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Antitubercular Drug Therapy Past, Present and Future



Antitubercular drugs, drug resistance,
molecular targets , tuberculosis and
Mycobacterium tuberculosis



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Preface

Tuberculosis is a unique, dreadful and debilitating disease. It is not just the patient or a single family but the entire society needs to be involved in the control of this relatively unyielding problem. This book is the result of our personal and professional experiences with tuberculosis. We were introduced to tuberculosis drug research by Prof. D. Sriram and Prof. P. Yogeewari during our tenure at BITS, Pilani, Rajasthan, India and we are presently continuing it in Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, India.

This book is written in a very simple way to summarize important topics in antitubercular drug research in five chapters and can be followed by any science student. It explains the concepts of the disease pathogenesis, resistance problem and progress in anti-TB drug discovery.

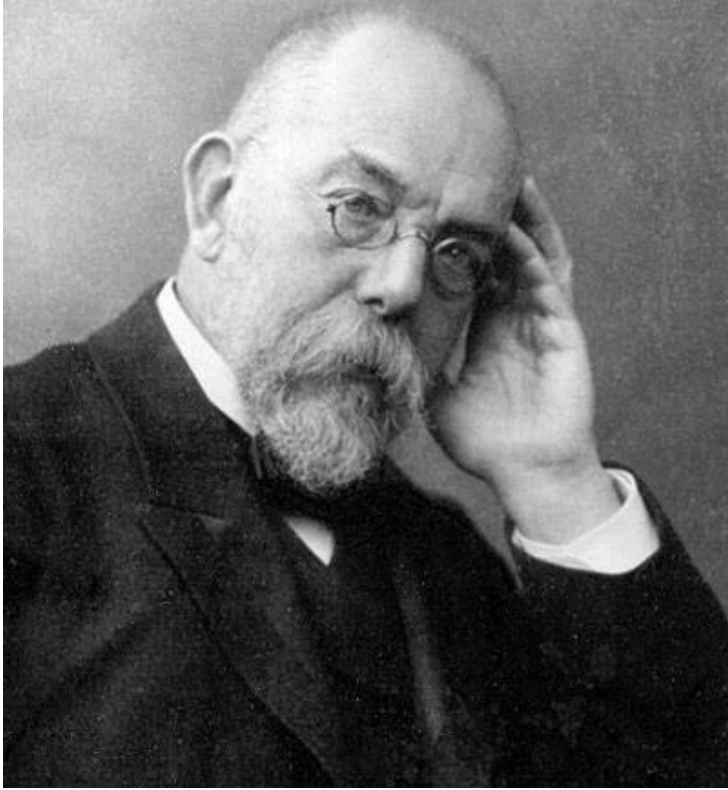
The first chapter describes about the general introduction of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* pandemics and cell wall integrity. The second chapter deals with the history of existing antitubercular agents and their mechanisms. Third chapter gives a brief outline of clinical and preclinical agents under trials. Fourth chapter immensely emphasizes on the major problem of 'resistance' in terms of MDR and XDR and a brief discussion about the molecular basis of overcoming the resistance. The final fifth chapter focuses on the avenues for novel antitubercular drug developments.

This is the first precious book produced by us and through this writing we learnt many things. We would love to continue the task of book writing with utmost responsibility to create awareness and interest in readers through other subject themes also.

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“If the importance of a disease for mankind is measured by the number of fatalities it causes, then tuberculosis must be considered much more important than those most feared infectious diseases, plague, cholera and the like. One in seven of all human beings die from tuberculosis. If one only considers the productive middle-age groups, tuberculosis carries away one-third, and often more.”

(Koch, 1882)

Contents

Preface	III
Chapter 1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 History of Tuberculosis	3
1.1.1 Discovery of the Pathogen	4
1.1.2 Tuberculosis: Global Scenario	5
1.2 Etiology and Pathophysiology.....	6
1.2.1 <i>M. Tuberculosis</i> (MTB) Complex.....	7
1.2.2 Structural Complexity of <i>M. Tuberculosis</i> Cell Wall.....	8
Chapter 2 Chemotherapeutic Agents Used for Tuberculosis	15
2.1 History.....	17
2.2 Post Antibiotic ERA.....	18
2.2.1 Streptomycin (SM) and Other Aminoglycoside Antibiotics.....	21
2.2.2 Isoxyl (Thiocarlide) & Thiacetazone.....	22
2.2.3 Isoniazid (INH)	22
2.2.4 Pyrazinamide (PZA).....	24
2.2.5 <i>P</i> -Aminosalicylic Acid (PAS).....	24
2.2.6 Ethambutol (EMB).....	25
2.2.7 Cycloserine.....	26
2.2.8 Rifampicin (RMP).....	26
2.2.9 Fluoroquinolones.....	28
2.3 Conclusions	29
Chapter 3 New Drugs for Treating Tuberculosis in the Clinics and Clinical Trials - An Update	35
3.1 Drugs in Discovery and Development Stages.....	37
3.1.1 Diamines (SQ109).....	39

