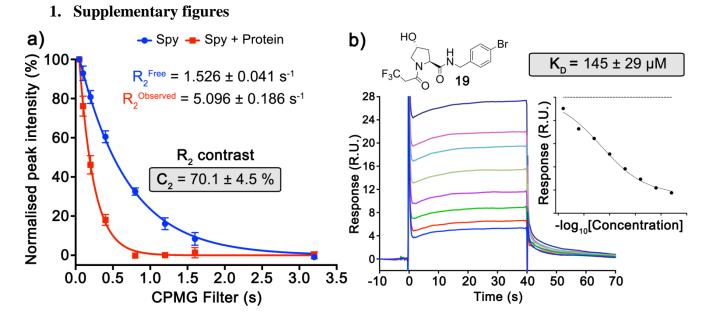
# Spy vs. Spy: Selecting the best reporter for <sup>19</sup>F NMR competition experiments

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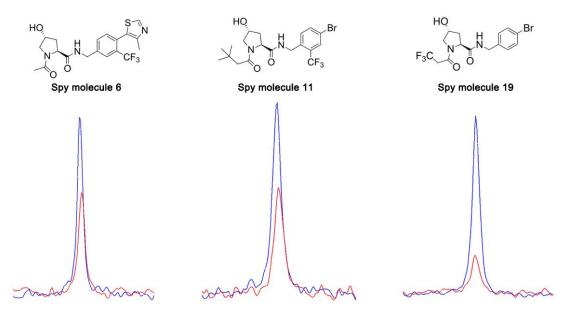
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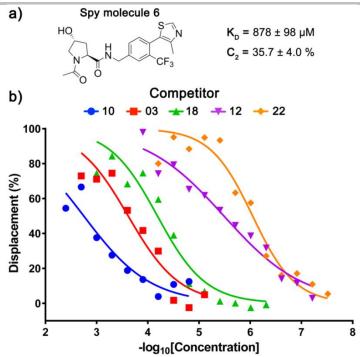
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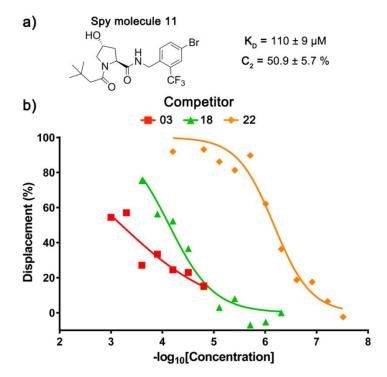
Supplementary Figure 1. Biophysical characterization of spy molecule 19 by <sup>19</sup>F NMR and SPR. (a) Measurement of the transverse relaxation rate ( $R_2$ ) of 19 at 100  $\mu$ M in absence (blue) and in presence (red) of protein at 1  $\mu$ M. (b) Measurement of the K<sub>D</sub> of 19 by SPR.



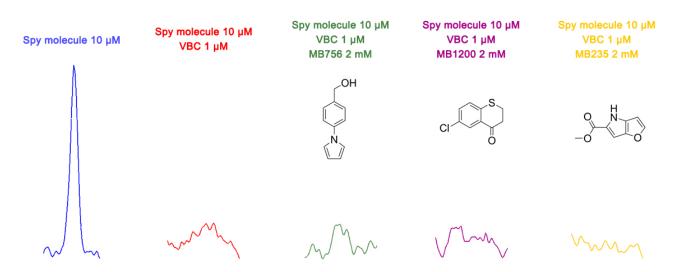
Supplementary Figure 2. Comparison of the assay window of spy molecules 6, 11 and 19 at the same conditions. Overlay of the main <sup>19</sup>F CPMG peak (40 scans) of spy molecules 6, 11 and 19 at 50  $\mu$ M in absence (blue) or in presence of VBC 1  $\mu$ M, highlighting the wider assay window of spy molecule 19. The CPMG delays used for spy molecules 6, 11 and 19 were, respectively, 634, 447 and 345 ms (see section 6 for details regarding the choice of CPMG delay)



Supplementary Figure 3. Determination of the affinities of VHL binders using spy molecule 6. (a) Structure, dissociation constant and  $R_2$  contrast of spy molecule 6. The  $C_2$  was obtained with spy molecule at 50  $\mu$ M and VBC at 1  $\mu$ M. (b) Displacement of spy molecule 6 in presence of different concentrations of five VHL binders (molecules 3, 10, 12, 18 and 22). Data obtained from <sup>19</sup>F CPMG experiments using a CPMG delay of 634 ms and 40 scans.



Supplementary Figure 4. Determination of the affinities of VHL binders using spy molecule 11. (a) Structure, dissociation constant and  $R_2$  contrast of spy molecule 11. The  $C_2$  was obtained with spy molecule at 50  $\mu$ M and VBC at 1  $\mu$ M. (b) Displacement of spy molecule 11 in presence of different concentrations of five VHL binders (molecules 3, 18 and 22). Competitors 10 and 12 were not used in this case because the chemical shifts of their fluorine peaks overlayed with the spy molecule. Data obtained from <sup>19</sup>F CPMG experiments using a CPMG delay of 447 ms and 40 scans.



**Supplementary Figure 5.** Binders of other sites present in the VBC complex do not displace spy molecule 19. <sup>19</sup>F CPMG NMR peak of spy molecule 19 at different conditions: free in solution (blue), in presence of VBC (red) and in presence of protein and molecules MB756 (green), MB1200 (violet) and MB235 (yellow), binders of other sites present in VBC previously reported.<sup>[11]</sup> As these compounds bind to sites not targeted by the spy molecule, no displacement was observed, showing that the competition experiment is site specific. Experiments were performed with a CPMG delay of 258 ms and 120 scans.

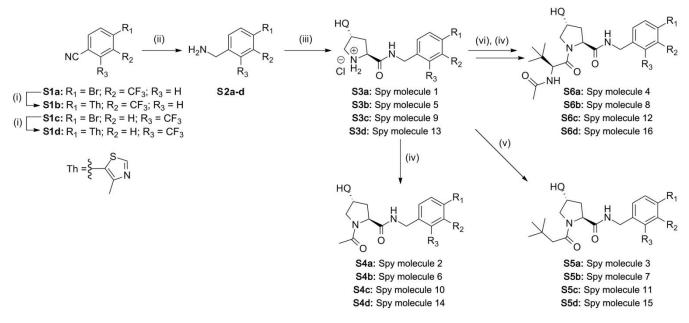
#### 2. Compound synthesis and characterization

All the compounds, reagents and solvents used, aside from the compounds specifically prepared for this work, were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. For compound purification of intermediates, flash column chromatography was performed using a Teledyne Isco Combiflash Rf or Rf200i, with RediSep Rf Disposable Columns (Normal phase). Where specified, compounds were purified using a Gilson Preparative HPLC System equipped with a Waters X-Bridge C18 column (100 mm x 19 mm; 5 µm particle size) using an eleven minutes gradient (25 mL/min) of: 1) 5% to 95% of acetonitrile : 0.1% formic acid, or 2) 5% to 95% of acetonitrile : 0.1% ammonia.

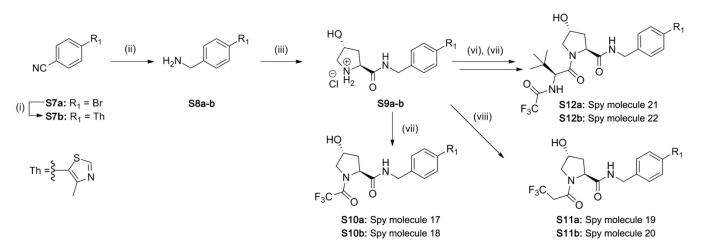
The NMR characterization was performed either on a Bruker 500 Ultrashield or Bruker Ascend 400 spectrometers. The splitting of the NMR signals are described as follows: singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), multiplet (m) and combinations in case of multiple signal splitting. Chemical shifts are described as parts per million (ppm) and coupling constants (*J*) were calculated in hertz (Hz). The proton (<sup>1</sup>H) and carbon (<sup>13</sup>C) spectra were referenced as follows: d6-Chloroform – CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta_H = 7.26$  ppm /  $\delta_C = 77.1$  ppm) and d5-Methanol – CD<sub>3</sub>OD ( $\delta_H = 3.34$  ppm /  $\delta_C = 49.1$  ppm). For compounds where amide rotamers could be observed, just the signal of the major rotamer was listed.

Reactions were monitored using an Agilent Technologies 1200 series analytical HPLC connected to an Agilent Technologies 6130 quadrupole LC/MS containing an Agilent diode array detector and a Waters XBridge column (50 mm  $\times$  2.1 mm, 3.5 µm particle size) for separation of the compounds. Samples were eluted with a 3 minutes gradient of 5% to 95% acetonitrile : 0.1% formic acid.

Abbreviations: ACN (acetonitrile), DCM (dichloromethane), DIPEA (N,N-diisopropylethylamine), DMA (dimethylacetamide), DMF (N,N-dimethylformamide), EtOAc (ethyl acetate), Et<sub>2</sub>O (diethyl ether), HATU (1-[bis(dimethylamino)methylene]-1H-1,2,3-triazolo[4,5-b]pyridinium 3-oxide hexafluorophosphate), MgSO<sub>4</sub> (Magnesium sulphate), MeOH (methanol), THF (Tetrahydrofuran) and TEA (triethylamine). For describing the synthesis and characterisation of spy molecules and intermediates, compounds were numbered as shown in the two schemes below. The respective compound numbering in the main text is indicated where applicable (*e.g.* compound **S3a** corresponds to **spy molecule 1** in the main text, and so on).



Scheme 2.1 Synthesis of spy molecules with a trifluoromethyl modification on an aromatic position.



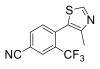
Scheme 2.2 Synthesis of spy molecules with a trifluoromethyl modification on an aliphatic position.

Compounds **S1a**, **S1c** and **S8a** were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. The spectroscopic characterization and yields for intermediates **S7b**, **S8b** and **S9b** can be found elsewhere, as these were previously prepared by our group,<sup>[2]</sup> while all the remaining compounds were synthesized and characterized as described below. For the NMR characterization of compounds **S3a-d** and **S9a-b**, either a chloride or a formate salt was obtained depending on the purification strategy used.

#### General procedure i. Coupling of aryl bromides with 4-methylthiazole - Synthesis of S1b, S1d and S7b

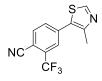
The aryl bromide (1 equiv.) was dissolved in dimethylacetamide (3 mL per mmol of bromide), followed by the sequential addition of 4-methythiazole (2 equiv.), potassium acetate (2 equiv.) and palladium (II) acetate (0.02 equiv.). The reaction was stirred for approximately two hours at 150 °C under nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was extracted with brine and dichloromethane. Combined organic phases were concentrated and DMA was removed in the vacuum pump. The desired product was then purified by flash column chromatography with an increasing elution of ethyl acetate (0-100%) in heptane.

#### 4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile (S1b):



Prepared from 0.3163 g (1.3 mmol) of the respective bromide (**S1a**), resulting in 0.221 g (0.8 mmol, 65%) of the desired product as a white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ : 8.84 (s, 1H); 8.08 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}}$ = 1.4 Hz, 1H); 7.89 (dd,  $J_{\text{H-H}}$ = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H); 7.54 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}}$ = 7.9 Hz, 1H); 2.25 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 152.75, 152.15, 136.04 (q, <sup>3</sup>J <sub>C-F</sub> = 1.7 Hz), 135.06, 134.93, 132.37 (q, <sup>2</sup>J <sub>C-F</sub> = 31.3 Hz), 130.36 (q, <sup>3</sup>J <sub>C-F</sub> = 5.4 Hz), 125.06, 122.56 (q, <sup>1</sup>J <sub>C-F</sub> = 274.6 Hz), 117.16, 113.76, 15.72; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -60.10.

#### 4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile (S1d):



Prepared from 0.8932 g (3.6 mmol) of the respective bromide (**S1c**), resulting in 0.555 g (2.2 mmol, 61%) of the desired product as a bright yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): 8.81 (s, 1H); 7.91 (d,  $J_{H-H}$  = 8.08 Hz, 1H); 7.86 (d,  $J_{H-H}$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H); 7.76 (dd,  $J_{H-H}$  = 1.5, 8.08 Hz, 1H); 2.59 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz): 152.49, 151.25, 137.69, 135.29, 133.61 (q, <sup>2</sup> $J_{C-F}$  = 32.8 Hz), 132.50, 128.96, 127.27 (q, <sup>3</sup> $J_{C-F}$  = 4.5 Hz), 122.28 (q, <sup>1</sup> $J_{C-F}$  = 273.8 Hz), 115.32, 109.14, 16.58; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -62.07.

#### 4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)benzonitrile (S7b):

Previously prepared and characterized.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### General procedure ii. Reduction of nitriles to amines – Synthesis of S2a-d and S8b

To a stirring solution of the nitrile (1 equiv.) in THF under nitrogen atmosphere, was added a solution of LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (1 equiv. from a 1M solution in THF). After an overnight period, the mixture was cooled down in an ice bath and diluted with diethyl ether. Water was then slowly added (1  $\mu$ L per mg of LiAlH<sub>4</sub> added), followed by the addition of 15% NaOH (1  $\mu$ L per mg of LiAlH<sub>4</sub> added) and once more water (3  $\mu$ L per mg of LiAlH<sub>4</sub> added). The ice bath was removed and the mixture. MgSO<sub>4</sub> was added and after 15 additional minutes stirring the mixture was filtered, then extracted with HCl solution (pH ≈ 2). The organic phase was discarded and the pH of the aqueous phase was raised to 12 by adding NaOH 1 M. This solution was extracted three times with DCM and the organic phase was concentrated and purified (purification strategy specified for each compound).

#### (4-bromo-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanaminium formate (S2a):

$$\overset{O}{H} \overset{\ominus}{\longrightarrow} \overset{\oplus}{H_3} \overset{\oplus}{N} \overset{\oplus}{\longleftarrow} \overset{CF_3}{(CF_3)} \overset{Br}{\longleftarrow} \overset{Br}{(CF_3)} \overset{Br}{\longleftarrow} \overset{Br}{(CF_3)} \overset{Br}{\longleftarrow} \overset{Br}{(CF_3)} \overset{Br}{(CF_3)}$$

Prepared from 0.264 g (1.06 mmol) of the respective nitrile (**S1a**), resulting in 0.110 g (0.35 mmol, 35%) of the desired product as a white solid. Compound obtained as a formate salt after purification in reverse phase HPLC using a 5 to 95% gradient of formic acid 0.1% and acetonitrile. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ : 8.55 (Formic acid), 7.95-7.89 (m, 2H), 7.64-7.60 (m, 1H), 4.19-4.16 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 170.08 (Formic acid), 137.05, 136.10, 135.20, 131.73 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J* <sub>C-F</sub> = 31.2 Hz), 129.66 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J* <sub>C-F</sub> = 5.2 Hz), 124.34 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J* <sub>C-F</sub> = 273.3 Hz), 121.31, 43.57; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -64.05 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

#### (4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanaminium formate (S2b):

 $\begin{array}{c} O \\ H \\ O \\ O \\ H \\ O \\ O \\ H_3 \\ O \\ CF_3 \\ CF_3 \end{array}$ 

Prepared from 0.221 g (0.82 mmol) of the respective nitrile (**S1b**), resulting in 0.092 g (0.29 mmol, 36%) of the desired product as a yellow solid. Compound obtained as a formate salt after purification in reverse phase HPLC using a 5 to 95% gradient of formic acid 0.1% and acetonitrile. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 9.04 (s, 1H), 8.55 (Formic acid), 8.02-7.99 (s, 1H), 7.82-7.79 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.55 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -62.36 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

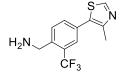
#### (4-bromo-2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanaminium formate (S2c):

$$H \stackrel{O}{\longrightarrow} H_{3} \stackrel{\oplus}{N} \stackrel{H}{\longrightarrow} F_{CF_{3}}$$

Prepared from 0.523 g (2.09 mmol) of the respective nitrile (**S1c**), resulting in 0.195 g (0.65 mmol, 31%) of the desired product as a white solid. Compound obtained as a formate salt after purification in reverse phase HPLC

using a 5 to 95% gradient of formic acid 0.1% and acetonitrile. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 8.52 (Formic acid), 7.98-7.97 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.95-7.92 (dd,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 1.6$ , 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.62 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.24 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 169.65 (Formic acid), 137.32, 133.94, 133.75, 131.55 (q, <sup>2</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}} = 31.2$ ), 130.71 (q, <sup>3</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}} = 5.8$ ), 124.76 (q, <sup>1</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}} = 273.62$ ), 124.04, 40.71 (q, <sup>4</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.68$ ); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -61.08 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

#### (4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanamine (S2d):



Prepared from 0.398 g (1.49 mmol) of the respective nitrile (**S1d**), resulting in 0.157 g (0.49 mmol, 33%) of the desired product as a yellow solid. Compound obtained as a free amine after purification in reverse phase HPLC using a 5 to 95% gradient of ammonia 0.1% and acetonitrile. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 8.96 (s, 1H), 7.84-7.76 (m, 3H), 4.05 (s, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 153.72, 150.26, 142.43, 134.38, 132.24, 131.86, 131.77, 129.35 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J* <sub>C-F</sub> = 30.2 Hz), 127.50 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J* <sub>C-F</sub> = 5.8 Hz), 125.81 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J* <sub>C-F</sub> = 273.7 Hz), 42.83, 15.87; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -59.67 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

#### (4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)phenyl)methanamine (S8b):

Previously prepared and characterized.<sup>[2]</sup>

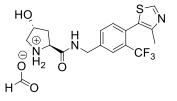
## <u>General procedure iii. Amide coupling with Boc-L-hydroxyproline and deprotection – Synthesis of S3a-d</u> and S9a-b

To a solution of amine (1 equiv.) in DMF, Boc-L-hydroxyproline (1 equiv.) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature. DIPEA (2 equiv.) was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred for 5 minutes at room temperature. HATU (1.1 equiv.) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30-90 minutes (LCMS monitoring). Water was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the corresponding crude, which was purified by flash column chromatography with an increasing gradient of DCM and 20% MeOH in DCM to yield the desired product. The Boc protected compound was dissolved in DCM, followed by the dropwise addition of a 4M HCl solution in dioxane (at least 3 equiv.). Often an insoluble precipitate starts to be formed. A few drops of MeOH were added to make the solution homogeneous, being kept stirring for approximately one hour. The DCM and the HCl were removed by flushing nitrogen into the solution and residual solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure. To remove traces of impurities, compounds S3a, S3b, S3d and S9a were furtherly purified by preparative HPLC, being obtained as a formate salt, while the remaining compounds were obtained as a chloride salt.

(2*S*,4*R*)-2-((4-bromo-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)carbamoyl)-4-hydroxypyrrolidin-1-ium formate (S3a - spy molecule 1):

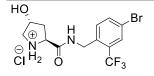
Prepared from 198 mg (0.78 mmol) of amine **S2a**, resulting in 248 mg (0.60 mmol, 78%) of the desired product as a white solid. Compound obtained as a formate salt after purification in reverse phase HPLC using a 5 to 95% gradient of formic acid 0.1% and acetonitrile. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 367.0264; Observed: 367.0299; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ : 8.50 (Formic acid), 7.80 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.7, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (m, 1H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 4.42 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 7.6, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 3.7, 12.1 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (ddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.5, 7.6, 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (ddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.2, 10.3, 13.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 171.98, 170.29 (Formic acid), 140.99, 137.34, 134.74, 131.96 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 31.3 Hz), 129.06 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 5.6 Hz), 125.25 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 273.3 Hz), 120.22, 72.47, 60.96, 56.09, 44.19, 40.96; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -64.01.

(2*S*,4*R*)-2-((4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)carbamoyl)-4-hydroxypyrrolidin-1-ium formate (S3b - spy molecule 5):



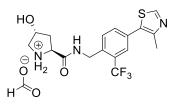
Prepared from 179 mg (0.56 mmol) of amine **S2b**, resulting in 203 mg (0.47 mmol, 84%) of the desired product as a white solid. Compound obtained as a formate salt after purification in reverse phase HPLC using a 5 to 95% gradient of formic acid 0.1% and acetonitrile. MS  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): 386.1; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ : 9.02 (s, 1H), 8.51 (Formic acid), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (s, 2H), 4.55 (m, 1H), 4.35 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 7.7, 9.9 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (m, 1H), 3.20 (dt, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.4, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (ddt, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.5, 7.6, 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.03 (ddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.3, 9.9, 13.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 172.51, 169.65 (Formic acid), 154.51, 152.18, 142.12, 135.37, 132.41, 131.77 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 30.1 Hz), 130.17, 128.59, 126.72 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 5.6 Hz), 125.19 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 273.7 Hz), 72.11, 60.40, 55.55, 43.62, 40.41, 15.33; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -59.37.

(2*S*,4*R*)-2-((4-bromo-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)carbamoyl)-4-hydroxypyrrolidin-1-ium chloride (S3c - spy molecule 9):



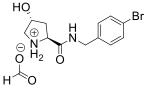
Prepared from 11 mg (0.043 mmol) of amine **S2c**, resulting in 14 mg (0.035 mmol, 80%) of the desired product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 367.0264; Observed: 367.0280; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 7.88-7.85 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.79 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.8, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.44(d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.61-4.53 (m, 2H), 4.41-4.38 (m, 1H), 4.00-3.76 (t, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.06-3.01 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.0, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.96-2.91 (dt, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.8, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.23-2.17 (ddt, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.8, 8.0, 13.4 Hz, 1H), 1.91-1.85 (ddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 5.0, 8.7, 13.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 177.58, 137.72, 136.72, 132.33, 130.63 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 31.5 Hz), 130.09 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 5.8 Hz), 125.02 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 273.6 Hz), 122.07, 73.67, 60.82, 56.15, 40.99, 40.19 (q, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 2.9 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -61.86 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

# (2*S*,4*R*)-2-((4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)carbamoyl)-4-hydroxypyrrolidin-1-ium chloride (S3d - spy molecule 13):



Prepared from 164 mg (0.60 mmol) of amine **S2d**, resulting in 239 mg (0.55 mmol, 92%) of the desired product as a white solid. Compound obtained as a formate salt after purification in reverse phase HPLC using a 5 to 95% gradient of formic acid 0.1% and acetonitrile. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: 386.1145; Observed: 386.1168; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 8.98 (s, 1H), 8.55 (Formic acid), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.77 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.4, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (m, 2H), 4.48 (m, 1H), 4.18 (t, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 3.5, 11.7 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.32 (ddt, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.6, 7.8, 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.98 (ddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.7, 9.3, 13.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 174.57, 170.18 (Formic acid), 153.88, 150.39, 138.01, 134.30, 132.82, 131.65, 131.37, 129.60 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 30.9 Hz), 127.78 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 5.9 Hz), 125.64 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 273.4 Hz), 72.77, 60.56, 55.82, 40.64, 15.87; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -60.11.

#### (2S,4R)-2-((4-bromobenzyl)carbamoyl)-4-hydroxypyrrolidin-1-ium chloride (S9a):



Prepared from 182 mg (1.00 mmol) of amine **S8a**, resulting in 294 mg (0.47 mmol, 84%) of the desired product as a white solid. Compound obtained as a formate salt after purification in reverse phase HPLC using a 5 to 95% gradient of formic acid 0.1% and acetonitrile. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 7.51-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 2H), 4.52-4.49 (m, 1H), 4.41-4.38 (s, 2H), 4.27-4.23 (dd,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.9$ , 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.27-3.23 (dd,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 3.8$ , 12.1

Hz, 1H), 3.16-3.13 (m, 1H), 2.37-2.32 (m, 1H), 2.01-1.95 (ddd,  $J_{\text{H-H}}$  = 4.5, 9.6, 13.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 173.09, 170.38 (Formic acid), 139.11, 132.76, 130.63, 122.13, 72.35, 60.39, 55.57, 43.57, 40.50.

#### (2S,4R)-4-hydroxy-2-((4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)benzyl)carbamoyl)pyrrolidin-1-ium chloride (S9b):

HO

Previously prepared and characterized.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### General procedure iv. Amine acetylation - Synthesis of S4a-d and S6a-d

The amine (1 equiv.) was dissolved in DMF, followed by the addition of triethylamine (2.0 equiv.) and 1acetylimidazole (1.0 equiv.). The mixture was kept stirring overnight, followed by extraction with ethyl acetate and brine. Combined organic phases were dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated and purified in the acidic Gilson HPLC system, yielding the desired product.

(2*S*,4*R*)-1-acetyl-N-(4-bromo-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-4-hydroxypyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (S4a - spy molecule 2):

ΗΟ

Prepared from 50.3 mg (0.125 mmol) of hydrochloride salt of amine **S3a**, resulting in 47.7 mg (0.117 mmol, 93%) of the desired product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 409.0369; Observed: 409.0387; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ : 7.79 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub>= 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub>= 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub>= 1.6, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (m, 4H), 3.80 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub>= 4.2, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub>= 1.8, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (dddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub>= 1.6, 3.0, 8.0, 13.1 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 2.07 (ddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub>= 4.6, 8.3, 13.1 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 175.88, 173.49, 141.40, 137.19, 134.38, 131.77 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 31.3 Hz), 128.72 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 5.5 Hz), 125.32 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 273.1 Hz), 119.77, 71.70, 61.21, 58.21, 43.87, 40.35, 23.18; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -63.86 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

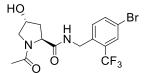
# (2*S*,4*R*)-1-acetyl-4-hydroxy-N-(4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)pyrrolidine-2carboxamide (S4b - spy molecule 6):

HO

Prepared from 26 mg (0.060 mmol) of formate salt of amine **S3b**, resulting in 20 mg (0.047 mmol, 78%) of the desired product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S: 428.1250;

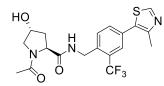
Observed: 428.1272; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 9.04-9.02 (s, 1H), 7.83-7.81 (s, 1H), 7.74-7.66 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}}$ = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.44 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}}$ = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.66-4.44 (m, 4H), 3.83-3.79 (dd,  $J_{\text{H-H}}$ = 4.3, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.61-3.57 (dd,  $J_{\text{H-H}}$ = 1.7, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.48-2.27 (m, 1H), 2.22-2.20 (s, 3H), 2.20-2.07 (m, 1H), 2.14-1.96 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 175.20, 172.75, 154.45, 152.11, 142.44, 135.25, 132.04, 131.57 (q, <sup>2</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 29.8 Hz), 129.70 (q, <sup>3</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 1.9 Hz), 128.81, 126.42 (q, <sup>3</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 5.3 Hz), 125.25 (q, <sup>1</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 273.1 Hz), 70.96, 60.48, 57.48, 43.39, 39.63, 22.44, 15.34; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -60.75 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

(2*S*,4*R*)-1-acetyl-N-(4-bromo-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-4-hydroxypyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (S4c - spy molecule 10):



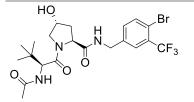
Prepared from 29 mg (0.072 mmol) of amine **S3c**, resulting in 22 mg (0.054 mmol, 75%) of the desired product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m*/*z*): Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 409.0369; Observed: 409.0377; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 7.89-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.47 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.66-4.43 (m, 4H), 3.83-3.79 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.1, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.61-3.57 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.7, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.45-2.26 (dddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.7, 2.8, 7.8, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 2.21-2.07 (ddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.6, 8.5, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 2.15-1.97 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 175.33, 172.81, 137.72, 136.75, 132.12, 130.26 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 31.3 Hz), 129.81 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 6.1 Hz), 125.05 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 273.5 Hz), 121.81, 70.98, 60.49, 57.52, 40.29 (q, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.4 Hz), 39.57, 22.44; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -62.14 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

### (2*S*,4*R*)-1-acetyl-4-hydroxy-N-(4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)pyrrolidine-2carboxamide (S4d - spy molecule 14):



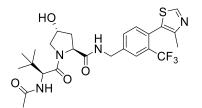
Prepared from 39 mg (0.090 mmol) of amine **S3d**, resulting in 28 mg (0.066 mmol, 72%) of the desired product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m*/*z*): Calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S: 428.1250; Observed: 428.1265; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 8.98 (s, 1H), 7.86-7.76 (m, 3H), 4.75-4.51 (m, 4H), 3.84-3.80 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.2, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.63-3.56 (dt, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.7, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.47-2.27 (dddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.6, 2.9, 7.9, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 2.24-2.10 (m, 1H), 2.15-2.00 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 175.35, 172.81, 153.75, 150.23, 138.38, 134.32, 132.30, 131.83, 130.80, 129.08 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 30.9 Hz), 127.43 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 5.9 Hz), 125.70 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 273.6 Hz), 70.98, 60.52, 57.53, 40.50 (q, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.2 Hz), 39.61, 22.47, 15.90; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -60.45 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

(2*S*,4*R*)-1-((*S*)-2-acetamido-3,3-dimethylbutanoyl)-*N*-(4-bromo-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-4hydroxypyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (S6a - spy molecule 4):



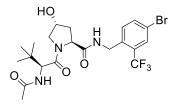
Overall yield of 93% (90 mg, 0.17 mmol), starting from amine **S3a** (77 mg, 0.18 mmol). Yield includes also step (*vi*). HRMS (ESI) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S: 428.1250; Observed: 428.1265; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 7.82-7.58 (m, 3H), 4.63 (s, 1H), 4.60-4.45 (m, 3H), 4.34 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 3.8, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 2.42-2.19 (m, 1H), 2.16-1.99 (m, 4H), 1.04 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 174.75, 173.22, 172.39, 140.68, 136.32, 133.85, 131.02 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 30.9 Hz), 128.15 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 5.4 Hz), 124.56 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 272.5 Hz), 119.03, 71.17, 60.83, 59.25, 58.06, 43.21, 39.00, 36.53, 27.03, 22.39; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -62.30 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

# (2*S*,4*R*)-1-((*S*)-2-acetamido-3,3-dimethylbutanoyl)-4-hydroxy-*N*-(4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (S6b - spy molecule 8):



Overall yield of 84% (66 mg, 0.12 mmol), starting from amine **S3b** (63 mg, 0.15 mmol). Yield includes also step (*vi*). HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>31</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S: 541.2091; Observed: 541.2105; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 9.03 (s, 1H), 7.87-7.84 (s, 1H), 7.78-7.69 (d,  $J_{H-H} = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.40 (d,  $J_{H-H} = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.82-4.43 (m, 5H), 3.96-3.92 (d,  $J_{H-H} = 11.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.85-3.81 (dd,  $J_{H-H} = 3.9$ , 11.0 Hz, 1H), 2.42-2.23 (m, 1H), 2.23-2.19 (s, 3H), 2.18-2.06 (ddd,  $J_{H-H} = 4.5$ , 9.2, 13.1 Hz, 1H), 2.05-1.99 (s, 3H), 1.08-1.02 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 174.83, 173.22, 172.39, 154.46, 152.09, 142.49, 135.13, 132.28, 131.57 (q, <sup>2</sup> $J_{C-F} = 29.7$  Hz), 129.69 (q, <sup>3</sup> $J_{C-F} = 1.9$  Hz), 128.81, 126.59 (q, <sup>3</sup> $J_{C-F} = 5.3$  Hz), 125.24 (q, <sup>1</sup> $J_{C-F} = 273.3$  Hz), 71.19, 60.87, 59.26, 58.08, 43.51, 39.05, 36.54, 27.06, 22.39, 15.35; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -60.65 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

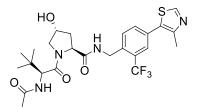
## (2*S*,4*R*)-1-((*S*)-2-acetamido-3,3-dimethylbutanoyl)-*N*-(4-bromo-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-4hydroxypyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (S6c - spy molecule 12):



Prepared from 17 mg (0.042 mmol) of amine **S3c**, resulting in 18 mg (0.034 mmol, 82%) of the desired product as a white solid. Yield includes also step (*vi*). HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>27</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: 522.1210; Observed: 522.1180; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 7.87-7.83 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.72 (m, 2H), 4.64 (s, 1H),

4.71-4.41 (m, 4H), 3.96-3.93 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 11.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.84-3.80 (dd,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 3.9$ , 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.39-2.22 (m, 1H), 2.14-2.07 (ddd,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 4.4$ , 9.4, 13.1 Hz, 1H), 2.05-2.00 (s, 3H), 1.09-1.02 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 175.02, 173.24, 172.47, 137.74, 136.54, 132.45, 130.32 (q, <sup>2</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}} = 31.3$  Hz), 129.80 (q, <sup>3</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}} = 6.1$  Hz), 125.05 (q, <sup>1</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}} = 273.7$  Hz), 121.79, 71.23, 60.90, 59.30, 58.11, 40.40 (q, <sup>4</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.3$  Hz), 38.94, 36.58, 27.04, 22.39; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -62.12 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

(2*S*,4*R*)-1-((*S*)-2-acetamido-3,3-dimethylbutanoyl)-4-hydroxy-*N*-(4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (S6d - spy molecule 16):

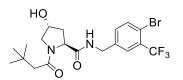


Prepared from 53 mg (0.123 mmol) of amine **S3d**, resulting in 51 mg (0.094 mmol, 77%) of the desired product as a white solid. Yield includes also step (*vi*). HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>31</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S: 541.2091; Observed: 541.2091; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 8.98 (s, 1H), 7.97-7.93 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.80-7.76 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.69 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.3, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.81-4.75 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 4.67-4.51 (m, 4H), 3.97-3.93 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.86-3.81 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 3.9, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 2.54-2.51 (s, 3H), 2.31-2.24 (m, 1H), 2.17-2.10 (ddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.5, 9.2, 13.1 Hz, 1H), 2.06-2.02 (s, 3H), 1.09-1.03 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 175.06, 173.25, 172.49, 153.78, 150.21, 138.42, 134.11, 132.30, 131.83, 131.14, 129.17 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 30.9 Hz), 127.47 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 5.9 Hz), 125.70 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 273.4 Hz), 71.25, 60.93, 59.33, 58.13, 40.64 (q, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.3 Hz), 38.97, 36.61, 27.06, 22.39, 15.89; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -61.96.

