

# **SUBSTRATES OF HUMAN CYTOCHROMES P450 FROM FAMILIES CYP1 AND CYP2: ANALYSIS OF ENZYME SELECTIVITY AND METABOLISM**

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## **SUMMARY**

A compilation of information relating to substrate metabolism via human cytochromes P450 (CYP) from the CYP1 and CYP2 families is reported. The data presented include details of preferred sites of metabolism and  $K_m$  values (usually for the expressed enzymes) for each reaction for selected substrates of CYP1A2, CYP2A6, CYP2B6, CYP2C8, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2D6 and CYP2E1. Although other P450 databases are available, they do not provide such information as is collated here, and which can prove useful for comparing P450 substrate characteristics. This information can be employed in analysing the structural requirements for human P450 enzyme selectivity and for establishing various rules regarding preferred site of metabolism for selective P450 substrates. For example, in most cases it would appear that there is a set number of intervening 'heavy' atoms (atoms other than hydrogen) between sites of metabolism and key hydrogen bond acceptors (or donors) for human P450 substrates, with the number of intervening atoms being dependent upon the type of P450 involved.

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## KEY WORDS

cytochrome P450, drug metabolism, structure-activity relationships

## INTRODUCTION

The cytochromes P450 (CYP<sup>\*</sup>) constitute a superfamily of haem-thiolate enzymes that are involved in the oxidation of a large number of organic compounds, both endogenous and exogenous /1-3/. P450 enzymes are found in most species and across all five biological kingdoms; the number of P450s identified to date exceeds 2,000 individual enzymes, and it is thought that about 60 P450s are present in the human genome /4,5/. The majority of Phase 1 metabolic reactions for drugs and other xenobiotics are catalysed by P450s /6/ from families CYP1, CYP2 and CYP3 /7,8/. Of these, enzymes of the CYP2 family appear to be most important overall (50%), especially for the CYP2C subfamily and CYP2D6, followed by CYP3 family enzymes of which CYP3A4 represents the main component, this being associated with the Phase 1 metabolism of about 30% of known P450 substrates investigated so far /8/. Of lesser importance are enzymes from the CYP1 family, although CYP1A2 plays a role in the Phase 1 metabolism of a significant number (about 12%) of drug substrates /8/. This compilation of metabolic data focuses on substrates of the CYP1 and CYP2 families, and information on their physicochemical properties (e.g. log P, pK<sub>a</sub>, log D<sub>7.4</sub> and molecular weight values) has been published recently /9/. Routes of metabolism mediated by particular P450s and apparent Michaelis constant (K<sub>m</sub> values) data for metabolism mediated by the P450 enzyme involved in each case is provided such that it is possible to appreciate the differing binding affinities for various substrates of the same P450. Data on substrates of the less important P450s, such as CYP1A1, CYP1B1 and CYP2F1, have not been included as these represent relatively minor components of the hepatic P450 complement and, consequently, their role in drug metabolism is minor. The purpose of this exercise is to provide a framework for evaluating structure-activity relationships within human P450 substrates that are either drugs in current clinical use or

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\* CYP = cytochrome P450 when referring to particular families, subfamilies and individual enzymes; otherwise P450 is used for referring to the enzymes in general.

other xenobiotics of interest. This information can also be employed for examining factors responsible for P450 enzyme selectivity which can, therefore, aid novel compound development in which metabolic pathways are of major importance to clearance in *Homo sapiens* /10-12/.

## METHODS

The metabolic data on substrates of CYP1A2, CYP2A6, CYP2B6, CYP2C8, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2D6 and CYP2E1 have been collated from the current literature /3,7,8,13,14/. Physicochemical data in the form of log P and  $pK_a$  values were either obtained from the literature /6,15-19/ or calculated using the Pallas Software System (CompuDrug Limited, Budapest). Values for relative molecular masses ( $M_r$  data) of compounds were also obtained from the literature /20/ or calculated using the Pallas system.

The ClogP (BioByte Corporation, Pomona, California) database of experimental log P values was also accessed in some cases, although ClogP was not employed in deriving calculated values.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Tables 1-8 present the collated data on typical substrates of CYP1A2, CYP2A6, CYP2B6, CYP2C8, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2D6 and CYP2E1, respectively. These provide  $K_m$  values and details relating to the site of metabolism mediated by the relevant P450 enzyme concerned. In some instances, the  $K_D$  values are provided, where  $K_D$  is the spectroscopically-determined enzyme-substrate dissociation constant, such as in the case of certain CYP2D6 substrates (see Table 7). It is thought that although the  $K_D$  value is preferred, the  $K_m$  value also provides an adequate description of the substrate binding affinity from which free energy values may be calculated /21/. Although  $K_m$  is a parameter derived from enzyme kinetics, it is regarded as a ratio of individual rate constants /22/ and, consequently, represents an equilibrium constant for the enzyme-substrate binding interaction. In most cases,  $K_m \cong K_D$  because the rate-determining step for the reaction is usually the formation of the enzyme-substrate complex /21,22/. Although this may not necessarily

**TABLE 1**  
Human CYP1A2 substrates and their metabolism

Compound	log P	Metabolic pathway	K <sub>m</sub> (μM)	Ref.
1. Caffeine	0.08	N <sup>3</sup> demethylation	180	/31,32/
2. PhIP	2.23	N-hydroxylation	55	/33/
3. 7-Methoxyresorufin	3.15 <sup>c</sup>	O-demethylation	0.21	/34/
4. Phenacetin	1.57	O-deethylation	48	/35/
5. IQ	1.47	N-hydroxylation	33	/36/
6. MeIQ	1.98	N-hydroxylation	13	/35/
7. 4-Aminobiphenyl	2.86	N-hydroxylation	30	/36/
8. 7-Ethoxyresorufin	3.61 <sup>c</sup>	O-deethylation	1.7	/35/
9. Aflatoxin B <sub>1</sub>	2.20 <sup>c</sup>	8,9-epoxidation	31	/37/
10. Theophylline	0.95	N <sup>3</sup> demethylation	455	/13/
11. Tacrine	2.71	7-hydroxylation	14	/38/
12. Naproxen	3.34	O-demethylation	160	/39/
13. Estradiol	2.69	2-hydroxylation	20	/40/
14. Melatonin	1.45	6-hydroxylation	85.5	/41/
15. Propranolol	2.98	N-desisopropylation	87	/42/
16. MeIQx	1.01	N-hydroxylation	19	/43/

c = calculated value obtained via the Pallas software (CompuDrug, Ltd., Budapest);

IQ = 2-amino-3-methylimidazo[4,5-f]quinoline;

MeIQ = 2-amino-3,8-dimethylimidazo[4,5-f]quinoline;

MeIQx = 2-amino-3,8-dimethylimidazo[4,5-f]quinoxaline;

PhIP = 2-amino-1-methyl-6-phenylimidazo[4,5-b]pyridine.

