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# In silico screening to discover inhibitors of protein-protein interactions targeting angiogenesis

Maria A. Miteva



Molécules Thérapeutiques *in silico* (MTi)  
Inserm U973 – University Paris Diderot  
Team “VLS, PPI & ADMET *in silico*”

Valencia, August 25, 2015

# Modulate PPIs by low MW compounds

- Estimated 150.000 to 650.000 PPIs insufficiently exploited  
*(Stumpf et al PNAS 2008)*
- Many PPI associated to specific diseases *(Wells & McClendon Nature 2007)*

Growing interest of industry to low MW PPI modulators

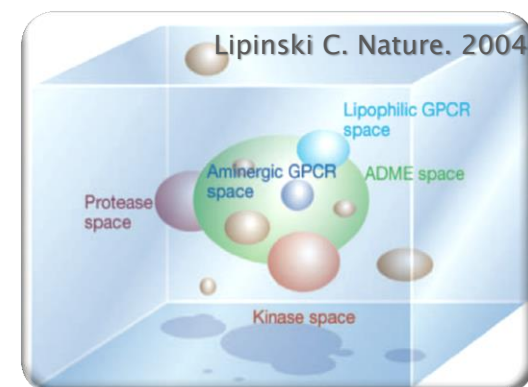
20 LMW PPI cmpds are in phase I to III clinical trials;

Expected sales worldwide of over \$800 million/year within 4 years

*(Mullard Nature Rev Drug Discov 2012)*

- It is difficult to modulate PPI with a small molecule:
  - ✓ PPI interfaces: flat, large, flexible
  - ✓ no sufficient data on chemical space to modulate PPI

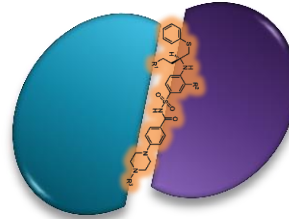
**NO SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE ON KEY PHYSICO-CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF LOW MW PPI MODULATORS COMPARED TO OTHER PROTEIN FAMILIES !**



# Modulation of PPIs

## Examples of modulation

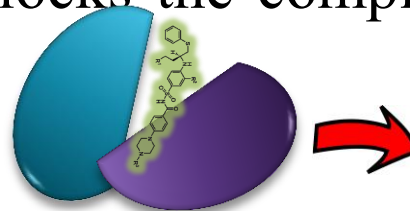
- ▶ **Orthosteric inhibition:**



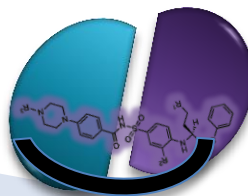
- ▶ **Allosteric inhibition:** (conformation, dynamics)



- ▶ **Interfacial binders:** the ligand binds to a pocket that is transiently formed and locks the complex in a nonproductive conformation



- ▶ **Stabilization** of PPIs (here also different mechanisms)

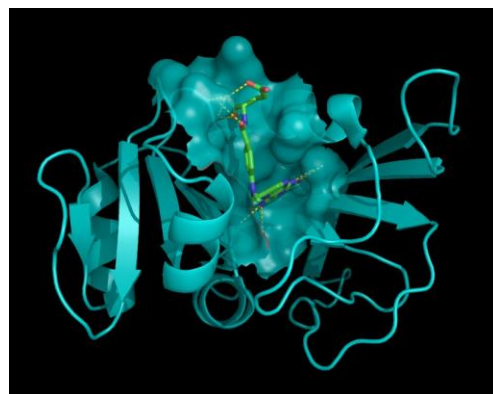
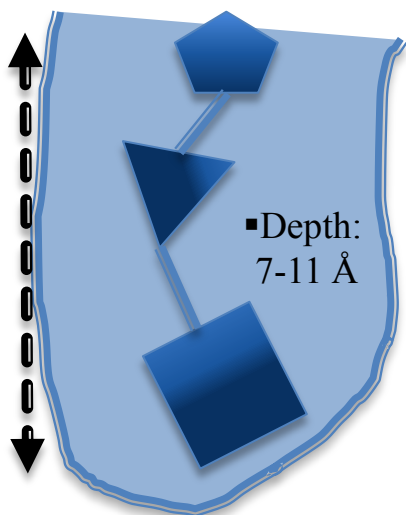


- Jin et al. *Annual Rev Pharmacol Toxicol*, 2014
- Ottmann et al. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 51, 2012
- Zhang et al. *Plos One* 2014 9:e110884



# Small-molecule (LMW) binding pockets

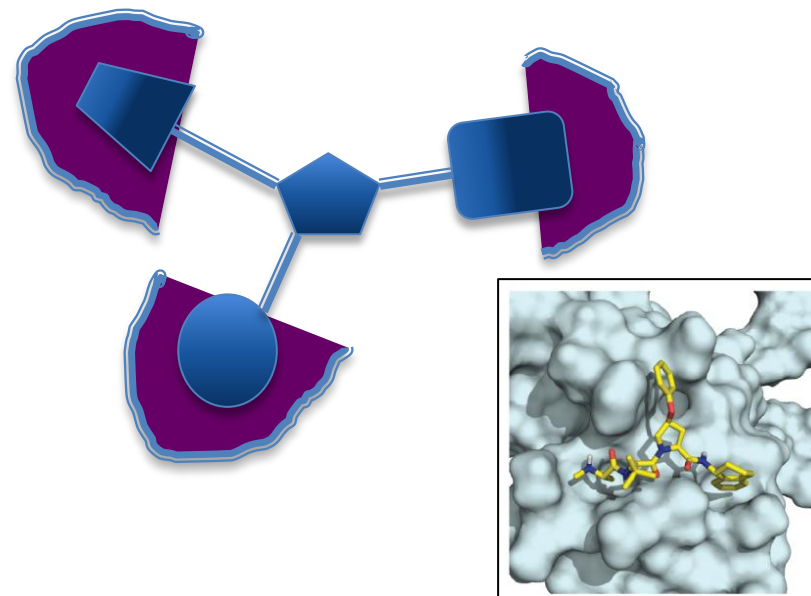
Cmpds have been essentially developed for regular pockets



## Enzyme pockets

- Hydrophobicity: 60 to 80 %
- Surface area: 300-600Å<sup>2</sup>
- Volume (smaller for allosteric): ~500 Å<sup>3</sup>

*Perot et al. Drug Discov Today 2010*  
*Li et al, J Mol Graphics & Model, 2013*  
*Gao & Skolnick, Plos Comput Biol, Oct 2013*



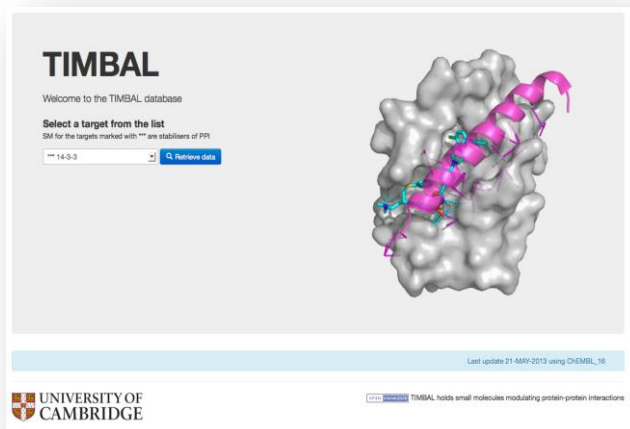
## “PPI pockets”

- In general 3 to 5 subpockets, each ~ 50 Å<sup>3</sup>
- Transient pockets
- Interface regions likely to be ligandable are more predisposed to surface pocket formation

*Fuller et al., Jackson, DDT 2009*  
*Eyrisch & Helms, 2007*  
*Karanicolas et al, Plos Comput Biol, 2013*

# LMW Modulators of PPI :Databases

**Need data to learn :**

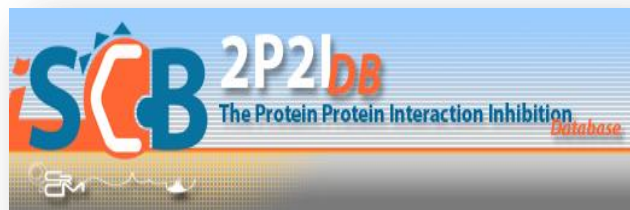


**TIMBAL**  
Welcome to the TIMBAL database  
Select a target from the list  
SM for the targets marked with \*\*\* are stabilizers of PPI  
\*\*\* 14-3-3 [Retrieve data]  
Last update: 21-MAY-2013 using ChEMBL\_16  
TIMBAL holds small molecules modulating protein-protein interactions  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

