

# Synthesis and Spectroscopic Characterization of Metal Complexes of Rosuvastatin

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## ABSTRACT

**Context:** Rosuvastatin is a cholesterol lowering drug. It belongs to class statin. It is prescribed to the patients of coronary artery disease; atherosclerosis; thrombosis; increased low-density-lipoprotein; lipid and triglyceride. **Aims:** It is a newer drug in market and studies over the pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics are in progress. Statin therapy is a long term treatment for which its behavior in the presence of other agents is necessary. For this purpose present study is based on the interaction of the drug with essential and trace elements present in human body or co-administered during multivitamin therapy. **Settings and Design:** Complexes of rosuvastatin with Cd(II), Cr(II), Mn(II), Fe(III), Co(II), Ni(II) and Zn(II) i.e., metals commonly present in multivitamins, were synthesized in laboratory. Methanolic solution of rosuvastatin with metal chloride salts was reacted. **Methods and Material:** Reaction between drug and metals was carried out in thermostat at 80 °C for five hours with timely TLC monitoring for completion of reaction. These newly synthesized complexes were identified by IR and NMR spectroscopy and CHN elemental microanalysis and the structure of complexes was proposed. **Results:** Analyses suggest two molecules of rosuvastatin co-ordinate with the central metal atom through their carboxylic group. CS Chem3D ultra suggests square planner structure of the complex. **Conclusions:** Synthesis of compounds proposes that rosuvastatin can bind to metals as ligand through its pharmacophore site that may lead to reduced activity of drug and metal both. The study is precursor to *in vitro* and *in vivo* study of interaction of drug and metals.

**Key words:** Rosuvastatin, Statin, IR, NMR, Titration, Metal complex.

## INTRODUCTION

Biosynthesis of cholesterol is a natural phenomenon and gets completed in lever in 25 steps.<sup>1,2</sup> Disorder in any of the steps may cause over or under production of cholesterol that may lead ultimately to atherosclerosis, thrombosis or coronary artery disease, depending on disorder.<sup>3,4</sup> Statins are the class of drugs that inhibit HMG CoA reductase, a rate limiting enzyme, competitively during mevalonate pathway in the synthesis of cholesterol in hepatocytes. Rosuvastatin is a synthetic drug of this class.<sup>5</sup> It is newer drug with 20% bioavailability<sup>6,7</sup> and 19 hours elimination half-life.<sup>8</sup> Like other statins it principally reduces total

cholesterol (in hypercholesterolemia), LDL cholesterol (in hyperlipoproteinemia), triglycerides (in hypertriglyceridemia), lipids (in dyslipidemia) and increases HDL cholesterol (in hypolipoproteinemia)<sup>9</sup> to cure atherosclerosis, thrombosis<sup>3</sup> and coronary artery disease.<sup>4</sup>

Long term statin therapy usually needs co-administration of different classes of drugs<sup>10</sup> and multivitamins that include essential and trace elements.<sup>11,9</sup> Most often the combination of drugs inside body may either increase or reduce the efficacy of either drug or themselves; or may cause any side effects; or may be support-

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ive in any other activity. Itraconazole increases peak plasma concentration of rosuvastatin when taken simultaneously.<sup>12</sup> Gemfibrozil affects the pharmacodynamics activity of rosuvastatin.<sup>13,14</sup> It in combination with digoxin may cause rhabdomyolysis<sup>15,16</sup> while supporting anticoagulant effect of warfarin is seen with rosuvastatin.<sup>17</sup> Studies carried out by Edwin and co-workers in 2015 reported decrease in trace elements level in CAD patients.<sup>18</sup> These metals in the presence of chelating agents may cause chelation and complexation instead of working at the targeting site<sup>19</sup> and may reduce their or drug's efficacy. Still there is no such study present that may expose the utilization of metals or rosuvastatin other than target site, when taken in combination. Hence synthesis and characterization of new metal complexes with rosuvastatin becomes important for understanding drug-metal ion interaction and their potential pharmacological use. Synthesis and characterization of metal complexes of rosuvastatin have been reported here.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Following instruments were used throughout the experiment:

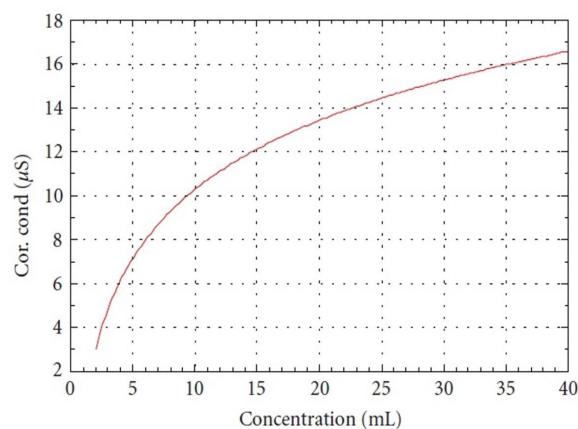
UV-Visible double beam spectrophotometer 1800 (Shimadzu, Japan); FT-IR spectrophotometer Prestige-21 200 VCE (Shimadzu, Japan), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (Bruker) AMX 300 MHz spectrometer using TMS as an internal standard; LabPro<sup>TM</sup> conductometer (Vernier, Oregon); CHN microanalyser (Carlo Erba 1106); melting point apparatus (Gallenkamp, England), electrical balance Libror AEG-120 (Shimadzu, Japan); pH meter (Jenway, UK) and ground glass distillation assembly (Quick fit) (Redleys discovery techniques, UK).

## Chemicals and reagents

Rosuvastatin was provided by the courtesy of Pharm Evo Pvt. Ltd., Karachi, Pakistan. All chemicals and reagents of analytical grade were purchased from Sigma Aldrich (Germany) and Merck (Germany).

## Mole ratio determination

Conductometric titration was carried out using metal chlorides solutions of 1mM and titrated with 1 mM rosuvastatin ligand at 25°C to identify the stoichiometric ratio of drug and metals.<sup>20,21</sup> Drug (40 mL) was taken into a flask and 2 mL of metal chloride was added and conductance values were noted until the graph showed chemical equilibrium. Titration curves were plotted between conductance and volume of titrant (metal chloride)<sup>22,23</sup> (Figure 1). Confirmation of results was



**Figure 1: Representative conductometric titration curve of Rosuvastatin and Nickel.**

made with job's plot (method of continuous variation) on UV-visible spectrophotometer.<sup>22,23</sup>

## Drug-metal reaction

Syntheses of complexes of rosuvastatin with metal salts were carried out in 1:2 mole ratios of drug and metal. After dissolving calculated mass of reacting species in suitable solvent system, 2-3 drops of orthophosphoric acid was added. The reaction flask was set to reflux for 3 hours at 80°C. The completion of reaction was confirmed by methanol-chloroform (4:6) TLC system. Solutions were then filtered, evaporated and concentrated under reduced pressure. Precipitates were re-crystallized for purification. Their melting points and physical characteristics were obtained.

## Spectral studies of complexes

Complexes were characterized by FT-IR spectrophotometer in the region of 400-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup> using KBr disk method and <sup>1</sup>H NMR. Spectra of NMR were recorded as chemical shift in parts per million relative to TMS as an internal standard in CDCl<sub>3</sub> as solvent. Significant <sup>1</sup>H NMR data are tabulated in the order of number of protons and multiplicity (s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; and m, multiplet). Molecular modelling was carried out through CS Chem3D Ultra, version 8 (Cambridge Soft Corporation, Cambridge, MA, USA) software.

## RESULTS

Physicochemical and spectroscopic characteristics of rosuvastatin and its complexes have been determined and scheduled in Table 1 and 2 respectively.

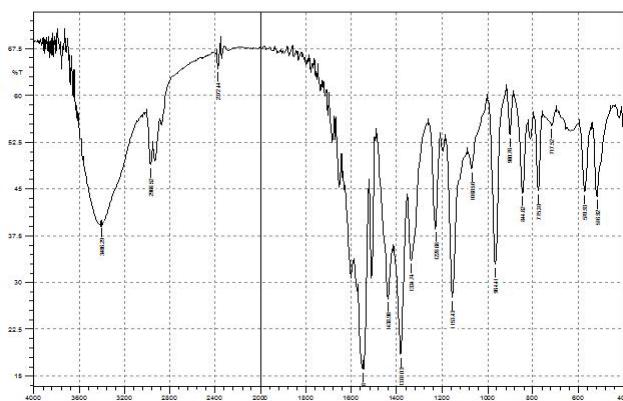


Figure 2a: Representative IR-spectrum of Rosuvastatin.



Figure 2b: Representative IR-spectrum of Rosuvastatin-Nickel complex.

