The Druggable Genome: Mapping Chemical-Biological Space for Drug Discovery

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The success of many drug design projects is fundamentally limited by the nature of the target - the target "druggability". The increasing understanding of the physico-chemical properties of drugs can lead us to understand the complementary properties of what makes a good drug target. Combining structural biology with large-scale compound-target-activity databases can help link the chemical universe of drug-like molecules to the biological space of proteins and thus allow estimation of how many drug targets there may be in the human genome. These targets are defined as the " druggable genome". Early target assessment can be powerful tool for increasing R&D productivity by directing researches towards chemically tractable targets, which are more likely to deliver clinical candidates. The size of the "druggable genome" has important implications for pharmaceutical research strategies.