

I dedicate this thesis to my beloved parents (Maa and Deuta), who have been my source of inspiration and my constant pillars of strength. They have been always providing me with their emotional, spiritual, moral, and financial support.....

To my wonderful family.....

Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled “*Computational Investigations on p53-MDM2 Interaction and its Inhibition: a Significant Step in Cancer Therapy*” has been submitted to Tezpur University in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology under the School of Sciences for partial fulfillment for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology.

I am the sole author of this thesis. This is a true copy of an original work carried out by me including any required final revisions, as accepted by my examiners.

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The committee recommends for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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List of Figures

Figure No.	Chapter 2	Page No.
2.1	Cancer incidences as well as mortality ratios in 10 common cancer types for both sexes in 2020	13
2.2	Structures of doxorubicin and vincristine	16
2.3	Structure of imatinib	17
2.4	Intracellular pathways affected by the interaction of the p53 molecules with MDM2	19
2.5	p53 comprises of two transactivation domains (TADs), a proline-rich domain (PP), a central DNA binding domain (DBD), a tetramerization domain (Tet) and a C-terminal regulatory domain (Reg/CTD)	22
2.6	Rigid body models of (a) the free (apo) and (b) the DNA-bound p53 in solution from small-angle X-ray scattering data. Both models are represented in two different orientations	24
2.7	Diagram to illustrate a complete cell cycle progression through four cell cycle phases (G1, S, G2, and M) and three major checkpoints (G1/S, G2/M, and SAC). M phase is further divided into Prophase, Prometaphase, Metaphase, Anaphase, and Telophase.	26
2.8	Activation of p53. MDM2 keeps the amounts of p53 in normal cells in a homeostatic state. Following MDM2's ubiquitination of p53, p53 is degraded by proteasomes using the 26S proteasomal machinery. When under stress from the outside, p53 builds up inside the cell and then forms a tetramer. It then binds to the responsive regions of its target genes and activates transcription of the several genes involved in senescence, cell-cycle arrest, apoptosis, and repair	27
2.9	p21-mediated cell-cycle arrest. One of p53's main target genes, p21, a CDK inhibitor, is activated upon p53 activation. This gene produces CDK4/ Cyclin D, Rb, and E2F1 proteins, which arrest cells at the G1-S phase; S-phase by CDK1/2 and Cyclin A/E complexes; and G2-M phase by CDK1/ Cyclin B complexes, which arrest cells at the S-phase	28
2.10	Examples of p53 relations with DNA-repair pathways	29
2.11	Examples of p53 relations with double-strand break repair pathways (left) and p53 checkpoint signaling (right)	29
2.12	Post-translational modifications on the p53 protein. Important post-translational modifications on p53 have been specified at the respective domains. P denotes phosphorylation, Ac denotes acetylation, SUMO denotes Sumoylation, and NEDD denotes neddylation	31
2.13	Domain structure of MDM2 protein	32
2.14	P1 and P2 promoters of MDM2. Schematic representation of 5' end of the MDM2 gene. Exons 1 and 3 are present in the MDM2	34

