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RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE VITAL ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ACCELERATING THE DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT OF ANTIBIOTICS

Helia Rajabi Dezfooli, Adib Dashtizadeh, Arman Esmaeily and Shiva Baradaranaghili

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Abstract

Background: Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to revolutionize antibiotic discovery. By automating and accelerating various stages of the drug discovery process, AI can help address the urgent need for new antibiotics to combat rising antimicrobial resistance.AI can be used to analyze vast amounts of data, AI algorithms can process and analyze large datasets to identify patterns and trends that may be relevant to antibiotic discovery. Predict molecular properties, design novel antibiotics and optimize drug development. By leveraging AI, researchers can expedite the discovery of novel antibiotics, improve their efficacy, and reduce the time and cost associated with drug development. This is crucial for addressing the growing threat of antibiotic resistance and ensuring the availability of effective treatments for infectious diseases.

Materials and Methods: This review article systematically analyzes published research on the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in pharmacology, the drug industry, and specifically, antibiotic discovery. The information from these articles was categorized and reviewed according to the AI applications in pharmacology, AI in the drug industry, AI in antibiotic discovery. This review aims to highlight the specific ways in which AI is being used to address the urgent need for new antibiotics.

Results: A review of 35 studies revealed the benefits of using artificial intelligence (AI) in drug discovery, particularly in the context of antibiotic development. AI can enhance drug design processes, improve predictions of ligand-receptor interactions, and facilitate collaboration among healthcare providers.However, AI also faces challenges, such as potential biases in decision-making, ethical concerns, and the need to recognize its limitations. To address these issues, researchers can focus on strengthening neural network databases, integrating AI with traditional experimental methods. By overcoming these challenges, AI can play a crucial role in accelerating the discovery of novel antibiotics and improving the treatment of infectious diseases.

Conclusion: The efficient application of artificial intelligence can substantially expedite drug discovery, especially for new antibiotics. As bacterial resistance to current antibiotics increases, the demand for swift development of more potent drugs becomes more critical. AI, capable of analyzing extensive datasets and predicting molecular characteristics, can significantly accelerate this process.

Corresponding Author:- Helia Rajabi Dezfooli

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Introduction:-

The pharmaceutical industry has witnessed a surge in data digitization, yet extracting actionable insights from this deluge of information remains a formidable challenge. To address this, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a promising solution. AI systems, capable of learning from data and making autonomous decisions, offer enhanced automation and the potential to tackle complex clinical problems.AI encompasses various methodological domains, including machine learning (ML), deep learning (DL), and large language models. ML algorithms identify patterns within datasets, while DL leverages artificial neural networks (ANNs) to simulate human brain functions. These interconnected computational elements process inputs to generate outputs, enabling AI to solve complex problems.

The applications of AI in the pharmaceutical sector are vast and expanding. From drug discovery and development to personalized medicine and clinical decision support, AI is poised to revolutionize healthcare. As the McKinsey Global Institute predicts, AI-driven automation will significantly impact the future of work.The escalating threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has created a dire need for innovative drug discovery approaches. Traditional methods, reliant on natural product screening and chemical modifications, have struggled to keep pace with the rapid emergence of resistant pathogens. The high failure rates and lengthy development timelines associated with antibiotics have deterred pharmaceutical investment.The escalating global health crisis of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), characterized by the declining efficacy of antibiotics, is driven by factors such as decreased investment in antibiotic research, the complex drug development process, and the overuse of antibiotics. Artificial intelligence (AI) offers a promising solution to accelerate the discovery of novel antibiotics. By leveraging AI's ability to analyze vast datasets and predict molecular properties, researchers can expedite the identification of potent antimicrobial compounds, optimize drug development pipelines, and gain deeper insights into pathogen-antibiotic interactions. The potential benefits of AI-driven antibiotic discovery include reduced healthcare costs, improved patient outcomes, and strengthened global health security.To address this crisis, innovative strategies are crucial to develop new antibiotics and optimize existing ones against resistant bacteria. These approaches focus on identifying novel targets, creating novel compounds, and repurposing existing drugs.Advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), offer promising solutions. AI can revolutionize various aspects of drug discovery, from target identification and compound screening to lead optimization and repurposing.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers a promising approach to extracting valuable insights from raw medical data, facilitating improved diagnosis, treatment, and disease mitigation. By leveraging advanced computational techniques, AI can be applied across various medical fields to address complex clinical challenges.Acquiring, analyzing, and applying vast amounts of medical knowledge is crucial for effective clinical decision-making. AI systems, such as artificial neural networks (ANNs), evolutionary computation, fuzzy expert systems, and hybrid intelligent systems, can assist healthcare professionals in managing and interpreting complex data.ANNs, inspired by the human brain, consist of interconnected computational elements called neurons that process information in parallel. The first artificial neuron utilized a binary threshold function, and the multilayer feed-forward perceptron became a popular model with distinct input, hidden, and output layers. Each neuron is linked to others through weighted connections, enabling the network to learn and make predictions.

