



## Serendipity and Rational Design

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## Heroic Times: Who Is a Good Surgeon ?

Davy, 1799: Experiments with laughing gas

First Half of 19th Century: Sniffle parties

Long, 1841-1849: Ether acts as anesthetic

Wells, 1844: Laughing gas acts as anesthetic



## Heroic Times: Who Is a Good Surgeon ?

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**First Half of 19th Century: Sniffle parties**

**Long, 1841-1849: Ether acts as anesthetic**

**Wells, 1844: Laughing gas acts as anesthetic**

**Simpson, 1847: Chloroform**

**Liebreich, 1868/69: Chloral hydrate as  
„prodrug“ of chloroform**

**Schmiedeberg, 1885: Urethane as  
„prodrug“ of ethanol**

**Dreser, 1899: i-Amyl carbamate (Hedonal)**

**von Mering 1903: first barbiturate Barbiton (Barbara / Barbara day)**



Queen Victoria (1819-1901)  
1853 \* Prince Leopold

## Chance, Good Luck and the Prepared Mind

**Serendipity: Sir Horace Walpole, 1754**

**As Their Highnesses [re: the Princes of Serendip] travelled, they were always making discoveries, by accidents and sagacity, of things which they were not in quest of.**

**Louis Pasteur, 1854**

**Dans les champs de l'observation, le hasard ne favorise que les esprits préparés.**

**Albert Szent-Györgi (1893-1986)**

**Discovery consists of seeing what everybody else has seen and thinking what nobody else has thought.**

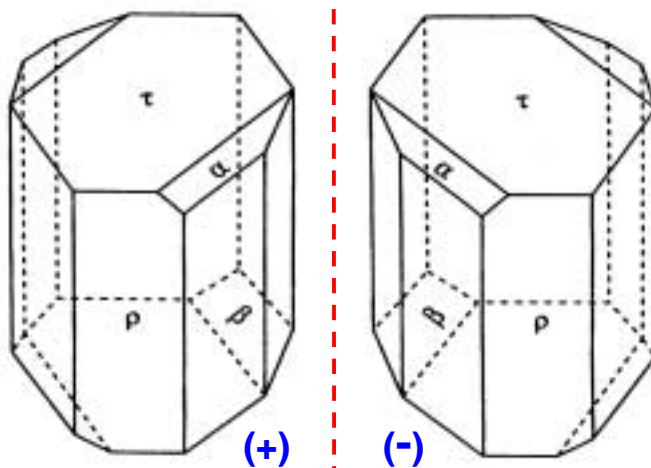


## Louis Pasteur

(27.12.1822-  
28.09.1895)

1848 Prof.  
in Dijon,  
Strasbourg,  
Lille  
1857 Paris

## Mechanical Separation of Sodium Ammonium Tartrate Crystals (Louis Pasteur, 1848)



Only a few  
compounds  
crystallize  
as separate  
stereoisomers.

Effect only  
observed  
at ambient  
temperature.

## A. W. Hofmann (1818-1892)



**1845:** Queen Victoria visits Germany; Prince Albert invites August Wilhelm Hofmann to come to London

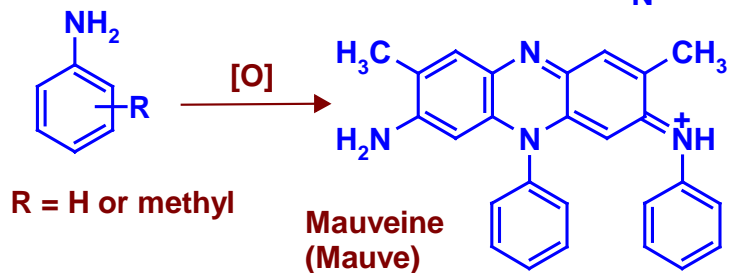
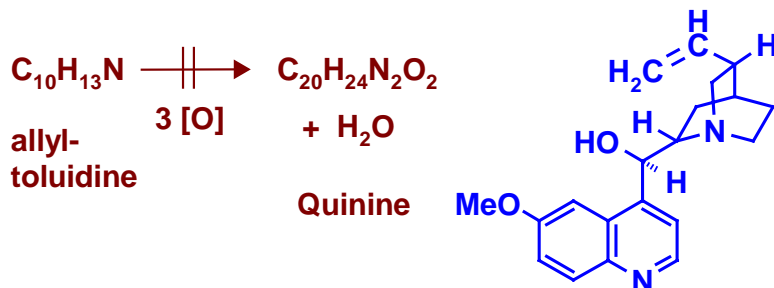
**1856:** Hofmann asks the 18-years old student William H. Perkin to synthesize quinine by oxidation of aniline

