

## Mladen Mercep, M.D., Ph.D.

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### **Profile:**

Committed and innovative entrepreneurial scientist with strong skills in intuitive and analytical thinking, research management, communication, strategic planning, and technical skills in inflammation/immunology and drug discovery, with a good understanding of new drug development. Demonstrated ability to create, develop, inspire and lead by example successful cross-functional teams in the discovery/pre-clinical setting (established an industrial research group in Switzerland and an inflammation/immunology department in Croatia). Readiness to accept new challenges. Consistent high performer in various cultural settings including Croatia, USA, Germany, Switzerland, UK and Israel.

### **Major Achievements:**

- Published in prestigious journals (Science, Nature, J. Exp. Med., etc.) with about 1500 citations
- Established inflammation/immunology therapeutic area from ground-up
- One molecule in Phase II testing
- Successfully presented work at scientific and business conferences, attracting out-licensing offers and the company buy-out
- Triggered a \$15.000.000 milestone payment
- Published 30 patents
- Awarded the highest Croatian state medal for inventiveness
- Established bio-tech company Amalgen d.o.o.

### **Career History:**

- February 2010 – present      **Children’s Hospital Srebrnjak**, Zagreb, Croatia  
*Head, Department for translational medicine*
- April-June, October 2010 – present      **Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research (SIAF)**, Davos, Switzerland  
*Guest scientist*

Made and application for “Center of Competence for Translational Medicine” that the Croatian Ministry of Science selected for further development through the EU IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance)/Structural funds and together with the Ministry

of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship provided assistance in preparing Feasibility Study and part of the Cost-benefit analysis. The value of the project is about €45.000.000. The idea is to have top-notch research capabilities in inflammation-immunology and be able to perform integrated research spanning comprehensive biology capabilities (bioinformatics, *in vitro* cell biology, molecular biology and biochemistry, clean lab for cell-based therapies, and animal facility (rodent disease models, toxicology testing)), chemistry and bioanalytical services complemented with a dedicated clinical trial unit and excellent clinical facilities covering asthma/allergy disease, ENT, cardiology and rheumatology. If things go well the project will be in full function in 2015. To enable start of key research activities earlier, I've made a business plan that received positive evaluation and was approved for financing by the Investment board of the Business Innovation Center of Croatia – BICRO Ltd. The approved grant is 14.100.000 HRK (approximately €1,880.000).

In 2010 I've established a start-up company (Amalgen d.o.o.), and initiated collaboration with the Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research (SIAF) in Davos on the role of the innate immune system and ways for its modulation in various diseases, but primarily in severe asthma, COPD and CNS diseases. To that end, I've obtained the 1.800.000 HRK grant (approximately €240.000) while SIAF will invest the same amount.

2006-2010        **GlaxoSmithKline Research Center Zagreb Ltd.**, Zagreb, Croatia  
(following acquisition of the Pliva Research Institute Ltd. in May 2006)

*Strategy Director and Biology IBD (inflammatory bowel disease) project leader (from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007); member of the Research Center Leadership team; member of the Drug Discovery Matrix (DDM) Team*

Most of my efforts were devoted to bringing one of our molecules into clinical testing for the IBD indication. As a biology project leader I planned all biological experiments (from mode of action studies to *in vivo* efficacy testing in several models of IBD in mice and rats) and wrote the biology part of the Investigators brochure. It was very gratifying when this molecule entered Phase I testing in late 2008 and then successfully completed it in the summer of 2009. Phase II started in October 2009.

As a member of the DDM, I was involved in decision-making for all the Center's programs.

- 1997-2006        **Pliva Pharmaceutical Industry, Research Institute**, Zagreb, Croatia  
*Director Therapeutic area inflammation/immunology (1997-2004); Director, Inflammation/Immunology Programs (2004-2005); Senior Scientific Advisor (2005-2006)*

I joined the Pliva Research Institute in 1997 as Director of Therapeutic Area (TA) Inflammation/Immunology and established the TA, initiating inflammation/immunology research activities. The TA was organized as a highly integrated research unit of about 40 biologists and chemists covering molecular biology, biochemistry, *in vitro* biology and an *in vivo* group (dealing mostly with various models of asthma, rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease, including the creation of a transgenic facility). I recruited all employees of the TA and ensured their training and further development as well as initiating and directly supervising all TA research programs. The TA encompassed all resources up to the stage of candidate confirmation (exhibiting activity in a disease model that was comparable to or better than standard). I organized PK and toxicological testing prior to pre-clinical candidate nomination and ensured the appropriateness of candidate

molecules to enter preclinical development. I planned preclinical development and negotiated with collaborating companies and institutions. I had budget responsibility of \$4-6 million. Twenty-nine patent applications were published.

