

基于网络药理学和分子对接探究苦瓜治疗糖尿病肾病的作用机制

蔡小康¹,周洁²,余惠凡^{3*}

¹湖北文理学院附属谷城医院肾病科;²湖北文理学院附属谷城医院药剂科,襄阳 441700;

³湖北医药学院药学院 武当特色中药研究湖北省重点实验室,十堰 442000

摘要:运用网络药理学和分子对接探究苦瓜(*Momordica charantia* L.)治疗糖尿病肾病(diabetic nephropathy, DN)的作用机制。利用Herb数据库获取苦瓜活性成分, SwissTargetPrediction数据库获取其所对应的靶标。通过GeneCards、OMIM、DisGENT数据库获取DN的治疗靶标。利用Venn在线工具获得苦瓜活性成分和DN的共同作用靶点。运用Cytoscape软件构建苦瓜、活性成分、靶标间相互作用网络关系图,并使用CytoHubba插件获得核心靶点以及核心子网络。应用Matescape数据库进行基因本体(gene ontology, GO)富集分析和京都基因与基因组百科全书(Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes, KEGG)通路富集分析。最终综合探析苦瓜活性成分、DN两者关系并作出预测。本研究从苦瓜中筛选出具有作用靶点的11个有效活性成分,其中 β -谷甾醇、苦瓜酸、番茄红素等具有明显改善DN的作用。同时预测得到AKT1、TNF、JL6、TP53、VEGFA、JUN、CASP3等调控DN的可能作用靶标,介导AGE-RAGE信号通路,IL-17、TNF、PI3K-Akt、HIF-1信号通路等相关通路调控疾病,从而对抗DN的发生及进展。该文利用网络药理学探讨了苦瓜防治DN的多成分、多靶点、多通路的作用特点,并挖掘出苦瓜活性成分调控糖尿病肾病的可能靶点及信号转导机制。

关键词:苦瓜;糖尿病肾病;苦瓜酸;分子对接;网络药理学

中图分类号:R285

文献标识码:A

文章编号:1001-6880(2023)Suppl-0123-07

DOI:10.16333/j.1001-6880.2023.S.017

Study on the mechanism of *Momordica charantia* in treating diabetes nephropathy based on network pharmacology and molecular docking

CAI Xiao-kang¹, ZHOU Jie², YU Hui-fan^{3*}

¹Department of Nephropathy, Gucheng Hospital, Hubei University of Arts and Science;

²Department of Pharmacy, Gucheng Hospital, Hubei University of Arts and Science, Xiangyang 441700, China;

³Hubei Key Laboratory of Wudang Local Chinese Medicine Research, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Hubei University of Medicine, Shiyan 442000, China

Abstract:To explore the mechanism of *Momordica charantia* in the treatment of diabetes nephropathy (DN) by network pharmacology and molecular docking. The Herb database was used to obtain the active components of *M. charantia*, and the SwissTargetPrediction database was used to obtain corresponding targets. Get the therapeutic targets of diabetes nephropathy through GeneCards, OMIM and DisGENT databases. Venn online tool was used to obtain the common targets of the active ingredients of *M. charantia* and diabetes nephropathy. The interaction network diagram of *M. charantia*, active ingredients and targets is constructed by using the Cytoscape software, and the core target and core subnet are obtained by using the CytoHubba plug-in. The Matescape database was used for gene ontology (GO) enrichment analysis and Kyoto encyclopedia of genes and genomes (KEGG) pathway enrichment analysis. Finally, the active ingredients of *M. charantia*, diabetes nephropathy, and the relationship between them were comprehensively analyzed and predicted. In this study, eleven active components with action targets were screened from *M. charantia*, among β -glutosterol, momordic acid and lycopene can obviously improve diabetes

nephropathy. Simultaneously, the possible targets for regulating diabetes nephropathy, such as AKT1, TNF, IL6, TP53, VEGFA, JUN, CASP3, were predicted to mediate AGE-RAGE signaling pathway, IL-17, TNF, PI3K-Akt, HIF-1 signaling pathways to regulate diseases, so as to combat the occurrence and progress of diabetes nephropathy. The network pharmacology was used to explore the characteristics of multi-component, multi target and multi pathway of *M. charantia* in the prevention and treatment of diabetes nephropathy, and explore the possible targets and signal transduction mechanisms of the active components of *M. charantia* in the regulation of diabetes nephropathy.

