

# Exploring Computational Advancements in ADME: Essential Insights for Drug Disposition

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Chinese Journal of Applied Physiology, 2024: e20240033

## Abstract

The physicochemical properties of the physiological makeup and the chemical component of the system make this challenging throughout strenuous procedure. The current review concentrated on in silico modelling of drug disposition, involving absorption process, distribution process, and excretion process and includes thorough knowledge of various database expeditions, the development of a pharmacophore model, molecular docking studies, homology modelling supported sequence similarity and quantitative structure-activity relationships (QSAR)/ quantitative structure-property relationships (QSPR) evaluation along with all information about drug movement and related computational tools for understanding potential chemical and pathophysiological changes. The primary development in ADMET modeling in current times has been the clarification of the function and effective modeling of various transporters. In ADMET modelling, there is still work to be done on including the impact of these transporters into existing models. The present state of modelling different elements of drug disposal at the systemic level will then be discussed, along with recent developments in modelling a wide range of active transporters and their effects on drug pharmacokinetic profiles. A more thorough knowledge of the underlying processes governing

DOI: 10.62958/j.cjap.2024.033  
www.cjap.ac.cn

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Published by CJAP editorial office and Asian BioMed Innovation Press

different aspects of drug disposition should also lead to an increase in mechanism-based modelling methods that are simple to grasp and put into practice. These developments will hasten the transition of model construction from computational to experimental scientists.

**Keywords** Modeling methodologies, drug distribution, drug metabolism, drug excretion, toxicity, intestinal permeability, drug absorption

## Introduction

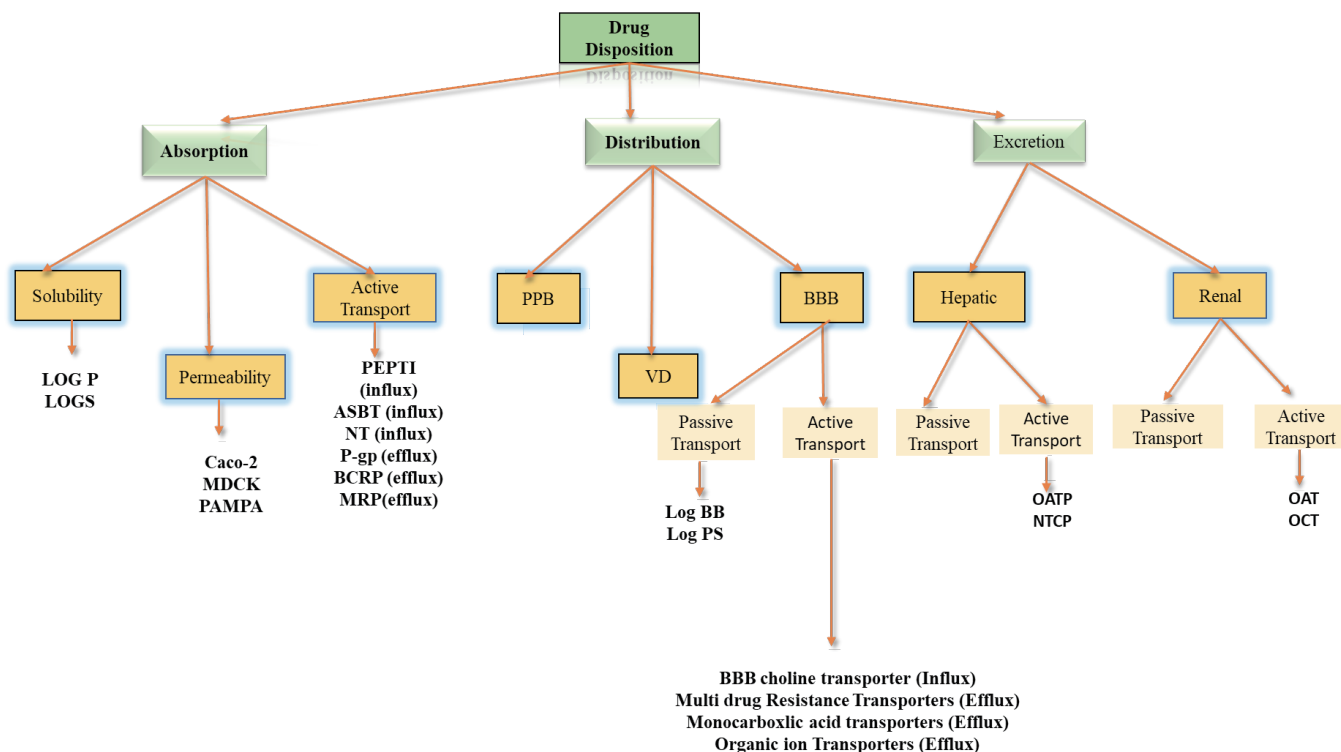
Traditionally, efficacy and selectivity across biological targets have been the primary factors in drug research. Approximately 50% of active drugs fail phase II and phase III trial because of poor pharmaceutical pharmacokinetic characteristics including distribution, toxicity, excretion, metabolic processes, and absorption (ADMET). Around the mid-1990s onward, the paradigm has shifted in response to demand to minimize the escalating costs of developing new medications. *In vitro* analysis of ADMET properties It has been routinely used in the initial levels of drug discovery to lower turnover in higher costly stages that follow. Numerous high-throughput *in vitro* ADMET property screening techniques have been advanced and efficiently used [1]. Caco-2 and MDCK cell monolayers, for example, are commonly utilized *in vitro* to model membrane permeability and estimate *in vivo* absorption. Because of these *in vitro* studies, *in silico* models can now be developed and utilized to forecast the ADMET properties of medicines prior to creation. Many computer programs aimed at mimicking pharmacological ADMET properties have evolved as processing capacity has increased and *in silico* modelling methodologies have advanced significantly. The current review investigated *in silico* drug disposition models, involving absorption, distribution process, and excretion process. The effect of recent advances in modeling a wide range of active transporters on pharmaceutical pharmacokinetic properties is also investigated [2].

The two basic modeling methodologies, quantitative pharmacophore studies, evaluation of structural prerequisites for drug interactions and, as a result, the targets involved in ADMET activities. A pharmacophore study, for example, may reveal the bare minimum of structural characteristics required for transport of a class of pharmaceuticals known to be carried by a transporter. To produce significant interactions between the protein and the ligand, flexible docking of the active ligand would benefit from the accessibility of the protein's 3D structure, which can be obtained by X-ray crystallography or homology modeling [3].

Researchers thoroughly evaluated and compared extensively employed automated pharmacophore perception technologies such as genetic algorithm similarity programs (GASP), distance comparisons (DISCO) and so on. These programs seek to uncover similar properties that permit the superposition of active compounds using a variety of methodologies. A recent overview of the applications of many docking approaches in drug development was issued. When evaluating the ADMET properties of medications, the main interactions discovered through either research are frequently used as a screening method. QSAR and QSPR are qualitative techniques that utilized statistical ways to link molecular descriptors to ADMET-relevant properties. The drug structure frequently calculates and supports a large number of molecular descriptors [3-5]. Despite the fact that alignment-dependent 3D descriptors that are pertinent to the intended biological activity frequently yield the best predictive models, the trouble associated with structural alignment impede efforts to use this type of modeling in a high-throughput manner. In the meanwhile, the majority of such descriptions continue to lack effective differentiation. Correlating field descriptors with ADMET properties can be done by researchers using a range of statistical algorithms, involving support vector machines (SVM), multivariate partial least squares (MPLS), artificial neural networks (ANN), among others. Choosing the correct mathematical tool, such descriptor selection, is critical for successful ADMET modeling [6]. As proven in a novel solubility QSPR model, it is occasionally obligatory to apply different statistical approaches and then contrast the outcome to choose the simplest strategy (Figure 1).

## Modeling methods

Computational methodologies are now the accepted pattern in preclinical drug development. Chemical processes are investigated in the multidisciplinary field of molecular modeling by combining theoretical notions with practical computer approaches. The fundamental goal is to apply approximate mathematical models to forecast how chemical



**Figure 1:** Drug Disposition Computational Modelling

systems will behave. In the region of computer-aided design and drafting (CADD), molecular modeling approaches are frequently classified into two types: (1) ligand-based (LB) modeling and (2) structure-based (SB) modeling [9,10]. While SB molecular modelling approaches allow researchers to explore protein-ligand complexes at the molecular level, LB modelling is occasionally referred to as "indirect drug design" due to the modeling process does not accommodate for knowledge about proteins.

## Drug ingestion

The study of pharmacokinetics examines how drugs enter the body, travel across it, get digested, leave it, and affects how the body functions. Clinical pharmacokinetics, which applies pharmacokinetic concepts, ensures patient safety and efficacious treatment. Understanding the concentration-effect relationship, researching pharmacological effects and metabolic processes, developing dose schedules, and improving rational medication administration have all profited from the development of pharmacokinetics as an area of study [11]. The primary tenet of the pharmacokinetics hypothesis is drug absorption, or the movement of an unmetabolized drug from the site of injection into the bloodstream. Examples of non-

specific drug transporters are P-glycoprotein (P-gp) and carrier-mediated membrane transport, which encompasses both facilitated and active diffusion. Passive diffusion is another route of drug absorption. medication absorption is impacted by a various of factors, some of which are patient or medication specific [12-17]. As a result, the percentage of medication absorbed varies according to the mode of administration, which includes oral, subcutaneous (SQ), transdermal (TD), intravenous (IV), and intramuscular (IM). The majority of pharmaceuticals are taken orally, hence this article will focus on gastrointestinal drug absorption. Bioavailability relates to a drug's rate and degree of absorption. To improve bioavailability and, hence, therapeutic efficacy, it is critical to have a better understanding of the drug absorption process and the elements that influence it. This article will discuss the various drug absorption mechanisms, as well as the factors that influence them and how they relate to bioavailability. Regardless of where it is absorbed, the medicine must pass through the cell membrane to enter the systemic circulation [15]. This could happen via passive diffusion or membrane transporters supported by carriers. Passive diffusion is the most prevalent method for drug absorption. This process, in which the drug molecule moves along a concentration gradient from higher to lower concentrations until equilibrium is

attained, can be explained by the Fick's law of diffusion. Passive diffusion can occur in both lipid and aqueous environments. Aqueous diffusion occurs in the body's aqueous compartments via aqueous pores, such as the interstitial space or the endothelial layer of blood vessels. Most water pores cannot pass medications containing albumin or other big plasma proteins. On the other hand, lipid diffusion occurs within the body's lipid compartment. It is thought to be the most critical determinant of drug permeability due to the increased number of lipid barriers that separate the body's compartments. The rate at which the substance passes between the two can be calculated using the drug's lipid-aqueous partition coefficient [15-18]. Furthermore, membrane transporters mediated by carriers are capable of carrying out absorption.

