## **XXI Summer School in Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry**



# Rio de Janeiro, January 27th, 2015



Pain Research Today: from Morphine to Tapentadol & Some Refelections on the Pharmaceutical Industry

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# How it all started

In the mid-1990s, Grünenthal scientists in Aachen were asked to develop novel centrally acting analgesics.

February 8<sup>th</sup> 1994 was the birthday of PALEXIA<sup>®</sup>: for the first time, chemist Helmut Buschmann and his coworkers succeeded in synthesizing a few gram of a new active substance. At that time PALEXIA<sup>®</sup> was a drug candidate named by his inventor "BN200".

# Tapentadol – The Path To The Market



# **Tapentadol**





Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office



# 

(11) EP 0 693 475 B1

### (12)

### EUROPÄISCHE PATENTSCHRIFT

 (45) Veröffentlichungstag und Bekanntmachung des Hinweises auf die Patenterteilung: 11.02.1998 Patentblatt 1998/07
 (51) Int CL<sup>6</sup>: C07C 217/72, C07C 215/54, C07C 215/62, C07C 215/30, C07C 217/74, C07C 219/22, C07C 217/74, C07C 219/22, C07C 271/58, C07C 323/32, C07D 319/18, C07D 307/79, A61K 31/135

#### (54) 1-Phenyl-3-dimethylamino-propanverbindungen mit pharmakologischer Wirkung

1-Phenyl-3-dimethylamino-propane derivatives having pharmacological activity

Dérivés propane 1-phényl-3-diméthylamino à activité pharmocologique

(84)	Benannte Vertragsstaaten: AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE	(56) Entgegenhaltungen: EP-A- 0 176 049 DD-A- 124 521
	Benannte Erstreckungsstaaten: <b>LT LV SI</b>	<ul> <li>CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 54, no. 20, 25.Oktober 1960 Columbus, Ohio, US; abstract no. 20963c, I.N. NAZAROV ET AL, 'Svnthetic</li> </ul>
(30)	Priorität: 23.07.1994 DE 4426245	<ul> <li>analgesic substances.' Seite 20963; Spalte 1;</li> <li>JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES,</li> </ul>
(43)	Veröffentlichungstag der Anmeldung:	Bd. 57, Nr. 9, September 1968 Seiten 1487-1493,
	24.01.1996 Patentblatt 1996/04	N.D. POTTI ET AL. 'Use of 3-Azabicyclo(3.2.1)octane in the Mannich
(73)	Patentinhaber: Grünenthal GmbH	Reaction
	D-52078 Aachen (DE)	<ul> <li>JOURNAL OF PHAMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, Bd. 59, Nr. 7, Juli 1970 Seiten 1038-1041, PYARE</li> </ul>
(72)	Erfinder:	PARIMOO ET AL. 'New Compounds: Some
•	Buschmann, Helmut, Dr.	potential chemotherapeutic agents derived from
	D-52066 Aachen (DE)	aralkyl ketones'
• :	Strassburger, Wolfgang, Prof. Dr.	
	D-52146 Würselen (DE)	Bemerkungen:
•	Friderichs, Elmar, Dr.	Die Akte enthält technische Angaben, die nach dem
l	D-52223 Stolberg (DE)	Eingang der Anmeldung eingereicht wurden und die nicht in dieser Patentschrift enthalten sind.



# Pain Research Today: from Morphine to Tapentadol

- Pain Transduction
- The Analgesic Market
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  - Metabolism
  - Synthesis
  - Clinical Development



Pain



Le Mal de Tete

# **Facts About Pain and Pain Treatment**









# **Facts about Pain**

- Pain is a highly complex, heterogeneous and dynamic process that involves multiple interrelated neurotransmitter and neuromodulator systems in the spinal cord, ascending and descending spinal pathways and supraspinal sites
- It is experienced as an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with potential or real tissue damage.
- It constitutes the body's mechanism of self-preservation; it serves as a warning to indicate harm or impending danger to body tissues and the need to avoid injury and/or take care of oneself.
- Pain has both sensory and emotional aspects, and emerges when there is a discrepancy between what an individual expects of himself and what he really is or does
- According to the International Association for the Study of Pain's Taxonomy Task Force, pain is a subjective experience that is learned by the individual through experiences relating to injuries in early life



# **Overview of the Different Types of Pain**





# **Focus on Neuropathic Pain**

### Neuropathic pain encompasses a wide range of pain syndromes

### **NEUROPATHIC PAIN**

Initiated or caused by a lesion or dysfunction in the nervous system (PNS or CNS) MIXED PAIN Pain with neuropathic and nociceptive components

### NOCICEPTIVE PAIN

Pain caused by injury to body tissues



### **UNMET NEED FOR TREATMENT**

### Signs and symptoms:

### ≻Allodynia

Pain from an innocuous stimulus\* that normally does not evoke pain

### ≻Hyperalgesia

Exaggerated response to a normall painful stimulus\*

\* The stimulus may be mechanical or thermal



# **The Evolution in Pain Research**





### **Descartes (1644)**

Mayer et al. (1999)



### Many Targets for one Disease Multiple Mode of Actions for Analgesics





# **Function of the Target Location**





# Physiology and Pathophysiology of Pain

### C-Fibre Activation

The physiological aspects of lasting pain can be described as when a mechanical, thermal, chemical or electrical stimulus strong enough to damage tissue or affect cellular metabolism, stimulates the nociceptive free nerve endings of the C-fibres, which are found all over the surface of the body and its organs.

### **Αδ-Fibre Activation**

Several subtypes of A-fibres also carry afferent nociceptive impulses. The damaged tissue sends out nerve impulses through nerve tracts in the spinal cord to the brain (cerebral cortex) where the stimulus becomes a conscious feeling of pain.

### Endogenous Pain Mediators

In addition to nervous pain impulses, injured tissues produce inflammatory pain-producing substances, including bradykinin and other kinins, serotonin, histamine, acetylcholine, excesses of potassium ions, proteolytic enzymes and prostaglandins, which can act in synergy to increase pain levels.



