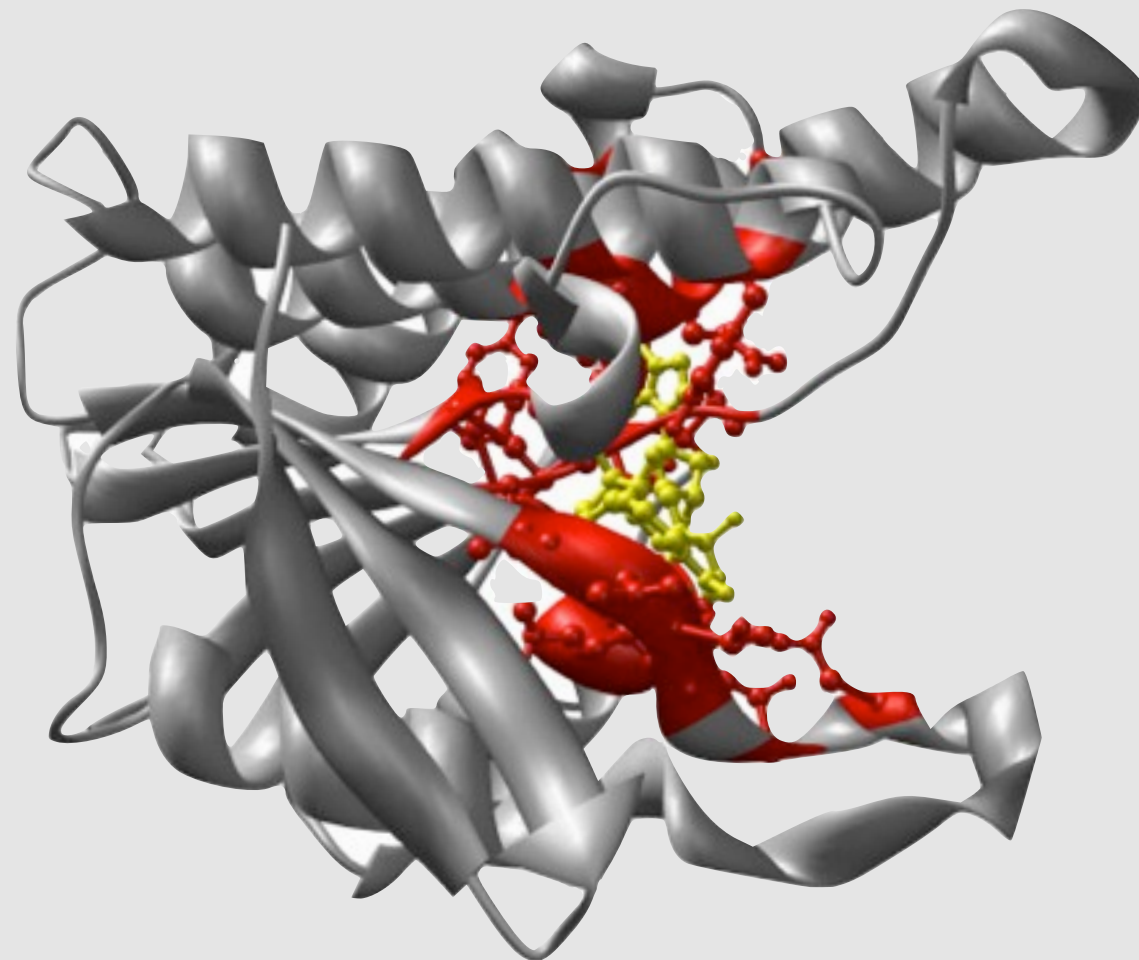


Comparative docking for predicting molecular targets of known drugs

A “kernel” for the Tropical Disease Initiative



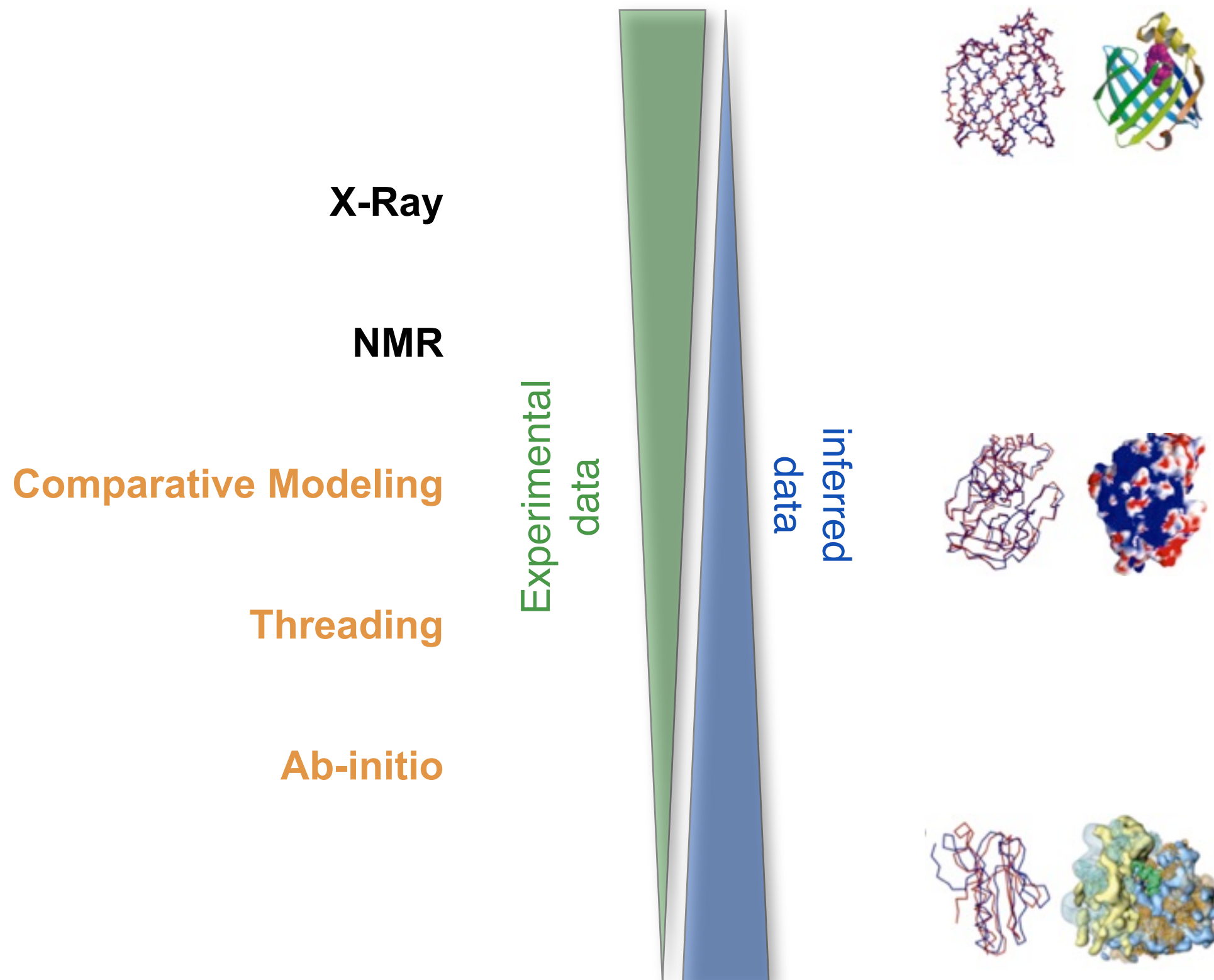
Marc A. Marti-Renom

<http://sgu.bioinfo.cipf.es>

Structural Genomics Unit
Bioinformatics & Genomics Department
Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe (CIPF), Valencia, Spain

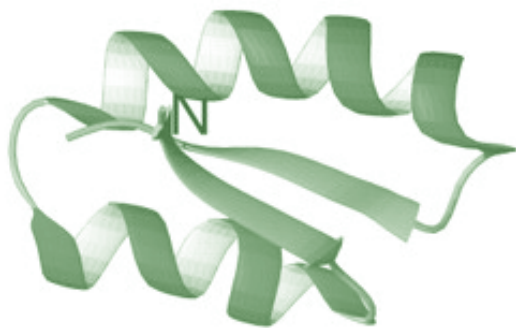


protein prediction .vs. protein determination



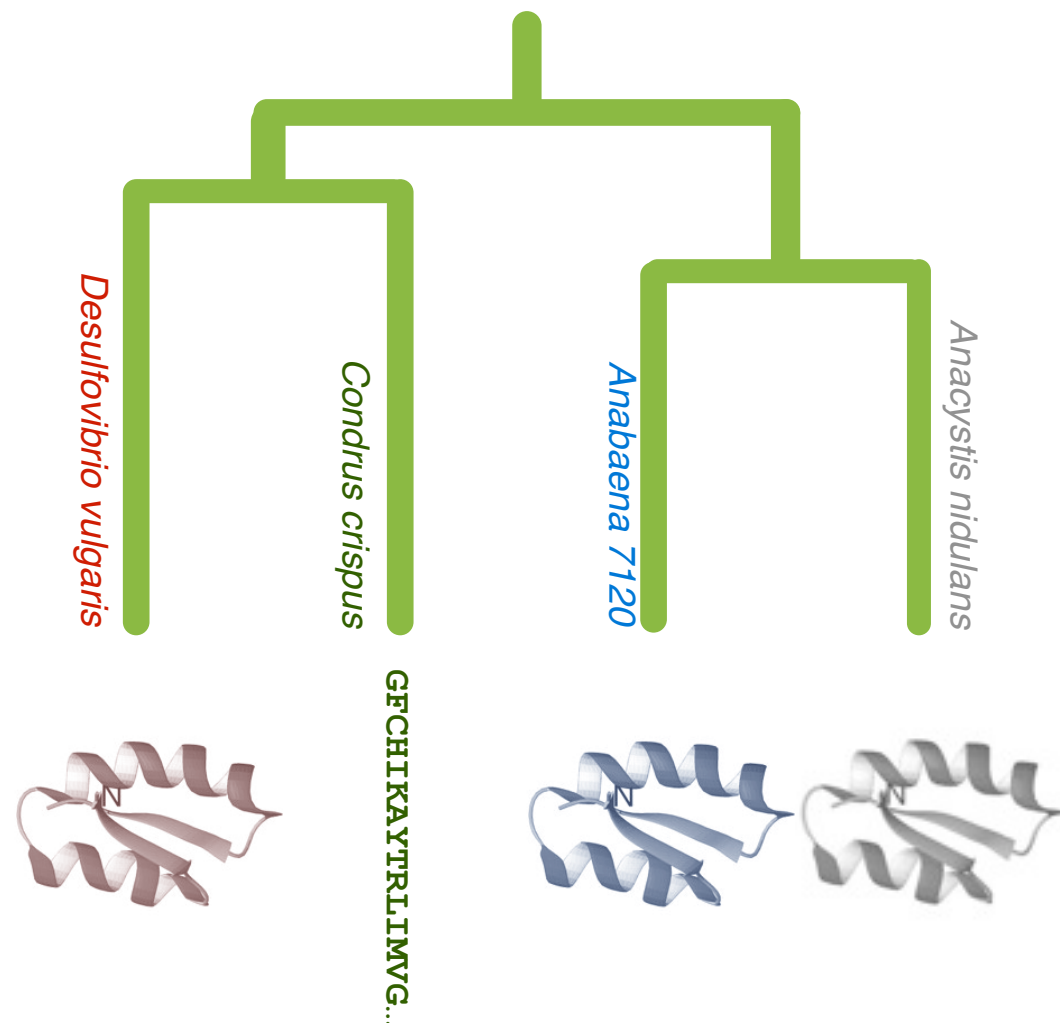
Principles of protein structure

GFCHIKAYTRLIMVG...



