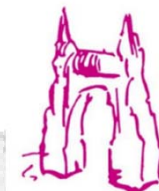


UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA



FACULTAT DE FARMÀCIA I
CIÈNCIES DE L'ALIMENTACIÓ

New therapeutic targets for neurodegenerative diseases

Carmen Escolano + **Collaborators**
Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry



INTRODUCTION

Neurodegenerative diseases
Social impact



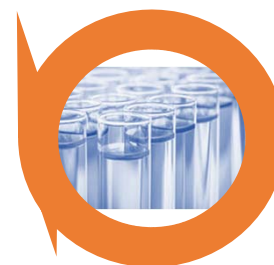
IMIDAZOLINE I₂ RECEPTORS

New strategy for Alzheimer's disease
I₂-IR Ligands



MULTICOMPONENT REACTIONS

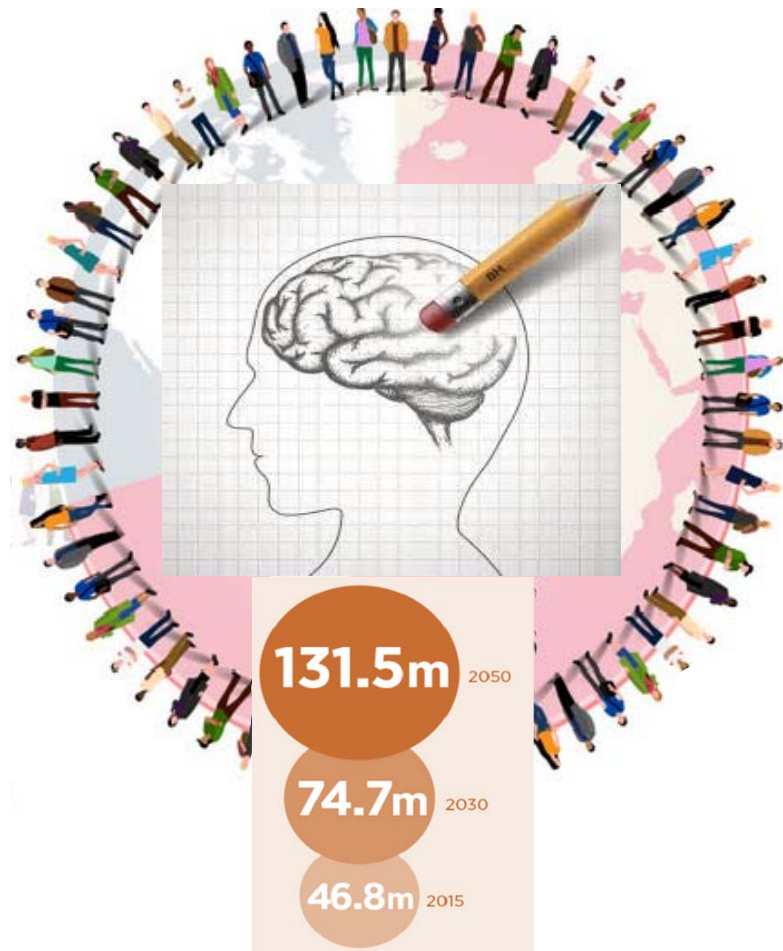
Concept MCR
Green chemistry
Synthesis of new compounds



NEW ACTIVE COMPOUNDS

New MCR I₂-IR ligands
New [3+2]cycloaddition I₂-IR ligands
Application in neurodegenerative diseases
Unmet medical needs (neuropathic pain, glioblastoma).

Neurodegenerative diseases



Crucial challenge for humankind



Dementia

50 million

Approximately 50 million people worldwide have dementia.

Dementia cost

\$818 billion

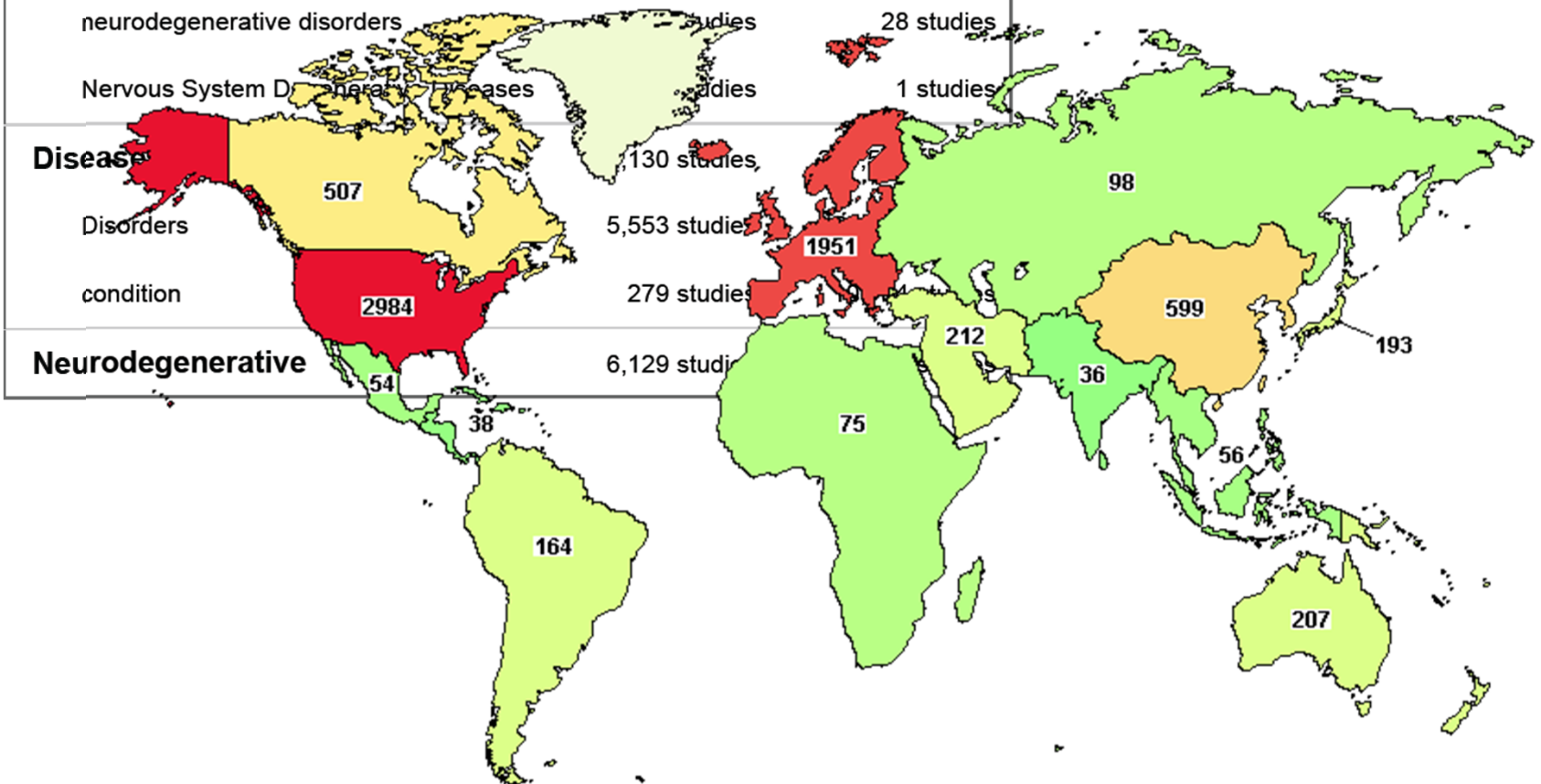
The majority of care is provided by family carers.