On January 1, 2004 the Research Institute was spun off as a separate company and the organization changed into a matrix. I became Director of Inflammation/Immunology Programs and was responsible for scientific planning, optimal functioning and budgeting of inflammation/immunology programs.

From January 1, 2005 as a Senior Scientific Advisor I was responsible for preclinical and clinical scientific input to the programs in the Research Institute with emphasis on the inflammation/immunology programs, helping newly appointed program leaders in setting their research agendas, planning experiments and analyzing the data, advising on how to overcome technical, scientific and interpersonal issues, suggesting possible secondary indications etc. I especially enjoyed interactions within the project teams when structure-activity-relationships were analyzed and synthesis of new molecules planned.

- 1992-1997                      Ciba/Novartis, Inflammation/Rheumatoid Arthritis (Molecular Biology Resources, Asthma/Allergy Basel, **Switzerland**)

*Project Team Leader*

Established and expanded a new group dealing with signal transduction pathways in T cells, developed tools (cloned, expressed and purified several tyrosine kinases) and screening tests and performed limited screening of about 40,000 compounds, maintained project progression and integrity throughout the organizational changes, presented the project at internal review meetings, helped organize and gave presentation at an indication meeting review with external scientific leaders.

- 1990-1992                      German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Institute for Tumor Immunology, Heidelberg, **Germany**

*Research Scientist*

Investigated the mechanisms of CD95 (Apo-1/Fas) induced apoptosis employing a wide range of *in vitro* techniques from cell culture, protein biochemistry and standard molecular biology methods. Suggested truncation of the intracellular part of CD95, an approach that was used to discover the death domain by an independent group.

- 1986-1990                      National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, Biological Response Modifiers Program, Bethesda, MD, **USA**

*Fogarty Visiting Fellow (1986-1989), Visiting Associate (1989-1990)*

Worked on activation induced growth inhibition and cell death by apoptosis, gaining experience in cell culture, signal transduction, cell cycle and apoptosis. This resulted in a number of well cited publications. I also tested whether activation via non-clonally expressed activation molecules could be employed in the treatment of blood malignancies on the mouse tumor model systems *in vivo*.

- 1985-1986                      Army Service, Medical Corps

**Awards and honors:**

1. 2004 Best Abstract, XXI. European Colloquium on Heterocyclic Chemistry, Sopron, Hungary;
2. Order of “Danica Hrvatska” with Nikola Tesla’s image for outstanding Merit in Inventiveness presented by the President of the Republic of Croatia, Zagreb 2006.

### **Education and exams:**

- 1979-1985      **MD**, Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb, **Croatia**
- 1982-1982      Summer Student, Weizmann Institute of Sciences, Rehovot, **Israel**
- 1981-1981      Summer Student, Max-Planck Institute for Immunology, Tübingen, **Germany**
- 1995              Croatian medical license exam
- 2001              **PhD**, Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia
- 2000- 2002      Postgraduate Course in Pharmaceutical Medicine, University of Wales, Cardiff
- 1997-present      various management courses

### **Strengths** (according to an independent evaluation by GITP International, Belgium):

1. Operationally goal-oriented
2. Actions, not talk
3. Very strong analytically, open to new ideas
4. Courage to accept new challenges
5. Inspirational with high level professionals and providing ample space
6. Performance-oriented, a hard worker.

### **Membership in professional organizations:**

- Croatian Medical Association

### **Teaching experience:**

- 2008-present      Associate professor (immunology), Faculty of Medicine, University of Osijek, Osijek, Croatia (adjunct position)
- 2004-present      Assistant professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia (adjunct position)

Graduate Course “Musculoskeletal diseases” – problem based learning, Medical Faculty, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia.

