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Application of fragment-based drug discovery to membrane proteins Früh, V.

Citation

Früh, V. (2009, October 7). *Application of fragment-based drug discovery to membrane proteins*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/14047>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

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Curriculum vitae

Virginie's profile was drawn by her brother, Johan Früh



Virginie Früh was born in Lausanne, Switzerland, on the 22nd of April, 1978. At the age of 9 months she was brought to travel the world with her parents, where she attended international schools in Manila, Jakarta, and Sri Lanka. After obtaining her International Baccalaureate in Colombo, she studied Biology at the University of Lausanne and transferred to complete her Bachelor of Science in Coastal Marine Biology (Scarborough, United Kingdom) in 2001, with a First Class Honours degree. She carried out several voluntary positions in the tropics in the aim to protect coral reef and fishermen communities. She returned to Switzerland to work for a pharmaceutical company for a temporary contract of 5 months, and another of 8 months, where she was responsible of cell culture media development. She continued to apply for PhD positions when Dr. Gregg Siegal and Prof. Ad. IJzerman accepted her as a candidate with shared time between the LIC and LACDR of the University of Leiden. She started her PhD in September 2004 in the aim to adapt the Target Immobilized NMR Screening (TINS) methodology to the challenging membrane proteins such as GPCRs, ion channels, and enzymes. The project also involved applying TINS to membrane proteins with alternative solubilization media. Several collaborations with other academic research groups and industries were established during her PhD project, including the group of Prof. Rob Leurs (LACDR, Amsterdam, Netherlands), Prof. Lukas Tamm and Prof. John Bushweller (University of Virginia, USA), Prof. Jean-Luc Popot (IBPC, France), Dr. Gregg Siegal and Dr. Rob Heetebrij (internal collaboration with ZoBio, Leiden, Netherlands) and Herman Verheil (Pyxis Discoveries, Delft, Netherlands). Part of the work was presented at the Figon Medicine Days in October 2008, where she was awarded the first prize for the oral presentation. She now has returned to Switzerland where she aims to continue working in the field of biochemistry, and to continue work on her association *ekolibrium*, co-founded with Didier Thomas and Ayi Ardisastra, which aims at encouraging and gathering ecological research through the production of documentaries made by the Swiss youth for the Swiss public.

List of publications

- 1- Früh, V.; Heetebrij, R.; Siegal, G. **Fragment-Based Drug Discovery: A Practical Approach**; John Wiley & Sons: Chichester, 2008; Chapter 6, pp 135-158.
- 2- Früh, V.; IJzerman, A.P., Siegal, G. **How to catch a membrane protein in action: A review of functional membrane protein immobilization strategies and their applications.** *Accepted for review. Chemical Reviews (2009)*
- 3- Früh, V.; Zhou, Y., Loch, C., AB, E., Verheij, H., Bushweller, J.H., Siegal, G. **Application of Fragment Based Drug Discovery to Identify Inhibitors of the Integral Membrane Enzyme DsbB.** *Accepted for review. Nature Chemical Biology (2009).*
- 4- Früh, V.; Heetebrij, Grinkova, Y. N. , Sligar, S. G., Siegal, G. **Self assembly of Protein – Nanodisc Complexes: A solubilization strategy which enables fragment based drug discovery of membrane proteins in aqueous buffers.** *Manuscript in preparation (2009).*

Acknowledgements

The cliché that none of this would be possible without all of you is impossible to avoid because it's true....

From Europe to America, there has been a tremendous amount of interesting conversations and problem solving collaborations.

I'd like to thank the LACDR group in Amsterdam. Dr. Rob Leurs, Dr. Martine Smit, André, Dennis, Gerold, David, Jip, and Henry : thanks for all the help in cell culture and radioligand binding studies, and my first Dutch words !

Thank you to the LADR group in Leiden for continuing my education in GPCR science and for our fun lab outings. You all have confirmed the importance of such a closely knit group and the agreeable atmosphere it conveys both at coffee breaks and in the laboratory. Thanks for being patient with my Dutch as well! Margot, Thea, Hans, and Henk: I learned a tremendous amount from your experience, and felt integrated into the group thanks to you, Elisabeth: I'll try to have mistletoe at my defence, Jaco: I'll think of you when I go on motorbike trips around the mountain roads of Switzerland, Kai and Ann: I'll always remember us three being the only foreigners in the lab at first!, Miriam: I hope your cells behave and that you go on countless beautiful holidays, Gerard you better have that song ready for me as you promised, Andreas: thanks for the interest in our foundation, and Rob: good luck with all your personal and professional projects. I really had a laugh with all of you at the FIGON Dutch Medicines Research days and felt like we were a big happy family. Rob, although we never managed to go for that beer after work I hope you'll enjoy the one at my defence! Laura and Kim: needless to say we shall meet again for Einstein saté. You've both really been my driving forces to complete my thesis to the best of my abilities and to become a better stronger person! My special thoughts go to Jacobien, who is always in our hearts.

Production, purification, and solubilization of the membrane proteins used in this thesis would not have been possible without the help of Lukas Tamm (KcsA, OmpA), Binyong Liang (OmpA), Yunpeng Zhou and John Bushweller (DsbB). Not only did you provide me with plasmids, but you were omnipresent in helping with all the follow up purification, solubilization, and assay development problem-solving issues. I would also like to send my warmest thanks also to Dr. Yelena Grinkova and Prof. Stephen Sligar for the help on membrane protein solubilization in nanodiscs, an experience which taught me how the smallest issues must be well controlled for a successful experiment. Of course, thank you Herman Verheij for the help with the fragments without which my thesis would be empty!

