

**Molecular Networks**  
Inspiring Chemical Discovery



# Modeling Chemical Reactions in Drug Design and Chemical Risk Assessment

**Johann Gasteiger**

**Computer-Chemie-Centrum**

**University of Erlangen-Nuremberg**

**and**

**Molecular Networks GmbH**

**Henkestraße 91**

**91052 Erlangen, Germany**

**[www.molecular-networks.com](http://www.molecular-networks.com)**

# Chemical Reactions in Drug Design



- Which biochemical pathways are critical for a certain disease?
- How can I inhibit a certain biochemical reaction?
- How can I synthesize a desired compound?
- How stable is my cpd?
- What is the  $pK_a$  value of my cpd?



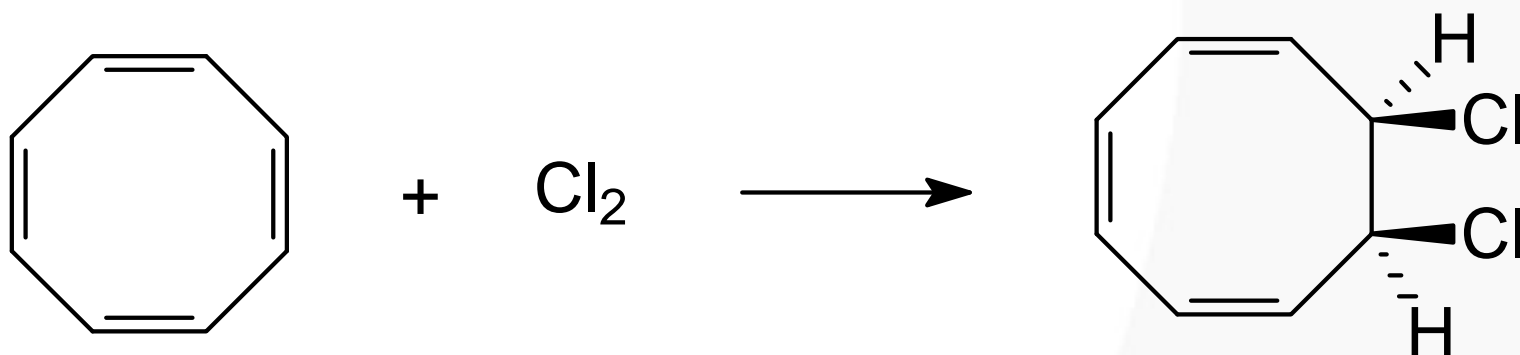
# Chemical Reactions in Risk Assessment

- How will my cpd react with proteins or DNA (reactive toxicity)
- How will my cpd be metabolized?
- Are the metabolites reactive/toxic?



# Reactions of Cyclooctatetraene

- *cis* - halogenation



# Outline

- **Modeling physicochemical effects**
- **Prediction of chemical reactions**
- **Design of organic syntheses**
- **Biochemical pathways**
- **Risk assessment**
- **Metabolism of xenobiotics**



# Modeling Chemical Reactions



- **Theoretical chemist:**

- ***Quantum-mechanical*** calculations: *time-consuming*

- **Organic chemist:**

- ***Concepts*** for rationalizing reaction mechanisms

- ***Partial charges, inductive, resonance, polarizability, steric effect***

**→ Quantify physicochemical effects**



# Calculation of Physicochemical Effects

- Charge calculation:  $q_{\sigma}$  and  $q_{\pi}$
- Inductive effect:  $\chi_r$
- Resonance effect:  $M^+$ ,  $M^-$
- Polarizability effect:  $\alpha_d$
- Steric accessibility:  $A_{\text{access}}$
- Heats of formation / heats of reaction

**PETRA** package

(Parameter Estimation for the Treatment of Reactivity Applications)



# Calculation of Physicochemical Effects



## Charge distribution

J. Gasteiger, M. Marsili, *Tetrahedron* **36**, 3219 (1980)

## Inductive effect

J. Gasteiger, M. G. Hutchings, *Tetrah. Lett.* **24**, 2541 (1983)

## Resonance effect

J. Gasteiger, H. Saller, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **24**, 687 (1985)

## Polarizability effect

J. Gasteiger, M. G. Hutchings, *J. Chem. Soc. Perkin 2*, 559 (1984)

## Bond dissociation energy

J. Gasteiger, *Comp. Chem.* **2**, 85 (1978)



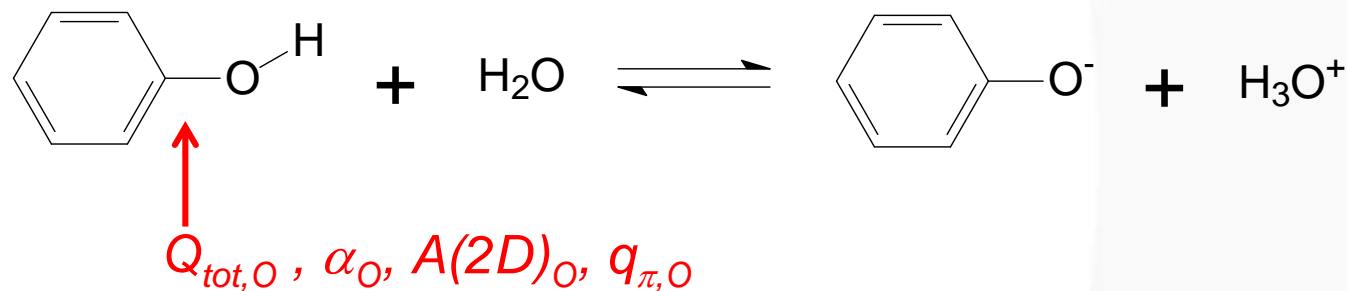


# Prediction of Chemical Reactivities

- **Gas phase reactions (proton affinities, acidities)**
- **$pK_a$  values**
- **General nucleophilicity scale**
- **Hydrolysis of amides**
- **Stability of compounds in DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O**



# A $pK_a$ Model for Phenols



$$pK_a = 7.0 - 48.4Q_{tot,O} - 2.0\alpha_O + 1.2A(2D)_O + 154.2q_{\pi,O} + 2.3I_{o-carboxy}$$

$$n = 452, r^2 = 0.81, s = 0.95$$



# Reactivity Prediction

- **pKa calculation of aliphatic carboxylic acids and alcohols**

J.Zhang, T.Kleinöder, J. Gasteiger, *J. Chem. Inf. Model.*, **2006**,  
46, 2256-2266

- **Prediction of life-time of screening compounds in DMSO solution**

E.Zitha-Bovens, P.Maas, D.Wife, J.Tijhuis, Q.-N.Hu, T.Kleinöder,  
J.Gasteiger, *J. Biomol. Screen.*, **2009**, 14, 557-565





## Design of Organic Syntheses

The **amount of information** to be processed and  
the need to make **decisions between many alternatives**



suggests the use of computers



# THERESA – THE REtroSynthesis Analyzer

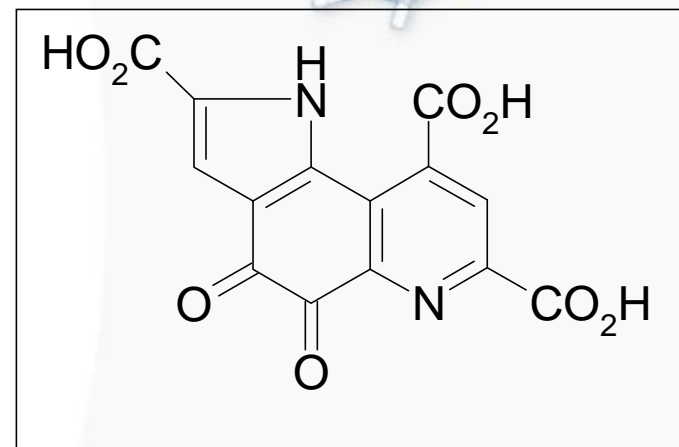


- **Extract reaction types from a reaction database**
  - **Store these reaction types in a separate database**
  - **Apply these reaction types onto a synthesis target**
  - **The retrosynthetic steps are ranked for usefulness by a series of criteria**
  - **Compare the found retrosynthetic steps with known reactions from the database**
  - **Repeat this procedure until all precursors are available starting materials**
- ➔ Can generate completely novel synthesis plans (works with reaction types!)**



