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The Importance of the 6- and 7-Positions of Tetrahydroisoquinolines as Selective Antagonists for the Orexin 1 Receptor

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Abstract

Selective antagonism of the orexin 1 (OX₁) receptor has been proposed as a potential mechanism for treatment of drug addiction. We have previously reported studies on the structure-activity relationships of tetrahydroisoquinoline-based antagonists. In this report, we elucidated the respective role of the 6- and 7-substitutions by preparation of a series of either 6-substituted tetrahydroisoquinolines (with no 7-substituents) or vice versa. We found that 7-substituted tetrahydroisoquinolines showed potent antagonism of OX₁, indicating that the 7-position is important for OX₁ antagonism (**10c**, K_e = 23.7 nM). While the 6-substituted analogs were generally inactive, several 6-amino compounds bearing ester groups showed reasonable potency (**26a**, K_e = 427 nM). Further, we show evidence that suggests several compounds initially displaying insurmountable antagonism at the OX₁ receptor are competitive antagonists with slow dissociation rates.

Graphical abstract

OX₁ Ke = 23.7 nM OX₂ Ke = 2550 nM



OX₁ Ke = 427 nM OX₂ < 50% inhibition at 10uM

Author Contributions

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The manuscript was written through contributions of all authors. All authors have given approval to the final version of the manuscript.

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Keywords

Orexin; antagonist; selective; tetrahydroisoquinoline

1. Introduction

Addiction is a chronic, often relapsing brain disease that causes compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences. Drug abuse and addiction represent a major public health problem and a significant unmet medical need (www.drugabuse.gov). Unfortunately, there are few effective pharmacotherapies for addiction, and currently approved medications predominantly cover alcohol, nicotine and opiates.¹ The orexin system consists of two neuropeptides, orexin-A and B (also known as the hypocretins), and two G protein-coupled receptors, orexin 1 and 2 (OX₁ and OX₂).^{2,3} While the orexin system has been extensively implicated in the regulation of arousal and sleep-wake cycles, OX1 in particular has more recently been considered a candidate target for addiction treatment.⁴⁻⁶ The orexins are produced in the hypothalamus and the orexin neurons project to brain regions implicated in incentive motivation, such as the dopamine producing neurons in the ventral tegmental area (VTA) and their afferents in the nucleus accumbens.^{7,8} Knockout mice lacking the preproorexin gene demonstrate reduced morphine-induced conditioned place preference, as well as reduced morphine- and cocaine-induced dopamine release.⁹⁻¹² Moreover, selective blockade of the OX₁ receptor has been shown to attenuate addictive behaviors such as cocaine-, alcohol- and morphine-seeking.^{13–16} Thus a selective OX₁ antagonist would be a potentially useful therapeutic agent for drug addiction.

It is generally accepted that arousal is most closely associated with activation of the OX_2 receptor and reward with OX1 receptor activation, although modulation of both receptors simultaneously may prove to be more effective than OX₂ alone for sleep disorders.^{13,17} A number of orexin receptor antagonists that inhibit both receptors have been developed, including almorexant (1, Fig. 1) and suvorexant, the latter of which was approved by the FDA for the treatment of insomnia;¹⁸ however, much less has been done on developing OX₁ selective antagonists. While the availability of the partially selective OX₁ antagonist SB-334867 (~50 fold for OX1 over OX2) allowed the initial elucidation of the function of the OX1 receptor in drug abuse and addiction,¹⁹ recent studies suggest that OX2 may also play a role in certain aspects of reward and addiction. For instance, OX₂ selective antagonists attenuated alcohol self-administration and conditioned place preference,²⁰ as well as cue-induced nicotine reinstatement.²¹ On the contrary, OX₂ antagonist TCS-OX2-29 (2) showed no effect on cocaine self-administration or cue-induced reinstatement.²² Together, these findings underscore the importance of the development of OX_1 antagonists with improved selectivity in order to further probe the individual roles of the OX_1 and OX_2 receptors. Since the discovery of SB334867, several other OX₁ receptor selective antagonists have been reported, but some OX2 activity still remains for most of these compounds (e.g. **3**, ACT-335827).^{23,24}

We previously reported our efforts in developing selective OX_1 antagonists,^{25–27} in particular those based on the tetrahydroisoquinoline (THIQ) scaffold found in other orexin antagonists such as dual antagonist almorexant (1) and the OX_2 selective antagonist TCS-

OX2-29 (2). We have synthesized and pharmacologically evaluated a series of 6,7disubsituted THIQs and identified several highly potent and selective OX₁ antagonists such as RTIOX-276 (4).²⁶ However, the highly electron rich aromatic rings with poly-methoxy groups present in these compounds may be susceptible to oxidative metabolism as these methoxy groups could be metabolically cleaved.^{28,29} While the dimethoxybenzyl group at the 1-position can be replaced with other aromatic groups that retain potency and OX₁ selectivity,²⁵ most orexin antagonists based on this scaffold share the 6,7-dimethoxy substitution pattern on the THIQ core.³⁰ Moreover, the 6- and 7-positions seem to be highly sensitive to substitutions;^{26,31} therefore, the SARs around these positions need to be further probed. In this study, we examined the importance of substitution at the 6- and 7-positions of the THIQ core, respectively, and investigated the impact of removing one of the methoxy groups on orexin receptor activity.

2. Methods

2.1 Chemistry

In the 6,7-dialkoxy series, analogs with electron deficient groups at the 7-position demonstrated excellent OX₁ potency and selectivity.²⁶ Therefore, we attempted to prepare 7-substituted analogs with substituents of different nature. However, the synthetic route previously used for 6,7-disubstituted analogs did not afford any desired products in the Bischler-Napieralski cyclization reaction on the appropriately 7-substituted amide $\mathbf{6}$ (R = H or alkyl), even with increased heat and time (Scheme 1). After protection of the tetrahydroisoquinoline nitrogen as the methyl carbamate followed by alkylation of the phenol with the desired substituents (7a–e), the tetrahydroisoquinoline 8a–e (R = alkyl) was obtained in 20-27% yield under modified Pictet-Spengler conditions in neat trifluoroacetic acid at 70 °C. The aldehyde used in this step was obtained via Dess-Martin oxidation from 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethanol. However, neither conditions gave any cyclization product with other electron-withdrawing substituents such as a trifluoroethyl group or the free phenol (R = H). Several protecting groups were investigated but none afforded any of the desired compounds. Removal of the methyl carbamate protecting group on 7a-e was also problematic. Several conditions were examined and the best conditions found were potassium hydroxide and hydrazine monohydrate in ethylene glycol at 120 °C (yields 32– 68%). Finally, N-alkylation of 9a-e with N-benzylbromoacetamide gave the final compounds 10a-e.

6-Substituted tetrahydroisoquinoline derivatives were synthesized by methods adapted from our earlier work,^{25,26} summarized in Schemes 2 and 3. The 6-alkoxy series first required synthesis of the phenylethylamines (Scheme 2). 3-Hydroxybenzaldehyde **11** was protected as the benzyl ether with benzyl bromide in the presence of potassium carbonate followed by a Henry reaction with nitromethane to give the nitrostyrene **12**, which upon reduction with lithium aluminum hydride gave phenylethylamine **13**.³² Coupling with 3,4-dimethoxyphenylacetic acid gave the amide **14**, then Bischler-Napieralski cyclization followed by sodium borohydride reduction gave the tetrahydroisoquinoline **15**. *N*-alkylation with N-benzylbromoacetamide followed by benzyl ether deprotection via transfer hydrogenation using palladium on carbon in the presence of ammonium formate gave **16**.

The phenol **16** was then elaborated via alkylation with alkyl halides in the presence of potassium carbonate (**17a–f**), sulfonylation with sulfonyl chlorides (**18a–b**) or acylation with acid chlorides (**19**).

For the 6-amino series (Scheme 3), 3-nitrophenylethylamine **20** was coupled with 3,4dimethoxyphenylacetic acid to give amide **21**. The nitro group was then reduced with Raney nickel and the aniline was protected as the methyl carbamate (**22**) using methyl chloroformate. Bischler-Napieralski reaction gave the dihydroisoquinoline which was readily reduced to the tetrahydroisoquinoline using sodium borohydride. The amine was alkylated with the bromoacetamide in the presence of DIPEA to give **23a** and then the protecting group was removed by basic hydrolysis. Hydrolysis required extended heating time and an attempt to speed up this process in ethanol resulted in an improved reaction rate but also produced some transesterification product in the form of the ethyl carbamate **23b**. This aniline **24** could then be elaborated further via reductive amination (**25a–d**, **25g–i**, **m**, **n**, **r–u**) or base-catalyzed alkylation (**25e**, **f**, **j–l**, **o–q**, **26a–h**), sulfonylation (**27**), acylation (**28a–c**) or urea formation (**28d–e**).

2.2. Biological Assays

Activity of the target compounds at the OX₁ and OX₂ receptors was evaluated in calcium mobilization based functional curve shift assays as previously described.^{25–27,33} In these assays, EC₅₀ curves of the agonist orexin-A were obtained alone and together with the test compound (15 minute pre-incubation), respectively, and the right-shift of the agonist curve was measured. The apparent dissociation constant K_e was then calculated from compound-mediated inhibition of orexin A activity as previously described.^{25,26} The EC₅₀ values for orexin A at OX₁ and OX₂ were 0.13 ± 0.02 nM and 4.2 ± 0.2 nM, respectively. All the compounds that had OX₁ K_e values < 1 μ M were also tested alone at 10 μ M for agonist activity; none of the compounds showed any agonist activity at either receptor.

3. Results and Discussion

Given the importance of the 7-position substitutions for activity in the 6,7-disubstituted THIQs reported earlier, we first examined a series of compounds that are only substituted at the 7-position (Table 1). To this end, several 7-substituted alkoxy analogs were synthesized and tested. Because of the synthetic difficulties described above, other substitutions (e.g. electron withdrawing groups) were not examined. Compared to the 6,7-disubstituted analogs, the -7-substituted analogs showed similar activity at the OX₁ receptor and three (**10b**, **10c**, **10d**) showed excellent selectivity against the OX₂ receptor (>100-fold). The n-propyl derivative **10c** was the most potent compound of the series, with a K_e value of 23.7 nM and was 108-fold more selective for OX₁ over OX₂. The ethyl analog **10b** and isopropyl analog **10d** were slightly less potent than **10c**, with K_e values of 37.3 nM and 49.7 nM, respectively, but had higher OX₁ selectivities (268- and 201-fold, respectively). The 7-methoxy analog **10a** had a K_e of 512 nM, and was only two-fold less potent than compound **4**. The previously described trend of potency first increasing then decreasing as the alkyl groups increase in size is also present in the 6,7-disubstituted analogs.²⁶ Both ethyl **10b** and isopropyl **10d** were almost as potent as **10c**, but potency decreased for the butyl analog **10e**.