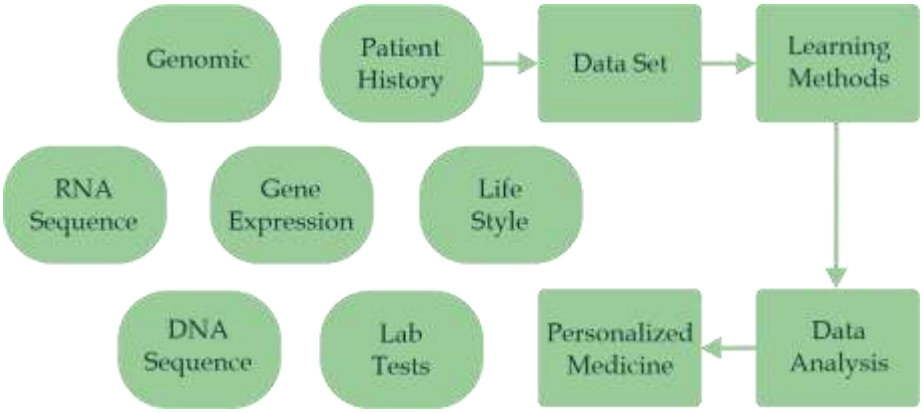

Figure 1:- Analyzing data of a patient in personalizing the treatment.

AI and Drug Discovery

AI can simultaneously analyze data from omics techniques (genomics, proteomics, metabolomics) and identify relationships between biological molecules. Using this data, complex interaction networks of biological molecules can be created to identify new drug targets. AI can simulate interactions between drug molecules and biological targets, thus designing drug molecules with high binding affinity and favorable pharmacokinetic properties.Machine learning algorithms can be used to design drug molecules that evade existing drug resistance mechanisms. Deep neural networks can be trained on structure-activity data to build models that predict the biological activity of new molecules. Using these models, the number of laboratory experiments required to evaluate the biological activity of new molecules can be significantly reduced.

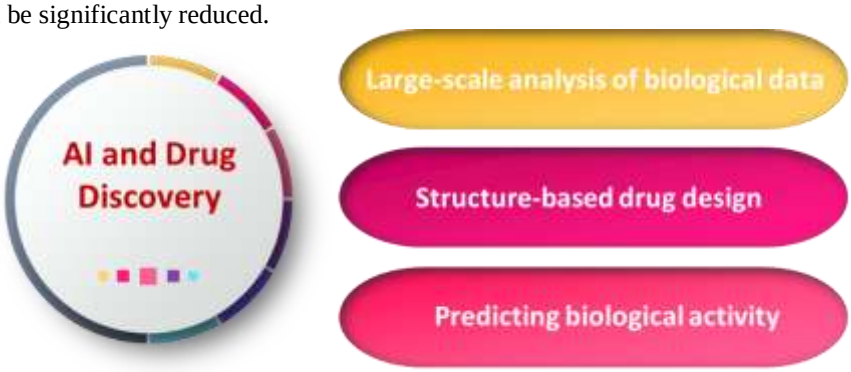

Figure 2:- AI and drug discovery.

AI and Antiviral Development

Predicting immunogenic antigens, AI can analyze viral genomic and proteomic data to identify immunogenic antigens that are essential for designing effective vaccines.Given the genetic diversity of viruses, AI can design vaccines that are specifically effective for each individual.AI can quickly analyze viral sequencing data and identify new mutations that may lead to drug resistance or increased virulence.Using epidemiological data and AI models, the spread of infectious diseases can be predicted and the necessary preventive measures can be taken.

Figure 3:- AI and antiviral development.

