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General: Caffeic acide phenethyl ester (CAPE), dihydrocaffeic acid phenethyl ester (DHC), SB 203580 and BIRB-796 were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. All solvents were distilled prior to use. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy was performed on either Varian Unity+ 300 (300 MHz) or Varian DirectDrive 400 (400 MHz) instruments. Melting points were obtained using a Buchi B-540 apparatus and are uncorrected. Mass spectrometry services were provided by the Mass Spectrometry Facility at the University of Texas at Austin. HPLC was performed on a Varian Prostar 320 system.

4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(4-pyridyl)-1-ethynyl-1H-imidazole (2): To a solution of 5 mg (0.01 mmol) of 4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(4-pyridyl)-2-(2-triisolpropylsilanyl)-1H-imidazole^[S1] in 2 mL THF at -78 °C was added a solution of 1.0 M tetrabutylammonium fluoride in THF (0.012 mL, 0.012 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C until completion (*ca.* 30 min). Water (2 mL) was added to the reaction mixture, which was allowed to warm to room temperature and extracted 3 x CH₂Cl₂. The organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (0-50% EtOAc/hexane) to afford 4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(4-pyridyl)-1-ethynyl-1H-imidazole (3 mg, 96 % yield) as a light yellow solid: mp = 123-124 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) d: 8.69 (br s, 2H, pyridine 2-,6-H), 7.94 (s, 1H, imidazole 2-H), 7.48-7.39 (m, 2H, pyridine 3-,5-H), 7.40-7.39 (m, 2H, Ar 2-,6-H), 7.02-6.98 (m, 2H, Ar 3-,5-H); MS m/z: 264 (M⁺, 100); HRMS (CI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₁N₃F (M⁺) 264.0937, found 264.0932.

N-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenethyl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetamide (Mis-042): A mixture of 32 mg (0.19 mmol) of 2(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)ethylamine and 29 mg (0.19 mmol) of 4-hydroxyphenylacetic acid was heated under Ar at 190 °C for 2 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was dissolved in EtOAc and washed with 1 N HCl, NaHCO₃ (sat), and brine. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. The residue was recrystallized from EtOAc to afford 18 mg (32 % yield) of MIS-042 as tan crystals: mp = 131.9-133.5 °C (lit.^[S2] 132-134 °C); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃CN) d 7.01 (d, 2H, J = 8.2 Hz, phenol 3,-5-H), 6.74-6.68 (m, 3H, phenol 2-,6-H, catechol 4-H), 6.56 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz, catechol 3-H), 6.39 (br s, 1H, catechol 6-H), 3.78 (s, 3H, catechol OMe), 3.33-3.28 (m, 4H, NHCH₂, CH₂CO), 2.62 (t, 2H, J = 7.0 Hz, NCH₂CH₂); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃CN) d 172.2, 156.6, 147.9, 145.3, 131.9, 131.1, 127.8, 122.0, 116.0, 115.3, 113.0, 56.3, 42.8, 41.4, 35.5; MS (ESI) *m/z* 302 (MH,⁺ 21), 324 ([M+Na],⁺ 100); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₇H₂₀NO₄ (MH)⁺ 302.13868, found 302.13858.

General Procedure for Synthesis of MIS-103, 108, 109, 112, and 113: (*E*)-Phenethyl 3-(4-fluoro-3-methoxyphenyl)acrylate (Mis-108): 4-Fluoro-3-methoxybenzaldehyde (100 mg, 0.648 mmol), (carboxymethyl)triphenylphosphonium chloride β -phenylethyl ester,^[S3] (0.973 mg, 0.648 mmol) and