TIMBAL : small molecules that modulate PPI created in 2008, by manually curating information; Now automated searches on the ChEMBL database (about 8000 cmpds)

*Higueruelo et al, 2009*

*Blundell Lab, Chem Biol & Drug Design*



**SCB 2P2I\_DB**  
The Protein Protein Interaction Inhibition Database

2P2I<sub>DB</sub> : structures of PPI complexes with known small molecule inhibitors; ~200 small molecule inhibitors (**hand-curated**)

*Basse et al, NAR, 2013*

*Bourgeas et al, PlosOne 2010, (Morelli's lab)*



**MTI iPPI-DB**  
Inhibitors of Protein-Protein Interaction Database

iPPI-DB : 1650 (soon ~2000) non-peptidic inhibitors across 13 families of PPI (**hand-curated**)

*Labbé et al. Drug Discov Today 2013*

*Villoutreix et al. Mol Inform 2014*

# iPPI-DB: A Unique Database of small-molecule modulators of PPI

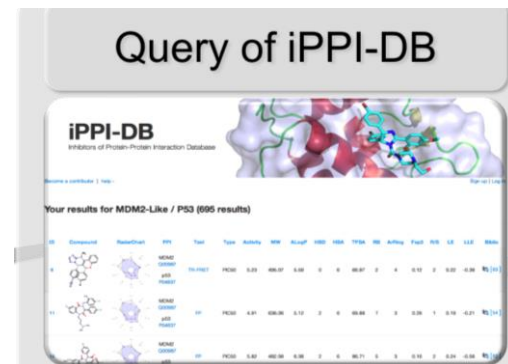
## • Source

- Litterature (PubMed), world patents
- Manually curated by a medicinal chemist

## • Criteria

- Activity : IC50, Ki, Kd, EC50 --> < 30  $\mu$ M
- Absence of reactive or promiscuous groups
- Rule out peptides (Absence of 3 continuous peptide bonds) & macrocycles

*Labbé et al. Drug Discov Today 2013*



Nb of iPPI

Nb of assay  
data

Nb of PPI

Nb of References

1650

2435

31

117

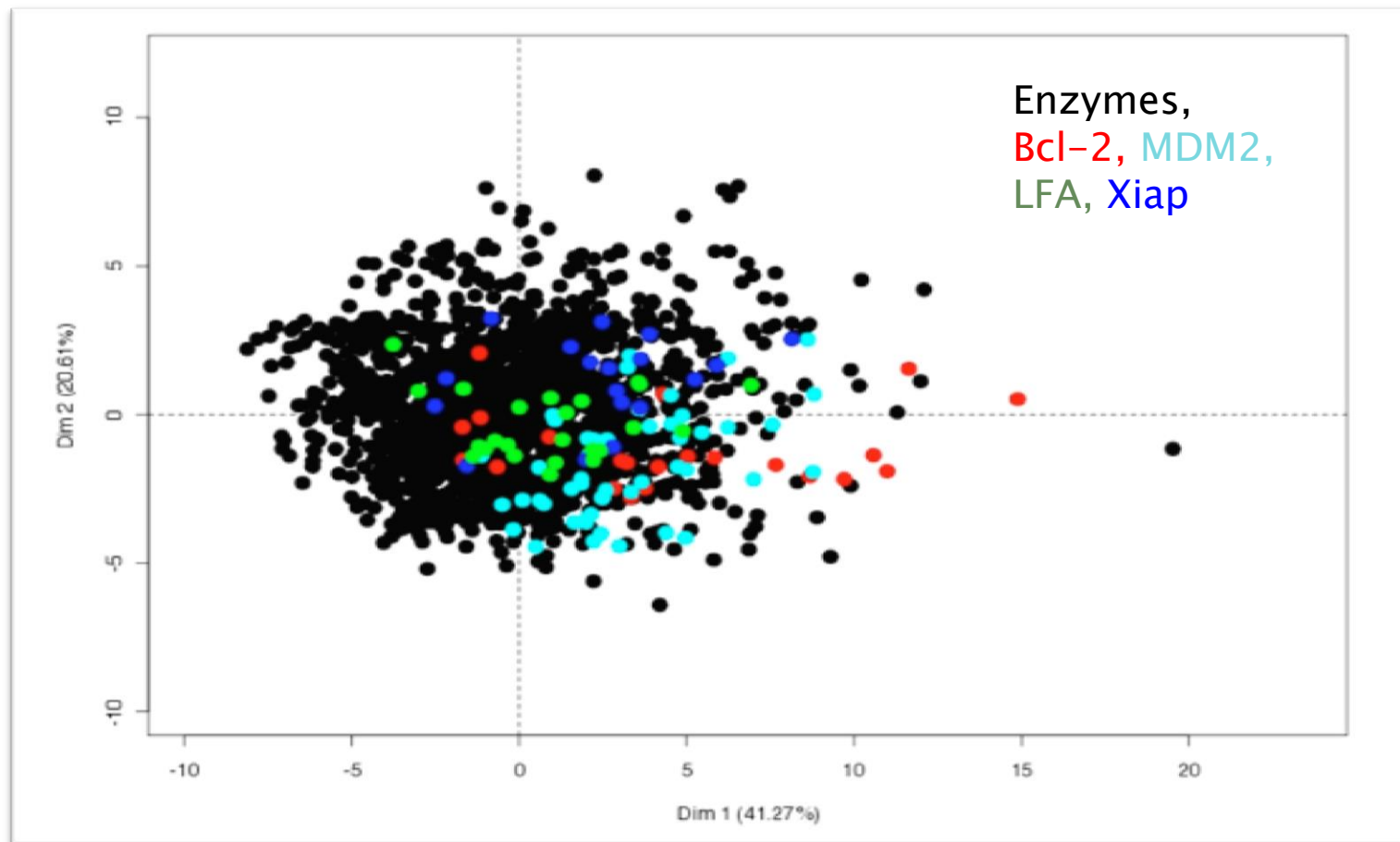
84 articles

33 world patents

<http://www.ippidb.cdithem.fr>



# Chemical Space of i-PPI

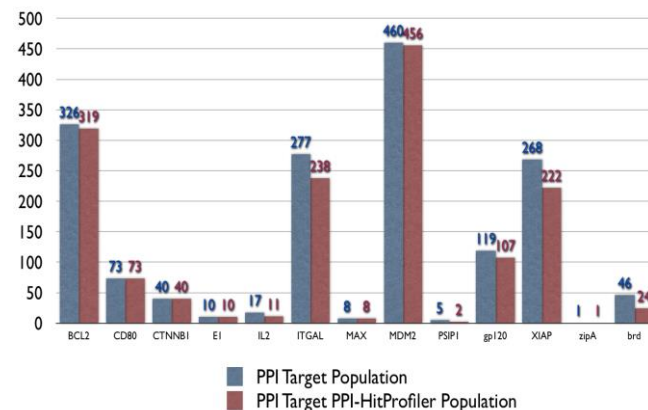


- PPI modulators do not cover the chemical space of enzyme inhibitors:  
? Need of new PPI modulators

# iPPI-Focused collections

## Original Filter: PPI-HitProfiler

- ▶ Specific molecular shape
- ▶ Multiple bonds and aromatic rings
- ▶ Validated on the experimental binding data of 500,000 cmpds from PubChem BioAssay and 11 PPI targets



*iPPI-lib HitProfiler*

<http://www.cdithem.fr/getPPIHitProfiler.php> or via FAFDrugs3

*Sperandio et al. Plos Comput Biol 2010*

## iPPI-lib

3 mln PubChem cmps → FAF-Drugs3 → PPI-HitProfiler → FCFP\_4 Tanimoto 0.3  
50,000 drug-like i-PPI like molecules

