

Molecular Modeling of Potential Dual Inhibitors of HIV Reverse Transcriptase and Integrase

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Abstract

With the goal of suggesting dual inhibitors of HIV reverse transcriptase (RT) and integrase (IN), herein we report the molecular docking of an initial set of 556 compounds related to the pyridinone class. Docking with multiple crystallographic structures of HIV-1 RT led to 160 potential binders of RT interacting with key amino acid residues at the enzyme's allosteric site. Compounds selected from the docking with RT were further docked with a crystallographic structure of HIV-1 IN. A total of 31 structures had the potential to make contacts with Mg²⁺ ions located in a small space between DNA and IN. Interactions with Mg²⁺ ions are relevant because they participate in the stabilization of the IN-DNA complex. In conclusion, 31 compounds synthetically accessible are proposed as dual inhibitors of RT and IN. It is hypothesized that the suggested compounds will inhibit RT by occupying the allosteric site for NNRTIs and will inhibit the catalytic activity of IN by destabilizing the IN-DNA complex. The main perspective of this work is the synthesis and biological testing of the candidate molecules.

Keywords

AIDS, Antiviral, Computer-Aided Drug Design, Docking, Polypharmacology

1. Introduction

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) continues to be a major health problem in the world. In 2016, there were 1.0 million AIDS-related deaths and 36.7 million people living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) [1].

Several compounds have been developed for the treatment of patients infected with HIV-1 [2]-[7]. These compounds, based on the mechanism of action, can be classified into five major groups: CCR5 blockers, fusion inhibitors, reverse transcriptase (RT) inhibitors (that include nucleoside, NRTIs and nonnucleoside, NNRTIs), integrase (IN), and protease (PI) inhibitors [8]. The molecular targets are involved in different aspects of the HIV virus. For instance, RT is responsible for producing proviral DNA from viral RNA, and IN is responsible for taking the proviral DNA and introducing it to cellular DNA in the nucleus [8] [9]. Figure 1 shows examples of compounds that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the United States has approved for clinical use for the treatment of AIDS. The figure also shows examples of different chemical classes under development. Examples of NNRTI are Nevirapine, Efavirenz, Delavirdine, Etravirine, Rilpivirine, UC-781, HEPT, TNK 651, pyridin-2(1H)-one-UC781 hybrid, pyridin-2(1H)-one DH-10, and quinol-2(1H)-one DA-3 [10]. Examples of IN inhibitors are Elvitegralvir, Raltegravir, S-1360, and L-870810 (Figure 1).

HIV infection is currently controlled through combinations of drugs described above, collectively known as the Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART). In this polypharmacy approach [11], the FDA has approved for clinical use multiclass combination products that contain PI or NRTI combined



Figure 1. Representative compounds discussed in this work. Drugs approved for the treatment of HIV AIDS and other compounds under development.

with NNRTI or IN inhibitors. One example is Atripla[®] that is a combination of three compounds, including the NNRTI Efavirenz. Other examples are Complera[®] and Stribild[®] which contains Rilpivirine and Elvitegravir, respectively [12]. On the other hand, a polypharmacology approach [11], attempts to develop dual active compounds such as 11 - 18 (Figure 1) that inhibit both RT and IN [6]. Since the induction of adverse side effects and the emergence of drug-resistant strains of HIV are major challenges of anti-HIV therapies, the development of multi-target drugs is an alternative to increase antiviral activity and to reduce the number of components in the combinations currently used [11].

Pyridinone derivatives are promising NNRTIs. Merck first reported the development of pyridinone derivatives as NNRTIs identifying highly potent molecules. However, investigation on this class of compounds was later stopped due to the induction of resistant mutant strains. However, in the past few years, other academic research groups have continued developing pyridinone derivatives leading to compounds with improved activity profile versus mutant strains of HIV-1 [5] [13] [14] [15]. Amongst these compounds are pyrimidinediones [16], which contain an OH group in N-1 of the pyridione ring and that were proposed as dual inhibitors of RT and IN (Figure 1) [6].

The goal of this work was to assess the potential ability of pyridinone analogues and related compounds to act as dual inhibitors of RT and IN. The rationale is that dual inhibitors may be more effective than molecules directed to only one molecular target [17]. The rationale is that the proposed pyridinone derivatives (cf. **Figure 2**) are structurally related to the 3-hydroxypyrimidine-2,4-diones that are dual inhibitors of RT and IN as showed by Wang *et al.* All the compounds evaluated in this study (cf. **Figure 2**) are synthetically accessible. As discussed in section 2, the designed structures have features of the pyridinone-UC781 hybrid, that might maintain activity against mutant strains [4]. In



Figure 2. Chemical structures of the pyrdinone derivatives considered in this work.

particular, the new structures could preserve the activity against Tyr181Cys mutant strains because of the flexibility of the side chain at C-4 (substituent R4 in **Figure 2**) [4].

2. Methods

Based on the structure of the pyridinone-UC781 hybrid proposed earlier [4], chemical structure of 556 compounds was initially proposed based on synthetic accessibility (**Figure 2**). The overall rationale of the design was to introduce a polar group at C-3 and an unsaturated aliphatic chain in C-4. The chemical structures of the 3-hydroxypyrimidine-2,4-diones developed by Wang *et al.* were also considered in the design. In particular, the introduction of an N-OH substitution would lead to candidate compounds able to act as dual inhibitors, inhibiting both RT and IN [6].

