

The First Molecule Interacting with a Host Protein for the Inhibition of Multiple Viruses

July, 21th-22nd Lugano

► DIPARTIMENTO DI BIOTECNOLOGIE, CHIMICA E FARMACIA

Prof. Dr. Maurizio Botta



HIV LIFE CYCLE





BRIEF HISTORY OF AIDS THERAPY

1981: First reported case of AIDS

> It has been estimated that more than 25 million people were killed since the HIV virus was first recognized.

Estimated number of people living with the HIV virus is now over 40 million worldwide.

Nucleoside/Nucleotide Reverse		Protease Inhibitors (PIs)		Non-Nucleoside Rev	Non-Nucleoside Reverse		
Transcriptase Inhibitors (1	NRTIS)	Aptivus (tipranavir)	77 250	Transcriptase Inhibitors (NNRTIs)			
Combivir (zidovudine + lamivudine)	GX(C)	Crixivan (indinavir)	and the second	Edurant (rilpivirine)			
Emtriva (emtricitabine)		Invirase (saquinavir)		Rescriptor (delavirdine)	MS:307130 200 mg		
Epivir (lamivudine)	(1) X (1)	Kaletra* (lopinavir + ritonavir)	EKA	Sustiva* (efavirenz) *Sold as Stocrin in some countries			
Epzicom* (abacavir + lamivudine) *Sold as Kivexa in some countries	65702			Viramune XR (nevirapine)	V04		
Retrovir (zidovudine)	300	*Sold as Telzir in some countries		Integrase Inhibitors Isentress (raltegravir)	227		
Trizivir (abacavir + zidovudine + lamivudine)	GX LL1	Norvir (ritonavir)	ar	Fusion and Entry Inhibitors			
Truvada (tenofovir + emtricitabine)	GILEAD	Prezista (darunavir)		Fuzeon (enfuvirtide)	NUTEON IN 10 INTRACTOR INTRACTOR		
Videx EC* (didanosine) *Also available generically in the U.S.	Strong Mark		600	Selzentry* (maraviroc) *Sold as Celsentri in some countries	2		
Viread (tenofovir)	(1500) (1500)	Reyataz (atazanavir)		Single Tablet Regimens			
Zerit (stavudine)	123 40			Atripla (efavirenz + tenofovir + emtricitabine)	123		
		Viracept (nelfinavir)		Complera (rilpivirine + tenofovir + emtricitabine)	GSI		
Liagen (abacavir)	08.022			Stribild (elvitegravir + cobicistat + tenofovir + emtricitabine)			

2013: FDA has approved 37 drugs belonging to six different classes of anti-HIV inhibitors



DRUG RESISTANCE AND NEW TARGETS

As a result of the high HIV-1 mutation rate or insufficient efficacy of chosen compounds combinations, drug resistant strains emerge, **resulting in therapeutic failure**.

New anti-HIV drugs are needed, which should represent novel chemical entities targeting new steps of HIV replication cycle.



DRUG RESISTANCE AND NEW TARGETS

- Inhibition of the Integrase Dimerization
- Inhibition of the Reverse Transcriptase Dimerization
- Inhibitors of HIV-1 RT competing with the nucleotide substrate.
- NCp7 Inhibitors
- Inhibition of a cellular cofactor (DDX3)

By targeting cellular co-factors **essential for HIV** replication and whose inhibition is **not harming the uninfected cells**, drug resistance is less likely to occur.



HIV relies on **more than 200 human proteins** to infect immune cells, enter the nucleus, integrate itself into the chromosomes, and then make copies of itself.



HDDX3 IN HIV-1 REV-RRE/CRM1 PATHWAY RNA EXPORT

a, Viral RNA develops a secondary structure before binding critical protein components of the export pathway. **b**, Rev protein binds the RRE, forming a complex of REV, viral RNA, CRM-I and DDX3, which begins to unwind the secondary structure. **c**, The export complex enters the nucleopore, where both CRM-I and DDX3 interact with nucleoporins. **d**, Even after CRM-I and Rev are released from the export complex, DDX3 may still pull RNA through the complex through its action.





knock-down of DDX3 are able to inhibit HIV replication without affecting cell viability

