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# **Supplementary Material**

# Folic acid-sulfonamide conjugates as antibacterial agents: Design, synthesis and molecular docking studies

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#### 1. Bacterial strains

The newly synthesized hybrids were investigated for antibacterial activities against gram negative bacteria *P. aeruginosa* (ATCC-27853), *E. coli* (ATCC-25922), and gram positive *S. aureus* (ATCC-25923) and *P. mirabilis* (ATCC 43071). The stock cultures were collected from the Institute of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, University of the Punjab, Lahore. Strains were recultured in the specific culture media i.e. tryptic soy broth. Inoculum was spread with the help of sterile L- shaped glass spreader and then placed in shaking incubator for 24 h at 37 °C. In the present work,  $1-3 \times 10^8$  cfu/mL of gram positive (*S. aureus & P. mirabilis*) and gram negative (*E. coli & P. aeruginosa*) were obtained after setting with broth to an optical density at 0.3 to 0.4 and 0.2 to 0.3, respectively at 620 nm wavelength using spectrophotometer.

#### 2. Antibacterial assay

### 2.1. Zone of Inhibition

A series of the 2 fold dilutions (0.5-0.00097 mg/mL) was prepared from stock solution of synthetic compounds as well as standard reference drug (ampicillin and trimethoprim) were used and concentrations were made in acetone which has no activity against the test microorganisms. Microfiltration of testing solutions was done with 0.2  $\mu$ M pore size micro filter (Amicon, USA). 5  $\mu$ L of each testing compounds' dilution was separately loaded on 6 mm sterilized disks of filter paper. Dimethylsulfoxide was used as a control. Sterilized forceps was used to place disk onto the medium. 100  $\mu$ L microbial suspension of 0.5 McFarland nephelometry standard (10<sup>8</sup> cells/mL) was spread over the TSA media (20 mL in each petri plate) with the help of sterilized glass spreader to ensure the even growth of microorganism. The soaked discs were placed aseptically with the help of sterile forceps at equal distances over the inoculated plates. The plates were incubated at 37±1 °C for 24 h and distinct zone was visualized surrounding the discs. The zones of inhibition (mm) were measured using digital vernier caliper (Starrett 799A-6/150, USA), evaluated the antibacterial activities and all studies were performed in triplicates.

#### 2.2. MIC Calculation

Biological activities of the synthesized compounds were also studied by measuring MIC values and comparison was made with standards. Minimum inhibitory concentration is the lowest concentration of compound that prevents visible growth. MIC quantifies the effectiveness of testing compound. Lower the minimum inhibitory concentration value, higher is the efficacy of a testing compound.

Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) value was calculated by using two fold serial dilution technique and concentration range 2000-1.95  $\mu$ g/mL was used for MIC determination. 150  $\mu$ L tryptic soy broth and 50  $\mu$ L of bacterial suspension was added to each serially diluted concentration in 96-well plate then incubated at 37±1 °C. After 24 h of incubation the optical density of mixture in 96-well plate was recorded at 600 nm using a microplate reader (BioRad, USA). The lowest concentration of the derivative that prevented the development of visible growth (OD<sub>600</sub> less than 0.05) is considered to be the MIC value