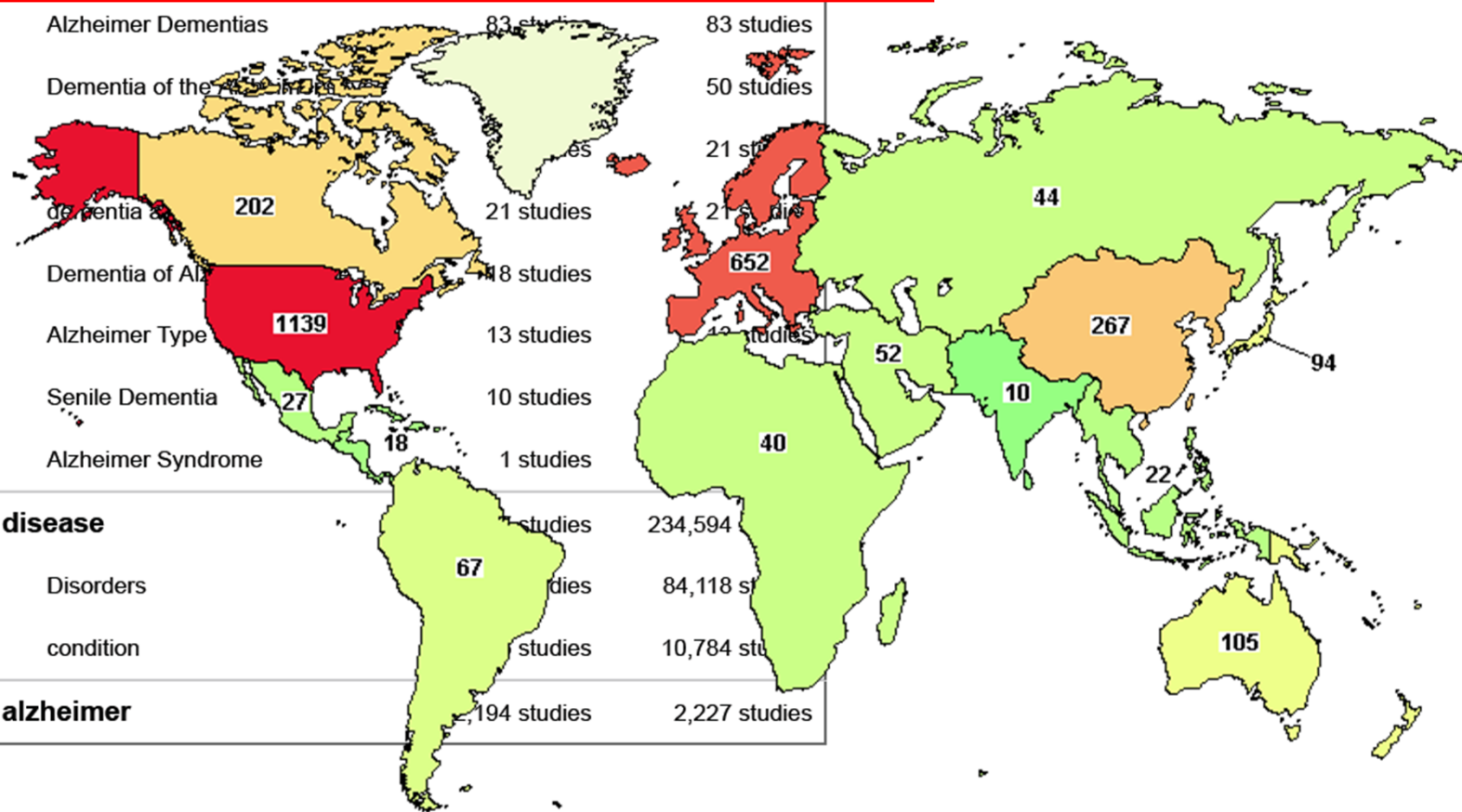
1 June 2018 – Only a few countries currently have formulated national dementia plans, despite approximately fifty million people worldwide living with dementia.

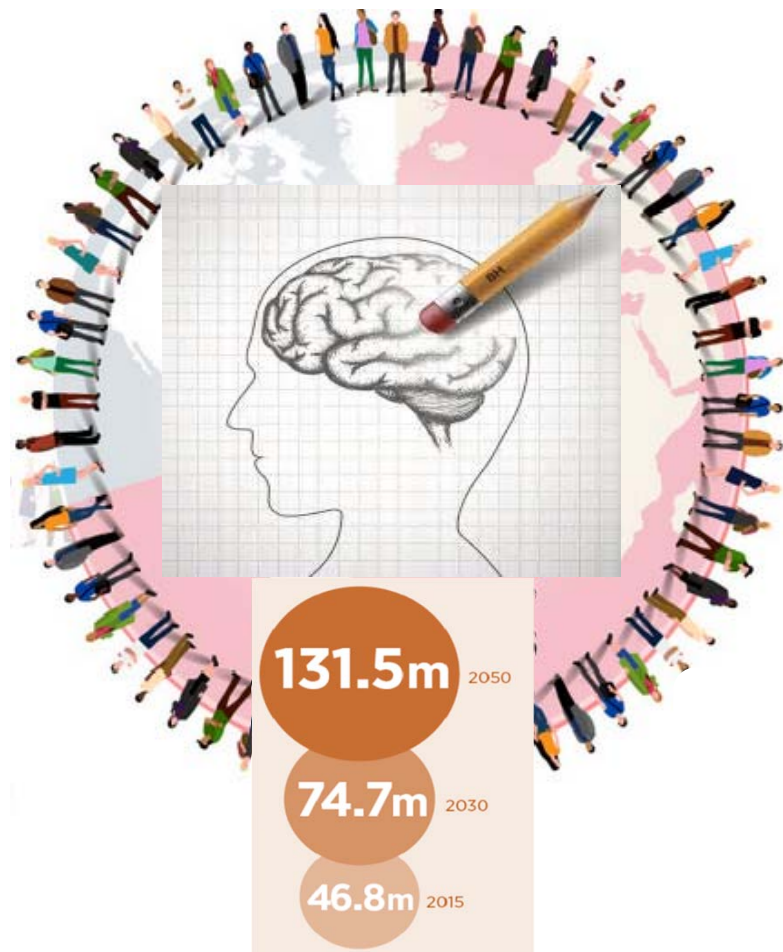
ClinicalTrials.gov

Terms	Search Results*	Entire Database**
Synonyms		
Neurodegenerative Diseases	6,129 studies	6,129 studies
neurodegenerative disorders	130 studies	28 studies
Nervous System Disorders	1 studies	
Disease		
Disorders	5,553 studies	
condition	279 studies	
Neurodegenerative	6,129 studies	



Terms	Search Results*	Entire Database**
Synonyms		
alzheimer disease	2,210 studies	2,210 studies
Alzheimer Dementias	83 studies	83 studies
Dementia of the Alzheimer Type	50 studies	50 studies
Alzheimer Dementia	21 studies	21 studies
Dementia of Alzheimer Type	18 studies	18 studies
Alzheimer Type	13 studies	13 studies
Senile Dementia	10 studies	10 studies
Alzheimer Syndrome	1 studies	1 studies
disease	234,594 studies	234,594 studies
Disorders	84,118 studies	84,118 studies
condition	10,784 studies	10,784 studies
alzheimer	194 studies	2,227 studies





Crucial challenge for humankind



- *Scarce*
- *Limited efficacy*
- *No new cognitive enhancer drug*



Inappropriate *therapeutic target?*





Solution:

- Look for ***NEW THERAPEUTIC TARGETS***
- Understand the mechanisms involved in neurodegeneration

➡ To address the multiple etiologies and pathophysiological processes of AD

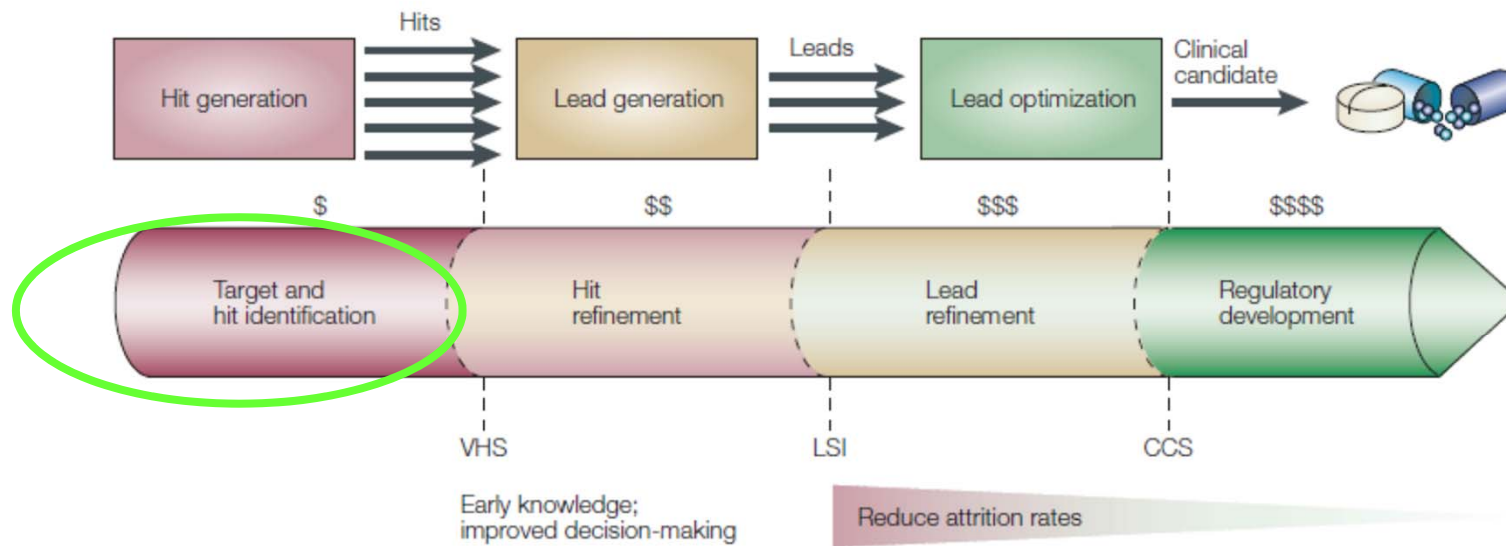




Solution:

- Look for **NEW THERAPEUTIC TARGETS**

Steps in the process of discovery and development





Solution:

- Look for ***NEW THERAPEUTIC TARGETS***



Know your target, know your molecule



Imidazoline I₂ receptors

Solution:

- Look for ***NEW THERAPEUTIC TARGETS***
- Understand the mechanisms involved in neurodegeneration
- ➔ To address the multiple etiologies and pathophysiological processes of AD

Imidazoline I₂ receptors (I₂-IR)

- Relatively unexplored target
- Widely distributed in the brain
- Increased in the brain of Alzheimer's patients



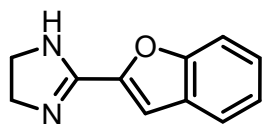


Known I_2 -IR ligands

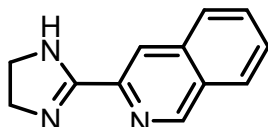
The nature of I_2 -IR and their respective signalling pathways have not been characterized

Competition binding studies against the selective I_2 -IR radioligand [^3H]-2-BFI and the selective α_2 -adrenoceptor (α_2 -AR) radioligand [^3H]RX821002.

