Identification of drugs that restore primary cilium expression in cancer cells

Niamat Ali Khan¹, Nicolas Willemarck¹, Ali Talebi¹, Arnaud Marchand², Maria Mercedes Binda³, Jonas Dehairs³, Natalia Rueda-Rincon¹, Veerle W. Daniels¹, Muralidhararao Bagadi¹, Deepak Balaji Thimiri Govinda Raj³, Frank Vanderheydonc¹, Sebastian Munck⁴,⁵, Patrick Chaltin²,⁶, Johannes V. Swinnen¹

¹KU Leuven - University of Leuven, Department of Oncology, Laboratory of Lipid Metabolism and Cancer, 3000 Leuven, Belgium
²Cistim Leuven vzw, Bioincubator 2, 3001 Leuven, Belgium
³European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), Grenoble Outstation and Unit of Virus Host-Cell Interactions (UVHCI), UJF-EMBL-CNRS, CS 90181, France
⁴VIB Bio Imaging Core and Center for the Biology of Disease, 3000 Leuven, Belgium
⁵KU Leuven - University of Leuven, Center for Human Genetics, 3000 Leuven, Belgium
⁶Centre for Drug Design and Discovery (CD3) KU Leuven R & D, Bioincubator 2, 3001 Leuven, Belgium

Correspondence to: Johannes V. Swinnen, e-mail: johan.swinnen@med.kuleuven.be

Keywords: cilium, cancer, small molecules, therapeutics, high content analysis

Received: July 12, 2015  Accepted: December 08, 2015  Published: February 04, 2016

ABSTRACT

The development of cancer is often accompanied by a loss of the primary cilium, a microtubule-based cellular protrusion that functions as a cellular antenna and that puts a break on cell proliferation. Hence, restoration of the primary cilium in cancer cells may represent a novel promising approach to attenuate tumor growth. Using a high content analysis-based approach we screened a library of clinically evaluated compounds and marketed drugs for their ability to restore primary cilium expression in pancreatic ductal cancer cells. A diverse set of 118 compounds stimulating cilium expression was identified. These included glucocorticoids, fibrates and other nuclear receptor modulators, neurotransmitter regulators, ion channel modulators, tyrosine kinase inhibitors, DNA gyrase/topoisomerase inhibitors, antibacterial compounds, protein inhibitors, microtubule modulators, and COX inhibitors. Certain compounds also dramatically affected the length of the cilium. For a selection of compounds (Clofibrate, Gefitinib, Sirolimus, Imexon and Dexamethasone) their ability to restore ciliogenesis was confirmed in a panel of human cancer cell line models representing different cancer types (pancreas, lung, kidney, breast). Most compounds attenuated cell proliferation, at least in part through induction of the primary cilium, as demonstrated by cilium removal using chloral hydrate. These findings reveal that several commonly used drugs restore ciliogenesis in cancer cells, and warrant further investigation of their antineoplastic properties.

INTRODUCTION

The primary cilium is a single, microtubule-based structure that protrudes from the surface of most mammalian cells [1]. It functions as a cellular antenna that captures signals from the environment and serves as a hub of key developmental and homeostatic signaling pathways including Wnt, planar cell polarity, and Hedgehog signaling [2–4]. Defects that compromise ciliary function contribute to specific disorders including Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD), Birt-Hogg-Dubé (BHD) syndrome, Bardet-Biedl Syndrome (BBS) and others. Interestingly, several of these syndromes predispose affected carriers to the onset of cancer [5–7].
Moreover, an ever-increasing number of papers report on a decrease, loss, or distortion of the primary cilium in a variety of cancer types [8–11]. These include pancreatic cancer, breast cancer, melanoma, and prostate cancer. It is commonly assumed that the cilium puts a break on cell proliferation as it uses the same structural components required for chromosome segregation [12–14]. Loss of the cilium in cancer cells may, therefore, release this break and, moreover, may contribute to distorted cellular signaling, which is a hallmark of cancer. Hence, restoration of the primary cilium in cancer cells may represent a novel promising approach to attenuate cell proliferation and may provide novel opportunities for therapeutic antineoplastic intervention. However, so far few chemical compounds are known that normalize ciliogenesis in cancer cells.

Here, we have established a high content analysis-based screening method to identify small molecules that have the ability to restore the primary cilium in cancer cells. Further application of this method to screen a repurposing library composed of clinically evaluated compounds and marketed drugs revealed that many commonly used drugs restore the primary cilium in cancer cells and attenuate cell proliferation. These findings provide new insight into the spectrum of action of some commonly used drugs and may promote the expedited application of cilia-based therapies via repurposing of existing drugs in the field of oncology and beyond.

**RESULTS**

**High content analysis-based screening for cilium-inducing compounds in pancreatic ductal cancer cells**

To screen a compound library for potential modulators of ciliogenesis, we developed an immuno-fluorescence microscopy-based phenotypic screening strategy in a 96-well format using an IN Cell 2000 High Content Analyzer (Figure 1). Pancreatic ductal cancer cells were chosen as the prime biological model in view of their well-documented loss of the primary cilium [10]. From a preliminary screening of a panel of human pancreatic cancer cell lines, CFPAC-1 cells were selected for the compound screening based on their ability to grow as flat monolayers, which is a prerequisite for accurate automated image acquisition, and for their inherent low rate of ciliogenesis, even at a high confluence (Figure 2). After incubation with 1600 different compounds from the Pharmakon 1600 library (all drugs added at 10 micromolar in DMSO), the percentage of ciliated cells was assessed in single wells by fluorescence microscopy-based visualization of the primary cilium using antibodies targeting cilium-associated acetylated tubulin. Nuclei were stained with Hoechst-33258. Images were analyzed using IN Cell Developer software according to the workflow illustrated in Figure 2. A cell was considered ciliated when the primary cilium signal (fluorescent dot) was enclosed within the nuclear border of the segmented nuclei. If more than one cilium-like dot was detected within the nuclear border, the bigger dot was selected as the match. The number of ciliated cells was then determined by counting the total number of nuclei and linked cilia in 20 fields in a single well. Compounds were considered ciliogenic based on their ability to increase the percentage of ciliated cells by at least 3 standard deviations compared to vehicle control. Using this approach, 156 ciliogenic compounds were identified in the initial screen. To eliminate false positives, the initial hits were re-evaluated in triplicate in a secondary screen using the same screening strategy. In this screen 118 cilium-enhancing compounds were confirmed. 110 of these compounds were found to increase ciliogenesis by at least a factor 2 (Figure 3A). Besides cilium-enhancing compounds, we identified 22 compounds that decreased ciliogenesis by at least 2-folds. The stimulatory compounds were categorized into 9 different classes based on their potential molecular targets (Table 1). More than one third of the positive compounds (49/118) were classified as glucocorticoids, fibrates or other nuclear receptor modulators (Figure 3B). 14/118 compounds were categorized as neurotransmitter modulators. Other classes included ion channel modulators, tyrosine kinase inhibitors, DNA gyrase/topoisomerase inhibitors, antibacterial compounds, protein synthesis inhibitors, microtubule modulators, and COX inhibitors.

