ABSTRACTS FROM THE
6th AFMC International Medicinal Chemistry Symposium
July 8-11, 2007, Istanbul, Turkey
OP-12

Modeling Strategies Used to Support the Discovery of Caspase-3 Inhibitors


Wyeth Research, CN 8000 Princeton, NJ 08543 U.S.A.

The current work outlines modeling strategies used to support the discovery of potent caspase-3 inhibitors. First, a group of caspase DEVD aldehyde crystal structure complexes were aligned. Caspases-1, 3, 7, and 8 were considered. Residues proximal to DEVD aldehyde define the binding pockets of the various caspases. It was found that SER 343 and PHE 381B in the S3 and S4 pockets were exclusive to caspase-3. Therefore targeting ligand interactions with these residues provides a general recipe for making caspase-3 selective ligands. Selective or pan inhibition, however, is better understood by examination of the detailed interactions that ligands make with the caspase proteins. To show how this is done in a qualitatively fashion, two well-known ligands were modeled into the caspase-3 and caspase-7 binding pockets. These molecules were M13 (potent at Caspase-3, not at caspase-7) and M826 (potent at both caspase-3 and caspase-7). A visual inspection of the modeled geometries suggests that in the case of M13 the key residue for caspase-3 selectivity over caspase-7 is ASN_342. In the case of M826 the key residue for potency at both caspase-3 and caspase-7 is ARG_341. For an ultimate understanding of the ligand-protein binding one must map some kind of binding thermodynamics onto modeled geometries. Therefore, a methodology was derived for the calculation of ligand-caspase binding free energies associated with modeled geometries. The methodology was validated by showing that calculated binding free energy differences correlated reasonably well (R² = 0.87) with experimentally determined Kᵢ ratios for a set of pyrimidoindolone (3,4-dihydropyrimido (1,2-a) indol-10 (2H)-one) caspase-3 inhibitors. We believe this broad approach (identification of target residues, visual examination of ligand-protein interactions, and binding free energy calculation) can be useful for the effective design of selective or pan caspase inhibitors.

OP-13

Molecular modeling studies on some eukarotic topoisomerase II enzyme inhibitor fused heterocyclic compounds

Ilkay YILDIZ, Sabiha ALPER, Tugba ERTAN, Ozlem TEMIZARPAI, Betul TEKINER-GULBAS, Esin AKI-SENER, Ismail YALCIN

Ankara University, Faculty of Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Chemistry Dept., Tandogan 06100 Ankara, TURKEY
Since the activity of topoisomerases is essential for several cellular processes such as replication, transcription, and chromosome condensation, investigation of the inhibitory activities of eukaryotic topoisomerases is widely used in anticancer drug development. Topoisomerase II (Topo II) is the target for some of the most active anticancer drugs such as etoposide, teniposide, and doxorubicin used in the treatment of human malignancies [1-3].

Many pharmacological studies have resolved receptor active/binding sites using numerous computational 3D-quantitative structure-activity relationship (3D-QSAR) techniques [4]. These methods utilize relevant conformers of ligands to suggest functional groups, the geometry of structural features, and regions of electrostatic and steric interactions essential for activity or fit to the receptor binding/active site.

In previously research paper, inhibition effect of some novel benzoazole derivatives on eukaryotic Topo II were investigated [5].

In this study, we applied the CoMFA (Comparative Molecular Field Analysis) [6] and the CoMSIA (comparative molecular similarity indices analysis) [7] as the 3D-QSAR applications using the Sybyl 7.0 [8] Software in SGI workstation for the lead optimization to the training set of compounds having the eukaryotic Topo II inhibitory activities as log 1/C values.

Moreover, three-dimensional pharmacophore hypotheses were built from a set of some Topo II inhibitor benzoazoles by using the program Catalyst/HitHop [9].

References:

[8] SYBYL 7.0, Tripos Associates, St. Louis, Mo., USA.

OP-14

A fast empirical scoring method for docking and virtual screening

Pietro Cozzin1, Francesca Spyrakis2, Alessio Amadasi2, Andrea Mozzarelli2 and Glen E. Kellogg3

1 Molecular Modelling Laboratori, Dept. of General Chemistry,
2 Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Parma, via G.P. Uberti, 17/A, 43100 Parma – Italy, 3 Institute for Structural Biology and Drug Discovery, Virginia Commonwealth University, 800 East Leigh St., Suite 212, P.O. Box 980133, Richmond, VA 23298-0133

The docking and scoring paradigm can be considered as the combination of two separate problems. The first aspect is a geometric, or more broadly an informatics problem: how can we place a solid object (ligand) within a "cavity" of another solid (protein) or close to another molecule in a well-defined Cartesian space? The second one is a more intriguing chemical problem: how can we properly predict the free energy of binding considering all the possible contributions involved in biological interactions?

The availability of computational fast methods to score all the solutions found by a docking or virtual screening software is of paramount importance. But the scoring function must be a "complete" scoring function, able to consider all the contribution in a binding process, biological or organic process, where leading forces are weak forces.

In this work we present an empirical scoring function, HINT, based on experimental LogP data, which is able to consider enthalpic and entropic contributions to ∆G° of binding, the role of the solvent, water, the right protonation state of the systems to generate much more realistic models.

Some case studies will be illustrated highlighting qualities and limits.

OP-15

A Comparative Molecular Field Analysis (CoMFA)

Study of Flavonoids Active Against HT-29 Colon Carcinoma

Yeong-Sheng Chang and Bo-Cheng Wang

Department of Chemistry, Tamkang University, Tamsui 251, Taiwan

Flavonoids have been found in various food items as the plant origin. In vitro, flavonoids have the well-known antiproliferative property for varieties of cancer cells. Many efforts for the development of chemopreventive or therapeutic agents for cancer from natural products were performed over the last several decades. In this research, a series of 31 flavonoids, which show the cytotoxicity against human colon carcinoma (HT-29) were analyzed using comparative molecular field analysis (CoMFA) for generating the hypothetic pharmacophore model. To perform the systematic molecular modeling study of these flavonoids, a conformational search was determined with the precise dihedral angle analysis of the flavone. Then, CoMFA was performed based on the energy-minimized conformer of the flavone by using different several alignments. In CoMFA, the steric and electrostatic field vari-