### Spectroscopic studies of Rosuvastatin-metal complexes

**IR studies:** In the IR spectrum of rosuvastatin, there is characteristic broad region of carboxylic OH at 3625–3200 cm<sup>-1</sup> and so carboxylic carbonyl stretch at 1654 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Asymmetric and symmetric strong stretching vibrations of sulphonamide are seen at 1336 and 1155 cm<sup>-1</sup> respectively. Methyl and methylene bending vibrations are present at 1453 and 1438 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Phenyl C=C vibrations are observed at 1511 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Stretch due to CF is seen at 1230 cm<sup>-1</sup>.<sup>24</sup> For complexes, all the spectra follow similar regular change in spectrum of rosuvastatin. The band present in rosuvastatin (3625–3200 cm<sup>-1</sup>) has been slightly shifted or broadened towards lower frequencies. Carbonyl peak is also disturbed and deshaped that corresponds to the bond formation at carboxylic site. (Figure 2a and 2b)

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR studies:** Characteristic <sup>1</sup>H NMR signals of rosuvastatin in CDCl<sub>3</sub> were obtained at 300 MHz. The interpretation of signals suggests a peak of chemical

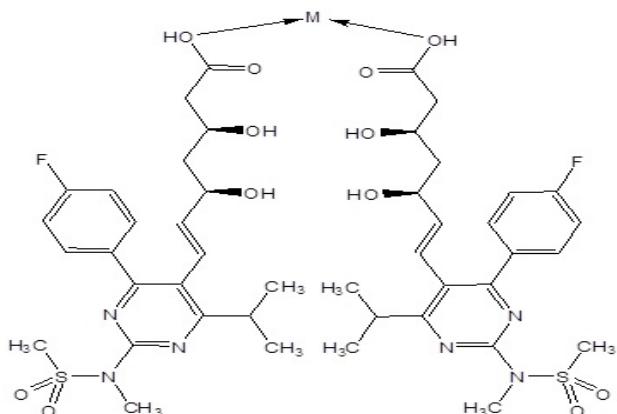


Figure 3: Proposed structure of Rosuvastatin-metal complex where M refers to Cd, Co, Cr, Fe, Mn, Ni and Zn.

shift at 1.23 ppm for the protons of two methyl groups. Singlet with J value 0.38 Hz seen at 1.40 ppm is due to aliphatic unsaturated chain. Chemical shifts of 4.32–4.81 ppm are indicative of proton of hydroxyl OH on aliphatic chain. Signals for ethylene are present at 6.25 and 6.65 ppm. Peaks for benzyl are seen at 7.30 and 8.15 ppm. Peaks for protons of carboxylic proton are present at 10.25 ppm<sup>25</sup>.

The metal-complexes in general have similar findings in their spectra. The peak for carboxylic OH proton is found beyond 10.25 ppm in all spectra of complexes suggesting down fielding effect. The protons of –CH<sub>2</sub> adjacent to carboxylic acid group have also been shifted away from TMS. Rest other signals are found at their positions in spectrum of rosuvastatin (Table 4).

**CHN elemental microanalysis:** The found and calculated percentages of CHN elemental data are in well agreement with each other and prove the proposed chemical formula of the complex (Table 5, Figure 3).

### DISCUSSION

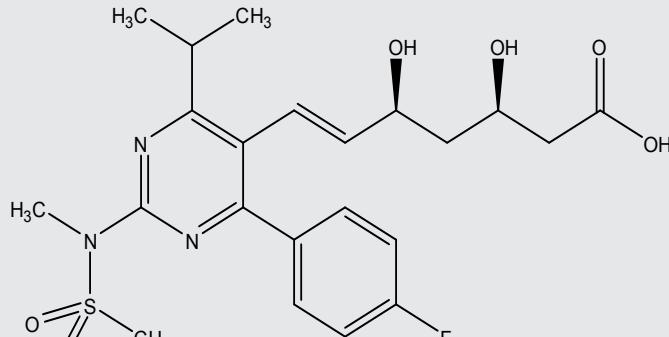
The long elimination half-life and bioavailability of rosuvastatin expose it as a super-statin (Hamelin, 1998).<sup>26</sup> From metabolic study of rosuvastatin it is clear that it majorly remains unchanged.<sup>1</sup> Literature survey reveals that CYP 2C9 enzymes metabolize it very minutely; even then it has shown interaction with some drugs with adverse effects.<sup>12</sup> Interaction of rosuvastatin is reported with glimepiride (Galani and Vyas, 2010),<sup>27</sup> clopidogrel<sup>28</sup> and gemfibrozil.<sup>14</sup> Warfarin has supporting impact on rosuvastatin.<sup>29</sup> Erythromycin<sup>30</sup> and fibrates<sup>31</sup> have not shown interaction. Some protease inhibitors also interact with rosuvastatin.<sup>32</sup> However, prior to this no such study has been reported for the interaction of rosuvastatin with metals (co-administered in the form of multivitamins).

