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E-NEWSLETTER

1 JULY – 31 AUGUST 2026



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July-August

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cem Erkmen and Asst. Prof. Dr. Zeynep Türk, faculty members of the Department of Analytical Chemistry, have published an article entitled "Nanomaterial-Based Electrochemical Microdevices for Rifampicin Sensing: A Focused Review" in *Biomedical Materials & Devices*, a Q1-indexed journal.

Biomedical Materials & Devices
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s44174-026-00748-4>

REVIEW



Nanomaterial-Based Electrochemical Microdevices for Rifampicin Sensing: A Focused Review

Cem Erkmen^{1,2} · Zeynep Türk^{1,2} · Asli Baysal³ · Hasan Saygin²

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Abstract

Rifampicin (RIF) remains a cornerstone of tuberculosis therapy; however, its clinical efficacy is highly dependent on achieving optimal systemic exposure, supporting the need for rapid and reliable monitoring approaches in therapeutic drug management. Conventional analytical techniques are often laboratory-bound, time-consuming, and unsuitable for decentralized or real-time applications. In this context, nanomaterial-enabled electrochemical sensing has emerged as a promising strategy for integration into biomedical microdevices, offering rapid response, low sample consumption, and compatibility with miniaturized platforms. This review provides a focused and critical evaluation of recent advances in nanomaterial-based electrochemical interfaces for RIF detection, with particular emphasis on their suitability for incorporation into portable and microfluidic device architectures. Carbon nanostructures, metal and metal-oxide nanomaterials, MXenes, metal-organic frameworks, molecularly imprinted polymers, and hybrid biosensing systems are systematically compared in terms of their structure-property-performance relationships and their ability to enhance electron-transfer kinetics, adsorption behavior, and electrocatalytic activity. Beyond analytical performance metrics such as detection limits and linear dynamic range, the review highlights key parameters governing device-level implementation, including surface stability, anti-fouling properties, reproducibility, and compatibility with complex biological matrices. Importantly, we discuss current progress toward integrating these sensing platforms into miniaturized and point-of-care systems, including screen-printed electrodes, flexible substrates, and microfluidic-assisted analytical devices. Remaining challenges-such as long-term operational stability, inter-device reproducibility, and clinical validation-are critically addressed. By bridging the gap between nanomaterial-based sensor development and biomedical microdevice engineering, this work provides a practical framework for advancing RIF detection technologies toward potential real-world diagnostic and therapeutic monitoring applications.

Keywords Antibiotics · Microdevices · Electrochemical sensors · Nanomaterials · Rifampicin · Tuberculosis



FACULTY OF PHARMACY

July-August

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cem Erkmen, faculty member of the Department of Analytical Chemistry, has published an article entitled "Biophysical insights into interaction mechanism of cediranib with human serum albumin: *In-vitro* and *in-silico* perspectives" in *Spectrochimica Acta Part A: Molecular and Biomolecular Spectroscopy*, a Q1-indexed journal.

Spectrochimica Acta Part A: Molecular and Biomolecular Spectroscopy 364 (2027) 128540



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journal homepage: www.journals.elsevier.com/spectrochimica-acta-part-a-molecular-and-biomolecular-spectroscopy



Biophysical insights into interaction mechanism of cediranib with human serum albumin: *In-vitro* and *in-silico* perspectives

Md. Zahirul Kabir ^{a,*}, Cem Erkmen ^{b,c}, Fazal Rehman ^d, Saharuddin B. Mohamad ^{e,f}

^a Department of Chemistry, University of Ostrava, 30. dubna 22, 701 03, Ostrava, Czech Republic

^b Department of Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Istanbul Aydın University, Istanbul 34295, Türkiye

^c Application and Research Center for Advanced Studies, Istanbul Aydın University, Istanbul 34295, Türkiye

^d Biochemistry Program, Institute of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

