

# The Hydrophobicity of Purine Nucleoside Analogs

Evidence from Partition Coefficients  
for Conformations with Internal  
Hydrogen Bonds & Tautomers

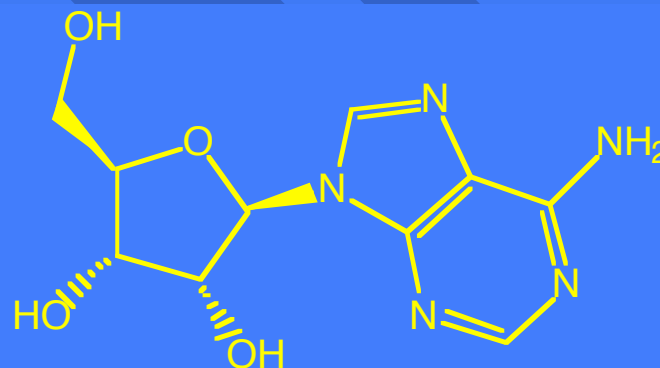
# Nucleosides

- ‘**CONSTRUCTIONIST**’ approach in CLOGP focuses attention on **interaction factors**
- CLOGP performed well on **sugars, nucleic acids, & pyrimidine** nucleosides
- ...but poorly on 84 **purine** nucleosides and their analogs
- Standard **Error four times** that of over 10,000 others in Starlist

# Nucleosides



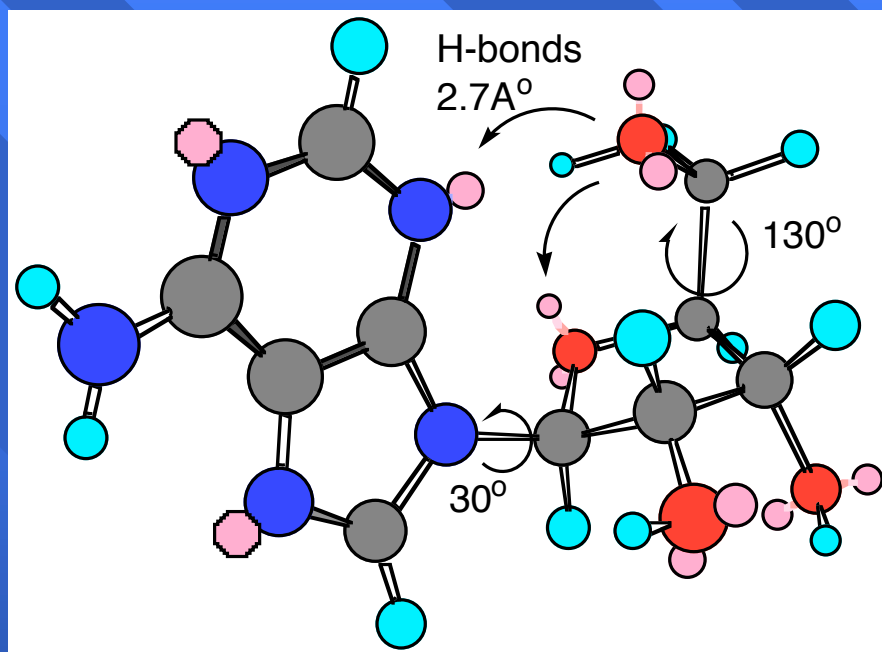
Cytidine  
CLOGP = -2.24; MlogP = -2.29



Adenosine  
CLOGP = -2.27; MlogP = -1.05

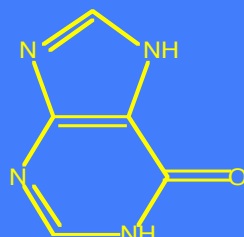
- Joining the **sugar** to **nucleic acid N** needs same proximity correction for each
- Suggests **long range interaction** present in adenosine but not in cytidine (closest approach of **5'-OH** and **N3** of cytidine is 3.5 Angstroms)
- The **3' & 4' de-oxy** analogs of adenosine still calculate low
- Focus then turns on the **5'-OH**

