



HAL
open science

Scope and Limitations of Exploiting the Ability of the Chemosensitizer NV716 to Enhance the Activity of Tetracycline Derivatives against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

Margot Draveny, Clémence Rose, Alexis Pinet, Laurent Ferrié, Bruno Figadère, Jean-Michel Brunel, Muriel Masi

► To cite this version:

Margot Draveny, Clémence Rose, Alexis Pinet, Laurent Ferrié, Bruno Figadère, et al.. Scope and Limitations of Exploiting the Ability of the Chemosensitizer NV716 to Enhance the Activity of Tetracycline Derivatives against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. *Molecules*, 2023, 28 (11), pp.4262. 10.3390/molecules28114262 . hal-04244665

HAL Id: hal-04244665

<https://hal.science/hal-04244665v1>

Submitted on 16 Oct 2023

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

Article

Scope and Limitations of Exploiting the Ability of the Chemosensitizer NV716 to Enhance the Activity of Tetracycline Derivatives against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

 Margot Draveny ^{1,2}, Clémence Rose ³, Alexis Pinet ³, Laurent Ferrié ³ , Bruno Figadère ³ , Jean-Michel Brunel ¹ 
 and Muriel Masi ^{1,2,*} 

¹ MCT, INSERM U1261, UMR_MD1, Aix-Marseille Univ. & IRBA SSA, 27 Boulevard Jean Moulin, 13005 Marseille, France; margot.draveny@synchrotron-soleil.fr (M.D.); bruneljm@yahoo.fr (J.-M.B.)

² Synchrotron SOLEIL, L'Orme des Merisiers, Départementale 128, 91190 Saint-Aubin, France

³ BioCIS, Bâtiment H. Moissan, Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS, 91400 Orsay, France; clemence.rose@live.fr (C.R.); alexis.pinet9@gmail.com (A.P.); laurent.ferrie@universite-paris-saclay.fr (L.F.); bruno.figadere@universite-paris-saclay.fr (B.F.)

* Correspondence: muriel.masi@univ-amu.fr

Abstract: The spread of antibiotic resistance is an urgent threat to global health that requires new therapeutic approaches. Treatments for pathogenic Gram-negative bacteria are particularly challenging to identify due to the robust OM permeability barrier in these organisms. One strategy is to use antibiotic adjuvants, a class of drugs that have no significant antibacterial activity on their own but can act synergistically with certain antibiotics. Previous studies described the discovery and development of polyaminoisoprenyl molecules as antibiotic adjuvants with an OM effect. In particular, the compound NV716 has been shown to sensitize *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* to tetracycline antibiotics such as doxycycline. Here, we sought to explore the disruption of OM to sensitize *P. aeruginosa* to otherwise inactive antimicrobials using a series of tetracycline derivatives in the presence of NV716. We found that OM disruption expands the hydrophobicity threshold consistent with antibacterial activity to include hydrophobic molecules, thereby altering permeation rules in Gram-negative bacteria.

Keywords: Gram-negative bacteria; antibiotic adjuvant; NV716; antibiotic resistance; outer membrane



Citation: Draveny, M.; Rose, C.; Pinet, A.; Ferrié, L.; Figadère, B.; Brunel, J.-M.; Masi, M. Scope and Limitations of Exploiting the Ability of the Chemosensitizer NV716 to Enhance the Activity of Tetracycline Derivatives against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. *Molecules* **2023**, *28*, 4262. <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules28114262>

Academic Editors: Danuta Drozdowska and Robert Bucki

Received: 27 April 2023

Revised: 19 May 2023

Accepted: 22 May 2023

Published: 23 May 2023



Copyright: © 2023 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

1. Introduction

There is a widely acknowledged need for new antibacterial agents to address the global increase in resistance, and this need is especially urgent to combat antibiotic-resistant Gram-negative bacteria [1,2]. In 2017, the World Health Organization (WHO) assigned the highest priority to antibacterial drug research and development against the Gram-negative bacteria *Acinetobacter*, *Pseudomonas*, and species of *Enterobacteriaceae* that are resistant to carbapenems and usually extensively drug-resistant (XDR) [3]. The same year, the WHO released a clinical pipeline report, which has been updated every year since then. Until 2021, 12 new antibacterial drugs have been approved. However, recently approved antibacterial agents show a limited degree of innovation as most of them are derivatives of existing classes and/or poorly address global public health priorities. The 2021 clinical antibacterial pipeline contains 77 antibiotics and/or combinations that include at least one new therapeutic entity. Of these, 45 are traditional antibacterial agents, including 27 against the WHO priority pathogens, and 32 are non-traditional [4].

The failure of the development of antibiotics active against Gram-negative bacteria is mainly due to the inability of small molecules to accumulate within these bacteria and reach a threshold concentration to inhibit their target [5,6]. Indeed, antibiotics are constrained to two opposite-direction fluxes across the Gram-negative bacterial envelope. First, Gram-negative bacteria are protected by an outer membrane (OM), which reduces the uptake of

toxic compounds [7]. The OM is an asymmetric bilayer composed of lipopolysaccharides (LPS) in the outer leaflet and phospholipids in the inner leaflet. The tight packaging of LPS and its overall negative charge exclude large and hydrophobic molecules [8], and the influx of antibiotics is usually mediated by channel-forming proteins, called porins [7,9]. The general porins OmpF and OmpC of *Escherichia coli* and related enterobacteria are non-specific channels [10] and have quite large pores, allowing the passage of polar compounds below a size limit of ~600 Da, including many antibiotics [7,9]. However, other Gram-negative bacteria, such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Acinetobacter baumannii*, do not have such large-channel porins and rely on substrate-specific channels to acquire small water-soluble compounds [7,11]. Consequently, their OM is approximately two orders of magnitude less permeable than that of *E. coli* [7]. In addition, antibiotics are also subject to an outgoing flux via transmembrane multidrug efflux pumps (i.e., AcrAB-TolC in *Enterobacteriaceae* and MexAB-OprM in *P. aeruginosa*) that expel them towards the medium [12]. As such, the synergy between limited OM diffusion and active efflux determines antibiotic accumulation and activity [13–15].

In recent years, antibiotic discovery efforts have attempted to increase the intracellular concentration of antibiotics inside Gram-negative bacteria through various approaches, including inhibition of efflux, disruption of the OM, and advances in medicinal chemistry. Regarding the latter aspect, recent studies have expanded the Gram-negative eNTRY “rules,” identifying rigid, flat molecules with a positive charge to be more compatible with porin-mediated uptake [16]. These concepts have been applied to modify antibiotics active against Gram-positive for Gram-negative activity [17–19]. While promising, this approach is limited to scaffolds that can be modified without loss of affinity for their target or modification of any other favorable pharmacological properties. An alternative approach is the use of adjuvants capable of disrupting OM integrity, thereby facilitating the entry and accumulation of many otherwise inactive antibiotics in Gram-negative bacteria [20]. Such compounds would immediately expand the range of treatments for Gram-negative pathogens [21].

