

# SNS COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES



*Affiliated To The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University,  
Chennai Approved by Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi.  
Coimbatore -641035*

COURSE NAME : COMPUTER AIDED DRUG DESIGN(BP 807 ET)

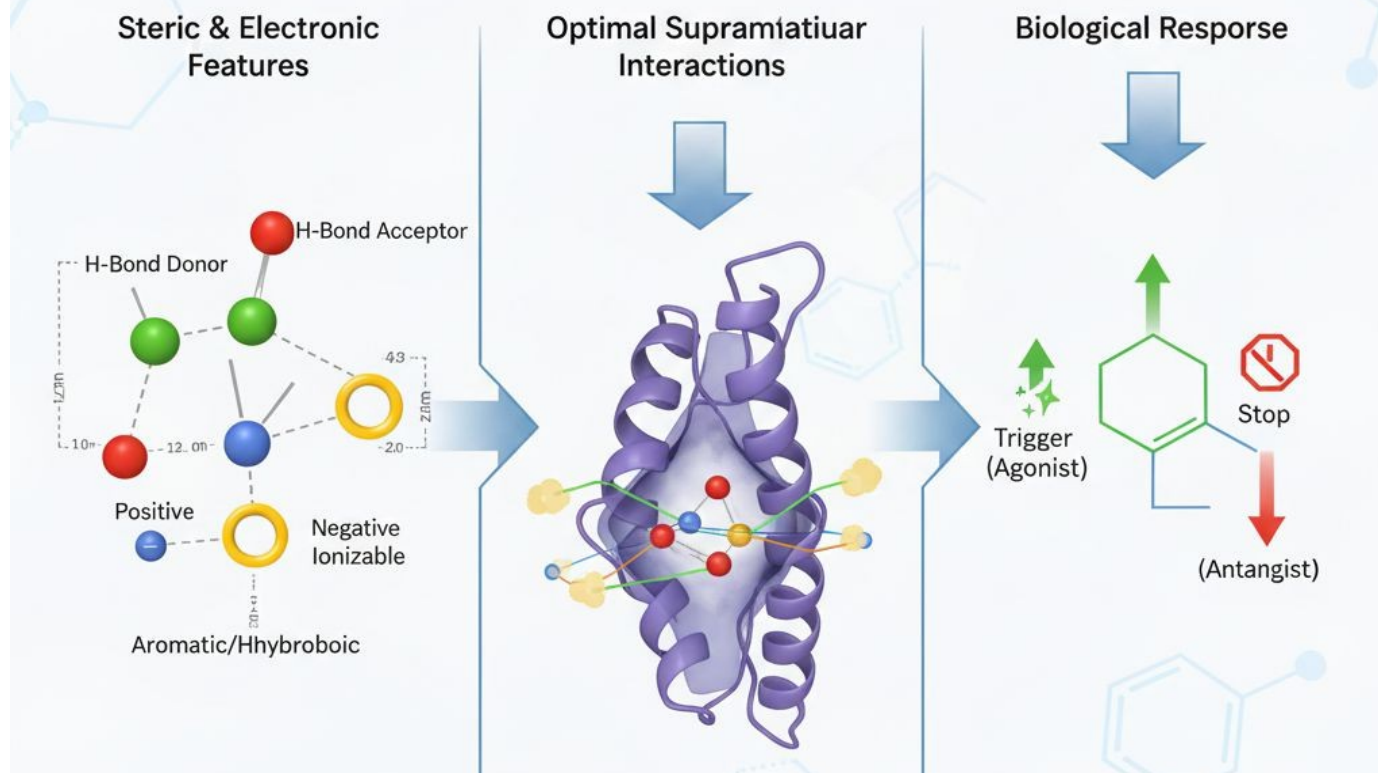
VIII SEM / IV YEAR

TOPIC: CONCEPT OF PHARMACOPHORE MAPPING AND  
PHARMACOPHORE BASED SCREENING

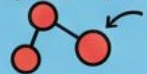
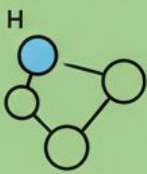

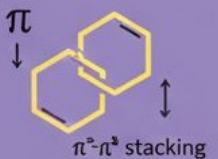

# WHAT IS PHARMACOPHORE..?

## The IUPAC Definition of a Pharmacophore

"A pharmacophore is an ensemble of steric and electronic features that is necessary for the optimal supramolecular interactions with the specific biological target and to trigger (or block) its biological response."