KHCO₃ (211.7 mg, 2.11 mmol) were dissolved in 2 mL of dioxane and 2 mL of CHCl₃. The resulting mixture was refluxed at 80 °C for 18 hours. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, poured into water, and extracted with CHCl₃. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated. The residue was subjected to flash chromatography (4.5:0.5 hexane/EtOAc) to afford a mixture of *E/Z* isomers (1:0.14). Recrystallization from EtOAc/hexane afforded pure *E*- isomer as a white crystalline solid (122 mg, 63% yield): mp 70.0-71.1 °C; IR: 2962, 1705, 1474, 1216, 780 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, *d*₆-acetone): δ 3.01 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 3.96 (s, 3 H), 4.38 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1 H), 7.16-7.31 (m, 2 H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 4 H), 7.51 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 6.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.7, 153.7 (J_{C-F} = 250 Hz), 147.9 (J_{C-F} = 11 Hz), 143.9, 137.8, 131.0 (J_{C-F} = 4 Hz), 128.9, 128.5, 126.6, 121.6 (J_{C-F} = 7 Hz), 117.8, 116.4 (J_{C-F} = 18 Hz), 112.2, 65.0, 56.2, 35.2; CI-MS *m/z* 301(MH⁺, 65), HRMS (CI) calcd for C₁₈H₁₇FO₃ (MH)⁺ 301.1240, found 301.1239.

(*E*)-3-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-*N*-phenethylacrylamide (Mis-103). Following the general procedure above, but substituting (2-oxo-2-(phenethylamino)ethyl)triphenylphosphonium chloride^[S4] for (carboxymethyl)triphenylphosphonium chloride β-phenylethyl ester, afforded after flash chromatography (4.5:0.5 hexane/EtOAc) and recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexane **Mis-103** as a white crystalline solid (89 mg, 80 % yield): mp 152-152.4 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.51 (d, 1H, J = 15.6 Hz, ArCH=CH), 7.34-7.16 (m, 7H, ArH), 6.51 (t, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 6.16 (d, 1H, J = 15.6 Hz, CH=CHCO), 5.58 (brs, 1H, NH), 3.89 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.64 (dt, 2H, J = 6.9, 6.3 Hz, NHCH₂), 2.87 (t, 2H, J = 6.9 Hz, CH₂CH₂Ph); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.9, 152.5 (J_{C-F} = 247 Hz), 149.2 (J_{C-F} = 9.0 Hz), 140.0, 139.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.3 (J_{C-F} = 7 Hz), 126.8, 125.3 (J_{C-F} = 3 Hz), 119.8, 114.4 (J_{C-F} = 19 Hz), 113.4 (J_{C-F} = 2 Hz), 56.5, 41.0, 35.9; MS (CI) m/z 300 (MH⁺, 100); HRMS (CI) calcd for C₁₈H₁₉FNO₂ (MH)⁺ 300.1400, found 301.1399.

(*E*)-Phenethyl 3-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)acrylate (Mis-109). Following the general procedure above, flash chromatography (4:1 hexane/EtOAc) and recrystallization from EtOAc/hexane afforded Mis-109 as a white crystalline solid (202 mg, 52% yield): mp 76.3-77.6 °C; IR 2935, 1705, 1516, 1458, 1278, 1167, 1127, 1020 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, *d*₆-acetone): δ 3.00 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2 H), 3.94 (s, 3 H), 4.37 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2 H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1 H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dd, *J*₁ = 10.1 Hz, *J*₂ = 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 4 H), 7.44 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.41 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.37 Hz, 1 H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 12.7 Hz, *J*₂ =10.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, *d*₆-acetone): δ 166.4, 152.4 (d, J_{C-F} = 245 Hz), 149.8 (J_{C-F} = 10 Hz), 143.4 (J_{C-F} = 2 Hz), 138.5, 129.2, 128.6, 127.9 (J_{C-F} = 6 Hz), 126.6, 126.0 (J_{C-F} = 3 Hz), 117.2, 114.8 (J_{C-F} = 18 Hz), 113.8, 64.9, 55.9, 35.1; MS (CI) *m/z* 301 (MH⁺, 65); HRMS (CI) calcd for C₁₈H₁₇FO₃ 301.1240, found: 301.1239.

(*E*)-3-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-*N*-phenethylacrylamide (Mis-112A). Following the general procedure above, but substituting (2-oxo-2-(phenethylamino)ethyl)triphenylphosphonium chloride^[S4] for (carboxymethyl)triphenylphosphonium chloride β-phenylethyl ester, afforded after flash chromatography (4.5:0.5 hexane/EtOAc) and recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexane **Mis-112A** as a white crystalline solid (399 mg, 79 % yield): mp 143.5-145.0 °C; IR 3303, 1656, 1622, 1550, 1518, 1297, 1275, 1197, 966 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, *d*₆-acetone): δ 2.85 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 3.86 (dt, 2 H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.17-7.43 (m, 7 H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.52-7.57 (td, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75MHz, *d*₆-acetone, missing two C_{ipso}-F due to coupling): δ 164.8, 139.8, 137.2, 133.6 (m), 128.9, 128.6, 126.4, 124.9 (m), 123.7, 117.9 (J_{C-F} = 18 Hz), 116.11 (J_{C-F} = 17 Hz), 41.0, 35.8; MS (CI) *m/z* 288 (MH⁺, 15), HRMS (CI) calcd for C₁₉H₁₉FO₄; (MH)⁺ 288.1200, found 288.1200.

