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**PURIFICATION OF DIHYDROPTEROATE SYNTHETASE FROM
MENINGOCOCCAL AND GONOCOCCAL STRAINS AND
DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CHEMOTHERAPEUTIC SULFUR DRUGS**

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Prepared for:

Army Medical Research and Development Command

January 1975

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TITLE

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DATE

September 1973 - August 1974

CONTRACT NO. DAMD17-74-C-4039

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER one	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO. /	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) Purification of Dihydropteroate Synthetase from Meningococcal and Gonococcal Strains and Development of New Chemotherapeutic Drugs		5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED Annual Summary Report Sept. 1973-Aug. 1974
7. AUTHOR(s) Ho, Richard I. Corman, Leonard		6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER /
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS Massachusetts College of Pharmacy Boston, Massachusetts 02115		8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s) DAMD17-74-C-4039
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS U.S. Army Medical Research & Development Command		10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office)		12. REPORT DATE January, 1975
		13. NUMBER OF PAGES
		15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report)
		15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.		
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report)		
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Dihydropteroate Synthetase, Sulfonamides, Sulfones, Gonorrhea, Meningitis, Folic Acid.		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) The purpose of this work is to provide a rational chemotherapeutic approach to diseases of bacterial origin. It focusses on gonorrhea and meningitis but has wider applicability. The methodology involves molecular considerations and therefore requires the purification of the particular enzymes responsible		

for folic acid biosynthesis, and the synthesis and testing in a cell-free systems as well as in vitro of new and complex sulfur containing drugs.

We have successfully purified one crucial enzyme several fold from different strains of meningococci and gonococci, have developed techniques for the cultivation of these bacteria, and have examined the efficacy of a substantial number of sulfur derivatives, new and old, in cell-free and in vitro systems.

We feel we can safely conclude that the modification of sulfur containing molecules as inhibitors holds exciting chemotherapeutic promise.

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Annual Summary Report

AUTHORS

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Supported by

U. S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND
Washington, D. C. 20314

Contract No. DAMD17-74-C-4039

Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
Boston, Massachusetts 02115

DDC AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

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SUMMARY

The purpose of this work is to provide a rational chemotherapeutic approach to diseases of bacterial origin. It focusses on gonorrhea and meningitis but has wider applicability. The methodology involves molecular considerations and therefore requires the purification of the particular enzymes responsible for folic acid biosynthesis, and the synthesis and testing in a cell-free systems as well as in vitro of new and complex sulfur containing drugs.

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This past year we have made significant progress with our task of purifying dihydropteroate synthetase from three meningococcal strains of varying sulfa sensitivity. The progress is presented below in the following tables.

Purification of dihydropteroate synthetase from M-166 (MIC=2.0 ug/ml)

Procedure	Volume ml	Activity units/ml	Total Act. units	Protein mg/ml	Specific Act. units/mg	Yield %	Purification
Crude	38	33	1254	15	2.2	100	1
0-65% A.S.	35	34.2	1197	9	3.8	95.46	1.72
Sephadex G-100	65	17.69	1150	0.5	35.4	91.71	16.1
DEAE-Cellulose	110	7.03	773.3	0.05	140.6	61.67	63.9

Purification of dihydropteroate synthetase from M-60 (MIC=0.8 ug/ml)

Crude	20	31.2	624	13	2.4	100	1
0-65% A.S.	10	53	530	10	5.3	85	2.2
Sephadex G-25	8	55.5	444.4	5.5	10.1	71.16	4.2
Sephadex G-100	30	7.02	210.6	0.1	70.2	33.8	29.25

Purification of dihydropteroate synthetase from M-126 (MIC=12.5-25 ug/ml)

Crude	20	28.8	576	18	1.6	100	1
0-65% A.S.	12	34.8	417.6	12	2.9	72.5	1.81
Sephadex G-100	22	18.2	400.4	1	18.2	69.52	11.37

Electrophoresis reveals one protein band and seems promising as a purification step.

We have attempted to purify the synthetase from gonococcal strains as well, but are constrained by the low specific activity of the enzyme in this pathogen.

Purification of dihydropteroate synthetase from Kohn (MIC=8.0 ug/ml)

Procedure	Volume ml	Activity units/ml	Total Act. units	Protein mg/ml	Specific Act. units/mg	Yield %	Purification
Crude	15	37.8	567	18	2.1	100	1
0-65% A.S.	10	45	450	10	4.5	79.37	2.14
DEAE- Cellulose	40	4.5	180	1	30	31.74	14.28

To facilitate the purification, we have been actively engaged in establishing the proper condition for the growth of large quantities of gonococci.

We have determined MIC values for four different gonococcal strains with respect to sulfadiazine.

MIC	mcg/ml
7134	25
Kohn	12.5
A-12	6.25
CDC-9	3.1

A number of chromatographic experiments with Sephadex of varying pore size indicates the synthetase in gonococcal extracts are rather large in molecular dimensions (far larger than meningococcal synthetases).

We have also proceeded with the purification of dihydrofolate reductase from gonococcal extracts. The progress is presented in the following chart.

Purification of N. gonorrhoeae dihydrofolate reductase

Fraction	Total units	Specific Activity
1. Crude extract	321	1.0
2. 1% Streptomycin	280	1.32
3. 55-95% $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$	220	5.00
4. Tube No. 22-24 (Sephadex G-100 eluates)	92	64
5. Tube No. 24-26	65	56

This past year, using our accurate radioassay we have investigated the effects of a series of sulfone analogs.

Table Inhibition of partially purified dihydropteroate synthetase by various sulfones and sulfonamides. ^a

Compound	K_i	$(I/S)_{0.5}^b$	Reciprocal relative effectiveness (x 100)
p-diaminodiphenylsulfone	7.0×10^{-7} M	0.35	100.0
sulfadiazine	2.0×10^{-6} M	1.0	35.1
4-amino-4'-acetamido- diphenylsulfone	3.3×10^{-6} M	1.65	21.2
sulfanilamide	6.0×10^{-6} M	3.0	11.7
4-amino-4'-formamido- diphenylsulfone	7.5×10^{-6} M	3.75	9.3
4-(p-bromophenylsulfonyl)- aniline	3.6×10^{-5} M	18.3	1.9
p-(4-nitrophenylsulfonyl) aniline	5.5×10^{-5} M	27.5	1.3
4,4'-diacetamidodiphenyl- sulfone	1.1×10^{-4} M	55.0	0.64
4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl- sulfone	1.6×10^{-4} M	80.0	0.44
m-aminodiphenylsulfone	1.7×10^{-4} M	83.3	0.42
diphenylsulfone	2.2×10^{-4} M	110.0	0.32
4(methylsulfonyl)- phenylhydrazine	2.2×10^{-4} M	110.0	0.32
4,4'-diforamido- diphenylsulfone	2.2×10^{-4} M	110.0	0.32
methylsulfone	no activity	-	-
4-fluorodiphenylsulfone	no activity	-	-
p-fluorophenyl-p-tolyl- sulfone	no activity	-	-
p-fluorophenylphenyl- sulfone	no activity	-	-

a. K_m for dihydropteroate synthetase from N. meningitidis M-166 = 2.0×10^{-6} M.

b. $(I/S)_{0.5}$ is the ratio of inhibitor to substrate giving 50 percent inhibition
 $[K_i/K_m = (I/S)_{0.5}]$