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XXIX REUNIÓN ANUAL DE LA SOCIEDAD ARGENTINA DE PROTOZOLOGÍA
(SAP)

13-17 de noviembre de 2017
Palais Rouge– Buenos Aires

- 1 Mensaje de Bienvenida de los Presidentes
- 2 Conferencias, Simposios y Presentaciones a Premios
- 92 Resúmenes de las Comunicaciones presentadas en formato E-Póster

JOINT MEETING OF BIOSCIENCE SOCIETIES

**LXII ANNUAL MEETING OF ARGENTINE
SOCIETY OF CLINICAL INVESTIGATION
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**LIII ANNUAL MEETING OF ARGENTINE SOCIETY OF
BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
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(SAP)**

November 13 -17, 2017
Palais Rouge– Buenos Aires

- 1 Welcome Message from Presidents**
- 2 Lectures, Symposia and Award Presentations**
- 92 Abstracts of E-Poster Presentations**

The GABA_ARs, γ -Aminobutyric acid type A receptors, belong to the family of pentameric ligand gated ion channels and are the main mediators of fast inhibitory transmission in the mammalian CNS. They are the target of a variety of compounds such as GABA, benzodiazepines (BZDs), anaesthetics, β -carbolines and neurosteroids, and have a fundamental role in neurological health.

In this work we aim to elucidate the binding modes of relevant ligands of the BZDs' binding site, which include classical BZDs, imidazo-BZDs, zolpidem and eszopiclone. We applied computational biophysics methods, namely molecular docking and molecular dynamics (MD) simulations, to undertake this study. We employed a previously developed homology model of the α 1 β 2 γ 2 subtype (based on a β 3 homopentamer as a template, PDBID: 4COF) in a closed desensitized state.

We approached molecular docking through different methods: we used HADDOCK which introduces experimental data as ambiguous interaction restraints and AutoDock Vina which runs a local optimization from random starting conformations. While the highest ranked binding modes were not necessarily the best predictions, some of the docking poses obtained could be related to the experimental data.

In order to assess the stability of the complexes, we performed 100ns MD simulations of the systems with GROMACS (using gromos53a6 force field and SPC water model). The receptor was embedded in a POPC membrane. RMSD calculations of the backbone show that the receptors did not suffer major global changes, although the presence of the ligands and relaxation of the side chains caused local modifications.

With the aid of experimental information we could predict the binding modes for ligands of the BZDs' site in GABA_ARs. These compounds remained bound in the cavity during all MD simulations and improved their contacts with the receptor. Taking these results into account, we can confirm that our model can be used for further investigation of ligand binding.

Keywords: GABAARs, molecular docking, benzodiazepines, molecular dynamics.

(1045) APLICACION DE COMPUTADOR-AIDED DRUG RE-POSITIONING IN THE SEARCH OF NEW THYRANOTHIONE SYNTHETASE INHIBITORS FOR THE TREATMENT OF CHAGAS DISEASE.

Juan Ignacio Alice (1), María Laura Sbaraglini (1), Juan Francisco Morales (1), Carolina Leticia Bellera (1), Catalina Dirney Alba Soto (2), Alan Talevi (1)

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Chagas disease is an endemic parasitic disease that mainly affects Latin America. The currently available medication display a high incidence of adverse effects and low efficacy in the chronic phase of infection in adults. Thus, it is very important to find new therapies with higher clinical efficacy and safety profiles.

Computer-aided drug repositioning may contribute to the systematic identification of new pharmacological applications for existing drugs, thus allowing the development of innovative therapeutic solutions in a cost- and time-efficient manner.

Here, we report the development and validation of ligand-based *in silico* models aimed at the identification of trypanothione synthetase (TryS) inhibitors. Such enzyme is essential for the biosynthesis of trypanothione, a key metabolite for the maintenance of the redox balance and defense against oxidative stress in *the parasite*. The models were inferred and validated from the molecular structures of 109 compounds previously assayed against TryS.

