

# DRUG DISCOVERY

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March 18, 2010

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## OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- General Introduction
- Definition of Drug Targets
- Generating Diversity
- Definition of Lead Structures
- Qualifying Lead for Transition to Early Trials

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## DRUG DISCOVERY: A SUCCESSION OF STYLES

Antiquity to 1960s:

Mixtures of natural products vs. bioassays  
(e.g., digitalis, rauwolfia, penicillins, anthracyclines,  
vinca, taxol, camptothecins)

1930s to present:

Pure compounds vs. bioassays  
(e.g., sulfas, diuretics, hypoglycemics, antiHBP)

1960s to present:

Pure compounds vs. pure enzymes  
(e.g., ACE inhibitors, cholesterol-lowering statins,  
RT and protease inhibitors)

1980s to present:

Combinatorial methods to bring mixtures of compounds  
vs. many targets

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## WHY COMPOUNDS FAIL AND SLOW DOWN IN DEVELOPMENT

### Reasons for failure

- Toxicity, 22%
- Lack of efficacy, 31%
- Market reasons, 6%
- Poor biopharmaceutical properties, 41%

### Reasons for slowdown

- Synthetic complexity
- Low potency
- Ambiguous toxicity finding
- Inherently time-intensive target indication
- Poor biopharmaceutical properties

Modern Drug Discovery  
 January/February 1999  
*Modern Drug Discovery*, 1999, 2 (1), 55-60.  
 Copyright © 1999 by the American Chemical Society

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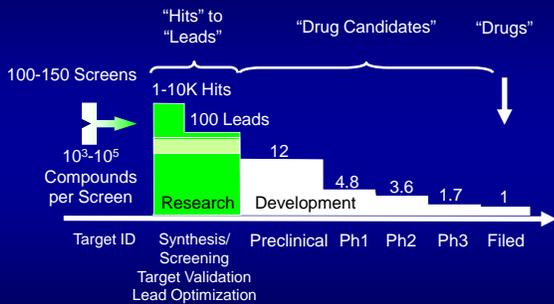
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## TRADITIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL R&D Suffers High Attrition\*



\* Tufts CSDD, H&Q 1998; *The Pfizer Journal*, 1/2000

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## TWO CONTRASTING DRUG-DISCOVERY "PHILOSOPHIES"

- "EMPIRICAL": Recognize initial drug lead by functionally useful effect
    - E.g. : penicillin (anti-bacterial effect)
    - rauwolfia (anti-hypertensive)
    - taxol (anti-tumor)
    - digoxin (cardiotonic / antiarrhythmic)
  - "RATIONAL": Recognize drug by design or screen against drug target's function
    - E.g.: HIV-protease inhibitor (anti-infection)
    - metoprolol (anti-hypertensive)
    - methotrexate (anti-tumor)
- PROBLEM:  
HOW TO RECOGNIZE DISEASE RELEVANT TARGETS?

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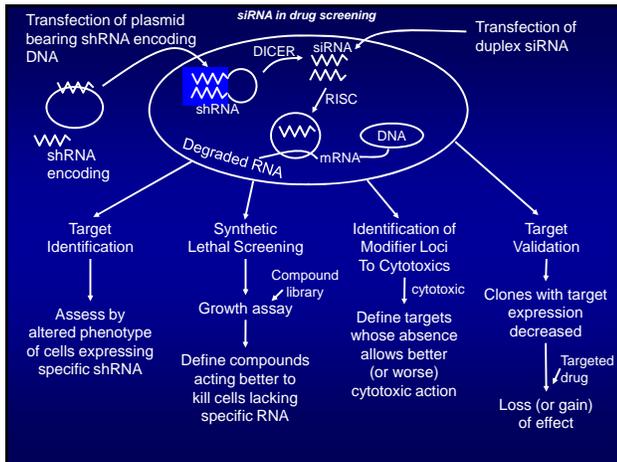
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## MOLECULAR TARGET DEFINITION - HOW TO?

- **BIOLOGY:**
  - \* Cytogenetics → Breakpoints → Molecules (bcr-abl)
  - \* "Positive" selection from tumor DNA → Active oncogenes (signal transduction)
  - \* Tumor gene expression profiling
  - \* siRNA - induced modulation of phenotype
- **"RETROFIT" ACTIVE MOLECULES:**
  - \* Binding partners (geldanamycin, rapamycin, fumagillin)
  - \* Computational algorithm (molecule ↔ target)
    - COMPARE
    - Cluster analysis
- **"CLASSICAL:"**
  - \* Cell metabolism / Biochemistry
  - \* Suggest single targets → Inefficient; Medicinal Chemistry possible
- **CHEMICAL GENETICS:**
  - \* Libraries of molecules and precisely defined organisms

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## Cancer Genome Anatomy Project PROCESS

- Tumor material (archival)
- "Laser capture microdissection" of tumor cells from defined sections
- Creation of tumor-derived cDNA libraries
- Sequence to establish uniqueness
- Deposit in public domain

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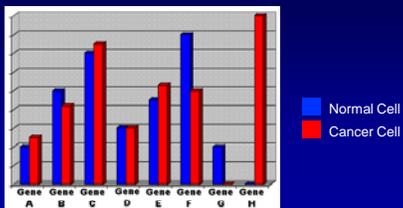
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### Gene Expression: The Cell's Fingerprint



Establishing for a cell the repertoire of genes expressed, together with the amount of gene products produced for each, yields a powerful "fingerprint". Comparing the fingerprints of a normal versus a cancer cell will highlight genes that by their suspicious absence or presence (such as Gene H) deserve further scientific scrutiny to determine whether such suspects play a role in cancer, or can be exploited in a test for early detection.



