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Sommario/riassunto	Most drugs bind to a clearly defined macromolecular target that is complementary in terms of structure and chemistry. This observation is the basic paradigm of structure-based ligand design. Although this method first emerged in the 1980s, it has already become a powerful tool for pharmaceutical research. Much has been learned, however, since the first attempts to discover drugs on the basis of available biochemical and structural data. Nowadays, structure-based ligand design is an established method for creating drugs with new structural features, for modifying binding activities and pharmaco