Conventional Drug Discovery Approaches and Limitations

Drug discovery is a complex and costly endeavor that involves the identification of novel molecules, their evaluation in preclinical and clinical models, and ultimately, the development of new therapeutic agents. Traditional drug discovery approaches have been the mainstay of the pharmaceutical industry for decades, but as we face the rise of antimicrobial resistance and the increasing complexity of diseases, the limitations of these methods have become increasingly apparent.Conventional drug discovery primarily relies on two main strategies: One is natural Product Screening. This approach involves the collection and screening of chemical compounds from natural sources such as plants, animals, and microorganisms to identify molecules with desirable biological activities. The second is combinatorial Chemistry. In combinatorial chemistry, large libraries of synthetic compounds are created and systematically screened to identify active molecules.The general drug discovery process typically involves the following steps:

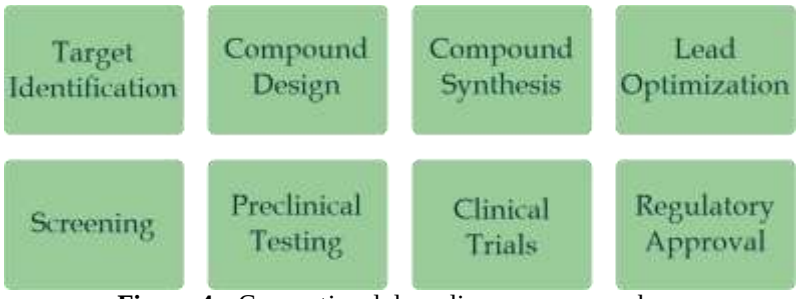

Figure 4:- Conventional drug discovery approaches.

Target identification is identifying the specific molecule or protein that is essential for the disease process. Compound design is designing molecules that can bind to the target and either inhibit or enhance its function. Compound synthesis is synthesizing the designed compounds in the laboratory. Another one is screening that is evaluating the biological activity of the synthesized compounds in laboratory models. Lead optimization is modifying the chemical structure of active compounds to improve their drug-like properties and preclinical testing is evaluating the safety and efficacy of compounds in animal models. Clinical trial is evaluating the safety and efficacy of compounds in human subjects and finally regulatory approval Obtaining regulatory approval for the drug and initiating manufacturing.

Limitations of Traditional Drug Discovery Approaches

Traditional drug discovery approaches face several significant limitations. High Cost and time consumption is the first one. The drug discovery process is both time-consuming and expensive, often taking many years and billions of dollars to develop a new drug. Another is high failure rate, a large proportion of compounds that show promise in early-stage testing fail in later stages of development. Difficulty in discovering novel compounds for identifying novel compounds with unique biological activities has become increasingly challenging. Another one is limitations in targeting complex diseases, traditional approaches are often better suited for simpler diseases with well-defined molecular mechanisms and may be less effective for complex diseases such as cancer and neurodegenerative disorders. And finally, emergence of drug resistance, Bacteria and viruses can rapidly develop resistance to existing drugs, necessitating the continuous discovery of new agents.

Figure 5:- Limitations of traditional drug discovery approaches.

Reasons for the Decline in Efficacy of Traditional Approaches

Increasing Complexity of Diseases, many diseases have complex and multifactorial mechanisms, making it difficult to identify suitable drug targets. Depletion of natural sources, overexploitation of natural resources has led to a

decline in the diversity of natural compounds available for screening. Limitations of combinatorial chemistry,existing combinatorial libraries may not be sufficiently diverse to cover the entire chemical space.

Figure 6:- Decline in efficacy of traditional approaches.

While traditional drug discovery approaches have been instrumental in the development of numerous life-saving drugs, their limitations have become increasingly apparent in recent years. The rising tide of antimicrobial resistance, the complexity of many diseases, and the high costs associated with drug development have underscored the need for innovative approaches. In the next section, we will explore emerging technologies and strategies that are revolutionizing drug discovery, including artificial intelligence, bioinformatics, and protein engineering.

Challenges and Future

Despite all the potential of AI, there are also challenges in this field. The quality and quantity of data used to train AI models is crucial. Also interpreting the results of AI models requires expertise and deep knowledge in computational biology.Some AI models require very powerful computational resources. The development and use of drugs designed with the help of AI requires precise and comprehensive legal regulations.Despite these challenges, the future of AI in drug discovery is very bright. With advancements in hardware, software, and AI algorithms, this technology is expected to play a very important role in combating infectious diseases.

