#### Drugging "The Undruggable" Augmented Reality of Academic Drug Discovery



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#### Disclosure

La Hoffman-Roche licenser Aranda paid contractor

founder and/or shareholder:

ANDRONEX Pharmaceuticals ABT Therapeutics LAST Innovation APT Therapeutics INDEL Therapeutics NIDA Biosciences





#### **Prostate Cancer**

#### • Estimated new cancer cases in males







#### **AR Mechanism of Action**



#### Structural Domains of AR

	N-terminal domain	DBD	H Ligand binding d	lomain ()
1	55	59 624	676	919
<b>?</b> NTD		BF3 Sit		CHT AF2 Site





# AR Conventional (LBD) Targeting





#### AR Inhibitors as Prostate Cancer Drugs

- AR inhibitors are used as androgen deprivation therapy
- They all exhibit similar mode of action (target DHT site)
- They share similar chemical scaffold



### Identification of AR mutants using liquid biopsy



## Factors that Causes Resistance to Anti-AR Drugs

Mutations in the DHT site hampers the efficacy of known anti-androgens

- W741C : Bicalutamide
- T877A : Flutamide
- F876L : Enzalutamide





Scher et al. Endocrine-Related Cancer 2004



AR-F877L VS Enzalutamide

## **Circulating Cell Free DNA**





Nature 497, 108–112, 2013



#### Specific Case: Patient VC-012







#### Specific Case: Patient VC-012





Lallous et al. Genome Biology, 2016



#### Agonist effect of anti-androgens on AR mutants

Patient	Sample ID	H875	F877	Т878	D880	L882	S889	D891	E894	M896	E898	T919	Agonistic response
				Α									
	VC-001_JC_01Aug13	Y											
		Y		Α									Ongoing
VC-001				Α									
VC-001		Y											
	VC-001_JC_28Nov13	Y		Α									Ongoing
				Α				Н					
								Н					
VC-005	VC-005_JWR_29Aug13								K				
	VC-012_LW_13Aug13									V			
	VC-012_LW_13Aug13						G						
							G						
VC 040										V			
VC-012	VC-012_LW_05Dec13	Y											
				Α									
			L	Α									
				Α			G						
VC-014	VC-014_PW_29Aug13										G		
VC-015	VC-015_GNP_05Sep13			Α									
VC-017	VC-017_EWP_12Sep13			Α									
VC-018	VC-018_DWH_23Oct13	Y											
NO 004		Q											
VC-021	VC-021_JHK_19Sep13											S	
VC-022	VC-022_GST_10Oct13				E								
VC-040	VC-040_JNO_31Oct13	Y											
	VC-041_LJO_14Nov13	Y											
VC-041	VC-041_LJO_24Feb14	Y											
VC-053	VC-053_JPS_12Dec13	Y											
VC-063	VC-063_MDW_13Feb14	Y							<u> </u>				
VC-064	VC-064_PSS_27Feb14					I							

# AR AF2 Targeting





#### Structural Domains of AR

	N-terminal domain	DBD	Н	Ligand binding domain
1	559	624	6	76 919









6 compounds identified with AF2 Ki = 5 - 25uM

CACCTAAGGAGGC CATGTTGAA

TGG

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Inhibition of AF2 coactivator binding, AR transcriptional activity and SPR







# The comparison between docked and experimental orientation of CMPD61 inside the AF2 site



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#### Rounds of Virtual Screening







#### Several Hundreds Compounds Tested: flat SAR



# AR BF3 Targeting





#### Structural Domains of AR

	N-terminal domain	DBD	н	Ligand binding domain
1	559	624	6	76 919







#### Four BF3 crystallographically confirmed hits





#### Binding Pose of VPC-13163







#### Effect of 13163 on MDV-resistant cell line



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#### Med Chem Derivatives of 13163







#### In vivo Effect of VPC – 13566



The effect of VPC-13566 compound on the tumor volume of the Enzalutamide-resistant (MR49F) xenograft model.





