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Exploring the PROTAC Degron Candidates: OBHSA with

Different Side Chains as Novel Selective Estrogen Receptor Degraders (SERDs)

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A series of novel SERDs with excellent ER degradation efficacy have been discovered. These findings simplified the structure of currently available degrons and provide new possibility for discovering novel PROTACs.



Exploring the PROTAC Degron Candidates: OBHSA with Different Side Chains as Novel Selective Estrogen Receptor Degraders (SERDs)

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Abstract

As the mutant estrogen receptor (ER) continues to be characterized, breast cancer is becoming increasingly difficult to cure when treated with hormone therapy. In this regard, a strategy to selectively and effectively degrade the ER might be an effective alternative to endocrine therapy for breast cancer. In a previous study, we identified a novel series of 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptene sulfonamide (OBHSA) compounds as full ER antagonists while lacking the prototypical ligand side chain that has been widely used to induce antagonism of ERa. Further crystal structure studies and phenotypic assays revealed that these compounds are selective estrogen receptor degraders (SERDs) with a new mechanism of action. However, from a drug discovery point of view, there still is room to improve the potency of these **OBHSA** compounds. In this study, we have developed new classes of SERDs that contain the **OBHSA** core structure and different side chains, e.g., basic side chains, long alkyl acid side chains, and glycerol ether side chains, to simply mimic the degrons of proteolysis targeting chimera (PROTAC) and then investigated the structure-activity relationships of these PROTAC-like hybrid compounds. These novel SERDs could effectively inhibit MCF-7 cell proliferation and demonstrated good ERa degradation efficacy. Among the SERDs, compounds 17d, 17e and 17g containing a basic side chain with a N-trifluoroethyl substituent and a *para* methoxyl group at the phenyl group of the sulfonamide turned out to be the best candidates for ER degraders. A further docking study of these compounds with ERa elucidates their structure-activity relationships, which provides guidance to design new PROTAC degrons targeting ER for breast cancer therapy. Lastly, easy modification of these PROTAC-like SERDs enables further fine-tuning of their pharmacokinetic properties, including oral availability.

Keywords: SERDs, side chains, degrons, ER degradation

1. Introduction

It is well-known that the overexpression of estrogen receptor α (ER α) may lead to ER positive breast cancer, which accounts for 70% of breast cancer [1, 2]. Contraposing this target, clinical pharmacists generally use endocrine therapy, in which the drugs can be classified into two types: aromatase inhibitors (AIs) [3-5] and selective estrogen receptor modulators (SERMs) [2, 6-8]. However, the recurrence of breast cancer is difficult to treat, and the long-term use of SERMs, such as tamoxifen, is prone to lead to the development ovarian cancer and drug resistance [9-11], which is usually fatal. For patients who are on long-term medication, the limited number of effective drugs encourages the development of new compounds that reduce the likelihood of disease recurrence and drug resistance through various means.

Inducing protein degradation by small molecules has recently become a hot spot for drug discovery [12, 13]. To date, as the emerging and efficient treatments for breast cancer, there have been two approaches targeting $ER\alpha$ protein degradation: selective estrogen receptor downregulators (SERDs) and proteolysis targeting chimeras (PROTACs). SERDs are recognized as pure ER antagonists that can cause spatial structural instability and activate the ubiquitination pathway to degrade ERa protein [14-18]. In 2007, the FDA approved the first SERD fulvestrant for the treatment of advanced breast cancer [19]. Nevertheless, this SERD's low oral bioavailability limited its application [20]. Therefore, medicinal chemists hope to obtain SERDs with better oral bioavailability through structural modification and optimization. To date, a variety of SERDs have been identified [21-26], most of which have different side chains, e.g., long alkyl side chains, acrylic side chains, and basic side chains (Figure 1). Fulvestrant (Figure 1, compound 1) is one typical drug that introduced a sulfinyl pentafluoro alkyl chain onto a E₂ skeleton; the hydrophobic chain was exposed to the surface of the protein when binding to ER and destabilized the active ligand binding domain (LBD) conformer, thereby leading to protein degradation. Therefore, Kurihara et al. reported that a derivative of tamoxifen with a long alkyl side chain (Figure 1, compound 2) could effectively reduce ER protein levels in breast cancer cells and have an antagonistic effect [26]. Later,

these researchers expanded the range of currently available SERDs by attaching a decyl group to the amine moiety of raloxifene and revealed that the ER degradation efficacy of this compound is 1 µM [25]. GDC0810 (Figure 1, compound 3), a second-generation SERD, contains an acrylic side chain, which directly interacted with the peptide backbone of ER α and induced a conformational change that exposed a hydrophobic surface on the receptor [27]. GDC0810 has undergone a clinical phase II trial and was effective in endocrine therapy to treat advanced metastatic ER⁺ breast cancer; unfortunately, its clinical trial was recently discontinued. In 2018, Smith's group reported that derivatives of EM-652 that contained a basic side chain were highly potent and efficacious SERDs [18]. The best compound (Figure 1, compound 4) of this series demonstrated robust activity with a 91% ERa degradation efficacy in a xenograft model of tamoxifen-resistant breast cancer. Moreover, the crystal structure study revealed that the side chains of these compounds may play an essential role in the degradation of ER, e.g., the acrylic acid side chain of 3-type compounds formed a hydrogen bond with D351 in the ligand binding domain of ER, which blocked the proper positioning of the critical helix 12. Thus, hydrophobic patches were exposed in solution, the receptor was recognized by the ubiquitin-proteasome system and degradation proceeded [28]. For fulvestrant-type SERDs, when binding to ER, helix 12 appeared to be completely distorted, and the hydrophobic regions were exposed to solution for ubiquitination targeting. As a result, the side chain is a major driving factor of SERDs and plays a critical role in the degradation of ER.



Figure 1. Four representative SERDs with typical side chains.

Another method for compounds capable of inducing protein degradation is proteolysis targeting chimeras (PROTACs). PROTAC is a bifunctional compound possesses a ligand for a targeted protein and a recognition motif for E3 ubiquitin ligase recruitment that ultimately promotes ubiquitination-dependent proteasomal degradation of the target protein. In 2010, an ER-targeting PROTAC that consisted of an estradiol and a hypoxia-inducing factor 1a (HIF-1 α)-derived synthetic pentapeptide was reported [29], which showed good ER binding affinity (10% binding affinity relative to E2) and effective ER degradation efficacy (60% ER degradation). Kurihara et al. disclosed a complex comprised of 4-hydroxytamoxifen and bestatin (an inhibitor of the cIAP1) via an alkyl linker [30]. This complex induced cIAP1-mediated ubiquitination of ERa with proteasomal degradation at 10 µM. Recently, Li et al. reported a novel ERa-targeting PROTAC that was composed of an N-terminal aspartic acid cross-linked stabilized peptide ERa modulator (TD-PERM) and the Von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) E3 ubiquitin ligase through a pentapeptide [31]. The TD-PROTAC approach utilized a peptide stabilization strategy, which could provide peptide conjugates with satisfactory stability and cellular uptake. However, the effective dose for degradation is 20 µM, which still needs improvement. Generally, PROTACs are under rapid development as a novel and promising technology for drug discovery [32-34]. Nonetheless, there is a very narrow selection of the structural species for PROTACs targeting ER degradation, and their low potency limits their clinical trials.

Despite the different mechanisms for degrading ER by SERDs and PROTACs, these compounds have a molecular skeleton that induces ER degradation and could be called a degron. A degron is reported to be a part of the ligand-induced degradation (LID) domain in known works, and it functions as a cryptic degradation sequence [35, 36]. Recently, Sharma's group reported a series of new SERDs that extended the currently available library of PROTAC-type scaffolds, which may be useful for the degradation of a variety of other therapeutically important proteins [16]. The researchers defined the special motif that can induce ER degradation as a degron in both SERDs and PROTAC molecules. As the skeletons of the PROTAC degrons are limited and always complicated, there is an urge to explore novel degrons with diverse and simple structures that allow the ER degrader to display drug-like properties and more potent efficacy. In 2012, our group reported oxabicycloheptene sulfonamide (OBHSA, Figure 2) compounds as full ER antagonists [37], and further study on the crystal structures of complexes of these ligands with ERa revealed a new mechanism of action of these SERD compounds [38]. The large R^2 groups (*N*-trifluoroethyl group and *N*-ethyl group) clashed strongly with Leu525, inducing a 2.5 Å shift in h11 and leading to the complete disorder of the C terminus of h11. Thus, h12 Leu544 moved out of the hydrophobic groove. In addition, the 4-methoxyphenyl substitution flipped the ethyl and aryl groups around the sulfonamide linker and interacted with the loop between h7 and h8 by attacking the backbone carbonyl of Glu419. Therefore, under the influence of the disordered h11 and h12 exposed in the hydrophilic environment, the ER protein would become a target for ubiquitination. Considering the important role played by the sulfonamide moiety in this new mechanism, we turn our attention to the phenol group on the other side, hoping to develop new degrons on the phenolic group that would contribute to the degradation activity. As part of our long-term interests in the development of ER ligands [39-41], we utilized the OBHSA as a core structure and explored alternatives of degrons to, for example, the basic side chains, long alkyl acid side chains, and glycerol ether side chains, and then, we investigated their inhibition efficacy of MCF-7 cell proliferation and ER α degradation activity. In the process, we uncovered some remarkable structure-activity relationships (SARs) in which compounds **17d**, **17e** and **17g** containing basic side chains with *N*-trifluoroethyl and *para* methoxy substituents displayed outstanding ER α degradation efficacy and anti-proliferation activity. Further docking analysis illustrates that the basic side chain could distort helix 3 by forming a hydrogen bond with Thr347 and a hydrophobic repulsion with the backbone of Met343. The *N*-trifluoroethyl group and the *para* methoxyl group may also be beneficial to the ER α degradation efficacy by influencing the loop of helix 7 and helix 8. The results indicate that the basic side chain proved to be the best degron and provides new possibilities in the development of more effective PROTACs.



