



### THE COMPUTATIONAL DESIGN OF THE SPIKE GLYCOPROTEIN GENE siRNA OF SARS-COV-2

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### Structural Bioinformatics in Drug Discovery

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### BACKGROUND

Drug Discovery today are facing a serious challenge because of the increased cost and enormous amount of time taken to discover a new drug, and also because of rigorous competition amongst different pharmaceutical companies.

### **Drug Discovery & Development**



### Technology is impacting this process



### **CADD methods** (COMPUTER AIDED DRUG DESIGN)





- To examine, evaluate and compare complex molecular structure
- To modify structure and assess geometric and energetic consequences of such modifications
- To perform conformational analysis
- To build macromolecules

### **CADD Methods** ...

- To dock small molecules into macromolecules
- To observe the dynamics between the ligands and the macromolecules
- To map pharmacophore group or ligands
- To analyze relationship between chemical structure and biological activity
- To predict activity of compounds/analogues before the synthesis



# MOTIVASI

- Berdasarkan Teori Dogma Sentral, Protein adalah regulator terpenting.
- Berarti, hanya sekitar 5% dari Genome Manusia yang penting, sisanya adalah 'sampah'
- Skema ini tidak dapat atasi tantangan biomedis termutakhir

### John Mattick's Scheme



ormasi Genetik menurut John Ma

# 'Dunia RNA'

- Aliran Informasi Mattick menunjukkan berbagai tipe RNA berperan dalam regulasi gen
- Mereka adalah: snoRNA, longNCRNA, miRNA, dll
- 'last universal common ancestor' (LUCA) adalah virus-like dengan inti RNA
- Non Coding RNA (ncRNA) berperan dalam regulasi gen walau tidak ditranslasi ke protein

### Contoh Struktur 2D RNA



**Figure 10.1** The RNA secondary structure of signal recognition particle (SRP) RNA from the dog, Canis familiaris.

### **INFORMATION PLOT RNA**





**Figure 10.6** A mutual information plot of a tRNA alignment (top) shows four strong diagonals of covarying positions, corresponding to the four stems of the tRNA cloverleaf structure (bottom; the secondary structure of yeast phenylalanine tRNA is shown). Dashed lines indicate some of the additional tertiary contacts observed in the yeast tRNA-Phe crystal structure. Some of these tertiary contacts produce correlated pairs which can be seen weakly in the mutual information plot.

### **PERHITUNGAN ENERGI BEBAS RNA**



overall  $\Delta G = -4.6$  kcal/mol

Figure 10.10 An example  $\Delta G$  calculation for an RNA stem loop (the wild type R17 coat protein binding site).

urbin et al, 199

### miRNA Biogenesis



# Komputasi RNA

- 'Big Data' ncRNA seyogyanya diolah oleh praktisi bioinformatika.
- Tools Bioinformatika dapat digunakan untuk itu
- RNA Vienna Package adalah paket komputasi ncRNA
- Mengapa harus RNA Vienna? Karena sudah banyak dipublish pada jurnal internasional bereputasi, digunakan sebagai benchmark protokol komputasi



# **DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING (2)**

a Recursive definition of the best score for a sub-sequence *i*, *j* looks at four possibilities:



**b** Dynamic programming algorithm for all sub-sequences *i*,*j*, from smallest to largest:



# **DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING (3)**

3

Computational Chemistry with RNA Secondary Structures



**Figure 1.** Secondary structure of phenylalanine-tRNA from yeast as conventional drawing and in circular representation. The chords in the circular representation must not cross in secondary structure graphs.



Figure 2. Secondary structure elements that form the basis of the energy model for nucleic acids.

<u>https://ul.qucosa.de/api/qucosa%3A32602/attachment/ATT-0/</u>

# **NUSSINOV ALGORITHM (1)**



Figure 10.1. The traceback path produced by the Nussinov folding algorithm for the sequence *GGGAAAUCC*. The scores on the optimal path are indicated circles. The starting point of the path is located at the top right-hand corner. The secondary structure (1) associated with the optimal path is shown on the right.

# **NUSSINOV ALGORITHM (2)**



Figure 10.2. Eight alternative secondary structures (with three base pairs) of sequence GGGAAAUCC.

### Representasi Struktur 2D RNA



Figure 1.5. Representations of RNA secondary structures. A) Circle plot. B) Conventional secondary structure plot. C) Mountain plot. D) Dot plot. E) Dot/bracket string notation. All plots represent the same structure, its the purine riboswitch (Rfam RF00167). Adopted from [Hofacker & Stadler 2007].