(*E*)-Phenethyl 3-(3,4-difluorophenyl)acrylate (Mis-113A).^[S5] Following the general procedure above, flash chromatography (4.5:0.5 hexane/EtOAc) and recrystallization from EtOAc/hexane afforded Mis-113A as a colorless crystalline solid (300 mg, 75% yield): mp 57.8-59.2 °C (lit.^[S5] 53-57 °C); IR 3086, 2947, 1711, 1642, 1518, 1274, 1213, 1184, 1113, 983, 701 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-acetone): δ 2.99 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2 H), 4.40 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2 H), 6.31 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.12-7.24 (m, 7 H), 7.28-7.34 (m, 3 H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, *d*₆-acetone, missing two C_{ipso}-F due to coupling): δ 166.0, 142.4, 138.4, 132.5 (m), 129.2, 128.6, 126.6, 125.9 (m), 119.8, 118.0 (d, J_{C-F} = 18 Hz), 116.7 (d, J_{C-F} = 18 Hz), 65.1, 35.1; MS (CI) *m/z* 289 (MH⁺, 20), HRMS (CI) calcd for C₁₇H₁₄F₂O₂ (MH)⁺ 289.0995, found 289.1040.

African Potato Extract (APE): Following the procedure of Drewes and co-workers^[S6] dried, ground *H. hemerocallidea* corms (20 g) were extracted with 50 mL of EtOH at room temperature for 48 h. Filtration and evaporation of the solvent afforded 338 mg of APE as a brown solid.

Rooperol: Following the procedure of Drewes and co-workers,^[S6] APE (300 mg) was dissolved in 190 mL of 10 mM sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.5, and treated with 1 g of cellulase at 37 °C overnight. The resulting mixture was carefully extracted with EtOAc (5 x 50 mL) and the combined extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The residue upon evaporation of the solvent was subjected to repeated flash chromatography (5-50% EtOAc/Hexance) to afford 14 mg of rooperol as a pale yellow solid: mp = 148 °C (lit.^[S6] 148 °C); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): d 6.84 (d, 1H, J = 1.6 Hz, catechol 3-H), 6.81 (d, 1H, J = 1.9 Hz, catechol' 3H), 6.75 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 1.9 Hz, catechol'-5H), 6.70-6.60 (m, 3H, catechol 5-,6-H, catechol' 6-H), 6.50 (dt, 1H, J = 15.4, 1.5 Hz, CH=CH-Ar), 6.00 (dt, 1H, J = 15.6, 5.6 Hz, CH=CHAr), 3.23 (dd, 2H, J = 5.7, 1.8 Hz, CH₂CH=); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD): d 145.4, 144.9, 144.6 (2X), 130.7, 129.5,

123.3, 121.2, 118.1, 117.9, 114.9, 114.8, 114.7, 112.4, 83.6, 82.4, 21.9; MS *m/z*: 283 (MH⁺, 100); HRMS (CI) calcd for C₁₇H₁₅O₄ (MH⁺) 283.0970, found 283.0961.

Nyasol:^[S7] Also isolated from the flash chromatographic purification of rooperol as a yellow oil (2 mg): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.17 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.11 (d, 2H, J = 8.7 Hz, Ar**H**), 6.80-8.76 (m, 4H, Ar**H**), 6.50 (d, 1H, J = 11.5 Hz, ArC**H**=CH), 6.01 (ddd, 1H, J = 16.7, 10.6, 6.0 Hz, C**H**=CH₂), 5.67 (dd, 1H, J = 11.5, 10.0, C**H**=CHAr), 5.17-5.14 (m, 2H, CH=C**H**₂), 4.80 (brs, 1H, ArO**H**), 4.69 (brs, 1H, ArO**H**), 4.49 (1H, dd, J = 10.0, 6.0 Hz, ArC**H**CH=CH₂) (matches lit.^[S8]); MS (CI) m/z 252 (M⁺, 100); HRMS (CI) calcd for C₁₇H₁₆O₂ [M⁺]+: 253.1150, Found: 253.1151.