The body's many specialized carrier-mediated membrane transport systems, particularly the gut's, are responsible for transporting nutrients and ions. Such systems include active and assisted diffusion, for example. In addition to being required for renal and biliary drug excretion, active diffusion is a high-energy form of gastrointestinal (GI) absorption. This approach improves the absorption of various lipid-insoluble drugs by mimicking the absorption of physiologically occurring endogenous metabolites such as 5-fluorouracil from the GI tract. Active diffusion, rather than passive diffusion, allows medication to be transported from low concentration to high concentration locations.

## Solubility

Before a medicine may be absorbed, it must dissolve in the intestinal lumen. On a milligram scale, direct solubility assessment takes time and requires a large amount of a pricey chemical. The "universal solubility equation" can be used to indirectly evaluate solubility by calculating a drug's log P value (log of the compound's partition coefficient between water and n-octanol) and melting temperature. Even if the procedure is simple, the chemical must be prepared. Even before the molecule is generated, its solubility can be predicted using in-silico modeling [19]. There are two types of solubility modeling: one based on physiological processes and the other on actual data. The dissolution process involves the solute's interaction with solvent molecules as well as the disintegration of its crystal lattice. It is evident that increased solubility derives from greater interactions between solute and solvent molecules, as well as weaker connections within the crystal lattice (lower

melting point). The solvent-solute interaction has traditionally been the most important component influencing a compound's solubility in drug-like compounds, and its prediction has garnered the greatest attention. Using commercial tools such as calculated logarithm of its partition coefficient (clog P), which uses a fragment-based approach, it is simple to forecast the solvent-solute interaction as measured by logarithm of partition coefficient (Log P), the most basic estimate available [20,21].

Other methods address the role of solute crystal lattice energy in forecasting solubility by altering Log P values with other components to improve accuracy.

QSPR uses multivariate analysis to identify empirical correlations between molecular properties and solubility. Even though the calculating approach ignores the underlying physiological processes, selecting the right molecular descriptor and interpreting the model require understanding of the dissolving process. For appropriate modelling, multivariate analysis is essential, as is the utilization of field descriptors that accurately define the physiological process. Many models are trained and verified utilizing the aqueous solubility (AQUASOL) and physical property (Phys Props) databases, with the aim attribute being the logarithm of solubility (log S) [22,23].

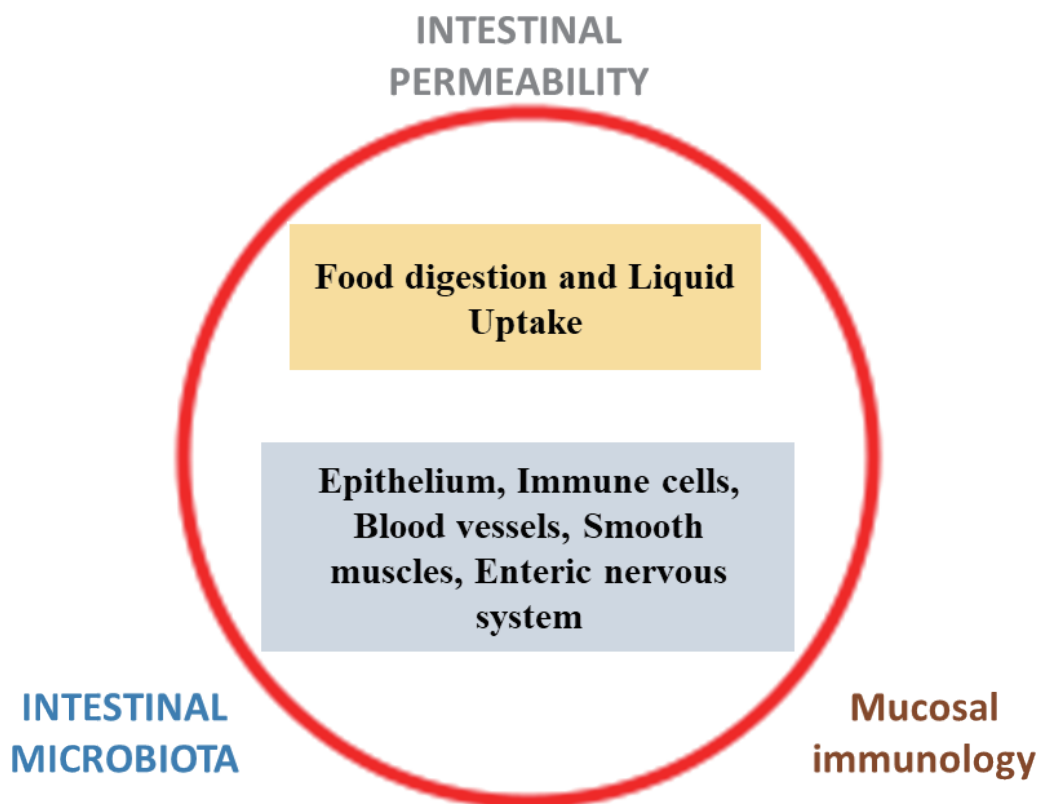
## Internal permeability

The mucous layer, vascular endothelium, and epithelial cell lining comprise the physical barrier. In addition to the physical barrier, chemical chemicals help to keep things out. They include gastrointestinal fluids, immunological compounds, cell products such as cytokines and inflammatory mediators, and antimicrobial peptides, which are mostly produced by paneth cells in the small intestine's crypts [24]. Although it affects the barrier and adds to metabolic activities. On the other hand, the microbiome promotes "intestinal health". The terms "intestinal barrier" and "intestinal permeability" refer to two aspects of the same anatomical tissue, the intestinal wall, which comprises four layers: mucosa, submucosa, muscularis, and serosa. Electrophysiologists who studied epithelial permeability in use chambers using tissue explants from animals or people coined the term "intestinal permeability". Specific permeability assays, such as the sugar test, have been established by applying chamber research to in vivo conditions [25,14]. All of these tests have one thing in common: they assess a molecule's ability to enter and pass through the epithelium or

mucous layer before reaching the submucosal site (via chamber) or the gut. Examples of such compounds include electrolytes and carbohydrates with varying molecular weights. The phrase "intestinal barrier," which stresses the protective aspect of the gut that shields people from bacterial invasion and toxins produced by other microorganisms, was only recently used by gastroenterologists, immunologists, and microbiologists [26]. As a result, the procedures for determining barrier functions differed from those employed by electrophysiologists, and included measuring the translocation of bacteria or bacterial byproducts such as endotoxin from the stomach to the portal vein, liver, or general circulation. Electrolyte fluxes, carbohydrate permeability, and bacterial translocation are presumably regulated by distinct mechanisms. However, what these approaches have in common is that they all look at how certain chemicals pass through the intestinal wall [17]. This information may lay the framework for a definition of intestinal permeability and prompt future inquiry. According to the criteria provided above, intestinal permeability can be defined as a measurable property of the intestinal barrier. The proposed definitions are related to the previously described idea of gut health, which is likely to be associated with intestinal permeability and

barrier. Apart from the physical barrier, there exists a chemical barrier consisting of antimicrobial peptides, digestive secretions, and other cell products such as inflammatory mediators and cytokines. Another approach to think of the gut flora is as a barrier [26–28]. Finally, the barrier is influenced by motility and immune activity. The mucous barrier is a complicated structure that separates the internal milieu and the luminal environment. The mucus layer is composed up of a gel formed by the interaction of numerous mucous secretions, including mucins, trefoil peptides, and surfactant lipids. Intestinal permeation is the term used to describe a medication's capacity to pierce the intestinal mucous and isolate the gut lumen from the portal circulation [29]. Medication must first cross the intestinal barrier and reach the bloodstream in order to be effective at the places where it is intended to function. In this process, both passive diffusion and transport are employed. It is a complex process that is hard to predict based only on molecular principles. Most contemporary models aim to recreate in vitro membrane permeation of Caco-2, MDCK, or parallel artificial membrane permeability assay (PAMPA), which are useful indicators for in vivo drug absorption (Figure 2).

Dietary variables that promote intestinal



**Figure 2:** Internal permeability

permeability and microbial translocation and cause inflammatory reactions in the liver, white adipose tissue, brain, and other organs are responsible for metabolic diseases such as insulin resistance. It is now widely accepted that this pathophysiological pathway influences the development of metabolic disorders such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) or nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). It is easy to think that methods like probiotic bacteria or prebiotic dietary ingredients, which allow the safe regulation of the intestinal microbiota, would be highly beneficial in the treatment of intestinal barrier disorders in the future [31, 32].

## Vitamins

Vitamin A deficiency has been linked to increased susceptibility to infection in both human and animal models. It has been found that vitamin A and its derivatives govern the proliferation and differentiation of intestinal cells. A diet deficient in vitamin A alters the dynamics of mucins and the manufacture of defense molecules such as defensin 6 and mucin 2 (MUC2), which in turn affects commensal bacteria and weakens the intestinal barrier. In experimental enteritis, a vitamin A deficit is linked to decreased small intestine villus height and disaccharide activity, which results in more severe intestinal damage [33].

