

Nom et prénom	Etablissement	Grade	Qualité
BENJELLOUN TOUIMI Adil	Faculté des Sciences Dhar EL Mahraz, Fès	PES	Président
BOUZAKRAOUI Said	Faculté des Sciences, Kenitra	PES	Rapporteur
EL ALAOUI MOULAY Abdelaziz	Ecole Supérieure de Technologie, Kenitra	MCH	Rapporteur
TOUFIK Hamid	Faculté Polydisciplinaire, Taza	PES	Rapporteur
LAMCHOURI Fatima	Faculté Polydisciplinaire, Taza	PES	Examineur
BENZAKOUR Mohammed	Faculté des Sciences Dhar EL Mahraz, Fès	PES	Examineur
Pr. Gautier MOROY	UFR Sciences du Vivant - Université Paris Cité	MCH	Co-directeur
ELHALLAOUI Menana	Faculté des Sciences Dhar EL Mahraz, Fès	PES	Directeur de thèse



IN SILICO IDENTIFICATION OF SELECTIVE JAK3/JAK1 INHIBITORS FROM PYRAZOLOPYRIMIDINE AND PEP FOR THE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Abstract :

Janus kinase 3 (JAK3) plays a critical role in the immune system, particularly in the development of T cells and NK cells, by interacting with type I cytokine receptors. What makes JAK3 unique is its covalent binding site, Cys909, which presents an opportunity for highly selective inhibition. This selective targeting can minimize the unwanted side effects often associated with inhibiting other members of the JAK family. This thesis focuses on developing new JAK3 inhibitors to treat autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis, using advanced Computer-Aided Drug Design (CADD) tools. To start, detailed 2D and 3D-RQSA models were created to link the chemical structure of compounds to their biological activity. These models helped identify structural features that could improve inhibitor effectiveness. Using pharmacophore modeling and virtual screening, promising compounds were identified and further validated through molecular dynamics (MD) simulations and MM/PBSA analyses, which tested the stability and binding strength of these inhibitors. Among these, pyrazolopyrimidine derivatives stood out for their strong and specific interaction with Cys909. Additional ADMET profiling ensured these compounds were both pharmacologically effective and safe. In a novel step, peptide inhibitors were designed to target key interaction sites between JAK3 and JAK1, identified through MD simulations and MM/PBSA analyses. These peptides demonstrated higher specificity and adaptability compared to small molecules. Using tools like AlphaFold 2, their 3D structures were refined, leading to the selection of the most promising candidates from a database of over 3,000 potential peptides. This thesis showcases an integrative approach, combining RQSA modeling, covalent docking, molecular dynamics, and peptide design, to develop cutting-edge therapies for autoimmune diseases. By focusing on selective JAK3 inhibition, this work lays the groundwork for creating innovative and targeted treatments that address the unmet needs of patients.

Key Words : Janus kinase 3 (JAK3), immune system, Cys909, rheumatoid arthritis, computer-aided drug design (CADD), 2D and 3D QSAR models, chemical structure, biological activity, pharmacophore modeling, virtual screening, molecular dynamics (MD) simulations, MM/PBSA analyses, pyrazolopyrimidine derivatives, ADMET analysis, peptide inhibitors, AlphaFold2, innovative therapies, autoimmune diseases, selective JAK3 inhibition, patients