List of Figures

	protein's long isoform, whereas exons 2 and 3 are present in the protein's short isoform, P2	
2.15	Phosphorylation sites on MDM2	34
2.16	Autoregulatory loop of p53 and MDM2	36
2.17	X-ray crystal structure of the p53 transactivation domain 1 (TAD1) bound to N-Terminal Domain of MDM2, indicating the crucial binding amino acids Phe ¹⁹ , Trp ²³ and Leu ²⁶	37
2.18	Top four inhibitors (antagonists) of p53-MDM2 interaction (SpR: surface plasmon resonance)	39
2.19	Structure of Nutlin-3a	40
2.20	Structure of RG7388	42
2.21	Small molecule p53-MDM2 interaction inhibitors comprising of a 5-membered aromatic core	43
2.22	Small molecule p53-MDM2 interaction inhibitors comprising of a lactam component	44
2.23	Small molecule p53/MDM2 interaction inhibitors comprising of a poly- cyclic planar core	45
2.24	Structure of the most potent isoindolinone	45
2.25	Binding epitopes present in the top four groups of p53-MDM2 interaction inhibitors	46
2.26	Summary of the circRNAs interacting with the p53 molecule	49
2.27	Summary of the miRNAs interacting with the p53 molecule	49
2.28	Discovery of RG7112	52
2.29	Discovery of RG7388	53
2.30	Discovery of MI77301	54
2.31	Discovery of APG-115	54
2.32	Discovery of AMG232	55
2.33	Discovery of NVP-CGM097	56
2.34	Discovery of HDM201	56
2.35	Idasanutlin, photo-regulated by a Photoremovable Protecting Group (PPG)	57
2.36	Structure of XR-2	58
2.37	Structure of EGCG with proton numbering	59
2.38	Structure of RITA	59
Figure No. Chapter 3 Page No.		
3.1	Schematic illustration of the main contribution to the potential energy function	68
3.2	Periodic boundary conditions in two dimensions. The simulation cell (dark color) is surrounded by translated copies of itself (light color)	73
3.3	Schematic representation of TIP3P water model	76
3.4	A schematic one-dimensional energy surface. Minimisation methods move downhill to the nearest minimum	80

List of Figures

3.5	A line search is used to locate the minimum in the function in the direction of the gradient	82
3.6	Schematic flowchart of steps involved in MD Simulation	87
3.7	Working principle of Umbrella Sampling	92
3.8	(A) Diagrams of surface topology for a protein's three-dimensional structure. The caps, belts and pits are connected with edges. (B) Geometric patches: the patches are depicted in light colors and the protein is depicted in dark colors	98
3.9	The PatchDock user interface: The receptor molecule and the ligand molecule are given either by the PDB code of the molecule (chain IDs are optional) or by uploading a file in PDB format	99
3.10	The solutions page presents the geometric score, interface area size and desolvation energy of the 20 top scoring solutions	100
3.11	Representation of the ClusPro algorithm, the number of structures retained after each step is shown in a blue box	101
3.12	Computational schemes of the binding free energies based on MM-PBSA/GBSA. The free energies colored in black are directly calculated, while the free energy of interest colored in blue is indirectly did using the thermodynamic cycle of other free energies	103
3.13	Schematic diagrams from the PDBsum for entry 1ycr: The 'wiring diagram' shows the protein's secondary structure elements (α -helices and β -sheets) together with β - and γ -turns, and β -hairpins in (a) MDM2(NTD), and (b) p53(TAD1). Topology diagram illustrates the β -strands by the large arrows joined side-by-side, forming central β -sheet. The α -helices represented by the red cylinders. The small arrows indicate the directionality of the protein chain, from the N- to the C-terminus in (c) MDM2(NTD), and (d) p53(TAD1)	108
3.14	Protein–protein interaction diagrams in PDBsum for PDB entry 1eum:(A) Thumbnail image of the 3D structural model which contains six protein chains (B) Schematic diagram showing the interactions between the chains. The area of each circle is proportional to the surface area of the corresponding protein chain. The joining lines are coloured light blue for hydrogen bonds and orange for non-bonded contacts. (C) A schematic diagram showing the numbers of interactions across one of the interfaces, namely the A–C protein interface, and the numbers of residues involved. (D) Detail of the individual residue–residue interactions across this interface. Hydrogen bonds (blue lines), non-bonded contacts (orange tick-marks), and salt bridges (red lines) between residues on either side of the protein-protein interface	110
3.15	PDBsum interaction plot for PDB entry 6jun in LIGPLOT and NUCPLOT: (a) LIGPLOT diagram showing the protein residues interacting with the ligand: 0KX (Formula: C ₉ H ₁₇ N ₄ O ₁₂ P ₃ ; Chemical Name: 2'-Deoxy-5'-O-[(R)-Hydroxy{[(r)-Hydroxy(phosphonoxy)phosphoryl]amino}phosphoryl]cytidine), with hydrogen bonds shown by the green dashed lines and non-	111