## Short-chain fatty acids (SCFA)

The organic acids such as acetate, butyrate, propionate and valerate are created by the colon's microbial processing of unprocessed carbohydrates. Because a deficiency in butyrate causes tight junction lesions and subsequently decreases the permeability of the gut, it is particularly crucial for preserving the intestinal barrier in inflammatory bowel disease [28]. Trans epithelial resistance is connected to tight junction integrity and tumor necrosis factor (TNF) suppression. Evidence in a rat model of colitis produced by dextran sulphate sodium demonstrates that butyrate injection restores this resistance [34].

## Prebiotics

In addition to the effects of prebiotic fermentation products like SCFA, prebiotics may also have other impacts on the intestinal barrier. Actually, in experimental pancreatitis, prebiotic galactooligosaccharide (GOS) protects against salmonella

infections and breakdown of the barrier. Prebiotic fructo-oligosaccharides (FOS) can modify the intestinal microbiota, intestinal barrier function, or both in order to mitigate experimental hepatic steatosis [29, 31].

## Western nations' eating habits

Several investigations on animals have been carried out to investigate the effects of high-fat diets on intestinal permeability and the composition of the gut microbiota. Meals heavy in fat and calories frequently caused metabolic endotoxemia by raising intestinal permeability. Changes brought about by the high-fat and high-carbohydrate Western diet were comparable to or even more dramatic. Furthermore, our research showed that fructose has a unique role in the intestinal barrier in comparison to other sugars. Through the use of toll like receptor 4 (TLR-4) mutant mice, we were able to demonstrate that intestinal bacterial overgrowth and increased permeability, which lead to endotoxin-dependent activation of hepatic kupffer cells, are linked to the beginning of fructose-induced NAFLD [5,13,32].

## Probiotics

Some research have suggested that probiotics and commensal bacteria may improve gut barrier integrity in vivo, despite conflicting or unclear results from a number of investigations. Probiotics have been shown in numerous studies to protect or strengthen the intestinal barrier in vitro. It has been demonstrated that following infection with an enteropathogenic strain of *Escherichia coli* (EPEC) bacteria, *Escherichia coli* nissle (EcN) inhibits barrier breakdown in T84 and caco-2 cells. In vitro, EcN by itself enhanced the synthesis of zonula occludens (ZO-2) proteins and their translocation from the cytosol to the borders of cells. Furthermore, EcN has a comparable effect on intestinal epithelial cells isolated from germ-free mice and is regulated by an enzyme called c-mitogen activated protein kinase (PK C-MAPK) [33, 34].

A constituent of the probiotic product *Bifidobacterium infantis* Y1 secretes compounds that increase the expression of ZO-1 and occludin and decrease the expression of claudin 2. This alters ion secretion and increases trans epithelial resistance. It was shown that the transcription of the occludin and cingulin genes was boosted by the probiotic strain *Lactobacillus plantarum* MB452. Enteric infections frequently alter the structure and function of tight junctions to enhance the permeability of

the barrier and gain entry into the body. Either the cytoskeleton is changed, or proteases that can break down tight junction proteins are secreted. Probiotics and commensals, for instance, can enhance barrier functions or inhibit pathogen adherence to restore such inflammatory dysfunctions in human intestinal epithelial cells [35]. It has been demonstrated that inflammatory cytokines, such as TNF and immune interferon (IFN), which are generated during infection and inflammatory bowel disease, generally raise intestinal permeability. Probiotics and secretory immunoglobulin A (SIgA) have also been demonstrated to have synergistic benefits [14,36].

## Measuring the permeability of the gut

The gastrointestinal system's integrity and permeability can be assessed in a number of methods. Permeability and integrity are measured using different techniques depending on the following factors: species (human or animal models), situation (in vitro versus in vivo measurements), marker molecules (ions, carbohydrates of different sizes, macro molecules and antigens, bacterial products, and bacteria), and compartments (peripheral blood, portal vein blood, urine) used to measure the marker molecules. One can understand how severely the type of molecules and flaws present effect the stream of molecules only when the epithelial barrier is taken into consideration, as demonstrated. The utilizing chamber is frequently used in studies involving humans and animals to assess these dysfunctions. Intestinal tissue specimens are required for the ex vivo assessment of intestinal permeability [8,16,32].

It is currently possible to assess intestinal barrier function and permeability in humans using intestinal permeability assays, markers of bacterial proliferation such as circulating endotoxin, additional biomarkers of immunology or inflammation, or indications of epithelial integrity such as soluble adhesion molecules. In the experimental settings, histological techniques and scanning electron microscopy investigations were also employed.

## Other considerations

Compounds' solubility and permeability are affected by their ionization state, which therefore modifies the compound's absorption profile. Ionization constant values, which indicate the strength of an acid or basic based on the pH of the surrounding solution, are frequently used to calculate a molecule's charge.

Transporters known as influx and efflux are found in intestinal epithelial cells, and they can either increase or decrease oral absorption [33]. Drugs that have been absorbed are actively pumped back into the intestinal lumen by efflux transporters such as P-gp, MARP, and BCRP; on the other hand, drugs that mimic their native substrates are actively transported across the somatic cell by flux transporters such as hPEPT1, apical sodium steroid transporter (ASBT), and nucleoside transporters. Accurate prediction of total oral absorption even requires consideration of cytochrome P450 enzyme-mediated drug metabolism in intestinal epithelial cells [35]. In addition to the methods described above, two commercial programs that can be used to predict oral absorption and other pharmacokinetic features are the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and GastroPlus. Both are supported by the advanced compartmental absorption and transit (CAT) model, which considers the effects of a drug traveling through the alimentary canal and its absorption into each compartment simultaneously [4,18,35].

## Distribution of drugs

One crucial element is the drug's pharmacokinetic profile in terms of distribution. A drug's structural and physiochemical properties, which are primarily indicated by three parameters—volume of distribution (VD), plasma protein binding (PPB), and blood brain barrier (BBB) permeability—determine the extent of its distribution. VD is a crucial proportional constant that may be used to gauge how differently drugs are distributed throughout plasma and tissue. When combined with drug clearance, it can be used to forecast drug half-lives. The half-life of a medication may be a major factor in deciding how frequently it should be taken [26]. Nevertheless, the underlying mechanisms are complex due to a paucity of in vivo data, and at this time, no computer model exists that can predict the volume of distribution based just on calculated descriptors. After this model was refined with more data, the robustness of the method was assessed and confirmed. The ability to accurately predict the distribution volume of medications that bind to plasma proteins that resemble albumin is improved by this development [30]. The influence of plasma protein binding must be considered when evaluating the effective (unbound) distribution of medication plasma concentration because pharmacological effectiveness is mostly contributed by unbound drugs. Several models have been proposed

to forecast PPB. In order to forecast protein binding, a model should not rely solely on the binding data of a single protein, as PPB is a composite feature that represents interactions with multiple proteins [36]. Recently, researchers applied a nonlinear multivariate analysis to over 300 drugs using experimental human PPB data. For neutral and basic drugs, they found a sigmoidal relationship between log D (distribution coefficient) and PPB; for acidic drugs, they found a sigmoidal relationship between log P and PPB.

The blood-brain barrier (BBB) protects the restricted extracellular environment within the central nervous system (CNS). One critical phase in the development of novel medications is the analysis of drug penetration across the blood-brain barrier. For drugs that aim to affect the central nervous system to work, they must be able to pass through the blood-brain barrier.

But, if a medication has peripheral targets, it is better to limit its ability to cross the BBB in order to avoid harmful effects on the central nervous system [19,35]. Again, despite a great deal of work, the majority of blood brain barrier permeability prediction models have limited applicability due to the scant experimental data obtained from a variety of approaches. The majority of techniques employ the log blood/brain (log B) model, which can be used to measure the distribution of medications between brain tissue and blood. This test implicitly implies the BBB permeability, which does not discriminate between free and plasma protein-bound solutes. A recent review discusses the creation and application of the BBB model [20,36]. Beyond forming complex tight junctions, the BBB also blocks xenobiotics from entering the central nervous system by inhibiting their efflux transporters and metabolic enzymes. The brain contains a variety of drug efflux transporters, including multidrug transporters of resistance. A number of commonly prescribed drugs fall into the category of substrates for these efflux transporters, including transporters of organic ions and monocarboxylic acid. If these transport systems were disregarded, the prediction of blood brain barrier penetration would be far less accurate. P-gp and other multidrug resistance transporters have been the subject of in-depth studies on substrate requirements because of their influence on various aspects of drug development and discovery [24, 37]. The roles of monocarboxylic acid transporters and organic ion transporters in the blood-brain barrier are still being discovered through the accumulation of experimental data, as no computer models have been created to yet. Our ability to identify such models will probably be aided by the collection of experimental

data.