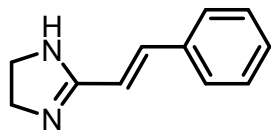
2-imidazoline-containing compounds



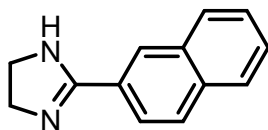
2-BFI



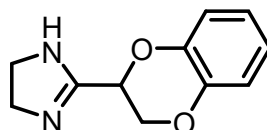
BU-224



tracizoline



benazoline



idazoxan

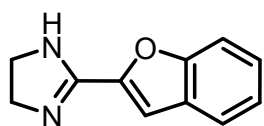


Known I_2 -IR ligands

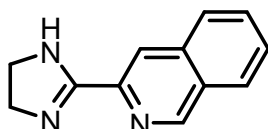
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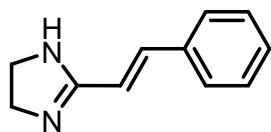
2-imidazoline-containing compounds



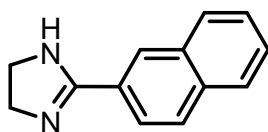
2-BFI



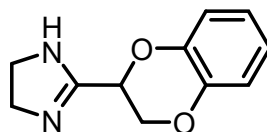
BU-224



tracizoline

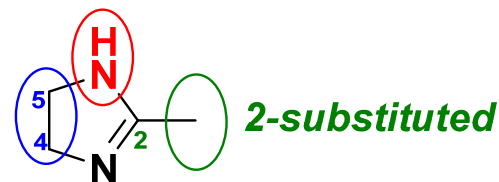


benazoline



idazoxan

**unsubstituted
nitrogen**



4,5-nonsubstituted

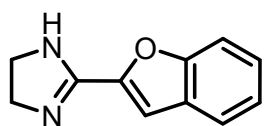


Known I₂-IR ligands

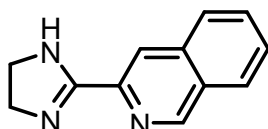
The nature of I₂-IR and their respective signalling pathways have not been characterized

Competition binding studies against the selective I₂-IR radioligand [³H]-2-BFI and the selective α₂-adrenoceptor (α₂-AR) radioligand [³H]RX821002.

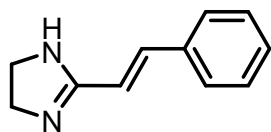
2-imidazoline-containing compounds



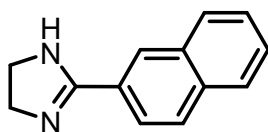
2-BFI



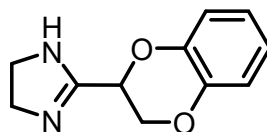
BU-224



tracizoline



benazoline



idazoxan

- Structurally restricted
- Low selectivity for I₂-IR/α₂-AR

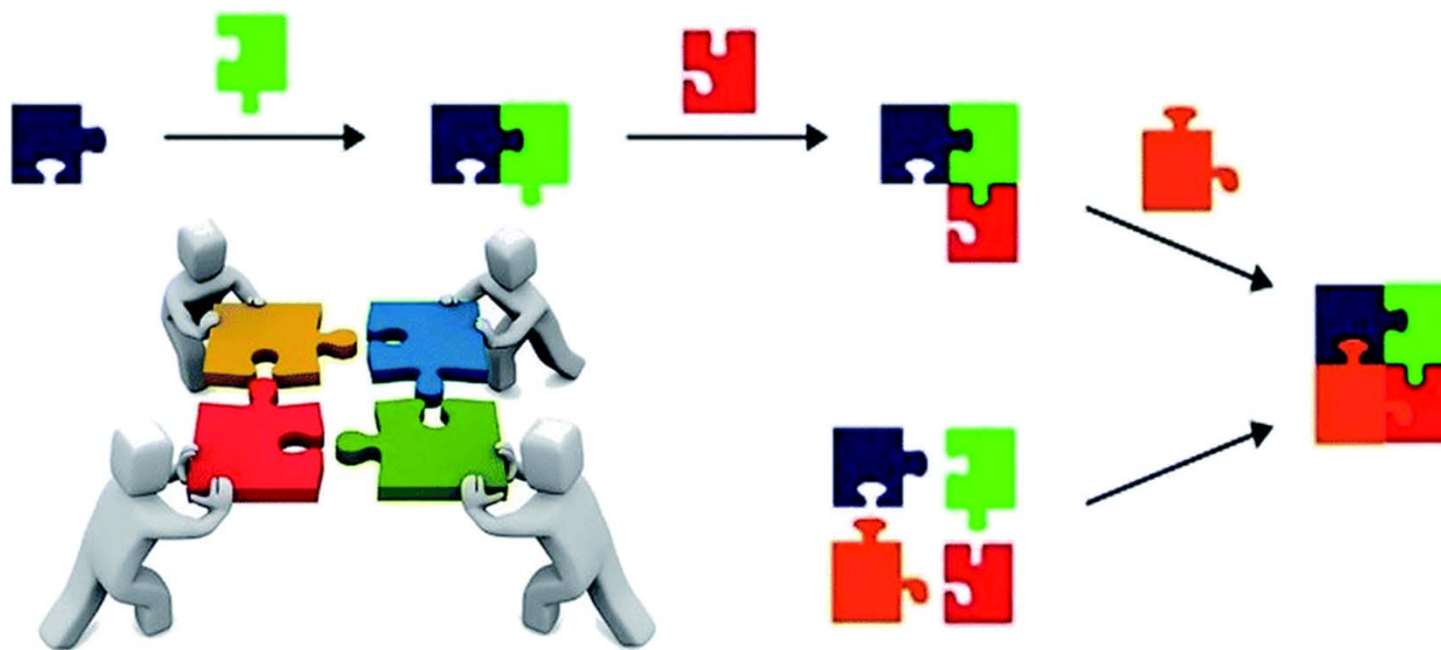


New 2-imidazoline derivatives with a different substitution pattern

Multicomponent reactions

Reactions in which more than two starting compounds react to form a product in such a way that the majority of the atoms of the starting material can be found in the product.