## A. W. Hofmann (1818-1892) und W. H. Perkin (1838-1907)

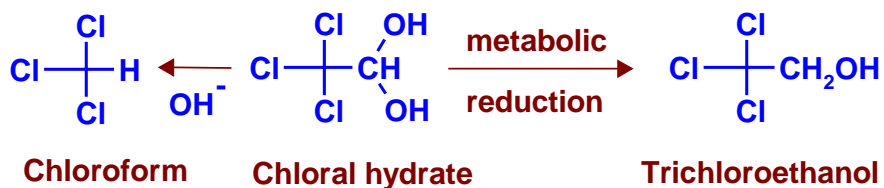


**1862:** Queen Victoria wears a dress in mauve color

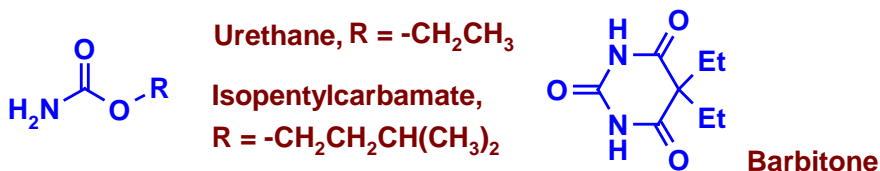
## Lack of Success in a Quinine Synthesis (1856)



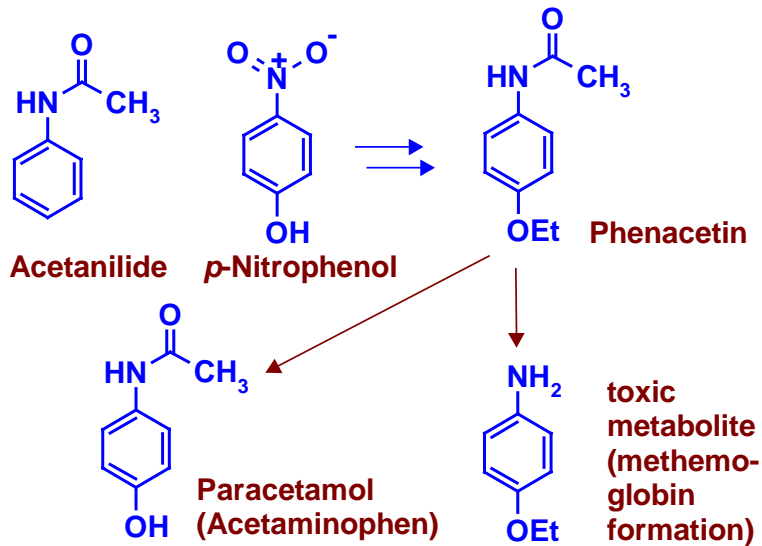
## Chloral Hydrate, a Prodrug of Chloroform ?



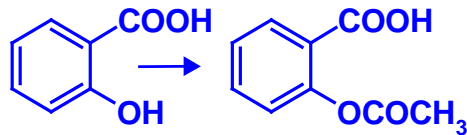
## Urethane, a Prodrug of Ethanol ?



## Discovery of Acetanilide and Phenacetin

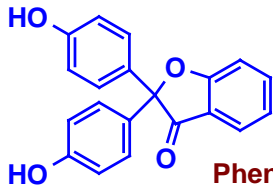


## Aspirin<sup>®</sup>, the Magic Bullett (Felix Hoffmann, 1897)

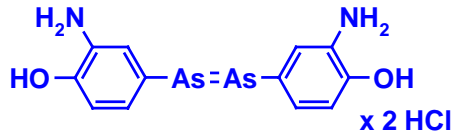




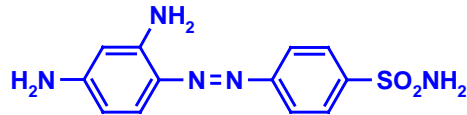
## Dyestuffs as Drugs



Phenolphthalein

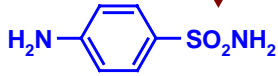


Arsphenamine, E 606  
(Salvarsan)

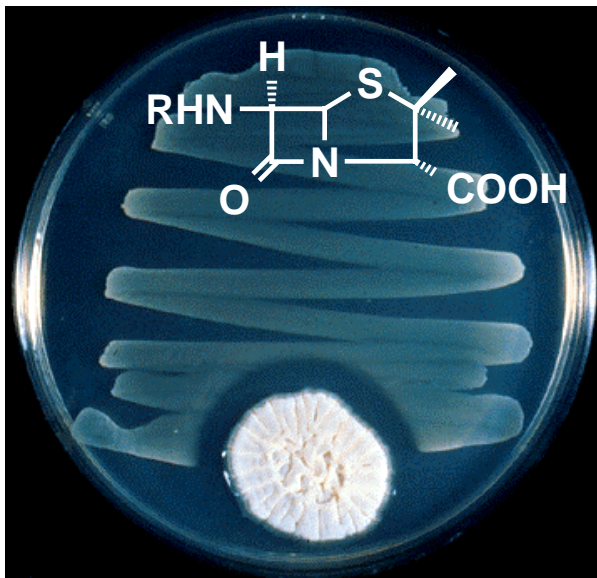
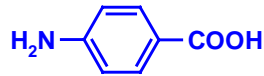


