Removal of Metabolic Liabilities Enables Development of Derivatives of Procaspase-Activating Compound 1 (PAC-1) with Improved Pharmacokinetics

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Supporting Information

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Biological Evaluation

Materials and Methods

Materials All reagents were obtained from Fisher unless otherwise indicated. All buffers were made with MilliQ purified water. Annexin V Binding Buffer contains 10 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 140 mM NaCl, 2.5 mM CaCl₂. Bifunctional cell lysis/caspase activity buffer contains 200 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 400 mM NaCl, 40 mM DTT, 0.4 mM EDTA disodium salt dihydrate, 1% TritonX, and 20 µM Ac-DEVD-AFC (Enzo Life Sciences).

Liver Microsome Stability Assay A mixture of 0.1 M potassium phosphate buffer pH 7.4, NADP⁺ (final concentration 1.3 mM), MgCl₂ (final concentration 3.3 mM), glucose-6-phosphate (final concentration 3.3 mM), glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (final concentration 0.4 U/mL), and a 10 mM solution of compound in DMSO (final concentration 10 µM; 0.1% DMSO) was incubated at 37°C in a shaking incubator for 5 min. The reactions were initiated by the addition of ice-cold liver microsomes (final protein concentration 1 mg/mL), to bring the total volume to 1 mL. A 450 µL aliquot was immediately removed, quenched with 450 µL of a 10 μ M solution of **B-PAC-1**^{3, 4} (internal standard for LC/MS; compound 3{18,7} in ref.³) in MeCN, mixed by inversion, and centrifuged at 10,000 x g for 3 min. 750 µL of the supernatant was removed for LC/MS analysis. The reactions were incubated at 37°C in a shaking incubator for 3 h. A second 450 uL aliquot was removed, quenched with 450 µL of a 10 µM solution of B-PAC-1 in MeCN, mixed by inversion, and centrifuged at 10,000 x g for 3 min. 750 µL of the supernatant was removed for LC/MS analysis. Samples from the liver microsome assay were analyzed by LC/MS using an Agilent 1200 HPLC with DAD (monitoring at 280 nm) and an Agilent 6230 TOF MS, with an Agilent C18 column, 3.0 x 50 mm. Mobile phase A was 0.1% HCO₂H in H₂O, B was 0.1% HCO₂H in MeCN. A gradient was run from 5-50% B over 18 min, then 50-95% B for 2 min, then constant 95% B for 4 min, then 95-5% B for 1 min, then constant 5% B for 2 min. The ratio of the areas of analyte:internal standard at 3 hours was compared to the ratio at 0 hours to determine the percent compound remaining after 3 hours.

Cell Culture U-937, Jurkat, and EL4 cells were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection. GL-1 cells were provided by Dr. Steve Suter (North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC). All cultures were maintained at low passage number in RPMI 1640 supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum and 1% penicillin-streptomycin and grown at 37°C and 5% CO₂.

72hr IC₅₀ Cell Death Assay To each well of a 96-well plate was added 49 μ L of RPMI 1640 complete growth media. To each well was added 1 μ L of compound stock solutions in DMSO at nine concentrations such that the cells were treated with half-log concentrations between 0.01 μ M and 100 μ M compound. 50 μ L of a suspension of cells at 300,000 cells/mL (for U-937, EL4, GL-1, and OSW cells) or 500,000 cells/mL (for Jurkat

