Contents

Foreword *xiii*

Part I Principles 1

1 **Predictive Power of Biomolecular Simulations** *3 Vojtěch Spiwok* v |

- 1.1 Design of Biomolecular Simulations 4
- 1.2 Collective Variables and Trajectory Clustering 6
- 1.3 Accuracy of Biomolecular Simulations 8
- 1.4 Sampling 10
- 1.5 Binding Free Energy 14
- 1.6 Convergence of Free Energy Estimates *16*
- 1.7 Future Outlook 20 References 21

2 Molecular Dynamics–Based Approaches Describing Protein Binding 29

Andrea Spitaleri and Walter Rocchia

- 2.1 Introduction 29
- 2.1.1 Protein Binding: Molecular Dynamics Versus Docking 30
- 2.1.2 Molecular Dynamics The Current State of the Art 31
- 2.2 Protein–Protein Binding 32
- 2.3 Protein–Peptide Binding 34
- 2.4 Protein–Ligand Binding 36
- 2.5 Future Directions 38
- 2.5.1 Modeling of Cation-p Interactions 38
- 2.6 Grand Challenges 39 References 39

vi Contents

Part II Advanced Algorithms 43

- 3 Modeling Ligand–Target Binding with Enhanced Sampling Simulations 45
 - Federico Comitani and Francesco L. Gervasio
- 3.1 Introduction 45
- 3.2 The Limits of Molecular Dynamics 46
- 3.3 Tempering Methods 47
- 3.4 Multiple Replica Methods 48
- 3.5 Endpoint Methods 50
- 3.5.1 Alchemical Methods 50
- 3.6 Collective Variable-Based Methods 51
- 3.6.1 Metadynamics 52
- 3.7 Binding Kinetics 57
- 3.8 Conclusions 59 References 60

4 Markov State Models in Drug Design 67

- Bettina G. Keller, Stevan Aleksić, and Luca Donati
- 4.1 Introduction 67
- 4.2 Markov State Models 68
- 4.2.1 MD Simulations 68
- 4.2.2 The Molecular Ensemble 69
- 4.2.3 The Propagator 69
- 4.2.4 The Dominant Eigenspace 70
- 4.2.5 The Markov State Model 72
- 4.3 Microstates 75
- 4.4 Long-Lived Conformations 77
- 4.5 Transition Paths 79
- 4.6 Outlook 81 Acknowledgments 82 References 82

5 Monte Carlo Techniques for Drug Design: The Success Case of PELE 87

Joan F. Gilabert, Daniel Lecina, Jorge Estrada, and Victor Guallar

- 5.1 Introduction 87
- 5.1.1 First Applications 88
- 5.1.2 Free Energy Calculations 88
- 5.1.3 Optimization 88
- 5.1.4 MC and MD Combinations 89
- 5.2 The PELE Method 90
- 5.2.1 MC Sampling Procedure 91
- 5.2.2 Ligand Perturbation 91
- 5.2.3 Receptor Perturbation 91
- 5.2.4 Side-Chain Adjustment 93

- 5.2.5 Minimization 93
- 5.2.6 Coordinate Exploration 93
- 5.2.7 Energy Function 94
- 5.3 Examples of PELE's Applications 94
- 5.3.1 Mapping Protein Ligand and Biomedical Studies 94
- 5.3.2 Enzyme Characterization 96
- Acknowledgments 97 References 97
- 6 Understanding the Structure and Dynamics of Peptides and Proteins Through the Lens of Network Science 105 Mathieu Fossépré, Laurence Leherte, Aatto Laaksonen, and Daniel P. Vercauteren
- 6.1 Insight into the Rise of Network Science *105*
- 6.2 Networks of Protein Structures: Topological Features and Applications *107*
- 6.2.1 Topological Features and Analysis of Networks: A Brief Overview *107*
- 6.2.2 Centrality Measures and Protein Structures 110
- 6.2.3 Software 114
- 6.3 Networks of Protein Dynamics: Merging Molecular Simulation Methods and Network Theory *117*
- 6.3.1 Molecular Simulations: A Brief Overview 117
- 6.3.2 How Can Network Science Help in the Analysis of Molecular Simulations? *118*
- 6.3.3 Software 119
- 6.4 Coarse-Graining and Elastic Network Models: Understanding Protein Dynamics with Networks *120*
- 6.4.1 Coarse-Graining: A Brief Overview *120*
- 6.4.2 Elastic Network Models: General Principles *123*
- 6.4.3 Elastic Network Models: The Design of Residue Interaction Networks *124*
- 6.5 Network Modularization to Understand Protein Structure and Function *128*
- 6.5.1 Modularization of Residue Interaction Networks *128*
- 6.5.2 Toward the Design of Mesoscale Protein Models with Network Modularization Techniques *130*
- 6.6 Laboratory Contributions in the Field of Network Science 131
- 6.6.1 Graph Reduction of Three-Dimensional Molecular Fields of Peptides and Proteins *132*
- 6.6.2 Design of Multiscale Elastic Network Models to Study Protein Dynamics 135
- 6.7 Conclusions and Perspectives 140 Acknowledgments 142 References 142

