



Drug Discovery and Development Process

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ABSTRACT

Drug discovery and development follows following sequence:

Target identification --> Validation --> Lead identification --> Lead optimization --> Product characterization --> Formulation and development --> Preclinical research --> Investigational New Drug --> Clinical trials --> New Drug Application --> Approval

Conversion of a particular organic compound to drug requires huge amount of money and time. So, any type of failure at any stage causes great loss. In this review, we have come across various methods which are used currently in the field of Drug discovery from literature. Now though we have computational advances which led in more and more rationale in silico designing, still industry is depending on in vitro experimental studies. Bioprinting technology shows great applications in drug screening, checking toxicity and so on. AI-Artificial Intelligent, nowadays gaining weightage in drug discovery process, which cut down the research and development cost. In India, we have great history of traditional medicine. Currently serious efforts are taken to develop traditional medicine into future ready drug. There are various advantages of modelling and simulation at pre-clinical stage of drug development. In recent years, Halogen bond catches the attention for hit-to-lead-to-candidate optimization which leads to improve drug-target binding affinity. Drug discovery based on Ayurveda follows a 'Reverse Pharmacology' path from Clinics to Laboratories

Keywords: Drug Discovery, Drug Candidate, Bioprinting, AI, Computational, Reverse Pharmacology

Conversion of a particular organic compound to drug requires huge amount of money and time. So, any type of failure at any stage causes great loss. Now though we have computational advances which led in more and more rationale in silico designing, still industry is depending on in vitro experimental studies. Hence in vitro-in vivo correlations improving day by day. In this regards 3D (three-dimensional) tissue model are very helpful as compared to traditional 2D (two-dimensional) models. Bioprinting technology shows great applications in drug screening, checking toxicity and so on. [1]

New drug candidate's in vivo metabolism are estimated and predicted by in vitro methods. By using such method, we can study metabolic stability and harm of drug-drug interactions of new drug candidate. In current time, many pharmaceutical companies study in vitro and in silico drug metabolism predictor software and latest technology. By analyzing available data, it is clear that in vitro methods are very useful for identification and elimination of new drug candidate which is not showing appreciated metabolic properties. [2]

To treat or cure any disease, we need drug which is identified by drug discovery process. The drug discovery process contains following steps, identification of candidate, its synthesis, characterization, validation, optimization, screening and assays for therapeutic efficacy. After these steps, if a compound shows its significance, then the process of drug development earlier to clinical trial starts. The journey of a compound from its discovery to marketable drug takes around 12 – 15 years and requires about US \$1 billion investment. On an average, from million molecules screened only a single goes in clinical trials and which is getting finally recognized as a drug. Drug discovery and development follows following sequence:

Target identification --> Validation --> Lead identification --> Lead optimization --> Product characterization --> Formulation and development --> Preclinical research --> Investigational New Drug --> Clinical trials --> New Drug Application --> Approval. [3]

Various studying methods consists of in silico models, iDEATM help in optimizing chemical synthesis as the fraction absorbed can be predicted depends only on structural characteristics. The prediction can be made more accurate by feeding the iDEATM model with Caco-2 permeability data and solubility data at various pH's. Another trust worthy technique is in situ rat intestinal perfusion which is used to investigate drug absorption potential in combination with intestinal metabolism. The bioavailability with respect to role of the liver, evaluated by portal vein sampling experiments in dogs. [4]

In silico methods of drug discovery studied with reference to identification of drug targets wherein genes or proteins are associated with specific diseases. [5]

With advances in computer technology, we can understand biological system, for example: cells, tissue etc. By virtue of which drug's interaction with active sites can be understood as well as prediction goes well. Thus companies explore these to improve the chances of converting targets into therapies. [6]

AI-Artificial Intelligent, nowadays gaining weightage in drug discovery process, which cut down the research and development cost. [7]

In India, we have great history of traditional medicine. Currently serious efforts are taken to develop traditional medicine into future ready drug. [8]

There are various advantages of modelling and simulation at pre-clinical stage of drug development. Such data of combination of physiologically based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) having pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic relationship (PK/PD) models provides the basis for quantitative outputs allowing comparisons across compounds and resulting in improved decision-making during the selection process. [9]

Computational systems biology is an emerging field in biological simulation that attempts to model or simulate intra- and intercellular events using data gathered from genomic, proteomic or metabolomic experiments. ODEs, Stochastic differential equations, S-system formalism or power law equations, PDE or molecular dynamics, CA or DCA, ABM, Pi calculus are different methods used in computational system biology.

