

ORAL PRESENTATION

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# Random molecular substructures as fragment-type descriptors

José Batista<sup>1,2</sup>

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A novel approach for analysis of structure-activity relationships for sets of active compounds is reported. Molecular similarity relationships are analyzed among compounds with related biological activity based on the evaluation of randomly generated fragment populations. Fragments are randomly generated by iterative bond deletion in molecular graphs and hence depart from those obtained by well-defined fragmentation schemes [1]. A major finding has been that for any given activity class, dependency relationships of fragment co-occurrence exists within random fragment populations. Through the analysis of these relationships the chemical information content of generated substructures can be quantified [2]. This has led to the identification of small numbers (10- 40) of so-called activity class characteristic substructures (ACCS) that have been successfully utilized in virtual screening applications [3,4].

## Author details

<sup>1</sup>Jado Technologies GmbH, Tatzberg 47-51, D-01307 Dresden, Germany.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Life Science Informatics, B-IT, LIMES Program Unit Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Dahlmannstr. 2, D-53113 Bonn, Germany.

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<sup>1</sup>Jado Technologies GmbH, Tatzberg 47-51, D-01307 Dresden, Germany