<http://cgap.nci.nih.gov>

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NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE    NCBJ    NINDS    NIDCR    NIAID    CIT

CGAP INITIATIVES:

The Cancer Genome Anatomy Project

HUMAN TUMOR GENE INDEX

MOLECULAR FINGERPRINTING

CANCER CHROMOSOME ABERRATION PROJECT

GENETIC ANNOTATION INITIATIVE

MOUSE TUMOR GENE INDEX

<http://cgap.nci.nih.gov>

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## GELDANAMYCIN: EXAMPLE OF BINDING PARTNER DEFINING TARGET



	NSC	R
Geldanamycin	122750	OMe
17-AAG	330507	NHCH <sub>2</sub> CH=CH <sub>2</sub>

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## BENZOQUINOID ANSAMYCINS INITIAL CELL PHARMACOLOGY - I

- “Reverse” transformed phenotype of src-transformed rat kidney cell line
  - decrease tyrosine phosphorylation of pp60src
  - not inhibit pp60 immune complex kinase directly but these were inhibited from drug-treated cells
  - thus alter “intracellular environment” of src  
*(Uehara et al, MCB 6: 2198, 1986)*
- Decrease steady state phosphorylation levels to 10% of control
  - decrease steady state level of pp60src by 30%
  - accelerate turnover of pp60src  
*(Uehara et al, Cancer Res 49: 780, 1989)*

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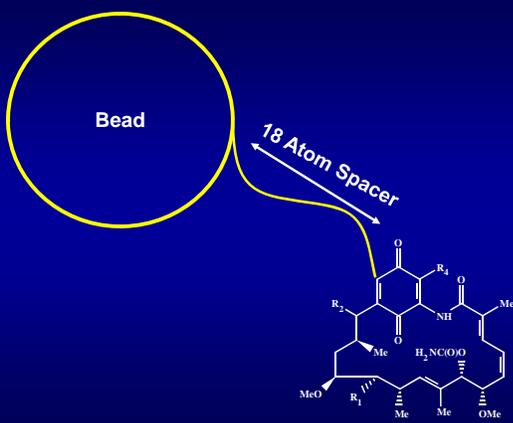
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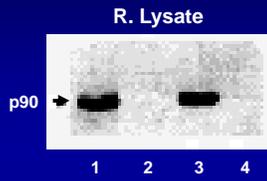
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## GELDANAMYCIN BEADS IDENTIFY HSP90 AS BINDING PARTNER



- 1) Bead-Geld
- 2) Bead-Geld + Geld
- 3) Bead-Geld + Geldampicin
- 4) Bead

Neckers et al, PNAS 91:8324, 1994

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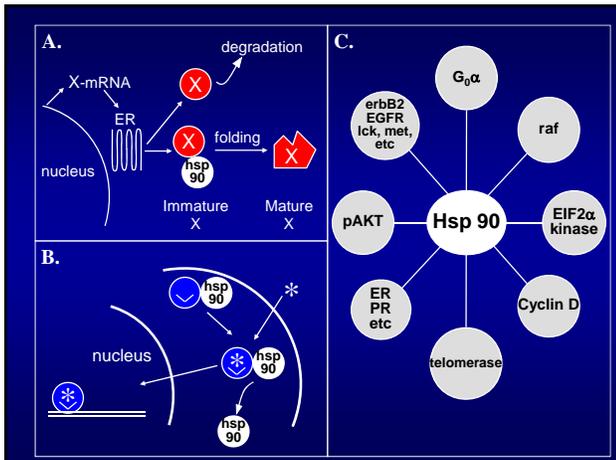
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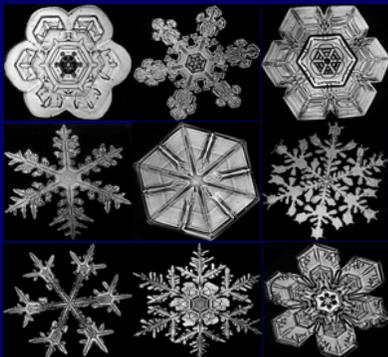
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## Diversity



It is estimated that there are  $10^{40}$  compounds in all of "chemical space". Since the Big Bang, there have only been  $10^{17}$  seconds.

- Peter Wipf

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## SOURCES OF DIVERSITY

- "Natural Products" = entities derived from plants, animals, bacteria, etc. May have "ethnopharmacognosy" to suggest use
  - "pure compound" collections
  - extracts: aqueous/organic
  - genetically altered producer organisms
- Target non-selected chemical compound libraries
  - peptide / protein
  - non-peptide
- Target-directed chemical compound libraries
  - "classical" medicinal chemistry / bona fide crystal structure - derived
  - "docked" lead structures into model

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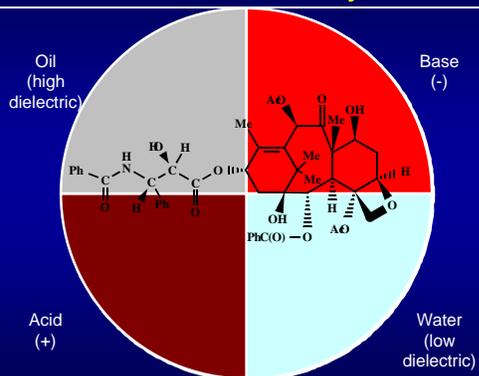
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## Natural Products: Unique arrays of the four "elements" which make a really useful drug



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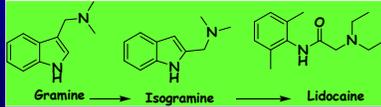


## Discovery of Lidocaine

\*Central Asian camels refused to eat a certain type of reed

\*Characterization of gramine as the antifeedant principle led to the synthesis of isogramine