**TABLE 2**  
Human CYP2A6 substrates and their metabolism

Compound	log P	Metabolic pathway	K <sub>m</sub> (μM)	Ref.
1. Coumarin	1.39	7-hydroxylation	2.1	/44/
2. SM-12502	1.06	S-oxidation	4.7	/45/
3. S-Nicotine	1.17	5'-oxidation	25.5	/46/
4. Losigamone	1.46 <sup>c</sup>	3-hydroxylation	10.0	/47/
5. 4-Nitroanisole	2.03	O-demethylation	9.0	/48/
6. Cotinine	0.07	3'-hydroxylation	265.0	/49,50/
7. Paracetamol	0.51	3-hydroxylation	2170	/51/
8. Quinoline	2.03	1-oxidation	540	/52/
9. Halothane	2.30	reduction	14	/53/
10. Hexamethylphosphoramide	0.28	demethylation	2900	/54/

c = calculated value obtained via the Pallas software (CompuDrug Ltd., Budapest);  
SM-12502 = (+)-*cis*-3,5-dimethyl-2-(3-pyridyl)thiazolidin-4-one.

**TABLE 3**  
CYP2B6 substrates and their metabolism

Compound	log P	Metabolic pathway	K <sub>m</sub> (μM)	Ref.
1. 7-Ethoxy-4-trifluoromethylcoumarin	3.31 <sup>c</sup>	O-deethylation	2.9	/55/
2. 7-Benzoyloxyresorufin	4.75 <sup>c</sup>	O-debenzylation	1.28	/55/
3. S-Mephentanyl	1.90	N-demethylation	564	/56/
4. Benzphetamine	4.35 <sup>c</sup>	N-demethylation	93.4	/55/
5. Testosterone	3.32	16β-hydroxylation	50.5	/55/
6. Bupropion	2.54	t-butyl oxidation	107.5	/55/
7. PNU 249173	4.89 <sup>c</sup>	cyclopentyl hydroxylation	19.6	/57/
8. Diazepam	2.86	N-demethylation	113	/55/
9. 7-Ethoxycoumarin	2.30	O-deethylation	115	/55/
10. 4-Chloromethyl-7-ethoxycoumarin	2.94 <sup>c</sup>	O-deethylation	33.7	/55/
11. 3-Cyano-7-ethoxycoumarin	1.74	O-deethylation	71.3	/55/
12. Methoxychlor	4.30	3-hydroxylation	N/A	/55/

c = calculated value obtained via the Pallas software (CompuDrug Ltd., Budapest);  
PNU 249173 = 2-cyclopentyl-oxo-N-(3,5-dichloro-4-pyridyl)-4-methylbenzamide (also reported as RP 73401 in the literature); N/A = data not available.

**TABLE 4**  
CYP2C8 substrates and their metabolism

Compound	log P	Metabolic pathway	K <sub>m</sub> (μM)	Ref.
1. Rosiglitazone	3.20	<i>N</i> -demethylation	10	/59/
2. Retinoic acid	6.61	4-hydroxylation	9	/60/
3. Taxol	2.28 <sup>c</sup>	6α-hydroxylation	5	/61/
4. Carbamazepine	2.28	10,11-epoxidation	N/A	/62/
5. Zopiclone	1.50 <sup>c</sup>	<i>N</i> -demethylation	71	/63/
6. Cerivastatin	5.20	<i>O</i> -demethylation	N/A	/64/
7. Arachidonic acid	6.98	14,15-epoxidation	20.5	/65/
8. Retinol	5.68	4-hydroxylation	71	/66/
9. Diclofenac	4.40	4'-hydroxylation	630	/67/
10. Amiodarone	2.54	<i>N</i> -demethylation	8.6	/68/

<sup>c</sup> = calculated value obtained via the Pallas software (CompuDrug, Ltd., Budapest);  
N/A = data not available.

**TABLE 5**  
CYP2C9 substrates and their metabolism

Compound	log P	Metabolic pathway	K <sub>m</sub> (μM)	Ref.
1. Diclofenac	4.40	4'-hydroxylation	6	/99/
2. Tolbutamide	2.34	4-methyl hydroxylation	132	/99/
3. Tienilic acid	3.15	S-oxidation	6	/99/
4. S-Warfarin	2.70	7-hydroxylation	4	/99/
5. S-Ibuprofen	3.51	isobutyl hydroxylation	53	/99/
6. Mefenamic acid	5.12	3'-methyl hydroxylation	7	/68/
7. Naproxen	3.34	O-demethylation	126	/69/
8. 58C80	5.18	<i>t</i> -butyl oxidation	141	/99/
9. Piroxicam	3.06	5'-hydroxylation	40	/70/
10. Phenytoin	2.47	4-hydroxylation	45	/71/
11. Losartan	4.48	hydroxylmethyl oxidation	20	/72/
12. Lornoxicam	2.62	5'-hydroxylation	3.6	/73/

58C80 = 2-(4-*t*-butylcyclohexyl)-3-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone.



**TABLE 6**  
CYP2C19 substrates and their metabolism

Compound	log P	Metabolic pathway	K <sub>m</sub> (μM)	Ref.
1. Omeprazole	2.23	5-methyl hydroxylation	8.6	/74/
2. S-Mephenytoin	1.90	4'-hydroxylation	50	/75/
3. Proguanil	2.53	isopropyl oxidation	96	/76/
4. Diazepam	2.86	N-demethylation	20	/77/
5. LY307640	1.79	O-demethylation	19	/78/
6. Phenytoin	2.47	4-hydroxylation	70	/71/
7. R-Hexobarbital	1.49	3'-hydroxylation	740	/79/
8. R-Mephobarbital	1.84	4-hydroxylation	65	/80/
9. Moclobemide	2.13	morpholine oxidation	770	/81/
10. Melatonin	1.45 <sup>c</sup>	O-demethylation	282	/41/
11. Imipramine	4.44	N-demethylation	24.7	/82/
12. R-Warfarin	2.70	8-hydroxylation	330	/83/

c = calculated value obtained via the Pallas software (CompuDrug, Ltd., Budapest); LY307640 = 2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole (also known as Rabeprazole).

