

Molecular Modeling of 11 β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase type 2 inhibition, glucocorticoid antagonism, and mineralocorticoid agonism for predicting chronic toxic effects of phytochemicals

Muhammad Akram¹, Anna Vuorinen¹, Judith M. Rollinger², Daniela Schuster¹

1. *Institute of Pharmacy / Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Center for Molecular Biosciences Innsbruck, University of Innsbruck Innrain 80/82, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria*

2. *Institute of Pharmacy / Pharmacognosy and Center for Molecular Biosciences Innsbruck, University of Innsbruck Innrain 80/82, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria*

A large number of people around the globe is using plant constituents as food and/or as medicine in their daily life [1, 2]. Most of them are unaware of potentially harmful effects of used plant constituents. 11 β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase is the enzyme which catalyzes the interconversion of cortisone and cortisol in humans [3]. Our objective is to predict the chronic immunologic and cardiovascular toxicity of commonly used plant constituents, inhibiting 11 β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase type 2, mineralocorticoid activation and glucocorticoid blockade. Pharmacophore based virtual screening will be used for selection of putatively active compounds. Widely used phytochemicals will be evaluated by *in vitro* methods after filtering by *in silico* models. Therefore we propose to identify the toxicological effects of commonly consumed plant constituents.

[1] N. L. Etkin, P. J. Ross, *Soc. Sci. Med.*, **1982**, *16*, 1559-1573.

[2] D. P. Briskin, *Plant Physiol*, **2000**, *124*, 507-514.

[3] A. Odermatt and D. V. Kratschmar, *Mol Cell Endocrinol*, **2012**, *350*, 168-186.

Acknowledgements

DS and MA are grateful to the Young Talents Grant from University of Innsbruck for supporting this study. DS is financed by the Erika Cremer Habilitation Program of the University of Innsbruck.