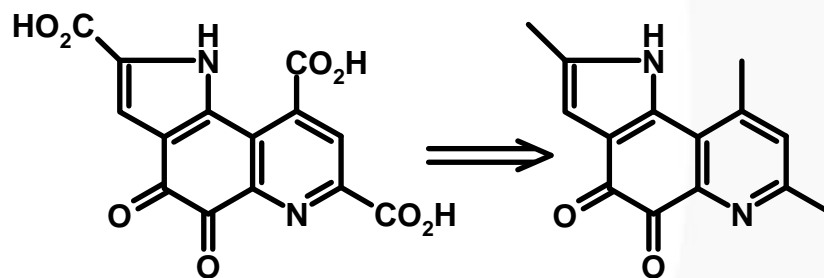
## Example: Methoxatin (coenzyme PQQ)

- coenzyme for redox catalysis discovered in 1979 in methylotrophic bacteria (methane and methanol oxidation)
- present in mammals: growth factor, tissue protective agent, vitamin
- eight published syntheses (8 to 13 steps)

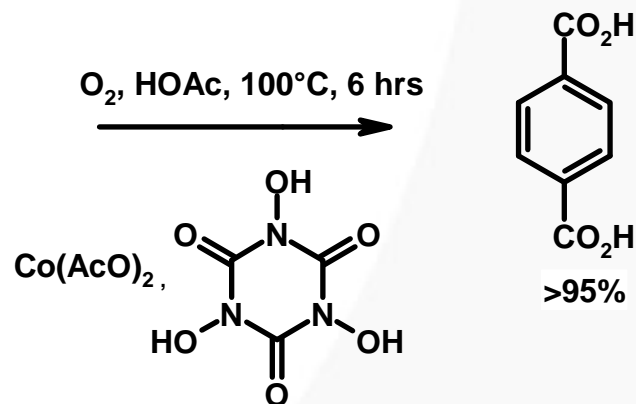


# Oxidation Step (1)

## ■ Suggested retroreaction:



## ■ Published reaction:

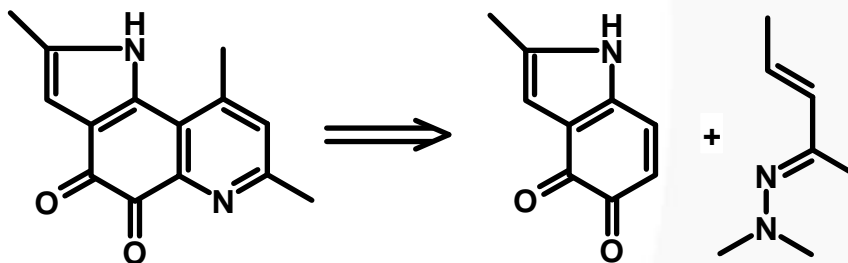


Hirai, N.; Sawatari, N.; Nakamura, N.; Sakaguchi, S.; Ishii, Y. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 6587-6590

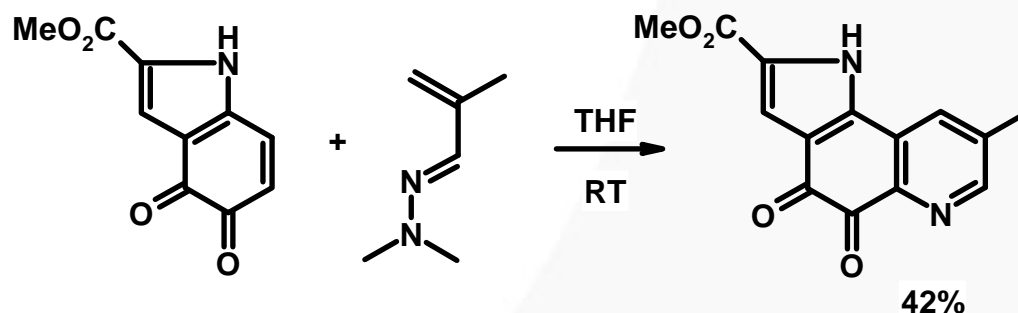


## Diels-Alder Step (2)

- Suggested retro-reaction:



- Published reaction:

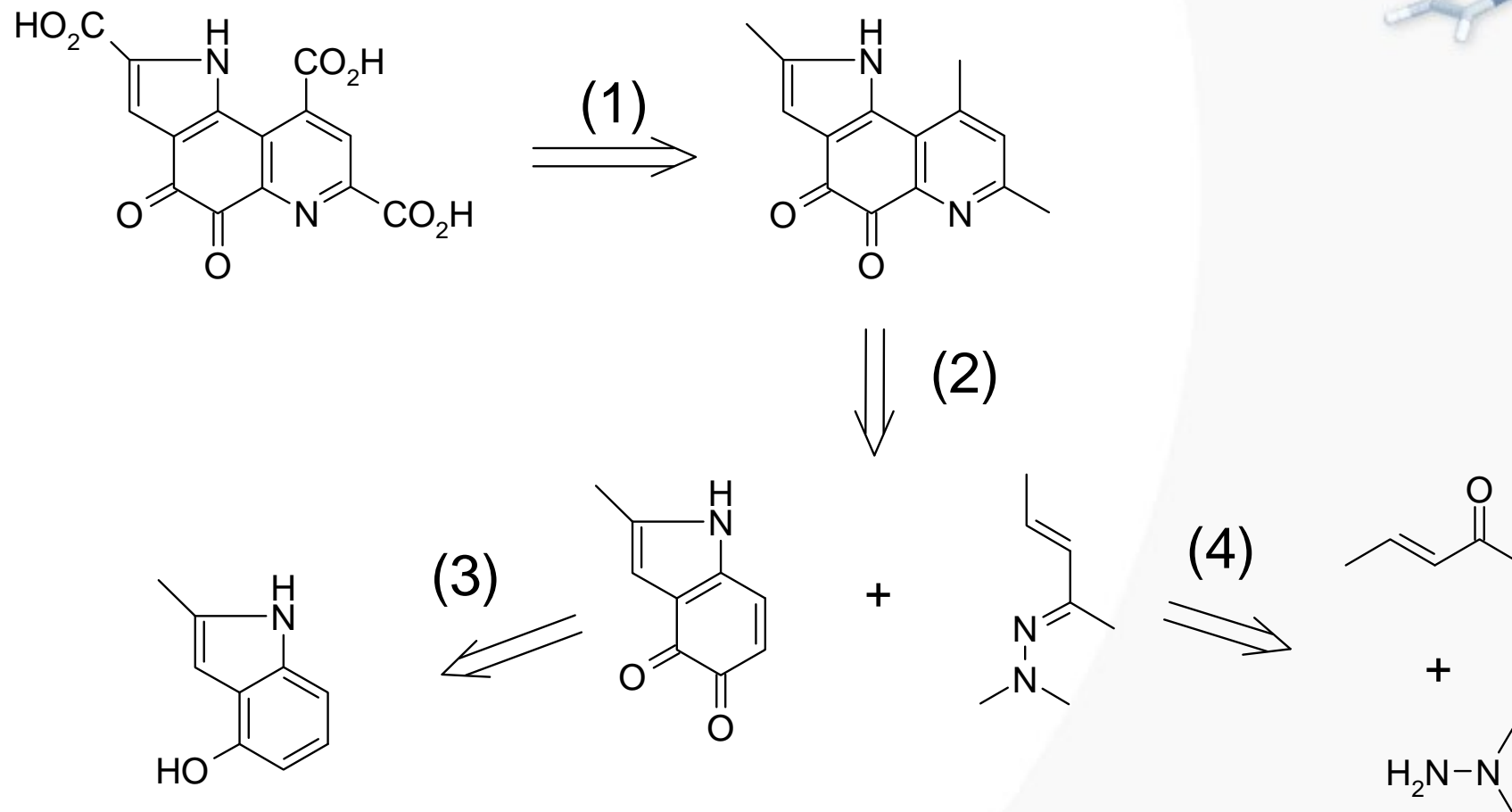


Genisson, V. B.; Nebois, P.; Domard, M.; Fillion, H. *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **2000**, *48*, 893-894