## Metabolism of Drug

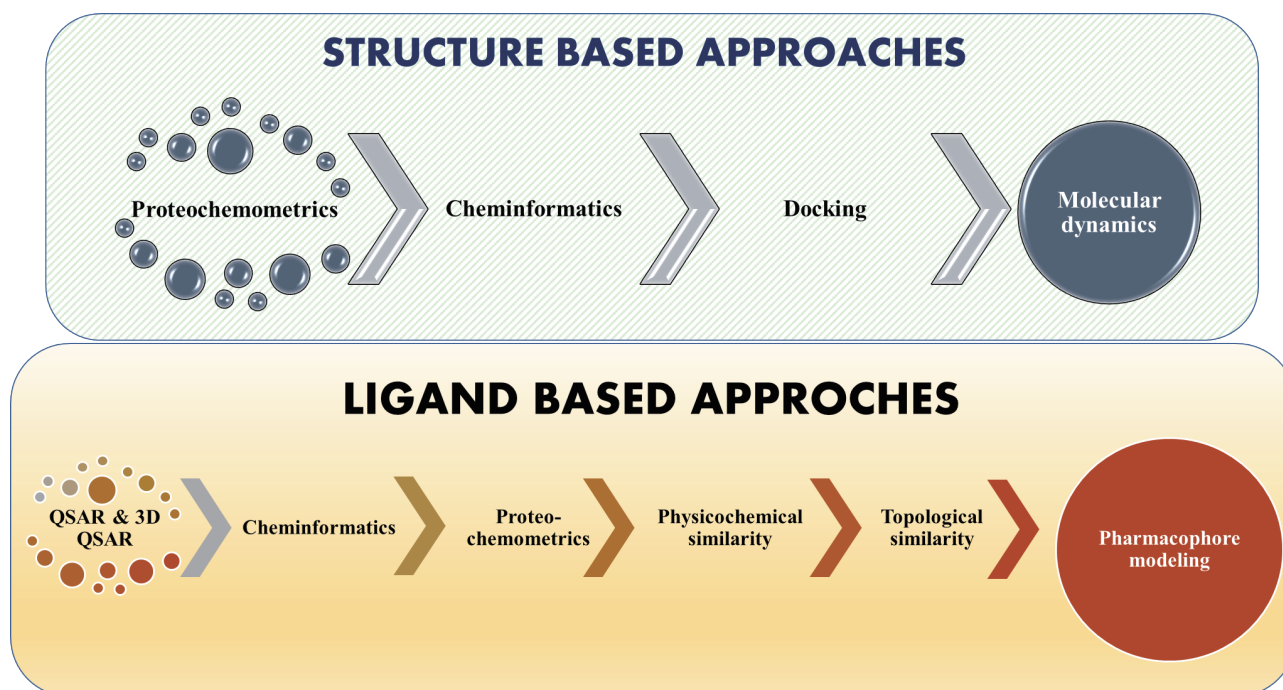
The body is able to eliminate drugs through the mechanism of breaking down their parent molecule into their metabolites. We call this medication metabolism. The GI tract and liver are the main organs where drugs are metabolized because of their elevated levels of metabolic enzymes [12, 38].

Phase II (conjugation) reactions occur in the metabolism of pharmacological enzymes subsequent to phase I (oxidation, reduction, and hydrolysis) activities. The primary goal of this enzyme activity is to facilitate medication elimination. Phase I reactions result in the cessation of drug activity or the conversion of a prodrug into its active form. Phase II inactivation of the drug results from a conjugation interaction with an external agent (such as glucuronic acid, sulfate, or glycine), whereas phase I inactivation is brought on by a reactive functional group on the molecule. Phase II metabolites are eliminated from the body more quickly by the liver and kidneys than phase I metabolites are. It's crucial to remember that the phase name refers to functional classification rather than chronological order [9,13].

Another of the key components of drug metabolism is the way a drug interacts with a protein, usually cytochrome P (CYP), to alter its chemical composition. Predicting such interactions in the preclinical context is optimal. There are a number of computer techniques that aim to predict such drug-target interaction [14, 38]. The functional classification of CADD systems for application in drug-target signature prediction is depicted in the figure below. There are three types of approaches: ligand-based, structure-based (also known as protein target-based), and a hybrid of the two called proteo-chemometric (Figure 3). Chemo informatics techniques such as QSAR utilise the historical data of drug substrates on their binding affinities to various metabolising enzymes to predict novel combinations of drugs and enzymes. Here, we offer a thorough explanation of these techniques along with a few recent uses for drug metabolism.

Drug-enzyme interactions can be predicted using structure-based methods if the metabolizing enzyme's structure is known. Finding physiologically significant enzyme structures in the apo (ligand-free) and holoenzyme (ligand-bound) phases is frequently accomplished through the use of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and X-ray crystallography. These structures can be found in online sources such as the





**Figure 3:** In silico Studies During the pre-discovery Phase

PDB and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). To generate dependable models when the three-dimensional (3D) structure of an enzyme is unknown, homology modeling can be applied [15,39]. Existing protein structures that share more than thirty percent of their amino acid sequence are used as templates for creating a three-dimensional model using homology modeling. Software for this purpose is available for both free and paid use; examples are Prime and SWISS-MODEL. Homology modeling has proven beneficial for human cytochrome P450 enzymes as well as drug transporters. A homology model of the essential enzyme cytochrome P450 2D6 (CYP2D6) in first-pass metabolism has been developed using templates of cytochrome P450 2C5 (CYP2C5) complexes linked to ligands. Next, the CYP2D6 model was used to dock known substrates in order to find potential catalytic binding sites. The process of "fitting" two molecular components computationally and determining their binding free energy is known as docking. Drug development has made use of docking approaches such as GLIDE [16–20,39], Auto dock, and GOLD to predict drug-protein interactions. Medications are docked into the exact binding pocket inside the three-dimensional (3D) structure of the protein target (crystal structure, homology model, etc.) during the development of small molecule medications. Docking has proven to be a very effective method for forecasting successful drug-protein target interactions

in the vital sickness therapeutics. Despite the fact that docking is frequently successful, a sizable percentage of actual drug interactions might be overlooked. This may result from less-than-optimal binding free energy estimates due to simplified settings (e.g., protein and drug docking simulations carried out in a vacuum without the presence of aqueous solvent or membrane effects). The precision of docking was enhanced by crystallographic water molecules in different active sections of the CYP structure [19, 10, 40]. When using structure-based approaches, it is also important to take into account the original structure of the protein. It's possible that the 3D protein structure model doesn't always correctly depict the target's binding capacity. This is especially crucial for CYP enzymes since they can bind to a wide variety of substrates in different ways and are highly versatile [20,14, 38]. It's really challenging to locate the binding point correctly. Simulation of molecular dynamics (MDS) is one method of getting past this restriction. It mimics the forces that exist between protein atoms and other protein atoms, solvents, membranes, and drugs, as well as the mobility and interatomic interactions of protein atoms. This enables the prediction of physically reasonable changes in the target protein structure in the required in situ environment (e.g., an aqueous solvent with physiological concentration of salt). Extended simulations might find low energy structural states with different binding modalities.

These structures may then serve as the basis for other simulations. Furthermore, MDS may be used to assess the stability of proposed drug target binding signatures. MDS was utilized to investigate the structural flexibility of CYP1A2 mutant and wild-type [21,14, 41]. The influence of polymorphisms on ligand binding and recognition was discovered by the researchers to go beyond local structural integrity. To investigate the impact of single nucleotide polymorphisms on CYP2D6, MDS was utilized. The researchers discovered that several mutations were enzymatically significant because they kept the F-G loop closed, preventing substrate access into the catalytic region (CYP2D6.10, 14A, and 61, among others). Since CYP2D6 has over 100 naturally occurring gene mutations, MDS is a useful and practical way to choose mutants for observation in experiments. Research such as these is highly beneficial for tailored medicine and computational pharmacogenomics [22,42].

## Excretion of drugs

Measuring the excretion or clearance of a medication is done using plasma clearance, which is defined as the plasma volume that has been cleared completely free of drug per unit of time. By measuring the drug's half-life, it may assist in determining the dose schedule when used in conjunction with VD. The hepatic and renal clearances are the two main components of plasma clearance. As of right now, no model exists that can forecast plasma clearance exclusively from computed drug structures [23, 43]. Computing in vivo clearance from in vitro data is the main objective of current modeling efforts. As with other pharmacokinetic variables, the hepatic and renal clearance processes are made more difficult by the existence of active transporters. In vitro data from multidrug resistance associated protein 2 (MRP2) and organic anion transporting polypeptide 4 (OATP)-expressing MDCK cells were evaluated by researchers in order to integrate the influence of transport. To predict the clearance for a specific building, one must, however, comprehend the structural requirements for these transporters [24, 30].

## Toxicity of drugs

How dangerous or harmful a substance is depends on its level of toxicity. Drug toxicity is the term used to describe when a person has an excessive amount of a prescription medication in their system. Discover

the reasons behind pharmaceutical toxicity, how to recognize the symptoms, and how to treat it. medication toxicity is defined as "a wide array of undesired effects generated by drug usage at either therapeutic or non-therapeutic dosages" by the official definition [18, 25].

## Drug toxicity factors

Taking too much medication can result in drug toxicity, which occurs when a person has too much of the drug in their system at once. This could happen if you take more medication than is recommended or if you take too little. One potential side effect of several drugs is drug toxicity. In this instance, the drug's usual therapeutic dosage may produce unpleasant, unexpected side effects. Under some conditions, the distinction between a harmful and a useful dosage may be extremely thin. A therapeutic amount may be dangerous for some individuals but not for others [16,28,42]. Longer half-lived medications may also accumulate and turn toxic in a person's body over time. Other factors that may affect how quickly a medicine leaves your system are age, kidney function, and level of hydration. This is the reason that regular blood tests are necessary to monitor the levels of drugs like lithium in the blood. The toxicity of a toxin or prescription medication is influenced by three elements [26–27, 19].

## Toxicity contexts for drugs

All substances are safe at extremely low concentrations but dangerous at big ones. Here, toxicity and adverse effects in quantities suitable for those taking a prescription are regarded as anything other than accidental drug overdoses. The context of toxicity will determine how one addresses the problem of toxicity avoidance or the creation of alternative substances without this risk. Liver damage and cardiovascular issues are the most common issues [28, 43].

## Active transport

The transporters should be a crucial part of any ADMET modeling program because of their widespread presence across barrier membranes and the substantial overlap that exists between their substrates and many medications. Unfortunately, due to our limited understanding of transporters, most prediction algorithms do not have a mechanism to account for the influence of transport. However, the

relatively substantial amount of *in vitro* data that has generated interest in these transporters has also allowed the construction of pharmacophore and QSAR models for several of them conceivable. These models have made it easier to understand the complex relationships between transporters and drug disposal, including absorption, distribution, and excretion. Their incorporation into the modeling programs now in use would further increase the predictability of drug disposition behavior [29,44, 45].