cells) were plated into the wells, for a final density of 15,000 or 25,000 cells per well, respectively. Each concentration was tested in triplicate per plate. In each plate 3 wells received 1 μ L of a positive death control and 3 wells received 1 µL DMSO as a negative control. The plates were then incubated at 37°C with 5% CO₂ for 72 hours. After the 72 hour incubation period, the plates were analyzed using a Sulforhodamine B assay.⁵ Specifically, to each well of the plate 25 µL of a 50% (w/v) solution of trichloroacetic acid in H₂O was added and the plates were incubated for 4 hours at 4°C. The plates were then washed gently with H₂O five times. The plates were allowed to air dry after which 100 µL of a 0.057% (w/v) Sulforhodamine B in a 1% (v/v) acetic acid solution was added to each well for 30 minutes at room temperature. The plates were gently washed 5 times with 1% (v/v) acetic acid and air dried. 200 µL of 10 mM Tris base (pH 10.4) was added to each well and the plates were placed on a shaker for thirty minutes. For U-937 cells, the level of SRB was quantified fluorometrically (ex. 488 nm, em. 585 nm) on a Gemini EM Microplate Reader (Molecular Devices) plate reader. For all other cell lines, the level of SRB was quantified by absorbance at 510 nm on a SpectraMax Plus 384 Microplate Reader (Molecular Devices). The percent cell death was calculated and normalized to the positive control (100% cell death) and the negative control (0% cell death). The percent cell death was averaged for each compound concentration and plotted as a function of compound concentration. The data were fit to a logistical dose response curve using TableCurve 2D and the IC_{50} value was calculated. The experiment was repeated three times and the average of the calculated IC_{50} values was reported. The standard error of the mean (s.e.m.) was determined and reported for the triplicate experiments.

Induction of Apoptosis by Hit Compounds To each well of a 24-well plate for compound treatment was added 490 μ L of RPMI-1640 complete growth media. To each well was then added 10 μ L of 5 mM DMSO solutions to achieve a final compound concentration of 50 μ M. 10 μ L of DMSO was added to one well as a live cell control. 500 μ L of a suspension of cells at 1.2 x 10⁶ cells/mL were plated into the wells, for a final density of 600,000 cells per well. Wells not containing compounds were filled with 1 mL RPMI-1640 complete growth media, and spaces between wells were filled with 1 mL sterile PBS. The cells were incubated at 37 °C with 5% CO₂ for 12 hours. The cells were harvested via centrifugation (200 x *g* for 5 min), washed with PBS (2 mL), and resuspended in 450 μ L Annexin V Binding Buffer containing 3.5 μ L of FITC-conjugated Annexin V stain (Southern Biotech) and 2.25 μ L of a 1 mg/mL solution of propidium iodide (Sigma) to a final concentration of 5 μ g/mL. Samples were stored on ice until assessment. Cell populations were analyzed on a Becton Dickinson LSR II cell flow cytometer. 10,000 events per sample were recorded.

EGTA Fluorescence Titration Assay This titration assay is based on a published protocol.⁶ Buffer (50 mM HEPES, 100 mM KNO₃, 8.1 mM EGTA, pH 7.2) and solutions of compounds (1 mM in DMSO) and $Zn(OTf)_2$ (100 μ M-1 M in H₂O) were prepared. The compound solutions were diluted ten-fold with buffer

(final [compound] = 100 μ M, final [EGTA] = 7.3 mM), and 198 μ L of the resulting solution was added to each well of a 96-well plate. Each of 24 Zn(OTf)₂ solutions was added to four wells in each plate. The wells were allowed to equilibrate for 5 minutes, and the plates were analyzed via a Molecular Devices SpectraMax M3 fluorescent plate reader (ex. 410 nm, em. 475 nm). Fluorescence intensity at 475 nm of each of four technical replicates was plotted against free Zn²⁺ concentration ([Zn²⁺]_F), calculated using the MaxChelator program (maxchelator.stanford.edu). The data were analyzed using OriginPro 9.1 and fitted to a formation curve based on Eq S1:⁶

$$I = (I_{\min}K_d + I_{\max}[Zn^{2+}]_F)/(K_d + [Zn^{2+}]_F)$$
 Eq S1

where I_{min} and I_{max} were defined as the fluorescence intensity of the free probe (**PAC-1** or derivative) and that of the Zn^{2+} -probe complex, respectively.

