

# QSAR for the characterization of drug resistance: Differential QSAR (DiffQSAR) using mathematical chemodescriptors

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NATURAL RESOURCES  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

*The most fundamental and lasting objective of synthesis is not production of new compounds, but **production of properties.***

Norris Award Lecture, 1968  
*George S. Hammond*

# MAJOR PILLARS OF QSAR



# QSAR

Good  
quality  
data

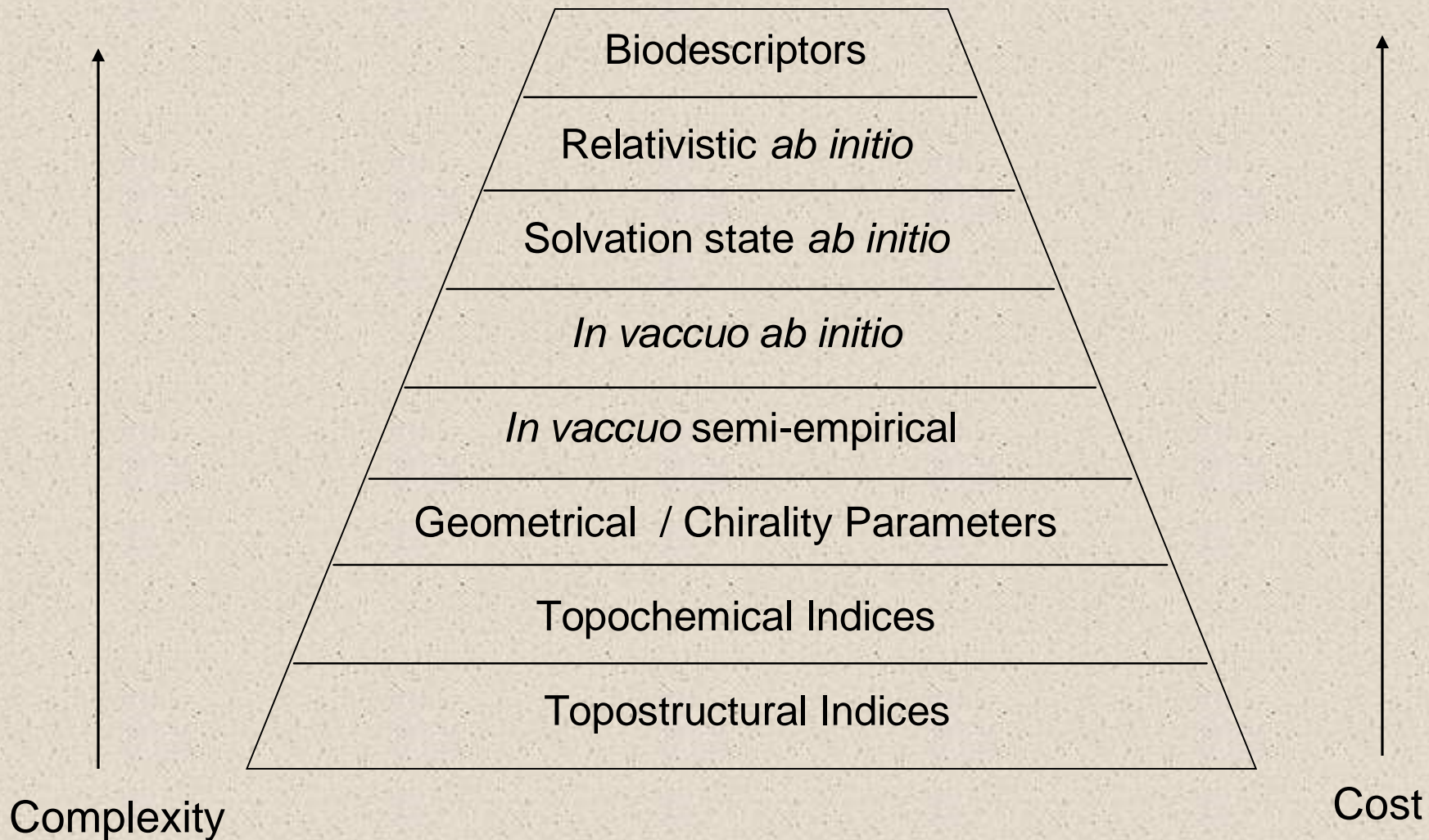
Adequately  
large  
databases

Relevant  
descriptors

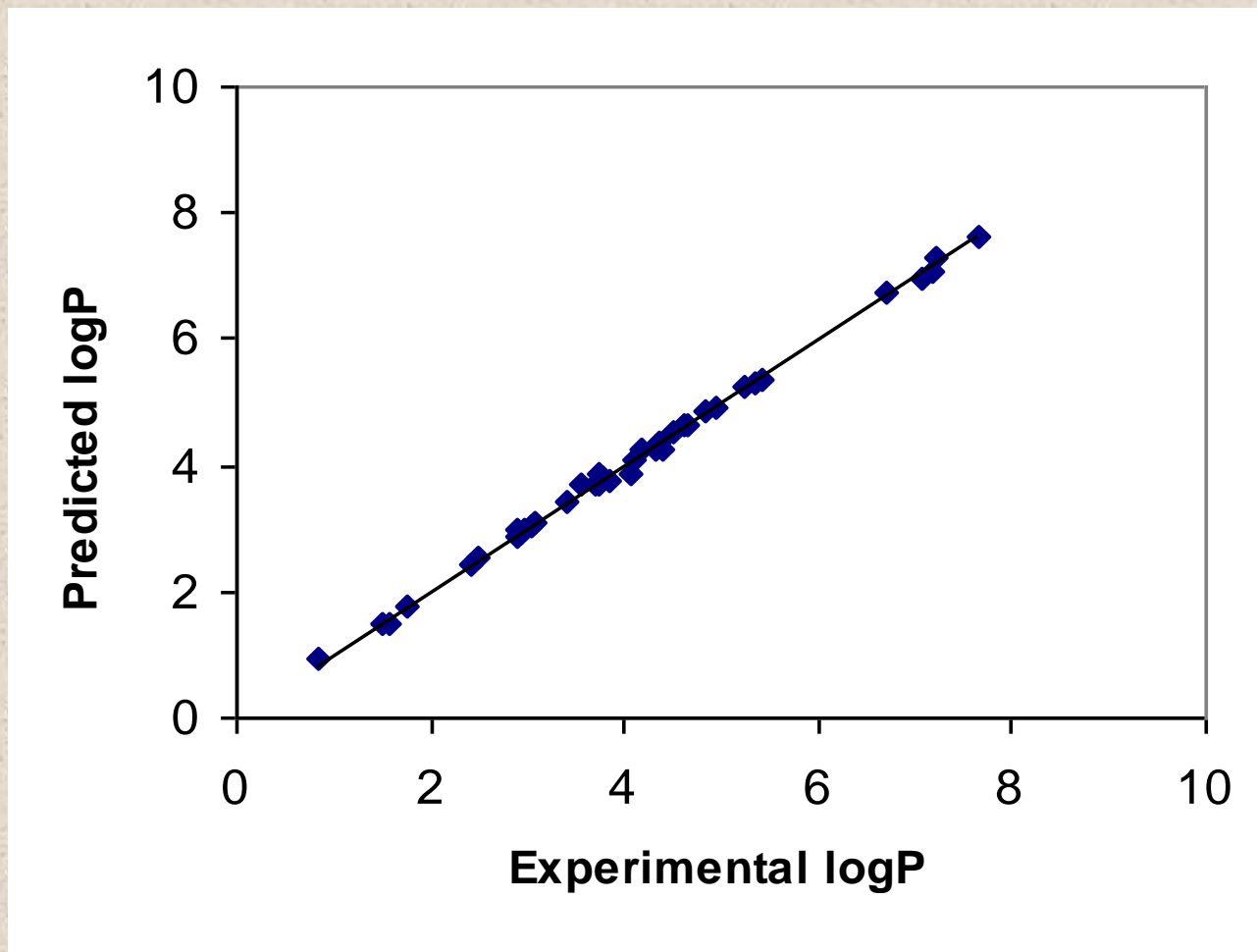