\*Taste-test: numbness; therefore, lead for anesthetic agent development



Courtesy of N. R. Farnsworth

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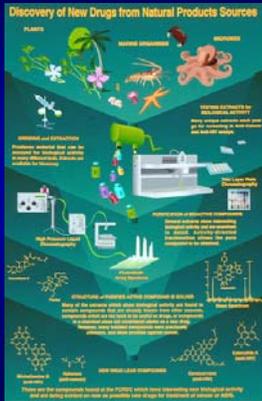
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## Natural Product Isolation Tree



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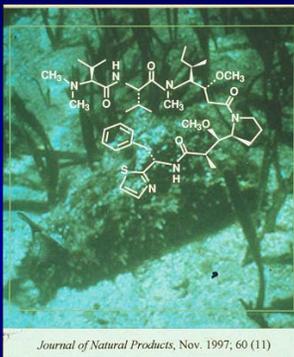
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## "You are what you eat"



Dolastatins come from a *Symploca* species that they graze on

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## "Non-culturable" versus "Cultured" microbes

- The microbial World has only just been scratched.
  - Much less than 1% of the available organisms have even been seen, let alone identified.
- In soil, there are estimates of > 1000 species per gram
  - very few can be cultured
  - these may not be representative of the "Soil meta-Genome"
- Over 1000 microbes per mL of seawater can be seen and only ~ 1% can be cultured using current methods.

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## TRIPEPTIDE COMBINATORIAL LIBRARY

X X X

Four amino acids in each position  
 $4^3 = 64$

A = Alanine  
R = Arginine  
T = Threonine  
W = Tryptophan

*after R. Houghten, 1999*

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## NUMBER OF PEPTIDES POSSIBLE WITH INCREASING LENGTH

Length	Peptide	Number
2	Ac – OO – NH <sub>2</sub>	400
3	Ac – OOO – NH <sub>2</sub>	8,000
4	Ac – OOOO – NH <sub>2</sub>	160,000
5	Ac – OOOOO – NH <sub>2</sub>	3,200,000
6	Ac – OOOOOO – NH <sub>2</sub>	64,000,000
7	Ac – OOOOOOO – NH <sub>2</sub>	1,280,000,000
8	Ac – OOOOOOOO – NH <sub>2</sub>	25,600,000,000

O = Individual Defined Amino Acid

*after R. Houghten, 1999*

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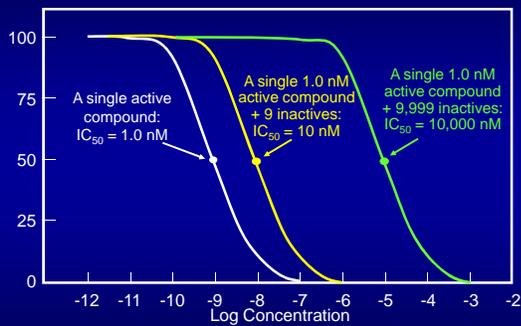
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## IC<sub>50</sub> OF MIXTURES




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## COMBINATORIAL LIBRARIES: THE MIXTURE QUESTION

	Natural Product Extracts	Synthetic Combinatorial Mixtures
Direct screening of compound mixtures	Yes	Yes
Discovery of highly active compounds	Yes	Yes
Equal concentrations of compounds	No	Yes
Chemical structures known	No	Yes
Synthetic pathway known	No	Yes
Structure – activity relationship known	No	Yes

*after R. Houghten, 1999*

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## BIOASSAYS (READY APPLICATION OF SOLUBLE LIBRARIES)

- Soluble Acceptors
  - antibodies
  - enzymes
- Membrane-bound Receptors
  - tissue homogenate
  - functional cell based
- Microorganisms: Disruption of Function
  - bacteria
  - fungi
  - virus
- Differentiation
  - stem cells
- *In Vivo*

after R. Houghten, 1999

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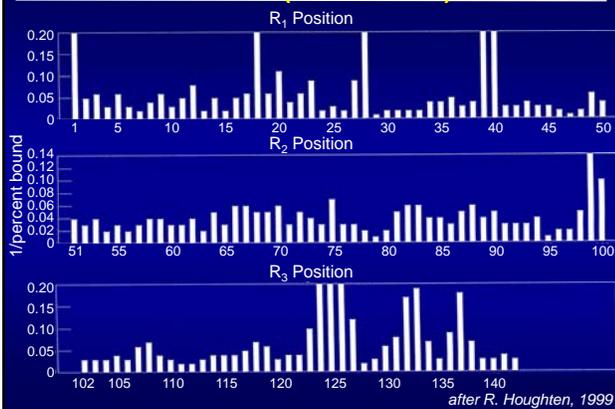
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## POSITIONAL SCANNING BICYCLIC GUANIDINE LIBRARY ( $\kappa$ RECEPTOR)



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ONCE YOU HAVE A TARGET AND CADIDATE DRUG MOLECULES:  
HOW TO DESIGN A DRUG SCREEN?

- Biochemical "Pure target" Screen (binding, functional):
  - Advantage: "Pure" Structural / Functional Outcomes
  - Disadvantage: Out of cellular / biochemical context
- Cell-Based
  - Advantage: Readout in a "living" system;
  - Disadvantage: Must deconvolute mechanism

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CASE 1: TYROSINE KINASES AS BIOCHEMICAL SCREENING TARGET

COMMON ELEMENTS / REPEATED THEMES

- Overexpressed or activated in cancer (e.g, EGFR, Her2/neu, etc)
- Altered activity by mutation (e.g., *c-kit*)
- Altered activity by translocation(e.g., *bcr-abl*)
- Overexpression associated with
  - advanced stage
  - inferior prognosis

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PROPOSED ENZYMATIC MECHANISM FOR TPKs