# AR DBD Targeting





# **CRPC** Resistance Driven by AR Splice Variants



Lallous et al. Int J Biol Sci 2011; 7(6) 815-822

 NEED FOR DRUGS WITH NOVEL MOA, targeting both full length and splice variants of AR





#### Structural Domains of AR

N-terminal domain		DBD	Н	Ligand binding domain
1	559	624	6	76 919







#### DBD is the Most Conserved Area of all NRs







#### Novel Strategy to Target AR

Hypothesis: Targeting alternative functional sites on AR should provide a promising strategy for treatment of PCa including its resistant forms where known mutations and splice variants hamper efficacy of the current drugs





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#### In Silico Screening Workflow







### Experimental Screening Workflow







#### Initial in silico hits

VPC-ID	Structure	eGFP IC50 (μM)	PSA IC50(μM)
14203		3.17 ± 0.3	3.91
14320		4.20 ± 0.6	2.26
14378		7.41 ± 0.4	8.08
14204	NH2 S	9.16 ± 0.5	10.6
14410	C N OH	9.84 ± 3	N/A





#### MedChem analogues, 1st round

		A	S N N C O		
VPC-ID	A ring	B ring	C ring	eGFP IC50	PSA IC50
	•	-	-	(μM)	(μM)
14228				0.33 ± 0.12	0.28
14103		-2-5-5-54		0.52 ± 0.03	0.51
14385			N	0.62 ± 0.06	N/A
14292	F <sub>3</sub> C			0.61 ± 0.02	0.58
14293	<u> </u>			0.62 ± 0.06	0.52
14255	F			0.65 ± 0.06	0.41
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#### MedChem analogues, 2nd round



ID	Ring A	eGFP IC50 (μM)	PSA IC50(μM)
14449	Br Br	0.10 ± 0.05	0.17
14370	F OCH3	$0.18 \pm 0.01$	0.25
14408	S S	0.25 ± 0.05	0.43
14404	S -2-	0.26 ± 0.02	0.22
14365	F OH	0.27 ± 0.04	0.15
14367	F	0.30 ± 0.02	0.23
14450		0.33 ± 0.01	0.44
14402		0.68 ± 0.01	0.57





#### Activity Profile of the Lead VPC-14449





(Left) Dose-response curve of the inhibiting effect of 14449 ( $IC_{50} = 0.10 \mu M$ ) Enza ( $IC_{50} = 0.08 \mu M$ ) on the AR transcriptional activity in LNCaP cells

(Right) IC<sub>50</sub> curve illustrating the inhibiting effect of 14449 (IC<sub>50</sub> =  $0.17 \mu$ M) and Enzalutamide (IC<sub>50</sub> =  $0.08 \mu$ M) on the PSA levels in LNCaP cells





#### 14449 Effect on MR49F(Enza Resistant) Cell Line



The effect of 14449 on cell viability in an Enzalutamide resistant cell line (MR49F) where the compound demonstrated  $IC_{50}$  of 0. 21µM





#### 14449 Inhibits AR Splice Variant V7



14449 inhibits the transcriptional activity of wild type AR splice variant, V7 assay. Enzalutamide has no effect on V7.





# 14449 Demonstrates Selectivity Toward the AR

	560	570	580	590	600	610	620
AR-DBD	TCLI	CGDEASGCHYGA	L TCGS CKVFFKR	AAEGKQKYL	CA <mark>S</mark> RNDCTI I	DKF RRKNCP S	S CRL RKCYE A G
ER-DBD	YCAV	CNDYASGYHYGV	WSCE GCKAFFKR	SI QGHNDYM	CP ATNQCTI I	DK <mark>N</mark> RRKS CQ4	ACRLRKCYE V G
GR-DBD	LCLV	CS DE ASGCHYGV	L TCGS CKVFFKR	AVEGQHNYL	CAGRNDCI I	DKI RRKNCP	ACRYRKCLQ A G
PR-DBD	I CLI	CGDEASGCHYGV	L TCGS CKVFFKR	A ME GQHNYL	CAGRNDCI V	DKI RRKNCP	ACRL RKCCQ A G

Enzalutamide



Conc (µM)

Conc (µM)

(Left) Enzalutamide and (Right) 14449 inhibits AR but not ER, GR and PR in luciferase assays against transiently expressed AR, GR, and PR or against endogenous ER in MCF-7 cells. AR, GR and PR activity was assessed with the ARR3tk-luciferase reporter





#### VPC - 14449 Firmly Binds to the AR DBD Site



Molecular dynamics simulations was performed using explicit solvent model. The total run time 3µs. The MD simulation study supports that 14449 binds to DBD site stably.