Proper  
statistical  
methods



# Hierarchical QSAR



# Blood: Air Partition Coefficient Model (TC) Developed on 39 Diverse Chemicals



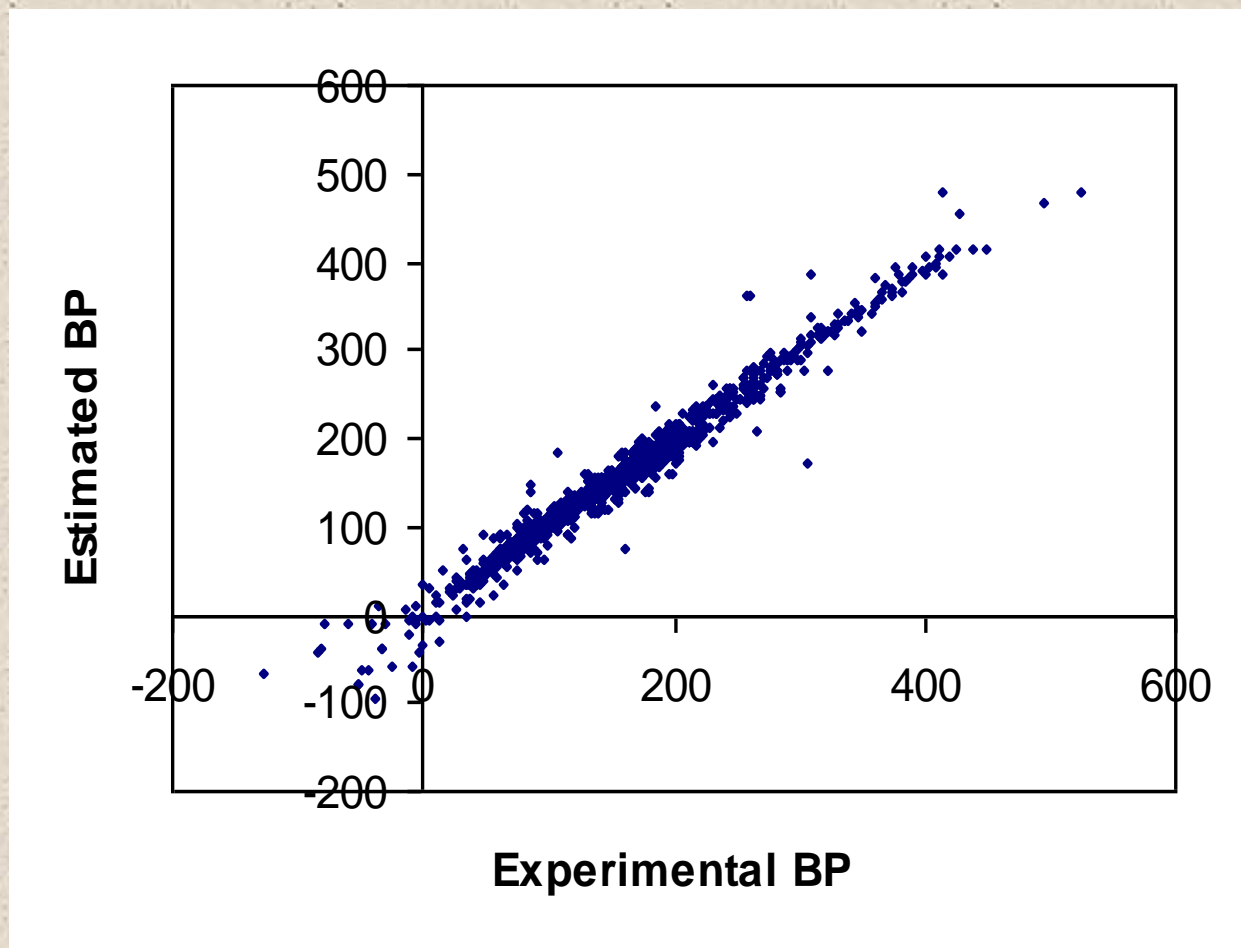
S. C. Basak, D. Mills, H. A. El-Masri, M. M. Mumtaz, and D. M. Hawkins

*Environ. Toxicol. Pharmacol.*, 16, 45–55 (2004).



