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The synthesis of [¹⁸F]pitavastatin as a tracer for hOATP using the Suzuki coupling†

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Fluorine-18 labeled radiotracers, such as [¹⁸F]fluorodeoxyglucose, can be used as practical diagnostic agents in positron emission tomography (PET). Furthermore, the properties of pharmaceuticals can be enhanced significantly by the introduction of fluorine groups into their original structures, and significant progress has been made during the last three decades towards the development of practical procedures for the introduction of fluorine. The replacement of the fluorine atoms present in pharmaceuticals with radioactive ¹⁸F atoms is a rational approach for designing novel PET tracers. As a fluorine-containing pharmaceutical agent, pitavastatin has attracted considerable interest from researchers working in the life sciences because it can act as an antihyperlipidemic agent as well as a substrate for hepatic organic anion transporting polypeptides (hOATP). With this in mind, it was envisaged that [¹⁸F]pitavastatin would be used as an excellent imaging agent for hOATP, which prompted us to investigate the synthesis of this agent. Herein, we report a practical method for the synthesis of [¹⁸F]pitavastatin by the Suzuki coupling reaction of *p*-iodofluorobenzene and a quinoline boronate derivative, with the desired product being formed in a radiochemical yield of 12 ± 3% (decay corrected from [¹⁸F]fluoride ions, *n* = 3).

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Introduction

Positron emission tomography (PET) is an imaging technique that is mainly used for the diagnosis of diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's disease, although this technique can also be used for the evaluation of innovative therapies and drugs.¹ A large number of radiotracers have been developed to date using ¹⁸F, such as [¹⁸F]fluorodeoxyglucose ([¹⁸F]FDG),^{1a}

[¹⁸F]florbetapir ([¹⁸F]AV-45),^{1b,c} [¹⁸F]flutemetamol ([¹⁸F]-GE-067)^{1d} and [¹⁸F]florbetaben ([¹⁸F]BAY94-9172),^{1e} because ¹⁸F has a much longer half-life (109.7 min) than most of the other positron emitting radionuclides commonly incorporated into pharmaceutical agents, such as ¹¹C (20 min), ¹³N (10 min) and ¹⁵O (2 min). The incorporation of ¹⁸F can also be much easier to achieve than the incorporation of other positron emitting radionuclides with longer half-lives such as ¹²⁴I (4.2 days) and ⁸⁹Zr (78.4 h). Furthermore, a number of fluorine-containing pharmaceuticals have been developed during the course of the last three decades for use in clinical applications, where the fluorine groups were introduced to impart the appropriate physicochemical, drug metabolism and pharmacokinetic (DMPK) properties to the active agents.² These agents could therefore be used as potential PET tracers by the replacement of their ¹⁹F atoms with radioactive ¹⁸F atoms without changing any of the chemical or biological properties of the parent pharmaceutical. In fact, several ¹⁸F-containing pharmaceuticals have already been synthesized *via* the replacement of their ¹⁹F atoms with ¹⁸F atoms, including [¹⁸F]flumazenil,^{3a,b} [¹⁸F]-xeloda^{3c} and [¹⁸F]spiperone,^{3d} which have all been used as tracers in PET imaging experiments.

Several DMPK studies have recently been reported pertaining to the use of PET imaging methods and tracers to develop a deeper understanding of hepatic organic anion transporting polypeptides (hOATP), which play an important role in the

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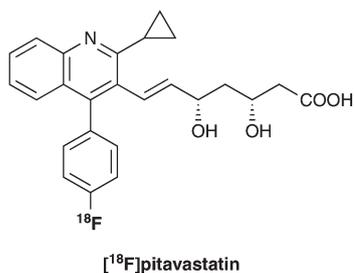


Fig. 1 Structure of [¹⁸F]pitavastatin.

metabolism of drugs in the liver, and several candidate tracers were synthesized.⁴ Unfortunately, no tracers have been reported to date with potential clinical applications. The major difficulty associated with the development of tracers for hOATP is achieving selectivity for OATP1B1, which makes a significant contribution to hepatic uptake in humans,⁴ over OATP1B3. Fortunately, however, the fluorine containing antilipidemic agent pitavastatin⁵ is a selective substrate of OATP1B1 with a hepatic uptake clearance of less than 50% hepatic blood flow. It was therefore envisaged that [¹⁸F]pitavastatin (Fig. 1) could be used as a novel PET tracer of hOATP, and this prompted us to design a strategy for the synthesis of this compound.

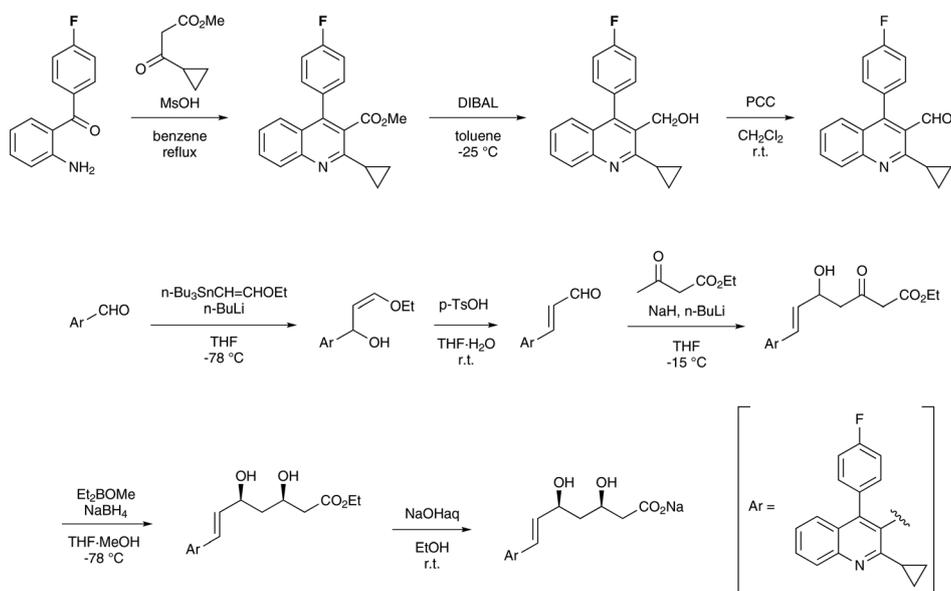
Fluorine atoms have traditionally been incorporated into aromatic rings through electrophilic substitution reactions using fluorine gas. However, radiofluorination reactions using [¹⁸F]F₂ gas typically afford fluorinated products with low levels of specific radioactivity (generally less than 0.40 GBq μmol⁻¹) because the [¹⁸F]F₂ used in these experiments is generally contaminated with non-radioactive F₂ as a carrier gas.⁶ Furthermore, the introduction of ¹⁸F atoms through nucleophilic aromatic substitution reactions using fluoride ions (*e.g.*, the Balz–Schiemann reaction) requires challenging experimental