Active transport of medication molecules is essential for moving molecules against concentration gradients and inherent thermodynamic fluidity. Since this was an energy-regulated step, some suitable inorganic ions, enzymes, and proteins function as a support system [25]. Adenosine triphosphate dependent binding cassettes and solute carrier systems were the two main types of active transporter systems. The energy-dependent approach used energy to improve membrane permeability, in contrast to earlier systems that relied on an energy-dependent sodium potassium ion gated proton pump mechanism. Key biomolecule-associated carrier systems are P-gp, BCRp, nucleoside transporters, hPEPT1 (human peptide transporter-1), ASBT (apical sodium-dependent bile acid transporter), OATP (organic-anion-transporting polypeptides), OCT (organic cation transporter), and BBB choline [30,27,46].

## P-gp

P-gp is an ATP-dependent efflux transporter that is capable of removing a wide range of substrates from cells. The distribution of medications is affected by decreased absorption and increased renal and hepatic excretion. P-gp is known to limit the intestinal absorption of the anticancer drug paclitaxel as well as the entry of HIV protease inhibitors into the central nervous system. It also contributes to multi-drug resistance in cancer treatment [31, 39]. Owing to its importance in medication distribution and effective cancer treatment, P-gp has attracted a lot of interest and developed into the most extensively studied transporter with an abundance of experimental data. Researchers created five computer models to forecast P-gp inhibition from *in-vitro* data on a range of inhibitors with multiple cell systems. These models comprised caco-2 cell suppression of digoxin transport and verapamil binding, and P-gp-expressing epithelial like pig kidney cell line (LLC-PK1) cell accumulation of vinblastine and calcein. By dissecting and combining all of the P-gp pharmacophore models,

common parts with comparable chemical properties—such as hydrophobes, chemical bond acceptors, and ring aromatic features—as well as their geometric arrangement, the substrate requirements for P-gp were found. To predict the suppression of calcium accumulation in caco-2 cells, researchers have recently merged physiochemical descriptors with alignment independent 3D descriptors [32, 49]. Similar transit requirements were reported in other studies. The strong QSAR model developed by the authors demonstrated that two hydrophobic properties, two chemical bond acceptors, and therefore the molecular dimension, were important factors in determining P-gp assisted transport. These newly identified transporters not only aid in the screening of compounds that may have efflux-related bioavailability problems, but they also aid in the discovery of novel P-gp inhibitors that, when combined with target drugs, may enhance the pharmacokinetic profile of those drugs by improving bioavailability. Several previously unknown P-gp inhibitors that are now prescribed drugs were also found using our own catalytic pharmacophore database search [33, 40].

## BCRP

Another ATP-dependent efflux transporter that confers resistance to a variety of anticancer medicines, including anthracyclines and mitoxantrone, is BCRP. Breast cancer resistance protein is overexpressed in solid tumors and hematological malignancies, as well as in the gut, liver, and brain, indicating a complicated role in drug disposition [34, 50]. Researchers developed a BCRP 3D-QSAR model after analyzing the structure and activity of 25 flavonoid analogues. The model underlines the importance of BCRP's exceedingly precise structural characteristics, such as a 2,3-double bond in ring C and a hydroxylation at position 5. The concept should be used with caution because it is only supported by a small number of varied structures that are all inextricably linked to one another. A molecule would become BCRP vulnerable if it met the transport model; however, even if it did not, the candidate may still be transported by BCRP. Because no model can account for every conceivable chemical space, this warning should be incorporated into all predictive *in silico* models [35, 39].

## Nucleoside transporters

The nucleoside transporters carry both naturally occurring nucleosides and synthesized nucleoside

analogues, such as cladribine, which is utilized in antiviral and anticancer drugs (for example, zalcitabine). There are various types of nucleoside transporters, including equilibrate nucleoside transporters (ENT1 and ENT2) and concentrative nucleoside transporters (CNT1, CNT2, and CNT3), each with its own substrate specificity. The high-affinity, selective CNTs are predominantly located in the epithelium of the gut, kidney, liver, and brain, implying that they play a role in drug absorption, distribution, and elimination. Contrary to the broad-affinity, low-selective ENTs are widely dispersed. In the 1990s, the first 3D-QSAR model for nucleoside transporters was built. Because of the minimal observational evidence accessible at the time, it is an overly simplified general model [35,36,51].

A more in-depth analysis employed pharmacophore and 3D-QSAR modeling methodologies to generate various models for CNT1, CNT2, and ENT1. All models have two hydrophobic features and one chemical bond acceptor on the pentose ring, which are required for nucleoside transporter-mediated transport. Furthermore, individual models demonstrate the minor qualities required for each particular transporter. The modeling results support the earlier

conclusion that CNT2 is the most selective transporter while ENT1 has the broadest inhibitor specificities. In a more recent study, we assessed the transport activity of 33 nucleoside analogues to develop pharmacophore and 3D-QSAR models for CNT3. These studies conduct a complete investigation of the transportation requirements of all three types of CNTs [37].

## hPEPT1

It is believed that the hPEPT1 transport system, which is predominantly expressed in the kidney and gut and influences drug excretion and absorption, is a low-affinity, high-capacity oligopeptide transport system that carries a range of substrates, such as angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and lactam antibiotics. A pharmacophore model that identified the two hydrophobic features, one chemical bond donor, one chemical bond acceptor, and one negatively ionizable feature as being required for hPEPT1 transport was supported by three high affinity substrates (GlySar, bestatin, and enalapril). Following that, the pharmacophore model was utilized to narrow down the database's over 8000 drug-like chemicals. The model proposed the hydroxymethyl glutaryl CoA

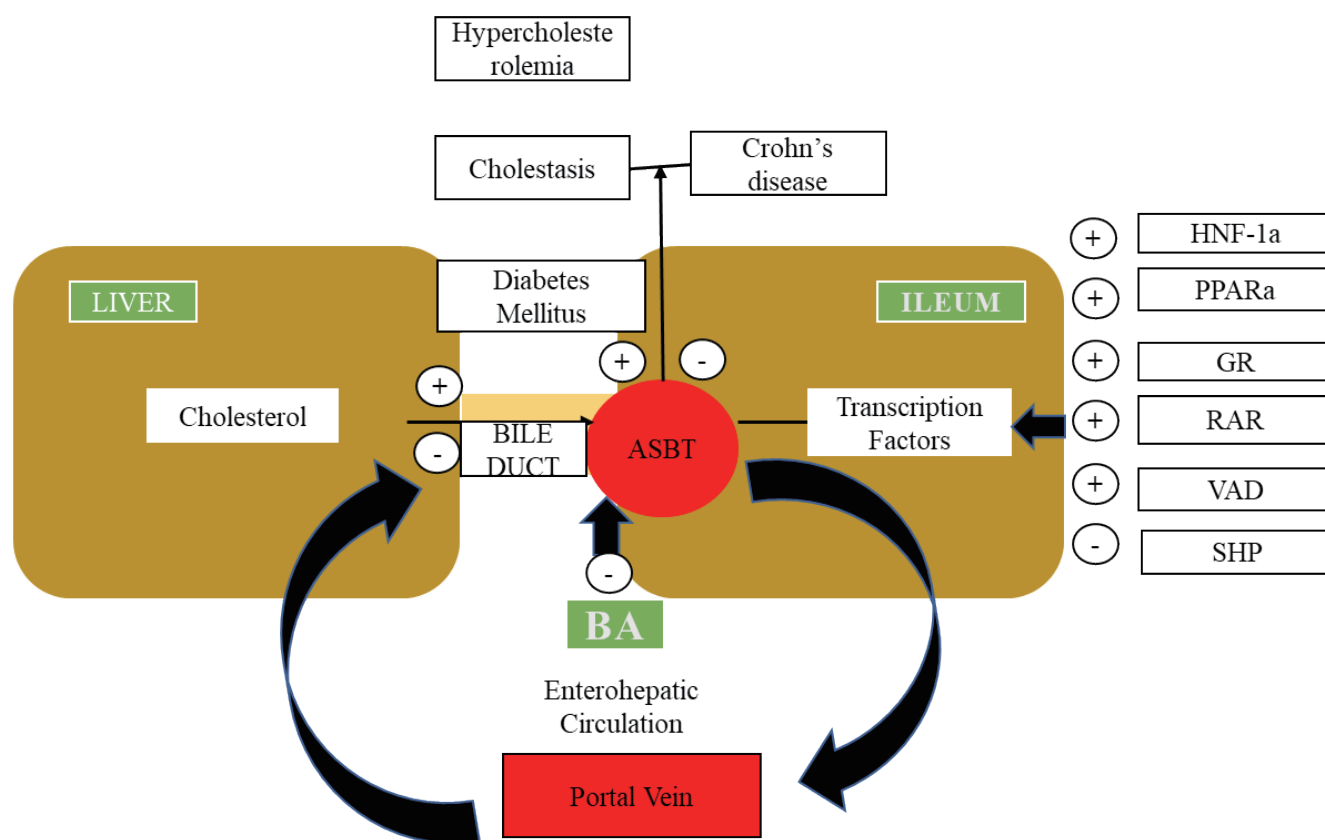


Figure 4: ASBT (apical sodium-dependent bile acid transporter)

(HMG-CoA) reductase inhibitor fluvastatin and the anti-diabetic repaglinide, which were later proven to inhibit hPEPT1 with sub-millimolar potency. This study showed how in-silico models might be used for high throughput database screening [38-41,52].