The results indicate 14449 finds its DBD binding spot from various starting points.





## Consensus Validation of the Binding Site and Poses



#### VPC - 14449 Demonstrated sub-Optimal Stability

	0	1,06E+03	1,07E+03	1,07E+03	100	0,993	0,017	40,67	41,07	100
	10	9,12E+02	9,60E+02	9,36E+02	88	100	1			
14449	20	7,43E+02	7,08E+02	7,25E+02	68	80 80				
	30	6,99E+02	6,14E+02	6,57E+02	61	20	40 Mean 20 Incubation Nr1	Vean ncubation No1		
	40	5,27E+02	5,60E+02	5,44E+02	51	0	10 Tim	20 1e, min	30 40	98

Compound	14449
eGFP IC50 (μM)	0.38
PSA IC50 (μM)	0.17
T1/2 Microsomes	14
(min)	





#### Pharmacokinetics of VPC-14449

- 9 CD1 mice 8-10 weeks old were divided into 3 groups, 3 mice each
- Rout of administration: Intravenous (IV), intraperitoneal (IP) or Oral (PO)
- Dose: 100 mg/kg of 14449 formulated using 1:10 hydroxypropyl cyclodexterin: dd H2O
- To measure serum drug levels, tail blood samples were taken following the administration, at time points corresponding to 0.0, 0.5, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 24hr







#### In vivo Effect of VPC – 14449 on tumor



#### Predicted Metabolic Liabilities of VPC-14449







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#### Iterative Screening Workflow







#### Second Generation VPC-14518, Improved Stability



Compound	14449	14512	14518	
eGFP IC50 (µM)	0.38	0.16	0.19	
PSA IC50 (μM)	0.17	0.16	0.08	
T1/2 Microsomes	14	58	263	
(min)				





#### Selecting a Clinical Candidate VPC-14518







UBC



The Nevratia environmental services company, which helps recover valuable material from waste produced by the oil and less on growth projects next prof. The Calgary based com-sets of proving the projects next sets of the calgary based com-result, it will reduce its budget for growth capital to between \$200 million and \$30 million in this year. It will also spend \$10 million on maintenance capital, the same as 2015.

#### Dil, gas weakness curbs Trinidad

Trinidad Drilling Ltd. has chopped its initial capital spending budget for 2016 to \$30 million — 84 per cent less than what it's spending this year — to reflect weak condi-ions in the oil and gas industry tions in the oil and gas industry. The Calgary-based company says it's primarily aiming to maintain Trinidad's current operations, although it may be able to spend as much as \$45 million if certain growth opportunities arise — still 76 per cent below 2015 levels.

#### Pepsi revamps vending tactics

PepsiCo Inc., facing an anti-soda backlash and health concerns about snack foods, is looking about snack lock, is looking for a resurgence in an especially hard-hit part of the industry: vending machines. The com-pany is rolling out several thousand dual-temperature machines that offer both food machines that offer both food and drinks under the new Hello Goodness brand, according to a statement. The units will include healthier products from Pepsico's beverage and Frito-

#### Ferrari designer shares tank

Sind CS (dill) The Mahndra industrial group based in Numbai, india announced Wonday it had reached a deal to buy a control-ling stake in the Italian design for its designs for Ferrari, Afa Romeo and Maseati. Shares in the 85-year-oid Italian company dropped by neaker. If Shares in an the news, to close at 51.44 US, Under the deal; two of the US. Under the deal, two of the Mahindra group's units will buy 76.06 per cent of the design frm for \$1.21 US a share.

Massive cancer-drug deal one of UBC's biggest to date University's record agreement worth \$140 million - and counting

Researcher Artem Cherkasov displays a computer model simulation used to develop a new treatment for drug-resistant prostate carecer at the Vancouver Prostate Centre. 'Using computer simulations, we sometimes go through 50 million compounds to find a molecule that will seat in a precise and accurate way.' he says.

