



# ASENT2021 Annual Meeting

VIRTUAL NEUROTHERAPEUTICS CONFERENCE  
FEB 22 - FEB 25, 2021



## “Optimizing Tilorone Analogs as Acetylcholinesterase Inhibitors Using Machine Learning and Recurrent Neural Networks”

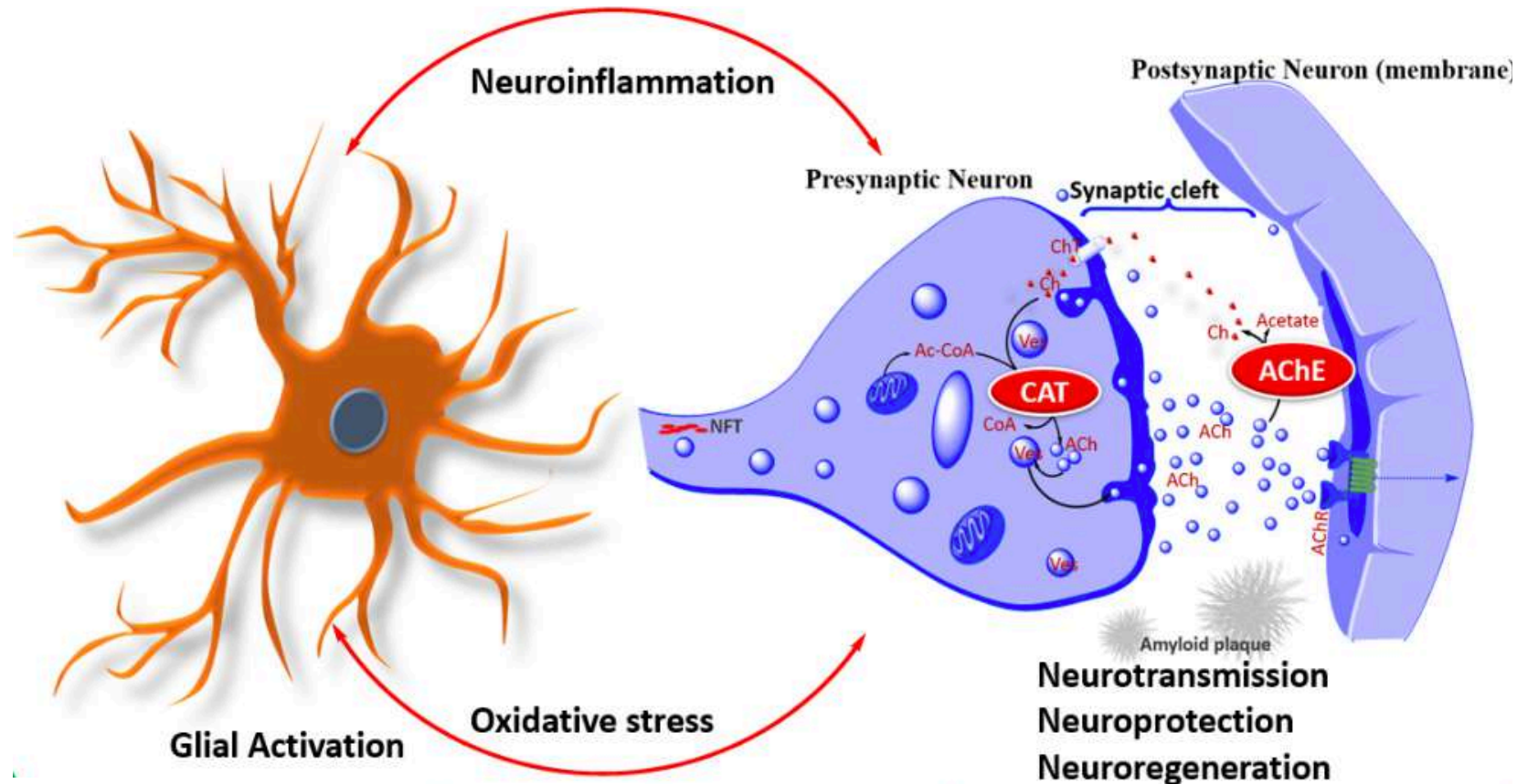
Ana C. Puhl

Patricia A. Vignaux, Eni Minerali, Thomas R. Lane, Daniel H. Foil,  
Kimberley M. Zorn, Fabio Urbina, Peter B. Madrid and Sean Ekins

