ISBN: 978-93-48620-50-7

NEXT GENERATION APPROACHES IN PHARMACEUTICAL, CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

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Dr. Meghana Mhadaye
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Bhumi Publishing, India
First Edition: November 2025

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(ISBN: 978-93-48620-50-7)

DOI: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17865299

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Published by Bhumi Publishing,

a publishing unit of Bhumi Gramin Vikas Sanstha

Bhumi Publishing

Nigave Khalasa, Tal – Karveer, Dist – Kolhapur, Maharashtra, INDIA 416 207

E-mail: bhumipublishing@gmail.com

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PREFACE

The rapid advancement of science and technology has transformed the landscape of pharmaceutical, chemical, biological, and biomedical research. *Next Generation Approaches in Pharmaceutical, Chemical, Biological and Biomedical Research* aims to present the latest developments, innovative methodologies, and interdisciplinary strategies that are shaping the future of these fields. This volume serves as a comprehensive guide for researchers, academicians, and professionals who seek to understand and implement modern approaches in their respective domains.

The book emphasizes the integration of emerging technologies such as nanotechnology, computational modeling, artificial intelligence, high-throughput screening, and bioinformatics in experimental design and data analysis. By bridging traditional research methodologies with cutting-edge tools, it highlights how scientific inquiry has become more predictive, precise, and efficient. In addition, it addresses the challenges of translating laboratory discoveries into practical applications, such as drug development, diagnostics, therapeutic strategies, and environmental solutions.

Each chapter has been meticulously curated to provide both theoretical insights and practical perspectives. Topics range from advanced drug delivery systems, green chemistry, and molecular biology techniques to biomedical engineering, systems biology, and personalized medicine. Special attention is given to the interdisciplinary nature of modern research, demonstrating how collaborative approaches can accelerate innovation and problem-solving in complex biological and chemical systems.

This book not only caters to experienced researchers and professionals but also serves as a valuable resource for students and early-career scientists. By offering a clear understanding of contemporary tools, methodologies, and challenges, it equips readers with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute effectively to the evolving scientific landscape.

We sincerely hope that this volume inspires curiosity, fosters innovative thinking, and supports the pursuit of excellence in research across the pharmaceutical, chemical, biological, and biomedical sciences.

- Editors

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THE IMPACT OF FUNCTIONAL FOODS, PROBIOTICS, PREBIOTICS AND ANTIOXIDANTS ON HEALTH

Prachi Chaturvedi
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Abstract:
The increasing prevalence of chronic diseases and lifestyle-related health issues has led to a growing interest in functional foods and bioactive compounds that promote overall well-being. Functional foods, enriched with probiotics, prebiotics, and antioxidants, provide health benefits beyond basic nutrition. These components enhance gut health, modulate the immune system, and reduce oxidative stress, thereby contributing to disease prevention and improved quality of life. This chapter explores the physiological functions, mechanisms of action, and health implications of functional foods, with a focus on probiotics, prebiotics, and antioxidants. It also discusses recent advances in functional food formulation and their role in personalized nutrition.

Keywords: Functional Foods, Probiotics, Prebiotics, Antioxidants, Gut Health, Oxidative Stress, Chronic Diseases.

1. Introduction:

In recent years, dietary patterns have shifted from focusing solely on calorie intake to considering the health-promoting potential of food components. Functional foods are those that provide physiological benefits or reduce the risk of chronic diseases beyond their basic nutritional functions (Martirosyan & Singh, 2015). These foods typically contain bioactive compounds such as probiotics, prebiotics, and antioxidants that play crucial roles in maintaining health and preventing disease (Granato *et al.,* 2020).

2. Functional Foods: Definition and Significance

Functional foods are defined as natural or processed foods that contain biologically active compounds which, when consumed in adequate amounts, confer health benefits (Siró *et al.,* 2008). They include a wide variety of products such as fortified dairy products, fiber-enriched cereals, and beverages containing plant extracts. The concept has gained prominence in preventive healthcare, particularly for reducing the risk of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, obesity, and cancer (Hasler, 2002).

3. Probiotics: Role in Gut Health and Immunity

Probiotics are live microorganisms that, when administered in adequate amounts, confer health benefits to the host (Hill *et al.,* 2014). Common probiotic strains include *Lactobacillus* and

Bifidobacterium. These microorganisms enhance intestinal barrier integrity, inhibit pathogen colonization, and modulate immune responses (Marco *et al.,* 2017).

Clinical studies indicate that probiotics can alleviate symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), and antibiotic-associated diarrhea (Didari *et al.,* 2014). Additionally, probiotics have been linked to improved mental health through the gut-brain axis, indicating their potential in managing anxiety and depression (Dinan *et al.,* 2013).

4. Prebiotics: Fuel for Beneficial Microbes

Prebiotics are non-digestible food components that selectively stimulate the growth and activity of beneficial gut bacteria (Gibson *et al.,* 2017). Common prebiotics include inulin, fructooligosaccharides (FOS), and galactooligosaccharides (GOS). When fermented by intestinal microbes, prebiotics produce short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs) such as acetate, propionate, and butyrate, which support gut epithelial health and have anti-inflammatory effects (Ríos-Covián *et al.,* 2016).

Regular consumption of prebiotic-rich foods such as bananas, onions, garlic, and whole grains has been shown to improve digestion, enhance calcium absorption, and regulate lipid metabolism (Slavin, 2013).

5. Antioxidants: Defense Against Oxidative Stress

Antioxidants are molecules that inhibit oxidation and neutralize free radicals, reducing cellular damage and the risk of chronic diseases (Lobo *et al.,* 2010). They include vitamins (C, E), polyphenols, carotenoids, and flavonoids. Diets rich in antioxidant-containing foods such as fruits, vegetables, tea, and dark chocolate are associated with lower risks of cardiovascular diseases, neurodegenerative disorders, and cancer (Liu, 2013).

The mechanism of action involves scavenging reactive oxygen species (ROS), enhancing enzymatic antioxidant defenses, and modulating signaling pathways related to inflammation and apoptosis (Pandey & Rizvi, 2009).

6. Synergistic Effects of Probiotics, Prebiotics, and Antioxidants

When combined, probiotics and prebiotics create *synbiotics*, offering synergistic benefits to the host (Kolida & Gibson, 2011). Synbiotics enhance microbial balance, nutrient absorption, and immune function. Moreover, functional foods that integrate antioxidants with probiotics and prebiotics exhibit enhanced stability and bioavailability of active compounds (Shori, 2016). Such combinations are increasingly used in nutraceutical formulations and fortified beverages to promote holistic health.

7. Future Perspectives and Challenges

Advances in food biotechnology and personalized nutrition are paving the way for the development of next-generation functional foods tailored to individual microbiomes and

metabolic needs (O'Toole & Marchesi, 2019). However, challenges remain regarding standardization, regulatory frameworks, and consumer education. Ensuring product efficacy, stability, and safety is critical for expanding the global functional food market.

Conclusion:

Functional foods, especially those incorporating probiotics, prebiotics, and antioxidants, hold tremendous potential in promoting health and preventing chronic diseases. Their integration into daily diets can improve gut microbiota balance, reduce oxidative stress, and enhance immune function. Continued research and innovation in this field are essential for realizing the full therapeutic potential of these bioactive components.

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NEXT-GENERATION BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH: AI, MULTI-OMICS, SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY AND ADVANCED ENGINEERING TOOLS

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Introduction:

Biomedical Research has expanded rapidly over the past decade paving the way for novel approaches in treating various diseases. From the discovery of antibiotics to the development of targeted cancer therapies, each advancement has deepened our insights into understanding the pathogenesis of the disease and treatment approaches. (Ram Narayan Prajapati *et al.,* (2023) The growing field of omics encompassing genomics, epigenomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolomics provides a detailed molecular view of human biology. Integrating multiomics data with phenotypic information from electronic health records represents a major shift in biomedical research. It enables us to deeply understand the health and disease pathways. Mapping the current research landscape and recognizing the transformative potential of these approaches is crucial for achieving a holistic understanding of complex biological systems. (Yonghyun Nam *et al.,* 2025) This article aims to provide an overview on AI and Multi-omics, synthetic biology, automated systems, biocatalysts, and biomedical engineering that are shaping the future of pharmaceutical, chemical, biological, and biomedical research.

The Convergence of AI and Multi-Omics for Precision Medicine:

Integration of AI and multi omics related to the living organisms results in the revolution of drug discovery, development and customized healthcare. The following are the branches of AI and its uses in the revolution of science for societal benefits.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Drug Discovery

The collected data such as genomics, clinical trials, scientific literature are analysed using AI. This AI is used to rapidly identify and validate the novel disease target, improve pharmaceutical productivity, reduce human workload and also achieve targets within a short period of time. Generative AI models design novel chemical entities with optimized properties (e.g., potency, absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion, and toxicity-ADMET) that might be missed by traditional high-throughput screening.

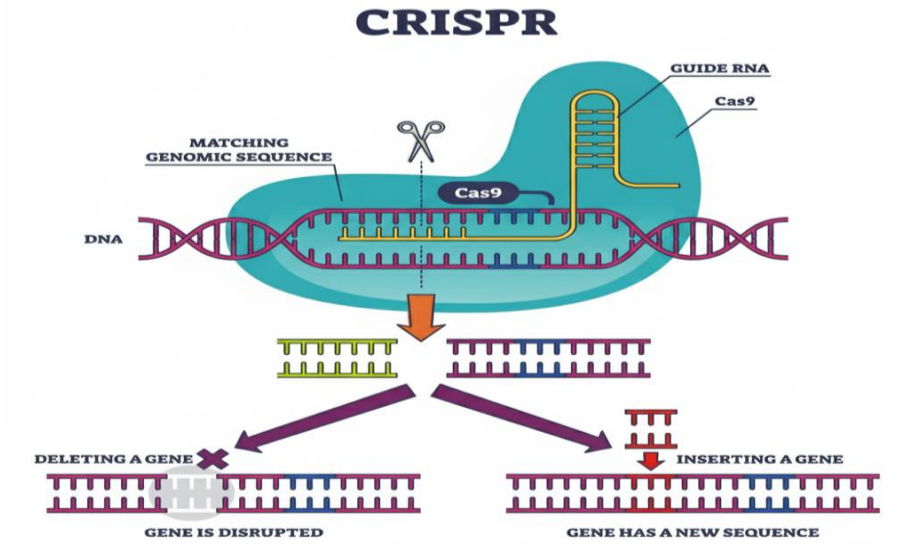
Here omics refers to a brief description of Genomics, Transcriptomics, Proteomics, and Metabolomics. These different omics are integrated into a single database to understand complex disease mechanisms, which are very different from and more advanced than the "one gene, one target" approach. By using these combined data, researchers may also find strong and reliable markers that can help diagnose diseases, predict outcomes, and select the right treatment for each patient in precision medicine.

Synthetic Biology and New Biological Tools

This section covers the development of novel therapeutic and diagnostic tools based on biological engineering principles and new chemical/biological entities.

Synthetic Biology and Genome Editing

CRISPR-Cas9 is the most popular tool. It works like molecular scissors, allowing scientists to cut DNA at specific, pre-selected locations. Using this tool increases the accuracy and effectiveness of making desired changes. The clinical applications include gene therapy which involves the introduction of new and healthy genetic material to replace defective genes. This advanced application allows the tool to be delivered directly inside the body to fix the mutated gene. This is used to treat the patients with genetic disorders.



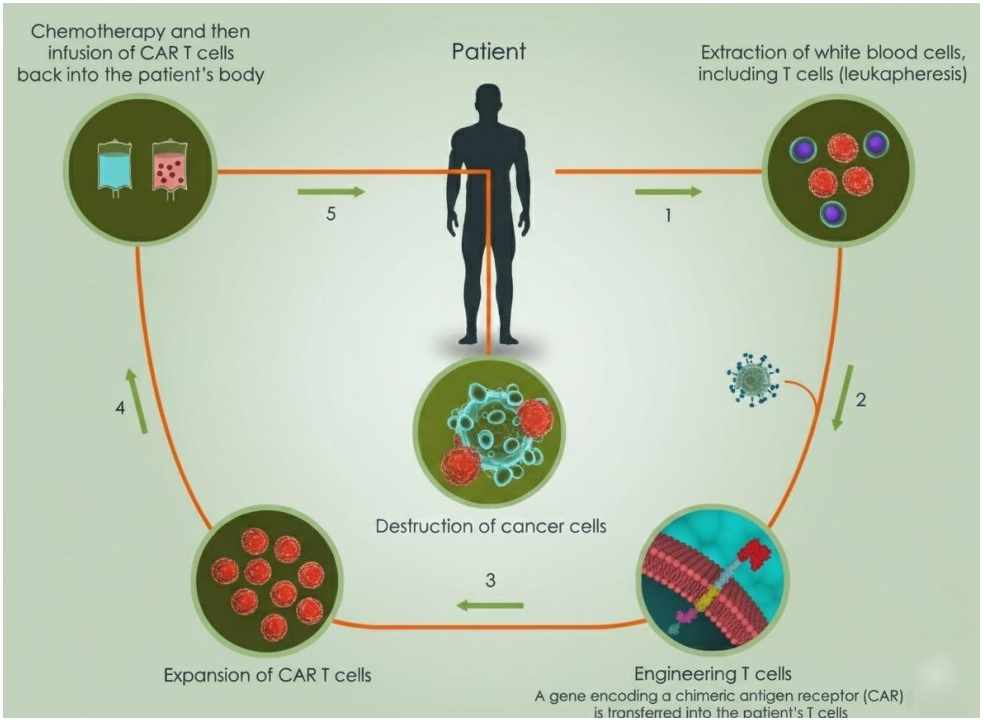
Engineered Biological Systems

Synthetic Biology is about using engineering principles to design and build new biological functions that are not pre-existing. Designing novel systems involves creating new biological parts, such as specific promoter sequence, devices like genetic switches and complex systems like metabolic pathways.

Its applications include,

- Highly effective cell-based therapies, where patient's T cells are genetically engineered to specifically identify and attack the abnormal cells like cancer cells.

- Engineered microbial production which involves modifying microbes to produce valuable and sustainable chemicals.
- Biosensors which help to detect and report the presence of specific substances like toxins, pathogens, or disease biomarkers with high sensitivity.



Sustainable And Accelerated Chemical Synthesis:

This section primarily focuses on the approaches driving faster, safer, and more environmentally friendly production of molecules and materials for the betterment of research.

Robotic and Automated Synthesis:

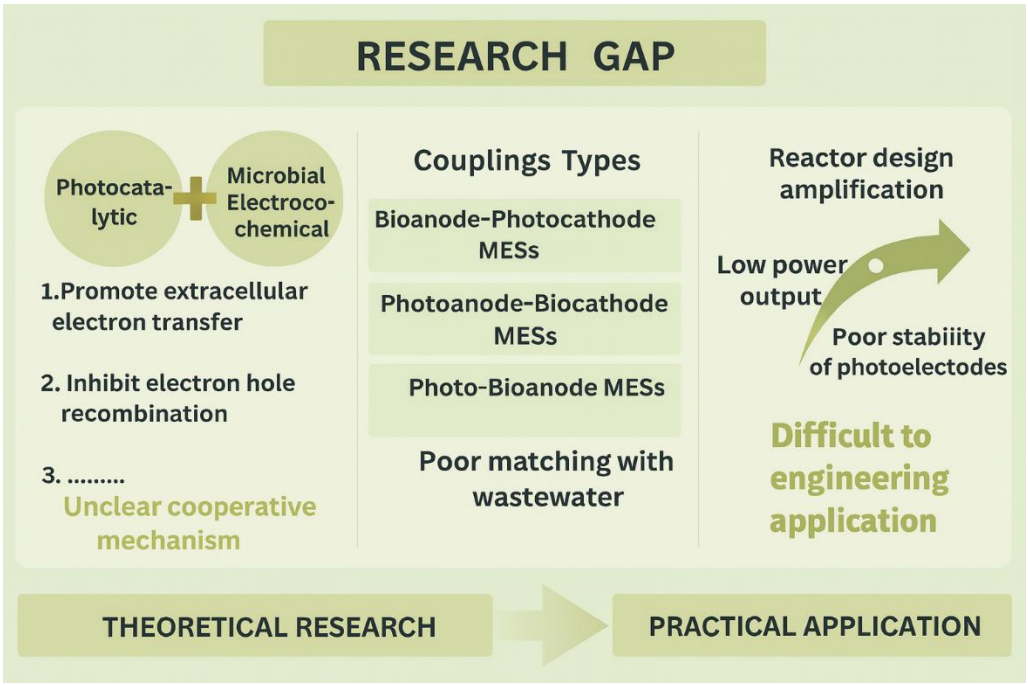
The Human Genome Project has been one of the major contributions to advancing biotechnology research automation. Developments in the robotics sector have enabled the design of automated DNA cloning systems. It implies that robotics has the capability to comprehend DNA replication mechanisms and perform the replication process on its own. This approach may lead to the application of robotics to various genetic processes, making the use of AI impactful in Biomedical research (Melaku Mekonen Kasegn *et al.,* 2025).

Collaboration between technology and research opens the door to various applications across multiple sectors such as industry, agriculture, medicine, and the environment. Despite the research being done on automation of biotechnological processes, the research is still in the beginning stage. Intensive research is needed to effectively apply automated systems in the research sector, with a focus on implementing approaches from manual to computerized systems (Melaku Mekonen Kasegn *et al.,* 2025).

Green Chemistry and Biocatalysis:

Biocatalysis is a sustainable and eco-friendly process as it involves the usage of enzymes to increase the rate of reaction. Enzymes are used in biocatalysis due to its various advantages such as cost effectiveness, safety and biodegradability. An innovative approach associated with biocatalysis is Microbial electrochemical technology (MET). In MET, electroactive microorganisms are used for catalyzing bio-electrochemical processes (Sheldon *et al.,* 2022).

One of the ideas that is being extensively explored is Photocatalytic-coupled Microbial Electrochemical Technology in Wastewater Treatment. Even though the synergistic association between Photocatalysis and Microbial electrochemical technology has been widely explored, the mechanisms behind this association remain less-understood. Laboratory-scale tests using synthetic wastewater have been widely performed leaving a research gap in understanding how these systems perform under real field conditions with specific wastewater pollutants. The compatibility between different coupling configurations and actual wastewater streams, each with their own characteristic pollutants has not been systematically evaluated. Long-term operational stability of photocatalysts and bioelectrodes remains a major challenge, limiting their transition from controlled experiments to practical, full-scale use (Qianhao Zeng *et al.,* 2025).



Advanced Biomedical Engineering:

The major frontier in biomedical research is 3-D printing technology. It is used in the fabrication of silicon actuators with programmable bio-inspired designs and movements. The magnitude of bio-printing technologies is correlated with the creation of nano-scale biomedical products. 3D printing has diverse applications, including gene therapy, tissue engineering, osteogenesis, cancer treatment, and regeneration of skin and blood vessels. Focusing on the forensic science

sector, 3D-printed skulls have proven to play a key role in resolving murder convictions. Designing and crafting dynamic tissues for biomedical applications has been achieved using 4-D bio-printing (Melaku Mekonen Kasegn *et al.,* 2025).

Organ-on-a-Chip technology uses micro-engineered devices to mimic the structural and functional characteristics of human organs in vitro. This technology offers a more accurate and ethical alternative to traditional in vitro assays and animal models. It also plays a pivotal role in predicting the human-specific responses during early drug development. They are said to model a wide range of tissues such as the heart, lung, liver, gut, kidney, bone marrow, and skin. This aspect makes it a powerful tool for disease modeling, toxicity assessment, and in developing personalized medicine. Integrating artificial intelligence with Organ-on-a-Chip technology further enhances precision, automation, and analytical capability. AI-driven simulations help identify biomarkers, forecast drug effects, and refine chip designs to improve clinical relevance (Monga *et al.,* 2025).

Conclusion:

The rapid evolution of next-generation technologies has reshaped the research landscape. The seamless integration of AI, multi-omics, synthetic biology, automated systems, biocatalysts, and advanced engineering tools is enabling more precise therapeutic innovations than ever before. These interdisciplinary approaches improvised the accuracy, personalization, and sustainability across research and clinical applications. Seeking these emerging strategies will be beneficial in transforming the healthcare sector. Advancements in biomedical science lay the foundation for a future where research becomes more connected, guided by data, and able to create meaningful breakthroughs.

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COORDINATION CHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF OXYGEN TRANSPORT IN NON-HEME PROTEINS

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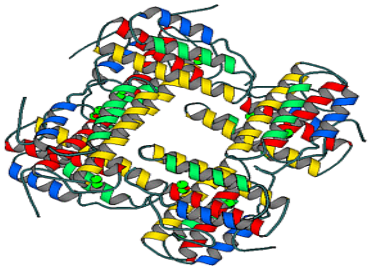
Hemerythrin

Non-heme oxygen transport proteins represent a structurally and chemically diverse class of metalloproteinase that utilize transition metal centers—primarily iron and copper—to reversibly bind dioxygen without the porphyrin scaffold characteristic of haemoglobin. Their molecular chemistry provides fundamental insight into metal–oxygen interactions, including the formation of μ-oxo, hydroperoxo, and superoxo intermediates that stabilize O_2 in biological environments. Unlike heme systems that operate through Fe (II)/Fe(III) redox cycling within a porphyrin ring, non-heme proteins employ open coordination sites, bidentate or polydentate amino acid ligands, and flexible geometries that allow unique pathways for O_2 binding and release. Hemerythrins, hemocyanins, and various synthetic non-heme models demonstrate how ligand field strength, orbital symmetry, and metal oxidation state collectively control oxygen affinity and reactivity. Significant advances in spectroscopy, crystallography, and computational chemistry have elucidated the nature of metal–dioxygen adducts, enabling a deeper understanding of the mechanisms governing reversible binding, cooperativity, and electron transfer. This chapter provides a detailed analysis of the coordination chemistry underlying non-heme O_2 transport, emphasizing structural features, binding modes, kinetic parameters, and electronic factors that modulate oxygen activation. Such insights are essential not only to bioinorganic chemistry but also to the design of bio mimetic oxygen carriers, catalysts, and artificial blood substitutes.

Keywords: Oxygen Transport Proteins; Non-Heme; Hemerythrins, Hemocyanins; Bio Mimetic Oxygen Carriers.

Introduction:

The transport and reversible binding of molecular oxygen rely heavily on the unique coordination chemistry of biologically accessible transition metals. While heme proteins such as hemoglobin have traditionally dominated biochemical discussions of oxygen transport, a distinct class of non-heme oxygen-binding proteins exists across diverse organisms. These proteins utilize di-iron, di-copper, and occasionally hetero metallic centers, where O_2 interacts directly

with non-porphyrin metal coordination environments. Non-heme oxygen carriers therefore represent an important area of bioinorganic chemistry, providing alternative models for metal–oxygen interactions, redox chemistry, and biological catalysis (Solomon *et al.,* 2014).A major group within this family is the Hemerythrins, which bind oxygen at a binuclear non-heme iron center embedded within a four-helix bundle. Structural studies reveal that the active site contains two iron atoms bridged by oxo/hydroxo ligands and supported by histidine and carboxylate donors, generating a flexible site capable of stabilizing O_2 as a hydroperoxo species (Kitanishi, 2022). Unlike heme systems where oxygen binds directly to Fe(II) without a change in oxidation state, Hemerythrins undergo a two-electron oxidation of Fe(II)–Fe(II) to Fe(III)–Fe(III) when binding O_2 (Kurtz, 1990; Stenkamp, 1994). This redox-coupled mechanism highlights the distinctive chemistry of the di-iron core, which stabilizes O_2 through proton-coupled electron transfer (PCET) involving bridging ligands and protein residues. Similarly, hemocyanins, the primary oxygen carriers in arthropods and molluscs, employ a dicopper (I) active site coordinated by histidine residues. Oxygen binding results in the formation of a μ-η^2:η^2 peroxo dicopper (II) core, a structural motif that has been extensively characterized in both biological and synthetic model complexes (Solomon *et al.,* 2014; Ghosh *et al.,* 2007). The O_2 adduct in hemocyanins is stabilized through symmetric side-on coordination to both Cu atoms, a binding mode entirely distinct from the end-on Fe–O_2 adduct in heme proteins. This illustrates how subtle geometric and electronic differences regulate the nature of metal–oxygen interactions in biological systems. Non-heme oxygen carriers provide an excellent framework for understanding the principles of transition-metal redox chemistry, particularly in multinuclear active sites. The di-iron system of hemerythrins has been widely used as a model for studying the formation and reactivity of μ-oxo, μ-hydroxo, and μ-peroxo bridges, as well as the role of ligand field strength in modulating Fe–Fe coupling (Kurtz, 1990). Mossbauer spectroscopy and X-ray crystallography have been central in resolving the electronic structure of the oxy-hemerythrins complex, confirming that O_2 is bound as a hydro peroxide ligand (OOH^-) rather than a superoxide or peroxide in symmetrical fashion (Stenkamp, 1994). These findings provide fundamental insight into the thermodynamics of O_2 reduction and the structural determinants of PCET mechanisms. The dicopper centers of hemocyanins and related copper enzymes such as tyrosinase have inspired a substantial body of research into the chemistry of peroxo- and bis-μ-oxo dicopper species, which play important roles in biological oxidation reactions (Ghosh *et al.,* 2007; Solomon *et al.,* 2014). Synthetic model complexes have successfully reproduced the μ-η^2:η^2 peroxo core found in oxyhemocyanin, enabling detailed investigations into the orbital interactions, Cu–Cu coupling, and Vibrational characteristics that confer stability to this adduct (Itoh, 2015). These studies have provided a broader understanding of how protein matrices modulate the reactivity of oxygenated metal centers, influencing O–O bond activation and

substrate oxidation potential. Moreover, the unique mechanisms employed by non-heme oxygen carriers have deepened scientific understanding of biomimetic oxygen activation, particularly in the context of catalytic oxidation chemistry and artificial oxygen transport materials. Di-iron and dicopper complexes designed to mimic hemerythrins and hemocyanins have been used to model O_2 binding, activation, and reduction processes relevant to oxidation catalysis, environmental remediation, and energy applications (Que & Tolman, 2008). Such systems demonstrate how biological oxygen carriers can inspire the design of functional materials based on controlled metal–oxygen interactions. The chemistry of oxygen transport in non-heme systems therefore encompasses a rich interplay of structural coordination chemistry, redox dynamics, ligand environment, and metal–oxygen bonding modes. These proteins not only serve crucial physiological functions in nature but also continue to influence modern bioinorganic research, synthetic modeling, and catalytic science.

Results and Discussion:

The analysis of structural, electronic, and spectroscopic data on non-heme oxygen transport proteins reveals a highly coordinated interplay between metal ion chemistry and the surrounding protein environment. In Hemerythrins, the dinuclear Fe(II)–Fe(II) center serves as the primary site for reversible oxygen binding. Structural investigations demonstrate that the two iron atoms are bridged by carboxylate ligands and coordinated by histidine residues, producing a flexible yet well-defined coordination sphere.

Figure 1: Oxygen Binding in Hemerythrins

Upon exposure to dioxygen, the diiron core undergoes a two-electron oxidation, leading to the formation of a μ-peroxo Fe(III)–Fe(III) intermediate. This intermediate is stabilized through both metal–oxygen bonding and hydrogen-bonding networks provided by the protein scaffold. The absence of the porphyrin macro cycle, characteristic of heme proteins, results in the iron atoms adopting higher spin states and possessing open coordination sites that allow direct π* orbital interaction with O_2. This open geometry is central to the unique reactivity of hemerythrins compared to heme systems. In contrast, the oxygen-binding chemistry of hemocyanins reflects the distinct properties of copper ions in biological systems. The active site contains two Cu (I) ions, which, upon oxygenation, simultaneously oxidize to Cu(II) and bind O_2 to form a μ-η^2:η^2

peroxo di copper(II) core. The geometric arrangement forces the dioxygen molecule to bridge symmetrically between the two copper atoms, creating a strongly delocalized electronic structure. The intense blue coloration associated with hemocyanins oxygenation originates from ligand-to-metal charge-transfer transitions within this peroxo dicopper unit. Spectroscopic investigations, including UV–Vis, EPR, and Raman analyses, consistently support these structural interpretations, demonstrating predictable shifts in charge-transfer bands upon O_2 coordination. These changes are accompanied by characteristic alterations in O–O stretching frequencies, indicating modulation of dioxygen bond strength during binding. The electronic behavior of the metal centers plays a critical role in ensuring reversible oxygen transport. In hemerythrins, coupled electron–proton transfer ensures that the peroxo intermediate remains intact without undergoing O–O bond cleavage. This behavior starkly contrasts with non-heme iron oxygenases, which typically reduce and cleave dioxygen to promote oxidative transformations. The controlled redox cycling of Fe(II)/Fe(III) in hemerythrins prevents the formation of reactive oxygen species, underscoring the importance of precise tuning of electronic states for safe oxygen handling. Similarly, hemocyanins regulate the Cu (I)/Cu(II) transition such that the peroxo intermediate remains stable and avoids superoxide formation, despite the inherent redox activity of copper.

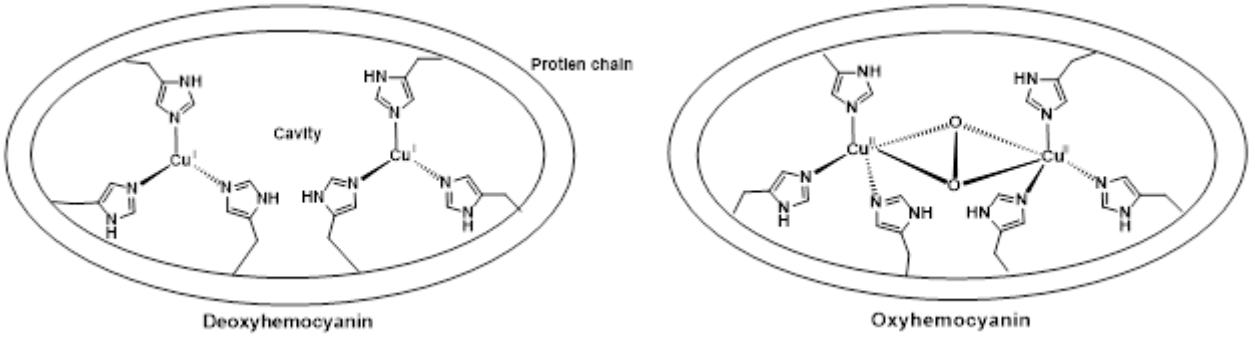

Figure 2: Oxygen binding in hemocyanins

This fine-tuning is achieved through protein-mediated geometric constraints and secondary-sphere interactions, which modulate copper coordination geometry and electron density distribution. Thermodynamic and kinetic studies further support the observation that non-heme oxygen carriers have evolved to provide sufficiently strong O_2 affinity while avoiding irreversible oxidation. Hemerythrins generally exhibit high oxygen affinity but modest cooperativity, consistent with localized conformational changes upon dioxygen binding. In contrast, hemocyanins display pronounced cooperative behavior due to allosteric communication between subunits in their multi-domain protein assemblies. The differences in cooperativity illustrate how protein quaternary structure influences gas transport efficiency and organismal adaptation to environmental conditions. Despite these differences, both protein classes demonstrate controlled dissociation kinetics, ensuring that oxygen release occurs at

physiologically relevant partial pressures. A recurring theme across all experimental analyses is the essential role of the protein matrix in stabilizing reactive intermediates. Hydrogen-bonding interactions, steric shielding, and precise orientation of ligand donors collectively define the reactivity of the metal center. In hemerythrins, the stabilization of μ-hydroperoxo and μ-oxo intermediates is achieved through intricate networks of hydrogen bonds that dissipate excess charge and prevent undesired redox activity. In hemocyanins, the protein shell imposes a rigid geometric orientation on the dicopper site, inhibiting any structural rearrangement that might otherwise lead to O–O bond cleavage. These protein-level controls demonstrate that metal ion chemistry alone cannot fully account for oxygen transport behavior; instead, the metal site operates within a finely orchestrated biochemical environment. Comparisons with synthetic model complexes provide additional insights into the unique features of biological systems. Bio mimetic di iron and di copper complexes successfully replicate the core O_2-binding motifs observed in hemerythrins and hemocyanins, yet they frequently exhibit higher reactivity and limited reversibility. In many cases, synthetic analogs tend to undergo oxidative decomposition or promote O–O bond cleavage, reflecting the absence of secondary-sphere constraints that are present in natural proteins. These observations reinforce the conclusion that non-heme oxygen carriers rely heavily on protein scaffolding to control the electronic structure and reactivity of the active site. The ability of biological systems to modulate reactivity through non-covalent interactions remains difficult to replicate in purely chemical models, highlighting the sophisticated level of evolutionary optimization. Taken together, the molecular, spectroscopic, and mechanistic evidence supports a unified view in which reversible oxygen transport in non-heme proteins emerges from the tight integration of metal-centered electronic properties and protein-mediated structural regulation. Hemerythrins and hemocyanins, despite utilizing different metal ions and coordination geometries, converge functionally by stabilizing peroxo intermediates that preserve the integrity of the O–O bond. Their mechanisms illustrate how biological systems achieve controlled reactivity through precise modulation of redox potentials, ligand fields, and secondary interactions. The insights gained from these proteins not only deepen our understanding of bioinorganic oxygen chemistry but also provide guidance for developing artificial oxygen carriers and bio mimetic catalysts that emulate the selectivity and efficiency of natural systems.