Sulfamidochrysoidine  
("Prontosil rubrum")

metabolic degradation



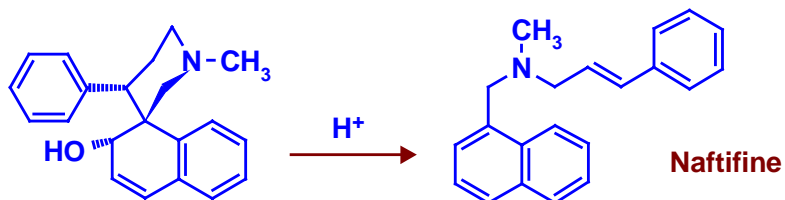
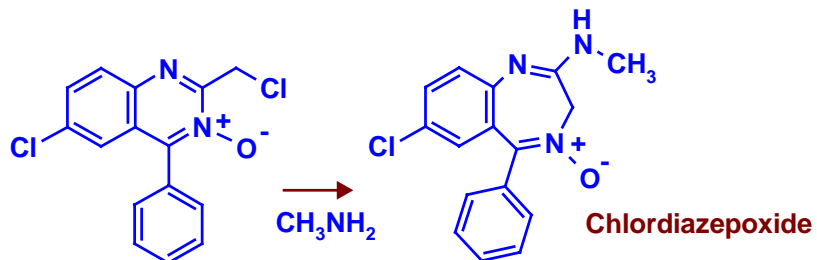
Sulfanilamide, an antimetabolite of p-aminobenzoic acid



„Penicillin  
happened,  
it came out  
of the blue.“

A. Fleming,  
1930

## Unexpected Rearrangement Products



## Survival of Frogs in a Septic Environment



Michael A. Zasloff  
(NIH)

Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.  
USA 84, 5449-5453  
(1987)

### Magainine

an antibacterial 23-aa peptide,  
**GIGKFLHSAKKKFGKAFVGEIMNS**  
(amphipathic helix formation ?),  
does not induce resistance.  
A potential acne treatment ?



## Serendipitous Drug Discoveries

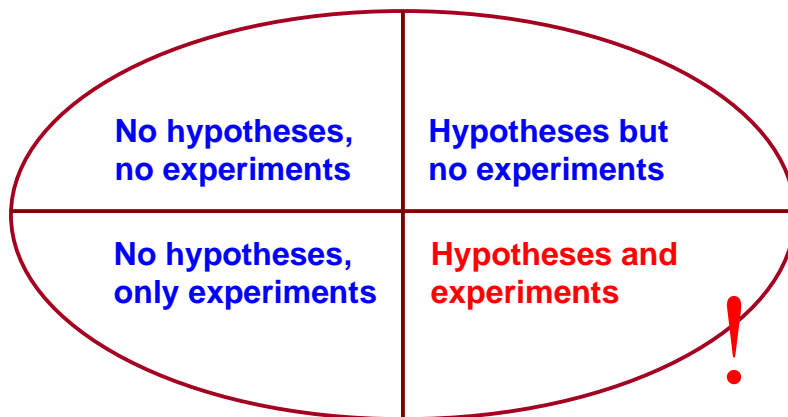
Acetanilide, Acetylsalicylic acid, Aminoglutethimide, Amphetamine, Chloral hydrate, Chlordiazepoxide, Chlorpromazine, Cinnarizine, Cisplatin, Clonidine, Cromoglycate, Cyclosporin, Dichloroisoproterenol, Dicoumarol, Diethylstilbestrol, Diphenhydramine, Diphenoxylate, Disulfiram, Ether, Etomidate, Griseofulvin, Guanethidine, Haloperidol, Heparin, Imipramine, Iproniazid, Isoniazid, Levamisole, Lithium carbonate, Lysergide (LSD), Meprobamate, Merbaphen, Methaqualone, Mifepristone, Naftifine, Nalorphine, Nitrogen mustard, Nitroglycerine, Nitrous oxide, Norethynodrel/Mestranol, Penicillin, Pethidine (Meperidine), Phenylbutazone, Phenolphthalein, Praziquantel, Prednisone, Propafenone, Sulfamidochrysoidine, Sulfonamides, Tamoxifen, Urethane, Valproic acid, Warfarin.

**Sweeteners:** Saccharin, Cyclamate, Aspartame

R. M. Roberts, Serendipity - Accidental Discoveries in Science, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1989.

H. Kubinyi, Chance Favors the Prepared Mind. From Serendipity to Rational Drug Design, J. Receptor & Signal Transduction Research 19, 15-39 (1999).

## Four Possible Strategies in Research



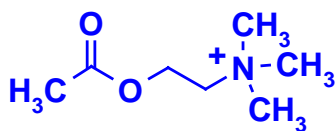
**Rolf Zinkernagel (Nobel prize in Medicine 1996)**

## Sources of New Lead Structures

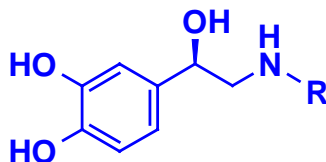
Plant and microbial natural products  
Serendipitous discoveries  
Rational approaches (endogeneous transmitters)  
Me too research  
Isosteric replacement  
Optimization of drug side effects  
Chemogenomics  
Chemical biology  
Prodrugs and soft drugs  
Metabolic switch - rescuing poor leads  
Chiral switch  
Combinatorial chemistry / HTS  
Virtual screening  
Structure-based and computer-aided design  
Fragment-based design  
Combinatorial design

H. Kubinyi, EFMC Yearbook 2003, pp. 14-28 (www.kubinyi.de)

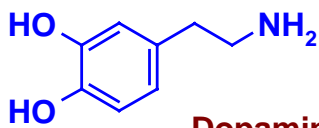
## Lead Structures: Endogenous Neurotransmitters