Folding (physics)

Ab initio prediction

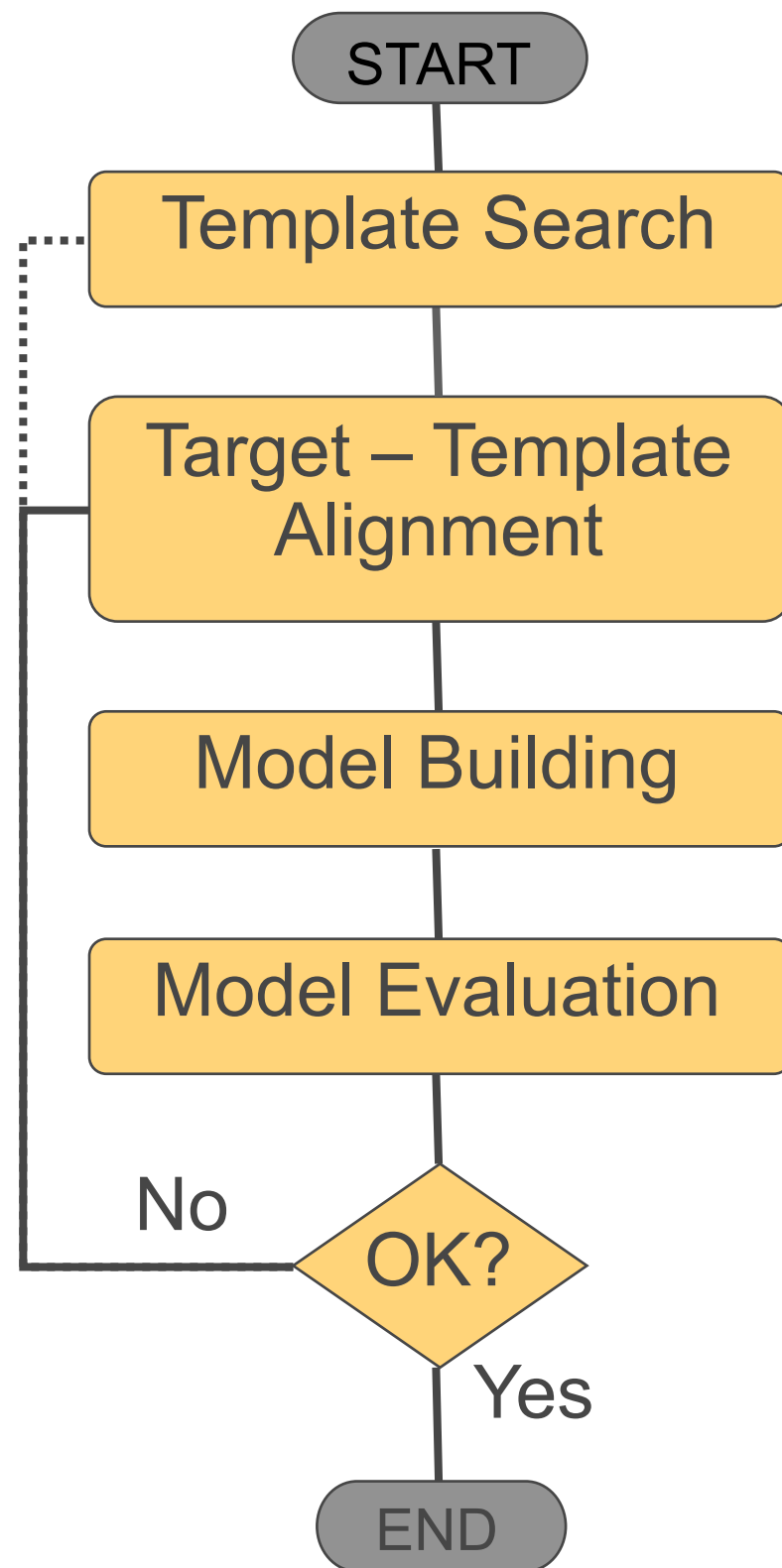


Evolution (rules)

Threading
Comparative Modeling

D. Baker & A. Sali. Science 294, 93, 2001.

Steps in Comparative Protein Structure Modeling



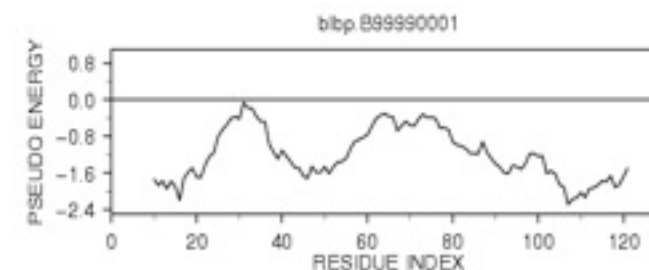
TARGET

ASILPKRLFGNCEQTSDEGL
KIERTPLVPHISAQNVCLKID
DVPERLIPERASFQWMNDK

TEMPLATE



ASILPKRLFGNCEQTSDEGLKIERTPLVPHISAQNVCLKIDDVPERLIPE
MSVIPKRLYGNCEQTSEEAIRIEDSPIV---TADLVCLKIDEIPERLVGE

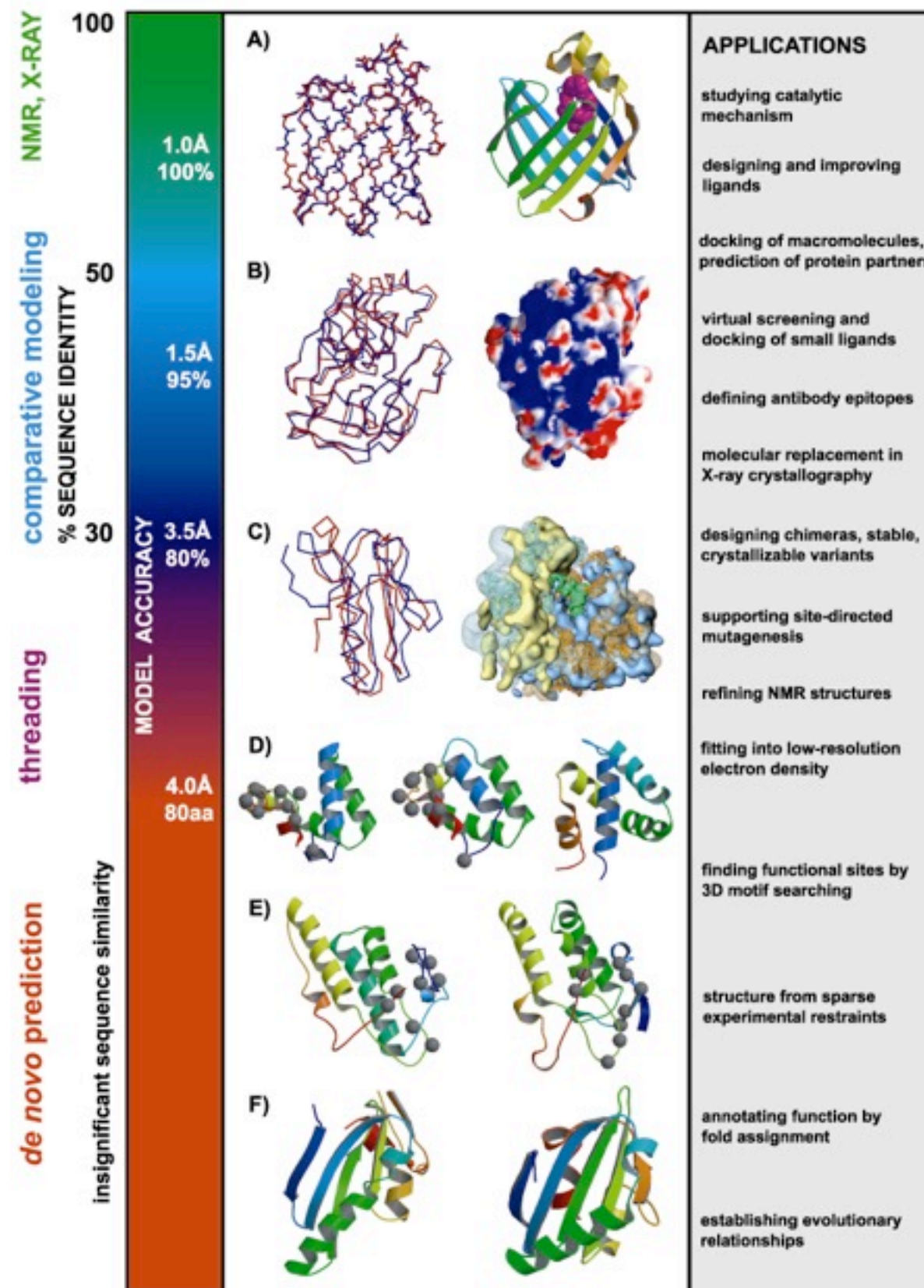


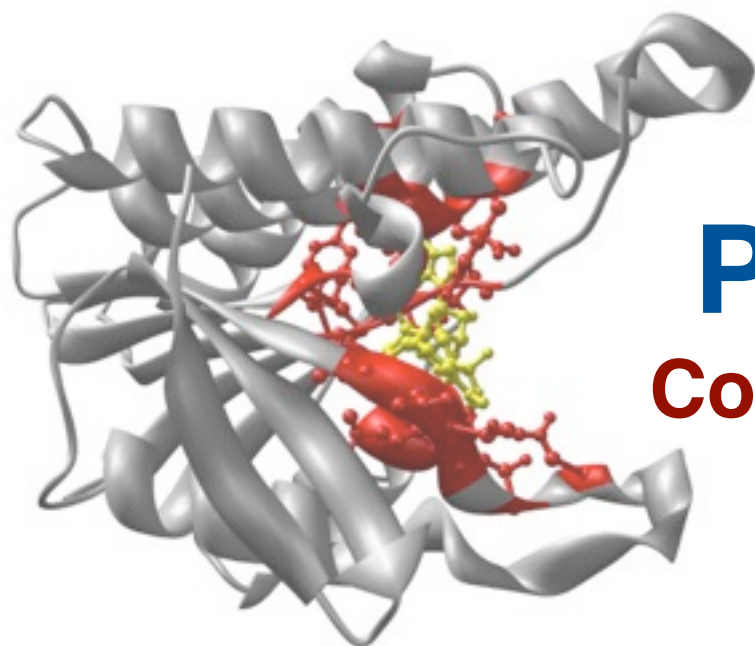
A. Šali, *Curr. Opin. Biotech.* 6, 437, 1995.

R. Sánchez & A. Šali, *Curr. Opin. Str. Biol.* 7, 206, 1997.

M.A. Marti-Renom et al. *Ann. Rev. Biophys. Biomolec. Struct.*, 29, 291, 2000.

Utility of protein structure models, despite errors





Protein function from structure

Comparative binding site prediction by AnnoLyze.

BMC Bioinformatics



Proceedings

Open Access

The AnnoLite and AnnoLyze programs for comparative annotation of protein structures

Marc A Marti-Renom^{*1}, Andrea Rossi², Fátima Al-Shahrour³, Fred P Davis², Ursula Pieper², Joaquín Dopazo³ and Andrej Sali²

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Email: Marc A Marti-Renom^{*} - mmarti@cipf.es; Andrea Rossi - andrea@salilab.org; Fátima Al-Shahrour - alshahrour@cipf.es; Fred P Davis - fred@salilab.org; Ursula Pieper - ursula@salilab.org; Joaquín Dopazo - jdopazo@cipf.es; Andrej Sali - sali@salilab.org

^{*} Corresponding author

from The Second Automated Function Prediction Meeting
La Jolla, CA, USA: 30 August – 1 September 2006

Published: 22 May 2007

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This article is available from: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2105/8/S4/S4>

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Abstract

Background: Advances in structural biology, including structural genomics, have resulted in a rapid increase in the number of experimentally determined protein structures. However, about half of the structures deposited by the structural genomics consortia have little or no information about their biological function. Therefore, there is a need for tools for automatically and comprehensively annotating the function of protein structures. We aim to provide such tools by applying comparative protein structure annotation that relies on detectable relationships between protein structures to transfer functional annotations. Here we introduce two programs, AnnoLite and AnnoLyze, which use the structural alignments deposited in the DBAli database.

Description: AnnoLite predicts the SCOP, CATH, EC, InterPro, PfamA, and GO terms with an average sensitivity of ~90% and average precision of ~80%. AnnoLyze predicts ligand binding site and domain interaction patches with an average sensitivity of ~70% and average precision of ~30%, correctly localizing binding sites for small molecules in ~95% of its predictions.

Conclusion: The AnnoLite and AnnoLyze programs for comparative annotation of protein structures can reliably and automatically annotate new protein structures. The programs are fully accessible via the Internet as part of the DBAli suite of tools at <http://salilab.org/DBAli/>.

Background

Genomic efforts are providing us with complete genetic blueprints for hundreds of organisms, including humans.