procedures and generally affords low yields of the desired product (approximately 10%) because fluoride ions are only weakly nucleophilic.⁷ Based on these limitations, there is an urgent need for the development of a new method for the synthesis of ¹⁸F labeled compounds. An alternative and reliable approach to the synthesis of ¹⁸F labeled compounds, which is referred to as the assembling approach, has recently been described.⁸ According to this approach, the pre-labeled unit can be connected to another intermediate through synthesis to provide facile access to the radiolabeled pharmaceutical agent. Herein, we report a novel method for the synthesis of [¹⁸F]pitavastatin *via* the Suzuki coupling reaction⁹ of *p*-[¹⁸F]-fluoriodobenzene with a boronate ester derivative of quinoline in the presence of a palladium catalyst.

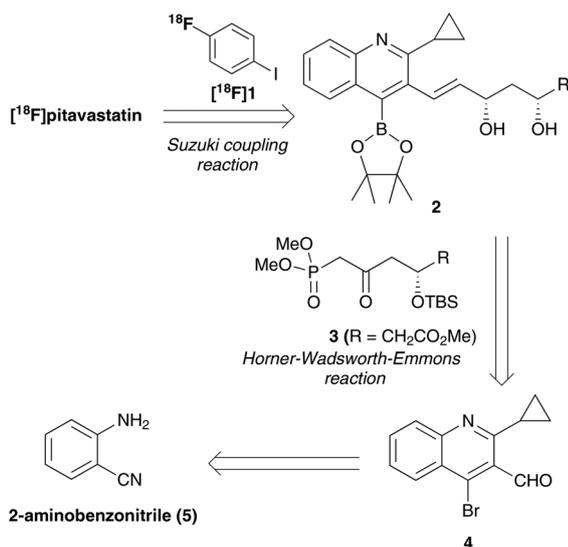
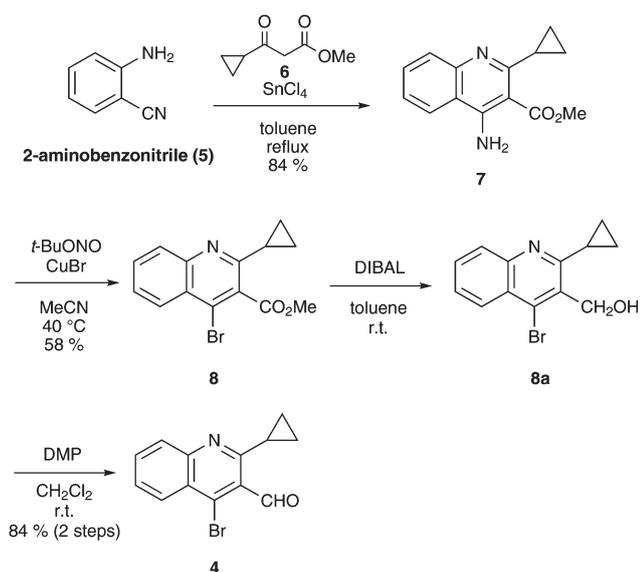
Results and discussion

Any potential new route for the synthesis of [¹⁸F]pitavastatin would need to introduce the ¹⁸F atom during the latter stages of the process because of the short half-life of ¹⁸F (109.7 min). For this reason, it was not possible to apply a previously reported route¹⁰ for the synthesis of [¹⁸F]pitavastatin because this method would have required the introduction of ¹⁸F during the early stages of the synthesis (Scheme 1). The decision was therefore taken to establish a novel synthetic route to [¹⁸F]pitavastatin, where the ¹⁸F atom would be incorporated at the latter stages of the synthesis.

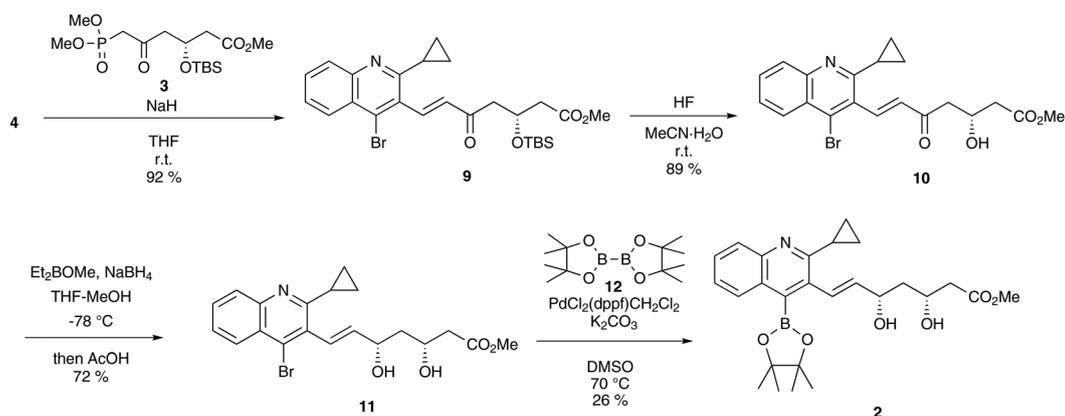
It was envisaged that the required ¹⁸F atom could be introduced *via* a Suzuki coupling reaction between *p*-[¹⁸F]fluoriodobenzene ([¹⁸F]**1**) and boronate **2** in the presence of a palladium catalyst (Scheme 2). Compound [¹⁸F]**1** was prepared by the nucleophilic aromatic substitution reaction of 4-iodophenyldiphenylsulfonium triflate with a [¹⁸F]fluoride ion.