# THE KEY PHARMACOPHORIC FEATURES

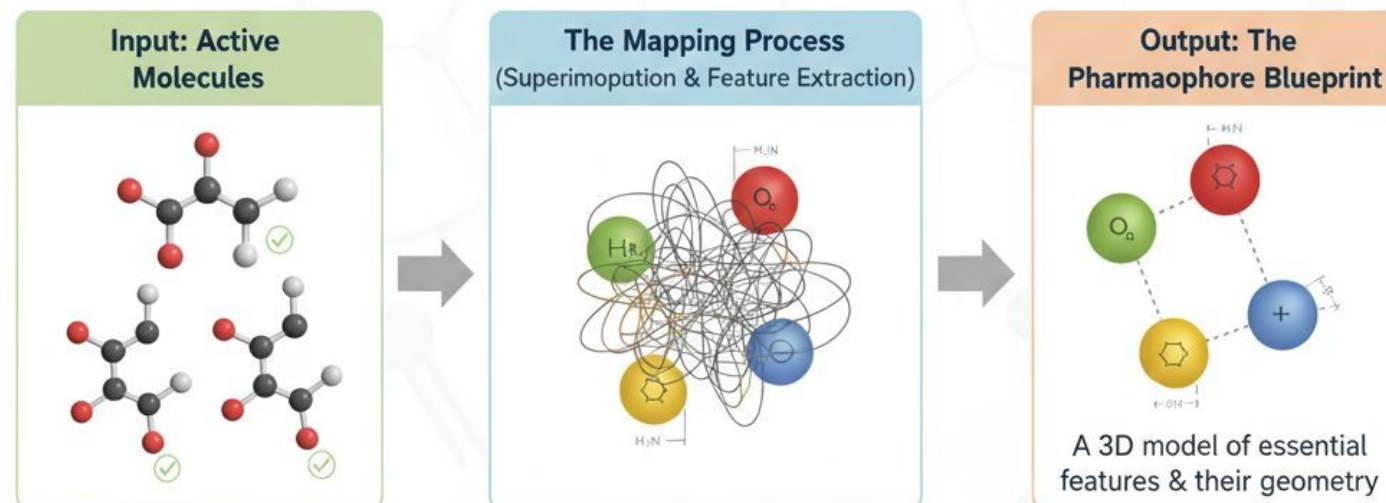
<p><b>Hydrogen Bond Acceptors (HBA)</b></p> 	<p><b>Hydrogen Bond Donors (HBD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups that accept a hydrogen.</li> <li>• Often O, N, or F atoms.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Hydrophobic Regions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups that donate a hydrogen.</li> <li>• Often O-H or N-H groups</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-polar areas.</li> <li>• Fit into “greasy pockets.”</li> <li>• e.g., Alkyl chains, C-H bonds</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat, cyclic Rings, structures.</li> <li>• Involved in stacking interactions</li> <li>• e.g, Benzene, Indole.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Positive/Negative Ionizable Groups</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charged areas.</li> <li>• Form ionic bonds.</li> <li>• e.g. Amines (Pos) Carcrylates, (Neg)</li> </ul>

# WHAT IS PHARMACOPHORE MAPPING

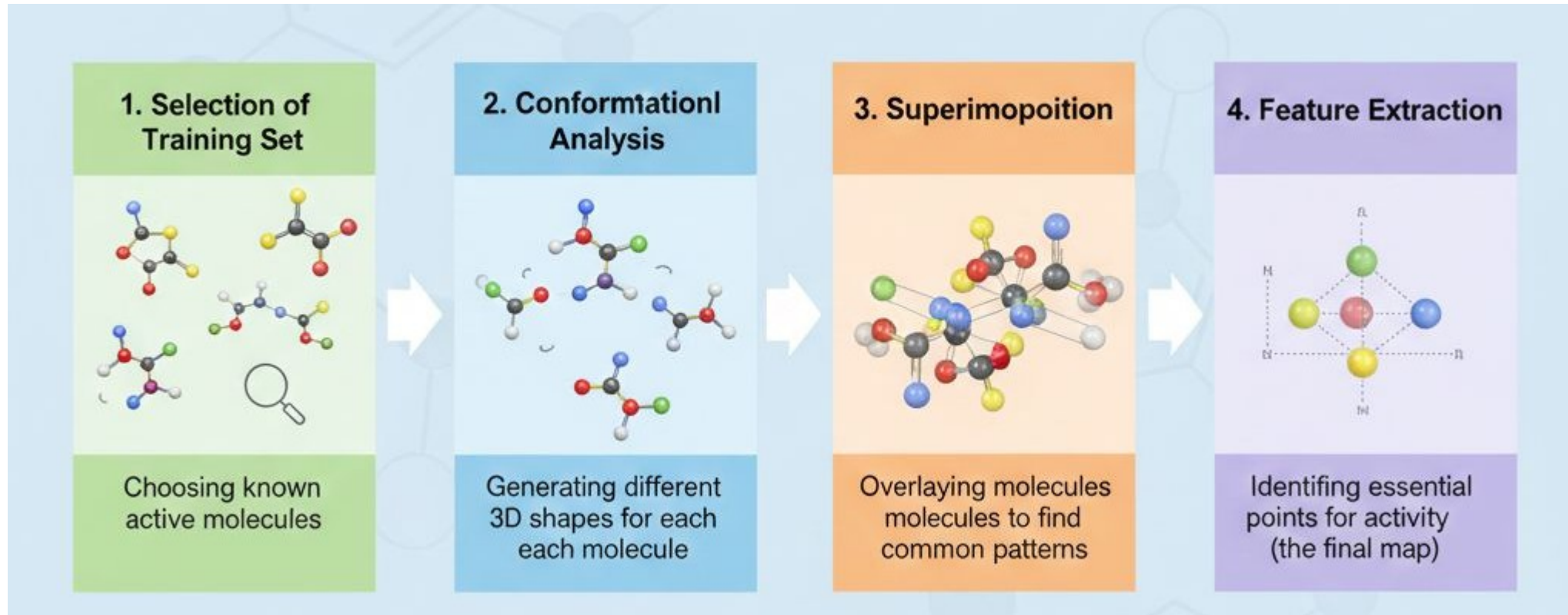
## Pharmacophore Mapping: The Blueprinting Process