We are now faced with assigning, understanding, and modifying the functions of proteins encoded by these genomes. This task is generally facilitated by protein 3D

Page 1 of 12

(page number not for citation purposes)

Marti-Renom et al. BMC Bioinformatics (2007)

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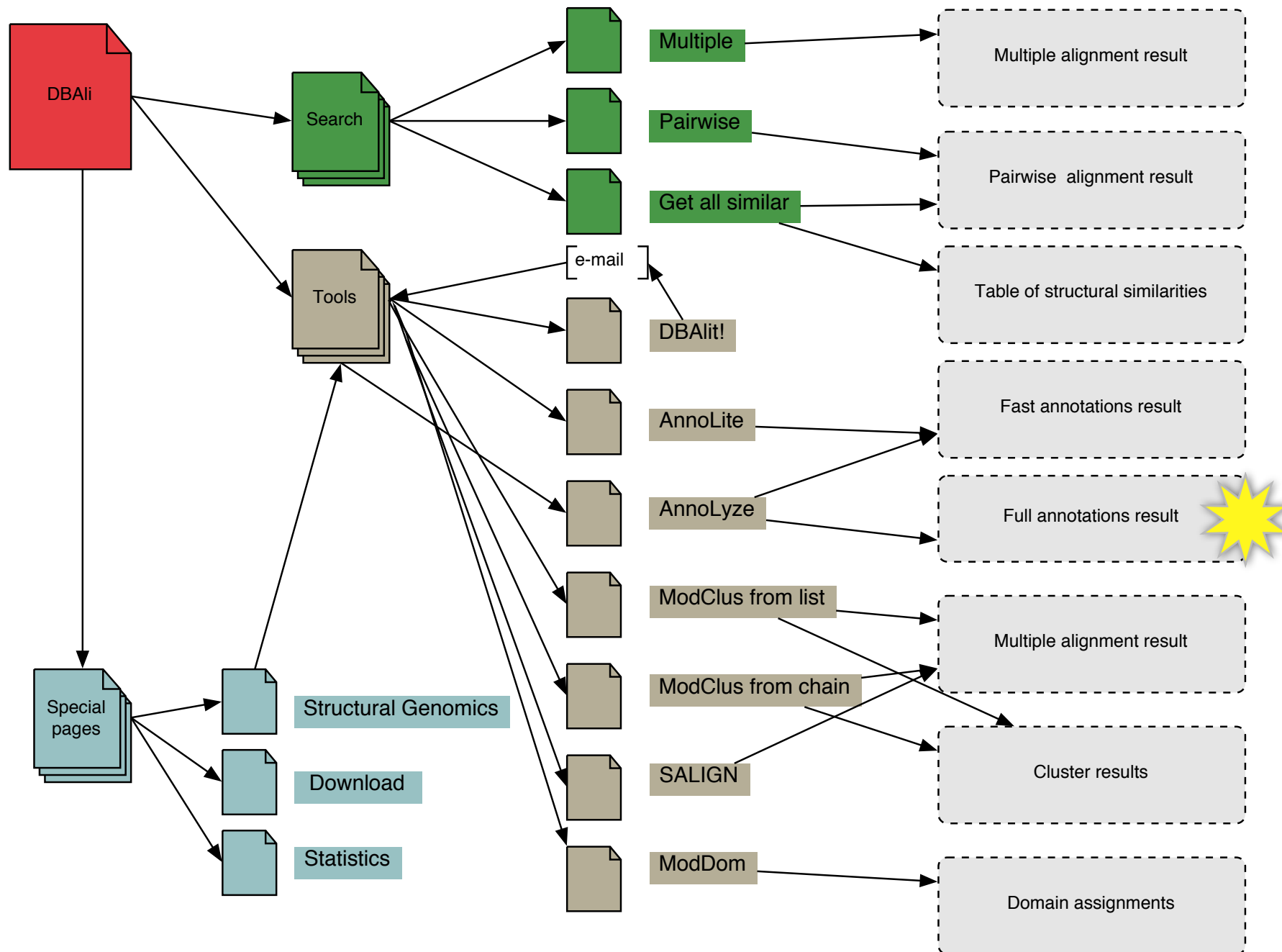
For ~20% protein structures function is *unknown*

	Structural Genomics*	Traditional methods
Annotated**	654	28,342
Not Annotated	506 (43.6%)	6,815 (19,4%)
Total deposited	1,160	35,157

* annotated as STRUCTURAL GENOMICS in the header of the PDB file
**annotated with either CATH, SCOP, Pfam or GO terms in the MSD database
36,317 protein structures, as of August 8th, 2006

DBAli_{v2.0} database

<http://www.dbali.org>



Marti-Renom et al. Nucleic Acids Research (2007)

Nucleic Acids Research, 2007, Vol. 35, Web Server issue W393–W397
doi:10.1093/nar/gkm236

DBAli tools: mining the protein structure space

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¹Structural Genomics Unit, ²Departments of Biopharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and California Institute for Quantitative Biomedical Research, University of California at San Francisco, San Francisco, CA 94158-2330, USA and ³Functional Genomics Unit, Bioinformatics Department, Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe (CIPF), Valencia, Spain

Received January 30, 2007; Accepted March 31, 2007

ABSTRACT

The DBAII tools use a comprehensive set of structural alignments in the DBAII database to leverage the structural information deposited in the Protein Data Bank (PDB). These tools include (i) the DBAII program that allows users to input the protein structure coordinates and obtain an alignment by MAMMOTH against all chains in the PDB; (ii) the AnnoLite and AnnoLyz programs that annotate a target structure based on its stored relationships to other structures; (iii) the ModCis program that clusters residues in a target structure similarities; (iv) the ModDom program that identifies domains as recurrent structural fragments and (v) an implementation of the COMPARE method in the SALIGN command in MODELER that allows the user to align the target structure to related protein structures. Thus, the DBAII tools, which are freely accessible via the World Wide Web at <http://salilab.org/DBAII/>, allow users to mine the protein structure space by establishing relationships between protein structures and their functions.

of protein function. Previously developed databases for the classification of protein structure domains, such as SCOP [<http://scop.mrb-lmb.cam.ac.uk/scop/>] (4) or CATH [<http://www.cathdb.info/>] (5), and servers for functional annotation of protein structures, such as ProFunc [<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/thornton-srv/databases/ProFunc/>] (6,7), ProKnow [<http://www.doc.mbi-ula.edu/Services/ProKnow/>] (8) and Phunctioner [<http://www.sbg.bio.ic.ac.uk/>] (9), provide an effective way of assessing and annotating protein structure space. However, none of these systems combine a comprehensive database of protein structure alignments with tools for automatically annotating protein structures.

Here, we describe five tools that aid in the analysis of the data stored in DBAli; our comprehensive relational database contains training and test sample alignments (10). These tools include (i) the DBAli program that allows users to input their structure for comparison by MAMMOTH (11) against all chains in the PDB; (ii) the AnnoLite and AnnoLyz programs that annotate a target structure based on its stored relationships to other structures; (iii) the ModClus program that clusters structures by sequence and structure similarities; (iv) the ModDom program that identifies recurrent fragments, including domains, from structure; and (v) an implemen-

INTRODUCTION

The number of known protein structures deposited in the Protein Data Bank (PDB) has grown exponentially over the years (1). This trend is expected to continue, partly due to the structural genomics efforts (2,3). Currently, there are ~41 000 protein structures deposited in the PDB, containing ~88 000 protein chains. These protein structures constitute a structural space that can be mined to facilitate the understanding, assignment and modification

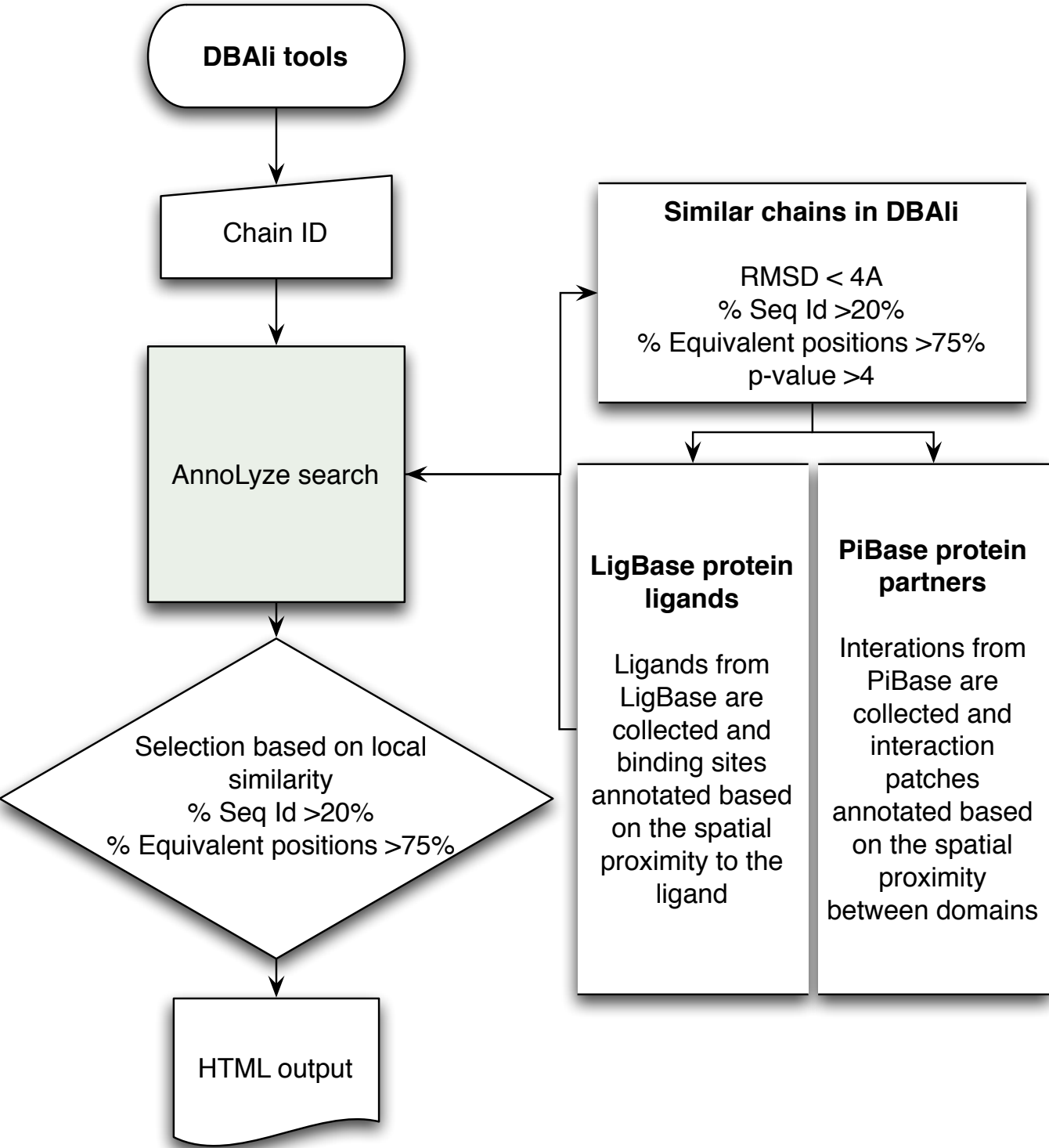
The DBALI database is briefly introduced first. Next, we describe each of the five tools that make use of the structural alignments deposited in DBALI. Finally, we discuss the use of the DBALI tools to analyze a structure determined by the New York Structural Genomics Research Consortium (NYSGXRC).

*To whom correspondence should be addressed. Tel: +34 96 3289680; Fax: +34 96 3289701; Email: mmarti@cipf.es

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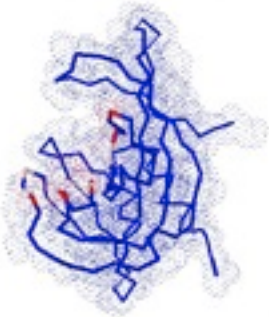
This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/uk/>) which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly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

Method



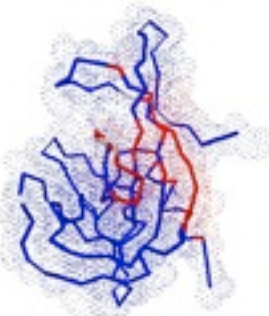
Inherited ligands: 4

Ligand	Av. binding site seq. id.	Av. residue conservation	Residues in predicted binding site (size proportional to the local conservation)
MO2	59.03	0.185	48 49 52 62 63 66 67 113 116
CRY	20.00	0.111	23 29 31 37 44 48 49 83 85 94 96 103 121
BOG	20.00	0.111	19 20 21 48 49 51 96 98 136
ACY	15.87	0.163	23 29 31 37 44 45 81 83 85 94 96 98 103 121 135