#### General procedure v. Amide coupling with 3,3-dimethylbutyric acid – Synthesis of S5a-d

To a solution of amine (1 equiv.) in DMF, 3,3-dimethylbutyric acid (1 equiv.) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature. DIPEA (2 equiv.) was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred for 5 minutes at room temperature. HATU (1.1 equiv.) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 60 minutes (LCMS monitoring). Water was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the corresponding crude, which was purified in the acidic Gilson preparative HPLC.

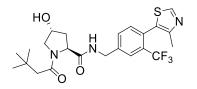
# (2*S*,4*R*)-*N*-(4-bromo-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-1-(3,3-dimethylbutanoyl)-4-hydroxypyrrolidine-2carboxamide (S5a - spy molecule 3):



Prepared from 50.6 mg (0.125 mmol) of hydrochloride salt of the amine **S3a** resulting in 49.8 mg (0.107 mmol, 86%) of the desired product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>24</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>:

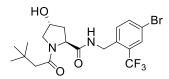
465.0995; Observed: 465.1013; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ : 7.82-7.75 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.47 (dd,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 1.6$ , 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.58-4.36 (m, 4H), 3.80-3.75 (dd,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 4.1$ , 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.74-3.63 (dt,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 1.7$ , 11.0 Hz, 1H), 2.37-1.81 (m, 4H), 1.10-0.97 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 175.29, 173.80, 140.67, 136.36, 133.75, 131.03 (q, <sup>2</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}} = 31.8$  Hz), 128.08 (q, <sup>3</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}} = 5.5$  Hz), 124.56 (q, <sup>1</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}} = 272.7$  Hz), 119.01, 71.10, 60.54, 57.82, 47.76, 43.17, 39.24, 32.74, 30.47; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -63.81 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

### (2*S*,4*R*)-1-(3,3-dimethylbutanoyl)-4-hydroxy-*N*-(4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (S5b - spy molecule 7):



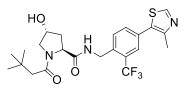
Prepared with 0.023 g (0.053 mmol) of amine **S3b**, resulting in 0.020 mg (0.042 mmol, 80%) of product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>28</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S: 484.1876; Observed: 484.1891; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 9.04-9.02 (s, 1H), 7.87-7.84 (m, 1H), 7.75-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.41 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.65-4.43 (m, 4H), 3.82-3.78 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.2, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.75-3.65 (dt, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 2.0, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.38-2.24 (m, 3H), 2.22-2.20 (s, 3H), 2.19-2.06 (ddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.4, 8.4, 13.3 Hz, 1H), 1.10-0.97 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 175.37, 173.82, 154.44, 152.09, 142.49, 135.18, 132.21, 131.59 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 30.5 Hz), 129.69 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 1.9 Hz), 128.83, 126.55 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 5.5 Hz), 125.25 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 273.1 Hz), 71.13, 60.58, 57.85, 47.77, 43.65, 39.28, 32.77, 30.48, 15.89; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -60.68 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

## (2*S*,4*R*)-*N*-(4-bromo-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-1-(3,3-dimethylbutanoyl)-4-hydroxypyrrolidine-2carboxamide (S5c - spy molecule 11):



Prepared from 17 mg (0.042 mmol) of amine **S3c**, resulting in 15 mg (0.032 mmol, 76%) of the desired product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>24</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 465.0995; Observed: 465.0997; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 7.90-7.83 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 1.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.83-7.60 (dd,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 1.8$ , 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.50 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.66-4.42 (m, 4H), 3.81-3.77 (dd,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 4.1$ , 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.74-3.66 (dd,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 1.9$ , 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.40-2.16 (m, 3H), 2.14-2.07 (ddd,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 4.6$ , 8.5, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 1.12-1.02 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 175.51, 173.92, 137.74 (q, <sup>3</sup> $_{\text{C-F}} = 1.2$  Hz), 136.65, 132.32, 130.32 (q, <sup>2</sup> $_{\text{C-F}} = 31.3$  Hz), 129.80 (q, <sup>3</sup> $_{\text{C-F}} = 6.1$  Hz), 125.05 (q, <sup>1</sup> $_{\text{C-F}} = 273.8$  Hz), 121.79, 71.14, 60.58, 57.91, 47.82, 40.36 (q, <sup>4</sup> $_{\text{C-F}} = 3.3$  Hz), 39.21, 32.87, 30.50; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -62.11 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

(2*S*,4*R*)-1-(3,3-dimethylbutanoyl)-4-hydroxy-*N*-(4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (S5d - spy molecule 15):



Prepared from 24 mg (0.056 mmol) of amine **S3d**, resulting in 22 mg (0.045 mmol, 82%) of the desired product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>28</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S: 484.1876; Observed: 484.1894; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 9.00-8.98 (s, 1H), 7.91-7.87 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.76-4.51 (m, 4H), 3.83-3.78 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.1, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.74-3.67 (dt, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.5, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.41-2.11 (m, 4H), 1.12-1.02 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 175.55, 173.95, 154.03, 149.74, 138.59, 134.26, 132.13, 132.03, 131.06, 129.16 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 30.9 Hz), 127.48 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 5.8 Hz), 125.69 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 273.5 Hz), 71.16, 60.61, 57.94, 47.84, 40.59 (q, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.1 Hz), 39.25, 32.89, 30.51, 15.68; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -61.95.

# <u>General procedure vi. Amide coupling with Boc-L-*tert*-leucine and deprotection - Synthesis of intermediates of compounds S6a-d and S12a-b</u>

Same as "general procedure iii", just replacing the Boc-L-hydroxyproline with Boc-L-*tert*-leucine. All the crude intermediates prepared at this step were directly used in the next steps without further purification and characterization after deprotection of the Boc group.

#### General procedure vii. Amine trifluoroacetylation – Synthesis of S10a-b and S12a-b

To a solution of the amine (1 equiv.) in dry MeOH (1 ml per mmol of amine) was added triethylamine (2 equiv.). Ethyltrifluoroacetate (1.25 equiv.) was added and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for approximately 24 hours (LCMS monitoring). The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate and 1.0 M HCl solution. Combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated and purified in the acidic Gilson preparative HPLC system, yielding the desired product.

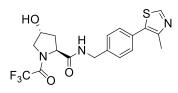
# (2*S*,4*R*)-*N*-(4-bromobenzyl)-4-hydroxy-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (S10a - spy molecule 17):

$$F_3C \sim O O O Br$$

Prepared from 32 mg (0.093 mmol) of amine **S9a**, resulting in 25 mg (0.063 mmol, 68%) of the desired product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m*/*z*): Calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 395.0213; Observed: 395.0230; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 7.52-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.22 (m, 2H), 4.66-4.61 (t, *J* <sub>H-H</sub> = 8.6Hz, 1H), 4.57-4.54 (m, 1H), 4.50-4.30 (m, 2H), 3.88-3.84 (dd, *J* <sub>H-H</sub> = 3.5, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.82-3.78 (dd, *J* <sub>H-H</sub> = 1.5, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 2.48-2.29 (ddt, *J* <sub>H-H</sub> = 1.8, 7.8, 13.2, 1H), 2.24-2.04 (ddd, *J* <sub>H-H</sub> = 4.3, 9.3, 13.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125

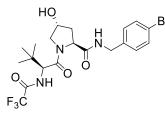
MHz)  $\delta$ : 173.19, 157.56 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 37.11 Hz), 139.11, 132.69, 130.44, 121.98, 117.73 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 286.8 Hz), 71.08, 61.89, 57.21 (q, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.0 Hz), 43.53, 38.57; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -72.35 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

(2*S*,4*R*)-4-hydroxy-*N*-(4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)benzyl)-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (S10b - spy molecule 18):



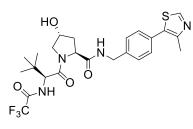
Prepared from 28 mg (0.079 mmol) of amine **S9b**, resulting in 19 mg (0.046 mmol, 58%) of the desired product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m*/*z*): Calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S: 414.1094; Observed: 414.1117; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 8.91 (s, 1H), 7.50-7.41 (m, 4H), 4.69-4.64 (d, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.59-4.40 (m, 3H), 3.89-3.85 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 3.6, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.83-3.79 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.4, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 2.54-2.50 (s, 3H), 2.37-2.31 (ddt, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 1.8, 7.8, 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.14-2.07 (ddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.3, 9.3, 13.3 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, MHz)  $\delta$ : 173.23, 157.58 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 36.8 Hz), 153.00, 149.20, 140.12, 133.48, 131.79, 130.59, 129.03, 117.75 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 286.8 Hz), 71.10, 61.93, 57.23 (q, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.0 Hz), 43.82, 38.61, 15.89; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -73.74 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

## (2*S*,4*R*)-*N*-(4-bromobenzyl)-1-((*S*)-3,3-dimethyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetamido)butanoyl)-4hydroxypyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (S12a - spy molecule 21):



Prepared from 24 mg (0.070 mmol) of amine **S9a**, resulting in 23 mg (0.045 mmol, 65%) of the desired product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>25</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: 508.1053; Observed: 508.1046; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 8.58 (s, NH), 7.53-7.29 (m, 4H), 4.77-4.75 (s, 1H), 4.61-4.26 (m, 4H), 3.88-3.81 (m, 2H), 2.42-2.22 (m, 1H), 2.12-2.06 (ddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.4, 9.4, 13.1 Hz, 1H), 1.10-1.04 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 174.38, 170.74, 158.81 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 37.6 Hz), 139.34, 132.57, 130.46, 121.82, 117.58 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 286.3 Hz), 71.17, 60.95, 59.62, 58.30, 43.50, 39.03, 37.38, 26.93; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -76.65 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

(2*S*,4*R*)-1-((*S*)-3,3-dimethyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetamido)butanoyl)-4-hydroxy-*N*-(4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)benzyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (S12b - spy molecule 22):

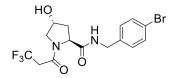


Prepared from 60 mg (0.17 mmol) of amine **S9b**, resulting in 63 mg (0.12 mmol, 71%) of the desired product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>29</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S: 527.1934; Observed: 527.1901; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 8.91-8.90 (s, 1H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 4H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 4.81-4.36 (m, 4H), 3.89-3.62 (m, 2H), 2.52-2.49 (s, 3H), 2.45-2.24 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.08 (ddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.4, 9.3, 13.1 Hz, 1H), 1.11-1.05 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 174.38, 170.77, 158.80 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 38.4 Hz), 152.94, 149.15, 140.34, 133.50, 131.64, 130.47, 129.04, 117.58 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 285.9 Hz), 71.18, 60.98, 59.64, 58.31, 43.81, 39.05, 37.40, 26.96, 15.89 ; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -75.18.

#### General procedure viii. Amide coupling with 3,3,3-fluoropropanoic acid – Synthesis of S11a-b

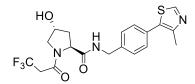
To a solution of amine (1 equiv.) in DMF, 3,3,3-Trifluoropropanoic acid (1 equiv.) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature. DIPEA (2 equiv.) was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred for 5 minutes at room temperature. HATU (1.1 equiv.) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30-90 minutes (TLC monitoring). Water was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the corresponding crude, which was purified by flash column chromatography with an increasing gradient of DCM and 20% MeOH in DCM to yield the desired product.

# (2*S*,4*R*)-*N*-(4-bromobenzyl)-4-hydroxy-1-(3,3,3-trifluoropropanoyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (S11a - spy molecule 19):



Prepared from 37 mg (0.107 mmol) of amine **S9a**, resulting in 33 mg (0.081 mmol, 75%) of the desired product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 409.0369; Observed: 409.0389; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 7.52-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 2H), 4.59-4.33 (m, 4H), 3.81-3.77 (dd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.3, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.61-3.58 (m, 1H), 3.58-2.93 (m, 2H), 2.45-2.24 (m, 1H), 2.20-2.05 (ddd, *J*<sub>H-H</sub> = 4.7, 8.2, 13.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 174.37, 165.27 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.5 Hz), 139.20, 132.66, 130.43, 125.90 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 275.3 Hz), 121.89, 70.83, 60.70, 56.98, 43.48, 39.75 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 28.9 Hz), 39.39; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -64.04 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

# (2*S*,4*R*)-4-hydroxy-*N*-(4-(4-methylthiazol-5-yl)benzyl)-1-(3,3,3-trifluoropropanoyl)pyrrolidine-2carboxamide (S11b - spy molecule 20):



Prepared from 22 mg (0.062 mmol) of amine **S9b**, resulting in 22 mg (0.051 mmol, 83%) of the desired product as a white solid. HRMS (ESI)  $[M+H]^+$  (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S: 428.1250; Observed: 428.1262; <sup>1</sup>H

NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$ : 8.93-8.89 (s, 1H), 7.50-7.44 (m, 4H), 4.65-4.44 (m, 4H), 3.83-3.79 (dd,  $J_{\text{H-H}}$ = 4.3, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 3.78-3.58 (dd,  $J_{\text{H-H}}$ = 2.0, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 3.58-2.93 (m, 2H), 2.52-2.50 (s, 3H), 2.47-2.27 (m, 1H), 2.24-2.09 (ddd,  $J_{\text{H-H}}$ = 4.7, 8.2, 13.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz)  $\delta$ : 174.41, 165.29 (q, <sup>3</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.3 Hz), 152.98, 149.17, 140.23, 133.51, 131.70, 130.56, 129.03, 125.92 (q, <sup>1</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 275.3 Hz), 70.85, 60.74, 57.00, 43.78, 39.77 (q, <sup>2</sup> $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 29.0 Hz), 39.43, 15.88; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 470 MHz)  $\delta$ : -64.04 (CF<sub>3</sub>).

#### 3. Protein expression, purification and biotinylation

The VHL E3 ligase is a multi-protein complex composed of five proteins: VHL protein (pVHL), elongin B (eloB), elongin C (eloC), Cullin-2 (Cul2) and Ring-box protein 1 (Rbx1).<sup>[3]</sup> Since the compounds developed in this work bind solely to the VHL protein, the VBC complex (equimolar complex of pVHL<sub>54-213</sub>, eloB<sub>1-104</sub> and eloC<sub>17-112</sub>) was used in all experiments, as it can be readily expressed in *E. coli* with high yields,<sup>[4]</sup> while the full E3 ligase would require baculovirus-insect cells expression system.<sup>[5]</sup> The expression and purification of VBC was performed as described previously by our group<sup>[2]</sup> and employed directly in all NMR experiments.

For the surface plasmon resonance (SPR) experiments, a VBC complex containing an AviTag<sup>TM</sup> in the Nterminus of eloB (AviVBC) was purified using the same procedure described for VBC. The modified eloB/eloC expression plasmid was previously developed in-house by Dr. Michael Roy and kindly shared. The AviVBC complex was site-specifically biotinylated in the AviTag using the GST-BirA method previously described by Fairhead and Howarth.<sup>[6]</sup>

#### 4. Surface plasmon resonance experiments

The SPR experiments were performed with a Biacore T200 instrument (GE Healthcare). All measurements were performed at 20 °C with buffer containing 10 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM TCEP, 0.005% (v/v) Tween® 20 and 2% (v/v) dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). Biotinylated AviVBC (~0.5  $\mu$ M) was immobilised at 22 °C onto a Series S sensor chip SA (GE Heathcare) to levels of approximately 3500-4000 response units (RU).

Solutions of each spy molecule were prepared in buffer at concentrations based on previous structure-activity relationship studies of VHL ligands ( $K_D$  expected in the nanomolar range for structures like spy molecules **16** and **22**, or in the milimolar range for spy molecules similar to **1** and **9**). From this first screen, the binding affinities were roughly estimated using the Biacore T200 evaluation software (GE Healthcare), then measurements were repeated using concentrations above and below the  $K_D$  obtained in the first round to generate better curves for fitting the data accurately. Contact and dissociation times varied across the different compounds tested, but in general fast binding kinetics were observed for all compounds, fully reaching steady-state or being completely dissociated from the surface in less than sixty seconds.

Data analysis was performed using the steady state responses of the double-referenced sensorgrams (raw data subtracted from blank and reference surface injections) obtained for each concentration tested. These responses were plotted against the respective concentrations and the data fitted to a 1:1 binding model using the Biacore T200 evaluation software and the following equation:

$$R_{eq} = \frac{C \times R_{MAX}}{K_D + C} + offset$$

Where  $R_{eq}$  is the steady-state response at a given concentration C. Deviations in  $R_{eq}$  were corrected by adding an 'offset' term to the equation.  $K_D$  is the dissociation constant to be determined and  $R_{MAX}$  is the maximum response expected for a given compound according to the equation below:

$$R_{MAX} = n \times R_{Protein} \frac{MW_{Compound}}{MW_{Protein}}$$

Where n is the stoichiometry of the interaction (in this case, n = 1) and  $R_{Protein}$  is the immobilization level of protein.  $MW_{Compound}$  and  $MW_{Protein}$  are the molecular weights of compound and protein, respectively. Sensorgrams and fitting parameters for all spy molecules can be found in section 7.

#### 5. Measurement of the transverse relaxation rates by <sup>19</sup>F CPMG NMR

All the NMR experiments were performed in a 500 MHz Bruker AVANCE NMR spectrometer equipped with a CPQCI-F cryoprobe. To measure the transverse relaxation rates ( $R_2$ ), a solution of each spy molecule at 100 µM was prepared in 50 mM potassium phosphate monobasic (KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>), pH 7.5, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM TCEP, 2% (v/v) DMSO, 20% D<sub>2</sub>O and 10 µM trifluoroacetic acid (TFA). For each solution, <sup>19</sup>F CPMG experiments (decoupled) were performed varying the total CPMG filter (50, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1200, 1600 and 3200 ms). Due to the fast relaxation of molecules **21** and **22**, these experiments were repeated with shorter CPMG filters (50, 100, 150, 200, 300, 400, 700 and 1000 ms). The fluorine peaks were integrated and plotted against the respective CPMG filters. The R<sub>2</sub> relaxation rates were obtained from fitting the data as an exponential decay (GraphPad Prism 6) according to the equation below: <sup>[7]</sup>

 $I(t) = I(0) \times e^{-R_2 t}$ 

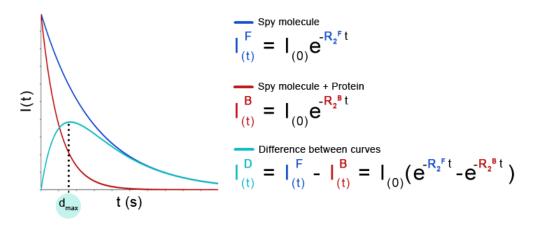
Where I(t) is the <sup>19</sup>F signal intensity or integral, t is the total CPMG filter in seconds, I(0) is the signal intensity when t = 0. To obtain the R<sub>2</sub> upon addition of protein, all the experiments above were repeated in presence of VBC at 1  $\mu$ M. Experiments were performed as triplicates and the R<sub>2</sub> contrasts (C<sub>2</sub>) were obtained according to the equation below: <sup>[8]</sup>

$$C_2 = \frac{R_2^{Observed} - R_2^{Free}}{R_2^{Observed}}$$

Where  $R_2^{Free}$  is the  $R_2$  obtained for the spy molecule free in solution and  $R_2^{Observed}$  is the  $R_2$  obtained with the spy molecule in presence of VBC. The raw data, fitting,  $R_2$  and  $C_2$  values for each spy molecule can be found in section 8.1. For the  $R_2$  measurements using molecule **19** at varied concentrations of spy molecule and protein, see section 8.2. For the  $R_2$  measurements using spy molecules **6** and **11** (used to generate figures S2, S3 and S4) see section 8.3.

#### 6. Competition experiments by <sup>19</sup>F NMR

As full measurements of  $R_2$  would be very time consuming, the competition experiments were performed using a single <sup>19</sup>F CPMG experiment (decoupled) per sample with a fixed CPMG delay. To determine the best CPMG delay for a given spy molecule and assay condition, the procedure described in Figure S5 was developed based on the transverse relaxation rate equations.<sup>[7]</sup> By knowing the relaxation rates of the spy molecule free in solution and in presence of protein, the CPMG delay where the difference between the NMR peaks is maximum is hereon referred as d<sub>max</sub>. The d<sub>max</sub> for all the conditions tested for each spy molecule can be found in section 8, together with the respective values of R<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>2</sub>.



When  $t = d_{max}$ , the maximum of the difference curve is described as:  $\frac{d}{dt} |_{(t)}^{D} = 0$   $\frac{d}{dt} |_{(0)} (e^{-R_{2}Ft} - e^{-R_{2}Bt}) = 0$   $R_{2}^{B} e^{-R_{2}^{B}t} - R_{2}^{F} e^{-R_{2}^{F}t} = 0 \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad t = d_{max} = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{R_{2}^{F}}{R_{2}^{B}}\right)}{R_{2}^{F} - R_{2}^{B}}$ 

Method for selecting the best CPMG delay for competition experiments. With the transverse relaxation rates of the spy molecule free in solution ( $R_2^F$ , resulting in the blue plot) and bound to protein ( $R_2^B$ , resulting in the red plot), the difference between the two curves is described by  $I(t)^D$  (cyan curve). To obtain  $d_{max}$ , the delay where the difference curve reaches its maximum, the first derivative of  $I(t)^D$  was obtained and equalled to 0, subsequently isolating t (CPMG filter).

After the  $d_{max}$  for each condition was established, the competition experiments with spy molecules **6** (Figure S3), **11** (Figure S4) and **19** (Figure 5 and S5) were performed with solutions containing 50 mM potassium phosphate monobasic (KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>), pH 7.5, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM TCEP, 2% (v/v) DMSO, 20% D<sub>2</sub>O and 10  $\mu$ M trifluoroacetic acid (TFA). Each assay consisted of two controls:

#### 1) Spy molecule free in solution

#### 2) Spy molecule in presence of protein

Samples containing different concentrations of competitors were prepared in presence of spy molecule and protein and <sup>19</sup>F CPMG spectra at the respective  $d_{max}$  were collected. The displacement of the spy molecule was obtained from the equation below:

$$Displacement = \frac{I_C - I_P}{I_F - I_P} \times 100\%$$

Where  $I_F$  is the integral of the fluorine peak of the spy molecule free in solution,  $I_P$  is the integral of the fluorine peak of the spy molecule in presence of protein and  $I_C$  is the integral of the fluorine peak of the spy molecule in presence of protein and a competitor at a given concentration.

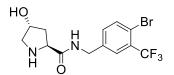
To determine the dissociation constant of a competitor, the displacement of the spy molecule was plotted against the concentration of the competitors, and then fitted to a "log<sub>10</sub>[Inhibitor] versus Normalised response" model using GraphPad Prism 6.0, resulting in the plots observed in Figures 5, S3 and S4. By knowing the concentrations of spy molecule, protein and  $K_D$  of the spy molecule (K<sub>s</sub>), the IC<sub>50</sub> values obtained from the fitting were converted into the K<sub>D</sub> of competitor (K<sub>i</sub>) using the Nikolovska-Coleska relationship.<sup>[9]</sup>

$$K_i = \frac{[C]_{50}}{\frac{[S]_{50}}{K_S} + \frac{[P]_0}{K_S} + 1}$$

Where  $[C]_{50}$  and  $[S]_{50}$  are, respectively, the free concentrations of competitor and spy molecule at 50% inhibition (concentration of competitor equals the IC<sub>50</sub>), and  $[P]_0$  is the free concentration of protein in presence of just the spy molecule. As the total concentrations of protein (P<sub>t</sub>) and spy molecule (S<sub>t</sub>) are known, these values can be obtained from the equations below:<sup>[9a]</sup>

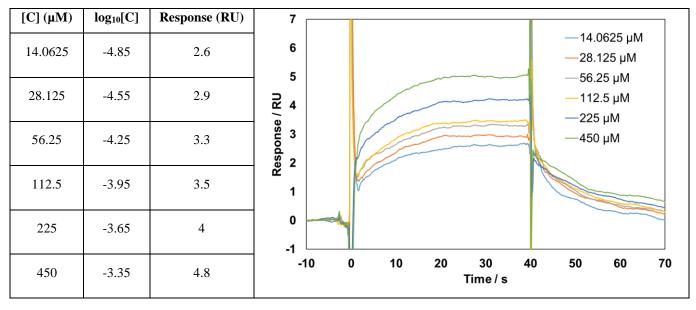
$$P_{0} = \frac{[P]_{t} - K_{s} - [S]_{t} - \sqrt[2]{(K_{s} + [S]_{t} - [P]_{t})^{2} + 4[P]_{t}K_{s}}}{2}$$
$$[S]_{50} = [S]_{t} - \frac{([P]_{t} - [P]_{0})}{2}$$
$$[C]_{50} = IC_{50} - [P]_{0} + \frac{([P]_{t} - [P]_{0})}{2} \times \left(1 + \frac{K_{s}}{[S]_{50}}\right)$$

#### 7. Surface plasmon resonance – Sensorgrams and data fitting

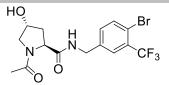


Spy molecule 1 (Compound S3a)

Blank and reference surface subtracted responses according to the concentration of spy molecule. Theoretical  $R_{MAX} = 25.4$ 



Data could not be fitted. Responses increase with concentration, but too far from the theoretical  $R_{MAX}$ .  $K_D >>> 1.0$  mM.

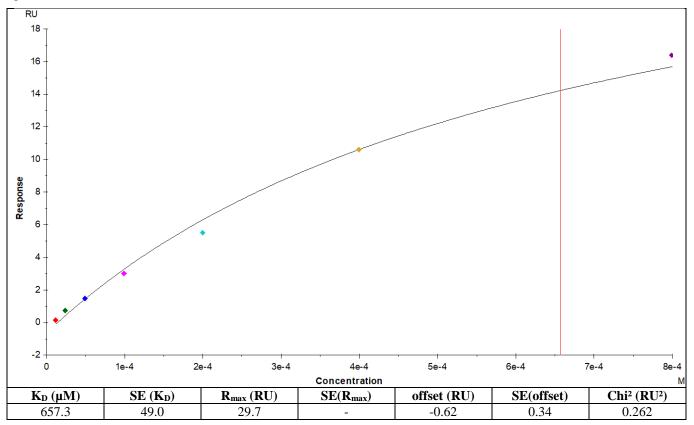


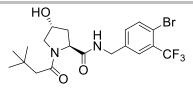
Spy molecule 2 (Compound S4a)

Blank and reference surface subtracted responses according to the concentration of spy molecule. Theoretical  $R_{MAX} = 29.7$ 

[C] (µM)	log10[C]	Response (RU)	20
12.5	4.90	0.1	15 — 12.5 μΜ
25.0	4.60	0.8	⊇
50.0	4.30	1.5	
100.0	4.00	3.0	see 5        200 μM          400 μM        400 μM          800 μM        800 μM
200.0	3.70	5.5	0
400.0	3.40	10.6	
800.0	3.10	16.3	-5 -20 0 20 40 60 80 100 Time/s

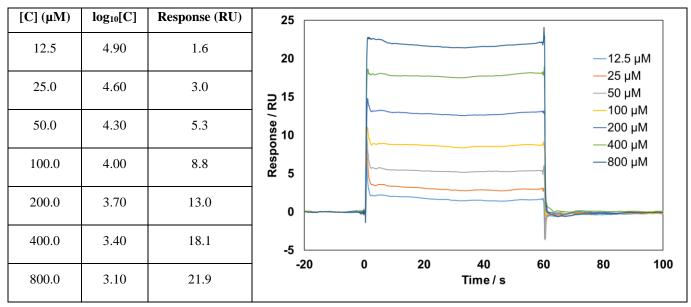
Data fitting using the Biacore T200 evaluation software. As responses were lower than the theoretical  $R_{MAX}$ , fitting was performed with a fixed  $R_{MAX}$ .



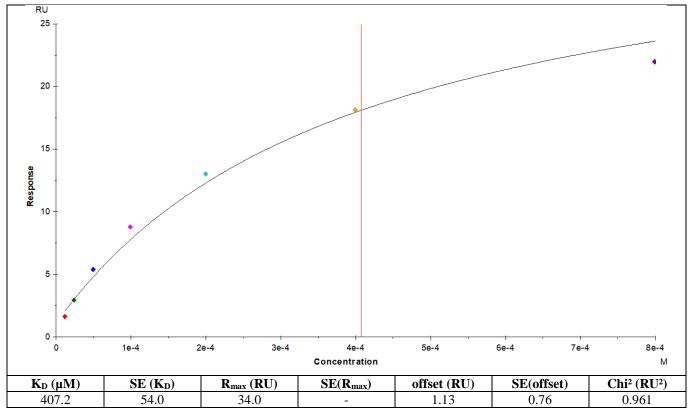


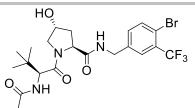
Spy molecule 3 (Compound S5a)

Blank and reference surface subtracted responses according to the concentration of spy molecule. Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 34.0



Data fitting using the Biacore T200 evaluation software. As responses were lower than the theoretical  $R_{MAX}$ , fitting was performed with a fixed  $R_{MAX}$ .



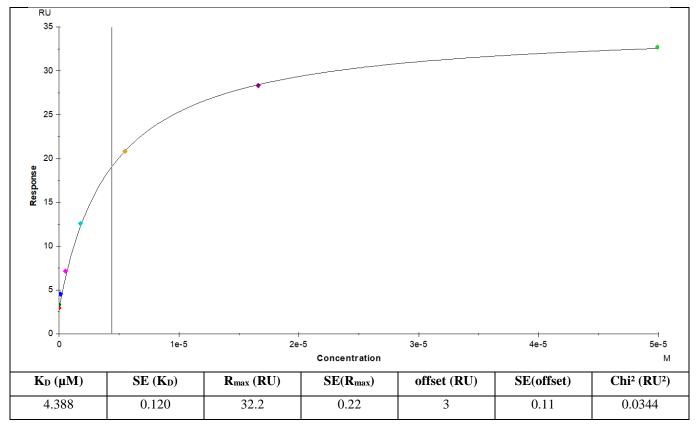


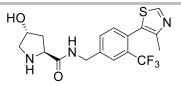
Spy molecule 4 (Compound S6a)

[C] (µM)	log <sub>10</sub> [C]	Response (RU)	40
0.023	-7.64	2.9	<b>36</b> —0.023 μM
	,	,	32 —0.069 µM
0.069	-7.16	3.4	28 — — 0.206 µM
			⊃ • 4 — 0.617 μM
0.206	-6.69	4.6	- 1.002 µm
0.617	C 01	7.2	<b>9 20</b> -5.556 μM
0.617	-6.21	7.2	δ 16 — 16.667 μM
1.852	-5.73	12.2	g 20      5.556 μM         Q 16      16.667 μM         g 12      50.000 μM
5.556	-5.26	20.5	8
5.550	-5.20	20.5	4
16.667	-4.78	27.9	
50.000	-4.30	32.3	-4 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 Time / s

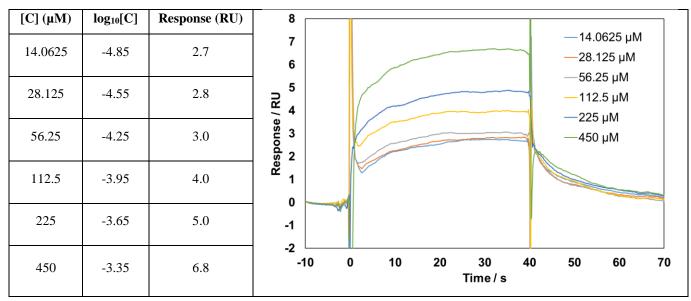
#### Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 35.3

Data fitting using the Biacore T200 evaluation software:



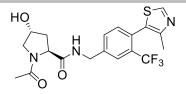


Spy molecule 5 (Compound S3b)



Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 26.0

Data could not be fitted. Responses increase with concentration, but too far from the theoretical  $R_{MAX}$ .  $K_D >>> 1.0$  mM.