Since their discovery in 1947, polymyxins have proven to attack the membranes of Gram-negative bacteria. Polymyxins were abandoned in the 1960s because of their nephrotoxicity but are now revived as the last-resort therapy for infections caused by XDR strains [22]. Quite recently, new polymyxin derivatives have been successfully studied preclinically for treating pneumonia caused by *P. aeruginosa* or *A. baumannii* in mouse models [23]. In 2017, the first OM disruptor, SPR741 (in-licensed by Spero Therapeutics and Northern Antibiotics), successfully passed the clinical phase 1 trial and was well tolerated at doses exceeding the dose that should be evaluated in the planned phase 2 [24,25].

Polyamines, like polymyxins, are cationic molecules that target Gram-negative membranes [26]. Among them, the polyaminoisoprenyl compound NV716 is a potent antibiotic adjuvant in several Gram-negative species. Previous studies showed that NV716 restores chloramphenicol and doxycycline activity against *P. aeruginosa* [27] and florfenicol activity against *Bordetella bronchiseptica* [28] in wild-type and clinical or farm strains. It also dramatically increases the activity of almost all the classes of antibiotics in *E. coli*, including that of the large, hydrophobic, and traditionally Gram-positive active antibiotics, such as rifampin and erythromycin; hydrophobic β -lactams such as oxacillin; chloramphenicol; tetracyclines; and nalidixic acid but not fluoroquinolones [Novelli, M.; Brunel, J.-M.; & Bolla, J.-M., in preparation]. NV716 has been shown to reduce active efflux of the 1,2'-DNA fluorescent probe in a dose-dependent real-time efflux assay [29]. However, NV716 is still active in efflux-deficient strains of *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa*. In addition, several pieces of evidence indicate that NV716 binds to the LPS and acts by disrupting the OM integrity as a major barrier to antibiotic uptake [29–31] (Draveny, M.; Brunel, J.-M.; Jamme, F.; & Masi, M.; in preparation). One can assume this mode of action has much more impact on *P. aeruginosa* than on *E. coli*, whose OM contains the most effective porins.

In recent years, tetracyclines have been considered beyond their antibiotic activity [32]. In particular, the use of tetracyclines is associated with a reduced risk of developing

Parkinson's disease [33]. New tetracycline derivatives were recently synthesized with improved neuroprotective properties and reduced antibiotic activity [34,35]. Herein, we sought to determine whether the potential of OM disruption mediated by NV716 could be used as a therapeutic approach in combination with these new tetracycline derivatives. For this, we studied how the disturbance of the OM affects the entry rules of these compounds in *P. aeruginosa* and identified a significant expansion of the hydrophobicity threshold compatible activity.

2. Results

2.1. OM Perturbation Induced by NV716 Increases the Range of Hydrophobicity of Tetracycline Derivatives Compatible with Antibacterial Activity

NV716 was prepared as previously described [36] in 64% yield that includes a direct nucleophilic substitution of spermine on farnesyl chloride (Figure 1).

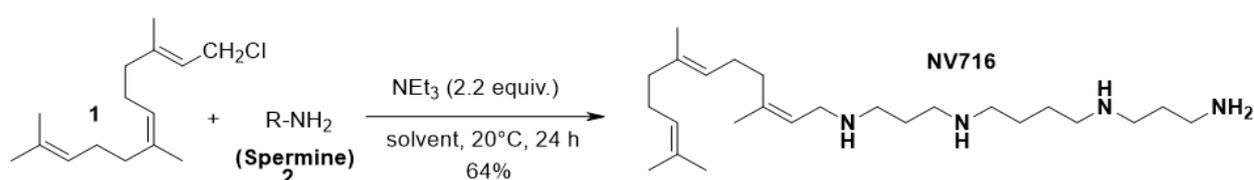


Figure 1. Synthetic pathway of the preparation of polyaminoisoprenyl compound NV716.

Tetracyclines inhibit protein synthesis in Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria by preventing the attachment of aminoacyl-tRNA to the ribosomal acceptor (A) site [37]. This mechanism has been confirmed by X-ray crystallography [38]. Original tetracycline derivatives are shown in Figure 2. The rigid skeleton of tetracyclines contains four rings, a lower non-modifiable side that makes contact with the 30S sRNA, and an upper modifiable side (Supplementary Figure S2). All tetracyclines that act as inhibitors of protein synthesis in bacteria require the amino group in position C4 (C4-dimethylamino group for optimal antibacterial activity) and keto-enolic tautomers in positions C1 and C3 of the A ring (R1 in Supplementary Figure S2). COL-3, 4-dedimethylaminosancycline, or incyclinide (3), was the first chemically modified tetracycline that has been structurally rearranged to suppress antibacterial properties by eliminating the C4-dimethylamino group in the A ring while preserving other activities of interest [39]. The D ring is the most permissive for changes. Thus, it can be hypothesized that all subsequent modifications could affect the bacterial activity due to the modification of clogD (R2-R5 in Supplementary Figure S2).

We screened 28 tetracycline derivatives, including three known tetracycline antibiotics and 25 chemically modified derivatives, for their antibacterial activity in *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 and their degree of potentiation by the OM disruptor NV716. In the absence of NV716, the three known tetracycline antibiotics (3a–3c) showed modest activity with MICs ranging from 6.25 to 12.5 µg/mL, while all the chemically modified derivatives (3d–3ab) were completely inactive with MICs up to 200–400 µg/mL or higher (Figure 3A and Supplementary Table S1). Of the 28 compounds tested, 18 were potentiated by NV716 with a reduction in MIC of more than 5-fold in bacteria treated with NV716 compared to untreated bacteria (Figure 3A and Supplementary Table S1). As shown previously, NV716 at a concentration of 10 µM consistently decreased the MIC of doxycycline (3c) by 62-fold in *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 [27,30]. We next determined the lipophilicity (cLogD, calculated partition coefficient cLogD at pH 7.4) for all the tested compounds and ranked them according to their ability to be potentiated by the addition of NV716 (Figure 3B). As mentioned above, the loss of antibacterial activity of COL-3 and the other derivatives is likely attributable to the removal of the C4-dimethylamino group in the A ring. This modification also increases the hydrophobicity of most of the compounds. Nevertheless, the addition of NV716 expanded the range of cLogDs compatible with antibacterial activity towards more hydrophobic compounds (Figure 3B). Indeed, the MIC values of tetracycline derivatives with a cLogD value between −1.8 and −4.3 are either reduced to a level below

the sensitivity threshold of *P. aeruginosa* (MIC < 2 µg/mL for compounds 3a–3c; Figure 3B, blue dots) or potentiated from 16 to 128-fold (compounds 3d–3n, Figure 3B, green dots). On the other hand, tetracycline derivatives with a cLogD value above –1.8 cannot be potentiated (compounds 3s–3ab, Figure 3B, red dots). Some compounds with a cLogD very close to –1.8 are less well potentiated, from 4 to 32-fold, in the presence of NV716 (compounds 3o–3r, Figure 3B, yellow dots).