Caspase Activity in Cell Lysate To each inner well of two 96-well plates was added 100 μ L of a suspension of U-937 cells in phenol red-free RPMI-1640 complete growth media at 500,000 cells/mL (50,000 cells/well). Inner wells without compound were filled with 200 μ L of media, and outer wells were filled with 200 μ L of sterile PBS. The plates were incubated at 37°C with 5% CO₂ for 15 hours. Solutions of compounds (**PAC-1, S-PAC-1, 7, 30, 32, 41, PAC-1a**, staurosporine, or DMSO alone) in media were prepared at 3x final concentrations (3% DMSO), and 50 μ L of each solution was added to the appropriate wells. Each compound was tested in six wells per plate. In the first plate, 50 μ L of bifunctional cell lysis/caspase activity buffer was added to each treatment well. Fluorescence (ex. 400 nm, em. 505 nm) was monitored on an Analyst AD 96-384 plate reader via a 60-minute kinetic read, and the slope was used to determine caspase activity. The second plate was incubated at 37°C with 5% CO₂ for 16 hours, at which time 50 μ L of bifunctional cell lysis/caspase activity buffer was added to each treatment well, and fluorescence was monitored as above. The slopes at 16 hours were normalized to the slopes of each compound at 0 hours (0% activity) and the staurosporine-treated samples at 16 hours (100% activity) to give percent caspase activity.

Evaluation of Compound Tolerability in vivo. All experimental procedures were reviewed and approved by the University of Illinois Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. 8-10 week old C57BL/6 mice were used in all experiments (Charles River). Mice (n = 3/cohort) were evaluated for their ability to tolerate a single 200 mg/kg intraperitoneal dosage of compounds, formulated at 5 mg/mL in 200 mg/mL hydroxypropyl-βcyclodextrin (HPβCD) at pH 5.5. Mice were treated and observed for clinical signs over 24 hours; specifically, they were observed continuously for the first hour, then at hours 2, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 24 hours post-treatment. Mice were further allowed 1 week to demonstrate delayed effects of treatment. Toxicity was classified as inducing either an 'excitatory' or a 'depressive' phenotype. The extent of response was graded from mild to severe. *Pharmacokinetics of* **PAC-1** *and Derivatives in Mice.* Compounds were formulated at 5 mg/mL in 200 mg/mL HP β CD at pH 5.5. C57/BL6 mice (n = 2 per cohort per time point) were treated with a 25 mg/kg dose of **PAC-1** or derivative via tail vein injection or oral gavage. At specified time points, mice were sacrificed and blood was collected, centrifuged, and the EDTA plasma was frozen at -80°C until analysis.

Assessment of serum concentrations of PAC-1 and derivatives. 2 µL of a 10 µg/mL solution of internal standard in 60:40 methanol:water (PAC-1 was used as an internal standard for analysis of S-PAC-1; S-PAC-1 was used as an internal standard for analysis of all other compounds) was added to a 10 µL aliquot of serum. The proteins were precipitated by the addition of methanol (100 µL). The sample was mixed by vortex and centrifuged to remove the proteins. The resulting supernatant was evaporated to complete dryness with a SpeedVac. The dried solid was then reconstituted in 100 µL 60:40 methanol:water, followed by centrifugation. The supernatant was subject to instrument injection. Samples were analyzed with the 5500 QTRAP LC/MS/MS system (AB Sciex, Foster City, CA) in the Metabolomics Lab of the Roy J. Carver Biotechnology Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The 1200 series HPLC system (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA) includes a degasser, an autosampler, and a binary pump. The LC separation was performed on a Phenomenex 4u Polar-RP 80A column (4.6 x 100mm, 4um, Torrance, CA) with mobile phase A (0.1% formic acid in water) and mobile phase B (methanol). The flow rate was 0.8 mL/min. The linear gradient was as follows: 0-1 min, 0% B; 5 min, 70% B; 7.5-10.5 min, 100% B; 10.6-15 min, 0% B. The autosampler was set at 5°C. The injection volume was 2 µL. Mass spectra were acquired under negative electrospray ionization (ESI) with the ion spray voltage of -4500 V. The source temperature was 600°C. The curtain gas, ion source gas 1, and ion source gas 2 were 35, 50, and 65, respectively. Multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) was used for quantitation: **PAC-1**: m/z 391.1-->m/z 232.0; **S-PAC-1**: m/z 470.2-->m/z 311.1; compound **7**: m/z 423.1-->m/z 264.1; compound **30**: m/z 423.1-->m/z 246.1; compound **32**: m/z 448.1-->m/z 271.1; compound **41**: m/z 450.1-->m/z 271.1.