Postgraduate courses at Medical Faculty, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia:

1. Control of the immune response,
2. Asthma & allergy, and
3. Biotechnology and discovery of medicines.

Postgraduate courses at Medical Faculty, University of Osijek, Osijek, Croatia:

1. Clinical trials
2. Pathophysiologic mechanisms of immune response

Postgraduate courses at Medical Faculty, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia:

1. Drug discovery and development

**Personal:**

- Married with two children
- Fluent in English and Croatian, passive knowledge of German

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Mercep M, JA Bluestone, PD Noguchi, JD Ashwell (1988) Inhibition of transformed T cell growth in vitro by monoclonal antibodies directed against distinct activating molecules. **J. Immunol.** 140:324-335;
2. Sussman JJ, M Mercep, T Saito, RN Germain, E Bonvini, JD Ashwell (1988) Dissociation of phosphoinositide hydrolysis and  $Ca^{2+}$  fluxes from the biological responses of a T cell hybridoma. **Nature** 334:625-628;
3. Mercep M, JS Bonifacino, P Garcia-Morales, LE Samelson, RD Klausner, JD Ashwell (1988) T cell CD3-zeta-eta heterodimer expression and coupling to phosphoinositide hydrolysis. **Science** 242:571-574;
4. Mercep M, PD Noguchi, JD Ashwell (1989) The cell cycle block and lysis of an activated T cell hybridoma are distinct processes with different  $Ca^{2+}$  requirements and sensitivity to cyclosporine A. **J. Immunol.** 142:4085-4092;
5. Weissman AM, SJ Frank, DG Orloff, M Mercep, JD Ashwell, RD Klausner (1989) Role of the zeta chain in the expression of the T cell antigen receptor: genetic reconstitution studies. **EMBO J.** 8:3651-3656;
6. Mercep M, AM Weissman, SJ Frank, RD Klausner, JD Ashwell (1989) Activation-driven programmed cell death and T cell receptor zeta-eta expression. **Science** 246:1162-1165;
7. Frank SJ, BB Niklinska, DG Orloff, M Mercep, JD Ashwell, RD Klausner (1990) Structural mutations of the T cell receptor zeta chain and its role in T cell activation. **Science** 249:174-177;
8. Zacharchuk CM, M Mercep, PK Chakraborti, SS Simons, Jr., JD Ashwell (1990) Programmed T lymphocyte death: Cell activation- and steroid- induced pathways are mutually antagonistic. **J. Immunol.** 145:4037- 4045;
9. Zacharchuk CM, M Mercep, CH June, AM Weissman, JD Ashwell (1991) Variations in thymocyte susceptibility to clonal deletion during ontogeny: implications for neonatal tolerance. **J. Immunol.** 147:460- 465;
10. Zacharchuk CM, M Mercep and JD Ashwell (1991) Thymocyte activation and death: a mechanism for molding the T cell repertoire. **Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci.** 636:52-70;
11. Yang Y, M Mercep, CF Ware and JD Ashwell (1995) Fas and activation-induced Fas ligand mediate apoptosis of T cell hybridomas: Inhibition of Fas ligand expression by retinoic acid and glucocorticoids. **J. Exp. Med.** 181:1673-1682;
12. Berchtold S, S Volarevic, R Moriggl, M Mercep and B Groner (1998) Dominant negative variants of the SHP-2 tyrosine phosphatase inhibit prolactin activation of Jak2 (Janus kinase 2) and induction of Stat5 (Signal transducer and activator of transcription 5)-dependent transcription. **Mol. Endocrin.** 12:556-567;

