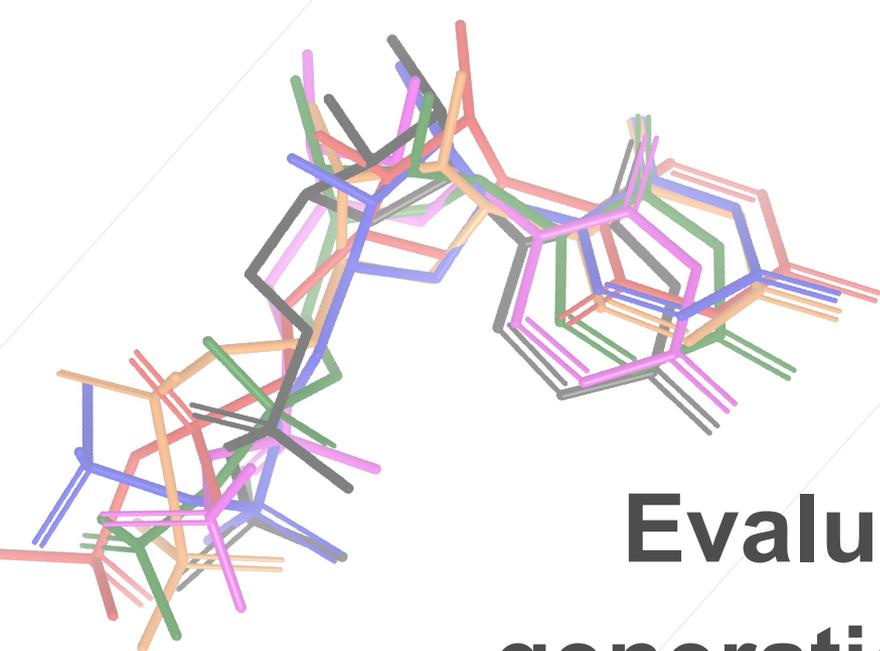




UNIVERSITAT  
ROVIRA I VIRGILI



# Evaluation of conformer generation tools to reproduce bioactive conformations

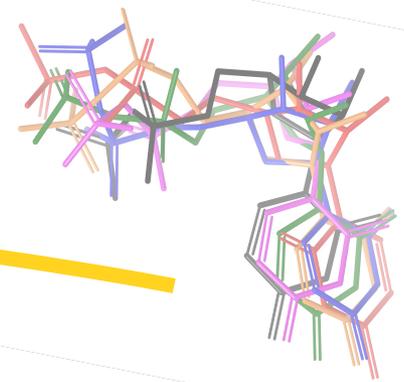
**María José Ojeda Montes**

**Biochemistry and Biotechnology Department**

**Universitat Rovira i Virgili –Tarragona – Spain**

**Field Based Chemistry Europe 2013 – Cambridge, UK – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

# INTRODUCTION



## VIRTUAL SCREENING

To find molecules that are predicted to modulate the bioactivity of targets that are relevant for disease prevention and/or treatment



Removing an important part of actives predicted as inactive because of simple criteria

# INTRODUCTION

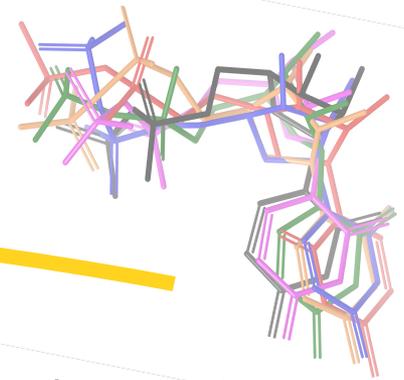
VIRTUAL  
SCREENING



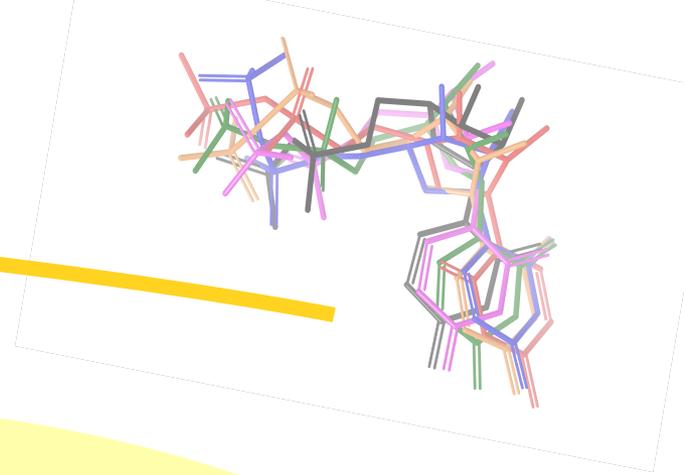
Removing an important  
part of actives predicted  
as inactive because of  
simple criteria

**NEED TO  
IMPROVE**

Reduce false negatives  
Improve speed of calculations

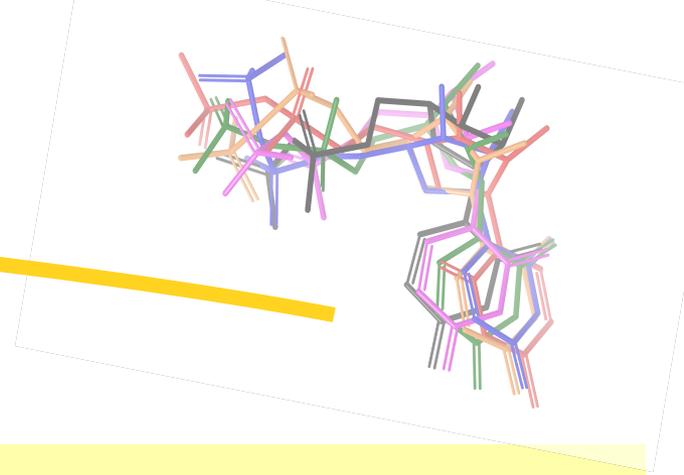


# INTRODUCTION



to explore **the conformational space** available for each *active* candidate without the restrictions imposed by the protein environment

