

Designing Allosteric Inhibitors of Factor XIa.
Lessons from the Interactions of Sulfated Pentagalloylglucopyranosides

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Synthesis and characterization of different sulfated pentagalloyl β -D-glucopyranoside variants.

Synthesis and characterization of sulfated pentagalloyl β -D-glucopyranoside (β -SPGG-2).^{1,2} The polyphenolic precursor, pentagalloyl- β -D-glucopyranoside (PGG, **3a**), was obtained in two steps, esterification and catalytic hydrogenation as reported earlier.² Sulfated pentagalloyl β -D-glucopyranoside (β -SPGG-2, **4c**) (Scheme 1) was synthesized as reported earlier² by microwave-assisted synthesis followed by size exclusion and sodium exchange chromatographies. This inhibitor was characterized by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and found to be consistent with previous report.¹⁵ UPLC-MS was further used to structurally characterize SPGG components and estimate its average molecular weight in a manner similar to previous study.² Exact similar experimental conditions were applied to synthesize other SPGG derivatives except for the sulfation time (0.5, 1, 2, 4, 6, or 8 hrs) and the glucose unit which could be α -unit or α,β -unit instead of β -unit. The configuration of the anomeric carbon in each variant was determined by measuring the $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ in acetone (c=1%) of the corresponding polyphenolic precursor. Consistent with literature, the specific rotations of the precursors were found to be +25.2° for β -, +65.5° for α -, and +57.9° for α,β -derivative.¹

General procedure for esterification of polyalcohol (β -D-glucopyranose). To a stirring solution of 3,4,5-tribenzyloxybenzoic acid (5 mmol) and DMAP (5 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL), DCC (5 mmol) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred for 30 min at RT. The saccharide (β -D-glucopyranose (**1a**)) (1 mmol) was then added and the resulting reaction mixture was refluxed 24 hrs. After that, the reaction was cooled to RT and filtered through a pad of Celite. The organic phase was then washed with HCl (1 M, 15 mL), brine solution (15 mL), and H₂O (15 mL). The organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, concentrated *in vacuo*, and purified by flash chromatography using hexanes/EtOAc mobile phase as described above. 20 mL fractions containing the desired product (protected PGG (**2a**)) were pooled together and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the desired product as a white solid in yields of (85–90 %).

1, 2, 3, 4, 6-Penta-O-(3, 4, 5-tri-O-benzylgalloyl)- β -D-glucopyranose (Protected PGG, **2a).** ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 7.38–7.08 (m, 85 H), 6.15 (d, 1 H, *J* = 8.12 Hz), 5.98 (t, 1 H, *J* = 9.68 Hz), 5.78–5.74 (dd, 1 H, *J*₁ = 9.80 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.20 Hz), 5.66 (t, 1 H, *J* = 9.64 Hz), 5.08–4.77 (m, 30 H), 4.71–4.68 (dd, 1 H, *J*₁ = 11.68 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.32 Hz), 4.39–4.35 (m, 1 H), 4.35–4.28 (dd, 1 H, *J*₁ = 11.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 5.88 Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): 165.67, 165.61, 165.07, 165.01, 164.22, 152.67, 152.62, 152.54, 143.36, 143.30, 143.23, 142.74, 137.56, 137.38, 136.78, 136.51, 136.46, 136.37, 128.57, 128.55, 128.53, 128.48, 128.46, 128.41, 128.39, 128.31, 128.24, 128.17, 128.13, 128.05, 127.65, 127.60, 127.58, 124.62, 123.75, 123.64, 123.40, 109.56, 109.51, 109.43, 109.31, 109.27, 106.51, 93.08, 75.14, 73.36, 73.30, 71.47, 71.34, 71.26, 71.16, 71.11, 69.88, 63.23. MS (ESI) calculated for C₁₄₆H₁₂₂O₂₆, [M + H]⁺, *m/z* 2293.53, found for [M + H – C₂₈H₂₃O₅]⁺, *m/z* 1852.975.

General procedure for catalytic hydrogenation (O-Debenzylation). A solution of benzylated benzoyl derivative of glucopyranose (protected PGG (**2a**)) in CH₃OH/THF solvent mixture (15 mL) was hydrogenated over 20% of 10% Pd(OH)₂/C with H₂ (gas) (50 psi) at RT for 10 hrs. The Pd(OH)₂/C catalyst was then removed by filtration over Celite and the resulting filtrate was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. A flash chromatography using hexanes/EtOAc mixture as a mobile phase was utilized to purify the reaction crude to afford the corresponding polyphenolic intermediate (PGG (**3a**)) as a yellow–white solid in yields of (>92%).

