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Rational development of 4-aminopyridyl-based inhibitors targeting Trypanosoma cruzi CYP51 as anti-Chagas agents

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Abstract

A new series of 4-aminopyridyl-based lead inhibitors targeting Trypanosoma cruzi CYP51 (TcCYP51) has been developed using structure-based drug design as well as structure-property relationship (SPR) analyses. The screening hit starting point, LP10 (K_D 42 nM; EC50 of 0.65 μ M), has been optimized to give the potential leads 14t, 27i, 27q, 27r, and 27t, that have low nanomolar binding affinity to TcCYP51 and significant activity against T. cruzi amastigotes cultured in human myoblasts (EC₅₀ = 14–18 nM for 27i and 27r). Many of the optimized compounds have improved microsome stability, and most are selective against human CYPs 1A2, 2D6 and 3A4 (<50% inhibition at 1 μ M). A rationale for the improvement of microsome stability and selectivity of inhibitors against human metabolic CYP enzymes is presented. In addition, the binding mode of **14t** with the *T. brucei* CYP51 (*Tb*CYP51) ortholog has been characterized by xray structure analysis.

Keywords

Chagas disease; non-azole CYP51 inhibitors; structure guided drug design; structure activity and property relationships; x-ray structure

INTRODUCTION

Chagas disease, or American trypanosomiasis is a chronic tropical infection caused by the protozoan parasite Trypanosoma cruzi. The infection can be lethal if untreated. Chagas disease is the leading cause of heart failure in Latin America.¹ Although first described a

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ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information. Synthetic procedures and tabulated spectroscopic data for synthetic intermediates. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at https//pubs.acs.org.

The atomic coordinates and structure factors (PDB ID code 4BJK) have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank, Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (http://www.rcsb.org/).

century ago,² it is still a major public health challenge in South America. Furthermore, many cases have been reported in North America, Europe, and Asia due to human population movements, migration of the triatomine insect vectors, HIV-coinfections, and contaminated blood transfusion.^{1b}

Currently nifurtimox and benznidazole are the only drugs approved for treatment of Chagas disease.³ Although these drugs, which date from the late 1960s, show considerable efficacy in the acute stage of Chagas disease, their efficacy is debated in the chronic stage, which involves chronic Chagas cardiomyopathy, leading to congestive heart failure, thromboembolic phenomena, severe arrhythmias, and sudden unexpected death.^{3b, 4} Moreover, these old drugs are associated with frequent side effects such as dermatitis, gastrointestinal, and neurologic toxicities, and even a rare case of bone marrow suppression.^{1a} Therefore, the need exists to develop new therapeutics bearing better safety profiles and improved efficacy to treat *T. cruzi* infections and prevent cardiovascular Chagas disease.

Sterol biosynthesis is a recognized target for the development of new therapeutic agents to treat T. cruzi infections.⁵ Sterol 14-demethylase (CYP51) has been successfully targeted for combating pathogenic fungal infections with azole drugs such as fluconazole, ketoconazole, and posaconazole, among others.⁶ CYP51 catalyzes the oxidative removal of the 14-methyl group of lanosterol and produces $\Delta^{14,15}$ -unsaturated intermediates in ergosterol biosynthesis.⁵ Due to the similarity of sterols and their biosynthesis pathways in fungi and T. cruzi, the anti-parasitic effects of these azole drugs against T. cruzi in infected mammalian cells have been observed.⁷ Therefore, clinical trials of posaconazole and other antifungal agents in combination with benznidazole are underway for treatment of chronic Chagas disease.⁸ Recently, tipifarnib, a class of farnesyl transferase inhibitors, has been repurposed as an anti-parasitic agent in the laboratory setting.⁹ Hit-to-lead optimization of a new "NEU" series, identified via a HTS campaign at Northeastern University, has been achieved (Fig 1).¹⁰ In addition, x-ray co-crystal structures of T. cruzi CYP51 (TcCYP51) with bound posaconazole, fluconazole, VNF, and NEU321 have been determined for use in structurebased design approaches to the development of anti-Chagas agents.^{10–11} However, all of these lead compounds are azoles, and there is an emerging issue of the rapid appearance of laboratory-induced resistance to azoles in T. cruzi cell culture.¹² Thus, the development of therapeutics with different scaffolds targeting TcCYP51 is an important undertaking.

Recently, non-azole hits of the LP10 series were identified from a HTS campaign at UC San Francisco.¹³ The binding modes of these non-azole hits were characterized, and their cocrystal structures with *M. tuberculosis* CYP51 (*Mt*CYP51) were determined.^{13a} A 60% cure rate was attained in a mouse model of *T. cruzi* infection using the non-azole CYP51 inhibitor LP10.¹⁴ Accordingly, in an effort to develop more potent non-azole CPY51 inhibitor leads as anti-Chagas agents, we embarked on the optimization of LP10 by using structure-based drug design considerations in conjunction with *in vitro* DMPK analysis (microsome stability and CYP inhibition) to drive rounds of inhibitor optimization. In particular, we strived to increase compound stability in human, rat, and mouse liver microsome preparations, while retaining or increasing inhibition potency toward *T. cruzi* in infected mammalian cells, in order to identify candidates with properties appropriate to advance into animal models of *T. cruzi* infection. In addition, selectivity against human cytochrome P450 enzymes CYP1A2, CYP2C9, CYP2D6, and CYP3A4, the most important CYPs involved in drug metabolism and drug-drug interactions¹⁵, has also been monitored and used for compound prioritization in our structure optimization efforts.

Results and Discussion

Identification of the most active enantiomer of LP10—The original hit (LP10) is a mixture of two racemic diastereomers: S- and R-isomers at the tryptophan unit and cis/transisomers within the methylcyclohexane ring. We began by identifying the most active enantiomer of the LP10 scaffold as a starting point for structure optimization. To eliminate the impact of cis/trans isomerization in the methylcyclohexane ring, we evaluated two enantiomerically pure LP10 analogs with a simple cyclohexyl unit (Table 1). The S-isomer **1** has ~30-fold better binding affinity (K_D) toward *T. cruzi* CYP51 than the R-isomer **2**. This result is consistent with the co-crystal structures of LP9 (the methionine analog of LP10) and of LP11 (the value analog of LP10) with *Mt*CYP51, which have S-enantiomers in the bound structures.^{13a} In addition, the S-isomer **1** had two-fold higher potency (EC50) against *T. cruzi* in infected cells than the R-isomer. Both isomers had similar microsome stability and both were potent inhibitors of human CYP enzymes 2C9, 2D6 and 3A4 (90% inhibition at 10 μ M). Accordingly, we pursued S-enantiomers of LP10 analogs in the development of non-azole CYP51 leads.

Structure activity relationship of initial LP10 analogs—At the outset of these studies, the x-ray structure of *Tc*CYP51 with bound LP10 was not available. Thus, design of initial analog sets was guided by our previous studies on *Mt*CYP51 demonstrating that the hydrophobic contacts experienced by the indole ring accounts for ca. 100-fold increased binding affinity of LP10 toward *Tc*CYP51 (K_D 42 nM), compared to LP9 and LP11 (K_D = 6,900 and 9,200 nM, respectively) which have smaller (methylthio)ethyl and isopropyl groups (methionine and value side chains), respectively.^{13a}

First, we explored the role of the aromatic nitrogen atom in drug-target interactions. Introduction of a methoxy substituent at the 2-position of the 4-acylaminopyridine unit (**3a** in Table 2) resulted in loss of binding affinity toward *Tc*CYP51; **3a** was also inactive against *T. cruzi* in infected cells even at 10 μ M, the highest concentration tested. Similarly, **3b** with a 3,5-dimethylisoxazole unit as a pyridine replacement did not bind to CYP51 and was not active against the parasite in cell-based assays. These results indirectly confirm the binding mode of LP10 that requires coordination of the pyridine nitrogen to the heme iron. Thus, a functional group that hinders the pyridine nitrogen will destabilize the interaction with the heme iron, resulting in a loss of biochemical and cell-based activity. Consistent with this analysis, the ability of **3a** and **3b** to inhibit human CYP enzymes was also significantly decreased compared to LP10.

Second, analogs with secondary or tertiary amine units, such as **3c**, **3d**, **3e**, and **3f**, were also found to have substantially reduced biochemical and cell-based potency, presumably because they are unable to bind in the *Tc*CYP51 active site which accommodates the highly lipophilic natural substrate, lanosterol. However, the microsome stability of **3c**, **3d**, **3e**, and **3f** was significantly increased (30–120 min half-life), and inhibition of human CYP enzymes by these compounds was greatly decreased relative to LP10. Therefore, balancing the charge or polarity distribution of inhibitor analogs was viewed as an important factor to address in the development of more active analogs.

Third, the indole ring of LP10 was replaced with several isosteres. While **3g** and **3i** possessing 3-benzothiophene and N-methyl indole have similar binding affinity to CYP51 as compared to **1** (K_D 5 nM), analogs **3h** and **3j** possessing 1-naphthyl and 5-hydroxy indole units have substantially decreased binding affinity (K_D = 91 and 220 nM, respectively). In contrast, introduction of larger hydrophobic substituents at the 5-position of the indole (as in analog **3k**) did not reduce binding affinity to *Tc*CYP51, suggesting that room in the binding site is available to accommodate the bulky substituents at the 5-position of the indole ring

(discussed subsequently in a context of the x-ray structure) without the loss of binding affinity and inhibition potency.

Finally, in order to explore the site of cyclohexane ring binding in *Tc*CYP51, the cyclohexanecarboxamide unit was replaced with other aliphatic carboxylamides containing a terminal phenyl ring. We found that analogs $3\mathbf{m} - 3\mathbf{r}$ have similar binding affinity to *Tc*CYP51 and comparable inhibition potency against *T. cruzi* in infected cells, compared to those of **1**. However, all of these non-azole inhibitors were rapidly degraded by liver microsome preparations in our standard stability assay using 1 mg/mL hepatic microsomal protein ($t_{1/2} = < 6$ min).

Based on the results of this early stage SAR effort (Table 2), plans to increase inhibitor potency of analogs of **1** were formulated and included strategic decisions to: (1) retain the 4-acylamimopyridine moiety as a heme binding unit; (2) retain the indole ring or extend the 5-position of the indole; and, most importantly, (3) to identify replacements for the methylcyclohexane ring to increase microsome stability and decrease inhibition of drugmetabolizing CYP enzymes.

Synthesis of LP10 analogs (1-3r)—Enantiomeric pure 1 was synthesized by the sequence summarized in Scheme 1. Briefly, the S-enantiomer of N-Boc tryptophan (Ltryptophan) was coupled with 4-aminopyridine to produce 5. Treatment of 5 with 4N HCl in dioxane followed by treatment of the deprotected amine with cyclohexanecarbonyl chloride produced enantiomerically pure 1. A similar sequence, starting from R-N-Boc tryptophan, was used to synthesize 2 (not shown). Analogs 3a and 3b were synthesized by replacing 4aminopyridine with 4-amino-2-methoxypyridine and 4-amino-3,5-dimethylisoxazole, respectively. Acylation of 6 with N-Boc-isonipecotic acid followed by treatment with TFA to effect deprotection of the Boc unit provided 3c, isolated as the HCl salt. Amine salt 3f was obtained by the alkylation of $\mathbf{6}$ and benzyl bromide. Various carboxylic acids were coupled with **6** using pentafluorophenyl trifluoroacetate as the dehyrdrating agent¹⁶ to generate 3d, 3e, and 3m - 3r. Replacements for the indole moiety of 1 were explored by using commercially available 5-hydroxytryptophan **10** as a starting material. The carboxyl and amine groups were blocked as the methyl ester and t-butyl carbamate (Boc), respectively, and 11 was treated with benzyl bromide and Cs_2CO_3 in acetone to produce 12. Hydrolysis of the methyl ester unit of 12 produced 13, from which 3k was obtained by following the procedure for the synthesis of 1.