	Gram (+) bacteria							
Compound	S. aureus			P. mirabilis				
	3 mg/mL	1.5 mg/mL	0.75 mg/mL	3 mg/mL	1.5 mg/mL	0.75 mg/mL		
MS1	31.2,31.1,31.1	29.9,29.8,29.9	27.9,27.8,27.8	29.3, 29.4, 29.3	27.9,27.8,27.9	22.0,21.8,22.1		
MS2	29.9, 29.8,29.8	28.9,28.9,28.7	26.9,26.8,26.8	27.9,27.8,27.8	24.1,23.9,23.9	22.1,22.1,22.0		
MS3	31.9,31.9,31.8	27.9,27.9,27.8	22.2,22.0,22.0	28.2,28.1,28.1	24.3,24.3,24.2	22.6,22.5,22.5		
DS1	32.8,32.8,32.7	30.9,30.8,30.9	28.7,28.8,28.8	33.4,33.2,33.2	29.9,29.8,29.8	28.5,28.5,28.4		
DS2	36.6,36.6,36.5	31.5,31.5,31.6	30.5,30.5,30.4	35.9,35.7,35.7	30.2,30.0,30.0	29.5,29.6,29.6		
DS3	30.7,30.8,30.8	27.9,27.8,27.8	26.9,26.8,26.8	29.9,29.7,29.7	23.9,23.8,23.8	22.4,22.3,22.3		
DS4	31.9,31.8,31.8	29.2,29.1,29.1	26.8,26.7,26.8	30.8,30.9,30.8	28.9,28.9,28.8	26.5,26.3,26.5		
DS5	34.7,34.8,34.8	30.7,30.8,30.8	28.6,28.6,28.5	33.6,33.5,33.5	29.6,29.5,29.5	28.5,28.5,28.3		
DS6	33.9,33.8,33.8	31.8,31.7,31.7	28.5,28.5,28.3	33.3,33.1,33.1	29.3,29.2,29.2	28.6,28.7,28.7		
TS1	32.6,32.5,32.5	26.6,26.5,26.5	23.8,23.8,23.7	31.3,31.2,31.3	29.3,29.3,29.2	24.1,24.1,24.2		
TS2	31.8,31.7,31.8	28.9,28.8,28.8	25.8,25.8,25.7	30.8,30.7,30.7	27.8,27.7,27.7	26.1,26.2,26.2		
TS3	32.5,32.4,32.5	26.8,26.7,26.8	23.3,23.4,23.4	30.9,30.8,30.8	29.7,29.7,29.8	24.0,24.1,24.1		
TS4	20.2,20.3,20.3	15.8,15.8,15.7	10.9,10.8,10.8	18.2,18.3,18.3	14.3,14.4,14.4	10.8,10.8,10.7		
TS5	34.9,34.8,34.8	31.8,31.7,31.7	28.5,28.4,28.4	33.3,33.2,33.2	29.3,29.2,29.2	28.6,28.6,28.5		
TS6	23.2,23.1,23.1	15.4,15.3,15.3	11.2,11.1,11.1	19.1,19.0,19.0	14.5,14.4,14.4	10.8,10.7,10.7		
Folic acid	-	-	_	_	_	-		
<i>p</i> -toluenesulfonyl chloride	-	-	_	_	_	-		
benzenesulfonyl chloride	-	-	_	-	_	-		
2,4-dibromo benzenesulfonyl	-	-	_	-	_	-		
chloride								
<sup>a</sup> Ampicillin	29.8,29.8,29.7	28.0,28.1,28.1	26.7,26.7,26.8	30.5,30.6,30.5	29.5,29.5,29.4	28.2,28.2,28.1		
<sup>b</sup> Trimethoprim	28.2,28.3,28.3	20.2,20.3,20.3	18.4,18.2,18.2	25.1,24.9,24.9	20.2,20.3,20.3	14.3,14.3,14.5		

 Table 1S. Antibacterial data as zone of inhibition at three gradient concentrations (n=3) for folic acid-sulfonamide hybrids for Gram (+) bacteria

<sup>a</sup> Control drug, <sup>b</sup> Reference DHFR inhibitor, Zone of inhibition was measured in mm ±SD, Gradient concentration of 3 mg/mL, 1.5 mg/mL, and 0.75 mg/mL was used, *S. aureus = Staphylococcus aureus, E. coli = Escherichia coli, P. aerugenosa = Pseudomonas aerugenosa, P. mirabilis = Proteus mirabilis* 