The structure activity relationship of rosuvastatin suggests that it has a chemical structure consisting variety of electron donating sites responsible for multiple interactions and bonding with its substrate. Deficiency of metals inside body i.e. below their limits lead to reduced physiological functions. It becomes multifaceted to understand the interaction of rosuvastatin with different metals and causes of toxicity onto the body.<sup>22,23</sup> Accordingly the objective of the present research was to analyse the interaction of rosuvastatin with selected metals for multi-therapy. Since it is prescribed in oral dosage form, there are chances of its interaction at any stage of administration, dissolution, absorption and distribution prior to its target site since metals easily search compounds for chelation or complexation.

The physicochemical study of rosuvastatin suggests that it is very sparingly soluble in water. The drug is soluble in methanol and ethanol.<sup>26</sup> It shows rapid solubility in chloroform and DMSO. Its stability was checked by melting point (taking twice with the difference of two days). It can withstand as solid at room temperature (25°C). It absorbs UV radiations at 241-243 nm due to  $\pi-\pi^*$  transition between carbonyl oxygen and unsaturated carbon of pyrimidine ring, as a consequence of conjugation of lone pair of nitrogen.<sup>33</sup>

The physicochemical characteristics of the metal-complexes have been scheduled in Table 2. Distinguished properties of these compounds prelude to new complexes formed. The peak at 241 nm in UV-spectra of the complexes indicates that no change in bonding has taken place at pyrimidine site. The complexes formed

**Table 1: Physicochemical and spectroscopic characteristics of rosuvastatin**

Formula	$C_{22}H_{26}FN_3O_6S$	
Molecular weight	481.538 gmol <sup>-1</sup>	
Melting point	122 °C	
Solubility	MeOH, EtOH, DMSO, Chloroform	
UV absorbance (MeOH)	241 nm	
IR (KBr)	1155, 1336 (O=S=O), 1230 (CF), 1511 (C=C), 1654 (C=O), 3625-3200 (OH) cm <sup>-1</sup> <sup>24</sup> .	
<sup>1</sup> H-NMR (CDCl <sub>3</sub> , 300 MHz)	1.23 ppm (d, 6H, $J$ = 2.66 Hz, methyl), 1.40 ppm (s, 1H, $J$ = 0.38, CH-C=C-), 3.56 ppm (t, 3H, $J$ = 0.82 Hz, CH <sub>3</sub> -SO <sub>2</sub> ), 4.32-4.81 ppm (s, 1H, $J$ = 4.32 Hz, hydroxyl), 6.25, 6.65 ppm (s, 2H, $J$ = 0.30, ethylene), 7.30, 8.15 ppm (dd, 6H, $J$ = 7.26 Hz, benzyl) and 10.25 ppm (s, 1H, $J$ = 10.00 Hz, COOH) <sup>1</sup> .	
Elemental analysis	C,54.87%; H,5.86%; F,3.95%; N,8.73%; O,19.94%; S,6.66%	

**Table 2: Physicochemical parameters of complexes of rosuvastatin with metals**

Complexes with metals (M)	Colour	Melting point (°C)	Mole ratio Drug: metal	Solubility in solvents	% Yield
Rosuvastatin +Cd	White	55	1:2	MeOH, EtOH	70
Rosuvastatin +Co	Purple blue	120	1:2	DMSO	75
Rosuvastatin +Cr	Grey	250	1:2	MeOH	78
Rosuvastatin +Fe	Brownish orange	150	1:2	EtOH	76
Rosuvastatin +Mn	off-white	65	1:2	Water	65
Rosuvastatin +Ni	Light green	180	1:2	Water	75
Rosuvastatin +Zn	White	103	1:2	MeOH	70

**Table 3: Characteristic absorptions of IR spectra of rosuvastatin-metal complexes**

Complexes	$\nu(OH)$ stretch $cm^{-1}$	$\nu(C=O)$ $cm^{-1}$
Rosuvastatin	3625-3200	1654
Rosuvastatin + Cd	3300-3100	1640
Rosuvastatin + Co	3400-3100	1631
Rosuvastatin + Cr	3650-3150	1628
Rosuvastatin + Fe	3600-3150	1643
Rosuvastatin + Mn	3600-3100	1628
Rosuvastatin + Ni	3496-3300	1639
Rosuvastatin + Zn	3209-3100	1651