IUPAC definition:

The computational process of identifying the essential 3D arrangement of chemical features required for biological activity.



# PROCESS OF PAHRMACOPHORE MAPPING



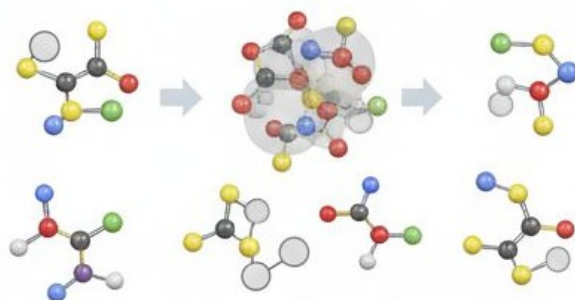


# PHARMACOPHORE MAPPING : 2 MAIN STRATEGIES

## Pharmacophore Mapping: Two Main Strategies

### 1. Ligand-Based Mapping (Target Structure Unknown)

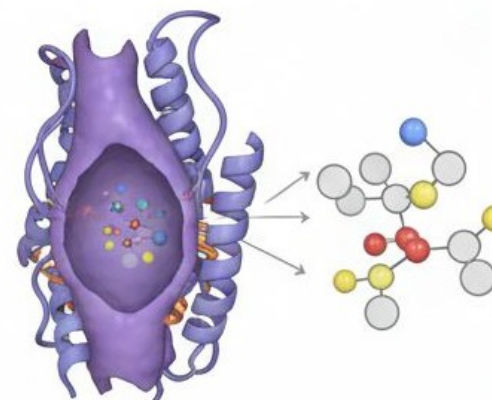
- Based on active molecules. Finds common features.



- That Relative Shapes "stacking" each features
- Identifies common 3D arrangement

### 2. Structure-Based Mapping (Target Structure Known)

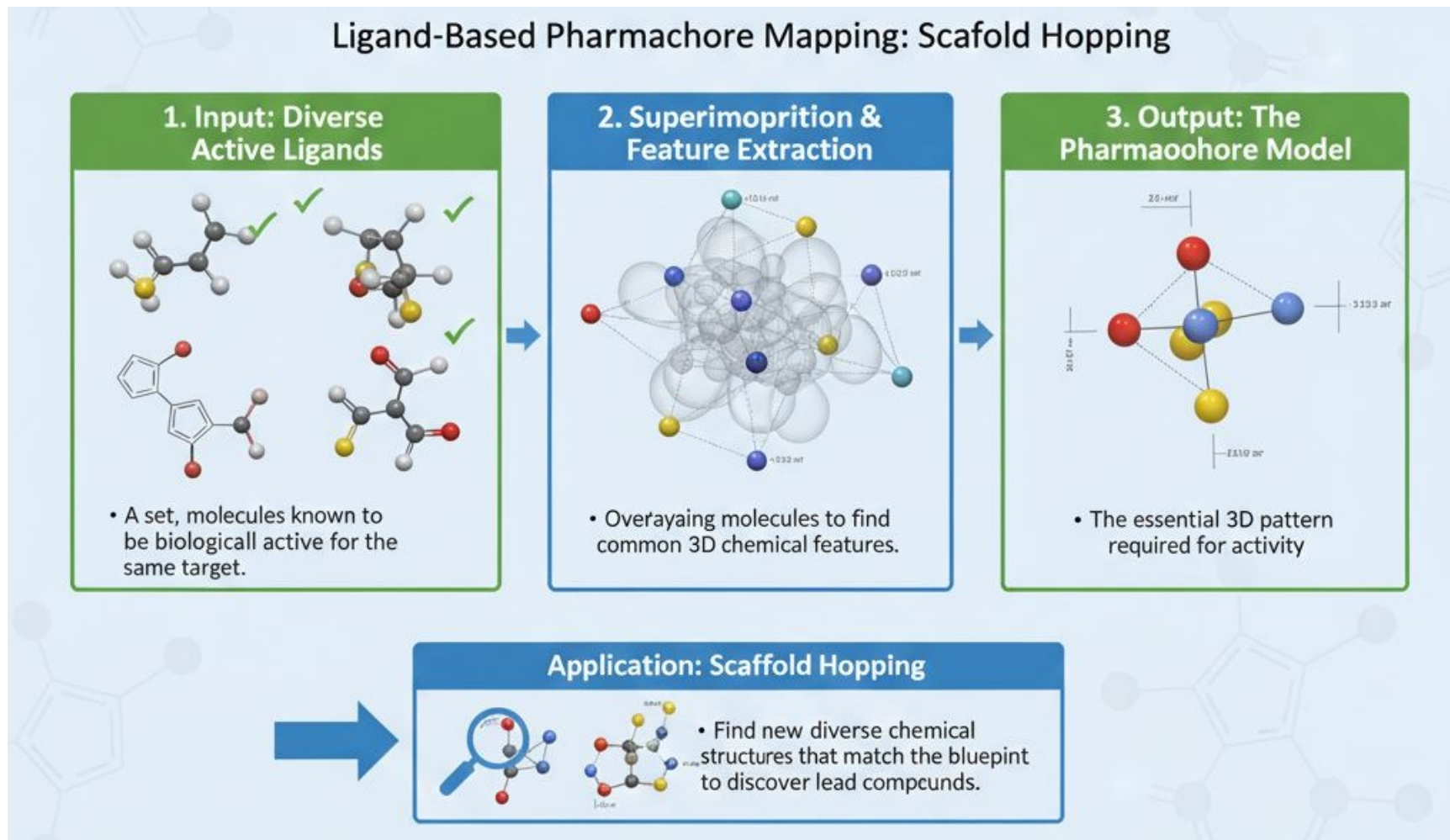
- Based on protein's binding pocket. Designs ideal fit