[10]

At the time of drug discovery and development, solubility and permeability plays key role. In the discovery setting 'the rule of 5' predicts that poor absorption or permeation is more likely when there are more than 5 H-bond donors, 10 H-bond acceptors, the molecular weight (MWT) is greater than 500 and the calculated Log P (CLogP) is greater than 5 (or MlogP >4.15). [12]

In recent years, Halogen bond catches the attention for hit-to-lead-to-candidate optimization which leads to improve drug-target binding affinity. Heavy organohalogens (i.e., organochlorines, organobromines, and organoiodines) are capable of forming halogen bonds. [13]

When there is lack of structural data of the target receptor, pharmacophore mapping is used. [14]

Indian traditional knowledge of Ayurveda gives us advantage of having phytochemicals as anti-microbial agents. Drug discovery based on Ayurveda follows a 'Reverse Pharmacology' path from Clinics to Laboratories. [15]

In recent years, use of traditional medicine for primary health care have increased. Nowadays pharmaceuticals are derived from plants. [16]

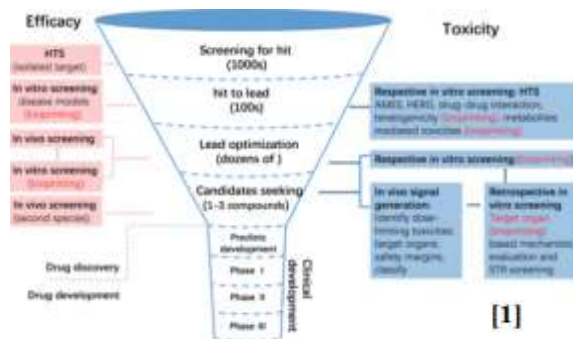
BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool), FASTA (Fast Alignment) Tool, EMBOSS (European Molecular Biology Open Software Suite), BioEdit (Biological Editor), ClustalW, RasMol (Raster Molecule) tool, PyMOL, Swiss-PDB Viewer, Discovery Studio, Swiss-Modeller, Modeller, PHYRE, PubMed, DDBJ (DNA Data Bank of Japan), NCBI Genbank, PDB (Protein Data Bank), KEGG (Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes) are Bioinformatics tools and databases commonly employed in DD process. ISIS Draw, ChemDraw, ACD ChemsSketch, MarvinSketch, JME Molecular Editor, ISIS/Base, ACD ChemFolder, Chemspider, PubChem, CSD (Cambridge Structural Database), ChEMBL are Cheminformatics tools and databases commonly employed in DD process. [18]

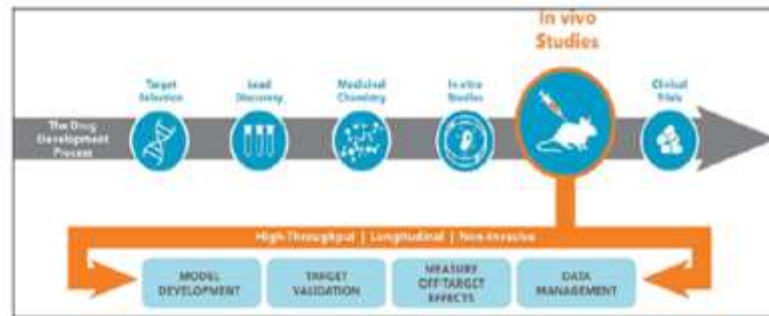
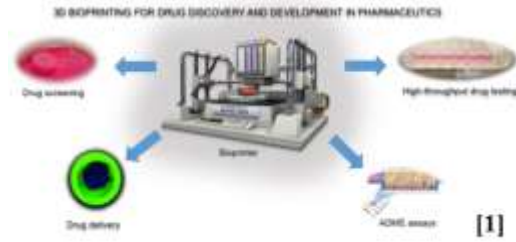
New models for drug discovery are developed to have the lack of modern and effective drugs used for neglected diseases.

Indian medicinal plant may be used in post-genomic era to develop drug candidate.. [20]

In India, more than 70% of the population depends on Ayurveda. New methods are used and develop by using medicinal plants. Ayurvedic Pharmacoepidemiology, Observational therapeutics and Reverse Pharmacology paths have led to significant hits, leads and drug candidates for several diseases. The approach of Reverse Pharmacology has been adopted globally by several groups. [21]

The challenges, recent development and new thinking on drug R&D for neglected diseases through public-private partnerships are discussed. [22]

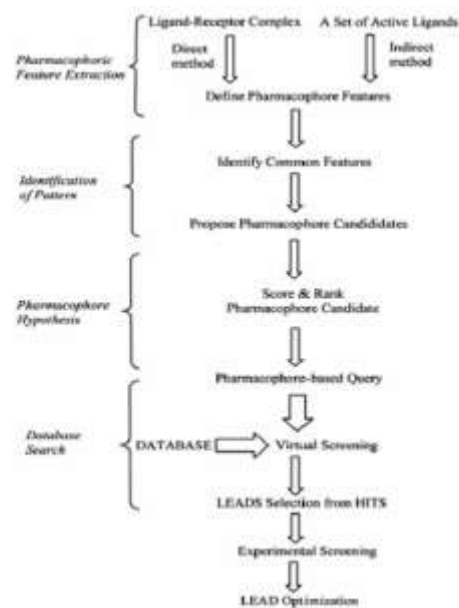




Stages of drug discovery and development process [3]



The drug approval process in the United States.



Flow chart of virtual screening using pharmacophore method [14]

General Drug Development Process



Economical, time saving, least bottlenecks



Reverse Pharmacology [15]



R & D Paths for Natural Products [15]



Drug discovery process from plants [17]

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