

REGULAR ARTICLE

## Assessing therapeutic potential of molecules: molecular property diagnostic suite for tuberculosis (MPDS<sup>TB</sup>)

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**Abstract.** Molecular Property Diagnostic Suite (MPDS<sup>TB</sup>) is a web tool (<http://mpds.osdd.net>) designed to assist the in silico drug discovery attempts towards Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb). MPDS<sup>TB</sup> tool has nine modules which are classified into data library (1–3), data processing (4–5) and data analysis (6–9). Module 1 is a repository of literature and related information available on the Mtb. Module 2 deals with the protein target analysis of the chosen disease area. Module 3 is the compound library consisting of 110.31 million unique molecules generated from public domain databases and custom designed search tools. Module 4 contains tools for chemical file format conversions and 2D to 3D coordinate conversions. Module 5 helps in calculating the molecular descriptors. Module 6 specifically handles QSAR model development tools using descriptors generated in the Module 5. Module 7 integrates the AutoDock Vina algorithm for docking, while module 8 provides screening filters. Module 9 provides the necessary visualization tools for both small and large molecules. The workflow-based open source web portal, MPDS<sup>TB</sup> 1.0.1 can be a potential enabler for scientists engaged in drug discovery in general and in anti-TB research in particular.

**Keywords.** Tuberculosis; chemoinformatics; open science; neglected diseases; drug discovery portal; web-based technology.

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## 1. Introduction

Data and knowledge generated in drug discovery have been escalating exponentially in recent years owing to the demanding nature of pharmaceutical industry to deliver affordable and safer drugs for existing and emerging diseases.<sup>1-10</sup> How to make the knowledge thus generated available to the practicing scientists is an issue of great significance as it reduces the redundancy, enables research activity and focuses on the grand challenges in the healthcare sector.<sup>11-17</sup> Open science and open innovation are extremely important in the drug discovery approaches in general and those directed towards neglected and orphan diseases in particular.<sup>18-27</sup> How the existing knowledge helps medicinal chemists can be addressed by answering the following two questions: a) What is the value or relevance of molecules that were synthesized? and (b) which of those molecules are the most promising? Because currently chemist's ability to synthesize complex molecules has increased tremendously and more often than not, the question is which molecule to synthesize rather than how to synthesize.

Tuberculosis (TB) has become a global threat killing nearly 1.4 million people with 10.4 million new cases in 2015.<sup>28</sup> The disease-causing bacteria Mtb is a rather challenging microorganism that takes over six months of treatment with multiple drugs to curb its infection.<sup>29</sup> The therapeutic interventions further get confounded due to the fact that most of the time Mtb remains in latent phenotype, which is not well understood.<sup>30</sup> The emergence of multi-drug resistant, extensively drug-resistant and totally drug-resistant forms have resulted in long duration therapies with various side effects and toxicity issues with a risk of non-compliance.<sup>31-38</sup> Therefore, the need of new therapy to combat this dreadful disease is inevitable and demands exploration of new chemical space. Computational approaches to obtain and optimize anti-tubercular leads have been extensively employed in this area.<sup>39-44</sup> There are several public

databases having diverse chemical classes of the compounds including PubChem, ZINC, KEGG, DrugBank, ASINEX, ChEMBL and NCI.<sup>45-62</sup> The computational tools and databases are required to facilitate rational prioritization and analysis of compounds from the available large chemical space. Further, the development of new algorithms/scripts is required to classify the chemical space for searching or extracting the useful information for each molecule. The tools are needed to predict the physical, chemical and biological properties of small molecules in order to improve search capabilities.

Before synthesizing any molecule, the medicinal chemist should have prior knowledge to optimize various physicochemical properties, structural alerts, in addition to the understanding of protein-ligand interactions that help in improving drug-likeness and avoiding toxicity issues. There are a number of open source scripts and algorithms developed by various developers for solving drug discovery issues.<sup>63,64</sup> Ideally, developing a disease-specific web portal which integrates the publicly available tools could provide a right platform to conduct drug discovery research in TB.

A variety of chemoinformatics analysis tools have been previously implemented in workflow systems. Steinbeck *et al.*, have implemented the chemoinformatics library of Chemistry Development Kit (CDK)<sup>65,66</sup> in the Taverna workflow suite.<sup>67</sup> Steinbeck *et al.*<sup>68</sup> have also implemented CDK in Konstanz information miner (KNIME), which is an open source workflow platform. It contains functions like format conversion, signatures, fingerprints and molecular properties generation. The Galaxy platform<sup>69-71</sup> is another workflow management system that provides easy to use interfaces of tools to the users and allows easy connection of the tools as well. Various instances of Galaxy have already been established.<sup>72</sup> For example, Ballaxy<sup>73</sup> is a Galaxy instance for structural bioinformatics wherein functions like protein preparation, ligand and protein checker, docking and many other tools have been implemented.

The current manuscript presents a web-based MPDS<sup>TB</sup> Galaxy tool, which provides an open source platform for the chemoinformaticians, bioinformaticians, medicinal chemists, computational biologists, pharmacologists and others scientists to work on the design of anti-tuberculosis (anti-TB) drugs. The Galaxy based web tool is conveniently designed to integrate with any other software or script and can be used by designing user-defined workflows, a feature conveniently exploited by the users of Galaxy in many cases. The MPDS<sup>TB</sup> tool provides three class of modules: a) Data Library (modules: 1. Literature, 2. Target library, 3. Compound library); b) Data Processing (4. File format conversion, 5. Descriptor calculation); and c) Data Analysis

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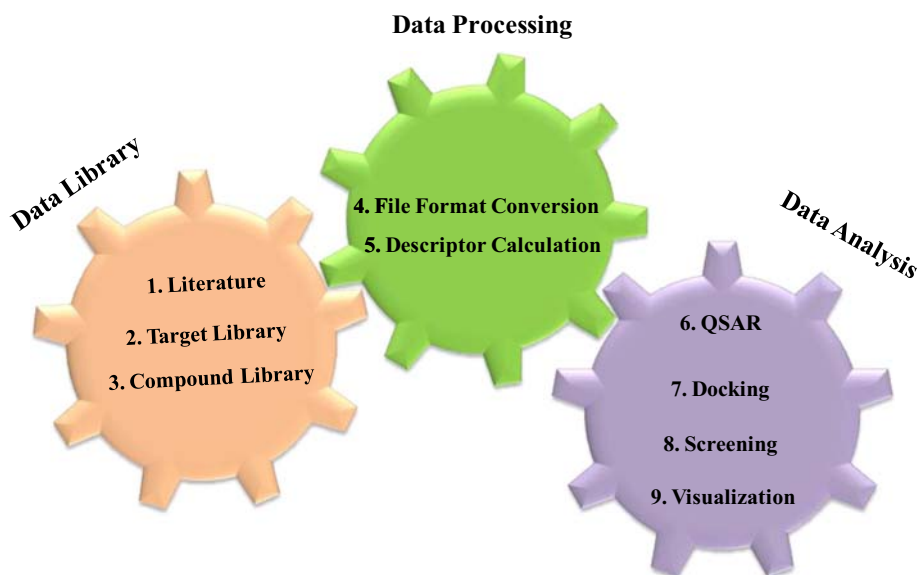
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**Figure 1.** MPDS is structured into data library (literature, target library, compound library), data processing (file format conversion, descriptor calculation) and data analysis (QSAR, docking, screening and visualization).

