

Supporting Information Appendix

Iterative optimization yields Mcl-1–targeting stapled peptides with selective cytotoxicity to Mcl-1–dependent cancer cells

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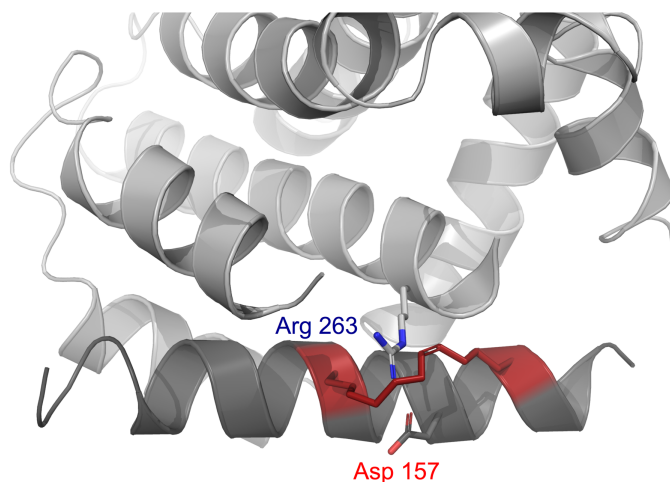


Figure S1. Model of a low affinity SAH-MB2/Mcl-1 complex. Based on a docking model built with Bioluminate using 2PQK (1), the *i, i+7* hydrocarbon staple in SAH-MB2-19 (red) is predicted to disrupt a critical salt bridge between Asp 157 of SAH-MB2-19 (Bim numbering) and Arg 263 of Mcl-1.

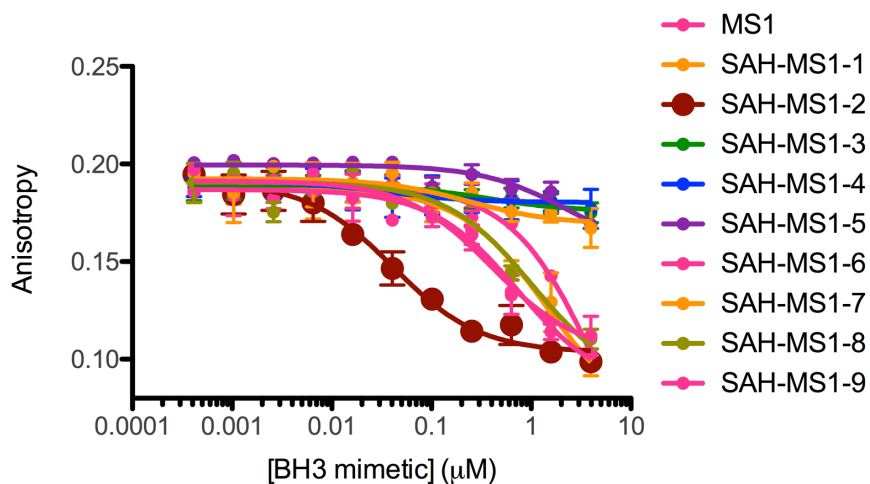


Figure S2. Fluorescence anisotropy competition binding data for MS1 and SAH-MS1 peptides. Competition of SAH-MS1 peptides with fluorescently labeled 21-mer Bim BH3 peptide (25 nM) for binding to recombinant Mcl-1 (50 nM). Data are mean \pm s.d. for three experiments performed in duplicate. Fitted IC₅₀ values are listed in Table 1.

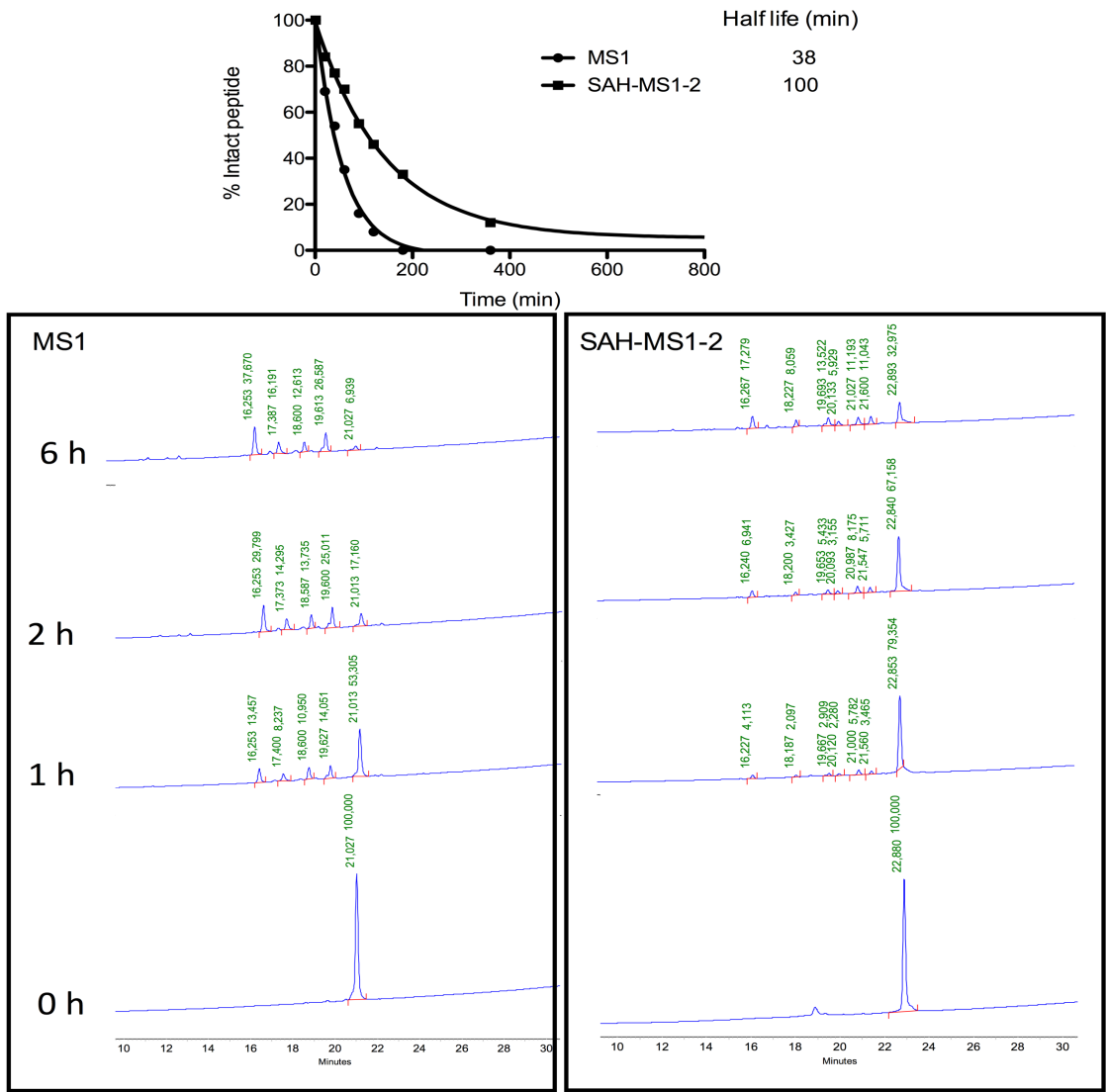


Figure S3. Proteolytic stability of SAH-MS1-2 compared to MS1. HPLC profiles and fitted half-lives of MS1 (retention time, r.t. = 21 min) and SAH-MS1-2 (r.t. = 22.8 min) upon exposure to chymotrypsin.