Figure S1. Starting materials used for synthesis of hydrazides.

PAC-1: $IC_{50} = 10.2 \pm 0.3 \ \mu M$









Figure S2. U-937 Cells treated with compounds for 72 hours. Biomass quantified by sulforhodamine B assay.

IC₅₀ values shown are mean \pm s.e.m. (n = 3).



9: Stability = $85 \pm 6\%$ **10:** Stability = $30 \pm 1\%$ Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 5 5 Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 5 5 IS 9 IS 10 M+O M+0/ M+O M+O M+O M-Bn M+2OH I 5 10 15 20 5 10 15 20 **Retention Time (min) Retention Time (min) 11:** Stability = $61 \pm 2\%$ **12:** Stability = $71 \pm 3\%$ Absorbance (280 nm) 15 Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 5 5 IS IS 10 12 M+O M+O 11 5 0 Ι | 5 20 10 15 5 10 15 20 **Retention Time (min) Retention Time (min) 13:** Stability = $30 \pm 2\%$ **14:** Stability = $61 \pm 3\%$ Absorbance (280 nm) 15 Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 51 IS IS 10 13 14 M+O/ M+O M+O 5 M-(4-CN-Bn) M+O 0 Ι 5 15 5 10 20 10 15 20 **Retention Time (min) Retention Time (min) 15:** Stability = $24 \pm 2\%$ **16:** Stability = $69 \pm 4\%$ 15 15 Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 5 5 Absorbance (280 nm) IS IS 0 15 16 M-(4-F-Bn) M+O 5 M+O M+O M+O 0 | 20 | 5 | 10 Т Ι 5 15 20 15 10 **Retention Time (min)** Retention Time (min)

17: Stability = $15 \pm 2\%$ **18:** Stability = $64 \pm 1\%$ 15 Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 5 Absorbance (280 nm) IS IS 18 M+O M-(4-CF₃-Bn) M+O 17 5 20 5 10 15 10 15 20 **Retention Time (min) Retention Time (min) 21:** Stability = 88 ± 1% **19:** Stability = $64 \pm 4\%$ Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 5 Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 IS IS M+O 21 M-Bn M+O 1 . 5 10 15 20 5 15 20 10 Retention Time (min) **Retention Time (min) 23:** Stability = $88 \pm 4\%$ **25:** Stability = $86 \pm 2\%$ Absorbance (280 nm) Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 5 5 IS IS 0 23 5 M+O M+O 25 0 5 10 15 20 5 15 20 10 **Retention Time (min) Retention Time (min) 26:** Stability = $30 \pm 5\%$ **27:** Stability = $87 \pm 3\%$ Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 5 5 Absorbance (280 nm) IS IS 26 27 M+O M+O Ι Τ 5 15 20 15 10 5 10 20 **Retention Time (min) Retention Time (min)**