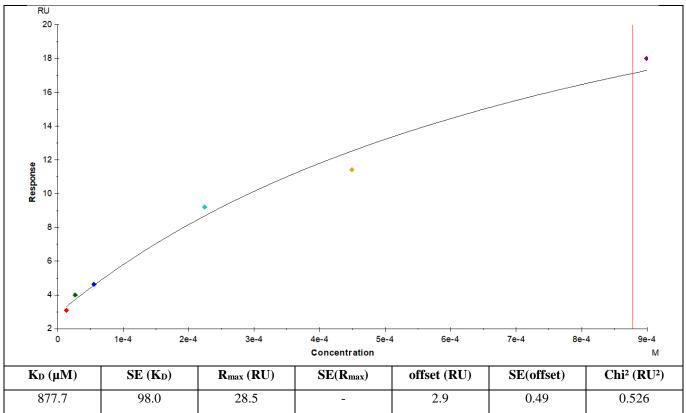


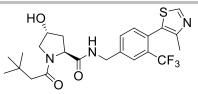
Spy molecule 6 (Compound S4b)

[C] (µM)	log <sub>10</sub> [C]	Response (RU)	20
14.0625	-4.85	3.0	16
28.125	-4.55	4.0	
56.25	-4.25	4.6	12    225 μM       98    450 μM      900 μM
225	-3.65	9.5	
450	-3.35	11.8	-4
900	-3.05	18.4	-10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 Time / s

Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 28.5

Data fitting using the Biacore T200 evaluation software. As responses were much lower than the theoretical  $R_{MAX}$ , fitting was performed with a fixed  $R_{MAX}$ :



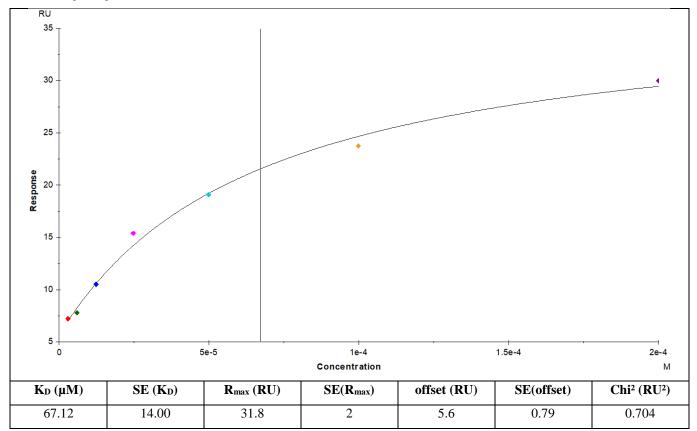


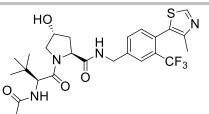
Spy molecule 7 (Compound S5b)

[C] (µM)	log <sub>10</sub> [C]	Response (RU)	35					
3.125	-5.51	7.2	30				—3.125 μM	M
6.250	-5.20	7.8	25 Dr 20				6.25 μM 12.5 μM	
12.500	-4.90	10.5	Long 15 15 10				— 25 μM — 50 μM — 100 μM	
25.000	-4.60	15.4	_				—200 μM	
50.000	-4.30	18.8	5 0					
100.000	-4.00	23.5	-5	0	10	30	50	70
200.000	-3.70	29.8	-1	U	10	30 Time / s	50	70

Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 32.0

Data fitting using the Biacore T200 evaluation software:



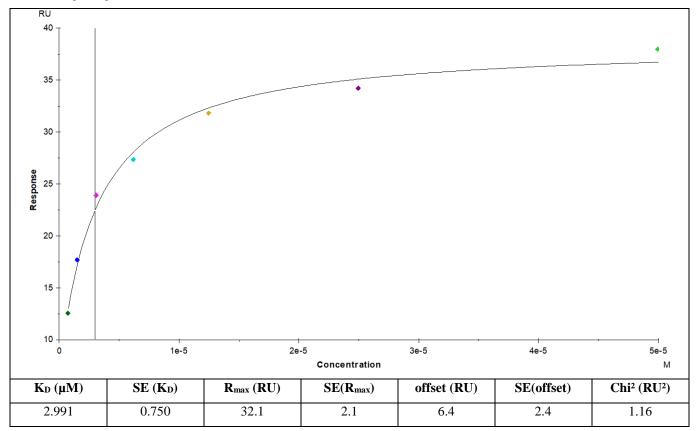


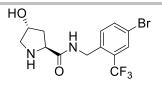
Spy molecule 8 (Compound S6b)

[C] (µM)	log10[C]	Response (RU)	45	
0.781	-6.11	12.6	40 35	—0.781 μM
1.563	-5.81	17.8	2 30	—1.563 μM —3.125 μM
3.125	-5.51	24.0	25 20	—6.25 μΜ —12.5 μΜ —25 μΜ
6.250	-5.20	27.4	20 57 15 10	—50 μM
12.500	-4.90	32.0	5	
25.000	-4.60	34.3	0 -5 10 10 20	50 70
50.000	-4.30	38.0	-10 10 30 Time/s	50 70

#### Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 35.5

Data fitting using the Biacore T200 evaluation software:



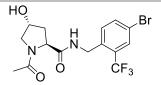


Spy molecule 9 (Compound S3c)

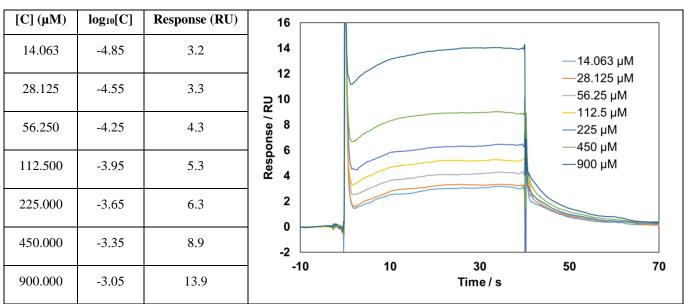
 $[C] \, (\mu M)$  $log_{10}[C]$ Response (RU) 10 14.063 -4.85 2.5 —14.063 µM 8 -28.125 µM 28.125 -4.55 2.6 56.25 µM 6 Response / RU 112.5 µM 56.250 -4.25 3.1 -225 µM 4 –450 µM –900 µM 112.500 -3.95 3.0 2 225.000 3.8 -3.65 0 450.000 -3.35 4.5 -2 10 30 50 70 -10 900.000 -3.05 7.2 Time / s

Theoretical  $R_{MAX} = 24.0$ 

Data could not be fitted. Responses increase with concentration, but too far from the theoretical  $R_{MAX}$ .  $K_D >>> 1.0$  mM.

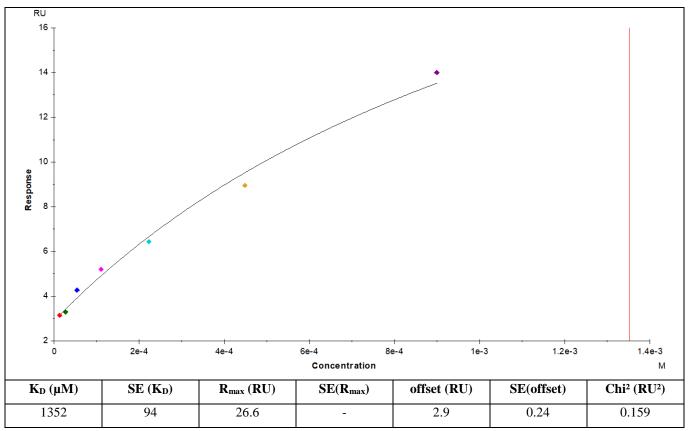


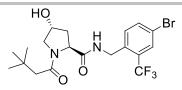
Spy molecule 10 (Compound S4c)



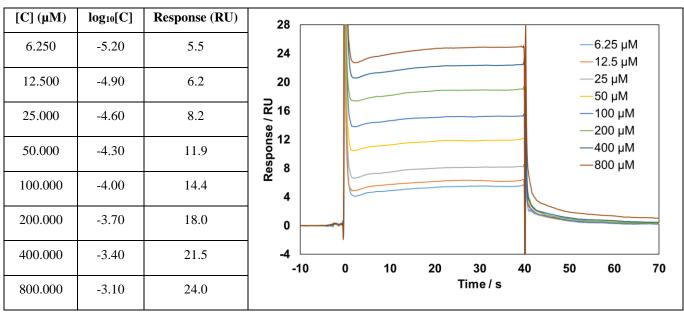
Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 26.6

Data fitting using the Biacore T200 evaluation software. As responses were lower than the theoretical  $R_{MAX}$ , fitting was performed with a fixed  $R_{MAX}$ .



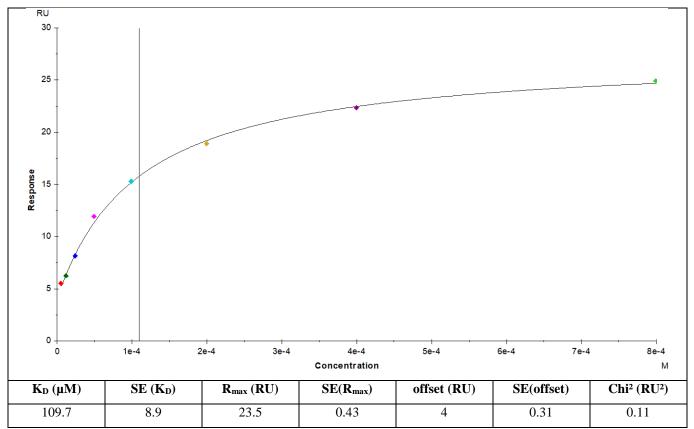


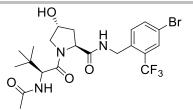
Spy molecule 11 (Compound S5c)



Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 29.8

Data fitting using the Biacore T200 evaluation software:

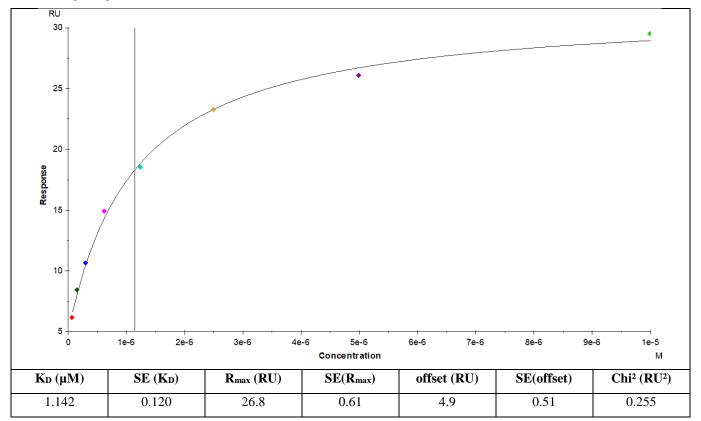


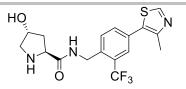


Spy molecule 12 (Compound S6c)

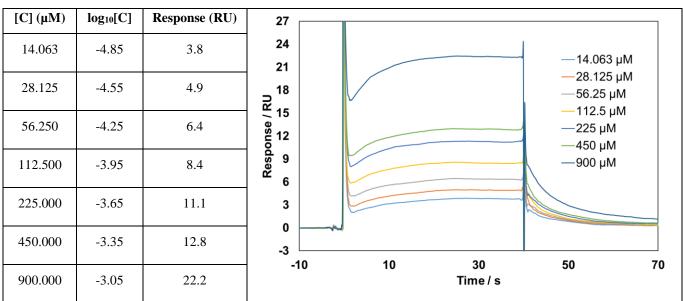
[C] (µM)	log10[C]	Response (RU)	33
0.078	-7.11	6.2	<b>29</b> —0.078 μM —0.156 μM
0.156	-6.81	8.4	<b>25</b> 0.313 μM
0.313	-6.51	10.7	<b>₩</b> <sup>21</sup> —1.25 µM
0.625	-6.20	14.9	-5 μM 
1.250	-5.90	19.2	ž 9 5
2.500	-5.60	24.0	
5.000	-5.30	26.8	-3 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70
10.000	-5.00	30.1	Time / s

Theoretical  $R_{MAX} = 33.2$ 



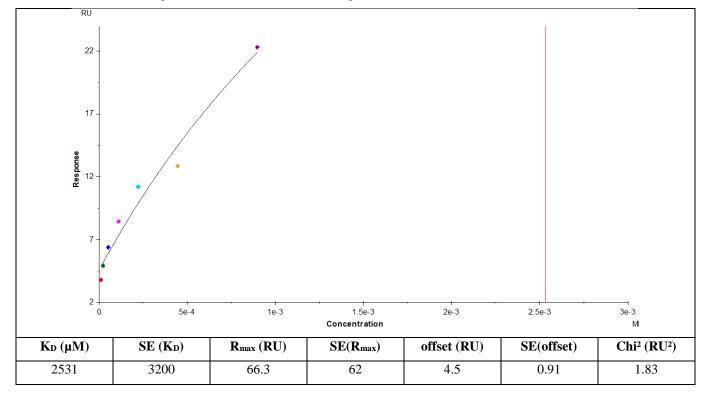


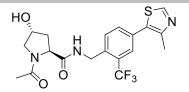
Spy molecule 13 (Compound S3d)



Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 24.3

Data fitting using the Biacore T200 evaluation software: The fitted  $K_D$  presented a very large error and high  $R_{MAX}$ . The results not significant even using different fitting methods (fixing  $R_{MAX}$  or the offset). Large difference in response between concentrations of 450 and 900  $\mu$ M might indicate unspecific / promiscuous binding to the protein surface. Similar result obtained from different repeats of different stocks of the compound.



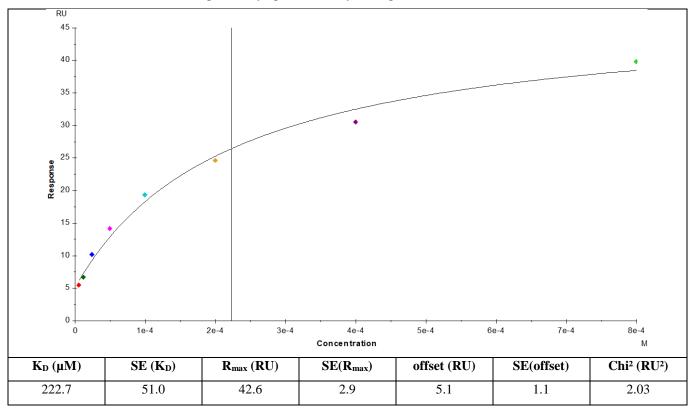


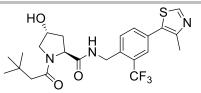
Spy molecule 14 (Compound S4d)

[C] (µM)	log <sub>10</sub> [C]	Response (RU)	44
6.250	-5.20	5.5	40 — 6.25 μM 36 — 12.5 μM
12.500	-4.90	6.7	32 —25 μM −25 μM
25.000	-4.60	10.1	28 24 22 20 28 
50.000	-4.30	14.2	ξ 20    400 μM       G 16    800 μM
100.000	-4.00	19.8	8 12
200.000	-3.70	25.1	4
400.000	-3.40	31.0	-4 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70
800.000	-3.10	40.3	Time / s

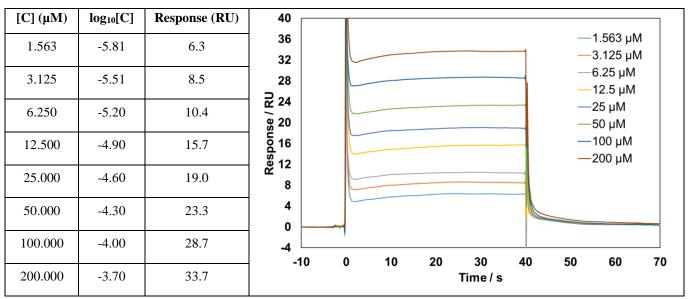
Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 26.8

Data fitting using the Biacore T200 evaluation software: The only acceptable fitting resulted in a very large  $R_{MAX}$ . (1.6 times larger than the theoretical). Fitting with fixed theoretical  $R_{MAX}$  presented a large error in the  $K_D$ . Compound might bind to the VHL-HIF site, but also bind unspecifically / promiscuously to the protein surface.

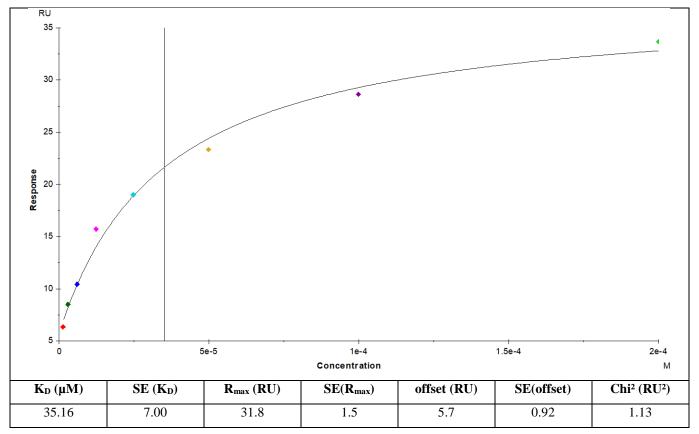


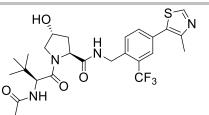


Spy molecule 15 (Compound S5d)



Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 30.0



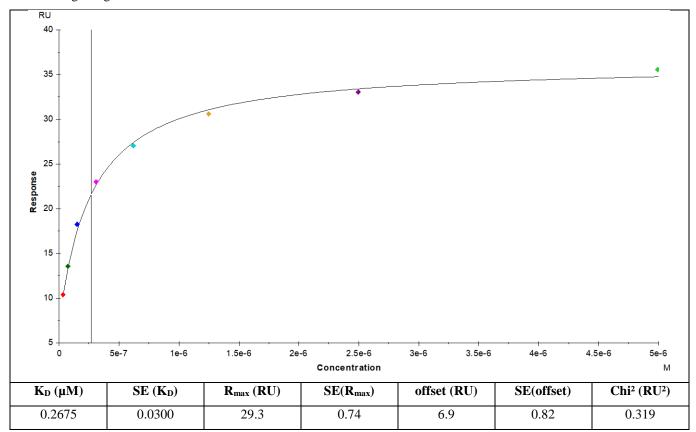


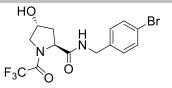
Spy molecule 16 (Compound S6d)

[C] (µM)	log10[C]	Response (RU)	40
0.039	-7.41	10.4	<b>36</b> <b>32</b> -0.039 μM -0.078 μM
0.078	-7.11	13.6	28 224 −0.156 μM −0.313 μM −0.625 μM
0.156	-6.81	18.2	0.020 µW
0.313	-6.51	23.1	<sup>9</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 20 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 16 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 12
0.625	-6.20	27.2	8
1.250	-5.90	30.8	
2.500	-5.60	33.2	-4 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90
5.000	-5.30	35.8	Time / s

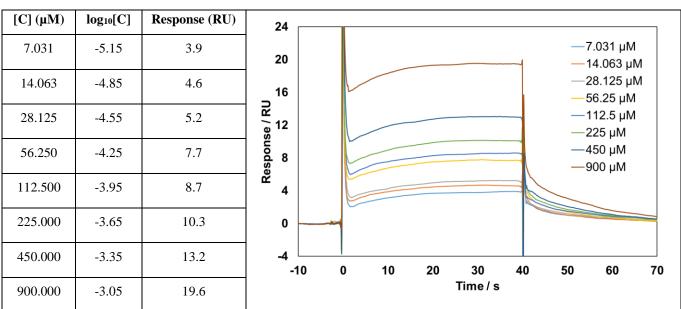
Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 33.3

Data fitting using the Biacore T200 evaluation software:



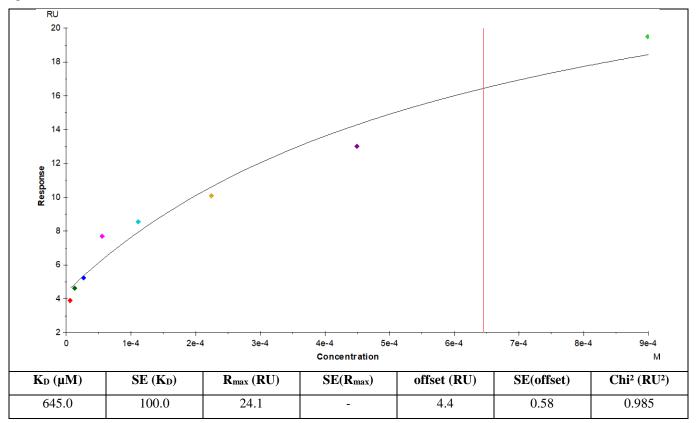


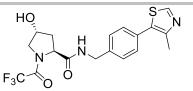
Spy molecule 17 (Compound S10a)



Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 24.1

Data fitting using the Biacore T200 evaluation software. As responses were lower than the theoretical  $R_{MAX}$ , fitting was performed with a fixed  $R_{MAX}$ .

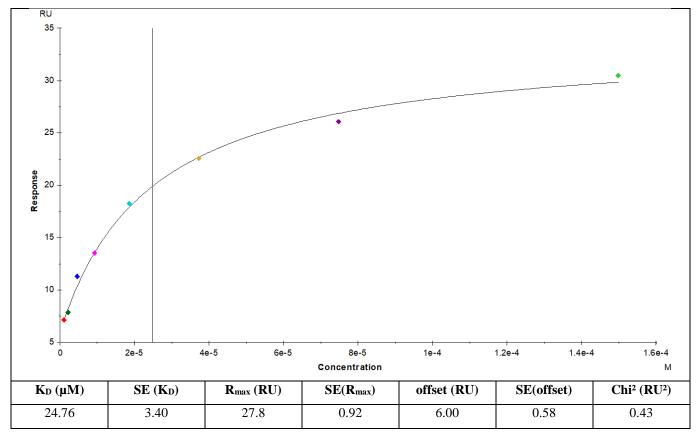


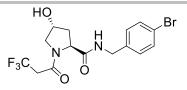


Spy molecule 18 (Compound S10b)

[C] (µM)	log <sub>10</sub> [C]	Response (RU)	35
1.172	-5.93	7.1	<b>30</b>
2.344	-5.63	7.9	25 — 4.688 µM — 9.375 µM — 18 75 µM
4.688	-5.33	11.3	
9.375	-5.03	13.5	<sup>8</sup> μ 37.5 μM <sup>9</sup> μ 37.5 μM
18.750	-4.73	18.3	5
37.500	-4.43	22.6	0
75.000	-4.12	26.1	-5 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70
150.000	-3.82	30.5	-10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 Time/s

Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 24.7

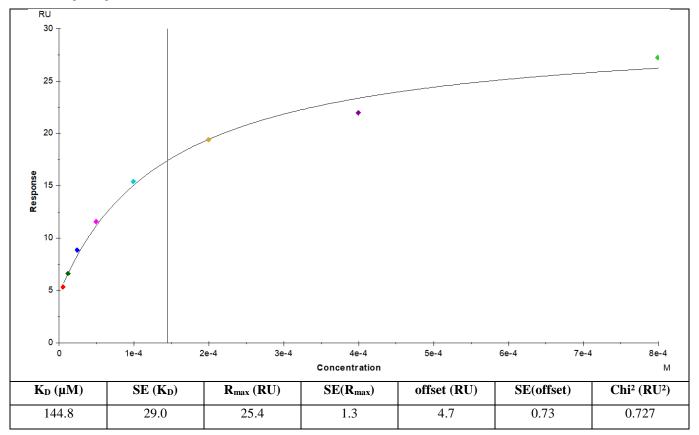


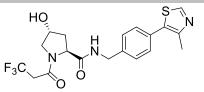


Spy molecule 19 (Compound S11a)

[C] (µM)	log10[C]	Response (RU)	30
6.250	-5.20	5.3	<b>25</b> —6.25 μM —12.5 μM
12.500	-4.90	6.6	20 —25 μM —50 μM
25.000	-4.60	8.8	μ
50.000	-4.30	11.6	-200 μM 200 μM 400 μM 800 μM
100.000	-4.00	15.3	ž 5
200.000	-3.70	19.4	0
400.000	-3.40	21.9	-5 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70
800.000	-3.10	27.2	Time / s

Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 24.7

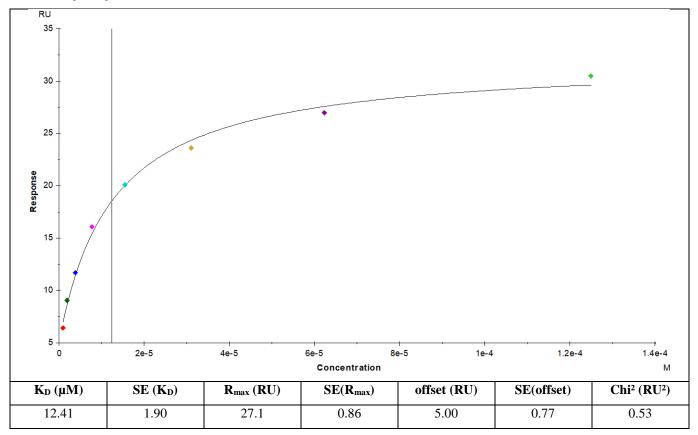


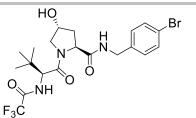


Spy molecule 20 (Compound S11b)

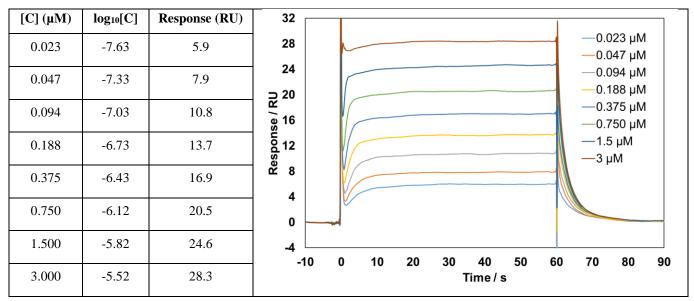
[C] (µM)	log <sub>10</sub> [C]	Response (RU)	35
0.977	-6.01	6.4	<b>30</b>
1.953	-5.71	9.1	<b>25</b>
3.906	-5.41	11.7	<b>20</b> <b>3</b> μM <b>3</b> μM <b>3</b> μM <b>3</b> μM
7.813	-5.11	16.1	<sup>8</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 15           — 31.25 μM <sup>8</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 10           — 62.5 μM
15.625	-4.81	20.0	5
31.250	-4.51	23.6	0
62.500	-4.20	27.0	-5 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70
125.000	-3.90	30.5	Time / s

Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 25.4

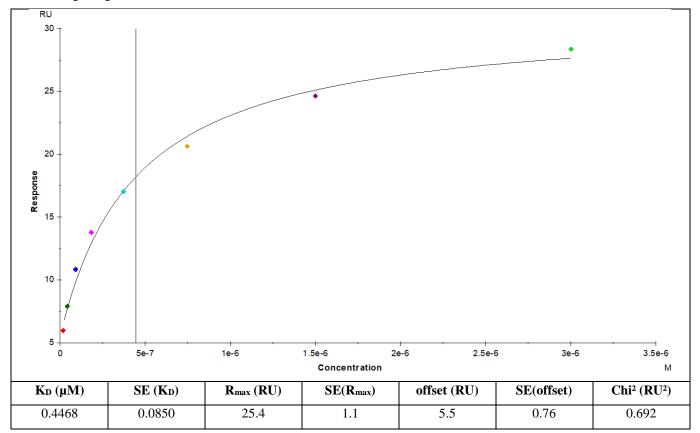


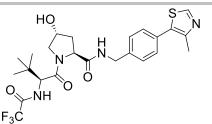


Spy molecule 21 (Compound S12a)



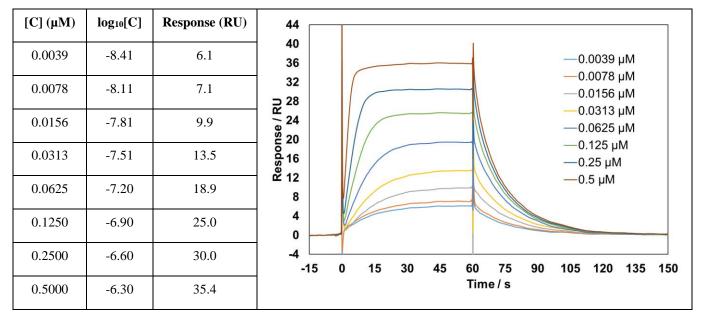
#### Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 30.5



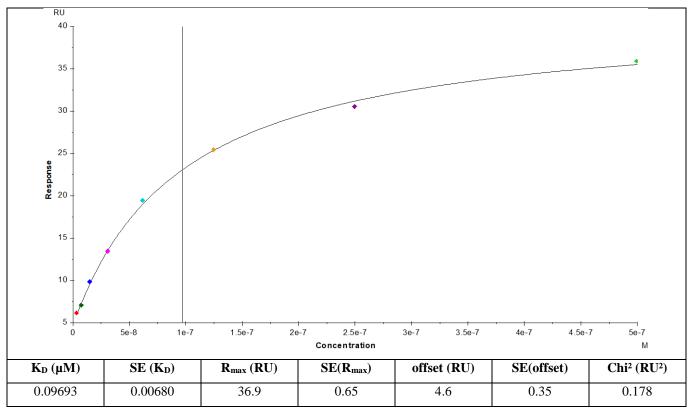


Spy molecule 22 (Compound S12b)

Theoretical R<sub>MAX</sub> = 36.6

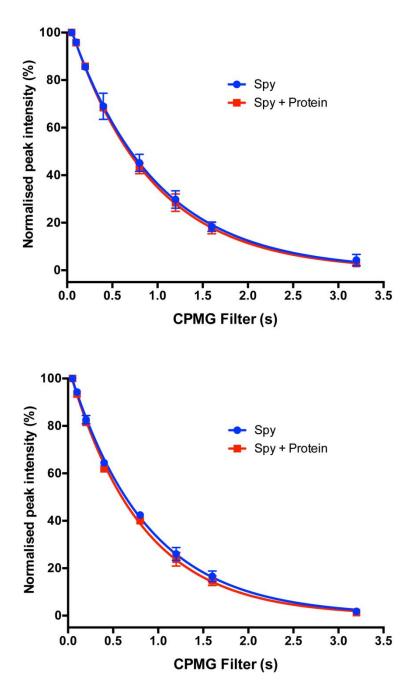


Data fitting using the Biacore T200 evaluation software:

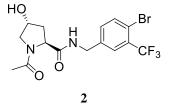


#### 8. <sup>19</sup>F CPMG signal intensity versus CPMG filter

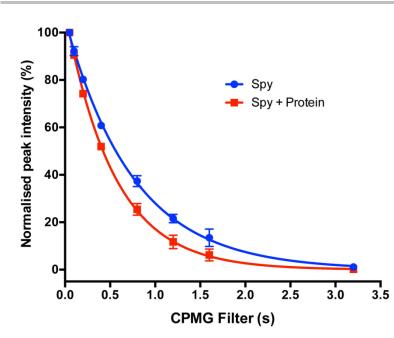
#### 8.1 Spy molecules at 100 $\mu$ M in absence or in presence of VBC 1 $\mu$ M