**Confirmation of ciliogenic ability of representative compounds by confocal microscopy**

From the 118 cilium-enhancing compounds identified in the IN Cell Analyzer screen, we selected 20 representative compounds from the different classes for reconfirmation of their cilium modulating effect by a more robust confocal fluorescence microscopy approach, which also allowed assessment of changes in cilium length (Figure 4). Clofibrate, Gefitinib, Sirolimus, Imexon, Ciprofloxacin, and Dexamethasone were the most potent inducers of cilia in terms of percentage of ciliated cells, showing a statistically significant increase of 4-fold or more, relative to control vehicle-treated cells (Figure 4A). In terms of cilium length, Imexon, Clofibrate, and Xylazine induced a significant increase of 4-fold or more, relative to control conditions (Figure 4B). Some compounds like Clofibrate and Imexon were potent inducers of both cilium percentage and cilium length whereas other compounds primarily enhanced cilium percentage (e.g. Gefitinib). Figure 5A shows representative confocal microscopy pictures of primary ciliation of cells treated with the most potent compounds as revealed by staining for acetylated tubulin. To confirm that genuine primary cilia are induced by the drugs, cilia were stained for IFT88, an alternative marker of the primary cilium (Figure 5B).
Identified ciliogenic drugs induce cilia in multiple cancer cell models

To corroborate the ability of these compounds to induce cilia in cancer cells, we tested a selection of the most potent compounds (Clofibrate, Gefitinib, Sirolimus, Imexon and Dexamethasone) in a panel of human cell lines representing different cancer types: A549 (lung cancer), UMRC2 (kidney cancer), SUM159 (breast cancer) and L3.6 (pancreatic cancer) cell lines. As shown in Figure 6, all compounds significantly increased the percentage of ciliated cells in all the four cell lines. These results confirm the potential of the identified compounds as cillum inducers in cancer cells.

Ciliogenic drugs attenuate cell proliferation at least in part through induction of the primary cilium

As the presence of the primary cilium is dependent on the cell cycle and is most prominent in the G0/G1 phase, we examined the effect of the selected drugs on the cell cycle using FACS analysis. Although under the culture condition that we used, cultures were not highly

Figure 1: Schematic representation of the screening strategy of the Pharmakon Library using the human CFPAC-1 pancreatic cancer cell line model.
Figure 2: Imaging of ciliated cells using the IN Cell Analyzer 2000 Imaging system. (A) Depiction of the image processing procedure, including the use of a watershed clump breaking algorithm to delineate nuclei. (B) Example of processed IN Cell Analyzer images of poorly ciliated control CFPAC-1 cells (left panel) and well-ciliated Gefitinib-treated CFPAC-1 cells (right panel). Nuclei are delineated by yellow lines. Cilia are indicated by small green circles.

Figure 3: Summary of the outcome of the high content screen. (A) Ciliogenic capacity of 1600 compounds of the Pharmakon 1600 library in CFPAC-1 cells using IN Cell Analyzer high content analysis. Compounds are ranked according to their potency to increase the percentage of ciliated cells relative to vehicle-treated cells (red dotted line). (B) Target diversity of confirmed hits is shown as a percentage of abundances of compounds in each class.
Table 1: List of ciliogenic drugs identified from the Pharmakon 1600 library screen

| DRUG NAME                              | CILIATION RATIO | ACTION                          | TARGET |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1. STEROID RECEPTOR MODULATORS        |                 |                                 |        |
| Glucocorticoid receptor modulators     |                 |                                 |        |
| HYDROCORTISONE BUTYRATE                | 6.33            | Glucocorticoid, anti-inflammatory | GR     |
| AMCINONIDE                             | 6.30            | Glucocorticoid, anti-inflammatory | GR     |
| DESONIDE                               | 6.25            | Anti-inflammatory, glucocorticoid | GR     |
| CLOBETASOL PROPIONATE                  | 6.11            | Glucocorticoid, anti-inflammatory | GR     |
| PREDNISOLONE HEMISUCCINATE             | 6.10            | Anti-inflammatory, glucocorticoid | GR     |
| BETAMETHASONE 17, 21-DIPROPIONATE      | 6.00            | Glucocorticoid, anti-inflammatory | GR     |
| ALCLOMETAZONE DIPROPIONATE             | 5.89            | Anti-inflammatory, glucocorticoid | GR     |
| DESOXYMETASONE                         | 5.64            | Anti-inflammatory               | GR     |
| BETAMETHASONE ACETATE                  | 5.26            | Anti-inflammatory               | GR     |
| PREDNICARBATE                          | 5.19            | Anti-inflammatory, glucocorticoid | GR     |
| TRIAMCINOLONE DIACETATE                | 5.16            | Anti-inflammatory               | GR     |
| DEXAMETHASONE                          | 5.09            | Glucocorticoid                 | GR     |
| PREDNISOLONE SODIUM PHOSPHATE          | 5.09            | Anti-inflammatory, glucocorticoid | GR     |
| METHYL PREDNISOLONE SODIUM SUCCINATE   | 4.93            | Glucocorticoid, anti-inflammatory | GR     |
| TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE                | 4.88            | Anti-inflammatory               | GR     |
| BECLOMETHASONE DIPROPIONATE            | 4.83            | Anti-asthmatic, topical antiinflammatory | GR     |
| TRIAMCINOLONE                          | 4.82            | Glucocorticoid                 | GR     |
| HYDROCORTISONE HEMISUCCINATE           | 4.82            | Glucocorticoid                 | GR     |
| FLUOROMETHOLONE                        | 4.71            | Glucocorticoid, Anti-inflammatory | GR     |
| ISOFLUPREDNONE ACETATE                 | 4.68            | Anti-inflammatory               | GR     |
| DEXAMETHASONE SODIUM PHOSPHATE         | 4.66            | Glucocorticoid, Anti-inflammatory | GR     |
| FLUCINOLONE ACETONE                    | 4.65            | Glucocorticoid, Anti-inflammatory | GR     |
| HYDROCORTISONE PHOSPHATE TRIETHYLMINE  | 4.64            | Glucocorticoid                 | GR     |
| DEFLAZACORT                            | 4.62            | Anti-inflammatory               | GR     |
| BUDESONIDE                             | 4.61            | Anti-inflammatory               | GR     |
| DEXAMETHASONE ACETATE                  | 4.60            | Glucocorticoid, Anti-inflammatory | GR     |
| FLUMETHAZONE PIVALATE                  | 4.59            | Glucocorticoid, Anti-inflammatory | GR     |
| PREDNISOLONE ACETATE                   | 4.28            | Glucocorticoid                 | GR     |
| FLUDROCORTISONE ACETATE                | 4.20            | Mineralocorticoid              | GR/MR  |
| PREDNISOLONE                           | 4.27            | Glucocorticoid                 | GR     |
| HYDROCORTISONE ACETATE                 | 4.18            | Glucocorticoid, antiinflammatory | GR     |
| FLUTICASONE PROPIONATE                 | 4.12            | Anti-inflammatory               | GR     |
| FLUNISOLIDE                            | 3.87            | Anti-inflammatory               | GR     |
| FLUMETHASONE                           | 3.82            | Anti-inflammatory               | GR     |
| FLUCINONIDE                            | 3.78            | Anti-inflammatory, Glucocorticoid | GR/MR  |
| Drug Name                          | Score | Action                                                                 | Receptor |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| DIFLORASONE DIACETATE             | 3.74  | Anti-inflammatory, glucocorticoid                                      | GR       |
| BETAMETHASONE SODIUM PHOSPHATE    | 3.62  | Anti-inflammatory, glucocorticoid                                      | GR       |
| BETAMETHASONE VALERATE            | 3.56  | Glucocorticoid                                                        | GR       |
| MEDRYSONE                         | 3.54  | Glucocorticoid                                                        | GR       |
| HYDROCORTISONE VALERATE           | 3.52  | Anti-inflammatory, glucocorticoid                                      | GR       |
| FLURANDRENOLIDE                   | 3.45  | Anti-inflammatory                                                     | GR       |
| BETAMETHASONE                     | 3.40  | Glucocorticoid, anti-inflammatory                                     | GR       |
| METHYLPREDNISOLONE                | 3.34  | Glucocorticoid                                                        | GR       |
| Estradiol Benzoate                | 3.96  | Estrogen                                                             | ER       |
| Medroxyprogesterone Acetate        | 3.42  | Contraceptive                                                        | PR agonist|
| Iopanic Acid                      | 3.29  | Radio-opaque agent                                                   | 5′deiodinase 73–74 conversion |
| Liothyronine                      | 1.35  | Thyroid hormone blocker, antidepressant                              | THR      |
| Clofibrate                        | 6.06  | Antihyperlipidemic                                                   | (PPAR) alpha agonist |
| Pioglitazone Hydrochloride        | 2.15  | Antidiabetic                                                         | (PPAR) gamma agonist |

