



RESEARCH ARTICLE

REVISED The dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitors vildagliptin and K-579 inhibit a phospholipase C: a case of promiscuous scaffolds in proteins [version 3; referees: 2 approved]

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Abstract

The long term side effects of any newly introduced drug is a subject of intense research, and often raging controversies. One such example is the dipeptidyl peptidase-IV (DPP4) inhibitor used for treating type 2 diabetes, which is inconclusively implicated in increased susceptibility to acute pancreatitis. Previously, based on a computational analysis of the spatial and electrostatic properties of active site residues, we have demonstrated that phosphoinositide-specific phospholipase C (PI-PLC) from *Bacillus cereus* is a prolyl peptidase using *in vivo* experiments. In the current work, we first report the inhibition of the native activity of PI-PLC by two DPP4 inhibitors - vildagliptin (LAF-237) and K-579. While vildagliptin inhibited PI-PLC at micromolar concentrations, K-579 was a potent inhibitor even at nanomolar concentrations. Subsequently, we queried a comprehensive, non-redundant set of 5000 human proteins (50% similarity cutoff) with known structures using serine protease (SPASE) motifs derived from trypsin and DPP4. A pancreatic lipase and a gastric lipase are among the proteins that are identified as proteins having promiscuous SPASE scaffolds that could interact with DPP4 inhibitors. The presence of such scaffolds in human lipases is expected since they share the same catalytic mechanism with PI-PLC. However our methodology also detects other proteins, often with a completely different enzymatic mechanism, that have significantly congruent domains with the SPASE motifs. The reported elevated levels of serum lipase, although contested, could be rationalized by inhibition of lipases reported here. In an effort to further our understanding of the spatial and electrostatic basis of DPP4 inhibitors, we have also done a

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comprehensive analysis of all 76 known DPP4 structures liganded to inhibitors till date. Also, the methodology presented here can be easily adopted for other drugs, and provide the first line of filtering in the identification of pathways that might be inadvertently affected due to promiscuous scaffolds in proteins.

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REVISED Amendments from Version 2

In the current version, we have changed the title, and cited previous research (ref 41 and 54) based on referee suggestions.

We have also included some minor corrections as suggested by a co-author.

See referee reports

Introduction

Oral glucose elicits a greater insulin response than intravenous glucose infusion, a phenomenon known as the incretin effect¹. This effect is mostly attributed to the intestinally derived hormones glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) and gastric inhibitory polypeptide (GIP)². These hormones have a very short half-life as they are rapidly inactivated by the ubiquitous enzyme dipeptidyl peptidase-IV (DPP4)³. The finding that the incretin effect is impaired in subjects with type 2 diabetes⁴ led to two major types of GLP-1 based therapies⁵ - intravenously or sub-cutaneously administered GLP-1 mimetics that are resistant to DPP4 (exenatide, liraglutide, etc.)⁶, and the orally administered gliptins that prolong the physiological actions of incretin hormones by inhibiting DPP4 (sitagliptin, vildagliptin, etc.)⁷⁻⁹. Due to the multifarious roles played by the DPP4 enzyme¹⁰⁻¹², the possible side effects of these drugs (acute pancreatitis, pancreatic cancer, etc.¹³⁻¹⁵) are strongly contested by researchers who argue that current statistics are insufficient^{16,17} to conclusively attribute these side effects to the otherwise beneficial GLP-1 drugs¹⁸. Compound promiscuity is another phenomenon that might play a crucial role in determining the side effects of these therapies, although this aspect has rarely been pursued intensively¹⁹.

Previous work by our group has established the spatial and electrostatic congruence in cognate residue pairs of the active site in proteins with the same functionality (CLASP)^{20,21}. CLASP analysis indicated that the phosphoinositide-specific phospholipase C (PI-PLC) from *Bacillus cereus* has spatial and electrostatic congruence with a serine protease motif²². This was validated by protease assays, mass spectrometry and by inhibition of the native phospholipase activity of PI-PLC by the well-known serine protease inhibitor AEBSF ($IC_{50} = 0.018$ mM). The specificity of the protease activity was for a proline in the amino terminal, suggesting that PI-PLC is a prolyl peptidase, similar to the DPP4 enzyme. This finding led us to believe that the gliptins would have similar inhibitory effect on PI-PLC. In the current work, we have confirmed the inhibition of the native phospholipase activity of PI-PLC using two gliptins - vildagliptin²³ (at μ -molar concentrations) and K579²⁴ (at nano-molar concentrations).

Subsequently, we used a motif derived from a DPP4 protein²⁵, in addition to the trypsin motif used previously²², to query a comprehensive and non-redundant (50% sequence identity) list of ~5000 human proteins with known structures using CLASP, intending to identify other proteins that might be inhibited by the gliptins. From the set of proteins with significant congruent matches with these two motifs, we identified a pancreatic lipase²⁶ and a gastric lipase²⁷,

keeping the context of lipases, acute pancreatitis and GLP-1 based therapies in mind. Our findings rationalize the elevated levels of serum lipase found in patients undergoing DPP4 inhibitor based therapies^{28,29}, although these reports are in disagreement with other findings^{30,31}. While it is logical and expected to find scaffolds that are congruent to trypsin and DPP4 active sites in lipases based on the current results and our previous findings²², we also show the presence of the serine catalytic triad in close proximity to the active site residues of proteins which have a completely different enzymatic mechanism (for example, in glutaminyl cyclase which is a transferase³²). This corroborates the current belief that convergent evolution occurs more frequently than previously believed³³. Thus, we propose a rational method to identify proteins that might have unintended and undesirable interactions with newly introduced compounds, and substantiate our claims by demonstrating the inhibition of the native phospholipase activity of PI-PLC from *B. cereus* using gliptins that are used in type 2 diabetes therapy.

Results

The active site motifs

The active sites of serine proteases differ in their specificities owing to residues other than the conserved catalytic triad. Thus, in addition to the trypsin motif used previously (Asp102, Ser195 and His57 - PDBid 1A0J)²² (Motif1), we choose another motif from a DPP4 enzyme (Asp708, Ser630 and His740 - PDBid:1N1M) (Motif2) (Table 1). Apart from the catalytic triad, we chose another non-polar residue in order to increase the specificity of the matches (Ala56 in Motif1 and Val711 in Motif2). This fourth residue is chosen as the closest residue to any one of the catalytic triad residues. Using the ability of CLASP to include stereochemically equivalent residues, this last residue could be matched by another non-polar residue - one of Gly, Ala, Val, Leu, Ile or Met. Further, it has been seen that the second (ac) and fifth (bd) (Table 1) pairwise electrostatic potential differences (EPD) are not discriminatory - thus, this pair is not used to score the EPD difference (although it is included in the distance deviation score).

Inhibition of phosphoinositide-specific phospholipase C (PI-PLC) using dipeptidyl peptidase-IV (DPP4) inhibitors. DPP4 (EC 3.4.14.5), a serine protease that is expressed in many tissues (kidney, liver, lung, intestinal membranes, lymphocytes and endothelial cells), cleaves peptides with Pro or Ala residues in the second amino terminal position. Previously, we have experimentally demonstrated the existence of the serine protease domain in PI-PLC from *Bacillus cereus* - both by virtue of its proteolytic activity, and the inhibition of its native activity on phospholipids in the presence of serine protease inhibitors²². Furthermore, the specificity of the proteolytic activity indicated that it was a prolyl peptidase - thus, leading us to believe that DPP4 inhibitors should have a similar inhibitory effect on the PI-PLC enzyme. Table 1 shows the presence of a congruent motif in the PI-PLC protein with both Motif1 and Motif2. His32 and Asp67 are known to be a part of the active site scaffold in PI-PLC²². These proteins have completely different folds, and thus a superimposition (using both MUSTANG³⁴ and DECAAF³⁵) does not show any detectable similarity in their structures (Supplementary Figure 1). Figure 1 shows the active sites of these proteins, and the superimposition of these proteins

Table 1. Potential and spatial congruence of the active site residues in proteins queried using two motifs - Motif1 from Trypsin and Motif2 from DPP4. Rmsd1 and Rmsd2 are the root mean square deviation of the scaffold with respect to Motif1 and Motif2. DPP4 - dipeptidyl peptidase-IV, PI-PLC - phosphoinositide-specific phospholipase C, PLASE - human pancreatic lipase-Related Protein 2, GPASE - human gastric lipase, QC - glutaminyl cyclase. D = Pairwise distance in Å. PD = Pairwise potential difference. APBS writes out the electrostatic potential in dimensionless units of kT/e where k is Boltzmann's constant, T is the temperature in K and e is the charge of an electron.

PDB	Active site atoms (a,b,c,d)		ab	ac	ad	bc	bd	cd	Rmsd1	Rmsd2
TRYPSIN (1A0J)	D102,S195 H57,A56	D	7.8	5.6	2.9	3.3	9.0	6.9	0	0.5
		PD	-144.1	-39.2	-248.3	104.8	-104.3	-209.1		
DPP4 (1N1M)	D708,S630 H740,V711	D	7.6	5.4	2.6	2.6	6.8	5.4	0.5	0
		PD	-154.4	124.4	-148.8	278.8	5.6	-273.2		
PI-PLC (1PTD)	D67,S234 H32,I68	D	8.2	6.2	4.1	3.8	11.5	9.2	0.6	1.1
		PD	-93.7	39.7	-245.2	133.4	-151.5	-284.8		
PLASE (2OXE)	D195,S171 H282,G235	D	7.7	6.4	4.4	3.0	6.7	5.8	0.5	0.4
		PD	-150.2	26.7	-132.1	176.9	18.2	-158.8		
GPASE (1HLG) Motif1	D324,S153, H353,L326	D	7.5	5.0	2.9	2.7	8.4	6.2	0.2	0.3
		PD	-202.6	-15.0	-272.3	187.6	-69.7	-257.3		
GPASE (1HLG) Motif2	D324,S153 H353,A327	D	7.5	5.0	2.6	2.7	7.1	5.3	0.4	0.1
		PD	-202.6	-15.0	-207.1	187.6	-4.5	-192.1		
QC (3PB4)	D170,S187, H168,G224	D	7.5	4.8	3.4	3.3	10.7	8.0	0.4	0.8
		PD	-92.8	-16.5	-214.0	76.3	-121.2	-197.5		