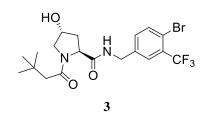


	Br CF <sub>3</sub>	
	1	
Spy molec	ule 100 µM	
$R_2 (s^{-1})$	$1.069\pm0.028$	
R-square	0.995	
Spy molecule 100	μM + VBC 1 μM	
$R_2 (s^{-1})$	$1.115\pm0.020$	
R-square	0.998	
Contrast		
$R_{2}\ contrast-C_{2}\ (\%)$	$4.1\pm3.1$	
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.916	

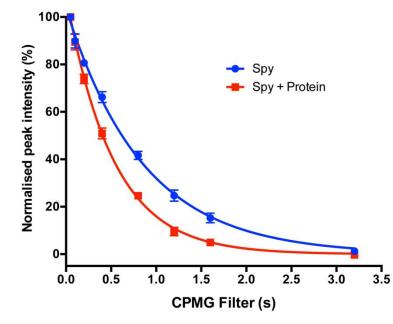


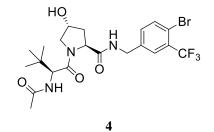
Spy molecule 100 μM			
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$1.170\pm0.019$		
R-square	0.998		
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM			
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$1.251\pm0.021$		
R-square	0.998		
Contrast			
$R_2 \text{ contrast} - C_2 (\%)$	$6.5 \pm 2.2$		
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.826		



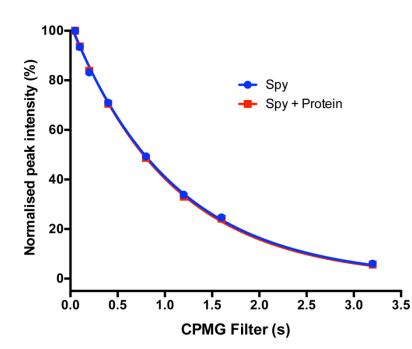


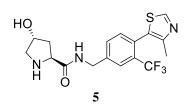
Spy molecule 100 μM			
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$1.326\pm0.025$		
R-square	0.998		
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM			
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$1.847\pm0.033$		
R-square	0.998		
Contrast			
$R_2 \text{ contrast} - C_2 (\%)$	$28.2 \pm 2.3$		
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.636		



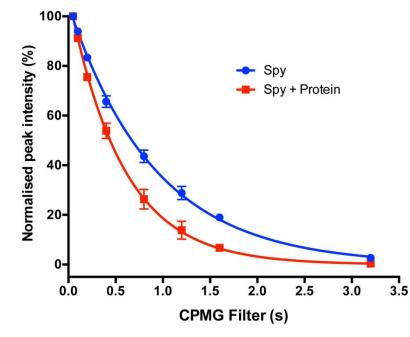


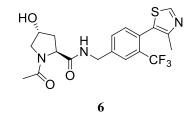
Spy molecule 100 µM			
$R_2 (s^{-1})$	$1.175\pm0.027$		
R-square	0.996		
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM			
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$1.924\pm0.037$		
R-square	0.998		
Contrast			
$R_2 \text{ contrast} - C_2 (\%)$	$38.9\pm2.5$		
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.658		



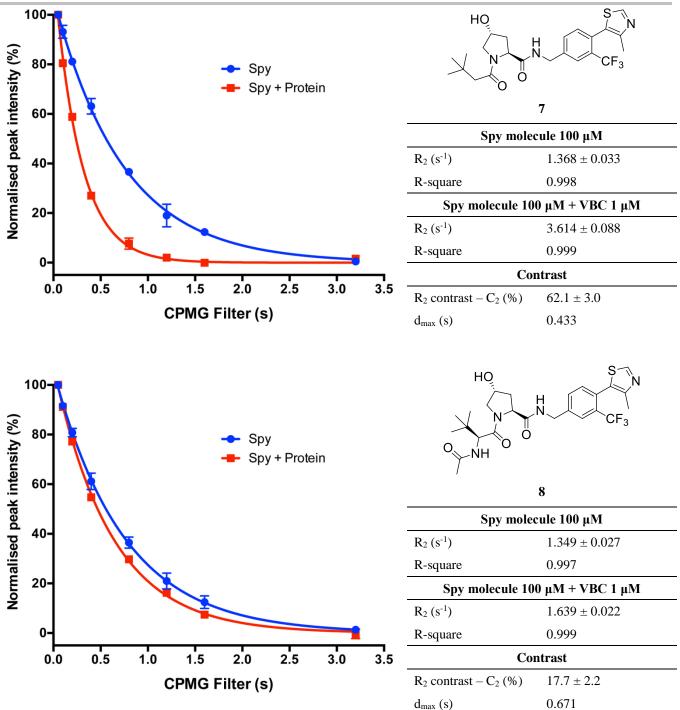


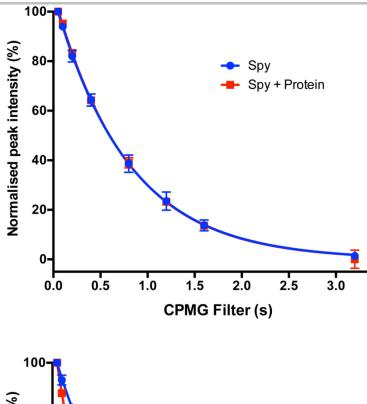
Spy molecule 100 μM		
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$0.915\pm0.012$	
R-square	0.999	
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM		
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$0.936\pm0.011$	
R-square	0.999	
Contrast		
$R_2 \text{ contrast} - C_2$ (%)	$2.2 \pm 1.8$	
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	1.080	

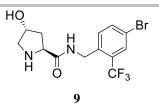




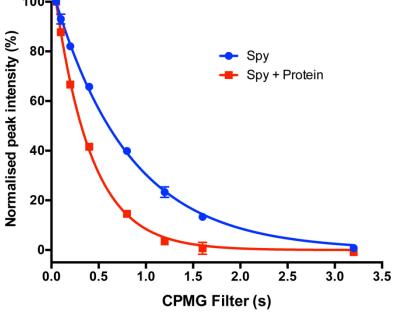
Spy molecule 100 μM		
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$1.096\pm0.020$	
R-square	0.998	
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM		
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$1.760\pm0.039$	
R-square	0.997	
Contrast		
$R_2$ contrast – $C_2$ (%)	$37.7\pm2.6$	
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.713	

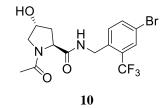




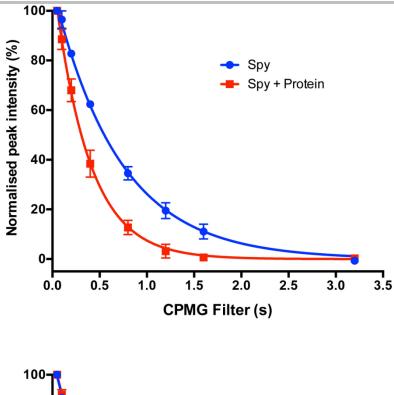


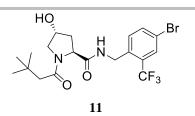
Spy molecule 100 µM				
$R_2 (s^{-1})$	$1.268\pm0.026$			
R-square	0.997			
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM				
$R_2 (s^{-1})$	$1.279\pm0.022$			
R-square	0.998			
Contrast				
$R_2 \text{ contrast} - C_2$ (%)	$0.9 \pm 2.7$			
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.785			



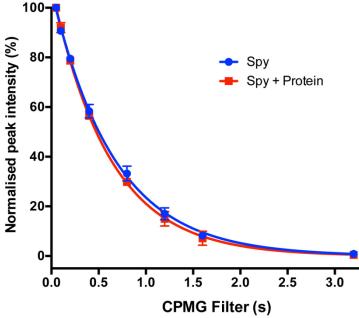


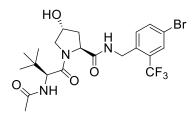
Spy molecule 100 µM					
$R_2 \left( s^{\text{-}1} \right) \qquad \qquad 1.249 \pm 0.018$					
R-square 0.999					
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM					
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$2.596 \pm 0.046$				
R-square	0.999				
Contrast					
$R_2 \text{ contrast} - C_2 (\%)$	$51.9 \pm 2.1$				
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.543				





Spy molecule 100 µM				
$R_2 (s^{-1}) \qquad \qquad 1.427 \pm 0.033$				
R-square 0.997				
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM				
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$2.740\pm0.096$			
R-square	0.995			
Contrast				
$R_2 \text{ contrast} - C_2$ (%)	$47.9\pm4.1$			
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.497			





12

Spy molecule 100 µM			
$R_2  (s^{\text{-1}}) \qquad \qquad 1.512 \pm 0.029$			
re 0.998			
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM			
$1.637\pm0.028$			
0.998			
Contrast			
$7.6 \pm 2.4$			
0.635			

0.5

0.0

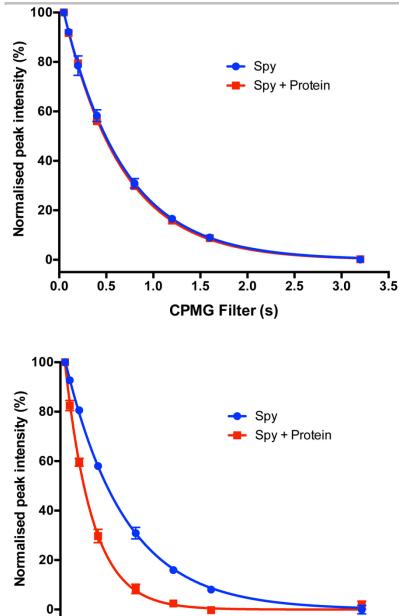
1.0

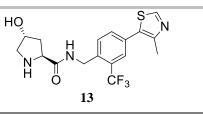
2.0

1.5

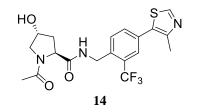
CPMG Filter (s)

2.5



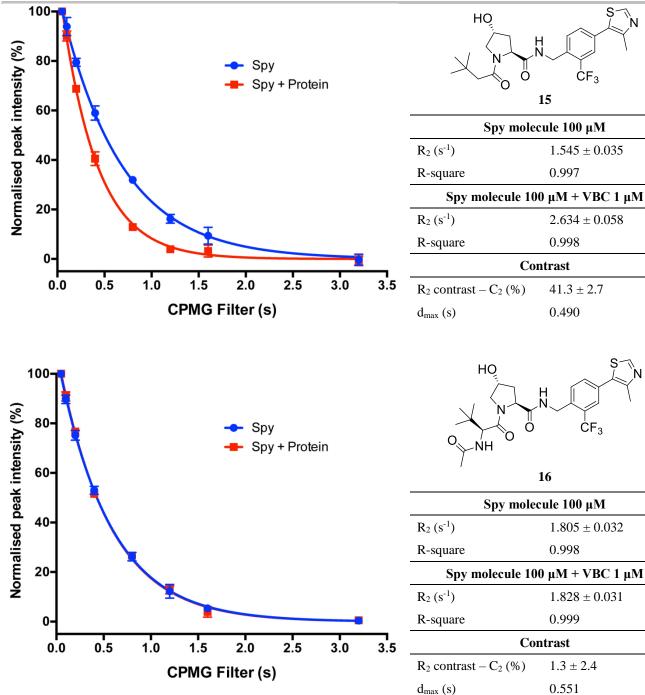


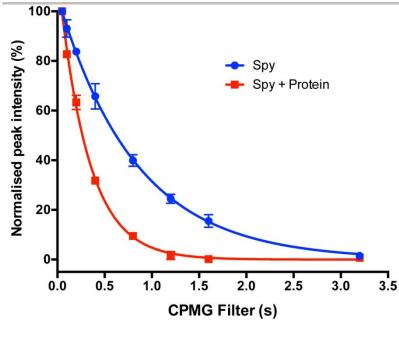
Spy molecule 100 µM				
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$1.558\pm0.028$			
R-square	0.998			
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM				
$R_2 (s^{-1})$	$1.609\pm0.017$			
R-square	0.999			
Contrast				
$R_2 \text{ contrast} - C_2$ (%)	$3.2 \pm 2.0$			
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.632			

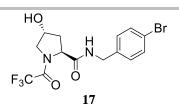


Spy molecule 100 μM				
$R_2 \left( s^{\text{-1}} \right) \qquad \qquad 1.579 \pm 0.022$				
R-square 0.999				
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM				
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$3.425\pm0.073$			
R-square	0.998			
Contrast				
$R_2 \text{ contrast} - C_2 (\%)$	53.9 ± 2.5			
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.419			

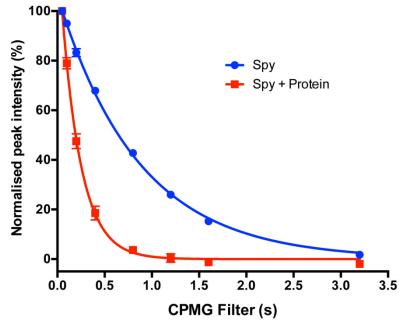
3.5

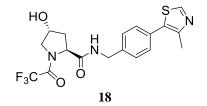




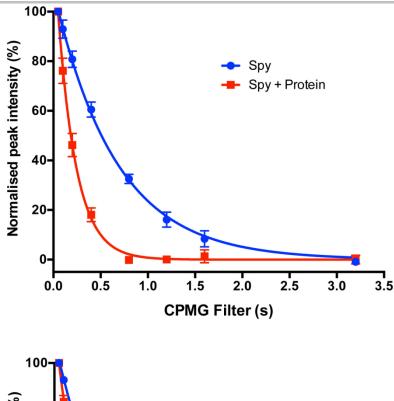


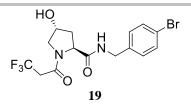
Spy molecule 100 μM				
$R_2  (s^{\text{-}1}) \qquad \qquad 1.213 \pm 0.028$				
R-square	0.996			
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM				
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$3.189 \pm 0.066$			
R-square	0.998			
Contrast				
$R_2 \operatorname{contrast} - C_2(\%)$	$62.0\pm2.6$			
$d_{max}(s)$	0.489			



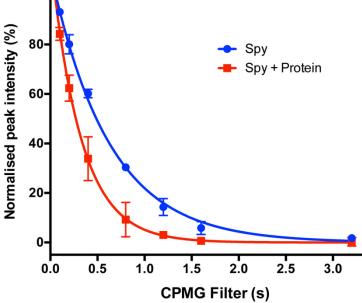


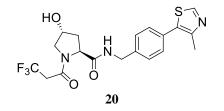
Spy molecule 100 µM					
$R_2 \ (s^{\text{-}1}) \qquad \qquad 1.167 \pm 0.014$					
R-square 0.999					
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM					
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$4.858 \pm 0.123$				
R-square	0.998				
Contrast					
$R_2 \text{ contrast} - C_2 (\%)$	$76.0 \pm 3.2$				
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.386				



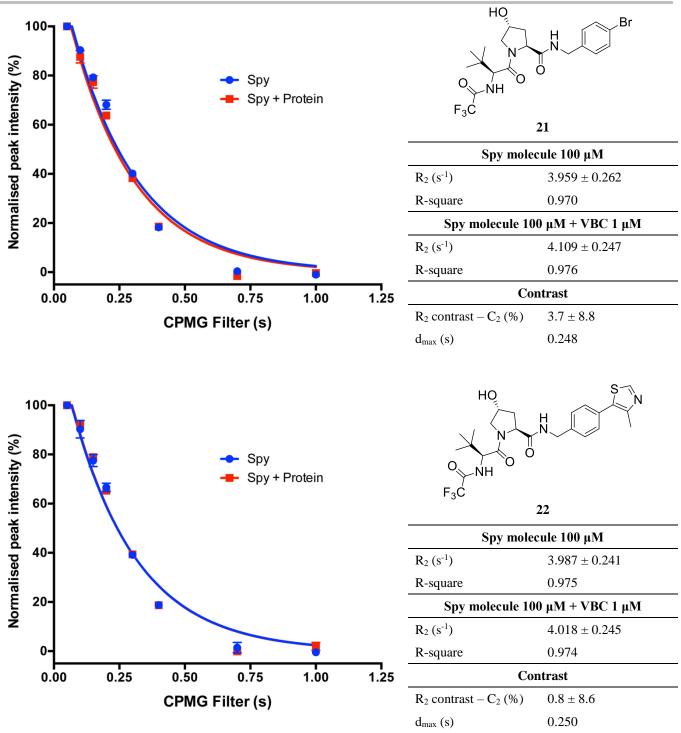


Spy molecule 100 µM				
$R_2 (s^{-1})    1.526 \pm 0.041$				
R-square 0.996				
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM				
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$5.096 \pm 0.186$			
R-square	0.995			
Contrast				
$R_2 \text{ contrast} - C_2$ (%)	$70.1\pm4.5$			
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.338			

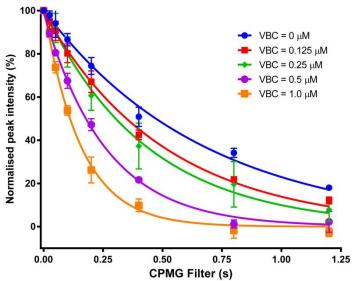




Spy molecule 100 µM				
$R_2 (s^{-1})$	$1.609\pm0.042$			
R-square	0.996			
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM				
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$3.116\pm0.153$			
R-square	0.990			
Contrast				
$R_2 \text{ contrast} - C_2 (\%)$	$48.4\pm5.6$			
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.439			



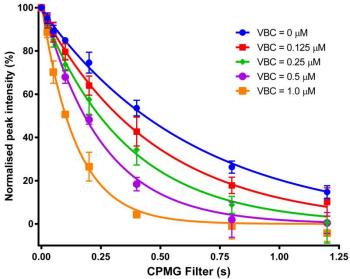
#### 8.2 Spy molecule 19 and VBC at different concentrations



Spy	molecule	19	at 50	μM

Domoniation			[VBC] µM		
Parameter	0.000	0.125	0.250	0.500	1.000
$R_2 (s^{-1})$	$1.475\pm0.059$	$1.969\pm0.071$	$2.316\pm0.168$	$3.857 \pm 0.121$	$6.424\pm0.262$
R-square	0.986	0.991	0.967	0.995	0.993
R <sub>2</sub> contrast – C <sub>2</sub> (%)	-	$22.5\pm4.2$	$34.1\pm7.9$	$60.4\pm3.8$	$76.2\pm5.2$
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	-	0.575	0.528	0.398	0.293

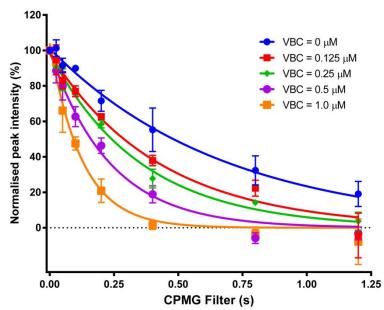
#### Spy molecule 19 at 25 µM



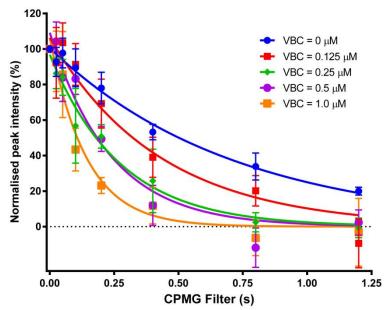
CPMG I	Filter
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Donomotor	[VBC] µM				
Parameter	0.000	0.125	0.250	0.500	1.000
$R_2 (s^{-1})$	$1.582\pm0.049$	$2.107\pm0.095$	$2.811 \pm 0.156$	$4.008\pm0.200$	$6.934 \pm 0.348$
R-square	0.992	0.986	0.984	0.989	0.989
$R_2$ contrast – $C_2$ (%)	-	$27.6\pm5.1$	$45.7\pm6.3$	$61.9\pm5.9$	$78.0\pm6.4$
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	-	0.555	0.475	0.389	0.280



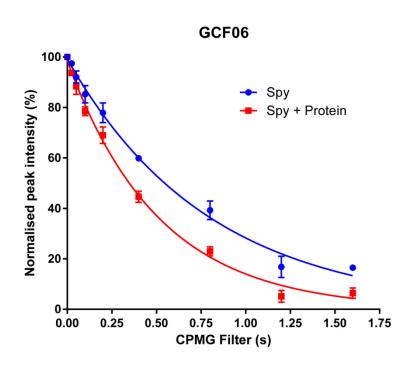


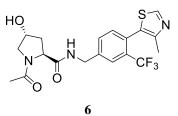
Donomotor	[VBC] μM				
Parameter	0.000	0.125	0.250	0.500	1.000
$\mathbf{R}_{2}$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$1.464\pm0.096$	$2.346\pm0.193$	$2.807 \pm 0.131$	$4.288 \pm 0.304$	$7.974\pm0.727$
R-square	0.962	0.961	0.988	0.979	0.967
$\mathbf{R}_2$ contrast – $\mathbf{C}_2$ (%)	-	$35.0\pm8.9$	$45.6\pm5.3$	$64.4\pm8.5$	$80.9 \pm 11.7$
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	-	0.524	0.476	0.374	0.256



Donomotor	[VBC] µM				
Parameter	0.000	0.125	0.250	0.500	1.000
$\mathbf{R}_{2}$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$1.392\pm0.101$	$2.337\pm0.335$	$3.678 \pm 0.489$	$4.255\pm0.566$	$7.063 \pm 1.128$
R-square	0.952	0.898	0.922	0.931	0.903
$R_2$ contrast – $C_2$ (%)	-	$34.7 \pm 15.3$	$58.5 \pm 15.5$	$64.1 \pm 15.8$	$78.4\pm20.3$
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	-	0.526	0.409	0.376	0.277

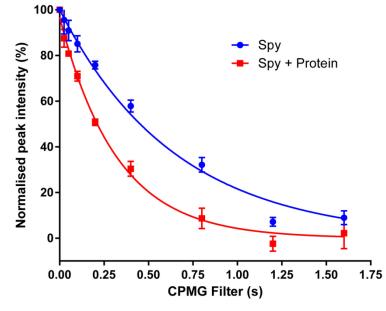
#### 8.3 Spy molecules 6 and 11 at 50 $\mu$ M in absence or in presence of VBC 1 $\mu$ M

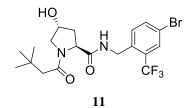




Spy molecule 100 μM			
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$1.255\pm0.043$		
R-square	0.989		
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM			
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$1.951 \pm 0.062$		
R-square	0.994		
Contrast			
$R_2$ contrast – $C_2$ (%)	$35.7\pm4.0$		
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.634		

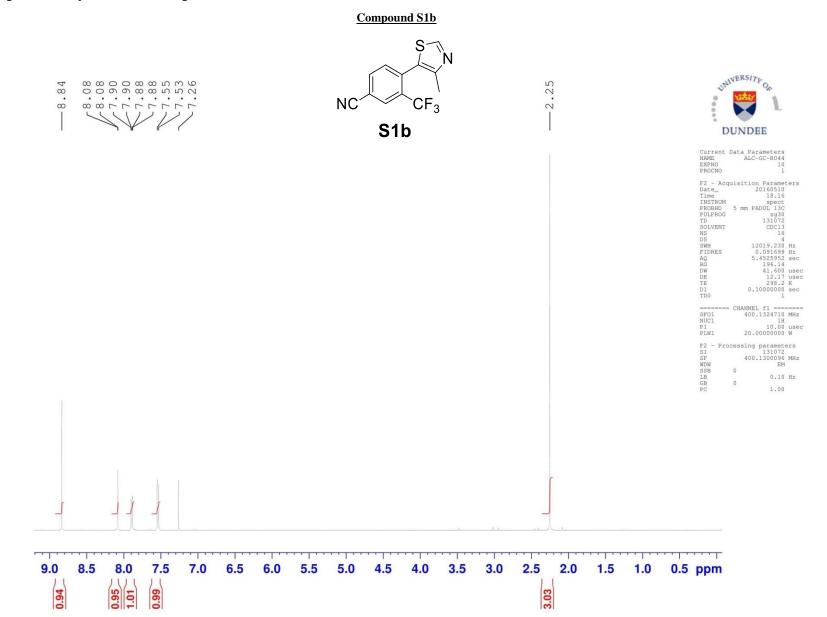


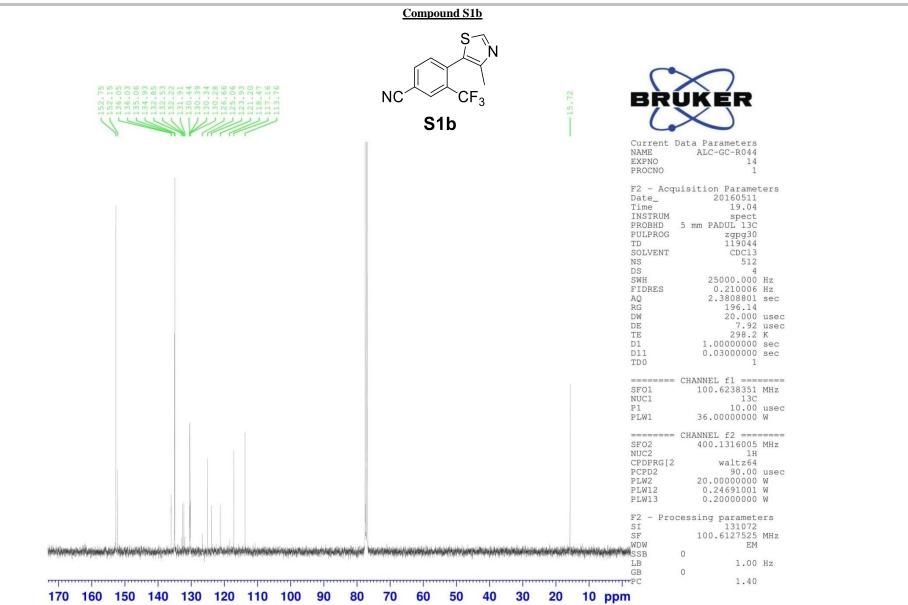




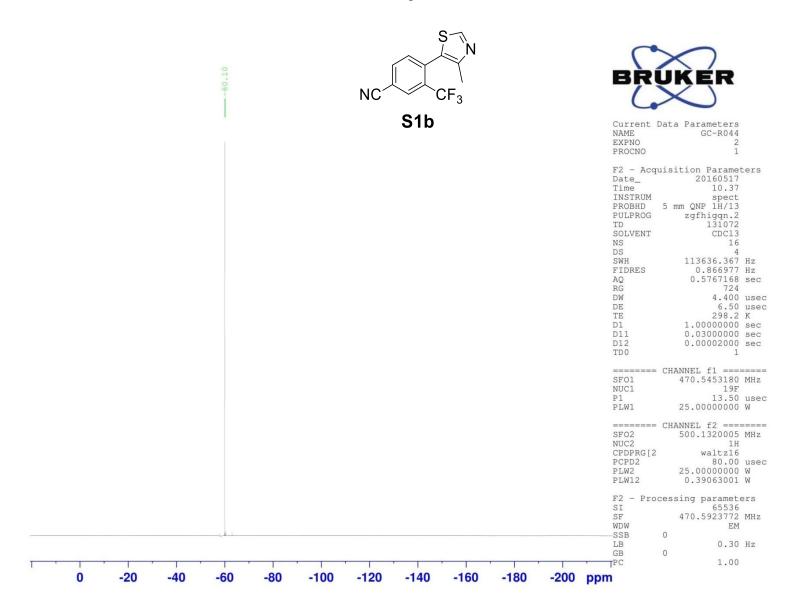
Spy molecule 100 µM			
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$1.534\pm0.071$		
R-square	0.984		
Spy molecule 100 μM + VBC 1 μM			
$R_2(s^{-1})$	$3.122\pm0.145$		
R-square	0.990		
Contrast			
$R_2 \text{ contrast} - C_2 (\%)$	$50.9 \pm 5.7$		
d <sub>max</sub> (s)	0.447		

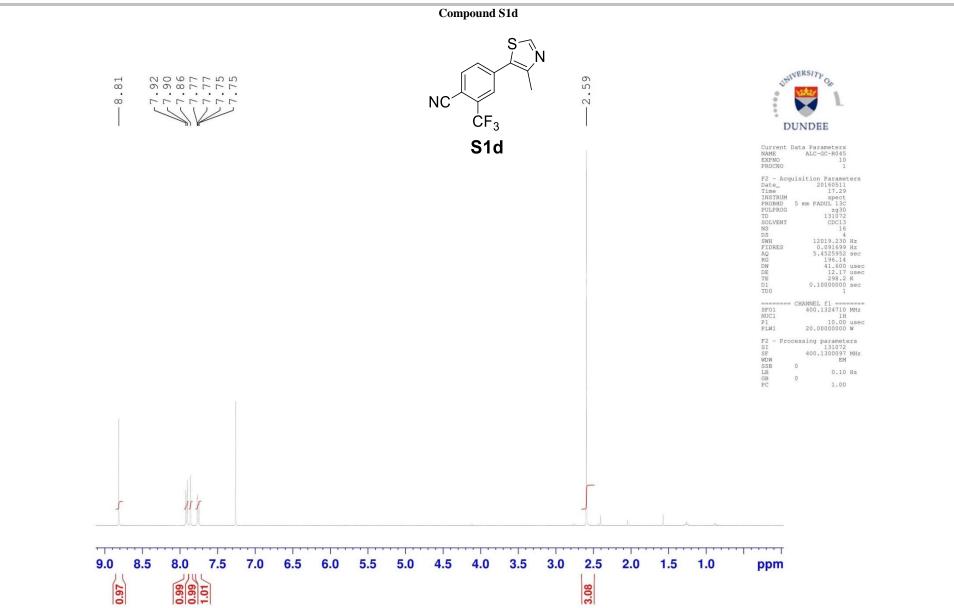
#### 9. NMR spectra of synthesized compounds

