



Πραγματοποιώντας Παγκόσμια Αναγωνιστική Έρευνα με τη χρήση εργαλείων της ΕΔΕΤ

Ζωή Κούρνια

Ίδρυμα Ιατροβιολογικών Ερευνών, Ακαδημία Αθηνών

Συμπόσιο Ψηφιακής Τεχνολογίας – «20 χρόνια ΕΔΕΤ»

zcournia@bioacademy.gr

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2001-2006
Ph.D. in Chemistry
Heidelberg University, Germany

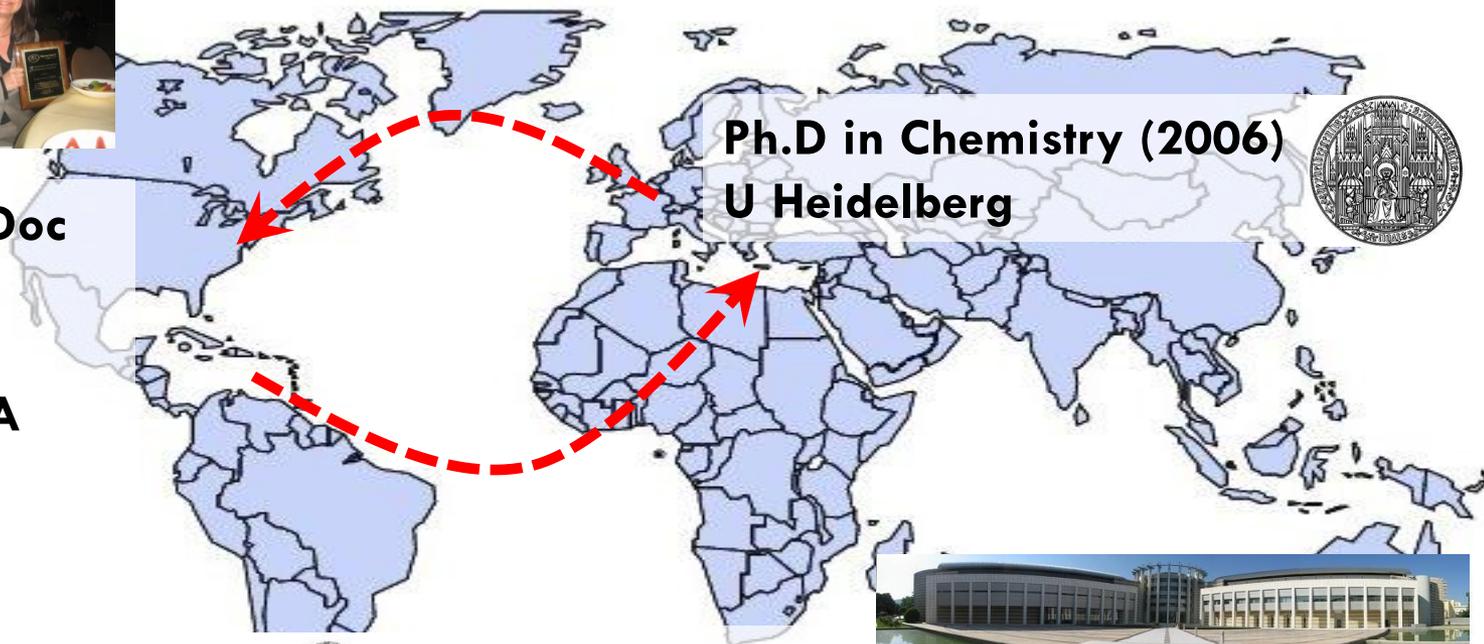


1996-2001
Chemistry, University of Athens



COURTESY OF YALE UNIVERSITY

**2006-2009 PostDoc
Chemistry Dept,
Yale University
New Haven, USA**



**Ph.D in Chemistry (2006)
U Heidelberg**



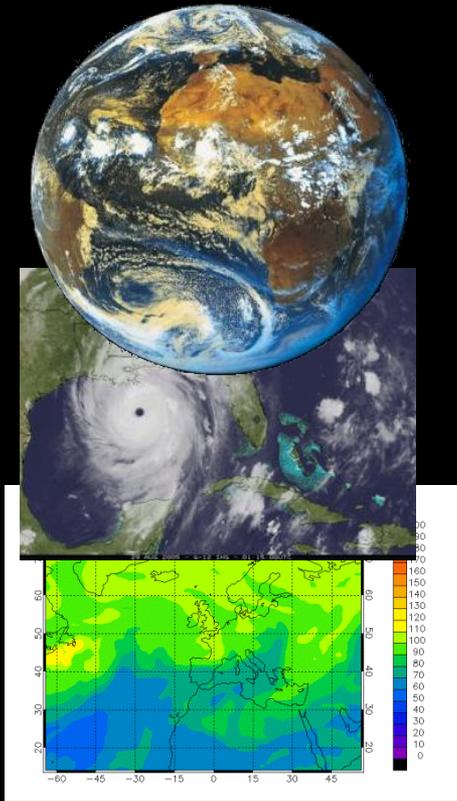
**BRFAA
2010-date
Investigator**



**Instructor,
MSc in Data Science
& Information Technologies
University of Athens**



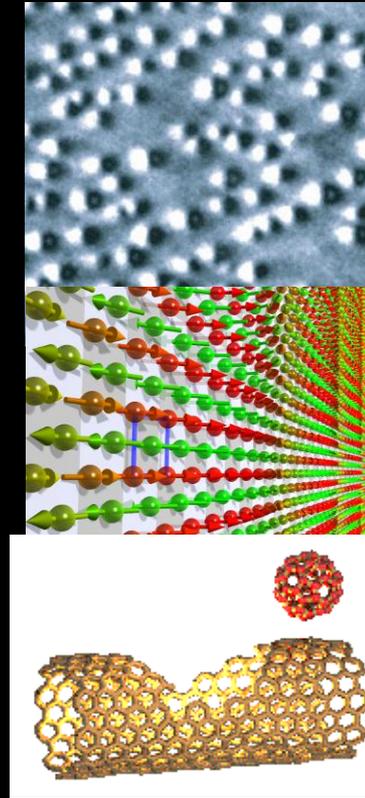
HPC Drives Science through Simulation



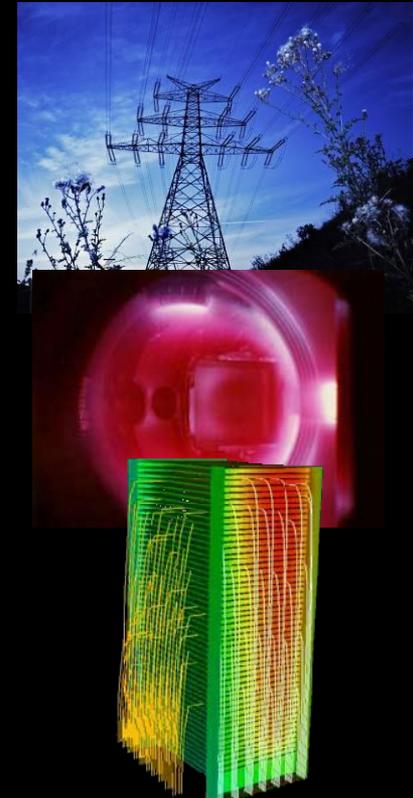
Environment
Weather/ Climatology
Pollution / Ozone Hole



Finding Cures
Medicine
Biology

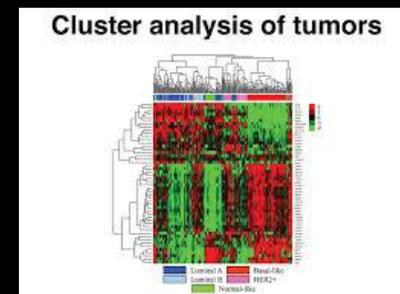
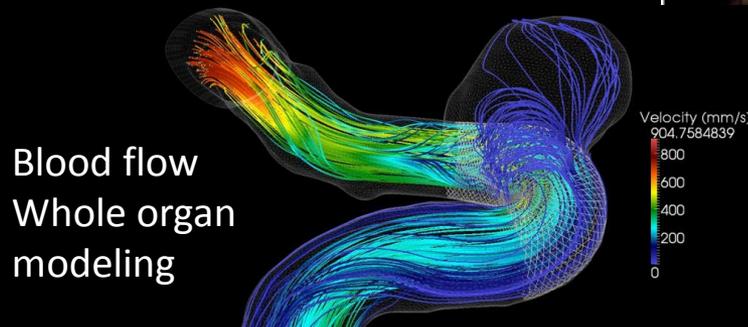
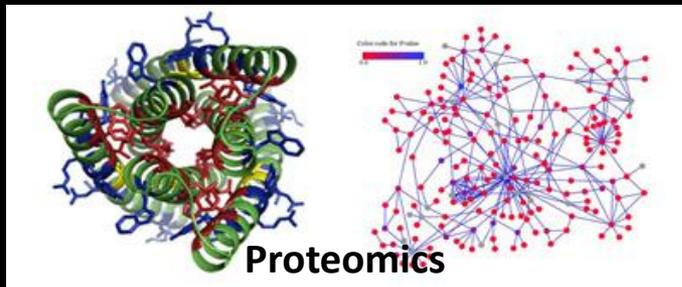
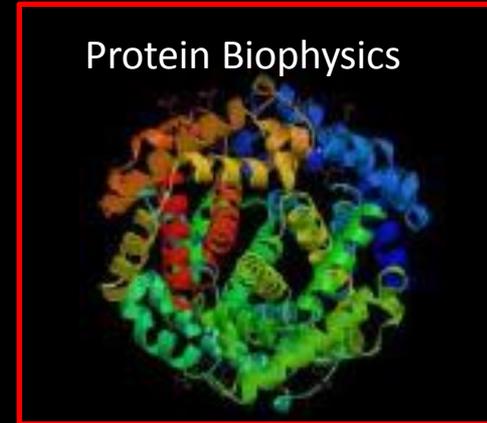
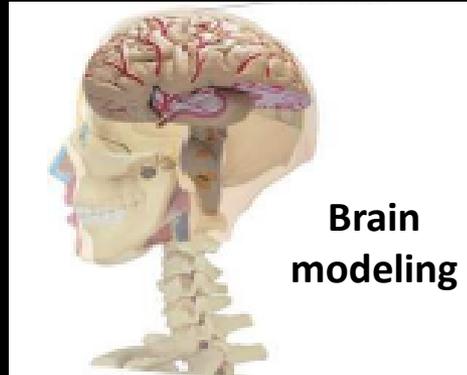


Materials/ Inf. Tech
Spintronics
Nano-science



Energy
Plasma Physics
Fuel Cells

Key areas of biomedical research where HPC is key



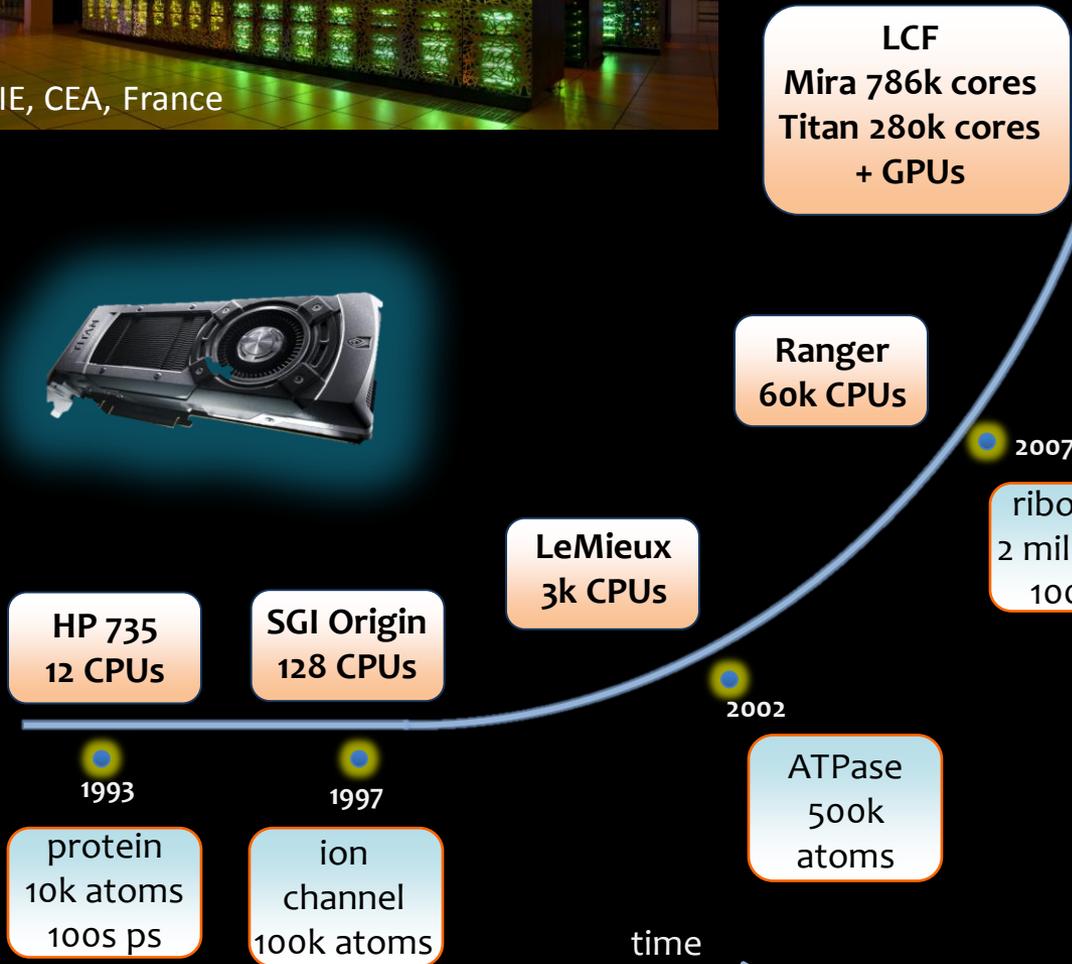
Computing is transforming biomedical research



Exascale

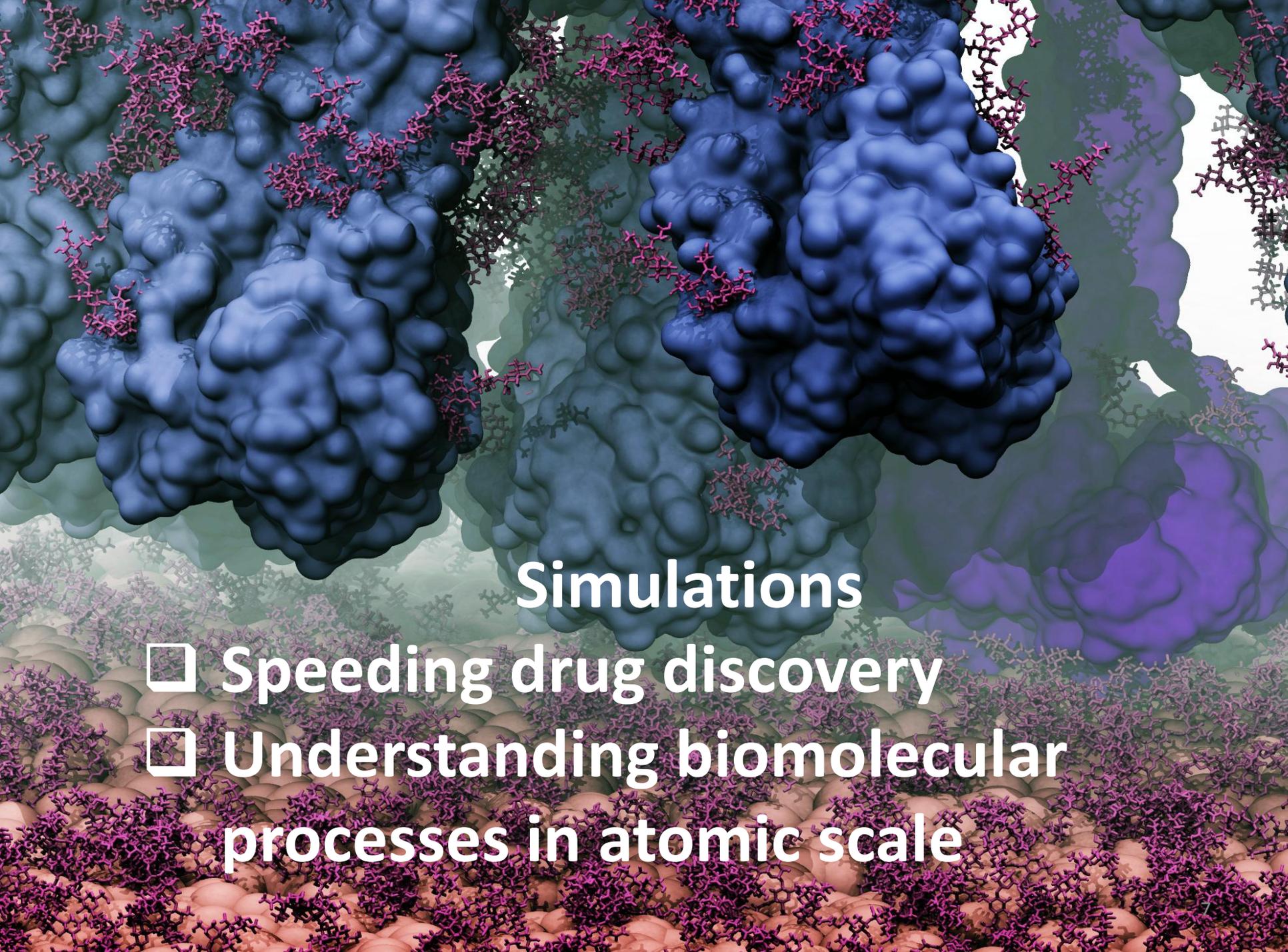
Compute Power ↑

time →



Performance (in FLOPS):

