SYNTHESIS, BIOPHYSICAL ANALYSIS AND BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF TRICYCLIC PYRONES AND PYRIDINONES AS ANTI-ALZHEIMER AGENTS

by

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B.Sc. (H), Maharishi Dayanand University, 2003 M.Sc., University of Delhi, 2003

AN ABSTRACT OF A DISSERTATION

submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Department of Chemistry College of Arts And Sciences

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Manhattan, Kansas

2009

Abstract

The objectives of this research project were to (i) synthesize different bicyclic and tricyclic pyrone and pyridinone compounds; (ii) study the mechanism of action of these compounds in solution as anti-A β (amyloid β) agents using different biophysical techniques; and (iii) study the biological activity of pyrone compounds for the counteraction of A β toxicity using MC65 cells, a human neuroblastoma cell line and 5X- familial Alzheimer's disease (5X FAD, a transgenic mice with five different mutations) mice.

A series of tricyclic pyrone and pyridinone compounds were investigated. The tricyclic pyrones and pyridinones were synthesized utilizing a condensation reaction between cyclohexenecarboxaldehye (25) and 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2-pyone (24) or 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2-pyridinone (51), respectively. A tricylic pyrone molecule CP2 (2, code name) was synthesized and has an adenine base unit attached to the pyrone core. For structure activity relationship (SAR) studies, the adenine group of CP2 was replaced with other DNA base units (thymine, cytosine and guanine) and various heterocyclic moieties. Since nitrogen containing compounds often exhibit increased bioactivity and brain-penetrating abilities, oxygen atom (O5') was displaced with a nitrogen atom in the middle ring of the tricyclic pyrone. A condensation reaction of pyrone **51** and **25** was carried out to give the linear pyranoquinoline (**52**) and the L-shaped pyranoisoquinoline (**53**).

The neurotoxicity of amyloid- β protein (A β) is widely regarded as one of the fundamental causes of neurodegeneration in Alzheimer's disease (AD). Recent studies suggest that soluble A β oligomers rather then protofibrils and fibrils may be the primary toxic species. Different biophysical techniques including atomic force microscopy (AFM), circular dichroism (CD), surface plasmon resonance (SPR) spectroscopy, and protein quantification assays were used to study the mechanism of aggregation of Alzheimer A β peptide in solution.

In search of potentially bioactive compounds for AD therapies, MC65 cell line was used as a screening model. Different tricyclic pyrone and pyridinone compounds protect MC65 cells from death. We studied the efficacy of CP2 *in vivo* by treatment of 5X FAD mice, a robust Aβ42-producing animal model of AD, with a 2-week course of CP2, which resulted in 40% and 50% decreases in non-fibrillar and fibrillar Aβ species respectively.

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Structure – Number Correlation List

















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List of Abbreviations

Ac ₂ O	Acetic anhydride		
BCA	Bicinchoninic acid		
BnBr	Benzyl bromide		
BnNH ₂	Benzyl amine		
CSA	Camphorsulfonic acid		
DCC	Dicyclohexylcarbodiimide		
DHP	Dihydropyrane		
DIBALH	Diisobutyl aluminium hydride		
DMAP	4-Dimethylaminopyridine		
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide		
DMF	Dimethylformamide		
FA	Formic acid		
HFIP	Hexafluoroisopropanol		
HMPA	Hexamethylphosphoramide		
LDA	Lithium diisopropylamine		
MCPBA	meta-Chloroperbenzoic acid		
MsCl	Methanesulfonyl chloride		
PBS	Phosphate-buffered saline		
PTSA	<i>p</i> -Toluenesulfonic acid		
RIPA	Radioimmune precipitation assay		
TBDMSCl	t-Butyldimethylchlorosilane		
TFA	Trifluoroacetic acid		

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Acknowledgements

I would like to give my most sincere gratitude to my research advisor, Dr. Duy H. Hua, for his insightful guidance, constant encouragement, and full support during my Ph.D. period. I have learned a lot from him both in experimental skills and moral character, especially in his dedication and persistent effort towards a scientific goal. I would also like to thank Dr. Stefan Bossmann, Dr. Kenneth Klabunde and Dr. Om Prakash and Dr. Kyeong-ok Chang for their time and instructions in serving on my advisory committee. I am also grateful to all other faculty and staff members in the Department of Chemistry for their help and support.

I sincerely thank all former and current members in Dr. Hua's group for their help in research and daily life. Special thanks go to Dr. Srinivas Battina and Dr. Yi Chen for their previous work in the synthesis of tricyclic pyrone compounds for the Alzheimer's project and Arleen Wu for her help during the biophysical studies of pyrone compounds. I also thank Lydia Roberts and Liang Zhang for providing me the starting material for my project. I am also grateful to Srinivas Battina, Kaiyan Lou, Huiping Zhao, Angelo Aguilar, Bernard Wiredu, Ana Jimenez, Aibin Shi, Mahendra Thapa, Keshar Prasain, Laxman Pokhrel, Thi Nyugen, Weier Bao, Allan Prior, and Angela for their help and friendship.

Special thanks are due to Dr. John Tomich and Sushanth Gudlur at Department of Biochemistry for their constant help and resources for the biophysical studies and to Dr. Om Prakash for his help in NMR studies of Alzheimer peptide.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents for their love and support through this period of my life and to my loving wife Rashmi Dhankhar for her immense support.

CHAPTER 1 - Synthesis of tricyclic pyrone and pyridinone compounds

1.1 Introduction

Neurodegenerative diseases¹ including Alzheimer's disease (AD),² Huntington's disease (HD),³ Parkinson's disease,⁴ amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease)⁵ and prion diseases⁶ involve protein misfolding which produce aggregates in different regions of the brain. It has been observed that different neurodegenerative diseases have different protein aggregates and pathologies as described in **Table 1.1**.⁷ Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a neurological protein misfolding disease and is the fourth leading cause of death. It is characterized by progressive dementia that leads to incapacitation and death. It includes synaptic loss and neuronal death, which over course of time is responsible for the loss of memory, personality and eventual death.⁸ AD affects 15 million people worldwide, and its incidence increases from 3.5% per year at age 65 to 19% at age 85 and to 47% over 85 years old.⁸ To date, there is no successful treatment for AD patients. In this chapter I will discuss the synthesis of different tricyclic pyrone and pyridinone compounds and evaluate their bioactivities for counteracting AD protein misfolding.

