Parking ligands in the hormone binding site of transthyretin

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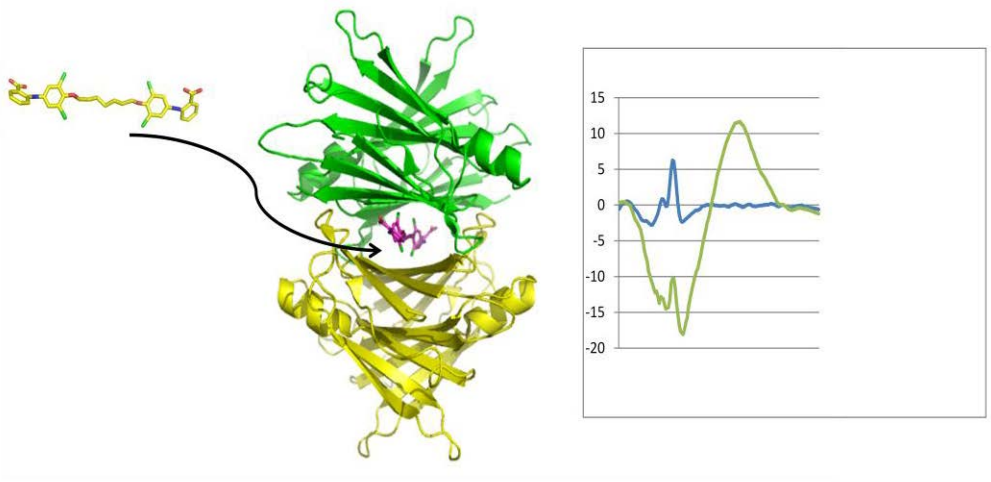
A wide range of small molecules can bind to the thyroxine binding pockets that penetrate the core of the transthyretin tetramer. Such molecules are of interest as potential drugs to stabilise circulating transthyretin that in the absence of bound ligands is prone to missfolding and amyloid fibre formation, a cause of serious diseases in man. MX of ligand complexes tells us about the interactions that stabilise the end state of the binding process whereas CD has helped to understand the binding mechanism. Drug development inevitably spins off unsuitable candidates from the main path but these can often be helpful tools in understanding mechanism.



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