**TABLE 7**  
CYP2D6 substrates and their metabolism

Compound	log P	Metabolic pathway	K <sub>D</sub> (μM)	Ref.
1. Propranolol	2.98	4-hydroxylation	2.73	/14/
2. Debrisoquine	0.75	4'-hydroxylation	13	/14/
3. R-Bufuralol	3.50	1'-hydroxylation	8.6	/14/
4. Metoprolol	1.88	O-demethylation	46 *	/84/
5. Dextromethorphan	3.70	O-demethylation	2.76	/14/
6. Codeine	1.14	O-demethylation	15	/14/
7. MDMA	2.28 <sup>c</sup>	O-demethylation	1.72 <sup>†</sup>	/85/
8. Imipramine	4.44	2-hydroxylation	2.4	/14/
9. Desipramine	4.90	2-hydroxylation	20	/14/
10. Nortriptyline	4.04	10-hydroxylation	47	/14/
11. MPTP	2.14	N-demethylation	130 <sup>†</sup>	/14,86/
12. Ondansetron	2.14	7-hydroxylation	102	/14/

c = calculated value obtained via the Pallas software (CompuDrug, Ltd., Budapest);

MDMA = methylenedioxy-N-methylamphetamine;

MPTP = 1-methyl-4-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine.

Methodology for determination of K<sub>D</sub> values is given in reference /14/.

\* K<sub>s</sub> value quoted which is probably of the same order of magnitude as the K<sub>D</sub> value (not determined).

<sup>†</sup> K<sub>m</sub> values quoted in these references are likely to be close to the K<sub>D</sub> value (not determined).

**TABLE 8**  
Human CYP2E1 substrates and their metabolism

Compound	log P	Metabolic pathway	K <sub>m</sub> (μM)	Ref.
1. 4-Nitrophenol	2.04	2-hydroxylation	21	/87/
2. Chlorzoxazone	2.36 <sup>c</sup>	6-hydroxylation	39	/88/
3. Aniline	0.90	4-hydroxylation	873	/89/
4. Paracetamol	0.51	N-oxidation	1290	/51/
5. Lauric acid	4.20	ω <sup>-1</sup> hydroxylation	130	/90/
6. Butadiene	1.99	1,2-epoxidation	200	/91/
7. Halothane	2.30	dehalogenation	35	/72/
8. Ethanol	-0.32	2-hydroxylation	11200	/93/
9. Benzene	2.13	epoxidation	25	/94/
10. Tetrachloromethane	2.83	dehalogenation	57	/95/
11. Dimethylnitrosamine	-0.57	N-demethylation	2000	/96/
12. Salicylic acid	2.25	5-hydroxylation	280	/97/

c = calculated value obtained via the Pallas software (CompuDrug, Ltd., Budapest).

be the case in all examples, it appears to hold reasonably well for P450-mediated reactions for which both determinations are available. However, K<sub>m</sub> values are frequently reported in the literature, whereas K<sub>D</sub> values are rarely available from published work. In the current work, K<sub>D</sub> data have been determined for several substrates using a spectroscopic method, as has been described previously /14/.

From previously published data relating to P450 substrates /9/, it is possible to delineate certain characteristics (Table 9) which tend to be common for substrates of each P450 enzyme. For example, the physicochemical data (in the form of log P, log D<sub>7.4</sub> and pK<sub>a</sub> values) usually lie within a certain well-defined range of values, especially log

TABLE 9

Numbers of heavy atoms between hydrogen bond donor/acceptor atoms  
and sites of metabolism in human P450 substrates

CYP	Primary site	Secondary site	Other characteristics
1A2	6	9	Planar molecules
2A6	6	—	Relatively planar molecules
2B6	8	—	Medium-sized molecules
2C8	12	—	Relatively large molecules
2C9	10	—	Acidic group in molecules
2C19	7	8	Medium-sized molecules
2D6	9	—	Basic group in molecules
2E1	3	5	Relatively small molecules

*Note:* The primary and secondary sites refer to hydrogen bond donor/acceptor atoms in the molecule and their distances from the preferred site of metabolism in terms of numbers of intervening 'heavy' atoms (atoms other than hydrogen). These represent the averages for a relatively narrow range of values ( $\pm 1$ ) in terms of numbers of atoms between hydrogen bond donor/acceptors and sites of metabolism. The location of these sites is presented in Figures 1-7 which relate to substrates of CYP1A2, CYP2A6, CYP2B6, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2D6 and CYP2E1, respectively /98/.

P (Table 10) for substrates of each P450, and selective substrates frequently take values close to the average for each enzyme /23/. For example, substrates of CYP2D6 tend to be basic, whereas those of CYP2C9 are usually weakly acidic in character. Moreover, many substrates of CYP2E1 are neutral molecules of relatively small molecular weight. In the case of CYP2B6, the substrates tend to be basic in character but it is thought that they are likely to bind in the non-ionised state. However, for CYP2D6 substrates, binding as the protonated base is almost certainly essential for interaction with acidic residues in the active site, particularly with aspartate-301, although

TABLE 10

Ranges and average log P values for substrates of human  
CYP1 and CYP2 families

CYP	Range	No. of compounds	Average	Typical substrate (log P)	
1A2	0.08 to 3.61	18	2.01 ( $\pm$ 1.93)	MeIQ	(1.98)
2A6	0.07 to 2.79	18	1.44 ( $\pm$ 1.37)	Losigamone	(1.46)
2B6	0.23 to 4.89	16	2.54 ( $\pm$ 2.35)	Bupropion	(2.54)
2C8	0.06 to 6.98	12	3.38 ( $\pm$ 3.60)	Rosiglitazone	(3.20)
2C9	0.89 to 5.18	18	3.20 ( $\pm$ 2.31)	Naproxen	(3.18)
2C19	1.49 to 4.42	16	2.56 ( $\pm$ 1.86)	Proguanil	(2.53)
2D6	0.75 to 5.04	16	3.08 ( $\pm$ 2.33)	Propranolol	(3.09)
2E1	-1.35 to 3.63	20	2.07 ( $\pm$ 3.42)	4-Nitrophenol	(2.04)

It is important to note that the log P values of typical substrates /23/ are close to the average value for each individual enzyme's substrates, thus indicating that there may be an optimal log P for substrates binding to individual P450s.