(6. QSAR, 7. Docking, 8. Screening, 9. Visualization) (Figure 1). While modules 1, 2, 7 and 8 are specific to a particular disease (in this case TB), it is quite possible to make at least three out of the four modules, 2, 7, and 8 as generic. Efforts are underway to achieve this in the near future. However, in MPDS<sup>TB</sup> 1.0.1, only five modules Compound library, QSAR, Docking, Screening, Visualization are generic in nature and can be used ‘as is’ in drug discovery platforms directed towards other diseases. As the main focus of the current endeavor is to store all the data that is generated for each of the molecules, we decided to generate a unique MPDS ID, which is akin to Aadhar number in India, or social security number in the USA where all the information pertaining to a molecule is stored. A structure-based classification tool has been employed which facilitates the navigation through the chemical space.

The current work has the following major objectives: a) Quantitatively evaluating the multifarious aspects of drug-likeness of a given molecule, in order to diagnose its potential application as a drug; b) Calculate various drug-like physico-chemical properties for prioritization of compounds; c) Provide necessary framework to employ virtual screening of large dataset of compounds; d) Help synthetic medicinal chemists for the design of novel compounds; e) Coordinate the strategic development and integration of chemoinformatics efforts; f) Develop new multi-disciplinary collaborative projects. The current work focuses on the anti-tubercular lead discovery, design and optimization. Expectedly, a

suitably altered protocol can be generated for other disease specific Galaxy web MPDS portals by customizing some of the modules. Thus, MPDS in the long run, can emerge as a general purpose open source drug discovery web portal.

## 2. Methods and modules

Galaxy (<http://galaxyproject.org/>) is a web-based workflow management system implemented in Python programming language, which is widely used for making data libraries, data integration, data processing and data analysis. In the current work, MPDS<sup>TB</sup> is developed using Linux (CentOS 6.4) operating system having the python version 2.7. It provides a graphical user interface (GUI) to many computational tools that helps in computational chemistry, drug design, image analysis, climate modeling, linguistics, and biomedical research. Basically, it was developed to analyze the genomic data including gene expression, proteomics, transcriptomics, and gene assembly. Galaxy can be used directly on the web or can be installed in local machines which gives freedom to the users to integrate their own tools. It has flexibility in using diverse biological, chemical data formats and it allows the integration of tools that is written in any programming language or script for which a command line invocation can be constructed. Once the piece of code is written, a tool definition file should be written in XML that describes the working of the tool and its input/output parameters (Table 1).

For each module, the XML code and its complete path should be incorporated into the main configuration file of the Galaxy. The new tool implemented gets displayed in the

**Table 1.** Description of XML file as implemented in Galaxy MPDS<sup>TB</sup>.

Tool ID	Description
<tool id>	Gives a unique name to the tool whose description is mentioned in the XML file.
<name>	It has the name of the tool that will be displayed as hyperlink in Galaxy.
<description>	This is displayed just after the hyperlinked name.
<command>	It describes how the tool (which compiler) will be executed and its input and output parameters.
<inputs>	Defines the input parameters.
<outputs>	Defines the output parameters.
<help>	Describes what the tool does.

tool panel of the Galaxy home page. The Galaxy workspace mainly consists of four areas, the first one is the navigation bar which provide links to Galaxy's major components, analysis workspace, workflows, data libraries, and user repositories (histories, shared data, workflows, pages), the second one is the tool panelist containing the analysis tools and data sources available to the user, the third one is detailed panel display interfaces for tools selected by the user and the fourth one is history panel that shows data and the results of analyses performed by the user, as well as automatically tracked metadata and user-generated annotations.

**Table 2.** Description of various modules in MPDS<sup>TB</sup> 1.0.1.

Category	Modules	Description
Data Library	Module 1: Literature	Contains Mtb proteins and its genetic information; FDA approved drug information and polypharmacological information.
	Module 2: Target Library	Contains crystal structures and homology models for Mtb proteins.
	Module 3: Compound Library	Contains a single window interface for searching a compound in MPDS compound database.
Data Processing	Module 4: File Format Conversion	Conversions of files from one chemical format to another chemical format, 2D to 3D file conversion using Open Babel.
	Module 5: Descriptor Calculation	Calculation of descriptors and fingerprints using PaDEL and CDK tools.
Data Analysis	Module 6: QSAR	Generation of QSAR models using the data mining tools, McQSAR and SVMlight.
	Module 7: Docking	Ligand Optimization; Conformer Generation and Protein-Ligand docking.
	Module 8: Screening	Prioritization of compounds for drug-like features using DruLiTo tool; Biopharmaceutical Classification System (BCS); Identification of toxicophoric groups in a compound.
	Module 9: Visualization	Visualizing protein-ligand interactions using Jmol and Ligplot.