## ASBT

It's probable that the human apical sodium-dependent steroid transporter, which is present on the apical membrane of intestinal epithelial cells and cholangiocytes, is a particularly efficient, high-volume transporter. It promotes bile acid and analogue absorption, providing another gut target for improving drug absorption. Researchers created a training set of seventeen ASBT inhibitors with varying chemical structures. ASBT transport needed a hydrogen bond donor, a chemical bond acceptor, a charge, and three hydrophobic centers [53]. A earlier 3D-QSAR model was developed based on the structure and activity of 30 ASBT inhibitors and substrates, and it meets all of these criteria (Figure 4) [39,26,31].

ASBT, which contains 22.8 kilobytes of deoxyribonucleic acid, belongs to the solute carrier (10A2) carrying system and is largely located

on the 13q33 chromosome. This carrier system was discovered to include 348 amino acids with a molecular weight of 38 kilodalton. The system contained two glycosylation sites (N10 and N328). ASBT enhanced the transfer and reabsorption of bile acids from the gastrointestinal lumen, as well as activity against hyperglycemia, hyperlipoproteinemia, and liver disease [40-54].

## OCTs

Antiarrhythmics, adreno receptor blocking drugs, antihistamines, antiviral medicines, and skeletal muscle relaxants are all examples of organic cations (chemicals with a net charge at physiological pH). OCTs enhance the transport of several cationic medicines across various barrier membranes, including those found in the kidney, liver, and intestine [42,55]. The three OCTs (OCT1, OCT2, and OCT3) were cloned from various mammals. The model suggests three hydrophobic properties and one positively ionizable trait for the human OCT1 transport needs. Recently, it was discovered that molecular variables regulate substrate binding to human and rabbit OCT2. 2D and 3D-QSAR analyses were performed to identify and

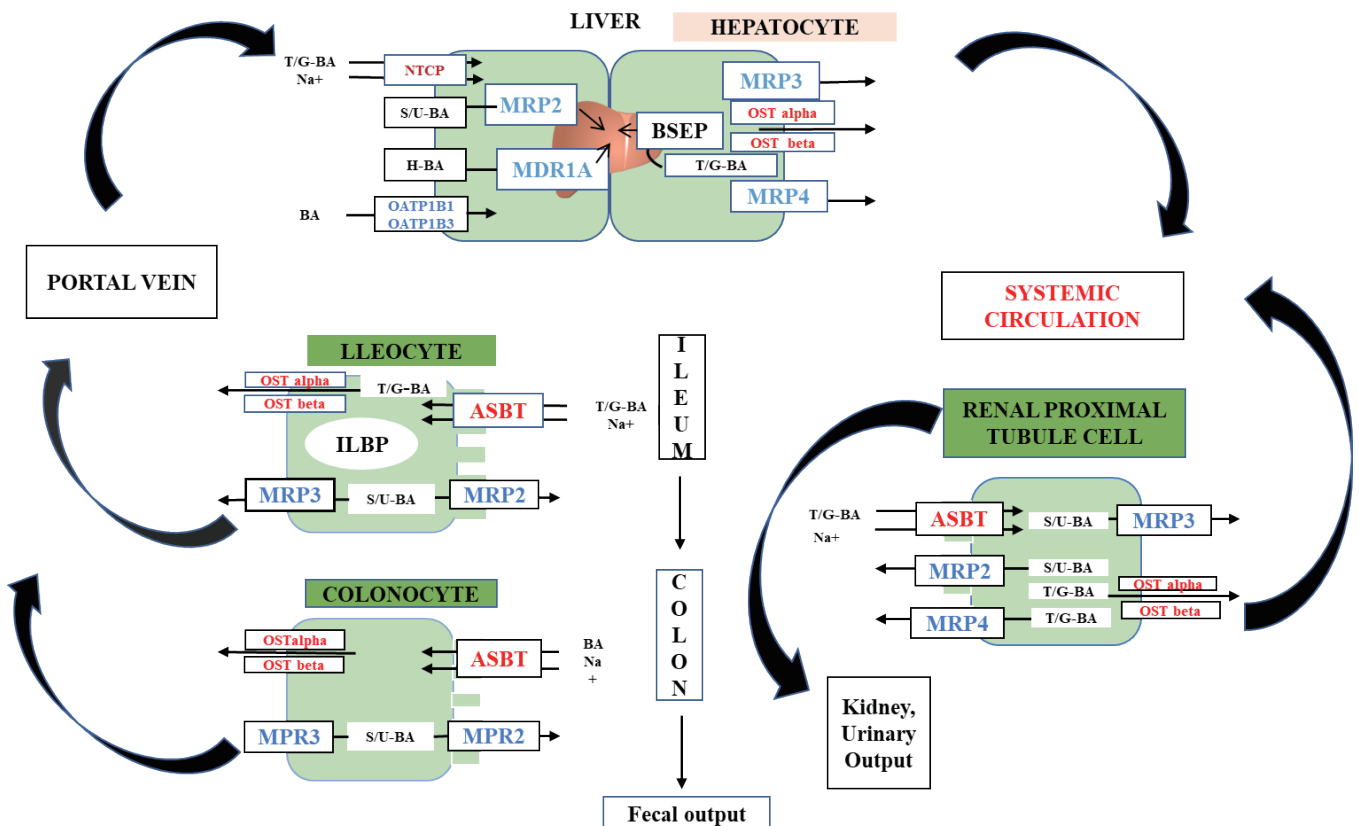


Figure 5: In-silico Modeling in Distinguishing Transporters

discriminate the binding requirements of the two orthologs. The models' similarity was underscored by their shared chemical properties. The two orthologs differ, however, due to the orientation of a critical hydrogen bonding feature. This study shows the sensitivity of in-silico modeling in distinguishing transporters that function similarly (Figure 5) [38,55].

Organic cations such as dopamine and quinine move through the OCT system at physiological pH levels. The OCT system consists of 550-560 amino acids, three subtypes (OCT1-3), 12 transmembrane alpha helices (intracellular loop), and a large extracellular loop containing glycosylation components. This transportation system was closely associated with the intake of hydrophilic chemicals [45].

## Family of cation transporters

### The fundamental structure

The poly-specific cation transporter (rOCT1) from rat kidney, liver, and small intestine. It has 556 amino acids and is a member of a novel transporter family. This transporter was found by expression cloning. Homology screening revealed the homologous transporters rOCT2 from rats, hOCT1 and hOCT2 from humans, mOCT1 from mice, and pOCT2 from pigs [48], as well as their corresponding gene products. OCT gene loci include rOCT1, hOCT2, hOCT2 on 6q25-26, 1q11-12, and mOCT1 on chromosome 17. The amino acids of rOCT1 and rOCT2, as well as hOCT1 and hOCT2, were determined to be 70% identical. The amino acid sequences of rOCT2 and hOCT2 are 81% similar. Mammalian gene products have been found from the kidney and liver, including natural killer T (NKT), which shares 30% amino acid similarity with rOCT1. Their responsibilities are unknown [43-46, 54].

### Liver, kidney, small intestine, and brain function in the prospective

The results significantly imply that increased absorption of organic cations into cells is caused by electrogenic, pH-independent, and sodium-independent facilitated diffusion systems, like the OCT1 and OCT2 transporters [55]. Most of the cation outflow implicated in transcellular cation movements may be mediated by organic cations if they reach epithelial cells through other transporters. Rat kidney, liver, and small intestine proximal tubules include polarized epithelial cells whose basolateral

membranes contain OCT1. It has to be looked into to what degree hOCT1 is localized identically in humans [47]. The brain also has OCT2, a sort of transporter that is particular to the kidney. The rat homologue, rOCT2, is found in the S2 and S3 segments of the renal proximal tubules' basolateral membranes. The human homologue, hOCT2, is thought to have distinct distribution and function. hOCT2 is present in the luminal membrane of the distal tubules and may play a role in the first stage of cation reabsorption. The neocortex and hippocampal areas' pyramidal cells have been shown to exhibit hOCT2, according to in situ hybridization studies (Figure 6). Considering sodium-dependent monoamine transporters' cellular distribution is different from that of hOCT2, scientists believe that it could aid in lowering baseline concentrations of fundamental neuro-transmitters and their byproducts [48,56].

OATPs actively move a wide range of drugs across tissue membranes, including those found in the brain, liver, colon, and lungs. OATPs transport both organic cationic and organic anionic medicines, contrary to popular belief, because of their broad substrate selectivity [49, 50]. Since there are currently 11 known human OATPs, new research has effectively predicted the substrate binding requirements of the most well-studied member of the organic anion transporter family, 1B1 (OATP1B1). This was achieved by using the meta-pharmacophore technique. After analyzing a training set of eighteen distinct compounds, the meta-pharmacophore model concluded that the transport of OATP1B1 required three hydrophobic features on either side of two chemical bond acceptor features. This 3D-QSAR yielded comparable criteria to this one. The central nervous system receives endogenous substances with the help of transporter proteins called OATPs [57]. OATPs can carry comparatively larger sources like thyroid (T3 and T4) and steroid hormones, making them ideal carriers for larger medicines like estrone-3-sulfate, estradiol-17-glucuronide, and pregnanolone sulphate. While various OATP subtypes are broadly dispersed across the body, OATP1A2, OATP2B1, OATP1C1, and OATP3A1 are considerably amplified in the brain. Multiple substrate binding sites in OATPs allow for more targeted and efficient drug release. Neuro-steroids, which are produced by the brain, are key neuron-modulatory physiological agents that improve memory, cognitive function, and neuroprotection [50-58]. Neurotransmitters such as amino butyric acid-A (GABA-A), glycine, amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazolepr opionic acid (AMPA), and N-Methyl D-aspartic acid (NMDA) receptors are directly modulatory of behavior and systemic

