

Name of Research Scholar: Aarfa Queen

Title of thesis: Design, Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Heterocyclic Compounds as Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors

Name of Supervisor: Professor Amir Azam

Name of Co-Supervisor: Dr. Md Imtaiyaz Hassan

Department: Department of Chemistry

ABSTRACT

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Carbonic anhydrases (CAs) are ubiquitous zinc-containing metalloenzymes (also known as carbonate dehydrates) that catalyze the hydration of carbon dioxide ($\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \leftrightarrow \text{HCO}_3^- + \text{H}^+$) in a reversible manner. CAs regulate several physiological processes, such as the pH maintenance, homeostasis, respiration, iron transport, renal acidification, gluconeogenesis, bone resorption, gastric acid, and cerebrospinal fluid formation. Abnormal expression of CA leads to several abnormalities, like over expression of carbonic anhydrase IX (CAIX) leads to cancer, CAII leads to glaucoma, CAV leads to obesity etc. To find potential inhibitors of human CAIX, we have successfully designed, synthesized, and characterized various CA inhibitors following multiple synthetic routes. We have done molecular docking studies that provided the structural basis of CA inhibition and a deeper insight into the protein-ligand interactions. The protein-ligand complex was stabilized by several non-covalent interactions offered by residues present in the active site cavity. The actual binding affinity of synthesized compounds with CA was experimentally measured by fluorescence and isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC). Results of both fluorescence binding and ITC measurements showed nanomolar to micromolar binding affinity of CA inhibitors. CA enzyme inhibition assay showed the IC_{50} values in nM range. These compounds were non-toxic to non-cancerous human cell lines (HEK-293) and significantly inhibited the proliferation of hypoxic cancer cells. All compounds induce apoptosis in the hypoxic cancer cells. Overall, the present study/thesis includes the synthesis of CA inhibitors, including five chapters, first one is the introduction and the other four comprises of synthesis of different CA inhibitors followed by biological activity.