FROM BENCH TO BEDSIDE: TARGETING RECEPTORS IN ASTHMA TREATMENT

Section A -Research paper



## Dr. Bindu Jain<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Vibhor Kumar Jain<sup>2\*</sup>, Md. Ayazuddin Farooqui<sup>3</sup>, Dr. Rita Mourya<sup>4</sup>, Bharti Patel<sup>4</sup>, Dr. Arin Bhattacharya<sup>1</sup>

Professor, JK College of Pharmacy, Bilaspur (C. G.)
Professor, JK Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Bilaspur (C. G.)
Assistant Professor, JK Institute of Pharmacy, Bilaspur (C. G.)
Professor, School of Pharmacy, SAM Global University, Bhopal (M. P.)

Corresponding Author: Dr. Vibhor Kumar Jain Near Gatora Railway Station, Bilaspur Email: <u>vibhupharm@gmail.com</u> doi: 10.48047/ecb/2023.12.si4.915

### ABSTRACT

The pathogenesis and treatment of asthma involve receptors. Receptors are responsible for asthma. These receptors produce inflammatory mediators that constrict the airways. Medications for asthma target these receptors. These receptors are targeted by beta-agonists, anticholinergics, and leukotriene modifiers. These medications reduce asthma attacks and symptoms. As a result, asthma receptor research and drug development have the potential to save millions of lives. Treatments for asthma target the beta-2 and muscarinic receptors. Asthma medications that target leukotriene and interleukin receptors are now available. Clinical and experimental studies suggest that modifying these receptors could result in the development of novel asthma treatments. To surmount asthma medication resistance, novel receptors or subsequent signalling cascades must be targeted.

Research on asthma should investigate receptor-signaling pathway connections. Complex biological interactions can contribute to the development of new therapies and individualised care.

Biomarkers for patient categorization and treatment response will be investigated. If biomarkers could predict treatment response, personalised medicine would progress. Clinicians could tailor treatment plans to enhance outcomes and reduce expenses. Personalised biomarkers with personalised medicine, genetic polymorphisms and inflammatory biomarkers can enhance asthma treatment.

Mechanisms of drug resistance and novel asthma treatments are investigated. Dualtargeted therapies and GRK inhibitors could enhance treatment outcomes.

Receptors contribute to the aetiology and treatment of asthma. Despite industry advances, many concerns persist. Complex asthma processes and novel treatments require further study. Asthma management and therapy present numerous challenges and opportunities for research. Addressing these concerns enhances asthma treatment. Research on asthma management and treatment should address these challenges and opportunities.

Keywords: Asthma, Receptor, inflammation, Target Drug Delivery, Asthma Treatment Plan.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

### Asthma, epidemiology, and brief overview of its pathophysiology.

Asthma is a chronic respiratory disease characterised by episodes of wheezing, coughing, chest constriction, and shortness of breath. It affects people of all ages and is one of the most prevalent chronic diseases in the globe, affecting an estimated 300 million people.1,2

The pathophysiology of asthma is characterised by a complex interaction between genetic, environmental, and immune factors. Exposure to allergens, air pollution, or respiratory infections can activate inflammatory cells in the airways of susceptible individuals, resulting in the release of cytokines, chemokines, and leukotrienes3,4. These mediators induce hyperresponsiveness and mucus production in the airways, resulting in bronchoconstriction and ventilation obstruction.5,6.

The involvement of numerous receptors, including beta-2 adrenergic receptors, muscarinic receptors, leukotriene receptors, and interleukin receptors, is one of the defining characteristics of asthma pathophysiology. These receptors modulate the airway smooth muscle tone, mucous secretion, and inflammation in crucial ways.7,8

In this review, we will examine the structure, function, and role of these receptors in the pathogenesis of asthma, as well as their clinical applications and treatment limitations. In addition, we will discuss receptor cross-talk and downstream signalling pathways activated by these receptors, as well as novel therapeutic approaches targeting novel receptors or signalling pathways. Finally, we will discuss the challenges and opportunities facing future asthma and receptor-based therapy research.

The epidemiology of asthma has changed in recent years, with some trends and alterations in the disease's prevalence and burden. An estimated 300 million people worldwide suffer from asthma, making it a significant public health concern. Asthma prevalence differs greatly based on geographical location, age, gender, and other factors. In developed nations, the prevalence of asthma has stabilised or even decreased in some populations, whereas the burden of asthma is expanding in developing nations.9,10

In recent decades, asthma has become more prevalent in the United States, particularly among minors and certain racial and ethnic groups. According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 25 million Americans suffer from asthma, with females being more susceptible than males. The highest prevalence of asthma is found among non-Hispanic blacks, followed by non-Hispanic whites and Hispanics.11,12.

In Europe, the prevalence of asthma varies greatly between countries, with the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Nordic countries reporting the greatest rates. In recent years, the prevalence of asthma in Europe has been stable or declining in some countries13,14.

Asthma is the primary cause of disability and lost productivity worldwide in terms of disease burden. It is also associated with substantial healthcare costs, particularly for diseases that are severe or uncontrolled.

