Cannabinoid 1 Receptor Interaction: Distinguishing an Agonist vs Antagonist

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Middlesex County College 2017 Research in Chemistry Program

Abstract:

Cannabinoids have shown the capacity and ability to treat numerous diseases and ailments such as pain^[1], grand mal epileptic seizures^[2], anxiety^[3], and migraines^[4]. Cannabinoids interact with known cannabinoid receptor sites labeled cannabinoid 1 (CB1) receptor and cannabinoid 2 (CB2 receptor)^[5]. These cannabinoids can function as either an agonist, inverse agonist, or antagonist. Although their function is known the reason why cannabinoids bind as either an agonist or antagonist is not. The goal of this research is to analyze how agonist binding cannabinoids and antagonist binding cannabinoids interact with the CB1 receptor site, which amino acid residues they share, and which amino acid residues differ. This information will help us determine why cannabinoids induce different effects on their consumer and how we may examine the key residue interaction to determine how to construct better cannabinoids and determine how an unknown cannabinoid will function.

Introduction:

This research cannot be fully understood without a basic background on Bioinformatics and cannabinoids themselves. Bioinformatics is a discipline of science that uses biological data with techniques for information storage, distribution, and analysis to support multiple areas of scientific research, including biomedicine^[6]. This field helps us better people better understand all the information on biological molecules and, for this research purpose, how they interact with protein receptors in the brain. The tools used are a combination of biology, technology, computer science, and mathematics in a specific way that allows the user to better understand biological information.

Several Bioinformatics tools were used to conduct this research. The first tool utilized was the Protein Data Bank (PDB), to extract the 3D crystal structures of the target protein (CB1 receptor) and its crystalised molecule being studied. The second tool used is the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Chimera program, which is a software program used to view 3D macromolecular structures. This research uses UCSF Chimera to view molecules inside the protein pocket to study their molecular interactions within the receptor. Once those were attained Middlesex County College provided the ChemDraw software that was utilized to create small molecules in 2D and 3D. Finally this research used online websites, run by the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, called SwissTargetPrediction and SwissDock. These tools allowed us to analyze the binding characteristics and interactions of the small designed molecules. These molecules will later be discussed in detail.

The discovery of a new drug is neither cheap nor can be accomplished in a small span of time. Pharmaceutical companies in today's world follow a series of steps in order to bring a drug to market through this Drug Discovery Process. Firsty, the must be identify the protein they wish to target. This is key for researchers because they must know exactly which protein in the body is they wish to transport a drug to. Upon succession researchers move on to the Lead Discovery phase with the molecules identified to have the best interaction with the target protein. Afterwards begins the Lead Optimization/ Medical Chemistry phase. In this phase researchers are constantly modifying and adjusting the most forefront molecules with the intent to produce better results in binding abilities through these changes. At this step chemists will also synthesize the molecule based on the correct changes. Upon succession, chemists will then proceed to the cell-free binding assay, otherwise known as In Vitro studies. This is where the molecules are tested in binding assays outside and inside cells. Once a compound shows reasonable activity in cell-free and cell-based, they will be placed in In Vivo studies. This is the phase where the molecule is administered to be tested on small animals such as rodents and amphibians. Upon successful results, the next step would be Pre-Clinical trials. Here, a wide range of testing is done to determine the safe dose for a first-in man study. This research comprises of the Lead Optimization phase where the created safe molecules are being attempted to have accurate changes made to them to produce better results in the interaction abilities with the target protein.

Utilizing the Bioinformatic method, molecular design is conducted through 3D Structure Based Design procedure. Through using this approach, it is understandable how exactly small molecules will interact with the target protein being the CB1 receptor. This method provides chemists the ability to make accurate changes to the ligand because Bioinformatics tools provide for a better understanding of the ligand-receptor interactions. This is often referred to as they "lock and Key" method. Once a "lock" has been identified, it is fairly easy to design a "key" to fit that lock. 3D drug design is similar to this. A protein's active site is the "lock" and a small molecule that is the inhibitor is the "key" that chemists design to fit that lock (Figure 1).



2D structure-activity relationship (SAR) approach is the traditional route for big pharmaceutical and drug companies today. This approach requires thousands of molecules to be synthesized and analyzed which requires a lot of time and money. This method lacks the information about how the molecule that was synthesized interacts with the target protein. 3D Structure Based Drug Design allows for this information to be known and is what gives it an edge. It is more efficient over SAR saving labor, time, and money by providing the necessary information for chemists and researchers about how exactly the molecule interacts with the protein. For this experiment, we were able to find the structure of our target protein, the Cannabinoid 1 Receptor using the Protein Data Bank. This will help us thoroughly understand the nature of the active pocket site and create a small molecule that will interact with it. This interaction will help us determine what amino acid residues the molecules make contact with. Based off of that we may begin to determine how to build compounds that target these specific sites to generate specific effects.

The Cannabinoid 1 Receptor, or CB1 for short, is a porous cell membrane receptor located throughout the central nervous system primarily in brain and neural tissue^[7]. The CB1 receptor is responsible for sleep^[8], appetite^[9], mood^[10], and body temperature^[11]. It is part of a much larger system called the endocannabinoid system, which is a group of lipids and receptors that assist in multiple body functions and maintenance of homeostasis^[12]. There are two types of cannabinoid receptors that comprise of the endocannabinoid system however. They CB1, and CB2 which is located on immune related tissues and on peripheral organs^[7]. These cannabinoid receptors interact specifically with what are called cannabinoids, which is what the focus of this research is based around. A cannabinoid is a molecule that interacts specifically with cannabinoid receptors and are most commonly associated with the active components of the cannabis plant^[13]. These cannabinoids function as either an agonist, inverse agonist, or antagonist. Cannabinoids follow the same "lock and key" method as described before. The "lock" being the cannabinoid receptor, and the "key" being the cannabinoid (Figure 2).

We will be inserting these cannabinoids in two different inactive CB1 protein sites. The first is the inactive antagonist site 5TGZ (Figure 3), the second is the inactive agonist site 5XR8 (Figure 4). These two sites were crystallized by Dr. Raymond Stevens, 5TGZ in 2016^[14] and 5XR8 in 2017^[15]. The CB1 receptor can be thought of as a "boot". Once a molecule enters the receptor it places itself in the active site which is the "toe" of the boot. Although it is the same CB1 receptor protein and appears to look similar these sites are slightly different. When the two are superimposed, obvious differences are observed in the size of the "toe" and the confirmation of the "calf" of the boot (Figure 5). This means that different functioning cannabinoids will induce different effects.

Using a series of bioinformatics tools we will examine and replicate the docking of antagonist binding and agonist binding cannabinoids. Since the function of the cannabinoids are known we will insert them into their proper functional sites. Antagonist binding cannabinoids will be placed in the inactive antagonist site 5TGZ. Agonist binding cannabinoids will be placed into the inactive agonist site 5XR8. We will use the known crystallized cannabinoids. The chart below describes each cannabinoid, the way it functions, the site it will be placed in, and what the known medical benefits are (Figure 6).

