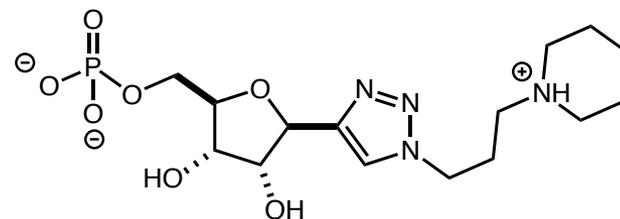
^b+++ = <10% luciferase activity remaining after knockdown; ++ = 10-40%; + = 41-70%; , - = >70%



7-ER



7-ER triazole 1

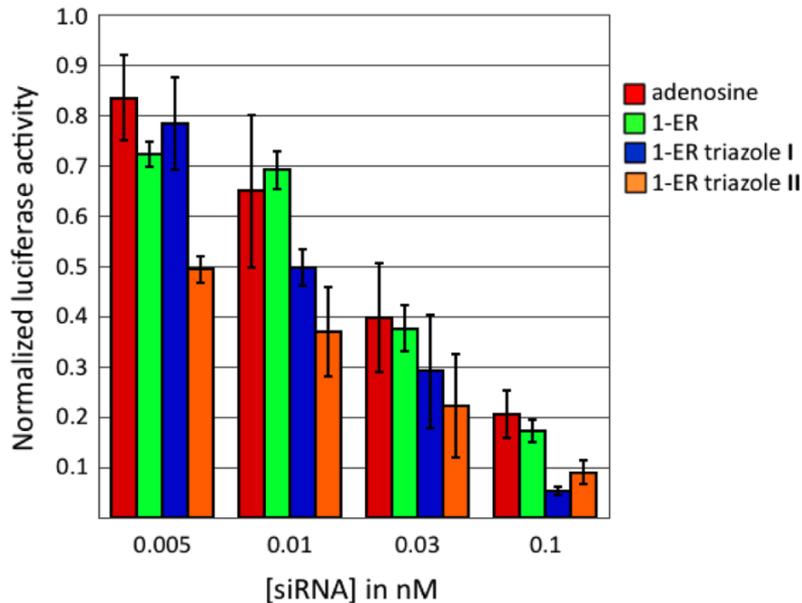


7-ER triazole 2

In Silico Drug Design and Development

siRNA

■ Luciferase knockdown activity in HeLa cells :



X = adenosine or nucleoside analog

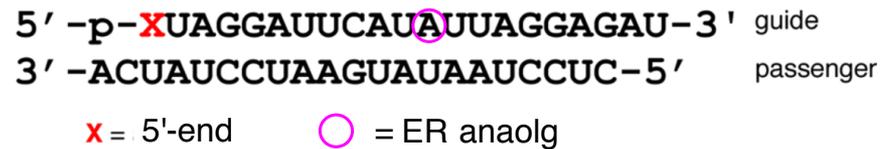
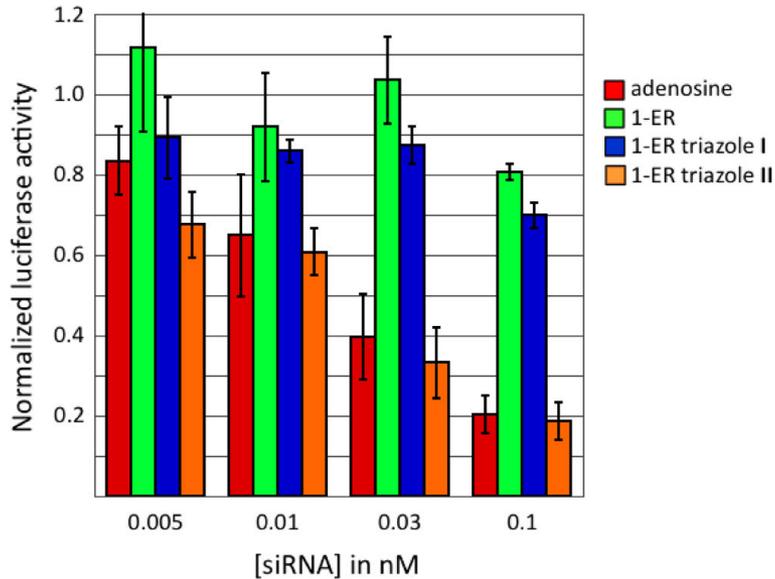
Sequence of siRNA used in this study. X indicates guide strand position 1.