Overall, the epidemiology of asthma remains an area of active research and monitoring, with ongoing efforts to better comprehend the disease's trends and patterns, risk factors, and potential interventions.

**Beta-2 adrenergic receptors (2-ARs)** are a class of G protein-coupled receptors that regulate the tone of bronchial smooth muscle, airway inflammation, and airway hyperresponsiveness. The dysregulation of 2-AR function in asthma contributes to the pathogenesis of the disease15,16.

The structure of 2-ARs consists of seven transmembrane domains connected by three intracellular and three extracellular loops. Extracellular loops of 2-ARs contain multiple glycosylation sites and are essential for ligand binding, whereas intracellular loops are implicated in receptor signaling and desensitization17.

### **Function of β2-ARs:**

2-ARs are predominantly expressed on the surface of bronchial smooth muscle cells, where they mediate bronchodilation by activating adenylate cyclase, which converts adenosine triphosphate (ATP) to cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP). cAMP then activates protein kinase A (PKA), which phosphorylates myosin light chain kinase (MLCK), resulting in bronchodilation and relaxation of bronchial smooth muscle. In addition to bronchodilation, 2-ARs inhibit the release of inflammatory mediators from mast cells and eosinophils to exert anti-inflammatory effects.18

### Role in asthma pathogenesis:

In asthma, the function of 2-ARs is dysregulated by multiple mechanisms, including decreased receptor expression, impaired receptor coupling to adenylate cyclase, and increased receptor desensitisation. These alterations result in a diminished response to 2-AR agonists, such as albuterol and salmeterol, which are widely used bronchodilators in the treatment of asthma. The term for this phenomenon is beta-2 receptor tolerance.

It is believed that chronic inflammation and oxidative stress in asthmatic patients' airways contribute to 2-AR dysregulation. Inflammatory mediators, such as cytokines and chemokines, are capable of interfering with the expression and function of 2-ARs, whereas oxidative stress can promote receptor desensitization18,19.

In addition to 2-AR dysregulation, genetic variations in the 2-AR gene have been linked to an increased incidence of asthma and a diminished response to 2-AR agonists. These genetic variations can impact receptor expression and function, resulting in diminished bronchodilation and exacerbating asthma symptoms.

2-ARs play a crucial role in modulating the tone of bronchial smooth muscle and the inflammation of the airway in asthma. Dysregulation of 2-AR function contributes to the pathogenesis of asthma, resulting in a diminished response to 2-AR agonists and an exacerbation of asthma symptoms. To elucidate the mechanisms underlying 2-AR dysregulation in asthma and to develop more effective treatments for the disease, additional research is required.

**Muscarinic receptors** are a class of G protein-coupled receptors that are activated by acetylcholine and play a crucial role in asthma in regulating airway smooth muscle tone and bronchoconstriction. M1, M2, and M3 are the only subtypes of muscarinic receptors that are expressed in the airways.20

### **Structure of Muscarinic Receptors:**

Muscarinic receptors consist of seven transmembrane domains linked by three intracellular and three extracellular loops. The intracellular loops of muscarinic receptors are involved in receptor signalling and desensitisation, whereas the extracellular loops are essential for ligand binding.21,22

### **Function of Muscarinic Receptors:**

On the surface of airway smooth muscle cells, muscarinic receptors mediate bronchoconstriction by activating the enzyme phospholipase C, which converts phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PIP2) to inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate (IP3) and diacylglycerol (DAG). IP3 then activates intracellular calcium release, resulting in contraction of airway smooth muscle and bronchoconstriction23.

### **Role in Asthma Pathogenesis:**

In asthma, dysregulation of muscarinic receptor function causes an increase in airway smooth muscle contraction and bronchoconstriction. This dysregulation is believed to be caused by the chronic inflammation and remodelling of asthmatic patients' airways. Inflammatory mediators, including cytokines and chemokines, can upregulate the expression of muscarinic receptors on airway smooth muscle cells, whereas airway remodelling can increase the smooth muscle's sensitivity to acetylcholine24,25.

### **Clinical Applications of Anticholinergic Drugs and Their Limitations:**

Anticholinergic medications, such as ipratropium bromide and tiotropium, are frequently used in the treatment of asthma to inhibit the activity of muscarinic receptors and prevent bronchoconstriction. Patients with severe asthma or those who do not respond adequately to 2-AR agonists benefit most from these medications. In contrast to 2-AR agonists, anticholinergic medications have a delayed onset of action and a lesser duration of effect. Due to their nonselective action on muscarinic receptors26,27, they can also cause adverse effects such as parched mouth and impaired vision.

In conclusion, muscarinic receptors regulate the airway smooth muscle tone and bronchoconstriction in asthma. Dysregulation of muscarinic receptor function contributes to the pathogenesis of asthma, resulting in increased smooth muscle contraction of the airways and bronchoconstriction. Anticholinergic pharmaceuticals are frequently used to inhibit the function of muscarinic receptors in the treatment of asthma, but they have limitations and adverse effects. To elucidate the mechanisms underlying muscarinic receptor dysregulation in asthma and to develop more effective treatments for the disease, additional research is required.