List of Figures

	bonded contacts by the brown rays, and; (b) as in (a), but for residues interacting with the bound magnesium ion; (c) NUCPLOT diagram showing protein-DNA interactions, with H-bonds as blue dashed lines and non-bonded contacts as brown dashed lines	
Figure No.	Chapter 4	Page No.
4.1	Potential of Mean Force as a function of the reaction coordinate for the association and dissociation of the p53-MDM2 complex using force field ff99SB	129
4.2	Potential of Mean Force as a function of the reaction coordinate for the association and dissociation of the p53-MDM2 complex using force field ff99SB-ILDN	129
4.3	Snapshots of p53-MDM2 complex structures at discrete distance of separation (in Å) from MDM2 (purple color = helices, green color = coils, red color = strands)	130
4.4	RMSD analysis for p53 molecule when the distance of separation between p53 and MDM2 (a) decreased from 12 Å to 7 Å; (b) increased from 12 Å to 26 Å	131
4.5	The evolution of secondary structure evaluated using DSSP is shown for p53 molecule when the distance of separation between p53 and MDM2 (a) decreased from 12 Å to 7 Å; (b) increased from 12 Å to 26 Å. Y-axis depicts p53 residues and X-axis depicts time frames as well distance of separation of p53 from MDM2. The secondary structure components of p53 are color-coded as shown in the panel	132
4.6	Probability score for secondary structure analysis for p53 when the distance of separation between p53 and MDM2 (a) decreased from 12 Å to 7 Å; (b) increased from 12 Å to 26 Å	133
4.7	Intra-molecular hydrogen bond analysis for p53 when the distance of separation between p53 and MDM2 (a) decreased from 12 Å to 7 Å; (b) increased from 12 Å to 26 Å	134
4.8	Assessment of stability of MD parameters: (a) Density, (b) Temperature, (c) Pressure, and (d) Energy of p53-MDM2 complex during the equilibration phases of MD simulation	135
4.9	The structural characteristics (a) Root Mean Square Deviation (RMSD), (b) Root Mean Square Fluctuation (RMSF), (c) Radius of Gyration (Rg), and (d) Solvent Accessible Surface Area (SASA) of p53, MDM2, and the complex during 100 ns Molecular Dynamics simulation	137
4.10	Intra-molecular hydrogen bond analysis of (a) MDM2, and (b) p53; and (c) intermolecular hydrogen bond analysis for the p53-MDM2 complex structure	138
4.11	Intermolecular interactions between MDM2 and p53 in the minimum PMF structure of the p53-MDM2 complex	141
4.12	Per Residue Energy Decomposition (PRED) plots for the interface residues of (a) MDM2 and (b) p53	147

List of Figures

Figure No.	Chapter 5	Page No.
5.1	Structure of p53 with the major domains	150
5.2	Structure of MDM2 with the major domains	151
5.3	Representative conformation of p53(DBD)-MDM2(AD) complex throughout the MD simulation of 80 ns	154
5.4	Dictionary of Secondary Structure of Proteins (DSSP) analysis for (a) p53(DBD), and (b) MDM2(AD). The secondary structure components are color-coded as shown in the panel	155
5.5	Probability score for secondary structure analysis for (a) p53(DBD), and (b) MDM2(AD)	156
5.6	The structural characteristics (a) Root Mean Square Deviation (RMSD), (b) Root Mean Square Fluctuation (RMSF), (c) Radius of Gyration (Rg), and (d) Solvent Accessible Surface Area (SASA) of p53(DBD), MDM2(AD), and the complex during 80 ns Molecular Dynamics simulation	157
5.7	Intra-molecular hydrogen bond analysis of (a) p53(DBD), and (b) MDM2(AD); and intermolecular hydrogen bond analysis for the p53(DBD)-MDM2(AD) complex structure, where (c) p53(DBD) is donor and MDM2(AD) is acceptor, and (d) MDM2(AD) is donor and p53(DBD) is acceptor	158
5.8	Intermolecular interactions between MDM2(AD) and p53(DBD) in the lowest energy structure of the p53(DBD)-MDM2(AD) complex	160
5.9	PRED analysis for (a) p53(DBD) and (b)MDM2 (AD)	162
Figure No.	Chapter 6	Page No.
6.1	Snapshots of MDM2 N-Terminal Domain (Apo) during 50 ns MD simulation	168
6.2	Snapshots of MDM2 N-Terminal Domain (Apo) during 50 ns MD simulation	168
6.3	The Lowest Energy structure of p53(CTD)-MDM2(NTD) complex (a) docked with p53 TAD1, and (b) superimposed with the structure of MDM2 Bound to the Transactivation Domain of p53 (PDB ID: 1YCR)	169
6.4	Root Mean Square Deviation analysis for (a) MDM2 (Apo); (b) p53-MDM2 complex; (c) N-Terminal Lid of MDM2 (Apo); and (d) N-Terminal Lid of MDM2 in p53-MDM2 complex	170
6.5	Root Mean Square Fluctuation analysis for (a) MDM2 (Apo); and (b) p53-MDM2 complex	171
6.6	Radius of Gyration analysis for (a) MDM2 (Apo); and (b) p53-MDM2 complex	172
6.7	Solvent Accessible Surface Area analysis for (a) MDM2 (Apo); and (b) p53-MDM2 complex	172