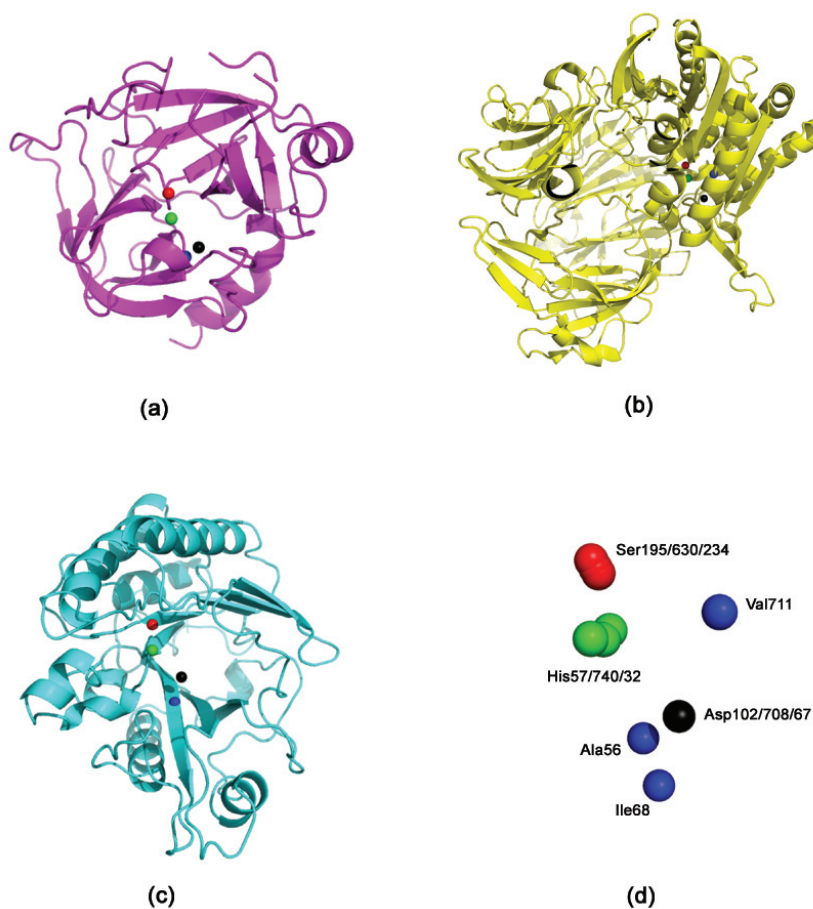


Figure 1. The active site residues in Trypsin, DPP4 and PI-PLC. (a) Trypsin (PDBid:1A0J) (b) DPP4 (PDBid:1N1M); (c) PI-PLC (PDBid:1PTD) (d) Superimposing the active site residues using DE-CAAF³⁵. The superimposition can be viewed in Superimposeproteins.p1m in [Dataset 1](#).

based on their catalytic residues³⁵. It can be seen that the closest non-polar residue to the catalytic triad in trypsin and PI-PLC (Ala56 in PDBid:1A0J, Ile68 in PDBid:1PTD) is differently placed from Val711 in DPP4 (PDBid:1N1M). This is also indicated by the greater RMSD (root mean square deviation) of the scaffold in PI-PLC to Motif2 as compared to Motif1. The differences in the position of peripheral residues is the source of the diverse specificities exhibited by these proteases. **Figure 2** shows the inhibition of PI-PLC using two gliptins - vildagliptin (LAF-237)²³ and K579²⁴. PI-PLC catalyzes hydrolysis of phospholipids to yield diacylglycerol and a phosphoryl alcohol. In the absence of inhibitors enzyme addition to the vesicle suspension causes an increase in turbidity due to vesicle aggregation (**Figure 2 a,c**). Aggregation in turn occurs as a result of formation of the enzyme endproduct diacylglycerol^{36,37}. A steady-state is reached under our conditions after 6–8 min. Addition of either LAF-237 (vildagliptin) or K579 leads to an obvious inhibition of the enzyme activity.

Dose-response curves for the inhibitors are shown in **Figure 2 (b,d)**. K579 is two orders of magnitude more potent than LAF-237 as a PI-PLC inhibitor, with half-maximal inhibitory concentrations IC_{50} respectively of 1 μ M and 100 μ M.

Phosphoinositide-specific phospholipase C inhibition data using the dipeptidyl peptidase-IV inhibitors K-579 and LAF-237

12 Data Files

<http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.880620>

Querying a non-redundant set of human proteins using Motif1 and Motif2. Currently, the PDB database has about 25,000 human proteins. Using a identity cutoff of 50%, we chose a set of ~5000 proteins (**Supplementary Table 1**) as the target proteins.

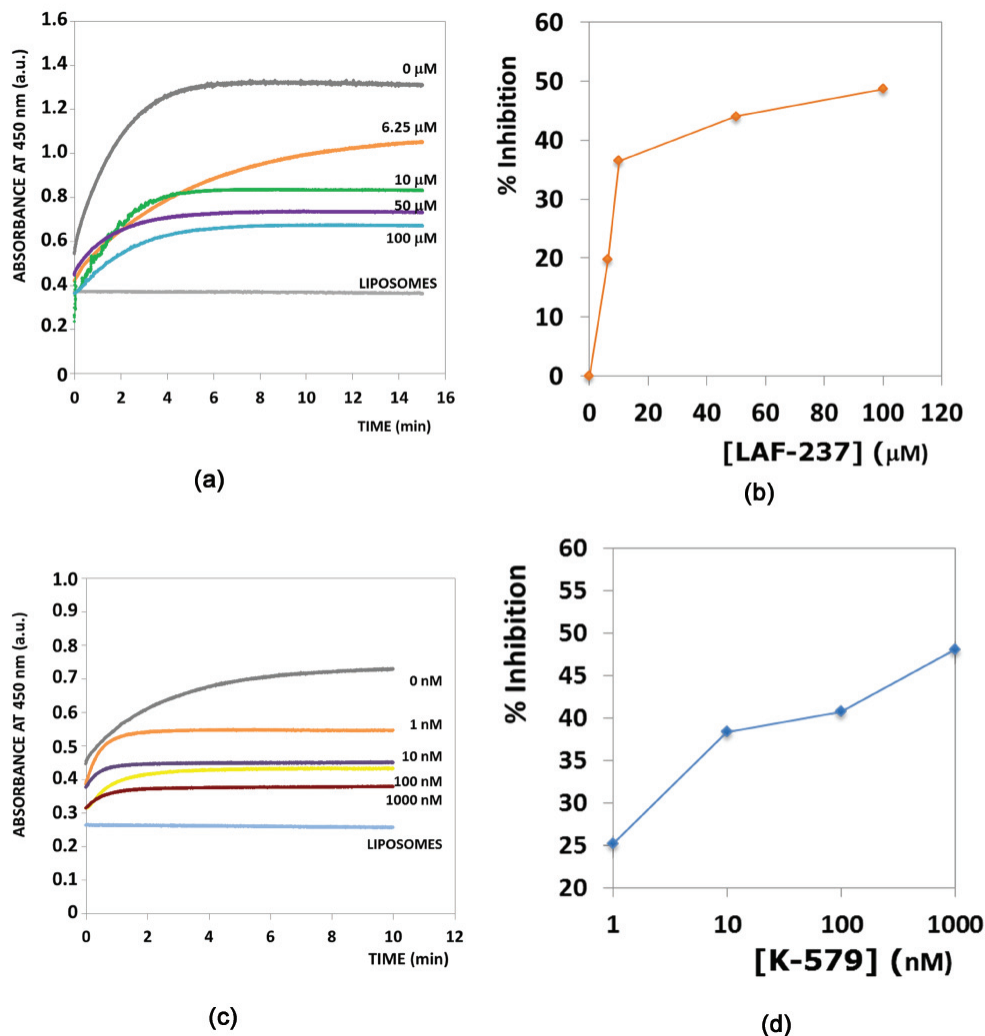


Figure 2. PI-PLC inhibition using DPP4 inhibitors. (a,c) Time courses of enzyme activity in the presence of varying amounts of inhibitors, respectively LAF-237 and K579. The trace marked LIPOSOMES corresponds to a control in the absence of PI-PLC. **(b,d)** Dose-response effect of inhibitors on PI-PLC activity. Activity was computed as the extent of vesicle aggregation after 10 min enzyme activity.

Table 2 shows ten proteins which have significant matches with Motif1 and Motif2. Given the context of lipases, acute pancreatitis and GLP-1 based therapies, we picked two proteins - the human pancreatic lipase-related protein 2 (PDBid:2OXE)²⁶ and a human gastric lipase (PDBid:1HLG)²⁷ - to demonstrate the distinct possibility that these proteins might be inhibited by DPP4 inhibitors. **Table 1** shows the congruence of the DPP4 motif to these proteins using Motif1 and Motif2. It is interesting to note that the gastric lipase (PDBid:1HLG) has a good match with both motifs - Leu326 in PDBid:1HLG is congruent to Ala56 in PDBid:1A0J, and Ala237 (PDBid:1HLG) is congruent to Val711 (PDBid:1N1M).

Since both these proteins are lipases (hydrolases), this congruence to Motif1 and Motif2 is expected based on our previous results with PI-PLC²². However, our methodology also detects other proteins, often with a completely different enzymatic mechanism from hydrolases. A glutaminyl cyclase (PDBid:3PB4)³², a transferase, has a significantly congruent domain with Motif1 (lesser congruence with Motif2, as indicated by the RMSD) (**Table 1**). **Figure 3** shows the proximity of the promiscuous scaffold to the active site of the cyclase, and also the congruence of the scaffold to Motif1.

Docking vildagliptin to the PIPLC structure. Since there are no DPP4 structures solved which ligand K-579, a DPP4 protein structure in complex with vildagliptin (PDBid:3W2TA)³⁸ was used to dock vildagliptin to the PIPLC structure complexed with myo-inositol (PDBid:1PTG)³⁹ using DOCLASP⁴⁰ (**Figure 4**). The Pymol script for visualizing the docking (SupplementaryPymol.p1m) is provided as **Supplementary information**.

Statistics of atoms making contact with inhibitors. There are 76 unique DPP4 inhibitors, defined by three letter codes, for which the

Table 2. Best matches in the set of ~5000 human proteins. (a) Motif1 (Asp102, Ser195, His57, Ala56) from Trypsin (b) Motif2 (Asp708, Ser630, His740, Val711) from DPP4.