Megaflop	10^6
Gigaflop	10^9
Teraflop	10^{12}
Petaflop	10^{15}



Simulations

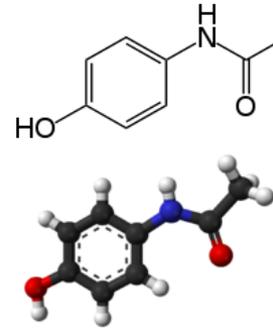
- Speeding drug discovery
- Understanding biomolecular processes in atomic scale

Drugs block or activate diseased proteins

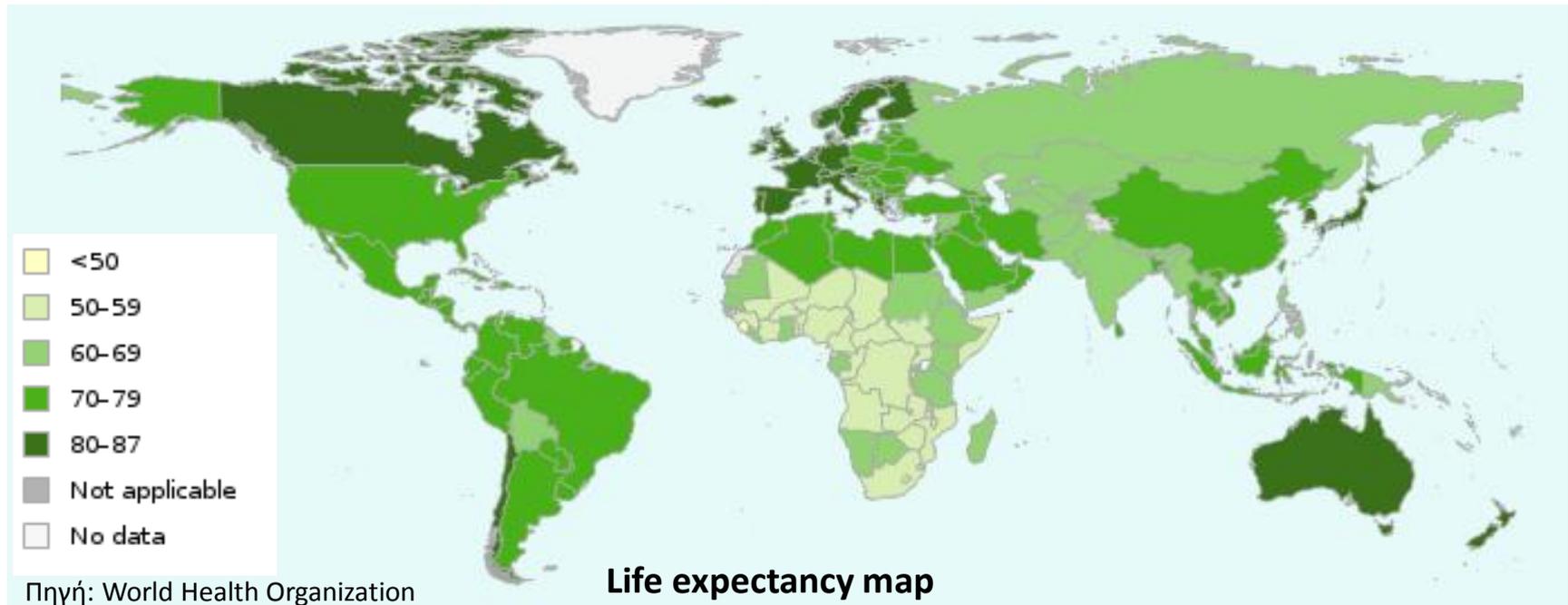
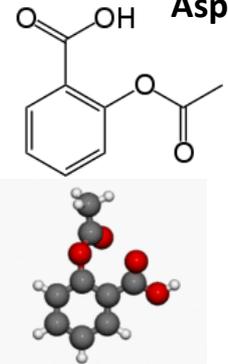
Normally they are small organic molecules

- Therapy
- Relief
- Prevention
- Quality of life improvement
- Life expectancy prolongation

Paracetamol (Depon)

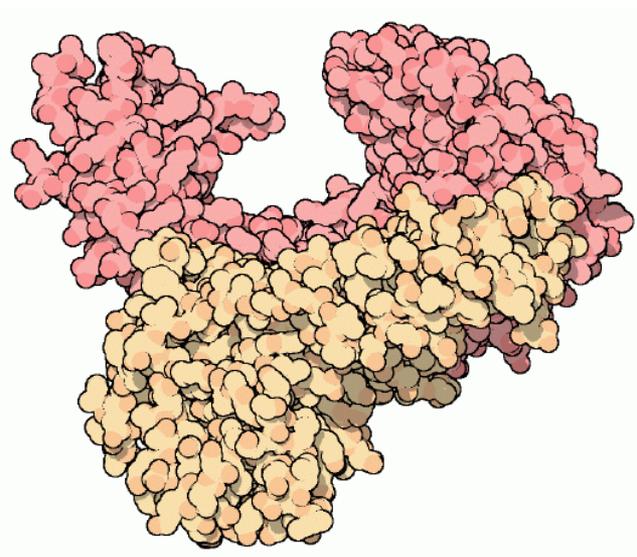


Aspirin

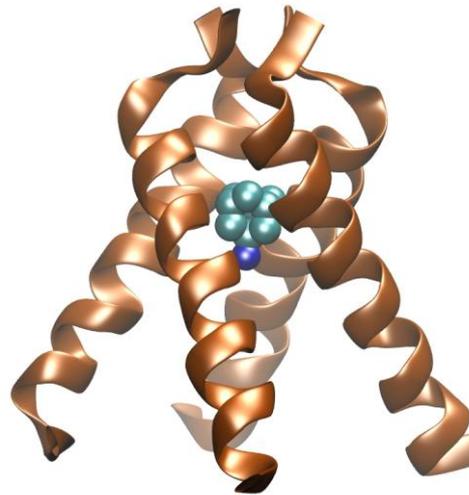


Some proteins need to be stopped

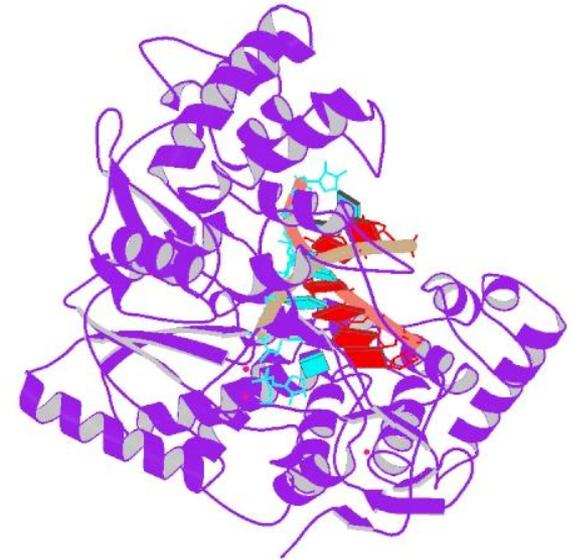
HIV-RT



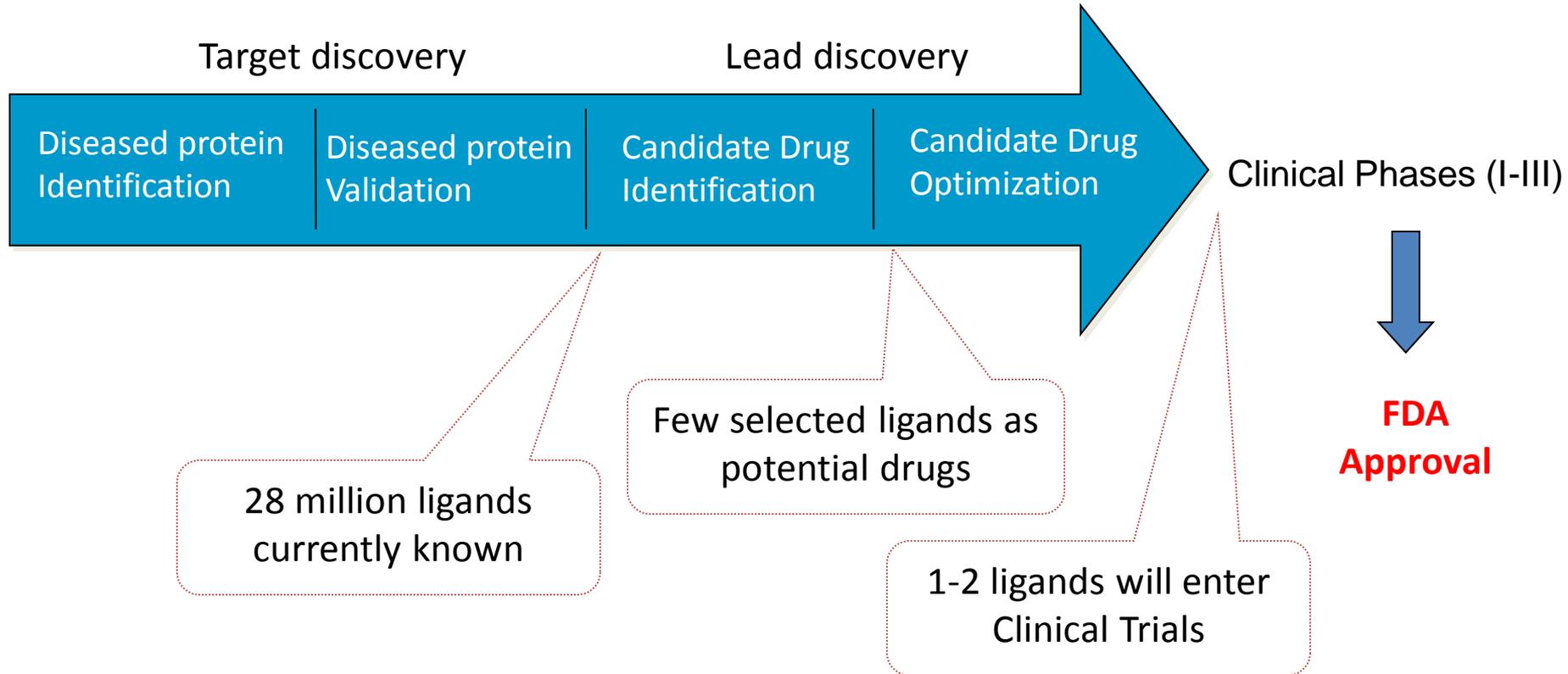
M2TM
(Influenza virus)



NS5B
(Hepatitis C)



Phases of Pharmaceutical Development



Duration: 12 – 15 years, Cost: ~ 1 billion US \$

Traditional Drug Discovery

- Random screening of hundreds of thousands of molecules with High Throughput Screening (HTS) for combating the pathogen
- Random discoveries (i.e. penicillin, viagra)
- Trying out existing drugs and modifications
- Estimated number of small molecules that can act as drugs 10^{66}
- Estimated number of atoms in the world 10^{50}

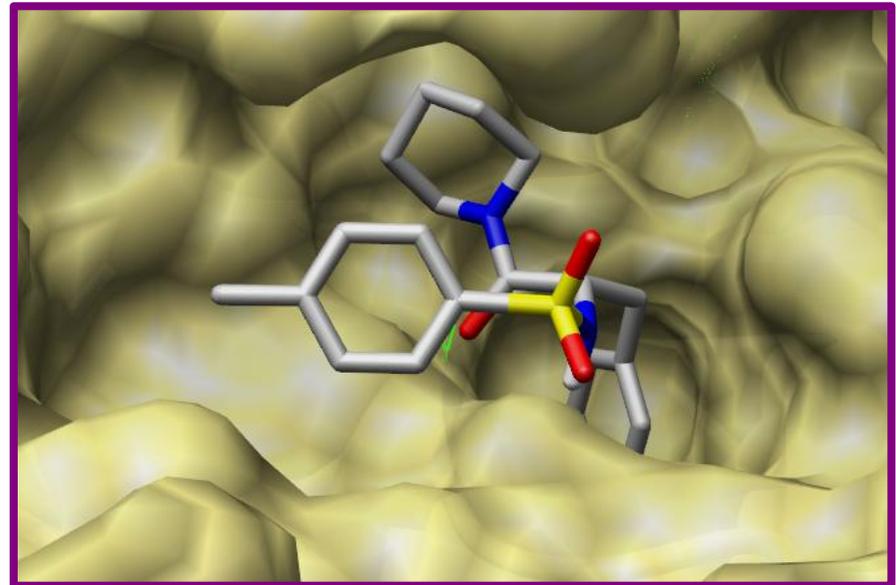
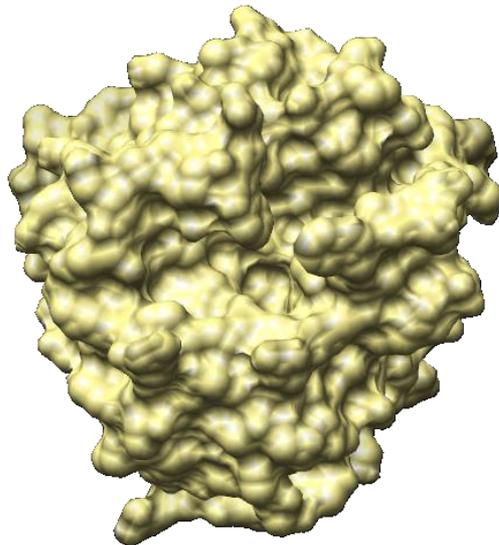
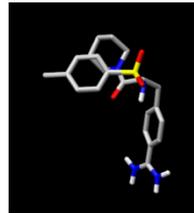