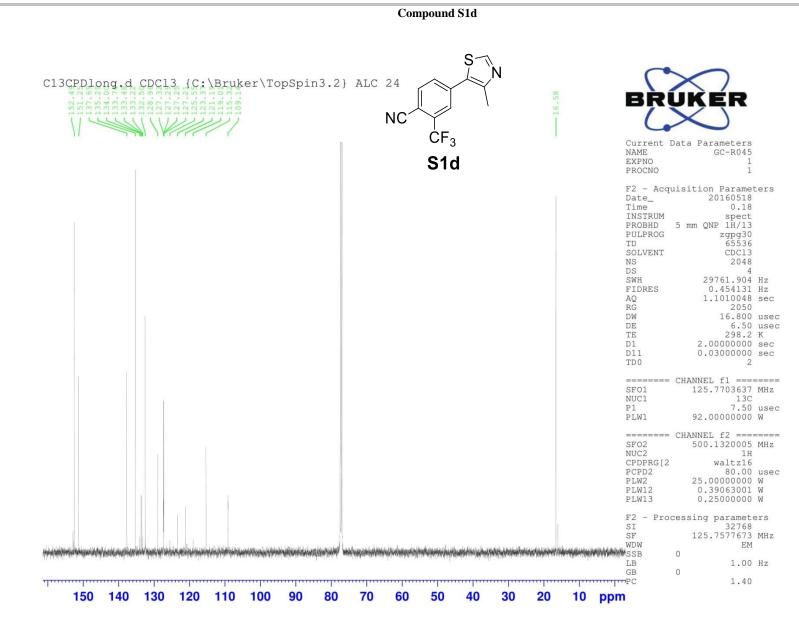


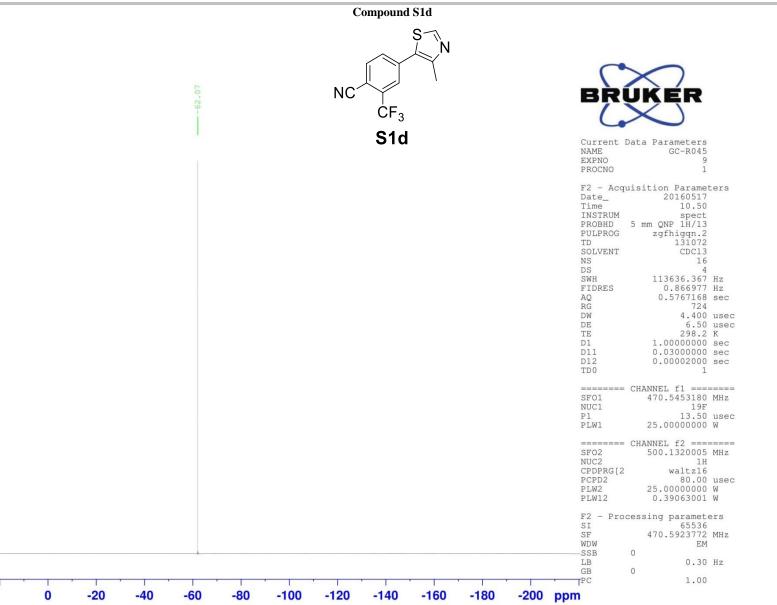


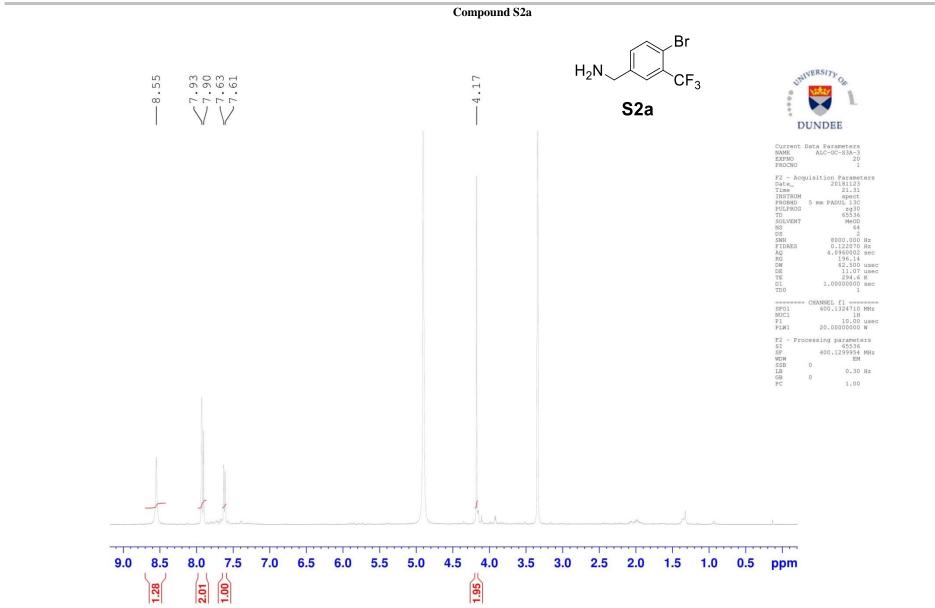




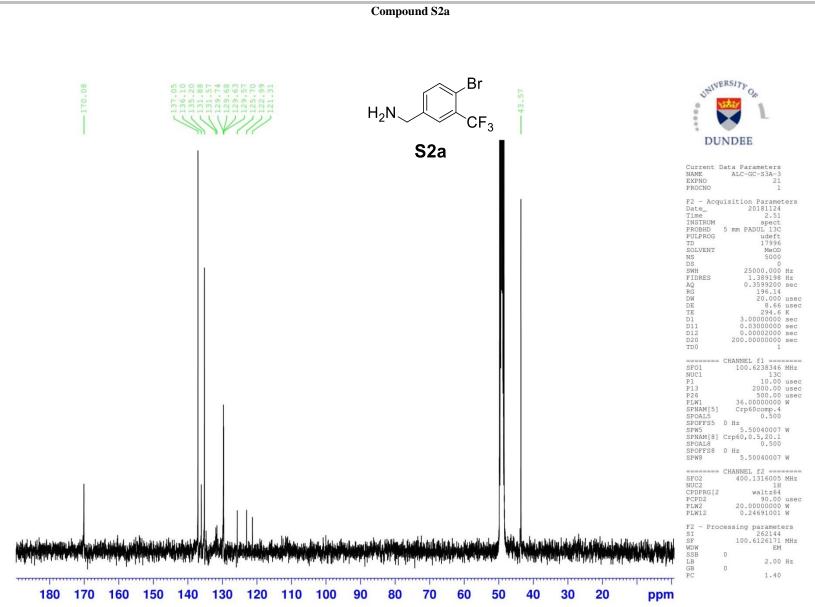




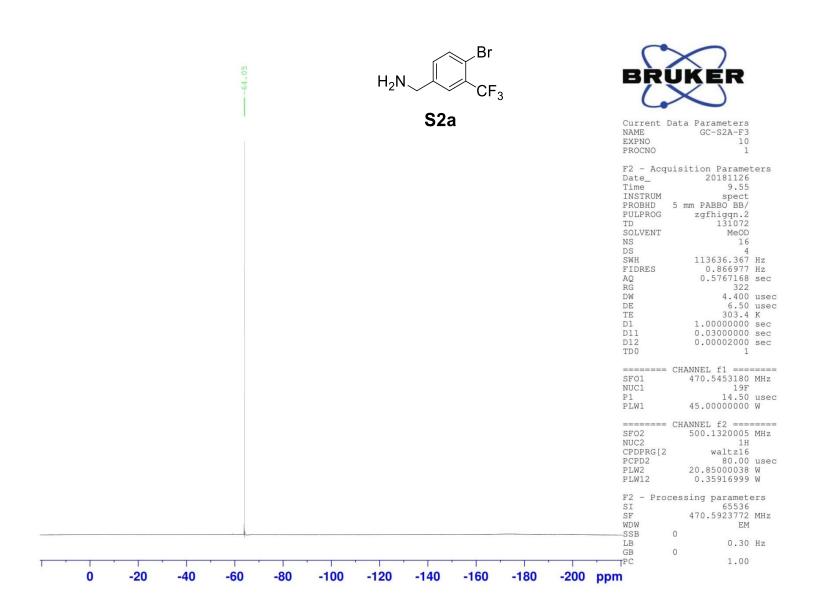


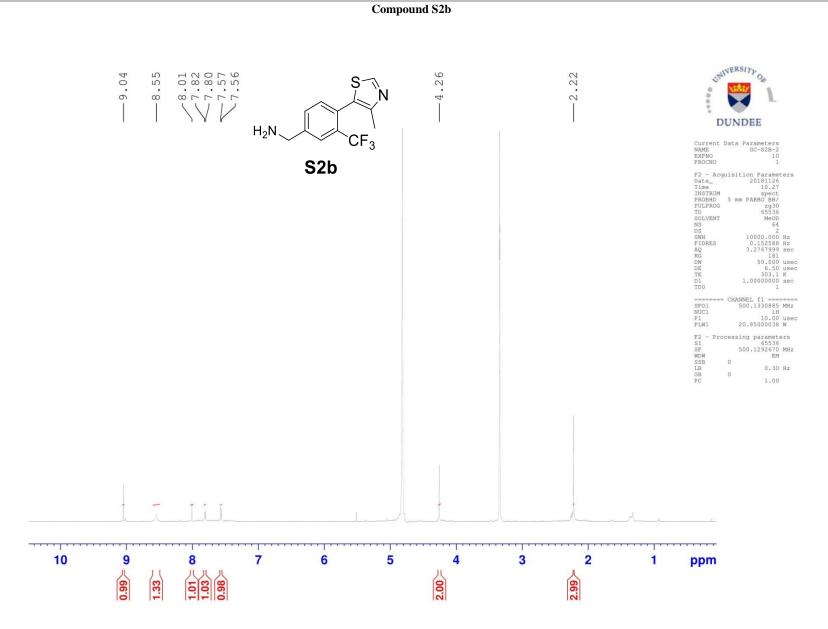


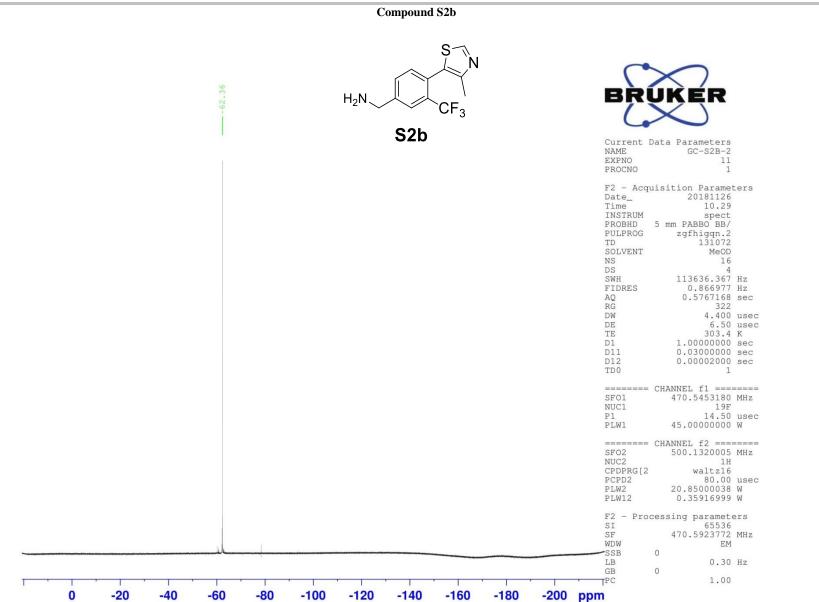


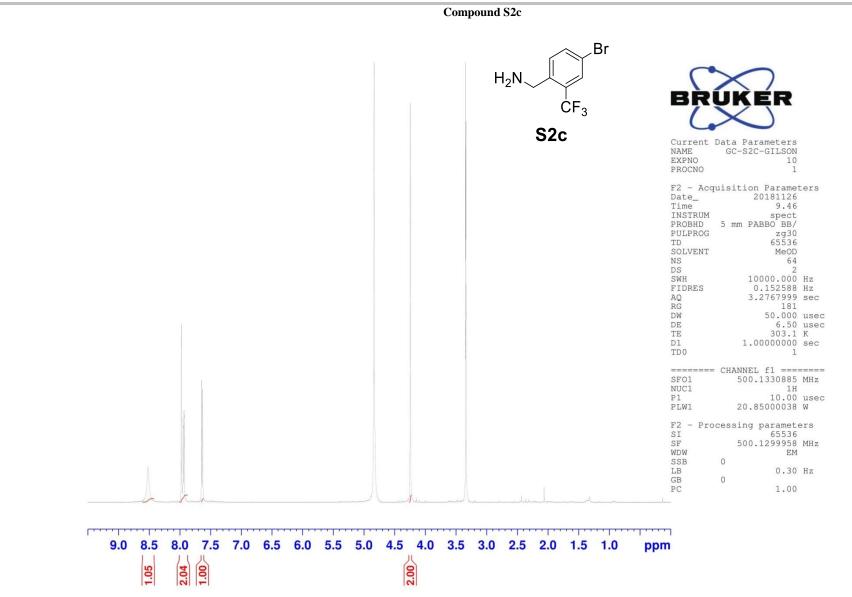


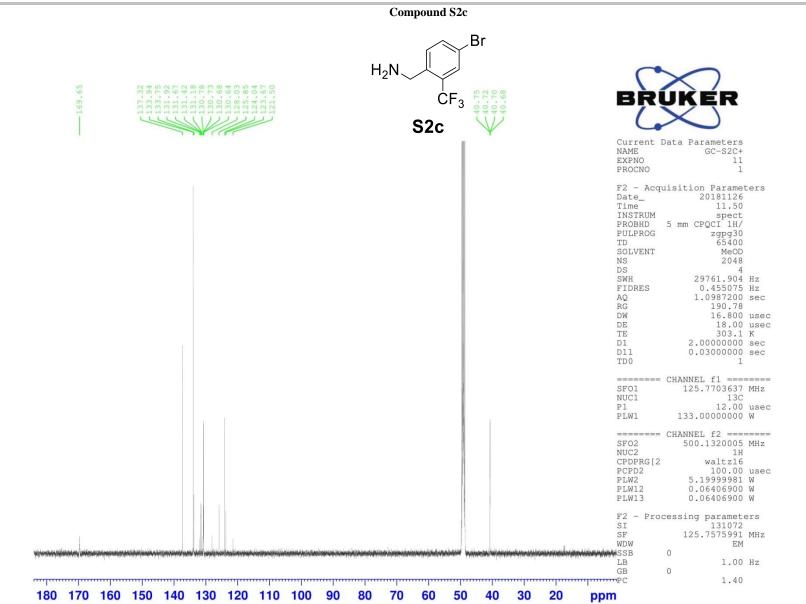
**Compound S2a** 

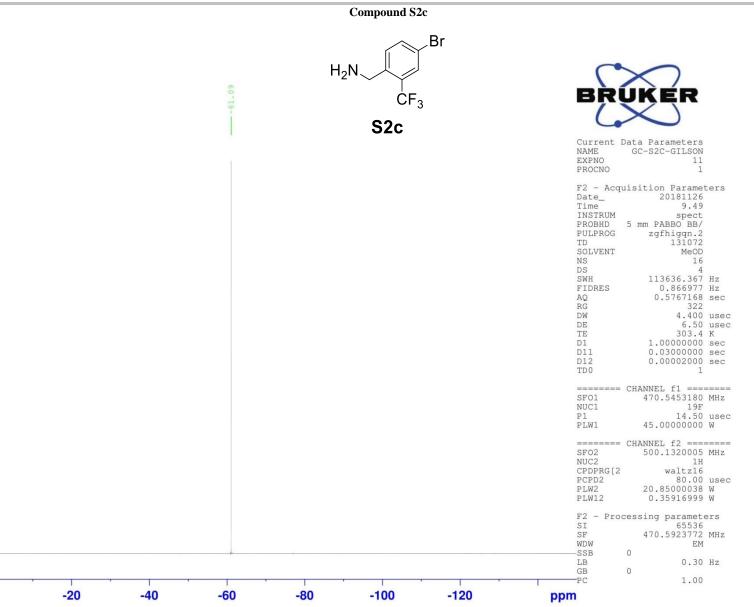


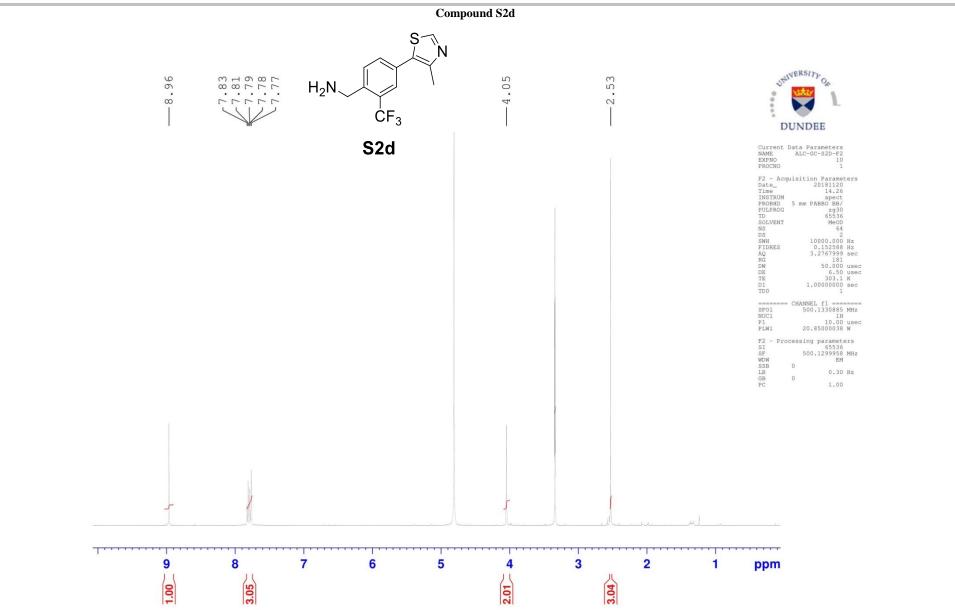


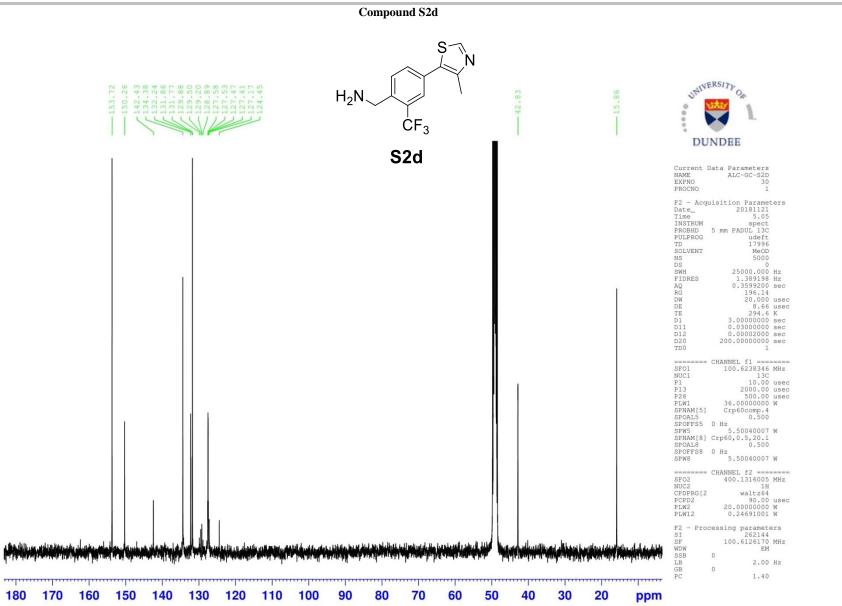




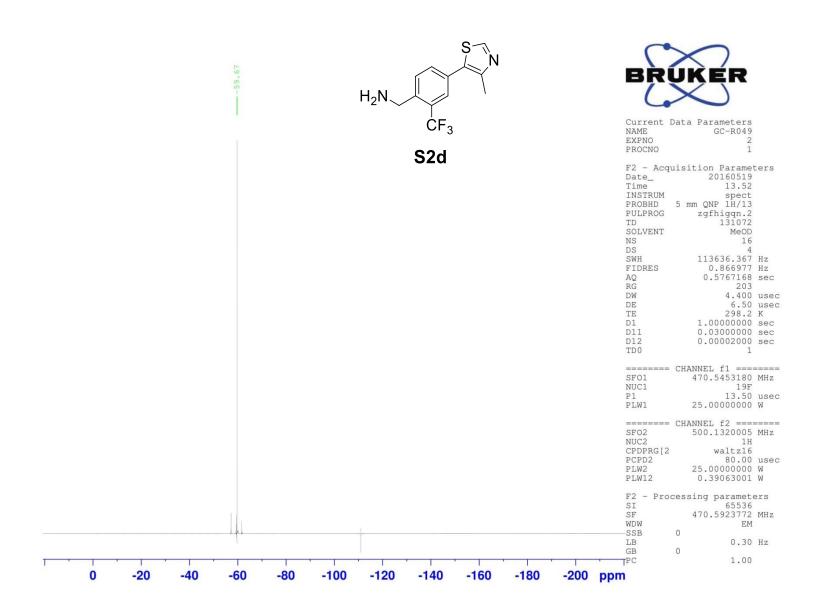


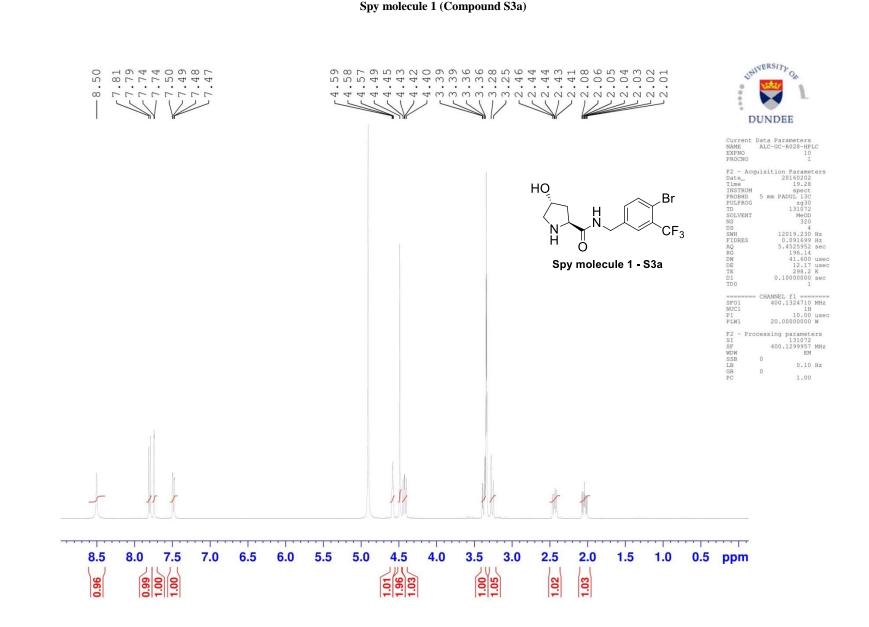


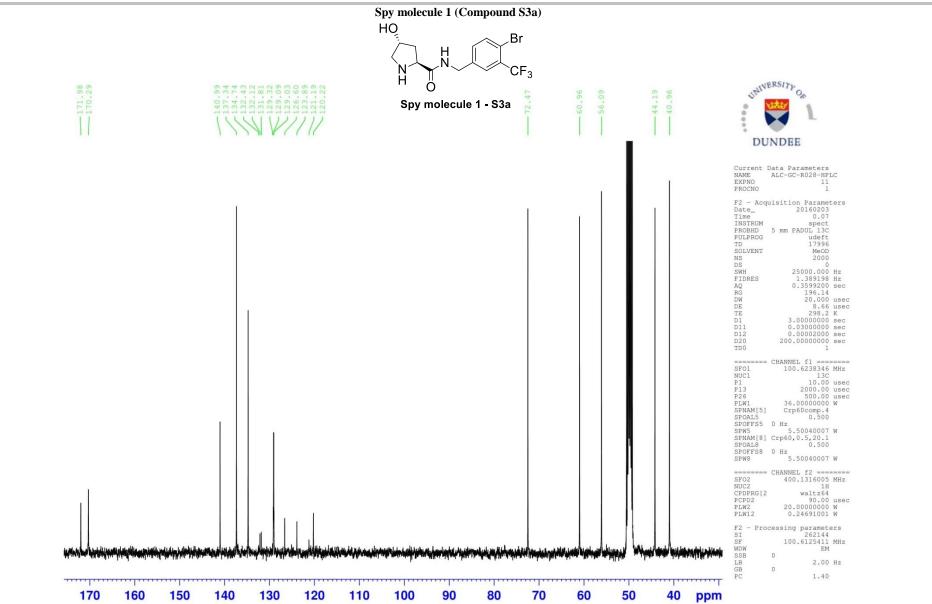


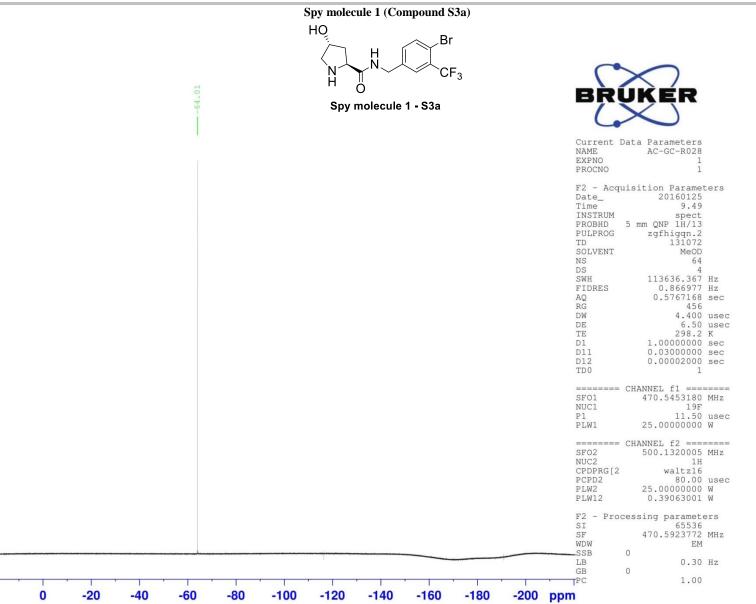




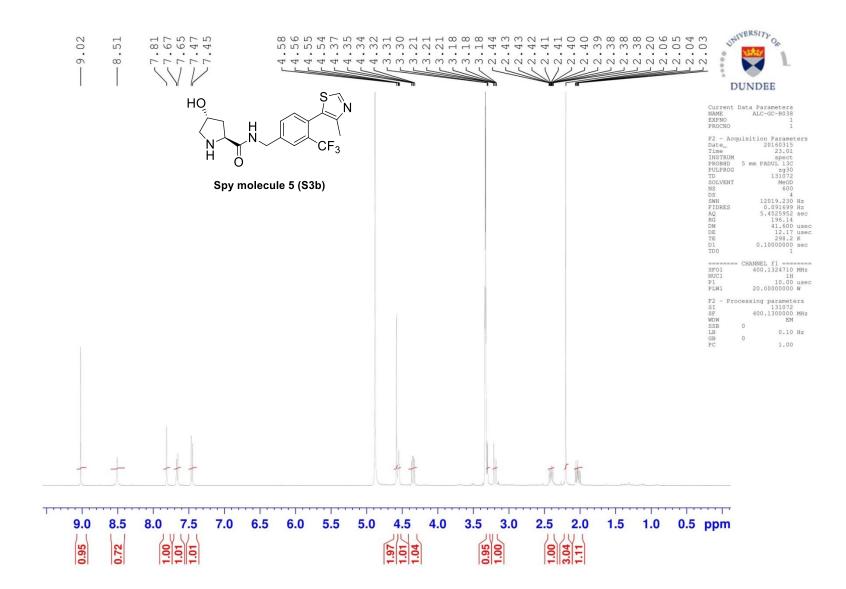


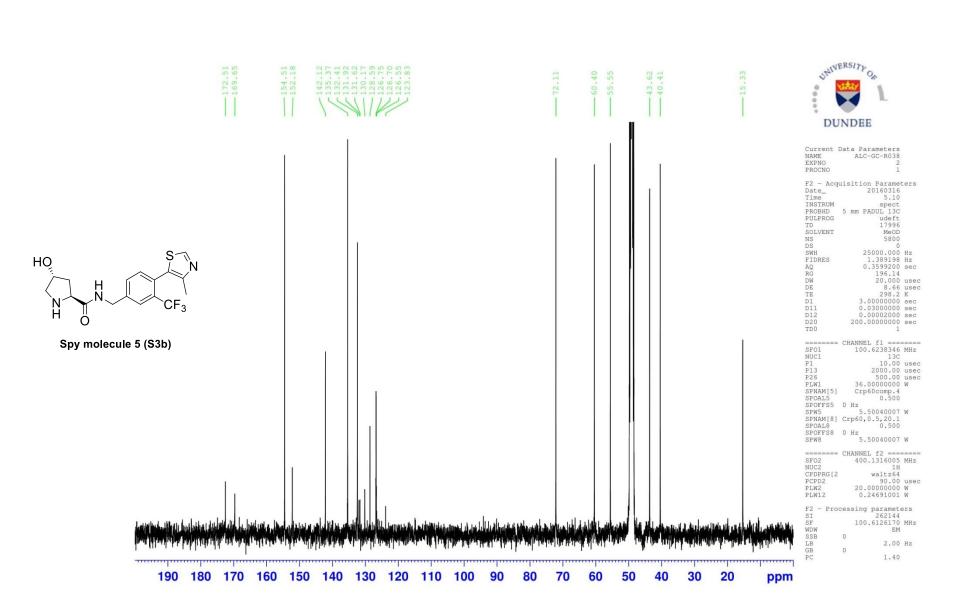




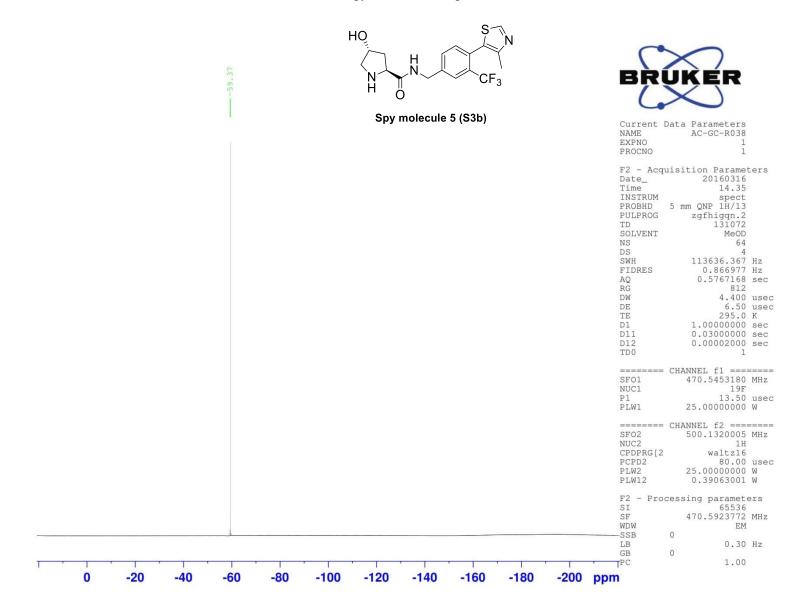


Spy molecule 5 (Compound S3b)

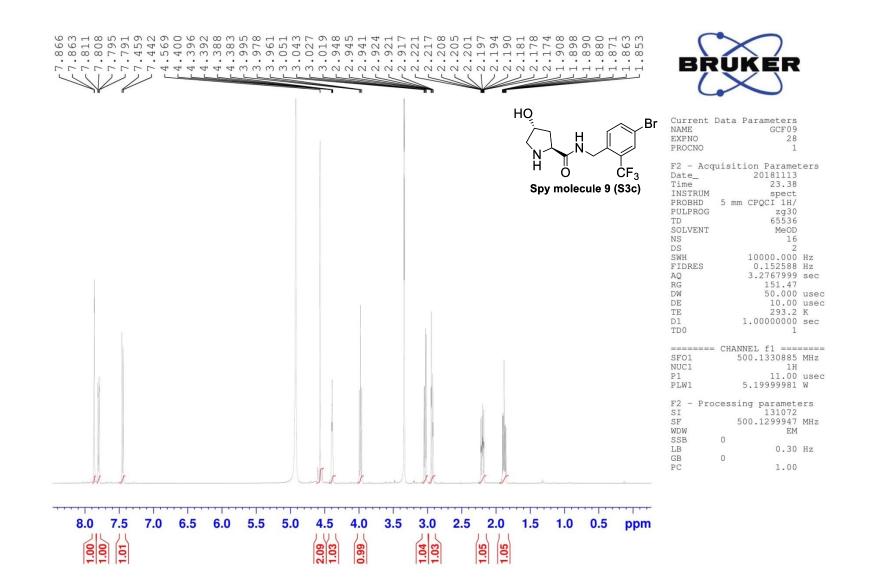


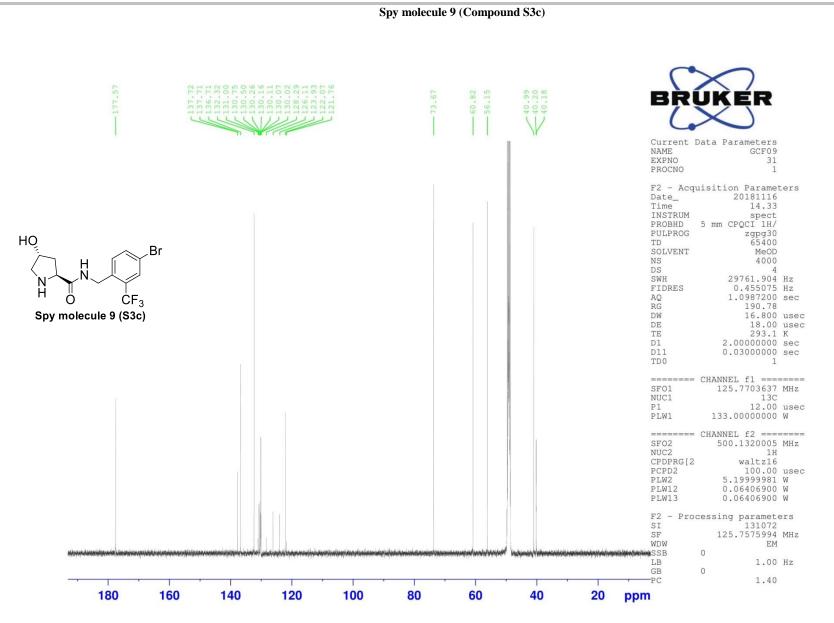


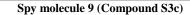
Spy molecule 5 (Compound S3b)