13. Hamersak Z, E Ljubovic, M Mercep, M Mesic and V Sunjic (2001) Chemoenzymatic synthesis of all four cytoazone stereoisomers. **Synthesis** 13:1989-1992;
14. Sulic S, L Panic, M Barkic, M Mercep, M Uzelac and S Volarevic (2005) Inactivation of S6 ribosomal protein gene in T lymphocytes activates a p53-dependent checkpoint response. **Genes and Development** 19:3070-3082;
15. Pesic D, I Ozimec Landek, M Mercep and M Mesic (2006) Synthesis of 1-oxa-dibenzo[*e,h*]azulenes. **J. Het. Chem.** 43:749-754;
16. Hrvacic B, B Bosnjak, M Tudja, M Mesic, M Mercep (2006) Applicability of an ultrasonic nebulization system for the airway delivery of beclomethasone dipropionate in a murine model of asthma. **Pharm. Res.** 23:1765-1775.
17. Pesic D, I Ozimec Landek, A Cikos, B Metelko, V Gabelica, B Stanic, M Mercep and M Mesic (2007) Synthesis of 2-formyl-1-aza-dibenzo[*e,h*]azulenes. **J. Het. Chem.** 44:1129-1133.
18. Ozimec Landek I, D Pesic, P Novak, B Stanic, B Hrvacic, K Nujic, M Mercep and M Mesic (2009) 2,8-Dithia-dibenzo[*e,h*]azulenes and their 8-oxa analogues: synthesis and anti-inflammatory activity. **Heterocycles** 78:2489-2507.
19. Rupcic R, M Modric, A Hutinec, A Cikos, B Stanic, M Mesic, D Pesic and M Mercep (2010) Novel tetracyclic imidazole derivatives: synthesis, dynamic NMR study, and anti-inflammatory evaluation. **J. Het. Chem.** 47:640-656.
21. Ozimec Landek I, Dijana Pesic, Rudolf Trojko, Maja Devcic Bogdanovic, Mladen Mercep, and Milan Mesic (2010) Synthesis of Naphtho[2,3-*b*]- and Naphtho[1,2-*b*]-fused Thieno[2,3-*d*][1]benzoxepins and Thieno[2,3-*d*][1]benzothiepins. **Heterocycles** 81:2269-2290.
22. Ozimec Landek I, D Pesic, M Mercep, B Stanic and M Mesic (2011) Synthesis and anti-inflammatory activity of 8*H*-1-thia-8-aza-dibenzo[*e,h*]azulenes. **J. Het. Chem.** 48(4):856-863.
23. Grgurevic L, Macek B, Mercep M, Jelic M, Smoljanovic T, Erjavec I, Dumic-Cule I, Prgomet S, Durdevic D, Vnuk D, Lipar M, Stejskal M, Kufner V, Brkljacic J, Maticic D, Vukicevic S (2011) Bone morphogenetic protein (BMP)1-3 enhances bone repair. **Biochem Biophys Res Commun.** 408:25-31.

## PATENTS AND PATENT APPLICATIONS

Published and/or granted patent applications:

1. Mercep M, M Mesic, D Pesic, Z Zupanovic and B Hrvacic (2000) Thienodibenzoazulene compounds as tumor necrosis factor inhibitors (WO 01/87890 A1),
2. Mercep M, M Mesic, L Tomaskovic, M Komac, B Hrvacic and S Markovic (2001) Conjugates of immune cell specific macrolide compounds with anti-inflammatory compounds for improved cellular targeting of anti-inflammatory therapy (WO 02/055531 A1),
3. Mercep M, M Mesic, D Pesic and I Ozimec (2002) 2-Thia-dibenzoazulenes as inhibitors of tumor necrosis factor production and intermediates for the preparation thereof (WO 03/084962 A1),
4. Mercep M, M Mesic, D Pesic, I Ozimec and R Trojko (2002) 1- or 3-Thia-benzonaphthoazulenes as inhibitors of tumor necrosis factor production and intermediates for the preparation thereof (WO 03/084961 A1),
5. Mercep M, M Mesic, D Pesic and I Benko (2002) 1-Oxa-3-aza-dibenzoazulenes as inhibitors of tumor necrosis factor production and intermediates for the production thereof (WO 03/084964 A1),
6. Mercep M, M Mesic, M Modric, D Pesic and D Kidemet (2002) 1-Thia-3-aza-dibenzoazulenes as inhibitors of tumor necrosis factor production and intermediates for the preparation thereof (WO 03/099827 A1),
7. Mercep M, M Mesic and D Pesic (2002) 1,2-Diaza-dibenzoazulenes as inhibitors of tumor necrosis factor production and intermediates for the preparation thereof (WO 03/099822 A2),
8. Mercep M, M Mesic and D Pesic (2002) 1-Aza-dibenzoazulenes as inhibitors of tumor necrosis factor production and intermediates for the preparation thereof (WO 03/097648 A1),
9. Mercep M, M Milan and D Pesic (2002) 1-Oxa-dibenzoazulenes as inhibitors of tumor necrosis factor production and intermediates for the preparation thereof (WO 03/097649 A2),
10. Mercep M, M Mesic, R Rupcic and D Pesic (2002) 1,3-Diaza-dibenzoazulenes as inhibitors of tumor necrosis factor production and intermediates for the preparation thereof (WO 03/099823 A2),
11. Mercep M, M Mesic, L Tomaskovic, S Markovic, O Makaruha and V Poljak (2002) New compounds, compositions and methods for treatment of inflammatory diseases and conditions (WO 2004/005310 A2),
12. Mercep M, M Mesic, L Tomaskovic and S Markovic (2002) Novel nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory substances, compositions and methods for their use (WO 2004/005309 A2),
13. Mercep M, M Mesic, L Tomaskovic and S Markovic (2002) Novel compounds, compositions as carriers for steroid/non-steroid anti-inflammatory, antineoplastic and antiviral active molecules (WO 2004/005313 A2),