List of Figures

6.8	Average distance between the centers of mass of the N-Terminal Lid of MDM2 and the N-Terminal binding cavity of MDM2	173
6.9	Dictionary of Secondary Structure of Proteins (DSSP) analysis for p53 (CTD). The secondary structure components are color-coded as shown in the panel	174
6.10	Inter-molecular hydrogen bond analysis of p53-MDM2 complex with (a) p53 as donor and MDM2 as acceptor; and (c) MDM2 as donor and p53 as acceptor	175
6.11	Protein-Peptide Interaction Profile of (a) MDM2 NTD (with Lid) – p53 TAD1 docked complex; (b) MDM2 NTD (with Lid) – p53 TAD1 superimposed complex; and (c) MDM2-p53 complex (PDB ID: 1YCR)	176
6.12	Per Residue Energy Decomposition analysis for (a) p53 and (b) MDM2 calculated using MM/GBSA method, and for (c) p53 and (d) MDM2 calculated using MM/PBSA method	179
Figure No.	Chapter 7	Page No.
7.1	Assessment of stability of MD parameters Density during the equilibration phases of MD simulation	187
7.2	Assessment of stability of MD parameters Temperature during the equilibration phases of MD simulation	187
7.3	Assessment of stability of MD parameters Pressure during the equilibration phases of MD simulation	187
7.4	Assessment of stability of MD parameters Energy during the equilibration phases of MD simulation	187
7.5	Conformations of MDM2 (Apo) at different time intervals of simulation	188
7.6	Conformations of MDM2-idasanutlin complex at different time intervals of simulation	188
7.7	Conformations of MDM2-PPG-idasanutlin complex at different time intervals of simulation	189
7.8	The structural characteristics (a) Root Mean Square Deviation (RMSD), (b) Root Mean Square Fluctuation (RMSF), (c) Radius of Gyration (Rg), and (d) Solvent Accessible Surface Area	190
7.9	Intra-molecular hydrogen bond analysis of MDM2 in (a) MDM2 (Apo); (b) MDM2-idasanutlin complex; and (c) MDM2-PPG-idasanutlin complex	191
7.10	Inter-molecular hydrogen bond analysis of (a) MDM2-idasanutlin complex; and (b) MDM2-PPG-idasanutlin complex	192
7.11	Probable Secondary structure score for MDM2 in (a) Apo, (b) complex with idasanutlin, and (c) complex with PPG-idasanutlin	193
7.12	The evolution of secondary structure evaluated using DSSP is shown for MDM2 molecule in (a) Apo, (b) complex with idasanutlin, and (c) complex with PPG-idasanutlin	193
7.13	MDM2 (Chain A)-p53 (Chain B) residues interaction profile	198