Key words: *Momordica charantia*; diabetes nephropathy; momordic acid; molecular docking; network pharmacology

糖尿病肾病(diabetic nephropathy, DN)已成为我国慢性肾脏病(chronic kidney disease, CKD)住院患者的主要病因^[1],也是我国造成终末期肾病(end-stage renal disease, ESRD)的主要原因^[2]。长久以来,西医治疗DN具有局限性,而中医中药具有多靶点作用的优势,在缓解DN症状方面具有突出的优势。苦瓜作为中药,具有清热解毒、解暑的功效,根据文献研究^[3,4],苦瓜及其主要成分具有改善DN进程的作用。动物实验证实苦瓜能显著降低早期DN患者尿蛋白量^[5]。但对于苦瓜治疗DN的潜在分子机制尚缺乏系统性研究。本文运用网络药理学方法,探索苦瓜的药物活性成分、潜在治疗靶点和作用机制,阐述苦瓜治疗DN的科学内涵,为机制研究和临床应用提供参考依据。

1 资料与方法

1.1 筛选苦瓜的活性成分

通过本草药学Herb数据库与分析平台(<http://herb.ac.cn/>)^[6],以“苦瓜”作为检索关键词,结合文献报道,筛选得出苦瓜生物活性成分的候选化合物。

1.2 预测苦瓜的作用靶标

将苦瓜成分名称导入Pubchem数据库(<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>)^[7]获得成分SMILES(Simplified Molecular Input Line Entry System)及化学结构式,将所得到的结构式导入到结构相似度预测靶点数据库SwissTargetPrediction(<http://www.swisstargetprediction.ch>)预测靶点^[8]。利用Uniprot(<http://www.uniprot.org/>)数据库下载化合物Excel数据表格,运用“TRIM”函数优化数据,使用“VLOOKU”函数匹配靶点基因名。并通过查阅文献补充未匹配到的基因名称^[9]。

1.3 获取DN的治疗靶点

运用GeneCards(<https://www.genecards.org/>)、OMIM(<https://www.omim.org/>)、DisGent(<https://www.disgenet.org>)平台获取疾病相关靶点,疾病名称取“diabetes nephropathy”为关键词搜索DN相关

靶点。设置对象为“human”,使用“VLOOKUP”函数匹配靶点基因名,筛选药物和疾病交集基因。

1.4 构建“药物-成分-靶点”相互作用网络

将筛选获得的药物主要活性成分、潜在作用靶点、疾病相关靶点进行映射,得到治疗DN的活性成分及关键靶点,通过Cytoscape软件(Version 3.7.1)构建“药物-成分-靶点”相互作用网络。以节点代表药物、活性成分、关键靶点,以边代表药物与对应活性成分、活性成分与关键靶点相互作用关系。

1.5 构建蛋白质-蛋白质相互作用网络

将关键靶点输入STRING(<https://string-db.org>)数据库^[10],限定物种为人,置信度为0.700进行检索,运用Cytoscape软件cytoHubba插件对度中心性(degree centrality, DC)进行分析,筛选获得PPI网络中的核心关键靶点。

1.6 富集分析

运用Metascape(<http://metascape.org/gp/index>)^[11]在线工具对知母-黄柏治疗DN的靶点以P<0.05进行生物过程(biological process, BP)、细胞组分(cellular component, CC)和分子功能(molecular function, MF)的GO富集分析及KEGG通路富集分析。