Levitsky, FASEB J 6: 3275, 1992

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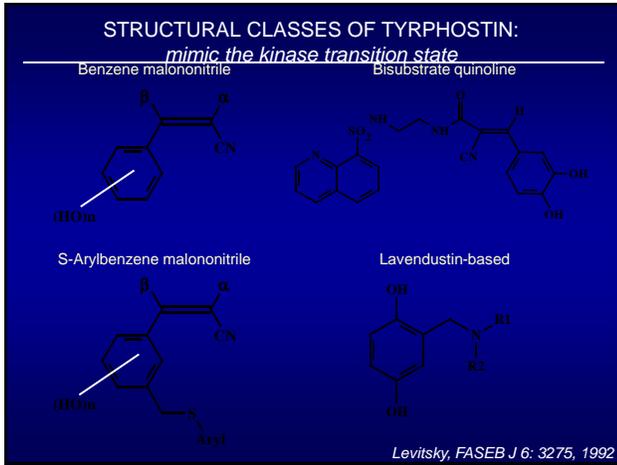
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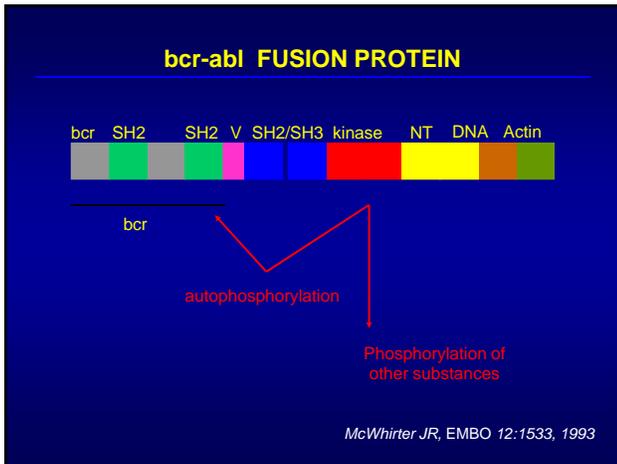
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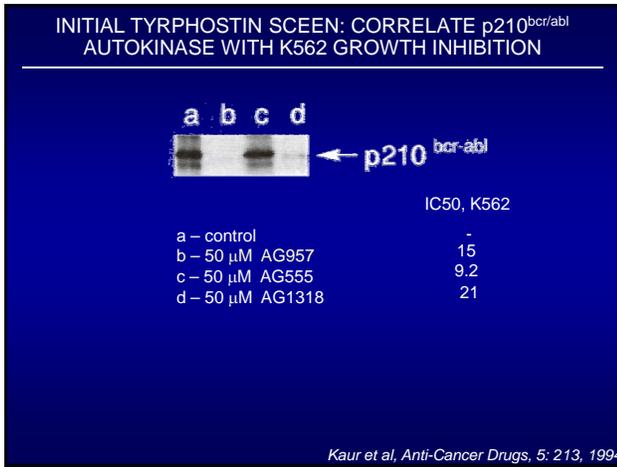
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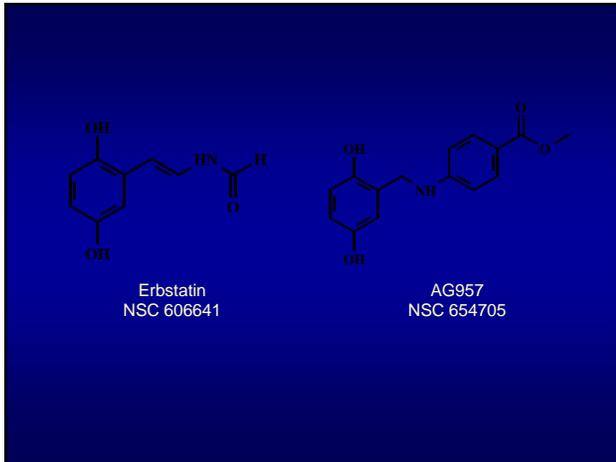
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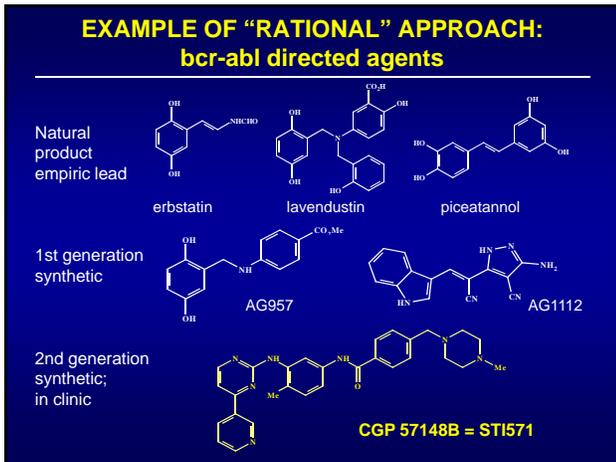
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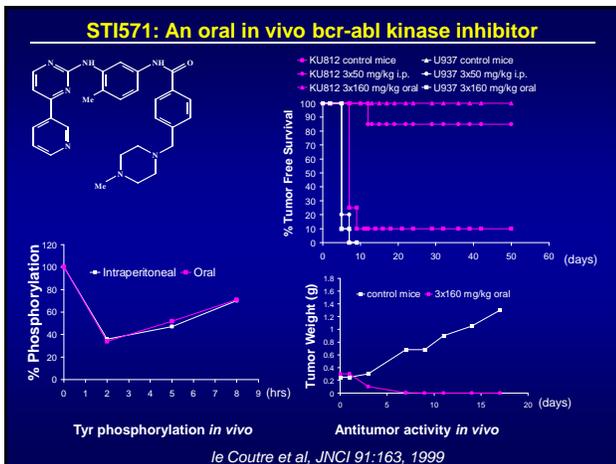
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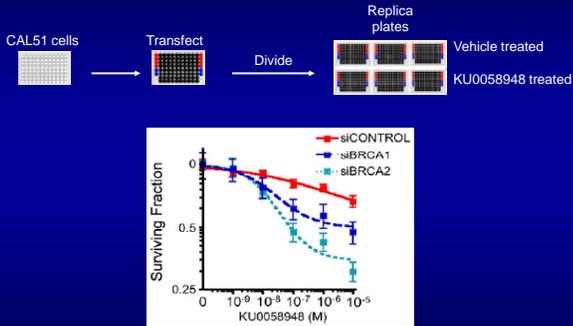
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## DEVELOPMENT OF HTS PARP INHIBITOR SENSITIVITY SCREEN



