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RESEARCH AREA

Cancer is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide, and it is expected that annual cancer cases will rise from 14 million in 2012 to around 22 million within the next two decades. Resistance is a major factor promoting failure of chemotherapy and there is an urgent need for new therapeutic strategies.

By following a natural product inspired drug discovery strategy, our group focuses on novel chemical approaches to fight cancer and particularly multi-drug resistant cancer. In this endeavor, we aim at the preparation of nature-inspired chemical scaffolds that can act as chemo-sensitizers on resistant tumor cells, hence can be used as non-toxic adjuvants in combination with chemotherapeutics. A broad scale of interesting natural products is utilized as starting materials, e.g. well-known antioxidants, insect hormones utilized as anabolic food supplements, etc. Thanks to this and to our intensive international collaboration, an inspiring multidisciplinary working environment awaits the candidates to join our team.

TECHNIQUES AVAILABLE IN THE LAB

Extraction and preparation of herbal constituents, as well as simple chemical reactions for their structural modification, a wide array of separation techniques used in natural product chemistry, including analytical and preparative HPLC, supercritical fluid HPLC (SFC), centrifugal partition chromatography (CPC), rotational planar chromatography, TLC and column chromatography, structure elucidation by spectroscopic techniques (NMR, MS, UV-VIS).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Fási, L., Di Meo, F., Kuo, C.Y., Stojkovic Buric, S., Martins, A., Kúsz, N., Béni, Z., Dékány, M., Balogh, G.T., Pesic, M., Wang, H.C., Trouillas, P., **Hunyadi, A.** (2019) Antioxidant-inspired drug discovery: antitumor metabolite is formed in situ from a hydroxycinnamic acid derivative upon free radical scavenging. *J Med Chem* **62**(3): 1657-1668.

Hunyadi, A. (2019) The mechanism(s) of action of antioxidants: from scavenging reactive oxygen/nitrogen species to redox signaling and the generation of bioactive secondary metabolites. *Med Res Rev* **39**(6): 2505-2533.

Vágvölgyi, M., Martins, A., Kulmány, Á., Zupkó, I., Gáti, T., Simon, A., Tóth, G., **Hunyadi, A.** (2018) Nitrogen-containing ecdysteroid derivatives vs. multi-drug resistance in cancer: Preparation and antitumor activity of oximes, oxime ethers and a lactam. *Eur J Med Chem* **144**: 730-739.

Hunyadi, A., Herke, I., Lengyel, K., Báthori, M., Kele, Z., Simon, A., Tóth, G., Szendrei, K. (2016) Ecdysteroid containing food supplements from *Cyanotis arachnoidea* on the European market: evidence for spinach product counterfeiting. *Sci Rep* **6**: 37322.

Csábi, J., Hsieh, T.J., Hasanpour, F., Martins, A., Kele, Z., Gáti, T., Simon, A., Tóth, G., **Hunyadi, A.** (2015) Oxidized Metabolites of 20-Hydroxyecdysone and their Activity on Skeletal Muscle Cells: Preparation of a Pair of Desmotropes with Opposite Bioactivities. *J Nat Prod* **78**(10): 2339-2345.