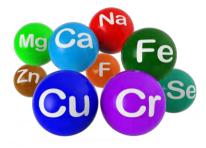






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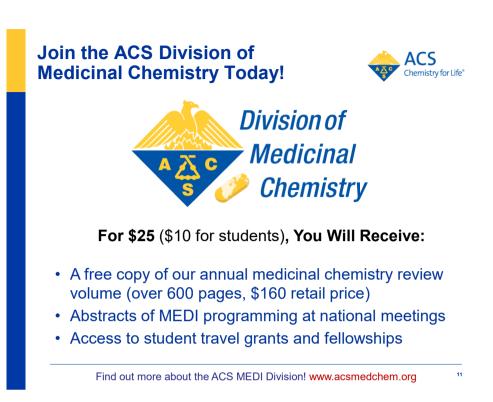
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"Outsmarting the Shortage: The Emergence of Base Metal Catalysis in Pharma"

J. Chris McWilliams, Director of Process Chemistry, Pfizer David Constable, Director of the Green Chemistry Institute, ACS Joseph Fortunak, Professor of Chemistry, Howard University

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# Contents

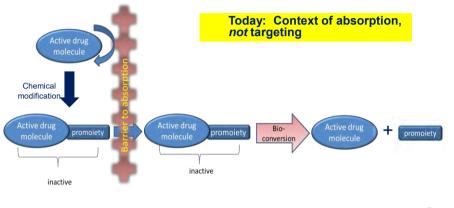
- 1. Prodrugs: Definition and impact in Pharma
- 2. Prodrug challenges to be met:
  - Formulation, in vivo stability & bioconversion
  - The regulatory pathway
- 3. Example prodrug handles and subsequent functional prodrugs
- 4. A prodrug program Research Operating Plan (ROP)
  - · Prioritizing activities on identifying and characterizing prodrug leads
- 5. Case Study: Permeability Enhancement Via a Prodrug Strategy
  - An ambitious example of a prodrug strategy to increase colonic absorption to enable a CR formulation for QD dosing



# What is a prodrug?

#### A bioreversible derivative of an active drug compound:

Undergoes in vivo enzymatic or chemical transformation to release active parent drug compound



Adapted from Rautio, J et al. Prodrugs: design and clinical applications, Nature Reviews, 2008, 7, 255-270



#### Which can NOT be influenced by a Prodrug?

- Cell permeability
- Administration route
- Half life
- Intellectual property
- None of the above

## What Benefits Can a Prodrug Provide?

- Improved properties related to <u>ADME</u>
  - ☆ aqueous solubility

  - ① chemical stability
  - 4 pre-systemic metabolism
- New/ improved delivery options – Oral ⇔Topical
- · Life cycle management
- Targeted delivery (another day's topic)
- Additional intellectual property (IP)



The Discovery Debate on a candidate with sub-optimal physchem properties:

- **Fix it now** *via* a prodrug? ⇒ More complex synthesis, tox, regulatory pathway

#### **Real life observation:**

- Insoluble, highly crystalline candidate was advanced as a low drugload amo dispersion ⇒ led to nightmarish, dose limited, high-cost formulation
- · Later on, a soluble prodrug was identified...probably to late!

# The prodrug conversation must be had EARLY by the Lead Ops team!





**Prodrugs:** Recently Overheard in Discovery Hallways

*Comment:* Let's fix our bioavailability problems with a prodrug!

#### **Responses:**

- "No; I love my parent compound and you formulators can fix it through drug delivery."
- "No, prodrugs are the last resort for poor medicinal chemistry efforts."
- "Prodrugs are for losers."







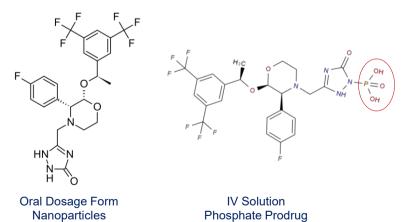
# What percentage of the Top 100 Blockbuster Drugs are actually Prodrugs?

- Less than Two percent
- About Five percent
- About Fifteen percent
- About Twenty percent



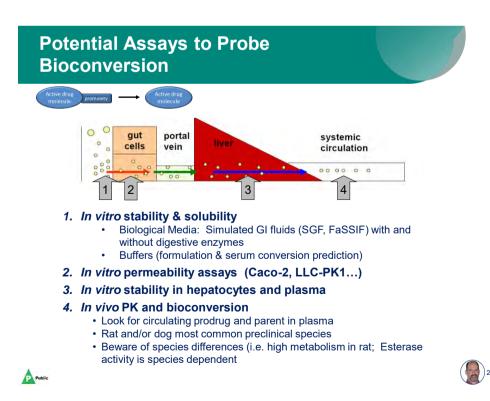
# Aprepitant (Emend®) Example

A poorly soluble compound: Two Enabling methods for two administrations routes





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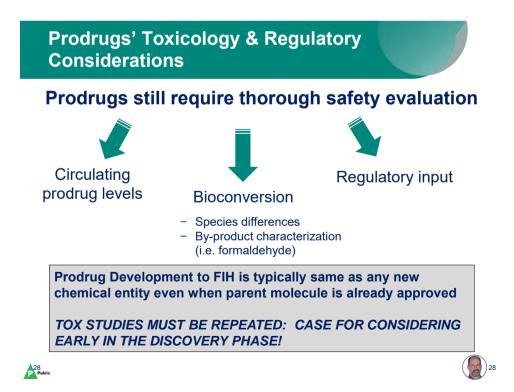