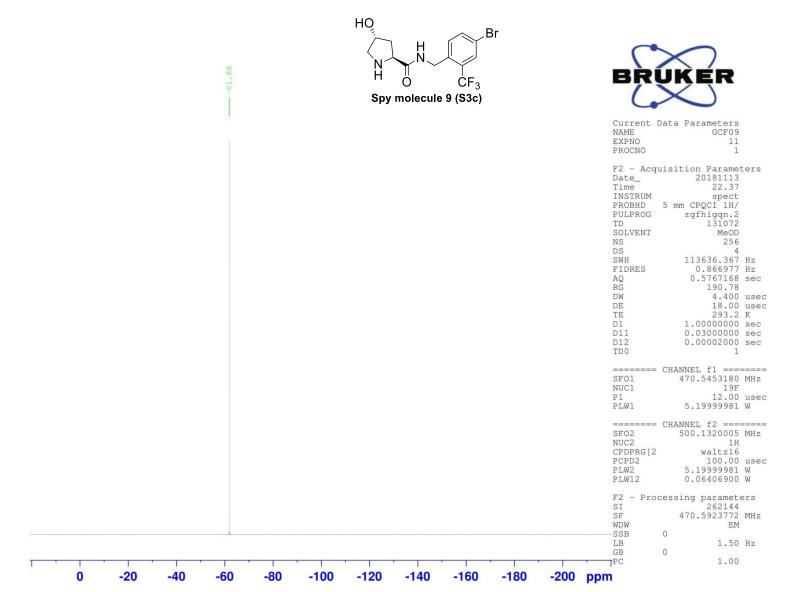


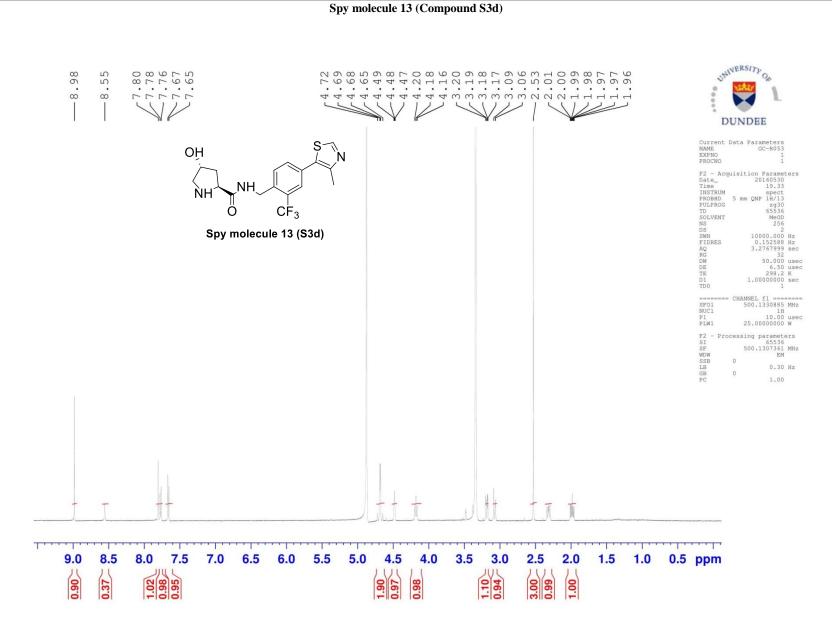
Spy molecule 9 (Compound S3c)

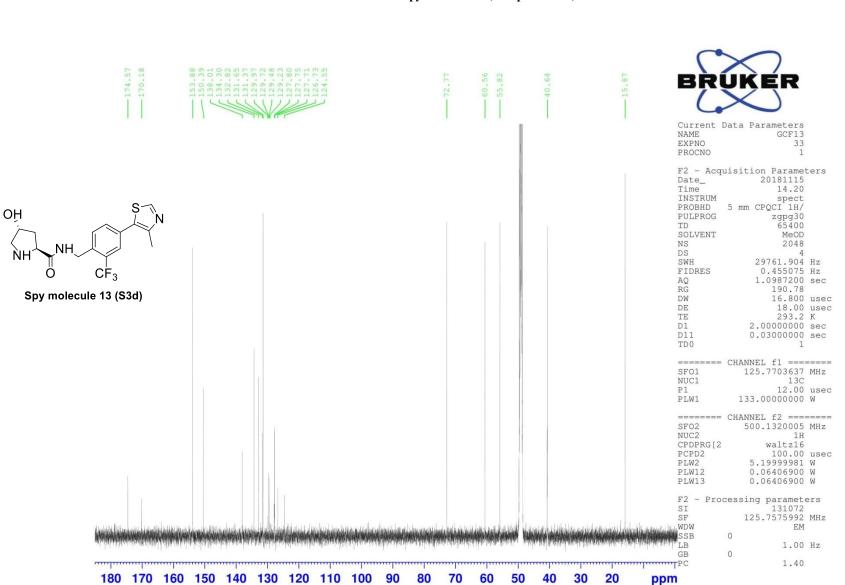




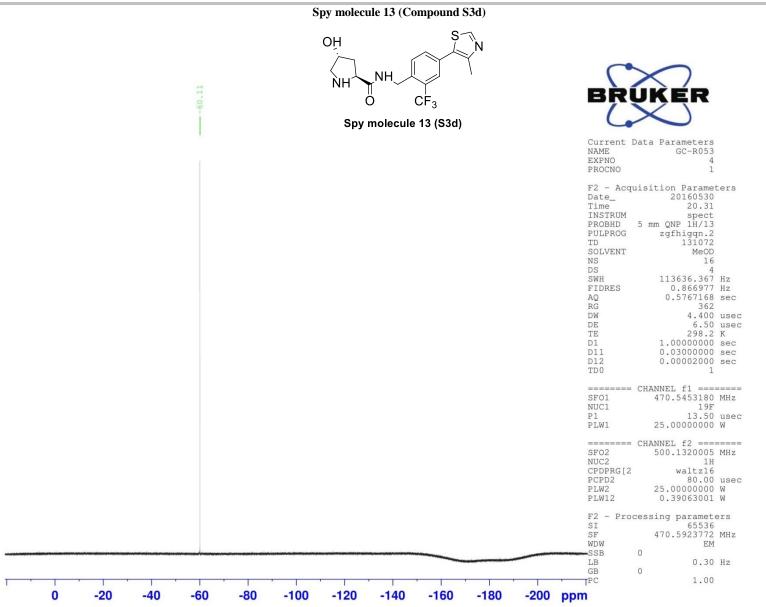




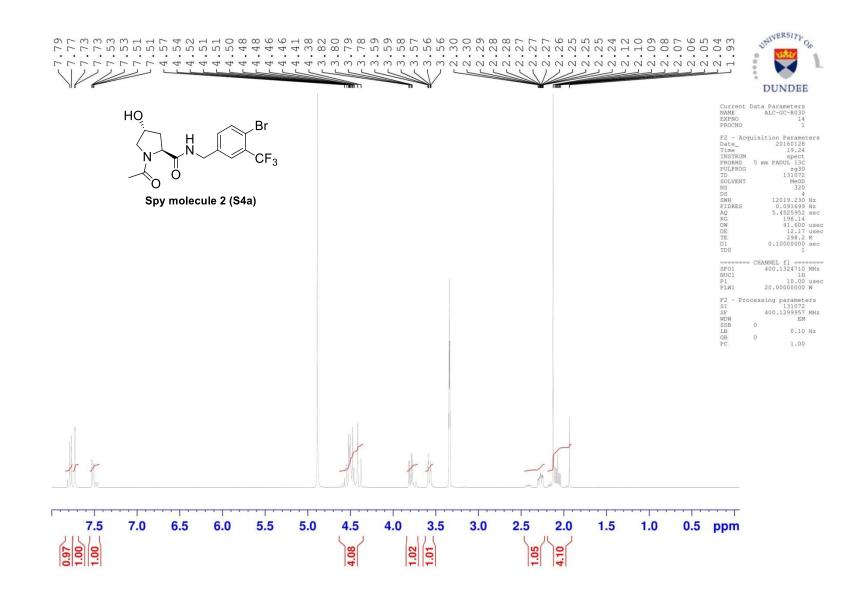


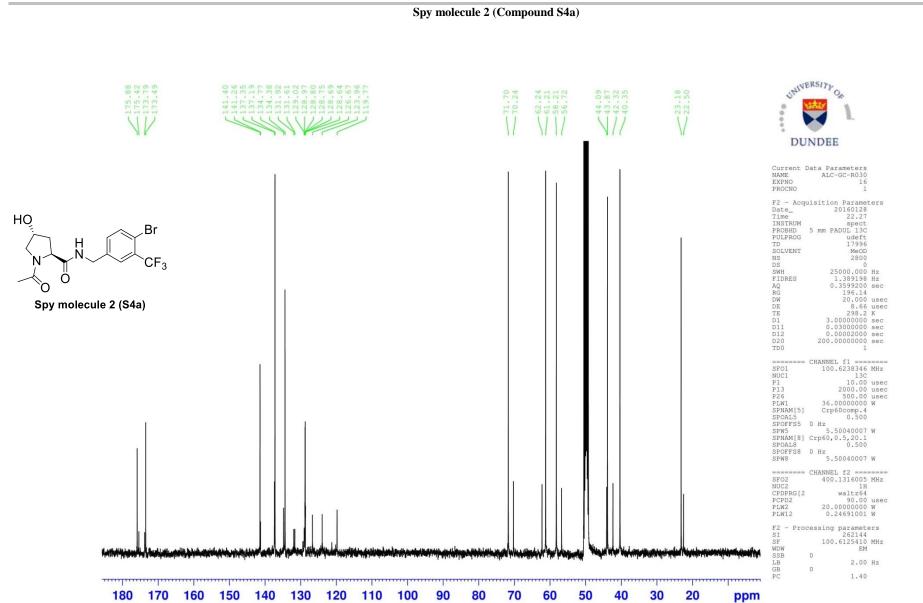


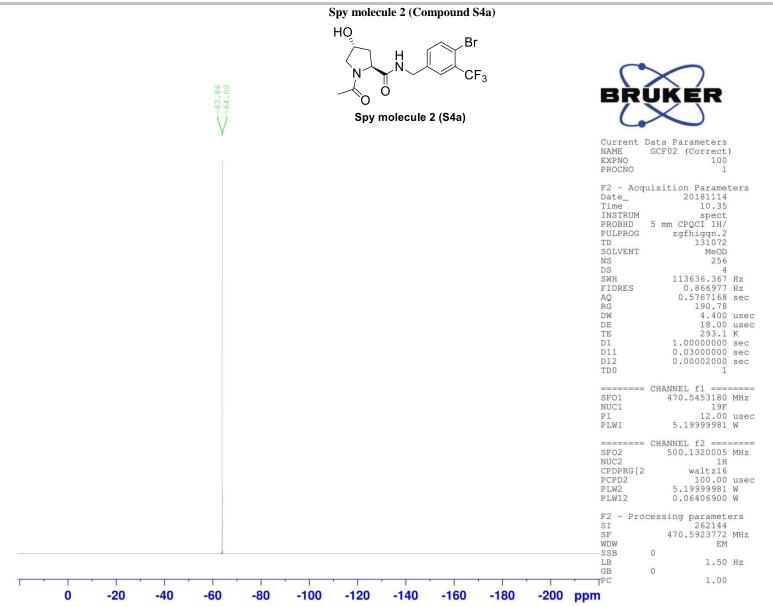
Spy molecule 13 (Compound S3d)

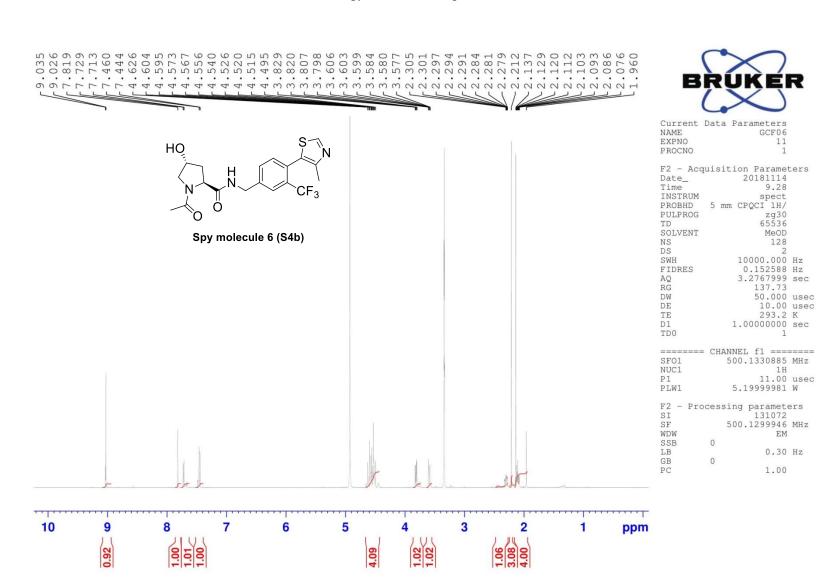


Spy molecule 2 (Compound S4a)

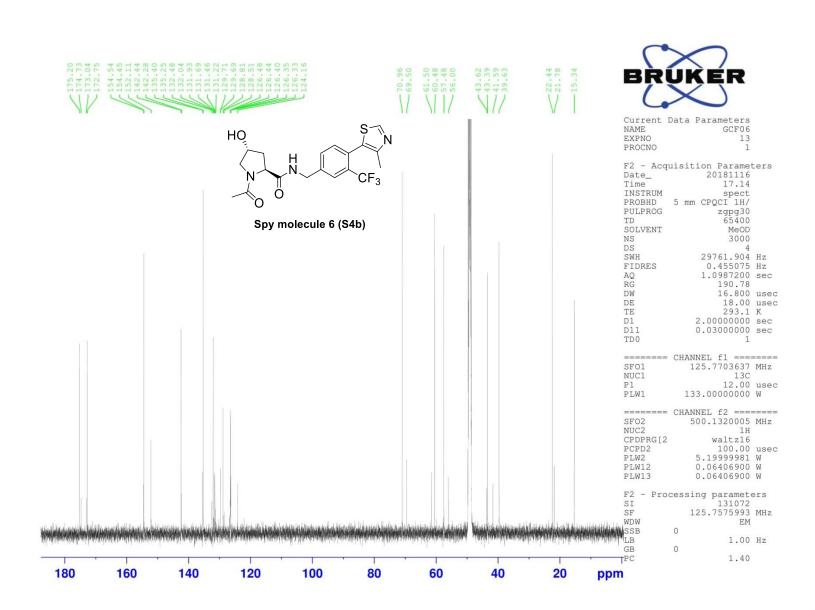






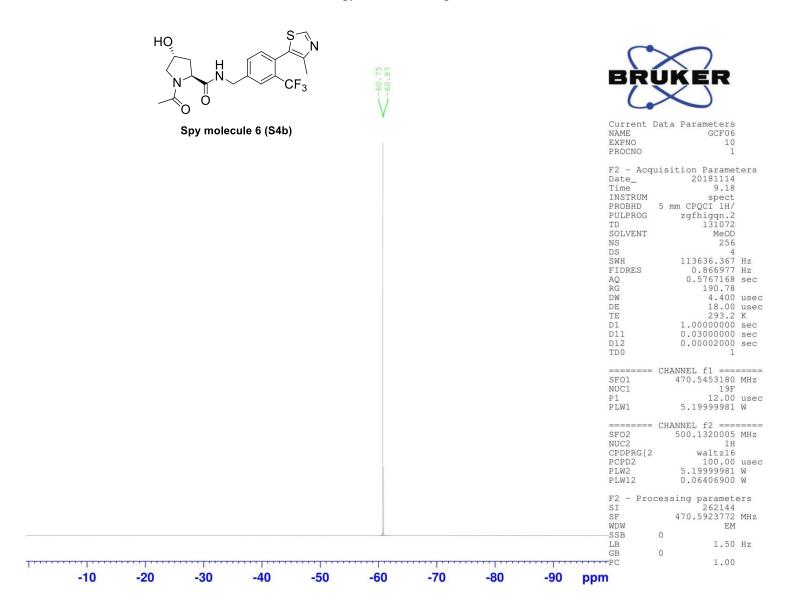


Spy molecule 6 (Compound S4b)

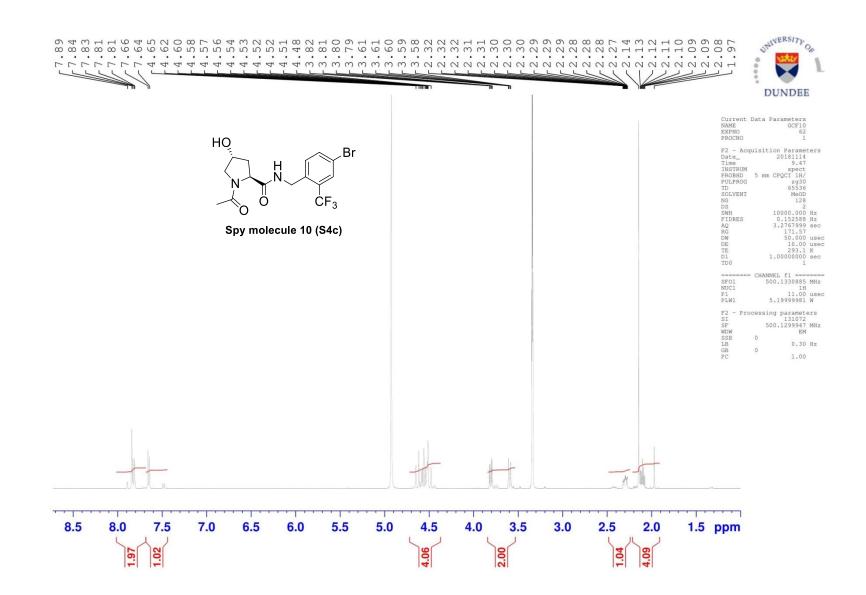


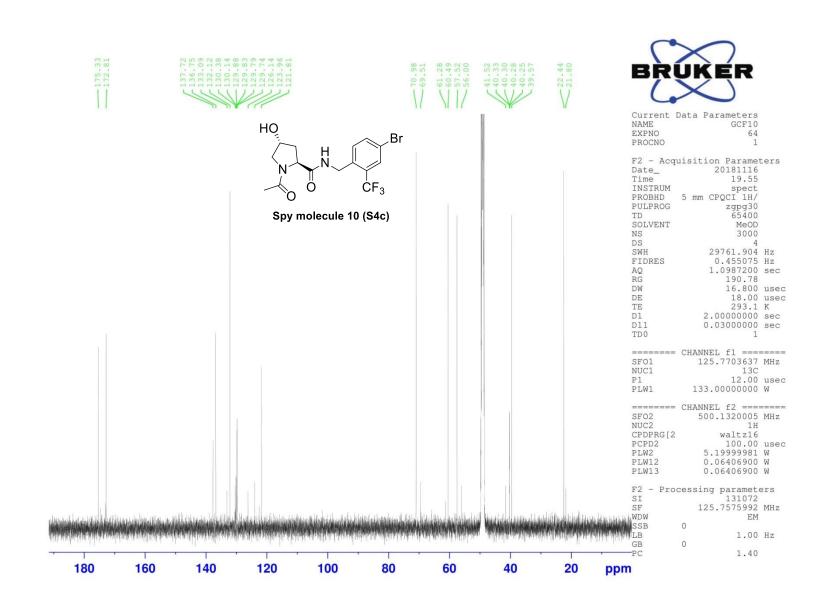
Spy molecule 6 (Compound S4b)

Spy molecule 6 (Compound S4b)

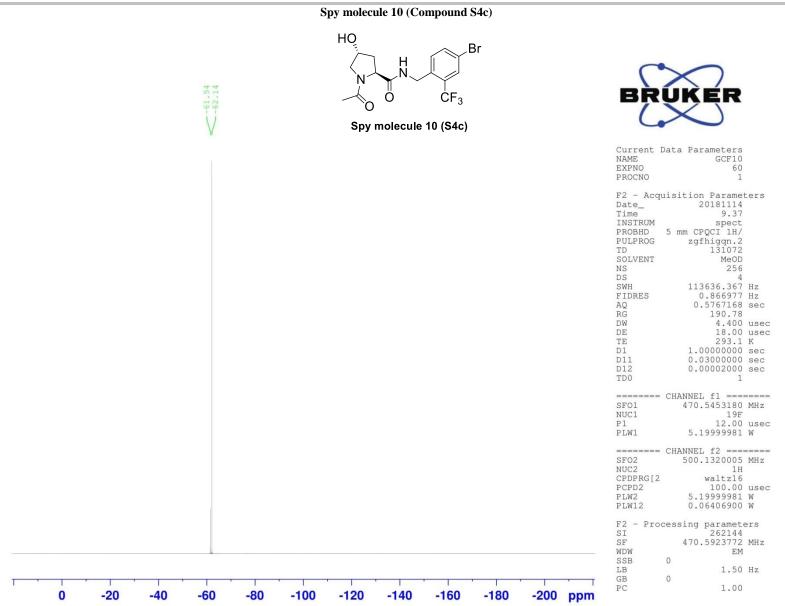


Spy molecule 10 (Compound S4c)

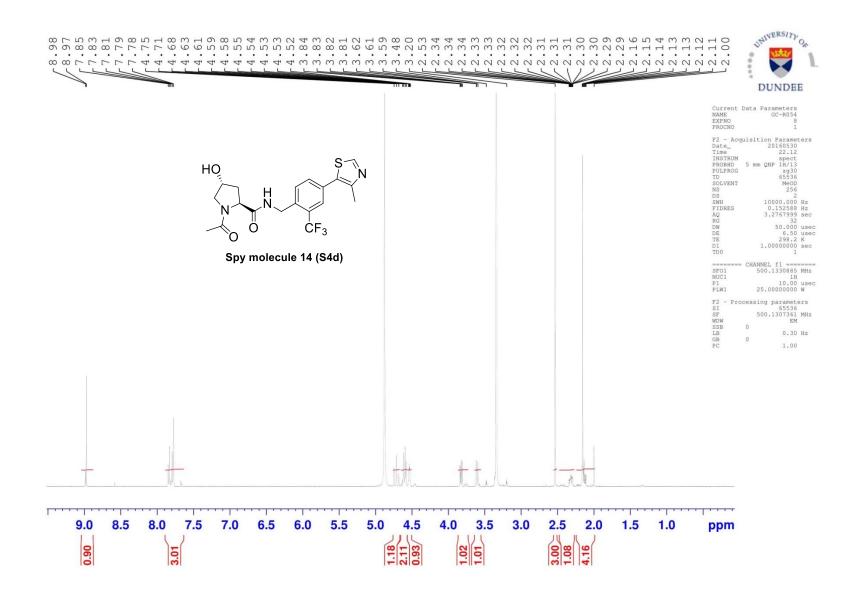


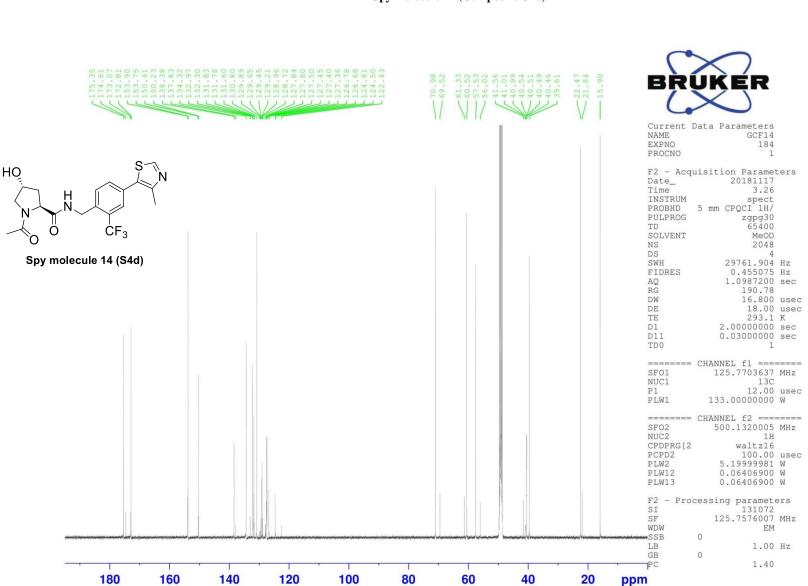


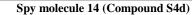
Spy molecule 10 (Compound S4c)

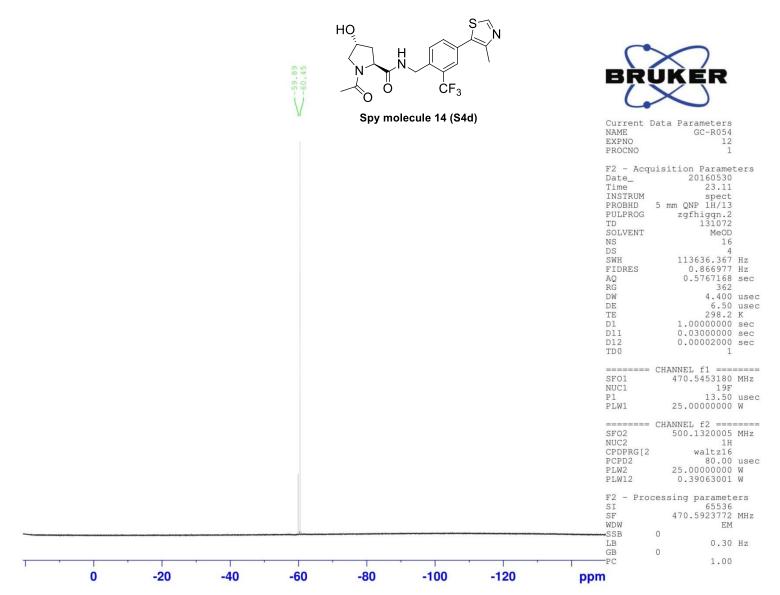


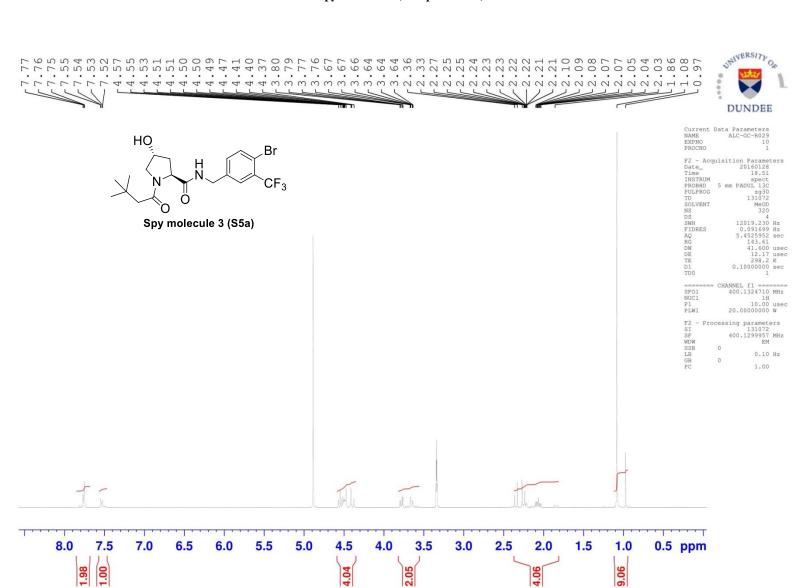
Spy molecule 14 (Compound S4d)



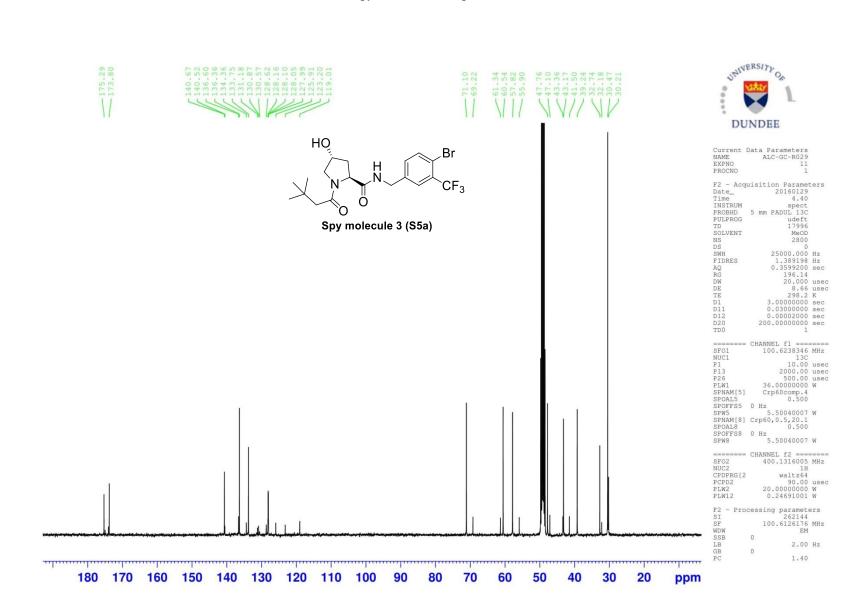


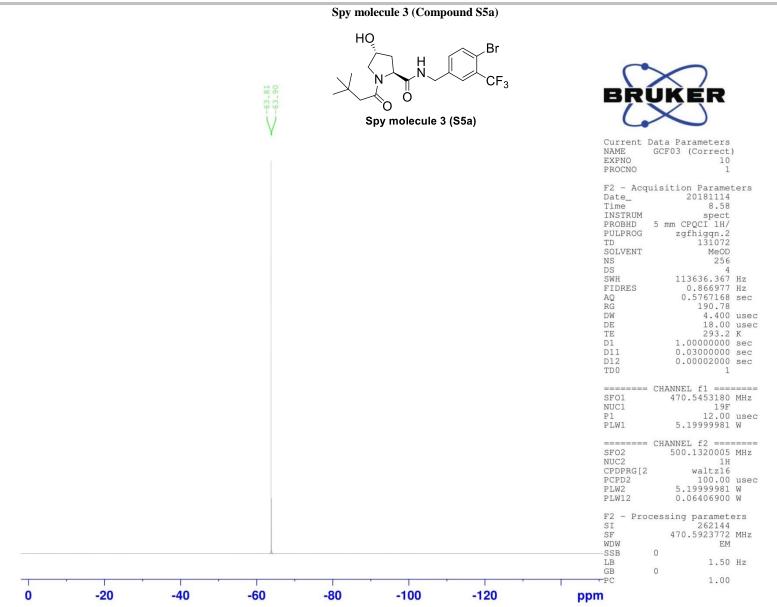


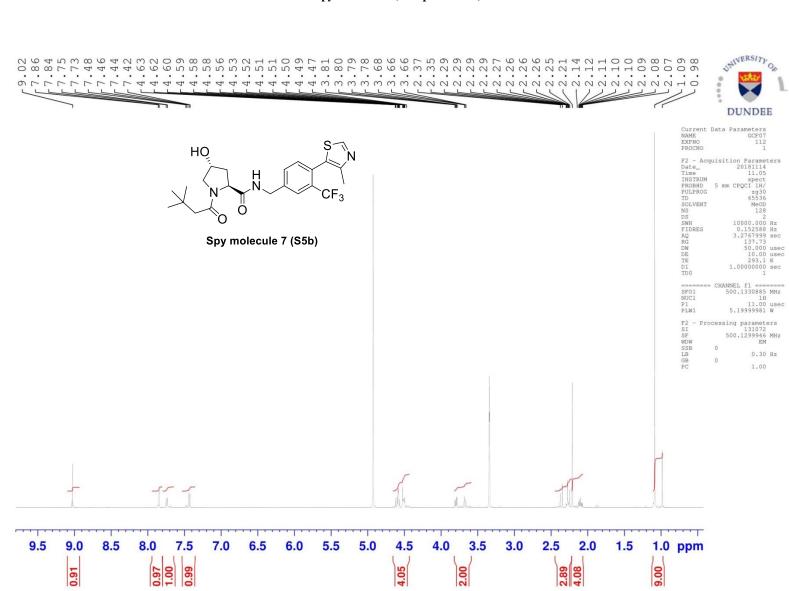




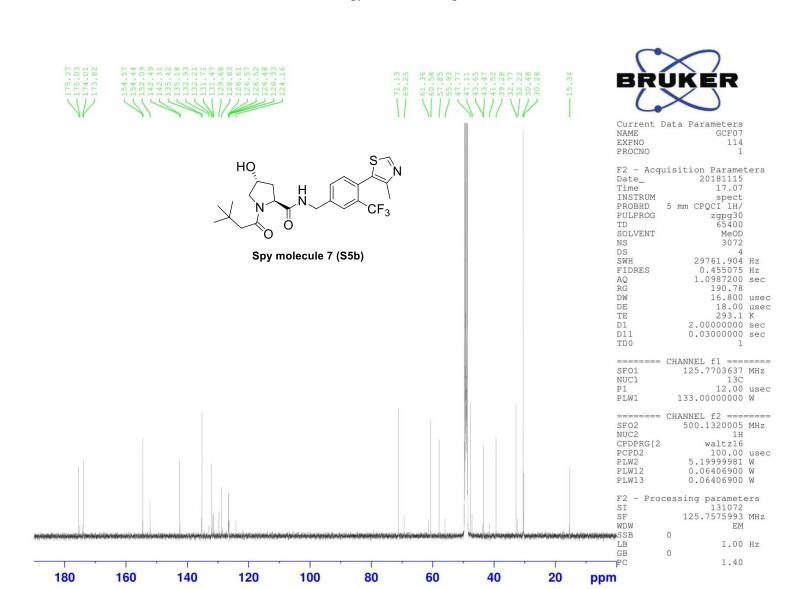
Spy molecule 3 (Compound S5a)