1.7 分子对接

将拓扑学参数排名靠前的大分子和小分子进行分子对接。蛋白质晶体结构由AlphaFold数据库(<https://alphafold.ebi.ac.uk/>)。对接小分子库由TC-MSP数据库(<https://old.tcmsp-e.com/tcmsp.php>)通过搜索中药获取并建立。首先,使用Autodock-Tools1,2对蛋白质晶体结构进行去水、加氢操作,并进行受体结构准备工作。使用Open Babel及Autodock程序对小分子库进行拆分等准备工作。对接使用Autodock程序进行,最终将结果导入pymol进行对接结果的可视化。

2 结果

2.1 苦瓜的主要活性成分

通过Herb数据库检索11个苦瓜的活性成分(见表1)。

表 1 苦瓜主要活性成分基本信息

Table 1 Basic information of main active ingredients of *Momordica charantia*

序号 No.	分子编号 Molecular number	成分 Component
KG1	HBIN018301	β -谷甾醇- β -D-葡萄糖苷 β -Sitosterol- β -D-glucoside
KG2	HBIN015359	α -氨基丁酸 α -Aminobutyric acid
KG3	HBIN021012	柑属苷 B Citrusin B
KG4	HBIN035648	苦瓜酸 Momordic acid
KG5	HBIN035646	苦瓜苷 A Momorcharaside A
KG6	HBIN033972	番茄红素 Lycopene
KG7	HBIN023521	D-半乳糖醛酸 D-Galacturonic acid
KG8	HBIN033983	番茄紫素 Lycophyll
KG9	HBIN044891	5, 22-豆甾二烯-3-酮 Stigmasta-5, 22-dien-3-one
KG10	HBIN021006	瓜氨酸 Citrulline
KG11	HBIN026994	高良姜萜醛 A Galanal A

2.2 苦瓜治疗 DN 的关键靶点

通过 Herb 数据库检索得出的苦瓜主要活性成分的潜在作用靶点及疾病数据库检索得出的 DN 相

关靶点进行映射, 获得 130 个苦瓜治疗 DN 的关键交集靶点(见图 1)。

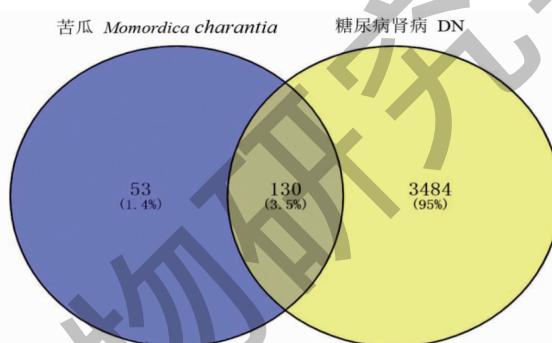


图 1 苦瓜主要活性成分的潜在作用靶点与 DN 的相关靶点

Fig. 1 Potential action targets of main active components of *M. charantia* and related targets of DN