*Lord et al, DNA Repair 7: 2010 (2008)*

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### CASE 3: CDC25 Phosphatases and Cancer

- CDC25A and B overexpressed in many cultured cancer cell lines.
- Cdc25A suppresses apoptosis.
- Overexpression of CDC25A or B has been detected in human breast, head and neck, cervical, skin, lymph, lung and gastric cancers.
- Human CDC25A & B cooperated with Ha-Ras<sup>G12V</sup> and CDC25A cooperated with Rb<sup>-/-</sup> in the oncogenic focus transformation of mouse embryonic fibroblasts and tumor formation in nude mice. Thus, Cdc25A & B may be human oncogenes.

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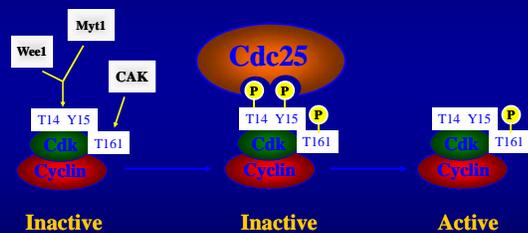
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### Regulation of Cell Cycle Progression by Cdc25: Cdk Activation




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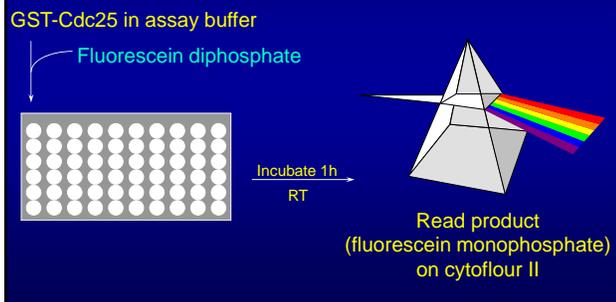
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## Method for identifying Cdc25 phosphatase inhibitors



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## Chemical Screening Approach

- Targeted Array Libraries
- Diverse Chemical Libraries

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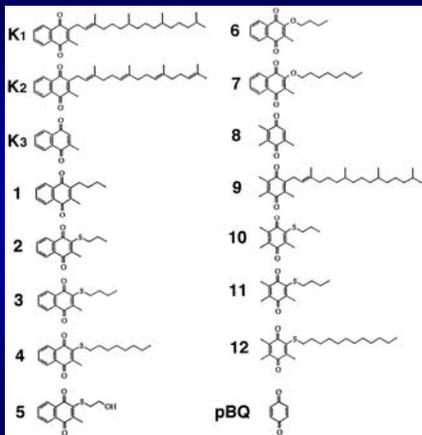
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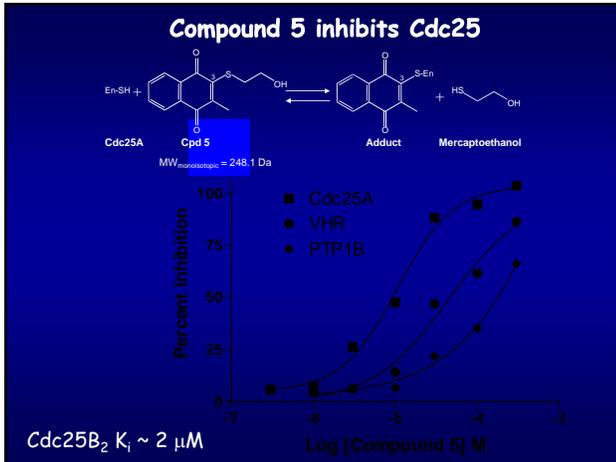
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## Compound Validation

- Cellular: Cell Cycle
- Biochemical: Substrate phosphorylation
- Genetic: Chemical complementation

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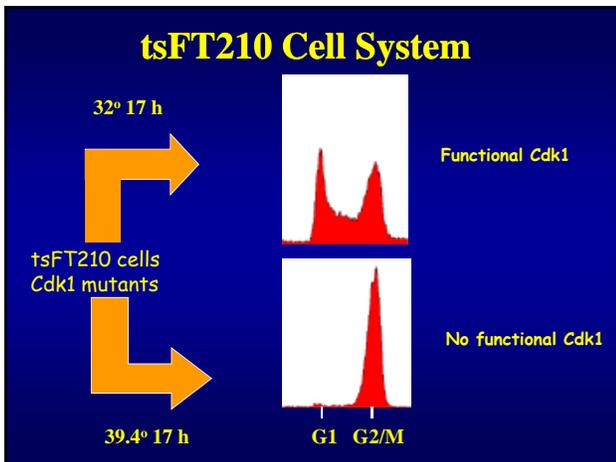
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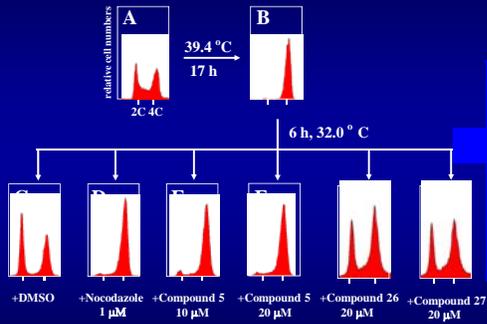
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### Compound 5 causes G2/M arrest