recent studies indicate a role for another cationic residue glutamate-216 /24/. Similarly, CYP2C19 substrates are also basic, although they tend to be weaker bases than those of CYP2D6, but hydrogen bond donor/acceptor atoms in the molecule at specific sites tend to confer CYP2C19 substrate selectivity. Similar relationships exist for substrates of CYP1A2 and CYP2A6, some of which are basic in character - although many are neutral molecules. However, an overall high degree of molecular planarity is characteristic of CYP1A2 substrates. Although CYP2C8 substrates also tend to be acidic compounds, like those of CYP2C9, their molecular structures are somewhat different in terms of size and shape /9/. In the latter respect, there is some degree of overlap with CYP3A4 substrate selectivity and, moreover, compounds such as rosiglitazone, trimethoprim and amiodarone are substrates of both enzymes. Possible rationales for human P450

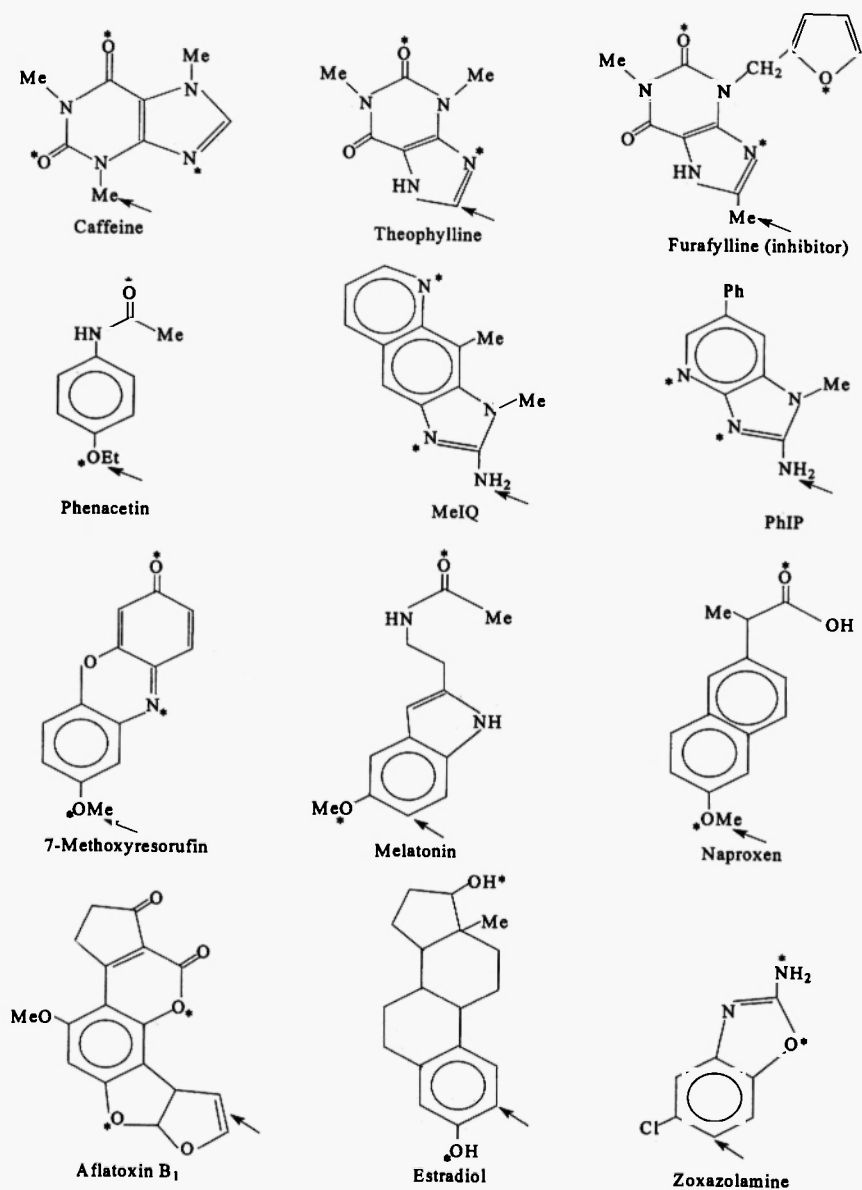
substrate selectivities are, therefore, highlighted by a consideration of their physicochemical properties and also their molecular structures, especially the disposition of hydrogen bond donor/acceptors in the molecule. Figures 1-7 show structures of typical substrates for CYP1A2, CYP2A6, CYP2B6, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2D6 and CYP2E1, respectively. The similarities between these compounds for each class and the location of their sites of metabolism are now discussed for each class of substrate, under subheadings for each P450 enzyme.