1, 2, 3, 4, 6-O-Pentagalloyl- β -D-glucopyranose (PGG, **3a).** ¹H NMR (acetone-*d*₆, 400 MHz): 8.32–7.98 (m, br, 15 H, phenolic–OH), 7.18 (s, 2 H), 7.12 (s, 2 H), 7.06 (s, 2 H), 7.02 (s, 2 H), 6.97 (s, 2 H), 6.33 (d, 1 H, *J* = 8.32 Hz), 6.01 (t, 1 H, *J* = 9.68 Hz), 5.68–5.59 (m, 2 H), 4.56–4.52 (m, 2 H), 4.43–4.39 (dd, 1 H, *J*₁ = 12.68 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.68 Hz). ¹³C NMR (acetone-*d*₆, 100 MHz): 166.40, 165.92, 165.70, 165.65, 164.98, 146.18, 146.06, 146.02, 145.98, 145.90, 139.81, 139.32, 139.04,

121.52, 120.75, 120.65, 120.04, 110.46, 110.36, 110.25, 110.20, 93.39, 74.03, 73.37, 71.82, 69.38, 62.86. MS (ESI) calculated for C₄₁H₃₂O₂₆, [M + H]⁺, m/z 941.69, found for [M + Na]⁺, m/z 963.157.

General procedure for microwave-assisted sulfation. To a stirring solution of polyphenolic intermediate (PGG (**3a**)) (1 mmol) in anhydrous CH₃CN (2 mL), the sulfating reagent, N(CH₃)₃-SO₃ complex (5 mmol/OH), was added. The resulting mixture was then microwaved at 90 °C for 2 hrs. The resulting crude product was cooled to RT and concentrated *in vacuo* at temperature less than 35 °C. All resulting polysulfated molecules were purified as described above using the size exclusion chromatography (G10). The sodium salt form of the isolated white fluffy powder of sulfated species (β -SPGG-2 (**4c**)) was generated in yields of (66–70%) by the sodium exchange chromatography followed by lyophilization as described above.

Sulfated Pentagalloyl β -D-glucopyranoside (β -SPGG-2, **4c).** ¹H NMR (D₂O, 400 MHz): 8.11–7.40 (m, 10 H), 6.51–6.47 (m, 1 H), 6.11–6.18 (m, 1 H), 5.79–5.97 (m, 2 H), 4.85–4.60 (m, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, 100 MHz): 166.4, 165.7, 165.4, 164.7, 150.6, 150.5, 147.8, 147.4, 147.2, 145.7, 145.5, 122.4, 122.2, 122.2, 122.0, 121.0, 119.7, 119.0, 118.7, 115.3, 93.0, 74.5, 72.2, 71.6, 68.9, 63.5.

Similar chemical reactions were exploited to synthesize other SPGG derivatives. Following are the characterization data.

Sulfated Pentagalloyl β -D-glucopyranoside (β -SPGG-0.5, **4a).** ¹H NMR (D₂O, 400 MHz): 7.91–7.73 (m, 4 H), 7.59–7.21 (m, 4 H), 7.12–6.70 (m, 2H), 6.45–6.40 (m, 1 H), 6.07–5.90 (m, 1 H), 5.89–5.76 (m, 2 H), 4.70–4.64 (m, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, 100 MHz): 166.3, 165.9, 165.7, 165.4, 150.3, 150.2, 147.8, 147.4, 145.3, 144.6, 143.1, 122.4, 122.1, 119.7, 119.2, 118.8, 117.2, 116.8, 115.5, 110.3, 93.0, 73.5, 71.8, 70.6, 68.5, 63.0.

Sulfated Pentagalloyl β -D-glucopyranoside (β -SPGG-1, **4b).** ¹H NMR (D₂O, 400 MHz): 8.11–7.77 (m, 3 H), 7.59–7.19 (m, 5 H), 7.15–6.89 (m, 2 H), 6.45–6.40 (m, 1 H), 6.22–5.90 (m, 1 H), 5.86–5.59 (m, 2 H), 4.70–4.60 (m, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, 100 MHz): 166.2, 165.6, 165.3, 164.6, 150.6, 150.5, 147.4, 145.3, 144.6, 143.2, 122.3, 122.0, 119.1, 118.8, 117.2, 116.8, 115.0, 110.2, 93.0, 73.5, 72.0, 71.0, 69.0, 63.20.