<u>Cannabinoid</u>	<u>Function</u>	Inactive Docking <u>Site</u>	Known Medical Benefits/ Effects
	Antagonist	5TGZ	Unknown
Image: Constraint of the second se	Inverse Agonist / Antagonist	5TGZ	Obesity, appetite suppressant ^[16] .
Taranabant	Inverse Agonist/ Antagonist	5TGZ	Obesity, appetite suppressant ^[17] .
Cannabidiol (CBD)	Antagonist	5TGZ	Anxiety ^[3] , pain ^[1] , seizures ^[2] , spasms ^[18] , obesity ^[19] , cancer ^[20] .

۲ ۳ ۳ ۲ ۲ ۲ ۲ ۲ ۲ ۲ ۲ ۲ ۲ ۳ ۳ ۳ ۳ ۳ ۳ ۳	Agonist	5XR8	Unknown
Anandamide (AEA)	Agonist	5XR8	Regulation of normal anxiety and pain ^[21] .
بربان المعالم ا Cannabinol (CBN)	Agonist	5XR8	Insomnia ^[22] , cancer ^[23] .
Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)	Agonist	5XR8	Nausea ^[24] , stress ^[25] , Alzheimer's disease ^[26] , and cancer ^[27] .

(Figure 6)

Once we have docked the cannabinoids, we will generate a pocket that is formed within the receptor site for each. Each cannabinoid will have different conformations they hold within the site. We will use the bioinformatics program SwissDocking to view these confirmations. The program will show not only the conformations but which ones are energetically favorable. That favorability is unknown, and will be represented in ΔG kilocalories per mole (kcal/mol). That will then be compared to the known IC50 value which represents the amount needed in order to reduce 50% of the activity within the protein (Figure 7).

Lig short name	Lig Type	PDBID	Size of pocket (Å)	Center of pocket (x,y,z)	IC50 Value (µM)	Δ G Value (kcal/mol)
ZDG	Antagonist	5TGZ	5x5x5	x=(43.502) y=(27.787) z=(318.810)	Unknown	?
Rimonabant	Antagonist	5TGZ	5x5x5	x=(43.502) y=(27.787) z=(318.810)	Unkown	?
Taranabant	Antagonist	5TGZ	5x5x5	x=(43.502) y=(27.787) z=(318.810)	0.00030	?
CBD	Antagonist	5TGZ	5x5x5	x=(43.502) y=(27.787) z=(318.810)	2.10	?
8D0	Agonist	5XR8	5x5x5	x=(-42.646) y=(-156.676) z=(306.315)	Unknown	?
Anandamide	Agonist	5XR8	5x5x5	x=(-42.646) y=(-156.676) z=(306.315)	2.10	?
THC	Agonist	5XR8	5x5x5	x=(-42.646) y=(-156.676) z=(306.315)	2.70	?
CBN	Agonist	5XR8	5x5x5	x=(-42.646) y=(-156.676) z=(306.315)	2.10	?

(Figure 7)

The chart representing where the data will be kept and tracked. The site, size (measured in angstrom), center (exact coordinates of placing molecule), IC50 value and unknown ΔG value.

Upon such generation we shall examine the amino acid residues that each cannabinoid interacts with within the pocket. Then the residue sheets will be compiled, compared, and contrasted. This information will then determine which amino acid residues agonists and antagonists share and which residues are different (Figure 8). This differences will determine why an antagonist or agonist cannabinoid functions the way it does. We may then use this information to develop synthetic cannabinoids to taret these specific residues to treat a variety of medical ailments.

Antagonist	Agonist	(Figure 8)
Share	Share	The chart used to keep track of the amino acid residues. In
Share	Share	green will be the residues that both antagonists an
Share	Share	agonists have in common. In pink will be the unique
Unique	Unique	residues for antagonists. In blue will be the unique
Unique	Unique	Tesidues for agonist.
Unique	Unique	

Protocol:

Tools:

This experiment will be conducted using a series of bioinformatics tools. These tools will help us attain the best confirmation of each cannabinoid. Based off the confirmation then we may determine the amino acid residues they contact. The following tools used are:

- 1. <u>RCSB PRB (www.rcsb.org</u>): to obtain and download 3D structures of CB1 receptor-ligand complexes.
- 2. <u>Chimera</u>: to view the 3D structures of the CB1 receptor-ligand complexes. This will be used to for two main reasons in this experiment. To edit the receptor-ligand complexes for preparation of cannabinoids for docking and to view our docking results from the SwissDock Program.
- 3. <u>ChemDraw 2D</u>: to draw the cannabinoids to import to ChemBio 3D to generate a 3D structure of the ligand.
- 4. <u>ChemBio 3D</u>: to minimize the structure of the cannabinoid and to create its Simplified Molecular Input Line Entry Specification (SMILES) string. The SMILES string is a chemical description of a given structure that helps it become recognized by computers. This chain may be imported by many molecule editors for conversion into two-dimensional drawings and three-dimensional models of the molecule.
- 5. <u>SwissTargetPrediction</u>: An online tool that predicts the targets of small molecules through a combination of two-dimensional and three dimensional similarity measures. This program compares the inserted molecule to a library of thousands of compounds active on selected targets from a variety of different species.
- 6. <u>SwissDock</u>: An online tool that predicts the molecular interactions that may occur between a target protein and a small molecule. This tool will list the different predictions based off its confirmations through its ΔG measured in kilocalorie per mole (kcal/mol). This will tell us the energetic favorability of the cannabinoid we input for docking.

Procedure:

These tools will be used in combination to conduct a series of steps that will be repeated for each cannabinoid chosen for data collection:

 Search the RCSB PDB for any CB1 receptor-ligand complexes (Figure 9). For the CB1 receptor-ligand antagonist complex the ID is 5TGZ (Figure 10). For the CB1 receptor-ligand agonist complex the ID is 5XR8 (Figure 11). We also would look at these complexes and identify the cannabinoid that forms the pocket protein along with any other small molecules shown in Figures 12 and 13.

2. Use Chimera to view the CB1 receptor-ligand complex and identify the crystallized cannabinoid along with the protein pocket that forms around it. Once identified we will remove the cannabinoid and prepare the receptor-ligand complex for docking which will be used in Step 4. Figure 14 shows the cannabinoid and pocket for 5TGZ. Figure 15 shows the cannabinoid and pocket for 5XR8.

3. We will then design the same cannabinoid identified in Step 2 using ChemDraw 2D and 3D to recreate the cannabinoid (Figure 16 for ZDG. Figure 17 for 8D0). Once recreated the Chem 3D program will provide a SMILES chain. Insert that chain into the SwissTargetPrediction to run checks (Figure 18 for ZDG. Figure 19 for 8D0). This will tell us if the designed molecule binds and interacts with the target protein being the CB1 receptor (Figure 20 for ZDG. Figure 21 for 8D0).

4. Upon confirmation that the cannabinoid does indeed interact with that receptor, we will move onto docking using the bioinformatics tool SwissDock. This will be conducted through three steps. First, obtaining the coordinates for placement through the RSCB PDB (Figure 22 for ZDG. Figure 23 for 8D0). Second by taking the replicated cannabinoid and inserting it and the CB1 receptor-ligand complex prepared for docking into the program. Third is to create the pocket size by setting it to 5x5x5 (Figure 24 for ZDG. Figure 25 for 8D0). Once all these are done the program will run. This will take between 4-12 hours on average to complete and produce the results.

