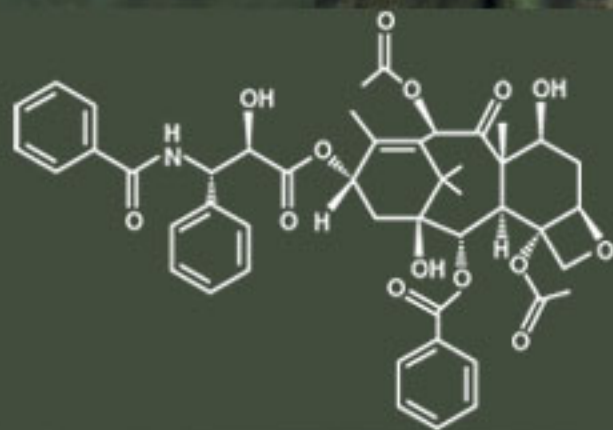


From Nature to Bench to Bedside

History of the Discovery and Development of Taxol and Camptothecin

In 1966 RTI chemists isolated Taxol from the bark of *Taxus brevifolia*, and in 1971 Drs. Wall, Wani, and colleagues published its complete structure. Discovery of its unique mode of action by Dr. Susan Horwitz in 1979 catalyzed taxol's development by NCI. Supplies of the naturally occurring drug limited progress, but response rates in ovarian cancer clinical trials were remarkable. Bristol-Myers Squibb obtained rights to develop taxol and, in late 1992, FDA approval was granted for its use in refractory ovarian cancer. In 1993, a semi-synthetic route for taxol from renewable precursors resolved both supply and environmental concerns.



TAXOL Timeline