### **CYP1A2 substrates**

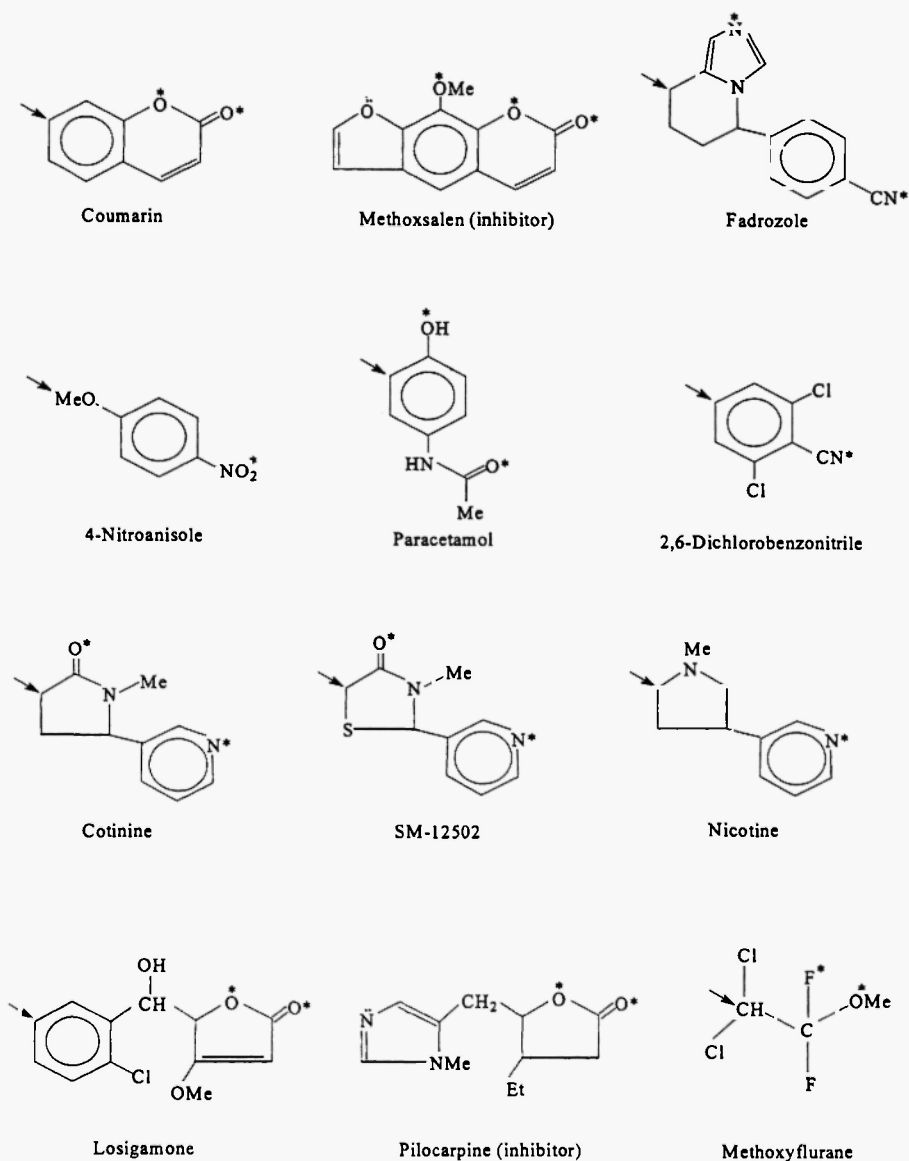
Figure 1 shows a total of 12 CYP1A2 substrates, including the mechanism-based inhibitor furafylline, and the preferred sites of metabolism and location of hydrogen bond donors and acceptors are presented in each case. All of the compounds possess relatively planar molecules by virtue of their fused aromatic ring systems, especially 7-methoxyresorufin which is a very good substrate for CYP1A2. All of the substrates contain hydrogen bond donor/acceptor atoms and these are located at fairly specific distances from the sites of metabolism in terms of the number of intervening 'heavy' atoms (atoms other than hydrogen). The number and disposition of these groupings is critical for CYP1A2 selectivity and binding affinity, together with the presence of aromatic ring systems which facilitate interaction with the enzyme's binding site. In fact, there would appear to be a direct relationship between the numbers of hydrogen bonded and  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interactions for CYP1A2 substrates and their binding affinity towards the enzyme /25/ although the desolvation energy also makes an important contribution to the overall binding energy.

### **CYP2A6 substrates**

In Figure 2, a number of typical CYP2A6 substrate structures are presented, together with that of the inhibitors, pilocarpine and methoxsalen. Although some CYP2A6-selective compounds have relatively planar structures (e.g. coumarin) as has the inhibitor methoxsalen, there are many that are non-planar, such as nicotine, losigamone and SM-12502. The preferred site of metabolism is indicated for each substrate in Figure 2, as is the most likely hydrogen bond contact (or contacts) within the CYP2A6 active site. It can be



**Fig. 1:** Some typical CYP1A2 substrates showing sites of metabolism (†) and hydrogen bonding (\*). The selective inhibitor furafylline is also shown.



**Fig. 2:** Some typical CYP2A6 substrates showing sites of metabolism (↑) and hydrogen bonding (\*). The inhibitors pilocarpine and methoxsalen are also shown.



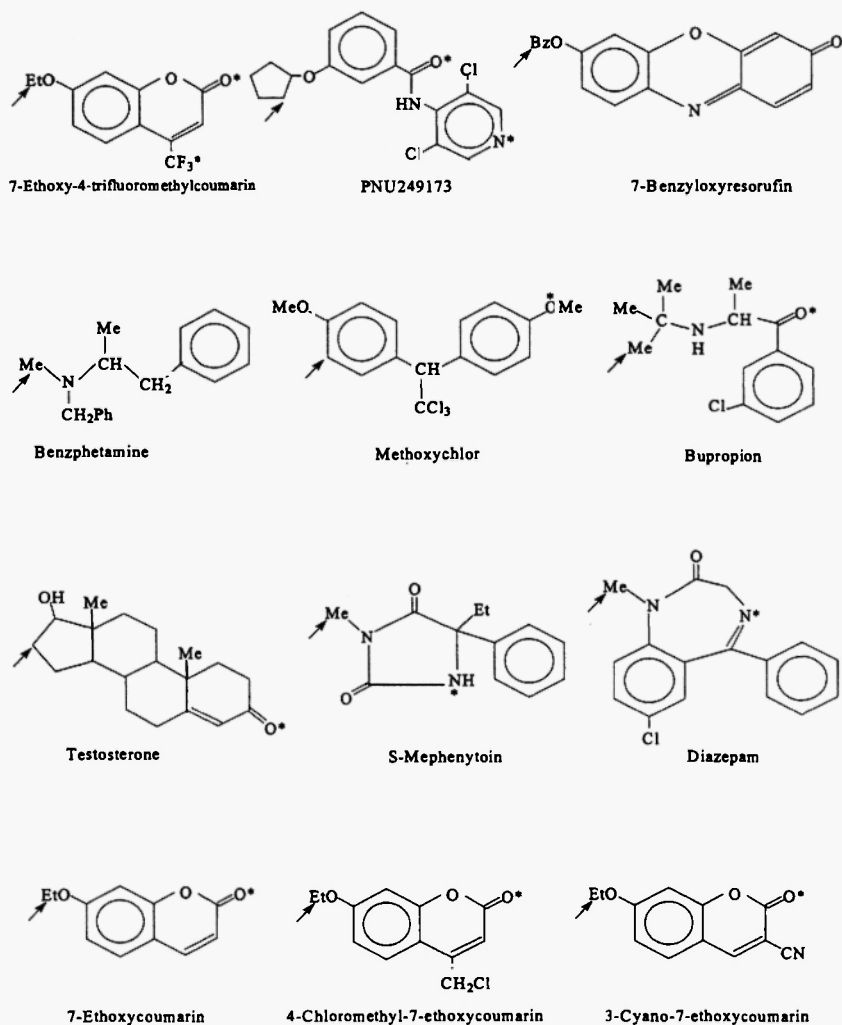
appreciated, from inspection of the information presented in Figure 2, that the site of CYP2A6-mediated metabolism lies about six heavy atoms distance from the hydrogen bond site, thus indicating the presence of a hydrogen bond donor residue relatively close to the haem iron in CYP2A6. This is supported by homology modelling investigations of the enzyme itself /25/.