Cyclohexyl ring replacement—Based on the initial SAR/SPR analysis, a series of inhibitors were synthesized by using various carboxylic acids to replace the cyclohexylcarboxamide unit of LP10 (Scheme 2 and Table 3). The objective was to increase microsome stability and selectivity against human CYP enzymes, while retaining or increasing inhibition potency against *T. cruzi* in infected cells. First, a benzamide was used to replace the cyclohexylcarboxamide moiety of **1**. The binding affinity ($K_D = 5$ nM), *T. cruzi* inhibition potency (EC₅₀ = 0.39 nM), microsome stability and inhibition of human CYPs of **14a** were similar to those of **1** (Table 3). The successful replacement of the cyclohexylcarboxamide encouraged us to explore additional substituted benzamide derivatives. Because the phenyl ring of the benzamide is a potential site of metabolism by human CYP enzymes,¹⁷ we anticipated that substitution at the appropriate "soft sites" of the aryl ring could block metabolic oxidation reactions and lead to inhibitors with enhanced microsome stability, while at the same time exploring available space in the active site and hopefully enhancing inhibitor potency against CYP51.

Fluoro, chloro, bromo and other substituents were added to the benzamide unit in attempts to block the potential soft site(s) on the phenyl ring of 14a. Of the set of inhibitors 14b -

14k that were synthesized in this effort, several had increased activity against *T. cruzi* in cell culture (14b, 14h, 14j, 14k) and while retaining microsome stability. Acyl groups with larger naphthyl and biaryl units were used in attempts to further improve the microsome stability (14l – 14t). Gratifyingly, many of these inhibitors had increased microsome stability, while retaining inhibitor potency. For instance, substitution of a fluorine or a bromine at the 6-position of the naphthyl ring led to 14n and 14o with enhanced microsome stability (14p, 14r, 14s, and 14t) compared to 1 and 14a. Of these, analog 14t was of particular interest as it displayed good inhibition potency ($EC_{50} = 0.19 \mu M$) against *T. cruzi* in infected cells and moderate (but improved) microsome stability ($t_{1/2} = 17/25/36 \min$) against human/rat/mouse liver microsomes.

X-ray structure of 14t complexed with *Tb***CYP51**—Although inhibitor design ultimately targeted *Tc*CYP51, the best co-crystals with **14t** that diffracted to 2.67 Å were obtained for the *Tb*CYP51 ortholog (85% sequence identity). The majority of the first tier active site residues are identical between these two parasite CYP51 enzymes, with the exception of substrate-specific F105, which is isoleucine in the *T. cruzi* counterpart. With this difference, the structural information obtained for the *Tb*CYP51-**14t** complex facilitated further rounds of structure-based design of *Tc*CYP51 inhibitors.

Inhibitor **14t** bound in the active site of CYP51 has several interesting features. First, the pyridine nitrogen of the 4-acylaminopyridine unit is coordinated to the heme iron (Fig 2), as expected from the series of the co-structures for the LP10 analogs bound to MtCYP51¹⁸. Second, the indole ring of **14t** (PDB small molecule code 18I) occupies the hydrophobic area enclosed largely by the heme macrocycle and the π -electron rich residues Y103, M106, F110, Y116, F290 plus A287 (Fig. 2A); this is the same area where the 2,4-difluorophenyl unit of posaconazole binds (Fig. 2B). Variable F105 is >5 Å away from the indole ring and within 4 Å of the carbonyl group adjacent to the biaryl moiety of **14t**, suggesting additional hydrophobic contacts with the inhibitor in *Tb*CYP51 which are missing from *T. cruzi* ortholog. Last, the biaryl ring of **14t** projects towards the solvent exposed area, as does the tail part of the posaconazole, ¹⁹ but via a different hydrophobic tunnel between the FG-loop (residues 205–210) and the hairpin of the two-stranded β -sheet at the protein C-terminus (residues 459–461) (Fig. 2C).

A hydrophobic cavity accommodating the indole ring of **14t** extends further toward F110 (Fig. 3A) to provide space sufficient to bind a substituted benzyl ring of NEE (PDB ID 4H6O) (Fig. 3B) or a rigid biaryl moiety of VNF (PDB ID 3KSW) (Fig. 3C). In addition to F110, the cavity is enclosed by Y116, providing stacking interactions with the 4-chloro-3,5-dimethylbenzyl unit of NEE, as well as by the aliphatic hydrophobic residues A115, M123, L127, L130, A287, and hydrophilic neutral Q126. Presumably, the bulky substituents at the 5-position of the indole ring in analog **3k** bind in this cavity.

Synthesis of aryl carboxylic acids—The biaryl carboxylic acid intermediates were prepared by palladium-mediated coupling reactions of commercially available 4-bromo-2fluorobenzoic acid **15** with various aryl boronic acids (Scheme 3). This reaction was performed under microwave irradiation (100 °C for 1 h) and provided products **16** in >90% yields. Intermediate **17** was obtained by the Heck reaction of **15** and 1-chloro-4vinylbenzene in the presence of Pd(OAc)₂. Nucleophilic aromatic substitution of **15** with aniline yielded biarylamine **19**. Phenylacetylene was coupled with ester **18** to provide the biaryl acetylene **21a**, which was hydrolyzed under basic conditions to afford **21b**. Treatment of methyl 4-bromo-2-fluorobenzoate (**18**) with morpholine or N-Boc-piperazine at 50° C in toluene gave **22** and **23**; by-products were obtained when this reaction was performed at

higher temperature (ca. 100 °C). The N-Boc protecting group of **23** was removed by treatment with TFA. Aryl sulfonylamide **25b** and N-benzylpiperazine **26b** were obtained by the reactions of amine **24** with benzenesulfonyl chloride and benzyl bromide followed by ester hydrolysis under basic conditions, respectively. All benzoic acid derivatives were coupled with indole derivative **6** to generate the inhibitors **27** (Table 4) by using the reaction conditions in Scheme 2.

Structure and property guided optimization of 14t—The terminal phenyl ring of **14t** was extensively modified since it is oriented toward the solvent accessible area and opportunities existed to enhance microsome stability and minimize inhibition of human CYP enzymes through such modifications. Indeed, the substituted biaryl derivatives **27a** – **27n** exhibited enhanced microsome stability, while retaining their inhibition of *T. cruzi* in cell-based assays. It should be noted that all these compounds had low nM affinity for *Tc*CYP51 (Table 4). Of particular interest is that the potency of **27i** in the cell-based *T. cruzi* assay was increased 50-fold (EC₅₀ = 0.014 μ M) compared to that of LP10. Furthermore, **27i** exhibited substantially diminished inhibition of human CYP enzymes (10/91/38/69% inhibition of human CYP1A2/2C9/2D6/3A4 at 1 μ M). The microsome stability of analog **27k** significantly increased (t_{1/2} = 34/125/83 min, for human, rat and mouse liver microsomes, respectively), and its inhibition of human CYP enzymes was also significantly decreased (% inhibition = 0/85/16/21% at 1 μ M), while retaining sub-micromolar potency against *T. cruzi* in infected cells (EC₅₀ = 0.23 μ M).

Lastly, the potency, microsome stability, and CYP selectivity of several aminoarylcontaining analogs was assessed. The morpholinoaryl and sulfonylpiperazine derivatives **27q** and **27r** showed excellent anti-*T. cruzi* potency (EC₅₀ = 0.057 and 0.018 μ M, respectively), but were moderately stable only in rat liver microsomes (t_{1/2} = 19 min). Interestingly, the inhibition potency of amine salt **27s** was slightly improved compared to that of LP10. As discussed previously, the amine salts **3c** – **3f** lost binding affinity and inhibition potency due to the conflict between the polar ammonium ion and the hydrophobic active site of *Tc*CYP51. However, based on the co-crystal structure of **14t** and *Tb*CYP51 (Fig. 3), the polar ammonium ion of **27s** can be oriented toward the solvent accessible area (Fig. 4). The microsome stability of **27s** was also significantly increased, particularly in rat and mouse liver microsomes (t_{1/2} = 36 and 41 min respectively), and inhibition of human CYPs was notably decreased. Finally, the inhibition potency of **27t**, which also possesses a basic amine, was ca. 20-fold increased (EC₅₀ = 0.039 μ M) compared to LP10; **27t** was also fairly stable in rat and mouse liver microsomes (t_{1/2} = 26 and 20 min, respectively) and exhibited good selectivity toward human CYP enzymes (0/87/51/61% inhibition at 1 μ M).

Binding poses of inhibitors 27—All potent inhibitors **27** in Table 4 were docked in the 3D structure of TcCYP51, generated from the x-ray co-crystal structure of TbCYP51 complexed with **14t**, by using Glide XP mode.²⁰ In the results of docking studies, the terminal 3-fluoro-4-hydroxylphenyl ring of **27l** (Fig 4A) and the protonated secondary amine of the piperazine unit of **27s** (Fig 4B) are oriented towards the solvent accessible area. This analysis suggested that unfilled space near the phenolic hydroxyl group of **27l**, could be filled by other substituents, as is the case with O-methyl (in **27i**) and O-benzyl (in **27k**) derivatives. This speculation is consistent with the excellent potency of benzenesulfonamide (**27r**) and benzylamine (**27t**) substituted inhibitors against *T. cruzi*, both of which have relatively large groups that may project into the unfilled region identified above (Fig. 4C, D).

CONCLUSION

The non-azole, indolylpyridinecarboxamide-based CYP51 inhibitor LP10, identified by HTS, was shown in prior studies to have moderate potency (EC₅₀ = 0.65 μ M) against T. cruzi in cell culture and to be effective in an acute mouse model of T. cruzi infection (60% cure rate).¹⁴ Accordingly, LP10 was selected as the starting point for hit-to-lead optimization, with the objective of improving activity against T. cruzi in cell culture, as well as improving microsome stability and enhancing selectivity against the human CYPs 1A2, 2C9, 2D6 and 3A4. A series of first-generation biaryl inhibitors (e.g., 14t) were synthesized and shown to have improved microsome stability and enhanced in vitro inhibitor potency (Table 2). The x-ray co-crystal structure of *Tb*CYP51 with bound 14t was determined and employed in structure-based design of the next round of CYP51 inhibitors. Several potent inhibitors such as 27i, 27q, 27r, and 27t (EC₅₀ = 14, 57, 18 and 39 nM against T. cruzi) were developed and had the same or better microsome stability compared to LP10, as well as enhanced selectivity against human CYPs. The microsome stability of many other inhibitors containing biaryl units, particularly 14t, 27k, 27l, 27p, and 27s, was improved, as was the selectivity of 27k and 27s when tested against the battery of human CYPs. However, 14t, 27k, 27l, and 27p were only moderately more potent against T. cruzi in cell culture than LP10 (EC₅₀ = 190 to 470 nM).

Especially noteworthy is that the binding mode of **14t** in the co-crystal structure with *Tb*CYP51 is similar to that of posaconazole with the exception that the biaryl unit of **14t** extends towards the solvent accessible area though a different hydrophobic tunnel than used by posaconazole (Fig. 2B,C). The indole ring of **14t** occupies the same hydrophobic cavity as the 2,4-difluorophenyl moiety of posaconazole. The cavity extends beyond these groups along the heme macrocycle and has sufficient space to accommodate an alkoxy group attached to C5 of the indole nucleus (inhibitor **3k**).

In summary, the SAR/SPR analysis presented here provides a basis to understand the structural features that lead to enhanced biochemical, cell-based activity and microsome stability of the LP10 series of CYP51 inhibitors. The 4-acylaminopyridine and indole rings of the new inhibitors contribute to their ability to bind tightly to both CYP51 and the human metabolic CYPs in liver microsomes. Introduction of a structurally rigid biaryl unit with appropriately placed substituents resulted in enhanced stability of inhibitors in liver microsomes and also contributed to decreased inhibition of human CYP enzymes, culminating in inhibitor **27k**. In addition, our results show that the binding affinity and inhibition of *Tc*CYP51 as well as other CYP enzymes is highly dependent on the position of amine substituents in the inhibitors due to the hydrophobic nature of the inhibitor binding sites of these enzymes (see data for 3c - 3f against 27s and **27t**). On the other hand, appropriately placed amine substituents contribute to enhanced microsome stability and diminished inhibition of human CYP enzymes. The design of future generations of CYP51 inhibitors should take these considerations into account.

Experimental Section

Chemistry, General Methods

All reaction solvents were purified before use. Dichloromethane, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide and toluene were purified by passing through a column of activated A-1 alumina. All other reagents purchased from commercial suppliers were used as received. All reactions sensitive to moisture or oxygen were conducted under an argon atmosphere using flame-dried (under vacuum) or oven-dried (overnight) glassware. Removal of solvents was accomplished by using a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure in a water bath below 35

°C, followed by exposure to high vacuum using a vacuum pump. Microwave assisted reactions were performed using a Biotage® Initiator microwave reactor.

Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H NMR) spectra and carbon (¹³C) NMR spectra were recorded on a commercially available NMR spectrometer at 400 MHz and 100 MHz, respectively. The proton signal for non-deuterated solvent (δ 7.26 for CHCl₃ or δ 2.50 for DMSO) was used as an internal reference for ¹H NMR chemical shifts. Coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hertz (Hz). ¹³C chemical shifts are reported relative to the δ 77.16 resonance of CDCl₃ or the δ 39.52 resonance of DMSO-d₆.

Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using glass plates precoated with a 0.25-mm thickness of silica gel. The TLC plates were visualized with UV light. Column chromatography was performed using a Biotage® Isolera flash purification system using Biotage® SNAP HP-SIL cartridge (30 μ m silica, 10 g to 100 g size). Unless noted otherwise, all compounds isolated by chromatography were sufficiently pure by ¹H NMR analysis for use in subsequent reactions. Polar compounds were purified using preparative high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) using SunFire column (30 mm \times 250 mm) with a linear gradient elution at 60 mL/min.

The purity of all final compounds (typically 96%) was assayed at 254 nm wavelength by using analytical HPLC (Varian 1100 series) on a reverse phase ZORBAX Eclipse XDB-C18 column (4.6×150 mm, 5 µm). A linear gradient elution ranging from 2% to 98% CH₃CN and H₂O (containing 0.1% TFA and 1% CH₃CN) at 1.5 mL/min was used. Compounds were lyophilized before dissolution in DMSO to give 10 mM stock solutions for use in biochemical and cell-based assays.

Synthesis of inhibitors 1, 2, 3, 14 and 27 by acylation of trytophan pyridinyl carboxamide (6)

General Procedure A. To a solution of a substituted benzoic or naphthoic acid (ca.1.2 eq), PyBOP (ca. 1.4 eq) and HOBt (ca. 10 mol%) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL) was slowly added triethylamine (ca. 4 eq.) at ambient temperature over 15 min. After the reaction mixture became homogenous, **6** was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. After completion of the reaction as determined by TLC analysis, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was dissolved in ethyl acetate (10 mL) and was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (2 mL × 2) and brine (2 mL × 2). The organic layer was concentrated in vacuo and directly subjected to purification by flash chromatography to provide the amide products in ca. 80% yield.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-

yl)cyclohexanecarboxamide, (1)—To a solution of 6 (0.112 g, 0.353 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) were added cyclohexanecarbonyl chloride (0.06 mL) and (iPr)₂EtN (0.1 mL) at 0 °C After 10 min, the reaction mixture was warmed to ambient temperature and stirred for 1 h. After completion of the reaction monitored by TLC, ethyl acetate (40 mL) was added to the crude mixture, which was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (10 mL × 2) and brine (10 mL × 2). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the crude product by flash chromatography provided **1** as a light yellow solid (0.103 g, 0.263 mmol, 75%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.81 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.56 (s, 1H), 8.50 – 8.38 (m, 2H), 8.06 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.73 – 7.55 (m, 3H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.00 – 6.89 (m, 1H), 4.67 (td, J = 8.4, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.22 – 2.94 (m, 2H), 2.19 (ddd, J = 11.1, 7.7, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (dt, J = 41.4, 10.3 Hz, 5H), 1.20 (dddd, J = 29.7, 15.4, 12.1, 5.8 Hz, 5H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 175.36, 172.31,

149.72, 146.03, 135.97, 127.19, 123.64, 120.88, 118.50, 118.16, 113.42, 111.24, 109.67, 54.21, 43.45, 29.09, 28.98, 27.58, 25.42, 25.21, 25.16. MS (ESI) 391 m/z [M + H]⁺

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-((2-methoxypyridin-4-yl)amino)-1-oxopropan-2yl)cyclohexanecarboxamide (3a)—Compound 3a was obtained by following the procedure for the synthesis of 1 (69%) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.78 (s, 1H), 8.20 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 7.14 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 7.02 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, J = 5.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.93 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.42 – 3.16 (m, 2H), 2.13 – 2.06 (m, 1H), 1.87 – 1.55 (m, 5H), 1.48 – 1.03 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.24, 170.87, 165.37, 147.42, 146.95, 136.35, 127.39, 123.32, 122.63, 120.07, 118.83, 111.49, 110.41, 108.43, 99.77, 54.54, 53.73, 45.26, 29.61, 29.53, 27.76, 25.74, 25.68, 25.63. MS (ESI) 421 m/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-5-Bromo-N-(1-((3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)amino)-3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1oxopropan-2-yl)-2-fluorobenzamide (3b)—Compound 3b (75%) was obtained as a white solid by following the general procedure A with 5-bromo-2-fluorobenzoic acid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.90 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 9.48 (s, 1H), 8.71 (dd, J = 7.3, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.82 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (dd, J = 8.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (dd, J = 10.0, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (ddd, J = 7.9, 6.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (td, J = 7.8, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.39 – 3.09 (m, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.95 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 170.77, 162.42, 162.36, 159.74, 157.49, 157.25, 136.09, 135.13, 132.41, 132.38, 127.26, 125.69, 125.53, 123.89, 120.97, 118.77, 118.53, 118.44, 118.31, 115.91, 115.88, 113.94, 111.34, 109.48, 54.59, 27.43, 10.57, 9.22. MS (ESI) 499/501 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)piperidine-4-

carboxamide hydrochloride (3c)—To a solution of 9 (0.12 g, 0.25 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) was added trifluoroacetic acid (0.5 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. After removing solvent under reduced pressure, the reaction mixture was directly subjected to HPLC, and the product **3c** (58 mg, 0.15 mmol, 47%) was obtained as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 11.44 (s, 1H), 10.90 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.80 (s, 1H), 8.68 – 8.61 (m, 2H), 8.49 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.00 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.21 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.18 – 6.91 (m, 3H), 4.72 (ddd, J = 9.0, 7.3, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.30 – 3.15 (m, 2H), 3.09 (dd, J = 14.6, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.95 – 2.73 (m, 2H), 1.85 (dd, J = 14.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.79 – 1.51 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 173.41, 173.12, 158.33, 158.02, 151.00, 144.33, 136.02, 127.09, 123.92, 120.95, 118.24, 115.59, 114.26, 111.33, 109.20, 54.90, 42.28, 38.28, 27.28, 24.98. MS (ESI) 392.4 *m/z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-1-

methylpiperidine-4-carboxamide (3d)—Compound **3d** (47%) as a yellow solid was obtained by following the procedure for the synthesis of **9** with 1-methylpiperidine-4-carboxylic acid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 11.31 (s, 1H), 10.93 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.67 – 8.44 (m, 3H), 7.84 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.08 – 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.94 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.44 – 3.27 (m, 2H), 3.27 – 3.02 (m, 2H), 2.99 – 2.76 (m, 2H), 2.66 (s, 3H), 2.04 – 1.57 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 173.03, 172.60, 148.52, 147.02, 139.68, 136.01, 127.21, 123.87, 120.91, 118.57, 118.22, 113.87, 111.32, 109.45, 108.75, 54.91, 52.45, 42.47, 38.41, 27.54, 25.67. MS (ESI) 406 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

N-((S)-3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-1-

methylpiperidine-3-carboxamide (3e)—Compound **3e** (light yellow, racemic mixture) was obtained by following the procedure for the synthesis of **9** with 1-methylpiperidine-3-carboxylic acid (58%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 11.57 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 10.95 (dd, J = 14.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.75 (dd, J = 19.9, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (dd, J = 6.1, 3.7 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.37 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.11 – 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.95 (dd, J = 7.6, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.40 – 2.72 (m, 6H), 2.67 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 3H), 2.05 – 1.68 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.71, 158.41, 158.11, 150.31, 145.03, 136.03, 136.00, 127.15, 124.02, 120.91, 118.69, 118.57, 118.28, 115.71, 114.18, 114.12, 111.35, 109.26, 109.20, 55.10, 53.74, 52.86, 42.79, 27.24, 25.46, 22.52, 21.87. MS (ESI) 406 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-2-((2-Fluorobenzyl)amino)-3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-N-(pyridin-4-yl)propanamide

hydrochloride (3f)—To a solution of **6** (0.107 g, 0.338 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ were added Et3N (0.05 mL) and 2-fluorobenzylbromide (0.06 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. Solvent was removed by using rotary evaporator, and the product mixture was directly subjected to HPLC. The product **3f** (38.7 mg, 0.0997 mmol, 30%) was obtained as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.86 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.94 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (dd, J = 7.3, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.90 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.42 – 7.21 (m, 6H), 7.18 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08 – 6.92 (m, 3H), 6.73 (dd, J = 7.6, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (s, 2H), 4.51 (td, J = 8.6, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.44 – 2.98 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.66, 158.96, 156.65, 143.80, 141.67, 136.00, 131.30, 130.44, 130.41, 127.04, 125.12, 125.08, 124.07, 122.52, 120.95, 118.37, 115.92, 115.72, 111.32, 111.11, 109.13, 105.57, 56.65, 54.15, 28.01. MS (ESI) 389 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(Benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-

yl)cyclohexanecarboxamide (3g)—Compound **3g** (68%) was obtained as a white solid by following the procedure for the synthesis of **1** with Boc-L-3-benzothienylalanine. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.58 (s, 1H), 8.54 – 8.37 (m, 2H), 8.23 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.05 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.67 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.44 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 4.81 (ddd, J = 9.5, 7.9, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.46 – 3.05 (m, 2H), 2.17 (ddd, J = 10.9, 7.5, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 1.77 – 1.44 (m, 6H), 1.36 – 1.01 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 175.44, 171.62, 150.29, 145.48, 139.47, 138.62, 131.74, 124.27, 123.96, 123.89, 122.81, 121.99, 113.43, 52.91, 43.50, 30.44, 29.12, 28.89, 25.41, 25.22, 25.13. MS (ESI) 408.2 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-

yl)cyclohexanecarboxamide (3h)—Compound **3h** (67%) was obtained as a white solid by following the procedure for the synthesis of **1** with Boc-L-1-naphthylalanine. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.47 (s, 1H), 8.49 – 8.37 (m, 2H), 8.24 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.91 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.46 (m, 4H), 7.46 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 4.82 (td, J = 8.5, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 3.61 – 3.26 (m, 2H), 2.16 (dtd, J = 15.7, 8.4, 7.6, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 1.73 – 1.41 (m, 5H), 1.36 – 0.95 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 175.39, 171.60, 150.31, 145.38, 133.33, 133.24, 131.67, 128.51, 127.29, 127.13, 126.07, 125.57, 125.22, 123.92, 113.48, 53.85, 43.47, 34.49, 29.14, 28.87, 25.41, 25.22, 25.12. MS (ESI) 402.3 *m*/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1-Methyl-1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-

yl)cyclohexanecarboxamide (3i)—Compound **3i** (51%) was obtained as a yellow solid by following the procedures for the synthesis of **13** and **1** starting with 1-methyl-L-tryptophan. $R_f = 0.57$ (10% MeOH in ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.46 (s, 1H), 8.51 – 8.33 (m, 2H), 8.04 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.60 –