# **Pain Fibres** *Aδ- and C-Fibres*





# **Pain Signal Transduction**





# Tapentadol - From Morphine and Tramadol to the Discovery Tapentadol

## Pain Transduction

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# **Analgesic Market**



# The Total Pain Market 2006-2015



Jain PharmaBiotech Report, Pain Therapeutics – Drugs, Markets & Companies, K.K. Jain, October 2007

# **Analgesic Market**



### Pain markets according to geographical areas Distribution of values of pain therapeutics in major markets 2006-2015



Jain PharmaBiotech Report, Pain Therapeutics – Drugs, Markets & Companies, K.K. Jain, October 2007

# **Analgesic Market**



## Pain markets based on drugs Markets for pain according to therapies 2006-2015





Jain PharmaBiotech Report, Pain Therapeutics – Drugs, Markets & Companies, K.K. Jain, October 2007



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### **Current Analgesic Treatment Options**



# Most analgesics are based on two principles





# **Current Analgesic Therapy**

### **NSAIDs**

- Unselective COX inhibitors
- Selective COX-2
   inhibitors
- Acetaminophen

### Opioids

- Opiates – morphin, codein
- Opioids
  - N-methyl piperidines
  - 4-amido piperidines
  - 3,3-Bisarylprpylamines
  - cyclohexyl amimes

### **Adjuvants**

- Antidepressants
- Anticonvulsants
- Local anesthetics





Setail study of The Lacoon Grayp. c. 125 BC Vatican, Zome





# **Different Structures of Current Analgesic Drugs**





# **WHO Analgesic Ladder**



Combination of drugs are used to enhance the analgesic efficacy of opioids, treat concurrent symptoms that exacerbate pain, and provide independent analgesia for specific types of pain. They may be used in all stages of the pain magnagement

## **Current Analgesic Treatment Options: NSAIDs**



# **NSAIDs**

### Nonsteroidal Antiinflammatory Drugs

- NSAIDs are used in the treatment of mild to moderate pain
  - with *analgesic, antiinflammatory, and antipyretic* activity
  - NSAIDs are used to relieve the pain associated with headache, tooth extraction, musculoskeletal trauma, especially arthritis,
- NSAIDs are also used as adjuvants to opioids in the management of moderate to severe pain
- NSAIDs act by inhibiting the prostaglandin biosynthetic enzyme cyclooxygenase (also known as COX or PGHS, prostaglandin H<sub>2</sub> synhase)
  - The liberation of these arachidonic acid pathway products following local tissue injury contributes to peripheral sensitization and hyperalgesia
  - NSAIDs block prostaglandin production and thus attenuate the peripheral sensitization process
- NSAIDs have a ceiling effect in terms of their analgesic efficacy such that complete pain relief cannot be achieved even with dose escalation

## **Current Analgesic Treatment Options: NSAIDs**



# **NSAIDs**

### Nonsteroidal Antiinflammatory Drugs

### **NSAID side effects**

- Therapeutic effects and side effects of NSAIDs are closely related to thei biochemical mechanism of action
- The side effects associated with the clasical NSAIDs include
  - gastrointestinal bleeding
  - ulceration, lesions, and perforation
  - inhibition of platelet aggregation
  - Nephrotoxicity
  - a severe side effect of NSAIDs is *bronchoconstriction* with resultant *asthmatic events*

### and in 10 % of those experiencing such side effects, death

- every year it is estimated that 16.000 NSAID-related deaths occur in the US alone, with 75.000 patients hospitalised
- because of this problems, a major target of drug research is the development of NSAIDs with anti-inflammatory and analgesic activity but without side-effects



# **Opioid market definition today**

The opioids are divided into short- and long-acting opioids according to these molecular classes:

- fentanyl;
- morphine;
- oxycodone;
- others.



Short-acting opioids:

Opioids with a rapid onset of action to treat short episodes of pain (e.g. oral fentanyl).

Long-acting opioids:

Opioids with a sustained release to treat chronic pain (e.g. oxycodone controlled Datamonitor Report: Commercial and Pipeline Insights: Opioids, Puplication Date 03/2008, Reference Code: DMHC2377 release).



# **Opioids in History**





Nofretete

**Babylonian God** 

## **Current Analgesic Treatment Options: Opioids**



## Opioid Receptors Historical Overview

Opium is the Greek term for the juice of the poppy plant

- since 3000 BC use of the *pain relieving* and *euphoric effect* of opium in Egpt, India, and China;
- 3000 BC cultivation of *Papaver somniferum* by the Sumerians in the area between *Euphrates* and *Tigris*
- 1st century AD mention of opium by the greek doctor *Pendanicus Dioscorides* (De Materia Medica)
- 1806 isolation of Morphine by Adam Sertürner
- 1874 synthesis of Heroin (Diacetylmorphine)
- 1939 synthesis of Pethidine (Meperidine)
- 1946 synthesis of Methadone



о сн<sub>3</sub>

Pethidin



(Levo-)Methadon



Adam Sertürner

Heroin

### **Current Analgesic Treatment Options: Opioids**



### **Opioids** Historical Overview



- 1874 discovery of heroin
- 1898 introducing of heroin as a sure and non addicting antitussivum





# Mrs. Winslows Soothing Syrup



"For children teething. Greatly facilitates the process of Teething, by softening the gums, reducing all inflammation; will allay ALL PAIN and spasmodic action, and is SURE TO REGULATE THE BOWELS. Depend on it, Mothers, it will give rest to yourselves and RELIEF AND HEALTH TO YOUR INFANTS. Sold by all chemists, at 1s 1/2d per bottle."

## **Current Analgesic Treatment Options: Opioids**



## Opioid Receptors Subtypes





- opioids produce their effects by activating receptors in the brain and spinal cord
- the opiod receptor family is a G-protein-coupled receptor (GPCR) superfamily, characterized by a heptahelical structural motif
- opioid receptors were designated as μ, κ, and δ subtypes based on the synthetic ligands originally used to classify them
- an orphan member of the opioid receptor family, ORL-1, has also been identified
- opioid-receptor subtypes
  - *mü-receptor:* μ1, μ2
  - delta receptor:  $\delta 1, \delta 2$
  - kappa receptor: κ1, κ2, κ3
  - orphan receptor: ORL-1
- morphine is the gold standard opioid and it is the analgesic of choice for terminal pain
  - pharmacologically, morphine is a complete agonist at the μ-receptor
  - it is the standard against which all other analgesics are compared



# Wirkung der Opioide auf intrazelluläre Prozesse





# **Action of Opioids on Intracellular Processes**





# Side effects associated with clinical use of opioids





### Side effects associated with clinical use of opioids

Constipation	<ul> <li>due to inhibition of gut motility</li> <li>constipation is a significant side effect that is often underestimated</li> <li>and in many instances, leads the patient to choose pain over the GI side effects of opioids</li> </ul>
Respiratory depression	<ul> <li>due to activation of opioid receptors in the respiratory centers of the brain stem</li> </ul>
Cardiovascular effects	<ul> <li>bradycardial effects are induced by nearly all opioids</li> </ul>
Emesis	nausea and vomiting are often observed by opioid application, but due to the tolerance these effects normally increase
Addiction	<ul> <li>The social and legal issues related to use, and regulatory constraints contribute to an underutilization of opioids, particularly for the management of chronic nonmalignant pain</li> <li>In 25.000 cancer patients taking narcotics, only 7 became addicted</li> </ul>
Tolerance	<ul> <li>associated with drug dependence, this phenomenon may occur with chronic administration of a drug.</li> <li>it is characterised by the necessity to progressively increase</li> </ul>

the dose of the drug to produce its original effect. Tolerance is mainly caused by neuroadaptive changes in the brain


# The Discovery of Tapentadol – A New Option for Pain Treatment

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## Pain Research in 1999

"Despite an intensive research effort over the past two decades involving many innovative approaches in the global academic community and by the pharmaceutical industry, the latter representing an aggregate investment in excess of \$ 2.5 billion, the only new opioid-based pain medications either in clinical development or on the market are alternative dosage forms of the classical opioids, *morphine, loperamide,* and *fentanyl*, or compounds such as *tramadol*."