### **CYP2B6 substrates**

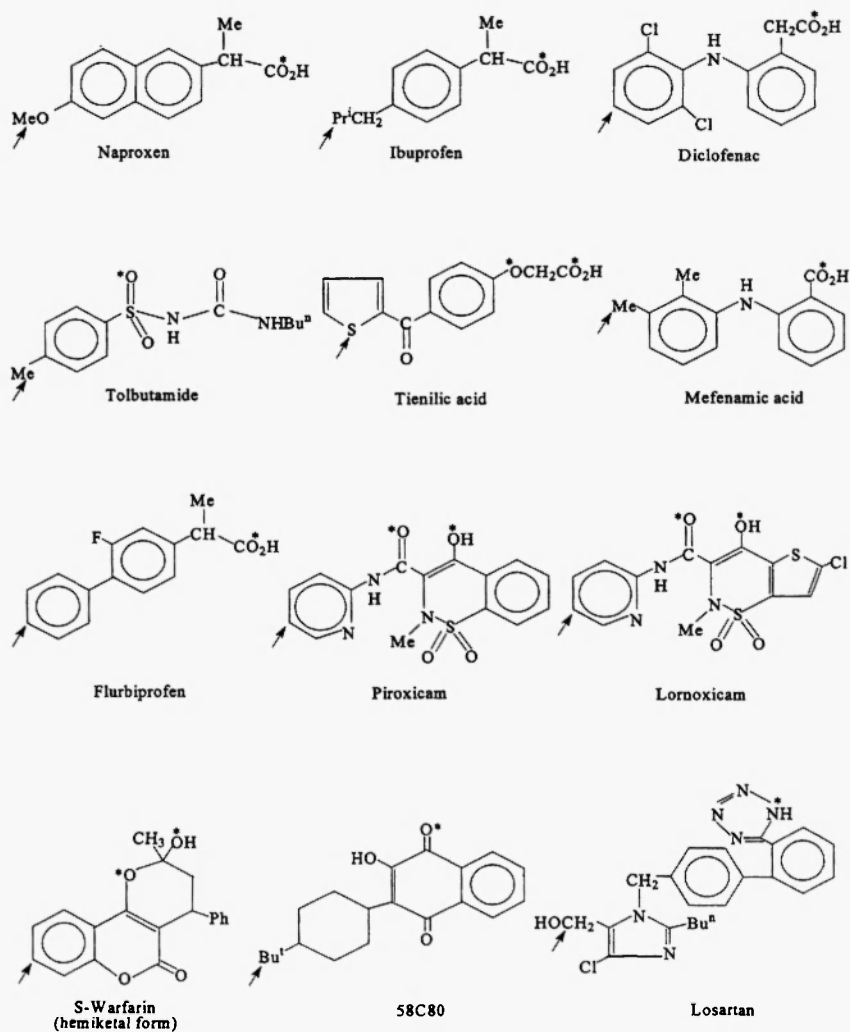
Figure 3 presents a number of typical CYP2B6 substrates, and shows their preferred sites of metabolism together with the locations of hydrogen bond acceptors that appear to be binding with the enzyme's active site. In general, the site of metabolism lies about seven heavy atoms distance from a hydrogen bond acceptor atom, although there appears to be a range of values about this average. Some of these compounds are also metabolised by other P450s, sometimes at other positions, although bupropion appears to be metabolised primarily via CYP2B6. There is a good correlation between compound lipophilicity and substrate binding affinity for many CYP2B6 substrates, although the highly selective compounds such as 4-trifluoromethyl-7-ethoxycoumarin and PNU 249173 exhibit stronger affinity than expected due to the formation of additional hydrogen bond interactions within the CYP2B6 active site region /26/.

### **CYP2C9 substrates**

In Figure 4, the structures of several typical substrates of CYP2C9 are presented, together with indications of the known sites of metabolism and hydrogen bond donor/acceptor atoms. The majority of these compounds are weakly acidic in character and some actually contain a carboxylic acid group /27/. The location of the sites of metabolism and hydrogen bond interactions tends to lie approximately 10 heavy atoms apart, as listed in Table 9. Usually, the acidic grouping tends to be associated with hydrogen bond interactions as opposed to ionic pairing with a basic residue within the CYP2C9 active site; although this is a second possibility, as basic amino acid residues are indeed present in the active site region. Molecular modelling of typical CYP2C9 substrates within the putative active site of CYP2C9 appears to be consistent with experimental findings from site-directed mutagenesis and substrate metabolism. There is a degree of overlapping