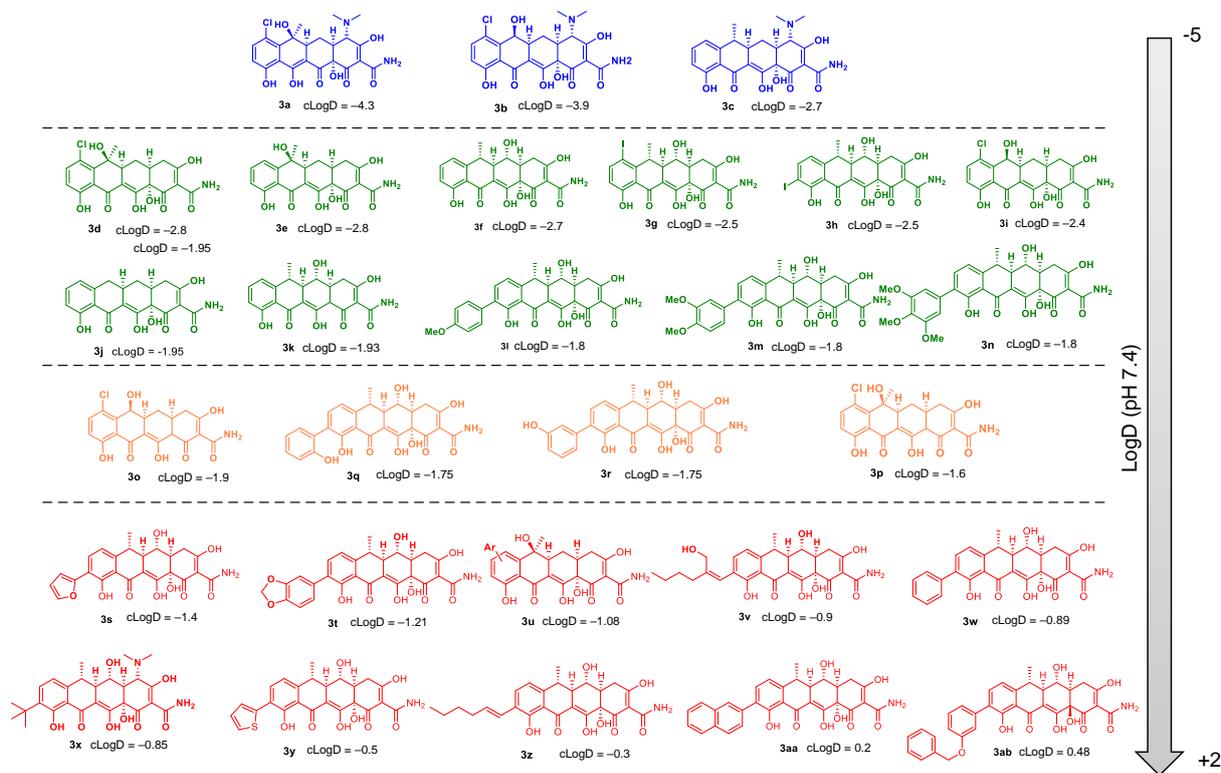


Figure 2. Chemical structures and cLogD values of original tetracycline derivatives 3a–3ab.

A

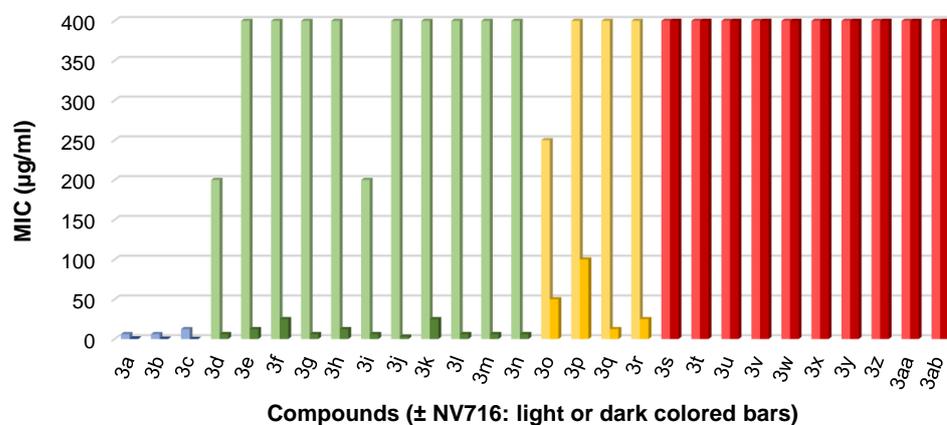


Figure 3. Cont.

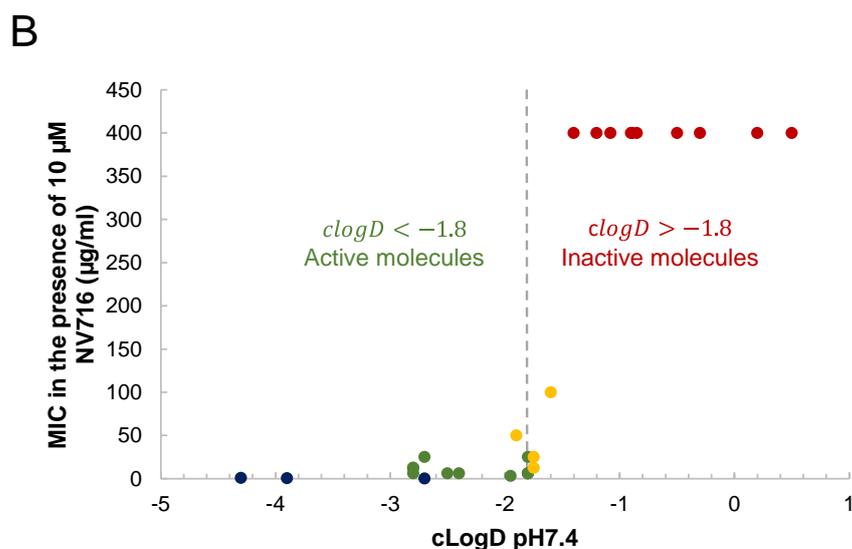


Figure 3. Changes in drug activity following OM disruption by NV716. (A) shows that tetracycline derivatives can be potentiated (reduction in MIC ≥ 5 to 128-fold) or unaffected (reduction in MIC < 5-fold) by NV716 added at a final concentration of 10 μM . (B) shows the relationship between the MIC determined in the presence of NV716 and the cLogD at pH 7.4. Compounds are colored as follows: only existing tetracycline antibiotics show some antibacterial activity on *P. aeruginosa* in the absence of NV716 (**3a**, **3b**, and **3c** in blue); most of the new tetracycline derivatives are either inactive (red) or active (green) in the presence of NV716 on either side of a virtual cLogD value of -1.8 ; a few exceptions are weakly active with cLogD ~ -1.8 (yellow).