Inherited partners: 1

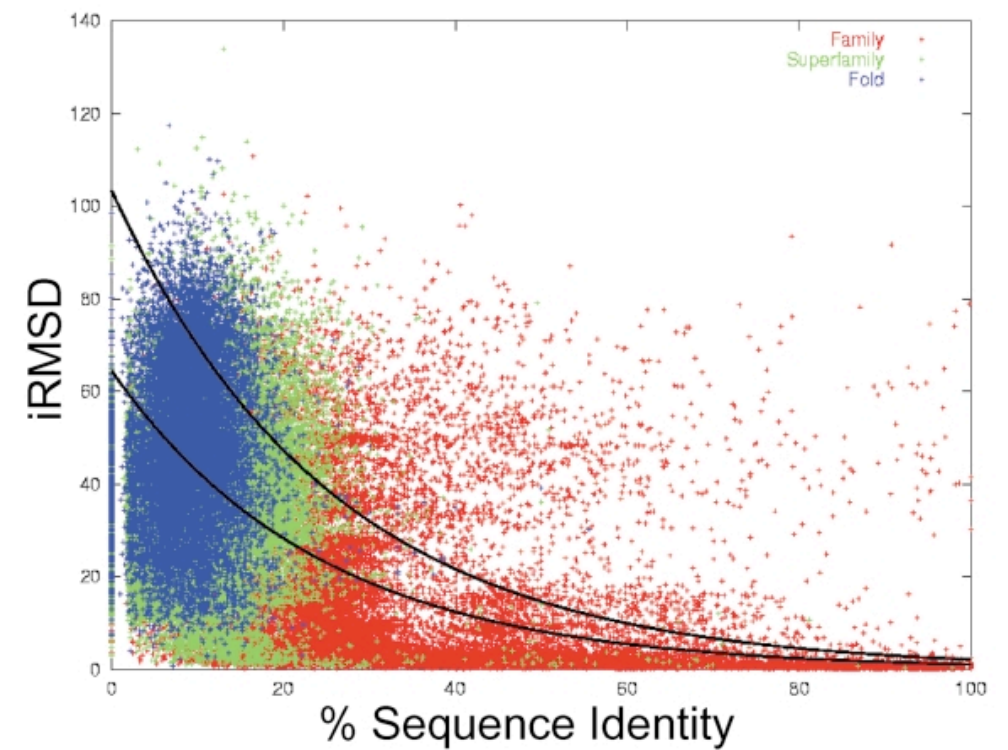
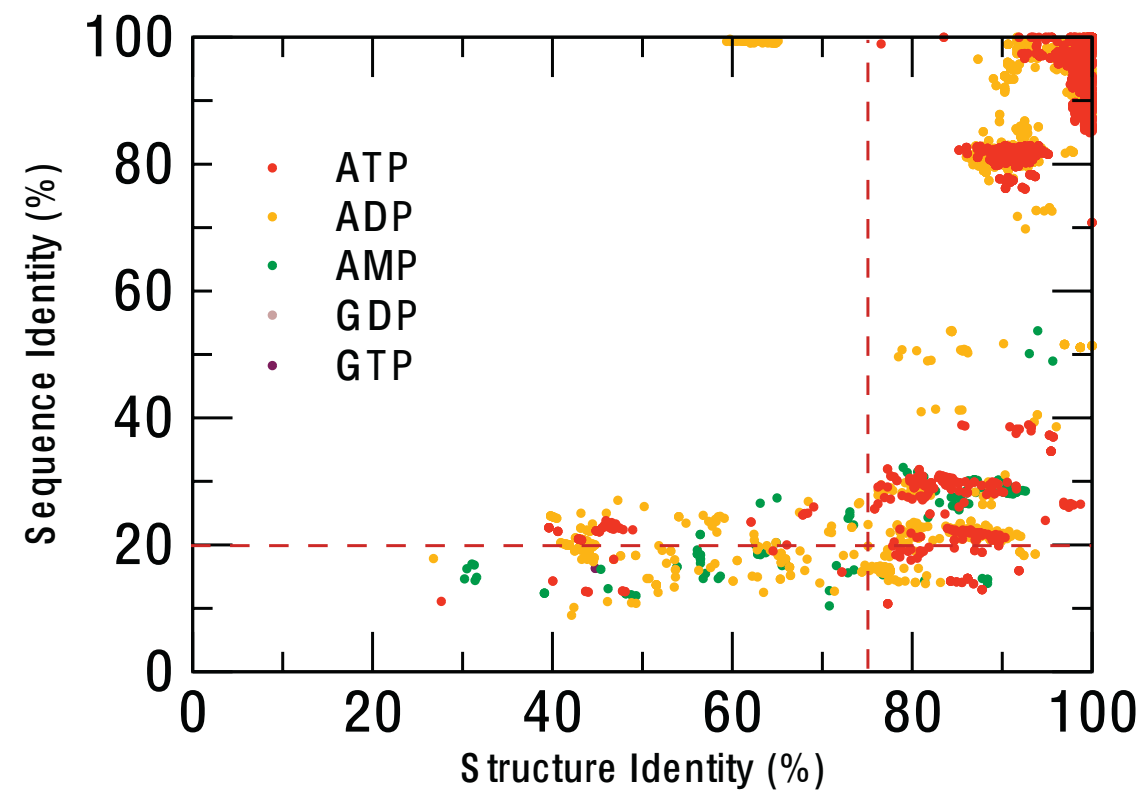
Partner	Av. binding site seq. id.	Av. residue conservation	Residues in predicted binding site (size proportional to the local conservation)
d.113.1.1	23.68	0.948	19 20 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 93 95 97 99 134 135 138 142 145



Scoring function

Ligands

Partners



Aloy *et al.* (2003) J.Mol.Biol. 332(5):989-98.

Benchmark

	Number of chains
Initial set*	78,167
LigBase**	30,126
Non-redundant set***	4,948 (8,846 ligands)

**all PDB chains larger than 30 aminoacids in length (8th of August, 2006)*

***annotated with at least one ligand in the LigBase database*

****not two chains can be structurally aligned within 3Å, superimposing more than 75% of their Ca atoms, result in a sequence alignment with more than 30% identity, and have a length difference inferior to 50aa*

Sensitivity .vs. Precision

	Optimal cut-off	Sensitivity (%) Recall or TPR	Precision (%)
Ligands	30%	71.9	13.7

$$\text{Sensitivity} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \quad \text{Precision} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

Marti-Renom et al. BMC Bioinformatics (2007) Volume 8. Suppl S4

~90-95% of residues correctly predicted

Example (2azwA)

Structural Genomics Unknown Function

Molecule: MutT/nudix family protein

PDB ID: [2azwA](#)

Header:
STRUCTURAL GENOMICS, UNKNOWN FUNCTION

Compound:
MOL_ID: 1; MOLECULE: MUTT/NUDIX FAMILY PROTEIN; CHAIN: A;
ENGINEERED: YES

Source:
MOL_ID: 1; ORGANISM_SCIENTIFIC: ENTEROCOCCUS
FAECALIS V583; ORGANISM_COMMON: BACTERIA;
EXPRESSION_SYSTEM: ESCHERICHIA COLI;
EXPRESSION_SYSTEM_COMMON: BACTERIA;
EXPRESSION_SYSTEM_STRAIN: BL21(DE3);
EXPRESSION_SYSTEM_VECTOR_TYPE: PLASMID;
EXPRESSION_SYSTEM_PLASMID: PET15B

Resolution:
1.90Å

Links:
none

Sequence:
Md5: 09b13d23ceae0dfcaddec636e2ddfa5KTPTAAAS
Length: 145

KTPTFGKREE TLTYOTRYAA YIIIVSKPENN TMVLQAPNG AYPLPGGEIE
GTETKEEAH REVLEELGIS VEIGCYLGEA DEYFYNSHRQ TAYYNGPYFY
VANTWRQLSE PLRTNTLHWV APEEAVRLK RGSRWAVEK WLAAAS

SCOP:
none

CATH:
none

Ligands:
none

Interacting partners:
none

Similar structures: [20](#)

Similar sequences: 890

Most similar structure in DBAll:

Code	SeqId(%)	EqPos	RMSD	P-Value	See
1vc9:A	22.76	123	3.57	17.28	ali

Most similar sequence in DBAll:

Code	SeqId(%)	EqPos	RMSD	P-Value	See
1vcd:B	24.59	122	3.47	17.00	ali

P-value distribution:
P-value distribution for similar chains

Keyword distribution:

Top 10 keywords in structure space

Top 10 keywords in sequence space

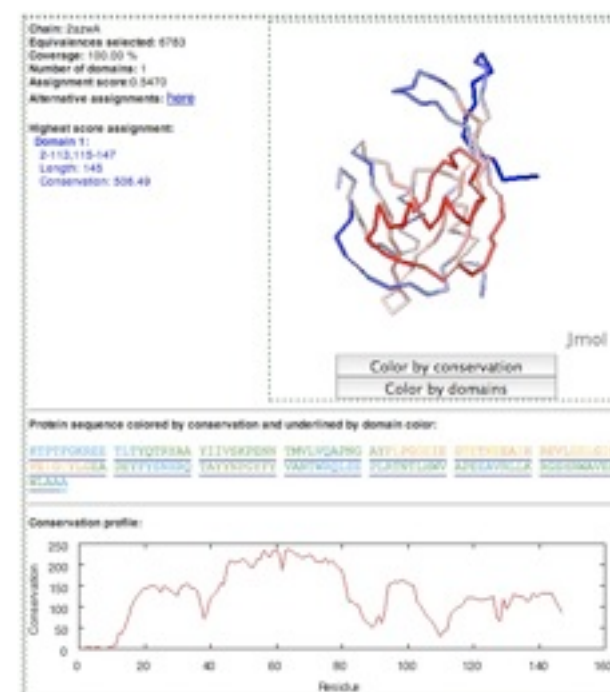
SCOP and CATH distribution for similar structures:

Inherited ligands: 4

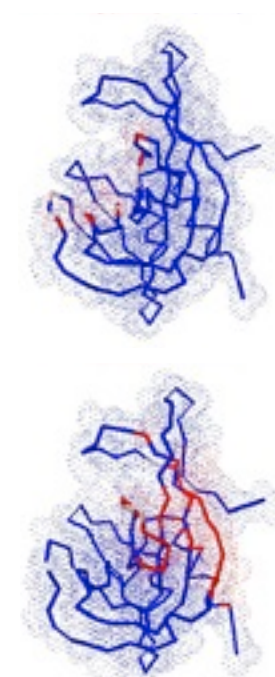
Ligand	Av. binding site seq. id.	Av. residue conservation	Residues in predicted binding site (size proportional to the local conservation)
MO2	59.03	0.185	48 49 52 62 63 66 67 113 116
CRY	20.00	0.111	23 29 31 37 44 48 49 83 85 94 96 103 121
BOG	20.00	0.111	19 20 21 48 49 51 96 98 136
ACY	15.87	0.163	23 29 31 37 44 45 81 83 85 94 96 98 103 121 135

Inherited partners: 1

Partner	Av. binding site seq. id.	Av. residue conservation	Residues in predicted binding site (size proportional to the local conservation)
d.113.1.1	23.68	0.948	19 20 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 93 95 97 99 134 135 138 142 145

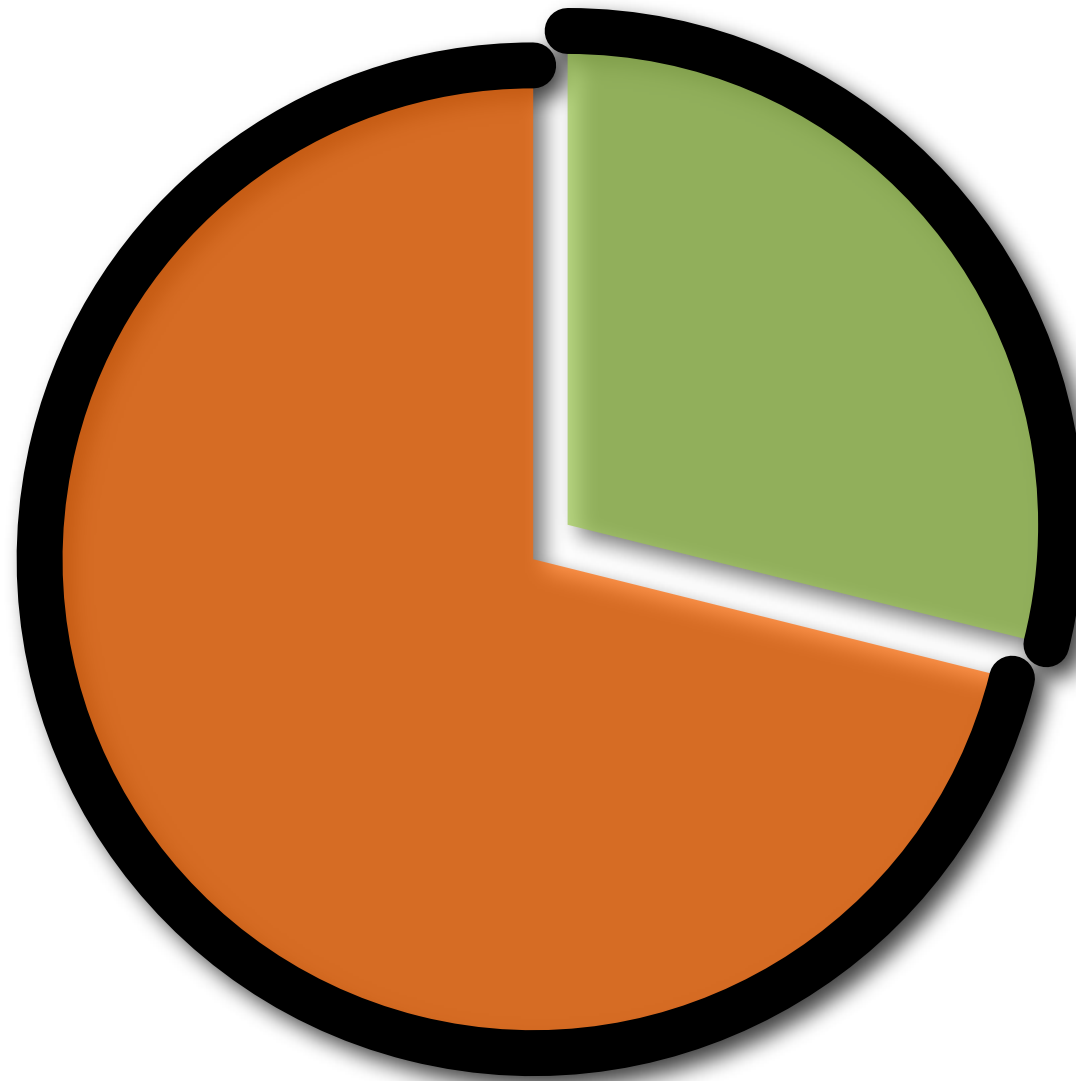


	Conf. P-value	Link	Description
CATH:	1.1e-20	3.90.79.10	Nucleoside Triphosphate Pyrophosphohydrolase
SCOP:	4.2e-29	d.113.1.1	MutT-like
PFAM:	2.0e-74	PF00293	NUDIX domain
InterPro:	1.9e-65	IPR000086	NUDIX hydrolase
	2.7e-20	IPR003561	Mutator MutT
	2.9e-14	IPR002667	Isopentenyl-diphosphate delta-isomerase
EC Number:	1.7e-4	3.6.1.17	Bis(5'-nucleosyl)-tetraphosphatase (asymmetrical)
GO Molecular Function:	4.5e-19	0008413	8-oxo-7,8-dihydroguanine triphosphatase activity
	3.8e-13	0004452	isopentenyl-diphosphate delta-isomerase activity
	1.9e-6	0016787	hydrolase activity
	5.4e-3	0004081	bis(5'-nucleosyl)-tetraphosphatase (asymmetrical) activity
	1.9e-2	0000287	magnesium ion binding
GO Biological Process:	7.7e-11	0008299	isoprenoid biosynthesis
	1.5e-5	0008974	response to DNA damage stimulus
	1.7e-5	0006260	DNA replication
	2.4e-5	0006281	DNA repair



