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PII: S0223-5234(19)30877-3

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2019.111725

Reference: EJMECH 111725

To appear in: European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry

Received Date: 26 July 2019

Revised Date: 5 September 2019

Accepted Date: 20 September 2019

Please cite this article as: S. Mehndiratta, M.-H. Lin, Y.-W. Wu, C.-H. Chen, T.-Y. Wu, K.-H. Chuang, M.-W. Chao, Y.-Y. Chen, S.-L. Pan, M.-C. Chen, J.-P. Liou, *N*-alkyl-hydroxybenzoyl anilide hydroxamates as dual inhibitors of HDAC and HSP90, downregulating IFN-γ induced PDL-1 expression, *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* (2019), doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2019.111725.

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Graphical abstract



Downregulation of PD-L1 expression in IFN-γ treated H1975 lung cancer cells.

European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry

N-alkyl-hydroxybenzoyl anilide hydroxamates as dual inhibitors of HDAC and

HSP90, downregulating IFN-γ induced PDL-1 expression

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Abstract: Novel dual inhibitors of histone deacetylase (HDAC) and heat-shock protein 90 (HSP90) are synthesized and evaluated. These compounds are endowed with potent HDAC and HSP90 inhibitory activities with IC₅₀ values in nanomolar range with Compound **20** (HDAC IC₅₀ = 194 nM; HSP90 α IC₅₀ = 153 nM) and compound **26** (HDAC IC₅₀ = 360 nM; HSP90 α IC₅₀ = 77 nM) displaying most potent HDAC and HSP90 α inhibitory activities. Both of these compounds induce HSP70 expression and down regulate HSP90 client proteins which play important roles in the regulation of survival and invasiveness in cancer cells. In addition, compounds **20** and **26** induce acetylation of α -tubulin and histone H3. Significantly, compounds **20** and **26** could effectively reduce programmed death-ligand 1 (PD-L1) expression in IFN- γ treated lung H1975 cells in a dose dependent manner. These findings suggest that dual inhibition of HDAC and HSP90 that can modulate immunosuppressive ability of tumor area may provide a better therapeutic strategy for cancer treatment in the future.

Key words: Histone deacetylase inhibitors, Dual inhibitors, Design Multiple Ligand, Lung Cancer, Heat shock protein, programmed death-ligand 1 (PD-L1)

1. Introduction

With the advancement in the knowledge of epigenetics it has become more evident that histone deacetylases (HDACs) are potential therapeutic targets with the ability to reverse aberrant epigenetic states associated with cancer. Various studies in cancer cell lines and tumor tissues revealed changes in the acetylation levels and the expression of the HDAC enzymes and it can be anticipated that HDAC inhibitors (HDIs) could be therapeutically useful as a single agent or in combination with other therapies, such as chemotherapy, immunotherapy or radiotherapy.¹⁻⁴ The approval of suberoylanilide hydroxamic acid (SAHA) by the FDA as first HDI in 2006 has accelerated the search for more potent and more selective HDIs. Many pharmaceutical companies have developed potent HDIs and till date four of these have been granted FDA approval (Figure 1). SAHA with simple chemical architect and easy synthesis has received much attention for further modifications. Many compounds based on SAHA with various heteroatoms as the surface recognition cap, exhibiting potent HDAC inhibitory activity have been reported including ACY-241 (6) (Figure 2).⁵⁻⁹ Recently, much attention has been given to the designed multiple ligand (DML) approach for the development of compounds comprising two or more pharmacophores, multi-component ligands and multipleligands within the same molecule to achieve multi-target modulations. The deliberate use of dual inhibition for enzyme inhibition in cancer treatment is relatively new. Design of such multiple ligands is based on various interdependent intrinsic cellular pathways where one target could be a downstream target or client protein or co-chaperone of another or where inhibitors of two different targets have some synergistic effects. Since HDACs play crucial role in various cellular pathways, it is useful to evaluate HDIs not only in various combination therapies but also as compounds with dual or multitarget inhibition, achievable by modified chemical templates of HDIs. There have been some recent reports of dual inhibitors of inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase and histone deacetylase¹⁰, potent multi-acting HDAC, EGFR, and HER2 inhibitors¹¹, dual inhibitors of histone deacetylase and Topoisomerase II¹² and Toposiomerase I and II¹³, histone deacetylase inhibitors equipped with

estrogen receptor modulation activity^{14.}, Janus Kinase 2 (JAK2) and histone deacetylase bispecific inhibitors¹⁵ and, c-Met/ HDIs based on pyridazinone derivatives.¹⁶ Figure 3 illustrates the various examples of compounds that target dual or multiple signaling pathways.

HDIs increase acetylation of both histone and non-histone proteins, such as HSP 90. HSP90 is a reported downstream target of HDAC6 and inhibitors of HDAC6 lead to destabilization of the HSP90 chaperone function resulting in protein degradation.¹⁷ Various HDIs have been used synergistically with HSP90 inhibitors (Figure 4) in studies like; HSP90 inhibitor NVP-AUY922 (**I**) + PXD101 (**3**) for anaplastic thyroid carcinoma¹⁸, HSP90 inhibitor SNX5422 (**II**) + PXD101 (**3**)/SAHA (**1**)/Trichostatin A for treatment of anaplastic thyroid carcinoma¹⁹, 17AAG (**III**) a HSP90 inhibitor + SAHA (**I**)/sodium butyrate to induce apoptosis in human leukemia cells²⁰ and, histone deacetylase inhibitor LBH589 (**4**) + HSP90 inhibitor 17-AAG for human CML-BC cells and AML cells with activating mutation of FLT-3.²¹

1.1 Design Rationale.

In the field of drug discovery, a single compound that simultaneously competes with multiple targets is an emerging paradigm. Multiple ligands designed in this way offer a cost-effective strategy over multi-drug combinations and are less likely to have drug-drug interactions. Reports have suggested that treatment with HDIs re-sensitizes resistant cells that have acquired resistance towards not only compound **III** but also towards other HSP90 inhibitors after treatment with **III**. This further supports the idea of using HSP90 and HDIs as a combination therapy.²² Consequently, we used DML strategy to discover dual inhibitors of HSP90 and HDAC using SAHA (1) as a template with modified surface recognition cap using resorcinol (Figure 5). Due to better stability, resorcinol moiety has been preferably used for development of various HSP90 inhibitors (figure 4). Thus synthesized multiple ligands have potencies in the nanomolar range against various cancer cell lines,

downregulate various client proteins of HSP90 and HDAC, and are lead compounds for further modifications in the development of more potent dual inhibitors of HDAC and HSP90.

Results and discussion

2.1 Chemistry.

Syntheses of various *t*-butoxycarbamate anilines (**34-41**) are shown in Scheme 1. TEA (Triethylamine) and DMAP (4-Dimethylaminopyridine) were added to a solution of the appropriate nitroaniline (**28-30**) in Dichloromethane (DCM) to which was added Boc anhydride (Di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate) dissolved in DCM. Thus obtained various *t*-Boc-nitroanilines were alkylated using sodium hydride and various alkyl halides at 0 °C in DMF. The resulting alkyl halides were reduced using Fe/NH₄Cl to give the corresponding anilines (**34-41**) in up to 80% yield.

Syntheses of various hydroxamates (17–27) are illustrated in Scheme 2. Esters were synthesized using HBTU (2-(1*H*-benzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate), DIPEA (*N*,*N*-Diisopropylethylamine) and appropriate aliphatic acid (C-5 to C-8) added to a solution of the appropriate amine (**34-41**) in DMF. Amidation using 1,4-dibenzyloxy-5-isopropyl benzoic acid using HBTU and DIPEA provided corresponding amides (**42-52**) with yields of 49-65%. 1,4-dibenzyloxy-5-isopropyl benzoic acid was prepared following the published procedure²³.

A mixture of 1N LiOH (Lithium hydroxide) and **42-52** was stirred at 40 $^{\circ}$ C for 2 h. Precipitates obtained after work up were filtered, dried, dissolved in DMF and amidation was accomplished with NH₂OBn using EDC•HCl (N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-N'-ethylcarbodiimide HCl), HOBt (1-hydroxybenzotriazole) and NMM (N-methylmorpholine). De-protection of NH₂OBn was achieved using 10% Pd/C in methanol under H₂ at room temperature. The deprotected compound was purified to yield compounds **17-27** in 49-63% yield.