2. NEUROTRANSMITTER MODULATORS

Serotonin transporter inhibitors

| Drug Name                          | Score | Action                                                                 | Receptor |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Paroxetine Hydrochloride          | 6.69  | Antidepressant                                                       | Serotonin transporter |
| Milnacipran Hydrochloride         | 3.80  | Inhibitor of norepinephrine and serotonin uptake, treatment of fibromyalgia | Serotonin transporter |

Serotonin breakdown inhibitors

| Drug Name                          | Score | Action                                                                 | Receptor |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Pargyline Hydrochloride           | 4.55  | Antihypertensive                                                     | MAO      |

Serotonin receptor inhibitors

| Drug Name                          | Score | Action                                                                 | Receptor |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Tegaserod Maleate                 | 5.90  | 5HT4 receptor agonist, peristaltic stimulant                         | 5HT receptor |
| Almotriptan                       | 3.96  | 5HT 1B/2D receptor agonist                                           | 5HT receptor |
| Rizatriptan Benzoate              | 1.45  | 5HT-1B/1D agonist, antimigraine                                       | 5HT receptor |

Dopamine receptor modulators

| Drug Name                          | Score | Action                                                                 | Receptor |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Pergolide Mesylate                | 3.59  | Dopamine receptor agonist                                            | DR       |

Nicotinic cholinergic receptor modulators

| Drug Name                          | Score | Action                                                                 | Receptor |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Gallamine Triethiodide            | 2.27  | Muscle relaxant (skeletal)                                           | NCR antagonist |

Mu-opioid receptor modulators

| Drug Name                          | Score | Action                                                                 | Receptor |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Loperamide Hydrochloride          | 3.85  | Ca channel blocker                                                   | MOR agonist |

Alpha1-adrenergic receptor modulators

| Drug Name                          | Score | Action                                                                 | Receptor |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Oxymetazoline Hydrochloride       | 3.55  | Adrenergic agonist, nasal decongestant                               | A1AR agonist |
| Adrenolone Hydrochloride          | 2.42  | Adrenergic (ophthalmic)                                              | A1AR agonist |

Alpha2-adrenergic receptor modulators

| Drug Name                          | Score | Action                                                                 | Receptor |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Xylazine                           | 3.76  | Analgesic                                                            | A2AR     |
### Beta1-adrenergic receptor modulators

| Drug                                      | Score | Action                                           | Type                        |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| **DOBUTAMINE HYDROCHLORIDE**              | 4.83  | Cardiotonic                                      | B1AR agonist                |
| **ACEBUTOLOL HYDROCHLORIDE**              | 3.90  | Anti hypertensive, antianginal, antiarrhythmic   | B1AR antagonist              |

#### 3. ION CHANNEL MODULATORS

| Drug                                      | Score | Action                                           | Mechanism                   |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| **CAPSAICIN**                             | 4.52  | Analgesic (topical)                              | TRPV1 channel                |
| **ESOMEPIRAZOLE POTASSIUM**               | 4.47  | Gastric acid secretion inhibitor                 | H+/K+ exchange, alpha polypeptide |
| **BUPIVACAINE HYDROCHLORIDE**             | 4.29  | Anesthetic (local)                               | SCN10A blocker               |
| **SURAMIN HEXASODIUM**                    | 2.85  | Antiprotozoal, trypanocidal, antiviral           | ATP-activated ion channel blocker |
| **OXCARBAZEPINE**                         | 1.38  | Antipsychotic / Na channel inhibition            | SCN1A blocker                |

#### 4. COX INHIBITORS

| Drug                                      | Score | Action                                           | Mechanism                   |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| **KETOROLAC TROMETHAMINE**                | 3.92  | Anti-inflammatory / cyclooxygenase               | COX                          |
| **INDOPROFEN**                            | 1.88  | Analgesic, anti-inflammatory / cyclooxygenase    | COX                          |

#### 5. TYROSINE KINASE INHIBITORS

| Drug                                      | Score | Action                                           | Mechanism                   |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| **GEFITINIB**                             | 4.89  | Antineoplastic / EGFR inhibitor                  | TKR                          |
| **LEFLUNOMIDE**                           | 4.24  | Antineoplastic, PDGF receptor blocker            | TKR                          |
| **TANDUTINIB**                            | 2.81  | Tyrosine kinase inhibitor                        | TKR                          |

#### 6. ANTIBACTERIAL PEPTIDOGLYCAN SYNTHESIS INHIBITORS

| Drug                                      | Score | Action                                           | Mechanism                   |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| **CEFPROZIL**                             | 4.48  | Antibacterial                                    | Peptidoglycan synthesis      |
| **CEFOXITIN SODIUM**                      | 4.11  | Antibacterial                                    | Peptidoglycan synthesis      |
| **CEFAMANDOLE SODIUM**                    | 3.76  | Antibacterial                                    | Peptidoglycan synthesis      |
| **HETACILLIN POTASSIUM**                  | 1.90  | Antibacterial                                    | Peptidoglycan synthesis      |
| **CEFTIBUTEN**                            | 1.42  | Antibacterial                                    | Peptidoglycan synthesis      |