Figure 2. Design of OBHSA derivatives with different degrons as SERDs.

2. Results and discussion

2.1 Chemistry

The synthesis of the final **OBHSA** derivatives **17a-t** involved a Diels-Alder reaction between a series of furan analogues and ethylene sulfonamide derivatives (**Scheme 4**), and the furan intermediate **7** was synthesized according to our previous work [42]. To introduce different degrons onto the **OBHSA** pharmacophore core, we synthesized the key intermediates **8a-j**, and the synthetic route is shown in **Scheme 1**. The furan analogues **8a-g** were obtained by Williamson etherification reactions with different halogenated compounds, and the hydrolysis of the compounds **8e-g** created the furan analogues **8h-j**. Scheme 1. Synthesis of furan derivatives 8a-j^{*a*}.



^a Reagents and conditions: (a) 2-chloro-*N*,*N*-dimethylethanamine hydrochloride,
1-(2-chloroethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride, 1-(2-chloroethyl)piperidine hydrochloride,
3-chloropropane-1,2-diol, ethyl 11-bromoundecanoate, ethyl 8-bromooctanoate, or ethyl
7-bromoheptanoate, KOH, CH₃CN, 60 °C, 6 h; (b) LiOH, MeOH, rt, 4 h.

In a previous study, it was indicated that the trifluoroethyl group and *para* methoxyl group played an important role for the binding and degradation of the **OBHSA** compounds [38], and as such, our synthesis mainly focused on the *N*-trifluoroethyl group and *para* substitution of the phenyl of sulfonamide. Ethylene sulfonamide derivatives **14a-f** were synthesized as shown in **Scheme 2**. The substituted anilines **9a-d** yielded analogs **10a-e** through an amidation reaction with acetic anhydride or trifluoroacetic anhydride in the presence of DMAP. The compound **10a** was treated with methyl iodide to yield *N*-methyl phenylacetamide **11**. Then, the intermediate **12** was obtained by the deacylation of **11** after refluxing for 24 h in 10% HCl and glycol. Finally, the key intermediate **14a** was gained through the reaction of **12** with 2-chloroethanesulfonyl chloride in the presence of TEA. For the synthesis of ethylene sulfonamides **14b-f**, the route was slightly different. Compounds **10a-e** were reduced by BH₃·SMe₂ in THF at 60 °C to give **13a-e**. Then, following the reaction with 2-chloroethanesulfonyl chloride, dienophiles **14b-f** were obtained.

Scheme 2. Synthesis of dienophiles 14a-g^{*a*}.



^{*a*} Reagents and conditions: (a) acetic anhydride or trifluoroacetic anhydride, rt, 3 h; (b) MeI, NaH, THF, 0 °C, 4 h; (c) 10% HCl, HO(CH₂)₂OH, reflux, 3 h; (d) 2-chloroethanesulfonyl chloride, 20% NaOH, DCM, 0 °C, 24 h; (e) BH₃·SMe₂, THF, 60 °C, 24 h.

The ethylene sulfonamides with different side chains were obtained from the intermediate **14b**. After the demethylation of compound **14b** with BBr₃, product **15** interacted with 3-chloropropane-1,2-diol, alkyl ester bromides, or 1-(2-chloroethyl)piperidine hydrochloride through Williamson etherification and yielded the dienophiles **16a-e**. Compounds **16f-h** with long alkyl acid chains were obtained by the hydrolysis of esters **16c-e** (**Scheme 3**).

Scheme 3. Synthesis of ethylene sulfonamides with different side chains^{*a*}.



^{*a*} Reagents and conditions: (a) BBr₃, CH₂Cl₂, -20 °C, 12 h; (b) 3-chloropropane-1,2-diol, ethyl 11-bromoundecanoate, ethyl 8-bromooctanoate, ethyl 7-bromoheptanoate, or 1-(2-chloroethyl)piperidine hydrochloride, KOH, CH₃CN, 60 °C, 6 h; (c) LiOH, MeOH, rt, 4 h.

The final step was the Diels-Alder reaction between different furan analogues and dienophiles (**Scheme 4**). All of the compounds gave moderate to good yields. It is worth noting that a high

stereoselectivity was obtained in the cycloaddition reaction, as we have observed previously [43, 44]. In this study, the thermodynamically favorable *exo* products of **17a-t** were more easily generated through this Diels–Alder reaction, which was presumed to be due to the high rate and easy reversibility, while the *endo* isomers were hardly found. In addition, among compounds **17a-q**, compounds **17b**, **17d**, **17f**, **17g** and **17j** are mixtures of two regioisomers, while the others are obtained as single isomers. The ratios of regioisomers were determined from the corresponding ¹H NMR, and the structures and stereoisomeric assignments of the single isomers were analyzed by NOESY-NMR (see the Experimental Section and Supporting Information for details).



Scheme 4. Synthesis of OBHSA derivatives 17a-t.

2.2 Biological testing

To explore the biological activities of these compounds, we utilized three assays to evaluate the biological properties. Their relative binding affinities for ER α were tested by the

competitive fluorometric receptor-binding assay. Their anti-proliferative activities on the MCF-7 cell line were evaluated using the MTT (3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide) assay, and their ERα degradation was assessed by Western blot assays.

2.2.1 Relative binding affinity

All of the binding affinities of the synthesized compounds for both ER α and ER β were determined by a competitive fluorometric receptor-binding assay using methods that have been previously described [41], and the results are presented in **Table 1** (absolute affinities for estradiol: K_d 3.49 nM on ER α and 4.12 nM on ER β). The affinities are presented as the relative binding affinity (RBA) values, with the binding affinity of estradiol being set at 100%.

In general, most of the synthesized compounds were ER α selective and exhibited modest affinities toward ER α , as well as low affinities toward ER β . From entries 1-3 and 16, we can find that the compounds with a glycerol ether side chain demonstrated modest binding activities for ER α (RBA values were 0.26-1.94) and low affinities for ER β (RBA values were less than 0.6). Furthermore, compound **17c**, which had no affinity toward ER β , displayed the highest ER α selectivity among the whole series (α/β ratio was greater than 162), while analog **17p** showed slight ER β selectivity (α/β ratio was 0.87).

Compounds with basic side chains (compounds **17d-i**) exhibited relatively high binding affinities for ER α and poor affinities for ER β (**Table 1**, entries 4-9, RBA values were 0.95-3.25 for ER α and 0.12-0.81 for ER β), except for compound **17e** (RBA values were 2.12 for ER α and 1.81 for ER β). The best compound **17f** showed binding affinities of 3.25 for ER α and 0.12 for ER β , respectively, thus providing a high ER α selectivity of 27. Nevertheless, the analogue **17h** with a *N*-methyl group demonstrated a relatively lower binding affinity for ER α (**Table 1**, entry 8, RBA value was 0.95) compared to other analogs with basic side chains. Comparing the size of the *N*-substituents (analogues **17h**, **17i** and **17d-g**), we also found that the higher binding affinity comes as a consequence of increasing the size of the *N*-substitute

from CH_3 to CH_2CF_3 , which may be caused by that the trifluoroethyl substituent can stretch into the loop of helix 7 and helix 8 in the pocket of ER α and lead to steric strain (see discussion in the molecular docking section for details).

