

Contents

Part 1 History and Theoretical Background

- 1 *In Vitro* Selection of Functional Oligonucleotides and the Origins of Biochemical Activity 3**
James M. Carothers and Jack W. Szostak
- 1.1 Introduction 3
- 1.2 A Brief History of *In Vitro* Selection 4
- 1.3 Lessons from the Aptamers, Ribozymes, Deoxyribozymes Generated by *In Vitro* Selection 6
- 1.4 Synthetic Approaches to Understanding the Natural Origins of Function 14
- 1.5 Recent Technological Developments and Future Directions 17
- 1.6 Conclusion 22
- Acknowledgments 23
- References 23
- 2 Mathematical Models on RNA Evolution, Simulations *In Silico*, and Concepts for *In Vitro* Selection 29**
Peter Schuster
- 2.1 From Early Experiments and Theories to the Concept of Neutral Networks 29
- 2.1.1 Evolution in the Test Tube 29
- 2.1.2 Kinetic Theory of the Evolution of Molecules 30
- 2.1.3 Sequence Space and Shape Space 31
- 2.2 RNA Structures, Thermodynamics and Kinetic Folding 33
- 2.2.1 Secondary Structures of Minimum Free Energies 33
- 2.2.2 Inverse Folding 34
- 2.2.3 Suboptimal Conformations and Kinetic Folding 36
- 2.2.4 Cofolding and DNA Parameters 38
- 2.3 Neutral Networks and *In Silico* Evolution of Molecules 39
- 2.3.1 Neutral Networks in Sequence Space 39
- 2.3.2 RNA Evolution *In Silico* 42
- 2.3.3 Lessons from Evolution *In Silico* 45

VI | Contents

2.4	Designed and Natural RNA Switches	47
2.5	Outlook on Future Problems in RNA Design	49
	Acknowledgments	50
	References	50
3	Fitness Landscapes, Error Thresholds, and Cofactors in Aptamer Evolution	54
	<i>Ádam Kun, Marie-Christine Maurel, Mauro Santos, and Eörs Szathmáry</i>	
3.1	Introduction	54
3.2	Functionality Landscapes Inferred from Examples	57
3.2.1	Fitness Landscape	57
3.2.2	Damage Selection Experiments with Ribozymes	58
3.2.3	Construction of the Fitness Landscape	62
3.2.3.1	Compatible Structure	63
3.2.3.2	Mispairs	63
3.2.3.3	Critical Sites	63
3.2.3.4	Predicted Structure	64
3.2.4	Case Study: The Fitness Landscape of the <i>Neurospora</i> VS Ribozyme	64
3.2.4.1	Compatible Structure of the VS Ribozyme	64
3.2.4.2	Allowed Mispairs in the VS Ribozyme	66
3.2.4.3	Critical Sites in the VS Ribozyme	66
3.2.4.4	Predicted Structure for the VS Ribozyme	67
3.2.4.5	Properties of the Estimated Fitness Landscape for the VS Ribozyme	68
3.3	Error Thresholds Inferred from Functional Landscapes: The “Realistic” Error Threshold of the <i>Neurospora</i> VS Ribozyme	68
3.4	Looking for Catalytic Partners: Cofactors and Aptamers	71
3.4.1	Co-ribozymes (cofactor-assisted ribozymes)	74
3.4.2	Aptazymes	79
3.5	The Use of Coenzymes: From the RNA World to the Protein World via Translation and the Genetic Code	79
3.6	Outlook	84
	Acknowledgments	85
	References	85

Part 2 In Vitro Selection of Target-binding Oligonucleotides

4	Aptamers to Small Molecules	95
	<i>Heiko Fickert, Iris G. Fransson, and Ulrich Hahn</i>	
4.1	Introduction	95
4.2	Aptamers to Nucleotides/Nucleosides/Nucleobases	95
4.3	Aptamers to Cofactors	97
4.4	Aptamers to Amino Acids	99
4.5	Aptamers to Carbohydrates	102
4.6	Aptamers to Natural Products	105