Motif	PDB	Description	CLASP Score
1	2ANY	Plasma kallikrein, light chain	0.028
1	2OQ5	Transmembrane protease, serine 11E	0.037
1	3U0V	Lysophospholipase-like protein 1	0.041
1	2ODP	Complement C2	0.060
1	1IMJ	CCG1-interacting factor B	0.065
1	3F6U	Vitamin K-dependent protein C heavy chain	0.065
1	1ELV	Complement C1S component	0.068
1	1MD8	C1R complement serine protease	0.068
1	1ORF	Granzyme A	0.070
1	1FJ2	Acyl protein thioesterase 1	0.071
2	1HLG	Gastric lipase	0.042
2	1SPJ	Kallikrein 1	0.114
2	2F83	Coagulation factor XI	0.120
2	1ZJK	Mannan-binding lectin serine protease 2	0.131
2	3QLP	Thrombin light chain	0.145
2	2QXI	Kallikrein-7	0.146
2	2XU7	Histone-binding protein RBBP4	0.174
2	2W2N	Proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9	0.180
2	2HEH	KIF2C protein	0.195
2	2ANY	Plasma kallikrein, light chain	0.197

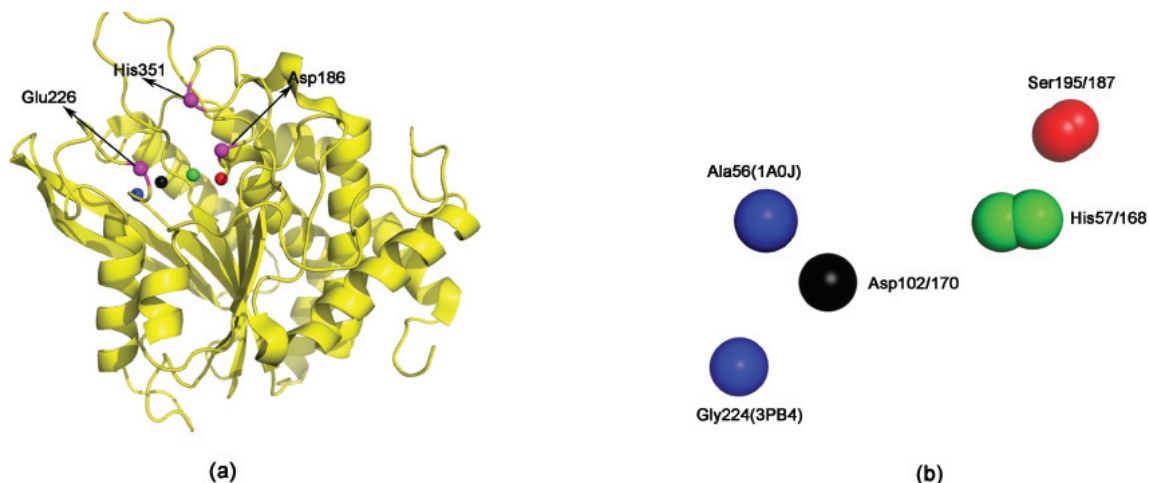


Figure 3. A scaffold congruent to the active site of Trypsin (PDBid:1A0J) in a glutaminyl cyclase (PDBid:3PB4). (a) The active site residues are marked in magenta. They are seen to be proximal to the identified scaffold. (b) Superimposition of Motif1 and the scaffold in glutaminyl cyclase. The exact pairwise interatomic distance and electrostatic potential differences are specified in **Table 1**.

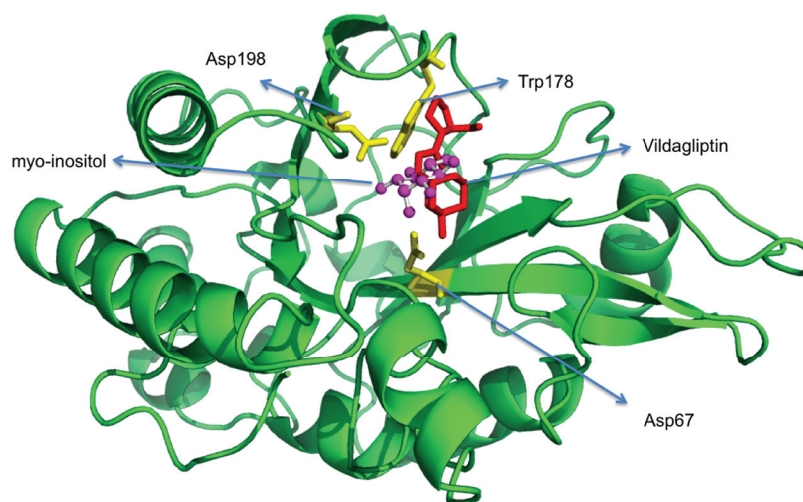


Figure 4. Docking vildagliptin to the PI-PLC structure in complex with myo-inositol (PDBid:1PTGA). Docking done using DOCLASP⁴⁰. The Pymol script for visualizing the docking (SupplementaryPymol.p1m) is provided as [Supplementary information](#).

ligand-DPP4 structure is solved ([Supplementary Table 2](#)). For uniformity, we chose the first four closest atoms from the protein that make contacts to the ligand, excluding hydrophobic interactions. [Table 3](#) shows the number of times each residue in DPP4 makes contact to the ligand. Three residues are ubiquitous in making contacts in all these ligands: Glu205, Glu206 and Tyr662 made contacts in 71, 68 and 63 ligands, respectively. Interestingly, Glu205 and Glu206 have been implicated as critical residues for the enzymatic activity of DPP4 through point mutations⁴¹. Note, that since only the first four residues were considered, these counts are conservative (and might be more). A recent study has found that inhibitors that bind to residues beyond the extensive subsite (defined as Val207, Ser209, Phe357 and Arg358) increases DPP4 inhibition, as compared to those inhibitors that form a covalent bond with Ser630³⁸. [Table 3](#) shows that very few inhibitors make such contacts. We created a library of motifs from these structures that can be used to query any protein using CLASP to determine the possibility that DPP4 inhibitors might bind to it ([Supplementary Table 3](#)), after removing equivalent ones to eliminate redundancy. This table shows the final list of 39 motifs (pruned from the initial 76): this is a comprehensive set of motifs that encapsulates the current knowledge about protein ligand interactions for the DPP4 enzyme. A facet of ligand binding that needs to be accounted for while choosing a motif is the spatial and electrostatic changes that can be induced by ligand binding. Thus, we obtain the residues involved in binding from the holo enzyme, but extract the motif values (pairwise distance and EPD) from the apo enzyme.

Discussion

The controversy regarding the side effects of the dpp4 inhibitors, particularly with respect to acute pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer, continues unabated. While some researchers feel that it is not acceptable to assume that 'absence of evidence is evidence of absence'^{42,43}, others believe that current data are not conclusive and the 'benefits by far outweigh the potential risks'¹⁶. Adding to the uncertainties are conflicting reports presented by different

groups²⁸⁻³¹. Notwithstanding the antagonistic views on the subject, it is unanimously accepted that current data are insufficient to establish a causal pathogenic effect of these drugs on such side effects⁴⁴.

Table 3. Number of times residues from the DPP4 enzyme ligand an inhibitor. Three residues - Glu205, Glu206 and Tyr662 - make contacts in 71, 68 and 63 ligands, respectively. Note, that since we only choose the first four residues based on proximity of the atoms closest to the ligand, these counts are conservative (and might be actually more).

Residue	Number of ligands
ARG125	11
GLU205	71
GLU206	68
VAL207	1
SER209	3
ARG358	6
TYR547	18
GLN553	1
TYR585	1
TRP629	1
SER630	10
TYR631	12
TYR662	63
ASN710	15

Various database studies have been undertaken in order to ascertain the effects of the GLP-1 therapies. Some studies 'did not find an association between the use of exenatide or sitagliptin and acute pancreatitis' with the caveat that the 'limitations of this observational claims-based analysis cannot exclude the possibility of an increased risk'⁴⁵. On the other hand, other studies have shown that the use of 'sitagliptin or exenatide increased the odds ratio for reported pancreatitis 6-fold as compared with other therapies'¹⁴. Further, they reported that 'pancreatic cancer was more commonly reported among patients who took sitagliptin or exenatide as compared with other therapies'¹⁴. Although these studies concern the usage of both GLP-1 mimetics and the orally administered gliptins, and our study exclusively focusses on gliptins, and is not concerned with the GLP-1 mimetics data. The close relationship between chronic pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer is also a subject of intense research⁴⁶. Another administrative database study of US adults with type 2 diabetes reported increased odds of hospitalization for acute pancreatitis for patients undergoing GLP-1 based therapies sitagliptin¹³. Once again, such correlation of GLP-1 based therapies to acute pancreatitis is contested by other studies⁴⁷.

Our findings rationalize the elevated levels of serum lipase found in patients undergoing DPP4 inhibitor based therapies^{28,29}, keeping in mind that other studies contradict these reports^{30,31}. While several studies have reported that the GLP-1 mimetics do not induce pancreatitis in rats, mouse and/or monkey⁴⁸⁻⁵⁰, these studies did not include DPP4 inhibitors, which are the compounds that might be responsible for interactions with pancreatic proteins according to our study. It is to be noted however that these mimetics may have other physiological effects and 'the long-term consequences of sustained GLP-1 receptor activation in the human thyroid remain unknown and merit further investigation'⁵¹. Once again, the previous study⁵¹ has been challenged by another group who note that 'findings previously reported in rodents may not apply to humans'⁵².

The orally administered gliptins differ in many aspects such as potency, excretion mechanism, target selectivity, half-life, metabolism and possible drug-drug interactions^{9,53,54}. This difference is also highlighted in the different concentrations of vildagliptin and K579 that inhibit PI-PLC. A recent study has also noted the differential off-target inhibition of enzymes by vildagliptin and sitagliptin using a high-throughput, multiplexed assay⁵⁵. Interestingly, the PI-PLC scaffold has a better match with the trypsin motif than with the DPP4 motif (Table 1). In order to be able to model these differences in our *in silico* search, it is important to be able to provide flexibility in the scoring mechanism.

