

# The Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of Medicinal and Food Plants Medicine

Kevin Spelman, PhD, MCPP  
Health, Education & Research


## outline

- Complex Chemistry of Plants
- PK
- PD
- Pharmacogenomics
- Dosing

NIH-PA Author Manuscript

NIH-PA Author Manuscript

NIH-



**NIH Public Access**  
**Author Manuscript**  
*Explore (NY)*. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2010 March 1.

Published in final edited form as:  
*Explore (NY)*. 2009 ; 5(2): 97-103. doi:10.1016/j.explore.2008.12.001.

### Unique Aspects of Herbal Whole System Research

**Suzanna M. Zick, Herbert Schwabl, Andrew Flower, Dip Lac, Bibhas Chakraborty, and Kristine Hirschhorn**

**Abstract**

**Introduction**—Whole systems of healthcare offer unique methodological and theoretical challenges for researchers. Herbalism has its own set of methodological and philosophical research issues, which are beyond those presented for whole system research, in general.

**Methods**—An International Society for Complementary Medicine Research (ISCMR) workshop was presented on, "Challenges in Herbal Whole Systems Research". Starting from a definition of herbalism the most important challenges to herbal whole system research (HWSR) were elicited with inputs from both the workshop presenters and the audience.

**Results**—Five major challenges unique to herbal whole systems research were identified: (1) Defining herbalists and herbalism; (2) role of natural products industry in herbal research; (3) designing placebos and delivering active herbal treatments as are given by herbalists; (4) researching the herb as a living entity; and (5) designing trials to investigate and develop multi-component herbal therapies.

**Conclusions**—To design studies of herbalism requires unique methods and theoretical frameworks. Solutions to these methodological challenges need to be addressed to conduct research that examines herbal systems of medicine versus conducting trials on individual herbs given out of their original therapeutic context.

**Keywords**  
 Whole Systems; Herbalism; Research Methodology

---

**INTRODUCTION**

Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) is partially composed of systems of healthcare such as Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and naturopathy. These systems of

# The Plant

The advantages of plants is that they are naturally dilute and broad spectrum.  
 The disadvantage of plants is that they are naturally dilute and broad spectrum.

Michael Moore

## Evolution

Boileau, T. W. M., Liao, Z., Kim, S., Lemeshow, S., Erdman, J. W., Jr., and Clinton, S. K. (2003). Prostate Carcinogenesis in N-methyl-N-nitrosourea (NMU)-Testosterone-Treated Rats Fed Tomato Powder, Lycopene, or Energy-Restricted Diets. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 95, 1578-1586.

- Biochemical systems that appear to have evolved for a simple straightforward effect, such as toxins, are in fact quite complex
- Snakes, for example, which are ancient in comparison to most animals but are newly arrived by plant standards, have evolved venoms that are strikingly complex

## Evolution

Firn, R. D., and Jones, C. G. (2003). Natural products—a simple model to explain chemical diversity. *Nat Prod Rep* 20, 382-91.

- A large body of experimental evidence supports the view that many alkaloids, cyanogenic glycosides, glucosinolates, terpenes, saponins, tannins, anthraquinones and polyacetylenes are allelochemicals
- They represent adaptive traits that have diversified during evolution by natural selection in order to protect against virus, bacteria, fungi, competing plants, and most importantly herbivores

## Evolution

Spelman, K., Duke, J. A., and Bogenschutz-Godwin, M. J. (2006). The Synergy Principle in Plants, Pathogens, Insects, Herbivores and Humans. *In* "Natural products from plants" (P. B. Kaufman, ed.), Vol. Publication Forthcoming. CRC Press, Boca Raton, Fla.

Chemically diverse metabolites in plants, modified by natural selection during evolution, occur in diverse mixtures of several structural types

## Evolution

Spelman K. 2005. Philosophy in Phytopharmacology: Ockham's Razor vs. Synergy. *J Herb Pharmacol* 5(2):31-47.

Slight variations in similar molecules, perhaps described as a protective chemical overlap, can be seen as the evolutionary development of a *chemical economy*; a network of protection

## Evolution

Spelman K. 2005. Philosophy in Phytopharmacology: Ockham's Razor vs. Synergy. *J Herb Pharmacol* 5(2):31-47.

One study of sesquiterpene synthesis in plants demonstrated that one enzyme produced 34 different compounds from a single substrate, and another enzyme produced 52 products from a single precursor

## Evolution

Wink M. *Phytochem* 64:3-19, 2003.

Such "catalytic flexibility" is likely to yield products with multiple functionalities and bioactivities. And even if the individual interaction of a particular plant metabolite might be unspecific and weak, the sum of numerous metabolite interactions can lead to a substantial effect

## Evolution

Dyer et al (2003) demonstrated this economy of chemistry by showing that three of the allelochemicals expressed by a *Piper* sp. act synergistically as allelochemicals and exhibit a broad spectrum protection against several species of pests

## Evolution

Wu et al (2002) point out that allelopathic effects usually result from groups of constituents, often demonstrating synergy, rather than just one chemical.

## Plant Chemistry

The phytochemical matrix is *selected* to be broad spectrum

## Unique PK Properties

Selected over hundreds of millions of years

## Two Types of Synergy

### ▣ Pharmacodynamic

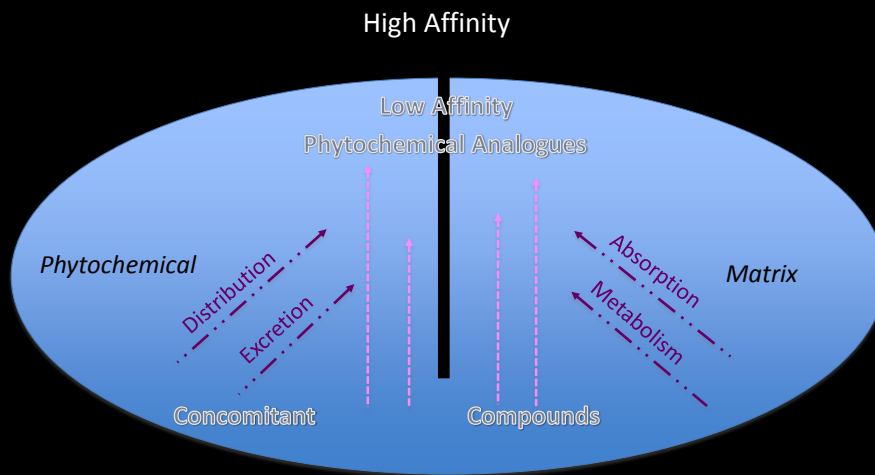
- Multiple modes of activity (biochemical convergence)
  - Engaging multiple genes/proteins/pathways
- Multiple constituents working on one mode of activity
  - Multiple molecular species working on one gene/protein
  - One constituent multitasking

### ▣ Pharmacokinetic

- Alterations in ADMET:
  - Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, Excretion, Toxicology

## Deductive Landscape A Broad Perspective

Spelman K. 2007. Ecological Pharmacology II: Molecular Details *UnifiedEnergetics* 3(6): 58-62.

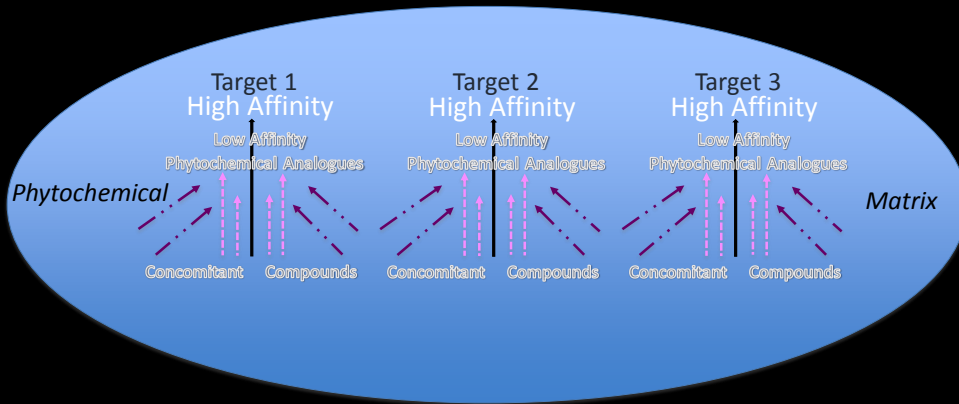




# Deductive Landscape

## *A Broader Perspective*

Spelman K. 2007. Ecological Pharmacology II: Molecular Details *UnifiedEnergetics* 3(6): 58-62.



# Pharmacokinetics

If plant could not deliver their allelochemicals  
then production of these compounds was all for naught

**Pharmacokinetics** is the characterization of the time course of drug/metabolite concentrations in the body

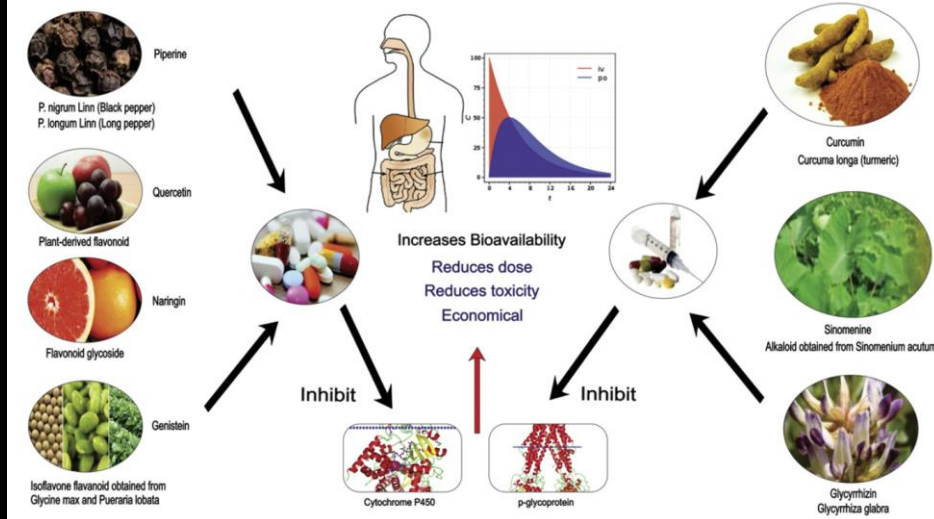
## Pharmacokinetic Processes

- Absorption
- Distribution
- Metabolism
- Excretion
- Toxicology

# Bioavailability Enhancement

Ajazuddin et al. / *Fitoterapia* 97 (2014) 1–14

## Bioavailability Enhancement Mechanism of Herbal Bioactives



OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLOS ONE

## Dried Whole Plant *Artemisia annua* as an Antimalarial Therapy

Mostafa A. Elfawal<sup>1</sup>, Melissa J. Towler<sup>2</sup>, Nicholas G. Reich<sup>3</sup>, Douglas Golenbock<sup>4</sup>, Pamela J. Weathers<sup>2</sup>, Stephen M. Rich<sup>1\*</sup>

**1** Laboratory of Medical Zoology, Department of Microbiology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, United States of America, **2** Department of Biology and Biotechnology Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts, United States of America, **3** Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, School of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, United States of America, **4** Infectious Disease and Immunology, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts, United States of America

### Abstract

Drugs are primary weapons for reducing malaria in human populations. However emergence of resistant parasites has repeatedly curtailed the lifespan of each drug that is developed and deployed. Currently the most effective anti-malarial is artemisinin, which is extracted from the leaves of *Artemisia annua*. Due to poor pharmacokinetic properties and prudent efforts to curtail resistance to monotherapies, artemisinin is prescribed only in combination with other anti-malarials comprising an Artemisinin Combination Therapy (ACT). Low yield in the plant, and the added cost of secondary anti-malarials in the ACT, make artemisinin costly for the developing world. As an alternative, we compared the efficacy of oral delivery of the dried leaves of whole plant (WP) *A. annua* to a comparable dose of pure artemisinin in a rodent malaria model (*Plasmodium chabaudi*). We found that a single dose of WP (containing 21 mg artemisinin) induces parasitemia

...our experiments indicate that a dose of whole plant has a five-fold increase in anti-malarial activity over that of the corresponding amount of artemisinin. This increased efficacy may result from a documented 40-fold increase in the bioavailability of artemisinin in the blood of mice fed the whole plant, in comparison to those administered synthetic drug.

**Funding:** The work was funded by Massachusetts Medical School Center for Clinical and Translational Science (grant CCR-2011000) and the National Institutes of Health (grant 5R01AI07919). The funder had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

**Competing Interests:** The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.  
\* Email: smrich@pam.amsu.edu

### Introduction

Malaria is among the most prevalent infectious diseases in the developing world, imposing a vast burden of mortality and perpetuating cycles of poverty. In 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 225 million cases of malaria occurred, with >780,000 deaths [1]. In spite of recent advances in our understanding of this parasite, efforts to prevent transmission have remained largely unchanged for over a century. Though malaria vaccines hold future promise, vector control and chemotherapy remain the primary weapons for reducing the burden of disease in individuals and populations. Artemisinin, in the form of Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT), is currently the best treatment option against these malarial parasites that have evolved resistance to drugs such as chloroquine [2]. Moreover, artemisinin (AN) and its derivatives have also been shown to affect a number of diverse, a variety of human cancer cell lines [3,4], several neglected tropical parasitic diseases including schistosomiasis [5], leishmaniasis [6,7], New- and Old-World trypanosomiasis [8], and some livestock diseases [9]. Current artemisinin production requires its extraction from the cultivated herb *Artemisia annua* L., which is a "generally regarded as safe" (GRAS) herb suitable for human consumption [10].

