SOFTWARE AND PROGRAMMING TOOLS IN PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

Editors:
Dilpreet Singh
Prashant Tiwari

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Software and Programming Tools in Pharmaceutical Research

Edited by

Dilpreet Singh
Department of Pharmaceutics
ISF College of Pharmacy
Moga, India

&

Prashant Tiwari
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Dayanand Sagar University
Bengaluru, India

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Editors: Dilpreet Singh and Prashant Tiwari

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PREFACE

The research and development of new pharmaceuticals are carried out with various pharmaceutical hurdles, ethical ramifications, and social duties, along with the approach seeming obscure. The current pharmaceutical research needs creativity, which is the prime lifeblood of every industry. Nowadays, only computer software in the field of pharmaceutical sciences makes it possible to comprehend complicated processes and manage resources, money, and labor effectively and efficiently. Computer software may relieve medical professionals of tedious multitasking processes and complicated prescreening and evaluation of resource materials. The use of computers in all stages of drug discovery, development, and marketing is addressed holistically and comprehensively in this unique contributed work. It explains the process of simulations such as added functions, data mining, predicting human response, quality by design and artificial intelligence to develop cost-effective drugs, multi-formulation approaches, and high-throughput screening which are applied at various phases in clinical development. The book gives readers a comprehensive overview and a systems viewpoint from which they can design strategies to fully utilize the use of computers in their pharmaceutical industry throughout all stages of the discovery and development process. Researchers working in informatics and ADMET, drug discovery, and technology development, as well as IT professionals and scientists in the pharmaceutical sector, should read this. The book's multifaceted, cross-functional approach offers a singular chance for a comprehensive investigation and evaluation of computer applications in pharmaceutics.

There are the following sections in the book: the role of computers in drug discovery, preclinical development, clinical development, drug delivery, systemic optimization, understanding diseases and repurposing, advanced computer-aided functions to optimize biopharmaceutical variables and future applications, and future development. To maintain a consistent structure and approach throughout the book, each chapter is thoroughly revised after being authored by one or more of the foremost authorities in the field. Figures are frequently used to explain intricate ideas and diverse processes. Each chapter includes references so that readers can keep digging into a particular subject. Finally, many of the chapters provide tables of software resources.

Dilpreet Singh
Department of Pharmaceutics
ISF College of Pharmacy
Moga, India

&

Prashant Tiwari
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Dayanand Sagar University
Bengaluru, India

List of Contributors

Abhijeet Puri	AET's St. John Institute of Pharmacy and Research, Palghar-401404, Maharashtra, India
Amardeep K.	Himalayan Institute of Pharmacy, Kala Amb, Dist. Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh-173030, India
Amol Gholap	AET's St. John Institute of Pharmacy and Research, Palghar-401404, Maharashtra, India
Anjali Sharma	Amar Shaheed Baba Ajit Singh Jujhar Singh Memorial College of Pharmacy, Bela, (An Autonomous College) Ropar, India
Anshita Gupta Soni	Shri Rawatpura Sarkar Institute of Pharmacy, Kumhari, Durg, Chhattisgarh, India
Anita A.	College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dayananda Sagar University, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560078, India
Anglina Kisku	Neuro Pharmacology Research Laboratory (NPRL), Department of Pharmacy, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India
Anchal Arora	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bathinda, India
Arvinder Kaur	Department of Pharmaceutics, KLE College of Pharmacy, Constituent Unit of KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University), Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010, Karnataka, India
Avichal Kumar	Department of Pharmaceutics, KLE College of Pharmacy, Constituent Unit of KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University), Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010, Karnataka, India
Anjali Sinha	Department of Pharmaceutics, KLE College of Pharmacy, Constituent Unit of KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University), Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010, Karnataka, India
Bharti Sapra	Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences & Drug Research, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab, India
Chanchal Deep Kaur	Rungta Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India
Deependra Soni	Faculty of Pharmacy, MATS University Campus, Aarang, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India
Deepa Bagur Paramesh	Department of Pharmaceutics, KLE College of Pharmacy, Constituent Unit of KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University), Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010, Karnataka, India
Devendra S. Shirode	Department of Pharmacology, Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Pharmacy, Akurdi, Pune, Maharashtra, India
Dhriti Mahajan	Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences & Drug Research, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab, India
Diksha Sharma	Amar Shaheed Baba Ajit Singh Jujhar Singh Memorial College of Pharmacy, Bela, (An Autonomous College) Ropar, India
Gunpreet Kaur	University Center of Excellence in Research, BFUHS, Faridkot, India

Kavya Manjunath	Department of Pharmacology, KLE College of Pharmacy, Constituent Unit of KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University), Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010, Karnataka, India
Kunjbihari Sulakhiya	Neuro Pharmacology Research Laboratory (NPRL), Department of Pharmacy, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India
Madhavi Sahu	Neuro Pharmacology Research Laboratory (NPRL), Department of Pharmacy, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India
Manisha Yadav	Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences & Drug Research, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab, India
Monika Chauhan	School of Health Sciences and Technology, UPES, Dehradun, India
Neelam Sharma	Amar Shaheed Baba Ajit Singh Jujhar Singh Memorial College of Pharmacy, Bela, (An Autonomous College) Ropar, India
Om Silakari	Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences & Drug Research, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab, India
Parveen Bansal	University Center of Excellence in Research, BFUHS, Faridkot, India
Pankaj Kumar Singh	Department of Pharmaceutics, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research NIPER), Hyderabad, Telangana-500037, India
Popat Mohite	AET's St. John Institute of Pharmacy and Research, Palghar-401404, Maharashtra, India
Pranay Soni	Department of Pharmacy, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India
Prashant Tiwari	Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dayananda Sagar University, Bengaluru, India
Punam Gaba	Amar Shaheed Baba Ajit Singh Jujhar Singh Memorial College of Pharmacy, Bela, (An Autonomous College) Ropar, India
Ram Babu S.	Himalayan Institute of Pharmacy, Kala Amb, Dist. Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh-173030, India
Rahul Kumar Sharma	Amar Shaheed Baba Ajit Singh Jujhar Singh Memorial College of Pharmacy, Bela, (An Autonomous College) Ropar, India
Ravinder Sharma	University Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research, BFUHS, Faridkot, India
Renjil Joshi	Shri Rawatpura Sarkar Institute of Pharmacy, Kumhari, Durg, Chhattisgarh, India
Richa Sood	College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dayananda Sagar University, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560078, India
Rishi Paliwal	Nanomedicine and Bioengineering Research Laboratory (NBRL), Department of Pharmacy, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India
Sagar Pardeshi	AET's St. John Institute of Pharmacy and Research, Palghar-401404, Maharashtra, India
Samaresh Pal Roy	Department of Pharmacology, Maliba Pharmacy College, Uka Tarsadia University, Bardoli-394350, Surat, Gujarat, India

Sakshi T.	Himalayan Institute of Pharmacy, Kala Amb, Dist. Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh-173030, India
Saurabh Maru	Department of Pharmacology, School of Pharmacy and Technology Management, SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Maharashtra, India
Shailesh Sharma	Amar Shaheed Baba Ajit Singh Jujhar Singh Memorial College of Pharmacy, Bela, (An Autonomous College) Ropar, India
Shivam Aditya	Neuro Pharmacology Research Laboratory (NPRL), Department of Pharmacy, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India
Shilpa P. Chaudhari	Department of Pharmacology, Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Pharmacy, Akurdi, Pune, Maharashtra, India
Shilpa Murthy	Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, KLE College of Pharmacy, Constituent Unit of KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University), Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010, Karnataka, India
Sonal Dubey	College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dayananda Sagar University, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560111, India
Sunil Kumar Kadiri	Department of Pharmacology, College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dayananda Sagar University, K.S Layout, Bengaluru-560111, Karnataka, India
Swarnlata Saraf	University Institute of Pharmacy, Pt.Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India
Tanavirsing Rajput	AET's St. John Institute of Pharmacy and Research, Palghar-401404, Maharashtra, India
Vaibhav R. Vaidya	Department of Pharmacology, Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Pharmacy, Akurdi, Pune, Maharashtra, India
Vikas Gupta	University Center of Excellence in Research, BFUHS, Faridkot, India

CHAPTER 1

Introduction to Computer-Based Simulations and Methodologies in Pharmaceutical Research

Samaresh Pal Roy[1,*]

[1] *Department of Pharmacology, Maliba Pharmacy College, Uka Tarsadia University, Bardoli-394350, Surat, Gujarat, India*

Abstract: Pharmaceutical research is increasingly using computer-based simulations and approaches to hasten the identification and development of new drugs. These methods make use of computational tools and models to forecast molecular behavior, evaluate therapeutic efficacy, and improve drug design. Molecular modeling is a key application of computer-based simulations in pharmaceutical research. It allows researchers to build virtual models of molecules and simulate their behavior, which provides insights into their interactions and properties. Molecular docking is a computational method used in Computer-Aided Drug Design (CADD) to predict the binding mode and affinity of a small molecule ligand to a target protein receptor. Quantitative structure-activity relationship (QSAR) modeling is another pharmaceutical research tool. QSAR models predict molecular activity based on the chemical structure and other attributes using statistical methods. This method prioritizes and optimizes drug candidates for specific medicinal uses, speeding up drug discovery. Another effective use of computer-based simulations in pharmaceutical research is virtual screening. It entails lowering the time and expense associated with conventional experimental screening methods by employing computational tools to screen huge libraries of chemicals for prospective therapeutic candidates. While computer-based techniques and simulations have many advantages for pharmaceutical research, they also demand a lot of processing power and knowledge. Also, they are an addition to conventional experimental procedures rather than their replacement. As a result, they frequently work in tandem with experimental techniques to offer a more thorough understanding of drug behavior and efficacy. Overall, computer-based simulations and methodologies enable pharmaceutical researchers to gather and analyze data more efficiently, bringing new medications and therapies to market.

Keywords: Computer-based simulations, Computer-aided drug design (CADD), Drug behavior, Drug efficacy, Drug discovery, Molecular modeling, Molecular dynamics, Pharmaceutical research, Quantitative structure-activity relationship (QSAR) modeling, Virtual screening.

[*] **Corresponding author Samaresh Pal Roy:** Department of Pharmacology, Maliba Pharmacy College, Uka Tarsadia University, Bardoli-394350, Surat, Gujarat, India; Tel: +91 9377077710; E-mail: samaresh.roy@utu.ac.in

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1. INTRODUCTION

Pharmaceutical research is a crucial aspect of healthcare that aims to discover, develop, and test new medications in order to improve human health. During this process, potential drug candidates are identified, their characteristics are optimized, and their effectiveness and safety are evaluated. The drug development process is expensive and time-consuming due to the low success rate of new medication candidates and the high average cost of bringing a new treatment to market [1, 2]. Computer-based simulations have become important tools in pharmaceutical research to speed up the identification of novel drugs and increase the likelihood that new medication candidates will be successful. To simulate the behaviour of molecules and their interactions with biological targets, these simulations make use of computer techniques and models. The molecular underpinnings of disorders like Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease have been studied using computational simulations [3, 4]. Additionally, it aids in predicting the activity of prospective therapeutic targets including enzymes and receptors as well as their interactions with other molecules [5, 6]. Physicochemical parameters, including solubility, permeability, and stability, can be predicted using computer-based simulations in order to design and refine drug candidates [7, 8]. Additionally, it predicts aspects of drug candidates' pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, such as absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion [9, 10]. Researchers can get a more thorough understanding of the molecular principles underlying drug action by combining computer-based simulations with experimental data, which eventually results in safer and more effective drugs [11].

