

Assessment of quantum optimized mGlu₁R in virtual screening

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Background

The mGlu1 and mGlu5 receptors (metabotropic glutamate receptor 1 and 5) are considered promising therapeutic targets to treat diseases including chronic pain, schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease, anxiety, and autism [1-3]. However, the development of selective small-molecule ligands that might serve as drug candidates for these receptors has been hampered by the conservation of the orthosteric (glutamate) binding site. This can be overcome by using allosteric modulators that act at alternative binding sites; i.e., within the 7TM domain of the receptors [1].

[1] Wu H. et al, *Science* 344 (2014) 58-64,

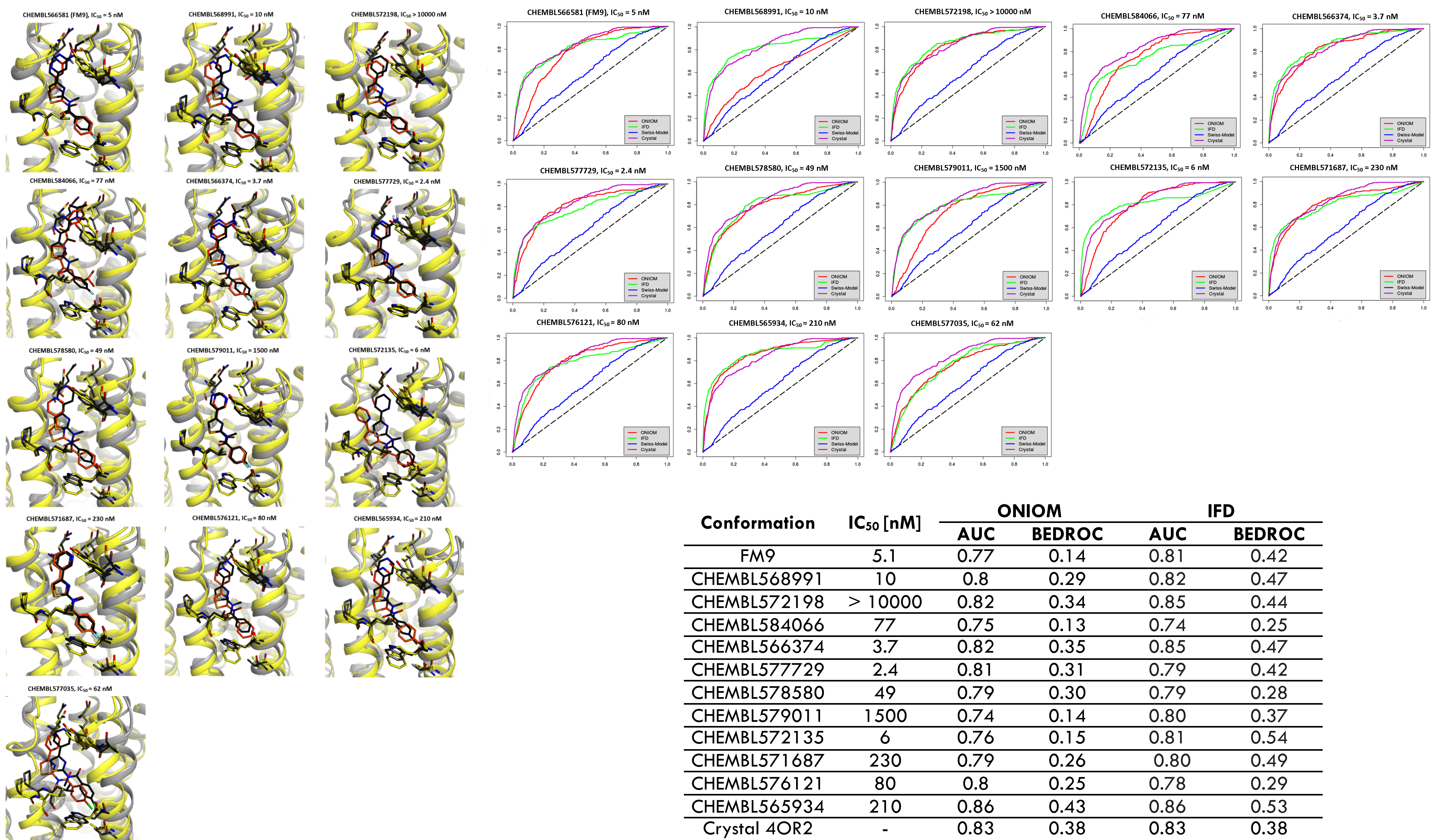
[2] Niswender C. M. and Conn P. J., *Annu. Rev. Pharmacol. Toxicol.* 50 (2010) 295–322,

[3] Dölen G. et al., *Pharmacol. Ther.* 127 (2010) 78–93,

Methodology

In this study the potential of 23 quantum optimized (ONIOM method) conformations of mGlu₁R in virtual screening was tested. The active site was tuned on structures of thirteen known allosteric modulators ($2.4 \text{ nM} < \text{IC}_{50} < 10000 \text{ nM}$) as well as modeled using 10 different calculation methods (7 different DFT methods, 3 different basis sets). Each resulting conformation was evaluated by docking the test set (195 active and 14465 non-active molecules) and several performance metrics were calculated: ROC AUC, BEDROC.

