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Peptide-based Strategies for Targeting Protein-protein Interactions. Andrea G. Cochran, Genentech, Inc., One DNA Way, South San Francisco, CA.

Protein-protein interactions are an important yet challenging area in small-molecule drug discovery. Despite great progress in understanding how proteins recognize one another with high affinity and specificity, it has been difficult to apply this knowledge to the problem of small-molecule recognition and antagonism. One approach is to use peptides as an intermediate case, combining some of the features of proteins with the reduced size desirable in a drug. Combinatorial techniques such as phage display have proven especially advantageous in discovering novel peptide antagonists. This lecture will review progress in this area and prospects for using peptide ligands to develop non-peptide drugs.