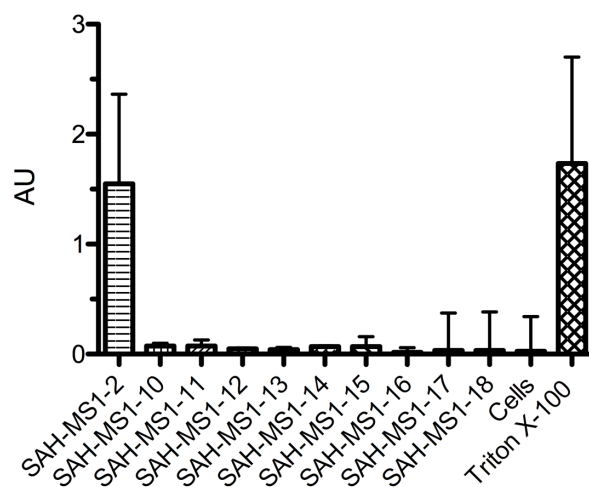


Figure S4. Optimized SAH-MS1 peptides do not disrupt MEF membranes. Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) release assays were performed on SAH-MS-1-treated MEFs in the presence of 10% FBS ([BH3 peptide] = 30 μ M). Error bars are mean \pm s.d. for experiments performed two times with independent preparations of cells and BH3 mimetic treatments; duplicate measurements were averaged for each biological replicate.

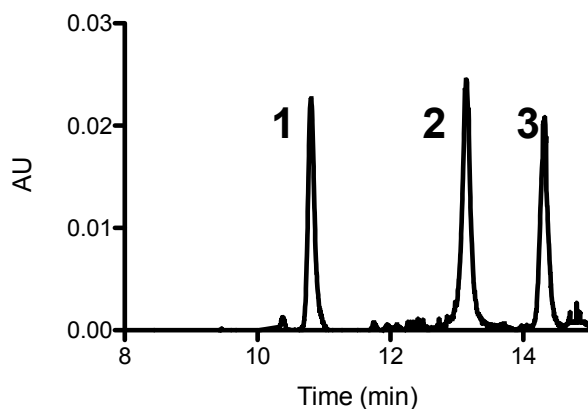


Figure S5. Peptide modification by stapling increases hydrophobicity. HPLC profiles of unmodified MS1 (1), SAH-MS1-18 (2), and SAH-MS1-2 (3), as monitored by absorbance at 220 nm.

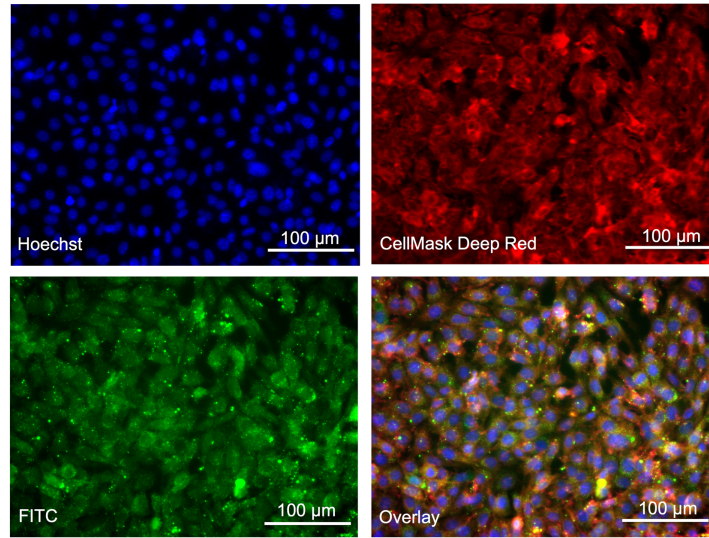


Figure S6. Cellular uptake of FITC-SAH-MS1-18. MEFs were treated with FITC-labeled SAH-MS1-18 peptide (green) in the absence of serum, and counterstained with Hoechst 33342 (blue) and Cellmask Deep Red (red).

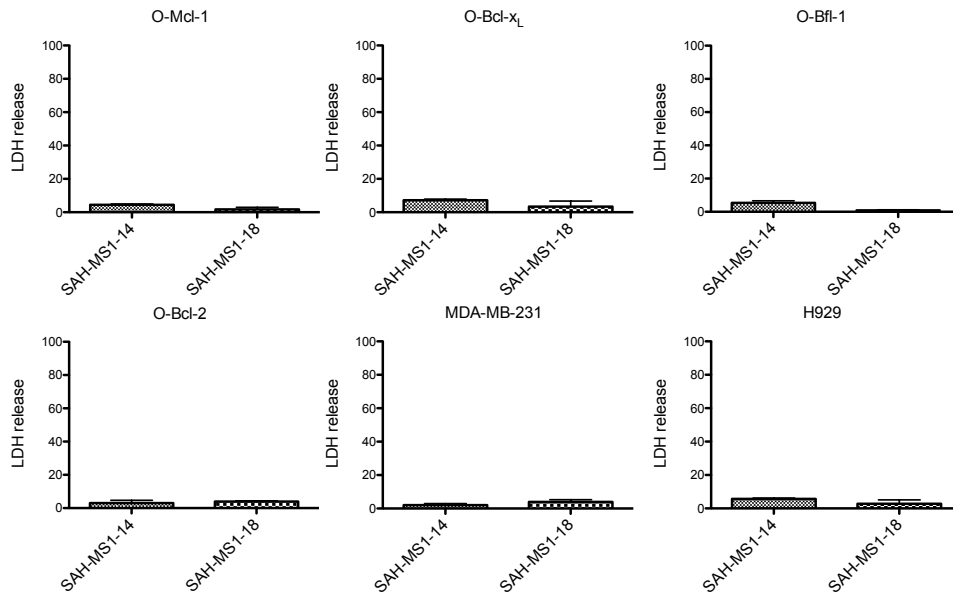


Figure S7. Optimized SAH-MS1 peptides do not disrupt cancer cell membranes. LDH release assays were performed on the indicated cell lines treated with 20 μ M stapled peptides in the presence of 10% serum. Data were normalized based on the response to treatment with 1% Triton X-100 (100% release) or media alone (0% release). Error bars are mean \pm s.d. for experiments performed two times with independent preparations of cells and BH3 mimetic treatments; duplicate measurements were averaged for each biological replicate.

