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## MIF-CD74 interaction as a promising target in drug discovery

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# **Appendix**

Acknowledgements

List of publications

About the author

## Acknowledgements

Thanks to God, Jesus Christ, who has opened the way for me to start my PhD journey in Groningen. My first two weeks living in Groningen was the most shocking time, due to completely different circumstances (environment, climate, culture, etc.) between Groningen and my hometown.

*The aim of my project can be achieved by normal effort.* That was my first impression in several months working on MIF-CD74 project. However, time has given an evidence that greater effort than usual was needed to accomplish the project. Indeed, the unstable nature of the extracellular CD74 and the irregularities of MIF enzyme activity have arisen both challenge and opportunity.

Sometimes desperation came. Two years elapsed for an effort of producing stable and functional CD74 fusion proteins, specifically the CD74 cleavage products of which the purification proved to be problematic. Fortunately, the subsequent steps went faster than the expectation and the end of the project is at hand. After all, the more I was engaged in the project, the more interesting it was. I found myself eventually become more excited to continue the project and see further good results to come. The work has been attracting me a lot!

Time is flying. My interesting PhD journey in Groningen has finally come to an end. Accordingly, I would like to express my gratitude to all the companions in my PhD trip.

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to my first supervisor Prof. dr. F.J. Dekker. Frank, thank you for providing me a place to start my PhD journey in the Department of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Biology, University of Groningen. It is honorable for me to be a part of this research group. Thank you for your supervision, your patience and your encouragement that enabled me to cope with all the problems I encountered during my work. You are a great supervisor. You often encouraged me to stay focused and keep a close eye on the schedule already made, that maintained me to be on track for the final destination (even though sometimes I felt under pressure). Thank you for all those matters.

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## List of publications

1. Kok T, Wapenaar H, Wang K, Neochoritis CG, Zarganes-Tzitzikas T, Proietti G, et al. Discovery of chromenes as inhibitors of macrophage migration inhibitory factor. *Bioorg Med Chem* 2018;26:999–1005. doi:10.1016/J.BMC.2017.12.032.
2. Kok T, Wasiel AA, Dekker FJ, Poelarends GJ, Cool RH. High yield production of human invariant chain CD74 constructs fused to solubility-enhancing peptides and characterization of their MIF-binding capacities. *Protein Expr Purif* 2018;148:46–53. doi:10.1016/j.pep.2018.03.008.
3. Kok T, Wasiel AA, Cool RH, Melgert BN, Poelarends GJ, Dekker FJ. Small-molecule inhibitors of macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) as an emerging class of therapeutics for immune disorders. *Drug Discov Today* 2018. doi:10.1016/j.drudis.2018.06.017.
4. Kok T, Xiao ZP, Fokkens M, Wapenaar H, Proietti G, Poelarends GJ, Dekker FJ. Synthesis of a focused compound collection of isoxazole, benzoxazole and triazole-phenol scaffolds to explore the structure-activity relationship for MIF tautomerase activity inhibition – ongoing work.

## About the author



Tjie Kok was born in Surabaya, Indonesia on 20 August 1969. He received his bachelor and master degree from Airlangga University (Unair), Surabaya, Indonesia and has been doing his career as a lecturer/researcher in University of Surabaya (Ubaya), Surabaya, Indonesia since 1994. In 2005-2010 he became a member of American Chemical Society (ACS). Tjie was appointed head of several departments in University of Surabaya before holding his office as the vice dean of Faculty of Biotechnology, Ubaya in 2011-2014. He was then pursuing his PhD degree at Groningen Research Institute of Pharmacy (GRIP) University of Groningen (RuG), The Netherlands in 2014-2018 under supervision of Prof. dr. F.J. Dekker and Prof. dr. G.J. Poelarends. He worked on the project: Towards novel anti-inflammatory therapies aimed at the cytokine macrophage migration inhibitory factor, with financial support from Directorate General of Higher Education Indonesia (DIKTI) in collaboration with Ubaya and RuG. Tjie has published more than 25 papers in national and international journals/proceedings, including 3 papers recently in reputed international journals. He has become speaker in many national and several international conferences/seminars/symposiums. He has also become a reviewer for some international journals.





