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## Structure-activity relationship of Human Carbonic Anhydrase-II inhibitors: Detailed Insight for future development as anti-glaucoma agents

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## Abstract

Human carbonic anhydrase-II (hCA-II) is the most dominant physiologic isoform amongst the sixteen reported hCA isoforms. Because of its high availability in the different anatomical, and cellular sites of the eye like retina and lens, it plays a more prominent role in the regulation of intraocular pressure than the other twelve catalytically active hCA isoforms. This isoform is also located in the brain, kidney, gastric mucosa, osteoclasts, RBCs, skeletal muscle, testes, pancreas, lungs, etc. Earlier, hCA-II inhibitors were designed based on the sulfonamides e.g. acetazolamide, dichlorphenamide, methazolamide, ethoxzolamide, etc. and they were used systemically in antiglaucoma therapy. Many successful attempts have been made by the researchers in order to design more potent and effective inhibitors by incorporating various moieties in sulphonamides. Some novel scaffolds like chalcones, thiophenes, organotellurium compounds, dithiocarbamate, selenide, and 2-benzylpyrazine, etc. were also designed as hCA-II inhibitors and their inhibitory efficacy was proved in the nanomolar range. In order to obtain relevant information from the insights of their structure-activity relationship, the reported hCA-II inhibitors from the year 1989 to 2019 were critically analysed. It gave a complete insight into the relationship between their structure-activity and hCA-II inhibition. The broad spectrum of our investigation may help researchers to summarize all the crucial structural information required for the development of more potent hCA-II inhibitors for glaucoma.

*Keywords:* Human carbonic anhydrase, hCA-II inhibitors, structure-activity relationship (SAR), sulfonamides, dithiocarbamate, selenide, organotellurium, 2-benzylpyrazine. E-mail addresses: balaram@hyderabad.bits-pilani.ac.in (B. Ghosh) and shovanlal.gayen@gmail.com (S. Gayen).

## Introduction

Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness that affects nearly 67 million people worldwide. The development of highly potent antiglaucoma agents with less adverse effects is a great challenge in the area of ophthalmic drug discovery [1-3]. Often it is called the "silent thief of sight" as glaucoma gradually damages the eyes resulting in irretrievable impairment of vision and affecting the elderly in particular [4]. The retinal ganglion cells in the optic nerve gradually degenerate under increased pressure in the eye, and this leads to irreversible blindness [5-9]. In normal humans, the ciliary body of the eye secrets a transparent liquid called aqueous humor that is rich in bicarbonate and is drained through the trabecular meshwork (TM) pathway (~90%), and by the uveoscleral pathway (~10%) [10-13]. The intraocular pressure (IOP) is maintained by the tissues of trabecular meshwork located in between the cornea and iris which allow the aqueous humor of eye to flow through the pupil of the iris into the anterior chamber. In open or wide-angle glaucoma, these tissues lose their normal rhythm of activity resulting in an elevated, chronic, painless buildup of intraocular pressure in the eye [5-9]. The imbalance between the aqueous humor inlet and outlet causes increased IOP levels often associated with the excessive inflow or obstruction in drainage of aqueous humor through iridocorneal angle (juxtacanalicular region of Schlemm's canal) [14]. In the present scenario, IOP reduction therapy, surgical operation is performed for lowering ocular hypertension [5,8,9]. Topical prostaglandins, β-blockers, carbonic anhydrase inhibitors (CAIs) or combinations are prescribed as initial medical therapy for IOP management [15].

There is an established relationship between glaucoma, and human carbonic anhydrase enzyme (EC 4.2.1.1). The human carbonic anhydrases are the zinc-containing metalloenzymes known for their ability in catalyzing the hydration of Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) to bicarbonate, and protons [16-23]. They play an important role in various physiological processes associated with respiration, and transport of CO<sub>2</sub>/bicarbonate between metabolizing tissues, and the lungs, pH, and CO<sub>2</sub> homeostasis, electrolyte excretion in different tissues/organs, biosynthetic reactions, bone resorption, calcification, tumorigenicity, and several other physiologic or pathologic processes. Till date, carbonic anhydrases are broadly classified into six distinct genetic families ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$ ,  $\xi$ , and  $\eta$  CAs) [24,25]. Among the sixteen hCA isoforms reported so far only twelve isoforms are catalytically active. Each isoform differs with respect to their location, kinetic properties, and inhibitor profiles. In the cell, the hCA isoforms, hCA-I, hCA-II, hCA-III, hCA-VII, and hCA-XIII are located in the cytosol. The hCA-VA and hCA-VB isoforms are predominant in the mitochondria and are involved mainly in ureagenesis,

gluconeogenesis, and lipogenesis. On the cell membrane, hCA-IV, hCA-IX, hCA-XII, and hCA-XIV, isoforms are present, and hCA-VI is secreted through saliva and milk [23, 26]. G. De Simone *et al.* investigated the structural differences among the hCA classes with the help of X-ray crystallography [27-36]. The enzyme catalytic core (Fig. 1A) of all the  $\alpha$ -CA isoforms consists of a metal coordinated complex that interacts with the Glu106 carboxylate residue through the hydrogen bonding with the hydroxyl moiety of the Thr199 [17,27,44]. The coordinated metal ion complex plays an important role by generating nucleophilic hydroxide species(ii), that triggers the catalytic cycle of Human Carbonic Anhydrases (Fig. 1B) [37].



Fig. 1. Structure and mechanism of action of hCAs. (A). Mechanism of the formation of the catalytic core of hCAs. (B) Catalytic cycle of hCAs

The most common known mechanism of action of anti-glaucoma agents is through the inhibition of hCA isozymes such as hCA-I, II, IV, and XII which decrease bicarbonate and subsequently, aqueous humor secretion and high Intraocular pressure [5, 23, 28]. Among all the known isozymes, hCA-II appears to play a prominent and efficient role in the regulation of intraocular pressure. Besides its high occurrence in the different anatomical, and cellular sites of the eye like retina, and the lens, it is also found in the kidney, brain, pancreas, gastric mucosa, RBCs, skeletal muscle, lungs, testes, osteoclasts [38-41]. It is known to regulate the acid-base homeostasis, and fluid movements by exchanging the protons, bicarbonates and other solutes across membranes [15]. The X-ray crystal structure of human hCA-II was first reported by Liljas and colleagues [42]. The active site of this isozyme contains a single zinc ion together

with catalytically active residues Thr 199, Glu 106, and His 64. His 94 acts like "proton shuttle" that transfers a proton from zinc-bound water to bulk solvent [43, 44]. For the formation of hydrogen bond between the water molecules of His 94 and Zn-OH<sub>2</sub>, proton transfer takes place by Grotthuss diffusion [45, 46]. Two distinct His 94 conformations play an imperative role in the binding pattern with zinc. When the imidazole ring of His 94 directed towards the zinc, it adopts the "in" conformation or the "out" conformation takes place when its imidazole ring is directed away from zinc. The X-ray crystal structure of human hCA-II, at pH 8.5 shows that His 94 predominantly adopts the 'in' conformation [45] whereas the crystal structure at pH 5.7 (at which His 94 is protonated) shows that His 94 adopts the 'out' conformation [47].

The design of inhibitors targeting hCA-II is important in developing antiglaucoma agents. The backbone of all the CA inhibitors (hCA-II) is constituted by molecules containing the primary sulfonamide group (R-SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>) [28]. Sulfonamide hCA-II inhibitors such as acetazolamide, dichlorphenamide, methazolamide, ethoxzolamide etc are used systemically in antiglaucoma therapy [3, 5, 16, 44]. They showed significant inhibition in typically low nanomolar concentrations against most hCA isoforms in humans [17]. At present, they become an alternative component of regimens for the treatment of refractory glaucoma, which does not respond to the topically acting adrenergic antagonists, or PG analogs [3, 5]. Moreover, Nitrous Oxide (NO) donating sulfonamide compounds demonstrate IOP lowering effects in rabbits and show improve antiglaucoma effect *in vivo* by hCA-II isoenzyme [48]. These NO derivatives may improve blood supply to optic nerve artery by regulating systolic and diastolic velocities [49]. Many undesired side effects such as numbness, and tingling of extremities; metallic taste, depression, fatigue, malaise, weight loss, decreased libido, gastrointestinal irritation, metabolic acidosis, renal calculi, and transient myopia are observed for the inhibition of CA [17].

However, the primary sulfonamide group does not contain any structural features that are responsible only for specific hCA-II enzyme inhibition. Therefore, researchers focused on some alternative molecules in order to explore the structural features of specific hCA-II inhibitors and they established ring and tail approaches for the specific inhibition of hCAs by incorporating different aromatic/heteroaromatic fragments into the active core of the zinc-binding groups (ZBGs) like sulfonamides, sulfamides, sulfamates, DTCs, Xanthates, etc (Fig. 2). The detailed description of different molecules along with its important structure-activity relationships is illustrated scaffold wise to offer an insight into the design of inhibitors. In this way, in the hydrophobic pocket (Val 121, Val 143, & Leu 198), the tetrahedral adduct of Zn

(II) ion associated with His 94, His 96 and His 119 can be selectively inhibited to develop specific hCA-II inhibitor [17].



Fig. 2. Common structural features of hCA-II

## A. N-benzenesulfonamide with cyclic imide scaffolds.

Abdel-Aziz *et al* reported [50] the inhibition profile of hCA-II inhibitors in the nanomolar range of 5 to 693 nM of  $K_i$ . Under this scaffold, sulfonamide incorporating tetrahydro-phthalimido ring (compound **A3**) showed the most prominent inhibition against hCA-II with a  $K_i$  value of 5 nM (Fig. 3). A similar effect was observed when the norbornene-imido moiety was introduced with an appropriate linker (compound **A13**;  $K_i$  value of 23.2 nM). Except compound **A3**, no significant changes were observed with regard to the replacement of monocyclic imido ring with a bicyclic ring. However, the presence of bicyclic imido scaffold such as pyrazine-2,3-dicarboxamide moiety (compound **A4**) resulted in a decreased inhibitory potency ( $K_i$  of 426 nM). Moreover, bulky groups such as *tertiary*-butyl in bicyclic imido ring (compound **A1**) slightly decreased the inhibition potency against this isoform. Another important aspect reported was that the substitution on the phthalimido scaffold by bromine (compound **A10**) lowered the inhibitory potency significantly being the least effective hCA-II inhibitor of all ( $K_i$  693 nM). Furthermore, the inhibitory potency of compound **A12** ( $K_i$  140 nM) was found to be enhanced twice more than the compound **A11** ( $K_i$  85.4 nM) due to the substitution position of the nitro group.



Fig. 3. Important SARs of N-benzenesulfonamide with cyclic imides

## B. N-benzenesulfonamide with polycyclic imides

Under this scaffold, the presence of the nitro group in the 5<sup>th</sup> position of the isoquinoline moiety (compounds **B4-B6**) improved the inhibitory potency from moderate to high level of significant action. The introduction of linker significantly changed the potency of the scaffolds than those without linker, e.g, compound **B4**. (Fig. 4). However, the presence of one and two atoms of carbon in the methylene linker in the benzylisoquinoline (compounds **B2** and **B3** with  $K_i$  value of 32.7 nM) facilitated a slight increase in the inhibition potency over the ones without a linker (compound **B1**;  $K_i$  value of 63 nM). Moreover, the linker had a great impact on the inhibition when it was present in the bulky scaffolds like dibenzoazepine, dihydro-pyrroloisoindole and tetrahydrobenzo phenanthroline (compound **B7-B15**). Compound **B12** ( $K_i$  of 9188.4 nM) was found to be the least active compound that had ethylene group as linker. Thus, it can be inferred that the presence of an appropriate linker, as well as the nitro group at the 5<sup>th</sup> position of polycyclic imide scaffold, is necessary for the inhibition potency against this isoform. It is also noted that the bis-sulfonamides (compounds **B8-B15**) are generally poor hCA-II inhibitors compared to the mono-sulfonamides (compounds **B1-B7**) [51].