#### RANDY SHORE

**66** As much as that sounds – and it is a lot – the real money is in the royalties, which could exceed A promising new treatment for drug-resistant prostate can-cer developed by scientists at the University of B.C. has been licensed by the pharmaceutic cal giant Roche for more than

refuse instituctual property dat mits history. Researchers Paul Renois and Artem Cherkasov f buevants wer Prostate Centre designed the transport of the Roche Liones. Design and the Roche Liones. T





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### **Targeting AR Dimerization**



Cancer Letters Volume 437, 28 November 2018, Pages 35-43



**DBD** monomer 1

Dimer

interface

BIA

**Original Articles** 

Selectively targeting the dimerization interface of human androgen receptor with small-molecules to treat castration-resistant prostate cancer

Kush Dalal<sup>a</sup>, Fuqiang Ban<sup>a</sup>, Huifang Li<sup>a</sup>, Hélène Morin<sup>a</sup>, Mani Roshan-Moniri<sup>a</sup>, Kevin J. Tam<sup>a</sup>, Ashley Shepherd<sup>a</sup>, Aishwariya Sharma<sup>a</sup>, James Peacock<sup>a</sup>, Michael L. Carlson<sup>b</sup>, Eric LeBlanc<sup>a</sup>, Carl Perez<sup>a</sup>, Franck Duong<sup>b</sup>, Christopher J. Ong<sup>a</sup>, Paul S. Rennie<sup>a, 1</sup>, Artem Cherkasov<sup>a, 1</sup> &



#### Blocking AR dimers





-Compounds break dimers -No inhibition of nuclear localization -No effect on AR expression





#### Structural Domains of AR

N-terminal domain		DBD	Н	Ligand binding domain
1	559	624	6	76 919







#### AR AF2/BF3 compounds found home

Nat Med. 2018 May ; 24(4): 427-437. doi:10.1038/nm.4500.

#### Selective Modulation of the Androgen Receptor Activation Function-2 Domain Rescues Degeneration in Spinal Bulbar Muscular Atrophy

Nisha M Badders<sup>1,13</sup>, Ane Korff<sup>1,9,13</sup>, Helen C Miranda<sup>2</sup>, Pradeep K Vuppala<sup>3,10</sup>, Rebecca B Smith<sup>1</sup>, Brett J Winborn<sup>1</sup>, Emmanuelle R Quemin<sup>1,11</sup>, Bryce L Sopher<sup>4</sup>, Jennifer Dearman<sup>1</sup>, James Messing<sup>1,9</sup>, Nam Chul Kim<sup>1,12</sup>, Jennifer Moore<sup>1</sup>, Brian D Freibaum<sup>1</sup>, Anderson P Kanagaraj<sup>1</sup>, Baochang Fan<sup>1</sup>, Heather Tillman<sup>5</sup>, Ping-Chung Chen<sup>6</sup>, Yingzhe Wang<sup>3</sup>, Burgess B Freeman III<sup>3</sup>, Yimei Li<sup>7</sup>, Hong Joo Kim<sup>1</sup>, Albert R La Spada<sup>2,8</sup>, and J Paul Taylor<sup>1,9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN 38105, USA

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<sup>6</sup>Department of Structural Biology, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN 38105, USA

<sup>7</sup>Department of Biostatistics, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN 38105, USA

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# AF2 (**BF3 really...**) modulation rescues degeneration in a fruit fly model of SBMA



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Badders et al, Nat Med, 2018



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#### Lab Organization & Structure







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## Growing diversity of cryo-EM targets

## Cell

#### Breaking Cryo-EM Resolution Barriers to Facilitate Drug Discovery

Alan Merk,<sup>1,3</sup> Alberto Bartesaghi,<sup>1,3</sup> Soojay Banerjee,<sup>1,3</sup> Veronica Falconieri,<sup>1</sup> Prashant Rao,<sup>1</sup> Mindy I. Davis,<sup>2</sup> Rajan Pragani,<sup>2</sup> Matthew B. Boxer,<sup>2</sup> Lesley A. Earl,<sup>1</sup> Jacqueline L.S. Milne,<sup>1</sup> and Sriram Subramaniam<sup>1,\*</sup>

