



Peptides and Amino Acids in Drug Development: Here and Now

Guest Editor:

Dr. Siva Panda

Department of Chemistry and
Physics, Augusta University,
Augusta, GA, USA

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Message from the Guest Editor

Peptides and amino acids are ubiquitously found as important building blocks and are attracting interest in pharmaceutical research and drug development. Peptide chemistry is extensively utilized for the preparation of therapeutic peptides, signaling peptides, penetrating peptides, peptide–drug conjugates, cyclic peptides, and peptidomimetics. Over 150 peptide-based drug candidates are in clinical trials. In recent years, a paradigm shift has taken place in the pharmaceutical industry for peptide and amino acid-based drugs because of high selectivity for targets, improved bioavailability, and reduced toxicity.

Peptides and amino acids have the potential to offer the versatility needed for a successful drug discovery approach. Peptide–drug conjugates (PDCs) are an emerging targeted therapeutic that is composed of a drug candidate, peptide, and a linker. Alternatively, to enhance penetration and selectivity, peptides and amino acids are also used as linkers in molecular hybridized compounds.





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Prof. Dr. Felipe Fregni

1. Neuromodulation Center and
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Massachusetts General Hospital,
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MA 02114, USA
2. Department of Epidemiology,
Harvard T.H. Chan School of
Public Health, Boston, MA 02115,
USA

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
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