Sulfated Pentagalloyl β -D-glucopyranoside (β -SPGG-8, **4f).** ¹H NMR (D₂O, 400 MHz): 8.18–7.45 (m, 10 H), 6.56–6.54 (m, 1 H), 6.21–6.10 (m, 1 H), 6.00–5.86 (m, 2 H), 4.84–4.75 (m, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, 100 MHz): 166.3, 165.6, 165.4, 164.7, 150.6, 150.5, 147.9, 147.5, 147.2, 145.8, 145.5, 122.4, 122.1, 122.0, 119.0, 118.8, 115.2, 93.0, 74.6, 72.3, 71.5, 68.7, 63.5.

Synthesis and characterization data of the decasulfated species (5**, in Scheme 1) of SPGG variants.**

Chemical Synthesis. Molecule **5** was performed in similar fashion to SPGG synthesis except 3,4,5-tribenzyloxy benzoic acid was replaced by 3,5-dibenzyloxy benzoic acid.

1, 2, 3, 4, 6-Penta-O-(3, 5-di-O-benzyloxybenzoyl)- α,β -D-glucopyranose (2d**).** ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 7.34–7.09 (m, 60 H), 6.78 (d, 1 H, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 6.70–6.69 (m, 1 H), 6.66–6.64 (m, 2 H), 6.63–6.62 (m, 2 H), 6.20 (t, 1 H, *J* = 9.92 Hz), 5.69 (t, 1 H, *J* = 10.12 Hz), 5.59–5.56 (dd, 1 H, *J*₁ = 10.16 Hz, *J*₂ = 3.76 Hz), 4.95–4.71 (m, 20 H), 4.63–4.59 (m, 1 H), 4.55–4.52 (m, 1 H), 4.37–4.33 (dd, 1 H, *J*₁ = 12.36 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.76 Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): 165.72, 165.66, 165.11, 164.95, 164.23, 159.98, 159.88, 159.85, 159.80, 136.58, 136.30, 131.47, 130.89, 130.69, 130.54, 128.63, 128.59, 128.54, 128.14, 128.06, 127.64, 127.59, 127.55, 108.76, 108.71, 108.55, 108.39, 108.19, 107.96, 90.33, 70.91, 70.74, 70.56, 70.34, 70.30, 70.25, 70.17, 69.43, 62.86. MS (ESI) calculated for C₁₁₁H₉₂O₂₁, [M + H]⁺, m/z 1761.91, found for [M + Na]⁺, m/z 1784.975.

1, 2, 3, 4, 6-Penta-O-(3, 5-dihydroxybenzoyl)- α,β -D-glucopyranose (3d). ^1H NMR (acetone- d_6 , 400 MHz): 8.5 (s, br, 20 H, phenolic-OH), 7.03 (d, 1 H, $J = 2.08$ Hz), 6.95 (d, 1 H, $J = 2.08$ Hz), 6.94 (d, 1 H, $J = 2.16$ Hz), 6.87 (d, 1 H, $J = 2.08$ Hz), 6.82 (d, 1 H, $J = 2.12$ Hz), 6.81 (d, 1 H, $J = 2.16$ Hz), 6.76–6.75 (m, 3 H), 6.73 (d, 1 H, $J = 2.12$ Hz), 6.69–6.29 (d & t & t & d, 2 H, $J = 3.52$ Hz & $J = 1.88$ Hz & $J = 2.08$ Hz & $J = 8.28$ Hz), 6.47–6.44 (m, 1 H), 6.42 (s, 1 H), 6.37 (s, 1 H), 6.35 (d, 1 H, $J = 1.8$ Hz), 6.10 & 5.97 (t & t, 1 H, $J = 10.04$ Hz & $J = 9.68$ Hz), 5.75 (t & m & dd, 2 H, $J = 10.04$ Hz & $J_1 = 10.28$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.64$ Hz), 4.66–4.51 (m, 1 H), 4.47–4.37 (m, 2 H). ^{13}C NMR (acetone- d_6 , 100 MHz): 166.50, 166.30, 166.10, 166.03, 165.81, 165.75, 165.06, 159.75, 159.64, 159.49, 159.46, 159.42, 159.39, 132.75, 132.72, 131.97, 131.94, 131.91, 131.86, 131.55, 131.34, 125.42, 109.16, 109.16, 109.08, 109.0, 108.91, 108.86, 108.75, 108.66, 108.41, 93.51, 90.69, 73.89, 73.7, 72.07, 71.59, 71.57, 71.24, 69.62, 69.25, 63.06, 62.86. MS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{41}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_{21}$, $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$, m/z 861.69, found for $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$, m/z 883.225.