These results clearly indicate that a substituent with appropriate size is preferred for activity at the 7-position.

The importance of the 6-position had not been previously examined. Therefore, we prepared a series of analogs with different substituents to replace the methyl group at the 6-methoxy position, including both electron rich and electron deficient alkyl and aryl groups. As shown in table 2, these compounds were mostly inactive at the OX_1 receptor, showing K_e values greater than 10 μ M. Interestingly, the butanoate analog **17e** showed a K_e of 1000 nM, and was only slightly less potent than the 6,7-dimethoxy analog **4**, suggesting that the added ester group may have additional interaction with the receptor, or potentially occupy the same space of the 7-methoxy as in compound **4**. When screened at the OX_2 receptor for antagonist activity at 10 μ M, these compounds showed little inhibition.

We next prepared a series of 6-amino derivatives as shown in Table 3. Compared to the alkoxy series, the 6-position nitrogen can be di-substituted; one of those substituents may be able to take up similar space as the 7-position substituents and therefore make up for the potency lost by removal of the 7-substituent. Given the difficulties faced in the synthesis of the 7-substituted analogs, these 6-amino analogs may provide an alternative way to improve the potency. The 6-alkylamino analogs showed greater potency than the 6-alkoxy series, although mostly in the low micromolar range. The potencies in general were improved by capping the nitrogen with a methyl group (25b vs. 25c; 25f vs. 25g), though dialkylation gave similar potency to monoalkylation (25b vs. 25d). Larger alkyl groups (25r-u) gave no detectable potency, as was the case with the cyclic piperidinyl group 25q, though the slightly smaller pyrrolidinyl **25p** showed some potency. The benzyl substituent showed the opposite effect; the monobenzyl derivative 25h had a Ke of 1100 nM but this was lost with the methylated analog **25i**. Extending the linker to the phenethyl **25j** and the phenylpropyl 25k showed little change. Pyridylmethyl substituents 25m and 25n showed a decline in potency, indicating that a basic nitrogen was not favorable but was tolerated for the 3pyridyl, though making ethylpiperidinyl **250** caused a loss of detectable potency. The alkyl ester series (26a-e) showed some activity, with Ke values ranging from 427 to 949 nM, with the exception of the branched analog **26b**, suggesting that there is limited space. Reinforcing that idea is the drop in potency for the longer alkyl esters **26f** and **26g**. Replacing the alkyl ester with an alkyl amide 26h caused a large decline in potency, and all the amide derivatives (28a-c) showed no detectable activity. The methyl carbamate 23a showed slight potency, though the ethyl carbamate 23b was not active, while the sulfonamide 27 and ureas **28d** and **28e** showed no significant potency. This may be due to a lack of flexibility in the side chain, giving unfavorable interactions with the binding site.

Interestingly, while most of the compounds tested in the calcium mobilization curve shift assays displayed competitive antagonism, including the most potent compound **10c**, several of the 6-substituted analogs demonstrated insurmountable antagonism under the testing conditions, such as **17e**, **25j** and **26e**. They not only shifted the orexin agonist curve to the right as expected with antagonists, but also suppressed the maximal orexin response. Almorexant has been known to behave as an insurmountable antagonist at the OX_2 receptor.³⁴ While it is commonly observed in allosteric modulation due to the nature of the indirect interaction between allosteric ligands and orthosteric agonists, insurmountable

antagonism can also be the result of competitive orthosteric antagonists with slow dissociations rates. One way to help distinguish between these two mechanisms involves performing curve shift assays as described above with longer antagonist-receptor incubation periods, which allows for the system to reach equilibrium.³⁵ Steiner and co-workers used another method to distinguish between allosteric and competitive orthosteric antagonists by performing calcium mobilization curve shift experiments with simultaneous addition of antagonist and Orexin A as described in a recent publication.³⁶ To help elucidate the mechanism of antagonism for the insurmountable antagonists in our study, we tested both methods with compounds **17e**, **25j** and **26e** (Figure 2). The 15 minute pre-incubation clearly depicts insurmountable antagonism for all three compounds. As the pre-incubation times were increased to 45 min and 60 min, the compounds appeared increasingly to be competitive antagonists. Interestingly, all three compounds also appeared to be competitive antagonists under the simultaneous addition. Thus, with our compounds, both methods appear to distinguish between allosteric and competitive orthosteric antagonists.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, we prepared a series of 6- and 7-mono-substituted THIQ derivatives to investigate the contribution of the 6- and 7-positions to OX_1 potency. The 7-substituted analogs with alkyl groups indeed showed potency at the OX1 receptor comparable to the corresponding 6,7-disubstituted analogs, though synthetic challenges made further SAR exploration difficult. The 6-substituted analogs were also examined and the observed K_e values were only modest, in contrast to the much more active 6,7-disubstituted derivatives. However, several 6-position analogs with terminal ester groups (26a, 26c, 26d) showed some activity at the OX1 receptor, potentially introducing additional interactions between the ester group and the receptor or alternatively, occupying the same space of the 7-methoxy as in compound 4. It is clear that the 7-substituent is the dominant position for determining potency in this series, though some contribution remains from the 6-substituent, as a slight drop in potency is observed as compared with the 6-methoxy analogs. Several 6-substituted compounds displayed insurmountable antagonism at the OX₁ receptor under the assay conditions (15 min pre-incubation). Under increased pre-incubation time (45 min and 1 hour) or simultaneous addition of antagonist and Orexin A, these compounds appeared to be competitive antagonists, indicating that the insurmountable antagonism observed with a 15 min pre-incubation is most likely the result of slow dissociation rates.

5. Experimental Procedures

General

All solvents and chemicals were reagent grade. Unless otherwise mentioned, all were purchased from commercial vendors and used as received. Flash column chromatography was done on a Teledyne ISCO CombiFlash Rf system using prepacked columns. Solvents used were hexane, ethyl acetate (EtOAc), dichloromethane (DCM), methanol and chloroform:methanol:ammonium hydroxide (80:18:2) (CMA-80). Purity and characterization of compounds was established by a combination of high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC), thin layer chromatography (TLC), mass spectrometry (MS) and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) analysis. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a

Bruker Avance DPX-300 (300 MHz) spectrometer and were determined in chloroform-d or methanol-d4 with tetramethylsilane (TMS) (0.00 ppm) or solvent peaks as the internal reference. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to the reference signal, and coupling constant (J) values are reported in Hz. TLC was done on EMD precoated silica gel 60 F254 plates, and spots were visualized with UV light or iodine staining. Low resolution mass spectra were obtained using a Waters Alliance HT/Micromass ZQ system (ESI). High resolution mass spectra were obtained using an Agilent 6230 time-of-flight mass spectrometer. Melting points were determined using a Mel Temp II melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. All test compounds were greater than 95% pure as determined by HPLC on an Agilent 1100 system using an Agilent Zorbax SB-Phenyl, 2.1 mm × 150 mm, 5 μ m column with gradient elution using the mobile phases (A) H₂O containing 0.1% CF₃COOH and (B) MeCN, with a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min.

Methyl N-[2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]carbamate

To a suspension of tyramine (1.0 g, 7.29 mmol) in DCM (35 mL) cooled in an ice bath under N₂ was added DIPEA (1.41 g, 1.9 mL, 10.94 mmol); then methyl chloroformate (0.86 g, 0.7 mL, 9.11 mmol) was slowly added. A homogeneous solution formed and the reaction was allowed to warm slowly to RT overnight. The reaction was washed with NaHCO₃ solution and brine, and dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by chromatography on silica (0–40% EtOAc/ hexane) to give the desire carbamate as a clear oil (0.74 g, 52%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.48 Hz, 2H), 6.75 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 5.49 (br. s., 1H), 4.71 (br. s., 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.35 – 3.45 (m, 2H), 2.73 (t, *J* = 6.97 Hz, 2H).

Methyl N-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]carbamate (7a)

This was prepared as per methyl N-[2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]carbamate but using 4methoxyphenylethylamine. Yield quantitative. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.48 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.67 Hz, 2H), 4.68 (br. s., 1H), 3.79 (d, *J* = 0.57 Hz, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.35 – 3.45 (m, 2H), 2.75 (t, *J* = 6.88 Hz, 2H).

Methyl N-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)ethyl]carbamate (7b)

Methyl N-[2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]carbamate (0.4 g, 2.05 mmol) and potassium carbonate (0.85 g, 6.15 mmol) were combined in dry DMF (10 mL) and iodoethane (0.48 g, 0.25 mL, 3.07 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred at RT overnight. The reaction was diluted with EtOAc, then washed with NaHCO₃ solution, water and brine, and dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by chromatography on silica (0–30% EtOAc/hexane) to give the ether as a white solid (0.36 g, 78%).¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.67 Hz, 2H), 6.80 – 6.87 (m, 2H), 4.67 (br. s., 1H), 4.01 (q, *J* = 7.03 Hz, 2H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.35 – 3.46 (m, 2H), 2.74 (t, *J* = 6.97 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (t, *J* = 7.06 Hz, 3H)

Methyl N-[2-(4-propoxyphenyl)ethyl]carbamate (7c)

This was prepared as per **7b** but using 1-iodopropane to get the desired ether as a white solid (0.56 g, 76%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.05 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 6.80 – 6.91

(m, 2H), 4.68 (br. s., 1H), 3.86 – 3.98 (m, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.34 – 3.49 (m, 2H), 2.70 – 2.82 (m, *J* = 3.60 Hz, 2H), 1.73 – 1.88 (m, 2H), 0.99 – 1.11 (m, 3H).

Methyl N-{2-[4-(propan-2-yloxy)phenyl]ethyl}carbamate (7d)

Methyl N-[2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]carbamate (0.4 g, 2.05 mmol), potassium carbonate (0.85 g, 6.15 mmol) and tetrabutylammonium iodide (0.15 g, 0.41 mmol) were combined in dry DMF (10 mL) and 2-bromopropane (0.38 g, 0.29 μ L, 3.07 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred at 50 °C overnight. The reaction was diluted with EtOAc, then washed with NaHCO₃ solution, water and brine, and dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by chromatography on silica (0–30% EtOAc/hexane) to give the ether as a clear oil (0.31 g, 63%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.48 Hz, 2H), 6.79 – 6.86 (m, 2H), 4.68 (br. s., 1H), 4.51 (td, *J* = 6.03, 12.06 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.34 – 3.45 (m, 2H), 2.74 (t, *J* = 6.97 Hz, 2H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 6.03 Hz, 6H).

Methyl N-[2-(4-butoxyphenyl)ethyl]carbamate (7e)

This was prepared as per **7b** but using 1-bromobutane to get the desired butyl ether as a white solid. Yield 81%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.48 Hz, 2H), 6.80 – 6.88 (m, 2H), 4.67 (br. s., 1H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 6.50 Hz, 2H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.34 – 3.45 (m, 2H), 2.74 (t, *J* = 6.97 Hz, 2H), 1.70 – 1.82 (m, 2H), 1.42 – 1.56 (m, 2H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.35 Hz, 3H).