4.7	Aptamers to Organic or Fluorescent Dyes	109
4.8	The Chimeric Approach for Aptamer Selection	112
4.9	Conclusion	112
	Acknowledgments	113
	References	113
5	Aptamers to Antibiotics	116
	<i>Christina Lorenz and Renée Schroeder</i>	
5.1	Introduction	116
5.2	RNA-binding Antibiotics	119
5.3	Aptamers to Tetracyclines	119
5.4	Aptamers to Streptomycin	122
5.5	Aptamers to Aminoglycosides	124
5.6	Aptamers to Chloramphenicol	125
5.7	Aptamers to the Peptide Antibiotic Viomycin	126
5.7.1	The Peptide Antibiotic Viomycin as a Primordial Lead Molecule	127
5.8	What Have We Learned From the Antibiotic-binding Aptamers?	128
	Acknowledgments	128
	References	128
6	Aptamers to Proteins	131
	<i>Shahid M. Nimjee, Christopher P. Rusconi, and Bruce A. Sullenger</i>	
6.1	Introduction	131
6.2	Properties of Aptamers as Protein Inhibitors	134
6.3	Cytokines/Growth Factors	140
6.3.1	Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF)	140
6.3.2	Human Interferon γ	142
6.3.3	Angiopoietin-2	142
6.3.4	Basic Fibroblastic Growth Factor	142
6.3.5	Platelet-derived Growth Factor	143
6.4	Nucleic Acid Binding Proteins	144
6.4.1	HIV-1 Tat	144
6.4.2	HIV-1 Rev	145
6.4.3	HIV Reverse Transcriptase	145
6.4.4	Transcription Factor E2F	145
6.4.5	Nuclear Factor Kappa B	146
6.5	Serine Proteases	147
6.5.1	Hepatitis C Virus-NS3 (HSV-NS3)	147
6.5.2	Human Neutrophil Elastase	148
6.5.3	Thrombin	149
6.5.4	Factor VIIa	151
6.5.5	Factor IXa	151
6.6	Antibodies/Immunoglobulins	152
6.6.1	Anti-insulin Receptor Antibody MA20	152
6.6.2	Monoclonal Antibody (MAb) to Acetylcholine Receptor	153

VIII | Contents

6.6.3	Immunoglobulin E	153
6.6.4	Cytotoxic T Cell Antigen 4	154
6.7	Cell Surface Receptor/Cell Adhesion Molecules	155
6.7.1	P-Selectin	155
6.7.2	L-Selectin	155
6.7.3	Prostate-specific Membrane Antigen	156
6.7.4	Trypanosoma cruzi	156
6.8	Complement Proteins – Human Complement C5	157
6.9	Extracellular Membrane Protein – Tenascin-C	157
6.10	Lipoproteins – Human Non-pancreatic Secretory Phospholipase A ₂	157
6.11	Prion Proteins – Prion Protein PrP ^{Sc}	158
6.12	Peptides	158
6.12.1	Ghrelin	158
6.12.2	Neuropeptide Calcitonin Gene-related Peptide 1	159
6.12.3	Gonadotropin-releasing Hormone	159
6.12.4	Neuropeptide Nociceptin/Orphanin FQ	160
6.13	Conclusion	160
	References	161
7	Aptamers to Nucleic Acid Structures	167
	<i>Jean-Jacques Toulmé, Fabien Darfeuille, Carmelo Di Primo, and Eric Dausse</i>	
7.1	Introduction	167
7.2	Targeting Double-stranded Nucleic Acids	168
7.3	Loop–Loop Interactions	170
7.3.1	RNA–RNA Kissing Complexes	170
7.3.2	DNA–RNA Kissing Complexes	173
7.3.3	Double RNA–RNA Kissing Loops	176
7.3.4	Apical Loop–Internal Loop Interactions	178
7.4	Chemically Modified Aptamers Recognizing RNA Targets	180
7.5	Biological Properties of Aptamers Targeted to Nucleic Acids	184
7.6	Conclusion	185
	Acknowledgments	187
	References	187
8	Riboswitches: Natural Metabolite-binding RNAs Controlling Gene Expression	191
	<i>Adam Roth, Rüdiger Welz, and Ronald R. Breaker</i>	
8.1	Introduction	191
8.2	Genetic Control by Riboswitches	192
8.3	Aptamer Domains of Riboswitches	194
8.4	Natural Aptamers Specific for Guanine and Adenine	196
8.5	High-resolution Aptamer Structures	200
8.6	The Glycine Riboswitch	201
	References	205