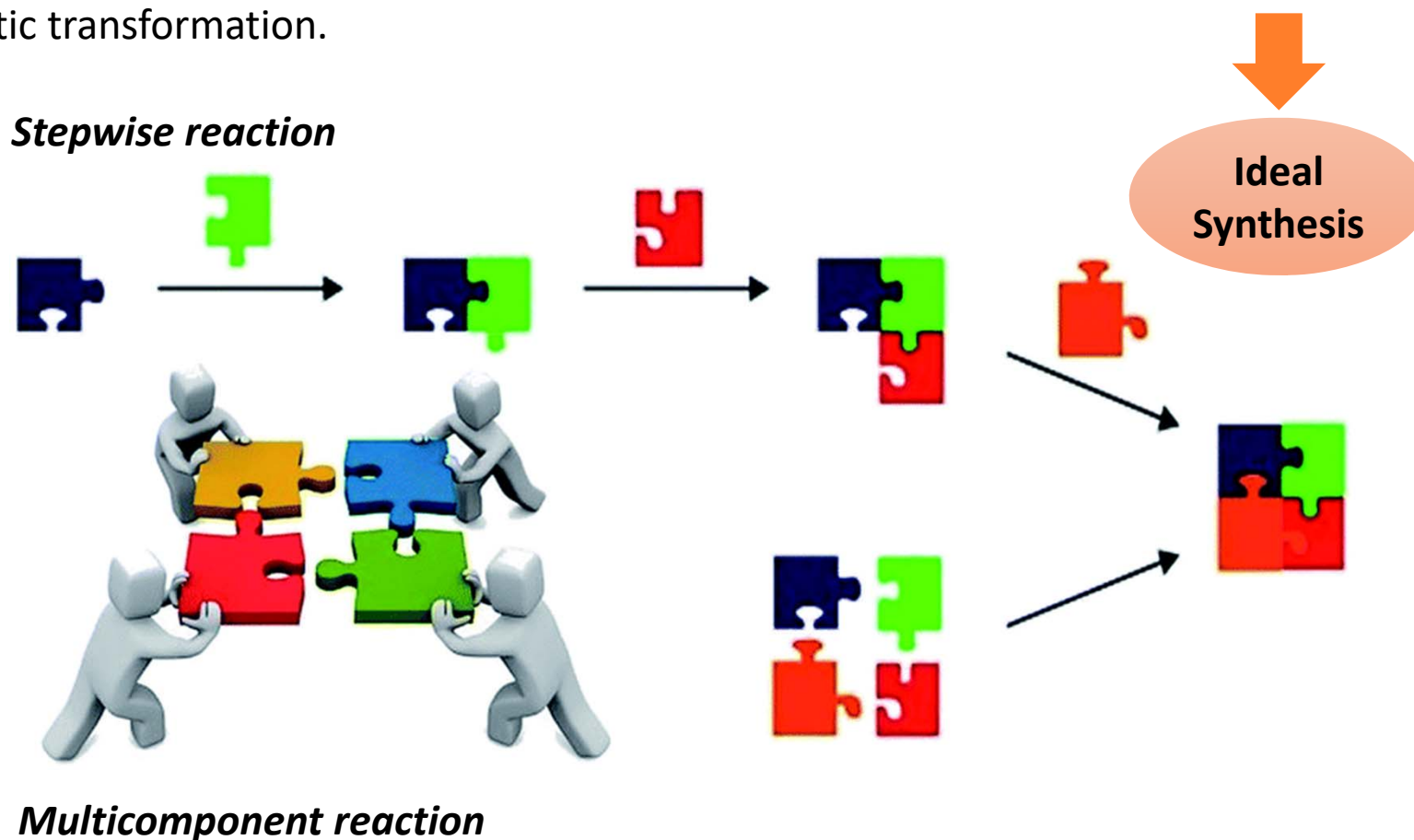
Stepwise reaction



Multicomponent reaction

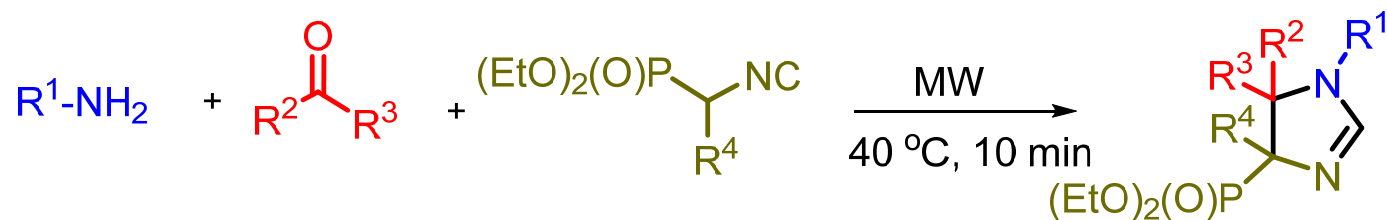
Multicomponent reactions

- **Atom economy**, the majority if not all of the atoms of the starting materials are incorporated in the product;
- **Efficiency**, the product is formed in one-step instead of multiple sequential steps;
- A very **high bond-forming index**, several non-hydrogen atom bonds are formed in one synthetic transformation.





New 2-imidazoline phosphonates



ISOCYANIDE-BASED MULTICOMPONENT REACTION

SOLVENT FREE/NON ANHYDROUS ATMOSPHERE

ATOM ECONOMY

MICROWAVE ASSISTED





Receptor binding affinities/new ligands

Competition binding studies against the selective I₂-IR radioligand [³H]-2-BFI and the selective α₂-AR radioligand [³H]RX821002.

Membranes from postmortem human frontal cortex.

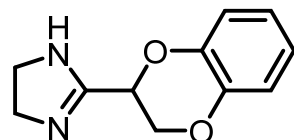
Blood Brain Penetration by PAMPA assays.



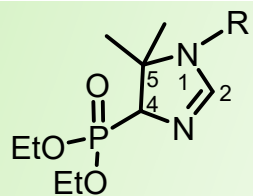
Abás, S.; Erdozain, A. M.; Keller, B.; Rodríguez-Arévalo, S.; Callado, L. F.; García-Sevilla, J. A.; Escolano, C. *ACS Chem. Neurosci.* **2017**, *8*, 737.



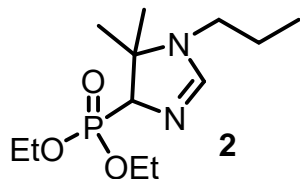
Receptor binding affinities/new ligands



idazoxan pK_i 7.27/ non I_2/α_2 selectivity



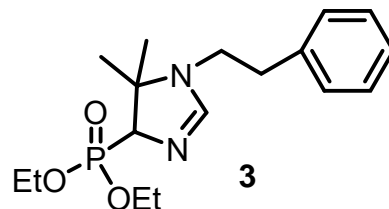
Series 1



2

pK_i 7.84

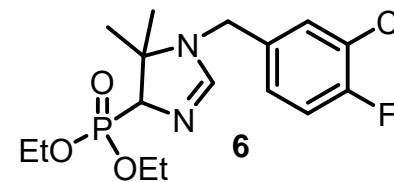
Selectivity I_2/α_2 7762



3

8.19

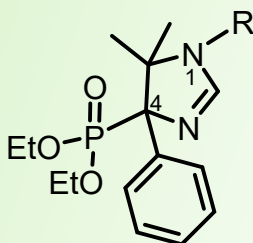
10233



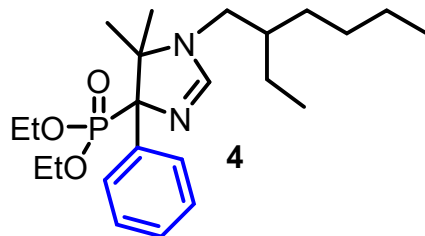
6

8.31

316



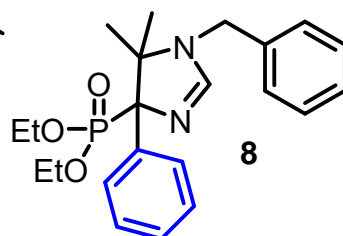
Series 2



4

pK_i 7.61

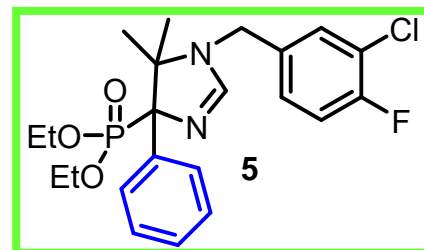
Selectivity I_2/α_2 955



8

8.89

23



5

9.42

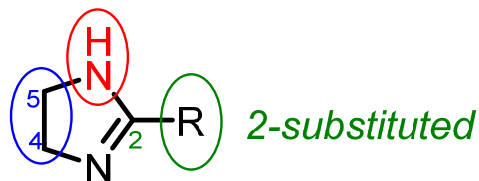
457



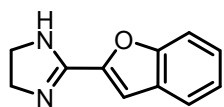
New 2-imidazoline phosphonates

Known I₂-IR ligands

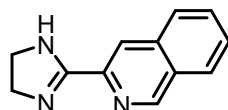
*unsubstituted
nitrogen*



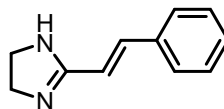
4,5-nonsubstituted



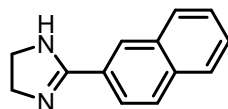
2-BFI



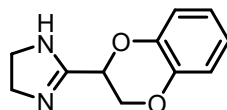
BU-224



tracizoline



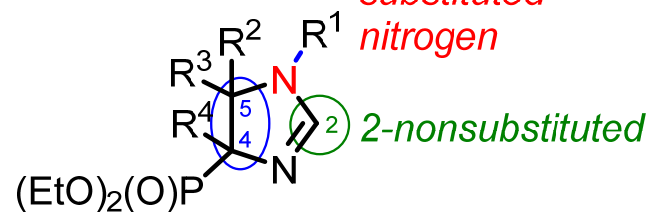
benazoline



idazoxan

New I₂-IR ligands

*substituted
nitrogen*



4,5,5-tri- or 4,4,5,5-tetrasubstituted



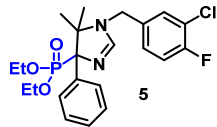
Competitive advantages

I₂-IR ligands
NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine
ClinicalTrials.gov

CR-4056 (Rottapharm Biotech)
the first-in-class imidazoline-2 receptor ligand
Osteoarthritis-Clinical Trial Phase II

[¹¹C]BU99008 (Imperial College London/GlaxoSmithKline)
PET studies for AD-Clinical Trial Early Phase I

Advantages of 5:



- vs other I₂-IR ligands: Higher affinity/selectivity against human brain I₂-IR
- vs current AD treatments (AChEI, NMDA_{ant}): new mechanism of action
new therapeutic opportunities

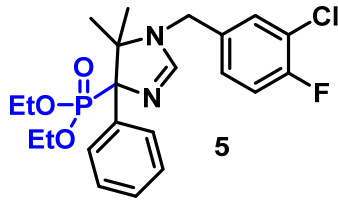
No companies or academic groups are working on I₂-IR ligands for AD therapeutics





Stability studies

- Solubility
- Chemical stability: light, solid, solution, temperature...



ADMET studies

- Inhibition of cytochrome P450 enzymes
- Microsomal stability
- Inhibition of hERG channels
- Preliminary cytotoxicity: Cell lines tested: MRC-5, HEL, HeLa, MDCK and MT4

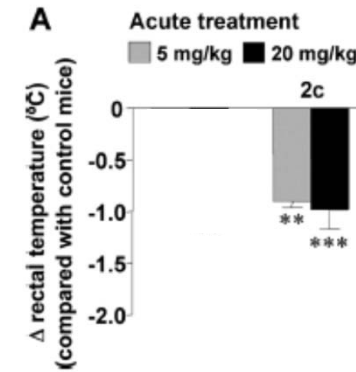
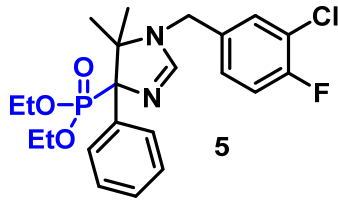
No warnings!!!!