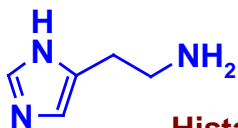
Acetylcholine



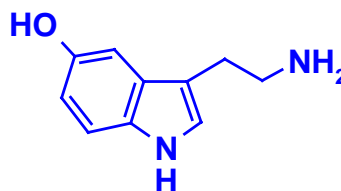
Epinephrine, R = CH<sub>3</sub>  
Norepinephrine, R = H



Dopamine

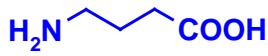
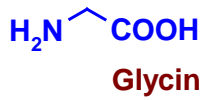


Histamine



Serotonin (5-HT)

## Lead Structures: AAs, Peptides, Hormones



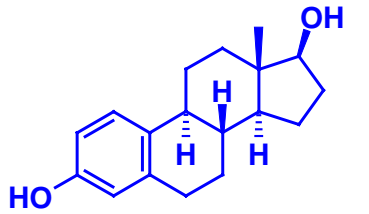
$\gamma$ -Aminobutyric acid (GABA)



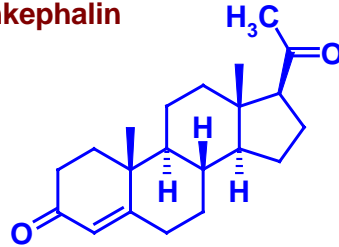
Met-Enkephalin



Leu-Enkephalin

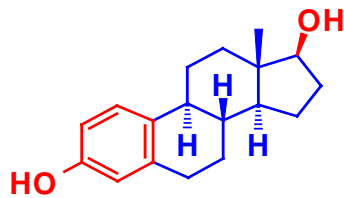


Estradiol

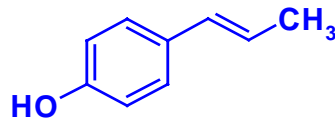


Progesterone

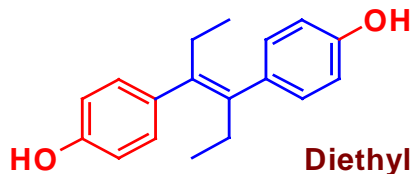
## Serendipitous Discovery of Diethylstilbestrol



Estradiol

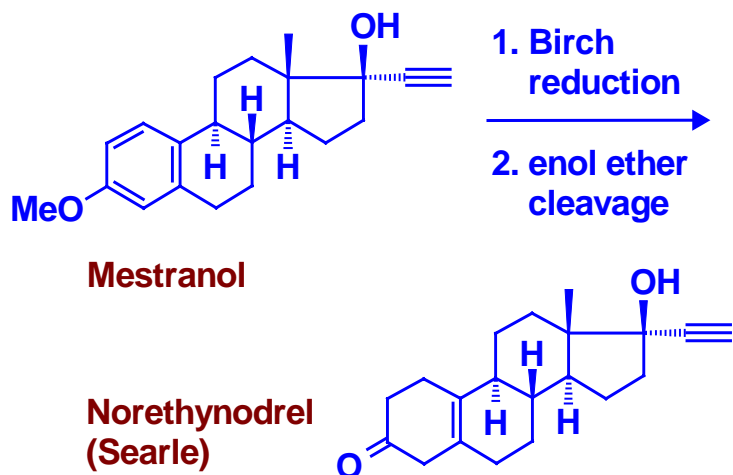


p-Anol

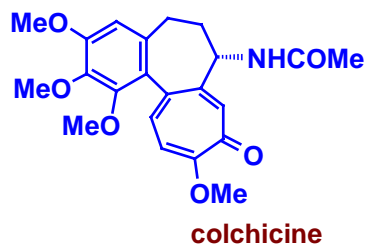
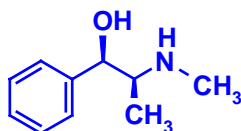
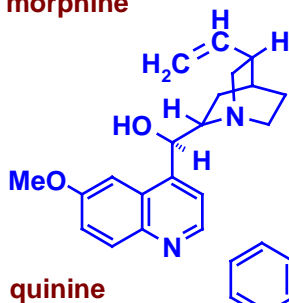
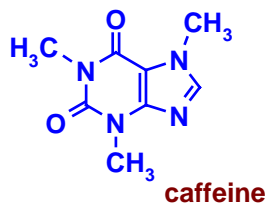
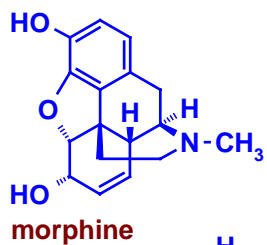