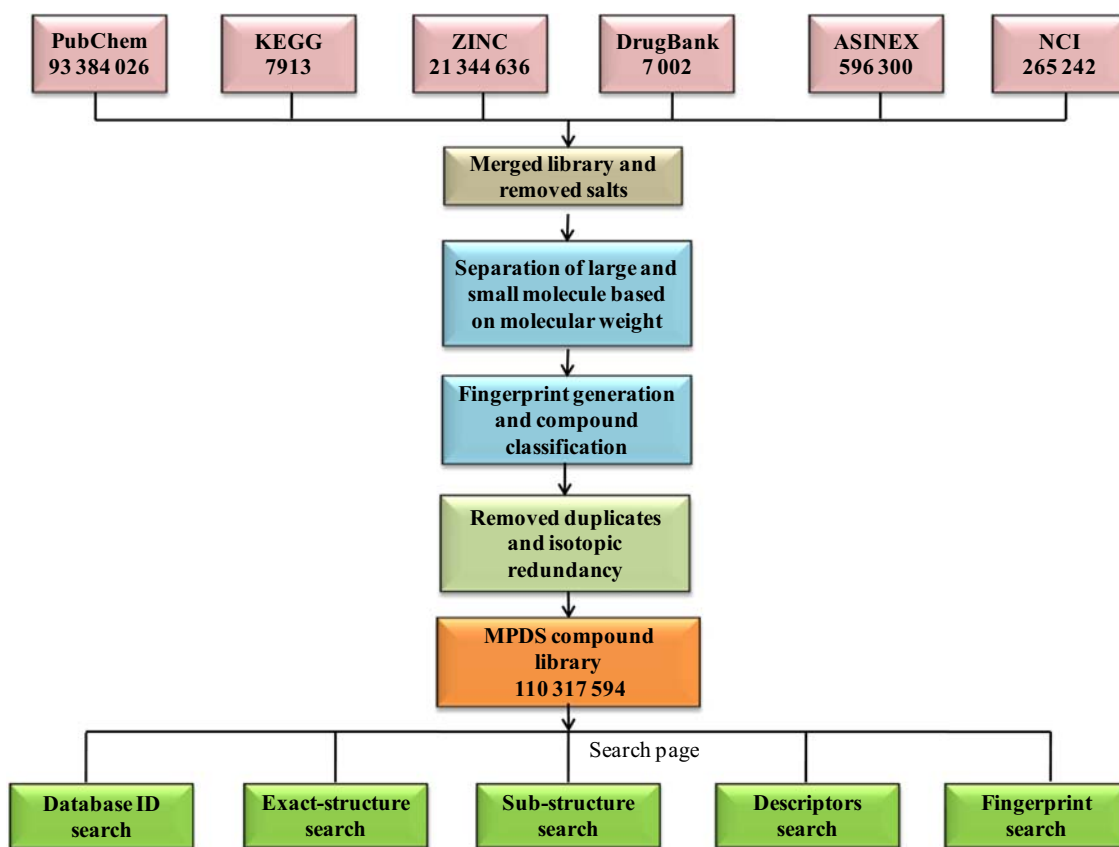
### 3. Structure of MPDS<sup>TB</sup>

MPDS<sup>TB</sup> is structured into data library (literature, target library, compound library), data processing (file format conversion, descriptor calculation), and data analysis (QSAR, docking, screening, and visualization) (Table 2). Each of these modules is customized for TB drug discovery and will be described in the following sections.

#### 3.1 Data library

**3.1a Module 1: Literature:** Module 1 provides information of druggable protein targets/gene information, FDA-approved drugs, and polypharmacology for Mtb. The genetic information provided includes RvID, gene name, gene product, class of protein, structural details from PDB, active site, function, metabolic pathway, localization, method of validation, drug/inhibitor information, druggability index, and mechanism of action. The literature module provides the list of available FDA approved drugs along with their identification, pharmacology, potential targets and corresponding references. The polypharmacology covers the structure of Mtb cell wall, biosynthetic, metabolic pathways (cell wall, chorismate, amino acids, lipids, carbohydrate, cofactor, nitrogen/sulphur, DNA, protein), bibliography and hyperlinks were given to various servers related to TB.





**Figure 2.** Schema for the generation of MPDS compound library from various data sources and representation of compound search engine.

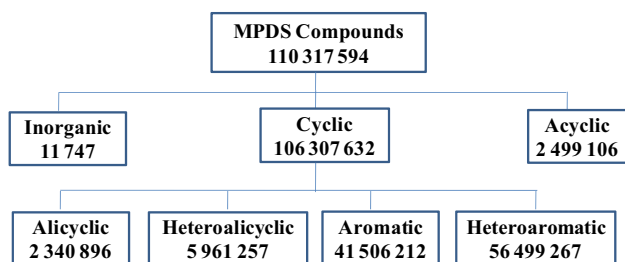
3.1b *Module 2: Target library:* The target library consists of crystal structures of 140 Mtb proteins which are reported targets and also the ones prioritized through systems level analysis of Mtb interactome. Each protein is also annotated for key residues around the active site. Most of these target structures were collected from protein data bank (PDB) and some of them were homology models. If the structural information is not available, then mutagenesis study results were collected from literature. Multiple sequence alignment of the same family of protein was employed for identification of active site residues for the protein. One of the principal objectives of the target library is to provide a list of prepared proteins in Mtb suitable for molecular docking, and give hyperlink of the data source, if available. The collected PDB structures were prepared by using standard protocols such as assigning bond orders, adding hydrogens, and minimizing protein complexes.

The targets were selected from Mtb H37Rv genome family and they majorly belong to various enzyme classes, such as oxidoreductase, transferase, hydrolase, lyase, isomerase, and ligase. These targets are involved in various biological functions that include signal transduction, peptidoglycan and cell wall synthesis,

amino acid synthesis, drug metabolism, DNA precursor synthesis, post-translational modifications and nitrogen metabolism, *etc.* The protein structures in MPDS<sup>TB</sup> target library can be potentially exploited in structure-based drug design approaches.

3.1c *Module 3: Compound library:* The compound library is generated with the objective of establishing a single window interface to search compounds available across different public domain databases. An efficient small molecule search, implemented using multiple search strategies, facilitates the comprehensive analysis of the available chemical space that may be utilized for identification of novel anti-TB compounds.

*Preparation:* For the preparation of MPDS<sup>TB</sup> compound library, existing small molecule databases such as PubChem, Drugbank, KEGG, NCI, ZINC and ASINEX were downloaded. To ensure that globally acceptable standards are followed to store and search this data, each compound in the library is converted into SMILES, InChI and InChIKey using OpenBabel 2.3.2.<sup>74</sup> Indexing of the compound library is done using InChIKey (Figure 2).



**Figure 3.** A structure-based chemical classification system of MPDS compound library.

*Storage and search:* As mentioned above, each compound in the library is stored using InChI standards along with SMILES string and the IDs from where the compound is sourced. Multiple search options are provided through MPDS<sup>TB</sup> web interface which includes structure-based search, property-based search, and fingerprint-based search (Figure 3). Compound property data is mostly calculated using PaDEL. The pKa values and IUPAC names are calculated using ChemAxon command line tools. The substructure search is implemented using RDkit.<sup>75</sup> A novel fingerprinting algorithm is developed to classify compounds at various levels of structural features. This binary fingerprinting algorithm is developed and employed for the classification and clustering of all the molecules included in the MPDS<sup>TB</sup> compound library database. Currently, a 30-bit qualitative and partially quantitative fingerprinting scheme is adopted to cluster similar compounds together and reduce the search space. Furthermore, two open source tools, ‘molecule cloud’ and ‘open molecule generator’ are also implemented in compound library module to create a molecular cloud of scaffolds and to generate molecule library respectively.<sup>76,77</sup>