M. Williams et al., J. Med. Chem. 1999, 42, 1481-1500.





# Pain Tratment Today...

J.A. Butera, *Current* and Emerging Targets To Treat Neuropathic Pain, J. Med. Chem. 2007. *50*, Miniperspectives-2543-2596





It is estimated that neuropathic pain affects over 6 million patients in the U.S. and Europe and over 26 million patients worldwide,

- resulting in a worldwide healthcare cost of over \$3 billion per year, with a significant portion of this money paid for drug therapies that were originally developed for other medical conditions
- As physicians are faced with an **increasing number of patients** with numerous neuropathic pain symptoms most likely stemming from multiple etiologies, they are forced to resort to the **polypharmacia approach** as the mainstay therapy.
- Current pharmacological treatment for neuropathic pain will typically include some combination of agents from several of the following drug classes: opioids, tricyclic antidepressants, anticonvulsant agents, or nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)/analgesics.
- Ironically, even with such an impressive arsenal of powerful drugs, these approaches only provide an approximate 30-50% reduction in pain in about 50% of patients.
- Coupled with this limited efficacy, there are low levels of compliance due to intolerable side effect profiles associated with some of these drugs.
- These results profoundly illustrate that treatment of neuropathic pain is a hugely unmet medical need, and they underscore the importance of considering, validating, and pursuing alternative targets to treat refractory neuropathic pain.

Datamonitor: Pipeline Insight: Neuropathic Pain (Publication Date: 09/2007)



### Significant Unmet Needs in Inflammatory/Nociceptive Pain Treatments





## **Significant Unmet Needs in Neuropathic Pain Treatments**





### **Key Needs in Pain Treatments**



#### Neuropathic Pain



Inflammatory & Nociceptive Pain

 Greater Efficacy
Faster Onset of Action  New Drugs with Efficacy of Opioids but Greater Tolerability/Safety



## **Unfullfilled Needs In The Treatment For Chronic Pain**



Jain PharmaBiotech Report, Pain Therapeutics – Drugs, Markets & Companies, K.K. Jain, October 2007



# **Efficacy and Tolerability of Pain Management** Efficacy Low Dosage **High Dosage** Insufficient **Sufficient** Efficacy Efficacy Non Acceptable Acceptable **Tolerability Tolerability** Low Dosage **High Dosage Tolerability**



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#### Tramadol



#### **Tramadol – The History**





als mir im Frühjahr 1962 die Idee kam, die Codein-Struktur als Modell für ein neues Hustenmittel anzusehen und die komplizierte Struktur durch Abwandlung zu vereinfachen. Meine Uberlegungen ließen sich verwirklichen und so entstand schließlich die chemische Verbindung: 1-(m-Methoxyphenyl)-2-dimethylaminomethyl-cyclohexan-1-ol-hydrochlorid, die unter der Bezeichnung L-201 zur pharmakologischen Testung mit dem Hinweis "Verbindung mit vermutlich antitussiven bzw. analgetischen Eigenschaften"











#### **Metabolites of Tramadol**



Metabolites are generated by O- or N-demethylation



#### **Metabolites of Tramadol**





### **Metabolites of Tramadol**





#### **Tramadol's mode of action - biochemical profile**





#### **Tramadol's mode of action - biochemical profile**





## µ-Opioidbinding of tramadol and tramadol-M1







#### **Tramadol's mode of action - biochemical profile**



**Tramadol – Pharmacological Profile** 



# Norepinephrine-Uptake inhibition of tramadol and tramadol-M1





#### **Comparison of molecular structures**





#### **Tramadol's mode of action - biochemical profile**





## 5HT-Uptake inhibition of tramadol and tramadol-M1





# Comparison of acute pain (Tail Flick) and chronic inflammatory pain (Randall Selitto)



**Tramadol – Pharmacological Profile** 



## Comparison of acute pain (Tail Flick) and neuropathic pain (Bennett)



Tramadol – Pharmacological Profile



### Antinociceptive Potency Profile Comparison Morphin - Tramadol





## **Side Effects of Tramadol**



#### Occurrence of the Synthetic Analgesic Tramadol in an African Medicinal Plant

Angewandte Chemie

DOI: 10.1002/ange.201305697

#### Natural Products

#### Occurrence of the Synthetic Analgesic Tramadol in an African Medicinal Plant\*\*

Ahcène Boumendjel, Germain Sotoing Taïwe,\* Elisabeth Ngo Bum, Tanguy Chabrol, Chantal Beney, Valérie Sinniger, Romain Haudecoeur, Laurence Marcourt, Soura Challal, Emerson Ferreira Queiroz, Florence Souard, Marc Le Borgne, Thierry Lomberget, Antoine Depaulis, Catherine Lavaud, Richard Robins, Jean-Luc Wolfender, Bruno Bonaz, and Michel De Waard\*



# NMR analysis and UHPLC-TOF-MS profiling of the crude extract from *N. latifolia* for identification and quantification of tramadol.





UHPLC-TOF-MS profiling of the crude ethanolic extract of N. latifolia with a label for compounds dereplicated (zoomed into the 0–12 min retention domain). Top panel: TOF-MS spectra of tramadol in the crude extract. Bottom panel: 2D ion map of the crude extract of N. latifolia displaying all recorded ions.

The absolute integration of the 1H NMR signal at dH=6.77 (ddd, 8.0, 2.6, 0.9 Hz, H-4') of commercial tramadol in a CD3OD solution at 263.4 mm was used as an external reference (top panel) to quantify the amount of natural tramadol in an ethanolic extract of N. latifolia (bottom panel) using the PULCON method.



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#### What have we learned from the Tramadol story?



#### (+)-Tramadol

(-)-Tramadol

Can both principles be combined in one molecule (one enantiomer) ?