7.51 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.17 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 6.99 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (td, J = 8.2, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.21 - 2.95 (m, 2H), 2.29 - 2.14 (m, 1H), 1.77 - 1.49 (m, 5H), 1.40 - 1.01 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 175.37, 172.06, 150.30, 145.48, 136.45, 128.04, 127.53, 121.02, 118.80, 118.26, 113.35, 109.45, 109.13, 54.24, 43.45, 32.26, 29.05, 29.00, 27.50, 25.42, 25.20, 25.15. MS (ESI) 405 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(5-Hydroxy-1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2vi)cvclohexanecarboxamide (3i)—To a solution of 3k (0.328 g. 0.66 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) was added 10% Pd/C (ca. 30 mg) at room temperature. After air was removed from the flask using a vacuum pump, hydrogen gas was introduced using a balloon. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1h, and the flask was evacuated under vacuum and refilled with hydrogen gas. This procedure was repeated three times, and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at ambient temperature. Palladium on carbon was removed by filtration through Celite pad. The filtrate was collected and evaporated to give the crude product, which was purified by flash chromatography to afford the product **3** as a brown solid (0.077 g, 0.19 mmol, 29%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.47 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.48 – 8.33 (m, 2H), 8.01 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.3) Hz, 1H), 4.63 (td, J = 8.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.15 – 2.83 (m, 2H), 2.19 (ddd, J = 14.4, 9.5, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 1.91 (s, 1H), 1.63 (dd, J = 32.3, 11.3 Hz, 5H), 1.38 – 1.00 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 175.33, 172.27, 150.30, 150.20, 145.50, 130.54, 127.96, 123.98, 113.36, 111.46, 111.24, 108.72, 102.55, 54.02, 43.46, 29.13, 28.99, 27.67, 25.43, 25.23, 25.17, 21.07. MS (ESI) 407 m/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(5-(Benzyloxy)-1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2yl)cyclohexanecarboxamide (3k)—The procedure for the synthesis of 1 was followed using 13 to provide 3k as a light yellow solid (52%, over 3 steps). $R_f = 0.21$ (100% ethyl acetate), $R_f = 0.63$ (10% MeOH in ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.67 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 10.52 (s, 1H), 8.41 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 8.08 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 5.16 – 4.90 (m, 2H), 4.66 (td, J = 8.3, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.17 – 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.27 – 2.13 (m, 1H), 1.61 (dt, J = 32.1, 11.7 Hz, 5H), 1.36 – 1.00 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 175.32, 172.24, 152.06, 150.32, 145.51, 137.78, 131.34, 128.33, 127.65, 127.60, 124.45, 113.34, 111.80, 111.40, 109.58, 102.22, 69.90, 54.28, 43.51, 29.08, 29.00, 27.73, 25.43, 25.22, 25.18. MS (ESI) 497 m/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-4,4-

difluorocyclohexanecarboxamide (3I)—The procedure for the synthesis of **9** was followed using 4,4-difluorocyclohexanecarboxylic acid to provide **3I** as a light yellow solid (41%). $R_f = 0.39$ (100% ethyl acetate), ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.81 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 10.51 (s, 1H), 8.52 – 8.37 (m, 2H), 8.23 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.31 (dt, J = 8.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (td, J = 8.4, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.24 – 2.94 (m, 2H), 2.42 – 2.29 (m, 1H), 2.07 – 1.37 (m, 8H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 173.93, 172.03, 150.33, 145.46, 135.99, 127.19, 123.65, 120.91, 118.52, 118.17, 113.36, 111.25, 109.63, 54.19, 40.44, 30.67, 27.65, 25.52, 25.43, 25.38, 25.29. MS (ESI) 427.1 m/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-2-(2-phenylacetamido)-N-(pyridin-4-yl)propanamide (3m) — The procedure for the synthesis of 1 was followed using 2-phenylacetyl chloride to provide 3m as a yellow solid (61%). $R_f = 0.30$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz,

DMSO-d₆) δ 10.94 – 10.73 (m, 1H), 10.54 (s, 1H), 8.50 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.46 – 8.31 (m, 2H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.09 (m, 6H), 7.05 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (td, J = 8.3, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H), 3.25 – 2.97 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.93, 170.16, 150.33, 145.42, 136.20, 136.02, 128.96, 128.08, 127.17, 126.21, 123.74, 120.90, 118.51, 118.22, 113.37, 111.26, 109.47, 68.24, 54.48, 41.85. MS (ESI) 399 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-2-(3-phenylpropanamido)-N-(pyridin-4-yl)propanamide

(3n)—The procedure for the synthesis of 9 was followed using 3-phenylpropanoic acid to provide 3n as a yellow solid (73%). $R_f = 0.33$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.81 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.50 (s, 1H), 8.50 – 8.37 (m, 2H), 8.30 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.25 – 7.09 (m, 6H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (td, J = 8.2, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.25 – 2.92 (m, 2H), 2.74 (dd, J = 8.7, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (dd, J = 8.8, 6.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.01, 171.53, 150.31, 145.46, 141.20, 136.02, 128.19, 128.14, 127.19, 125.79, 123.64, 120.91, 118.50, 118.21, 113.37, 111.27, 109.62, 54.38, 36.68, 30.96, 27.66. MS (ESI) 413 *m*/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-4-

phenylbutanamide (30)—The procedure for the synthesis of **9** was followed using 4-phenylbutanoic acid to provide **30** as a yellow solid (67%). $R_f = 0.33$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.28 (s, 1H), 8.37 – 8.26 (m, 2H), 7.57 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.32 (dt, J = 8.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (s, 3H), 7.20 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 7.09 – 7.04 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.42 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dd, J = 7.0, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 2.54 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.18 (td, J = 7.4, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 1.87 (p, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.04, 171.16, 149.27, 145.96, 141.20, 136.36, 128.60, 128.53, 127.32, 126.26, 123.40, 122.64, 120.09, 118.58, 114.05, 111.62, 110.09, 54.97, 35.73, 35.09, 27.78, 27.01. MS (ESI) 427 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-2-(3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanamido)-N-(pyridin-4-

yl)propanamide (3p)—The procedure for the synthesis of **9** was followed using 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanoic acid to provide **3p** as a yellow solid (34%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.98 (s, 1H), 8.42 – 8.33 (m, 2H), 8.33 – 8.24 (m, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.18 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.02 – 6.94 (m, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.75 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 6.40 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.34 – 3.12 (m, 2H), 2.88 – 2.74 (m, 2H), 2.46 (t, J= 7.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.49, 170.91, 158.26, 149.75, 145.45, 136.33, 132.29, 129.35, 127.36, 123.40, 122.62, 120.08, 118.57, 114.14, 114.01, 111.59, 110.04, 55.38, 54.84, 38.40, 30.65, 27.40. MS (ESI) 443 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-N-(pyridin-4-yl)-2-(3-(4-

(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propanamido)-propanamide (3q)—The procedure for the synthesis of **9** was followed using 3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propanoic acid to provide **3q** as a yellow solid (17%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.71 (s, 1H), 8.41 – 8.34 (m, 2H), 8.29 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (dt, J = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 7.09 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.42 – 3.13 (m, 2H), 2.94 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (td, J = 7.5, 2.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.70, 170.71, 149.97, 145.17, 144.48, 136.38, 128.74, 127.26, 125.66, 125.62, 125.58, 123.41, 122.77, 120.22, 118.55, 113.93, 111.68, 110.03, 54.90, 37.53, 31.13, 27.62. MS (ESI) 481 *m*/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-4-(4-

fluorophenyl)butanamide (3r)—The procedure for the synthesis of **9** was followed using 4-(4-fluorophenyl)butanoic acid to provide **3r** as a solid (86%). $R_f = 0.24$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.91 – 10.76 (m, 1H), 10.54 (s, 1H), 8.53 – 8.37 (m, 2H), 8.23 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.15 – 7.00 (m, 5H), 6.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (td, J = 8.5, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.23 – 2.93 (m, 2H), 2.44 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.23 – 2.01 (m, 2H), 1.70 (p, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.22, 172.05, 161.75, 159.35, 150.07, 145.72, 137.85, 137.82, 136.02, 130.01, 129.93, 127.17, 123.66, 120.91, 118.53, 118.19, 114.93, 114.72, 113.39, 111.27, 109.67, 54.36, 34.30, 33.54, 27.60, 26.99. MS (ESI) 445 *m*/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-tert-Butyl (3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-

yl)carbamate, (5)—To a solution of N-Boc-L-tryptophan (1.0 g, 3.3 mmol), PyBOP (2.0 g, 3.9 mmol), and HOBt (0.29 g) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) was slowly added triethylamine (1.5 mL, ca. 4 eq.) at 0 °C, and the reaction mixture was stirred and warmed to ambient temperature for 15 min. After the mixture was cooled to 0 °C, 4-aminopyridine (0.39 g, 4.1 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. After completion of the reaction monitored by TLC, ethyl acetate (80 mL) was added to the crude mixture, which was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (20 mL \times 2) and brine (20 mL \times 2). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. Purification of the crude product by flash chromatography provided 0.98 g (94%) of 5 as a light yellow solid. $R_f = 0.45$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.07 (s, 1H), 8.86 (dd, J = 23.3, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 8.36 – 8.23 (m, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 5.57 (q, J = 7.5, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (s, 1H), 3.40 – 3.15 (m, 2H), 1.39 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) & 171.75, 156.25, 150.26, 145.03, 136.47, 127.27, 123.51, 122.34, 119.79, 118.62, 113.90, 111.52, 109.94, 80.82, 56.04, 28.37, 22.61. MS (ESI) 381 m/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)benzamide

(14a)—The procedure for the synthesis of 1 was followed using benzoyl chloride to provide 14a as a solid (99%). $R_f = 0.39$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.82 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.64 (s, 1H), 8.74 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.56 – 8.37 (m, 2H), 7.92 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.75 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.67 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.58 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (ddd, J = 9.1, 7.5, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.41 – 3.15 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.19, 166.50, 150.33, 145.55, 136.03, 133.75, 131.42, 128.19, 127.50, 127.15, 123.87, 120.95, 118.60, 118.22, 113.41, 111.32, 109.95, 55.28, 27.24. MS (ESI) 385 m/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-2-

fluorobenzamide (14b)—The procedure for the synthesis of **1** was followed using 2-fluorobenzoyl chloride to provide **14b** as a light yellow solid (49%). $R_f = 0.18$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.87 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.63 (s, 1H), 8.50 (dd, J = 7.3, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 8.47 – 8.29 (m, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (qd, J = 5.3, 1.8 Hz, 3H), 7.57 – 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.31 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (ddd, J = 7.9, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (td, J = 8.1, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.40 – 3.11 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.52, 163.60, 160.61, 158.13, 150.37, 145.46, 136.06, 132.77, 130.33, 130.30, 127.17, 124.45, 124.41, 123.93, 123.09, 122.95, 120.97, 118.48, 118.25, 116.24, 116.02, 113.43, 111.33, 109.35, 55.08, 27.41. MS (ESI) 403 m/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-3-

fluorobenzamide (14c)—The procedure for the synthesis of **1** was followed using 3-fluorobenzoyl chloride to provide **14c** as a yellow solid (51%). $R_f = 0.21$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.82 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.66 (s, 1H), 8.88 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (dt, J = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.63 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.51 (td, J = 8.0, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (td, J = 8.3, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.02 – 6.94 (m, 1H), 4.89 (ddd, J = 9.4, 7.5, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.45 – 3.16 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.99, 165.18, 163.07, 150.26, 145.60, 136.03, 130.45, 127.13, 123.86, 123.72, 120.97, 118.59, 118.24, 113.45, 111.33, 109.86, 55.38, 27.22. MS (ESI) 403.2 m/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-3-

phenoxybenzamide (14d)—The procedure for the synthesis of **9** was followed using 3-phenoxybenzoic acid to provide **14d** as a white solid (84%). $R_f = 0.60$ (10% MeOH in ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.80 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.63 (s, 1H), 8.82 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.55 – 8.40 (m, 2H), 7.73 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (dt, J = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.36 (m, 4H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 7.09 – 7.00 (m, 3H), 7.00 – 6.92 (m, 1H), 4.86 (ddd, J = 9.3, 7.5, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.32 – 3.11 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.06, 165.66, 156.62, 156.39, 150.31, 145.54, 136.01, 135.63, 130.15, 129.98, 127.12, 123.85, 123.73, 122.54, 121.68, 120.94, 118.73, 118.59, 118.22, 117.57, 113.42, 111.31, 109.91, 55.34, 27.18. MS (ESI) 477 m/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-4-