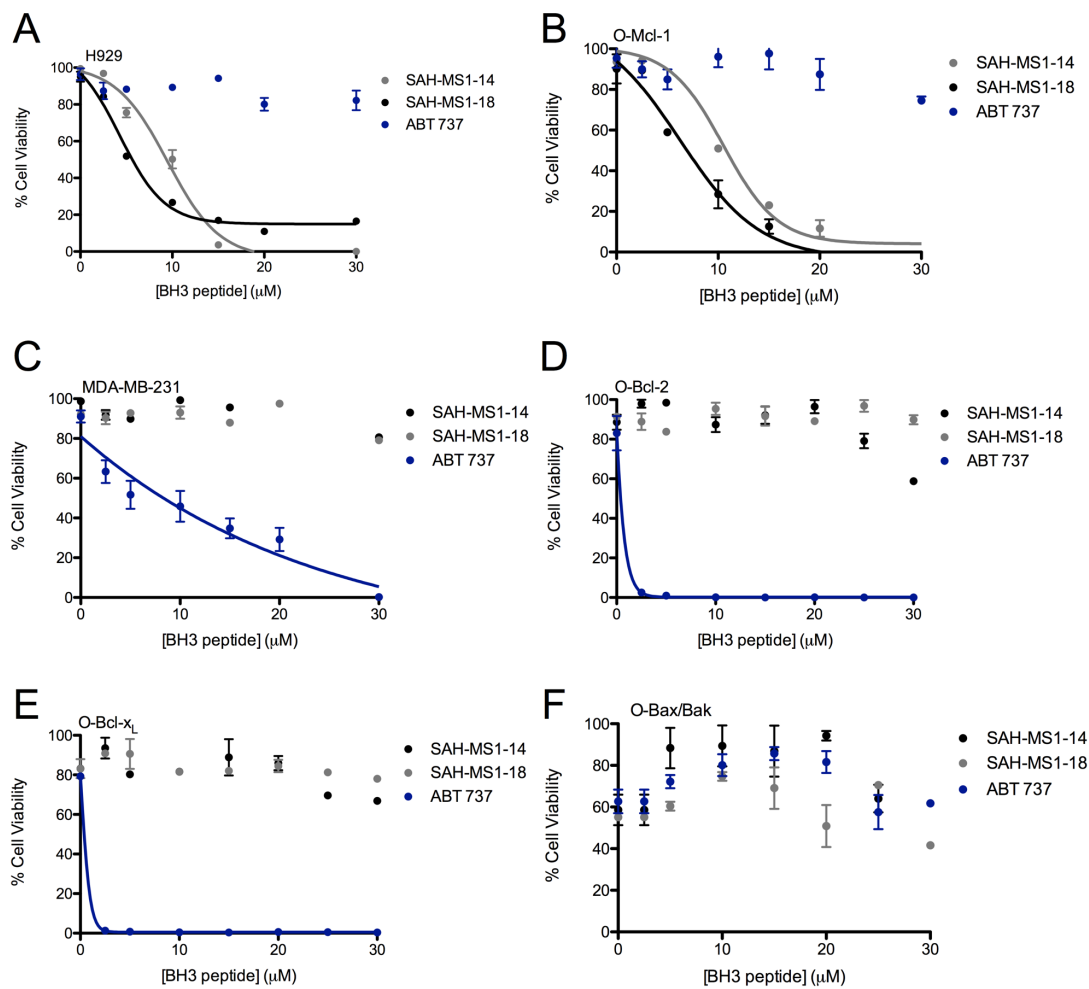


Figure S8. Selective cytotoxicity of SAH-MS1-14 and SAH-MS1-18 in Mcl-1-dependent cancer cells. The indicated cancer cells (A: H929, B: O-Mcl-1, C: MDA-MB-231, D: O-Bcl-2, E: O-Bcl-x_L and F: O-Bax/Bak) were exposed to a serial dilution of stapled peptides in media containing 10% serum. Cell viability measured by CTG assay at 24 h revealed dose-responsive and anti-apoptotic blockade-selective cytotoxicity. Error bars are mean \pm s.d. for experiments performed three times with independent preparations of cells and BH3 mimetic treatments; duplicate measurements were averaged for each biological replicate.

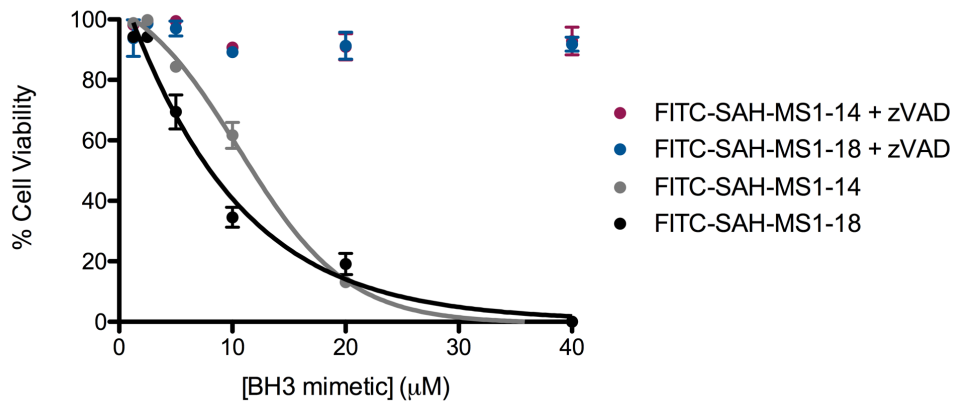


Figure S9. Selective cytotoxicity of FITC-SAH-MS1-14 and FITC-SAH-MS1-18 in Mcl-1 dependent cancer cells. O-Mcl-1 cell viability was measured after 24 h incubation with FITC labeled MS1-SAH-14 or MS1-SAH-18 in the presence or absence of the caspase inhibitor zVAD. Error bars are mean +/- s.d. for experiments performed two times with independent preparations of cells and BH3 mimetic treatments; duplicate measurements were averaged for each biological replicate. Fitted EC50 values are $12 \pm 0.6 \mu\text{M}$ and $8 \pm 0.8 \mu\text{M}$ for SAH-MS1-14 and SAH-MS1-18, respectively.