Conclusion:

The study of oxygen transport in non-heme proteins demonstrates that biological systems employ highly specialized coordination environments to achieve reversible dioxygen binding without relying on porphyrin-based scaffolds. Hemerythrins and hemocyanins illustrate two distinct yet functionally convergent strategies in which diiron and dicopper centers, respectively, stabilize O_2 through bridging peroxo intermediates that preserve the O–O bond. The structural analyses

confirm that the geometry around the metal centers—dictated by histidine, carboxylate, and other amino acid ligands—plays a decisive role in governing bonding modes, redox behavior, and overall affinity toward dioxygen. Spectroscopic and computational evidence further reinforces that fine-tuned electronic structures, including controlled Fe(II)/Fe(III) and Cu(I)/Cu(II) transitions, are essential for reversible oxygenation while avoiding uncontrolled formation of reactive oxygen species. A central theme emerging from these systems is the indispensable influence of the protein matrix in shaping reactivity. Secondary-sphere interactions, hydrogen bonding, solvation control, and steric shielding collectively define the energetic landscape in which O_2 binding and release occur. These subtle yet powerful effects enable the metal centers to maintain intermediates that, in synthetic analogues, often prove too unstable or reactive. Thermodynamic and kinetic studies also show that the interplay between metal chemistry and protein dynamics dictates oxygen affinity and cooperativity, illustrating how evolution has optimized these molecules to function under diverse environmental conditions. Overall, non-heme oxygen transport proteins highlight the sophisticated manner in which nature integrates inorganic chemistry with biological architecture to accomplish selective and reversible O_2 handling. Their mechanisms provide a deeper understanding of metal–dioxygen interactions and offer practical inspiration for developing bio mimetic oxygen carriers, artificial respiratory materials, and catalytic systems. Continued research on these proteins and their synthetic analogues will advance both fundamental bioinorganic chemistry and the design of next-generation functional materials that emulate the precision of natural oxygen transport systems.

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THERAPEUTIC AND DERMATOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BLENDED HERBAL OILS: A PHYTOCHEMICAL PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract:
Herbal medicines and blended oils are becoming popular because they are natural, safe, and rich in useful plant compounds. These compounds—such as flavonoids, phenolics, and terpenoids—provide important benefits like antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antimicrobial effects. Blending two or more herbal oils increases their overall activity by creating a synergistic effect. Such blends are used in therapy, skincare, nutrition, and traditional Ayurvedic preparations. They are especially effective in treating microbial skin and wound infections because they help kill harmful bacteria and reduce oxidative damage. Studies show that blended oils work better than individual oils, especially against organisms like *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. When applied to the skin, these oils penetrate through different pathways to deliver active compounds into deeper layers. Overall, blended herbal oils offer a safe, effective, and natural alternative to synthetic drugs**.**

Introduction:
Herbal medicines and plant-based formulations have gained significant importance in recent years due to their broad pharmacological potential, minimal side effects, and cost-effectiveness. Natural products are rich sources of bioactive compounds such as phenolics, flavonoids, terpenoids, and alkaloids, which exhibit remarkable therapeutic activities including antimicrobial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anticancer effects. These phytoconstituents act synergistically to protect the human body from oxidative stress and pathogenic infections.
The research highlights that oxidative stress and microbial infections play a crucial role in the development of various degenerative diseases. Therefore, identifying and characterizing bioactive compounds capable of scavenging free radicals and inhibiting microbial growth can lead to the development of safer and more effective therapeutic formulations.
Such formulations not only enhance therapeutic potential but also offer synergistic protection against oxidative damage and microbial contamination. Hence, developing herbal oil

formulations with proven antioxidant and antimicrobial activities represents an important step in the search for natural alternatives to synthetic drugs.[1].

Therapeutic Blended Oils

Therapeutic blended oils are formulated by combining two or more plant-derived oils or extracts that possess proven medicinal properties. The main purpose of preparing these blends is to enhance or synergize pharmacological activities such as anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antimicrobial, analgesic, and wound-healing effects. By mixing compatible herbal oils, the therapeutic potential can be increased compared to using a single oil alone, offering broader health benefits and improved effectiveness in various traditional and modern medicinal applications [2,3].

Cosmetic or Skin-Care Blended Oils

Cosmetic blended oils are formulated by combining essential oils with fixed oils to provide multifunctional benefits such as moisturization, skin brightening, and anti-ageing effects. These blends enhance skin health by delivering both nourishment and therapeutic action. Common examples include combinations like coconut, olive, and jojoba oils, which work together to deeply hydrate and nourish the skin, and blends such as rose, lavender, and tea tree oils, which offer aromatic, soothing, and antimicrobial properties, making them suitable for face-care applications [4].

Nutraceutical / Dietary Blended Oils

Nutraceutical or dietary blended oils are prepared by combining edible seed oils that are naturally rich in essential fatty acids such as omega-3 and omega-6. These blends are consumed to support overall health, particularly by promoting cardiovascular wellness, improving immune function, and enhancing metabolic balance. Common examples include flaxseed, pumpkin, and sesame oil blends, which provide a balanced fatty acid profile, and combinations like sunflower and moringa oil, which offer antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and nutrient-rich benefits suitable for daily dietary supplementation [5].

Polyherbal or Medicinal Blended Oils

Polyherbal blended oils are multi-component formulations prepared by combining several herbal extracts to achieve enhanced, synergistic therapeutic effects. These oils are widely used for their antimicrobial, antioxidant, anti-dandruff, wound-healing, and anti-arthritic properties, making them valuable in both traditional and modern medicinal applications. Common examples include Moringa oleifera and Cucurbita pepo incorporated in a coconut oil base—as in your formulation—which offers strong antimicrobial and antioxidant benefits, and blends like neem, tulsi, and amla hair oil, which are known for promoting scalp health and reducing dandruff [5]**.**

Ayurvedic Taila (Traditional Blended Oils)

Traditional medicated oils are prepared by boiling plant decoctions and herbal pastes in a base oil using the Taila Paka method, a classical Ayurvedic technique. This process allows the active phytoconstituents to infuse into the oil, enhancing its therapeutic potency. Such oils are commonly used for body massages, wound healing, pain relief, and skin rejuvenation, offering both medicinal and restorative benefits [4,5].

Microbial Diseases and Treatment Using Blended Herbal Oils

Microbial infections are caused by various bacteria, fungi, and viruses that invade skin or mucosal tissues, leading to inflammation, irritation, or systemic complications. Blended oils combine two or more plant extracts or seed oils to achieve a synergistic antimicrobial effect. The phytochemicals such as terpenoids, flavonoids, phenolics, alkaloids, and fatty acids disrupt microbial cell walls, inhibit enzyme activity, and suppress oxidative stress — promoting healing and protection. Blended herbal oils provide a safe, cost-effective, and potent approach for managing microbial diseases, especially skin and wound infections. Their synergistic antimicrobial and antioxidant properties make them promising candidates for topical formulations. Continued research and standardization of these blends will help develop effective natural therapeutics to combat microbial resistance. A blended herbal oil prepared using *Moringa oleifera*, *Curcuma longa* (Turmeric), *and Cocos nucifera* (Coconut oil) was evaluated for the treatment of wound infections caused by Pseudomonas aeruginosa *and* Staphylococcus aureus [6,7].

Oil Absorption or Penetration Pathway

Topical oils applied to the skin penetrate through multiple pathways to reach deeper layers and exert their biological effects. The human skin acts as a semi-permeable barrier composed of three main layers: epidermis, dermis, and hypodermis. The stratum corneum, the outermost layer of the epidermis, is the primary barrier to percutaneous absorption. Oils must diffuse through or around this layer to deliver active compounds.

Transcellular Pathway:

Lipophilic compounds diffuse directly across corneocytes and intracellular lipids. This route favors small, lipid-soluble molecules such as fatty acids and phytosterols commonly found in plant oils.

Intercellular Pathway:

The oil diffuses between corneocytes through the lipid matrix of the stratum corneum, enabling slow and sustained release. This mechanism contributes significantly to the moisturizing and emollient effects of oils.

Trans appendageal Pathway:

Oils can also penetrate via appendages such as hair follicles, sebaceous glands, and sweat ducts. This route is particularly relevant for herbal hair and scalp formulations, as it facilitates deeper delivery into the pilosebaceous unit [8–10].

Evidence For Essential Oil Blends

A recent review on commercially available essential oils used in dermatology notes that blending different oils often produces synergistic antimicrobial activity against major skin pathogens, including *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, and *Cutibacterium (Propionibacterium) acnes*. The antimicrobial potency of these oils is usually assessed using broth dilution assays to determine MIC values. Findings from combination studies show that essential oil mixtures inhibit microbial growth more effectively than individual oils, suggesting their potential benefits for managing infected or colonized skin conditions[11].

Specific Blended Oils of Dermatological Interest

Tea tree oil is widely recognized for its effectiveness against acne-related microbes and various skin pathogens. When combined with other essential oils—such as lavender—it often demonstrates enhanced antifungal activity, especially against dermatophytes and *Candida* species. Research has shown that blending tea tree oil with lavender oil can produce greater antifungal inhibition than using either oil individually, confirming true synergy when mixed in suitable proportions[12].

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BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY IN PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

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1. Introduction:

The pharmaceutical industry is a highly regulated and complex sector where the efficient management of the supply chain is critical to ensure patient safety, product integrity, and regulatory compliance. The supply chain encompasses the entire journey of a pharmaceutical product—from raw material sourcing, manufacturing, quality control, and packaging, to distribution, storage, and delivery to the end user. Given the high value of pharmaceutical products and the potential risks to patient health, maintaining transparency, traceability, and security throughout the supply chain is essential. Despite advances in supply chain management, traditional systems are increasingly challenged by issues such as counterfeit drugs, product tampering, theft, data manipulation, and inefficient record-keeping. Counterfeit drugs alone are estimated to account for billions of dollars in losses annually, posing severe public health risks. Furthermore, regulatory requirements for serialization, reporting, and documentation, such as the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) in the United States and the Falsified Medicines Directive (FMD) in the European Union, demand robust and accurate supply chain monitoring mechanisms. These challenges highlight the need for innovative solutions that can provide secure, transparent, and real-time tracking of pharmaceutical products (Dong *et al.,* 2023; Mukherjee & Pradhan, 2021).

Blockchain technology has emerged as a transformative tool capable of addressing many of these challenges. Initially developed as the foundational technology for cryptocurrencies, blockchain has evolved significantly over the past decade. Early blockchain iterations (Blockchain 1.0) primarily facilitated digital currency transactions, while later versions (Blockchain 2.0 and 3.0) introduced programmable smart contracts, enhanced scalability, and broader applicability in various industries. The most recent evolution, Blockchain 4.0, focuses on integration with

industrial systems, Internet of Things (IoT) devices, artificial intelligence (AI), and cloud computing, providing a comprehensive framework for secure and automated business operations (Mukherjee & Pradhan, 2021; Ryan & Smith, 2021). At its core, blockchain is a distributed ledger technology that enables decentralized, immutable, and transparent record-keeping. Each transaction or data entry is recorded in a "block," cryptographically linked to previous blocks to form a chain. Once recorded, the information cannot be altered or deleted without consensus from network participants, ensuring data integrity and traceability. Key features such as decentralization, transparency, immutability, and smart contracts make blockchain particularly suitable for pharmaceutical supply chains, where multiple stakeholders must coordinate securely while complying with stringent regulatory standards (Namasudra& Akkaya, 2023; Idrees *et al.,* 2021).

This chapter is written to explore the application of blockchain technology in pharmaceutical supply chain management, highlighting both theoretical and practical perspectives. It begins with a detailed discussion of the fundamentals of blockchain, including its architecture, types, consensus mechanisms, and evolution from Blockchain 1.0 to Blockchain 4.0. This foundation is crucial for understanding how blockchain can be adapted to the pharmaceutical sector.

Subsequently, the chapter delves into specific applications of blockchain in pharmaceutical supply chains, such as:

- **Drug Traceability and Anti-Counterfeiting:** Blockchain enables end-to-end tracking of drugs from manufacturing to patient delivery, reducing the prevalence of counterfeit products.
- **Cold Chain Monitoring:** Temperature-sensitive drugs can be monitored through IoT sensors, with data recorded on the blockchain to ensure compliance with storage conditions.
- **Inventory Management:** Real-time updates on stock levels enhance distribution efficiency and reduce wastage.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Immutable records facilitate audit trails and automated reporting to regulatory authorities.
- **Pharmacovigilance:** Transparent tracking of adverse drug reactions and product recalls improves patient safety.

The chapter also explores the integration of blockchain with emerging technologies, including IoT, AI, machine learning, digital twins, and cloud computing. Such integration enhances the efficiency, intelligence, and responsiveness of pharmaceutical supply chains, enabling predictive analytics, real-time decision-making, and automated compliance reporting.

Furthermore, the chapter examines the regulatory framework and compliance considerations, addressing the alignment of blockchain solutions with existing legal standards, privacy regulations, and industry guidelines. Challenges and limitations, such as scalability,

interoperability, data privacy concerns, and implementation costs, are discussed in detail to provide a balanced view of blockchain adoption. Finally, the chapter presents future perspectives, highlighting potential innovations, global standardization efforts, and the evolving role of blockchain in creating patient-centric, secure, and efficient pharmaceutical supply chains.

By combining technical, regulatory, and practical insights, this chapter serves as a comprehensive resource for researchers, pharmaceutical professionals, supply chain managers, and policymakers. It underscores the transformative potential of blockchain in revolutionizing pharmaceutical supply chains, ultimately aiming to improve product safety, operational efficiency, and patient trust in the healthcare system (Dong *et al.,* 2023; Namasudra& Akkaya, 2023).

2. Fundamentals of Blockchain Technology

Blockchain technology is a distributed ledger technology (DLT) that enables data to be stored, verified, and shared across a network of computers (nodes) in a secure, transparent, and tamper-resistant manner (Yadav *et al.,* 2023; Mahmudnia *et al.,* 2022). Unlike traditional centralized databases, where a single authority controls data access and modifications, blockchain decentralizes control, giving every participant access to the same verified data. This decentralized architecture enhances trust, transparency, and security, making blockchain particularly suitable for highly regulated and complex industries like pharmaceuticals (Tokkozhina *et al.,* 2023; Akram *et al.,* 2024).

2.1 Core Features of Blockchain

1. Decentralization

In a blockchain network, there is no single controlling authority. Every participant (or node) maintains a copy of the ledger and participates in validating transactions. Decentralization reduces the risk of single points of failure, cyberattacks, and fraudulent manipulation of records (Bischoff &Seuring, 2021; Yin, 2023). In pharmaceutical supply chains, decentralization ensures that manufacturers, distributors, logistics providers, pharmacies, and regulators can all access the same data without relying on intermediaries, fostering transparency and collaboration across the supply chain (Akram *et al.,* 2024).

2. Immutability

Every transaction recorded on a blockchain is cryptographically linked to previous transactions, forming an immutable chain of blocks. Once a record is entered, it cannot be altered or deleted without consensus from the network participants (Yadav *et al.,* 2023; Mahmudnia *et al.,* 2022). This immutability ensures traceability, accountability, and a reliable audit trail. In pharmaceuticals, this is crucial for verifying drug authenticity, preventing counterfeiting, and tracking the movement of medicines across the supply chain (Zakari *et al.,* 2022; Alsaidalani&Elmadhounb, 2021).

3. Transparency

Blockchain allows participants to view transactions in real time, depending on the permissions set in the network. Transparency ensures that all parties have access to consistent and verifiable data, enhancing trust among stakeholders (Bischoff &Seuring, 2021; Yin, 2023). For pharmaceutical supply chains, transparency enables real-time tracking of inventory levels, shipment status, cold chain conditions, and regulatory compliance. It also helps identify inefficiencies, bottlenecks, or deviations from standard operating procedures (Yoon, 2014; Rotunno *et al.,* 2014).

4. Security

Blockchain uses advanced cryptography to secure data. Each block contains a hash of its own data and the hash of the previous block, forming a chain that is resistant to tampering. Additionally, consensus mechanisms ensure that only valid transactions are recorded, making unauthorized modifications nearly impossible (Yadav *et al.,* 2023; Mahmudnia *et al.,* 2022). This high level of security is particularly important in pharmaceutical supply chains, where sensitive information about drug formulations, batch numbers, and patient data must be protected (Akram *et al.,* 2024).

5. Smart Contracts

Smart contracts are self-executing agreements embedded into the blockchain that automatically trigger actions when predefined conditions are met (Yadav *et al.,* 2023). They eliminate the need for intermediaries and reduce administrative delays. In pharmaceutical supply chains, smart contracts can automate processes such as releasing a shipment once temperature conditions are met, authorizing payments, or reporting to regulatory authorities. This automation increases efficiency, reduces human error, and ensures compliance (Akram *et al.,* 2024; Tokkozhina *et al.,* 2023).

2.2 Blockchain Architecture

A blockchain network consists of several fundamental components:

- **Nodes:** Computers that participate in the network and maintain a copy of the ledger.
- **Blocks:** Containers for transactions that include a timestamp, data, and a cryptographic hash linking it to the previous block.
- **Chain:** The chronological linkage of blocks ensures data integrity.
- **Consensus Mechanism:** Algorithms that validate transactions and maintain agreement among nodes. Common mechanisms include Proof of Work (PoW), Proof of Stake (PoS), and Practical Byzantine Fault Tolerance (PBFT) (6) (Yadav *et al.,* 2023).

In pharmaceutical supply chains, nodes can represent manufacturers, distributors, regulators, and pharmacies. The distributed nature of blockchain ensures that no single entity can manipulate records, while consensus mechanisms maintain the integrity of the ledger.

2.3 Types of Blockchain

Blockchain networks can be categorized based on access permissions and governance:

1. **Public Blockchain:** Open to anyone, with all transactions visible and validated through consensus. Public blockchains offer high transparency but may face scalability and privacy challenges in commercial supply chains (Yadav *et al.,* 2023; Bischoff &Seuring, 2021).
2. **Private Blockchain:** Access is restricted to authorized participants, making it faster, more scalable, and suitable for sensitive pharmaceutical data such as proprietary formulations or patient information (Tokkozhina *et al.,* 2023; Zakari *et al.,* 2022).
3. **Consortium Blockchain:** Controlled by a group of organizations, this hybrid model balances transparency, security, and efficiency. Consortium blockchains are ideal for multi-stakeholder supply chains, enabling collaboration among manufacturers, distributors, regulators, and pharmacies (Akram *et al.,* 2024; Mahmudnia *et al.,* 2022).

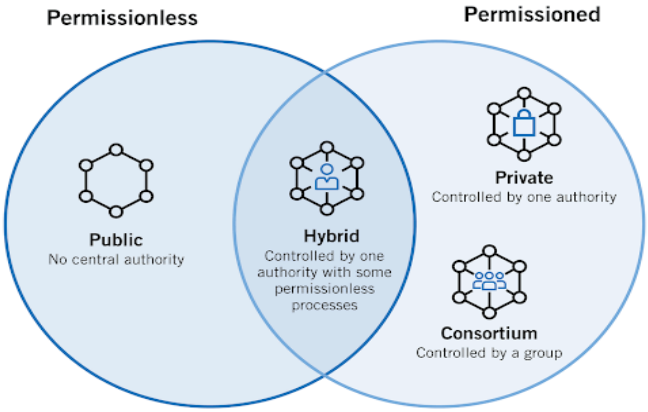

Figure 1: Types of Blockchain

2.4 Relevance to Pharmaceutical Supply Chains

Pharmaceutical supply chains face challenges such as counterfeiting, regulatory compliance, cold chain integrity, and complex logistics (Stevens, 1990; Galina *et al.,* 2019). Blockchain addresses these issues by providing:

- **End-to-End Traceability:** Every product movement is recorded and verifiable.
- **Cold Chain Monitoring:** Integration with IoT sensors allows real-time temperature tracking.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Immutable and auditable records facilitate adherence to DSCSA, FMD, and other standards.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Smart contracts automate workflows, reduce errors, and enhance decision-making.

Moreover, blockchain integration with technologies such as IoT, AI, and cloud computing transforms traditional supply chains into intelligent, secure, and patient-centric networks, capable

of real-time monitoring, predictive analytics, and automated reporting (Yadav *et al.,* 2023; Akram *et al.,* 2024; Tokkozhina *et al.,* 2023).

3. Applications of Blockchain in Pharmaceutical Supply Chain

The pharmaceutical supply chain is inherently complex, involving multiple stakeholders, including manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, pharmacies, hospitals, and regulatory authorities. Ensuring drug safety, authenticity, timely delivery, and regulatory compliance across this network is a major challenge. Blockchain technology provides a decentralized, secure, and transparent framework to address these challenges, offering transformative applications across the supply chain (Kumar *et al.,* 2021; Gaynor *et al.,* 2024).

3.1 Traceability and Serialization

Counterfeit drugs are a persistent threat, accounting for significant economic loss and endangering patient safety worldwide. Blockchain enables end-to-end traceability by recording every transaction, from the manufacturer to the end consumer, in an immutable ledger (Ghadge *et al.,* 2022; Uddin *et al.,* 2021).

Serialization assigns unique identifiers to each drug package, allowing precise tracking of individual units. With blockchain, each serialized package can be verified at every node in the supply chain, reducing the risk of counterfeit drugs entering the market (Kumar *et al.,* 2021).

For example, a manufacturer can register a batch of vaccines on the blockchain with a unique identifier. When distributed to hospitals and pharmacies, each transaction is recorded in real time. Regulatory authorities can audit the ledger at any time to ensure compliance, and patients can verify the authenticity of the product using mobile apps linked to the blockchain (Boobalan & Nachiappan, 2022; Kutybayeva *et al.,* 2025).

3.2 Cold Chain Monitoring

Temperature-sensitive drugs, including biologics, insulin, and vaccines, require strict cold chain maintenance. Deviation from required temperature ranges can lead to product degradation and health risks. Blockchain, combined with IoT-enabled sensors, allows real-time monitoring of environmental conditions such as temperature, humidity, and location during transport and storage (Singh *et al.,* 2020; Kaur *et al.,* 2022).

Every sensor reading is recorded on the blockchain, creating an immutable and auditable record. If the temperature exceeds the permissible range during transit, the system can automatically alert stakeholders or trigger smart contract actions, such as halting distribution or initiating corrective measures (Sophia, 2025). This application ensures product quality, minimizes wastage, and maintains regulatory compliance (Kutybayeva *et al.,* 2025; Gaynor *et al.,* 2024).

3.3 Inventory Management

Efficient inventory management is crucial for reducing shortages, overstocking, and wastage in pharmaceutical supply chains. Blockchain provides real-time visibility of stock levels across all

stakeholders, enabling better forecasting, planning, and distribution (Ghadge *et al.,* 2022; Kumar *et al.,* 2021).

Smart contracts can automate inventory replenishment. For example, when stock at a pharmacy falls below a predefined threshold, a smart contract can automatically place an order with the distributor. This reduces human error, prevents stockouts, and ensures timely availability of medicines (Shivagouda& Chandrika, 2023; Liu *et al.,* 2022). Additionally, blockchain enables consolidated visibility of warehouse data, helping manufacturers plan production according to actual demand and minimizing expired or unused inventory (Kamble *et al.,* 2019).

3.4 Regulatory Compliance

Pharmaceutical companies must comply with strict regulations such as the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) in the USA and the Falsified Medicines Directive (FMD) in Europe. Blockchain facilitates automated regulatory compliance by providing an immutable, transparent, and auditable record of all transactions (Kutybayeva *et al.,* 2025; Boobalan & Nachiappan, 2022).

With blockchain, regulatory authorities can access verified data in real time, reducing delays in inspection, approval, and auditing processes. This not only ensures adherence to legal requirements but also reduces the administrative burden on supply chain participants. Integration with digital reporting platforms further streamlines regulatory submissions and enables proactive compliance monitoring (Subramanian *et al.,* 2021).

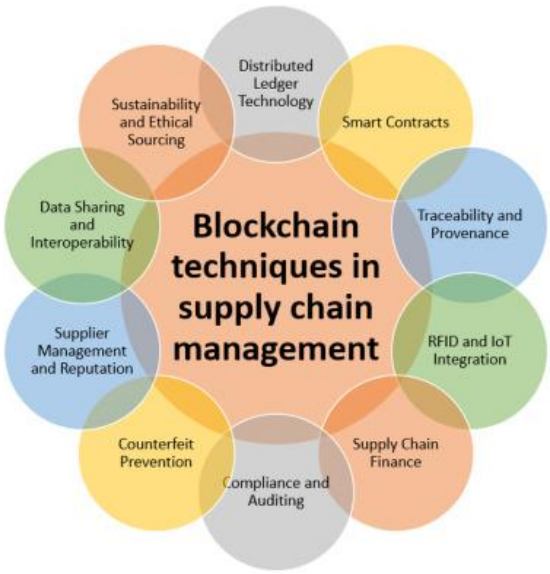

Figure 1: Blockchain techniques in supply chain management

3.5 Pharmacovigilance

Blockchain enhances pharmacovigilance, the monitoring of adverse drug reactions and defective batches. Immutable records allow rapid identification of affected drugs, their distribution history, and the stakeholders involved (Gaynor *et al.,* 2024; Kutybayeva *et al.,* 2025).

Integration with AI and predictive analytics allows stakeholders to analyze historical data for patterns in adverse events. For instance, if a batch of medication is reported to cause side effects, blockchain enables rapid tracking back to the production batch, and corrective actions such as recalls can be initiated immediately (Sophia, 2025; Liu *et al.,* 2022). This proactive approach improves patient safety, strengthens trust, and reduces liability risks for manufacturers and distributors.

3.6 Integration with Emerging Technologies

The full potential of blockchain in pharmaceutical supply chains is realized when integrated with **emerging technologies**:

- **Internet of Things (IoT):** Sensors provide real-time tracking of product conditions, location, and handling, enabling cold chain monitoring and automated alerts (Singh *et al.,* 2020; Kaur *et al.,* 2022).
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Big Data Analytics:** AI can analyze blockchain data to predict demand, optimize routing, detect anomalies, and assess risks (Kutybayeva *et al.,* 2025; Sophia, 2025).
- **Cloud Computing:** Blockchain-cloud integration provides scalable storage, easy accessibility, and secure data management across global supply networks (Khanna *et al.,* 2022; Liu *et al.,* 2022).
- **Digital Twin Technology:** Digital replicas of the supply chain, when integrated with blockchain, enable simulation, monitoring, and optimization in real time, reducing inefficiencies and improving resilience (Liu *et al.,* 2022).
- **Mobile and Hybrid Applications:** Blockchain-based apps, like Crypto Pharmacy, empower patients, pharmacists, and regulators to access verified drug information, enhancing transparency and trust (Subramanian *et al.,* 2021).

By combining blockchain with these technologies, pharmaceutical supply chains become smarter, more resilient, transparent, and patient-centric, capable of real-time monitoring, predictive analytics, and automated compliance, while mitigating risks related to counterfeiting, errors, and inefficiencies (Ghadge *et al.,* 2022; Shivagouda& Chandrika, 2023).

4. Integration With Emerging Technologies

The integration of blockchain with emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and digital twins has the potential to transform pharmaceutical supply chains into intelligent, adaptive, and highly transparent systems. While blockchain alone ensures data immutability, decentralization, and transparency, its true power emerges when combined with these complementary technologies, enabling real-time monitoring, predictive insights, and automated decision-making (Sophia, 2025; Liu *et al.,* 2022).

Modern pharmaceutical supply chains are highly complex networks, encompassing manufacturers, distributors, logistics providers, pharmacies, regulators, and patients. These networks face critical challenges including counterfeit drugs, supply disruptions, cold chain compliance, regulatory adherence, and patient safety risks. Integration of blockchain with advanced technologies provides the tools to address these challenges holistically, creating a system that is not only traceable but also proactive, intelligent, and resilient (Kutybayeva *et al.,* 2025).

4.1 Internet of Things (IoT)

The Internet of Things (IoT) refers to a network of connected sensors and smart devices capable of continuously collecting and transmitting data from physical environments. In the pharmaceutical supply chain, IoT devices monitor critical environmental and operational parameters, such as temperature, humidity, vibration, light exposure, and geolocation, ensuring that sensitive products like vaccines, insulin, and biologics remain within specified conditions throughout their journey (Singh *et al.,* 2020; Kaur *et al.,* 2022).

When IoT data is integrated with blockchain, it becomes tamper-proof and fully auditable, creating a trusted record for regulators, manufacturers, and supply chain partners. For example, temperature deviations detected by IoT sensors during vaccine transport are instantly logged on the blockchain. Smart contracts can automatically trigger alerts, quarantine affected shipments, or notify stakeholders for corrective action. This integration ensures that every stakeholder can verify the integrity and condition of products in real time, enhancing both compliance and patient safety (Shivagouda& Chandrika, 2023).

Beyond monitoring, IoT-blockchain integration enables predictive logistics. Historical and real-time sensor data can be analyzed to identify patterns, such as recurring temperature fluctuations in specific vehicles or routes. This allows supply chain managers to proactively reroute shipments, perform vehicle maintenance, or adjust storage practices to prevent spoilage. Additionally, real-time inventory tracking through IoT provides visibility across multiple stakeholders, reducing overstocking, stockouts, and waste. In effect, IoT and blockchain together transform the supply chain from a reactive system into a predictive, adaptive, and intelligent network.

4.2 Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) amplify the capabilities of blockchain-enabled supply chains by analyzing large volumes of verified data to extract actionable insights. AI algorithms leverage blockchain-stored data to provide demand forecasting, anomaly detection, route optimization, and proactive risk management (Sophia, 2025; Liu *et al.,* 2022).

For instance, AI can predict regional pharmaceutical demand based on historical sales, epidemiological trends, and patient demographics. This enables accurate inventory planning,

reducing the likelihood of stockouts or overstocking and ensuring that essential medicines reach the right locations at the right time (Kutybayeva *et al.,* 2025).

ML models can also detect anomalies in supply chain operations. Deviations in shipment patterns, unexpected batch movements, or irregular storage conditions can indicate potential counterfeit products, theft, or quality breaches. By flagging these issues early, AI allows stakeholders to intervene before patient safety is compromised (Gaynor *et al.,* 2024).

In addition, AI can optimize logistics by analyzing traffic conditions, weather data, and distribution constraints to recommend the most efficient delivery routes. For temperature-sensitive products, AI algorithms can work with IoT sensors to dynamically adjust storage conditions or transport routes in real time. AI integration also enhances pharmacovigilance, allowing rapid identification of defective batches or adverse drug events, enabling faster recalls and minimizing patient risk. Together, AI and ML transform the blockchain from a static ledger into a dynamic, intelligent system that continuously learns, predicts, and optimizes supply chain operations.

4.3 Cloud Computing

Cloud computing provides the scalable and flexible infrastructure required to manage the vast volumes of data generated in modern pharmaceutical supply chains. Blockchain networks, IoT sensor streams, and AI analytics require substantial storage and computational resources, which can be efficiently managed via cloud platforms (Khanna *et al.,* 2022; Liu *et al.,* 2022).

Cloud-based blockchain solutions offer several key advantages:

- **Scalability:** Networks can expand easily to accommodate more participants, higher transaction volumes, and additional nodes across geographies.
- **Accessibility:** Authorized stakeholders—including regulators, distributors, and pharmacies—can access verified blockchain records in real time, facilitating **transparent and collaborative operations**.
- **Collaboration:** Multi-party access allows manufacturers, logistics providers, and regulators to share and verify data securely, fostering **trust and compliance**.
- **Disaster Recovery:** Cloud platforms provide backup, failover, and redundancy, ensuring continuity of supply chain operations even in the event of hardware failures or network disruptions.

Cloud integration also enables hybrid blockchain architectures, where sensitive proprietary information can remain on private networks, while aggregated or anonymized data is shared publicly for audits, reporting, or research. This balance between security, transparency, and accessibility is essential for complex, multi-location pharmaceutical operations, particularly those subject to stringent regulatory oversight (Kutybayeva *et al.,* 2025).

4.4 Digital Twin Technology

Digital twins are virtual replicas of physical systems that simulate, monitor, and optimize supply chain operations in real time. In the pharmaceutical sector, digital twins can represent warehouses, transportation networks, and cold chain systems, allowing stakeholders to analyze supply chain behavior under varying operational conditions (Liu *et al.,* 2022; Sophia, 2025).

When coupled with blockchain, digital twins gain access to immutable, verified data from all nodes in the supply chain. This ensures that simulations are accurate and reflect actual conditions, allowing for precise scenario planning and risk assessment. For example, digital twins can simulate the impact of delayed shipments, temperature excursions, or sudden demand surges on vaccine availability. They can also model alternative logistics strategies, warehouse configurations, or production schedules to identify optimal operational decisions.

Digital twins, combined with AI and IoT, can predict disruptions, recommend corrective actions, and trigger automated responses through smart contracts. For instance, if a simulated model predicts a cold chain failure, the system can preemptively reroute shipments, adjust storage conditions, or alert relevant stakeholders. This combination enables the creation of proactive, self-optimizing pharmaceutical supply chains that enhance operational efficiency, regulatory compliance, and patient safety.

In essence, the integration of blockchain with IoT, AI/ML, cloud computing, and digital twins transforms pharmaceutical supply chains into intelligent ecosystems. These ecosystems are capable of real-time monitoring, predictive decision-making, automated intervention, and end-to-end transparency, addressing critical challenges such as counterfeit drugs, cold chain failures, and regulatory compliance in a holistic manner. This integration marks a significant leap toward the next-generation pharmaceutical supply chain, where technology convergence drives resilience, efficiency, and trust across the entire network.

4.5 Other Emerging Integrations

Blockchain in pharmaceutical supply chains is increasingly being combined with other technologies for additional benefits:

- **Big Data Analytics:** Large datasets from blockchain and IoT systems can be analyzed to improve forecasting, optimize routes, and monitor compliance trends (Kutybayeva *et al.,* 2025).
- **Hybrid Mobile Applications:** Mobile apps leveraging blockchain allow patients, pharmacists, and regulators to verify drug authenticity, track deliveries, and report adverse events directly from their devices (Subramanian *et al.,* 2021).
- **Blockchain-Cloud-AI Ecosystems:** Integrating blockchain with cloud computing and AI create a holistic supply chain management platform, enabling predictive, automated, and transparent decision-making (Khanna *et al.,* 2022; Liu *et al.,* 2022).