# HOMOLOGY MODELING



factor/figures?lo=1&utm\_source=google&utm\_medium=organic

# Vienna RNA Package

- Developed by Ivo Hofacker et al from University of Vienna, Austria, and Peter
   Stadler et al from University of Leipzig, Germany.
- Easy to use, and has web interface
- Offline tools is available in Linux platform -> It's cheap!

# Vienna RNA Package Interface

|   | Institute for Theo  | pretical Chemistry  |  | •                             |  |
|---|---|---|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Structure prediction Folding Kinetics   | Sequence Design   | ncRNA Prediction  | Genome Wide Screening  | Other                         |  |
| You are here: / RNA   |   |   | Fo   | nt size: 🙏 🔔 🗛                |  |
| The ViennaRNA Web Services  |   |   |  |                               |  |
| offerings from our group see the main TBI web   | i server.   |   |  |                               |  |
| Thermodynamic Structure Prediction  |   | ncRNA Prediction  |  |                               |  |
| <ul> <li>RNAfold server</li> <li>predicts minimum free energy structures a<br/>probabilities from single RNA or DNA sequent</li> <li>RNAalifold server</li> </ul>   | and base pair<br>nces.<br>om an alignment of                        | <ul> <li>Structure conservat         <ul> <li>will assist you in d             structures in multip</li> </ul> </li> <li>RNAz server         <ul> <li>will assist you in d</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | ion analysis server<br>etecting evolutionarily conserv<br>le sequence alignments.<br>etecting thermodynamically st | ved RNA secondary             |  |
| <ul> <li>predicts consensus secondary structures for<br/>several related RNA or DNA sequences. You<br/>alignment.</li> <li>RNAeval server</li> <li>provides a detailed thermodynamic descri<br/>sequence/structure pair.</li> <li>RNAcofold server</li> <li>allows you to predict the secondary structure</li> <li>RNAup server</li> </ul>  | need to upload an<br>ption of a<br>ıre of a dimer.                  | evolutionarily conse<br>sequence alignment<br>• Bcheck<br>predicts rnpB gen<br>• RNAstrand server<br>allows you to pred<br>conserved RNA seco   | rved RNA secondary structure<br>s.<br>es.<br>ict the reading direction of even<br>ndary structures.                | s in multiple<br>plutionarily |  |
| <ul> <li>predicts consensus secondary structures for<br/>several related RNA or DNA sequences. You<br/>alignment.</li> <li>RNAeval server<br/>provides a detailed thermodynamic descri<br/>sequence/structure pair.</li> <li>RNAcofold server<br/>allows you to predict the secondary structure<br/>RNAup server<br/>allows you to predict the accessibility of a formation.</li> </ul> | need to upload an<br>ption of a<br>ure of a dimer.<br>arget region. | <ul> <li>evolutionarily conse<br/>sequence alignment</li> <li>Bcheck</li> <li>predicts rnpB geni</li> <li>RNAstrand server</li> <li>allows you to pred<br/>conserved RNA seco</li> </ul>          | rved RNA secondary structure<br>is.<br>es.<br>ict the reading direction of evo<br>ndary structures.                | s in multiple<br>plutionarily |  |

Figure 6: Vienna RNA Package Interface (<u>http://rna.tbi.univie.ac.at/</u>)



Ifold RNA is an online software that uses discrete molecular dynamics method to model the RNA 3D structure

**Fig. 1.** The structure of M-box riboswitch predicted by iFoldRNA v2 (sand color) is superimposed on the top of the crystal structure (PDB ID: 3pdr) (blue). RMSD between the predicted and the crystal structures is 7.7 Å. *P*-value, showing statistical significance of the prediction (Hajdin *et al.*, 2010), is less than  $10^{-6}$ . RMSD was calculated using phosphate atoms only. INF = 0.725 (Parisien *et al.*, 2009). Experimental HRP data and base-pairing information were used (Ding *et al.*, 2012) (Color version of this figure is available at *Bioinformatics* online.)



### **HNADOCK**



HNADDOCK is a web server that implement specific DNA/RNA – DNA/RNA interaction function to its docking method

Figure 5. Comparison between the crystal structure (blue and red) and HNADOCK server prediction (green and yellow) for two RNA–RNA docking examples: (A) structure input (target code: 1KD5; ranked #1, IRMSD = 1.98 Å); (B) sequence input (target code: 1KIS; ranked #4, IRMSD = 2.39 Å),

### **Pipeline Predictor Short ncRNA**



Figure 2.2. Flow chart for the annotation of short structured ncRNAs. The figure is an updated version from the published one in Bompfünewerer Consortium et al. [2007]. RNA families in the sense of the Rfam database are predominantly defined by sequence homology, while RNA classes are defined via functional and/or structural similarities that may or may not be the consequence of common ancestry. Computational RNA prediction is the key to a pile of subsequent analyses which coherently contribute to accurate RNA annotation and, in the long run, steadily improve our understandings of vitally important RNA-mediated cellular processes.