2.2. Antibacterial Activity of the Tetracycline Derivatives correlates with Increased Uptake in the Presence of NV716

The OM is a main barrier to the diffusion of antibiotics. Therefore, we next examined how OM perturbation by NV716 affects the accumulation of tetracycline derivatives inside bacteria. For this, we chose doxycycline (**3c**) as a positive control, and **3j** and **3u** as representative compounds respectively potentiated or not by NV716. It is worth noting that the chemical structure **3u** is not fully represented (Figure 2) since it is patent pending in another context. This compound was chosen for this study because of its fluorescence properties and lack of antibacterial activity (i.e., cLogD is incompatible with potentiation by NV716). The fluorescence of doxycycline increases when it binds to its target (i.e., the ribosomes) inside the bacteria. We recently set up a doxycycline uptake assay with intact *P. aeruginosa* cells and demonstrated that NV716 causes an increase in doxycycline uptake (as shown by an increase in fluorescence, $\text{AUC} \times 3.6$), indicating that NV716 helps doxycycline get inside the bacteria [Draveny, M.; et al., in prep.] (Figure 4A). Here, NV716 also increased the uptake of **3j** ($\text{AUC} \times 4.2$) but not **3u**, consistent with the ability of NV716 to potentiate or not their antibacterial activity (Figure 4B). Together, these results show that disruption of OM by NV716 overcomes the intrinsic resistance of *P. aeruginosa* to hydrophobic compounds as it helps to increase their accumulation and activity. However, these observations could also result from a difference in the affinity of the molecules for their target. Therefore, we elucidated the inhibition of translation in an *E. coli* cell-free transcription-translation system using GFP as a reporter protein. Here, we found that compounds **3j** and **3u** similarly inhibit the production of GFP (inhibitory concentration 50%, $\text{IC}_{50} = 575.2 \pm 1.07 \mu\text{M}$ and $\text{IC}_{50} = 603.3 \pm 1.39 \mu\text{M}$, respectively) (Figure 5). Noteworthy, doxycycline was approximately 30-fold more active in inhibiting bacterial translation compared to the tetracycline derivatives ($\text{IC}_{50} = 19.71 \pm 1.38 \mu\text{M}$) (Figure 5).

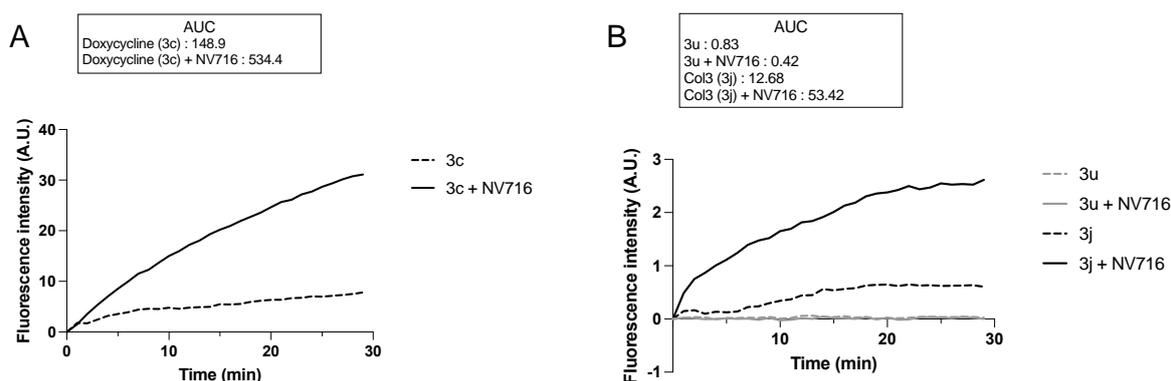


Figure 4. OM disruption by NV716 increases the uptake of some but not all tetracycline derivatives. The concentration of the tested tetracycline derivatives was 100 μM , which was not inhibitory for an $\text{OD}_{600} \sim 0.6$ during the experiment. The concentration of NV716 was added as indicated in Materials and Methods. Increased doxycycline uptake in *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 in the presence of NV716 has been reported and used as a positive control. Due to the difference in the y-axis scale, the uptake of 3c is shown in (A); 3u and 3j are shown in (B). Bacterial cells without treatment did not show any increase in fluorescence, indicating the absence of intrinsic fluorescence. Fluorescence was monitored as described in Materials and Methods. Data are normalized concerning the fluorescence of individual tetracycline derivatives at time zero. Data are represented as the mean of at least three independent experiments. A. U., arbitrary units.

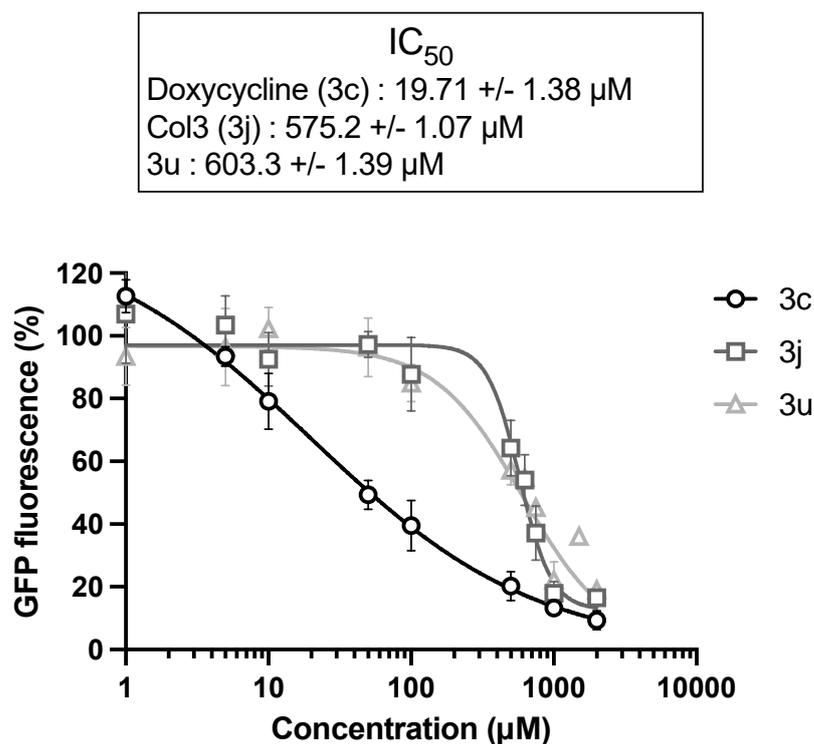


Figure 5. Tetracycline derivatives with different physicochemical properties interfere with protein synthesis in vitro. Inhibition of the synthesis of GFP as a reporter protein was monitored in an *E. coli* cell-free transcription-translation system. Doxycycline is a known inhibitor of protein synthesis and was used as a positive control. Data are represented as the mean of at least three independent experiments, and error bars represent the SD of replicates.

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. Bacterial Strains and Culture Conditions

P. aeruginosa strains PAO1 and PAS263 (PAO1 Δ *pvdF*) [40] were used for the experiments. The bacterial cultures were carried out routinely in LB-Miller medium or Mueller-Hinton 2 (MH2) at 37 °C with shaking (160 rpm).