List of Figures

7.14	Binding of (a) idasanutlin (red) and PPG-idasanutlin (green); and (b) idasanutlin (red) and p53 (blue) in the binding cavity of MDM2	199
Figure No.	Chapter 8	Page No.
8.1	Potential of Mean Force as a function of the reaction coordinate for the association and dissociation of the MDM2-Idasanutlin complex	205
8.2	(a) 3D structure of MDM2-idasanutlin complex with center of mass distance of separation of 11 Å (b) 3D structure of MDM2-idasanutlin complex with center of mass distance of separation of 11 Å superimposed with the 3D structure of p53 bound to the NTD of MDM2 (PDB ID: 1YCR)	207
8.3	Protein-Ligand Interaction profile of MDM2-Idasanutlin complex with PMF minima	207
8.4	Snapshots of MDM2-Idasanutlin complex structures when idasanutlin is at discrete distance of separation (in Å) from MDM2	209
8.5	RMSD analysis for MDM2 when the distance of separation between MDM2 and idasanutlin shifted (a) from 12 Å to 6 Å; and (b) from 12 Å to 26 Å	211
8.6	Inter-molecular hydrogen bond analysis for MDM2 when the distance of separation between MDM2 and idasanutlin shifted (a) from 12 Å to 6 Å; and (b) from 12 Å to 26 Å	212
8.7	Per Residue Energy Decomposition (PRED) analysis of MDM2 in MDM2(NTD)-Idasanutlin complex	214
Figure No.	Chapter 9	Page No.
9.1	Conformations of MDM2-XR-2 at different time intervals of simulation	219
9.2	LigPlot analysis of MDM2-XR-2 at different time intervals of simulation	220
9.3	RMSD analysis of MDM2-XR-2 complex	221
9.4	RMSF analysis of MDM2-XR-2 complex	221
9.5	Rg analysis of MDM2-XR-2 complex	222
9.6	SASA analysis of MDM2-XR-2 complex	222
9.7	Inter-molecular hydrogen bond analysis of MDM2-XR-2 complex with (a) MDM2 as Donor and XR-2 as acceptor; and (b) XR-2 as Donor and MDM2 as acceptor	223
9.8	Probability score for secondary structure analysis of MDM2 in the MDM2-XR-2 complex	224
9.9	The evolution of secondary structure evaluated using DSSP is shown for MDM2 molecule in MDM2-XR-2 complex	225
9.10	Per Residue Energy Decomposition (PRED) analysis of MDM2 in MDM2(NTD)-XR-2 complex	227

List of Figures

Figure No.	Chapter 10	Page No.
10.1	Conformations of p53(NTD)-EGCG at different time intervals of simulation	233
10.2	RMSD analysis of p53(NTD)-EGCG complex	233
10.3	RMSF analysis of p53(NTD)-EGCG complex	234
10.4	Rg analysis of p53(NTD)-EGCG complex	235
10.5	SASA analysis of p53(NTD)-EGCG complex	235
10.6	Inter-molecular hydrogen bond analysis of p53(NTD)-EGCG complex with (a) p53 as Donor and EGCG as acceptor; and (b) EGCG as Donor and p53 as acceptor	236
10.7	Probability score for secondary structure analysis of p53(NTD) in the p53(NTD)-EGCG complex	237
10.8	The evolution of secondary structure evaluated using DSSP is shown for MDM2 molecule in p53(NTD)-EGCG complex	237
10.9	Per Residue Energy Decomposition (PRED) analysis of p53(NTD) in p53(NTD)-EGCG complex	240
10.10	Protein-Ligand Interaction Profile of p53-EGCG complex at (a) the beginning of MD simulation, and (b) the end of MD simulation	240
10.11	MDM2(NTD) docked with p53(NTD) extracted from the p53-EGCG complex (a) before the MD simulation of the p53-EGCG complex, and (b) at the end of the MD simulation of the p53-EGCG complex. Blue=MDM2(NTD), Green=p53(NTD) before simulation, Red=p53(TAD1) before simulation, Yellow=p53(NTD) after simulation, Purple=p53(TAD1) after simulation	241
10.12	Protein-Protein Interaction Profile of (a) MDM2(NTD)-p53(NTD) complex before p53-EGCG simulation, (b) MDM2(NTD)-p53(NTD) complex after p53-EGCG simulation, and (c) MDM2-p53 complex (PDB ID: 1YCR). Chain A: MDM2, Chain B: p53	242
Figure No.	Chapter 11	Page No.
11.1	Conformations of p53(NTD)-RITA at different time intervals of simulation	248
11.2	LigPlot analysis of p53(NTD)-RITA at different time intervals of simulation	249
11.3	RMSD analysis of p53(NTD)-RITA complex	250
11.4	RMSF analysis of p53(NTD)-RITA complex	250
11.5	Rg analysis of p53(NTD)-RITA complex	251
11.6	SASA analysis of p53(NTD)-RITA complex	252
11.7	Inter-molecular hydrogen bond analysis of p53(NTD)-RITA complex with (a) p53 as Donor and RITA as acceptor; and (b) RITA as Donor and p53 as acceptor	252
11.8	Probability score for secondary structure analysis of p53(NTD) in the p53(NTD)-RITA complex	253