1.1. Types of Computer-Based Simulations in Pharmaceutical Research

Pharmaceutical research extensively utilizes a range of computer-based simulation techniques, with molecular modeling being a prominent example. This technique entails constructing and analyzing three-dimensional (3D) molecular models to comprehend their dynamics and interactions with other molecules. The molecular modelling technique known as molecular docking, for instance, forecasts the binding mechanism and affinity of small molecule ligands to their target proteins [12]. Simulating the movements of molecules over time to examine their interactions and behaviour at the atomic level is known as molecular dynamics simulation. For instance, protein conformational changes and their interactions with other molecules can be studied using molecular dynamics simulations [13]. Using statistical techniques, quantitative structure-activity relationship (QSAR) modelling links the chemical structure of molecules with their biological activity. For instance, QSAR modelling can be used to infer new drug candidates' biological activity from their chemical structure [14]. Virtual

screening involves the identification of potential therapeutic candidates from vast chemical libraries by evaluating the affinity and selectivity of each compound toward a specific protein. For instance, this method can be applied to discover inhibitors for viral proteins, which could then be utilized as a means to treat viral infections [15].

1.1.1. Challenges and Limitations of Computer-Based Simulations

While computer-based simulations offer numerous advantages for pharmaceutical research, they also come with significant drawbacks. The accuracy and reliability of computational models, which hinge on the quality of input data and the assumptions made during model creation, pose a considerable challenge [16]. Another concern is the need for high-performance computing resources, which can be costly and demand specialized expertise to carry out complex simulations. Integrating computational and experimental data can prove challenging due to variations in the data generated by each method [17]. Furthermore, comparing results across different studies can be difficult due to the lack of standardized data processing techniques and tools [18].

1.1.2. Advances in Computer-Based Simulations

Some of the difficulties and restrictions of these methodologies have been overcome by recent developments in computer-based simulations. For instance, the accuracy and dependability of computational models have increased as a result of the development of machine learning algorithms [19]. High-performance computer resources are now easier to obtain and more affordable thanks to cloud computing services [20]. Additionally, the introduction of novel techniques like cryo-electron microscopy has made the integration of computational and experimental data more practical [21].

To validate and refine computer models of protein-ligand interactions, cryo-electron microscopy can be employed to determine the three-dimensional structure of proteins at nearly atomic resolution. The future of pharmaceutical research is expected to continue relying significantly on computer-based simulations. The accuracy and reliability of these computer models are projected to greatly improve with the emergence of novel computational techniques such as deep learning [22]. The integration of computer-based simulations with other technologies like high-throughput screening and gene editing is also anticipated to facilitate the advancement of personalized medicine [23].

By providing insights into molecular behavior and interactions that are challenging to obtain solely through experimental methods, computer-based simulations have the potential to revolutionize the approach to pharmaceutical

CHAPTER 2

Tools for the Calculation of Dissolution Experiments and their Predictive Properties

Ram Babu S.[1,*], **Sakshi T.**[1] and **Amardeep K.**[1]

[1] *Himalayan Institute of Pharmacy, Kala Amb, Dist. Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh-173030, India*

Abstract: Dissolution testing, which establishes the rate and extent of the drug release from pharmaceutical products intended for oral administration, has been recognized as a crucial method for drug development and quality control of dosage form. Dissolution studies also help in establishing the *in vitro* and *in vivo* correlative studies, *i.e.*, they can predict drug release and absorption without performing the study inside living things. The calculation and interpretation of dissolution data is a very typical task but it has been made simple by using various software and mathematical tools that easily analyze and illustrate the drug release data with their interpretation. Currently, most pharmaceutical companies believe in real-time prediction of dissolution profiles, which they have done due to their market position and increasing demand. Because of their competitiveness and rising demand, the majority of pharmaceutical businesses now support real-time prediction of dissolution profiles. As a result, alternative methods have been added to acquire a rapid response, such as spectroscopic approaches, particularly near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS), which gathers the data based on the physicochemical features of the dosage form. Advanced multivariate analytic approaches, such as principal component analysis (PCA), principal component regression, and classical least squares regression, are widely employed to extract such data for use in quantitative modelling. There is still a dearth of research into the combined impact of numerous critical factors and their interactions on dissolution, despite several studies showing that drug product dissolution profiles can potentially be predicted from material, formulation, and process information using advanced mathematical approaches.

Keywords: Dissolution studies, Mathematical model, NIRS, PCA, Quantitative modelling.

1. INTRODUCTION

A substantial solute penetrates a solution through a process known as dissolution. It can be characterized in the global market as the volume of a drug ingredient that

[*] **Corresponding author Ram Babu S.:** Himalayan Institute of Pharmacy, Kala-Amb, Dist. Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh-173030, India; E-mail: sharmaram77@ymail.com

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dissolves in a time period under specified interfacial region, temperature, and fluid component conditions. The frequency, at which a capsule and tablet form distributes the medication, or active component, is essential for ensuring that the medication is supplied appropriately. The medication in solid dose forms is first dissolved in the biological medium and then absorbed into the body's circulation. The dissolution of a tablet can be schematically represented as shown in (Fig. **1A**). Drug dissolution evaluation is essential for characterizing product quality as part of standard quality assurance analysis and it is additionally crucial for the development of new drugs [1].

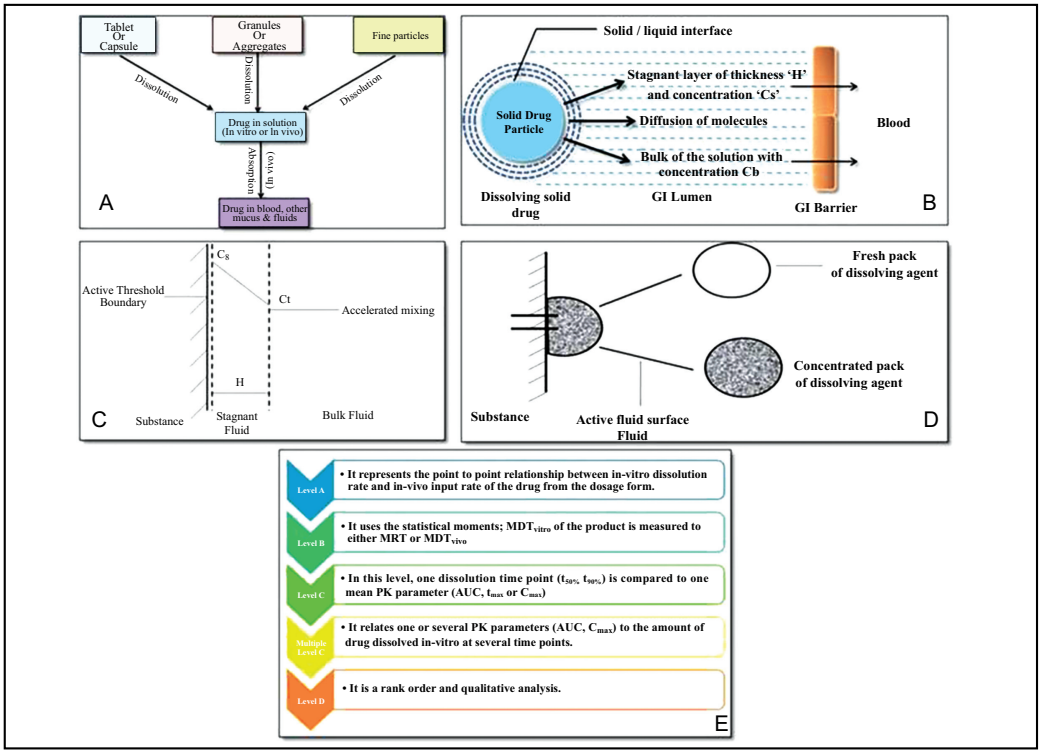

Fig. (1). A) Dissolution process; **B**) Diffusion layer model **C**) Interfacial barrier model **D**) The danckwert's model **E**) Levels of IVIVC studies.

Pharmacopeias utilize dissolution studies for the initial evaluation of how effectively drugs are released from solid and semi-solid dosage forms. Dissolution assays were originally developed to quantify the rate and amount of drug released from extended-release capsules, tablets, and other solid forms of oral administration [2]. Recently, dissolution has gained significance in evaluating drug release from dosage forms such as gums, soft gel capsules, suppositories,

transdermal patches, aerosols, and semi-solids. The study of the dissolution process has been evolving since the final decade of the nineteenth century [3].

2. THEORIES OF DISSOLUTION

The stirring rate, temperature, rheology, pH, the content of the extraction solvent, and the inclusion or lack of wetting agents are some of the variables that can affect how quickly tablets dissolve. To explain the drug dissolution that has been reported, physiological simulations have been developed. The following three approaches can be employed to characterize dissolution processes, according to Higuchi.

2.1. The Diffusion Layer Model

This hypothesis postulates that a drug-saturated diffusion or stagnation layer at the liquid-solid interface, and also, that solute may mix in the liquid spread from this layer to the majority of the solution. Here, the solute is transported into the majority of the solution slowly while the solvent-solute association is controlled by diffusion. After the substances cross the fluid film interface, there is a quick mixing process that destroys the concentration gradient. At the solid-liquid interface, the rate of solute migration and, consequently, the rate of dissolution are determined by the diffusion of molecules in a liquid layer (Fig. **1B**) under Brownian motion [4]. Noyes-Whitney equation, depicted in Eq. (1), comes into existence when the process is diffusion controlled, and the rate of dissolution is presented as:

$$\frac{dC}{dt} = \frac{DWKo/w(Cs - Cb)}{Vh} \quad \textbf{(1)}$$

where, from equation [1] dC/dt = denoted drug dissolution rate, D represents the drug diffusion coefficient, while, the partition coefficient of the drug is represented as Ko/w. The (Cs-Cb) are concentration gradients that apply downhill driving force movement for solute without the expenditure of energy. V and h depict dissolution medium in the GIT and the thickness of the mucosal membrane which allows the solute the pass through it, respectively.

2.2. The Interfacial Barrier Model

The basis for the interface barrier model (Fig. **1C**), which depicts the gradual interaction between the solid and liquid interface, is a substantial active free energy threshold that must be overcome even before the substance can decompose. According to this model proposed by Higuchi, an intermediate concentration can be present at the solid/liquid interface due to the solvation

CHAPTER 3

The Role of Principal Component Analysis in Pharmaceutical Research: Current Advances

Diksha Sharma[1], Anjali Sharma[1], Punam Gaba[1], Neelam Sharma[1,*], Rahul Kumar Sharma[1] and **Shailesh Sharma[1]**

[1] *Department of Pharmaceutics, Amar Shaheed Baba Ajit Singh Jujhar Singh Memorial College of Pharmacy, Bela, (An Autonomous College) Ropar, India*

Abstract: Karl Pearson developed Principal Component Analysis (PCA) in 1901 as a mathematical equivalent of the principal axis theorem. Later on, it was given different names according to its application in various fields. Principal Component Analysis provides a foundation for comprehending the fundamental workings of the system under examination. It has various applications in different fields such as signal processing, multivariate quality control, psychology, biology, meteorological science, noise and vibration analysis (spectral decomposition), and structural dynamics. In this chapter, we will discuss its application in pharmaceutical research and drug discovery. This technique allows for the representation of multidimensional data and the evaluation of large datasets to improve data interpretation while retaining the maximum amount of information possible. PCA is a technique that does not require extensive computations and offers reduced memory and storage requirements. PCA can be conceptualized as an n-dimensional ellipsoid fitted to the data, with each axis representing a principal component. The ellipse's axes are determined by subtracting the mean of each variable from the datasheet. In the pharmaceutical research field, original variables are often expressed in various measurement units. Therefore, the original variables are divided by their standard deviation once the mean has been subtracted. This step is taken to work with z-scores, which are further used for extracting the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the original data.

Keywords: PCA, Principal component, Research, Statistical method.