Fig. 4. SAR of *N*-benzenesulfonamide with polycyclic imides.

## C. Sulfonamides and carboxylic acids with cyclic imides

Substitution in phthalimide moiety was not suitable for the inhibitory activity against hCA-II as it was confirmed from the compound C7 ( $K_i$  2.3 nM) and the best active compound C8 ( $K_i$  2.2 nM) (Fig. 5). Compound C19 ( $K_i$  value of 27.7 nM) was found to be the best evidence of it. Except for compounds C6 and C9, all the carboxylates (compounds C3, C12, C15, C21, C24, C27, and C30) do not much inhibit this hCA-II as compared to the sulfonamides. Moreover, sulfonamides containing moieties such as monocyclic succinimides, tetrahydro-phthalimide, phthalimide, substituted phthalimides (compounds C10-C11, C13-C14, C16-C17, C19-C20, C22) are shown to be a moderate hCA-II inhibitor except pyrazine-2,3-dicarboxamide (compound C26) or naphthalene-1,8-dicarboximide (compound C28-C29). However, the moderate inhibition of compound C26 and compound C23 might be due to the absence of linker in their structures. When 5-nitrophthalimide group is placed in the sulfonamide moiety with a linker, the resultant compound C22 ( $K_i$  value of 238 nM) becomes the least active inhibitor of hCA-II. Therefore, it may be inferred that the presence of linker with a substitution in phthalimide ring is highly unfavorable for potently inhibiting hCA-II [52].



Fig. 5. SAR of N-benzenesulfonamide with polycyclic imides.

## D. Nitrophthalimide

The position of the nitro group in the phthalimide ring played a very crucial role in the inhibitory profile for all the compounds under this scaffold. It was observed that the presence of nitro group at the 4<sup>th</sup> position of the phthalimide ring (compounds **D6-D8**) was highly favorable than the 5<sup>th</sup> position (compounds **D1-D5**) (Fig. 6). However, compound **D1**( $K_i$  value of 4.3 nM) irrespective of the position of nitro group, showed a very promising inhibition probably because of the presence of sulfonamide group at the 4<sup>th</sup> position of the benzene ring in the absence of the linker. Moreover, the presence of sulfonamide at the 2<sup>nd</sup> position of benzene ring resulted in the best active compound **D7** ( $K_i$  value of 3.9 nM). The increased carbon chain length between the phthalimide and benzenesulfonamide led to decreased activities of compounds **D1>D2>D3** with  $K_i$  of 4.3, 238 and 589 nM, respectively. The 4<sup>th</sup> position of nitro group and the 2<sup>nd</sup> position of sulfonamide group without a linker were found to be important for hCA-II inhibition activity [53].



Fig. 6. SAR of Nitrophthalimide with sulfonamides

## E. 4,5,6,7-tetrachloro-phthalimide moiety with sulfonamides

Sulfonamides with tetrachloro-phthalimide moiety exerted a moderate to high level of inhibition against hCA-II with  $K_i$  range of 2.4 - 4515 nM. Compound **E8** showed the highest inhibition potency with a  $K_i$  of 2.4 nM probably because of less steric hindrance effects in the 4<sup>th</sup> position of sulfonamide group. Not only the absence of linker was useful but also the presence of halogen in the 2<sup>nd</sup> position of benzene ring produced a profound inhibitory effect which was confirmed from the inhibitory concentration of compounds **E6** ( $K_i$  of 3.4 nM), **E7** ( $K_i$  of 4.9 nM) and **E8**. Irrespective of the above fact, compound **E2** having ethylene linker showed a prominent inhibitory activity (Fig. 7). Compounds **E4** ( $K_i$  of 27.7 nM) and **E5** ( $K_i$  of 4515 nM) the position of sulfonamide at 2nd or 3rd position of the benzene ring resulted in the poor inhibitory activity (Fig. 7). Compounds **E1**, **E2** and **E3** exerted their action at moderate level in the presence of sulfonamide group at the 4<sup>th</sup> position with no halogen atom. Hence, the SAR above necessitates the presence of sulfonamide at the 4<sup>th</sup> position of benzene ring along with the influence of halogen-substituted benzene sulfonamides for better inhibition of hCA-II. [54].



Fig. 7 SAR of 4,5,6,7 -tetrachloro-phthalimide moiety with sulfonamides

## F. Sulfamides

The inhibitory activity ( $K_i$  range of 7-890 nM) of sulfamides relies on the type of substituent groups. Moderate inhibition was observed when the phenyl ring was attached with sulfamides (compound F8). On the other hand, the presence of some electronegative groups on phenyl ring (compounds F10-F13) exerted their inhibitory action at low nanomolar concentration ( $K_i$ ) range of 7-21 nM). The best inhibition was shown by the compound F13 with  $K_i$  value of 7 nM. Although compound F20 contained electronegative atom like fluorine, it showed less potency due to its unfavorable occupancy with the active binding site. Substitution in phenyl ring by other groups like -OMe (compound F14;  $K_i$  value of 11 nM), -OH (compound F15;  $K_i$ value of 12 nM), -NO<sub>2</sub> (compound F16; K<sub>i</sub> value of 13 nM), -EtO<sub>2</sub>C (compound F17; K<sub>i</sub> value of 19 nM), -NC (compound F18; K<sub>i</sub> value of 16 nM), -Me<sub>2</sub>N (compound F19; K<sub>i</sub> value of 21 nM), -benzoyl (compound F21;  $K_i$  value of 49 nM), led to a similar effect like that of halogensubstituted sulfamides (Fig. 8). Replacement of the phenyl ring by bulky groups like 2adamantyl (compound F3 is the least active hCA-II inhibitors under this scaffold), and long alkyl chain (compounds F1, F6, and F7) resulted in a very low inhibition due to their less accommodation with the active site of this enzyme. So, both the presence of substituted phenyl ring and the absence of bulky group favor the inhibition of these sulfamides [55].



Fig. 8.SAR of Sulfamides

# G. Thiadiazole, thienothiopyran, benzothiazole and substituted benzene with sulfonamides

An almost similar type of inhibition was observed for the sulfonamides - incorporated moieties like thiadiazole (compounds G1-G18), thienothiopyran (compounds G19-G23), benzothiazole (compounds G24-G34) and substituted benzene (compounds G35-G73). These compounds exerted a very effective inhibition with  $K_i \leq 8.275$  nM. Their inhibitory action depends on the presence or absence of the electronegative atom together with its position of substitution in different heterocyclic moieties. For example, the presence of fluorine on benzene ring (compound G41;  $K_i$  value of 8.275 nM; the least active compound) has less inhibitory activity when compared to fluorine substituted thiadiazole (compounds G3, G4, G13, and G14) and fluorine substituted benzothiazole (compounds G26, G27, and G31-G33). Similar results were noticed when chlorine was attached with the thiadiazole moiety (compound G8;  $K_i$  value of 8.085 nM). Likewise, the presence of NH<sub>2</sub> (compounds G10;  $K_i$  value of 8.06 nM), and NO<sub>2</sub> (compounds G11;  $K_i$  value of 8 nM; the best active compound) (Fig. 9a) in this moiety significantly enhanced the inhibition potency when compared to others.



Fig. 9a. SAR of various heterocyclic moieties with sulfonamides.

The inhibitory activity is slightly decreased when amino group is present in a branched-chain of the benzenesulfonamides (compounds **G36-G38**). Hydroxyl group may bring an effective inhibition when it is present in the benzothiazole (compounds **G24** and **G25**). Likewise, carboxylic acid group might bring an effective inhibition when it is present in substituted benzene sulfonamides (compounds **G64-G68**) with the exception of compounds **G39** ( $K_i$  value of 8.157 nM) **G60-G62** (Fig. 9b). Therefore, it can be concluded that not only the electronegative atom substituted heterocyclic rings are important for the effective inhibition but also the presence of other essential groups like -NO<sub>2</sub>,-NH<sub>2</sub> in the unbranched chain facilitates more potent inhibitory activity in case of sulfonamides incorporated with heterocyclics. Therefore, order of inhibition towards hCA-II can be summarized as benzothiazole > thiadiazole > thienothiopyranesulfonamides > benzenesulfonamides [56]. In another study [57], 4-functionalized 1,3-diarylpyrazoles having 6-aminosulfonyl benzothiazole were also shown to have potential inhibition profile ( $K_i$ ) in the range of 2.3 nM to 4.8  $\mu$ M, and pyrazolecarboxylic acids type compounds were found to be the most potent compounds in this class of inhibitors.



Fig. 9b. SAR of various moieties with sulfonamides

## H. Scaffolds containing sulfonamides with hydroxamates and a hydroxyl group

Sulfonamides, when attached with the hydroxamates, brought about a similar pattern of inhibition with  $K_i$  range of 8.091–8.116 nM. The presence of fluorine either in simple alkyl chain (compound H5;  $K_i$  value 8.123 nM, compound H6;  $K_i$  value 8.106 nM, compound H7;  $K_i$  value 8.094 nM) or in the benzene ring (compound H1;  $K_i$  value 8.091 nM, the best active compound) (Fig. 10) favoured the inhibition against this isoform. The same  $K_i$  value was observed for compound H10 where a deactivating group like -NO<sub>2</sub> is present. Unsubstituted benzene rings incorporated sulfonamides (compound H11;  $K_i$  value 8.119 nM) exerted a slightly less inhibition. The presence of chlorine (compound H4;  $K_i$  value of 8.166 nM, the least active compound) resulted in moderate inhibition against this enzyme with hydroxysulfonamides [56].



Fig. 10. SAR of hydroxamates and hydroxysulfonamides with sulfonamides

## I. 8-Quinoline sulfonyl moiety with sulfonamides

For the 8-quinoline sulfonyl moiety incorporated sulfonamides, the presence of either nonfused or fused five-membered ring was found to be most crucial in the inhibition profile. Thiadiazole (compound **I13**;  $K_i$  value of 1.351 nM), and benzothiazole (compound **I17**;  $K_i$ value of 1.351 nM) moieties played the most prominent role in the absence, and presence of ether linker, respectively (Fig. 11). A moderate inhibition was noted due to the presence of only a six-membered ring, whereas halogen substitution enabled this scaffold to significantly inhibit this cytosolic dominant isoform (compound **I7**;  $K_i$  value of 4.504 nM). The order of inhibition for halogen-substituted benzenesulfonamide was as follows F >I >Cl >Br. A similar effect was observed for the alkylamine linked 8-QS moiety (compound **I6**;  $K_i$  value of 5.919 nM). Furthermore, the length of linker between 8-QS, and benzene ring contributed to the inhibition as in the case of the compounds **I19**, and **I20** with  $K_i$  value of 6.324 nM, and 6.168 nM, respectively. A significant decrease in the inhibitory potency was seen for the compound **I21** ( $K_i$  value of 20.11 nM, the least active compound) having bulky group in its interior. Finally, it can be inferred that the presence of heterocyclics along with halogen substitution, and an appropriate linker efficiently potentiates their inhibitory action [58].