# OBJECTIVES

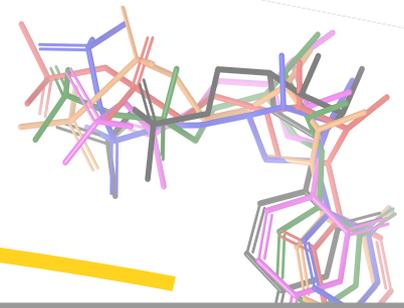


## THE MAIN GOALS



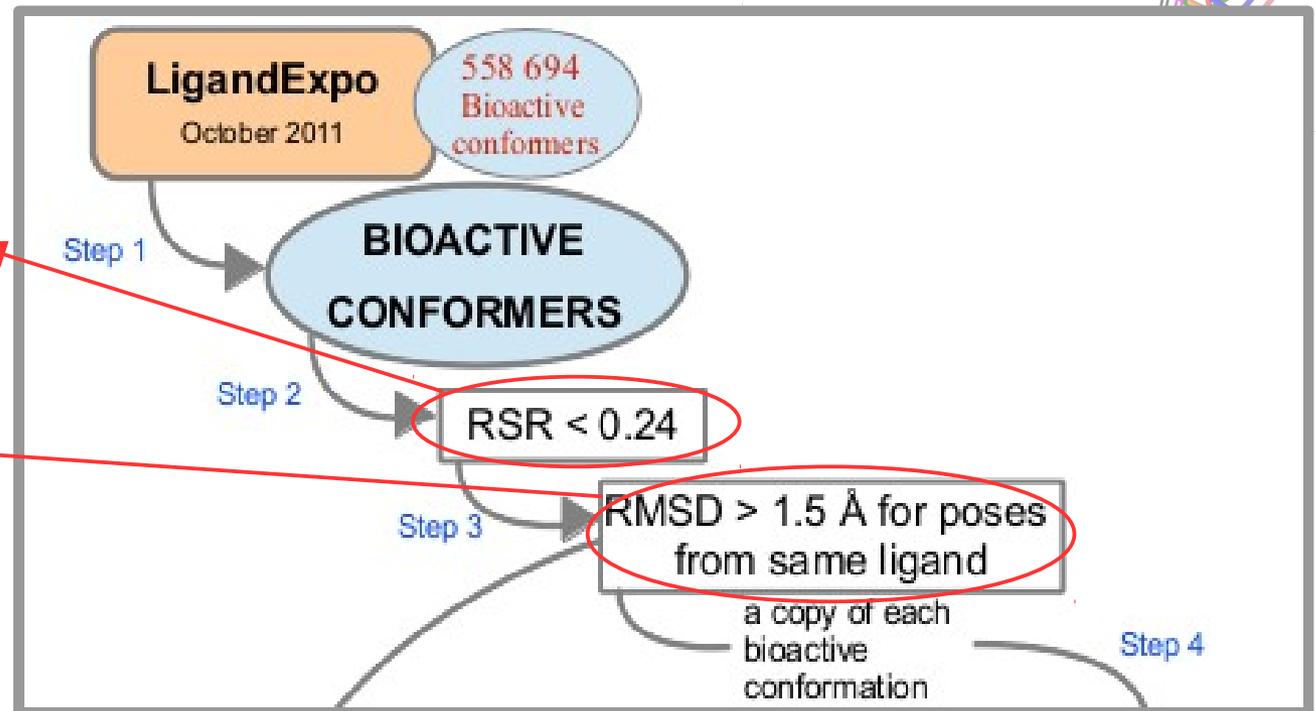
- (1) To find optimal conditions for conformational sampling with XedeX.
- (2) To identify to which extend available tools for conformational sampling are able to reproduce bioactive conformers
- (3) To determine what is the best way of sampling the conformational space and which are the limitations of such approach

# METHODOLOGY



Validated the fitting of the inhibitor to the EDM

Remove redundant conformers



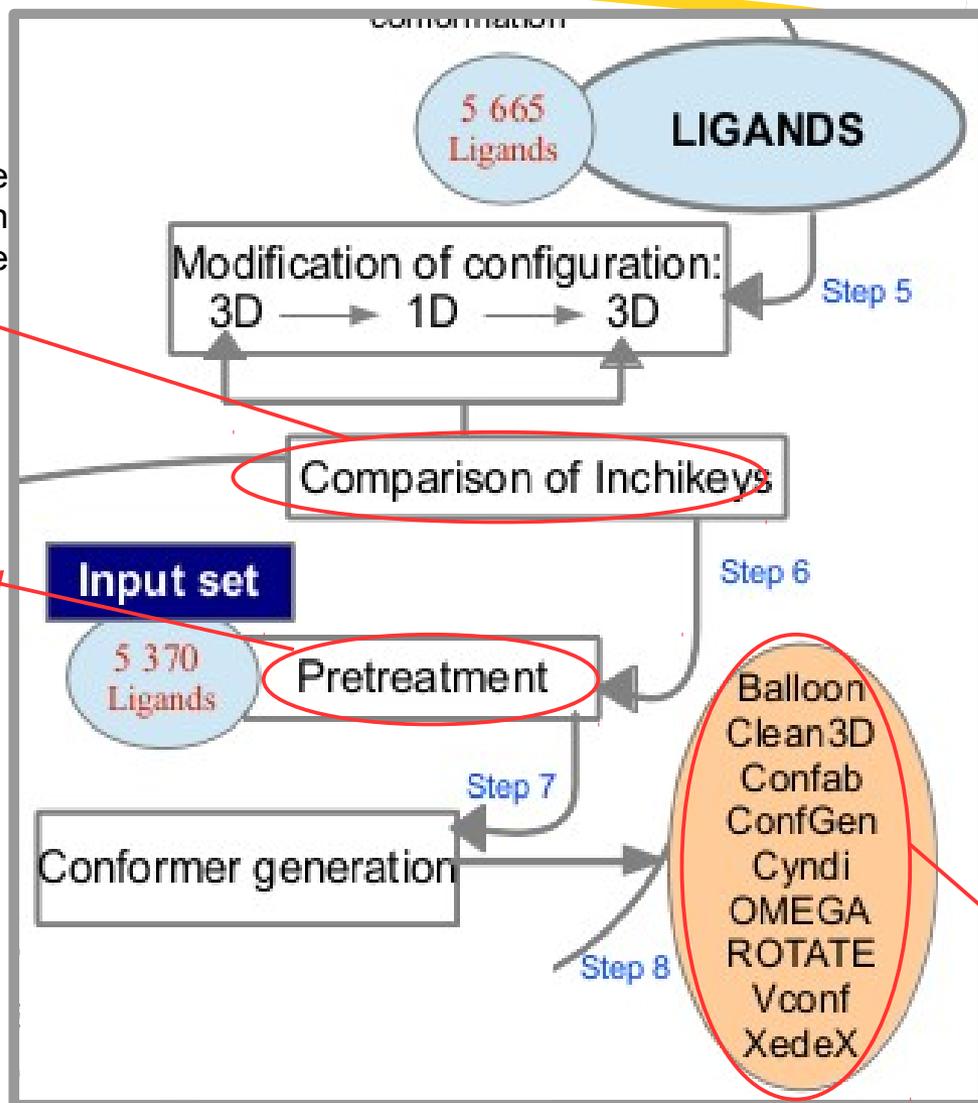
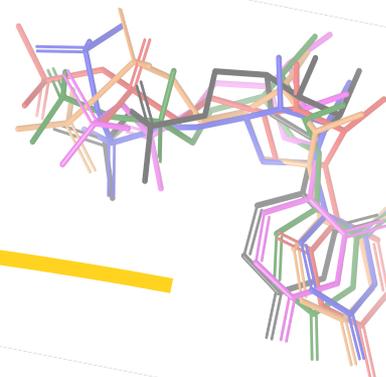
**Step 1.** Bioactive poses from experimental protein-ligand complexes were download.