To summarize, it has been noted in the case of GLP-1 based therapies that as 'evidence of harm accumulates, but is vigorously discounted' the 'burden of proof now rests with those who wish to convince us of their safety'⁴³. Surveillance programs, real-life cohort studies and case-control studies can be supplemented by rational investigations of relevant proteins based on anecdotal reports⁵⁶. The methodology proposed in the current work, which specifically

demonstrates the effects of the DPP4 inhibitors, also presents a rational way of determining the inadvertent interactions of newly designed compounds with proteins, and thus prevent the recurrence of drug induced diseases being detected after considerable damage has already been inflicted on humans subjected to these drugs⁵⁷.

Materials and methods

In silico analysis

A comprehensive, non-redundant set of ~5000 human proteins (50% identity cutoff) was obtained from the PDB database⁵⁸. The CLASP package (<http://www.sanchak.com/clasp>) used for querying these proteins using motifs from trypsin and DPP4 is written in Perl on Ubuntu²⁰. Hardware requirements are modest - all results here are from a simple workstation (8GB ram), and runtimes for analyzing the ~5000 proteins was about 24 hours. Adaptive Poisson-Boltzmann Solver (APBS) and PDB2PQR packages were used to calculate the potential difference between the reactive atoms of the corresponding proteins^{59,60}. The APBS parameters and electrostatic potential units were set as described previously in Chakraborty *et al.*²⁰. All protein structures were rendered by PyMol (<http://www.pymol.org/>). Protein structures have been superimposed using MUSTANG³⁴ and DECAAF³⁵.

Protein, substrate and reagents

PI-PLC was purchased from Sigma. Vildagliptin (LAF-237) was obtained from Selleckchem, and K579 was obtained from Santa Cruz.

PI-PLC assay and inhibition using DPP4 inhibitors

Vesicle preparation and characterization. The appropriate lipids were mixed in organic solution, and the solvent was evaporated to dryness under N₂. Solvent traces were removed by evacuating the lipids for at least 2 hours. The lipids were then swollen in 10 mM Hepes, 150 mM NaCl, pH 7.5 buffer. Large unilamellar vesicles (LUV) were prepared from the swollen lipids by extrusion and sized by using 0.1 μm poresize Nuclepore filters, as described by Ahayauch *et al.*³⁶. LUV composition was egg phosphatidylcholine: egg phosphatidylethanolamine: cholesterol at a 2:1:1 mole ratio. The average size of LUV was measured by quasi-elastic light scattering, using a Malvern Zeta-sizer instrument. Lipid concentration, determined by phosphate analysis, was 0.3 mM in all experiments.

Aggregation Assay. Enzyme activity was assayed measuring enzyme-induced vesicle aggregation. All assays were carried out at 39°C with continuous stirring, in 10 mM Hepes, 150 mM NaCl buffer (pH 7.5), in the presence of 0.1% BSA for optimum catalytic activity. Enzyme concentration was 0.16 U/mL, and liposomal concentration was 0.3 mM. Lipid aggregation was monitored in a Cary Varian UV-vesicle spectrometer as an increase in turbidity (absorbance at 450 nm) of the sample, as described by Villar *et al.*³⁷. The data are average values of two closely similar experiments.

Analyzing known DPP4 inhibitors with solved structures. In order to obtain all known structures of DPP4 with inhibitors bound to the

active site, we did a search for the keyword dipeptidyl-peptidase on the PDB database, and choose proteins with DPP4 inhibitors as ligands. There are 76 such unique compounds (defined by three letter codes) that are reported to date (May 2014). We docked the DPP4 inhibitor to the PIPLC active site using DOCLASP⁴⁰.

Data availability

figshare: Phosphoinositide-specific phospholipase C inhibition data using the dipeptidyl peptidase-IV inhibitors K-579 and LAF-237, <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.880620>

Author contributions

SC, ARR and BA performed the experiments. All authors analyzed the data, and contributed equally to the writing and subsequent refinement of the manuscript.

Competing interests

No competing interests were disclosed.

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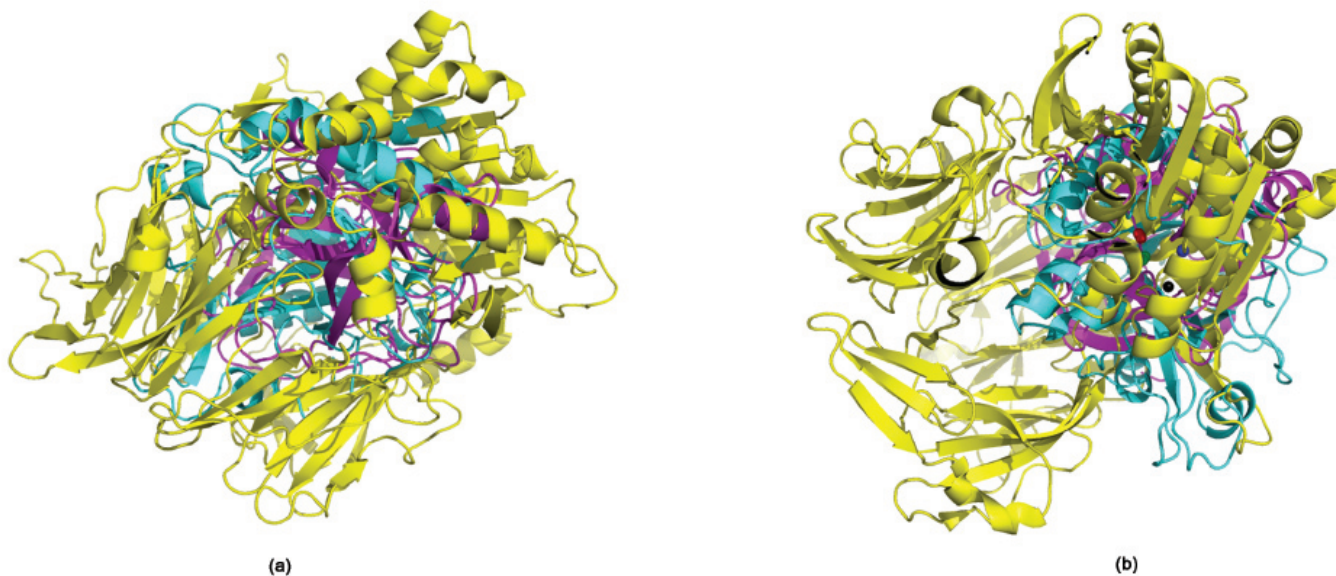
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Supplementary information

Supplementary Pymol scripts. Click here to access the files. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5256/f1000research.3002.s40929>



Supplementary Figure 1. Superimposition of trypsin (PDBid:1A0J - magenta), dipeptidyl peptidase-IV (PDBid:1N1M - yellow) and phosphoinositide-specific phospholipase C (PDBid:1PTD - cyan). It is seen that there is no structural similarity in the two proteins. (a) Using MUSTANG³⁴. (b) Using DECAAF³⁵.

Supplementary Table 1. PDB IDs of ~5000 human proteins analyzed in this study.

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 2EGD 2EGE 2EGM 2EGP 2EGQ 2EHO 2EHE 2EHF 2EHR 2EJ4 2EJ7 2EJ8 2EJE 2EJM 2EJY 2EK1
 2EKF 2EKH 2EKI 2EKJ 2EKK 2EKO 2EKX 2EL8 2ELA 2ELI 2ELM 2ELN 2ELP 2ELU 2ELV 2ENK
 2ENN 2ENO 2ENP 2ENQ 2ENV 2ENY 2ENZ 2EO1 2EO3 2EO9 2EOC 2EOD 2EP4 2EP6 2EP8 2EPA
 2EPB 2EPD 2EPP 2EQE 2EQF 2EQG 2EQK 2EQM 2EQN 2EQO 2EQR 2EQS 2EQU 2EQX 2EQZ 2ERF
 2ERR 2ESK 2ETT 2EU9 2EVA 2EVZ 2EW9 2EX4 2EXG 2EYV 2EYW 2EYY 2EZD 2EZE 2EZG 2EZG
 2F15 2F1Z 2F37 2F3I 2F4W 2F5J 2F5K 2F5Y 2F60 2F69 2F6Q 2F71 2F73 2F83 2F8A 2F8X