We built 1000 individual classificatory models capable of differentiating molecules with and without inhibitory effect against TryS. For model validation, a pilot virtual screening *in silico* campaign was performed against a drug library containing a small proportion of known inhibitors spread among decoys generated through the enhanced Directory of Useful Decoys. Based on the results, we resort to en-

semble learning to obtain a 10-model combination which was later applied in the *in silico* screening of DrugBank 3.0 and Sweetlead. Twenty-one hits were classified as potential TryS inhibitors. 10 of them were acquired and assayed against *T. cruzi* trypomastigotes.

(1563) CHARGE DENSITY AS A MOLECULAR DESCRIPTOR TO UNRAVEL STRUCTURE-ACTIVITY RELATIONSHIPS OF CRUZAIN INHIBITORS

Adriano Martín Luchi, Angel Ramirez, María Lucrecia Bogado, Emilio Luis Angelina, Nelida María Peruchena
LEMYP-IQUIBA-NEA-FaCENA-UNNE

Chagas disease is endemic to South and Central America caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*. Actually just two drugs like nifurtimox and benznidazole are available, however they are highly toxic and drug resistance has been reported. Cruzain (Cz), the major cysteine protease of *T. cruzi*, is one attractive drug target; since, it is required for all the major proteolytic activities of the parasite life cycle.

Cysteine protease inhibitors containing a vinyl sulfone warhead can exhibit good selectivity and a favorable *in vivo* safety profile despite the irreversible nature of inhibition.

K-777, a vinyl sulfone inhibitor of Cz has shown to be safe and efficacious in animal models of acute and chronic Chagas disease but the project was stopped due to tolerability issues at low dose in primates and dogs.

Jaishankar et al. synthesized and determined the inhibition constant of a series of vinyl sulfone analogs closely related to K-777 with substitutions at P2 and P3. Unfortunately, 3-D structures of these complexes are not available yet. However, there are several solved structures of Cz complexed with vinyl sulfone analogs available in the PDB. Moreover, all these irreversible inhibitors mimic the well known binding mode of classical substrate-like peptidic inhibitors. This structural information allowed us to make a reasonably good initial guess of the binding mode of these K-777 analogues at the Cz active site. Complexes were then subjected to MD simulations. Reduced model systems comprising inhibitor and residues from the Cz binding pocket were constructed from the MD simulation. Charge density topological analysis based in QTAIM was performed on these reduced models to evaluate the inhibitor/Cz interactions.

By carefully inspecting the electron density values at the interactions bond critical points, we found out what are the key interactions that explain the activity differences (K_i values) among K-777 analogues.

Keywords: QTAIM, MD, K-777

(740) HUMAN TELOMERASE PROTEIN/RNA/DNA COMPLEX: THEORETICAL STUDY OF KEY CONSERVED RESIDUES BY MOLECULAR DYNAMICS SIMULATIONS

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Telomerase adds several nucleotides to the 3' terminal of a DNA strand. It is a protein/RNA complex, formed by the Telomerase protein and a RNA strand. Inside the protein, in a Reverse Transcriptase (RT) catalytic pocket, there are several conserved residues: a triad of aspartates (D712, D868, D869, for the human case) whose crucial role in the telomerase activity is quite well understood, as well as other residues (K626, R631, K902) the two latter, also bringing the catalytic activity to zero when mutated. But a molecular model description is still lacking. This work aims to study, using molecular dynamics simulations, the role of all these residues in the activity of the human telomerase protein at atomic level. A chimeric model of the complex, constituted by the RT domain of the Telomerase protein, a double strand DNA/RNA, an incoming dNTP and two Mg²⁺ ions was studied in two configurations: i) before the catalytic reaction, with the dNTP at the reaction site, and ii) after the catalytic reaction, where the dNTP was broken in a nucleotide and an inorganic pyrophosphate (PPi). Additionally to the wild type (WT) protein, 5 mutants (D712A, D868A, D869A, K902N and R631Q) were also