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### CASE 4: NMR-BASED SCREENING

1. Screen "fragment" like molecules with "leadlike" properties (MW <300; ClogP ~1.5)
2. Characterize **binding** and portion of molecule to which they bind
3. Ligands with weak affinities can be defined ( $-K_D = 5\text{mM}$ )
4. Lead to high affinity binders through iterative screening
5. Can label protein of interest with isotopes "sensitive" to ligand effects (e.g. N15) and utilize proton resonances of drug to simultaneously allow definition of ligand and receptor binding sites

*Harlik et al. J Med Chem 48: 2518, 2005*

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### NMR AS MEANS OF DEFINING BINDING SITES

E.G., BLEOMYCIN BINDING TO DNA

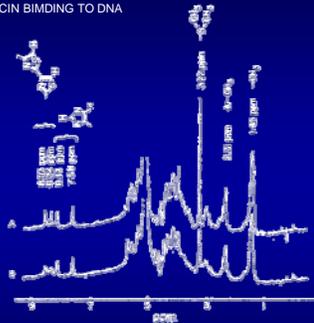


FIGURE 2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of bleomycin at 100-MHz resolution. Each spectrum is an average of 512 scans. (A) With 6 µM bleomycin in D<sub>2</sub>O at pH 8.4. (B) 6 mM bleomycin and 3.5 mM calf thymus DNA in D<sub>2</sub>O, pH 8.4.

*Horvitz et al. Biochemistry 16: 3641, 1977*

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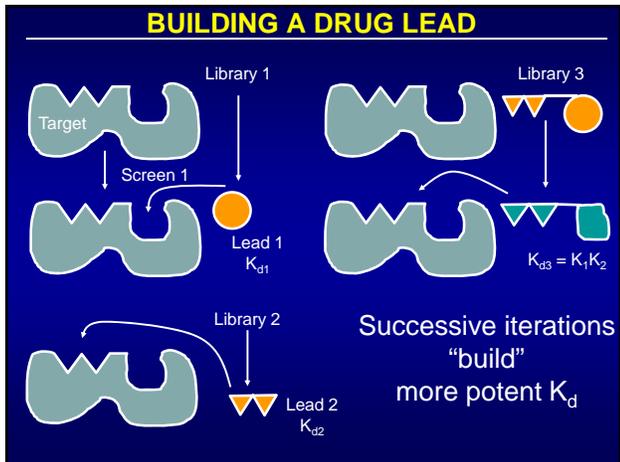
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### AFFINITIES OF SELECTED BIARYL COMPOUNDS FOR BCL-XL

No.	Structure	BIARL $K_d$ (pM)	No.	Structure	BIARL $K_d$ (pM)
1		2600 ± 200	11		4300 ± 1000
2		1200 ± 500	12		12000 ± 7000
3		> 5000	13		2400 ± 2000
4		> 5000	14		2000 ± 500
5		> 5000	15		11000 ± 4000
6		2000 ± 1000	16		12000 ± 4500
7		1000 ± 500	17		9000 ± 2000
8		800 ± 110	18		4000 ± 2000
9		200 ± 100	19		6000 ± 1500
10		250 ± 100	20		4000 ± 2000

*Palms et al. J Med Chem 49: 656, 2006*

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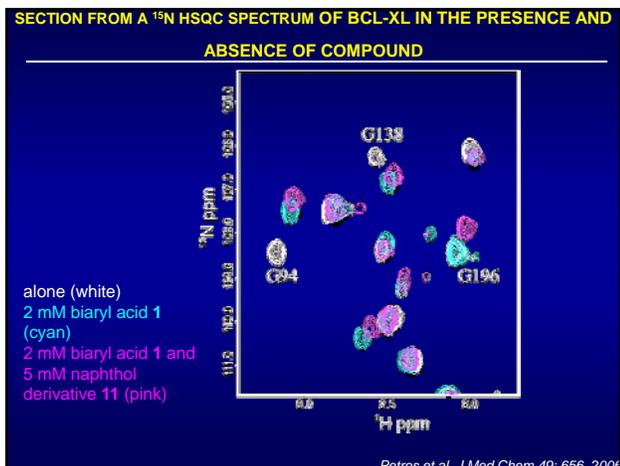
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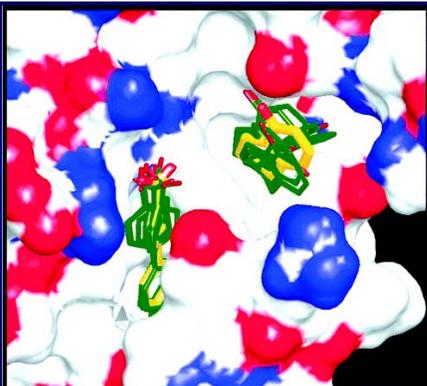
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**SUPERPOSITION OF SEVEN LOW-ENERGY STRUCTURES CALCULATED FOR  
BCL-XL COMPLEXED TO 1 AND 11**