1.2 Background

Alzheimer's disease involves protein misfolding and is a progressive and irreversible brain disorder with no cure. There are two characteristic neuropathological lesions that define AD namely, (i) extracellular plaques, also called amyloid plaques which are mainly composed of amyloid beta (A β) peptides consisting of 39-43 amino acids, proteolytic cleavage products from amyloid precursor protein (APP)⁹; and (ii) intracellular tangles, also called neurofibrillary tangles (NFT), which are aggregates of A β and microtubule associated tau protein.¹⁰

The A β peptide segment is generated by the endoproteolysis of APP transmembrane protein by beta (β) and gamma (γ) secretase enzymes.¹¹ APPs are synthesized as N- and O-glycosylated integral transmembrane protein. They have a large amino (NH₂) terminal extracellular domain and a short 47 amino acids long cytoplasmic domain.¹² The biological function of APP is unknown and it hinders the understanding of pathophysiology of AD. Suspected functions of APP include inhibition of extracellular serine proteases,¹³ involvement in cell adhesion¹⁴, and synaptic plasticity.¹⁵ APP may function as a cell receptor.¹⁶

Firstly, APP is first cleaved by α - or β - secretase. α - Secretase cuts close to transmembrane domain, in the middle of the A β region of APP (**Figure 1.1**) and a a-APP ectodomain and a 83-residue carboxy terminal (C83) fragment is formed. On the other hand, β - secretase enzyme cleaves the APP forming β -APP ectodomain and a 99-residue carboxy terminal (C99) fragment. Proteolysis of C99 peptide residue fragment by gamma- (γ) secretase enzyme produces the heterogeneous A β (39-43 amino acids) peptide as shown in **Figure 1.1**.¹⁷

Disease	Etiology	Regions affected	Characteristic	Disease protein
			pathology	deposited
Alzheimer's	1.Amyloid	Cortex,	Neuritic plaque	A β peptide and
disease	precursor protein	hippocampus,	and	hyperphosphorolated
	2. PS1 and PS2	basal forebrain,	neurofibrillary	tau protein.
	3.Sporadic	brain stem	tangles.	
	(ApoE risk			
	factor)			
Huntington's	Huntingtin	Striatum, other	Intracellular	Huntingtin with
disease	(dominant)	basal ganglia	inclusions	polyglutamine
	Protein			expansion
Parkinson's	Sporadic	Cortex, substantia	Lewy bodies and	α-Synuclein
disease	α-Synuclein	nigra, locus	lewy neurites	
		ceruleus		
Amyotropic	Sporadic	Same as sporadic	Bomina bodies	Unknown
lateral	Superoxide		and axonal	
sclerosis	dismutase-1		spheroids	
(ALS)				
Prion disease	Sporadic, genetic	Cortex, thalamus,	Spongiform	Prion protein
	and infectious	brain stem,	degeneration	
		cerebellum, other	amyloid, other	
		areas	aggregates	

 Table 1.1. Neurodegenerative diseases: protein and pathology.7



Figure 1.1. Proposed pathway of generation of $A\beta$ peptide. (modified from reference **18** without the Author's permission)

Although the detailed mechanism of aggregation and its causes in brain remain unknown, extensive research has been conducted and it is widely accepted that A β monomer is non-toxic, soluble and possess random coil/ alpha helix secondary structure. These A β monomeric species can undergo physiological changes/ conformation changes and aggregation to form soluble oligomers (5-10 nm diameter and 6 nm height) and protofibrils (~180 nm length). The soluble oligomers undergo nucleation polymerization to form protofibrils and insoluble fibrils (**Figure 1.2**).¹⁸ Recent studies have shown that soluble A β oligomers, rather than insoluble A β fibrils are the primary toxic species in AD.¹⁹ Hence, the conversion of A β from a soluble, monomeric form to a soluble, aggregated forms appears to be the initial process of amyloid neurotoxicity. It is also

hypothesized that the intraneuronal accumulation of $A\beta$ is the first step of the amyloid cascade.²⁰ Also it has been proved that intracellular $A\beta$ induces a higher toxicity, being at least 10,000 times more toxic than extracellular $A\beta$.²¹



Figure 1.2. Proposed mechanism of $A\beta$ aggregation from monomers to fibrils. (Modified from reference **18** without the author's permission)

A β oligomers and protofibrils are highly neurotoxic, even in nanomolar concentrations, *in vitro*.²¹ A β 42 is more toxic and tends to aggregate faster than A β 40 due to its hydrophobicity. The following diagram shows the hydrophobicity indexes of the A β (1-42) peptide segment. The more positive units refer to the more hydrophobic β -sheet forming fragments. The more negative units refers to the more hydrophilic fragments (**Figure 1.3**).²²

Figure 1.3. The hydrophobicity indexes of amyloid (1-42) sequence. (Modified from reference **22** without the author's permission)

Although the elucidation of the genetic, biochemical and biophysical origin of AD is very complex, a number of factors have been determined to be involved in neuronal damage.

Alzheimer's disease occur in two forms: (1) the rare, early onset familial AD (FAD), an autosomal disorder caused by mutations in APP, presenilin1 (PS1) and presenilin 2 (PS2) membrane proteins. (2) A common sporadic non-familial AD, which results in the generation of A β 42.²³ Presenilins (PS1 and PS2) are integral membrane proteins with six to eight transmembrane domains. PS are mainly localized in the Endoplasmic reticulum (ER) and Golgi system.²⁴ Presenilin 1 (PS1) is believed to be an important component of the γ -secretase complex. Mutations in PS1 result in over production of the A β 42.²⁵ The toxicity of A β peptide also includes individual or combinations of apoptosis²⁶ and the disruption of calcium ion homeostatis,²⁷ toxic radicals,²⁸ metal ions,²⁹ pH³⁰ etc as depicted in **Figure 1.4**.