A. Dayton (2004): Within you, without you: HIV-1 Rev and RNA export. Retrovirology 2004, 1:35 doi:10.1186/1742-4690-1-35



HUMAN DDX3 DEAD-BOX PROTEIN

The human DEAD-box RNA helicase DDX3 has been implicated to play a role in a whole repertoire of processes:

- RNA METABOLISM
- VIRAL REPLICATION
- INNATE IMMUNE SIGNALLING PATHWAYS
- CELL CYCLE CONTROL
- TUMORIGENESIS



DDX3 represents an attractive target for the treatment of cancer, viral diseases and autoimmune disorders



HUMAN DDX3 OVERVIEW

Human DEAD-box Helicase DDX3X Crystal structure (PDB 2I4I)

- All nine conserved motifs
 characterizing SF2 RNA
 helicase family
- Two subdomains connected via a short flexible linker



Hogbom M, Collins R, van de BergS, Jenvert RM, Karlberg T, Kotenyova T, Flores A, Hedestam G, Schiavone L, *J. Mol.Biol* (2007), 372 150-159



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Human DEAD-box Helicase DDX3X Crystal structure (PDB 2I4I)

- All nine conserved motifs
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 helicase family
- Two subdomains connected via a short flexible linker
- ATPase binding site



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HUMAN DDX3

Drosophila Vasa DEAD-box protein Crystal structure (PDB 2DB3)

- No hDDX3 crystal structure available for the closed conformation
- Two different active sites:
 - ATPase binding site
 - Helicase binding site







STRUCTURE-BASED PHARMACOPHORE MODELING

The software **LigandScout** was used for the detection and interpretation of the **crucial interaction** pattern between **AMP** and the human protein helicase **DDX3** (PDB code *2141*).

In our study, **protein-ligand interactions** (the pharmacophore) identified by *LigandScout* were exported and translated into the *Catalyst* software.

The model obtained was then optimized by *Catalyst*.



H-bond Acceptor red arrows



IN SILICO SCREENING

The **pharmacophoric model** was used as a 3D query to screen the **Asinex molecular database** with the software *Catalyst*.

Docking calculations were performed using the *software GOLD*, in order to rank compounds on the basis of their ability to form favorable **interactions with the ATP binding site.**

Lipinski's rules and ADME properties were also used as additional filters.

10 commercial compounds were selected.





RESULTS

Compound ID	Activity IC ₅₀ μΜ
FE 1	> 1000
FE 2	200
FE 3	> 1000
FE 4	> 1000
FE 5	> 1000
FE 6	300
FE 7	> 1000
FE 8	> 1000
FE 9	> 1000
FE 10	90

The **10 compounds** have been purchased from *Asinex* and submitted for **ATPase activity** assays on the hDDX3 protein.

The results on **enzymatic assays** are reported in the table.

FE10 has been selected as hit compounds for further optimization.



BINDING MODE

Excellent agreement with the Pharmacophore:

- OH group is in the position normally occupied by the phosphate of ATP
- H-bond between OH and Gly229
- π π Interaction



Considerations:

• Replacement of the **2-OH group** with bioisosteric groups

Gln 207

HBD1

HBA

Tvr 200

Arg 202

Gly 229

HBA2

HBD2

 Nitrogen alkylation to give additional interactions in the "unoccupied space" of the site (Large improvement of the in silico score)

Maga, G.; Falchi, F.; Garbelli, A.; Belfiore, A.; Witvrouw, M.; Manetti, F.; Botta, M. J. Med. Chem.; (Letter); 2008; 51, 6635–6638



Enzymatic inhibitory potency:

IC50 of 5.4 (\muM). Inhibition of the ATPase activity changes as a function of the ATP concentration. These results suggested that *FE15* is a noncompetitive inhibitor. Probably DDX3 acts as a multimeric enzyme and the binding of the first ATP molecule causes cooperative binding of the second one.



FE15 BIOLOGICAL DATA

Selectivity:

When tested up to 100 µM against other ATP-dependent enzymes (HCV/NS3 ATPase/helicase, T4 polynucleotide kinase, c-Src protein kinase), *FE15* did not show inhibitory activity.