Scheme 1 Previously reported synthetic route of pitavastatin.¹⁰

Scheme 2 Retrosynthesis of [¹⁸F]pitavastatin.

Scheme 3 Synthesis of the aldehyde 4.



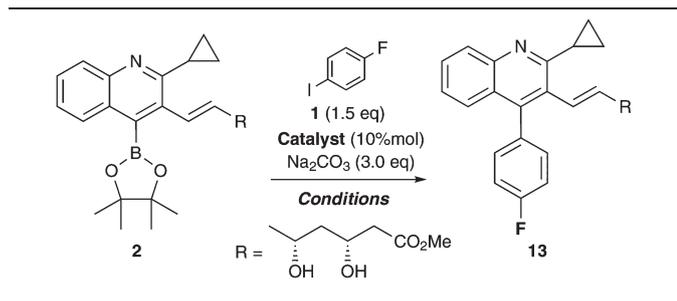
Scheme 4 Synthesis of boronate 2.

Retrosynthetic analysis of boronate **2** revealed that this material could be synthesized from aldehyde **4**, which could undergo a Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons reaction in the forward sense with phosphonate **3** to give boronate **2**.^{10a} Aldehyde **4** could itself be generated from 2-aminobenzonitrile (**5**) through a series of transformations involving quinoline formation with an appropriately functionalized β-keto ester.

The Friedlander reaction¹¹ of 2-aminobenzonitrile (**5**) with β-keto ester **6** was performed in the presence of tin(IV) chloride to give aminoquinoline **7** in good yield (Scheme 3). The amino group of compound **7** was converted to the corresponding diazonium salt, which was subjected to a Sandmeyer reaction with copper(I) bromide to give aryl bromide **8**. Subsequent reduction of the methyl ester group in **8** with diisobutylaluminum hydride (DIBAL) gave alcohol **8a**, which was oxidized with Dess–Martin periodinane (DMP) to give aldehyde **4**.

The treatment of aldehyde **4** with phosphonate **3**¹² yielded the desired (*E*)-alkene **9** in an excellent yield (Scheme 4). Unfortunately, the ester group in **9** underwent an undesired hydrolysis reaction during the removal of the *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl group with tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF). To avoid the undesired hydrolysis of the methyl ester, alkene **9** was treated with diluted hydrofluoric acid in MeCN to afford β-hydroxy ester **10** in 89% yield. Stereoselective reduction of the carbonyl group with diethylmethoxyborane and sodium borohydride gave the desired diol **11** as a single diastereomer. The subsequent reaction of diol **11** with bis(pinacolato)diboron (**12**) in the presence of a palladium catalyst gave boronate **2**, which was the precursor to the Suzuki coupling, in 26% yield.

The Suzuki coupling of **1** with **2** was investigated under a variety of different reaction conditions to determine the best catalyst for the transformation (Table 1). When the reaction was performed in the presence of Pd(PPh₃)₄ and Na₂CO₃ in dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) at 90 °C, only a trace amount of the desired product **13** was obtained (Table 1, entry 1). Similar poor results were also obtained when PdCl₂(dppf)CH₂Cl₂ or Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ was used as the catalyst (Table 1, entries 2 and 3). In contrast, the use of Pd(OAc)₂ in the presence of PPh₃ gave a slightly better yield of the desired product (Table 1,

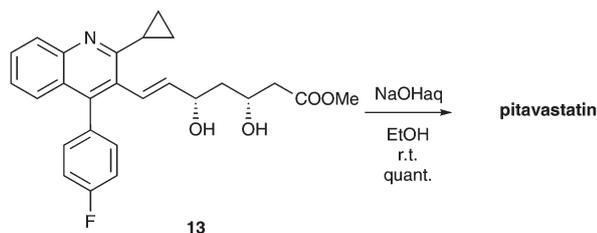
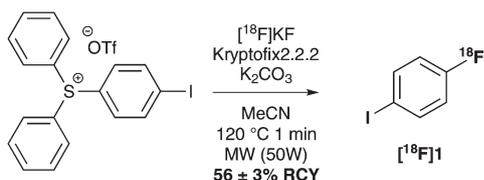
Table 1 Suzuki coupling reaction of boronate **2** with **1**^a

Entry	Catalyst	Conditions			Yield ^b (%)
		Solvent	Temp. (°C)	Time (h)	
1	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	DMSO	90	9	<10
2	PdCl ₂ (dppf)CH ₂ Cl ₂	DMSO	90	9	<10
3	Pd(PPh ₃) ₂ Cl ₂	DMSO	90	9	<10
4	Pd(OAc) ₂ /PPh ₃	DMSO	90	9	29
5	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ /PdCl ₂ (dppf)	DMSO	90	9	50
6	CH ₂ Cl ₂ Pd ₂ (dba) ₃	DMSO	90	9	63

^a **2**: 0.08 mmol, solvent: 1.0 mL. ^b Yield was determined from LC-MS.

entry 4). Pleasingly, the use of a combination of Pd(PPh₃)₄ and PdCl₂(dppf)CH₂Cl₂ or Pd₂(dba)₃ alone yielded the coupling product in 50 and 63% yields, respectively. These results therefore demonstrated that we had successfully established a novel route for the synthesis of pitavastatin, which could be used for the synthesis of [¹⁸F]pitavastatin (Scheme 5).

