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## Discovery of a small-molecule antiviral targeting the HIV-1 matrix protein

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### Abstract

Due to the emergence of drug-resistant strains and the cumulative toxicities associated with current therapies, demand remains for new inhibitors of HIV-1 replication. The HIV-1 matrix (MA) protein is an essential viral component with established roles in the assembly of the virus. Using virtual and surface plasmon resonance (SPR)-based screening, we describe the identification of the first small molecule to bind to the HIV-1 MA protein and to possess broad range anti-HIV properties.

Despite the successes of highly active antiretroviral therapy, current therapies for HIV-1 infection are limited by the development of multidrug-resistant virus and by significant cumulative drug toxicities. The development of new classes of antiretroviral agents with novel modes of action is therefore highly desirable and is a driving force for the pursuit of small-molecule inhibitors of the nonenzymatic viral proteins.

The HIV-1 replication cycle, similar to other retroviruses, can be divided into early (preintegration) and late (postintegration) stages. The Gag polyprotein is a structural protein that plays a central role in the late stages of viral replication. The Gag polyprotein consists of several domains, three of which are functionally conserved among retroviruses: the nucleocapsid (NC) domain; the capsid (CA) domain; and the myristoylated matrix (MA) domain. Despite the pivotal role played by Gag in the HIV-1 replication cycle, there are currently no approved drugs targeting either the full-length polyprotein or its component proteins.

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The HIV-1 MA protein, encoded as the N-terminal portion of Gag, is critically involved in the late, assembly stages in the life cycle of HIV-1. MA is a 132-amino-acid structural protein that is posttranslationally myristoylated at the N-terminus. The three-dimensional structure of HIV-1 MA has been determined by nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy and X-ray crystallography.<sup>1-3</sup> MA is a structural molecule, partially globular, and composed of five  $\alpha$ -helices. The helices  $\alpha$ 1,  $\alpha$ 2, and  $\alpha$ 3 are organized around the central and buried  $\alpha$ 4,<sup>1</sup> whereas  $\alpha$ 5 is projected from the packed helical bundle, making the C-terminal region of the protein distinct from its globular N-terminus. In solution, myristoylated MA (myr-MA) is in dynamic equilibrium between monomeric and trimeric species, whereas nonmyristoylated MA is exclusively monomeric.<sup>2, 4, 5</sup> Current data, based on crystallographic experiments,<sup>1</sup> electron microscopic observations,<sup>6, 7</sup> and docking calculations,<sup>8</sup> point to a trimeric organization of MA monomers in the mature virion. Such organization appears to be also used by other HIV-1 structural proteins,<sup>9</sup> in an organization defined by the Gag precursor. A recent study has indicated, however, that although the myr-MA oligomerizes in solution as a trimer and crystallizes in three dimensions as a trimer unit, myristoylated MA assembles on phosphatidylserine-cholesterol membranes as hexamer rings.<sup>10</sup> This finding has been echoed in another study looking at oligomerization of MA on phosphatidylcholine-cholesterol-phosphatidylinositol (4,5)-bisphosphate [PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>], in which the authors found that MA organizes as hexamers, each one composed of a trimer of MA.<sup>11</sup>

Two main functions of MA in the assembly of HIV-1 are well established: membrane binding and envelope incorporation. Membrane binding of HIV-1 Gag is mediated by two signals in MA: the N-terminal myristic acid and the conserved basic region between amino acids 17 and 31.<sup>12-14</sup> The myristate moiety is considered to be regulated by a mechanism termed a myristoyl switch, whereby the N-terminal myristate is sequestered in the MA globular domain, but a structural change exposes the myristate and enhances Gag membrane binding.<sup>5, 15-22</sup> The MA basic domain is involved in specific localization of Gag to the plasma membrane, with mutations in this domain shifting the Gag localization from plasma membrane to intracellular vesicles in HeLa and T cells.<sup>23-27</sup> The basic domain of MA has been demonstrated to interact with PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>, a minor phospholipid that is concentrated primarily on the cytoplasmic leaflet of the plasma membrane.<sup>20, 28-30</sup> PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> binding to HIV-1 MA is thought to serve two functions: inducing the conformational change that triggers myristate exposure and acting as a site-specific membrane anchor, allowing the targeting of Gag to the plasma membrane.

The most effective targets for the development of small-molecule inhibitors are likely to be functionally critical pockets within the viral proteins that are highly conserved between viral isolates. Therefore, to assess the suitability of the PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>-binding site as a target for inhibitor design, we assessed the conservation of its component residues. We analyzed the amino acid sequences of the matrix domains from a subset of the available HIV-1 Pr55Gag proteins from the National Center for Biotechnology Information Entrez Protein database (~20,000 sequences from a total of 50,133) using BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool),<sup>31</sup> assessed the level of the sequence conservation at each amino acid, and then highlighted this conservation on a surface representation of the MA protein (Fig. 1). As can be seen from Figure 1, the amino acids present at the surface of the MA protein vary widely, ranging from less than 20% to complete conservation. However, the structural recess that runs across the globular head of MA and encompasses the PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>-binding site shows remarkable conservation (Fig. 1). Such a high level of conservation may be required for regions of viral proteins that interact with cellular components, and highlights the potential of the PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>-binding site as an attractive antiviral target.