2.3 苦瓜治疗 DN 的“药物-成分-靶点”网络

通过 Cytoscape 软件构建苦瓜治疗的“药物-成分-靶点”相互作用网络图。将基因数据导入 Cyto-

scape 3.8.2 软件, 得到“中药成分-靶点”网络图, 共 267 个节点(nodes), 470 条边(edges)见图 2。

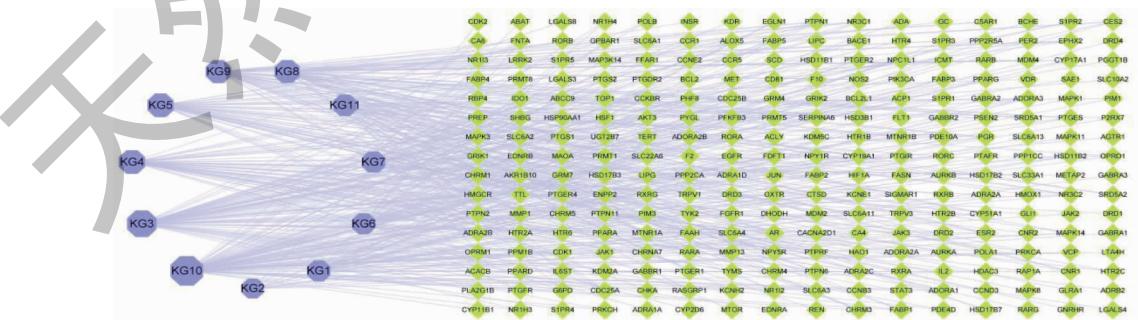


图 2 中药“有效成分-靶点”网络图

Fig. 2 Network diagram of "effective components target" of traditional Chinese medicine

2.4 PPI 网络制作和核心蛋白的获取

经 String 平台分析隐藏游离节点后得到 95 个

节点, 2370 条边, 平均节点度为 9.28。下载 TSV 文件导入 Cytoscape 3.8.2 后经网络拓扑学分析, 把

degree 值的二倍中位数以上, BC 和 CC 的中位数上靶点作为中药复方的核心作用靶点, 前五靶点基因分别为 *AKT1*、*TNF*、*IL6*、*TP53*、*VEGFA*。随着 degree

