Molecular docking analysis of metformin analogues with GSK-3β

Ponnu lakshmi Rajagopal¹, Vidhya Rekha Umapathy², Sandhya P³, Fathima JH⁴, Ramajayam Govindan⁵, Chella Perumal Palanisamy⁶, Vishnu Priya Veeraraghavan⁷ & Selvaraj Jayaraman⁷*

¹Central Research Laboratory, Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University), Chennai, India; ²Department of Public Health Dentistry, Sree Balaji Dental College and Hospital, Pallikaranai, Chennai-600 100, India; ³Department of Biochemistry, Allied Health Science, Dr. M.G.R Educational and Research Institute, Chennai India; ⁴Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Ragas Dental College and Hospitals, Chennai, India; ⁵Multi Disciplinary Research Unit, Madurai Medical College, TamilNadu, India; ⁶State Key Laboratory of Bio-based Materials and Green Papermaking, College of Food Science and Engineering, Qilu University of Technology, Shandong Academy of Science, Jinan 250353, China; ⁷Department of Biochemistry, Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Saveetha University, Chennai, India; *Corresponding author

Author contacts:
Ponnulakshmi Rajagopal- E-mail: ramgslaks@gmail.com
Vidhya Rekha Umapathy- E-mail: drvidhyarekha@gmail.com
Sandhya P- E-mail: jselvaendo@gmail.com
Fathima JH- E-mail: shaziafathimarizwan@gmail.com
Ramajayam Govindan- E-mail: endoibmsramajayam@gmail.com
ChellaPerumal Palanisamy- E-mail: perumalbioinfo@gmail.com
VishnuPriya Veeraraghavan- E-mail: drvishnupriyav@gmail.com
Selvaraj Jayaraman– E-mail: selvarajj.sdc@saveetha.com

Abstract:
We report the molecular docking analysis of four analogues of metformin [1-Carbamimidoyl-1,2-dimethylguanidine hydrochloride, Metformin hydrochloride, N1,N1-Dimethyl-N5-methylbiguanide hydrochloride, and N1,N1,N5,N5-Tetrakis(methyl-biguanide hydrochloride)] with GSK3.

Keywords: Diabetes mellitus; GSK-3β; Metformin analogues; Molecular docking studies.

Background:
National Health and Morbidity Surveys (NHMS) have recorded an increasing trend in DM prevalence over the last few decades [1]. The current treatment of diabetes, which includes insulin therapy and a variety of allopathic medications, has been confirmed to have significant side effects and minimal effectiveness [2]. Glycogen synthase kinase 3 is a member of the mitogen-activated protein kinase superfamily. GSK 3 has been linked to the production of insulin resistance and glycogen synthesis control [3]. It is a key target in the treatment of type 2 diabetes. Inhibitors of GSK-3 have been shown to increase insulin sensitivity, glycogen synthesis, and glucose metabolism in diabetic patients' skeletal muscles [4, 5]. Metformin is a compound that belongs to the class of drugs known as biguanidines. It is the first therapeutic choice for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, since it inhibits hepatic gluconeogenesis and prevents hyperglycemia without impairing insulin secretion, hypoglycemia, or weight gain [6]. It has been used for more than four decades [7]. Therefore, it is of interest to report the molecular docking analysis of four analogues of metformin [1-Carbamimidoyl-1, 2-dimethylguanidine hydrochloride, Metformin hydrochloride, N1,N1-Dimethyl-N5-methylbiguanide hydrochloride, and N1,N1,N5,N5-Tetrakis (methyl-biguanide hydrochloride)] with GSK3.

Materials and Methods:
Preparation of ligands:
The Metformin and its analogues were downloaded from PubChem database. Ten analogues structure (Table 1) were downloaded by using similar structure option. All the compounds were downloaded in SDF file format. And then it was converted into PDB format using online smiles translator. Finally all the analogues were converted into PDBQT file format using Auto Dock Tool (ADT) for further analysis.

Preparation of Protein:
Three-dimensional coordinates GSK 3β (PDB: 1Q4L) were retrieved from Brookhaven Protein Data Bank. The PDB files were produced by modeling in missing side chains, performing a small amount of regularization, correcting water positions and symmetry, and adding hydrogen. Only chain A of the repaired pdb file was analyzed and the resulting pdbqt file was transferred to AutodockTools (ADT ver.1.5.6) for preparation. Thus, water molecules and non-standard residues were eliminated, leaving only polar hydrogen, and Gasteiger charges for protein atoms were computed using ADT.