Diethylstilbestrol

## The Serendipitous Discovery of the Pill

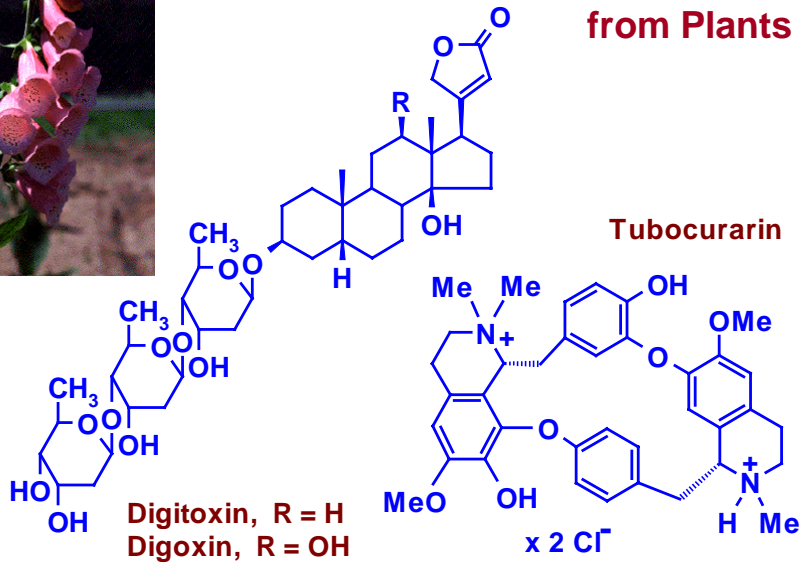


## Lead Structures: Natural Products from Plants

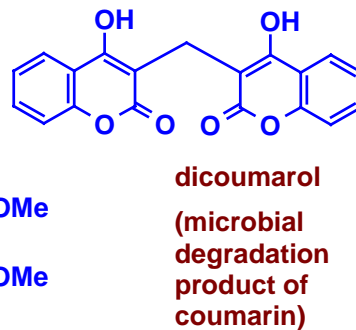
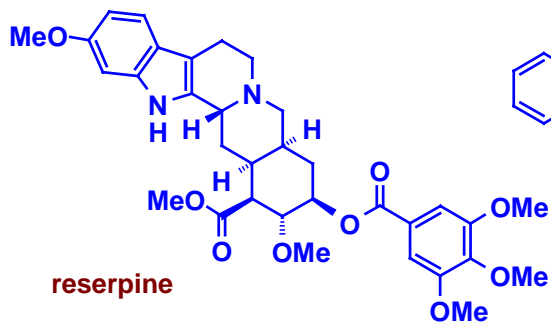
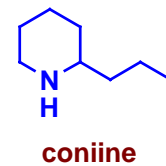
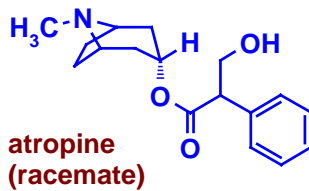
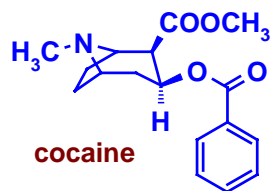




## Lead Structures: Natural Products from Plants



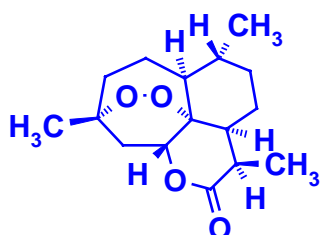
## Lead Structures: Natural Products from Plants



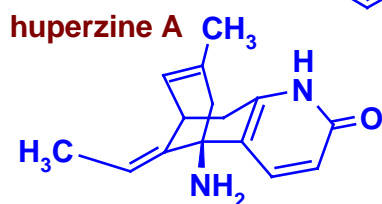


Jaques Louis David, The Last Hours of Socrates, MMA, New York

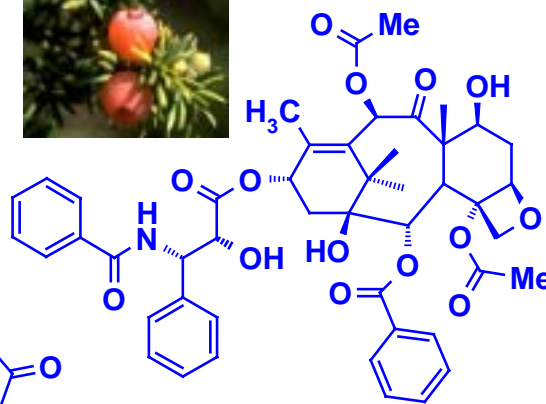
## Lead Structures: Natural Products from Plants



artemisinin

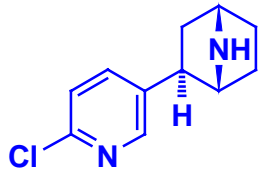


huperzine A



taxol

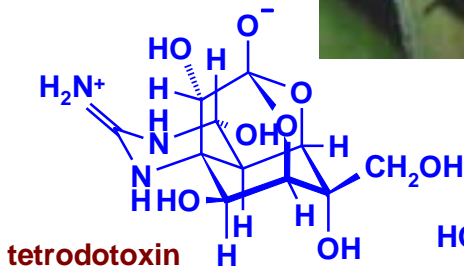
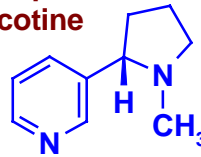
## Lead Structures: Natural Products from Animals



