

Clinical Pharmacology = Disease Progress + Drug Action

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Clinical pharmacology is a science that spans clinical medicine and applied pharmacology. Many important diseases are of long duration and it hoped that treatments may be developed to slow or even reverse progression of signs and symptoms. Simple quantitative models of disease progress and drug action can be helpful in understanding how drugs work, whether they are really protective and guide the design of informative clinical trials. Application of this approach to Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and post-menopausal osteoporosis illustrates the benefits of considering disease progression patterns when evaluating drug treatments.

Profile: Dr Holford is Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Auckland. His research interests are in pharmacometrics, disease progression and clinical trial simulation.