**Step 2.** Poses with Real Space R-value (RSR) equal or higher than 0,24 were removed with the help of VHELIBS.

**Step 3.** Redundant conformers with  $\text{RMSD} \leq 1.5 \text{ \AA}$  were removed.

**Step 4.** The resulting set is formed by 6431 non-duplicated and high-quality conformers that belongs to 5665 different ligands.

# METHODOLOGY



To not biasing the conformer generation and to not lose stereochemical information

To ensure the homogeneity of the results

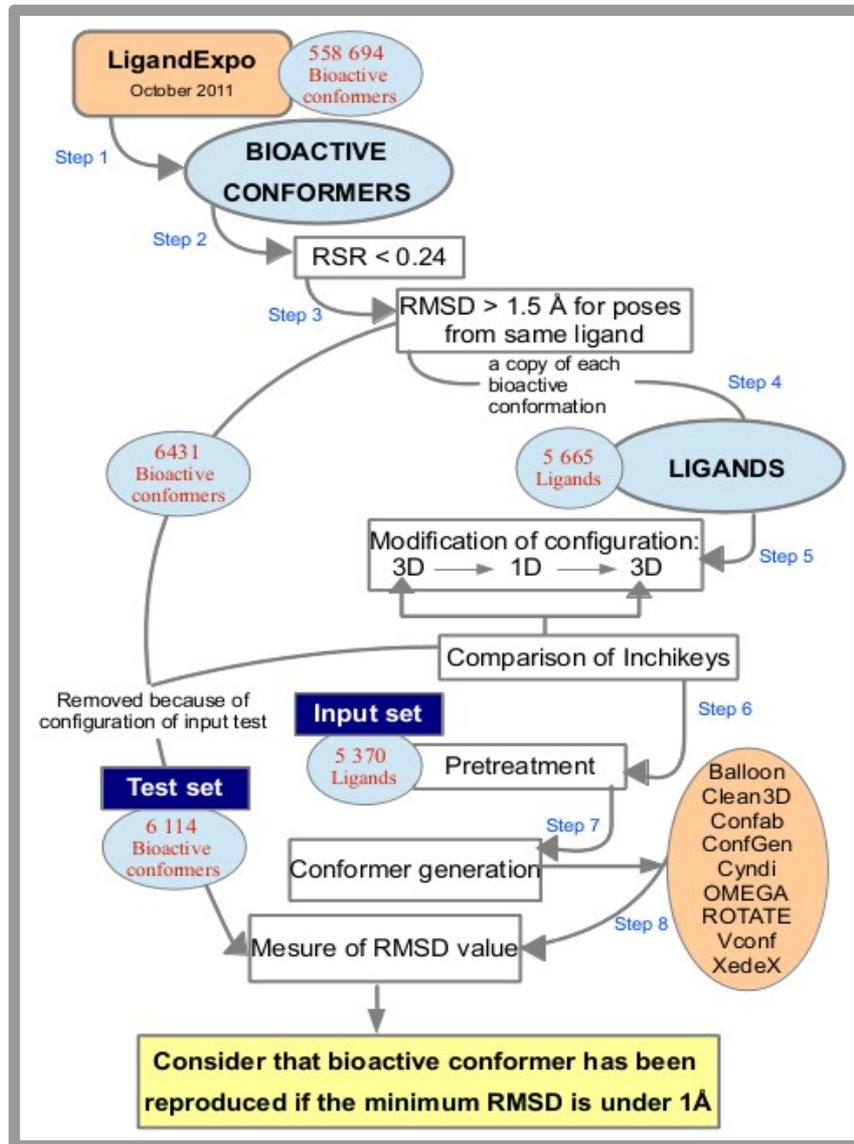
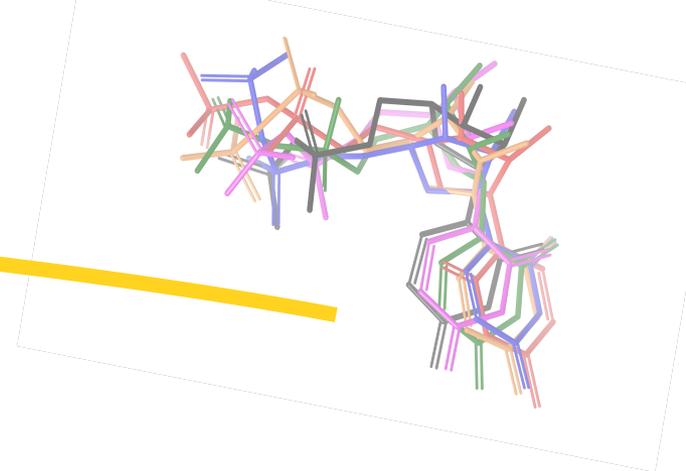
**Step 5.** With the aim of not biasing the generation of conformers by the input conformation, a modification of coordinates has done.