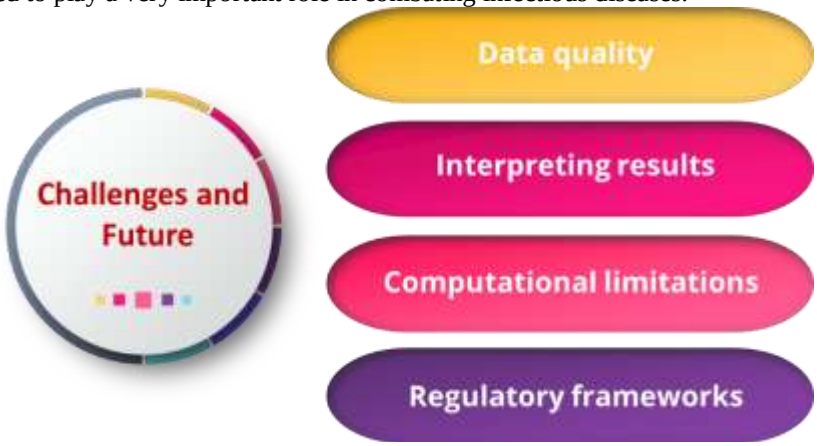

Figure 7:- Challenges and future of AI.

AI, with its ability to process vast amounts of data and identify complex patterns, has emerged as a powerful tool in accelerating the discovery and development of antibiotics and antivirals. By using AI, new and more effective drugs can be designed and produced faster and at lower cost. However, to realize this potential, the existing challenges must be addressed and appropriate solutions must be provided through collaboration among experts.

The importance of predicting antibiotic resistance

Antibiotic resistance is one of the most serious threats to global health. With the increasing number of drug-resistant bacteria, treating infections has become more difficult and the risk of death from infectious diseases has increased. To address this challenge, accurate prediction of antibiotic resistance is of paramount importance.

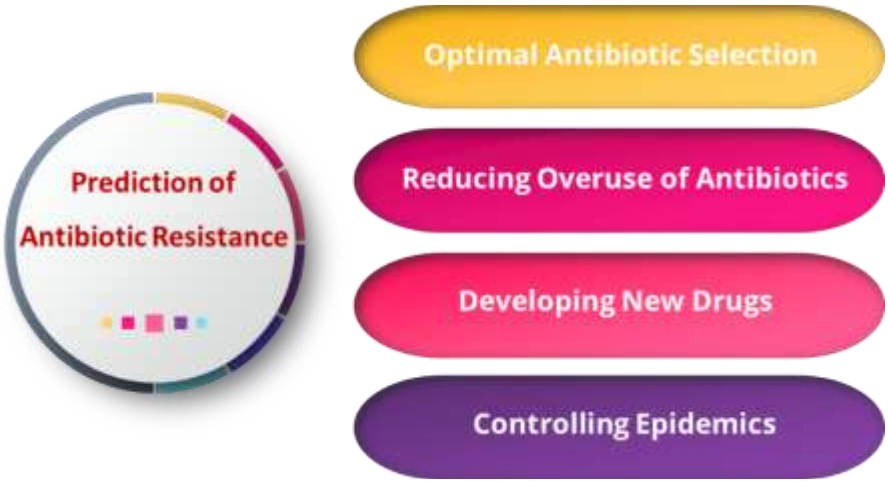

Figure 8:- Prediction of antibiotic resistance.

Accurate prediction of antibiotic resistance is a powerful tool for improving infection treatment and controlling the spread of resistance. By precisely identifying resistant bacteria, we can select the most suitable antibiotic for each patient and prevent the overuse of these drugs. This not only improves treatment outcomes but also prevents the spread of antibiotic resistance. Additionally, information from resistance predictions plays a crucial role in the design and development of new generations of antibiotics and antimicrobial drugs. Moreover, early detection of resistant strains enables better control of epidemics and prevents the widespread outbreak of infectious diseases.Various methods exist for predicting antibiotic resistance, which can be broadly categorized into two groups. For Laboratory Methods, Phenotypic Tests are based on the direct observation of bacterial growth in the presence of antibiotics. Examples include the disk diffusion test, minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) test, and E-test and Genotypic Tests are based on the identification of resistance genes in bacteria. Common genotypic methods include PCR, genome sequencing, and microarrays. For Computational Methods, Machine Learning Models using machine learning algorithms, models can be created to predict antibiotic resistance based on data obtained from clinical and laboratory tests and Molecular Simulations can be used to model the interaction between antibiotics and target proteins and predict resistance.