Fig. 11. SAR of 8-Quinoline sulfonyl moiety with sulfonamides

## J. Phthalimide with sulfonamides.

Under this scaffold, the listed compounds showed moderate to high inhibition against hCA-II with  $K_i$  range of 2.1-17.4 nM. From the SAR, it was quite evident that the iodo-substituted derivatives influenced the inhibitory potency compared to the corresponding dimethoxy substituted, and the 5-methyl-substituted compounds. Compound **J2** was the most effective inhibitor amongst all with  $K_i$  value of 2.1 nM. Moreover, methyl substitution at 5<sup>th</sup> position in the benzoic acid attached with phthalimide incorporated sulfonamides (compound **J3**;  $K_i$  value of 9.1 nM, compound **J6**;  $K_i$  value of 8.0 nM, and compound **J9**;  $K_i$  value of 8.5 nM) resulted in a similar activity irrespective of the presence or absence of linker. However, absence of linker was found to be very crucial for enhanced activity of inhibition as in the case of iodo-substituted compounds (**J2**, **J5**;  $K_i$  value of 2.5 nM, and **J8**;  $K_i$  value of 8.4 nM) (Fig. 12) [59].



Fig. 12. SAR of Phthalimide moiety with sulfonamides

### K. 1,4,5-trisubstituted -1,2,3-triazoles moiety with sulfonamides.

R. Kumar et al., 2017 [60] investigated the inhibition profile of some triazoles incorporated sulfonamides (compounds K1-K20). Out of all the functional groups attached in the 1,2,3triazoles incorporated sulfonamides, the hydrazino-carbonyl functionality was found to play a very prominent role when it contained (compound K16;  $K_i$  value of 1.6 nM, the best active compound) 2-naphthyl group at the 4<sup>th</sup> position of 1,2,3-triazole. A similar activity was observed when methyl substitution was at the same position of 1,2,3-triazole moiety having carboxylic group (compound K5;  $K_i$  value of 1.6 nM, another the best active compound). This scenario can be different when these substituents are present with different functional groups. In case of 2-naphthyl substituent, the order of inhibition observed was -CONHNH<sub>2</sub> (compound **K16**;  $K_i$  value of 1.6 nM) > -COOEt (compound **K4**;  $K_i$  value of 5.8 nM) > -CONH<sub>2</sub>(compound **K12**;  $K_i$  value of 6 nM) > -COOH (compound **K8**;  $K_i$  value of 8.9 nM) whereas in case of -CH<sub>3</sub> substituent the order of inhibition observed was >-COOH (compound K5;  $K_i$  value of 1.6 nM) > -CONH<sub>2</sub> (compound **K9**;  $K_i$  value of 1.9 nM)> -COOEt (compound **K1**;  $K_i$  value of 3.2 nM)> -CONHNH<sub>2</sub> (compound K13;  $K_i$  value of 7.6 nM) > -COOH(compound K6;  $K_i$  value of 97.9 nM; the least active compound) (Fig. 13). Thus, not only the position of particular substitution but also the nature of functional group present in this moiety is important for

effective inhibition. All the other substituents groups like  $-C_6H_5$ ,  $4-C_6H_4$ -OCH<sub>3</sub> together with the presence of different functionalities exerted moderate to low inhibitory activity towards this isoform. Except three compounds **K6** ( $K_i$  value of 97.9 nM), **K14** ( $K_i$  value of 38 nM), and **K17**, all the synthesized compounds (**K1-K4**, **K5-K8**, **K9-K12**, **K13-K16**, and **K17-K20**) exerted better inhibitory potency with low  $K_i$  range of 1.6-9.4 nM.

Further, the work was extended by the joint efforts of L. Vats*et al.*, 2018 [61], and they synthesized compounds **K21-K50** which showed a moderate to low inhibition with a  $K_i$  value in the range of 21.8 - 807.5 nM. With all the above functional groups remaining the same, they incorporated some new groups like -CH<sub>3</sub> C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, halogens (F, Cl, Br), and heterocyclics like 2-pyridyl, 2-thienyl, and observed their inhibition. Here, presence of -CH<sub>2</sub>OH together with thienyl group at 2nd position (compound **K50**;  $K_i$  value of 21.8 nM), facilitated better inhibition than all the other compounds investigated here. Moreover, all the different substituents brought a comparable good inhibition when these were present with this functional group (compound **K45-K50**;  $K_i$  value in the range of 21.8 -84.9 nM).



Fig. 13. SAR of 1,4,5-trisubstituted -1,2,3-triazoles moiety with sulfonamides

R. Kumar et al., 2018, [62] continued their previous study on 1,2,3-triazoles by placing some aromatic segments at the 4<sup>th</sup> position and examined the inhibitory profile for the compounds **K51-K70** by varying the 5<sup>th</sup> position of the triazole moiety either by placing only hydrogen or

by trifluoromethyl group (**Fig. 14**). For the presence of halogen-substituted aromatic fragments together with hydrogen at the 5<sup>th</sup> position of this moiety, the order of inhibition was followed as Cl (compound **K55**;  $K_i$  value of 40.4 nM)> F(compound **K54**;  $K_i$  value of 48.8 nM)>Br(compound **K56**;  $K_i$  value of 80 nM) whereas trifluoromethyl substituted triazoles produced more promising inhibition in comparison to the unsubstituted triazoles, and the order of inhibition was as follows, F (compound **K64**;  $K_i$  value of 23 nM)> Cl(compound **K65**;  $K_i$  value of 31.1 nM)> Br(compound **K66**;  $K_i$  value of 48.9 nM). Similarly, a greater inhibitory activity was observed by these trifluoromethyl substituted triazoles when they contained different heterocyclics like 2-naphthyl (compound **K67**;  $K_i$  value of 55.3 nM), 2-Picolyl (compound **K68**;  $K_i$  value of 35.8 nM) at the 5<sup>th</sup> position. Very recently twenty two new benzenesulfonamides having triazole and dual triazole moieties were synthesized and evaluated against the hCA II enzyme. They showed interesting inhibition ( $K_i$ ) profile in the range of 8 nM – 0.903  $\mu$ M [63]. 3-nitrophenacyl group appended dual triazole containing benezenesulfonamide was the most potent compound ( $K_i$  value of 8 nM) in the series.



Fig. 14. Effect of substituents on the order of inhibition in the presence of different aromatic fragments for the sulfonamides with polycyclic imides

## L. 1,4-disubstituted-1,2,3-triazoles moiety with sulfonamides.

Under this scaffold, the influence of different types of linkers such as oxymethylene linker, sulfur methylene linker, aminoethyl linker incorporated in the 1,2,3-triazole was observed.

From the SAR, it was evident that the presence of a hydrophilic amino methylene linker (compound L7;  $K_i$  value of 0.83 nM) in the first series of derivatives was the most effective inhibitor. The order of inhibition varied for the presence of different linkers: amino methylene linker >oxymethylene linker (compound L1;  $K_i$  value of 1.0 nM, compound L5;  $K_i$  value of 1.4 nM) >sulfermethylene linker (compound L6;  $K_i$  value of 1.4 nM) (Fig. 15). In case of oxymethylene linker, the nature of substituent, and its position also influenced their activity as noticed that the compound L3 ( $K_i$  value of 1.5 nM) produced greater inhibition than the compound L4 ( $K_i$  value of 4.3 nM). A similar effect was observed when the triazole moiety was attached to the benzene sulfonamides by means of a suitable oxymethylene linker. However, their inhibitory action can be significantly varied for the substitution in the benzene ring incorporated in triazole moiety. Unsubstituted benzene ring (compound L8;  $K_i$  value of 1.2 nM) produced more prominent inhibition than the substituted benzene ring, except compound L12 ( $K_i$  value of 1.0 nM) that had hydroxy substitution. Incorporation of methoxy or trifluoromethyl group in meta and para positions of the attached benzene moiety resulted in a 10-fold decrease in the inhibitory concentration in compound L9 ( $K_i$  value of 12.4 nM), and compound L11 ( $K_i$  value of 15.7 nM; the least active compound), respectively [64].



Fig. 15. SAR of 1,4-disubstituted-1,2,3-triazoles moiety with sulfonamides

## M. N-protected amino acids with sulfonamides.

Sulfonamides with N-protected amino acids were found to exert inhibitory activity in  $K_i$  range of 8.6-694 nM. The presence of a suitable linker like -  $(CH_2)_4$ -O- between the benzenesulfonamide moiety, and the primary amine group facilitated more potent inhibition. In this series, the more effective compounds were **M17-M19** with  $K_i$  range of 8.6-11.9 nM (Fig. 16). The protecting groups may contribute significantly to the presence of appropriate linker. It was observed that compound **M11** ( $K_i$  value of 35.9 nM) was less potent than the compound **M18** ( $K_i$  value of 18 nM) due to the presence of unsuitable linker like - ( $CH_2$ )<sub>2</sub>. In the absence of linker, the inhibitory concentration of these compounds decreased (compound **M3**;  $K_i$  value of 18 nM). However, compound **M20** ( $K_i$  value of 694 nM) became the least active compound due to the presence of a hydrophobic moiety like - $CH_2Ph$ . Therefore, it may be concluded that the N-protected amino acids adjoined with sulfonamides by an appropriate linker favor the inhibitory activity of these compounds. In addition, the substitution in **A2** position is not favorable for inhibition of hCA-II [65].



Fig. 16. SAR of *N*-protected amino acids with sulfonamides

## N. 1,3-dioxo-2-substituted phenyl isoindoline-5-carboxamide moiety with sulfonamides

All the compounds under this scaffold brought very poor inhibition against this isoform except compounds **N1-N3** which showed a reasonable inhibition with  $K_i$  range of 8.9-13.8 nM (Fig. 17). The substitution at the 2<sup>nd</sup> position of the 1,3-dioxo-phenyl isoindole-5-carboxamide moiety by benzenesulfonamide (compounds **N1-N3**) provided more enhanced activity than the benzoic acid moiety (compounds **N7-N8**). The absence of benzenesulfonamide made these compounds (**N1-N3**), it was clear that greater the length of the linker, lesser was the inhibition. So, it can be inferred that the absence of linker and the presence of benzenesulfonamide core favored their inhibition action [66].



**Fig. 17.** SAR of 1,3-dioxo-2-substituted phenyl isoindoline-5-carboxamide moiety with sulfonamides

## **O.** Polyamino-polycarboxylate moiety with sulfonamides.

All the bis-sulfonamides (compounds **O29-O40**) showed profound inhibition as compared to the monoamides (compounds **O1-O28**). These polyamine polycarboxylic group incorporated sulfonamides exerted a reasonable inhibitory concentration with a  $K_i$  range of 0.5-7 nM. The presence of this moiety enhanced their water solubility significantly contributing to the increase

in the duration of IOP lowering action. The inhibitory concentration of these compounds slightly varied irrespective of the presence of different heterocyclic attached amino acids. However, the opposite effect was observed for the introduction of different carboxylic acid chains in the mono-sulfonamides. EGTA (compounds **O21-O24**;  $K_i$  range of 0.8-1.5 nM) and DTPA (compounds **O17-O20**;  $K_i$  range of 0.6-1 nM) containing mono-sulfonamides were more potent than the other mono-sulfonamides (compounds O1-O16, O25-O28;  $K_i$  range of 1.5-7 nM). Similar inhibition was observed for the bis-sulfonamides (compounds O33-O40;  $K_i$ value is  $\leq 0.6$  nM) although their core contains variable polycarboxylic acid functionality. When mono-sulfonamides were acylated, the order of their inhibition was followed as IDA derivatives (compounds **O1-O4**) < NTA derivatives (compounds **O5-O8**) < EDDA derivatives (compounds **O9-O12**) < EDDHA derivatives (compounds **O25-O28**) < EDTA derivatives (compounds O13-O16) < EGTA derivatives (compounds O21-O24) = DTPA derivatives (compounds O17-O20). The most effective inhibition was reflected in the introduction of 2-(benzo[d]thiazol-6-yloxy) group with an ethoxy linker present in the most effective derivatives like DTPA derivative (compound **O36**), and EGTA derivative (compound **O40**). Substitution in the place of ethoxy linker by the amino linker made NTA derivatives (compound O6;  $K_i$ ) value of 7 nM) and EDDA derivatives (compound O10;  $K_i$  value of 7 nM) the least active in this series (Fig. 18) [67].