Compounds **17j-o** and **17r-t** (**Table 1**, entries 10-15 and entries 18-20) that contain long alkyl acidic chains displayed poor to modest binding activities toward ER α (RBA values were 0.06-3.21) and poor affinities toward ER β (RBA values were less than 0.5). Comparison of the ER α binding affinities of **17l**, **17n**, **17o** and **17t** (RBA values were 0.06-0.93) to those of **17j**, **17k**, **17m**, **17r** and **17s** (RBA values were 1.20-3.21) indicates that the longer the chain length, the lower the binding affinity.

Table 1. Relative binding affinities (RBAs) of the compounds 17a-t to ER α and ER β .



Entry	Cmpd	Side chain	R^1	\mathbb{R}^2	n	RBA ^a (%) ERα	RBA ^a (%) ERβ	α/β ratio
1	17a		CH ₂ CH ₃	Н		0.26 ± 0.03	0.28 ± 0.02	0.94
2	17b	λζOH	CH ₂ CF ₃	OCH ₃		1.94 ± 0.31	0.26 ± 0.05	7.52
3	17c	UH	CH ₂ CF ₃	Cl		1.62 ± 0.10	< 0.01	>162
4	17d	-Z	CH ₂ CF ₃	OCH ₃		1.71 ± 0.41	0.40 ± 0.07	4.28
5	17e	$\sum_{j,j=1}^{N}$	CH ₂ CF ₃	OCH ₃		2.12 ± 0.68	1.81 ± 0.08	1.17
6	17f		CH ₂ CF ₃	CH ₃		3.25 ± 0.75	0.12 ± 0.03	27.08
7	17g	Jan N	CH ₂ CF ₃	OCH ₃		2.94 ± 0.22	0.37 ± 0.001	7.95
8	17h		CH ₃	Н		0.95 ± 0.17	0.79 ± 0.11	1.21
9	17i		CH ₂ CH ₃	Н		2.51 ± 0.17	0.81 ± 0.01	3.10
10	17j		CH ₂ CH ₃	Н	6	2.48 ± 0.05	0.46 ± 0.02	5.39
11	17k		CH ₂ CH ₃	Н	7	1.20 ± 0.63	0.40 ± 0.04	3.00
12	17l	о , ² () <mark>п</mark> он	CH ₂ CH ₃	Н	10	0.93 ± 0.08	0.13 ± 0.002	7.10
13	17m		CH_2CF_3	OCH ₃	6	1.82 ± 0.04	0.13 ± 0.07	13.68
14	17n		CH_2CF_3	OCH ₃	7	0.07 ± 0.001	< 0.01	> 7
15	170		CH_2CF_3	OCH ₃	10	0.06 ± 0.002	0.70 ± 0.20	0.09

16	17p	,²ź́OH OH			0.46 ± 0.07	0.53 ± 0.20	0.87
17	17q	, Tris			0.58 ± 0.09	0.25 ± 0.07	2.28
18	17r	0		6	1.22 ± 0.03	0.41 ± 0.03	2.98
19	17s	2 A HOH		7	3.21 ± 0.52	0.42 ± 0.03	7.64
20	17t	()n On		10	0.57 ± 0.01	< 0.01	> 57

^aRelative binding affinity (RBA) values are determined by competitive fluorometric binding assays and are expressed as $IC_{50}^{\text{estradiol}}/IC_{50}^{\text{compound}} \times 100 \pm \text{the range}$ (RBA, estradiol = 100%).

2.2.2 Cell viability assay.

To evaluate their inhibition of breast cancer cell proliferation, all of the compounds were screened against the MCF-7 breast cancer cell line (**Table 2**). As a global observation, all compounds exhibited moderate to good anti-proliferation activity except for compound **17r** (**Table 2**, entry 18, IC₅₀ value was greater than 50 μ M), and some of them performed better than 4-hydroxytamoxifen.

Compounds with a glycerol ether side chain (**Table 2**, entries 1-3 and 16, compounds **17a-c** and **17p**) displayed modest potencies, and the anti-proliferative activities of **17b** and **17c** (IC₅₀ values were 17.0 and 16.8 μ M, respectively) were superior to those of **17a** and **17p** (IC₅₀ values were 33.6 and 32.3 μ M, respectively), which may be explained by the favorable interaction of the trifluoroethyl group with Met421 in the ER binding pocket, and this will be discussed in the molecular docking section.

Among the **OBHSA** derivatives that contain different basic side chains (**Table 2**, entries 4-9 and 17, compounds **17d-i** and **17q**), compounds **17f** and **17g** demonstrated the best anti-proliferative activities with IC₅₀ values of 3.0 and 2.8 μ M, respectively, which were also the most potent analogs among all compounds. In terms of compounds **17b**, **17d**, **17e**, **17g**, **17m**, **17n** and **17o** (**Table 2**, entries 2, 4-5, 7 and 13-15), one can see that the compounds **17d**, **17e**, and **17g** with basic side chains (**Table 2**, entries 4-5, and 7) showed better anti-proliferative activities (IC₅₀ values were 8.4, 6.1, and 2.8 μ M, respectively) than compounds with long alkyl acidic side chains (**17m**, **17n**, and **17o**, IC₅₀ values were 15.9, 40.1, and 14.3 μ M, respectively) and the glycerol ether side chain (**17b**, IC₅₀ value was 17.0 μ M). When the trifluoroethyl group was introduced on the *N*-position of the sulfonamide,

comparing compounds **17f-i** (**Table 2**, entries 6-9), the better efficacies of **17f** and **17g** than those of **17h** and **17i** were revealed in an anti-proliferation assay (**Table 2**, entries 6-7 vs 8-9). In general, among all of the compounds investigated except **17n**, the compounds with a trifluoroethyl group demonstrated good to the best activity against MCF-7 cells.

Among the analogues that contain long alkyl acidic side chains (**Table 2**, entries 10-15 and 18-20), the best compounds were **171**, **170** and **17t** with IC₅₀ values of 10.3, 14.3 and 18.4 μ M, respectively, which may uncover that the undecanoic acid chain (n = 10) was better than the octanoic acid chain (n = 7) and the heptanoic acid chain (n = 6).

Table 2. The anti-proliferative activity against MCF-7 cells.



Entry	Comp	Side chain	R^1	\mathbf{R}^2	n	$IC_{50} (\mu M)^a$
1	17a		CH ₂ CH ₃	Н		33.6 ± 1.83
2	17b	³ ² ∕OH	CH ₂ CF ₃	OCH ₃		17 ± 1.39
3	17c	OH	CH ₂ CF ₃	Cl		16.8 ± 2.27
4	17d		CH ₂ CF ₃	OCH ₃		8.4 ± 0.55
5	17e	3 N	CH ₂ CF ₃	OCH ₃		6.1 ± 0.86
6	17f		CH ₂ CF ₃	CH ₃		3.0 ± 0.03
7	17g	Jan N	CH ₂ CF ₃	OCH ₃		2.8 ± 0.25
8	17h		CH ₃	Н		15.2 ± 0.16
9	17i)	CH ₂ CH ₃	Н		12.9 ± 0.74
10	17j		CH ₂ CH ₃	Н	6	34.6 ± 0.41
11	17k		CH ₂ CH ₃	Н	7	27.4 ± 0.54
12	17 l	0	CH ₂ CH ₃	Н	10	10.3 ± 0.20
13	17m	³ 2 () ^{II} OH	CH_2CF_3	OCH_3	6	15.9 ± 0.41
14	17n		CH_2CF_3	OCH ₃	7	40.3 ± 4.81
15	170		CH ₂ CF ₃	OCH ₃	10	$1\overline{4.3\pm0.76}$
16	17p	کر OH				32.3 ± 3.16

17	17q	-rock N			5.4 ± 0.29
18	17r	0		6	>50 ^b
19	17s	3-1-1-04		7	24.9 ± 0.29
20	17t	() _n (i)		10	18.4 ± 0.44
21	4-OHT				10.1 ± 0.34

^a IC_{50} values are an average of at least three independent experiments \pm standard deviation (mean \pm SD). ^b IC_{50} not determinable up to the highest concentrations tested.