**Step 6.** To not lost stereochemical information, Inchikeys were compared.

**Step 7.** Conformer generation by 8 softwares.

Following default parameters or settings recommended

# METHODOLOGY



**Step 8.** Comparison of RMSD value between conformations and Test set

# RESULTS

Success to reproduce the bioactive conformation by different XedeX settings



## Pretreatments

Corina:

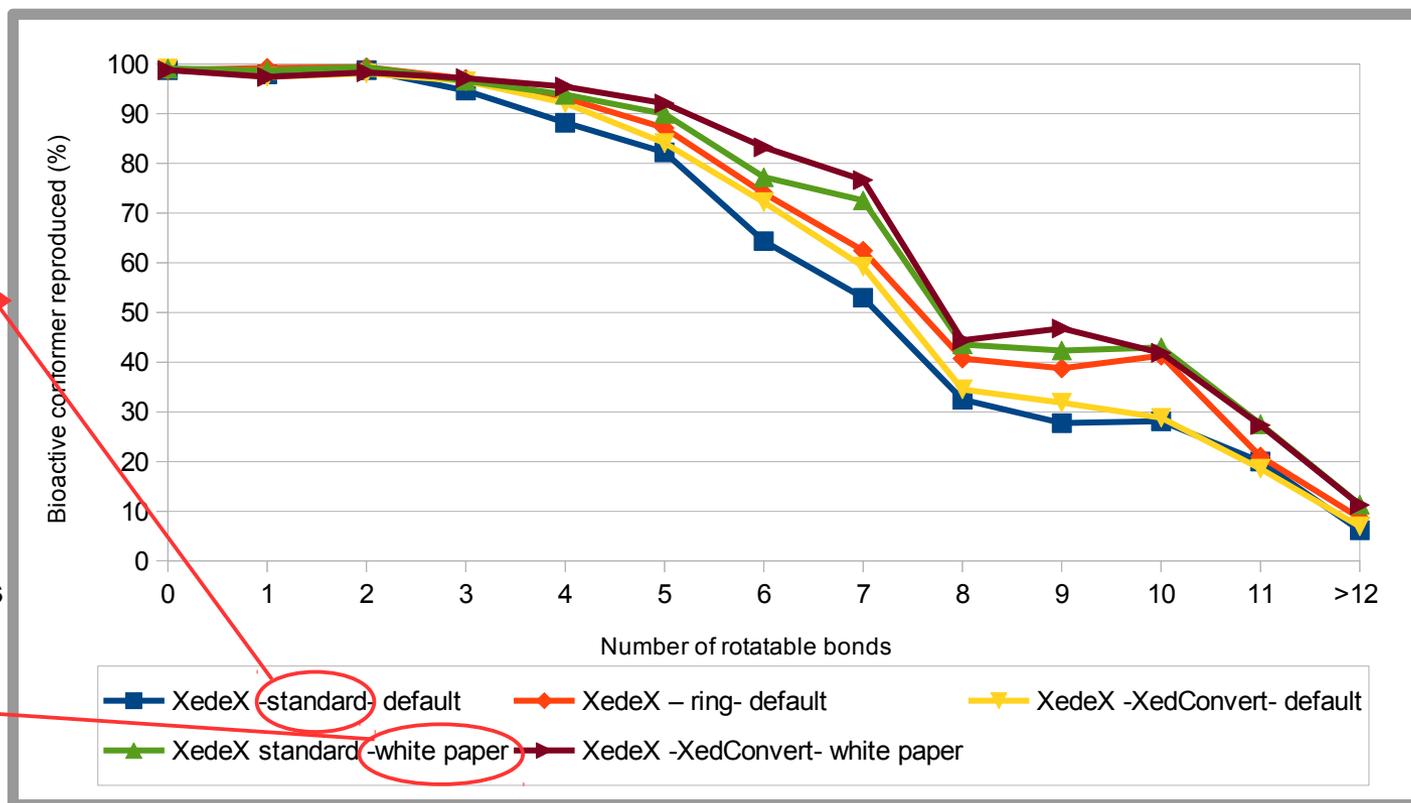
- Standard
- Ring conformations

Xedconvert

## Number of conformers

Default: 100

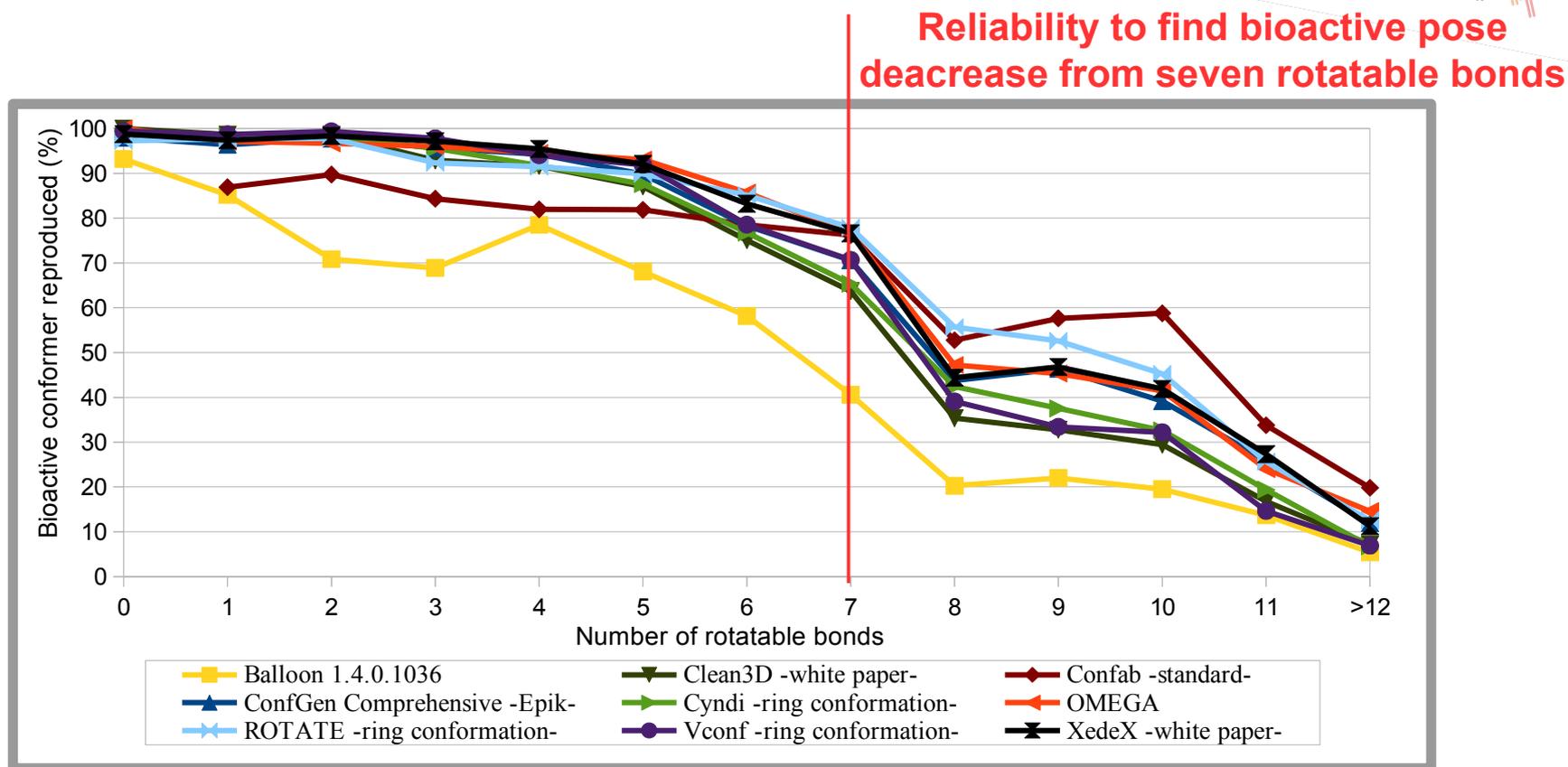
White paper: 300



# RESULTS

Success to reproduce the bioactive conformation

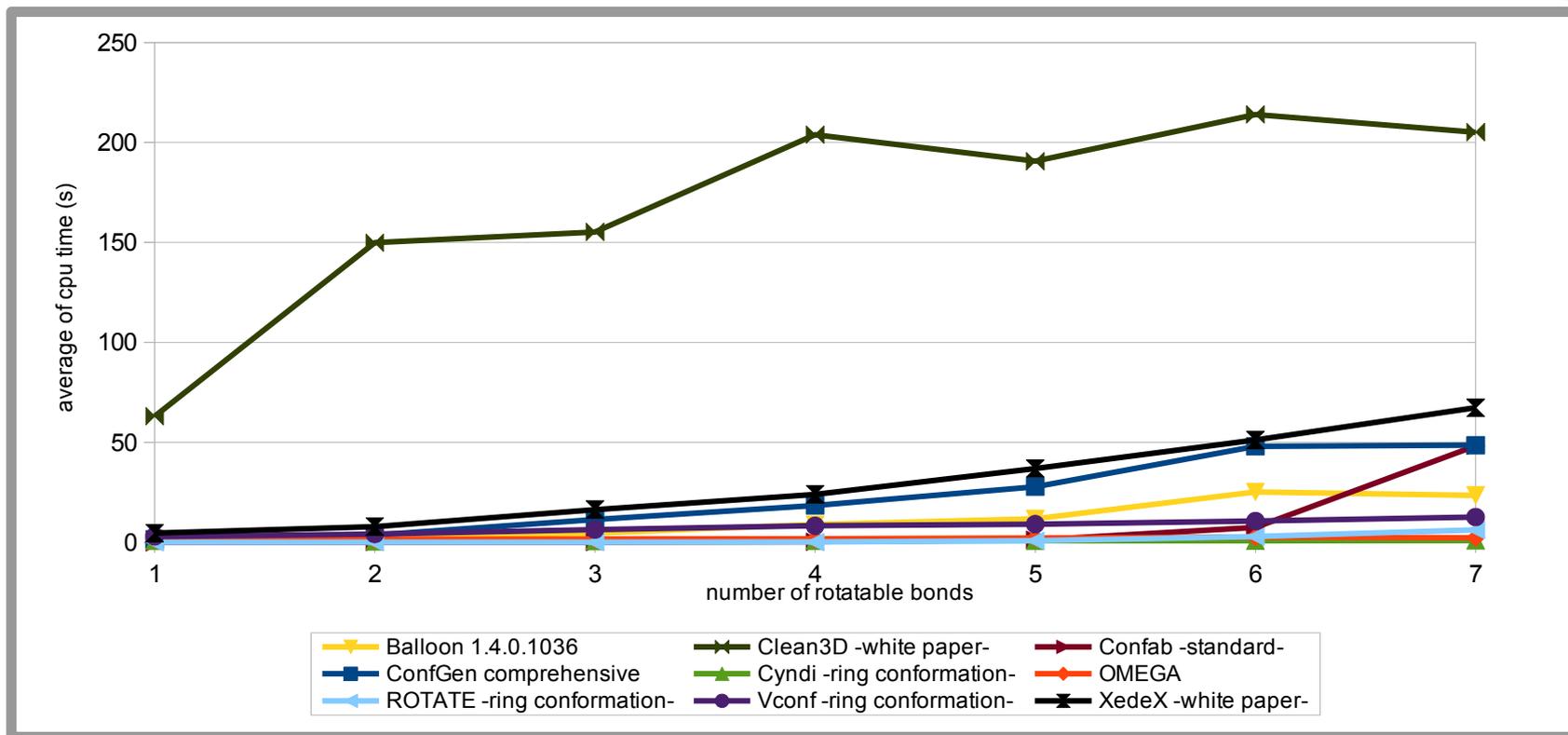
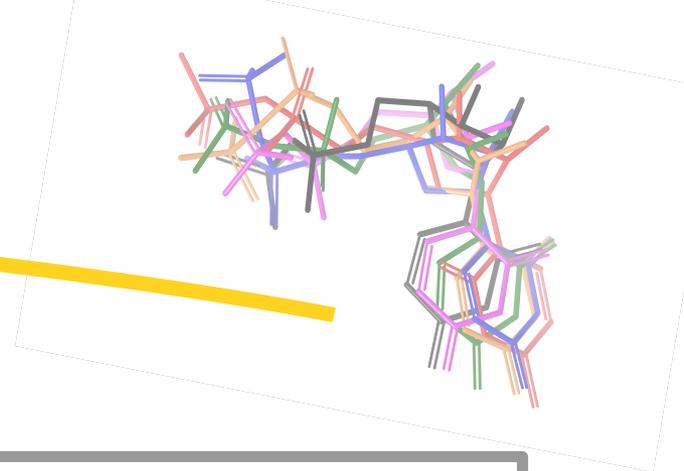
Cutoff of RMSD is 1 Å between active pose and a conformation