ATOM 3410 CG PHE A 412	61.629 20.181 287.554 1.00159.13	C	
ANISOU 3410 CG PHE A 412	16731 23394 20338 -533 -847 -1578	C	
ATOM 3411 CD1 PHE A 412	62.072 21.490 287.473 1.00158.30	C	
ANTSON 3411 CD1 PHE & 412	16577 23419 20151 -854 -760 -1625	C	
ATTOM 3412 CD2 PHE & 412	61 911 19 318 286 507 1 00162 30	Ċ	
ANTEON 3412 CD2 DHE & 412	16063 22021 20702 404 001 1716	0	
ANISOU 3412 CD2 FHE A 412		C	
ATOM 3413 CEI PHE A 412	62.760 21.931 260.373 1.00160.90	C	
ANISOU 3413 CEI PHE A 412	16/01 24000 20434 -1140 -622 -1/99	C	
ATOM 3414 CEZ PHE A 412	62.620 19./54 285.403 1.00160./4	C	
ANISOU 3414 CE2 PHE A 412	16545 23988 20541 -757 -663 -1898	c	
ATOM 3415 CZ PHE A 412	63.055 21.063 285.337 1.00161.29	C	
ANISOU 3415 CZ PHE A 412	16576 24187 20520 -1094 -569 -1937	C	
TER 3416 PHE A 412			
HETATM 3417 CAE ZDG A2001	38.523 35.472 318.733 1.00113.89	C	
ANISOU 3417 CAE ZDG A2001	17511 13272 12489 -1030 -92 -908	C	
HETATM 3418 CAD ZDG A2001	38.396 34.520 317.542 1.00109.63	C	
ANTSON 3419 CAD 7DC A2001	16943 12734 11976 -1079 -91 -991	c.	
HETATM 3419 CAD 2DG A2001	20 221 22 222 217 752 1 00100 72	C	
ANTCON 2410 CAA 2DG A2001	16062 12756 11072 1054 02 014	C	
ANISOU 3419 CAA 2DG A2001		C	
HETATM 3420 CAB 2DG A2001	39.986 32.350 317.916 1.00109.81	C	
ANISOU 3420 CAB ZDG A2001	16978 12772 11975 -1035 -101 -929	C	
HETATM 3421 CAC ZDG A2001	40.899 31.144 318.140 1.00116.18	c	
ANISOU 3421 CAC ZDG A2001	17788 13584 12772 -1010 -113 -951	c	
HETATM 3422 CAN ZDG A2001	40.495 29.873 317.767 1.00119.56	C	
ANISOU 3422 CAN ZDG A2001	18231 13991 13205 -1004 -131 -938	C	
HETATM 3423 CAM ZDG A2001	41.333 28.790 317.983 1.00120.70	C	
ANISOU 3423 CAM ZDG A2001	18382 14143 13336 -980 -140 -959	С	
HETATM 3424 CAJ ZDG A2001	42.136 31.331 318.729 1.00115.02	C	
ANISOU 3424 CAJ ZDG A2001	17616 13429 12655 -988 -147 -988	C	
HETATM 3425 CAK ZDG A2001	42.974 30.250 318.943 1.00110.43	C	
ANTSON 3425 CAK ZDG A2001	17031 12846 12080 -966 -164 -1006	C	
HETATM 3426 CAL ZDG A2001	42 574 28 980 318 571 1 00115 95	c	
ANTSON 3426 CAL ZDC A2001	17762 13560 12735 _962 _130 _999	C	
HETATM 3427 CAO ZDG A2001	A3 502 27 787 318 810 1 00111 96	C	
NUCOU 3427 CAO 2DG A2001	43.502 27.707 510.010 1.00111.90	C	
HEMAMM 2420 CAC ZDG A2001	42 692 27 126 210 002 1 00110 59	C	
HETATM 3428 CAS ZDG A2001	43.682 27.126 319.993 1.00110.58	C	
ANISOU 3428 CAS ZDG AZUUI	1/113 128/3 12031 -891 -189 -1025	C	
HETATM 3429 CBB ZDG A2001	42.989 27.464 321.309 1.00110.96	C	
ANISOU 3429 CBB ZDG A2001	1/246 12905 12008 -806 -185 -1003	C	
HETATM 3430 NAP ZDG A2001	44.272 27.204 317.897 1.00118.27	N	
ANISOU 3430 NAP ZDG A2001	18048 13854 13036 -920 -123 -1009	N	
HETATM 3431 CAT ZDG A2001	44.405 27.578 316.503 1.00117.94	C	
ANISOU 3431 CAT ZDG A2001	18040 13806 12966 -879 -46 -974	C	
HETATM 3432 CAY ZDG A2001	45.468 28.377 316.108 1.00130.61	C	
ANISOU 3432 CAY ZDG A2001	19564 15386 14677 -852 63 -910	C	
HETATM 3433 CLA ZDG A2001	46.670 28.954 317.297 1.00137.28	CL	
ANISOU 3433 CLA ZDG A2001	20224 16161 15776 -904 -4 -914	CL	
HETATM 3434 CAX ZDG A2001	45.608 28.736 314.781 1.00135.28	C	
ANTSON 3434 CAN ZDG A2001	20225 15961 15214 _747 208 _831	C	
HETATM 3435 CAN ZDC A2001	AA 691 28 301 313 841 1 00139 76	C	
ANTRON 3435 CAW ZDG A2001	20002 16524 16577 657 167 967	C	
HERDON 2425 CAW 2DG A2001	44 002 20 760 212 120 1 00152 02		
HETATM 3436 CLB ZDG AZ001	44.002 28./69 312.129 1.00153.02	CL OT	
ANISOU 3436 CLB ZDG A2001	22880 181/3 1/088 -414 350 -769	CL	
HETATM 3437 CAV ZDG A2001	43.629 27.502 314.232 1.00125.58	C	
ANISOU 3437 CAV ZDG A2001	19248 14733 13733 -714 -25 -964	C	
HETATM 3438 CAU ZDG A2001	43.483 27.137 315.563 1.00113.54	С	
ANISOU 3438 CAU ZDG A2001	17604 13229 12308 -831 -93 -991	C	
HETATM 3439 NAQ ZDG A2001	44.952 26.165 318.510 1.00117.87	N	
ANISOU 3439 NAQ ZDG A2001	17992 13800 12993 -900 -153 -1031	N	
HETATM 3440 CAR ZDG A2001	44.589 26.121 319.784 1.00119.91	С	