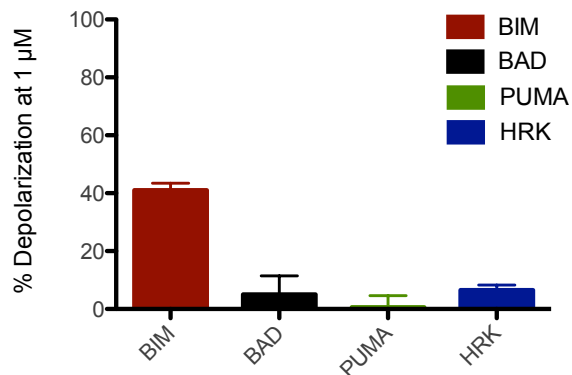


Figure S10. BH3 profiling of the SF295 cell line using native BH3 peptides (2). Mitochondria in permeabilized SF295 cells did not depolarize in response to treatment with Hrk, Bad or Puma peptides, but did respond to Bim BH3, which can directly activate Bax or Bak to induce mitochondrial outer membrane permeabilization. Error bars represent mean +/- s.d. for experiments performed in at least duplicate.

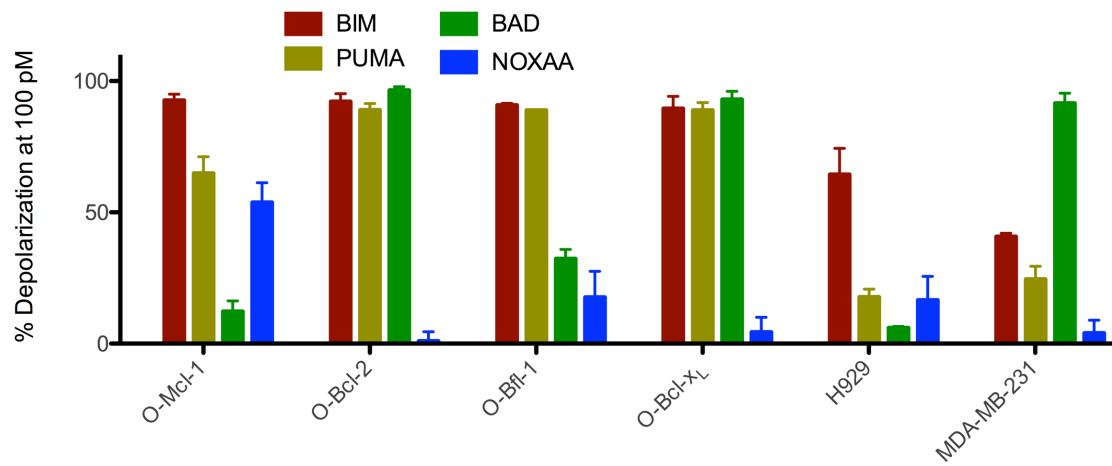


Figure S11. BH3 profiling of cell lines using native BH3 peptides (2). Error bars represent mean \pm s.d. for experiments performed in at least triplicate. Among the natural BH3 peptides, Bim and Puma peptides engage the broadest range of anti-apoptotic targets, whereas NOXA-A and BAD are Mcl-1- and Bcl-2/Bcl-x_L-selective, respectively.

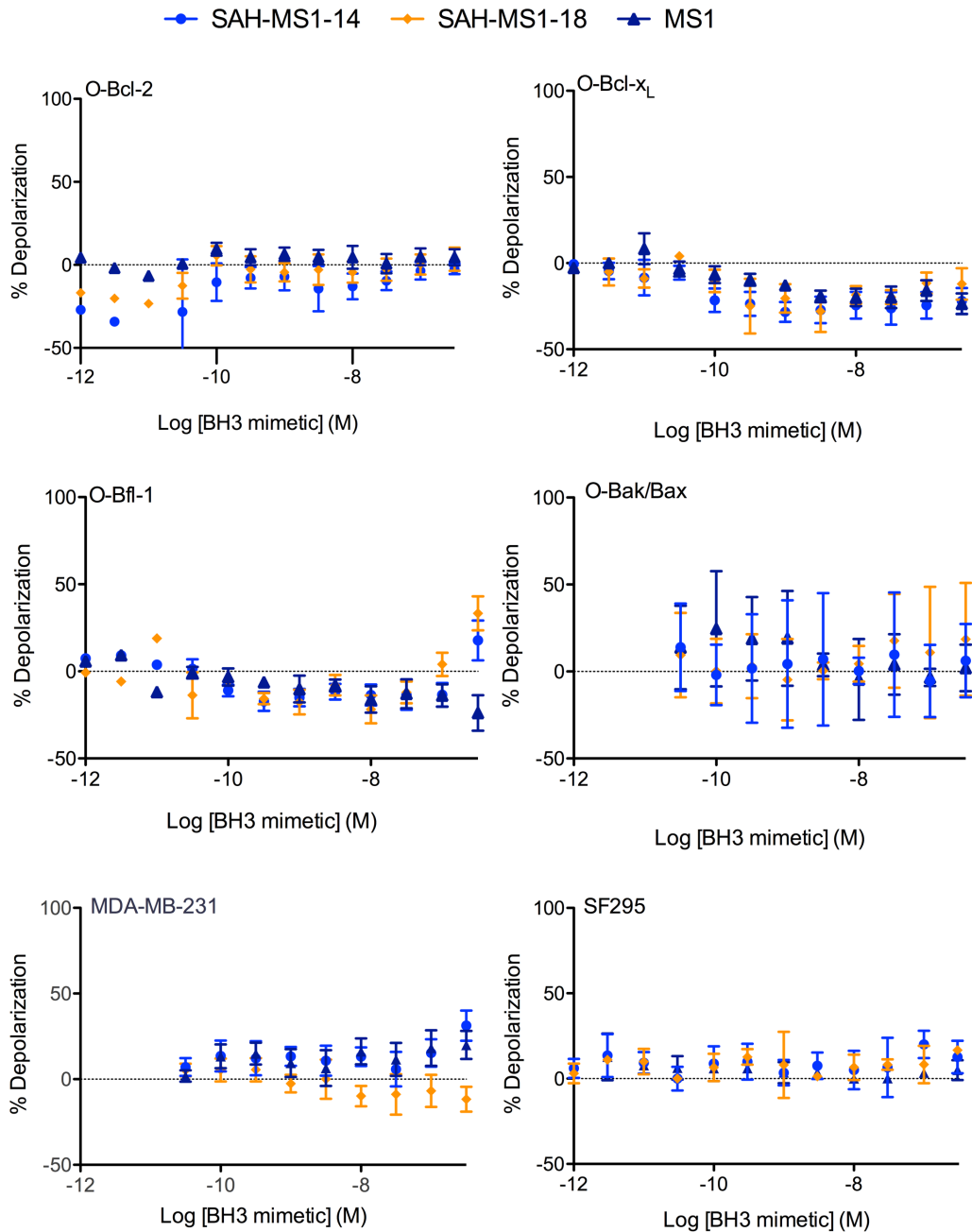


Figure S12. BH3 profiling of MS1 peptides in cancer cells with a non-Mcl-1 dependent apoptotic blockade. BH3 profiling was performed on the indicated permeabilized cell lines treated with SAH-MS1 or MS1 peptides. Percent mitochondrial membrane depolarization is reported for each construct. Data are mean +/- s.d. for experiments performed in triplicate.