As increase the number of rotatable bonds, increase the difficult to reproduce bioactive pose

# RESULTS

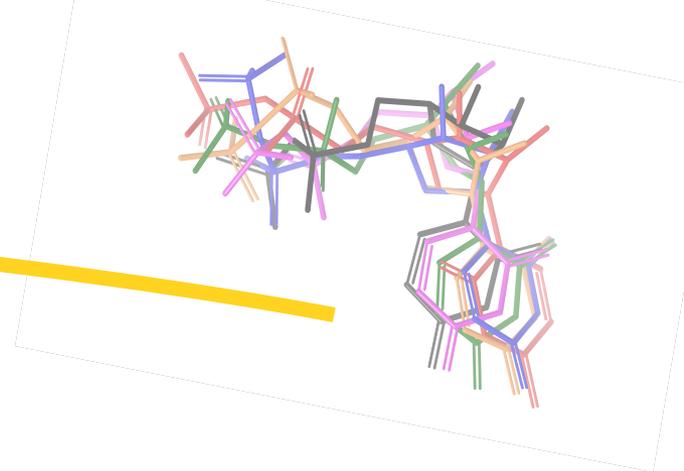
Amount of time to used to generate conformers per compound



As increase the number of rotatable bonds, increase the time to generate conformers

# RESULTS

The average number of conformers generated per compound



↑ Number of conformers



↑ Conformational space covered



Easier to find bioactive conformers

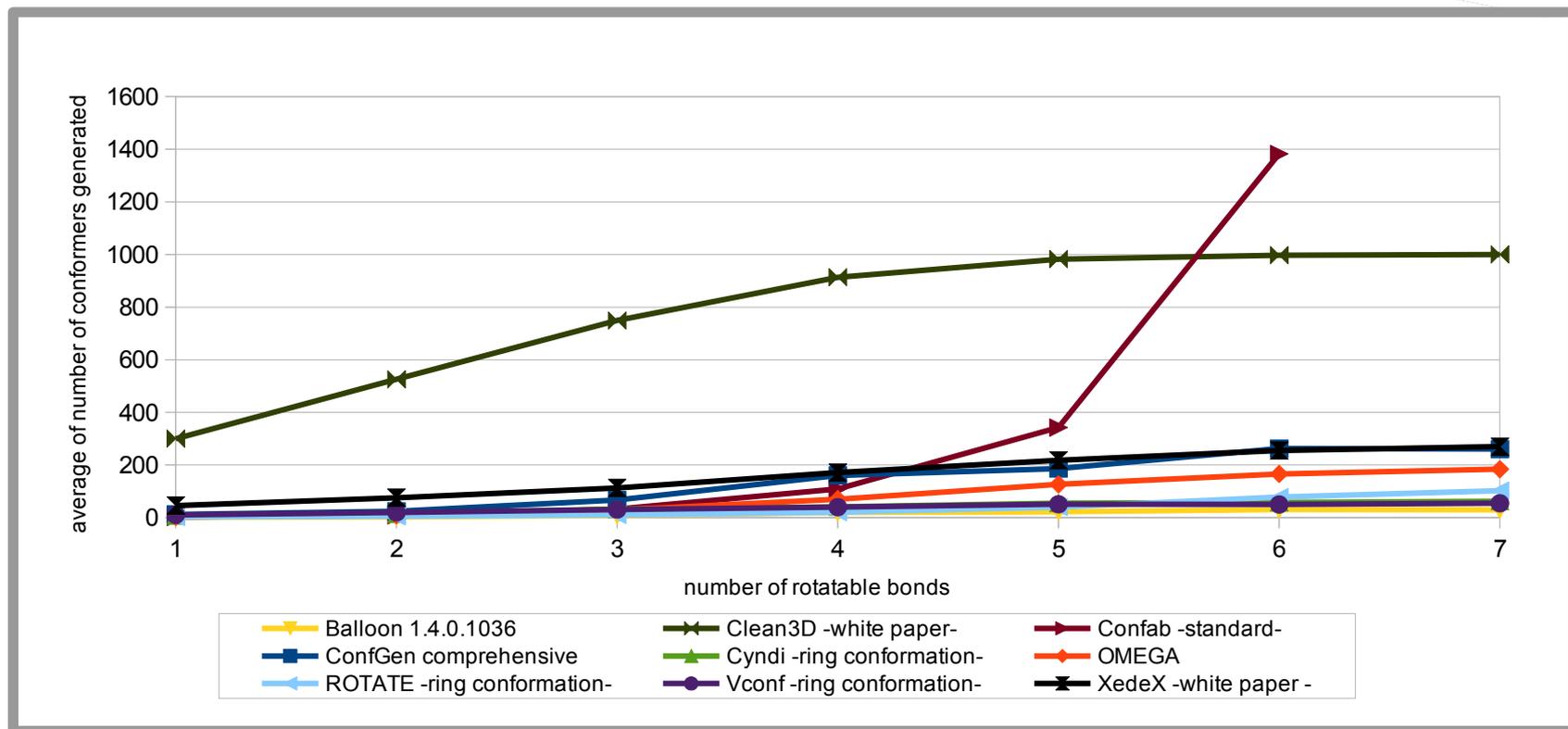
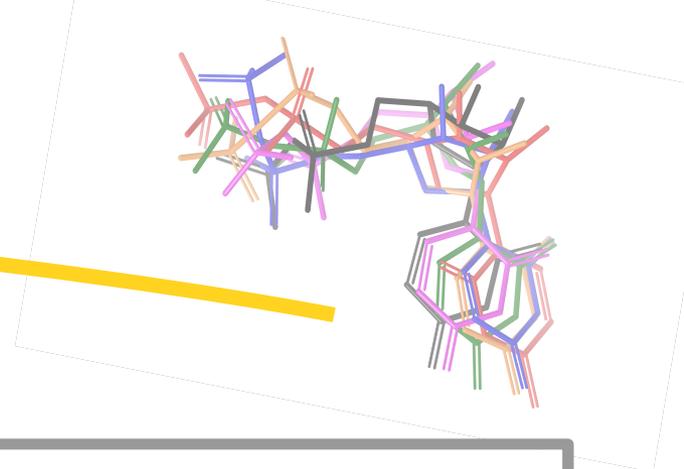