2.2.3 ERa degradation assay

The ERa degradation assay of the synthesized compounds has been further investigated. Considering the anti-proliferation ability of this series of compounds, we used 10 µM of each compound to test the ERa level. The Western blot results of synthesized OBHSA analogs with different degrons have been presented in Figure 3A-C. All of the bands were quantitatively analyzed by Quantity One, and the results are given in Figure 3D. Comparing compounds 17a-c and 17p that contained the glycerol ether side chain (Figure 3A), compounds 17b-c with a N-trifluoroethyl group demonstrated modest degradation efficacies (the ER α levels were 41% and 38%, respectively). For the analogs that contained basic side chains (Figure 3B), compounds 17d, 17e, and 17g could efficiently degrade ERa with 99%, 99% and 81% degradation efficacies, respectively. However, when treated with compounds 17f, 17h, 17i and 17q, the ERa levels were 102%, 98%, 95% and 89%, which indicated that these analogs were essentially inactive against ER α degradation. A further docking study showed that the basic side chain could influence helix 3 with noncovalent repulsion to Thr347 and Met343. The N-trifluoroethyl group and the para methoxyl group may also support ER α degradation by clashing with Met421 on the loop of helix 7 and helix 8. These combined influences might contribute to the good degradation activities of compounds 17d, 17e and 17g. From the results when treated with compounds containing long alkyl acidic side chains (Figure 3C), the compounds 17m, 17n and 17t (side chain lengths were 6, 7 and 10, respectively) showed modest activities (ER levels were 32%, 42% and 29%, respectively), which indicated that the length of the long alkyl acidic side chain had no influence on the ER α degradation efficacy.

Lastly, in order to verify that the degradation activities of these novel PROTACs are likely mediated mainly by the side chains, we chose the best compound **17e** of the series for comparison with the parent compound **OBHSA-1** and conducted an ER α degradation assay with different concentrations hoping to obtain an approximate ER α degradation potency of this compound. We chose concentrations of 0.1 µM, 0.5 µM, 1 µM, 5 µM, and 10 µM and compared them with the essential control **OBHSA-1** (**Figure 3E**). The results revealed that compound **17e** demonstrated better results than **OBHSA-1**. Compound **17e** can completely degrade ER α at 1 µM, and it showed good degradation activity at 0.5 µM. Meanwhile, OBHSA-1 showed complete degradation at 5 µM, which indicated that the basic side chain of compound **17e** played an important role in increasing the degradation potency on ER α .





Figure 3. Western blot assay of ER α in MCF-7 cells treated by compounds with (**A**) a glycerol ether side chain, (**B**) basic side chains and (**C**) long alkyl acidic side chains. (**D**) The graph exhibits ER α values for **17a-t**. Cells were incubated with DMSO or the compound (10 μ M) for 20 h. The whole proteins were extracted, and the ER α protein levels were analyzed by Western blotting. (**E**) Western blot assay of ER α treated with **OBHSA-1** and **17e** in different doses from 0.1 μ M to 10 μ M.

2.4 Structure-activity relationships of the OBHSA derivatives

To more intuitively observe the effects of different degrons on the biological activities of the compounds, we made a scatter plot based on the anti-proliferative activity and ER α degradation efficacy (**Figure 4A**). For the ER α degradation assay, as a global observation, compounds that contain basic side chains (**17d**, **17e**, and **17g**, red spots) demonstrated excellent ER α degradation efficacies, which indicated that the basic side chains were the best degrons for ER degradation. Most of the green spots and the blue spots were distributed in the middle or up the figure, from which we can conclude that the long alkyl acidic side chain and the glycerol ether side chain possess a weak influence on ER degradation. However, compounds **17f**, **17q**, **17i** and **17h**, which also contain basic chains, didn't demonstrate potency to degrade ER. Our data suggests that the basic side chain degron might be a major driving factor of ER α degradation activity; however, it appears to require a combination of influences of other substituents in these types of compounds through a distinct mechanism of action, which could be illustrated in the further docking analysis. Additionally, the length of

Ε

the alkyl acidic side chain did not affect the ER α degradation efficacy, as indicated by comparing compounds **17j-o** (green spots).

In terms of the anti-proliferative activity, a similar trend as the efficacy of ER α degradation was observed. All of the compounds that contain basic side chains (red spots) demonstrated less than 20 μ M IC₅₀ values against MCF-7 cell lines, which indicated that the basic chain could help to inhibit the growth of breast cancer cells. Meanwhile, compounds with the long alkyl acidic side chain (green spots) and the glycerol ether side chain (blue spots) showed modest activities, and the majority of them exhibited IC₅₀ values greater than 20 μ M. Moreover, comparison of analogs **171**, **170** and **17t** (green spots, chain length = 10) with **17j**, **17k**, **17n**, **17r** and **17s** (green spots, chain length = 6 and 7) may uncover that the longer the chain length, the more potent the anti-proliferative activity. Taking all of the results and data into account, we summarized the structure-activity relationships of the **OBHSA** compounds







Figure 4. (A) Correlation between the ER α degradation and anti-proliferation activities of different degrons. (B) Structure-activity relationships of the novel SERD compounds.

2.5 Molecular docking

As mentioned above, the obtained compound **17e** turned out to be a single regioisomer, and thus, we analyzed the docking mode of the 2D and 3D interactions between the two enantiomers of compound **17e** and ER α (**Figure 5**). Although we did not obtain another regioisomer **17e'**, we still analyzed the docking mode of the two enantiomers of **17e'** hoping to provide a reference for explaining the biological activity of compound **17e**. The results demonstrated that **17e'** showed less favored interactions with ER α compared to **17e**, and the details are given in the Supporting Information.

In the case of the (1*R*, 2*S*, 4*R*)-enantiomer of compound **17e**, similar to other ER ligands, the phenolic hydroxyl group mimics the A ring of E2 and forms a hydrogen bond with Glu353 on helix 3. At the same time, the basic side chain, as a protein degrading degron, appears to display important interactions with ER α . It forms a hydrogen bond between the nitrogen atom of the basic side chain with Thr347 on helix 3; thus, the entire chain folds in a constrained manner in the binding pocket. In addition, the distance between the *ortho*-methylene group on pyrrolidine and the Met343 is 3.64 Å (Supporting Information), which also develops hydrophobic repulsion with the backbone of Met343 on helix 3 (**Figure 5A, 5B**). These

noncovalent interactions may distort the position of helix 3 so that it could not fold properly, and the ubiquitination of ER will proceed. In contrast, the OBHS analogs with basic side chains published in 2017[45] as ER antagonists formed a hydrogen bond between the basic side chain with Asp351, which stuck out of the pocket toward helix 12. These different interaction modes may illustrate a new mechanism of the basic side chain for degrading ER protein. Moreover, with only a 4.03 Å distance, the *N*-trifluoroethyl substituent demonstrates a hydrophobic interaction with the backbone of Met421 in the loop between helix 7 and helix 8, which is a little different from the crystal structures of **OBHSA** compounds that were reported recently (the *para* substitution on the aryl group would clash with the backbone carbonyl of Glu419 in the loop between helix 7 and helix 8) [38]. For the (1*R*, 2*S*, 4*R*)-enantiomer of compound **17e**, the *para* methoxyl group on the phenyl group is very close to Trp383 and Gly521, which may also clash with the position of helix 11 and thus further enhance the degradation of ER α .

Compared to the (1*R*, 2*S*, 4*R*)-enantiomer, the docking mode of the (1*S*, 2*R*, 4*S*)-enantiomer of compound **17e** is less robust and unstable (**Figure 5C, 5D**). Although the position of the two enantiomers is very similar, there are some differences, which influence their docking mode to ER. The CH₂ group on the basic side chain instead of the nitrogen atom of the (1*R*, 2*S*, 4*R*)-enantiomer interacts with Thr347 but loses the hydrophobic repulsion with the backbone of Met343 on helix 3. Furthermore, the phenolic hydroxyl group of the (1*S*, 2*R*, 4*S*)-configuration failed to form a hydrogen bond with ERα. Although the oxygen atom on the sulfonamide group displays an interaction with Gly521 on helix 11, the (1*S*, 2*R*, 4*S*)-enantiomer displays less interactions than the (1*R*, 2*S*, 4*R*)-enantiomer overall. As a result, only one enantiomer, which possesses the 1*R*, 2*S*, 4*R* absolute configuration, could be docked effectively into the ligand binding pocket, which predicts greater degradation activity for this enantiomer.

From these interaction patterns found in the molecular docking, we can conclude that a new mechanism of the basic side chains on the **OBHSA** scaffold to degrade ER proteins may be discovered, thereby providing the basis for the discovery of new and simpler PROTACs.