Molecular docking:
Docking protocol validation in molecular docking is necessary to ensure that ligands connect within the binding pocket in the proper conformation, which is accomplished by validating the size and centre of the coordinates of the grid box around the binding pocket [8]. PyRx was used as a simulated screening method for computational drug exploration [9] to screen the ligand files against the protein. AutoDock 4 and AutoDockVina are used by PyRx as docking methods for the Lamarckian Genetic Algorithm and Analytical Free Energy Scoring Feature. Using our choice of inhibitors, PyRx was carried out on the predicted energy-minimized protein structure. Using the PyRx platform, the macromolecular protein structure was prepared and then docked into the binding site residues within a grid box with X, Y and Z axes and measurements. The docking procedure was then worked at the exhaustiveness of 8, and set to generate only the lowest energy pose. We analyzed the relationships between our targeted protein and the ligands used to process and prepare the figures using Pymol Molecular Visualization Tools [10].

Figure1: Molecular interaction between GSK 3β a)Metformin hydrochloride b)1-Carbamimidoyl-1,2- dimethylguanidine; c)N1,N1-Dimethyl-N5-methylbiguanide hydrochloride d)N1,N1,N5,N5-Tetrakis(methyl)-biguanide hydrochloride.
were involved in the hydrogen bonding with a residue ARG-220 hydrogen bonding with target protein. All the four compounds N1,N1,N5,N5-Tetrakis(methyl)-biguanide hydrochloride N1,N1-Dimethyl-N5-methylbiguanide hydrochloride and dimethylguanidine;hydrochloride, Metformin hydrochloride, forming H-bonds at active site region involving residues ASP-105, active site of GSK 3β successfully. The binding energies of this analysis have a higher binding affinity, comparable to that of a standard drug metformin. Metformin mainly interact with the amino acids residues TRY-22 and GLU-249 of GSK 3β. The same way the selected analogues also form interaction with these two residues. So it was confirmed that, these analogues might be a potential lead compounds for experimental validation for diabetes management.

### Results and Discussion:
Molecular docking is a simulation technique that determines the optimal position for a ligand to bind to a target's active site. This technique entails selecting the three-dimensional coordinate space of the binding site in the target and measuring the binding interactions of the molecule's resultant orientation within the binding site, forming the complex. The importance and sensitivity of binding affinity values are calculated by the maximum magnitude negative number (highest binding affinity or lowest binding affinity values are calculated by the maximum binding site, forming the complex. The importance and sensitivity of the binding site in the target and measuring the binding technique entails selecting the three-dimensional coordinate space optimal position for a ligand to bind to a target's active site. This Molecular docking is a simulation technique that determines the

### Table 1: Selected metformin analogues for the present study

| S.No | Compound name | Docking score kcal/mol | Hydrogen bond
|------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1    | 1,1,5,5-Tetramethyl-biguanide | -7.3 | ASP-105, HIS-106, ILE-109 |
| 2    | N1,N1-Dimethyl-N5-methylbiguanide;hydrochloride | -6.8 | TYR-222, GLU-249 |
| 3    | N1,N1-Dimethyl-N5-methylbiguanide hydrochloride | -6.6 | ARG-220, TYR-222 |
| 4    | N1,N1,N5,N5-Tetakis(methyl)-biguanide hydrochloride | -6.1 | ARG-220, GLU-249 |

### Table 2: Molecular docking results of best analogues

| S.No | Compound name | Docking score kcal/mol | Hydrogen bond |
|------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 1    | Metformin hydrochloride | -7.3 | ASP-105 |
| 2    | 1,Carbamimidoyl-1,2-dimethylguanidine;hydrochloride | -6.8 | TYR-222 |
| 3    | N1,N1-Dimethyl-N5-methylbiguanide hydrochloride | -6.6 | ARG-220 |
| 4    | N1,N1,N5,N5-Tetakis(methyl)-biguanide hydrochloride | -6.1 | ARG-220 |

### Source of funding:
Nil

### Conflict of interests:
None declared

### Reference:
1. Tee ES & Yap RKW, *Eur J Clin Nutr.* 2017 7:844.[PMID: 28513624]
2. Mok KY *et al.* *Diabetes Metab Disord*. 2019 18:281.[PMID: 31890652]
3. Osguthorpe DJ *et al.* *Chem Biol Drug Des*. 2012 80:182.[PMID: 22515569]
4. Akhtar M & Bharatam PV *Chem Biol Drug Des*. 2012 79:560.[PMID: 22168279]
5. Johnson JL *et al.* *J Med Food*. 2011 14:325.[PMID: 21443429]
6. Bennett WL *et al.* *Ann Intern Med*. 2011 154:602.[PMID: 21403054]
7. Vitale-Cross L *et al.* *Cancer Prev Res (Phila)*. 2012 5:562.[PMID: 22467081]
8. Lim SV *et al.* *BMC Bioinformatics*. 2011.[PMID: 22373153]
9. Dallakyan S & Olson AR, *Methods Mol Biol*. 2015 1263:243.[PMID: 25618350]
10. Lill MA & Danielson ML, *J Comput Aided Mol Des*. 2011 25:13.[PMID: 21053052]
