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Systems Biology in Biotech & Pharma

A Changing Paradigm

 Springer

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ISSN 1864-8118
ISBN 978-94-007-2848-6
DOI 10.1007/978-94-007-2849-3
Springer Dordrecht Heidelberg London New York

e-ISSN 1864-8126
e-ISBN 978-94-007-2849-3

Library of Congress Control Number: 2011942347

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Printed on acid-free paper

Springer is part of Springer Science+Business Media (www.springer.com)

Dedicated to my “teachers” and friends, the late Zdeněk Fencel (Prague), Arthur E. Humphrey, Elmer L. Gaden and Godfred E. Tong (USA) who influenced and shaped my professional career (AP)

Contents

1	Introduction: Discovery and Development—New Facet of Industry, New Tools and Lead Optimization	1
1.1	Scope and Content of this Review	2
1.2	Drug Discovery and Development	6
1.3	Defining SB: Key Components	7
1.4	A Brief History of Systems Biology (SB): In Terms of Key Advances	8
1.5	Perspective and Potential Impact of Systems Biology on Academic Funding and Pharma R&D and Cost Savings	9
	References	10
2	Discovery: Use of Systems Biology for Identifying Targets	11
2.1	Identifying Targets and Druggability Space	12
2.1.1	Bioinformatics Inputs (BI Inputs)	14
2.2	Combinatorial Chemistry Tools	15
2.2.1	BI Inputs	15
2.2.2	Diversity Tools	16
2.2.3	Qualitative and Quantitative Screens and Filters	19
2.2.4	Structure-Activity Methods (SAR/QSAR)	20
2.3	Summarizing	21
	References	22
3	Integrative Systems Biology I—Biochemistry: Phase I Lead Discovery and Molecular Interactions	25
3.1	Molecular Screens: Receptor–Ligand (R–L) Interaction and Molecular Modeling	26
3.1.1	Molecular Modeling	27
3.1.2	Quantum Chemistry	27
3.1.3	Molecular Mechanics	27
3.1.4	Molecular Dynamics	28

3.1.5	Receptor Based QSAR Methods	28
3.1.6	Biomimetics	28
3.2	Collateral Efficacy and Permissive Antagonism	29
3.3	Co-Drugging: Multiple Targets, Combination Therapy & Multistage Targeting.	29
3.3.1	Multicomponent Drugs	30
3.3.2	Multi-Target Approach	30
3.3.3	Multi-Stage Targeting	31
3.4	Text Mining for Interactions	31
3.5	Employment of Biochemical Networks	32
3.6	Overview of Deterministic Models	32
3.6.1	Emergence	33
3.6.2	Reactome	34
3.7	Bioinformatics	34
3.8	Summarizing	36
	References	36
4	Integrative Systems Biology II—Molecular Biology:	
	Phase 2 Lead Discovery and <i>In Silico</i> Screening	39
4.1	OMICs	40
4.1.1	BI Inputs	40
4.1.2	Metabolomics	41
4.2	Chemogenomics	42
4.2.1	BI Inputs	42
4.3	Morphogenics	43
4.4	Minimal Phenotype and Synthetic Biology	43
4.4.1	SB and BI Inputs	44
4.5	Reconstructing Biological Networks	44
4.6	Summarizing	46
	References	47
5	Discovery: Computational Systems Biology (CSB) in Health and Disease I	51
5.1	Cellular Environment: Network Reconstruction and Inference from Experimental Data	52
5.2	Reconstructing Gene Networks.	54
5.3	Data Mining and Heuristic Data Preprocessing Tools	54
5.4	Analysis of Disease ‘Correlation Network TM , and Concerted Metabolic Activation: Disease as a Systems Network Property	55
5.5	Challenges for Stem Cells: Control.	58
5.5.1	SB and BI Inputs	58
5.6	Emergent Properties	59
5.7	Computational Systems Biology	60