#### 7. DNA GYRASE/TOPOISOMERASE INHIBITORS

| Drug                                      | Score | Action                                           | Mechanism                   |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| **CIPROFLOXACIN**                         | 6.45  | Antibacterial, fungicide                         | DNA gyrase topoisomerase     |
| **GEMIFLOXACIN MESYLATE**                 | 4.49  | Antibacterial                                    | DNA gyrase topoisomerase     |
| **LOMEFLOXACIN HYDROCHLORIDE**            | 3.94  | Antibacterial                                    | DNA gyrase topoisomerase     |

#### 8. PROTEIN SYNTHESIS INHIBITORS

| Drug                                      | Score | Action                                           | Mechanism                   |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| **SIROLIMUS**                             | 6.06  | Immunosuppressant, antineoplastic; rapamycin     | mTOR / protein synthesis     |
| **OXYTETRACYCLINE**                       | 4.02  | Antibacterial                                    | Protein synthesis            |
| **MECLOCYCLINE SULFOSALICYLATE**          | 3.57  | Antibacterial                                    | Protein synthesis            |
| **GENTAMICIN SULFATE**                    | 2.45  | Antibacterial                                    | Protein synthesis            |

#### 9. MICROTUBULE MODULATORS

| Drug                                      | Score | Action                                           |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------|
| **DOCETAXEL**                             | 2.51  | Antineoplastic                                   |
| OTHERS (unclassified so far)                                   |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| IMEXON                                                       | 5.39 | Antineoplastic |
| SEMUSTINE                                                    | 5.31 | Antineoplastic |
| DENATONIUM BENZOATE                                          | 4.92 | Denaturing agent, bitter principle |
| TRANILAST                                                    | 4.82 | Antiallergic, mast cell degranulation inhibitor, angiogenesis blocker |
| DICHLORISONE ACETATE                                         | 4.42 | Antipruritic |
| OSELTAMIVIR PHOSPHATE                                        | 4.38 | Antiviral, Neuraminidase |
| DIBENZOTHIOPHENE                                             | 4.36 | Keratolytic |
| PENTAGASTRIN                                                 | 4.29 | Gastric secretion indicator |
| RETINYL PALMITATE                                            | 4.05 | Provitamin, antixerophthalmic |
| SULCONAZOLE NITRATE                                          | 4.03 | Antifungal, Sterol 14alpha-demethylase |
| DOCUSATE SODIUM                                              | 4.02 | Stool softener, Anionic surfactant |
| BIFONAZOLE                                                   | 3.93 | Antifungal, calmodulin antagonist, Sterol 14alpha-demethylase |
| TRANDOLAPRIL                                                 | 3.89 | Antihypertensive, ACE inhibitor, ACE |
| PROCARBAZINE HYDROCHLORIDE                                   | 3.60 | Antineoplastic |
| MANNITOL                                                     | 3.59 | Diuretic, sweetener, diagnostic aid |
| ARGININE HYDROCHLORIDE                                       | 3.32 | Ammonia detoxicant, diagnostic aid |
| TOLONAFTATE                                                  | 3.31 | Antifungal, Squalene epoxidase |
| PENTETIC ACID                                                | 3.18 | Chelating agent, diagnostic aid |
| AVOBENZONE                                                   | 3.04 | Sunscreen |
| IODOQUINOL                                                  | 2.99 | Antiamebic |
| PRILOCaine HYDROCHLORIDE                                     | 2.93 | Anesthetic (local) |
| AMPYZINE SULFATE                                             | 2.88 | CNS stimulant |
| BENZOXIQquine                                               | 2.71 | Anti-infective |
| PRASUGREL                                                   | 2.69 | Platelet aggregation inhibitor |
| TRIENTINE HYDROCHLORIDE                                      | 2.60 | Chelating agent |
| PARAROSANILINE PAMOATE                                      | 2.56 | Antihelmintic, antischistosomal |
| NADIDE                                                       | 2.24 | Alcohol and narcotic antagonist |
| ANEBROMPHENIRAMINE MALEATE                                  | 2.14 | H1 antihistamine |
| ISOTRETININ                                                 | 2.12 | Anti-acne, antineoplastic |
| ANETHOLE                                                     | 2.02 | Expectorant, gastric stimulant, Insecticide |
| CLOFZAMINE                                                   | 1.92 | Antibacterial, antileptic, antituberculosis, Guanine, PLA2, inhibits Smase |
| LITHIUM CITRATE                                              | 1.38 | Antidepressant |

Compounds are classified according to their potential targets and arranged in descending order of ciliogenic potential in CFPAC-1 cells as assessed by IN Cell analysis (expressed as ratio of % of ciliated cells in treated cultures versus vehicle control) within each group. GR, glucocorticoid receptor; MR, mineralocorticoid receptor; ER, estrogen receptor; PR, progesterone receptor; THR, thyroid hormone receptor; MAO, mono amine oxidase; DR, dopamine receptor; NCR, nicotinic cholinergic receptor; MOR, mu-opioid receptor; A1AR, alpha 1 adrenergic receptor; A2AR, alpha 2 adrenergic receptor; B1AR, beta 1 adrenergic receptor; COX, cyclooxygenase; TKR, tyrosine kinase receptor; ACE, angiotensin-converting enzyme.
proliferative even in control conditions, most compounds resulted in a further increase in the percentage of cells in the G0/G1 phase, indicative of a further induction of growth arrest (Figure 7A). In line with these findings, most compounds attenuated cell proliferation as assessed by a spheroid formation assay of L3.6 cells (Figure 7B) and BrdU incorporation in CFPAC-1 cells (Figure 7C). To explore to what extent primary cilium occurs secondarily to the growth arrest or in fact actively contributes to the observed attenuation of cell proliferation, we assessed the effect of these compounds on cell proliferation in the presence of the deciliation agent chloral hydrate, which completely removed the cilium (Figure 7C). Interestingly, in most cases deciliation largely restored cell proliferation of compound-treated cells (Figure 7C), indicating that the antiproliferative effect of these compounds is at least in part caused by their ability to induce the primary cilium.

**DISCUSSION**

Building on the emerging concept that loss of the primary cilium is linked to the development of several tumor types and that re-establishing the expression of this organelle may attenuate tumor growth, we have...
developed a semi-high-throughput approach to identify stimulators of ciliogenesis in cancer cells. Screening of the Pharmakon 1600 library resulted in the identification of 118 compounds that showed the ability to restore cilium expression in cancer cell line models. Among these were many glucocorticoids (43/118 hits or 43/47 glucocorticoids in the entire library). A diverse set of other drugs was identified including many neurotransmitter regulators and ion channel modulators. Some of the compounds from our screen such as dexamethasone, hydrocortisone, estradiol, pargyline and lithium have previously been described as enhancers of the percentage of ciliated cells and/or of cilium length [15–19]. Others, like beclomethasone, fluticasone, flunisolide, mannitol and arginine are known to affect ciliary beat frequency (CBF), which in many cases varies with dosage and length of treatment [20–23]. It has been suggested that beta-adrenergic receptor modulators may have a therapeutic role in the treatment of Primary Cilia Dyskinesia (PCD) [24, 25]. Pioglitazone has been shown to have beneficial effects in the treatment of Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) [26]. Cilio-modulatory activities have also been attributed to several other compounds from our screen like triamcinolone, budesonide, paroxetine, oxymetazoline and docetaxel [23, 27–30]. Imexon, a potent enhancer of cilium length as shown in our results, is a known inducer of apoptosis and cell cycle arrest in pancreatic cancer cells [31]. For this reason it has been used in combination drug trials along with gemcitabine for the treatment of patients with advanced pancreatic cancer. The anti-diarrheal drug