Cellular inhibitory potency:

FE15 inhibited the replication of HIV-1(IIIB) in MT-4 cells with an EC50 of 86.7 μ M, without showing cytotoxicity at 125 μ M.

No toxicity up to 200 μ M was found in **MOLT-4 T-lymphocytic cells** either. The antiviral activity of *FE15* found in MT-4 cells was lower than the ATPase inhibitory effect observed in recombinant DDX3. This might be explained by its unfavorable pharmacokinetic properties.



TARGET VALIDATION

FE15, *FE56* and *FE66* were tested against **HIV-1 replication** in two different model systems.

Figure A shows the effects of compounds *FE56* and *FE66* against HIV-1 single-round replication in *HeLaCD4+ cells* infected with a wild type HIV-1 strain. Data clearly showed a **dose-dependent reduction** of viral load (quantified as viral RNA copies), indicative of an inhibition of viral replication.

Figure B shows the effects of compounds *FE15* and *FE66* against multiple rounds of replication of wt HIV-1 in natural target cells (*Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cell*). Data clearly showed a significative reduction of viral RNA at 7 days post infection.





Maga, G., Falchi, F., Radi, M., Botta, L., Casaluce, G., Bernardini, M., Irannejad, H., Manetti, F., Garbelli, A., Samuele, A., Zanoli, S., Esté, J. A., Gonzalez, E., Zucca, E., Paolucci, S., Baldanti, F., De Rijck, J., Debyser, Z. and Botta, M. (**2011**), *ChemMedChem*, 6: 1371–1389



TODAY'S TALK

DDX3: a cellular target for next generation of broad spectrum antivirals

- Structure and functions
- ► ATPase Binding site
 - Virtual screening using structure-based pharmacophore models

Helicase Binding site

- High-throughput docking
- Antiviral activity data
- About Selectivity



HUMAN DDX3 OPEN/CLOSED CONFORMATION THEORY

NO HUMAN DDX3 CRYSTAL STRUCTURE AVAILABLE FOR THE

CLOSED CONFORMATION



Schütz P, Karlberg T, van de Berg S, Collins R, Lehtiö L, et al. PLOS ONE 5(9) (2010) e12791



OPEN TO CLOSED CONFORMATION DIFFERENT APPROACHES





MODELS COMPARISON HELICASE BINDING SITE



APPROACH 1:

- Not enough space for RNA strand
- -- Pre-RNA pocket



APPROACH 2:

- RNA strand is perfectly placed in the pocket



HELICASE BINDING SITE RNA MAIN INTERACTIONS





One of the tested compounds (*El01D*) showed a good inhibition of helicase activity ($1 \mu m$) and showed an ATPase activity of $11 \mu m$.

Radi M, Falchi F, Garbelli A, Samuele A, Bernardo V, Paolucci S, Baldandi F, Schenone S, Manetti F, Maga G, Botta M, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* 22 (**2012**) 2094-2098



Radi M, Falchi F, Garbelli A, Samuele A, Bernardo V, Paolucci S, Baldandi F, Schenone S, Manetti F, Maga G, Botta M, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* 22 (**2012**) 2094-2098



UNIVERS DI SIEN/ 1240		CTIVITY	N 101D	NO ₂		\mathbf{k}_2
	DDX3 activity	/	DDX3 activity			
Cmpd.	R ₁	IC ₅₀ ^{a,b} (µM)	Cmpd.	R ₁	R_2	IC ₅₀ ^{a,b} (μΜ)
BA 1	-phenyl	n.d	BA 4	naphtyl	NO2	145
BA 2	- <i>t</i> butyl	3.36	BA 5	cycloexyl	NO2	>200
BA 3	-CH2OH	17.5	BA 9	tolyl	COOH	>200
BA 6	-butyl	0.3	BA 10	tolyl	COOE	71.6
BA 7	-CH ₂ N(CH ₃)benzyl	22.8			t	
^a Data repre	sent mean two values of the lea	EI01D	tolyl	NO2	1 ± 0.2	
inhibit 50%	of the enzyme.	^a Data repres inhibiting cor the enzyme.	ent mean two va ncentration 50 o	lues of the leas r needed conc	st two experiments; ^b IC_{50} : entration to inhibit 50% of	