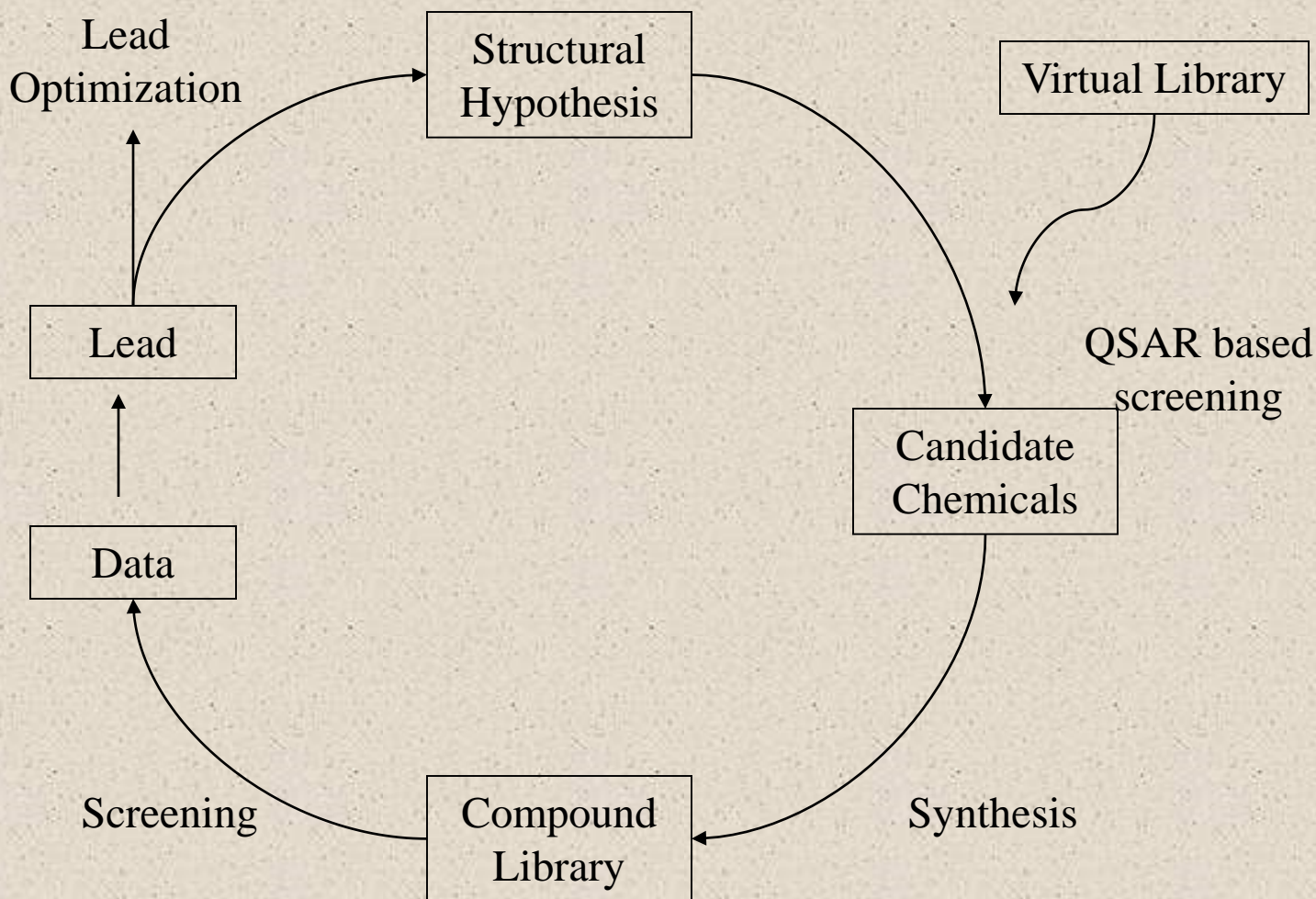
# Normal Boiling Point for 1015 Diverse Chemicals

$n = 1015$ ,  $R^2 = 0.97$ ,  $s = 15.7$ ,  $F = 4014$



Basak, S. C. and Mills, D. *MATCH*, 2001, 44, 15-30.