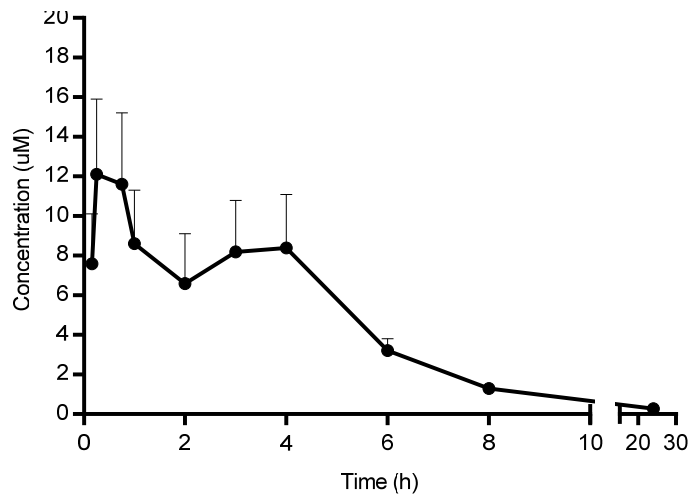
Hypothermia

Induces **hypothermic** effects
→ neuroprotection



Pharmacokinetics

Plasma concentration and standard error after oral administration in mice (n=4) IP at 5 mg/Kg

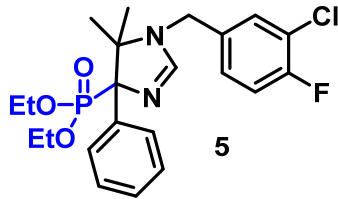


Good bioavailability

Pharmacokinetic parameters
AUC_0^∞ (ug*h/ml): 28,8
AUC_0^t (ug*h/ml): 27,8
T_{max} : 0,25h
C_{max} : 5,49 ug/ml;
$t_{1/2\beta}$:5,76 h



In vivo cognitive studies



In drinking water at 5 mg/Kg
for 1 month



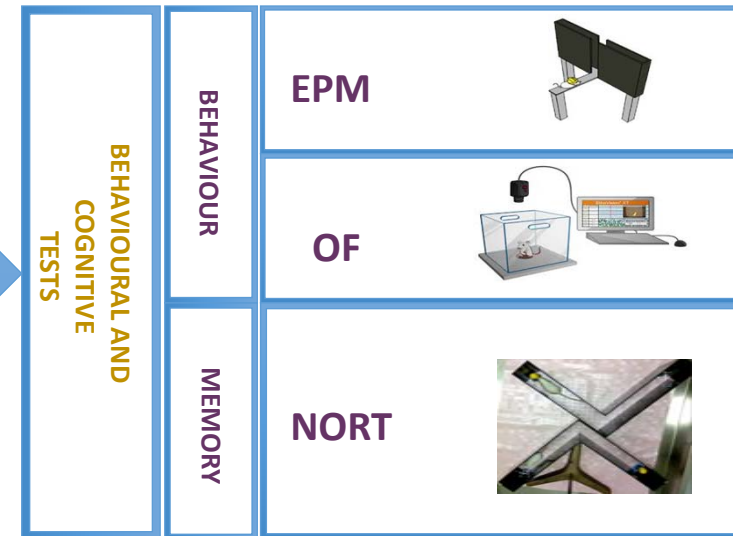
Female 12 months-old

♀



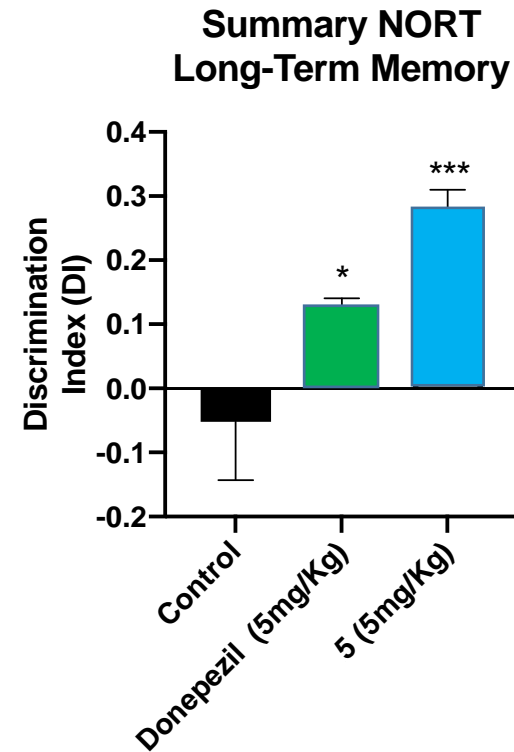
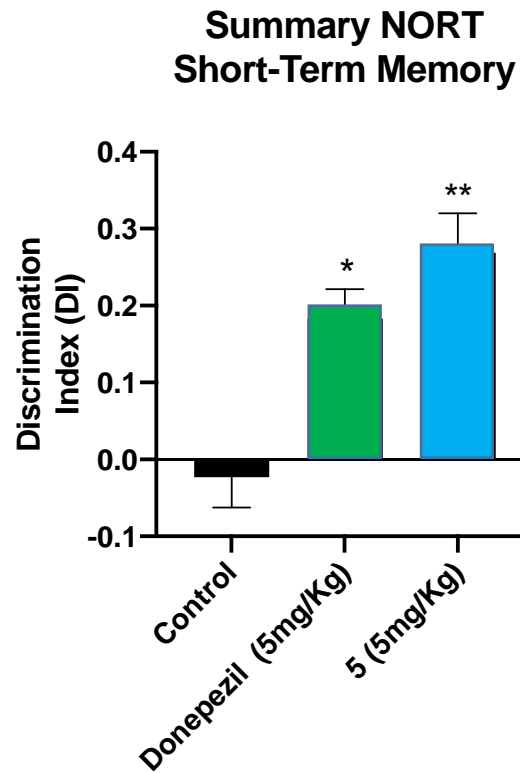
SAMP8 Ct (n=8)

SAMP8 MCR 5 (n=8)





In vivo cognitive studies/donepezil

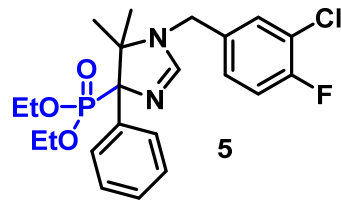


Between 6- and 8-month-old and Males SAMP8 (n = 10-12; each group).

One Way ANOVA followed by Dunnett posthoc test; *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001



In vivo cognitive studies



In drinking water at 5 mg/Kg
for 1 month

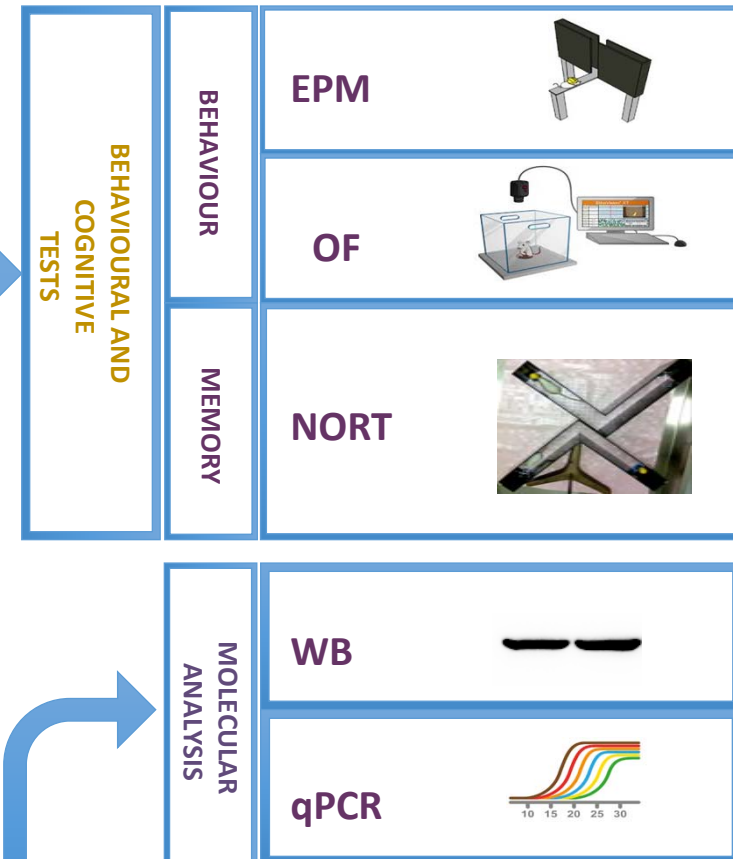


Female 12 months-old



SAMP8 Ct (n=8)

SAMP8 MCR 5 (n=8)



Reduction of inflammatory markers
and anti-oxidant enzymes increase

Griñán, C.; Vasilopoulou, F.; Abás, S.; Rodríguez-Arévalo, S.; Bagán, S.; Sureda, F. X.; Pérez, B.; Callado, L. F.; García-Sevilla, J. A.; Escolano, C. *Neurotherapeutics* 2019, 16, 416.