With our newly developed route in hand, we proceeded to investigate the synthesis of [¹⁸F]**1** so that it could be used to complete the synthesis of the target molecule, [¹⁸F]pitavastatin. Compound [¹⁸F]**1** was synthesized according to the Lehmann method.¹³ Namely, a mixture of 4-iodophenyldiphenylsulfonium triflate, [¹⁸F]KF and K₂CO₃ in MeCN was

**Scheme 5** Synthesis of pitavastatin.**Scheme 6** Synthesis of [¹⁸F]**1** from 4-iodophenyldiphenylsulfonium triflate.

heated under microwave irradiation at 120 °C in the presence of Kryptofix2.2.2 to give the desired product with a radiochemical yield (RCY) of 56 ± 3% (Scheme 6).

The Suzuki coupling reaction of [¹⁸F]**1** with boronate **2** was investigated under a variety of different conditions to identify the optimum conditions for the transformation (Table 2). Considering the relatively short half-life of ¹⁸F, the heating time was limited to 10 min. Moreover, the reaction was performed in a tightly sealed tube, which was heated on a heating block at 100 °C to avoid the spread of the radioisotope in the surrounding area. Unfortunately, the optimum reaction conditions developed above for the Suzuki reaction of unlabeled **1** (*i.e.*, DMSO, Pd₂(dba)₃ and Na₂CO₃) were not suitable for the synthesis of the radioactive compound. Changing the solvent from DMSO to *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) or MeCN had very little impact on the outcome of the reaction, with the product being obtained in a low yield (Table 2, entries 2 and 3). Pleasingly, the use of Cs₂CO₃ instead of Na₂CO₃ led to an increase in the yield of the product (Table 2, entries 4–6). It is noteworthy that the methyl ester in [¹⁸F]**13** underwent a spontaneous hydrolysis reaction following the coupling reaction or during the work-up procedure to yield [¹⁸F]pitavastatin when Cs₂CO₃ was used as the base. In practice, the optimum conditions for the coupling reaction were determined to be Pd₂(dba)₃ and Cs₂CO₃ in MeCN at 100 °C for 10 min (Table 2, entry 9). The conditions gave [¹⁸F]pitavastatin in a chemical yield of 63 ± 2% and a RCY of 28 ± 3% following purification by RP-HPLC.

As a result, [¹⁸F]pitavastatin was obtained in a radiochemical yield of 12 ± 3% (decay corrected from [¹⁸F]fluoride ions) (Scheme 7). The identity of the radiotracer was confirmed by RP-HPLC following its co-injection with the non-radiolabeled reference compound (Fig. 2).

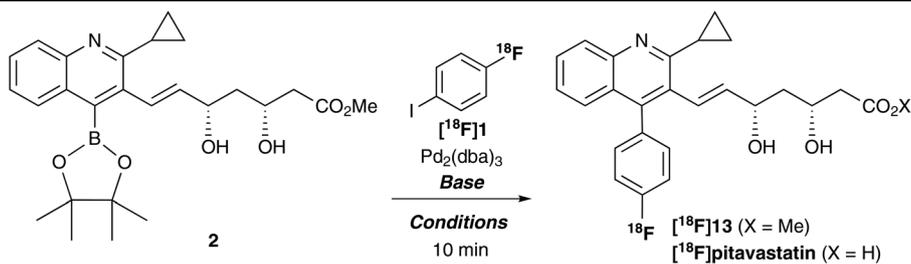
Conclusion

In summary, we developed a novel route for the synthesis of pitavastatin using a Suzuki coupling reaction as the key step to allow for the late stage incorporation of ¹⁸F. Using this route, we successfully synthesized [¹⁸F]pitavastatin in good yield by the Suzuki coupling of boronate **2** with *p*-[¹⁸F]fluoroiodobenzene under microwave heating conditions in the presence of Pd₂(dba)₃ and Cs₂CO₃. This Suzuki coupling strategy represents a useful method for the indirect ¹⁸F labeling of pharmaceuticals that could be applied to the synthesis of other PET tracers. The *in vivo* evaluation of [¹⁸F]pitavastatin using PET is currently underway in our laboratory, and the results of these experiments will be published elsewhere in due course.

Experimental

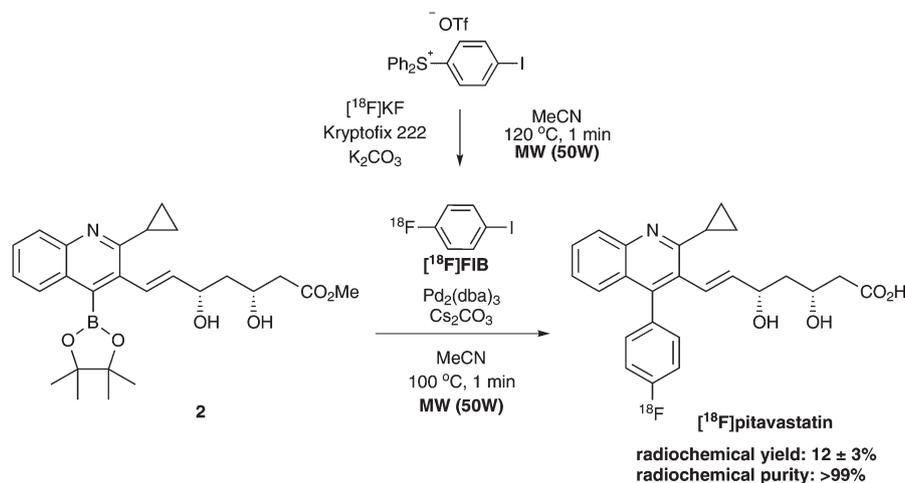
Chemistry

General methods. All of the reagents and solvents used in the current study were purchased from Wako Pure Chemical