Part 3 *In Vitro* Selection of Short, Catalytically Active Oligonucleotides

- 9 Catalytically Active RNA Molecules: Tools in Organic Chemistry** 211
Barbara-Sylvia Weigand, Andreas Zerressen, Jörg C. Schlatterer, Mark Helm, and Andres Jäschke
- 9.1 Introduction 211
- 9.2 Catalytic Biopolymers 212
- 9.3 *De Novo* Creation of Ribozymes 213
- 9.4 The Catalytic Spectrum of Ribozymes 215
- 9.5 Summary and Outlook 224
 References 224
- 10 Deoxyribozymes: Catalytically Active DNA Molecules** 228
Kenny Schlosser, Simon A. McManus, and Yingfu Li
- 10.1 Initial Demonstration of DNA's Catalytic Ability 228
- 10.1.1 DNazymes that Cleave RNA 229
- 10.1.2 Deoxyribozymes that Join DNA 231
- 10.1.3 Catalytic DNA for Porphyrin Metallation 232
- 10.2 A Tale of Two Deoxyribozymes that Cleave RNA 233
- 10.2.1 *In Vitro* Selection and Secondary Structures of 10-23 and 8-17 234
- 10.2.2 10-23 as Gene Therapeutics 235
- 10.2.3 Other Uses of 10-23 239
- 10.2.4 Utilities of 8-17 240
- 10.2.5 Recurrence of 8-17 from Several *In Vitro* Selection Experiments 241
- 10.3 Other Deoxyribozymes 245
- 10.3.1 Other RNA-cleaving Deoxyribozymes 245
- 10.3.2 RNA-ligating Deoxyribozymes 246
- 10.3.3 DNA-cleaving DNA Enzymes 248
- 10.3.4 DNA-modifying DNA Enzymes 249
- 10.3.5 DNA Enzymes that Catalyze the Formation of Phosphorothioester Bond 252
- 10.3.6 Deoxyribozymes for Thymine Dimer Repair 253
- 10.3.7 DNA Enzymes with Foreign Functionalities 254
- 10.4 Outlook 256
 References 257

Part 4 Applications and Outlook

- 11 *In Vivo* and *In Vitro* Target Validation with Nucleic Acid Aptamers as Pharmacological Probes** 265
P. Shannon Pendergrast and David M. Epstein
- 11.1 Introduction 265
- 11.2 Target Validation with Aptamers as Pharmacological Probes 265
- 11.3 Limitations of Target Validation by Gene or mRNA Knockout 268

x | Contents

- 11.4 Target Validation Using Nucleic Acid Aptamers 270
 - 11.4.1 *In Vitro* Target Validation with Aptamers against Intracellular Targets 271
 - 11.4.2 *In Vivo* Target Validation with Aptamers against Intracellular and Extracellular Targets 272
- 11.5 Summary 277
 - References 277

- 12 Intramers for Protein Function Analysis and Drug Discovery 280**
 - Michael Famulok and Günter Mayer*
 - 12.1 Introduction 280
 - 12.2 Intramers: Intracellular Aptamers 281
 - 12.3 Aptamers as Probes for Inhibitor Screening 284
 - 12.4 Summary 287
 - Acknowledgments 287
 - References 287