Fig. 18. SAR of Polyamino-polycarboxylate moiety with sulfonamides

## P. 4-sulfamoyl phenylmethyl thiourea moiety with sulfonamides.

The most ineffective inhibition was approached by the heterocyclic and aromatic amines incorporated sulfonamides (compounds P1-P4; K<sub>i</sub> range of 30-43 nM). A moderate inhibition was observed for the substituted benzoic acids (compounds P5-P7; K<sub>i</sub> range of 9-11 nM). But the whole context of these compounds could be turned into prominent inhibition ( $K_i$  range of 1-10 nM) when amino acid moiety was directly attached to the sulfamoyl phenylmethyl thiourea. Incorporation of serine (compound P13;  $K_i$  value of 2 nM), threonine (compound P15;  $K_i$  value of 2 nM) and cysteine (compound P16;  $K_i$  value of 3 nM), methionine (compound P17;  $K_i$  value of 3 nM), valine (compound P18;  $K_i$  value of 4 nM), leucine (compound P19;  $K_i$  value of 3 nM), isoleucine (compound P20;  $K_i$  value of 4 nM), histidine (compound P26; K<sub>i</sub> value of 6 nM), phenylalanine (compound P27; K<sub>i</sub> value of 5 nM), tyrosine (compound P28; K<sub>i</sub> value of 3 nM), dopamine (compound P29; K<sub>i</sub> value of 6 nM) and aspartic acid (compound P21; K<sub>i</sub> value of 7 nM), aspartame (compound P22; K<sub>i</sub> value of 5 nM) showed a very good inhibition (Fig. 19). For the incorporation of aminobenzoic acids (**P5-P7**;  $K_i$  range of 9-11 nM), glycine (compound P8; K<sub>i</sub> value of 17 nM), alanine (compound P9; K<sub>i</sub> value of 10 nM), beta-Alanine (compound P10; K<sub>i</sub> value of 8 nM) and GABA (compound P11; K<sub>i</sub> value of 10 nM), as well as those tryptophan (compound P30; K<sub>i</sub> value of 9 nM), lysine (compound P31;  $K_i$  value of 10 nM), arginine (compound P32;  $K_i$  value of 18 nM), and glutamine (compound P23;  $K_i$  value of 10 nM) resulted in a slightly less inhibition with  $K_i$  range of 10– 18 nM against hCA-II. Bulky amino acids like proline (compound P25; K<sub>i</sub> value of 21 nM)

produced comparatively less inhibition than the other amino acids. The incorporation of another amino acid in the peptide chain significantly enhanced the inhibitory activity when compared to the single amino acids. Except compound **P33** (Gly-Gly derivatives) and compound **P39** (Asp-Asp derivatives), all the other oligopeptide derivatives (compounds **P33-P41)** exhibited a significant increase in inhibition ( $K_i$  range of 1-4 nM). The most potent inhibitory action was caused by the compound **P36** ( $K_i$  value of 1 nM) whereas least inhibition was seen for the compound **P1** ( $K_i$  value of 43 nM) [68].



Fig. 19. SAR of 4-sulfamoyl phenylmethyl thiourea moiety with sulfonamides

**Q. 7-chloro-4-ethyl-2H-chromen-2-one substituted secondary amines with sulfonamides** Under this series, a profound inhibitory activity was possessed by the heterocyclic moiety containing sulfonamides (compounds **Q17-Q23**; with  $K_i$  range of 0.5-8 nM). The exception was observed for the compound **Q24** ( $K_i$  value of 8 nM) due to the presence of its bulky group. An ineffective inhibition was exerted by the mono-substituted aromatic sulfonamides (compounds **Q1-Q8**; with  $K_i$  range of 120-270 nM) whereas a moderate inhibition was reflected from the di-and tri-substituted aromatic sulfonamides (compounds **Q1-Q8**;  $K_i$  range of 12-45 nM). The order of inhibition for these aromatic compounds was tri-substituted

sulfonamides>di-substituted sulfonamides>mono-substituted sulfonamides. In here, halogen substitution did not play any significant role in the inhibition like the number of substitutions did. Due to the preferential accommodation in the binding site of hCA-II, compound **Q21** ( $K_i$  value of 0.5 nM) became the most effective inhibitor. It was reported that the presence of both hydrophilic as well as hydrophobic structural elements in 7-chloro-4-ethyl-2H-chromen-2-one (Ccm moiety) provided significantly high water solubility and increased liposolubility for these compounds. Therefore, it can be inferred that existence of heterocyclic moiety in the 7-chloro-4-ethyl-2H-chromen-2-one (Ccm) incorporated sulfonamides is necessary for better inhibition of this cytosolic dominant isoform (Fig. 20) [69].



Fig. 20. SAR of 7-chloro-4-ethyl-2H-chromen-2-one substituted secondary amines with sulfonamides.

## **R.** Thienothiopyran-2-sulfonamides

The 5,6-dihydro-4H-thieno [2,3-*b*] thiopyran-7,7-dioxide introduced sulfonamides showed a reasonable good inhibitory activity with a  $K_i$  range of 0.61 nM - 71 nM. Substituents such as unbranched or branched alkyl amine significantly enhanced the inhibitory profile of these compounds (compounds **R4-R14**) when compared to other substituents (compounds **R1-R3**). An important aspect noted here was that the presence of secondary amino groups (compounds

**R5-R9**, **R10-R14**) favored the inhibition more than the primary amines (compound **R5**;  $K_i$  value of 3.7 nM) and tertiary amines (compound **R9**;  $K_i$  value of 9.3 nM). The way of inhibition depended on the stereochemical configuration. The meso-configuration (compound **R6**;  $K_i$  value of 0.69 nM, the most potent compound) and S absolute stereochemical configuration (compound **R7**;  $K_i$  value of 0.82 nM) facilitate better inhibition of hCA-II than the R absolute stereochemical configuration (compound **R8**;  $K_i$  value of 16.0 nM). Furthermore, the extent of inhibition was significantly improved for the more bulkiness in secondary amino group (compound **R10**;  $K_i$  value of 1.1nM, compound **R11**;  $K_i$  value of 1.8 nM compound **R12**;  $K_i$  value of 0.7 nM, compound **R13**;  $K_i$  value of 0.61 nM) (Fig. 21). Compound **R14** was the least active compound with a  $K_i$  value of 71 nM [70].



Fig. 21. SAR of Thienothiopyran-2-sulfonamides

### S. 5,6-dihydro-4H-thieno [2,3-b] thiopyran-7,7-dioxide with sulfonamides

The most prominent inhibition was found due to the presence of hydrazine functionality in the 4<sup>th</sup> position of the thiophene ring (compound **S5**;  $K_i$  value of 2 nM). From their SAR depicted in Fig. 22, it was observed that replacement of this functional group by the other groups like ketone (compound **S2**;  $K_i$  value of 5 nM, compound **S7**;  $K_i$  value of 6.3 nM, compound **S10**;  $K_i$  value of 16 nM and compound **S12**;  $K_i$  value of 6.8 nM), hydroxide (compound **S3**;  $K_i$  value

of 5.8 nM), hydroxyl (compound S1;  $K_i$  value of 13 nM), secondary amino group (compound S11;  $K_i$  value of 590 nM), resulted in a significant decrease in their inhibitory action. Moreover, the presence of bulkier group enhanced their action as it was confirmed form the compound S3 ( $K_i$  value of 5.8 nM) and compound S9 ( $K_i$  value of 15 nM). Due to the absence of necessary functional group and less bulkiness, compound S9 became the least active compound [71]. Therefore, we may take the hydrazine group can be taken as the beneficiary structural facts while incorporating the 5,6-dihydro-4H-thieno [2,3-*b*] thiopyran-7,7-dioxide moiety into the sulfonamides with an appropriate unbranched alkyl chain.



Fig. 22. SAR of 5,6-dihydro-4H-thieno [2,3-b] thiopyran-7,7-dioxide with sulfonamides

# T. Sulfonamides with heterocyclic moieties like mercaptans, sulfenamides, and metal complexes

The inhibitory activity of the reported compounds [72] was greatly influenced by the nature of incorporating groups. A significant variance in their inhibitory concentration was observed for the substitution pattern of the 1,2,4-triazole moiety. The order of inhibition followed as sulfonamides (compounds **T10-T13**;  $K_i$  range of  $4 \pm 0.3$  nM –  $27 \pm 3$  nM) >sulfonamides (compounds **T6-T9**;  $K_i$  range of  $10 \pm 1$  nM –  $49 \pm 3$  nM) > mercaptans (compounds **T6-T9**;  $K_i$  range of  $96 \pm 8$  nM –  $210 \pm 8$  nM). The presence of long alkyl chain produced detrimental effect for these compounds (compound **T4**;  $K_i$  value of  $210 \pm 8$  nM, compound **T9**;  $K_i$  value of

49±3 nM - compound **T13**;  $K_i$  value of 27 ± 3 nM). However, presence of halogen with an ethyl substitution at the 1<sup>st</sup> position of this moiety facilitated a more potent inhibition for the compounds. It was observed that bromine as a halogen substitution in this moiety (compound **T3**;  $K_i$  value of 162 ± 4 nM, compound **T8**;  $K_i$  value of 10 ± 1 nM compound **T12**;  $K_i$  value of 4 ± 0.3 nM), enhances inhibitory activity significantly as compared to the other halogens. Moreover, a different scenario took place when these compounds contained metals like Zn, Cu in their interior (Fig. 23). Compounds **T14-T21** showed a more effective inhibitory profile ( $K_i$  range of 0.2±0.8 nM - 10±0.07 nM) against this isoform. As an example, compound **T12** exerts most profound inhibition when it gets complexed either Zn (compound **T16**;  $K_i$  value of 0.5±1 nM) or with Cu (compound **T20**;  $K_i$  value of 0.2±0.8 nM, the best active compound). Therefore, it can be concluded that both the presence of metals and the presence of bromine with an ethyl substitution at 1<sup>st</sup> position of this moiety may produce favourable outcomes for their inhibitory action.