All siRNAs were prepared with a 5'-phosphorylated guide strand

In Silico Drug Design and Development

siRNA

Luciferase knockdown activity in HeLa cells :



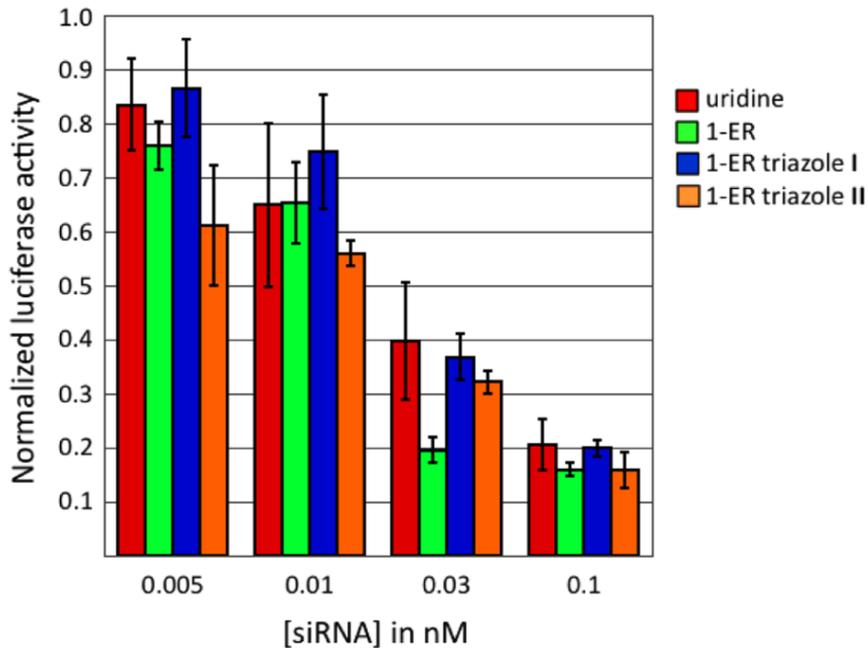
Sequence of siRNA used in this study. X indicates guide strand position 1.

All siRNAs were prepared with a 12 position-phosphorylated guide strand

In Silico Drug Design and Development

siRNA

■ Luciferase knockdown activity in HeLa cells :



5' -p-AUAGGAUUCAUAUUAGGAGAU-3' guide
3' -ACXAUCCUAAGUAUAAUCCUC-5' passenger

X = uridine or nucleoside analog

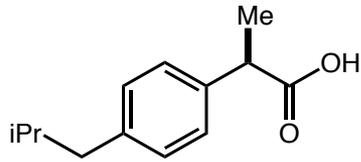
Sequence of siRNA used in this study.

All siRNAs were prepared with a 5'-phosphorylated guide strand.
Modifications made at the 19-position of the passenger strand

In Silico Drug Design and Development

How easy is it?

■ SMILES to HIts



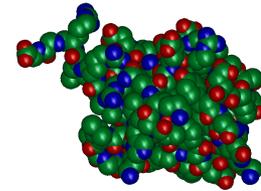
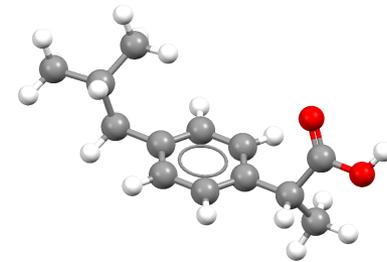
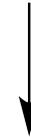
2D Sketch
Program