2.2 Biological evaluation.

2.2.1 Inhibition of HeLa nuclear HDAC enzyme and HSP90a.

Compounds 17–27 were evaluated for their HDAC inhibitory activity using HeLa nuclear extract as HDAC source. They were also examined for activity against HSP90a (Table 1). Compound 17, in which $R_1 = H$ and there is an alkyl chain of six carbons (C-6) attached to the *p*-position of the benzamide, displays HDAC inhibitory activity ($IC_{50} = 415$ nM) but does not exhibit activity against HSP90 α (IC₅₀ = >1000 nM). SAHA, a HDI, has IC₅₀ = 98 nM against HDAC HeLa extract but no HSP90a inhibitory activity >1000 nM. On the other hand, 17-AAG, a HSP 90 inhibitor, exhibits potent HSP90 α inhibition (IC₅₀ = 98 nM) but no HDAC inhibitory activity (IC₅₀ >1000 nM). To investigate the regioneric effect of the alkyl chain with respect to the benzamide, compounds 18 (meta) and 19 (ortho) were synthesized and evaluated. Compound 18 has increased HDAC inhibitor activity (IC₅₀ = 126 nM) but there was no change with respect to the activity against HSP90 α (IC₅₀ >1000 nM) as compared with 17. Compound 19 fails to show any apparent potency against HDAC and HSP90 α . To evaluate the effect of *N*-alkyl substitution of benzamide ($R_1 \neq H$), compounds 20 -24 were synthesized. Compounds 20 (para, N-Me, whose IC50 with HSP90 α is IC₅₀ = 153 nM), 21 (*meta*, *N*-Me, $IC_{50} = 302 \text{ nM}$), 22 (*para*, *N*-Et, $IC_{50} = 186 \text{ nM}$) and 23 (*meta*, *N*-Et, $IC_{50} = 145 \text{ nM}$) show significant improvement in their HSP90a inhibitory compared to that of their precursors. For the activity against HDAC of para-substituted compounds, the inhibitory activity of N-Me substitution (20, $IC_{50} = 194 \text{ nM}$) was better than for the *N*-Et compound (22, $IC_{50} = 461 \text{ nM}$). The reverse order was favored for *meta*-substituted compounds, and thus 23 (N-Et, $IC_{50} = 126 \text{ nM}$) is less active than 21 (N-Me, $IC_{50} = 211$ nM). These results indicate the favorability of compounds containing an N-substituted benzamide group for dual inhibition of HDAC and HSP90a. The Nisopropylamide (24) displays diminished activity (HDAC and HSP90a IC₅₀ >1000 nM) suggesting that a bulky group is not favored. To evaluate the effect of alkyl chain length on the activity of this series, compounds 25 (C-5), 26 (C-7) and 27 (C-8) were synthesized and evaluated. These compounds maintain HDAC inhibitory activity with compound 26 exhibiting the best HSP90a inhibition (IC₅₀ = 77 nM) amongst all the compounds. The lower HDAC inhibitory activity of 27 (C-

8; IC₅₀ = 671 nM) compared to its precursor **26** (C-7; IC₅₀ = 360 nM) indicates that a chain length \leq C-7 is optimum for maintaining activity.

2.2.2 In Vitro Cell Growth Inhibitory Activity.

The anti-proliferative activity of the synthesized hydroxamates (17–27) against lung carcinoma A549 cells, human colon cancer HCT116 cells and human non-small cell lung EGFR-resistant cancer cells H1975 was evaluated (Table 1). Cancer cell growth inhibitory results are consistent with the HDAC and HSP90 α inhibitory activities. Compounds 17-19 (R₁ = H); fail to show potent activity in cancer cell lines with exception of the human colon cancer HCT116 cells {17 (GI₅₀ = 5.43 μ M), **18** (GI₅₀ = 6.23 μ M), **19** (GI₅₀ = 4.92 μ M). *N*-alkylated compounds (**20** – **23**) showed marked improvement in cancer cell growth inhibitory activities and their results are consistent with the HDAC and HSP90 α inhibition. Compound 20 (*para*, N-Me) displayed potent activity in the submicromolar range (A549 GI₅₀ = 0.77 μ M; HCT116 GI₅₀ = 0.83 μ M and H1975 GI₅₀ = 0.69 μ M). Cell growth inhibitory activities followed the same trend as that of HDAC and HSP90a inhibition with a *para* N-Me compound **20** (A549 GI₅₀ = 0.77 μ M; HCT116 GI₅₀= 0.83 μ M and H1975 GI₅₀ = $0.69 \ \mu M$) > 22 (A549 GI₅₀ = 5.63 μM ; HCT116 GI₅₀= 3.56 μM and H1975 GI₅₀ = 1.38 μM) and the *N*-Et substituted *meta* derivative 23 (A549 GI₅₀ = 1.59 μ M; HCT116 GI₅₀ = 1.12 μ M and H1975 $GI_{50} = 0.94 \ \mu M$) > 21 (A549 $GI_{50} = 2.30 \ \mu M$; HCT116 $GI_{50} = 1.17 \ \mu M$ and H1975 $GI_{50} = 1.66 \ \mu M$). Compound 24 was active against only HCT116 cells with $IC_{50} = 6.23 \mu M$. To explore the effect of alkyl side chain on the SAR, compounds 25 - 27 were synthesized and evaluated. Each of these compounds showed potent cell growth inhibition with 26 (A549 GI₅₀ = 0.44 μ M; HCT116 GI₅₀ = 1.06 μ M and H1975 GI₅₀ = 0.40 μ M) maintaining an appropriate balance between cell growth inhibitory activity and HDAC and HSP90a inhibitory activity.

2.2.3 HDAC Isoform Inhibition.

Compounds **20** and **26** were tested for enzymatic activities of HDAC isoforms, including HDAC isoform **1-11** and, SIRT1 (Table 2). The results indicated that both **20** and **26** decrease enzymatic activities of various HDAC isoforms with **20** exhibiting at least 22 times more selectivity for HDAC 6 isoform with an IC₅₀ value of 0.04 μ M.

2.2.4 Effects of Test Compounds on HSP90-Regulated Client Proteins

HSP 90 chaperone inhibitors reportedly cause pronounced induction of HSP70, and quantification of HSP70 levels is related to the potency of HSP90 inhibition. Thus, HSP70 induction can be a useful marker to predict the effects of HSP90 inhibitors.^{24,25} We explored the protein levels of HSP70 and well-known HSP90 clients after drug treatment. Exposure to test compounds induces HSP70 expression and downregulates the protein levels of client proteins, such as EGFR, Src, FAK, and Rb. Figure 6 shows the HSP90 inhibitory activity of compounds **20** and **26**.

2.2.5 Effect of α-Tubulin and Histone H3 Acetylation on Human Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Cells.

Compounds 20 and 26 were evaluated by western blot analysis for their ability to acetylate α -Tubulin and Histone H3. The expression of these HDAC-inhibition biomarkers was observed in a concentration-dependent fashion upon treatment with 20 or 26 (Figure 7). The results indicate that these compounds are potent inhibitors of HDACs in human non-small cell H1975 lung cancer cells.

2.2.6 Effect of cell cycle distribution and cell death on Human Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Cells.

We evaluated cell cycle distribution alteration in response to **20** and **26** by Flow Cytometry. As shown in Figure 8A, treatment with higher concentrations of **20** and **26** induce severe subG1 phase cells accumulation, suggesting these two compounds generate dramatic cell death in H1975 cells. Further, **20** and **26** induce apoptosis by activating caspase 3,8,9, PARP, and γ H2AX (Figure 8B). These results indicate **20** and **26** are potent inducers of apoptotic cell death in human non-small cell

H1975 lung cancer cells.

2.2.7 Effect of IFN-y induced PDL-1 expression in Human Non-small Cell Lung Cancer Cells.

T cells, especially cytotoxic T cells, can infiltrate into the tumor area to eliminate tumor cells by releasing cytotoxins (perforins and granzymes) and inflammatory cytokines (IFN- γ and TNF- α)^{26,27}. However, IFN- γ also triggers the expression of programmed death-ligand 1 (PD-L1) on the surface of many tumor cells, leading T-cell suppression and immune evasion of tumor cells from cellular cytotoxicity²⁸⁻³⁰. To investigate whether the Compounds **20** and **26** prevent the IFN- γ induced PD-L1 up-regulation in tumor cells, PD-L1 expression on human non-small cell lung cancer cells (H1975) was stimulated by 20 ng/ml of IFN- γ and these cells were co-treated with compounds **20** or **26**. The western blot analysis (Figure 9A) shows that compound **20** and **26** could effectively reduce PD-L1 expression in IFN- γ treated H1975 cells in a dose dependent manner. Moreover, the expression level of surface PD-L1 on IFN- γ treated H1975 cells could also be inhibited by compounds **20** and **26** with the concentrations above 0.25µM (Figure 9B, 9C).