However, considerable production costs and inadequate availability of artemisinin limit its present usefulness in the campaign against malaria [11]. Until very recently [12], de novo chemical synthesis of artemisinin was neither practical nor cost-effective. The best plant cultivars yield only ca. 1.5% artemisinin, and agricultural yields seldom exceed 20 kg/ha [13]. The drug is otherwise obtained from plant material, crystallized, and typically used for semi-synthesis of artemisinin derivatives. Although *A. annua* is relatively easy to grow in temperate and subtropical climates, low yields of artemisinin lead to relatively high costs for isolation and purification of the drug [14]. Because of this shortcoming, plant scientists have focused their efforts on producing cultivars of *A. annua* with higher artemisinin crop yields [15]. Transgenic production schemes are also underway [16,17]. Meanwhile, a worldwide shortage falls to meet the need to treat malaria, not to mention those other diseases against which artemisinin holds such promise [2].

One means of reducing the cost of production would be to limit the amount of post-harvest processing by using the whole plant (WP). We wondered whether optimizing the extraction step, by using whole plant *A. annua* directly as the source of artemisinin, might prove efficacious in an experimental murine model. In a previous

**Artemisinin content in tea preparations from  
*Artemisia annua***

Amount of material per litre water	Method of tea preparation	Artemisinin Concentration in the tea	Extraction efficiency
250 mg pure artemisinin	A	10.6 mg/litre	-
5 g leaves	A	12.0 mg/litre	41.4 %
10 g leaves	A	24.5 mg/litre	42.2 %
20 g leaves	A	32.8 mg/litre	28.3 %
40 g leaves	A	64.4 mg/litre	27.8 %
5 g leaves	B	7.2 mg/litre	24.8 %

Mueller MS, *et al.* The potential of *Artemisia annua* L. as a locally produced remedy for malaria in the tropics: agricultural, chemical and clinical aspects. *J Ethnopharmacol.* 2000 Dec;73(3):487-93.

# Pharmacodynamics

What the plant does to the body...

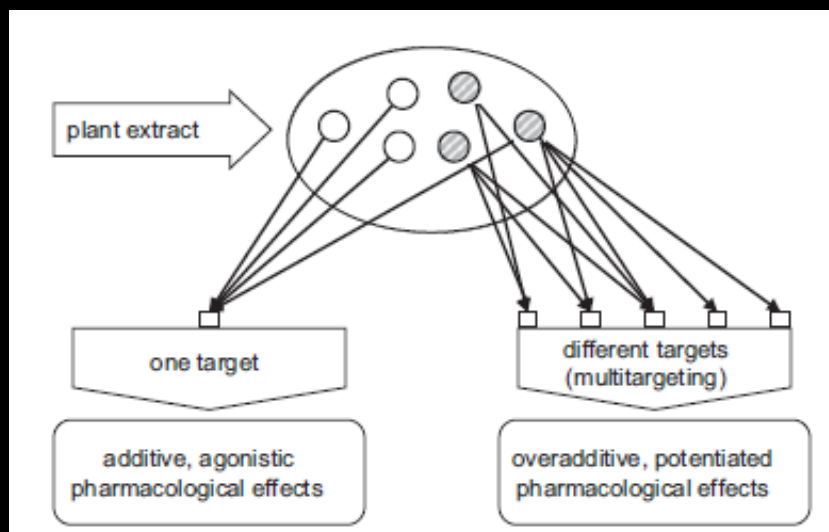
# Pharmacodynamics

## ▣ Pharmacodynamic

- Multiple modes of activity (biochemical convergence)
  - Engaging multiple genes/proteins/pathways
- Multiple constituents working on one mode of activity
  - Multiple molecular species working on one gene/protein
  - One constituent multitasking

## Multiple Targets

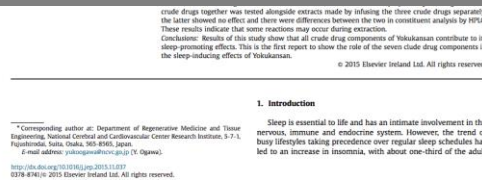
Wagner, H., Ulrich-Merzenich, G., Synergy research: Approaching a new generation of phytopharmaceuticals. *Phytomedicine* (2009), doi:10.1016/j.phymed.2008.12.018



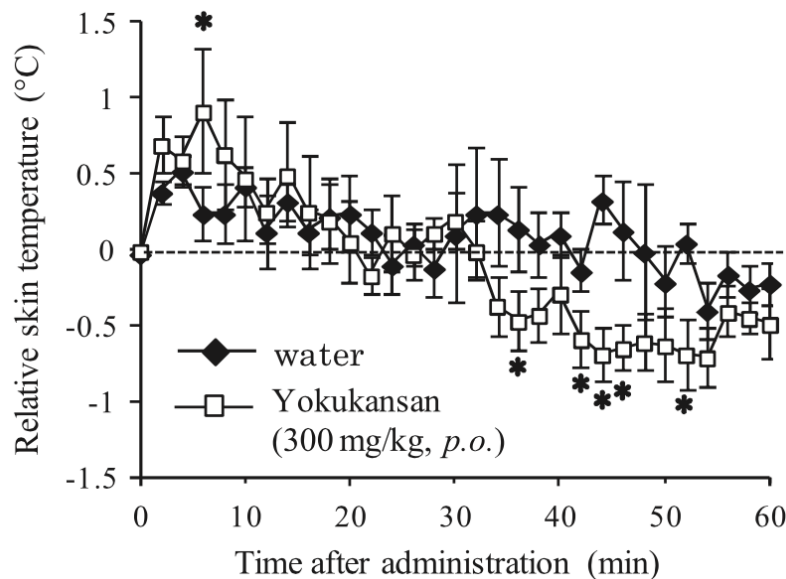


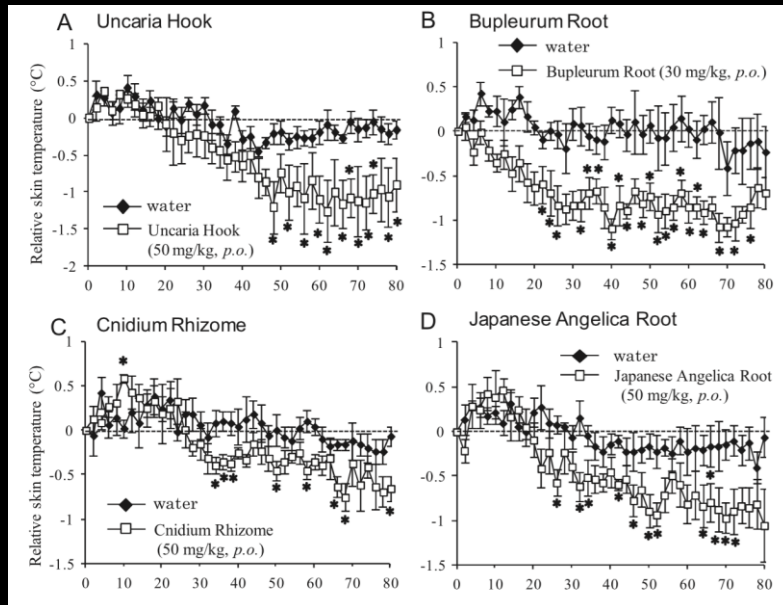
The herbal formula Yokukansan causes a drop in body temperature which were responsible for promoting sleep. Those that did not drop body temp had no effect on sleep.

Results of this study show that all crude drug components of Yokukansan contribute to its sleep-promoting effects.

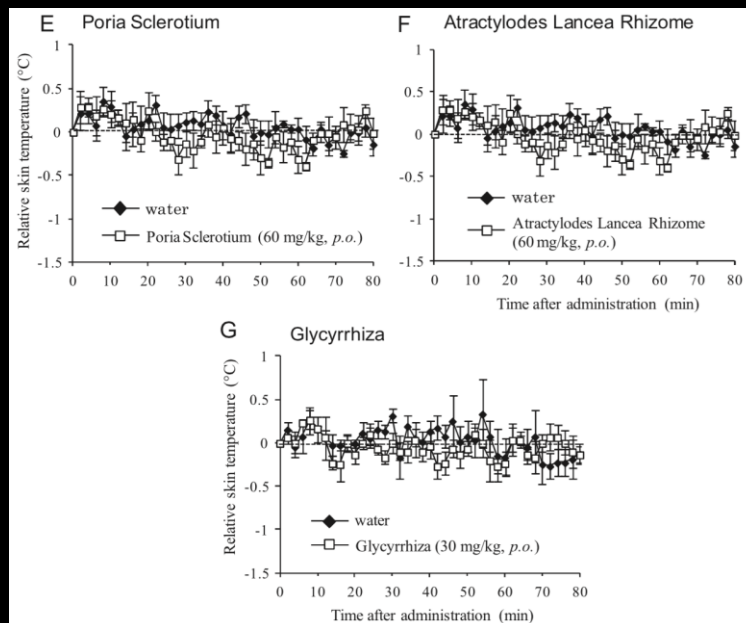


## Whole Extract

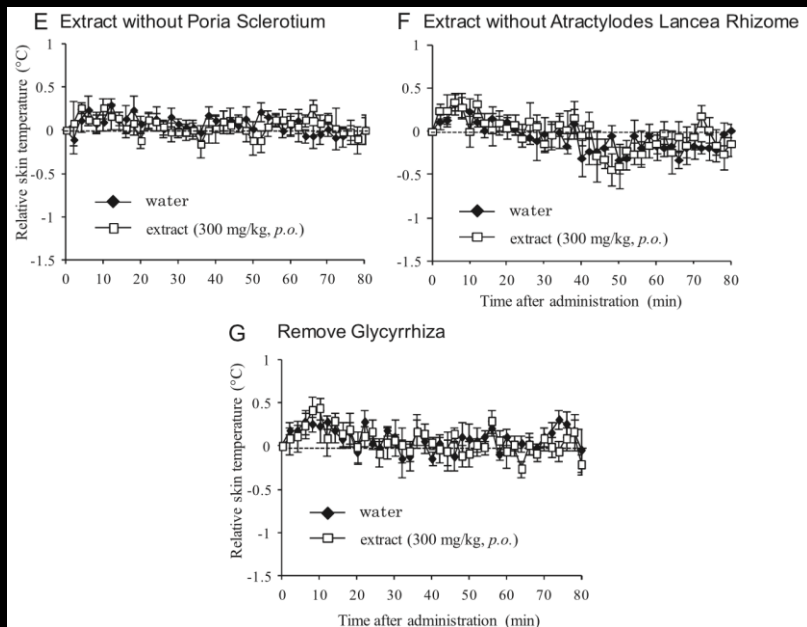




Ogawa Y, Fujii Y, Sugiyama R, Konishi T. 2016. The role of the seven crude drug components in the sleep-promoting effect of Yokukansan *J Ethnopharmacol*177:19-27.



Ogawa Y, Fujii Y, Sugiyama R, Konishi T. 2016. The role of the seven crude drug components in the sleep-promoting effect of Yokukansan *J Ethnopharmacol*177:19-27.

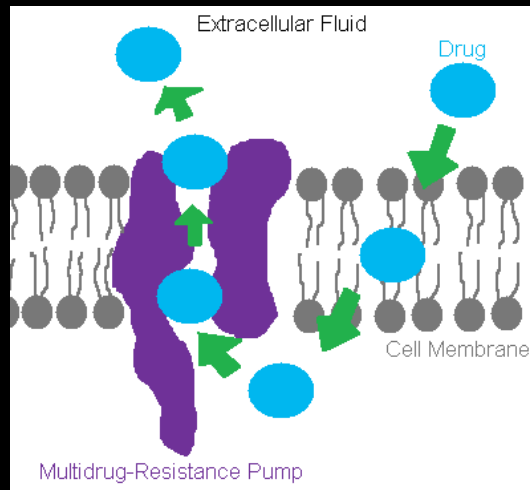


Ogawa Y, Fujii Y, Sugiyama R, Konishi T. 2016. The role of the seven crude drug components in the sleep-promoting effect of Yokukansan *J Ethnopharmacol*177:19-27.

## Antibiotic Research



## What is the MDR Efflux Pump?



## Multidrug Pump Inhibitors Uncover Remarkable Activity of Plant Antimicrobials

George Tegos,<sup>1</sup> Frank R. Stermitz,<sup>2</sup> Olga Lomovskaya,<sup>3</sup> and Kim Lewis<sup>1,4</sup>

*Department of Biology, Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts 02115<sup>1</sup>; Department of Chemistry, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523<sup>2</sup>; and Essential Therapeutics, Inc., Mountain View, California 94043<sup>3</sup>*

Received 25 February 2002/Returned for modification 6 May 2002/Accepted 29 May 2002

**Plant antimicrobials are not used as systemic antibiotics at present. The main reason for this is their low level of activity, especially against gram-negative bacteria. The reported MIC is often in the range of 100 to 1,000 µg/ml, orders of magnitude higher than those of common broad-spectrum antibiotics from bacteria or fungi. Major plant pathogens belong to the gram-negative bacteria, which makes the low level of activity of plant antimicrobials against this group of microorganisms puzzling. Gram-negative bacteria have an effective permeability barrier, comprised of the outer membrane, which restricts the penetration of amphiphilic compounds, and multidrug resistance pumps (MDRs), which extrude toxins across this barrier. It is possible that the apparent ineffectiveness of plant antimicrobials is largely due to the permeability barrier. We tested**

**...the activity of rhein, the principal antimicrobial from rhubarb, was potentiated 100- to 2,000-fold (depending on the bacterial species) by disabling the MDRs. Comparable potentiation of activity was observed with plumbagin, resveratrol, gossypol, coumestrol, and berberine.**

**Our results confirmed that disabling of the MDRs strongly increases the level of penetration of berberine into the cells of gram-negative bacteria. These results suggest that plants might have developed means of delivering their antimicrobials into bacterial cells. These findings also suggest that plant antimicrobials might be developed into effective, broad-spectrum antibiotics in combination with inhibitors of MDRs.**

Plants produce an enormous array of secondary metabolites, and it is commonly accepted that a significant part of this chemical diversity serves to protect plants against microbial pathogens (10). These plant substances are classified as phytoanticipins, which are compounds that are present constitutively, or phytoalexins, whose levels increase strongly in response to microbial invasion. In several well-documented cases, mutant plants that lack the ability to produce a particular phytoalexin had considerably higher levels of sensitivity to microbial pathogens. For example, mutant oats that lack saponin avenacin A-1 became sensitive to a range of fungal pathogens (36). However, the only definitive test for a putative antimicrobial is activity. In this regard, the evidence is often unconvincing. In the example cited above, avenacin A-1 did not actually show antifungal activity in a direct susceptibility test *in vitro* (3). According to the influential review of Dixon cited above (10), there is only one documented case in which plant antimicrobials were present at a sufficient concentration *in vivo* to inhibit the growth of a bacterial pathogen (37). In that study, infection of cotton with *Xanthomonas campestris*

remains puzzling is that one of the sesquiterpenoids, 2-hydroxy-7-methoxycaulene, had no antibacterial activity *in vitro*, yet its expression followed the same pattern as those of the other related phytoalexins.