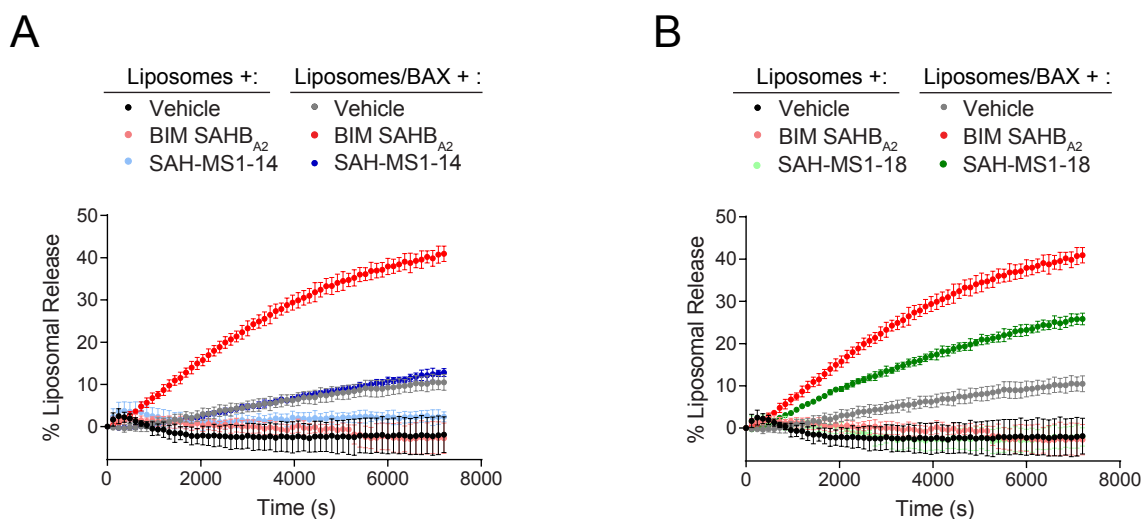


Figure S13. Assessment of direct Bax activation by SAH-MS1-14 and SAH-MS1-18 peptides. Whereas Bim SAHB_{A2} (red) directly triggered Bax-mediated liposomal release, (A) SAH-MS1-14 (navy) failed to induce Bax activation and (B) SAH-MS1-18 (green) exhibited reduced activity compared to Bim SAHB_{A2}. Vehicle was assay buffer containing 0.5% DMSO. Data are mean \pm s.d. for experiments performed in quadruplicate, and repeated three times with independent Bax preparations, yielding similar results. Bax, 500 nM; Bim SAHB_{A2}, SAH-MS1-14, and SAH-MS1-18, 250 nM.

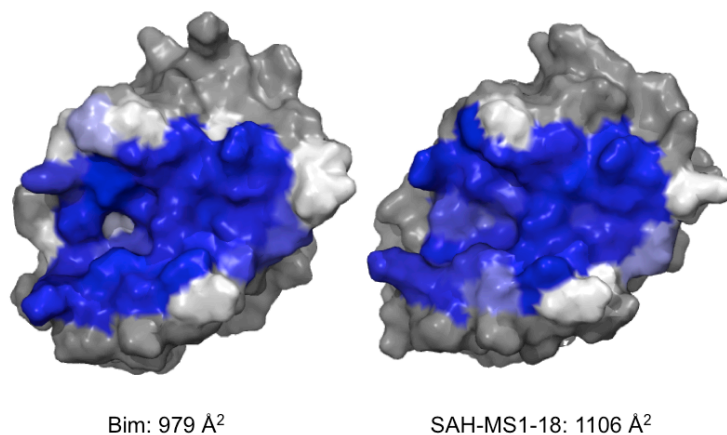


Figure S14. A stapled MS1 peptide buries additional surface area on Mcl-1 compared to unmodified Bim BH3. Surface area on Mcl-1 that is buried when Mcl-1 is bound to an unmodified Bim BH3 peptide or SAH-MS1-18 is shown in shades of blue. Left, Bim BH3 with sequence GRPEIWIAQELRRIGDEFNAYYA, PDB ID code 2PQK (1). Right, SAH-MS1-18 with sequence IWBXQELXRLGDEINARYAR, PDB ID code 5W89. The peptide is not shown, but would be positioned left-to-right across the blue region on Mcl-1, from N- to C-terminus, in these views.

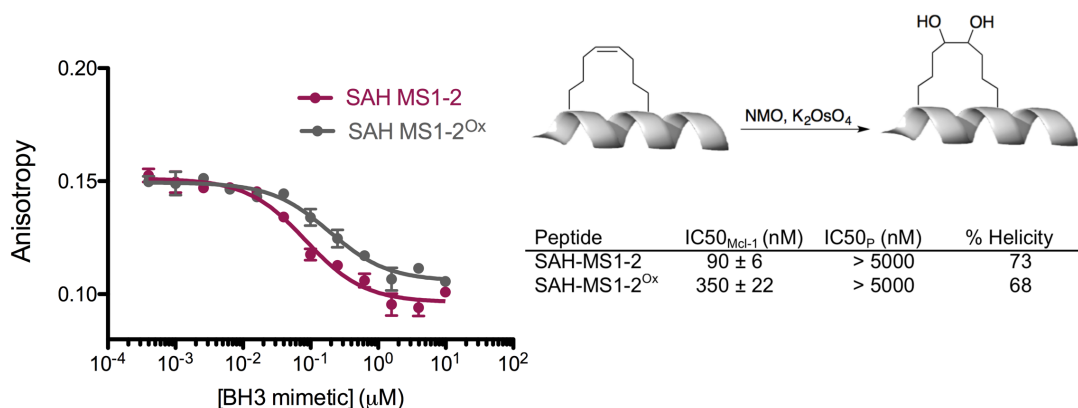


Figure S15. Synthesis and comparative binding activity of SAH-MS1-2^{Ox}, a SAH-MS1-2 derivative bearing a dihydroxylated staple. SAH-MS1-2 and SAH-MS1-2^{Ox} peptides compete with a fluorescently labeled 21-mer Bim-BH3 peptide (25 nM) for binding to Mcl-1 (50 nM) (left). Comparative binding affinities for anti-apoptotic targets, and percent α -helical content as measured by CD, are presented in the table (right). IC₅₀_P indicates the binding affinity for each of the non-Mcl-1 Bcl-2 family anti-apoptotic targets (Bcl-2, Bcl-x_L, Bcl-w, Bfl-1). Peptide concentrations were determined using absorbance at 280 nm. Data are mean \pm s.d for three experiments performed in duplicate.