3. Conclusion

We have designed a series of novel hydroxamic acids (**17-27**) as potent dual inhibitors of histone deacetylase and the HSP90 chaperone. Alkylated compounds (**20-23**) were more potent than the non-alkylated compounds (**17-19**). Compounds **20** (*para*, *N*-Me, C-6, HDAC IC₅₀ = 194 nM; HSP90 α IC₅₀ = 153 nM) and **26** (*para*, *N*-Me C-7, HDAC IC₅₀ = 360 nM; HSP90 α IC₅₀ = 77 nM) exhibited most potent activities while maintaining inhibition of HDAC and HSP90 α . An alkyl side chain of 7 carbons was found to be the maximum tolerable length. Compounds **20** showed potent HDAC 6 inhibition with IC₅₀ value of 0.04 μ M and is 26 to 222 times more selective for HDAC 6 isoform compared to other synthetics. Upregulation of HSP70 and downregulation of well-known HSP90 client proteins such as EGFR, Src, FAK, and Rb further indicates the HSP90 inhibitory potential of

20 and **26**. They induce apoptosis by activating caspase 3,8,9, PARP, and γ H2AX. Substantially, compounds **20** and **26** downregulate PD-L1 expression in IFN- γ treated lung H1975 cells in a dose dependent manner thus could be lead molecules for further development owing to their tumor growth and immunosuppression inhibitory activities.

4. Experimental section

4.1 Chemistry.

Nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR) spectra were obtained with a Bruker DRX-500 spectrometer (operating at 300 MHz and 500 MHz), with chemical shifts in parts per million (ppm, δ) downfield from TMS as an internal standard. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were measured with a JEOL (JMS-700) electron impact (EI) mass spectrometer. Purity of the final compounds was determined using an Hitachi 2000 series HPLC system using C-18 column (Agilent ZORBAX Eclipse XDB-C18 5 μ M. 4.6 mm × 150 mm) and were found to be \geq 95%. Flash column chromatography was done using silica gel (Merck Kieselgel 60, No. 9385, 230-400 mesh ASTM). All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of dry N₂.

N-4-Nitrophenyl-*t*-butylcarbamate (31). A solution of di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (0.91 g, 4.20 mmol) in DCM was added dropwise to a solution of 4-nitroaniline (28, 0.5 g, 4.20 mmol), TEA (trimethylamine, 0.59 mL, 4.20 mmol) and DMAP (4-Dimethylaminopyridine, 0.25 g, 2.10 mmol) and the mixture was stirred for 3 h. The reaction was then quenched using H₂O, extracted with DCM (25 mL × 5) and purified by column chromatography to give 31 in 78% yield, ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.55 (s, 9H), 6.82 (bs, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 2H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 2H).

N-4-Aminophenyl-*t***-butylcarbamate (34). 31** (1.1 g, 4.45 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of IPA: H_2O (isopropyl alcohol: water. 4:1). Iron powder (Fe, 0.74 g, 13.35 mmol), NH₄Cl (ammonium chloride, 0.47 g, 8.89 mmol) were added and the mixture was refluxed for two hours. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was filtered through celite and extracted with EtOAc

(ethyl acetate, 25 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography to give **34** as white solid in 91% yield, ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.48 (s, 9H), 7.12. (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 2H).

7-[4-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-isopropyl-benzoylamino)-phenylcarbamoyl]-heptanoic acid methyl ester (42). HBTU (1.82 g, 3.59 mmol), DIPEA (0.84 mL, 4.80 mmol) and monomethyl suberate (0.93 mL, 5.28 mmol) were added to a solution of 34 (1.0 g, 4.80 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 12 h at rt. Then the reaction was quenched with H₂O and extracted using EtOAc, dried over MgSO₄ and passed through a filter column to give corresponding ester which was dissolved in the minimum amount of dioxane. H₂O with pH adjusted to 3 using 3N HCl was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at reflux overnight to yield the corresponding free amine. The reaction was basified and extracted using EtOAc, then dried, concentrated and passed through a filter column to give the free amine. To a solution of this free amine (1.0 g, 3.59 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) was added HBTU (1.36 g, 3.59 mmol), DIPEA (0.66 mL, 3.59 mmol) and 1,4-dibenzyloxy-5isopropyl benzoic acid (0.76 g, 4.31 mmol) and the solution was stirred for 12 h at 80 °C. The reaction mixture was quenched with H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (25 mL \times 3). The combined organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to give a light yellow residue, which was purified by silica gel chromatography (EtOAc:n-hexane = 1: 1) to give 42 as a colorless liquid in 65% yield (overall from 34), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.27 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.38- 1.41 (m, 4H), 1.62 – 1.69 (m, 4H), 2.32 - 2.38 (m, 4H), 3.65. (s, 3H),5.25 (s, 2H), 5.29 (s, 2H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 7.18(d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.38 - 7.51 (m, 10 H), 7.56 -7.58 (m, 2H), 7.98 (s, 1H).

Octanedioic acid [4-(2,4-dihydroxy-5-isopropyl-benzoylamino)phenyl]amide hydroxyamide (17). A mixture of 1N LiOH (7 mL) and 42 (1 g, 1.57 mmol) was stirred at 40 $^{\circ}$ C for 2 h. The reaction was concentrated under reduced pressure and then H₂O was added. The mixture was

acidified with 3N HCl to give an off-white liquid. The off-white liquid (0.07 g, 0.11 mmol) was dissolved in DMF (1 mL) and EDC•HCl (0.03 g, 0.16 mmol), HOBt (0.02 g, 0.16 mmol), and NMM (0.04 mL, 0.38 mmol) were added. After being stirred at room temperature for 30 min, NH₂OBn (0.02 g, 0.12 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for an additional 5 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with H_2O and was extracted with EtOAc (25 mL \times 3). The combined organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to give a light yellow residue, which was purified by silica gel chromatography (EtOAc:n-hexane = 1: 1) to give a colorless liquid. To a solution of the resulting product in methanol (10 mL) was added 10% Pd/C and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h under H₂. The reaction mixture was filtered through celite, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column to afford the desired compound (17), in 63% yield (from 42); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.25 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.39-1.42 (m, 4H), 1.62-1.72 (m, 4H), 2.12 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.17-3.26 (m, 1H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.60 (m, 4H), 7.75 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): 25.21, 25.37, 26.59, 28.44, 28.52, 36.44, 102.26, 107.54, 120.22, 121.84, 126.08, 127.30, 134.15, 135.00, 160.07, 173.13. LRMS m/z: calculated 480.49 found 480.2 (M+Na). HRMS (ESI) C₂₄H₃₂N₃O₆ (M+H⁺) calcd, 458.2291; found, 458.2287.

N-3-Nitrophenyl-*t***-butylcarbamate (32).** Compound **32** was synthesized using 3-nitroaniline (**29**, 0.5 g, 4.20 mmol), TEA (0.59 mL, 4.20 mmol), DMAP (0.25 g, 2.10 mmol) and di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (0.91 g, 4.20 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound **31**, to give **32** in 81% yield, ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.58 (s, 9H), 6.69 (bs, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 8.02 (m, 3H).

N-3-Aminophenyl-*t***-butylcarbamate (38).** Compound **38** was synthesized using **32** (1.1 g, 4.45 mmol) dissolved in a mixture of IPA:H₂O (4:1), iron powder (0.74 g, 13.35 mmol) and NH₄Cl (0.47 g, 8.89 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound **34**, to give **38** as white solid in 79% yield, ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.46 (s, 9H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.07 – 7.13 (m,

2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H).

7-[3-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-isopropyl-benzoylamino)-phenylcarbamoyl]-heptanoic acid methyl ester (43). Compound **43** was synthesized using **38** (1.0 g, 4.80 mmol) in DMF (10 mL), HBTU (1.82 g, 3.59 mmol), DIPEA (0.84 mL, 4.80 mmol) and monomethyl suberate (0.93 mL, 5.28 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound **42**, to give **43** as a colorless liquid in 62% yield (overall from **38**); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.01-1.11 (m, 6H), 1.37-1.40 (m, 4H), 1.77-1.88 (m, 4H), 2.33 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz , 2H), 2.41 – 2.42 (m, 2H), 3.27-3.36 (m, 1H), 3.64. (s, 3H), 5.05(s, 2H), 5.26 (s, 2H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 7.39 – 7.40 (m, 15 H), 7.82 (s, 1H).