Fig. 23. SAR of various heterocyclic moieties with sulfonamides

## **U. N-hydroxy sulfonamides**

A moderate to high inhibitory profile was addressed by this class of sulfonamides. Compounds **U1-U20** produced a more prominent effect with a  $K_i$  range of  $0.8\pm0.1 - 190 \pm 4$  nM. Depending on the substitution in the benzene ring attached to *N*-hydroxy sulfonamides, their action became significantly varied. Under this scaffold, compound **U16** ( $K_i$  value of  $0.8\pm0.1$  nM) becomes the

most potent inhibitor for the presence of unsubstituted benzene ring. Substituted benzene decreased their potency as observed in the least active compound U2 ( $K_i$  value of 190±4 nM). Halogen substitution in benzene ring significantly improved their inhibitory action. The order of inhibition observed for the presence of different halogens was: -I (compound U7;  $K_i$  value of  $13\pm 2$  nM) > -Br (compound U6;  $K_i$  value of  $18\pm 2$  nM) > -F (compound U4;  $K_i$  value of  $19\pm 1$ nM) > -Cl (compound U5;  $K_i$  value of 21±0.8 nM). Deactivating group (-O<sub>2</sub>N) substituted benzene helped these compounds (compound U9-U12;  $K_i$  range of 4±0.3 - 9 ±0.3 nM) for exerting more enhanced inhibition than the activating groups (-CH<sub>3</sub> - -H<sub>2</sub>N) substituted benzene (compound U8;  $K_i$  value of 70±4 nM, compound U14;  $K_i$  value of 37±1 nM, and compound U15;  $K_i$  value of 45±3 nM). Their inhibitory concentration slightly varied due to the presence of deactivating group in different positions of the benzene ring. Normally orthosubstituted (compound U11;  $K_i$  value of 5 ± 0.4 nM), and meta- substituted N-hydroxy sulfonamides (compound U10;  $K_i$  value of 5 ± 0.4 nM) were more potent than the parasubstituted ones (compound U9;  $K_i$  value of  $9 \pm 0.3$ ) (Fig. 24). Moreover, their action slightly increased in the presence of halogen along with the deactivating group substituted benzene ring (compound U12;  $K_i$  value of 4 ± 0.3 nM). A similar effect was seen for the presence of the trifluoromethyl group in the place of benzene ring (compound U3;  $K_i$  value of  $3 \pm 0.3$  nM). Compounds U17 ( $K_i$  value of 9 ± 0.1 nM) and U18 ( $K_i$  value of 8 ± 0.1 nM) produced moderate inhibition for the presence of carboxyl group in ortho position. Besides these twenty compounds, some other types of compounds (compounds U21-U25) also showed a better inhibition with a low  $K_i$  range of  $1 \pm 0.1$  nM  $- 18 \pm 2$  nM [73].



Fig. 24. SAR of *N*-hydroxy sulfonamides

#### V. Sulfenamido with sulfonamides

Under this scaffold, the effect of attachment of various groups like 2-nitrophenyl sulfane, 4nitrophenyl sulfane, 1-sulfonyl-2-nitrobenzene, and 1-sulfonyl-4-nitrobenzene with the sulfenamido-sulfonamides (compounds V1-V40;  $K_i$  value in the range of 10-320 nM), the bissulfonamides (compounds V41-V50;  $K_i$  value in the range of 9-93 nM) and 1,3,4-thiadiazolesulfonamides (compounds V51-V60;  $K_i$  value in the range of 0.1-19 nM) on the inhibitory potency, was studied (Fig. 26). Their order of inhibition was followed as mentioned in Fig. 25. Monohalogen substituted sulfenyl amido-mono sulfonamides (compounds V11-V25;  $K_i$  value in the range of 10-110 nM) were slightly more effective than the di-halogen substituted sulfenamido-monosulfonamides (compounds V26-V40;  $K_i$  value in the range of 15-220 nM). Moreover, the inhibitory effect of fluorine was observed to be greater as compared to chlorine and bromine for nitrophenyl sulfane derivatives (compounds V14-V19), and 1-sulfonyl nitrobenzene derivatives (compounds V20-V25). However, diiodo-substituted sulfenamido monosulfonamides V28, V31, V34, and V37 exhibited more promising inhibition against this isoform than the other di-halogen substituted sulfonamides under the same class.



Fig. 25. The relation between the order of inhibition of hCA-II and the different with heterocyclic moieties

4-nitrophenyl-derivatives produced a significant potent inhibition as compared to the corresponding 2-nitrophenyl derivatives. The orthanilamide (compounds V1-V5), as well as 4-hydrazino-benzenesulfonamide (compounds V6-V10) derivatives, were generally the least active CA inhibitors as compared to the 1,3,4-thiadiazole-sulfonamides (compounds V51-V60;  $K_i$  range of 0.1-19 nM). A prominent nanomolar inhibition ( $K_i$  value in the range of 0.1-0.2 nM) was reflected from the compounds V54, V55, V59, and V60 due to the presence of both 1-sulfonyl-2-nitrobenzene, and 1-sulfonyl-4-nitrobenzene in their preferable substitution positions [74].



Fig. 26. SAR of sulfenamido-sulfonamides

## W. Sulfonamides with furan, thiophene, and pyrrole carboxamide groups

With a  $K_i$  range of 3-105 nM, heterocyclic substituted sulfonamides proved to be one of the effective inhibitors of hCA-II. Depending on the nature of heterocyclic moiety, the inhibitory action of these compounds significantly varied. The presence of fluorine in the benzene ring directly linked with the pyrrole carboxamide group (compound W2;  $K_i$  value of 10 nM) enhanced the extent of inhibition 10 times than the unsubstituted benzene (compound W1;  $K_i$ value of 105 nM, the least active compound) (Fig. 27). However, in the absence of substitution in benzene ring, the linker played a vital role in inhibition. Compound W6 ( $K_i$  value of 8 nM) and compound W7 ( $K_i$  value of 7 nM) showed more prominent effect than the compound W1 due to the presence of methylene and ethylene linker, respectively. It was also noted that fluorine substituted benzene showed similar effect in furan (compound W9;  $K_i$  value of 10 nM), pyrrole (compound W2), and thiophene (compound W16;  $K_i$  value of 8 nM) carboxamide group incorporated sulfonamides. Moreover, the order of inhibitory action for thiophene attached sulfonamides having different halogen substitution was: Cl (compound W17;  $K_i$  value of 7 nM) > F (compound W16;  $K_i$  value of 8 nM) > I (compound W19;  $K_i$  value of 9 nM) > Br (compound W18;  $K_i$  value of 12 nM). The inhibition can be dramatically changed if 1,3,4thiadiazoline-2-sulfonamide moiety is introduced in the core of heterocyclics (compounds W22-W25). Methyl substitution at 3rd position (compound W24;  $K_i$  value of 3 nM, compound W25;  $K_i$  value of 4 nM) of this moiety brought more favorable outcomes than the unsubstituted moiety (compound W22;  $K_i$  value of 6 nM, compound W23;  $K_i$  value of 6 nM) [75].



Fig. 27. SAR of sulfonamides with furan, thiophene, and pyrrole carboxamide groups

## X. Isonicotinoyl moiety with sulfonamides

Inclusion of iso-nicotinoyl group into the active core of the sulfonamides brought a low to high nanomolar range of inhibition with a  $K_i$  value in the range of 1-320 nM. Their inhibitory activity greatly varied with the presence of amino group, hydrazine group, aminoethyl group, alkoxy group, halogens along their different substitution position of benzenesulfonamide. In the case of anilamide derivatives, para-substitution (compound X4;  $K_i$  value of 130 nM) was more preferable than the ortho-substitution (compound X1;  $K_i$  value of 290 nM) and metasubstitution (compound X3; K<sub>i</sub> value of 280 nM). For sulfanilamides, presence of halogens like F, Cl, Br, and I made these derivatives (compounds X9-X12; K<sub>i</sub> value in the range of 31-42 nM) more effective towards inhibition of this isoform. Another substitution brought out by the second halogen resulted in a slight increase in the inhibitory action of these 1,3-benzene disulfonamides (compounds X13-X14; K<sub>i</sub> value in the range of 30-37 nM). Moreover, another important aspect observed, like in the case of other scaffolds (Scaffolds O, Q, V, W, Y, Z, AA, & AB) was that the incorporated heterocyclics have influenced the inhibitory profile of these derivatives (compounds X15-X21;  $K_i$  value in the range of 1-5 nM). In comparison to the thiadiazoline containing sulfonamides (compounds X15-X17;  $K_i$  value in the range of 2-4 nM), benzothiazole moiety (compounds X18-X20;  $K_i$  value in the range of 1-5 nM) exerted more prominent inhibition (Fig. 28). Under this series, compound X20 was the most effective inhibitor whereas compound X4 was seen to be the least active compound [76].



Fig. 28. SAR of iso-nicotinoyl moiety with sulfonamides

## Y. Aminoacyl/dipeptidyl moiety with sulfonamides

The inhibition profile of these aminoacyl or dipeptidyl moiety incorporated sulfonamides were turned to be more effective towards this physiologic dominant isoform of CA than those of simple aromatic sulfonamides (compounds **Y1**, **Y6**, **Y11**, **Y16**, **Y21**, **Y26**, **Y31**, **Y36**, **Y41**, **Y46**, **Y51**, **Y56**, **Y61**, and **Y66**;  $K_i$  value in the range of 40-320 nM). Depending on the nature of amino acids from which the aminoacyl or dipeptidyl moiety were obtained, the order of inhibition was followed as Gly derivatives (**R**<sub>1</sub> type) <GlyGly derivatives (**R**<sub>4</sub> type) < Ser derivatives (**R**<sub>2</sub> type) < Creatine derivatives (**R**<sub>3</sub> type). The presence of different substituents like amino group, hydrazine group, aminoethyl group, alkoxy group as well as the presence of halogens in their definite substitution position of these sulfonamides, significantly led in a variable inhibition. The influence of fluorine in the inhibition was comparatively higher than that of the other halogens. Except compound **Y91** ( $K_i$  value 0.6 nM, the most effective inhibitor), as previously mentioned, here also the simple aromatic sulfonamide derivatives (compounds **Y71**, **Y76**, **Y81**, **Y86**, **Y91**, **Y96**, **Y101**, **Y106**, **Y111**, **Y116**, **Y121**, and **Y126**;  $K_i$  value in the range of 2-60 nM) showed slightly less potency than the heterocyclic sulfonamides.

With the presence of the heterocyclic fragments like 1,3,4-thiadiazoles, 1,3,4-thiadiazolines, benzothiazoles, and thieno-thiopyransulfonamides, these aminoacyl/ dipeptidyl incorporated sulfonamides exert their promising potent inhibitory action. Slightly less inhibition was observed for the 1,3-benzenedisulfonamide and 3-fluorosulfanilamide derivatives, together with the pyrimidine substituted sulfanilamides (compounds **Y106-110**;  $K_i$  value in the range of 12-23 nM), and the sulfanilyl sulfanilamides (compounds **Y101-105**;  $K_i$  value in the range of 6-12 nM), and sulfanilyl metanilamides (compounds **Y101-105**;  $K_i$  value in the range of 8-13 nM). The order of inhibition was followed as the 1,3,4- thiadiazole-2-sulfonamides (compounds **Y71**, **Y81**, and **Y86**) = the 4-methyl-  $\ddot{a}$ 2-1,3,4-thiadiazoline-2-sulfonamides (compounds **Y76** and **Y91**) = the benzothiazole-2-sulfonamides (compounds **Y101**) = the dorzolamide derivatives (compound **Y126**) (Fig. 29) [77].