MALDI-MS on p38α•2 adduct

In order to identify the site of adduction, the sample of unactivated p38 α treated with compound 2 was digested with chymotrypsin and further analyzed by MALDI-MS/MS. The MASCOT generated chymotrypsin digest coverage based on MS values showed 88 % coverage of the protein in the untreated sample (p38a alone), with peptides 36-59, 130-132, 208-216, 271-274 unobserved. For the treated digest (modified p38 α by compound 2), the coverage was 83 %, with peptides 36-59, 105-132, 208-216 unobserved. The major difference in coverage was the absence of peptide 105-129 in the treated sample. Comparative MALDI analysis and de novo sequencing identified the modification site. In the untreated sample, the peptide 104-129 is seen at 2952.476, with sequence confirmed by MS/MS. This peptide is absent from the treated sample. However, a new peptide is observed at 3215.553 (Figure S13). De novo sequencing identified the peptide as residues 104-129 with modification of Cys119 by a mass addition of 263 Da (Figure S2). The modification at Cys119 was observed in five additional peptide sequences for peptides only in the treated sample. They were observed with same modification of 263 Da, and at lower signal intensity with modification of 261 Da: residues 115-119 at 965.435/967.450, 110-119 at 1435.6/1437.660, 115-129 at 2048.960/2050.976, 111-129 at 2464.155, and 110-129 at 2519.171/2521.178. However, none of these peptides were observed in the untreated sample. The MS of the treated protein chymotrypsin digest does not contain peptide 104-129 in an unlabeled form, only the labeled peptide, implying that this site is modified stoichiometrically. Thus, it is unlikely that any other site on the protein is modified.

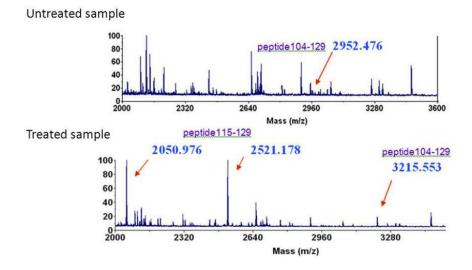


Figure S1. MALDI-MS spectra of p38 α treated with *N*-alkynylimidazole **2** and untreated p38 α after digestion with chymotrypsin.

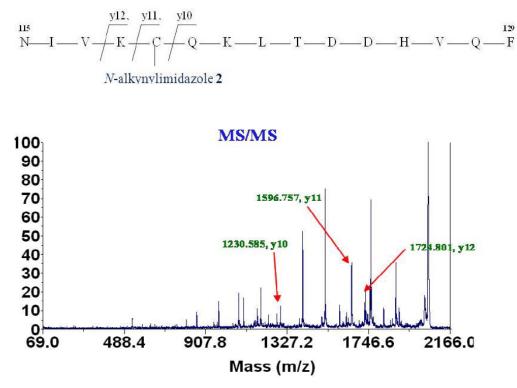


Figure S2. MALDI-MS/MS spectrum of *N*-alkynylimidazole **2** adducted p38α after digestion with chymotrypsin.

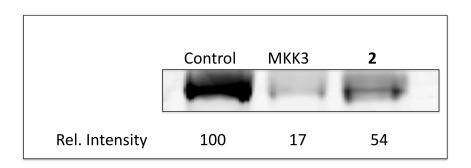


Figure S3. Competition between Compounds 3 and 2 for adduction of p38 α . p38 α (5 μ M) was incubated in the presence of 3 (100 μ M) alone (Control) or in the presence of an equimolar concentration of MKK3 peptide or compound 2 for 16 h followed by click reaction and in-gel fluorescence SDS-PAGE analysis.