(trifluoromethyl)benzamide (14e)—The procedure for the synthesis of 1 was followed using 4-trifluoromethylbenzoyl chloride to provide 14e as a white solid (50%). $R_f = 0.27$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.81 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.66 (s, 1H), 9.04 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.58 – 8.27 (m, 2H), 8.05 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (ddd, J = 7.9, 6.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (ddd, J = 9.3, 7.5, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.39 – 3.15 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.87, 165.37, 150.36, 145.48, 137.51, 136.03, 128.43, 127.14, 125.26, 123.82, 120.97, 118.58, 118.24, 113.44, 111.32, 109.84, 55.39, +27.25. MS (ESI) 453.3 *m*/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-4-

methoxybenzamide (14f)—The procedure for the synthesis of **1** was followed using 4methoxybenzoyl chloride to provide **14f** as a yellow solid (90%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.81 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.62 (s, 1H), 8.58 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.47 – 8.37 (m, 2H), 7.90 – 7.81 (m, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.31 (dt, J = 8.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14 – 6.88 (m, 4H), 4.86 (ddd, J = 9.1, 7.5, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 3H), 3.39 – 3.18 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.39, 165.96, 161.71, 150.34, 145.57, 136.02, 129.38, 127.16, 125.94, 123.85, 120.93, 118.61, 118.22, 113.39, 111.31, 110.02, 55.34, 55.25, 27.24. MS (ESI) 415 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-2-

chlorobenzamide (14g)—The procedure for the synthesis of **1** was followed using 2-chlorobenzoyl chloride to provide **14g** as a yellow solid (83%). $R_f = 0.54$ (10% MeOH in ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.95 – 10.79 (m, 1H), 10.59 (s, 1H), 8.85 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.50 – 8.35 (m, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.50 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.24 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.11 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 6.98 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (td, J = 8.5, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.42 – 3.08 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz,

DMSO-d₆) δ 171.53, 166.33, 150.35, 145.49, 136.16, 136.04, 130.90, 130.06, 129.59, 129.09, 127.19, 126.89, 123.84, 120.93, 118.53, 118.21, 113.40, 111.28, 109.57, 54.85, 27.39. MS (ESI) 419 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-2,5-

difluorobenzamide (14h)—The procedure for the synthesis of **1** was followed using 2,5difluorobenzoyl chloride to provide **14h** as a light yellow solid (50%). $R_f = 0.39$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 12.31 (s, 1H), 11.00 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.83 (dd, J = 7.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 8.72 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 8.31 – 8.15 (m, 2H), 7.72 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 7.10 – 6.98 (m, 1H), 6.93 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (ddd, J = 8.9, 7.0, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.50 – 3.18 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.85, 162.66, 158.86, 156.79, 156.46, 154.35, 152.93, 142.15, 136.07, 127.15, 124.34, 124.27, 124.18, 124.11, 120.98, 119.60, 119.51, 119.36, 119.27, 118.58, 118.30, 118.23, 118.06, 117.98, 116.53, 116.50, 116.28, 116.25, 114.62, 114.56, 111.38, 108.94, 55.95, 26.99. MS (ESI) 421 *m/z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-2,4-

difluorobenzamide (14i)—The procedure for the synthesis of **1** was followed using 2,4difluorobenzoyl chloride to provide **14i** as a light yellow solid (68%). $R_f = 0.39$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.93 – 10.83 (m, 1H), 10.65 (s, 1H), 8.54 (dd, J = 7.4, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 8.49 – 8.39 (m, 2H), 7.66 (dd, J = 8.3, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.63 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.34 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (td, J = 8.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (td, J = 8.2, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.53 – 3.08 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.48, 162.83, 162.22, 150.37, 145.45, 136.05, 131.99, 127.15, 123.92, 120.97, 119.77, 119.73, 118.47, 118.25, 113.43, 111.65, 111.33, 109.33, 104.59, 55.13, 27.40. MS (ESI) 421 *m/z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-5-bromo-2-

fluorobenzamide (14j)—The general procedure A was followed using 5-bromo-2fluorobenzoic acid to provide **14j** as a light yellow solid (67%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.87 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 10.63 (s, 1H), 8.74 (dd, J = 7.5, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.51 – 8.37 (m, 2H), 7.72 (ddd, J = 8.7, 4.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.62 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (dd, J = 10.0, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.10 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.97 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (td, J = 8.3, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.39 – 3.07 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.33, 162.38, 150.37, 145.41, 136.03, 132.41, 127.17, 123.85, 120.98, 118.55, 118.48, 118.26, 115.94, 113.44, 111.33, 109.37, 55.16, 27.40. MS (ESI) 481/483 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-4-bromo-2-

fluorobenzamide (14k)—The general procedure A was followed using 4-bromo-2-fluorobenzoic acid to provide **14k** as a yellow solid (70%). $R_f = 0.30$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.86 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 10.67 (s, 1H), 8.62 (dd, J = 7.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 8.51 – 8.36 (m, 2H), 7.70 – 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.63 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (td, J = 8.2, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.50 – 3.04 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.44, 162.92, 157.93, 150.14, 145.64, 136.04, 131.77, 127.70, 127.14, 123.90, 120.97, 119.41, 118.47, 118.25, 113.46, 111.33, 109.29, 55.14, 27.39. MS (ESI) 481/483 *m/z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-2-naphthamide (14I)—The general procedure A was followed using 2-naphthoic acid to provide 14k as a yellow solid (24%). $R_f = 0.30$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.83

(s, 1H), 10.67 (s, 1H), 8.91 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.48 (s, 1H), 8.44 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 8.12 – 7.87 (m, 4H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.52 (m, 4H), 7.32 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (dt, J = 23.4, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.96 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.44 – 3.21 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.15, 166.52, 150.35, 145.54, 136.04, 134.20, 132.03, 131.08, 128.82, 127.88, 127.77, 127.69, 127.61, 127.22, 126.74, 124.31, 123.86, 120.96, 118.63, 118.25, 113.43, 111.33, 109.98, 55.42, 27.33. MS (ESI) 435 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-1-fluoro-2naphthamide (14m)—The procedure for the synthesis of 1 was followed using 1fluoro-2-naphthoic acid to provide 14m as a yellow solid (61%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.97 – 10.83 (m, 1H), 10.67 (s, 1H), 8.67 (dd, J = 7.5, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 8.51 – 8.42 (m, 2H), 8.23 – 8.08 (m, 1H), 8.08 – 7.98 (m, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.75 – 7.56 (m, 6H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (td, J = 8.0, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.48 – 3.15 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.51, 163.76, 150.31, 145.52, 136.06, 135.32, 128.53, 127.68, 127.45, 127.22, 125.52, 123.89, 123.76, 122.60, 122.43, 120.97, 118.49, 118.26, 113.45, 111.33, 109.39, 55.21, 27.49. MS (ESI) 453 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-6-fluoro-2-naphthamide (14n)—The general procedure A was followed using 6-fluoro-2-naphthoic acid to provide 14n as a light yellow solid (42%). $R_f = 0.27$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 10.83 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.67 (s, 1H), 8.91 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.52 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.48 – 8.38 (m, 2H), 8.10 (dd, J = 9.1, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.84 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.69 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.51 (td, J = 8.9, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.03 – 6.95 (m, 1H), 4.96 (ddd, J = 9.1, 7.5, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.44 – 3.18 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 172.12, 166.33, 159.74, 150.31, 145.58, 136.04, 135.22, 135.13, 131.96, 131.86, 130.65, 129.23, 128.01, 127.31, 127.21, 125.40, 123.85, 120.96, 118.62, 118.26, 116.89, 113.44, 111.34, 109.95, 55.41, 27.35. MS (ESI) 453 *m*/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-6-bromo-2-

naphthamide (140)—The general procedure A was followed using 6-bromo-2-naphthoic acid to provide **14o** as a light yellow solid (76%). $R_f = 0.36$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.92 – 10.74 (m, 2H), 8.98 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.57 – 8.41 (m, 3H), 8.28 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 3H), 7.85 – 7.63 (m, 4H), 7.32 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (dt, J = 24.7, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.96 (td, J = 8.4, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (qd, J = 14.6, 7.3 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.23, 166.27, 149.45, 146.35, 136.03, 135.29, 131.63, 131.03, 130.58, 129.80, 129.59, 127.95, 127.19, 127.07, 125.49, 123.88, 121.07, 120.96, 118.60, 118.25, 113.56, 111.34, 109.88, 55.54, 27.29. MS (ESI) 515 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-[1,1'-

biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (14p)—The general procedure A was followed using [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylic acid to provide **14p** as a light yellow solid (28%). $R_f = 0.36$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.83 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.66 (s, 1H), 8.81 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.51 – 8.39 (m, 2H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.81 – 7.70 (m, 5H), 7.67 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.11 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 7.00 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (td, J = 8.1, 7.7, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 3.45 – 3.21 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.21, 166.15, 150.36, 145.56, 142.92, 139.10, 136.04, 132.54, 129.02, 128.21, 128.07, 127.17, 126.86, 126.40, 123.86, 120.95, 118.61, 118.24, 113.42, 111.32, 109.98, 55.32, 27.25. MS (ESI) 461 *m/z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-[1,1'biphenyl]-3-carboxamide (14q)—The general procedure A was followed using [1,1'biphenyl]-3-carboxylic acid to provide 14q as a yellow solid (42%). $R_f = 0.30$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.90 – 10.80 (m, 1H), 10.66 (s, 1H), 8.94 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.50 – 8.37 (m, 2H), 8.14 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.76 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 7.66 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.53 (dt, J = 11.7, 7.7 Hz, 3H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.05 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.01 – 4.88 (m, 1H), 3.42 – 3.17 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.15, 166.41, 150.36, 145.53, 140.07, 139.47, 136.01, 134.42, 129.59, 128.98, 128.95, 127.78, 127.22, 126.84, 126.73, 125.65, 123.81, 120.94, 118.62, 118.25, 113.42, 111.32, 110.03, 55.44, 27.30. MS (ESI) 461 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-2-fluoro-[1,1'biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (14r)—The general procedure A was followed using 3-fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylic acid to provide 14r as a light yellow solid (78%). $R_f = 0.36$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.83 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.66 (s, 1H), 8.93 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.60 – 8.35 (m, 2H), 7.91 – 7.71 (m, 3H), 7.70 – 7.56 (m, 5H), 7.55 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.32 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.10 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 7.00 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (ddd, J = 9.3, 7.4, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.99, 164.88, 159.88, 157.44, 150.36, 145.53, 136.04, 134.24, 131.02, 130.71, 128.85, 128.83, 128.71, 128.40, 127.15, 124.04, 123.86, 120.98, 118.60, 118.26, 113.46, 111.35, 109.89, 55.38, 27.25. MS (ESI) 479 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-3-fluoro-[1,1'biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (14s)—The general procedure A was followed using 16s to provide 14s as a yellow solid (37%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.88 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 10.64 (s, 1H), 8.58 – 8.37 (m, 3H), 7.79 – 7.57 (m, 8H), 7.54 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.47 – 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.36 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (td, J = 7.9, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.49, 150.35, 145.44, 137.75, 136.05, 129.07, 127.16, 126.90, 123.91, 121.49, 121.35, 120.95, 118.46, 118.25, 113.92, 113.42, 109.31, 55.08, 27.42. MS (ESI) 479 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-3,3'-difluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (14t)—The general procedure A was followed using 16t to provide 14t as a light yellow solid (54%). $R_f = 0.45$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.88 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 10.65 (s, 1H), 8.53 (dd, J = 7.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.88 – 7.58 (m, 8H), 7.58 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.31 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.06 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.97 – 4.84 (m, 1H), 3.46 – 3.17 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, **DMSO**) δ 171.49, 163.89, 163.22, 161.47, 161.08, 158.60, 150.37, 145.46, 136.07, 131.09, 131.00, 127.18, 123.92, 123.03, 122.61, 122.17, 122.03, 120.98, 118.48, 118.26, 113.87, 113.65, 113.43, 111.34, 109.34, 55.11, 27.43. MS (ESI) 497 m/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-3,4'-difluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (27a)—The general procedure A was followed using 16a to provide 27a as a light yellow solid (64%). $R_f = 0.42$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 10.88 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 10.67 (s, 1H), 8.54 – 8.39 (m, 3H), 7.88 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.74 – 7.55 (m, 6H), 7.33 (ddd, J = 8.8, 6.7, 2.2 Hz, 3H), 7.25 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.01 – 6.88 (m, 1H), 4.91 (td, J = 8.1, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.45 – 3.17 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 171.53, 163.25, 161.28, 161.12, 158.64, 150.21, 145.61, 143.65, 143.57, 136.07, 130.98, 129.15, 129.06, 127.18, 123.92,

