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# **QSAR model to develop newer generation GSK-3β inhibitors targeting Alzheimer**

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**Abstract:** In the year 2022 most of the patients affected by the disease was around 65 year age. Among total number of patients, 73% were near 75 year or older age. It was also stated that maximum numbers of patients were women. Black Americans were more affected by Alzheimer than white Americans. GSK-3 has also been linked to the hyperphosphorylation of tau protein, the development of amyloid-beta plaques, other inflammatory responses, activation of microglial cells, the production of neurotoxic inflammatory factors, and a decrease in the level of acetylcholine, all of which together lead to Alzheimer's disease. GSK-3 controlled the inflammatory stress brought on by anomalies in the mitochondria and endoplasmic reticulum. However, none of the compounds utilised in the treatment were particularly helpful in curing the patient completely. The development of newer generation anti-Alzheimer therapeutic compounds was therefore hampered by this curse, and computational approaches were crucial in breaking it. The most effective QSAR model was  $pIC50 = -5.47052$ +2.60572 IC1 +1.64642 GATS2e +2.088 mindssC -0.01441 ATSC7s -13.5191 AVP-0 +0.16712 minssNH -0.15369 minaaN +0.01777 VR2\_Dt +1.52684 MATS8s +0.04725 nAtomP with all necessary acceptance criteria Q^2: 0.60111, r^2: 0.65711, |r0^2r'0^2|: 0.07866, k: 0.99121  $[(r^2 - r^0)^2]/r^2$ ] 0.00543 or k': 0.92437  $[(r^2 - r^0)^2]/r^2]$ 0.12513. It is clear that our QSAR model will be a blessing for humanity if we wish to produce a chemical that works as a GSK-3 inhibitor to treat Alzheimer's disease in the near future.

**Keywords:** GSK-3β; Alzheimer Disease; Modelability Index; KS Method; GT acceptable criteria; YR Test.

#### **1. Introduction**

According to recent statistics, more than 60 lakh Americans had Alzheimer's disease. Most patients with the condition in 2022 were around 65 years old (Tang *et al.,* 2014; Limor & Eldar-Finkelman 2013; El khatabi *et al.,* 2021). A total of 73% of the patients were 75 years of age or older. Additionally, it was noted that women made up the majority of the patients. According to the

Alzheimer's Facts and Figures Report Alzheimer's Association, black Americans were more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease than white Americans. Rivastigmine, Donepezil, galantamine, memantine are some commercially available anti Alzheimer drugs. GSK-3, or glycogen synthase kinase 3, originally attracted attention in year 1980. According to (Pal & Saha 2019; Ling *et al.,* 2013), the enzyme was primarily used to facilitate the production of glycogen from glucose using uridine diphosphate glucose molecules. GSK was a cell-specific enzyme with a serine/threonine amino acid basis (Akihiko 2006; Toral-Rios *et al.,* 2020). The enzyme comes in two varieties, GSK-3 and GSK-3. Through the phosphorylation of serine21 for alpha and serine9 for beta, this enzyme primarily initiated the downregulation process of neurons (Angela *et al.,* 2021). According to (Griebel *et al.,* 2019), GSK-3 controlled the development of beta-amyloid plaques via the Wingless and Int-1/phosphatidylinositol-3 pathway. According to (Kim *et al.,* 2006), GSK-3 has also been linked to the hyperphosphorylation of tau protein (Kareti & Subash 2020; Chtita *et al.,* 2016), the development of amyloid-beta plaques, other inflammatory responses, activation of microglial cells, the production of neurotoxic inflammatory factors, and a decrease in the level of acetylcholine, all of which contribute to the development of Alzheimer's disease (El Alaouy *et al.,* 2021; El-Mernissi *et al.,* 2023). According to Hooper *et al.,* 2008, GSK-3 controlled the inflammatory stress caused by anomalies in the endoplasmic reticulum and the mitochondria (El Alaouy *et al.,* 2023). These pathways have been collectively linked to numerous neurological conditions like Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, mood swings, and other illnesses connected to cognition and behaviour (Ma, 2014; De Strooper & Karran 2016). To anticipate the bioactivity of newer generation GSK-3 inhibitors effective against Alzheimer's disease, we created a QSAR model in this context.

