



David Chan Bodin SIEBERT



Finishing year: 2018

Supervisors: Margot Ernst,
Medical University of Vienna;
Marko Mihovilovic, TU Wien

Thesis title: Towards Selective
Ligands for the
GABA_A Receptor α +/ β -
Interface.

**Current Position and
Employer:** Senior Account
Manager at Schrödinger Drug
Discovery Group, Munich,
GER.

MolTag alumni page:
[David Siebert \(univie.ac.at\)](#)

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[David Siebert, PhD | LinkedIn](#)

How would you summarize your thesis results in 3 sentences?

In my thesis we focused on the synthesis of a systematic library of differently substituted pyrazoloquinolinones to examine molecular determinants which trigger potency and efficacy at the α +/ β - and the α +/ γ 2- sites of GABA_A receptors. Here, we applied computational chemistry to create *in silico* models as well as mutational studies to shed light on the overall understanding of structural protein-ligand interactions. All in all, we identified several lead compounds for the design of subtype selective ligands at α +/ β - interface which will be improved in future studies.

What else did you do after your PhD?

I am CEO and CoFounder of Craft Collective which is an internet platform to support local micro-breweries in Germany. We advertise their events and beer and create a new customer base for local brewers. Vice versa, we provide an overview for customers over the local beer scene in different cities.

What was the impact of the MolTag program on your further career?

The interdisciplinary program supported me to select from a broad range of job opportunities. Currently, I am working in a more biology field even though I am a chemist. Also, I am looking at a new position in the area of computational chemistry right now due to my knowledge gained at MolTag lab rotations.

What did you particularly like about the MolTag program?

Interdisciplinary and international program with a lot of **opportunities to get to know different working techniques as well as different work places.** Also, the individual educational budget helps to set the focus in areas you really interested in.

What is your recommendation for current MolTag PhD students?

Stay open-minded and **try to get as much out of MolTag as possible regarding extra education.** It really is a unique opportunity and you should be happy to be part of it :).