值和连接分数的增高, 节点的形状越大, 颜色越鲜明、线条越粗, 蛋白的地位也就越重要(见图 3)。

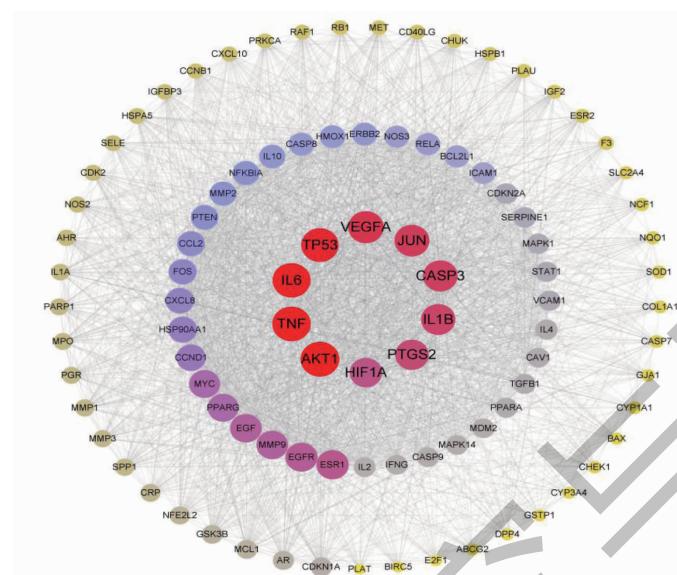


图 3 PPI 蛋白互作分析
Fig. 3 PPI protein interaction analysis

2.5 苦瓜治疗 DN 关键靶点的 GO 富集分析 通过 Metascape 在线工具以 $P < 0.05$ 进行筛选

将排名前 10 位的 GO 富集结果以气泡图展示(见图 4)。关键靶点涉及循环、突触传递、药物反应

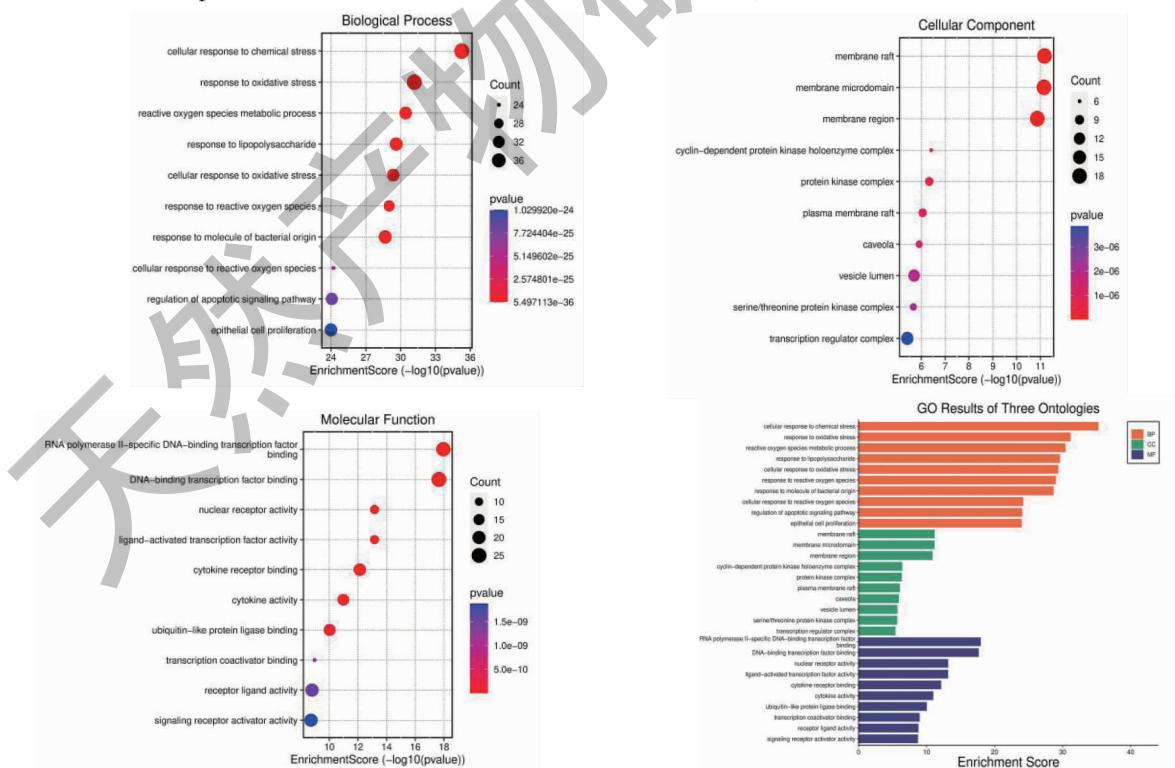


图 4 苦瓜治疗 DN 关键靶点的 GO 富集分析

Fig. 4 GO enrichment analysis of key targets of *M. charantia* in treating DN

等生物过程,主要集中在突触膜、细胞质膜、树突等部位,涉及 G-蛋白耦联受体活性、肾上腺素受体活性、神经递质受体活性等分子功能。

2.6 苦瓜治疗 DN 关键靶点的 KEGG 通路富集分析

通过 Metascape 在线工具以 $P < 0.05$ 进行筛选

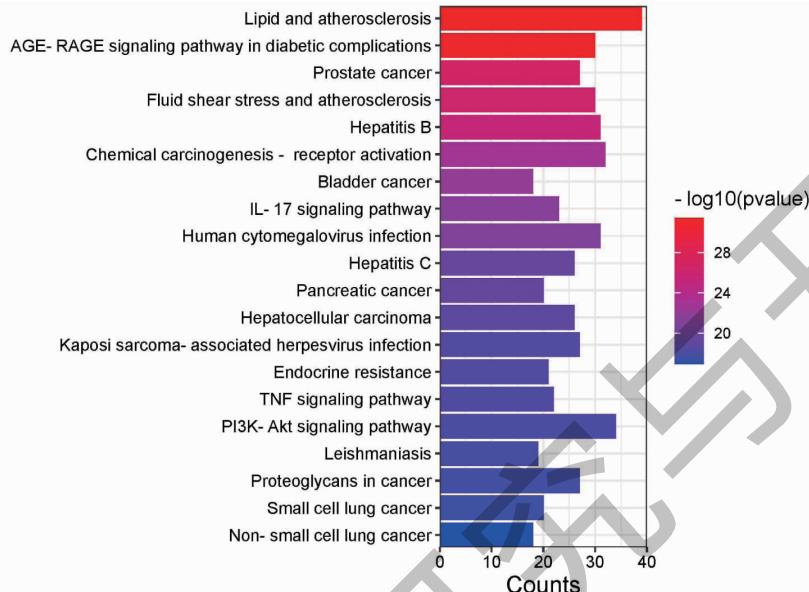


图 5 苦瓜治疗 DN 关键靶点的 KEGG 通路富集分析

Fig. 5 Enrichment analysis of KEGG pathway in key targets of *M. charantia* for treatment of DN

2.7 分子对接

分子对接结合热能 $< -4.184 \text{ kJ/mol}$ 表示具有结合活性, $< -20.92 \text{ kJ/mol}$ 表示结合活性较好。因此,由 AutodockTools 1.5.6 软件分子对接结果可知,

将排名前 20 位的 KEGG 通路富集结果以条形图展示,见图 5。关键靶点涉及 AGE-RAGE 信号通路、IL-17、TNF、PI3K-Akt、HIF-1 信号通路等相关通路。