OC([C@H](C)C1=CC=C(CC(C)C)C=C1)=O

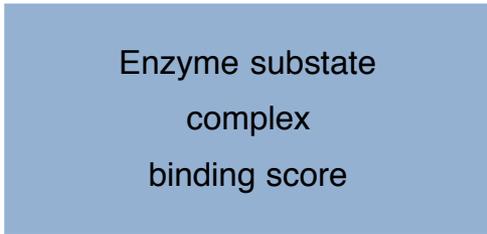
Simplified Molecular Input Line Entry Specification (SMILES)

convert to 3D stucture



AutoDock

Enzyme substate
complex
binding score



In Silico Drug Design and Development

ZINC database

- **ZINC**: a free public resource for ligand discovery. The ZINC database contains 120 million commercially available "drug like" molecules in biologically relevant 3D representations that can be downloaded in popular ready-to-dock formats.

The screenshot displays the ZINC 12 web interface. At the top, it says "ZINC 12" and "Not Authenticated - sign in". Below this is a navigation menu with "About", "Search", "Subsets", "Help", "Social", and a search bar. A secondary menu includes "Quick", "Structure", "Properties", "Catalogs", "ZINC", "Targets", and "Combination". The main area shows a search for the SMILES string CCN(CC(=O)[C@@H]2C=C1c3cc with a 90% confidence level. A chemical structure editor is visible on the left, showing a complex molecule with a fused ring system and a side chain. On the right, a "Predefined Subset: Lead Like" filter panel is shown with various sliders for molecular weight, xlogP, net charge, rotatable bonds, polar surface area, hydrogen donors, hydrogen acceptors, polar desolvation, and apolar desolvation.

Property	Value
Molecular Weight (g/mol)	32 - 350
xlogP	-4 - 3.5
Net Charge	-5 - 5
Rotatable Bonds	0 - 7
Polar Surface Area (Å²)	0 - 200
Hydrogen Donors	0 - 10
Hydrogen Acceptors	0 - 20
Polar Desolvation (kcal/mol)	-400 - 1
Apolar Desolvation (kcal/mol)	-100 - 40

- Designed for investigators who are not computer specialists

In Silico Drug Design and Development

PubChem database

- **PubChem:** is a database containing compounds and their activities against biological assays. The system is maintained by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI).

The screenshot shows the PubChem website interface. At the top, there are navigation links: Databases >, Upload, Services >, Help, more >, and Today's Statistics >. Below these are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Google+, RSS, and a chat icon. The main logo is 'PubChem' with a hexagonal 'C'. Below the logo are three tabs: BioAssay, Compound, and Substance. A search bar is present with a 'Go' button and a link to 'Limits Advanced'. Below the search bar is the text 'Try the new PubChem Search'. A news banner states: 'New A new article about the PubChem Compound and Substance databases is available. Read more...'. At the bottom, there are links for 'Write to Helpdesk', 'Disclaimer', 'Privacy Statement', 'Accessibility', and 'Data Citation Guidelines', along with 'National Center for Biotechnology Information' and 'NLM | NIH | HHS'. On the right side, there is a vertical menu with various tools: BioActivity Summary, BioActivity Datable, BioActivity SAR, Structure Search, 3D Conformer Tools, Structure Clustering, Classification, Upload, Download, and PubChem FTP.

- Contains over 7.7 million compounds

- Over 2.1 million compounds tested

- 1.2 million bioactivity results

- Over 10 thousand protein targets

In Silico Drug Design and Development

summary

■ *In silico* drug design advantages and limitations:

Advantages:

Inexpensive

Low waste generation

Inconceivable amounts of chemical space can be investigated in seconds

Disadvantages/Challenges:

Potential problems with synthetic accessibility

Addressing receptor flexibility (reverse docking) is a major challenge

Developing new filters for removing promiscuous binders and reactive inhibitors

"Given the structure of a protein and that of a potential ligand, can the two form a favorable complex?
What are the bases for binding and specificity?"

Probably...Yes!