DO: 10.2210/pdbfgz/pdb Classification: SIGNALING PROTEIN Deposition author(s): fug. T, Vemuri, K., Pu, M., Qu, L., Han, G.W., Wu A., Laprairie, R.B., Stahl, E.L., Ho, JH., Zvonok, N., Zhou, H., Kufareva I.M., Makrivanis, A., Stevens, R.C., Liu, Z-J Organism: Desulforbing volgaris Humos sapiens Expression System: Homo sapiens Mutation(s): 6 Expression System: Homo sapiens Simple Viewer Protein Workshop Ligand Explorer Klosk Viewer Protein Workshop Mutation(s): 6 Expression System: Homo sapiens Simple Viewer Status Viewer Protein Workshop Ligand Explorer Klosk Viewer	Structure Summary 3D View Annotations Biological Assembly 1 Image: Comparison of the second sec	tures is in on Advanced Search Browse by Monthle Sequence Sequence Sequence Similarity Sequence Sequence Sequence Similarity Structure Crystal Structure of the Human	; macromolecule, sequence, or ligar Annotations ture Similarity Experiment	Display Files Downlo FASTA Sequence DDB Exempt	Go A Y D O ad Files v
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	View in 3D: NGL or JSmol (in Browser) Standalone Viewers Simple Viewer Protein Workshop Ligand Explorer Klosk Viewer	Experimental Data Snapshot Method: X-RAY DIFFRACTION Resolution: 2.8 Å R-Value Free: 0.238 R-Value Work: 0.206	wwPDB Validation Metric Rinee Clashscore Ramachandran outliers Sidechan outliers RSR2 outliers RSR2 outliers Incent	© 3D Report F Percentil Ranks	Ull Report Value 0.237 5 0 3.3% Better
Protein Symmetry: Asymmetric (View in 3D) Protein Stoichiometry: Monomer Download Primary Citation	Protein Symmetry: Asymmetric (View in 3D) Protein Stoichiometry: Monomer	Literature		Download Primary	Citation -

highlighted in blue.

- 5. Once docking is completed we will view the results in Chimera to see if they made sense. This will be done by taking our results and superimposing them over the crystal-structure-ligand. We will then generate a protein pocket for the crystal structure ligand and ours and superimpose the two. The protein pocket should be approximately 3.7 Å after selecting the ligand. If the crystallized cannabinoid and the docked results of the recreated cannabinoid superimpose well (90%+ in accuracy), it ensures that the first half of our proof of concept is correct. The second half is to view the pocket and see if the amino acids that generate this pocket are the same. The experimental pocket amino acid residues should match the known protein pocket amino acid residues. Once both are confirmed it means our proof of concept is correct which gives us confidence to move forward with the rest of the experiment.
- 6. Once the proof of concept is correct, we will continue with the same procedure for the designed cannabinoids listed in Figure 6. Again the antagonist binding cannabinoids will enter the antagonist From there we will choose which

cannabinoid superimposes the best (90%+ in accuracy) to use for our recorded data. We will record the unknown ΔG and compare it to the known IC50 value stated in Figure 6 as well. The reason for this is that a more negative ΔG value means the cannabinoids binds better to the receptor. A lower IC50 value means that less of a cannabinoid is required to induce effects. These numbers should correlate, meaning that if a known IC50 value is low, it should have a more negative ΔG value.

- 7. After Step 6 the next step is to generate a protein pocket for each cannabinoid to compile the amino acid residue interactions. The pocket should be the same experimental size as crystallized cannabinoid pocket that was previously generated in Step 5.
- 8. Once generated we would compile the list of amino acid residues and compare them to all of the rest of the experimental pocket residue interaction and the crystallized pocket formed. We will record which amino acid residues that each antagonist/inverse agonist share, and which are different that are responsible for their unique effects (Figure 26). The same will be done for the agonists (Figure 27). After compiling all the data for antagonists/inverse agonists and agonists, we will then compare and contrast the two and record the data (Figure 8).

700	Dimension	Tourseland	000	000	A T A	ODN	THO
ZDG	Rimonabant	Taranabant	CBD	800	AEA	CBN	THC
Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same
Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same
Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same
Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same
Unique	Unique	Unique	Unique	Unique	Unique	Unique	Unique
Unique	Unique	Unique	Unique	Unique	Unique	Unique	Unique

List used to record amino acid residues for all antagonist/ inverse agonist cannabinoids used in experiment. The residues shared are listed in pink, the unique ones are listed in purple. (Figure 27) List used to record amino acid residues for all agonist cannabinoids used in experiment. The residues shared are listed in pink, the unique ones are listed in purple.

At this point our research is completed. This provides the theoretical protocol for anyone who is interested in manufacturing cannabinoids to treat medical ailments. If one were to synthesize a cannabinoid to put to market, they would use this protocol to see if a cannabinoid bound as an antagonist/inverse agonist or an agonist. The ΔG value would theorize if a compound binds and interacts with the receptor well which would help if no IC50 value is known. The amino acid residue sheet should be looked at as a guideline. If a cannabinoid were to be an antagonist/inverse agonist or agonist, there would be an expected interaction of the amino acid residues list in the chart, with some minor additions or subtractions.

Results and Discussion:

<u>Proof of Concept for Antagonist/ Inverse Agonist CB1 Receptor-Ligand</u> <u>Complex 5TGZ</u>:

The proof of concept was conducted during Step 5 of the experiment. The point of the proof of concept is to ensure our process is correct. Our proof of concept for the antagonist/ inverse agonist begins with the SwissDock results. The results from the SwissDock program showed us the different conformations listed in figure. This will tell provide us a list of all the possible. Confirmations that are within the docking of the recreated ligand into the receptor. It will also show us the energetic favorability represented in the ΔG value (Figure 28).

Figure 28

The recreated 5TGZ protein receptor used for docking can be observed on the left. The recreated molecule ZDG can be seen within the receptor highlighted in green. On the right is the list of different conformations that recreated ZDG takes within the receptor. Circled in red is the ligand complex chosen for this research purpose.

After obtaining this we then open our results in Chimera and begin to superimpose the crystal structure pocket saved, to our confirmation results. The list of different confirmations will be in the Chimera program and open a seperate box when using the system. We then choose best docked pose that superimposes over the crystal structure. When doing this we will follow the instructions in Step 5 by creating the pocket to observe the amino acid residue interaction. For the case of ZDG, the ligand is a long greasy chain that has hydrophobic interactions with the surrounding residues.

As seen in Figure 29 above, this is the best docked posed for the recreated ZDG, and does indeed have hydrophobic interaction with the protein pocket. When compared to the crystal structure both contain a very similar "Y" shape that is seen. When the two are superimposed the docked results have over a 90% similarity to the corresponding molecule structurally. There are some slight differences in arm that contains the nitro compound being the rotation of the ring (Figure 31).

When we placed the cannabinoid into the pocket the amino acid residue interaction was exactly the same. This means that our proof of concept for the 5TGZ antagonist/ inverse agonist receptor-ligand complex site is correct. The protein pocket similarities can be observed in Figure 32 and the amino acid residue list in Figure 33.

Rimonabant 5TGZ:

The first cannabinoid selected for testing was the antagonist/ inverse agonist Rimonabant. Rimonabant is cannabinoid that was originally synthesized to combat obesity^[16]. While it did indeed have the onset effects of inducing appetite suppression and ensuring weight loss by targeting the CB1 receptor it was pulled off the shelves. The reason being is that the adverse effects were too severe causing a number of patients to commit suicide^[28].

Following the procedure when Rimonabant was inserted into the SwissTargetPrediction program the molecule showed high probability to interact with the CB1 receptor (Figure 34). This allowed for us to move forward and place Rimonabant into the same coordinates shown from Figure 24 and Figure 7.