# Adenosine, folded



- The bonds attaching the sugar ring to the  $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$  and to the **purine** are **freely rotating**
- When **both** are **beta**, the **5'-OH** can be in ideal distance to H-bond with either **N3** of **purine** or **O1** of **sugar**
- The latter already accounted for in **YCCY**
- H-bond with **N3** strong even though it forms ring of **8 large atoms**.
- Needs correction of **+0.86** for 84 analogs

# Tautomerism



Hypoxanthine

-1.11

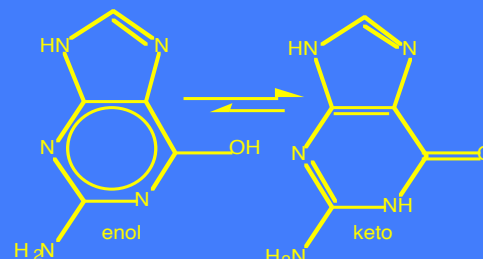
Meas. Log P

ClogP (keto)

-1.13

ClogP (enol)

+0.49



Guanine

-0.96

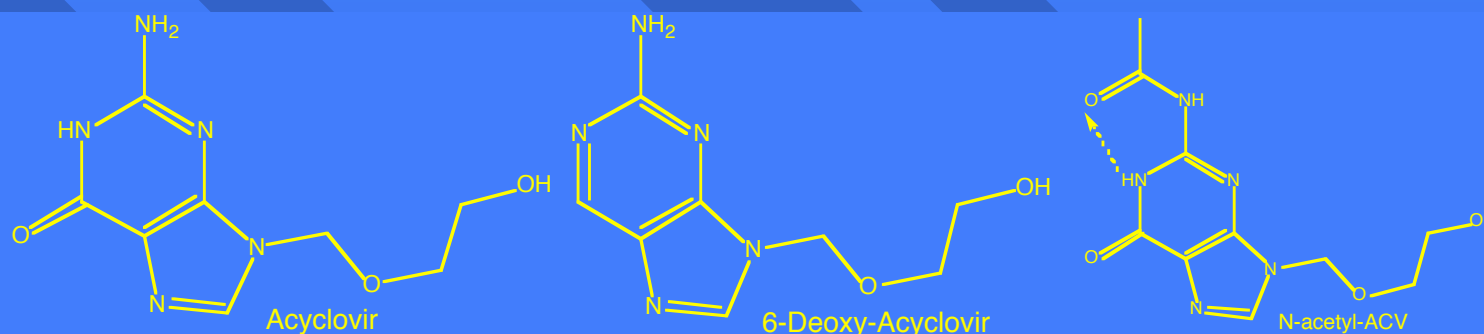
-1.16\*

+0.35

\*Average corr. to keto  
calc. = +0.3

- Amino substituent in **guanine** shifts equilibrium slightly towards **enol**
- Same for **allopurinol** (N moved from 7 to 8);  
Meas. = -0.55; CLOGP = -0.84; CLOGP<sup>e</sup> = -0.54