Ligand based approach-3D QSAR

Data set preparation

- I₂ - 38 compounds; pKi: 9.42-3.64
- Alpha₂ - 39 compounds; pKi: 7.52-3.95

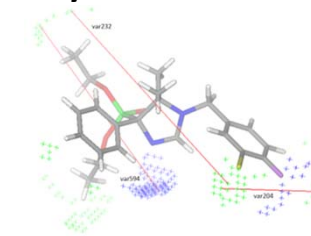
3D-QSAR model building

- Calculation of GRID independent descriptors
- Training set 70% - building PLS model; test set 30% - model validation

Model validation

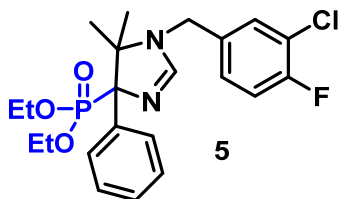
- Internal and external validation → to ensure the reliability and predictability of created QSAR models.

Pharmacophore analysis



3D-QSAR approach was used to find crucial structural features responsible for high binding affinity and selectivity of I₂-IR ligands.

Conclusions 2-imidazoline phosphonates

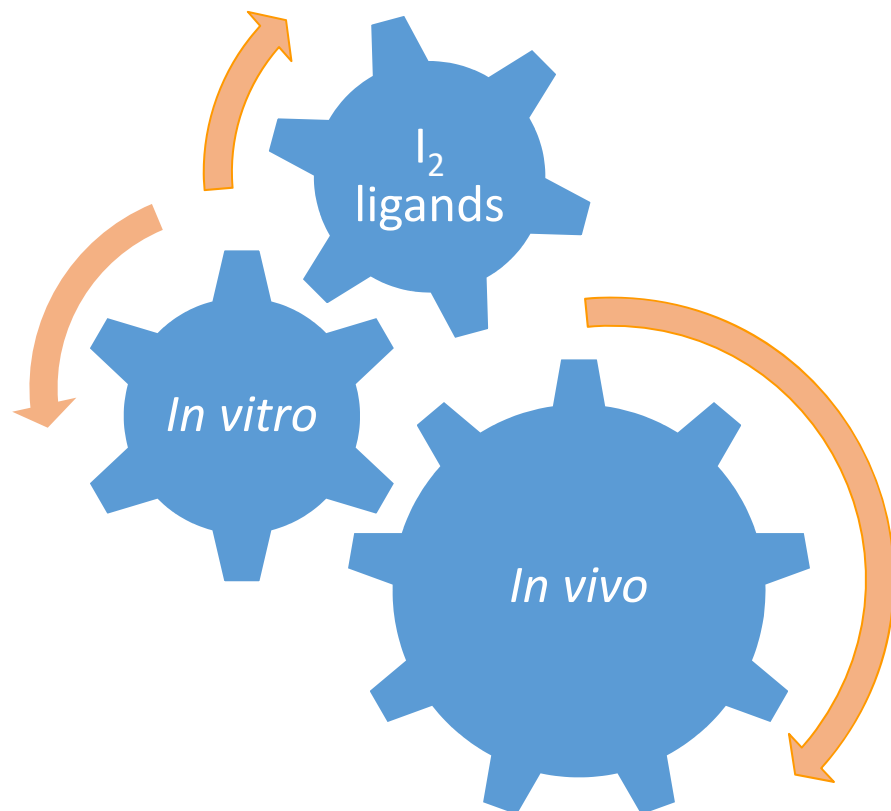


5 improves the cognitive decline in SAMP8

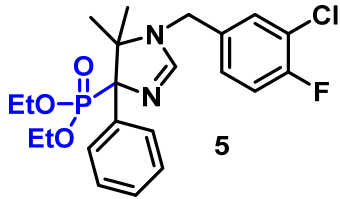


First experimental evidence

I₂-IR new target for AD



Conclusions



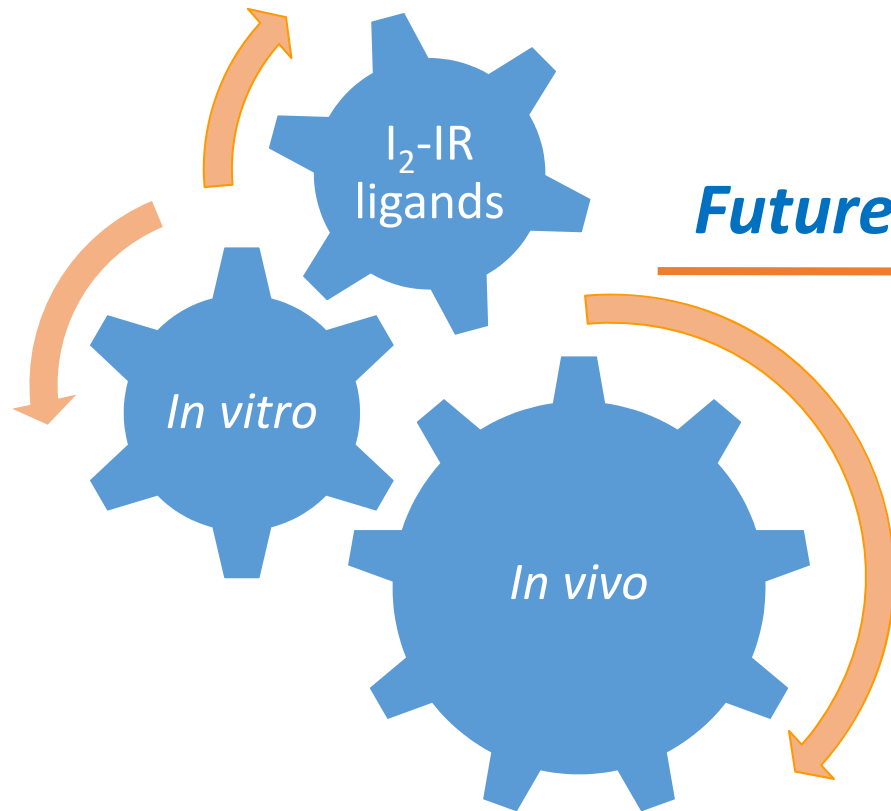
5 improves the cognitive decline in SAMP8



First experimental evidence

I₂-IR new target for AD

Future perspectives



- *Target engagement*

Definition of the signalling pathways of I₂-IR

Read-out for new of I₂-IR ligands (*in vitro* test)



Imidazoline I₂ receptors

- Target engagement

- Relatively unexplored target
- Widely distributed in the brain
- Increased in the brain of Alzheimer's patients



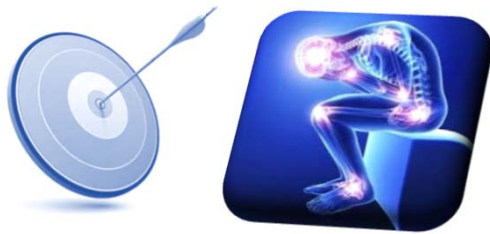
NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine

ClinicalTrials.gov

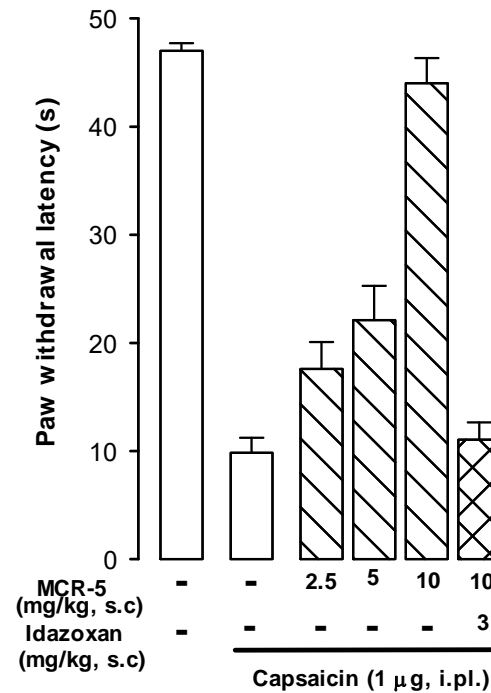
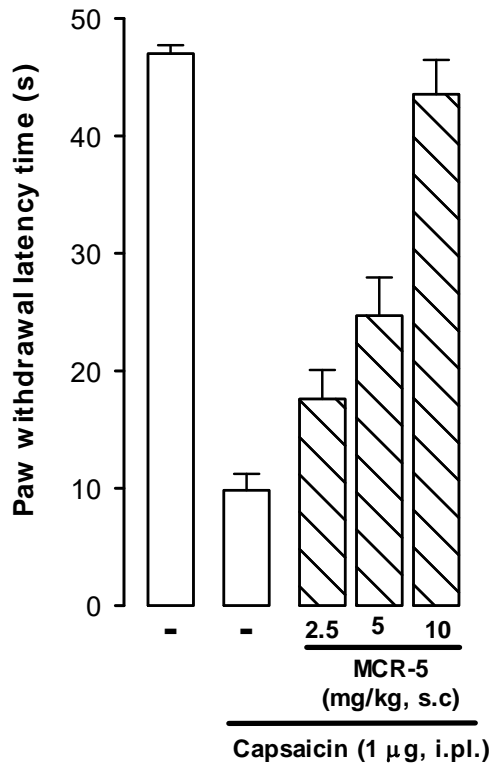
CR-4056 (Rottapharm Biotech)
the first-in-class imidazoline-2 receptor ligand
Osteoarthritis-Clinical Trial Phase II

