

## De Novo Protein Design

We are transitioning from physically based models (Rosetta) to deep learning methods (RFdiffusion, ProteinMPNN)

- 1. Overview of New Methods
- 2. The Design Frontier

# Can we design a neural architecture that models all molecules in the PDB?









### **Protein Small Molecule Complex Prediction**





Complexes that are dissimilar to training dataset

## Our deep-learning toolkit for protein design



## De novo protein design using RFdiffusion



Watson et al, 2023. PMID: 37433327Z

Inspired by deep-learning methods for generating synthetic images. e.g. DALL-E



Synthetic image trajectory from NVIDIA

#### Shape matching binders to TNF superfamily receptors

RFdiffusion generates shape matched binders to TNFR1

Partial diffusion improves shape complementarity and binding affinity Binders can be retargeted to other family members by partial diffusion

A.		$\rightarrow$		Original		Retargete	d
JA COL				TNFR1 binder	TNFR2 binder	OX40 binder	4-1BB binder
		T I	TNFR1	16	n.b.	n.b.	n.b.
		У т	TNFR2	n.b.	0.058	n.b.	n.b.
			OX40	n.b.	n.b.	24	n.b.
and the sec		1932	4-1BB	n.b.	n.b.	n.b.	64
	Initial binder: Partially diffused binder:	K <sub>p</sub> = 16 nM K <sub>p</sub> = 9 pM		TNFR1	TNFR2	OX40	41-BB

### **RFdiffusion for antibody design**

Start from random noise placed Cryo-EM confirms accuracy around chosen target epitope of diffused anti-HA antibody Model binds to hotspots through designed CDR loops

#### Potent anti-tumor immunomodulators



IL-21 mimic (21h10)



with Dougan Lab (Dana Farber)

## Design of peptide/disordered protein binding

## Design of peptide-binding proteins via RFdiffusion



## Diffused peptide binders have picomolar affinites



## Design strategy for binding amyloid forming peptides



500 750 1000 1250 1500 1750 2000 2250 2500 Time (s)

### **Blocking amyloid formation**







with Knowles Lab (Cambridge)

#### Designed binders for native disordered proteins function in cells

General approach for targeting disordered proteins



Protein	Description	Ctrl	aZFC-low	aZFC-high
ZFC3H1	PAXT complex	0	0	27 (19%)
MTR4	PAXT complex	8 (11%)	5 (5.8%)	35 (37%)
BUB3	Mitotic checkpoint	3 (13%)	3 (13%)	23 (84%)
ZN207	Mitotic checkpoint	2 (2.7%)	3 (5.4%)	13 (14%)
RBM12	RNA processing	4 (3.8%)	6 (6.3%)	43 (43%)
RBM26	RNA processing	3 (3.6%)	2 (3.7%)	47 (42%)

Design: Kejia Wu Cell assays/Mass spec the Emmanuel Derivery lab (UK)

number indicates exclusive unique peptide count

## Design of transmembrane nanopore sensors

#### Design of transmembrane beta barrel nanopores

**10 Strands** 

**12 Strands** 













-60

-100

-50

0

Voltage (mV)

50

100

Samuel Lemma, Sagardip Majumder, Carolin Berner, Anastassia Vorobieva

## Ligand gated nanopores



Gated nanopore without cholic acid



#### Gated nanopore with cholic acid



## Design of protein nanomaterials

## First approved de novo designed medicine!

- June 29: South Korea approved SKYCovione for use in adults!
- Completed a multinational Phase 3 trial with 4,037 adults
- SKYCovione<sup>™</sup> generated ~3x more neutralizing antibodies
- Antibody conversion rate: **98%** for SKYCovione (v.s. 87%)
  - Among subject ≥65 years of age: 95% for SKYCovione (v.s. 79%)
- Comparable levels of T-cell activation
- No serious adverse reactions
- Heterologous booster trials now underway





SKYCovione<sup>™</sup> employs IPD's self-assembling protein nanoparticle technology and GSK's pandemic adjuvant How to break symmetry

1. Pseudo-symmetry (Programmable assembly) 2. Quasi-symmetry (Multi-state assembly)



1. Pseudo-symmetry (T=4 ico-sym cage) x20 x20 x12 Ico<sub>T=4</sub>-4 n m O AAV 20nm

S. Lee\* & R. Kibler et al., *bioRxiv* 2023 (*\*currently Assistant Prof.* @ POSTECH, South Korea)

Resolution: ~10A

#### **Expandable nanomaterials**



Building blocks:



**EM structures:** 

Tim Huddy, Yang Hsia, Ryan Kibler

# Create proteins that solve modern challenges in medicine, technology & sustainability.

Medicine	Technology	Sustainability
Vaccines & Antivirals	Nanoscale Manufacturing	Plastic Degradation
Cancer Immunotherapy	Protein-Silicon Devices	Carbon Sequestration
Drug Delivery Systems	<b>Bio-Based Computers</b>	Artificial Photosynthesis

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#### NSERC!!!