We therefore undertook a structure-guided search for small, drug-like molecules that inhibit viral replication by binding to this highly conserved area on the HIV-1 MA protein. To identify potential hits, we employed a virtual screening protocol. This protocol, performed using QUANTUM software,<sup>32–34</sup> included fast molecular docking for the generation of binding poses and molecular dynamics simulations to rank the ligand poses according to their binding affinities. The simulations were implemented using a proprietary version of the MM/Poisson Boltzman–Surface Area (MM/PB–SA) force field.<sup>35</sup> We used the Enamine Screening Collection, which comprised approximately 1,168,625 exclusive drug-like compounds filtered according to Vernalis' guidelines (Cambridge, UK) at the time of screening.<sup>36</sup> To limit the necessary calculations to a reasonable number, we performed extensive clustering of the ligand library, while keeping as much of the full chemical diversity of the available library as possible (see Materials and Methods). A compound was regarded as a hit if its predicted affinity ( $K_D$ ) was in the range 1 to 10  $\mu\text{M}$  and it displayed favorable, drug-like chemical characteristics. Docking of compounds from the Enamine Screening Collection to a static MA model yielded no compounds with a predicted  $K_D$  of less than 1  $\mu\text{M}$  and 29 compounds with the  $K_D$  ranging from 1 to 10  $\mu\text{M}$ . These 29 best docked conformers were then taken to the molecular dynamics study, where the calculated protein-ligand binding energies were refined with regard to protein and ligand flexibility. After these compounds were refined, we identified four with predicted  $K_D$  of less than 1  $\mu\text{M}$  and 15 more compounds with  $K_D$  ranging up to 10  $\mu\text{M}$ . These 19 compounds were purchased for use in downstream biophysical and biological assays.

First, we tested whether the identified compounds could interact with MA using surface plasmon resonance (SPR). The HIV-1 MA protein poses a challenge for conventional SPR assays, as the PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>-binding site and surrounding regions on the MA protein are enriched in lysines and arginines, residues commonly used to covalently link proteins to the sensor surface using 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide (EDC)/N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS) chemistry.<sup>37, 38</sup> Therefore, in order to ensure that the PIP(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>-binding site remained intact upon attachment, we developed an immobilization method based upon the properties of the HaloTag (Promega, Madison, WI). The HaloTag is a mutant haloalkane dehalogenase designed to covalently bind to synthetic ligands (HaloTag ligands).<sup>39</sup> We therefore created a C-terminally HaloTagged version of the HIV-1 MA protein. This construct also contained a C-terminal His-tag to allow purification via immobilized metal affinity chromatography. A HaloTag ligand, containing a terminal primary amine, was attached to the sensor surface using standard amine chemistry. The MA-HALO-H<sub>6</sub> protein was then covalently attached to the ligand by injection over this surface. A reference surface was created in a similar manner using a H<sub>6</sub>-SUMO-HALO protein. The 19 compounds were then screened at one concentration (50  $\mu\text{M}$ ) over these surfaces to identify specific binders of the MA protein. Unfortunately, the majority of the compounds nonspecifically interacted with the chloroalkane HaloTag ligand. One exception, compound **14** (N<sup>2</sup>-(Phenoxyacetyl)-N-[4-(1 piperidinylcarbonyl)benzyl]glycinamide), however, was identified as being able to interact specifically with HIV-1 MA using this novel immobilization system. This analysis, shown in Figure 2, demonstrated that compound **14** interacts with HIV-1 MA with an equilibrium dissociation constant of 171 ( $\pm$  50)  $\mu\text{M}$ .

We next sought to investigate the binding site of compound **14** by performing direct binding studies with MA mutants that were created based upon the docking model (Figure 3A). Residues Leu21, Lys27, and Asn80, were individually mutated to alanine, and the effect of the mutagenesis on the binding of compound **14** at a single concentration (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) relative to wild-type MA was assessed using SPR. For comparison, and to take into account minor differences in the ligand density of the mutant surfaces, responses were normalized to the theoretical  $R_{\text{max}}$  (maximum analyte binding capacity of the surface in RU), assuming a 1:1 interaction. As shown in Figure 3B, mutation of residues Leu21, Lys27 and Asn80

drastically reduced the binding of compound **14** compared with wild-type MA. This clearly demonstrates that residues within the PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>-binding site of HIV-1 MA are required for interaction with compound **14**.

