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Structure- and ligand-based efforts aimed at the discovery of potential new antimalarial agents

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Malaria, an infectious disease caused by *Plasmodium* parasites, remains one of the most important worldwide public health issues. According to the most recent (2011) report from the World Health Organization, in 2010, malaria caused an estimated 216 million clinical episodes and 655,000 deaths. Half of the world's population lives in areas at risk of malarial transmission. The majority of deaths from malarial infections occur in children.

Continued issues with the development of parasite resistance to existing agents used in treating this disease drive the need for novel therapeutics. Results of our computationally-guided efforts, both ligand- and structure-based, to identify novel antimalarial agents will be presented.

Biography

G. Scott Weston serves as an Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Harding University College of Pharmacy. He authored a recent book chapter in *Concepts in Pharmacogenomics*, has published several journal articles, and has received numerous of patents and grants for his research work. He attended the University of Mississippi where he received a B.S. in Pharmacy in 1990. In 1995, he received a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Mississippi in Pharmaceutical/Medicinal Chemistry and then completed a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Northwestern University Medical School in the Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Biological Chemistry.

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