Structure-based approaches + Targeted Therapy

Rational Drug Discovery

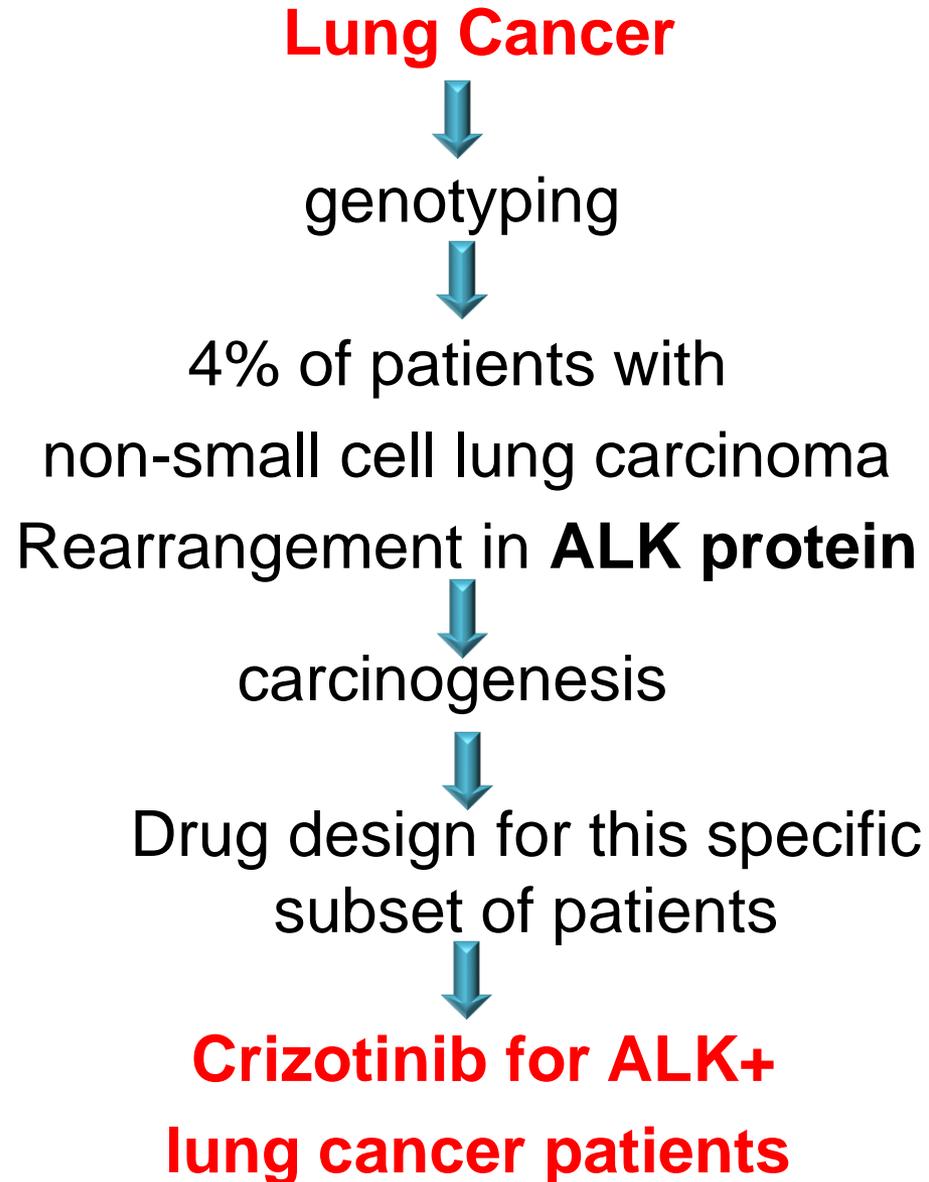
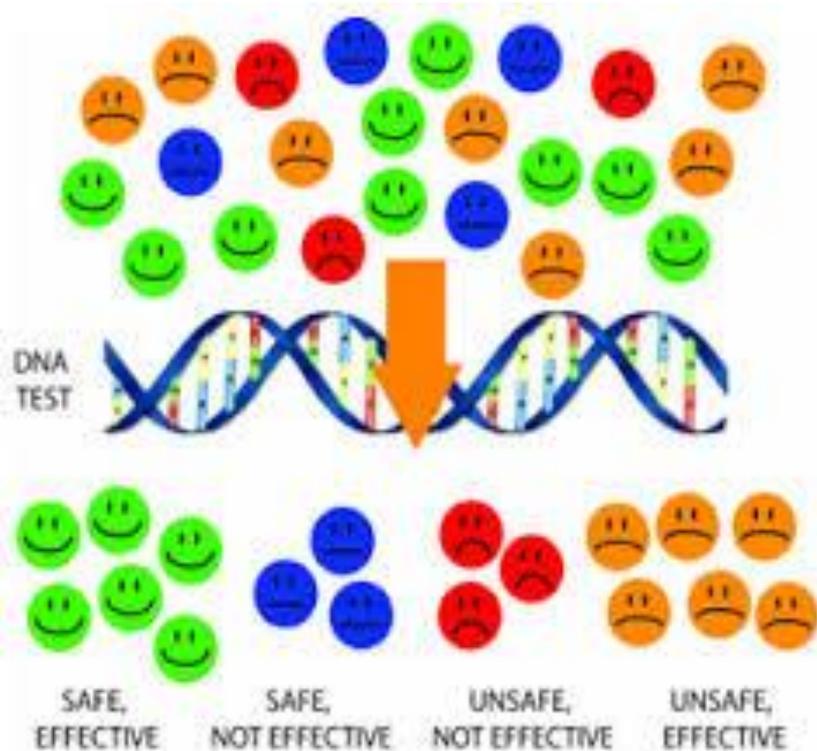
- Identify important genes for a disease
- Targeting/inactivating genes (proteins) of the pathogen with small molecules = drugs

TARGETED THERAPY!

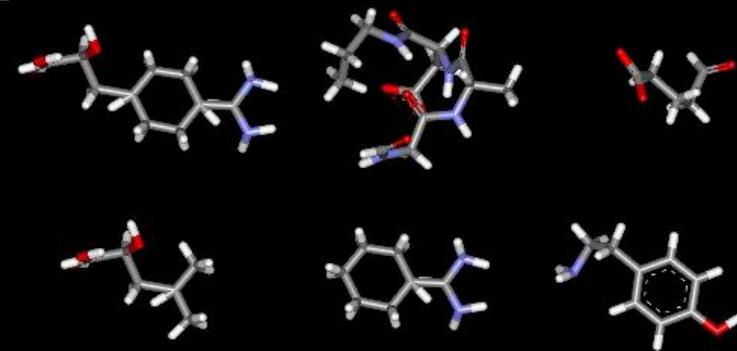
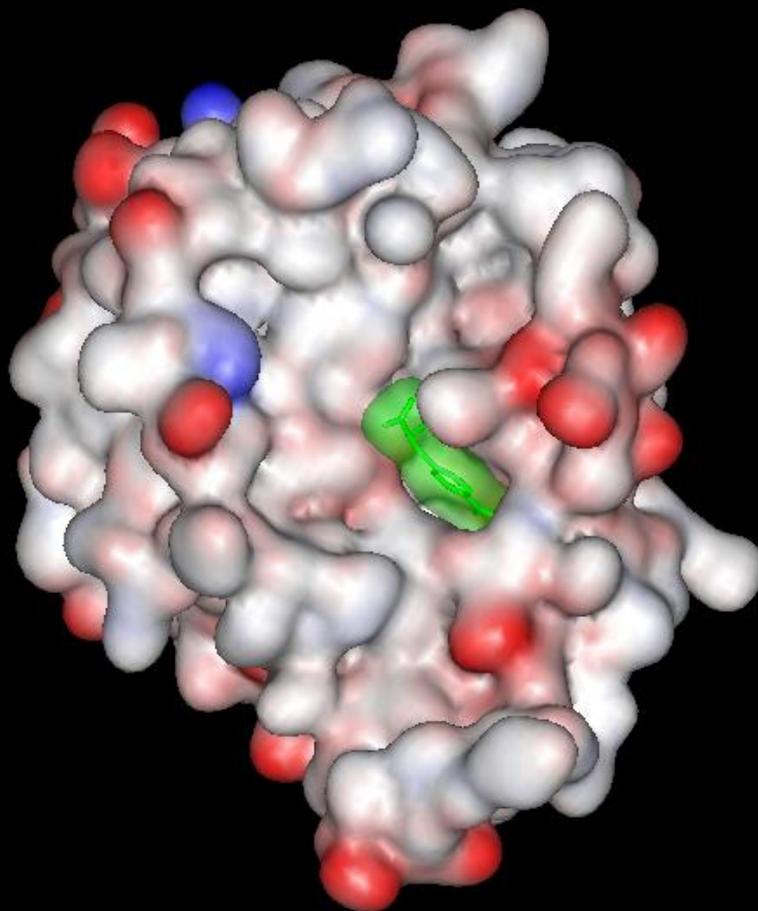


Curr Opin Drug Discov Devel. 2002 May; 5(3): 355-360

The era of Personalized Medicine



Computing protein-drug structure



*Virtual
Screening*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u49k72rUdyc>

My early days: HP-SEE (2010-2012)

Existing infrastructure + Blue Gene/P



HP-SEE
High-Performance Computing Infrastructure
for South East Europe's Research Communities

- ❑ IBM Blue Gene/P –**two racks** 2048 PowerPC 450 processors (32 bits, 850 MHz), a total of **8192 cores**
- ❑ Double-precision, dual pipe floating-point acceleration on each core;
- ❑ A total of **4 TB** random access memory;
- ❑ 16 I/O nodes currently connected via fiber optics to 10 Gb/s Ethernet switch;
- ❑ Theoretical peak performance: $R_{peak} = \mathbf{27.85 Tflops}$;
- ❑ **Energy efficiency: 371.67 MFlops/Green top 10**
- ❑ Smaller HPC machines in **Romania**
Bulgaria **Hungary**
- ❑ Upcoming purchases in **Hungary**
Serbia and **Greece**

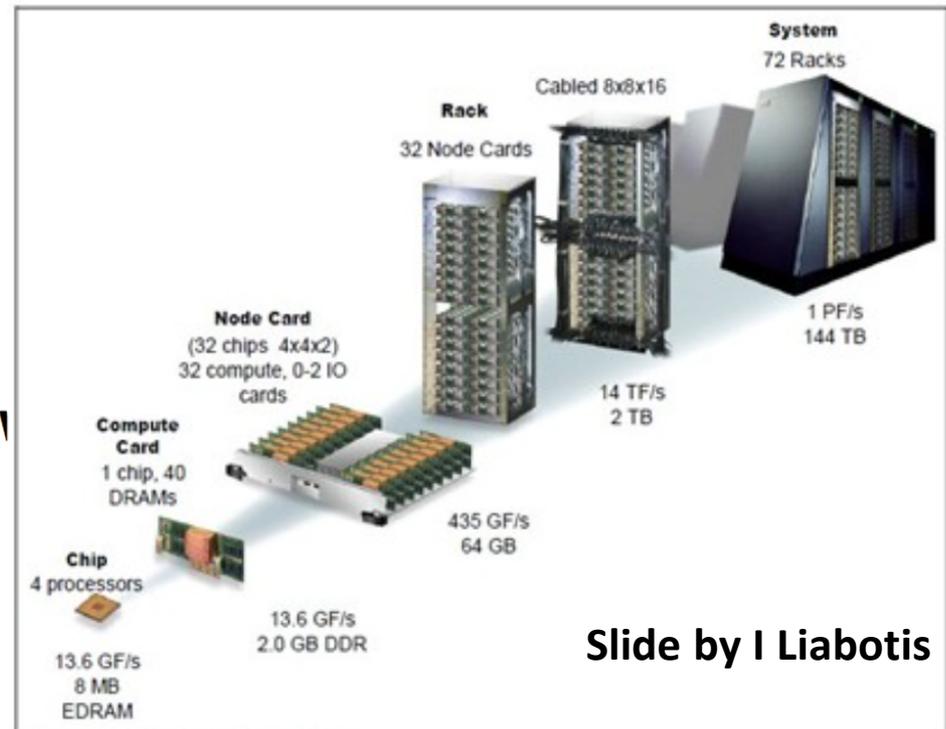
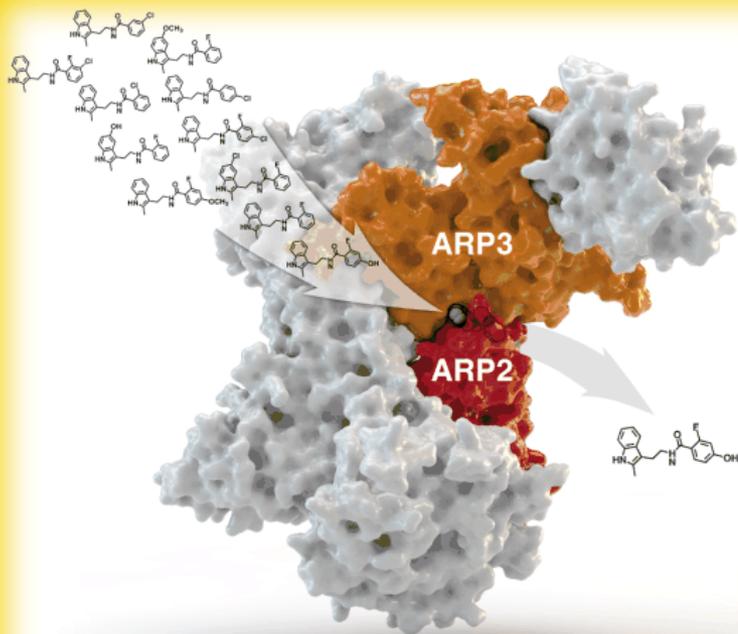


Figure 1-2 Blue Gene/P packaging

Slide by I Liabotis



7/2012

A Journal of



ChemPubSoc
Europe

The inside cover picture shows the optimization of a small-molecule inhibitor of Arp2/3 complex, a seven-subunit 225 kD protein that nucleates branched actin filaments. The X-ray structure of the complex bound to a known inhibitor, CK-666, was solved, and computational, synthetic, and biochemical methods were used to generate a novel inhibitor with improved potency—an important tool compound for dissecting the cellular functions of Arp2/3 complex. For more details, see the Full Paper by Brad J. Nolen et al. on p. 1286 ff.

www.chemmedchem.org

WILEY-VCH

Free Energy Calculations Reveal the Origin of Binding Preference for Aminoadamantane Blockers of Influenza A/M2TM Pore

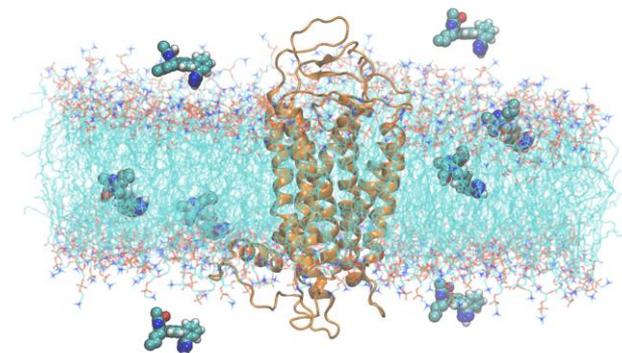
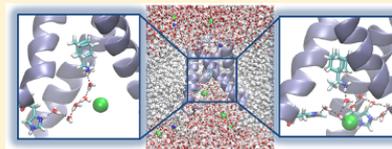
Paraskevi Gkeka,[†] Stelios Eleftheratos,[‡] Antonios Kolocouris,^{*,‡} and Zoe Coumia^{*,†}

[†]Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens, 4 Soranou Ephessiou, 11527 Athens, Greece

[‡]Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, University of Athens, Panepistimioupolis-Zografou, 15771 Athens, Greece

Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Aminoadamantane derivatives, such as amantadine and rimantadine, have been reported to block the M2 membrane protein of influenza A virus (A/M2TM), but their use has been discontinued due to reported resistance in humans. Understanding the mechanism of action of amantadine derivatives could assist the development of novel potent inhibitors that overcome A/M2TM resistance. Here, we use Free Energy Perturbation calculations coupled with



Biochimica et Biophysica Acta 1838 (2014) 1031–1046



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Biochimica et Biophysica Acta

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/bbame



Insights into the molecular basis of action of the AT₁ antagonist losartan using a combined NMR spectroscopy and computational approach

Maria Zervou^{a,*}, Zoe Coumia^b, Constantinos Potamitis^a, George Patargias^b, Serdar Durdagi^{a,†}, Simona Golic Grdadolnik^{c,d}, Thomas Mavromoustakos^{a,e}

^a National Hellenic Research Foundation, Institute of Biology, Medicinal Chemistry & Biotechnology, Vas. Constantinou 48, 11635 Athens, Greece

^b Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens, 4 Soranou Efessiou, 11527 Athens, Greece

^c Laboratory of Biomolecular Structure, National Institute of Chemistry, Hajdrichova 19, POB 30, SI-1115 Ljubljana, Slovenia

^d EN-FIST Centre of Excellence, Dunajska 156, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

^e Chemistry Department of National Capodistrian University, Zografou, Athens 15784, Greece



