



# Synthetic compound binding to anticancer drug target proteins: thermodynamics and structure of interaction

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Department designs inhibitors of anticancer drug targets: carbonic anhydrases, Hsp90 chaperone, histone deacetylases (HDACs, sirtuins)

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### Outline

- Protein ligand interactions: biophysical methods
- Anticancer targets: carbonic anhydrase (CA) and Hsp90
- Discovered inhibitors, selectivity, biological data
- Observed/intrinsic binding parameters
- Structure binding thermodynamics correlations

## **Protein - compound binding assays**

**Fluorescent thermal shift assay (ThermoFluor, FTSA)** 



## **FTSA principle in the literature**



We perform FTSA in rotating RT-PCR Rotorgene apparatus

#### **Strong vs Weak Ligand Dosing Curves**



Wide range of affinities by FTSA

#### **Advantage of FTSA over ITC: no limit in affinity**



#### **Fluorescent Pressure Shift Assay (FPSA)** The shift in P<sub>m</sub> and dosing curves



ISS PC1 photon counting spectrofluorimeter equipped with a high-pressure cell connected to a hydrostatic pump

Human carbonic anhydrases (CA) and diseases

#### Human carbonic anhydrases (CA)

- Humans have 12 active CA isoforms
- The isoforms are involved in numerous physiological and pathological processes: cancer, glaucoma, obesity, epilepsy...
- CA catalyzes the reaction:

 $CO_2 + H_2O \Longrightarrow HCO_3^- + H^+$ 



Alterio et al., *Chem. Rev.* 112 (2012), 4421

#### Human CA IX antibody PET scan

- CA IX is specifically expressed in clear cell variant of renal cell carcinoma (ccRCC)
- Metastases correlate with CA IX expression
- CAIX is not expressed in the majority of normal tissues, only in gastrointestinal tract.



Fig. 10.3 Typical image of patient with mRCC injected with mAbG250, 5 days post-injection. Please note the clear imaging of metastatic lesions and absence of positive images of CAIX-positive organs

Oosterwijk et al, 2013

## **Structure of CA inhibitors**



- Majority of CA inhibitors are sulfonamides, they bind to the Zn atom in the active site.
- Development of potent, highly selective inhibitors against CA IX remains an unmet need in anticancer therapeutics.

# Ligands synthesized in laboratory

~ 400 benzensulfonamide derivatives of different classes during 10 years



#### All CAs were produced in the laboratory

- CA I, II, III, IV, VA, VB, VI, VII, XII, XIII and XIV were expressed in Escherichia coli
- CA IV, VI, IX and XII are available from mammalian cell (HEK 293) culture
- Proteins were purified by chromatography, using IMAC, ionexchange, CA-specific affinity methods



## **Discovery of CA isoform selective inhibitors**

## CA IX inhibitor optimization $\mu M \rightarrow pM$



ortho-substituted

#### **CA IX selective inhibitors**



Dudutiene et al., J. Med. Chem. 57 (2014) 2435-46

#### **Selective CA IX inhibitors**



#### **Biological assays**

#### Selective CA IX inhibitors in Xenopus, Zebrafish and HeLa cell culture



## Linked protonation reactions – distinguishing between observed and intrinsic thermodynamic parameters

## **Observed** vs intrinsic



Only intrinsic thermodynamic parameters can be correlated with protein-ligand crystal structures

#### **Observed** $\Delta$ **H** and $\Delta$ **G** as a function of pH and buffer CAXII-EZA ITC



## **Observed vs intrinsic parameters**



#### Fluorine does not affect the (intrinsic) affinity

ITC experiments that are performed without examination of protonation effects to the binding process can lead to the improper interpretation of the results

#### **Compound structure – thermodynamics correlation map**



#### **X-ray structure – thermodynamics correlation**



More-in-depth understanding of binding reaction

# **Molecular modeling and QSAR**



Docking often has difficulty putting the "tail" in the right position



Better correlation between calculated/intrinsic than calculated/observed binding energies

The lowest A<sub>diff</sub> gets the right conformation!

2.9

 $A_{diff} = A_{hphob} - A_{hphil}$ ,10<sup>3</sup> Å<sup>2</sup>

2.85

2.95

3

1

0

2.8

## Hsp90 as an anticancer target

# Hsp90

- molecular chaperone
- specialised clientele (kinases, TF, ...)
- required for folding and/or function
- ATP-dependent
- cytosolic isoforms:
  - inducible Hsp90α
  - constitutive Hsp90β



Li, Soroka, Buchner, 2012, Biochimica et Biophysica Acta

## Hsp90 – at the hub of cancer



#### **Hsp90 inhibitors of ICPD series**

**ICPD 26** 



ICPD 47



ICPD 60







ICPD 39



## **ICPD inhibits Hsp90 in cells**



dr. S.Y. Sharp (Institute of Cancer Research, United Kingdom)

## Conclusions

- It is important to distinguish observed from intrinsic binding parameters
- All binding and inhibition assays provide only the observed thermodynamic parameters
- Only intrinsic parameters may be correlated with structure
- A series of Hsp90 and CA IX inhibitors were designed using biothermodynamic and structural methods with the potential to be developed as anticancer drugs

## Acknowledgment



# Thank you for your attention!