1. INTRODUCTION

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is a widely used method that reduces a large number of potentially correlated variables to a smaller set of variables called principal components, achieved through the application of complex mathematical principles [1]. The primary goal of PCA is to minimize a dataset comprising num-

* **Corresponding author Neelam Sharma:** Department of Pharmaceutics, Amar Shaheed Baba Ajit Singh Jujhar Singh Memorial College of Pharmacy, Bela, (An Autonomous College) Ropar, India;
E-mail: pharmneelam@gmail.com

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erous interrelated variables while retaining as much of the dataset's variance as possible [2]. Karhunen-Loeve expansion is another term for the representation method known as principal component analysis (PCA). This method finds applications in pattern recognition and computer vision, such as face identification [3]. This reduction is achieved by transforming the original variables into a new set of uncorrelated variables called principal components. These components are arranged in a way that the first few components capture the majority of the variance present in the original variables. While the computation of principal components may seem straightforward, this method's apparent simplicity masks its wide range of potential applications and diverse derivations [4]. The principal components optimally account for the total variance of the original variables, serving as a measure of information. The geometric properties of these components facilitate a structured and intuitive interpretation of key features within complex multivariate datasets [5]. A range of diagnostic techniques, including mass spectrometry, Raman spectroscopy, near-infrared spectroscopy, infrared spectroscopy, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS), ultraviolet-visible spectroscopy, and X-ray absorption spectroscopy, have found utility in conjunction with PCA [6 - 8].

1.1. Definition of PCA

1.1.1. Definition

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is a statistical technique used for dimensionality reduction and data transformation. It involves transforming a high-dimensional dataset into a lower-dimensional one while retaining as much of the original data's variability as possible. PCA achieves this by identifying new orthogonal axes, called principal components, along which the data varies the most. These components are linear combinations of the original variables, and they are sorted in order of decreasing variance.

1.1.2. Goals

The primary goals of PCA include:

1.1.2.1. Dimensionality Reduction

One of the main objectives of PCA is to reduce the number of dimensions (features or variables) in a dataset while maintaining the most important information. This is particularly useful when dealing with datasets that have many variables, as it simplifies analysis and visualization.

1.1.2.2. Variance Maximization

PCA aims to capture as much of the variance present in the original data as possible in the lower-dimensional representation. The first principal component accounts for the most variance, followed by the second component, and so on. By retaining the top few principal components, a significant portion of the dataset's variability can often be preserved.

1.1.2.3. Feature Interpretation

PCA allows for the interpretation of patterns and relationships within the data. Principal components are orthogonal to each other, and each component represents a linear combination of the original variables. These components can correspond to meaningful aspects of the data, making it easier to understand the underlying structure.

1.1.2.4. Data Visualization

By reducing data dimensions, PCA can facilitate the visualization of complex datasets in two or three dimensions. This aids in gaining insights and identifying patterns that might not be apparent in the original high-dimensional space.

1.1.2.5. Data Compression

PCA can be used for data compression, as the lower-dimensional representation requires less storage space. This is particularly useful in cases where storage or processing resources are limited.

1.1.2.6. Data Preprocessing

PCA can also be used as a preprocessing step to decorrelate variables, making subsequent analyses, such as regression or clustering, more effective.

1.2. History of PCA

Tracing the origins of statistical methods can sometimes be challenging. In a two-way study, Fisher and Mackenzie utilized Singular Value Decomposition (SVD). However, it is widely acknowledged that the first descriptions of the approach now known as Principal Component Analysis (PCA) were provided by Pearson and Hotelling [5]. Hotelling's approach to PCA distinguished it as having a unique character separate from factor analysis. Hotelling's theory is based on the idea that the initial set of p variables might be represented by a “fundamental set of independent variables.” The components that Hotelling selects are termed “primary components” because they are derived to maximize their subsequent

CHAPTER 4

Quality by Design in Pharmaceutical Development: Current Advances and Future Prospects

Popat Mohite[1,*], Amol Gholap[1], Sagar Pardeshi[1], Abhijeet Puri[1] and **Tanavirsing Rajput[1]**

[1] *AET's St. John Institute of Pharmacy and Research, Palghar-401404, Maharashtra, India*

Abstract: QbD, or Quality by Design, is a cutting-edge methodology adopted extensively in the pharmaceutical industry. It is defined objects, such as the product's safety and effectiveness. QbD's primary focus in the pharmaceutical industry is ensuring the product's security and usefulness. Quality by Design (QbD) seeks to instill high standards of excellence in the blueprinting process. The International Council for Harmonization (ICH) has developed guidelines and elements that must be adhered to guarantee the consistent, high-quality development of pharmaceuticals. This chapter provides updated guidelines and elements, including quality risk management, pharmaceutical quality systems, QbD in analytical methods and pharmaceutical manufacturing, process control, vaccine development, pharmacogenomic, green synthesis, *etc*. QbD was briefly defined, and several design tools, regulatory-industry perspectives, and QbD grounded on science were discussed. It was portrayed that significant effort was put into developing drug ingredients, excipients, and manufacturing processes. Quality by design (QbD) is included in the manufacturing process's development, and the result is steadily improving product quality. Quality target product profiles, critical quality attributes, analytical process techniques, critical process parameters control strategy and design space are elements of many pharmaceutical advancements. Some of the topics covered included the application of QbD to herbal products, food processing, and biotherapeutics through analytical process techniques. We are still exploring and compiling all the data and metrics required to link and show the benefits of QbD to all stakeholders. Nevertheless, the pharmaceutical sector is quickly using the QbD process to create products that are reliable, efficient, and of high quality. Soon, a more profound comprehension of the dosage form parameters supported by the notion of QbD will benefit Risk management and process and product design, optimizing complex drug delivery systems.

Keywords: Drug delivery system, Process and product design, Quality by design, Risk management.

[*] **Corresponding author Popat Mohite:** AET's St. John Institute of Pharmacy and Research, Palghar-401404, Maharashtra, India; E-mail: mohitepb@gmail.com

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1. INTRODUCTION

The fundamental pillars for human safety following drug ingestion in all dose forms are the safety and efficacy of the product. The actual analysis of the parameters for the pharmaceutical product's stability, quality and potency is performed in the drug development phase, especially during the pilot phase of the formulation, to provide the utmost care to the patients or customers [1]. The drug product evolved from the drug development phase, which includes several parameters like drug discovery and clinical trials. It also includes animal studies, the impact of laboratory testing, and a thorough analysis of the formations. The drug development of many formulations must comply with the stringent guidelines given by regulatory authorities [2]. Almost all regulatory agencies worldwide are asking for testing to establish and confirm product identity, purity, and quality, along with strength and stability determination, prior to its market launch for the customers. So, pharmaceutical validation, along with process control, is one of the main controlling factors for the fate of the finished pharmaceutical product. The compromise in the quality of the pharmaceutical products induced harmful effects on the patients; and also decreased the overall therapeutic effects for the anticipated actions for the given medicine. So, maintenance of the quality of the medicine is essential for the customers, and for the past two decades, many industries have been doing this with the help of conventional methods for quality maintenance.

1.1. Conventional Approach *vs* Design Approach

The conventional approach contains a series of works assigned with sequential testing and analysis of the raw materials, product manufacturing type of the process, and the testing of the finished products. Such an approach is called a quality by testing method and has some significant gaps like experiment cost, time management and alignment with the Food and drug administration (FDA) guidelines for the same. To address these issues, one can redesign the experiments as per needs in the repetitive mode to achieve the required specification, further putting an extra cost burden on the formulators and customers. So, these issues are well countered by implementing the quality by design (QbD) approach. This type of method ensures the quality of the finished pharmaceutical product with the help of process control and quality risk management (QrM) [3]. The detailed principles of QbD have been explained in the International Conference of Harmonization (ICH) annex Q8 (R2), while the implementation of the QbD guidelines was given in the ICHQ9 and ICHQ10. Such principles are advised to implement during the pharmacy product development to ensure the finished products' quality, safety and efficacy. In 1970, J. Juran described the concept of QbD, while the actual implementation of the same was initiated in 1980 in Toyota through the six-sigma

approach. Several other industrial sectors, like automobiles and aeronautics, have started implementing QbD for better quality products. Most industries use different technologies along with QbD, like lean Six sigma. The design six sigma was also popularized during the same years and delivered better product quality. The FDA has seen this type of exploration and successful implementation of the QbD concept and realized to implement the same for better quality control of the finished pharmaceutical products on the significant levels for biologics and pharmaceutical drug markets. FDA has implemented QbD and given several guidelines for further updates for effective and smooth conduction into today's 21st century of pharma globally [4 - 8].

1.2. QbD Paradigm and Regulatory Authorities

As part of the QbD paradigm, different regulatory bodies working in pharma sectors have launched some QrM along with tools for control of the pharmaceutical product quality through the manufacturing process. This was a significant shift in understanding that the quality was based on manufacturing, not something we could alter or change at the end of the production process [9]. Usually, we have implemented different tests to care for the quality measures of the finished product by passing them into these tests, but the quality of the finished products lies in the process by which it is manufactured for the same. So, rather than working on product quality checks, the proper control of the manufacturing process was highly appreciated and consciously accepted by the FDA for the better future of pharmaceutical industries during those days. This concept will help reduce product formulation defects and ensure product quality. The conventional manufacturing process differs from QbD, majorly due to the less post-approval process burden in the latter. Regulatory authorities across the globe are always demanding some more amount of additional research into the post-approval phase. Some significant agencies like the United States (U.S.) FDA and European Medicines Agency (EMA) have enforced specific regulatory changes as a part of the post-approval studies, which further involve clinical trials. The clinical trials can be interventional and observational and treated as non-interventional studies for the post-approval phase. The design options and related data sources are vital for the study design selection.

The safety and effectiveness of the approved drug's data are required for post-approval studies, and these studies are tracked to completion with the help of regulatory authorities and registries across the globe. Independent variables impact the process of formulation of pharmaceutical products. These aspects are further explored and analyzed in depth using tools such as the Ishikawa diagram (I.D.) and relative risk matrix analysis (RRMA). The process also incorporates failure mode effect analysis (FMEA). All of these tools are connected to the

CHAPTER 5

Virtual Tools and Screening Designs for Drug Discovery and New Drug Development

Sonal Dubey[1,*]

[1] *College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dayananda Sagar University, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560111, India*

Abstract: The synergy between virtual tools and screening designs has catalyzed a transformative shift in drug discovery and new drug development. Leveraging computational models, molecular simulations, and artificial intelligence, virtual tools empower researchers to predict molecular interactions, assess binding affinities, and optimize drug-target interactions. This predictive capacity expedites the identification and prioritization of promising drug candidates for further investigation. Simultaneously, screening designs facilitate systematic and high-throughput evaluation of vast compound libraries against target proteins, enabling the rapid identification of lead compounds with desired pharmacological activities. Advanced data analysis techniques, including machine learning, enhance the efficiency and accuracy of hit identification and optimization processes. The integration of virtual tools and screening designs presents a holistic approach that accelerates the drug discovery pipeline. By expounding on rational drug design, these tools guide the development of novel compounds with enhanced properties. Furthermore, this approach optimizes resource allocation by spotlighting high-potential candidates and minimizing costly experimental iterations. As an outcome of this convergence, drug discovery processes are becoming more precise, efficient, and cost-effective. The resulting drug candidates exhibit improved efficacy, specificity, and safety profiles. Thus, the amalgamation of virtual tools and screening designs serves as a potent catalyst for innovation in drug discovery and new drug development, ensuring the delivery of transformative therapies to address unmet medical challenges. In this chapter, we shall be discussing different tools in detail with actual examples leading to successful stories.

Keywords: Drug discovery, Drug design, Designing software, Molecular modelling, Molecular docking, QSAR, Virtual screening.

1. INTRODUCTION

The landscape of drug discovery and development has witnessed a remarkable transformation with the integration of virtual tools and screening designs. These

* **Corresponding author Sonal Dubey:** College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dayananda Sagar University, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560111, India; E-mail: drsonaldubey-pharmacy@dsu.edu.in

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innovative technologies have emerged as game-changers, revolutionizing the traditional approach to drug development [1]. In this comprehensive review, we will explore the profound impact and significance of virtual tools and screening designs in reshaping the pharmaceutical industry. Historically, drug discovery has been a time-consuming and costly endeavor, with a high attrition rate due to the limitations of experimental approaches. However, the advent of virtual tools has introduced a paradigm shift. These tools encompass a wide range of computational techniques that enable the prediction and optimization of drug-target interactions, molecular properties, and ADMET (absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion, and toxicity) profiles [2]. As a result, the drug discovery process has become more efficient and cost-effective, saving both time and resources.