But ...

Noise into the system  
↑ Number of false positives

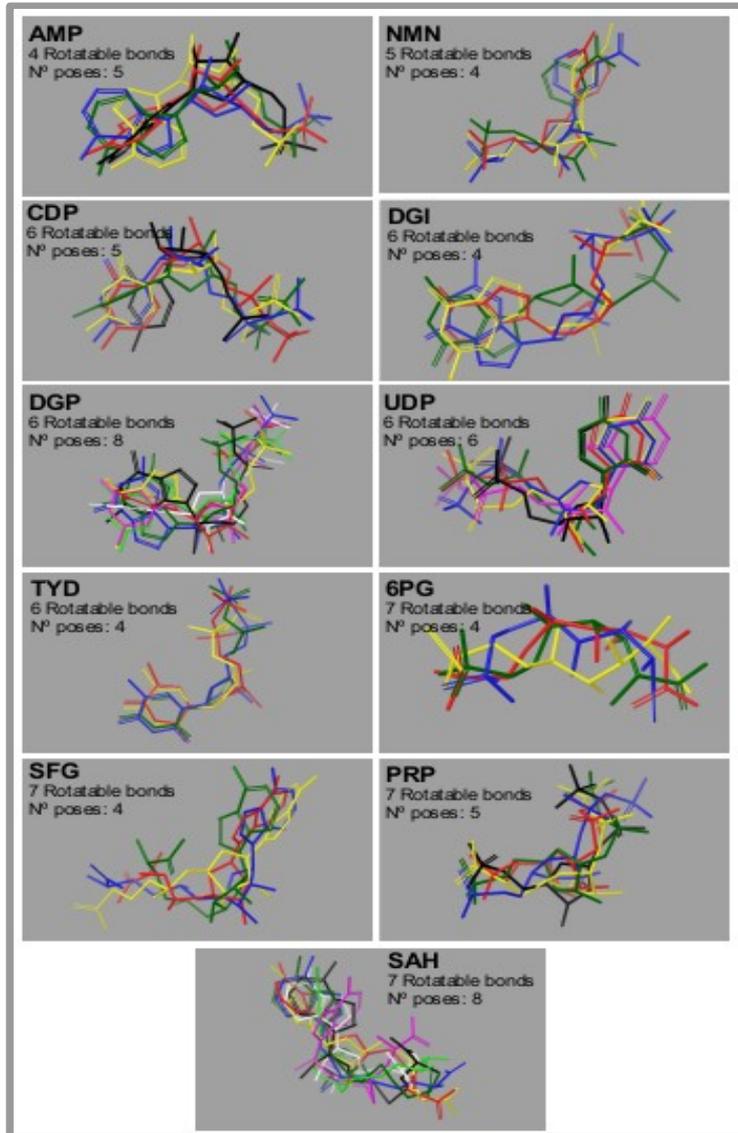
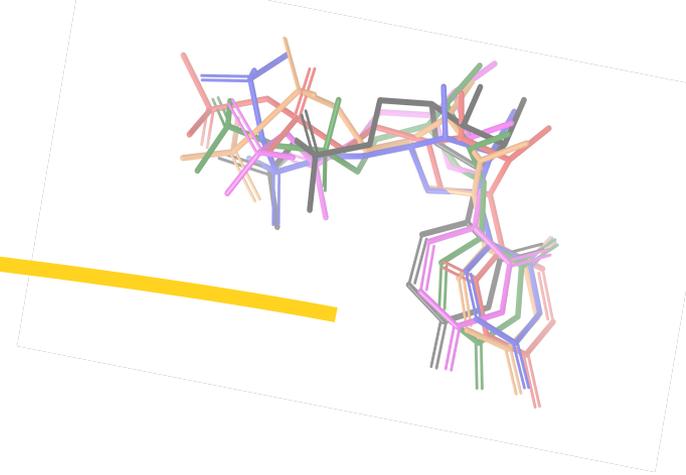
# RESULTS

The average number of conformers generated per compound



Maximum number of conformers by default is: a million for Confab; 300 for Cyndi; 200 for OMEGA; 100 number of searches for Vconf. In white papers, 1000 conformers have been generated for Clean3D; 300 for Balloon and 300 for XedeX. No upper limit exists for ROTATE and ConfGen