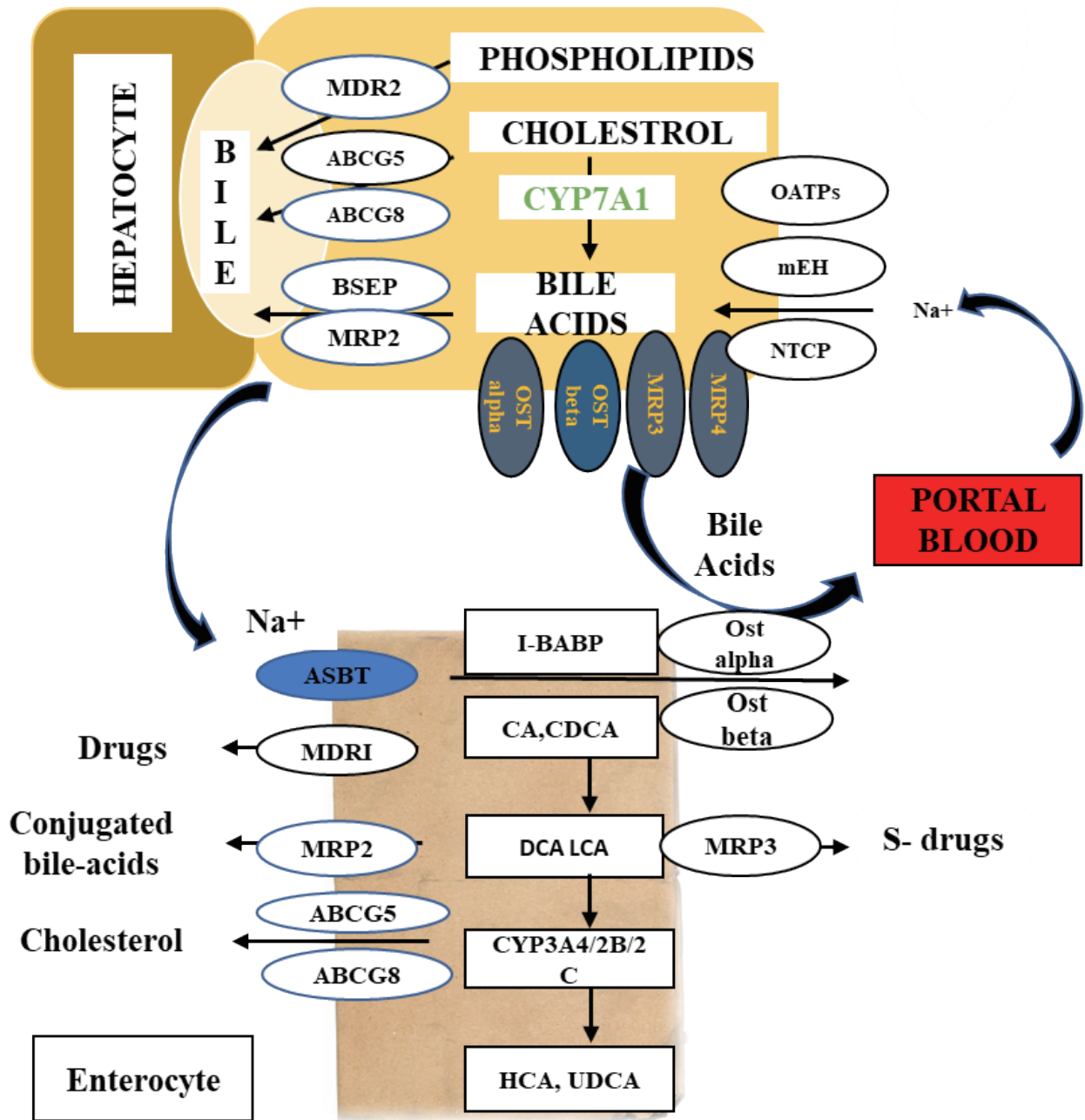
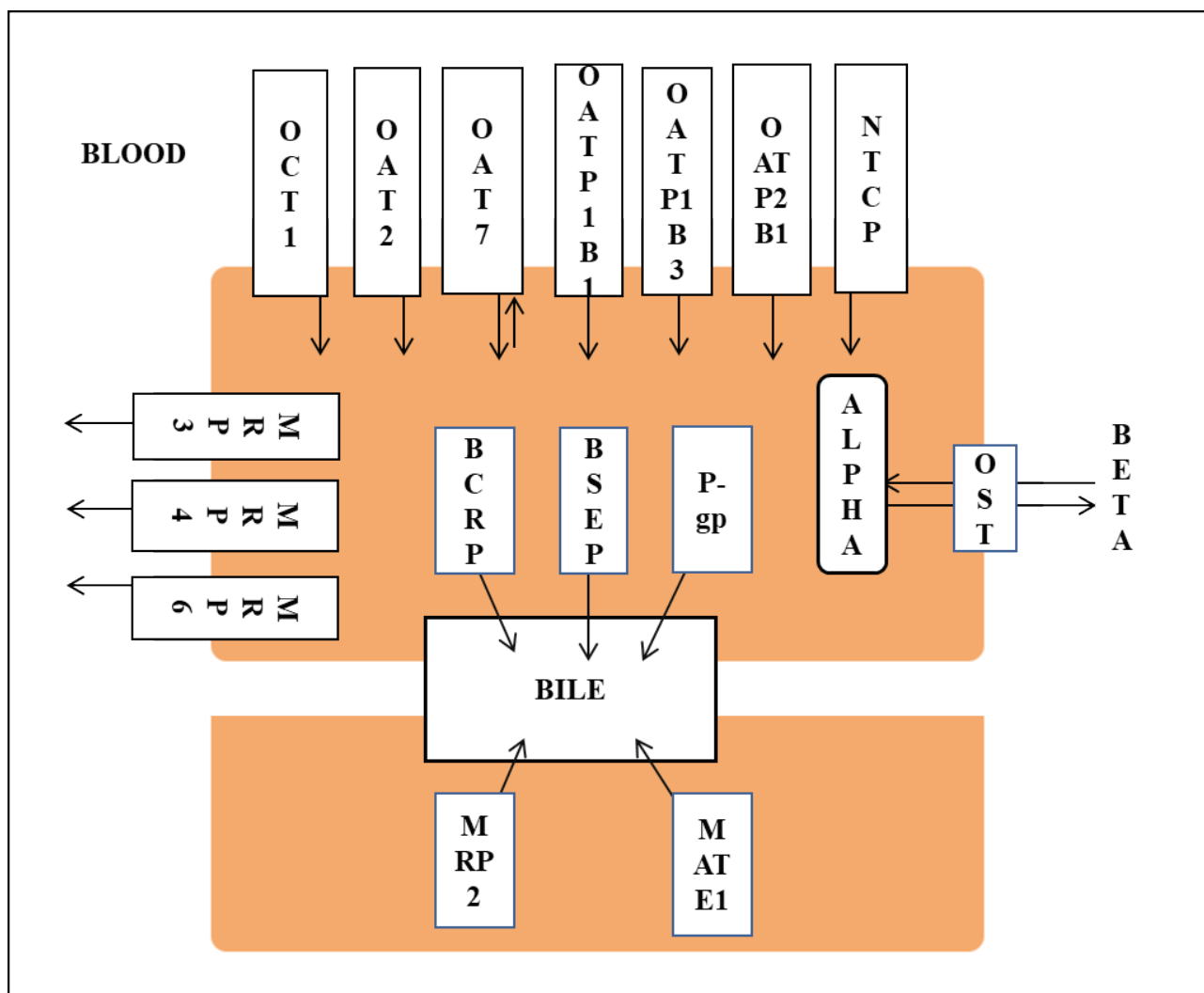


Figure 6: In situ Hybridization Investigation

consequences. Excitotoxicity, or the death of cells, is a possible side effect of prolonged stimulation of these receptors, as can inappropriate regulation of these receptors. Many allosteric steroidal modulators derived from cholesterol or steroidal precursors from peripheral sources that are generated in brain tissue may have an impact on the activation of these receptors. Although the structural properties of these molecules have been connected to major variations in the selectivity of steroid hormone brain absorption, it has long been known that not all steroids are appropriately transported into the brain through

OATPs. Additionally, OAT3 and P-gp membrane associated transporters actively efflux steroids from the BBB. Injected steroids have minimal brain bioavailability due to their metabolic instability [54]. Novel neuroprotective steroids could be transported more extensively via the BBB if structural properties essential for brain-specific OATP-mediated uptake that prevent substantial efflux transport are found. Early therapeutic research is still hampered by the absence of efficient computational techniques for maximizing logical drug design for the specific distribution of synthetic neuro-steroids. Investigators used rigorous



**Figure 7:** OATP: Organic Anion Transporting Polypeptide; OCT1: Organic Cation Transporter 1; OAT2: Organic Anion Transporter 2; OAT7: Organic Anion Transporter 7; OATP1B1: Organic Anion Transporting Polypeptide 1B1; OATP1B3: Organic Anion Transporting Polypeptide 1B3; OATP2B1: Organic Anion Transporting [Polypeptide 2B1]; NTCP: Sodium Taurocholate Co-transporting Polypeptide; Oxygen Anion Transporting Polypeptide (OATP) transporter; MRP2: Multidrug Resistant Protein2, BSEP: Bile Salt Export Pump, P-GP: Permeability Glycoprotein, OST: Organic Solute Transporter, and BCRP: Breast Cancer Resistant Protein are some examples of the acronyms for the proteins that are resistant to drugs.

computational methods to study the effective delivery services of synthetic neuro-steroids 1–11 through OATPs. The goal was to recognize structure acceptance connections for the OATPs and figure out the structural components necessary for OATP mediated uptake by cells, which would help explain the experimental findings and theories. Molecular dynamics simulations had been used to verify the reliability of the interaction, and internal homology modeling were used to determine the OATP1A2's most likely binding location. OATP1A2 was opted as an appropriate model to investigate the OATP transport mechanism because of the abundance of easily available biochemical and

affinity data. These investigations have increased our awareness of the binding mechanisms and potential mechanisms of neurosteroids trafficking via OATP1A2 (Figure 7) [55-57].