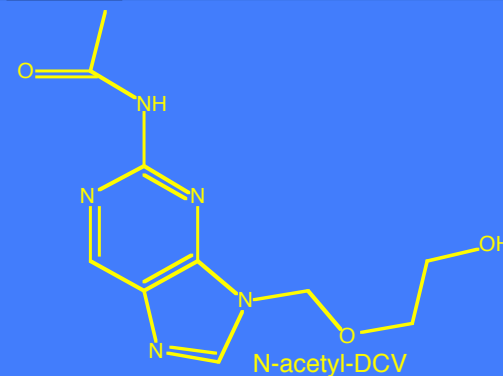
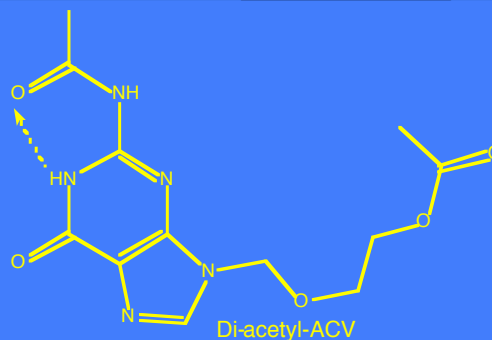
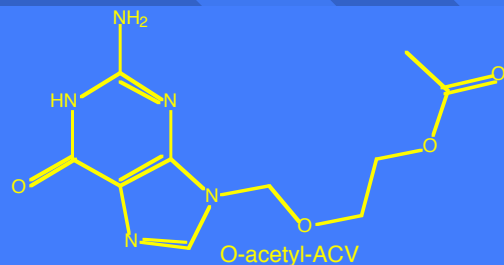
# H-bond & Tautomer



Meas.	-1.56	-1.08	-1.30
ClogP	-1.72* <sup>e</sup> (-2.42)	-1.04* (-1.44)	-1.27* (-1.67)

- \*+0.4 for N3-Hbond
- <sup>e</sup> +0.3 for enol portion

# H-Bond & Tautomer



Meas.

-1.01

-0.85

-1.33

ClogP

-1.23<sup>e</sup>  
(-1.53)

-0.78

-1.50\*  
(-1.90)

- \*+0.4 for N3-Hbond
- <sup>e</sup> +0.3 for enol portion

# Role of Hydrogen Bonding in QSAR

- Hugo Kubinyi asks: “Last **mystery** in drug design?”
- $\text{Log } P_{(\text{oct})}$  has been seen ‘**deficient**’ since it is **not** affected by solute H-donor strength
- Teague & Davis<sup>1</sup> suggest H-bonding much **less important** in drug-receptor interactions than in the DNA duplex, for example
- Abraham & Mitchell<sup>2</sup> see solute H-donor important in **membrane transport**, especially **BBB**.
- H-donor strength measureable by:  
$$\text{Log } P_{(\text{O/Chl})} = - 1.0 V + 3.2 \square - 0.03$$
where  $\square$  is ‘effective sum of’ H-donor strength<sup>3</sup>
- Presently it appears that not enough dependable  $\text{Log } P_{(\text{Chl})}$  values available, but approach still promising.
- 1) Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 1999, 38 736-749.  
2) J. Pharm. Sci., 1997, 86, 310-314.  
3) CHEMTECH, July 1996, 20-29