Rimonabant is similar to ZDG but doesn't have the triple bond and nitro group on the one arm, instead it has a chlorine. When Rimonabant is inserted it forms almost the same "Y" shape we saw before with ZDG (Figure 35). When the two are superimposed there is over 90% similarity in stance with some slight variations in the rings (Figure 36). Rimonabant interacts with the same residues with some additions. (Figure 37). All interactions are hydrophobic.

ZDG	RImonabant
THR 197	THR 197
SER 383	SER 383
CYS 386	CYS 386
PHE 170	PHE 170
PHE 174	PHE 174
VAL 196	VAL 196
MET 363	MET 363
LEU 359	LEU 359
ILE 105	ILE 105
MET 103	MET 103
PHE 102	PHE 102
MET 384	MET 384
ALA 380	ALA 380
PHE 379	PHE 379
PHE 268	PHE 268
I FU 193	1 FU 193
TRP 356	TRP 356
GLV 166	GLY 166
LEI 387	1 EI I 387
SED 167	SED 167
SER 107	SEK 107
	ILE 119
	SER 123
	TYR 275
	TRP 279

Taranabant 5TGZ:

The next molecule chosen for docking was Taranabant, an antagonist/ inverse agonist cannabinoid synthesized to combat obesity. It also was proven to be able to reduce appetite and help weight loss but stopped after Phase 3 clinical trials and was taken off the market^[29]. This also follows something similar to Dr. Stevens project.

Following the procedure when Taranabant was inserted into the SwissTargetPrediction program the molecule showed high probability to interact with the CB1 receptor (Figure 34). In fact, it showed binding to specifically to cannabinoid receptors, signaling promising results. This allowed for us to move forward and place Taranabant into the same coordinates shown from Figure 24 and Figure 7.

Taranabant is similar to the ZDG crystal structure, however there are some obvious differences. The addition of a tert butyl group attached to the bottom ring, the aromatic center ring being broken apart, the removal of a chlorine on the di-chloryl ring, and instead of a triple bond and nitrite group, it has an amide. When superimposed over the crystal ligand ZDG, the same "Y" shape is observed (Figure 40). Taranabant interacts with all the same residues with the exception of seranine 167. It also interacts with similar residues to Rimonabant. All interactions are hydrophobic and the full list can be seen in Figure 41.

ZDG	RImonabant	Taranabant
THR 197	THR 197	THR 197
SER 383	SER 383	SER 383
CYS 386	CYS 386	CYS 386
PHE 170	PHE 170	PHE 170
PHE 174	PHE 174	PHE 174
VAL 196	VAL 196	VAL 196
MET 363	MET 363	MET 363
LEU 359	LEU 359	LEU 359
ILE 105	ILE 105	ILE 105
MET 103	MET 103	MET 103
PHE 102	PHE 102	PHE 102
MET 384	MET 384	MET 384
ALA 380	ALA 380	ALA 380
PHE 379	PHE 379	PHE 379
PHE 268	PHE 268	PHE 268
LEU 193	LEU 193	LEU 193
TRP 356	TRP 356	TRP 356
GLY 166	GLY 166	GLY 166
LEU 387	LEU 387	LEU 387
SER 167	SER 167	
		HSE 178
	SER 123	SER 123
	TYR 275	
	TRP 279	
	ILE 119	

(Figure 41)

Chart compiling and comparing amino acid residues for Taranabant to ZDG with the inclusion of Rimonabant. The residues they all share are in pink, the residues 8D0 and Rimonabant share are in purple, the residues Taranabant and Rimonabant share are in orange and the residues that are unique to Rimonabant and Taranabant are listed in red.

Cannabidiol (CBD) to 5TGZ:

The last molecule chosen for the antagonist/ inverse agonist site was the most famous antagonist cannabinoid, cannabidiol, or CBD for short. CBD is a cannabinoid that is produced in the cannabis plant, labeling it as a phytocannabinoid^[30]. The phytocannabinoid has been shown to have a variety of medical benefits including treatment in pain^[11], anxiety^[3], and cancer^[20]. The most profound effect is that it CBD has been shown to be a viable treatment for epileptic seizures in children^[2]. It is also widely unknown that CBD, like the other antagonists/ inverse agonists, acts as an appetite suppressant to combat obesity^[19]. This cannabinoid is currently in a legal gray area, and there is a legal movement to have it rescheduled from a Schedule 1 substance to Schedule 2 because of its benefits^[31]. There are many different products sold throughout legal dispensaries, but the most famous, accurate and widely used is through a tincture. CBD has not been tested and these are the first published results of the molecule interacting with the CB1 receptor.

Cannabidiol looks much different than the rest of the antagonists/ inverse agonists. It is shaped similarly to THC, with the exception being an ether formed instead of an alcohol group on the isopropyl constituent located on the top ring. When viewed in the Chimera program, it formed a "Y" shape in the pocket similar to the other antagonists/ inverse agonists (Figure 43). There are some major differences when compared to the ligand ZDG. Its three arms consist of an isopropyl group, a pentyl group, and a methyl group. They both do contain a center ring, however CBD's ring is a 6 membered aromatic ring. When superimposed over ZDG, both interact in the same pocket with the same residues. CBD interacts with the same residues in the same 3.7 Å pocket formed as ZDG, showing a 90% similarity to the corresponding crystal structure (Figure 44). The residue list is shown in Figure 45 and compared to all the other cannabinoids chosen for this experiment.

This helps us come to the conclusion of why CBD acts the way it does. The cannabinoid, like all other antagonists, forms a "Y" shape when it enters the pocket. The "Y" shape then forms a surface the prevents any agonist binding cannabinoids from interacting with the protein pocket. This helps conclude that the reason for why when you ingest CBD before THC you do not experience the same psychoactive effects associated with THC.

ZDG	RImonabant	Taranabant	CBD
THR 197	THR 197	THR 197	THR 197
SER 383	SER 383	SER 383	SER 383
CYS 386	CYS 386	CYS 386	CYS 386
PHE 170	PHE 170	PHE 170	PHE 170
PHE 174	PHE 174	PHE 174	PHE 174
VAL 196	VAL 196	VAL 196	VAL 196
MET 363	MET 363	MET 363	MET 363
LEU 359	LEU 359	LEU 359	LEU 359
ILE 105	ILE 105	ILE 105	ILE 105
MET 103	MET 103	MET 103	MET 103
PHE 102	PHE 102	PHE 102	PHE 102
MET 384	MET 384	MET 384	MET 384
ALA 380	ALA 380	ALA 380	ALA 380
PHE 379	PHE 379	PHE 379	PHE 379
PHE 268	PHE 268	PHE 268	PHE 268
LEU 193	LEU 193	LEU 193	LEU 193
TRP 356	TRP 356	TRP 356	TRP 356
GLY 166	GLY 166	GLY 166	GLY 166
LEU 387	LEU 387	LEU 387	LEU 387
SER 167	SER 167		SER 167
		HSE 178	HSE 178
	SER 123	SER 123	
	TYR 275		
	TRP 279		
	ILE 119		

(Figure 45)

Chart compiling and comparing amino acid residues for CBD to ZDG with the inclusion of Rimonabant and Taranabant. The residues they all share are in pink, the ones unique to ZDG, Rimonabant, and CBD are in purple, the residues unique for Taranabant and CBD are in green, the residues that Rimonabant and Taranabant share are in orange and the residues unique to Rimonabant are in red.