27



# What are the toxicology and regulatory considerations for Prodrugs?

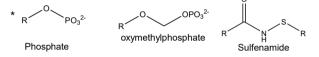
- Circulating prodrug levels
- Bioconversion
- Regulatory input
- All of the above
- None of the above



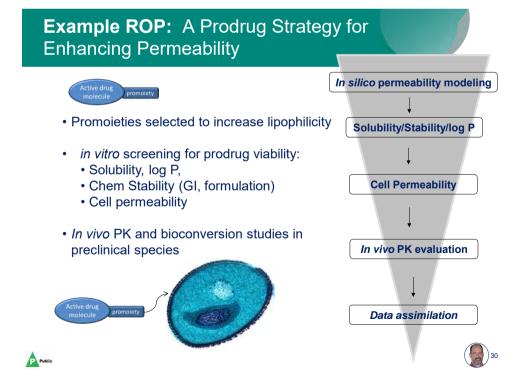
# Common "Prodruggable" Handles and Subsequent Functional Prodrugs

Parent Handle	Prodrug Examples
Alcohols	Esters (incl. amino acids (AAs)); Phosphates/Phosphonates*
Amines	Amides, Phosphates/Phosphonates Sulfenamides*
Carboxylic Acids	Esters (incl. AAs)
Phenols	Esters (incl. AAs); Phosphates/Phosphonates
Thiols	Thioethers/esters

- 1 Permeability: The opposite of above



Stella, Prodrugs: Challenges & Rewards, 2007





- Compound A: Short half-life (1.5h) required BID dosing ⇒ QD preferred
  - · Low permeability although good intestinal absorption observed
- · Controlled release formulation for once daily (QD) dosing?
  - · NO: Poor permeability led to poor colonic absorption, which makes controlled release (CR) formulations impossible
- · Compound A contained an ionizable phenol that contributed to poor permeability (pKa 6.7)
  - Also a prodrug handle...

Compound A

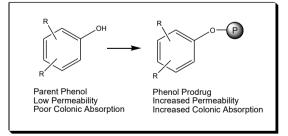
ОН

Parent Phenol Low Permeability Poor Colonic Absorption



**Prodrug Strategy to Enable Colonic** Absorption and a CR Formulation

Can a prodrug that masks phenol ionization increase permeability and colonic absorption to enable a CR QD formulation?



A modified release dosage form to bypass the intestine (good absorption there) also would be required...(colonic delivery...another day's topic)

Ref. Sophie-Dorothee Clas, Becky Nofsinger, Abbas Walji



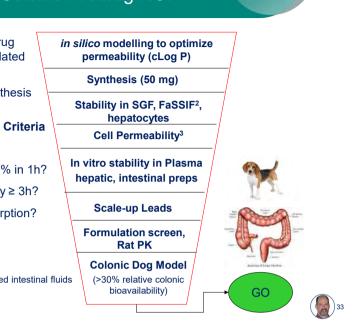
## Case Study: Colonic Prodrug ROP

- Modelled >80 prodrug structures for calculated Papp (cLog P)<sup>1</sup>
- · Selected 20 for synthesis

#### **Candidate Selection Criteria**

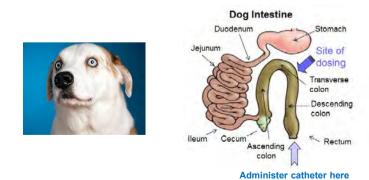
- 1. P<sub>app</sub> ≥ 10x Parent?
- 2. Bioconversion ≥ 90% in 1h?
- 3. Formulation stability  $\geq$  3h?
- 4. >30% colonic absorption?