By integrating with these technologies, blockchain moves beyond a simple ledger system to become the backbone of an intelligent, adaptive, and resilient pharmaceutical supply chain. Such integration ensures improved patient safety, regulatory compliance, operational efficiency, and transparency, while also enabling proactive risk management and real-time decision-making (Sophia, 2025; Ghadge *et al.,* 2022)

5. Regulatory Framework and Compliance

Pharmaceutical supply chains are among the most heavily regulated global networks, reflecting the critical importance of ensuring drug safety, efficacy, and patient protection. Regulatory frameworks govern every aspect of the supply chain, from manufacturing and packaging to distribution and post-market surveillance. The integration of blockchain technology introduces novel opportunities for compliance by providing immutable, transparent, and verifiable records, but it also requires careful alignment with existing regulatory standards (Ghadge *et al.,* 2023; Ogbuagu *et al.,* 2023).

Blockchain adoption in pharmaceutical operations is not merely a technological upgrade; it fundamentally reshapes how traceability, reporting, and accountability are maintained. By recording transactions and supply chain events in a decentralized, tamper-proof ledger, blockchain enhances regulatory adherence while enabling faster audits, fraud prevention, and data integrity verification. This section elaborates on the major regulatory frameworks relevant to blockchain implementation in pharmaceutical supply chains.

5.1 FDA's Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) – USA

The Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA), implemented by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), mandates that all prescription drugs in the United States be serialized and traceable throughout the supply chain. DSCSA aims to prevent counterfeit, stolen, or adulterated drugs from entering the market by requiring manufacturers, wholesalers, repackagers, and dispensers to maintain detailed records of product provenance and movement (Ullagaddi, 2024; Ghadge *et al.,* 2023).

Blockchain enables pharmaceutical companies to comply with DSCSA mandates by providing an immutable ledger for every transaction, including manufacturing, shipping, storage, and dispensing. Each serialized unit of a drug can be tracked in real time, and smart contracts can enforce automated checks for compliance at every stage. For example, if a shipment's chain of custody is broken or an anomaly is detected, blockchain can trigger alerts to stakeholders, quarantine affected products, and automatically generate audit reports for regulators (Uddin, 2021; Liu *et al.,* 2021).

Furthermore, blockchain reduces manual documentation errors and reconciliations between trading partners, which are major sources of non-compliance. By ensuring data integrity and

traceability, blockchain not only simplifies adherence to DSCSA but also enhances supply chain security, reduces counterfeiting risks, and improves patient safety.

5.2 EU Falsified Medicines Directive (FMD) – Europe

In Europe, the Falsified Medicines Directive (FMD) requires that all medicinal products carry unique identifiers and anti-tampering devices. This regulation is designed to combat falsified medicines and guarantee that drugs reaching patients are authentic and safe (Joseph, 2023).

Blockchain's decentralized and immutable nature makes it an ideal solution for FMD compliance. Every transaction or movement of a product—from manufacturer to wholesaler, distributor, and pharmacy—can be securely recorded on the blockchain. Integration with IoT devices further enhances compliance by monitoring storage and transportation conditions, such as temperature and humidity, ensuring that environmental standards are met during transit (Ghadge *et al.,* 2023; Uddin, 2021).

Smart contracts can automatically verify product authenticity at each checkpoint and prevent tampered or counterfeit products from advancing through the supply chain. Additionally, blockchain facilitates centralized reporting for regulators, allowing authorities to verify product serial numbers, track shipments, and audit compliance efficiently. By reducing the complexity and time involved in manual verification, blockchain helps pharmaceutical companies adhere to FMD mandates while improving operational efficiency and patient safety.

5.3 HIPAA Compliance and Patient Data Privacy

Beyond drug traceability, pharmaceutical supply chains increasingly involve sensitive patient data, particularly in contexts such as pharmacovigilance, personalized medicine, and post-market monitoring. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) mandate the protection of patient health information, requiring that it remain confidential and accessible only to authorized personnel (Joseph, 2023; Jalundhwala& Londhe, 2023).

Blockchain can enhance HIPAA compliance by providing secure, encrypted storage of patient-related data. Permissioned blockchain networks allow fine-grained access control, ensuring that only authorized participants can view or update sensitive records. Smart contracts can automate enforcement of consent management, data sharing rules, and privacy policies, while immutable records provide verifiable audit trails for regulators and internal compliance teams (Koc, 2024; Ullagaddi, 2024).

For example, if adverse drug events are reported, blockchain ensures that these data are securely recorded, timestamped, and linked to the specific batch or shipment. This prevents tampering while maintaining compliance with patient privacy requirements. In addition, blockchain supports cross-organization data sharing, enabling collaborative pharmacovigilance and regulatory reporting without compromising sensitive health information.

5.4 Advantages of Blockchain for Regulatory Compliance

The adoption of blockchain in pharmaceutical supply chains offers several distinct advantages with respect to regulatory compliance:

1. **Immutable Records:** Every transaction, shipment, and quality inspection is permanently recorded, preventing unauthorized alterations and enabling accurate audits (Uddin, 2021; Liu *et al.,* 2021).
2. **Automated Reporting:** Smart contracts can automatically generate compliance reports for regulators, minimizing manual effort and reducing the risk of errors.
3. **End-to-End Traceability:** Blockchain enables real-time visibility from manufacturing to patient, facilitating rapid identification and recall of defective or counterfeit batches (Ghadge *et al.,* 2023).
4. **Cross-Border Compliance:** Multi-national pharmaceutical operations can leverage blockchain to comply simultaneously with multiple regulatory frameworks such as DSCSA, FMD, and HIPAA.
5. **Enhanced Accountability:** Immutable records and transparent transactions increase accountability among stakeholders, improving trust between manufacturers, distributors, regulators, and patients (Ogbuagu *et al.,* 2023; Muhlheim *et al.,* 2022).

5.5 Challenges and Considerations

Despite its potential, blockchain adoption for regulatory compliance faces certain challenges:

- **Legal Recognition:** Regulatory authorities in some jurisdictions may not yet recognize blockchain records as legally binding evidence.
- **Interoperability:** Integrating blockchain with existing ERP, warehouse management, and regulatory reporting systems requires standardization and technical alignment.
- **Data Privacy:** Although blockchain is tamper-proof, improper design could expose sensitive information, necessitating encryption, permissioned access, and privacy-preserving protocols.
- **Standardization and Governance:** Industry-wide standards for blockchain implementation, data formats, and reporting protocols are still evolving, and lack of uniformity can limit cross-industry adoption (Koc, 2024; Muhlheim *et al.,* 2022).

By carefully addressing these considerations, blockchain can revolutionize regulatory compliance, making supply chains more secure, transparent, and efficient, while ensuring patient safety and trust across the pharmaceutical ecosystem (Ghadge *et al.,* 2023; Joseph, 2023).

Table 1: Case Studies on Blockchain Technology with Integrated Methodologies in Pharmaceutical Supply Chain (PSC)

Industrial Challenge	Systemic Root Cause	Solutions (Blockchain / Tech Integration)
Counterfeit Drugs	Lack of verifiable, end-to-end provenance records	• FarmaTrust (real-time blockchain + AI tracking) • Provenance blockchain (IoT-based traceability) • Egyptian Track & Trace System (EPTTS) • PharmaLogika smart tags (tamper-proof authentication) • Pfizer – MediLedger (closed ecosystem)
Lack of Transparency	Information silos; no real-time, end-to-end visibility	• BlockRx (connects pharma ecosystem to break silos) • IBM Blockchain Transparent Supply (real-time tracking) • MediLedger Project (Ethereum-based, unit-level identity) • Walmart – MediLedger (ensures authenticity) • Sanofi + SAP (blockchain serialization proof of concept) • McKesson (distributed ledger for traceability)
Lack of Visibility in Cold Chain	• Insufficient cold chain capacity • Outdated technology • Inadequate monitoring systems	• RFID-based temperature tracking (real-time, low-cost) • Mirai Intex (remote monitoring tech) • Immunization Information System (IIS + Vaccine Vial Monitor) • Ubisense SmartSpace® (real-time asset tracking + compliance)
Regulatory Compliance	Different global guidelines; inability to adapt quickly	• AI-based tools (DocShifter, Veeva Vault, RiskWatch, Freyr SubmitPro) • MediLedger (FDA-compliant tracking) • HealthVerity (HIPAA-compliant blockchain for data management)
Drug Shortages	Manufacturing & quality issues; market dynamics; regulatory / policy issues	• TPCIS (real-time inventory + EPCIS integration for shortage management)

Figure 3: Blockchain in Pharma Supply Chain

6. Challenges and Limitations

While blockchain holds transformative potential for pharmaceutical supply chains, its adoption is not without obstacles. Both technical and operational barriers, along with regulatory, financial, and organizational challenges, must be addressed to realize its full benefits.

6.1 Technical Challenges

Blockchain relies on a distributed network of nodes to validate and record transactions. Large-scale pharmaceutical supply chains involve millions of transactions across manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies, and regulators. Ensuring scalability and high transaction throughput is a key challenge, particularly for permissioned blockchains integrating IoT devices for cold chain monitoring or AI for demand forecasting (Kutybayeva *et al.,* 2025; Singh *et al.,* 2020).

Integration with existing ERP, warehouse management systems, and logistics software often requires significant customization. Interoperability issues may arise due to heterogeneous data standards, varying IT infrastructure, and differing blockchain protocols across stakeholders (Ghade *et al.,* 2022).

Furthermore, blockchain networks require robust cybersecurity measures. Although transactions are immutable, the endpoints—IoT sensors, cloud nodes, and user interfaces—can be vulnerable to cyberattacks, which may compromise data integrity or lead to operational disruption (Shivagouda and Chandrika, 2023).

6.2 Regulatory and Legal Challenges

Pharmaceutical supply chains are regulated by multi-national frameworks such as DSCSA (USA), FMD (Europe), and HIPAA (USA). While blockchain enhances traceability and auditability, regulatory recognition of blockchain records as legally binding evidence is still evolving (Ogbuagu *et al.,* 2023; Joseph, 2023).

Privacy regulations further complicate adoption. Patient health information stored on blockchain must comply with HIPAA, GDPR (EU), and other national data privacy laws. Even in permissioned blockchains, careful implementation of encryption, anonymization, and access control mechanisms is necessary to prevent unauthorized access and ensure legal compliance (Yeoh, 2017).

Additionally, blockchain-based smart contracts, while capable of automating compliance, may conflict with regulatory interpretations in certain jurisdictions. Legal frameworks governing automated execution and liability in the case of errors are still under development, creating uncertainty for organizations planning large-scale deployment (Karisma and Moslemzadeh, 2023).

6.3 Operational Challenges

Implementing blockchain involves organizational change management. Stakeholders across the supply chain—including manufacturers, distributors, pharmacists, and regulators—must align on protocols, data standards, and governance models. Resistance to change, lack of blockchain expertise, and concerns about cost can slow adoption (Ghade *et al.,* 2022; Ding, 2018).

The initial capital investment is significant. Deployment of blockchain nodes, IoT sensors, cloud infrastructure, and AI-driven analytics, combined with staff training and maintenance, can be cost-prohibitive for smaller manufacturers or distributors. Furthermore, ensuring consistent data quality and accuracy across multiple participants remains a challenge, as blockchain cannot inherently correct erroneous input data (Dwivedi *et al.,* 2020).

6.4 Standardization and Governance Issues

Lack of industry-wide standards for blockchain implementation—including data formats, transaction protocols, smart contract templates, and regulatory reporting—limits seamless integration. Defining governance models, roles, responsibilities, and consensus mechanisms is critical to avoid disputes and ensure operational efficiency (Galati and Bigliardi, 2019).

Without standardization, cross-border blockchain adoption may encounter compatibility issues, limiting its ability to serve as a unified platform for global pharmaceutical supply chains. Harmonized frameworks for data sharing, reporting, and dispute resolution are essential for future scalability.

Figure 4: Challenges for Blockchain Adoption

7. Future Perspectives

Despite these challenges, blockchain's potential to revolutionize pharmaceutical supply chains is significant. Future developments are expected to address current limitations while creating more intelligent, transparent, and secure supply networks.

7.1 Convergence with Emerging Technologies

The integration of blockchain with IoT, AI, machine learning, cloud computing, and digital twins is likely to become standard practice. IoT sensors can provide real-time monitoring of drug conditions, while AI algorithms analyze blockchain data to predict demand, detect anomalies, and optimize logistics (Hölbl *et al.,* 2018; Leal *et al.,* 2021). Cloud-based blockchain platforms enable scalable deployment across multiple geographies, supporting global pharmaceutical operations.

Digital twins, when combined with blockchain, offer virtual replicas of supply chains, allowing stakeholders to simulate various scenarios such as demand surges, transportation delays, or quality deviations. This predictive capability can guide decision-making, improve risk management, and reduce operational disruptions (Jangir *et al.,* 2019).

7.2 Enhanced Supply Chain Transparency and Security

Blockchain ensures immutable, real-time visibility of every transaction, from raw material procurement to patient delivery. This enhances trust among stakeholders and reduces counterfeiting, theft, and diversion of drugs. Integration with IoT-enabled monitoring supports temperature-sensitive drug management and other quality control measures, ensuring drugs remain safe and effective throughout the supply chain (Riedel, 2024).

Moreover, transparent blockchain records enable faster product recalls and targeted interventions in cases of defective batches, improving pharmacovigilance and patient safety.

7.3 Global Regulatory Harmonization

The future may see harmonized regulatory frameworks that recognize blockchain as a compliant, auditable record-keeping system. Such alignment will simplify cross-border drug distribution, reduce reporting redundancy, and provide consistent standards for quality assurance (Jabbar *et al.,* 2021).

7.4 Automated Compliance and Smart Contracts

Smart contracts will increasingly enforce real-time regulatory compliance, automatically triggering alerts, quality checks, and reporting. These self-executing protocols can significantly reduce human error, improve operational efficiency, and ensure that supply chain participants adhere to defined rules (Gruchmann *et al.,* 2023).

7.5 Integration with Advanced Pharmaceutical Trends

Blockchain-enabled supply chains will increasingly support personalized medicine, digital therapeutics, and tele pharmacy, enabling secure, traceable, and patient-specific drug delivery. AI and blockchain can predict supply-demand mismatches, optimize logistics, and enhance pharmacovigilance in real time (Akram *et al.,* 2024).

7.6 Sustainability and Ethical Practices

Blockchain can track environmental impact, energy consumption, and ethical sourcing of raw materials, contributing to sustainable and responsible supply chain practices. Transparent records promote ethical behavior among suppliers, improve accountability, and support adherence to ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) goals, increasingly demanded by regulators and consumers (Gruchmann *et al.,* 2023, Akram *et al.,* 2024).

In summary, while challenges exist, the future of blockchain in pharmaceutical supply chain management is highly promising. With technological convergence, regulatory support, and stakeholder collaboration, blockchain is set to create resilient, transparent, and intelligent supply chains, ultimately enhancing drug safety, patient outcomes, and operational efficiency.

Blockchain technology has emerged as a transformative solution for addressing the complex challenges of pharmaceutical supply chains. By providing decentralized, immutable, and transparent records, blockchain enhances traceability, authenticity, and regulatory compliance, while reducing risks of counterfeiting, diversion, and operational inefficiencies. Integration with emerging technologies such as IoT, AI, cloud computing, and digital twins further strengthens supply chain intelligence, enabling real-time monitoring, predictive analytics, and optimized logistics. Despite challenges related to scalability, interoperability, regulatory acceptance, and organizational adoption, ongoing research and pilot implementations demonstrate significant potential for large-scale deployment. Future advancements, supported by standardization, harmonized regulations, and cross-industry collaboration, are likely to make blockchain a central pillar in building secure, efficient, and patient-centric pharmaceutical supply chains, ultimately improving drug safety, accessibility, and operational excellence worldwide.

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RECENT ADVANCEMENTS IN PHARMACY AND THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY: A TECHNOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

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Introduction:

Rapid technological advancements are resulting the pharmacy profession and pharmaceutical industry to undergo a remarkable transformation. As healthcare needs change and precision medicine becomes a reality, the integration of cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, digital health platforms, pharmacogenomics, telepharmacy, and advanced drug delivery systems is reshaping every aspect of pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical manufacturing. These innovations not only improve operational efficiency, medication safety, and patient-cent care, but they also speed up drug discovery and development processes and provide new therapeutic solutions that are more effective and personalized [1].

The significant advancements in technology that have impacted pharmacy practice and the pharmaceutical industry are investigated in this chapter. Subsequently addresses how artificial intelligence can be employed to maximize drug design, how genome data drives personalized medicine approaches, how telepharmacy is expanding access to healthcare, and how advanced manufacturing technologies like 3D printing facilitate demand-based medication customized according to each recipient's desires [2].

In addition, pharmacy technicians become more empowered by digitized resources and information analytics to head beyond merely delivering medications and becoming vital elements of healthcare providers its efficacy for bettering patient outcomes [3].

By embracing innovations which guarantee greater safety, efficiency, and individually tailored therapeutics, pharmacists and pharmaceutical researchers are more capable for shaping the future of the provision of healthcare. A brief summary of these advancements has been provided in this

chapter, emphasizing the current relevance and potential for future expansion in a technologicalprespective aspects of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences [4].

Figure 1: Recent Advancement in Pharmaceutical Industry

AI Advancements in Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Industry

By enhancing efficiencies, precision, and flexibility of researching drugs, fabrication, clinical pharmacy execution, and manufacturing, artificial intelligence (AI) is significantly transforming the pharmacy and pharmaceutical industries. Artificial intelligence (AI) uses computational algorithms, enormous amounts of data, and machine learning techniques to simplify intricate procedures, lessen expenditures, along with improving patient outcomes [5].

Figure 2: Different processes involved in the pharmaceutical industry where AI can be potentially applied

Drug Discovery and Development

By employing advanced computations, machine learning, and big data analytics to find effective drug candidates promptly, artificial intelligence (AI) has revolutionized the study and development of drugs. By properly evaluating chemical, biological, and clinical data in order to predict molecular interactions, drug-target binding, and pharmacokinetics, artificial intelligence (AI) simplifies the time-consuming and expensive process of drug discovery.

Deep learning and generative models are examples of AI-based platforms that are used for de novo drug creation, virtual screening, lowering the failure rate in later-stage clinical trials, and optimizing lead compounds. Additionally, by identifying eligible patient populations and forecasting outcomes, it improves clinical trial design and makes individualized medicine methods possible.

Pharmaceutical companies' R&D pipelines are being reshaped by AI technologies, which are also shortening therapeutic phases of development and possibly accelerating the release of innovative therapies with better safety and efficacy profiles [6].

Clinical Pharmacy Practice

By assisting pharmacists optimize medication management, enhance patient safety, and customize therapeutic interventions, artificial intelligence is significantly boosting clinical pharmacy practice. In order to lower risks and enhance treatment outcomes, AI-driven clinical decision support systems (CDSS) examine patient data to identify possible drug-drug interactions, adverse drug responses, and prescription errors.

AI-powered automation also makes prescription reconciliation, dosage customization, and adherence surveillance easier, allowing pharmacists to deliver more focused and efficient pharmaceutical care. Additionally, AI-driven predictive analytics support precision medicine by tailoring treatment regimens based on individuals' genetic profiles and medical histories. AI primarily enhances patient outcomes but also increases workflow efficiency by automating repetitive processes like inventory management, prescription processing, and administrative tasks. This leaves up pharmacists to concentrate more on clinical decision-making and direct patient care [7].

Manufacturing and Supply Chain

AI contributes to workflow automation, quality control, and operational efficiency, which is revolutionizing pharmaceutical manufacturing and supply chain management. By foreseeing problems before they arise, AI-enabled predictive maintenance minimizes expensive interruptions and decreases equipment downtime.

AI algorithms in manufacturing optimize production parameters to guarantee regulatory compliance and consistent product quality. AI-driven sensors and Internet of Things (IoT) devices are used in real-time monitoring to identify deviations early and take swift corrective action.

AI helps Supply chain management by improving logistics planning, inventory optimization, and demand forecasting. AI algorithms reduce shortages and surplus inventory by properly forecasting medicine demand based on past sales, market trends, and external factors. AI also

makes it easier to track and trace products throughout supply chains, which improves transparency and guarantees medication safety [8].

Machine learning

Recent artificial intelligence (AI) developments that have transformed manufacturing, clinical pharmacy, and individualized care all heavily rely on machine learning. To find promising drug candidates, anticipate adverse drug reactions, optimize clinical trials, and improve treatment outcomes, machine learning algorithms evaluate large amounts of chemical, biological, clinical, and real-world data.

By learning from complicated structure-property association relationships, computational biology (ML) facilitates high-throughput screening, ADMET (absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion, toxicity) prediction, virtual screening, and novel drug design in drug discovery. ML in clinical pharmacy enhances the delivery of medications, identifies prescription errors, and optimizes treatment based on patient profiles. ML-driven process improvement, quality control, maintenance planning, and demand forecasting are desirable for production as well as supply chains.

The profitability and precision of pharmaceutical R&D are being greatly boosted by modern machine learning (ML) technologies involving deep learning, neural networks using graphs, and multidimensional data integration. The result has allowed feasible to generate more secure and efficient therapies more quickly and affordably [9].

Applications of Machine Learning

1. **Data Management and Trial Optimization:** ML automates cleaning and real-time analysis of clinical trial data, reducing errors and speeding up trial completion.
2. **Adaptive Trial Designs & Synthetic Controls:** ML enables flexible clinical trials that adjust based on ongoing results and uses synthetic control arms to reduce patient burden.
3. **Multimodal and Integrative Models:** ML combines genomics, imaging, and patient data to improve therapy personalization and early adverse event detection.
4. **Regulatory Documentation & Compliance:** By automating the production and evaluation of regulatory submissions, natural language processing models expedite approvals, preserve quality, and minimize human error.
5. **Manufacturing and Maintenance:** By switching from reactive to condition-based maintenance and reducing expensive downtime, ML-driven predictive analytics monitor equipment health, optimize production parameters, and guarantee consistent product quality.
6. **Digital twins and generative AI:** By creating new molecules in silico, emerging foundation models speed up the drug design process. Digital twin simulations mimic

clinical trials to improve decision-making and remotely monitor patient reactions to optimize treatment.

7. **Industry Integration:** In order to increase total efficiency and innovation, pharmaceutical businesses are transitioning from isolated AI experiments to fully integrated ML systems spanning discovery, clinical development, manufacturing, supply chain, and commercial roles [9].

Digitalization

The term "digitalization" implies that digital innovations are incorporated into every aspect of pharmaceutical operations, transitioning conventional processes into data-driven, automated workflows. Digitalization increases productivity, speeds up medication development, increases manufacturing accuracy, and promotes patient-centered care by utilizing cloud computing, the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), and real-world data analytics. It is essential to the pharmaceutical industry's ability to innovate, comply with regulations, and grow responsibly.

Cloud Computing and AI Integration

By offering high-performance computer resources and promoting cooperative data sharing, cloud platforms enable scalable drug discovery and development. These systems utilize artificial intelligence and machine learning to speed up chemical screening, forecast drug behavior, while enhancing experimental design. This integration preserves regulatory compliance while significantly lowering drug development costs and schedules.

Digital Clinical Trials and Real-World Data

By enhancing patient recruitment, tracking adherence, and guaranteeing data integrity, digital technologies including electronic data capture, telemedicine, and AI analytics revolutionize clinical trials. Adaptive trial designs and personalized treatment are made possible by the integration of real-world data from wearable technology and electronic health records, which improves patient safety and trial relevance.

Smart Manufacturing and IoT

Pharmaceutical production processes are constantly monitored in real time by IoT-equipped sensors and digital copies. In order to ensure constant product quality and adherence to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), predictive maintenance and process optimization help minimize waste and downtime. Production systems that are compliant and sustainable are being facilitated by this digital transition.

Digital Health Technologies Focused on the Patient

Using enhanced therapy adherence and remote health monitoring, smart drug delivery systems, digital pills, and mobile health apps empower patients. Digital techniques enable post-market

medication tracking and individualized therapy modifications, while telehealth increases access to healthcare, particularly for managing chronic diseases [10].

Precision medicine

Precision medicine (PM) has been defined as an approach that uses a person's genetics, environment, and lifestyle to help determine the best approach to prevent or treat disease. There have been well-documented, and occasionally remarkable [11].

Genomic & molecular testing are being used all over the world to predict the disease risk in context to an individual / or a group of population based on their environmental exposure, epigenetic characteristics, or variation that occurs because of infectious and non-communicable diseases [12]. Application of pharmacogenomics emerged with a concept of precision and personalized medicines), which is considered to develop opportunities in real-life such as

- Prevention of risks involved with disease.
- Optimized therapy at the individual level.
- Safer use of drugs to avoid adverse reactions.
- Reduce the costs of large clinical trials,

Rather than complying with the treatments based on individual or a group population identified to have some similar characteristics based on their genomic profiles [13].

Key components

Genetic profiling

The term genetic profile is generally used to denote genetic signatures or information as a combination of genetic characteristics related to a human being. It is important to emphasize that profiling is the process by which such a combination of characteristics is associated with target attributes used for decision making, e.g., concerning the risk of developing a certain disease [14].

Biomarker

The term ‘biomarker’, refers to a broad subcategory of medical signs, that is, objective indications of medical state observed from outside the patient, which can be measured accurately and reproducibly. Medical signs stand in contrast to medical symptoms, which are limited to those indications of health or illness perceived by patients themselves.A joint venture on chemical safety, the International Programme on Chemical Safety, led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and in coordination with the United Nations and the International Labour Organization, has defined a biomarker as ‘any substance, structure, or process that can be measured in the body or its products and influence or predict the incidence of outcome or disease’. An even broader definition takes into account not just incidence and outcome of disease, but also the effects of treatments, interventions, and even unintended environmental exposure, such as to chemicals or nutrients [15].

Pharmacogenomics

Pharmacogenomics is the new science based on the gene-drug interactions which can be utilized in the discovery of new drug molecules for the existing diseases and further designing of novel more efficacious formulations of existing drugs within a shorter period as compared to convention approach with better utilization of available resource.It is the study ofgene polymorphism (genetic variability) responsible variation in drug response and is employed as a useful tool to establish disease-gene, gene-drug, and drug-effect correlation based on the human genome. The pharmacogenomic principle can be applied for various processes of disease-drug interaction research activities such as target biomarkers, mechanism biomarkers, outcome biomarkers, toxicity biomarkers, and diagnostic biomarkers [16].

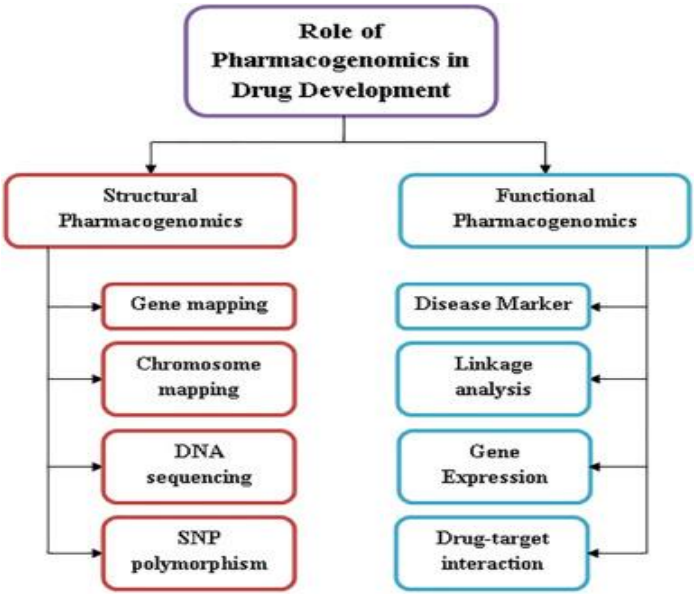

Figure 3: Role of pharmacogenomics

Data Driven Decision Making

Data-Driven Decision Making (DDDM) plays a pivotal role in healthcare, specifically patient management. This review aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the technologies used in DDDM and provide a framework of how DDDM is involved in patient management. This study follows the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (PRISMA-P) framework, studies from Web of Science, Pubmed, and Embase are screened for consideration. The inclusion criteria are outlined to identify studies on patient management utilizing DDDM.

Result:

The studies included in the review explore DDDM in patient management from data-driven approaches to decision making methods. In the former, artificial intelligence, together with other methods, is the dominant method utilized. Disease diagnosis and treatment was the most common area of patient management application along with precision medicine, patient care, nursing, and other related fields of patient management. A framework of how DDDM is involved in patient management was identified [17].

Novel Modalities

Novel therapeutic modalities encompass advanced and emerging treatment technologies that go beyond traditional small-molecule drugs and biologics, offering new approaches for difficult-to-

treat diseases. Major classes of novel modalities include gene therapies, cell-based therapies (e.g., CAR-T cells), RNA therapeutics, antibody-drug conjugates, bi- and multi-specific antibodies, and radioligand therapies [18].

1. **Gene therapy** Utilizes viral vectors (AAV, lentivirus) or gene-editing tools like CRISPR to correct or modify faulty genes. Several gene therapies have FDA approval for rare diseases (e.g., metachromatic leukodystrophy, sickle cell disease) [19].
2. **CAR-T Cell Therapy:** Engineered T cells expressing chimeric antigen receptors to target cancer cells. Innovations include RNAtherapeutics to enhance CAR-T safety and efficacy, as well as in vivo CAR-T engineering with RNA delivery platforms [20].
3. **RNA Therapeutics:** Small interfering RNAs (siRNAs), antisense oligonucleotides (ASOs), and microRNAs modulate gene expression with high specificity. These can fine-tune immune cell functions or silence disease-causing genes [21].
4. **Antibody-Drug Conjugates & Multi-specific Antibodies**: These combine antibodies with cytotoxic agents or engage multiple targets to improve cancer treatment precision and efficacy.
5. **Radioligand Therapies**: Deliver radiation specifically to cancer cells using targeted ligands, minimizing damage to healthy tissues [22].

Personalized Therapies

Personalized therapies tailor medical treatment to the individual characteristics of each patient, including their genetic, molecular, and environmental profiles, leading to improved efficacy and reduced adverse effects. These therapies encompass a range of strategies including targeted therapies, immunotherapies, gene therapies, and pharmacogenomics-guided treatments, with significant application in oncology and other fields [23].

Manufacturing Innovations and Supply Chain Resilence

In the last few decades, manufacturing innovation has been the cornerstone of industrial progress, especially in the pharmaceutical industry, where efficiency and safety are crucial, as well as adaptability. Traditional models of manufacturing were designed for steady-state conditions, assuming predictable environments with well-defined cause-and-effect relationships. But with the increasingly complex nature of global markets and rapid technological advancement under the framework of Industry 4.0, there comes uncertainty in every respect, demanding continuous learning and adaptation.

The general process of manufacturing innovation consists of three major stages:

- Ideation, Development, Implementation.

Each step is an important factor in developing an initial concept into an operational solution that creates value. While some previous models focused on the development stage, emphasizing engineering design and process optimization, the early stages of creativity and feedback

mechanisms have often received less attention. Nowadays, manufacturing innovation needs to balance structured problem-solving with adaptive flexibility to be competitive and sustainable [24].

Overview of Supply Chain Resilience

SCR is the potential of an organization to predict, react to, and recover from the disruption caused by market volatility, natural hazards, or socio-political upheaval. Supply Chain Adaptive Design has emerged as a dynamic approach to manage such uncertainties in the SC. SCAD provides the opportunities for enterprises to restructure their supply chain process, logistics, and strategies according to the changing environment [25].

With the advent of modern tools like AI, predictive analytics, digital twins, and IoT sensors, actionable real-time insights on data help organizations predict risks and optimize decision-making. These technologies allow dynamic adjustments across procurement, manufacturing, and distribution networks to ensure supply chain continuity and minimize the impact of external disruptions.

Interrelationship Between Innovation and Resilience in Manufacturing

Innovation and resilience are two mutually reinforcing capabilities when contextualizing manufacturing. Technological and process innovations reinforce resilience by influencing system flexibility and responsiveness as well as operational efficiency. Simultaneously, resilient systems—through redundancy, adaptability, and collaborative networks—provide a stable foundation for continued innovation while uncertain or volatile market conditions may otherwise disrupt operations. This, in turn, forms part of the symbiotic relationship to ensure that organizations can both sustain performance and evolve continuously [26].

Innovation Models: From Product to Process Optimization

Innovation may be defined as the generation, evaluation, and implementation of new ideas to accomplish organizational goals. Resource-based innovation, as an alternative to the traditional market-driven PLC model, stresses the importance of internal capabilities as drivers of sustainable innovation.

Using this model, the innovation in manufacturing can be categorized as:

- **Product innovation**: The improvement or creation of new goods and services.
- **Process innovation**: Improvements in methods or technologies to produce the goods.

Empirical research shows that the more a product matures in its life cycle, the more the focus tends to shift away from product innovation to process optimization, with the assistance of strategies such as ERP, Six Sigma, and JIT systems. Such a transition tends to favourably support cost-efficiency, quality management, and long-term competitiveness [27].

TOSCA defines a topology template that identifies the relationship between different nodes, which corresponds to the components of an application, through the use of relationships.

Industry 4.0:

Industry 4.0 indicates the integration of cyber-physical systems, IoT, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence into a "smart factory." These interoperable systems enable real-time communication between people, equipment, and products, while increasing automation, transparency, and decision-making along the value chain [28].

While the term "Industry 4.0" is commonly associated with manufacturing sectors like automotive or electronics, its principles are equally applicable to pharmaceutical production. Automation, predictive maintenance, and real-time monitoring in this context significantly improve product quality, regulatory compliance, and supply efficiency.

