

Title: Predicting the Conformational Change of the 5-HT-2C Receptor in Response to CTW0415: Applications in Treating Substance Use Disorder

Substance use disorder is an increasingly relevant issue that has yet to be fully explored in terms of pharmacological treatments. The serotonin type 2C (5-HT-2C) receptor has been targeted as a potential treatment for obesity and multiple psychiatric disorders including depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders. Serotonin is a major modulator of dopamine activity in the brain, in which the 5-HT-2C receptor has a major influence on dopamine inhibition and is involved in influencing the effects of antipsychotics. CTW0415 is a newly discovered positive allosteric modulator (PAM) for the 5-HT-2C receptor with implications in the development of treatments involving the 5-HT-2C receptor through the potentiation of agonist-induced effects. In this project, we modeled the theoretical conformational change to the 5-HT-2C receptor's structure that results in increased agonist efficacy in response to the binding of CTW0415. We predict that the increased agonist efficacy from CTW0415 comes from a less sterically-hindered Gαq in response to the disrupted π -cation stabilization of 5-HT-2C bound to Gαq and stabilization of the active conformation of the receptor. To show this proposed mechanism we developed using 3D printing, a simplified model to illustrate the change as a consumer level. Our model of the proposed conformational change of the 5-HT-2C receptor in response to CTW0415 has implications in the development of drugs that target the 5-HT-2C receptor in pharmacological treatments.