*Petrino et al., J Med Chem 49: 656, 2006*

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**STEPS IN CANCER DRUG DISCOVERY &  
DEVELOPMENT**

- DEFINE DRUG TARGET OR DEFINE AN "ACTIVE" DRUG
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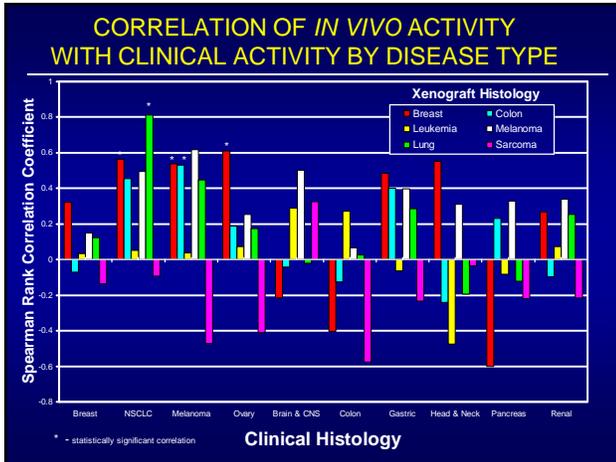
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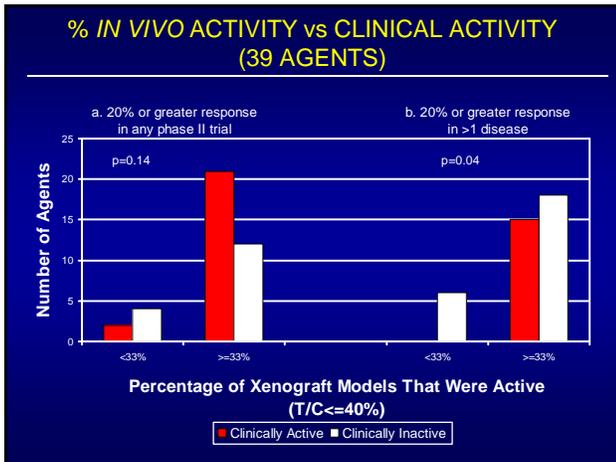
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### PROBLEMS WITH EMPIRICAL MODELS

- Lack of predictive power *in vivo*
- Poor correlation of non-human with human pharmacology
- Divorced from biology
- Inefficient: many compounds screened; developed, but have "late" = clinical trials outcome at Phase III to define "validation" of compound action

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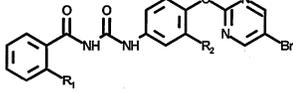
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**Figure 1**  
**BENZOYLPHENYLUREAS**

(Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha, Ltd.)



NSC	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>
624548	NO <sub>2</sub>	Cl
639828	NH <sub>2</sub>	Cl
639829	N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>
647884	NH <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>
654259	NCOCH <sub>2</sub> NH <sub>2</sub> · HCl	CH <sub>3</sub>
654261	NCOCH <sub>2</sub> N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> · HCl	CH <sub>3</sub>

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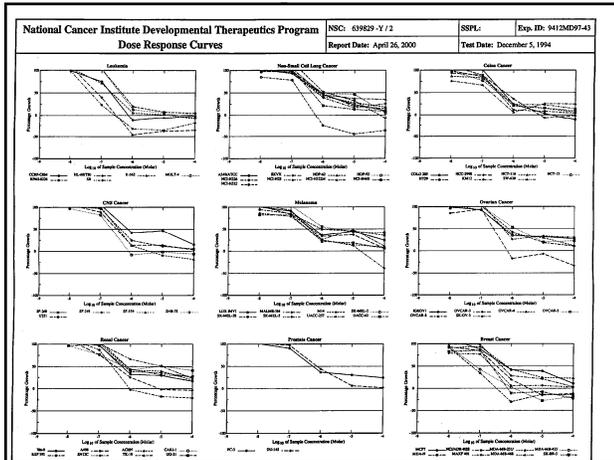
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**Figure 4**  
**Efficacy Testing of NSC 639829 in Human Tumor Xenografts**

Model	Stage/ Implant Site	Treatment Route Schedule	MTD (mg/kg /dose)	BW Loss %	Activity Optimal %T/C	Growth Delay %[(T-C)/C]
AS-283 (SCID mice)	Early-SC	IP QD X5	15	3.7	0	43
	Adv-SC	PO QD X5	8	10.1	18	65
	Adv-SC	PO Q4D X3	18	16.2	21	88
NCI-H522	Adv-SC	IP Q4D X3	20	0.0	19	57
		PO Q4D X3	45	0.9	19	83
OVCAR-3	Adv-SC	IP Q4D X3	20	1.5	21	75
		PO Q4D X3	>45	2.3	25	71
MDA-MB-231	Adv-SC	IP QD X5	>12	0.0	106	-23
		PO Q4D X3	>30	0.9	37	32
		PO Q7D X3	100	0.7	63	37
MDA-MB-435	Early-SC	IP QD X5	12	0.0	33	>29
		IP Q4D X3	30	0.1	11	>29
	Early-SC	IP QD X5	12	12.2	13	>43
		PO Q7D X3	>67.5	8.6	38	>58
MDA-N	Early-SC	IP Q7D X3	>25	4.6	65	16

(BPOYAB2.WPP)

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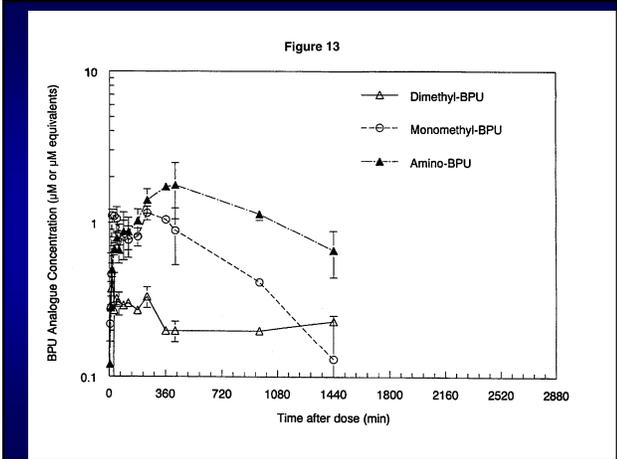
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### FDA PRECLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY & TOXICOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- DRUGS
  - Two Species - Rodent & Non-rodent
  - Clinical Route & Schedule
    - Follow NCI Guidelines
  - Pharmacokinetics - Optional
- BIOLOGICALS
  - Most Relevant Species
  - Clinical Route & Schedule