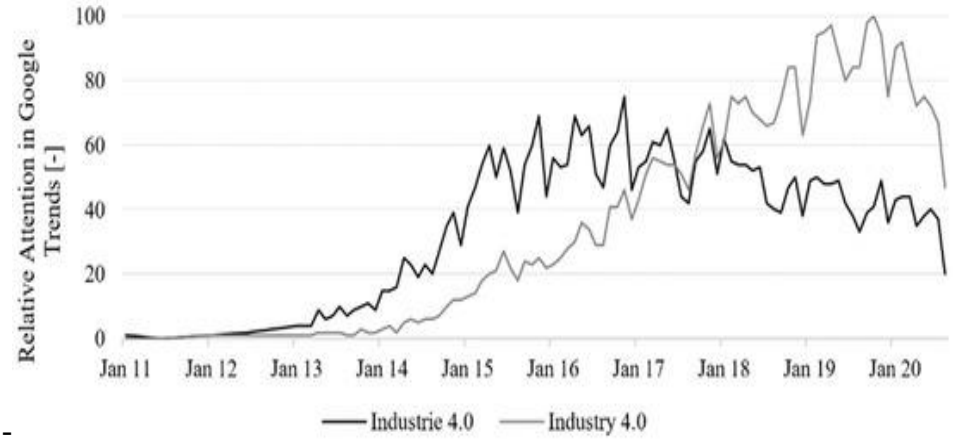

Figure 4: Industry 4.0

Supply Chain Resilience

Supply chain resilience refers to the ability of a supply chain "to return to its original state or move to a new, more desirable state after being disturbed". It implies the supply chain's ability to mitigate, respond to, and recover from risks that cause mismatches between demand and supply, the supply chain is more resilient if the possibility mismatches are lower, the duration is shorter, or the state after recovery is better [29].

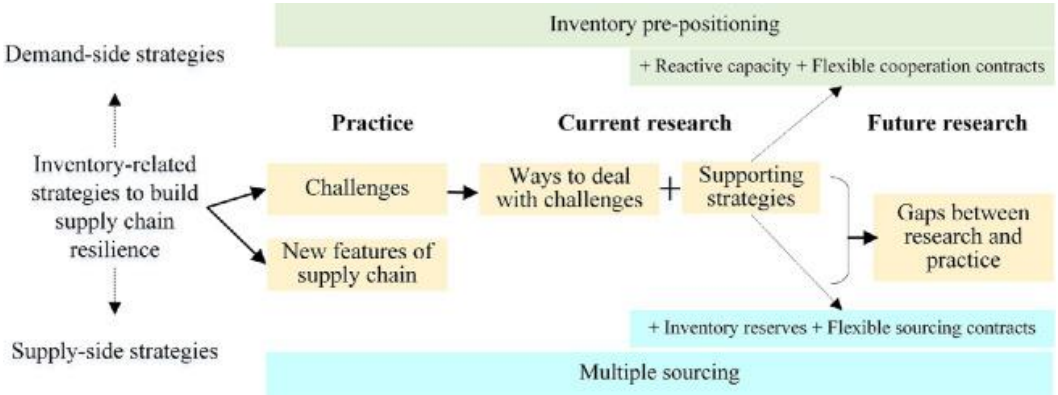

Figure 5: Supply chain Resilience

Dimensions of Supply Chain

Research develops a measurement instrument for SCRE. This research conducts a qualitative field study, followed by a quantitative survey Content analysis is used to explain various dimensions in the qualitative field study, and partial least squares (PLS)-based structural equation modelling (SEM) is used to analyse the data collected in the quantitative survey. SCRE is a multidimensional and hierarchical construct, which consists of three primary dimensions: proactive capability, reactive capability and supply chain design quality. These three primary dimensions are further operationalized through twelve sub-dimensions. The findings also affirm that the SCRE scale potentially better predicts supply chain operational vulnerability (OV) and supply chain performance [30].

Phases and Dimensions of Supply Chain Resilience

Supply chain resilience may be better viewed as a cyclical process than as a singular event. Three key dimensions are included in the resilience lifecycle framework:

1. **Proactive capability**: Anticipating the disruption and being prepared.
2**. Reactive capability**: responding effectively when disruptions take place.
3. **Design quality**: which refers to structural robustness and adaptability in the supply chain network.

Partial Least Squares and Structural Equation Modelling studies confirm these dimensions collectively enhance operational performance and reduce supply chain vulnerability.

Resilience is, therefore, not just about recovery; it's about bouncing forward, emerging stronger after every challenge.

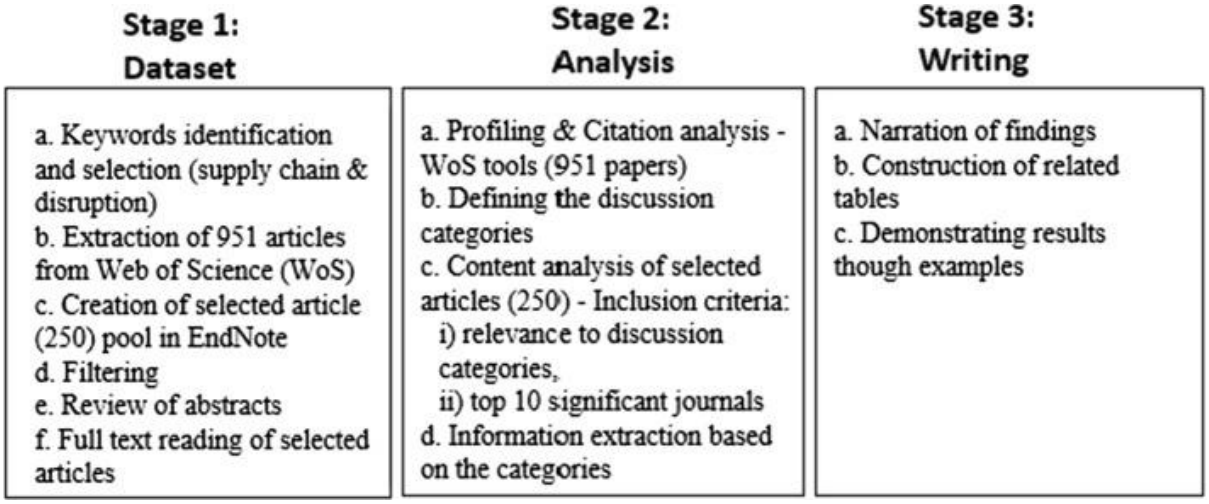

Figure 6: Stages of Supply Chain Resilience

Disruption Management Strategies

Recent analyses have highlighted that effective disruption management should be integrated with resilience and sustainability principles. Bibliometric and network studies show that the three

dominant themes in research in supply chain management today include resilience, sustainability, and digital transformation. Events like the COVID-19 pandemic underlined the primacy of flexible logistics, diversified sourcing, and technology-enabled contingency planning. Blockchain, IoT-based monitoring, and AI-driven risk modeling are some of the tools that have emerged as critical enablers for a supply chain that is transparent, traceable, and responsive to changing events [31].

Manufacturing innovation and supply chain resilience are the inseparable parts of modern industrial strategy. While innovation drives the pace of advancement by introducing new technologies and optimizing processes, resilience ensures continuity and long-term stability. Gradual adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies in the pharmaceutical sector represents one transformative step toward sustainable, efficient, and adaptive systems of production. By integrating digital tools with proactive risk management, organizations will be able to achieve economic competitiveness with operational endurance in the fast-changing global landscape.

Sustainability, Green Pharmacy and Smart Packaging: A Technological Perspective

The pharmaceutical industry has seen growing huge in recent years. They have to balance the need to deliver effective medicine that are also safe, while environmental impact also requires to be reduced. Sustainability now includes life-cycle thinking, and that thinking encompasses molecule design, manufacturing, and packaging, distribution. Further components involve use and disposal at the end of life. Green chemistry and pharmacy principles are really changing development and management practices by attempting to remove harmful substances at every stage [32,33]. Pharmaceutical packaging, a component often overlooked, has become an essential area. It now has the aim to reduce the industry's carbon footprint. A detailed Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) indicated that packaging represents a major environmental hotspot in the chain that makes medicine get where it has to be [34].

Green Pharmacy:

Principles and Practice The notion of "Green Pharmacy" applies the twelve tenets of green chemistry to all pharmaceutical processes. It also helps optimize energy and material usage while trying to design active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) to decay safely following consumption [33,35].

Key goals include cutting hazardous reagents and solvents. Modern advancements in green synthesis—for example, flow chemistry, along with biocatalysis and safer solvents—are finding broad utilization [35,36]. Pharmaceutical businesses have started utilizing continuous processing, solvent recovery, as well as renewable energy in order to reduce waste [36].

Furthermore, sustainability currently extends to community pharmacies. A study in Sweden underscored over twenty measures which are environmental throughout supply chains, which also encompassed management for waste products [37].

Waste, Residues, and Management

Pharmaceutical residue coming from excrement, improper discarding of medicine, or discharges pose serious threats. The ecosystem—whether aquatic or land-based—is at great risk. There is need for effluent treatment in combination with proper stewardship for the waste itself and for drug take-back programs. In three years pilot programs, the programs resulted in collecting just short of two tons unused medications from India, illustrating the amount of drug products sitting around in residences [38]. Pharmacy practices which last and have great outcomes demand that medicines be manufactured cleaner in combination with taking patient's role very seriously in responsible medicine disposal.

Smart and Sustainable Packaging: Concepts and Technologies

Pharmaceutical packaging is vital for upholding product consistency and assuring individual safety, plus generating ways which make products more sustainable [39]. A renewed concentration lands on eco-friendly substances alongside insightful practicality.

Sustainable Materials and Designs

eco-design regarding drug package is designed to improve efficacy and lighten and enhance material usage [39,42]. Lighter, simpler components, as well as effectiveness when the material is shipped, is what makes design better. An LCA looked into vials, sachets, along with blister packages; this assessment showed benefits from adjusting package amount with material selection [34,39]. This action does much for environmental progress.

Besides, substitute biopolymers, not forgetting recyclable films, stand poised to substitute composite layering films [42].

Smartand Active Packaging

New systems, namely SPaRAS, record what goes on as product is being moved using smart markers, which even encourage easy retrieval thereby building up "a circular economy" [40]. Active systems similar to desiccants or scrubbers boost life span, and smart systems also will pick up conditions surrounding dampness, cold, or potentially tampering with the medicine as well [40,41].Smart packaging also helps fight counterfeiting and improves traceability in global supply chains [41,43].The future that is, in respect to packaging meds, blends long-term health as opposed to digital know-how, in the most effective manner [41].Single source blister packs with markers highlighting time versus storage conditions,Returnable, Radio Frequency ID that are re-usable.

Stabilizing films designed either using germ fighting, as well as taking oxygen from their surroundings so medicinequality remains higher over much longer [39,41]. Results, it has been found, when considering using advanced methods it decreases what gets wasted—that is, if slightly greater substance comes into use, overall quality comes out significantly better based on findings using the LCA evaluation method [34].

Challenges and Future Directions

Obstacles ahead include steep new material overhead, guidelines for regulatory practice still developing, along with fragile recovering resources available for repeated utilization [32,34,44]. Advanced methods ask of us all that consistent web-like connection exists together, plus dependable validating metrics are available in the world of drugs.Future research goals primarily around green methods that avoid needing solvent, ensuring sensors are manufactured safe and establishing reusable business strategies regarding resource use, then subsequent retrieval from use of what materials medicines are held within [35,36].Combining advances mentioned here, pharmaceutical endeavours should make healthcare outcomes match environmental aims leading for true consistent approaches that last and provide benefit for many [32,41,43].

Biosimilars Generics and Emerging Market Growth

Definition of Generics

In the USA, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has stated that, "A generic drug is identical—or bioequivalent—to a brand name drug in dosage form, safety, strength, route of administration, quality, performance characteristics and intended use.The European Medicines Agency (EMA), the main regulatory body for pharmaceutical products in the EU, defines a generic medicinal product as a "product which has the same qualitative and quantitative composition in active substances and the same pharmaceutical form as the reference medicinal product, and whose bioequivalence with the reference medicinal product[44].

Definition of Biosimilar

A Biosimilar is a biological product that is approved based on the totality of evidence demonstrating that it is highly similar to an approved biological product (originator) in terms of structure, function, quality, and clinical efficacy and safety. Biosimilars are developed such that there are

no clinically meaningful differences between the biological product and the reference [originator] product in terms of safety, purity, and potency. The EMA definition further clarifies that "a biosimilar demonstrates similarity to the [originator] in terms of quality characteristics, biological activity, safety, and efficacy based on a comprehensive comparability exercise" [45].

Difference Between Branded Drug, Generic and Biosimilars

Commercially, medications are either brand name drugs or generic drugs. Brand name drugs are also called innovator drug and they are these types of medications which are patented, manufactured and licensed for the first time. In contrast, generic drugs are these types of medications which are bioequivalent to the brand name drugs and have identical active ingredients but produced after patent expirations by another manufacturer. Generic drugs are similar to brand-name drugs in terms of identity, strength, quality, purity, safety, potency, uses and treatment. According to US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards, generic drugs

must have identical active ingredient, dosage form, strength, efficacy, route of administration, drug bioavailability profile and pharmacokinetic (PK) parameters similar to the brand name drug. Similarly, modified release formulation of the generic drug must be bioequivalent to a modified release formulation of brand name drugs such as controlled release drug preparations. However, some variations in the medication formulation are accepted such as purity, inactive substances variety, color, size, shape, packaging, and labeling as long as they have no interferences. Using different inactive substances in the generic drug preparation than in the brand name drug is acceptable for the generic drug by FDA. Though, these inert additives such as fillings, flavorings, glidants, lubricants, disintegrating agents and preservatives must be listed as safe and interference free materials in the drug composition according to the FDA safety regulations. Besides, generic drugs must follow the expiry date of the brand name drug. Economically, generic drugs are less costly in production than brand name drugs and therefore, they are cheaper in the market. Previous studies concluded that saving up to 10 billion of dollars every year can be achieved upon replacing brand name drug by generic drugs [46].

Global Demand for Affordable Medicines

Challenges in access to medicines include affordability, availability, acceptability and accessibility. Over the past two decades, multiple access tools have been developed to address each of these challenges, with a focus on diseases that disproportionately affect people living in low-income countries.[47]

Improve Affordability: Global access plans; product development partnerships; cost–efficient manufacturing platforms; test with fewer or lower vaccine doses; reduce active pharmaceutical ingredient; promote voluntary licensing; employ patent pool; and negotiate lower prices for lower-income countries

Improve Accessibility: Cold chain innovation; improve logistics; strategic purchasing to improve supply chains; technology- enabled delivery; behaviour economics; primary health-care performance initiative; and data systems, surveillance and analysis [48].

Growth Drivers in Generics Market

Generic medicines are clinically interchangeable with original brand medicines and have the same quality, efficacy and safety profiles. They are, nevertheless, much cheaper in price. Thus, while providing the same therapeutic outcomes, generic medicines lead to substantial savings for healthcare systems. Generic medicines are clinically interchangeable with original brand medicines and have the same quality, efficacy and safety profiles. They are, nevertheless, much cheaper in price. Thus, while providing the same therapeutic outcomes, generic medicines lead to substantial savings for healthcare systems [49].

Biosimilars Market Expansion

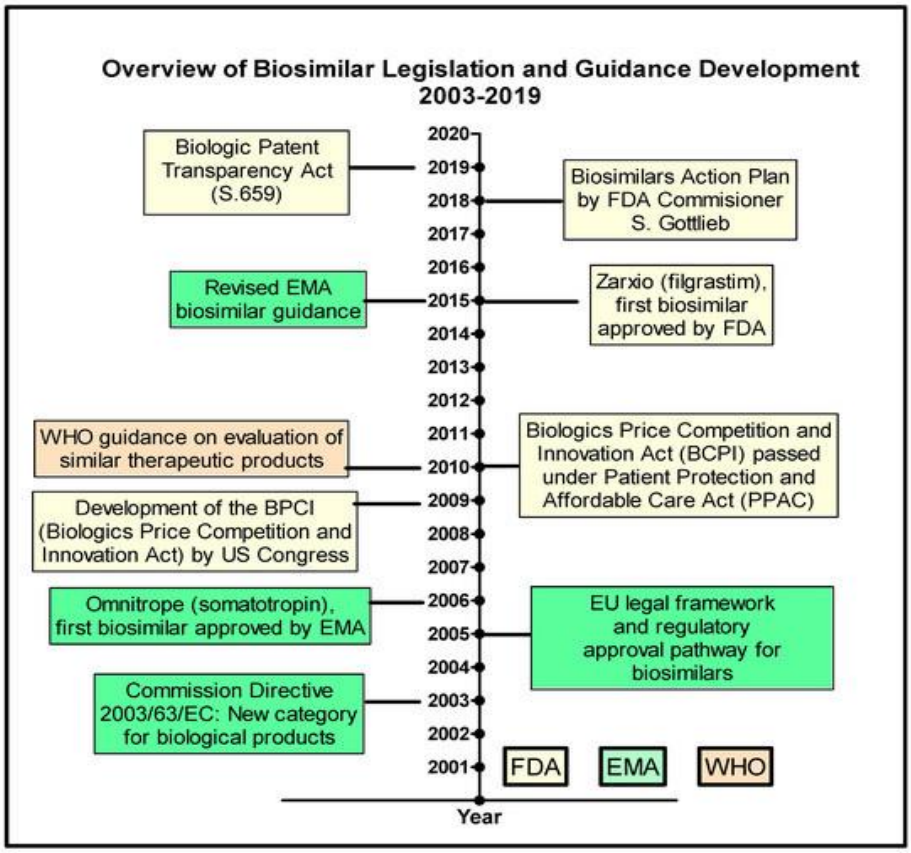

Figure 7: Overview of Biosimilar Legislation and Development

Challenges In Emerging Markets

Supply Chain Instability

Economic instability today should be considered as the fundamental process on the basis of which the work of any business structure is built and the global economy functions. And if at the beginning of the era of the market economy and further, over a long period of its evolution, instability was considered as a consequence of the cyclical nature of development (the rise was replaced by a decline) then at present, most researchers characterize instability as a much more complex process [50].

Future Trends

Novel Drug Delivery System

The field of pharmaceutical sciences has witnessed a paradigm shift with the advent of Novel Drug Delivery Systems (NDDS), which aim to enhance therapeutic efficacy, reduce side effects, and improve patient compliance. This comprehensive review explores the latest advancement and innovations in NDDS, encompassing a diverse range of delivery platforms and strategies NDDs are transforming the landscape of pharmaceutical treatment, offering unparalleled potential forenhanced therapeutic efficacy, improved bioavailability, controlled release, targeted delivery, and enhanced stability. This comprehensive review explores the diverse landscape of

NDDS, highlighting recent advancements and addressing key challenges. Prominent NDDS include liposomes, nanoparticles, micelles, polymeric drug conjugates, monoclonal antibodies, implants, and patches. Each system possesses unique properties and applications, tailored to specific drugs and therapeutic needs [51].

Digital Pills, Smart Drug Delivery & Patient Engagement

The technologies currently under development that converge to create a revolution in medication delivery and adherence include digital pills, or ingestible sensors; advanced "smart" drug-delivery platforms, including nanocarriers and stimulus-responsive capsules; and digital health tools to engage patients and clinicians. Together, these approaches aim to increase therapeutic precision, monitor real-world use, and close the loop between dosing, biological response, and care decisions—but also raise technical, regulatory, and ethical challenges, such as privacy, data ownership, and clinical validation [51].

1. Digital Pills:

Definition and Components:

A digital pill, or ingestible sensor embeds an oral pharmaceutical dose within an edible electronic sensor which is activated in the gastrointestinal environment and sends a transmission of ingestion to a wearable patch then to a mobile app or cloud platform. The system captures the date and time a dose was taken, while optionally sharing ingestion data with care teams based on patient consent [51].

Mechanism:

Current systems are based on a biocompatible microsensor, energized either by the stomach fluids or a micro battery. In contact with the gastric fluid, the sensor develops a unique electrical signal, picked up by a skin-worn patch; the patch communicates timestamped ingestion events through Bluetooth transmission to a smartphone app and a secure server for clinical review [52].

Clinical example & Regulatory Milestone:

The first FDA-cleared digital medicine system was aripiprazole tablets with sensor (Abilify MyCite®)—approved in 2017 as a drug-device combination for tracking ingestion, not as a different efficacy claim [52]. This approval demonstrated regulatory acceptance of the class of ingestible sensors as a medical product class while highlighting limits: Approval did not imply improved clinical outcomes in the absence of supporting data [53].

Possible benefits and evidence:

Digital pills allow for objective adherence data—e.g., relevant in psychiatry, transplant medicine, TB, HIV, or clinical trials—which may help in the recognition of a pattern of nonadherence early and thus enable timely intervention [54]. Real-world studies and reviews have shown promise in regard to monitoring and care coordination. There is still scarce high-quality evidence on the

improvement of long-term clinical outcomes when using an ingestible sensor on its own, which is also highly context-dependent.

These concerns include ethical issues around privacy and consent, the risk of coercion, and security of data. Clinicians and ethicists say that digital pills must be deployed with strong consent procedures, transparent data governance, and especially regarding vulnerable populations [51].

2. Smart drug-delivery systems (SDDS): Technological Landscape

Overview:

In "smart" delivery, the carriers or devices enhance targetability, control release temporally/spatially, or respond to physiological stimuli, or combine sensing with therapy. Key technologies involved are nanocarriers, including liposomes, polymeric nanoparticles, and dendrimers; stimulus-responsive systems, including pH, enzyme, temperature, and light; and advanced ingestible devices releasing biologics at specific GI sites [55].

Nanotechnology and Targeted Carriers:

Nanoparticles improve the solubility, protect labile drugs like biologics, and allow surface functionalization for active targeting with the help of ligands and antibodies. A number of recent reviews summarize the advances in material design, surface chemistry optimization, and strategies to overcome biological barriers (mucus, RES uptake) for cancer and systemic therapies [56].

Ingestible Smart Devices:

Besides simple sensors, modern ingestible capsules have integrated electronics, microfluidics, or mechanical actuators that are able to sense the local environment and deliver payloads, such as drugs or biologics, at precise GI locations. Such devices allow for oral delivery of macromolecules previously limited to parenteral routes and enable in situ sampling/monitoring [55]. The active areas of research include miniaturization of devices, their biocompatibility, and power solutions.

Theranostics and Closed-Loop:

The integration of sensing capabilities with on-demand drug release may allow for a new avenue toward closed-loop therapies, from smart insulin delivery to responsive chemotherapy. While early prototypes and animal studies have already provided proof of concept, translation to humans is required with further rigorous validation in terms of safety and manufacturability [56].

The opinions expressed in this essay are those of the author and do not represent the official policy or position of the Department of the Army, Department of Defense, or the US government.

3. Patient Engagement: Digital Interfaces, Adherence Support, and Behavioral Design

Digital Adherence Interventions:

Mobile apps, SMS reminders, connected packaging, and clinician dashboards are established tools that can increase medication adherence when combined with behaviourally informed design such as gamification, tailored reminders, and two-way feedback. Several meta-analyses and systematic reviews suggest that digital interventions can improve adherence metrics; however, effect sizes vary by condition and intervention fidelity [57].

Integration of Digital Pills with SDDS:

Digital pills provide objective ingestion data, and integrating this into patient apps and clinician workflows allows for personalized coaching, automated alerts, and timely outreach after missed doses [57]. An integration of this nature can provide support for shared decision-making and adherence counselling if there is adequate protection of privacy.

Design Considerations with Equity in Mind:

Inclusive design regarding low literacy modes and multilingual support; attention to issues of the digital divide, including device access and connectivity; culturally sensitive behavioural nudges. It emphasizes that high-tech solutions risk excluding the patients without smartphones or digital literacy [57].

4. Regulatory, Ethical and Implementation Challenges

Regulatory Posture:

Regulatory bodies treat digital pills and many SDDSs as combination products; they review both device and drug considerations such as safety, data integrity, and manufacturing [52]. Implementation in clinical practice is going to further need interoperability and cybersecurity standards, data privacy, and consent. Since the intake records include highly sensitive data, especially in mental health and judicial contexts, they should be strictly encrypted, shared at the patient's discretion, and covered under clear policies against coercive use by payers or court systems [51]. These stakeholders are keen on good governance with transparency in patient education.

5. Future Directions and Research Priorities

1. **Clinical outcomes trials:** Clinically meaningful improvements in morbidity, hospitalization, or quality of life—rather than adherence metrics—will be the driver to broader adoption [54].
2. **Miniaturized multimodal sensors:** Integration of biochemical sensing and therapeutic release into single ingestible platforms [55].
3. **Interoperability & standards:** Standard data schemas, clinical decision-support integration, and cybersecurity frameworks for safe scaling [56].

4. **Equitable deployment:** Research on access, acceptability, and culturally adapted engagement strategies [57].

Digital pills, smart drug-delivery systems, and patient-engagement technologies collectively represent a path toward more precise, accountable, and patient-pharmacotherapy. Realization of this promise requires that developers and clinicians integrate engineering advances with rigorous clinical evidence, ethical safeguards, and inclusive design in ways that enhance health without compromising patient autonomy [51–57].

Challenges and Considerations:

Approaches to Address Specific Challenges in Biosimilar

Challenge	Description	Approach
Technique of economic evaluation	In light of relative efficacy/effectiveness of reference biologic and biosimilar, is a price comparison or a full economic evaluation appropriate?	- Conduct a price comparison when biosimilar reimbursement is requested for same indication as reference biologic[11,12] - Conduct full economic evaluation if reference biologic is not reimbursed or is not standard of care[2,13] - Conduct full economic evaluation if biosimilar and reference biologic have different administration forms[14-16] - Conduct full economic evaluation if biosimilar and reference biologic use different administration devices[17,18] - Carry out multiple technology appraisal to assess value of alternative products within therapeutic class following biosimilar market entry[4,19]
Extrapolation of indication	How to assess value of biosimilar in extrapolated indication for which no clinical trial has been carried out?	Use efficacy/safety data from reference biologic trials or carry out indirect comparison and sensitivity analyses[12,20-23]
Assessment in biologic-naive and in biologic-experienced patients	Is biosimilar administration to biologic-naive patients or to biologic-experienced patients relevant for purpose of value assessment?	Conduct separate economic evaluations for biologic-naive patients and for biologic-experienced patients[24]
Nocebo effect	How to assess value of biosimilar in light of patients' potential negative expectation toward switching from reference biologic to biosimilar?	Assess biosimilar value without nocebo effect and conduct full economic evaluation accounting for impact of nocebo on costs and effectiveness of biologic therapy[2]
Managed entry agreements	Should managed entry agreements be applied to biosimilars with a view to address residual clinical uncertainties?	Revisit value of biosimilar if new and different evidence emerges[12,25]
Value-added services	How can biosimilar value assessment account for value-added services?	Apply multicriteria decision analysis to assess reference biologic and biosimilar in terms of multiple criteria, including value-added services[26]
Health gains at population level	How can biosimilar value assessment consider contribution of biosimilars to generating health gain at population level?	Conduct full economic evaluation of treating additional patients compared with alternative and compute size of health gain generated by reinvesting biosimilar savings to fund treatment for additional patients[27]

Figure 8: Chalenges of Biosimilar and their Approach

AI in Drug Discovery Limitations and challenges

One of the key challenges is the availability of suitable data. AI-based approaches typically require a large volume of information for training purposes. In many cases, the amount of data that is accessible may be limited, or the data may be of low quality or inconsistent, which can affect the accuracy and reliability of the results. Another challenge is presented by ethical

considerations. Since AI-based approaches may raise concerns about fairness and bias (see next section). For example, if the data used to train an ML algorithm are biased or unrepresentative, the resulting predictions may be inaccurate or unfair. Ensuring the ethical and fair use of AI for the development of new therapeutic compounds is an important consideration that must be addressed.

Current AI-based approaches are not a substitute for traditional experimental methods, and they cannot replace the expertise and experience of human researchers. AI can only provide predictions based on the data available, and the results must then be validated and interpreted by human researchers. However, the integration of AI with traditional experimental methods can also enhance the drug discovery process. By combining the predictive power of AI with the expertise and experience of human researchers, it is possible to optimize the drug discovery process and accelerate the development of new medication.

Considerations

One key issue is the potential for AI to be used to make decisions that affect people's health and well-being, such as decisions about which drugs to develop, which clinical trials to conduct, and how to market and distribute drugs. Another key concern is the potential for bias in AI algorithms, which could result in unequal access to medical treatment and the unfair treatment of certain groups of people. This could undermine the principles of equality and justice. The use of AI in the pharmaceutical industry also raises concerns about job losses due to automation. It is important to consider the potential impact on workers and provide support for those who may be affected. Additionally, the use of AI in the pharmaceutical industry raises questions about data privacy and security.

The ethical use of AI in the pharmaceutical industry requires careful consideration and the adoption of thoughtful approaches to addressing these concerns. This can include measures such as ensuring that AI systems are trained on diverse and representative data, regularly reviewing and auditing AI systems for bias, and implementing strong data privacy and security protocols. By addressing these issues, the pharmaceutical industry can use AI in a responsible and ethical manner [58].

Machine Learning (ML) in Pharmaceutical Supply Chain (PSC) Resilience:

Regulatory Challenges in AI-Driven PSC

To understand how (ML) research approaches these regulatory issues, the 32 selected studies were examined across three key areas:

1. **Alignment and Compliance**: ML must operate within the strict regulatory frameworks that govern PSCs, such as GDP, GMP, and global pharmaceutical regulations. For example, AI-driven quality control systems can identify defects in production processes, ensuring

compliance with GMP. Similarly, AI-powered real-time tracking systems can improve traceability and transparency in distribution, aligning with GDP requirements. Ensuring compliance with such standards is critical for AI/ML adoption in real-world pharmaceutical operations.

2. **Privacy Levels**: ML systems in PSCs rely heavily on real-time tracking, supplier data sharing, and predictive analytics, making data privacy and security a major issue. PSCs handle sensitive supplier contracts, distribution records, and, in some cases, patient data,raising concerns about data protection, unauthorized access, and regulatory compliance with global privacy laws.
3. **Ethical Considerations**: AI-driven decision-making can raise questions of fairness, accountability, and bias in supply chain operations. As ML systems begin to influence drug distribution, supplier selection, and risk assessment, future research should prioritize ethical AI/ML development, ensuring that AI-driven decision making remains fair, accountable, and unbiased.

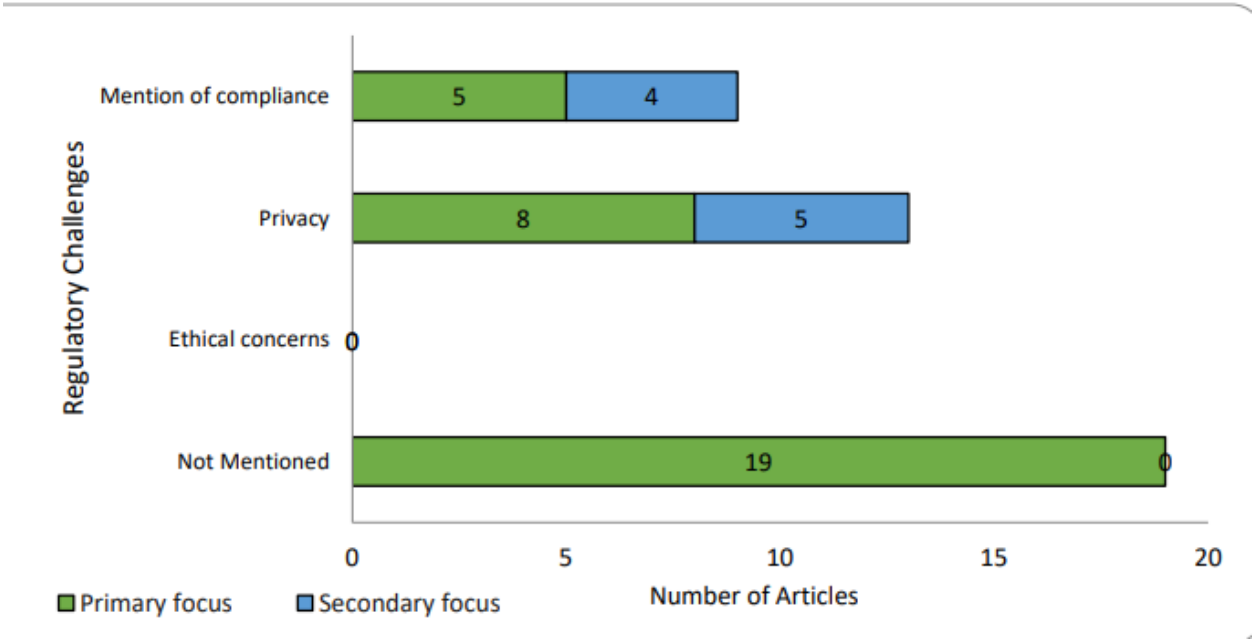

Figure 9: Regulatory and Ethical Considerations: A Critical Oversight

To ensure the widespread adoption and acceptance of ML in PSCs, future research must address regulatory alignment, data governance, and ethical development. Collaboration with regulatory agencies, compliance bodies, and technology ethics experts is essential to ensure that ML-powered PSC solutions meet legal standards while maintaining transparency and accountability. ML research in PSC resilience must move beyond purely technical studies and incorporate insights from SCM, regulatory sciences, and healthcare policy. The effective adoption of advanced technologies requires a multidisciplinary approach, integrating expertise from data

scientists, pharmaceutical professionals, policymakers, and logistics experts. Future studies should actively involve industry stakeholders in ML development, ensuring that advanced solutions align with real-world PSC challenges. Without this interdisciplinary collaboration, ML risks remaining a conceptual innovation rather than a transformative force in PSC resilience [59].

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TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE DIAGNOSTICS WITH GEN-AI BASED IMAGE AUTHENTICITY DETECTION

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Introduction:

In the modern era of digital healthcare, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into clinical workflows has introduced trans-formative capabilities across diagnostics, imaging, and treatment planning. However, along with the benefits of automation and enhanced decision-making, AI has also facilitated the emergence of a significant threat: medical deepfakes. Medical deep fakes refer to artificially manipulated or synthetically generated medical images that are crafted to appear authentic using advanced machine learning techniques, particularly Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs). Unlike conventional image tampering that might be detectable through visual inspection, deepfakes are generated with such precision that they can deceive both human experts and machine diagnostic systems. These manipulated images, if undetected, have the potential to disrupt healthcare systems by misleading diagnoses, enabling fraudulent insurance claims, or even compromising medical research datasets. Deepfake images can occur across various imaging modalities including MRI, CT scans, and X-rays—each of which plays a critical role in clinical decision-making and patient care.