5.8	Summarizing	63
	References	64
6	Development: In Vivo Pharmacology—Systems Biology in Health and Disease II	69
6.1	Animal Disease Models.	70
	6.1.1 Gene Knockout Animal Models	71
6.2	Pheno- and Genotyping	71
6.3	RNA Interference	72
	6.3.1 BI Inputs	73
6.4	Pharmacogenomics	73
	6.4.1 SB and BI Inputs	73
6.5	In Silico Pharmacology: Future	74
6.6	Summarizing	75
	References	76
7	Development: Pharmacokinetics—Systems Biology in Health and Disease III	77
7.1	Microdosing in PK	78
	7.1.1 BI Inputs	78
7.2	Adaptive Trial Design	78
7.3	Equilibrium Versus Non-Equilibrium PK Models	79
7.4	Toxicity Biomarkers	80
	7.4.1 SB and BI Inputs	80
7.5	In Silico Toxicity Prediction	81
7.6	Quantitative PKPD/Tox Modeling	82
7.7	Summarizing	83
	References	84
8	Development: Multiscale CSB—Simulation Tools	87
8.1	Defining CSB	88
8.2	Redefining (and Discovering) Emergent Properties at Higher-Level Hierarchies	91
8.3	Virtual Organs, Disease Models, Virtual Patient.	92
8.4	Population Level Model: Towards Individualized Medicine.	93
8.5	Targeting Networks: Towards Organismic, Full-Scale Design	94
8.6	Redefining the Traditional R&D Paradigm	95
8.7	Summarizing	99
	References	99
9	Development: Drug Formulation and Delivery.	103
9.1	Targeting Concept and Mechanisms	103
	9.1.1 SB and BI Inputs	104

9.2	Nanoscale Drug Delivery Systems	105
9.3	CSB at Formulation and Delivery.	105
9.4	Summarizing	106
	References	106
10	Development: Preclinical Model Based Drug Development.	109
10.1	Defining MBDD.	109
10.2	Summarizing	112
	References	112
11	Systems Biology: Impact on Pharma and Biotech	115
11.1	SB Impact	115
11.2	Key Technologies and Tools Needed for Development of Systems Biology/CSB	120
11.3	Steps in System Biology/CSB	120
11.4	Benefits of Systems Biology and CSB	123
11.5	Summary	123
	References	127

Abbreviations

3D	Three-dimensional
3D/4D QSAR	Three dimensional/four dimensional QSAR
3D-QSAR	Three dimensional QSAR
ABC	Bayesian computation
ABM	Agent-based methods
ADMET	Absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion, and toxicity
AMS	Accelerator mass spectrometry
ANN	Artificial Neural Networks
anti-CD40L	Antibody raised against CD40L region
ARACNE	Algorithm for the reconstruction of accurate cellular networks
BI	Bioinformatics
BLA	Biologic application
BOSS	Biological objective solution search
BSR	Biochemical system (network) reconstruction
CCA	Canonical correlation analysis
CD14-/-	Type of mice
CDD	Controlled drug delivery
CellML	Mark-up language
CG	Coarse-graining or CG computing
CNI	Correlation network inference
COAST	Complex automata for modeling and simulation of complex systems
COMBINE	Comparative binding energy
CSB	Computational systems biology
CSDD	Center for the study of drug development (Tufts)
DD	Drug discovery
DDD	Drug discovery and development

DDS	Drug delivery systems
DDv	Drug development
DOS	Diversity-oriented synthesis
dsRNA	Double strand RNA
EBI	European bioinformatics institute
ED	Enrichment designs
EGFR	Endothelial growth factor receptor
EPR	Passive uptake
ERK	Extracellular regulated kinase
FBA	Flux balance analysis
FBDD	Fragment based DD
FCR	Fluorochromatic reaction fluorescence
FDA	Food and drug association
FRET	Fluorescence resonance energy transfer
GNR	Gene regulatory network
GO	Gene ontology
hPXR	Humanized transgenic mice
HQSAR	Hologram quantitative structure-activity relationships
HT	High throughput
HTS	High throughput screening
iFBA	Integrated dynamic FBA
IFN- β	Interferon beta
IL-12	Interleukin 12
IL-15	Interleukin 15
JWS	Journal of web semantics
KEGG	Kyoto encyclopedia of genes and genomes
KNN	K-nearest neighbors
LDA	Linear discriminant analysis
MARS	Splines
MBDD	Model based drug design
MCA	Metabolic control analysis
MD	Molecular dynamics
MINDy	Modulator inference by network dynamics
miRNA	MicroRNA
MM	Molecular mechanics
MMR	DNA mismatch repair
MoA	Mode of action
MS	Multiple sclerosis
MVDA	Multivariate data analysis
NB	Naïve Bayes
NDA	New drug application
NME	New medical entity
NMR	Nuclear magnetic resonance