# **2. Materials and Methodology**

# *2.1. Dataset and Descriptor Calculation*

A dataset of 124 GSK-3 inhibitors for Alzheimer's disease was obtained from the database (Thomas *et al.,* 2012). The ACD ChemSketch software was used to create each molecule, which was then saved in MDL Mol format. Then, using the PADEL descriptor, two-dimensional descriptors of the molecules were derived (Saha *et al.,* 2022a). The biological activities associated with each molecular descriptor were tabulated in.CSV format, with IC50 values converted to pIC50 values.

# *2.2.Modelability Index*

Modelability index is a method for estimating feasibility that is defined by the ratio between the total number of pairings and the nearest-neighbour pairs of compounds that belong to the same activity class (Saha *et al.,* 2022b; Alamari *et al.,* 2023). This idea was related to the wasteful efforts of a QSAR dataset involved in the creation of a QSAR model.

#### *2.3. Descriptor Pretreatment*

Then, by using a variance cut off and correlation coefficient values of 0.0001 and 0.99, respectively, closely related descriptors found in the dataset were eliminated (Saha *et al.,* 2022).

# *2.4. Dataset Division*

The Kennard Stone (KS), Random Faster, and Euclidean Distance methods were typically used to partition the dataset into training and test sets. We chose the KS approach to partition the dataset of 124 molecules into a training set and a test set in this instance. Following dataset partition, the training set contained 86 molecules, whereas the test set contained 38 molecules (de Moura *et al.,* 2021).

#### *2.5. Suitable Descriptor Selection*

Using Stepwise MLR software, a set of appropriate descriptors was chosen with F values ranging from 3.9 to 4.0. Then, the R2 cut off value of 0.6 was shown to be the optimum subset combination (Kumar *et al.,* 2023).

#### *2.6. Stepwise regression*

The construction of a stepwise multiple linear regression equation involved three independent processes, including the discovery of an initial model, repeating the previous step to improve the F and R2 value, and calibrating the model. Statistical SPSS software was used to create the stepwise regression equation, which was evaluated using the parameters of explained variance (R2a), correlation coefficient (R), standard error of estimate (s), and variance ratio (F) with a given DF. Finally, using cross validation R2 (Q2), SPRESS, and SDEP parameters, the LOO approach was used to validate the model (Hassan *et al.,* 2022).

# *2.7. QSAR Equation Development*

According to the accuracy of the predictions, the final QSAR model was created by Multiple Linear Regression Plus valid software (Hanieh *et al.,* 2022).

#### *2.8. QSAR Equation Validation*

The acceptable model criteria of Golbraikh and Tropsha(GT acceptable criteria) were used to validate the constructed QSAR model. The following were the requirements for an acceptable model (Ambure & Roy 2016).

- 1.  $Q2 > 0.5$ . 2.  $R2 > 0.6$ .
- 3.  $|r02-r'02| < 0.3$ .

4. [0.85<k<1.15 and ((r^2-r0^2)/r^2)<0.1 or [0.85<k'<1.15 and ((r^2-r'0^2)/r^2)<0.1].

# *2.9. QSAR Equation Validation*

The LOO procedure was used to cross-validate the QSAR model. By using mahalanobis distance and euclidean distance approaches, the model's applicability domain was examined. A specified application domain threshold value was compared to the distance between a test set and its closest neighbour in the training set (Yap 2011).

# *2.10. MLR YRandomization (YR)test*

In the YR test, a quicker random technique was used to create a random multiple linear regression model by changing the dependent variable while keeping the independent variable constant. After multiple trials, the model with considerably better R2 and Q2 values demonstrated that the proposed model was reliable and repeatable. In order to pass this test, another parameter, cRp2, which must be more than 0.5, was also calculated (Golbraikh *et al.,* 2014).