14. Mercep M, M Mesic, D Pesic and I Benko (2003) Thiadibenzoazulene derivatives for the treatment of inflammatory diseases (WO 2004/078763 A1),
15. Mercep M, M Mesic, L Tomaskovic, S Markovic, B Hrvacic, O Makaruha and V Poljak (2003) Macrolide-conjugates with anti-inflammatory activity (WO 2004/094449 A1),
16. Mercep M, M Mesic, B Hrvacic, IJ Elenkov, I Malnar, S Markovic, L Simicic, A Cempuh Klonkay, A Filipovic (2003) Substituted furochromene compounds of antiinflammatory action (WO 2005/010006 A1),
17. Mercep M, M Mesic, B Hrvacic, IJ Elenkov, I Malnar, S Markovic, L Simicic, A Cempuh Klonkay, A Filipovic (2003) Substituted furochromenes, preparation thereof and their antiinflammatory action (WO 2005/010007 A1),
18. Mercep M, M Mesic, D Pesic, I Ozimec Landek, B Hrvacic and B Stanic (2003) Use of 2-thia-dibenzo[e,h]azulenes for the manufacture of pharmaceutical formulations for the treatment and prevention of central nervous system diseases and disorders (WO 2005/041856 A2),
19. Mercep M, M Mesic and D Pesic (2003) Use of 1-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulenes for the manufacture of pharmaceutical formulations for the treatment and prevention of central nervous system diseases and disorders (WO 2005/049011 A1),
20. Mercep M, M Mesic and D Pesic (2003) Use of 1-oxadibenzo[e,h]azulenes for the manufacture of pharmaceutical formulations for the treatment and prevention of central nervous system diseases and disorders (WO 2005/049010 A1),
21. Mercep M, M Mesic and D Pesic (2003) Use of 1,2-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulenes for the manufacture of pharmaceutical formulations for the treatment and prevention of central nervous system diseases and disorders (WO 2005/049015 A1),
22. Mercep M, M Mesic, D Pesic and I Dzapo (2003) Use of 3-aza-1-oxa-dibenzo[e,h]azulenes for the manufacture of pharmaceutical formulations for the treatment and prevention of central nervous system diseases and disorders (WO 2005/049036 A1),
23. Mercep M, M Mesic, M Modric, D Pesic and D Kidemet (2003) Use of 1-thia-dibenzo[e,h]azulenes for the manufacture of pharmaceutical formulations for the treatment and prevention of central nervous system diseases and disorders (WO 2005/049020 A1),
24. Mercep M, M Mesic, R Rupcic, and D Pesic (2003) Use of 1,3-diaza-dibenzo[e,h]azulenes for the manufacture of pharmaceutical formulations for the treatment and prevention of central nervous system diseases and disorders (WO 2005/049016 A1),
25. Mercep M, M Mesic, D Pesic and I Dzapo (2003) Preparation of 1-aza-2-oxa-dibenzo[e,h]azulenes and their use for the manufacture of pharmaceutical formulations for the treatment and prevention of central nervous system diseases and disorders (WO 2005/049623 A1),
26. Mercep M, M Mesic, D Pesic, I Ozimec Landek, R Trojko and R Rupcic (2004) Use of benzonaphthoazulenes for the manufacture of pharmaceutical formulations for the treatment and prevention of central nervous system diseases and disorders (WO 2005/072728 A1),
27. Mercep M, M Mesic, L Tomaskovic and S Markovic (2005) Use of immune cell-specific conjugates for treatment of inflammatory diseases of the gastrointestinal tract (USP Application No. 11/201,685, PCT/IB2005/002406),