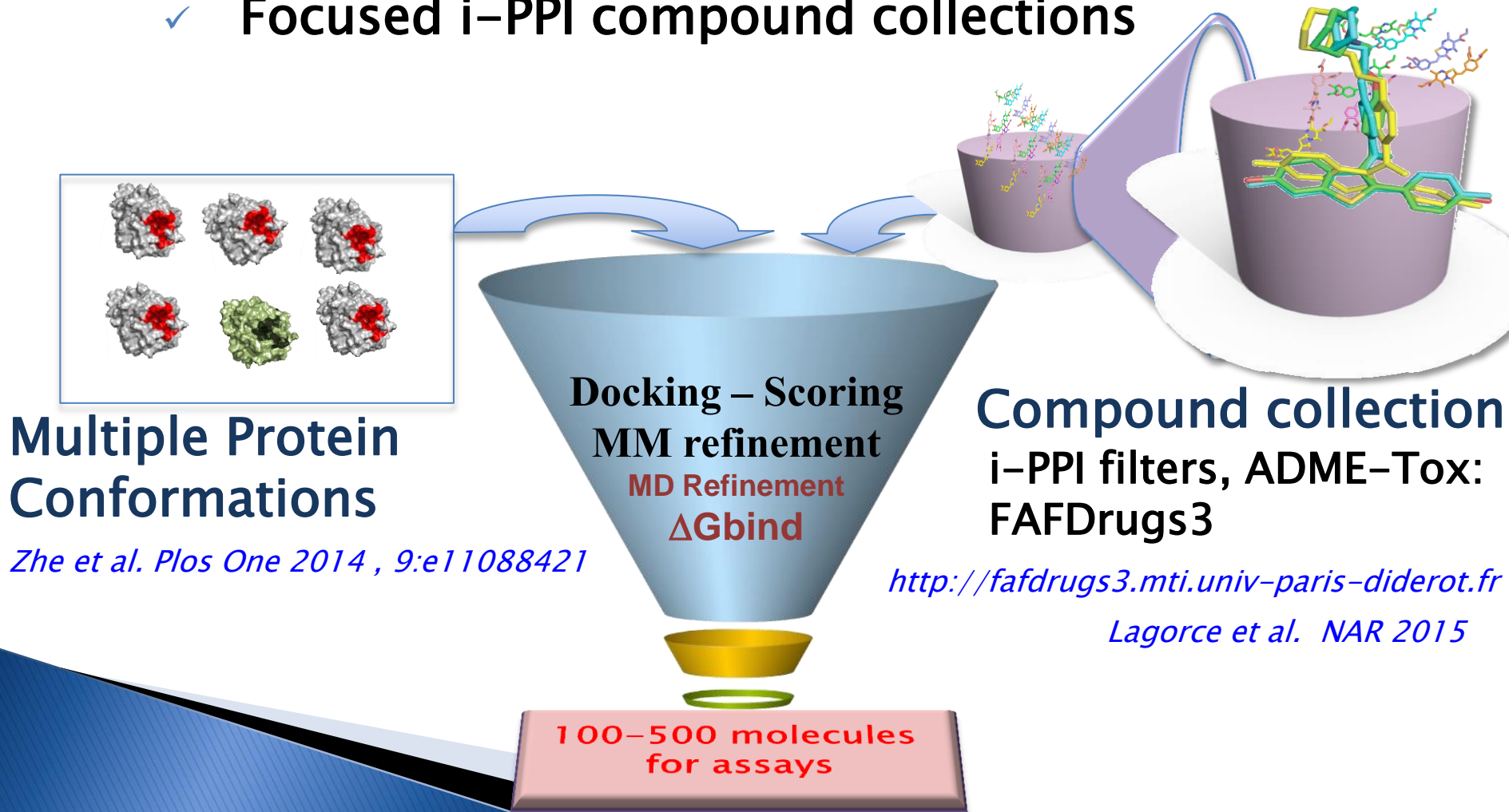
*iPPI-lib & MTiOpenScreen web-server*

<http://bioserv.rpbs.univ-paris-diderot.fr/services/MTiOpenScreen/>

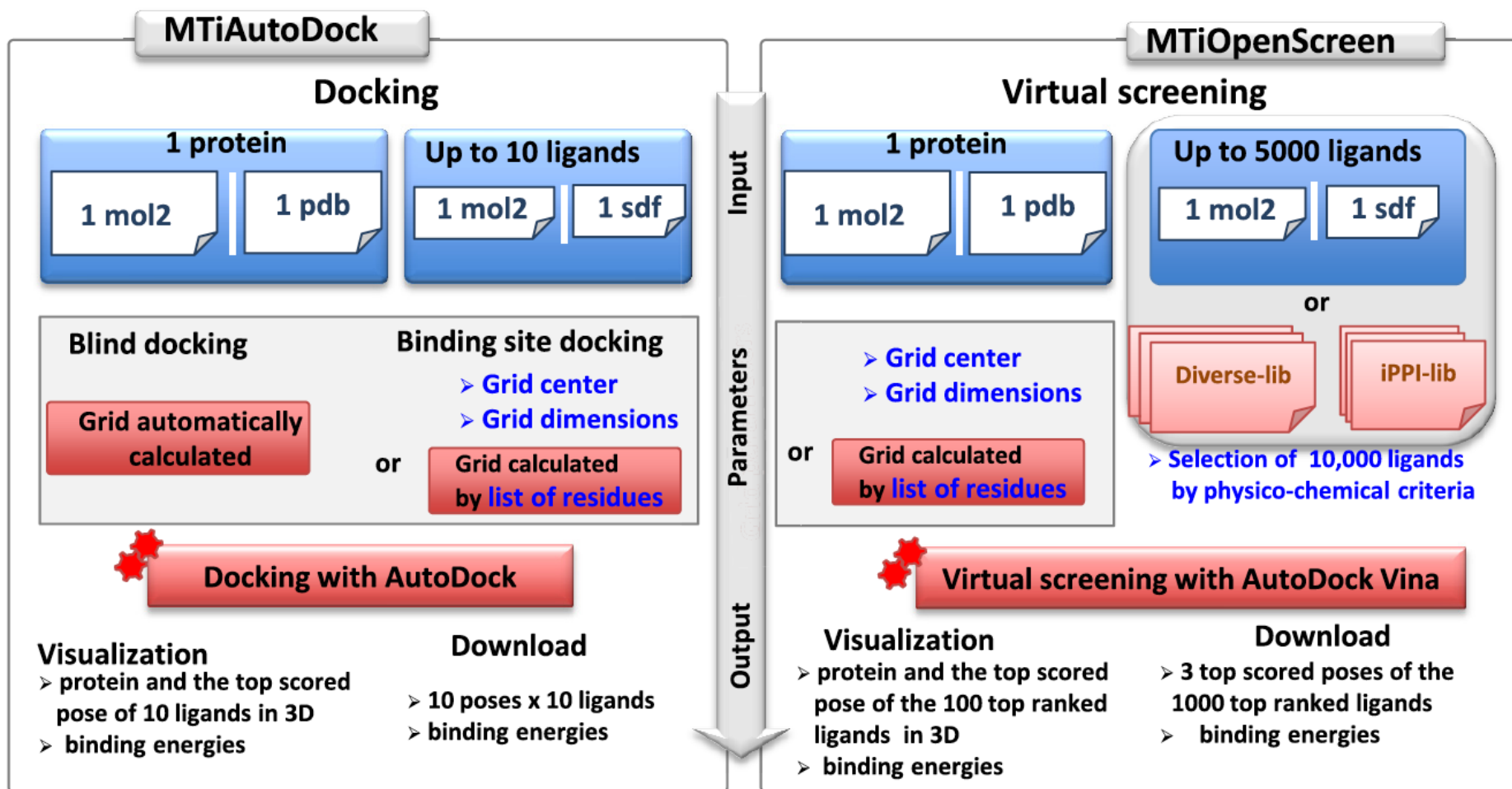
*Labbe et al. NAR 2015*

# Our Structure-based VS approach

- ✓ Protein receptor flexibility
- ✓ ADME-Tox filtering
- ✓ Focused i-PPI compound collections