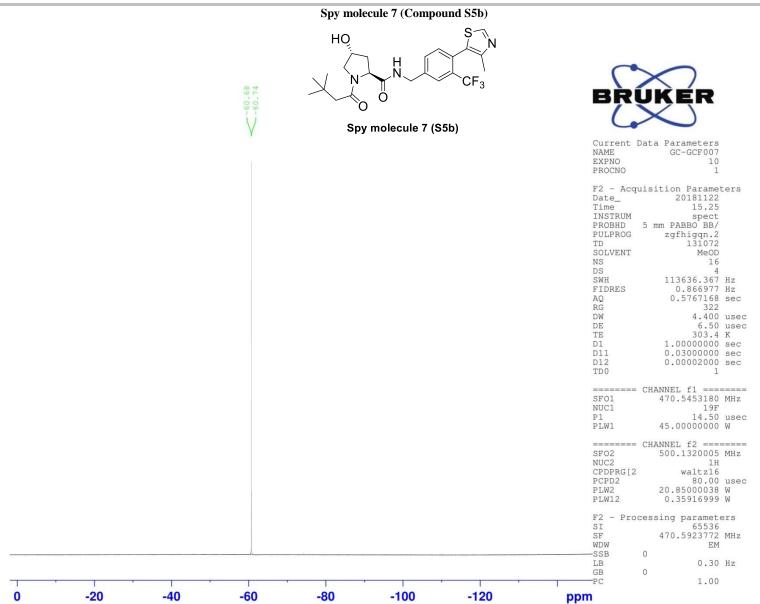


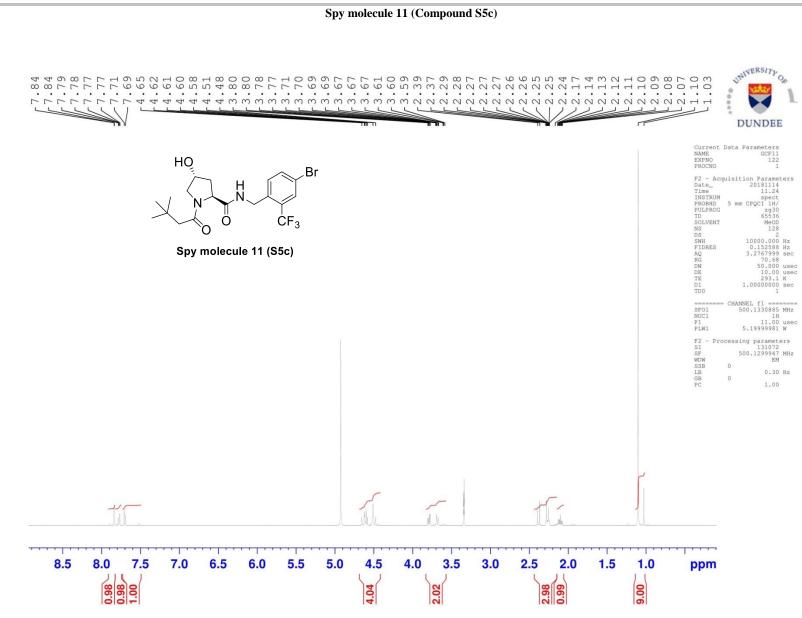


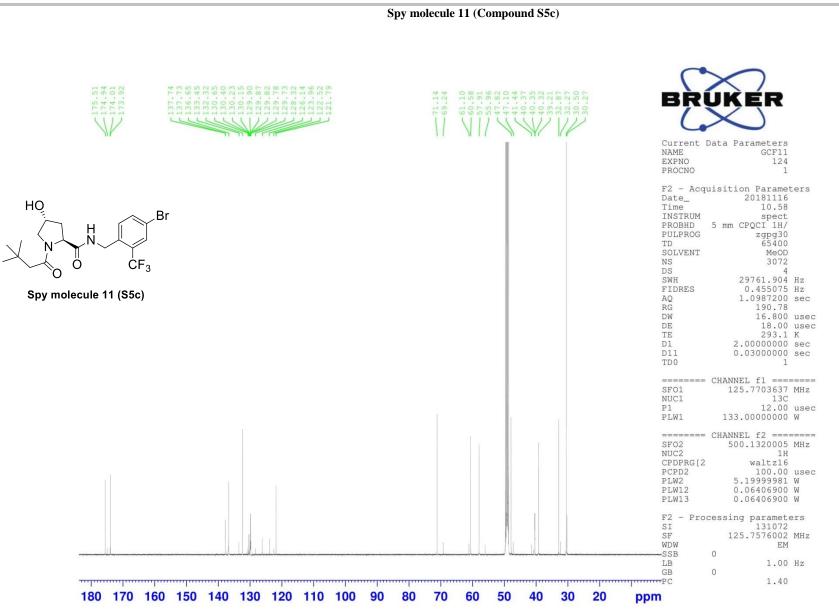
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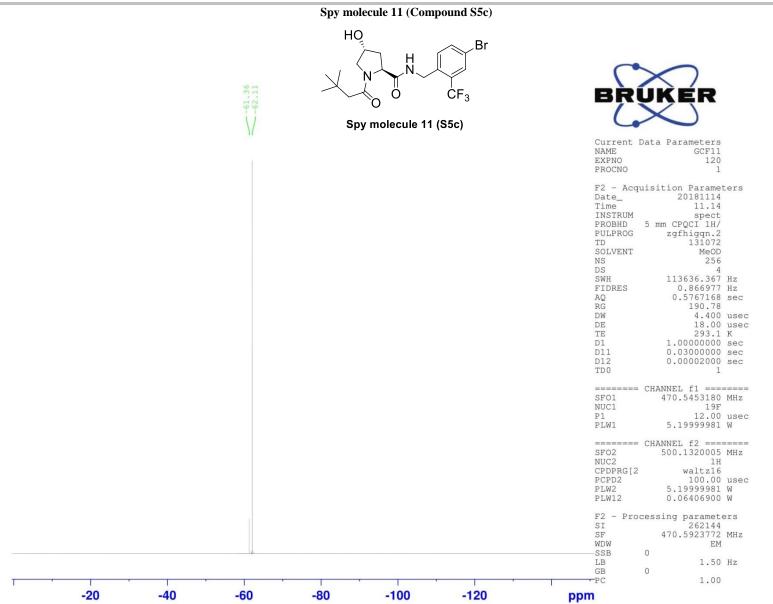


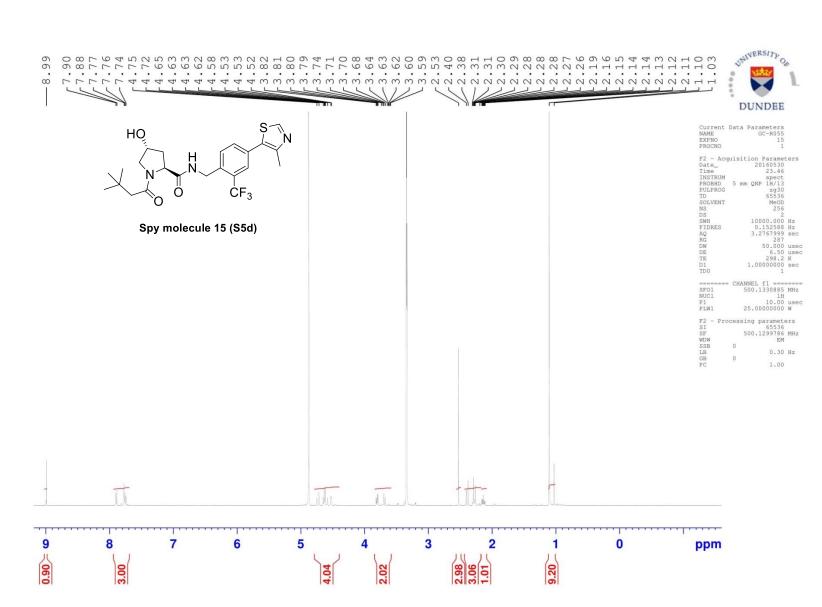
Spy molecule 7 (Compound S5b)



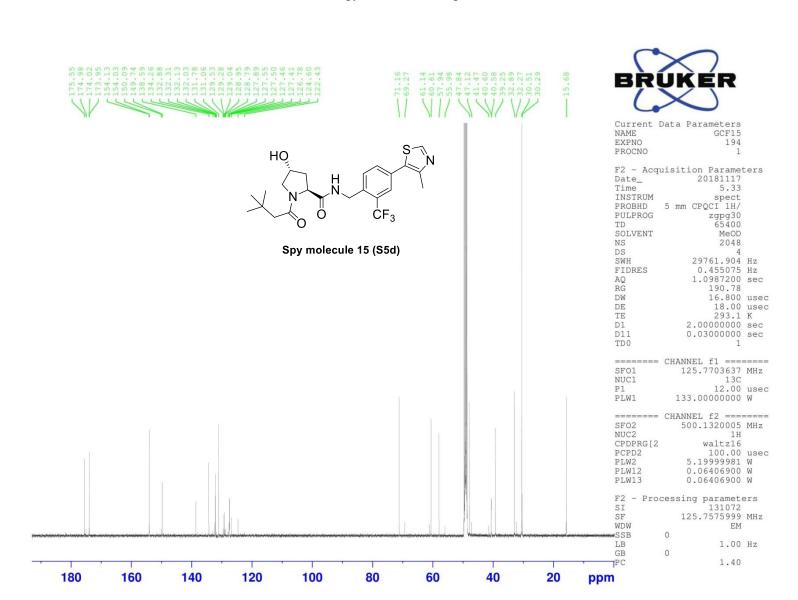




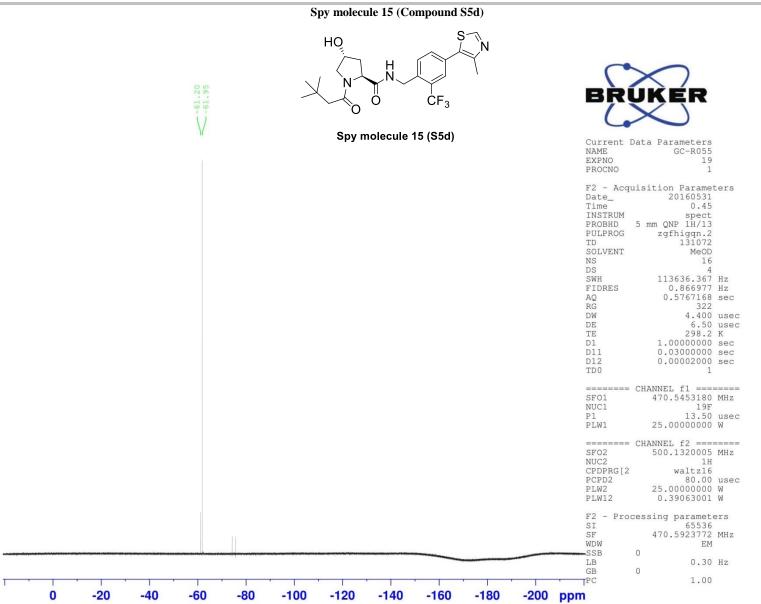


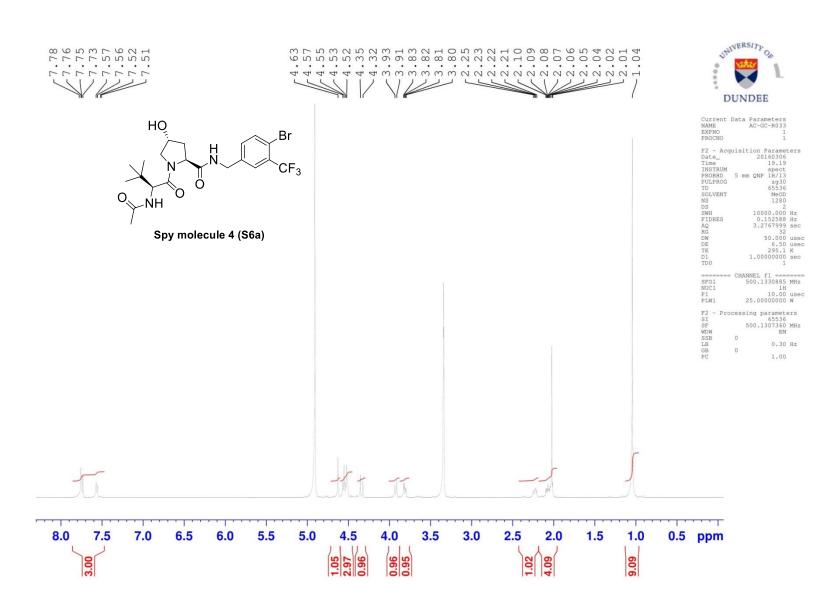


Spy molecule 15 (Compound S5d)

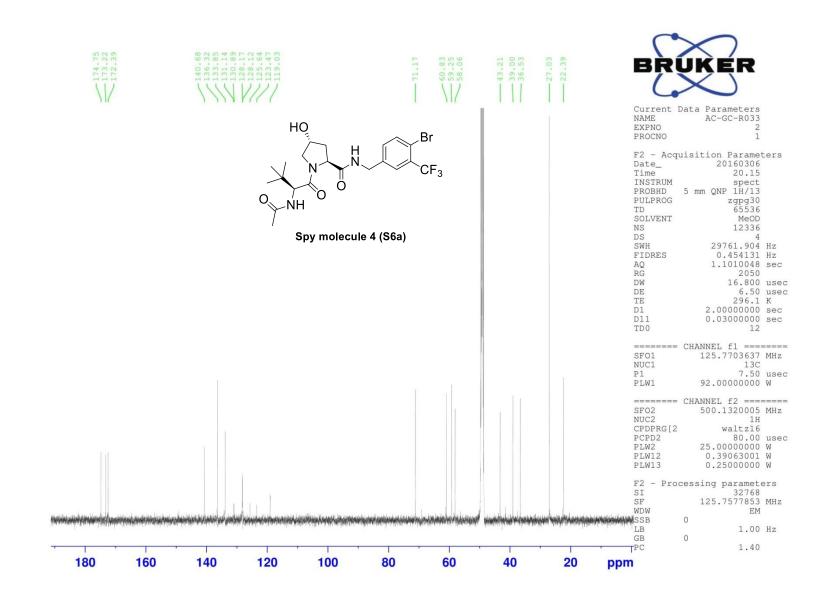


Spy molecule 15 (Compound S5d)



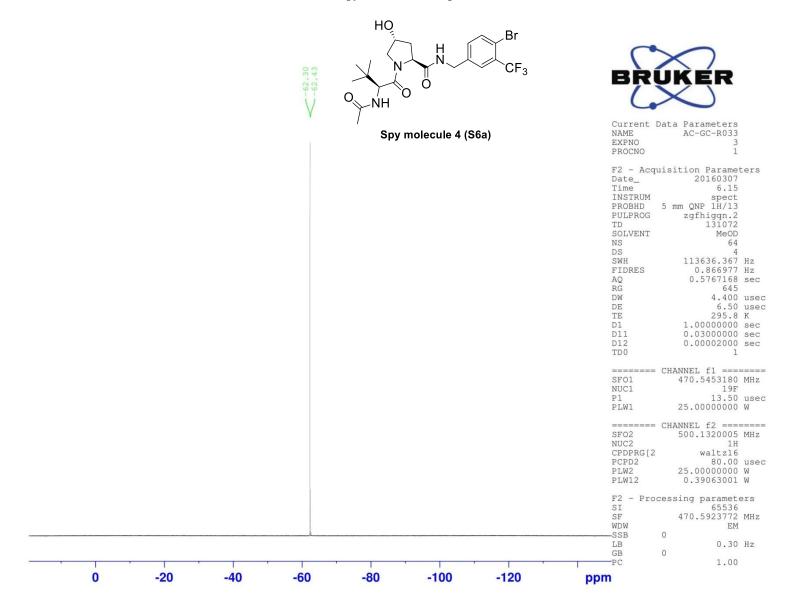


Spy molecule 4 (Compound S6a)

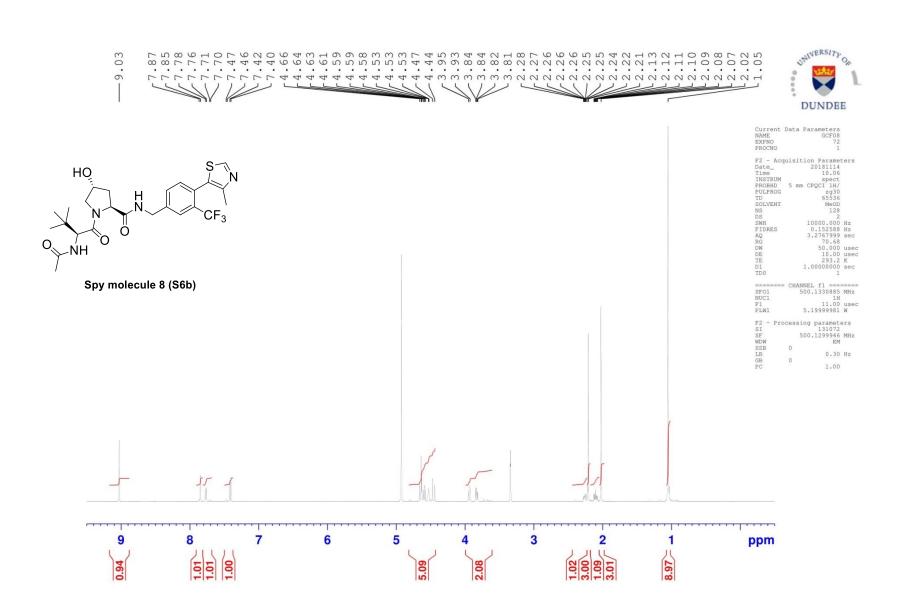


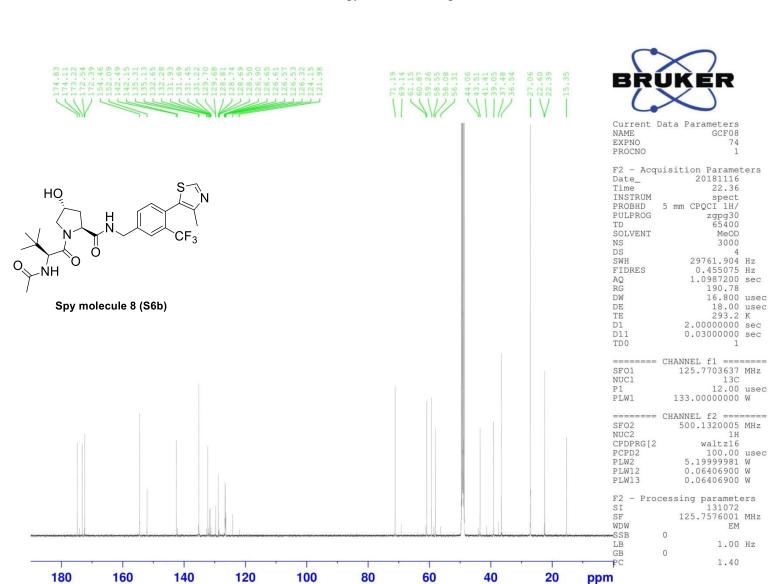
Spy molecule 4 (Compound S6a)

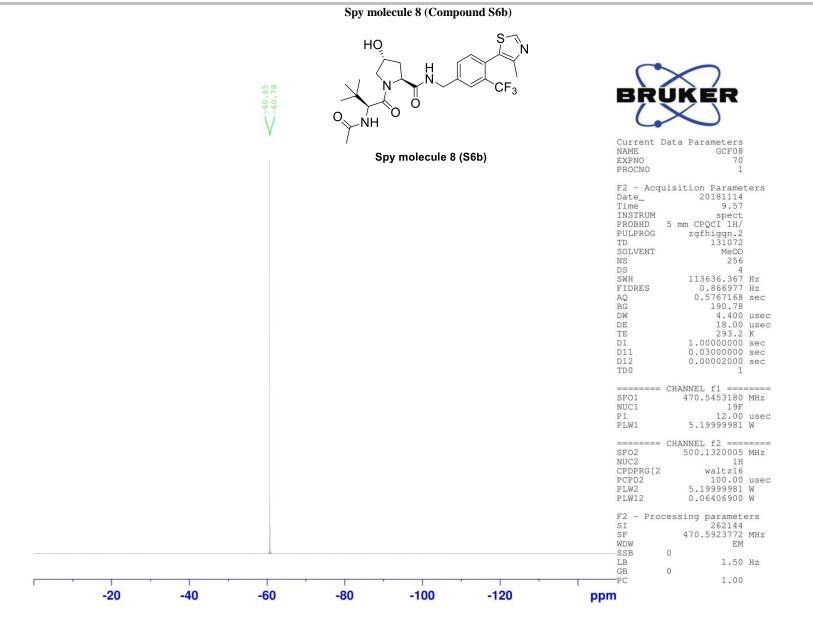
Spy molecule 4 (Compound S6a)

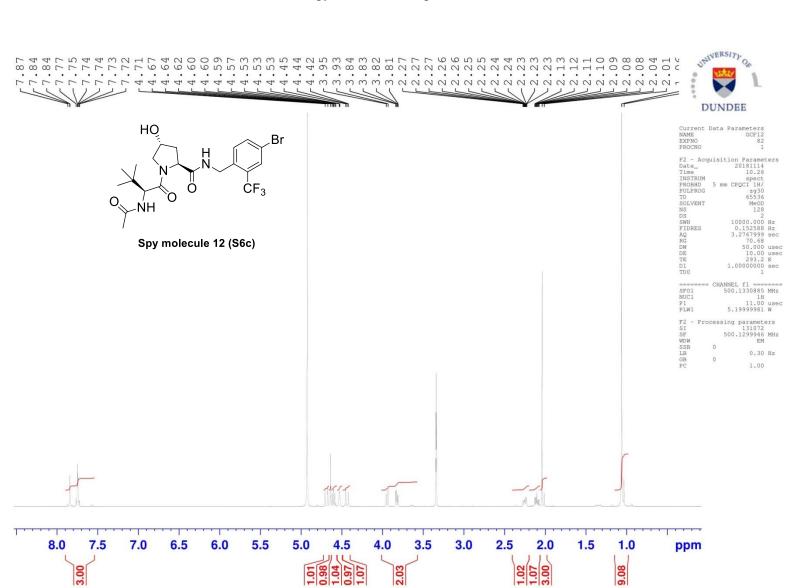


Spy molecule 8 (Compound S6b)

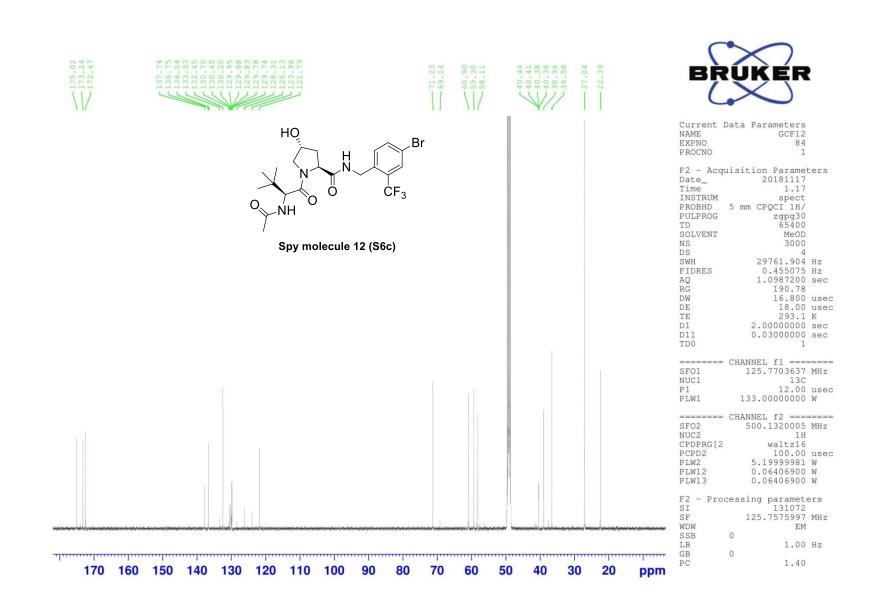




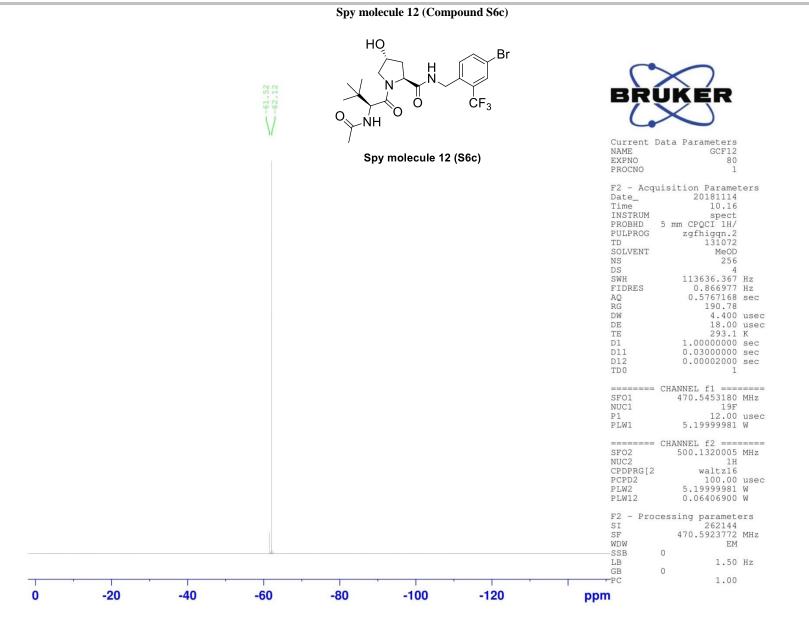




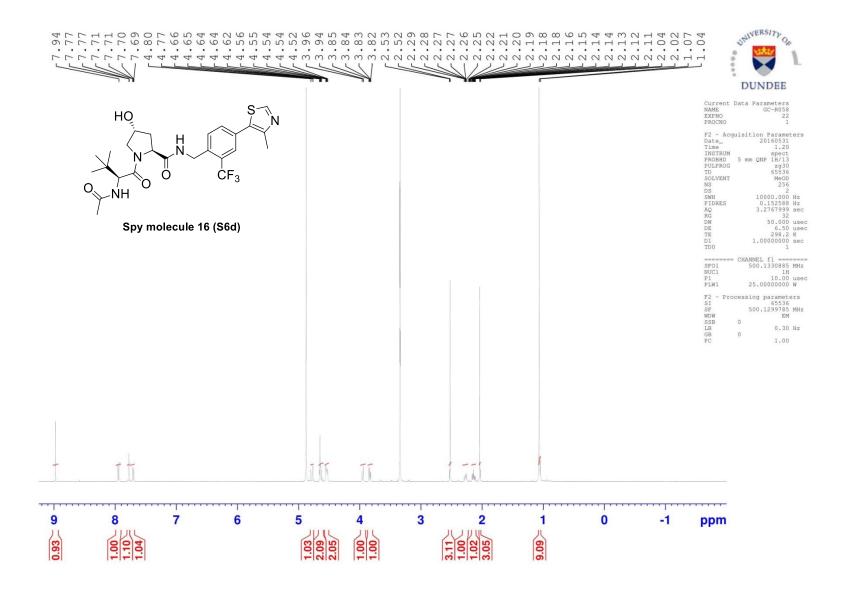
Spy molecule 12 (Compound S6c)

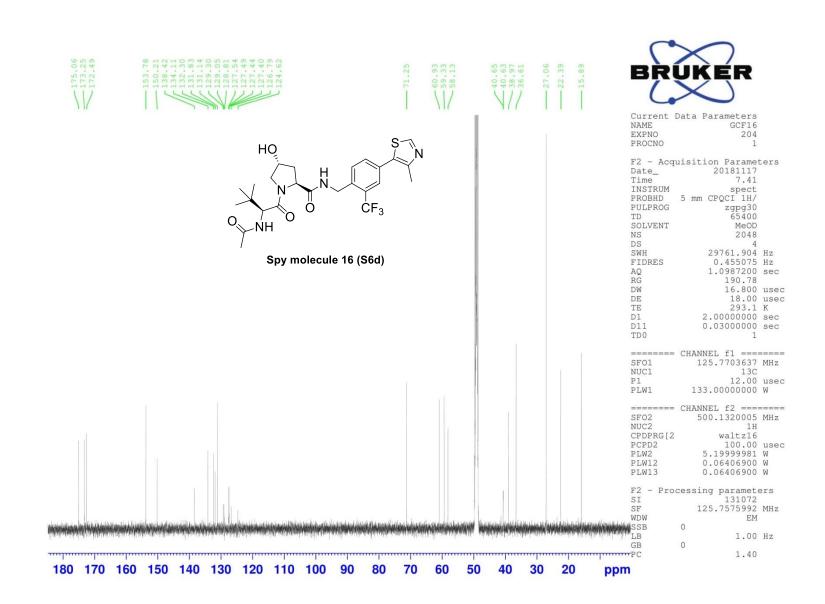


Spy molecule 12 (Compound S6c)

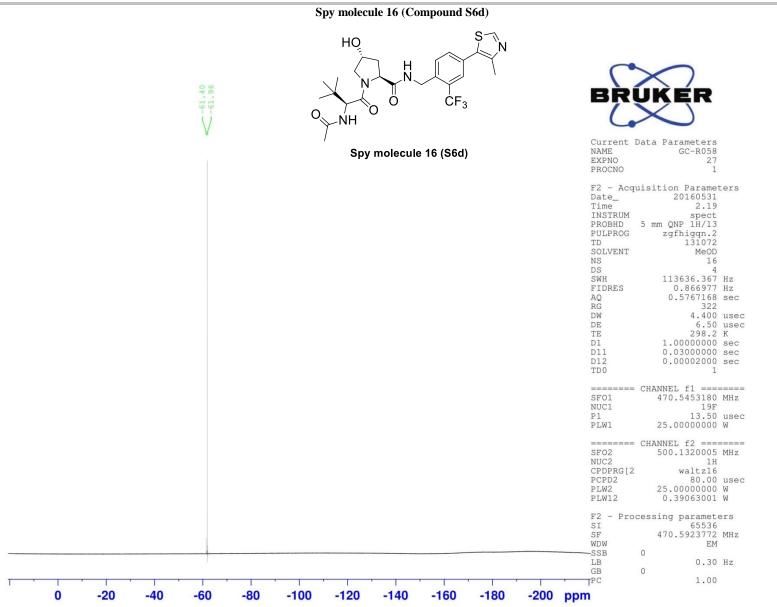


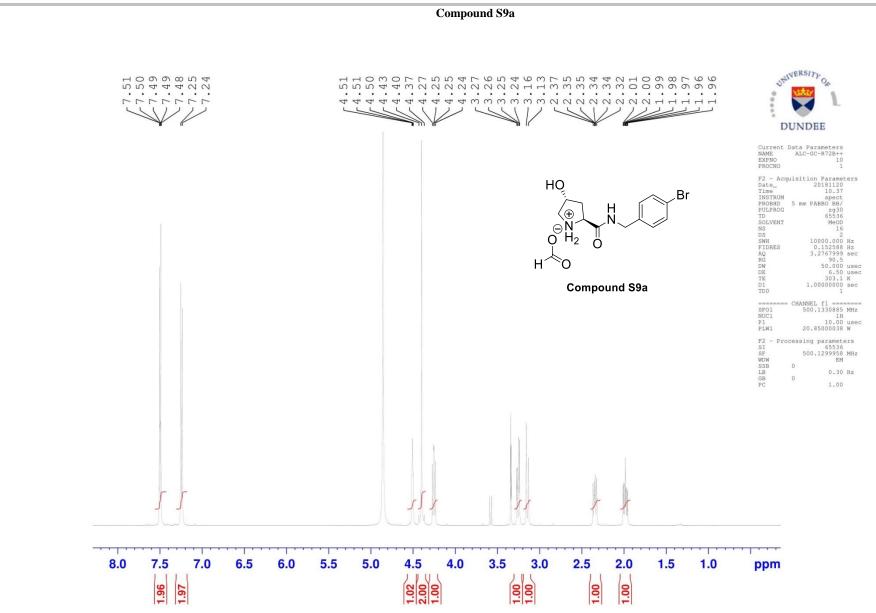
Spy molecule 16 (Compound S6d)

