

MASTER «In Silico Drug Design»

2ème année

PROPOSITION DE STAGE
Année Universitaire 2021 / 2022



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Nom du Responsable du Laboratoire ou de l'Entreprise:

Affiliation administrative (CNRS, INSERM, ...) et Numéro d'affiliation de l'unité :

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HDR : oui

Ecole doctorale de rattachement : CDV (en transition vers Université de Paris)

Spécialité du stage : Recherche ☒ Professionnel ☐

Indiquez par quelques mots clés, l'orientation scientifique du sujet :

Protein-protein interactions (PPIs), structural bioinformatics, virtual screening, drug discovery, Deep Learning, druggability, metadynamics

Titre du stage : Identification of functional binding sites within macromolecular complexes of SARS-CoV2

Ce sujet constitue-t-il un premier pas vers un travail de thèse : Non

Description du sujet (quelques lignes):

The purpose of this project is to study functional binding sites within two essential SARS-CoV2 molecular machineries: the SPIKE/ACE2 interaction(Wang et al.) and the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp)(Biswal et al.). Preliminary studies have highlighted key binding sites within these complexes. In this internship, we aim at using a combination of metadynamics, druggability assessment using our in house tool InDeep(Mallet et al.), and virtual screening to identify active compounds against SARS-CoV2. The strategy will first be to validate, on a benchmark dataset of successfully drugged PPIs, an end-to-end virtual screening protocol relying on artificial intelligence and ensemble docking. Then, once this protocol is optimized it will be applied to the specific case of ACE2 and RdRp to identify putative hit compounds that will be ordered and experimentally validated using a homogenous time

resolved fluorescence (HTRF) and fluorescence polarization assays and *in cellulo* assay using human infected pulmonary cells in P3 conditions.

REFERENCES

- Biswal, Mahamaya, et al. “Two Conserved Oligomer Interfaces of NSP7 and NSP8 Underpin the Dynamic Assembly of SARS-CoV-2 RdRP.” *Nucleic Acids Research*, vol. 49, no. 10, 2021, pp. 5956–66, doi:10.1093/nar/gkab370.
- Mallet, Vincent, et al. “InDeep : 3D Fully Convolutional Neural Networks to Assist in Silico Drug Design on Protein-Protein Interactions.” *BioRxiv*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, July 2021, p. 2021.07.28.453974, doi:10.1101/2021.07.28.453974.
- Wang, Qihui, et al. “Structural and Functional Basis of SARS-CoV-2 Entry by Using Human ACE2.” *Cell*, 2020, doi:10.1016/j.cell.2020.03.045.
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