2F8Y 2F9L 2FAU 2FAZ 2FBE 2FBM 2FBY 2FC6 2FC7 2FC8 2FC9 2FCF 2FCW 2FDV 2FE5 2FEB 2FFQ
 2FFU 2FFW 2FG5 2FH1 2FH7 2FHO 2FJ4 2FK9 2FKL 2FL 2FLN 2FLP 2FLY 2FMA 2FMP 2FMQ
 2FMR 2FMS 2FN2 2FNB 2FO0 2FOZ 2FRG 2FRY 2FUE 2FUU 2FV2 2FV7 2FV 2FV 2FXM 2FY1 2FY2
 2FY7 2FZP 2G1L 2G2K 2G30 2G3R 2G4B 2G4C 2G62 2G6Z 2G76 2G7B 2G7R 2GA7 2GAO 2GCG 2GD5
 2GDZ 2GEE 2GF0 2GF5 2GF9 2GFO 2GFU 2GGM 2GGT 2GGZ 2GHF 2GHT 2GI7 2GKU 2GLI 2GMF
 2GOW 2GQI 2GQJ 2GRA 2GRC 2GRY 2GSB 2GSX 2GTG 2GTJ 2GTR 2GUT 2GW6 2GWS 2GXB 2GY5
 2GYS 2GYT 2GYZ 2GZV 2H00 2H0D 2H2B 2H2M 2H2T 2H31 2H3L 2H3N 2H41 2H4U 2H4V 2H57 2H58
 2H5G 2H63 2H6D 2H6F 2H7C 2H7T 2H8H 2H8L 2H8N 2H8R 2HA1 2HA8 2HAC 2HAZ 2HC1 2HCC 2HDL
 2HDZ 2HE4 2HEH 2HF5 2HF6 2HGL 2HGN 2HGS 2HH2 2HH3 2HHJ 2HI4 2HJ8 2HKY 2HLW 2HM2
 2HO2 2HP4 2HQH 2HQQ 2HQX 2HR0 2HR7 2HST 2HT9 2HTF 2HVZ 2HW4 2HW5 2HWY 2HXP 2HXS
 2HY1 2HYN 2HYV 2HZ5 2HZ6 2HZC 2HZD 2HZQ 2I1Y 2I32 2I3B 2I3H 2I46 2I4I 2I4K 2I50 2I53 2I5F 2I5O
 2I5W 2I6L 2I6T 2I75 2I7A 2I7D 2I7K 2I7V 2I99 2I9A 2I9G 2I9P 2IB8 2IBN 2ICC 2ID5 2IDX 2IF1 2IF5
 2IF7 2IGP 2IHD 2I10 2I1K 2I1M 2IJA 2IIA 2ILR 2IMS 2IPX 2IQ1 2IQ 2ISO 2ISP 2IU1 2IUH 2IUW
 2IV4 2IV5 2IVX 2IW2 2IWL 2IWN 2IWQ 2IWR 2IWZ 2IYB 2IYK 2IZR 2IZX 2IZZ 2J05 2J0I 2J0Q 2J0S
 2J1D 2J2S 2J32 2J3S 2J5D 2J67 2J6F 2J6L 2J76 2J7T 2J8B 2J8H 2J8J 2J8P 2J8Z 2J91 2J9L 2JA4 2JAK
 2JAM 2JBH 2JBM 2JC9 2JEO 2JEO 2JFK 2JGB 2JGN 2JGW 2JIA 2JIF 2JII 2JIK 2JIL 2JIS 2JJD 2JJU
 2JLX 2JLP 2JLL 2JLP 2JMA 2JMD 2JMO 2JNB 2JNH 2JO1 2JOA 2JOD 2JOK 2JOP 2JP1 2JP2
 2JP9 2JPA 2JPD 2JQ3 2JQ6 2JQ8 2JR7 2JRF 2JRH 2JRJ 2JRS 2JRZ 2JS2 2JSN 2JTF 2JTG 2JTX 2JUF
 2JUJ 2JUN 2JV5 2JVN 2JVZ 2JW2 2JW4 2JW5 2JW6 2JWX 2JX2 2JX3 2JX8 2JXB 2JXD 2JXJ 2JXW
 2JXY 2JY5 2JYI 2JYT 2JZX 2K18 2K1B 2K1L 2K1M 2K1P 2K21 2K27 2K2C 2K2D 2K2I 2K2M 2K2O
 2K3G 2K3W 2K40 2K6B 2K6G 2K6M 2K6O 2K6S 2K7B 2K7C 2K7F 2K7N 2K7P 2K7Q 2K85 2K86 2K89
 2K8G 2K8O 2K8P 2K9A 2K9G 2K9U 2K9Y 2KA1 2KA3 2KAP 2KAV 2KBG 2KBI 2KBS 2KCC 2KCC
 2KDB 2KDD 2KDG 2KDK 2KDP 2KE1 2KE4 2KE7 2KE9 2KEA 2KEB 2KEO 2KES 2KFB 2KFC 2KGD
 2KGI 2KGS 2KGR 2KGT 2KHX 2KIE 2KIJ 2KIQ 2KIS 2KIU 2KIV 2KIZ 2KJM 2KJX 2KJY 2KK0 2KK1
 2KK6 2KKF 2KKQ 2KKR 2KKT 2KKW 2KL7 2KLD 2KLE 2KLL 2KLU 2KLV 2KLY 2KMA 2KMB 2KMC 2KMD
 2KME 2KMF 2KMG 2KMH 2KMI 2KML 2KMM 2KMN 2KMO 2KMP 2KMQ 2KMR 2KMS 2KMT 2KMU 2KMW
 2KMY 2KN6 2KN7 2KN8 2KNA 2KNC 2KNH 2KNO 2KNV 2KNX 2KNY 2KO0 2KOE 2KOM 2KOY
 2KPE 2KPF 2KPK 2KQB 2KQP 2KRO 2KR1 2KR6 2KR8 2KR9 2KRK 2KRR 2KS1 2KS9 2KSN 2KSP
 2KSR 2KT0 2KTU 2KU3 2KU7 2KUM 2KUO 2KUP 2KV2 2KV3 2KV8 2KVE 2KVR 2KW1 2KW3 2KW6
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 2L0A 2L0B 2L0E 2L1C 2L1G 2L1I 2L1J 2L1L 2L1Q 2L1X 2L27 2L2D 2L2J 2L2L 2L2O 2L30 2L31 2L33
 2L34 2L3D 2L3G 2L3L 2L3X 2L4C 2L4M 2L4N 2L54 2L5C 2L5D 2L5F 2L5G 2L5I 2L5U 2L5V 2L63 2L6A
 2L6K 2L6L 2L6U 2L6W 2L73 2L75 2L76 2L77 2L7B 2L7M 2L7R 2L7S 2L7T 2L7Z 2L80 2L81 2L87 2L8E
 2L8S 2L91 2L98 2L9I 2L9M 2L9N 2L9R 2L9U 2L9Z 2LA5 2LA6 2LAJ 2LAT 2LAU 2LBC 2LBF 2LBG
 2LCC 2LCD 2LCE 2LCM 2LCW 2LCX 2LD0 2LD2 2LD4 2LDM 2LDU 2LDY 2LE3 2LE7 2LE8
 2LEA 2LEB 2LEC 2LEH 2LEO 2LFE 2LFG 2LFH 2LG1 2LGP 2LGQ 2LGV 2LGY 2LHA 2LH8
 2LJ0 2LJD 2LJK 2LK0 2LK2 2LK9 2LKL 2LKN 2LKO 2LQ 2LQ 2LKS 2LKY 2LKL 2LKL 2LL2 2LLH 2LLK 2LLP
 2LLX 2LLY 2LMO 2LM5 2LMB 2LMD 2LMF 2LMG 2LMI 2LMJ 2LMR 2LNA 2LNB 2LNL 2LNG
 2LNI 2LNL 2LNW 2LO1 2LO4 2LOB 2LOH 2LOM 2LON 2LOO 2LOQ 2LOR 2LOT 2LP1 2LQ6 2LQL
 2LQT 2LQW 2LRF 2LRI 2LRR 2LS2 2LS3 2LS4 2LS8 2LSO 2LSQ 2LSR 2LSW 2LT7 2LTM 2LTP 2LTU
 2LTU 2LU7 2LUB 2LUL 2LUV 2LV2 2LV7 2LV9 2LVA 2LVC 2LVN 2LVR 2LVT 2LVU 2LW4 2LW9 2LWD
 2LX7 2LX1 2LXL 2LXS 2LXU 2LY4 2LY9 2LYH 2LYW 2LZ1 2M09 2M0C 2M0D 2M0E 2M0F 2M0O 2M0P
 2M0R 2M0T 2M0V 2M13 2M17 2M1L 2M20 2M2B 2M2E 2M2F 2M34 2M38 2M3D 2M50 2M5V 2M6N
 2M6Y 2M7S 2M9I 2MHU 2NLK 2NLL 2NLS 2NLW 2NML 2NMS 2NN6 2NNT 2NNY 2NO2 2NOB 2NOE
 2NOF 2NOH 2NOI 2NOL 2NOZ 2NPL 2NPT 2NPU 2NQ3 2NQC 2NR1 2NSM 2NT0 2NT2 2NTE 2NW2
 2NWM 2NX1 2NYU 2NZ2 2NZ4 2NZ6 2NZ7 2NZI 2NZL 2O07 2O10 2O13 2O23 2O28 2O2K 2O2O
 2O2T 2O36 2O3H 2O3M 2O49 2O4A 2O4X 2O61 2O6G 2O6L 2O71 2O72 2O8B 2O8C 2O8D 2O8E 2O8F
 2O93 2O95 2O9S 2OAT 2OAY 2OB0 2OBD 2OBI 2OC3 2OCF 2OCG 2OCP 2OCT 2OD1 2ODC 2ODD
 2ODP 2ODV 2OEH 2OEX 2OH2 2OHF 2OIB 2OIH 2OIT 2OJ2 2OJ3 2OJW 2OK3 2OKV 2OLM 2OM5
 2OO0 2OO9 2OOA 2OOQ 2OP7 2OPG 2OPU 2OPV 2OPW 2OQ0 2OQ1 2OQ5 2ORV 2OS6 2OSA 2OU1
 2OUC 2OUD 2OUS 2OVC 2OVJ 2OWI 2OX8 2OXC 2OXM 2OYC 2OYT 2OZB 2P01 2P02 2P0A 2P0D
 2P0K 2P0W 2P1B 2P1T 2P23 2P26 2P2R 2P39 2P3W 2P4K 2P57 2P5S 2P5X 2P64 2P66 2P6N 2P6V
 2P6X 2P8E 2P8V 2P9R 2PA1 2PA2 2PB7 2PBC 2PD6 2PE4 2PE8 2PET 2PEZ 2PF5 2PFI 2PFN 2PFO
 2PFP 2PFG 2PIO 2PI2 2PID 2PIE 2PKD 2PL3 2PMV 2PMY 2PN8 2PNT 2POI 2POM 2PPI 2PPL 2PXE
 2PPN 2PQ5 2PQ8 2PQF 2PQU 2PRT 2PSO 2PSQ 2PUY 2PV0 2PXi 2PXX 2PY9 2PZ1 2PZD 2PZE 2Q0Z
 2Q12 2Q13 2Q20 2Q2F 2Q3E 2Q3G 2Q3Z 2Q4K 2Q4Q 2Q4V 2Q51 2Q5X 2Q7D 2Q7M 2Q7Z 2Q80 2Q81
 2Q87 2Q8K 2Q8R 2Q8T 2Q9V 2QAG 2QBW 2QC7 2QCQ 2QDJ 2QFA 2QFD 2QFE 2QFG 2QFH 2QFJ
 2QFZ 2QG1 2QGX 2QIS 2QJ2 2QJF 2QJZ 2QK4 2QK9 2QKB 2QKK 2QKQ 2QM4 2QND 2QNK
 2QNR 2QOL 2QPW 2QQ2 2QQ5 2QQ8 2QQH 2QQI 2QQM 2QRV 2QS9 2QSQ 2QT1 2QTV 2QTV 2QX1
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 2R55 2R5T 2R83 2R8U 2RA4 2RB4 2RB8 2RBA 2RCT 2RCZ 2RE9 2REI 2REP 2REY 2RF0 2RG8 2RGF
 2RFG 2RI7 2RIE 2RIQ 2RJQ 2RK3 2RKB 2RKU 2RKY 2RLO 2RLP 2RLQ 2RML 2RND 2RNL
 2RNQ 2RO1 2ROP 2ROR 2RPC 2RPJ 2RPP 2RPR 2RQ1 2RQ4 2RQC 2RQP 2RQT 2RR4 2RR6 2RR8
 2RRA 2RRB 2RRD 2RRF 2RRI 2RRS 2RS9 2RSG 2RSH 2RSI 2RSJ 2RSQ 2SHP 2SSP 2STT 2STW 2TGI
 2TMP 2U1A 2U2F 2UP1 2UUR 2UV4 2UWN 2UWQ 2UX0 2UXW 2UY 2UZ8 2UZG 2UZK 2V0E 2V0F
 2V00 2V14 2V1N 2V1X 2V37 2V3Q 2V3S 2V40 2V4B 2V4U 2V5F 2V5N 2V5O 2V5T 2V5Y 2V62 2V66
 2V6Z 2V70 2V76 2V7R 2V9K 2V9R 2V9T 2V9Y 2VAC 2VAJ 2VC8 2VDX 2VE7 2VFK 2VFX 2VGE 2VH7
 2VHF 2VIF 2VIG 2VJ2 2VJ3 2VJE 2VKC 2VKP 2VKQ 2VKW 2VM5 2VN8 2VNF 2VO1 2VOD 2VON
 2VOO 2VOP 2VPB 2VPH 2VPI 2VPJ 2VPK 2VQ3 2VQM 2VRD 2VRE 2VRG 2VSP 2VSV 2VSW 2VSY

Supplementary Table 2. Residues of DPP4 closest to the bound ligand with possible hydrogen bonds.