Methyl 1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-7-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-2carboxylate (8a)

Carbamate **7a** (209 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 3,4-dimethoxyphenylacetaldehyde (216 mg, 1.2 mmol) were combined in trifluoroacetic acid (3 mL) and heated to 70 °C overnight. The reaction was carefully quenched by pouring into saturated NaHCO₃ solution then extracted with EtOAc, The organic fraction was washed with brine, and dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography on silica (0–20% EtOAc/hexane) to give the tetrahydroisoquinoline **8a** (89 mg, 24%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.02 (dd, *J* = 8.48, 11.68 Hz, 1H), 6.69 – 6.81 (m, 2H), 6.61 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 14.03 Hz, 1H), 6.32 – 6.56 (m, 2H), 5.14 – 5.33 (m, 1H), 3.48 – 3.89 (m, 13H), 3.20 – 3.38 (m, 1H), 2.93 – 3.17 (m, 2H), 2.46 – 2.90 (m, 2H).

Methyl 1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-7-ethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-2carboxylate (8b)

This was prepared as per **8a** using **7b**. Yield 21%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.00 (dd, J = 8.38, 11.77 Hz, 1H), 6.69 – 6.80 (m, 2H), 6.61 (dd, J = 8.10, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 6.35 – 6.56 (m, 2H), 5.13 – 5.33 (m, 1H), 3.87 – 4.00 (m, 2H), 3.46 – 3.87 (m, 11H), 3.18 – 3.36 (m, 1H), 2.93 – 3.14 (m, 2H), 2.44 – 2.89 (m, 2H), 1.30 – 1.43 (m, 2H).

Methyl 1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-7-propoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-2carboxylate (8c)

This was prepared as per **8a** using **7c**. Yield 27%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.00 (dd, J = 8.48, 11.49 Hz, 1H), 6.69 – 6.80 (m, 2H), 6.61 (dd, J = 8.95, 13.09 Hz, 1H), 6.33 – 6.56 (m, 2H), 5.14 – 5.32 (m, 1H), 3.93 – 4.05 (m, 2H), 3.46 – 3.89 (m, 10H), 3.19 – 3.36 (m, 1H), 2.92 – 3.15 (m, 2H), 2.66 – 2.89 (m, 1H), 2.45 – 2.64 (m, 1H), 1.75 (dt, J = 6.97, 13.56 Hz, 2H), 0.94 – 1.08 (m, 3H).

Methyl 1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-7-(propan-2-yloxy)-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinoline-2-carboxylate (8d)

This was prepared as per **8a** using **7d**. Yield 20%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.00 (dd, J = 8.48, 11.30 Hz, 1H), 6.68 – 6.79 (m, 2H), 6.61 (dd, J = 9.04, 14.13 Hz, 1H), 6.35 – 6.55 (m, 2H), 5.13 – 5.32 (m, 1H), 4.27 – 4.47 (m, 1H), 3.47 – 3.88 (m, 10H), 3.18 – 3.36 (m, 1H), 2.93 – 3.15 (m, 2H), 2.45 – 2.88 (m, 2H), 1.20 – 1.33 (m, 6H).

Methyl 7-butoxy-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-2carboxylate (8e)

This was prepared as per **8a** using **7e**. Yield 24%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.00 (dd, J = 8.38, 11.96 Hz, 1H), 6.69 – 6.80 (m, 2H), 6.34 – 6.67 (m, 3H), 5.13 – 5.33 (m, 1H), 3.46 – 3.92 (m, 12H), 3.19 – 3.36 (m, 1H), 2.93 – 3.15 (m, 2H), 2.45 – 2.88 (m, 2H), 1.63 – 1.79 (m, 2H), 1.38 – 1.55 (m, 2H), 0.92 – 1.01 (m, 3H).

1-[(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-7-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (9a)

Carbamate **8a** (84 mg, 0.226 mmol), potassium hydroxide (89 mg, 1.583 mmol) and hydrazine monohydrate (79 mg, 77 μ L, 1.583 mmol) were combined in ethylene glycol (1 mL) and heated to 120 °C for 24 hr. the reaction was cooled, diluted with water and extracted 3 times with DCM. The combined extracts were dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography on silica (0–5% MeOH/DCM) to give the amine **9a** (37 mg, 52%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.71 – 6.86 (m, 5H), 4.17 (dd, *J* = 3.86, 9.14 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.15 – 3.25 (m, 2H), 2.64 – 2.94 (m, 4H).

1-[(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-7-ethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (9b)

This was prepared as per **9a** using **8b**. Yield 67%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.02 (d, J = 8.48 Hz, 1H), 6.76 – 6.85 (m, 3H), 6.71 – 6.76 (m, 2H), 4.16 (dd, J = 3.77, 9.42 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (q, J = 6.97 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.15 – 3.24 (m, 2H), 2.64 – 2.95 (m, 4H), 1.41 (t, J = 6.97 Hz, 3H).

1-[(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-7-propoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (9c)

This was prepared as per **9a** using **8c**. Yield 32%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.02 (d, J = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.71 – 6.86 (m, 5H), 4.17 (dd, J = 3.39, 9.23 Hz, 1H), 3.88 – 3.93 (m, 2H), 3.86 – 3.88 (m, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.16 – 3.26 (m, 2H), 2.64 – 2.95 (m, 4H), 1.74 – 1.87 (m, 2H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.44 Hz, 3H).

1-[(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-7-(propan-2-yloxy)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (9d)

This was prepared as per **9a** using **8d**. Yield 65%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.01 (d, J = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.77 – 6.85 (m, 3H), 6.70 – 6.76 (m, 2H), 4.44 – 4.57 (m, 1H), 4.14 (dd, J = 3.77, 9.42 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.15 – 3.24 (m, 2H), 2.63 – 2.94 (m, 4H), 1.33 (dd, J = 2.17, 6.12 Hz, 6H).

7-Butoxy-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (9e)

This was prepared as per **9a** using **8e**. Yield 68%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.01 (d, J = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.77 – 6.86 (m, 3H), 6.70 – 6.77 (m, 2H), 4.15 (dd, J = 3.67, 9.51 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (t, J = 6.50 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.15 – 3.25 (m, 2H), 2.63 – 2.94 (m, 4H), 1.70 – 1.81 (m, 2H), 1.43 – 1.56 (m, 2H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.35 Hz, 3H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-7-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (10a)

9a (37 mg, 0.118 mmol), N-benzyl-2-bromoacetamide (40 mg, 0.177 mmol) and tetrabutylammonium iodide (9 mg, 0.024 mmol) were combined in dry DMF (1 mL) and DIPEA (38 mg, 51 μ L, 0.295 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred at RT overnight under N₂. The reaction was diluted with EtOAc, washed with NaHCO₃ solution, water and brine, and then dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography on silica (0–60% EtOAc in hexane) to give the desired product (54 mg, quantitative). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.19 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.01 – 7.13 (m, 3H), 6.89 – 6.97 (m, 1H), 6.57 – 6.79 (m, 5H), 4.49 (dd, *J* = 8.01, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.58 – 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.37 – 3.48 (m, 1H), 3.11 – 3.34 (m, 2H), 2.82 – 2.99 (m, 4H), 2.46 – 2.56 (m, 1H). *m/z* 461 (M +H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-7-ethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2yl}acetamide (10b)

This was prepared as per **10a** from **9b**. Yield quantitative. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.19 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.06 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.48 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (br. s., 1H), 6.59 – 6.78 (m, 5H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.10, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (q, *J* = 7.10 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.56 – 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.36 – 3.48 (m, 1H), 3.11 – 3.33 (m, 2H), 2.82 – 2.99 (m, 4H), 2.45 – 2.55 (m, 1H), 1.41 (t, *J* = 6.97 Hz, 3H). *m*/*z* 475 (M +H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-7-propoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2yl}acetamide (10c)

This was prepared as per **10a** from **9c**. Yield 90%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.38 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 6.78 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.48 Hz, 1H), 6.89 – 6.97 (m, 1H), 6.66 – 6.79 (m, 3H), 6.56 – 6.66 (m, 2H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.29, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (t, *J* = 6.50 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.55 – 3.71 (m, 2H), 3.35 – 3.51 (m, 1H), 3.09 – 3.34 (m, 2H), 2.81 – 3.00 (m, 4H), 2.44 – 2.57 (m, 1H), 1.73 – 1.87 (m, 2H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.44 Hz, 3H). *m/z* 489 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-7-(propan-2-yloxy)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (10d)

This was prepared as per **10a** from **9d**. Yield 98%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.19 – 7.32 (m, 4H), 7.06 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.48 Hz, 1H), 6.90 – 6.97 (m, 1H), 6.66 – 6.77 (m, 3H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 4.43 – 4.54 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.56 – 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.36 – 3.48 (m, 1H), 3.12 – 3.33 (m, 2H), 2.82 – 2.98 (m, 4H), 2.45 – 2.54 (m, 1H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 4.71 Hz, 3H), 1.31 (d, *J* = 4.52 Hz, 3H). *m/z* 489 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{7-butoxy-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2yl}acetamide (10e)

This was prepared as per **10a** from **9e**. Yield quantitative. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.19 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.06 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.48 Hz, 1H), 6.89 – 6.96 (m, 1H), 6.67 – 6.78 (m, 3H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.59 – 6.61 (m, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.10, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (t, *J* = 6.50 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.55 – 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.36 – 3.48 (m, 1H), 3.11 – 3.33 (m, 2H), 2.82 – 2.99 (m, 4H), 2.45 – 2.55 (m, 1H), 1.71 – 1.81 (m, 2H), 1.43 – 1.56 (m, 2H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.44 Hz, 3H). *m/z* 503 (M+H).

2-[3-(Benzyloxy)phenyl]ethan-1-amine (13) was prepared in 3 steps from 3-hydroxybenzaldehyde according to literature procedure.³²

N-{2-[3-(Benzyloxy)phenyl]ethyl}-2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)acetamide (14)

Phenylethylamine **13** (1.0 g, 4.40 mmol), 3,4-dimethoxyphenylacetic acid (0.95 g, 4.84 mmol) and BOP (2.53 g, 5.72 mmol) were combined in dry DMF (40 mL). DIPEA (2.27 g, 3.1 mL, 17.6 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred under N₂ at RT overnight. The reaction was diluted with EtOAc, washed with 2N HCl, NaHCO₃ solution and brine, and dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give the amide (1.78 g, quantitative). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.29 – 7.46 (m, 5H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.86 Hz, 1H), 6.69 – 6.88 (m, 4H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 7.54 Hz, 1H), 5.41 (br. s., 1H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.41 – 3.51 (m, 4H), 2.71 (t, *J* = 6.83 Hz, 2H).