List of Figures

11.9	DSSP analysis for p53(NTD) present in the p53-RITA complex. The secondary structure components are color-coded as shown in the panel	254
11.10	Per Residue Energy Decomposition (PRED) analysis of p53(NTD) in p53(NTD)-RITA complex	256
11.11	MDM2(NTD) docked with p53(NTD) extracted from the p53(NTD)-RITA complex (a) before the MD simulation of the p53(NTD)-RITA complex, and (b) at the end of the MD simulation of the p53(NTD)-RITA complex. Blue=MDM2(NTD), Green=p53(NTD) before simulation, Red=p53(TAD1) before simulation, Yellow=p53(NTD) after simulation, Purple=p53(TAD1) after simulation	257
11.12	Protein-Protein Interaction Profile of (a) MDM2(NTD)-p53(NTD) complex before p53-RITA simulation, (b) MDM2(NTD)-p53(NTD) complex after p53-RITA simulation, and (c) MDM2-p53 complex (PDB ID: 1YCR). Chain A: MDM2, Chain B: p53	258

List of Tables

Table No.	Chapter 1	Page No.
1.1	Data quality indicators of North-Eastern population-based cancer registries for all sites (ICD-10: C00-C97) for the period of 2012-2016	5
1.2	Cancer-related health facilities in north-eastern States of India	5
1.3	Ranking of north-eastern population-based cancer registries (PBCRs) with highest site-specific age-adjusted rate (AAR) in men and women for 2012-2016	6
1.4	Hospital-Based Cancer Registry (2012-2014) in north-eastern States of India	8
Table No.	Chapter 2	Page No.
2.1	Staple Attachment, Helicity, and Mdm2 Affinity of Stapled Peptides	48
2.2	Lists of small-molecule inhibitors of MDM2 under clinical trials	50
Table No.	Chapter 4	Page No.
4.1	Interface statistics for the minimum PMF structure of the p53-MDM2 complex	139
4.2	List of atom-atom interactions across p53-MDM2 interface	139
4.3	The various components of the BFE (kcal mol ⁻¹) evaluated by MM/GBSA method between p53-MDM2 complex	142
4.4	The various components of the BFE (kcal mol ⁻¹) evaluated by MM/PBSA method between p53-MDM2 complex	143
4.5	The various components of the BFE (kcal mol ⁻¹) evaluated by MM/GBSA method between	144

List of Tables

	p53-MDM2 complex for duplicate simulation run	
4.6	The various components of the BFE (kcal mol ⁻¹) evaluated by MM/PBSA method between p53-MDM2 complex for duplicate simulation run	144
4.7	The various components of the BFE (kcal mol ⁻¹) evaluated by MM/GBSA method between p53-MDM2 complex using force field ff99SB-ILDN	145
4.8	The various components of the BFE (kcal mol ⁻¹) evaluated by MM/PBSA method between p53-MDM2 complex using force field ff99SB-ILDN	146
Table No.		
Chapter 5		
Page No.		
5.1	Interface statistics for the lowest energy structure of the p53(DBD)-MDM2(AD) complex	159
5.2	The various components of the BFE (kcal mol ⁻¹) evaluated by MM/GBSA method in p53(DBD)-MDM2(AD) complex	161
Table No.		
Chapter 6		
Page No.		
6.1	Secondary structure analysis of the initial and final structures of p53(CTD)-MDM2(NTD) complex using 2Struc online server	174
6.2	Interface statistics of the p53(TAD1)-MDM2(NTD) complex structures	176
6.3	The various components of the BFE (kcal mol ⁻¹) evaluated by MM/GBSA method in p53(DBD)-MDM2(AD) complex	177
6.4	The various components of the BFE (kcal mol ⁻¹) evaluated by MM/PBSA method between	177