Figure 1.4. Contributing factors promoting Aβ aggregation and neuronal damage.

Recent studies have linked the A β aggregation with apolipoprotein E (ApoE).³¹⁻³² ApoE is a 34 KDa (~299 amino acids) lipid transport protein, which is synthesized in liver and brain. It

exists in three isoforms in the human population, ApoE2, ApoE3 and ApoE4. In central nervous system ApoE is a common apolipoprotein in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) and is secreted by glia cells in a high-density lipoprotein (HDL) like particle.³³ Strittmatter *et al.* showed that E4 allele of ApoE is a genetic risk factor of late onset Alzheimer's disease (LOAD).³⁴ The interaction of ApoE and A β was suggested when ApoE immunoreactivity was detected in extracellular amyloid deposits in AD brain. Recently, binding of the C-terminus residue of ApoE was observed with A β plaques and ApoE help to aid in the progression of small deposits to large deposits.³⁵ *In vitro* and *in vivo* data suggest that ApoE interaction with A β can affect mechanisms of both clearance and deposition of A β .³⁶⁻³⁸

It has been shown that several tricyclic pyrone (TP) compounds protect MC65 cells from cell death.³⁹ The structures of TP compounds are similar to that of pyripyropene A (1).⁴⁰ an acylcoenzyme A cholesterol O-acyl-transferase (ACAT) inhibitor (Figure 1.5). Pyripyropenes were isolated from Aspergillus fumigatus FO-12189 as microbial metabolites that strongly inhibit ACAT. ACAT is an enzyme that catalyzes intracellular esterification of cholesterol. ACAT plays a critical role in the events that are contributing to atherosclerosis. Inhibitors of ACAT hold a promise as antiatherosclerotic agents. Recently, there is a growing body of evidence that links cholesterol to the development of Alzheimer's disease.^{41,42} It has been showed that animals fed with cholesterol rich diets exhibit increased levels of AB over the normal or low cholesterol diet.⁴³ In vivo studies also support the above theory as increased cellular cholesterol levels result in the increase of A β production in rabbits and mouse models. 44 It was found that hypercholesterolemia induced by high cholesterol diet accelerated the AB deposition in APPtransgenic mice model of AD.⁴⁴ Refolo. et.al. reported that a cholesterol lowering drugs that inhibits 7-dehydrocholesterol-reductase enzyme (this enzyme increases the cholesterol biosynthesis), reduces the A β deposition in APP transgenic mice model.⁴⁴ Studies have been carried out on the interaction of AB with the plasma membranes, lipids including cholesterol and fatty acids.^{45,46} Binding of A β to the lipids is dependent on the aggregation state of A β i.e. monomeric AB does not bind to the lipids, and aggregated form of AB was found to bind to lipids.⁴⁶ On the other hand, different groups have investigated the modulation effect of cholesterol on the interaction of Aβ and neuronal cell surface.⁴⁷⁻⁴⁹ Probst *et al.* suggested that the initial deposition of AB occurs on the neuronal plasma membrane.⁵⁰ Later, Mori *et al.* found the

abnormal accumulation of cholesterol in A β plaques and suggested that cholesterol plays an important role in the formation of senile plaques.⁵¹ Based on these findings, we synthesized and screened a number of tricyclic pyrone analogs, and discovered that a small molecule named CP2 (2) can protects MC65 cells from cell death. Synthesis of these tricyclic pyrone derivatives originated from our initial plan of synthesis of pyripyropenes. CP2 was found to be lipophilic and cell permeable with the ability to block A β aggregation and disaggregates toxic A β oligomers and protofibrils to non-toxic monomers in solution.^{39, 52-54}



Figure 1.5. Structure of pyripyropene A and CP2.

1.2.1 Reported small compounds with potential Anti-AB activity

In the past decade, different organic compounds have been studied for the inhibition of aggregation of amyloid A β peptide as a therapeutic strategy for the treatment of AD. It includes apomorphine (**3**),⁵⁵ curcumin (**4**),⁵⁶ porphyrins (**5**),⁵⁷ congo red (**6**)⁵⁸, and Cu/Zn chelators such as Clioquinol, a 5-chloro-7-iodo-8-hydroxyquinoline (7)⁵⁹. Congo red was the first reported small molecule to bind to the amyloid plaque. These compounds and their various analogs have shown to inhibit A β aggregation. Although the mechanism of inhibition of aggregation is still unknown, many reported small molecules inhibitors share a structural similarity i.e. planarity and aromaticity that allows the alignment with the β -sheet structure (**Figure 1.6**). Current research is also looking at metal mediated oxidative stress.^{60,61} Abnormal levels of Cu, Zn and Fe have been reported in different parts of brain in neutrophil and plaque of a brain with AD. Concentration of

metal is 3-5 folds in AD patients when compared to a normal brain.⁶² Iron, copper and zinc have shown to enhance toxicity in *in vitro* A β cultures.^{63,64} It has been observed that A β peptides exert toxicity due to generation of cellular hydrogen peroxide, which facilitates apoptosis in neuron cell cultures.⁶⁵ Toxicity due to generation of H₂O₂ was confirmed by addition of catalase enzyme, which converts H₂O₂ to water.⁶⁶ It has been found that addition of Cu/Zn or Fe in 0.1-5mM initiate seeding of A β which induces aggregation. Resolubilization of A β plaque from the postmortem AD brain has also been reported using metal chelators.⁶⁷ Since metals interact with A β peptide and induce aggregation, ligands with intermediate affinity can be utilized to bind to the metal atom and thus disrupt the metal protein interactions responsible for A β aggregation. Clioquinol, a 5-chloro-7-iodo-8-hydroxyquinoline (CQ) has shown to have strong complexation with Cu and Zn thus has shown promising results (Phase II clinical trails) towards AD therapy.⁵⁹



Figure 1.6. Reported organic compounds with anti-AD activity.