Plant compounds are routinely classified as "antimicrobial" on the basis of susceptibility tests that produce MICs in the range of 100 to 1,000 µg/ml, orders of magnitude weaker than those of typical antibiotics produced by bacteria and fungi (MICs, 0.01 to 10 µg/ml). A compound that is synthesized in response to pathogen invasion and is required to protect the plant from a pathogen but that shows little activity in an *in vitro* susceptibility test is not necessarily an antimicrobial. Such a substance might have a regulatory function, indirectly increasing the level of resistance of the plant. This analysis suggests that we lack a solid rationale for making a functional assignment for the vast majority of plant compounds that have been classified as antimicrobials.

One helpful clue regarding the possible function of plant secondary metabolites is that these compounds often show considerable activity against gram-positive bacteria but not

## Synergy-Directed Fractionation of Botanical Medicines: A Case Study with Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*)

Hiyas A. Junio,<sup>†</sup> Arlene A. Sy-Cordero,<sup>†</sup> Keivan A. Ettefagh,<sup>†</sup> Johnna T. Burns,<sup>†</sup> Kathryn T. Micko,<sup>†</sup> Tyler N. Graf,<sup>†</sup> Scott J. Richter,<sup>†</sup> Robert E. Cannon,<sup>§</sup> Nicholas H. Oberlies,<sup>†</sup> and Nadja B. Cech<sup>\*,†</sup>

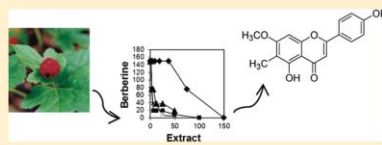
<sup>†</sup>Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, The University of North Carolina Greensboro, P.O. Box 26170, Greensboro, North Carolina 27402, United States

<sup>‡</sup>Department of Mathematics and Statistics, The University of North Carolina Greensboro, P.O. Box 26170, Greensboro, North Carolina 27402, United States

<sup>§</sup>Department of Biology, The University of North Carolina Greensboro, P.O. Box 26170, Greensboro, North Carolina 27402, United States

Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** It is often argued that the efficacy of herbal medicines is a result of the combined action of multiple constituents that work synergistically or additively. Determining the bioactive constituents in these mixtures poses a significant challenge. We have developed an approach to address this challenge, synergy-directed fractionation, which combines comprehensive mass spectrometry profiling with synergy assays and natural products isolation. The applicability of synergy-directed fractionation was demonstrated using the botanical medicine goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*) as a case study. Three synergists from goldenseal were identified, sideroxylin (1), 8-desmethyl-sideroxylin (2), and 6-desmethyl-sideroxylin (3). These flavonoids synergistically enhance the antimicrobial activity of the alkaloid berberine (also a constituent of *H. canadensis*) against *Staphylococcus aureus* by inhibition of the NorA multidrug resistance pump. The flavonoids possess no inherent antimicrobial activity against *S. aureus*; therefore, they could have been missed using traditional bioactivity-directed fractionation. The flavonoid synergists are present at higher concentration in extracts from *H. canadensis* leaves, while the antimicrobial alkaloid berberine is present at higher levels in *H. canadensis* roots. Thus, it may be possible to produce an extract with optimal activity against *S. aureus* using a combination of goldenseal roots and leaves.



## Dried whole-plant *Artemisia annua* slows evolution of malaria drug resistance and overcomes resistance to artemisinin

Mostafa A. Elfawal,<sup>†</sup> Melissa J. Towler,<sup>†</sup> Nicholas G. Reich,<sup>†</sup> Pamela J. Weathers,<sup>†</sup> and Stephen M. Rich<sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Laboratory of Medical Zoology, Department of Microbiology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003; <sup>‡</sup>Department of Biology and Biotechnology, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA 01095; and <sup>§</sup>Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, School of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003

Editor's by Francisco J. Ayala, University of California, Irvine, CA, and approved December 5, 2014 (received for review July 10, 2014)

Pharmaceutical monotherapies against human malaria have proven effective, although ephemeral, owing to the inevitable evolution of resistant parasites. Resistance to two or more drugs delivered in combination will evolve more slowly; hence combination therapies have become the preferred norm in the fight against malaria. At the forefront of these efforts has been the promotion of Artemisinin Combination Therapy, but despite these efforts, resistance to artemisinin has begun to emerge. In 2012, we demonstrated the efficacy of the whole plant (WP) – not a tea, not an infusion – as a malaria therapy and found it to be more effective than a comparable dose of pure artemisinin in a rodent malaria model. Here we show that WP overcomes existing resistance to pure artemisinin in the rodent malaria *Plasmodium yoelii*. Moreover, in a long-term artificial selection for resistance in *Plasmodium chabaudi*, we tested resistance of WP against drug resistance in comparison with pure artemisinin (AN). Stable resistance to WP was achieved three times more slowly than stable resistance to AN. WP treatment proved even more resilient than the double dose of AN. The resilience of WP may be attributable to the evolutionary refinement of the plant's secondary metabolic products into a redundant, multi-component defense system. Efficacy and resilience of WP treatment against rodent malaria provides compelling reasons to further explore the role of nonpharmaceutical forms of AN to treat human malaria.

malaria | drug resistance | artemisinin | Plasmodium | evolution

The fight against malaria predates the discovery of its causative agent, and, for centuries malaria-associated fever was treated using herbal remedies. In the West, quinine (Cinchona bark extract) was the only effective treatment against malaria until Paul Ehrlich's magic bullet concept was adopted, and thousands of synthetic compounds were tested against malarial parasites. Very few of these compounds were effective and/or safe for human use, but in the 1930s chloroquine rose prominently as a miracle drug for malaria (1). In the late 1950s, chloroquine was the main weapon used by the World Health Organization (WHO) in its Global Malaria Eradication Program (GMEP). Sadly, development of drug-resistant parasites and concomitant failure of chloroquine as the drug of choice led to the eventual demise of GMEP by the close of the 1960s. Following chloroquine's failure, various antimalarial compounds were tested, and each in its turn failed as parasites evolved resistance, thus leaving millions of malaria patients without affordable treatment.

In the 1970s, artemisinin was discovered as a pure drug extracted from the plant *Artemisia annua*. In wide-scale clinical trials, pure artemisinin showed poor pharmacokinetic properties but nonetheless demonstrated potent antimalarial activity with a high safety profile (2). It was determined that artemisinin when modified to artemether or artesunate improved bioavailability and was more effective when used in combination with other antimalarial drugs, mainly mefloquine, which became known as Artemisinin Combination Therapy (ACT) (3). It was hoped that

use of ACTs would minimize risk of drug resistance. However, in 2005 the earliest evidence of *P. falciparum* resistance to ACTs arose in Southeast Asia (4–8). The fight against malaria became critical once again when it became apparent that ACT might be following chloroquine's path toward obsolescence with no affordable replacement in sight.

We demonstrated the efficacy of the whole *A. annua* plant as a malaria therapy and found it to be more effective than a comparable dose of pure artemisinin in a rodent malaria model (9). WHO has cautioned against use of nonpharmaceutical sources of artemisinin because of the risk of delivering subtherapeutic doses that could accelerate the resistance problem (10). This warning is valid given the low artemisinin content of juice extractions, teas, and infusion preparations of plant material used for most nonpharmaceutical plant-based therapies. However, the Whole Plant (WP) *A. annua* therapy that we have tested is not an extraction, a tea, or an infusion, but is based on oral consumption of the dried leaves of the whole plant. Based on our proof of principle in a rodent model, we postulate that with further development WP might provide a more abundant and affordable source of artemisinin-based therapy by eliminating the need for artemisinin extraction during manufacture.

WP may be more effective than monotherapeutic artemisinin because WP may constitute a naturally occurring combination therapy that augments artemisinin delivery and synergizes the drug's activity. This plant Artemisinin Combination Therapy (pACT) is the result of evolutionary refinement of the plant's secondary metabolic products into a redundant and multi-component defense system. As was demonstrated for other combination therapies, we hypothesized that a WPhased pACT would (i) overcome existing resistance to monotherapeutic artemisinin and (ii) increase the longevity of this therapy by

### Significance

Evolution of malaria parasite drug resistance has thwarted efforts to control the deadly disease. Use of drug combinations has been proposed to slow that evolution. Artemisinin is a favorite drug in the global war on malaria and is frequently used in combination therapies. Here we show that using the whole plant (*Artemisia annua*) from which artemisinin is derived can overcome parasite resistance and is actually more resilient to evolution of parasite resistance, i.e., parasites take longer to evolve resistance, thus increasing the effective life span of the therapy.

Artemisinin (AN) and 6-desmethyl-sideroxylin (6-MS) (journal research) MAJ, MJT, and P.W. were funded and supported by the NIH, NIA, and NSF. Analysis of data, N.H.O. and S.M.R. wrote the paper.

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

\*To whom correspondence should be addressed. Email: nrich@umass.edu.

†These authors contributed equally to this work.

© 2015 Elfawal et al.; licensee American Chemical Society.

This article is part of the journal *Journal of Natural Products*.

www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1410127112

PNAS | January 20, 2015 | vol. 112 | no. 3 | 821–826

## An Example...

An investigation into the use of *A. annua* tea (60 mg artemisinin) was as effective as the standard dose of 500 - 1000 mg of isolated artemisinin over the same time period

Mueller MS, *et al.* The potential of *Artemisia annua* L. as a locally produced remedy for malaria in the tropics: agricultural, chemical and clinical aspects. *J Ethnopharmacol.* 2000 Dec;73(3):487-93.

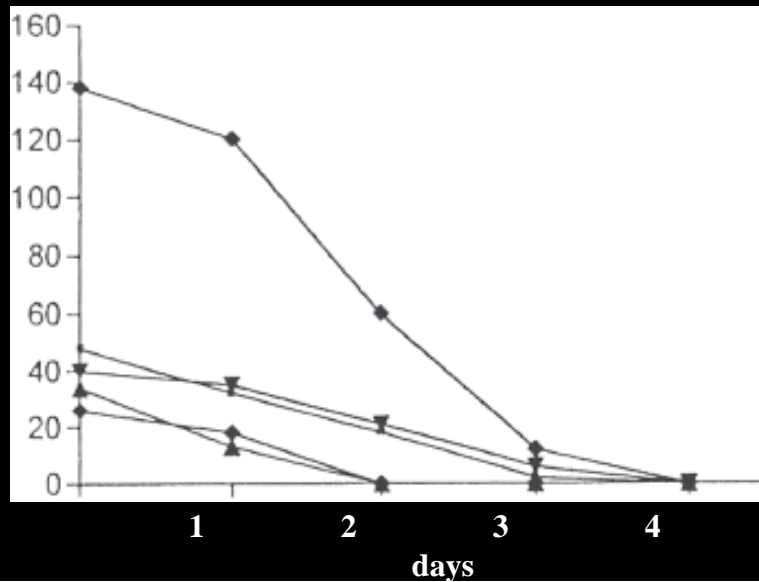
### Artemisinin content in tea preparations from *Artemisia annua*

Amount of material per litre water	Method of tea preparation	Artemisinin Concentration in the tea	Extraction efficiency
250 mg pure artemisinin	A	10.6 mg/litre	-
5 g leaves	A	12.0 mg/litre	41.4 %
10 g leaves	A	24.5 mg/litre	42.2 %
20 g leaves	A	32.8 mg/litre	28.3 %
40 g leaves	A	64.4 mg/litre	27.8 %
5 g leaves	B	7.2 mg/litre	24.8 %

Mueller MS, *et al.* The potential of *Artemisia annua* L. as a locally produced remedy for malaria in the tropics: agricultural, chemical and clinical aspects. *J Ethnopharmacol.* 2000 Dec;73(3):487-93.

### Parasite counts in thick blood films of five malaria patients undergoing treatment with *Artemisia annua* tea.

Mueller MS, et al. The potential of *Artemisia annua* L. as a locally produced remedy for malaria in the tropics: agricultural, chemical and clinical aspects. *J Ethnopharmacol.* 2000 Dec;73(3):487-93.