3.2. Reagents

Chlortetracycline (**3a**), demeclocycline (**3b**), and doxycycline (**3c**) were purchased from Merck. COL-3 (**3j**) (also named CMT-3, 4-dedimethyl aminosancycline, or incyclinide) was purchased from MedChemExpress (Monmouth Junction, NJ, USA). 9-Tert-butyl doxycycline (**3x**) was ordered from Echelon Biosciences Research Labs. DDMC (**3o**), RDOX (**3l**), DDOX (**3k**), and NV716 were synthesized as described previously [34–36]. The procedures for compounds **3g–3i**, **3l–3n**, **3q–3w**, and **3y–3ab** were described previously [Rose, C.; Ferrié, L.; Tomas-Grau, R. H.; Zabala, B.; Brunel, J.-M.; Michel, P. P.; Chehin, R.; Raisman-Vozari, R.; Figadère, B. Design and Synthesis of New Non-Antibiotic Doxycyclin Derivatives Against Alpha-Synuclein Aggregation with Anti-Inflammatory Properties. ChemRxiv. <https://doi.org/10.26434/chemrxiv-2023-n8prz>, accessed on 25 April 2023]. Procedures and characterization data for the synthesis of compounds RDMC (**3i**), DDMC (**3o**), RT (**3e**), DCT (**3p**), and RCT (**3d**) are described below.

Synthesis of RDMC (3i) and DDMC (3o): In a 50 mL round-bottom flask, demeclocycline hydrochloride (500 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was suspended in AcOH (50% aqueous) (50 mL), then zinc (powder) (706 mg, 10.0 mmol, 10 equiv) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The resulting solution was filtered through a small pad of Celite with AcOH. The organic phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂, washed with HCl (1 M) and brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered off, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude mass was 268 mg. Purification with combiflash chromatography [60 g SiO₂, elution 0.5% (acetone + 1% formic acid) in CH₂Cl₂ to 10% over 50 min] afforded DDMC (**3o**) (32 mg) followed by RDMC (**3i**) (97.5 mg). **RDMC:** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆) δ 18.47 (s, 1H, C₃-OH), 14.91 (s, 1H, C₁₂-OH), 11.89 (s, 1H, C₁₀-OH), 9.10 (brs, 1H, NH₂), 7.63 (brs, 1H, NH₂), 7.58 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H, H₈), 6.95 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H, H₉), 5.62 (s, 1H, C_{12a}-OH), 4.95 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H₆), 4.52 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H, C₆-OH), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 19.4, 6.4, 1H, H₄), 3.06 (ddd, *J* = 9.8, 6.3, 2.9 Hz, 1H, H_{5a}), 2.65–2.54 (m, 2H, H₄+H_{4a}), 2.25–2.06 (m, 2H, H₅). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 196.09, 193.94, 193.17, 179.02, 175.27, 162.28, 142.05, 138.00, 123.83, 120.03, 117.11, 105.52, 99.12, 76.45, 66.05, 38.46, 36.95, 35.76, 27.42. HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₁₉H₁₆ClNO₈ [M+H]⁺: 422.0637, found 422.0646.

Synthesis of RT (3e): In a 1 L round-bottom flask, tetracycline (10 g, 22.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was suspended in AcOH (50% aqueous) (400 mL), then HCl (2.2 mL, 27.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv, 37%) was added, followed by the addition of zinc powder (14.8 g, 225.1 mmol, 10 equiv), and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The resulting solution was filtered through a small pad of Celite with AcOH. The organic phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂, washed with HCl (1 M) and brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered off, and concentrated in vacuo. Purification with combiflash chromatography [300 g SiO₂, elution 0.5% (acetone + 1% formic acid) in CH₂Cl₂ to 10% over 50 min] afforded RT (**3e**) (3.71 g). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 15.31 (s, 1H, C₁₂-OH), 11.88 (s, 1H, C₁₀-OH), 8.97 (brs, 1H, NH₂), 8.70 (brs, 1H, NH₂), 7.53 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H₈), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H, H₉), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H, H₇), 6.58 (brs, 1H, C_{12a}-OH), 4.86 (s, 1H, C₆-OH), 3.17 (brd, *J* = 17.9 Hz, 1H, H₄), 2.77 (dd, *J* = 11.0, 5.4 Hz, 1H, H_{5a}), 2.47–2.28 (m, 2H, H₄+H_{4a}), 1.97 (m, 1H, H₅), 1.79 (q, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 1H, H₅), 1.49 (s, 3H, C₆-Me). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO) δ 194.85, 192.87, 191.76, 178.11, 173.60, 161.40, 148.08, 136.30, 116.91, 115.22, 114.57, 106.36, 97.4, 74.78, 67.99, 41.88, 35.35, 34.71, 24.89, 22.52. HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₂₀H₁₈NO₇ [M+H–H₂O]⁺: 384.1078, found 384.1082.

Synthesis of DCT (3p) and RCT (3d): In a 50 mL round-bottom flask, chlortetracycline hydrochloride (500 mg, 0.97 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was suspended in AcOH (10 mL) followed by water (roughly 1 mL) until the dissolution of the product. Then, zinc (powder) (635.4 mg,

9.7 mmol, 10 equiv) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The resulting solution was filtered through a small pad of Celite with AcOH. The organic phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂, washed with HCl (1 M) and brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered off, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude mass was 275 mg. Purification with combiflash chromatography [60 g SiO₂, elution 0.5% (acetone + 1% formic acid) in CH₂Cl₂ to 10% over 50 min] afforded DCT (**3p**) (35 mg) followed by RCT (**3d**) (165 mg). DCT (**3p**): ¹H NMR (300 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆) δ 18.50 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 14.80 (s, 1H), 12.75 (s, 1H), 9.26 (s, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.94–3.82 (dd, *J* = 4.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.87–2.72 (m, 2H), 2.55 (m, 1H), 2.51–2.44 (m, 1H), 2.39 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 13.7 Hz, 1H), 1.95 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 3H), 1.06 (td, *J* = 12.7, 11.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆) δ 201.89, 197.55, 191.35, 174.85, 169.11, 163.13, 144.43, 141.34, 123.06, 119.35, 116.38, 105.88, 100.01, 72.15, 51.89, 47.79, 39.96, 31.70, 28.59, 27.78. HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₂₀H₁₉ClNO₇ [M+H]⁺: 420.0845, found 420.0850. RCT (**3d**): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 18.41, (s, 1H, C₃-OH), 15.20 (s, 1H, C₁₂-OH), 12.24 (s, 1H, C₁₀-OH), 8.95 (s, 1H, NH₂), 8.72 (s, 1H, NH₂), 7.52 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.0 Hz, H₈), 6.93 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H, H₇), 6.63 (s, 1H, C_{12a}-OH), 5.26 (s, 1H, C₆-OH), 3.16 (brd, 1H, *J* = 15.9 Hz, H₄), 2.86 (dd, *J* = 11.0, 5.4 Hz, 1H, H_{5a}), 2.35–2.47 (m, 2H, H₄+H_{4a}), 2.01 (brd, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H, H₅), 1.81 (s, 3H, C₆-Me), 1.70–1.84 (m, 1H, H₅) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 194.85, 191.67, 178.84, 173.53, 160.72, 143.72, 139.45, 121.31, 118.71, 118.10, 117.07, 105.39, 97.34, 74.77, 70.43, 42.28, 35.53, 34.75, 25.01, 24.84. HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₂₀H₁₉ClNO₈ [M–H₂O+H]⁺: 418.0688, found 436.0681.

3.3. Potentiation Assays

MICs were conducted in PAO1 in at least three biological replicates following the CLSI protocol. The fold reduction of MIC was determined by dividing the MIC of the antibiotic alone by its MIC in the presence of 10 μM NV716.