Fig. 29. SAR of aminoacyl/dipeptidyl moiety with sulfonamides having 1,3,4-thiadiazole heterocyclic

## Z. Perfluoroalkyl/aryl-substituted derivatives of sulfonamides

The biological activity of perfluoroalkyl-aryl-substituted derivatives was greatly influenced by the nature of the acylating/sulfonylating moiety having perfluoroalkyl/aryl groups. For the attachment of these groups, the order of inhibition was followed as  $C_6F_5SO_2Cl$  (**R**<sub>3</sub>)>  $C_4F_9SO_2Cl$  (**R**<sub>2</sub>) =  $C_6F_5COCl$  (**R**<sub>6</sub>)>  $C_8F_{17}SO_2Cl$  (**R**<sub>4</sub>) =  $C_8F_{17}COCl$  (**R**<sub>5</sub>)>  $CF_3SO_2Cl$  (**R**<sub>1</sub>) (Fig. 30).



Fig. 30. Inhibitory activity profile of different heterocyclic moiety with perfluoroalkyl/arylsubstituted derivatives of sulfonamides

As like the previously discussed scaffolds (Scaffolds **O**, Q, **V**, **W**, **Y**), inhibitory activity shown by these derivatives varied with the presence of the similar substituents. The most efficient inhibitors included the heterocyclic sulfonamide derivatives, such as the 1,3,4-thiadiazole-2sulfonamides (compound **Z87**;  $K_i$  value of 0.3 nM, compound **Z99**;  $K_i$  value of 0.4 nM) and the corresponding thiadiazolines (compound **Z93**;  $K_i$  value of 0.3 nM), as well as the benzothiazole-2-sulfonamide derivatives (compounds **Z133-Z150**;  $K_i$  value in the range of 0.2 - 3 nM). In the aromatic sulfonamide series, a moderately active inhibition was shown by the derivatives of orthanilamide (compounds **Z1-Z6**;  $K_i$  value in the range of 24 - 20450 nM), metanilamide (compounds **Z7-Z12**;  $K_i$  value in the range of 10-18700 nM) and sulfanilamide (compounds **Z13-Z18**;  $K_i$  value in the range of 10 - 10900 nM), whereas an effective inhibition was shown by the derivatives of halogen sulfanilamides (compounds **Z49-Z72**;  $K_i$  value in the range of 9 - 1300 nM), and by the benzene-1,3- disulfonamides (compounds **Z73-Z84**;  $K_i$  value in the range of 5 - 430 nM). The most prominent inhibitory action emerged from the derivatives containing benzothiazole functionality in its active core [78].

# AA. Sulfonamides with diethylenetriaminepenta acetic acid (dtpa) tails and of their zinc complexes

Incorporation of diethylenetriaminepenta acetic acid (dtpa) moiety into the core of sulfonamides led to a significant enhancement in the inhibitory activity of these synthesized compounds. Among all the derivatives investigated here, heterocyclic sulfonamides were found to be the most effective inhibitors. The variance in the inhibition was usually observed due to the attachment of different groups and it is followed as *p*-hydrazino-benzenesulfonamide (compound **AA4**,  $K_i$  value of 250 nM) < the orthanilamides (compound **AA1**,  $K_i$  value of 210 nM) < the metanilamides (compound **AA2**,  $K_i$  value of 180 nM)< the sulfanilamides (compound **AA3**,  $K_i$  value of 75 nM) < the *p*-aminomethylbenzenesulfonamide (compound **AA5**,  $K_i$  value of 23 nM) < the *p*-aminoethyl-benzenesulfonamide (compound **AA6**,  $K_i$  value of 15 nM) < the *p*-aminoethyl-benzenesulfonamide (compound **AA6**,  $K_i$  value in the range of 12-20 nM) < the 1,3-benzene-disulfonamides (compounds **AA13-AA14**,  $K_i$  value in the range of 10-12 nM) < the 1,3,4-thiadiazole-2-sulfonamides (compounds **AA15** and **AA17**,  $K_i$  value of 0.9 nM and 1 nM, respectively), 4-methyl-1,3,4-thiadiazoline-2-sulfonamide (compounds **AA16**,  $K_i$  value of 2 nM), the benzothiazole-2-sulfonamides (compounds **AA16**,  $K_i$  value of 2 nM).

Moreover, the scenario became more favourable towards more effective inhibition due to the attachment of another substituted benzenesulfonamides with the active core. As a result, heterocyclic containing bis-sulfonamides (AA35-AA40) showed more prominent action in the nanomolar level ( $K_i$  value in the range of 0.5-1 nM) as compared to the heterocyclic substituted mono-sulfonamides (compounds AA15-AA20;  $K_i$  value in the range of 0.6-2 nM).

The presence of metal complex like zinc in the center of the bis sulfonamides (compounds **AA41-AA45**;  $K_i$  value in the range of 0.4-16 nM), produced the most efficient inhibition as compared to normal bis sulfonamides. Therefore, it may be concluded that metal complexes incorporated in the bis sulfonamides together with the presence of appropriate heterocyclic functionality can exhibit more prominent inhibitory activity than the reported scaffolds [79].



Fig. 31. SAR of sulfonamides with diethylenetriaminepenta acetic acid (dtpa) tails and of their zinc complexes

### **AB** Dithiocarbamate moiety

The scientific reports from S. Avramet al., 2013, revealed that dithiocarbamates can effectively induce the potential inhibition of hCA-II in low micromolar or submicromolar range besides its prominent inhibitory effect on other hCA isoforms (hCA-I, IX, and XII). Except for compound AB12 (K<sub>i</sub> value of 6910 nM) and AB13 (K<sub>i</sub> value of 3100 nM), all other investigated compounds from AB1-AB25 had shown an effective inhibition with a  $K_i$  value in the range of 0.70 -325nM. From their SAR, it was observed that benzyl group (compound AB6;  $K_i$  value of 0.70 nM), iso-butyl group (compound AB15; K<sub>i</sub> value of 0.95 nM), di-ethyl ether group (compound AB23; K<sub>i</sub> value of 0.95 nM) mostly favoured their inhibitory action. Phenyl substituted dithiocarbamate (compound AB1;  $K_i$  value of 4.5 nM) showed a slight decrease in inhibition as compared to the benzyl substituted one (compound AB6). Similar effect was seen from heterocyclic moiety like 2-thiazolyl containing compound (compound AB9;  $K_i$  value of 4.6 nM). Presence of branched alkyl chain in these derivatives (compound AB15) resulted in a more favorable outcome as compared to the unbranched alkyl chain (compound AB16; Ki value of 55.5 nM, compound AB17; K<sub>i</sub> value of 50.9 nM, compound AB18; K<sub>i</sub> value of 51.3 nM) (Fig. 32). Therefore, it may be concluded that the presence of hydrophobic moiety like branched alkyl chain or simply the benzyl substitution in the core of dithiocarbamates is beneficial for the enhancement of their inhibitory action against this isoform [80].



Fig. 32. SAR of dithiocarbamate moiety

## AC. Selenide moiety

Selenides incorporated sulfonamides showed a reasonably good inhibition in the low nanomolar range of  $K_i$  except compound AC5 which exerted its inhibitory activity at 920.8 nM. Incorporation of another selenium in the place of cyanate (compound AC2;  $K_i$  value of 7.9 nM) contributed six times increase in the inhibitory activity as compared to the selenocyanate derivative (compound AC1;  $K_i$  value of 53.1 nM). Inclusion of  $\beta$ -hydroxyl group in the selenides (compound AC3-AC9; K<sub>i</sub> range of 0.18- 8.8 nM) except compound AC5 produced a profound inhibitory potency for these derivatives as it is described in their SAR (Fig. 33). Attachment of various groups like benzyl (compound AC3;  $K_i$  value of 1.4 nM), propyl (compound AC4;  $K_i$  value of 4.4 nM) etc by means of ether linkage, produced slight increase in the inhibition than the direct attachment of butyl (compound AC3;  $K_i$  value of 8.8 nM), bromine (compound AC3; K<sub>i</sub> value of 4.9 nM). Introduction of the alkyl-substituted cyclohexyl group together with the presence of hydroxyl group at the 2<sup>nd</sup> position makes compound AC9 ( $K_i$  value of 0.18 nM), the most potent inhibitor of hCA-II in this series. When the N terminal of these compounds (compound AC10-AC12; K<sub>i</sub> range of 14.0- 90.2 nM) are protected by Tosyl or Boc group, they produced a marked decrease in their inhibition potency as compared to the unprotected  $\beta$ -amino selenides (compound AC8;  $K_i$  value of 0.51 nM) [81]. Therefore, it may be assumed that for selenides incorporated sulfonamides, an unprotected amino group having branched alkyl chain or a cyclohexyl group having hydroxyl functionality can be taken

into consideration while designing these type of effective and more potent hCA-II inhibitors in near future.



Fig. 33. SAR of selenide moiety

## AD. 1,3-diaryltriazene moiety with sulfonamides

An outstanding inhibitory potency was reflected from all the investigated compounds except compound **AD1** ( $K_i$  value of 21.5 nM). Their proficiency of inhibition depended on the nature of substituents and their substitution position. Incorporation of the activating groups into the 1,3-diaryltriazenemoiety, like-OMe (compounds **AD5** and **AD10**;  $K_i$  value of 0.4 nM, and 0.2 nM, respectively), -OBu (compound **AD4**;  $K_i$  value of 1.7 nM), -COCH<sub>3</sub> (compound **AD6**;  $K_i$  value of 0.3 nM) etc improved the inhibition significantly than the deactivating groups like - **NO**<sub>2</sub> (compound **AD7**;  $K_i$  value of 3.2 nM), -COOH (compound **AD2**;  $K_i$  value of 7.4 nM), halogen (compound **AD11**, **AD12**, and **AD1**;  $K_i$  value of 7.2 nM, 2.1 nM, and 21.5 nM, respectively), -CN. However, irrespective of the presence of -CN group, compound **AD13** exerted the most potent inhibitory action on  $K_i$  value of 0.2 nM (Fig. 34). This might have been due to the presence of this group at 2nd position of benzene ring which facilitated favorable ligand-binding interactions as compared to its 4th position of substitution in benzene ring (compound **AD3**;  $K_i$  value of 3.7 nM). Dramatic enhancement in the inhibitory concentration was observed for the presence of four fluorine atoms in benzene ring (compound **AD12**;  $K_i$ 

value of 2.1 nM) in place of single fluorine (compound **AD1**;  $K_i$  value of 21.5 nM). A similar effect was noticed when there is a 3,5-diMe substituted benzene ring present in this moiety (compound **AD9**;  $K_i$  value of 0.7 nM) instead of 4-Me substituted benzene (compound **AD5**;  $K_i$  value of 0.4 nM). The presence of hydrophobic alkyl chain such as isopropyl group (compound **AD8**;  $K_i$  value of 3.1 nM) showed a moderate action [82].



Fig. 34. SAR of 1,3-diaryltriazene moiety with sulfonamides

## AE. Iminothiazolidinone moiety with sulfonamides

A very potent inhibition ( $K_i$  values in the range of 0.41-37.8 nM) was reflected from the inhibitory profile of the iminothiazolidinone incorporated sulfonamides. Substitution at various positions of benzenesulfonamide brought significant changes in the inhibitory concentration. For the presence of deactivating groups like -NO<sub>2</sub>, the order of inhibition was: *ortho* (compound **AE5**;  $K_i$  value of 0.53 nM) >*para* (compound **AE7**;  $K_i$  value of 4.6 nM) > *meta* (compound **AE6**;  $K_i$  value of 7.23 nM). However, meta substituted benzenesulfonamide (compound **AE3**;  $K_i$  value of 4.3 nM) containing activating group was comparatively more effective inhibitor than the *para* (compound **AE4**;  $K_i$  value of 7.6 nM) and *ortho*-substituted (compound **AE2**;  $K_i$  value of 37.8 nM; the least active compound) ones. Substitution by halogens (compound **AE9**;  $K_i$  value of 0.46 nM) made an effective contribution in the inhibition. This effect can be significantly enhanced for the presence of both -**NO**<sub>2</sub> and halogen

like chlorine in these compounds, leading to the most prominent inhibitor of hCA-II (compound AE10;  $K_i$  value of 0.41 nM) under this scaffold (Fig. 35) [83].