The crystallographic structures of the biomolecular targets were retrieved from the Protein Data Bank (PDB) (www.rcsb.org) [18]. **Table 1** summarizes the information of the three structures of RT [15] and one for IN [19] [20] used in this work, including the information of the co-crystallized ligand. All computational studies were conducted with Molecular Operating Environment (MOE) software, version 2014 [20].

Table 1. Summary of the crystallographic structures of RT and IN used in this work [15][19].

PDB ID	Resolution (Å)	Co-cry	rstalized ligand
2BAN (RT)	2.95	R157208	
2B5J (RT)	2.90	R165481 Note: the tautomeric conformation is taken	
2BE2 (RT)	2.43	R221239	
3L2U (IN)	3.15	GS9137 (Elvitegravir)	

2.1. Structure Preparation

2.1.1. Reverse Transcriptase

In each of the three crystallographic structures of RT (**Table 1**) manganese ions, glycerol, sucrose, and water molecules (except HOH1013 in PDB ID: 2B5J) were eliminated. Then the geometry of the structures was optimized with the LigX module available in MOE using default settings. Before docking, the coordinates of the three crystallographic structures of RT were aligned using the chain A as template.

2.1.2. Integrase

For IN, the crystallographic structure of foamy virus (PFV) was taking as a starting point similar to the work of Wang *et al.* [6] [17]. As in the preparation of the structure of RT, non-amino acid ligands were removed from the structure except Elvitegravir (GS9137, **Table 1**) *i.e.*, zinc ions, glycerol and ammonia molecule. The geometry of the structure was optimized with the LigX module available in MOE using default settings.

2.2. Validation of Docking Protocol

Before docking the new compounds in **Figure 2**, the docking protocol was validated by re-docking the co-crystal ligands in their corresponding crystallographic structure (**Table 1**). During docking, the structure of the co-crystal ligands (*i.e.*, R221239, R165481, R157208 and GS9137) was considered semi-flexible. The docking was done with the MMFF94x force field using default options of MOE (500 iterations in total with 30 consecutive attempts to select the best result). The binding pocket was defined as the set of amino acids within of 4.5 Å of the co-crystal ligand.

2.3. 3D Flexible Alignment of Pyridinone Structures

In order to explore if the compounds in **Figure 2** could adopt a similar conformation as the co-crystalized pyridinone analogues, a representative set of 56 (10%) molecules were aligned flexibly to the co-crystal coordinates of R221239, R165481, and R157208 (**Table 1**). The chemical structures of the 56 selected compounds are in the Supplementary material. During the alignment, the structure of the co-crystal compound was kept rigid. The flexible alignment conducted in MOE was done using default settings (500 iterations in total with 30 consecutive attempts to find the best result) with the MMFF94x force field.

2.4. Docking

2.4.1. Docking with RT

All 556 compounds were docked with the crystallographic structures PDB ID: 2BAN and 2B5J using the same settings of the validation step. After docking with the two crystallographic structures, 160 compounds were selected for further analysis. As part of the analysis, in particular the binding poses, protein ligand interaction fingerprints (PLIFs) were generated with MOE. Of note, the

new compounds in **Figure 2** were not docked with PDB ID: 2BE2 based on the results of the flexible alignment detailed in Section 2.3 *i.e.*, the proposed compounds did not adopted a similar conformation to R221239 (*vide infra*).

2.4.2. Docking with IN

160 compounds selected from the docking with RT (Section 2.4.1) were docked with the crystallographic structure PDB ID: 3L2U using the same parameters used in the docking of the co-crystal ligand (Elvitegravir, GS9137) [19] during the validation step. As discussed on the sequel, 76 pyridinone analogues structures were selected based on the binding poses and resemblance of the functional groups of reported dual inhibitors of RT and IN [17].

2.5. Calculation of Drug-Like Properties

In order to assess the potential oral bioavailability of the newly proposed compounds, we calculated properties of pharmaceutical interest, namely [21] [22]; molecular weight (MW), the partition coefficient octanol/water (Log P) as a measure of lipophilicity, topological polar surface area (TPSA), number of hydrogen bond donors (HBD), hydrogen bond acceptors (HBA), and rotatable bonds (RB).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Alignment of Crystallographic Structures of RT

The three crystallographic structures of RT (**Table 1**) were aligned before the docking. **Figure S1** in the Supplementary material summarizes the results of the alignment. Results of the alignment indicated that, overall, the conformation of the crystallographic structures is similar (RMSD values between 0.77 Å and 1.23 Å). Analysis of the conformation of the side chains in the binding pocket revealed important differences in the side chain of Tyr181 in PDB ID: 2BAN. The different position of this side chain is due to the bulky substituent at C-5 of the pyridinone ring of R221239, as compared to the small (ethyl) substituent at the same C-5 position of R157208 and R165481 in PDB ID: 2BAN and 2B5J, respectively. The coordinates of the aligned and superposed structures were used for docking of 556 pyridinones.

3.2. Validation of the Docking Protocol with RT

Docking of the co-crystal ligands with their corresponding crystallographic structures yield excellent results with low (<1 Å) RMSD values: 0.8832, 0.8925 and 0.7379 for 2BAN, 2BE2 and 2B5J, respectively. **Figure S2** in the Supplementary material illustrates the results of the validation. These results indicated that the settings used in MOE were able to reproduce the binding modes observed in the crystal structure. The relative docking scores of the co-crystal ligands with the corresponding structure of RT were –9.00, –1.01, and –8.63 for 2BAN, 2BE2 and 2B5J, respectively.

