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Antimicrobial peptides (AMPs): Analysis, synthetic design and biological analysis.

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The increase of resistance to antibiotics [1], also due to a systematic and widespread misuse and abuse of these drugs, is a tremendous problem of healthcare systems and society. Multiple resistance to antibiotics is a global threat aggravated by the lack of novel alternative and effective therapeutic agents [2]. The most worrying multidrug-resistant pathogens are listed by the World Health Organization under the acronym “ESKAPE” [3], (i.e., *Enterococcus faecium*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Enterobacter* spp.) as needing urgent and prompt discovery of new antimicrobials. Antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) are potentially suitable alternatives to conventional antibiotics [4] or effective adjuvant drugs allowing conventional antibiotics to overcome resistance [2,5]. In this scenario, our research activity focuses on identifying, analyzing, synthesizing and testing new AMPs of natural origin, and their optimized synthetic variants.

Here, we present a hierarchical approach applied to *Taenia solium* peptides (TSO8), whose sequence is compared with other native AMPs, analyzed to determine potential active fragments, and then synthesized to obtain preliminary functional (MIC, cytotoxicity) and structural (CD) characteristics.

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