Through these publications was able to
successfully apply for PRACE resources

Mar 2013 – 11.2M core hours

Apr 2014 – 15.7 M core hours

Feb 2015 – 8.5 M core hours

Nov 2017 – 15.5 M core hours



**PARTNERSHIP
FOR ADVANCED COMPUTING
IN EUROPE**

PRACE

Europe's Supercomputing Research Infrastructure

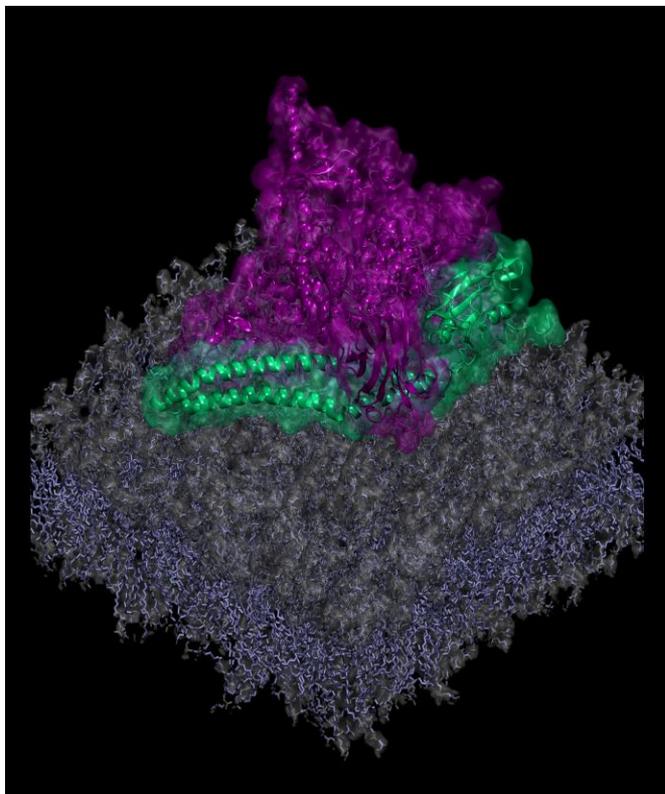
PRACE-GR – ARIS: The Greek HPC System



Total: ~6 M core hours awarded (2014-2018)

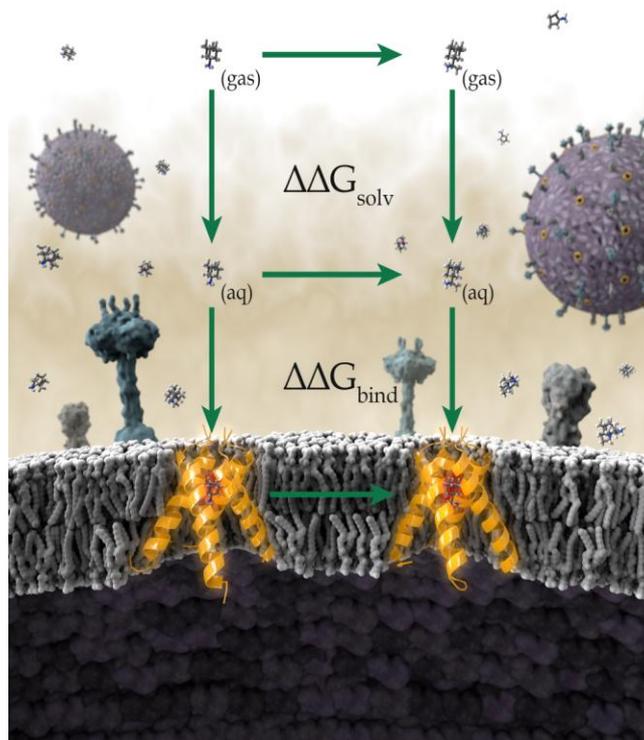
Protein-membrane interfaces in drug design

Peripheral Proteins



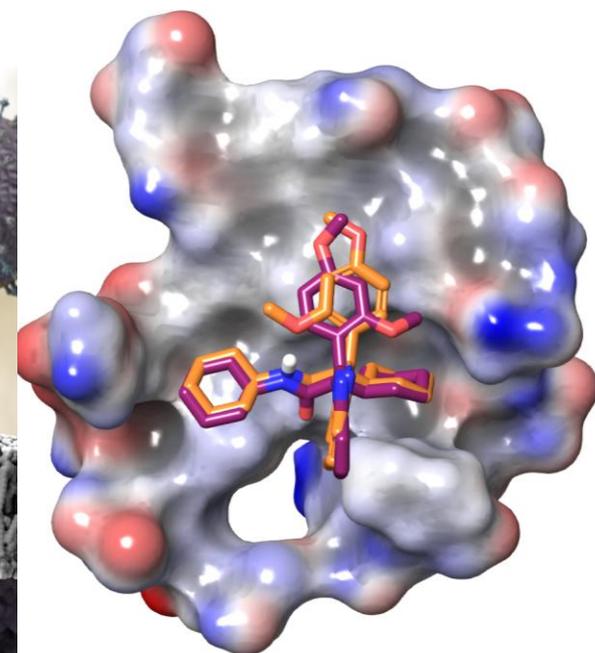
Leontiadou et al, Sci Rep, 2018
Gkeka et al, J Phys Chem B, 2015
Gkeka et al, PLOS Comp Biol, 2014

Ion Channels



Cournia et al, J Chem Inf Model, 2018
Gkeka et al, J Chem Inf Model, 2013
Ioannidis et al, J Chem Inf Model, 2016

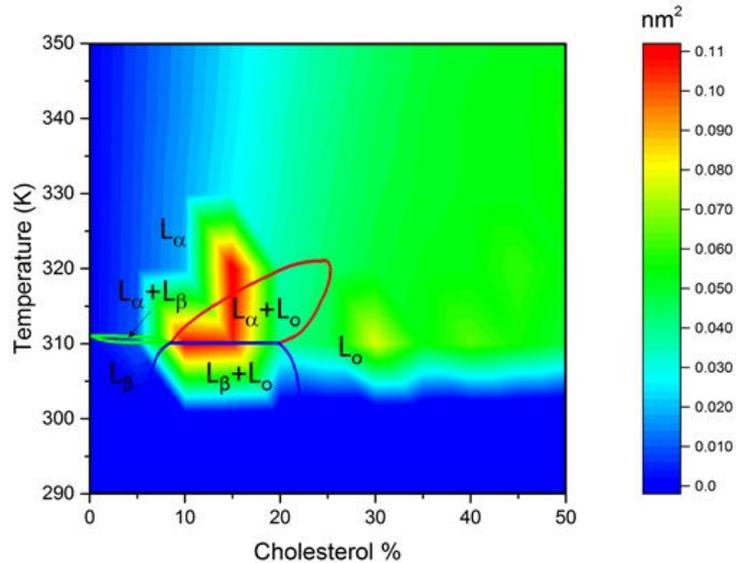
Drug Design



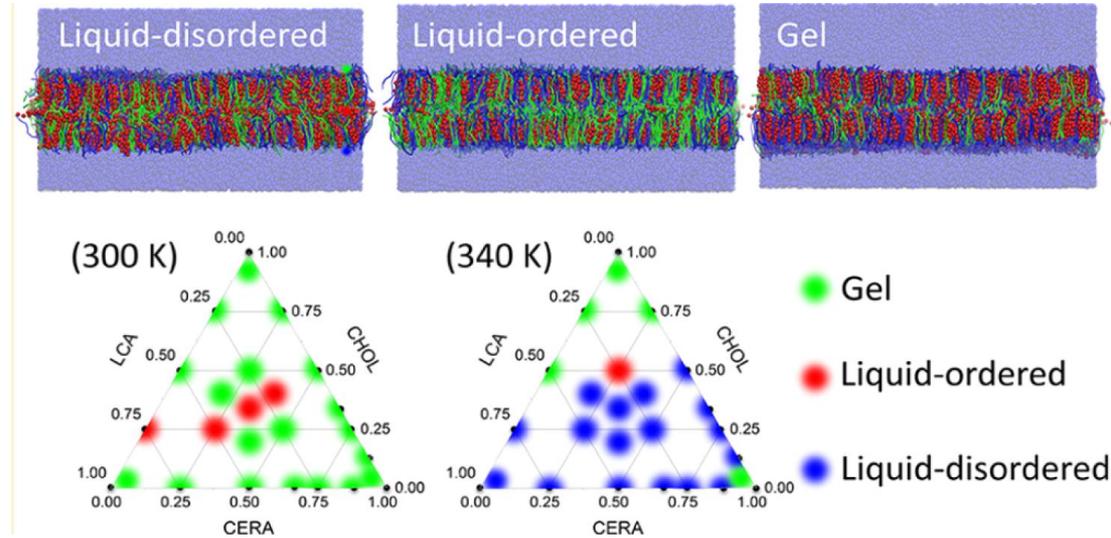
Athanasiou et al J Comput Aid
Mol Des, 2018
Lionta et al, Curr Top Med
Chem, 2014

Extensive studies of pure membranes

DDPC-Chol Phase Diagram

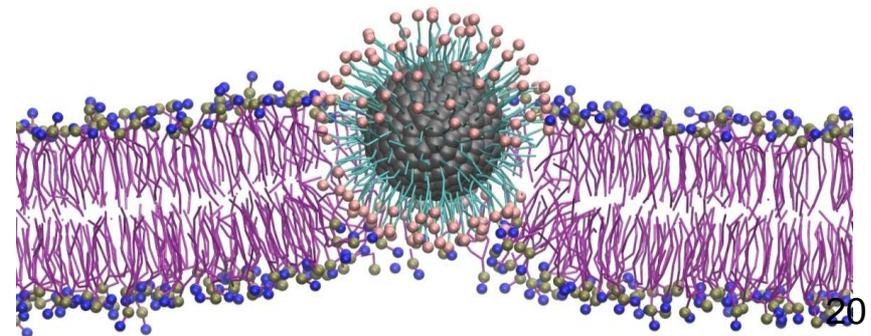


Stratum Corneum model phase diagram

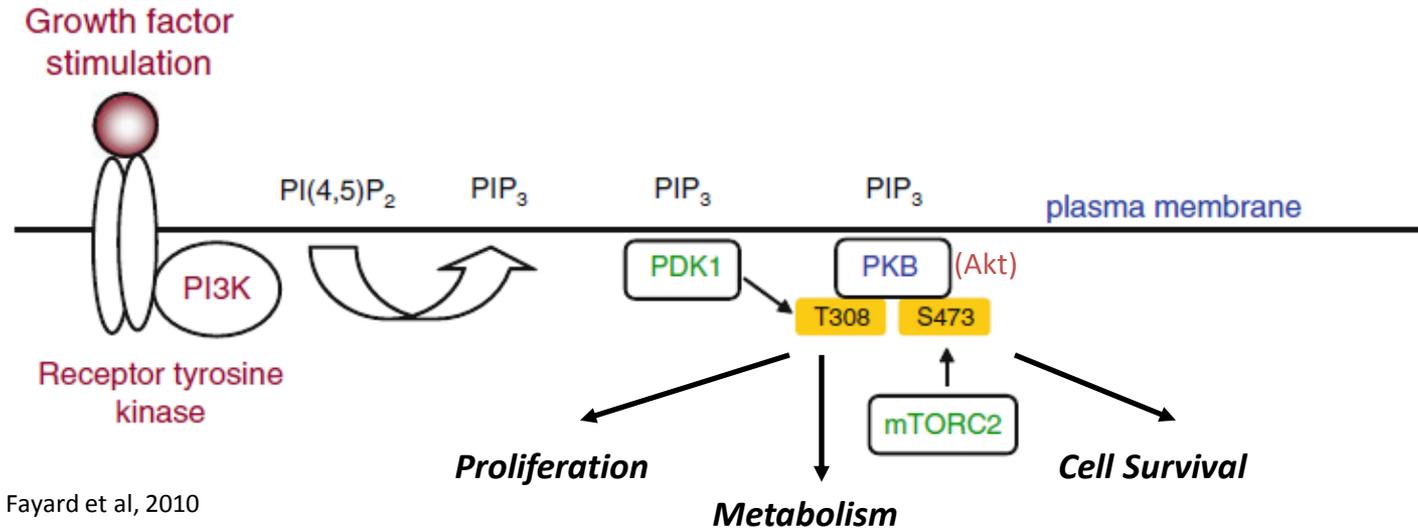


- Podewitz et al, J Phys Chem B 2018
- Chatzogloulas et al, J Chem Inf Model 2018
- Tremi et al, J Memb Biol 2018
- Wang et al, BBA Biomembranes 2016
- Patitsa et al, Sci Rep 2017
- Angelikopoulos et al, Nanoscale 2017
- Cournia et al, J Memb Biol 2015
- Gkeka et al, PLOS Comput Biol 2014

Nanocarrier – membrane interactions

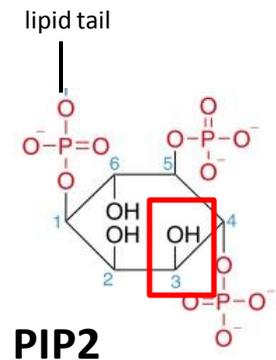


PI3K α is a lipid kinase that promotes cell survival



Fayard et al, 2010

- Active PI3K α phosphorylates PIP₂ to PIP₃ at the plasma membrane.
- PIP₃ recruits Akt close to PDK1.
- Co-localization of these proteins leads to phosphorylation of residues, which in turn leads to proliferation, growth, survival.



Case study: mutated protein PI3K α

- PI3K α is a membrane-associated lipid kinase
- Involved in cell growth, proliferation, differentiation
- Most commonly mutated kinase in the human genome \Rightarrow cancer

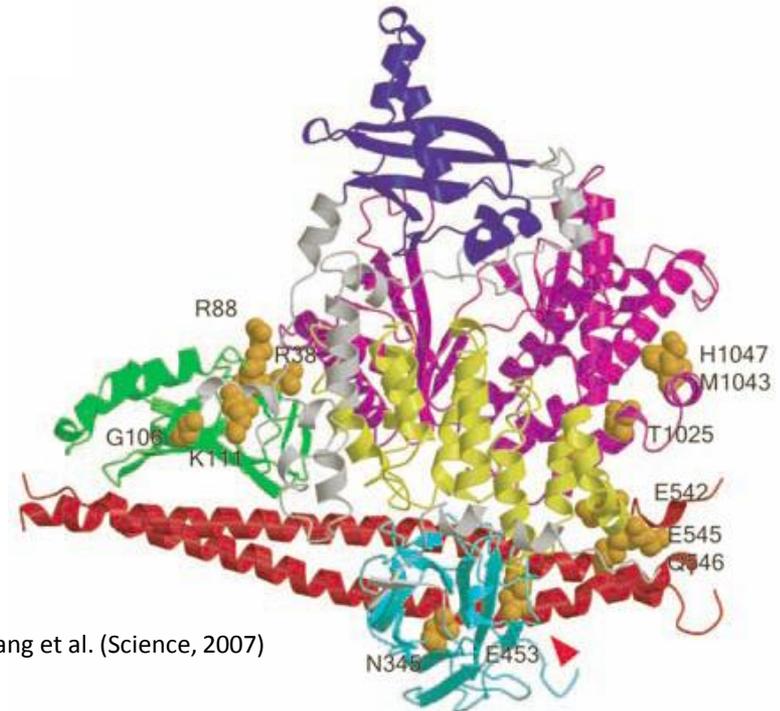
80% of all mutations:

Glu545Lys

His1047Arg

30% of breast cancer patients

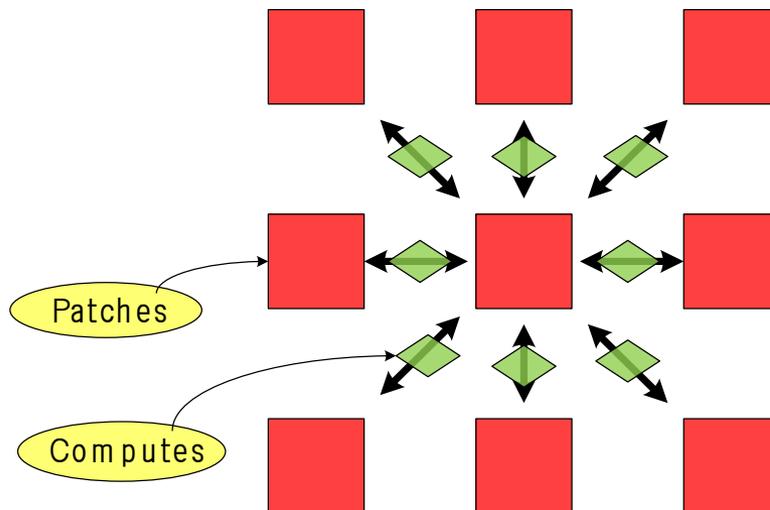
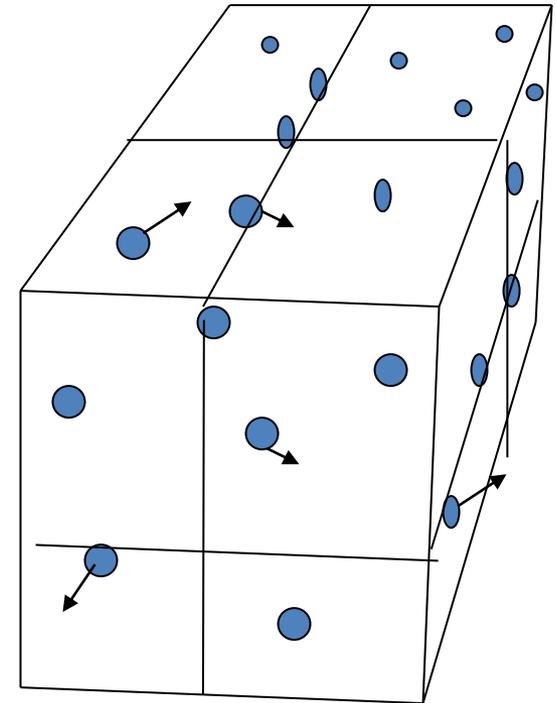
**Mechanism of overactivation?
Mutant and isoform specific
therapies?**