Tropical Disease Initiative (TDI)

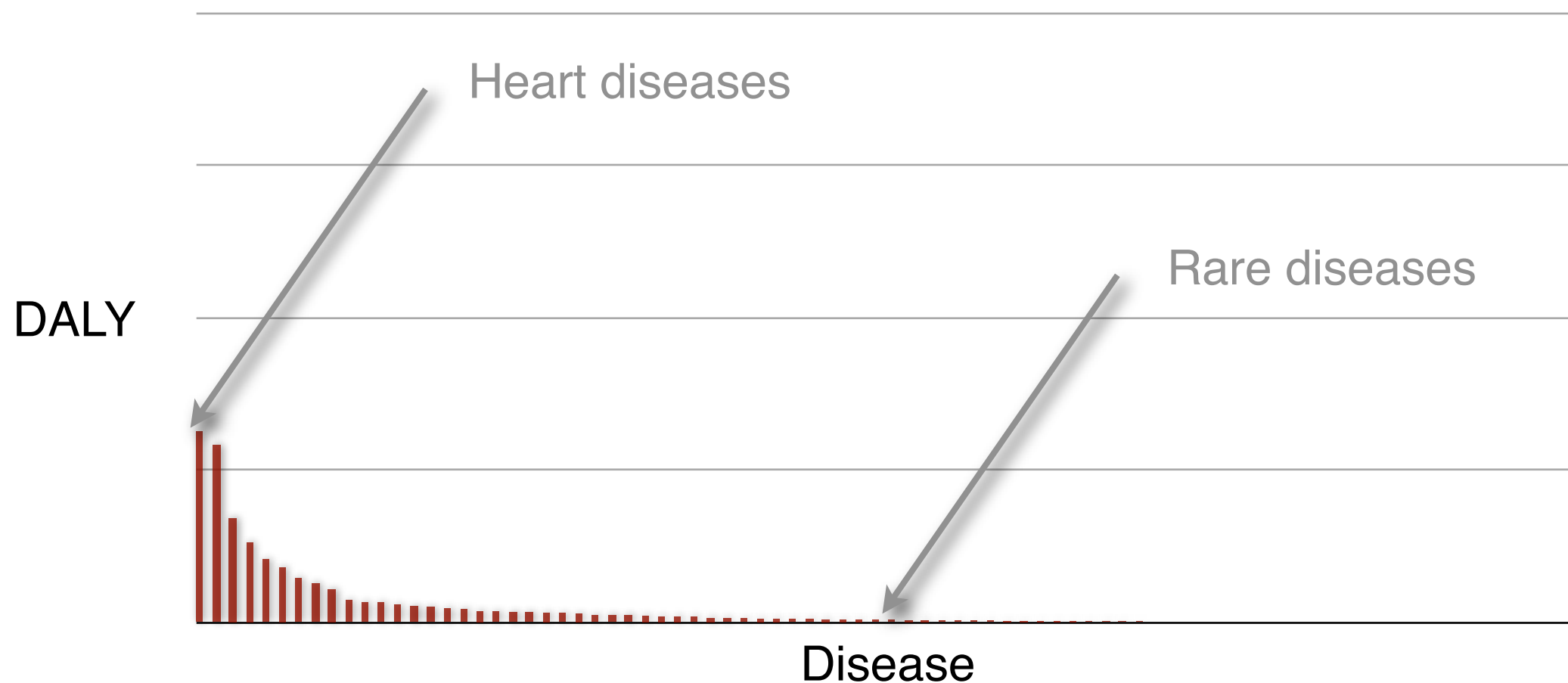
Predicting binding sites in protein structure models.



<http://www.tropicaldisease.org>

Need is High in the Tail

- DALY Burden Per Disease in Developed Countries
- DALY Burden Per Disease in Developing Countries



Disease data taken from WHO, *World Health Report 2004*

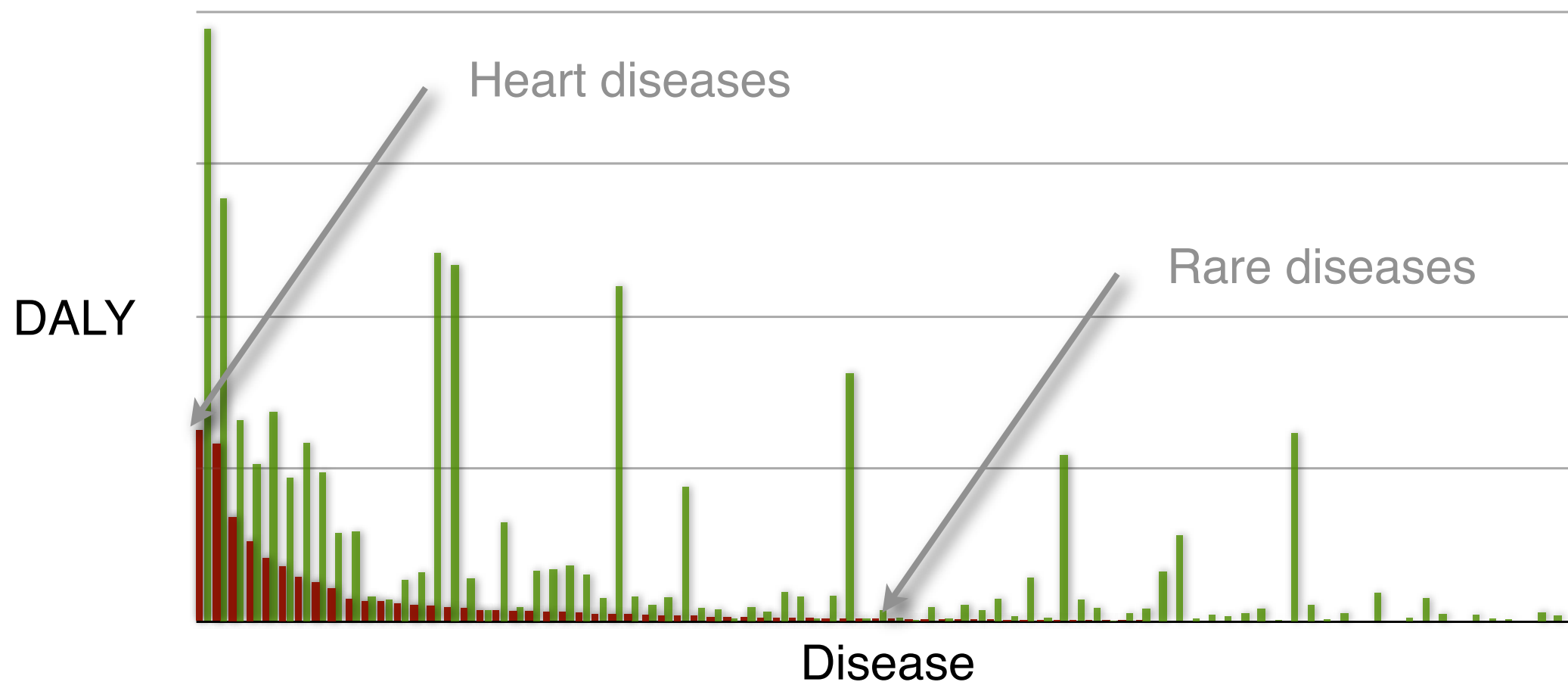
DALY - Disability adjusted life years

DALY is not a perfect measure of market size, but is certainly a good measure for importance.

DALYs for a disease are the sum of the years of life lost due to premature mortality (YLL) in the population and the years lost due to disability (YLD) for incident cases of the health condition. The DALY is a health gap measure that extends the concept of potential years of life lost due to premature death (PYLL) to include equivalent years of 'healthy' life lost in states of less than full health, broadly termed disability. One DALY represents the loss of one year of equivalent full health.

Need is High in the Tail

- DALY Burden Per Disease in Developed Countries
- DALY Burden Per Disease in Developing Countries



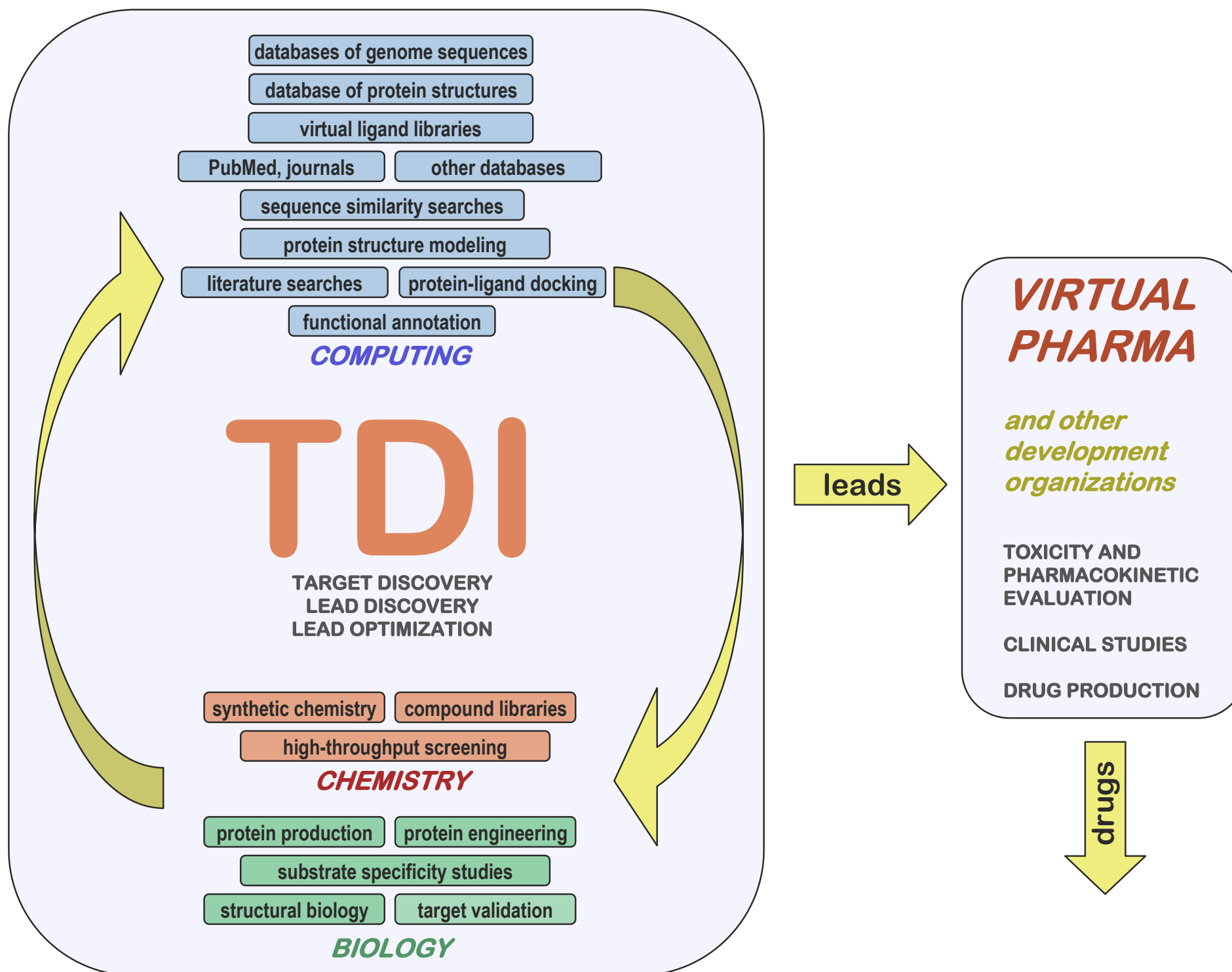
Disease data taken from WHO, *World Health Report 2004*