Antagonist/Inverse Agonist Receptor-Ligand Complex 5TGZ Results:

In conclusion of the antagonists/inverse agonists we can successfully say that any antagonist/ inverse agonist interacts with the CB1 receptor in a similar fashion. Each will form a "Y" shape and interact with the same protein pocket. The ΔG values are all very similar and coincide with the IC50 values (Figure 46). The only ΔG value slightly less negative was CBD because it is smaller molecule. After compiling all the residues and comparing and contrasting them, we were able to gather the list that all antagonist/ inverse agonist cannabinoids make contact with (Figure 47). This list will later be compared to the agonist cannabinoid residue interaction to distinguish which residues are responsible for the unique function of an antagonist/ inverse agonist cannabinoid.

5TGZ				(Figure 46)
Ligand	Туре	IC50 Value (µM)	∆ G Value (kcal/mol)	(Figure 40)
ZDG	Antagonist	Unkown	-9.96	The ΔG values compared to the
Rimonabant	Inverse Agonist	Unknown	-9.83	IC50 of the antagonist/ inverse
Taranabant	Antagonist	0.00030	-9.26	agonist cannabinoids.
CBD	Antagonist	2.00	-8.28	

Antagonist	
THR 197	
SER 383	
CYS 386	
PHE 170	
PHE 174	
PHE 268	
VAL 196	
LEU 193	
PHE 102	(Figure 47)
PHE 379	The residues that each antagonist/ invers
MET 103	agonist share.
MET 363	
MET 384	
TRP 356	
SER 167	
ILE 105	
LEU 359	
LEU 387	
GLY 166	
ALA 380	

Proof of Concept for Agonist CB1 Receptor-Ligand Complex 5XR8:

Our proof of concept for the agonist CB1 receptor-ligand complex 5XR8 began with the replication of docking the crystal structure ligand 8D0. The results for such can be seen below. It is important to note that we took an aerial picture to better observe the interaction of the ligand and the pocket it forms. Figure 48 and 49 is our replicated docking, Figure 50 and 51 is the crystal structure ligand. For the purpose of imagery, some of the residues have been removed, however the known residue interaction will be listed in Figure 55 in completion.

When we superimpose the two we observe how the amino acid residue interaction is the same along with the pocket they reside in (Figures 52,53, and 54).

This pocket appears to form an "L" like shape. The pocket interaction shows how there is a single hydrogen bond between the alcohol group (#0 8D0 1202.A O2) and seranine 383. The rest of the interactions within the pocket are strictly hydrophobic because it is a long greasy chain. Overall there is over a 90% similarity with our docked replication results to the crystal structure itself. When we compiled and compared the residue interaction they were exactly the same (Figure 55). These results give mean that the proof of concept for the agonists is correct and gives us confidence with moving forward with the rest of the experimental agonists.

Docked 8D0	Crystal 8D0	
THR 197	THR 197	
SER 383	SER 383	
CYS 386	CYS 386	
PHE 177	PHE 177	
PHE 268	PHE 268	
LEU 193	LEU 193	
PHE 379	PHE 379	(Figure 55)
TRP 279	TRP 279	The compiled residue list
VAL 196	VAL 196	that the residues the docke
SER 173	SER 173	interact with and the crystal
PHE 170	PHE 170	ingand interact with are th
PHE 174	PHE 174	
ILE 267	ILE 267	
PHE 108	PHE 108	
LEU 359	LEU 359	
PRO 269	PRO 269	~
HSE 178	HSE 178	
PHE 189	PHE 189	
LEU 276	LEU 276	~
ILE 271	ILE 271	
TYR 275	TYR 275	
TRP 356	TRP 356	
MET 363	MET 363	
ALA 380	ALA 380	
PHE 200	PHE 200	
LYS 192	LYS 192	
THR 201	THR 201	

Anandamide (AEA) 5XR8:

The first agonist binding cannabinoid chosen for this experiment was anandamide (AEA). It has been named the "bliss" molecule because it is an endogenous cannabinoid that binds to the CB1 receptor the same way that THC does^[32]. What this means is that this cannabinoid that your body naturally produces interacts and produces the same "bliss" or "joyous" sensation you feel as THC does when you consume it. Incredibly, this molecule is responsible for the "runner's high" sensation you feel after long workouts^[33]. It is the molecule your body produces naturally to attain homeostasis and balance, hence its nickname. It is important for this research to understand how exactly anandamide binds to the CB1 receptor to understand how an endogenous agonist interacts within the protein pocket formed.

The first step was to follow the protocol and insert the cannabinoid into the SwissTargetPrediction (Figure 56). This tool informed us that AEA did indeed have high probability to bind to the CB1 receptor which allowed us to move forward with the docking of AEA in the SwissDock program. When docked it did form a similar "L" shape to that of 8D0 (Figure 57 and 58). Some of the residues have been removed for the purpose of obtaining a clearer image. The full residue list can be seen in Figure 61.

AEA is a long, greasy chain so obvious differences will be noticed when comparing it to 8D0. When the two were superimposed they both lie in the same pocket and interact with the same residues, with some additions to AEA because it is a larger cannabinoid compared to 8D0. There is no hydrogen bond between AEA and seranine 383 because it lacks the alcohol group on that part of the chain. The AEA carbon chain also fits the very end of the pocket similar to how the amine chain does in 8D0 forming that bend that gives the distinct "L" shape. Overall it superimposes with over a 90% similarity to the corresponding crystal structure ligand 8D0 (Figures 59 and 60). What this tells us is that the endogenous cannabinoid, interacts similarly to the synthetic cannabinoid.

8D0	AEA
THR 197	THR 197
SER 383	SER 383
CYS 386	CYS 386
PHE 177	PHE 177
PHE 268	PHE 268
LEU 193	LEU 193
PHE 379	PHE 379
TRP 279	TRP 279
VAL 196	VAL 196
SER 173	SER 173
PHE 170	PHE 170
PHE 174	PHE 174
ILE 267	ILE 267
PHE 108	PHE 108
LEU 359	LEU 359
PRO 269	PRO 269
HSE 178	HSE 178
PHE 189	PHE 189
ALA 380	ALA 380
PHE 200	PHE 200
TRP 356	TRP 356
LEU 276	LEU 276
ILE 271	ILE 271
TYR 275	TYR 275
MET 363	MET 363
LYS 192	LYS 376
THR 201	

the unique residues for AEA are listed in purple.

After observing the residues interaction the list was compiled to identify the key residues that interact with AEA. This residue sheet was then compared to 8D0 to observe the similarities and differences. AEA is a longer chain which interacts with the residue lysine 376. 8D0 is a long chain, but not as long. The dimethyl constituent on adjacent to the ther is what is is responsible for the interaction with lysine 192 and threonine 201. The list can be seen in Figure 61.