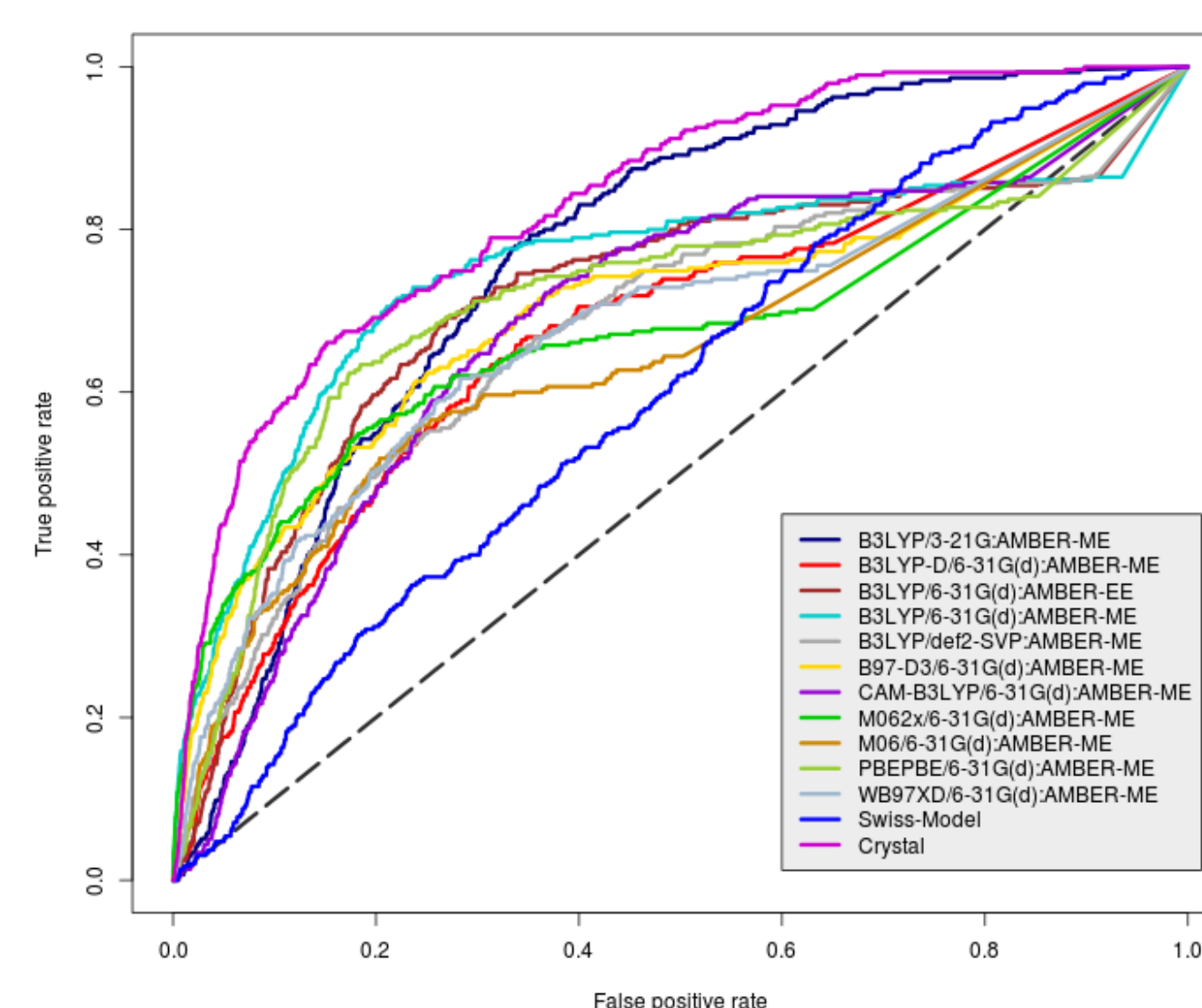
Tuning by ligand



Tunning by method

Model	RMSD*
B3LYP/3-21G:AMBER-ME	0.976
B3LYP-D/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	1.025
B3LYP/6-31G(d):AMBER-EE	0.992
B3LYP/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	1.274
B3LYP/def2-SVP:AMBER-ME	1.050
B97-D3/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	0.940
CAM-B3LYP/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	0.987
M062x/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	0.997
M06/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	1.173
PBEPBE/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	1.040
WB97XD/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	0.982

* Based on C_{alpha}-alignment to the crystal structure



Model	BEDROC	AUC
B3LYP/3-21G:AMBER-ME	0.14	0.77
B3LYP-D/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	0.18	0.67
B3LYP/6-31G(d):AMBER-EE	0.20	0.71
B3LYP/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	0.33	0.75
B3LYP/def2-SVP:AMBER-ME	0.20	0.68
B97-D3/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	0.29	0.70
CAM-B3LYP/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	0.13	0.69
M062x/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	0.32	0.68
M06/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	0.21	0.65
PBEPBE/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	0.23	0.72
WB97XD/6-31G(d):AMBER-ME	0.23	0.68

Conclusion

Interestingly, the best discriminative model was obtained by optimizing the complex of receptor with CHEMBL565934, for which the experimentally determined affinity was 210 nM.

Acknowledgements

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