122.42, 120.98, 118.47, 118.26, 116.03, 115.82, 113.94, 113.46, 111.34, 109.32, 55.12, 27.42. MS (ESI) 497 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-2',3-difluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (27b)—The general procedure A was followed using 16b to provide 27b as a light yellow solid (74%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.88 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.67 (s, 1H), 8.58 (dd, J = 7.3, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 8.53 – 8.36 (m, 2H), 7.73 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.64 – 7.57 (m, 3H), 7.48 (ddt, J = 9.7, 6.4, 1.4 Hz, 3H), 7.40 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.25 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (ddd, J = 7.9, 6.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (td, J = 8.2, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.44 – 3.15 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.53, 163.31, 160.49, 160.24, 157.79, 150.14, 145.68, 139.51, 136.07, 130.75, 130.49, 127.17, 125.14, 125.10, 123.94, 122.30, 122.16, 120.98, 118.48, 118.26, 116.40, 116.18, 113.49, 111.34, 109.33, 55.14, 27.41. MS (ESI) 497 *m*/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-3,3',5'-trifluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (27c)—The general procedure A was followed using 16c to provide 27c as a light yellow solid (73%). $R_f = 0.30$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 10.88 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.65 (s, 1H), 8.57 (dd, J = 7.4, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 8.51 – 8.34 (m, 2H), 7.83 – 7.72 (m, 1H), 7.73 – 7.64 (m, 3H), 7.63 – 7.55 (m, 4H), 7.37 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.01 – 6.93 (m, 1H), 4.91 (td, J = 8.2, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.40 – 3.16 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 171.48, 164.17, 164.03, 163.18, 161.72, 161.59, 161.01, 150.37, 145.46, 136.07, 130.93, 127.18, 123.92, 122.81, 122.72, 122.68, 120.99, 118.49, 118.27, 116.00, 114.71, 114.48, 113.45, 111.34, 110.37, 110.11, 109.34, 55.13, 27.43. MS (ESI) 515 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-2',3,5'-trifluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (27d)—The general procedure A was followed using 16d to provide 27d as a light yellow solid (70%). $R_f = 0.42$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.88 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.64 (s, 1H), 8.61 (dd, J = 7.3, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.73 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.63 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 7.42 (td, J = 9.5, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (td, J = 7.9, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.46 – 3.14 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.47, 163.26, 162.71, 160.45, 159.54, 157.97, 157.14, 156.42, 152.87, 150.62, 150.36, 145.48, 136.06, 130.54, 127.18, 123.93, 120.98, 118.48, 118.27, 117.12, 113.45, 111.34, 109.34, 55.13, 27.42. MS (ESI) 515 *m*/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-4'-chloro-3-fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (27e)—The general procedure A was followed using 16e to provide 27e as a light yellow solid (60%). $R_f = 0.32$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.88 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 10.65 (s, 1H), 8.51 (dd, J = 7.3, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 8.47 – 8.36 (m, 2H), 7.84 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.75 – 7.65 (m, 3H), 7.62 (ddd, J = 10.6, 5.3, 1.8 Hz, 3H), 7.58 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (td, J = 8.0, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.45 – 3.15 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.50, 163.25, 161.12, 158.64, 154.72, 153.81, 150.35, 145.49, 136.58, 136.07, 133.57, 131.04, 129.04, 128.75, 127.19, 123.93, 122.46, 121.74, 120.99, 118.48, 118.27, 114.25, 114.01, 113.45, 111.35, 109.33, 55.12, 27.43. MS (ESI) 513 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-3'-chloro-3fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (27f)—The general procedure A was followed

using **16f** to provide **27f**, which was further purified by HPLC (36%, a white solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.88 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.66 (s, 1H), 8.54 (dd, J = 7.3, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 8.49 – 8.39 (m, 2H), 7.85 (t, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.78 – 7.63 (m, 5H), 7.63 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (td, J = 7.9, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.44 – 3.15 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.50, 163.24, 161.07, 158.59, 150.28, 145.55, 143.03, 142.95, 139.89, 136.06, 133.93, 130.97, 130.89, 128.45, 127.18, 126.71, 125.67, 123.92, 122.69, 122.21, 122.07, 120.99, 118.48, 118.27, 114.55, 114.31, 113.45, 111.34, 109.34, 55.13, 27.43. MS (ESI) 513 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-IndoI-3-yI)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yI)-2'-chloro-3-fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyI]-4-carboxamide (27g)—The general procedure A was followed using 16g to provide 27g as a white solid (80%). $R_f = 0.51$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.88 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 10.65 (s, 1H), 8.62 (dd, J = 7.3, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51 – 8.41 (m, 2H), 7.75 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.61 (dd, J = 4.8, 1.6 Hz, 4H), 7.49 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.38 (dd, J = 11.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (td, J = 8.3, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.43 – 3.17 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.59, 171.53, 163.42, 160.13, 157.65, 155.83, 150.29, 145.55, 143.07, 137.78, 136.07, 131.62, 131.39, 131.11, 130.16, 130.03, 129.98, 127.67, 127.17, 125.44, 123.95, 122.42, 122.28, 120.99, 118.49, 118.26, 117.14, 116.90, 113.45, 111.34, 109.37, 55.15, 27.40. MS (ESI) 513.3 *m*/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-3,3',4'-trifluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (27h)—The general procedure A was followed using 16h to provide 27h as a white solid (78%). $R_f = 0.45$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.88 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 10.65 (s, 1H), 8.53 (dd, J = 7.3, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 8.49 – 8.38 (m, 2H), 7.92 (ddd, J = 12.1, 7.7, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.75 – 7.49 (m, 8H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.01 – 6.90 (m, 1H), 4.91 (td, J = 8.1, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.46 – 3.16 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.50, 163.22, 161.07, 158.59, 150.35, 145.49, 136.07, 130.97, 127.18, 123.93, 122.55, 122.08, 121.95, 120.99, 118.48, 118.27, 118.18, 118.00, 116.29, 116.11, 114.45, 114.21, 113.45, 111.35, 109.34, 55.14, 27.43. MS (ESI) 515.3 *m*/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-3,3'-difluoro-4'methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (27i)—The general procedure A was followed using 16i to provide 27i, which was further purified by HPLC (45%, a white solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.89 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.81 (s, 1H), 8.48 (dd, J = 7.0, 4.2 Hz, 3H), 7.74 – 7.64 (m, 5H), 7.64 – 7.58 (m, 3H), 7.37 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.31 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (td, J = 7.8, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.53 – 3.16 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.77, 163.31, 158.73, 152.96, 150.54, 149.03, 147.66, 147.56, 146.71, 136.07, 130.89, 127.16, 123.96, 123.22, 121.00, 118.45, 118.28, 114.27, 114.22, 113.74, 113.65, 113.51, 111.36, 109.25, 56.14, 55.21, 27.34. MS (ESI) 527.2 *m/z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-3'-cyano-3-fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (27j)—The general procedure A was followed using **16j** to provide **27j** as a white solid (47%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.89 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.80 (s, 1H), 8.60 (dd, J = 7.4, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 8.48 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 8.29 (t, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (dt, J = 8.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (dt, J = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.80 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.74 – 7.64 (m, 6H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.11 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.96 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (td, J = 8.1, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dqt, J = 23.3, 14.6, 9.3, 14.6, 9.3, 14.6, 9.3, 14.6, 9.3)

8.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.68, 163.27, 161.08, 158.60, 149.34, 142.31, 138.83, 136.06, 132.14, 131.71, 131.03, 130.63, 130.27, 127.17, 123.95, 122.75, 120.99, 118.59, 118.47, 118.28, 114.70, 114.46, 113.60, 112.28, 111.35, 109.30, 55.23, 27.36. MS (ESI) 504 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-4'-(benzyloxy)-3,3'-difluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (27k)—The general procedure A was followed using 16k to provide 27k as a light yellow solid (88%). $R_f = 0.39$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.90 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.69 (s, 1H), 8.48 (dd, J = 7.4, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 – 7.52 (m, 8H), 7.51 – 7.38 (m, 5H), 7.38 – 7.30 (m, 4H), 7.25 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.11 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.26 (s, 2H), 4.91 (td, J = 8.0, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.40 – 3.16 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.55, 163.25, 161.21, 158.73, 153.26, 150.84, 150.22, 146.62, 146.52, 145.55, 143.14, 143.06, 136.39, 136.07, 130.93, 130.90, 130.83, 130.78, 128.53, 128.11, 127.80, 127.19, 123.94, 123.17, 123.14, 122.00, 121.97, 121.19, 121.06, 120.99, 118.49, 118.27, 115.72, 114.67, 114.47, 113.78, 113.54, 111.35, 109.33, 70.24, 55.13, 29.60, 27.43. MS (ESI) 603 m/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-3,3'-difluoro-4'hydroxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (27l)—The procedure for the synthesis of 3j was followed using 27k to provide 27l as a brown solid (81%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.88 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.75 (s, 1H), 10.20 (s, 1H), 8.60 – 8.36 (m, 3H), 7.71 – 7.53 (m, 7H), 7.45 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.10 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (td, J = 8.0, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.47 – 3.11 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.70, 158.76, 149.42, 136.07, 127.16, 126.73, 123.95, 123.20, 121.74, 120.99, 118.46, 118.27, 111.36, 109.27, 55.17, 27.37. MS (ESI) 513 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-4'-amino-3-fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxamide (27m)—The general procedure A was followed using 16l to provide 27m as a yellow solid (59%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.88 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.64 (s, 1H), 8.52 – 8.38 (m, 2H), 8.27 (dd, J = 7.2, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, J = 8.1, 6.2 Hz, 2H), 7.62 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 4H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.2, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.99 – 6.92 (m, 1H), 6.64 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.47 (s, 2H), 4.90 (td, J = 7.8, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.49 – 3.16 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.58, 163.30, 161.48, 150.32, 149.68, 145.52, 136.08, 127.59, 127.19, 124.41, 123.93, 120.99, 120.66, 118.92, 118.79, 118.47, 118.27, 114.04, 113.44, 112.05, 111.81, 111.35, 109.29, 55.06, 27.45. MS (ESI) 494 *m*/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-2-fluoro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzamide (27n)—The general procedure A was followed using 21b to provide 27n as a light yellow solid (86%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.89 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.68 (s, 1H), 8.66 (dd, J = 7.4, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 8.52 – 8.36 (m, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.65 – 7.56 (m, 5H), 7.52 (dd, J = 11.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, J = 7.0, 2.8 Hz, 4H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.01 – 6.93 (m, 1H), 4.97 – 4.84 (m, 1H), 3.34 – 3.14 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.45, 163.05, 160.32, 157.83, 150.39, 145.45, 136.07, 131.59, 130.76, 130.72, 129.43, 128.86, 127.54, 127.51, 127.17, 126.43, 126.33, 123.93, 123.38, 123.24, 121.50, 121.00, 118.90, 118.65, 118.50, 118.27, 113.44, 111.35, 109.34, 91.92, 87.54, 87.51, 55.15, 27.42. MS (ESI) 503.3 *m*/z [M + H]⁺. (S,E)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-4-(4chlorostyryl)-2-fluorobenzamide (27o)—The general procedure A was followed using 17 to provide 27o as a light yellow solid (78%). $R_f = 0.51$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.88 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.67 (s, 1H), 8.55 – 8.33 (m, 3H), 7.72 – 7.57 (m, 6H), 7.54 (dd, J = 12.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 4H), 7.37 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (td, J = 8.0, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.44 – 3.12 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.56, 163.23, 158.65, 150.17, 145.66, 141.97, 141.89, 136.07, 135.40, 132.67, 130.79, 130.31, 128.82, 128.50, 127.18, 123.94, 122.66, 121.32, 120.99, 118.48, 118.26, 113.46, 113.27, 111.35, 109.31, 55.13, 27.43. MS (ESI) 539.3 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-2-fluoro-4-(phenylamino)benzamide (27p)—The general procedure A was followed using 20 to provide 27p as a yellow solid (88%). $R_f = 0.33$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.89 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.66 (s, 1H), 8.83 (s, 1H), 8.53 – 8.38 (m, 2H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.81 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.54 (m, 3H), 7.42 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.22 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (dt, J = 19.1, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (dd, J = 14.4, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 4.96 – 4.80 (m, 1H), 3.27 (qd, J = 14.7, 6.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.74, 162.93, 162.90, 162.54, 160.09, 150.20, 148.88, 148.76, 145.65, 140.97, 136.11, 132.11, 132.07, 129.42, 127.19, 123.94, 122.23, 121.01, 119.48, 118.46, 118.28, 113.45, 111.37, 111.04, 110.92, 110.71, 109.20, 100.72, 100.44, 54.93, 27.56. MS (ESI) 494.2 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-2-fluoro-4morpholinobenzamide (27q)—The general procedure A was followed using 16m to provide 27q as a white solid (49%). $R_f = 0.48$ (10% MeOH in ethyl acetate), $R_f = 0.15$ (100% ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 11.29 (s, 1H), 10.91 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.68 – 8.49 (m, 2H), 7.96 – 7.78 (m, 3H), 7.70 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.86 – 6.69 (m, 2H), 4.88 (q, J 13 = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (dd, J = 5.9, 3.9 Hz, 4H), 3.44 – 3.18 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.48, 136.08, 127.12, 124.03, 118.40, 118.29, 114.00, 111.37, 110.19, 109.53, 109.01, 65.71, 46.89, 45.87, 25.93. MS (ESI) 488.3 m/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-2-fluoro-4-(4-(phenylsulfonyl)piperazin-1-yl)benzamide (27r)—The general procedure A was followed using 25b to provide 27r as a white solid (56%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 10.85 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 10.61 (s, 1H), 8.43 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.85 – 7.70 (m, 4H), 7.70 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.62 – 7.51 (m, 4H), 7.31 (d, J 1 = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.79 – 6.67 (m, 2H), 4.92 – 4.79 (m, 1H), 3.39 (t, J = 5.1 Hz, 4H), 3.35 – 3.14 (m, 2H), 2.97 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.65, 162.87, 162.49, 160.03, 153.45, 150.22, 145.57, 136.06, 134.56, 133.45, 131.65, 131.60, 129.51, 127.58, 127.17, 123.89, 120.97, 118.41, 118.25, 113.42, 111.33, 110.86, 110.23, 109.18, 101.42, 54.91, 46.30, 45.34, 27.50. MS (ESI) 627 *m*/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-IndoI-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-2-fluoro-4-(piperazin-1-yl)benzamide hydrochloride (27s)—The general procedure A was followed using 4-(4-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-yl)-2-fluorobenzoic acid obtained by hydrolysis of 23 (79%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.37 (s, 1H), 8.60 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.31 – 8.21 (m, 2H), 7.81 (t, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.14 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.91 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (dd, J = 9.1, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (dd, J