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## BENZOYLPHENYLUREA PRECLINICAL MTD & DLTs

Schedule q4Dx3, po	RAT	DOG
MTD (Total Dose)	360 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	> 150 < 240 mg/m <sup>2</sup>
DLT	Bone Marrow GI Tract	Bone Marrow, GI Tract

Starting Dose: 24 mg/m<sup>2</sup>

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## PROBLEMS WITH "MTD" DRIVEN ENDPOINTS

- Drugs regulating pathways important in oncogenesis are effective by combining with high affinity binding sites; therefore must distinguish "targeted" vs "non-targeted" toxicity related to these binding sites
- Whether dosing beyond effect on desired target "buys" therapeutic value not clear
- Therefore must define in pre-clinical studies "*BIOLOGICALLY EFFECTIVE DOSE*" and "*MAXIMUM TOLERATED DOSE*"
- Use *BIOLOGIC* rather than *TOXIC* endpoints in Phase I?

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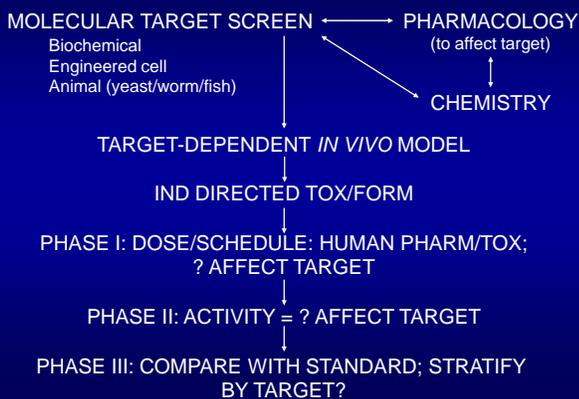
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## "RATIONAL" DRUG DISCOVERY




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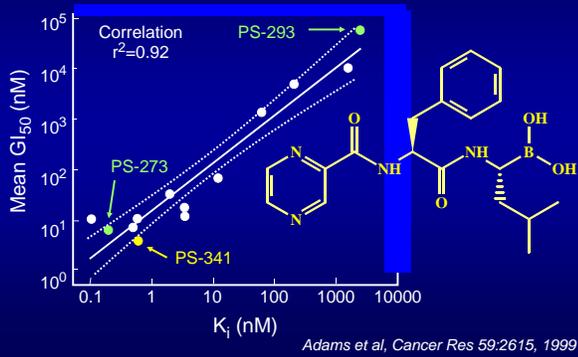
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**CORRELATION BETWEEN 20S PROTEASOME INHIBITORY POTENCY & GROWTH INHIBITION FOR 13 DIPEPTIDE BORONIC ACIDS**




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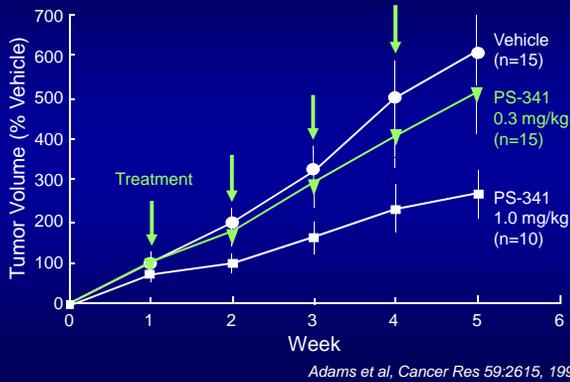
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**EFFECT OF PS-341 ON PC-3 TUMOR GROWTH IN MICE**




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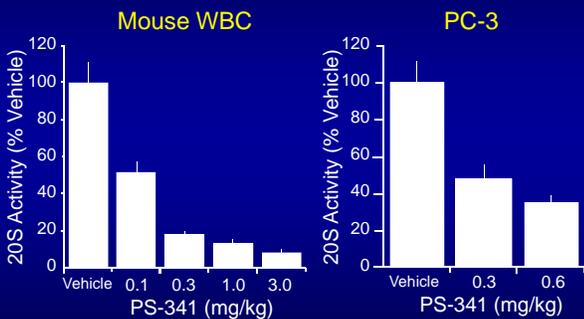
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**EFFECT OF PS-341 ON 20S PROTEASOME ACTIVITY**




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## PS-341: INTERSPECIES

Q: Is the 'safe' dose in animals in the efficacy range for man?

Species	Dose (mg/kg)	Dose (mg/m <sup>2</sup> )	% 20S Proteasome Inhibition*
Mouse	1.0	3.0	80
Rat	0.25	1.5	80
NHP	0.067	0.8	70

\*In white blood cells at 1.0 h, post-dose

Ref: Adams, et al, *Cancer Res* 59:2615, 1999

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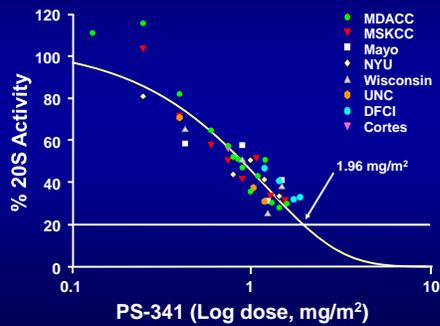
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## Ex Vivo Proteasome Activity: 1 Hour Post Treatment



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## PRECLINICAL DRUG STUDIES: SUMMARY

- Aid and promote clinical trials design
- Assure likely safety of initially explored regimen
- Provide scientific basis for assessing clinical effects of agent
- Increasingly to focus on correlating molecular effects of agents on intended targets along with "usual" pharmacologic / toxicologic endpoints

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