## H-Donor Parameter $\sigma$

**solute**

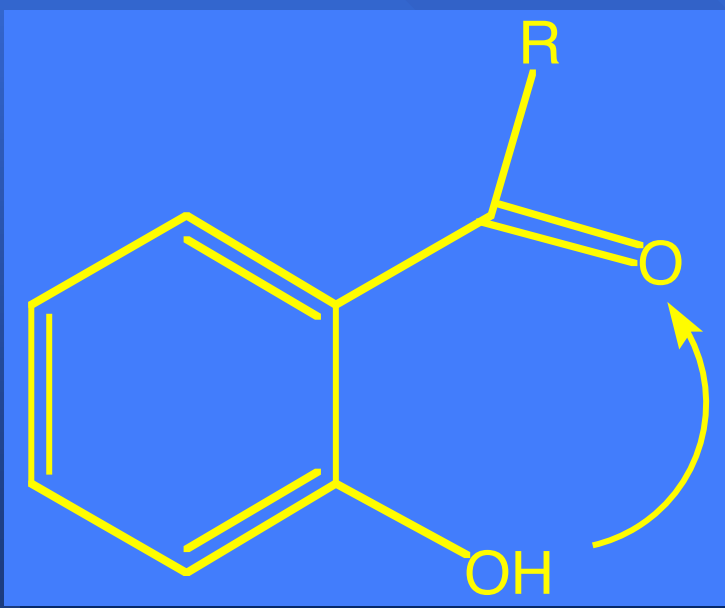
acetic acid

trichloroacetic acid

$\sigma$

0.59

0.90



**R**

$\sigma$

Me

-0.04

OMe

+0.11

OEt

+0.11

NH<sub>2</sub>

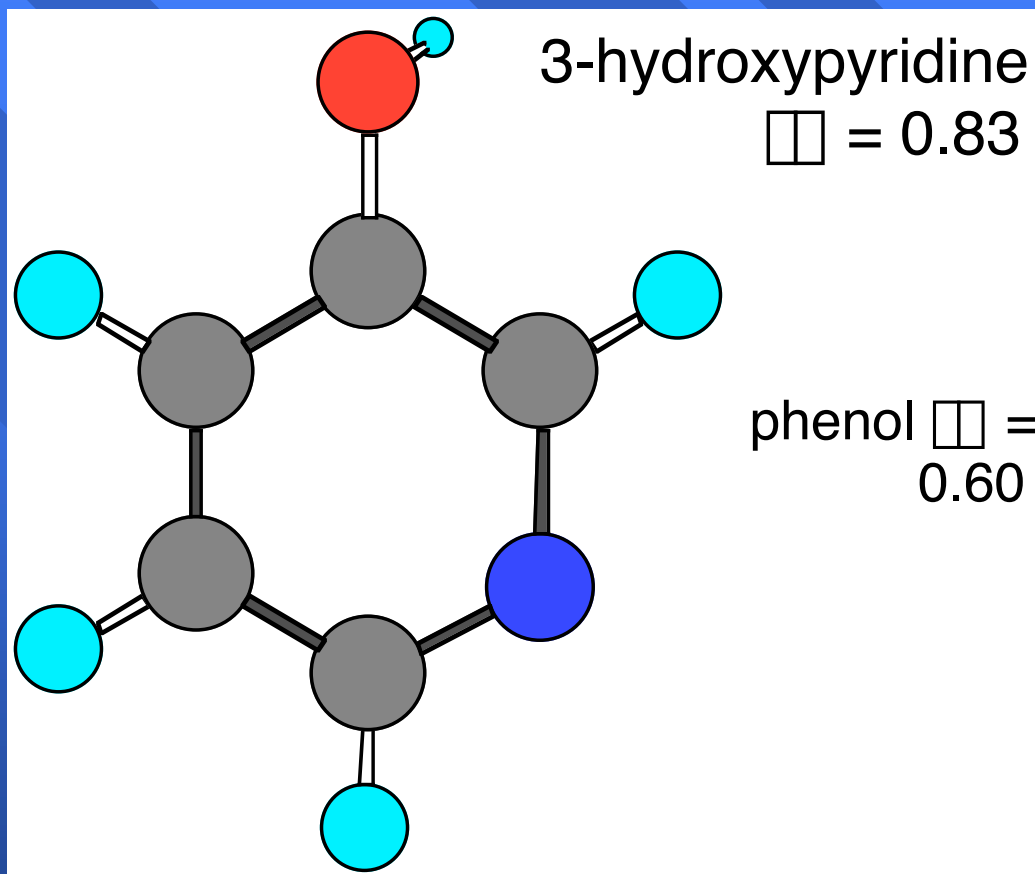
+0.58 (0.94\*)

OH

+0.86 (0.73\*)

