

Good drugs for bad bugs:

Finding new antibiotics for tuberculosis

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TB Drug Discovery Pipeline



Strategies in AB drug discovery



Drug to target

Aston University

Birmingham

1) Whole cell phenotypic HTS

Pan-assay interference compounds (PAINS) Baell and Walters *Nature* 2014 (513)

Chasing your tail... or the wrong target

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PLOS ONE

Tetrahydropyrazolo[1,5-*a*]Pyrimidine-3-Carboxamide and *N*-Benzyl-6',7'-Dihydrospiro[Piperidine-4,4'-Thieno[3,2-*c*]Pyran] Analogues with Bactericidal Efficacy against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Targeting MmpL3

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CHALLENGES:

- WGS has limitations
- It sometimes gives us a hint
- Its not the only strategy
- HTS only as good as the library

microbiology

Article | Published: 18 January 2016

THPP target assignment reveals EchA6 as an essential fatty acid shuttle in mycobacteria

Jonathan A. G. Cox, Katherine A. Abrahams, Carlos Alemparte, Sonja Ghidelli-Disse, Joaquín Rullas, Iñigo Angulo-Barturen, Albel Singh, Sudagar S. Gurcha, Vijayashankar Nataraj, Stephen Bethell, Modesto J. Remuiñán, Lourdes Encinas, Peter J. Jervis, Nicholas C. Cammack, Apoorva Bhatt, Ulrich Kruse, Marcus Bantscheff, Klaus Fütterer A, David Barros, Lluis Ballell A, Gerard Drewes & Gurdyal S. Besra

Nature Microbiology 1, Article number: 15006 (2016) Download Citation 🚽

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Target to drug

In an ideal world.....

A combined approach...

- Overexpress important genes
- Screen against 10,000 known TB inhibitors
- Look for IC₅₀ shift with overexpressing strain

- New targets
- Good inhibitors
- Whole cell activity
- Target engagement