28. Mercep M, M Mesic, B Hrvacic, IJ Elenkov and I Malnar (2005) Furochromen derivative with antiinflammatory activity (WO 2005/095411 A1),
29. Mercep M, M Mesic, S Markovic, D Pesic, I Ozimec-Landek, M Komac, O Makaruha-Stegic, S Selmani and L Tomaskovic (2005) Anti-inflammatory macrolide conjugates (WO 2006/075255 A2)
30. Mercep M, M Mesic, D Pesis, R Rupcic and B Stanic (2006). Tetracyclic monoamine reuptake inhibitors for the treatment of CNS diseases and disorders (WO2006/109190A1)

## Oral Presentations at Scientific Meetings

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**72nd Annual meeting, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology**, New Orleans, June 4 - 7, 1990;
2. Mercep M. "*T Lymphocytes and asthma*".  
**Clinical conference – Advances in allergology and clinical immunology**, Inter-university center, Dubrovnik, October 15-17, 1998;
3. Mercep M. "*Lymphokine modulation and diseases*".  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Croatian Congress of Pharmacology with International Participation**, Zagreb, September 18-21, 2001;
4. Mercep M, L Tomaskovic, B Hrvacic, S Markovic, O Makaruha Stegic, V Poljak, M Komac, G Sijan, S Selmani, B Ragac, A Pesut, M Horvatincic, B Bosnjak, M Matijasic, M Vrancic, K Gjuracic, B Stanic, S Stipanivic, D Markovic, Ž Ferencic, M Mesic. "*Sterolides – a new class of potent anti-inflammatory compounds*".  
**12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Inflammation Research Association**, Bolton Landing, NY, October 3-7, 2004;
5. Mercep M. "*Sterolides – a new class of potent anti-inflammatory compounds*".  
**4<sup>th</sup> Croatian Congress of Pharmacology with International Participation**, Split, September 15-18, 2004;
6. Mercep M. "*Sterolides – a new class of potent anti-inflammatory compounds*".  
**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Marcus Evans Discovery Summit**, Montreux, April 25 - 27, 2005;
7. Mercep M. "*Oral therapy for rheumatoid arthritis. New class of TNF- $\alpha$  inhibitors*".  
**6<sup>th</sup> Annual SMI Conference on Anti-Arthritic Agents**, London, May 23-24, 2005.