**Tramadol – The Research Strategy** 



## Several compounds with different biological profiles have been characterized



**Tramadol – The Research Strategy** 



## The Ten Commandments The Golden Era of Research



Prof. Werner Winter (1980s – 1990s)



#### Tapentadol – A New Analgesic with a Dual Mode of Action







Rx only Dosage: See accompanying product literature. Store up 0.25°C (77°F). Excursions permitted to 15°C-30°C (50°F-86°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature]. Protect from moisture. Keep out of reach of children. Manufactured by: Amesen Otho, LLC, Gunabo, PR 00778 Manufactured by: Prictaare, Division of Ortho-Hicklesi-Prictaare, Division of Ortho-Hicklesi-Prictaare, Division of Ortho-Hicklesi-Rantan, NJ 08899


























# CH<sub>3</sub> as replacement for C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>



			μ	5-HT	NA	TF mouse
Code	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Ki	Ki	Ki	ED50
GRT6 (+)	OH	C2H5	0,009	75	4,4	0,32
GRT5 (-)	OH	C2H5	1,4	84	0,7	56,1
GRT8 (+)	OH	CH3	0,06	8,6	20	2,1
GRT7 (-)	OH	СНЗ	0,7	81	1	32,4

µ-bindin	g: (+)	Enantiomer	$\mathbf{\Psi}$
	(-)	Enantiomer	-
5HT:	(+)	Enantiomer	↑
	(-)	Enantiomer	-
NA:	(+)	Enantiomer	-
	(-)	Enantiomer	-

For the (+)-enantiomer µ-binding decreased, 5-HT-binding increased



#### H, F as replacement for OH



			μ	5-HT	NA	TF mouse
Code	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	Ki	Ki	Ki	ED50
GRT6 (+)	ОН	C2H5	0,009	75	4,4	0,32
GRT5 (-)	OH	C2H5	1,4	84	0,7	56,1
GRT2 (+)	Н	C2H5	0,007	7,3	1,9	0,85
GRT1 (-)	Н	C2H5	0,1	2,3	0,6	3
GRT4 (+)	F	C2H5	0,007	27,8	1,7	0,32
GRT3 (-)	F	C2H5	0,04	4,1	0,3	1,44

µ-bindin	g: (+)	Enantiomer	-
	(-)	Enantiomer	1
5HT:	(+)	Enantiomer	♠
	(-)	Enantiomer	♠
NA:	(+)	Enantiomer	-
	(-)	Enantiomer	-

The (-)-enantiomers have µ-binding and NA-reuptake inhibition in a similar range



#### Phenol as replacement for naphtol



Code	R	R₁	R <sub>2</sub>	μ Ki	5-HT Ki	NA Ki	TF mouse ED50
GRT10 (+)	Naphtol	OH	$C_2H_5$	0,02	17,4	0,2	0,6
GRT9 (-)	Naphtol	OH	$C_2H_5$	15%(1)	6,8	0,05	2an.(10)
GRT6 (+)	Phenol	OH	$C_2H_5$	0,009	75	4,4	0,32
GRT5 (-)	Phenol	OH	$C_2H_5$	1,4	84	0,7	56,1

µ-bindin	g: (+)	Enantiomer	≯
	(-)	Enantiomer	1
5HT:	(+)	Enantiomer	↓
	(-)	Enantiomer	$\mathbf{\Psi}$
NA:	(+)	Enantiomer	€
	(-)	Enantiomer	$\mathbf{\Psi}$

μ-binding for both enantiomers increased, 5-HT and NA decreased



# The "Birth Certificate" of Tapentadol

...Is it boy or is it a girl?



Peter Jansen



Sentral-Analy	tik	Prüfeubet	83.2		Detuns	8.2. 1994
Code-Nr.	Herstelle	r Herst	Datum	Charg	e	Vorh. Mens
BN-200	D-Busel	01	154	203	? 22-1-1:Fe	4 1.09
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#### **Morphin und Tapentadol**

Vergleich der Affinität von Tapentadol und Morphin zu unterschiedlichen Opioidrezeptor-Subtypen, untersucht in Bindungsstudien an Rattenhirnmembranen (MOR, KOR,DOR) oder humanen rekombinanten Rezeptoren (NOP) (Tzschentke et al. 2006)

Substanz	K <sub>i</sub> Wert (μM)					
	MOR	KOR	DOR	NOP		
Tapentadol	0,1	0,9	1,0	>100		
Morphin	0,002	0,17	0,002	>100		

MOR: μ-Opioidrezeptor, KOR: κ-Opioidrezeptor, DOR: δ-Opioidrezeptor, NOP: ORL1- oder Nozizeptin-Rezeptor

Vergleich von Tapentadol und Desipramin im Hinblick auf die Neurotransmitter- Wiederaufnahme-Hemmung, untersucht an Rattenhirn-Synaptosomen					
Transmitter	K <sub>i</sub> Wert (μM)				
		Tapentadol	Desipramin		
Noradrenalin		0,5	0,001		
5-HT		2,4	1,4		
Dopamin		KE	KA		
Cholin	KF: kein F	39 -ffekt (5 % Hemmung bei 1	KA µM), KA: keine Angabe, ————————————————————————————————————		



# μ-Rezeptor-Agonism (MOR) and Noradrenalin Reuptake Inhibition (NRI)



50-fold weaker µ-receptor binding in comparison to Morphine



# **Binding Affinity of µ-Opioids**





## Analgetische Effekte von Opioiden





# **Effect on Noradrenalin- und Serotonin**



zschentke, JPET 2007



#### **Designed Multiple Ligang Continuum**\*)\*\*)



\*) R. Morphy, Z. Rankovic, Designed Multiple Ligands. An Emerging Drug Discovery Paradigm,

J. Med. Chem. 2005 (48), 6523-6543.

\*\*) R. Morphy, C. Kay, Z. Rankovic, From Magic Bullets to Designed Multiple Ligands, Drug Discovery Today 2004 (9), 641-651.



















#### Neue Substanzklasse MOR-NRI



#### Tapentadol: Activityt in MOR knock-out- und Wildtype-Mice



#### **Tapentadol remains partially active in MOR-Knock-out Mice**



#### **Characterization of Compounds**





#### **Pharmacology: Pain Models**

#### Acute

#### Chronic inflammatory







#### Chronic neuropathic











#### **Analgesic Potency in Acute Pain**





# Neuropathic pain model: Peripheral Mononeuropathy (Chung model)



Investigation of tactile allodynia after tight ligation of the dorsal root of spinal nerves (L5, L6)



# High potency and efficacy in neuropathic pain (Chung)



Tapentadol Morphine Oxycodone Pregabalin Tramadol Venlafaxine

#### Tapentadol – *in vivo* Pharmacology – Side Effects







# **Opioid Induced Side Effects: Emesis**



Tzschentke et al (2006) Drugs Fut 31:1053ff

Tapentadol shows a reduced emetic potential in comparison to Morphine



# **Opioid Induced Side Effects: Obstipation**



- Increase of the intestinal charcoal passage
- Reduction of the PGE2 induced diarrhoe



# **Opioid Induced Side Effects: Obstipation**



Tapentadol shows a reduced gastrointestinal inhibitory potential in comparison to Morphine