3.3. Alignment with Co-Crystalized Pyridinone Derivatives

As described in the Methods section, 56 (10%) pyridinones were taken from the entire set of 556 molecules using a stratified random sampling strategy (Figure **S6** in the Supplementary material). The selected structures were aligned flexibly with the co-crystallographic positions of R157208, R165481 and R221239 (Table 1). Table 2 summarizes the results of the 3D alignment including the scores. This value quantifies the quality of the alignment taking into account the 3D similarity of the molecules considering the average energy penalty (in kcal/mol) for the conformational restriction of the ligands associated with the alignment. Lower values (more negative) indicate a better alignment. The colors of the alignment values in Table 2 classify the relative magnitude of the alignment scores as compared to the average plus two standard deviations of the scores vs. template compounds. Values in green indicate highly favorable scores (i.e., better than the average plus two standard deviations), values in blue denote average values, and values in red indicate the less favorable scores (two standard deviations below average). Based on the average alignment scores the best alignments were obtained, in general, using R165481 as reference. Overall, R157208 was the template pyridinone with the second best alignment scores. Of note, R165481 and R157208 have a small (ethyl) substituent at C-5. In contrast, R221239 (with a bulky substituent at C-5) led to less favorable alignment scores. These results are in agreement with the structures of the new compounds considered in this work (vide supra) (Figure 2).

Figure 3 shows the results of 3D-alignments of representative compounds, 1 and 77 with R157208 and R165481, respectively. In the figure is possible to observe that, in general, the structures of 1 and 77 have a good overlap with the reference molecules.

The conformation of the aligned compounds was overlapped in the crystallographic structure of RT (**Figure 4**). Note that despite the fact that the quinolone ring of 1 aligned with R165481 is flipped by about 180° vs. the pyridnone ring of the template compound, it is capable of occupy the allosteric site of RT. In the alignment-based conformation shown in **Figure 4**, 1 could interact with Leu100 and Lys101 making a hydrogen bond with Lys101. The same hydrogen bond could be formed with the tautomeric structure R165481 (**Figure 4**). The hydrogen bond interaction with Lys101 is present in other NNRTIs structurally similar to pyridinone like pyrimidines [23].

The binding poses of the 556 pyridinones docked with two crystallographic structures of RT (PDB IDs: 2BAN and 2B5J) showed a hydrogen bond interaction between the amine of the pyridinone ring with the oxygen atom of the carbonyl group of Lys101. This hydrogen bond is observed for several NNRTIS including R157208 and R165481 [4] [24] [25]. In order to analyze the results, we selected the compounds that had predicted contacts with Tyr181 and Tyr188, and structures that interact with conserved amino acids Trp229, Pro236 and Tyr3118. To support this analysis we used the results of PLIFs fully detailed in

ID	R157208	ID	R221239	ID	R165481
207	-95.19	487	-100.47	77	-98.46
357	-90.35	317	-94.82	1	-97.37
117	-89.12	77	-89.94	277	-95.92
497	-88.70	367	-87.64	61	-92.80
4 67	-86.36	61	-87.51	317	-92.74
337	-85.38	337	-86.93	127	-92.64
147	-84.98	51	-86.15	537	-92.34
287	-84.36	447	-85.25	377	-92.28
547	-84.17	21	-84.63	41	-91.84
1	-83.94	237	-84.58	327	-91.53
377	-83.42	397	-83.87	517	-90.80
97	-83.01	117	-83.81	367	-90.28
477	-82.84	137	-83.59	287	-89.89
247	-81.54	307	-81.51	31	-89.42
107	-79.99	457	-80.16	257	-89.25
137	-79.68	1	-79.05	547	-89.15
61	-79.64	537	-78.27	71	-87.75
487	-79.09	11	-78.05	137	-86.29
77	-78.81	277	-77.25	417	-86.20
417	-77.85	41	-76.94	11	-85.61
197	-77.72	127	-76.67	497	-84.72
127	-76.25	527	-76.52	487	-84.63
157	-75.33	207	-74.99	87	-84.41
227	-74.71	147	-74.56	107	-84.34
277	-74.24	167	-73.48	527	-83.70
51	-74.17	377	-73.32	207	-83.39
447	-73.85	517	-73.17	337	-83.08
267	-73.28	71	-72.74	467	-82.95
427	-73.16	257	-72.58	147	-82.89
41	-72.63	477	-71.98	397	-82.66
457	-71.99	287	-71.85	447	-82.17
527	-71.53	407	-71.80	407	-81.48
307	-71.46	227	-71.23	167	-81.34
87	-/1.0/	87	-/1.21	307	-80.04
437	-70.95	217	-70.86	51	-79.58

Table 2. 3D alignment scores (kcal/mol) calculated with MOE of 56 selected compound with the structure of three co-crystallized pyridinones.* The structure of each compound is shown in the Supplementary material.