6-(Benzyloxy)-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (15)

Amide **14** (1.78 g, 4.40 mmol) was dissolved with warming in toluene (25 mL) then phosphorus oxychloride (3.55 g, 2.2 mL, 23.18 mmol) added. The solution was heated to 90 °C for 2 hr. The reaction was cooled, poured into water and stirred for 10 min. Layers were separated, and the aqueous portion was treated with 2N NaOH solution until a pH of 8–9 was reached; then it was extracted 3 times with DCM. Combined DCM fractions were dried over MgSO₄, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude dihydroisoquinoline was redissolved in methanol (20 mL) and cooled in ice. Sodium borohydride (0.75 g, 19.87 mmol) was added portionwise. After initial reaction had subsided, the ice bath was removed and the reaction was stirred at RT for 30 min. The reaction was quenched with water and then the methanol was removed under reduce pressure. The aqueous solution was extracted 3 times with DCM, the combined extracts were dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give the tetrahydroisoquinoline **15** (1.42 g, 92%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.28 –

7.47 (m, 5H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.57 Hz, 1H), 6.67 – 6.89 (m, 5H), 5.05 (s, 2H), 4.15 (dd, *J* = 3.53, 9.28 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.80 – 3.86 (m, 1H), 3.16 – 3.25 (m, 1H), 2.66 – 3.00 (m, 4H).

N-Benzyl-2-[6-(benzyloxy)-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2yl]acetamide (17d)

This was prepared from **14** using the method for **10a**. Purified by chromatography on silica (0–60% EtOAc/hexane). Yield 35%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.47 (m, 8H), 7.05 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.57 Hz, 1H), 6.89 – 6.97 (m, 1H), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 2.59, 8.43 Hz, 1H), 6.68 – 6.75 (m, 2H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 1.79 Hz, 1H), 6.59 – 6.64 (m, 1H), 5.05 (s, 2H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.10, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.57 – 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.35 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.12 – 3.33 (m, 2H), 2.79 – 3.03 (m, 4H), 2.53 (dd, *J* = 4.29, 16.62 Hz, 1H). *m/z* 537 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2yl}acetamide (16)

Benzyl ether **15** (90 mg, 0.168 mmol), ammonium formate (32 mg, 0.503 mmol) and palladium on carbon (10%, 45 mg, 50% w/w) were combined in ethanol (2 mL) and heated to reflux for 2 hr. The reaction was cooled, filtered through Celite, rinsed thoroughly with ethanol, and then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give the desired phenol (75 mg, quantitative). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.37 (m, 3H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.44 Hz, 2H), 6.95 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.19 Hz, 1H), 6.60 – 6.73 (m, 4H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 14.79 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.72 – 3.75 (m, 3H), 3.54 – 3.65 (m, 2H), 3.32 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.05 – 3.30 (m, 2H), 2.71 – 2.94 (m, 4H), 2.37 – 2.49 (m, 1H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-propoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2yl}acetamide (17a)

Phenol **16** (25 mg, 0.056 mmol) was combined with potassium carbonate (23 mg, 0.168 mmol) and tetrabutylammonium iodide (4 mg, 0.011 mmol) in DMF (0.5 mL) and 1bromopropane (10 mg, 8 μ L, 0.084 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred at RT overnight. The reaction was diluted with EtOAc, washed with NaHCO₃ solution and brine, and dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography on silica (0–50% EtOAc/hexane) to give the ether (12 mg, 44%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.19 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.91 Hz, 2H), 6.90 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.58 – 6.79 (m, 5H), 4.49 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (t, *J* = 6.55 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.56 – 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.35 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.12 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 2.79 – 3.03 (m, 4H), 2.48 – 2.58 (m, 1H), 1.82 (s, 2H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.39 Hz, 3H). *m*/z 489 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (17b)

Phenol **16** (25 mg, 0.056 mmol) was combined with cesium carbonate (55 mg, 0.168 mmol) in DMF (0.5 mL) and 2,2,2-trifluoroiodoethane (24 mg, 11 μ L, 0.112 mmol) was added. The

reaction was stirred at 50 °C overnight. The reaction was cooled, diluted with EtOAc, washed with NaHCO₃ solution and brine, dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography on silica (0–50% EtOAc/hexane) to give the ether (10 mg, 33%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.20 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.91 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.48 Hz, 1H), 6.87 – 6.96 (m, 1H), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 2.26, 8.48 Hz, 1H), 6.60 – 6.73 (m, 4H), 4.49 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (q, *J* = 8.23 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.57 – 3.73 (m, 2H), 3.36 – 3.48 (m, 1H), 3.11 – 3.33 (m, 2H), 2.79 – 3.03 (m, 4H), 2.51 – 2.60 (m, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ –73.96. *m/z* 529 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-(propan-2-yloxy)-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (17c)

This was prepared as for **17a** but using 2-bromopropane at 50 °C. Yield 48%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.06 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.90 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.68 – 6.76 (m, 2H), 6.59 – 6.67 (m, 3H), 4.43 – 4.59 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.57 – 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.34 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.12 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 2.79 – 3.01 (m, 4H), 2.51 (dd, *J* = 4.33, 16.58 Hz, 1H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 6.03 Hz, 6H). *m/z* 489 (M+H).

Ethyl 4-({2-[(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}oxy)butanoate (17e)

This was prepared as for **17a** but using ethyl 4-bromobutyrate. Yield 23%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.17 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.05 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.89 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.59 – 6.78 (m, 5H), 4.48 (dd, J = 8.10, 14.88 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (q, J = 7.16 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, J = 6.03 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.54 – 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.34 – 3.49 (m, 1H), 3.10 – 3.33 (m, 2H), 2.78 – 3.03 (m, 4H), 2.44 – 2.59 (m, 3H), 2.10 (quin, J = 6.59 Hz, 2H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.16 Hz, 3H). m/z 561 (M+H).

Ethyl 7-({2-[(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}oxy)heptanoate (17f)

This was prepared as for **17a** but using ethyl 7-bromoheptanoate. Yield 65%.¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.06 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.48 Hz, 2H), 6.58 – 6.78 (m, 5H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (q, *J* = 7.16 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (t, *J* = 6.40 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.55 – 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.35 – 3.49 (m, 1H), 3.11 – 3.33 (m, 2H), 2.78 – 3.03 (m, 4H), 2.53 (dd, *J* = 4.14, 16.58 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (t, *J* = 7.44 Hz, 2H), 1.72 – 1.84 (m, 2H), 1.59 – 1.72 (m, 2H), 1.34 – 1.55 (m, 4H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.16 Hz, 3H). *m/z* 603 (M+H).

2-[(Benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl methanesulfonate (18a)

To phenol **16** (25 mg, 0.056 mmol) and TEA (17 mg, 23 μ L, 0.168 mmol) in DCM (0.5 mL) was added methanesulfonyl chloride (13 mg, 9 μ L, 0.112 mmol) and the reaction was stirred at RT overnight. The reaction was taken directly into purification by chromatography on silica (0–80% EtOAc/hexane) to give the sulfonate (17 mg, 59%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.19 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 4.71 Hz, 5H), 6.83 – 6.93 (m, 1H),

6.60 – 6.75 (m, 3H), 4.49 (dd, *J* = 8.10, 14.88 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.58 – 3.78 (m, 2H), 3.36 – 3.49 (m, 1H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 3.10 – 3.35 (m, 2H), 2.80 – 3.06 (m, 4H), 2.61 (dd, *J* = 4.33, 16.77 Hz, 1H). *m*/*z* 525 (M+H).

2-[(Benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl benzenesulfonate (18b)

This was prepared as per **18a** using benzenesulfonyl chloride. Yield 67%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.83 – 7.91 (m, 2H), 7.64 – 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.04 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.48 Hz, 1H), 6.80 – 6.89 (m, 2H), 6.59 – 6.74 (m, 4H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.10, 14.88 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.57 – 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.34 – 3.46 (m, 1H), 3.07 – 3.31 (m, 2H), 2.75 – 2.97 (m, 4H), 2.45 – 2.58 (m, 1H). *m/z* 587 (M+H).

2-[(Benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl propanoate (19)

This was prepared as per **18a** using propionyl chloride. Yield 89%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.03 – 7.13 (m, 3H), 6.83 – 6.96 (m, 3H), 6.67 – 6.74 (m, 1H), 6.59 – 6.67 (m, 2H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.10, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.58 – 3.73 (m, 2H), 3.35 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.11 – 3.34 (m, 2H), 2.81 – 3.04 (m, 4H), 2.52 – 2.65 (m, 3H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.54 Hz, 3H). *m/z* 503 (M+H).

2-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-N-[2-(3-nitrophenyl)ethyl]acetamide (21)

3-Nitrophenylethylamine hydrochloride (1.0 g, 4.94 mmol), 3,4-dimethoxyphenylacetic acid (1.07 g, 5.43 mmol) and BOP (2.84 g, 6.42 mmol) were combined in dry DMF (50 mL). DIPEA (2.55 g, 3.4 mL, 19.74 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred under N₂ at RT overnight. The reaction was diluted with EtOAc, washed with 2N HCl, NaHCO₃ solution and brine, dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give the amide (1.7 g, quantitative). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, METHANOL-d₄) δ 7.93 – 8.08 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 6.78 – 6.87 (m, 2H), 6.67 – 6.74 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.48 (t, *J* = 6.78 Hz, 2H), 3.35 (s, 2H), 2.86 – 2.94 (m, 2H).

N-[2-(3-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)acetamide

To the amide **21** (1.70 g, 4.94 mmol) in ethanol (65 mL) was added hydrazine monohydrate (3.26 g, 3.2 mL, 65.1 mmol) and the reaction was heated to 50 °C. Raney nickel (2880 type as slurry in water, 0.45 g) was added and the reaction was stirred at 50 °C for 1 hr. The reaction was cooled, filtered through Celite, rinsed thoroughly with ethanol. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give the desired aniline (1.55 g, 98%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.00 (t, *J* = 7.68 Hz, 1H), 6.79 – 6.86 (m, 2H), 6.66 – 6.76 (m, 2H), 6.51 (dd, *J* = 2.26, 8.01 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (d, *J* = 7.54 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (s, 1H), 5.43 (br. s., 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.46 – 3.49 (m, 2H), 3.39 – 3.46 (m, 2H), 2.58 – 2.65 (m, 2H).