Table 2 Synthesis of [¹⁸F]pitavastatin by the Suzuki coupling of boronate 2 with [¹⁸F]1^a

Entry	Base	Conditions			MW ^b	Yield ^c (%)
		Solvent	Temp. (°C)			
1	Na ₂ CO ₃	DMSO	100	–	<5	
2	Na ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	100	–	13 ± 1	
3	Na ₂ CO ₃	DMF	100	–	26 ± 9	
4	Cs ₂ CO ₃	DMSO	100	–	20 ± 2	
5	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	100	–	56 ± 7 (18 ± 4) ^d	
6	Cs ₂ CO ₃	DMF	100	–	69 ± 1 (<10) ^d	
7	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	80	–	51 ± 6	
8	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	120	–	51 ± 3	
9	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MeCN	100	+	63 ± 2 (28 ± 3) ^d	

^a Catalyst: 1.0 mg, base: 4.0 mg, solvent: 100 μL, [¹⁸F]1: 370–740 kBq, 2: 2.0 mg. ^b MW power: 50 W, reaction time: 1 min. ^c Total yield of [¹⁸F]13 and [¹⁸F]pitavastatin determined by radio-HPLC. Data are the mean ± S.D. (*n* = 3). ^d Isolated yield of [¹⁸F]pitavastatin (radiochemical yield). All reactions were carried out in a sealed reaction vessel on an aluminum block heater.

Scheme 7 Synthesis of [¹⁸F]pitavastatin.

Industries (Tokyo, Japan), Nacalai Tesque (Kyoto, Japan), Merck (Darmstadt, Germany) and Sigma Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA), and used without purification. Optical rotations were measured on an AUTOPOL IV system (Rudolph Research Analytical, Hackettstown, NJ, USA). ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL ECA-500 spectrometer (JEOL, Tokyo, Japan) and the peaks were referenced relative to the residual CHCl₃ signal. Chemical shifts have been reported in parts per million (ppm) using the residual solvent peak as an internal standard. The ¹H NMR spectra have been tabulated as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (br = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, quint = quintet, sept = septet, m = multi-

plet), number of protons and coupling constant (*J*). LRMS and HRMS analyses were conducted on JEOL JMS-SX 102A QQ and JEOL JMS-GC-mate mass spectrometer systems, respectively. Purifications by column chromatography were conducted over silica gel 60N (mesh size 63–210 μm; Kanto Chemical Co., Inc., Tokyo, Japan). Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using Merck silica gel F-254 aluminum plates, which were visualized under UV light (254 nm). High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) purifications and analyses were performed on a Shimadzu system (LC-10AT pump with an SPD-10A UV detector operating at 220 and 254 nm, Shimadzu Corporation, Kyoto, Japan) equipped with Cosmosil 5C18-ARII

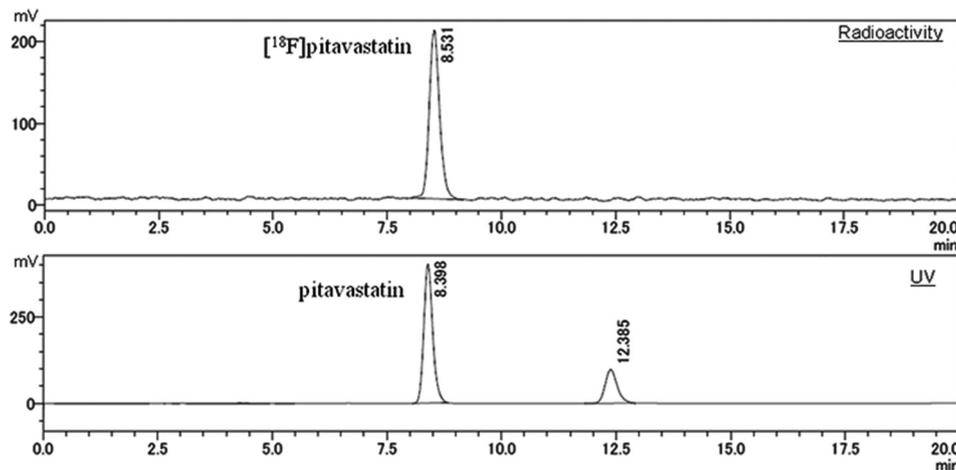


Fig. 2 Analytical RP-HPLC chromatograms of [^{18}F]pitavastatin co-injected with non-radiolabeled pitavastatin. The UV spectra were recorded at 254 nm. The peak at 12.385 min corresponds to the lactone derived from the intramolecular cyclization of pitavastatin.

columns (10×250 mm and 4.6×150 mm, respectively; Nacalai Tesque Inc., Kyoto, Japan) and a radioisotope detector. Experiments were conducted under microwave heating conditions in a resonant-type microwave reactor, which was developed by SAIDA Inc. (Shizuoka, Japan).¹⁴

Methyl (4-amino-2-cyclopropylquinolin-3-yl)carboxylate (7). β -Keto ester **6** (16.6 g, 140 mmol) and tin(IV) chloride (73.3 g, 281 mmol) were slowly added to a solution of 2-aminobenzonitrile (**5**) (20.0 g, 140 mmol) in toluene (280 mL) under an argon atmosphere at 15 °C, and the resulting mixture was heated at reflux for 3 h. The reaction was then cooled to room temperature and diluted with a saturated aqueous solution of Na_2SO_4 before being cooled to 0 °C. The resulting precipitate was crushed into smaller pieces and filtered, and the filtrate was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO_4 before being concentrated *in vacuo* to give aminoquinoline **7** as a purple solid (28.5 g, 83.9%).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.79 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.64 (br, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 2.62 (tt, $J = 8.0, 4.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.24 (qd, $J = 4.9, 2.6$ Hz, 2H), 0.94 (dq, $J = 8.0, 2.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 170.0, 161.9, 152.3, 147.7, 130.8, 129.2, 124.4, 120.4, 116.6, 103.5, 51.7, 17.2, 9.4 (2C); MS (EI) m/z : 242 (M^+ , 100), 214 (98), 209 (76), 183 (86), 171 (30), 154 (28); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ (M^+): 242.1055, found 242.1060.