### 3.2 Data processing

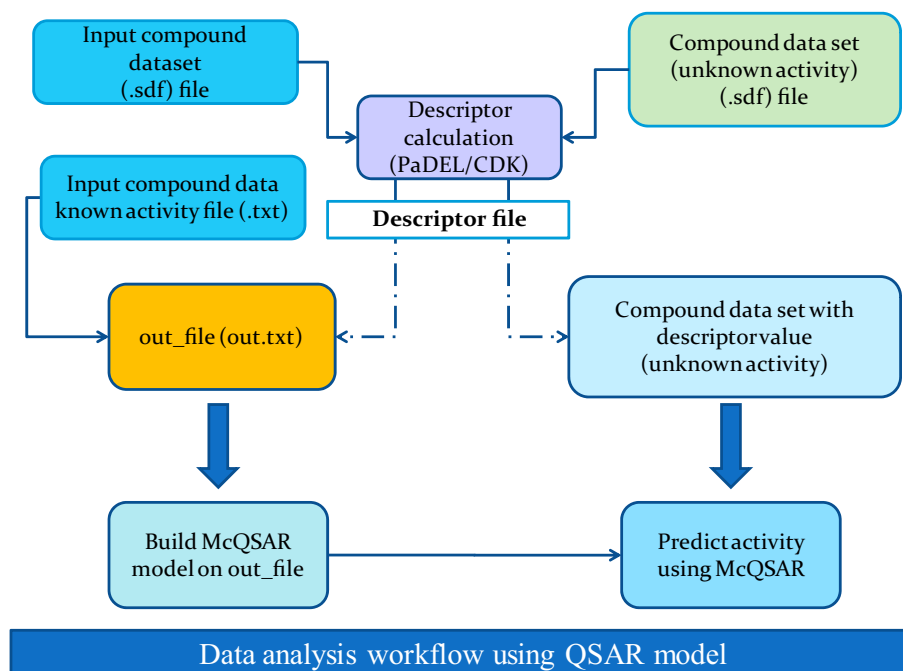
**3.2a Module 4: File format conversion:** A core requirement of any workflow management system is the connecting links between different analysis tools. Most often these links are based on the file formats that are read by these tools. As there are various molecular file formats to represent chemical structures, an open source file format converter is implemented to facilitate the creation of workflows over the web. Different tools require specific input file formats and will produce output in another specific format. In order to maintain a smooth flow of data between different tools in a workflow, the file format converter module utilizes one of the tools from the Galaxy toolshed to convert one file format to another based on user requirements. As of now, a few input formats like mol2, mol, sdf, SMILES, etc., and output formats, mol2, sdf, mol, pdb are incorporated. This

module also contains a tool that generates 3D coordinate from 2D structural file or SMILES which utilizes OpenBabel 2.3.2. The 3D structure generated follows geometrical rules based on hybridization of atoms. Once the structure is generated, the stereochemistry of the structure is taken care of and the lowest free energy conformer is generated by MMFF94 force field using weighted rotor search.

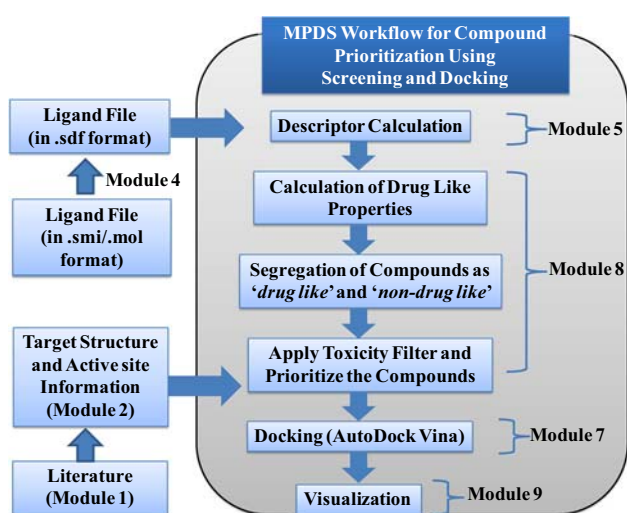
**3.2b Module 5: Descriptor calculation:** In order to computationally assess the properties of the compounds present in MPDS<sup>TB</sup> compound library or those provided by end users, two descriptor calculation tools, namely, PaDEL and CDK, are incorporated in MPDS<sup>TB</sup>. These tools may be used to calculate different compound properties. The input format for both of these descriptor tools is sdf and provides the output in CSV format. The descriptor module may read the output from compound library search or user uploaded sdf. The output may be used to build machine-learning models for target specific filters, predicting anti-TB properties, drug-like properties or toxicity of the compounds.

### 3.3 Data analysis

**3.3a Module 6: QSAR:** Two methods of data mining, quantitative structure activity relationships (QSAR) and support vector machine (SVM), are incorporated in MPDS<sup>TB</sup>. A Multi-conformational Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship (McQSAR) using Genetic algorithms is implemented for developing QSAR models.<sup>78</sup> The ‘Build\_QSAR\_Model’ tool of the QSAR module takes the descriptor file of the compounds with known activity and prompts the user to enter the name of the column whose value needs to be predicted (activity, in this case). In order to remove the redundancy and unwarranted features, the user has been given six options. The feature selection options are as follows: exclude correlated descriptors, exclude identical conformers, exclude inactive compounds, exclude sparse conformers, exclude sparse descriptors and exclude descriptors with zeros. The user also has the flexibility to set the number of times user wants cross-validation step to be repeated. The user can perform four kinds of cross-validation using the percentage of bins 3, 5, 7, 10 folds to divide the compounds. McQSAR can be used to predict the activity of new compounds using the model created by the previously mentioned tool. This accepts two input files: one that contains the descriptors of the compounds whose activity needs to be predicted and the second is a model file created by the ‘Build\_QSAR\_Model’ tool (Figure 4).



**Figure 4.** Workflow for QSAR model generation.



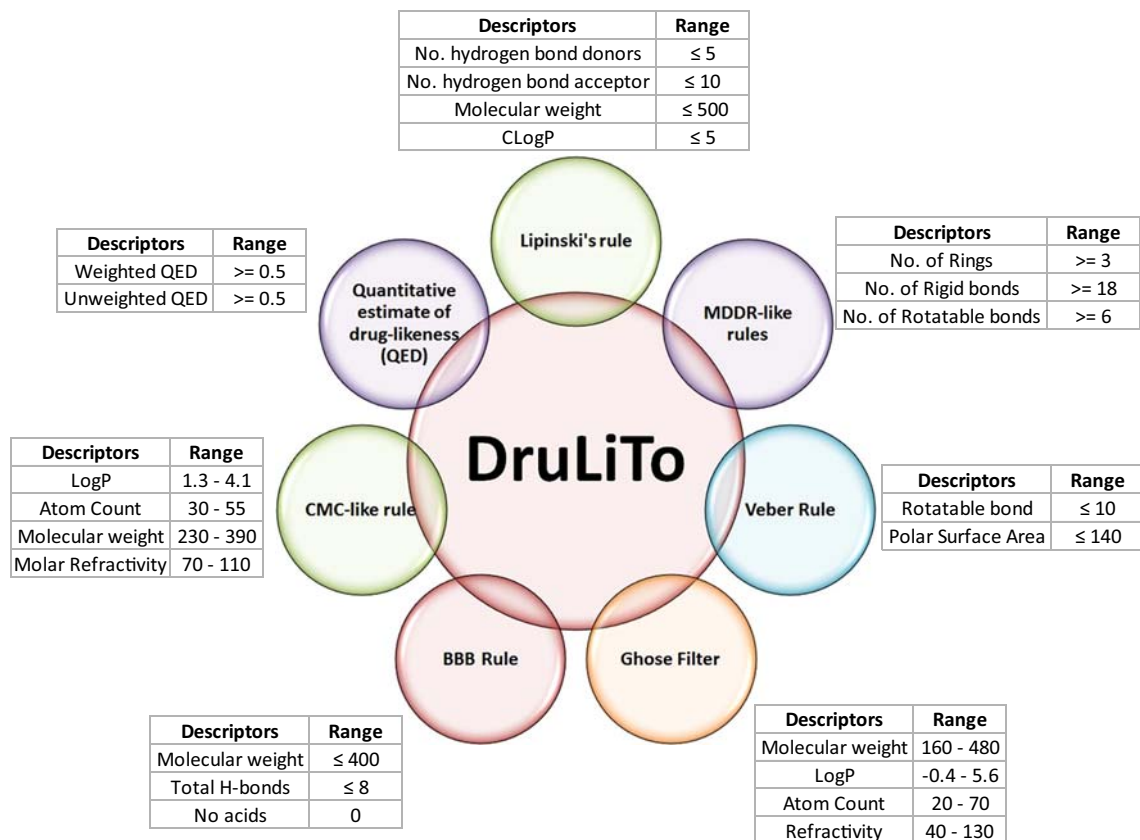
**Figure 5.** Workflow for compound prioritization using screening and docking modules.