1.2.2 Natural bioactive compounds with lactone core

Tricyclic pyrone molecule CP2 has pyran functionality, and it exists in a range of biologically active compounds. Arisugacins A (8) and B (9) metabolites, structurally similar to pyripyropenes, are extracted from the culture broth of *Penicillium sp.* and possess potent and selective acethlcholinesterage (ACHE) inhibitory activities. The IC₅₀ of arisugacins A and arisugacins B is 1 nM and 26 nM respectively.⁶⁸⁻⁶⁹



Figure 1.7. Bioactive microbial metabolites possessing pyran functionality.

Over the past 15 years, a number of engineered aromatic polyketides (**figure 1.8**) have been synthesized by using enzyme subunits (polyketides synthase enzymes; PKSs). These natural polyketide compounds have different structural backbones, but all contain 4-hydroxy-6methyl-2-pyrone functionality.⁷⁰ These engineered polyketides can be viewed as a library of aromatic pyrones, which can be used for the synthesis of different bioactive compounds of medicinal interest.⁷⁰ Ridley *et al.* synthesized a series of polyketides from the compounds shown in **Figure 1.9** by exploiting their pyrone core moiety, which was condensed with different α , β unsaturated aldehyde (**17**, **18** and **19**). Rearrangement proceeds via a Knoevenegal 6π electrocyclic ring closing reaction mechanism, whereby the amine-activated aldehyde undergoes a nucleophilic attack by the pyrone. Novel engineered pyranopyrones (**Figure 1.9**) were evaluated as tumor inhibitors in three different cell lines.⁷⁰ Hua *et al.* also reported the synthesis of a library of tricyclic pyranopyrones and found that only tricyclic pyrone with pyridine ring at position C11 are toxic to cells (structurally similar to arisugasin) and thus studied for acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitory activity whereas methyl group at C11 position are completely non-toxic to cells.⁷¹



Figure 1.8. Structures of engineered type II polyketides.⁷⁰


Figure 1.9. Aldehyde used (17 - 19) and the pyranopyrones prepared (20 - 23) in this study.⁷⁰

1.2.3 Previous studies in our laboratory

Previous studies in our laboratory have found that a tricyclic pyrone compound namely CP2 showed protection against MC65 cells, a human neuroblastoma cell line with $IC_{50} = 0.18 \text{mM}.^{52}$ In our laboratory, Dr. Yi Chen⁷² synthesized CP2 in four steps (**Scheme 1.1**). 4hydroxy-6-methyl-2-pyrone (**24**) and perillaldehyde were condensed in the presence of L-proline and ethyl acetate to afford a tricyclic pyrone. In order to induce chirality, (*S*)-(-)- perillaldehyde (**25**) was employed, and when refluxed with pyrone molecule (**24**) and L-proline, a single diastereoisomer (**26**) of tricyclic pyrone was obtained in a 78% yield.⁷¹ The compound obtained was purified by crystallization from hot ethyl acetate to afford yellow needle shape crystals and the structure and stereochemistry at C-5 was unambiguously determine through X-ray crystallography analysis.⁷¹ The mechanism for this condensation reaction has been proposed to take place via a 1,2 addition followed by dehydration and subsequent 6π - electrocyclic ring closing reaction (**Scheme 1.2**).⁷¹ The reason for the asymmetric induction might be from the isopropylene group since it needs to adopt the equatorial conformation to keep low transition energy, thus inducing an axial stereochemistry at C5 carbon. Selective hydroxylation of the terminal double bond in **26** was carried out by hydroboration followed by oxidation to yield two diastereomers (1:1) of alcohol (**27**) in a 69% yield. Mesylation of the alcohol (**27**) was achieved by treating alcohol with triethylamine and methanesulfonyl chloride to afford **28** in 94% yield. The mesylate **28** and adenine were taken together and heated in freshly distilled dimethylacetamide (DMA dried by CaH₂) at 150°C for 8 h. Column chromatographic separation provided two diastereomeric products (**2**, more polar, N-3) and (**29**, less polar, N-9 analog) in 10:1 ratio respectively.⁵²



Scheme 1.1 Syntheses of CP2 (code name; 2) and TP3 (code name; 29).



Scheme 1.2. Proposed mechanism for the synthesis of tricyclic pyrone molecule 33.

A successful condensation reaction between a 4-hydroxy pyrone cyclohexen-1carbonaldehyde was accomplished in good yield and has substantial applicability in forming fused ring structures. Although there were multiple double bonds in TP structure, but selective hydroxylation was achieved by using 0.33 equivalents of borane and the reaction was carried out at low temperature. If the hydroboration was performed at room temperature both the isopropylene double bond and internal C9a and C10 would have been hydroxylated. Regiochemistry at N3 and N9 in compound **2** and **29** was unequivocally assigned with the help of ²D-HMBC spectroscopy, where the correlation between carbon of CH₂N and adenine proton was observed.

1.3 Results and Discussion

My research project involved the synthesis and modification of tricyclic pyrones and pyridinones and the study of their anti-alzheimer activities. First project involved the modification of CP2 molecule. Our purpose is to make these tricyclic compounds more water-soluble and to improve their biological activity. Introducing a polar group such as alcohol at C-11 position, might improve the hydrophilicity and thus form better hydrogen bonding with the

A β peptide. Since CP2 has a stereocenter at position C-12, another modification of CP2 is to have a double bond at C-12 and avoid diastereomeric mixture and study its biological activity. Since nitrogen containing compounds often increase bioactivities and brain–penetrating ability, a prudent modification is the displacement of oxygen atom at position 2 and position 5 with a nitrogen atom. CP2 molecule has adenine unit attached to it, we want to examine the effect of other purine- and pyrimidine- units to the TP and their M65 cell protective activities.