Methyl (4-bromo-2-cyclopropylquinolin-3-yl)carboxylate (8). Copper(I) bromide (29.5 g, 206 mmol) and *tert*-butyl nitrite (18.2 g, 176 mmol) were slowly added to a solution of aminoquinoline **7** (28.5 g, 117 mmol) in MeCN (280 mL) under an argon atmosphere at 15 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 2.5 h. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature and stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with a saturated aqueous solution of Na_2SO_4 , and the resulting precipitate was removed by filtration. The filtrate was extracted with EtOAc, and the organic layer was washed with

brine and dried over MgSO_4 . The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure to give a residue, which was purified by column chromatography over silica gel eluting with a 20 : 1 (v/v) mixture of *n*-hexane and EtOAc to give bromide **8** as an orange solid (20.9 g, 58.0%).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.11 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 2.06 (tt, $J = 8.0, 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.24 (qd, $J = 4.6, 2.9$ Hz, 2H), 0.94 (dq, $J = 8.0, 2.9$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 167.8, 158.7, 150.8, 130.8, 130.7, 130.4, 129.2, 127.0, 126.9, 125.1, 53.0, 15.8, 10.7 (2C); MS (EI) m/z : 307 ($\text{M} + 2$, 66), 305 (M^+ , 68), 277 (100), 262 (39), 246 (91), 226 (19), 167 (90); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrNO}_2$ (M^+): 305.00509, found 305.00583.

(4-Bromo-2-cyclopropylquinolin-3-yl)carbaldehyde (4). A 1.0 M solution of DIBAL in *n*-hexane (20.8 mL, 20.8 mmol) was added to a solution of bromide **8** (3.19 g, 10.4 mmol) in toluene (20.0 mL) under an argon atmosphere at 0 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The reaction was then cooled to 0 °C and quenched by the addition of a 5% solution of H_2SO_4 . The resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc, and the organic layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO_4 . The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure to give alcohol **8a** as a brown solid (2.30 g).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.10 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 2.53 (tt, $J = 8.0, 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.27 (br, 1H), 1.29 (qd, $J = 4.2, 3.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.06 (dq, $J = 8.2, 3.1$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 162.1, 147.8, 136.2, 131.6, 130.0, 129.0, 127.3, 126.7, 126.3, 62.4, 14.2, 11.5 (2C); MS (EI) m/z : 279 ($\text{M} + 2$, 87), 277 (M^+ , 89), 260 (100), 248 (24), 179 (37), 167 (49); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrNO}$ (M^+): 277.0102, found 277.0096.

Dess–Martin periodinane (1.68 g, 3.95 mmol) was added to a solution of alcohol **8a** (1.00 g, 3.60 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (20.0 mL) under an argon atmosphere at 0 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature. The reac-

tion was then quenched by the addition of a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃, and the resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed sequentially with a saturated aqueous solution of Na₂S₂O₃ and brine and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure to give a residue, which was purified by column chromatography over silica gel eluting with a 10 : 1 (v/v) mixture of *n*-hexane and EtOAc to give aldehyde **4** as a colorless solid (830 mg, 83.6% in 2 steps).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 10.7 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (tt, *J* = 8.2, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 1.24 (qd, *J* = 4.2, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 0.94 (dq, *J* = 8.2, 3.1 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 194.0, 162.1, 149.0, 140.8, 132.5, 129.2, 127.2, 127.0, 126.8, 125.5, 14.2, 11.5 (2C); MS (EI) *m/z*: 277 (M + 2, 8.6), 275 (M⁺, 8.6), 247 (100), 196 (1.3), 168 (2.8); HRMS calcd for C₁₃H₁₀BrNO (M⁺): 274.9945, found 274.9939.

Methyl (3R,6E)-7-(4-bromo-2-cyclopropylquinolin-3-yl)-3-(tert-butylidimethyl-silyloxy)-5-oxohept-6-enoate (9). A solution of phosphonate **3** (7.00 g, 18.3 mmol) in THF (48.0 mL) was added to a suspension of sodium hydride (0.730 g, 18.2 mmol, 60% dispersion in mineral oil) in THF (12.5 mL) under an argon atmosphere at 0 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h at 0 °C. A solution of aldehyde **4** (4.81 g, 17.4 mmol) in THF (75.0 mL) was then added to the reaction at 0 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction was then quenched by the addition of a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl, and the resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a residue, which was purified by column chromatography over silica gel eluting with a 5 : 1 (v/v) mixture of *n*-hexane and EtOAc to give alkene **9** as a yellow oil (8.57 g, 92.5%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 8.16 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.06 (dd, *J* = 15.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, *J* = 15.8, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (dd, *J* = 14.7, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (dd, *J* = 14.7, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (tt, *J* = 8.0, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (dq, *J* = 4.6, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 1.05 (dq, *J* = 8.0, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 0.85 (s, 9H), 0.10 (s, 3H), 0.09 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 197.5, 171.4, 160.1, 147.5, 140.4, 135.0, 134.7, 130.5, 129.8, 129.1, 127.0 (2C), 126.9, 125.9, 66.1, 51.5, 48.2, 42.5, 25.7 (3C), 17.9, 16.5, 11.0, -4.7, -4.9; MS (CI) *m/z*: 534 (M + 2, 100), 532 (M⁺, 96), 474 (50), 400 (39), 320 (32), 217 (39), 133 (41), 75 (41); HRMS calcd for C₂₆H₃₄BrNO₄Si (M⁺): 532.1518, found 532.1515; [α]_D²⁰: +1.685 (*c* 0.99, MeOH).