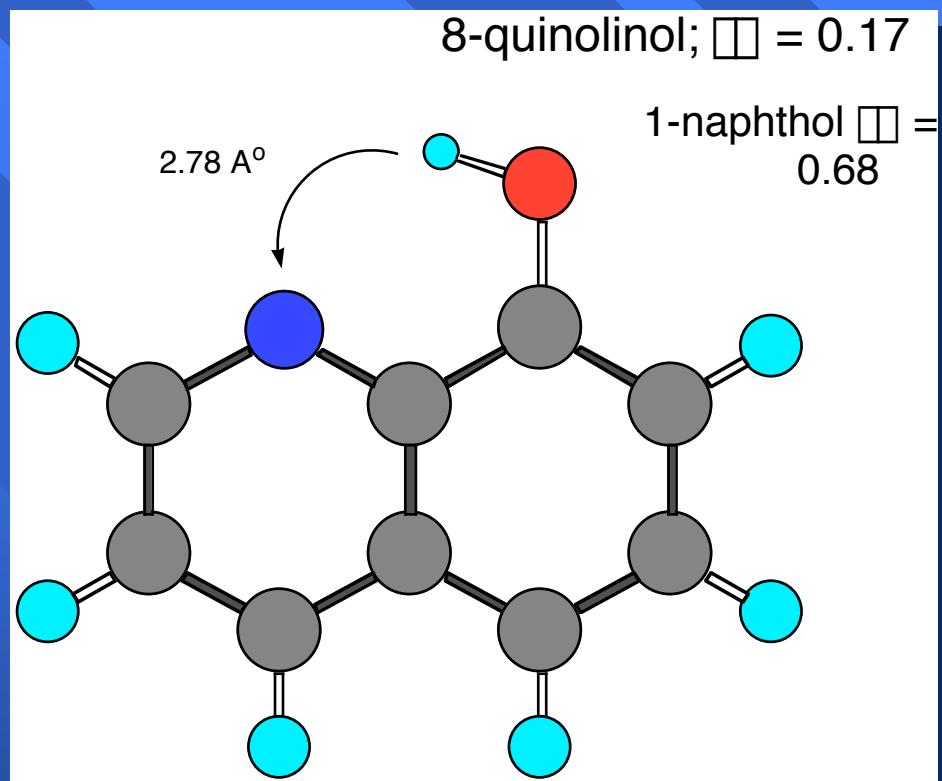
\*without 2-OH

## Interactions affecting H-donor strength



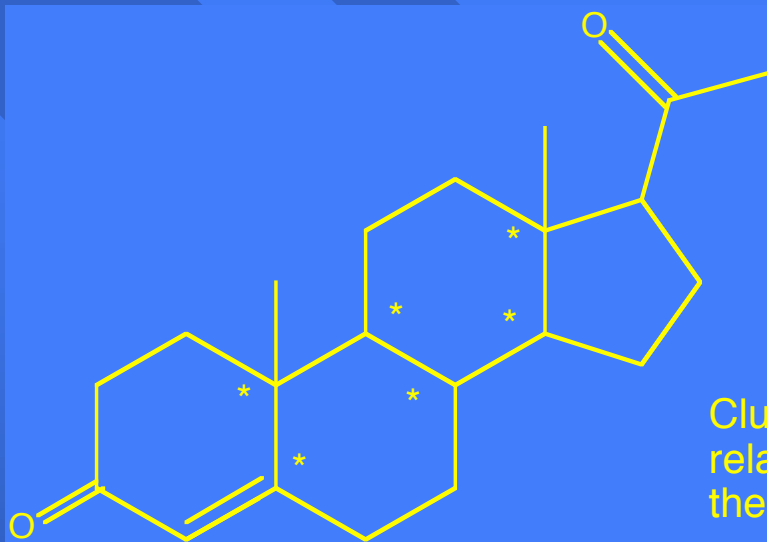
- Pyridine **N** two carbons from OH approximately same **enhancement** as **NO<sub>2</sub>** substituent
- Log P(oct) **raised** by lower  $\sigma$  of oxygen; greater  $\sigma$  not seen..

## H-bond interactions (cont.)



- Quinoline **N** two carbons from **OH** decreases  $\sigma$  by 0.51 log units
- Indicates intramol H-bond despite non-optimal angle
- Sigma/rho of 0.65 to 0.70 in ClogP accounts for **lower**  $\sigma$  of oxygen.