Figure 5. Docking study of two enantiomers of compound **17e** bound to ER α (PDB code: 5kcc). (A) Cartoon schematic of the interactions between the residues of the ER α ligand binding domain with the (1*R*, 2*S*, 4*R*)-enantiomer of compound **17e**. It shows the side chain acceptors of Glu353 and Thr347 in green arrows and the backbone acceptors of Met343 and Met 421 in blue arrows. (B) The docking analysis of the (1*R*, 2*S*, 4*R*)-enantiomer of compound **17e** bound to ER α . The phenolic hydroxyl group forms a hydrogen bond (2.31 Å) with Glu353 on helix 3. The basic side chain forms a hydrogen bond (2.66 Å) between the

nitrogen atom with Thr347, and the ortho-methylene group on pyrrolidine develops hydrophobic repulsion with the backbone of Met343 (3.64 Å) on helix 3. In addition, the *N*-trifluoroethyl substituent demonstrates a hydrophobic interaction with the backbone of Met421 (4.03 Å) in the loop between helix 7 and helix 8. (C) Cartoon schematic of the interactions between the residues of the ER α ligand binding domain with the (1*S*, 2*R*, 4*S*)-enantiomer of compound **17e**. It shows the side chain acceptor of Thr347 in a green arrow and the backbone acceptor of Gly521 in a blue arrow. (D) The docking analysis of the (1*S*, 2*R*, 4*S*)-enantiomer of compound **17e** bound to ER α . The CH₂ group on the basic side chain develops hydrophobic repulsion with the backbone of Thr347, and the oxygen atom on sulfonamide group displays interaction with the Gly521 on helix 11.

2.6 Pharmacokinetic profile of 17e in rats

Since **17e** showed good cell antiproliferative activity and complete degradation activity, both the oral and intravenous pharmacokinetic profiles of compound **17e** have been investigated, and the results are shown in **Table 3**. Intravenous dosing with a 3 mg/kg solution of **17e** resulted in high clearance (46 mL/min/kg), and the half-lives of *iv* and *po* are 6.2 h and 3.7 h, respectively. The exposure of the compound is good for intravenous injection (1.0 h·µg/mL), while it is moderate by the oral route (0.33 h·µg/mL). The oral bioavailability of **17e** is 9.2%, which is modest compared to other reported SERDs. However, these moderate pharmacokinetic parameters make it possible for further optimal modification of these compounds to improve bioavailability.

Administration	Dose ^b	CL	T _{1/2}	C _{max}	AUC	V _{ss}	F
route	(mg/kg)	(mL/min/kg)	(h)	(µg/mL)	$(h*\mu g/mL)$	(L/kg)	(%)
iv	3	46	6.2	1.0	1.08	9.55	
ро	10		3.7	0.05	0.33		9.2

Table 3. Pharmacokinetics of 17e in rats^a

^aSprague-Dawley rats were used (n = 3). Plasma samples were measured for drug exposure by LC-MS/MS. ^bDosed intravenously at 3 mg/kg and orally at 10 mg/kg in 5% DMSO and 40% PEG400 in saline.

3. Conclusions

As drug resistance is continuously being identified in the treatment of breast cancer, new strategies based on small molecule-induced protein degradation have developed rapidly. However, most of the candidates involve very limited scaffolds and are still in clinical trials, and none of them has been approved for marketing. Therefore, there is still an urgent need to develop novel compounds with good ER degradation efficacy. In this work, we directed our attention toward discovering new degrons that favor ER degradation and explored the possibility of different side chains (basic side chain, long alkyl acid side chain and glycerol ether side chain) to be the degron of the ER degrader. We designed and synthesized a series of novel OBHSA derivatives that contained different side chains and investigated the structure-activity relationships of these compounds. As a result, the basic side chain was confirmed as the appropriate degron because compounds 17d, 17e and 17g with N-trifluoroethyl and para methoxyl groups exhibited the best anti-proliferative activities and good ER α degradation efficacies. The docking study demonstrates a new mechanism of the basic side chain by forming a hydrogen bond with Thr347 and hydrophobic repulsion with the backbone of Met343, which would distort helix 3. The N-trifluoroethyl group and the para methoxyl group may also be beneficial to the ERa degradation efficacy by influencing the loop of helix 7 and helix 8. Although these compounds showed micromolar activities and modest oral bioavailability, the novel skeleton and easy modification of these PROTAC-like SERDs allow further fine-tuning of their pharmacokinetic properties including oral availability. In summary, these findings simplified the structure of currently available degrons and provide new possibilities for discovering novel scaffolds in the development of novel PROTACs.

4. Experimental section

4.1 General chemical methods.

Starting materials, reagents and solvents are purchased from commercial sources and used directly unless otherwise noted. THF, DCM and acetonitrile are redistilled and dried to avoid

water. Glassware was oven-dried, assembled while hot, and cooled under an inert atmosphere. Reaction progress was monitored using analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC). Visualization was achieved by UV light (254 nm and 365 nm). Silica gel (230–400 mesh) was used for column chromatography purifications. A Bruker Biospin AV400 (400 MHz, ¹H NMR; 100 MHz, ¹³C NMR) instrument was used to measure the ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra.

The synthesis of intermediate compounds **8a-j**, **15**, **16a-h** is reported in the Supporting Information.

4.2 Chemistry.

4.2.1 General procedure for the synthesis of final compounds 17a-t

We used the distilled THF (2 mL) as cosolvent and added furans **8a-d** or **8h-j** (0.6 mmol) and dienophiles **14a** or **14c-f** (0.6 mmol) to the round-bottom flask. The reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C and stirred for 8 h under argon. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (DCM-MeOH, 50:1-20:1).

4.2.2 Characterization data for final compounds 17a-t

6-(4-(2,3-Dihydroxypropoxy)phenyl)-N-ethyl-5-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-phenyl-7-oxabicyclo[2.2 .1]hept-5-ene-2-sulfonamide (**17a**): Yellow solid, 61% yield, mp 96-98 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.12 (dt, J = 14.9, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (dd, J = 17.1, 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (dd, J = 18.5, 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.44 (d, J = 10.7 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (t, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.08 – 4.02 (m, 1H), 4.02 – 3.95 (m, 2H), 3.84 – 3.75 (m, 2H), 3.67 (ddd, J = 12.3, 10.2, 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.46 (td, J = 8.4, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (dd, J = 7.6, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.99 (s, 1H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 158.76, 157.50, 141.54, 140.51, 138.82, 137.70, 136.65, 129.06, 128.97, 128.94, 128.76, 128.35, 128.16, 127.65, 125.39, 123.08, 115.43, 114.42, 84.41, 82.72, 70.37, 68.97, 62.79, 60.20, 46.39, 19.57, 13.61. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₉H₃₁NO₇S [M + H]⁺, 560.1713; found 560.1713. 6-(4-(2,3-Dihydroxypropoxy)phenyl)-5-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N-(2,2,2-trifl uoroethyl)-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-sulfonamide (**17b**, Mixture of 4:1 Isomers): Yellow solid, 74% yield, mp 99-100 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.32 – 7.18 (m, 4H), 7.18 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 7.00 – 6.90 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.83 – 6.78 (m, 2H), 6.73 – 6.68 (m, 1H), 5.47 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 5.31 (s, 1H), 4.42 (q, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.08 – 4.03 (m, 1H), 4.02 – 3.95 (m, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.73 – 3.65 (m, 2H), 3.51 – 3.42 (m, 1H), 2.28 – 2.19 (m, 1H), 2.09 – 2.03 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 159.66, 159.01, 158.79, 157.64, 157.38, 141.75, 140.71, 137.61, 136.46, 131.36, 130.15, 129.24, 129.01, 128.18, 127.98, 125.32, 124.61, 124.16 (d, ¹ $_{JCF} = 279.6$ Hz), 123.63, 122.98, 115.43, 115.14, 114.64, 114.37, 114.18, 84.40, 84.25, 82.70, 82.65, 70.36, 69.04, 68.95, 62.73, 61.14 (d, ² $_{JCF} = 30.9$ Hz), 60.16, 54.61, 54.56, 53.42, 51.93, 22.35, 19.49. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₀H₃₀F₃NO₈S [M + Na]⁺, 644.1536; found 644.1531.

N-(*4*-*Chlorophenyl*)-6-(*4*-(2,3-*dihydroxypropoxy*)*phenyl*)-5-(*4*-*hydroxyphenyl*)-*N*-(2,2,2-*trifluo roethyl*)-7-*oxabicyclo*[2.2.1]*hept-5-ene-2-sulfonamide*(**17c**): Yellow solid, 56% yield, mp 95-97 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.42 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.21 (dd, J = 12.8, 6.1 Hz, 2H), 7.17 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 6.98 – 6.86 (m, 2H), 6.81 – 6.69 (m, 2H), 5.45 (d, J = 18.9 Hz, 1H), 5.32 (s, 1H), 4.50 (dd, J = 16.3, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (dd, J = 12.5, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.03 – 3.94 (m, 2H), 3.69 (dd, J = 11.2, 4.9 Hz, 2H), 3.50 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.22 – 2.13 (m, 1H), 2.03 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 159.02, 157.42, 140.79, 137.96, 136.37, 134.01, 130.20, 129.23, 129.11, 128.23, 124.06 (d, ${}^{1}J_{CF} = 280.3$ Hz), 115.41, 115.14, 114.63, 114.37, 84.38, 82.73, 70.36, 69.02, 68.94, 62.19(d, ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 32.9$ Hz), 62.02, 61.83, 60.16, 30.18, 19.48. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₉H₂₇ClF₃NO₇S [M + Na]+, 648.1041; found 648.1038.