Figure 5: Confocal fluorescence microscopy images of primary cilia in CFPAC-1 cells treated with selected compounds. Cilia were stained with an antibody against acetylated tubulin (green) (A) or with an antibody against IFT88 (red) (B). Nuclei were visualized by staining with DAPI (Blue). Images were captured using Bio-Rad Radiance confocal microscope through a 40X objective lens at 2.3X zoom. The scale bar represents 20 µm. Images were processed manually to optimally visualize cilia.
Figure 6: Effect of a selection of compounds on ciliogenesis in different cancer cell line models as assessed by confocal fluorescence microscopy analysis. (A) Quantification of the percentage of ciliated cells. Data are presented as mean (n = 100–300) ± SEM, *p ≤ 0.05, **p ≤ 0.005, ***p ≤ 0.0005 as compared to control. (B) Representative images showing the effect of selected compounds on ciliation in different cancer cell line models. All Images were captured using Nikon C2 Eclipse Ti-E confocal microscope at 1.0X zoom using a 60x objective lens.
Figure 7: Anti-proliferative effect of ciliogenic compounds and involvement of the primary cilium. (A) Changes in cell cycle profile as determined by FACS analysis of CFPAC-1 cells upon treatment with a selection of ciliogenic compounds. Data are presented as mean ± SEM, *p ≤ 0.05, **p ≤ 0.005, ***p ≤ 0.0005 as compared to control. (B) Effect of selected compounds on spheroid formation of L3.6 pancreatic cancer cells. Data are presented as mean of at least 6 spheroids ± SEM, *p < 0.0001 as compared to control. The bottom panel shows representative images of spheroids treated with vehicle control and with selected drugs. (C) Effect of compounds on cell proliferation of CFPAC-1 cells as measured by BrdU incorporation and impact of deciliation by treatment with chloral hydrate (CH). Proliferation of cells was measured by BrdU incorporation 24 hours after deciliation. Differences in proliferation were expressed as percentage of BrdU incorporation as compared to untreated control (red bar). Data are presented as mean ± SEM, *p ≤ 0.05, **p ≤ 0.005, ***p ≤ 0.0005. Confocal microscope images show the effect of 4 mM chloral hydrate on sirolimus-treated CFPAC-1 cells. Primary cilia are stained for acetylated tubulin (green) and nuclei are stained with DAPI (blue).
loperamide, a good inducer of cilia in our models, has been reported as a potential anti-tumor agent due to its ability to induce apoptosis [32].

With respect to the mechanisms underlying the cilium modulating effects of these compounds, many of them (steroid receptor modulators, neurotransmitter modulators, ion channel modulators) are known to affect levels of cAMP, calcium or other ions, which are established regulators of cilium expression and/or cilium length [33–35] (Figure 8). Microtubule modulators may affect the microtubule assembly and extension in the cilium or may disturb the transport towards the cilium [36–38]. Tyrosine kinase inhibitors may enhance ciliogenesis by inhibiting ligand-dependent activation of cell-cycle entry or by regulating the coordination of signaling events linked to cilium-centrosome axis, that control cell cycle, differentiation and migration [39, 40].

Ciliogenic effects of sirolimus (rapamycin) might be mediated through mTOR signaling which is known to modulate ciliary size and function through translational regulation [41]. Others (cephalosporins, DNA gyrase/topoisomerase inhibitors) are known to affect Aurora kinases [42–44], which

Figure 8: Schematic overview of identified ciliogenic compounds based on their potential targets or putative mechanism of action.
are also well-established regulators of the primary cilium [45–47]. Several compounds may affect the cilium through extracellular ATP. Several studies show a relationship between intracellular calcium levels and extracellular ATP via the purinergic receptor [48–51]. Also, glucocorticoids promote ATP release from the cell [52]. Many of these compounds also affect cell proliferation as known from the literature [31, 53–63] or as revealed in our spheroid and BrdU assays. This effect was not always proportional to the induction of ciliogenesis, which is not surprising given the various mechanisms of action of these compounds. The further characterization of these mechanisms may be challenging in part because of the incomplete understanding of the mechanisms of action of some of these drugs and the processes involved in ciliogenesis. Many of the compounds we identified cause cell cycle arrest in the G0/G1 phase, which is known to promote ciliogenesis [13], suggesting that the ciliogenic effect of some of these compounds may be indirect and may be downstream of cell cycle arrest. Nevertheless, our findings that deciliation of compound-treated cells restores cell proliferation strongly suggest that the compound-induced ciliogenesis plays an active role in the antiproliferative effects of these compounds.

Our findings that many common drugs have the ability to restore the primary cilium in cancer cell line models may provide interesting new insights in the spectrum of actions of these compounds and may warrant further investigation into application of some of these compounds in future antineoplastic approaches. They also promote the concept of harnessing the therapeutic potential of existing drugs for a novel use, generally referred to as drug repurposing [64–67]. Development of a new drug is a complex, time-consuming and costly process, mainly due to pharmacological hurdles like bioavailability, solubility, stability, toxicity etc., which form bottlenecks in the therapeutic development process. This can be overcome by drug repurposing, a strategy that reduces the time frame, decreases the costs and improves the success rate by redirecting existing drugs for a new indication. Most of the drugs from the Pharmakon 1600 Library have already been tested for safety in humans and data is available on their pharmacology, formulation and toxicity, paving the way for an accelerated development of cilia-based therapeutics. The success of our screening approach also sets the stage to screen other libraries of new compounds and to establish these as potential novel antineoplastic agents and/or agents exploitable in other cilium-related diseases, including classical ciliopathies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cell lines

All cell lines were obtained from ATCC. A549 (lung cancer), UMRC2 (kidney cancer) and SUM159 (breast cancer) were maintained in DMEM medium (Life Technologies) supplemented with 10% FBS (Life Technologies). CFPAC-1 (pancreatic cancer) cells were cultured in RPMI-1640 medium (Life Technologies) supplemented with 10% FBS. L3.6 (pancreatic cancer) cells were grown in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% FBS and 2mM L-Glutamine (Life Technologies). All cell lines were incubated in a humidified incubator at a temperature of 37°C and 5% levels of CO₂.