Continued					
407	-70.19	437	-68.79	457	-78.90
167	-69.39	497	-67.48	157	-78.80
517	-69.34	31	-66.88	477	-78.01
537	-69.33	417	-66.72	117	-76.66
327	-69.13	347	-65.84	97	-76.10
71	-68.89	157	-65.05	507	-75.50
11	-68.81	187	-65.03	347	-74.90
317	-67.16	467	-64.97	177	-74.64
297	-66.27	297	-62.65	267	-73.91
237	-66.12	507	-59.88	387	-73.00
257	-65.11	247	-59.46	237	-72.54
177	-65.03	267	-59.31	21	-71.72
21	-64.90	197	-56.36	357	-71.47
507	-61.96	547	-56.26	187	-68.96
367	-61.52	97	-55.40	217	-68.66
187	-61.09	357	-55.04	437	-68.12
397	-60.77	177	-52.55	197	-66.33
217	-58.21	327	-52.00	297	-65.39
387	-56.81	427	-48.64	227	-64.74
31	-56.10	387	-48.41	247	-62.67
347	-54.72	107	-46.84	427	-60.66
Average	-73.38	Average	-71.98	Average	-81.53
St. dev.	±9.39	St. deviation	±12.25	St. deviation	±9.36

*Based on the average and the standard deviation of the calculated energies, values in green denote outstanding results (more negative), values in blue are close to the average, and values in red are below (less negative) the average.

the Supplementary material (Figure S5). Table 3 and Table 4 summarize the docking scores of the selected compounds with two crystal structures of RT. The more negative values indicate more favorable docking. Table 3 shows the results with PDB ID: 2BAN and Table 4 with PDB ID: 2B5J. In both tables, compounds in the left column are the ones able to make contacts with Tyr181-Tyr188 and those on the right column make contact with Trp-Pro236 or Trp229-Pro236-Tyr318, respectively.

3.4. Docking with RT

Based on the results of the 3D flexible alignment discussed in section 3.3, the structure PDB ID: 2BE2 structure was no longer considered for docking analysis. As discussed, this was because the results suggested that the geometry of the binding site of R221239 bound to RT is not representative for the group of compounds studied in this work.



Figure 3. Flexible alignment of representative compounds 1 and 77 (carbon atoms in yellow) with the co-crystal coordinates of R157208 and R165481 (carbon atoms in green). The alignment scores are in **Table 2**.



Figure 4. Alignment-based conformation of 1 (quinolone) with R165481 (atoms in green color) inside the binding pocket of PDB ID: 2B5J. This conformation shows an interaction with Leu100; and, Lys101 with a hydrogen bond.

3.4.1. Binding Modes with RT, PDB ID: 2BAN

Based on the docking scores and predicted contacts with key amino acids (Table 3, values in green font), 13 compounds with the best docking profile were selected. Six compounds showed favorable docking scores and interactions with

Table 3. Docking results with RT PDB ID: 2BAN. The cells are colored to highlight major amino acids involved in protein-ligand interactions. Gray and yellow color indicate interaction with Tyr181 and Tyr188, respectively. Cells in blue and green denote interactions with Pro236 and Trp229, respectively. Considering the average and the standard deviation of the docking scores, values in green font indicate the most favorable results, values in blue font indicate average scores, and values in red font denote the less favored scores.

ID	Tyr181–188 (2BAN)	ID	Trp229–Pro236 (2BAN)
211	-8.38	231	-7.69
146	-8.29	153	-7.60
446	-8.09	72	-7.44
226	-8.05	74	-7.31
101	-7.96	178	-7.28
114	-7.94	162	-7.23
538	-7.81	73	-7.20
287	-7.77	102	-7.07
250	-7.76	551	-7.03
206	-7.69	35	-7.03
189	-7.67	34	-7.02
192	-7.66	311	-7.01
343	-7.62	219	-6.96
100	-7.58	299	-6.88
439	-7.52	124	-6.80
354	-7.47	169	-6.74
161	-7.46	356	-6.63
338	-7.41	259	-6.63
333	-7.39	210	-6.59
74	-7.31	308	-6.56
177	-7.26	1	-6.53
447	-7.26	526	-6.52
299	-7.24	267	-6.47
156	-7.12	271	-6.33
249	-7.12	459	-6.21
113	-7.05	402	-6.19
551	-7.03	439	-6.15
237	-6.97	38	-6.11
445	-6.86	132	-6.11
193	-6.86	133	-6.10
323	-6.67	433	-6.09
364	-6.63	362	-6.01

Continued			
190	-6.49	310	-5.99
173	-6.44	332	-5.92
383	-6.43	86	-5.88
429	-6.28	525	-5.76
442	-6.23	463	-5.74
97	-6.22	252	-5.61
358	-6.05	392	-5.60
268	-6.04	447	-5.53
507	-6.03	394	-5.39
11	-5.97	79	-5.32
334	-5.94	197	-5.07
233	-5.32	423	-3.94
Average	-7.10	Average	-6.39
Std. Dev.	±0.73	Std. Dev.	±0.75
	Tyr188		Pro236
	Tyr181		Trp229

Tyr181 and Tyr188 (compounds 211, 146, 446, 226, 101, and 114). Seven compounds had favorable scores and interactions with Trp229 and Pro236 (231, 153, 72, 74, 178, 162 and 73). The chemical structures are shown in the Supplementary material (**Figure S7**) (PDF file "160 structures docked with RT"). **Figure 5(a)** and **Figure 5(b)** show the docking pose of selected compounds 211 and 231 with RT (PDB ID: 2BAN). Structures 211 and 231 had the best results for interactions with Tyr181 and the conserved amino acid Trp229, respectively. The structures of pyridinones 211 and 231 have characteristics similar to the pyridinone-UC781 hybrid (**Figure 1**) [4] [10]. Both binding models is predicted the characteristic hydrogen bond with Lys101. In addition, the substituent at C-4 (4-methylpent-3-en-1-oxyde) is flexible and can make contacts with Tyr181, Tyr188, Trp229, Pro236 or Tyr318. Such flexibility is important in mutant strains because the group in C-4 will help the compound to maintain the interaction with other amino acid in the allosteric site and in this way would favor activity against mutant RT [4].