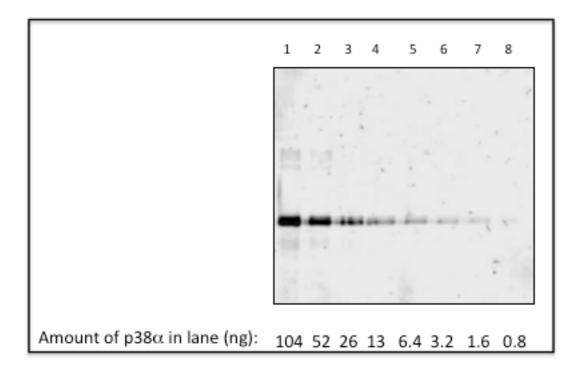


Figure S4. Limit of detection of p38 α after incubation with 3 and click reaction with Alexa594-azide.

One issue that arose when studying the kinetics of the adduction of $p38\alpha$ by **3** was the possibility of adduction of $p38\alpha$ by **3** during the click reaction. In order to address this, we have carried out parallel experiments in which samples from adduction reactions were either directly treated under click reaction conditions, or first subjected to spin-column purification to remove unadducts **3** and then treated under click reaction conditions. As shown in **Figure S5** (below), there was no significant difference in the adducts formed under the two different conditions. Presumably, the click reaction of unadducted **3** is fast relative to adduct formation, and once unadducted **3** undergoes click reaction, it is no longer able to form adducts with $p38\alpha$.

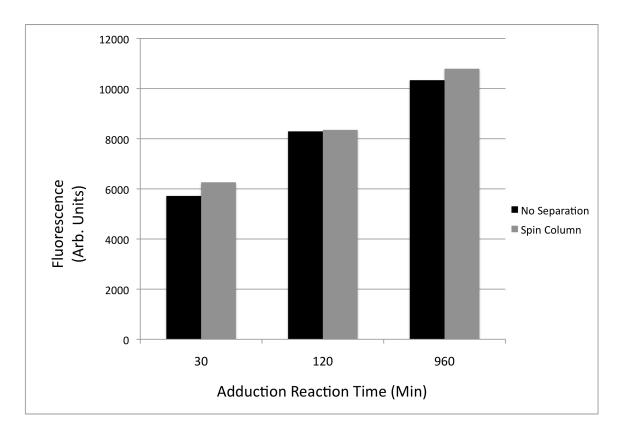


Figure S5. Comparison of p38 α adduction by compound **3** with and without removal of non-adducted **3** prior to click chemistry. Black bars: Fluorescence intensity of bands from in-gel fluorescence SDS-PAGE analysis of click reactions run directly on adduction incubations containing 5 μ M p38 α and 100 μ M **3** at 30, 120, and 960 min. Gray bars: Adduction reactions containing 5 μ M p38 α and 100 μ M **3** at 30, 120, and 960 min were first subjected to spin column removal of unadducted **3** and then subjected to click reaction.

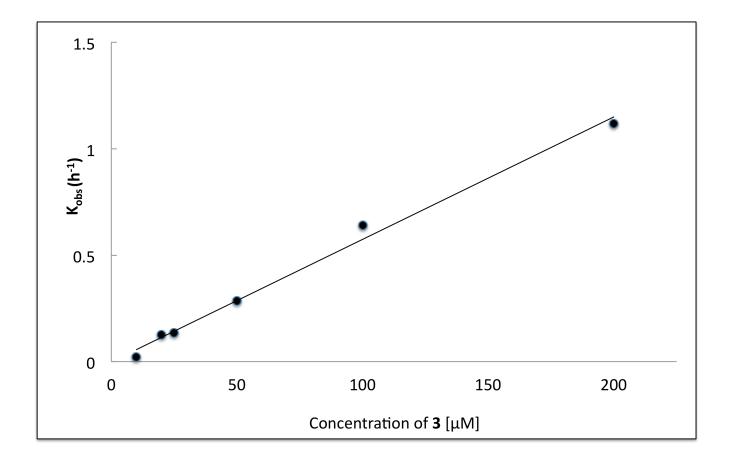


Figure S6. Concentration dependence of the observed pseudo-first order rate of $p38\alpha$ adduct formation by 3.