In vitro ADME Studies

-	Cmpd ID	Structure				Papp *10-6 (cm/s)	Aq. So (µg/r	olub. nL)	QP Pred.	
_		R1	R2	R3	R4	С	GI (RM%)	Kin.	LogS	LogS
4	BA 6	СНз	н	butyl	н	triazole	2.86 (19.1)	0.135	-7.05	-6.4
	BA 345	CH3	н	isopentyl	н	triazole	1.93 (26.7)	<0.001	<-8.6	<-6.7
3 -	BA 544	CH3	CI	isopentyl	н	triazole	2.51 (59.1)	<0.001	<-8.6	-7.3
IC	BA 119	CF3	н	butyl	F	triazole	7.22 (30.4)	80.11	-6.4	-7.3
in	BA 103	CF3	н	butyl	н	triazole	7.47 (23.9)	0.107	-7.43	-7.1
	BA 526	CF3	н	isopentyl	н	triazole	7.41 (24.8)	0.002	<-8.6	-7.5
_	BA 333	CH3	Н	butyl	Н	tetrazole	7.57 (24.8)	<0.001	<-8.5	-5.74
	BA 329	CH3	н	0	н	triazole	0.69 (7.4)	26.27	-4.3	-5.12

✓ GOOD METABOLIC STABILITY has been obtained (about 98% in human microsomes)

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DDX3 IN VIRAL INFECTIONS

DDX3 is not only involved in HIV replication. During these three years, publications have increased substantially (30/46) and showed that DDX3 is **involved in several viral infections.**



HCV: interacts with HCV core protein which is used by virus to build its nucleocapsid.

Japanese Encephalitis V: binds the viral RNA during viral replication.

Poxvirus: binds K7 protein, essential to overcome the IFN-mediated cellular response.

West Nile V, Dengue V: unknown mechanism

Yedavalli et al. **2004** *Cell* 119(3):381-92; Owsianka AM, Patel AH, **1999** *Virology*. 257(2):330-40;Ward et al. **2011** *RNA Biol*. 8(6):1173-86; Chahar et al. **2013** *Virology* 436(1):1-7; Mao et al. **2014** *Virology* 449:70-81; Goodfellow et al. **2012** *J Virol*. 86(22):11977-9; Oda et al. **2009** *Structure* 17(11):1528-37; Ishaq et al. *Mol Biotechnol*. **2008**; 39:231-8.

		BA6 ACTIVITY PROFILE							
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	Cmpd ID	DDX3 (µM)	HIV ^a (µM)	НСV ^ь (µМ)	JEV ⁰ (µM)	WNV ^b (µM)	Dengue ^b (µM)		
	BA6	0.3	1.1	0.97	20	16.05	2.55		

a. PBMC: Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells; **b. Huh7**: Hepato cellular carcinoma cells; **c. BHK-21 cells:** Baby hamster kidney cells



DDX3 is a member of SF2 RNA helicases family (the same of NS3 viral helicases), however compound BA6 **showed a good selectivity profile**.

ATPase DDX3	DDX1	NS3 (DENV)	NS3 (HCV)
IC ₅₀ , μΜ			
>200 ^[a]	>200	>200	16.8

[a] The value >200 indicates that less than 20% of inhibition was observed at 200 μM, the highest concentration tested.



DDX3 VS VIRUSES

Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 Resistant Strains



The antiviral activity of BA6 was investigated against HIV-1 strains carrying the most common patterns of resistance mutations selected by drugs currently used to treat HIV-1 infection.

HIV-1 STRAIN ^[a]	DRUG RESISTANCE CLASS ^[b]	IC ₅₀ [95% Cl] (μΜ)	Fold change ^[c]
114 ^[d]	wild type	1.11 [0.31-3.90]	/
11808	PIs	0.23 [0.08-0.65]	0.2
7406	NRTIS	0.33 [0.13-0.87]	0.3
7404	NRTIS	0.22 [0.11-0.47]	0.2
12227	NNRTIS	0.94 [0.21-1.34]	0.8
12235	NNRTIS	0.36 [0.15-0.87]	0.3
11845	INIS	0.37 [0.26-0.52]	0.3

[a] NIH AIDS Reagent Program catalogue number (www.aidsreagent.org). [b] PIs: protease inhibitors; NRTIs: nucleos(t)ide reverse transcriptase inhibitors; NNRTIs: non nucleos(t)ide reverse transcriptase inhibitors; INIs: integrase inhibitors. [c] Resistant strain IC50 to wild type strain IC50 ratio. [d] NL4-3 HIV-1 wild type reference strain.