Having identified compound **14** as a small molecule that specifically binds to the HIV-1 MA protein, and in a region overlapping the PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>-binding site, we next investigated whether it had the capacity to inhibit HIV-1 replication using a standardized PBMC-based anti-HIV-1 assay. As a key issue in the development of novel HIV drugs is their ability to inhibit the replication of genetically diverse isolates, especially isolates from the most globally prevalent subtypes A, B, and C, we performed the assay with a panel of HIV-1 clinical isolates and laboratory strains from different geographic locations. This panel of isolates included HIV-1 group M subtypes A, B, C, D, E, F, and G, as well as HIV-1 group O (Table 1). The panel included CCR5-tropic (R5), CXCR4-tropic (X4), and dual-tropic (R5X4) viruses. The toxicity of compound **14** was assessed in parallel. Compound **14** inhibited the replication of all the viruses tested, with half-maximal inhibitory concentrations (IC<sub>50</sub>) in the range 16 – 31 μM; a half-maximal toxicity concentration (TC<sub>50</sub>) was not reached within the concentration range evaluated (TC<sub>50</sub> >100 μM). Moreover, compound **14** inhibited the multiply drug-resistant strain HIV-1<sub>MDR769</sub>,<sup>41</sup> indicating a different mechanism of action from the inhibitors currently in use in the clinic. Interestingly, the effective concentration of compound **14** in the anti-HIV assays is lower than the equilibrium dissociation constant that we derived using SPR. A similar situation has been observed with the Gag-directed small molecule CAP-1, which displays low affinity for the HIV-1 capsid protein (K<sub>D</sub> = 0.8 mM), but whose half maximal inhibitory concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) is approximately 60 μM.<sup>42</sup>

We next tested the specificity of compound **14** for HIV-1 using cellular assays and a panel of viruses from different families. Again, compound toxicity was assessed in parallel. Compound **14** was evaluated against this panel of viruses up to a high-test concentration of 100 μM and displayed no inhibitory effects on the replication of herpes simplex type 1, Dengue serotypes 1–4, influenza H1N1, respiratory syncytial virus, yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, Vaccinia, or Chikungunya viruses. Therefore, compound **14** appears to be specific for HIV-1 (Supplemental Table 1).

In summary, we have identified a novel compound that binds to the conserved PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>-binding site on HIV-1 MA and exhibits broad-spectrum anti-HIV activity with IC<sub>50</sub> values in the range of 16 – 31 μM for all isolates tested (Table 1). The broad-spectrum activity of this compound is particularly exciting, highlighting the HIV-1 MA protein as a new viral target with significant therapeutic potential. Although the dissociation constant (K<sub>D</sub>) of compound **14** is not currently within an acceptable range for clinical use, the successful improvement of the antiviral compound CAP-1 to higher potency suggests that compound **14** could also serve as a good starting point for the development of derivatives with increased affinity and efficacy. Moreover, mechanism of action studies of compound **14** should shed light upon the roles of the HIV-1 MA in the viral replication cycle.

## Methods

### Virtual Screening

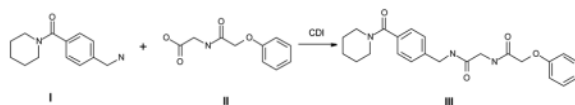
The structures of ligands for virtual screening were taken from the Enamine Screening Collection library. The Enamine library was clustered using the Jarvis–Patrick algorithm<sup>43–45</sup> implemented in QUANTUM (Quantum Pharmaceuticals, Moscow, Russia). The measure of dissimilarity (“distance”) between the molecules was determined by Tanimoto similarity calculated with Daylight fingerprints of the molecules (Daylight Chemical Information Systems, Inc.; Aliso Viejo, CA). The clustering parameters were chosen such that a reasonable number of clusters (~72k) was obtained. The compounds

representing the cluster centroids were taken for subsequent screening. As a result, the library of 1M compounds was reduced to a library of roughly 72k cluster representatives of appropriate molecular weight. The compounds were prepared for docking by extraction from the Enamine-supplied sdf files and processing through the QUANTUM structure recovery and typization software components in batch mode.

The 2GOL (X-ray)<sup>46</sup> and 2H3Z (NMR)<sup>47</sup> HIV-1 MA structures from the RCSB Protein Data Bank were used for molecular modeling. The complex 2GOL was selected on the basis of its high resolution (2.2 Å) and 2H3Z was chosen because it contains a bound ligand (di-C4-phosphatidylinositol-(4,5)-bisphosphate [di-C4-PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>]). Prior to molecular modeling we removed the capsid protein p24 (CA) from the 2GOL structure and di-C4-PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> from the 2H3Z structure. The docking area was then restricted by a box of 20 Å × 20 Å × 20 Å on the 2GOL structure and 19 Å × 20 Å × 21 Å on the 2H3Z structure. This region encompasses the di-C4-PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> binding pocket of MA.<sup>48</sup>