Features: H-bond D/A, Hydrophobic, Ionic  
Features: Virtual Screening & Scaffold Hopping

# LIGAND BASED DRUG DESIGN

## Ligand-Based Pharmacophore Mapping: Scaffold Hopping

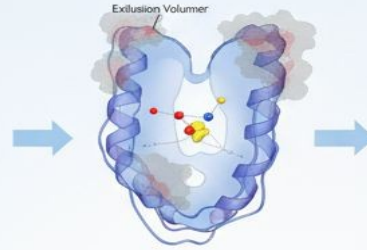


# STRUCTURE BASED DRUG DESIGN (SBDD)

## Structure-Based Pharmophore Mapping

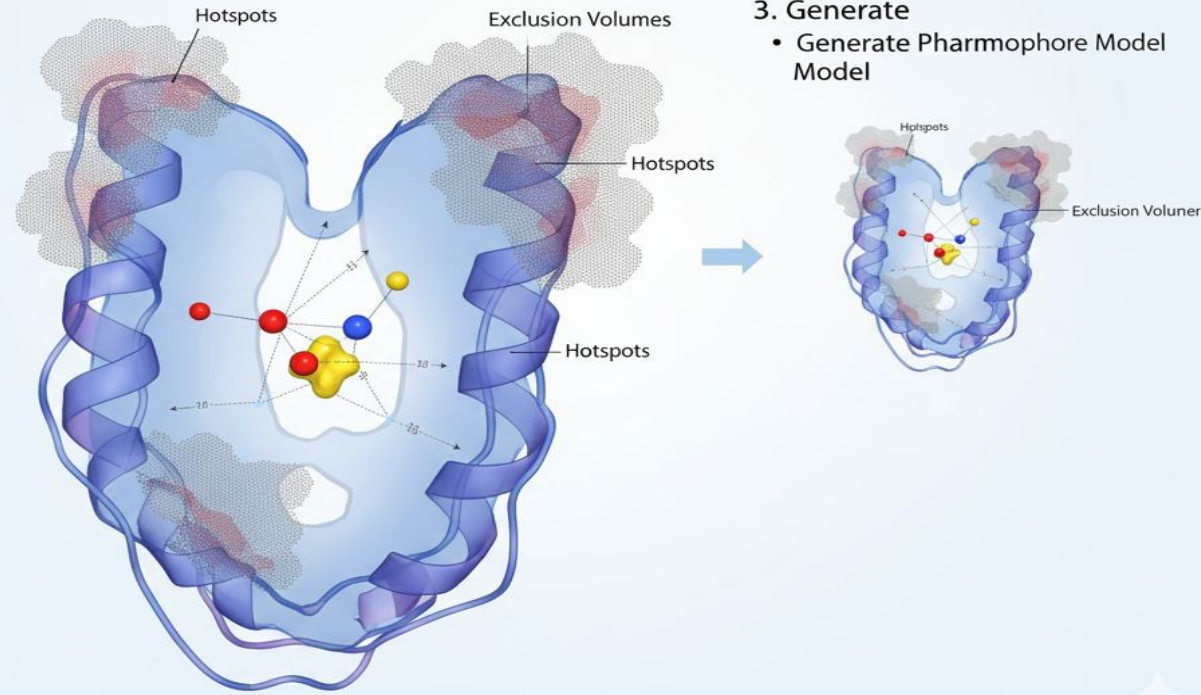
### 1. Analyze Binding Site

- Analysis of the macromolecular environment



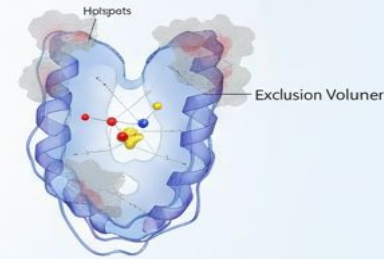
### 2. Identify Hotspots & Exclusions

- Identification of "Hotspots"
- Inclusion of Exclusion Volumes



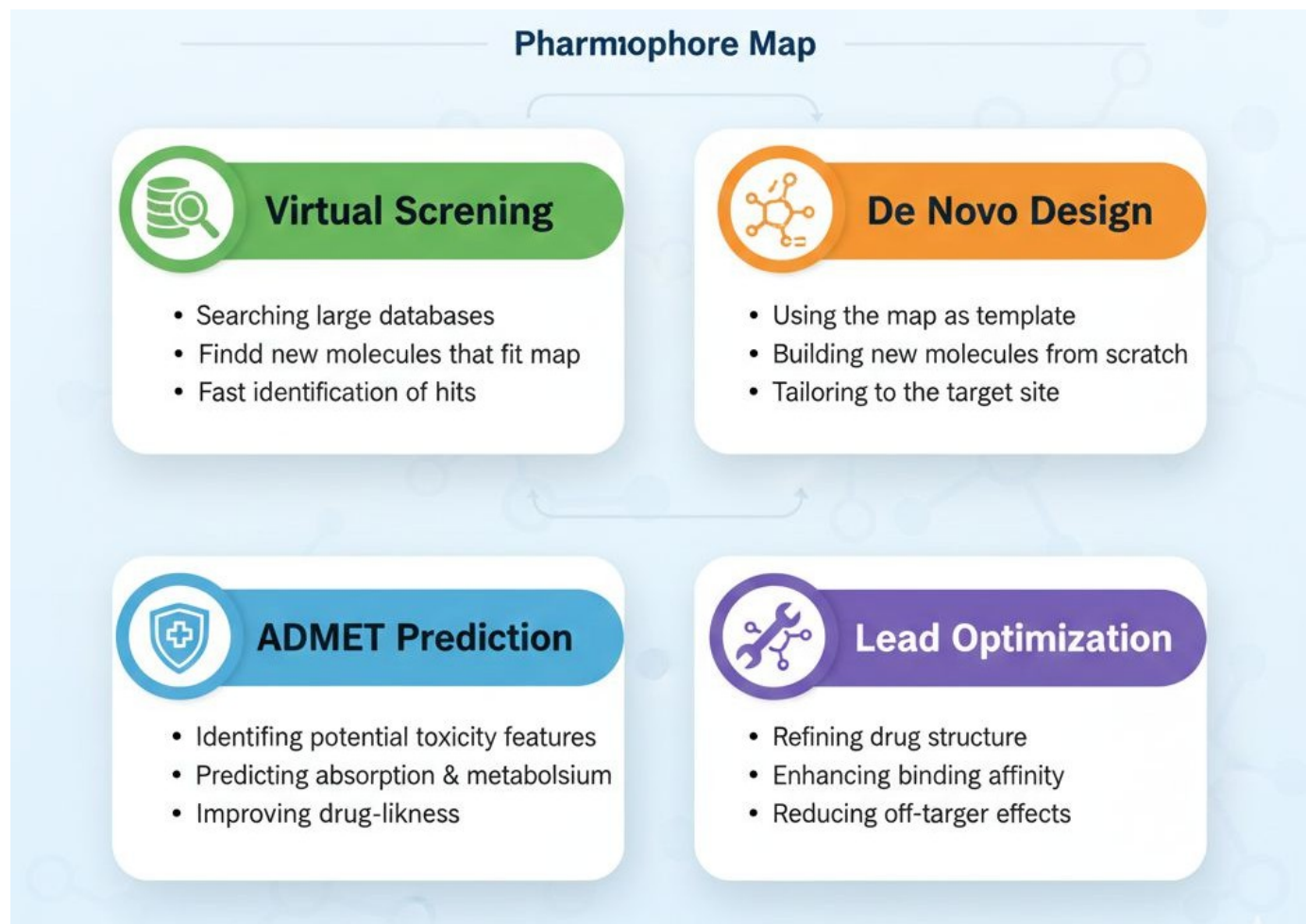