**Table 4: Chemical shifts (ppm) in  $^1H$  NMR spectra of rosuvastatin and metal complexes**

Complexing metals	$\delta(CH_2)$ ppm	$\delta(OH)$ ppm
Rosuvastatin	3.56	10.25
Rosuvastatin + Cd	0.95	10.85
Rosuvastatin + Co	0.89	11.59
Rosuvastatin + Cr	1.12	12.00
Rosuvastatin + Fe	0.99	10.91
Rosuvastatin + Mn	0.90	11.86
Rosuvastatin + Ni	1.34	11.44
Rosuvastatin + Zn	1.16	10.85

**Table 5: Estimation of elements by CHN elemental analysis**

Compound		% Carbon	% Hydrogen	% Nitrogen	% Oxygen	% Sulphur	% Metal
Rosuvastatin	found	54.28	5.09	8.92	19.27	5.97	--
	calculated	54.87	5.86	8.73	19.94	6.66	--
Rosuvastatin + Cd	found	50.02	5.11	7.24	17.39	6.21	09.78
	calculated	49.14	5.25	7.81	17.85	5.96	10.45
Rosuvastatin + Co	found	51.12	5.53	8.29	18.84	6.98	4.98
	calculated	51.71	5.52	8.22	18.79	6.27	5.77
Rosuvastatin + Cr	found	52.56	5.87	8.90	19.31	6.62	5.09
	calculated	52.06	5.56	8.28	18.91	6.32	5.12
Rosuvastatin + Fe	found	51.26	5.39	7.88	18.91	6.59	5.54
	calculated	51.87	5.54	8.25	18.84	6.29	5.48
Rosuvastatin + Mn	found	51.23	5.77	8.22	18.23	6.55	5.21
	calculated	51.91	5.54	8.26	18.86	6.30	5.40
Rosuvastatin + Ni	found	51.38	5.99	8.15	18.02	6.73	5.57
	calculated	51.72	5.52	8.22	18.79	6.28	5.74
Rosuvastatin + Zn	found	50.89	5.83	8.23	18.59	6.44	6.22
	calculated	51.38	5.49	8.17	18.67	6.24	6.36

are unstable and cannot withstand at high heat for which their crystallography was not possible.

However the assignments of IR bands were made by comparing the vibrations of complexes with those of the drug. Major absorption bands and frequencies of rosuvastatin (Table 1) and corresponding assignments are discussed below and scheduled in Table 3.

In metal complexes of rosuvastatin, it is found that the band due to carboxylic OH has shifted towards lower frequencies or the band has broadened. In spectra of all complexes, there is slight shift in frequencies of carbonyl of carboxylic acid towards lower wave numbers with reduced peak intensity. Deshaping of carbonyl peak at  $1639\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in spectrum of nickel complex of rosuvastatin is seen. Rest of the peaks are undisturbed.

It shows that rosuvastatin has interaction to the metal ion at oxygen of carboxylic OH site (Table 3).

On comparing the spectra of complexes and drug, all the signals of  $^1H$  NMR of free ligand (rosuvastatin) are present in the spectra of complexes except for changes in proton signals of carboxylic group. The downfield shift of these carboxylic protons suggests that they have been deshielded by metal ligand attracted to its oxygen. The signals for phenyl and pyrimidine are unchanged since they are far from binding site of ligand. The resonance of protons of  $CH_2$  (3.56 ppm) adjacent to carboxylic acid protons have been shifted downfield due to deshielding effect due to attraction of metal towards carboxylic group in spectra of all complexes. The  $^1H$

NMR analysis confirms the carboxylic group of rosuvastatin as binding site of metal central atom (Table 4). The CHN elemental analysis (Table 5) supports the IR and <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis. The results are of great importance in elucidating coordination among drug and metals. The very close agreement among the found and calculated values of the elements suggests the chemical formula. Findings suggest that rosuvastatin forms complexes in the ratio 1:2 with all metal ions<sup>34</sup>. Studies suggest that rosuvastatin chelates with the central metal atom through carboxylic oxygen. Two molecules of rosuvastatin coordinate with central metal forming square planar complex. The structure is proposed in Figure 3.