Along with McQSAR, SVMlight<sup>79</sup> has also been incorporated in MPDS<sup>TB</sup> which helps in classifying the compound data into actives and inactives. The ‘Build QSAR Model: SVMlight’ builds a QSAR model based on descriptor files of active and inactive molecules. Then ‘Classify Data: SVMlight’ tool takes the model file and the descriptor file of compounds with unknown activity, and classifies them into actives and inactives.

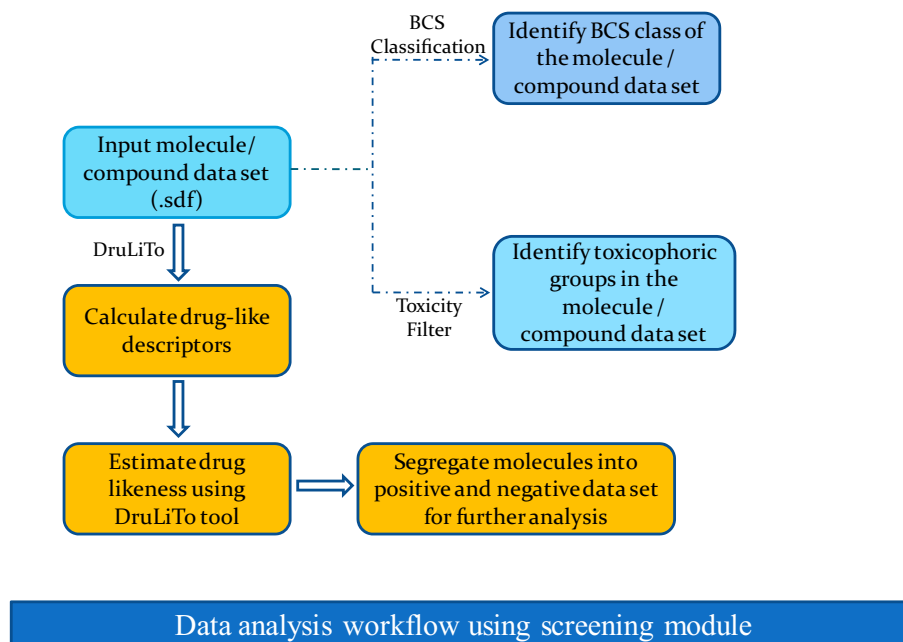
**3.3b Module 7: Docking:** The docking protocol involves multiple steps including energy minimization

(chemical structure optimization), conformer generation, docking and its analysis, and visualization. In MPDS<sup>TB</sup>, the docking module contains four tools to carry out these steps. The ligand optimization tool incorporates the Phenix electronic Ligand Builder and Optimisation Workbench (eLBOW).<sup>80</sup> The tool uses semi-empirical quantum chemistry based calculations using AM1 (Austin Model 1).<sup>81</sup> Hydrogen atoms are automatically added to the compound by eLBOW. The conformer generation tool utilizes the OpenBabel 2.3.2. genetic algorithm approach to generate diverse conformers based on RMSD. AutoDock Vina<sup>82</sup> has been implemented as the docking software in module 7. Thus, the use of docking module allows the user to carry out efficient and robust docking calculations (Figure 5).

The proteins can be uploaded as a PDB file, or can directly be accessed from target library available in the MPDS<sup>TB</sup> shared library. The ligands can be obtained from the compound library of MPDS<sup>TB</sup> package or a user can upload their choice of ligand in sdf or pdb format with 3D coordinates. The docking calculation can be started using the default parameters and with some user defined parameters. Users can also download the docking results as a zip file containing the complex files in PDB format and the Vina log file containing the ranked binding free energy scores. The docked complexes can be visualized through the visualization module for examining the protein-ligand interactions.