Sodium 1, 2, 3, 4, 6-Penta-O-(3, 5-di-O-sulfonato-benzoyl)- α,β -D-glucopyranose (5). ^1H NMR (D_2O , 400 MHz): 7.38 (d, 2 H, $J = 1.92$ Hz), 7.36 (d, 2 H, $J = 1.96$ Hz), 7.32–7.27 (m, 9 H), 7.24 (d, 2 H, $J = 1.76$ Hz), 6.45 (d, 1 H, $J = 7.88$ Hz), 6.10 (t, 1 H, $J = 9.28$ Hz), 5.72 (t, 1 H, $J = 8.52$ Hz), 5.55 (t, 1 H, $J = 8.88$ Hz), 4.68 (s, br, 1 H), 4.32 (s, br, 2 H). ^{13}C NMR (D_2O , 100 MHz): 166.19, 165.45, 165.14, 165.01, 164.43, 152.29, 152.0, 131.35, 130.48, 130.32, 120.98, 120.61, 120.54, 120.42, 120.21, 120.11, 93.20, 73.84, 72.48, 71.97, 71.72, 70.09, 63.67. MS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{41}\text{H}_{22}\text{Na}_{11}\text{O}_{51}\text{S}_{10}$ (sodium sulfates), $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^{+1}$, m/z 1904.12 and calculated for $\text{C}_{113}\text{H}_{214}\text{N}_{12}\text{O}_{51}\text{S}_{10}$ (*n*-hexylammonium sulfates), $[\text{M} + (\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_5\text{NH}_3)_{12}]^{+2}$, m/z 1438.815, found for $[\text{M} + (\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_5\text{NH}_3)_{12}]^{+2}$, m/z 1438.707.

References

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Table S1. UPLC-ESI-MS characterization of SPGG variants components and their corresponding average molecular weight.^a

Molecule	Mr	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
		m/z (proportions)						
		1207 (7 SO ₃ ⁻)	1298 (8 SO ₃ ⁻)	1388 (9 SO ₃ ⁻)	1479 (10 SO ₃ ⁻)	1570 (11 SO ₃ ⁻)	1660 (12 SO ₃ ⁻)	1750 (13 SO ₃ ⁻)
<i>β</i>-SPGG-0.5 (4a)	1923	3%	11%	28%	43%	15%	0%	0%
<i>β</i>-SPGG-1 (4b)	1940	4%	11%	23%	31%	23%	8%	0%
<i>β</i>-SPGG-2 (4c)	1962	5%	10%	19%	42%	17%	7%	0%
<i>β</i>-SPGG-4 (4d)	1975	5%	10%	20%	31%	15%	11%	6%
<i>β</i>-SPGG-6 (4e)	1960	8%	13%	20%	27%	18%	19%	6%
<i>β</i>-SPGG-8 (4f)	1982	3%	8%	18%	34%	24%	8%	5%
<i>α</i>-SPGG-8 (4g)	2071	3%	6%	11%	18%	15%	28%	18%
<i>α,β</i>-SPGG-8 (4h)	2090	2%	4%	7%	17%	19%	35%	16%

^a UPLC resolution of SPGG variants into seven peaks (p1–p7), which arise from variable sulfation of the PGG scaffold. The detailed compositional profile of these variants was determined using reversed-phase UPLC-ESI-MS analysis, as performed in our earlier work.² The profiles indicated the presence of doubly charged molecular ion peaks at 1207, 1297, 1388, 1478, 1569, 1661 and 1750 m/z, which corresponded to hepta-, octa-, nona-, deca-, undeca-, dodeca-, and trideca-sulfated species, respectively. Each of these peaks was a composite of multiple peaks, which implies the presence of several regio-isomers of identical sulfation level.

Table S2. Hydrolysis of the Chromogenic Substrate S-2366 by Human Factor XIa in the Presence of β -SPGG-8.^a

<i>Inhibitor</i>	<i>Conc. ($\mu\text{g/mL}$)</i>	<i>K_M (mM)</i>	<i>V_{MAX} (mAU/min)</i>
<i>β-SPGG-8 (4f)</i>	0	0.24 \pm 0.03 ^b	76 \pm 2
	0.05	0.25 \pm 0.03	72 \pm 2
	0.5	0.23 \pm 0.02	69 \pm 2
	5	0.25 \pm 0.05	59 \pm 3
	15	0.36 \pm 0.10	40 \pm 2
	30	0.33 \pm 0.10	20 \pm 2

^a *K_M* and *V_{MAX}* values of S-2366 substrate hydrolysis by human factor XIa were measured as described under Experimental Procedures. mAU indicates milliabsorbance units.