DALY - Disability adjusted life years

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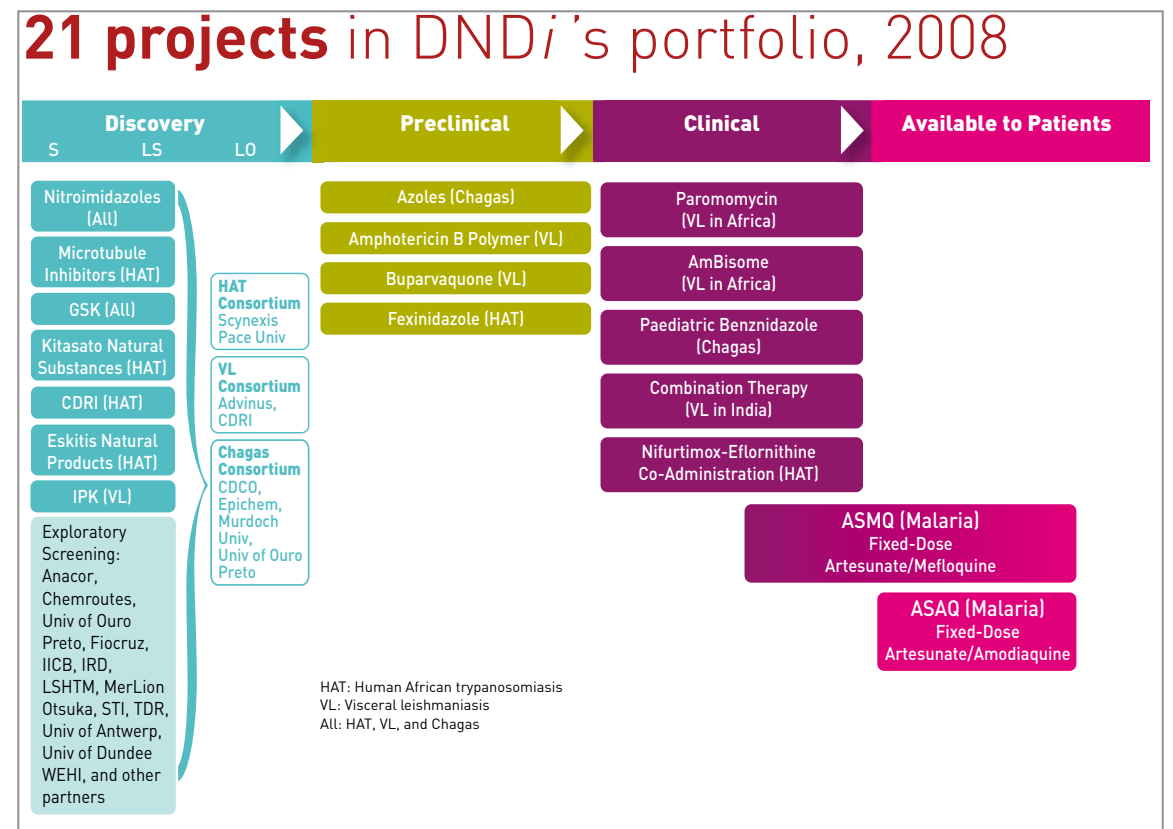
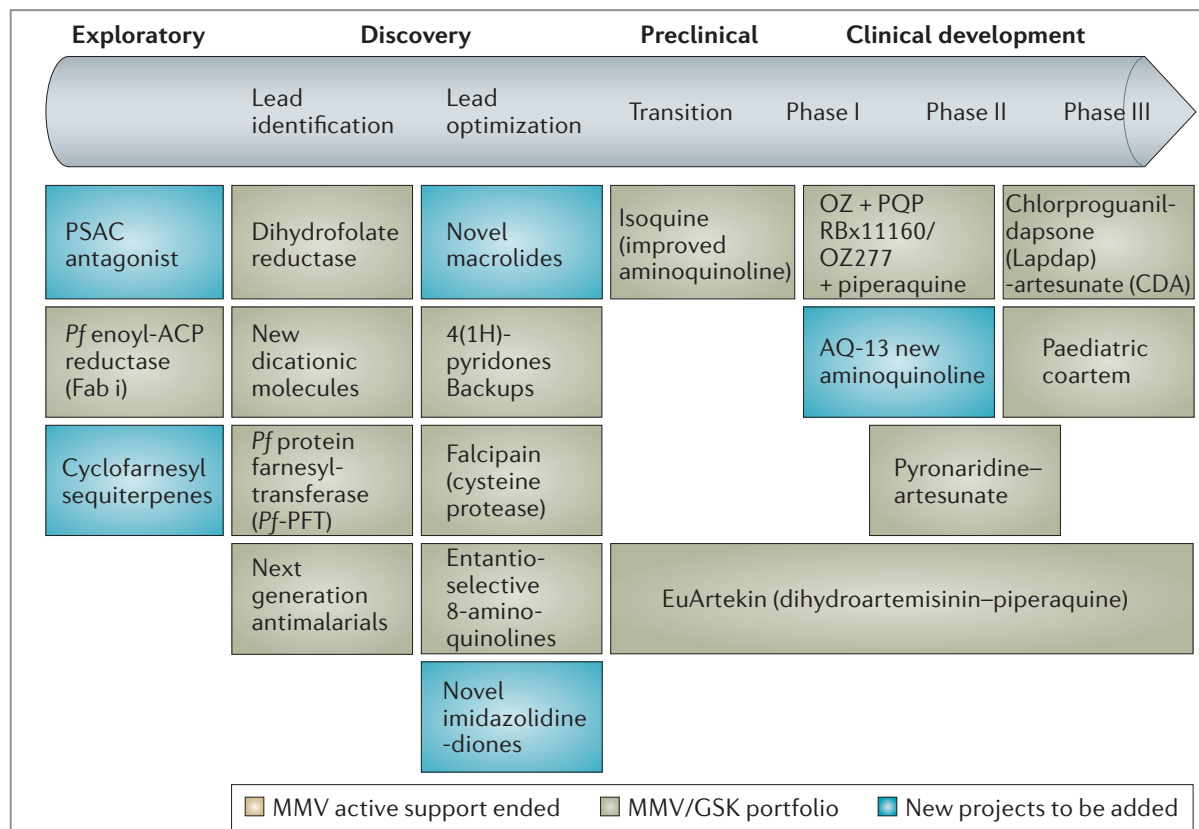
DALYs for a disease are the sum of the years of life lost due to premature mortality (YLL) in the population and the years lost due to disability (YLD) for incident cases of the health condition. The DALY is a health gap measure that extends the concept of potential years of life lost due to premature death (PYLL) to include equivalent years of 'healthy' life lost in states of less than full health, broadly termed disability. One DALY represents the loss of one year of equivalent full health.

TDI flowchart



Non-Profit organizations

Open-Source + Out-Source = low cost business model



Munos (2006) *Nature Reviews. Drug Discovery*.

“Unprofitable” Diseases and Global DALY (in 1000’s)

Malaria*	46,486	Trichuriasis	1,006
Tetanus	7,074	Japanese encephalitis	709
Lymphatic filariasis*	5,777	Chagas Disease*	667
Syphilis	4,200	Dengue*	616
Trachoma	2,329	Onchocerciasis*	484
Leishmaniasis*	2,090	Leprosy*	199
Ascariasis	1,817	Diphtheria	185
Schistosomiasis*	1,702	Poliomyelitis	151
Trypanosomiasis*	1,525	Hookworm disease	59

Disease data taken from WHO, *World Health Report 2004*

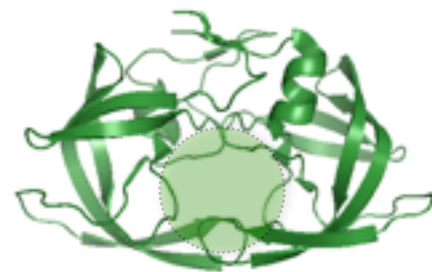
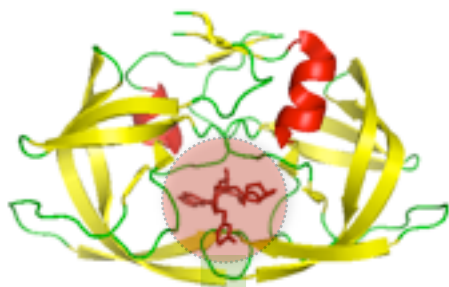
DALY - Disability adjusted life year in 1000’s.

* Officially listed in the WHO Tropical Disease Research [disease portfolio](#).

Comparative docking

Expansion

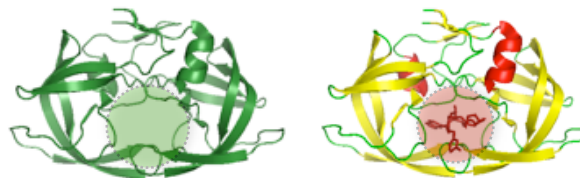
co-crystallized protein/ligand



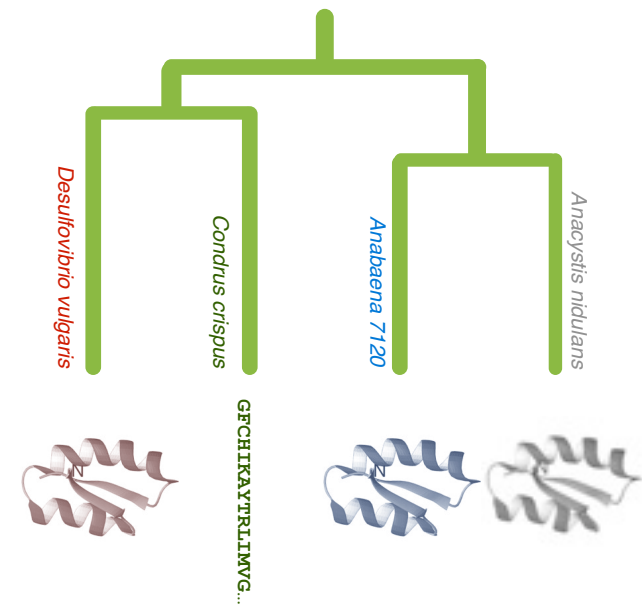
crystallized
protein

2. Inheritance

model



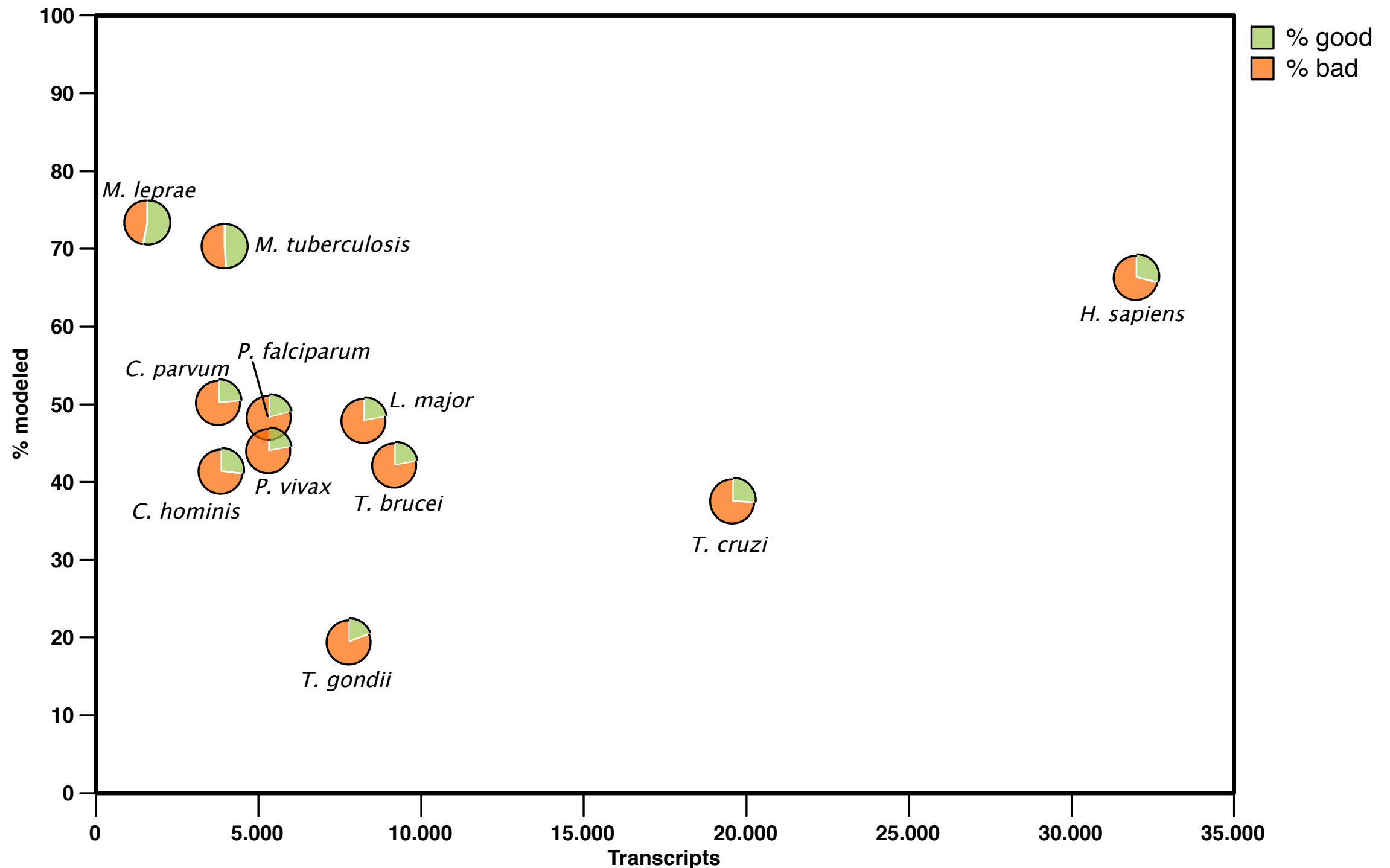
template



1. Modeling

Modeling Genomes

data from models generated by ModPipe (Eswar, Pieper & Sali)



