

METHODS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

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Computational Drug Discovery and Design

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Preface

Computer-aided drug design is an indispensable approach for accelerating and economizing the costly and time-consuming process of drug discovery and development. In the recent years, there has been a spurt in the protein and ligand structure data. This has led to a surge in the number of databases and bioinformatics tools to manage and process the available data. Optimal application of the vast array of available computational tools is crucial for the discovery and design of novel drugs.

The aim of this volume on *Computational Drug Discovery and Design* is to provide methods and techniques for identification of drug target, binding sites prediction, high-throughput virtual screening, lead discovery and optimization, and prediction of pharmacokinetic properties using computer-based methodologies. This volume includes an overview of the possible techniques of the available computational tools, developing prediction models for drug target prediction and de novo design of ligands. Structure-based drug designing, fragment-based drug designing, molecular docking, and scoring functions for assessing protein-ligand docking protocols have been outlined with practical examples. Phylogenetic analysis for protein functional site prediction has been described. Virtual screening and microarray studies for identification of potential compounds for drug discovery have been described using examples. The use of molecular dynamics simulation for virtual ligand screening, studying the protein-ligand interaction, estimating ligand binding free energy, and calculating the thermodynamic properties of bound water has been presented with stepwise protocols. In silico screening of pharmacokinetic and toxicity properties of potential drugs has been demonstrated. The currently available algorithms and software for protein-protein docking have been discussed with latest examples. Protocols for quantitative structure-activity relationship have been described. Computational approaches for the prediction of protein dynamics and protein aggregation have been presented with relevant protocols. The important methods of enhanced molecular dynamics have been analyzed with the help of practical procedure description. In silico analysis for inclusion of solvent in docking studies has been described with detailed methodology. We have also included a chapter on data analytics protocol, which is useful to summarize independent studies on drug designing.

There is abundant literature available on bioinformatics. However, there is very limited literature which will provide a step-by-step approach to utilize the various bioinformatics tools. In this volume, we present a stepwise description of the protocols for the use of bioinformatics tools in drug discovery and design. This volume will assist graduate and postgraduate students, researchers, and scholars working in the fields of drug discovery and design, pharmacology, bioinformatics, chemoinformatics, computational biology, medicinal chemistry, molecular biology, and systems biology to effectively utilize computational methodologies in the discovery and design of novel drugs.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the series editor John Walker for his valuable advice and support during every stage of development of this book. We thank all the authors who contributed to this book in a timely manner and shared their practical knowledge by providing stepwise methodology for the utilization of bioinformatics tools for drug discovery and design. We hope that this volume will be helpful to both novice in the field of bioinformatics and scientists actively engaged in drug discovery research.

Bangalore, KA, India
Kolhapur, MH, India

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Umesh B. Jagtap

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