Octanedioic acid [3-(2,4-dihydroxy-5-isopropyl-benzoylamino)-phenyl]-amide hydroxyamide (18). Compound 18 was synthesized using a mixture of 1N LiOH (1 mL) and 43 (0.1 g, 0.15 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound 17, to afford the desired compound 18 as an off white liquid, in 59% yield (from 43); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6): δ 1.18 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.23-1.28 (m, 4H), 1.44-1.59 (m, 4H), 1.93 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.06-3.24 (m, 1H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 7.22-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 8.65 (s, 1H), 9.90 (s, 1H), 10.14 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 10.33 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): 13.66, 21.98, 24.87, 25.18, 25.43, 26.48, 28.46, 28.52, 28.64, 28.66, 30.48, 32.37, 34.11, 34.51, 35.78, 36.01, 102.52, 107.50, 125.19, 125.38, 125.68, 126.18, 127.62, 130.01, 132.09, 132.14, 155.14, 159.23, 160.33, 163.54, 167.77, 167.90, 171.71, 174.39, 174.45. LRMS m/z: calculated 480.49 found 480.1 (M+Na⁺). HRMS (ESI) C₂₄H₃₂N₃O₆ (M+H⁺), calcd, 458.2288; found, 458.2286.

N-2-Nitrophenyl-*t***-butylcarbamate (33).** Compound **33** was synthesized using 2-nitroaniline (**30**, 0.5 g, 4.20 mmol), TEA (0.59 mL, 4.20 mmol) and DMAP (0.25 g, 2.10 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound **31**, to give **33** in 72% yield, ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.56 (s, 9H), 7.07-7.13 (m, 1H), 7.59 -7.76 (m, 1H), 8.20 (dd, J = 8.4, Hz J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (dd, J = 8.4, Hz J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 9.68 (s, 1H).

N-2-Aminophenyl-t-butylcarbamate (41). Compound 41 was synthesized using 33 (1.0 g, 4.40

mmol) which was dissolved in a mixture of IPA:H₂O (4:1) and iron powder (0.69 g, 12.88 mmol), NH₄Cl (0.39 g, 8.72 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound **34**, to give **41** as white solid in 77% yield, ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.48 (s, 9H),7.14 - 7.24 (m, 2H) 7.35. (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H).

7-[2-(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-isopropyl-benzoylamino)-phenylcarbamoyl]-heptanoic acid methyl ester (44). Compound 44 was synthesized using 41 (1.0 g, 4.80 mmol) in DMF (10 mL), HBTU (1.82 g, 3.59 mmol), DIPEA (0.84 mL, 4.80 mmol) and monomethyl suberate (0.93 mL, 5.28 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound 42, to give 44 as a colorless liquid in 57% yield (overall from 41), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.11- 1.26 (m, 6H), 1.31-1.36 (m, 4H), 1.52-1.74 (m, 4H), 2.29-2.25 (m, 2H), 2.37-2.45 (m, 2H), 3.10-3.21 (m, 1H), 3.66. (s, 3H), 5.15(s, 2H), 5.31 (s, 2H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 7.14-7.22 (m, 2 H), 7.35-7.54 (s, 14H).

Octanedioic acid [2-(2,4-dihydroxy-5-isopropyl-benzoylamino)-phenyl]-amide hydroxyamide (19). Compound 19 was synthesized using 1N LiOH (1 mL) and 44 (0.1 g, 0.15 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound 17, to give 19 as a colorless liquid in 49% yield (from 44); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.25 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 7H), 1.29-1.34 (m, 4H), 1.49-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.65-1.72 (m, 2H) 2.02-2.04 (m, 2H), 2.44 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.17-3.26 (m, 1H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 7.20-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6): 23.13, 25.47, 25.55, 26.39, 28.87, 31.26, 32.71, 36.17, 36.26, 103.05, 108.48, 124.71, 124.91, 126.32, 126.86, 127.01, 130.30, 159.06, 160.08, 162.81, 166.60, 169.61, 172.87. LRMS *m/z*: calculated 480.49 found 480.2 (M+Na). HRMS (ESI) C₂₄H₃₂N₃O₆ (M+H⁺) calcd, 458.2287; found, 458.2286

N-4-Aminophenyl-N-methyl-*t***-butylcarbamate** (**35**). 60% NaH (0.36 g, 9 mmol) was added at 0 °C to a solution of **31** (1.4 g, 6 mmol) in DMF and the mixture was stirred for 5 min before adding CH₃I (0.75 mL, 9 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for another 30 min at rt, then quenched by slow addition of H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (25 mL \times 3). The combined organic layer was dried over

anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. This dried product (1.6 g, 6.46 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of IPA:H₂O (4:1) then iron powder (1.1 g, 19.38 mmol) and NH₄Cl (0.7 g, 12.92 mmol) were added following the procedure used for the synthesis of compound **34**, to give **35** as white solid in 79% yield (from **31**), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.48 (s, 9H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 6.82. (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H).

7-{4-[(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-isopropyl-benzoyl)-methyl-amino]-phenylcarbamoyl}-heptanoic

acid methyl ester (45). Compound 45 was synthesized using 35 (1.0 g, 4.50 mmol) in DMF (10 mL), HBTU (1.71 g, 4.50 mmol), DIPEA (0.78 mL, 4.50 mmol) and monomethyl suberate (0.87 mL, 4.95 mmol), following the method used for synthesis of compound 42, to 45 give as a colorless liquid in 61% yield (overall from 35), mp: 138-140 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.07 (bs, 6H), 1.31-1.38 (m, 4H), 1.63 – 1.68 (m, 4H), 2.32 - 2.34 (m, 4H), 3.12-3.20 (m, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.64. (s, 3H), 4.95(bs, 4H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 6.93 – 6.97 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.47 (m, 12 H).

Octanedioic acid {4-[(2,4-dihydroxy-5-isopropyl-benzoyl)-methyl-amino]-phenyl}-amide hydroxyamide (20). Compound 20 was synthesized using 1N LiOH (7 mL) and 45 (1 g, 1.53 mmol) following the method used for synthesis of compound 17, to give 20 as white solid, in 64% yield (from 45); mp: 164-165 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 0.82 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H), 1.31-1.38 (m, 4H), 1.64-1.69 (m, 4H), 2.10 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.88-2.97 (m, 1H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): 21.53, 25.21, 25.31, 25.48, 28.46, 32.32, 36.45, 37.71, 101.93, 109.02, 120.41, 125.61, 126.87, 128.03, 137.44, 141.09, 158.07, 158.33, 171.92, 173.19. LRMS *m/z*: calculated 494.52 found 494.2 (M+Na). HRMS (ESI) C₂₅H₃₄N₃O₆ (M+H⁺) calcd, 472.2448; found, 472.2444.

N-3-Aminophenyl- N-methyl-*t***-butylcarbamate** (**39**). Compound **39** was synthesized using **32** (1.4 g, 6 mmol) in DMF, 60% NaH (0.36 g, 9 mmol) and CH₃I (0.75 mL, 9 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound **35**, to give **39** as white solid in 72% yield (from **32**), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.42 (s, 9H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 6.96-6.70. (m, 1H), 7.29 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.35-

7.39 (m, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H).

7-{3-[(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-isopropyl-benzoyl)-methyl-amino]-phenylcarbamoyl}-heptanoic

acid methyl ester (46). Compound 46 was synthesized using 39 (1.0 g, 4.50 mmol) in DMF (10 mL), HBTU (1.71 g, 4.50 mmol), DIPEA (0.78 mL, 4.50 mmol) and monomethyl suberate (0.87 mL, 4.95 mmol) following the method used for synthesis of compound 42, to give 46 as a colorless liquid in 56% yield (overall from 39), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.07-1.09 (m, 6H), 1.31-1.36 (m, 4H), 1.59-1.68 (m, 4H), 2.88-2.34 (m, 4H), 3.12-3.19 (m, 1H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 3.64. (s, 3H), 4.92-4.97 (m, 4H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 6.99-6.71 (m, 2H), 7.24 -7.39 (m, 10 H), 7.56 (s, 1H).