Screening designs, both virtual and experimental, are pivotal in identifying promising drug candidates from vast chemical libraries. Virtual screening employs computational methods to prioritize compounds with potential binding affinities for target proteins. This approach not only expedites the selection of lead compounds but also minimizes the number of compounds that need to be synthesized and tested experimentally [3]. Experimental screening, on the other hand, involves high-throughput assays that rapidly evaluate the biological activity of compounds, further enhancing the efficiency of the drug discovery pipeline. The synergy between virtual tools and screening designs is evident in their ability to optimize hit-to-lead and lead optimization phases. Virtual tools facilitate rational drug design by providing insights into the structure-activity relationships (SAR) and helping researchers modify molecular structures to enhance potency, selectivity, and other desired properties. Coupled with screening techniques, this approach accelerates the identification of promising drug candidates, expediting the transition from bench to bedside [4].

While the benefits of virtual tools and screening designs are substantial, it is important to acknowledge their limitations. Virtual models are based on assumptions and approximations, and their accuracy heavily relies on the quality of available data. Furthermore, experimental validation is essential to confirm the predictions made by virtual tools. Screening designs also require careful selection of assays and validation strategies to ensure the reliability of results. In this chapter, we aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role that virtual tools and screening designs play in modern drug discovery and development. By delving into their applications, benefits, and limitations, we aspire to shed light on their transformative potential. As the pharmaceutical industry continues to evolve, virtual tools and screening designs stand as indispensable tools in the pursuit of novel and effective therapeutic agents.

2. CONCEPT OF DRUG DESIGN

Drug design is a dynamic and interdisciplinary field at the intersection of chemistry, biology, and computational science, focused on creating novel therapeutic agents to treat diseases. This process involves a systematic approach that integrates various scientific principles to develop molecules with desired properties for specific targets. The intricate role of molecules, proteins, and cellular pathways forms the foundation of drug design, aiming to achieve efficacy, safety, and specificity. Drug design is a complex process that involves identifying a target region, developing a lead compound that can interact with the target protein, and testing the safety and efficacy of that compound [5]. Virtual tools have increasingly become important in drug design, enabling researchers to expedite and optimize the drug discovery process [6]. Computational modeling has emerged as a crucial tool in drug discovery, allowing researchers to simulate and predict the behavior of molecules and their interactions with others. Various software programs are available on the market for this purpose, including molecular dynamics simulation packages, molecular docking software, and QSAR (quantitative structure-activity relationship) modeling tools [7].

2.1. Quantitative Structure-activity Relationship (QSAR)

QSAR is a method used in drug discovery to predict the activity of molecules based on their chemical structure. QSAR has a rich history dating back to the 1960s when it was first introduced as a way to analyse the relationship between the structure of organic compounds and their biological activity [7]. QSAR modelling tools are a type of computational modelling software that can be used to predict the activity of molecules based on their chemical structure. These tools use statistical methods to identify patterns in the relationships between the structure of a molecule and its activity. This information can be used to design new compounds with specific activity profiles [8, 9].

The development of QSAR was driven by the need to better understand the mechanism of drug action and to design more effective drugs. The earliest QSAR models were based on simple statistical methods and used only a small number of molecular descriptors to predict the biological activity of a compound. Over time, the field has evolved to include more complex models that incorporate a larger number of molecular descriptors and account for the three-dimensional structure of molecules [10 - 12]. Descriptors are quantitative measures that represent the physical, chemical, and biological properties of molecules. Descriptors are used to represent the structure and properties of molecules and are often used as inputs to QSAR models. There are several types of descriptors that help us in designing

CHAPTER 6

Predicting Drug Properties: Computational Strategies for Solubility and Permeability Rates

Anshita Gupta Soni[1,*], Renjil Joshi[1], Deependra Soni[2], Chanchal Deep Kaur[3], Swarnlata Saraf[4] and **Pankaj Kumar Singh[5]**

[1] *Shri Rawatpura Sarkar Institute of Pharmacy, Kumhari, Durg, Chhattisgarh, India*

[2] *Faculty of Pharmacy, MATS University Campus, Aarang, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India*

[3] *Rungta Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India*

[4] *University Institute of Pharmacy, Pt.Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India*

[5] *Department of Pharmaceutics, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research NIPER), Hyderabad, Telangana-500037, India*

Abstract: The oral bioavailability of a medicine can be considerably influenced by its water solubility, which can also have an impact on how the drug is dispersed through the body. To decrease the likelihood of failures in the late phases of drug development, aqueous solubility must be taken into account early in the drug research and development process. By using computer models to predict solubility, combinatorial libraries might be screened to identify potentially problematic chemicals and exclude those with insufficient solubility. In addition to predicting solubility from chemical structure, the explanation of such models can provide insight into correlations between structure and solubility and can direct structural improvement to improve solubility while preserving the effectiveness of the medications under study. Such model development is a difficult procedure that calls for taking into account a wide range of variables that may affect how well the model performs in the end. In this article, various solubility modeling techniques are presented. Despite many studies on model creation, predicting the solubility of various medications remains difficult. One of the primary reasons for the poor trustworthiness of many of the suggested models is the quality of the experimental data that may be used to simulate solubility, which is becoming more widely acknowledged. Consequently, increased availability of trustworthy data produced using the same experimental technique is necessary to fully realize the potential of the established modeling tools.

Keywords: Computational tools, Caco-2, Ligand-based computer-aided drug discovery, PAMPA, Permeability, Solubility.

[*] **Corresponding author Anshita Gupta Soni:** Shri Rawatpura Sarkar Institute of Pharmacy, Kumhari, Durg, Chhattisgarh, India; E-mail: anshita1912@gmail.com

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1. INTRODUCTION

The pharmaceutical research pipeline, from drug discovery through production, uses the solubility of therapeutic agents in a specific solvent system as a crucial characteristic [1]. Reliable solubility forecasting is crucial in this industry for guiding experimental work, accelerating time to market, and lowering material costs [1]. Furthermore, it is essential for predictive models to encompass a wide range of drug/drug-like solutes and organic solvents, as various solvents are utilized throughout different stages and operations within unit activities. In this context, we propose the utilization of a combined, cross-solvent structure for solubility prediction, grounded in data. API Absorption is altered by various factors, including aqueous drug solubility and intestinal drug permeability [2]. Computational tools have been developed to predict these factors, aiding drug discovery and formulation. Among these tools, one model stands out for its high predictive power using only chemical compositions as features, achieving an accuracy of around 92%. *In vitro*, methods such as Parallel Artificial Membrane Permeability Assay, Caco-2, and rat intestinal canals are also used to screen compounds for permeability and absorption [3]. These methods are valuable research tools for studying solute-membrane interactions and cell culture techniques for nasal drug permeability [4].

Important parameters for medication absorption include drug solubility and permeability, and a variety of computational methods have been established to forecast these [5]. The “ligand-based computer-aided drug discovery” (LB-CADD) method is one model that stands out for its excellent predictive potential. This method includes analyzing ligands that interact with a target of interest without needing to know the target's structure. LB-CADD methods use reference structures to represent compounds with physicochemical properties relevant to the desired interactions [6]. In addition, *in vitro* methods such as “Parallel Artificial Membrane Permeability Assay”, Caco-2, and rat intestinal canals are used to study solute-membrane interactions, whereas cell culture techniques are used for nasal drug permeability [7]. Moreover, molecular surface areas have been referred to as permeability and solubility descriptors. These tools have the potential to aid drug discovery and formulation by providing precise medication permeability and solubility predictions. However, it is important to note that computational tools for solubility-permeability prediction have their limitations. They rely on the availability of accurate and diverse training datasets, as well as the quality of input data and descriptors used for modeling. The performance of these tools can vary depending on the chemical space and applicability domain of the models.

Hence, computational tools for solubility-permeability prediction have emerged as valuable resources in the drug discovery process. They offer rapid and cost-

effective means of assessing the solubility and permeability characteristics of compounds, aiding in the selection and optimization of drug candidates. With ongoing advancements in computational techniques and the accumulation of experimental data, these tools will continue to evolve and contribute to the development of safe and effective drugs.

2. COMPUTATIONAL MODEL FOR PREDICTING PERMEABILITY AND SOLUBILITY OF DRUG

For the *in silico* prediction of drug membrane permeability, the "immobilized artificial membrane" (IAM) and "immobilized liposome chromatography" (ILC) procedures are frequently utilized [8]. By examining ligands that interact with a target of interest, the ligand-based computer-aided drug discovery (LB-CADD) strategy may also be used to forecast solubility [9]. However, it is important to note that LB-CADD neglects the dynamic nature of the ligands, which can be considered in alternative approaches [10]. *In silico* screening, "hit-to-lead and lead-to-drug optimization, and DMPK/ADMET" property optimization can all benefit from these strategies [11].

2.1. Computational Model for Predicting Permeability of Drug

To reach their objective, most medications must cross at least one cellular membrane. Low membrane permeability commonly leads to mediocre or nonexistent *in vivo* effectiveness, even though the potency of a drug depends on how strongly it binds to its target. Therefore, a thorough understanding of how a particular species is divided in the membrane is essential from the perspectives of pharmacokinetics and logical drug design. In eukaryotic systems, a molecule can travel through a membrane either actively or passively. A transport protein moves a membrane-crossing molecule by active transport, which utilizes energy (such as ATP hydrolysis). In contrast, passive transport includes a molecule diffusing through the membrane without the need for outside aid or energy input. This is the most prevalent method of medication transportation through membranes. The rate at which a compound passively diffuses across a membrane depends on several factors, including the partition coefficient, diffusion coefficient, and the concentration that traverses the membrane [12]. The processes of membrane binding and diffusion are contingent upon the chemical properties of small molecules, such as lipophilicity, molecular weight, and measures of molecular polarity [13]. Consequently, creating effective medications necessitates achieving a delicate equilibrium among all these characteristics within a molecular scaffold, which is a formidable task.

A pivotal parameter in drug design is the drug's permeation across membranes. A drug intended for intracellular targets but with poor permeability would exhibit

CHAPTER 7

Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Modeling (PK/PD) in Pharmaceutical Research: Current Research and Advances

Richa Sood[1,*] and **Anita A.**[1]

[1] *College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dayananda Sagar University, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560078, India*

Abstract: The development of more intricately constructed molecules and drug delivery systems as a result of technological breakthroughs has increased our understanding of the complexities of disease and allowed us to identify a wide range of therapeutic targets. New drug combinations can be designed by correctly using dynamical systems-based PK/PD models. The unswerving approach that offers a better knowledge and understanding of therapeutic efficacy and safety is the use of pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic (PK-PD) modeling in drug research. *In vivo,* animal testing or *in vitro* bioassay is used to forecast efficacy and safety in people. Model-based simulation using primary pharmacodynamic models for direct and indirect responses is used to elucidate the assumption of a fictitious minimal effective concentration or threshold in the exposure-response relationship of many medicines. In this current review, we have abridged the basic PK-PD modeling concepts of drug delivery and documented how they can be used in current research and development.

Keywords: Clinical development, Modeling, Pharmacokinetics, Pharmaco-dynamics, Preclinical.

1. INTRODUCTION

Recent challenges for novel medication development have included mounting drug development costs and a decline in mass productivity. This outcome has been due to different possible causes. The use of alternative technologies is encouraged to obtain answers regarding efficacy and safety and cost-effectiveness. Alternative approaches to drug development include pharmacokinetic/ pharmacodynamic (PK/PD) modeling and simulation, adaptive trial models, higher dependence on biomarkers, and the production of individualized drugs [1]. PK/PD modeling and simulation are helpful at all phases of drug development.