List of Tables

	MDM2 NTD Lid and p53 CTD in the p53-MDM2 complex	
Table No.	Chapter 7	Page No.
7.1	Average properties of MDM2 (Apo), MDM2-idasanutlin, and MDM2-PPG-idasanutlin throughout the MD simulation	191
7.2	List of atom-atom interactions across the MDM2-idasanutlin interface	194
7.3	List of atom-atom interactions across the MDM2-PPG-idasanutlin interface	195
7.4	Residues of MDM2 interacting with p53, idasanutlin, and PPG-idasanutlin	198
Table No.	Chapter 8	Page No.
8.1	Protein-Ligand interaction profile of the MDM2-idasanutlin complex with centre of mass distance of separation of 11 Å	208
8.2	Secondary structure analysis of the lowest energy structure of MDM2-Idasanutlin complex and p53-MDM2 complex (PDB ID: 1YCR) using 2Struc online server	209
8.3	The various components of the BFE (kcal mol ⁻¹) evaluated by MM/PBSA method between MDM2 and idasanutlin in the MDM2-Idasanutlin complex	213
Table No.	Chapter 9	Page No.
9.1	Secondary structure analysis of the lowest energy structure of MDM2-XR-2 complex and p53-MDM2 complex (PDB ID: 1YCR) using 2Struc online server	225
9.2	The various components of the BFE (kcal mol ⁻¹) evaluated by	226

List of Tables

	MM/GBSA method between MDM2-XR-2 complex	
Table No.	Chapter 10	Page No.
10.1	Secondary structure analysis of the initial and final structures of p53-EGCG complex using 2Struc online server	238
10.2	The various components of the BFE (kcal mol ⁻¹) evaluated by MM/GBSA method between p53(NTD)-EGCG complex	239
Table No.	Chapter 11	Page No.
11.1	Secondary structure analysis of the initial and final structures of p53(NTD)-RITA complex using 2Struc online server	254
11.2	The various components of the BFE (kcal mol ⁻¹) evaluated by MM/GBSA method between p53(NTD)-RITA complex	255

List of Abbreviations

Å	Angstrom
ACE	Atomic contact Energy
AD	Acidic Domain
AMBER	Assisted Model Building with Energy Refinement
BFE	Binding free energy
CHARMM	Chemistry at HARvard Macromolecular Mechanics
CID	compound identifier
CircRNA	Circular RNA
CoM	Centre of Mass
CPPTRAJ	A rewrite of PTRAJ in C++
CRPC	Castration-resistant prostate cancer
CTD	C-Terminal Domain
3-D	3-Dimensional
DBD	DNA Binding Domain
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
EGCG	Epigallocatechin gallate
FF99SB	Force-field 99 Stony Brook
GAFF	General Amber force field
GB	Generalized Born
GBSA	Generalized Born Surface Area
I-TASSER	Iterative Threading ASSEMBLY Refinement
MD	Molecular Dynamics
MDM2	Murine Double Minute 2
MDMX	Murine Double Minute 4
miRNA	MicroRNA
MM	Molecular Mechanics
MSM	Markov State Model
ns	nanosecond
NES	Nuclear Export Signal
NLS	Nuclear Localization Signal
NoLS	Nucleolar Localization Signal
NMR	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy
NTD	N-Terminal Domain
OD	Oligomerization Domain
p53	Protein 53
ps	picosecond
PaCS	Parallel Cascade Selection
PB	Poisson-Boltzmann
PBC	Periodic boundary conditions
PBSA	Poisson-Boltzmann Surface Area
PDB	Protein Data Bank
PME	Particle Mesh Ewald
PMF	Potential of Mean Force
PPG	Photoremovable Protecting Group
PPI	Protein-protein interaction