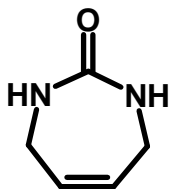




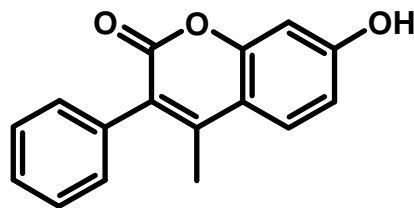
# Methoxatin: Suggested Synthesis with THERESA (4 Steps)



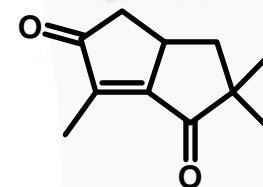
# THERESA Case Studies (1)



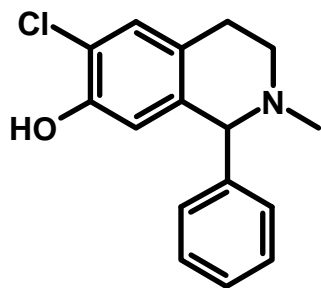
1 step (CCR-2005)



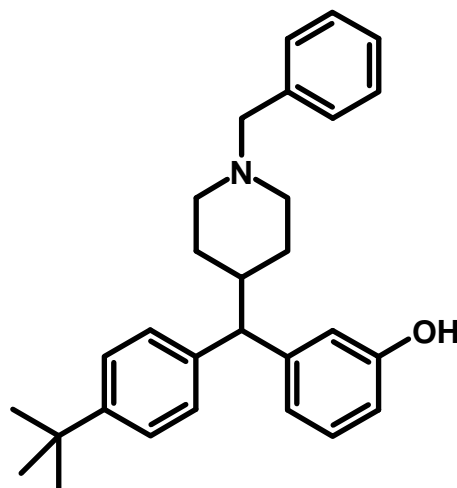
1 step (CCR-2005)



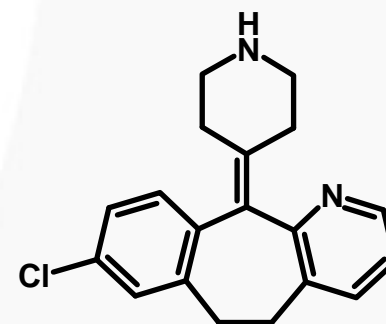
2 steps (CCR-2005)



2 steps (ChemInform)



3 steps (ChemInform)

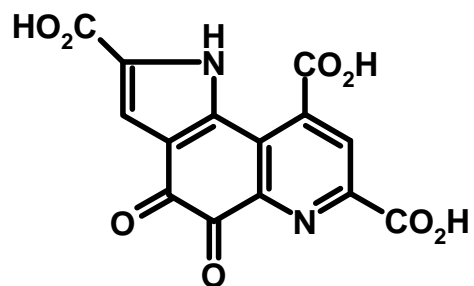


4 steps (Beilstein)

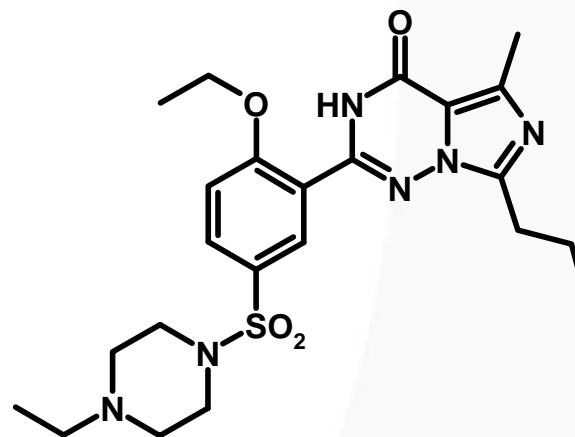
Reaction  
database used



# THERESA Case Studies (2)



5 steps (ChemInform)



6 steps (ChemInform)



# Advantages of THERESA

- **Driven by reaction types extracted from reaction databases**
  - *Can handle databases with more than 1 Million reactions*
  - *Handling of diverse chemistry (heterocycles, rearrangements, ...)*
  - *Provides literature data*
- **Can design syntheses for novel target structures (also those not in the reaction database!)**
- **Provides ideas to the organic chemist**
- **Easy to use**
  - *Web-based user interface*





# Endogenous (Central) Metabolism

**Nutrients, food**



# What is a Chemical Reaction?

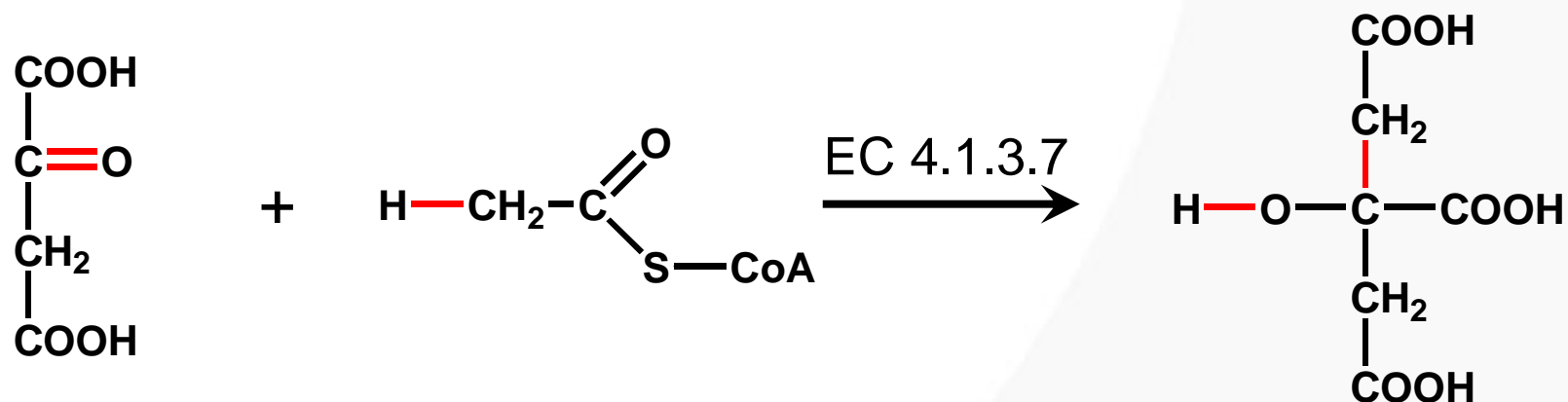
the **biologist**

an event influenced by a gene, a protein (→ **bioinformatics**)



the **chemist**

an event breaking and making bonds (→ **chemoinformatics**)