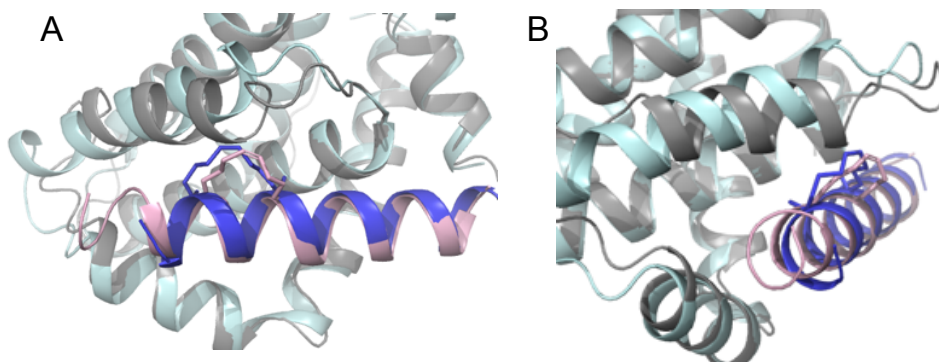


Figure S16. Predicted vs. observed structures of Mcl-1 bound to SAH-MS1-18. (A, B) Superposition of a model of the Mcl-1:SAH-MS1-18 complex (Mcl-1 in grey and SAH-MS1-18 in light pink) and the crystal structure (PDB ID code 5W89) (Mcl-1 in light blue and SAH-MS1-18 in dark blue). The staple can be readily accommodated in a docking model built with Bioluminate based on PDB ID code 2PQK (Mcl-1 bound to Bim BH3), requiring little to no conformational change. In contrast, the x-ray structure (PDB ID code 5W89) revealed that SAH-MS1-18 induces significant movement of Mcl-1 α -helix 4.

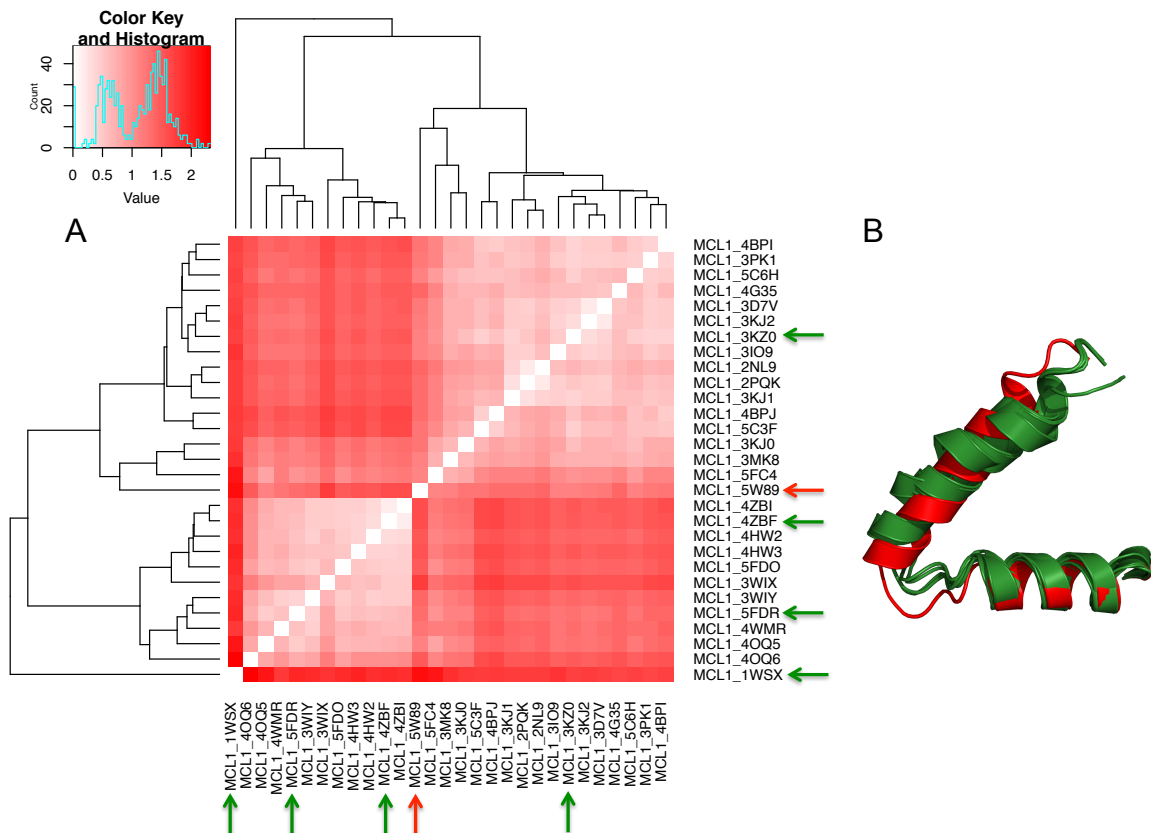


Figure S17. The distinct conformation of Mcl-1 when bound to SAH-MS1-18, compared to other structures of Mcl-1 bound to BH3 peptides. (A) Clustergram showing similarities between the conformations of Mcl-1 observed in high-resolution structures of Mcl-1/BH3 peptide complexes. Similarity was measured by pairwise $C\alpha$ -atom RMSD and is reported in Ångstroms according to the key at the top left, which also shows the distribution of pairwise similarity values. Mcl-1:SAH-MS1-18 (PDB ID code 5W89) is indicated with a red arrow. (B) Superposition of Mcl-1 in the SAH-MS1-18-bound conformation observed in PDB ID code 5W89 (red) compared to four other Mcl-1 conformations in complexes chosen to represent different clusters in the heat map in panel A (green; PDB ID codes 3KZ0 (3), 1WSX (1), 4ZBF (4), and 5FDR (5)). The structures included in panel B are indicated with green arrows in panel A.

Table S1. Biophysical properties of a staple-scanning library of MB2.