List of Abbreviations

PRED	Per-residue energy decomposition
PRR	Proline-Rich Region
PTRAJ	Short for Process TRAJectory
RCSB	Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics
REG	C-Terminal (Regulatory) Domain
REMD	Replica Exchange Molecular Dynamics
R _g	Radius of Gyration
RING	Really Interesting New Gene
RITA	Reactivating p53 and Inducing Tumor Apoptosis
RMSD	Root Mean Square Deviation
RMSF	Root Mean Square Fluctuation
RNA	Ribonucleic Acid
ROS	Reactive Oxygen Species
SASA	Solvent-accessible surface area
TAD	Transactivation Domain
TET	Tetramerization Domain
TM	Template modeling
TIP3P	Transferable Intermolecular Potential Three-point
UCSF	University of California, San Francisco
UniProt	Universal Protein Resource
US	Umbrella Sampling
VMD	Visual Molecular Dynamics
WHAM	Weighted Histogram Analysis Method

List of Publications

This thesis is partly based on the following original communications:

1. **Das, P.** and Mattaparthi, V.S.K. Computational Investigation on the MDM2-Idasanutlin Interaction Using the Potential of Mean Force Method. *Current Chemical Biology*, 15(3): 262-270, 2021. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2174/2212796815666210716151211>
2. **Das, P.** and Mattaparthi, V.S.K. Computational Investigation on the p53–MDM2 Interaction Using the Potential of Mean Force Study. *ACS omega*, 5(15): 8449-8462, 2020. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsomega.9b03372>
3. **Das, P.** and Mattaparthi, V.S.K. Computational investigation on the molecular interactions between MDM2 and its photoactivatable inhibitor. *Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry*, 9(6): 4671 – 4684, 2019. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33263/BRIAC96.671684>

List of Publications

Other publications:

1. Naik, B., Mattaparthi, V.S.K., Gupta, N., Ojha, R., **Das, P.**, Singh, S., Prajapati, V.K., and Prusty, D. Chemical system biology approach to identify multi-targeting FDA inhibitors for treating COVID-19 and associated health complications. *Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics*, 1-25, 2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/07391102.2021.1931451>
2. Kakati, M., Das, D., **Das, P.**, Sanjeev, A., and Mattaparthi, V.S.K. Effect of ethanol as molecular crowding agent on the conformational dynamics of α -synuclein. *Letters in Applied NanoBioScience*, 9: 779-783, 2020. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33263/LIANBS91.779783>
3. Pradhan, S., **Das, P.**, and Mattaparthi, V.S.K. Characterizing the binding interactions between DNA-binding proteins, XPA and XPE: a molecular dynamics approach. *ACS omega*, 3(11) 15442-15454, 2018. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsomega.8b01793>

In addition, this thesis also contains unpublished data.

1. **Das, P.** and Mattaparthi, V. S. K. “*In silico* Investigation on the p53–MDM2 Interaction Using the Potential of Mean Force Study.” 8th International Symposium on “Current Trends in Drug Discovery Research; Ageing Associated Metabolic & CNS Disorders” held at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, India on 12th-14th March, 2022. (Poster Presentation, Online Mode)
2. **Das, P.** and Mattaparthi, V. S. K. “*In silico* Investigation on the p53–MDM2 Interaction Using the Potential of Mean Force Study.” National Seminar on “Advances in Basic and Translational Research in Biology (ABTRiB)” held at Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Tezpur University, Napaam, Assam, India on 11th-12th March, 2022. (Oral Presentation)
3. Pradhan, S., **Das, P.**, and Mattaparthi, V. S. K. “*Characterizing the binding interactions between DNA binding proteins, XPA and XPE: A molecular dynamics approach.*” Assam Science Festival 2019, held at Tezpur University, Napaam, Assam, India on 23rd-25th March, 2019, organized by Assam Science, Technology and Environment Council in collaboration with Tezpur University, India. (Poster Presentation)