Interleukin (IL) receptors are a family of transmembrane receptors that bind to cytokines and are essential for inflammation and immune responses. Several interleukin receptors, including the IL-4 receptor, IL-5 receptor, and IL-13 receptor, have been linked to the pathogenesis of asthma.

### **Structure of Interleukin Receptors:**

Interleukin receptors consist of an extracellular ligand-binding domain, a transmembrane domain, and an intracellular signalling domain that is activated upon ligand binding. The extracellular domain of interleukin receptors is highly variable and determines their specificity for various cytokines.28

### **Function of Interleukin Receptors:**

Interleukin receptor activation recruits intracellular signalling molecules such as Janus kinases (JAKs) and signal transducers and activators of transcription (STATs), which mediate downstream signalling pathways. These pathways are involved in numerous cellular processes, such as cell proliferation, differentiation, survival, and inflammation.29

### **Role in Asthma Pathogenesis:**

IL-5 is another cytokine involved in the recruitment and activation of eosinophils, which are characteristic of asthmatic allergic inflammation. IL-5 binds to the IL-5R on the surface of eosinophils, initiating a signalling cascade that promotes eosinophil proliferation, survival, and activation. IL-5 also plays a function in the activation of other immune cells, such as basophils and mast cells, and in the remodelling of airways.

IL-17A is a pro-inflammatory cytokine produced by Th17 cells, a subpopulation of T cells. IL-17A binds to the IL-17 receptor (IL-17R) on the surface of various cells, such as airway epithelial cells, fibroblasts, and smooth muscle cells, thereby stimulating the production of cytokines and chemokines that recruit and activate neutrophils. IL-17A is associated with severe asthma and corticosteroid-resistant asthma; therefore, targeting IL-17A may be a viable therapeutic option for these patients.30

### **Clinical Applications of Monoclonal Antibodies Targeting Interleukin Receptors and Their Limitations:**

Monoclonal antibodies that target interleukin receptors have emerged as a promising treatment option for asthma. Dupilumab, a monoclonal antibody that targets the IL-4 receptor, has been shown to improve moderate-to-severe asthma patients' lung function, reduce asthma exacerbations, and enhance asthma control. Mepolizumab, reslizumab, and benralizumab are also monoclonal antibodies that target the IL-5 receptor and have been demonstrated to decrease eosinophil counts and enhance asthma control in patients with severe eosinophilic asthma.

However, these monoclonal antibodies have drawbacks, such as a high price, the need for intravenous or subcutaneous administration, and the possibility of allergic reactions and infections as side effects. In addition, not all asthma patients respond to these treatments, highlighting the need for personalised approaches31,32.

By mediating the effects of cytokines on airway inflammation, eosinophil activation, and mucus production, interleukin receptors play a crucial role in the pathogenesis of asthma. Monoclonal antibodies that target these receptors have demonstrated promise for enhancing asthma control and reducing exacerbations, but they have limitations in terms of cost, administration, and response variability. To better understand the function of interleukin receptors in asthma and to develop more effective and individualised treatments for the disease, additional research is required.

In addition to the receptors discussed previously, adenosine receptors, bradykinin receptors, and protease-activated receptors have also been implicated in the pathogenesis of asthma.

### **Adenosine Receptors:**

Adenosine is a purine nucleoside that is involved in a variety of physiological processes, including inflammation and immune responses. On diverse cell types, such as immune cells and airway smooth muscle cells, four subtypes of adenosine receptors (A1, A2A, A2B, and A3) mediate adenosine signalling.

Adenosine signalling has been linked to the pathogenesis of asthma, with elevated levels of adenosine in asthma patients' airways. Adenosine signalling can promote airway inflammation, bronchoconstriction, and mucus production by, among other mechanisms, activating mast cells, eosinophils, and T cells.33

### **Bradykinin Receptors:**

Bradykinin is a peptide implicated in numerous physiological processes, such as inflammation and discomfort. Bradykinin signalling is mediated by two subtypes of bradykinin receptors (B1 and B2), which are expressed on a variety of cell types, including smooth muscle cells of the airways and immune cells.

Bradykinin signalling has been implicated in the pathogenesis of asthma, and elevated bradykinin levels have been observed in the airways of asthmatic patients. Bradykinin can promote airway inflammation, bronchoconstriction, and mucus production by activating mast cells, eosinophils, and T cells, among other mechanisms.34

### **Protease-Activated Receptors:**

PARs are a family of G protein-coupled receptors that are activated through proteolytic cleavage. There have been identified four subtypes of PARs (PAR-1, PAR-2, PAR-3, and PAR-4) that are expressed on numerous cell types, including airway smooth muscle cells, immune cells, and epithelial cells.