### 3. Generate

- Generate Pharmophore Model Model





# APPLICATIONS OF PHARMACOPHORE MAPPING IN DRUG DISCOVERY



# PHARMACOPHORE MAPPING ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES



## Advantages

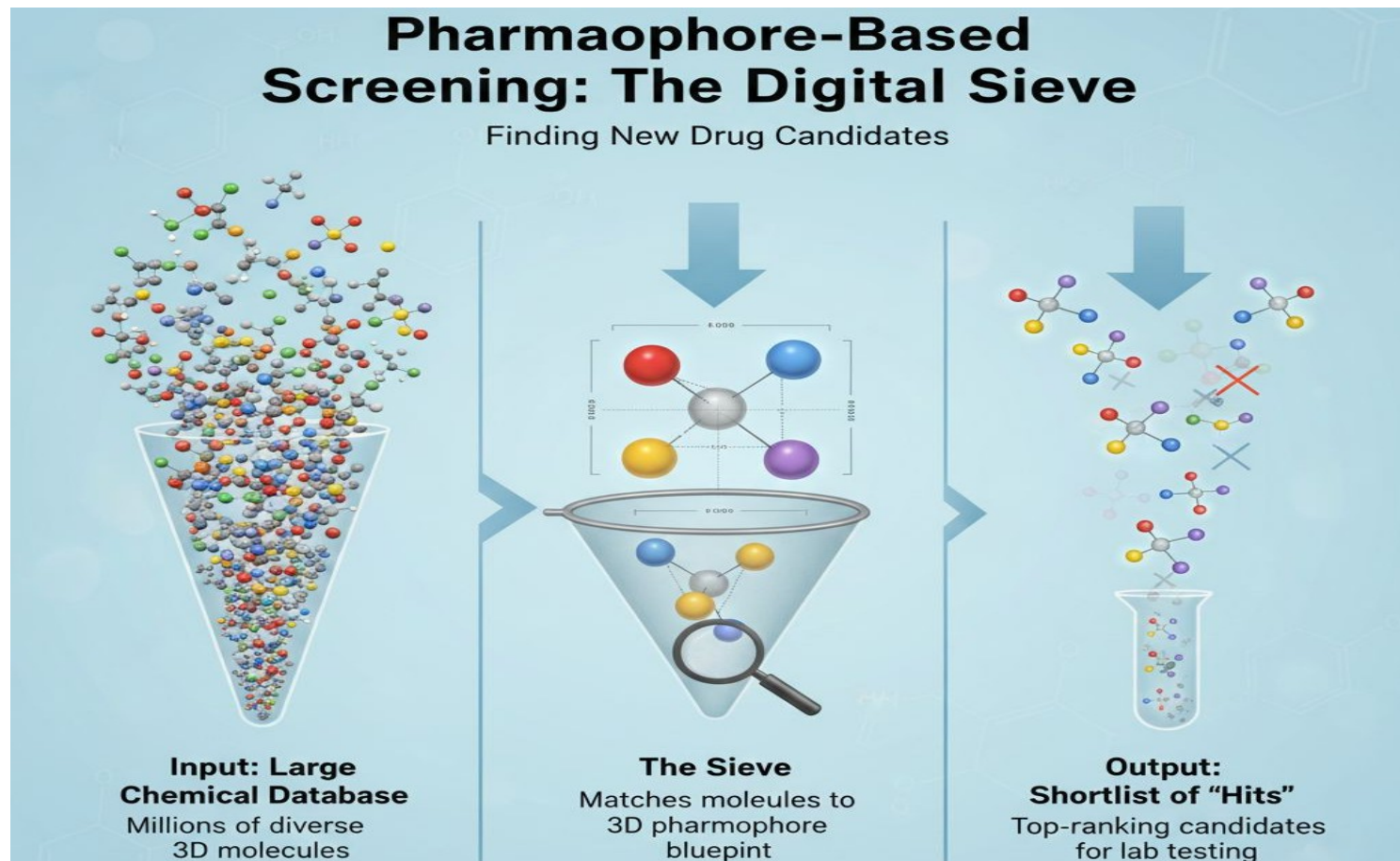
- Much faster than docking
- Works without protein structure
- Finds diverse structures (Scaffold Hopping)



## Limitations

- Ignores energy/entropy
- Less precise scoring
- Sensitive to training set quality

# PHARMACOPHORE BASED SCREENING



# Introduction to Pharmophore-Based Screening

## Definition:



- Ligand-based virtual screening technique
- Identifies potential drug candidates
- Identifies essential on essential molecular features.



## Pharmacphore-Based Screening

Finds molecules with matching 3D feature patterns.

## Used When:

- Protein structure is unknown
- Known active ligands available



Early-Stage Drug Discovery



Finding New Leads: Focusing on What Matters Most





# The Concept of a Pharmaophore

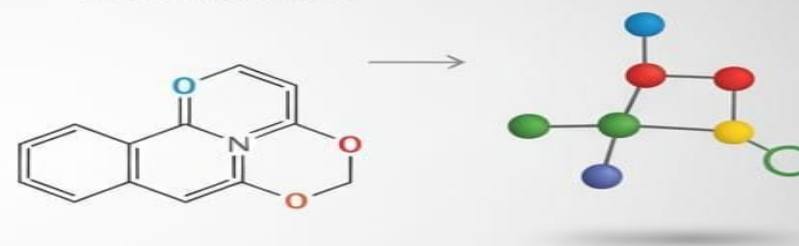
## Definition:



- 3D arrangement of chemical features.
- Required for biological activity.
- Focuss on functionality, not structure.