Fig. 35. SAR of iminothiazolidinone moiety with sulfonamides

## AF. Organotellurium moiety

Except for compounds **AF4** ( $K_i$  value of 30 nM) and **AF5** ( $K_i$  value of 90 nM), an ineffective inhibition was addressed from all the other compounds. From their SAR, it was quite obvious that the incorporation of dithiatellurepane (compound **AF6**;  $K_i$  value of >100000 nM),  $\beta$  -Phenyltelluro thiol (compound **AF7**;  $K_i$  value of >100000 nM), disulfide of  $\beta$  -Phenyltelluro thiol (compound **AF8**;  $K_i$  value of >100000 nM), epoxides (compound **AF9**, and **AF10**; same  $K_i$  value of >100000 nM) and amines (compound **AF11**, **AF12**, and **AF13**;  $K_i$  value of 35800 nM, 56800 nM, 61600 nM) resulted in such an inhibition that cannot be considered as an effective inhibition of this dominant physiologic isoform ( $K_i$  range of 31400 - 56300 nM) containing a methyl-substituted benzene or methoxy substituted benzene. In case of tellurides, replacement of  $\beta$ -hydroxyl group (compound **AF1** and **AF2**) by the  $\beta$ -amino group (compound **AF4** and **AF5**) significantly improved their inhibitory activity almost greater than 100000 times as compared to others. The presence of isopropyl group further improved the inhibitory activity of  $\beta$ -amino-tellurides in place of methyl substitution of it (Fig. 36) [84].



Fig. 36. SAR of an organotellurium moiety

## AG. Sulfamoylphenyl and sulfocoumarin carboxamide derivatives

Sulfamoylphenyl carboxamide derivatives (compounds **AG1-AG19**) showed a prominent inhibition with  $K_i$  value in the range of 5.2-417 nM, which was far better than the inhibitory profile of ineffective sulfocoumarin derivatives (compounds **AG20-AG36**;  $K_i$  value >10000 nM) (Fig. 37). Extent of inhibition may vary from one compound to another compound due to the presence of different heterocyclics together with different groups like H, OCH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>, Cl, and F. In the presence of these heterocyclics the order of inhibition is followed as pyrrolidine (compound **AG4**;  $K_i$  value of 5.3 nM) > piperidine (compound **AG3**;  $K_i$  value of 8.6 nM) >morpholine (compound **AG1**;  $K_i$  value of 17.1 nM) >*cis*-2,6-dimethylmorpholine (compound **AG2**;  $K_i$  value of 37.5 nM) for sulfamoyl phenyl carboxamide derivatives having hydrogen as its substituent (Fig. 38). When these derivatives contain a methoxy substituent, inverse order of inhibition followed by pyrrolidine (compound **AG8**;  $K_i$  value of 92.1 nM) < piperidine (compound **AG7**;  $K_i$  value of 49.3 nM) <morpholine (compound **AG5**;  $K_i$  value of 8.3 nM) <*cis*-2,6-dimethylmorpholine (compound **AG6**;  $K_i$  value of 6.3 nM) was observed. Thiomorpholine exhibited a moderate inhibition ( $K_i$  value of 13.5 nM) for the compound **AG9**. Further, their inhibitory activity can be significantly improved in the presence of halogen like fluorine (compound AG14;  $K_i$  value of 5.2 nM; the best active compound) together with *Cis*-2,6-dimethylmorpholine moiety.



Fig. 37. SAR of sulfamouphenyl and sulfocoumarin carboxamides derivatives.



Fig. 38. Comparison of  $K_i$  values with heterocyclic rings, the two different substituents in case of sulfamoylphenyl, and sulfocoumarin carboxamides derivatives

Although compound **AG11** contains this moiety, still it showed a moderate inhibition ( $K_i$  value of 47.8 nM) due to the presence of chlorine as its substituent. Another fact observed was, pyrrolidine incorporated sulfamoylphenyl carboxamide derivative having hydrogen as its substituent, (compound **AG4**) exerted a very promising inhibition with a  $K_i$  value of 5.3 nM [85].

## **AH. 2-Benzylpiperazine derivatives**

Incorporation of zinc-binding group (ZBG) into the 2-benzylpiperazine moiety helped these derivatives (compounds AH1-AH34) show a promising inhibition with a K<sub>i</sub> value in the range of 2.0 -358.6 nM (Fig. 39). In the presence of ZBG, not only the nature of different substituents influenced their inhibitory action but also their substitution pattern at different positions made important contributions towards the effective inhibition of this isoform of CA. They have also studied the impact of stereoisomers on the inhibitory profile of these compounds. It was observed that except some derivatives (compound AH7; K<sub>i</sub> value of 7.7 nM, compound AH21; K<sub>i</sub> value of 8.3 nM, compound AH25; K<sub>i</sub> value of 15.0 nM, compound AH29; K<sub>i</sub> value of 6.0 nM and compound AH33;  $K_i$  value of 2.0 nM) the R-configuration of these inhibitors more prominently inhibit this isoform as compared to the S-configuration. Out of all the substituents present at 4th position of this moiety, -PhCH<sub>2</sub>CO group significantly enhanced their activity as observed in both stereo configuration (compound AH11;  $K_i$  value of 6.8 nM for Sconfiguration, compound AH12; K<sub>i</sub> value of 4.8 nM for R-configuration). However, a different scenario was observed when the methyl group occupied in the 4<sup>th</sup> position of this moiety (compound AH20) and it resulted in the most ineffective inhibition with a  $K_i$  value of 358.6 nM for S-configuration only. Whereas for R-configuration, methyl substitution at N-1 of the scaffold brings a more favourable outcome as it was seen with compound AH20 ( $K_i$  value of 5.4 nM). The most potent inhibition was seen in the compound AH33 (K<sub>i</sub> value of 2.0 nM, Sconfiguration) having two ZBG in its core, which can correlate their effective interactions with the zinc metal [86, 87].



Fig. 39. SAR of 2-benzylpiperazine derivatives

## AI. 4-sulfamoyl benzamide with cyclic imide derivatives

From the outcomings of the inhibitory result for the Scaffold No. A, A.M. Alaa Abdel-Aziza et al. 2018 [88] further investigated their inhibitory profile by incorporating 4-sulfamoul benzamide into cyclic imides and they designed a new series of 14 compounds that showed more effective inhibition (K<sub>i</sub> in the range of 0.7-128.1 nM) against HCA-II as compared to their past results. The best inhibition was reflected from tertiary-butyl substituted compound AI4  $(K_i 0.7 \text{ nM})$  whereas the methyl-substituted compound AI3  $(K_i 9.1 \text{ nM})$  and unsubstituted cyclic imide incorporated sulfonyl benzamide scaffold (compound AI2;  $K_i$  7.7 nM) were found to be moderate inhibitors. Substitution by chlorine atoms (compound AI9) into cyclic imide moiety facilitates also similar inhibition ( $K_i$  5 nM). But this scenario becomes totally changed when bromine atoms were added in place of chlorine atoms resulting in an ineffective inhibition (compound AI10  $K_i$  62.3 nM). The presence of bulky groups like polychlorinated norborneneimido moiety decreased their effectiveness mostly (compound AI14 K<sub>i</sub> 128.1 nM). Isoquinoline moiety incorporated sulfonyl benzamide compounds also show the potent inhibitory action (compound AI12  $K_i$  7.7 nM). But, their inhibitory potency may be markedly decreased when nitro group was present (compound AI13  $K_i$  20.6 nM). Therefore, it may be concluded that presence of branched alkyl chain facilitates the required hydrophobicity in the

ring structure for appropriate binding with the active site of receptor, and it is important in the 5<sup>th</sup> position of phthalimide group incorporated 4- sulfonyl benzamide derivatives.



Fig. 40. SAR of 4-sulfamoyl benzamide with cyclic imide derivatives

## AJ. Unsubstituted Methanoisoindole-1,3(2H)-dione with chalcone derivatives

Unsubstituted methano isoindole-1,3(2H)-dione moiety showed a profound inhibition against HCA-II ( $K_i$  range of 0.245±0.09- 0.489±0.09 nM) when it is incorporated in the chalcone scaffold. Based on the substituting groups in the chalcone derivatives, their inhibitory action is slightly varied. The presence of halogen in chalcones (compounds AJ6-AJ11) produces remarkably more potent effect than the methoxy substituted chalcones (compounds AJ1-AJ2) or methyl-substituted chalcones (compounds AJ3-AJ5). The best active compound is AJ9 with  $K_i$  value of 0.245 ± 0.09 nM in where bromine is present at 4<sup>th</sup> position of benzene ring. Due to the presence of heterocyclic groups in this scaffold (compounds AJ12-AJ14), the potency of these compounds is moderately decreased. The least activity was reflected from the compound AJ14 with  $K_i$  value of 0.489 ± 0.09 nM [89].



Fig. 41. SAR of unsubstituted Methanoisoindole-1,3(2H)-dione with chalcone derivatives

#### AK. Substituted Methanoisoindole-1,3(2H)-dione with tetrabromo chalcone derivatives

Compared to the previous scaffold, when dibromo substituted methanoisoindole-1,3(2H)-dione moiety was incorporated into the dibromo substituted chalcone derivatives, moderate inhibition ( $K_i$  range of 8.20 ± 1.62-12.86 ± 1.98 nM) was observed against this isoform. U.M. Kocyigit *et al.* 2017 reported that the nature of halogen substitutions and its presence in the benzene ring were very crucial for these tetrabromo Chalcone derivatives. The best inhibition was shown by compound **AK3** ( $K_i$  value of 8.20 ± 1.62 nM) due to the presence of Cl atom at 4<sup>th</sup> position of benzene ring. But, this scenario became completely different when Br atom was present in the 4<sup>th</sup> position of benzene ring, resulting in the least active compound **AK4** ( $K_i$  value of 12.86 ± 1.98 nM) as well as for compound **AK7** ( $K_i$  value of 12.45 ± 3.18 nM) in where Cl atom is present in 3<sup>rd</sup> position of benzene ring. Moreover, the presence of heterocyclic groups like furan and thiophene (compound **AK8**;  $K_i$  value of 10.02 ± 1.90 nM and compound **AK9**;  $K_i$  value of 9.21 ± 2.22 nM) had influenced the inhibitory potency. Therefore, it may be concluded that presence of chlorine at 4<sup>th</sup> position of benzene ring will produce more favourable outcome in the inhibitory profile of these derivatives [90].