A B C D E F G H I J K L

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10

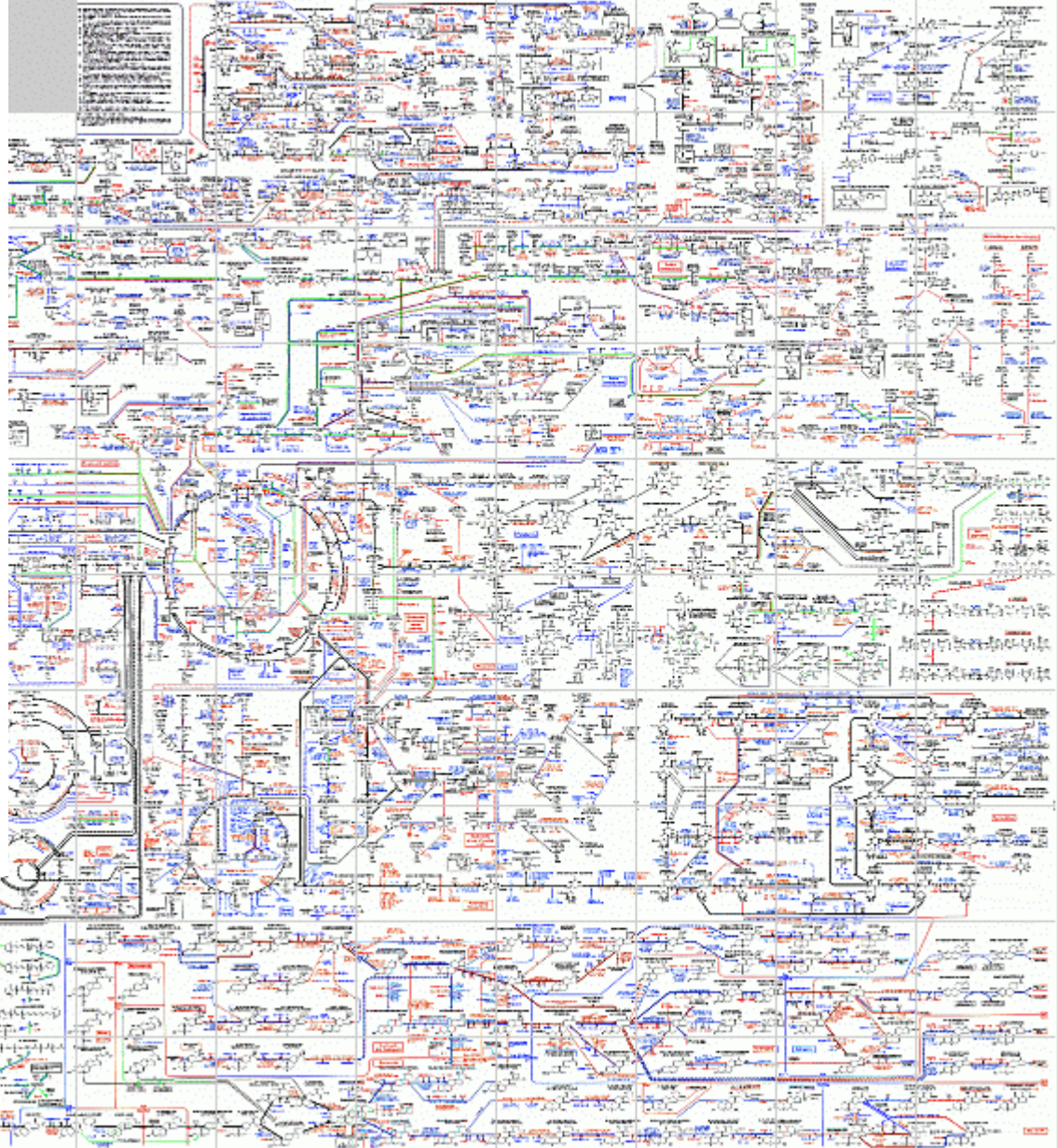
Gerhard Michal (Hrsg.)

# Biochemical Pathways



Biochemie-Atlas

Spektrum



# BioPath.Database

- Molecules and reactions are stored with atomic resolution:
  - molecules as **connection tables**
  - reactions with **reaction center** marked

➤ <b>version 1</b>	<b>version 2</b>
➤ <b>1,175 structures</b>	<b>2,074 structures</b>
➤ <b>1,545 reactions</b>	<b>2,881 reactions</b>

M.Reitz, O.Sacher, A.Tarkhov, D.Trümbach, J.Gasteiger,  
*Org. Biomol. Chem.*, **2004**, 2, 3226-3237.

<http://www.molecular-networks.com/biopath/>





# Search on Wall Chart

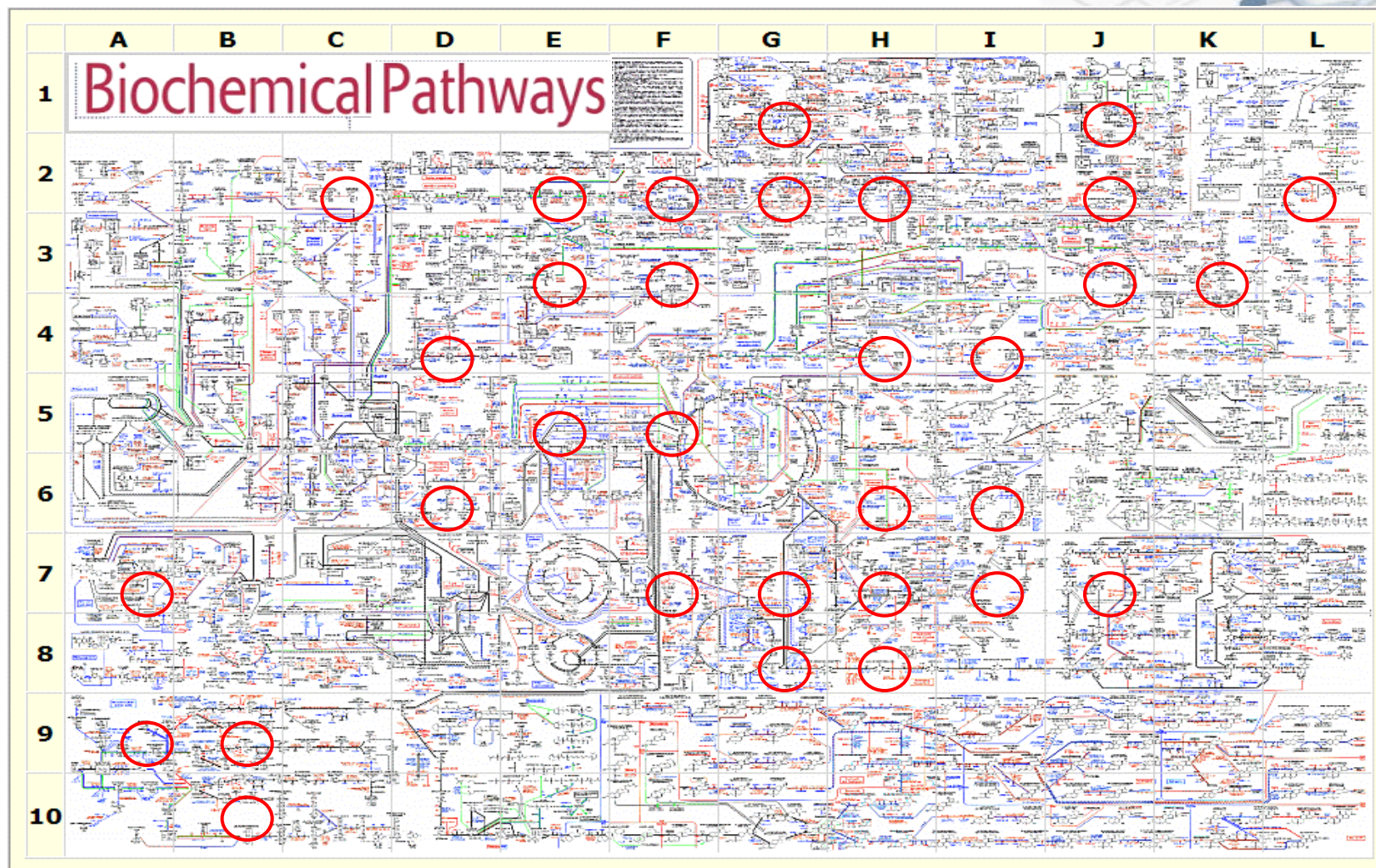
- Search on the wall chart of Biochemical Pathways for all positions where

- **L-glutamate**

- can be found

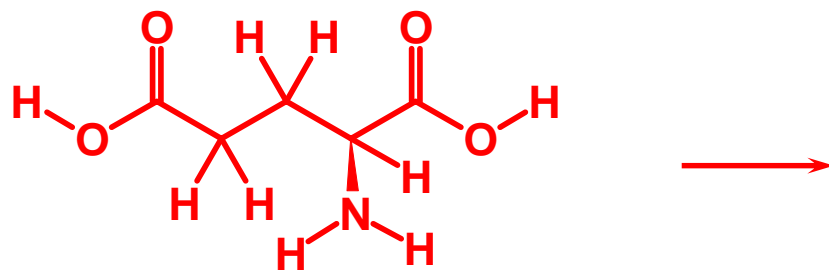


# Searching for L-Glutamate on Wall Chart



# Search for L-Glutamate

- search for biochemical reactions with L-glutamate as reactant



29 hits

- among these hits are biosynthesis of L-valine, L-isoleucine, L-leucine, tetrahydrofolate, ...