^b Error represents ± 1 S.E.

Table S3. Inhibition of Factor XIa by β -SPGG-8, β -SPGG-2, β -SPGG-1, and β -SPGG-0.5 in Presence of Increasing Concentrations of UFH (0–500 μ M).^a

<i>SPGG variant</i>	<i>UFH (μM)</i>	<i>FXIa IC₅₀</i> <i>(μg/mL)</i>	<i>HS</i>	<i>ΔY</i>
<i>β-SPGG-8 (4f)</i>	0	0.16 \pm 0.01 ^b	1.9 \pm 0.3	95 \pm 3
	5	0.22 \pm 0.01	2.1 \pm 0.2	98 \pm 3
	50	0.34 \pm 0.01	2.5 \pm 0.2	96 \pm 2
	250	0.60 \pm 0.01	2.1 \pm 0.2	100 \pm 2
	500	1.17 \pm 0.04	2.4 \pm 0.4	103 \pm 3
<i>β-SPGG-2 (4c)</i>	0	0.96 \pm 0.03	1.6 \pm 0.2	98 \pm 3
	5	1.11 \pm 0.04	1.7 \pm 0.2	97 \pm 3
	30	3.7 \pm 0.1	1.7 \pm 0.2	95 \pm 3
	100	11.6 \pm 2.8	1.3 \pm 0.4	100 \pm 6
	180	34.1 \pm 5.0	2.3 \pm 0.5	93 \pm 3
	300	86.2 \pm 1.8	6.7 \pm 1.4	90 \pm 4
<i>β-SPGG-1 (4b)</i>	0	1.01 \pm 0.05	1.4 \pm 0.2	93 \pm 4
	5	1.97 \pm 0.09	3.4 \pm 0.5	100 \pm 4
	30	4.39 \pm 0.23	2.1 \pm 0.5	93 \pm 5
	100	10.24 \pm 0.33	2.0 \pm 0.2	96 \pm 3
<i>β-SPGG-0.5 (4a)</i>	0	1.77 \pm 0.05	2.5 \pm 0.3	94 \pm 3
	5	3.27 \pm 0.05	3.4 \pm 0.5	92 \pm 3
	30	8.95 \pm 0.26	4.6 \pm 1.5	87 \pm 4
	100	19.8 \pm 0.84	3.1 \pm 0.7	96 \pm 5

^a The FXIa residual activity % values were obtained following analysis of direct inhibition of human factor XIa in appropriate TrisHCl buffers of pH 7.4 at 37 °C in presence of increasing concentrations of UFH. Inhibition was monitored by spectrophotometric measurement of residual enzyme activity. See details under Experimental Procedures.

^b Errors represent ± 1 S.E.

Table S4. Salt Dependence Studies of FXIa–DEGR Interactions with β -SPGG-2, UFH, and H8.^a

<i>Molecules</i>	<i>[NaCl] (mM)</i>	<i>K_D (μM)</i>	<i>ΔF_{MAX} (%)</i>
<i>β-SPGG-2</i>	150	0.44 \pm 0.10 ^b	-16 \pm 1
	100	0.31 \pm 0.05	-17 \pm 1
	50	0.25 \pm 0.03	-16 \pm 1
	25	0.11 \pm 0.02	-17 \pm 1
<i>UFH</i>	150	1.6 \pm 0.5	-29 \pm 2
	100	1.2 \pm 0.2	-34 \pm 3
	50	0.6 \pm 0.2	-30 \pm 2
	25	0.38 \pm 0.10	-43 \pm 3
<i>H8</i>	150	3.8 \pm 0.7	-49 \pm 6
	100	3 \pm 0.7	-47 \pm 7
	50	2 \pm 0.1	-46 \pm 1
	25	1.5 \pm 0.1	-40 \pm 2

^a Affinity was measured using the decrease in dansyl group fluorescence (λ_{EX} = 345 nm and λ_{EM} ~547nm) as a function of ligand concentration in 50 mM TrisHCl buffer, pH 7.4, containing 150, 100, 50, or 25 mM NaCl, and 0.1% PEG8000 at 37 °C. See Experimental Section for additional details.

^b Error represents ± 1 SE.