# **Clusters of Complex Structure**



Figure 2.13. Cluster of complex structures. Structure-based clustering of RNAz hits with evidence for transcription by Pol III identifies a group of Y-shaped, potentially related putative ncRNAs. Abbreviations: N: number of sequences in cluster. MPI: mean pairwise identity of multiple alignment. SCI: structure conservation index.

#### Motivation: the World's Pandemic Time Cohort



https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2319417020300445



COVID-19 Publications

### from Our Group



 Parikesit, A. A., & Nurdiansyah, R. (2020). Drug Repurposing Option for COVID-19 with Structural Bioinformatics of Chemical Interactions Approach. Cermin Dunia Kedokteran, 47(3), 222–226. Retrieved from

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- **Parikesit, A. A.,** & Nurdiansyah, R. (2020). The Predicted Structure for the Anti-Sense siRNA of the RNA Polymerase Enzyme (RdRp) gene of the SARS-CoV-2. Berita Biologi LIPI, 19(1), 97-108. https://e-journal.biologi.lipi.go.id/index.php/berita\_biologi/article/view/3849
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- Adisurja, G. P & Parikesit, A. A. Virtual Screening of the Flavonoids Compounds with the SARS-CoV-2 3C-like Protease as the Lead Compounds for the COVID-19 (*in press* at Coronaviruses, Benthamsciences) https://www.eurekaselect.com/191637/article



# BACKGROUND



- COVID-19 disease is caused by SARS CoV-2
- The designated 'ground zero' is Wuhan, China.
- Current standing of COVID-19 pandemic is more than 481 millions Infected patients, and more than 6 million death. Mostly in the US.
   Significant infection and death in Indonesia (per 1<sup>th</sup> of April 2022, WHO COVID-19 Dashboard).

### SARS-COV2 is...

- RNA virus, generally it will have faster mutation rate than DNA virus or bacteria
- The capability of zoonotic infection make it easier to mutate as well
- Zoonotic? Meaning they are transmitted between animals and people.



Figure 1. Schematic diagram of coronavirus structure.

### Scheme of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Cycle



https://www.oatext.com/pharmacological-approaches-to-the-treatment-of-covid-19-

patients.php#gsc.tab=0

# SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Sequences from Indonesian Patients



### SARS-CoV-2 Genome



The SARS-CoV-2 has a ~29.9 kilobase positive-sense RNA genome that contains as many as 29 open reading frames. Though the exact number of functional proteins remains to be established, there are at least 16 nonstructural proteins (nsp), four structural proteins, and at least six or seven accessory proteins.

https://www.genetex.com/MarketingMaterial/Index/SARS-CoV-

2 Genome and Proteome

# S Gene

- Infectivity or virulence of SARS-CoV-2 virus is mainly catered by its spike protein in the viral surface
- It plays important role for viral penetration to the host cell, by facilitating attachment to the ACE2 receptor
- Thus, it is logical in the sense of rational drug design that the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein should be inhibited to ward off the viral infection

### Objective of this research

 In this regard, combining transcriptomics and **CADD** approaches could be a viable solution to design SARS-CoV-2 drug, especially to provide anti-sense inhibitor to the mRNA expression of a gene. Thus, the objective of this research is to design transcriptomics-based drug candidate with bioinformatics pipeline to block the expression the mRNA of the SARS-CoV-2 S gene with siRNA.

### **2D dan 3D RNA PREDICTION METHOD**

 The seach for S gene sequences from various localities was conducted with NCBI website:

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/labs/virus/vssi/#/sars-cov-2

- The multiple sequence alignment using MUSCLE algorithms was applied to extract the sequence of the conserve region. All the S gene sequences were employed for constructing the phylogenetic tree with MEGAX
- The ncRNA or mRNA FASTA data were uploaded to the Vienna RNA package at <a href="http://rna.tbi.univie.ac.at">http://rna.tbi.univie.ac.at</a>. The respective tools were employed sequentially: *RNAfold, Barrier server, RNAup* dan *RNAxs*. They are useful to analyze the 2D annotation within the thermodynamics and kinetics sphere, and to determine the structure and the function of the ncRNA/mRNA.