#### **3. Results and Discussion**

When the modelability index value of the entire dataset was first verified, it was found to be 0.55, with 41 molecules having a high total active/lower activity and 83 molecules having a low total active/toxic activity, with a threshold value of 0.65. Therefore, the model's modelability index score was 0.5926, indicating that the dataset was near to what was needed to create a good QSAR

(Quantitative Structure Activity Relationship) model. The Kennard-Stone approach was then used to split the entire dataset into training and test set. In the training and test sets, there were, respectively, 86 and 38 molecules present. The most likely group of descriptors to employ in a successful QSAR model were found using stepwise multiple linear regression analysis. Then, using the best set of descriptors available, the best subset selection process was carried out using an R2 cut-off value of 0.6 and an R2 cut-off value of 0.5 for inter-correlation between descriptors (Ballabio *et al.,* 2014). Following the multiple linear regression analysis, we created five distinct QSAR models (Table 1 and Table 2), ranging from the fewest to the most descriptors.



**Table 1.**Actual pIC50, and Predicted pIC50 Values of Training Set Molecules of the best QSAR Model.











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83	$\overline{O}$ $-cH_3$ N- $H_3C$ О NH-	$-1.24055$	$-3.39249$
84	Br <b>NH</b> NH <sub>2</sub>	$-3.39794$	$-3.80155$
85	$H_2N$ HN. Br NH <sup>-</sup> NH ó	$-1$	$-1.0735$
86	$\overline{MH_2}$ Br $N =$ . Nh Br N <sub>H</sub> ő	$-3.47712$	$-2.29833$

**Table 2.** Actual pIC50, and Predicted pIC50 Values of Test Set Molecules of the best QSAR Model.















*3.1. Model 1 (with 10 descriptors)*

pIC50 = -5.47052 +2.60572 IC1 +1.64642 GATS2e +2.088 mindssC -0.01441 ATSC7s -13.5191 AVP-0 +0.16712 minssNH -0.15369 minaaN +0.01777 VR2\_Dt +1.52684 MATS8s +0.04725 nAtomP.

[Internal Validation Parameters (IVP): SEE :0.58767, r^2 :0.70183, r^2 adjusted :0.66207, PRESS :25.90197, F :17.6534 (DF (Degree of Freedom) :10, 75); Leave-One-Out(LOO) Result: Q2 :0.60111, Average rm^2(LOO) :0.47316, Delta rm^2(LOO) :0.19941; External Validation Parameters (EVP)(Without Scaling):: r^2 :0.65711, r0^2 :0.65354, reverse r0^2:0.57488, RMSEP (Root Mean Square Error of Prediction) :0.63121, Q2f1/R^2(Pred) :0.68626, Q2f2 :0.65324; EVP (After Scaling): Average rm^2(test) :0.54109, Delta rm^2(test) :0.1653]

{GT acceptable criteria :  $O^2$ : 0.60111 Passed ( $O^2$ >0.5), r<sup> $\gamma$ </sup>2: 0.65711Passed (r<sup> $\gamma$ </sup>2>0.6),  $|r_0 \gamma$ 2r'0^2|: 0.07866 Passed (|r0^2-r'0^2|<0.3), k: 0.99121 [(r^2-r0^2)/r^2] 0.00543 or k': 0.92437 [(r^2r'0^2)/r^2] 0.12513 Passed}

# *3.2.Model 2 (with 11 descriptors)*(Roy and Mitra 2011)

pIC50 = -6.19416 + 2.64534 IC1 +1.80112 GATS2e +2.20934 mindssC -0.01408 ATSC7s - 12.84456 AVP-0 +0.19708 minssNH -0.1799 minaaN +0.02228 VR2\_Dt +1.61577 MATS8s +0.05144 nAtomP -0.25802 nF12Ring.

[IVP:: SEE :0.55403, r^2 :0.73853, r^2 adjusted :0.69966, PRESS :22.71409, F :19.00109 (DF :11, 74); Leave-One-Out(LOO) Result :: Q2 :0.59013, Average rm^2(LOO) :0.47465, Delta rm^2(LOO) :0.12766; EVP(Without Scaling):: r^2 :0.66916, r0^2 :0.6592, reverse r0^2:0.61934, RMSEP:0.62738, Q2f1/R^2(Pred) :0.69006, Q2f2 :0.65743; EVP (After Scaling):: Average rm^2(test) :0.5594,Delta rm^2(test) :0.09565]

