



**Keywords:** Drug transporters; Integral membrane protein; Pharmacotherapy; Drug disposition; Organic cation transporter

## Introduction

Drug transporters, integral components of cell membranes, stand as critical determinants in the complex interplay of pharmacokinetics, influencing the absorption, distribution, and elimination of drugs. As gatekeepers governing the movement of therapeutic agents across biological barriers, drug transporters play an indispensable role in shaping the effectiveness and safety of pharmacotherapy.

This introduction provides a glimpse into the pivotal significance of drug transporters, outlining their diverse functions and impact on personalized medicine in the realm of pharmacotherapy.

## Drug Transporters

### Definition and Classification

Drug transporters serve as cellular gatekeepers, regulating the entry and exit of drugs across biological membranes. These integral membrane proteins, classified into families such as ATP-Binding Cassette (ABC) transporters and Solute Carrier (SLC) transporters, are strategically positioned in various tissues, including the gastrointestinal tract, liver, kidney, and blood-brain barrier [1,2].

### Functional Significance

The impact of drug transporters on pharmacokinetics is multifaceted. They influence drug absorption by facilitating or impeding the movement of substances from the external environment into the bloodstream. Within tissues, these transporters play a crucial role in drug distribution, ensuring that therapeutic agents reach their intended target sites. Additionally, drug transporters contribute significantly to drug elimination processes, guiding the excretion of drugs and their metabolites [2,3].

### Genetic Polymorphisms and Interindividual Variability

Genetic polymorphisms in drug transporter genes contribute to interindividual variability in drug response. Variations in transporter expression and activity can influence drug efficacy, alter therapeutic

4. Shuker SB, Hajduk PJ, Meadows RP, Fesik SW (1996) Discovering high-affinity ligands for proteins: SAR by NMR. *Science* 274: 1531-1534.
  5. Lamoree B, Hubbard RE (2017) Current perspectives in fragment-based lead discovery (FBLD). *Essays Biochem* 61: 453-464.
  6. Harner MJ, Frank AO, Fesik SW (2013) Fragment-based drug discovery using NMR spectroscopy. *J Biomol NMR* 56: 65-75.
  7. Li Q (2020) Application of Fragment-Based Drug Discovery to Versatile Targets. *Front Mol Biosci* 7: 180.
  8. Murray CW, Rees DC (2009) The rise of fragment-based drug discovery. *Nat Chem* 1: 187-192.
  9. Ayotte Y, Murugesan JR, Bilodeau F, Larda S, Bouchard P, et al. (2017) Discovering Quality Drug Seeds by Practical NMR-based Fragment Screening. *Protein Sci* 26: 194-195.
  10. Erlanson DA, Fesik SW, Hubbard RE, Jahnke W, Jhoti H (2016) Twenty years on: The impact of fragments on drug discovery. *Nat Rev Drug Discov* 15: 605-619.
-