Methyl N-(3-{2-[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)acetamido]ethyl}phenyl)carbamate (22)

To the aniline (1.55 g, 4.84 mmol) in DCM (30 mL) cooled in an ice bath under N₂ was added DIPEA (1.23 g, 1.65 mL, 9.50 mmol) and then dropwise addition of methyl chloroformate (0.75 g, 0.61 mL, 7.91 mmol). The reaction was stirred in ice for 15 min then at RT overnight. The reaction completion was checked by TLC (5% MeOH/DCM). The reaction was washed with water and the aqueous fraction was extracted once with DCM. The combined organic fractions were washed with 2N HCl solution, then NaHCO₃ solution, and dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by chromatography on silica (0–5% MeOH in DCM) to give the carbamate as a yellow viscous oil (1.53 g, 85%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.13 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.77 – 6.82 (m, 1H), 6.68 – 6.75 (m, 3H), 6.65 (br. s., 1H), 5.41 (br. s., 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.75 – 3.79 (m, 3H), 3.41 – 3.50 (m, 4H), 2.71 (t, *J* = 6.73 Hz, 2H).

Methyl N-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}carbamate

Amide **22** (1.53 g, 4.11 mmol) was dissolved with warming in toluene (20 mL) and then phosphorus oxychloride (3.15 g, 1.9 mL, 20.54 mmol) was added. The reaction was heated to 90 °C for 2 hr. The reaction was cooled, poured into water and stirred for 10 min. Layers were separated, and the aqueous portion was treated with 2N NaOH solution until a pH of 8–9 was reached and then it was extracted 3 times with DCM. Combined DCM fractions were dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude dihydroisoquinoline was redissolved in methanol (40 mL) and cooled in ice. Sodium borohydride (0.77 g, 20.5 mmol) was added portionwise. After initial reaction had subsided, the ice bath was removed and the reaction was stirred at RT for 30 min. The reaction was quenched with water then the methanol was removed under reduce pressure. The aqueous solution was extracted 3 times with DCM, the combined extracts were dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent reduced pressure to give the tetrahydroisoquinoline (1.17 g, 80%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.11 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 6.73 – 6.86 (m, 3H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 4.14 (dd, *J* = 3.81, 9.65 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.16 – 3.25 (m, 2H), 2.68 – 2.95 (m, 4H).

Methyl N-{2-[(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}carbamate (23a)

Tetrahydroisoquinoline (1.17 g, 3.28 mmol), N-benzyl-2-bromoacetamide (1.12 g, 4.92 mmol) and tetrabutylammonium iodide (0.24 g, 0.66 mmol) were combined in dry DMF (30 mL) and DIPEA (1.06 g, 1.4 mL, 8.21 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred at RT overnight under N₂. The reaction was diluted with EtOAc, washed with NaHCO₃ solution, water and brine, and then dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography on silica (0–70% EtOAc in hexane) to give the desired product (0.85 g, 52%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.19 – 7.32 (m, 4H), 7.06 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (dd, *J* = 4.76, 7.49 Hz, 1H), 6.59 – 6.74 (m, 4H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.10, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.57 – 3.73 (m, 2H), 3.36 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.11 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 2.80 – 3.02 (m, 4H), 2.56 (dd, *J* = 4.57, 16.44 Hz, 1H). *m*/z 504 (M+H).

2-{6-Amino-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}-N-benzylacetamide (24)

To a solution of the carbamate **23a** (0.85 g, 1.69 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) was added 2N sodium hydroxide solution (1.69 mL, 3.38 mmol) and the reaction was heated to 50 °C overnight. Two additional aliquots of 2N NaOH solution (1.7 mL) was added after 24 hr and 48 hr, respectively, and heating continued at 50 °C until all starting material was gone by TLC (4:1 EtOAc:hexane). Methanol was removed under reduced pressure and the aqueous solution diluted with water. The solution was extracted 3 times with EtOAc and the combined extracts were dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give the free amine as a white solid (0.63 g, 84%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.19 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.82 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (br. s., 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.19 Hz, 1H), 6.58 – 6.73 (m, 3H), 6.53 (dd, *J* = 1.84, 8.15 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.15, 15.02 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.56 – 3.68 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.22 (q, *J* = 17.02 Hz, 2H), 2.77 – 2.96 (m, 4H), 2.39 – 2.51 (m, 1H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-(dimethylamino)-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25a)

To a solution of aniline **24** (25 mg, 0.056 mmol) and formaldehyde (37% aqueous, 23 mg, 21 μ L, 0.281 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (0.5 mL) was added portionwise sodium triacetoxyborohydride (59 mg, 0.281 mmol) and the reaction was stirred at RT overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the crude was redissolved in EtOAc, washed with NaHCO₃ solution and brine, and dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude sample was purified by chromatography on silica (0–100% EtOAc/hexane) to give the desired dimethylamine (23 mg, 88%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-*d*) δ ppm 2.50 (dd, *J*=16.58, 4.24 Hz, 1 H) 2.77 – 3.01 (m, 4 H) 2.92 (s, 6 H) 3.11 – 3.32 (m, 2 H) 3.33 – 3.46 (m, 1 H) 3.55 – 3.69 (m, 2 H) 3.73 (s, 3 H) 3.78 (s, 3 H) 4.47 (dd, *J*=14.98, 8.19 Hz, 1 H) 6.44 (d, *J*=2.54 Hz, 1 H) 6.57 – 6.73 (m, 4 H) 6.94 (d, *J*=8.48 Hz, 2 H) 7.05 – 7.11 (m, 1 H) 7.17 – 7.32 (m, 4 H). *m/z* 474 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-(propylamino)-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25b)

To a solution of aniline **24** (50 mg, 0.112 mmol) and propionaldehyde (7 mg, 8 µL, 0.112 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (1 mL) was added portionwise sodium triacetoxyborohydride (36 mg, 0.168 mmol) and the reaction was stirred at RT overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the crude was redissolved in EtOAc, washed with NaHCO₃ solution and brine, and dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude sample was purified by chromatography on silica (0–60% EtOAc/ hexane) to give the desired amine (37 mg, 67%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.17 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.05 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.92 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.68 – 6.74 (m, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.58 – 6.64 (m, 1H), 6.43 – 6.51 (m, 1H), 6.31 – 6.36 (m, *J* = 2.00 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.01, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.53 – 3.69 (m, 3H), 3.33 – 3.45 (m, 1H), 3.13 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 3.07 (t, *J* = 7.11 Hz, 2H), 2.77 – 2.98 (m, 4H), 2.41 – 2.52 (m, 1H), 1.60 – 1.71 (m, 2H), 0.96 – 1.05 (m, 3H). *m/z* 488 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-[methyl(propyl)amino]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25c)

This was prepared as per **25a** from **25b**. Yield 100%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.06 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.96 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.57 Hz, 1H), 6.68 – 6.75 (m, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 1.79 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 8.10 Hz, 1H), 6.54 – 6.59 (m, 1H), 6.38 (d, *J* = 2.54 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.15, 15.02 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.56 – 3.69 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.45 (m, 1H), 3.13 – 3.32 (m, 4H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 2.76 – 3.01 (m, 4H), 2.49 (dd, *J* = 3.96, 16.48 Hz, 1H), 1.59 – 1.67 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.39 Hz, 3H). *m*/z 502 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-(dipropylamino)-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25d)

This was prepared as per **25b** but with 2 eq. of propionaldehyde and 2.5 eq. of sodium triacetoxyborohydride. Yield 94%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.17 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.05 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.98 (dd, J = 5.04, 7.58 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.48 Hz, 1H), 6.67 – 6.73 (m, 1H), 6.63 (d, J = 1.79 Hz, 1H), 6.56 – 6.61 (m, 1H), 6.50 (dd, J = 2.64, 8.57 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (d, J = 2.45 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (dd, J = 8.05, 15.02 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.56 – 3.68 (m, 2H), 3.36 (d, J = 3.11 Hz, 1H), 3.13 – 3.27 (m, 6H), 2.75 – 2.98 (m, 4H), 2.45 (dd, J = 3.67, 16.39 Hz, 1H), 1.51 – 1.66 (m, 4H), 0.88 – 0.97 (m, 6H). *m*/z 530 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-[(propan-2-yl)amino]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25e)

Aniline **24** (25 mg, 0.056 mmol), 2-bromopropane (7 mg, 5 µL, 0.056 mmol) and tetrabutylammonium iodide (4 mg, 0.011 mmol) were combined in anhydrous DMF (0.5 mL). DIPEA (18 mg, 24 µL, 0.140 mmol) was added and the reaction was heated at 50 °C overnight. The reaction was cooled, diluted with EtOAc and washed with NaHCO₃ solution and brine, and then dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography on silica (0–60% EtOAc/hexane) to give the desired amine (5 mg, 19%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.91 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (br. s., 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.58 – 6.74 (m, 3H), 6.44 (dd, *J* = 2.17, 8.19 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.53 – 3.68 (m, 3H), 3.33 – 3.46 (m, 1H), 3.13 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 2.76 – 2.97 (m, 4H), 2.41 – 2.52 (m, 1H), 1.21 (d, *J* = 6.22 Hz, 6H). *m/z* 488 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{6-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25f)

This was prepared as per **25e** using bromomethylcyclopropane. After stirring overnight at 50 °C, the reaction was stirred an additional 6 hr at 70 °C. Yield 43%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.05 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.96 (dd, *J* = 4.90, 7.72 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.65 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 6.58 – 6.63 (m, 1H), 6.48 (dd, *J* = 2.45, 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (d, *J* = 2.07 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.54 – 3.68 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.45 (m, 1H), 3.22 (q, *J* = 16.95 Hz, 2H), 2.94 (d, *J* =

6.97 Hz, 2H), 2.77 – 2.92 (m, 4H), 2.42 – 2.51 (m, 1H), 1.02 – 1.17 (m, 1H), 0.51 – 0.60 (m, 2H), 0.20 – 0.27 (m, 2H). *m*/*z* 500 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{6-[(cyclopropylmethyl)(methyl)amino]-1-[(3,4dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25g)

This was prepared as per **25a** from **25f**. Yield 94%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORMd) δ 7.18 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 6.97 Hz, 2H), 6.89 – 7.04 (m, 2H), 6.58 – 6.76 (m, 4H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.01, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.57 – 3.70 (m, 2H), 3.34 – 3.46 (m, 1H), 3.12 – 3.33 (m, 4H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.78 – 3.01 (m, 4H), 2.50 (dd, *J* = 3.67, 16.67 Hz, 1H), 0.97 – 1.09 (m, 1H), 0.47 – 0.56 (m, 2H), 0.17 – 0.25 (m, 2H). *m/z* 514 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-[6-(benzylamino)-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl]acetamide (25h)

