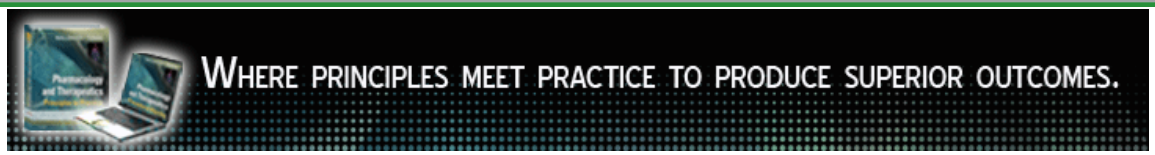

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Genomic filtering: an approach to discovering novel antiparasitics

James P. McCarter

Divergence Inc., 893 North Warson Road, St Louis, MO 63141, USA

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Genomic filtering is a rapid approach to identifying and prioritizing molecular targets for drug discovery. For infectious disease applications, comparative genomics filters allow the selection of pathogen-specific gene products, whereas functional genomics filters, such as RNA interference (RNAi), allow the selection of gene products essential for pathogen survival. The approach is especially applicable to antiparasitic drug discovery where the phylogenetic distance between parasite and host make the likelihood of drug cross-toxicity due to conservation of molecular targets greater than for more distantly related pathogens such as prokaryotes. This article discusses some of the inherent challenges of applying genomics to the early steps of drug discovery and describes one successful comparative and functional genomics filtering strategy that has been implemented to prioritize molecular targets and identify chemical leads for nematode control.

Article Outline

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