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RESEARCH AREA

In spite of the impressive achievements in the treatment possibilities of malignant disorders, cancers still have leading roles in mortality statistics worldwide indicating the need for novel anticancer agents. Natural products and their analogs are inexhaustible source of drugs candidates. The main aims of our group are to identify potential lead molecules by screening isolated and synthetic compounds for their anticancer properties. *In vitro* cell culture based studies are performed in order to characterize the cancer selectivity and the mechanism of the action of the most promising hits.

TECHNIQUES AVAILABLE IN THE LAB

Determination of antiproliferative action against cancer cells, cell cycle analysis by flow cytometry, fluorescent microscopy, tubulin polymerization assay, apoptosis detection (measurement of activities of caspases), cell-based assays for hormonal activity, Western blot analysis, RT-PCR.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Bózsity, N., Minorics, R., Szabó, J., Mernyák, E., Schneider, G., Wölfling, J., Wang, H.C., Wu, C.C., Ocsovszki, I., **Zupkó, I.** (2017) Mechanism of antiproliferative action of a new d-secoestrone-triazole derivative in cervical cancer cells and its effect on cancer cell motility. **J Steroid Biochem Mol Biol** **165**: 247-57.

Molnár, J., Szebeni, J.G., Csupor-Löffler, B., Hajdú, Z., Szekeres, T., Saiko, P., Ocsovszki, I., Puskás, G.L., Hohmann, J., **Zupkó, I.** (2016) Investigation of the antiproliferative properties of natural sesquiterpenes from *Artemisia asiatica* and *Onopordum acanthium* on HL-60 cells *in vitro*. **Int J Mol Sci** **17**: 83.

Molnár, J., Frank, É., Minorics, R., Kádár, Z., Ocsovszki, I., Schönecker, B., Wölfling, J., **Zupkó, I.** (2015) A click approach to novel D-ring-substituted 16 α -triazolyloestrone derivatives and characterization of their antiproliferative properties. **PLOS ONE** **10**: e0118104.

Mernyák, E., Kovács, I., Minorics, R., Sere, P., Czégány, D., Sinka, I., Wölfling, J., Schneider, G., Újfaludi, Z., Boros, I., Ocsovszki, I., Varga, M., **Zupkó, I.** (2015) Synthesis of trans-16-triazolyl-13 α -methyl-17-estradiol diastereomers and the effects of structural modifications on their *in vitro* antiproliferative activities. **J Steroid Biochem Mol Biol** **150**: 123-34.

Minorics, R., Bózsity, N., Molnár, J., Wölfling, J., Mernyák, E., Schneider, G., Ocsovszki, I., **Zupkó, I.** (2015) A molecular understanding of d-homoestrone-induced G2/M cell cycle arrest in HeLa human cervical carcinoma cells. **J Cell Mol Med** **19**: 2365-74.