1.3.1 Modification at C-11 position of CP2



The first modification involved the addition of a hydroxyl group on the C-11 methyl group. Dr. Chen first introduced an acid group at C-11 position by treating pyrone (26) with 1.5 equivalent of freshly prepared LDA at -78° C for 3 h. Anion formation was visible by the appearance of a blue color in the reaction mixture. Anion formed was stabilized by the addition of HMPA. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3h and the reaction was quenched by carbon dioxide. The product was obtained in excellent yield. Similarly, when anon was quenched by the addition of excess para-formaldehyde, compound (30) was obtained in 28% yield. Several attempts have been made to improve the yield but went in vain. The compound 30 was not stable at room temperature and was used quickly in the next reaction. Alcohol 30 was treated with acetic anhydride in pyridine at 0°C overnight to afford 31 in a 62% yield. Selective hydroxylation of 31 was obtained by hydroboration followed by oxidation. This afforded two diastereomers at C-12 of alcohol 32 in 1:1 ratio with a 56% yield. Alcohol 32 was mesylated using methanesulfonyl chloride and triethylamine at 0°C in 90% yield. Mesylate 33 was displaced with adenine by heating the reaction mixture in dry DMA in 150°C to afford 34 in 8% yield after purification by column chromatography (Scheme 1.3). Low yields were due to the

decomposition of reaction at high temperature, and no reaction was observed at a low temperature.⁷² The final step involved the removal of acetate group, but compound **34** was decomposed in basic conditions.



Scheme 1.3. Modification at C-11 methyl of CP2.

1.3.2 Synthesis of CP2 analog with a double bond at C12

Since CP2 compound contains two diastereomers, they were difficult to separate. We want to remove the stereocenter at C12 by introducing a double bond. Pyrone **26** was treated with SeO₂ and t-butylhydrogen peroxide in methylene chloride solvent, which produced **36** with a 22% yield. An alternative method was employed. This method involved the treatment of pyrone **26** with 0.1 equivalents of palladium (II) acetate, 3 equivalents of hydroquinone, and 0.2 equivalents of diethyl malonate, together in acetic acid solvent, which afforded compound **35** in a 60% yield after purification by column chromatography.⁷⁴ Hydrolysis of the acetate function of **35** was carried out using potassium carbonate in methanol at 0°C for 1h, which furnished **36** in a 82% yield. Alcohol **36** was treated with triethylamine followed by the addition of methanesulfonyl chloride to obtain compound **37** in 41% yield. Displacement of the mesylate

moiety with adenine was obtained by heating the reaction mixture in DMA at 150°C for 8 h to give compound **38** in a 26% yield.⁷⁵ The regiochemistry at N3 position of **38** was unequivocally assigned by 2D-HMBC NMR spectroscopy where a cross peak between CH₂N and C2'H (δ 8.02) was observed (Scheme 1.4).



Scheme 1.4. Synthesis of CP2 analog, compound 38.

1.3.3. Synthesis of heterocyclic pyrone analogs

The CP2 molecule has adenine unit attached to it. We want to examine the effect of other purine, pyrimidine, units and heterocyclic compounds to the TP and their M65 cell protective activities. Similar to CP2 synthesis, other heterocyclic TP analogs can be synthesized by treating mesylate (**28**) with other heterocyclic compounds. Yields obtained using same condition were moderate and required high temperatures. An alternate route was designed where alcohol **27** was converted to bromide (**39**) using PPh₃ and CBr₄ in 91% yield (**Scheme 1.5**). Adenine has a C6

amino electron donating effect, which leads to the nucleophilic attack at the N-3 position. 6chloropurine has no such electron donating effect thus no nucleophilic displacement reaction with bromide was observed. On the other hand, use of NaH with bromide and 6-chloropurine at 80°C for 12 h yielded N9 analog **40** in 82% yield (**Scheme 1.5**).⁷⁵



Scheme 1.5. Synthesis of TP analog 40.

Treatment of bromide and cytosine was studied and two compounds, **41** and **42**, were obtained. Compound **41** was the obtained in 28% yield, and the regiochemistry at N1 was unequivocally assigned by 2D-NOESY NMR spectroscopy where NOE correlation between CH₂N (δ 3.93 and 3.37 ppm) and C6-H of cytosine (δ 7.21 ppm) was observed. Also, the C13 carbon peak of CH₂N in **41** is 53.9 ppm whereas the C13 carbon peak of CH₂O in **42** is 69.7 ppm (**Scheme 1.6**).^{76,77} Other bases such as Cs₂CO₃ and K₂CO₃ were also used but no improvement in the yield was observed.



Scheme 1.6. Syntheses of TP analogs 41 and 42

Using similar conditions, other heterocyclic analogs were synthesized from 3-aminopyrazole-4-carbonitrile, 2-mercaptopyrimidine, thymine, and guanine respectively. The separate displacement reaction of bromide **39** with 3-amino-pyrazole-4-carbonitrile, 2mercaptopyrimidine, thymine and acetylated guanine with sodium hydride afforded displacement products **43**, **44**, **45** and **46** respectively. The N1 regiochemistry of **43** was unequivocally assigned by NOE spectroscopy.⁷⁸ Treatment of bromide and 2-mercaptopyrimidine with NaH was carried out and compound **44** was obtained, which is consistent to the reported literature.⁷⁹ (**Scheme 1.7**)



Scheme 1.7. Syntheses of TP analogs 43, 44, 45 and 46.

Similarly, the N1 regiochemistry of **45** was unequivocally assigned by NOE spectroscopy. NOE correlation was observed between the CH₂N (δ 3.82 and 3.40 ppm) and the C6-H of thymine (δ 6.94 ppm).⁸⁰ Treatment of bromide (**39**) and guanine with 1 equivalent was studied, and to our surprise, no product was obtained. When heated at high temperature, the starting material was decomposed and bases other than NaH were used but no product was isolated. The literature has shown some evidence that in order to obtain N9 alkylation, we have

to protect the C2 amino group of guanine.⁸¹⁻⁸² N9-alkylated product **46** was isolated with a 15% yield when N2-acetylated guanine and NaH when treated with bromide. NOE correlation was observed between the CH₂N (δ 4.46 and 4.03 ppm) and C8-H (δ 7.73 ppm) proton (**Scheme 1.7**).

Compound **47** has a structure similar to CP2 but is fluorescent in nature thus can be used for staining of plaques with fluorescence microscopy. No displacement reaction of 2aminopurine and bromide was observed, when no base was used. Different bases were used and Cs₂CO₃ yielded the compound **47** in 48% yield. The N9 regiochemistry was assigned by NOE correlation between the CH₂N ((δ 4.10 and 3.89 ppm) and the C8-H proton ((δ 7.71 ppm) and no correlation was observed between CH₂N and C6-H proton (**Scheme 1.8**).⁸³



Scheme 1.8. Synthesis of TP analogs 47.