NOD	Nude mouse
OBRC	Online bioinformatics resources collection
ODE	Ordinary differential equation
OiCR	Ontario institute for cancer research
OMICS	Discipline of science and engineering for analyzing the interactions of biological information objects
PAT	Process analytical technology
PCA	Principal components analysis
PD	Parkinson disease
PD	Pharmacodynamics
PEGylation	Attachment of polyethylene glycol (PEG)
PEM	Protein epitope mimetic
PET	Positron emission tomography
PGN	Pharmacogenomics
PhRMA	Pharmaceutical research and manufacturers of America
PI3K	Phosphoinositide-3-kinase
PK	Pharmacokinetics
PKPD	Combined PK and PD
PLS	Partial least-squares
PM	Pharmacometrics
PromoLign	Simulation tool
PTEN	Phosphatase and tensin homolog
PupaSNP	Simulation tool
QbD	Quality by design
QSAR	Quantitative structure-activity relationship
R&D	Research and development
R03	Rule of three
RA	Entelos rheumatoid arthritis
RAW	Mouse leukaemic monocyte macrophage cell line
RDD	Re-randomization design
ReguLign	Simulation tool
R-L	Receptor-ligand
RNAi	RNA interference
RNI	Reaction network inference
RNIDD	Reaction network inference for drug discovery
Ro5	Rule of five
ROT	Rule-of-thumb
RPART	Recursive partitioning and regression trees
SAR	QSAR
SB	Systems biology
SBML	Systems biology markup language
siRNA	Small interfering RNA
SG	Systems genetics

SNP	Single nucleotide polymorphism
SSM	Scale separation map
SVM	Support vector machines
TGF- β	Transformation growth factor beta
TNF- α	Tumor necrosis factor alfa
uHTS	Ultra high throughput screening
WW2	Second world war

Acknowledgments

The authors appreciate a critique by Béla Csukás (Kaposvar, Hungary).

Abstract

Systems Biology (SB) is suite of technologies and methodologies that resulted, conceptually, from the merging of two basic paradigms, reductionism and holism. It represents a combination of reductionist and holistic approaches to the relationships among the elements of a system, with the goal of identifying its emergent properties and defining, quantitatively, molecular, cellular, tissue, organ and whole body processes. One manifestation of SB is as a tool for hypothesis generation about a system that is typically too large and complex to understand by simple reasoning.

The US is currently well ahead of the rest of the world in the development and application of SB and its principles especially as they pertain to basic medical research and development. This lead is largely due to an earlier start in the academic arena (7–9 years ago in US vs. 4–5 years elsewhere; Rubenstein 2008). However, there is evidence of rapid development in both the UK/EU and Japan and the gap is narrowing, particularly in UK. From an industrial point of view, the Pharmaceutical Industry based in the US and UK can capitalize on these opportunities and gain the benefits of this technology. Early and sustained investments in SB and its enabling technologies will likely produce financial rewards for any pharma company so inclined. Many big Pharma companies have already invested in SB and Bioinformatics (BI) (for definitions of SB and BI see [Chap. 1](#)) and are set to maintain their lead. The industrial significance of SB is thus clear.

This review intends to educate a large population of cell and molecular biologists in the use of the quantitative tools that are available to them to solve the critical problems they face. Many educational institutions (and particularly their medical divisions) at present are heavily business-oriented realize that in this particular industrial environment that dollar counts. It is thus important that biologists recognize early in their research the utility of SB and how this approach can help to generate new therapeutic leads and substances useful for human health. Educational curricula in the life sciences have typically been based on the atomistic belief that one can decompose complex systems into their components and that a detailed investigation of each these components individually will in

itself lead to novel biological insights. Indeed this is true in numerous instances. However, increasing acknowledgment of the importance of studying whole systems, as well as their components, has led to an emphasis on teaching not just a reductionist view of biology, but also a complementary constructionist view. {Note: Bioprocess engineering issues, as related to a systems approach at manufacturing, are not included in this review. However, included in our broader definition, we do incorporate some of the issues surrounding BI in this review}. Overall, we attempt to answer a question: Can Systems Biology deliver on academic funding and business profits?