## Journal of Medicinal Chemistry

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J. Med. Chem., Just Accepted Manuscript • DOI: 10.1021/acs.jmedchem.9b01792 • Publication Date (Web): 19 Dec 2019 Downloaded from pubs.acs.org on December 20, 2019

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# Synthesis and in vitro and in vivo biological evaluation of tissue-specific bisthiazole histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitors

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KEYWORDS: Histone deacetylase inhibitors; Bisthiazole; Solid tumor.

ABSTRACT: A series of bisthiazole-based hydroxamic acids as novel potent HDAC inhibitors was developed during our previous work. In the present work, a new series of highly potent bisthiazole-based compounds were designed and synthesized. Among the prepared compounds, compound **H13**, which contains an  $\alpha$ -(S)-methyl-substituted benzyl group, displays potent inhibitory activity towards human HDACs and several cancer cells lines. Compound **H13** has a favorable PK profile and high tissue distribution specificity in the colon, as well as good efficacy in the AOM-DSS mouse model for colitis-associated colonic tumorigenesis.

## Introduction

The acetylation and deacetylation of histones play a key role in the structural modification of nuclear chromatin and are regulated by the activity of histone acetyltransferase (HAT) and histone deacetylase (HDAC), respectively.<sup>1</sup> Abnormal expression of HDACs has been associated with various types of cancers. HDAC inhibitors (HDACi) can inhibit the activity of HDAC and display obvious antitumor activity by changing the histone acetylation state, causing tumor cell growth arrest and inducing differentiation and apoptosis. Thus, HDAC inhibitors are widely used in cancer therapy.<sup>2</sup> To date, five HDAC inhibitors have been approved by the FDA (**Figure 1**). SAHA<sup>3</sup>, FK-228 (romidepsin)<sup>4</sup>, belinostat<sup>5</sup>, and chidamide<sup>6</sup> are used for treating cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL) or peripheral T-cell lymphoma (PTCL), and LBH589 (panobinostat)<sup>7</sup> is the first HDAC inhibitor approved for multiple myeloma (MM).



Figure 1. Approved HDAC Inhibitors

It is well known that most HDAC inhibitors are highly effective in hematological malignancy. However, in solid tumors, the results are not as promised. For example, many clinical trials of SAHA and FK-228 on breast, colorectal, and prostate cancers and other solid tumors have been conducted. Unfortunately, the results were not ideal, and various side effects such as prolonged QT intervals, anorexia, weakness, diarrhea, fatigue, vomiting, anemia, and leukocyte reduction were reported.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, the development of new HDAC inhibitors for solid tumor therapy is an ongoing challenge.

In our previous work, we identified a series of bisthiazole-based HDAC inhibitors that were inspired by the natural potent HDAC inhibitor largazole. Of those compounds, the simple but potent compound **H1 (Bisthianostat)**<sup>9,10</sup> was selected as a candidate for further development for multiple myeloma(NCT03618602). In this paper, we report further structural modifications of these bisthiazole HDAC inhibitors through changes to the linker group between the hydroxamate and the bisthiazole core (**Figure 2**) and through varying the substituents on the core structure. Thus, we demonstrated that compounds with an  $\alpha$ -(S)-methyl-substituted benzyl group as the linker had excellent potency in vitro and in vivo.



Figure 2. From Largazole to Bisthiazole HDAC Inhibitors

#### Chemistry

First, we kept the bisthiazole core structure and hydroxamates unchanged, but we replaced the aliphatic linker with heteroalkyl, benzyl or substituted benzyl groups. The syntheses of compounds **H2-H8** are outlined in Scheme 1. Acids  $1a^9$  and  $1b^9$  were condensed with different amines to afford amides 7-13; treating these amides with hydroxylamine hydrochloride afforded compounds **H2-8** respectively.

Commercially available intermediates 14 and 15 were condensed to afford imine 16.<sup>13</sup> Imine 16 was treated with different Grignard reagents to generate sulfinamides 17a-c.<sup>14</sup> The diastereoisomers 17a and 17b could be isolated by silica gel chromatography. Deprotection of 17a-c afforded chiral amines 18a-c. Amines 18a-c were condensed with various acids to afford amides 19a-c. The amides were then converted to compounds H6a-b and H9 through a similar route to what is shown in Scheme 1. To investigate the SAR in detail, the (S)-methyl benzyl linker was maintained, and a series of analogues with different substituents on the left-hand thiazole ring was designed and synthesized as outlined in Scheme 3. Various bisthiazole acids with substituents on the left-hand thiazole ring were coupled with chiral amine 18a to give amides 21a-f, which were converted to the final hydroxamates H10-15 through a route similar to what is shown in Scheme 2.







<sup>a</sup>Reagents and conditions: (a) EDCI, HOBt, i-Pr<sub>2</sub>NEt, DMF, room temperature, 12h. (b) NH<sub>2</sub>OH·HCl, DBU, DCM:MeOH=1:1, room temperature, 12h.

Scheme 2. Synthesis of Compounds H6a, H6b and H9.



<sup>a</sup>Reagents and conditions: (a) Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, DCM, reflux, 18 h. (b) Et<sub>2</sub>Zn, THF, -78 °C, 4 h. (c) 2 N HCl/MeOH, DCM, room temperature, 3 h. (d) EDCI, DMAP, DCM, room temperature, 12 h. (e) NH<sub>2</sub>OH·HCl, DBU, DCM:MeOH=1:1, room temperature, 12 h.

Scheme 3. Synthesis of Compounds H10-H15.



<sup>a</sup>Reagents and conditions: (a) EDCI, DMAP, DCM, room temperature, 12 h. (b) NH<sub>2</sub>OH·HCl, DBU, DCM:MeOH=1:1, room temperature, 12 h.

Results and discussion

## HDAC Inhibition Assay

The inhibitory activities against human HDACs of compounds **H1-8** are shown in Table 1. Using LBH589 (panobinostat) as the control compound, compared to **H1**, changing the aliphatic linker to a heteroalkyl group (compound **H2**, **Table 1**) or a phenyl group decreased the inhibitory activity of the compound, and they were much less potent toward the HDACs (compounds **H3** and **H4**, **Table 1**). However, the compounds with a benzyl linker showed higher HDAC inhibitory activities (compounds **H5-8**), and compound **H5**, which has no substituents at the benzyl position, was more potent against human HDACs 1, 3, and 6 than **H1** with IC50 values of 30-40 nM (**Table 1**). Small  $\alpha$ -substituents on the benzyl group were tolerated (compounds **H6-8**, **Table 1**).

Table 1. Inhibitory activity against human HDACs



Compound	R	LINKER		$IC_{50}(nM)$	
		-	HDAC1	HDAC3	HDAC6
H1	$\chi^{\Delta}$	$\sim\sim\sim$	81.46±4.91	73.91±3.83	61.49±4.64
H2	$\checkmark$	$\sim$	NA <sup>a</sup>	NA	NA
H3	$\checkmark$		1020±200	690±90	300±50
H4	$\checkmark$		660±90	410±60	310±60
Н5	$\checkmark^{\bigtriangleup}$	, H	23.74±0.98	27.51±0.16	21.91±2.80
Н6	$\checkmark^{\bigtriangleup}$	YN C	80.98±15.0	189±17	41.65±16.1

H7		22.33±2.97	16.29±2.18	16.58±1.69
H8		163.4±8	148±10	148±14
	LBH589	7.03±1.18	5.83±1.09	10.63±1.30
$NA^a = No$ inhibitory activity observed at 20 µg/mL.				