### **2D dan 3D RNA PREDICTION METHOD**

 The iFOLDRNA version 2 server (https://dokhlab.med.psu.edu/ifoldrna/) was utilized as well for de novo 3D structure prediction. In order to observe the chemical interaction of the siRNA and the mRNA, the HNAdock application for transcriptomics lead was employed. (http:// huanglab.phys.hust.edu.cn/hnadock/). Lastly, the docking result was visualized using the UCSF Chimera software (https:// www.cgl.ucsf.edu/chimera/)

### **Result** of the siRNA design annotation



| siRNA         | 1                     |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Worst Rank    | 33                    |
| Position      | 187                   |
| Access 8nt    | 0.3012                |
| Access 16nt   | 0.1726                |
| Assymetry (S) | 0.7500                |
| Assymetry (E) | 0.6638                |
| Self Folding  | 1.0000                |
| Free End      | 1.0000                |
| Target Seq.   | ACTITICC TITACAATCATA |
| siRNA Seq.    | TATGATT GTAAAGGAAAGT  |
| BLAST         | NCBI BLAST            |
|               |                       |

### Figure 2: The RNAxs output for the S gene SARS-CoV-2 siRNA



# The 3D structures of the conserved mRNA *S* gene and the siRNA



Figure 5: the 3D visualization of the S gene SARS-CoV-2 a) mRNA b) siRNA

The Molecular Docking Visualization of the mRNA and siRNA of the S gene



Figure 6: The docking result of the SARS-CoV-2 S gene mRNA and siRNA complex a) Complex visualization with HNADOCK b) Complex visualization with UCSF Chimera

b)

a)

### Transcriptomics-based Drugs (Then)

#### Table 1

Anti-miRNA and siRNA/shRNA Therapeutics in Clinical Trials

| Company              | Drug          | Delivery<br>route             | Target            | Vehicle                                | Disease                         | Phase | Status     |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Santaris             | SPC3649 (LNA) | SC                            | miR-122           | Naked LNA                              | HCV                             | IIa   | Ongoing    |
| Opko Health          | Bevasiranib   | IVT                           | VEGF              | Naked siRNA                            | AMD/DME                         | ш     | Terminated |
| Allergan/Sirna       | AGN-745       | IVT                           | VEGF-R1           | Naked siRNA                            | AMD                             | п     | Terminated |
| Quark/Pfizer         | PF-655        | IVT                           | RTP801            | Naked siRNA                            | AMD/DME                         | п     | Completed  |
| Quark Pharma         | QPI- 1007     | IVT                           | Caspase 2         | Naked siRNA                            | NAION                           | Ι     | Ongoing    |
| TransDerm/IPCC       | TD101         | Intralesional injection       | KRT6A(N171K)      | Naked siRNA                            | Pachyonychia Congenita          | Ib    | Completed  |
| Sylentis             | SYL040012     | Ophthalmic drops              | ADRB2             | Naked siRNA                            | Intraocular Pressure            | п     | Ongoing    |
| Sylentis             | SYL1001       | Ophthalmic drops              | TRPV1             | Naked siRNA                            | Dry eye syndrome                | Ι     | Ongoing    |
| ZaBeCor              | ExcellairTM   | Inhalation                    | Syk kinase        | unknown                                | Asthma                          | П     | Ongoing    |
| Alnylam/Cubist       | ALN-RSV01     | Nebulization or intransal     | RSV Nucleocapsid  | Naked siRNA                            | RSV                             | IIb   | Ongoing    |
| Marina Biotech       | CEQ508        | Oral                          | Beta catenin      | tkRNAi in E. Coli                      | FAP/ colon cancer               | Ι     | Ongoing    |
| Silenseed Ltd        | siG12D LODER  | EUS biopsy needle             | KRASG12D          | LODER polymer                          | PDAC                            | Ι     | Ongoing    |
| Tekmira              | ТКМ-АроВ      | IV                            | Аро В             | SNALP                                  | Hypercholesterolemia            | I     | Terminated |
| Tekmira              | TKM-PLK1      | IV                            | PLK1              | SNALP                                  | Solid tumors                    | Ι     | Ongoing    |
| Alnylam/Tekmira      | ALN-VSP02     | IV                            | KSP and VEGF      | SNALP                                  | Solid tumors                    | Ι     | Completed  |
| Alnylam              | ALN-TTR01     | IV                            | TTR               | SNALP                                  | TTR-mediated amyloidosis (ATTR) | Ι     | Ongoing    |
| University Duisburg  | Bcr-Abl siRNA | IV                            | Bcr-Abl           | Anionic liposome                       | CML                             | Ι     | Completed  |
| Silence Therapeutics | Atu027        | IV                            | PKN3              | siRNA-lipoplex                         | Advanced solid cancer           | Ι     | Ongoing    |
| Quark Pharma         | I5NP          | IV                            | P53               | Naked siRNA                            | AKI and DGF                     | П     | Ongoing    |
| Calando Pharma       | CALAA-01      | IV                            | RRM2              | Cyclodextrin nanoparticle, TF, and PEG | Solid tumors                    | I     | Ongoing    |
| Gradalis Inc.        | FANG vaccine  | Ex vivo IV                    | Furin and GM-CSF  | Electroporation                        | Solid tumors                    | Π     | Ongoing    |
| Duke University      | iPsiRNA       | Ex vivo intradermal injection | LMP2, LMP7, MECL1 | Transfection                           | Metastatic melanoma             | I     | Ongoing    |
| City of Hope/Benitec | Tat/Rev shRNA | Ex vivo transplant            | HIV Tat and Rev   | Lentivirus                             | HIV                             | 0     | Ongoing    |