Interactions sorted based on the distance. N: Number of atoms in the ligand, R/A/LA/D: Residue number/Atom of the residue/Atom of ligand/distance between the interacting atoms (in Å). For example, 'E205/OE1/N25/2.7' means that the atom OE1 from Glu205 is at 2.7 Å from the N25 atom of W94 in PDBid:3VJLA. For uniformity, we choose the first four closest atoms. This might result in choosing some atoms which are unlikely to form a hydrogen bond (for example, in PDBid:4J3JA S209/OG is at 4.8 Å from NAQ).

PDB	HET	N	R/A/LA/D	R/A/LA/D	R/A/LA/D	R/A/LA/D
3VJLA	W94	33	E205/OE1/N25/2.7	E206/OE1/N25/2.8	N710/ND2/O33/2.9	Y662/OH/O33/3
2AJ8A	SC3	26	E205/OE2/N13/2.7	E206/OE1/N13/3	Y631/N/O23/3.1	Y547/OH/N7/3.4
2RGUA	356	35	E205/OE2/N27/3	Y662/OH/N27/3.1	Y631/N/O10/3.1	E206/OE2/N27/3.1
4A5SA	N7F	37	E205/OE2/N18/2.7	E206/OE2/N18/2.7	Y662/OH/N18/2.8	Y631/N/O26/3
2QTBA	474	32	E205/OE2/N6/2.7	N710/ND2/O7/2.8	E206/OE1/N6/2.8	R358/NE/N56/2.8
2OGZA	U1N	24	Y631/N/O25/3	E206/OE1/N12/3.1	R125/NH2/O15/3.1	E205/OE2/O15/3.3
2JIDA	GVB	24	E206/OE2/N20/2.8	E205/OE2/N20/2.9	Y662/OH/N20/3	R125/NH1/O25/3.8
2I78B	KIQ	31	Y662/OH/N/3	E205/O/O/4.1	E206/OE1/O/4.2	R669/NH2/O/4.4
3H0CA	PS4	32	E205/OE2/N21/2.7	Y662/OH/N21/2.9	E206/OE2/N21/2.9	Q553/N/O3/3
2AJLI	JNH	24	S630/OG/N3/2.3	E206/OE2/N2/2.5	Y547/OH/N3/2.6	E205/OE2/N2/2.7
2BUBA	FPB	28	E206/OE2/N18/2.5	E205/OE2/N18/2.9	Y662/OH/N18/3	Y547/OH/O16/4.3
4DSAA	D1C	29	E206/OE2/NAY/2.6	E205/O/OBC/3.1	Y662/OH/NAY/3.1	Y585/OH/NAI/3.9
2OPHA	277	23	E205/OE2/N33/2.7	N710/ND2/O32/2.8	Y662/OH/N33/3.1	E206/OE2/N33/3.1
1RWQA	5AP	27	Y662/OH/N21/2.5	E206/OE2/N21/2.8	E205/OE2/N23/2.9	R125/NH2/N1/3.4
2QJRA	PZF	29	E205/OE2/N20/2.6	R358/NE/O18/2.8	E206/OE2/N20/2.9	Y662/OH/N20/3
2FJPA	S14	31	E205/OE2/N30/2.7	N710/ND2/O32/2.8	E206/OE2/N30/2.8	Y547/OH/O33/2.8
2OAEA	AIL	21	E203/OE2/N2/2.8	E204/OE2/N2/2.8	N711/ND2/O8/3.1	Y663/OH/N9/3.1
3G0CA	RUF	27	E205/OE1/N9/3	E206/OE1/N9/3.2	Y631/N/O23/3.4	Y547/OH/N12/3.6
3C43A	315	31	E205/OE2/N6/2.8	Y662/OH/N6/3	N710/ND2/O5/3	E206/OE2/N6/3
3BJMA	BJM	23	S630/OG/N23/2.4	E205/OE2/N7/2.7	E206/OE2/N7/2.7	Y547/OH/O15/2.8
3O95A	01T	26	E206/OE2/N13/2.5	E205/OE1/N13/2.8	Y662/OH/N13/2.8	R125/NH1/O19/3
3G0GA	RUM	24	E205/OE1/N24/2.9	E206/OE1/N24/3.1	Y631/N/O8/3.2	R125/NH2/N17/3.3
2G5PA	ADF	29	S630/OG/N22/2.4	Y662/OH/N8/3.1	Y547/OH/N22/3.1	E206/OE2/N7/3.1
2BUCA	008	26	E206/OE2/N10/2.7	Y662/OH/N10/2.8	E205/OE2/N10/3	Y547/OH/O13/4.5
2QOEA	448	29	E206/OE2/N20/2.7	E205/OE2/N20/2.9	Y662/OH/N20/2.9	Y547/OH/O22/4.6
2OLEA	KR2	30	E206/OE2/NAM/2.7	Y662/OH/NAM/3.6	E205/OE2/NAM/4	Y547/OH/OAP/4.5
3KWFA	B1Q	27	E205/OE2/N21/2.7	N710/ND2/O19/2.7	Y662/OH/N21/3	R125/NH2/O19/3
3SX4A	KXA	58	Y662/OH/N25/2.7	E206/OE2/N25/2.7	E205/OE2/N25/2.8	R125/NH1/O26/3.1
2ONCA	SY1	27	E205/OE1/N1/2.6	Y631/N/O17/3.1	Y547/OH/N18/3.2	E206/OE1/N1/3.4
2I03B	AXD	29	S630/OG/N14/2.4	E206/OE1/N1/2.8	Y662/OH/O16/2.9	Y547/OH/N14/3
3KWJA	23Q	27	E205/OE2/N17/2.6	Y662/OH/N17/2.8	E206/OE2/N17/2.8	S209/OG/O19/3.3
3CCCA	7AC	21	E205/OE1/N20/2.5	Y662/OH/N20/2.7	E206/OE2/N20/3.2	Y631/N/N9/3.3
3SWWA	KXB	25	E205/OE2/N21/2.7	Y662/OH/N21/2.8	E206/OE2/N21/2.9	R125/NH2/N19/3.5
4G1FA	OWG	24	E206/OE2/N9/2.8	Y662/OH/N9/2.9	Y547/OH/N2/3.1	Y631/N/O20/3.1
3C45A	317	30	E205/OE2/N6/2.8	E206/OE2/N6/2.8	Y662/OH/N6/3	Y547/OH/N29/3.7