[*] **Corresponding author Richa Sood:** College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dayananda Sagar University, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560078, India; E-mail: richa88sood@gmail.com

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Only experts in the respective field (*i.e.*, pharmacokinetics) have a thorough knowledge of the value and application of PK/PD modeling. However, modeling concepts need to be understood and embraced by both drug development team members and regulators to assist in drug development [2]. To simplify the issues and enhance comprehension of these drug delivery systems' *in vivo* behavior, mechanism-based pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic (PK-PD) modeling should be applied [3]. The standard drug development process includes the following stages: drug discovery process, preclinical development phase, exploratory clinical development phase, full clinical development, and regulatory filings [4]. PK/PD modeling is widely recognized as an important technique for choosing promising substances and figuring out appropriate doses and dosing regimens in people [5]. PK/PD modeling at this point enables the sponsor to eliminate unfavorable candidates early, when drug development costs are low, to more accurately predict the clinical profile of the drug, and to arrange candidates with a higher likelihood of success during the confirmatory late-phase development [6]. Pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic (PK-PD) modeling is a scientific approach to analyzing pharmacokinetics (PK), pharmacodynamics (PD), and their relationship, and is a significant part of the drug discovery phase and drug development process. The mechanism-based PK-PD model is applicable throughout the drug development process, as shown in Fig. (**1**). The process of drug ADME in the body is explicitly and quantitatively described by PK modeling. Indeed, PD modeling is used to assess the time course of the pharmacological effects of medications with time [7]. In addition, PK and PD modelling can be used to quantify the link between drug exposure and response and to characterize the influence of drug-relevant properties, delivery mechanisms, physiological systems, and pathological systems on this relationship [8]. Drug-specific metrics (receptor binding affinity and drug clearance rate) illustrate how a given medication affects the body's biological machinery. Clearance, release rate, and carrier internalization rate are examples of carrier features that are peculiar to a given drug delivery method. The physiological values represented by the physiological system-specific parameters include blood flow, cell longevity, expression of enzymes, and transporter expression [3]. The separation of drug-specific and system-specific characteristics in PK-PD modelling would allow for the evaluation and facilitation of the effects of various delivery system properties on the *in vivo* drug effect. The mechanism-based PK-PD models, which were created based on the PK-PD data from preclinical studies, can be used to forecast the human dosage schedule and optimize the drug delivery system, as seen in the bottom panel of Fig. (**1**). Once they are available, the clinical PK-PD data can be included in the PK-PD models to improve their design. To assist the ultimate approval, the PK-PD modeling can also develop

concurrently with clinical development. The modeling method is currently used in medication delivery systems and modified big molecules [9].

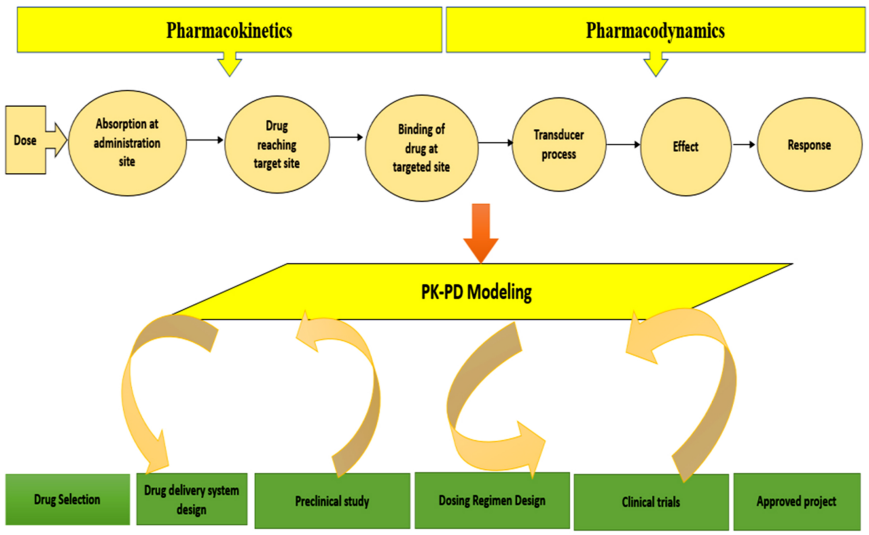

Fig. (1). Pictorial representation of PK-PD modeling in the drug delivery system development.

PK-PD modeling could direct formulation design and dosage regimen selection during the development of the drug delivery system based on preclinical and clinical data [10]. The pharmacological dose and the physiological reaction are linked by this system. A series of actions demonstrate the progression from administration to drug binding at the target location, receptor activation and binding, signal transmission, and impact on physiological response. In this review, we have outlined M&S approaches and discussed regulatory viewpoints on the use of PK/PD M&S in the drug development process.

2. PHARMACOKINETIC MODELS

Pharmacokinetic models compute useful pharmacokinetic parameters and shed light on how long it takes a medicine (or drugs) to travel throughout the body. In certain situations, pharmacokinetic models are helpful, such as in defining drug-induced patient behaviors with any dose regimen, predicting the drug's concentration in different bodily fluids, determining the best optimum dosage regimen for specific individuals, assessing the toxicity, determining the bioequivalence/bio inequivalence among various preparations of the same drug, and describing drug interactions [11, 12].

CHAPTER 8

Experimental Tools as an "Alternative to Animal Research" in Pharmacology

Kunjbihari Sulakhiya[1,*], Rishi Paliwal[2], Anglina Kisku[1], Madhavi Sahu[1], Shivam Aditya[1], Pranay Soni[3] and **Saurabh Maru[4]**

[1] *Neuro Pharmacology Research Laboratory (NPRL), Department of Pharmacy, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India*

[2] *Nanomedicine and Bioengineering Research Laboratory (NBRL), Department of Pharmacy, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India*

[3] *Department of Pharmacy, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India*

[4] *Department of Pharmacology, School of Pharmacy and Technology Management, SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Maharashtra, India*

Abstract: Experimental tools have emerged as a promising alternative to animal research in pharmacology. With growing ethical concerns and regulatory restrictions surrounding animal experimentation, researchers are increasingly turning towards *in vitro* and *in silico* methods to develop new drugs and evaluate their safety and efficacy. *In vitro* tools include cell culture systems, 3D organoid models, and microfluidic devices replicating complex physiological conditions, such as the blood-brain barrier or the liver microenvironment. These systems can provide more accurate and predictive results than animal models, reducing ethical concerns and experimental costs. *In silico* methods, such as computer modelling, simulation, and artificial intelligence, enable researchers to predict the drug-target interactions, toxicity, and pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties of new drugs without animal testing. Experimental tools have several advantages over animal research, including more accurate and predictive results, lower costs, higher throughput, and reduced ethical concerns. However, the limitations of these tools must also be acknowledged, such as the inability to fully replicate the complexity of a living organism, which requires further validation. These tools offer a promising avenue for advancing pharmacological research while reducing the reliance on animal experimentation. In conclusion, experimental tools provide an excellent alternative to animal research in pharmacology to identify and avoid potential toxicities early in the drug discovery process and have the potential to revolutionize drug discovery and development. This chapter mainly focuses on the numerous *in vitro*, *in silico*, non-animal *in vivo*, and emerging experimental tools and their regulatory perspectives on validation, acceptance, and implementation of the alternative methods used in pharmacological research.

[*] **Corresponding author Kunjbihari Sulakhiya:** Neuro Pharmacology Research Laboratory (NPRL), Department of Pharmacy, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India; E-mails: niperkunj@gmail.com, kunj@igntu.ac.in

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Keywords: Animal research, Cell culture, Computer modelling, Emerging tools, Microfluidic devices, Organ-on-a-Chip technology, Pharmacology, Regulatory guidelines.

1. INTRODUCTION

The use of animals for various purposes is as old as human beings. However, the ethical implications of animal testing have led to the development of experimental tools that can serve as an alternative to animal testing [1]. These tools are based on the 3Rs: reduction, refinement, and replacement of animal testing. Reduction aims to minimize the number of animals used in testing, while refinement aims to improve the welfare of animals. Replacement aims to replace animal testing with alternative methods, such as human cell-based assays, 3D cell cultures and organoids, and human volunteer studies [2]. These tools can provide valuable information on drug efficacy and toxicity, while human volunteer studies can provide information on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of drugs. There is also a focus on the fourth R, which stands for the Rehabilitation of animals after usage [3]. Animals were initially used in research and instruction when people started exploring cures and preventative measures for the disease. Using animals in research makes it possible to find the bulk of current medications. The laws governing the use of animals in research and education still need to be clarified as they are contradictory. Each laboratory and educational facility, however, has a unique policy regarding the use and treatment of animals. The use of animals in irrelevant experiments has paid attention to and raised concerns due to the widespread use of animals in toxicity research and the testing of dermatological treatments. Conversely, other scientists believe using animals in research is a responsible and suitable way to progress discoveries.

For a very long time, medical institutes in India have included animal experiments as a necessary component of their pharmacology curriculum. Despite attempts by activists and concerned instructors to lower this number, thousands of animals are still utilized annually in educational facilities. In India and other nations, several medical institutions have either offered alternatives to these trials or are debating this divisive subject. Some people believe that medicine can only be taught or learned with exposure to wards and clinics, and so can pharmacology without animal experiments. However, with evolving educational ideas and practices, there is a growing consensus that animals shouldn't be killed to learn experimental procedures and abilities. These tests are costly, time-consuming, and tedious. In this evolving situation, the development of alternatives to animal testing is the need of the day [3].

2. BRIEF HISTORY OF ANIMAL RESEARCH IN PHARMACOLOGY

The use of animals in biomedical research dates back to ancient Greek times, with Aristotle, Erasistratus, and Galen, all were performing experiments on living animals. In the Renaissance, philosopher Francis Bacon valued anatomist Vesalius and Animal physiological experiments as a teaching and learning tool [4]. The Age of Enlightenment saw continued physiological experiments on animals. René Descartes described animals as "machine-like," Immanuel Kant rejected Cartesian mechanistic views and acknowledged sentience to other animals [5]. The eighteenth century saw notable contributions to experimental physiology from polymaths Stephen Hales and Albrecht von Haller. Opposition to vivisection became more prominent in the second half of the century, particularly in northern Europe [6]. In the twentieth century, animal research played a role in several significant medical discoveries, but it also led to disasters such as the mass poisoning caused by the elixir sulphanilamide. The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act of 1938, which mandated that pharmaceuticals undergo animal safety testing before being approved for human consumption, was passed in response to public outcry [4]. The development of alternative methods to animal research has been illustrated in Fig. (**1**).

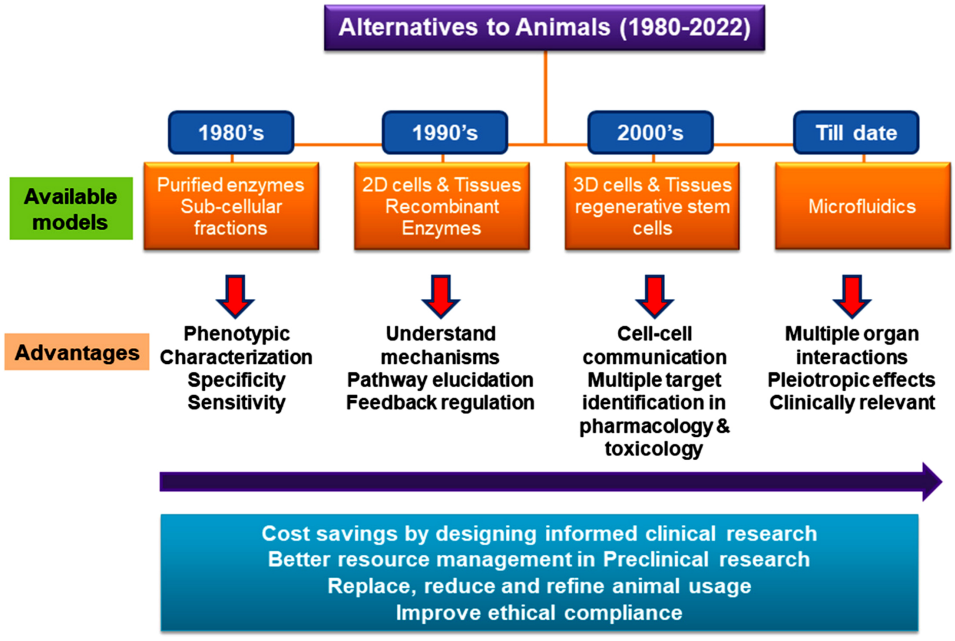

Fig. (1). Development of alternative research methods during the past 50 years.