**Figure 6.** Drug-Likeness prediction tool (DruLiTo) for screening chemical compounds, databases or libraries.



**Figure 7.** Workflow for compound screening using DruLiTo and filters.

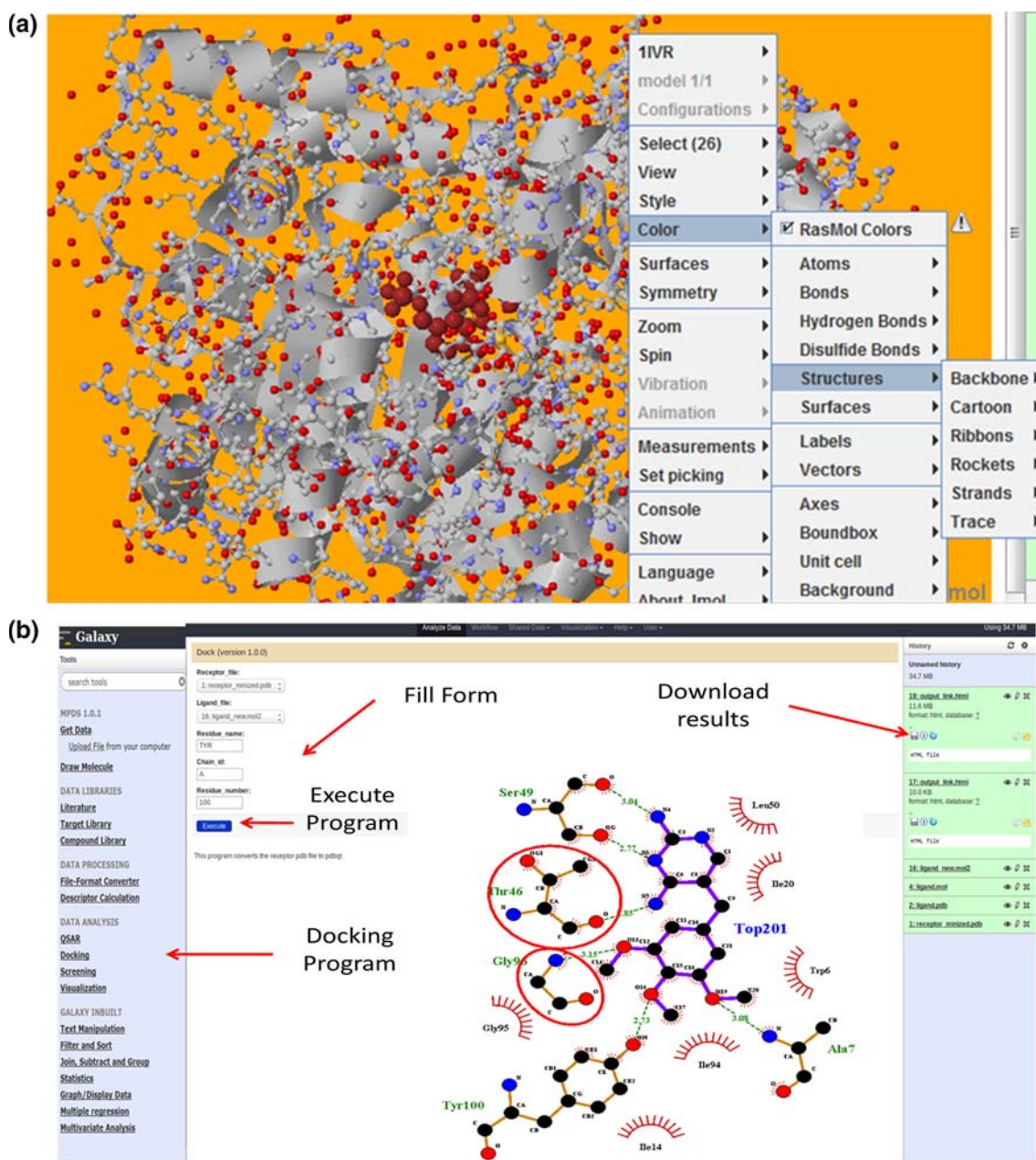
3.3c *Module 8: Screening:* To prioritize compounds for their drug-like features, DruLiTo<sup>83</sup> is integrated into MPDS<sup>TB</sup>. This tool provides the assessment of drug-like features based on eight different published

algorithms.<sup>84-88</sup> To calculate drug-likeness of a compound, DruLiTo needs descriptor data, which may be calculated using CDK. DruLiTo uses these descriptors to determine the drug-likeness of the molecule,



based on the different rules as defined by the end user. The user can then segregate the input dataset into passed and failed groups based on one or more rules selected (Figure 6, 7). In addition to this, the biopharmaceutics classification system (BCS) is implemented using in-house scripts to evaluate the solubility and the permeability of compounds. These predictions can subsequently be used to process the positive ligand set or negative ligand set or the original input dataset, all of which are in sdf format, to determine the BCS class (I, II, III, IV) into which the molecules fall based on their predicted permeability and intrinsic solubility values.

Another feature provided in MPDS<sup>TB</sup> is to perform toxicity analysis. A comprehensive list of structural alerts including data from FAF-Drugs2 (204 substructures), OCChem and literature are generated. The toxicity filter performs a substructure search on the query molecule and highlights the matched toxicophoric groups from this data and displays it in an image format. It also produces the mol format of the molecules with toxicophoric groups that can be saved. Along with this, a text file listing the molecule ID, the total number of toxicophoric matches found and the SMARTS pattern of the matched groups can also be generated with this module.



**Figure 8.** (a) Visualization of protein-ligand complex by various structural representations, (b) LigPlot for visualizing protein-ligand interactions (hydrogen bonding and hydrophobic contacts).

3.3d *Module 9: Visualization*: Protein-ligand complex can be viewed in LigPlot<sup>+</sup> tool available in this module in order to examine the protein-ligand interactions. The key interactions of the ligand with active site amino acids are displayed by hydrogen bonding (dashed lines between the atoms) and hydrophobic contacts (an arc with spokes radiating towards the ligand atoms). The protein-ligand complex can be visualized in Jmol by various structural representations (Figure 8).

## 4. Results and Discussion

### 4.1 The compound library and search page

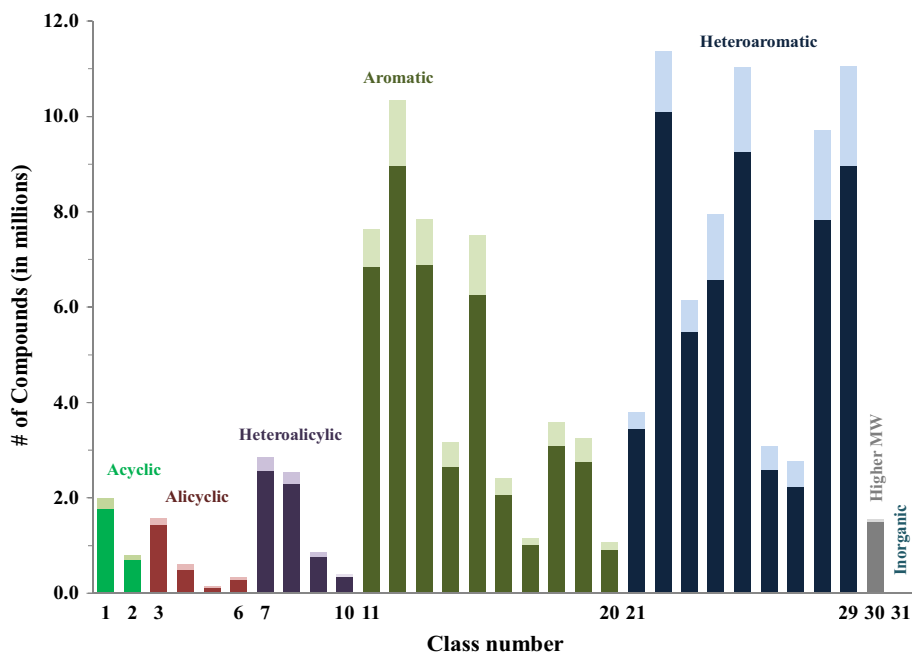
MPDS<sup>TB</sup> compound library is a compiled and curated database containing 110.31 million unique compounds (as on 31st December 2016) from various publicly available databases including PubChem, KEGG, ZINC, DrugBank, ASINEX and NCI. Before making unique compounds, salt containing compounds were removed and further, the compounds were separated on the basis of molecular weight taking 750 Da as cut-off. Fingerprints were generated and compounds were classified into classes and clusters. Chemically well-defined classes obtained from fingerprinting algorithm were subjected to redundancy as well as removal of isotopes based on the InChIKey and truncated InChI respectively (Table 3). A class is a chemically well-defined group, whereas cluster is a set of compounds with a size limit of 0.25 million. After classification, the compound library majorly consists of 106.30 million cyclic compounds (2.34 million alicyclic, 5.96 million heteroalicyclic, 41.51 million aromatic and 56.49 million heteroaromatic). For aromatic compounds, class 12 (aromatic compounds contain two rings) has a maximum number of compounds (8.97 million) having 42 clusters, whereas class 20 (aromatic compounds contains more than or equal to four rings) has 0.91 million compounds in clusters. Highest number of compounds is present in the heteroaromatic class 22 (10 million), which are stored in 46 clusters (Figure 9). MPDS<sup>TB</sup> fingerprinting algorithm and search engine offer a number of advantages over the available fingerprinting algorithms. The various available algorithms match a set of SMARTS patterns against each molecule to calculate each bit of the fingerprint that leads to reduced search time.<sup>89</sup> MPDS-Database uses SMILES notation of the molecules for storage and fingerprinting which makes it faster than the other approaches utilizing SMARTS notation for pattern search and matching. The available fingerprinting algorithms are not suitable for the