PDB	HET	N	R/A/LA/D	R/A/LA/D	R/A/LA/D	R/A/LA/D
2G63B	AAF	29	S630/OG/N18/2.4	E205/OE2/N7/2.6	Y662/OH/N8/3.1	Y547/OH/N18/3.1
1X70A	715	28	E206/OE2/N20/2.7	E205/OE2/N20/2.8	Y662/OH/N20/2.8	S209/OG/N27/3.9
2GBIA	XIH	29	E204/OE2/N14/2.3	Y632/N/O/2.8	E203/OE2/N14/3	Y663/OH/N14/3.1
3G0BA	T22	25	E205/OE1/N13/2.5	R125/NH2/N24/3.1	Y631/N/O26/3.2	E206/OE1/N13/3.3
2IITA	872	28	E205/OE2/N20/2.7	Y662/OH/N20/2.8	E206/OE2/N20/2.9	N710/OD1/N20/4.5
4JH0A	1MD	27	Y662/OH/N16/2.7	E206/OE2/N16/2.7	Y547/OH/O1/2.8	E205/OE2/N16/2.9
4LKOA	1WH	25	Y662/OH/N/2.7	E206/OE2/N/2.8	E205/OE2/N/2.9	Y547/OH/O2/3
2RIPA	34Q	25	N710/ND2/O1/2.6	E205/OE2/N3/2.8	Y662/OH/N3/2.8	E206/OE1/N3/2.8
3QBJA	NXZ	25	Y662/OH/N18/2.7	E206/OE2/N18/2.7	N710/ND2/O25/2.8	E205/OE2/N18/2.9
3HACA	361	23	Y662/OH/N23/2.7	E205/OE2/N23/2.8	E206/OE1/N12/4.2	N710/OD1/N23/4.3
3VJMA	W61	32	E205/OE1/N28/2.7	E206/OE1/N28/2.7	Y662/OH/O57/2.9	N710/ND2/O57/2.9
3O9VA	10T	23	Y547/OH/O15/2.5	E206/OE2/N19/2.6	Y662/OH/N19/2.7	E205/OE1/N19/2.8
4DSZA	DC3	26	E206/OE2/NAM/2.8	E205/OE2/NAM/3.1	Y662/OH/NAM/3.1	S209/OG/NAR/4.7
4J3JA	D3C	30	E206/OE2/NAM/2.8	E205/OE2/NAM/3.1	Y662/OH/NAM/3.3	S209/OG/NAQ/4.8
4DTCA	D5C	33	E206/OE2/NAM/2.7	E205/OE2/NAM/3.1	Y662/OH/NAM/3.3	R669/NH2/OAQ/4.2
3OPMA	LUI	28	E205/OE1/N18/2.7	Y662/OH/N18/2.8	E206/OE2/N18/2.9	W629/O/N27/3
2OAGB	DLI	31	E205/OE2/N22/2.5	Y662/OH/N22/2.6	E206/OE2/N22/2.9	R358/NE/O1/3.2
2GBGA	1AD	19	S631/OG/N12/2.4	E203/OE2/N14/2.7	Y548/OH/N12/3	E204/OE2/N14/3.1
2HHAA	3TP	26	E205/OE2/N6/2.7	E206/OE2/N6/2.7	Y662/OH/N6/2.9	N710/ND2/O5/2.9
2QT9A	524	31	E205/OE2/N19/2.6	E206/OE2/N19/2.8	Y662/OH/N19/2.9	N710/ND2/O20/2.9
2OQVA	MA9	32	E206/OE2/N27/2.7	Y662/OH/N27/3	R358/NE/O4/3.1	E205/OE2/N27/3.3
3F8SA	PF2	26	E205/OE2/N3/2.5	Y662/OH/O7/2.8	N710/OD1/O7/3	E206/OE2/N3/3.2
2AJBA	0QG	24	S630/OG/N2/2.4	E205/OE2/N/2.7	HIS740/NE2/O2/2.9	Y662/OH/O/3
2G5TA	ACF	26	S630/OG/N22/2.4	E205/OE2/N7/2.6	Y662/OH/O3/3	N710/ND2/O3/3
3NOXA	6A5	28	E205/OE2/N16/2.4	E206/OE2/N16/2.7	Y662/OH/N16/3	R125/NH2/N4/3.7
3W2TA	LF7	22	S630/OG/N2/2.4	E205/OE1/N12/2.8	Y662/OH/O20/3	E206/OE2/N12/3
3D4LA	605	26	E205/OE2/N15/2.6	R358/NE/O42/2.8	Y662/OH/N15/2.9	V207/O/N41/2.9
2QKYA	13Z	26	S630/OG/O2/2.1	E205/O/O4/2.5	Y547/OH/O2/2.6	E206/OE1/O4/2.8
3Q8WA	AZV	38	R125/NH1/O/2.5	E206/OE2/NAG/2.6	Y662/OH/NAG/2.8	E205/OE2/NAG/2.9
3EIOA	AJH	33	Y585/OH/OBD/2.6	E205/OE2/NBG/2.7	Y662/OH/NBG/2.9	E206/OE2/NBG/2.9
3Q0TA	LGE	26	Y662/OH/N21/2.6	E205/OE2/N21/2.7	E206/OE2/N21/2.9	R125/NH1/O22/3.4
2P8SA	417	58	E205/OE2/N38/2.8	E206/OE2/N38/2.9	Y662/OH/N38/3.2	S209/OG/N34/3.4
2OQIB	GGO	28	E205/OE2/N/2.4	Y662/OH/N/2.7	E206/OE2/N/2.9	R358/NE/O/3.2
4PNZA	2VH	28	E205/OE2/N/2.7	E206/OE2/N/2.8	Y662/OH/N/2.9	Y547/OH/O/3.2
3VJKA	M51	30	E205/OE1/N21/2.9	Y662/OH/O30/2.9	E206/OE1/N21/2.9	N710/ND2/O30/3
3OC0A	B2Q	23	E205/OE2/NS/2.8	S209/OG/OB/2.9	Y662/OH/NS/3.4	E206/OE2/NS/3.5
4N8DA	2KS	24	E206/OE2/N10/2.7	E205/OE2/N10/2.8	Y662/OH/N10/2.8	N710/OD1/N10/4.5
4N8EA	2KV	22	E205/OE2/N15/2.7	E206/OE2/N15/2.7	Y662/OH/N15/2.8	N710/OD1/N15/4.3
2IIVA	565	24	E205/OE2/N20/2.7	Y662/OH/N20/2.8	E206/OE2/N20/2.9	N710/ND2/N20/4.4
3HABA	677	27	E205/OE2/N23/2.7	Y662/OH/N23/2.7	E206/OE1/N12/4.3	N710/OD1/N23/4.4
2I3ZA	LIR	27	E203/OE2/N18/2.5	Y632/N/O9/2.7	Y548/OH/N6/3.4	E204/OE2/N18/3.4

Supplementary Table 3. Library of non-redundant motifs. This library of motifs can be used to query any protein using CLASP to determine the possibility that DPP4 inhibitors might bind to it.

PDB	Motif Name	Motif
3VJLA	2OQVA1	GLU205/OE1 GLU206/OE1 TYR662/OH ASN710/ND2
2AJ8A	2OQVA2	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE1 TYR547/OH TYR631/N
2RGUA	2OQVA3	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 TYR631/N TYR662/OH
2QTBA	2OQVA4	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE1 ARG358/NE ASN710/ND2
2OGZA	2OQVA5	ARG125/NH2 GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE1 TYR631/N
2JIDA	2OQVA6	ARG125/NH1 GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 TYR662/OH
2I78B	2OQVA7	GLU205/O GLU206/OE1 TYR662/OH ARG669/NH2
3H0CA	2OQVA8	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 GLN553/N TYR662/OH
2AJLI	2OQVA9	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 TYR547/OH SER630/OG
2BUBA	2OQVA10	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 TYR547/OH TYR662/OH
4DSAA	2OQVA11	GLU205/O GLU206/OE2 TYR585/OH TYR662/OH
2OPHA	2OQVA12	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 TYR662/OH ASN710/ND2
1RWQA	2OQVA13	ARG125/NH2 GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 TYR662/OH
2QJRA	2OQVA14	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 ARG358/NE TYR662/OH
2FJPA	2OQVA15	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 TYR547/OH ASN710/ND2
2OAEA	2OQVA16	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 TYR662/OH ASN711/ND2
3G0CA	2OQVA17	GLU205/OE1 GLU206/OE1 TYR547/OH TYR631/N
3O95A	2OQVA18	ARG125/NH1 GLU205/OE1 GLU206/OE2 TYR662/OH
3G0GA	2OQVA19	ARG125/NH2 GLU205/OE1 GLU206/OE1 TYR631/N
2G5PA	2OQVA20	GLU206/OE2 TYR547/OH SER630/OG TYR662/OH
3KWFA	2OQVA21	ARG125/NH2 GLU205/OE2 TYR662/OH ASN710/ND2
2I03B	2OQVA22	GLU206/OE1 TYR547/OH SER630/OG TYR662/OH
3KWJA	2OQVA23	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 SER209/OG TYR662/OH
3CCCA	2OQVA24	GLU205/OE1 GLU206/OE2 TYR631/N TYR662/OH
4G1FA	2OQVA25	GLU206/OE2 TYR547/OH TYR631/N TYR662/OH
2G63B	2OQVA26	GLU205/OE2 TYR547/OH SER630/OG TYR662/OH
2IITA	2OQVA27	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 TYR662/OH ASN710/OD1
2RIPA	2OQVA28	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE1 TYR662/OH ASN710/ND2
3HACA	2OQVA29	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE1 TYR662/OH ASN710/OD1
3O9VA	2OQVA30	GLU205/OE1 GLU206/OE2 TYR547/OH TYR662/OH
4DTCA	2OQVA31	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 TYR662/OH ARG669/NH2
3OPMA	2OQVA32	GLU205/OE1 GLU206/OE2 TRP629/O TYR662/OH
2AJBA	2OQVA33	GLU205/OE2 SER630/OG TYR662/OH HIS740/NE2
2G5TA	2OQVA34	GLU205/OE2 SER630/OG TYR662/OH ASN710/ND2
3W2TA	2OQVA35	GLU205/OE1 GLU206/OE2 SER630/OG TYR662/OH
3D4LA	2OQVA36	GLU205/OE2 VAL207/O ARG358/NE TYR662/OH
2QKYA	2OQVA37	GLU205/O GLU206/OE1 TYR547/OH SER630/OG
3EIOA	2OQVA38	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 TYR585/OH TYR662/OH
2I3ZA	2OQVA39	GLU205/OE2 GLU206/OE2 TYR547/OH TYR631/N

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Version 2

Referee Report 20 January 2015

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Mark D Gorrell

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Thank you to the authors for developing this paper.

I have some further comments.

1. The primary issue now is the speculation in the title.

The title seeks to extrapolate the obtained data on two compounds to suggest that it is applicable to all DPP-IV inhibitors.

That is, the speculation of this paper is that the presented data is relevant to an entire drug class. The comments and the title should be restricted to one or two of the compounds that were studied in this paper. Moreover, K-579 is not a diabetes drug. In this context, the title needs changing to avoid ambiguity.

I suggest:

“The dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor vildagliptin used in type 2 diabetes inhibits a phospholipase C: a case of promiscuous scaffolds in proteins.”

or

“The dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitors vildagliptin and K-579 inhibit a phospholipase C: a case of promiscuous scaffolds in proteins.”

2. This study complements the much broader work using focused, direct technology for measuring and detecting off-target inhibition. That paper is published in Nature Chemical Biology in 2014 ([Bachovchin *et al.* 2014](#)). That study similarly showed that vildagliptin inhibits enzymes other than DPP-IV. That study showed that DPP4 inhibitors differ, such that sitagliptin does not inhibit other enzymes.

The authors need to comment and restrict their conclusions to the compounds that they studied rather than imply that DPP-IV inhibiting compounds that they did not study, such as sitagliptin, have similar characteristics to the compounds that they did study.

3. The data of this study is biochemical yet 16 of the cited references concern the safety of DPP-IV inhibition. The manuscript now carefully does not draw a link to drug safety; the title needs to do the same.
4. As the paper is focused upon DPP-IV structure and function, more papers on this topic could be cited and linked with the data. For example, the author's amendment mentions contacts in DPP-IV at Glu205, Glu206 and Tyr662. The authors could state that Glu205 and Glu206 have been shown to be essential for catalysis by DPP-IV and cite the paper *Abbott et al. (1999)*.

I have read this submission. I believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.

Competing Interests: This reviewer recently received a speaker honorarium from Boehringer Ingelheim, which manufactures linagliptin.

Author Response 28 Jan 2015

Sandeep Chakraborty, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India

We would like to thank you for your positive comments, and your informative suggestions.

We agree with your suggested change in the title. In the latest version, we have also cited the research you have brought to our attention.

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

Version 1

Referee Report 26 March 2014

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The successful targeting of DPP4 using small molecule compounds to treat type 2 diabetes has attracted a great deal of attention towards the study of this protease.