# **Opioid Induced Side Effects: Tolerance Development**



Significant reduced tolerance development

#### Tapentadol – in vivo Pharmacology – Side Effects



# Overview of the analgesic activity of tapentadol and morphine in various animal models of acute and chronic pain

Pain model	Route of application	ED <sub>50</sub> value	e (mg/kg)
		Tapentadol	Morphine
Tail-flick (mouse)	i.v.	4.2	1.4
	p.o.	53.4	18.9
	i.c.v.*	65.0	0.4
Tail-flick (rat)	i.v.	2.2	1.1
	i.p.	10.0	5.8
	p.o.	121	55.7
Tail-flick (dog)	i.v.	4.3	0.7
Hot-plate 48° C (mouse)	i.v.	3.3	1.3
Hot-plate 58° C (mouse)	i.p.	27.7	8.5
Phenylquinone-induced writhing (mouse)	i.v.	0.7	0.4
	p.o.	31.3	4.7
	i.c.v.*	18.4	0.08
Tooth pulp stimulation (rabbit)	i.v.	3.1	2.3
Formalin (phase II) (rat)	i.p.	3.8	0.8
Yeast model (rat)	i.v.	2.0	0.9
	i.p.	10.1	5.6
	i.t.*	56.8	1.9
Colorectal distension-induced visceral pain (rat)	i.v.	5.5	3.5
Mustard oil-induced visceral pain (rat)	i.v.	1.5	1.0
Spinal nerve injury neuropathy (rat)	i.p.	8.3	2.9
Chronic constriction injury neuropathy (rat)	i.p.	13.0	13.8
Vincristine polyneuropathy (rat)	i.p.	5.1	3.4
Diabetic polyneuropathy (rat)	i.p.	8.9	3.0

\*Dose in µg/animal. <sup>1</sup>All drug doses for preclinical and clinical testing are for the hydrochloride salt.



# **Metabolic Pathway**



Tapentadol – *in vivo* Pharmacology – Metabolism



#### **Tapentadol – Pharmakokinetik**

Mittlere pharmakokinetische Parameter nach einer Einzeldosis PALEXIA® retard, Dosis normiert auf 200 mg Tapentadol

Parameter	Ν	Mittelwert +/- SA
AUC <sub>last</sub> ng.h/ml	294	789 +/- 219
AUC <sub>inf</sub> , ng.h/ml	292	805 +/- 220
t <sub>1/2</sub> , h	292	5,9 +/- 2,0
CL <sub>F</sub> , ml/min	292	4449 +/- 1199

#### Tapentadol – *in vivo* Pharmacology – Metabolism



# **Metabolic Pathway**

- Major Hepatic metabolism
- Phase 2 Metabolism:
- O-Glucuronidierung via UGTs
- 1A6, 1A9, 2B7, no CYP450
- No P-gp Substrate
- No Prodrug
- No analgesic active metabolites
- Low drug-drug interaction potential



Terlinden et al (2007) Eur J Metab Pharmacokinet 32:163ff Kneip et al (2008) Drug Metab Letters 2:67ff








# The synthesis of tapentadol hydrochloride as described in the first patent





#### Synthesis of Tapentadol "Historical Route"





#### Synthesis of Tapentadol "Historical Route"





## Synthesis of Tapentadol





## The synthesis of tapentadol hydrochloride according to WO 2008012047A1





# The synthesis of tapentadol hydrochloride according to WO 2012/001571 A1





## The synthesis of tapentadol hydrochloride according to WO2011/157390 A2



### **Solid Forms in Pharmaceutical Industry**

#### **Classes of Multicomponent Molecular Crystals**





### **Solid Forms in Pharmaceutical Industry**

### Relationship between the Structure and Properties of Pharmaceutical Crystals

Packing Properties	<ul> <li>Molar volume and density</li> <li>Refractive index</li> <li>Conductivity, electrical and thermal</li> <li>Hygroscopicity</li> </ul>
Thermodynamic Properties	<ul> <li>Melting and sublimation temperatures</li> <li>Internal energy (i.e. structural energy)</li> <li>Enthalpy (i.e. heat content)</li> <li>Heat capacity</li> <li>Entropy</li> <li>Free energy and chemical potential</li> <li>Thermodynamic activity</li> <li>Vapor pressure</li> <li>Solubility</li> </ul>
Kinetic Properties	<ul> <li>Dissolution rate</li> <li>Rates of solid state reactions</li> <li>Stability</li> </ul>

A.R. Sheth, D.J.W. Grant, Relationship between the Structure and Properties of Pharmaceutical Crystals, KONA 2005, 23,

### **Solid Forms in Pharmaceutical Industry**

### Relationship between the Structure and Properties of Pharmaceutical Crystals

Spectroscopic Properties	<ul> <li>Electronic transitions (i.e. ultraviolet-visible absorption spectra)</li> <li>Vibrational transitions (i.e. infrared absorption spectra and Raman spectra)</li> <li>Rotational transitions (i.e. far infrared or microwave absorption spectra)</li> <li>Nuclear spin transitions (i.e. nuclear magnetic resonance spectra)</li> </ul>
Surface Properties	<ul> <li>Surface free energy</li> <li>Interfacial tensions</li> <li>Habit (i.e. shape)</li> </ul>
<b>Mechanical Properties</b>	<ul> <li>Hardness</li> <li>Tensile strength</li> <li>Compactibility, tableting</li> <li>Handling, flow, and blending</li> </ul>

A.R. Sheth, D.J.W. Grant, Relationship between the Structure and Properties of Pharmaceutical Crystals, KONA 2005, 23, 36-47.

#### **Tapentadol Hydrochloride – Polymorphic Forms**



### **Solid Phase Characteristics**



	Form A (monoklin)	Form B (orthorhombic)
Formula	C14 H24 CI N O	C14 H24 CI N O
M.W. / g/mol	257,79	257,79
Space group	No. 4, <i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub>	No. 19, <i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub>
Z (No. of Units)	4	4
a/Å	7,110(3)	7,0882(3)
b/Å	11,615(4)	11,8444(6)
c/Å	17,425(6)	17,6708(11)
α/°	90	90
β/°	95,00(3)	90
γ/°	90	90
Volume of elementary cel/Å <sup>3</sup>	1434	1484
Density (calc.) / g/cm	1.20	1.15

#### **Tapentadol Hydrochloride – Polymorphic Forms**

### **GRT1: Polymorph A**



#### **Tapentadol Hydrochloride – Polymorphic Forms**

#### **GRT1: Polymorph B**



## Four stereoisomers of the novel µ-opioid receptor agonist tapentadol hydrochloride



Krishnan Ravikumar, Balasubramanian Sridhar, Nitin, Pradhan and Mayur Khunt, Four stereoisomers of the novel μ-opioid receptor agonist tapentadol hydrochloride, Acta Cryst. (2011). C67, o71–o76



- Tapentadol is a single molecule (pure enantiomer); tramadol is a racemate.
- Tapentadol has no active metabolites that contribute to its analgesic effects; tramadol has a major active metabolite.
- Tapentadol acts at MOR and NET with minimal activity at SERT; tramadol acts at MOR, NET, and SERT in a timeand patient-variable manner. Thus tapentadol has less potential to produce serotonin-related adverse effects or serotonin syndrome than does tramadol.
- The mechanisms of action of tapentadol reside in a single molecule, thus the relative ratio of mechanisms does not change over time which provides constant analgesic synergism; the mechanisms of action of tramadol reside in different molecules (enantiomers of the parent and a metabolite), thus the relative ratio of mechanisms changes as tramadol is metabolized.