(Burnet and Rossi, 2012)

### **Transcriptomics-based Drugs (Now)**

| miRNA-Based Therapeutics      |            |                      |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Company                       | Name       | Therapeutic<br>Agent | Delivery System                        | Target Disease   | Stage in Drug<br>Development Pipeline                            |  |
| Santaris<br>Pharma/Roche      | Miravirsen | AntimiR-122          | LNA antagomiR                          | Hepatitis C;<br>Chronic hepatitis C                              | Phase II clinical trials<br>(NCT02452814;<br>NCT2508090)         |  |
| Regulus                       | RG-101     | AntimiR-122          | GaLNAc-conjugated<br>antagomiR         | Chronic hepatitis C  | Phase II clinical trials<br>(discontinued)                       |  |
|                               | RG-125     | AntimiR-103/107      | GaLNAc-conjugated<br>antagomiR         | Diabetic<br>non-alcoholic steatohepatitis                        | Phase II (discontinued)  |  |
|                               | RG-012     | AntimiR-21           | NA                                     | Hereditary nephritis   | Phase II (NCT02855268)   |  |
|                               | RGLS4326   | AntimiR-17           | NA                                     | Autosomal dominant<br>polycystic kidney disease                  | Phase I (on hold)  |  |
| miRagen                       | MRG-106    | AntimiR-155          | LNA-modified antisense inhibitor       | CTCL mycosis fungoides<br>subtype;<br>CLL; DLBCL; ATLL           | Phase II (NCT03713320;<br>NCT03837457);<br>Phase I (NCT02580552) |  |
| Therapeutics -                | MRG-107    | AntimiR-155          | NA                                     | ALS; cardiac disorders;<br>retinal disorders                     | Pre-Clinical   |  |
| _                             | MRG-110    | AntimiR-92           | LNA antagomiR                          | Wounds   | Phase I (NCT03603431)  |  |
|                               | MRG-201    | miR-29 mimic         | Cholesterol-conjugated<br>miRNA duplex | Keloid;<br>fibrosis  | Phase II (NCT03601052);<br>Phase I (NCT02603224)                 |  |
| EnGeneIC                      | MesomiR-1  | miR-16 mimic         | EnGeneIC Dream<br>Vector               | Malignant pleural<br>mesothelioma;<br>non-small-cell lung cancer | Phase I (NCT02369198)  |  |
| Mirna<br>Therapeutics<br>Inc. | MRX-34     | miR-34 mimic         | dsRNA liposomal<br>nanoparticle        | Solid tumours;<br>haematological<br>malignancies                 | Phase 1 (terminated)   |  |

Table 1. miRNA-based therapeutics in clinical trials.

LNA: locked nucleic acid; GaLNAc: N-acetylgalactosamine; CTCL: cutaneous T cell lymphoma; ATLL: adult T-cell leukaemia lymphoma; CLL: chronic lymphocytic leukaemia; DLBCL: diffuse large B-cell lymphoma [activated B-cell (ABC) subtype]; ALS: amyloid lateral sclerosis.

#### (Bajan and Hutvagner, 2020)

### Conclusion

 It is concluded that the both 2D and 3D designs of the siRNA lead and mRNA biomarker for S gene could be elucidated with in silico-based approach. Thus, the docking result indicates that there is a possibility that the docking between both the siRNA and mRNA biomarkers could happen in the computational manner.



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