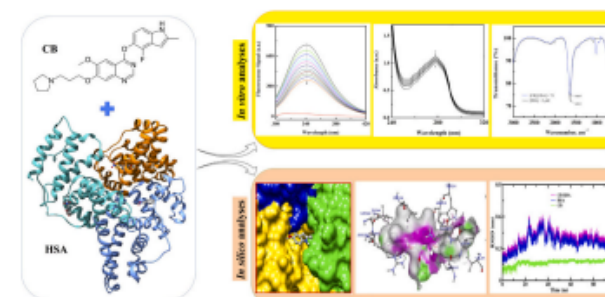
^e Faculty of Science, Bioinformatics Programme, Institute of Biological Sciences, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

^f Centre of Research for Computational Sciences and Informatics for Biology, Bioindustry, Environment, Agriculture and Healthcare, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

HIGHLIGHTS

- The protein's affinity for CB binding was intermediate.
- The CB-HSA complex was thought to be secured via van der Waals, H-bonds and hydrophobic interactions.
- Upon CB-HSA complexation, alterations in the structures (secondary and tertiary) of HSA were noticed.
- The protein was shielded from thermal denaturation by CB.
- Sudlow's site I of HSA was found to be the anticipated preferred binding point of CB.

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Cediranib
Human serum albumin
Drug-protein association
Fluorescence
In-silico analyses

ABSTRACT

Cediranib (CB), a tyrosine kinase inhibitor, exhibits encouraging anticancer activity against breast, prostate, glioblastoma, and non-small cell lung cancer cells. This study used multi-spectral and computational analyses to elucidate the binding mechanism of CB to human serum albumin (HSA). The HSA fluorescence was substantially quenched upon CB binding and a static quenching mode was detected. An intermediate binding affinity was observed to govern the CB-HSA complex formation, while H-bonds, van der Waals, and hydrophobic interactions were supposed to stabilize the complex. The presence of CB in HSA solutions triggered variations in the secondary and tertiary structures of HSA as well as alterations in the microenvironment close to the protein fluorophores. The CB binding to HSA enhanced the protein's tolerance to thermal stress, and the addition of common metal ions to the reaction mixture resulted in minor deviations in the binding affinity of CB for HSA. The preferred binding pose of CB was positioned at Sudlow's site I of HSA, and the CB-HSA complex bound at site I persisted compact and stable through hydrogen bonds and hydrophobic interactions during molecular dynamics



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July-August

Prof. Dr. Sevgi Karakuş, a faculty member in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, published an article entitled "Novel topoisomerase I/II dual inhibitors: Design, synthesis, and molecular docking studies of 1,3-thiazoline and 1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives with anticancer activity against lung cancer" in the *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, a Q1-indexed journal. This study was produced from Project No. 39672, supported under the TÜSEB 2024-A4-01-Group A Emergency R&D Project Call.

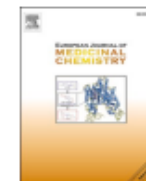
European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry 319 (2026) 119247



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Research paper

Novel topoisomerase I/II dual inhibitors: Design, synthesis, and molecular docking studies of 1,3-thiazoline and 1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives with anticancer activity against lung cancer

Sema Şenoğlu^a, Pakize Cantürk^b, Faika Başoğlu^{c,d}, Özge Çevik^e, Abdulilah Ece^f, Sevgi Karakuş^{g,*}

^a Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Istinye University, Istanbul, 34408, Turkey

^b Department of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Sivas Cumhuriyet University, Sivas, 58140, Turkey

^c Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Near East University, North Cyprus, TR-Mersin, Nicosia, Turkey

^d DESAM Institute, Near East University, North Cyprus via TR-10 Mersin, Nicosia, Turkey

^e Department of Biochemistry, School of Medicine, Aydın Adnan Menderes University, Aydın, 09010, Turkey

^f Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, Biruni University, Istanbul, 34015, Turkey

^g Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Istanbul Aydın University, Istanbul, 34295, Turkey

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Thiosemicarbazide
1,3-Thiazoline
1,3,4-Oxadiazole
In silico
Topoisomerases I and II