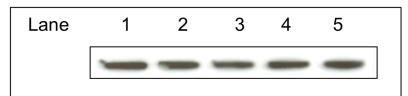


Figure S7. Anti-FLAG Western blot of samples from Figure 6 in the paper. HEK 293T cells overexpressing Flag-tagged p38 α were treated with **3** and then subjected to lysis, immunoprecipitation, and click reaction with Alexa594-azide. Lane 1. Cells treated with vehicle (0.05 % DMSO); 2. Cells treated with 1 μ M 3. Lane 3. Cells treated with 5 μ M **3**. Lane 4. Cells treated with 50 μ M 3. Lane 5. Isolated flag-tagged p38 α (~0.6 μ g) treated with 50 μ M 3 *in vitro*.

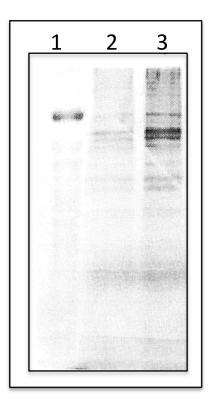
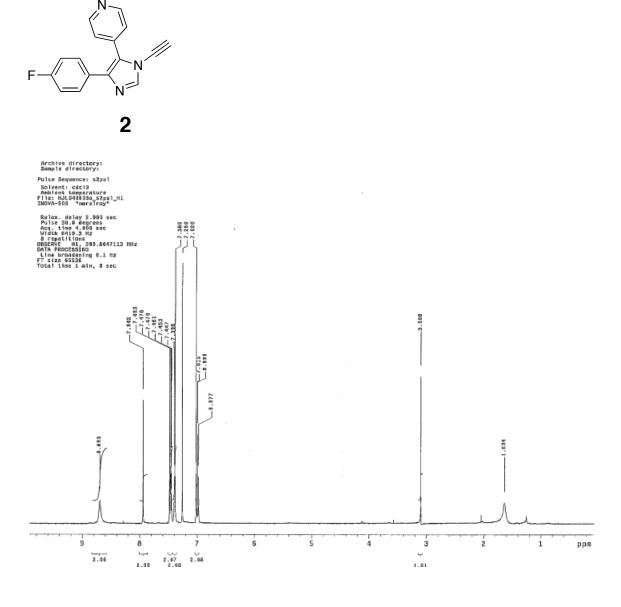
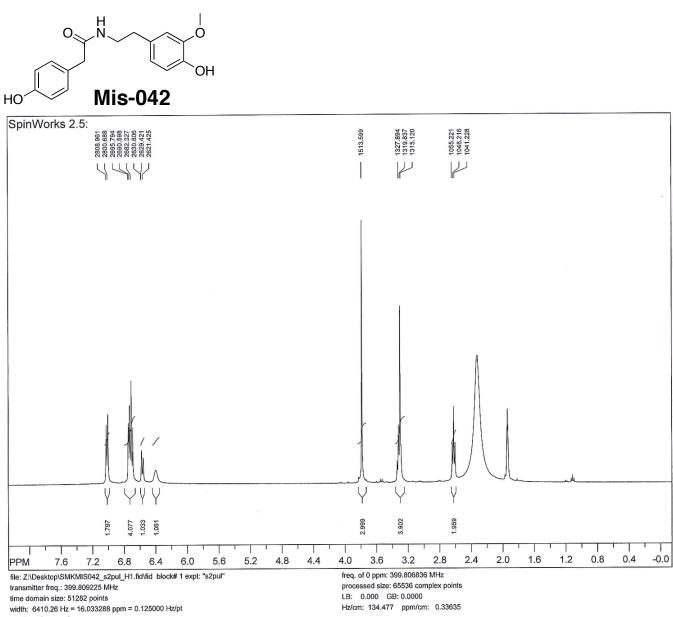


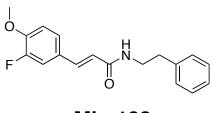
Figure S8. Selectivity of adduction by compound **3**. Cell lysate from transfected HEK293 cells (200 μ g protein) was incubated with 100 μ M **3** for 1-3 hours and then subjected to click reaction with Alexa594-azide. Lane 1: Protien marker of authentic p38 α •3 adduct after click reaction. Lane 2: cell lysate after 1 hour incubation with 100 μ M compound **3**. Lane 3: cell lysate after 3 hour incubation with 100 μ M compound **3**.