# Combinatorial Chemistry & QSAR



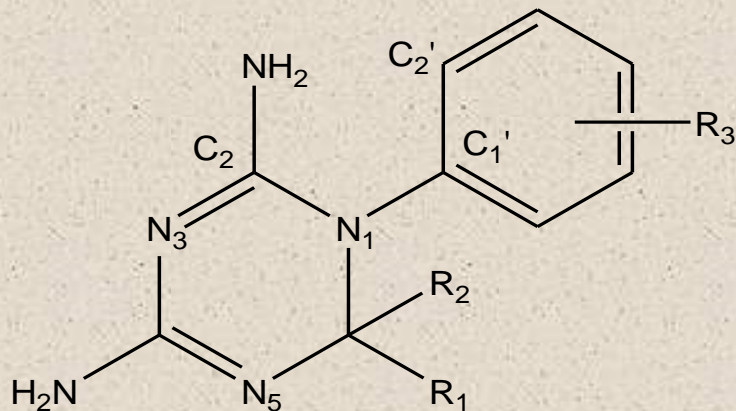


# Differential QSAR

QSAR of molecules acting on related bio targets to illuminate the differences in chemical-biological interactions.

# Differential QSAR

Cycloguanil analogs as PfDHFR inhibitors



➤ Wild type

vs

➤ Mutant type

- TIs and APs
- RR, PCR, PLS
- Low overlap of significant descriptors

# Regression Results

Dependent variable = binding affinity

| Model | N               | Descriptors | $q^2$ , wild type |       |        | $q^2$ , mutant type |       |       |
|-------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|-------|--------|---------------------|-------|-------|
|       |                 |             | RR                | PCR   | PLS    | RR                  | PCR   | PLS   |
| 1a 1b | 58              | TI          | -0.617            | 0.123 | -0.077 | 0.785               | 0.712 | 0.788 |
| 2a 2b | 58              | TI + AP     | 0.631             | 0.212 | 0.391  | 0.857               | 0.684 | 0.787 |
| 3a 3b | 57 <sup>a</sup> | TI          | 0.674             | 0.231 | 0.511  | 0.795               | 0.695 | 0.750 |
| 4a 4b | 57 <sup>a</sup> | TI + AP     | 0.790             | 0.292 | 0.726  | 0.874               | 0.691 | 0.836 |

<sup>a</sup> Compound #22 excluded

Of the 20 descriptors with the highest [t ] values **only two are common between the wild and resistant strains of plasmodium DHFR**



# QSAR to gauge biology

## **Characterization of Dihydrofolate Reductases from Multiple Strains of *Plasmodium falciparum* using Mathematical Descriptors of their Inhibitors**

Subhash C. Basak, Denise Mills, and Douglas M. Hawkins, **Chemistry and Biodiversity**, , 8, 440-453, 2011





Five strains of DHFR

Wild, mut 1, mut 2, mut 3, and mut 4

Quantify their pairwise differences based on  
the set of significant descriptors needed for  
QSARs of inhibitors



# Conclusions

The subsets of influential descriptors needed for the various strains may be looked upon as **high-dimensional pharmacophores** based on a set of calculated descriptors which capture the **distinct, but essential, chemical-biological interactions** involving the inhibitors and various DHFR enzymes, one from the wild type *Pf* and the others from resistant varieties of the organism.

# Conclusions

Alterations in the genetic makeup of organisms, including the malaria parasite *Pf*, various multi-drug resistant bacteria such as mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTb), viruses such as Hepatitis C virus [46], human immunodeficiency virus influenza virus are occurring continuously in nature because of their exposure to drugs, adverse conditions, and other evolutionary pressures

# Conclusions

The pair-wise kappa values in conjunction with macromolecules (enzyme or receptors) and structurally broad set of ligands for the respective biotarget(s) may be a **useful tool in gauging the evolving mutual similarities/ dissimilarities of mutating organisms from a computational chemistry point of view.**