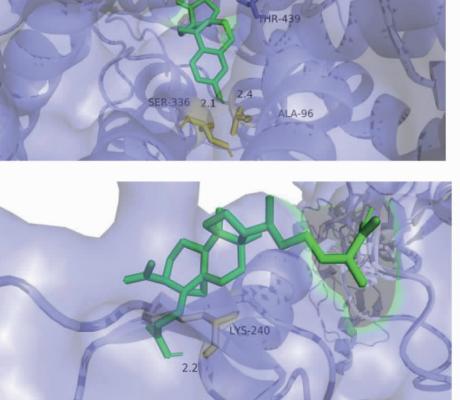


图 6 活性成分与核心靶点的分子对接模式图

Fig. 6 Molecular docking pattern diagram of active ingredient and core target

3 讨论与结论

研究表明, DN 的发生发展受到多种信号通路、

多基因、多靶点的共同调节,不是单一因素所引起^[12]。通常和患者体内糖代谢紊乱、血管紧张素系

统被激活、氧化应激反应、炎症反应、葡萄糖自身氧化以及大量活性氧(reactive oxygen species, ROS)的形成有关^[13]。

β -谷甾醇- β -D-葡萄糖苷、DL-2-氨基丁酸、柑属昔B、苦瓜酸、番茄红素、瓜氨酸、苦瓜皂昔G等为得到的苦瓜的主要有效成分,其核心成分是苦瓜酸, β -谷甾醇- β -D-葡萄糖苷。研究证明,主要活性成分中 β -谷甾醇- β -D-葡萄糖苷,可能是通过抗炎、抗氧化作用,以及参与通路调节等作用^[14],对改善DN患者的临床症状产生影响的。

在本研究获得的核心关键靶点中,IL6属经典炎症因子白细胞介素(interleukin, IL)的编码基因。IL-6可促进细胞外基质产生和系膜细胞增生,改变血管通透性,加速肾小球基底膜增厚。同时能够调控肾小管上皮的炎症反应,通过抑制细胞中的炎症反应、调控炎症因子、调节趋化因子和细胞中的粘附因子,抑制部分凋亡细胞合成从而发挥重要作用^[15]。肿瘤坏死因子(tumor necrosis factor, TNF)由TNF基因编码,能增强肾小球毛细血管通透性,促进肾脏细胞凋亡,加速DN微量白蛋白尿的形成及肾纤维化进程^[16]。血管内皮生长因子A(vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGFA)是最主要的血管内皮生长因子(VEGF),为了与其他多种血管内皮生长因子相关蛋白相区别,以VEGFA命名,具有调节血管功能,抑制气管平滑肌痉挛、改善肾小管血管壁功能,缓解肾损伤的作用^[17,18],但其与DN的关系需要进一步的临床与实验研究。