Octanedioic acid {3-[(2,4-dihydroxy-5-isopropyl-benzoyl)-methyl-amino]-phenyl}-amide hydroxyamide (21). Compound 21 was synthesized using 1N LiOH (1 mL) and 46 (0.1 g, 0.15 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound 17, to give 21, in 61% yield (from 46); mp: 173-174 °C ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6): δ 0.77 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.23 (bs, 8H), 1.42-1.53 (m, 4H), 1.90-1.95 (m, 2H), 2.24 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.79-2.86 (m, 1H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 6.86 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 8.64 (s,1H), 9.72 (s,1H), 9.78 (s,1H), 10.31 (s, 1H), 10.70 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): 21.60, 25.13, 25.24, 25.32, 25.49, 28.46, 28.55, 28.71, 30.38, 32.37, 34.05, 35.00, 35.68, 36.51, 37.88, 102.03, 108.51, 117.95, 118.08, 121.84, 125.65, 128.17, 129.54, 139.92, 146.03, 158.29, 158.80, 163.52, 171.64, 171.92, 173.33. LRMS *m*/*z*: calculated 494.52 found 494.2 (M+Na⁺). HRMS (ESI) C₂₅H₃₄N₃O₆ (M+H⁺) calcd, 472.2444; found, 472.2442.

N-4-Aminophenyl-N-ethyl-*t***-butylcarbamate** (**36**). Compound **36** was synthesized using **31** (0.93 g, 3.90 mmol) in DMF, 60% NaH (0.24 g, 5.85 mmol) and ethyl iodide (0.62 mL, 3.90 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound **35**, to give **36** as white solid in 81% yield (from **31**), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.42 (s, 9H) 3.10-3.13 (m, 2H), 6.63. (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H).

$\label{eq:constraint} $$7-{4-[(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-isopropyl-benzoyl)-ethyl-amino]-phenylcarbamoyl}-heptanoic acid$

methyl ester (47). Compound **47** was synthesized using **36** (1.0 g, 4.23 mmol) in DMF (10 mL), HBTU (1.60 g, 4.23 mmol), DIPEA (0.74 mL, 4.23 mmol) and monomethyl suberate (0.82 mL, 4.65 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound **42**, to give **47 as a** colorless liquid in 54% yield (overall from **36**), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 0.78 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.22-1.27 (m, 4H), 1.31-1.41 (m, 4H), 2.30 - 2.34 (m, 4H), 3.06-3.08 (m, 1H), 3.09-3.14 (m, 2H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 5.15(s, 2H), 5.21 (s, 2H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.52 (m, 13H).

Octanedioic acid {4-[(2,4-dihydroxy-5-isopropyl-benzoyl)-ethyl-amino]-phenyl}-amide hydroxyamide (22). Compound 22 was synthesized using 1N LiOH (7 mL) and 47 (1 g, 1.50 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound 17, to give 22, in 59% yield (from 47); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 0.82 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 1.38-1.40 (m, 4H), 1.62-1.70 (m, 4H), 2.11 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.90-2.97 (m, 1H), 3.89-3.96 (m, 2H), 6.19 (t, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): 11.78, 21.70, 25.05, 25.27, 25.37, 25.53, 28.48, 28.49, 28.60, 28.69, 32.41, 34.77, 35.79, 36.55, 45.50, 102.09, 109.16, 120.48, 120.58, 125.61, 127.85, 128.05, 137.56, 139.18, 158.01, 158.53, 171.44, 171.69, 173.29. LRMS (M+Na) *m/z*: calculated 508.55 found 508.2. HRMS (ESI) C₂₆H₃₆N₃O₆ (M+H⁺) calcd, 486.2599; found, 486.2601.

N-3-Aminophenyl- N-ethyl-*t***-butylcarbamate** (**40**). Compound **40** was synthesized using **32** (1.0 g, 3.98 mmol) in DMF, 60% NaH (0.25 g, 5.92 mmol) and C₂H₅I (0.66 mL, 4.10 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound **35**, to give **40** as white solid in 74% yield (from **32**), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.42 (s, 9H) 3.42-3.13 (m, 2H), 6.50-6.57. (m, 1H), 7.13-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H).

7-{3-[(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-isopropyl-benzoyl)-ethyl-amino]-phenylcarbamoyl}-heptanoic acid **methyl ester (48).** Compound **48** was synthesized using **40** (1.0 g, 4.23 mmol) in DMF (10 mL), HBTU (1.60 g, 4.23 mmol), DIPEA (0.74 mL, 4.23 mmol) and monomethyl suberate (0.82 mL, 4.65

mmol) following the method used for synthesis of compound **42**, to give **48** as a colorless liquid in 49% yield (overall from **40**), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6): δ 0.98-1.06 (m, 9H), 1.23-1.26 (m, 4H), 1.50- 1.52 (m, 4H), 2.21-2.30 (m, 4H), 3.02-3.10 (m, 1H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.72-3.80 (m, 2H), 5.01-5.14 (m, 4H), 6.64-6.65 (m, 2H), 6.86-6.88 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.46 (m, 13H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 9.81 (s, 1H).

Octanedioic acid {3-[(2,4-dihydroxy-5-isopropyl-benzoyl)-ethyl-amino]-phenyl}-amide hydroxyamide (23). Compound 23 was synthesized using 1N LiOH (7 mL) and 48 (1 g, 1.50 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound 17, to give 23 in 55% yield (from 48); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6): δ 0.75 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.09 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.23 (bs, 9H), 1.42-1.53 (m, 4H), 1.90-1.97 (m, 2H), 2.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.78-2.85 (m, 1H), 3.74-3.81 (m, 2H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.49 (m, 2H), 8.64 (s, 1H), 9.72 (s, 1H), 9.90 (s, 1H), 10.32 (s, 1H), 10.84 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): 11.74, 21.59, 25.23, 25.31, 25.47, 28.45, 28.54, 32.36, 36.51, 45.58, 101.98, 108.62, 118.02, 118.87, 122.76, 125.55, 128.11, 129.45, 139.94, 144.31, 158.20, 159.02, 171.44, 171.64, 173.34. LRMS *m/z*: calculated 508.55 found 508.2 (M+Na). HRMS (ESI) C₂₆H₃₆N₃O₆ (M+H⁺) calcd, 486.2599; found, 486.2601.

N-4-Aminophenyl- N-isopropyl-*t***-butylcarbamate (37).** 60% NaH (0.25 g, 6.28 mmol) was added at 0 °C to a solution of **31** (1 g, 4.19 mmol) in DMF and stirred for 5 mins before adding C₂H₃I (0.62 mL, 3.90 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for another 30 min at rt and then heated at 50 °C for 5 h following the method used for synthesis of compound **35,** to give **37** as an off white solid in 69% yield (from **31**), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.07 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H), 1.38 (s, 9H), 4.44-4.45 (m, 1H), 6.88-6.95 (m, 4H).

7-{4-[(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-isopropyl-benzoyl)-isopropyl-amino]-phenylcarbamoyl}-heptanoic acid methyl ester (49). Compound 49 was synthesized using 37 (0.28 g, 1.12 mmol) in DMF (5 mL), HBTU (0.42 g, 1.12 mmol), DIPEA (0.19 mL, 1.12 mmol) and monomethyl suberate (0.22 mL, 1.23

mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound **42**, to give **49** as a colorless liquid in 49% yield (overall from **37**), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.01-1.09 (m, 12H), 1.10-1.29 (m, 4H), 1.51-1.58 (m, 4H), 2.02-2.17 (m, 2H), 2.30-2.33 (m, 2H), 3.11-3.12 (m, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 4.93(s, 3H), 4.96 (s, 2H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 6.87-6.92 (m, 3H), 7.30-7.45 (m, 12 H).

Octanedioic acid {4-[(2,4-dihydroxy-5-isopropyl-benzoyl)-isopropyl-amino]-phenyl}-amide hydroxyamide (24). Compound 24 was synthesized using 1N LiOH (1 mL) and 49 (0.1 g, 1.47 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound 17, to give 24 in 51% yield (from 49); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 0.85 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.18 (d, *J* = 6.9Hz, 6H), 1.36 (bs, 4H), 1.61-1.64 (m, 4H), 2.00-2.10 (m, 2H), 2.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.85-2.98 (m, 1H), 4.93-4.97 (m, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): 19.95, 21.67, 25.21, 25.31, 25.60, 28.46, 28.55, 36.49, 70.06, 101.87, 119.71, 125.46, 127.16, 130.29, 138.15, 157.17, 171.75, 173.24. LRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd, (M+H⁺) 500.2 found 500.3. HRMS (ESI) C₂₇H₃₈N₃O₆ (M+H⁺) calcd, 500.2757; found, 500.2755.