- Tapentadol is 2 to 5 times more potent than tramadol across a range of animal pain models. Likewise, clinically, tramadol is effective for treating moderate to moderately-severe pain (WHO step 2); tapentadol is effective in treating moderate to severe pain (WHO step 3).
- Tapentadol is a schedule II drug in the US and scheduling is anticipated for all countries where it is marketed; tramadol is not scheduled in most countries.
- In clinical trials, tapentadol has been shown to be equiefficacious to oxycodone with fewer gastrointestinal adverse effects
- The main pathway of tapentadol metabolism is glucuronidation; tramadol is metabolized mainly via the CYP450 enzyme complex. Therefore, there is greater chance for phenotype variability in response to tramadol.
- Fewer drugs are metabolized via UGT than CYP enzymes, so there is less chance of drug-drug interactions with tapentadol than with tramadol.



#### Synthetische Chemie

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## Medicinal Chemistry, Quo Vadis? The changing climate of Pharmaceutical R&D

#### **New Drug Development: Some Facts**

#### Global situation:

- Word population: 7 Billion with Growth rate of 1.1%
- Word GDP: 70 Trillion Dollars with Growth rate of 5.2%
- Word Pharma Market: 950 Billion Dollars with Growth rate of 6%

#### Drug discovery and development:

- To develop a new drug takes 10-15 years
- The average cost of a new drug is in the range of \$ 1.3 billion, this being a big financial risk
- 20-30 new drugs are approved annually by the US-FDA: on average; 24 between 2000 and 2009;
- Similar numbers by EMA
- >3000 potential new drugs are under clinical development (Phase I, II, and III), however, the attrition rate has become very high

#### Pharmaceutical Industry – The R & D Process

### **Creating New Medicines is a High Risk Journey**



**Pharmaceutical Industry – Changing Climate** 

### Commonly Perceived Criticisms of the Pharmaceutical Industry



Magid Abou-Gharbia and Wayne E. Childers, Discovery of Innovative Therapeutics: Today's Realities and Tomorrow's Vision. 1. Criticisms Faced by the Pharmaceutical Industry, J. Med. Chem 56, 5659-5672 (2013) **Pharmaceutical Industry – Changing Climate** 

## Trends driving the evolution of the global healthcare environment



## R&D productivity crisis



Pressure to control health care spending



Rise of Emerging markets

Rated Top 10 Emerging Markets 2012-2017 Russia 60.5% Turkey 28.9% 68.4% Mexico India Brazil 34.3% 68.4% 89.5% Indonesia 21.1% Chile uth Africa 13.2% 23.7% Argentina

Source: Global Intelligence Alliance, Business Perspectives on Emerging Markets 2012-2017 Survey, Qn: Which are the top 5 Emerging Markets for your industry over the next 5 years? N=38

#### **Metamorphosis of the Pharmaceutical Industry**

- The recent years has brought considerable sales and erosions for most of the leading multinational pharmaceutical companies
- There is not a single reason for this development, many different causes happened at nearly the same time:
  - Patent expiries of big blockbuster drugs and lack of innovative new drugs due to a decline in R&D productivityand efficiency;
  - Wordwide economy crisis;
  - Health care reforms in many countries with cost and price pressures and shift to cheap generics.
- The traditional blockbuster model is more or less outdated;
- Megamergers and acquisitions in this industry will surely continue, but will not be the solutions of the problems.
- Also outsourcing of (newly-defined) non-core activities like manufacturing and parts of R&D will only give temporary cost relief.

A. Kleemann, Metamorphosis of the Pharmaceutical Industry; Pharm. Ind. 75(4), 562-574 (2013)

#### **Pharmaceutical Industry – Changing Climate**

## Timeline of mergers and acquisitions with values ≥\$2 billion that occurred from 2000 to 2012



Magid Abou-Gharbia and Wayne E. Childers, Discovery of Innovative Therapeutics: Today's Realities and Tomorrow's Vision. 2. Pharma's Challenges and Their Commitment to Innovation, J. Med. Chem 57, 5525–5553 (2014)

### Pharma Industry Layoffs (2000-2011)

Year	Number of jobs cut
2000	2,453
2001	4,736
2002	11,488
2003	28,519
2004	15,640
2005	26,300
2006	15,638
2007	31,732
2008	43,014
2009	61,109
2010	53,636
2011	ca. 21,000
Total:	315,265

2009 Total layoffs: 61,109
 thereof Pfizer (19,500), Merck & Co. (16,000), J&J (8,900), AstraZeneca (7,400),
 GSK (6,000), Eli Lilly (5,500)

2010 Total layoffs: 53,636 thereof AstraZeneca (8,550), Pfizer (8,480), GSK (5,201), Roche (4,800), Bayer (4,500), Abbott (3,000), Sanofi-Aventis (2,500), Takeda (1,400), Novartis (1,400), Genzyme (1,280)

A. Kleemann, Metamorphosis of the Pharmaceutical Industry; Pharm. Ind. 75(4), 562-574 (2013)

#### Blockbuster Drug Patent Expirations between 2011and 2016

year	brand name	2010 sales (billions of dollars) $^{b}$	company
2011	Actos®	4.6	Takeda
2011	Zyprexa®	5.0	Eli Lilly
2011	Lipitor®	12	Pfizer
2012	Levaquin®	1.4	Janssen
2012	Lexapro®	3.5	Forest
2012	Seroquel®	5.6	AstraZeneca
2012	Plavix <sup>®</sup>	9.1	BMS <sup>c</sup> / Sanofi
2012	Singulair®	5.4	Merck
2012	Diovan®	6.1	Novartis
2013	Cymbalta®	3.5	Eli Lilly
2013	OxyContin®	2.4	Purdue
2013	Zometa®	1.5	Novartis
2014	Nexium®	5.0	AstraZeneca
2014	Celebrex®	2.7	Prizer
2014	Sandostatin®	1.3	Novartis
2015	Abilify®	4.6	BMS <sup>c</sup>
2015	Gleevec®	4.3	Novartis
2016	Crestor®	6.1	AstraZeneca
<sup>a</sup> Source: ref 49. <sup>b</sup> World-wide sales. <sup>c</sup> BMS, Bristol-Myers Squibb.			