Compound library screening

CFPAC-1 cells were seeded in 96-well microplates at a density of 10,000 cells/well containing 200 μl culture medium supplemented with 10% FBS and incubated for 48 hours in a humidified incubator (37°C and 5% CO₂), after which medium was refreshed with 200 μl of RPMI-1640 medium containing 2% FBS. The Pharmakon 1600 chemical library consisting of 1600 clinically evaluated compounds and marketed drugs was procured from MicroSource Discovery Systems Inc. (U.S.A). The compounds were dissolved as 10 mM stock solutions in DMSO and added to culture medium to a final concentration of 10 μM. Media and compounds were refreshed on the fourth day after the initial addition of the compounds. After 8 days of compound incubation, the cells were chemically fixed and stained with anti-acetylated tubulin antibody (Sigma, Cat No. T6793-.5ML), which stains the ciliary axoneme. A fluorescent secondary antibody (Life Technologies, AlexaFluor 488, Cat No. A21145) was used against the primary antibody. The nuclei were counterstained with Hoechst-33258 (Cat No: 382061, Calbiochem). 20 randomized fields per well were imaged at a single plane of focus at 20X magnification in DPBS (Sigma) to reduce auto-fluorescence from the medium and to minimize signal-to-noise ratio. Images acquired by the IN Cell Analyzer 2000 (GE Healthcare) were analyzed using IN Cell Developer software (GE Healthcare).

Confocal microscopy

CFPAC-1 cells were seeded on glass coverslips in 12-well plates containing 1 ml of culture medium per well. At 30% confluency, cell media was replaced by low serum medium containing 2% FBS. After 8 days of compound treatment, cells were fixed with 4% Formaldehyde (Merck), permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X100 (Merck) in DPBS, blocked with 1% BSA (Applichem) in DPBS, and incubated with 1:1000 dilution of anti-acetylated tubulin antibody or 1:500 dilution of anti-IFT88 antibody (Cat. No. 13967–1-AP, Proteintech) for 1 h, followed by incubation with 1:1000 dilution of fluorescent secondary antibody for 1 h. Nuclei were counterstained with DAPI (Vector Laboratories, Vectashield (Cat. No. H-1500). Images of primary cilia were captured by acquiring Z-stacks using either a Bio-Rad Radiance or Nikon C2 Eclipse Ti-E confocal laser scanning microscope by 40X or 60X oil immersion lenses. All drugs selected for
confocal reconfirmation experiments were purchased from Sigma, except for Almotriptan Malate and Sirolimus which were obtained from Selleckchem. Gefitinib was from Invivogen, Cefprozil Monohydrate from Abcam and Imexon from MicroSource Discovery Systems Inc.

**Confirmation of ciliogenesis in other cancer cell lines**

A549, UMRC2, SUM159 and L3.6 cells were treated as indicated and images were acquired as previous. Image stacks captured by confocal microscope were processed and analyzed for cilia percentage and cillum length using ImageJ software.

**Chemical deciliation**

CFPAC-1 cells treated with ciliogenic compounds were exposed to 4 mM chloral hydrate (Cat. No. C8383–100G, Sigma) for 24 h to remove cilia [68]. Following deciliation, chloral hydrate was washed out and the cells were allowed to grow in fresh culture medium for 24 h before BrdU addition and measurement of proliferation.

**Proliferation assays**

Spheroid assay - Tumor spheroids were formed on agarose-coated (1%) 96-well plates by seeding L3.6 pancreatic cancer cells in 200 μl of culture medium. The plates were kept undisturbed in a humidified incubator at 37°C and 5% CO₂ for 4 days to facilitate spheroid formation. Treatment with compounds was started when the cells aggregated to form spheroids. Compounds and 50% of the medium were refreshed every 4th day. Images were captured at the beginning of treatment with 5X objective mounted on an inverted light microscope. Imaging was done every 4 days for 20 days from the start of treatment. The images were analyzed by ImageJ software (rsb.info.nih.gov/ij) to calculate the differences in the volume of spheroids at different time points.

BrdU incorporation assay - BrdU incorporation assay was performed using 5-Bromo-2-deoxy-uridine Labeling and Detection Kit III (Cat. No. 11444611001, Roche) according to manufacturer’s instructions.

**Cell cycle analysis**

CFPAC-1 cells were plated at a density of 300,000 cells/well of a 6-well plate and allowed to grow for two days. This was followed by compound treatment for 48 h and harvesting of cells by trypsinization. Cells were fixed with 4% formaldehyde and permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X100 solution. The permeabilized cells were washed with PBS and stained with Vybrant DyeCycle Green Stain (Cat. No. V35004, ThermoFisher Scientific). Cell cycle data was acquired by measuring at least 10,000 events per sample with BD FACSCanto Flow Cytometer (Becton Dickinson). Data was analyzed using FlowJo software (Becton Dickinson) and the cell cycle distribution was calculated by ImageJ software.

**Statistical analysis**

GraphPad Prism version 6 for Mac OS X (GraphPad Software, San Diego, California, USA) was used for statistical analysis. All data are expressed as mean ± SEM. Differences between two groups were assessed using the t-test. To determine differences between more than two groups, two-way ANOVA was used followed by Dunnett’s multiple comparisons test. Differences with p values of < 0.05 were considered to be statistically significant.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND FUNDING**

This work was supported by grant G0816.13 from the Research Foundation-Flanders (FWO) (to J.S.) and by GOA/11/2009 grant of the KU Leuven (to J.S.).

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

**REFERENCES**

1. Satir P, Pedersen LB, Christensen ST. The primary cilium at a glance. J Cell Sci. 2010; 123:499–503.
2. Singla V, Reiter JF. The primary cilium as the cell's antenna: Signaling at a sensory organelle. Science. 2006; 313:629–633.
3. Wallingford JB, Mitchell B. Strange as it may seem: the many links between Wnt signaling, planar cell polarity, and cilia. Gene Dev. 2011; 25:201–213.
4. Goetz SC, Ocbina PJR, Anderson KV. The Primary Cilium as a Hedgehog Signal Transduction Machine. Method Cell Biol. 2009; 94:199.
5. Luijten M, Claessens T, Basten S, Vernooij M, Menko F, Nookala R, Scott C, van Geel M, Janssen R, Easton J, Vreeburg M, Kamps M, Land S, et al. Birt-hogg-dube syndrome is a novel ciliopathy. J Invest Dermatol. 2013; 133:S136–S136.
6. Habbig S, Bartram MP, Sagmuller JG, Griessmann A, Franke M, Muller RU, Schwarz R, Hoehne M, Bergmann C, Tessmer C, Reinhardt HC, Burst V, Benzing T, et al. The ciliopathy disease protein NPHP9 promotes nuclear delivery and activation of the oncogenic transcriptional regulator TAZ. Hum Mol Genet. 2012; 21:5528–5538.
7. Fliegauf M, Benzing T, Omran H. When cilia go bad: cilia defects and ciliopathies. Nat Rev Mol Cell Bio. 2007; 8:880–93.
8. Yuan K, Frolova N, Xie Y, Wang DZ, Cook L, Kwon YJ, Steg AD, Serra R, Frost AR. Primary Cilia Are Decreased in Breast Cancer: Analysis of a Collection of Human Breast
9. Hassounah NB, Nagle R, Saboda K, Roe DJ, Dalkin BL, McDermott KM. Primary Cilia Are Lost in Preinvasive and Invasive Prostate Cancer. Plos One. 2013; 8.

10. Seeley ES, Carriere C, Goetze T, Longnecker DS, Kore M. Pancreatic Cancer and Precursor Pancreatic Intraepithelial Neoplasia Lesions Are Devoid of Primary Cilia. Cancer Res. 2009; 69:422–430.