**Table 3.** Distribution of number of compounds in structural classes of MPDS<sup>TB</sup> compound library.

Chemical Classes	Class <sup>‡</sup>	No. of clusters <sup>£</sup>	No. of compounds
Acyclic	1	8	1,790,302
	2	4	708,804
Alicyclic	3	7	1,436,757
	4	3	483,877
	5	1	127,301
	6	2	292,961
	7	12	2562,119
Heteroalicyclic	8	11	2,289,075
	9	4	772,643
	10	2	337,420
	11	31	6,842,221
Aromatic	12	42	8,978,649
	13	32	6,898,540
	14	13	2,649,637
	15	31	6,276,919
	16	10	2,071,127
	17	5	1,024,251
	18	15	3,089,744
	19	14	2,771,697
	20	5	903,427
	Heteroaromatic	21	16
22		46	10,086,573
23		25	5,484,547
24		32	6,580,855
25		45	9,268,612
26		13	2,588,133
27		12	2,228,509
Large Molecules	28	39	7,829,460
	29	45	8,970,816
	30	7	1,499,109
	31	1	11747

<sup>‡</sup>Class is a chemically well-defined group, <sup>£</sup>Cluster is a set of compounds with a size limit of 0.25 million.

large data size (110.31 million) as the speed is compromised due to matching a large set of SMARTS patterns against each molecule. The limitation of the current version of MPDS-fingerprinting is that it is not at the stage of being molecule specific. The purpose of designing this fingerprinting algorithm was to reduce the search space to a level where the 2D structural comparison can be performed without compromising the computational power and time utilization. Therefore, more efforts are required to make this fingerprinting robust and molecule specific. Fingerprinting of inorganic molecules is an issue with most of the available fingerprinting algorithms. However, MPDS<sup>TB</sup> fingerprinting algorithm adopts the structure-based fingerprint classifying the inorganic compounds efficiently. The program for the generation of 30-bit fingerprinting is written in Java (using NetBeans IDE 7.2.1).<sup>90</sup> Further,



**Figure 9.** Distribution of unique (dark color) and duplicate (light color) compounds in different chemically well-defined classes.

the choice of SMILES notation for the assignment of fingerprinting and structure search was attributed to the easy and fast handling of the SMILES patterns rather than SMARTS patterns (Table 4).

#### 4.2 The search page

MPDS<sup>TB</sup> provides an interface for searching molecule based on their diverse properties through compound library search tool designed on the Galaxy platform. The user can search the compound library by database ID, exact structure, substructure, descriptor and fingerprint. The result of search page shows a list of molecules fulfilling the criteria, which are further linked to MPDS ID card, displaying the basic information of molecule. The in-house program will calculate molecular fingerprints and searches the query molecules in the database for generating MPDS ID card. For assisting the molecular drawing in MPDS-Galaxy portal, JS draw has been incorporated.

#### 4.3 Workflow system

This is one of the most important features of the current platform, which paves the way to generate custom design workflows. The Galaxy workflow system can be used by a graphical drag-and-drop interface in which tools are configured and interconnected between the appropriate input and output points. The user can also extract/download the workflow from the history pane.

MPDS<sup>TB</sup> presents a platform where a data library, data processing and data analysis are configured and interconnected to assist *in silico* drug discovery. The user can utilize the inbuilt workflows or design a new one to carry out cheminformatics analysis for any given molecule. The MPDS<sup>TB</sup> workflow system can be interconnected between different modules for a specific task.

#### 4.4 MPDS ID card

The output from MPDS<sup>TB</sup> portal is MPDS ID card (which is akin to Aadhar card in India, or social security number in the USA) that represents a molecular profile report specific to a given molecule. This card reports the vital physico-chemical properties of a molecule essential to estimate the drug-likeness and activity of the molecule in the early stages of the drug discovery and development pipeline. MPDS ID which provides all pertinent information can have several pages. First page is standard and essentially aids in registering the molecule in the database, besides providing vital physico-chemical parameters. However, if more pertinent data are available on the molecule, such as their biological activity, spectroscopic data, toxicity, PK/PD data, *etc.*, subsequent pages will be created. The first page of the molecule can be viewed publicly from the portal; second and subsequent pages are stored in the external hard disks at the development site, due to apparent disk storage limitations (Figures 10 and 11).

**Table 4.** 30-bit fingerprinting scheme and its various levels employed for the classification of molecules in MPDS<sup>TB</sup> 1.0.1.

Fingerprint Level	Fingerprint bits	Fingerprint bits and Molecular features
<b>Level 1</b> (Skeleton)	1   2   3   4   5   6	1st bit: Acyclic/Cyclic <b>Acyclic:</b> 2nd and 3rd bits: Saturation & Conjugation 4th bit: Straight/Branched 5th bit: Homo/Hetero atomic <b>Cyclic:</b> 2nd and 3rd bits: Number of rings 4th and 5th bits: Alicyclic/Aromatic 6th bit: Large/Small
<b>Level 2</b> (Atom type)	7   8   9   10   11   12	<b>Acyclic and Cyclic:</b> 7th bit: Geometrical isomerism 8th bit: Hydrogen Bond Donor 9th bit: Hydrogen Bond Acceptor 10th bit: Halogens 11th bit: Heteroatom in side chain/backbone <b>Acyclic:</b> 12th bit: Presence of metal ion <b>Cyclic:</b> 12th bit: Presence of fused/unfused rings
<b>Level 3</b> (Functional group)	13   14   15   16   17   18   19   20	<b>Acyclic and Cyclic:</b> 13th bit: Carbonyl group 14th bit: Phosphate containing group 15th bit: Cyanide group 16th bit: Nitro group 17th bit: Sulphur group 18th bit: Amino group 19th bit: Alcohol/Ether group 20th bit: Boron
<b>Level 4</b> (Size of molecule)	21   22   23   24   25   26	<b>Acyclic and Cyclic:</b> 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th bits: Number of heavy atoms 25th bit: Chirality 26th bit: Connected/Disconnected structure
<b>Level 5</b> (Heteroatom type in ring)	27   28   29   30	<b>Acyclic:</b> 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th bits: Even/Odd number of carbons <b>Cyclic:</b> 27th bit: Nitrogen in ring 28th bit: Oxygen in ring 29th bit: Sulphur in ring 30th bit: Phosphorus in ring
<b>Level 6</b>	–	Number of heteroatom containing rings