Size (Kilodaltons, kDa)







#### **Opening Bottleneck : Target to Drug**







#### Accelerated Drug Discovery



CADD PLATFORM





#### All the Pieces to Succeed = Guaranteed Outcome



- New Targets and Structures
- New Drugs
- Companion Diagnostics





# **Targets Emergence**



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#### molecules



#### Article

Accession Number : AD1061899

Targeting of the EKPDE2 Coohene



Article

#### **Benzothiophenone Derivatives Target** Forms of Estrogen Receptor- $\alpha$ in Horn **Breast Cancers**

Kriti Singh<sup>+</sup>, Ravi S. N. Munuganti<sup>+</sup>, Nada Lallous<sup>0</sup>, Kush Dalal, ] Aishwariya Sharma, Takeshi Yamazaki, Artem Cherkasov<sup>‡</sup> and Paul

Vancouver Prostate Centre, University of British Columbia, 2660 Oak Street,

#### Targeting Semaphorin 3C in Prosta With Small Molecules 👌

Chung C W Lee, Ravi Shashi Nayana Munuganti, James W Ivy Z F Jiao, Ashley Shepherd, Liangliang Liu, Kevin J Tar Satyam Bhasin, Kevin C K Lee, Luke Gooding, Benjamin \ Tabitha Tombe, Yifan Gong, Martin E Gleave, Artem Cher Christopher J Ong 🖂

Journal of the Endocrine Society, Volume 2, Issue 12, 1 De 1381-1394, https://doi.org/10.1210/js.2018-00170



**Computer-Aided Discovery of Small Molecule** Inhibitors of Transcriptional Activity of TLX (NR2E1) **Nuclear Receptor** 



European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry Volume 160, 5 December 2018, Pages 108-119

#### Research paper

Computer-aided drug discovery of Myc-Max inhibitors as potential therapeutics for prostate cancer

Lavinia A. Carabet <sup>a, 1</sup>, Nada Lallous <sup>a, 1</sup>, Eric Leblanc <sup>a</sup>, Fugiang Ban <sup>a</sup>, Helene Morin <sup>a</sup>, Sam Lawn <sup>a</sup>, Fariba Ghaidi <sup>a</sup>, Joseph Lee <sup>a</sup>, Ian G. Mills <sup>b, c</sup>, Martin E. Gleave <sup>a</sup>, Paul S. Rennie <sup>a, 2</sup>, Artem

www.impactjournals.com/oncotarget/

Oncotarget, 2017, Vol. 8, (No. 26), pp: 42438-42454

**Research Paper** 

#### Discovery and characterization of small molecules targeting the DNA-binding ETS domain of ERG in prostate cancer

Miriam S. Butler<sup>1,\*,#</sup>, Mani Roshan-Moniri<sup>1,\*,#</sup>, Michael Hsing<sup>1,\*,#</sup>, Desmond Lau<sup>2,\*,#</sup>, Ari Kim<sup>1</sup>, Paul Yen<sup>1</sup>, Marta Mroczek<sup>1</sup>, Mannan Nouri<sup>1</sup>, Scott Lien<sup>1</sup>, Peter Axerio-Cilies<sup>1</sup>, Kush Dalal<sup>1</sup>, Clement Yau<sup>1</sup>, Fariba Ghaidi<sup>1</sup>, Yubin Guo<sup>1</sup>, Takeshi Yamazaki<sup>1</sup>, Sam Lawn<sup>1</sup>, Martin E. Gleave<sup>1</sup>, Cheryl Y. Gregory-Evans<sup>3</sup>, Lawrence P. McIntosh<sup>2,\*</sup>, Michael E. Cox<sup>1,\*</sup>, Paul S. Rennie<sup>1,\*</sup> and Artem Cherkasov<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Vancouver Prostate Centre and the Department of Urologic Sciences, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC V6H 3Z6, Canada

















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