The amine group is a polar group and is known to be important in lots of compounds. Therefore, efforts were made to attach an amino group directly to the tricyclic pyrone core. Dr. Yi Chen did it by selective hydroxylation of tricyclic pyrone **26** followed by oxidation to produce **27**. Mesylation, nucleophilic substitution and reduction of azide were carried out and the desired amine **48** was obtained. We are interested in this amine moiety because various polar heterocyclic aldehydes can be coupled to the tricyclic pyrone core. An alternative route to the amine synthesis was followed. The desired amine was obtained, which is being used to synthesize different analogs, by treating the tricyclic pyrone with BH₃•THF and in situ refluxing with hydroxylamine-*O*-sulfonic acid (**Scheme 1.9**).



Scheme 1.9. Synthesis of TP analog 48.

1.3.4 Synthesis of pyrone compounds having nitrogen in middle ring: pyranoquinolinone and pyranoisoquinonlinone compounds

Since nitrogen containing compounds often exhibit increased bioactivity and brainpenetrating abilities, only O5'-analogs have been synthesized in our laboratory. Another prudent modification with a potentially interesting anti-Alzheimer activity would involve the displacement of the oxygen atom (O5') with a nitrogen atom in the middle ring of tricyclic pyrone. Dr. Chen synthesized 4-amino-6-methyl-2-pyrone (**51**) from 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2pyrone (**24**) in three steps (**Scheme 1.10**).⁸⁴ He was interested in expanding the application of new condensation reaction (**Scheme 1.2**) towards the synthesis of biologically potent compounds. Compound **24** was stirred in DMF. Then PBr₃ in diethyl ether was added dropwise with constant stirring at 0°C followed by heating the reaction mixture at 60°C overnight. This yielded compound **49**, which was purified by column chromatography (81% yield).⁸⁴ The bromide was converted to azide by its treatment with sodium azide in DMF at 0°C followed by column chromatography which afforded compound **50** in a 80% yield. Reduction of azide **50** to amine **51** was achieved by treating the azide with Pd/C in ethanol at room temperature to form the product in a quantitative yield.⁸⁴ To their surprise, when amine **51** and cyclohexene-2-carbonaldehyde was refluxed in ethyl acetate, no reaction was observed. Several other attempts have been made but in vain. Eventually, a successful condensation reaction between amine **(51)** and aldehyde was observed in 0.1 equivalents of (S)-(+)-10-camphorsulfonic acid to give a mixture of linear tricyclic pyranoquinoline (19%) and L-shaped pyranoisoquinoline (48%). We extended the application of the reaction by using amine **51** and (*S*)-(-)-perillaldehyde **(25)** and (*d*)-camphor sulfonic acid, using toluene as a solvent and heated to 85°C for 3 days. This resulted in the formation of two compounds **(52** and **53)** in 1:1 ratio, which were separated by column chromatography in 36% yield (**Scheme 1.10**).⁷⁵



Scheme 1.10. Synthesis of pyranoquinolinone 52 and pyranoisoquinonlinone 53.

The reaction proceeds in two different pathways for the formation of **52** and **53**. The proposed mechanism for the formation of **52** is same as that of tricyclic pyrone. The condensation reaction has been proposed to take place via a 1,2 addition followed by dehydration and subsequent 6π - electrocyclic ring closing reaction. Compound **53** involved the imine formation followed by 6π - electrocyclic ring closing reaction (Scheme 1.11).



Scheme 1.11. Proposed mechanism for synthesis of 53.

1.3.5 Synthesis of novel pyranopyridinone analogs (N2'-analogs)

Water solubility is an important factor for any compound to be used in a biological system. With this aim in mind, an attempt has been made to increase the solubility of these tricyclic compounds. It can be achieved by replacing the oxygen atom at position 2 of pyrone with a nitrogen atom. This was achieved by heating 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2-pyrone (24) and *p*-methoxy benzyl amine MPM (54) in water for 24h followed by filtration of desired compound 55 in 60% yield.⁸⁰ We suspect the attack of amine group to MPM to the pyrone and leads to ring opening followed by dehydration to form a MPM-protected pyridinone. Compound 55 was treated with perialdehyde (25) in the presence of piperidine and glacial acetic acid and refluxed overnight in chloroform to give 56 in a 90% yield as a single diastereomer.⁸⁵ The proposed mechanism is shown in Scheme 1.12. Selective hydroxylation of 56 was achieved by hydroboration followed by treating the alcohol with triethylamine and methanesulfonyl chloride. Displacement of methanesulfonyl functional group with adenine was achieved by

heating the reaction mixture in DMA at 150°C. Compound **59** was purified by column chromatography. The N3'-regiochemistry is similar to that of CP2 (**2**) and is unequivocally assigned by 2D NOESY NMR spectroscopy (**Scheme 1.12**). The final step involved the removal of the MPM group but was unsuccessful with DDQ, CAN, and TFA as either no reaction or decomposition of the starting material was observed. An alternate approach was therefore employed (**Scheme 1.12**).⁷⁵



Scheme 1.12. Synthesis of a novel protected N2' pyridinone compound.



Scheme 1.13. Proposed mechanism for the synthesis of tricyclic pyrone molecule 56.