= 16.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.07 (q, J = 6.6, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (dd, J = 6.8, 3.9 Hz, 4H), 3.41 – 3.33 (m, 2H), 3.25 (dd, J = 6.6, 4.1 Hz, 4H), 1.47 (s, 9H). The procedure for the synthesis of **3c** was followed to provide **27s**, which was further purified by HPLC (83%, a brown solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 12.43 (s, 1H), 11.03 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 9.63 (s, 2H), 8.72 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 8.34 – 8.18 (m, 2H), 8.02 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.87 – 6.75 (m, 2H), 4.95 (dt, J = 8.2, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (t, J = 5.1 Hz, 4H), 3.37 (qd, J = 14.6, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.15 (p, J = 4.3 Hz, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 173.23, 163.08, 163.06, 162.64, 160.19, 153.49, 153.37, 153.11, 142.02, 136.12, 131.78, 131.74, 127.16, 124.23, 121.01, 118.58, 118.33, 114.57, 111.41, 111.01, 110.88, 110.27, 108.91, 101.64, 101.36, 55.80, 43.91, 42.01, 27.01. MS (ESI) 487.3 *m*/z [M + H]⁺.

(S)-N-(3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-oxo-1-(pyridin-4-ylamino)propan-2-yl)-2-fluoro-4-(4-(4-fluorobenzyl)piperazin-1-yl)benzamide hydrochloride (27t)—The general procedure A was followed using 26b to provide 27t, which was further purified by HPLC (26%, a white solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 11.59 (s, 1H), 10.96 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.69 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 8.12 – 7.93 (m, 3H), 7.72 – 7.53 (m, 5H), 7.33 (ddd, J = 8.7, 6.3, 2.8 Hz, 3H), 7.26 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.13 – 7.00 (m, 1H), 6.93 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.90 – 6.77 (m, 2H), 4.87 (dt, J = 8.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (s, 2H), 3.86 – 3.02 (m, 7H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.94, 163.99, 163.11, 161.54, 160.12, 158.53, 158.21, 153.03, 152.92, 151.54, 143.88, 136.11, 133.64, 133.55, 131.73, 127.08, 126.05, 124.13, 121.05, 118.34, 115.94, 115.72, 115.50, 114.39, 111.43, 111.26, 111.13, 110.33, 108.90, 101.72, 101.44, 57.87, 55.52, 49.87, 44.16, 27.04. MS (ESI) 595.4 *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺, 298.3 *m*/*z* [M + 2H]²⁺

General procedure B—synthesis of substituted biphenyl carboxlic acids

A mixture of 2-fluoro-4-bromobenzoic acid (**15**) (ca. 0.10 g, 0.46 mmol), phenyl boronic acid (ca. 1.1 eq), $Pd_2(dba)_3$ (3 mol%), PCy_3 (6 mol %), and K_3PO_4 (2 M, 1 mL) in dioxane (4 mL) was stirred under microwave heating (100 °C) for 1 h. The palladium catalyst was removed by filtration. The filtrate was acidified with 2N HCl (aq), and a white solid precipitated. The product mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (30 mL) and washed with water (10 mL × 2) and brine (10 mL × 2). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting product was purified by flash chromatography to afford 2-fluorobiphenylcarboxylic acid **16** in ca. 90% yield.

Hepatic microsomal stability

Microsome stability was evaluated by incubating 1 μ M compound with 1 mg/mL hepatic microsomes (human, rat, or mouse) in 100 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.4 at 37 °C with continuous shaking. The reaction was initiated by adding NADPH, 1 mM final concentration. The final incubation volume was 300 μ L and 40 μ L aliquots were removed at 0, 5, 10, 20, 40, and 60 minutes. The aliquots were added to 160 μ L acetonitrile to stop the reaction and precipitate the protein. NADPH dependence of the reaction is evaluated in parallel incubations without NADPH. At the end of the assay, the samples are centrifuged through a 0.45 micron filter plate (Millipore Solventer low binding hydrophilic plates, cat# MSRLN0450) and analyzed by LC-MS/MS. The data were log transformed and results are reported as half-life.

P450 inhibition

Cytochrome P450 inhibition was evaluated in human liver microsomes using four selective marker substrates (CYP1A2, phenaceten demethylation to acetaminophen; CYP2C9, tolbutamide hydroxylation to hydroxytolbutamide; CYP2D6, bufuralol hydroxylation to 4'-

hydroxybufuralol; and CYP3A4, midazolam hydroxylation to 1'-hydroxymidazolam) in the presence or absence of 10 or 1 μ M test compound. The reaction is initiated by the addition of 1 mM NADPH and stopped after ten minutes by the addition of 2-times volume of acetonitrile containing dextrorphan as an internal standard. The concentration of each marker substrate is approximately its Km.²¹ Furafylline, sulfaphenazole, quinidine, and ketoconazole were included in each run to validate that the assay could identify selective inhibitors of each isoform.

Molecular docking

The homology model of TcCYP51 was generated based on the x-ray co-crystal structure of TbCYP51 complexed with **14t** (PDB ID code: 4BJK) by using the homology model module implemented in Molecular Operating Environment (MOE). The homology model was refined with Protein Preparation Wizard implemented in Maestro 9.3. A receptor grid was generated from the refined structure using default values except for positional constraint at the nitrogen of 4-acylaminopyridine (radius: 0.8). The structure of **14t** was docked into the active site of TcCYP51 by using Glide5.5 in extra precision (XP) mode with the predefined positional constraint (ligand feature: neutral acceptor). The binding pose of **14t** was the same as that in the original co-crystal structure with 1.5 Å RMSD of all atom pairs (maximum difference = 5.0 Å of fluoro atoms). The structures of **27k**, **271**, **27r**, and **27s** were subsequently docked to the model structure of TcCYP51 by applying the same parameters to predict their binding poses in the TcCYP51 active site.

T. cruzi CYP51 expression, purification and UV-vis assay

Recombinant *Tc*CYP51 was expressed and purified as described elsewhere.^{18–19, 22} *Tc*CYP51 was used to monitor compound binding in UV-vis spectral assay as previously described.²² Binding affinity of hits was estimated from the titration curves using the quadratic tight-binding equation:²³

$$A_{\rm obs} = (A_{\rm max}/2E_{\rm t}) \left\{ (S + E_{\rm t} + K_D) - \left[(S + E_{\rm t} + K_D)^2 - 4SE_{\rm t} \right]^{0.5} \right\} \quad (1)$$

where A_{obs} is the absorption shift determined at any ligand concentration; A_{max} is the maximal absorption shift obtained at saturation; K_D is dissociation constant for the inhibitorenzyme complex; S is the ligand concentration; E_t is the total enzyme concentration.

As differences in affinity between tight-binding ligands are reflected in the sharpness of the titration curve, K_D values recovered from fits to experimental data approximated by equation (1) are disproportionally sensitive to error in data points near inflection point, setting a limit to the method's sensitivity. Thus, caution was exercised when comparing the tight binding constants. At 0.5 μ M *Tc*CYP51 working concentration, only the upper limit of K_D at 5 nM (a hundredth of the target concentration) could be estimated for the tightest binding inhibitors, if a plateau in the titration curve was reached at the stoichiometric enzyme-inhibitor ratio.

T. cruzi cell-based assay

 EC_{50} of compounds were determined in the automated cell-based assay adapted from Engel and co-authors²⁴ and modified as previously described.²²

X-ray Crystallography

Recombinant *Tb*CYP51 mutant V34M/D249A/D250A/D251A modified by inserting a His₈tag at the C-terminus and replacing the first 31 residues upstream of P32 with the fragment

MAKKTSSKGKL was used to obtain co-crystal structure with **14t**. Concentrated purified protein stored at -80°C was diluted to 0.1 mM prior to crystallization by mixing with water supplemented with **14t** to reach 1:1 protein:inhibitor ratio. Crystallization conditions were determined using commercial high-throughput screening kits available in deep-well format (Hampton Research), a nanoliter drop-setting Mosquito robot (TTP LabTech) operating with 96-well plates, and a hanging drop crystallization protocol. Crystals were further optimized in 96-well plates for diffraction data collection and harvested directly from the 200-nL drops. Prior to data collection, crystals were cryo-protected by plunging them into a drop of reservoir solution supplemented with 20% ethylene glycol, then flash frozen in liquid nitrogen.

Diffraction data were collected at 100–110 K at Beamline 8.3.1, Advanced Light Source, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, USA. Data indexing, integration, and scaling were conducted using MOSFLM²⁵ and the programs implemented in the ELVES software suite.²⁶ The crystal structures were determined by molecular replacement using diffraction data processed in the C2 space group, with R_{merge} of 8.6% and atomic coordinates of *T. brucei* CYP51 (PDB ID code: 2×2N) as a search model. The final model was built using COOT²⁷ and refinement was performed by using REFMAC5 software²⁸ until R and R_{free} converged to 19.4% and 27.4%, respectively. Data collection and refinement statistics are shown in Table 5.

Only one of the four protein chains (chain A) constituting an asymmetric unit contained electron density corresponding to the whole molecule of **14t**; **14t** was assigned PDB code 18I. In three other chains, only the N-indolylpyridinyl portion of **14t** could be unambiguously placed. Thus, coordinates for the disordered biaryl moiety in chains B, C and D were omitted from the PDB entry.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

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ABBREVIATIONS USED

Trypanosoma cruzi
cytochrome P450 family 51
cytochrome P450 isoform 1A2, 2C9, 2D6, and 3A4
structure activity relationship
structure property relationship
half maximal effective concentration

Reference

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Figure 1. Inhibitors of *Tc***CYP51** (A) Azole type CYP51 inhibitors. (B) Pyridinyl type CYP51 inhibitors.

