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Proteins in harmony: Tuning selectivity in early drug discovery

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Glossary

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Affinity	Measure for the strength of substances to combine with each other (e.g. ligand-protein combination).
Allosteric	A non-orthosteric binding pocket on a protein.
Amino acids	The 'building blocks' of a protein or peptide.
Binding pocket	An area on a protein where substances (e.g. ligands, substrates) can bind.
Binding pose metadynamics	An automated, enhanced sampling method that assesses the compound stability in the binding pocket. A higher mobility indicates a less stable compound pose.
Bioactivity	A measure of effect caused by a compound when bound to a protein.
Clustering	Defining subgroups in a larger group (of molecules) based on structural similarity.
Compound	A (chemical) substance or small molecule.
Cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM)	A technique to determine the arrangement of atoms using cooled/frozen samples and electron microscopy.
Crystallography	A technique to determine the arrangement of atoms using crystals of the sample.
Protein crystallography	The determination of the arrangement and bonding of atoms of a protein using crystallography.
X-ray crystallography	A technique to determine the arrangement of atoms using crystals of the sample and X-rays refraction.
Descriptors	Identifiers used to describe a compound/protein; often chemical properties.
Docking	A computational technique to virtually place compounds into a rigid binding pocket of a protein.
Induced-fit docking	Similar to docking, but with (restricted) movement of the binding pocket amino acids enabled.
Ensemble scoring	A scoring method that uses multiple values and/or methods to score, e.g., the binding affinity of a compound.
Enzyme	A protein that carries out a biochemical reaction.

Homology model	A (protein) model that is based on a similar or related structure.
Inhibition	The opposite of activation; the action of inhibiting a process.
Ligand Endogenous ligand	A compound that interacts with or binds to a protein. The natural ligand that binds to the protein.
Machine learning	A computational technique that applies algorithms and statistical modeling to automatically learn (patterns) from data.
Molecular dynamics simulation	A (newtonian) physics-based technique to simulate the movements of atoms and molecules.
Orthosteric	The binding pocket on a protein where the endogenous ligand or substrate binds.
Pathophysiology	The disordered physiological processes associated with disease or injury.
Polypharmacology	Compounds that act on multiple proteins.
Protein	Large molecules composed of chains of amino acids of which the structure is encoded in the DNA.
Protein expression	The biologic synthesis of proteins.
Proteochemometrics (PCM)	Supervised machine learning of bioactivity based on explicit molecular and target descriptors (typically proteins).
Quantitative structure-activity relationship (QSAR)	The relation between the chemical structure of a compound and its activity on a protein.
Random forest	An ensemble learning method that applies multiple unpruned decision trees.
Receptor	A membrane bound protein that can activate second messengers after ligand recognition.
Selectivity	The property of affecting (e.g. inhibiting) a specific protein, while not affecting others at a similar level.
Statistical modeling	A modeling technique based on mathematics. The model is defined by an equation that approximates the data.

Structural protein-ligand interaction fingerprints (SPLIFs)[i]	An interaction fingerprint that explicitely encodes the interaction between ligand and protein in a structural way and therefore implicitly captures all types of ligand–protein interactions.
Substrate	A molecule that is used by enzymes in catalysis.
Target	A protein considered in ligand binding.
Anti-target	A protein to which ligand binding should be avoided.
Off-target	A protein that will result in undesired effects upon ligand binding.
On-target	A protein that will result in desired effects upon ligand binding.
T-Distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding (t-SNE)	A non-linear technique for dimensionality reduction to visualize high-dimensional data.
Text mining	Deriving data from text by automatically searching the text using the computer.
Transporter	A protein that transports substances across the cell membrane.
Virtual screening	A computational way of testing compounds against a protein.

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List of Publications

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Burggraaff, L.; Oranje, P.; Gouka, R.; van der Pijl, P.; Geldof, M.; van Vlijmen, H. W. T.; IJzerman, A. P.; van Westen, G. J. P. *Identification of Novel Small Molecule Inhibitors for Solute Carrier SGLT1 Using Proteochemometric Modeling*. Journal of Cheminformatics **2019**, 11, 15. https://doi.org/10.1186/s13321-019-0337-8.

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Curriculum Vitae

Curriculum Vitae

Lindsey Burggraaff was born on the 17th of November 1990 in Purmerend, The Netherlands. After graduating from pre-university education at the Da Vinci College in Purmerend in 2010, she started her study in pharmaceutical sciences at the VU in Amsterdam. After obtaining her bachelor degree, she continued with her master in Drug Discovery and Safety. She completed the curriculum of two specializations: "Drug Discovery and Target Finding" and "Computational Medicinal Chemistry and Toxicology". Her master studies were finalized with an internship in the computational medicinal chemistry group where she modeled selectivity of compounds between human and viral phosphodiesterases in the framework of medicines against neglected parasitic diseases.

In 2015 she pursued her interest in computational modeling by performing a PhD at Leiden University, during which she became an expert in data science and 3D modeling of ligand-protein interactions. Using machine learning, she successfully modeled glucose transporter proteins for a project with Unilever. She provided computational expertise to different fields of research and closely collaborated with multiple institutes including: the department of Cell and Chemical Biology, Oncode Institute, Leiden University Medical Center; the Institute of Physiology, Charité Universitatsmedizin, Berlin, Germany; and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Karlsruhe, Germany. Moreover, she visited the Cell and Molecular Biology group in Uppsala, Sweden, as guest researcher to master additional 3D modeling techniques.

Lindsey frequently presented her work at national and international conferences. She presented at the Centre for Computational Life Sciences, Leiden; EuroQSAR, Verona, Italy; ULLA, Helsinki, Finland; and the FIGON Dutch Medicines Days, Ede, of which the latter was awarded with the best poster award. Moreover, she obtained a travel grant to support her attendance at the Eight Joint Sheffield Conference on Chemoinformatics in Sheffield, UK, where she presented her research to experts in the field. Next to scientific outreach, she focused on conveying her research to a broader audience - the general public. With her participation in FameLab, a renowned international science communication competition, she reached the national final with a pitch that was praised for its clarity. Furthermore, she presented her research to a laymen audience at "the night of discoveries", a yearly cultural event in Leiden that showcases the wonders of science to thousands of visitors.

She continues her career in digital acceleration and currently takes on new data-driven challenges in industry.

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