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PhD Project Title:

Design and synthesis of novel heterocyclic compounds for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer

Research Summary:

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cancer is responsible for nearly 10 million deaths only in 2020, being the second leading cause of death worldwide. The global burden of this disease continues to grow despite early detection and the available treatments. Therefore, there is a crucial need to focus on innovative targets in order to develop both therapeutic and diagnostic agents. My research project will be devoted to the design and synthesis of novel heterocyclic derivatives, developed as potential therapeutic and theranostic compounds against cancer. The subsequent functional evaluation of the synthesized compounds, through both *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays, could lead to the identification of novel drug candidates, hopefully broadening the perspective of cancer research.

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