PARs have been linked to the pathogenesis of asthma, with elevated PAR-2 levels in the airways of asthmatic patients. PARs can promote airway inflammation, bronchoconstriction, and mucus production by activating mast cells, eosinophils, and T cells35, among other mechanisms.35

The pathophysiology of asthma involves a variety of receptors, some of which include adenosine receptors, bradykinin receptors, and protease-activated receptors. Because these receptors can, through a variety of ways, induce airway inflammation, bronchoconstriction, and mucus formation, it is clear that they have the potential to be used as therapeutic targets in the treatment of asthma. However, further study is required in order to better understand the function that these receptors play in asthma and to design treatments that are both more successful and more individualised for the condition.

### **Receptor Cross-Talk in Asthma:**

Asthma pathogenesis is a complex process involving the interaction of numerous receptors and signalling pathways. Receptors can interact through a variety of mechanisms, including physical and functional cross-talk, resulting in either synergistic or antagonistic effects on asthma pathogenesis. Understanding receptor cross-talk is crucial for the development of personalised and effective asthma treatments.

The interaction between beta-2 adrenergic receptors (2-ARs) and muscarinic receptors is an example of receptor cross-talk. Muscarinic receptors are expressed on airway smooth muscle cells and promote bronchoconstriction, whereas 2-ARs are expressed on airway smooth muscle cells and promote bronchodilation. The administration of 2-AR agonists or muscarinic receptor antagonists can result in functional cross-talk between the two receptors, leading to improved bronchodilation and lung function.

In the pathogenesis of asthma, leukotriene receptors also interact with other receptors. Activation of leukotriene receptors can increase the expression of muscarinic receptors and the sensitivity of airway smooth muscle cells to acetylcholine, resulting in enhanced bronchoconstriction. Activation of leukotriene receptors can also increase the expression of 2-ARs and the sensitivity of airway smooth muscle cells to 2-AR agonists, resulting in bronchodilation. These interactions demonstrate the significance of targeting multiple receptors in asthma treatment.

In the pathogenesis of asthma, additional receptors can interact with each other in addition to those already mentioned. Interleukin receptors, for instance, can interact with adenosine receptors to exacerbate airway inflammation and asthma symptoms. In order to promote airway inflammation and bronchoconstriction, protease-activated receptors can interact with other receptors, such as the thrombin receptor.

In the pathogenesis of asthma, the interaction between distinct receptors has significant implications for the development of novel therapies. Combining therapies that target multiple receptors may produce synergistic effects and enhanced clinical outcomes. However, adverse effects and drug interactions must be carefully considered when developing combination therapies.

Receptor cross-talk is an essential factor in the pathogenesis of asthma and has significant implications for the development of effective and individualised therapies. To

better comprehend the complex interactions between different receptors and to develop novel therapies that target multiple receptors in a safe and effective manner, additional research is necessary.

# Receptor Signalling Pathways in Asthma: Overview of the downstream signaling pathways activated by different receptors in asthma pathogenesis and their potential as therapeutic targets.

In asthma, the activation of numerous receptors results in the activation of multiple downstream signalling pathways, which ultimately contribute to airway inflammation, bronchoconstriction, and other asthma symptoms. The comprehension of the signalling pathways that are triggered by diverse receptors is of utmost importance in the advancement of targeted therapies for asthma.

The present study focuses on the signalling mechanism of beta-2 adrenergic receptors ( $\beta$ 2-ARs) via the Gs protein-coupled pathway. This pathway is known to activate adenylate cyclase, leading to an increase in intracellular cAMP levels. The activation of protein kinase A (PKA) is known to induce relaxation of airway smooth muscle cells and suppress the release of inflammatory mediators from immune cells.  $\beta$ 2-adrenergic receptors ( $\beta$ 2-ARs) are known to activate the  $\beta$ -arrestin pathway, resulting in receptor internalisation and desensitisation. This pathway is an important mechanism for regulating  $\beta$ 2-AR signalling and has been extensively studied in various cell types. The  $\beta$ -arrestin pathway is activated when  $\beta$ -arrestin proteins bind to phosphorylated  $\beta$ 2-ARs, leading to receptor internalisation and subsequent desensitisation. This process is thought to play a critical role in the regulation of  $\beta$ 2-AR-mediated physiological responses. Further research is needed to fully understand the mechanisms underlying  $\beta$ 2-AR signalling through the  $\beta$ -arrestin pathway and its implications for various physiological processes. The use of  $\beta$ 2-AR agonists to target the  $\beta$ 2-AR signalling pathway is a widely employed therapeutic strategy for the management of asthma.36,37

The present study investigates the signalling mechanism of muscarinic receptors. It has been observed that these receptors activate the Gq protein-coupled pathway, which in turn triggers the activation of phospholipase C and leads to an increase in intracellular calcium levels. The activation of airway smooth muscle cells and subsequent mucus production are known to be key factors in the development of bronchoconstriction and airway obstruction. The muscarinic receptor pathway has been identified as a therapeutic target for bronchodilation in asthma. Muscarinic receptor antagonists, including ipratropium and tiotropium, have been developed and utilised for this purpose. These agents have demonstrated efficacy in improving respiratory function and reducing symptoms in patients with asthma. The mechanism of action involves blocking the binding of acetylcholine to muscarinic receptors, which results in relaxation of bronchial smooth muscle and subsequent dilation of the airways. The use of muscarinic receptor antagonists represents a promising approach for the treatment of asthma and warrants further investigation. Leukotriene receptors, namely leukotriene receptor 1 (LT1R) and leukotriene receptor 2 (LT2R), are known to activate the Gq protein-coupled pathway. This activation leads to the stimulation of intracellular calcium release, which in turn causes airway smooth muscle cell contraction, mucus production, and inflammation. These receptors are therefore considered to be crucial in the pathogenesis of respiratory diseases such as asthma. The leukotriene signalling pathway is a well-known target for the treatment of asthma. Leukotriene receptor antagonists, including montelukast and zafirlukast, are frequently used to inhibit this pathway. These drugs have been shown to be effective in reducing asthma symptoms and improving lung function.39