The virtual screening procedure included two stages: (1) docking to a static protein model and (2) refinement using a dynamic protein model. These two procedures were performed using QUANTUM software utilities. Docking to a static protein model included identification of the ligand position in the binding pocket with the minimal binding energy, and its estimation. In the second stage, the binding energies for hits were refined with regard to the protein flexibility using molecular dynamics. The refinement procedure employed is a complete free energy perturbation molecular dynamics run for the whole protein-ligand complex in aqueous environment. Thus, it considers both protein and ligand flexibility. In addition, the calculation of physical-chemical properties of small molecules was performed using Q-Mol ver. 1.0.6 (Quantum Pharmaceuticals). A compound was regarded as a hit if the predicted affinity (K<sub>D</sub>) was in the range 1 to 10 μM and it displayed favorable, drug-like chemical characteristics.

**Chemicals**—All chemicals were purchased from Enamine Ltd. and were 95% pure or greater. Compound **14** was resynthesized by Enamine Ltd. using the following route:



Analytical details are provided in supplemental information.

### Recombinant protein production and purification for surface plasmon resonance

A codon-optimized gene that codes for the HIV-1<sub>LAI</sub> MA protein fused via a small linker to a C-terminally histidine-tagged HaloTag protein (MA-HALO-H<sub>6</sub>) was synthesized and inserted into pUC57 vector by GenScript Corp. (Piscataway, NJ). This synthetic gene was flanked by *Nde*I and *Bam*H1 restriction sites to facilitate subcloning in to the *Escherichia coli* expression vector pET11a (Novagen, EMD Millipore Corporation, Darmstadt, Germany). To provide a control protein for the surface plasmon resonance analysis, the HaloTag region of the MA-HALO-H<sub>6</sub> gene was amplified from using primers designed to facilitate ligation-independent cloning into the vector pETHSUL.<sup>49</sup> This vector is designed for the insertion of genes of interest in frame with an N-terminal small ubiquitin-related modifier (SUMO) tag.<sup>49</sup> The recombinant pETHSUL plasmid was verified for the presence of HaloTag insert by restriction digestion and sequence analysis (Genewiz, Inc., South Plainfield, NJ). The resultant vector codes for a N-terminally histidine tagged SUMO-HaloTag fusion protein (H<sub>6</sub>-SUMO-HALO). The purification of both MA-HALO-H<sub>6</sub> and H<sub>6</sub>SUMO-HALO was achieved via immobilized metal affinity chromatography using a

TALON cobalt resin affinity column (ClonTech). The *E. coli* strain BL21 (DE3) Codon+-RIL (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) was used for expression. Two milliliters of Luria-Bertani broth, containing 100  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  ampicillin and 50  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  chloramphenicol, were inoculated with a single transformed colony and allowed to grow at 37°C for 9 h. A total of 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of the preculture was used to inoculate 100 mL of the autoinducing media ZYP-5052<sup>50</sup> containing 100  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  ampicillin and 34  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  chloramphenicol. The culture was grown at 30°C for 16 h. Cells were harvested by centrifugation at  $1076 \times g$  for 20 min at 4°C and the pellet was suspended in 30 mL PBS (Roche, Nutley, NJ) containing 2.5 mM imidazole. Cells were lysed by sonication and the supernatant clarified by centrifugation at  $11,952 \times g$  (SS-34, Sorvall RC 5C Plus) for 20 min at 4°C. The supernatant was removed and applied to a TALON cobalt resin affinity column (ClonTech), previously equilibrated with PBS (Roche). Loosely bound proteins were removed via seven-column volumes of PBS containing 7.5 mM imidazole. Tightly associated proteins were eluted in three-column volumes of PBS containing 250 mM imidazole. The eluates were pooled and immediately used for SPR analysis. Individual alanine mutations were introduced in to the wild-type MA-HALO-H<sub>6</sub> expression vector by site-directed mutagenesis. Mutant MA-HALO-H<sub>6</sub> proteins were purified as described above.