	Gram (-) bacteria						
Compound	E. coli			P. aeruginosa			
	3 mg/mL	1.5 mg/mL	0.75 mg/mL	3 mg/mL	1.5 mg/mL	0.75 mg/mL	
MS1	31.0,31.2,31.2	29.7,29.8,29.8	24.0,24.2,24.2	30.9,30.9,30.8	28.1,28.2,28.2	17.8,17.8,17.9	
MS2	29.9,29.8,29.8	29.0,28.9,28.8	23.6,23.7,23.7	27.8,27.9,27.9	25.7,25.8,25.8	15.8,15.8,15.9	
MS3	33.0,33.2,33.2	28.3,28.4,28.4	24.6,24.7,24.7	29.1,29.2,29.2	27.9,27.8,27.8	20.2,20.3,20.3	
DS1	34.9,34.9,34.8	32.2,32.3,32.3	29.3,29.3,29.4	32.9,32.8,32.8	31.9,31.8,31.9	18.4,18.5,18.5	
DS2	37.8,37.7,37.9	33.2,33.3,33.3	31.5,31.6,31.6	34.7,34.8,34.8	32.1,32.2,32.1	30.9,30.8,30.9	
DS3	31.9,31.8,31.8	29.2,29.3,29.3	23.6,23.7,23.7	28.9,28.8,28.8	27.7,27.8,27.8	17.8,17.9,17.9	
DS4	34.8,34.9,34.9	32.3,32.4,32.5	28.6,28.6,28.8	30.8,30.8,31.0	29.3,29.4,29.4	27.3,27.4,27.6	
DS5	36.4,36.5,36.5	32.2,32.3,32.3	28.9,28.9,29.0	32.7,32.8,32.8	31.2,31.3,31.3	29.1,29.3,29.3	
DS6	36.6,36.7,36.7	32.3,32.4,32.4	29.6,29.8,29.8	33.9,34.0,34.0	31.2,31.3,31.3	29.8,29.9,29.9	
TS1	34.6,34.7,34.7	30.9,30.8,30.8	25.9,26.0,26.0	29.3,29.4,29.4	27.5,27.6,27.7	24.1,24.2,24.2	
TS2	34.7,34.8,34.8	31.8,31.9,31.9	29.4,29.6,29.6	31.1,31.3,31.3	29.2,29.4,29.4	27.2,27.4,27.4	
TS3	34.5,34.6,34.6	30.0,30.2,30.2	24.3,24.5,24.5	29.6,29.8,29.8	27.8,27.9,27.9	24.2,24.6,24.6	
TS4	19.2,19.4,19.4	12.0,12.2,12.2	10.7,10.9,10.9	20.0,20.2,20.2	17.6,17.8,17.8	14.2,14.3,14.3	
TS5	36.6,36.7,36.7	32.3,32.4,32.5	29.6,29.7,29.8	33.9,33.9,34.0	31.2,31.4,31.4	29.8,30.0,30.0	
TS6	19.5,19.6,19.6	12.3,12.5,12.5	10.9,10.8,10.9	20.8,20.9,20.9	17.9,17.8,17.8	14.5,14.6,14.6	
Folic acid	-, -, -	-, -, -	_	-	_	-	
<i>p</i> -toluenesulfonyl chloride	-, -, -	-, -, -	-	-	-	-	
benzenesulfonyl chloride	-, -, -	-, -, -	-	-	-	-	
2,4-dibromo benzenesulfonyl	-, -, -	-, -, -	-	-	-	-	
chloride							
<sup>a</sup> Ampicillin	33.5,33.8,33.6	30.0,30.2,30.1	29.0,29.2,29.1	29.1,29.3,29.2	27.2,27.3,27.3	26.2,26.1,26.3	
<sup>b</sup> Trimethoprim	31.2,30.9,30.8	25.2,25.0,25.0	20.1,20.0,20.2	14.1,14.2,14.2	9.3,9.3,9.4	4.1,4.1,4.2	

 Table 2S. Antibacterial data as zone of inhibition at three gradient concentrations (n=3) for folic acid-sulfonamide hybrids for Gram (-) bacteria

<sup>a</sup> Control drug, <sup>b</sup> Reference DHFR inhibitor, Zone of inhibition was measured in mm ±SD, Gradient concentration of 3 mg/mL, 1.5 mg/mL, and 0.75 mg/mL was used, *S. aureus = Staphylococcus aureus, E. coli = Escherichia coli, P. aerugenosa = Pseudomonas aerugenosa, P. mirabilis = Proteus mirabilis* 

## <sup>1</sup>HNMR and <sup>13</sup>CNMR

















MS3













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![](_page_13_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Figure_0.jpeg)

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![](_page_19_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Figure_0.jpeg)

TS2

![](_page_21_Figure_0.jpeg)

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