{GT acceptable criteria:: Q^2 : 0.59013 Passed, r^2: 0.66916 Passed, |r0^2-r'0^2|: 0.03986 Passed), k:  $0.97891$   $[(r^2-r^0^2)/r^2]$   $0.01489$  or k':  $0.93738$   $[(r^2-r^0^2)/r^2]$  :  $0.07445P$ assed}

# *3.3.Model 3 (with 12 descriptors)*

 $pIC50 = -7.11297 + 2.59644 IC1 - 0.23252 \text{ minsssN} + 2.11949 GATS2e + 2.03621 \text{ mindssC} - 0.01331$ ATSC7s -10.98537 AVP-0 +0.24422 minssNH -0.16546 minaaN +0.02086 VR2\_Dt +1.21546 MATS8s +0.03775 nAtomP -0.2656 nF12Ring.

[IVP:: SEE :0.53557, r^2 :0.75896, r^2 adjusted :0.71933, PRESS :20.93933, F :19.15421 (DF :12, 73); Leave-One-Out(LOO) Result :: Q2 :0.64714, Average rm^2(LOO) :0.53284, Delta rm^2(LOO) :0.14785; EVP (Without Scaling):: r^2 :0.72485, r0^2 :0.72259, reverse r0^2:0.67595, RMSEP:0.56733, Q2f1/R^2(Pred) :0.74655, Q2f2 :0.71988; EVP (After Scaling):: Average rm^2(test) :0.62788, Delta rm^2(test) :0.09232]

{GT acceptable criteria:: Q^2 : 0.64714 Passed, r^2: 0.72485 Passed, |r0^2-r'0^2| : 0.04664 Passed, k: 0.97418  $[(r^2-r^0)^2/r^2]$  0.00311 or k' : 0.95766  $[(r^2-r^0)^2]/r^2]$  0.06745 Passed}

# *3.4.Model 4 (with 13 descriptors)*(Roy *et al.,* 2014)

 $pIC50 = -6.022 + 2.58977 IC1 - 0.24611 \text{ minsssN} + 1.93576 \text{ GATS2e} - 1.28529 \text{ GATS7v} + 2.08453$ mindssC -0.0132 ATSC7s -10.29187 AVP-0 +0.24584 minssNH -0.15455 minaaN +0.02051 VR2\_Dt +1.09995 MATS8s +0.03865 nAtomP -0.20946 nF12Ring.

[IVP::SEE :0.51741, r^2 :0.77811, r^2 adjusted :0.73804, PRESS :19.27568, F :19.42172 (DF :13, 72); Leave-One-Out(LOO) Result :: Q2 :0.69747, Average rm^2(LOO) :0.5901, Delta rm^2(LOO) :0.16211; EVP(Without Scaling):: r^2 :0.72304, r0^2 :0.71848, reverse r0^2:0.68331, RMSEP:0.57069, Q2f1/R^2(Pred) :0.74354, Q2f2 :0.71655; EVP(After Scaling):: Average rm^2(test) :0.62587, Delta rm^2(test) :0.08572]

{GT acceptable criteria : Q^2 : 0.69747 Passed, r^2: 0.72304 Passed, |r0^2-r'0^2| : 0.03516 Passed, k: 0.97811 [(r^2-r0^2)/r^2] 0.00632 or k' : 0.9528 [(r^2-r'0^2)/r^2]: 0.05495 Passed}

# *3.5.Model 5 (with 24 descriptors)*(Dimitrov *et al.,* 2002)

 $pIC50 = -5.31625 - 0.09091$  ALogP +2.23424 IC1 -0.21727 minsssN +0.98009 GATS2e +1.21443 mindssC -0.0104 ATSC7s -8.07662 AVP-0 +0.56286 MATS8s +0.15643 minssNH -2.0612 GATS7v -0.17167 C1SP2 +0.03561 nAtomP +0.01557 VR2\_Dt -0.13713 minaaN -0.28466 nF12Ring +0.03612 AATSC4v -5.72469 VE1\_D +3.51384 VE1\_Dze +0.46693 ndsN +0.83305 SP-5 -0.11812 MDEC-22 -0.02118 MPC6 -0.17558 AATS4s -0.24231 nCl.