## Understanding SAR:

### Lead Molecule



- Represents features for target–ligand interaction. Helps understand Structure–Activity Relationship (SAR).



Pharmacophore: The Key 3D Features for Biological Function

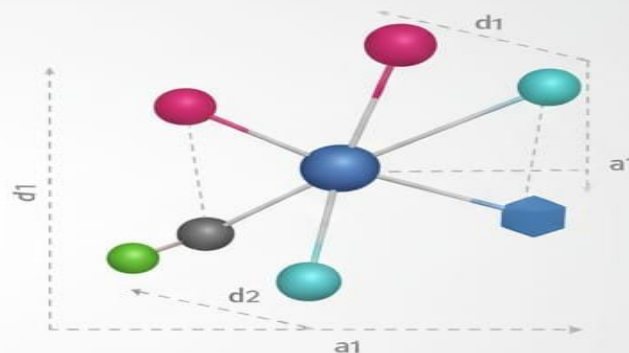


# Pharmaophoric Features

## Common Features:

-  **Hydrogen bond donors (HBD)** - H Atom bonded to O/N)
-  **Hydrogen bond acceptors** - O/N Atoms
-  **Hydrophobic regions** - Alkyl/Aryl groups
-  **Aromatic rings** - Pi-stacking
-  **Positive Ionizable** - Basic groups
-  **Negative Ionizable** - Acidic groups

