



Hybrid Drugs: Design and Applications

Guest Editors:

Dr. Parvesh Singh

School of Chemistry, University of
KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South
Africa

Dr. Vipin Kumar

Department of Chemistry, Guru
Nanak Dev University, Amritsar,
India

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

A general belief that agents modulating multiple biological targets could outperform single target drugs paved the way for the introduction of molecular hybridization as an efficient technique in drug discovery and development. The goal of this approach is to combine two (or more) pharmacophoric/bioactive subunits into a new, single chemical entity known as a hybrid molecule. When compared to the parent drugs, the new hybrid molecule may have higher affinity and efficacy, a modified selectivity profile with improved pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic restrictions, dual or multiple modes of action, reduced undesirable side effects, decreased drug–drug interactions, reduced emergence or spread of drug resistance in pathogens, and lower cost.

The major challenges in developing new molecular hybrids that target complex diseases include selecting the right target combination and achieving balanced activity while retaining drug-like properties. Nonetheless, hybridization is gaining popularity in academia and industry as a valuable tool for developing new drugs for diseases such as cancer, malaria, tuberculosis, Alzheimer's, and others.





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Prof. Dr. Amélia Pilar Rauter

Departamento de Química e Bioquímica (DQB) e Centro de Química e Bioquímica (CQB), Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa (FCUL), Rua Ernesto de Vasconcelos, Campo Grande, Edifício C8, 5º Piso, 1749-016 Lisboa, Portugal

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Pharmaceuticals Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
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