# MTiOpenScreen web-server



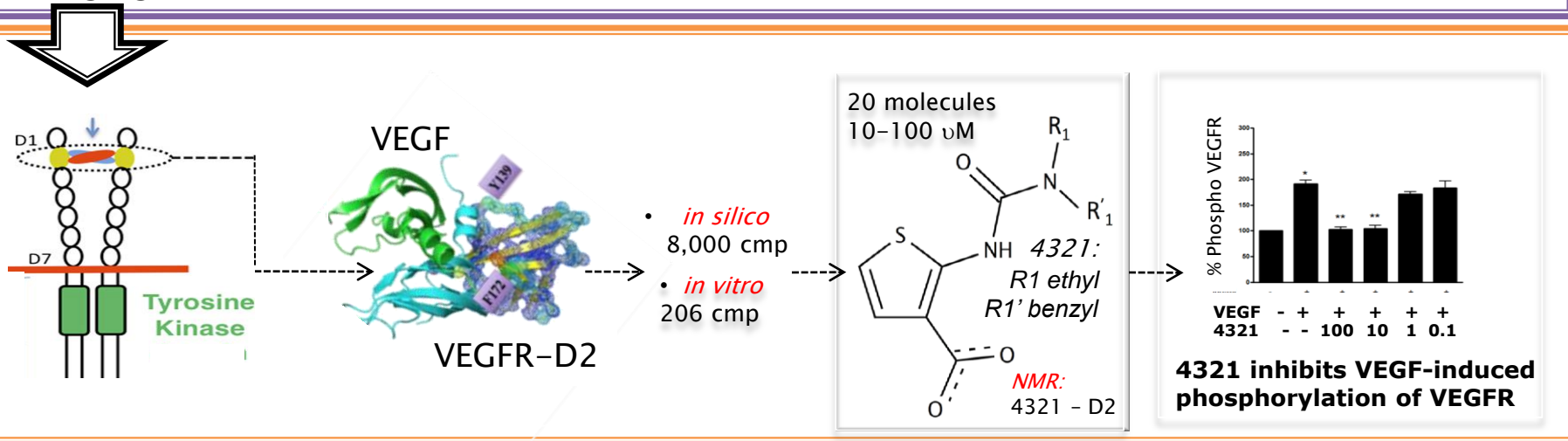
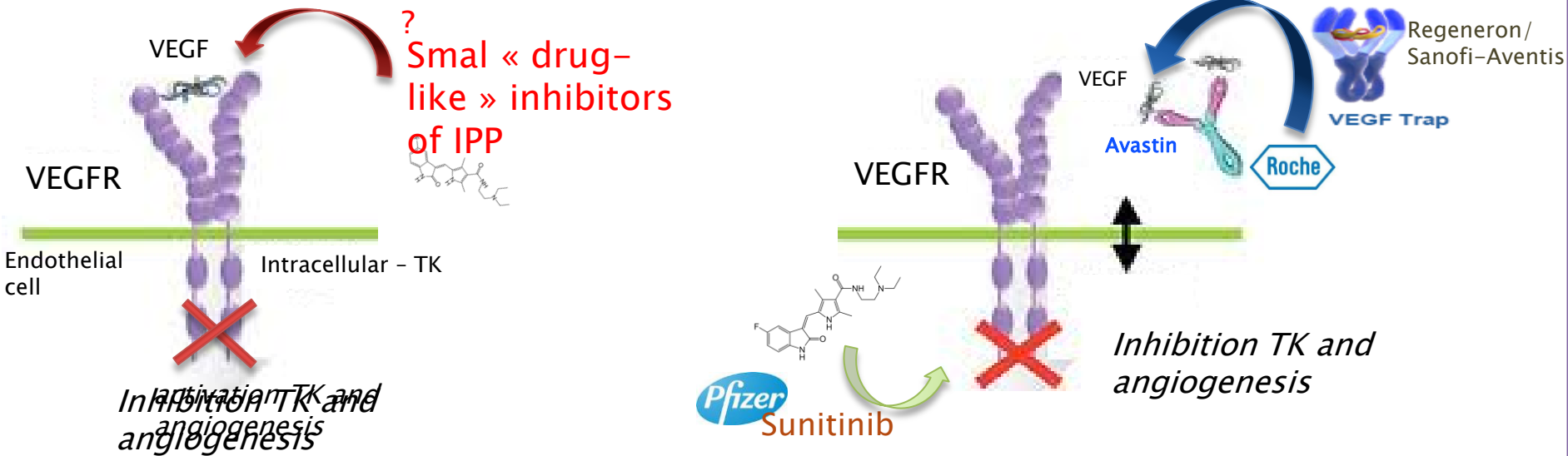
<http://bioserv.rpbs.univ-paris-diderot.fr/services/MTiOpenScreen/>