## *Artemisia annua* Against Malaria

Antihepatotoxic	oleanolic-acid ; quercetin ; scoparone ; scopoletin
Antimalarial	artemetin ; artemisinin ; ascaridole ; casticin ; chrysofenetin ; chrysofenol-d ; cirsilinole ; eupatorin ; oleanolic-acid ; quercetin
Antiplasmodial	chrysofenetin ; chrysofenol-d ; oleanolic-acid ; quercetin
Antipyretic	$\alpha$ -bisabolol ; borneol ; menthol
Antiseptic	1,8-cineole ; $\alpha$ -bisabolol ; $\alpha$ -terpineol ; arteannuin-b ; $\beta$ -pinene ; camphor ; carvacrol ; carvone ; geraniol ; kaempferol ; limonene ; linalool ; menthol ; oleanolic-acid ; rhamnocitrin ; scopoletin ; terpinen-4-ol ; thymol
Hepatoprotective	borneol ; isorhamnetin ; kaempferol ; luteolin ; oleanolic-acid ; quercetin ; rhamnetin ; scoparone ; scopoletin
Immunostimulant	astragaline ; coumarin ; eupatorin
Larvicide	cuminaldehyde ; linalool ; thymol
MDR-Inhibitor	artemisinin ; chrysofenetin ; chrysofenol-d
Parasiticide	artemetin ; casticin ; chrysofenetin ; chrysofenol-d ; cirsilinole ; eupatorin
Protisticide	$\alpha$ -bisabolol ; artemetin ; casticin ; chrysofenetin ; kaempferol

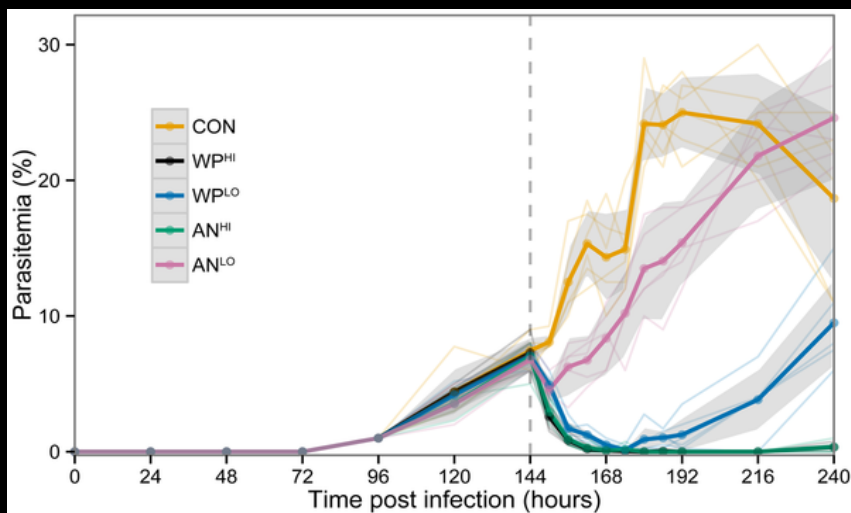
Spelman K, Duke J, Bogenschutz-Godwin M. The Synergy Principle with Plants, Pathogens, Insects, Herbivores and Humans. Chapter in: *Natural Products from Plants*. CRC Press.

# Pharmacodynamic Synergy

Elford BC, Roberts MF, Phillipson JD, Wilson RJM. Potentiation of the antimalarial activity of qinghaosu by methoxylated flavonoid. *Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg* 1987; 81:434-6.

*In vitro* investigations of the extract of the plant have shown that other constituents, notably flavonoids, enhance the antiplasmodic activity of artemisinin

Figure 3. Dose comparisons of WP and AN treatments from the third replicate of data: WPLO



Elfawal MA, Towler MJ, Reich NG, Golenbock D, et al. (2012) Dried Whole Plant *Artemisia annua* as an Antimalarial Therapy. *PLoS ONE* 7(12): e52746. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0052746

## Pharmacodynamic Synergy

Wan Y, Zhang Q, Wang J: **Studies on the antimalarial action of gelatin capsule of *Artemisia annua***. . *Chung Kuo Chi Sheng Chung Hsueh Yu Chi. Sheng Chung Ping Tsa Chih* 1992, **10**:290-294

In experiments with *P. berghei* infection a crude ethanolic extract of *A. annua* formulated with oil in a soft gel capsule, the ED<sub>50</sub> value with respect to the *Artemisia* content was 35.1 mg/kg whereas the ED<sub>50</sub> of artemisinin was 122 mg/kg.

## Pharmacokinetic Potentiation

Rezelman D. 2010. Ethanolic extract of *Artemisia annua*: a promising new preparation. Unpublished data.

- A pilot phase I crossover clinical trial comparing 132 mg in extract to pure artemisinin (500 mg).
- The bioavailability relative to the dose received was 2.1x greater for the extract than for the pure compound

# Pharmacodynamic Synergy

Sannella AR, Messori L, Casini A, Francesco Vincieri F, Bilia AR, Majori G, Severini C: **Antimalarial properties of green tea.** *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 2007, **353**:177-181

- Epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG), the most abundant tannin in green tea has antimalarial activity which is additive when combined with artemisinin
  - EGCG is an MDR inhibitor and

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLOS ONE

## Dried Whole Plant *Artemisia annua* as an Antimalarial Therapy

Mostafa A. Elfawal<sup>1</sup>, Melissa J. Towler<sup>2</sup>, Nicholas G. Reich<sup>3</sup>, Douglas Golenbock<sup>4</sup>, Pamela J. Weathers<sup>2</sup>, Stephen M. Rich<sup>1\*</sup>

**1** Laboratory of Medical Zoology, Department of Microbiology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, United States of America, **2** Department of Biology and Biotechnology Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts, United States of America, **3** Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, School of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, United States of America, **4** Infectious Diseases and Immunology, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts, United States of America

### Abstract

Drugs are primary weapons for reducing malaria in human populations. However emergence of resistant parasites has repeatedly curtailed the lifespan of each drug that is developed and deployed. Currently the most effective antimalarial is artemisinin, which is extracted from the leaves of *Artemisia annua*. Due to poor pharmacokinetic properties and prudent efforts to avert resistance to monotherapies, artemisinin is prescribed only in combination with other antimalarials.

...orally ingested, powdered dried leaves of whole plant *A. annua* kills malaria parasites more effectively than a comparable dose of pure drug... Among the compounds in *A. annua* not yet fully investigated are more than a dozen other sesquiterpenes, some of which have shown promise for killing parasites in rodent models.

**Citation:** Elfawal MA, Towler MJ, Reich NG, Golenbock D, Weathers PJ, et al. (2012) Dried Whole Plant *Artemisia annua* as an Antimalarial Therapy. *PLOS ONE* 7(12): e42796. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0042796

**Editor:** Georges Smetacek, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, France

**Received:** September 1, 2012; **Accepted:** November 21, 2012; **Published:** December 20, 2012

**Copyright:** © 2012 Elfawal et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

**Funding:** This work was funded by Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Clinical and Translational Science (grant C175-2011000) and the National Institutes of Health (grant 5R01AG029745). The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

**Competing Interests:** The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

\* Email: smrich@poc.umass.edu

### Introduction

Malaria is among the most prevalent infectious diseases in the developing world, imposing a vast burden of mortality and perpetuating cycles of poverty. In 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 2.5 million cases of malaria occurred, with >780,000 deaths [1]. In spite of recent advances in our understanding of this parasite, efforts to prevent transmission have remained largely unchanged for over a century. Though malaria vaccines hold future promise, vector control and chemotherapy remain the primary weapons for reducing the burden of disease in individuals and populations. Artemisinin, in the form of Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT), is currently the best treatment option against these malarial parasites that have evolved resistance to drugs such as chloroquine [2]. Moreover, artemisinin (AN) and its derivatives have also been shown to affect a number of viruses, a variety of human cancer cell lines [3,4], several widespread tropical parasitic diseases including schistosomiasis [5], leishmaniasis [6,7], New- and Old-World trypanosomiasis [8], and some livestock diseases [9]. Current artemisinin production requires its extraction from the cultivated herb *Artemisia annua* L., which is a "generally regarded as safe" (GRAS) herb suitable for human consumption [10].

However, considerable production costs and inadequate availability of artemisinin limit its present usefulness in the campaign against malaria [11]. Until very recently [12], all new chemical synthesis of artemisinin was neither practical nor cost-effective. The best plant cultivars yield only ca. 1.5% artemisinin, and agricultural yields seldom exceed 20 kg/ha [13]. The drug is either extracted from plant material, crystallized, and typically used for semi-synthesis of artemisinin derivatives. Although *A. annua* is relatively easy to grow in temperate and subtropical climates, low yields of artemisinin lead to relatively high costs for isolation and purification of the drug [14]. Because of this shortcoming, plant scientists have focused their efforts on producing cultivars of *A. annua* with higher artemisinin crop yields [15]. Transgenic production schemes are also underway [16,17]. Meanwhile, a worldwide shortage fails to meet the need to treat malaria, not to mention those other diseases against which artemisinin holds such promise [2].

One means of reducing the cost of production would be to limit the amount of post-harvest processing by using the whole plant (WP). We wondered whether obtaining the extracts early, by using whole plant *A. annua* directly as the source of artemisinin, might prove efficacious in an experimental murine model. In a previous

PLOS ONE | www.plosone.org

1

December 2012 | Volume 7 | Issue 12 | e42796





NIH Public Access

Author Manuscript

Not Biotechnol. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2010 January 1.

Published in final edited form as:

Nat Biotechnol. 2009 July ; 27(7): 659-666. doi:10.1038/nbt.1549.

NIH-PA Author Manuscript

NIH-PA Author Manuscript

### Synergistic drug combinations improve therapeutic selectivity

Joseph Lehar<sup>1,2,†</sup>, Andrew S. Krueger<sup>2</sup>, William Avery<sup>1</sup>, Adrian M. Heilbut<sup>1</sup>, Lisa M. Johansen<sup>1</sup>, E. Roydon Price<sup>1</sup>, Richard J. Rickles<sup>1</sup>, Glenn F. Short III<sup>1</sup>, Jane E. Staunton<sup>1</sup>, Xiaowei Jin<sup>1</sup>, Margaret S. Lee<sup>1</sup>, Grant R. Zimmermann<sup>1,\*,</sup> and Alexis A. Borisy<sup>1,†,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CombinatoRx Incorporated, 245 First St, Cambridge, MA 02142

<sup>2</sup> Boston University Bioinformatics/Bioengineering, 20 Cummington St, Boston, MA 02215

#### Abstract

Prevailing drug discovery approaches focus on compounds with molecular selectivity, inhibiting disease-relevant targets over others *in vitro*. However *in vivo*, many such agents are not therapeutically selective, either because of undesirable activity at effective doses or because the biological system responds to compensate. In theory, drug combinations should permit increased control of such complex biology, but there is a common concern that therapeutic synergy will generally be mirrored by synergistic side-effects. Here we provide evidence, from 94,110 multi-dose combination experiments representing diverse disease areas and large scale flux balance simulations of inhibited bacterial metabolism, that multi-target synergies are more specific than single agent activities to particular cellular contexts. Using an anti-inflammatory combination, we show how multi-target synergy can achieve therapeutic selectivity in animals through differential

Across all of our experimental data sets (from 94,110 multi- dose combination experiments), the selectivity distributions showed consistently positive bias for synergistic combinations

Synergistic combinations...offer opportunities for more precise control of biological systems

infectious diseases often achieve selectivity by modulating pathogen proteins with no human counterparts, but the treatment of cancer, metabolic, or inflammation disorders must rely on targets that are present in both healthy and diseased tissues. This requires precise

target-based drug design paradigm efficiently finds candidate drugs that are selective in a molecular sense, an alarming fraction have side effects *in vivo* that prevent their use at effective doses<sup>1</sup>.

Synergistic combinations of two or more agents can overcome toxicity and other side effects associated with high doses of single drugs, by either countering biological compensation, sparing doses on each compound, or accessing context-specific multi-target mechanisms<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>†</sup> Corresponding authors (jlehar@combinatorx.com, aborisy@combinatorx.com).

<sup>\*</sup> These authors made equal contributions

#### Author Contributions

J.L. drafted and edited the majority of this paper, in addition to developing and performing the selectivity analyses. A.A.B. conceived the underlying premise and made major contributions to the abstract, introduction and conclusion. G.R.Z. wrote the *in vivo* validation sections and oversee many of the screening projects. M.S.L. and J.E.S. oversee the remaining screening projects reported. A.S.K. performed the theoretical simulations. W.A. performed and analyzed the preclinical experiments. A.M.H. designed and conducted the cancer 180x180 2005 screen; L.M.J. designed and directed the viral infection, bacterial, and anthrax experiments; E.R.P. planned and

NIH-PA Author Manuscript

# Network Pharmacology

Occam's Razor was Theology...

## The Genome - Network Properties

Birney E, Stamatoyannopoulos JA, Dutta A, et al. Identification and analysis of functional elements in 1% of the human genome by the ENCODE pilot project. *Nature*. Jun 14 2007;447(7146):799-816.

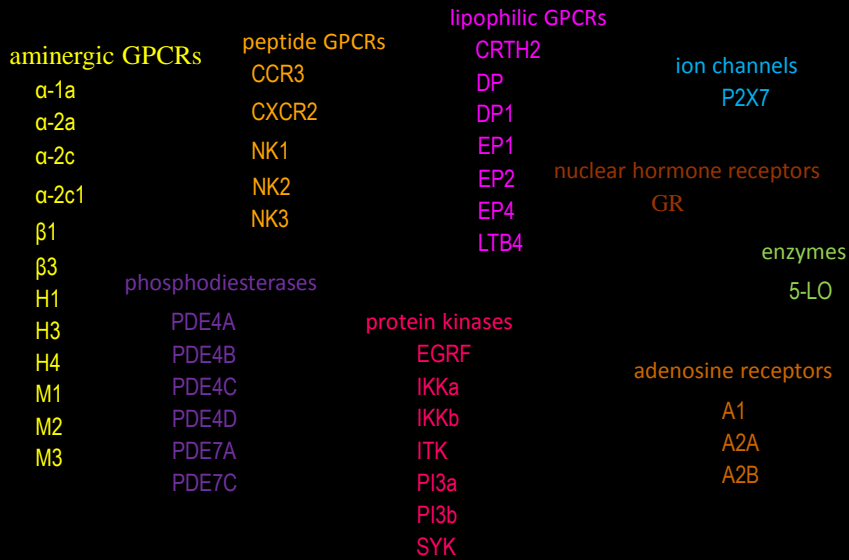
Genes operate in complex networks!