CHAPTER 9

Newer Screening Software for Computer Aided Herbal Drug Interactions and its Development

Sunil Kumar Kadiri[1,*] and **Prashant Tiwari**[2]

[1] *Department of Pharmacology, College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dayananda Sagar University, K.S Layout, Bengaluru-560111, Karnataka, India*

[2] *Department of Pharmacology, Dayananda Sagar University, Bengaluru, India*

Abstract: Self-diagnosis and treatment by consumers as a means of reducing medical costs contribute to the predicted continued growth in the usage of herbal products. Herbal products are notoriously difficult to evaluate for potential drug interactions because of the wide range of possible interactions, the lack of clarity surrounding the active components, and the often insufficient knowledge of the pharmacokinetics of the offending constituents. It is a standard practice for innovative drugs in development to identify particular components from herbal goods and describe their interaction potential as part of a systematic study of herbal product drug interaction risk. By cutting down on expenses and development times, computer-assisted drug design has helped speed up the drug discovery process. The natural origins and variety of traditional medicinal herbs make them an attractive area of study as a complement to modern pharmaceuticals. To better understand the pharmacological foundation of the actions of traditional medicinal plants, researchers have increasingly turned to *in silico* approaches, including virtual screening and network analysis. The combination of virtual screening and network pharmacology can reduce costs and improve efficiency in the identification of innovative drugs by increasing the proportion of active compounds among candidates and by providing an appropriate demonstration of the mechanism of action of medicinal plants. In this chapter, we propose a thorough technical route that utilizes several *in silico* approaches to discover the pharmacological foundation of the effects of medicinal plants. This involves discussing the software used in the prediction of herb-drug interaction with a suitable database.

Keywords: Candidates, Computer-assisted, Cost, Composition, Components, Drug discovery, Drug design, Expenditures, Efficiency, Herbal products, *In silico*, Interactions, Medical, Medicinal plant, Pharmaceutical, Pharmacokinetics, Self-diagnosis, Traditional, Treatment, Virtual screening.

[*] **Corresponding author Sunil Kumar Kadiri:** Department of Pharmacology, College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, DayanandaSagar University, K.S Layout, Bengaluru-560111, Karnataka, India; E-mail: sunil.cology@gmail.com

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1. INTRODUCTION

A crucial component of our contemporary healthcare system is the use of pharmaceuticals and/or conventional treatments [1] which are referred to by a variety of names under different regulatory frameworks across the world. In contrast to traditional pharmaceuticals, the majority of herbs or their preparations have not undergone extensive testing for safety, effectiveness, and quality control before being marketed [2]. The co-administration of these herbs with Western medications, whether intentionally or accidentally, increases the risk of pharmacokinetic (PK) and/or pharmacodynamic (PD) herb-drug interactions (HDI) [3, 4]. This raises serious safety concerns, particularly for drugs like warfarin that have a narrow therapeutic index [5, 6], as well as for digoxin [7, 8]. Therefore, collecting and analyzing these reported HDIs would be extremely useful for primary care physicians and the public at large. Most studies on HDI, however, are case reports or poorly documented clinical notes. Reports of herb-drug interactions (HDI) are often disregarded as 'unable to be evaluated' in light of established criteria for determining the trustworthiness of studies for Western pharmaceuticals [7]. However, the development of HDIs does occur, and everyone is vulnerable to experiencing them at some point. Recognizing the therapeutic potential of HDI in the late 1990s, a small group of researchers and companies began building HDI databases using a range of information technologies(IT) [8-15]. These HDI databases are now divided into two groups, one including freely available resources and the other containing paid subscription information. Developing an HDI dataset follows the same three-step process as developing any other professional database. The initial two steps of creating a database are often the most time-consuming and complex since they necessitate the involvement of experts and professionals as well as technical assistance. However, the third phase contains the most time-consuming and labor-intensive jobs, which are also present during database creation and maintenance. Therefore, the building of databases is limited by the third stage of the process, which entails extracting structured data from texts written in natural languages. All kinds of natural language publications conceal HDI information. This covers summaries, journal articles, books, and reports on the assessment of medications. Researchers with backgrounds in medicine are the only ones equipped to do this sort of work. Without consistent funding, open-source databases seldom get updated after their original release. Successful commercial databases, on the other hand, might recuperate all costs involved with database creation and maintenance by charging users a subscription charge. Recent efforts to tackle labor and time-wasting problems in the construction of HDI databases have employed AI technologies to independently extract information on HDI from the literature. Subsequently, AI is utilized to present the collected data [16]. While the integration of AI brings clarity to the process of obtaining and evaluating HDI information from literature,

there remains a considerable gap to bridge before AI can fully substitute for departing medical specialists. Fig. (**1**) provides a schematic representation of HDI with known chemical substances.

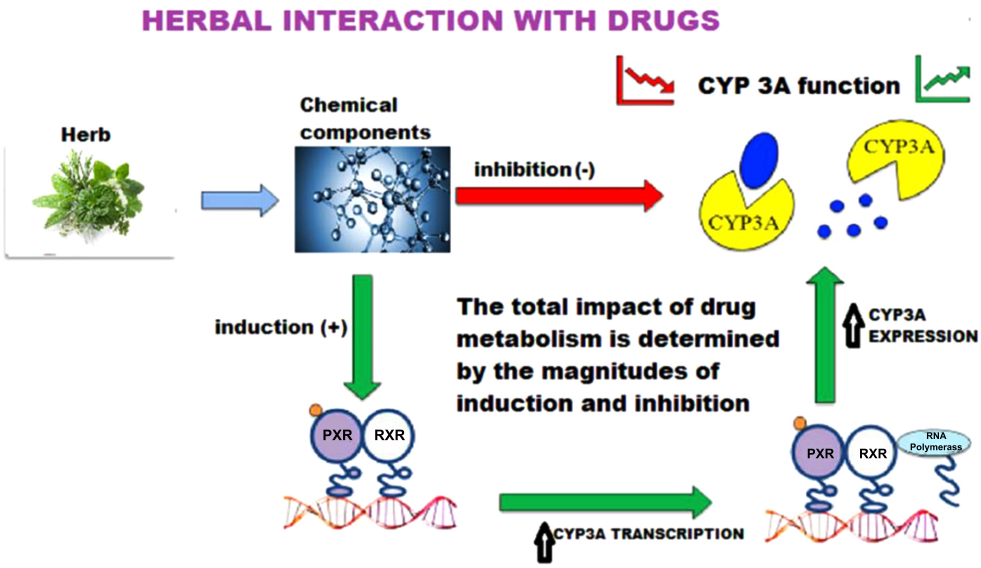

Fig. (1). Drug Interactions of herbs with chemical substances.

2. HDI ESTIMATIONS

2.1. Current Approaches

In contrast to qualitative descriptions of herb-drug interaction, future numerical forecasts of these interactions are still in their early stages. In the United States and Europe, at least, herbal products are not subject to the same level of regulation as conventional pharmaceuticals, therefore, there is often no requirement for a comprehensive assessment of HDI risk. When case reports documenting a potential interaction are received, or when results from *in vitro* experiments highlight a potential interaction, investigations into herb-drug interactions (HDI) are often initiated. A mechanistic understanding of HDIs could be enhanced through a prospective and systematic approach, which would enable the anticipation, reduction, and preferably avoidance of adverse HDIs [17].

2.2. Limitations of Current Strategies

Static equations are preferred over more advanced techniques because the latter are not adaptable enough to account for complicated interactions involving several components, such as PBPK modeling and simulation. The quality of

CHAPTER 10

Deliberations and Considerations of Mesodyn Simulations in Pharmaceuticals

Manisha Yadav[1], Dhriti Mahajan[1], Om Silakari[1] and **Bharti Sapra[1,*]**

[1] *Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences & Drug Research, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab, India*

Abstract: The main aim of this chapter is the detailed analysis of the Mesodyn module and how it is beneficial in the pharmaceuticals or drug delivery systems. These models are the generalization of a coarse-grained model in mesoscopic dynamics which is used for the field-based simulations of complex systems. A set of functional Langevin equations characterize the system's behavior. These computer-based simulation tools have been proven effective for providing information at molecular and mesoscopic scales and also for overcoming the limitations of wet lab experiments. So, this chapter will discuss the potential use of Mesodyn simulations in pre-formulations and various other applications for the rational designing of drug delivery systems after providing a brief theoretical background.

Keywords: Coarse-grained model, Drug delivery, Formulation, Investigations, Material studio, Molecular dynamics, Mesodyn, Pharmaceutics, Simulations.

1. INTRODUCTION

Drug delivery has been constrained due to biological systems' mechanical and chemical fragility [1]. To produce a precise and intended drug release profile; *in silico* simulations can assist in determining the needed composition of the drug delivery system and manufacturing process. Thus, the creation of therapeutic products may speed up and costly and time-consuming sets of trials can be substituted [2]. Recently, computer-assisted simulations have proven to be useful tools for delivering extra information at the molecular or mesoscopic scale, to address the limitations of the practical experimental investigations [3]. Mesoscopic dynamics models are gaining popularity as a link between slow macroscale thermodynamic relaxation and fast molecular kinetic features [4]. Mesoscale simulations offer important insights into the precise physico-chemical

* **Corresponding author Bharti Sapra:** Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Drug Research, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab, India; E-mail: Bhartijatin2000@yahoo.co.in.

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behavior of molecules and materials. Numerous properties, such as shape, solidity action, heterogeneity solubility, adherence adsorption, dispersion, spectral information, and structural properties can be directly determined [5]. "Biovia Material Studio 2022," suite of software consists of a Mesoscale simulation tool [6] which consists of two edge-cutting techniques that successfully address the physics and chemistry of mesoscale modeling Mesodyn and Dissipative Particle Dynamics (DPD) [1]. To achieve precise and targeted drug release profiles, *in silico* simulations can assist in determining the necessary composition of drug delivery systems and manufacturing processes. Consequently, the development of therapeutic products could be expedited, and resource-intensive and time-consuming sets of trials might be replaced [2]. Recently, computer-assisted simulations have demonstrated their utility as tools for providing additional insights at both the molecular and mesoscopic scales, aiming to address the limitations inherent in practical experimental investigations [3].

Mesoscopic dynamic models are increasingly gaining attraction as a bridge between the gradual thermodynamic relaxation observed at the macroscale and the rapid molecular kinetic features [4]. Mesoscale simulations offer valuable insights into the precise physicochemical behavior of molecules and materials. Various properties, such as shape, rigidity, mobility, heterogeneity, solubility, adhesion, adsorption, dispersion, spectral information, and structural properties, can be directly ascertained [5]. The suite of software known as "Biovia Material Studio 2022" includes a Mesoscale simulation tool [6], incorporating two state-of-the-art techniques that effectively address the physics and chemistry of mesoscale modeling: MesoDyn and Dissipative Particle Dynamics (DPD) [7]. One of the first applications of the Mesodyn method was for the study of the Microphase separation kinetics of real polymer systems, in which the water-based solution of the triblock polymer surfactant *i.e.* [(Ethylene oxide)$_{13}$ (Propylene oxide)$_{13}$ (Ethylene oxide)$_{13}$] was used [8]. Early in the 1990s, Akzo Nobel created Mesodyn to address a challenge, related to the stability of water-borne coatings [9]. Mesodyn is reported to have numerous applications in the field of drug delivery including active release patterns and formulation stability, compatibilization, the impact of hydrophobic medicines on the size of micelle in a Pluronic solution, as well as excipients' function [5]. According to classical mechanics, Molecular dynamics (MD) is a technique that simulates a complex system as a collection of interacting particles represented as atoms [10]. It is possible to resolve dynamic problems in MD without utilizing any approximations, where the intervals between completely elastic collisions, and particles move at a constant speed. Rahman made the first successful attempt in 1964 to use MD to model the way Lennard-Jones particles behave in phases in a realistically promising molecular system [11]. Drug delivery studies use MD simulations because they can monitor system behavior changes across large

spatial-sequential domain durations with atomic accuracy and high resolutions [12]. Fig. (**1**) depicts the process of molecular dynamics (MD).