# Applications of BioPath.*Database*

## ■ Search for enzyme inhibitors

- M.Reitz, A.von Homeyer, J.Gasteiger, *J.Chem.Inf.Model.*, **2006**,
- 46, 2324-2332

## ■ Search for similar enzymes

- O.Sacher, M.Reitz, J.Gasteiger, *J.Chem.Inf.Model.*, **2009**, 49,1525-1534

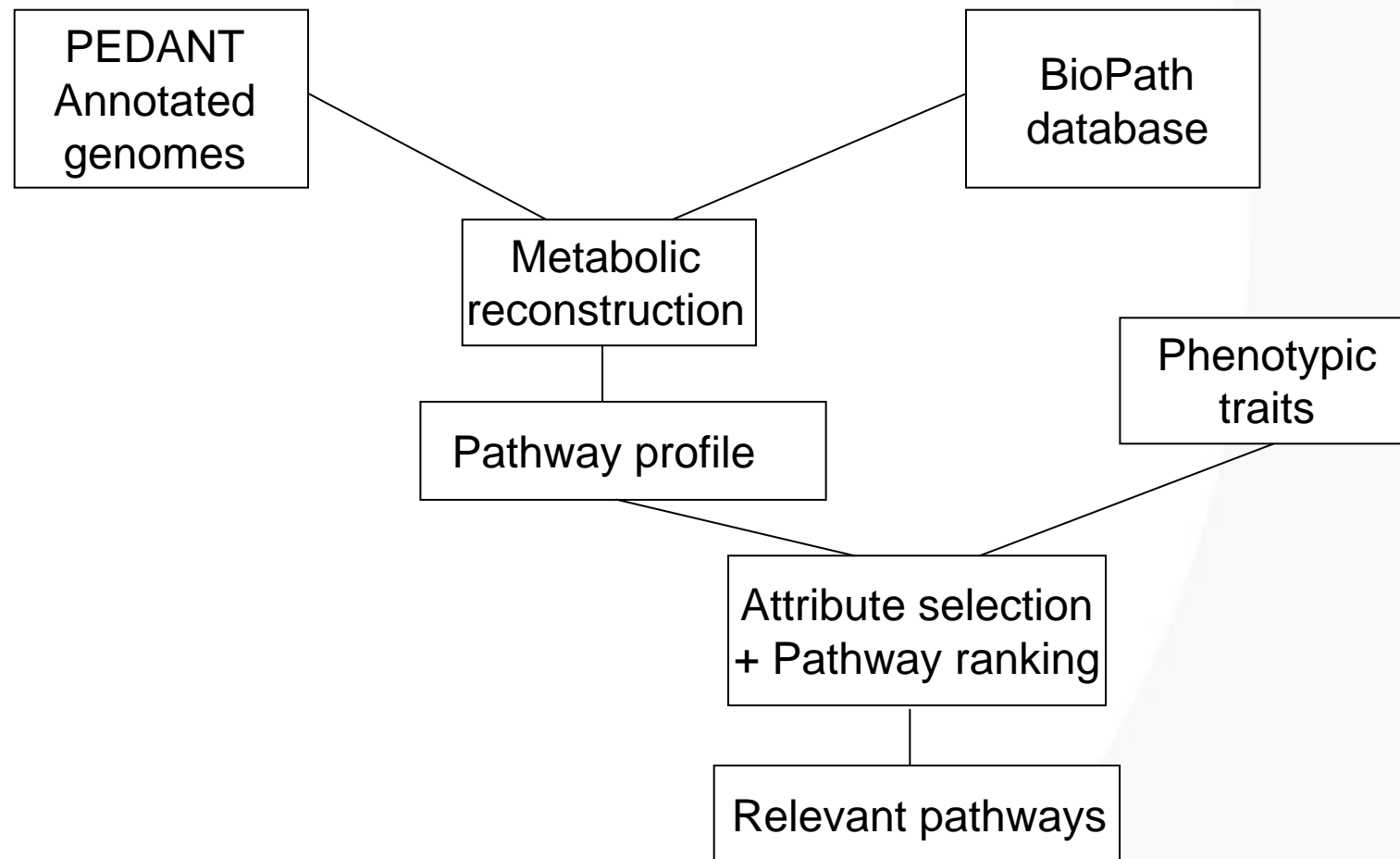
## ■ Search for alternative pathways

## ■ Essential pathways of diseases

- G.Kastenmüller, J.Gasteiger, H.W.Mewes, *Bioinformatics*, **2008**, 24, i56-i62
- G.Kastenmüller, M.E.Schenk, J.Gasteiger, H.W.Mewes, *Genome Biology*,
- **2009**, 10, R28



# Uncovering Metabolic Pathways to Phenotypic Traits





# Periodontal Disease

- **Human oral flora:**

- *> 700 species*

- **PEDANT:**

- *15 fully sequenced oral genomes*
- *(incl. 4 of 6 periodontal pathogens)*

- **BioPath**

- *68 global pathways*
- *306 smaller pathways*



# Relevant Pathways for Phenotype *Periodontal Disease Causing*

- **Glutamate fermentation**
- **Biosynthesis of L-proline**
- **Biosynthesis of 5-formimino-THF**
- **Conversion of l-glutamate to L-proline**
- **Conversion of l-glutamate to l-ornithine**
- **Degradation of l-histidine to l-glutamate**

➤ G. Kastenmüller, M.E. Schenk, J. Gasteiger, H.W.Mewes, *Genome Biology*, **2009**, *10*, R28



# Relevant Pathways for Phenotype *Periodontal Disease Causing*

- Glutamate fermentation
  - Biosynthesis of L-proline
  - Biosynthesis of 5-formimino-THF
  - Conversion of l-glutamate to L-proline
  - Conversion of l-glutamate to l-ornithine
  - Degradation of l-histidine to l-glutamate
- ➔ **Several of these pathways produce  $\text{NH}_3$**
- ➔ **Cytotoxic  $\text{NH}_3$  plays a major role in periodontal disease**
- G. Kastenmüller, M.E. Schenk, J. Gasteiger, H.W.Mewes, *Genome Biology*, **2009**, *10*, R28





## BioPath – Summary

- **BioPath is a rich database**
- **BioPath.*Explore* provides powerful search capabilities**
- **Gives insight into the geometric requirements of enzyme reactions can be gained**
- **Electronic effects at the reaction center provide more detailed information for enzyme classification**
- **Combination with information on genotypes gives insight into diseases**
- **Serves as a basis for green chemistry/metabolic engineering (BioPath.*Design*)**





# Risk Assessment of Chemicals

**Legislation in the European Union:  
REACH; Cosmetics Directive**



# Risk Assessment of Chemicals

- **REACH – Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and restriction of CHemicals**
  - **Only those chemicals are allowed to be manufactured or imported into the European Union that are proven to be safe**
  - **Law since June 1, 2007**
  - **Chemicals have to be accepted until Dec 1, 2013**
  - **Applies to about 35,000 chemicals**
  - **Testing is time-consuming and expensive**
- Use computational methods for ranking of chemicals**



# Workflow of Risk Assessment



- query
- representation

- reactivity
- degradation
- **metabolism**

- phys-chem prop
- toxicity
- biological assays

- get data
- read-across
- QSAR prediction

- biodegradation...
- eco-toxicity...
- human health..