## Network Pharmacology

The recognition, informed by systems biology, that drugs for many disease states may require multiple activities to be efficacious, together with the observed promiscuity of old, small-molecule drugs, points strongly at the potential efficacy of medicinal plants as effective therapeutics

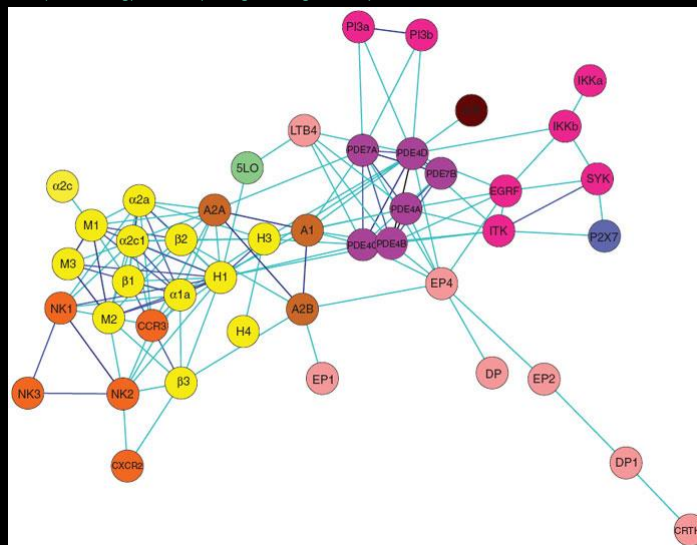
# Asthma Targets

Hopkins AL. 2008. Network pharmacology: the next paradigm in drug discovery. *Nat Chem Biol* 4:620-90.



# Asthma Targets

Hopkins AL. 2008. Network pharmacology: the next paradigm in drug discovery. *Nat Chem Biol* 4:620-90.



## *Vitis vinifera*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### Antiallergic

gallic acid	oleanolic acid
myricetin	opcs
ascorbic acid	pantothenic acid
caffeoyltartaric acid	procyanadins
calcium	quercetin
ferulic acid	rutin
kaempferol	
linalool	
luteolin	
niacin	

### Antiasthmatic

$\alpha$ -tocopherol	opcs
ascorbic acid	protocatechuic acid
$\beta$ -carotene	quercetin
gallic acid	selenium
limonene	
magnesium	

## *Vitis vinifera*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### Antibronchitic

gallic acid

### Antihistaminic

ascorbic acid	niacin
caffeic acid	opcs
catechin	procyanidins
chlorogenic acid	quercetin
kaempferol	rutin
linalool	ursolic acid
linoleic acid	
luteolin	
myricetin	

## *Vitis vinifera*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### Antileukotriene

(-) epicatechin	quercetin
caffeic acid	resveratrol
caffeoyltartaric acid	selenium
chlorogenic acid	
oleanolic acid	

### Antipharyngitic

quercetin

## *Vitis vinifera*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### Antioxidants

(+) catechin	chlorogenic acid	histidine	myristic acid
(+) gallic acid	cholesterol	hyperoside	oleanolic acid
(-) epicatechin	cyanidin	isochlorogenic acid	opcs
(-) epigallocatechin	delphinidin	isoquercitrin	p coumaric acid
alanine	delphinidin 3 o	kaempferol	p hydroxy benzoic acid
alpha tocopherol	beta d glucoside	lupeol	Palmitic acid
anthocyanidins	ellagic acid	lutein	pelargonidin
anthocyanins	epicatechin	luteolin	peonidin 3 o beta glucoside
ascrobic acid	epicatechin 3 o gallate	lycopene	petunidin 3 o beta glucoside
beta carotene	ferulic acid	malvidin	piceid
beta sitosterol	fumaric acid	manganese	procyanidin B 2 3' o-gallate
caffeic acid	gallic acid	methionine	procyanidin B 2 3,3' DI o-gallate
campesterol	gentisic acid	myricetin	procyanidins

## *Vitis vinifera*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### Antioxidants

protocatechualdehyde	rutin	stigmasterol	vanillic acid
protocatechuic acid	salicylic acid	syringaldehyde	vanillin
pterostilbene	selenium	syrigic acid	
quercetin	shikimic acid	tannin	
resverotrol	sinapic acid	tryptophan	
riboflavin	squalene	ursolic acid	

## *Vitis vinifera*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### Antiprostaglandin

(+) catechin  
beta sitosterol  
caffeic acid  
catechin  
coniferyl aldehyde  
lupeol  
resveratrol  
tryptophan

### Antispasmodic

ascorbic acid  
caffeic acid  
cinnamaldehyde  
cinnamic acid  
ferulic acid  
geraniol  
kaempferol  
limonene  
linalool  
luteolin  
magnesium  
niacin  
p coumaric acid  
potassium  
protocatechuic acid  
quercetin  
rutin  
shikimic acid

## *Vitis vinifera*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### **Asthma-preventative**

ascorbic acid

### **Bronchodilator**

gallic acid

## *Vitis vinifera*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### **Bronchorelaxant**

linalool

### **COX-Inhibitor**

(+) catechin	quercetin
catechin	resveratrol
cinnamaldehyde	salicylic acid
gallic acid	tannin
kaempferol	trans resveratrol
oleanolic acid	ursolic acid
pterostilbene	

## *Vitis vinifera*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### Expectorant

acetic acid  
astragalin  
benzoic acid  
betaine  
geraniol  
limonene  
linalool

### Immunomodulator

alpha tocopherol    magnesium  
ascorbic acid        oleanolic acid  
chromium              opcs  
copper                  rutin  
gallic acid             selenium  
limonene              ursolic acid  
linoleic acid         zinc

## *Vitis vinifera*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### Lipoxygenase Inhibitor

(-) epicatechin        rutin  
caffeic acid            squalene  
catechin                tannin  
chlorogenic acid      ursolic acid  
cinnamaldehyde  
cinnamic acid  
epicatechin  
kaempferol  
luteolin  
myricetin  
p coumaric acid  
quercetin

### Mast Cell Stabilizer

quercetin



## Network Pharmacology

- Compounds that selectively act on two or more targets of interest in theory should be more efficacious than single-target agents

Hopkins A. 2007. Network Pharmacology. *Nature Biotechnology* 25(10):1110-1111

## Realities

Integrating drug data with genetic-disease associations, gene-expression information and protein-protein interaction data, researchers investigated the relationships between approved drugs and observed a rich network of polypharmacology interactions between drugs and their targets

Yildirim, M.A., et al, 2007. *Nat. Biotechnol.* 25, 1119–1126.

# Realities

drugs acting on single targets appear to be the exception

Yildirim, M.A., et al, 2007. *Nat. Biotechnol.* **25**, 1119–1126.

# Network Pharmacology

Ágoston V, Csermely P, Pongor S. Multiple, weak hits confuse complex systems: A transcriptional regulatory network as an example. *Phys Rev E.* 2005;71(5):1-8.

- In comparisons of various pharmacological strategies, multiple but partial perturbations of selected targets in a network are almost always more efficient than the knockout of a single, well-selected target

## Network Pharmacology

Csermely P, Agoston V, Pongor S. The efficiency of multi-target drugs: the network approach might help drug design. *Trends Pharmacol Sci.* Apr 2005;26(4):178-182.

- Redundant pathways of cellular networks are not generally inhibited by just one pharmacological agent

## Network Pharmacology

Agoston V, Csermely P, Pongor S. Multiple, weak hits confuse complex systems: A transcriptional regulatory network as an example. *Phys Rev E.* 2005;71(5):1-8.

- Robust living molecular networks are commonly resistant to high-affinity, high-selectivity single hits such as generated by the current pharmacological methodology

# Network Pharmacology

Ágoston V, Csermely P, Pongor S. Multiple, weak hits confuse complex systems: A transcriptional regulatory network as an example. *Phys Rev E*. 2005;71(5):1-8.

- While a high-affinity compound can knock out a single interaction, a compound with less specificity can interact with more targets of a particular protein or operon

# Network Pharmacology

Ágoston V, Csermely P, Pongor S. Multiple, weak hits confuse complex systems: A transcriptional regulatory network as an example. *Phys Rev E*. 2005;71(5):1-8.

- Such network activity is very similar to the interface between plant compounds and a human system when a person ingests a medicinal or food plants

# Ensemble Properties



155

Chinese Journal of Traumatology 2010; 13(3):150-152

## Effect of Xingnaojing injection on cerebral edema and blood-brain barrier in rats following traumatic brain injury

XU Mao 徐茅, SU Wei 苏伟, XU Qiang-jing 徐庆敬 and HUANG Wei-dong 黄卫东

**[Abstract] Objective:** To explore the effects of Xingnaojing injection on cerebral edema and blood-brain barrier (BBB) in rats following traumatic brain injury (TBI).

**Methods:** A total of 108 adult male Sprague-Dawley rats were used as subjects and randomly assigned to three groups: sham-operation, TBI and Xingnaojing injection groups (10 mL/kg of intraperitoneal injection). TBI in rats was set up by the improved device of Feeney's weight-dropping model with the impact of 400 g/cm. Brain water content and BBB permeability expressed as Evans blue content were measured at 1, 3, 5 and 7 days after surgery.

**Results:** In sham-operation group, brain water content and Evans blue content in brain tissue were 78.97%±1.22% and 5.13 μg±0.71 μg. Following TBI, water content in brain tissue was increased significantly at 1, 3, 5 and 7 days

after TBI (80.40%±0.60%, being significantly higher than that in sham operation group ( $P<0.05$ ). Evans blue content was increased in TBI group (16.54 μg±0.60 μg, 14.92 μg±0.71 μg, 12.44 μg±0.52 μg, 10.14 μg±0.52 μg) as compared with sham-operation group ( $P<0.05$ ). After treatment with Xingnaojing injection, brain water content decreased as compared with TBI group (81.81%±1.04%, 80.38%±0.72%, 79.54%±0.58%, 78.69%±0.77%,  $P<0.05$ ). Xingnaojing injection also reduced the leakage of BBB as compared with TBI group (5.11 μg±0.63 μg, 13.62 μg±0.85 μg, 10.06 μg±0.67 μg, 9.54 μg±0.41 μg,  $P<0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** Xingnaojing injection could alleviate cerebral edema following TBI via reducing permeability of BBB.

**Key words:** *Medicine, Chinese traditional; Brain edema; Blood-brain barrier*

*Radix Curcumae* formula: *Curcuma longa*, *Gardenia root*, *Moschus*, *Borneolum*

Reduces brain injury and enhances functional recovery after TBI.

key contributor to the morbidity and mortality associated with TBI. The cellular and molecular mechanisms contributing to the development or resolution of TBI-associated brain edema are poorly understood. Current treatments for brain edema such as hyperosmolar agents and surgical decompression have changed little

mediate and sustained reduction of cerebral edema, and recovery of cerebral function.

Xingnaojing injection (XNJ), consisting of Chinese herbs such as *Moschus*, *Borneol*, *Radix Curcumae*, *Fructus Gardeniae*, was extracted by modern biotechnology according to Chinese Traditional Medicine named An Gong Niu Huang Wan. Modern pharmacological studies confirmed that XNJ can directly act on the central nervous system through blood-brain barrier (BBB). It is now well documented that XNJ can reduce brain injury and enhance functional recovery after TBI and stroke in different clinical trials and animal models of injury. Despite the demonstrated benefits of XNJ in treating TBI, little is known about how this medicine specifically produces its salutary effects at the cellular level after TBI. To elucidate further the mechanisms can help to prevent edema formation and inflammation. Therefore we studied the brain water content and permeability of BBB in response to TBI and then the effects of treatment with XNJ using a rodent brain injury model.

DOI: 10.3760/cma.j.issn.1008-1275.2010.03.005

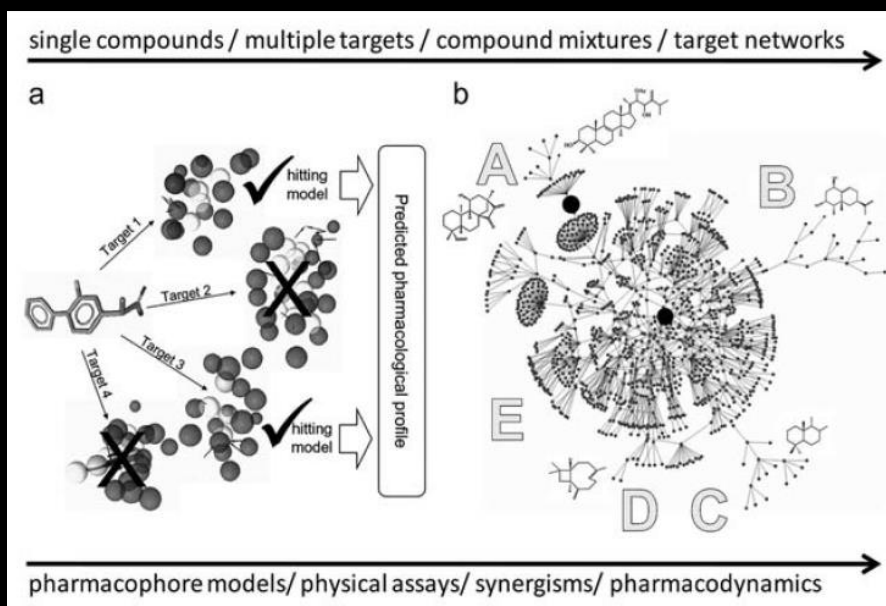
Department of Critical Care Medicine, Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, Medical College of Zhejiang University and Sir Run Run Shaw Institute of Clinical Medicine, Hangzhou 310016, China (Xu M, Su W and Xu QP)

Department of Emergency Medicine, First Affiliated Hospital, Medical College of Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310016, China (Huang WD)

\*Corresponding author. Tel: 86-571-86000073. E-mail: HZ29372@hotmail.com

This study was supported by the Science and Technology Department of Zhejiang Province (No.2008C33042)

Medical College of Zhejiang University (No.2007N30) and Administration Bureau of Traditional Chinese Medicine of Zhejiang Province (No.2009C053).