Peptide	Sequence ^a	K _d Mcl-1 (nM) ^b	K _d p (nM) ^b	IC50 Mcl-1 (nM) ^c	Helicity (%) ^d
MB2	IWFAQEIDRIGDEVNAYYARR	4.7 ± 1.1	>1000	> 500	22
SAH-MB2-1	IXFAQXIDRIGDEVNAYYARR	10.4 ± 3.1	>1000		30
SAH-MB2-2	IWXAQEXDRIGDEVNAYYARR	17.5 ± 2.2	>1000		87
SAH-MB2-3	IWFXQEIXRIGDEVNAYYARR	2.1 ± 1.1	>1000	175 ± 34	85
SAH-MB2-4	IWFAXEIDXIGDEVNAYYARR	4.2 ± 0.8	>1000		55
SAH-MB2-5	IWFAQXIDRXGDEVNAYYARR	70.9 ± 18.4	>1000		82
SAH-MB2-6	IWFAQEXDRIXDEVNAYYARR	>1000	>1000		48
SAH-MB2-7	IWFAQEIXRIGXEVNAYYARR	>1000	>1000		57
SAH-MB2-8	IWFAQEIDXIGDXVNAYYARR	9.6 ± 2.7	>1000		67
SAH-MB2-9	IWFAQEIDRIXDEVXAYYARR	>1000	>1000		88
SAH-MB2-10	IWFAQEIDRIGXEVNXYYARR	17.7 ± 4.4	>1000		44
SAH-MB2-11	IWFAQEIDRIGDXVNAXYARR	13.6 ± 3.5	>1000		83
SAH-MB2-12	IWFAQEIDRIGDEVXAYYXRR	3.7 ± 1.5	>1000	220 ± 25	38
SAH-MB2-13	I8FAQEIDXIGDEVNAYYARR	78.8 ± 11.1	>1000		57
SAH-MB2-14	IW8AQEIDRXGDEVNAYYARR	>1000	>1000		54
SAH-MB2-15	IWF8QEIDRIXDEVNAYYARR	>1000	>1000		60
SAH-MB2-16	IWFA8EIDRIGXEVNAYYARR	>1000	>1000		62
SAH-MB2-17	IWFAQ8IDRIGDXVNAYYARR	>1000	>1000		66
SAH-MB2-18	IWFAQE8DRIGDEVNAYYARR	>1000	>1000		58
SAH-MB2-19	IWFAQEI8RIGDEVXAYYARR	>1000	>1000		60
SAH-MB2-20	IWFAQEID8IGDEVNXXYYARR	>1000	>1000		55
SAH-MB2-21	IWFAQEIDR8GDEVNAXYARR	>1000	>1000		59
SAH-MB2-22	IWFAQEIDRI8DEVNAYXARR	>1000	>1000		67
SAH-MB2-23	IWFAQEIDRIGD8VNAYYAXR	>1000	>1000		46

^a 8 = (R)- α -7-octenyl alanine, X = (S)-4-pentenylalanine.

^b Dissociation constants (K_d values) were determined using fluorescence polarization direct binding assays for Mcl-1, Bcl-x_L, Bcl-2, Bcl-w, and Bfl-1, as described in the methods.

^c IC50 values for peptides binding to Mcl-1 were determined as described in Tables 1 and 2.

^d α -helical content was estimated by circular dichroism at 25 μ M peptide concentration in 50 mM Tris buffer pH 7.4.

Table S2. Biophysical parameters of optimized SAH-MS1 peptides.

Peptide	Net charge ^a	% Helicity ^b	Retention time / min ^c
MS1	+1	11	10.8
SAH-MS1-2	+1	73	14.3
SAH-MS1-10	0	70	14.1
SAH-MS1-11	-1	72	13.4
SAH-MS1-12	-2	67	13.2
SAH-MS1-13	0	78	13.6
SAH-MS1-14	+1	83	13.8
SAH-MS1-15	0	72	13.5
SAH-MS1-16	-1	70	13.6
SAH-MS1-17	+1	83	13.5
SAH-MS1-18	0	67	13.1

Peptide sequences are listed in Table 2.

^a Net charge indicates formal charge based on standard titration states of residues at pH 7.

^b α -Helicity was estimated from circular dichroism measured using 25 μ M peptide in 50 mM Tris buffer pH 7.4.

^c HPLC retention time was measured at pH 7.0.

Table S3. Cancer cell lines used in this work and their Bcl-2 paralog dependencies (6–9).

Cell line*	Type	Profile	Reference
H929	Human multiple myeloma cell line	Mcl-1 dependent	Doi: 10.1038/cddis.2014.561
MDA-MB-231	Human breast cancer cell line	Bcl-x _L dependent	Doi: 10.1073/pnas.0914878107
O-Mcl-1	(Human Mcl-1) Murine leukemia cell line	Mcl-1 dependent	Doi:10.18632/oncotarget.7204
O-Bcl-x _L	(Human Bcl-x _L) Murine leukemia cell line	Bcl-x _L dependent	
O-Bcl-2	(Human Bcl-2) Murine leukemia cell line	Bcl-2 dependent	
O-Bfl-1	(Human Bfl-1) Murine leukemia cell line	Bfl-1 dependent	
O-Bax/Bak	Murine leukemia cell line	Bax/Bak deficient line	
SF295	Human glioblastoma	Poorly primed	Doi: 10.1158/1535-7163.MCT-08-0921

*Cell line authentication was performed for the MDA-MB-231 and SF295 cell lines by the Dana-Farber Molecular Biology Core Facility using the STR fingerprint method. All cell lines listed above were documented mycoplasma negative.

Table S4. BH3 profiling of SAH-MS1 peptides.

Peptide	O-Bcl-x _L	O-Bcl-2	O-Bfl-1	O-Mcl-1	H929	MDA-MB-231	O-Bax/Bak
MS1	> 10 ⁻⁵	> 10 ⁻⁵	> 10 ⁻⁶	1.1 x 10 ⁻⁷	7.5 x 10 ⁻⁶	> 10 ⁻⁶	> 10 ⁻⁶
SAH-MS1-11	> 10 ⁻⁵	> 10 ⁻⁵	> 10 ⁻⁶	5.3 x 10 ⁻⁹	2.8 x 10 ⁻⁷	> 10 ⁻⁶	> 10 ⁻⁶
SAH-MS1-13	> 10 ⁻⁶	> 10 ⁻⁶	> 10 ⁻⁶	2.2 x 10 ⁻⁸	9.8 x 10 ⁻⁸	> 10 ⁻⁶	> 10 ⁻⁶
SAH-MS1-16	> 10 ⁻⁶	> 10 ⁻⁶	> 10 ⁻⁶	2.9 x 10 ⁻⁸	1.2 x 10 ⁻⁷	> 10 ⁻⁶	> 10 ⁻⁶

EC50 values ([peptide], M) for mitochondrial depolarization induced by SAH-MS1 peptides in the indicated B-ALL cell lines. Peptide sequences are listed in Table 2.

Table S5. Data and refinement statistics for the Mcl-1:SAH-MS1-14 and Mcl-1:SAH-MS1-18 crystal structures.

Data	Value	
	Mcl-1:SAH-MS1-14 5W8F	Mcl-1:SAH-MS1-18 5W89
Space group	P 41 21 2	P 41 21 2
Cell dimensions		
a, b, c (Å)	46.85, 46.85, 167.44	44.51, 56.87, 63.98
α , β , γ (°)	90, 90, 90	90, 90, 90
Resolution (Å)	19.61-1.85	19.41-1.42
R_{merge}	0.08	0.08
$I / \sigma I$	1.44 (at 1.85Å)	1.71 (at 1.42Å)
Completeness (%)	99.9	99.2
$R_{\text{work}} / R_{\text{free}}$ (%)	24.4/28.5	14.2/18.5
Average B-factor (Å ²)	41.8	20.6
Anisotropy	0.257	0.036

Table S6. Sequences and masses of SAH-MS1 peptides.