Labbe et al. NAR 2015

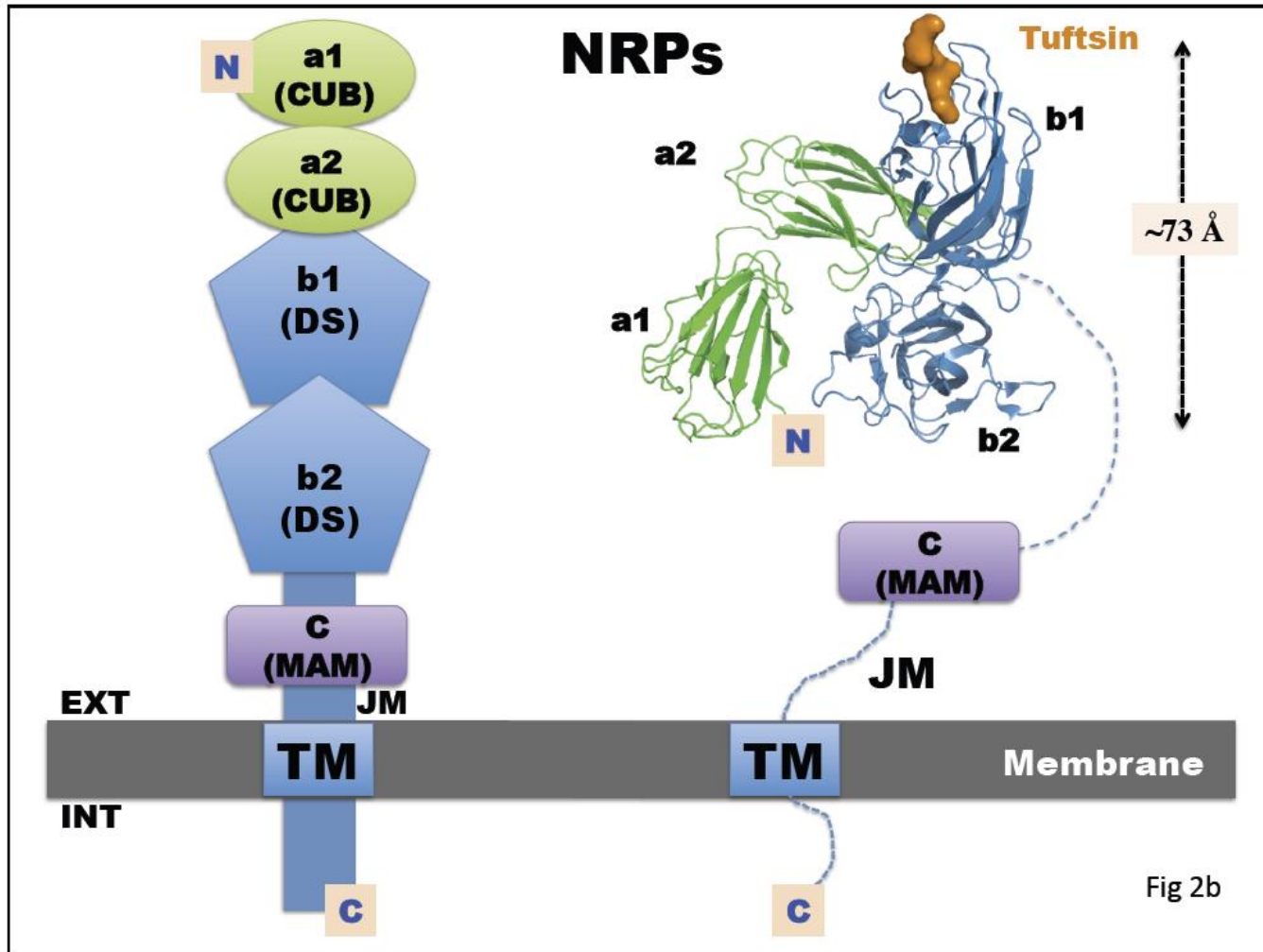




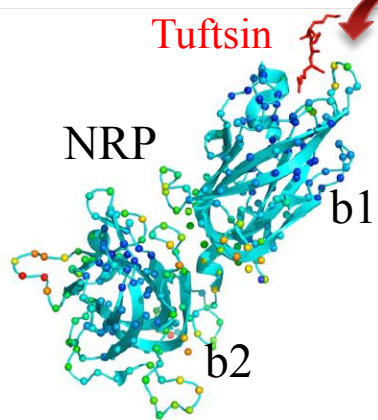
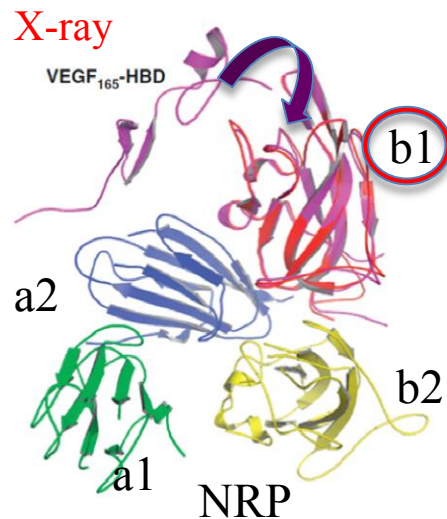
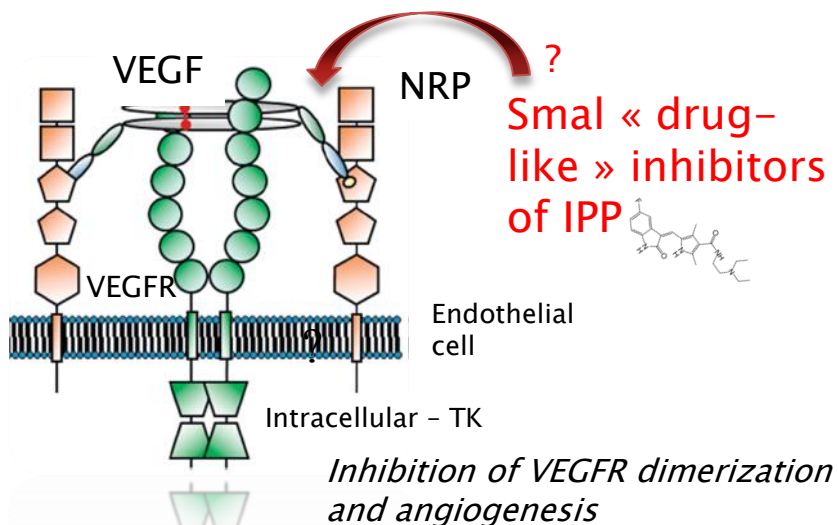
# Anti-angiogenic drug-like molecules blocking VEGF-VEGFR



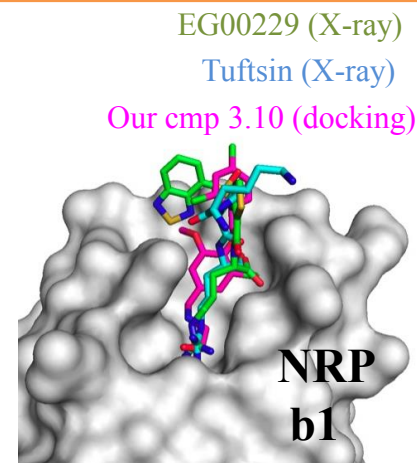
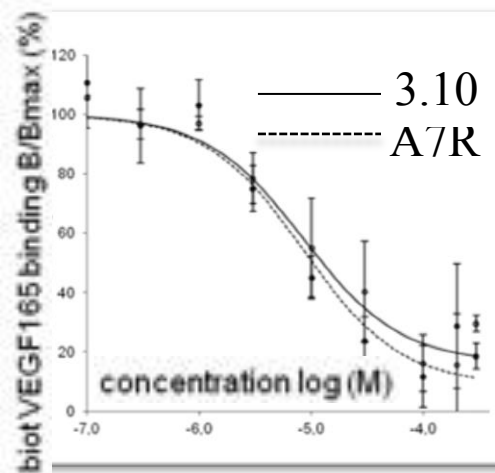
# Anti-angiogenic drug-like molecules blocking VEGF-NRP



# Anti-angiogenic drug-like molecules blocking VEGF-NRP



- SBVS
- *MS-DOCK, SF*
- 500,000 cmp
- *in vitro*
- 508 cmp
- *Ligand Info*
- 70 cmp
- *in vitro*
- 133 cmp

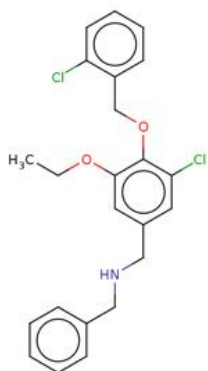


New scaffold: 4 cmpds with <4 microm affinity to NRP

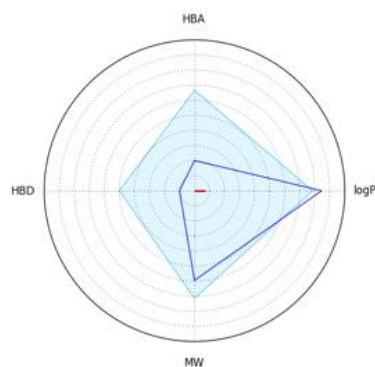
# Anti-angiogenic drug-like molecules blocking VEGF-NRP

$K_i$ : 11 micro-M; log P: 5.9; MW: 453; LE: 0.2, **PPI-hit-Profiler**: yes (**FAF-Drugs3 server**)  
Some other cmpds have better physchem properties... For the time being, proof of concept studies

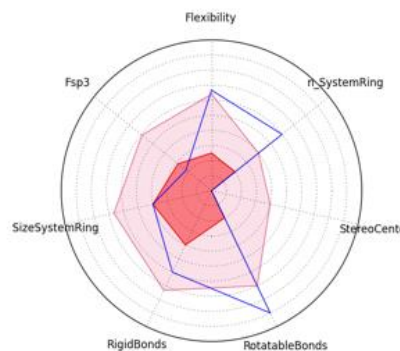
2D Structure



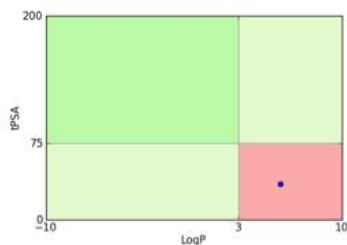
PhysChem Filter Positioning



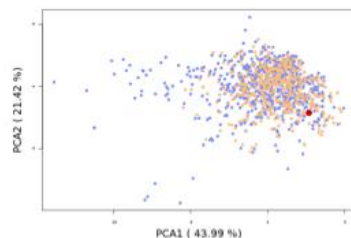
Compound Complexity



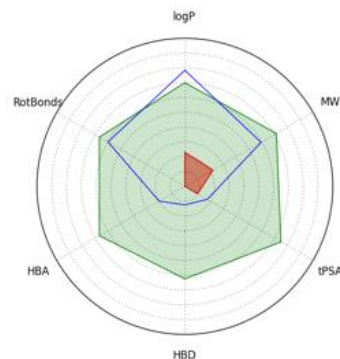
Pfizer 3/75 Rule Positioning



Oral Property Space



Oral Absorption Estimation



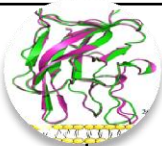
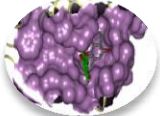

## Oral Bioavailability

- Lipinski RO5
- Veber Rule
- Egan Rule
- Bayer Oral Physchem Score

## Drug Safety Profiling

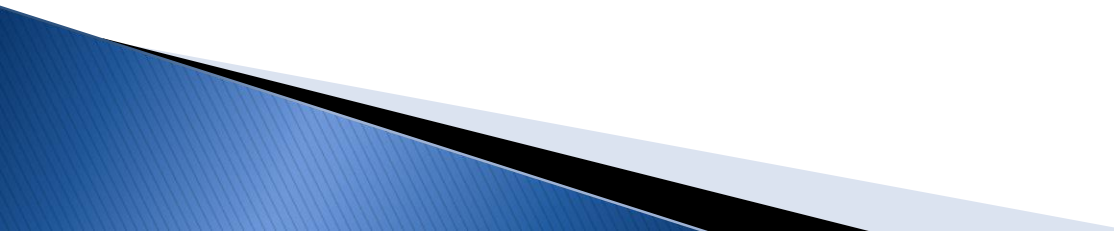
- GSK 4/400 Rule
- Pfizer 3/75 Rule
- Phospholipidosis Non Inducer
- Lilly MedChem Rules : PASS

## Success stories are growing rapidly !

Drug Target	Diseases	Docking software	Drugs / hits
<b>HIV integrase</b> <i>McCammon group, J Med Chem, 2004</i>	AIDS	AutoDock MRC Relaxed scheme	<b>Isentres</b> <b>(Merck)</b>
<b>Mycobacterium tuberculosis HisG ATP transferase</b> <i>Cho et al. J Med Chem 2008</i>	tuberculosis	GOLD, FlexX	<b>IC50=4 uM</b>
<b>Insulin-like Growth Factor-1 Receptor (RTK)</b> <i>Liu et al. J Med Chem 2010</i>	cancer	Receptor-based pharmacophore, Glide XP	<b>IC50=0.05 uM</b>
<b>Factor V/VIII – membrane interactions</b> <i>Segers et al. PNAS 2007</i>	 coagulation system, thrombosis	FRED, Surflex, LigandFit	<b>IC50=3.5 uM</b>
<b>Enzymes: CDC25, proteasome,..</b> <i>Montes et al. J Chem Inf Model 2008</i> <i>Maréchal et al. Curr Med Chem 2013 ...</i>	 cancer	FRED, Surflex, LigandFit	<b>IC50=13 uM</b>
<b>PPI: SYK kinase, VEGFR, NRP, SMS</b> <i>Starzec et al. Bioorg Med Chem. 2014</i> <i>Zhang et al. Plos One 2014 ...</i>	 allergies, cancer, rare diseases	MS-DOCK, MD Surflex, Vina	<b>IC50= 4 uM</b>