4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2-pyrone (24) was heated in the presence of a 28% NH₄OH solution for 6 h, resulting in the formation of yellow precipitate, which was filtered and crystallized from ethanol to afford **61** in an 80% yield as a yellow solid.⁸⁶ A mixture of pyridinone (**61**), perialdehyde (25), piperidine and glacial acetic acid was refluxed overnight in chloroform to yield **62** in a 91% yield.⁸⁵ Protection of the pyridinone nitrogen was achieved by its treatment with triethylamine base followed by addition of di-tert-butyldicarbonate (Boc)₂O at 0°C overnight to afford 63 in 97% yield. Selective hydroxylation of the terminal double bond was obtained by treating 63 with BH₃•THF in THF at -20°C followed by oxidation with H₂O₂ and NaOH, which resulted in the formation of compound 64 in 65% yield as two diasteromers in 1:1 ratio. Mesylated product 65 was obtained by treating the alcohol with triethylamine and methanesulfonyl chloride in a 79% yield. Displacement of the mesyl functional group with adenine was achieved by heating the reaction mixture in distilled DMA at 150°C for 8 h. Compounds 66 and 67 were purified by column chromatography. Because of high reaction temperature, the Boc protecting group was removed during the course of the reaction (Scheme 1.14). The N3 and N9 regiochemistry of 66 and 67 was unequivocally assigned using 2D NOESY spectroscopy and was in agreement with compound 2 and 29.



Scheme 1.14. Synthesis of novel pyridinone compounds.

The nitrogen atom at position 2 was successfully installed using ammonium hydroxide. The condensation reaction was used for the synthesis of tricyclic pyridinone core structure and a single diasteromer was obtained. The stereochemistry at C5a carbon was unambiguously determined through the X-ray crystallography analysis.

1.3.6. Synthesis of bicyclic pyrone and pyridinones analogs

More recently, we focused our attention on the synthesis of an array of bicyclic compounds with different substituents attached to them and in the screening of their anti-AD

activity. Pyridinone **61** was treated with triethylorthoformate and aniline in DMF:Acetic acid (3:1) mixture and refluxed for two hours. After the aqueous work up, **68** was obtained in 72% yield.⁸⁷ Aldehyde **69** was obtained from **68** by refluxing it in 5% aqueous potassium carbonate solution for one hour in an open reaction vessel.⁸⁸ Ethanol was used as a crystallization solvent to obtain aldehyde product in 95% yield as yellow solid. Treatment of **69** with [(methoxycarbonyl)methylene]triphenyl phosphorane in refluxing toluene for 2 hours led to the formation of 3,4-unsubstituted pyranopyridine **70** in 60% yield (**Scheme 1.15**).⁸⁹



Scheme 1.15. Synthesis of novel bicyclic pyridinone compounds using a Wittig reagent.

1.4 Conclusion and future work

Neurodegenerative diseases mainly occur because of protein misfolding. There is no cure for AD. In our laboratory, we are currently synthesizing different tricyclic pyrones and pyridinones, modifying L-shape fused pyranoisoquinolinone, and synthesized tricyclic pyridinones containing a nitrogen atom at 2 position as well as analogs having a nitrogen atom at position 5. CP2 has a structural scaffold that is accessible for optimization and for further synthesization for more CP2 analogs by modification at positions C11 and C13. These potentially position modifications remains a part of our future work.

1.5 Experimental Section

(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-Isopropenyl-3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9-tetrahydro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1] benzopyran (24)



To a solution of 5 g (0.04 mol) of **24** in 200 ml of ethyl acetate under argon at room temperature was added 6.55 g (0.04 mol) of aldehyde **25** and 2.28 g (0.02 mol) of L-proline. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 5 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored using TLC using hexane and ethyl acetate as a developing solvent. The reaction mixture was washed with water and brine. The organic layer was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. Column chromatographic on silica gel using gradient mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate afforded to give a yellow solid of **26** in 78% yield. Purification can also be performed by recrystallization using ethyl acetate as a solvent. [α]²²_D = +31.9⁰ (*c* 0.75, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.1 (s, 1H, C10H), 5.72 (s, 1H, C4H), 5.1 (dd, *J* = 11 Hz, 5Hz, 1H, C5a H), 4.75 (m, 1H, =CH), 4.73 (m, 1H, =CH), 2.48 (ddd, *J*=14Hz, 4Hz, 2.4Hz, 1H), 2.22-2.02 (m, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H, C4-Me), 1.88-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.74(s, 3H, MeC=), 1.31 (ddd, *J* = 25Hz, 12.8Hz, 4Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR δ 163.4, 162.6, 161.7, 147.9, 132.3, 109.8, 109.6, 99.9, 97.5, 79.4, 43.6, 40.0, 32.5, 32.1, 20.9, 20.3.; MS FAB, m/z 259 (M + 1).

(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)-2-Hydroxy-1-methylethyl]- 3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9tetrahydro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (27)



To a cold solution (-20°C) of 3 g (11.74 mmol) of **26** in 25 mL of THF under argon, was added 5.85 mL (5.85 mmol) of BH₃·THF complex (1.0 M in THF). After stirring the solution at -20°C for 1 h, kept in the refrigerator for 48 h at -20°C. Warm to 0°C and added 15 mL of 0.5% aqueous NaOH and 8 mL of 30% hydrogen peroxide were added. The solution was stirred for 2 h, diluted with 200 mL of water, and extracted three times with dichloromethane. The combined organic layer was washed with 100 mL of brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane and diethyl ether as eluents to give 1.72 g (63% yield; based on reacted **26**) of **27** as a mixture of two diastereomers at C12 (1:1; based on 13C NMR spectrum) and 0.43 g (14% recovery) of **27**. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.08 (s, 1H, C4H), 5.71 (s, 1H, C10H), 5.07 (t, *J*= 5.2 Hz, 1H, C5aH), 3.62 – 3.52 (m, 2H, CH₂O), 2.46 (m,1H), 2.19 (s, 3H, Me), 2.13 – 1.99 (m, 2H), 1.73 – 1.51 (m, 3H), 1.19 – 1.12 (m, 2H), 0.92 (d, *J*=7 Hz, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR (two diastereomers) δ 163.5, 162.8, 161.6, 133.0, 109.0, 100.0, 97.4, 79.7, 79.6, 65.6, 39.9, 39.8, 39.4, 37.2, 37.1, 36.9, 32.4, 32.3, 31.1, 30.4, 28.5, 20.1, 13.2 (Me for a diastereomer), 13.1 (Me for another diastereomer).