 $6-(4-(2-(Dimethylamino)ethoxy)phenyl)-5-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N-(2,2,2-t rifluoroethyl)-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-sulfonamide (17d, Mixture of 5:1 Isomers): Yellow solid, 75% yield, mp 99-101 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) <math>\delta$ 7.29 – 7.20 (m, 4H), 7.13 (dd, J = 8.6, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.82 – 6.75 (m, 2H), 6.71 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (s, 1H), 5.32 (dd, J = 7.0, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (dd, J = 16.9, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (dt, J = 12.8, 4.6 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (d, J = 2.9 Hz,

3H), 3.47 (ddd, J = 17.7, 8.3, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.75 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 6H), 2.27 – 2.19 (m, 1H), 2.07 – 2.03 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 159.68, 158.01, 157.81, 157.76, 157.51, 142.16, 140.61, 137.98, 136.31, 131.42, 131.30, 130.16, 129.27, 128.99, 128.25, 128.08, 126.04, 124.15(d, ¹ $J_{CF} = 280.0$ Hz), 123.48, 115.47, 115.18, 114.68, 114.44, 114.31, 114.18, 113.79, 84.41, 84.36, 82.76, 82.62, 63.14, 61.46, 61.21 (d, ² $J_{CF} = 30.7$ Hz), 61.03, 60.15, 56.71, 54.57, 43.21, 30.10, 29.39, 21.25, 19.49.HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₁H₃₃F₃N₂O₆S [M + Na]⁺, 642.1937; found 642.1928.

5-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(4-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethoxy)phenyl)-N-(2,2,2-t rifluoroethyl)-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-sulfonamide (**17e**): Yellow solid, 72% yield, mp 115-117 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.45 – 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.35 – 7.17 (m, 4H), 7.18 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 7.00 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 6.83 (dd, J = 12.6, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd, J = 8.7, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (dd, J = 8.5, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (dd, J = 10.1, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.48 – 4.34 (m, 2H), 4.29 (dt, J = 10.0, 5.1 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (dd, J = 14.8, 2.8 Hz, 3H), 3.52 (dd, J = 10.2, 5.7 Hz, 2H), 3.49 – 3.43 (m, 1H), 3.32 (dd, J = 4.6, 3.0 Hz, 4H), 2.29 – 2.16 (m, 1H), 2.10 – 2.04 (m, 4H), 2.04 – 1.99 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 159.68, 157.89, 157.07, 140.10, 138.01, 131.40, 130.18, 129.45, 129.03, 128.30, 124.24 (d, ¹ $_{CF} = 282.1$ Hz), 115.51, 115.23, 114.54, 114.24, 84.43, 82.78, 63.76, 61.32 (d, ² $_{CF} = 31.8$ Hz), 61.06, 54.67, 54.30, 53.89, 30.15, 22.61. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₃H₃₅F₃N₂O₆S [M + Na]⁺, 667.2060; found 667.2047.

5-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-6-(4-(2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethoxy)phenyl)-N-(p-tolyl)-N-(2,2,2-trifluoroethy l)-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-sulfonamide (**17f**, Mixture of 4:1 Isomers): Yellow solid, 81% yield, mp 101-103 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.27 – 7.18 (m, 4H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.97 – 6.91 (m, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.80 – 6.74 (m, 1H), 6.71 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 5.47 (d, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 5.31 (t, J = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (dd, J = 17.0, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.19 (dt, J = 16.8, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 3.47 (ddd, J = 12.9, 8.3, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dt, J = 16.2, 5.7 Hz, 2H), 2.76 (s, 4H), 2.35 (d, J = 18.9 Hz, 3H), 2.23 – 2.16 (m, 1H), 2.02 (dd, J = 13.7, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 1.71 (dd, J = 10.5, 5.3 Hz, 4H), 1.55 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 158.52, 158.37, 157.69, 157.52, 138.59, 137.76, 137.25, 136.53, 136.44, 136.38, 130.00, 129.81, 120.55 (s) = 10.55 (s) + 10

129.70, 129.15, 129.04, 128.94, 128.51, 128.25, 128.08, 125.52, 124.24 (d, ${}^{1}J_{CF} = 281.1$ Hz), 123.53, 123.05, 115.43, 115.19, 114.62, 114.40, 84.38, 84.35, 82.73, 82.63, 64.07, 63.96, 61.49, 61.45 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 31.2$ Hz), 60.15, 56.93, 56.89, 54.18, 53.44, 30.17, 29.40, 24.32, 24.27, 22.86, 22.82, 19.75, 19.71. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{34}H_{37}F_{3}N_{2}O_{5}S$ [M + H]⁺, 643.2448; found 643.2456.

5-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(4-(2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethoxy)phenyl)-N-(2,2,2-tr ifluoroethyl)-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-sulfonamide (**17g**, Mixture of 3:1 Isomers): Yellow solid, 75% yield, mp 106-108 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.27 – 7.19 (m, 4H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.90 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 6.79 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (s, 1H), 5.31 (t, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.17 (dd, *J* = 11.5, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.81 – 3.75 (m, 3H), 3.51 – 3.42 (m, 1H), 2.92 (dt, *J* = 10.5, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 2.70 (s, 4H), 2.23 (ddd, *J* = 11.2, 7.6, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.01 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (dd, *J* = 10.3, 5.1 Hz, 5H), 1.53 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 159.65, 158.53, 158.31, 157.68, 157.42, 141.84, 140.65, 137.62, 136.37, 131.35, 131.27, 130.16, 129.50, 129.27, 129.03, 128.21, 128.03, 125.46, 124.15 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 279.9 Hz), 122.89, 115.47, 115.17, 114.61, 114.35, 114.18, 84.36, 84.21, 83.05, 82.63, 64.43, 64.35, 61.16 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 28.9 Hz), 60.20, 57.14, 54.58, 54.31, 54.17, 53.44, 52.29, 51.94, 31.36, 30.21, 28.73, 24.63, 24.39, 23.16. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₄H₃₇F₃N₂O₆S [M + Na]⁺, 681.2217; found 681.2217.

5-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-6-(4-(2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethoxy)phenyl)-7-oxabicyclo [2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-sulfonamide (**17h**): Yellow solid, 70% yield, mp 96-98 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.48 – 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.40 – 7.33 (m, 4H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.16 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 6.92 (dd, J = 13.2, 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.78 – 6.69 (m, 2H), 5.43 (s, 1H), 5.33 – 5.27 (m, 1H), 4.24 (dt, J = 10.8, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 3.53 (td, J = 8.7, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, 3H), 3.16 – 3.06 (m, 2H), 2.89 (s, 4H), 2.21 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.19 – 2.15 (m, 1H), 1.75 (dt, J = 10.7, 5.4 Hz, 4H), 1.59 (s, 4H), 0.92 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 158.49, 157.44, 141.69, 137.72, 129.40, 128.84, 128.52 (dd, J = 42.1, 15.4 Hz), 126.97, 126.48, 124.90, 123.62, 115.36, 115.17, 114.54, 114.36, 84.31, 82.77, 64.64, 60.55, 60.15, 57.29, 54.39, 38.07, 24.77, 23.33, 19.49. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₂H₃₆N₂O₅S [M + H]⁺, 561.2418; found 561.2418.