**Fig. 3:** Some typical CYP2B6 substrates showing sites of metabolism (↑) and hydrogen bonding (★).



**Fig. 4:** Some typical CYP2C9 substrates showing sites of metabolism ( $\uparrow$ ) and hydrogen bonding (\*).

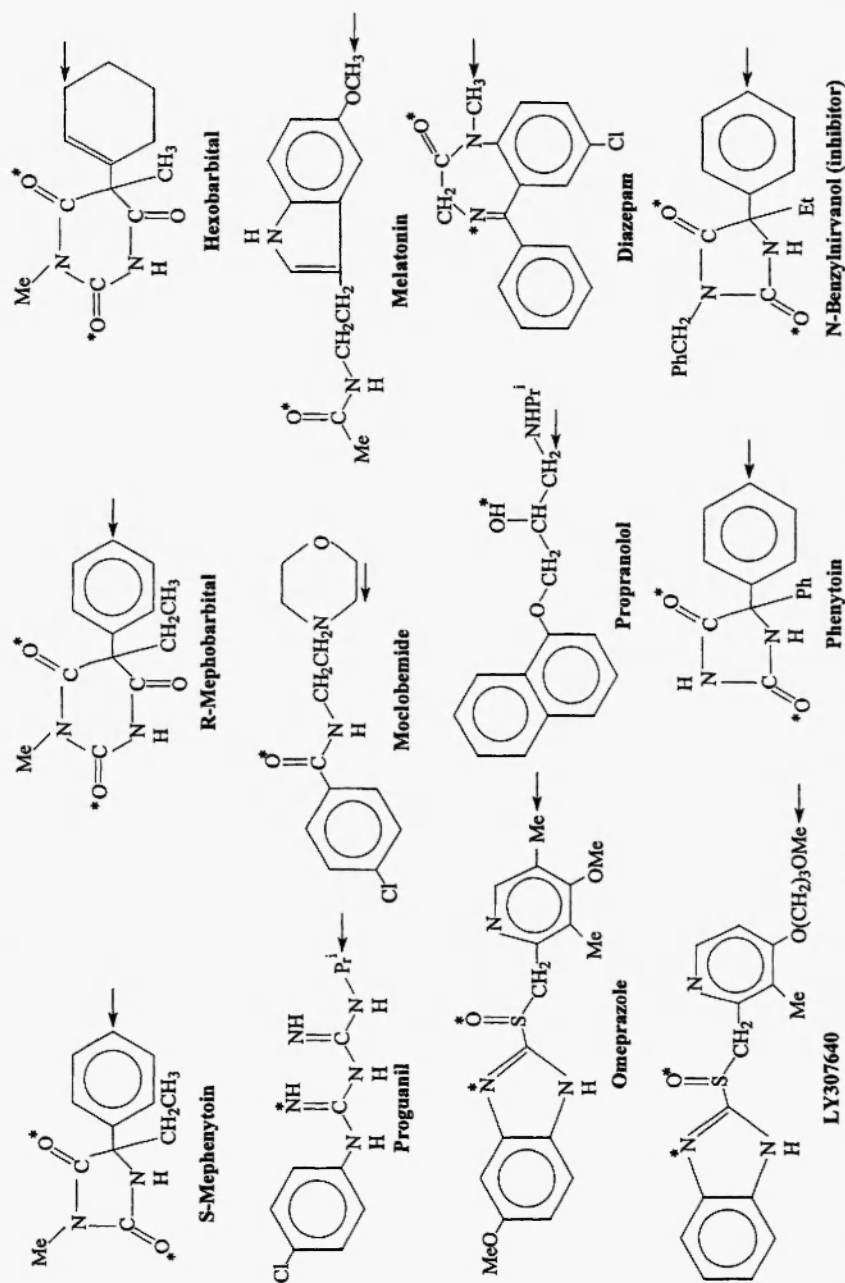
substrate selectivity towards CYP2C9 and CYP2C8, although the latter can be somewhat larger sized molecules and, as indicated in Table 9, there tends to be a greater distance between the acidic group and site of metabolism for CYP2C8 substrates. It is interesting to note that the CYP2C5-derived model of CYP2C9 agrees closely with the reported crystal structure of CYP2C9 /28/, as has been published recently /29/. However, the (*S*)-warfarin substrate, which is located several Ångstroms from the haem in the CYP2C9 crystal structure, is likely to move closer to the haem moiety for oxygenation to occur during the final stages of the catalytic cycle.

### CYP2C19 substrates

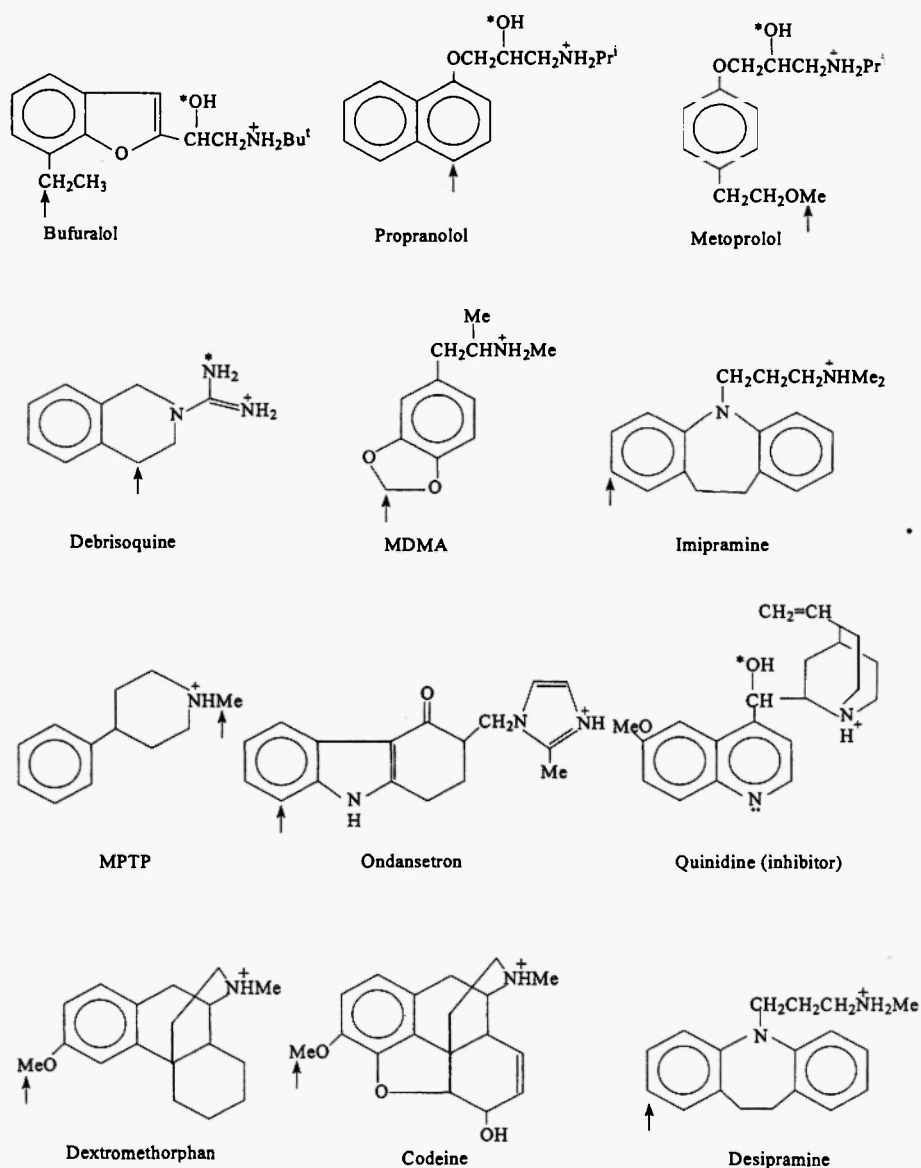
The structures of several CYP2C19-selective substrates are shown in Figure 5. In each case, the sites of metabolism and likely hydrogen bonding to the active site are indicated. Unlike those of CYP2C9, substrates of CYP2C19 are not usually acidic in character: some are amides and amines, as exemplified by moclobemide and propranolol, respectively. Furthermore, there are usually two hydrogen bond donor/acceptor atoms in the CYP2C19 substrates as opposed to the situation in those compounds that are selective for CYP2C9 which normally possess only one hydrogen bond contact site. As presented in Table 9, the sites of metabolism for CYP2C19 substrates tend to lie about seven or eight heavy atoms from the hydrogen bond donor/acceptor sites. Molecular modelling of these compounds within the putative active site of CYP2C19, generated by homology with CYP2C5, is consistent with known information regarding positions of metabolism and site-directed mutagenesis experiments within the CYP2C subfamily, in which one or more hydrogen bond contacts between substrates and key amino acid residues are apparent.