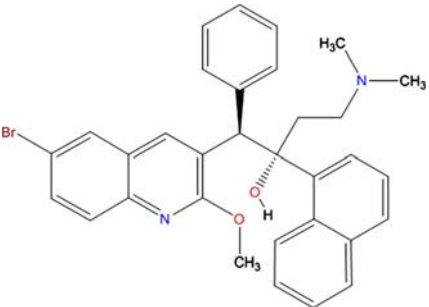
## 5. Conclusions

MPDS<sup>TB</sup> 1.0.1 is a comprehensive open source Galaxy-based web tool, which provides a platform to integrate the data collection, processing, and analysis customized towards anti-TB drug discovery and design. One of the main features of this program is its ability to assess and estimate the activity of a given molecule using chemoinformatics, bioinformatics tools, and the existing knowledge in the area. The major attainment of MPDS<sup>TB</sup>

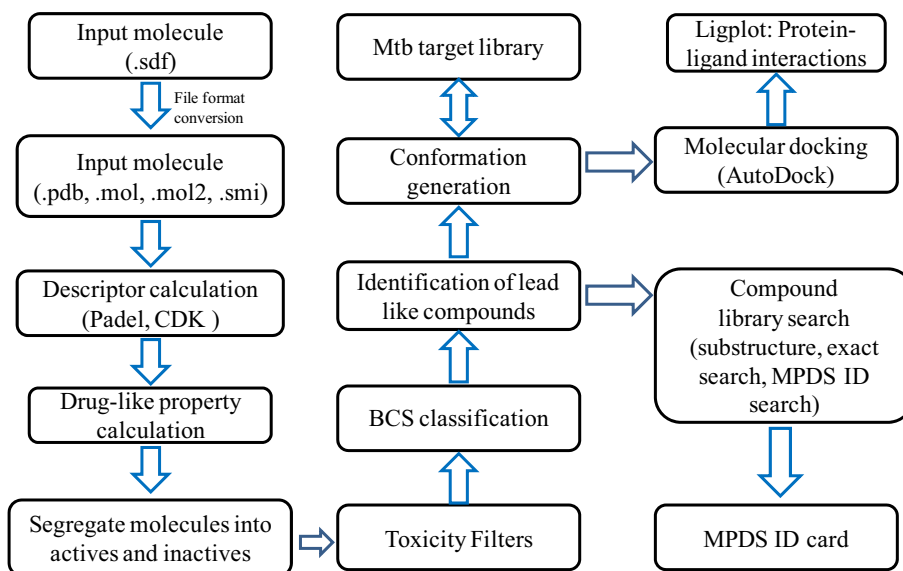
is the creation of a unique compound library (110.31 million) by removing duplicates, isotopic redundancy and salts. A structure-based classification program was developed, which classifies the compound library into 31 classes and 533 clusters.

We believe that the web-based chemoinformatics and modeling tools are great enablers to tackle grand challenges in healthcare in general and drug discovery in particular. One of the major bottlenecks for carrying out research in drug discovery in the academia can be



Molecular Property Diagnostic Suite			
			<b>MPDS ID:27-09-137939</b>
	<b>Molecular Formula:</b>		
	<b>C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>31</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub></b>		
			<b>IUPAC Name:</b>
			(1R,2S)-1-(6-Bromo-2-methoxy-3-quinolinyl)-4-(dimethylamino)-2-(1-naphthyl)-1-phenyl-2-butanol
<b>Remarks:</b>			
<b>Name/Synonyms:</b> Bedaquilina, Bedaquilinum, TMC207, Sirturo, TMC-207, R207910, TMC207, R207910			
<b>Molecular Properties:</b>			
Mol. Wt	555.5	LogP	6.37
HBD	1	LogS	-6.5
HBA	4	pKa	pKa1: 11.64; pKa2: 13.47; pKa3: 7.67; pKa4: 2.67
Molar refractivity	154.02	Polar surface area	45.59
Heavy atom count	37	Aromatic rings count	5
Rotatable bonds	8	Polarizability	57.29

**Figure 10.** Molecular Property Diagnostic Suite ID card (MPDS ID Card).



**Figure 11.** A workflow system for the generation of MPDS ID card by integration of data library, data processing and data analysis modules.

traced to the lack of proper software, access to the comprehensive information on the disease, and also what the contemporary challenges are in developing therapeutics in a given area. Developed countries are not significantly affected by TB and thus the onus of coordinating

and conducting frontline research on neglected diseases will be on the developing world. It is very important that India, possessing a tremendous pool of talent and human resource, takes up the leadership role in undertaking research on TB and other neglected diseases. The

current web-based tool, MPDS<sup>TB</sup> is expected to provide exactly such a platform to drive the research in this area.

### Abbreviations

**AM1**: Austin Model 1; **BCS**: Biopharmaceutics Classification System; **CDK**: Chemistry Development Kit; **CSV**: Comma-Separated Values; **DruLiTo**: Drug Likeness Tool; **eLBOW**: electronic Ligand Builder and Optimisation Workbench; **FAF-Drugs3**: Free ADME-Tox Filtering Tool; **FDA**: Food and Drug Administration; **GUI**: Graphical User Interface; **ID**: Identification number; **InChI**: International Chemical Identifier; **InChIKey**: International Chemical Identifier key; **IUPAC**: International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry; **KEGG**: Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes; **KNIME**: Konstanz Information Miner; **McQSAR**: Multi-conformational Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship; **MMFF94**: Merck Molecular Force Field 94; **MPDS**: Molecular Property Diagnostic Suite; **Mtb**: Mycobacterium tuberculosis; **NCI**: National Cancer Institute; **PaDEL**: Pharmaceutical Data Exploration Laboratory; **PDB**: Protein Data Bank; **PK/PD**: Pharmacokinetic/Pharmacodynamic; **QSAR**: Quantitative Structure Activity Relationship; **RMSD**: Root Mean Square Deviation; **SDF**: Structure Data File; **SMARTS**: SMiles ARbitrary Target Specification; **SMILES**: Simplified Molecular-Input Line-Entry System; **SVM**: Support Vector Machine; **TB**: Tuberculosis; **XML**: Extensible Markup Language

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