### Choline transporter in BBB

The BBB, which preferentially lets organic medicinal molecules pass through, complicates drug distribution to the brain. Drugs may be delivered to the brain via a range of membrane solute and nutrient transporters that are conveyed in the BBB vasculature. The possibility of using organic cation transporters to



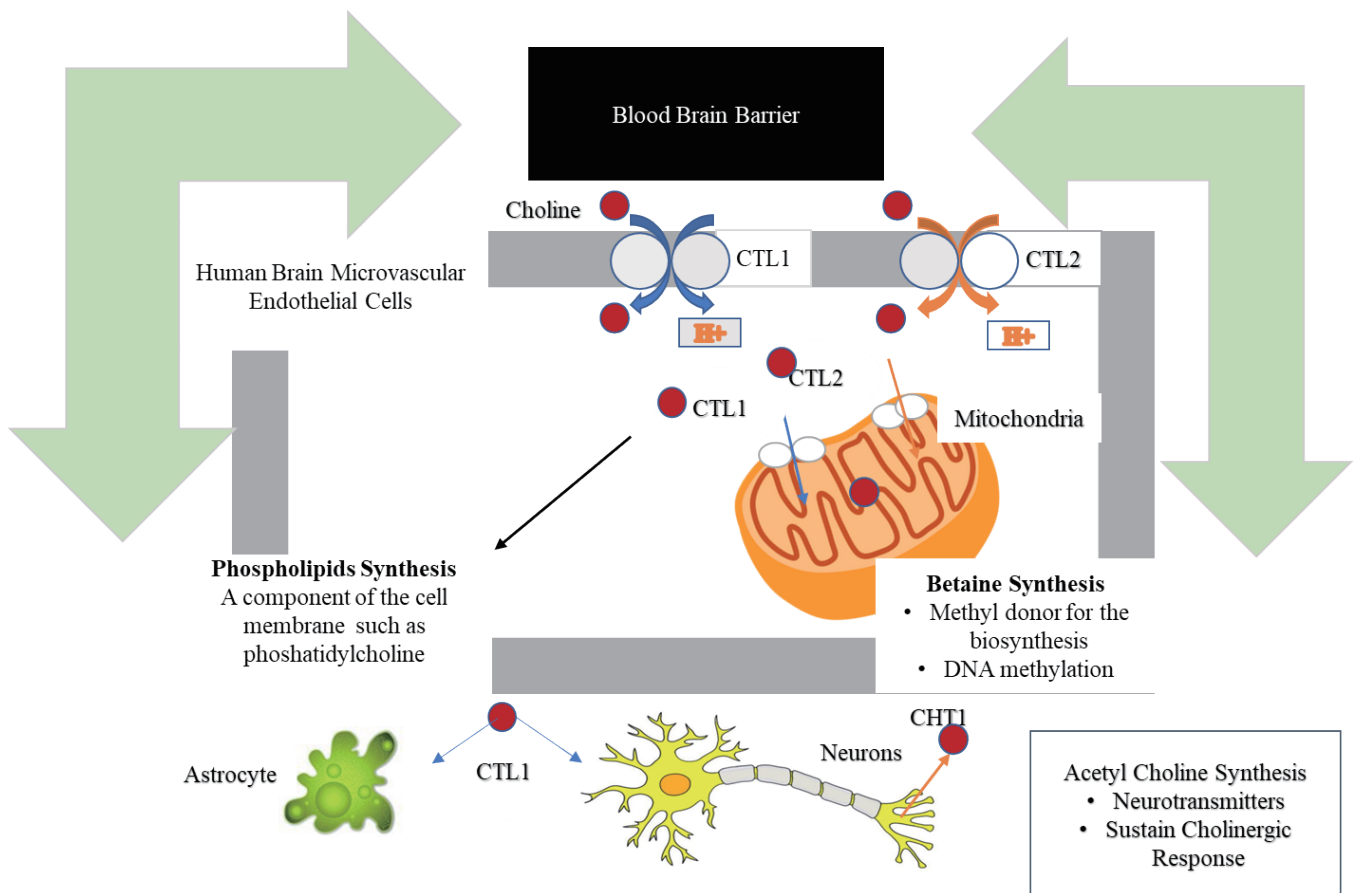
move cationic substances into the central nervous system excites us in particular. Choline is a chemical established in almost each tissue in the human body. Almost all cellular membranes include a transport system to supply choline, a charged cation, with the resources it needs for membrane and intracellular functions [58].

The BBB is not an exception to the carrier-mediated transport mechanism that carries choline from plasma to the brain. A positively charged quaternary ammonium group or simple cation is drawn toward the hold by an anionic binding region. The BBB choline transporter crosses the BBB and enters the central nervous system (CNS) to deliver the charged cation choline. A more precise forecast of BBB permeation should be possible with an understanding of its structural needs. Its transport helps choline-like molecules cross the blood-brain barrier. Researchers used a combination of theoretical and empirical methodologies to assess the binding requirements of the BBB choline transporter, despite the fact that it has not been cloned. For the identification of BBB choline transporters, it was found that three hydro-phobic contacts along with a hydrogen-bonded interaction

around the charged ammonium molecule were critical. While the model's statistical significance is suboptimal, it does offer a decent estimation of BBB choline transporter binding requirements. Better precise in-silico models will likely be constructed when more reliable information from the replicated BBB choline transporter is available (Figure 8) [59,60].

## Current challenges and future directions

The successful modeling of several transporters and the resulting understanding of their activities represent the primary recent developments in ADMET modeling. The task of integrating the impact of these transporters into current models in ADMET modeling is still ongoing. Some commercial software packages already have the ability to simulate active transport, such the most recent versions of GastroPlus (Simulations Plus, Lancaster, CA), PK-Sim (Bayer Technology Services, Germany), and ADME/Tox WEB (Pharma Algorithms, Toronto, ON, Canada). An effective illustration of active transport being utilized as a filter is the ADME/Tox WEB absorption prediction tool. First, pharmacophore representations



**Figure 8:** BBB choline Transporter, CTL1: Choline Transporter Like Protein 1; CTL2: Choline Transporter Like Protein 2

of multiple active transporters are used to test drugs. The substance that fits these models is not included in further predictions made only on the basis of physicochemical properties [60–63].

It matters because only a small fraction of all transporters are represented by the transporter models for medications that are currently marketed. Using the combined data from various sources, an investigator can visualize the viable movement of a medication molecule inside the human system. Consequently, the process will become more reliable and repeatable in the future if we approach drug-drug or drug-receptor interactions' in silico behavior along with other relevant tools for drug discovery. Each step will also be statistically bona-fide, reducing the possibility of error and leading to the production of a molecule or formulation that is more advantageous for humanity [64].

## Conclusions

A number of evaluations conducted two years ago concurred that inadequate data quality is the main barrier to ADMET modeling. We think that the data quality is still the weakest link, which effectively restricts the practical use of ADMET models. One efficient example of using transport as a filter is the absorption distribution metabolism excretion forecasting program. At first, the drugs are evaluated using pharmacophore models of various active transporters. When a compound coordinates with these models, it differs greatly from the assumptions derived from its physicochemical properties alone. It matters because only a small proportion of all transporters are represented by the transporter models for medications that are currently marketed. In addition to integrating the current standalone transporter models into systemic models to directly predict the drug pharmacokinetic properties, more research is still required to look at other transporters such as MRP, BCRP, NTCP, and OAT in order to obtain a more thorough understanding of the drug pharmacokinetic profile. Since many pharmaceutical businesses lack the funds to buy their own in-house modeling tools, market-ready in silico modeling suites have become a great substitute. As was previously said, every component of ADMET is interrelated and needs to be noted while making prediction. The integrated investigation of several components of a drug's pharmacokinetic profile is further mode for the future. Finally, a collection of in silico models representing the process that should be used to predict the drug

ADMET characteristics.

## Abbreviations

ADMET: Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, and Excretion- Toxicity  
 ANN: Artificial neural networks  
 ASBT: Apical sodium steroid transporter  
 BCRP: Breast cancer resistance protein  
 CADD: Computer-aided drug design  
 CADD: Computer-aided drug design  
 CAT: Compartmental absorption and transit  
 CNT: Concentrative nucleoside transporters  
 CYP: Commonly cytochrome P  
 EcN: E. coli Nissle 1917  
 ENT: Equilibrative nucleoside transporters (ENT)  
 FOS: Fructo-oligosaccharides  
 GASP: Genetic Algorithm Similarity Program  
 GOS: Galacto- oligosaccharide  
 HFD: High-fat diet  
 hPEPT1: Human peptide transporter 1  
 IM: Intramuscular  
 INF: Interferon  
 IV: Intravenous  
 LB: Ligand-based modelling  
 MDCK: Madin-Darby canine kidney cells  
 MDS: Molecular dynamics simulation  
 MLR: Multiple rectilinear regression  
 NAFLD: Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease  
 NASH: Non-alcoholic steatohepatitis  
 NMR: Nuclear magnetic resonance  
 OATP: Organic anion transporting polypeptide  
 PAMPA: Parallel artificial membrane permeability assay  
 P-gp: P-glycoprotein  
 PLS: Partial least-squares  
 PPB: Plasma-protein binding  
 QSAR: Quantitative structure-activity relationship  
 QSPR: Quantitative structure-property relationship  
 SB: Structure-based modeling  
 SCFA: Fatty acids with a short chain  
 SIgA: Secretory immunoglobulin A  
 SQ: Subcutaneous  
 SVM: Support vector machine  
 TNF: Tumor necrosis factor

## Conflict of interest

The writers attest that there is not a conflict between their interests in the article's content.

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