Journal of Ethnopharmacology 145 (2013) 1–10

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Ethnopharmacology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jep

Review

Network pharmacology-based prediction of the active ingredients and potential targets of Chinese herbal *Radix Curcumae* formula for application to cardiovascular disease

WeiYang Tao<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Xue Xu<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Xia Wang<sup>a,b</sup>, Bohui Li<sup>a,b</sup>, Yonghua Wang<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Yan Li<sup>c</sup>, Ling Yang<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Center of Biomedicine, Northwest A&F University, Yangling 712100, Shaanxi, China  
<sup>b</sup> College of Life Science, Northwest A&F University, Yangling 712100, Shaanxi, China  
<sup>c</sup> School of Chemical Engineering, Dalian University of Technology, Dalian 116024, Liaoning, China  
<sup>d</sup> State of Pharmaceutical Research Discovery, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Dalian 116021, China

ARTICLE INFO ABSTRACT

74 of 475 phytochemicals, 15.6%, show oral bioavailability and drug-likeness. 58 compounds interact with targets for cardio and cerebrovascular diseases. Each of 9 compounds hits more than 10 potential targets.

**Keywords:** Curcuma; Gardenia; Moschus; Network pharmacology

Curcuma shares the most common targets with *Fructus Gardeniae* (15), while less common targets with *Moschus* and *Bornanum* (8 and 1, respectively). Further integrated network shows that *Radix Curcumae* represents the principal component for the generation of CVDs, and other three medicinal herbs is advisable route to assist the effects of the principal component, which together probably display synergistic actions. *Curcuma* has the most accessibility and the most common targets of the CVDs compared with other herbs.

33 active compounds of *Curcuma* have 8 specific potential targets. 17 active compounds of *Gardenia* possess 5 specific targets. *Curcuma* & *Gardenia* have 15 common targets; *Curcuma* and *Moschus* have 8 common targets

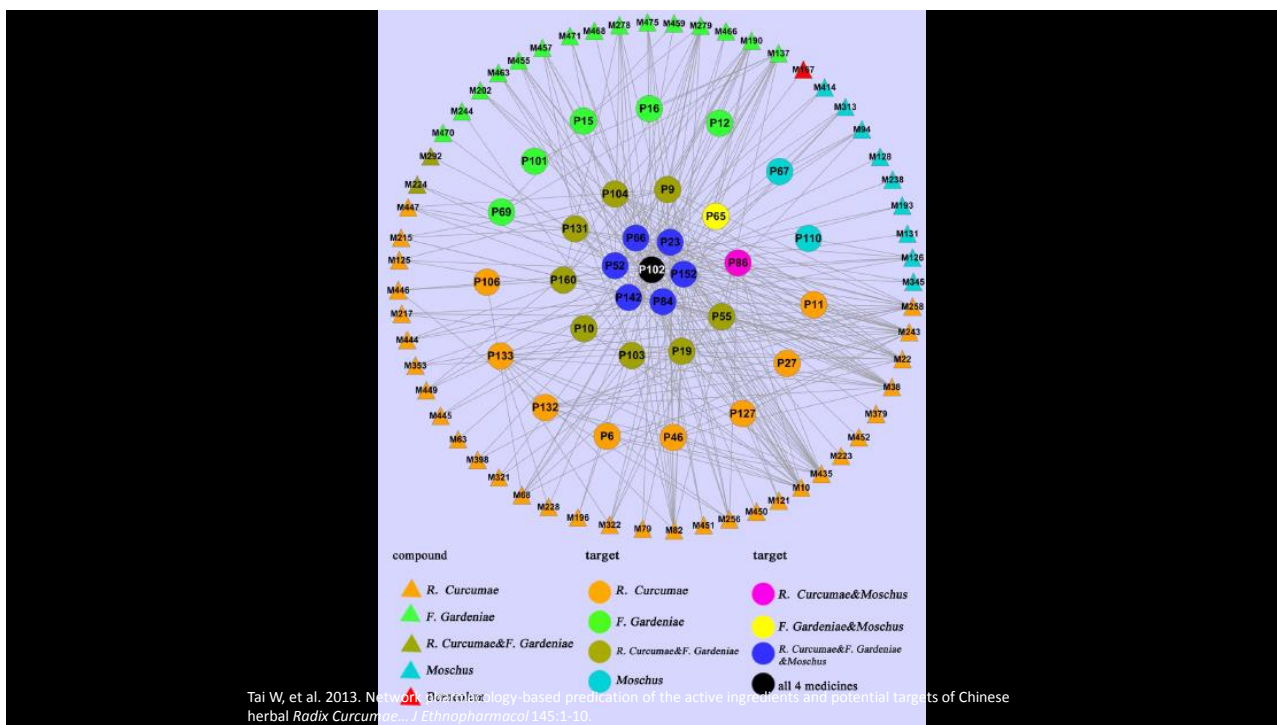
1. Introduction ..... 2  
 2. Materials and methods ..... 2

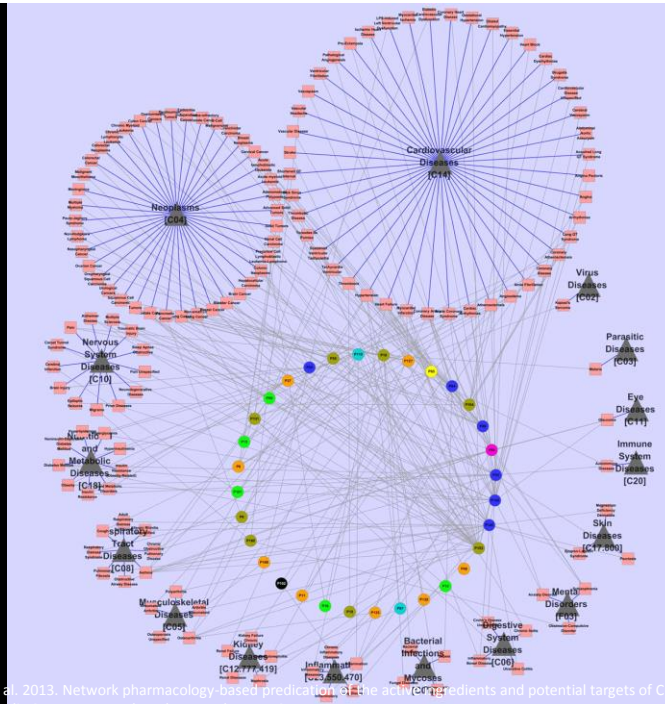
2.1. The phytochemicals ..... 2  
 3.1.1. *Radix Curcumae* ..... 4  
 3.1.2. *Fructus Gardeniae* ..... 4  
 3.1.3. *Moschus* ..... 4

\* Corresponding author at: Center of Biomedicine, Northwest A&F University, Yangling 712100, Shaanxi, China. Tel.: +86 910 8702210.  
 E-mail address: yhwang@nwsuaf.edu.cn (Y. Wang).  
 1: Co-first author.

0304-384X/\$ – see front matter © 2012 Elsevier Ireland Ltd. All rights reserved.  
 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2013.09.003

No.	Compound	OB	IK	Medicine
M10*	(1E,4E)-1,7-bis-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-1,4B-heptatriene-3-one	80.7	0.25	yi jin
M22*	(1E)-Hydroxy-7-(6-hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-1-heptene	64.7	0.19	yi jin
M30*	1,7-Dihydro-1,3-oxetony-4(1)-heptene	62.9	0.22	yi jin
M67*	3,7-Dimethyl-5-indoleacetic acid	67.3	0.12	yi jin
M86*	3-Hindacetic acid	67.4	0.12	yi jin
M79*	4-Epi-curcumenol	89.6	0.27	yi jin
M82*	6-Hydroxycurcumenone	67.2	0.22	yi jin
M117	α-Cadinol	64.8	0.18	yi jin
M121*	Artemipidol	67.2	0.22	yi jin
M125*	Alimonoside	66.3	0.19	yi jin
M126	Atomadenone oxide	64.8	0.31	yi jin
M179	Calameneptolide	70.7	0.42	yi jin
M196*	Cinnamic acid	79.8	0.15	yi jin
M214*	Curcumanolide A	79.0	0.19	yi jin
M217*	Curcumenol	91.1	0.27	yi jin
M223*	Curmenol	109.8	0.27	yi jin
M228*	Curumenone	61.5	0.20	yi jin
M241*	Dihydrocurcumin	65.5	0.44	yi jin
M254	Endobornyl acetate	65.5	0.19	yi jin
M255	Epicurumenol	87.8	0.27	yi jin
M256*	Epicurumenone	63.0	0.20	yi jin
M258*	Ethyl ferulate	87.8	0.11	yi jin
M314	Isocurumenone	64.7	0.34	yi jin
M317	Isocurumenol	100.0	0.26	yi jin
M321*	Isospathemol	81.9	0.26	yi jin
M322*	Isocurumenol	64.6	0.21	yi jin
M329	Ledeneoxide	80.5	0.40	yi jin
M329*	Neocurcumenol	86.5	0.27	yi jin
M379*	Oxycurcumenol	67.2	0.44	yi jin
M398*	Procucurumenol	68.3	0.23	yi jin
M412	Spathemol	79.6	0.26	yi jin
M435*	Turmeronol A	67.6	0.12	yi jin
M444*	Zedakalactone A	100.0	0.27	yi jin
M445*	Zedakalactone B	100.0	0.34	yi jin
M446*	Zedakalactone C	71.3	0.23	yi jin
M447*	Zedakalactone D	100.0	0.34	yi jin
M448*	Zedanol	100.0	0.26	yi jin
M449*	Zedanolide A	67.2	0.52	yi jin
M451*	Zedanolide B	100.0	0.13	yi jin
M452*	Zedanolol	60.3	0.21	yi jin
M183	Campylol	68.9	0.17	yi jin&kingjian
M315	Iobornol	87.4	0.17	yi jin&kingjian
M248*	Cardione	38.5	0.11	yi jin&shizi
M252*	Germacone	41.1	0.10	yi jin&shizi
M254	Neocurdiene	36.5	0.11	yi jin&shizi
M137*	Ascorbic acid	78.6	0.11	zhi zi
M190*	Chlorogenic acid	39.0	0.39	zhi zi
M205*	Crocin	16.5	0.30	zhi zi
M244*	Dimethoxyflavone	63.4	0.12	zhi zi
M278*	Gardenic acid	61.1	0.62	zhi zi
M279*	Gardenin A	40.1	0.56	zhi zi
M438	Urolic acid	19.4	0.88	zhi zi
M450*	Alprenolide_DG	91.2	0.23	zhi zi
M457*	6'-p-coumaroylgeniposinoidide_DG	73.5	0.16	zhi zi
M459*	6'-Gustonylgeniposinoidide_DG	69.5	0.10	zhi zi
M460*	10 acetyl geniposin_DG	40.4	0.20	zhi zi
M461*	Picrocurumenol_DG	55.3	0.12	zhi zi
M468*	Jamnosinide_LDH	61.7	0.11	zhi zi
M479*	Cardioidide_DG	83.0	0.16	zhi zi
M471*	Cardenolide_DG	100.0	0.20	zhi zi
M472*	Caryophyllene_DG	100.0	0.21	zhi zi
M64	3-α-hydroxy-6-androstene-17-one	35.5	0.44	she xiang
M89*	5-α-14-methyl-cyclopentadecanone	32.3	0.11	she xiang
M126*	Allantoin	86.7	0.10	she xiang
M128*	Androst-4-ene-3,17-dione	47.2	0.48	she xiang
M131*	Androstene	36.8	0.44	she xiang
M198*	Cholic acid	37.9	0.73	she xiang
M238*	Dihydroepiandrosterone	33.9	0.44	she xiang
M318*	Hydroxyandrosterone	42.3	0.15	she xiang
M342*	Muscione	31.5	0.11	she xiang
M346	Muscopyridine	47.5	0.13	she xiang
M351	N-diosgenin	61.5	0.26	she xiang
M414*	Stanolone	32.7	0.44	she xiang
M161*	Stanol	82.9	0.17	bing gan





## Multicomponent Remedies

Wald NJ, Law MR. 2003. A strategy to reduce cardiovascular disease by more than 80% *BMJ* 326:1419

- The Polypill strategy, based on a single daily pill containing six components
  - A statin
  - Three blood pressure lowering drugs, each at half standard dose
  - Folic acid (800 mcg)
  - Aspirin (75 mg)
- would prevent 88% of heart attacks and 80% of strokes
- About 1 in 3 people would directly benefit, each on average gaining 11-12 years of life without a heart attack or stroke (20 years in those aged 55-64).