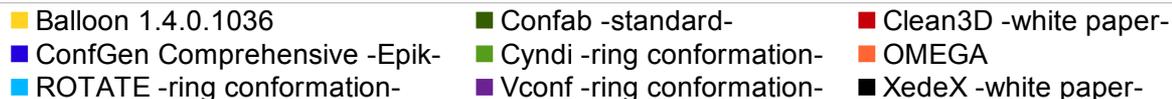
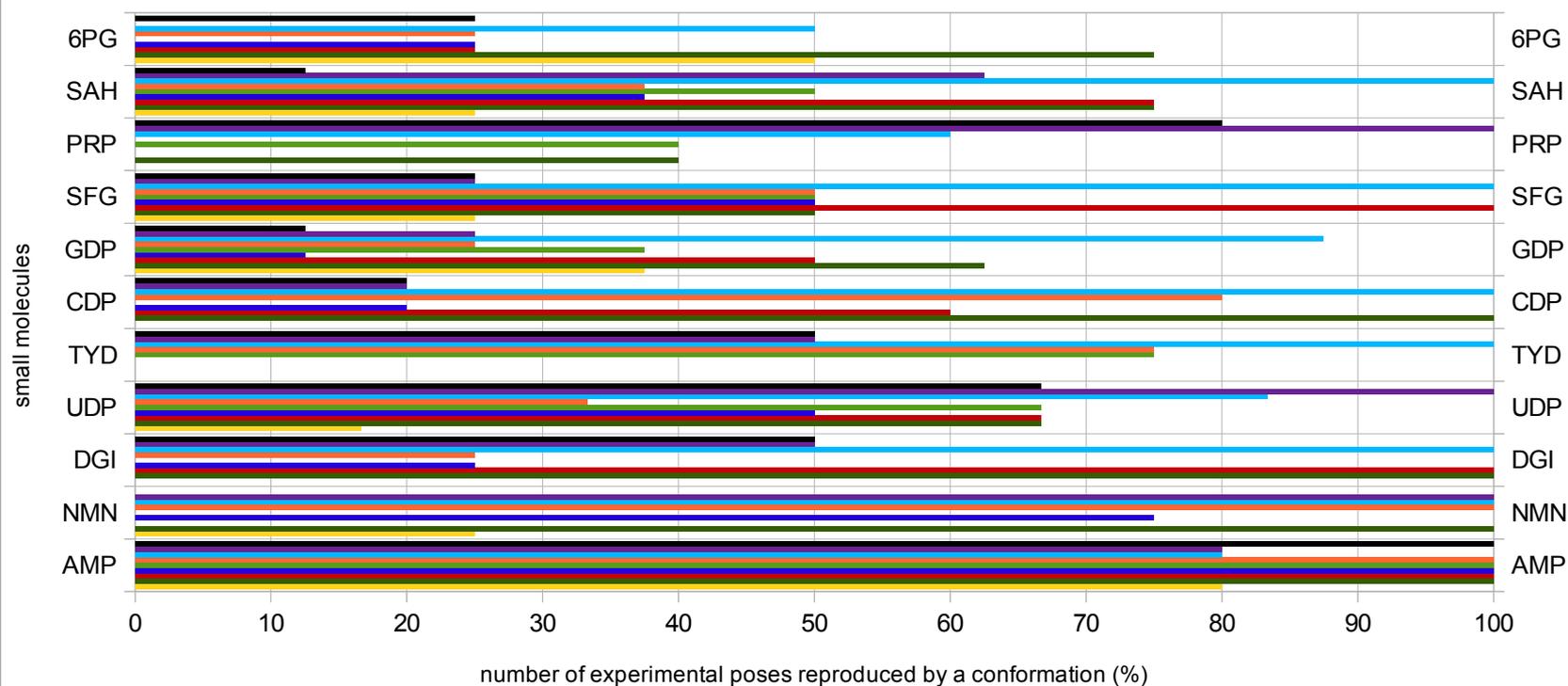
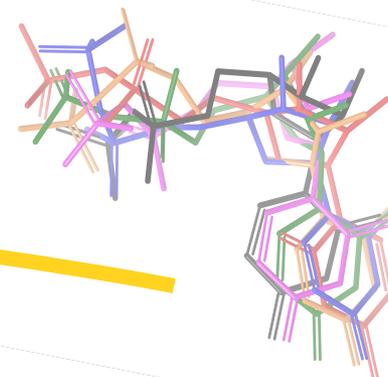
# RESULTS



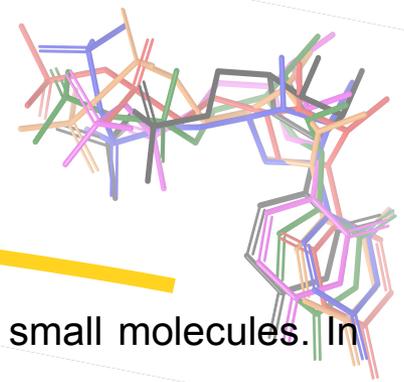
Ligands represented by more than four bioactive conformers that are significantly different (RMSE > 1.5 Å)

# RESULTS

Reproduction of bioactive conformations that belong to the same ligand



# CONCLUSIONS

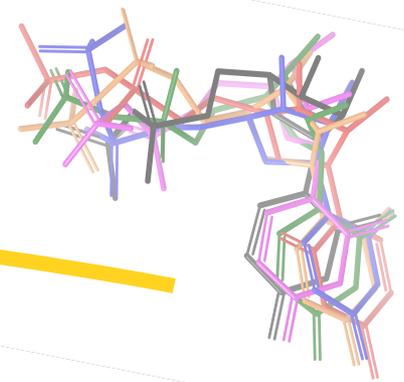


- The reproduction of bioactive conformers depends on the flexibility of small molecules. In this way, until seven rotatable bonds the success is higher than 80%.
- OMEGA, ROTATE (with ring conformations) and XedeX have had more ability to generate conformers closer to bioactive conformer.
- The size of conformational ensemble is bigger for Clean3D and Confab (for more than six rotatable bonds). Therefore, it can increase the probability of obtaining bioactive structure, but also it can expect to introduce noise into the system.
- More active poses that belong to the same ligand are reproduced accurately by ROTATE (with ring conformations).

## FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

- Proposal development of a database of pre-generated conformations of small molecules with less than seven rotatable bonds (70% of small molecules of Zinc Database) . It will allow to find bioactive conformers for a specific binding site of interest with a high probability to be the active one filtering by a pharmacophore.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



UNIVERSITAT  
ROVIRA I VIRGILI



Dr. Gerard Pujadas  
Dr. Santi García-Vallvé  
Dr. Miquel Mulero  
Dra. Cristina Valls

Adrià Cereto  
Sarah Tomàs  
Belén Pan  
Andrea Ardid

And also...

Support team of each software that we have used

This study was supported by the grant AGL2011-25831/ALI from the Spanish Government