<sup>1</sup>Accelrys Cerius2 Software <sup>2</sup>Simulated gastric and fasted intestinal fluids <sup>3</sup>Cell line: <sup>1</sup>LLC-PK1



## **Dog Colonic Absorption Study:** Retrograde Catheter Dosing in Beagle dogs

- · Experiment is based on % relative absorption: Colonic AUC/Oral AUC
- Predictive of human colonic absorption

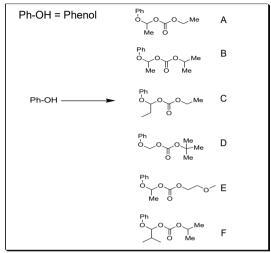


Nofsinger, et.al. Pharmaceuticals, 2014, 7, 207-219 2015, 10, 245 - 252





#### Case Study: Lead Carbonate-ester Prodrug Structures



Walji, ChemMedChem 2015, 10, 245 - 252



# **Carbonate Ester Physchem Properties**

Compound	cLogP1	Solubility in SGF <sup>2</sup> (mg/mL) 1hr	Solubility FaSSIF <sup>3</sup> (mg/mL) 1hr	Stability in SGF² (1hr) %Claim	Stability in FaSSIF (5hr) %Claim	Hepatocyte parent conversion <1h?
Parent	-0.7	0.01	0.50	98.36%	99.40%	n/a
Prodrug A	0.9	0.37	0.33	93.80%	90.97%	Yes
Prodrug B	1.3	0.02	0.03	100.02%	99.92%	Yes
Prodrug C	1.5	0.04	0.25	99.32%	98.27%	Yes
Prodrug D	1.3	0.06	0.06	100.14%	101.61%	Yes
Prodrug E	0.4	6.6	0.60	95.50%	96.27%	Yes
Prodrug F	2.2	0.02	0.04	91.32%	98.45%	Yes
$A \overset{Ph}{\underset{Me \ O}{\overset{O}{\overset{O}{\overset{O}{\overset{O}{\overset{O}{\overset{O}{\overset{O}{\overset$					-0_0 te0	

<sup>1</sup> Apparent octanol/water partition coefficient (cLogP) calculated using Accelrys Cerius2 Software



37

# Carbonate Ester cLogP and Permeability

А				
В	Me Ö Ph o∽o∽o∽Me	Compound	cLogP	LLC-PK1 Papp (*10 <sup>-6</sup> cm/sec)
	I II I Me O Me	Parent	-0.7	11.6
С	Ph 00Me	Prodrug A	0.9	5.8
	/ 0	Prodrug B	1.3	8.9
D		Prodrug C	1.5	11.9
	Dh.	Prodrug D	1.3	11.9
Е		Prodrug E	0.4	1.7
	Ph	Prodrug F	2.2	15.4
F				

Public

cLog P does NOT correlate well with cell permeability...?

**Colonic Dog Study Results** Dog Colonic Compound nAUC<sub>0-24hr</sub> (µM\*hr/ mpk) Absorption (vs. oral, n = 3) Dose Dosing Dosed (mpk) Route (solution vehicle) Parent  $\phantom{-}2.92\pm0.48\phantom{0}$ Oral (3% Tween) 4  $0.30\pm0.26$ Colonic 9% Prodrug A Oral (1.91 ± 0.12) -(3% Tween) 4  $0.76\pm0.21$ 40% Colonic Prodrug B 0.94 ± 0.05 Oral (10% Tween) 1 43%  $0.40 \pm 0.13$ Colonic Prodrug C 0.77 ± 0.13 Oral 2 (10% Tween) 1 Colonic  $0.24\pm0.04$ 31% Oral Prodrug D 4  $\textbf{2.4} \pm \textbf{0.14}$ (30% Captisol®) 30% Colonic  $0.72\pm0.07$ Prodrug E Oral  $4.35\pm1.3$ 0.7 (10% Tween) Colonic  $0.24\pm0.15$ 5% Prodrug F Oral  $0.75\pm0.02$ (10% Tween) 1 Colonic  $0.07\pm0.13$ 10% Ph O δ. 0. \_O\_ .Me . YOYOYMe Me O Me С В 0 D 38 APu 38

## Conclusions

- Prodrugs are prevalent in the industry and an effective means of improving physchem properties
- Need to consider early in Discovery phase before it's too late
- Need to be aware of specific tox and regulatory challenges
- Case study: Demonstrated that a lipophilic prodrug can increase colonic absorption
  - Of note: The cLog P and LLC-PK1 permeability did not correlate well with subsequent colonic absorption
  - Interplay between several physchem attributes and oral bioavailability

39

 Next comes a formulation challenge to deliver prodrug to the colon...another day's topic





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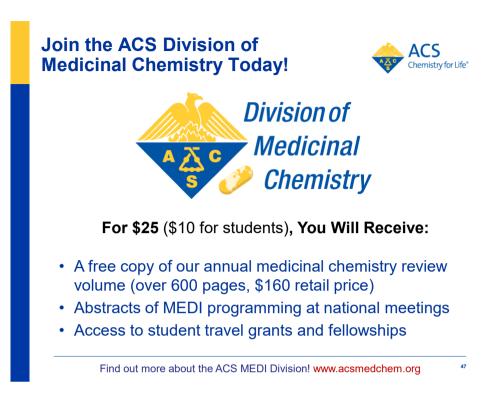
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52