Considering the benzyl position is easily metabolized position in vivo, a substituent at the benzyl position was introduced to increase the metabolic stability in the same series. Further explorations focused on analogues with different configurations of  $\alpha$ -substituted benzyl groups (**Table 2**), and the chirality of the  $\alpha$ -methyl position of the benzyl group was crucial to the inhibitory activity. (S)-Methyl-substituted compound **H6a** was much more potent than its enantiomer **H6b** (IC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.04 µM and 0.28 µM, respectively, against HDAC 1, **Table 2**). When the (S)-methyl group was exchanged for a bulkier (S)-isopropyl group, the inhibitory activity of the compound was the same as that of compound **H6a** (compound **H9**, **Table 2**). Preliminary docking study of **H6a** and **H6b** showed the chiral methyl group determines the orientation of the compound in the pocket, S-enantiomer preferentially makes the hydroxamic acid coordinates to zinc ions in the pocket than R-enantiomer. Therefore, it is reasonable to take **H6a** as a new starting point for further exploration (Information on computational modeling/docking studies is shown in Figure I, SI file).

#### Table 2. Inhibitory activity against human HDACs



Compound	D	$IC_{50}(nM)$					
Compound	K	HDAC1	HDAC3	HDAC6			
H6	Me	80.98±15.0	189.4±16.7	41.65±16.1			
H6a	(S)-Me	$40.92 \pm 0.41$	42.51±3.04	$14.02 \pm 1.74$			

H6b	(R)-Me	279±5	260±22	211±36
H9	(S)-i-Pr	38.25±7.29	38.41±7.13	$14.15 \pm 2.03$
LB	H589	7.03±1.18	5.83±1.09	$10.63 \pm 1.30$

Due to the importance of the (S)-methyl group on the benzyl linker, we then investigated a series of compounds with an (S)-methyl group on the benzyl linker and different substituents on the bisthiazole core; the results are outlined in **Table 3**. When  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  were alkyl groups, the compounds showed slightly better inhibitory activity than **H6a** (IC<sub>50</sub> values of 10-20 nM, compounds **H10-12**, **Table 3**). Aromatic substituents such as a phenyl group at the 4' position on the left-hand thiazole ring greatly improved the potency against HDACs, and substituents on this phenyl ring were tolerated (compounds **H14** and **H15**, **Table 3**). The IC<sub>50</sub> value of compound **H13** was only 4 nM on HDACs (**Table 3**), and it was selected for further evaluation on a cellular level as well as an in vivo efficacy study.

Table 3. Inhibitory activity against human HDACs



Compound R.		D	$IC_{50}(nM)$				
Compound	$\mathbf{K}_1$	<b>K</b> <sub>2</sub>	HDAC1	HDAC3	HDAC6		
H6a	Н	Н	$40.92 \pm 0.41$	42.51±3.04	$14.02 \pm 1.74$		
H10	Me	Н	19.87±0.47	$17.06 \pm 0.34$	$18.51 \pm 0.45$		
H11	Н	Me	$16.52 \pm 0.50$	$13.88 \pm 0.31$	$19.08 \pm 1.55$		
H12	Cyclohexyl		$14.68 \pm 0.67$	$11.35 \pm 0.11$	$18.31 \pm 0.84$		
H13	Ph	Н	$3.64 \pm 0.26$	$3.02 \pm 0.03$	4.96±1.86		
H14	4-F-Ph	Н	$2.64 \pm 0.02$	$2.54 \pm 0.28$	$2.02 \pm 0.10$		
H15	4-OMe-Ph	Н	$3.57 \pm 0.40$	$3.78 \pm 0.93$	$2.38 \pm 0.17$		
	LBH589		7.03±1.18	5.83±1.09	10.63±1.30		

Compound H13 was also evaluated in a panel of 11 HDACs and related 3 SIRTs, as listed in

**Table 4**. Compound **H13** inhibits HDACs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, and 11 in nanomole potency and did not inhibit HDACs 4, 7 or 9 or any of the SIRTs.

Comj	pound	H13	LBH589
	HDAC1	$3.59 \pm 0.34$	$7.03 \pm 1.18$
	HDAC2	$13.26 \pm 2.04$	$22.83 \pm 0.87$
	HDAC3	$5.61 \pm 1.28$	$5.83 \pm 1.09$
	HDAC4	>20000	$10390 \pm 880$
	HDAC5	16740±1520	>20000
	HDAC6	1.59±0.16	6.09±0.73
$IC_{50}(nM)$	HDAC7	>20000	>20000
	HDAC8	16.84±4.23	19.79±4.58
	HDAC9	>20000	>20000
	HDAC10	$1.98 \pm 0.57$	$10.24 \pm 3.17$
	HDAC11	77.82±29.63	121±33
	SIRT1	>20000	>20000
	SIRT2	>20000	>20000
	SIRT3	>20000	>20000

**Table 4.** Inhibitory activity of compound **H13** against different HDAC family members andSIRT family members.

Efficacy of compound H13 on the cellular level

While compound **H13** was identified as a potent novel inhibitor for HDACs of class I and II, we evaluated its antiproliferative activity in a panel of solid tumor cell lines. LBH589 (panobinostat) was used as the control, and potency was assessed based on the concentration required to inhibit 50% of cell growth at 72 h. As is shown in **Table 5**, Compound **H13** displayed highly potent antiproliferative activities in all the solid tumor cell lines tested (with IC<sub>50</sub> values less than 200 nM,

**Table 5**). In particular, compound **H13** showed the most potent antiproliferative activity against NCI-N87 and T47D cells with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 28 and 40 nM, respectively.

Table 5. Antiproliferation Activity of Compound H13 Against Several Cancer Cell Lines

Call line	IC <sub>50</sub> (1	nM)
Cen nne	H13	LBH589
Human liver cancer cell line BEL-7402	80.79±2.49	21.28±1.61
Human lung adenocarcinoma cell line NCI-H1975	66.38±24.55	17.51±2.23
Human lung squamous cell carcinoma line EBC-1	110±46	$27.85 \pm 1.72$
Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7	58.52±25.72	$9.00 \pm 0.94$
Human breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-231	76.56±31.59	29.13±0.42
Human breast cancer cell line T47D	40.81±16.76	$6.98 \pm 0.72$
Human gastric cancer cell line NCI-N87	28.33±8.67	$8.42 \pm 0.77$
Human colon cancer cell line HT-29	166±7	37.55±4.81

Pharmacokinetic and distribution study of compound H13

The pharmacokinetic profiles of compound **H13** are summarized in Table 5. After oral administration of a 5 mg/kg dose of **H13** to mice, **H13** had a  $C_{max}$  of 138 ng/mL,  $T_{1/2}$  of 4.23 h, and oral bioavailability of 34.4% (**Table 6**).