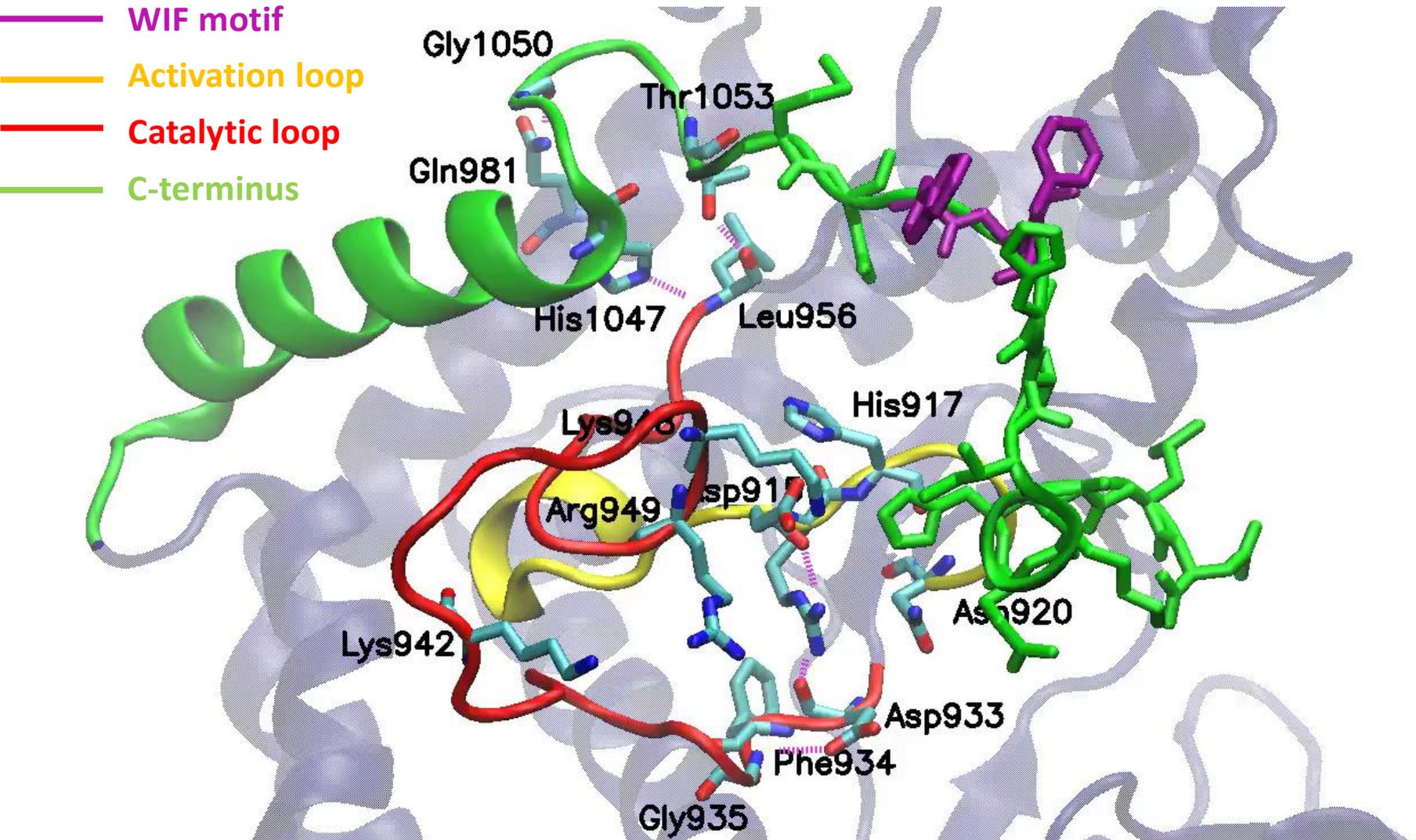
**MD Simulations
Virtual screening
Property prediction
In vitro & *In vivo* assays
Lead Optimization**

MD Simulator requirements

- **System size: ~400.000 atoms**
- **Parallelization**
 - (getting an idea of the level of computation needed)
 - Whole System is broken down into boxes (processing nodes)
 - Each node handles the bonded interactions within a cutoff



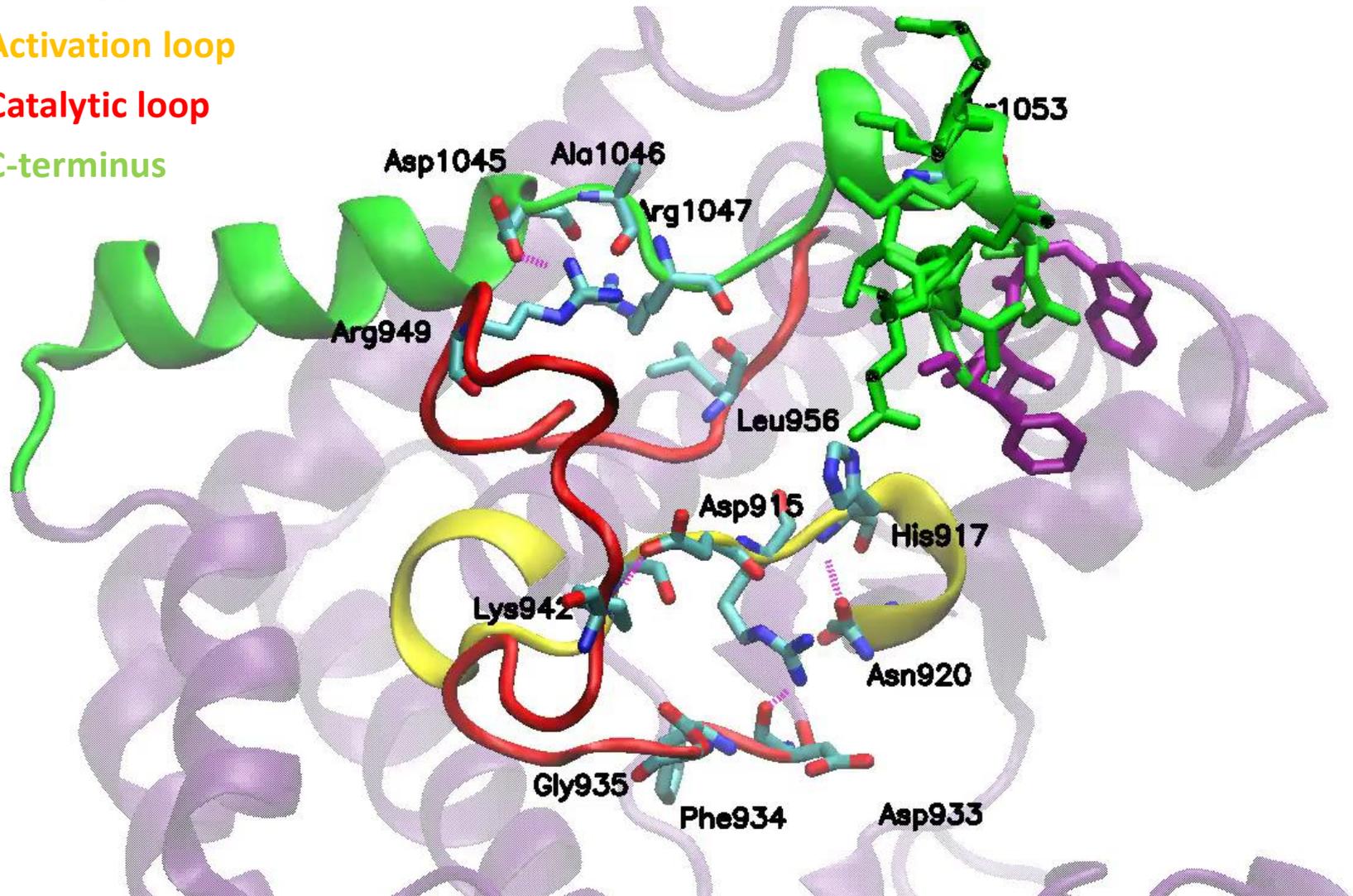
Simulation of the normal protein



His-917 points away from the active site, while the **C-terminus** prevents the catalytic loop from reaching the ATP-binding site.

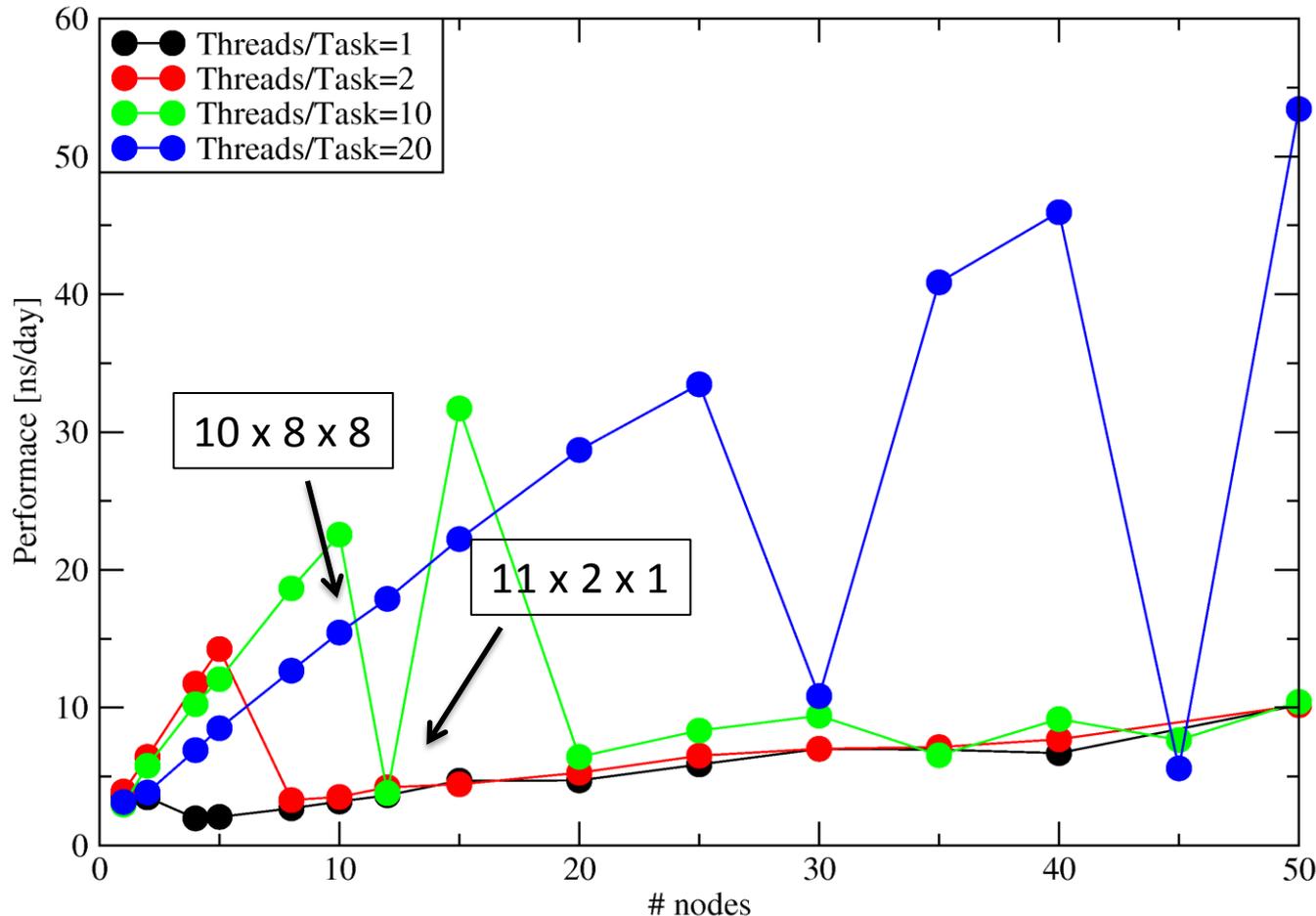
Simulation of the mutated protein

- WIF motif
- Activation loop
- Catalytic loop
- C-terminus



His-917 points towards the active site, while the **C-terminus** does not interfere with the access of the catalytic loop to the ATP-binding site.

GRNET HPC Support: Optimizing Performance

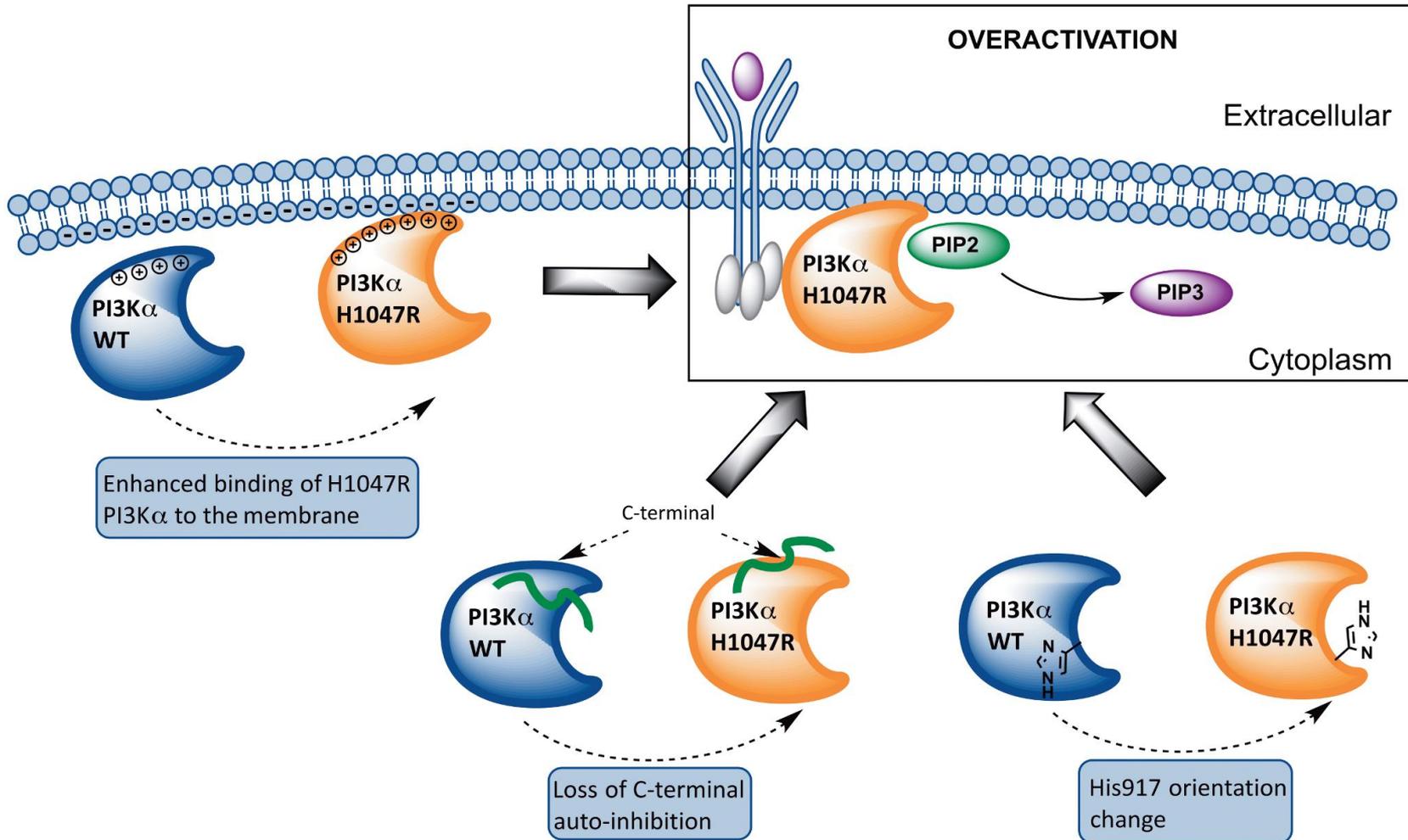


Dimitris Dellis
GRNET

PI3K α
(400,000 atoms)