3.1.2	Nitroimidazofurans and Nitroimidazopyrans	41
3.1.3	Oxazolidinones	44
3.1.4	Diarylquinolines (TMC207, SIRTURO™).....	45
3.2	Preclinical Agents.....	46
3.2.1	Clofazimine and its Analogues	46
3.2.2	Diarylpyrrole Derivatives	47
3.2.3	BTZ043 and its Analogues.....	48
3.2.4	Imidazopyridine Amides	50
3.2.5	Sudoterb (Pyrrole, LL-4858).....	51
3.2.6	Peptideformylase Inhibitor BB-3497	51
3.2.7	Phenothiazines.....	52
3.3	Conclusions	53
Chapter 4 Drug Resistance in Mycobacterium Tuberculosis		61
4.1	Major Mechanisms Involved in The development of Drug Resistance in Microorganisms	64
4.1.1	Drug - Resistant Tuberculosis	66
4.1.2	Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB)	66
4.1.3	Extensive-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (XDR-TB)	67
4.1.4	Basic Concepts in the Development of Drug-Resistant TB	67
4.2	Molecular Basis of Drug Action and Resistance	68
4.2.1	Isoniazid (INH)	68
4.2.2	Rifampicin (RMP).....	70
4.2.3	Pyrazinamide (PZA).....	71
4.2.4	Ethambutol (EMB).....	72
4.2.5	Aminoglycosides (Streptomycin (SM)/Kanamycin (KM)/ Amikacin (AMK)/Capreomycin CPM).....	73
4.2.6	Fluoroquinolones (FQ)	74
4.2.7	Ethionamide (ETH)/Prothionamide (PTH) and Thioamides.....	75
4.2.8	Oxazolidinones.....	76
4.2.9	Cycloserine.....	76

4.3	New Drugs, New Targets and New Resistance Mechanisms	77
4.3.1	Nitroimidazoles	77
4.3.2	SQ109.....	78
4.3.3	Bedaquiline (TMC207, R207910, Sirturo®).....	78
4.3.4	Benzothiazinones	79
4.4	Conclusions	79
Chapter 5 Strategies for Anti-Tubercular Drug Development.....		89
5.1	Cell Wall Components Synthesis and Assemblage	91
5.1.1	Biosynthesis of Mycolic Acids and Other Lipids.....	92
5.1.2	Mycobacteria Possessing FAS-I and FAS-II Enzymes.....	93
5.2	Targets in Mycolic Acid Biosynthesis	96
5.2.1	INH A and Maba	96
5.2.2	Kas A and Kas B.....	96
5.2.3	B-Ketoacyl-ACP Synthaseinhibitors	97
5.2.4	FadD32 – AccD4 System	97
5.2.5	Methyltransferases.....	98
5.2.6	Polyketide Synthase System (Pks).....	98
5.2.7	Mmpl3 Transporter Protein	99
5.2.8	Biosynthesis of Mycolyl-Arabinogalactan-Peptidoglycan Complex	99
5.3	Drug Targets for Tuberculosis	101
5.3.1	Peptidoglycan Biosynthesis.....	102
5.3.2	Protein Synthesis as a Target	103
5.3.3	Decaprene Biosynthesis	105
5.3.4	The MEP Pathway as a Drug Target	106
5.4	Enzymes Involved in Amino Acids or Co-Factor Biosynthesis.....	106
5.4.1	Pantothenatesynthetase	106
5.4.2	Quinolinatephosphoribosyltransferase (QAPRTase).....	107
5.4.3	Shikimate Kinase (SK).....	108
5.4.4	Thymidylate Kinase	108

5.5	Targets in DNA Biosynthesis and Metabolism	109
5.5.1	Ribonucleotide Reductases	109
5.5.2	DNA Ligase	110
5.5.3	DNA Topoisomerase	110
5.5.4	Respiratory Chain Inhibitors	111
5.6	Miscellaneous Targets	112
5.6.1	Isocitratelase (ICL).....	112
5.6.2	Mycobacterium Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase B (mPTPB)	112
5.6.3	Carbonic Anhydrase.....	113
5.6.4	Mycobacterial Thioredoxin Reductase (MtTrxR).....	113
5.6.5	Glutamine Synthetase (GS).....	113
5.6.6	Cysteine Biosynthetic Pathway.....	114
5.6.7	Acetohydroxyacid Synthase (AHAS)	114
5.7	Conclusions.....	115