富集分析结果表明,富集通路主要富集在IL-17、TNF、PI3K-Akt等信号通路上。研究发现PI3K-Akt信号通路与IL-17、TNF等炎症相关通路及因子具有相关性。PI3K-Akt信号通路可以加速细胞外基质聚集,促使肾小管上皮细胞转分化,加快肾小球硬化及肾纤维化进程^[19]。同时PI3K-Akt信号通路中具有编外靶点蛋白IL-6、AKT1等即是炎症通路相关靶点,同时也是本次研究中的主要核心蛋白。此外,PI3K-Akt信号通路和炎症相关通路的激活可以加速高血糖加速晚期糖基化终末产物(advanced glycosylation end products, AGEs)及其受体(receptor of AGEs, RAGE)的形成,产生大量的ROS,进一步激活MAPK等信号通路,促进肾脏细胞内多种炎性因子释放^[20]。在苦瓜的主要活性成分中,已研究证实 β -谷甾醇、苦瓜酸^[21]可降低血清IL-6、TNF- α 水平。番茄红素具有抗炎、抗氧化、降血糖的作

用^[22]。Liu等^[23]通过大鼠实验发现,番茄红素具有抑制肾脏纤维化的作用,可能和调控炎症通路和抑制TGF- β /Smad信号通路有关。

综上,本研究通过网络药理学方法揭示了苦瓜通过影响关键基因表达,调控炎症因子、氧化应激、PI3K-Akt等信号通路治疗DN,体现了多靶点、多通路的治疗特点,为深入性的机制研究及临床应用提供了思路。

参考文献

- Wang Y, Zhou JW, Wang Z, et al. Progress in treatment of diabetic nephropathy with traditional Chinese and western medicine [J]. Chin Gen Pract(中国全科医学), 2022, 25:1411-1417.
- Yu JY, Ni Q, Liu S. Guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of diabetes nephropathy combined with disease and syndrome [J]. J Tradit Chin Med(中医杂志), 2022, 63:190-197.
- Ding L, Zhu YF, Li M, etc. Research progress on hypoglycemic effect and mechanism of *Momordica charantia* [J]. Chin J Exp Tradit Form(中国实验方剂学杂志), 2021, 27:204-212.
- Cui HW, Han WY, Yu L, etc. Research progress in chemical constituents and pharmacological effects of *Momordica charantia* [J]. Modern Tradit Chin Med Mater Med World Sci Technol(世界科学技术-中医药现代化), 2021, 23:1712-1719.
- Liu XZ, Wu XM, Lin DM, et al. Research progress on extraction and separation of chemical components and pharmacological activities of *Momordica charantia* [J]. Chin Tradit Pat Med(中成药), 2022, 44:177-182.
- Fang SS, Dong L, Liu et al. HERB:a high-throughput experiment- and reference-guided database of traditional Chinese medicine[J]. Nucleic Acids Res, 2020, 47:77-82.
- Liu HB, Peng Y, Huang LQ, et al. A method for rapid targeting of natural products based on PubChem database [J]. Chin Tradit Herb Drugs(中草药), 2012, 43:2099-2106.
- Gfeller D, Grosdidier A, Wirth M, et al. SwissTargetPrediction:a web server for target prediction of bioactive small molecules[J]. Nucleic Acids Res, 2014, 42:W32-W38.
- Luo JC. Introduction to UniProt protein database [J]. Chin J Bioinformatics(生物信息学), 2019, 17:131-144.
- Zhang YT, Wu ZF, Huang Y, etc. Mechanism of fresh bamboo juice in treating "cough, asthma and phlegm" based on network pharmacology and molecular docking technology and predictive analysis of its quality markers [J]. Chin Tradit Herb Drugs(中草药), 2021, 52:7538-7549.