Table 6. Pharmacokinetic Parameters of Compound H13								
Compound	Dose	T <sub>max</sub> (h)	C <sub>max</sub> (ng/mL)	AUC <sub>0-t</sub> (ng•h/mL)	$\begin{array}{l} AUC_{0\text{-}\infty}\\ (ng \bullet h/mL) \end{array}$	MRT (h)	T <sub>1/2</sub> (h)	F (%)
H13	i.v. 2 mg/kg p.o. 5 mg/kg	/ 0.67	/ 138	1075 924	1248 944	10.4 5.22	8.67 4.23	34

The metabolic stability of compound H13 in human, monkey, canine, rat and mouse liver cells was evaluated. Compared to compound  $H1^9$ , H13 had better in vivo stability. The mainly metabolism is undergone glucuronic acid binding and amide bond hydrolytic (Information on H13 metabolites is shown in Table I, SI file). No metabolites related to the phenyl group which attached

to bisthiazole were found, consider the ease of synthesis and the minimum of molecule weight, we chose compound **H13** instead of **H14** or **H15** for the extended profiling and in vivo experiments.

To investigate the distribution of compound H13 in mice, the concentrations of compound H13 were determined in tissues and plasma at different time points after oral administration of the mice. Tissue concentrations of compound H13 were analyzed by LC-MS/MS. The tissue distribution of H13 in mice showed that the plasma exposure was low in mice after p.o. administration (dose of 50 mg/kg), while high exposure was found in the small intestine and colon. Drug concentrations in tissues after 1 hour were on the following order: stomach> small intestine> liver> kidney> colon> lung> ovary> uterus> plasma> brain> testis. After six hours of administration, H13 still maintained a high concentration in the colon(Figure 3A). The similar results of tissue distribution were found when H13 was given by intravenous administration. After i.v. administration (dose of 10 mg/kg), high exposure in the small intestine and colon was also found as oral administration (Figure 3B).



**Figure 3.** Drug concentration in tissue (A) tissue distribution for oral administration after 1, 6, and 24 hours. (B) tissue distribution for intravenous administration after 0.33, 1, and 6 hours.

AUC is an important parameter for pharmacokinetic analyses, it represents the total drug exposure integrated over time (**Table 7**). The AUC can be applicable to the concentration of drug in tissues. It is the best estimate of drug delivery and an indicator of response. AUCs after the administration of **H13** was in the following order: stomach> colon> small intestine> liver> kidney> lung> ovary> uterus> testis> brain. The compound is distributed in colon in 14.7-fold more in AUC than in plasma. Compound **H13**, as a novel bisthiazole HDAC with an  $\alpha$ -(S)-methyl-substituted benzyl

group linker, was therefore identified as a potent and high tissue specificity HDAC inhibitor and moved forward into in vivo studies.

Tissue	AUC (ng•h/g)	Rate (Tissue/Plasma)
stomach	105642	176.5
colon	8795	14.7
small intestine	6079	10.2
liver	5185	8.66
kidney	4692	7.84
lung	3438	5.74
ovary	2622	4.38
uterus	1964	3.28
testis	1472	2.46
brain	698	1.17
plasma	599	1

Table 7. The AUC of H13 in tissues and plasma

## In Vivo Antitumor Efficacy

Because compound **H13** has favorable colon tissue specificity, we chose a human colorectal carcinoma HT-29 xenograftas the solid tumor model for preliminary evaluation and LBH589 as the control. The data are outlined in **Table 8** and **Figure 3**. Compound **H13** demonstrated significant antitumor activity with T/C % = 37.56%, 59.26%, and 60.58% at the oral administration of doses of 100 mg/kg, 50 mg/kg and 25 mg/kg, respectively (Table 8, Figure 3). At the same dose (50 mg/kg), compound **H13** was much more effective than LBH589 (T/C = 59.72% vs 93.85%, **Table 7**). Compound **H13** also showed an acceptable safety profile as indicated by body weight changes.

## Table 8 Efficacy of Orally Administered compound H13 in a HT-29 Xenograft Model

Compound	Dose	-	n	We (	ight g)	(mm <sup>3</sup> , 1	TV mean±SD)	RTV	T/C
-		d0	d21	d0	d21	d0	d21	(mean±SD)	(%)
Vehicle	p.o.	12	12	18.1	19.1	173±38	2854±940	$16.68 \pm 5.10$	
LBH589	50 mg/kg p.o.	6	2	18.2	17.8	173±34	2583±863	15.66±5.97	93.85
H13	100 mg/kg p.o.	6	6	18.7	17.5	169±36	1032±326	6.27±1.98**	37.56
H13	50 mg/kg p.o.	6	6	17.8	18.6	172±44	1602±913	9.96±6.13*	59.72
H13	25 mg/kg p.o.	6	6	17.6	18.5	172±34	1682±398	10.11±3.16*	60.58
t Student's test vs control, *p<0.01									



Figure 4. Efficacy of Orally Administered compound H13 in a HT-29 Xenograft Model

The tumor incidence of compound H13 in a colitis-associated colorectal cancer model

For evaluation whether compound **H13** directly decreases the incidence of colitis-associated cancer, we generated an AOM-DSS mouse model for colitis-associated colonic tumorigenesis<sup>15</sup> by injecting mice with procarcinogenic AOM followed by 3 cycles of oral DSS administration (**Figure 5A**). The mice were sacrificed on d156 following induction, and the body weight of the mice was monitored throughout the experiment. The tumor incidence was 12.50% and 11.11% in **H13**-treated groups, 100 mg/kg and 50 mg/kg respectively (**Figure 5C** and **Table 9**). The tumor

incidence was 77.78% in the vehicle group as expected, while LBH589 administration showed no effect in this model. Compound **H13** was well tolerated, as the animals showed no signs of toxicity or weight loss over a period of more than 150 days of drug administration (**Figure 5B**).

Group	Incidence (%)
Vehicle	77.78
LBH589 50 mg/kg	66.67
H13 100 mg/kg	12.50#
H13 50 mg/kg	11.11#
u test vs vehicle, #p<0.01	

Table 9. The tumor incidence of compound H13



**Figure 5.** (A) Colitis-associated colorectal cancer model (B) Body weight (C) Tumor diameter and distribution

Although hydroxamic acid has been reported as a mutagen, compounds such as vorinostat and panobinostat based on this structure have demonstrated clinical benefits in hematological malignances. In this study, we also found that after three weeks administration, our compound exerted potent efficacy against tumor growth in the xenograft models, while nude mice still were in good condition. More importantly, in the model of induced colorectal cancer, we also found that the animals were in good condition after treatment for up to three months. As we know, the AOM-DSS model is an inducible tumorigenesis model. In this model, the compound **H13** did not promote tumorigenesis, but showed promising efficacy. All these data suggest that this compound may have good safety profile. However, other HDAC warheads without mutagenic potential would be a better choice for future modifications.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, a series of new bisthiazole HDAC inhibitors was designed and synthesized by replacing the linker group and varying the substituents on the left-hand thiazole ring. Among the prepared compounds, compound H13, with an  $\alpha$ -(S)-methyl-substituted benzyl group, exhibited excellent inhibitory activity against human HDACs1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10 with IC<sub>50</sub> values as low as 4 nM, and it displayed good antiproliferative activity against both hematological malignancy and solid tumor cell lines. Compound H13 had an acceptable oral bioavailability (F = 34.4%, p.o. 5 mg/kg in mice) and showed high tissue distribution specificity. In efficacy studies, H13 showed good efficacy in solid tumors such as the HT-29 model. Compound H13 can also directly decrease the incidence of colitis-associated cancer. All these results indicate that compound H13 has potential in solid tumor therapy. Further preclinical studies are underway, and the results will be reported in due course.