### CYP2D6 substrates

The structures of some typical substrates of CYP2D6 are presented in Figure 6, and it is characteristic that these compounds exhibit basicity by virtue of a protonatable nitrogen atom in the molecule. In general, the site of CYP2D6-mediated metabolism lies at a distance of between 5 and 7 Å from the basic nitrogen atom, although some exceptions do exist. Some CYP2D6 substrates also indicate the possibility for hydrogen bonding within the enzyme's active site and



**Fig. 5:** Some typical CYP2C19 substrates showing sites of metabolism (↑) and hydrogen bonding (\*). The inhibitor *N*-benzylirivanol is also shown.



**Fig. 6:** Some typical CYP2D6 substrates showing sites of metabolism ( $\uparrow$ ) and hydrogen bonding (\*), together with the protonated nitrogen atom (+). The selective inhibitor quinidine is also shown.

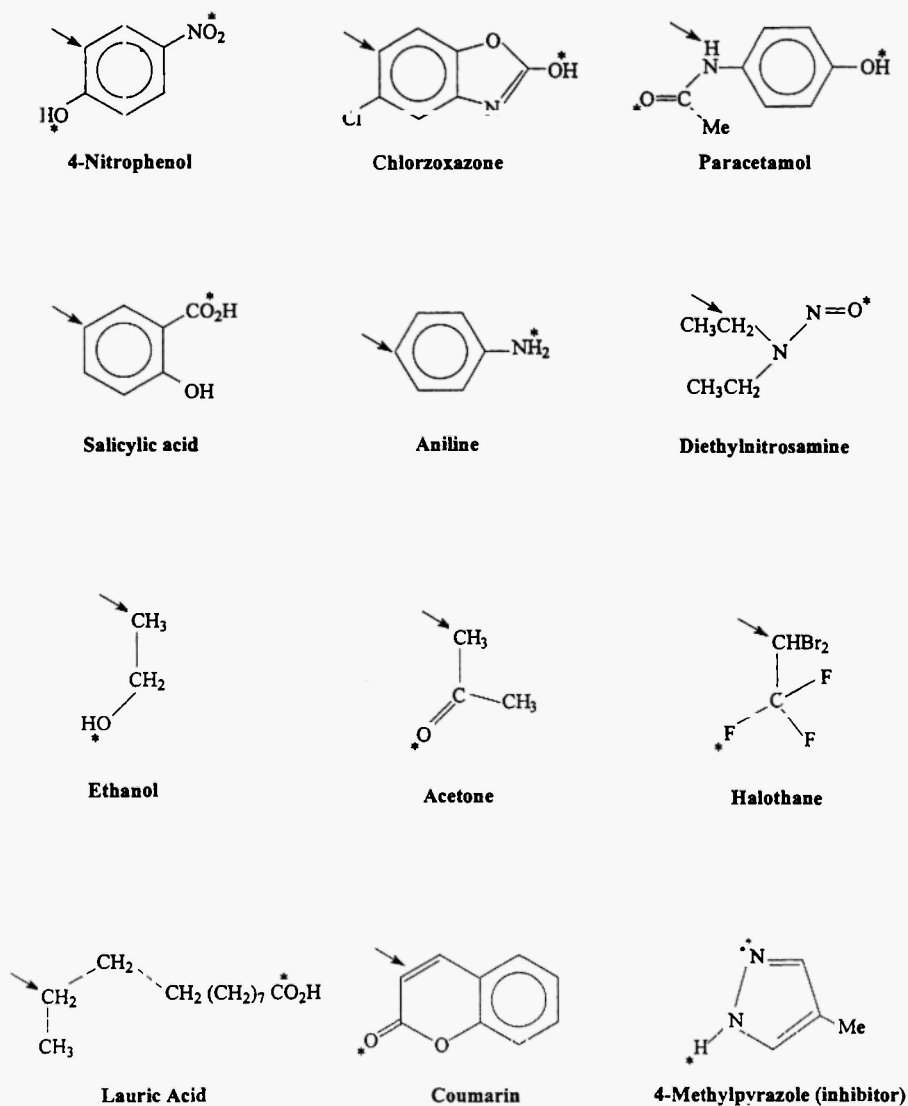
the possession of at least one aromatic ring is a common feature, as can be appreciated from an inspection of the structures in Figure 6. The likely amino acid residues involved in ionic and  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interactions with typical substrates have been identified by site-directed mutagenesis, and molecular modelling studies appear to show consistency with the results of experimental work, in terms of mutagenesis and sites of CYP2D6-mediated metabolism. Although the general characteristic is one of an essentially hydrophobic active site, there are key acidic residues (such as aspartate-301) that appear to form ion-pair interactions with a protonated nitrogen that is present in the majority of CYP2D6 substrates.

### **CYP2E1 substrates**

Figure 7 shows the structures of typical CYP2E1 substrates. Although structurally diverse, such compounds tend to possess relatively small-sized molecules. Moreover, there is usually a degree of hydrogen bond-forming potential with the preferred site of CYP2E1-mediated metabolism lying about three heavy atoms from a hydrogen bond donor or acceptor in the substrate molecule. In some cases, however, the hydrogen bond donor/acceptor atom is five heavy atoms distant from the site of metabolism, as can be appreciated by inspection of the structures presented in Figure 7. There is also a good correlation between binding affinity and lipophilicity, as determined by the log P value, for CYP2E1 substrates [30]. Very little site-directed mutagenesis has been performed on CYP2E1 enzymes, but molecular modelling studies exhibit consistency with current information on CYP2E1-mediated metabolism.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Consideration of human P450 substrate properties can aid in the understanding of enzyme selectivity within the CYP1 and CYP2 families. In particular, the disposition of hydrogen bond donors and acceptors in the substrate molecule appears to be important for determining the site of metabolism. Furthermore, the molecular shape and lipophilic character play a role in substrate selectivity, although there may be overlapping lipophilicity ranges for different human P450s, together with an associated finding that some compounds may



**Fig. 7:** Some typical CYP2E1 substrates showing sites of metabolism (↑) and hydrogen bonding (\*). The inhibitor 4-methylpyrazole is also shown.



be metabolised by different P450s but sometimes (although not always) at the same site in the molecule.

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