The urgency of addressing deepfake threats in the healthcare sector stems from the pivotal role medical images play in diagnosis and treatment. Radiological images, for instance, are essential for identifying conditions ranging from bone fractures to tumors and neurological disorders. Any manipulation of such data could result in misdiagnosis, delayed interventions, or inappropriate treatment plans, directly impacting patient outcomes. This is particularly concerning in an environment increasingly reliant on digital systems and telemedicine. Moreover, falsified images can undermine the trust between healthcare providers and patients, erode confidence in AI-assisted diagnostics, and raise serious ethical and legal concerns. For instance, a falsified MRI scan that indicates a non-existent brain tumor could lead to unnecessary biopsies, psychological distress, or costly interventions, all based on inaccurate information. Similarly, the manipulation of an X-ray to conceal a fracture could lead to untreated injuries or insurance fraud.

What makes the detection of medical deepfakes uniquely challenging is the inherent complexity and sensitivity of medical imaging. Unlike natural images, medical images contain intricate anatomical and pathological features that demand a high level of expertise to interpret. This

complexity also makes them ideal targets for adversarial manipulation. In standard image deepfake detection, clues such as inconsistencies in lighting, texture, or facial geometry can be leveraged to identify forgeries. However, in medical imaging, the differences between real and fake may be minuscule and deeply embedded in the structure of tissues or organs—making detection far more difficult. The presence of noise, artifacts, and variability in imaging techniques further complicates the matter. Even experienced radiologists might be unable to distinguish between a genuine pathology and an expertly crafted deepfake, especially if the fake falls within plausible clinical parameters.

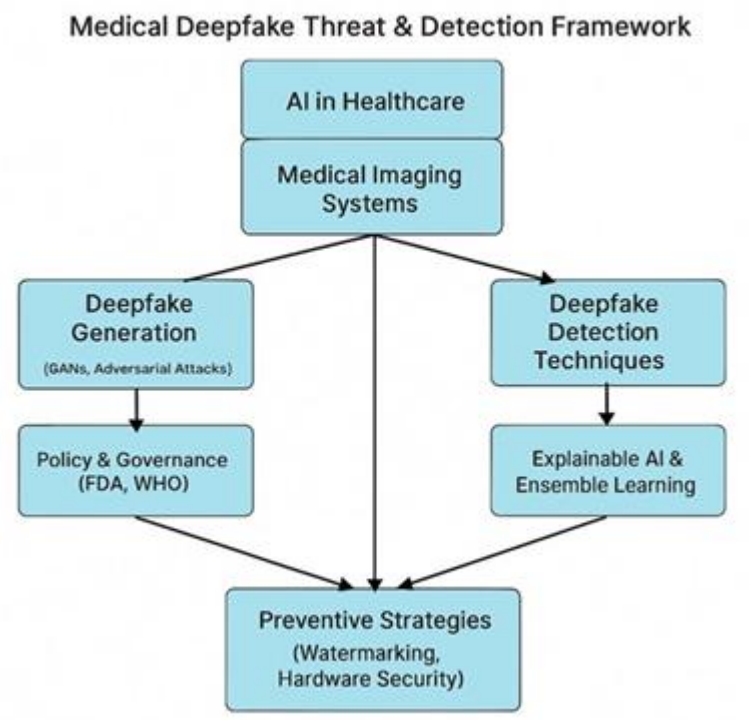
Another critical challenge is the lack of large-scale, annotated datasets of medical deepfakes. Deep learning models require substantial amounts of labeled data to learn patterns effectively. However, in the medical domain, patient privacy laws (like HIPAA and GDPR), the need for expert annotation, and ethical constraints limit the availability of data. Creating datasets with both genuine and manipulated images— labeled accurately—is a labor-intensive and expensive process. Moreover, the generation of deepfakes for the purpose of training detection models introduces ethical concerns: how do we ensure these synthetic images are not misused? And how do we label subtle manipulations with enough precision to train reliable models? These issues form a complex web of challenges that must be addressed before any robust detection system can be deployed widely in healthcare environments.

To tackle these issues, researchers have explored various technical approaches for detecting deepfakes in medical images. One common method is to use Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) trained on both real and fake datasets to learn subtle visual cues that differentiate manipulated images. Some models have been enhanced with attention mechanisms that allow the network to focus on medically relevant regions of the image, such as lesions, nodules, or specific organs. More advanced approaches involve multi-modal detection, where different imaging types (e.g., combining CT and PET scans) are analyzed together to verify consistency. Other methods leverage frequency domain analysis, where deepfakes often leave behind detectable artifacts due to the generative process. For example, periodic patterns or abnormal high-frequency signals might be present in a GAN-generated X-ray. Detection models can be trained to look for these artifacts using signal processing techniques.

In addition to visual-based detection, some researchers are exploring metadata analysis as a complementary strategy. Medical images are typically stored in formats like DICOM, which contain metadata about the image such as the time of acquisition, device ID, and patient identifiers. Anomalies in this metadata—such as mismatched timestamps or altered file headers—can serve as red flags indicating tampering.

Similarly, block-chain-based provenance tracking has been proposed to maintain an immutable log of every image's origin, transformation history, and access record. This could ensure that any image viewed by a clinician has a verifiable chain of custody, adding a layer of trust and transparency to medical imaging systems.

Another important strategy involves using explainable AI (XAI) tools that not only detect deepfakes but also provide interpretable explanations for their decisions. For instance, a heatmap overlay could show which regions of an image led the model to classify it as fake. This is particularly important in medicine, where clinicians must understand and trust AI outputs before incorporating them into their decision-making process. Furthermore, ensemble learning methods, which combine multiple classifiers or detection strategies, have shown promise in improving robustness and generalizability across different datasets and imaging modalities.



However, even the most advanced models can be susceptible to adversarial attacks, where small perturbations are added to an image to mislead detection algorithms. In a medical context, such attacks could be catastrophic. Researchers are actively working on making models adversarially robust through techniques like adversarial training, gradient masking, and input denoising. These methods aim to ensure that detection models are not easily fooled by sophisticated manipulations, especially in high-stakes environments like hospitals and diagnostic labs.

From a policy and governance perspective, there is an urgent need to establish standardized frameworks for detecting and responding to deepfake threats in healthcare.

Regulatory bodies like the FDA, WHO, and national health agencies should issue guidelines on how to handle suspected deepfakes, what minimum detection capabilities are required for diagnostic systems, and how to report and respond to identified threats. Healthcare institutions must also implement training programs for medical professionals, educating them about the existence, risks, and signs of deepfakes. While the burden of detection should not rest solely on clinicians, increasing awareness can help identify suspicious patterns that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Collaboration across disciplines is essential to effectively address the deepfake threat. Engineers, radiologists, ethicists, legal experts, and policymakers must work together to build systems that are both technologically robust and ethically sound. Initiatives that foster open-source collaboration can accelerate progress by enabling researchers to share datasets, algorithms, and benchmarks. Public-private partnerships can help bridge the gap between research and deployment, ensuring that detection technologies are not only innovative but also scalable and practical for real-world use.

In the long term, the focus should also be on preventive strategies. Rather than solely detecting deepfakes after they are created, systems should be designed to prevent unauthorized image generation in the first place. This might involve hardware-level security in imaging devices, AI watermarking, or the use of zero-trust architectures where every data point must be continuously validated. Additionally, legal frameworks must be updated to address the intentional creation and distribution of medical deepfakes, holding perpetrators accountable and establishing deterrents against misuse.

As the role of AI in healthcare continues to expand, the integrity of the data that fuels these systems becomes increasingly critical. Trustworthy AI is not just about algorithmic performance—it's about the authenticity of the inputs and the transparency of the outputs. In this context, medical deepfake detection is more than a technical challenge—it's a foundational requirement for the future of healthcare. The continued advancement of detection methods, the cultivation of cross-disciplinary collaboration, and the establishment of robust governance structures will be key to ensuring that the benefits of AI in medicine are not undermined by malicious misuse.

The important contribution of this research is outlined in the following summary:

- ✓ In this research, MDD-MI-LAPINN is proposed. The underlying scheme integrates advanced pre-processing, DL, and classification approaches to effectively identify and categorize medical deepfakes from medical images, ensuring diagnostic integrity and preventing the spread of manipulated medical data. This approach enhances the accuracy and reliability of medical image analysis.

- ✓ The input images are gathered from the Knee Osteoarthritis and Lung CT Scan Dataset. Pre-processing is performed using the IUPF, which resizes and standardizes the images, ensuring cleaner data for further processing.
- ✓ The pre-processed data are fed into the LAPINN, which detects and classifies medical deepfakes, distinguishing between real and fake images. This architecture incorporates loss attention mechanisms and physics-informed principles to improve the classification process.

The proposed MDD-MI-LAPINN method is implemented in Python and evaluated against existing techniques, EMDD-MI-YOLO, MDD-MedNet, and DD-AGAA-CNN, demonstrating superior performance in detecting and classifying medical deepfakes in medical images

Current Trends and Research Developments

There are various research works based on Medical Deepfake Detection in Medical Images through different techniques. Some of them are reviewed here.

Patel *et al.* [6] have presented an improved deep-CNN (D-CNN) design for deepfake detection, offering reasonable accuracy and high generalizability. The training process employed photos from a variety of sources to improve the generalisability of the model. Before being entered into the D-CNN model, these images were rescaled. The suggested method used the Adam optimiser and binary-cross entropy to maximise the model's learning rate. The suggested method took into consideration seven datasets from the reconstruction challenge, which included 10,000 genuine images and 5,000 deepfake images. The disadvantage of the approach was that the model's performance may degrade when applied to deepfake generated using methods not represented in the training datasets.

Liang *et al.* [7] have introduced a novel Deepfake detection network that successfully separates faces produced using different techniques into high-quality and low-quality categories. The 1st step was to build a two-stream framework that maintained frequency domain artifact in low-quality photos by combining a frequency stream with a normal spatial stream. The second was the coarse-to-fine introduction of hierarchical supervision, which included a 5-category classification branch to categorize actual pictures and 4 categories of fakes, and a coarse binary classification branch to distinguish between actual and fake images. A limitation of the approach was that the dual-stream framework may result in longer processing times, particularly when handling large datasets.

Hasanaath *et al.* [8] have presented a Frequency Enhanced Self-Blended Images (FSBI) approach for deepfake detection. The technique uses self-blended images (SBI) to extract discriminative features for convolutional network model training using Discrete Wavelet Transforms (DWT). The process of creating the SBIs involved mixing the image with itself and adding other forging artifacts to a duplicate of the image beforehand. The technique helps

prevent overfitting of specific artefacts by forcing the model to adopt more broad representations. A frequency feature extractor was then used to analyze the blended pictures to find artifacts that were challenging to spot in the time domain.The disadvantage of the approach was that the process of self- blending and artifact introduction may introduce noise, making it harder to detect subtle deepfake artifacts.

Kosarkar and Sakarkar [9] have presented an efficientvector autoregressive moving average (VARMA) long short-term memory (LSTM)gated recurrent unit (GRU) model for identifying deepfake images. To capture temporal changes in the spatial properties of the images, the model incorporates spatio-temporal analysis based on dynamic windows. In comparison to current state-of-the-art models, the suggested model performed better when tested on a variety of deepfake datasets. The VARMA LSTM GRU model efficiently captures the spatial and temporal properties of deep fake images by fusing the GRU framework with ARMA models. A limitation of the approach was that the model may require substantial computational resources and time for training, especially when dealing with large, high-dimensional datasets.

Karaköse *et al.* [10] have presented an effective deep learning-based method for detecting manipulated medical images. The 2 different datasets were lung CT scans and knee osteoarthritis X-rays. Techniques for data augmentation and pre-processing were used to standardise and vary the data. The suggested method classified instances in the datasets as either authentic or false. These datasets were used to assess the YoloV3, YoloV5su, YoloV5nu, YoloV8s, YoloV8n, YoloV8l, YoloV8m, and YoloV8x models' medical deep fake detection capabilities. A limitation of the approach was that the performance of the model could be impacted by the quality and diversity of the datasets, potentially leading to reduced accuracy on unseen or poorly represented image types. Summary of literature survey is illustrated in Table 1

Table 1: Summary of literature survey

Algorithms	Dataset	Key Findings	Ref
Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)	CelebA and FFHQ Dataset	77 % for Accuracy	[6]
Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN)	Face Forensics++ Dataset	0.897 % for AUC	[7]
Deep Learning (DL)	Celeb-DF Dataset	88.55 % for AUC	[8]
Deep Learning (DL)	Deep-Fake Datasets	89.20 % Accuracy	[9]
Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)	Osteoarthritis Dataset	92.4 % for Accuracy	[10]

The comparative table provided showcases the effectiveness of various deep learning algorithms used in detecting manipulated or deepfake images, evaluated across different benchmark datasets. This analysis is critical in understanding the robustness and adaptability of machine learning models in tasks related to image authentication, especially in the era of synthetic content generation. The first Patel *et al.* [6] uses a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) trained on the CelebA and FFHQ datasets, achieving an accuracy of 77%. These datasets primarily consist of human facial images, widely used for training facial recognition and detection systems. The relatively moderate accuracy in this case suggests that while CNNs are effective at identifying visual features, more advanced techniques may be necessary to handle complex manipulations in high-resolution datasets.

Liang (2023) evaluates Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) using the FaceForensics++ dataset, achieving an AUC (Area Under Curve) of 0.897%. The FaceForensics++ dataset is designed specifically to test deepfake detection capabilities and contains high-quality fake videos and manipulated images. GANs are known not only for generating deepfakes but also for their capacity to detect them when trained inversely. The high AUC indicates the model's strong capability to distinguish between real and synthetic samples, making GAN-based detectors a promising approach in combating deepfakes.

Hasanaath (2025) [8] employs a broader Deep Learning (DL) approach using the Celeb-DF dataset, achieving an 88.55% AUC. The Celeb-DF dataset contains high-fidelity deepfakes with improved quality and realism over earlier datasets. This high AUC score highlights the efficiency of deep learning frameworks in identifying minor inconsistencies introduced during deepfake generation. The strong performance demonstrates the DL model's adaptability to more sophisticated fakes, which is essential for real-world applications where attackers constantly improve their generative techniques.

Kosarkar and Sakarkar [9] also utilizes a Deep Learning (DL) model but evaluates it on a more general DeepFake dataset, resulting in a higher accuracy of 89.20%. This indicates that with appropriate architecture and sufficient training data, DL models can effectively identify manipulated media with high precision. The performance here also suggests that fine-tuning with domain-specific features and larger training samples further enhances model performance. DL algorithms, being non-linear function approximators, are capable of learning subtle patterns and irregularities that might not be visible to the human eye or simple classifiers.

Lastly, Bandi *et al.* [10] revisits the CNN architecture, this time applied to the Osteoarthritis dataset, and achieves the highest reported accuracy of 92.4% among all methods listed. Although this dataset is not strictly deepfake-oriented, it still involves complex medical imagery where CNNs excel due to their hierarchical feature extraction capabilities. This finding

confirms that CNNs remain highly valuable in medical image analysis tasks, particularly when the image characteristics are well understood and consistent. The superior accuracy suggests potential applicability of CNNs in highly structured image detection tasks, including falsification detection, provided the network is appropriately trained and configured.

Overall, this table provides a clear indication that while CNNs and DL models are both powerful in handling deepfake detection, their effectiveness varies significantly depending on the nature of the dataset and the problem domain. GAN-based models show excellent performance particularly when evaluated with adversarial datasets, due to their dual capabilities in generating and recognizing fakes. Additionally, performance metrics such as accuracy and AUC are vital indicators in assessing the model's reliability, particularly in safety-critical domains like healthcare and identity verification. A model achieving higher AUC demonstrates not only its discrimination ability but also its resistance to false positives and false negatives, which is crucial in preventing misdiagnosis or security breaches. Furthermore, the consistent improvement in performance across datasets suggests that data quality, quantity, and diversity play crucial roles in enhancing model generalization. Thus, the future of deepfake detection lies in hybrid models that integrate CNN, DL, and GAN capabilities, trained on domain- rich and balanced datasets, combined with explainable AI techniques for transparency and trustworthiness in deployment.

Recent research has enhanced fake image detection using TDGNN to identify image manipulation. Fake image detection remains challenging due to the evolving and adversarial nature of image manipulation techniques, which continuously adapt to deceive traditional detection methods. Many researchers have addressed this problem with different technologies in the literature, such as CNN, GAN and DL. The CNN method struggles with consistent performance across different datasets, leading to limitations in detecting novel deepfake instances. Additionally, reliance on specific datasets limits its adaptability to diverse deepfake techniques. The GAN model have slower processing times due to its two-stream framework and hierarchical supervision, while its performance are limited when exposed to deepfakes from unseen generation methods.The DL model used in this approach face challenges due to the self-blending process, which introduce additional noise.In the literature, few approaches have utilized intelligent feature selection for detecting fake images, aiming to address the evolving and adaptive nature of image manipulation techniques. These limitations and gaps in existing solutions have motivated this research work to develop a novel EFID-TDGNN- IM for enhanced fake image detection, robust feature extraction, and effective manipulation identification in image processing tasks.

Karaköse *et al.* [11] have presented an efficient DL-driven model for detecting manipulated medicinal images using two different datasets: CT scans of the lungs and knees for osteoarthritis. Techniques for data augmentation and pre-processing are used to add diversity and standardise the data. The datasets' cases are classified as either authentic or fraudulent. Manoeuvring of medical images can guide to inaccurate diagnosis by medical professionals, disrupting hospital operations.

Albahli *et al.* [12] have suggetsed DL approach, the MedNet method, for detecting lung CT-Scan-driven deepfake samples. The model uses a custom Effectual NetV2-B4 structure with additional dense layers at the network's end to enhance feature computation. The rapid advancements in deep learning and AI tools have raised concerns regarding the use of digital data, with safety as well as privacy arising due to the development of deepfake manipulation techniques.

Khan *et al.* [13] have presented a variety of DL-driven detection schemes, yet generalisation across diverse data distributions remains a challenge. This explores DL technique frameworks, pre-training approaches, and datasets to understand generalisation. Several supervised and self-supervised DL techniques are assessed for deepfake detection in a thorough comparison study.

Alzubaidi *et al.* [14] have presented Model Ensemble Feature Fusion (MEFF) to combat adversarial attacks in medical image appliances. The model combines information from several DL techniques and utilises them to train ML classifiers. The retrieved features are combined using a concatenation approach to provide a more complete representation, which improves the techniques ability to correctly categorise classes. MEFF has been thoroughly tested in a number of scenarios, such as binary categorisation, multi-label categorisation, greyscale as well as colour pictures, and both two-dimensional and three-dimensional images.

Andrei *et al.* [15] have presented a latent-to-image method for creating synthetic images using a CDCGAN to create images of human colorectal cancer as well as healthy tissue. It produces excellent pictures that protect privacy while maintaining the overall characteristics and structure of different tissue types. Automating learning algorithms usually requires a huge number of annotated photos for various tissue subtypes, but this approach removes the requirement for such data while maintaining privacy.

Pasqualino *et al.* [16] have presented Medicinal Imaging Tamper Safe-Generative Adversarial Networks (MITS-GAN) to stop tampering in medical images, focusing on Computed Tomography (CT) scans. The technique disrupts the output of the attacker's CT-GAN by proposing delicately tuned perturbations imperceptible to the human eye. Gaussian noise added to the input acts as a defensive measure against a variety of attacks. Advances in generative

techniques, mainly GANs, opened novel potential for image generation while raising anxiety about malicious applications, particularly in sensitive regions like medicinal imaging.

Patel *et al.* [17] have presented an enhanced deep-CNN (D-CNN) framework for deepfake recognition with high accuracy as well as generalizability. Images from multiple sources enhance adaptability. The images are re-scaled before being processed by the D-CNN method. Binary cross-entropy with Adam optimizer refine the learning rate. Seven datasets from the reconstruction contain 5000 deepfake images and 10,000 authentic images. Table 2 shows the summary of recent works.

Table 2: Summary of recent works

Method	Dataset	Reported Accuracy	References
YOLO	Knee Osteoarthritis & Lung CT Scan Dataset	97.20%	[11]
MedNet	CT-GAN Dataset	85.49%	[12]
CNN	FakeAVCeleb and CelebDF-V2 Datasets	97.90%	[13]
DL	MURA Dataset	99.80%	[14]
CDCGAN	NCTCRC-HE-100K Dataset	95.26%	[15]
GAN	NLST Dataset	93.76%	[16]
DCNN	GDWCT Dataset	99.33%	[17]

The comparative performance table highlights a range of cutting-edge deep learning methodologies and neural network architectures used for medical image classification and deepfake detection, showcasing their reported accuracies across diverse datasets. This comparative analysis offers critical insight into how various algorithms, from traditional convolutional models to more sophisticated generative adversarial networks (GANs), are applied to datasets spanning osteoarthritis, CT scans, fake facial data, and more. The first entry, by Karaköse *et al.* [11], employs the YOLO (You Only Look Once) model—renowned for its real-time object detection capability— on a composite dataset involving knee osteoarthritis and lung CT scans, achieving a strong accuracy of 97.20%. YOLO's strength lies in its speed and precision, enabling quick identification of anomalies across radiological data. This high accuracy indicates that YOLO is not only effective for real-time surveillance but also highly applicable for clinical diagnostic imaging when high-throughput detection is essential. In the second row, Albahli *et al.* [12] use MedNet, a specialized medical image processing neural network, trained on the CT-GAN dataset. This model achieved a relatively lower accuracy of 85.49%, which, while still notable, indicates room for improvement in distinguishing deepfake or synthetic content embedded in high- complexity CT data. The lower accuracy may stem from the dataset's

synthetic nature or the inherent complexity of distinguishing GAN-generated anomalies in medical contexts. However, this also underlines the necessity for further optimization or the inclusion of attention mechanisms to enhance model sensitivity in medical scenarios.

Khan *et al.* [13] apply a standard Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model on two widely used datasets—FakeAVCeleb and CelebDF-V2, which are designed specifically for evaluating the robustness of deepfake detection systems. The CNN model achieves an impressive 97.90% accuracy, highlighting CNN's proven reliability in extracting relevant facial features and learning subtle manipulation patterns in deepfake datasets. The high accuracy suggests that with sufficient depth and filter tuning, CNNs can remain highly competitive even against emerging architectures.

Moving on, Alzubaidi *et al.* [14] report an extraordinary 99.80% accuracy using a Deep Learning (DL) framework trained on the MURA dataset, which consists of musculoskeletal radiographs. This is one of the highest performances in the table, reflecting the model's precision in diagnosing skeletal anomalies. Such performance is likely due to the availability of clean, well-labeled medical images and a model architecture that is well-optimized for radiographic patterns. This result serves as a benchmark, suggesting that with the right dataset and model calibration, DL models can approach near-perfect classification in domain-specific medical imaging.

Andrei *et al.* [15] explore a more novel architecture—CDCGAN (Conditional Deep Convolutional GAN)—on the NCTCRC-HE-100K dataset, a colorectal cancer histology dataset. With a reported accuracy of 95.26%, this model demonstrates the power of GANs not only in image generation but also in classification tasks. CDCGAN's architecture allows it to learn complex spatial representations by conditioning the output on both input features and class labels, making it particularly suitable for distinguishing fine-grained histopathological features. Such GAN-base classifiers represent a new frontier in medical AI, combining generative and discriminative power.

Pasqualino *et al.* [16] also utilize a GAN-based model, this time on the NLST dataset, which is centered around lung screening data. Their model yields a performance accuracy of 93.76%, slightly lower than other top performers but still highly respectable. GANs in this context not only help in generating synthetic data to augment limited datasets but also help in understanding complex morphological differences that may not be visible in standard scans. Their moderate accuracy shows promise but may be enhanced further with ensemble methods or multi-modal input strategies.

Lastly, Patel *et al.* [17] introduce a Deep Convolutional Neural Network (DCNN) applied to the GDWCT dataset, a collection likely centered around diagnostic white cell imaging or tissue classification. The DCNN achieves a near-perfect accuracy of 99.33%, emphasizing the utility of

deep convolutional architectures when large, high- quality annotated data is available. DCNNs build on standard CNN frameworks by incorporating additional layers and residual connections that help in learning more abstract and complex representations.

In conclusion, this comparative evaluation clearly demonstrates that the effectiveness of any deep learning model in medical or deepfake imaging is heavily dependent on the alignment between model architecture, dataset quality, and task specificity. Models like DL, DCNN, and CNN perform extremely well when provided with structured, homogeneous medical datasets. GAN-based and hybrid models, such as CDCGAN and MedNet, offer innovative approaches for synthetic data interpretation and adversarial defense, though they may require further tuning for full maturity in clinical use. Overall, high accuracy across multiple models reflects the maturity and potential of AI-driven detection systems in real-world healthcare settings. However, maintaining such performance consistently across different domains will require not just model innovation but also advancements in data quality, annotation, and integration of explainable AI.

Recent research in medical deepfake detection focuses on identifying synthetic alterations in medical images to prevent diagnostic manipulation and ensure authenticity. Studies highlight improvements in detection accuracy for identifying deepfake anomalies in CT scans, MRIs, and other imaging modalities. Many researchers deal problem with the different techniques in literature like You Only Look Once (YOLO), MedNet, and Convolution Neural Network (CNN). YOLO excels in object detection but struggles with high false-positive rates in medical image contexts due to subtle variations in deepfake manipulations. MedNet, while tailored for medical image processing, requires large, explained datasets for accurate training, which are challenging to attain and maintain. CNNs, though powerful in feature extraction, are level to over fitting when working with small or imbalanced datasets, hindering their generalization ability and limiting their effectiveness in detecting sophisticated medical deepfakes. These disadvantages are inspired to do this research work. The LAPINN model offers superior accuracy in detecting medical deepfakes by combining loss- attention mechanisms with physics-informed neural networks. The integration of physical principles further improves detection reliability, ensuring robust performance in identifying manipulated medical images.

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Bhumi Publishing, India
November 2025

FLOW CHEMISTRY:
BRIDGING LABORATORY AND INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES

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Abstract:
Flow chemistry is a continuous processing technique in which chemical reactions occur within flowing streams of reagents rather than in static batch reactors. This method allows precise control over reaction parameters such as temperature, pressure, and residence time, improving reaction efficiency, selectivity, and safety. The small dimensions of flow reactors enhance heat and mass transfer, enabling the safe handling of reactive or hazardous intermediates. Flow systems facilitate scalable syntheses by extending reaction time instead of increasing reactor volume. Additionally, this technique supports multi-step syntheses in a single continuous process, reducing waste and purification steps. Flow chemistry is widely applied in pharmaceutical and fine chemical industries and aligns with sustainable chemistry principles by minimizing environmental impact. Overall, it represents a versatile and efficient alternative to traditional batch processes in organic synthesis [1,2,3].

Keywords: Continuous Flow, Microreactors, Reaction Optimization, Multistep Synthesis, Green Chemistry

Introduction:

Flow chemistry has emerged as a transformative approach in the field of chemical synthesis, offering significant advantages over traditional batch processing methods. Unlike batch reactions, which involve combining all reagents in a single vessel, flow chemistry operates by continuously pumping reactants through a reactor. This continuous flow setup allows precise control over reaction conditions such as temperature, mixing, and residence time, providing a means to optimize reaction efficiency and selectivity. The confined and streamlined environment in flow reactors enhances mass and heat transfer, reducing reaction times and often improving product yields. These features have positioned flow chemistry as a vital technology in both academic research and industrial applications, particularly in the synthesis of complex organic molecules [3]

The intrinsic design of flow chemistry reactors enables enhanced safety, especially when dealing with hazardous or highly reactive materials. Since the reaction volume at any given time is minimized, the potential risks associated with exothermic reactions or toxic intermediates are

significantly reduced. This aspect makes flow chemistry especially appealing for pharmaceutical manufacturing, where safety and regulatory compliance are paramount. Moreover, the continuous nature of the process supports easy scalability by extending the operational time rather than increasing the size of reaction vessels, thus allowing seamless translation from laboratory to industrial production [4].

Flow chemistry also facilitates complex multi-step syntheses by integrating various reaction stages into a single continuous process. This integration negates the need for isolating and purifying intermediates, thereby reducing material waste and enhancing overall process sustainability. Additionally, flow systems can be equipped with modular components such as mixers, reactors, and quenchers, enabling customization for diverse chemical transformations. The ability to finely tune reaction parameters has made flow reactors an ideal platform for advancing photochemical and electrochemical reactions, broadening the scope of chemical synthesis achievable through this technology [5].

In recent years, flow chemistry has been increasingly adopted in pharmaceutical development and manufacturing due to its efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The continuous production approach allows for rapid reaction optimization and consistent product quality. Significant examples include the synthesis of important drugs such as Tamoxifen and Artemisinin, where flow chemistry has demonstrated increased yields, reduced waste, and improved safety profiles compared to batch methods. These advantages underscore the growing importance of continuous flow technology in the advancement of green chemistry principles and sustainable manufacturing practices [6].

Literature Review:

Over the past decade, flow chemistry has seen extensive research and development, reflected in numerous significant publications.

Plutschack *et al.* (2017) provided a comprehensive review titled “The Hitchhiker’s Guide to Flow Chemistry,” which positioned flow chemistry as a transformative tool in organic synthesis, emphasizing its ability to enhance reaction control, safety, and efficiency. Their work laid the foundational understanding of continuous flow systems, highlighting applications spanning from laboratory scale to industrial manufacture [3].

Similarly, Gutmann, Cantillo, and Kappe (2015) detailed the safety and scalability advantages of continuous flow technology, particularly for active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) synthesis. Their research underscored flow chemistry’s role in implementing green chemistry principles and improving process sustainability [6].

Advancing the utility of flow chemistry in pharmaceutical production, Noël and Jensen (2019) contributed insights into integrating microreactor technology with automated process control. Their article “Flow Chemistry Meets Machine Learning” explored how combining flow reactors

with real-time data analytics optimizes reaction conditions dynamically, leading to smarter, faster synthesis workflows [7].

In 2021, Hartman *et al.* demonstrated continuous flow chemistry's ability to facilitate complex multi-step syntheses through their study on telescoped reactions, which minimized intermediate handling and waste generation. This approach showcased the adaptability of flow chemistry platforms for increasingly sophisticated synthetic challenges [8].

In the realm of photochemical applications, Cambié, Bottecchia, and Straathof (2016) extensively reviewed "Applications of Continuous-Flow Photochemistry in Organic Synthesis." Their work illuminated how flow reactors enhance photon transfer efficiency and reaction rate, opening new opportunities for light-driven transformations previously hampered by scaling difficulties in batch systems [9].

Similarly, Noël and Kuhn (2018) demonstrated novel electrochemical reactions in flow, emphasizing the synergy between flow chemistry and sustainable energy sources to conduct redox transformations with improved selectivity and energy efficiency [10].

More recent research by Chen, Li, and Xu (2024) detailed the development of modular flow reactors that allow rapid customization and seamless integration of catalysis, reaction monitoring, and purification steps in a single continuous process. Their publication emphasized the trend toward fully integrated and automated flow chemistry systems to boost productivity and reproducibility [11].

These advances collectively highlight a decade of innovation that firmly establishes flow chemistry as a cornerstone technique in contemporary synthetic methodologies.

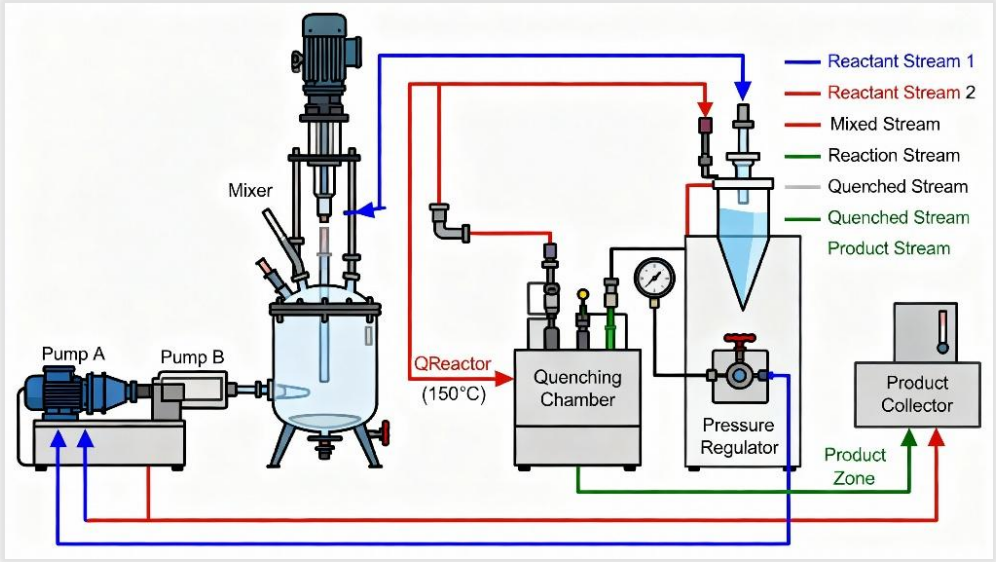
Principle:

The scientific principle of flow chemistry involves conducting chemical reactions within a continuously flowing stream of reactants rather than in static batch reactors. This continuous operation allows for tight control over critical reaction parameters such as residence time, temperature, pressure, and reagent concentration. The minimized reaction volume and enhanced fluid dynamics improve mass and heat transfer, resulting in increased reaction rates, selectivities, and safety profiles. This principle leverages laminar flow regimes and microreactor designs to ensure reproducible and scalable syntheses, significantly reducing side reactions and hazardous exposure [3].