# Conclusions

- ❖ Structure-based VS methods are well established to identify new hits
  - ❖ Importance of ADME-Tox filtering of compound collections
  - ❖ PPI modulators focused compound collections
  - ❖ Protein flexibility consideration
- 

# Acknowledgements



Team “Virtual screening,  
PPI modulators – ADMET”

- ▶ Dr. Olivier Sperandio
- ▶ Dr. David Lagorce
- ▶ Céline Labbé (Engineer)
- ▶ Isabella Guedes (*PhD student*)
- ▶ Mélaïne Kuenemann (*PhD student*)
- ▶ Dr. Zhe Zhang (*former PhD student*)
- ▶ Dr. Virginie Martiny (*former PhD student*)
- ▶ Dr. Pierre Tuffery (team Peptide design)
- ▶ Dr. Bruno Villoutreix (Dir. MTi)

## Collaborations

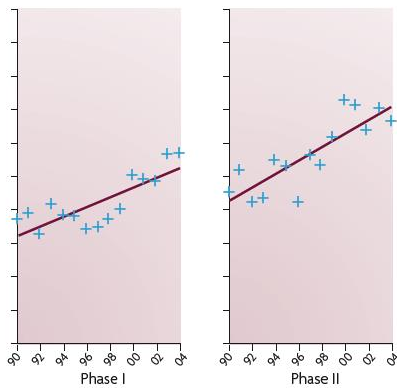
- Dr. P. Vayer (Lab. Servier, Orléans)
- Pr. M. Vidal (Univ. Paris Descartes)
- Pr. C. Garbay (Univ. Paris Descartes)
- Dr. A. Starzec (Univ. Paris 13)
- Pr. G. Perret (Univ. Paris 13)
- Dr. D. Perahia (ENS Cachan)
  
- Pr. E. Alexov (Univ. Clemson, US)
- Dr. Ikeguchi (Josay Univ., Japon)
- Pr. P. Carbonell (Univ. Manchester)
- Pr. J. Baell (Univ. Melbourne)
- Dr. T. Pencheva (Bulg Acad Sci )
- Pr. I. Pajeva (Bulg Acad Sci )
- Pr. A. Isvoran (West Univ. Timisoara)



**THANK YOU**

## Conclusions

- Today about 20 LMW PPI cmpds are in phase I to III clinical trials. **Expected sales worldwide (to start with) of over \$800 million/each year within 4 years**
- In **phase I**, latest generation of PPI modulators (developed between 2005-2012) seem to have **82% probability of making it to the next phase** compared to 54% for all NMEs, and for **phase II**, the probability of success seems to be **57%** for PPI modulators **compared to 34%** for all NMEs (Phase III can not be evaluated at present due to small sample size)



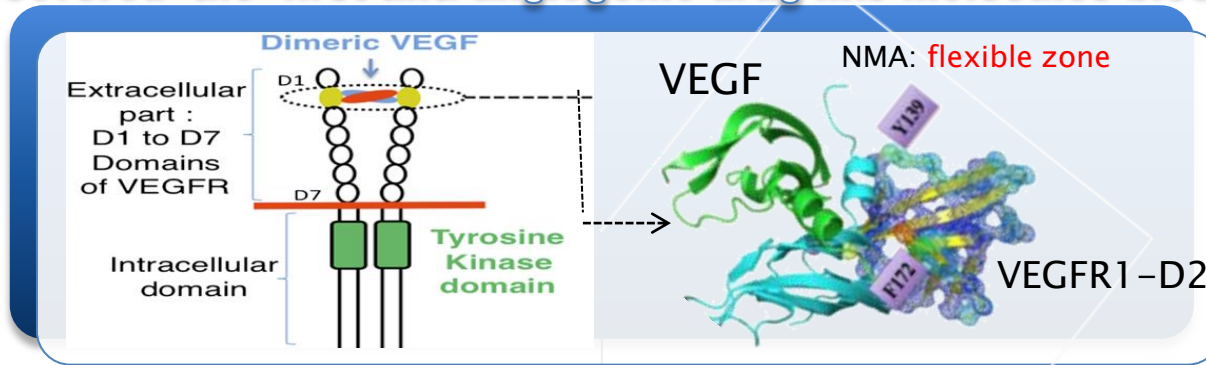
Trends in attrition rates of drug development projects. Data are for projects started between 1990 and 2004 in the United States, Europe and Japan

**Some hope with PPI modulators ? Some PPI targets seem much more promising than some of the ~500 regular targets currently investigated...with over 300,000 PPIs in human, there is a lot to do !**

• *Meier et al DDT 2013*

• *Nat Rev Drug Discovery, June 2011, Vol 10*

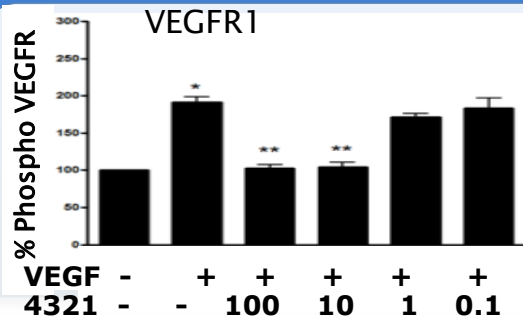
# We discovered the first anti-angiogenic drug-like molecules blocking VEGF-VEGFR



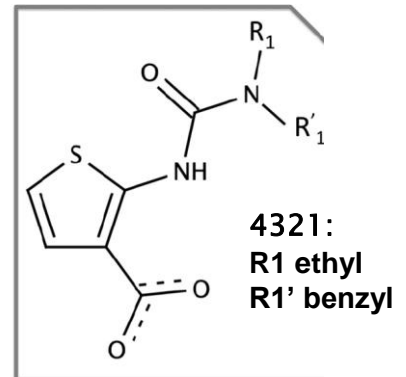
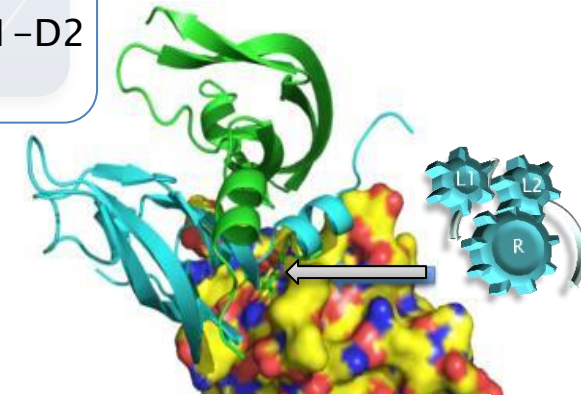
8,000 mols National Chemical library CERMN docking Surflex

206 mols *in vitro* displacement of VEGFR

20 actives  $IC_{50} < 100 \mu M$   
10 actives  $IC_{50} \sim 10-20 \mu M$



**4321 inhibits VEGF-induced phosphorylation of VEGFR HUVEC, WT blot**



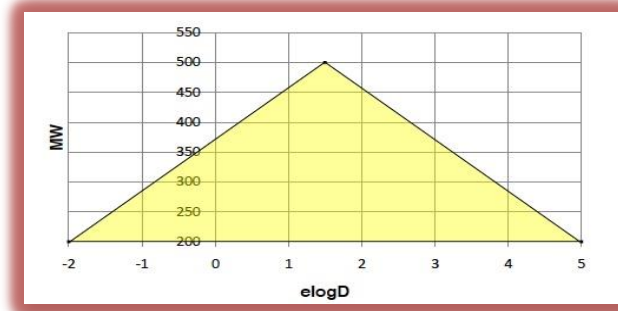
**Binding of 4321 into D2 domain was validated by NMR experiments**