Methyl (3R,6E)-7-(4-bromo-2-cyclopropylquinolin-3-yl)-3-hydroxy-5-oxohept-6-enoate (10). A 1 : 19 (v/v) solution of 48% hydrofluoric acid in MeCN (4.00 mL) was added to a solution of alkene **9** (400 mg, 0.751 mmol) in MeCN (1.00 mL) at 0 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 19 h at room temperature. The reaction was then quenched by the addition of an aqueous solution of NaHCO₃, and the resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine

and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a residue, which was purified by column chromatography over silica gel eluting with a 2 : 1 (v/v) mixture of *n*-hexane and EtOAc to give β-hydroxy ester **10** as a yellow solid (280 mg, 89.1%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (br, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.53 (br, 1H), 3.05 (dd, *J* = 17.1, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (dd, *J* = 17.1, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.28 (tt, *J* = 8.0, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (dq, *J* = 4.6, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 1.05 (dq, *J* = 8.0, 3.1 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 198.6, 172.2, 160.1, 147.5, 141.0, 134.8, 134.4, 130.6, 129.5, 129.0, 127.0 (2C), 125.8, 64.5, 51.5, 46.4, 40.6, 16.5, 11.0 (2C); MS (EI) *m/z*: 419 (M + 2, 0.1), 417 (M⁺, 0.1), 315 (22), 236 (100), 102 (3.0), 74 (3.0); HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₂₀BrNO₄ (M⁺): 417.0575, found 417.0583; [α]_D²⁰: -7.727 (*c* 0.99, MeOH).

Methyl (3R,5S,6E)-7-(4-bromo-2-cyclopropylquinolin-3-yl)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoate (11). A 1.0 M solution of diethylmethoxyborane in THF (10.8 mL, 10.8 mmol) was added to a solution of β-hydroxy ester **10** (4.03 g, 9.63 mmol) in THF (30.0 mL) and MeOH (6.00 mL) at -78 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 20 min at -78 °C. Sodium borohydride (452 mg, 10.7 mmol) was then added to the reaction mixture at -78 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h at -78 °C. The reaction was then quenched by the addition of a solution of AcOH (5.70 mL) in EtOAc (27.0 mL), and the resulting mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature. The mixture was poured into a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃, and the resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄ before being concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography over silica gel eluting with a 1 : 1 (v/v) mixture of *n*-hexane and EtOAc to give diol **11** as a yellow solid (2.93 g, 72.0%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (br, 1H), 4.42 (br, 1H), 3.81 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 1H), 2.57 (dd, *J* = 6.8, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (tt, *J* = 8.0, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.91–1.80 (m, 2H), 1.29 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 1.01 (dq, *J* = 8.0, 2.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 172.9, 160.9, 147.0, 140.0, 133.8, 131.8, 129.5, 127.0 (2C), 126.6, 126.5, 126.2, 72.4, 68.4, 51.9, 42.4, 41.4, 16.4, 10.7 (2C); MS (EI) *m/z*: 421 (M + 2, 3.2), 419 (M⁺, 3.3), 383 (7.5), 340 (38), 298 (45), 274 (100), 220 (56); HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₂₂BrNO₄ (M⁺): 419.0732, found 419.0729; [α]_D²⁰: +22.858 (*c* 1.00, MeOH).

Methyl (3R,5S,6E)-7-{2-cyclopropyl-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3-dioxabolan-2-yl)quinolin-3-yl}-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoate (2). PdCl₂(dppf)CH₂Cl₂ (0.19 g, 0.240 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of diol **11** (1.00 g, 2.40 mmol), bis(pinacolato)diboron (**12**) (0.790 g, 3.12 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (1.00 g, 7.20 mmol) in DMSO (40.0 mL) under an argon atmosphere, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 4 h at 70 °C. Silica gel was then added to the reaction, and the resulting mixture was filtered through Celite. The filtrate was extracted with EtOAc

and the organic layer was washed sequentially with water and brine before being dried over Na_2SO_4 . The solvent was then concentrated under reduced pressure to give a residue, which was subjected to azeotropic dehydration with MeCN and purified by HPLC (Shimadzu system equipped with a Cosmosil 5C18-ARII 10 \times 250 mm column, MeCN–water = 50/50, flow rate = 5.0 mL min^{-1}) to afford a brown oil. Powderization of the resulting oil with a 1 : 1 (v/v) mixture of diisopropyl ether and *n*-heptane gave boronate 2 as a pale yellow solid (0.290 g, 25.9%).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.91 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (dd, J = 16.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.03 (dd, J = 16.0, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (br, 1H), 4.38 (br, 1H), 3.75 (br, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.32 (br, 1H), 2.56 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (s, 1H), 2.28 (tt, J = 8.0, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.87–1.78 (m, 2H), 1.46 (s, 12H), 1.25–1.20 (m, 2H), 0.98 (dd, J = 8.0, 3.1 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 172.9, 159.6, 146.3, 138.2, 135.6, 129.2, 128.9 (2C), 128.4, 127.2 (2C), 125.4, 84.7 (2C), 72.4, 68.5, 51.9, 42.7, 41.3, 25.3 (2C), 25.2 (2C), 15.4, 9.5, 9.3; MS (EI) m/z : 467 (M^+ , 6.8), 346 (100), 322 (80), 220 (92), 206 (57); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{34}\text{BNO}_6$ (M^+): 467.2479, found 467.2481; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$: +22.932 (c 1.00, MeOH).