Persistence  
Bioaccumulation  
Toxicity





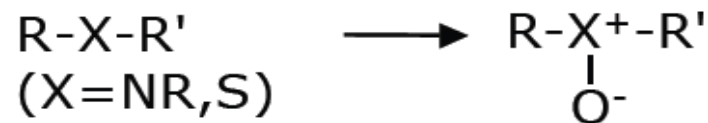
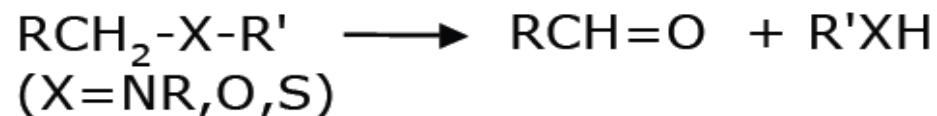
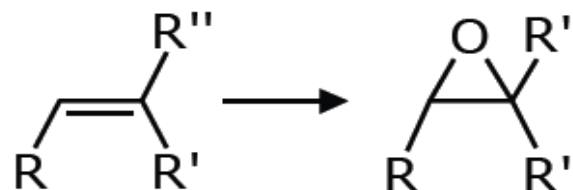
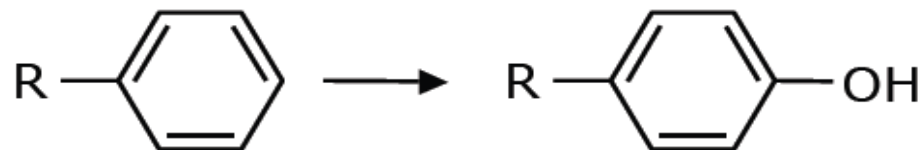
# Metabolism of Xenobiotics

**Drugs, agrochemicals, food additives**



# Oxidations by Cytochrome P450

- Aromatic hydroxylation
- Aliphatic hydroxylation
- Epoxidation
- N, O, S-dealkylation, oxidative deamination
- N,S-oxidation



# Different Selectivities

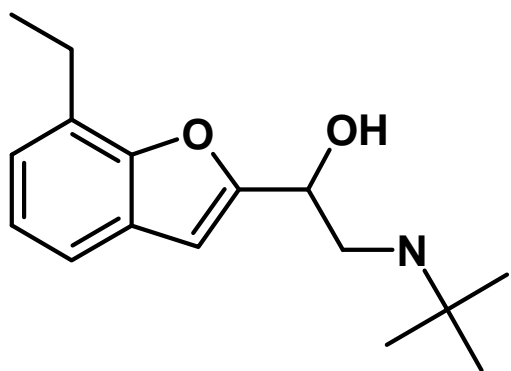


- **Selectivity between different cytochrome P450 isoenzymes**
  - *in particular 3A4, 2C9, 2C19, 2D6, 1A2*
- **Selectivity between different reaction types**
  - *chemoselectivity*
- **Selectivity between different reaction sites**
  - *regioselectivity*

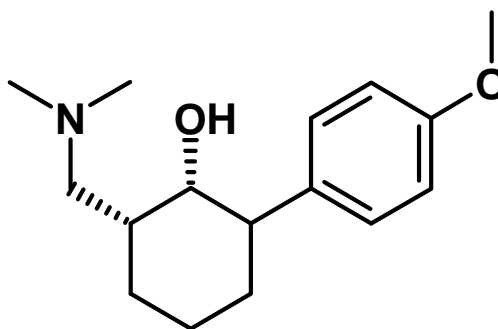


# Data Set of 3A4, 2D6, and 2C9 Substrates

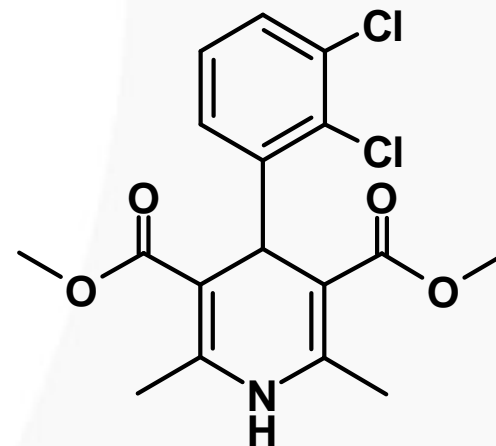
- Training set: 146 drugs, substrate for 3A4, 2D6 or 2C9\*  
major isoform specified
- Validation set: 233 reactants from the Metabolite database



Bufuralol



Tramadol



Felodipine

\*Manga, N. et al. *SAR and QSAR in Env. Res.* 2005, 16, 43-61.





# Support Vector Machine (SVM) Model

- **Descriptors (242 components)**
- **Automatic variable selection: 12 components**
  - $2D-AC_{identity}(5)$ ,  $2D-AC_{q\pi}(3)$ ,  $2D-AC_{q\pi}(6)$ ,  $2D-AC_{\chi\pi}(5)$ ,  $2D-AC_{q\sigma}(1)$ ,  $2D-AC_{q\sigma}(2)$ ,  $2D-AC_{\chi\sigma}(6)$ ,  $3D-AC_{identity}([5.8-5.9[\text{\AA})$ ,  $n_{acid\_groups}$ ,  $n_{aliphatic\_amino}$ ,  $n_{basic\_n}$ ,  $r_3$

## Predictability

- **Training: 90.4%**
- **5-fold CV: 87.8%**



# Validation of the Support Vector Machine Model

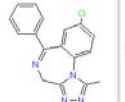
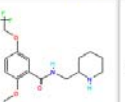
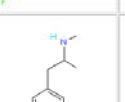
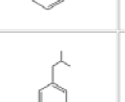
- **Validation set: 233 substrates from the Metabolite database**
- **Predictability: 82.8%**
- **remember: some drugs are metabolized by several isoforms**

L. Terfloth, B. Bienfait, J. Gasteiger, *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **2007**, *47*, 1688-1710



# isoCYP Webservice

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Molecular Networks Web Services - Mozilla Firefox" with the URL [http://www.mol-net.com/online\\_demo/cyp450/vsDispatcher.py](http://www.mol-net.com/online_demo/cyp450/vsDispatcher.py). The main content area is titled "Your results" and contains a table with the following data:

Rec#	Compound	Predominant P450 Isoform	Name(read)
1		CYP3A4	Alprazolam
2		CYP2D6	Flecainide
3		CYP2D6	Methamphetamine
4		CYP2C9	Ibuprofen

Below the table, there is a "Display Properties" section with a checked box for "Predominant P450 Isoform" and a "Name" dropdown menu. There are also "refresh" and "defaults" buttons. At the bottom of the browser window, there is a "Back" button and a note: "Compute and display (Predominant P450 Isoform) of compounds in the results table".

**Prediction of  
major  
metabolizing  
CYP450 isoform  
(2D6, 3A4, 2C9)**

■ [http://www.molecular-networks.com/online\\_services](http://www.molecular-networks.com/online_services)

L. Terfloth, B. Bienfait, J. Gasteiger, *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **2007**, *47*, 1688-1710



# Different Selectivities



- **Selectivity between different cytochrome P450 isoenzymes**
  - *in particular 3A4, 2C9, 2C19, 2D6, 1A2*
- **Selectivity between different reaction types**
  - *chemoselectivity*
- **Selectivity between different reaction sites**
  - *regioselectivity*



# Reaction Generation with MOSES.Metabolism



MOSES MetaboGen (v 1.0 2006-11-17)

Structure Input File  
dextromethorphan.sdf Browse...

Structure Output File  
dextromethorphan\_reactions.sdf Browse...

Reaction Output File  
dextromethorphan\_metabolic\_reactions.rdf Browse...