6-{4-[(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-isopropyl-benzoyl)-methyl-amino]-phenylcarbamoyl}-hexanoic acid ethyl ester (50). Compound **50** was synthesized using **35** (0.62 g, 2.78 mmol) in DMF (5 mL), HBTU (1.05 g, 2.78 mmol), DIPEA (0.48 mL, 2.78 mmol) and monoethyl pimelate (0.54 mL, 2.36 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound **42**, to give **50** as a colorless liquid in 63% yield (overall from **35**), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.11-1.26 (m, 9H), 1.62-1.77 (m, 4H), 2.30-2.38 (m, 4H), 2.37-2.45 (m, 2H), 3.01-3.13 (m, 1H), 3.16-3.32 (m, 2H), 3.42. (s, 3H), 4.08-4.15 (m, 2H), 5.15(s, 2H), 5.28 (s, 2H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.78-7.84 (m, 12H).

Heptanedioic acid [4-(2,4-dihydroxy-5-isopropyl-benzoylamino)-phenyl]-amide hydroxyamide (25). Compound 25 was synthesized using 1N LiOH (3 mL) and 50 (0.5 g, 0.84 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound 17, to give 25, in 53% yield (from 50); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 0.82 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.36-1.44 (m, 2H), 1.61-1.75 (m, 4H), 2.11 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz,

2H), 2.36 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.88-2.97 (m, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 9 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): 21.70, 25.08, 25.56, 32.27, 36.38, 37.93, 102.13, 109.16, 120.55, 125.73, 126.90, 128.09, 137.37, 141.04, 158.06, 158.21, 171.60, 171.92, 173.16. LRMS (M+H⁺) m/z: calculated 458.2 found 458.2. HRMS (ESI) C₂₄H₃₃N₃O₆ (M+H⁺) calcd, 458.2287; found, 458.2286.

8-{4-[(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-isopropyl-benzoyl)-methyl-amino]-phenylcarbamoyl}-octanoic acid methyl ester (51). Compound 51 was synthesized using 35 (0.57 g, 2.56 mmol) in DMF (5 mL), HBTU (0.97 g, 2.56 mmol), DIPEA (0.45 mL, 2.56 mmol) and monomethyl azelate (0.55 mL, 2.84 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound 42, to give colorless liquid as 51 in 63% yield (overall from 35), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.52-1.53 (m, 4H), 1.76-1.81 (m, 6H), 2.03-2.12 (m, 4H), 2.73-2.78(m, 4H), 3.21-3.25 (m, 1H), 3.77 (m, 3H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 5.40 (bs, 4H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 7.39-7.42 (m, 2 H), 7.77-7.84 (m, 14H).

Nonanedioic acid [4-(2,4-dihydroxy-5-isopropyl-benzoylamino)-phenyl]-amide hydroxyamide (26). Compound 26 was synthesized using 1N LiOH (2 mL) and 51 (0.4 g, 0.58 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound 17, to give 26, in 51% yield (from 51); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 0.76 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.25-1.32 (m, 6H), 1.55-1.65 (m, 4H), 2.04 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.83-2.92 (m, 1H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): 21.57, 25.32, 25.45, 25.50, 28.69, 28.68, 28.74, 37.76, 101.97, 120.42, 125.61, 126.88, 128.06, 141.08, 158.08. LRMS (M+H⁺) *m/z*: calcd. 486.5 found 486.2. HRMS (ESI) C₂₆H₃₆N₃O₆ (M+H⁺) calcd, 486.2599; found, 486.260. **9-{4-[(2,4-Bis-benzyloxy-5-isopropyl-benzoyl)-methyl-amino]-phenylcarbamoyl}-nonanoic acid**

methyl ester (52). Compound 52 was synthesized using 35 (0.6 g, 2.69 mmol) in DMF (5 mL), HBTU (1.02 g, 2.69 mmol), DIPEA (0.47 mL, 2.69 mmol) and monomethyl sebacate (0.64 g, 2.96 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound 42, to give 52 as a colorless liquid in 63% yield (overall from 35), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 1.06- 1.08 (m, 6H), 1.31-1.34 (s,

8H), 1.59- 1.68 (m, 4H), 2.28-2.36 (m, 4H), 3.11-3.22 (m, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 4.94 (bs, 4H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 6.91-6.97 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.49 (m, 14H).

Decanedioic acid [4-(2,4-dihydroxy-5-isopropyl-benzoylamino)-phenyl]-amide hydroxyamide (27). Compound 27 was synthesized using 1N LiOH (2 mL) and 52 (0.3 g, 0.44 mmol) following the method used for the synthesis of compound 17, to give 27, in 53% yield (from 52); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 0.82 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H), 1.31-1.35 (m, 10H), 1.60-1.68 (m, 4H), 2.09 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.89-2.95 (m, 1H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): 21.64, 25.07, 25.38, 25.52, 28.73, 28.82, 28.85, 28.91, 32.44, 36.63, 37.87, 102.05, 108.93, 120.47, 125.64, 126.88, 128.10, 137.46, 141.05, 158.12, 158.44, 171.71, 171.91, 173.34. LRMS (ESI) m/z: calcd, (M+H⁺) 500.2 found 500.3. HRMS (ESI) C₂₇H₃₈N₃O₆ (M+H⁺) calcd, 500.2759; found, 500.2755

4.2 Biology

4.2.1 Tumor Cell Culture. All human cancer cells were maintained in RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 10% FBS and penicillin (100 units/ml)/streptomycin (100 μ g/ml)/amphotericin B (0.25 μ g/ml). All cells were maintained in humidified air containing 5% CO₂ at 37°C and cultured every 2-3 days. All cells were cultured in tissue culture flasks in a humidified air containing 5% CO₂ at 37°C and cultured and 95% air at 37°C and cultured every 2-3 days.

4.2.2 Sulforhodamine B Assays. Cells were seeded at a density of 5000 cells/well into 96-plate overnight. Basal cells were fixed with 10% trichloroacetic acid (TCA) to represent cell population at the time of compound addition (T₀). After additional incubation of DMSO (C) or different doses of test compounds (Tx) for 48 h, cells were fixed with 10 % TCA and stained with sulforhodamine B (SRB) at 0.4 % (w/v) in 1% AcOH (acetic acid). Unbound SRB was washed out using 1% AcOH and SRB-bound cells were solubilized with 10 mM Trizma base. The absorbance was read at a wavelength of 515 nm. The 50% growth inhibition (GI₅₀) was calculated as $100 - [(T_x - T_0) / (C - C_y)]$

 T_0] × 100.

4.2.3 HeLa Nuclear Extract HDAC Activity Assay. HDAC Fluorescent Activity Assay Kit (BioVision, CA) was used to detect HeLa nuclear extract HDAC activity according to manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, the HDAC fluorometric substrate and assay buffer were added to HeLa nuclear extracts in a 96-well format and incubated at 37°C for 30 min. The reaction was terminated by addition of lysine developer, and the mixture was incubated for another 30 min at 37°C. Additional negative controls included incubation without the nuclear extract, without the substrate, or without both. A fluorescence plate reader with excitation at 355 nm and emission at 460 nm was used to quantify HDAC activity.

4.2.4 HDAC Biochemical Assays. Enzyme inhibition assays (HDAC1-11 and SIRT1) were conducted by the Reaction Biology Corporation, Malvern, PA. (<u>www.reactionbiology.com</u>) Compounds were dissolved in DMSO and tested in 10-dose IC₅₀ mode with 3-fold serial dilution starting at 10 μ M. HDAC Control Compound trichostatin A was tested in a 10-dose IC₅₀ with 3-fold serial dilution starting at 10 μ M as shown in supporting information.

4.2.5 Heat shock protein (HSP) 90a activity assay. An HSP90a activity assay kit (BPS Bioscience, San Diego, CA, USA) was used to determine the compound inhibitory effect of HSP90a activity according to manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, the reactions were conducted at room temperature for 3 h in a 100 μ L mixture containing FITC-labeled geldanamycin, Hsp90a enzyme, and test compounds in assay buffer. A fluorescence polarization plate reader with excitation at 475-495 nm and emission at 518–538 nm was used to quantify HSP90a activity.