N-Ethyl-5-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-phenyl-6-(4-(2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethoxy)phenyl)-7-oxabicyclo[2 .2.1]hept-5-ene-2-sulfonamide (17i): Yellow solid, 72% yield, mp 97-100 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.32 (dd, J = 8.4, 6.3 Hz, 4H), 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.18 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 6.93 -6.84 (m, 2H), 6.74 (dd, J = 19.6, 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.46 (s, 1H), 5.30 (t, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (dt, *J* = 9.1, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (dt, *J* = 17.5, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.52 – 3.43 (m, 1H), 2.82 (dt, *J* = 7.9, 5.2 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (s, 4H), 2.27 – 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.03 (ddd, J = 14.0, 8.5, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.66 (dd, J = 9.5, 5.0 Hz, 4H), 1.51 (s, 2H), 1.09 – 1.03 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 158.60, 157.42, 141.58, 138.84, 136.59, 129.05, 128.90, 128.77, 128.31, 128.16, 127.63, 125.44, 123.68, 115.18, 114.56, 84.40, 82.77, 64.85, 61.35, 60.17, 57.40, 54.50, 46.34, 24.92, 23.49, 19.50, 13.55. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{33}H_{38}N_2O_5S$ [M + Na]⁺, 597.2394; found 597.2398. 7-(4-(6-(N-Ethyl-N-phenylsulfamoyl)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-en-2-yl) phenoxy)heptanoic acid (17j, Mixture of 3:1 Isomers): Yellow solid, 60% yield, mp 103-105 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 7.47 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.40 – 7.33 (m, 4H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.23 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.90 (dd, J = 14.5, 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.85 – 6.79 (m, 2H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 5.36 – 5.31 (m, 1H), 4.04 – 3.98 (m, 2H), 3.92 – 3.80 (m, 2H), 3.53 (ddd, J = 7.6, 4.3, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (dd, J = 10.2, 4.5 Hz, 2H), 2.18 (tt, J = 11.3, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (dd, J = 7.7, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.84 - 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.68 - 1.61 (m, 2H), 1.52 (dd, J = 17.5, 10.7)Hz, 2H), 1.48 – 1.41 (m, 2H), 1.08 – 0.98 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ176.31, 159.13, 158.98, 157.53, 157.35, 141.33, 140.54, 138.84, 137.50, 131.66, 131.41, 129.06, 128.89, 128.72, 128.27, 128.09, 127.62, 125.00, 124.37, 123.76, 123.10, 115.35, 115.12, 114.74, 114.48, 114.25, 113.74, 84.37, 84.13, 83.18, 82.77, 67.53, 67.47, 61.31, 61.19, 60.65, 60.15, 59.66, 46.35, 33.49, 28.79, 28.58, 25.47, 24.63, 19.48, 13.54, 13.37. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{33}H_{37}NO_7S [M + Na]^+$, 614.2183; found 614.2184.

8-(4-(6-(*N*-*Ethyl*-*N*-*phenylsulfamoyl*)-3-(4-*hydroxyphenyl*)-7-*oxabicyclo*[2.2.1]*hept*-2-*en*-2-*yl*) *phenoxy*)*octanoic acid* (**17***k*): Yellow solid, 63% yield, mp 88-90 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆) δ 7.41 – 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 9.4 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (dt, *J* = 17.3, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 5.34 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (dt, J = 10.1, 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.57 – 3.50 (m, 1H), 2.31 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.23 – 2.13 (m, 1H), 2.10 – 2.07 (m, 1H), 1.79 (dq, J = 13.0, 6.3 Hz, 2H), 1.69 – 1.58 (m, 2H), 1.56 – 1.47 (m, 2H), 1.42 (t, J = 11.9 Hz, 4H), 1.04 (dd, J = 14.3, 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 176.35, 158.98, 157.33, 141.33, 138.85, 136.71, 129.05, 128.90, 128.73, 128.31, 128.12, 127.62, 124.98, 123.13, 115.40, 114.52, 84.38, 82.71, 67.63, 61.40, 46.37, 33.54, 30.12, 28.89, 28.77, 25.60, 24.64, 13.58. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₄H₃₉NO₇S [M + Na]⁺, 628.2339; found 628.2336.

11-(4-(6-(*N*-*Ethyl*-*N*-*phenylsulfamoyl*)-3-(4-*hydroxyphenyl*)-7-*oxabicyclo*[2.2.1]*hept*-2-*en*-2-*y l*)*phenoxy*)*undecanoic acid* (171): Yellow solid, 69% yield, mp 80-82 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆) δ 7.39 – 7.32 (m, 4H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.19 (dt, *J* = 14.0, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (dt, *J* = 11.6, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.85 – 6.75 (m, 2H), 5.50 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 5.38 – 5.31 (m, 1H), 4.00 (dt, *J* = 14.0, 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.59 – 3.49 (m, 1H), 2.29 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.19 (dt, *J* = 11.9, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 1.78 (tt, *J* = 12.9, 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.59 (dd, *J* = 13.8, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.49 (dd, *J* = 11.0, 5.8 Hz, 2H), 1.34 (s, 10H), 1.10 – 1.01 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 171.63, 159.66, 157.53, 140.62, 136.27, 131.38, 130.16, 129.28, 129.02, 128.24, 128.06, 123.50, 122.82, 115.45, 115.15, 114.39, 114.16, 84.35, 82.62, 65.70, 61.38, 54.55, 53.96, 30.17, 29.39, 23.85, 22.43, 21.26, 20.66, 13.08. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₇H₄₅NO₇S [M + Na]⁺, 670.2809; found 670.2798.

7-(4-(3-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-6-(N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)sulfamoyl)-7-oxab icyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-en-2-yl)phenoxy)heptanoic acid (**17m**): Yellow solid, 68% yield, mp 94-97 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.27 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.91 – 6.83 (m, 4H), 6.81 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.56 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (s, 1H), 4.52 (q, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.03 (ddd, J = 16.0, 9.6, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 3H), 3.58 (dt, J = 8.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (td, J = 7.3, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 2.25 – 2.16 (m, 1H), 2.12 – 2.08 (m, 1H), 1.85 – 1.74 (m, 2H), 1.70 – 1.59 (m, 2H), 1.56 – 1.39 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 173.88, 159.45, 159.14, 157.55, 141.65, 137.73, 131.87, 130.40, 129.33, 129.15, 128.34, 125.82, 124.42 (d, ¹ $J_{CF} = 280.0$ Hz), 115.71, 115.49, 114.72, 114.51, 114.30, 84.32, 82.67, 67.65, 67.58, 61.72, 54.89, 33.23, 30.47, 28.95, 28.68, 25.63, 24.70. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{34}H_{36}F_3NO_8S$ [M + Na]⁺, 698.2006; found 698.2002.

8-(4-(3-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-6-(N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)sulfamoyl)-7-oxab icyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-en-2-yl)phenoxy)octanoic acid (**17n**): Yellow solid, 70% yield, mp 91-94 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 8.99 – 8.44 (m, 1H), 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.26 (dt, *J* = 15.7, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.91 – 6.83 (m, 4H), 6.82 – 6.76 (m, 1H), 5.65 – 5.48 (m, 1H), 5.36 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 4.60 – 4.46 (m, 2H), 4.05 – 3.98 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.62 – 3.51 (m, 1H), 2.31 (td, *J* = 7.4, 2.3 Hz, 2H), 2.19 (ddd, *J* = 15.4, 10.2, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.13 – 2.08 (m, 1H), 1.85 – 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.66 – 1.58 (m, 2H), 1.55 – 1.47 (m, 2H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 173.80, 159.52, 159.15, 157.53, 131.88, 130.39, 129.31, 128.33, 125.20, 124.42 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 280.3 Hz), 123.45, 115.70, 115.48, 114.71, 114.51, 114.29, 84.34, 82.70, 67.63, 61.71, 59.67, 54.88, 33.27, 30.43, 28.88, 25.72, 24.71, 19.94, 13.61. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₅H₃₈F₃NO₈S [M + Na]⁺, 712.2162; found 712.2167.

11-(4-(3-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-6-(N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)sulfamoyl)-7-oxa bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-en-2-yl)phenoxy)undecanoic acid (**17o**): Yellow solid, 59% yield, mp 81-83 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.19 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.96 – 6.78 (m, 6H), 5.55 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.64 – 4.37 (m, 2H), 4.05 – 3.97 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.60 – 3.53 (m, 1H), 2.29 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.20 (dt, *J* = 11.9, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.12 – 2.08 (m, 1H), 1.84 – 1.73 (m, 2H), 1.63 – 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.49 (dd, *J* = 15.3, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.34 (s, 10H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 173.85, 159.45, 158.99, 157.58, 140.97, 137.73, 131.86, 130.39, 129.32, 128.33, 125.19, 124.42 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 280.1 Hz), 123.45, 115.70, 115.48, 114.70, 114.29, 84.33, 82.66, 67.72, 67.65, 61.83 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 25.2 Hz), 61.62, 54.88, 33.31, 30.47, 25.86, 24.77. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₈H₄₄F₃NO₈S [M + Na]⁺, 754.2632; found 754.2633.

N-(4-(2,3-Dihydroxypropoxy)phenyl)-N-ethyl-5,6-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-sulfonamide (**17p**): Yellow solid, 76% yield, mp 126-128 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 7.27 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (dd, J = 16.8, 8.5 Hz, 4H), 5.46 (s, 1H), 5.32 (t, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (s, 1H), 4.00 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 1H), 3.79 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (s, 2H), 3.48 (dd, J = 8.3, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (dt, J = 11.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.10 – 2.07 (m, 1H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 158.38, 157.28, 140.89, 137.50, 131.75, 130.57, 129.09, 128.50, 124.43, 115.67, 115.45, 114.65, 84.45, 82.69, 70.41, 69.57, 63.13, 61.29, 46.34, 19.97, 14.02. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₉H₃₁NO₈S [M + Na]⁺, 576.1663; found 576.1662.