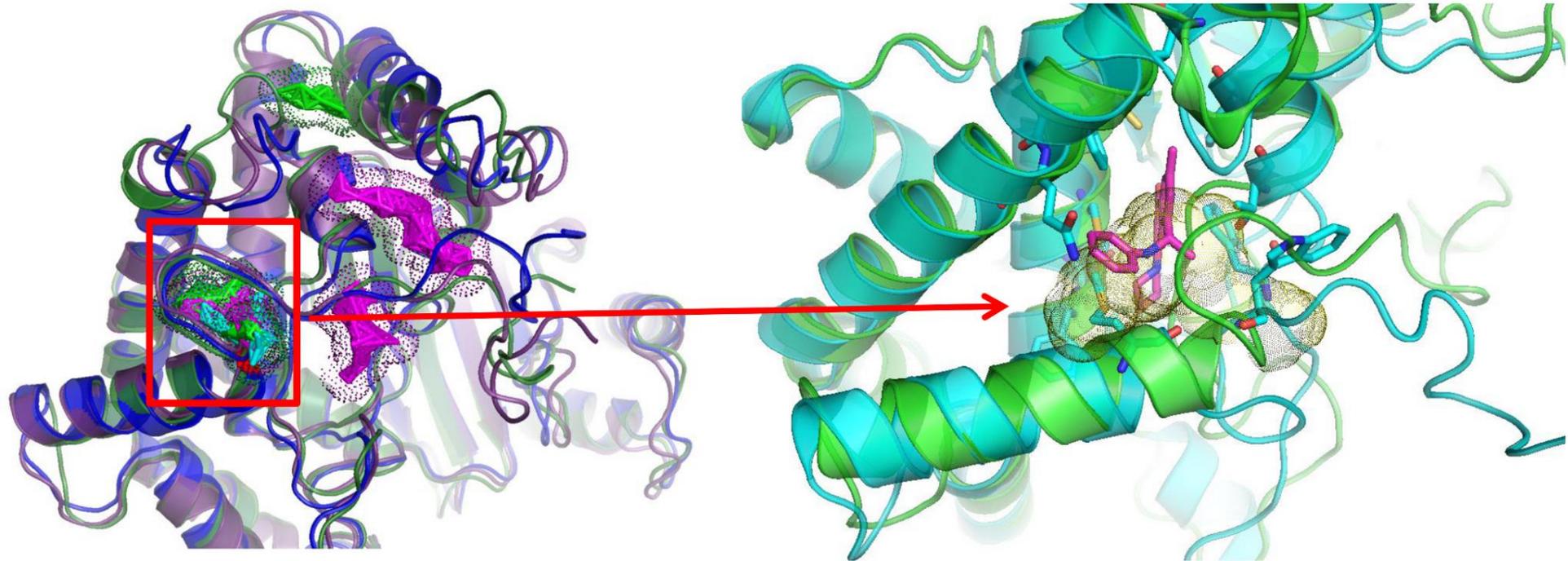
- ❑ Both the communication and the box 3D decomposition in cores has to be optimal in order to gain maximal performance.
- ❑ Decomposition 11 x 2 x 1 is **NOT optimal**
- ❑ Decomposition 10 x 8 x 8 is **optimal**

Proposed mechanism of H1047R overactivation



Gkeka et al, PLOS Comput Biol (2014)

Binding site identification on PI3K α conformers



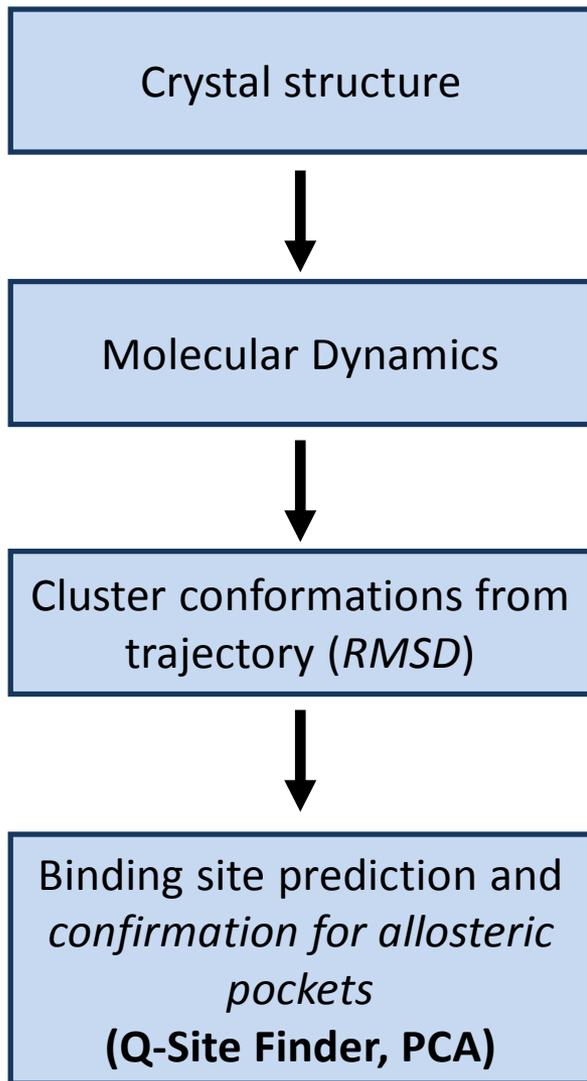
Binding site prediction on
PI3K α representative
structures

Blue: WT Crystal
Structure by Hon et al
(2011)

Green: Cluster
conformation from MD
Dots: Predicted binding site

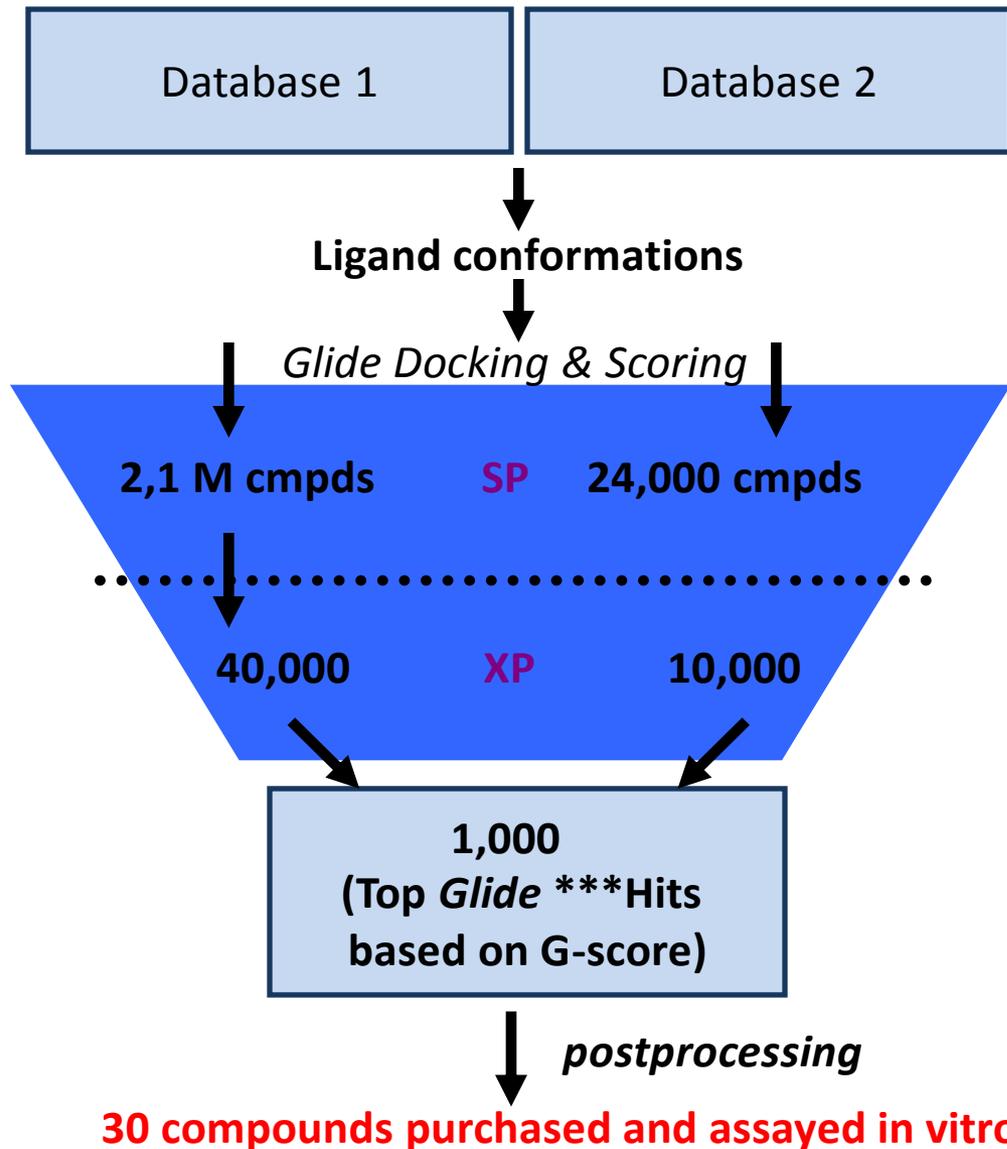
Does this binding site also exist in the mutant form and can it be exploited for selective drug design?

Binding site Prediction



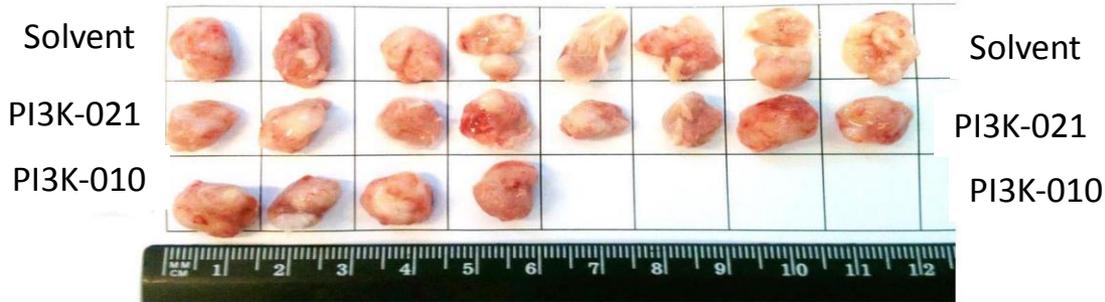
Lionta et al, *Curr Top Med Chem* (2014)

Virtual Screening

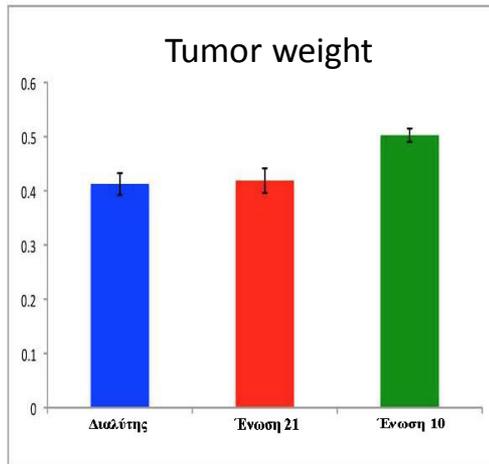
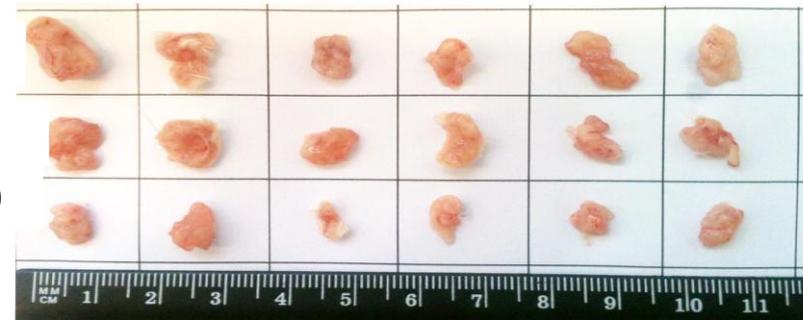


Preclinical study of PI3K-010 (xenografts)

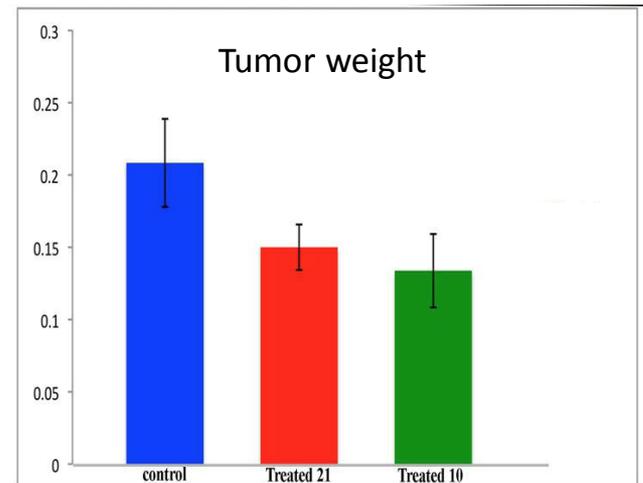
MDA-231-MB (PI3K α WT)



HCC1954 (H1047R PI3K α mutant)



Solvent
PI3K-021
PI3K-010



(D. Stellas, Efstratiadis lab)

PI3K010 in corn oil following oral dosing in mice (100 mg/Kg).

UNTREATED

PI3K(H1047R);
MMTV-MYC breast cancer model

Patent Application deposited #20180100392

TREATED

**2WKS
AFTER**

**2WKS
AFTER**

INITIAL

INITIAL

A

B

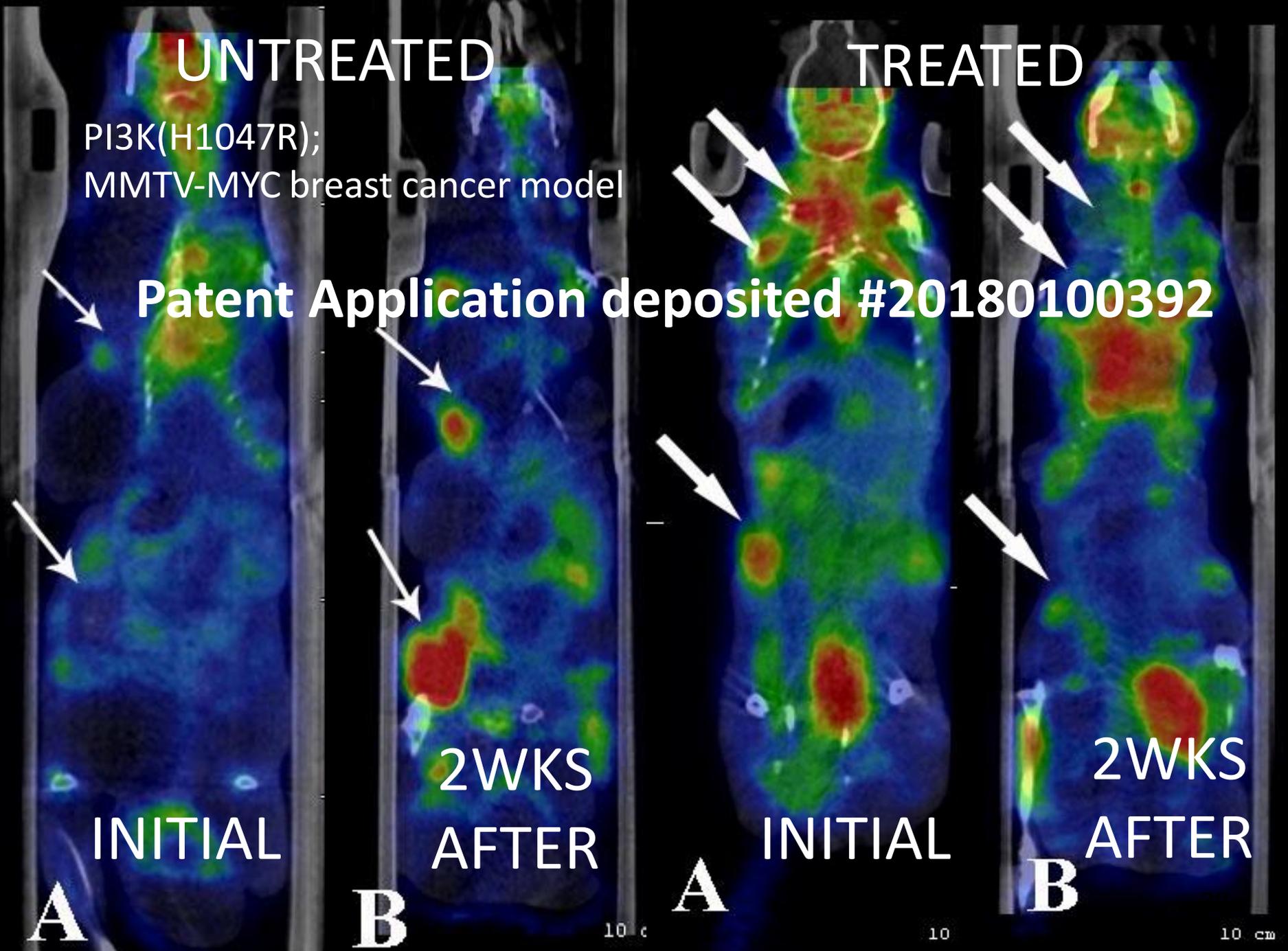
A

B

10 cm

10

10 cm



Recipient of the 1st PRACE Ada Lovelace Award

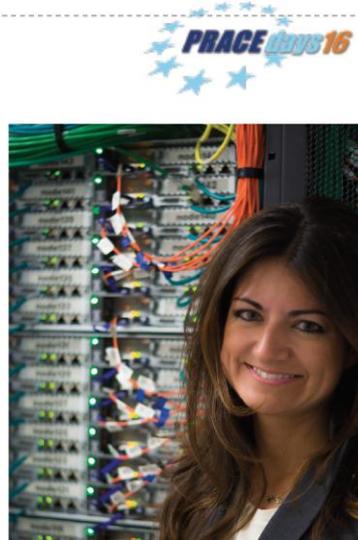
Nominated by I Liabotis (GRNET) May 2016