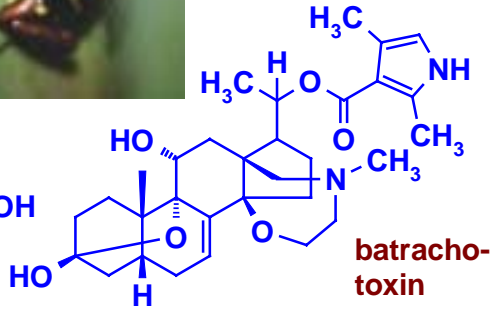
epibatidine



compare:  
nicotine

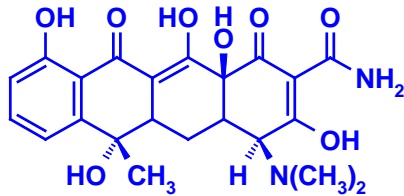


tetrodotoxin

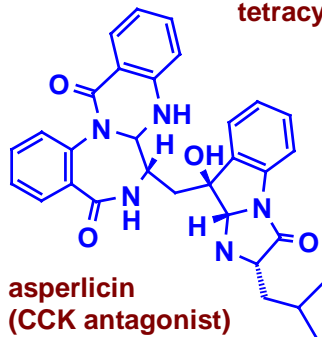


batrachotoxin

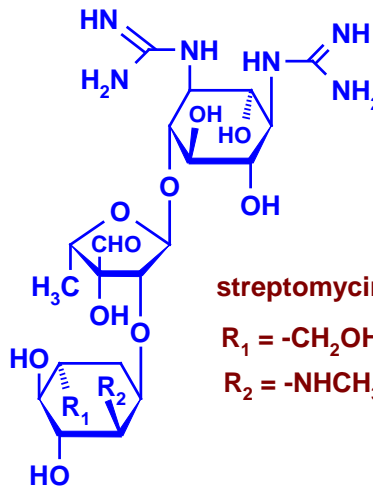
## Lead Structures: Microbial Natural Products



tetracyclin



asperlicin  
(CCK antagonist)



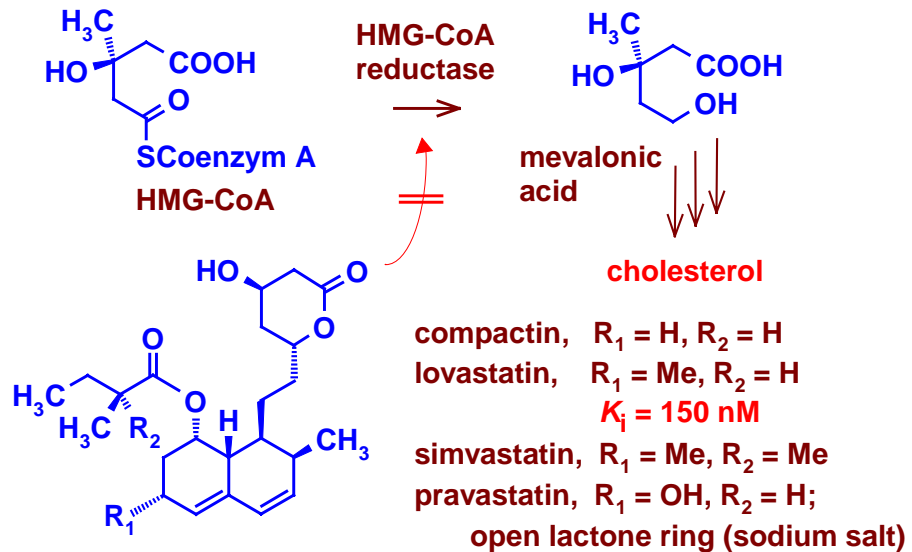
streptomycin

R<sub>1</sub> = -CH<sub>2</sub>OH

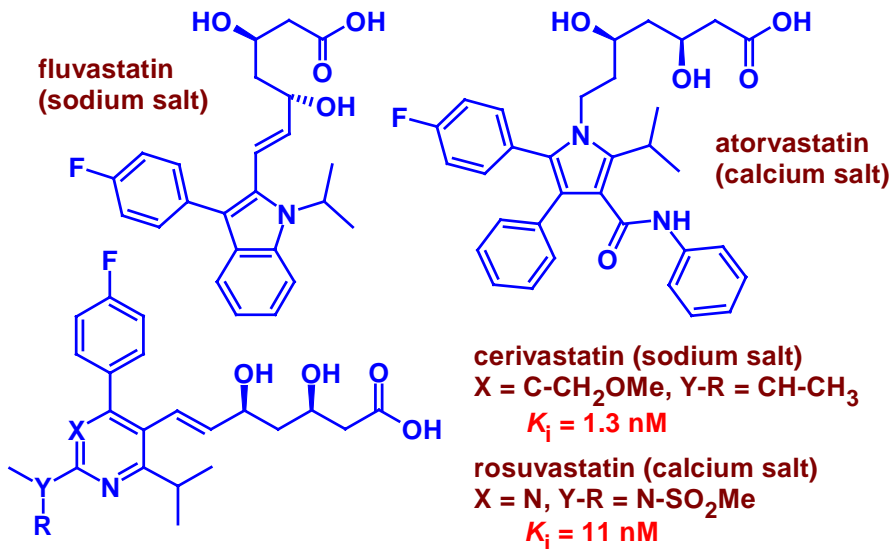
R<sub>2</sub> = -NHCH<sub>3</sub>



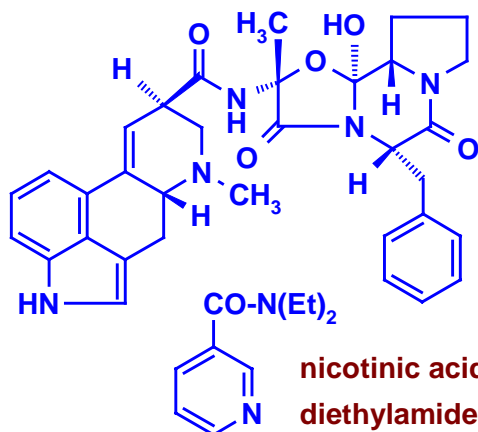
## Lead Structures: Microbial Natural Products