Methyl (3*R*,5*S*,6*E*)-7-{2-cyclopropyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)quinolin-3-yl}-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoate (13). Pd(PPh_3)₄ (9.10 mg, 0.00789 mmol) and PdCl₂(dppf)CH₂Cl₂ (6.20 mg, 0.00789 mmol) were added to a solution of 2 (37.0 mg, 0.0788 mmol), 4-fluoriodobenzene (26.2 mg, 0.118 mmol), and Na₂CO₃ (25.0 mg, 0.236 mmol) in DMSO (40.0 mL) under an argon atmosphere, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 9 h at 90 °C. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature, poured into water and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over Na₂SO₄ before being concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was subjected to azeotropic dehydration with MeCN and purified by HPLC (Shimadzu system with a Cosmosil 5C18-ARII 10 \times 250 mm column, MeCN–water = 70/30, flow rate = 5.0 mL min^{-1}) to give methyl ester 13 as an amorphous solid (3.00 mg, 8.80% (isolated yield)).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.95 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.35–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.13 (m, 4H), 6.63 (dd, J = 16.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.58 (dd, J = 16.0, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (m, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.15–4.10 (m, 1H), 3.60 (br, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.10 (br, 1H), 2.50–2.36 (m, 3H), 1.50 (ddd, J = 9.2, 4.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 1.37–1.30 (m, 3H), 0.98 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.3 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 172.9, 162.2 (d, J_{F} = 246.5 Hz), 161.2, 160.7, 146.8, 144.2, 139.7, 133.5, 131.8 (dd, J_{F} = 28.8, 7.8 Hz) (2C), 129.3, 128.9, 126.1, 126.0, 125.8, 125.4, 115.3 (dd, J_{F} = 21.6, 3.3 Hz) (2C), 72.4, 68.0, 51.9, 42.3, 41.2, 15.9, 10.3, 10.2; MS (EI) m/z : 435 (M^+ , 5.2), 314 (56), 280 (100), 274 (70), 220 (14); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{26}\text{FNO}_4$ (M^+): 435.1846, found 435.1849; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$: +35.707 (c 0.68, MeOH).

(3*R*,5*S*,6*E*)-7-[2-Cyclopropyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)quinolin-3-yl]-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid (pitavastatin). A 1.0 M aqueous solution of NaOH (1 mL) was added to a solution of 13 (3 mg, 6.9 μmol) in methanol (1 mL) at room temperature,

and the resulting mixture was stirred for 30 min at the same temperature. The reaction mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure to give pitavastatin (sodium salt) as a colorless oil (3 mg, quant.).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 7.83 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.36–7.23 (m, 6H), 6.48 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.80 (br, 1H), 5.57 (dd, J = 16.0, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 4.93 (br, 1H), 4.13 (m, 1H), 3.65 (br, 1H), 3.40 (m, 4H), 2.08 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 1.95 (dd, J = 15.5, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (dt, J = 14.3, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 1.20–1.00 (m, 5H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 178.5, 161.6, 160.6, 144.8, 142.2, 133.1 (2C), 132.0 (dd, J_{F} = 37.4, 8.0 Hz) (2C), 129.6, 128.8, 128.3, 125.7, 125.6 (2C), 123.1, 115.2 (dd, J_{F} = 21.0, 9.3 Hz) (2C), 68.9, 65.6, 44.2, 40.0, 15.3, 10.7 (2C); MS (FAB+) m/z : 444 (M^+); HRMS (FAB+) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{26}\text{FNO}_4$: 422.1768, found 422.1762; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$: +22.265 (c 0.22, MeCN/H₂O).

Radiochemistry

[^{18}F]Fluoride was produced by cyclotron (CYPRIS HM-18, Sumitomo Heavy Industries, Tokyo, Japan) via an ^{18}O (p,n) ^{18}F reaction and passed through a Sep-Pak Light QMA cartridge (Waters Corporation, Milford, MA, USA) as an aqueous solution in ^{18}O -enriched water. The cartridge was dried under a stream of N₂ and the ^{18}F activity was eluted with 1.00 mL of a Kryptofix2.2.2 (Merck)/K₂CO₃ solution (9.50 mg of Kryptofix2.2.2 and 1.70 mg of K₂CO₃ in a 96 : 4 (v/v) mixture of MeCN and water). The solvent was removed by azeotropic dehydration with MeCN (1.00 mL) at 120 °C under a stream of argon gas over 10 min.

Synthesis of *p*-[^{18}F]fluoriodobenzene ([^{18}F]1) from 4-iodophenyldiphenyl-sulfonium triflate. A solution of 4-iodophenyldiphenylsulfonium triflate (2.00 mg) in MeCN (150 μL) was added to a reaction vessel containing the ^{18}F activity (1.10–1.50 GBq), and the reaction mixture was heated for 1 min under microwave irradiation (50.0 W). The resulting mixture was cooled for 1 min and then passed through a Sep-Pak Light C18 column (Waters) and washed with water (10 mL). A stream of N₂ gas was passed over the column for 10 s, and *p*-[^{18}F]fluoriodobenzene ([^{18}F]1) was eluted with MeCN (500 μL). The eluent containing [^{18}F]1 was purified by HPLC analysis (RCY 56.2 \pm 3.1% decay corrected, data are the mean \pm SD (n = 3)).

Synthesis of [^{18}F]pitavastatin using the Suzuki coupling reaction with [^{18}F]1. A solution of [^{18}F]1 in MeCN (37.0–74.0 MBq, 100 μL) was added to a solution of 2 (2.0 mg), Pd₂(dba)₃ (1.00 mg) and Cs₂CO₃ (4.00 mg) in MeCN (100 μL), and the resulting mixture was heated to 100 °C under microwave irradiation (50.0 W) for 1 min. The mixture was then passed through a COSMONICE(R) Filter (S) (0.45 μm , 4 mm) and purified by preparative HPLC [Cosmosil 5C18-ARII 10 \times 250 mm column, MeOH/20 mM phosphate buffer (pH 2.5) = 70/30, flow rate 5.0 mL min^{-1}] to give a solution of pure [^{18}F]pitavastatin (Rt = 8.53 min, 12.1 \pm 3.0% RCY from [^{18}F]fluoride ions, data are the mean \pm SD (n = 3), specific activity was >10.0 GBq μmol^{-1}).

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