### Surface plasmon resonance direct binding assays

Interaction analyses were performed on a ProteOn XPR36 SPR Protein Interaction Array System (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules CA). ProteOn GLH sensor chips were preconditioned with two short pulses each (10 s) of 50 mM NaOH, 100 mM HCl, and 0.5% SDS. Then the system was equilibrated with PBS-T buffer (20 mM Na-phosphate, 150 mM NaCl, and 0.005% polysorbate 20, pH 7.4). The surface of a GLH sensorchip was activated with a mixture of 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide hydrochloride (0.2 M) and sulfo-*N*-hydroxysuccinimide (0.05 M). Immediately after chip activation, 1 mM HaloTag Amine (O4) ligand (Promega, Madison, WI) in 200 mM Tris buffer pH 8.0, was injected across the ligand flow strip for 5 min at a flow rate of 30  $\mu\text{l min}^{-1}$ . Excess active ester groups on the sensor surface were capped by a 5-min injection of 1 M ethanolamine HCl (pH 8.5). HIV-1<sub>LAI</sub> MA-HALO-H<sub>6</sub>, purified as described above, was then injected across the HaloTag ligand surface at a flow rate of 30  $\mu\text{l min}^{-1}$  for 14 min, resulting in the immobilization of immobilized approximately 8,000 response units (RU). A reference surface was similarly created by immobilizing a H<sub>6</sub>-SUMO-HALO protein to the same density. In small-molecule assays, the buffering system used is particularly important owing to the low responses obtained in binding assays. Among the most commonly used buffers, PBS was found to be the most suitable for the MA small-molecule binding assays, as with a Tris-based buffer, variable and drifting baselines were observed, complicating evaluation of the data. A stock solution of the compound **14** was prepared by dissolving in 100% DMSO to a final concentration of ~10 mM. To prepare the sample for analysis, 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of the compound stock solution was added to 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of 100% DMSO and this was made to a final volume of 1 mL by addition of sample preparation buffer (PBS, pH 7.4). Preparation of analyte in this manner ensured that the concentration of DMSO was matched with that of running buffer with 3% DMSO. Two-fold dilutions were then prepared in running buffer (PBS, 3% DMSO, 0.005% polysorbate 20, pH 7.4) and injected across the MA-HALO-H<sub>6</sub> and H<sub>6</sub>-SUMO-HALO surfaces a flow rate of 100  $\mu\text{L min}^{-1}$ , for a 1-min association phase, followed by a 5-min dissociation phase using the “one shot kinetics” capability of the Proteon instrument.<sup>51</sup> Specific regeneration of the surfaces between injections was not needed owing to the nature of the interaction. Data were analyzed using the ProteOn Manager Software version 3.0 (Bio-Rad). The responses of a buffer injection and responses from the reference flow cell were subtracted to account for nonspecific binding and injection artifacts. Experimental data were fitted to a simple 1:1 binding model. The average kinetic

parameters (association [ $k_a$ ] and dissociation [ $k_d$ ] rates) generated from 6 data sets were used to define the equilibrium dissociation constant ( $K_D$ ).

### Anti-HIV efficacy evaluation in human peripheral blood mononuclear cells

HIV-1 infection of human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) was performed as described previously.<sup>52</sup> Briefly, fresh PBMCs, seronegative for HIV and hepatitis B virus, were isolated from blood samples of the screened donors (Biological Specialty Corp., Colmar, PA) by using lymphocyte separation medium (LSM; density,  $1.078 \pm 0.002$  g/mL; Cellgro; Mediatech, Inc., Manassas, VA) by following the manufacturer's instructions. Cells were stimulated by incubation in  $4 \mu\text{g/mL}$  phytohemagglutinin (PHA; Sigma) for 48 to 72 h. Mitogenic stimulation was maintained by the addition of 20 U/mL recombinant human interleukin-2 (rhIL-2; R&D Systems, Inc., Minneapolis, MN) to the culture medium. PHA-stimulated PBMCs from at least two donors were pooled, diluted in fresh medium, and added to 96-well plates at  $5 \times 10^4$  cells/well. Cells were infected (final multiplicity of infection [MOI] of  $\cong 0.1$ ) in the presence of nine different concentrations of compound **14** (triplicate wells/concentration) and incubated for 7 days. To determine the level of virus inhibition, cell-free supernatant samples were collected for analysis of reverse transcriptase activity.<sup>53</sup> Following removal of supernatant samples, compound cytotoxicity was measured by the addition of 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxyphenyl)-2-(4-sulfophenyl)-2H-tetrazolium (MTS; CellTiter 96 reagent; Promega) by following the manufacturer's instructions.

Viral isolates were obtained from the NIH AIDS Research and Reference Reagent Program, Division of AIDS, NIAID, NIH, as follows: HIV-1 group M isolates 92UG031 (subtype A, CCR5-tropic), 92BR030 (subtype B, CCR5-tropic), 92BR025 (subtype C, CCR5-tropic), 92UG024 (subtype D, CXCR4-tropic), and 93BR020 (subtype F, CCR5/CXCR4 dual-tropic) from the UNAIDS Network for HIV Isolation and Characterization<sup>54</sup>; HIV-1 group M isolate 89BZ167 (subtype B, CXCR4-tropic; also referred to as "89BZ\_167," "89\_BZ167," "BZ167," or "GS 010") from Dr. Nelson Michael<sup>55-58</sup>; HIV-1 group M isolate 93IN101 (subtype C, CCR5-tropic) from Dr. Robert Bollinger and the UNAIDS Network for HIV Isolation and Characterization<sup>54</sup>; HIV-1 group M isolate CMU08 (subtype E, CXCR4-tropic) from Dr. Kenrad Nelson and the UNAIDS Network for HIV Isolation and Characterization<sup>54</sup>; HIV-1 group M isolate G3 (subtype G, CCR5-tropic) from Alash'le Abimiku<sup>59</sup>; HIV-1 group O isolate BCF02 (CCR5-tropic) from Sentob Saragosti, Françoise Brun-Vézinet, and François Simon<sup>60</sup>; HIV-1 clinical isolate MDR769 (presumed Group M, Subtype B) from Dr. Thomas C. Merigan.<sup>41</sup>

### Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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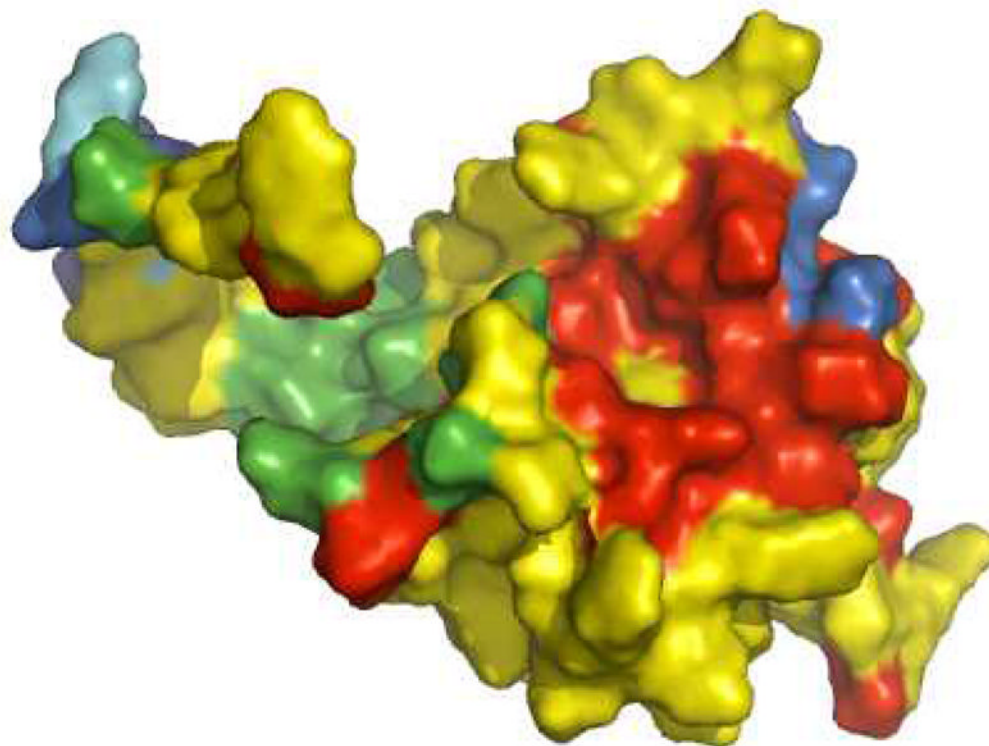
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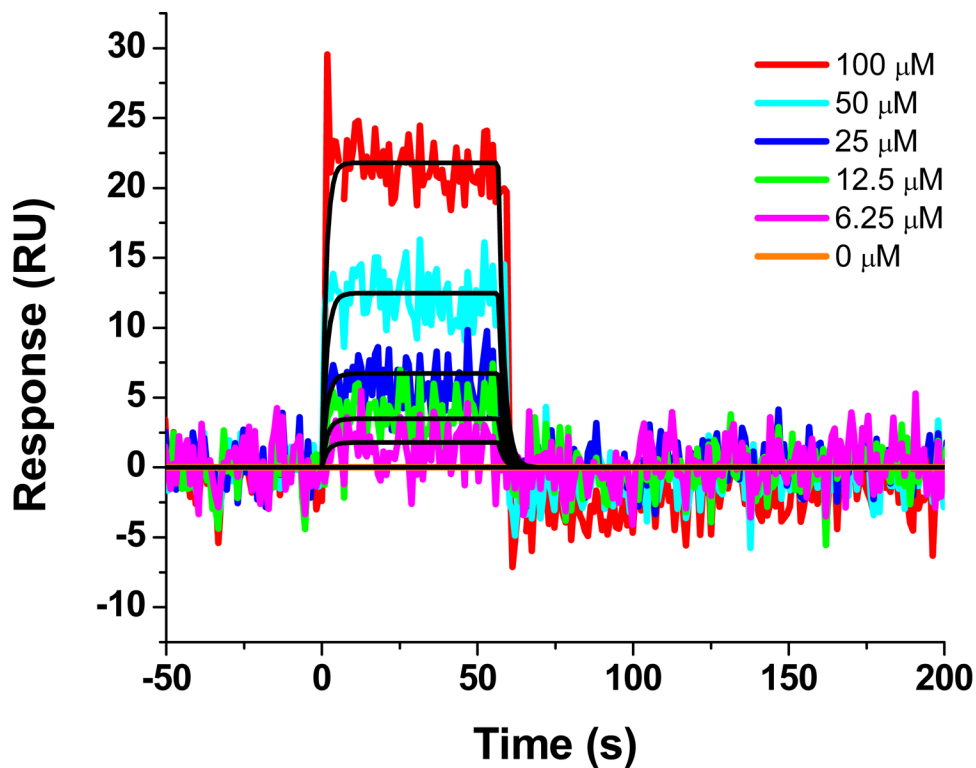


