# **Supporting Information**

# Inhibition of the HIF1α-p300 interaction by quinone- and indandione-mediated ejection of structural Zn(II)

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# 1. NMR Spectra

1.1 N-(2-Hydroxy-1,3-dioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)picolinamide (5)



















## 1.10 NMR Timecourse

NMR samples were prepared by adding solutions of compound (100  $\mu$ L, 30 mM in *d*<sub>6</sub>-DMSO) to deuterated phosphate buffer (500  $\mu$ L, 10 mM, pH 8). As rapidly as possible after the addition 30 <sup>1</sup>H NMR experiments were run sequentially, with a three second delay between acquisitions.









## 2. Assays

#### 2.1 Protein expression

Recombinant *N*-terminal GST-tagged  $p300_{323-423}$  was overexpressed and purified as described for GST-tagged  $p300_{302-423}$  by Kung *et al.*[1] The following modifications were made: purification used a glutathione-Sepharose 4B (GE Healthcare) column (20 mL) with further purification by gel filtration chromatography using a Superdex 200 column (GE Healthcare). Protein was stored in TBST buffer with 10  $\mu$ M ZnCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.5 mM DTT, and the protein concentration determined by Bradford assay.

Expression and purification of JMJD2A was performed according to the method of Ng et al.[2]

# 2.2 JMJD2A FluoZin<sup>TM</sup>-3 Zn ejector Assay

Zinc ejection of compounds was measured by monitoring the concentration of Zn(II) *in situ* with the Zn-specific fluorophore FluoZin<sup>TM</sup>-3 (FZ-3, Invitrogen, Figure S3), as reported by Sekirnik *et al.*[3] Before each experiment, a calibration curve (between 0-2  $\mu$ M Zn(II)) was obtained with varied concentrations of ZnCl<sub>2</sub> dissolved in MilliQ water. For assays, 1 mM solution of FluoZin<sup>TM</sup>-3 was prepared in 50 mM HEPES buffer, pH 7.5, and then diluted in the same buffer to 10  $\mu$ M stock solution. 10  $\mu$ L of the stock solution was pre-mixed with 10  $\mu$ L of 20  $\mu$ M JMJD2A enzyme and 30  $\mu$ L buffer to make the enzyme mix. A solution of compound in DMSO (5  $\mu$ L) was mixed with 45  $\mu$ L buffer. The compound solution was then mixed with the enzyme-FZ-3 solution to give a total volume of 100  $\mu$ L, with final concentrations of FluoZinTM-3, enzyme and DMSO of 1  $\mu$ M, 2  $\mu$ M and 5 %, respectively. A Novostar fluorescence spectrometer (BMG Lab technologies) was used for the measurements. Mixing of the enzyme mix and the Zn-ejector solution took place immediately before the 384-well plate was inserted into the spectrophotometer for the first reading. The assay plate was shaken automatically for five seconds after each reading. Readings were taken for 90 cycles at a rate of 20 seconds per cycle, with excitation at 494 nm and emission at 516 nm.



Figure S1. Zinc ejector activity of various compounds against JMJD2A. a) naphthoquinone; b) dihydroxydicyanonaphthene; c) ninhydrin; d) N-(2-hydroxy-1,3-dioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)nicotinamide **6**.

# 2.3 GST-p300 CH1 FluoZin-3<sup>TM</sup> Zn ejector Assay

An initial Zn(II) calibration was conducted to ascertain the effect of adding DTT and Tween 0.1 % to the HEPES buffer. All Zn(II) ejector assays with p300 were carried out in a 50 mM HEPES buffer, pH 7.5 with 0.1 % Tween20 and no DTT.

35 µl of GST-p300-CH1<sub>323-423</sub> (39 µM) was prepared by initially incubating for 4 h with 94.3 µl TBST (50 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 0.05% Tween 20, pH 8.0) buffer and 6.8 µl DTT (1 M). 12 µl of 10 µM ZnCl<sub>2</sub> was added and the stock was desalted and the buffer exchanged for HEPES (50 mM, pH 7.5, 0.1 % Tween) using a Bio-Rad Micro Bio-Spin 6 chromatography columns. A stock solution of 4.5 µM reduced GST-p300-CH1 in HEPES (50 mM, pH 7.5, 0.1 % Tween) buffer was prepared. 10 µl of 10 µM FZ-3 (50 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 0.1 % Tween) buffer was prepared. 10 µl of 10 µM FZ-3 (50 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 0.1 % Tween) was mixed with 10 µL of 4.5 µM GST-p300-CH1 solution and 30 µL buffer to make the enzyme mix. A solution of compound in DMSO (5 µL) was mixed with 45 µL buffer. The compound solution was then mixed with the enzyme-FZ-3 solution to give a total volume of 100 µL, with final concentrations of FluoZinTM-3, enzyme and DMSO of 1 µM, 2 µM and 5 %, respectively. Readings were taken as previously described.