A good model has MPQS of 1.0 or higher

Summary table

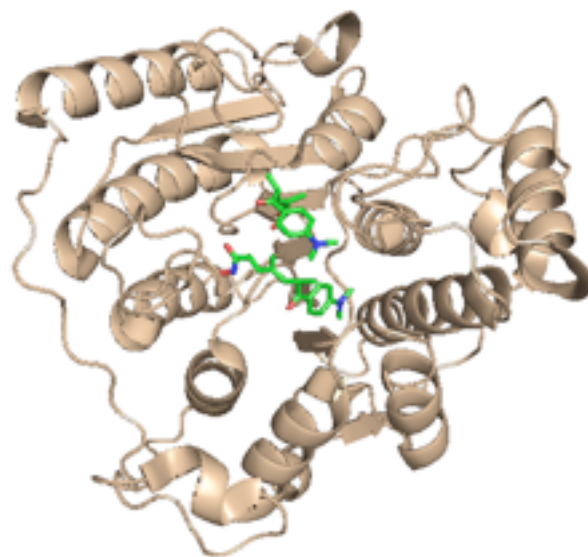
models with inherited ligands

29,271 targets with good models, 297 inherited a ligand/substance similar to a known drug in DrugBank

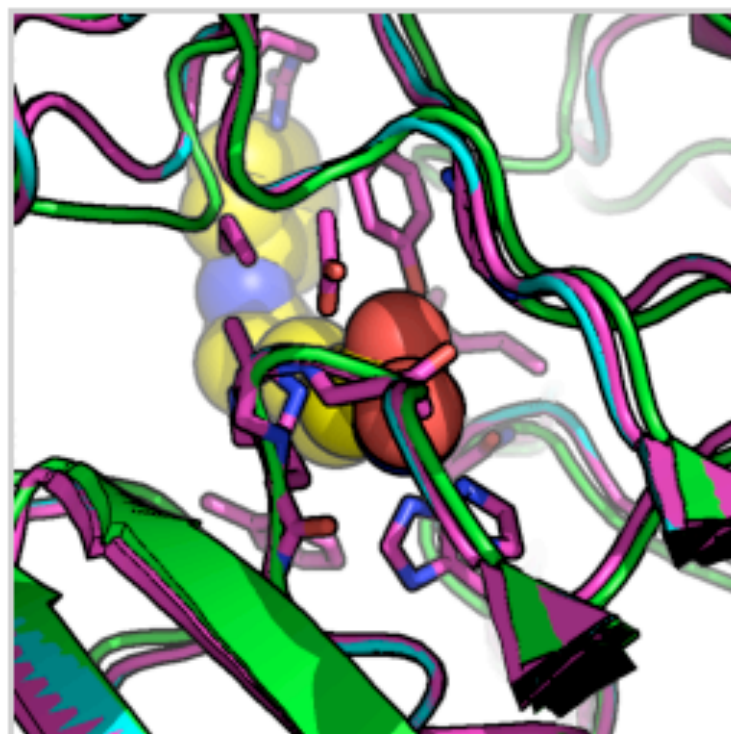
	Transcripts	Modeled targets	Selected models	Inherited ligands	Similar to a drug	Drugs
<i>C. hominis</i>	3,886	1,614	666	197	20	13
<i>C. parvum</i>	3,806	1,918	742	232	24	13
<i>L. major</i>	8,274	3,975	1,409	478	43	20
<i>M. leprae</i>	1,605	1,178	893	310	25	6
<i>M. tuberculosis</i>	3,991	2,808	1,608	365	30	10
<i>P. falciparum</i>	5,363	2,599	818	284	28	13
<i>P. vivax</i>	5,342	2,359	822	268	24	13
<i>T. brucei</i>	7,793	1,530	300	138	13	6
<i>T. cruzi</i>	19,607	7,390	3,070	769	51	28
<i>T. gondii</i>	9,210	3,900	1,386	458	39	21
TOTAL	68,877	29,271	11,714	3,499	297	143

L. major Histone deacetylase 2 + Vorinostat

Template 1t64A a human HDAC8 protein.



PDB		Template		Model		Ligand	Exact	SupStr	SubStr	Similar
1c3sA	83.33/80.00	1t64A	36.00/1.47	LmjF21.0680.1.pdb	90.91/100.00	SHH	DB02546	DB02546	DB02546	DB02546



[DB02546](#) Vorinostat

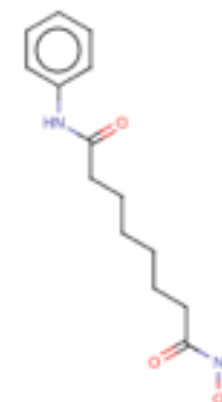
Small Molecule; Approved; Investigational

Drug categories:

Anti-Inflammatory Agents, Non-Steroidal
Anticarcinogenic Agents
Antineoplastic Agents
Enzyme Inhibitors

Drug indication:

For the treatment of cutaneous manifestations in patients with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma who have progressive, persistent or recurrent disease on or following two systemic therapies.



L. major Histone deacetylase 2 + Vorinostat

Literature

Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA
Vol. 93, pp. 13143–13147, November 1996
Medical Sciences

Apicidin: A novel antiprotozoal agent that inhibits parasite histone deacetylase

(cyclic tetrapeptide / Apicomplexa / antiparasitic / malaria / coccidiosis)

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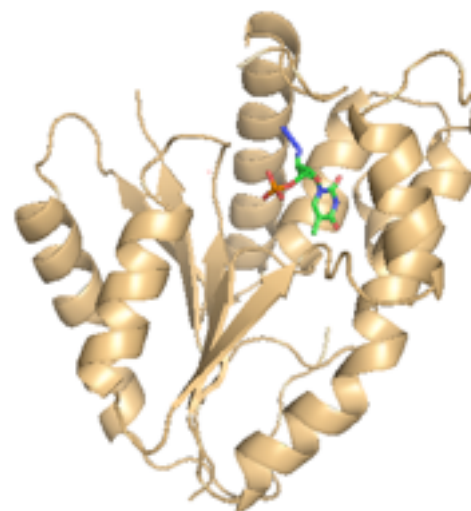
ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS AND CHEMOTHERAPY, Apr. 2004, p. 1435–1436
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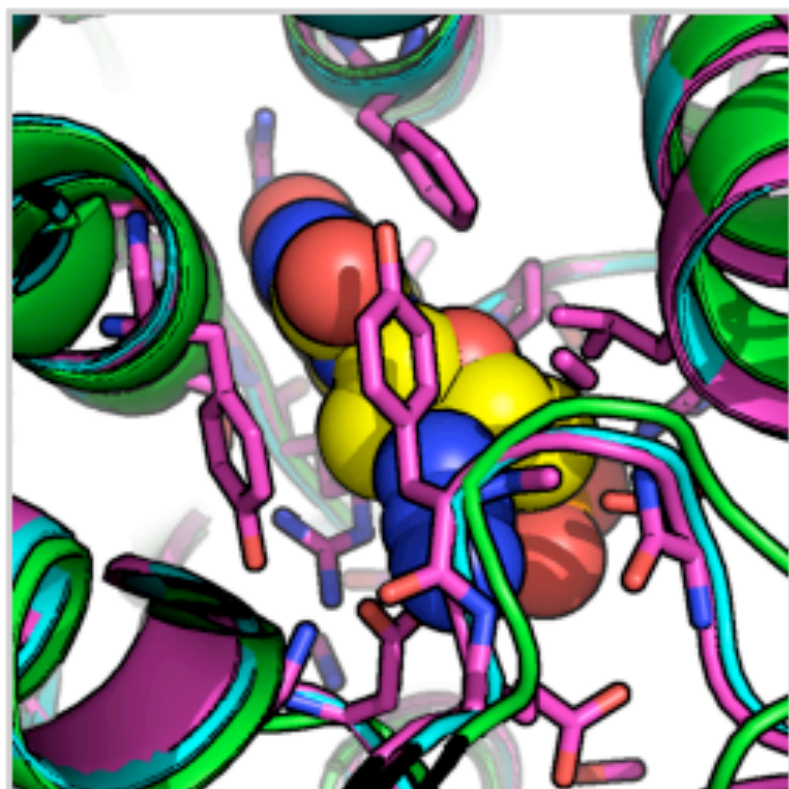
Antimalarial and Antileishmanial Activities of Aroyl-Pyrrolyl-Hydroxyamides, a New Class of Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors

P. falciparum thymidylate kinase + zidovudine

Template 3tmkA a yeast thymidylate kinase.



PDB		Template		Model		Ligand	Exact	SupStr	SubStr	Similar
2tmkB	100.00/100.00	3tmkA	41.00/1.49	PFL2465c.2.pdb	82.61/100.00	ATM		DB00495		DB00495



[DB00495](#) Zidovudine

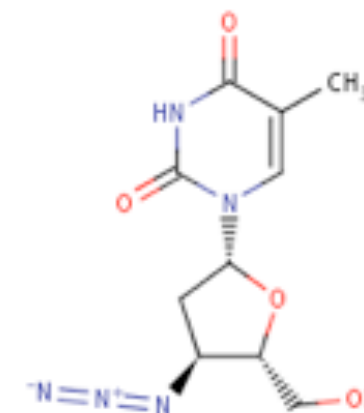
Small Molecule; Approved

Drug categories:

Anti-HIV Agents
Antimetabolites
Nucleoside and Nucleotide Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors

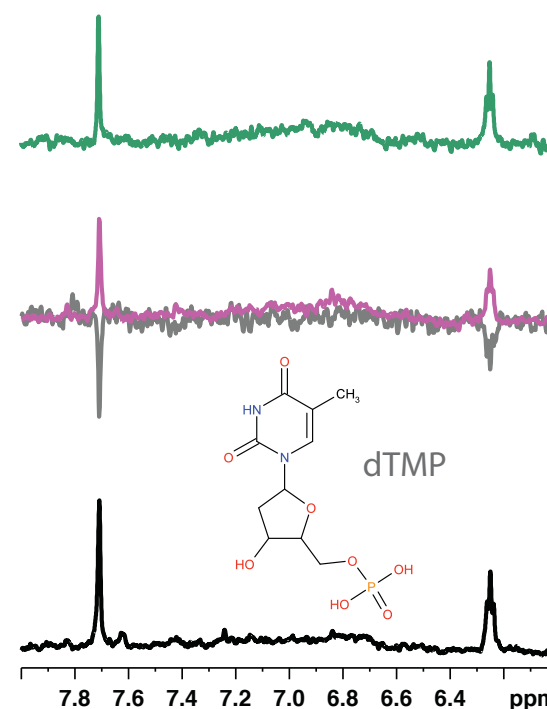
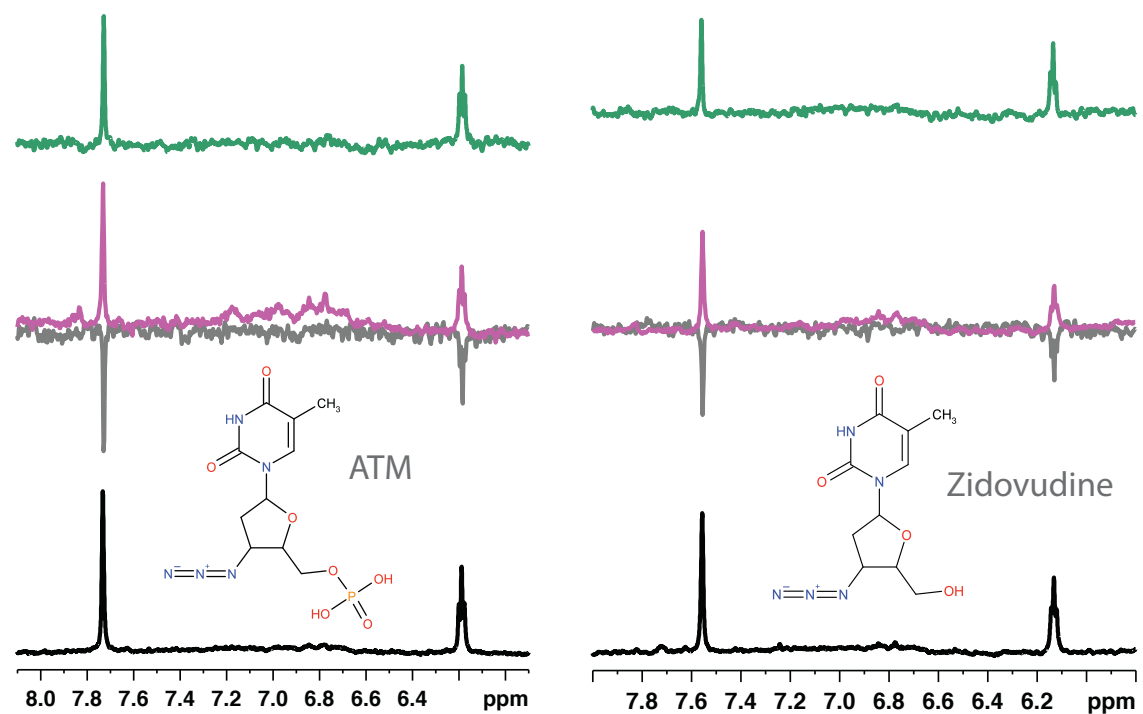
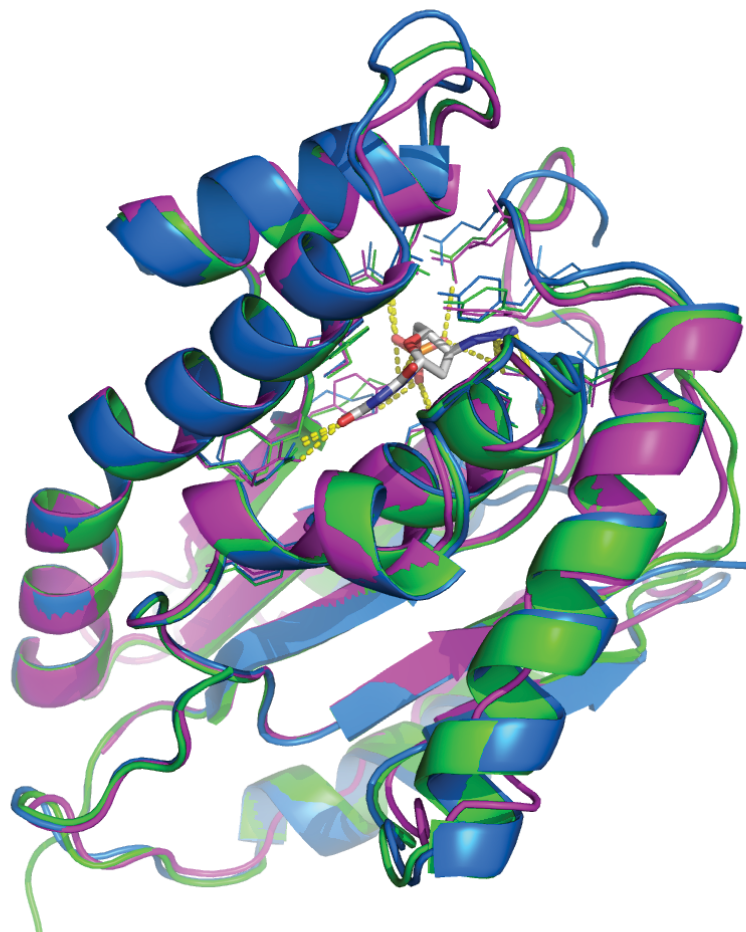
Drug indication:

For the treatment of human immunovirus (HIV) infections.



P. falciparum thymidylate kinase + zidovudine

NMR Water-LOGSY and STD experiments



Leticia Ortí, Rodrigo J. Carbajo, and Antonio Pineda-Lucena

TDI's kernel

<http://tropicaldisease.org/kernel>

TDI Kernel database » Q9GU59

<http://tropicaldisease.org/kernel/q9gu59/> RSS Inquisitor

the **T**ropical **D**isease **I**nitiative *an open source drug discovery project*

You are browsing version 1.0 (2008/05/01) of the TDI Kernel.

Posted on 05.07.08 to Target. Grab the feed. No comments yet. Add your thoughts or trackback from your own site. Edit this entry.

Putative histone deacetylase. predicted to bind 1 ligands [SHH]

UniPort id: **Q9GU59** [*C. parvum*]

Target keywords: ; Anticarcinogenic Agents; Antineoplastic Agents; Transcription; Chromatin regulator; Anti-inflammatory Agents, Non-Steroidal; Enzyme Inhibitors; Q9GU59; Transcription regulation; Nucleus

Do you consider this target suitable for drug discovery: ★★★★★ (No Ratings Yet)

Binding site prediction to approved drugs (need help reading this page?):

PDB	ID	Template	Model	Ligand	Exact	SupStr	SubStr	Similar
1c3sA	83.33/80.00	1t64A	37.00/1.47	cgd6_1380.1.pdb	90.91/100.00	SHH	DB02546	DB02546

SHH **DB02546** Vorinostat

Small Molecule; Approved; Investigational

Drug categories:

- Anti-inflammatory Agents, Non-Steroidal
- Anticarcinogenic Agents
- Antineoplastic Agents
- Enzyme Inhibitors

Drug indication:

For the treatment of cutaneous manifestations in patients with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma who have progressive, persistent or recurrent disease on or following two systemic therapies.

Shown ligand **SHH**

OCTANEDIOICACIDHYDROXYAMIDEPHENYLAMIDE

expanded from **SHH** to template **1t64A** used for building a 3D model of **cgd6_1380.1.pdb**. Download the coordinates [data/Q9GU59/Q9GU59.SHH.952.pdb](#)

SHH

DB02546

Kernel 1.0

SEARCH KERNEL

Q Search...

Advanced Search

Browse the kernel

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Help

Methods

Highest rated target:

• A7UD81 (5 out of 5)

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TDI's kernel

<http://tropicaldisease.org/kernel>

L. Orti *et al.*, *Nat Biotechnol* **27**, 320 (2009).

L. Orti *et al.*, *PLoS Negl Trop Dis* **3**, e418 (2009).

CORRESPONDENCE

A kernel for the Tropical Disease Initiative

To the Editor:

Identifying proteins that are good drug targets and finding drug leads that bind to them is generally a challenging problem. It is particularly difficult for neglected tropical diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis, where research resources are relatively scarce¹. Fortunately, several developments improve our ability to deal with drug discovery for neglected diseases: first, the sequencing of many complete genomes of organisms that cause tropical diseases; second, the determination of a large number of protein structures; third, the creation of compound libraries, including already-approved drugs; and fourth, the availability of improved bioinformatics analysis, including methods for comparative protein structure modeling, binding site identification, virtual ligand screening and drug design. Therefore, we are now in a position to increase the odds of identifying high-quality drug targets and drug leads for neglected tropical diseases. Here we encourage a collaboration among scientists to engage in drug discovery for tropical diseases by providing a 'kernel' for the Tropical Disease Initiative (TDI, <http://www.tropicaldisease.org/>)². As the Linux kernel did for open source code development, we suggest that the TDI kernel may help overcome a major stumbling block, in this case, for open source drug discovery: the absence of a critical mass of preexisting work that volunteers can build on incrementally. This kernel complements several other initiatives on neglected tropical diseases^{3–5}, including collaborative web portals (e.g., <http://www.thesynapticleap.org/>), public-

private partnerships (e.g., <http://www.mmv.org/>) and private foundations (e.g., <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/>); for an updated list of initiatives, see the TDI website above.

The TDI kernel was derived with our software pipeline^{6,7} for predicting structures of protein sequences by comparative modeling, localizing small-molecule binding sites on the surfaces of the models and predicting ligands that bind to them. Specifically, the pipeline linked 297 proteins from ten pathogen genomes with already approved drugs that were developed for treating other diseases (Table 1). Such links, if proven experimentally, may significantly increase the efficiency of target identification, target validation, lead discovery, lead optimization and clinical trials. Two of the kernel targets were tested for their binding to a known drug by NMR spectroscopy, validating one of our predictions (Fig. 1 and Supplementary Data online). It is difficult to assess the accuracy of our computational predictions based on this limited experimental testing. Thus, we encourage other investigators to donate their expertise and facilities to test additional predictions. We hope the testing will occur within the

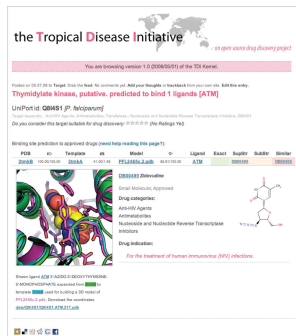


Figure 1 TDI kernel snapshot of the web page for the *Plasmodium falciparum* thymidylate kinase target (<http://tropicaldisease.org/kernel/q8b5y1/>). Our computational pipeline predicted that thymidylate kinase from *P. falciparum* binds ATM (3'-azido-3'-deoxythymidine-5'-monophosphate), a supra-structure of the zidovudine drug approved for the treatment of HIV infection. The binding of this ligand to a site on the kinase was experimentally validated by one-dimensional Water-LOGSY⁹ and saturation transfer difference¹⁰ NMR experiments.

open source context, where results are made available with limited or no restrictions. A freely downloadable version of the TDI kernel is available in accordance with the Science Commons protocol for implementing open access data (<http://sciencecommons.org/projects/publishing/open-access-data-protocol/>), which prescribes standard academic attribution and facilitates tracking of work but imposes no other restrictions. We do not seek intellectual property rights in the actual discoveries based on the TDI kernel, in the hope of reinvigorating drug discovery for neglected tropical diseases⁸. By minimizing restrictions on the data, including viral terms that would be inherited by all derivative works, we hope to attract as many eyeballs as we possibly can to use and improve the kernel. Although many of the drugs in the kernel are proprietary under diverse types of rights, we believe that the existence of public domain pairs of targets and compounds will reduce the royalties that patent owners can charge and sponsors must pay. This should decrease the large sums of money governments and

Table 1 TDI kernel genomes				
Organism ^a	Transcripts ^b	Modeled targets ^c	Similar ^d	Exact ^e
<i>Cryptosporidium hominis</i>	3,886	666	20	13
<i>Cryptosporidium parvum</i>	3,806	742	24	13
<i>Leishmania major</i>	8,274	1,409	43	20
<i>Mycobacterium leprae</i>	1,605	893	25	6
<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	3,991	1,608	30	10
<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i>	5,363	818	28	13
<i>Plasmodium vivax</i>	5,342	822	24	13
<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>	7,793	300	13	6
<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i>	19,607	3,070	51	28
<i>Trypanosoma brucei</i>	9,210	1,386	39	21
Total	68,877	11,714	297	143

^aOrganisms in bold are included in the World Health Organization (Geneva) Tropical Disease portfolio. ^bNumber of transcripts in each genome. ^cNumber of targets with at least one domain accurately modeled (that is, MOGPIPE quality score of at least 1.0). ^dNumber of modeled targets with at least one predicted binding site for a molecule with a Tanimoto score¹ of at least 0.9 to a drug in DrugBank¹². ^eNumber of modeled targets with at least one predicted binding site for a molecule in DrugBank.

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OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLoS NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

A Kernel for Open Source Drug Discovery in Tropical Diseases

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Abstract

Background: Conventional patent-based drug development incentives work badly for the developing world, where commercial markets are usually small to non-existent. For this reason, the past decade has seen extensive experimentation with alternative R&D institutions ranging from private-public partnerships to development prizes. Despite extensive discussion, however, one of the most promising avenues—open source drug discovery—has remained elusive. We argue that the stumbling block has been the absence of a critical mass of preexisting work that volunteers can improve through a series of granular contributions. Historically, open source software collaborations have almost never succeeded without such “kernels”.

Methodology/Principal Findings: Here, we use a computational pipeline for: (i) comparative structure modeling of target proteins, (ii) predicting the localization of ligand binding sites on their surfaces, and (iii) assessing the similarity of the predicted ligands to known drugs. Our kernel currently contains 143 and 297 protein targets from ten pathogen genomes that are predicted to bind a known drug or a molecule similar to a known drug, respectively. The kernel provides a source of potential drug targets and drug candidates around which an online open source community can nucleate. Using NMR spectroscopy, we have experimentally tested our predictions for two of these targets, confirming one and invalidating the other.

Conclusions/Significance: The TDI kernel, which is being offered under the Creative Commons attribution share-alike license for free and unrestricted use, can be accessed on the World Wide Web at <http://www.tropicaldisease.org>. We hope that the kernel will facilitate collaborative efforts towards the discovery of new drugs against parasites that cause tropical diseases.

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

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Introduction

There is a lack of high-quality protein drug targets and drug leads for neglected diseases [1,2]. Fortunately, many genomes of organisms that cause tropical diseases have already been sequenced and published. Therefore, we are now in a position to leverage this information by identifying potential protein targets for drug discovery. Atomic-resolution structures can facilitate this task. In the absence of an experimentally determined structure, comparative modeling can provide useful models for sequences that are detectably related to known protein structures [3,4]. Approximately half of known protein sequences contain domains that can be currently predicted by comparative modeling [5,6]. This coverage

will increase as the number of experimentally determined structures grows and modeling software improves. A protein model can facilitate at least four important tasks in the early stages of drug discovery [7]: prioritizing protein targets for drug discovery [8], identifying binding sites for small molecules [9,10], suggesting drug leads [11,12], and optimizing these leads [13–15].

Here, we address the first three tasks by assembling our computer programs into a software pipeline that automatically and on large-scale predicts protein structures, their ligand binding sites, and known drugs that interact with them. As a proof of principle, we applied the pipeline to the genomes of ten organisms that cause tropical diseases (“target genomes”). We also experimentally tested two predicted drug-target interactions using Nuclear Magnetic

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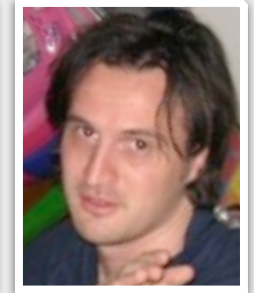
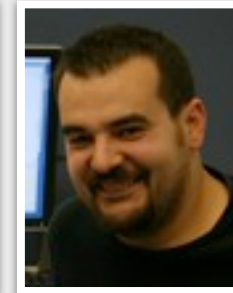
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<http://sgu.bioinfo.cipf.es>

<http://tropicaldisease.org>



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