## **Experimental Section**

**General Methods.** Starting materials, reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Anhydrous toluene and DCE were obtained from

a distillation over sodium wire or CaH2. All non-aqueous reactions were run under an inert

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atmosphere (nitrogen or argon) with rigid exclusion of moisture from reagents and all reaction vessels were oven-dried. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on pre-coated TLC plates with silica gel HSGF 254. Spots were visualized under UV at 254 nm. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were measured on a Varian Mercury-VX 300, Varian MR 400, AVANCE III 500 or AVANCE III 600 spectrometer using deuterated chloroform (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), deuterated methanol (CD<sub>3</sub>OD), deuterated acetone (acetone- $d_6$ ) and deuterated dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO- $d_6$ ) as the solvent. Chemical shifts are expressed in  $\delta$  (ppm.). Abbreviations for signal coupling are as follows: s, singlet; brs, broad singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; dd, double doublet; m, multiplet. Coupling constants (J) are given in Hz. HR-MS were measured on a Micromass Ultra Q-Tof. Purity of all final compounds was 95% or higher. Purity was evaluated by analytical HPLC chromatograms using Agilent 1200 series LC system equipped with a degasser, a quaternary pump, an auto sampler, a column oven and a diode array detector. Analytes were separated on a Zorbax SB C18 column ( $4.6 \times 150$  mm, 5 µm). Solvent A was 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in H<sub>2</sub>O, and solvent B was 100% methanol. Gradient elution: 20% B for 2 min, then 20%-80% B from 2 to 20 min, 80% B was maintained for 5 min, then 80% -20% B from 25 min to 30 min. All compounds were monitored at 254 nm at room temperature. Flow rate: 1.0 mL/min. The following abbreviations for solvents and reagents are used; N, N-dimethlformamide (DMF), dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), sodium hydroxide (NaOH), 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE), tetrahydrofuran (THF).

**5-Isobutyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxylic acid (1a)**. Under the protection of  $N_2$ , a solution of 2bromothianzole (5.51g, 0.034mol) was added dropwise to a suspension of activated Zn powder (1.87g, 0.029mol) in dry THF (30mL) and the resulting mixture was heated to reflux for 2h. After the organozinc reagents was obtained, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature.

 m/z: 283.0 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>.

Meanwhile, under the protection of N<sub>2</sub>, Pd (OAc)<sub>2</sub> (272mg, 1.2mmol), PPh<sub>3</sub> (630mg, 2.4mmol) and methyl 2-bromo-5-isobutylthiazole-4-carboxylate (9.42g, 0.034mol) was add to dry toluene(30mL), and the resulting mixture was stirred under room temperature for 2h. Then the reaction mixture was transfer to the organiczinc reagents, then the obtained mixture was again heated to reflux for several hours until most of methyl 2-bromo-5-isobutylthiazole-4-carboxylate was consumed. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residues were diluted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  and the obtained suspension washed with 1N HCl and brine, respectively. The CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE:EtOAc = 20:1-4:1) to afford methyl 5-isobutyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxylate as pale-yellow solids (7.96g, 83%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.86 (d, J = 3.3Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 3.3Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.15 (d, J = 6.9Hz, 2H), 1.95-1.23 (m, 1H), 0.99 (d, J = 6.6Hz, 6H); MS (ESI+)

To a stirred solution of above obtained coupling product methyl 5-isobutyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4carboxylate (11.28g, 0.04mmol) in MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:4, v/v, 50mL) was added solid NaOH (3.00g, 0.07mmol) at 0°C. The resulting mixture was heated to reflux for 1h and the cooled to room temperature. After removal of MeOH under reduced pressure, the resulting mixture was extracted with  $Et_2O$ . The aqueous phase was then acidified with 1N HCl to pH = 2.0, extracted with EtOAc 150 mL ( $50 \text{mL} \times 3$ ). The combination EtOAc extract was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford respective acid as a yellow solid **1a**.<sup>1</sup>H **NMR** (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.86 (d, J = 3.3Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 3.3Hz, 1H), 3.15 (d, J = 6.9Hz, 2H), 1.95-1.23 (m, 1H), 0.99 (d, J = 6.6Hz, 6H); MS (ESI+) m/z: 269.0(M+H)<sup>+</sup>.

5-Cyclopropyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxylic acid (1b). 1b was obtained in 75% yield as yellow

solids according to the preparation procedure for **1a.** <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.85 (d, J = 3.0Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 3.0Hz, 1H), 3.10-3.14 (m, 1H), 1.31-1.38 (m, 2H), 0.84-0.89 (m, 2H); **MS** (ESI+) m/z: 267.0(M+H)<sup>+</sup>.

Methyl 1-(5-isobutyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carbonyl)piperidine-4-carboxylate (7). To a solution of the bisthiazole carboxyl acid 1a (70mg, 0.26mmol) in 5mL dry DMF were added EDCI (49mg, 0.26mmol), HOBT (35mg, 0.26mmol), 19 (40mg, 0.28mmol) and i-Pr<sub>2</sub>NEt (99mg, 0.75mmol), respectively. The resulting mixture was stirred for 12h at room temperature. Then the mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with EtOAc (10mL×3). The combined organic phase was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and then concentrated under reduced pressure The obtained residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE:EtOAc =10:1) to afford 26 (yellow oil, 81.7%).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  7.89 (d, *J* = 3.3Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 3.3Hz, 1H), 4.49 (d, *J* = 13.2Hz, 1H), 3.82(s, 3H), 3.77 (d, *J* = 13.8Hz, 1H), 3.07-3.26 (m, 2H), 2.84 (d, *J* = 7.2Hz, 2H), 2.63-2.70 (m, 1H), 1.87-1.99 (m, 2H), 1.66-1.80 (m, 2H), 0.99 (d, *J*=6.6Hz, 6H) 3.15 (d, *J* = 6.9Hz, 2H), 1.95-1.23 (m, 1H).

8-13 was synthesized following procedures similar to that described for compound 7

Methyl 4-(5-isobutyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxamido)benzoate (8). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) :  $\delta$  9.47 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 8.7Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d, J = 3.3Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.4Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, J = 3.3Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.30 (d, J = 7.2Hz, 2H), 2.02-2.07 (m, 1H), 1.02 (d, J = 6.6Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.8, 160.6, 160.0, 156.9, 149.8, 144.3, 143.3, 142.1, 131.0, 125.7, 121.6, 119.1, 52.2, 36.1, 31.2, 22.5, 22.4.

Methyl (E)-3-(4-(5-isobutyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxamido)phenyl)acrylate (9) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) :  $\delta$  9.04 (s,1H), 8.03 (d, J = 8.7Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, J = 3.3Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, J = 16Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, J = 16Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.23 (d, J = 7.2Hz, 2H), 2.01-1.98 (m, 1H), 1H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.6Hz, 6H);

Methyl 4-(1-(5-cyclopropyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxamido)ethyl)benzoate (11).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.03 (d, J = 8.1Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, J = 3.3Hz,1H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.1Hz, 1H), 7.49

(d, J = 8.1Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 3.3Hz,1H), 5.40-5.28 (m, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.47–3.38 (m, 1H), 1.65 (d, J=7.2Hz, 3H), 1.33-1.28 (m, 2H), 0.82-0.78 (m, 2H); **MS (ESI+)** m/z: 436.1(M+Na)<sup>+</sup>. **Benzyl 4-(1-(5-cyclopropyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxamido)cyclopropyl)benzoate (12).** <sup>1</sup>H **NMR** (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.01 (d, J = 8.7Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 3.0Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 3.0Hz, 1H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.49-3.38 (m, 1H), 1.53-1.42 (m, 4H), 1.35-1.28 (m, 2H), 0.83-0.78 (m, 2H); **MS (ESI+)** m/z: 524.1(M+Na)<sup>+</sup>.