- 11 World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies. Guidelines for evaluation methods of network pharmacology [J]. World J Tradit Chin Med(世界中医药),2021,16:527-532.
- 12 Kanwar YS,Sun L,Xie P,et al. A glimpse of various path-ge- netic mechanisms of diabetic nephropathy [J]. Annu Rev Pathol,2011,6:395-423.
- 13 Zou LX,Sun L. Global diabetic kidney disease research from 2000 to 2017: a bibliometric analysis [J]. Medicine,2019, 98:1-9.
- 14 Zhao S,Chen DM,Hu N,et al. β -Glutostерол affects the proliferation and apoptosis of granulosa cells through PI3K/AKT pathway [J]. J Ningxia Med Univ(宁夏医科大学学报), 2021,43:339-344.
- 15 Magna M,Pisetsky DS. The role of cell death in the patho- genesis of SLE: is pyroptosis the missing link [J]. Scand J Im-mthol,2015,82:218.
- 16 Rane MJ,Song Y,Jin S,et al. Interplay between Akt and p38 MAPK pathways in the regulation of renal tubular cell apo- tosis associated with diabetic nephropathy [J]. Am J Physiol Renal Physiol,2010,298:49-61.
- 17 Zhang AP,Zhao DX,Huo CX,et al. The effect of miR-21-3p targeting VEGFA regulating PI3K/AKT signal pathway on renal injury in preeclampsia rats [J]. Hebei Med (河北医 学),2022,28:1431-1437.
- 18 Zhu Y,Liu HY,Xiang Y,et al. The effect of netrin-1 on the expression of VEGFA in T-ALL cells and the related mech- anisms [J]. J Exp Hematol(中国实验血液学杂志),2022, 30:1049-1055.
- 19 Galoian K, Temple HT, Galoyan A. mTORC1 inhibition and ECM cell adhesion independent drug resistance via PI3K- AKT and PI3K-RAS -MAPK feedback loops [J]. Tumour Biol,2012,33:885-890.
- 20 Xu Y,Nie L,Yin YG,et al. Resveratrol protects against hy- per-gly-cemia-induced oxidative damage to mitochondria by activating SIRT1 in rat mesangial cells [J]. Toxicol Appl Pharma- col,2012,259:395-401.
- 21 Chen YK. β -Glutostерол inhibits the proliferation of A7R5 cells induced by angiotensin II through regulating autophagy [D]. Guangzhou: Guangdong Pharmaceutical University (广 东药科大学),2021.
- 22 Xue MW,Liu AX,Xia H,et al. Protective effect of lycopene on renal ischemia-reperfusion injury in rats [J]. Chin J Clin Pharmacol(中国临床药理学杂志),2021,37:408-411.
- 23 Liu YF. Effect of lycopene on renal fibrosis in rats with dia- betes nephropathy [J]. J Chin Med(中医学报),2022,37: 593-598.

(上接第34页)

- 9 Deng JC,Zeng XH,Chen J,et al. Study on extraction tech- nology and antioxidant activity of lentinan [J]. Chem Eng E- quip(化学工程与装备),2020,5:12-14.
- 10 Feng X,Sun H,Wang JZ,et al. Study on *in vitro* antioxidant activity of Zhongpu rye bran pigment extract [J]. Food Ind (食品工业),2013,34:129-132.
- 11 Liu H,Xia HM,Li N,et al. Optimization of extraction process

- of flavonoids from buckwheat malt by response surface meth- odology and study on its antioxidant activity and stability [J]. Mod Tradit Chin Med Mater Med World Sci Technol (世界科学技术-中医药现代化),2020,22:2870-2882.
- 12 Zhang YF,Li FH,Wang RM,et al. Optimization of micro- wave-assisted extraction of millet yellow pigment by response surface methodology [J]. J Shanxi Datong Univ:Nat Sci(山西大同大学学报:自科版),2018,34:60-65.