Magid Abou-Gharbia and Wayne E. Childers, Discovery of Innovative Therapeutics: Today's Realities and Tomorrow's Vision. 2. Pharma's Challenges and Their Commitment to Innovation, J. Med. Chem 57, 5525–5553 (2014)

#### **Pharmaceutical Industry – Productivity**

#### Global pharmaceutical R&D expenditure, development time, NME output and sales 1992-2002p



### FDA drug approvals since 1993.

New molecular entities and biologics license applications approved by the US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, by year.



Nature Reviews | Drug Discovery

#### **Pharmaceutical Industry – Productivity**

# Percentage of biopharmaceuticals in the pharmaceutical market, 2001–2011



Magid Abou-Gharbia and Wayne E. Childers, Discovery of Innovative Therapeutics: Today's Realities and Tomorrow's Vision. 2. Pharma's Challenges and Their Commitment to Innovation, J. Med. Chem 57, 5525–5553 (2014)

#### **R&D Productivity – FDA-approved New Molecular Entities**



The average annual rates of approval by decade since 1930



M.S. Kinch, S. L. Kinch, D. Hoyer, An overview of FDA-approved new molecular entities: 1827–2013 Drug Discovery Today 19, 1033-1039 (2014)

#### Ranking System for New Drug Approvals Using FDA Characterizations as Criteria<sup>\*)</sup>

New Drug Approval (NDA) Type	Level of Innovation
Priority NMEs	Most Innovative
Standard NMEs	
Priority IMDs	
Standard IMDs	
Other Drugs	Least Innovative

\*) <u>www.nihcm.org</u>; Changing Patters of Pharmaceutical Innovation, May 2002.

#### **The Pharmaceutical Marketplace**

"New drugs to treat and cure sick patients are coming into the market in the United States at the slowest rate in a decade, despite billions invested by pharmaceutical companies on research and a costly expansion by the federal agency that"

"The decline in the number of new drugs is most pronounced in the category considered by the Food and Drug Administration to have the greatest promise for patients -- those listed as breakthrough "priority" drugs and "new molecular entities" that are different from any others on the market."

Source: Washington Post, 11/18/02

#### New Drug Approvals by the FDA in 1989-2000\*)



Two-third of new drugs approved in 1989-2000 used active ingredients already on the market Source: FDA 2001

\*) <u>www.nihcm.org</u>; Changing Patters of Pharmaceutical Innovation, May 2002.

#### New Drug Approvals by the FDA in 1989-2000\*)

Most Innovative Least Innov			ovative	
15 %	20 %	8 %	46 %	11 %
Priority NMEs	Standard NMEs	Priority IMDs	Standard IMDs	Other Drugs
New Ingr	Active edients		Old Active Ingredients	

Distribution of NDAs, 1989-2000: Total 1.035 New Drugs

Only 15 % of new drugs approved in 1989-2010 were highly innovative priority NMEs Source: FDA 2001

\*) <u>www.nihcm.org</u>; Changing Patters of Pharmaceutical Innovation

### **R&D Productivity**

#### **R&D Productivity Data**



U. Schulze, M. Baedeker, Yen Ting Chen, D. Greber, R&D productivity: on the comeback trail, Nature Reviews Drug Discovery 13, 331–33, (2014)
# **R&D Productivity**

#### Aggregate industry spending on research and development



Industry R&D spending (US\$ billion)

All values inflation adjusted to 2013.

Sources: EvaluatePharma; US Food and Drug Administration (FDA); Boston Consulting Group (BCG) analysis

U. Schulze, M. Baedeker, Yen Ting Chen, D. Greber, R&D productivity: on the comeback trail, Nature Reviews Drug Discovery 13, 331–33, (2014)

#### **Pharmaceutical Industry – Changing Climate**

# **Eroom's Law in pharmaceutical R&D.**

**Overall trend in R&D efficiency (inflation-adjusted)** 



The number of new drugs approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) per billion US dollars (inflation-adjusted) spent on research and development (R&D) has halved roughly every 9 years.

J.W. Scannel, A. Blanckley, H. Boldon, B. Warrington, Diagnosing the decline in pharmaceutical R&D efficiency, Nature Reviews Drug Discovery **2012**, 11, 191-200.

# **The Changing Climate in Pharmaceutical Research**



100	organs,
1500	different cell types,
10.000	diseases

#### Scientific Advances

- The Human Genome
- Advances in Screening Technologies
- Advances in Synthesis Technologies

#### Raising bar on drug-like characteristics

- Attrition rates too high
- Increasing multi-parameter property optimization

#### Increasing Scale

- Data volumes and complexity soar
- Global, multi-site, multi-cultural organizations
- Rising costs of drug discovery and development

# Chemogenomics

#### **Cemical Universe**

#### **Target Universe**









# Venn diagram of the distribution of commonly used libraries in chemical space



Zhi-Luo Deng et al., Exploring the Biologically Relevant Chemical Space for Drug Discovery 53, 2820–2828 (2013)

Number of drug like molecules that could be synthesized per chemist per year



**DNA Sequencing** 



X-ray Crystallography



x 1.000 faster calculation

**Three Dimensional Protein Structures** 



The scale of data growth



The chart shows the trend in storage capacity needed to store biological data at EMBL-EBI (a terabyte is a million million bytes).

# **Potential outcome of new technologies**

- Proteomics
- Genomics
- Genetics
- Imaging
- Tissue banks
- Disease definition
- Nanosciences
- Knowledge management

- Molecular definition of disease
- New Drug targets
- Prediction of Efficacy
  - Prediction of Toxicity
- Better clinical trials design
- Reduced side-effects
- Diagnostic tools
- Personalised Treatments

# **Key R&D bottlenecks to overcome**



# **EFFICACY in Pharmacology**

#### TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE



# Drug Discovery Strategies Today – What Has Pharmaceutical Industry Learned From The Past?



# **Clinical attrition statistics**



Magid Abou-Gharbia and Wayne E. Childers, Discovery of Innovative Therapeutics: Today's Realities and Tomorrow's Vision. 2. Pharma's Challenges and Their Commitment to Innovation, J. Med. Chem 57, 5525–5553 (2014)

Drug Research was and is...



...the Search for a Needle in a Haystack

#### **Success in Drug Research**



#### The Evolution of Drug Discovery Strategies



#### **Research Strategies & Drug Discovery Technologies**

### **Four Possible Strategies in Research**



Rolf Zinkernagel (Nobel prize in Medicine 1996)

#### **Research Strategies & Drug Discovery Technologies**

Correlation between Countries' Annual Per Capita Chocolate Consumption and the Number of Nobel Laureates per 10 Million Population.

Chocolate consumption enhances cognitive function,

which is a sine qua non for winning the Nobel Prize,

and it closely correlates with the number of Nobel laureates in each country.



Franz H. Messerli, Chocolate Consumption, Cognitive Function, and Nobel Laureates, The New England Journal of Medicine 367 (16), 2012, 1562-1564.