Reaction Rules

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aromatic Hydroxylation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Benzylic Hydroxylation	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol Oxydation
<input type="checkbox"/> N-Demethylation	<input type="checkbox"/> N-Deethylation	<input type="checkbox"/> Aldehyde Oxydation
<input type="checkbox"/> O-Demethylation	<input type="checkbox"/> O-Deethylation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deamination		
<input type="checkbox"/> N-Oxydation	<input type="checkbox"/> S-Oxydation	<input type="checkbox"/> Desulfurization
<input type="checkbox"/> Aromatic Amine Oxydation	<input type="checkbox"/> Aromatic Hydroxylamine Oxydation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Epoxidation	<input type="checkbox"/> Epoxide Hydrolysis	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrolysis	<input type="checkbox"/> Amide Hydrolysis	<input type="checkbox"/> Ester Hydrolysis
<input type="checkbox"/> Acetal Hydrolysis	<input type="checkbox"/> Half-Acetal Hydrolysis	<input type="checkbox"/> Geminal Diol Hydrolysis
<input type="checkbox"/> Aldehyde Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> AzoCompoundReduction	

Toggle All

Options

suppress output of reactants  write brief reactions

Reaction Level

Process About Exit

- **MetaboGen**
- **Covers all relevant phase I reactions**
- **Supports atom-atom mapping**
- **Provides information on reaction centers**
- **Is used to generate reactions for XENIA**



# MOSES.Metabolism Reaction Rules

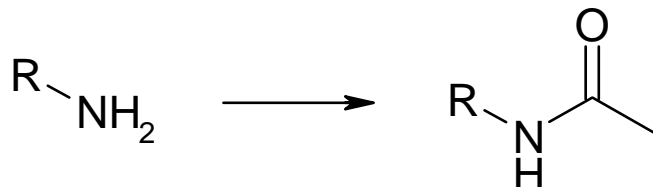


- **117 reaction rules**
- **Reaction types covered:**
  - *Aromatic hydroxylation*
  - *Aliphatic hydroxylation*
  - *N- and O-dealkylation*
  - *Hydrolysis (ester, amides)*
  - *Conjugation reactions (glucuronidation, sulphation, glycation, acetylation)*
  - *Oxidation reactions (alcohols, aldehydes, etc.)*
- **Empirical score for likeliness of a reaction based on literature data**



# Derivation of a Rule Base for Metabolite Prediction

- Define reaction rules, e.g. for an acetylation

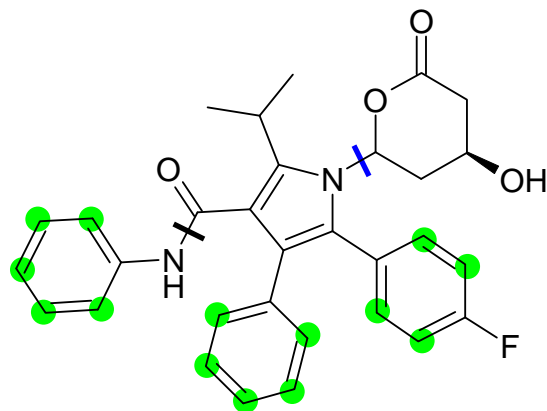


- Calculate reaction probabilities based on a reaction database (Metabolite, MDL-Symyx)

➤ <i>Conceivable metabolites</i>	1223
➤ <i>Observed metabolites</i>	122
➤ <i>Non-observed metabolites</i>	1101
➤ <i>Probability</i>	$122/1223 = 0.10$



# Phase I Metabolism of Atorvastatin Lactone



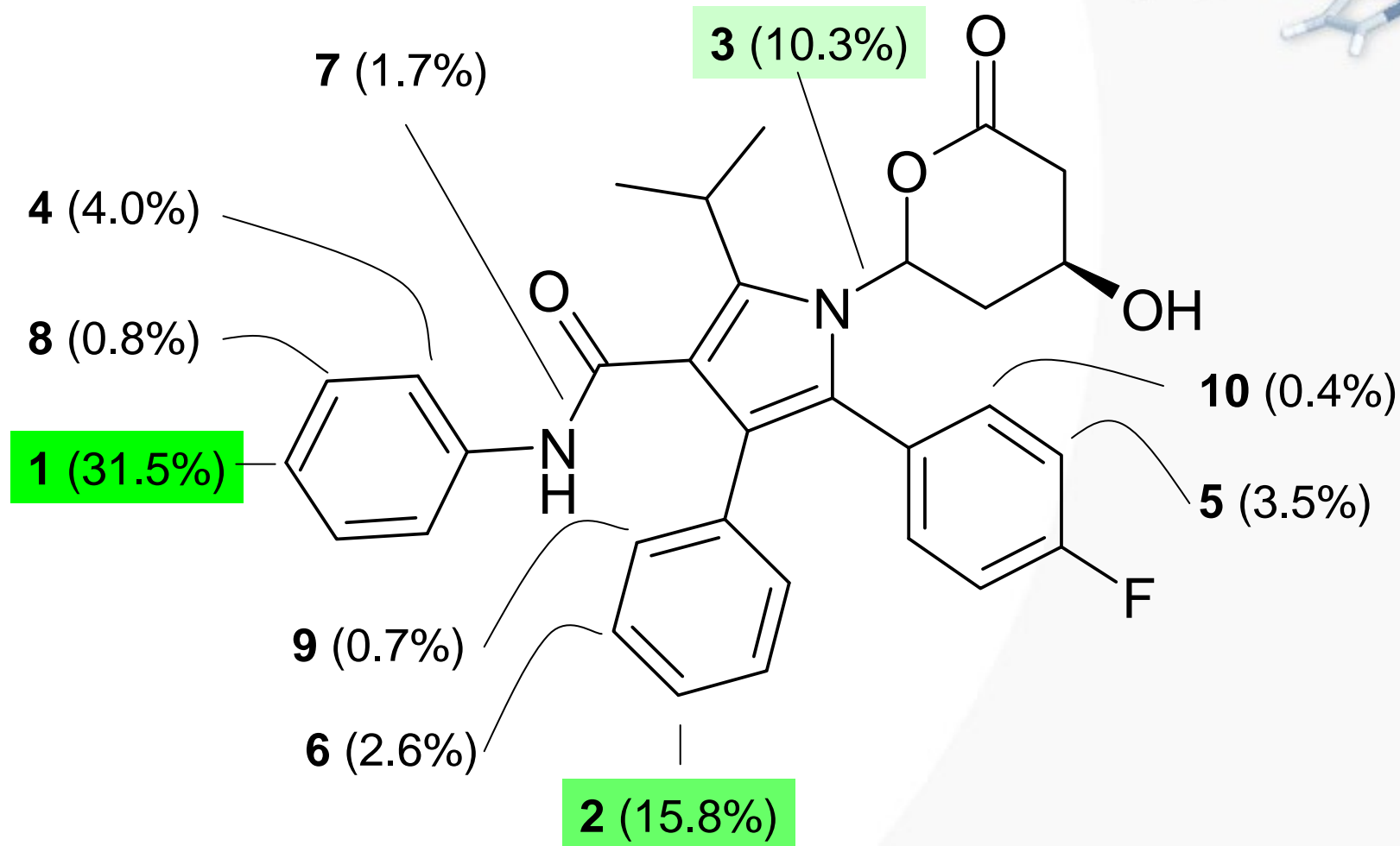
## ■ Chemoselectivity

- *Aromatic hydroxylation* (●)
- *Amide hydrolysis* ( \ )
- *N-Dealkylation* ( \ )