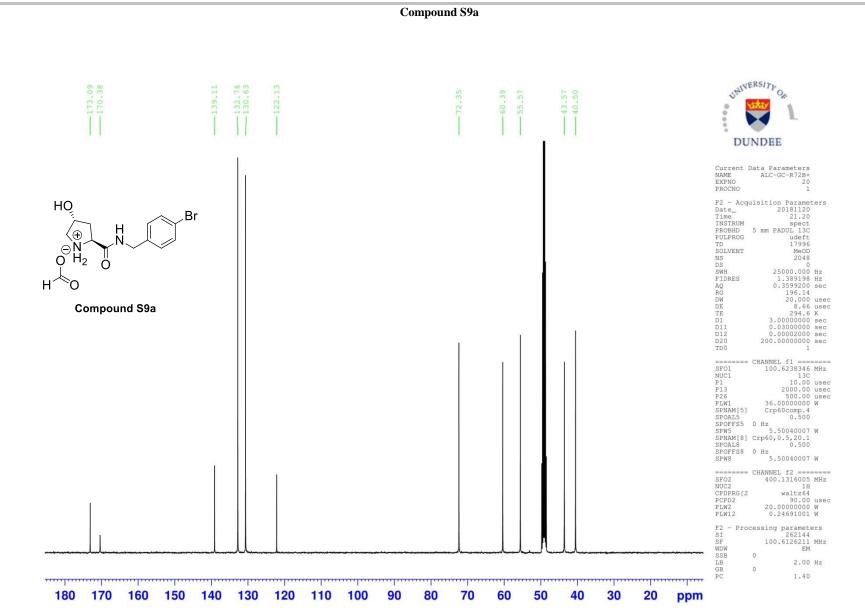


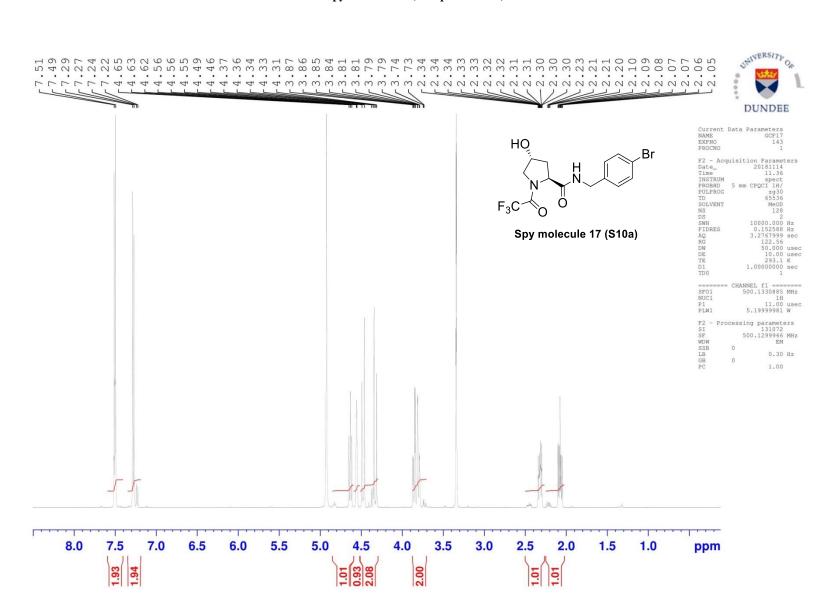


Spy molecule 16 (Compound S6d)

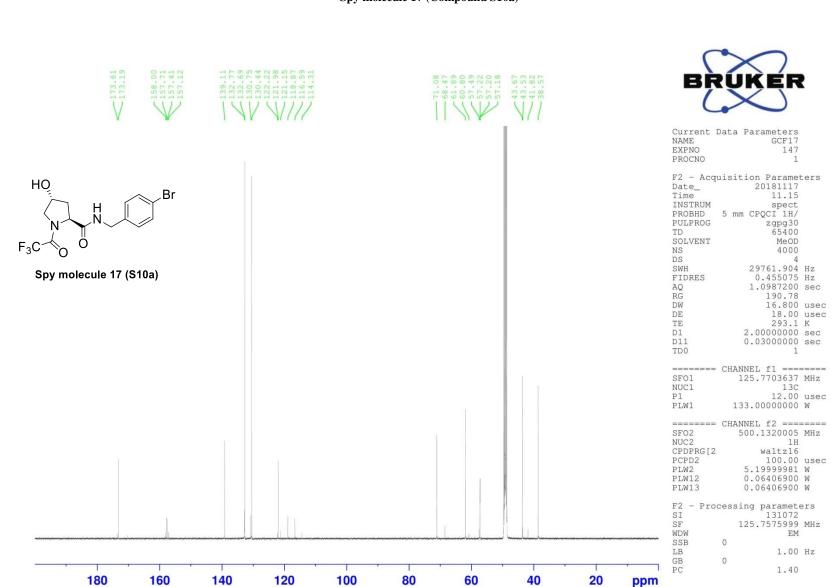


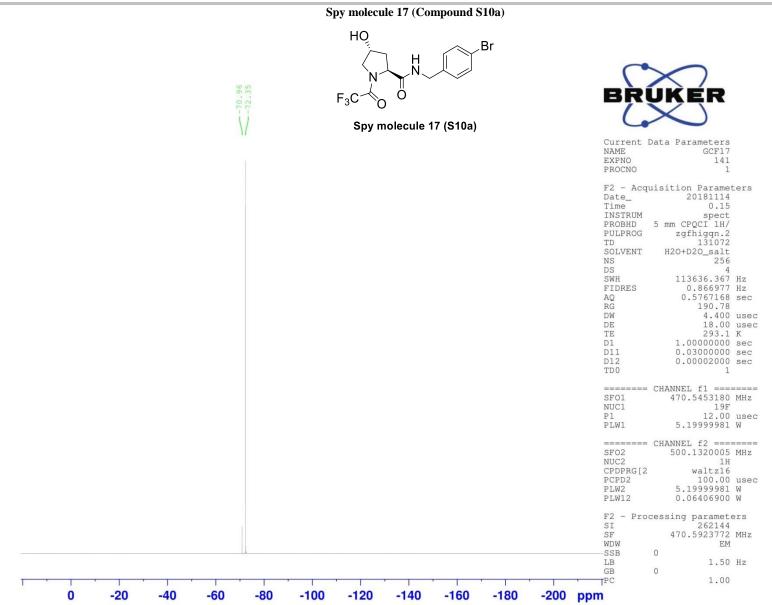




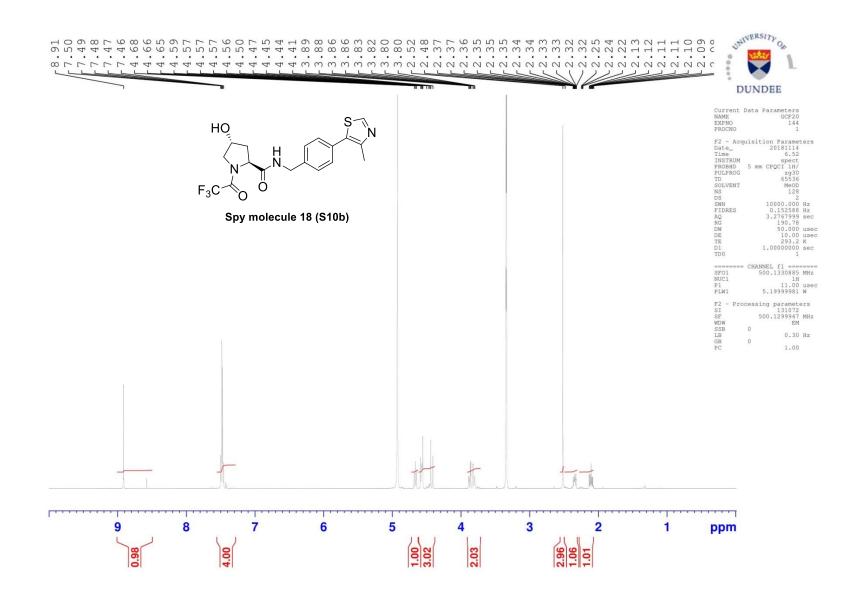


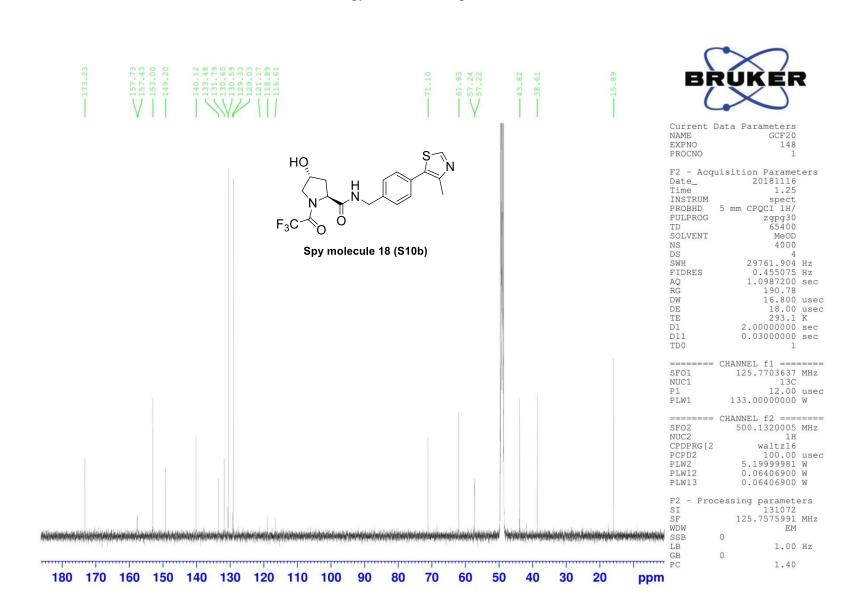
Spy molecule 17 (Compound S10a)



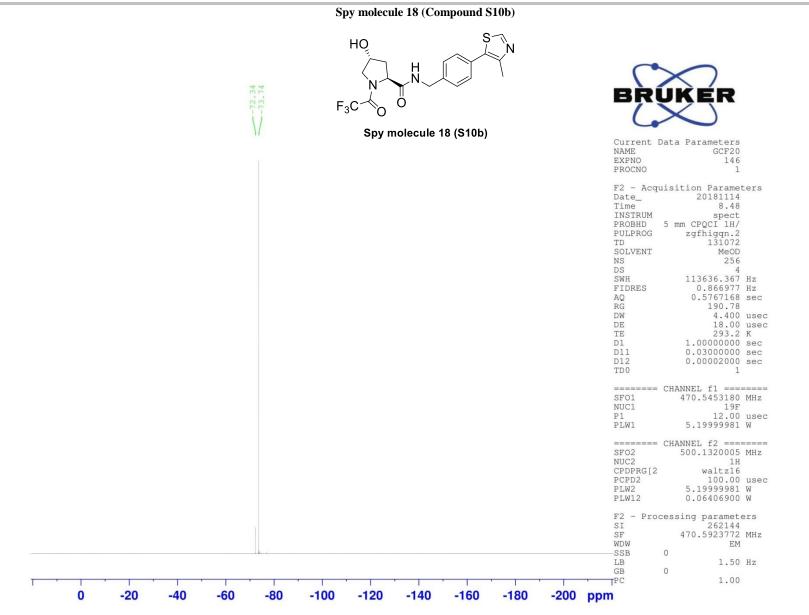


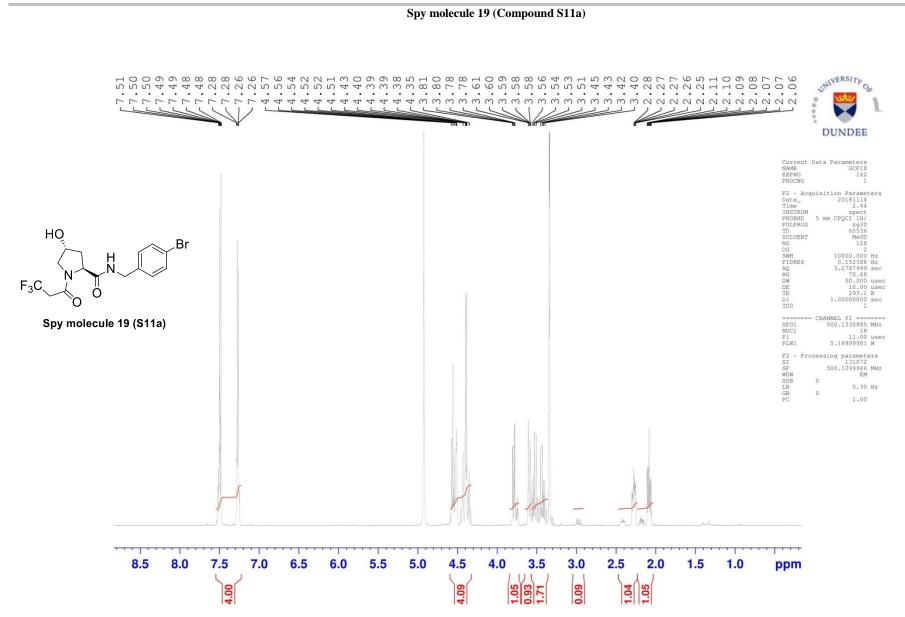
Spy molecule 18 (Compound S10b)

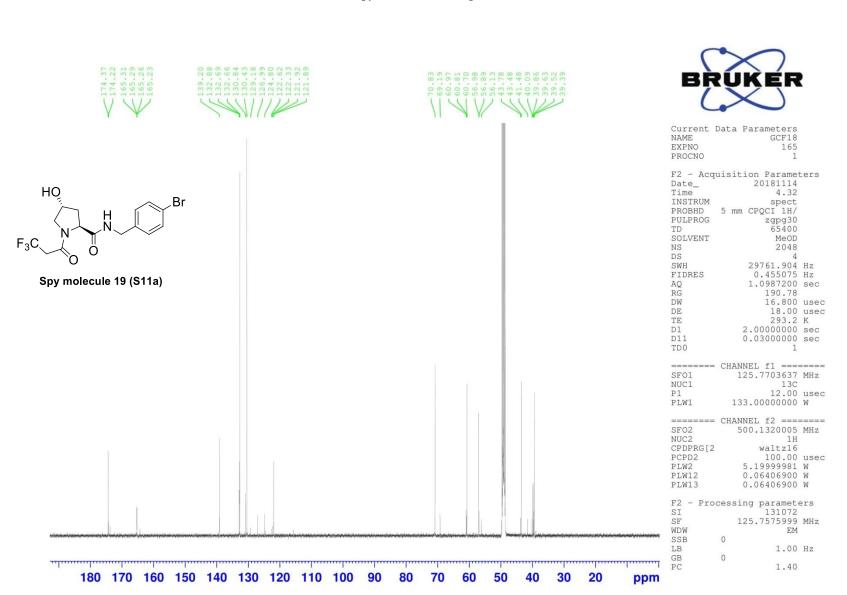




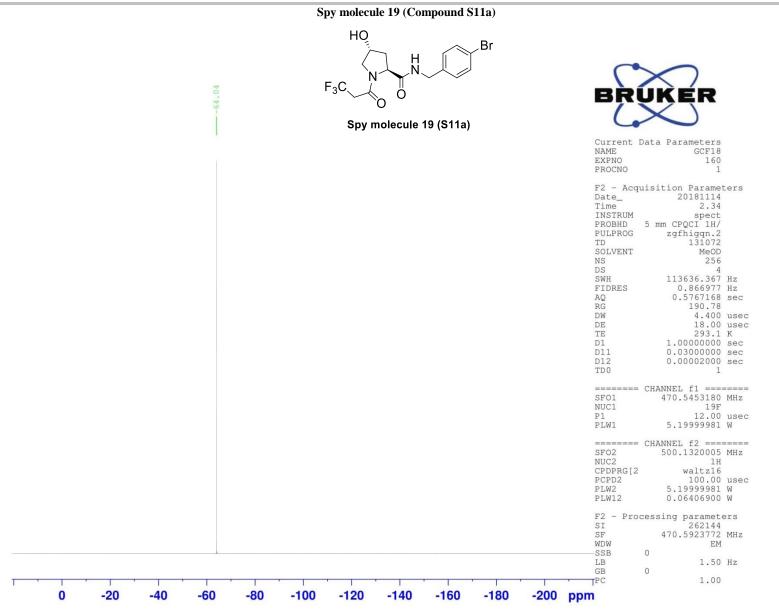
Spy molecule 18 (Compound S10b)



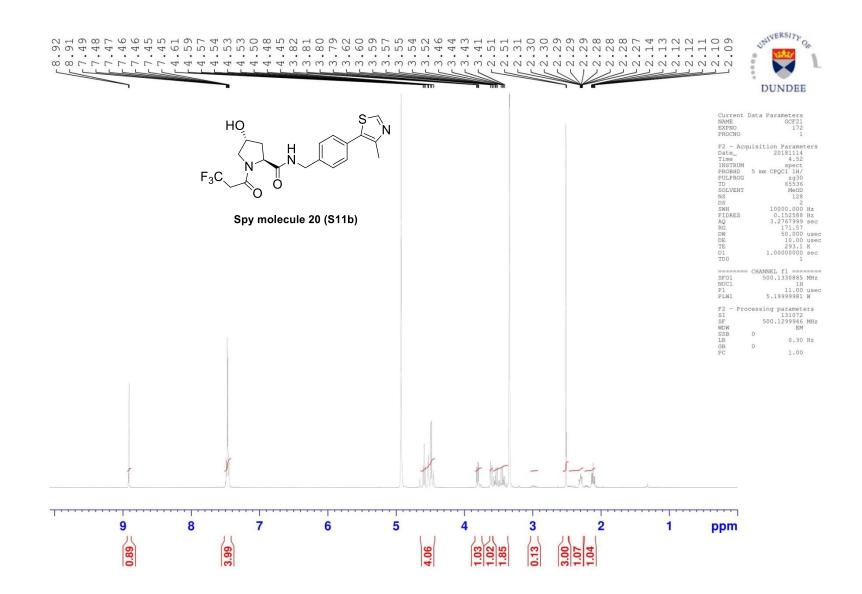


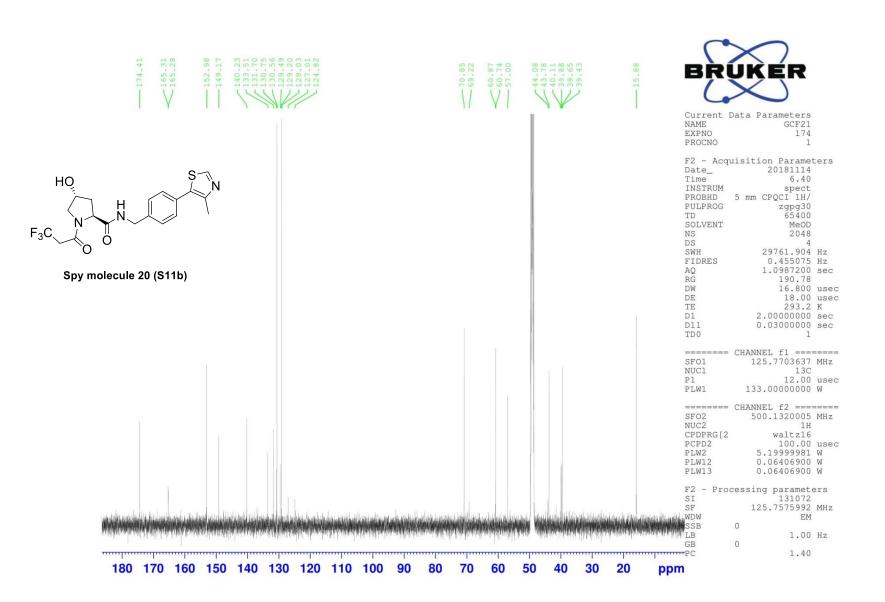


Spy molecule 19 (Compound S11a)

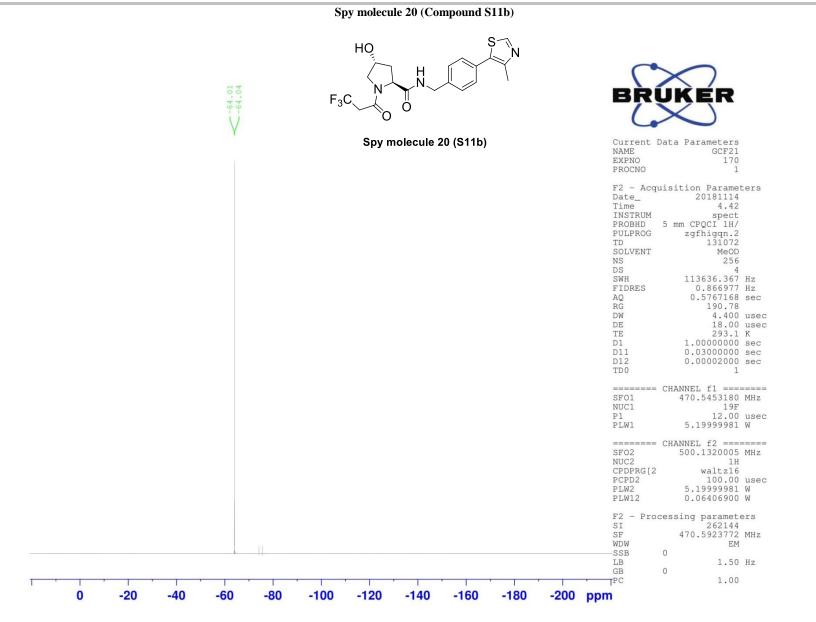


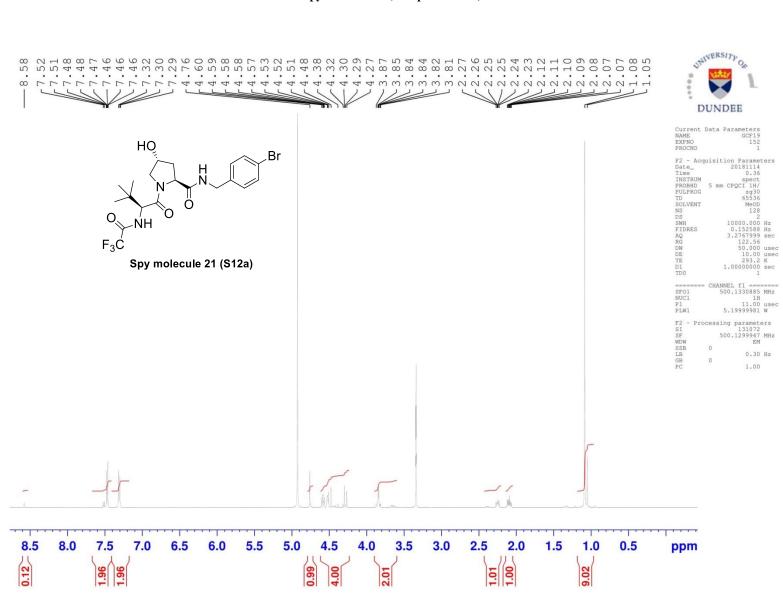
Spy molecule 20 (Compound S11b)

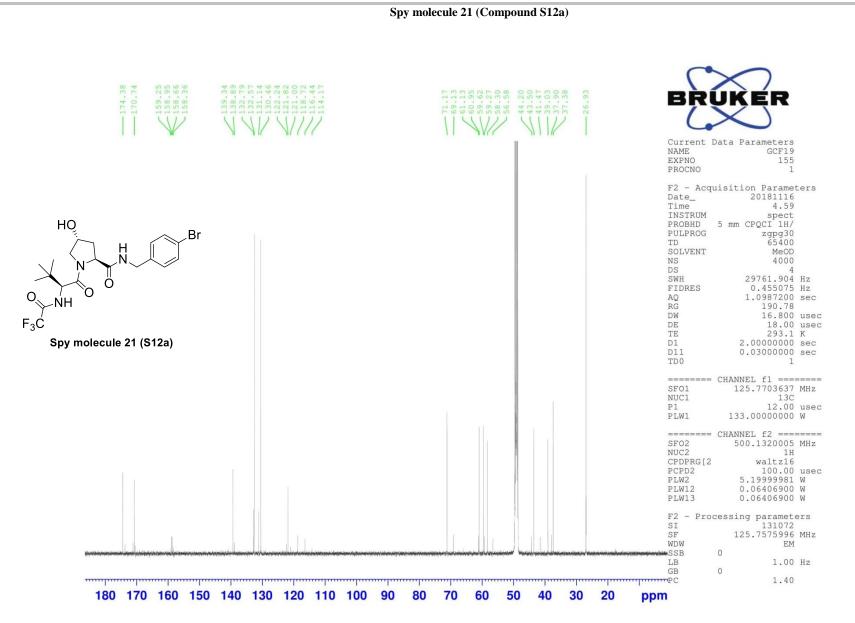


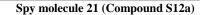


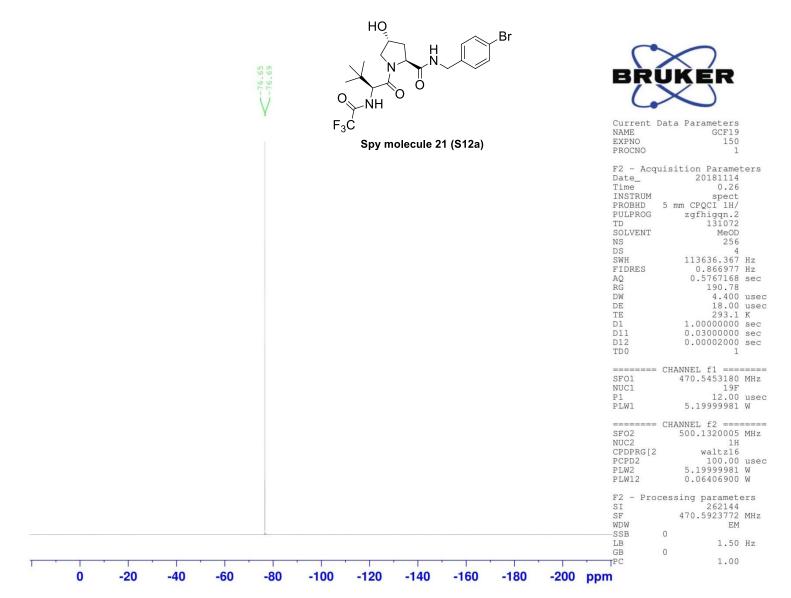
Spy molecule 20 (Compound S11b)

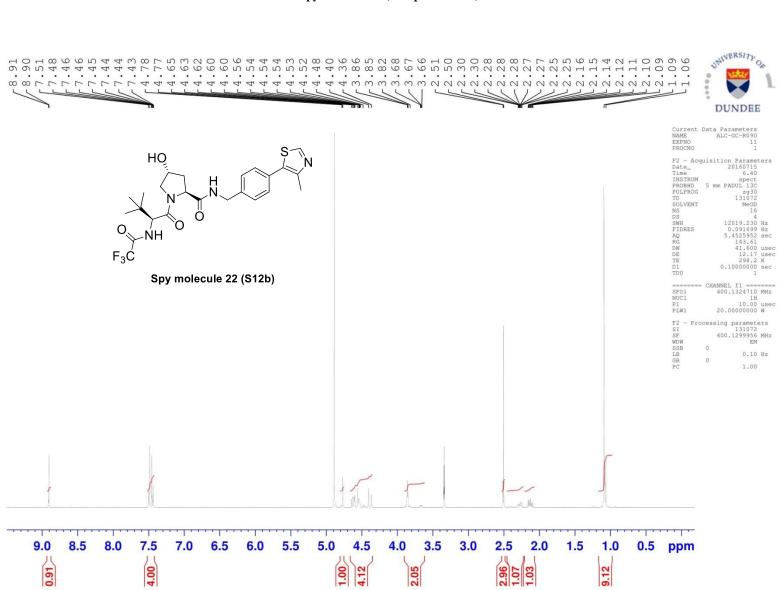




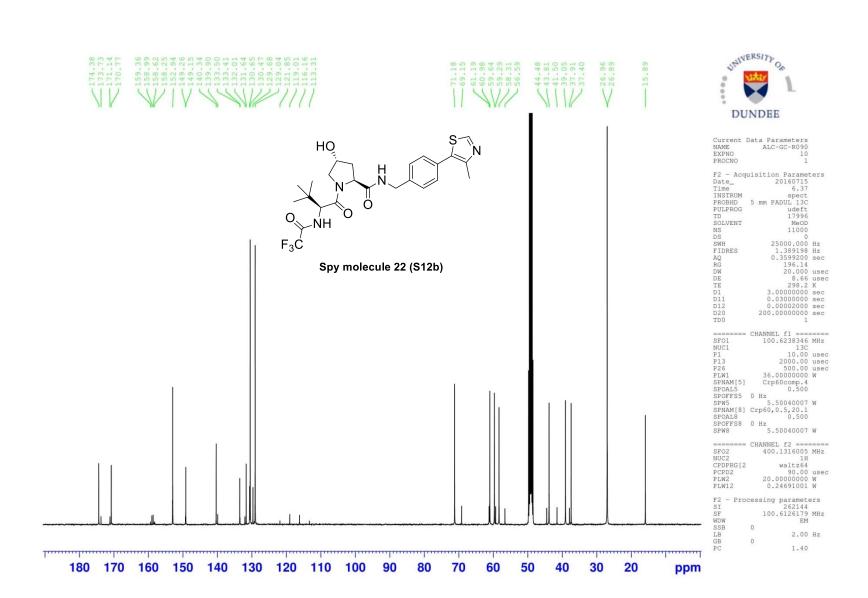




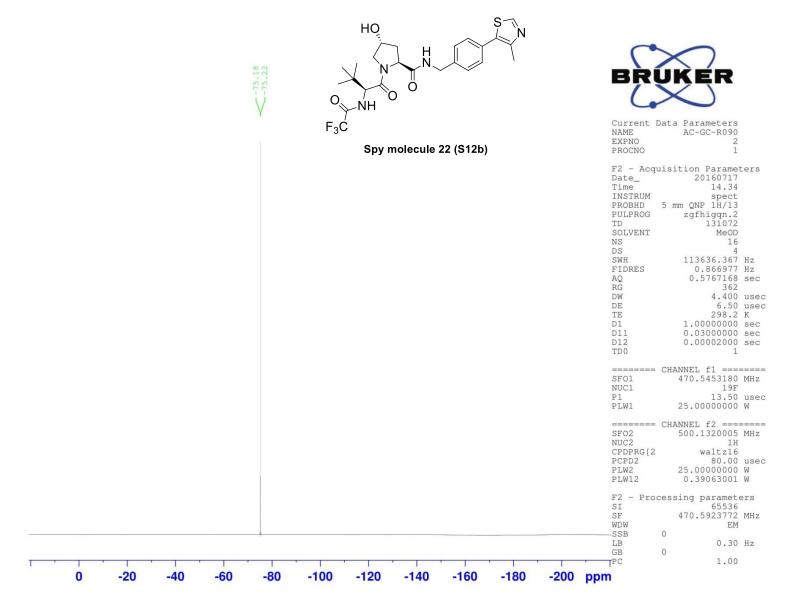




Spy molecule 22 (Compound S12b)



#### Spy molecule 22 (Compound S12b)



#### **10. References**

- [1] X. Lucas, I. Van Molle, A. Ciulli, J. Med. Chem. 2018, 61, 7387-7393.
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