# The early days of drug discovery at Grünenthal (1990)





*in vivo* activity Writhing Mouse ED<sub>50</sub>, oral *in vitro* Profile μ-Opioid receptor affinity Naloxon binding (K<sub>I</sub>)

# **Drug discovery process**



Magid Abou-Gharbia and Wayne E. Childers, Discovery of Innovative Therapeutics: Today's Realities and Tomorrow's Vision. 2. Pharma's Challenges and Their Commitment to Innovation, J. Med. Chem 57, 5525–5553 (2014)

# Advantages of early in vivo testing



1000 Compounds (14 scaffolds) 280 open chain lead series

#### drugs research

# "Drug research needs a paradigm shift"

[By Kalle Lötberg]

According to earlier leading researchers, a paradigm shift is necessary that sees pharmaceutical research returning to animal testing in its primary stages.



Per Lindberg

- ....Top executives of global "Big Pharma" companies have to realise that pharmaceutical research needs a paradigm shift, moving away from the current practice of early stages protein target testing.
- A new paradigm is needed in which research returns to experiments based on animal testing models (phenotypic research)....
- …People are very biased today. But medicinal chemists neither can nor have to know exactly how a substance acts.
- This has always been the case, since organisms are very much more complex than the sum of their receptors, enzymes and ion channels....

# "Drug research needs a paradigm shift"

#### 1970s - 1990s

- Disease models for animals were often developed in collaboration with hospital-based researchers.
- Newly synthesized compounds were tested in vivo directly on animals.
- Effect in animals were the all im portant driving force.

#### 1990s - Today

- The golden era of the genome had begun, receptors were linked to specific genes, and an in vitro technique for measuring a protein's affinity to synthetic substances was developed.
- The process became rational, efficient, simple, elegant and super-fast – and therefore also attractive.

#### **The Future**

- Focus on building disease models - for many years an area neglected in favour of for instance multichemistry.
- Use modern integrated screening directly on animals, including both behaviour and various analyte parameters.
- Synthesize carefully selected substances and test them all on animals.

The chemists were divided into those who worked at the early and the late testing stages respectively, and their previously acquired competence was often wasted. It was taboo not to know the target and the mechanism already at the start of a new project.

#### in vivo Pharmacology







pubs.acs.org/acsmedchemlett

Viewpoint

#### Tough Times for Medicinal Chemists: Are We to Blame?

Takashi Tsukamoto\*

Department of Neurology and Brain Science Institute, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland 21205, United States

**ABSTRACT:** In the United States, medicinal chemists continue to face job insecurity and high rates of unemployment. The situation is unlikely to improve in the near future. Is there a light at the end of the tunnel? Is there anything we can do to revitalize our community? The answer may be right in front of us.

- ....We have arguably the most talented and well-trained pool of synthetic chemists in the world, who could contribute innovative ideas to solve the most difficult challenges.
- However, we have, instead, discouraged innovative and unconventional ideas in the practice of medicinal chemistry.
- We have not raised the bar for our most capable and skilled chemists. We failed to provide them with the opportunity to achieve their full potential and push the boundaries of medicinal chemistry.....
- ...Steve Jobs once said, "When you grow up, you tend to get told that the world is the way it is, and your life is just to live your life inside the world. Try not to bash into the walls too much. Try to have a nice family life. Have fun, save a little money."
- Computers and drugs are not quite the same, but his statement captures the current mind-set of many medicinal chemists...

Takashi Tsukamoto, Tough Times for Medicinal Chemists: Are We to Blame?, ACS Med. Chem. Lett. 2013, 4, 369–370

# **R & D Performance**

# **Eroom's Law in pharmaceutical R&D.**

**Overall trend in R&D efficiency (inflation-adjusted)** 



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J.W. Scannel, A. Blanckley, H. Boldon, B. Warrington, Diagnosing the decline in pharmaceutical R&D efficiency, Nature Reviews Drug Discovery **2012**, 11, 191-200.

# **R & D Performance**

# Moore's Law



Microprocessor	Year of Introduction	Transistors
4004	1971	2,300
8008	1972	2,500
8080	1974	4,500
8086	1978	29,000
Intel286	1982	134,000
Intel386 <sup>™</sup> processor	1985	275,000
Intel486 <sup>™</sup> processor	1989	1,200,000
Intel® Pentium® processor	1993	3,100,000
Intel® Pentium® II processor	1997	7,500,000
Intel® Pentium® III processor	1999	9,500,000
Intel® Pentium® 4 processor	2000	42,000,000
Intel® Itanium® processor	2001	25,000,000
Intel® Itanium® 2 processor	2003	220,000,000
Intel® Itanium® 2 processor (9MB cache)	2004	592,000,000

# **R&D Performance and Productivity**



# **R & D Performance: The Target Space**

# **Eroom's Law in pharmaceutical R&D.**

Venn diagram illustrating hypothetical headwinds to R&D efficiency



- Research and development (R&D) efficiency could decline if scientific, technical and managerial improvements are offset by other factors.
- For example, R&D efficiency could be limited by the supply of validated targets that could be drugged without failing the 'cautious regulator' test and/or the 'better than the Beatles' test.
- In this hypothetical illustration, the increase in the number of validated targets between 1970 and 2010 is outweighed by increasing regulatory caution and an improving catalogue of approved drugs.

J.W. Scannel, A. Blanckley, H. Boldon, B. Warrington, Diagnosing the decline in pharmaceutical R&D efficiency, Nature Reviews Drug Discovery **2012**, 11, 191-200.

#### **Drug Discovery – The Ancient Times**

#### **Folk Medicine** (mainly plants)



#### **Experiments** in Humans



**Public theriak** preparation at a market.

- Thousands years of pro: human experience
- Lack of reproducibilit con: (varying doses)







J. Lind, 1747, "Treatmant of Scurvy"

The "right" object pro:



Toxicity con:

#### **Drug Discovery: "Clinical Studies" in Ancient Times**



#### An Early Clinical study – Coffee or Tea?



- In late 18th century Gustav III, King of Sweden, performed a "clinical study" to confirm the negative effects of coffee drinking on health.
- One convicted murder had to drink only coffee, another one tea, instead.
- Two physicians supervised the study.
- First, one physician died.
- Then the other physician died.
- Then the king was murdered.
- The tea drinker died in the age of 83.
- The coffee drinker survived all others.

#### Nevertheless, in 1794 coffee drinking was forbidden in Sweden and later again, in 1822.

An early clinical trial, Ann. Int. Med. 117, 1, 30 (1992)

# The big clinical trial problem


## **R & D Performance: Clinical Trials**

## The big clinical trial problem





## **Estimates of Where New Drugs Come From**



## Data taken from Kneller, 2010.

Data taken from DiMasi et al., 2003.

Magid Abou-Gharbia and Wayne E. Childers, Discovery of Innovative Therapeutics: Today's Realities and Tomorrow's Vision. 1. Criticisms Faced by the Pharmaceutical Industry, J. Med. Chem 56, 5659-5672 (2013)