Aniline **23** (30 mg, 0.067 mmol), sodium bicarbonate (2 mg, 0.027 mmol) and benzaldehyde (8 mg, 8 μ L, 0.074 mmol) were combined in anhydrous methanol (0.5 mL) and heated to 40 °C for 1 hr. The reaction was then cooled in an ice bath and sodium borohydride was added. The reaction was allowed to warm slowly to RT overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude purified by chromatography on silica (0–100% EtOAc/ hexane) to obtain the desired amine (19 mg, 53%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.36 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.20 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.63 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (br. s., 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.19 Hz, 1H), 6.57 – 6.76 (m, 4H), 6.51 (dd, *J* = 2.17, 8.19 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (d, *J* = 2.07 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (dd, *J* = 8.15, 15.02 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.54 – 3.70 (m, 2H), 3.34 – 3.49 (m, 1H), 3.13 – 3.33 (m, 2H), 2.77 – 3.00 (m, 4H), 2.41 – 2.54 (m, 1H). *m*/z 536 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{6-[benzyl(methyl)amino]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25i)

This was prepared as per **25a** from **25h**. Yield 67%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORMd) δ 7.18 – 7.39 (m, 8H), 7.05 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.88 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.67 – 6.75 (m, 1H), 6.57 – 6.67 (m, 3H), 6.47 (d, *J* = 2.07 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 4.42 – 4.49 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.55 – 3.69 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.46 (m, 1H), 3.13 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.76 – 2.97 (m, 4H), 2.42 – 2.54 (m, 1H). *m/z* 550 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-(6-{[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino}-1-[(3,4dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl)acetamide (25j)

This was prepared as per **25e** using 3,4-dimethoxyphenethyl bromide, stirring at RT overnight. Yield 12%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 6.78 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (br. s., 1H), 6.65 – 6.91 (m, 6H), 6.58 – 6.64 (m, 1H), 6.47 (dd, *J* = 2.26, 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (d, *J* = 1.70 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 6H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.50 – 3.68 (m, 2H), 3.32 – 3.46 (m, 3H), 3.22 (q, *J* = 16.95 Hz, 2H), 2.77 – 2.98 (m, 6H), 2.41 – 2.51 (m, 1H). *m/z* 611 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-[(3-phenylpropyl)amino]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25k)

This was prepared as per **25e** using 3-phenyl-1-bromopropane, stirring at RT overnight. Yield 41%.¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.16 – 7.36 (m, 8H), 7.04 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.92 – 7.01 (m, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.64 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 6.58 – 6.63 (m, 1H), 6.44 (dd, *J* = 2.26, 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.29 (d, *J* = 2.26 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.52 – 3.69 (m, 2H), 3.32 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.11 (s, 2H), 3.05 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 2.78 – 2.98 (m, 4H), 2.74 (t, *J* = 7.63 Hz, 2H), 2.38 – 2.50 (m, 1H), 1.95 (quin, *J* = 7.30 Hz, 2H). *m/z* 564 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-[(4-phenoxybutyl)amino]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25l)

This was prepared as per **25e** using 3-phenyl-1-bromopropane, stirring at RT overnight. Yield 41%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.36 (m, 6H), 7.04 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.84 – 7.01 (m, 5H), 6.64 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 6.47 (dd, *J* = 2.26, 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (d, *J* = 2.07 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 7.91, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (t, *J* = 5.93 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.53 – 3.69 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.46 (m, 1H), 3.10 – 3.32 (m, 4H), 2.76 – 2.99 (m, 4H), 2.41 – 2.53 (m, 1H), 1.75 – 1.98 (m, 4H). *m/z* 594 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-[(pyridin-4-ylmethyl)amino]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25m)

This was prepared as per **25b** from **24** using 4-pyridine carboxaldehyde. Yield 33%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 8.57 (d, J = 5.75 Hz, 2H), 7.19 – 7.37 (m, 6H), 7.04 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.57 – 6.75 (m, 3H), 6.45 (dd, J = 2.45, 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (d, J = 2.26 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (dd, J = 8.15, 15.02 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.53 – 3.67 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.46 (m, 1H), 3.21 (q, J = 16.95 Hz, 2H), 2.76 – 2.95 (m, 4H), 2.36 – 2.49 (m, 1H). m/z 537 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-[(pyridin-3-ylmethyl)amino]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25n)

This was prepared as per **25b** from **24** using 3-pyridine carboxaldehyde. Yield 53%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 8.64 (s, 1H), 8.54 (d, J = 4.71 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 7.72 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.09 (d, J = 7.72 Hz, 2H), 6.91 – 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.58 – 6.75 (m, 3H), 6.50 (d, J = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (s, 1H), 4.48 (dd, J = 7.96, 15.02 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.54 – 3.68 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.21 (q, J = 16.99 Hz, 2H), 2.77 – 2.97 (m, 4H), 2.38 – 2.53 (m, 1H). m/z 537 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-{[2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethyl]amino}-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25o)

This was prepared as per **25e** using 1-(2-chloroethyl)piperidine hydrochloride. Yield 16%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.17 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 6.59 Hz, 2H), 6.92 – 7.01 (m, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.64 – 6.75 (m, 2H), 6.57 – 6.63 (m, 1H), 6.51 (dd, *J* = 2.26, 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (d, *J* = 2.07 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 15.16

Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.53 – 3.68 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.48 (m, 1H), 3.09 – 3.32 (m, 4H), 2.75 – 2.99 (m, 4H), 2.58 (t, *J* = 6.03 Hz, 2H), 2.47 – 2.54 (m, 1H), 2.35 – 2.45 (m, 3H), 1.59 (td, *J* = 5.30, 10.69 Hz, 4H), 1.46 (d, *J* = 5.09 Hz, 2H). *m*/z 558 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25p)

This was prepared as per **25e** using 1-bromo-4-chlorobutane. Yield 16%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.33 (m, 5H), 7.06 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 6.97 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.48 Hz, 1H), 6.66 – 6.76 (m, 1H), 6.58 – 6.65 (m, 1H), 6.45 (dd, *J* = 2.45, 8.48 Hz, 1H), 6.28 (d, *J* = 2.26 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 14.79 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.53 – 3.69 (m, 2H), 3.36 – 3.48 (m, 1H), 3.13 – 3.33 (m, 6H), 2.79 – 3.02 (m, 4H), 2.51 (dd, *J* = 4.05, 16.67 Hz, 1H), 1.99 (td, *J* = 3.34, 6.50 Hz, 4H). *m/z* 500 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-(piperidin-1-yl)-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25q)

Aniline **24** (25 mg, 0.056 mmol), potassium carbonate (9 mg, 0.062 mmol) and 1,5dibromopentane (14 mg, 8 μ L, 0.062 mmol) were combined in DI water and heated to 120 °C for 20 min in the microwave at 50W power. The aqueous was removed via pipette and the residue was dissolved in EtOAc, then washed with NaHCO₃ solution and brine, and dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography on silica (0–50% EtOAc/hexane) to give the piperidine (17 mg, 59%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.91 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (dd, *J* = 2.26, 8.48 Hz, 1H), 6.68 – 6.74 (m, 1H), 6.57 – 6.67 (m, 3H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.10, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.55 – 3.71 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.45 (m, 1H), 3.08 – 3.32 (m, 6H), 2.78 – 3.01 (m, 4H), 2.45 – 2.55 (m, 1H), 1.66 – 1.76 (m, 4H), 1.58 (d, *J* = 5.09 Hz, 2H). *m/z* 514 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-(pentylamino)-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25r)

This was prepared as per **25b** from **24** using valeraldehyde. Yield 46%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.05 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.93 – 7.01 (m, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.65 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 6.58 – 6.64 (m, 1H), 6.46 (dd, *J* = 2.26, 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (s, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.29, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.51 – 3.68 (m, 3H), 3.33 – 3.46 (m, 1H), 3.13 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 3.08 (t, *J* = 7.06 Hz, 2H), 2.77 – 2.99 (m, 4H), 2.42 – 2.52 (m, 1H), 1.58 – 1.68 (m, 2H), 1.32 – 1.44 (m, 4H), 0.88 – 0.97 (m, 3H). *m/z* 516 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-[methyl(pentyl)amino]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25s)

This was prepared as per **25a** from **25r**. Yield 82%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORMd) δ 7.18 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.06 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.96 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.48 Hz, 1H), 6.69 – 6.75 (m, 1H), 6.54 – 6.68 (m, 3H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 4.48 (dd, J = 8.10, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.56 – 3.70 (m, 2H), 3.39 (dt, J = 4.71, 12.15 Hz, 1H), 3.14 –

3.33 (m, 4H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 2.77 – 3.01 (m, 4H), 2.49 (dd, *J* = 3.77, 16.58 Hz, 1H), 1.57 (td, *J* = 7.23, 14.36 Hz, 2H), 1.23 – 1.42 (m, 4H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 6.88 Hz, 3H). *m*/*z* 530 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-(hexylamino)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25t)

This was prepared as per **25b** from **24** using 1-bromohexane. Yield 33%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 6.59 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (dd, *J* = 4.80, 7.82 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.65 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 6.57 – 6.64 (m, 1H), 6.46 (dd, *J* = 2.26, 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (d, *J* = 1.88 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.10, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.52 – 3.69 (m, 3H), 3.33 – 3.46 (m, 1H), 3.13 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 3.08 (t, *J* = 7.06 Hz, 2H), 2.77 – 2.98 (m, 4H), 2.42 – 2.51 (m, 1H), 1.53 – 1.67 (m, 2H), 1.27 – 1.47 (m, 6H), 0.86 – 0.94 (m, 3H). *m/z* 530 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-[hexyl(methyl)amino]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (25u)

This was prepared as per **25a** from **25t**. Yield 90%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORMd) δ 7.18 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.16 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (dd, *J* = 5.27, 7.72 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.48 Hz, 1H), 6.68 – 6.75 (m, 1H), 6.53 – 6.67 (m, 3H), 6.38 (d, *J* = 2.07 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.10, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.55 – 3.70 (m, 2H), 3.39 (dt, *J* = 4.62, 12.20 Hz, 1H), 3.13 – 3.32 (m, 4H), 2.90 (s, 3H), 2.77 – 3.01 (m, 4H), 2.49 (dd, *J* = 3.96, 16.58 Hz, 1H), 1.50 – 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.31 (br. s., 6H), 0.86 – 0.94 (m, 3H). *m/z* 544 (M +H).

Ethyl 2-({2-[(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}amino)acetate (26a)

This was prepared as per **25e** from **24** using ethyl bromoacetate. Yield 90%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.91 Hz, 2H), 6.92 – 7.00 (m, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.58 – 6.74 (m, 3H), 6.48 (dd, *J* = 2.12, 8.24 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (s, 1H), 4.47 (dd, *J* = 8.10, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, *J* = 7.16 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.57 – 3.69 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.11 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 2.76 – 2.98 (m, 4H), 2.42 – 2.53 (m, 1H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.11 Hz, 3H). *m/z* 532 (M+H).