Home page » About PRACE » PRACE Awards » PRACE Ada Lovelace Award » Winner of the 1st PRACE Ada Lovelace Award for HPC

Winner of the 1st PRACE Ada Lovelace Award for HPC Monday 2 May 2016

PRACE is proud to announce that Dr Zoe Cournia, a Computational Chemist, Investigator – Assistant Professor level at the Biomedical Research Foundation, Academy of Athens (BRFAA), Greece has been selected as the recipient of the 1st PRACE Ada Lovelace Award for HPC. The Award will be bestowed at PRACEdays16, (<http://www.prace-ri.eu/pracedays16/>) to be held 10-12 May 2016 in Prague. Dr Cournia was selected for her outstanding contributions and impact on HPC in Europe on a global level.

Dr Cournia was awarded core hours on PRACE resources as Principal Investigator for research on *Mechanistic studies of the Arp2/3 complex activation and Selective inhibition of the PI3Ka E545K mutant through MD simulations, in vitro assays and SPR experiments* in the 6th and 9th Project Access calls, she was also a collaborator on other projects in Nanotechnology and Clinical, Experimental Surgery & Translational Research.



Στην ερευνήτρια Ζωή Κούρνια το βραβείο «PRACE Ada Lovelace» για την ανάπτυξη αντικαρκινικών φαρμάκων

Η Ελληνίδα επιστήμονας είναι ερευνήτρια στο Ίδρυμα Ιατροβιολογικών Ερευνών της Ακαδημίας Αθηνών και ειδικεύεται στην Υπολογιστική Χημεία

4.5.2016 | 11:02



Με το πρώτο ευρωπαϊκό βραβείο «Prace Ada Lovelace», το οποίο βραβεύει γυναίκες επιστήμονες που αξιοποιούν τους υπερυπολογιστές στην έρευνά τους θα τιμηθεί η ερευνήτρια Ζωή Κούρνια για το έργο της πάνω στον σχεδιασμό αντικαρκινικών φαρμάκων και στις υπολογιστικές προσομοιώσεις βιομορίων. Η Ελληνίδα

**VRE for regional Interdisciplinary
communities in Southeast Europe
and the Eastern Mediterranean**

Coordinator: GRNET (O. Prnjat)

Oct 2015 – Sep 2018

Life Sciences - Scientific Community

Dr. Zoe Cournia

LS SC Leader

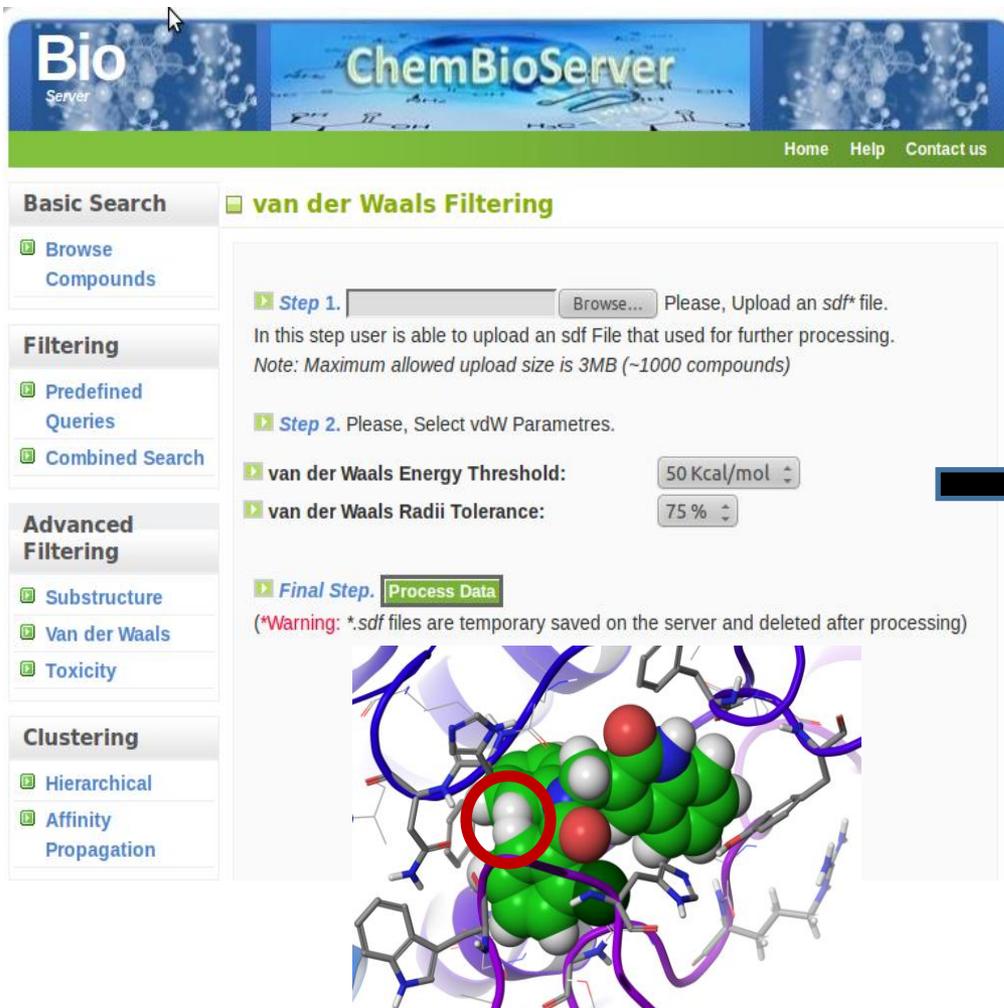
Biomedical Research Foundation, Academy of
Athens



Vi-SEEM

Web-server hosting of Application level services: ChemBioServer

- ChemBioServer post-processes virtual screening results for drug design



Bio Server **ChemBioServer** Home Help Contact us

Basic Search **van der Waals Filtering**

Browse Compounds

Filtering

Predefined Queries

Combined Search

Advanced Filtering

Substructure

Van der Waals

Toxicity

Clustering

Hierarchical

Affinity Propagation

Step 1. Browse... Please, Upload an sdf* file.
In this step user is able to upload an sdf File that used for further processing.
Note: Maximum allowed upload size is 3MB (~1000 compounds)

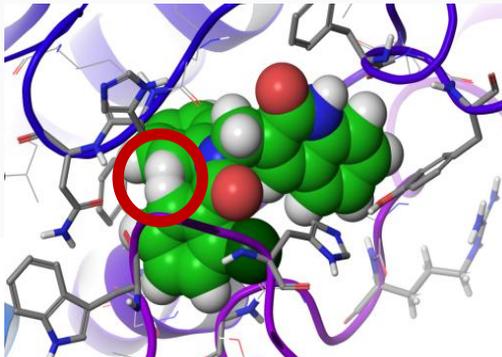
Step 2. Please, Select vdW Parametres.

van der Waals Energy Threshold: 50 Kcal/mol

van der Waals Radii Tolerance: 75 %

Final Step.

(*Warning: *.sdf files are temporary saved on the server and deleted after processing)



<http://chembioserver.vi-seem.eu>

Compound ID	VDW Energy Test	VDW Distance Test
Compound: 1 AW 00785	- PASS AW 00785 - Browse List For Details...	- FAIL AW 00785 - Browse List For Details...
Compound: 2 AW 00788	- PASS AW 00788 - Browse List For Details...	- FAIL AW 00788 - Browse List For Details...
Compound: 3 AW 00785	- PASS AW 00785 - Browse List For Details...	- FAIL AW 00785 - Browse List For Details...
Compound: 4 AW 00939	- PASS AW 00939 - Browse List For Details...	- FAIL AW 00939 - Browse List For Details...
Compound: 5 AW 00694	- PASS AW 00694 - Browse List For Details...	- FAIL AW 00694 - Browse List For Details...
Compound: 6 CD 10205	- PASS CD 10205 - Browse List For Details...	- PASS CD 10205 - Browse List For Details...
Compound: 7 GK 02096	- PASS GK 02096 - Browse List For Details...	- FAIL GK 02096 - Browse List For Details...
Compound: 8 HTS 01561	- PASS HTS 01561 - Browse List For Details...	- FAIL HTS 01561 - Browse List For Details...
Compound: 9 MWP 00404	- PASS MWP 00404 - Browse List For Details...	- FAIL MWP 00404 - Browse List For Details...
Compound: 10 NRB 02577	- PASS NRB 02577 - Browse List For Details...	- FAIL NRB 02577 - Browse List For Details...

AFMM is a parameterization tool for MD simulations of small organic molecules



<http://afmm.vi-seem.eu>

AFMM - A Molecular Mechanics Force Field Parametrization Program

Please follow the instructions to perform your analysis or Run Example.

1 Provide your Molecular Mechanics normal modes

CHARMM output file

File must have an extension ".inp"

Choose File no file selected

2 Provide your Quantum Mechanics normal modes

Gaussian output file

Currently 3 types of output files are supported for optimization in AFMM: NWChem 4.5 and older, Gaussian 94/98 and Molden format. In principle, any normal mode output can be transformed in the Molden format which contains the frequencies, coordinates and eigenvectors.

Choose File no file selected

3 Set the parameters

P1: Min Value Max Value Start Value

P2: Min Value Max Value Start Value

Max Steps: e.g. 20

Max Sigma Steps: e.g. 100

QM Factor: 0.89

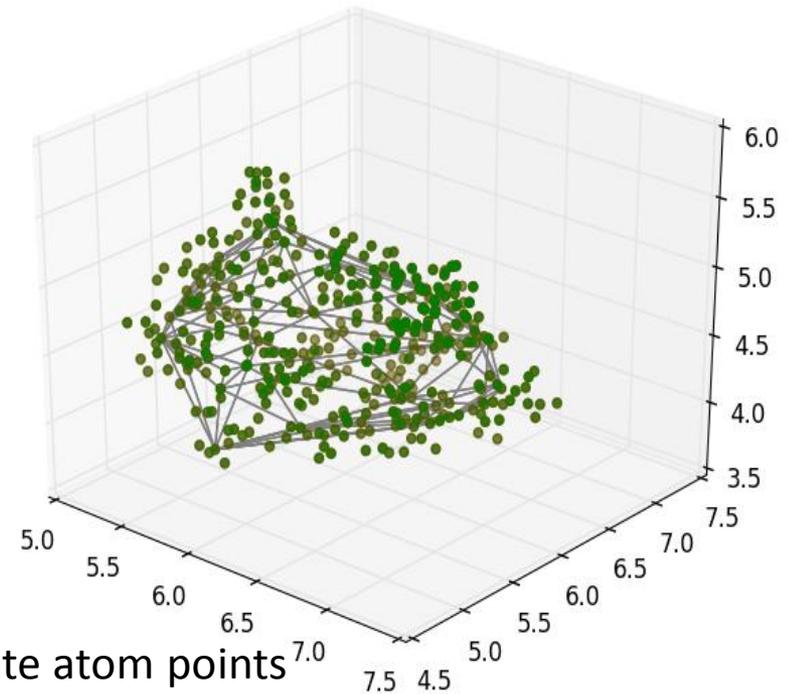
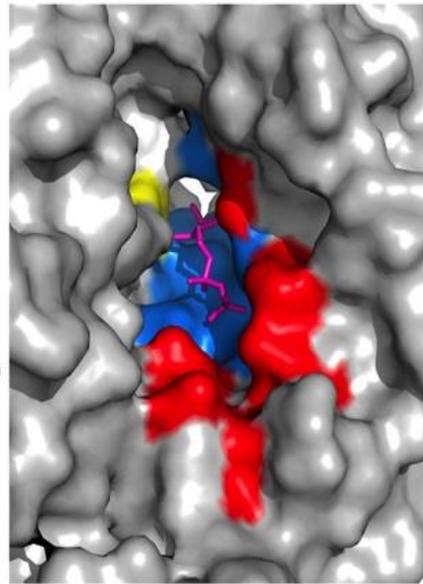
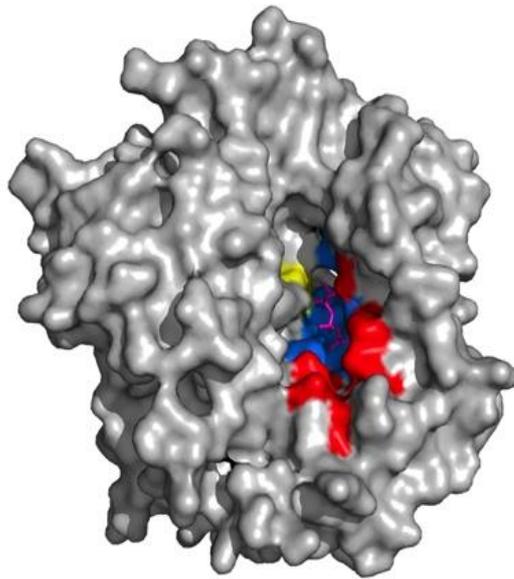
Weighting: frequency

Run Calculation

Run Example

Subtract, a tool to measure the protein binding site volume

<http://subtract.vi-seem.eu>



- ❑ Computes the 3D convex hull of protein binding site atom points
- ❑ Computes the volume of the convex hull and the volume of the atoms included in the solid based on their van der Waals radii.
- ❑ Subtraction of those two volumes yields the volume of the cavity.