# Alzheimer's disease

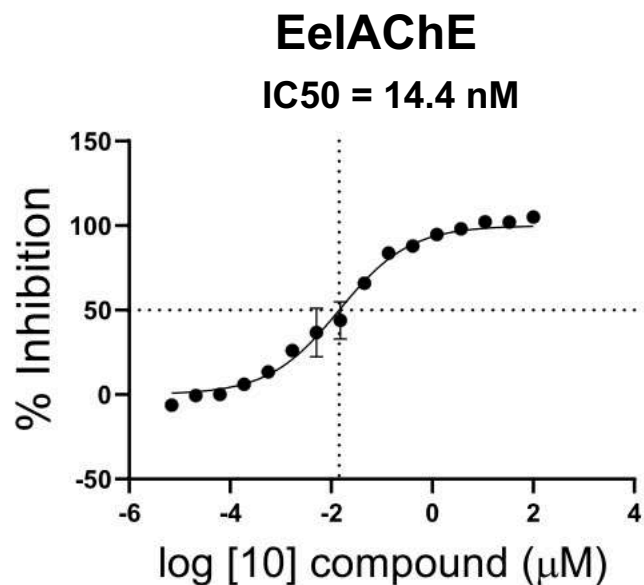


COLLABORATIONS  
PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

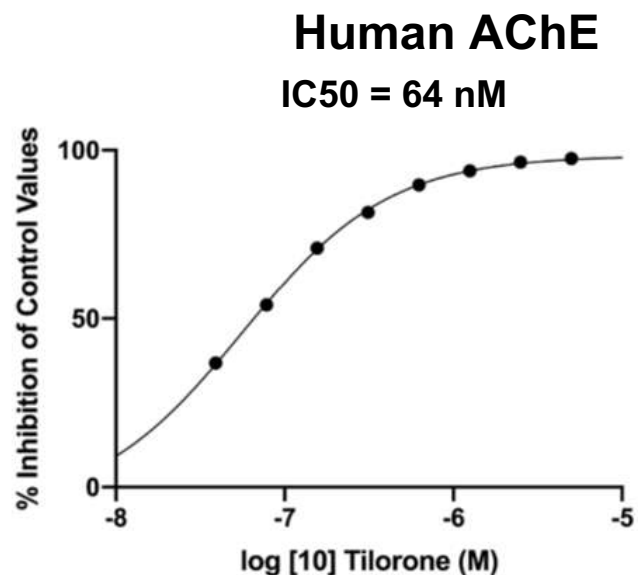


At least 50 million people are believed to be living with Alzheimer's disease worldwide  
Decrease in brain acetylcholine (ACh) levels are implicated in the pathophysiology of cognitive dysfunction occurring in AD.

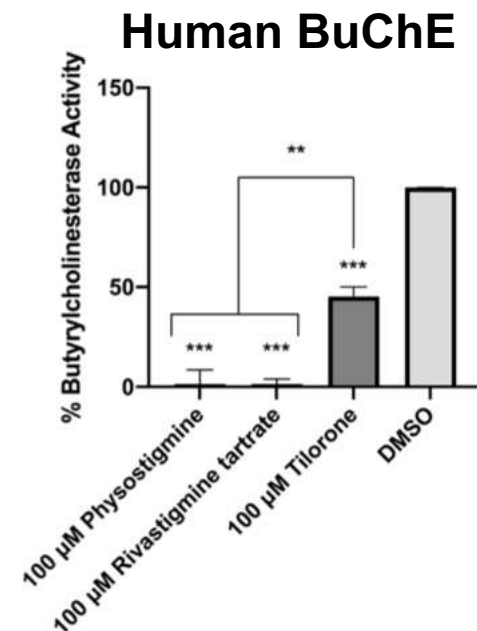
# Discovery of of tilorone as a new inhibitor of AChE