3.4. Physicochemical Property Calculations

Structure analysis was conducted and clogD at pH 7.4 was calculated using Marvin Suite, ChemAxon (Budapest, Hungary).

3.5. Accumulation Assays

PAS263 is an isogenic mutant of PAO1 that carries a chromosomal deletion of *pvdF*, which encodes the pyoverdine siderophore. Accumulation assays were performed in PAS263 instead of PAO1, as pyoverdine's spectral properties overlap with those of tetracycline derivatives. Here, bacteria were grown to an exponential phase. The cultures were centrifuged at 6000 × *g* for 20 min at 20 °C and the pellets were resuspended in NaPi-MgCl₂ buffer (50 mM sodium phosphate pH 7.4; 2 mM MgCl₂) to obtain 0.6 UDO/mL. Tetracycline derivatives and NV716 were used at final concentrations of 100 μM and 10 μM, respectively. For these assays, the order of the addition of the reagents is important to limit the loss of fluorescence recording at time zero. Thus, 10 μL of individual 10X tetracycline derivative solutions, 10 μL of NaPi-MgCl₂ buffer or 10X NV716, and 180 μL of bacterial suspensions were added sequentially to the wells of a 96-well microplate with black sides and a clear bottom (Thermo Fisher Scientific, ref. 165305, Illkirch-Graffenstaden, France). An additional well contains bacteria alone. The fluorescence (A. U.) of the tetracycline derivatives was immediately measured every minute for 30 min with a TECAN Spark microplate reader using specific wavelengths for excitation and emission as determined in Supplementary Figure S1. The obtained data were then processed to obtain A. U. = *f*(*t*). The fluorescence of the cells alone measured at each time was subtracted for all the conditions tested during the same experiment. Finally, the fluorescence at time zero was subtracted for each time point of each condition. The uptake of tetracycline derivatives was quantified as the area under the curve (AUC) by using GraphPad Prism 6 software. Independent experiments were performed at least three times, and the results are shown as the means of the replicates.

3.6. Bacterial Cell-Free Expression Assays

The effect of the selected tetracycline derivatives (i.e., **3c**, **3j**, and **3u**) on in vitro bacterial protein synthesis was tested using the Expressway Cell-Free *E. coli* Expression System (Invitrogen for Thermo Fisher Scientific, Illkirch-Graffenstaden, France). pEXP5-CT TOPO-GFP was used as a template for in vitro transcription–translation. The reactions were performed following the manufacturer’s instructions and carried out in 50 μ L including the addition of feed buffer at 30 min of incubation to support optimal protein synthesis. Reactions were initiated with 1 μ g of plasmid DNA; mixtures were incubated at 30 $^{\circ}$ C with shaking (300 rpm), and fluorescence was measured after 3 h with a TECAN Spark microplate reader ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 475$ nm; $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 520$ nm). IC₅₀ values were calculated using GraphPad Prism 6 software. Independent experiments were performed at least three times, and the results are shown as the means of the replicates \pm SD.

4. Conclusions

New antibacterial discoveries and developments have not kept pace with the spread of resistance. In particular, the membrane impermeability of Gram-negative bacteria represents a major challenge to overcoming the penetration and activity of both existing and new drugs. Perturbation of the OM barrier by chemical or genetic disruption has been shown to increase the sensitivity of Gram-negative bacteria to many antibiotics that are traditionally active against Gram-positive bacteria. Indeed, several groups have published proof-of-concept studies using cationic peptides [23,41], small molecules [26,42], LPS chelators [43], and genetic manipulations [13,44] that support this approach. Despite an upsurge in efforts in this area, as evidenced by reports on the global preclinical antibacterial pipeline, previous studies have mainly focused on studying the effectiveness and characterization of the mode of action of potentiating molecules taken individually [45]. However, this research field lacks studies of the strengths and limits of this approach. In 2020, Eric Brown and colleagues published a comprehensive study to analyze the interaction between OM perturbations and general constraints for effective antibiotic treatment. Interestingly, OM disruption was shown to overcome intrinsic, acquired, and spontaneous antibiotic resistance in *E. coli*, thus validating this approach [46].

The polyaminoisoprenyl compound NV716 was shown to revive old, disused antibiotics such as doxycycline against *P. aeruginosa* [27,30]. In this work, we focused on the impact of OM perturbation caused by NV716 to potentiate the activity of a new series of original tetracycline derivatives in this species. We found that OM disruption increased susceptibility towards hydrophobic compounds; this potentiation of activity was restricted to a specific range of cLogD and reflected an increase in uptake without affecting the affinity to the target.

Other mechanisms, including antibiotic inactivation, target modification, and/or overexpression of multidrug efflux pumps, are also responsible for acquired resistance in Gram-negative pathogens. Thus, we will next seek to study the efficacy of NV716 as an OM disruptor against clinical isolates of *P. aeruginosa*.

Supplementary Materials: The following supporting information can be downloaded at: <https://www.mdpi.com/article/10.3390/molecules28114262/s1>, Figure S1: Excitation and emission spectra of compounds **3c**, **3j**, and **3u**; Figure S2: Structure-activity relationship of tetracyclines; Table S1: List of tetracycline derivatives. Molecules in bold font (**3c**, **3j**, and **3u**) were selected for uptake assays shown in Figure 4 and/or in vitro expression assays shown in Figure 5.

Author Contributions: J.-M.B. and M.M. conceived and designed the experiments; J.-M.B. and M.D. performed the biological experiments; A.P., C.R., L.F. and B.F. designed and conceptualized the tetracycline derivatives; A.P. and C.R. synthesized the tetracycline derivatives; J.-M.B., M.M. and M.D. analyzed the data; L.F., B.F., J.-M.B. and M.M. wrote the paper. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: M.D. was supported by a Ph.D. grant from Synchrotron SOLEIL. We acknowledge France Parkinson (GAO 2018) and the “Fondation Recherche Alzheimer” for financial support for the chemical part of this study.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: The data presented in this study are available on request from the corresponding author.

Acknowledgments: We are grateful to Nosopharm for providing the pEXP5-CT TOPO-GFP reporter plasmid and to Isabelle Shalk for gifting PAS263. We thank Patrick P. Michel, ICM, Paris, for sharing Col-3 (3j) and 9-*tert*-butyldoxycycline (3x). We thank Blandine Seon-Meniel, BioCIS, Université Paris-Saclay, for her help in managing and sending the different tetracyclines. We also thank all members of the MCT laboratory for valuable discussions and manuscript reviewing.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest. The founding sponsors had no role in the design of the study; in the collection, analysis, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript, and in the decision to publish the results.