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**Figure 1. Conservation of surface residues of the HIV-1 MA protein**

Color scheme: red = >99% conservative residue; yellow = >80%–99%; green = >50%–80%; cyan = >20%–50%; blue = 0%–20%. Residues surrounding a structural recess that serves as a binding site for PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> are highly conserved as indicated by the red coloring.



**Figure 2.** Sensorgrams depicting the interaction of the compound **14** with Halotag-immobilized HIV-1<sub>LAI</sub> MA. Compound **14** at concentrations in the range 6.25–100  $\mu\text{M}$  are shown. Colored lines indicate experimental data, whereas black lines indicate fitting to a simple 1:1 binding model. Kinetic parameters for compound **14**–HIV-1<sub>LAI</sub> MA interaction:  $k_a = 2.54 (\pm 0.8) \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$ ;  $k_d = 0.4 (\pm 0.07) \text{ s}^{-1}$ ;  $K_D = 171 (\pm 50) \mu\text{M}$ .

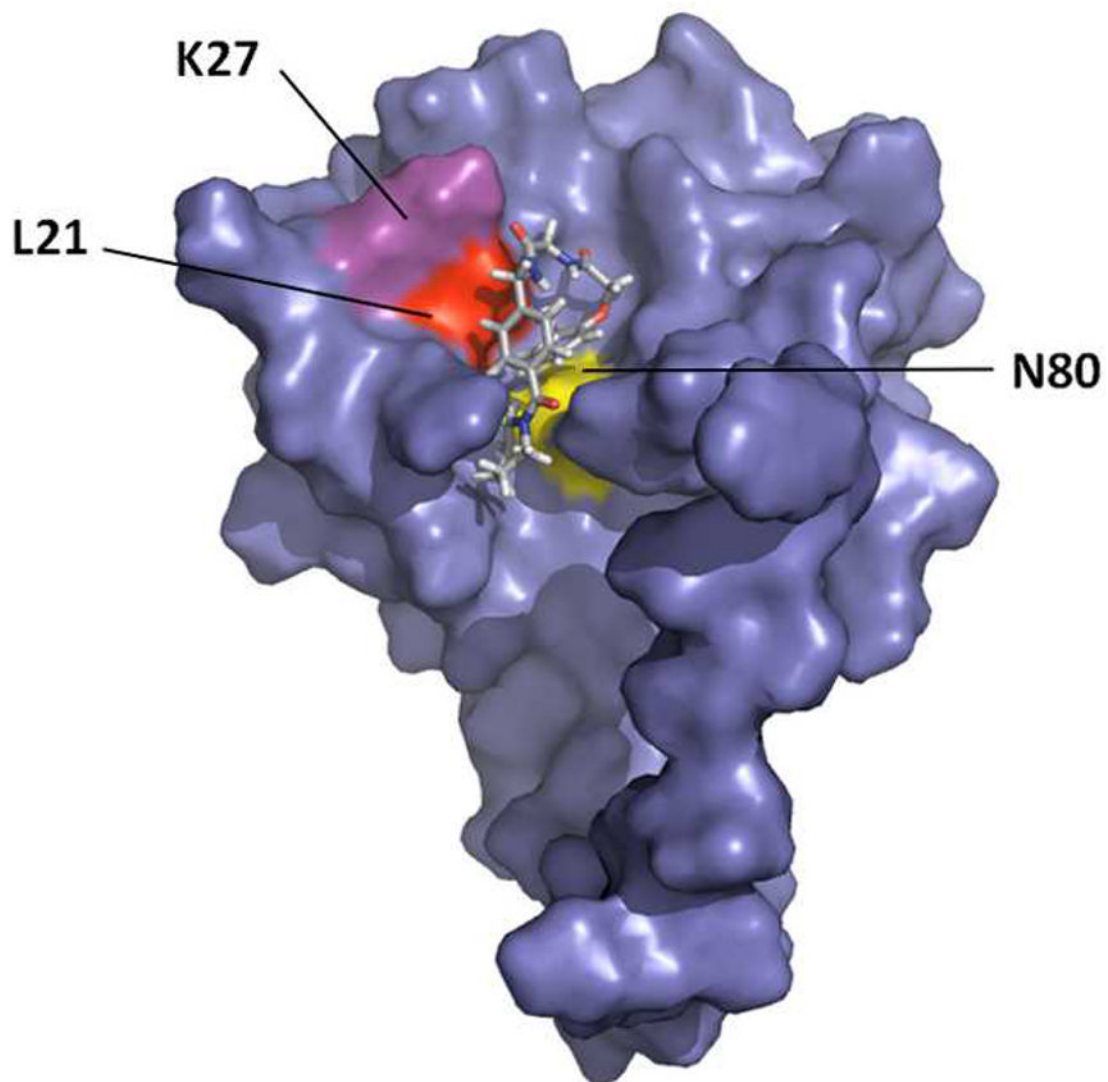
**Figure 3A**

Figure 3B

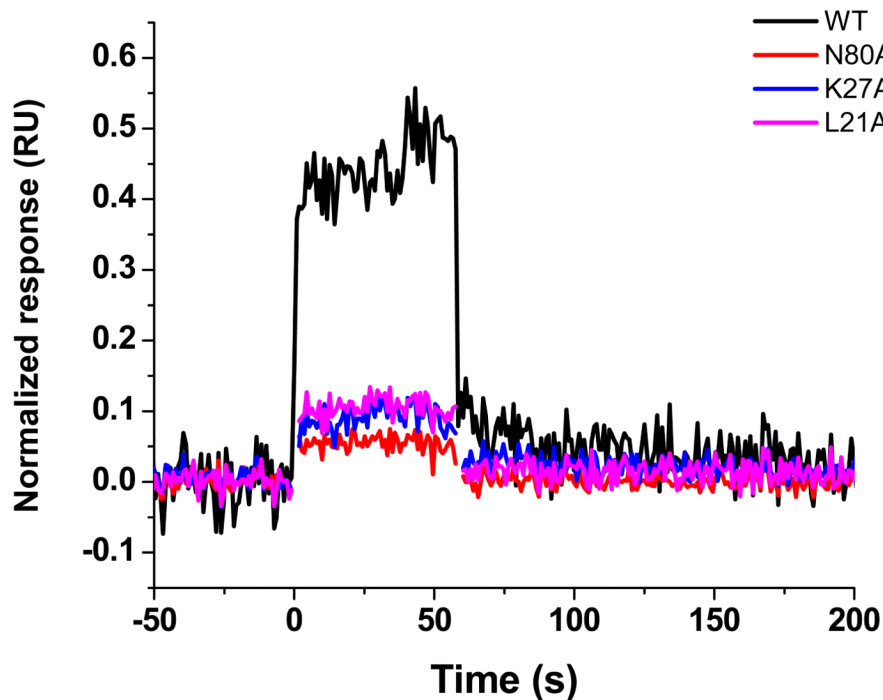


Figure 3.