Cannabinol (CBN) 5XR8:

The next agonist cannabinoid chosen for docking was the phytocannabinoid agonist binding cannabinoid cannabinol (CBN). CBN is a derivative of THC and has been widely studied by the scientific community. CBN has shown to treat ailments such as insomnia^[22], pain^[1], and cancer^[23]. Currently CBN is only available in a very limited number of legal medical cannabis states and only a few companies are known to produce it. It is reported that this cannabinoid does induce a psychoactive effect similar to ingestion of THC, but has its own unique effects in treatment. CBN has never had published test results before so this will be the first known images of CBN interacting with the CB1 receptor.

When CBN was inserted into the SwissTargetPrediction it showed that the molecule had highest probability to bind to the CB1 receptor. This cannabinoid had the best results of the experimental agonists sent in for testing, interacting with only CB1 and CB2 receptors. This tells us that when ingested this cannabinoid should have very little side effects.

When viewing in the Chimera program, CBN interacts in a similar form that 8D0 does forming an "L" shape within the protein-pocket it forms (Figure 63 and 64). It interacts with similar residues to 8D0, some aren't shown for image purposes but a full list can be found in Figure 67.

When the two are superimposed there are some slight differences but overall the molecules are extremely similar. CBN contains an alcohol group (#1.1 Lig 1 O) on the third ring that is within hydrogen bond distance to seranine 383 even though it is not shown. The pentyl constituent adjacent to the alcohol group on the ring also follows the same bend that the amine constituent on 8D0 does, forming that "L" like shape. Overall there is over a 90% similarity in the docking of CBN when compared to the crystal structure ligand.

Alb	45

8D0	AEA	CBN
THR 197	THR 197	THR 197
SER 383	SER 383	SER 383
CYS 386	CYS 386	CYS 386
PHE 177	PHE 177	PHE 177
PHE 268	PHE 268	PHE 268
LEU 193	LEU 193	LEU 193
PHE 379	PHE 379	PHE 379
TRP 279	TRP 279	TRP 279
VAL 196	VAL 196	VAL 196
SER 173	SER 173	SER 173
PHE 170	PHE 170	PHE 170
PHE 174	PHE 174	PHE 174
ILE 267	ILE 267	ILE 267
PHE 108	PHE 108	PHE 108
LEU 359	LEU 359	LEU 359
PRO 269	PRO 269	PRO 269
HSE 178	HSE 178	HSE 178
PHE 189	PHE 189	PHE 189
ALA 380	ALA 380	ALA 380
PHE 200	PHE 200	PHE 200
TRP 356	TRP 356	TRP 356
LEU 276	LEU 276	LEU 276
ILE 271	ILE 271	
TYR 275	TYR 275	
MET 363	MET 363	
LYS 192		LYS 192
THR 201		
	LYS 376	

(Figure 67)

The full compiled residue list of CBN compared to 8D0 and AEA. The ones they share are listed in blue, the residues that 8D0 and AEA share are listed in purple, the residues CBN and 8D0 share are listed in orange. The residues that are unique to 8D0 and AEA are listed in red.

When comparing the residues there is less residue interaction with CBN because it is a slightly smaller molecule. It does share the lysine 192 residue with 8D0 because they both contain a dimethyl constituent adjacent to the ether group on the second ring. Overall there is a single hydrogen bond interaction, but the rest is a strictly hydrophobic interact with the protein pocket with the list of residues shown above (Figure 67).

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) 5XR8:

The last cannabinoid, and the most famous, we have chosen for this experiment is tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC for short. THC is the active component in cannabis smoke or vapor that is attributed to its unique psychoactive effect it has on its consumers^[34]. THC has been widely studied and has been shown to treat a wide variety of diseases and ailments such as pain^[1], nausea^[24], migraines^[4], stress^[25], and cancer^[27]. This research will show exactly how THC interacts with the CB1 receptor. Knowing that and comparing it to the rest of the results is important to see why THC induces a unique effect and where the differences if any are.

The SwissTargetPrediction report shows that THC has high probability to bind to the CB1 receptor, which was anticipated. It also has high probability to interact with Vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 1, 2 and 3. This tells us that THC interacts with other receptors to produce a unique effect, when compared to CBN (Figure 62), AEA (Figure 56) and 8D0 (Figure 21) who do not. After knowing this and then generating the molecule using Chem3D we sent it into docking via the SwissDock program. The best docking position and the key residues it interacts with can be shown below in Figures 69 and 70. Not all of the residues may be shown for imagery purposes of this report. The full list can be observed in Figure 73.

What can be observed is that THC, like CBN and 8D0 has a hydrogen bond with seranine 383. The rest of the interaction with the pocket is hydrophobic. It also differs from the rest of the cannabinoids in the protein pocket because instead of the pentyl chain turning and forming an "L" shape it goes forward and does not bend at all (Figure 69 and Figure 70).

When superimposed over the crystal ligand 8D0, THC stands above it significantly, again going straight and not bending. THC also interacts with significantly less residues (Figure 71 and 72). THC superimposed in the same pocket, over the same site meaning that it had a 90% similarity to the crystal structure ligand in interaction with the protein pocket.

8D0	AEA	CBN	THC
THR 197	THR 197	THR 197	THR 197
SER 383	SER 383	SER 383	SER 383
PHE 177	PHE 177	PHE 177	PHE 177
PHE 268	PHE 268	PHE 268	PHE 268
LEU 193	LEU 193	LEU 193	LEU 193
PHE 379	PHE 379	PHE 379	PHE 379
TRP 279	TRP 279	TRP 279	TRP 279
VAL 196	VAL 196	VAL 196	VAL 196
SER 173	SER 173	SER 173	SER 173
PHE 170	PHE 170	PHE 170	PHE 170
PHE 174	PHE 174	PHE 174	PHE 174
ILE 267	ILE 267	ILE 267	ILE 267
PHE 108	PHE 108	PHE 108	PHE 108
LEU 359	LEU 359	LEU 359	LEU 359
PRO 269	PRO 269	PRO 269	PRO 269
HSE 178	HSE 178	HSE 178	HSE 178
PHE 189	PHE 189	PHE 189	PHE 189
ALA 380	ALA 380	ALA 380	ALA 380
PHE 200	PHE 200	PHE 200	PHE 200
TRP 356	TRP 356	TRP 356	TRP 356
MET 363	MET 363	MET 363	MET 363
CYS 386	CYS 386	CYS 386	
LEU 276	LEU 276	LEU 276	
ILE 271	ILE 271		
TYR 275	TYR 275		
LYS 192		LYS 192	
THR 201			
	LYS 376		

(Figure 73)

The list compiled comparing THC to the experimental cannabinoids CBN, AEA, and 8D0. The residues they all share are listed in blue. The residues that CBN, AEA, and 8D0 share are in purple. The residues that AEA and 8D0 share are listed in organe. The residues that CBN and 8D0 share are listed in green. The unique residues for AEA and 8D0 are listed in red.