Sample Availability: Samples of the compounds 3d–3ab are available from the authors.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

A. U.	Arbitrary unit
AUC	Area under the curve
CLSI	Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute
1,2'-DNA	1,2-Dinaphthylamine
eNTRY	ionizable Nitrogen, low Three-dimensionality, Rigidity
GFP	Green fluorescent protein
IC ₅₀	Half maximal inhibitory concentration
LPS	Lipopolysaccharides
MIC	Minimal inhibitory concentration
OM	Outer membrane
SD	Standard deviation
WHO	World Health Organization
XDR	eXtremely Drug Resistant

References

1. Brown, E.D.; Wright, G.D. Antibacterial Drug Discovery in the Resistance Era. *Nature* **2016**, *529*, 336–343. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
2. Shi, Z.; Zhang, J.; Tian, L.; Xin, L.; Liang, C.; Ren, X.; Li, M. A Comprehensive Overview of the Antibiotics Approved in the Last Two Decades: Retrospects and Prospects. *Molecules* **2023**, *28*, 1762. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
3. Theuretzbacher, U.; Bush, K.; Harbarth, S.; Paul, M.; Rex, J.H.; Tacconelli, E.; Thwaites, G.E. Critical Analysis of Antibacterial Agents in Clinical Development. *Nat. Rev. Microbiol.* **2020**, *18*, 286–298. [CrossRef]
4. Antibacterial Agents in Clinical and Preclinical Development: An Overview and Analysis. 2021. Available online: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/9789240047655> (accessed on 18 March 2023).
5. O'Shea, R.; Moser, H.E. Physicochemical Properties of Antibacterial Compounds: Implications for Drug Discovery. *J. Med. Chem.* **2008**, *51*, 2871–2878. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
6. Brown, D.G.; May-Dracka, T.L.; Gagnon, M.M.; Tommasi, R. Trends and Exceptions of Physical Properties on Antibacterial Activity for Gram-Positive and Gram-Negative Pathogens. *J. Med. Chem.* **2014**, *57*, 10144–10161. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
7. Nikaido, H. Molecular Basis of Bacterial Outer Membrane Permeability Revisited. *Microbiol. Mol. Biol. Rev.* **2003**, *67*, 593–656. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
8. Nikaido, H.; Vaara, M. Molecular Basis of Bacterial Outer Membrane Permeability. *Microbiol. Rev.* **1985**, *49*, 1–32. [CrossRef]
9. Vergalli, J.; Bodrenko, I.V.; Masi, M.; Moynié, L.; Acosta-Gutiérrez, S.; Naismith, J.H.; Davin-Regli, A.; Ceccarelli, M.; Van Den Berg, B.; Winterhalter, M.; et al. Porins and Small-Molecule Translocation across the Outer Membrane of Gram-Negative Bacteria. *Nat. Rev. Microbiol.* **2020**, *18*, 164–176. [CrossRef]
10. Kojima, S.; Nikaido, H. Permeation Rates of Penicillins Indicate That *Escherichia coli* Porins Function Principally as Nonspecific Channels. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **2013**, *110*, E2629–E2634. [CrossRef]

11. Eren, E.; Vijayaraghavan, J.; Liu, J.; Cheneke, B.R.; Touw, D.S.; Lepore, B.W.; Indic, M.; Movileanu, L.; Van Den Berg, B. Substrate Specificity within a Family of Outer Membrane Carboxylate Channels. *PLoS Biol.* **2012**, *10*, e1001242. [[CrossRef](#)]
12. Li, X.-Z.; Plésiat, P.; Nikaido, H. The Challenge of Efflux-Mediated Antibiotic Resistance in Gram-Negative Bacteria. *Clin. Microbiol. Rev.* **2015**, *28*, 337–418. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
13. Krishnamoorthy, G.; Wolloscheck, D.; Weeks, J.W.; Croft, C.; Rybenkov, V.V.; Zgurskaya, H.I. Breaking the Permeability Barrier of *Escherichia coli* by Controlled Hyperporination of the Outer Membrane. *Antimicrob. Agents Chemother.* **2016**, *60*, 7372–7381. [[CrossRef](#)]
14. Krishnamoorthy, G.; Leus, I.V.; Weeks, J.W.; Wolloscheck, D.; Rybenkov, V.V.; Zgurskaya, H.I. Synergy between Active Efflux and Outer Membrane Diffusion Defines Rules of Antibiotic Permeation into Gram-Negative Bacteria. *mBio* **2017**, *8*, e01172-17. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
15. Zgurskaya, H.I.; Rybenkov, V.V. Permeability Barriers of Gram-negative Pathogens. *Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci.* **2020**, *1459*, 5–18. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
16. Richter, M.F.; Drown, B.S.; Riley, A.P.; Garcia, A.; Shirai, T.; Svec, R.L.; Hergenrother, P.J. Predictive Compound Accumulation Rules Yield a Broad-Spectrum Antibiotic. *Nature* **2017**, *545*, 299–304. [[CrossRef](#)]
17. Richter, M.F.; Hergenrother, P.J. The Challenge of Converting Gram-Positive-Only Compounds into Broad-Spectrum Antibiotics: Challenges in Developing Broad-Spectrum Antibiotics. *Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci.* **2019**, *1435*, 18–38. [[CrossRef](#)]
18. Parker, E.N.; Drown, B.S.; Geddes, E.J.; Lee, H.Y.; Ismail, N.; Lau, G.W.; Hergenrother, P.J. Implementation of Permeation Rules Leads to a FabI Inhibitor with Activity against Gram-Negative Pathogens. *Nat. Microbiol.* **2019**, *5*, 67–75. [[CrossRef](#)]
19. Parker, E.N.; Cain, B.N.; Hajian, B.; Ulrich, R.J.; Geddes, E.J.; Barkho, S.; Lee, H.Y.; Williams, J.D.; Raynor, M.; Caridha, D.; et al. An Iterative Approach Guides Discovery of the FabI Inhibitor Fabimycin, a Late-Stage Antibiotic Candidate with In Vivo Efficacy against Drug-Resistant Gram-Negative Infections. *ACS Cent. Sci.* **2022**, *8*, 1145–1158. [[CrossRef](#)]
20. Vaara, M. Agents That Increase the Permeability of the Outer Membrane. *Microbiol. Rev.* **1992**, *56*, 395–411. [[CrossRef](#)]
21. MacNair, C.R.; Tsai, C.N.; Brown, E.D. Creative Targeting of the Gram-negative Outer Membrane in Antibiotic Discovery. *Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci.* **2020**, *1459*, 69–85. [[CrossRef](#)]
22. Trimble, M.J.; Mlynářčík, P.; Kolář, M.; Hancock, R.E.W. Polymyxin: Alternative Mechanisms of Action and Resistance. *Cold Spring Harb. Perspect. Med.* **2016**, *6*, a025288. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
23. Vaara, M. Polymyxin Derivatives That Sensitize Gram-Negative Bacteria to Other Antibiotics. *Molecules* **2019**, *24*, 249. [[CrossRef](#)]
24. Corbett, D.; Wise, A.; Langley, T.; Skinner, K.; Trimby, E.; Birchall, S.; Doralı, A.; Sandiford, S.; Williams, J.; Warn, P.; et al. Potentiation of Antibiotic Activity by a Novel Cationic Peptide: Potency and Spectrum of Activity of SPR741. *Antimicrob. Agents Chemother.* **2017**, *61*, e00200-17. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
25. Brown, P.; Dawson, M.J. Development of New Polymyxin Derivatives for Multi-Drug Resistant Gram-Negative Infections. *J. Antibiot.* **2017**, *70*, 386–394. [[CrossRef](#)]
26. Blanchet, M.; Borselli, D.; Brunel, J.M. Polyamine Derivatives: A Revival of an Old Neglected Scaffold to Fight Resistant Gram-Negative Bacteria? *Future Med. Chem.* **2016**, *8*, 963–973. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
27. Borselli, D.; Lieutaud, A.; Theffenne, H.; Garnotel, E.; Pagès, J.-M.; Brunel, J.M.; Bolla, J.-M. Polyamino-Isoprenic Derivatives Block Intrinsic Resistance of *P. aeruginosa* to Doxycycline and Chloramphenicol In Vitro. *PLoS ONE* **2016**, *11*, e0154490. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
28. Borselli, D.; Brunel, J.M.; Gorgé, O.; Bolla, J.M. Polyamino-Isoprenyl Derivatives as Antibiotic Adjuvants and Motility Inhibitors for *Bordetella bronchiseptica* Porcine Pulmonary Infection Treatment. *Front. Microbiol.* **2019**, *10*, 1771. [[CrossRef](#)]
29. Wang, G.; Brunel, J.-M.; Rodriguez-Villalobos, H.; Bolla, J.-M.; Van Bambeke, F. The Polyamino-Isoprenyl Potentiator NV716 Revives Disused Antibiotics against Gram-Negative Bacteria in Broth, Infected Monocytes, or Biofilms, by Disturbing the Barrier Effect of Their Outer Membrane. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* **2022**, *238*, 114496. [[CrossRef](#)]
30. Wang, G.; Brunel, J.-M.; Bolla, J.-M.; Van Bambeke, F. The Polyaminoisoprenyl Potentiator NV716 Revives Old Disused Antibiotics against Intracellular Forms of Infection by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. *Antimicrob. Agents Chemother.* **2021**, *65*, e02028-20. [[CrossRef](#)]
31. Wang, G.; Brunel, J.-M.; Preusse, M.; Mozaheb, N.; Willger, S.D.; Larrouy-Maumus, G.; Baatsen, P.; Häussler, S.; Bolla, J.-M.; Van Bambeke, F. The Membrane-Active Polyaminoisoprenyl Compound NV716 Re-Sensitizes *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* to Antibiotics and Reduces Bacterial Virulence. *Commun. Biol.* **2022**, *5*, 871. [[CrossRef](#)]
32. Fuoco, D. Classification Framework and Chemical Biology of Tetracycline-Structure-Based Drugs. *Antibiotics* **2012**, *1*, 1–13. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
33. Thomas, M.; Le, W.D.; Jankovic, J. Minocycline and Other Tetracycline Derivatives: A Neuroprotective Strategy in Parkinson's Disease and Huntington's Disease. *Clin. Neuropharmacol.* **2003**, *26*, 18–23. [[CrossRef](#)]
34. Tomas-Grau, R.; González-Lizárraga, F.; Ploper, D.; Avila, C.L.; Socías, S.B.; Besnault, P.; Tourville, A.; Mella, R.M.; Villacé, P.; Salado, C.; et al. Neuroprotective Effects of a Novel Demeclocycline Derivative Lacking Antibiotic Activity: From a Hit to a Promising Lead Compound. *Cells* **2022**, *11*, 2759. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
35. Tourville, A.; Viguier, S.; González-Lizárraga, F.; Tomas-Grau, R.H.; Ramirez, P.; Brunel, J.-M.; Dos Santos Pereira, M.; Del-Bel, E.; Chehin, R.; Ferrié, L.; et al. Rescue of Dopamine Neurons from Iron-Dependent Ferroptosis by Doxycycline and Demeclocycline and Their Non-Antibiotic Derivatives. *Antioxidants* **2023**, *12*, 575. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
36. Lieutaud, A.; Pieri, C.; Bolla, J.M.; Brunel, J.M. New Polyaminoisoprenyl Antibiotics Enhancers against Two Multidrug-Resistant Gram-Negative Bacteria from *Enterobacter* and *Salmonella* Species. *J. Med. Chem.* **2020**, *63*, 10496–10508. [[CrossRef](#)]