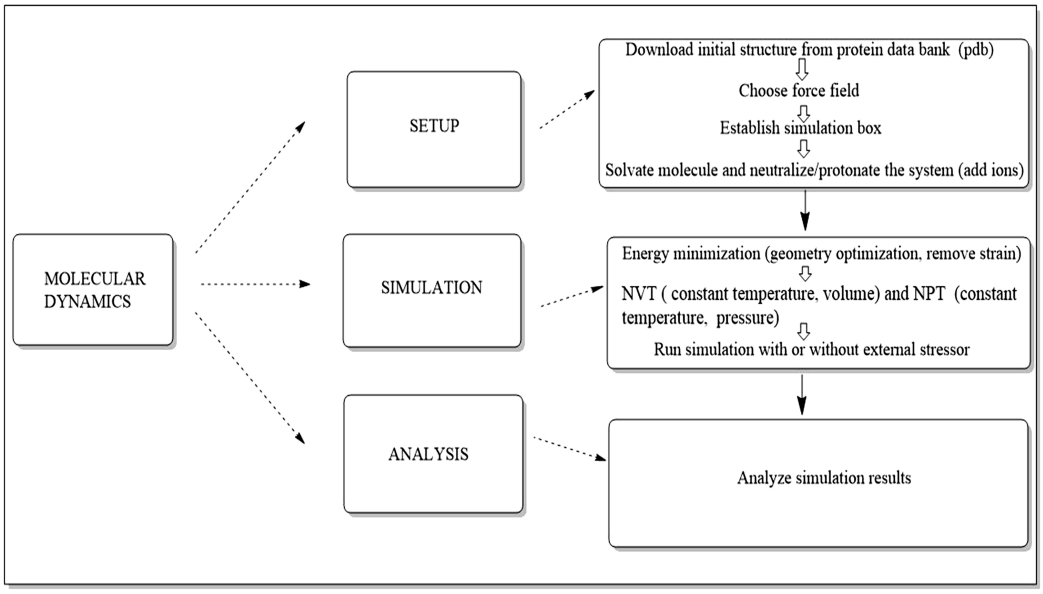

Fig. (1). Flow chart describing the process of molecular dynamics (MD).

2. MESOSCALE SIMULATIONS IN PHARMACEUTICS

Before development and manufacture, simulations predict the performance of innovative materials. Monte Carlo (MC) and MD simulations provide precise molecular information. The 0.1-10 nm molecule structure may be examined using atomistic simulation methods. A product's mesoscale range in formulation design is too large for atomistic simulations since it is 100–1000 nm. In such a scenario, coarse-grained simulations, such as dissipative particle dynamics (DPD), self-consistent field theory (SCFT), and dynamic mean-field density functional theory (Mesodyn) can provide a bridge between the atomistic scale and the continuum by providing direct input, such as property data into coarse-grained models [13]. The idea of a coarse-grained model has become an attractive alternative to atomistic models in building complex mesostructures like surfactants and various polymers. Considering the time and length scales at which these phenomena may occur, the utilization of standard molecular dynamics (MD) simulations at atomic precision is currently impractical. However, through the application of such potentials, the simulation of substantially larger systems over extended periods becomes feasible

CHAPTER 11

Computational Tools to Predict Drug Release Kinetics in Solid Oral Dosage Forms

Devendra S. Shirode[1,*], **Vaibhav R. Vaidya**[1] and **Shilpa P. Chaudhari**[1]

[1] *Department of Pharmacology, Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Pharmacy, Akurdi, Pune, Maharashtra, India*

Abstract: Dissolution is the concentration of a drug that goes into solution per unit of time under standard conditions of solid-liquid interface, temperature, and composition of solvent. In the pharmaceutical industry, *in vitro* dissolution testing has been established as a preferred method to evaluate the development potential of new APIs and drug formulations and to select the most appropriate solid form for further development. Dissolution allows the measurement of some important physical parameters, like drug diffusion coefficient, and is also used in model fitting on experimental release data. Kinetic modeling of drug release in dosage forms has served as a promising alternative to reduce bio studies in the development stage of pharmaceutical formulations. Qualitative as well as quantitative changes in a formulation that influence the performance of formulations can be predicted with the help of different computational tools. The present chapter plans to highlight various computational tools available online as well as offline such as PCP disso, DD solver, Kinetds, *etc*. along with these software, the effective use of Microsoft Office Excel tool for calculating drug kinetic studies is also discussed here.

Keywords: Computational tools, Dissolution, Drug release, Integrated software, Kinetics.

1. INTRODUCTION

The field of pharmaceutical sciences has witnessed remarkable advancements over the years, particularly in the design and development of solid oral dosage forms [1]. Among the critical attributes influencing the efficacy and safety of these dosage forms is the drug release kinetics, which governs the rate and extent at which a therapeutic agent is released from its matrix and becomes available for absorption in the body. Accurate prediction and control of drug release kinetics are pivotal for optimizing drug performance, ensuring patient compliance, and achieving desired therapeutic outcomes [2]. Traditionally, empirical approaches

[*] **Corresponding author Devendra S. Shirode:** Department of Pharmacology, Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Pharmacy, Akurdi, Pune, Maharashtra, India; E-mail: devendrashirode@dyppharmaakurdi.ac.in

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and trial-and-error methods have been employed to understand and manipulate drug release from solid oral dosage forms. However, these conventional techniques are often time-consuming, resource-intensive, and may not provide a comprehensive understanding of the underlying release mechanisms. In response to these challenges, computational tools have emerged as indispensable assets, offering a more systematic and efficient means of predicting and analyzing drug release kinetics [3].

This paper delves into the exciting realm of computational tools for predicting drug release kinetics in solid oral dosage forms. By harnessing the power of mathematical modeling, molecular simulations, and data-driven algorithms, researchers and pharmaceutical scientists can gain deeper insights into the intricate interplay of formulation parameters, physicochemical properties, and release mechanisms [4]. These computational tools not only expedite the drug development process but also enable a more rational and personalized approach to dosage form design. In the subsequent sections, we will explore a spectrum of computational techniques that have gained prominence in predicting drug release kinetics. From mechanistic models that elucidate diffusion and dissolution processes to advanced simulations that capture molecular interactions within the matrix, each approach contributes to unraveling the complexities of drug release behavior [5]. Moreover, we will discuss the potential implications of these tools in optimizing therapeutic efficacy, minimizing side effects, and shaping the future landscape of pharmaceutical research.

As the pharmaceutical industry continues its trajectory towards precision medicine and individualized therapies, the integration of computational tools into the drug development paradigm holds immense promise. By augmenting our understanding of drug release kinetics in solid oral dosage forms, these tools empower scientists to expedite innovation, enhance product quality, and ultimately improve patient outcomes [6]. This paper serves as a guide to navigating this burgeoning field, shedding light on the transformative potential of computational methodologies in shaping the future of pharmaceutical science.

2. CALCULATIONS AND VALIDATION OF DISSOLUTION MODELS USING MS EXCEL

In vitro dissolution testing has emerged as a promising method to ensure the quality of pharmaceutical formulations [6]. Dissolution studies are not only used to measure the amount of released drug but are also employed to ensure batch-to-batch reproducibility and analyze the effects of changes made to the formulation or manufacturing process on the formulation's performance [7]. They are also used to establish pharmaceutical equivalence for new formulations with similar

marketed formulations [8]. An appropriate dissolution model and its statistical analysis assist formulation scientists in predicting the drug's performance within a given formulation [9]. The different methods used to investigate the kinetics of drug release are classified into three types:

- Statistical methods like exploratory data analysis method, repeated measures design, and multivariate approach (MANOVA: Multivariate analysis of variance) [9, 10]
- Model dependent methods (zero order, first order, Higuchi, Korsmeyer-Peppas model, Hixson Crowell, Baker-Lonsdale model, Weibull model, *etc*.) [11 - 14]
- Model independent methods [difference factor (f1), similarity factor (f2)] [15 - 19]

Different mathematical functions of model-dependent methods can be used to describe the dissolution profile. Various model-dependent methods are zero order, Higuchi, first order, Hixson-Crowell, and Korsmeyer-Peppas. [20]

2.1. Zero-order Drug Release Model

In this, the equation used as per Kinetics to predict the dissolution profile is:

$$Co-Ct=Kot \quad \textbf{(1)}$$

Rearranging the equation number 1,

$$Ct=Co+Kot \quad \textbf{(2)}$$

where Ct is the amount of drug dissolved in time *t, C*0 is the initial amount of drug in the solution (most times, C0 = 0) and K0 is the zero-order release constant which is expressed in units of concentration/time [21 - 23]. Using this equation, we can calculate ko value. If it is constant then it follows Zero order release kinetics. The calculation of the percentage of drug released using zero-order and first-order dissolution methods it is given in Table **1**.

Table 1. Calculation of Percentage drug released using zero order and first order dissolution model.

Time (t)	Initial Amount Dissolved (Q0Q0)	Zero-Order Rate Constant (k0k0)	Amount Dissolved (QQ)
0	100	0.5	100
1	-	-	99.5
2	-	-	99.0

CHAPTER 12

Warp and Woof of Drug Designing and Development: An In-Silico Approach

Monika Chauhan[1], Vikas Gupta[2], Anchal Arora[3], Gunpreet Kaur[2], Parveen Bansal[2] and **Ravinder Sharma[4,*]**

[1] *School of Health Sciences and Technology, UPES, Dehradun, India*

[2] *University Center of Excellence in Research, BFUHS, Faridkot, India*

[3] *All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bathinda, India*

[4] *University Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research, BFUHS, Faridkot, India*

Abstract: Designing and developing a novel therapeutic drug candidate remains a daunting task and requires a long time with an investment of approximately ~USD 2-3 billion. Owing to the subpar pharmacokinetic or toxicity profiles of the therapeutic candidates, only one molecule enters the market over a period of 12 to 24 years. So, the reduction of cost, time, high attrition rate in the clinical phase, or drug failure has become a challenging and dire question in front of the pharmaceutical industry. In the last few decades, steep advancements in artificial intelligence, especially computer-aided drug design have emerged with robust and swift drug-designing tools. Existing reports have clearly indicated an imperative and successful adoption of virtual screening in drug design and optimization. In parallel, advanced bioinformatics integrated into genomics and proteomics discovering molecular signatures of disease based on target identification or signaling cascades has directly or indirectly smoothened the roadmap of the clinical trial. Integrated genomics, proteomics, and bioinformatics have produced potent new strategies for addressing several biochemical challenges and generating new approaches that define new biological products. Therefore, it is fruitful to utilize the computational-based high throughput screening methods to overcome the hurdles in drug discovery and characterize ventures. Besides that, bioinformatic analysis speed up drug target selection, drug candidate screening, and refinement, but it can also assist in characterizing side effects and predicting drug resistance. In this chapter, the authors have discussed a snapshot of State-of-the-Art technologies in drug designing and development.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Computer aided drug designing, Genomics, Pharmacokinetics, Proteomics.

[*] **Corresponding author Ravinder Sharma:** University Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research, BFUHS, Faridkot, India; E-mail: ravindersharma7@yahoo.com

1. INTRODUCTION

Drug discovery process, it is not shocking that the period from lead to the clinical candidate is sometimes called as "valley of death" [1]. The process of drug discovery is an expensive, time-taking process and the success rate is too low [2]. However, the lack of artificial intelligence limits the drug discovery and development process, by making it a tedious, costly, time-consuming, and challenging task in front of the pharmaceutical industry [3, 4]. Despite the implementation of successful strategies, 90% of drugs fail in the later stages of the drug development process due to a lack of optimal pharmacokinetic profile [5]. This urged and suggested the need to gear up with advanced *in silico* approaches to expedite the drug discovery process [6].