The authors applied sophisticated techniques that they have developed in order to discover that two DPP4 inhibitors, including one that is in limited clinical use, can to some extent inhibit the activity of a bacterial lipase (PI-PLC). Many lipases and esterases and hydrolases including DPP4 and related enzymes use the *alpha/beta* hydrolase fold and the authors show how this related protein topology can place the residues in positions that are sufficiently similar to interact with an inhibitor.

The major difficulty with this paper is that it attempts to connect these data with possible clinical outcomes. No evidence for such a link is presented. Therefore, the title and much of the conclusions need to be modified so that they reflect the data without speculation.

Two inhibitors of DPP4, LAF237 and K-579, were studied. K-579 is not in clinical use. LAF237 is licensed in Europe and is known to exhibit some inhibition of the DPP4-related proteases DPP8 and DPP9. The extent of inhibition of DPP8 and DPP9 by LAF237 is believed not to have physiological effects in humans. The IC50 of LAF237 on DPP9 is less than 0.01 mM. The IC50 of LAF237 on bacterial PI-PLC is 0.1mM, which is close to the lower limit of detection of inhibition of an enzyme. No mammalian homolog of PI-PLC was examined.

The literature that the authors cite to suggest that DPP4 inhibition might be detrimental for human health, particularly the pancreas, is data on sitagliptin or exenatide. Exenatide is not a DPP4 inhibitor and sitagliptin is quite different to LAF237, both in protease specificity and in chemical structure. The contact points of LAF237 and sitagliptin in the catalytic site of DPP4 differ considerably. The authors present no data on sitagliptin or any other DPP4 inhibitor (other than LAF237) that in is the clinic.

The images of overlaid catalytic triads of various enzymes presented in Fig 1 and Fig 3 need to be depicted in 3D in order to evaluate how close they are in 3D. Intermolecular distances should be shown on these figures. To convince the reader that LAF237 sits into and makes contacts with enzymes other than DPP4, we need to see the compound docked into the structure of each enzyme of interest.

I have read this submission. I believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard, however I have significant reservations, as outlined above.

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

Author Response 10 Dec 2014

Sandeep Chakraborty, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India

We would like to thank you for taking the time to review this paper, and also for your insightful comments. We also apologize for the inordinate time taken to respond to your comments. A lot of this time was spent in understanding docking methods, instead of blindly applying this to the problem at hand. A by-product of this learning process was the implementation of a new method (DOCLASP) for docking molecules to proteins¹. We have docked vildagliptin to the PI-PLC structure complexed with myo-inositol using DOCLASP. Based on your suggestion, we have also done a comprehensive analysis of all 76 known DPP4 structures liganded to inhibitors till date.

Please find out detailed responses to your comments below.

- *The successful targeting of DPP4 using small molecule compounds to treat type 2 diabetes has attracted a great deal of attention towards the study of this protease. The authors applied sophisticated techniques that they have developed in order to discover that two DPP4 inhibitors, including one that is in limited clinical use, can to some extent inhibit the activity of a bacterial lipase (PI-PLC). Many lipases and esterases and hydrolases including DPP4 and related enzymes use the alpha/beta hydrolase fold and the authors show how this related protein topology can place the residues in positions that are sufficiently similar to interact with an inhibitor. The major difficulty with this paper is that it attempts to connect these data with possible clinical outcomes. No evidence for such a link is presented. Therefore, the title and much of the conclusions need to be modified so that they reflect the data without speculation.*

We have tried to keep away from taking sides on the clinical outcomes, since that is not our forte. Also, we believe our title is innocuous in that context - it just speaks of promiscuous scaffolds. We only highlight that if (and only if) our data of PIPLC inhibition holds true for human lipases, then it might provide some arguing points for those worried about the side effects of these drugs.

For example, we say 'The reported elevated levels of serum lipase, although contested, could be rationalized by inhibition of lipases reported here'. If you could kindly point out specifically any speculations that is unwarranted, we will modify those.

- *Two inhibitors of DPP4, LAF237 and K-579, were studied. K-579 is not in clinical use. LAF237 is licensed in Europe and is known to exhibit some inhibition of the DPP4-related proteases DPP8 and DPP9. The extent of inhibition of DPP8 and DPP9 by LAF237 is believed not to have physiological effects in humans.*

Since this study does not emphasize on the clinical relevance of the inhibitions (but on the methodology of finding such interactions), and we are not a group specializing in diabetes, we believe the choice of the inhibitors would not alter our reasoning our conclusions.

- *The IC50 of LAF237 on DPP9 is less than 0.01 mM. The IC50 of LAF237 on bacterial PI-PLC is 0.1mM, which is close to the lower limit of detection of inhibition of an enzyme.*

We agree to this point. However, K-579 was inhibiting even at nanomolar concentrations.

- *No mammalian homolog of PI-PLC was examined.*

We are currently evaluating that possibility.

- *The literature that the authors cite to suggest that DPP4 inhibition might be detrimental for human health, particularly the pancreas, is data on sitagliptin or exenatide. Exenatide is not a DPP4 inhibitor and sitagliptin is quite different to LAF237, both in protease specificity and in chemical structure.*

We were referring to the inhibitor part of the data, but that point needs to be made explicit as you have correctly pointed out. Also, we agree that the possible difference of sitagliptin with LAF237 needs to be stated. We have modified the text to include these criticisms. Once again, we reiterate we intend not to comment on clinical outcomes or debates, but to suggest a rational methodology to act as a guide for tests that look for possible interactions.

- *The contact points of LAF237 and sitagliptin in the catalytic site of DPP4 differ considerably. The authors present no data on sitagliptin or any other DPP4 inhibitor (other than LAF237) that in is the clinic.*

We have included a comprehensive study on the contact points of various inhibitors. Once again, this does not negate any of our conclusions.

- *The images of overlaid catalytic triads of various enzymes presented in Fig 1 and Fig 3 need to be depicted in 3D in order to evaluate how close they are in 3D.*

The 3D images of the superimposition of these enzymes are not pleasing to the eye, since they lack structural homology. However, we have added a PyMol script in case someone wishes to do that (Superimposeproteins.p1m). The script specifies the color coding of the residues.

- *Intermolecular distances should be shown on thee figures.*

Once again, we think that the intermolecular distances clutter the figure. The superimposition gives an approximate idea of the congruence. The exact values are specified in Table 1. We have modified the legend of Fig.3 to specify that.

- *To convince the reader that LAF237 sits into and makes contacts with enzymes other than DPP4, we need to see the compound docked into the structure of each enzyme of interest.*

As mentioned previously, we have docked sitagliptin to PI-PLC using DOCLASP¹. We have provided the Pymol script as supplementary data to help visualize the docking. There is no solved structure where LAF237 inhibits DPP4.

Once again, we are thankful for the comments. We hope that we have addressed your concerns by the changes that we have made, and that the manuscript will be found suitable in the modified form.

References

1. Chakraborty S. *DOCLASP* - Docking ligands to target proteins using spatial and electrostatic congruence extracted from a known holoenzyme and applying simple geometrical transformations [v2; ref status: awaiting peer review, <http://f1000r.es/4pb>] *F1000Research* 2014, **3**:262 (doi: [10.12688/f1000research.5145.2](https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.5145.2))

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

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Rodney Rouse

Division of Applied Regulatory Science, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, MD, USA

Disclaimer: I lack the protein chemistry expertise to comment on the assumptions and protein chemistry used in the computational method described in this article.

The title and abstract are appropriate. The overall experimental design is simple but strong and well suited for this project. The methods were generally well described. The conclusions are not overstated and any implications are justified based on the presented data. The article is very well written.

This is a very interesting study that uses a previously defined computational method, Catalytic Active Site Prediction (CLASP), that compares structural and charge similarities of catalytic sites to identify

functionally similar proteins. This methodology was used to assess the potential for adverse events based on off target effects of the inhibitors of DPP-IV. Using CLASP, the authors had previously identified a *Bacillus cereus* phosphoinositide specific phospholipase-C (PI-PLC) as similar in active catalytic site to the enzyme, DPP-IV. They used laboratory techniques to verify this finding.

In the present study, the authors demonstrated the ability of two separate DPP-IV inhibitors to significantly reduce the activity of this PI-PLC in the lab. Subsequent to this experimentation, the authors returned CLASP to identify catalytic sites in other proteins that might also be inhibited by DPP-IV inhibitors thereby yielding unforeseen inhibition and biological effects. As applied to the case of DPP-IV inhibitors, which are not extremely specific, the authors identify a number of other proteins that could be promiscuously impacted by DPP-IV inhibitors thereby providing mechanisms for unexpected adverse events. Although the significance of DPP-IV inhibitor related adverse events has yet to be determined, the fact that changes have been reported non-clinically and clinically are undeniable. Eventually, the benefit of these molecules may far outweigh their associated risks, but the authors provide a potential path forward for investigation of unexpected events with this class of drug. If contradictory reports persist, this path may require further illumination.

The approach is theoretically similar to using structural similarities to identify off target receptor binding and consequent biological effects, an expanding approach in safety assessment and in identification of mechanisms for adverse events in the pharmaceutical lifecycle. Similarly, this method could be predictive for off target effects and suggest what those effects might be. However, whether this is a method that can be generally applicable to other molecules is beyond my ability to comment and the scope of this work.

Comments/Suggestions:

1) Were the inhibition experiments done in duplicate, triplicate, etc? Some slight expansion of the protocols would help with attempts to replicate.

I have read this submission. I believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

Author Response 10 Mar 2014

Adela Rendón-Ramirez, Unidad de Biofísica CSIC UPV, Spain

Dear Dr Rouse,

We would like to thank you for taking the time and reviewing our paper. Your positive comments encourage us to further our research in this area.

We concur with your statement - *"Eventually, the benefit of these molecules may far outweigh their associated risks"*. And it is our endeavor to improve the accuracy and generality of our method through different compounds. We would specifically like to highlight another case of antagonist binding identified through CLASP, although in this case most alkaline phosphatases were not affected - [Chakraborty et al.\(2012\)](#)

The data for PI-PLC inhibition using DPP4 inhibitors, as shown in Figure 2, are average values of two closely similar experiments. We will revise the manuscript to include this point when we hear

from another referee.

Best regards,

Sandeep Chakraborty and Adela Rendón-Ramirez

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.