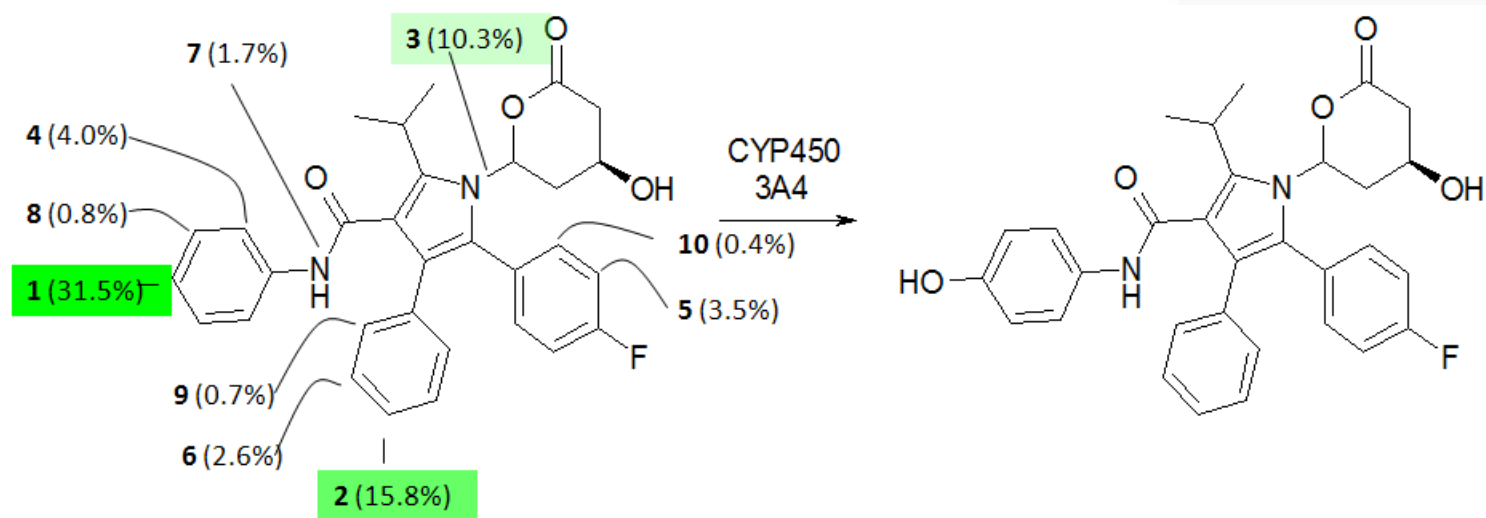




# Ranks and Probabilities of predicted Metabolites of Atorvastatin Lactone



# Experimentally observed Metabolite of Atorvastatin Lactone



- Metabolite predicted for atorvastatin with highest rank corresponds with experimental observations.



# MOSES.Metabolism - Summary



- **MOSES.Metabolism is a rule-based system for metabolism prediction**
- **A database of metabolic reactions can be mined for the prediction of metabolism**
- **The rule base is transparent to the user**
- **Metabolism prediction is presently validated**





# moses

## RiskAssessment

[New Search](#) | [Databases](#) | [About](#)

### Enter Query Structure

Please select a method how to find a chemical record from the database

By Structure

By Structure

Enter SMILES string in the text field or sketch the query compound by clicking *Sketch Molecule*

C1=CC(O)=CC(N)=C1

Sketch Molecule

Sketch

Please select a structure search method.

- Exact Structure
- Substructure
- Similar Substructure

Search method

CFSAN Sample Database

search

Structure Editor - Mozilla Firefox

Transfer Clear Close Help

Done

MOSES.Metabolism | Welcome - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Delicious Bookmarks Tools Help

http://localhost:8000/metabogen incscape

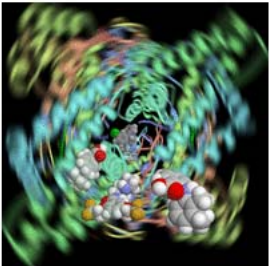
MOSES.Metabolism | Welcome

# MOSES Metabolism

New Search | CERES | About

## Welcome to MOSES.Metabolism

**Welcome to the MOSES.Metabolism v1.0 Demonstration.**



- Query input
- Speciation
- Choice of rulebase
  - Human metabolism
  - Environmental degradation
- Metabolite generation
- Results

**Start MOSES.Metabolism.**

Please start MOSES.Metabolism by entering the [Query page](#).

Done



MOSES.Metabolism | Query Structure - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Delicious Bookmarks Tools Help

http://localhost:8000/run

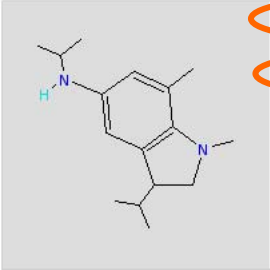
MOSES.Metabolism | Query S...

# MOSES Metabolism

New Search | CERES | About


## Query Structure

Parent compound.



**Compound Information**  
Name: CYP3A4  
Isoform: CYP3A4

Predict Metabolites

Powered by MOSES from  Molecular Networks  
Inspiring Chemical Discovery

Compound information

P450 isoform specificity



MOSES.Metabolism | Metabolite Prediction - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Delicious Bookmarks Tools Help

http://localhost:8000/run?action=metabogen&smiles=C1%3DC(C)C2%3DC(C%3DC1NC(C)C(C(C)C)CN2C

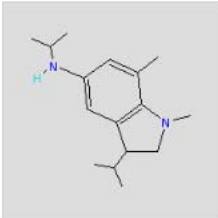
MOSES.Metabolism | Metabol...

**MOSES**  
Metabolism

New Search | CERES | About

### Metabolite Prediction

**Parent compound.**

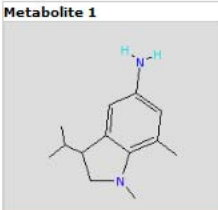


**Compound Information**  
 Name C16H26N2  
 Isoform CYP3A4

**Metabolites.**

Generated 10 metabolites.

**Metabolite 1**



**Compound Information**  
 Rule N\_Deisopropylation\_short  
 Probability 0.31

Done







- **C++ based Chemoinformatics system**
  - *high performance*
  - *available for many platforms (Windows, Linux, Unix)*
- **Python interface available**
  - *provides easy access to the full functionality of MOSES*
  - *ideally suited for the development of client / server applications*
- **under active development since 2001**
  - *Computer-Chemie-Centrum, Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg*
  - *Molecular Networks GmbH*
  - *15 person-years of development*
- **250,000 lines of Code**
  - *well documented and tested*





*„Integration of chemoinformatics into a single platform“*

- **chemical structure / reaction I/O**
  - *support for commonly used file formats*
- **substructure / similarity search**
- **2D / 3D display of chemical structures and reaction**
  - *stand alone GUI (Qt based)*
  - *web GUI*
- **property calculation**
  - *278 properties calculated by 80 calculation modules*
- **metabolite generation**
  - *123 rules relevant to human metabolism*

# Molecular Networks

<http://www.molecular-networks.com>

## ■ ADRIANA.Code

- *calculation of molecular descriptors on a sound geometric and physicochemical basis*

## ■ THERESA

- *Design of organic and bioorganic syntheses*

## ■ SYLVIA

- *estimation of the synthetic accessibility, since 2007*

## ■ BioPath

- *Database of biochemical pathways in endogenous metabolism*



# MOSES Software Products



- **MOSES.Risk Assessment**
  - *risk assessment based on TTC alerts and QSAR predictions*
- **MOSES.Metabolism**
  - *generation of metabolites relevant to human metabolism*
- **MOSES.Editor / MOSES.Browser**
  - *editing and browsing of chemical structures and reactions*



# Summary

- **Simple models of physicochemical effects can be used for reactivity prediction**
- **Organic syntheses can be designed with THERESA**
- **BioPath is a rich database with many applications**
- **Computational methods are valuable in risk assessment**
- **Metabolism of chemical compounds has to be considered in risk assessment**
- **Models for predicting metabolism of xenobiotics have been developed**

J.Gasteiger, Modeling Chemical Reactions for Drug Design  
*J. Comput. Aided Mol. Des.*, **2007**, 21, 33-52



# Acknowledgements

- Dr. Thomas Kleinöder
- Dr. Jörg Marusczyk
- Dr. Aleksey Tarkhov
- Dr. Lothar Terfloth
- Dr. Bruno Bienfait
- Dr. Oliver Sacher

## Collaboration on risk assessment

- Dr. Chihae Yang

<http://www.molecular-networks.com>