Computer-based applications can recognize hit to lead molecules, genomics, proteomics, and new biology involved in the genesis of disease. Further, it allows the improved and quicker validation and optimization of drug candidates and receptors [7]. Today, the complete adoption of *in silico* approaches in R&D has shifted the paradigm in drug discovery and, ultimately clinical development [8]. Herein, in this chapter, authors have tried to highlight commonly used software for new drug development along with their applications.

1.1. Drug Design

Inventing a new drug molecule remains a daunting task and requires a long time with an investment of ~USD 2-3 billion [9]. Integration of artificial intelligence with high throughput experimentation (Fig. **1**) has fastened up the research process by serving advanced applications such as PubChem (millions of small molecules) [10].

ZINC database (annotating millions of commercially available molecules) [11]; WOMBAT (claiming bioactivity information for molecules reported in medicinal chemistry journals) [12]; MDDR (candidate molecules under development) [13]; 3D MIND (Ligand-receptor interaction & cancer cell line screen data) *etc* [14, 15].

2. STRUCTURE-BASED DRUG DESIGN

Structure-based drug design (SBDD) relies on the information and availability of target structure and is based on the hypothesis that a molecule should interact with a receptor or target protein to exert a desirable therapeutic effect [16]. Since 1932, advancements in X-ray diffraction unveiled the chemical composition and 3D structure of organic molecules [17]. During the same time, immense growth in X-ray and NMR technology led to the determination of crystallographic structures of

the proteins and successfully elucidated the first (1st) structure of protein *i.e.* myoglobin [18]. Further, the establishment of the National Institute of Health US, National Library in the 1980s, attracted considerable attention toward the target structure determination. Crystallographic structures of the proteins are being reported in the databases like protein data bank (PDB) and in the past few decades, immense growth has been observed with a plethora (≈203084) of known proteins structure starting from seven (7) proteins in 1971 [19, 20]. The availability of high-quality three-dimensional (3D) structures of protein not only allows the researcher to understand the physiology and pathology of disease, but also fastened up the process of screening, and opens the door for rational-based drug discovery approaches. Captopril an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, in the 1980s, was the first successful outcome of target-based drug discovery [21]. Further, Viracept (nelfinavir mesylate; in 1997), the first ever completely designed HIV protease inhibitor using its known target structure [22, 23], sparked and facilitated the young minds in adopting these technologies for the development of new drug molecules. Some of the drug-target repositories and prediction tools are shown in Fig. (**2**).

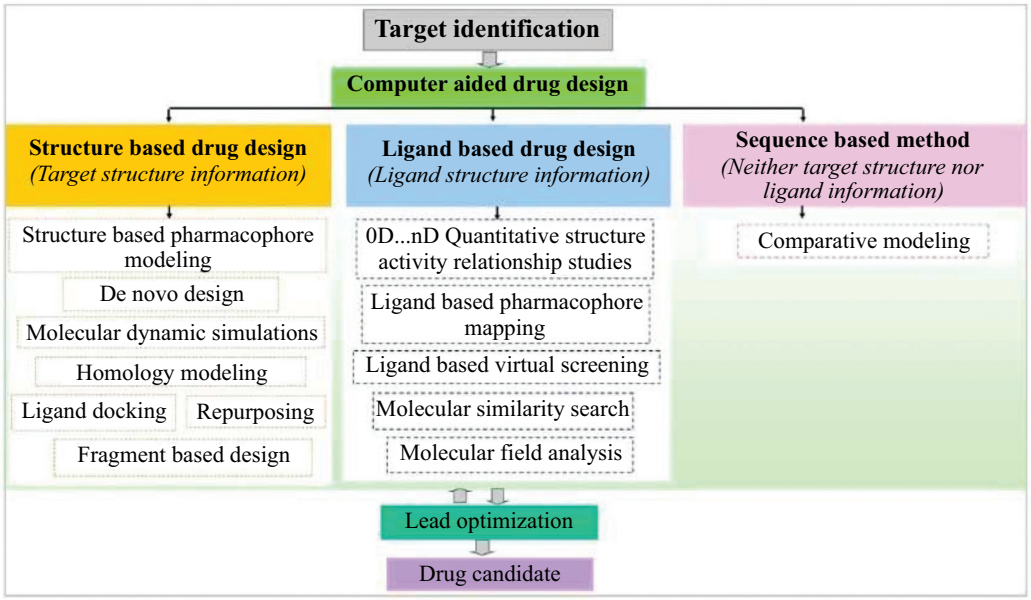

Fig. (1). High throughput computing tools in drug design.

CHAPTER 13

Data Interpretation and Management Tools for Application in Pharmaceutical Research

Arvinder Kaur[1,*], Avichal Kumar[1], Kavya Manjunath[2], Deepa Bagur Paramesh[1], Shilpa Murthy[3] and **Anjali Sinha[1]**

[1] *Department of Pharmaceutics, KLE College of Pharmacy, Constituent Unit of KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University), Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010, Karnataka, India*

[2] *Department of Pharmacology, KLE College of Pharmacy, Constituent Unit of KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University), Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010, Karnataka, India*

[3] *Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, KLE College of Pharmacy, Constituent Unit of KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University), Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010, Karnataka, India*

Abstract: The information flow in pharmaceutical research before data interpretation and management was largely manual and simple, with limited application of technology. Establishing the research objective, designing the study, collecting data, analyzing data, and interpreting the result were laborious, tedious, and time-consuming processes. Manually entering and sorting a large amount of data made researchers more prone to human errors, leading to incorrect and invalid results. The chapter draws on data mining, data abstracting, and intelligent data analysis to collectively improve the quality of drug discovery and delivery methods. To develop new drugs and improve existing treatments, software can be used to analyze large datasets and identify patterns that help understand how drugs interact with the body. Virtual models of organs and cells are employed to study the effects of drugs, automate drug testing, and predict adverse drug reactions. Pharmaceutical management tools, such as pharmacy management software, electronic prescription software, inventory management software, and automated dispensing systems, are highly valuable for managing inventory, tracking patient prescriptions, monitoring drug interactions, maintaining patient information and history, and providing up-to-date drug information. The main objective of this chapter is to highlight the various tools and software solutions available and how they can facilitate the research process to ensure compliance with relevant regulations and laws regarding human healthcare safety.

[*] **Corresponding author Arvinder Kaur:** Department of Pharmaceutics, KLE College of Pharmacy, Constituent Unit of KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University), Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010, Karnataka, India; E-mail: kaurarvinder@outlook.com

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Keywords: Automated dispensing system, Electronic prescription software, Intelligent data analysis, Inventory management software, Pharmaceutical management tools, Virtual model.

1. INTRODUCTION

Pharmaceutical research is a crucial field of study because it involves the constant development of new medicines and treatments for a wide range of medical conditions. This process demands extensive experimentation and analysis to identify novel potential treatments and assess their safety and efficacy [1].

These tools are intended to boost research productivity and success, producing more trustworthy and accurate results. This has led to an increased reliance on cutting-edge technology and software in pharmaceutical research, allowing scientists to study complex biological systems and create new treatments and pharmaceuticals more swiftly than before. This essay will discuss some of the relevance.

Interpreting data is an essential part of pharmaceutical research and is necessary for drawing valid conclusions about the development, efficacy, and safety of medications. The increasing volume of data generated by contemporary pharmacological research has made data interpretation more challenging [2]. It involves combining data from various sources to make informed judgments that can guide the creation of novel therapies and drugs. Effective data interpretation in the pharmacy sector requires a combination of specialized expertise, scientific acumen, and subject knowledge. Additionally, examining complex data sets and drawing conclusions necessitate the use of sophisticated software and statistical techniques. The importance of accurate data comprehension in this context cannot be overstated since it enables scientists to make decisions regarding patient care, public policy, and the course of action based on readily available facts. The highest level of patient care and the financial sustainability of healthcare organizations depend on the efficient management of pharmaceutical resources, including medications, equipment, and personnel. Pharmacies employ various management technologies, such as staff scheduling software, performance monitoring tools, and inventory management systems to achieve these objectives [3]. These tools assist pharmacists in streamlining their processes, reducing waste, and improving patient outcomes. This article outlines the frequently used management tools in pharmacies and describes their applications in diverse pharmacy contexts. It also examines the advantages and challenges associated with implementing these innovations, highlighting the importance of thorough planning and research when introducing new administrative systems. This study

underscores the significance of management tools in optimizing pharmaceutical operations and enhancing patient care.

2. HISTORY

Data management and storage require specialized equipment. Various methodologies have been employed throughout the history of medical research, and contemporary technology has also simplified the management of complex data. Edward H. Shortliffe examines the importance of striking a successful balance between modern thinking methods and advancements in information infrastructure, adherence to international standards, and education [4].

2.1. Conventional Approach

In the past, research in medical science relied solely on manual data entry and data screening methods. Since 1993, research data and information processing have undergone significant advancements. In fact, the data collected and exchanged across various research laboratories and healthcare facilities are evolving rapidly. What used to be isolated databases or laboratory information systems are now integrated into departmental, hospital, community, and research-based medical information systems. With the increasing volume of data, extracting relevant information for decision support has become increasingly challenging. Traditional manual data analysis is no longer sufficient, necessitating the development of efficient computer-based analysis techniques. Two notable examples of these techniques are data abstraction and data mining [5].

2.2. Computer and Software Resolutions

Artificial intelligence serves as a reminder that computers in medicine are by no means a recent development. Numerous industries use computers in similar ways, and few technical advances have been explicitly sparked by what can be called “business computing” in the medical field. It doesn't appear realistic that these computerized medical applications will “reshape” medicine, nevertheless. Computers haven't significantly changed the kind of decisions made or how they are made during the previous 20 years.

We recognize that the lack of valid perspectives on enhancing executives' critical thinking abilities can significantly exacerbate this issue [6]. Similarly, during that time, most medical business computers had a minimal impact on the work of doctors. A secondary, less common use of computers in medicine was focused on the content rather than the format of healthcare. Computers were primarily tasked with maintaining medical records, laboratory data, clinical trial information, and other data, provided they could effectively manage billing records. Furthermore, if

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Dilpreet Singh

Prof. Dilpreet Singh is working as Assistant Professor at Chandigarh University, Mohali. He did M. Pharm and Ph.D. from Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar and qualified (GPAT) thrice. His current research interests focus on bioavailability and enhancement of drugs including phytochemicals using lipid based technology, design of experiments/quality by design paradigms, systematic optimization. He has 89 publications with cumulative impact factor of 192.11 in the international journal of repute. He got an Extraordinary Achievement Award from the Institute of Transgene Life Sciences in Lucknow. He completed 18 MOOC courses from different international universities, 2 Swayam courses in UGC Platform with distinction. He also qualified CSIR-NET with all India Rank 132 and Intellectual Property Talent Search Examination (IPTSE) with distinction.

Prashant Tiwari

Prof. Prashant Tiwari is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacology, College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dayananda Sagar University, Bengaluru, India. He completed Ph.D. from Siksha O Anusandhan (Deemed to be) University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India. He has teaching and research experience of 13 years. He is a lifetime member of multiple professional bodies such as, LASAI, APTI, SPER, ERDA, PESOTS, and IPES. He received awards such as, Dr. P. D. Patil National Award for Best Thesis in Pharmaceutical Sciences-2022, Young Scientist Award, Young Talent Award, and Best Teacher Award. He published 65 papers in peer-reviewed journals, authored 9 books, 6 book chapters, 07 patents in the domain of pharmaceutical sciences. His current Google scholar h-index is 13; i18-index and number of citations- 6780. He guided 09 M. Pharm and 03 Ph.D. scholars at Dayananda Sagar University, Bengaluru, India. His research areas include neurodegenerative disorders, drug interaction, PK/PD, and metabolic disorders.