Part III Applications and Success Stories 163

- 7 From Computers to Bedside: Computational Chemistry Contributing to FDA Approval 165 Christina Athanasiou and Zoe Cournia
- 7.1 Introduction 165
- 7.2 Rationalizing the Drug Discovery Process: Early Days 166
- 7.2.1 Captopril (Capoten[®]) 167
- 7.2.2 Saquinavir (Invirase[®]) *167*
- 7.2.3 Ritonavir (Norvir[®]) 168
- 7.3 Use of Computer-Aided Methods in the Drug Discovery Process 168
- 7.3.1 Ligand-Based Methods 169
- 7.3.1.1 Overlay of Structures 169
- 7.3.1.2 Pharmacophore Modeling 171
- 7.3.1.3 Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationships (QSAR) 172
- 7.3.2 Structure-Based Methods 173
- 7.3.2.1 Molecular Docking Virtual Screening 175
- 7.3.2.2 Flexible Receptor Molecular Docking 179
- 7.3.2.3 Molecular Dynamics Simulations 179
- 7.3.2.4 *De Novo* Drug Design 180
- 7.3.2.5 Protein Structure Prediction 181
- 7.3.2.6 Rucaparib (Zepatier®) 184
- 7.3.3 Ab Initio Quantum Chemical Methods 185
- 7.4 Future Outlook *186* References *190*
- 8 Application of Biomolecular Simulations to G Protein–Coupled Receptors (GPCRs) 205 Mariona Torrens-Fontanals, Tomasz M. Stepniewski,
 - Ismael Rodríguez-Espigares, and Jana Selent
- 8.1 Introduction 205
- 8.2 MD Simulations for Studying the Conformational Plasticity of GPCRs 207
- 8.2.1 Challenges in GPCR Simulations: The Sampling Problem and Simulation Timescales 208
- 8.2.2 Making Sense Out of Simulation Data 209
- 8.3 Application of MD Simulations to GPCR Drug Design: Why Should We Use MD? *210*
- 8.4 Evolution of MD Timescales 214
- 8.5 Sharing MD Data via a Public Database 216
- 8.6 Conclusions and Perspectives 216 Acknowledgments 217 References 217
- 9 Molecular Dynamics Applications to GPCR Ligand Design 225 Andrea Bortolato, Francesca Deflorian, Giuseppe Deganutti, Davide Sabbadin, Stefano Moro, and Jonathan S. Mason
- 9.1 Introduction 225