# Garlic

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

## Cholesterol lowering agents

apigenin	nicotinic-acid
adenosine	phytic-acid
ajoene	rutin
allicin	s-allyl-cysteine-sulfoxide
alliin	s-allyl-l-cysteine
campesterol	s-methyl-l-cysteine-sulfoxide
diallyl-disulfide	taurine
diallyl-trisulfide	trigonelline
inulin	
lignin	
methyl-ajoene	

## Blood pressure lowering agents

ACEI	Ca <sup>2+</sup> Channel Blockers	Diuretics
glutathione	allicin	apigenin
quercetin	caffeic acid	asparagine
	trans-ajoene	caffeic acid
		chlorogenic acid
		citrulline
		kaempferol
		myricetin
		oleanolic acid

# Garlic

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

## Antiinflammatory agents

COX Inhibs	Other
2-vinyl-4h-1,3-dithiin	$\alpha$ -linolenic-acid
caffeic-acid	chlorogenic-acid
kaempferol	ferulic-acid
oleanolic-acid	linalool
quercetin	myricetin
salicylic-acid	vanillic-acid

## Antiaggregants

2-vinyl-4h-1,3-dithiin	apigenin
adenosine	caffeic acid
ajoene	cycloalliin
allicin	ferulic acid
alliin	kaempferol
allyl-methyl-trisulfide	methyl-allyl-trisulfide
allyl-trisulfide	phytic-acid
$\alpha$ -linoleic acid	quercetin
	salicylates

## Garlic spp.

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### Antioxidants

allicin	diallyl heptasulfide	kaempferol	rutin
alliin	diallyl hexasulfide	lignin	s-allyl-cysteine-sulfoxide
allixin	diallyl pentasulfide	myricetin	s-allyl-L-cysteine
allyl-mercaptan	diallyl sulfide	oleanolic acid	s-allyl-mercaptocysteine
apigenin	diallyl tetrasulfide	p-coumaric acid	salicylic acid
campesterol	diallyl trisulfide	p-hydroxy benzoic acid	sinapic acid
caffeic acid	ferulic acid	pentadecanoic acid	taurine
chlorogenic acid	glutathione	phytic acid	vanillic acid
diallyl-disulfide	ionol	quercetin	

# Garlic, through another lense

for URIs?

## *Allium sativum*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### **Analgesic/Anesthetic/Antinociceptive**

adenosine  
allithiamin  
caffeic acid  
chlorogenic acid  
ferulic acid  
linalool  
quercetin  
rutin  
salicylic acid

### **Antiallergic**

ajoene      linalool  
apigenin    oleanolic acid  
citral        quercetin  
ferulic acid    rutin  
kaempferol

## *Allium sativum*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### **Anti-flu**

allicin                      diallyl trisulfide  
2-vinyl-4h-1,3-dithiin    quercetin  
caffeic acid

### **Antihistaminic**

apigenin                  linalool  
caffeic acid              myricetin  
chlorogenic acid        quercetin  
citral                      rutin  
kaempferol

## *Allium sativum*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Databse. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### Antiinflammatory agents

#### COX Inhibs

2-vinyl-4h-1,3-dithiin  
ajoene

apigenin

caffeic acid

kaempferol

oleanolic acid

quercetin

salicylic-acid

#### Other

ajoene

allicin

Alpha linolenic acid

apigenin

caffeic acid

chlorogenic acid

ferulic acid

kaempferol

myricetin

oleanolic acid

quercetin

quercetin 3 o

beta d glucoside

rutin

salicylates

salicylic acid

vanillic-acid

### Antiviral

ajoene

allicin

allyl alcohol

apigenin

caffeic acid

chlorogenic acid

diallyl disulfide

diallyl trisulfide

ferullic acid

kaempferol

lignin

linalool

myricetin

oleanolic acid

quercetin

rutin

## *Allium sativum*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Databse. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### Antibacterial

ajoene

allicin

alliin

allistatin i

allistatin ii

alpha phellandrene

apigenin

caffeic acid

chlorogenic acid

citral

diallyl disulfide

diallyl sulfide

diallyl tetrasulfide

diallyl trisulfide

endolysin

ferulic acid

geraniol

kaempferol

lignin

linalool

muramidase

myricetin

oleanolic acid

p-coumaric acid

p-hydroxy benzoic acid

quercetin

rutin

salicylic acid

sinapic acid

vanillic acid

## *Allium sativum*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### Antipneumonic

diallyl trisulfide  
2-vinyl-4H-1,3-dithiin

### Antipyretic

Salicylates      Salicylic acid

## *Allium sativum*

Duke J. 2014. Phytochemical Database and Ethnobotanical Database. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>

### Expectorant

beta phellandrene  
2-vinyl-4H-1,3-dithiin  
citral  
geraniol  
inulin  
linalool

### Immunostimulant

allicin      inulin  
alliin      oleanolic acid  
alpha linolenic acid      S-allyl-L-cysteine  
ascorbic acid  
caffeic acid  
chlorogenic acid  
diallyl disulfide

## Multi-Targeting

Over 40% of drug targets that map with disease genes mapped to more than one disease

Hopkins A. 2007. Network Pharmacology. *Nature Biotechnology* 25(10):1110-1111.

## Disease as Multi Factorial

- A network analysis of the OMIM database of genetic associations showed that the genetic origins of most diseases are shared with other diseases:
  - of 1,284 disorders catalogued in OMIM, 867 share at least one gene with another disorder

Goh, K.-I. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 104, 8685–8690 (2007).

## Systems Biology

Borisy AA, et al. (2003). Systematic discovery of multicomponent therapeutics. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 100, 7977-82.

A drug discovery approach consonant with a systems biology framework, and complementary to the target-based approach, entails identification of *combinations of small molecules* that perturb cellular signaling networks in a desired fashion

## Systems Biology

Martin KR. 2006. Targeting apoptosis with dietary bioactive agents. *Exp Biol Med* 231(2):117-29

- It is clear that a large number of phytochemicals, often considered superfluous, directly or indirectly modulate gene expression

## Intervening in a Network

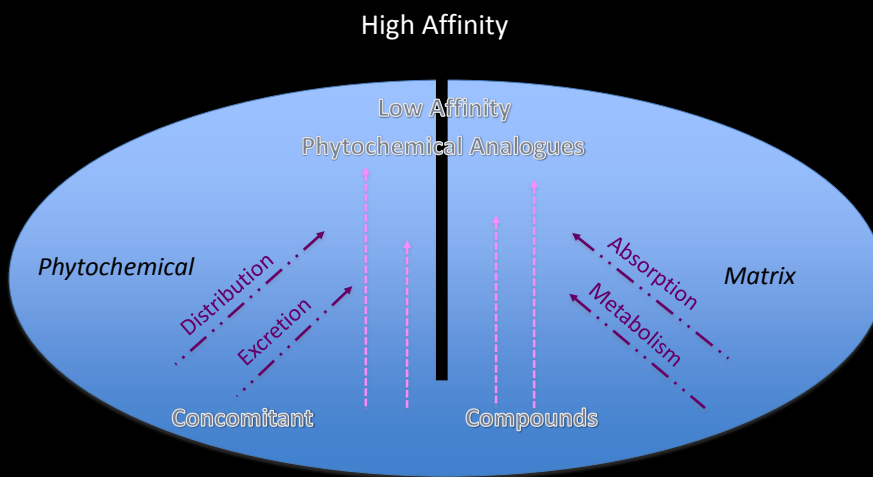
Csermely, P., Agoston, V., and Pongor, S. (2005). The efficiency of multi-target drugs: the network approach might help drug design. *Trends Pharmacol Sci* 26, 178-82.

Pharmacological strategies with multiple targets might have a better chance of affecting the complex equilibrium of whole cellular networks than drugs that act on a single target

This also includes an enhanced safety profile

## Deductive Landscape A Broad Perspective

Spelman K. 2007. Ecological Pharmacology II: Molecular Details *UnifiedEnergetics* 3(6): 58-62.

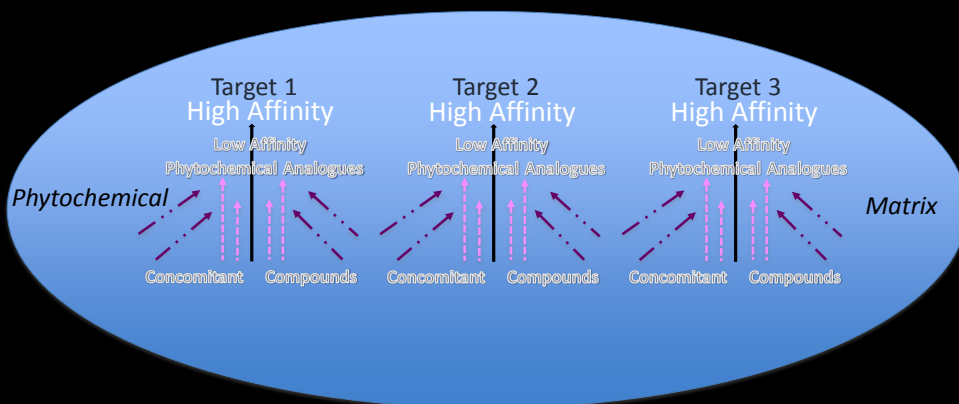




# Deductive Landscape

## *A Broader Perspective*

Spelman K. 2007. Ecological Pharmacology II: Molecular Details *UnifiedEnergetics* 3(6): 58-62.



Biochemical Individuality  
Pharmacogenomics, Pharmacogenetics  
and Polymorphisms

# NUTRITION REVIEWS

Vol. 8 SEPTEMBER, 1950 No. 9

## CONCEPT OF GENETROTROPHIC DISEASE

A genetrophic disease is one which occurs if a diet fails to provide a sufficient supply of one or more nutrients required at high levels because of the characteristic genetic pattern of the individual concerned (G. J. Williams, E. Beerstocker, and L. J. Berry, *Lancet* 1, 287 (1949)). This concept

supply of the particular nutrient (or nutrients) which an individual needs because of his own peculiar genetic pattern, nutritional (genetrophic) deficiency results.

Alcoholism was studied in its relation to individuality in metabolism. It was assumed in the beginning that the craving for al-

Nutrition is for real people; statistical humans are of little interest

It is estimated in which is now common, individual patients are far from standardized specimens (G. J. Williams, "The Human Frustrator," *Harvard, New York (1949)*) and

and animal experiments, without serious doubt, that consumption of alcohol by laboratory animals is a genetrophic phenomenon. Ordinary laboratory animals subsisting

## RDAs are not useful

Fundamental to the studies here outlined is the theory of partial gastric blocks (H. K. Mitchell and M. D. Houshian, *Fed. Proc.* 6, 599 (1947)). Such a block involves a

mounting appetite, etc. The drinking posture appeared on a constant diet to be wholly under genetic control, but experiment demonstrated that they could be

The nutrient needs of individuals differ far more substantially from person to person than the RDAs account for

explain the difference between the dog and the rat in the efficiency of conversion of cytoplasm into zincin (*Nutrition Abstracts* 3, 897 (1945); 7, 85, 307 (1949)).

The metabolic pattern of each person obviously includes characteristics that are individual and distinctive. Urinary and urinary analyses reveal these differences (R. C. Thompson and H. M. Kirby, *Arch. Biochem.* 21, 210 (1949); H. J. Williams, L. J. Berry, and E. Beerstocker, *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol.* 109, 441 (1949)). Partial gastric blocks somewhere in the metabolic machinery are probably commonplaces in individual inheritance. Without an augmented

appetite for alcohol had been developed previously. Different strains, highly inbred and otherwise, gave results in line with the genetic hypothesis. Unless a member of a highly inbred strain, each animal indicated possession of a distinctive metabolic pattern based presumably on its own partial gastric blocks and on consequent augmented requirements for specific vitamins, amino acids, or minerals without which deficiencies developed. The urge on the part of the animals to consume alcohol was conditioned by the existence of nutritional deficiencies. Although the physiologic nature of appetite itself is unknown it is known that

## Orthomolecular Psychiatry

Varying the concentrations of substances normally present in the human body may control mental disease.

Linus Pauling

The methods principally used now for treating patients with mental disease are psychotherapy (psychoanalysis and related efforts to provide insight and to reduce environmental stress), chemotherapy (mainly with the use of powerful synthetic drugs, such as chlorpromazine, or powerful natural products from plants, such as reserpine), and control-

alleviation of the manifestations of the disease, both mental and physical. The functioning of the brain is dependent on its composition and structure, that is, on the molecular environment of the mind. The presence in the brain of molecules of *N,N*-diethyl- $\gamma$ -butyrolactam, mescaline, or some other schizophrenia-producing substance is associated

controlled synthetic mechanisms, and, for essential nutrients (vitamins, essential amino acids, essential fatty acids) different from the minimum daily amounts required for life or the "recommended" (average) daily amounts suggested for good health. Some of these arguments are presented in the following paragraphs.

### Evolution and Natural Selection

The process of evolution does not necessarily result in the normal provision of optimum molecular concentrations. Let us use ascorbic acid as an example. Of the mammals that have been studied in this respect, the only species that have lost the power to synthesize ascorbic acid and that accordingly require it in the diet are man, other Primates (human monkey, Formosa long-tail monkey, and ring-tail or brown capuchin monkey), the guinea pig, and an Indian fruit-eating bat (*Pteropus medius*) (7). Presumably the

Discussion of optimum molecular concentrations, rates of reactions

elements summarized in the following paragraphs, that another general method of treatment, which may be called orthomolecular therapy, may be found to be of great value, and may turn out to be the best method of treatment for many patients.