28: Stability = $56 \pm 1\%$ **29:** Stability = $89 \pm 3\%$ Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 51 Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 . H₂N IS IS ৫ঁ১ M-(4-SO₂NH₂-Bn) M+O M+O 28 29 M+2OH M-Bn M+O M+O | 15 5 10 15 20 5 10 20 **Retention Time (min) Retention Time (min) 30:** Stability = $93 \pm 7\%$ **31:** Stability = $65 \pm 2\%$ Absorbance (280 nm) 15 Absorbance (280 nm) IS 10 IS 10 31 M-(4-CN-Bn) 30 5 5 M+2OH M+2OH M+O M+O M+O 0 0 Ι 5 10 15 20 10 15 20 5 **Retention Time (min) Retention Time (min) 32:** Stability = $95 \pm 4\%$ **33:** Stability = $57 \pm 1\%$ Absorbance (280 nm) 15 Absorbance (280 nm) IS 10 IS 10 33 M-(4-F-Bn) 32 5 5 M+2OH M+2OH M+O M+O M+O 1 0 0 5 5 10 15 20 10 15 20 **Retention Time (min) Retention Time (min) 34:** Stability = $92 \pm 3\%$ **35:** Stability = $49 \pm 3\%$ 15 Absorbance (280 nm) Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 IS IS 10 34 M-(4-CF₃-Bn) 35 5 M+2OH M+2OH M+O M+O 0 1 | 5 10 15 20 5 10 15 20 **Retention Time (min) Retention Time (min)**

36: Stability = $90 \pm 2\%$ **37:** Stability = $49 \pm 6\%$ 15 Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 51 Absorbance (280 nm) IS 10 36 IS 37 M-Bn 5 M+O M+O M+2OH M+O Δ 0 | 20 | 5 | 5 10 15 10 15 20 Retention Time (min) **Retention Time (min) 38:** Stability = $62 \pm 3\%$ **39:** Stability = $86 \pm 5\%$ 15 Absorbance (280 nm) Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 5 15 IS IS 10 M-(4-SO₂NH₂-Bn) 39 M+O 5 38 M+O 0 | 5 10 15 20 5 10 15 20 **Retention Time (min) Retention Time (min) 40:** Stability = $49 \pm 5\%$ **41:** Stability = $66 \pm 3\%$ Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 5 5 Absorbance (280 nm) 0 5 0 5 5 IS IS 40 M-(4-CN-Bn) 41 M+O M+O M+O | 5 15 20 5 10 15 20 10 **Retention Time (min) Retention Time (min) 43:** Stability = $67 \pm 3\%$ **42:** Stability = $48 \pm 1\%$ Absorbance (280 nm) Absorbance (280 nm) 0 c 0 15 IS IS 10 43 M-(4-F-Bn) 42 5 M+O M+O M+O 0 | 5 | 15 | 5 I Т 20 10 20 10 15 **Retention Time (min) Retention Time (min)**



Figure S3. LC/MS results from liver microsome stability experiments of **PAC-1** analogues. IS = internal standard. Results are representative of three independent experiments. Values shown are mean \pm s.e.m. (n = 3).



Figure S4. Increasing amounts of $Zn(OTf)_2$ added to a buffered solution of EGTA (7.3 mM) and PAC-1 derivative (100 μ M). K_d was determined by comparing fluorescence intensity (ex. 410 nm, em. 475 nm) and free zinc concentration. Values shown are mean \pm s.e.m. (n = 3).



Figure S5. Jurkat cells treated with compounds for 72 hours. Biomass quantified by sulforhodamine B assay.

IC₅₀ values shown are mean \pm s.e.m. (n = 3).



Figure S6. EL4 cells treated with compounds for 72 hours. Biomass quantified by sulforhodamine B assay. IC_{50} values shown are mean \pm s.e.m. (n = 3).



Figure S7. GL-1 cells treated with compounds for 72 hours. Biomass quantified by sulforhodamine B assay. IC₅₀ values shown are mean \pm s.e.m. (n = 3).



Figure S8. OSW cells treated with compounds for 72 hours. Biomass quantified by sulforhodamine B assay. IC₅₀ values shown are mean \pm s.e.m. (n = 3).

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