*Gautier, Miteva et al. Chem Biol 2011*



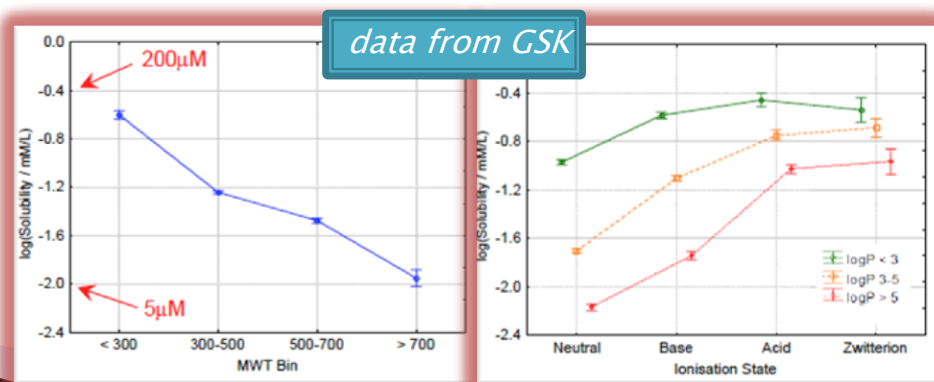
# ADME-Tox Prediction

- Lipinski's rule of 5 for oral absorption (1997), but new rules are also for toxicity
- Veber's rule (2002) for oral absorption: nb of rotatable bonds, TPSA, ...
- GSK rule of 4 (2009): MW < 400 and clog P < 4 to reduce ADMET problems
- Pfizer 3/75 (2008): significant reduction of toxicity *in vivo* when clogP < 3 and TPSA > 75 Å<sup>2</sup> (toxicity, off-target, CYP, hERG)
- Golden triangle (Pfizer 2009):  
the yellow region is found to have a higher chance for permeability and metabolic stability



- Solubility

↓ with ↑ size and clogP  
↑ with ↑ ionisation



# Filtering and Substructure Detection in FAFDrugs2

## PhysChem Properties

User's defined physchem ranges

### Predefined filters

- In house drug-like « soft »
- In house lead-like
- R-O-5 (Lipinski, Adv Drug Deliv Rev 1997)
- R-O-3 (Congreve et al. Drug Discov Today 2003)
- REOS (Walters & Namchuk, Nature Rev Drug Discov 2003)
- « ZINC » (Irwin & Shoichet, J Chem Inf Model 2005)
- CNS (Jeffrey & Summerfield, Neurobiol Dis 2010)

## Substructure Detection

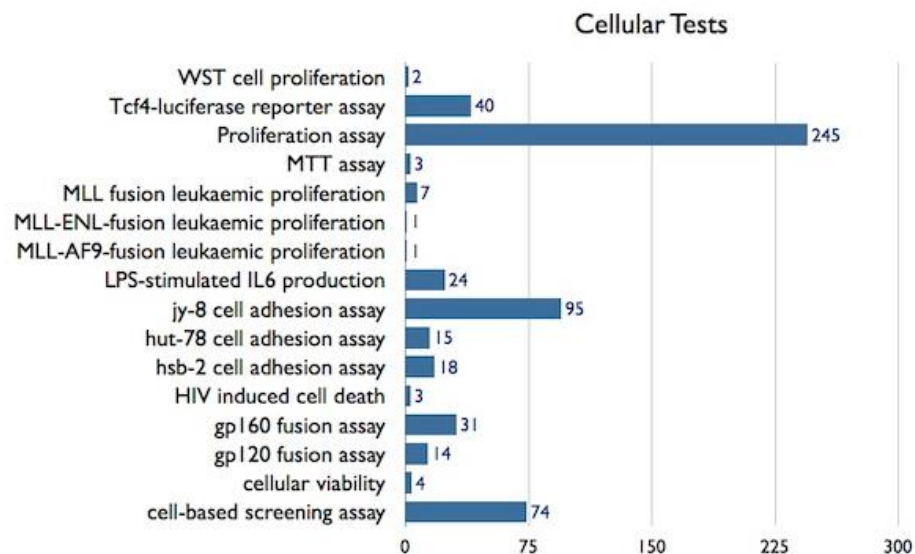
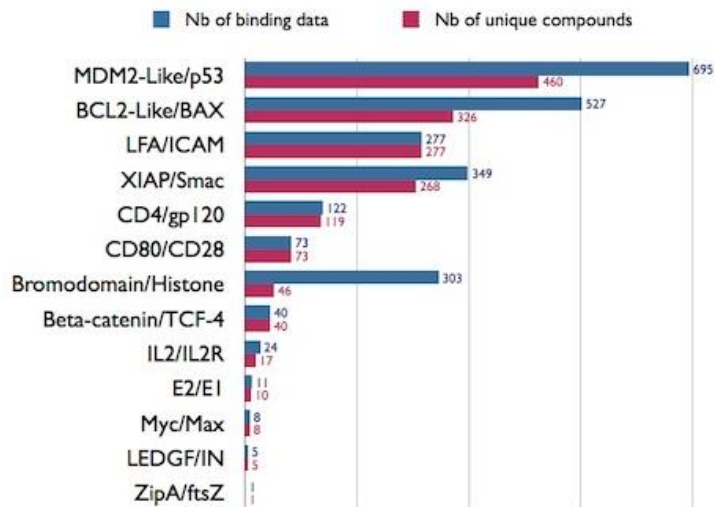
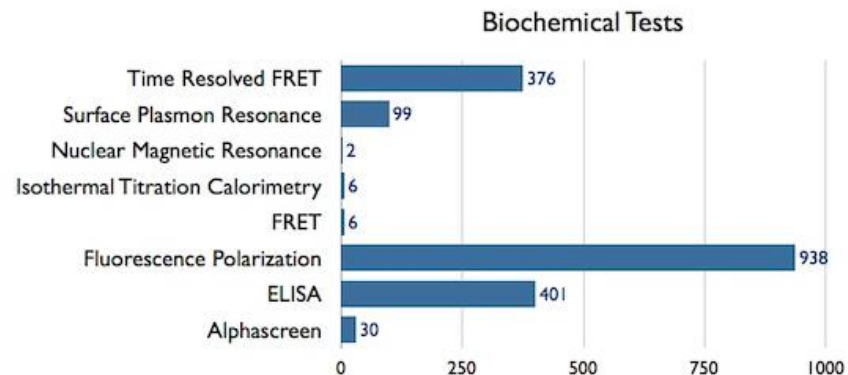
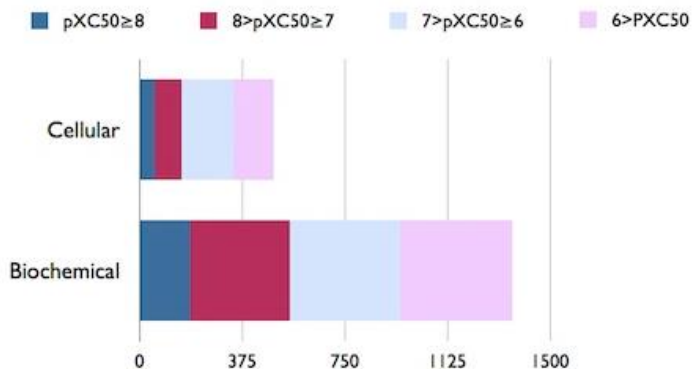
Aggregators **311**  
(McGovern et al. J Med Chem 2002)

Frequents Hitters **15**  
(Roch et al. J Med Chem 2002)

Toxicophores  
~ 150

**PAINS 492**  
Pan Assay Interference Compounds  
(Baell & Holloway, J Med Chem 2010)

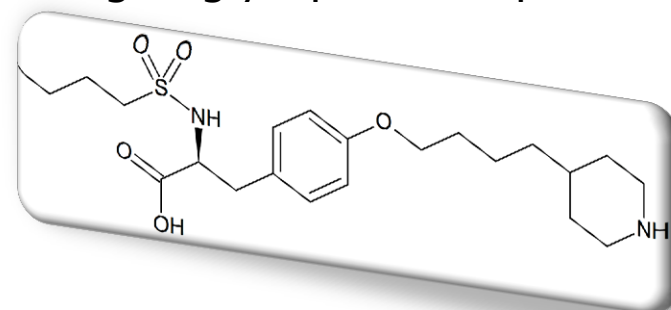
# iPPI-DB Stats



# Drugs discovered using VS

**Aggrastat** : fibrinogen receptor antagonist (Merck) (optimized by LBVS)  
anticoagulant and platelet aggregation inhibitor  
modulates a protein–protein interaction (between Integrin glycoprotein Alpha IIb

and Beta II and Fibrinogen receptors on platelets)



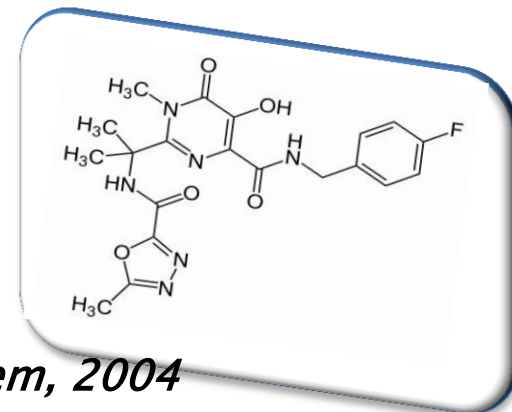
**PRX-00023** (Phase IIb) antidepressant, 5-HT 1A receptor agonist (SBVS)