- 13 Aptazymes: Allosteric Ribozymes and Deoxyribozymes as Biosensors 290**
 - Scott M. Knudsen and Andrew D. Ellington*
 - 13.1 Introduction 290
 - 13.1.1 Oligonucleotide-dependent Aptazymes 291
 - 13.1.2 Activation by Non-nucleic Acid Effectors 291
 - 13.2 Creating Aptazymes via Rational Design and *In Vitro* Selection Methodologies 292
 - 13.2.1 Rational Design of Aptazymes 292
 - 13.2.2 *In Vitro* Aptazyme Selection 293
 - 13.3 Effector Activation 295
 - 13.4 Aptazyme Structural and Functional Diversity 299
 - 13.5 Uses of Aptazymes in Biology and Biotechnology 303
 - 13.5.1 Aptazymes as Biosensors 303
 - 13.5.2 Aptazymes as Molecular Logic Gates 306
 - 13.5.3 Aptazyme Arrays 306
 - 13.5.4 Aptazyme Use *In Vivo* 308
 - Acknowledgments 309
 - References 309

- 14 Conversion of Aptamers into Small-Molecule Lead Compounds 311**
 - Andreas Jenne*
 - 14.1 Introduction 311
 - 14.2 Rational Drug Design 312
 - 14.3 Biochemical Screening 313
 - 14.4 Summary and Outlook 320
 - Acknowledgments 322
 - References 322

- 15 Aptamers as Ligands for Affinity Chromatography and Capillary Electrophoresis Applications 324**
Eric Peyrin
- 15.1 Introduction 324
 - 15.2 Aptamers as Ligands in Affinity Liquid Chromatography (and Electrochromatography) 325
 - 15.2.1 General Principles of Affinity Chromatography 325
 - 15.2.2 Separation/Purification of Proteins 326
 - 15.2.3 Separation of Small Molecules 329
 - 15.2.4 Target-specific Chiral Separation 332
 - 15.3 Aptamers as Ligands in Affinity Capillary Electrophoresis 335
 - 15.3.1 General Principles of Affinity Capillary Electrophoresis 335
 - 15.3.2 Affinity Capillary Electrophoresis for Target (Protein) Quantification 336
 - 15.4 Concluding Remarks 340
 - References 341
- 16 Aptamers for *In Vivo* Imaging 343**
Sandra Borkowski and Ludger M. Dinkelborg
- 16.1 *In Vivo* Imaging: Modalities and Requirements 343
 - 16.1.1 Imaging Modalities 343
 - 16.1.2 Requirements for Imaging 345
 - 16.2 Aptamers for *In Vivo* Imaging 346
 - 16.2.1 Oligonucleotide Properties for *In Vivo* Applications 346
 - 16.2.2 Comparison of Different Classes of Targeting Agents 348
 - 16.2.3 Aptamer Targets for Imaging 349
 - 16.3 Labeling of Aptamers 351
 - 16.3.1 SPECT Isotopes 351
 - 16.3.2 PET Isotopes 353
 - 16.4 Oligonucleotides in SPECT and PET Imaging 354
 - 16.4.1 Non-targeting Aptamers 354
 - 16.4.2 Antisense Oligonucleotides 356
 - 16.4.3 Targeting Aptamers 359
 - 16.5 Outlook 361
 - References 361
- 17 Properties of Therapeutic Aptamers 363**
Sharon T. Cload, Thomas G. McCauley, Anthony D. Keefe, Judith M. Healy, and Charles Wilson
- 17.1 Introduction 363
 - 17.2 Aptamer Targets 363
 - 17.2.1 Cell Surface Targets 366
 - 17.2.2 Intracellular Targets 367
 - 17.2.3 Extracellular Targets 368
 - 17.3 Aptamer Binding Characteristics 370
 - 17.3.1 Aptamer Affinity 370

