



MO-201, a candidate therapeutic for drug-resistant Cancer Stem Cells

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Technology description

This invention comprises novel compounds of the Glycosylated Antitumor Ether Lipid (GAEL) class, which selectively target apoptosis-resistant cancer stem cells in ovarian cancer and breast cancer. The invention provides novel compounds: Glycosylated antitumor ether lipids (GAELs) α - or β -D-gluco-configured 2-amino-2-deoxy (2-NH₂-Glc) sugar moiety linked to a glycerolipid aglycone. These compounds kill cancer cells via a non-apoptotic mechanism and are highly active against cancer stem cells. The molecules inhibited the formation of tumorspheres from BT-474 cancer stem cell lines, caused the disintegration of preformed tumorspheres and resulted in total loss of cell viability of the cancer stem cells at concentrations of 3 to 20 μ M. In contrast, the related antitumor ether lipid gold standard, edelfosine (currently in clinical development) was much less effective in preventing tumorsphere formation and affecting the viability of the cancer stem cells.

Institution

[University of Manitoba](#)

Inventors

[Gilbert Arthur](#)

[Frank Schweizer](#)

[Pranati Samadder](#)

联系我们



叶先生

电 话 : 021-65679356

手 机 : 13414935137

邮 箱 : yeingsheng@zf-ym.com