methyl 4-(1-(5-cyclopropyl-[2,2'-bithiazol]-4-yl)-2-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl)benzoate (13). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.03 (d, J = 8.7Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, J = 3.0Hz,1H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.7Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, J = 3.0Hz,1H), 4.36 (q, J = 7.2Hz, 2H), 3.41–3.32 (m, 1H), 1.83 (s, 6H), 1.37 (d, J = 7.2Hz, 3H), 1.28-1.23 (m, 2H), 0.79-0.74 (m, 2H); MS (ESI+) m/z: 464.1(M+Na) +

methyl (S,E)-4-(((tert-butylsulfinyl)imino)methyl)benzoate (16a). To a solution of 14 (5.00g, 30.5mmoL) in 150mL dry DCM were added 15a (4.43g, 36.6mmoL), CsCO<sub>3</sub> (12.9g, 36.6mmoL), the mixture was stirred for 18h at reflux temperature, and then concentrated under reduced pressure, then the mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with EtOAc. The resulting mixture use diatomite to filter. The combined organic phase was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and then concentrated under reduced pressure The obtained residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE:Acetone=4:1) to afford 16a.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.63 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.4Hz, 2H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.4Hz, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 1.27 (s, 9H); MS (ESI+) m/z: 290.1(M+Na)<sup>+</sup>.

Methyl (S,E)-4-(2-(tert-butylsulfinyl)vinyl)benzoate (16b). 16b was synthesized following procedures similar to that described for compound 16a.

Methyl 4-((S)-1-(((S)-tert-butylsulfinyl)amino)ethyl)benzoate (17a). To the solution of Et<sub>2</sub>Zn (17mL, 1M in Toluene, 17mmoL) in 50mL dry THF was added MeMgBr (15mL, 1M in Toluene, 15mmoL) at room temperature. After stirred for 30min, the mixture was cooled to -78°C, the **16a** (2.67g, 10 mmoL) in 15mL dry THF was added. The mixture was stirred for 4h at -78°C. After the mixture was heat up to room temperature. Then the mixture was diluted with saturated and ammonium chloride solution and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic phase was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and then concentrated under reduced pressure The obtained residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE: Acetone=4:1) to afford **17a.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, CD3Cl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.01 (d, *J* = 8.4Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.4Hz, 2H), 4.59 (dq, *J* 

*Methyl* 4-((*S*)-1-(((*S*)-tert-butylsulfinyl)amino)-2-methylpropyl)benzoate (**17b**). **17b** was synthesized following procedures similar to that described for compound **36a**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.01 (d, *J* = 8.4Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.4Hz, 2H), 4.63 (dq, *J* = 6.3Hz, 3.3Hz, 3H), 1.20 (s, 9H); MS (ESI+) *m/z*: 306.1(M+Na)<sup>+</sup>.

Methyl 4-((R)-1-(((R)-tert-butylsulfinyl)amino)ethyl)benzoate (17c). 36c was synthesized following procedures similar to that described for compound 36a <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.99 (d, J = 6.9Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 6.9Hz, 2H), 4.19 (t, J = 5.7Hz,1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.47 (d, J = 5.1Hz, 1H), 2.27-2.14 (m, 1H), 1.23 (s, 9H), 0.92 (dd, J = 6.9Hz, 3H), 0.79 (d, J = 6.9Hz, 2H); MS (ESI+) m/z: 334.2(M+Na)<sup>+</sup>. [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> =+33.4 (c 1.81, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). This sample was measured on an Autopol VI, serial number 90079, manufactured by Rudolph Research Analytical,Hackettstown, NJ. The literature reports that R-configuration compound [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> =-33.4 (c 1.81, CHCl<sub>3</sub>)<sup>12</sup>, 36c was therefore confirmed as S-configuration compound.

Methyl (S)-4-(1-aminoethyl)benzoate (18a). To a stirred solution of 17a (1.18g, 4.16 mmoL) in 5mL DCM, 10mL 2N HCl/MeOH was added at 0°C, the mixture was stirred for 3h at room temperature and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained residue hen the mixture was diluted with saturated and sodium carbonate solution and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic phase was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and then concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain 18a without further purification (700mg, 94%, yellow oil).

Methyl (S)-4-(1-amino-2-methylpropyl)benzoate(18b). 18b was synthesized following procedures similar to that described for compound 18a.

Methyl (R)-4-(1-aminoethyl)benzoate(18c). 37c was synthesized following procedures similar to that described for compound 18a.

Methyl (S)-4-(1-(5-cyclopropyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxamido)ethyl)benzoate(19a). To a solution of the bisthiazole carboxyl acid 1b (63mg, 0.25mmoL) in 3mL dry DCM were added 18a (50mg, 0.28mmoL) and DMAP (45mg, 0.38mmoL), respectively. The resulting mixture was stirred for 10min at room temperature. Then the EDCI (71mg, 0.38mmoL) was added to the resulting mixture under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at 0°C. The resulting mixture was stirred for overnight at room temperature. The obtained mixture was diluted with 1N HCl and extracted with EtOAc (10mL×3). The combined organic phase was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>,

and then concentrated under reduced pressure The obtained residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE:EtOAc=4:1) to afford 19a. (79mg, 76.5%, white solid) <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(300 \text{ MHz, CDC}_3) \delta 8.01 \text{ (d, } J = 8.1 \text{ Hz, 2H)}, 7.82 \text{ (d, } J = 3.0 \text{ Hz, 1H)}, 7.66 \text{ (d, } J = 7.8 \text{ Hz, 1H)}, 7.47$ (d, J = 8.1Hz, 2H), 7.41(d, J = 3.0Hz, 1H), 5.37-5.27 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.46-3.37 (m, 1H), 1.62 $(d, J = 7.2Hz, 3H), 1.31-1.26 (m, 2H), 0.81-0.75 (m, 2H); MS (ESI+) m/z: 436.4(M+Na)^+$ . 19b,c was synthesized following procedures similar to that described for compound **19a**. **Methyl** (S)-4-(1-(5-cyclopropyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxamido)-2methylpropyl)benzoate(19b). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.02(d, J=8.4Hz, 2H), 7.85(d, J=3.3Hz, 1H), 7.66(d, J=7.8Hz, 1H), 7.45(d, J=3.3Hz, 1H), 7.42(d, J=8.4Hz, 2H), 4.95 (t, J=8.4Hz, 4.9 2H), 3.90(s, 3H), 3.45-3.36(m, 1H), 2.26-2.15(m, 1H), 1.32-1.25(m, 2H), 1.05(d, J=6.9Hz, 3H), 0.94(d, J=6.9Hz, 2H), 0.82-0.76(m, 2H), 0.74(d, J=6.0Hz, 6H); MS (ESI) m/z: 464.1(M+Na<sup>+</sup>) Methyl (R)-4-(1-(5-cyclopropyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxamido)ethyl)benzoate(19c).  $^{1}H$ **NMR** (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.03(d, J=8.1Hz, 2H), 7.84(d, J=3.3Hz,1H), 7.66(d, J=7.8Hz,1H), 7.49(d, J=8.1Hz, 2H), 7.43(d, J=3.3Hz,1H), 5.38-5.28(m, 1H), 3.90(s, 3H), 3.47-3.38(m, 1H), 1.64(d, J=6.9Hz, 3H), 1.32-1.28(m, 2H), 0.82-0.77(m, 2H); MS (ESI) m/z: 436.4(M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 21e-f was synthesized following procedures similar to that described for compound **19a**. Methyl (S)-4-(1-(5-cvclopropyl-5'-methyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4carboxamido)ethyl)benzoate(21a). <sup>1</sup>H NMR(300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.03(d, J=8.4Hz, 2H), 7.65(d, J=7.8Hz,1H, 7.50(s,1H), 7.48(d, J=8.4Hz, 2H), 5.39-5.25(m, 1H), 3.91(s, 3H), 3.45-3.37(m, 1H),

