**ACCESSING MAMMALIAN DRUG METABOLITES USING POLYCYPs® ENZYMES**

Sandie Lai, William Hodds, Vincent Poon, Kinga Nytko, Aksana Khan, Emily Hopkins, Antonio de Riso, Richard Phipps, Jonathan Steele, Stephen Wrigley, Liam Evans, Frank Scheffler, Julia Shanu-Wilson

Hypha Discovery, 957 Buckingham Avenue, Slough, SL1 4NL, UK. Email: julia.shanuwilson@hyphadiscovery.co.uk

**Abstract:** This poster illustrates the application of a new biocatalysis kit, PolyCYPs®, to enable scalable synthesis of CYP-derived metabolites of drugs. The PolyCYPs platform is comprised of a set of recombinant cytochrome P450 enzymes and redox partners cloned from some of the talented actinomycetes in Hypha’s biotransformation panel. Enzymes in the kit catalyze the oxidation of a wide variety of substrate types to generate multiple mammalian and microbial-derived CYP metabolites. The poster features application of selected PolyCYPs isoforms to produce oxidized human metabolites of drugs. Further, the utility of PolyCYPs enzymes for introducing oxygen into a drug candidate as part of a late stage functionalization program is illustrated, in which derivatives can be generated in parallel which may possess superior properties such as improved metabolic stability and LLE (lipophilic ligand efficiency), and for exploration of structure-activity relationships.

**Generation of human CYP-derived metabolites**

**Results**

**Step 1: Multiple drugs (20) screened using 8 PolyCYPs enzymes**

> 10% conversion of 18 drugs to at least one metabolite

**Meloxicam**

Human metabolism: CYP2C9 (CYP3A4)

5’ hydroxymethyl meloxicam (MS) Major human in vivo metabolite

Max 60% conversion

**Ritonavir**

Human metabolism: CYP3A4 & CYP2D6

7 enzymes giving 28-90% conversion

**PolyCYP 152 & 166**

**PolyCYP 196**

**PolyCYP 152 & 166 & 196**

**Hydroxylated derivative**

**Human metabolite**

cH2-Nmethylthiazoloylmethyl-ritonavir (MS)

N-demethyl metabolite (reported HLM product)

**Step 2: Scale-up of reaction of interest**

Multiple scale-up vials, or fresh enzyme prep, can be used to generate multi mg amounts of metabolites. For larger quantities, scale-up is achieved using a recombinant Streptomyces clone expressing the PolyCYP undertaking the biotransformation of interest, or the originating wild type strain.

**Ritonavir scale-up**

Hydroxylated derivatives of ritonavir produced in an unoptimized screening reaction with PolyCYP 168

Hydroxylated derivatives or ritonavir produced in a bioreactor by a Streptomyces clone containing PolyCYP 168

**Conclusions**

- PolyCYPs enzymes can be used to generate mg quantities of human metabolites and other hydroxylated derivatives of drugs for MetID & biological evaluation.
- Recombinant streptomycete clones expressing PolyCYP enzymes enable large scale production of synthetically challenging metabolites / derivatives.

**Late stage oxidation of drug compounds**

- Previously we generated several derivatives of one of AstraZeneca’s drug leads by microbial whole cell biotransformation.
- Analougues were characterised/quantified by 2D NMR/qNMR, and found to be derived from oxidation of the cyclohexane moiety, together with demethyl and benzylic hydroxylated derivatives.
- Subsequently we investigated the ability of 5 PolyCYPs enzymes (6, 14, 152, 166, 168) to generate the same oxidized derivatives.

**Results**

- All five PolyCYPs enzymes used generated some hydroxylated derivatives of the parent drug (mock structures shown due to confidentiality) although PolyCYPs 152 and 166 generated the best array for this parent compound.
- PolyCYP 166 gave a 30% conversion to 4 monohydroxylated derivatives.
- PolyCYP 152 gave a 58% conversion to produce 5 derivatives that matched with all monohydroxylated compounds previously observed.

**Conclusions**

- This study exploring polar SAR, indicated that polarity could be incorporated in the cyclohexyl ring and by N-demethylation without reducing potency. However benzylic hydroxylation had a negative effect on potency.
- PolyCYPs enzymes are an effective way to rapidly access metabolites and hydroxylated derivatives of lead compounds in parallel for late stage oxidation. These reactions can be scaled-up to provide more material for evaluation and comparison with properties of the parent drug compound.

Hypha gratefully acknowledges the receipt of an Innovate UK award which assisted development of the technology in association with Prof. John Ward at University College London, UK.

**About Hypha Discovery**

Hypha Discovery Ltd is a UK-based microbial biotechnology company helping partners in pharmaceutical and agrochemical R&D worldwide succeed through the production of human and other mammalian metabolites, as well as specialising in lead-diversification and production of microbially-derived chemicals. Clients routinely access our biocatalysis technology to generate phase I and II metabolites for MetID, stability testing, use as analytical standards and for producing larger amounts for pharmacological testing.