[IVP:: SEE :0.35722, r^2 :0.91039, r^2 adjusted :0.87514, PRESS :7.78406, F :25.82319 (DF :24, 61); Leave-One-Out(LOO) Result :: Q2 :0.80158, Average rm^2(LOO):0.73688, Delta rm^2(LOO):0.01789; EVP(Without Scaling):: r^2 :0.88284, r0^2 :0.86732, reverse r0^2:0.81182, RMSEP:0.39046, Q2f1/R^2(Pred) :0.87995, Q2f2 :0.86731; EVP (After Scaling):: Average rm^2(test) :0.75257, Delta rm^2(test) :0.11285]

{GT acceptable criteria:: Q^2: 0.80158 Passed, r^2: 0.88284 Passed, |r0^2-r'0^2|: 0.0555 Passed, k : 1.00114  $[(r^2-r^0^2)/r^2]$  0.01758 or k': 0.96682  $[(r^2-r^0^2)/r^2]$  : 0.08045 Passed }.

The findings revealed that all models met the criteria for acceptance, however only Model 1 had the bare minimum of descriptors (Paola 2013). Model 5 showed the highest Q2 (0.80158) and R2 (0.88284) values. There were 24 descriptors in this model. More descriptors increase prediction noise. One description was assigned for every ten molecules according to a rule. In this case, Model 1 was regarded as the best model (Krstajic*et al.,* 2014). In Model 1, the model was predicted using just 10 descriptors. In this model IC1 (Information Content index), GATS2e (Geary autocorrelation of lag 2 weighted by Sanderson electronegativity), mindssC (Minimum atom-type E-State =C), minssNH (Minimum atom-type E-State: -NH-), VR2\_Dt (normalised Randic-like eigenvector-based index from detour matrix), MATS8s (Moran autocorrelation of lag 8 weighted by I-state) and nAtomP (Number of atoms in the largest pi system) were positively contributed in the bioactivity (Zhang *et al.,* 2006) The model meets every requirement for validation, according to the validation parameter. Figure 1's curve between the actual and projected pIC50 values in the training and test set demonstrated that the difference between the two values was within acceptable bounds. According on the applicability domain study, two compounds were found to be outliers (Rucker *et al.,* 2007).The average R2, Q2 (LOO), and cRp2 values for the model are 0.15, -0.16, and 0.64, respectively, according to the YR test results (Table 3).

**Table 3.**Y Randomization (YR) Data of the best QSAR Model.





#### **Conclusion**

Here, we draw the conclusion that the established QSAR model will function as a good predictor with any chemical scaffold and descriptor combination in order to develop newer generation GSK-3 inhibitors targeting Alzheimer's disease.

#### **List of Abbreviations**

- QSAR: Quantitative Structure Activity Relationship, DF: Degree of Freedom, SPRESS: Standard Deviation based on Predicted Residual Error Sum of Squares, SDEP: Standard Deviation of Error of Prediction, RMSEP: Root Mean Square Error of Prediction, LOO: Leave One Out, MLR: Multiple Linear Regression.
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**Availability of Data and Material:** All data used to support the findings of this study are included within the main text. Actual pIC50, Predicted pIC50 values and Y-Randomization Data of other models (Model 2, 3, 4 and 5) are included in Supplementary files (Table S1, Table S<sub>2</sub> and Table S<sub>3</sub>).

**Declaration:** This is an original work and no part is submitted to other Journal.

**Conflicts of Interest:** There is no conflict of interest to declare.

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84	-Br NH. NH <sub>2</sub>	$-3.39794$	$-3.86152$	$-3.7999$	$-3.51148$	$-3.4637$
85	$H_2N$ HN. ( ) Br NH. <b>NH</b> Ω	$-1$	$-1.07088$	$-1.25888$	$-1.1567$	$-1.215$
86	NH <sub>2</sub> Br NH, Br <sup>-</sup> NH <sup>1</sup> ∩	$-3.47712$	$-2.84139$	$-3.0448$	$-3.45799$	$-3.67018$

**Table S2.**Actual pIC50, and Predicted pIC50 Values of Test Set Molecules of different QSAR Models.















**Table S3.**YR Data of different QSAR Models.



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