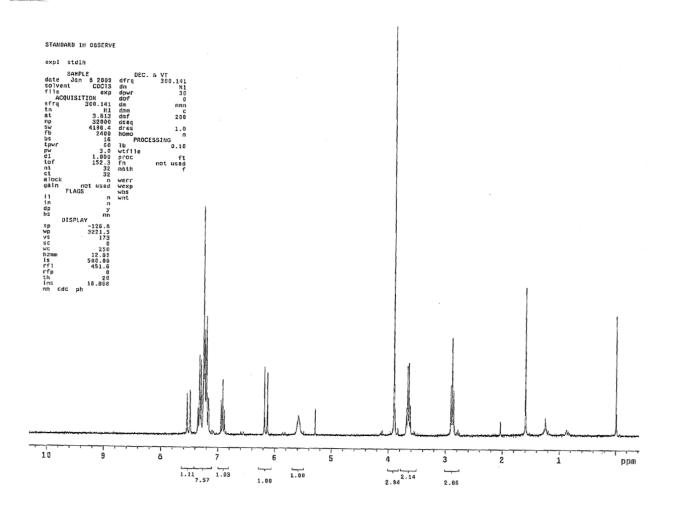


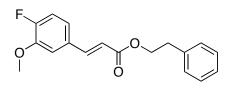
number of scans: 8

LB: 0.000 GB: 0.0000 Hz/cm: 134.477 ppm/cm: 0.33635

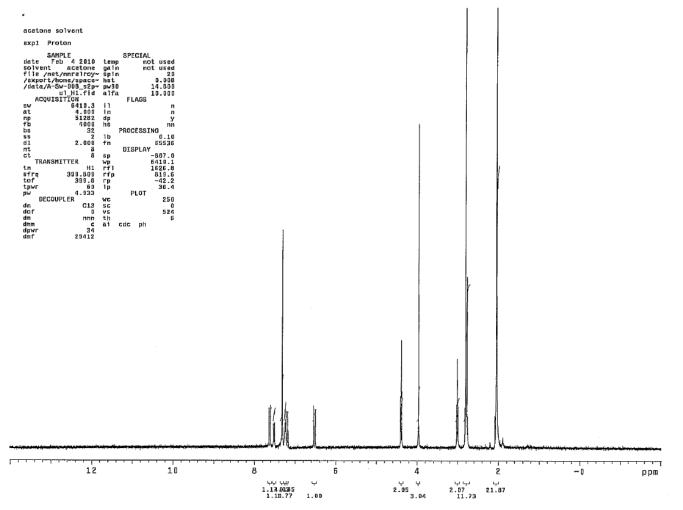


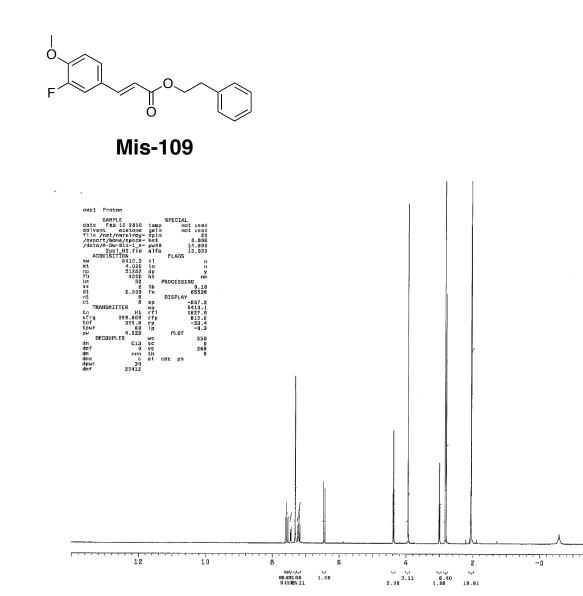




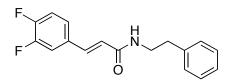