XII | Contents

17.3.2	Aptamer Specificity	372
17.3.3	Aptamer Binding Kinetics	373
17.3.4	Binding versus Function	375
17.4	Chemical Modification of Aptamers	376
17.4.1	2'-Modifications	376
17.4.2	Capping the 3' End	378
17.4.3	Capping the 5' End	379
17.4.4	Phosphate Substitutions	379
17.4.5	Base Modifications	380
17.4.6	Polyethylene Glycol	381
17.4.7	Lipid Tags	381
17.4.8	Peptide Tags	382
17.5	Routes of Administration of Aptamers	382
17.5.1	Parenteral Administration	382
17.5.2	Comparison to Biologics	383
17.6	Opportunities for Alternative Aptamer Formulations	383
17.6.1	Depot	384
17.6.2	Topical	384
17.6.3	Oral	385
17.6.4	Pulmonary	386
17.6.5	Ocular	387
17.7	Aptamer Pharmacokinetics and Biodistribution	387
17.7.1	Key Pharmacokinetic and Biodistribution Parameters	388
17.7.2	Factors Governing Pharmacokinetics and Metabolic Stability of Aptamers	389
17.7.3	Biodistribution of Aptamers	392
17.7.4	Bioanalytical Methods for Aptamer Quantification	395
17.7.5	Summary of Pharmacokinetic and Biodistribution Properties of Aptamers	396
17.8	Toxicity Profile of Aptamers	397
17.9	Immunogenicity of Aptamers	398
17.10	Aptamer Manufacture	398
17.10.1	Contributions to the Costs of Aptamer Synthesis	398
17.10.2	Manufacturing Infrastructure	399
17.10.3	Advantages of Chemical versus Biological Synthesis	399
17.11	Examples of Therapeutic Aptamers in Development	400
17.11.1	Antithrombin Aptamer ARC183	400
17.11.2	Anticomplement C5 Aptamer ARC187	401
17.11.3	Anti-L-Selectin Aptamer	402
17.11.4	Anti-PDGFB-BB Aptamer ARC127	403
17.12	Future Prospects for Aptamer Therapeutics	405
	References	406

18	Spiegelmers for Therapeutic Applications – Use of Chiral Principles in Evolutionary Selection Techniques	417
	<i>Dirk Eulberg, Florian Jarosch, Stefan Vonhoff, and Sven Klussmann</i>	
18.1	Evolutionary Selection Techniques	417
18.2	Chirality	419
18.2.1	Discovery and Consequences of Nature's Handedness	419
18.2.2	Mirror-Image Proteins	420
18.2.3	Mirror-Image Nucleic Acids	421
18.3	Mirror-Image Evolutionary Techniques: Selection–Reflection	422
18.3.1	D-Peptide Aptamers	424
18.3.2	Functional Mirror-Image Oligonucleotides: Spiegelmers	424
18.3.2.1	Proof of Principle	426
18.3.2.2	Catalytically Active Spiegelmers: Spiegelzymes	427
18.3.2.3	Domain Approach	428
18.3.2.4	Bioactive Spiegelmers	429
18.3.2.5	Spiegelmer Activity <i>in Vivo</i>	431
18.3.2.6	Pharmacological Properties of Spiegelmers	432
18.3.2.7	Production of Spiegelmers	434
18.4	Summary	437
	Acknowledgments	439
	References	439
19	Applications in the Clinic: The Anti-VEGF Aptamer	443
	<i>Tony Realini, Eugene W.M. Ng, and Anthony P. Adamis</i>	
19.1	Introduction	443
19.2	Rationale for Targeting VEGF	443
19.3	VEGF and Human Disease	445
19.3.1	Cancer	445
19.3.2	Age-Related Macular Degeneration	446
19.3.3	Diabetic Retinopathy	448
19.4	The VEGF Therapeutic Dilemma	449
19.4.1	VEGF and Human Physiology	449
19.4.2	Overcoming the Dilemma	450
19.5	VEGF Inhibition	450
19.6	Enter Macugen	452
19.6.1	Preclinical Studies	452
19.6.2	Macugen Clinical Trials	453
19.7	The Future	456
	References	457

XIV | Contents

Epilogue A Personal Perspicive: Aptamers after 15 Years	461
<i>Larry Gold</i>	
The Beginning	461
The First Patent	462
Creation of NeXagen and NeXstar	462
Diagnostic Imaging	463
Aptamer Therapeutics	464
Aptamer-based Diagnostics at SomaLogic	465
Do Natural Aptamers Exist?	465
Conclusions – SELEX Lessons for Drug Discovery	466
Acknowledgments	468
References	468
Index	471