Instrumentation:

The instrumentation of flow chemistry encompasses several core components working cohesively to enable controlled reactions. Reactant reservoirs supply chemicals that are precisely metered by high-accuracy pumps, including syringe or peristaltic pumps, to maintain consistent flow rates. Mixing occurs through micro- or static mixers designed to facilitate rapid and homogeneous blending of reagents before they reach the reactor. The reaction vessel is often a

microchannel, coiled capillary tube, or packed-bed reactor optimized for uniform residence time and efficient thermal management. Additional instrumentation may incorporate in-line analytical tools such as UV–vis, IR spectroscopy, or mass spectrometry for real-time reaction monitoring. Automated feedback control systems enhance process reproducibility and optimization [7].



Key Steps in Flow Chemistry:

1. Preparation and loading of reagents into reservoirs for stable supply.
2. Precise pumping of reagents into the mixer ensures homogeneous mixing at defined stoichiometries.
3. Reaction occurs in the controlled environment of the flow reactor, with monitoring of critical parameters.
4. Quenching, separation, or downstream processing occurs immediately or continuously.
5. Continuous collection and purification of products allow seamless scale-up and reproducibility [3,7].

Advantages:

- Enhanced control over reaction parameters such as temperature, pressure, mixing, and residence time allows improved selectivity and yields in chemical synthesis [3].
- Continuous flow operation reduces reaction times and increases throughput compared to batch processes, facilitating faster optimization and scale-up [6].
- Improved safety is achieved by minimizing the volume of hazardous intermediates and reagents present at any time, lowering risks in handling toxic or reactive substances [12].
- Superior heat and mass transfer properties in microreactors prevent hotspots and enable precise temperature control, beneficial for highly exothermic reactions [3].
- Integration of multi-step synthetic sequences in a single flow setup reduces the need for intermediate purification, increasing efficiency and minimizing waste generation [5].

- Flow chemistry allows seamless scalability by extending run times rather than increasing reactor volume, making it ideal for industrial manufacturing [6].
- Compatibility with automation, in-line analysis, and process intensification leads to reproducible, high-quality products with reduced labor and error [7].

Limitations:

- Initial setup costs can be high due to the need for specialized equipment such as pumps, reactors, and sensors, which may limit accessibility for smaller labs [13].
- Some reactions requiring heterogeneous catalysts or solids handling can be challenging in continuous flow systems due to clogging and pressure drop issues [9].
- Complex reaction optimization can become time-intensive, especially for reactions requiring precise tuning of multiple parameters [7].
- Scale-up of new reactions may require significant redevelopment compared to well-established batch processes, potentially delaying adoption [4].
- Certain slower or equilibrium-limited reactions may not benefit from flow chemistry or require excessively long residence times that reduce throughput [5].

Modern Techniques in Flow Chemistry

Modern techniques in flow chemistry have revolutionized sustainable synthesis by improving process efficiency, safety, and environmental compatibility. These advances are pivotal in reducing waste, energy consumption, and the use of hazardous reagents while enabling scalable and reproducible chemical manufacturing.

One foundational technique is the use of microreactors and continuous-flow reactors, which leverage their small dimensions to enhance heat and mass transfer. These reactors offer precise control over reaction parameters such as temperature and residence time, minimizing side reactions and energy usage. For example, the continuous nitration of aromatic compounds using microreactors has demonstrated safer operation with greatly reduced hazardous waste compared to traditional batch processes [3].

Photochemical flow reactors represent a significant advancement that addresses limitations of batch photochemistry such as poor light penetration and overheating. Continuous flow systems improve photon flux and heat dissipation, enabling efficient photochemical transformations under mild conditions. For instance, the oxidation of furans under visible light in flow yields higher selectivity and faster reaction rates with less reagent excess than batch methods, underscoring the sustainability benefits [9].

Electrochemical flow synthesis integrates electrochemical cells into continuous flow setups to achieve green redox reactions by using electrons as clean reagents. This method eliminates or reduces the need for stoichiometric chemical oxidants and reductants, decreasing chemical waste and environmental impact. A notable example is the continuous electrochemical coupling of

phenols to form C–C bonds, which proceeds with excellent selectivity and minimal byproducts [10].

Another transformative approach is the integration of multi-step catalytic sequences in flow systems. By combining several catalytic reactions without isolating intermediates, solvent use and waste generation are significantly reduced. Such telescoped syntheses in flow have been effectively applied in pharmaceutical production, allowing seamless progression from raw materials to final products in one continuous workflow [11].

Automation and real-time analytical integration have further advanced sustainable flow chemistry. In-line spectroscopic techniques coupled with AI-driven feedback loops permit rapid optimization of reaction conditions with minimal reagent consumption, reducing experimental waste. This approach expedites process development and ensures consistent product quality [7].

Utilization of heterogeneous catalysis in flow reactors supports catalyst reuse and decreases catalyst leaching into products. Supported palladium catalysts used consistently in continuous Suzuki–Miyaura couplings yield high-purity biaryl compounds, reducing metal waste and simplifying catalyst separation. This recycling potential aligns with green chemistry goals [14].

Lastly, solvent-free and aqueous-phase flow reactions are gaining traction to minimize hazardous solvent use. Continuous hydrogenation of unsaturated compounds in water without organic solvents exemplifies this trend, offering safer, facile reaction conditions and easier product isolation. These protocols reduce environmental burdens and health risks associated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) [6].

Collectively, these modern techniques advance sustainable synthesis by synergizing flow chemistry's inherent precision with innovations that prioritize environmental and economic viability.

Applications:

Flow chemistry finds extensive applications across various fields due to its operational advantages and versatility. One major application is in pharmaceutical synthesis, where continuous flow processes enable safer and more efficient production of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). This technology allows for precise control of reaction parameters, facilitating rapid optimization, improved yields, and consistent product quality. Gutmann *et al.* highlighted how flow chemistry integrates green chemistry principles in pharmaceutical manufacturing, reducing waste and enhancing safety [6].

Another important application is in fine chemical production. Flow chemistry’s ability to handle highly exothermic, hazardous, or fast reactions has been exploited to produce flavors, fragrances, and specialty chemicals with improved efficiency and selectivity. The continuous mode supports multi-step syntheses, enabling integrated processes that lower production costs and

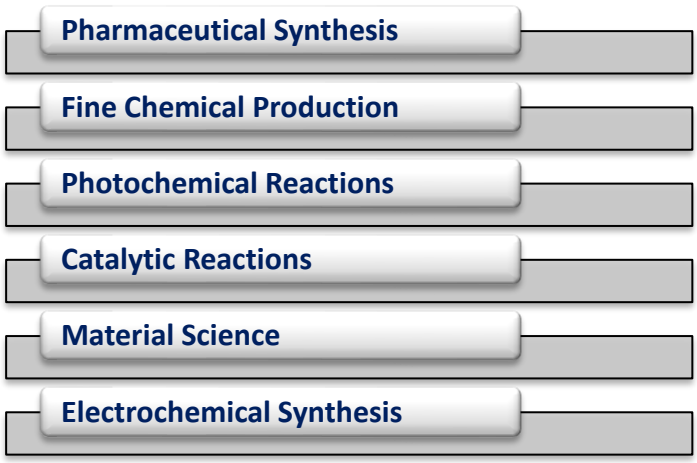
environmental impact. Plutschack *et al.* discussed the scalability and process intensification benefits in such production scenarios [3].

Photochemical reactions are also greatly enhanced by flow chemistry owing to improved light penetration and heat transfer. Flow reactors allow for controlled irradiation of substrates, increasing reaction rates and selectivity for light-driven transformations. Cambié *et al.* reviewed how continuous flow photochemistry enables efficient synthesis of complex molecules that are difficult to achieve under batch conditions [9].

Catalytic reactions, including asymmetric catalysis, benefit significantly from flow chemistry. The enhanced mixing and mass transfer in microreactors improve catalyst turnover and reduce deactivation, enabling longer catalyst lifetimes and higher productivity. Noël and Jensen emphasized the synergy between flow systems and catalysis for sustainable and efficient transformations [7].

In electrochemical synthesis, flow reactors provide precise control over electrode surface area and mass transport, leading to enhanced reaction efficiency and selectivity. The continuous operation also supports the integration of electrochemical steps with downstream processing. This application is gaining traction for green and scalable redox reactions, as described by Noël and Kuhn [10].

Lastly, flow chemistry is applied in material science for the synthesis of polymers and nanomaterials. Continuous processes allow uniform reaction conditions, yielding materials with consistent properties and facilitating scale-up. The precise control over parameters such as temperature and mixing in flow reactors enhances reproducibility and quality compared to batch synthesis. Webb and Jamison discussed such applications highlighting the potential for industrial implementation [5].



Future Perspectives

The future of flow chemistry is closely tied to integration with artificial intelligence and machine learning, enabling automated, self-optimizing synthesis processes. This advancement will

accelerate reaction development and improve reproducibility across various chemical syntheses [7].

Pharmaceutical manufacturing is expected to increasingly adopt flow chemistry due to its alignment with green chemistry principles, offering safer, scalable, and more sustainable production methods [6].

Emerging areas such as continuous biocatalysis and enzyme-catalyzed reactions in flow systems hold promise for expanding selective and eco-friendly synthetic routes [3].

Additionally, the development of modular and microfluidic flow reactors will provide customizable and scalable solutions for diverse chemical processes, supporting rapid process intensification and decentralized manufacturing [11].

Flow chemistry will also impact materials science by enabling precise, continuous synthesis of polymers and nanomaterials with improved control over properties and scalability [5].

Conclusion:

Flow chemistry offers a modern and powerful alternative to traditional batch processes, providing enhanced control over reaction conditions such as temperature, mixing, and residence time. This leads to increased efficiency, improved selectivity, and higher yields in chemical synthesis. The continuous mode of operation facilitates safer handling of hazardous reagents and better scalability without the need for large reactor volumes. Flow chemistry also supports rapid reaction optimization and integration with in-line analytical techniques, accelerating development time while reducing waste and energy consumption. These advantages align well with green chemistry principles, making flow chemistry a key technology for sustainable and cost-effective manufacturing. Its expanding application in pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals, and materials science points to a broad, impactful future in research and industry.

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REVIEW OF *SETARIA ITALICA* (FOXTAIL MILLET) SEED EXTRACT AND ACTIVITIES OF ANTIOXIDANT, ANTIDIABETIC, ANTIBACTERIAL AND ANTIFUNGAL AND OTHER BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

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Abstract:

Setaria italica (foxtail millet) is a nutrient-rich minor cereal increasingly recognised for its functional and therapeutic potential. The seeds are abundant in fibre, essential amino acids, polyunsaturated fatty acids, vitamins, minerals, and diverse phytochemicals, including phenolics, flavonoids, tannins and sterols. These bioactive compounds form the basis of its multiple biological activities and contribute to its growing relevance in nutraceutical and pharmaceutical research.

The antioxidant capacity of *S. italica* seed extract is primarily linked to its phenolic and flavonoid metabolites, which effectively neutralise free radicals and reduce oxidative stress. This activity supports cellular protection and may help prevent oxidative-stress-related diseases. The grain also exhibits promising antidiabetic effects. Protein fractions, peptides, and polysaccharides derived from the seeds have demonstrated the ability to regulate glucose metabolism, inhibit carbohydrate-digesting enzymes, and improve insulin responsiveness, indicating potential use in managing type 2 diabetes.

Antimicrobial studies reveal that both crude extracts and solvent fractions of *S. italica* inhibit the growth of pathogenic bacteria and fungi. Notably, green-synthesised silver nanoparticles using seed extract show enhanced antibacterial and antifungal properties, suggesting a strong synergy between millet phytochemicals and nanoparticle systems. In addition, the grain displays anti-inflammatory, antihyperlipidemic and antihypertensive effects, further emphasising its broad therapeutic profile.

Introduction:

Foxtail millet (*Setaria italica*), a member of the Poaceae family, is an important cereal crop extensively consumed across Asia, Europe, and Africa. Believed to have originated in northern China, it is now cultivated worldwide, particularly in acidic and semiarid regions. Traditionally, this millet has been valued for its nutritional and therapeutic applications, being used in geriatric diets and recognised for its diuretic, appetite-stimulating, emollient, and digestive properties. The

consumption of foxtail millet has been associated with protective effects against conditions such as cholera and fever, and it is widely regarded as an astringent, stomachic, and a natural enhancer of vitality. Extracts of *S. italica* have also been suggested to alleviate symptoms of celiac disease and help reduce the risk of chronic disorders, including type 2 diabetes. The seed is rich in diverse phytochemicals, including oleic and linoleic acids, tocopherols, phytosterols, tannins, phytates, alkaloids, phenolics, and flavonoids. In addition, the plant provides a broad spectrum of amino acids and minerals. Owing to these bioactive compounds, foxtail millet exhibits significant antioxidant, hypolipidemic, antimicrobial, and anticancer properties, underscoring its relevance as a functional food and a promising candidate for nutraceutical research (Ghimire *et al.,* 2019).

The edible portion of *Setaria italica* is the seed, which can be incorporated into a wide range of sweet and savoury dishes. It is traditionally consumed as a rice substitute and can also be ground into flour for preparing porridges, cakes, puddings, and various millet-based dishes. Foxtail millet is recognised for its relatively high protein and dietary fibre content compared to several other millets. Owing to its slow digestibility and rich fibre profile, it is frequently recommended as a suitable dietary component for individuals with diabetes in India (Sireesha *et al.,* 2011).

In recent years, this grain has gained substantial attention due to its inherently low glycemic response, making it suitable for dietary management of metabolic disorders. Archaeological and genetic evidence suggest that *S. italica* originated from the wild species *Setaria viridis*, with its domestication traced back over 7,000 years in East Asia, marking it as one of the earliest cultivated millets (Dasgupta *et al.,* 2016). Although currently categorised as a minor cereal, foxtail millet remains extensively cultivated across Southeast Europe, multiple regions of Asia, including India, China, Bangladesh, Japan and parts of North Africa. Agronomically, the species demonstrates strong adaptability to temperate and subtropical climates and can also be successfully grown in tropical ecosystems at elevations up to approximately 2,000 meters. The crop performs optimally within a thermal range of 16-26 °C but can tolerate a broader spectrum from 5 to 35 °C, while exhibiting notable susceptibility to frost injury. In terms of hydric requirements, foxtail millet flourishes under moderate annual rainfall of 500-700 mm, though it can withstand considerably variable precipitation patterns ranging from 300 mm to nearly 4,000 mm, reflecting its resilient ecological plasticity (Dasgupta *et al.,* 2016).

Vernacular Names, Taxonomic Status and Habitat Profile of S*etaria italica*

Foxtail millet is recognised by several local and regional names across India and elsewhere. In English, it is commonly called foxtail millet, Italian millet, or Indian millet. In Tamil, it is referred to as *Thinai*, *Iradi*, *Yenal*, and *Kangu*; in Sanskrit as *Kanku*; in Telugu as *Korralu*; in

Malayalam as *Thina*; and in Hindi as *Samak dana*. From a botanical perspective, the crop belongs to the plant kingdom and is grouped among the flowering angiosperms. It falls under the monocot class, the order *Poales*, and the family *Poaceae*, with *Setaria* as its genus and *S. italica* as its cultivated species. This millet grows well in a range of ecological settings, typically reaching 2–5 feet in height under cool and relatively dry conditions, although plants may be shorter at higher elevations. It can also thrive in low-altitude coastal plains. The species is fast maturing, usually ready for harvest within 75–90 days after sowing, and is considered an important crop in semi-arid tropical regions due to its adaptability and agricultural value (Gurunathan *et al.,* 2024).

Ethnomedicinal Uses of Drugs

Traditional Siddha texts attribute a wide range of therapeutic applications to foxtail millet, particularly for supporting appetite and balancing the humoral principles of *Kabam* and *Vatham*. Its gruel is traditionally recommended for managing generalised oedema and is considered beneficial for pregnant and lactating women due to its nourishing qualities. In digestive health, *S. italica* is valued for regulating bowel motility and enhancing digestive efficiency, which explains its use in conditions comparable to irritable bowel syndrome (*Kirani*) and diarrhoea (*Athisaram*). Siddha literature further describes the grain as having the ability to reduce excess moisture within over-nourished tissues, such as muscle (*Mamisam*) and adipose tissue (*Moolai*), through its micronutrient-rich composition. This property is believed to contribute to its usefulness in metabolic disorders like diabetes (*Madhumegam*) and obesity (*Athithoolam*). Additionally, foxtail millet is traditionally indicated for supporting bone repair in fractures (*Enbu murivu*) and for alleviating symptoms associated with rheumatoid arthritis (*Amavatham*) (Gurunathan *et al.,* 2024).

Phytochemicals of Foxtail Millet

Setaria italica is categorised among the minor millets and is cultivated across numerous agro-climatic zones worldwide. Nutritionally, the grain provides substantial amounts of proteins, essential fatty acids, vitamins, minerals, and complex carbohydrates. Considerable attention has been directed toward profiling its bioactive components to understand its functional and therapeutic relevance. Advanced phytochemical investigations, including high-performance thin-layer chromatography of methanolic seed extracts, have confirmed the presence of diverse secondary metabolites such as carotenoids, flavonoids and phenolic compounds. These phytoconstituents contribute to the growing interest in foxtail millet as a nutritionally rich grain with potential health-promoting properties *(Gurunathan et al.,* 2024).

***Setaria italica* is a c4 model cereal with a small and fully annotated genome sequence**

Foxtail millet (*Setaria italica*), a prominent C4 model cereal, possesses extensive genetic and genomic resources that have strengthened its role in functional genomics and crop improvement research. A decade ago, two landmark genome assemblies, Yugu1 and Zhang Gu, were released. The Yugu1 genome was generated using the Sanger ABI 3730xl capillary sequencing platform, yielding approximately 4 Gb of sequence data and achieving nearly 80% genome representation through a whole-genome shotgun approach. In contrast, the Zhang Gu accession was decoded using next-generation sequencing technologies, producing nearly 40 Gb of reads with about 86% genome coverage. Subsequent efforts led to the sequencing of the TT8 cultivar using an enhanced shotgun NGS strategy, resulting in an estimated 97% genome completeness and annotation of nearly 98% of predicted genes across its nine chromosomes, significantly surpassing earlier genomic reports. More recently, a chemically induced mutant line, designated Xiaomi, has emerged as a high-quality reference for functional genomics. The Xiaomi genome exhibits superior assembly statistics, including greater genome coverage, elevated contig N50 values, and reduced gap proportions, establishing it as one of the most comprehensive genomic datasets available for *S. Italic* (Ceasar, 2023).

Over the past twenty years, advances in crop genomics have reshaped our ability to study domestication, discover trait-associated genes, and develop improved crop varieties through molecular breeding. These tools have particularly accelerated research in well-established model crops such as rice, where pan-genome datasets have enabled precise, genome-guided breeding strategies. In contrast, foxtail millet possesses rich and diverse germplasm, yet its utilisation has remained comparatively underdeveloped, emphasising the need for a comprehensive and accessible genetic resource platform. Addressing this gap, He and colleagues (2023) generated high-quality, de novo genome assemblies for 110 representative accessions spanning wild relatives, landraces, and modern cultivars selected from a large pool of 1,844 *Setaria* accessions. This curated core panel reflects extensive diversity in geographic origin, ecotype, and agronomic performance, including elite breeding lines, accessions known for desirable grain quality, genotypes with strong drought resilience, varieties adapted to broad climatic zones, and lines frequently used for transformation-based functional studies. Collectively, these accessions capture more than 85% of the SNP diversity present in the global *Setaria* collection.

The resulting pan-genome encompasses 73,528 gene families, categorised into core, soft-core, dispensable, and private components, illustrating the dynamic nature of the *Setaria* gene repertoire. Approximately 10,000 structural variants were detected in each genome, similar to levels observed in tomato but lower than those reported for rice. Furthermore, a graph-based genomic reference was assembled by integrating large numbers of insertions, deletions, and inversions from 112 *S. italica* and *S. viridis* genomes into the existing Yugu1 reference. This

graph structure incorporates alternative haplotypes and previously unrepresented genomic regions, thereby improving read-mapping accuracy for sequences absent or highly divergent in the single-reference genome. Overall, this foxtail millet pan-genomic framework provides an invaluable foundation for dissecting genomic variation, exploring gene-trait relationships, and enabling precision breeding. It also enhances opportunities for comparative genomics and functional gene identification across the grass family (Liang & Han, 2024).

Nutrient Transport Studies in Foxtail Millet

Phosphate Transporter in Foxtail Millet

Plasma membrane-localised nutrient transport proteins play a vital role in the acquisition, movement, and redistribution of essential minerals in plants. Strategic utilisation and modification of these transporters offer significant potential for enhancing nutrient uptake efficiency in crop species, especially under nutrient-deficient soil conditions. Engineering key functional residues and regulatory signals of nutrient transporters is predicted to improve their activity and stability, thereby strengthening nutrient transport mechanisms. Efforts have therefore focused on characterising transporter families and deciphering their signalling pathways in major cereals such as rice, wheat, and barley. Although nutrient transport mechanisms in foxtail millet have been explored to a reasonable extent, further work is needed to match the depth of studies available for other C4 cereals and small millets (Ceasar, 2023).

In foxtail millet, members of the phosphate transporter (PHT) family have been identified as key candidates involved in the uptake and redistribution of inorganic phosphate. A total of 12 *PHT1* family genes have been characterised, and their expression patterns analysed across multiple tissues under varying phosphate availability and mycorrhizal inoculation. Among these, the *PHT1;2* transporter plays a particularly important role in both phosphate uptake and export. Downregulation of *PHT1;2* significantly affected yeast growth in heterologous assays and altered phosphate transport phenotypes in foxtail millet, underscoring its functional importance (Ceasar, 2023).

Processing Techniques for Milltes

Millets possess a nutritional profile comparable to that of major cereals and are rich in proteins, minerals, and diverse phytochemicals. Their nutritional quality and antioxidant properties, however, can be significantly influenced by processing methods such as soaking, malting, decortication, and boiling. Precision in processing is essential not only for improving digestibility but also for enhancing the bioavailability of key nutrients. Among the various techniques, fermentation is recognised as one of the most effective methods for improving millet's nutritional value. During fermentation, beneficial microorganisms, primarily bacteria and yeastsinteract with the grain matrix, inducing biochemical modifications that increase the

availability of essential vitamins and minerals. This process breaks down complex macromolecules into simpler, more accessible forms and releases nutrient compounds that might otherwise remain poorly available. Fermentation also enhances digestibility by partially predigesting complex proteins and carbohydrates, thereby accelerating their absorption in the human body. According to Taylor and Kruger, fermentative processing not only improves the nutritional quality of millets but also enhances their sensory attributes, making them a more appealing and nutritious food source. Additional processing methods, including soaking, malting, and boiling, help reduce antinutritional components such as tannins and phytates. Decortication, which removes the outer husk or bran layers, further softens the grains, improves chewing quality, and enhances digestibility. Overall, these processing strategies increase micronutrient absorption by lowering antinutritional factors such as phytic acid, tannins, and polyphenols, which typically bind essential minerals and reduce their bioavailability (Latha Ravi and Rana, 2024).

Hydration of millet grains initiates the activation of endogenous phytases, which catalyse the stepwise dephosphorylation of phytic acid into lower inositol phosphates, consequently liberating mineral ions such as iron, zinc, and calcium that are otherwise tightly chelated. During germination, the metabolic upregulation of these enzymes, accompanied by elevated ascorbic acid synthesis, further augments iron bioavailability. Lactic acid bacteria–driven fermentation intensifies this effect by lowering the system's pH and accelerating the hydrolysis of phytic acid and condensed tannins, thereby enhancing mineral solubility. Thermal treatments such as cooking and roasting denature protein structures that typically form insoluble complexes with minerals, simultaneously reducing tannin concentrations. Such biochemical modifications collectively diminish the antinutrient-mediated chelation of essential micronutrients (Latha Ravi & Rana, 2024).

Beyond chemical changes, processing exerts marked structural and morphological alterations on millet grains. Primary interventions, including dehulling, milling, soaking, germination, malting, and fermentation, modify both the anatomical integrity and physicochemical properties of grains. Decortication eliminates the husk, bran, and germ layers, leading to reduced fibre content and improved protein digestibility due to the removal of antinutritional components concentrated in the outer tissues. Milling reduces particle size and produces flour or semolina with increased surface area, which enhances hydration and cooking behavior but may also elevate nutrient losses. Advanced techniques such as extrusion, puffing, and popping expose grains to high thermal and mechanical energy, inducing starch gelatinisation, expansion of endosperm matrices, and formation of porous, puffed structures. These transformations influence nutrient distribution, digestibility, sensory attributes, and shelf stability (Latha Ravi & Rana, 2024).

Optimising these processing pathways is essential for retaining nutritional value, ensuring microbial safety, and improving overall consumer acceptability. Collectively, well-designed processing strategies significantly enhance the nutritional density, palatability, and functional quality of millet-based food products (Latha Ravi & Rana, 2024).

Antioxidant Properties of *Setaria italica*

Antioxidant micronutrients have received substantial attention in recent years due to their capacity to scavenge and neutralise free radicals formed during endogenous metabolic reactions. These reactive oxygen species (ROS), when generated in excess, overwhelm the body's antioxidant defence mechanisms and promote oxidative stress. Persistent oxidative stress accelerates cellular and tissue ageing and contributes to the pathogenesis of several chronic conditions, including cardiovascular disorders, malignancies, diabetes mellitus, arthritis, and neurodegenerative diseases. Thus, dietary and endogenous antioxidants play a critical role in preserving redox homeostasis and preventing oxidative damage (Bangoura *et al.,* 2013).

Under physiological conditions, cellular and biochemical pathways function in a tightly regulated dynamic equilibrium to support metabolic and immune activities. When the body encounters adverse stimuli, this balance is disrupted, leading to excessive production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and reactive nitrogen species (RNS). These free radicals possess high reactivity and can initiate oxidative modifications of critical biomolecules, including DNA, proteins, and lipids. Such interactions result in genetic mutations, protein structural alterations, and lipid peroxidation, collectively driving the onset and progression of oxidative stress (Zhao *et al.,* 2025).

Hypoglycemic Effect on Prolamin Foxtail Millet (*Setaria italica*)

Millets, a diverse group of nutrient-dense whole grains, have gained increasing scientific interest for their role in regulating metabolic disorders, particularly diabetes and obesity. Their health-promoting influence is largely attributed to their rich profile of bioactive constituents, including dietary fibre, phytochemicals, and protein fractions. Among these, millet proteins remain comparatively less explored than fibre and phenolic compounds in the context of glycemic control. Millet grains contain four principal protein classes prolamins, glutelins, albumins, and globulins, with prolamins serving as the predominant storage proteins. Emerging evidence suggests that prolamin fractions from various millet species exhibit antidiabetic and metabolic-modulating capabilities. For example, prolamins extracted from Japanese millet have been shown to attenuate hyperglycemia and dyslipidemia in experimental diabetic models. Additionally, bioactive peptides generated from millet prolamins demonstrate potent inhibitory activity against pancreatic lipase and lipoxygenase, indicating potential roles in lowering triglyceride accumulation, modulating inflammatory pathways, and thereby reducing diabetes

susceptibility. Foxtail millet–derived prolamin peptides have also displayed significant antioxidative activity, which may contribute to mitigating oxidative stress associated with metabolic disorders. Despite these promising findings, most investigations have focused on uncooked grains, whereas millets are predominantly consumed after thermal processing. Cooking induces multiple physicochemical modifications in protein molecules, including the formation of disulfide linkages, the development of hydrophobic aggregates, and alterations in secondary structural elements such as α-helices and β-sheets. These transformations may substantially modify the biological functions of millet prolamins. Considering this knowledge gap, the present study examines the hypoglycemic potential of prolamin isolated from cooked foxtail millet, a widely cultivated species across Asia and Africa and one of the globally important cereal crops (Fu *et al.,* 2020).

Millet Bran (polysaccharides) of Antidiabetic Effect

Polysaccharides constitute a major class of naturally occurring biopolymers widely distributed across living organisms. These macromolecules are recognised for their broad spectrum of therapeutic properties and are generally regarded as safe due to their minimal cytotoxicity. Numerous naturally derived polysaccharides have demonstrated noteworthy biological activities, including anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antitumor, and lipid-lowering functions. Their ability to modulate physiological processes has sparked growing interest in their application as functional food components and pharmaceutical excipients, particularly for chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disorders and diabetes. Experimental studies have shown that polysaccharides can activate or regulate multiple immune cell populations, enhance systemic immune responsiveness, and exert hypoglycemic effects through interactions with gut microbiota. Accumulating evidence highlights the potential of polysaccharides as promising dietary bioactives for preventing and managing metabolic and immune-related disorders (Zhang *et al.,* 2022).

The global rise in diabetes prevalence especially type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) represents a major public health challenge. T2DM is a chronic metabolic disorder characterised by persistent hyperglycemia, insulin resistance, and low-grade systemic inflammation, leading to profound disturbances in carbohydrate, lipid, and protein metabolism. Increasing research has identified a strong association between T2DM and alterations in gut microbial composition, positioning intestinal microbiota as an important metabolic regulator. Although current therapeutic strategies rely heavily on hypoglycemic medications such as biguanides, sulfonylureas, α-glucosidase inhibitors, and thiazolidinediones, these drugs often present limitations related to cost, adverse effects, or long-term tolerability. Consequently, modulation of the gut microbiome has emerged

as an innovative strategy for improving glycemic control and reducing complications associated with diabetes (Zhang *et al.,* 2022).

Recent investigations have explored the antidiabetic potential of millet bran–derived polysaccharides. In experimental T2DM models induced by streptozotocin combined with high-fat feeding, purified millet bran polysaccharide demonstrated significant regulatory effects on metabolic and antioxidant parameters, including fasting glucose, body weight, triglycerides, total cholesterol, superoxide dismutase, and catalase activity. High-throughput sequencing further revealed that these polysaccharides beneficially reshape gut microbial communities, suggesting a microbiota-mediated mechanism underlying their hypoglycemic action. Collectively, these findings provide compelling scientific support for the potential use of millet bran as a functional ingredient for managing type 2 diabetes (Zhang *et al.,* 2022).

Anti-Microbial and Anti-Diarrheal Activities of *Setaria italica*

The antimicrobial efficacy of *Setaria italica* seed extract and its derived fractions was systematically assessed to understand their inhibitory influence on pathogenic microorganisms. In addition, silver nanoparticles synthesised using the ethanolic extract were evaluated to determine whether biogenic nanoparticle formation enhanced microbial growth suppression. Each fraction and nanoparticle preparation was tested against a panel of bacterial and fungal strains to compare their relative potency. The collective findings provide a comprehensive overview of how phytochemical-rich fractions and green-synthesised nanoparticles from *S. italica* contribute to broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity, highlighting their potential relevance in developing novel bioactive agents (Dasgupta *et al.,* 2016).

Despite the increasing interest in *Setaria italica* as a functional food, its role in managing diarrheal conditions remains poorly explored. Traditional medicinal systems, including Siddha practice, describe the seeds as beneficial for alleviating digestive disturbances; however, these claims are primarily anecdotal and lack strong experimental confirmation. Existing literature highlights its ethnomedicinal use in regulating bowel function, but controlled pharmacological investigations, especially animal-based antidiarrheal models, are notably limited. This absence of robust *in vivo* data makes it difficult to establish whether the bioactive constituents of *S. italica* exert any measurable protection against diarrheal episodes. Therefore, while its traditional relevance is acknowledged, systematic scientific evaluation is necessary to determine its actual therapeutic potential in diarrhoea management (Gurunathan *et al.,* 2024).

Anti-Inflammatory and Anti-Hyperlipidemic Activity of *Setaria italica*

Foxtail millet demonstrates several bioactive properties attributed to its rich phytochemical composition. The polyphenolic fraction obtained from the bran has been shown to modulate inflammatory pathways by suppressing key pro-inflammatory cytokines, including IL-8, IL-6,

and IL-1β, while simultaneously enhancing the expression of the anti-inflammatory marker IL-10. This effect is associated with inhibition of NF-κB p65 nuclear translocation in HT-29 cells, indicating its potential role in mitigating inflammatory responses (Gurunathan *et al.,* 2024).

The methanolic extracts of *S. italica* have exhibited lipid-lowering potential in HepG2 cells by decreasing intracellular triglycerides and total cholesterol accumulation, suggesting a possible anti-hyperlipidemic mechanism. The grain's antioxidant activity is partly attributed to ferulic acid and related phenolic constituents, which can effectively limit lipid peroxidation in model systems such as liposomal membranes. These findings collectively highlight foxtail millet as a promising dietary source with anti-inflammatory, lipid-modulating, and antioxidant benefits (Gurunathan *et al.,* 2024).

Antifungal Activity of *Setaria italica*

A bioactive peptide with an approximate molecular mass of 26.9 kDa has been isolated from *Setaria italica* seeds, demonstrating significant antifungal efficacy. This peptide has been evaluated against multiple phytopathogenic fungi, including *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Botrytis cinerea*, *Trichoderma viride*, and *Alternaria alternata*. Among the tested organisms, *A. alternata* exhibited pronounced structural deformities at the cellular level following exposure to the foxtail-millet–derived peptide, indicating strong inhibitory action. These findings highlight the potential of *S. italica* seed peptides as promising natural antifungal agents (Gurunathan *et al.,* 2024).

Antihypertensive Activity of *Setaria italica*

The antihypertensive potential of foxtail millet has been investigated using its protein hydrolysates generated through fermentation followed by enzymatic breakdown. In vivo studies on rats administered these hydrolysates for four weeks demonstrated a notable decline in angiotensin II concentration, angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) activity, and systolic blood pressure relative to untreated controls. These observations suggest that foxtail millet-derived protein hydrolysates may exert cardioprotective effects by modulating components of the renin-angiotensin system, thereby supporting their role as a functional food for managing hypertension and preventing cardiovascular complications (Gurunathan *et al.,* 2024).

Nutritional and Biofunctional Components of *Setaria italica*

Millets possess a diverse and nutrient-dense composition that has contributed to their increasing recognition as wholesome dietary grains. These cereals provide a broad spectrum of essential nutrients, making them valuable contributors to balanced nutrition. Millets serve as an excellent source of complex carbohydrates, which are digested gradually, thereby ensuring steady energy release and reducing abrupt fluctuations in blood glucose levels (Kalsi and Bhasin, 2023).