## Spatial Orientation is Key:



**Essential for  
Biological Activity**



**Pharmacophore: The 3D Key to Unlocking Biological Function.**

## Steps in Pharma-phore-Based Screening

### 1. Selection of Known Active Ligands



### 3. Construction 3D Pharmaophore Model



### 4. Validation of Pharmaophore Model



### 6. Screening of Compound Databases

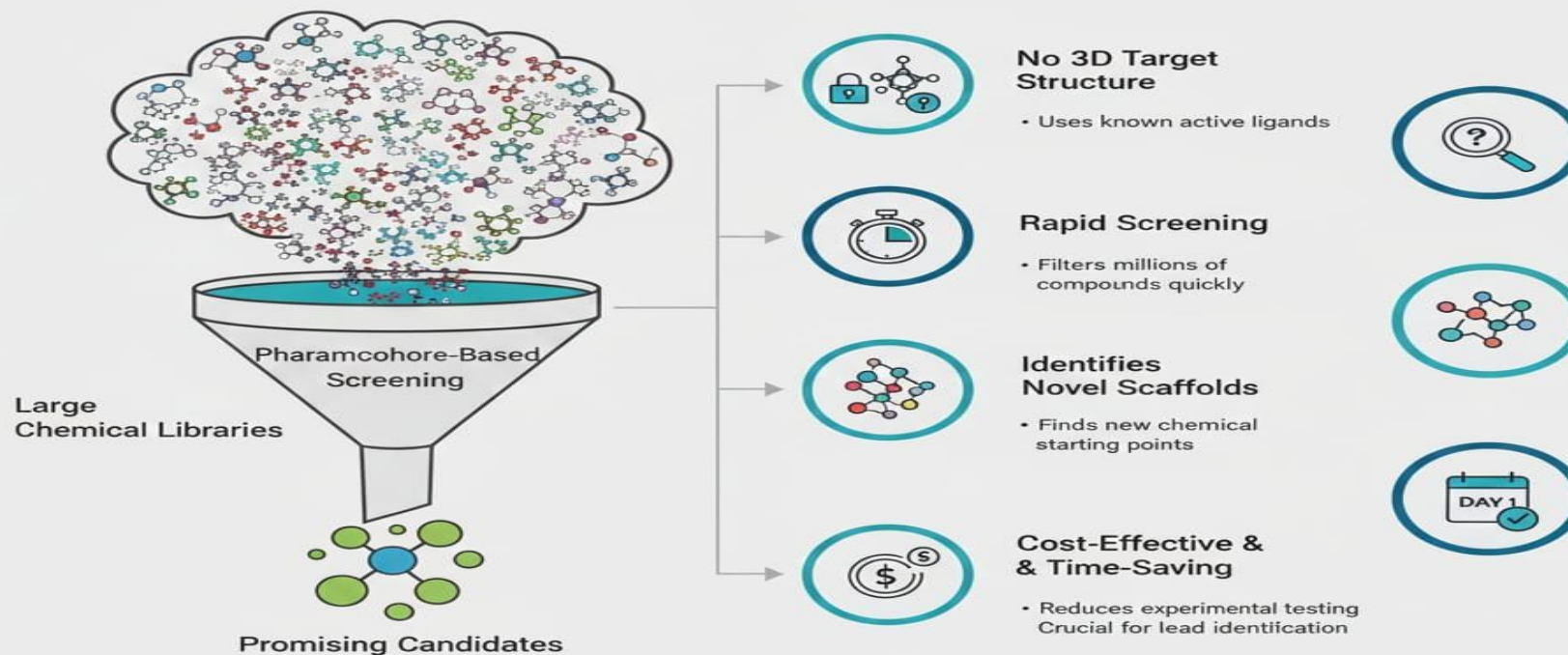


  
For Experimental  
Testing



**Workflow: From Actives to Novel Drug Candidates**

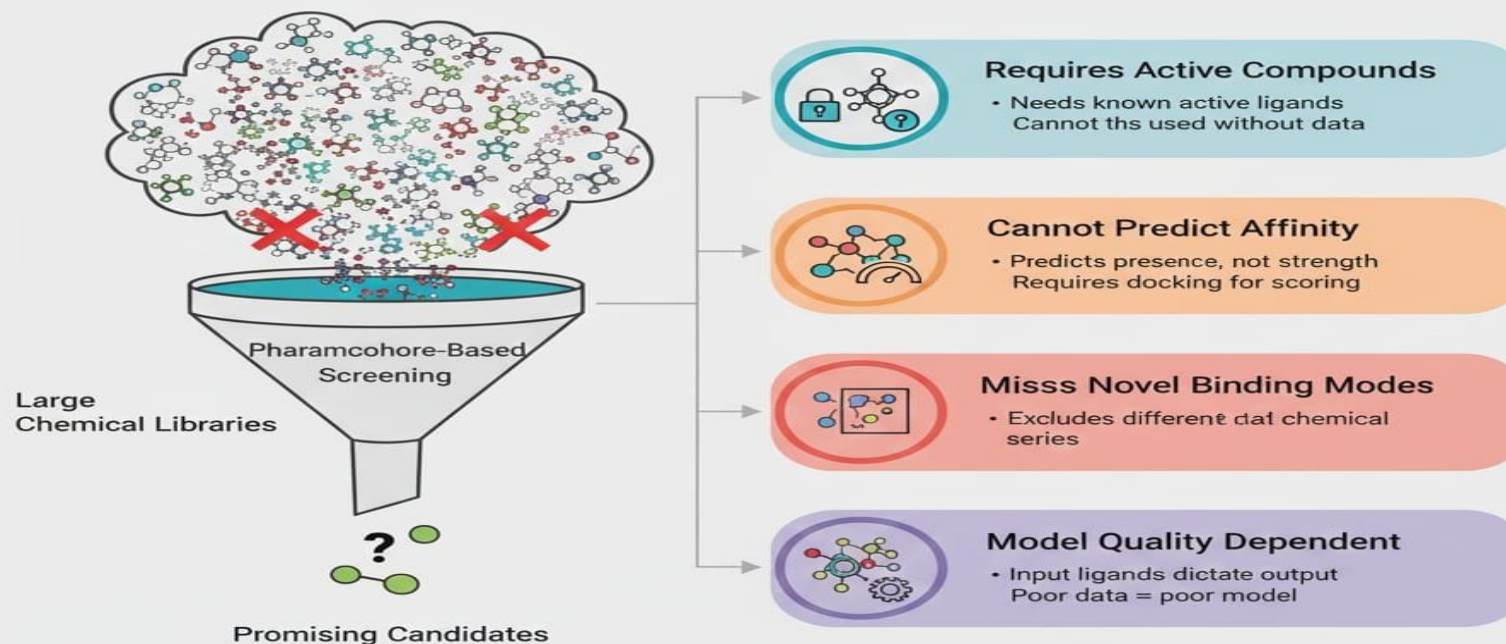
## Advantages / Pharmocohore-Based Screening



Maximizing Efficiency in Early Drug Discovery: A Ligand-Centric Approach



## Limitations of Pharmocohore-Based Screening



Balancing Power & Pitfalls in Ligand-Based Design



## ASSESSMENT

Q1. Pharmacophore mapping mainly focuses on:

- A) Complete molecular structure
- B) Molecular weight and solubility
- C) Spatial arrangement of functional features
- D) Protein folding pattern

Q2. Pharmacophore mapping helps in understanding:

- A) Drug synthesis cost
- B) Structure–activity relationship (SAR)
- C) Drug storage conditions
- D) Packaging requirements

Q3. Pharmacophore mapping helps in understanding:

- A) Drug synthesis cost
- B) Structure–activity relationship (SAR)
- C) Drug storage conditions
- D) Packaging requirements

## REFERENCES

- 1) Wermuth, C. G., Ganellin, C. R., Lindberg, P., & Mitscher, L. A. (1998). Glossary of terms used in medicinal chemistry (IUPAC Recommendations). *Pure and Applied Chemistry*, 70(5), 1129–1143
- 2) Yang, S. Y. (2010).  
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- 3) Patel, Y., Gillet, V. J., Bravi, G., & Leach, A. R. (2002).  
A comparison of pharmacophore identification programs. *Journal of Computer Aided Molecular Design*, 16, 653–681.