11. Kim J, Dabiri S, Seeley ES. Primary cilium depletion typifies cutaneous melanoma in situ and malignant melanoma. Plos One. 2011; 6:e27410.

12. Jackson PK. Do cilia put brakes on the cell cycle? Nat Cell Biol. 2011; 13:340–342.

13. Goto H, Inoko A, Inagaki M. Cell cycle progression by the repression of primary cilia formation in proliferating cells. Cell Mol Life Sci. 2013; 70:3893–3905.

14. Plotnikova OV, Pugacheva EN, Golemis EA. Primary Cilia and the Cell Cycle. Method Cell Biol. 2009; 94:137–160.

15. Forcioli-Conti N, Lacas-Gervais S, Dani C, Peraldi P. The primary cilium undergoes dynamic size modifications during adipocyte differentiation of human adipose stem cells. Biochem Bioph Res Co. 2015; 458:117–122.

16. Sakuma E, Soji T, Herbert DC. Effects of hydrocortisone on the formation of gap junctions and the abnormal growth of cilia within the rat anterior pituitary gland: possible role of gap junctions on the regulation of cell development. The Anatomical record. 2001; 262:169–175.

17. Garrett LJA, Clements LA, Revell S, Southgate J, Leese HJ. Estradiol induces cilia growth and expression of oviduct specific glycoprotein in cultured bovine oviduct cells. Biol Reprod. 2006;71:–71.

18. Milhaud M and Pappas GD. Cilia formation in the adult cat brain after pargyline treatment. The Journal of cell biology. 1968; 37:599–609.

19. Miyoshi K, Kasahara K, Miyazaki I, Asanuma M. Lithium treatment elongates primary cilia in the mouse brain and in cultured cells. Biochem Bioph Res Co. 2009; 388:757–762.

20. Stafanger G. In vitro effect of beclomethasone dipropionate and flunisolide on the mobility of human nasal cilia. Allergy. 1987; 42:507–511.

21. Ong HX, Traini D, Ballerin G, Morgan L, Buddle L, Scalia S, Young PM. Combined Inhaled Salbutamol and Mannitol Therapy for Mucus Hyper-secretion in Pulmonary Diseases. Aaps J. 2014; 16:269–280.

22. Loukides S, Kharitonov S, Wodehouse T, Cole PJ, Barnes PJ. Effect of arginine on mucociliary function in primary ciliary dyskinesia. Lancet. 1998; 352:371–372.

23. Jiao J, Meng N, Zhang L. The effect of topical corticosteroids, topical antihistamines, and preservatives on human ciliary beat frequency. ORL J Otorhinolaryngol Relat Spec. 2014; 76:127–136.

24. Konietzko N. [Mucociliary transport and bronchial inflammation]. Z Gesamte Inn Med. 1988; 43:323–327.

25. Yoo Y, Koh YY. Current treatment for primary ciliary dyskinesia conditions. Expert Opin Pharmacother. 2004; 5:369–377.

26. Patel V, Chowdhury R, Igarashi P. Advances in the pathogenesis and treatment of polycystic kidney disease. Curr Opin Nephrol Hypertens. 2009; 18:99–106.

27. Park DM, Carvalho TL, Franci JA, Anselmo-Lima WT. Influence of treatment with intranasal corticosteroids on the nasal mucosa, weight, and corticosteroid concentration in rats. Am J Rhinol Allergy. 2012; 26:46–49.

28. Uhler GC, Huminski PT, Les FT, Fong PP. Cilia-driven rotational behavior in gastropod (Physa elliptica) embryos induced by serotonin and putative serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). J Exp Zool. 2000; 286:414–421.

29. Zhang L, Han D, Song X, Wang K, Wang H. Effect of oxytetracycline on healthy human nasal ciliary beat frequency measured with high-speed digital microscopy and mucociliary transport time. Ann Otol Rhinol Laryngol. 2008; 117:127–133.

30. Kavoi BM, Plend J, Makanya AN, Ochieng S, Kiama SG. Effects of anticancer drug docetaxel on the structure and function of the rabbit olfactory mucosa. Tissue Cell. 2014; 46:213–224.

31. Dorr RT, Raymond MA, Landowski TH, Roman NO, Fukushima S. Induction of apoptosis and cell cycle arrest by imexon in human pancreatic cancer cell lines. Int J Gastrointest Cancer. 2005; 36:15–28.

32. Gong WX, Xu YH, Chen XL, Wang YX. Loperamide, an antidiarrhoea drug, has antitumor activity by inducing cell apoptosis. Pharmacol Res. 2012; 65:372–378.

33. Miyoshi K, Kasahara K, Miyazaki I, Asanuma M. Factors That Influence Primary Cilium Length. Acta Med Okayama. 2011; 65:279–285.

34. Besschbetnova TY, Kolpakova-Hart E, Guan YH, Zhou J, Olsen BR, Shah JV. Identification of Signaling Pathways Regulating Primary Cilium Length and Flow-Mediated Adaptation. Curr Biol. 2010; 20:182–187.

35. Delling M, DeCaen PG, Doerner JF, Fevay S, Clapham DE. Primary cilia are specialized calcium signalling organelles. Nature. 2013; 504:311–+.

36. Engel BD, Ishikawa H, Feldman JL, Wilson CW, Chuang PT, Snedecor J, Williams J, Sun Z, Marshall WF. A cell-based screen for inhibitors of flagella-driven motility in Chlamydomonas reveals a novel modulator of ciliary length and retrograde actin flow. Cytoskeleton (Hoboken). 2011; 68:188–203.

37. Tsang WY, Dymlacht BD. CP110 and its network of partners coordinately regulate cilia assembly. Cilia. 2013; 5:369–377.

38. Sharma N, Kosan ZA, Stallworth JE, Berbari NY, Yoder BK. Soluble levels of cytosolic tubulin regulate ciliary length control. Mol Biol Cell. 2011; 22:806–816.