Contents ix

- 9.2 The Role of Water in GPCR Structure-Based Ligand Design 226
- 9.2.1 WaterMap and WaterFLAP 228
- 9.3 Ligand-Binding Free Energy 230
- 9.4 Ligand-Binding Kinetics 233
- 9.4.1 Supervised Molecular Dynamics (SuMD) 235
- 9.4.2 Adiabatic Bias Metadynamics 238
- 9.5 Conclusion 241 References 242
- 10 Ion Channel Simulations 247
 - Saurabh Pandey, Daniel Bonhenry, and Rudiger H. Ettrich
- 10.1 Introduction 247
- 10.2 Overview of Computational Methods Applied to Study Ion Channels 248
- 10.2.1 Homology Modeling 248
- 10.2.2 All-atom Molecular Dynamics Simulations 249
- 10.2.2.1 Force Fields 250
- 10.2.3 Methods for Calculation of Free Energy 251
- 10.2.3.1 Free Energy Perturbation 251
- 10.2.3.2 Umbrella Sampling 251
- 10.2.3.3 Metadynamics 252
- 10.2.3.4 Adaptive Biased Force Method 252
- 10.3 Properties of Ion Channels Studied by Computational Modeling 253
- 10.3.1 A Refined Atomic Scale Model of the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* K⁺-translocation Protein Trk1p 253
- 10.3.2 Homology Modeling, Docking, and Mutagenesis Studies of Human Melatonin Receptors 254
- 10.3.3 Selectivity and Permeation in Voltage-Gated Sodium (Na $_V$) Channels 254
- 10.3.4 Study of Ion Conduction Mechanism, Favorable Translocation Path, and Ion Selectivity in KcsA Using Free Energy Perturbation and Umbrella Sampling 257
- 10.3.5 Ion Conductance Calculations 260
- 10.3.5.1 Voltage-Dependent Anion Channel (VDAC) 261
- 10.3.5.2 Calculation of Ion Conduction in Low-Conductance GLIC Channel 261
- 10.3.6 Transient Receptor Potential (TRP) Channels 263
- 10.4 Free Energy Methods Applied to Channels Bearing Hydrophobic Gates 264
- 10.5 Conclusion 270 Acknowledgments 271 References 271
- 11 Understanding Allostery to Design New Drugs 281 Giulia Morra and Giorgio Colombo
- 11.1 Introduction 281
- 11.2 Protein Allostery: Basic Concepts and Theoretical Framework 282
- 11.2.1 The Classic View of Allostery 283

x Contents

- 11.2.2 The Thermodynamic Two-State Model of Allostery 283
- 11.2.3 From Thermodynamics to Protein Structure and Dynamics 285
- 11.2.4 Entropy in Allostery: The Ensemble Allostery Model 287
- 11.3 Exploiting Allostery in Drug Discovery and Design 288
- 11.3.1 Computational Prediction of Allosteric Behavior and Application to Drug Discovery 288
- 11.3.2 Identification of Allosteric Binding Sites Through Structural and Dynamic Approaches 289
- 11.4 Chaperones 291
- 11.5 Kinases 293
- 11.6 GPCRs 294
- 11.7 Conclusions 296 References 296

12 Structure and Stability of Amyloid Protofibrils of Polyglutamine and Polyasparagine from Molecular Dynamics Simulations 301 Viet Hoang Man, Yuan Zhang, Christopher Roland, and Celeste Sagui

- 12.1 Introduction 301
- 12.2 Polyglutamine Protofibrils and Aggregates 303
- 12.2.1 Investigations of Oligomeric Q₈ Structures 303
- 12.2.2 Time Evolution, Steric Zippers, and Crystal Structures of $4 \times 4 Q_8$ Aggregates 306
- 12.2.3 Monomeric Q₄₀ Protofibrils 308
- 12.3 Amyloid Models of Asparagine (N) and Glutamine(Q) 311
- 12.3.1 Initial Structures 313
- 12.3.2 Monomeric PolyQ β Hairpins Are More Stable than PolyN Hairpins 314
- 12.3.3 N-rich Oligomers Are Most Stable in Class 1 Steric Zippers with 2-by-2 Interdigitation 315
- 12.3.4 PolyQ Oligomers Are Most Stable in Antiparallel Stranded β Sheets with 1-by-1 Steric Zippers 316
- 12.3.5 PolyQ Structures Show Higher Stability than Most Stable PolyN Structures *317*
- 12.3.6 Thermodynamic Considerations of Aggregate Formation 318
- 12.4 Summary 319 Acknowledgments 320 References 320
- 13 Using Biomolecular Simulations to Target Cdc34 in Cancer 325 Miriam Di Marco, Matteo Lambrughi, and Elena Papaleo
- 13.1 Background 325
- 13.2 Families of E2 Enzymes 327
- 13.3 Cdc34 Protein Sequence and Structure 328
- 13.4 Cdc34 Heterogeneous Conformational Ensemble in Solution 329

- 13.5 Long-Range Communication in Family 3 Enzymes: A Structural Path from the Ub-Binding Site to the E3 Recognition Site 330
- 13.6 Cdc34 Modulation by Phosphorylation: From Phenotype to Structure *331*
- 13.7 The Dual Role of the Acidic Loop of Cdc34: Regulator of Activity and Interface for E3 Binding 332
- 13.8 Different Strategies to Target Cdc34 with Small Molecules 333
- 13.9 Conclusions and Perspectives 334Acknowledgments 336References 336

Index 343