All of these cannabinoids do produce a unique psychoactive effect, but only THC stands differently in the protein pocket and has less residue interaction. Many people have died from synthetic cannabinoid constituents of THC, such as JWH-018, the active ingredient in synthetic cannabis nicknamed "Spice" or "K2", but not from THC^{[35][36]}. In fact, there has never been a sole THC overdose on record. This could be because it forms a unique shape and interacts with less residues in the protein pocket in the CB1 receptor site.

Agonist Receptor-Ligand Complex 5XR8Results:

In conclusion of the agonists we can successfully say that each agonist interacts with the CB1 receptor in a similar fashion. Each agonist cannabinoid formed an "L" shape within the CB1 protein pocket with the exception of THC. The ΔG values are all very similar and coincide with the IC50 values (Figure 74). The ΔG values of THC and CBN are slightly less negative was when compared to 8D0 and AEA because they are smaller molecules. The larger cannabinoids (8D0 and AEA) did have a similar ΔG values and the smaller ones (CBN and THC) also contained similar values to one another (Figure 74). When the residues were compiled we observe how all contain similar residues, those residues are listed in blue in Figure 75. This list will later be compared to the antagonist/ inverse agonist cannabinoid residue interaction to distinguish which residues are responsible for the unique function of an agonist cannabinoid.

5XR8				(Figure 74) The ΔG values compared to the
Ligand	Туре	IC50 Value (µM)	Δ G Value (kcal/mol)	IC50 of the antagonist/ inverse
8D0	Agonist	Unknown	-10.42	agonist cannaoinoids.
Anandamide	Agonist	2.10	-10.11	
THC	Agonist	2.70	-8.19	
CBN	Agonist	2.10	-8.96	

Agonist Posiduos	
SER 383	
PHE 177	
PHE 268	
LEU 193	(Figure 75)
PHE 379	The compiled list of residues that all
TRP 279	agonists snare.
VAL 196	
SER 173	
PHE 170	
PHE 174	
ILE 267	
PHE 108	
LEU 359	
PRO 269	
HSE 178	
PHE 189	
ALA 380	
PHE 200	
TRP 356	
MET 363	

Conclusion:

Results:

In conclusion the first step was to evaluate IC50 values and ΔG values to see if there was a correlation between reduced activity and energy released from the docking. The two did correspond and their results can be seen in Figure 76. In order to determine which residues were responsible for the antagonist property and which ones were responsible for the agonist property we had to take a few steps. First, was compiling of all the amino acid residues from each cannabinoid within the 3.7 Å pocket that we formed. Second was to see which ones each functional group shared, and which ones were different. Last was to compare all the residues and see which were shared and which were different. Even if one residue with an antagonist/ inverse agonist cannabinoid was shared with an agonist cannabinoid that residue would be put in the shared category. The reason being because that residue isn't responsible for the determining of the function, only the uniqueness of the effects from that specific molecule. The last thing to note is that when Dr. Stevens originally conducted this study, they looked at very large, bulky antagonist/ inverse agonist cannabinoids for the 5TGZ site. For this study we took a small known antagonist cannabinoid and compared it to the others. This will diminish the list of residues significantly required for an antagonist/ inverse agonist to function because the molecule is smaller, therefore interacts with less residues.

Lig short name	Lig Type	PDBID	Size of pocket (Å)	Center of pocket (x,y,z)	IC50 Value (µM)	∆ G Value (kcal/mol)
ZDG	Antagonist	5TGZ	5x5x5	x=(43.502) y=(27.787) z=(318.810)	Unknown	-9.96
Rimonabant	Antagonist	5TGZ	5x5x5	x=(43.502) y=(27.787) z=(318.810)	Unkown	-9.83
Taranabant	Antagonist	5TGZ	5x5x5	x=(43.502) y=(27.787) z=(318.810)	0.00030	-9.26
CBD	Antagonist	5TGZ	5x5x5	x=(43.502) y=(27.787) z=(318.810)	2.10	-8.28
8D0	Agonist	5XR8	5x5x5	x=(-42.646) y=(-156.676) z=(306.315)	Unknown	-10.42
Anandamide	Agonist	5XR8	5x5x5	x=(-42.646) y=(-156.676) z=(306.315)	2.10	-10.11
THC	Agonist	5XR8	5x5x5	x=(-42.646) y=(-156.676) z=(306.315)	2.70	-8.19
CBN	Agonist	5XR8	5x5x5	x=(-42.646) y=(-156.676) z=(306.315)	2.10	-8.96

experimental ΔG values from each of the cannabinoids.

In Figure 77 we see that there are many residues both antagonist/ inverse agonist cannabinoids and agonist cannabinoids share. There is only a very small number of residues that define which will produce the specific effect of an antagonist or inverse agonist functioning cannabinoid versus an agonist functioning cannabinoid. This list tells us which residues to target in order to generate the specific function of antagonist/ inverse agonist, or to produce an agonist function. In conclusion after compiling, comparing, and contrasting all the cannabinoids residues IC50 and ΔG values this research can successfully say that the way agonists/ inverse agonists and agonists bind are different and predictable.

Agonist	Antagonist	
THR 197	THR 197	
SER 383	SER 383	
PHE 268	PHE 268	
PHE 170	PHE 170	
PHE 174	PHE 174	
HSE 178	HSE 178	
TYR 275	TYR 275	
ALA 380	ALA 380	
MET 363	MET 363	
VAL 196	VAL 196	
CYS 386	CYS 386	
TRP 279	TRP 279	
PHE 379	PHE 379	
LEU 193	LEU 193	
LEU 359	LEU 359	
TRP 356	TRP 356	
PHE 108	PHE 102	
PHE 177	MET 103	
PHE 189	MET 384	
PHE 200	GLY 166	
PRO 269	ILE 105	
ILE 267	LEU 387	
	SER 167	

(Figure 77)

This is the residue sheet that determines which residues both antagonist and agonist cannabinoids share and which are responsible for their unique effect. The residues shared are outlined in green, the ones unique to the function of antagonist/ inverse agonist are in pink and the residues for the agonist are in blue.

The Future:

Figure 77 is the key to cannabinoid synthesis. This procedure and list will be used in the future to manufacture and design cannabinoids to target key residues in order to produce a specific biological function whether it be antagonist, inverse agonist, or agonist. This is the theoretical protocol to be picked up by any research team to examine, identify, and construct cannabinoids to target these specific residues. In conclusion, the future of this research is that this is the blueprint for cannabinoid synthesis, to be able to devise a cannabinoid, that interacts with specific residues to generate specific effects.

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Acknowledgements:

Research Advisors:

Dr. Phalguni Ghosh, Dr. Brian Lavey and Dr. Sutapa Ghosh (PDB, Rutgers University, NJ)

Financial Support:

Bristol-Myers Squibb

Special Thanks:

Dr. Steven Rowley for helpful insight of this research.

Dr. Linda Scherr, Dean, Natural Sciences.

Dr. Parag Muley, Chair, Dr. Michael Ansonoff, Associate Chair, Natural Sciences.

Lab Coordinator, David Rosen, for his help.

Eujine Lim, motivation, encouragement, and assistance.

All of my peers.

Albert J Coles II, CEO & Founder of CBD Science LLC, mentor of cannabinoids.

Dr. Edgar Alb, DMD, for supporting me throughout all my endeavors. I love you, Dad.