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114 ^[d]	wild type	1.11 [0.31-3.90]	/
Compound BA6	retained full activity	0.23 [0.08-0.65]	0.2
against all the	resistant viruses tested,	0.33 [0.13-0.87]	0.3
confirming its no	vel mechanism of action	0.22 [0.11-0.47]	0.2
resistance	liai lo overcome Hiv	0.94 [0.21-1.34]	0.8
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IN VIVO PRELIMINARY STUDIES PK studies



PHARMACOKINETIC				
PARAMETERS	DAO			
Dose (mg/kg)	10.00			
MRT (h)	3.98 ± 0.38			
AUC _{0-∞} (µg*h/mL)	39.95 ± 13.50			
AUC ₀₋₂₄ (µg*h/mL)	39.77 ± 13.51			
CL (mL/min)	1.29 ± 0.54			
Τ _{1/2 β} (h)	3.19 ± 0.24			

[a] All data are expressed as mean \pm SD (n=3); MRT mean residence time, AUC _{0- ∞} and AUC ₀₋₂₄ area under the plasma concentration - time curve, CL plasma clearance, T_{1/2 β} plasma half-life.

Pharmacokinetic parameters of **BA6** after intravenous administration at a dose of **10mg/Kg**.







IN VIVO PRELIMINARY STUDIES Toxicity assays



BA6 was administered to Wistar rats via tail vein in a single systemic dose of 20 mg/kg



Representative images of the histological examination of HE-stained sections of livers (1), kidneys (2), and brains (3) from three groups of rats. **A-B**: Vehicle group, **C-D**: Treated group, **E**: Wilde Type group. Treated rats does not exhibit abnormal histopathological changes compared with control group. The microphotographs were taken using digital camera (Nikon SLR-D3000) at original magnification of 100X & 200X.



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CONCLUSIONS

✓ Discovery of first small molecules able to target either one of the active sites and inhibit DDX3 activity

✓ For the first time, DDX3 inhibitors proved to be active against different type of viruses

Cmpd ID	DDX3	DDX1	HIV	HCV	JEV	DENV	WNV
BA06	0.3	n.a*	1.1	0.97	20	2.55	16.05
BA103	0.3	n.a*	-	0.3	-	0.74	1.12
BA335	0.4	n.a*	26	-	6.09		
BA333	4.9	n.a*	5.2	7.16	7.12		

*n.a: not active



UNIVERSITÀ Anticancer activity

Since DDX3 is overexpressed in several aggressive cancers (lung cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer) our DDX3 inhibitors have been sent for biological evaluation. We have just received very interesting data that will be reported in due course.



Finding a drug is a complex combination of many disciplines such as structural biology, molecular biology, synthetic chemistry, computational chemistry, physical chemistry, pharmacology and medicine.

Only a good collaboration can drive the work to the final goal.

Maurizio Botta



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CHAARM project

Regione Toscana





Thank you for your kind attention!!!







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- Participation to EWDSy is limited to 65 attendants
- Fee for participation will include all meals and hotel accomodation for 4 nights/5 days

FELLOWSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!



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The following eminent scientists already accepted to lecture:

Alan Kozikowski - University of Illinois, Chicago (USA) Christian Ottmann - Eindhoven University of Technology (Netherlands) Dennis Liotta - Emory University (USA) **Dieter Schinzer** - University of Magdeburg (Germany) Fernando Albericio - IRB, Barcelona (Spain) Gabriele Cruciani - Università di Perugia (Italy) Helena Danielson - Uppsala University (Sweden) Hugo Kubinyi - BASF SE and University of Heidelberg (retired) (Germany) Karl-Heinz Altmann - ETH (Switzerland) Katherine L. Seley-Radkte - University of Maryland, Baltimore Co. (USA) Kevin Burgess - Texas A & M University (USA)

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