N-Ethyl-5,6-bis(*4-hydroxyphenyl*)-*N-*(*4-*(*2-*(*piperidin-1-yl*)*ethoxy*)*phenyl*)-*7-oxabicyclo*[*2.2.1*] *hept-5-ene-2-sulfonamide* (**17***q*): Yellow solid, 78% yield, mp 123-125 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆) δ 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 15.1, 8.6 Hz, 4H), 6.87 (dd, *J* = 15.9, 7.8 Hz, 4H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.42 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.36 – 4.23 (m, 2H), 3.85 – 3.71 (m, 2H), 3.44 (ddd, *J* = 12.8, 8.5, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (dt, *J* = 11.0, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 2.98 – 2.79 (m, 4H), 2.31 – 2.19 (m, 1H), 2.15 – 2.08 (m, 1H), 1.73 (dt, *J* = 11.2, 5.6 Hz, 4H), 1.53 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 1.03 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆) δ 157.69, 157.24, 140.79, 137.46, 131.96, 130.41, 129.21, 128.38, 124.31, 123.55, 115.72, 115.40, 114.72, 84.61, 82.57, 64.70, 60.92, 56.78, 54.16, 46.24, 24.48, 23.04, 19.98, 14.07. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₃H₃₈N₂O₆S [M + Na]⁺, 613.2343; found 613.2348. 7-(*4-*(*N-Ethyl-5,6-bis*(*4-hydroxyphenyl*)-*7-oxabicyclo*[2.2.1]*hept-5-ene-2-sulfonamido*)*pheno*

xy)heptanoic acid (*17r*): Yellow solid, 73% yield, mp 105-106 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 7.33 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.17 (m, 4H), 6.85 (dt, J = 13.8, 7.0 Hz, 4H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.48 (s, 1H), 5.33 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.48 (dd, J = 8.3, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.20 (dt, J = 11.7, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (dd, J = 4.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 1.77 (dd, J = 14.0, 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.66 – 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.53 – 1.48 (m, 2H), 1.43 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 174.00, 158.50, 157.38, 157.24, 140.90, 137.51, 131.54, 130.62, 129.57, 129.11, 128.51, 124.40, 123.76, 115.64, 115.44, 114.55, 84.42, 82.70, 67.76, 61.33, 46.41, 33.27, 30.39, 28.92, 28.66, 25.59, 24.70, 14.05. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₃H₃₇NO₈S [M + Na]⁺, 630.2132; found 630.2135.

8-(4-(*N*-*Ethyl*-5,6-*bis*(4-*hydroxyphenyl*)-7-*oxabicyclo*[2.2.1]*hept*-5-*ene*-2-*sulfonamido*)*pheno xy*)*octanoic acid* (17*s*): Yellow solid, 70% yield, mp 104-106 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 7.26 (dd, J = 12.0, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.18 (m, 4H), 6.85 (dd, J = 11.1, 8.8 Hz, 4H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.48 (s, 1H), 5.33 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.48 (dd, J = 8.3, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.20 (dt, J =11.7, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.10 – 2.06 (m, 1H), 1.81 – 1.74 (m, 2H), 1.65 – 1.59 (m, 2H), 1.50 (d, J =7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 4H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 174.11, 158.52, 157.29, 140.90, 137.50, 131.53, 130.62, 129.10, 128.51, 124.38, 115.68, 115.48, 114.56, 84.42, 82.70, 67.83, 61.35, 46.42, 33.35, 30.40, 28.88, 25.73, 24.72, 14.06. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₄H₃₉NO₈S [M + Na]⁺, 644.2289; found 644.2287.

11-(4-(*N*-Ethyl-5,6-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-sulfonamido)phen oxy)undecanoic acid (**17**t): Yellow solid, 72% yield, mp 92-94 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆) δ 7.28 (dd, *J* = 21.5, 9.6 Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.18 (m, 4H), 6.91 – 6.82 (m, 4H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 5.48 (s, 1H), 5.33 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 3.78 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.48 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.24 – 2.17 (m, 1H), 2.07 (s, 1H), 1.80 – 1.74 (m, 2H), 1.63 – 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.48 (s, 2H), 1.34 (s, 10H), 1.03 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆) δ 173.99, 158.52, 157.28, 140.90, 137.52, 131.54, 130.61, 129.09, 128.51, 124.40, 123.76, 115.67, 115.47, 114.54, 84.42, 82.70, 67.85, 61.37, 46.41, 33.35, 30.40, 29.29, 29.09, 28.96, 25.87, 24.78, 14.05. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₇H₄₅NO₈S [M + Na]⁺, 686.2758; found 686.2760.

4.3 Biological assays

4.3.1 Estrogen receptor binding affinity.

Relative binding affinities were determined by a competitive fluorometric binding assay. Briefly, 40 nM of a fluorescence tracer and 0.8 μ M purified human ER α ligand binding domain (LBD) were diluted in 100 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) containing 100 μ g/mL bovine gamma globulin (Sigma-Aldrich, MO). Incubations were performed for 2 h at room temperature (25 °C) in the dark. We then used a Cytation 3 microplate reader (BioTek) to measure fluorescence polarization values. The binding affinities are expressed as relative

binding affinity (RBA) values with the RBA of 17 β -estradiol set to 100%. The values given are the average \pm range of two independent determinations. K_i values were calculated according to the following equation: $Ki = (100/\text{RBA}) \times K_d$.

4.3.2 Cell culture and cell viability assay.

The MCF-7 human breast cancer cell line was obtained from ATCC. Cells were maintained in DMEM with 10% FBS. For all experiments, the cells were grown in 96-well microtiter plates (Nest Biotech Co., China) with the appropriate ligand in triplicate for 72 h. MTT colorimetric tests (Biosharp, China) were employed to determine cell viability per manufacturer's instructions. IC₅₀ values were calculated according to the following equation using Origin 8 software: Y = 100% inhibition + (0% inhibition – 100% inhibition)/(1 + $10^{[(logIC_{50}-X)\times Hillslope]})$, where Y = fluorescence value, $X = log^{[inhibitor]}$.

4.3.3 Western blot analyses of ERa protein levels in MCF-7 cells.

Cells were incubated with DMSO or compound (10 μ M) for 20 h. Whole protein was extracted and ER α protein levels were analyzed by Western blotting. Proteins from cell lysates were separated electrophoretically using 8% SDS-PAGE Gels. Gels were then electroblotted onto polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) membranes (Life Technologies). After blocking with 5% skimmed milk, the membranes were incubated with Rabbit anti-ER α antibody (1:1000, CST) and mouse Anti- β -actin antibody (1:10000, ABclonal Technology). Then, membranes were washed with 0.1% tween-20 in TBS and incubated with goat anti rabbit secondary antibody (Thermo). After washing with 0.1% tween-20 in TBS, they were tested by ECL. All the bands were quantitatively analyzed by Quantity One, and the vehicle was set as 100%.

4.4 Molecular modeling.

The crystal structure of ER α LBD (PDB 5kcc) was obtained from the PDB, and all water molecules were removed. We used AutoDock software (version 4.2) to dock compounds **17e**

into the three-dimensional structure of ER α LBD. The crystallographic coordinates of **17e** was created by Chemoffice. Preparations of all ligands and the protein were performed with AutoDockTools (ADT). A docking cube with edges of 66, 66, and 60 Å in the X, Y, and Z dimensions, respectively (a grid spacing of 0.375 Å). The search parameters were determined using the Genetic Algorithm and the output based on the Lamarckian genetic algorithm (LGA). The figures were prepared using MOE.

4.5 Pharmacokinetic study.

Sprague-Dawley rats were used for the pharmacokinetic study on compound **17e**. All procedures in animal studies were carried out in compliance with the Guide for the Care and Use Committee (Permit No: SCXK (Hu) 2018-0006). Compound **17e** was dissolved in Saline with 5% DMSO and 40% PEG400. After fasting overnight, the animals were administered a single dose of 3 mg/kg **17e** by *iv* and 10 mg/mL **17e** by *po*. After drug administration, blood samples were collected from the orbital sinus of the rat at various time points with each group. An aliquot of 50 μ L plasma sample was protein precipitated with 250 μ L MeOH in which contains 200 ng/mL IS. The mixture was vortexed for 2 min and centrifuged at 12000 rpm for 5 min. An aliquot of 5 μ L supernatant was injected for LC-MS/MS analysis.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data related to this article can be found at https://doi.org/

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Highlights

- A series of novel SERDs with excellent ER degradation efficacy have been discovered.
- These findings simplified the structure of currently available degrons and provide new possibility for discovering novel PROTACs.
- Molecular docking analysis illustrates the interaction of basic side chain of these compounds with ERα, which may implicate a new mechanism of action for this type of SERDs.