Fig. 42. SAR of Substituted Methanoisoindole-1,3(2H)-dione with tetrabromo chalcone derivatives

## AL. Tris-Chalcone derivatives

Observing the inhibitory profile of chalcone containing scaffolds (Scaffold AJ & Scaffold AK), S. Burmaoglu *et al.* 2018 [91] further pioneered their research for new molecules based on the chalcones and synthesized nine compounds which exerted their inhibitory activity against this isoform in the  $K_i$  range of  $12.23 \pm 2.43$  nM -  $41.70 \pm 9.10$  nM. The previous results showed an effective inhibition when halogen atom is used as a substituting group in the benzene group of chalcone moiety, so that they only focused on the effects of halogen (fluorine atom only) substitution in different position. Except compound AL3 ( $K_i$  value of  $12.23 \pm 2.43$  nM), all the mono-fluoro substituted tris chalcones (compound AL1 & AL2;  $K_i$  range of  $37.35 \pm 4.31$  nM -  $41.70 \pm 9.10$  nM) are less effective inhibitors than the difluoro substituted tris chalcones (compound AL4-AL8;  $K_i$  range of  $17.86 \pm 6.30$  nM -  $25.94 \pm 7.41$  nM) and trifluoro substituted tris chalcone (compound AL9;  $K_i$  value of  $17.72 \pm 2.28$  nM). The presence of fluorine atom at the 4<sup>th</sup> position of benzene ring of chalcone in the most potent compound AL3 can be well correlated to the structure of previous scaffold AK (compound AK3). Therefore, we may conclude that the presence of halogens like chlorine or fluorine at 4<sup>th</sup> position enhanced

more favourable outcomes for the inhibition of this isoform in case of chalcone incorporated scaffolds.

R MeO O MeO O MeO O MeO Chlorine or fluorine atom at 4th position enhances more poter inhibition for chalcond derivatives						
R –(F)	Compound	Position	Ki (nM)	Inhibitory action		
Monofluoro	AL1	2	41.70±9.10	Least		
	AL2	3	37.35±4.31	Moderate		
	AL3	4	12.23±2.43	Most potent		
(	AL8	3,5	17.86±6.30	Good		
	AL5	2,3	19.18±3.45	Good		
Difluoro	AL4	2,4	20.02±4.17	Fair		
	AL7	3,4	25.56±5.74	Fair		
	AL6	2,5	25.94±7.41	Fair		
Trifluoro	AL9	2,4,5	17.72±2.28	Good		

Fig. 43. SAR of Substituted Tris-Chalcone derivatives

## AM. Substituted Thiophene derivatives

Adnan Cetin *et al.*, 2018 [92] investigated the effectiveness of their designed compounds where they had incorporated a novel thiophene moiety as the main scaffold. All the molecules exerted good inhibition of this isoform hCA-II with  $K_i$  value in the range of 309.44 ± 97.04 to 935.93 ± 167.04 nM. When substituted pyrazole is introduced in the active moiety of thiophene, their inhibitory profile became more potent as compared to the non-pyrazole attached thiophene derivative (Compound **AM6**;  $K_i$  value of 904.37 ± 264.34 nM). Moreover, the substitution in pyrazole ring also influenced the inhibition. The order of inhibition was: thiamide (Compound **AM7**;  $K_i$  value of 309.44 ± 97.04 nM)> 4-bromophenyl (Compound **AM4**;  $K_i$  value of 423.84 ± 50.06 nM) >thioxazole (Compound **AM8**;  $K_i$  value of 465.28 ± 100.04 nM) >2,5-dimethyl phenyl (Compound **AM2**;  $K_i$  value of 506.37 ± 91.00 nM) >2-nitrophenyl (Compound **AM5**;  $K_i$  value of 768.34 ± 203.85 nM). Under this scaffold, the least active inhibitor was compound **AM3** having  $K_i$  value of 935.93 ± 167.04 nM while the presence of thiamide group in the thiophene moiety made the compound **AM7** best active. Therefore, it may be concluded that the presence of thiamide group or presence of halogen simply in the substituted pyrazole, made these thiophene derivatives more potent against this isoform.



Fig. 44. SAR of Substituted Thiophene derivatives

## AN. Ureido benzenesulfonamides with 1,3,5-triazine moieties

N. Lolak et al., 2018 [93] investigated the efficacy of their designed ureido benzenesulfonamides by incorporating 1,3,5-triazine moieties against this physiologic dominant isoform of CA and their inhibitory activity was reported with  $K_i$  value in the range of 0.69 nM - 420.9 nM (S.T.No. AN). In the structure of their novel molecules, the presence of primary, secondary, tertiary amines together with chlorine or another heterocyclic ring-like morpholine or piperidine were correlated with their inhibitory activities. From the inhibitory profile of compound AN2 ( $K_i$  value of 178.6 nM), compound AN7 ( $K_i$  value of 420.9 nM, the least active compound), compound AN15 ( $K_i$  value of 299.4 nM), it was observed that the primary amino group strongly unfavourable for the inhibition, whereas, the presence of tertiary group along with chlorine atom (compound AN4;  $K_i$  value of 12.4 nM) or morpholine group (compound AN9;  $K_i$  value of 3.9 nM) or piperidine group (compound AN13;  $K_i$  value of 8.5 nM) favoured more potent inhibition. When this tertiary amine group was present with secondary amine, more profound inhibition was observed (compound AN16;  $K_i$  value of 3.1 nM). The potentiating power of heterocyclic groups like morpholine and piperidine was found to be more crucial when they were present with chlorine atom as another substituent of incorporated 1,3,5-triazine moieties, and they produced best active compounds like compound

**AN5;**  $K_i$  value of 1.5 nM and compound **AN6;**  $K_i$  value of 0.69 nM, respectively. It was also clear that dimorpholine substitution (compound **AN11**;  $K_i$  value of 6.9 nM) was more preferable than the dipiperidine substitution (compound **AN14**;  $K_i$  value of 78.9 nM) in the 1,3,5-triazines incorporated ureido benzenesulfonamides. Therefore, we may suggest that presence of tertiary amino group together with chlorine atom or morpholine or piperidine group may enhance the inhibitory potency of these ureido benzenesulfonamides.



Fig. 45. SAR of Ureido benzenesulfonamides with 1,3,5-triazine moieties

## Conclusion

In the current context, we have reviewed all the hCA-II inhibitors which were synthesized and reported till now and the brief outline of their structural activity relationship. Based on the nature of their interiors for all these scientifically reported physiologic dominant CA inhibitors, novel scaffolds like sulfonamides, dithiocarbamate, selenide, organotellurium, 2-benzylpyrazine, thiophene and chalcones, etc. were extracted and the information can be used further for the search of more potent hCA-II inhibitors.

Among all the antiglaucoma agents, sulfonamides are the most common scaffold where different types of moieties are attached in their active core. In the molecular structures,

substituents and their substitution positions have contributed a variable effects of inhibition of this dominant physiologic isoform of hCA-II. The effect for the presence of linker as well as the presence of heterocyclics along with the different functionalities was correlated with their observed SAR. Moreover, the role of halogens present in the different substitution positions of this scaffold is thoroughly discussed in the prominent inhibition of hCA-II. These important facts may be considered for the design and development of newer more potential antiglaucoma agents in future.



Fig. 46A. A brief outline for SAR of sulfonamide derivatives

We have also investigated the impact of the individual role of specific stereoisomers in the effective inhibition of hCA-II. Heterocyclic groups like furan, thiophene, thieno pyrazine, pyrrole, benzothiazole, thiadiazoline, pyrrolidine, pyridine, etc. showed a more promising outcome as compared to the other incorporated groups.

From the structural insights of various best active compounds under different scaffolds, all the beneficial and detrimental structural attributes are depicted in Fig. 46A, Fig. 46B and Fig. 47. This may help us to focus on synthesizing more effective inhibitors of this hCA in future.

Ccm substituted seconadry amines > Presence of heterocyclic moiety enhances the inhibitory action of these derivatives. Thienothiopyran-2-sulfenamide moiety > Meso and S-enantiomer significantly potentiate the inhibition as compared to the R enantiomer. > Presence of unbranched/ branched alkyl chain is favorable for inhibition. Thienothiopyran-7,7-dioxide moiety > Presence of hydrazine functionality at 4 <sup>th</sup> position of thiophene ring, is essential for the most potent inhibition. > Presence of bulkier group favors inhibition. N-hydroxy sulfamide moiety > Unsubstituted benzene ring more preferably inhibit this isoform. > Halogen substitution enhances bulkier group favors the inhibition as compared to the Remain of the second of th	Adipepdyl moiety ancement in the inhibition for the presence of creatine derivatives . of heterocyclic group inhibit this isoform. bistitution at 3 <sup>rd</sup> position the more favorable iazine sulfonamide group favors the extent of ompared to the deactivating in this moiety. -CN group at 2 <sup>nd</sup> position of is more favorable for tion.	Dtpa moiety > Presence of metal complexes enhance the inhibitory activity Perfluoroalkyl/aryl moiety > Presence of heterocyclics like benzothiazole and thiadiazole is favorable for the effective inhibition. Iminothiazolidione moiety > Presence of -NO <sub>2</sub> together with chlorine in this moiety significantly increase their inhibition potency. Sulfamoyl and sulfacoumarin carboxamide moiety > Presence of pyrrolidine /piperidine together with the chlorine enhance most			
action. Sulfenamido moiety	Ifonamide 4-sulfa	moylbenzamide incorporated			
<ul> <li>Presence of heterocyclic groups like 1,3,4-thiadiazole together with 4-O<sub>2</sub>N-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>SO<sub>2</sub> and 2-O<sub>2</sub>N-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>SO<sub>2</sub> significantly potentiate the inhibition.</li> <li>Isonicotinyl moiety</li> <li>Presence of heterocyclic groups like benzothiazole, thiadiazoline etc in this moiety results in a more potent inhibition.</li> </ul>	scaffold > Prese facilitate structure site of position Mercaptans, sulfena	nnce of branched alkyl chain which es the required hydrophobicity in the ring e for appropriate binding with the active receptor and it is important in the 5th of phthalimide group amides and metal complexes			
Furan, thiophene, pyrrole carboxamido moiety	Presence of long alkyl chain is detrimental for the inhibitory activity of these derivatives.				
<ul> <li>Methyl substitution at 3<sup>rd</sup> position of 1,3,4-thiadiazoline group.</li> <li>Direct attachment of heterocyclic group with sulfonamdie enhances the inhibitory action</li> <li>Ureido benzenesulfonamides incorporated 1,3,5-</li> <li>Presence of tertiary amino group together with cholrine atom or more</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Bromine as halogen substitution</li> <li>Bromine as halogen substitution</li> <li>Metal complexes strongly</li> <li>triazine moieties</li> <li>bholine or piperidine group</li> </ul>	tution at 1 <sup>st</sup> position more preferably inhibit inhibit the hCAII with Ki value of 0.2 nM.			
may enhance the inhibitory potency of these ureido benzenesulfonamides.					

## Fig. 46B. A brief outline for SAR of sulfonamide derivatives

Much recently, researchers have put their focus on other novel scaffolds like dithiocarbamate, selenides, benzylpyrazine, organotellurium, thiophene, chalcones (Fig. 47), and also in view of some common structural features like hydrophobicity, the presence of halogen or heterocyclic groups in their active core has been established.



Fig. 47. A brief outline for SAR of other reported novel scaffolds

Furthermore, this comprehensive review reveals the importance of the presence of metal complexes and zinc-binding group ( $-COC_6H_4SO_2NH_2$ ) incorporated in most of the investigated scaffolds, and this study may become a useful tool to all the researchers working on the hCA-II inhibitors preferably for anti-glaucoma therapy in upcoming future. Here, we have attempted for a complete summary of detailed features towards a prominent inhibition which may be achieved if all these above-mentioned facts are considered before designing the novel potent scaffolds.

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## Structure-activity relationship of Human Carbonic Anhydrase-II inhibitors: Detailed Insight for future development as anti-glaucoma agents

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Development of novel hCA-II inhibitors as future anti-glacoma agents