Figure 9:- Laboratory and computational methods.

With advancements in genome sequencing, machine learning, and artificial intelligence technologies, it is expected that the accuracy and speed of antibiotic resistance prediction will significantly improve. Additionally, the development of rapid resistance detection tools at the point of care can help improve patient treatment and control resistant infections.

Drug Discovery, Artificial Intelligence and antibiotics:

Traditional drug discovery methods have fallen short in addressing the urgent need for novel antibiotics. Many pharmaceutical companies have abandoned antibiotic research due to low profitability, and even those pursuing new therapeutics have faced significant challenges. For instance, GlaxoSmithKline's extensive screening efforts yielded limited success, highlighting the difficulties in identifying promising antibiotic candidates (10, 11).**Computational drug discovery (CADD) offers potential solutions to these challenges.**By enabling rapid in silico screening of vast compound libraries, CADD can prioritize compounds for experimental testing, reducing

costs and accelerating the discovery process. However, CADD also faces limitations, such as the trade-off between speed and accuracy in ligand- and receptor-based methods (12, 13).**Machine learning can enhance the accuracy of both ligand- and receptor-based screening without compromising speed.** By learning from data patterns, machine learning models can provide more nuanced binding affinity predictions compared to traditional methods.**Recent advancements in artificial intelligence-based receptor-based scoring functions show particular promise.** These methods offer the advantage of being applicable to a wide range of targets without requiring prior knowledge of ligands or complex training protocols. While publicly available examples are still limited, the application of machine learning to antibiotic research holds great potential for accelerating drug discovery and addressing the growing threat of antibiotic resistance (14, 15).The study of (16) aimed to optimize the dosing strategies for meropenem and polymyxin B in combination therapy against carbapenem-resistant Acinetobacterbaumannii (CRAB). The authors used a mechanism-based mathematical model and a genetic algorithm to identify optimal dosing regimens.They found that high-intensity polymyxin B exposure was crucial for achieving complete bacterial eradication, while meropenem regimens with longer infusion times and shorter dosing intervals were preferred. The study provides a potential avenue for optimizing treatment regimens against CRAB.Totally, the study used ML in combination with genetic algorithms to assess intrinsic activity and efficacy of compounds.Reference (17) introduces a novel method for identifying antimicrobial peptides (AMPs). AMPs are small molecules naturally produced by living organisms that exhibit antimicrobial properties. Given their high potential to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria, AMPs have garnered significant research interest. The researchers employed a deep learning-based approach. They fed the amino acid sequences of known antimicrobial peptides into a recurrent neural network (RNN). This model used word embedding to convert each amino acid into a numerical vector, and then the RNN modeled the relationships between amino acids within the peptide sequence. Subsequently, the trained model was used to predict whether a new peptide sequence possesses antimicrobial properties.The results of this study demonstrate that the proposed model can accurately identify antimicrobial peptides. Moreover, it can identify crucial structural and physicochemical features associated with antimicrobial activity. The significance of this study lies in its high speed and accuracy compared to traditional methods for identifying AMPs, reduced costs associated with screening and identifying new AMPs, and its ability to design and engineer new antimicrobial peptides with desired properties. This study highlights the potential of deep learning in discovering and designing antimicrobial peptides. With further development of these methods, we can anticipate the emergence of a new generation of antibiotics that can effectively combat antibiotic resistance. In (18), delves into the intrinsic resistance of Pseudomonas aeruginosa to many antibiotics due to its low outer membrane permeability.The primary focus is on protein F, the major outer membrane porin protein responsible for the uptake of hydrophilic compounds.The study found that less than 1% of the available protein F trimers form active functional channels, significantly limiting antibiotic penetration. The author proposes that the type of lipopolysaccharide (LPS) associated with individual protein F trimers determines their functional conformation. This suggests that manipulating LPS or targeting protein F could potentially increase outer membrane permeability and enhance antibiotic effectiveness. To address this challenge, the research explored compounds that could permeabilize the outer membrane, making it more susceptible to antibiotics.Eighteen such compounds were identified, falling into categories like polycations, organic cations, and divalent cation chelators. These compounds, when used in combination with antibiotics, showed potential for overcoming the permeability barrier and increasing antibiotic efficacy against Pseudomonas aeruginosa. Reference (19), aimed to develop a machine learning model capable of predicting phenotypic polymyxin resistance (PR) in Klebsiellapneumoniae clonal group 258, a common healthcare-associated pathogen.Polymyxins are last-resort antibiotics used to treat highly resistant Gram-negative bacteria, and the emergence of polymyxin resistance poses a significant public health threat. This research represents a significant step towards addressing the growing challenge of antibiotic resistance. By accurately predicting PR, this machine learning model could help guide antibiotic treatment decisions and contribute to improved patient care. Reference (20), highlights the significance of research on antimicrobial peptides and their potential to combat the growing problem of antibiotic resistance. Given the increasing resistance of microbes to antibiotics, the discovery of novel antimicrobial agents is crucial.Peptides found in animal venoms have emerged as promising candidates for the development of a new generation of antimicrobial drugs. Despite existing challenges, ongoing research in this field can contribute to the development of more effective treatments for drug-resistant infections. Reference (21)delves into the fascinating world of marine invertebrates to uncover new antimicrobial peptides. By conducting a comprehensive transcriptomic analysis of the sea anemone, **Cnidopusjaponicus**, the researchers aimed to identify novel peptide sequences with potential antimicrobial properties.This research highlights the potential of marine organisms as a rich source of bioactive compounds, including antimicrobial peptides. By exploring the biodiversity of marine ecosystems, scientists can discover novel molecules with unique properties that could revolutionize the treatment of infectious diseases. Reference (22) aimed to investigate the relationship between hemolytic activity,