**SC12267** (Phase IIa) immunosuppressant, inhibitor of dihydroorotate  
dehydrogenase (SBVS)

*DE Clark. Expert Opinion on Drug Discovery 2008*

**Isentres** : AIDS, HIV integrase inhibitor (Merck), SBVS  
docking – AutoDock

Flexibility receptor by MD – MRC Relaxed Complex  
Method

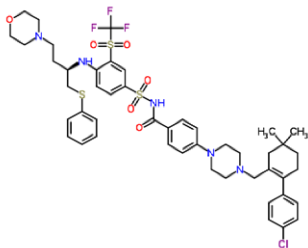


*McCammon group, J Med Chem, 2004*

# PPI modulators

## PPI inhibitors

**Drugs:** *Navitoclax* (ABT-263), Phase II  
(Bcl-2, cancer, Abbott)

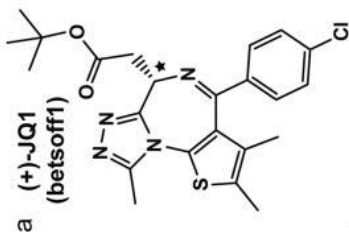


**RG7112** (Phase Ib)  
(MDM2, cancer, Roche)

Mullard A. Nature Rev Drug Discov. 2012

## Lead

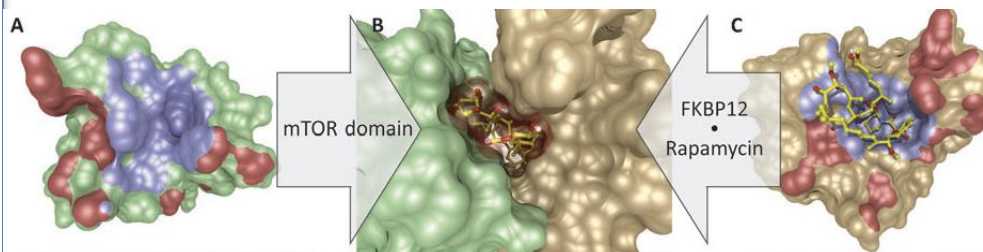
BRD4 epigenetic reader recognizing acetyl-histones ; cancer  
Tensha Therapeut, GSK interested;



Bradner et al. Nature 2010

## PPI stabilizers

**Drugs:** *Rapamycin*, immunosuppressant



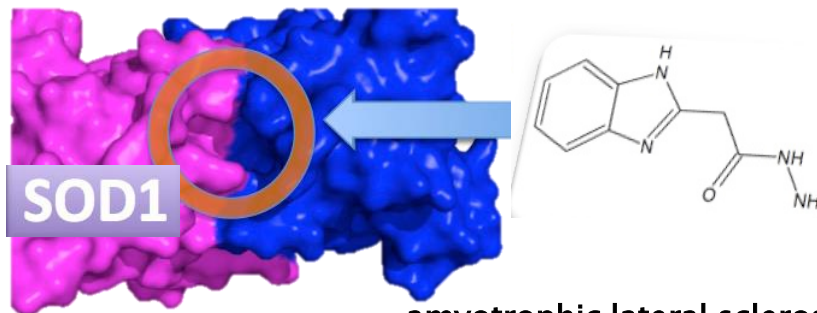
immunosuppressant FK506

## Paclitaxel

cell-cycle arrest by modulating microtubules structures, cancer

Thiel et al. Angew. Chem.Int.Ed 2012, 51:2

## Lead



amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

SBVS: Ray et al. PNAS 2005, 102: 3639

H2L: Chen et al. J Med Chem 2012,55: 515



# FAFDrugs3 : Free ADME-Tox Filtering of chemical compounds

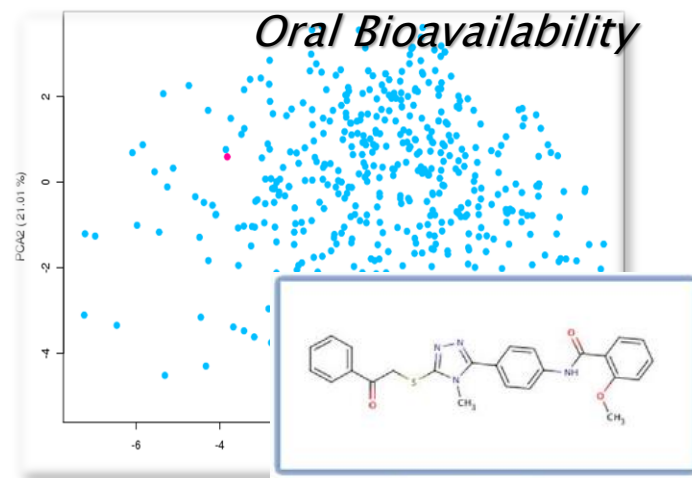
- ▶ Simple PhysChem rules for oral bioavailability drug/lead/fragment-like cmps filters

- **Lipinski rules:** HBD, HBA, MW, log P
- **Oprea rules:** number of rings, rotatable bonds

- ▶ Toxic atoms/groups ~150

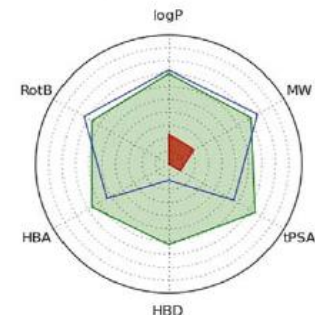
- ▶ Frequent hitters & Pan Assay Interference Compounds (PAINS) ~500

*Lagorce et al. NAR 2015*



ID: 6282824

*Simple PhysChem*



*FAFDrugs3 web-server:*

<http://fafdrugs3.mti.univ-paris-diderot.fr>

VEGF-A



# VEGF – VEGFR

Angiogenesis – Cancer

VEGFR1, VEGFR2



Extracellular

Intracellular



RAS



PI3K

Migration



MAPK

Cell Division

Protein Synthesis



TF

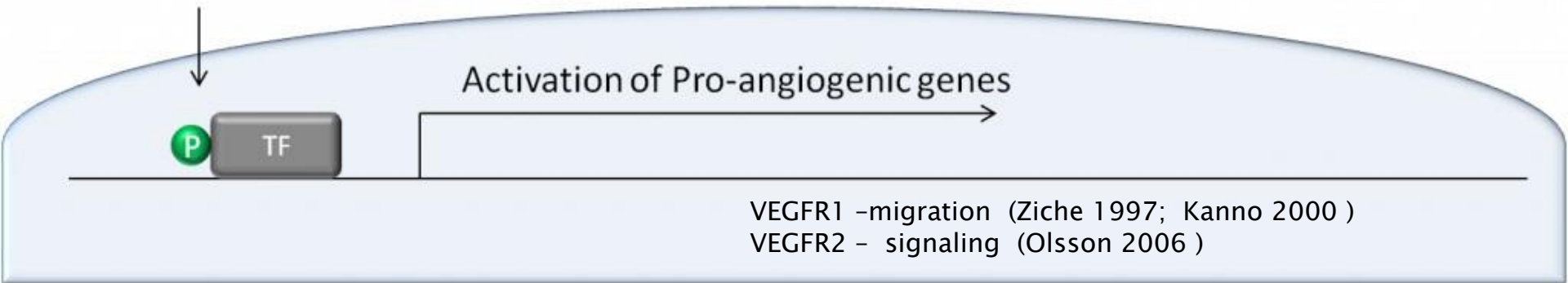
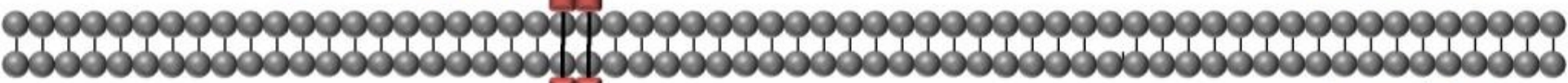
endothelial cell



TF

Activation of Pro-angiogenic genes

VEGFR1 – migration (Ziche 1997; Kanno 2000 )  
VEGFR2 – signaling (Olsson 2006 )



# Let us meet again..

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OMICS International

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on European Pharma  
Congress

June 18–20,2016, Berlin,  
Germany.

<http://europe.pharmaceuticalconferences.com/>