# Anomalies



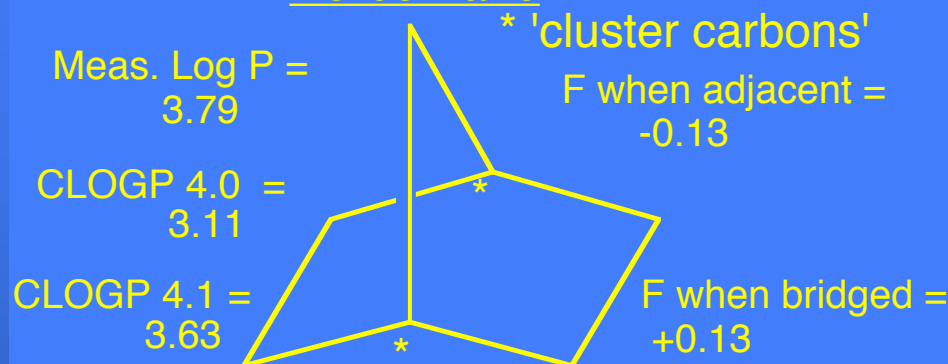
Progesterone: 6 adjacent cluster carbons;  
F (clust.brch) = 6(-0.13); CLOGP = 3.77  
Meas. = 3.87

Cluster carbons on ring edges creates a relatively flat surface which can accommodate the alkane chain portion of octanol.

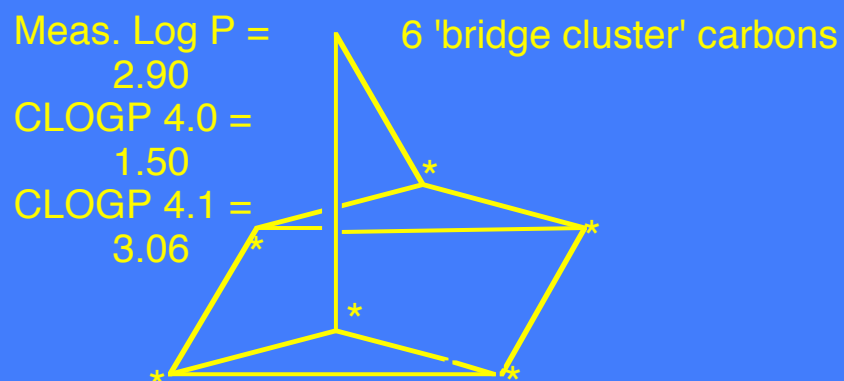
- Adjacent **cluster carbons** join two rings at their edges.
- There are six of these in the common steroids, such as progesterone, resulting in a **negative** correction for this relatively flat alkane surface.
- Bridged 'cluster carbons' create a cage-like carbon structure. It is tempting to predict that, with less surface per carbon in the 'caged' structure, they should require an even greater **negative** correction, but on the next slide we show that it is **positive**.

# Bridged Cluster Anomaly

## Norbornane



## Quadricyclane



CLOGP 4.1 recognizes 'bridge cluster' correction

- Bridged 'cluster carbons' create a cage-like carbon structure. It is tempting to predict that the lower surface-to-volume ratio in the 'caged' structure would require an even greater **negative** correction, while the data show that it is **positive**.
- Meas. logp Ps 18 analogs from K. Lodge, J.Chem.Eng. Data 1999, 44, 1321-1324. Improves ClogP for aldrin, dieldrin, mirex etc.

# Acknowledgements

- Log P measurements of acyclovir analogs: **A. Kristl**, J. Chem. Soc., Farad. Trans., 1996, 92, 1721-1724
- To the **many** post-docs, technicians, and students who, over a period of 35 years, measured partition coefficients in (smelly) octanol, heptane, and (ornery) chloroform, but **special thanks to:**
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**George Gould**  
**Gargi Debnath**  
**Reshma Vasanwalla**
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