In addition to their carbohydrate fraction, millets are rich in dietary fibre, a key component for maintaining gastrointestinal health. Adequate fibre intake enhances intestinal motility, mitigates constipation, supports the regulation of serum cholesterol, and promotes satietyfactors beneficial for metabolic health and weight control (Kalsi and Bhasin, 2023).

Protein levels vary among millet species. Notably, finger millet (*Eleusine coracana*) and pearl millet (*Pennisetum glaucum*) exhibit comparatively higher protein concentrations, typically ranging between 7%-8% and 10%-12%. Although millets generally contain modest amounts of lipids, certain varieties such as foxtail millet, little millet, and proso millet demonstrate slightly elevated fat levels, averaging 4%-5% (Gaikwad *et al.,* 2021).

It is essential to recognise that the nutritional composition of millets can be influenced by multiple factors, including genetic diversity, environmental conditions during cultivation, and post-harvest processing techniques (Kalsi and Bhasin, 2023).

Current Geographical Distribution of *Setaria italica*

Recent ecological modelling efforts have expanded our understanding of the environmental envelope suitable for *Setaria italica*. Predictions generated using the MaxEnt framework indicate that the species could potentially occupy approximately 5.54 X 10^7 km² worldwide. These climatically favourable zones span several continents, including large regions of the United States, Brazil, Australia, China, India, and the Russian Federation. Within this broad range, areas identified as highly suitable, covering about 0.52 X 10^7 km² (roughly 9.4% of the total predicted range), are mainly concentrated in the eastern United States, southern India, and western regions of Russia. Moderately suitable zones encompass around 1.31 X10^7 km² (23.7%) and are distributed predominantly across Russia, the United States, China, and India. The largest category of low-suitability habitats extends across 3.70 x 10^7 km², accounting for nearly two-thirds of the suitable area, and includes wide tracts of China, the United States, Russia, Brazil, and Australia. Collectively, these projections demonstrate that the potential bioclimatic niche of *S. italica* is substantially wider than its present cultivated or naturalised range, emphasising the species' considerable scope for geographic expansion under suitable environmental conditions (Yang *et al.,* 2024).

Projected Future Distribution of *Setaria italica* Under Climate Change Scenarios

Climate change is expected to markedly alter the geographical suitability of habitats for *Setaria italica* in the coming decades. Models developed for four emission pathways (SSP1-2.6, SSP2-4.5, SSP3-7.0, and SSP5-8.5) for the mid-21st century (2050s) and late-21st century (2070s) illustrate a consistent contraction in climatically favourable areas for this species. Across all scenarios, the extent of suitable habitats declines substantially when compared with present-day conditions. The greatest losses are projected under the high-emission SSP3-7.0 pathway, where

more than 64% of the total suitable area is expected to disappear in both time periods. Highly suitable zones show the most severe decline, approaching near-complete loss, while moderately suitable regions shrink by more than 80%. Even low-suitability zones exhibit reductions of more than 50%.

Under the low-emission SSP1-2.6 scenario, habitat contraction remains significant; however, the magnitude of decline is slightly less severe, with total suitability decreasing by roughly 52–56%. The reduction is again most pronounced in highly suitable regions, whereas low-suitability areas show relatively smaller proportional losses. The SSP2-4.5 and SSP5-8.5 scenarios show similar trends, with overall habitat losses of about 43–44% in both the 2050s and 2070s. In these pathways, the sharpest declines also occur in the highly suitable zones, followed by moderate and low-suitability regions.

Collectively, these projections indicate that climate change will drastically reshape the ecological niche of *S. italica*, progressively transforming highly suitable environments into moderately or poorly suitable zones and shifting many currently suitable regions toward marginal or unsuitable conditions. This contraction underscores the vulnerability of *S. italica* to future climatic shifts and highlights the need for conservation and adaptation strategies (Yang *et al.,* 2024).

Thematic Research Trends in Foxtail Millet Studies

Bibliometric mapping of foxtail millet research reveals several distinct thematic domains. Keyword clustering from Scopus data highlights four major research groupings. The primary cluster centres on foxtail millet itself and is closely associated with studies from China, comparative work with *Panicum miliaceum*, rice-related research, and broader chemical or botanical investigations. A second major cluster reflects work on plant metabolism, incorporating controlled experimental approaches, physiological responses, and genetic analyses. The third cluster emphasises *Setaria* species and their genomic features, while a fourth cluster connects foxtail millet research with other cereal crops such as maize and sorghum.

Temporal mapping shows a clear evolution in research priorities. Around 2014, published work largely addressed broad cereal biology within the Poaceae family, including species such as *Triticum aestivum* and *P. miliaceum*. Over time, emphasis shifted toward molecular geneticsparticularly sequence variation, genome structure, and chromosomal mapping. By 2016, attention expanded to comparative studies involving maize and sorghum, before moving toward plant protein function, gene regulation, and physiological studies specific to foxtail millet. From 2018 onward, the dominant research direction has centred on genetic regulation and metabolic responses, especially under abiotic stress conditions. After refining and consolidating related keywords, two main clusters emerged from multiple correspondence analyses. One groupanchored by foxtail milletincludes terms associated with related cereals such as sorghum,

rice, wheat, and broomcorn millet, along with studies on antioxidant properties. The second cluster encompasses terminology linked to genotype characterisation, chemical composition, stress physiology, *Arabidopsis* comparisons, and genome-level investigations.

Highly cited publications over the past eight decades highlight genome sequencing as a foundational research theme, reflected by a citation peak around 2012 when several major sequencing studies were released. Prestigious journals, particularly *Nature* and *PNAS*, have served as primary outlets for these influential contributions, underscoring the central role of genomic research in foxtail millet scholarship (Sintho Wahyuning Ardie *et al.,* 2025).

Effect of Ecological Factors on *Setaria italica*

Foxtail millet (*Setaria italica*) is one of the oldest domesticated cereals from China and is widely valued for both its nutritional and therapeutic attributes. The grain is recognised for its abundance of resistant starch, beneficial fatty acids, carotenoids, and diverse antioxidant compounds, all of which contribute to metabolic health and may support the dietary management of conditions such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disorders. Starch composition is a major determinant of grain quality, as the relative proportions of amylose and amylopectin influence both post-prandial glucose responses and sensory characteristics; higher amylose content generally promotes slower glucose release, while a greater proportion of amylopectin enhances palatability. Consumers also associate good quality with increased surface oil during cooking.

Foxtail millet is additionally valued for its rich mineral profile, including calcium, magnesium, zinc, selenium, copper, iron, and phosphorus, making it a suitable food-based strategy for addressing global micronutrient deficiencies, often referred to as “hidden hunger.” This crop is also notable for its strong resilience to heat, drought, poor soils, and other environmental stresses, positioning it as a promising climate-adaptive cereal for future agriculture.

Previous studies have demonstrated that ecological conditions significantly influence grain traits such as appearance, nutrient levels, and culinary properties. Variations in altitude, precipitation, temperature regimes, and soil composition have been reported to alter carbohydrate distribution, mineral accumulation, and other quality-related attributes. However, many earlier investigations examined single environmental variables independently, without integrating the combined effects of climate and soil characteristics. More recent work suggests that wide diurnal temperature ranges and nutrient-rich soils enhance cooking quality, while warmer and wetter growing seasons promote better appearance and accumulation of bioactive compounds.

Despite these insights, the specific influence of temperature and rainfall at different developmental stages on nutritional quality remains poorly defined. To address this gap, recent research has evaluated a widely cultivated variety, Jingu21, across multiple production

environments to assess how complex ecological gradients shape nutrient composition. These findings aim to improve predictions of crop performance under changing climatic conditions and to support agronomic recommendations that optimise both yield and quality across diverse growing regions (Ma *et al.,* 2024)

Agro-Morphological Diversity and Superior Genotype Selection in Foxtail Millet

Recent evaluations of fifty foxtail millet genotypes revealed a wide spectrum of agro-morphological variation that can be strategically utilised in breeding programs. Traits such as plant height and leaf length exhibited the highest phenotypic variability, with leaf width also showing considerable divergence. In contrast, leaf length and days to 50% flowering displayed relatively low genotypic and phenotypic coefficients of variation. Yield-related analyses indicated that panicle weight, test weight, and straw weight exerted strong positive influences on grain yield per plant across both rainy and summer seasons, underscoring their reliability as selection indicators. Based on their consistent pre-harvest and post-harvest performance, five genotypes, Kangni-1 (GS-14), Kangni-7 (GPF-7), Kangni-6 (GS-55), Kangni-5 (GS-389), and Kangni-4 (GS-368) were identified as superior under the agroclimatic conditions of Prayagraj. These selections were further supported by biochemical assessments across two growing seasons, confirming their stability and potential for future crop improvement efforts (Singh *et al.,* 2023).

Conclusions:

Setaria italica (foxtail millet) is emerging as a versatile functional food and nutraceutical resource due to its rich profile of bioactive compounds. The seed contains high concentrations of resistant starch, which modulates postprandial glucose levels, contributing to improved glycemic control. Additionally, prolamins and polysaccharides present in the grain demonstrate hypoglycemic properties by modulating carbohydrate metabolism and influencing gut microbiota composition. Recent studies indicate that millet-derived peptides inhibit digestive enzymes, including pancreatic lipase and α-glucosidase, thereby reducing lipid accumulation and mitigating the risk of obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Phenolic acids, flavonoids, and carotenoids present in foxtail millet act synergistically to scavenge reactive oxygen species (ROS), preventing oxidative damage to cellular components. These antioxidants not only protect against oxidative stress but also play a role in modulating inflammatory pathways. For instance, polyphenols derived from foxtail millet bran suppress pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-1β, IL-6, and TNF-α, while enhancing anti-inflammatory mediators like IL-10. Such activity positions S. italica as a potential dietary adjunct for managing chronic inflammation associated with metabolic syndrome, cardiovascular disorders, and gastrointestinal pathologies.

The antimicrobial properties of *S. italica* have been demonstrated through both crude seed extracts and green-synthesized silver nanoparticles. These biogenic nanoparticles exhibit broad-spectrum antibacterial activity against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, while also demonstrating inhibitory effects against several fungal pathogens, including *Fusarium spp*. and *Alternaria alternata*. Bioactive peptides isolated from foxtail millet seeds further contribute to antifungal efficacy by disrupting cell membrane integrity, highlighting their potential as natural preservatives and alternatives to synthetic antimicrobials.

In addition to biochemical properties, the C4 photosynthetic pathway of foxtail millet ensures high water-use efficiency and resilience under abiotic stress. Its genome, recently elucidated through high-quality assemblies and pan-genomic analyses, reveals extensive genetic diversity. Core, dispensable, and private gene families reflect functional variation that underpins adaptive traits such as drought tolerance, high-temperature resilience, and nutrient-use efficiency. The identification of structural variants and alternative haplotypes allows precise mapping of quantitative trait loci (QTLs) associated with grain yield, protein content, starch composition, and bioactive metabolite accumulation. Such genomic insights pave the way for marker-assisted breeding and the development of climate-resilient cultivars.

Processing techniques are crucial in enhancing the nutritional and functional quality of foxtail millet. Fermentation, malting, soaking, decortication, and thermal treatments improve mineral bioavailability, reduce antinutritional factors such as phytic acid, tannins, and polyphenols, and enhance protein digestibility. Fermentation, in particular, activates endogenous enzymes that degrade complex macromolecules, releasing bioactive compounds and vitamins. Thermal processing induces structural modifications in starch and protein matrices, which not only improve sensory attributes but also modulate the bioactivity of prolamins and polysaccharides. Consequently, the method of preparation significantly influences the functional properties of foxtail millet-derived foods.

Agro-morphological assessments indicate significant variability among foxtail millet genotypes in traits such as plant height, panicle weight, leaf dimensions, and grain yield components. Selection of superior genotypes based on both pre-harvest and post-harvest traits allows the development of high-yielding, nutrient-rich varieties suitable for diverse agro-climatic regions. The top-performing genotypes exhibit consistent biochemical profiles, ensuring reliable levels of proteins, phenolics, and micronutrients. Such integrative selection approaches are crucial for combining yield improvement with enhanced functional and nutritional quality.

Environmental factors, including temperature, precipitation, soil composition, and altitude, significantly influence the biochemical and sensory attributes of foxtail millet. Variations in climate affect starch composition, mineral accumulation, and polyphenol content, ultimately

influencing glycemic index, taste, and antioxidant potential. Predictive modelling of potential geographic distribution under current and future climate scenarios underscores the crop's resilience but also highlights vulnerabilities to high temperatures and altered precipitation patterns. Strategic cultivation practices, including soil amendments, irrigation management, and optimal sowing times, are essential to maximise both yield and functional quality.

The diverse nutraceutical potential of foxtail millet, including antioxidant, antidiabetic, antihypertensive, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, and antifungal activities, positions it as an important functional cereal for public health. Integration of genomic insights with traditional breeding approaches allows the development of cultivars tailored for enhanced bioactive content and improved resilience to climate variability. Further research focusing on metabolomics, transcriptomics, and proteomics of foxtail millet under different processing conditions and ecological stresses will facilitate the identification of novel bioactive compounds, enabling targeted functional food and nutraceutical development.

Given its broad adaptability, rich phytochemical composition, and multiple health-promoting effects, foxtail millet is poised to contribute significantly to sustainable agriculture, climate-resilient food systems, and the prevention of chronic metabolic diseases. Its inclusion in dietetic strategies, nutraceutical formulations, and functional food products can serve as a viable intervention for micronutrient deficiencies, oxidative stress-related disorders, and metabolic syndromes globally.

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PHARMA-PHYSIO SYNERGY IN PAIN MANAGEMENT AND ANTI-INFLAMMATORY THERAPIES

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Abstract:

Pain management remains a pressing global healthcare challenge due to its complex biological, psychological, and social dimensions. Overreliance on pharmacological therapies has shown limited long-term effectiveness and increased risk of adverse outcomes, highlighting the need for integrated, multidisciplinary strategies. This chapter explores the emerging model of pharma-physio synergy, in which pharmacological agents and physiotherapeutic interventions are intentionally combined to enhance analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and functional outcomes. Drawing on mechanism-based and biopsychosocial frameworks, it examines how NSAIDs, opioids, and adjuvant analgesics interact synergistically with exercise therapy, manual therapy, electrophysical modalities, and pain education through complementary neurophysiological pathways. Evidence across acute injuries, chronic musculoskeletal disorders, postoperative recovery, and neuropathic pain supports the superiority of coordinated multimodal care over single-modality approaches. Implementation principles such as personalized assessment, therapeutic window optimization, interprofessional collaboration, and patient empowerment are discussed alongside safety considerations and population-specific adaptations. Future opportunities include precision medicine, digital health integration, and regenerative therapies. Collectively, pharma-physio synergy represents a paradigm shift toward holistic, sustainable, and function-oriented pain care.

Keywords: Pharma-Physio Synergy, Pain Management, Multimodal Rehabilitation, Physiotherapy, Anti-Inflammatory Therapy

Introduction:

Pain management represents one of the most complex challenges in contemporary healthcare, affecting approximately one in five adults globally and serving as a major driver of disability and healthcare costs. The traditional approach of relying solely on pharmacological interventions has proven insufficient, leading to complications including the opioid epidemic and limited

functional outcomes. This chapter explores the emerging paradigm of pharma-physio synergy, where pharmacological agents and physiotherapeutic interventions are strategically combined to optimize pain management and anti-inflammatory outcomes[1,2].

The integration of pharmacological and physiotherapeutic approaches is grounded in a mechanism-based understanding of pain processing and tissue healing[3]. Rather than viewing medications and physical therapy as separate treatment modalities, contemporary evidence supports their synergistic application based on shared neurobiological pathways and complementary mechanisms of action. This integrated approach acknowledges that pain is a multidimensional phenomenon requiring coordinated interventions targeting biological, psychological, and social factors simultaneously[4].

Theoretical Framework: The Biopsychosocial Model

The biopsychosocial model provides the conceptual foundation for understanding pharma-physio synergy in pain management[5,6]. This framework recognises that pain arises from complex interactions between biological factors (tissue damage, inflammation, nociceptor activity), psychological factors (anxiety, depression, coping strategies), and social factors (family support, work environment, socioeconomic status). Effective pain management requires addressing all three dimensions concurrently.

Physical therapist interventions may produce additive or even synergistic interactions with pharmaceutical agents based on known underlying mechanisms[3,7]. For instance, exercise activates serotonergic pathways, which may produce enhanced effects when combined with serotonin reuptake inhibitors. Similarly, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) activates peripheral adrenergic receptors and promotes endogenous opioid release, creating opportunities for synergy with pharmacological analgesics[2,4].

The mechanism-based approach to pain management categorizes pain into five primary mechanisms:

nociceptive, neuropathic, nociplastic (formerly termed central sensitization), psychosocial, and movement system-related[3]. Each mechanism responds differently to various interventions, and many patients experience pain driven by multiple mechanisms simultaneously. Understanding these mechanisms enables clinicians to match pharmacological and physiotherapeutic interventions more precisely to individual patient presentations.

Pharmacological Foundations in Pain and Inflammation Management

Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)

NSAIDs represent one of the most commonly prescribed medication classes for pain and inflammation, accounting for approximately five to ten percent of all prescribed medications annually[9]. NSAIDs work by blocking cyclooxygenase enzymes used by the body to make

prostaglandins, which cause vasodilation, increase temperature set-points, and play roles in pain processing.

Two cyclooxygenase isoenzymes exist: COX-1, which is constitutively expressed and maintains gastrointestinal mucosa, kidney function, and platelet aggregation; and COX-2, which is inducibly expressed during inflammatory responses[9]. Most NSAIDs are nonselective, inhibiting both enzymes, while selective COX-2 inhibitors like celecoxib target only COX-2. The selectivity profile has important implications for both therapeutic efficacy and adverse effect profiles.

A systematic review of NSAIDs for chronic low back pain found a pooled mean difference in pain scores of approximately seven points on a 100mm visual analog scale favoring NSAIDs over placebo, though the clinical significance of this reduction remains debated[10]. Both oral and topical NSAIDs demonstrate similar efficacy for musculoskeletal pain, with topical formulations potentially offering advantages for localized conditions, though systemic absorption still occurs[11].

The integration of NSAIDs with physiotherapy requires careful consideration of timing and mechanism[7,8]. NSAIDs complement physiotherapy treatment particularly where acute inflammatory conditions exist, creating a therapeutic window during which movement-based interventions can be more effectively applied. However, potential adverse effects including increased cardiovascular risk, gastrointestinal ulceration, impaired bone healing, and increased tendon rupture risk necessitate judicious use and interprofessional communication[11,12].

Opioid Analgesics

Opioid medications bind to mu, delta, and kappa opioid receptors in the central and peripheral nervous systems, modulating pain perception and emotional responses to pain. While effective for acute severe pain and certain chronic pain conditions, opioids carry significant risks including tolerance, dependence, respiratory depression, and abuse potential[5].

Exercise therapy demonstrated larger effects than opioids for knee osteoarthritis pain, with the difference between treatments being small and likely not clinically relevant[10]. This finding underscores the importance of prioritizing active physiotherapeutic interventions while using opioids judiciously for breakthrough pain or when non-opioid approaches prove insufficient.

An important consideration for pharma-physio integration is that patients with opioid tolerance may not respond to low-frequency TENS, representing a negative interaction between treatments. This highlights the necessity of understanding mechanism-based interactions when combining modalities.

Adjuvant Analgesics

Adjuvant medications including antidepressants (tricyclics, serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors) and anticonvulsants (gabapentinoids) are increasingly utilized for chronic pain conditions, particularly those with neuropathic or nociplastic features[5,13]. These medications modulate central pain processing through various mechanisms including enhancement of descending inhibitory pathways and reduction of central sensitization.

The synergy potential between adjuvant analgesics and physiotherapy is particularly noteworthy[3,7]. Exercise utilizes serotonergic mechanisms and may produce longer-lasting effects in patients taking reuptake inhibitors. Gabapentinoids reduce central sensitization, potentially creating an enhanced response to movement-based interventions by decreasing pain-related fear and improving exercise tolerance[13].

Physiotherapeutic Interventions and Mechanisms

Exercise Therapy

Exercise represents perhaps the most powerful physiotherapeutic intervention with clear anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties[1]. Basic science evidence demonstrates that exercise reduces nociceptor activity by decreasing ion channel expression, increasing expression of endogenous analgesic substances in exercising muscle, and altering local immune cell function with increased anti-inflammatory cytokines.

Multiple exercise modalities exist, including aerobic conditioning, resistance training, flexibility training, and neuromuscular control exercises. The optimal exercise prescription depends on the specific pain condition, individual patient factors, and the underlying pain mechanisms involved[14]. Progressive loading that gradually increases tissue capacity while managing pain flares represents a fundamental principle.

Although physical exercise did not consistently change pain scores, it significantly improved physical function[14], highlighting that successful pain management extends beyond simple pain reduction to encompass functional restoration and improved quality of life. This functional focus aligns well with the goals of multimodal pain management programs.

Manual Therapy

Manual therapy encompasses various hands-on techniques including joint mobilization, manipulation, soft tissue mobilization, and massage. These interventions may reduce pain through multiple mechanisms including mechanical effects on tissue mobility, neurophysiological effects such as activation of descending inhibitory pathways, and psychological effects related to therapeutic alliance and reduced fear-avoidance[3,23].

Manual therapy is most effective when combined with active interventions rather than used in isolation. The therapeutic window created by manual therapy techniques can facilitate more

effective exercise participation by temporarily reducing pain and improving movement quality. When coordinated with appropriate pharmacological support, manual therapy contributes to comprehensive multimodal programs[6,15].

Electrophysical Agents

Electrophysical agents including TENS, interferential current, ultrasound, and laser therapy have long been utilized in physiotherapy practice[24,25,26]. TENS demonstrates particularly interesting synergy potential with pharmacological agents. Combining low and high-frequency TENS prevents analgesic tolerance that develops with single-frequency application, and TENS activates both peripheral adrenergic receptors and promotes endogenous opioid release[24].

However, evidence for electrophysical agents remains mixed. A systematic review of TENS for chronic pain was unable to conclude whether TENS was beneficial due to low quality evidence [24], though more recent analyses focusing on immediate pain reduction during or after TENS application showed more favorable results. The role of electrophysical agents in contemporary practice likely involves targeted application for specific indications rather than routine use.

Patient Education and Cognitive-Behavioral Approaches

Modern pain education, particularly therapeutic neuroscience education, helps patients understand pain mechanisms, reducing catastrophizing and fear-avoidance behaviors[4,14]. This educational foundation enables more effective engagement with active rehabilitation strategies and potentially reduces reliance on passive interventions including medications.

Cognitive-behavioral approaches teach patients coping strategies for managing pain flares, pacing activities appropriately, and addressing psychological factors that amplify pain experiences [6,27]. These interventions target the psychosocial pain mechanism and create important synergies with both pharmacological and physical interventions by improving treatment adherence and self-efficacy.

Clinical Evidence for Pharma-Physio Synergy

Acute Musculoskeletal Injuries

In acute musculoskeletal injuries, the inflammatory response serves both protective and potentially problematic functions. Strategic use of NSAIDs can reduce excessive inflammation and pain, creating a therapeutic window for early mobilization and functional rehabilitation [11]. However, timing considerations are critical, as some inflammatory processes are necessary for optimal tissue healing[12].

The evidence suggests that combining NSAIDs with appropriate physiotherapy improves acute pain management more effectively than either modality alone[7,11]. Patients receiving combination treatment often demonstrate faster return to function and reduced chronification risk compared to

those receiving medication or physiotherapy alone. The key is balancing anti-inflammatory effects with preservation of necessary healing processes.

Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain

For chronic pain conditions, including chronic low back pain, neck pain, and osteoarthritis, the evidence strongly supports multimodal approaches[6,16,17]. Interdisciplinary multimodal pain treatment programs demonstrate consistent improvements in quality of life, physical function, and depression for patients with chronic primary musculoskeletal pain[17,18].

Exercise therapy ranked as the best treatment for knee osteoarthritis pain, followed by NSAIDs and opioids, though differences between treatments were small [10]. This finding emphasizes that exercise should be prioritized as the primary intervention, with medications used strategically to support exercise participation rather than as standalone treatments.

Multimodal programs typically combine cognitive-behavioral therapy, exercise, pain education, and medical management[6,15]. Patients in multimodal therapy groups for chronic back pain showed greater improvements in quality of life with highly significant differences compared to standard outpatient treatment[15]. These improvements persisted at twelve-month follow-up, suggesting durable treatment effects.

Post-Surgical Pain Management

Persistent post-surgical pain affects a significant proportion of surgical patients, resulting in reduced quality of life and functional limitations[2,19]. While pharmacological management is common for post-surgical pain, its effectiveness remains equivocal, and systematic review evidence indicates that physiotherapy interventions have positive impacts across pain, quality of life, physical function, and depression domains[2].

Modern perioperative pain management increasingly emphasizes multimodal analgesia combining various pharmacological agents (NSAIDs, acetaminophen, local anesthetics, adjuvants) with early mobilization protocols and structured rehabilitation programs [13,19]. This approach reduces opioid requirements, accelerates functional recovery, and potentially reduces the risk of persistent post-surgical pain development.

Neurogenic and Neuropathic Pain

Neuropathic pain conditions, characterized by pain arising from damage or disease of the somatosensory nervous system, respond differently to interventions than nociceptive pain [3,5]. Pharmacological management typically involves gabapentinoids, antidepressants, and topical agents, while physiotherapeutic approaches focus on graded motor imagery, mirror therapy, and carefully progressed movement-based interventions.

The synergy between these approaches relates to addressing both peripheral and central nervous system changes[3,23]. Medications help modulate aberrant neural signaling and central

sensitization, while physiotherapy interventions promote motor cortex reorganization and restore normal movement patterns. This combination addresses multiple levels of the neuraxis affected by neuropathic pain conditions.

Implementing Integrated Pharma-Physio Programs

Assessment and Treatment Planning

Effective integration of pharmacological and physiotherapeutic interventions begins with comprehensive assessment addressing all relevant pain mechanisms and biopsychosocial factors[3,4]. This assessment should identify the dominant pain mechanisms, evaluate medication history and responses, assess functional limitations and goals, and screen for psychological factors including anxiety, depression, and catastrophizing.

Based on this assessment, treatment planning involves selecting appropriate pharmacological agents matched to pain mechanisms, designing physiotherapy interventions targeting identified impairments and functional goals, establishing realistic timelines and outcome expectations, and creating coordinated care plans with clear communication between providers[5,23]. The plan should be individualized based on patient characteristics, preferences, and specific clinical presentations.

Optimizing the Therapeutic Window

A key concept in pharma-physio synergy is the therapeutic window - the period when pharmacological interventions reduce pain and inflammation sufficiently to enable more effective physiotherapeutic interventions[7,8,23]. Physiotherapists should have sufficient knowledge about pharmacological agents for pain management and be competent in utilizing the therapeutic window created by these agents to encourage active management strategies.

Timing of interventions within this window requires clinical judgment [11]. For some patients, taking analgesic medication before physiotherapy sessions enable better exercise tolerance and motor learning. For others, demonstrating that movement is safe without medication reduces fear-avoidance and builds self-efficacy. The approach should be individualized and progressively adjusted toward increased self-management and reduced medication dependence when appropriate[14].

Interprofessional Communication

Successful pharma-physio integration demands effective interprofessional communication and collaboration[4,22,23]. Physiotherapists need sufficient pharmacology knowledge to understand medication mechanisms, adverse effects, contraindications, and potential interactions with physical interventions[8]. Prescribers need to understand physiotherapy goals, potential mechanisms of action, and realistic functional outcome expectations.

Regular case conferences, shared documentation systems, and established communication protocols facilitate coordination[22]. In primary care settings where physiotherapists often serve as first-contact practitioners, systems for appropriate referral and consultation with prescribers are essential. The goal is seamless care coordination that optimizes both pharmacological and physiotherapeutic interventions while avoiding contradictory approaches.

Patient Education and Self-Management

Central to successful pharma-physio synergy is patient education promoting active self-management[4,14,27]. Patients should understand how medications and physiotherapy work together, develop realistic expectations about pain reduction versus functional improvement, learn to recognize appropriate versus inappropriate pain during rehabilitation, understand proper medication use including timing and potential side effects, and develop strategies for progressive reduction of passive interventions including medications when appropriate.

This educational foundation empowers patients as active participants in their care rather than passive recipients of interventions. It supports long-term outcomes by fostering self-efficacy and reducing dependence on healthcare providers for pain management[14,18].

Special Considerations and Contraindications

Medication Effects on Tissue Healing

Important considerations exist regarding potential negative interactions between certain medications and physiotherapeutic goals[11,12]. NSAIDs may impair bone healing in fracture management, though clinical evidence remains controversial. High-dose or prolonged NSAID use may affect tendon healing and potentially increase rupture risk[12]. Corticosteroids, while providing potent anti-inflammatory effects, can cause tissue weakening with repeated local injections and impair wound healing.

These concerns necessitate careful risk-benefit analysis and coordination between prescribers and physiotherapists[7,8]. In some situations, the benefits of improved pain control enabling earlier mobilization outweigh potential healing impairments. In others, alternative analgesic strategies should be prioritized.

Contraindications and Precautions

Specific contraindications exist for both pharmacological and physiotherapeutic interventions that must be respected in integrated care[9,11]. NSAIDs are contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment, active gastrointestinal bleeding, and certain cardiovascular conditions. Opioids require careful dosing adjustments and monitoring in elderly patients and those with respiratory compromise[5].

On the physiotherapy side, some electrophysical agents have contraindications including pregnancy, malignancy, and implanted devices[24]. High-velocity manipulation techniques require

careful screening for contraindications including osteoporosis, inflammatory arthropathies, and vascular pathology[23]. Integrated care planning must account for all relevant contraindications and precautions across both modalities.

Vulnerable Populations

Special considerations apply to vulnerable populations including elderly patients, pregnant women, pediatric patients, and individuals with complex comorbidities[9,19]. Medication dosing often requires adjustment in elderly patients due to altered pharmacokinetics and increased sensitivity to adverse effects. Physiotherapy interventions may need modification to account for frailty, fall risk, and reduced physiological reserve.

Cultural sensitivity and health literacy considerations also affect implementation of integrated programs[20,21]. Educational materials and communication strategies should be tailored to individual patient needs, accounting for language barriers, educational background, and cultural beliefs about pain and treatment.

Emerging Trends and Future Directions

Precision Medicine Approaches

Advances in understanding pain mechanisms and individual variability in treatment responses are driving movement toward precision medicine approaches in pain management[5,19]. Genetic polymorphisms affecting drug metabolism, pain sensitivity, and treatment responses may eventually guide more personalized medication selection. Similarly, better phenotyping of pain mechanisms may enable more targeted selection of physiotherapeutic interventions[3].

Integration of these precision approaches with machine learning and artificial intelligence holds promise for optimizing treatment algorithms. Predictive models incorporating multiple patient factors could help identify which combinations of pharmacological and physiotherapeutic interventions are most likely to benefit individual patients.

Digital Health Integration

Digital health technologies are creating new opportunities for pharma-physio integration[20,21]. Mobile applications can support medication adherence, deliver exercise programs, provide pain education, and enable remote monitoring of outcomes. Wearable devices can objectively measure physical activity, sleep quality, and physiological parameters relevant to pain management.

Multimodal digital care programs for musculoskeletal pain demonstrate significant improvements in pain, mental health, and productivity across diverse patient populations[20,21]. These programs can deliver personalized, scalable interventions that integrate medication management with physiotherapy in ways that overcome traditional barriers related to time, geography, and access to care.

Advanced Regenerative Approaches

Emerging regenerative medicine approaches including platelet-rich plasma, mesenchymal stem cells, and other biological therapies represent a new frontier in anti-inflammatory and tissue healing interventions.

Mesenchymal stem cells yield pain reductions of approximately 30-50 percent with reassuring safety profiles and demonstrate synergy when paired with hyaluronic acid or platelet-rich plasma[19].

Integration of these advanced biological therapies with rehabilitation creates opportunities for disease modification rather than purely symptom management[11]. The optimal timing and coordination of regenerative interventions with physiotherapy protocols represents an active area of investigation with significant potential impact on treatment paradigms.

Enhanced Recovery Protocols

Enhanced recovery after surgery programs represent successful models of integrated multimodal care that could inform broader chronic pain management approaches[13,19]. These protocols combine optimized perioperative medication regimens (including regional anesthesia, multimodal analgesia, and minimized opioids) with early mobilization, nutrition optimization, and patient education to accelerate recovery and reduce complications. Principles from enhanced recovery programs, including evidence-based protocols, interdisciplinary teamwork, patient engagement, and systematic outcome monitoring, are increasingly being applied to chronic pain management with promising results[17,22]. The success of these programs demonstrates the value of coordinated multimodal approaches over fragmented care.

Conclusion:

Pharma-physio synergy marks a major shift in pain and anti-inflammatory management, replacing isolated treatments with coordinated, mechanism-driven multimodal care. Research shows that combining medications with physiotherapy consistently yields better pain relief, functional outcomes, and patient satisfaction than either approach alone. This integration works by aligning neurobiological mechanisms, creating therapeutic windows for effective rehabilitation, and addressing the biopsychosocial contributors to pain. Successful adoption requires collaborative healthcare models, interprofessional training, informed prescribing, patient education, and continuous outcome monitoring. As the limitations of medication-centric care and the consequences of opioid dependence become increasingly evident, integrated approaches offer a safer, evidence-based alternative. Emerging advances—such as precision medicine, digital rehabilitation, and regenerative therapies—are expected to further personalize and strengthen this synergy. The ongoing challenge lies in overcoming systemic barriers and embedding collaborative, patient-centered multimodal care as the standard rather than the exception.