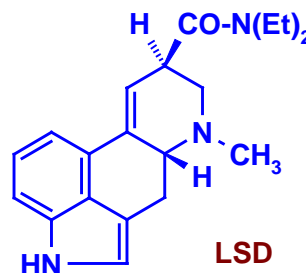
## Synthetic Statin Analogs



## Lead Structures: Other Natural Products Albert Hofmann and His Problem Child LSD



ergotamine  
(*Claviceps purpurea*;  
ergot = *Secale cornutum*)

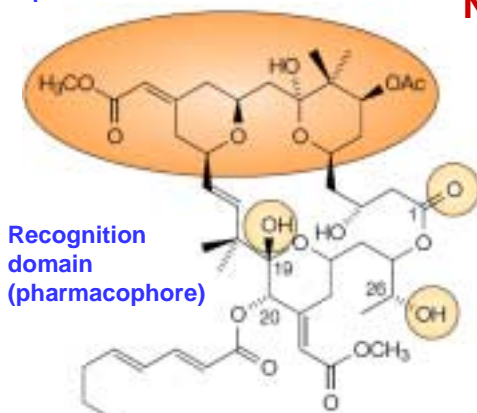


nicotinic acid  
diethylamide

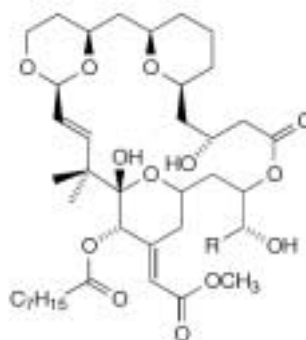
LSD

## Simplification of a Natural Product

Spacer domain



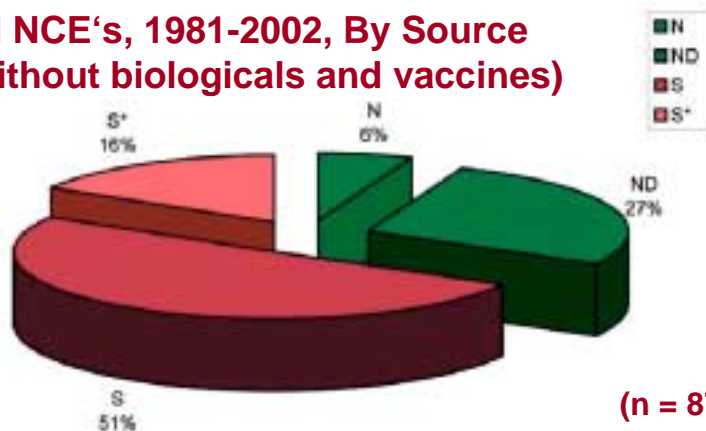
$K_i = 1.35 \text{ nM}$  Bryostatin 1



$K_i = 3 \text{ nM}$  Analogue X R = CH<sub>3</sub>  
 $K_i = 0.25 \text{ nM}$  Analogue Y R = H

J. L. Baryza, P. A. Wender et al., *Chem. Biol.* 11, 1261-1267 (2004);  
F. E. Koehn and G. T. Carter, *Nature Rev. Drug Discov.* 4, 206-220 (2005)

## All NCE's, 1981-2002, By Source (without biologicals and vaccines)



N = natural products

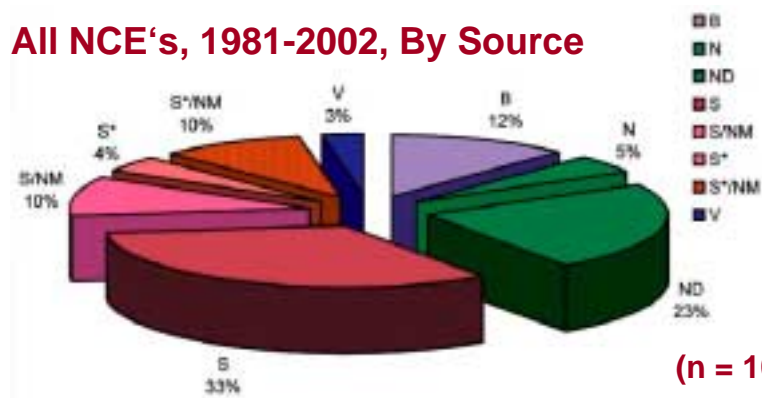
ND = derived from natural products

S = synthetic products

S\* = synthetics but pharmacophore derived from natural product

D. J. Newman et al., J. Nat. Prod. 66, 1022-1037 (2003)

## All NCE's, 1981-2002, By Source



B = biologicals (usually peptides >45 aa)

