



Medicinal Chemistry and Anti-Infectives Discovery

ChemTract Consulting offers the following services:

- ◆ Scientific and strategic guidance on preclinical and pre-IND programs
- ◆ Lead identification and lead optimization guidance
- ◆ Selection of development or licensing candidates
- ◆ Strategy for design and maintenance of intellectual property
- ◆ Due diligence review and assessment

ChemTract has provided expert guidance to Pharmaceutical, Biotech, University and Not-For-Profit Organizations since 2012. Our clients have ranged from academia, startup, biotech to big pharma companies. We can provide an unbiased review of data or of entire programs to help in strategic decision making. We can serve as your Medicinal Chemistry representative in the selection of early to advanced stage preclinical assets. We have experience in all stages of preclinical development. Contact us to discuss your needs to see if we can provide the expertise necessary to advance your research.

James M. Balkovec, Ph.D. - Principal Consultant and Owner

Dr. James Balkovec is a recognized expert in organic and medicinal chemistry with over 35 years in the pharmaceutical industry. Prior to establishing ChemTract Consulting, he held positions of increasing responsibility at Merck & Co. where he was Senior Scientific Director and Program Team Lead in their Rahway, NJ laboratories. He has participated in the in-licensing of anti-infective drugs and related technologies. Dr. Balkovec currently holds the following positions: Senior VP Research (Consulting) at Cidara Therapeutics, Inc., Key Advisor at Bryologyx, Inc. and Scientific Advisor at Sunnylife Pharma, Inc. These companies have interests in the infectious disease, obesity, oncology and pulmonary disease areas.

Dr. Balkovec has a strong background in medicinal and natural products chemistry, drug discovery and program management. He is an expert in antifungal drug discovery and development with additional experience in bacterial, cardiovascular, diabetes, obesity, inflammatory and thrombosis disease areas. He led multiple programs and co-chaired multidisciplinary Project Teams to progress over a dozen compounds into clinical development. He has broad knowledge in related areas such as QSAR, structural chemistry, DMPK, *in vitro* and *in vivo* pharmacology and toxicology.

Professional Highlights

- ◆ **Leadership:** Led groups of over 30 people in highly collaborative program areas. Directed over 20 projects in the anti-infectives, metabolic disorders, cardiovascular, inflammation and thrombosis disease areas
- ◆ **Collaboration:** Directed programs with multiple CROs and alliance partners for anti-infectives and thrombosis programs. Led programs that successfully identified a number of development candidates
- ◆ **Team Building:** Chair or key member on Early and Product Development Teams to guide investigational compounds into early development
- ◆ **Communication:** Served as the co-lead on multidisciplinary project teams to coordinate high throughput screening results, structural chemistry, medicinal chemistry, biology, DMPK and Process Chemistry groups
- ◆ **Proven Success:** Discovered over 12 development candidates leading to 5 clinical stage agents and was co-inventor of Cancidas® (caspofungin acetate), a first in class GS inhibitor for serious fungal infections. Led the team that discovered ibrexafungerp (SCY-078), the first orally bioavailable GS inhibitor in development for VVC
- ◆ **Scientific Excellence:** over 130 publications, patents and applications and delivered over 30 invited lectures and scientific presentations in international forums
- ◆ **Recognition:** Recipient of prestigious awards including Heroes of Chemistry, ACS Industrial Innovation and Thomas Alva Edison Awards