ABSTRACT

Despite significant advances in cancer therapy, the discovery of new anticancer agents with improved efficacy remains an important challenge. Human DNA topoisomerases I and II are well-established therapeutic targets because of their essential roles in DNA replication and transcription. Accordingly, a series of novel etofenamate-based thiosemicarbazide, 1,3-thiazole, and 1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives were designed and synthesized, including a new synthetic approach for the preparation of the oxadiazole derivatives, and evaluated as potential topoisomerase-targeting anticancer agents. All synthesized compounds were structurally characterized and evaluated for antiproliferative activity against the A549 human lung cancer cell line and for their inhibitory effects on human DNA topoisomerases I and II. Based on their overall biological performance, compounds 3h, 5h, and 5i were selected for further biological characterization, including thioredoxin reductase 1 (TrxR1) inhibition, total oxidative status (TOS), Bax/Bcl-2 protein expression, Annexin V analysis, and crystal violet staining. Molecular docking studies were performed to investigate the binding modes of the lead compounds toward topoisomerases I and II. Biological evaluation identified compounds 3h, 5h, and 5i as the most promising derivatives. Enzymatic assays revealed distinct topoisomerase inhibition profiles, with compound 5h acting as a selective topoisomerase I inhibitor and compound 5i exhibiting dual inhibitory activity against topoisomerases I and II. Molecular docking analyses supported these findings by revealing target-specific binding modes consistent with the observed inhibition profiles. Complementary cellular studies demonstrated TrxR1 inhibition, increased oxidative stress, apoptosis-associated cellular responses, and morphological alterations, providing additional mechanistic characterization of the lead compounds. Collectively, these findings establish topoisomerases I and II as relevant molecular targets for the synthesized series while broadening the biological characterization of the lead compounds through complementary cellular investigations. Compound 5i emerged as the most promising dual topoisomerase I/II inhibitor and represents a valuable lead for the further development of novel topoisomerase-targeting anticancer agents.



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Our Faculty of Pharmacy Met Prospective Students at University Preference and Introduction Days

Our Faculty of Pharmacy met with prospective students and their families as part of the University Preference and Introduction Days, held at the Istanbul Aydın University Florya Campus from July 20-August 10, 2026, and at the Lütfi Kırdar Congress Center from July 24-26, 2026. During the events, prospective students were informed about the pharmacy profession, the education process, career opportunities, and the facilities offered by our university, providing support throughout their university preference process.





FACULTY OF PHARMACY

July-August

Our Academics' ADEP Project Has Been Accepted

A project involving our Faculty of Pharmacy faculty members, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cem Erkmn and Asst. Prof. Dr. Zeynep Türk, along with Prof. Dr. Hasan Saygın, Director of Application and Research Center for Advanced Research, has been accepted under the Research Universities Support Program (ADEP), coordinated by Marmara University.

Within the scope of the project entitled "Development of Polyimide Nanocomposite-Based Biosensors Containing Functionalized Bimetallic Nanoparticles and Their Use in the Electrochemical Determination of the Tenascin-C Biomarker," studies will be conducted toward the development of innovative biosensor systems. We congratulate our academics on the acceptance of their project and wish them continued success in their work.

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**Akademisyenlerimiz
ADEP Projesinde!**

*Akademisyenlerimiz, Marmara Üniversitesi yürütücülüğündeki
Araştırma Üniversiteleri Destekleme Programı (ADEP) projesinde
araştırmacı olarak yer aldı.*

Proje Ekibi:



**Prof. Dr.
Hasan SAYGIN**

İleri Araştırmalar Uygulama ve
Araştırma Merkezi Müdürü



**Doç. Dr.
Cem ERKMEN**

Eczacılık Fakültesi
Öğretim Üyesi



**Dr. Öğr. Üyesi
Zeynep TÜRK**

Eczacılık Fakültesi
Öğretim Üyesi

Proje Adı:

"Fonksiyonelleştirilmiş Bimetalik Nanoparçacıklar İçeren Polimid Nanokompozit
Tabanlı Biyosensörlerin Geliştirilmesi ve Tenascin-C Biyobelirtecinin
Elektrokimyasal Tayininde Kullanılması"