Orthomolecular psychiatric therapy is the treatment of mental disease by the

hibition of nitrous oxide. The phenomenon of general anesthesia also illustrates the dependence of the mind (consciousness, ephemeral memory) on its molecular environment (5).

The proper functioning of the mind is known to require the presence in the brain of molecules of many different substances. For example, mental disease,

years ago in the common ancestor of man and other Primates, and occurred independently for the guinea pig and for one species of bat and one bird, in each case in an environment such that ascorbic acid was provided by the food. For a mutation rate of 1/20,000 per gene generation and for even a very small advantage for the mutant (0.01

...local cerebral deficiencies may lead to mental disease...

An example is the treatment of phenylketonuric children by use of a diet containing a smaller than normal amount of the amino acid phenylalanine. Phenylketonuria (2) results from a genetic defect that leads to a decreased amount or effectiveness of the enzyme catalyzing the oxidation of phenylalanine to tyrosine. The patients on a normal diet have in their tissues abnormally high concentrations of phenylalanine and some of its reaction products, which, in increased concentration, cause the mental and physical manifestations of the disease (mental deficiency, severe eczema, and others). A decrease in the amount of phenylalanine ingested results in an approximation to the normal or optimum concentrations and to the

normal concentrations of tyrosine (16), pyridoxine (16), cytochrome (16), biotin (16), ascorbic acid (8), and folic acid. There is evidence that mental function and behavior are also affected by changes in the concentration in the brain of any of a number of other substances that are normally present, such as (*cis*-)-lysine, acid, uric acid, and  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid (6).

### Optimum Molecular Concentrations

Several arguments may be advanced in support of the thesis that the optimum molecular concentrations of substances normally present in the body may be different from the concentrations provided by the diet and the gene-

tic and synthetic machinery (decrease in cell size and energy requirement, liberation of machinery for other purposes) might well be large, perhaps as much as 1 percent; a disadvantage (such as large loss by 60% percent) resulting from a less than optimum supply of dietary ascorbic acid would not prevent the replacement of the earlier species by the mutant. Hence, even if the amount of the vitamin provided by the diet available at the time of the mutation were less than the optimum amount, the mutant might still be able to replace its predecessor. Moreover, it is possible that the environment has changed during the last 20 million years

The author is professor of chemistry in the University of California, La Jolla, P.O. Box 106, La Jolla, California 92037.

Pharmacogenomics and pharmacogenetics represent the study of a large number of genes that influence drug activity, toxicity, and metabolism

## Genomics

The human genome contains 30,000 different genes, with a total of 3.12 billion nucleotides

Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) occur at a frequency about one in every 1250 base pairs

Thus we can expect to see more than three million genetic variations with the potential to influence response to a single substance

## Pharmacogenetics

The study of genetic factors that influence an organism's reaction to a drug

## Pharmacogenomics

Developing drug therapies to compensate for genetic differences in patients which cause varied responses to a single therapeutic regimen

# Why?

The drug level in plasma can vary more than 1000-fold between two individuals of the same weight at the same drug dosage

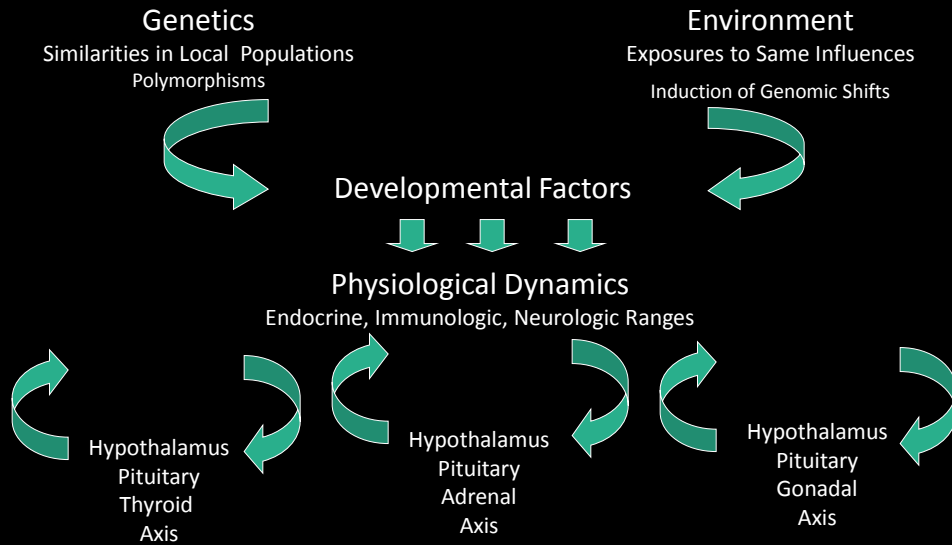
# Constitution, An Old Idea

It is “more important to know what sort of patient has a disease than to know what sort of disease a patient has.”

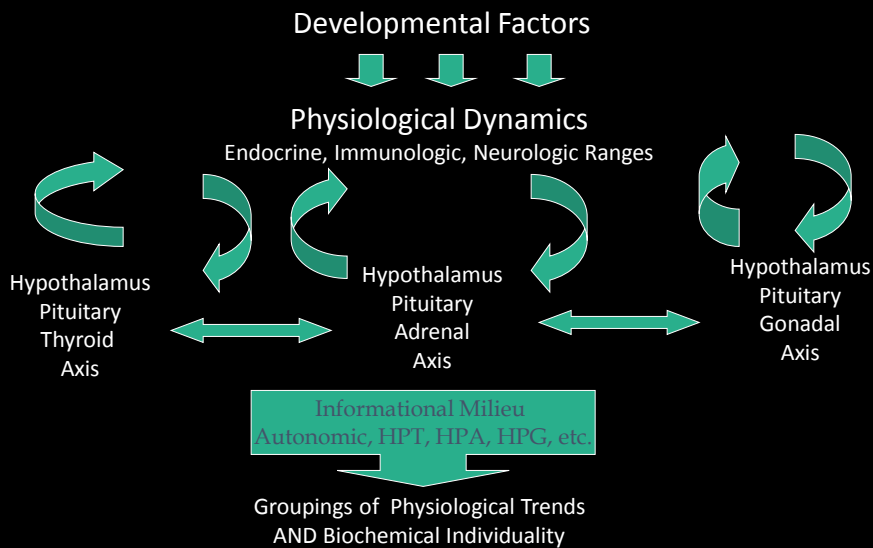
Sir William Osler

Originally Stated by Parry of Bath

# Formation of Constitution



# Formation of Constitution



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Open Access

## Prakriti (Ayurvedic concept of constitution) and variations in platelet aggregation

Supriya Bhalerao<sup>1</sup>, Tejashree Deshpande<sup>1</sup> and Urmila Thattai<sup>2\*</sup>

### Abstract

**Background:** Ayurveda, the traditional system of medicine, describes the prakriti (constitution) of an individual as a combination of the three doshas (Vata, Pitta and Kapha) in different proportions.

...in the study population of normal healthy participants, induced maximal platelet aggregation (MPA) was highest among the Vata-pitta types as compared to the other prakriti types and these individuals responded better to lower dose of aspirin compared to other prakriti types.

as compared to the other prakriti types and these individuals responded better to lower dose of aspirin compared to other prakriti types.

**Conclusions:** Our results suggest that identifying the prakriti may help in individualizing therapy or predicting proneness to a disease.

**Keywords:** Adenosine diphosphate, Aspirin, Pitta, Kapha, Vata

Our results suggest that identifying the prakriti may help in individualizing therapy or predicting proneness to a disease.

Background: Ayurveda, the traditional system of medicine, describes the prakriti (constitution) of an individual as a combination of the three doshas (Vata, Pitta and Kapha) in different proportions. The concept is claimed to be useful in predicting an individual's susceptibility to a particular disease, prognosis of that illness and selection of therapy [1].

Ayurveda attributes these constitutional characteristics of an individual to the preponderance of certain "doshas". Three main doshas are described, viz. vata, pitta and kapha. Kapha dosha is the "anabolic", synthetic dosha, responsible for growth and maintenance of structure [4]. The pitta dosha is the one responsible for

metabolic activities and kapha, the "plastic" dosha, is to be determined at the time of conception and is influenced by the milieu interior of the womb and the dietary habits and lifestyle of the mother [5]. These prakritis exhibit attributes of the dominant Dosha in physical, physiological and psychological characteristics. The disturbance in equilibrium of these doshas can lead to disease according to the prakriti of the person for example a pitta prakriti person is described to be more prone to peptic ulcers, hypertension, and skin diseases, a vata prakriti person to headache, joint aches and cracking joints while individuals with kapha prakriti are prone to obesity, diabetes and atherosclerosis [6-8].

\* Correspondence: urmila.thattai@bcm.ac.in

<sup>1</sup>Dept. of Clinical Pharmacology, Seth GS Medical College, and ICMH Hospital, Parel, Mumbai 400 032, India

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article



© 2012 Bhalerao et al.; licensee BioMed Central Ltd. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

eCAM Advance Access published December 16, 2009

eCAM 2009, Page 1 of 5  
doi:10.1093/ecam/nep206

## Original Article

## Traditional Medicine to Modern Pharmacogenomics: Ayurveda Prakriti Type and CYP2C19 Gene Polymorphism Associated with the Metabolic Variability

Yogita Ghodke<sup>1</sup>, Kalpana Joshi<sup>2</sup> and Bhushan Patwardhan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bioprospecting Laboratory, Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences, University of Pune and <sup>2</sup>Department of

The extensive metabolizer (EM) genotype (\*1/\*1, \*1/\*2, \*1/\*3) was found to be predominant in Pitta Prakriti (91%). Genotype (\*1/\*3) specific for EM group was present only in Pitta Prakriti.

**DME** genotyping in 132 unrelated healthy subjects of either sex by polymerase chain reaction-fragment length polymorphism (PCR-RFLP) technique. We observed significant association between CYP2C19 genotype and major classes of Prakriti types. The extensive metabolizer (EM) genotype (\*1/\*1, \*1/\*2, \*1/\*3) was found to be predominant in Pitta Prakriti (91%). Genotype (\*1/\*3) specific for EM group was present only in Pitta Prakriti.

Poor metabolizer (PM) genotype (\*2/\*2, \*2/\*3, \*3/\*3) was highest (31%) in Kapha Prakriti when compared with Vata (12%) and Pitta Prakriti (9%). Genotype (\*2/\*3) which is typical for a poor metabolizer was significant in Kapha Prakriti.

## Introduction

Ayurveda, the traditional system of medicine, describes the prakriti (constitution) of an individual as a combination of the three doshas (Vata, Pitta and Kapha) in different proportions. The concept is claimed to be useful in predicting an individual's susceptibility to a particular disease, prognosis of that illness and selection of therapy [1].

tri-dasha theory that identifies principles of motion (Vata), metabolism (Pitta) and structure (Kapha) as dis-

These observations are likely to have significant impact on phenotype-genotype correlation, drug discovery, pharmacogenomics and personalized medicine.

For reprints and all correspondence: Kalpana Joshi, Department of Biotechnology, Sitabopal College of Engineering, Pune 411041, India. Tel: +91-2043414100; Fax: +91-2043415740; E-mail: kalpana@sitabopal.ac.in

© The Author(s) 2009. Published by Oxford University Press.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/>), which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

important basic principle rightly described hundreds of years ago as every individual is different from another and hence should be considered as a different entity; as many variations are there in the Universe, all are seen in



# Dosing

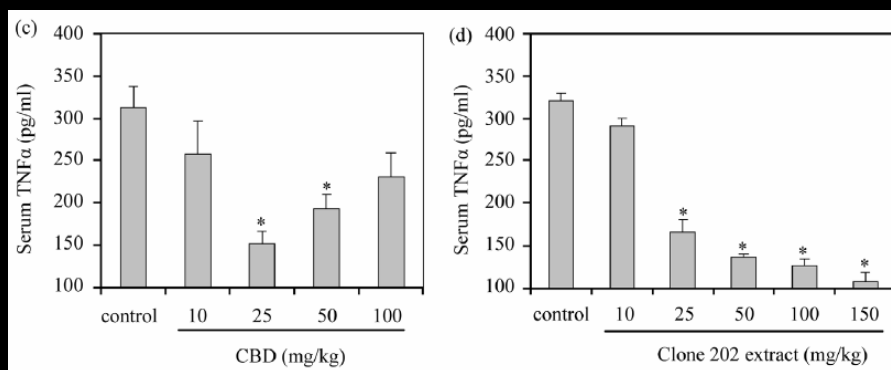
## An example from Cannabis



## A Characterized CBD Extract

Phytocannabinoid	Content
Cannabidiol (CBD)	17.9%
$\Delta^9$ -Tetrahydrocannabinol ( $\Delta^9$ -THC)	1.1%
Cannabichromene (CBC)	1.1%
Cannabigerol (CBG)	0.2%
Cannabinol (CBN)	Traces
Cannabidivarol (CBDV)	Traces

Gallily, R., Zhannah Yekhtin, Z., & Hanuš, L. O. (2015). Overcoming the Bell-Shaped Dose-Response of Cannabidiol by Using Cannabis Extract Enriched in Cannabidiol. *Pharmacol Pharm*, 6, 75-85.



Gallily, R., Zhannah Yekhtin, Z., & Hanuš, L. O. (2015). Overcoming the Bell-Shaped Dose-Response of Cannabidiol by Using Cannabis Extract Enriched in Cannabidiol. *Pharmacol Pharm*, 6, 75-85.

# Questions?

## Acknowledgements

- Traditional Roots for the opportunity to present
- Herb Pharm for Receptor Mosaic animation
- Shayne Foley & Mind You Media – Technical Support