Due to excess Zn(II) present in the GST-p300-CH1 stock solution, values were corrected for background and expressed as a percentage of controls (DMSO) to provide the percentage of CH1 binding.



Figure S2. p300 Zinc ejector activity with a) naphthoquinone; b) dihydroxydicyanonaphthene; c) ninhydrin; d) N-(2-hydroxy-1,3-dioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)nicotinamide **6**.

#### 2.4 HIF-1a C-TAD: p300 CH1 Fluorescent Binding Assay

Inhibition of HIF-1 $\alpha$  binding to p300 was measured by displacement of GST-p300-CH1<sub>323-423</sub> from a synthetic biotinylated HIF-1 $\alpha$  C-TAD<sub>786-826</sub> (Peptide Protein Research Ltd, Fareham, UK) immobilized on 96-well streptavidin-coated plates, as reported by Cook *et al.*[4] GST-p300-CH1 was detected using a europium labelled antibody to GST (Perkin-Elmer). 48.5 nM HIF-1 $\alpha$  C-TAD was used to coat plates for 4 h at room temperature. Plates were washed four times with TBST (50 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 0.05% Tween 20, pH 8.0) buffer. 7.35 nM GST-CH1 was added with compounds or control (1 % DMSO) in TBST with 5 % BSA, 0.5 mM DTT and 10  $\mu$ M ZnCl<sub>2</sub> and incubated overnight at 4 °C. Plates were washed four times with TBST, and europium labelled anti-GST (450 ng.mL<sup>-1</sup>) was added to plates in the buffer used for GST-CH1 addition, and after 2 h, plates were washed six times in TBST. DELFIA enhancement solution (Perkin-Elmer) was added before reading with a Victor3 plate reader (Perkin-Elmer), using the europium setting under time-resolved fluorescence. Values were corrected for background and expressed as a percentage of controls (DMSO) to provide the percentage of CH1 binding. IC<sub>50</sub> values were calculated using Prism v5.01 (Graphpad) using the nonlinear regression equation log (inhibitor) vs. response-variable slope (Table S1).

Compound	IC <sub>50</sub> / μM
5	$1.06 \pm 0.03$
14	$1.99 \pm 0.06$
15	$7.51 \pm 0.98$
16	$0.96 \pm 0.01$
17	$1.27 \pm 0.02$
23 (ninhydrin)	$1.93 \pm 0.97$

Table S1.  $IC_{50}$ 's of amidoindandiones. All compounds displayed similar activity to ninhydrin, their parent compound.

#### 2.5 Cell viability assay

HeLa cells were cultured in DMEM supplemented with 10 % fatal calf serum, 2 mM L-glutamine, 50 units.mL<sup>-1</sup> of penicillin and 50 µg.mL<sup>-1</sup> of streptomycin. For cell proliferation assay, HeLa cells were seeded into a 96well microplate at 1000 cells in 150 µL medium per well. To avoid edge-effects caused by evaporation, only the inner 60 wells of the 96-well microplates were seeded. 24 h after seeding, the cells were treated with inhibitors for a further 24 h and 48 h. Medium was then removed and CyQuant assay was performed using CyQuant NF Cell Proliferation Assay Kit according to manufacturers protocol (Life Technologies). Plates were read using a fluorescence micro plate reader (BMG Labtech FLUOstar Omega) with excitation at 485 nm and emission at 520 nm.



Figure S3. HeLa cell viability studies with HIF-1 $\alpha$ /p300 inhibitors. Zn(II) ejectors quinone **8**, reduced quinone **10**, and ninhydrin **21**, and compound **23** (inactive) were analysed for cytotoxicity (48 h), using the Cyquant assay. **10** and **23** do not display cytotoxicity towards Hela cells, whereas **8** and **23** show toxicity at 10  $\mu$ M and 100  $\mu$ M respectively . (1% DMSO; triplicate, ±SD)

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