Ethyl 2-({2-[(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}amino)propanoate (26b)

This was prepared as per **25e** from **24** using ethyl 2-bromopropionate. Yield 65%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 6.78 Hz, 2H), 6.91 – 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.58 – 6.73 (m, 3H), 6.47 (dd, *J* = 2.07, 8.10 Hz, 1H), 6.31 – 6.35 (m, 1H), 4.47 (dd, *J* = 8.01, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 7.10 Hz, 2H), 4.06 – 4.14 (m, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.55 – 3.67 (m, 2H), 3.32 – 3.45 (m, 1H), 3.21 (q, *J* = 17.08 Hz, 2H), 2.76 – 2.97 (m, 4H), 2.38 – 2.51 (m, 1H), 1.47 (d, *J* = 5.46 Hz, 3H), 1.27 (dt, *J* = 2.26, 7.16 Hz, 3H). *m/z* 546 (M+H).

Ethyl 3-({2-[(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}amino)propanoate (26c)

This was prepared as per **25e** from **24** using ethyl 3-bromopropionoate. Yield 12%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 6.97 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (t, *J* = 6.31 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.58 – 6.74 (m, 3H), 6.48 (dd, *J* = 2.26, 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (d, *J* = 1.88 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (q, *J* = 7.16 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.54 – 3.67 (m, 2H), 3.44 (t, *J* = 6.30 Hz, 2H), 3.36 – 3.49 (m, 1H), 3.22 (q, *J* = 17.08 Hz, 2H), 2.77 – 2.97 (m, 4H), 2.61 (t, *J* = 6.22 Hz, 2H), 2.42 – 2.53 (m, 1H), 1.22 – 1.31 (m, 3H). *m/z* 546 (M+H).

Ethyl 4-({2-[(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}amino)butanoate (26d)

This was prepared as per **25e** from **24** using ethyl 4-bromobutanoate. Yield 35%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.05 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.96 (dd, J = 4.71, 7.72 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.65 – 6.75 (m, 2H), 6.59 – 6.64 (m, 1H), 6.47 (dd, J = 2.26, 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (d, J = 2.26 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, J = 8.19, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (q, J = 7.16 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.54 – 3.67 (m, 2H), 3.34 – 3.45 (m, 1H), 3.11 – 3.32 (m, 4H), 2.77 – 2.99 (m, 4H), 2.49 (d, J = 5.27 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (t, J = 7.16 Hz, 2H), 1.95 (quin, J = 6.97 Hz, 2H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.16 Hz, 3H). m/z 560 (M+H).

Tert-butyl 4-({2-[(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}amino)butanoate (26e)

This was prepared as per **25e** from **24** using t-butyl 4-bromobutanoate. Yield 21%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 6.78 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (br. s., 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.65 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 6.58 – 6.64 (m, 1H), 6.46 (dd, *J* = 2.17, 8.19 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (d, *J* = 2.07 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (dd, *J* = 8.01, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.54 – 3.69 (m, 2H), 3.32 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.14 (t, *J* = 6.88 Hz, 2H), 3.07 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 2.76 – 2.99 (m, 4H), 2.41 – 2.54 (m, 1H), 2.34 (t, *J* = 7.16 Hz, 2H), 1.90 (quin, *J* = 7.02 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (s, 9H). *m/z* 588 (M+H).

Methyl 5-({2-[(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}amino)pentanoate (26f)

This was prepared as per **25e** from **24** using methyl 5-bromopentanoate, stirring overnight at RT. Yield 19%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.05 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.93 – 7.01 (m, *J* = 4.30 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.65 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 6.57 – 6.64 (m, 1H), 6.46 (dd, *J* = 2.26, 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (d, *J* = 2.07 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.10, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.53 – 3.66 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.45 (m, 1H), 3.06 – 3.32 (m, 4H), 2.76 – 2.98 (m, 4H), 2.42 – 2.53 (m, 1H), 2.33 – 2.41 (m, 2H), 1.56 – 1.83 (m, 4H). *m/z* 560 (M+H).

Ethyl 7-({2-[(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}amino)heptanoate (26g)

This was prepared as per **25e** from **24** using ethyl 5-bromoheptanoate, stirring overnight at RT. Yield 18%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.17 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.03 – 7.15

(m, 2H), 6.97 (dd, J = 4.62, 7.63 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.65 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 6.58 – 6.64 (m, 1H), 6.46 (dd, J = 2.35, 8.19 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (d, J = 2.07 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, J = 8.01, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (q, J = 7.16 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.52 – 3.70 (m, 2H), 3.34 – 3.46 (m, 1H), 3.13 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 3.09 (t, J = 7.06 Hz, 2H), 2.76 – 2.99 (m, 4H), 2.41 – 2.52 (m, 1H), 2.31 (t, J = 7.44 Hz, 2H), 1.55 – 1.71 (m, 4H), 1.33 – 1.49 (m, 4H), 1.22 – 1.30 (m, 3H). m/z 602 (M+H).

2-({2-[(Benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}amino)-N,N-dimethylacetamide (26h)

Ester **25q** (18 mg, 0.034 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (0.5 mL) and 2N sodium hydroxide solution (0.1 mL, 0.2 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred at RT overnight. The ethanol was removed under reduced pressure, the reaction was diluted with water and the pH was adjusted to 7 with 2N HCl. All solvents were removed under reduced pressure, and the crude was dissolved as far as possible in methanol. The solution was filtered to remove solids and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to give the acid.

The acid was combined with dimethylamine hydrochloride (7 mg, 0.079 mmol) and HATU (23 mg, 0.060 mmol) in DMF (0.5 mL) and DIPEA (26 mg, 35 µL, 0.199 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred at RT overnight, diluted with EtOAc, washed with NaHCO₃ solution and brine, and dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography on silica (0–10% CMA-80/EtOAc) to give the amide (9 mg, 43%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.19 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.72 Hz, 2H), 6.94 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.81 – 6.93 (m, 2H), 6.59 – 6.75 (m, 3H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (s, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.55 – 3.69 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.13 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 3.01 – 3.08 (m, 4H), 2.83 – 2.99 (m, 4H), 2.81 (s, 2H), 2.43 – 2.55 (m, 1H). *m/z* 531 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-methanesulfonamido-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (27)

To aniline **24** (40 mg, 0.090 mmol) and TEA (36 mg, 50 μ L, 0.359 mmol) in DCM (0.5 mL) was added methanesulfonyl chloride (31 mg, 21 μ L, 0.269 mmol) and the reaction was stirred at RT overnight. The solution was taken directly into purification by chromatography on silica (0–70% EtOAc/hexane) to give the bis-sulfonamide (30 mg, 56%).

The bis-sulfonamide was suspended in 2N NaOH solution (2 mL) and heated to 80 °C overnight. The reaction was cooled and acidified with 2N HCl solution. The precipitate formed was collected by filtration to give the sulfonamide as a white solid (19 mg, 73%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 7.18 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 6.97 – 7.13 (m, 4H), 6.81 – 6.92 (m, 3H), 6.75 (s, 2H), 4.29 (dd, *J* = 7.72, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 3.70 – 3.74 (m, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 3.53 – 3.60 (m, 1H), 3.21 – 3.31 (m, 2H), 2.85 – 2.98 (m, 3H), 2.82 (s, 3H), 2.70 – 2.80 (m, 3H), 2.39 – 2.46 (m, 1H). *m/z* 524 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-acetamido-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (28a)

To a solution of aniline **24** (25 mg, 0.056 mmol) in DCM (0.5 mL) was added DIPEA (22 mg, 29 μ L, 0.168 mmol) and then acetic anhydride (11 mg, 11 μ L, 0.112 mmol) and the resulting solution was stirred at RT overnight. The solution was applied directly to column for chromatography on silica (0–100% EtOAc/hexane) to give the amide (27 mg, quantitative). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.17 – 7.33 (m, 4H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.01 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.66 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 6.60 – 6.66 (m, 1H), 4.49 (dd, *J* = 8.15, 14.93 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.56 – 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.36 – 3.49 (m, 1H), 3.10 – 3.33 (m, 2H), 2.79 – 3.03 (m, 4H), 2.52 – 2.63 (m, 1H), 2.17 (s, 3H). *m/z* 488 (M+H).

N-{2-[(Benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}hexanamide (28b)

Aniline **24** (30 mg, 0.067 mmol) and BOP (30 mg, 0.067 mmol) were combined in DCM (1 mL) and hexanoic acid (8 mg, 8.5 μ L, 0.067 mmol) was added, followed by DIPEA (17 mg, 24 μ L, 0.135 mmol) and the reaction was stirred at RT overnight. The reaction was diluted with EtOAc, washed with NaHCO₃ solution and brine, and dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography on silica (0–75% EtOAc/hexane) to give the desired amide (34 mg, 97%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.17 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.05 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.29 Hz, 1H), 6.87 – 6.96 (m, 1H), 6.59 – 6.74 (m, 3H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.15, 15.02 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.60 (dd, *J* = 4.71, 14.98 Hz, 2H), 3.35 – 3.51 (m, 1H), 3.08 – 3.33 (m, 2H), 2.78 – 3.03 (m, 4H), 2.51 – 2.63 (m, 1H), 2.34 (t, *J* = 7.49 Hz, 2H), 1.66 – 1.79 (m, 2H), 1.31 – 1.41 (m, 4H), 0.87 – 0.95 (m, 3H). *m/z* 544 (M+H).

N-{2-[(Benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}benzamide (28c)

This was prepared as per **27a** except using benzoyl chloride. Yield 81%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.84 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.45 – 7.60 (m, 4H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.48 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.03 – 7.12 (m, 3H), 6.88 – 6.96 (m, 1H), 6.67 – 6.75 (m, 2H), 6.59 – 6.66 (m, 1H), 4.49 (dd, J = 8.15, 15.02 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (d, J = 0.94 Hz, 3H), 3.73 – 3.76 (m, 3H), 3.55 – 3.73 (m, 2H), 3.38 – 3.51 (m, 1H), 3.11 – 3.34 (m, 2H), 2.81 – 3.08 (m, 4H), 2.61 (dd, J = 4.57, 16.81 Hz, 1H). m/z 550 (M+H).

Ethyl N-{2-[(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl}carbamate (23b)

This was isolated from the hydrolysis of carbamate **23a** in ethanol. Yield 15%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.18 – 7.37 (m, 4H), 7.05 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.38 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (dd, *J* = 4.85, 7.77 Hz, 1H), 6.65 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 4.49 (dd, *J* = 8.10, 14.98 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (q, *J* = 7.16 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.56 – 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.35 – 3.50 (m, 1H), 3.09 – 3.34 (m, 2H), 2.78 – 3.03 (m, 4H), 2.48 – 2.61 (m, 1H), 1.27 – 1.35 (m, 3H). *m/z* 518 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-[(phenylcarbamoyl)amino]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (28d)

Aniline **24** (25 mg, 0.056 mmol) and phenyl isocyanate (7 mg, 7 µL, 0.062 mmol) were combined in toluene (0.5 mL) and heated to 75 °C for 4 hr. The reaction was cooled and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography on silica (0–80% EtOAc/hexane) to give the urea (32 mg, quantitative). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.17 – 7.35 (m, 8H), 6.95 – 7.12 (m, 6H), 6.70 – 6.78 (m, 2H), 6.60 – 6.68 (m, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.56 – 3.68 (m, 2H), 3.35 – 3.49 (m, 1H), 3.05 – 3.34 (m, 2H), 2.70 – 2.91 (m, 4H), 2.40 – 2.53 (m, 1H). *m/z* 565 (M+H).