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Figure 2. X-ray co-crystal structure of the *Tb* CYP51-14t complex

(A) Electron density map (blue mesh) contoured at 1.0 σ delineates the positions of **14t** (yellow sticks) in the active site. In purple are amino acid residues providing hydrophobic contacts within 5 Å to the indol moiety of **14t** plus F105. Heme is displayed as grey sticks. (B) View of the **14t**-bound CYP51 clipped by a plane through the binding site compares the binding modes of **14t** (yellow) and posaconazole (cyan). The structure of *Tb*CYP51 complexed with posaconazole (PDB code: 2×2N) is superimposed on that of with **14t**. The active site surface is colored by hydrophobicity from orange (lipophilic) to blue (hydrophylic). (C) View of bound inhibitors from the entrance to the active site. The enzyme is represented by a gray surface. The hydrophobic units of posaconazole and **14t** occupy different hydrophobic tunnels in corresponding co-crystal structures. The images here and otherwise were generated using PYMOL²⁹ or CHIMERA³⁰.

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Figure 3. Comparison of the 14t binding mode with NEE and VNF

View of the **14t**-bound *Tb*CYP51 clipped by a plane through the binding site. A hydrophobic cavity accommodating the indole ring of **14t** (yellow) extends toward F110 (A). This extension accommodates a substituted benzyl ring in NEE (purple) (PDB ID 4H6O) (B) or biaryl moiety of VNF (pink) (PDB ID 3KSW) in the corresponding *Tc*CYP51 co-crystal structures. (C). Both structures were superimposed on the **14t**-bound *Tb*CYP51.

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Figure 4. Predicted binding modes of inhibitors in *Tc* CYP51

Binding modes of **271** (A), **27s** (B), **27k** (C), and **27r** (D) resulting from molecular docking using Glide XP. Inhibitors are in stick mode colored by atom type: carbon in yellow, oxygen in red, nitrogen in blue, fluorine in cyan, hydrogen on the tertiary amino group of **27s** is in gray. The protein is shown as a semi-transparent gray surface; heme is displayed as orange spheres.



Scheme 1.

Reagents and conditions: (a) PyBOP, HOBt, NEt₃, CH₂Cl₂, 4-aminopyridine, 0 °C to room temp., 1h, 94%. (b) 4N HCl in dioxane, dioxane, room temp., 12h, >90% (crude) (c) cyclohexancarbonyl chloride, NEt₃, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C to room temp., 1h, 94%. (d) PyBOP, HOBt, NEt₃, CH₂Cl₂, 4-amino-2-methoxypyridine or 4-amino-3,5-dimethylisoxazole, 0 °C to room temp., 1h, 84%. (e) pentafluorophenyl trifluoroacetate, 1-Boc-isonipecotic acid, NEt₃, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C to room temp., 1h, 53%. (f) trifluoroacetate acid, CH₂Cl₂, room temp., 1h, 47%. (g) benzylbromide, NEt₃, CH₂Cl₂, room temp., 12h, 30%. (h) pentafluorophenyl trifluoroacetate, NEt₃, CH₂Cl₂, alkyl carboxylic acids, 0 °C to room temperature, 1h, ~80%. (i) SOCl₂, CH₃OH, 0 °C to room temp., 12h, then (Boc)₂O, NEt₃, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C to room

temp., 6h, 82%. (j) benzylbromide, Cs_2CO_3 , acetone, room temp., 12h, 77%. (k) 10% NaOH, CH_3OH , 0 °C, 2h, 97%. (l) H_2 , Pd/C, CH_3OH /THF, room temp., 24h, 29%.





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Scheme 3.

(a) Aryl boronic acid, 5 mol% Pd₂(dba)₃, 10 mol% PCy₃, 2M K₃PO₄, dioxane, 100 °C (microwave), 1h, ~90%. (b) 1-chloro-4-vinylbenzene, 5 mol% Pd(OAc)₂, 10 mol% P(o-tolyl)₃, Et₃N, DMF, 100 °C (microwave), 2h, 73%. (c) SOCl₂, CH₃OH, room temp. 12 h, 96%. (d) aniline, 5 mol% Pd(OAc)₂, 10 mol% BINAP, Cs₂CO₃, toluene, 100 °C (microwave), 2h, 73%. (e) 10% NaOH (aq), CH₃OH, 50 °C, 1h, 91%. (f) ethynylbenzene, 5 mol% Pd(OAc)₂, 10 mol% BINAP, Et₃N, CuI, toluene, 110 °C (microwave), 2h, 77%. (g) N-boc-piperazine or morpholine, Pd(OAc)₂, P(o-tolyl)₃, Cs₂CO₃, toluene, 50 °C, 48h, 91%. (h) trifluoroacetic acid, CH₂Cl₂, room temp. 1 h, >90% (crude). (i) phenylsulfonyl chloride, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C to room temp. 1h, 81%. (j) 4-fluoro-benzyl bromide, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, room temp. 1h, 88%.

compound	\mathbf{K}_D (nM	EC ₅₀ (µM)	Mici sta t _{1/2} (rosome bility [min) ^a	% i at	nhibition ol 10 μΜ (unl other	f human C) less indicat(wise)	sd bs
			Ч	в	1A2	2C9	2D6	3A4
LP10 HN	42	0.65	I	ı				
	5							
	°,	. 0.68	3.8	4.2	41 (23) <i>d</i>	99 (92)	93 (77)	96 (75) <i>d</i>
	041	1.5	6.5	6.9	55 (21) ^d	99 (92) <i>d</i>	96 (62) ^d	<i>p</i> (<i>LL</i>) 66
$\operatorname{Sutent}^{b}$		ı	30	11	ı	ı	ı	
Furafylline (40 μ M) b	ı	ı	ı	ı	86	5	4	8
Sulfaphenazole b	ı	'	ı		20	92	Γ	21
Quinidineb	ı	ı	ı		23	6	06	36
Ketoconazole (1 μ M) b	I	ı	ı		22	22	4	95

 $d_{\rm V}$ alues in parentheses are % inhibition of the indicated human CYPs at 1 μM

inhibitor ratio.

Table 1

Table 2

Biochemical and cell-based activities, microsome stability and CYP inhibition properties of inhibitors 3.^a



CYPs	94	66	94	98	66	76	66	66	86
f human) µM)	89	98	86	93	91	96	91	96	84
bition of (at 10	86	66	98	66	98	66	66	66	96
%inhi	12	76	14	26	44	64	33	54	51
bility	21	7	ŝ	7	7	б	7	3	ω
ome sta /2 (min)	26	ω	Г	ω	ω	ω	4	ς	ŝ
Micros	86	4	9	S,	9	4	4	ς	9
EC ₅₀ (µM)	n/e	0.58	3.2	06.0	0.61	0.30	1.6	0.85	0.16
\mathbf{K}_D (nM)	220	Ŷ	792	Ŷ	Ŷ	Ŷ	12	14	Ŷ
л В К	•		•		•		C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	o O	
[™] TX N	EN CONTRACTOR	N O BU	1 2	12 .	12	1 2		.	12
	`. <=z								
	3j	3k	31	3m	3n	30	3p	3q	3r

 $b_{n/b}$: no binding at 10 μM $c_{n/e}$: not effective at 10 μM

^aSee notes to Table 1

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Table 3

Biochemical and cell-based activities, microsome stability and CYP inhibition properties of inhibitors 14.^a



CYPs cated	94	06	94	95 <i>b</i>	91	65	LL	92 ^b	92b
f human less indi wise)	59	86	76	<i>q</i> 96	88	86	73	95 <i>b</i>	<i>q</i> 86
bition of µM, unl other	89	94	93	<i>q</i> 66	76	94	95	<i>q</i> 66	q66
%inhi (at 1	32	42	34	76 ^b	47	18	41	67b	80 ^b
ability ()	4	4	4	8	9	×	18	23	Ś
some st t _{1/2} (min	9	×	4	6	Г	6	23	19	9
Micro	25	6	12	11	18	14	29	19	10
EC ₅₀ (µM)	0.33	0.036	0.13	0.26	0.54	0.33	0.46	0.55	0.89
\mathbf{K}_D (nM)	Ŷ	60	30	\$	\Diamond	δ	50	\Im	\Im
	ч 💭	∟ b	F Br				Br		
	14i	14j	14k	141	14m	14n	140	14p	14q

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^aSee notes to Table 1

 $^b\mathrm{CYP}$ inhibition for this compound was performed at 10 $\mu\mathrm{M}$

Table 4

Biochemical and cell-based activities, microsome stability and CYP inhibition properties of inhibitors 27.^a

	N N O F	\mathbf{K}_D nM	EC ₅₀ µM	Micros t ₁	ome sta /2 (min)	bility	%ii (ai	t 1 µM, unl other	l human CY ess indicate wise)	Ps d
	В			ų	Rat	Е	1A2	2C9	2D6	3A4
14t	Ę	\Diamond	0.19	17	25	36	31	85	54	73
27a	۲	Ŷ	0.57	19	12	20	14	87	68	41
27b		Ŷ	0.28	18	13	23	14	85	58	63
27c	, , ,	Ŷ	1.0	18	41	50	0	71	20	43
27d	, L	Ŷ	0.28	12	15	22	33	LL	34	58
27e	S	Ŕ	0.97	35	22	27	0	75	37	14
27f	© ♥ ♥	Ŷ	0.98	21	36	53	10	80	34	41
27g	۵	Ŷ	0.28	16	10	19	33	92	70	74
27h	, ,	Ŷ	0.97	22	20	32	48	93	75	54

d Ps	69	57	21	92	06	28 (46) ^b	$25(33)^{b}$	79	54 (94) ^b	61	39 (82) ^b
human CY ess indicate wise)	38	32	16	68	57	28 (68) ^b	63 (85) ^b	83	66 (89) b	85	22 (81) ^b
t 1 µM, unl other	91	87	85	94	91	88 (96)	$90(94)^{b}$	94	74~(98)b	76	16 (71) ^b
%ii (al	10	15	0	11	29	23 (26) ^b	21 (25) ^b	12	$10~(44)^{b}$	37	$5(21)^{b}$
bility	14	22	83	29	17	104	53	25	٢	$\tilde{\mathbf{c}}$	41
ome sta 2 (min)	32	14	125	32	19	67	67	31	19	19	36
Micros t ₁	23	9	34	31	20	>120	70	28	13	٢	15
ЕС ₅₀ µМ	0.014	0.22	0.23	0.25	0.20	0.98	0.98	0.47	0.057	0.018	0.46
\mathbf{K}_D nM	ŝ	$\stackrel{\wedge}{5}$	$\stackrel{\scriptstyle \wedge}{\mathcal{S}}$	Ŷ,	$\stackrel{\scriptstyle \wedge}{\mathcal{S}}$	Ŷ	Ş	\gtrsim	$\stackrel{\scriptstyle \wedge}{\mathcal{O}}$	$\dot{\mathcal{S}}$	$\dot{\mathcal{N}}$
H H N H O H N H O H N H O H H O N H O N H O N H O N H O N H O N H O N H O N O N	OCH3	B	OBn	OH	- NH2		C		✓ ° × - ✓	N N O2 O2	N N Hd
	27i	27j	27k	271	27m	27n	270	27p	27q	27r	27s

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^aSee notes to Table 1

 $b_{\rm V}$ alues in parentheses are % inhibition of the indicated human CYPs at 10 μM

Table 5

Data collection and refinement statistics

Protein	T. brucei CYP51
Inhibitor	14t (Small molecule code 18I)
PDB ID	4BJK
Data collection	
Space group	C2
Cell dimensions	
a, b, c (Å)	199.3, 114.7, 136.22
α, β, γ (°)	90.0, 135.5, 90.0
Molecules in AU	4
Wavelength	1.11587
Resolution (Å)	2.67
$R_{\text{sym}} \text{ or } R_{\text{merge}} (\%)$	8.6 (88.8) ^d
I / σI	7.7 (1.4)
Completeness (%)	99.9 (99.9)
Redundancy	4.1 (4.1)
Crystallization	12% pentaerythritol propoxylate (5/4 PO/OH)
conditions	50 mM HEPES, pH 7.5
	50 mM KCl
	10% Jeffamine 600
Refinement	
No. reflections	60761
$R_{\text{work}} / R_{\text{free}}$ (%)	19.4/27.4
No. atoms	
Protein	14083
Heme	172
Ligand	100
Solvent	136
Mean B value	66.1
B-factors	
Protein	67.1
Heme	54.8
Ligand	84.9
Solvent	54.8
R.m.s deviations	
Bond lengths (Å)	0.011
Bond angles (°)	1 515

 d Values in parentheses are for highest-resolution.