➔ Neuropathic pain **UNMET MEDICAL NEED**





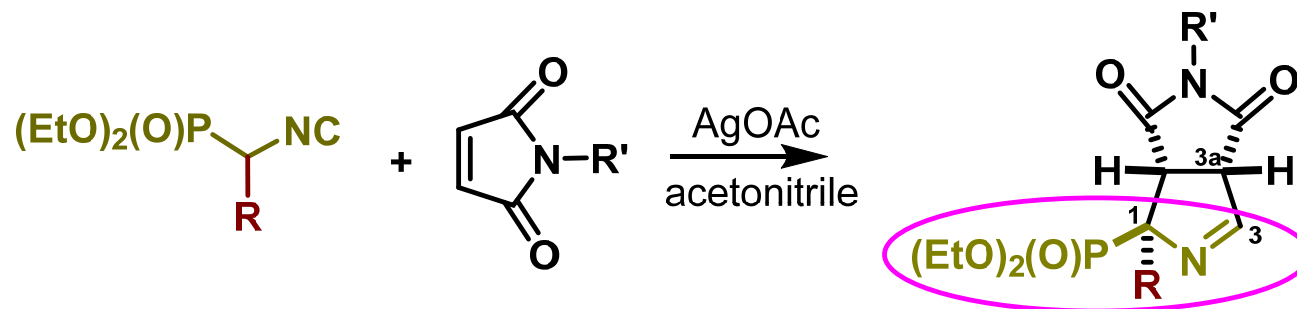
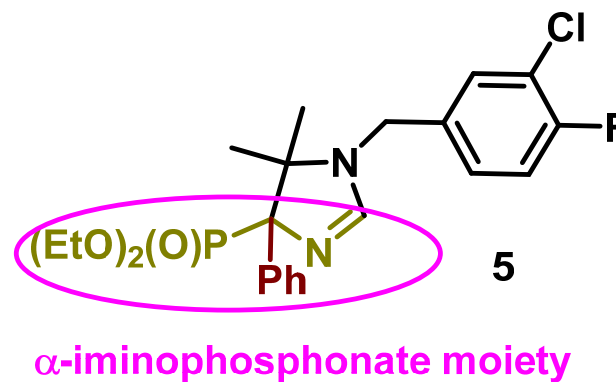
Imidazoline I₂ receptors



➔ Neuropathic pain **UNMET MEDICAL NEED**



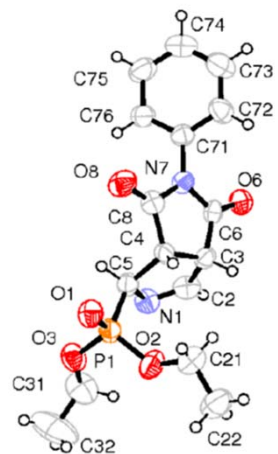
New bicyclic α -iminophosphonates



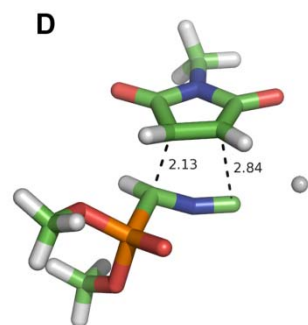
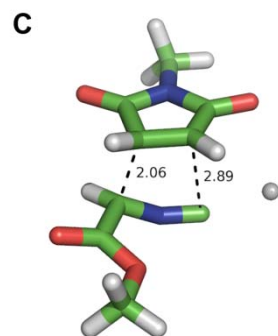
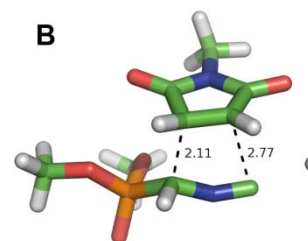
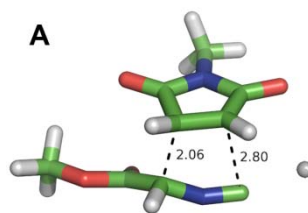
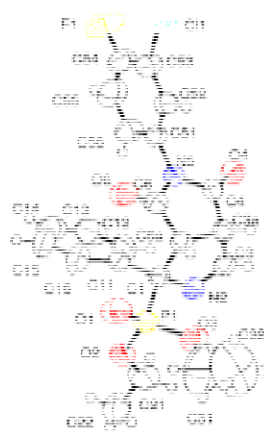
Diastereoselective [3+2] cycloaddition reaction



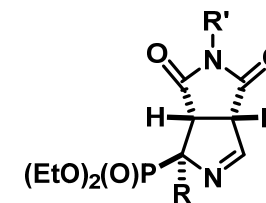
New bicyclic α -iminophosphonates



X-Ray crystallography

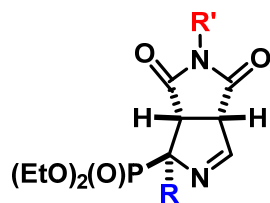


Theoretical calculations





New bicyclic α -iminophosphonates



R'-	R- = H-	Ph-	4-FPh-	4-MeOPh-	PhCH ₂ -	4FPhCH ₂ -
Me	8a	9a				
cyclohexyl	8b	9b				
Ph	8c	9c	12c	13c	14c	15c
3-Cl,4-FPh	8d	9d	12d	13d		
4-MeOPh	8e	9e				

R' =

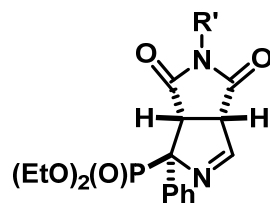
9f, Et
9g, propyl
9h, *t*-butyl
9i, (1-adamantyl)methyl-

9j, PhCH₂-
9k, PhCH₂CH₂-
9l, 4-FPhCH₂CH₂-
9m, Ph(CH₂)₂CH-

9n, 4-CF₃Ph-
9o, 3-CF₃Ph-
9p, 4-FPh-
9q, 4-ClPh-
9r, 2-ClPh-
9s, 3-ClPh-
9t, 4-BrPh-
9u, 3,5-diClPh-
9v, 3,4-diClPh-
9w, 2,4,6-triClPh-
9x, 3-NO₂Ph-
9y, 3-NO₂,6-CH₃Ph-

9z, 4-PhPh-
9aa, 4-CH₃Ph-
9ab, 4-PhOPh-

9ac, 1-naphthyl
9ad, 2-Cl,3-pyridyl



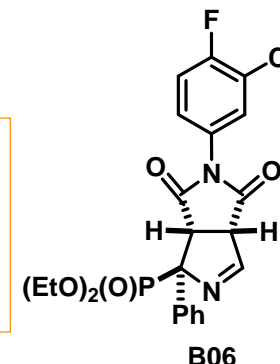


Receptor binding affinities/new ligands

Our asset

New family of
small molecules

- **Short** synthetic process
- **High affinity** and **selectivity** for the human I₂-IR
- **Good Blood Brain Barrier penetration** properties



B06 (Ki 3 nM)

Non-cytotoxicity
(human fibroblasts, CC₅₀>100 μM)

No inhibition of hERG channels (IC₅₀> 10 μM)
→ no cardiac side-effects

Improves the behavior and cognition
in two murine models,
neurodegeneration (SAMP8)
and AD (5xFAD)

Induces hypothermic effects
→ neuroprotection



Bosch i Gimpera

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Receptor binding affinities/new ligands

Protected by European patent application
(WO 2019/121853 A1 , December 2018)

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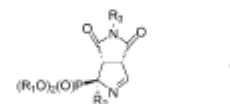
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:
— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(iii))