N-Benzyl-2-{1-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-6-[(hexylcarbamoyl)amino]-1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-yl}acetamide (28e)

This was prepared as per **27d** using hexyl isocyanate. Yield 89%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CHLOROFORM-d) δ 7.19 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.02 – 7.16 (m, 4H), 6.92 – 7.01 (m, 3H), 6.67 – 6.75 (m, 2H), 6.60 – 6.66 (m, 1H), 5.03 (t, *J* = 5.56 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (dd, *J* = 8.19, 15.07 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.55 – 3.67 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.50 (m, 1H), 3.05 – 3.32 (m, 4H), 2.75 – 2.94 (m, 4H), 2.48 (dd, *J* = 4.66, 15.87 Hz, 1H), 1.38 – 1.52 (m, 2H), 1.22 – 1.35 (m, 6H), 0.82 – 0.91 (m, 3H). *m/z* 573 (M+H).

Calcium Mobilization Ke Assay for OX1 and OX2

Two individual stable cell lines were created by over-expressing human OX_1 and OX_2 receptors in CHO-RD-HGA16 (Molecular Devices) cells. The day before the assay, cells were plated into 96-well black-walled assay plates at 25,000 cells/well in Ham's F12 supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 100 units of penicillin and streptomycin, and 100 µg/mL normocinTM. The cells were incubated overnight at 37°C, 5% CO₂. Prior to the assay, Calcium 5 dye (Molecular Devices) was reconstituted according to the manufacturer instructions. The reconstituted dye was diluted 1:40 in pre-warmed (37°C) assay buffer (1X HBSS, 20 mM HEPES, 2.5 mM probenecid, pH 7.4 at 37°C). Growth medium was removed and the cells were gently washed with 100 μ L of pre-warmed (37°C) assay buffer. The cells were incubated for 45 minutes at 37°C, 5% CO₂ in 200 µL of the diluted Calcium 5 dye. A single concentration of each test compound was prepared at 10× the desired final concentration in 2.5% BSA/8% DMSO/assay buffer. Serial dilutions of orexin A were prepared at 10× the desired final concentration in 0.25% BSA/1% DMSO/assay buffer, aliquoted into 96-well polypropylene plates, and warmed to 37°C. After the dye-loading incubation period, the cells were pre-treated with 25 µL of the test compounds and incubated for 15 min at 37°C. After the pre-treatment incubation period, the plate was read with a FlexStation II (Molecular Devices). Calcium-mediated changes in fluorescence were monitored every 1.52 seconds over a 60 second time period, with the FlexStation II adding $25 \,\mu\text{L}$ of the orexin A serial dilutions at the 19 second time point (excitation at 485 nm, detection at 525 nm). Peak kinetic reduction (SoftMax, Molecular Devices) relative fluorescent units (RFU) were plotted against the log of compound concentration. Data were fit to a three-parameter logistic curve to generate EC_{50} values (Prism, version 6.0, GraphPad Software, Inc., San Diego, CA). Apparent K_e values were calculated using the equation $K_e =$

 $[L]/((EC_{50} + EC_{50}) - 1)$ where [L] is the concentration of test compound, EC_{50} + is the EC_{50} of orexin A with test compound, and EC_{50} is the EC_{50} of orexin A. K_e values were considered valid when the $EC_{50} + EC_{50}$ ratio was at least 4.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BOP	(Benzotriazol-1-yloxy) tris (dimethylamino) phosphonium hexa fluorophosphate
HATU	1-[Bis(dimethylamino)methylene]-1H-1,2,3-triazolo[4,5-b]pyridinium 3-oxid hexafluorophosphate
HPLC	high performance liquid chromatography
OX ₁	orexin 1 receptor
OX ₂	orexin 2 receptor
SAR	structure-activity relationship
TLC	thin layer chromatography

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3 (ACT-335827)

4 (RTIOX-276)







1 hour pre-incubation of compound prior to Orexin A addition

Simultaneous Addition of Orexin A and Compound



Figure 2.

Effect of incubation time on calcium mobilization of compounds 17e, 25j and 26e in OX1 cells. Each data point represents the composite of at least three individual experiments performed in duplicate.



Scheme 1.

Synthesis of 7-alkoxytetrahydroisoquinoline derivatives

Reagents and Conditions: (a) (i) 3,4-Dimethoxyphenylacetic acid, BOP, iPr2EtN, DMF; (ii) R-I or R-Br, K₂CO₃, DMF; (b) (i) POCl₃, toluene; (ii) NaBH₄, MeOH; (c) (i) MeOCOCl, iPr₂EtN, CH₂Cl₂; (ii) R-I or R-Br, K₂CO₃, DMF; (d) 3,4-dimethoxyphenylacetaldehyde, TFA; (e) KOH, NH₂NH₂.H₂O, (CH₂OH)₂; (f) BrCH₂CONHBn, iPr₂EtN, Bu₄NI, DMF.



Scheme 2.

Synthesis of 6-alkoxytetrahydroisoquinoline derivatives

Reagents and Conditions: (a) (i) BnBr, K₂CO₃, DMF; (ii) MeNO₂, NH₄OAc, AcOH; (b) LiAlH₄, Et₂O, CH₂Cl₂; (c) 3,4-dimethoxyphenylacetic acid, BOP, iPr₂EtN, DMF; (d) (i) POCl₃, toluene; (ii) NaBH₄, MeOH; (e) (i) BrCH₂CONHBn, iPr₂EtN, Bu₄NI, DMF; (ii) NH₄HCOO, Pd/C, EtOH; (f) R-Br, K₂CO₃, Bu₄NI, DMF or R-I, K₂CO₃, DMF; (g) RSO₂Cl, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂; (h) RCOCl, iPr₂EtN, CH₂Cl₂.



Scheme 3.

Synthesis of 6-aminotetrahydroisoquinoline derivatives.

Reactions and Conditions: (a) 3,4-dimethoxyphenylacetic acid, BOP, iPr₂EtN, DMF; (b) (i) Raney Ni, NH₂NH₂.H₂O, EtOH; (ii) MeOCOCl, iPr₂EtN, CH₂Cl₂; (c) (i) POCl₃, toluene; (ii) NaBH₄, MeOH; (iii) BrCH₂CONHBn, iPr₂EtN, Bu₄NI, DMF; (d) 2N NaOH (aq), MeOH; (e) aldehyde, Na(OAc)₃BH, 1–2-DCE or alkyl halide, iPr₂EtN, DMF; (f) (i) MsCl, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂; (ii) 2N NaOH (aq); (g) RCO₂H, BOP, iPr₂EtN, CH₂Cl₂ or RCOCl/(RCO)₂O, iPr₂EtN, CH₂Cl₂ or isocyanate, toluene.

Table 1

7-Alkoxy tetrahydroisoquinoline orexin antagonists.



 a Ke values are the mean \pm SEM of three independent experiments performed in duplicate. Results where Ke > 10 μ M are N=2.

^bLess than 50% inhibition at 10 μ M.

Table 2

6-Alkoxy Tetrahydroisoquinoline Orexin Antagonists.

No.	R	OX ₁ Ke (nM) ^a	$\mathrm{OX}_2\mathrm{K_e}(\mathrm{nM})^a$ or % inhibition at 10 $\mu\mathrm{M}$				
17a	n-Propyl	>10000	b				
17b	2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl	>10000	b				
17c	iso-Propyl	>10000	b				
17d	Benzyl	>10000	b				
17e	EtO	1000 ± 190^{C}	Ь				
17f		>10000	b				
18a	Methylsulfonyl	>10000	1330 ± 260				
18b	Benzenesulfonyl	>10000	b				
19	Propionoyl	>10000	1290 ± 130				

 a Ke values are the mean ± SEM of three independent experiments performed in duplicate. Results where Ke > 10 μ M are N=2.

 b Less than 50% inhibition at 10 $\mu M.$

^CPre-incubation of antagonist and test compound was 1 hr.

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Table 3

6-Amino tetrahydroisoquinoline orexin antagonists.

No.	R	R′	OX ₁ K _e (nM) ^a	OX ₂ K _e (nM) ^a		
25a	Methyl	Methyl	1370 ± 100	b		
25b	n-Propyl	Н	>10000	b		
25c	n-Propyl	Methyl	619 ± 96	b		
25d	n-Propyl	n-Propyl	2350 ± 490	b		
25e	iso-Propyl	Н	>10000	b		
25f	Cyclopropylmethyl	Н	>10000	b		
25g	Cyclopropylmethyl	Methyl	1400 ± 240	b		
25h	Benzyl	Н	1100 ± 290	b		
25i	Benzyl	Methyl	>10000	b		
25j	MeO MeO	Н	$2180 \pm 360^{\circ}$	b		
25k	3-Phenylpropyl	Н	1180 ± 80	b		
251	4-Phenoxybutyl	Н	2080 ± 20	b		
25m	4-Pyridylmethyl	Н	>10,000	b		
25n	3-Pyridylmethyl	Н	1270 ± 110	b		
250	\sim	Н	>10000	Ь		
25p	Pyrrolidine		2480 ± 6	b		
25q	Piperidine		>10000	b		
25r	n-Pentyl	Н	>10000	b		
25s	n-Pentyl	Methyl	>10000	b		
25t	n-Hexyl	Н	>10000	b		



No.	R	R′	OX ₁ K _e (nM) ^a	OX ₂ K _e (nM) ^a		
26g	EtO	Н	>10000	b		
26h		н	>10000	b		
27	Methylsulfanyl	Н	>10000	b		
28a	Acetyl	Н	>10000	b		
28b	Hexanoyl	Н	>10000	>10000		
28c	Benzoyl	Н	>10000	b		
23a	Methyl carbamoyl	Н	2400 ± 320	>10000		
23b	Ethyl carbamoyl	Н	>10000	>10000		
28d	PhNHCO	Н	>10000	b		
28e	n-Hexyl-NHCO	Н	5230 ± 680	b		

 a Ke values are the mean \pm SEM of three independent experiments performed in duplicate. Results where Ke > 10 μ M are N=2.

^bLess than 50% inhibition at 10 μ M.

^CPre-incubation of antagonist and receptor was 45 min.

 d Pre-incubation of antagonist and receptor was 1 hr.