High-throughput  
screening  
eel enzyme  
**14.4 nM**



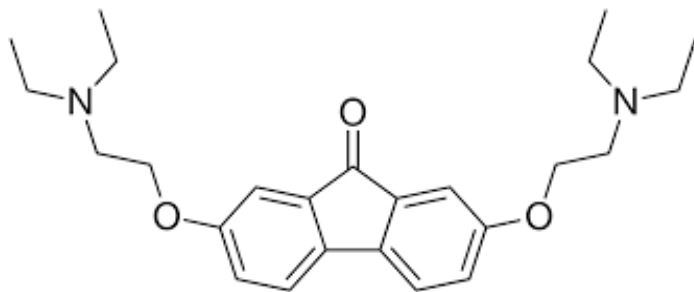
Validation human  
AChE  
**64.4 nM**



Selective for  
Butyrylcholinesterase  
**IC<sub>50</sub> > 50  $\mu\text{M}$**

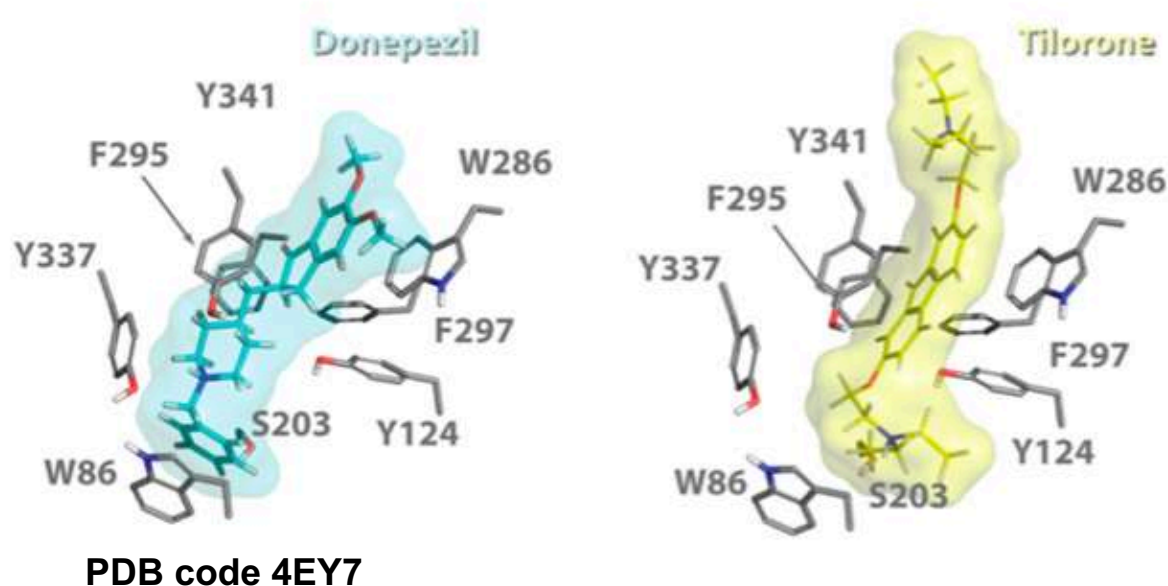
# Docking and safety profile

## Safety and selectivity profile



Tlorone had no appreciable inhibition of 485 kinases and only inhibited AChE out of 44 toxicology target proteins evaluated.

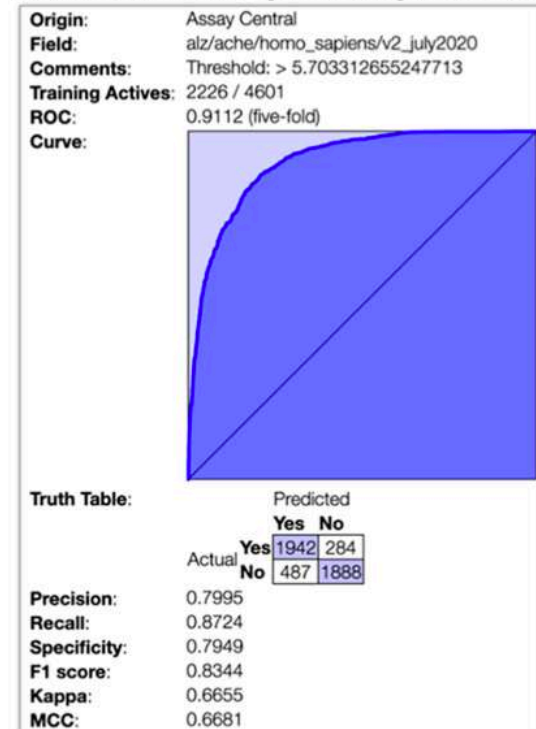
## Docking



Tlorone likely interacts with the peripheral anionic site of AChE similar to the FDA approved AChE inhibitor donepezil.