Figure 6 illustrates a further example of this flexibility of the C-4 position (R4 substituent). In this binding model, compound 447 makes two hydrogen bond interactions with Lys101 and Lys103. At the same time, the molecule has the potential to interact with the side chains of Tyr188 or Trp229 Through the substituent at C-4.

3.4.2. Binding Modes with RT, PDB ID: 2B5J

Table 4 summarizes the results of the docking with the structure of RT PDB ID:2B5J. Out of the 556 docked compounds, 91 molecules had binding poses able to

Table 4. Docking results with RT PDB ID: 2B5J. The cells are colored to highlight major amino acids involved in protein-ligand contacts. Gray and yellow color indicate interaction with Tyr181 and Tyr188, respectively. Cells in blue, green, and orange denote interactions with Pro236, Trp229, and Tyr318, respectively. Considering the average and the standard deviation of the results obtained, the values in red font indicate non-outstanding results (less negative). In blue, the acceptable results and in green are the outstanding results (more negative).

ID	Tyr181-188 (2B5J)	ID	Trp229-Pro236-Tyr318 (2B5J)
315	-8.09	450	-8.83
474	-7.69	244	-8.51
224	-7.62	486	-8.50
58	-7.55	201	-8.39
310	-7.52	487	-8.30
269	-7.47	546	-7.94
470	-7.44	448	-7.71
447	-7.39	10	-7.65
299	-7.38	513	-7.59
454	-7.37	506	-7.51
236	-7.35	535	-7.45
538	-7.34	312	-7.37
94	-7.27	288	-7.33
23	-7.24	542	-7.31
59	-7.22	445	-7.25
225	-7.20	267	-7.20
550	-7.19	540	-7.18
451	-7.18	199	-7.17
227	-7.17	531	-7.17
315	-7.17	499	-7.16
52 9	-7.15	299	-7.14
219	-7.08	485	-7.13
309	-7.04	305	-7.11
473	-6.98	539	-7.11
151	-6.94	44	-7.07
212	-6.93	52	-7.07
235	-6.89	505	-7.06
342	-6.77	507	-7.03
49	-6.68	120	-6.88
357	-6.68	287	-6.85
515	-6.65	54	-6.84
313	-6.52	42	-6.83

Continued			
69	-6.48	538	-6.80
372	-6.43	194	-6.79
472	-6.37	529	-6.75
551	-6.29	228	-6.74
296	-6.26	550	-6.70
503	-6.24	523	-6.64
554	-6.20	18	-6.64
54	-6.11	548	-6.64
16	-5.95	41	-6.47
177	-5.35	246	-6.41
513	-5.17	496	-6.39
325	-4.84	99	-6.38
340	-4.30	503	-6.34
382	-3.75	100	-6.18
95	-2.35	333	-6.14
Average	-6.64	328	-6.02
Std. Dev.	±1.08	555	-5.82
	Tyr188	475	-5.59
	Tyr181	541	-5.11
		472	-4.95
		340	-4.30
		423	-1.24
		Average	-6.83
		Std. Dev.	±1.15
			Pro236
			Trp229
			Tyr318

make interactions with Tyr181, Tyr188, Trp229, Pro236, or Tyr318. Ten compounds (54, 299, 315, 340, 472, 503, 513, 529, 538 and 550) can interact with other amino acid residues in the pocket. In all cases, compounds make a hydrogen bond interaction with Lys101.

For example, compound 315 had a favorable docking score and also was able to make hydrophobic contacts with Tyr181 (Table 4). Figure 7(a) and Figure 7(b) show the two most favored binding poses for this molecule with docking scores of -8.09 and -7.17, respectively. In both poses, it was observed the distinctive hydrogen bond interaction with Lys101. The results suggest the hypothesis that compound 315 may be active against RT.

Figure 8 depicts the binding model of 450, a top ranked molecule (docking



Figure 5. (a) Docking of structure 211 with RT (PDB ID: 2BAN). An interaction with the methyl group at C-4 and Tyr181; (b) Docking of structure 231 with RT (PDB ID: 2BAN). It is noteworthy the interaction of the methyl group of substituent in C-4 with Trp229.

score of -8.83) that is predicted to have contacts with Trp229 (**Table 4**). This compound can make hydrogen bond interactions with Lys101 and make contacts with Leu100. Figure 8 also depicts the binding model of 546 (docking score of -7.94). According to the binding model, 546 can make interactions with Trp229, Tyr188, and Tyr318. Because of the contacts with the side chains of the conserved amino acid Trp229, it is hypothesized that molecules such as 450 and 546 could be active against mutant strains of HIV-RT.

Figure 9 shows the binding model of 10, a compound that is predicted to make contacts with Pro236. The docking model of compound 10 shows interactions with the ester substituent of C-3 and Pro236. Additional contacts are observed with Lys103 and Leu100, in addition of the hydrogen bond interaction with Lys101.



Figure 6. Possible docking poses of structure 447 with RT PDB: 2BAN. It is possible to observe the interaction of methyl group of substituent in C-4 with Tyr188 (a) and Trp229 (b) The hydrogen bond and the interaction with Lys103 is common to both poses.



Figure 7. Docking of structure 315 with RT PDB: 2B5J where is possible to observe the interaction hydrogen of C-5 of cyclohexene and the aromatic portion of Tyr181 (a) and interaction is between a hydrogen of C-3' of substituent in C-4 with the aromatic portion of Tyr188 (b).