J = 7.6HZ, 1H), 7.50(8, 1H), 7.40(d, J = 6.4HZ, 2H), 5.59 = 5.25(HI, 1H), 5.91(8, 5H), 5.45 = 5.57(HI, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 1.63 (d, J = 6.9Hz, 3H), 1.31=1.27(m, 2H), 0.82=0.76(m, 2H); **MS (ESI)** m/z: 450.0(M+Na<sup>+</sup>)

#### Methyl

carboxamido)ethyl)benzoate(21b). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.03 (d, *J*= 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 5.37–5.28 (m, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.47–

(S)-4-(1-(5-cyclopropyl-4'-methyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-

## (ESI) *m/z*: 450.1(M+Na<sup>+</sup>)

Methyl (S)-4-(1-(5-cyclopropyl-2-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[d]thiazol-2-yl)thiazole-4carboxamido)ethyl)benzoate(21c). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.02 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.36–5.27 (m, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.45–3.36 (m, 1H), 2.81 (s, 4H), 1.88 (s, 4H), 1.63 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.32–1.22 (m, 2H), 0.80–0.73 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) m/z: 468.2 (M+H<sup>+</sup>)

3.38 (m, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 1.64 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.31–1.28 (m, 2H), 0.82–0.76 (m, 2H). MS

Methyl (S)-4-(1-(5-cyclopropyl-5'-phenyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxamido)ethyl)benzoate methyl(21d). <sup>1</sup>H NMR(300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.04 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.47–7.36 (m, 3H), 5.40–5.28 (m, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.49–3.38 (m, 1H), 1.66 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.34–1.28 (m, 2H), 0.83–0.78 (m, 2H). MS (ESI) m/z: 490.1(M+H<sup>+</sup>)

(S)-4-(1-(5-Cyclopropyl-5'-(4-fluorophenyl)-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-

**carboxamido)ethyl)benzoate(21e).** <sup>1</sup>**H NMR**(300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.39–5.29 (m, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.47–3.38 (m, 1H), 1.65 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.33–1.28 (m, 2H), 0.82–0.78 (m, 2H). **MS (ESI)** *m/z*: 508.1(M+H<sup>+</sup>)

Methyl(S)-4-(1-(5-cyclopropyl-5'-(4-methoxyphenyl)-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxamido)ethyl)benzoate (21f). <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( 300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> )  $\delta$  8.04 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H),7.89 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.1Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.98–6.92(d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 5.39–5.29 (m, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.47–3.38 (m, 1H), 1.65 (d, J =6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.34–1.26 (m, 2H), 0.84–0.77 (m, 2H).

**N-hydroxy-1-(5-isobutyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carbonyl)piperidine-4-carboxamide (H2).** To a solution of 7(82mg, 0.21mmol) in 6mL DCM and 3mL MeOH add DBU (63mg, 0.42mmol), then add hydroxylamine (50 wt. % in water) 0.3mL. The resulting mixture was stirred for 12 hours

at 30°C. Then the mixture was acidified with 1N HCl to pH = 5.0-6.0, concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained residue was dissolved in EtOAc. This EtOAc solution was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH=10:1) to afford compound **H2** (pale yellow solid, 69.2%) <sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  10.49 (s, 1H), 8.73 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 4Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 4Hz, 1H), 4.50 (d, *J* = 12Hz, 1H), 3.66 (d, *J* = 12Hz, 1H), 3.07(t, *J* = 12Hz, 1H), 2.81-2.74 (m, 3H), 2.34-2.28 (m, 1H), 1.92-1.86 (m, 1H), 1.76-1.69 (m, 1H), 1.64-1.60 (m, 1H), 1.57-1.51 (m, 1H), 0.92 (d, *J*=8Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  171.2, 162.7, 160.7, 157.9, 147.7, 144.7, 141.5, 123.4, 46.5, 41.4, 35.1, 30.8, 29.3, 28.6, 22.4, 19.9. HRMS (TOF ESI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 395.1206, [M+Na]: 417.1026; found:395.1202, 417.1025. HPLC analysis: retention time = 7.564 min; peak area, 99.76%; eluent A, 0.1% TFA in water; eluent B, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; isocratic (1:1) over 30min with a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.

**N-(4-(hydroxycarbamoyl)phenyl)-5-isobutyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxamide (H3)**. <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD+CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.45(s, 1H), 7.60(d, *J*=3.3Hz, 1H), 7.49(s, 4H), 7.35(d, *J*=3.3Hz, 1H), 2.99(d, *J*=5.7Hz, 2H), 1.80-1.71(m, 1H), 0.72(d, *J*=9.0Hz, 6H). 6 (m, 1H), 1.76-1.69 (m, 1H), 1.64-1.60 (m, 1H), 1.57-1.51 (m, 1H), 0.92 (d, *J*=8Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (125MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  163.3, 160.7, 160.2, 157.1, 147.8, 145.0, 144.6, 141.3, 128.4, 128.0, 124.0, 120.2, 35.4, 31.0, 22.5. HRMS (TOF ESI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 403.0893, [M+Na]: 425.0713; found: 403.0891, 425.0716. HPLC analysis: retention time = 6.308min; peak area, 97.73%; eluent A, 0.1% TFA in water; eluent B, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; isocratic (1:1) over 30min with a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.

(E)-N-(4-(3-(hydroxyamino)-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)phenyl)-5-isobutyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4carboxamide (H4). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, DMSO-*d6*) :  $\delta$ 10.74 (s, 1H), 10.30 (s, 1H), 9.04 (s,1H), 8.03 (s,2H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 16Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 16Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d, *J* = 8Hz, 2H), 2.01-1.98 (m, 1H), 1.76 (d, *J*=12Hz, 1H), 0.96 (d, *J*=4Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  163.5, 160.5, 160.2, 157.1, 147.7, 145.0, 144.6, 139.9, 138.4, 130.8, 128.5, 124.0, 121.0, 118.2, 35.4, 31.0, 22.5, 21.8, 15.0; HRMS (TOF ESI) calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 429.1050, [M+Na]: 451.0869; found: 429.1059, 451.0869. HPLC analysis: retention time = 5.909 min; peak area, 96.28%; eluent A, 0.1% TFA in water; eluent B, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; isocratic (1:1) over 30min with a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.

**5-Cyclopropyl-N-(4-(hydroxycarbamoyl)benzyl)-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxamide (H5).** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  11.18 (s, 1H), 9.00 (s, 1H), 8.96-8.93 (m, 1H), 7.98-7.96 (m,2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 10Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 5Hz, 2H), 4.54 (d, *J* = 10Hz, 2H), 3.37-3.34 (m, 1H), 1.31-1.27 (m, 2H), 0.82-0.79 (m, 2H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  164.6, 162.1, 160.3, 154.7, 153.8, 144.7, 144.5, 143.4, 131.8, 127.7, 127.4, 123.7, 42.5, 14.3, 10.6. HRMS (TOF ESI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 401.0737, [M+Na]: 423.0556; found: 401.0739, 423.0558. HPLC analysis: retention time = 7.078 min; peak area, 98.95%; eluent A, 0.1% TFA in water; eluent B, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; isocratic (1:1) over 30min with a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.