Nanocrystal webserver: Creation of nanoparticles

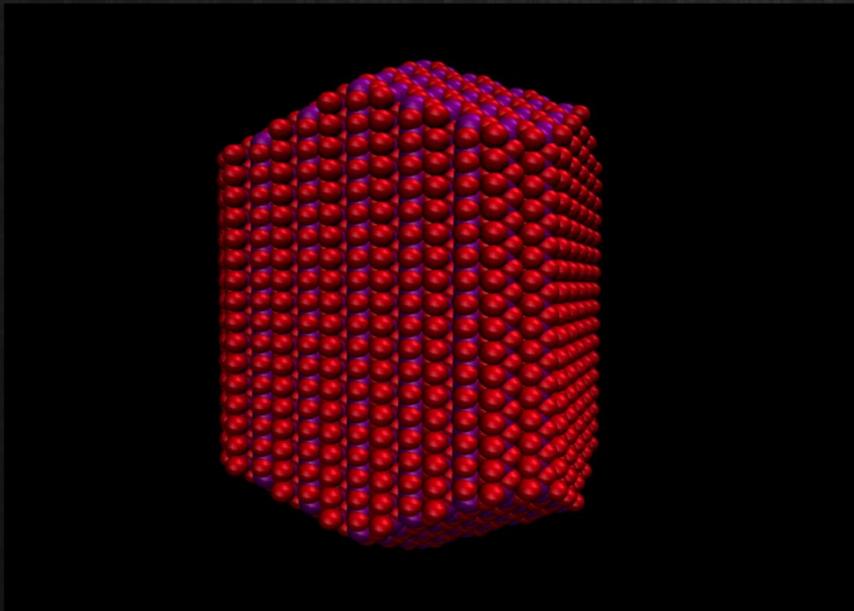


<http://nanocrystal.vi-seem.eu>

nanocrystal.vi-seem.eu

A crystallographic tool for the construction of nanoparticles

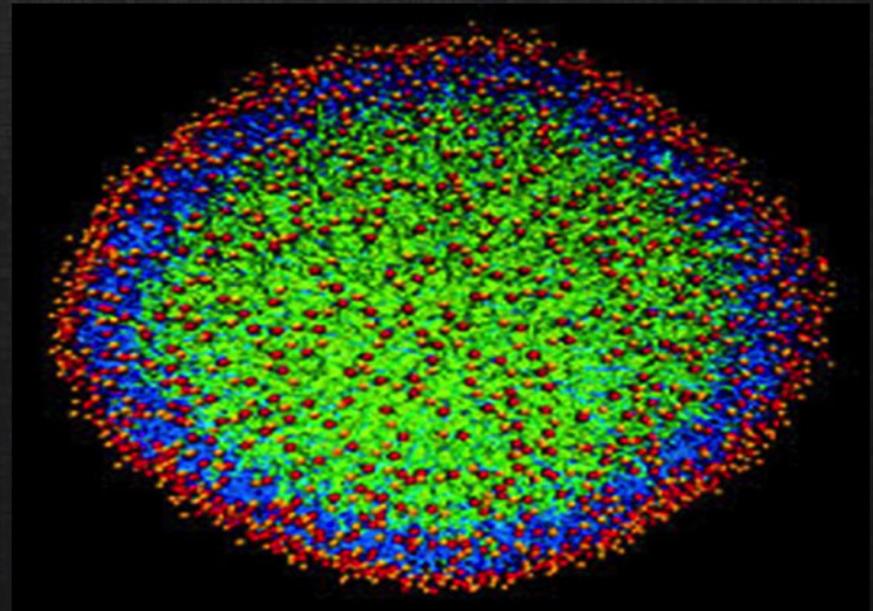
This tool constructs nanoparticles for simulation of any material and size.



[Continue](#)

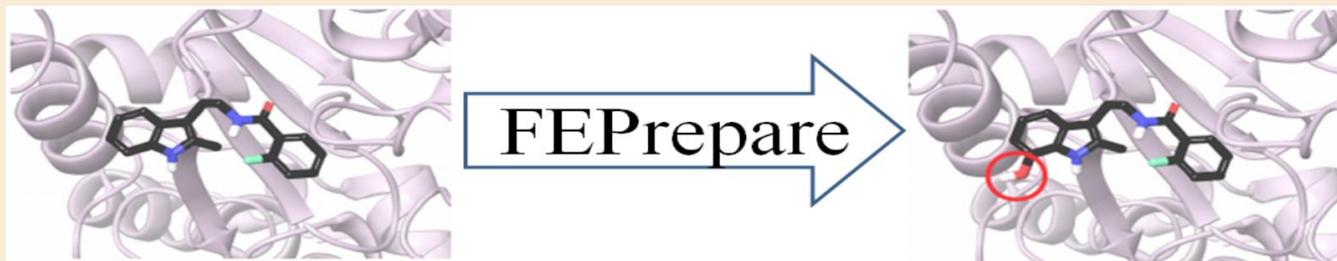
A tool for the construction of spherical nanoparticles

This tool constructs spherical nanoparticles of a given radius.



[Continue](#)

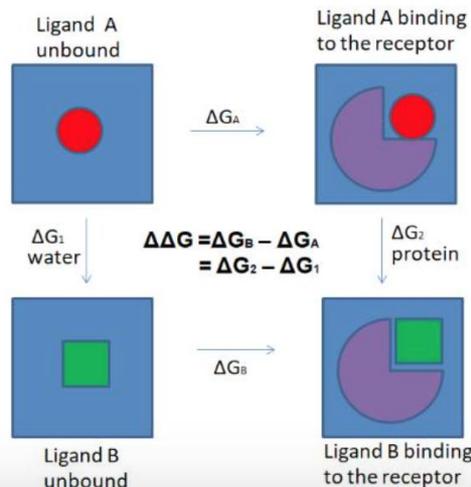
FEPprepare: Automating Free Energy Perturbation calculations for Drug Design



Choose the input you want to upload

LigParGen

C-Gen-FF



<http://fepprepare.vi-seem.eu>



VI-SEEM Virtual Research Environment Portal



SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN

Insights into the mechanism of the *PIK3CA* E545K activating mutation using MD simulations

Hari Leontiadou, Ioannis Galdadas , Christina Athanasiou  & Zoe Cournia 

Phosphoinositide 3-kinase alpha (PI3K α) is involved in fundamental cellular processes including cell proliferation and differentiation and is frequently mutated in human malignancies. One of the most

Available

1. Investig

2. Investig

3. PSOMI

Received: 13 June 2016

Accepted: 4 May 2018

Published online: 19 October 2018

Data Availability

All data (input files, output files, trajectories) have been deposited and can be freely accessed at <https://repo.vi-seem.eu/handle/21.15102/VISEEM-254>.

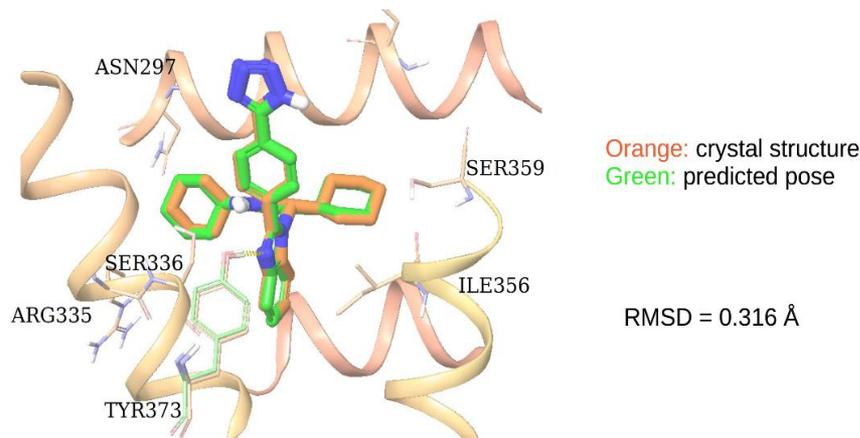
7. Insights into the mechanism of the *PIK3CA* E545K activating mutation using MD simulations - E545K oncogenic mutant of PI3Ka

8. Insights into the mechanism of the *PIK3CA* E545K activating mutation using MD simulations - Wild-Type (normal) PI3Ka

VI-SEEM Success Story: The D3R Project

Farnesoid X Receptor (FXR) – Computer-Aided Drug Design competition: D3R challenge Grand Challenge 2 (Oct 2017 – Feb 2018)

- ❑ Worldwide drug design competition organized by University California, San Diego & Roche Pharmaceuticals
- ❑ Goal: Predict blinded experimental data courtesy of Roche
- ❑ D3R project was allocated 5,000 GPU card hours of VI-SEEM resources



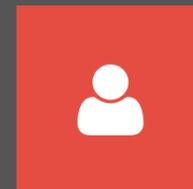
- ❑ C. Athanasiou, S. Vasilakaki, Z. Cournia (Biomedical Research Foundation Academy of Athens)
- ❑ D. Dellis (Greek Network of Research and Technology)
- ❑ W. Sherman (Silicon Therapeutics)

Εύκολη Πρόσβαση

Άμεση σύνδεση των μελών στις διαδραστικές τηλεδιασκέψεις



Χρήση της
Υπηρεσίας



Συνολικά:

46885

10902

483

Σήμερα:

0

0

0

Τώρα:

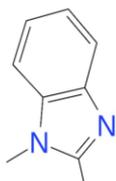
0

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0

VI-SEEM Success Story: The D3R Project

Ranked #1 out of 46 teams in this worldwide drug design competition



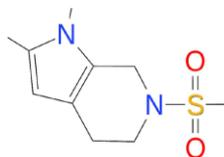
Benzimidazoles

6-9, 13-14, 19-22,
24-32, 35-36

Mean RMSD: **0.84 Å**

Mean Rank: **8**

- ✓ Known chemotype in crystal structures
- ✓ Docking, alignment, minimization worked really well



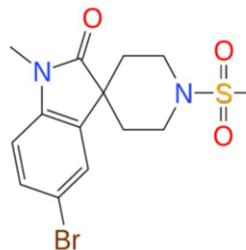
Sulfonamides

15-17

Mean RMSD: **2.95 Å**

Mean Rank: **6**

- ✓ Cross docking predicted unknown binding mode



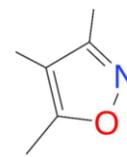
Spiros

10-12

Mean RMSD: **3.45 Å**

Mean Rank: **9**

- ✓ Cross docking predicted unknown binding mode



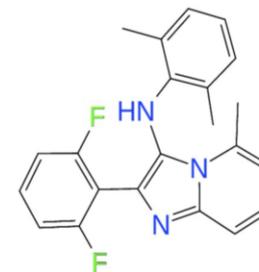
Isoxazoles

4, 23, 33

Mean RMSD: **4.94 Å**

Mean Rank: **43**

- ✓ Diversity in binding modes did not allow for accurate prediction



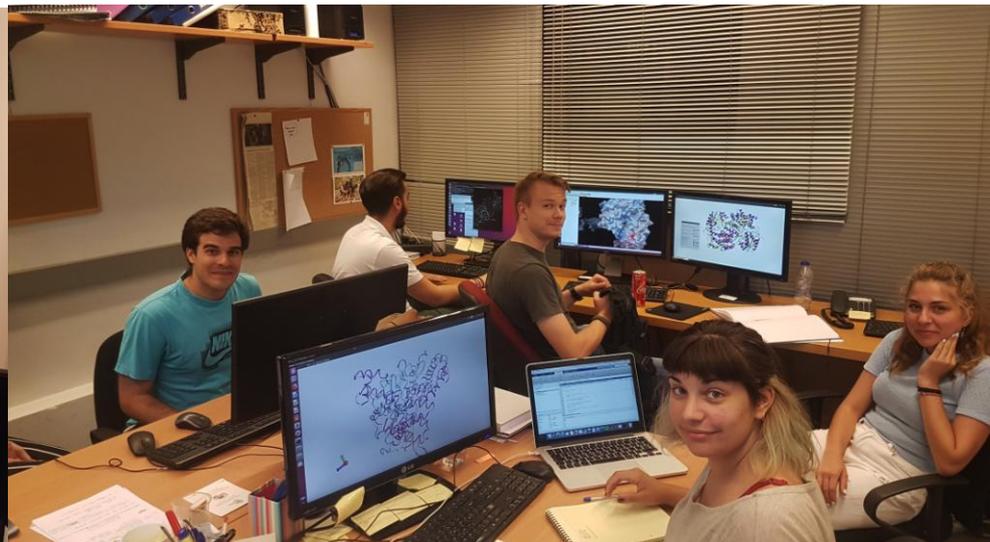
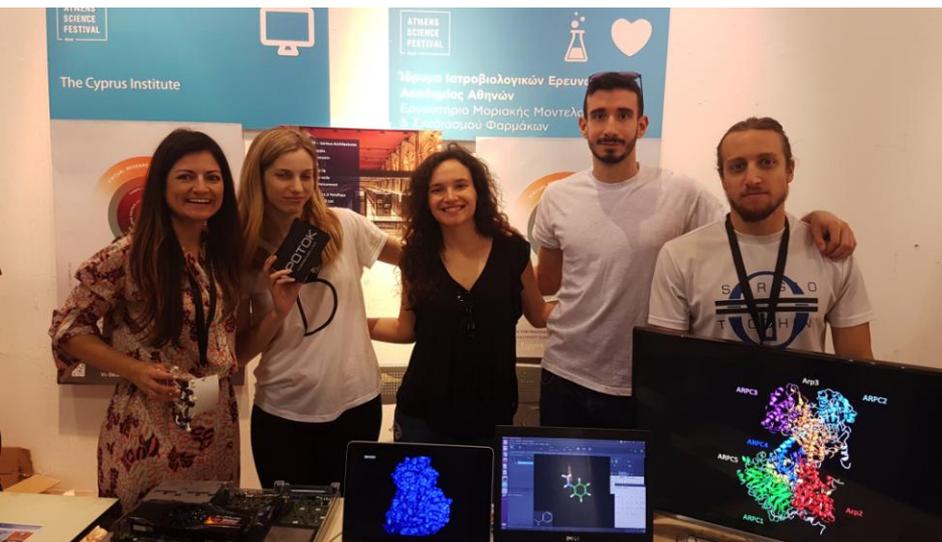
Miscellaneous

1-3, 5, 18, 34

Mean RMSD: **5.57 Å**

Mean Rank: **24**

- ✓ Cross docking did not work



Πέτρος Δημητρόπουλος
Βασίλης Γεωργακόπουλος
Έλενα Ροδίτη
Δήμητρα Γερογιαννοπούλου
Πέτρος Κοντραζής
Γιώργος Γαλανόπουλος
Αναστασία Θεοδωροπούλου
Δημήτρης Ντεκουμές
Γιούλη Βαρδάκα
Αργυρώ Ντάλιανη



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Coordinator GRNET 2018: A Sotiropoulos
Supervisors: D Dellis (GRNET), Z Cournia (BRFAA)



2016:
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Samanta Makurat (Gdansk U, PL)

2018:
Pedro Santos (Coimbra U, PT)
Petteri Vannika (Turku U, FL)





Coordinator GRNET : E Athanasaki

Supervisors: Z Cournia (BRFAA) / D Dellis (GRNET)



Leandro Battini

University of Buenos Aires
Argentina

15.11.2018 – 28.2.2019

**Optimization of antivirals
against Chikungunya
virus using Free Energy
Perturbation method**



Phaeton Brotzakis

ETH Zurich
Switzerland

8.1.2019 – 20.3.2019

**Conformational studies
of wild-type and
mutated K-Ras binding
to a membrane**



Michail Paparoudakis

University of Ediburgh
UK

1.2.2019 – 20.4.2019

**Investigating
predictive models for
the discovery of new
c-Myc inhibitors**

Project Team & Thank you!

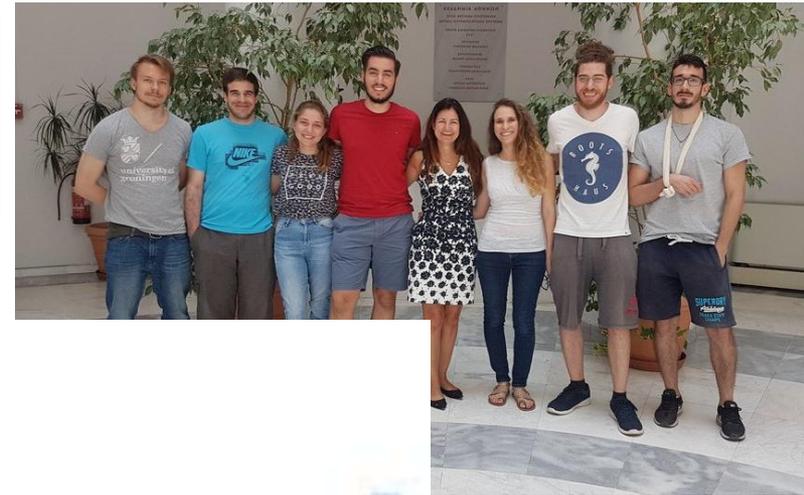
BRFAA

Cournia lab (MD, drug design, cells)

Dr. Evi Gkeka

Dr. Hari Leontiadou

Ioannis Galdadas, Christina Athanasiou



Efstratia

Dr. Ersi

Dr. Dimi

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Dr. Mari

University of Ioannina

Christoforidis lab (cell-free assays)

Alexandra Papafotika

Dr. Vasiliki Lazani



grnet



American Association for Cancer Research