315

3.5. Validation of the Docking Protocol with IN

The docking protocol with IN was validated by re-docking the co-crystal ligand Elvitegravir. The RMSD value of 1.3 Å indicated the ability of the docking protocol to reproduce the binding mode observed in the co-crystallized structure (see **Figure S3** in the Supplementary material).

3.6. Docking with IN

A total of 76 compounds that had good docking results with RT (vide supra)



Figure 8. Docking of structure 450 and 546 with RT PDB: 2B5J.



Figure 9. Docking model of compound 10 with RT PDB ID: 2B5J. It is notable the interaction between the carbonyl of ester of 10 and the backbone of Pro236.

were docked with IN. Of note, structures of compounds selected had ester and acid groups in C-3 (**Figure 2**) and, overall, similar functional groups as known IN inhibitors. **Table 5** summarizes the docking results of the 31 best compounds. In order to select the compounds, we analyze the corresponding PLIFs fully detailed in the Supplementary material (**Figure S5C**).

Table 5. Summary of docking results with IN PDB ID: 3L2U. Considering the average
and the standard deviation of the docking scores, values in green font indicate the most
favorable results; values in blue font indicate average scores and values in red font denote
the less favored scores.

ID	Docking score
54	-6.48
450	-6.39
86	-6.28
328	-6.23
79	-6.21
485	-6.19
52	-6.16
445	-6.00
197	-5.90
325	-5.90
16	-5.88
529	-5.86
100	-5.68
237	-5.68
211	-5.67
18	-5.64
199	-5.63
354	-5.59
249	-5.46
332	-5.46
288	-5.41
97	-5.40
244	-5.09
309	-5.03
233	-4.83
201	-4.82
205	_4 71
523	-4.62
287	-4 58
1	-4 43
-	-4.10
Average	-5.53
Std. Dev.	±0.63
Std. Dev.	±0.63

Similar to **Table 3** and **Table 4**, compounds in **Table 5** are sorted by increasing values of docking score (showing the best compounds at the top). The docking scores are colored by the relative magnitude with values in green indicting most favored values (e.g., better than the average plus two standard deviations) while the red values are the least favored.

Molecule 54 had the most favorable docking score. Figure 10 shows its binding model. Notably, 54 can make interactions with two Mg^{2+} atoms, similar to Elvitegravir. Based on this result, it is hypothesized that 54 and other molecules with favorable docking scores (Table 5) could be IN inhibitors.

3.7. Potential Dual Inhibitors of RT and IN

Taken together the results of the docking with RT and IN, it was concluded that 31 molecules could act as dual inhibitors. **Figure 11** shows the chemical structures of the seven structures of the newly designed compounds with the best docking results (e.g., docking poses and scoring) obtained with both, RT and IN. As determined with the PDB ID: 2BAN and 2B5J RT structures, the compounds can make protein-ligand contacts with key amino acids for activity against native and mutant strains. In addition, the same seven structures are able to interact with the Mg²⁺ ions in the cavity between the enzyme and DNA, similar to the reports of the IN inhibitors.

3.8. Drug-Like Properties

The structures that were identified as potential inhibitors of RT and IN were evaluated according to the rules of Lipinski an Veber [21] [22]. Thus, for each structure were calculated the six properties of pharmaceutical interest: MW, Log P, HBD and HBA, RB and TPSA. Results showed that all the structures comply



Figure 10. (Left) Docking model of 54 (carbon atoms in yellow) with IN, PBD ID: 3L2U. (Right) Proposed binding model of 54 (yellow) with Elvitegravir (carbon atoms in green). It is noteworthy the interaction with Mg^{2+} atoms.



Figure 11. Examples of potential dual inhibitors of RT and IN.

with the rules of Lipinski and Veber (**Table S1** and **Figure S4** in the Supplementary material).

4. Conclusions and Perspectives

Using automated molecular docking with multiple crystallographic structures of RT and IN, 31 compounds were identified as potential dual inhibitors of RT and IN. The three most promising compounds are 54, 450 and 86. All proposed compounds are synthetically accessible and have drug-like properties. The proposed compounds could have improved activity vs. currently drugs approved for the treatment of AIDS.

The major perspective of this work is the synthesis of the selected compounds and their corresponding biological evaluation as inhibitors of RT, IN and anti-HIV molecules.

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Supplementary Material



Figure S1. Superpose of RT crystallographic structures used in docking assay. Matrix of RMSD values of superposed chains. Superpose of 2BAN (green), 2B5J (blue) and 2BE2 (yellow) structures with its respective crystalline pyridinones (R157208, R165481 y R221239, respectively). Each aminoacid show the pocket. Here is possible to watch the different conformation of Tyr181 due the lateral chain of crystal of pyridinone R157208 (atoms in green color).



Figure S2. Re-docking of co-crystalized ligands in PDB ID: A) 2BAN, B) 2BE2 and C) 2B5J.





Figure S3. Re-docking of Elvitegravir with the crystallographic structure of IN, PDB ID: 3L2U. The predicted binding pose is in green and the observed position in the crystallography structure is in yellow. The RMSD value was 1.297 Å. The figure also shows a 2D representation of the binding mode of Elvitegravir.