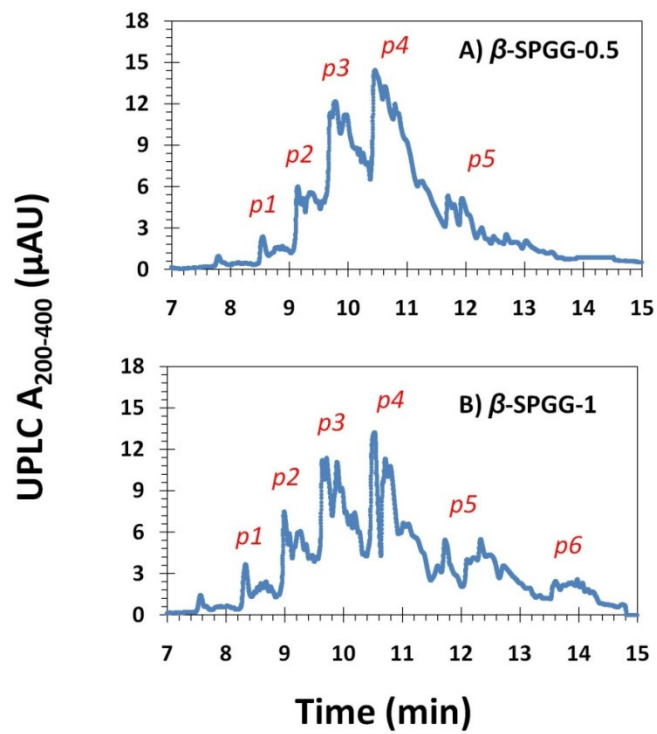


Figure S1. Representative UPLC profiles for β -SPGG-0.5 (A) and β -SPGG-1 (B). See Experimental part for further details.

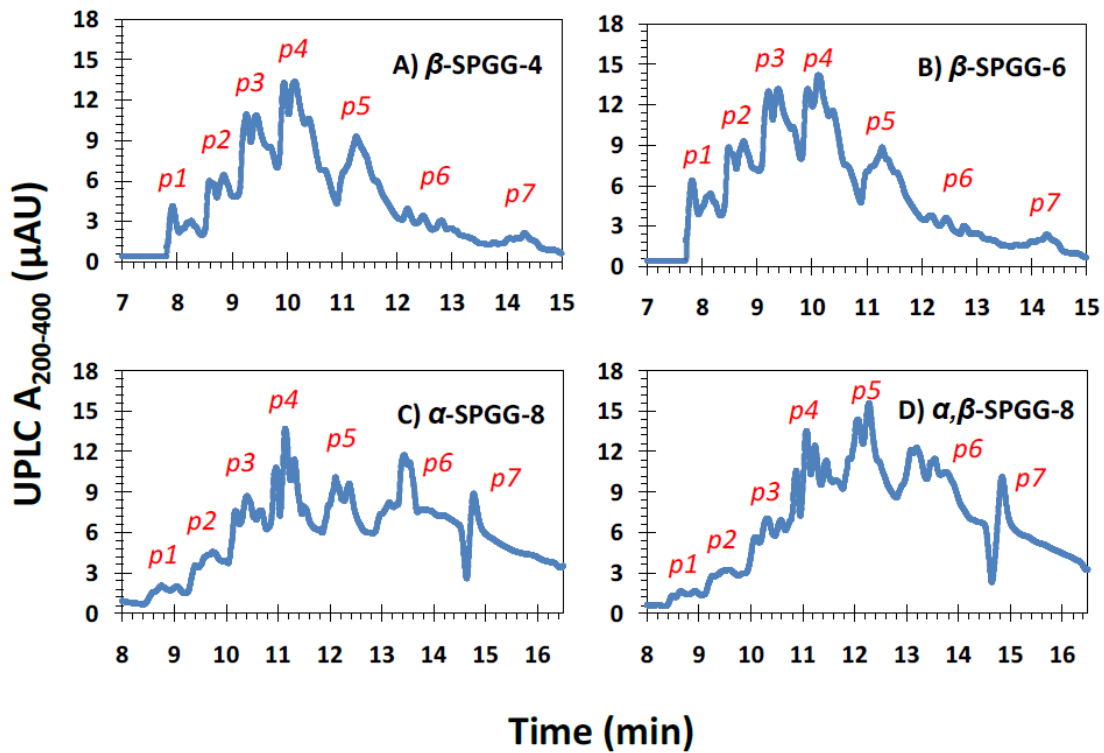


Figure S2. Representative UPLC profiles for β -SPGG-4 (A), β -SPGG-6 (B), α -SPGG-8 (C), α,β -SPGG-8 (D). See Experimental part for further details.