The activation of interleukin receptors has been found to trigger multiple signalling pathways downstream. These pathways include the Janus kinase-signal transducer and

activator of transcription (JAK-STAT) pathway and the nuclear factor kappa-light-chainenhancer of activated B cells (NF- $\kappa$ B) pathway. The activation of certain pathways has been found to induce the secretion of inflammatory cytokines, including interleukin-4 (IL-4) and interleukin-13 (IL-13), which have been shown to play a significant role in the development of airway inflammation and remodelling. The use of monoclonal antibodies to target interleukin receptors has emerged as a promising therapeutic approach for the treatment of severe asthma. One such monoclonal antibody, dupilumab, has demonstrated efficacy in clinical trials.40,41

The pathogenesis of asthma involves the activation of various downstream signalling pathways by receptors such as adenosine receptors, bradykinin receptors, and protease-activated receptors. These pathways include the cAMP pathway, the phospholipase C pathway, and the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway. The present study investigates the contribution of certain pathways to the development of airway inflammation, bronchoconstriction, and mucus production. The modulation of signalling pathways has been identified as a promising therapeutic strategy for the treatment of asthma. In particular, the use of receptor antagonists or inhibitors to target specific pathways has shown potential for the development of novel treatments. By blocking or reducing the activity of these pathways, it may be possible to alleviate the symptoms of asthma and improve patient outcomes. Further research is needed to fully understand the mechanisms underlying these signalling pathways and to identify the most effective therapeutic targets. However, the potential benefits of this approach make it an exciting area of investigation for the development of new asthma treatments.42

The present study highlights the significance of downstream signalling pathways that are activated by various receptors in the development of asthma. The findings suggest that these pathways have a pivotal role in the pathogenesis of the disease. The management of asthma can be effectively addressed by targeting specific receptor agonists or antagonists that affect relevant pathways. This therapeutic approach has been shown to be promising in the treatment of asthma. The intricate signalling networks implicated in asthma require further investigation to enhance our comprehension of the disease and to devise innovative therapies that can effectively and safely target these pathways.

### Drug Resistance and New Therapeutic Approaches: Overview of the mechanisms of drug resistance in asthma treatment and emerging therapeutic approaches targeting novel receptors or signalling pathways.

Asthma is a chronic respiratory disease that affects a significant proportion of the global population. Despite the availability of several effective therapies, a subset of patients with asthma continues to experience symptoms due to incomplete response or drug resistance. This subset of patients poses a significant challenge to healthcare providers and researchers alike, as they require alternative treatment options to manage their symptoms effectively. Therefore, there is a need for further research to identify the underlying mechanisms of drug resistance and develop novel therapies to address this issue. This article presents an overview of the mechanisms of drug resistance in the treatment of asthma and explores emerging therapeutic approaches that target novel receptors or signalling pathways.43

### **Mechanisms of Drug Resistance:**

1. Downregulation of Receptor Expression: Repeated exposure to certain bronchodilators, such as  $\beta$ 2-agonists, can lead to the downregulation of receptor expression, reducing the efficacy of the drug.

2. Genetic Polymorphisms: Genetic variations in the genes encoding drug-metabolizing enzymes, receptors, or downstream signaling molecules can contribute to drug resistance.

3. Inflammatory Response: Chronic airway inflammation can lead to reduced drug responsiveness, possibly due to altered receptor expression or downstream signaling pathways.

4. Non-adherence: Poor medication adherence can result in suboptimal drug levels and reduced efficacy.

### **Emerging Therapeutic Approaches:**

**1. G Protein-Coupled Receptor Kinase Inhibitors**: The prevention of  $\beta$ 2-adrenergic receptor ( $\beta$ 2-AR) desensitisation and the enhancement of  $\beta$ 2-agonist response can be achieved through the use of inhibitors of G protein-coupled receptor kinases (GRKs). The efficacy of GRK inhibitors in enhancing bronchodilation has been demonstrated in preclinical studies utilising animal models of asthma.44