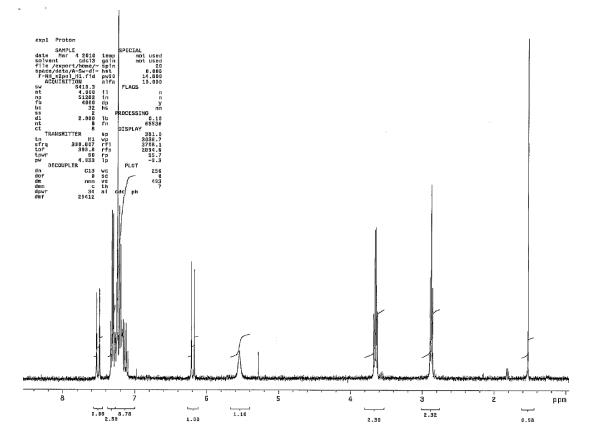


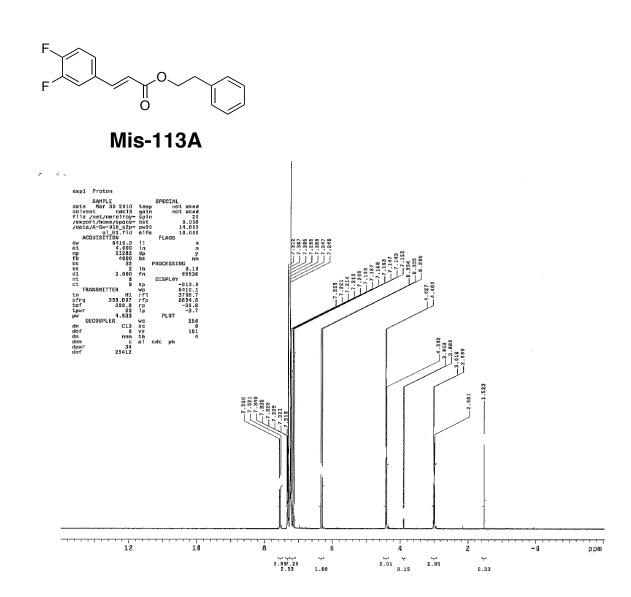


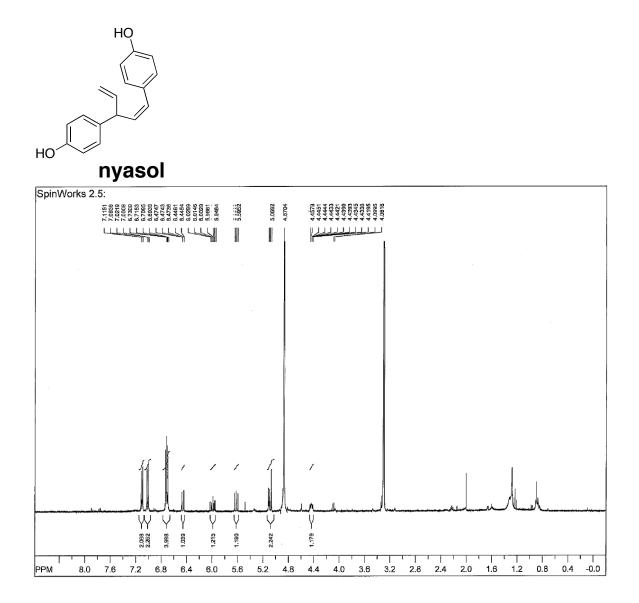
ppm

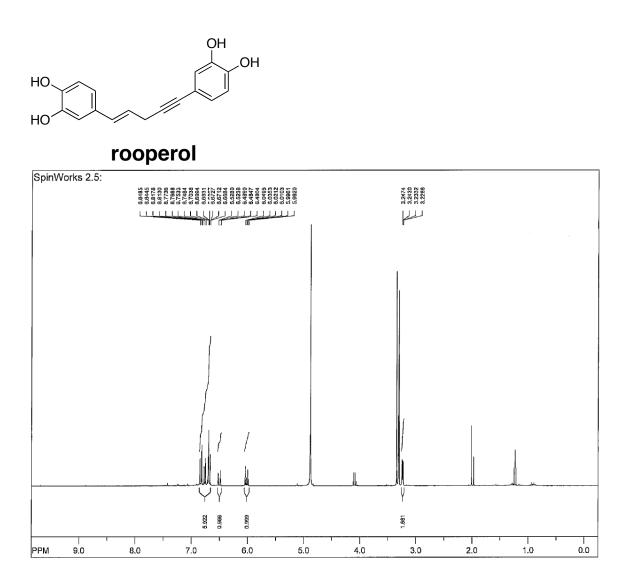


Mis-112A









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