37. Connell, S.R.; Tracz, D.M.; Nierhaus, K.H.; Taylor, D.E. Ribosomal Protection Proteins and Their Mechanism of Tetracycline Resistance. *Antimicrob. Agents Chemother.* **2003**, *47*, 3675–3681. [[CrossRef](#)]
38. Brodersen, D.E.; Clemons, W.M.; Carter, A.P.; Morgan-Warren, R.J.; Wimberly, B.T.; Ramakrishnan, V. The Structural Basis for the Action of the Antibiotics Tetracycline, Pactamycin, and Hygromycin B on the 30S Ribosomal Subunit. *Cell* **2000**, *103*, 1143–1154. [[CrossRef](#)]
39. Ferreira Junior, N.C.; Dos Santos Pereira, M.; Francis, N.; Ramirez, P.; Martorell, P.; González-Lizarraga, F.; Figadère, B.; Chehin, R.; Del Bel, E.; Raisman-Vozari, R.; et al. The Chemically-Modified Tetracycline COL-3 and Its Parent Compound Doxycycline Prevent Microglial Inflammatory Responses by Reducing Glucose-Mediated Oxidative Stress. *Cells* **2021**, *10*, 2163. [[CrossRef](#)]
40. Gasser, V.; Kuhn, L.; Hubert, T.; Aussel, L.; Hammann, P.; Schalk, I.J. The Esterase PfeE, the Achilles' Heel in the Battle for Iron between *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Escherichia coli*. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* **2021**, *22*, 2814. [[CrossRef](#)]
41. Hancock, R.E. Peptide Antibiotics. *Lancet* **1997**, *349*, 418–422. [[CrossRef](#)]
42. Stokes, J.M.; MacNair, C.R.; Ilyas, B.; French, S.; Côté, J.-P.; Bouwman, C.; Farha, M.A.; Sieron, A.O.; Whitfield, C.; Coombes, B.K.; et al. Pentamidine Sensitizes Gram-Negative Pathogens to Antibiotics and Overcomes Acquired Colistin Resistance. *Nat. Microbiol.* **2017**, *2*, 17028. [[CrossRef](#)]
43. Hancock, R.E.; Wong, P.G. Compounds Which Increase the Permeability of the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Outer Membrane. *Antimicrob. Agents Chemother.* **1984**, *26*, 48–52. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
44. Klobucar, K.; French, S.; Côté, J.-P.; Howes, J.R.; Brown, E.D. Genetic and Chemical-Genetic Interactions Map Biogenesis and Permeability Determinants of the Outer Membrane of *Escherichia coli*. *mBio* **2020**, *11*, e00161-20. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
45. Theuretzbacher, U.; Outtersson, K.; Engel, A.; Karlén, A. The Global Preclinical Antibacterial Pipeline. *Nat. Rev. Microbiol.* **2020**, *18*, 275–285. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
46. MacNair, C.R.; Brown, E.D. Outer Membrane Disruption Overcomes Intrinsic, Acquired, and Spontaneous Antibiotic Resistance. *mBio* **2020**, *11*, e01615-20. [[CrossRef](#)]

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions or products referred to in the content.