Structure	MW	Log P	HBD	HBA	RB	TPSA	Structure	MW	Log P	HBD	HBA	RB	TPSA
1	314.38	2.6	2	2	6	67.4	288	312.21	2.9	2	3	3	38.3
10	286.33	1.8	2	2	5	67.4	296	309.16	2.2	2	4	4	62.1
11	301.34	2.2	1	3	6	64.6	299	257.34	1.2	3	3	4	64.9
16	287.32	2.0	3	4	5	75.6	305	291.35	1.8	2	4	5	64.6
18	270.24	1.2	3	5	5	99.4	308	359.21	3.3	2	3	3	38.3
23	269.30	1.7	1	3	5	65.4	309	305.37	1.9	2	4	6	64.6
34	253.30	1.5	2	2	4	64.9	310	290.41	2.1	2	3	5	41.6
35	254.29	1.9	1	2	4	62.1	311	272.35	1.6	2	3	5	62.1
38	251.25	1.2	1	3	5	85.9	312	373.23	3.4	2	3	4	38.3
41	345.39	2.9	1	4	7	76.1	313	288.30	1.1	2	5	6	88.4
42	316.31	1.6	1	5	7	99.9	315	255.28	0.8	2	4	5	85.9
44	316.36	2.1	2	3	6	78.9	323	368.18	2.6	3	5	4	87.1
49	317.34	2.1	1	4	6	76.1	325	415.18	3.0	3	5	4	87.1
52	288.30	1.5	4	4	4	89.9	328	429.21	3.1	3	5	5	87.1
54	303.31	1.9	3	5	5	87.1	332	409.28	3.4	2	3	6	78.9
58	288.35	2.3	1	3	4	53.0	333	364.83	3.2	2	3	6	78.9
59	302.37	2.4	1	3	5	53.0	334	456.28	3.8	2	3	6	78.9
69	385.20	3.6	1	3	4	49.8	338	410.26	3.7	1	4	6	76.1
72	269.30	1.4	2	3	4	76.4	340	457.26	4.1	1	4	6	76.1
73	270.29	1.7	1	3	4	73.6	342	379.84	3.6	1	4	7	76.1
74	284.32	1.8	1	3	5	73.6	343	471.29	4.1	1	4	7	76.1
79	398.20	2.8	4	3	4	78.4	354	351.79	3.0	1	4	6	76.1
86	366.21	2.8	3	4	5	75.6	356	410.26	3.3	1	4	7	76.1
94	440.28	3.9	2	2	6	67.4	357	365.81	3.1	1	4	7	76.1
95	379.21	2.5	1	4	7	88.4	358	457.26	3.7	1	4	7	76.1
97	426.21	2.9	1	4	7	88.4	362	381.23	2.6	2	3	5	78.9
99	349.81	3.6	1	3	6	64.6	364	428.23	2.9	2	3	5	78.9
100	441.26	4.2	1	3	6	64.6	372	351.79	2.7	1	4	6	76.1
101	408.29	3.9	1	3	7	64.6	382	399.19	2.3	1	4	5	76.8
102	363.84	3.7	1	3	7	64.6	383	367.24	3.1	1	3	4	53.0
113	380.24	3.3	1	3	6	64.6	392	348.20	2.3	2	3	4	76.4
114	335.79	3.1	1	3	6	64.6	394	395.20	2.7	2	3	4	76.4
120	332.74	2.4	1	4	7	88.4	402	318.76	2.5	1	3	5	73.6
124	412.23	3.1	2	2	5	67.4	423	404.63	3.9	2	2	3	52.6
132	335.79	2.9	1	3	6	64.6	429	405.62	4.2	1	3	3	49.8
133	427.24	3.4	1	3	6	64.6	433	511.10	4.9	1	3	4	49.8

Table S1. Drug-like properties of newly designed compounds as potentially inhibitors of RT an IN.

Continued													
146	365.27	3.3	1	2	5	41.6	439	308.38	1.7	2	3	7	78.9
151	395.20	2.9	1	3	5	65.4	442	308.33	1.2	1	5	8	99.9
153	287.75	2.2	2	2	4	64.9	445	281.31	1.4	3	5	5	87.1
156	273.68	1.2	1	3	5	85.9	446	323.39	2.5	1	4	7	76.1
161	347.21	2.8	1	2	5	62.1	447	309.36	2.0	1	4	7	76.1
162	302.76	2.6	1	2	5	62.1	448	316.20	2.8	1	3	4	49.8
169	433.09	4.2	2	1	3	41.1	450	337.42	2.6	1	4	8	76.1
173	387.07	4.1	1	2	3	38.3	451	323.39	2.1	1	4	8	76.1
177	356.65	4.0	1	2	4	38.3	454	320.35	1.8	1	5	8	99.9
178	448.10	4.6	1	2	4	38.3	459	261.32	1.1	2	3	5	76.4
189	389.62	4.3	1	2	3	38.3	463	247.25	0.2	1	4	6	97.3
190	481.07	4.9	1	2	3	38.3	470	294.39	2.0	1	3	6	53.0
192	389.62	4.3	1	2	3	38.3	472	377.22	3.3	1	3	5	49.8
193	481.07	4.9	1	2	3	38.3	473	292.29	1.0	1	5	7	99.9
194	431.03	3.8	1	3	4	62.1	474	277.32	1.2	1	4	6	76.8
197	264.32	1.2	5	4	5	78.4	475	259.26	0.7	1	4	6	97.3
199	292.38	1.8	3	3	7	67.4	485	279.29	1.0	3	5	4	87.1
201	250.25	0.3	4	6	6	99.4	486	321.37	2.0	1	4	6	76.1
206	307.39	2.6	2	4	7	64.6	487	307.35	1.6	1	4	6	76.1
210	321.42	2.7	2	4	8	64.6	496	311.13	1.7	1	4	4	73.6
211	307.39	2.2	2	4	8	64.6	499	259.31	0.6	2	3	4	76.4
212	314.22	3.0	2	3	5	38.3	503	245.24	-0.3	1	4	5	97.3
219	245.33	1.2	3	3	5	64.9	505	293.32	1.2	1	4	5	76.1
224	332.14	2.1	2	4	5	62.1	506	278.35	1.5	1	3	4	53.0
225	279.34	1.8	2	4	6	64.6	507	260.29	0.9	1	3	4	73.6
226	264.37	2.0	2	3	5	41.6	513	290.27	0.5	1	5	6	99.9
227	246 31	1.5	2	3	5	62.1	515	257 25	0.3	1	4	5	97.3
227	347 20	3.3	2	3	4	38.3	523	306 32	0.8	1	5	7	99.9
220	260.34	1.6	2	3	6	62 1	525	293 32	1.4	3	5	4	87.1
231	276.29	1.1	2	5	7	88.4	526	335.40	2.5	1	4	6	76.1
235	243.27	0.8	2	4	6	85.9	529	307.35	1.5	3	5	5	87.1
236	344.15	2.6	2	4	5	62.1	531	335.40	2.1	1	4	7	76.1
237	262.31	0.7	5	4	4	78.4	535	318.33	1.3	1	5	7	99.9
244	283.13	1.2	2	4	4	62.1	538	291.39	1.6	2	2	4	55.8
246	305.37	2.1	2	4	6	64.6	539	273.34	1.1	2	3	4	76.4
249	277.32	1.1	4	5	5	75.6	540	374.22	2.9	2	2	3	52.6