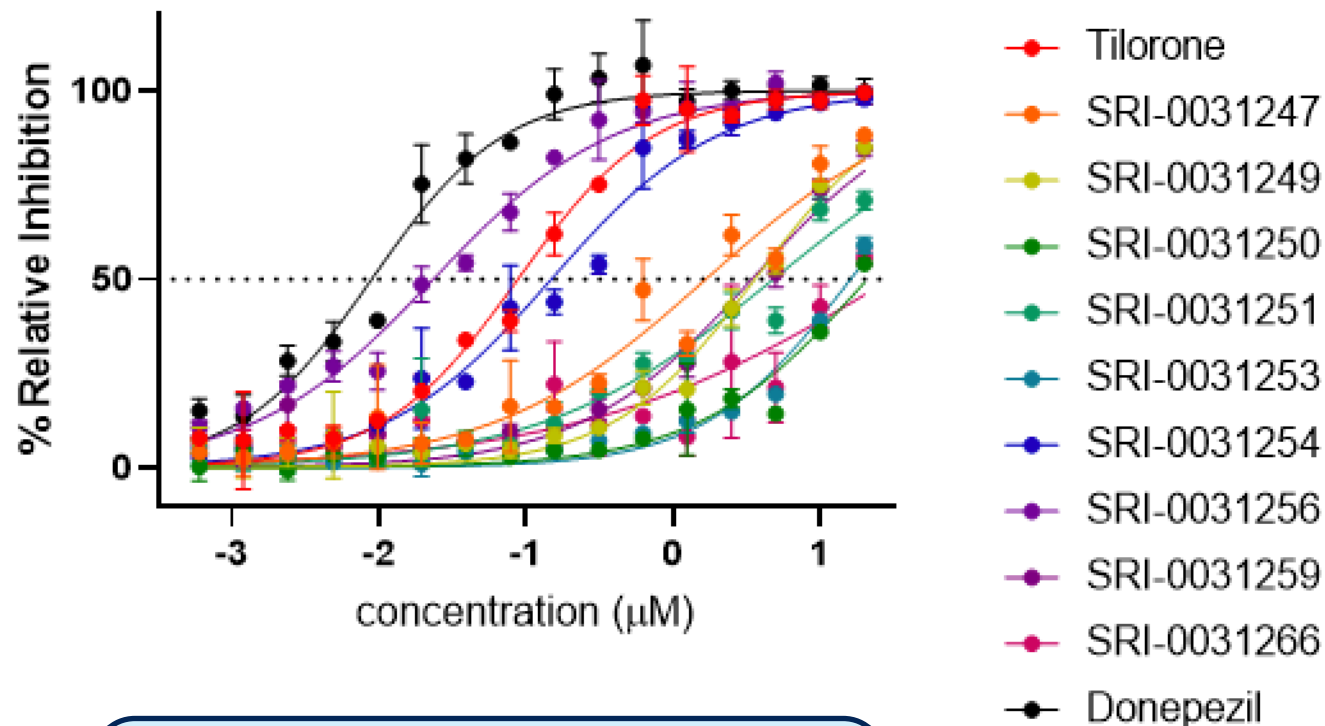
# Machine learning models to score tilorone analogs

## AChE ChEMBL 27 (Homo sapiens IC50)



Bayesian machine learning model consisting of 4601 molecules for hAChE

## Human AChE Inhibitor



9 tilorone analogs were synthesized and tested  
SRI-0031256  $IC_{50} = 23$  nM  
donepezil  $IC_{50} = 8.9$  nM

# Conclusions

Tilorone is a potent inhibitor of AChE

Using machine learning models we identified and have synthesized more potent analogs

Recurrent neural network (RNN) for de novo molecule design

We applied for an NIH grant to study 30 targets for AD using machine learning



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