**5-Cyclopropyl-N-(1-(4-(hydroxycarbamoyl)phenyl)ethyl)-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxamide** (H6). <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( 300MHz, DMSO-*d*6 )  $\delta$  11.15 (s, 1H), 8.99 (s, 1H), 8.60 (d, *J* = 7.5Hz, 2H), 8.00-7.97 (m, 2H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.8Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.8Hz, 2H), 5.22-5.17 (m, 1H), 3.25-3.21 (m, 1H), 1.54 (d, *J* = 6.9Hz, 3H), 1.27-1.24 (m, 2H), 0.79-0.77 (m, 2H); **MS (ESI+)** m/z: 415.1 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>.

(S)-5-Cyclopropyl-N-(1-(4-(hydroxycarbamoyl)phenyl)ethyl)-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-

**carboxamide(H6a).** <sup>1</sup>**H NMR**(300MHz, DMSO-*d*6) δ 11.17(s, 1H), 9.01 (s, 1H), 8.63(d, *J*=8.4Hz, 1H), 7.98 (s, 2H), 7.71(d, *J*=8.4Hz, 2H), 7.50(d, *J*=8.4Hz, 2H), 5.24-5.14(m, 1H), 3.27-3.20(m, 1H), 1.55(d, *J*=6.9Hz, 3H), 1.29-1.20(m, 2H), 0.81-0.75(m, 2H); **MS (ESI)** *m/z*: 437.1(M+Na<sup>+</sup>) **(S)-5-Cyclopropyl-N-(1-(4-(hydroxycarbamoyl)phenyl)-2-methylpropyl)-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-carboxamide(H6b).** <sup>1</sup>**H NMR**(300MHz, DMSO-*d*6) δ 11.15(s, 1H), 9.00 (s, 1H), 8.52(d, *J*=8.7Hz, 1H), 7.97(s, 2H), 7.72(d, *J*=7.8Hz, 2H), 7.51(d, *J*=7.8Hz, 2H), 4.72(t, *J*=9.0Hz, 1H), 3.20-3.14(m, 1H), 2.35-2.21(m, 1H), 1.25-1.22(m, 2H), 1.03-1.01(m,2H), 0.77(d, *J*=6.0Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100MHz, DMSO-*d*6) δ 161.5, 160.3, 154.8, 153.0, 151.2, 145.2, 144.6, 143.7, 132.5, 127.6, 125.8, 123.6, 59.5, 32.6, 20.4, 19.9, 14.2, 14.1, 10.4; **MS (ESI)** *m/z*: 465.1(M+Na<sup>+</sup>) HPLC analysis: retention time = 4.445 min; peak area, 98.60%; eluent A, 0.1% TFA in water; eluent B, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; isocratic (1:1) over 30min with a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.

5-Cyclopropyl-N-(1-(4-(hydroxycarbamoyl)phenyl)cyclopropyl)-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4carboxamide (H7). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  11.13 (s, 1H), 9.07 (s, 1H), 8.96 (s, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H) , 7.67 (d, J = 8.0Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.0Hz, 2H), 3.27-3.23 (m, 1H), 1.41-1.38 (m, 4H), 1.33-1.25 (m, 2H), 0.82-0.78 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  162.7, 160.3, 154.6, 153.8, 147.3, 144.9, 144.5, 130.6, 127.2, 125.1, 123.8, 34.8, 19.3, 14.4, 10.5. HRMS (TOF ESI) calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 427.0893, [M+Na]: 449.0713; found: 427.0891, 449.0708. HPLC analysis: retention time = 4.535 min; peak area, 96.49%; eluent A, 0.1% TFA in water; eluent B, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; isocratic (1:1) over 30min with a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.

4-(1-(5-Cyclopropyl-[2,2'-bithiazol]-4-yl)-2-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl)-N-hydroxybenzamide (H8).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500MHz, DMSO-*d6*) δ 11.15 (s, 1H), 8.99 (s, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 7.99 (s, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J*=10Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J*=10Hz, 2H), 3.16-3.12 (m, 1H), 1.74 (s, 6H), 1.26-1.23 (m, 2H), 0.79-0.77 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125MHz, DMSO-*d*6) δ 164.7, 161.1, 160.2, 154.6, 153.2, 151.0, 145.2, 144.6, 131.2, 127.2, 125.3, 123.6, 55.7, 29.6, 14.3, 10.4; HRMS (TOF ESI) calcd for  $C_{20}H_{20}N_4O_3S_2$  [M+H]: 429.1050, [M+Na]: 451.0869; found: 429.3191, 451.0868. HPLC analysis: retention time = 4.090 min; peak area, 98.68%; eluent A, 0.1% TFA in water; eluent B, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; isocratic (1:1) over 30min with a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.

## (R)-5-Cyclopropyl-N-(1-(4-(hydroxycarbamoyl)phenyl)ethyl)-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-

**carboxamide(H9).** <sup>1</sup>**H NMR**(400MHz, DMSO-*d*6) δ 11.15(s, 1H), 8.99 (s, 1H), 8.61(d, *J*=8.0Hz, 1H), 7.97 (s, 2H), 7.72(d, *J*=8.0Hz, 2H), 7.50(d, *J*=8.1Hz, 2H), 5.24-5.17(m, 1H), 3.33-3.19(m, 1H), 1.55(d, *J*=8.0Hz, 3H), 1.26-1.24(m, 2H), 0.80-0.78(m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100MHz, DMSO-

*d*6) δ 164.6, 161.4, 160.3, 154.7, 153.5, 148.1, 145.0, 144.5, 131.8, 127.4, 126.7, 123.7, 48.4, 22.1, 14.2, 10.5; HRMS (TOF ESI) calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 415.0893, [M+Na]: 437.0713; found: 415.0885, 437.0710. HPLC analysis: retention time = 4.303 min; peak area, 98.78%; eluent A, 0.1% TFA in water; eluent B, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; isocratic (1:1) over 30min with a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. (S)-5-Cyclopropyl-N-(1-(4-(hydroxycarbamoyl)phenyl)ethyl)-5'-methyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4carboxamide(H10). (45mg, 35.4%, pale vellow solid.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  9.56 (s, 1H), 8.45 (d, J = 4 Hz 1H), 7.64 (m, 3H), 7.42 (d, J = 4 Hz, 2H), 5.17 (m, 1H), 3.22 (m, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 1.54 (d, J = 4 Hz, 3H), 1.26-1.24 (m, 2H), 0.77-0.76 (m, 2H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125MHz, DMSO*d*6) *δ* 161.3, 158.4, 155.0, 152.8, 151.2, 145.5, 144.9, 142.5, 137.7, 132.5, 126.5, 125.9, 48.3, 22.2, 14.1, 12.2, 10.4. HRMS (TOF ESI) calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 429.1050, [M+Na]: 451.0869; found: 428.9721, 451.0864, HPLC analysis: retention time = 4.563 min; peak area, 99.59%; eluent A, 0.1% TFA in water; eluent B, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; isocratic (1:1) over 30min with a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. (S)-5-Cyclopropyl-N-(1-(4-(hydroxycarbamoyl)phenyl)ethyl)-4'-methyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4carboxamide(H11). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, DMSO-*d*6)  $\delta$  9.56 (s, 1H), 8.50 (d, *J* = 4 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 4 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 4 Hz, 2H), 5.18 (m, 1H), 3.23 (m, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.54 (d, J = 4 Hz, 3H), 1.26 – 1.24 (m, 2H), 0.78 – 0.77 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125MHz, DMSO-*d*6)  $\delta$ 161.3, 159.3, 154.8, 154.0, 153.2, 151.2, 145.6, 145.0, 132.4, 126.5, 125.9, 118.0, 48.3, 22.1, 17.1, 14.2, 10.5. HRMS (TOF ESI) calcd for  $C_{20}H_{20}N_4O_3S_2$  [M+H]: 429.1050, [M+Na]: 451.0869; found: 429.1051, 451.0869. HPLC analysis: retention time = 4.472 min; peak area, 97.58%; eluent A, 0.1% TFA in water; eluent B, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; isocratic (1:1) over 30min with a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. (S)-5-Cyclopropyl-N-(1-(4-(hydroxycarbamoyl)phenyl)ethyl)-2-(4,5,6,7-