2. Dual-Targeted Therapies: The development of novel therapeutic approaches for asthma has been a major focus of research in recent years. One promising strategy is the use of dualtargeted therapies that can simultaneously target multiple signalling pathways involved in asthma pathogenesis. By targeting both bronchoconstriction and airway inflammation, these therapies may provide more effective treatment options for patients with asthma. The potential benefits of such therapies have been demonstrated in preclinical studies, and clinical trials are currently underway to evaluate their safety and efficacy in humans. Overall, the development of dual-targeted therapies represents an important step forward in the treatment of asthma, and may ultimately lead to improved outcomes for patients with this condition. In preclinical studies, it has been demonstrated that targeting both the leukotriene and muscarinic receptor signalling pathways using а dual leukotriene receptor antagonist/muscarinic antagonist has exhibited potential. This approach has been shown to be effective in preclinical studies.45

**3. Targeting Novel Receptors:** Recent studies have indicated that there may be potential for the treatment of asthma through the targeting of previously unexplored receptors, including the prostaglandin D2 receptor 2 (DP2) and the receptor for advanced glycation end products (RAGE). These findings suggest that there may be new avenues for therapeutic intervention in the management of asthma.46

**4. Biologics:** The efficacy of monoclonal antibodies targeting different cytokines or their receptors, including interleukin-4 receptor (IL-4R) and interleukin-5 (IL-5), has been demonstrated in the treatment of severe asthma. In recent studies, novel targets for biologic intervention have been discovered, including thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP), as reported by current research findings47.

Drug resistance remains a significant challenge in the treatment of asthma. Emerging research on the mechanisms of drug resistance and novel therapeutic approaches, such as dual-targeted therapies and biologics, offer new hope for effective asthma management in the future.

### Conclusion

The role of receptors in the pathogenesis of asthma and the development of effective therapies has been extensively studied. It has been established that receptors play a critical role in the pathogenesis of asthma. The activation of these receptors leads to the release of inflammatory mediators, which contribute to airway inflammation and bronchoconstriction. Therefore, targeting these receptors has been a major focus in the development of effective therapies for asthma. Several classes of drugs, including beta-agonists, anticholinergics, and leukotriene modifiers, have been developed to target these receptors. These drugs have been shown to be effective in improving asthma symptoms and reducing the frequency and severity of asthma exacerbations. In conclusion, the role of receptors in asthma pathogenesis and the development of effective therapies is a critical area of research that has the potential to improve the lives of millions of people worldwide. The beta-2 adrenergic receptor and muscarinic receptors have been extensively studied as therapeutic targets for the treatment of asthma. In recent years, leukotriene receptors and interleukin receptors have gained attention as potential targets for biologic therapies in the management of asthma. These receptors have shown promise in preclinical and clinical studies, and their modulation may provide new avenues for the development of effective asthma treatments. Drug resistance in asthma treatment is a persistent challenge that requires the development of innovative therapeutic strategies targeting novel receptors or downstream signalling pathways.

The exploration of receptor crosstalk and the interplay between various signalling pathways in the pathogenesis of asthma represents a promising avenue for future research. The comprehension of intricate interactions between biological systems has the potential to yield novel perspectives on the creation of efficacious therapies and individualised treatment methodologies.

Identification of biomarkers for patient stratification and monitoring treatment response is an area of significant interest for future research. The ability to identify biomarkers that can accurately predict patient response to treatment would be a major breakthrough in personalised medicine. This approach would enable clinicians to tailor treatment plans to individual patients, resulting in improved outcomes and reduced healthcare costs. Therefore, the identification of biomarkers for patient the implementation of personalised medicine strategies that account for individual patient traits, including genetic polymorphisms and inflammatory biomarkers, has the potential to enhance treatment efficacy and alleviate the impact of asthma.

The study highlights the importance of further investigation into drug resistance mechanisms and the development of novel therapeutic strategies for the treatment of asthma. Dual-targeted therapies and GRK inhibitors are promising approaches that may enhance treatment efficacy and improve patient outcomes.

The present article provides an overview of the current state of knowledge regarding the involvement of receptors in the pathogenesis of asthma and the development of therapeutic interventions. Although considerable advances have been made in this field, there remain numerous gaps in our understanding that require further investigation. Therefore, continued research efforts are necessary to fully elucidate the complex mechanisms underlying asthma and to identify novel therapeutic targets for the

management and treatment of asthma present several challenges and opportunities that require further research efforts. This review highlights the need to address these issues to enhance the care of asthma patients. Therefore, future research endeavours should prioritise the exploration of these challenges and opportunities to develop effective strategies for managing and treating asthma.

### **References:**

- 1. Asthma What Is Asthma? | NHLBI, NIH. Accessed May 5, 2023. https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/asthma
- 2. Chronic respiratory diseases. Accessed May 5, 2023. https://www.who.int/health-topics/chronic-respiratory-diseases#tab=tab\_1
- 3. Ishmael FT. The Inflammatory Response in the Pathogenesis of Asthma. J Osteopath