Peptide	Sequence	Experimental mass
MS1	Ac- IWMTQGLRRLGDEINAYYARR	2623.67
SAH-MS1-1	Ac- IWXTQGXRRRLGDEINAYYARR	2629.38
SAH-MS1-2	Ac- IWBXQGLXRLGDEINAYYARR	2598.36
SAH-MS1-3	Ac- IWBXQGLXRRXGDEINAYYARR	2685.35
SAH-MS1-4	Ac- IWBXQGLXRRXDEINAYYARR	2685.80
SAH-MS1-5	Ac- IWBXQGLXRLGXEINAYYARR	2584.35
SAH-MS1-6	Ac- IWBXQGLXRLGXINAYYARR	2570.52
SAH-MS1-7	Ac- IWBXQGLRRLXDEIXAYYARR	2684.41
SAH-MS1-8	Ac- IWBXQGLRRLGXINAXYARR	2563.37
SAH-MS1-9	Ac- IWBXQGLRRLGDEIXAYYXRR	2670.48
SAH-MS1-10	Ac- IWBXQGLXRLGDEINAYYAR	2442.8
SAH-MS1-11	Ac- EIWBXQGLXRLGDEINAYYAR	2571.78
SAH-MS1-12	Ac- EIWBXQGLXRLGDEINAYYA	2415.77
SAH-MS1-13	Ac- IWBXQELXRLGDEINAYYARR	2670.58
SAH-MS1-14	Ac- IWBXQSLXRLGDEINAYYARR	2628.67
SAH-MS1-15	Ac- IWBXQSLXRLGDEINAYYAR	2472.46
SAH-MS1-16	Ac- IWBXQELXRLGDEINAYYAR	2514.26
SAH-MS1-17	Ac- IWBXQGLXRLGDEINARYAR	2435.73
SAH-MS1-18	Ac- IWBXQELXRLGDEINARYAR	2507.94
BIM SAHB (aa 146-166; 2e-3b staple)	Ac- IWIXQELXRIGDEFNAYYARR	2704.33
FITC-SAH-MS1-10	FITC-β-A IWBXQGLXRLGDEINAYYAR	2860.44
FITC-SAH-MS1-11	FITC-β-A EIWBXQGLXRLGDEINAYYAR	2989.23
FITC-SAH-MS1-12	FITC-β-A EIWBXQELXRLGDEINAYYA	2833.17
FITC-SAH-MS1-13	FITC-β-A IWBXQELXRLGDEINAYYARR	3088.34
FITC-SAH-MS1-14	FITC-β-A IWBXQSLXRLGDEINAYYARR	3046.44
FITC-SAH-MS1-15	FITC-β-A IWBXQSLXRLGDEINAYYAR	2890.21
FITC-SAH-MS1-16	FITC-β-A IWBXQELXRLGDEINAYYAR	2932.66
FITC-SAH-MS1-17	FITC-β-A IWBXQGLXRLGDEINARYAR	2853.53
FITC-SAH-MS1-18	FITC-β-A IWBXQELXRLGDEINARYAR	2925.24

X = (S)-4-pentenylalanine, B = norleucine (substituted for methionine to optimize activity of the ruthenium catalyst).

Table S7. Sequences and masses of SAH-MB2 peptides.

Peptide	Sequence	Experimental mass
MB2	Ac- IWFAQEIDRIGDEVNAYYARR	2626.16
SAH-MB2-1	Ac- IXFAQXIDRIGDEVNAYYARR	2561.68
SAH-MB2-2	Ac- IWXAQEXDRIGDEVNAYYARR	2616.88
SAH-MB2-3	Ac- IWFXXQEIXRIGDEVNAYYARR	2690.26
SAH-MB2-4	Ac- IWFAXEIDXIGDEVNAYYARR	2592.21
SAH-MB2-5	Ac- IWFAQXIDRXGDEVNAYYARR	2634.54
SAH-MB2-6	Ac- IWFAQEXDRIXDEVNAYYARR	2706.85
SAH-MB2-7	Ac- IWFAQEIXRIGXEVNAYYARR	2646.96
SAH-MB2-8	Ac- IWFAQEIDXIGDXVNAYYARR	2591.47
SAH-MB2-9	Ac- IWFAQEIDRIXDEVXAYYARR	2705.46
SAH-MB2-10	Ac- IWFAQEIDRIGXEVNXYYARR	2690.36
SAH-MB2-11	Ac- IWFAQEIDRIGDXVNAXYARR	2584.84
SAH-MB2-12	Ac- IWFAQELDRIGDEVXAYYXRR	2691.71
SAH-MB2-13	Ac- I8FAQELDXXIGDEVNAYYARR	2576.77
SAH-MB2-14	Ac- IW8AQELDRXGDEVNAYYARR	2658.54
SAH-MB2-15	Ac- IWF8QELDRIXDEVNAYYARR	2791.11
SAH-MB2-16	Ac- IWFA8ELDRIGXEVNAYYARR	2676.14
SAH-MB2-17	Ac- IWFAQ8LDRIGDXVNAYYARR	2661.32
SAH-MB2-18	Ac- IWFAQE8DRIGDEXNAYYARR	2691.63
SAH-MB2-19	Ac- IWFAQEL8RIGDEVXAYYARR	2690.23
SAH-MB2-20	Ac- IWFAQELDR8GDEVNXYARR	2691.81
SAH-MB2-21	Ac- IWFAQELDRI8DEVNAYXARR	2698.30
SAH-MB2-22	Ac- IWFAQELDRIGD8VNAAYXRR	2733.11
FITC-SAH-MB2-1	FITC-β-A IXFAQXIDRIGDEVNAYYARR	2980.63
FITC-SAH-MB2-2	FITC-β-A IWXAQEXDRIGDEVNAYYARR	3034.88
FITC-SAH-MB2-3	FITC-β-A IWFXXQEIXRIGDEVNAYYARR	3109.67
FITC-SAH-MB2-4	FITC-β-A IWFAXEIDXIGDEVNAYYARR	3011.22
FITC-SAH-MB2-5	FITC-β-A IWFAQXIDRXGDEVNAYYARR	3052.54
FITC-SAH-MB2-6	FITC-β-A IWFAQEXDRIXDEVNAYYARR	3124.85
FITC-SAH-MB2-7	FITC-β-A IWFAQEIXRIGXEVNAYYARR	3064.96
FITC-SAH-MB2-8	FITC-β-A IWFAQEIDXIGDXVNAYYARR	3009.47
FITC-SAH-MB2-9	FITC-β-A IWFAQEIDRIXDEVXAYYARR	3123.46
FITC-SAH-MB2-10	FITC-β-A IWFAQEIDRIGXEVNXYYARR	3108.32
FITC-SAH-MB2-11	FITC-β-A IWFAQEIDRIGDXVNAXYARR	3002.84
FITC-SAH-MB2-12	FITC-β-A IWFAQELDRIGDEVXAYYXRR	3109.71

X = (S)-4-pentenylalanine, 8 = (R)-7-octenylalanine, B = norleucine (substituted for methionine to optimize activity of the ruthenium catalyst).

Supporting Information References

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