4.2.6 FACScan Flow Cytometric analysis. Cells were seeded in 6-well plates $(2.5 \times 10^5/\text{well})$ and incubated overnight. Next day cells were treated with DMSO or indicated compounds at various concentrations for 48 h. Cells were washed with phosphate-buffered saline, fixed in ice-cold 70% ethanol at -20 °C overnight, and stained with propidium iodide (80 ug/ml) containing Triton X-100 (0.1%, v/v) and RNase A (100 ug/ml) in phosphate-buffered saline. DNA content was counted and

analyzed with the FACScan and CellQuest software (Becton Dickinson, Mountain View, CA, USA).

4.2.7 Western Blot Analysis. Cells were incubated with indicated compounds for 24 h and lysed with ice-cold lysis buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM Na₂EDTA, 1 mM EGTA, 1% NP-40, 1% sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 2.5 mM β -glycerolphosphate, 1 mM Na₄P₂O₇, 5 mM NaF, 1 mM Na₃VO₄ and protease inhibitor cocktail from Millipore) on ice for 30 min followed by centrifugation at 13000 rpm for 30 min. Protein concentrations were determined and equal amounts of protein were separated by 8-15% sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS–PAGE) and transferred to poly(vinylidene difluoride) (PVDF) membranes. Membranes were immunoblotted with specific antibodies overnight at 4°C and then applied to appropriate horseradish peroxidase-conjugated anti-mouse or anti-rabbit IgG secondary antibodies for 1 h at room temperature. Signals were detected using an enhanced chemiluminescence (Amersham, Buckinghamshire, UK). Primary antibodies against heat shock protein 70 (HSP70) and other proteins were purchased from Cell Signalling Technology (Danvers, MA, USA).

4.2.8 Western blot analysis of PD-L1 expression. Cell lysates of H1975 cells which were treated with DMSO, Compound 20, Compound 26, or IFN- γ at various concentrations were electrophoresed in 10% reducing sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) and subsequently transferred onto a nitrocellulose membrane. The blots were blocked in 5% milk (dissolved in phosphate-buffered saline containing 0.05% Tween 20 (PBST)) and incubated with mouse anti-PDL-1 antibody (Cat#AW5698;ABGENT, San Diego, CA, U.S.A.) or mouse anti- β -actin (Cat# A5416; Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, U.S.A.) for 1h. HRP-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG antibodies (1 µg/ml; Cat# 115-035-003; Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories, West Grove, PA, U.S.A.) and enhanced chemiluminescence (ECL) substrate (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, U.S.A.) were used to detect protein signals.

4.2.9 Analysis of PD-L1 expression on cell surface by flow cytometry. H1975 cells were seeded in 6 well-plates (3.2×10^5 cells/well) and treated with DMSO, Compound **20**, **26**, or IFN- γ at various

concentrations for 48h. After removing supernatant, cells were suspended at 3 x 10^5 cells/tube in PBS buffer containing 0.05% (w/v) BSA (PBS/BSA) and then incubated with 5 µg/ml of mouse anti-PD-L1 antibody (Cat# 14-5983-82; Thermo Fisher Scientific) for 1h. Then cells were incubated with FITC-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG antibody (Cat# 115-096-071; Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories) for 1h. After the removal of unbound antibodies by extensive washing with PBS/BSA, forward scatter (FSC) signal, side scatter (SSC) signal, and FITC fluorescence of the cells were measured by FACScan flow cytometer (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA). The data and mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of FITC signal were analyzed by CellQuest software (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA).

Acknowledgment This research was supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan (grant no. MOST 106-2113-M-038 -002; 107-2113-M-038 -001).

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Compd	Cell type (GI ₅₀ \pm SD, μ M ^a)			$IC_{50} \pm SD (nM^a)$	
	Lung A549	Colorectal HCT116	Lung H1975	HDAC HeLa	HSP90a
17	>10	5.43 ± 0.90	>10	415.07 ± 77.6	>1000
18	>10	6.23 ± 0.58	>10	105.47 ± 14.3	>1000
19	>10	4.92 ± 0.68	>10	>1000	>1000
20	0.77 ± 0.08	0.83 ± 0.07	0.69 ± 0.06	194.55 ± 45.6	153.07 ± 14.7
21	2.3 ± 0.31	1.17 ± 0.45	1.66 ± 0.18	211.33 ± 56.7	302.29 ± 48.84
22	5.63 ± 0.16	3.56 ± 1.17	1.38 ± 0.14	461.7 ± 22.9	186.07 ± 21.08
23	1.59 ± 0.22	1.12 ± 0.41	0.94 ± 0.12	126.01 ± 38.5	145.8 ± 40.60
24	>10	>10	>10	>1000	>1000
25	2.83 ± 0.14	3.78 ± 0.31	0.69 ± 0.09	391.4 ± 35.7	169.34 ± 26.3
26	0.44 ± 0.19	1.06 ± 0.03	0.40 ± 0.04	360.82 ± 17.8	77.21 ± 4.27
27	1.08 ± 0.11	0.59 ± 0.16	0.21 ± 0.08	671.83 ± 56.4	ND
III	0.0075 ± 0.007	0.34 ± 0.06	0.16 ± 0.06	>1000	98.33 ± 14.96
1	1.02 ± 0.15	0.55 ± 0.1	2.61 ± 0.13	98.35 ± 10.06	>500

Table 1. Inhibition of HeLa Nuclear Extract HDAC Activity and Antiproliferative Activity (SRB assay) against Human Cancer Cell Lines by **17-27** and reference compounds **1** and **III**.

^{*a*}SD: standard deviation. All experiments were independently performed at least three times. ND: not determined. GI_{50} : 50 % growth inhibition; IC_{50} : half maximal inhibitory concentration.

	$IC_{50} \left(\mu M\right)^a$		
isoform	20	26	
HDAC1	1.31	6.06	
HDAC2	1.19	4.91	
HDAC3	2.06	1.44	
HDAC4	>10	>10	
HDAC5	7.86	5.41	
HDAC6	0.04	0.316	
HDAC7	>10	6.40	
HDAC8	0.422	3.41	
HDAC9	>10	>10	
HDAC10	2.67	>10	
HDAC11	3.61	1.89	
SIRT1	>10	>10	

Table 2. Activities of 20 and 26 against HDAC Isoforms 1-11, and SIRT1.

^aThese assays were conducted by the Reaction Biology Corporation, Malvern, PA. All compounds were dissolved in DMSO and tested in 10-dose IC_{50} mode with 3-fold serial dilution starting at 10 μ M. IC_{50} : half maximal inhibitory concentration.

2000

Figure Caption

Figure 1. Examples of histone deacetylase inhibitors

Figure 2. Structures of SAHA based potent inhibitors of HDAC

Figure 3. Compounds with dual inhibitory potential

Figure 4. Examples of various HSP90 inhibitors

Figure 5. Dual inhibitors of HDAC and HSP90

Figure 6. **20** and **26** triggered induction of HSP70 and degradation of multiple HSP90 client proteins in a concentration and time-dependent manner. (A, C) H1975 cells were treated with DMSO (Control; C) or 0.1-3 μ M of test compounds (**20** or **26** and 0.1 μ M of compound V) for 24 h. Cells were harvested and subjected to Western blot analysis for the detection of various HSP90 client proteins. (B, D) H1975 cells were treated with 1 μ M of **20** or **26** for the indicated times. Whole cell lysates were collected, and each protein expression was detected by immunoblotting. GAPDH was used as the internal control and all experiments were repeated at least three independent experiments.

Figure 7. HDAC inhibitory activity of compounds 20 and 26 in H1975 cells via acetylation of α -Tubulin and Histone H3. (A, B) The effect of α -Tubulin and Histone H3 acetylation changes in human non-small cell lung cancer cells. Cells were cultured for 24 h with 20, 26 or compound 1 at indicated concentrations. Whole cell lysates were detected by immunoblotting. All experiments were repeated at least three times.

Figure 8. Compounds 20 and 26 induce accumulation of a sub-G1 phase population and significant cell apoptosis in H1975 cells. (A) Compound 20 (left panel) and 26 (right panel) induced sub-G1 phase cells accumulation. (B) Compound 20 (left panel) and 26 (right panel) induced cell apoptotic death in H1975 cells. Cells were cultured indicated concentrations with 20 or 26 for 48 h and cell lysates were detected by indicated antibodies.