I'd like to give special thanks to the group in Paris, *Molecular Physics and Chemistry of Biological Membranes*, for their invaluable help and advice concerning how to handle membrane proteins and the use of alternative solubilization strategies. Although I only stayed two weeks, I learned a variety of useful scientific facts for my future career, and not only pertaining to membrane proteins. Working in Paris was a beautiful experience with delicious coffee breaks! Paola, Delphine, Tassadite et Edith: merci d'avoir été si patientes et ouvertes à répondre à mes milliers d'emails ! Merci également à Francesca pour le logement et à Fabrice pour les conseils variés qui me seront très utiles dans l'avenir ! Merci à Migiel aussi pour les sorties à Paris et d'avoir resté en contact depuis nos premières rencontres à Leiden !

Thanks to Anneloes, Francis, and Lionel for being behind the scenes and never losing your patience with anyone in the lab, although it would have easily been possible!! You've been great and taught me a tremendous amount. I don't think people realize just how vital you are to the lab and how successful we could all be by helping each other out, whether technician, phd student, postdoc, or professor. Thanks to the whole metprot group for coming to the borrels and Hendry and Mike for helping me out! I mention laughing and borrels, but you've all been ready to discuss science seriously and I've enjoyed it all.

Of course, my special thanks goes to the group of ZoBio who has made me learn invaluable lessons about how start up companies work, how to manage people and projects, and how to stimulate interesting scientific discussions. Thanks to Caroline for your company and to both Caroline and Eiso for helping me learn Linux, TINS analyses, and 3D protein software. Thanks to Rob for always being attentive to how I felt and what I needed to be happy in my PhD, and thanks to Johan for the valuable NMR lessons and for always taking time in the weekends to come and help: naturally, thanks for helping me with my dutch summary and yes, perhaps one day, I'll come and run the streets of the Netherlands with you and Karthick, or just enjoy the beer afterwards! Thanks to Karthick Babu and Willem-Jan for the laughs and being helpful with students in times of need!

Last but not least all my friends from within and outside the lab, Gerhild, Hanna, Monica, Carine, may we meet again with a positive outlook on what we all went through together!! All the friends from outside the lab in Leiden, thanks for making my adventure in this small curious city an amazing experience I will never forget! May there be many check mates ahead for you in your lives!

Naturally, I would like to thank my supervisors Ad IJzerman and Gregg Siegal for all your support and for believing in me.

Friends and family

Mes amis en Suisse, vous savez qui vous êtes, puisque vous êtes pratiquement de la famille : Véro et Solène : Merci de partager la beauté de la nature avec moi, et d'être toujours partantes pour.. tout ! Fred pour les discussions éternelles scientifiques, Céline et Loréane pour les rires et sourirs, Anne-Sophie pour les rires aussi !! Lise et Claudio et la troisième ptite vie dans votre vie : je vous souhaite de continuer votre voyage en bonheur ! L'équipe de Serono : Katia et Laurence, Cricri, Patrick, Philippe et Markus, merci pour tout et d'avoir gardé le contact en

dehors des labos infernos hehe ! Je suis limitée par les mots mais pas par les gestes alors restons-en là et profitons de la danse que la vie nous invite à partager.

Et à ma famille : merci de m'avoir aimé et de m'avoir permise de vous aimer en retour, inconditionnellement. Jonne, je te souhaite du bonheur dans la vie, malgré les obstacles tu y es et tu y arriveras, Jérémy, Jason, Dean, et Monne, je vous souhaite de la patience et beaucoup de plaisir dans la vie... Futurs footballeurs et amoureux de la nature, attention, Jérémy et Jason arrivent! Mes oncles et tantes, mes cousins et cousines, mes petits-cousins et petites cousines (qui sont maintenant grands), et vos meilleures moitiés, vive la vie et vive l'amour. Y las autras de la familia: Birginia, muchas gracias para todos l'amol que tiene para migo: Por seguro estas en mi corazon para la eternidad! Yannick, Darryl, Ron, the amazing 4, all the yeah's but no's will never make me forget our times together in Leiden! *To my paranympths: I'll owe you a big one!*

Finalement, *la famille Früh*, malgré le nom de famille difficile à prononcer à l'étranger, vous ne m'avez pas choisi, mais maman, papa, et jo, je vous aurais quand même choisis si je l'avais eu, ce choix, car vous êtes la meilleure famille dont une fille comme moi peut rêver d'avoir! Papa, tu m'as motivé à devenir altruiste dans la vie, tout en gardant la tête sur les épaules, je suis fière d'avoir un papa comme toi et j'espère te rendre la balle encore plus fort que Federer hehe. Maman, tu m'as aidé à comprendre qu'il faut rester positive dans la vie ("fous toi de ça et voit grand"), et Jo, je suis heureuse de voir à quel point mon ptit frère est devenu un bon gars, généreux, et plein de talents! Merci pour la bouille que t'as dessiné pour mon CV, j'adore !

Et *Didou*, le petit poisson qui passa par là avec ses bu-bulles d'amour, merci de m'avoir fait confiance et de m'avoir aidé à grandir en tant que femme indépendante, tout en gardant l'étincelle d'une enfant dans les yeux. Grâce à toi (et oui aussi grâce à moi), j'ai réussi à soulever ma montagne et faire libérer les rayons de soleil qu'elle cachait (et surtout de me permettre de l'apercevoir et d'en être consciente !) Je me réjouis de voir où nos chemins nous mèneront, ensembles ou pas, dans cette folle aventure! *Et paf, j'ai gagné la course au premier qui publia son bouquin! nananaireuh!*