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Continued													
250	319.40	2.2	2	4	7	64.6	541	292.29	0.4	1	5	6	99.9
252	312.21	2.5	2	3	4	38.3	542	277.32	0.7	1	4	5	76.8
259	243.31	0.7	3	3	4	64.9	546	292.38	1.9	1	3	4	53.0
267	244.29	1.0	2	3	4	62.1	548	375.21	3.2	1	3	3	49.8
268	345.18	2.8	2	3	3	38.3	550	306.41	2.0	1	3	5	53.0
269	291.35	1.4	2	4	6	64.6	551	288.35	1.5	1	3	5	73.6
271	258.32	1.1	2	3	5	62.1	554	289.33	1.2	1	4	5	76.8
287	305.37	2.1	2	4	6	64.6	555	271.28	0.7	1	4	5	97.3
Specification	<500	<5	<5	<10	<10	<140	Specification	<500	<5	<5	<10	<10	<140





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Quantity of Rotable Bonds

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Figure S4. Distribution of the drug-like properties of newly designed compounds (see also Table S1).

Analysis of PLIFS

PLIF of docking results with RT (PDB: 2BAN and PDB: 2B5)

The Protein Ligand Interaction Fingerprint (PLIF) generated with MOE was important to select the structures with interactions of interest when the docking has finished. According with the information obtained from previous studies a mayor feature of the pyridinone and related compound as inhibitors of RT of HIV is the interaction between carbonyl of Lys101 in RT and the hydrogen of amine in pyridinone through hydrogen bond. This feature is the key to be fixed the pyridinone in the RT pocket. In the analysis of PLIFs from the docking models, we were looking for this interaction key and at the same time the interaction of substituents in C-3 and C-4 with conserved amino acids in RT. In particular, is known that compounds maintaining interaction with Trp229, Tyr318 and Pro236 in RT could be good inhibitors of HIV. To docking studies were taken in count two crystallographic structures of RT and each PDB crystalline structure (2BAN and 2B5J) have a co-crystalized pyridinone, but the last one (PDB ID: 2B5J) has a tautomeric pyridinone, so in this conformation were tested the structures.

Once obtained the data base of results of docking with RT the next step was to generate in MOE the PLIF for PDB: 2BAN. When was selected the Lys101 backbone donor interaction in PLIF, MOE generated a list of conformations with the hydrogen bond between hydrogen of the amine of pyridinone and oxygen of carbonyl group of Lys101 (**Figure S5A**). The sum of conformations that implied Lys101 was 2790 and come from a total of 14,828 conformations. The next step was to verify which structures with the best results interact with the amino acids Tyr181, Tyr188, Trp229, Pro236 and Tyr318. To identify the structures

tures that interact with the amino acids before mentioned was necessary analyze visually the 2790 structures and 83 structures were selected for docking with 2BAN.

For the docking results with PDB ID: 2B5J it was generated a list using data of PLIF where was selected the Lys101 backbone donor interaction (**Figure S5B**). The list of conformations that implied Lys101 had 2,157 conformations from a total of 13,548 conformations. As next step 2157 posed were analyzed obtaining 91 structures with interaction with Tyr181, Tyr188, Trp229, Pro236 and Tyr318.

PLIF of docking results with IN (PDB: 3L2U)

Once we selected 76 structures with similar structural characteristics to Elvitegravir and performed the docking, PLIFs were generated with MOE. The goal was to identify those compounds with similar interactions as the reference co-crystal ligand, Elvitegravir, in particular the interactions with Mg^{2+} ions. The docking simulations gave 1862 conformations and was generated the PLIF in MOE. The data of PLIF were organized to get a list of conformations that interact with two Mg^{2+} and where listed 187 conformations of compounds that had interaction at the same time with two atoms of Mg^{2+} (**Figure S5C**).





Figure S5. PLIF of results of docking of pyridinone structures and (a) 2BAN, (b) 2BJ5, and (c) 3L2U.







Figure S6. 56 structures aligned with co-crystalized pyridinones.







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Figure S7. 160 Structures docked with RT.