tetrahydrobenzo[d]thiazol-2-yl)thiazole-4-carboxamide(H12). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, DMSOd6) δ 11.16 (s, 1H), 8.99 (s, 1H), 8.52 (d, *J*=8.0Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J*=8.0Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J*=8.0Hz, 2H), 5.20-5.16 (m, 1H), 3.23-3.18 (m, 1H) , 2.85-2.82 (m, 2H), 2.74-2.71 (m, 2H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.54 (d, *J*=8.0Hz, 3H), 1.25–1.21 (m, 2H), 0.78–0.74 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 164.6, 161.4, 156.3, 155.1, 152.9, 152.0, 148.1, 144.8, 132.8, 131.8, 127.4, 126.7, 48.4, 26.6, 23.6, 23.0, 22.7, 22.1, 14.1, 10.4; HRMS (TOF ESI) calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 469.1363, [M+Na]: 491.1182; found: 469.1363, 491.1179. HPLC analysis: retention time = 12.040 min; peak area, 97.37%; eluent A, 0.1% TFA in water; eluent B, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; isocratic (1:1) over 30min with a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.

(S)-5-Cyclopropyl-N-(1-(4-(hydroxycarbamoyl)phenyl)ethyl)-5'-phenyl-[2,2'-bithiazole]-4-

carboxamide(H13). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300MHz, DMSO-*d*6)  $\delta$  11.16 (s, 1H), 9.00 (s, 1H), 8.62 (d, *J*=8.1Hz, 1H), 8.40 (s, 1H), 7.80–7.72 (m, 4H), 7.52–7.42 (m, 5H), 5.24–5.19 (m, 1H), 3.27–3.20 (m, 1H), 1.56 (d, *J*=7.2Hz, 3H), 1.28–1.23 (m, 2H), 0.81–0.79 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125MHz, DMSO-*d*6)  $\delta$  164.6, 161.3, 158.8, 154.5, 153.7, 148.1, 145.1, 141.6, 140.7, 131.8, 130.6, 129.9, 129.6, 127.4, 127.1, 126.7, 48.4, 22.1, 14.3, 10.6. HRMS (TOF ESI) calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 491.1206, [M+Na]: 513.1026; found: 491.1202, 513.1029.  $[\alpha]_{p}^{20}$  =+54.7 (c 1.92, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). This sample was measured on an Autopol VI, serial number 90079, manufactured by Rudolph Research Analytical, Hackettstown. HPLC analysis: retention time = 12.582 min; peak area, 97.65%; eluent A, 0.1% TFA in water; eluent B, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; isocratic (1:1) over 30min with a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.

(S)-5-Cyclopropyl-5'-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-(1-(4-(hydroxycarbamoyl)phenyl)ethyl)-[2,2'bithiazole]-4-carboxamide(H14). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500MHz, DMSO-*d*6)  $\delta$  11.17(s, 1H), 9.00(s, 1H), 8.61(d, *J*=10 Hz, 1H), 8.37(s, 1H), 7.84(d, *J*=10 Hz, 2H), 7.75(d, *J*=5Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J*=10Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.34(m, 2H), 5.23–5.20 (m, 1H), 3.27–3.23(m, 1H), 1.57 (d, *J*=10Hz, 3H), 1.30–1.26 (m, 2H), 0.81–0.80 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125MHz, DMSO-*d*6)  $\delta$  164.6, 161.9, 161.3, 158.8, 154.4, 153.7, 148.1, 145.1, 140.8, 140.5, 131.8, 129.4, 129.3, 127.4, 127.2, 126.7, 117.0, 116.8, 48.4, 22.2, 14.3, 10.5. HRMS (TOF ESI) calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>21</sub>FN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 509.1112, [M+Na]: 531.0931; found: 509.1108, 531.0930. HPLC analysis: retention time = 5.230 min; peak area, 95.16%; eluent A, 0.1% TFA in water; eluent B, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; isocratic (1:1) over 30min with a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.

(S)-5-Cyclopropyl-N-(1-(4-(hydroxycarbamoyl)phenyl)ethyl)-5'-(4-methoxyphenyl)-[2,2'bithiazole]-4-carboxamide(H15). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500MHz, DMSO-*d*6)  $\delta$  11.17(s, 1H), 9.00(s, 1H), 8.59 (d, *J* =10Hz, 1H), 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.75-7.70(m, 4H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 10Hz, 2H), 7.06(d, *J* = 10Hz, 2H), 5.23–5.21(m, 1H), 3.82(s, 3H), 3.27–3.24 (m, 1H), 2.51(d, *J* = 10Hz, 3H), 1.29–1.25 (m, 2H), 0.82–0.79 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125MHz, DMSO-*d*6)  $\delta$  164.6, 161.3, 160.4, 157.7, 154.6, 153.4, 148.1, 145.0, 141.8, 139.5, 131.8, 128.6, 127.4, 126.7, 123.1, 115.4, 55.8, 48.4, 22.1, 14.3, 10.5; HRMS (TOF ESI) calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 521.1312, [M+Na]: 531.0931; found: 521.1309, 543.1131. HPLC analysis: retention time = 5.129 min; peak area, 95.74%; eluent A, 0.1% TFA in water; eluent B, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; isocratic (1:1) over 30min with a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.

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## ASSOCIATED CONTENT

## **Supporting Information**

The Supporting Information is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

Additional information for the HDAC Inhibition Assay, pharmacokinetic and distribution study of compound **H13** and descriptions of the colitis-associated colorectal cancer model, docking study, as well as NMR spectrums and HPLC spectrums for compounds **H2-15**, experimental procedures and characterization of new chemical entities (PDF)

Molecular string files for all the final target compounds (CSV)

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

#### **Funding Sources**

This work was supported by grants from The National Natural Science Foundation of China (30725049), the National Science and Technology Major Project (2018ZX09711002-011-006), the "Personalized Medicines—Molecular Signature-based Drug Discovery and Development", Strategic Priority Research Program of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Grant No. XDA12020106, and Shanghai Science and Technology Committee (No. 19431906400).

## ABBREVIATIONS USED

SAR, structure-activity relationship; HDAC, Histone deacetylase.

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