## Meeting Abstracts

1. Jonathan D Ashwell, Takashi Saito, Ronald N Germain, Ezio Bonvini, Mladen Mercep, Jeffrey J Sussman. "*Dissociation of phosphatidylinositol hydrolysis and increases in intracellular calcium from the biological responses of a T cell hybridoma*". FASEB J. 4:7786, p. A1637,  
**72<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology**, Las Vegas, USA, May 1-5, 1988;
2. Mladen Mercep, Philip D Noguchi, Jonathan D Ashwell. "*Extracellular calcium is required for interleukin 2 secretion but not for activation associated growth inhibition of T cell hybridoma*". FASEB J. 4:8914, p. A1831,  
**72<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology**, Las Vegas, USA, May 1-5, 1988;
3. Renata Rupcic, Marina Modric, Davor Kidemet, Rudolf Trojko, Dijana Pesic, Milan Mesic, Mladen Mercep. "*Synthesis of 8-Oxa-1,3-diaza- and 8-Oxa-1-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulenes*", Abstract book, P8,  
**IX Joint Meeting on Heterocyclic Chemistry**, Urbino, Italy, May 5-9, 2004;
4. Milan Mesic, Dijana Pesic, Ivana Ozimec Landek, Iva Dzapov, Marina Modric, Renata Rupcic, Rudolf Trojko, Mladen Mercep. "*Use of 11-H-Dibenzo[b,f]oxepin-10-one and 11H-Dibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-one as Core Units for the Synthesis of Various Dibenzo[e,h]azulenes*", Abstract book, TP-30, p.161,  
**XXI. European Colloquium on Heterocyclic Chemistry**, Sopron, Hungary, September 12-15, 2004;
5. Boska Hrvacic, Berislav Bosnjak, Milan Mesic, Mladen Mercep. "*Prevention of airway eosinophilia in Balb/c mice asthma model by ultrasonic nebulization of beclomethasone dipropionate (beclo)*".  
**4<sup>th</sup> Croatian Congress of Pharmacology with International Participation**, Split, Croatia, September 15-18, 2004;
6. Mladen Mercep, Linda Tomaskovic, Boska Hrvacic, Stribor Markovic, Oresta Makaruha Stegic, Visnja Poljak, Marijana Komac, Gordana Sijan, Selvira Selmani, Biserka Ragac, Anica Pesut, Milka Horvatincic, Berislav Bosnjak, Mario Matijasic, Mila Vrancic, Kresimir Gjuracic, Barbara Stanic, Siniša Stipanovic, Darko Markovic, Zeljko Ferencic, Milan Mesic. "*Sterolides – A New Class of Potent Anti-inflammatory Compounds*", Inflamm. Res., Supp. 3 (2004):A125, p. S227,  
**IRA, 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference**, Bolton Landing, NY, USA, October 3-7, 2004;
7. Linda Tomaskovic, Marijana Komac, Oresta Makaruha Stegic, Visnja Poljak, Selvira Selmani, Gordana Sijan, Boska Hrvacic, Stribor Markovic, Mladen Mercep, Milan Mesic. "*Sterolides: Design, Synthesis and Biological Evaluation*", Abstract book, Usm B2, p.70,

- XIX Croatian meeting of chemists and chemical engineers**, Opatija, Croatia, April 24-27, 2005;
8. Stribor Markovic, Milan Mesic, Linda Tomaskovic, Marijana Komac, Oresta Makaruha Stegic, Visnja Poljak, Selvira Selmani, Gordana Sijan, Boska Hrvacic, Mladen Mercep. *"Macrolide-Non-Steroidal Antiinflammatory Drug Conjugates"*, Abstract book, Usm B11, p.79,  
**XIX Croatian meeting of chemists and chemical engineers**, Opatija, Croatia, April 24-27, 2005;
  9. Dijana Pesic, Ivana Ozimec Landek, Iva Dzapo, Marina Modric, Renata Rupcic, Rudolf Trojko, Mladen Mercep, Milan Mesic. *"11-H-Dibenzo[b,f]oxepin-10-one and 11-H-Dibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-one as Core Units in the Synthesis of Various Dibenzo[e,h]azulenes"*, Abstract book, Usm B1, p.69,  
**XIX Croatian meeting of chemists and chemical engineers**, Opatija, Croatia, April 24-27, 2005;
  10. Milan Mesic, Davor Kidemet, Roberto Antolovic, Boska Hrvacic, Stribor Markovic, Krunoslav Nujic, Nikola Marjanović, Mladen Mercep. *"N-Phenyl-2-aminopyrimidines as Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors"*, Abstract book, Post B70, p.152,  
**XIX Croatian meeting of chemists and chemical engineers**, Opatija, Croatia, April 24-27, 2005;
  11. Marina Modric, Renata Rupcic, Dijana Pesic, Milan Mesic, Mladen Mercep. *"Synthesis of Various 1,3-Diaza- and 1Thia-3-azadibenzo(e,h)azulenes"*, Abstract book, Post B71, p.153,  
**XIX Croatian meeting of chemists and chemical engineers**, Opatija, Croatia, April 24-27, 2005;
  12. Ivana Ozimec Landek, Dijana Pesic, Barbara Stanic, Boska Hrvacic, Mladen Mercep, Milan Mesic. *"Modifications of 1-Thiadibenzo(e,h)azulenes at Positions 8: Synthesis and Antiinflammatory Activity Thereof"*, Abstract book, Post B72, p.154,  
**XIX Croatian meeting of chemists and chemical engineers**, Opatija, Croatia, April 24-27, 2005;
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