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Bhumi Publishing, India
November 2025

X-RAY DIFFRACTION METHODS FOR STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract:

This chapter presents a detailed study of X-ray diffraction (XRD) techniques used to find the crystal structures of solid materials. The method is based on the scattering of monochromatic X-rays by the atomic planes within a crystal, providing valuable information about interplaner spacing and lattice parameters. The fundamental principles of X-ray generation, Bragg's law, and monochromatization are discussed. Three common diffraction methods—Laue method, rotating crystal method, and Debye–Scherrer powder method—are described, with emphasis on the powder technique due to its suitability for polycrystalline and gel-grown samples. Experimental setup and diffraction mechanisms are explained through schematic diagrams. The study highlights how understanding crystal structure helps in tailoring materials for specific physical, chemical, and mechanical properties.

Keywords: X-ray Diffraction, Bragg's Law, Laue Method, Rotating Crystal Method, Debye–Scherrer Method, Powder Diffraction

Introduction:

The X-ray diffraction technique depends on the diffraction of x-ray by a specimen material. This technique can be used to find the crystal structure of different solid materials [1-5]. In the world of the science, an understanding of the lattice parameters of materials has become essential. Any material has the properties such as chemical, physical or mechanical which depends on the internal structure of a material. Hence, it has become easier to design a material to suit any application by appropriate modification of the internal structure.

There are three types of X-ray diffraction methods that can be used to find the structure of crystals.

1. Rotating crystal method
2. Laue method
3. Debye Scherrer powder method

1. Rotating Crystal Method

In rotating crystal method, the X-ray with monochromatic wavelength is incident on a specimen crystal rotating about a fixed axis. Due to rotation of crystal, the variation occurred in the angle θ. Due to variation in the angle; different atomic planes come into the position for reflection

satisfying Bragg's condition. The photographic film which is made of fluorescent material is mounted inside a cylindrical holder concentric to rotating spindle. The diffracted X-ray beams from all planes which are parallel to vertical axis of rotation will lie in the horizontal plane. The planes with other directions will diffracts X-ray beam in layers above and below the horizontal planes [8].

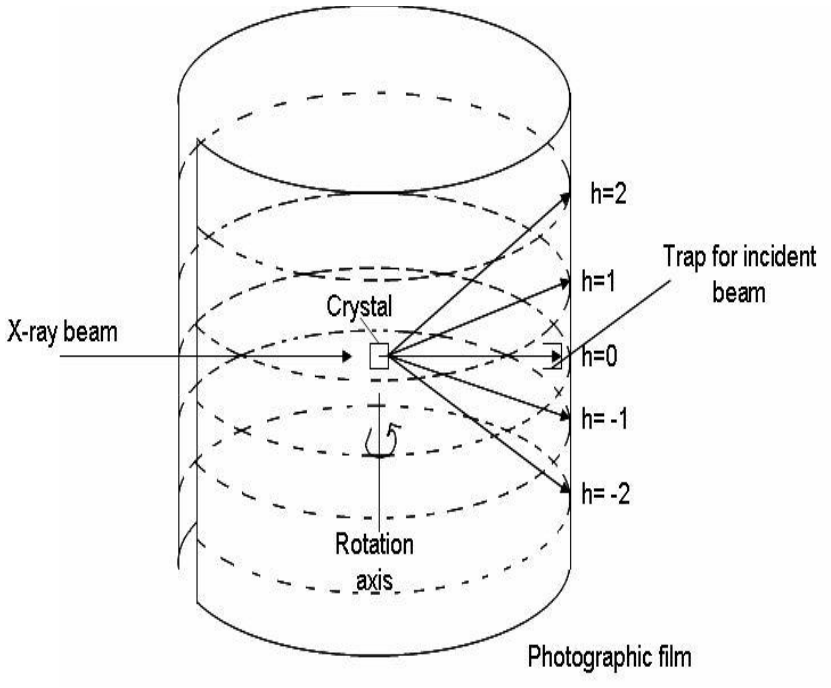
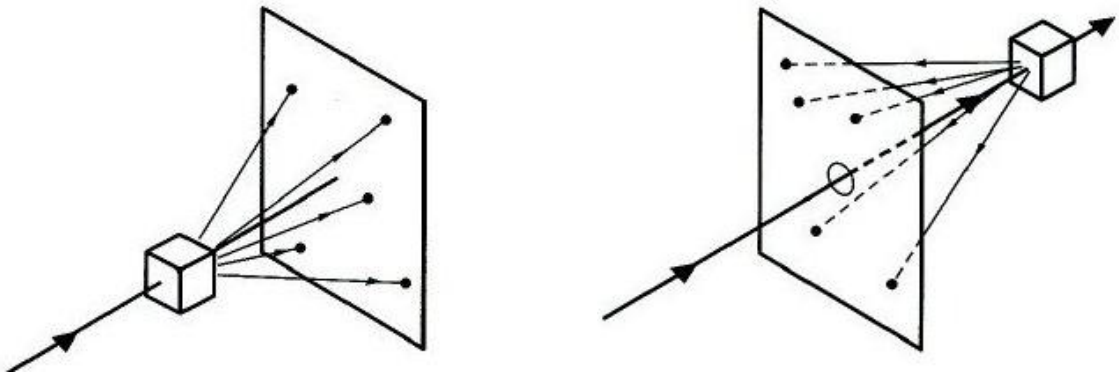


Figure 1: Rotating crystal method set up

1. Laue Method

In this method, a specimen material is held stationary and a beam of white X-ray radiation of continuous wavelength is ranging from 0.2 A^0 to 2 A^0 inclined on it at a fixed glancing angle θ. The crystal itself selects and diffracts the discrete values of wavelength satisfying Bragg's condition [8].



(a) **(b)**

Figure 2: a) Transmission b) Back reflection Laue methods

2. Debye Scherrer Powder Method

In the Laue method and rotating crystal method, single crystals are required. However, many of the solid state materials available are in the form of polycrystals. The technique to make a single crystal from polycrystals is quite difficult. So to overcome this difficulty Debye and Scherrer developed this method. The Debye Scherrer powder method is well described by some authors [6-7].

Basically, in Debye Scherrer powder method there is scattering of X-ray with monochromatic wavelength by a powdered specimen. This instrument consists of three basic sections, (i) an X-ray tube, (ii) a sample holder, and (iii) an X-ray detector.

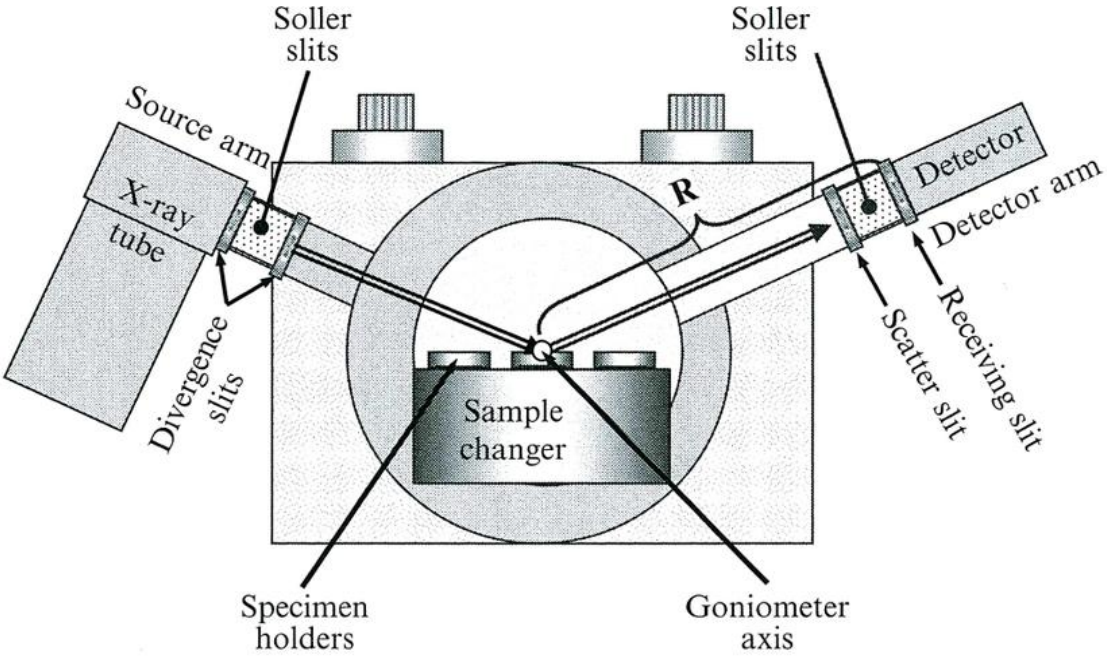


Figure 3: Powder X-Ray Diffraction

X-rays are produced in a cathode ray tube by thermionic emission of electrons by heating a filament, on the application of high accelerating voltage electrons accelerates with high speed toward a target metal and bombarding the target material with electrons.

When electrons moving with high speed collide with the target metal, it transfers its mechanical energy to target metal electrons and become excited. After some time, these excited electrons come back to ground state by realising the energy in the form of X-ray spectra. These spectra consist of different lines with different wavelength, K_α and K_β. K_α consists, in part, of $K_{\alpha 1}$ and $K_{\alpha 2}$. $K_{\alpha 1}$ has a slightly shorter wavelength and twice the intensity as $K_{\alpha 2}$. These specific wavelengths are the characteristic of the target metal. In the generation of X-ray, the anode is made of copper, cobalt and molybdenum. The most commonly used material is a copper which produces 1.54 A^0 and 1.39 A^0 wavelengths X-ray. The basic purpose of the monochromatization is to obtain a diffraction pattern from a single, unique wavelength.

A well grinded fine powder of the crystal which is to be investigated put in the sample holder - a small disc like container and its surface carefully flattened. The X-rays are coming from source are well collimated and incident to the sample. The basic law, which is used in the x-ray diffraction phenomenon, is the Bragg's Law and the equation is as follows;

$\lambda\, n = 2\, d \sin\theta$

Where, λ - wavelength of the emitted x-ray

n - Integer representing the order of the diffraction peak.

d – Inter planer spacing

θ - Scattering angle

Below figures shows a ray diagram of x-ray diffraction.

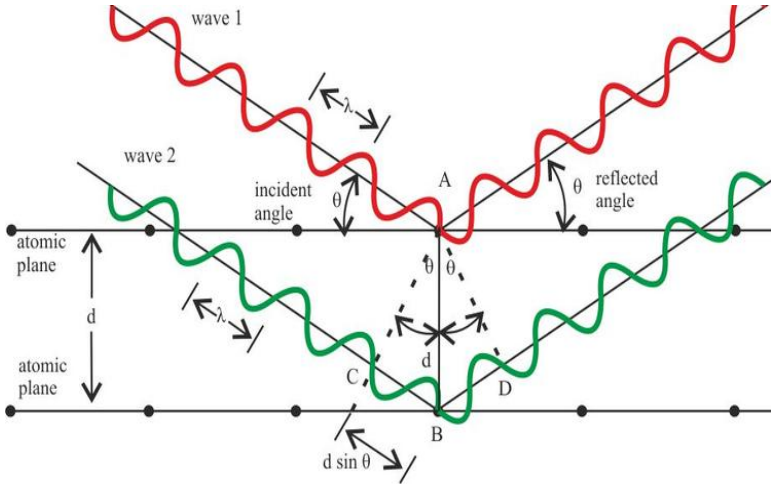


Figure 4: X-ray Diffraction from an atomic plane

The X-ray radiations are incident on a rotating sample at an angle θ placed on a small circular plate. After the incidence, X-rays get diffracted. These diffracted X-ray is collected on a photographic detector which is rotated at angle 2θ, and record diffracted pattern. Once we know interplaner spacing, then lattice parameters can be found out. The relation between interplaner spacing and miller indices and lattice parameters [9] are given in below table

System	**Lattice Parameters**	**Interplaner spacing**
Cubic	$a = b = c, \alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^0$	$\frac{1}{d^2} = \frac{h^2 + k^2 + l^2}{a^2}$
Tetragonal	$a = b \neq c, \alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^0$	$\frac{1}{d^2} = \frac{h^2 + k^2}{a^2} + \frac{l^2}{c^2}$

Orthorhombic	$a \neq b \neq c, \alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^0$	$\frac{1}{d^2} = \frac{h^2}{a^2} + \frac{k^2}{b^2} + \frac{l^2}{c^2}$
Hexagonal	$a = b \neq c, \alpha = \beta = 90^0, \gamma = 120^0$	$\frac{1}{d^2} = \frac{4}{3}\left(\frac{h^2 + hk + k^2}{a^2}\right) + \frac{l^2}{c^2}$
Rhombohedral	$a = b = c, \alpha = \beta = \gamma \neq 90^0$	$\frac{1}{d^2} = \frac{1}{V^2}(T_{11}h^2 + T_{22}k^2 + T_{33}l^2 + 2[T_{12}hk + T_{23}kl + T_{31}hl])$ $T_{11} = b^2c^2sin^2\alpha,\ T_{22} = a^2c^2sin^2\beta, T_{33} = a^2b^2sin^2\gamma$ $T_{12} = abc^2(cos\alpha cos\beta - cos\gamma),$ $T_{23} = a^2bc(cos\gamma cos\beta - cos\alpha)$ $T_{31} = ab^2c(cos\alpha cos\gamma - cos\beta)$ $V = abc\sqrt{1 - cos^2\alpha - cos^2\beta - cos^2\gamma + 2cos\alpha cos\beta cos\gamma}$
Monoclinic	$a \neq b \neq c, \alpha = \beta = 90^0 \neq \gamma$	
Triclinic	$a \neq b \neq c, \alpha \neq \beta \neq \gamma \neq 90^0$	

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SYNTHESIS METHODS OF SEVEN MEMBERED HETEROCYCLIC COMPOUNDS

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Abstract:

The creation of seven-membered heterocyclic compounds, especially the various uses of benzodiazepines in the medical and pharmaceutical fields, is a fascinating area of study. These compounds stand out due to their unique structural features and have attracted a lot of attention for their effectiveness in treating a range of medical issues. Researchers are particularly focused on exploring bis-benzodiazepine derivatives that come from cyclic imides and succinimides, aiming to boost the therapeutic potential and effectiveness of these derivatives. This chapter offers a concise look at these advancements and what they could mean for future developments in pharmaceuticals.

Keywords: Seven Membered Heterocyclic Compounds, Synthesis Methods, Cyclic Imides

Introduction:

Benzodiazepines are a class of psychoactive drugs characterized by their unique chemical structure, which includes a benzene ring fused to a diazepine ring system. These compounds belong to a broader category of seven-membered heterocyclic compounds that contain two nitrogen atoms within their molecular framework. The discovery of benzodiazepines was serendipitous [1] occurring in 1955 when scientist Leo Steinbach first identified these compounds. Subsequently, the initial synthesis of a benzodiazepine derivative was accomplished by the pharmaceutical company Hoffmann-LaRoche. Over the years, numerous biologically active agents have been developed from the benzodiazepine structure, including Clobazam [2], Arfendazam [3], and Lofendazam [4], which are particularly significant in the field of Pharmaco-psychiatry for their therapeutic applications in treating various psychiatric disorders.

Benzodiazepine derivatives, often referred to as tranquilizers, play a significant role in the medical field due to their ability to enhance the effects of the neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) at its receptors [5]. This interaction leads to a range of therapeutic effects, including sedation [6], hypnosis [7], antidepressant properties [8], and anxiolytic effects

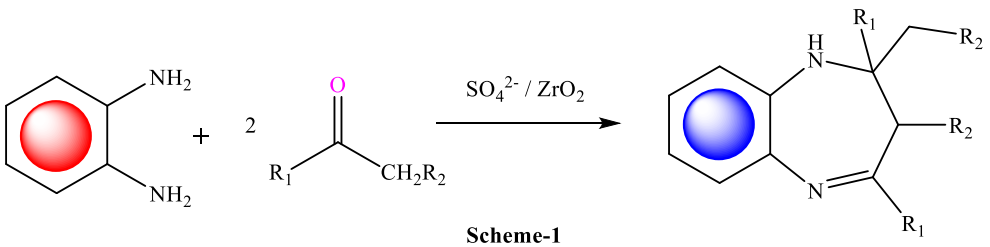
[9], making them versatile agents in treating various psychological and physiological conditions. One of the most widely recognized benzodiazepines is diazepam, which is primarily utilized in the management of Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD). Additionally, these compounds are effective in addressing insomnia, particularly when it arises from prolonged anxiety and mental agitation. Beyond their anxiolytic and sedative properties, benzodiazepines also exhibit muscle relaxant effects [10] and have been employed in the treatment of auditory hallucinations, showcasing their multifaceted applications in psychiatric and neurological disorders [11].

In this chapter, we take a closer look at the synthesis methods of seven-membered heterocyclic compounds, with a particular emphasis on the various ways benzodiazepines are used in the medical and pharmaceutical industries. These compounds stand out because of their unique structural features and have gained a lot of attention for their effectiveness in treating a range of issues, such as anxiety disorders, insomnia, and seizure disorders. The adaptability of benzodiazepines is highlighted by their capacity to influence the central nervous system, offering therapeutic advantages while also posing challenges like dependency and tolerance. By thoroughly exploring their chemical characteristics, how they work, and their clinical uses, this chapter seeks to shed light on the vital role benzodiazepines play in modern medicine, along with the ongoing research aimed at improving their application and reducing potential side effects.

Literature Survey:

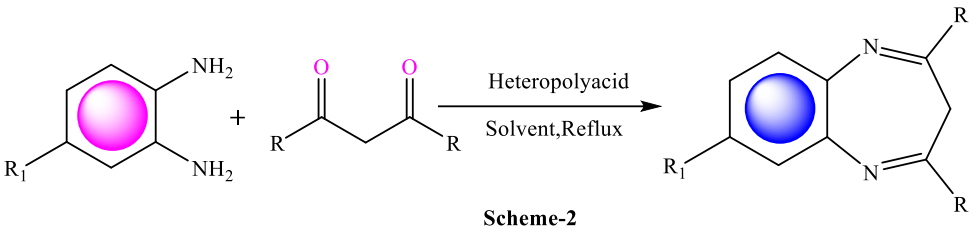
In this section, we dive into various synthesis methods for seven-membered heterocyclic synthones, complete with reaction schemes that showcase the catalysts used and the specific reaction media involved. These methods play a vital role in crafting complex organic compounds, enabling the formation of heterocycles through a variety of pathways. The choice of catalyst can greatly affect how efficient and selective the reaction is, while the reaction medium often determines how well the starting materials dissolve and react. By exploring these synthesis strategies, researchers can uncover ways to optimize conditions for producing seven-membered heterocycles, which hold significant value in pharmaceuticals and materials science. Each reaction scheme sheds light on the mechanistic pathways and emphasizes the relationship between the catalyst and the medium, offering a thorough understanding of the synthetic landscape for these fascinating compounds.

Method due to Reddy *et al.*[12]



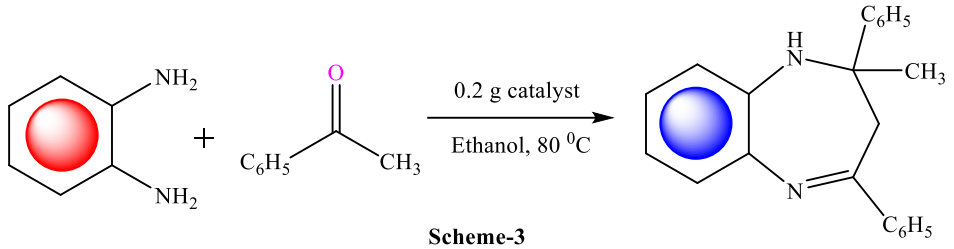
Scheme-1

Method due to Heravi *et al.* [13]



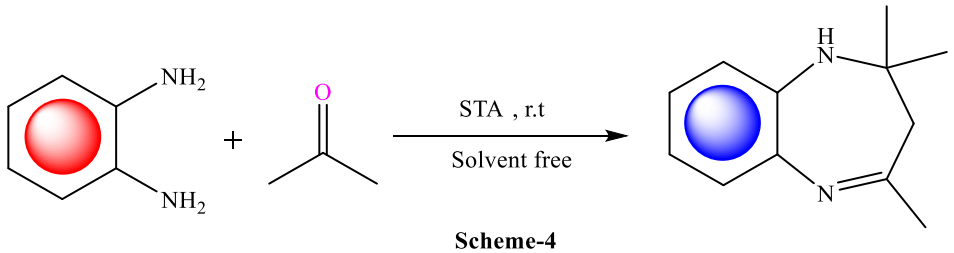
Scheme-2

Method due to Rekha *et al.* [14]



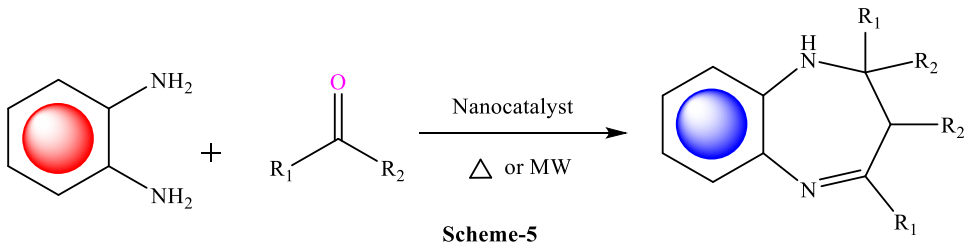
Scheme-3

Method due to Rajput *et al.* [15]



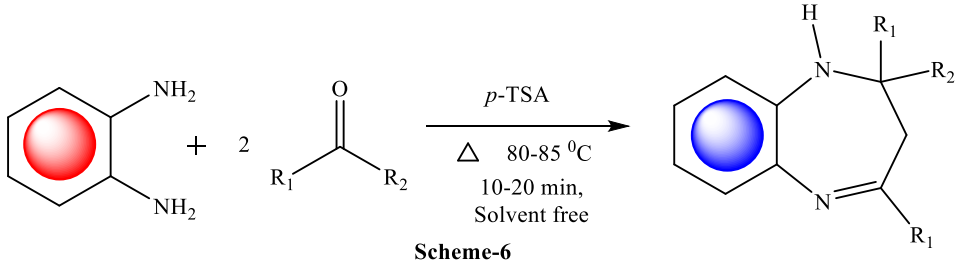
Scheme-4

Method due to Gondaliya *et al.* [16]



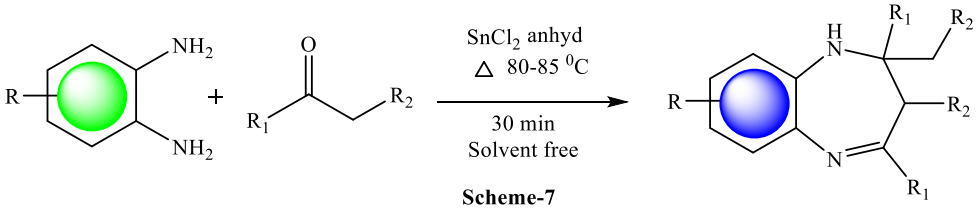
Scheme-5

Method due to Pasha and Jayashankara [17]



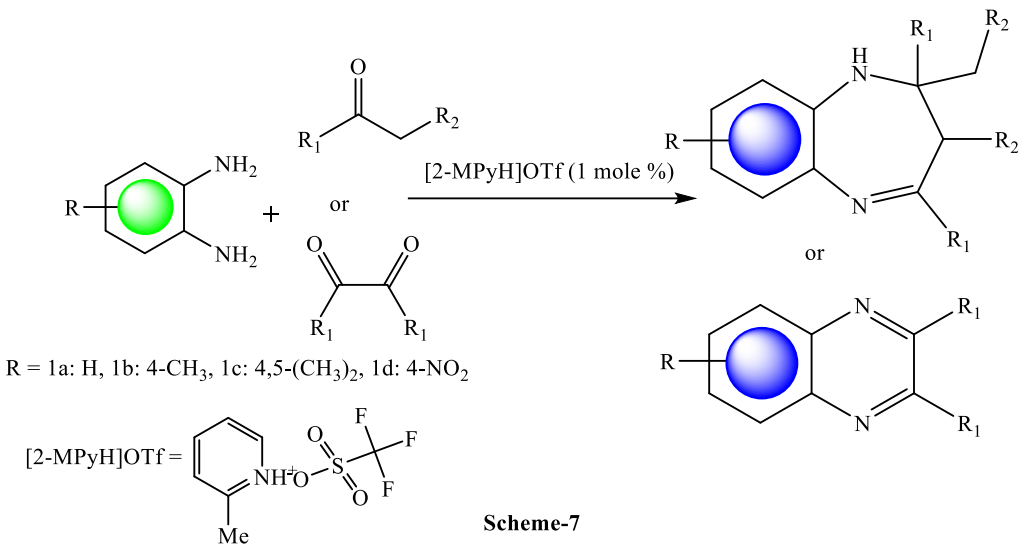
Scheme-6

Method due to Sharma *et al.* [18]



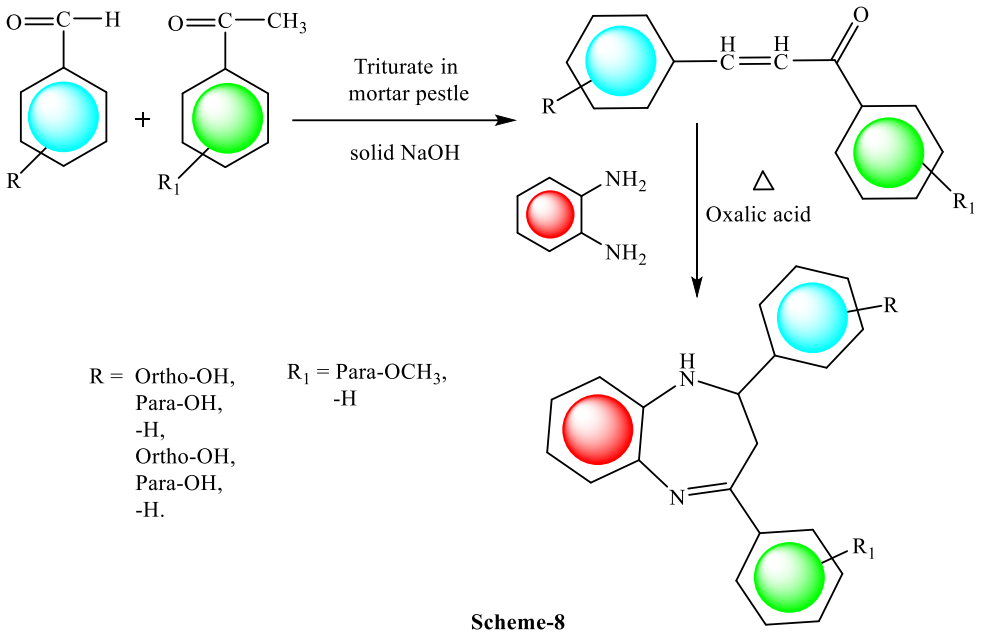
Scheme-7

Method due to Heshmatollah *et al.* [19]



Scheme-7

Method due to Nachiket *et al.* [20]



Scheme-8

Conclusion with Discussion:

The literature review shows that since 1977, seven-membered heterocyclic compounds from the benzodiazepine family have been some of the most commonly prescribed medications around the globe. With their wide-ranging applications in both medical and pharmaceutical fields, researchers have been motivated to delve into the synthesis of bis-benzodiazepine derivatives that come from bis-heterocyclic chalcones of N-phenyl substituted succinimides. This effort aims to boost the therapeutic potential and effectiveness of benzodiazepine derivatives, possibly leading to new compounds that could tackle various medical issues. The synthesis process involves complex chemical reactions and modifications, which are essential for creating derivatives that might show enhanced pharmacological properties, thus playing a part in the ongoing progress of medicinal chemistry and drug development.

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Bhumi Publishing, India
November 2025

THE UNSEEN ALLY:
UNDERSTANDING ARBUSCULAR MYCORRHIZAL (AM) FUNGI

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Abstract:
The ubiquitous partnership, though frequently ignored 'neath the pedosphere, betwixt Arbuscular Mycorrhizal (AM) Fungi and flora epitomizes a mutualistic symbiosis of paramount ecological import, whereby these soil-inhabiting microorganism effectively augment the absorptive efficacy for nutriant and aqua in approx. 80 of terrene plant species, inclusive vast majority agronomical cultivars; the fungus, acting a extention-cord for the root system, accept in exchange essential carbohydrate metabolites from phototrophic host, a primordial transaction crucial for ecosystemic robustness and fundamental to the potential for sustainable cultivation methods in a unpredictable future.

Keywords: Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi, Natural Biofertilizer, Stress Resilience, Synthetic Nutrients

Introduction:

The symbiotic association between plants and microorganisms represents one of the most enduring biological partnerships on Earth, persisting for hundreds of millions of years. Among these, the relationship between Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) and early land plants stands out as a transformative ecological milestone. AMF are believed to have played a critical role in the successful colonization of terrestrial habitats by primitive embryophytes nearly 450 million years ago. By facilitating essential nutrient acquisition, particularly phosphorus, these fungi enabled plants to establish themselves on dry, nutrient-poor substrates that dominated early terrestrial environments. This ancient collaboration not only shaped the geomorphological development of land ecosystems but also influenced the evolutionary trajectory of terrestrial life. Today, AMF continue to function as a globally distributed and ecologically indispensable mutualistic system, supporting plant health, enhancing soil stability, and sustaining biodiversity across diverse natural landscapes.

The term *mycorrhiza* originates from the Greek words for “fungus” and “root,” reflecting the intimate integration of fungal structures with plant roots. Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) derive their name from the tiny, intricately branched, tree-like structures called arbuscules that they form within the root cortex of host plants. These arbuscules greatly increase the contact

surface between the fungus and plant cells, establishing a highly efficient interface for nutrient exchange. At this critical biological junction, minerals—especially phosphorus—are transferred to the plant, while carbohydrates flow to the fungus, initiating a mutually beneficial physiochemical partnership essential to terrestrial ecosystems.

This isn't just a friendly arrangement; it's an economic one:

- The mycorrhizal symbiont a fungic entity accrues for the plant host an augmentation of its rhizospheric absorptive domain through a profuse, complexly interwove network of miniscule, capillary-like hyphal filaments, exceeding the reach of the plant's paltry root architecture. It's prime function be the specialized prospecting, mobilization, and vectoring of crucial, oft-immobile soil nutriment elements, conspicuously Phosphate (P) typically soil-bound as well as Nitrogen (N), aqua, and miscellaneous trace micronutrients.
- The host vegetation, being photoautotrophic, substantially furnishes its fungal partner, an obligate biotroph which is consequently incapable of *de novo* biosynthesis of carbon compounds, with a requisite *quota* of precious reduced carbon (namely, diverse sucroses and lipoidal moieties) *via* mechanisms of photosynthetic efflux that sustain the mycelial proliferation of the symbiont.

Beyond Nutrition: AM Fungi as Guardians

The benefits of AM fungi extend far beyond simple nutrient transfer, positioning them as true guardians of plant health and the environment:

- **Stress Resilience:** The mycorrhizal fungal symbionts function as some biological buffering agents, enabling the host organism's physiological resilience against diverse environmental adversities, which including xeric stress, pedological hyper-salinization and the bioavailability of recalcitrant metallic ions. By augmentation of aquiferous absorptive efficiency and subtle modulation of innate defense mechanisms, these endophytes *do pre-emptively* condition the phenotype towards acclimation for periods of environmental duress.
- **Soil Health Architects:** The hyphal filament, a microscopical weft, interdigitates with terrestrial particulate matter, hence engendering stabilizational matrices, aggregates, this thereby ameliorate the edaphic configuration which results in augmentated hydraulic retention, anti-erosional property, and optimal gaseous O2/CO2 permeability, these are all prognosticative of a robust and productive ground. Furthermore, they excrete a tenacious glycoproteinaceous complex, glomalin, which is a principle contributor to subterranean carbonaceous sequestration.
- **Protection from Pests:** The arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi's presence *could* incite the host flora's innate defensive *pathways*, consequently rendering the vegetal life-form less palatability to, or more impervious against, specific herbivorous insects or deleterious microorganism.

The Human Connection: From Ecology to Agriculture

Though invisible, Arbuscular Mycorrhizal (AM) fungi are vital. Their well-being directly underpins the health of our global food supply and is intrinsically linked to the sustainability of the Earth.

The routine application of high-dose chemical fertilizers, particularly soluble phosphorus, often renders arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi superfluous or metabolically inactive. Since the plant can readily absorb abundant P directly at the root zone, it ceases to invest carbon—the fungal "payment"—into the symbiotic relationship. This chemical reliance effectively disconnects the ancient host-fungus partnership, leading to complete plant dependence on synthetic nutrients.

The realization of this interconnectedness has led to a major shift toward sustainable practices:

- **Biofertilizers:** The use of AM fungal spores as a natural biofertilizer is helping scientists inoculate crops and, in doing so, significantly reduce the requirement for synthetic fertilizers.
- **Farming Practices:** To safeguard the existing, vital fungal networks woven throughout the soil, conservation practices such as reduced tillage (which minimizes soil disturbance) and crop rotation are indispensable.
- **Climate Change Mitigation:** Arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi are small but mighty climate allies, actively drawing atmospheric carbon into the soil by boosting glomalin production and improving soil aggregation. This process is a vital part of combating global warming.

Conclusion:

Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi, they ain't just tiny microbes; they are the unseen engine what drives every land ecosystem. This partnership, it be so old and so elegant, sustained life for thousands of years, and it's got the key to a much stronger future. We should shift our perspective soil ain't just a static place for roots, no! It's a living network a "wood-wide web" of fungus connections. Recognizing this, we can put in place farming and land management practices that will nurture this symbiosis is essential.

The potential of AM fungi is embraced means the reducing of our reliance on unsustainable chemical inputs, healthier, carbon-rich soils are builded, and more stress-resilient food grown. As we strive to feed growing global population in face of climate instability, understanding and supporting our fungal allies are not just good ecology it is essential for our own well-being.

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ISBN 978-93-48620-50-7
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