Med. 2011;111(s117):11-17. doi:10.7556/JAOA.2011.20014

- 4. Mcdonald VM, Gibson PG, Maltby S, et al. Pathophysiology of severe asthma: We've only just started. *Respirology*. 2018;23(3):262-271. doi:10.1111/RESP.13251
- 5. Smith KG, Kamdar AA, Stark JM. Lung Defenses: Intrinsic, Innate, and Adaptive. *Kendig's Disord Respir Tract Child*. Published online 2019:120-133.e2. doi:10.1016/B978-0-323-44887-1.00008-0
- 6. Mukherjee AB, Zhang Z. Allergic asthma: Influence of genetic and environmental factors. *J Biol Chem*. 2011;286(38):32883-32889. doi:10.1074/jbc.R110.197046
- Barnes PJ, Drazen JM. Pathophysiology of asthma. Asthma COPD Basic Mech Clin Manag. Published online October 30, 2008:399-423. doi:10.1016/B978-0-12-374001-4.00033-X
- 8. Pavón-Romero GF, Serrano-Pérez NH, García-Sánchez L, Ramírez-Jiménez F, Terán LM. Neuroimmune Pathophysiology in Asthma. *Front Cell Dev Biol*. 2021;9:1174. doi:10.3389/FCELL.2021.663535/BIBTEX
- 9. Mattiuzzi C, Lippi G. Worldwide asthma epidemiology: insights from the Global Health Data Exchange database. *Int Forum Allergy Rhinol.* 2020;10(1):75-80. doi:10.1002/ALR.22464
- Safiri S, Carson-Chahhoud K, Karamzad N, et al. Prevalence, Deaths, and Disability-Adjusted Life-Years Due to Asthma and Its Attributable Risk Factors in 204 Countries and Territories, 1990-2019. *Chest.* 2022;161(2):318-329. doi:10.1016/J.CHEST.2021.09.042
- Busse PJ, McDonald VM, Wisnivesky JP, Gibson PG. Asthma Across the Ages: Adults. J allergy Clin Immunol Pract. 2020;8(6):1828-1838. doi:10.1016/J.JAIP.2020.03.044
- 12. Redd SC. Asthma in the United States: burden and current theories. *Environ Health Perspect.* 2002;110 Suppl(Suppl 4):557-560. doi:10.1289/EHP.02110S4557
- 13. Khan A, Sternbach N, Kamat S, Annunziata K, Jaffe D, Gouia I. PREVALENCE OF ASTHMA IN FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, SPAIN, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, BASED ON THE 2018 EUROPEAN NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS SURVEY. *Chest.* 2020;158(4):A27. doi:10.1016/j.chest.2020.08.067
- 14. Innes Asher M, García-Marcos L, Pearce NE, Strachan DP. Trends in worldwide asthma prevalence. *Eur Respir J.* 2020;56(6). doi:10.1183/13993003.02094-2020
- 15. Bylund DB. Beta-2 adrenoceptor. *xPharm Compr Pharmacol Ref.* Published online 2007:1-12. doi:10.1016/B978-008055232-3.60201-6
- 16. Chester N, Mottram DR. Beta 2 Agonists. *Drugs Sport Seventh Ed.* Published online June 23, 2022:173-187. doi:10.4324/9781315222790
- 17. Bylund DB. Beta adrenoceptors. *xPharm Compr Pharmacol Ref.* Published online 2007:1-7. doi:10.1016/B978-008055232-3.60199-0
- 18. Yang A, Yu G, Wu Y, Wang H. Role of β2-adrenergic receptors in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. *Life Sci.* 2021;265:118864. doi:10.1016/J.LFS.2020.118864
- 19. Matera MG, Page C, Rinaldi B. β2-Adrenoceptor signalling bias in asthma and COPD and the potential impact on the comorbidities associated with these diseases. *Curr Opin Pharmacol*. 2018;40:142-146. doi:10.1016/J.COPH.2018.04.012
- 20. Aronstam RS, Patil P. Muscarinic Receptors: Autonomic Neurons. *Encycl Neurosci*. Published online 2009:1141-1149. doi:10.1016/B978-008045046-9.00692-6
- 21. Pierce KL, Premont RT, Lefkowitz RJ. Seven-transmembrane receptors. *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol 2002 39*. 2002;3(9):639-650. doi:10.1038/nrm908
- 22. Wess J. Muscarinic Receptors. *Encycl Mol Pharmacol*. Published online August 19, 2008:794-798. doi:10.1007/978-3-540-38918-7\_97
- 23. Enz A. Muscarinic acetylcholine receptors. xPharm Compr Pharmacol Ref. Published