39. Christensen ST, Clement CA, Satir P, Pedersen LB. Primary cilia and coordination of receptor tyrosine kinase (RTK) signalling. J Pathol. 2012; 226:172–184.
40. Goetz SC, Anderson KV. The primary cilium: a signalling centre during vertebrate development. Nat Rev Genet. 2010; 11:331–344.
41. Yuan SL, Sun ZX. TORC1-mediated protein synthesis regulates cilia size and function Implications for organelle size control by diverse signaling cascades. Cell Cycle. 2012; 11:1750–1752.
42. Li X, Li HT, Li SQ, Zhu F, Kim DJ, Xie H, Li Y, Nadas J, Oi N, Zykova TA, Yu DH, Lee MH, Kim MO, et al. Ceftiraxone, an FDA-approved cephalosporin antibiotic, suppresses lung cancer growth by targeting Aurora B. Carcinogenesis. 2012; 33:2548–2557.
43. Morrison C, Henzing AJ, Jensen ON, Osheroff N, Dodson H, Kandels-Lewis SE, Adams RR, Earnshaw WC. Proteomic analysis of human metaphase chromosomes reveals topoisomerase II alpha as an Aurora B substrate. Nucleic Acids Res. 2002; 30:5318–5327.
44. Courapied S, Cherier J, Vigneron A, Troadec MB, Giraud S, Morin C, Henzing AJ, Jensen ON, Osheroff N, Li X, Li HT, Li SQ, Zhu F, Kim DJ, Xie H, Li Y, Nadas J, Oi N, Zykova TA, Yu DH, Lee MH, Kim MO, et al. Ceftiraxone, an FDA-approved cephalosporin antibiotic, suppresses lung cancer growth by targeting Aurora B. Carcinogenesis. 2012; 33:2548–2557.
45. Plotnikova OV, Nikonova AS, Loskutov YV, Kosova F, Cakir DU, Meral O, Alpay M, Kismali G, Kosova F, Cabir DU, Bekcan M, Yigit S, Sel T. Capsaicin inhibits human pancreatic carcinoma cell proliferation by cytochrome c release in gastric cancer cells. Tumor Biol. 2014; 35:6485–6492.
46. Zhou XH, Zheng MQ, Chen F, Zhu YX, Yong W, Lin HY, Sun YJ, Han X. Gefitinib Inhibits the Proliferation of Pancreatic Cancer Cells via Cell Cycle Arrest. Anatr Cancer. 2009; 292:1122–1127.
47. Zhu SQ, Yan XM, Xiang ZH, Ding HF, Cui HJ. Leftunomide Reduces Proliferation and Induces Apoptosis in Neuroblastoma Cells In Vitro and In Vivo. Plos One. 2013; 8.
48. Hovater MB, Olteanu D, Hanson EL, Cheng NL, Siroky B, Fintha A, Komlosi P, Liu W, Satlin LM, Bell PD, Yoder BK, Schwiebert EM. Loss of apical monocilia on collecting duct principal cells impairs ATP secretion across the apical cell surface and ATP-dependent and flow-induced calcium transporters VNUT (SLC17A9) in release of ATP from AR42J cells and mouse pancreatic acinar cells. Purinergic Signal. 2014; 10:431–440.
49. Piette C, Deprez M, Roger T, Noel A, Foidart JM, Munaut C. The Dexamethasone-induced Inhibition of Proliferation, Migration, and Invasion in Glia Cell Lines Is Antagonized by Macrophage Migration Inhibitory Factor (MIF) and Can Be Enhanced by Specific MIF Inhibitors. J Biol Chem. 2009; 284:32483–32492.
50. Ostrowski Y, Kondo A, Matsuda T, Ushigome T, Nitahara S. Hydrocortisone Inhibits Cellular Proliferation by Downregulating Hepatocyte Growth Factor Synthesis in Human Osteoblasts. Biol Pharm Bull. 2011; 34:700–703.
51. Ogawa. Prednisolone inhibits proliferation of cultured pulmonary arterial smooth muscle cells of patients with idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension (vol 112, pg 1806, 2006). Circulation. 2006; 113:E713–E713.
52. Lee HT, Jung KH, Kim SK, Choi MI, Chai YG. Effects of pargyline on cellular proliferation in human breast cancer cells. Mol Cell Toxicol. 2012; 8:393–399.
53. Zheng HX, Wu LN, Xiao H, Du Q, Liang JF. Inhibitory effects of dobutamine on human gastric adenocarcinoma. World J Gastroentero. 2014; 20:17092–17099.
54. Piette C, Deprez M, Roger T, Noel A, Foidart JM, Munaut C. The Dexamethasone-induced Inhibition of Proliferation, Migration, and Invasion in Glia Cell Lines Is Antagonized by Macrophage Migration Inhibitory Factor (MIF) and Can Be Enhanced by Specific MIF Inhibitors. J Biol Chem. 2009; 284:32483–32492.
55. Tsunashima Y, Kondo A, Matsuda T, Ushigome T, Nitahara S. Hydrocortisone Inhibits Cellular Proliferation by Downregulating Hepatocyte Growth Factor Synthesis in Human Osteoblasts. Biol Pharm Bull. 2011; 34:700–703.
56. Ogawa. Prednisolone inhibits proliferation of cultured pulmonary arterial smooth muscle cells of patients with idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension (vol 112, pg 1806, 2006). Circulation. 2006; 113:E713–E713.
57. Lee HT, Jung KH, Kim SK, Choi MI, Chai YG. Effects of pargyline on cellular proliferation in human breast cancer cells. Mol Cell Toxicol. 2012; 8:393–399.
58. Zheng HX, Wu LN, Xiao H, Du Q, Liang JF. Inhibitory effects of dobutamine on human gastric adenocarcinoma. World J Gastroentero. 2014; 20:17092–17099.
59. Meral O, Alpay M, Kismali G, Kosova F, Cabir DU, Bekcan M, Yigit S, Sel T. Capsaicin inhibits cell proliferation by cytochrome c release in gastric cancer cells. Tumor Biol. 2014; 35:6485–6492.
60. Zhou XH, Zheng MQ, Chen F, Zhu YX, Yong W, Lin HY, Sun YJ, Han X. Gefitinib Inhibits the Proliferation of Pancreatic Cancer Cells via Cell Cycle Arrest. Anatr Cancer. 2009; 292:1122–1127.
61. Zhu SQ, Yan XM, Xiang ZH, Ding HF, Cui HJ. Leftunomide Reduces Proliferation and Induces Apoptosis in Neuroblastoma Cells In Vitro and In Vivo. Plos One. 2013; 8.
62. Herold C, Ocker M, Ganslmayer M, Gerauer H, Hahn EG, Ocker M, Ganslmayer M, Gerauer H, Hahn EG, Herold C, Ocker M, Ganslmayer M, Gerauer H, Hahn EG. Leflunomide Reduces Proliferation and Induces Apoptosis in Neuroblastoma Cells In Vitro and In Vivo. Plos One. 2013; 8.
63. Subramaniam V, Chakrabarti R, Prud'homme GJ, Jothy S. Tranlastin inhibits cell proliferation and migration and promotes apoptosis in murine breast cancer. Anti-Cancer Drug. 2010; 21:351–361.
64. Blagosklonny MV. A new science-business paradigm in anticancer drug development. Trends Biotechnol. 2003; 21:103–106.
66. Bollig-Fischer A, Michelhaugh SK, Wijesinghe P, Dyson G, Kruger A, Palanisamy N, Choi L, Alish B, Ali-Fehmi R, Mittal S. Cytogenomic profiling of breast cancer brain metastases reveals potential for repurposing targeted therapeutics. Oncotarget. 2015; 6:14614–14624. doi: 10.18632/oncotarget.3786.

67. Lamb R, Ozsvari B, Lisanti CL, Tanowitz HB, Howell A, Martinez-Outschoorn UE, Sotgia F, Lisanti MP. Antibiotics that target mitochondria effectively eradicate cancer stem cells, across multiple tumor types: Treating cancer like an infectious disease. Oncotarget. 2015; 6:4569–4584. doi: 10.18632/oncotarget.3174.

68. Masyuk AI, Masyuk TV, Splinter PL, Huang BQ, Stroope AJ, LaRusso NF. Cholangiocyte cilia detect changes in luminal fluid flow and transmit them into intracellular Ca2+ and cAMP signaling. Gastroenterology. 2006; 131:911–920.