cytotoxicity, and systemic in vivo toxicity of synthetic antimicrobial peptides (AMPs). A library of 24 AMPs with narrow-spectrum activity against veterinary pathogens was evaluated for their hemolytic activity against four different species of erythrocytes and their cytotoxicity against HeLa, HaCaT, and HepG2 cells. Additionally, three selected peptides were administered to rats in intravenous acute dose toxicity studies.The results showed that the relative sensitivity of erythrocytes to the AMPs varied among species, with canine erythrocytes being the most sensitive and bovine erythrocytes being the least sensitive. Cytotoxicity assays revealed that the peptides exhibited varying levels of toxicity against human cell lines. In vivo toxicity studies in rats did not reveal any systemic toxic effects at the concentrations administered.The correlation between hemolytic activity, cytotoxicity, and systemic in vivo toxicity was not straightforward. Some peptides with high hemolytic activity exhibited low cytotoxicity and in vivo toxicity, while others with low hemolytic activity showed significant cytotoxicity and in vivo toxicity. These findings highlight the importance of comprehensive in vitro and in vivo toxicity assessments for the development of AMPs as potential therapeutic agents. Article (23)introduces AMPer, a database and automated discovery tool for antimicrobial peptides. AMPer serves as a comprehensive resource for researchers in the field of antimicrobial peptides, enabling them to identify and study new peptides.By providing a comprehensive tool for studying antimicrobial peptides, this article significantly contributes to the advancement of research in this field. AMPer can assist researchers in designing new drugs to combat antibiotic-resistant infections.AMPer is a valuable tool for researchers in the field of antimicrobial peptides. This database and automated discovery tool offer new opportunities for studying and developing these biomolecules.