N = natural products

ND = derived from natural products

S = synthetic products

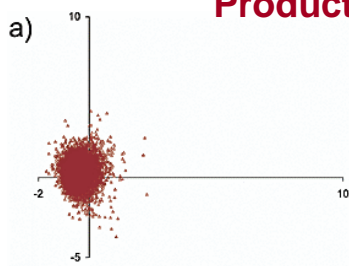
S/NM and S\*/NM = synthetics but natural product mimics

S\* = synthetics but pharmacophore derived from natural product

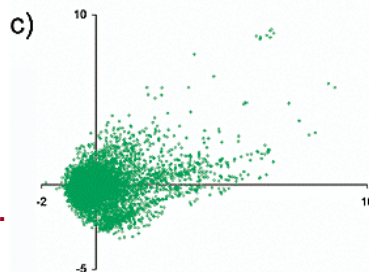
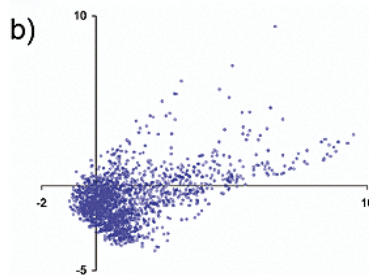
V = vaccine

D. J. Newman et al., J. Nat. Prod. 66, 1022-1037 (2003)

## Diversity of Synthetics, Drugs and Natural Products



- a) 13,506 compounds, randomly picked from CombiChem libraries
- b) natural products (n = 3,287)
- c) drugs (n = 10,968)



M. Feher and J. M. Schmidt, *J. Chem. Inf. Comput. Sci.* **43**, 218-227 (2003)

## Treatment of Parkinson's Disease

Parkinson's disease is caused by a degeneration of dopamine-producing cells in certain brain areas



Approaches for drug treatment

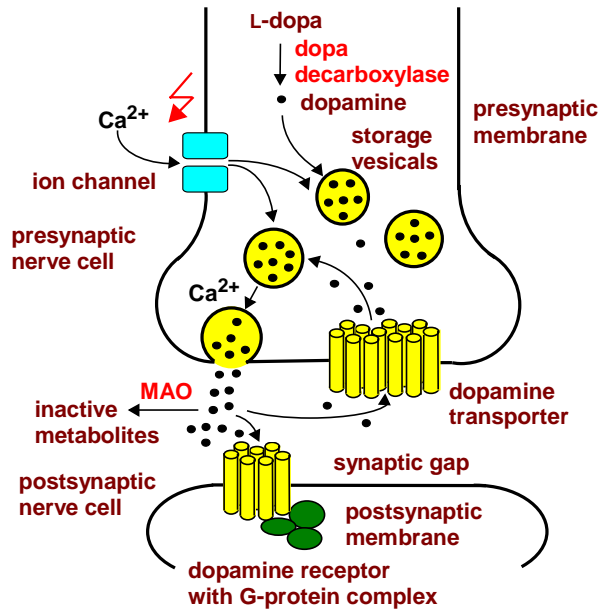
a) anticholinergics:

no causative therapy,  
side effects

b) dopamine substitution:

dopamine is not bioavailable  
dopamine does not cross the  
blood-brain barrier  
systemic application of dopamine  
results in peripheral side effects  
dopamine action only very short

## Interaction of Enzymes, Receptors, Ion Channels and Transporters in the Transmission of the Electric Signal of a Nerve Cell



## A Rational Therapy of Parkinson's Disease

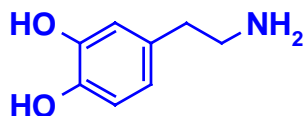
	healthy	sick
ACh	+	+
dopamine	+	-

Therapy
ACh ↓ or dopamine ↑

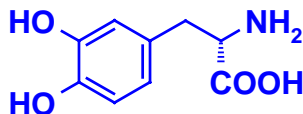
Problems
dopamine is not bio-available, peripheral side effects, MAO

oral L-DOPA, peripheral DOPA decarboxylase blocker, central MAO blocker
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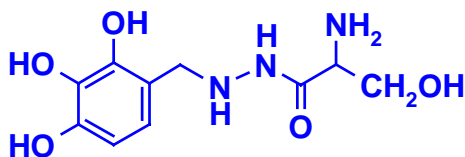
## Integrated Optimisation of Drug Therapy Dopamine Substitution in Parkinson's Disease



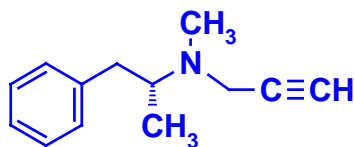
dopamine



L-dopa, a dopamine prodrug



benserazide



(R)-(-)-selegiline

## New Strategies in Drug Design

Design of **inhibitors** from the structure of the substrate

Pharmacophore hypotheses and **peptidomimetics**

**Structure-based design** of ligands  
affinity, selectivity and drug resistance

**Computer-aided design** of ligands  
*de novo* design: LUDI, FlexX

**Virtual screening** for favourable drug properties  
drug character, bioavailability (rule of five)

**Combinatorial design** of ligands