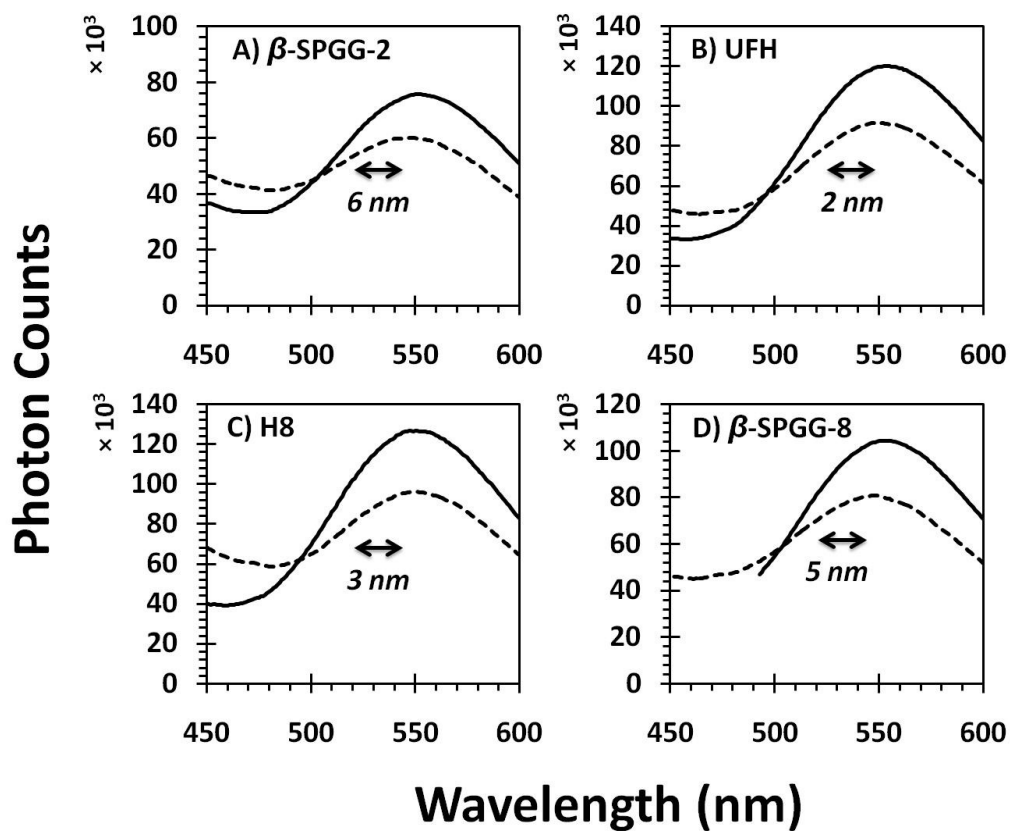


Figure S3. Changes in the fluorescence emission spectra of dansylated FXIa (FXIa-DEGR) ($\lambda_{\text{EX}} = 345 \text{ nm}$) induced by the binding of β -SPGG-2 (A), UFH (B), H8 (C), and β -SPGG-8 (D). Solid lines represent the emission spectra of FXIa-DEGR in buffer. Dash lines represent the emission spectra of saturated complexes of FXIa-DEGR and corresponding ligands. Spectra were recorded in 50 mM TrisHCl buffer of pH 7.4 containing 150 mM NaCl and 0.1% PEG8000 at 37 °C.