Published:
— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

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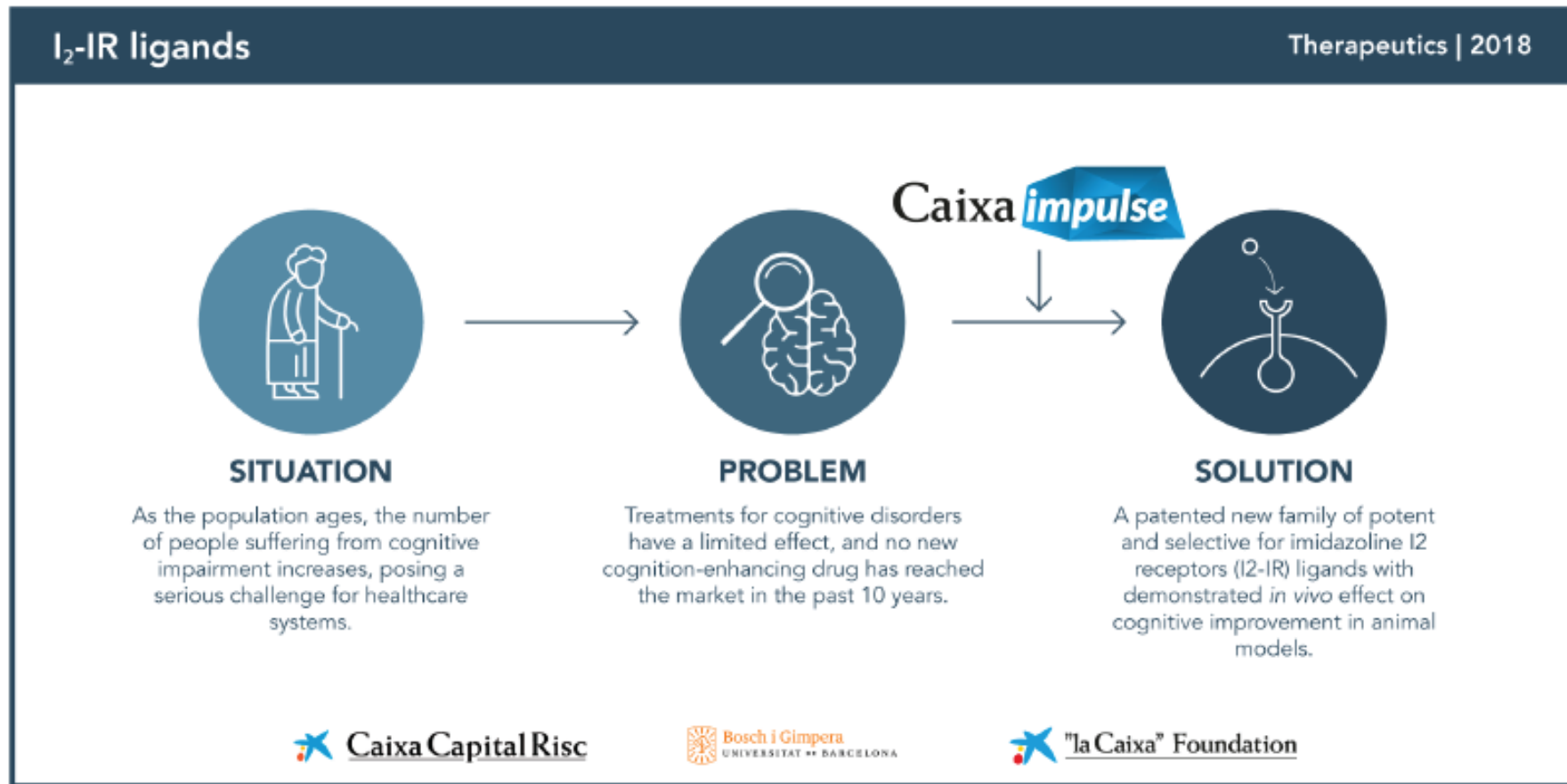
(54) Title: SYNTHETIC I₂ IMIDAZOLINE RECEPTOR LIGANDS FOR PREVENTION OR TREATMENT OF HUMAN BRAIN DISORDERS



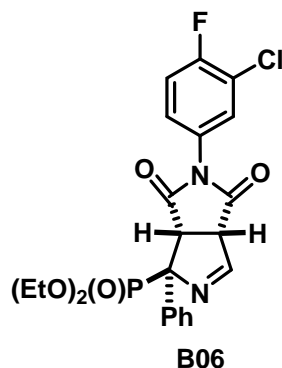
(57) Abstract: Compounds of formula I, their respective mirror-image enantiomers, and mixtures-preferably racemic-of both enantiomers, wherein R₁ is ethyl or phenyl; R₂ is methyl, phenyl, monosubstituted phenyl, benzyl, or monosubstituted benzyl; R₃ is selected from the group consisting of: (C₁-C₆)-alkyl, (C₁-C₆)-cycloalkyl, -[CH₂]_n-phenyl, -[CH₂]_n-2-naphthyl, -[CH₂]_n-2-naphthyl, and -[CH₂]_n-[substituted phenyl]; wherein [substituted phenyl] is a phenyl radical with one, two or three substituents independently selected from: F, Cl, Br, (C₁-C₃)-alkyl, (C₁-C₃)-alkoxy, phenyl, phenoxyl, -CF₃, -OCF₃, nitro, -CN, -CO-(C₁-C₃)-alkyl and benzoyl, and n is an integer between 0 and 4; have a high affinity for imidazoline receptors of the I₂ type, i.e. they are I₂-IR ligands. Consequently they are applicable in the prevention or treatment of brain disorders in animals, including humans, particularly of neurodegenerative disorders, and more particularly of Alzheimer's disease (AD).

Valorization for TechTransfer

I2-IR ligands



Pharmacokinetics



Fundación MEDINA
Centro de Excelencia
en Investigación de
Medicamentos Innovadores
en Andalucía

Metabolic profiling

- Levels of **B06** in CNS
- Determination of metabolites
 - Microsomal stability
 - Plasmatic stability
 - Structure (mass spectrometry)

Future perspectives

Synthesis of metabolites and pharmacological evaluation
Modification of the molecule

Future perspectives



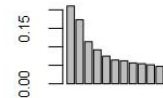
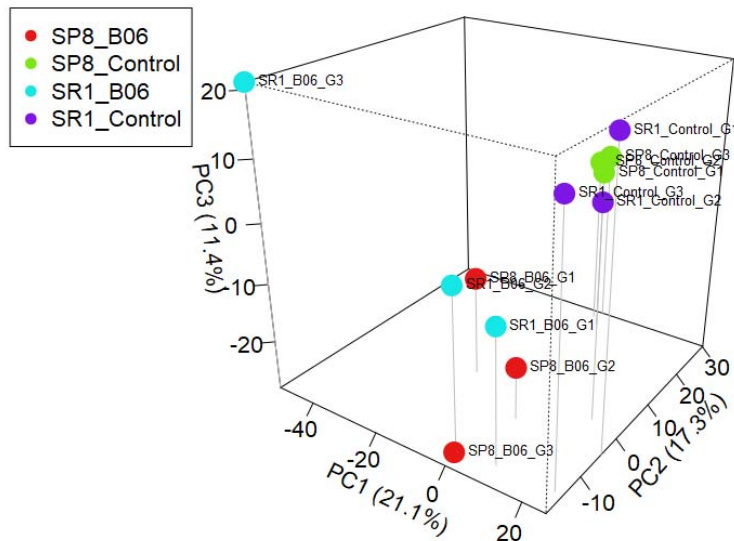
Proteomics



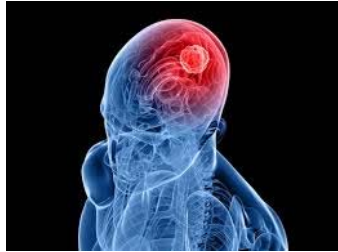
- Target engagement



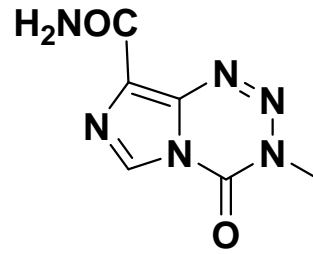
PCA Plot (49.8%)



SP8_B06	Phenotype SP8 Control
SP8_Control	Phenotype SP8 Control
SR1_B06	Phenotype SR1 B06
SR1_Control	Phenotype SR1 Control

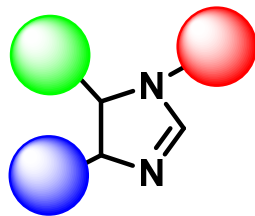


orpha.net *Glioblastoma*



temozolomide

Gold standard
IC₅₀ de 14.5 μM en LN-229 cells



New family
embodying 2-imidazoline nucleus
Synthesis MCR



KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT
LEUVEN
Rega Instituut

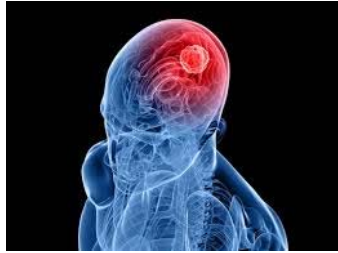


IC₅₀ 7 μM in LN-229 cells ✓

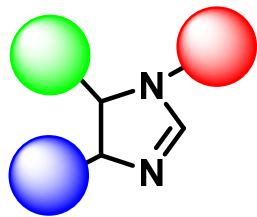
PAMPA BBB permeation ✓



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Glioblastoma



New family
embodying 2-imidazoline nucleus
Synthesis MCR



IC₅₀ 7 μ M in LN-229 cells ✓

PAMPA BBB permeation ✓

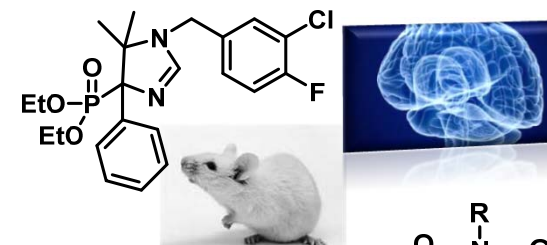
NEW STRATEGY FOR NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES (AD)



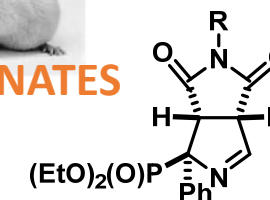
NEW IMIDAZOLINE I₂ RECEPTORS LIGANDS
MULTICOMPONENT REACTIONS



FIRST *IN VIVO* EVIDENCE I₂-IR LIGANDS FOR AD



NEW FAMILY OF I₂-IR LIGANDS: BICYCLIC α -IMINOPHOSPHONATES



I₂-IR LIGANDS FOR NEUROPATHIC PAIN



MCR compounds for GLIOBLASTOMA





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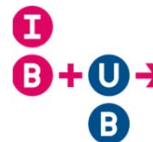
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THANK YOU