Artificial intelligence, coupled with workflow optimization, interpretation guidance, high quality, and efficiency, contributes to improving interventions aimed at increasing workflow and overall performance of the design stages. A crucial aspect in AI design is how this version learns to analyze underlying reactions, the numerous reactions that can occur between drug compound structures and receptors within a specific framework (24). To expand AI, deeper insights into the shapes of compounds and receptors are utilized to refine AI functionality (25). The two-line network allows the system to analyze interactions through infrastructures. AI has a widespread impact on pharmacology and drug discovery, with numerous advantages including accelerating data processing systems and sharing data analysis resource protocols, which leads to faster processing. The role of AI in pharmaceutical sciences encompasses a wide range of clinical strategies related to drug discovery and efficacy improvement, including the use of analytical strategies such as diagnostic and imaging techniques, including ECG, X-ray, and histopathological imaging, among other applicable techniques. AI is used in drug production. AI is also used to predict protection, efficacy, and determine pharmacokinetic parameters of drug molecules. Additionally, in pharmacology, AI is used for targeted drug observation, an overview of processes, and the production of study methods by imitating human behavior in conducting studies and realistically adapting results (26, 27). Similarly, digital QSAR screening has increased its application in using GAN drugs and AI, and it is also expected that the virtual method will be presented as a new molecular design for medicinal chemistry (28). Until now, applied AI methods have been effectively used in combination with molecular docking and in vivo screening in laboratory conditions (29, 30). When the 3D structure of the target compound is available, proper primary screening is possible. In general, based on the idea that if the structures are comparable, the results may be applicable and it may be possible to measure the bonds and their types quantitatively, which significantly shortens and improves the drug design process, chemical synthesis, and laboratory tests related to organic structure (31). A serious threat to the use of AI as a guide for personalized drug treatment in terms of drug type and best drug dosage is the misinterpretation of findings and misunderstanding in DL production (32). AI techniques have advanced to the point where they can be used in real-world situations to assist human decision-makers. Using AI can transform key clinical trial design stages, from initial study preparation to execution, toward improving trial success, thus reducing the burden of drug research and development and facilitating the achievement of desired results. In basic biological studies, uncertainty metrics help researchers distinguish between true rules within data and incorrect or unreliable patterns. Epistemic uncertainty is a measure of the approximate uncertainty of a model, along with its structure and parameters. The reason is the lack of sufficient training, so that we will be able to reduce its occurrence by entering more information. In assessing uncertainty, they define the uncertainty of observations due to the lack of available data. There are still many problems, including low model interpretability, limited record management, and combinations in dynamic environments (33, 34). Interpretability issues are of great importance because choosing treatment is significantly risky and it is difficult to be confident in the accuracy of its interpretation. Mutual cooperation between human experts and DL-based structures seems to have good effects in solving many problems (35). Ethical issues are also very important in this area and may seriously affect the use of AI as a personal guide for drug treatment customization in terms of drug type and best drug dosage (32). AI techniques have advanced to the point where they can be used in real-world situations to assist human decision-makers. Using AI can transform key clinical trial design stages, from initial study

preparation to execution, toward improving trial success, thus reducing the burden of drug research and development and facilitating the achievement of desired results (12). In basic biological studies, uncertainty metrics help researchers distinguish between true rules within data and incorrect or unreliable patterns. Epistemic uncertainty is a measure of the approximate uncertainty of a model, along with its structure and parameters. The reason is the lack of sufficient training, so that we will be able to reduce its occurrence by entering more information. In assessing uncertainty, they define the uncertainty of observations due to the lack of available data. There are still many problems, including low model interpretability, limited record management, and combinations in dynamic environments (33, 34). Interpretability issues are of great importance because choosing treatment is significantly risky and it is difficult to be confident in the accuracy of its interpretation. Mutual cooperation between human experts and DL-based structures seems to have good effects in solving many problems (39). Ethical issues are also very important in this area and may seriously affect the use of AI as a personal guide for drug treatment customization in terms of drug type and best drug dosage (32). AI techniques have advanced to the point where they can be.

Conclusions:-

The advent of advanced AI technologies has ushered in a new era of drug discovery, offering promising solutions to the pressing global challenge of antimicrobial resistance. The "antibiotic crisis," characterized by the dwindling effectiveness of existing antibiotics against a growing array of drug-resistant bacteria, has underscored the urgent need for innovative approaches to combat these pathogens.

AI-powered drug discovery platforms can significantly accelerate the identification and development of novel antibiotics and antibacterials. By analyzing vast datasets of molecular structures, biological properties, and clinical information, AI algorithms can rapidly predict potential drug candidates with high efficacy and minimal side effects. This can streamline the traditional drug discovery process, which is often time-consuming and costly.Furthermore, AI can aid in the design of new antimicrobial agents that target unique vulnerabilities in drug-resistant bacteria. By exploring unconventional drug targets and exploring alternative mechanisms of action, AI-driven research can help to circumvent the resistance mechanisms that have rendered existing antibiotics ineffective.Collaboration between academic institutions, pharmaceutical companies, and AI technology developers is essential to maximize the potential of AI in antimicrobial drug development. By pooling their expertise and resources, these stakeholders can create interdisciplinary research teams that can tackle complex challenges and accelerate the development of new antimicrobial therapies.

In conclusion, AI technologies offer a promising avenue for overcoming the antibiotic crisis. By streamlining drug discovery, exploring novel drug targets, and fostering collaboration, AI can help to develop urgently needed antibiotics and antibacterials that can combat drug-resistant bacteria and improve patient outcomes. As AI continues to evolve, its potential to revolutionize the field of antimicrobial drug development becomes increasingly evident.

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