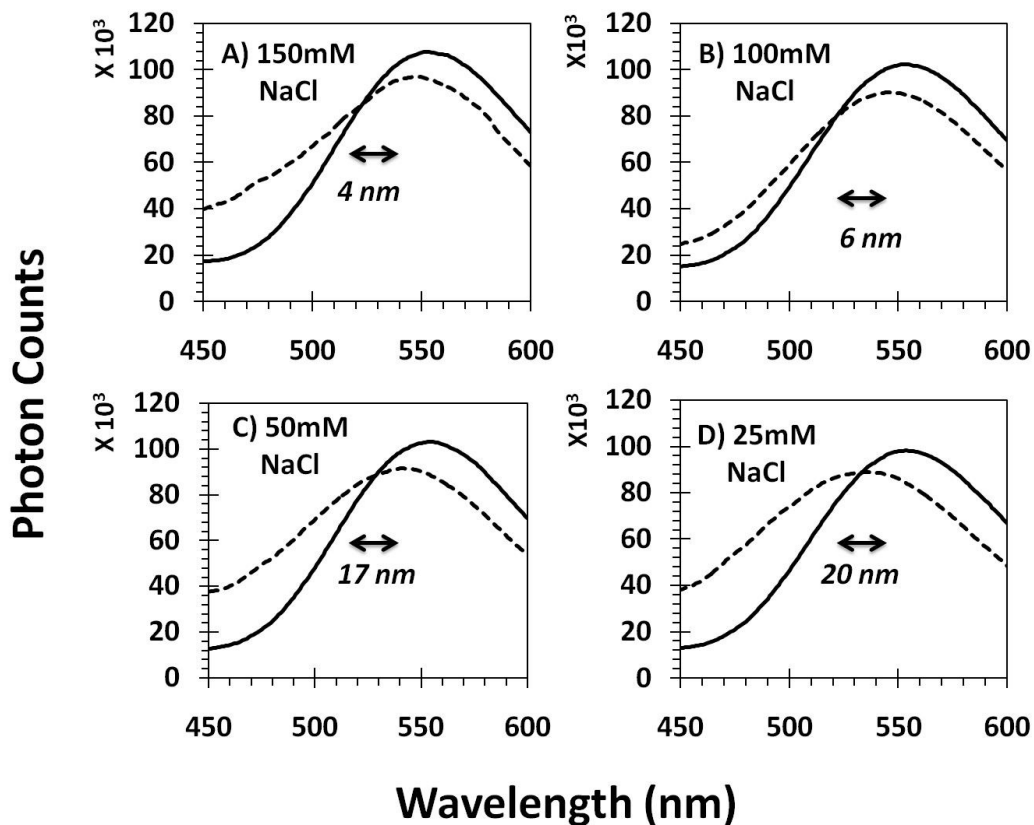


Figure S4. Changes in the fluorescence emission spectrum of dansylated factor XIa (FXIa-DEGR) ($\lambda_{\text{EX}} = 345 \text{ nm}$) induced by the binding of β -SPGG-2 at different salt concentrations of 150 (A), 100 (B), 50 (C), and 25 mM (D). Solid lines represent the emission spectra of FXIa-DEGR in buffer. Dash lines represent the emission spectra of saturated complexes of FXIa-DEGR with β -SPGG-2. Spectra were recorded in 50 mM TrisHCl buffer of pH 7.4 containing 25–150 mM NaCl and 0.1% PEG8000 at 37 °C.

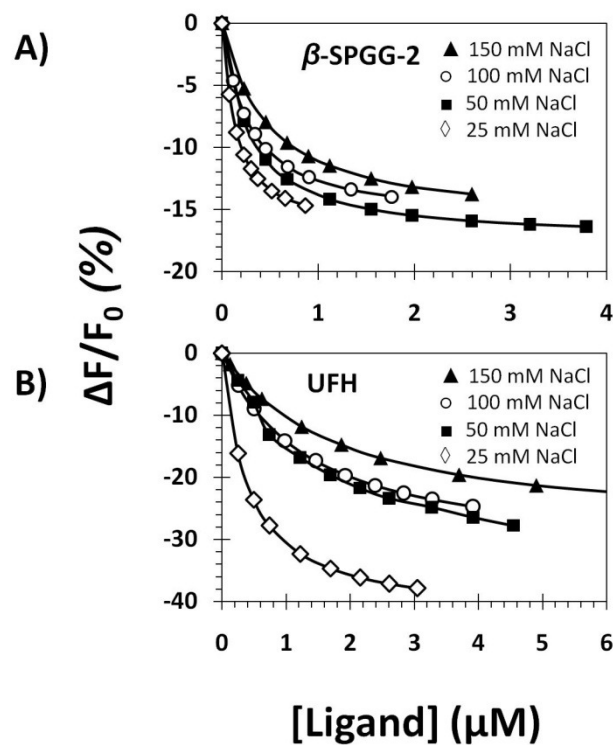


Figure S5. Spectrofluorimetric measurement of the FXIa–DEGR affinity of β -SPGG-2 (A) and UFH (B) at pH 7.4 and 37 °C and different salt concentrations of 150 (▲), 100 (○), 50 (■), and 25 mM (◇). The binding of β -SPGG-2 or UFH to FXIa–DEGR resulted in a saturable decrease in the dansyl group fluorescence at ~ 547 nm ($\lambda_{\text{EX}} = 345$ nm), which was fitted to the quadratic binding Eq. 2 to calculate the observed K_D . Solid lines represent the nonlinear regressional fit. Experiments were performed in 50 mM TrisHCl buffer of pH 7.4 containing 150 mM NaCl and 0.1% PEG8000. See Experimental procedures for details.