(A) Surface rendering of HIV-1 MA showing the position of residues chosen for mutation to alanine relative to the predicted binding site of compound **14**. Compound **14** is shown as a stick representation. (B) Sensorgrams illustrating the effect of mutation of residues in the proposed compound **14** binding site of HIV-1 on compound binding. The interaction of compound **14** at a concentration of 100  $\mu$ M with wild-type and mutant versions of the MA protein was assessed using SPR. To allow comparison, responses were normalized to the theoretical  $R_{\max}$ , assuming a 1:1 interaction.

**Table 1**

Therapeutic spectrum of compound 1 against HIV-1 Subtypes.

HIV-1 isolate	Compound	IC <sub>50</sub> (μM)	Antiviral index <sup>†</sup> (TC <sub>50</sub> /IC <sub>50</sub> )
92UG031 Subtype A	MTI535	17.8 (±2.6)	> 5.6
89BZ167 Subtype B	MTI535	17.7 (±2.9)	> 5.7
92BR030 Subtype B	MTI535	20.3 (±2.9)	> 4.9
92BR025 Subtype C	MTI535	16.3 (±4.3)	> 6.1
93IN101 Subtype C	MTI535	16.3 (±4.2)	> 6.1
92UG024 Subtype D	MTI535	16.0 (±7.8)	> 6.25
CMU08 Subtype E	MTI535	17.7 (±4.8)	> 5.7
93BR020 Subtype F	MTI535	17.3 (±4.8)	> 5.8
G3 Subtype G	MTI535	18.9 (±2.9)	> 5.3
BaL Subtype B	MTI535	27.8 (± 5.0)	> 3.6
NL4-3 Subtype B	MTI535	30.8 (± 0.9)	> 3.3
MDR769 Subtype B	MTI535	18.8 (± 3.3)	> 5.3

<sup>†</sup>TC<sub>50</sub> values for all compounds were determined to be >100 μM in this study. Numbers in parentheses represent one standard deviation derived from three replicate assays.