online 2007:1-6. doi:10.1016/B978-008055232-3.60209-0

- 24. Gosens R, Zaagsma J, Meurs H, Halayko AJ. Muscarinic receptor signaling in the pathophysiology of asthma and COPD. *Respir Res 2006 71.* 2006;7(1):1-15. doi:10.1186/1465-9921-7-73
- 25. Gosens R, Gross N. The mode of action of anticholinergics in asthma. *Eur Respir J*. 2018;52(4). doi:10.1183/13993003.01247-2017
- 26. Pakes GE, Brogden RN, Heel RC, Speight TM, Avery GS. Ipratropium bromide: a review of its pharmacological properties and therapeutic efficacy in asthma and chronic bronchitis. *Drugs*. 1980;20(4):237-266. doi:10.2165/00003495-198020040-00001
- 27. Seale JP. Anticholinergic bronchodilators. *Aust Prescr.* 2003;26(2):33-35. doi:10.18773/AUSTPRESCR.2003.026
- 28. Boraschi D, Italiani P, Weil S, Martin MU. The family of the interleukin-1 receptors. *Immunol Rev.* 2018;281(1):197-232. doi:10.1111/IMR.12606
- 29. Sato S, Takaoka A. Interleukins. *Handb Horm Comp Endocrinol Basic Clin Res*. Published online January 1, 2021:437-439. doi:10.1016/B978-0-12-820649-2.00113-3
- 30. Gandhi NA, Pirozzi G, Graham NMH. Commonality of the IL-4/IL-13 pathway in atopic diseases. *Expert Rev Clin Immunol*. 2017;13(5):425-437. doi:10.1080/1744666X.2017.1298443
- 31. Edris A, De Feyter S, Maes T, Joos G, Lahousse L. Monoclonal antibodies in type 2 asthma: A systematic review and network meta-analysis. *Respir Res.* 2019;20(1):1-15. doi:10.1186/S12931-019-1138-3/FIGURES/4
- 32. Wu AY, Sur S, Grant JA, Tripple JW. Interleukin-4/interleukin-13 versus interleukin-5: a comparison of molecular targets in biologic therapy for the treatment of severe asthma. *Curr Opin Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2019;19(1):30-37. doi:10.1097/ACI.000000000000490
- 33. Sachdeva S, Gupta M. Adenosine and its receptors as therapeutic targets: An overview. *Saudi Pharm J.* 2013;21(3):245-253. doi:10.1016/J.JSPS.2012.05.011
- 34. Rex DAB, Deepak K, Vaid N, et al. A modular map of Bradykinin-mediated inflammatory signaling network. *J Cell Commun Signal*. 2022;16(2):301-310. doi:10.1007/S12079-021-00652-0/FIGURES/1
- 35. Chandrabalan A, Ramachandran R. Molecular mechanisms regulating Proteinase-Activated Receptors (PARs). *FEBS J.* 2021;288(8):2697-2726. doi:10.1111/FEBS.15829
- 36. Doeing DC, Solway J. Airway smooth muscle in the pathophysiology and treatment of asthma. *J Appl Physiol*. 2013;114(7):834. doi:10.1152/JAPPLPHYSIOL.00950.2012
- Arora P, Ansari SH, Arora P, Ansari SH. Role of Various Mediators in Inflammation of Asthmatic Airways. *Asthma - Biol Evidences*. Published online July 3, 2019. doi:10.5772/INTECHOPEN.84357
- Tolaymat M, Sundel MH, Alizadeh M, Xie G, Raufman JP. Potential Role for Combined Subtype-Selective Targeting of M1 and M3 Muscarinic Receptors in Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases. *Front Pharmacol.* 2021;12:3077. doi:10.3389/FPHAR.2021.786105/BIBTEX
- 39. Nigam PK, Sehgal U. Leukotrienes. *https://doi.org/101056/NEJMra071371*. 2007;55(3):155-163. doi:10.1056/NEJMRA071371
- 40. Garbers C, Scheller J. Interleukin-6 and interleukin-11: same same but different. *Biol Chem.* 2013;394(9):1145-1161. doi:10.1515/HSZ-2013-0166
- 41. Briukhovetska D, Dörr J, Endres S, Libby P, Dinarello CA, Kobold S. Interleukins in cancer: from biology to therapy. *Nat Rev Cancer 2021 218*. 2021;21(8):481-499. doi:10.1038/s41568-021-00363-z
- 42. Wilson CN, Nadeem A, Spina D, Brown R, Page CP, Mustafa SJ. Adenosine Receptors

Section A -Research paper

and Asthma. *Handb Exp Pharmacol*. 2009;193(193):329-362. doi:10.1007/978-3-540-89615-9\_11

- 43. Papi A, Blasi F, Canonica GW, Morandi L, Richeldi L, Rossi A. Treatment strategies for asthma: Reshaping the concept of asthma management. *Allergy, Asthma Clin Immunol*. 2020;16(1):1-11. doi:10.1186/S13223-020-00472-8/FIGURES/7
- 44. Pfleger J, Gresham K, Koch WJ. G protein-coupled receptor kinases as therapeutic targets in the heart. *Nat Rev Cardiol*. 2019;16(10):612-622. doi:10.1038/S41569-019-0220-3
- 45. Zhu Y, Feijen J, Zhong Z. Dual-targeted nanomedicines for enhanced tumor treatment. *Nano Today*. 2018;18:65-85. doi:10.1016/J.NANTOD.2017.12.007
- 46. Rosenbaum MI, Clemmensen LS, Bredt DS, Bettler B, Strømgaard K. Targeting receptor complexes: a new dimension in drug discovery. *Nat Rev Drug Discov*. 2020;19(12):884-901. doi:10.1038/S41573-020-0086-4
- 47. Kotsovilis S, Andreakos E. Therapeutic human monoclonal antibodies in inflammatory diseases. *Methods Mol Biol.* 2014;1060:37-59. doi:10.1007/978-1-62703-586-6\_3