Figure 9. Downregulation of PD-L1 expression by Compounds **20** and **26** in IFN-r treated H1975 lung cancer cells. (A) Western blot analysis of PD-L1 expression in cells treated with IFN- γ alone (20 ng/ml) or in combination with Compounds **20** and **26** at the indicated concentrations for 48 h. β -actin was used as a loading control. (B and C) Flow cytometry analysis of PD-L1 surface expression in cells treated with IFN- γ alone (20 ng/ml) or in combination with Compounds **20** and **26** at the indicated concentrations for 48 h. (C) The MFI of treated cells is presented relative as compare with the MFI of non-treated cells. The data are presented as mean \pm S.D. obtained from three independent experiments. ***P* < 0.01 compared with the IFN-r alone group.

Compd	Cell type $(GI_{50} \pm SD, \mu M^a)$			$IC_{50} \pm SD (nM^a)$	
	Lung A549	Colorectal HCT116	Lung H1975	HDAC HeLa	HSP90a
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19	>10	4.92 ± 0.68	>10	>1000	>1000
20	0.77 ± 0.08	0.83 ± 0.07	0.69 ± 0.06	194.55 ± 45.6	153.07 ± 14.7
21	2.3 ± 0.31	1.17 ± 0.45	1.66 ± 0.18	211.33 ± 56.7	302.29 ± 48.84
22	5.63 ± 0.16	3.56 ± 1.17	1.38 ± 0.14	461.7 ± 22.9	186.07 ± 21.08
23	1.59 ± 0.22	1.12 ± 0.41	0.94 ± 0.12	126.01 ± 38.5	145.8 ± 40.60
24	>10	>10	>10	>1000	>1000
25	2.83 ± 0.14	3.78 ± 0.31	0.69 ± 0.09	391.4 ± 35.7	169.34 ± 26.3
26	0.44 ± 0.19	1.06 ± 0.03	0.40 ± 0.04	360.82 ± 17.8	77.21 ± 4.27
27	1.08 ± 0.11	0.59 ± 0.16	0.21 ± 0.08	671.83 ± 56.4	ND
III	0.0075 ± 0.007	0.34 ± 0.06	0.16 ± 0.06	>1000	98.33 ± 14.96
1	1.02 ± 0.15	0.55 ± 0.1	2.61 ± 0.13	98.35 ± 10.06	>500

Table 1. Inhibition of HeLa Nuclear Extract HDAC Activity and Antiproliferative Activity (SRB assay) against Human Cancer Cell Lines by 17-27 and reference compounds 1 and III.

^{*a*}SD: standard deviation. All experiments were independently performed at least three times. ND: not determined. GI_{50} : 50 % growth inhibition; IC_{50} : half maximal inhibitory concentration.

	$IC_{50} \left(\mu M\right)^a$		
isoform	20	26	
HDAC1	1.31	6.06	
HDAC2	1.19	4.91	
HDAC3	2.06	1.44	
HDAC4	>10	>10	
HDAC5	7.86	5.41	
HDAC6	0.04	0.316	
HDAC7	>10	6.40	
HDAC8	0.422	3.41	
HDAC9	>10	>10	
HDAC10	2.67	>10	
HDAC11	3.61	1.89	
SIRT1	>10	>10	

Table 2. Activities of 20 and 26 against HDAC Isoforms 1-11, and SIRT1.

^aThese assays were conducted by the Reaction Biology Corporation, Malvern, PA. All compounds were dissolved in DMSO and tested in 10-dose IC_{50} mode with 3-fold serial dilution starting at 10 μ M. IC_{50} : half maximal inhibitory concentration.

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Figure 1. Examples of histone deacetylase inhibitors (HDIs)

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Figure 2: Structures of SAHA based potent inhibitors of HDAC





10, HDAC IC₅₀: 0.06 μM EGFR IC₅₀: 0.29 μM



11, HDAC IC₅₀: 4.4 nM, HER IC₅₀: 15.7 nM EGFR IC₅₀: 2.4 nM





12, HDAC1 IC_{50}: 47 nM, HDAC1 IC_{50}: 220nM HDAC6 IC_{50}: 27 nM, DU-145 IC_{50} 0.13 μM





14, HDAC1 IC₅₀: 15 nM HDAC6 IC₅₀: 8nM



13, HDAC1/6/8 IC50: 24nM/13nM/8.8 uM

Dual Inhibitors of Janus Kinase 2 (JAK2) and Histone Deacetlyase



15, JAK2 IC₅₀: 1.4 nM, HDAC2 IC₅₀: 49nM HDAC6 IC₅₀: 2.1 nM,HDAC10 IC₅₀: 80nM





16, HDAC1 IC_{50} : 38nm

Figure 3: Compounds with dual inhibitory potential



Figure 4: Examples of various HSP90 inhibitors

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Figure 5. Dual inhibitors of HDAC and HSP90



Figure 6. Compounds 20 and 26 triggered induction of HSP70 and degradation of multiple HSP90 client proteins in a concentration and time-dependent manner. (A, C) H1975 cells were treated with DMSO (Control; C) or 0.1-3 μ M of test compounds (20 or 26 and 0.1 μ M of compound V) for 24 h. Cells were harvested and subjected to Western blot analysis for the detection of various HSP90 client proteins. (B, D) H1975 cells were treated with 1 μ M of 20 or 26 for the indicated times. Whole cell lysates were collected, and each protein expression was detected by immunoblotting. GAPDH was used as the internal control and all experiments were repeated at least three independent experiments.





Figure 7. HDAC inhibitory activity of compounds **20** and **26** in H1975 cells via acetylation of α -Tubulin and Histone H3. (A, B) The effect of α -Tubulin and Histone H3 acetylation changes in human non-small cell lung cancer cells. Cells were cultured for 24 h with **20**, **26** or compound **1** at indicated concentrations. Whole cell lysates were detected by immunoblotting. All experiments were repeated at least three times.



Figure 8. Compounds **20** and **26** induce accumulation of a sub-G1 phase population and significant cell apoptosis in H1975 cells. (A) Compound **20** (left panel) and **26** (right panel) induced sub-G1 phase cells accumulation. (B) Compound **20** (left panel) and **26** (right panel) induced cell apoptotic death in H1975 cells. Cells were cultured indicated concentrations with **20** or **26** for 48 h and cell lysates were detected by indicated antibodies.



Figure 9. Downregulation of PD-L1 expression by Compounds **20** and **26** in IFN- γ treated H1975 lung cancer cells. (A) Western blot analysis of PD-L1 expression in cells treated with IFN- γ alone (20 ng/ml) or in combination with Compounds **20** and **26** at the indicated concentrations for 48 h. β -actin was used as a loading control. (B and C) Flow cytometry analysis of PD-L1 surface expression in cells treated with IFN- γ alone (20 ng/ml) or in combination with Compounds **20** and **26** at the indicated concentrations for 48 h. β -actin was used as a loading control. (B and C) Flow cytometry analysis of PD-L1 surface expression in cells treated with IFN- γ alone (20 ng/ml) or in combination with Compounds **20** and **26** at the indicated concentrations for 48 h. (C) The MFI of treated cells is presented relative as compare with the MFI of non-treated cells. The data are presented as mean \pm S.D. obtained from three independent experiments. ***P* < 0.01 compared with the IFN-r alone group.



Scheme 1. Synthetic approaches to compounds 34 to 41^a

^{*a*}Reagents and conditions: a) Boc anhydride, DMAP, TEA, DCM, rt, 72-81%; b) (i) alkyl iodides, NaH, DMF, 0 ^oC to rt; (ii) NH₄Cl, Fe, IPA: H₂O (4:1), reflux 69-91%.

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Scheme 2. Synthetic routes to compounds 17 to 27^a

^{*a*}Reagents and conditions: a) (i) appropriate long chain acids, HBTU, DIPEA, DMF; (ii) H₂O, dioxane, reflux; (iii) 2,4-dibenzyloxy-5-isopropyl benzoic acid, HOBt, DIPEA, DMF, 49-79%; b) (i) 1M LiOH (aq), dioxane, 40 °C; (ii) NH₂OBn, EDC, HOBt, NMM, DMF, rt; (iii) Pd/C, methanol, H₂ atmosphere 49-64%.

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Research highlights

1. *N*-alkyl-hydroxybenzoyl anilide hydroxamates show potent dual inhibition of HDAC and HSP90a.

2. Lead compounds **20** and **26** induce HSP70 expression and down regulate HSP90 client proteins which play important roles in the regulation of survival and invasiveness in cancer cells.

3. Compounds **20** and **26** displayed their HDAC inhibitory effects due to increased acetylated α -tubulin and histone H3 levels.

4. Compounds **20** and **26** could effectively reduce programmed death-ligand 1 (PD-L1) expression in IFN- γ treated lung H1975 cells in a dose dependent manner.