## CONCLUSION

Results from syntheses show that metals and rosuvastatin get engaged by complexation when co-administered. Rosuvastatin can bind to either of the co-administered studied compounds prior to binding to the target enzyme HMG CoA reductase at its heptenoic acid site leaving the drug unavailable to bind with its respective receptors to trigger the action. Occurrence of this event could possibly decrease the clinical efficacy of drug. Hence studies suggest that concomitant use of rosuvastatin and metal salts could pose many side effects in the body and could decrease the efficacy of both. Further synthesis of these new complexes is precursor towards investigation of the *in vitro* and then *in vivo* biological evaluation of these compounds.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest are declared.

## ABBREVIATION USED

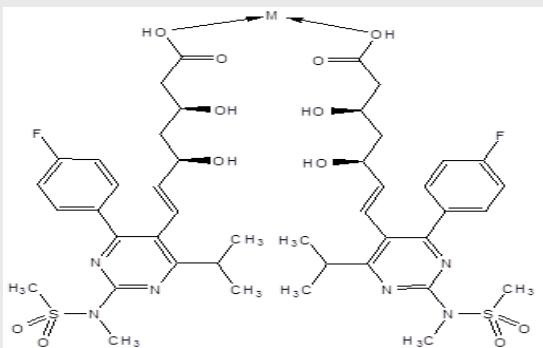
**HMG:** Hydroxy Methyl Glutaryl; **HDL:** High Density Lipoprotein; **CAD:** Coronary Artery Disease; **NMR:** Proton Nuclear Magnetic Resonance; **CYP:** Cytochrome P450.

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## Pictorial Abstract



## About Authors



**Dr. Arman Tabassum:** She is Ph. D. in Chemistry in the field of Pharmaceutical and analytical Chemistry. She is specialized in drug interactions studies, method development on HPLC and Spectroscopy and pharmacological activities. She is currently working on nanoparticle fabrication for efficient drug delivery. She is faculty member in Federal Urdu university of Arts, Science and Technology, Karachi and Preston University, Karachi, Pakistan.

## SUMMARY

- Cholesterol biosynthesis is a natural phenomenon. When deposition of excess cholesterol in body causes heart related and vascular diseases and disorders, it becomes necessary to reduce the synthesis of cholesterol. Rosuvastatin is a synthetic drug and belongs to class Statins. This class of drugs mimics the activity of HMG Co A Reductase enzyme during cholesterol synthesis in hepatocytes.
- The current project is study over the behaviour of the drug in presence of trace metals co-administered for combination therapy. For this purpose methanolic solution of rosuvastatin was reacted with metal salts at 80 oC for five hours in laboratory. The completion of reaction was monitored by TLC and compound identification was carried out with IR, 1H NMR and elemental analysis. Chemical structure of compounds formed was proposed through CS Chem3D ultra software.
- The studies suggest that the consumption of active site (heptenoic acid side-chain) of drug with metal ions may leave the drug inactive for its actual target and its efficacy may reduce. Vice versa is the case with metal ions present in multivitamins. It is a pre-clinical research. These results prelude to *in vitro* and then *in vivo* studies of the drug.



**Professor (R) Dr. Muhammad Saeed Arayne:** He is the man of substance, progress personified, visionary and an institution in himself. He has been the former Chairman of Department of Chemistry, University of Karachi. He supervised 36 Ph.Ds and 43 M.Phils. He is the author of more than 500 international and national journals and conferences, 05 books and 05 patents. He worked for the improvement of curricula in various academic bodies and introduced various graduate and post-graduate courses in chemistry. He also worked for student counseling, guidance and their placement in Pharmaceutical Industry. He is the researcher of versatile nature as his work is seen in electronics, architecture, production of Bio-Diesel, Tissue Culture Technology, plantation of lucrative plants like Ajwa, Jetropha, Sandal and Teak trees in Pakistan.



**Professor (R) Dr. Najma Sultana:** Has been former Dean and Chairperson of Faculty of Pharmacy and Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, University of Karachi respectively. She is former Director of Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Karachi, Pakistan. She has 40 years of professional experience in research, management and teaching at University level. She has received Presidential award for Science and Technology. She has produced 37 Ph.ds and 43 M.Phils. She is the author of more than 500 research articles in national and international journals of repute. Her five technologies were granted patents by the Government of Pakistan. She established liaison and professional collaboration with Pharmaceutical Industries and Hospitals related to research and student placement. She has a clear vision of not only to bring universities to highest ranking and standards but also to indigenous needs.

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