(5a*S*,7*S*)-3-Methyl-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)- 2-(methanesulfonyloxy)-1-methylethyl]-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9-tetrahydro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (28)



To a cold (0°C) solution of 1.72 g (6.23 mmol) of **27** in 20 mL of methylene chloride under argon, were added 2.62 mL (18.69 mmol) of triethylamine and 0.72 mL (9.35 mmol) of dimethylacetamide chloride. The solution was stirred for 3h, diluted with 50 mL of NaHCO₃, and extracted three times with methylene chloride. The combined dichloromethane layer was washed with washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane and ether as eluents to give 2.16g (94% yield) of **28** as a mixture of two diastereomers (1:1; based on ¹³C NMR spectrum). ¹H NMR δ 6.08 (s, 1H, C4H), 5.71 (s, 1H, C10H), 5.06 (m, 1H, CHO), 4.18 – 4.08 (m, 2H, CH₂O), 3.03 (s, 3H, MeS), 2.49 (d, *J*=2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.19 (s, 3H, Me), 2.14 – 1.11 (m, 7H), 0.98 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 163.2, 162.4, 161.7, 132.1, 109.6, 105.2, 99.8, 79.2, 79.1, 72.3, 38.9, 37.5, 37.4, 37.3, 37.2, 36.9, 32.2, 32.1, 30.8, 28.6, 20.2, 13.3 (Me for a diastereomer), 13.2 (Me for another diastereomer).

(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)-2-Bromo-1-methylethyl]- 3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9-tetrahydro-1oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (39)



To a cold (0°C) solution of 0.50 g (1.83 mmol) of **27** (2 diastereomers at C12) and 0.96 g (3.65 mmol) of triphenyl phosphine in 10 mL of dichloromethane under argon was added 1.52 g

(4.56 mmol) of carbon tetrabromide in small portions. The reaction was stirred at 0°C for one hour. The solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator and the residue was subjected to a silica gel column (the silica gel was pre-treated with 1% triethylamine before packing the column) using a gradient mixture of hexane and diethyl ether as eluents to give 0.56 g (91% yield) of **39**. ¹H NMR δ 6.09 (s, 1 H), 5.71 (s, 1 H), 5.08 (dt, J = 12, 7 Hz, 1 H, C5aH), 3.41 (d, J = 4 Hz, 2 H, CH₂Br), 2.47 (dd, J = 14, 4 Hz, 1 H), 2.19 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.18 – 2.10 (m, 1 H), 2.03 (q, J = 11 Hz, 1 H), 1.80-1.70 (m, 3 H), 1.60 – 1.50 (m, 1 H), 1.20 – 1.16 (m, 1 H), 1.03 (d, J = 7 Hz, 3 H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ (2 diasteromers) 163.4, 162.6, 161.8, 132.4, 109.5, 99.9, 97.5, 79.4, 79.3, 39.6, 39.5, 39.2, 39.1, 38.8, 38.7, 37.0, 32.2, 32.1, 31.0, 28.7, 20.3, 15.9, 15.8. HRMS calcd for C₁₆H₂₀BrO₃ (M+H⁺) 339.0596, found 339.0597.

(5aS,7S)-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)- 2-(N3-adenyl)-1-methylethyl]-3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9-tetra hydro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (2)



(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)-2-(N9-Adenyl)-1-methylethyl]-3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9-tetra hydro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (29)



In a round bottom flask fitted with reflux condenser, taken 1.0 g of mesylate **28** (2.7 mmol) and 0.36 g of adenine (2.7 mmol) together and vacuum dried, purge argon and added 8 mL of DMA (dried over CaH₂) and reflux at 140°C overnight. TLC showed no starting material.

Cool to RT, dilute sodium bicarbonate and extract twice with methylene chloride and with 5% methanol in methylene chloride. Combined organic layer washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate and column chromatographed on silica using methylene chloride and methanol as eluent to afford CP2 (2) in 21% yield and TP2 (29) in 6% yield. Compound 29 (less polar; two diastereomers at C12); ¹H NMR & 8.36 (s, 1H, C2'H), 7.78 (s, 1H, C8'H), 6.09 (s, 1H, C4H), 5.89 (bs, 2H, NH₂, 5.72 (s, 1H, C10H), 5.01 (m, 1H, C5aH), 4.24 (dd, J= 14, 7 Hz, 1H, CHN), 4.01 (dd, J = 14, 7 Hz, 1H, CHN), 2.5–1.2 (a serious of m, 8H), 2.19 (s, 3H, Me), 0.90 (d, J = 7Hz, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 163.4, 162.7, 161.9, 155.6 (adenine moiety), 153.5 (adenine moiety), 150.6 (adenine moiety), 140.9 (adenine moiety), 132.1, 119.8 (adenine moiety), 109.9, 99.9, 97.5, 79.4, 79.2, 47.9, 39.3, 38.4, 38.3, 38.1, 38.0, 36.2, 32.3, 32.1, 31.1, 27.8, 20.3, 13.8. Compound 2 (more polar; 2 diastereomers at C12); ¹H NMR δ 8.07 (s, C8 H of adenine), 7.98 and 7.97 (2 s, 1H, C2H of adenine; 2 diastereomers), 6.10 (s, 1H, C10H), 5.72 and 5.71 (2s, 1H, C4H), 5.02 (m, 1H, C5aH), 4.50 (dd, J = 14, 7 Hz, 1H, CHN), 4.08 (2dd, J = 14, 8 Hz, 1H, CHN; 2 diastereomers), 2.46 (m, 2H), 2.20 and 2.19 (2s, 3H, Me; 2 diastereomers), 2.10-1.22 (a series of m, 6H), 0.91 (d, J1/47.0 Hz, 3H, Me). ¹³C NMR (2 diastereomers) & 163.2 and 163.1, 162.4, 161.7, 154.4, 154.0, 150.7, 142.3, 131.7 and 131.6, 121.0, 199.8, 99.7, 97.3, 79.0, 78.8, 54.5 and 54.4, 38.9, 38.1 and 38.0, 37.1 and 36.9, 36.1, 32.0 and 31.9, 30.7, 27.6, 20.1, 13.3 and 13.2. HRMS calculated for C₂₁H₂₄N₅O₃ (M+H) 394.1881, found 394.1875.

((2-hydroxyethyl)-7-isopropenyl-1H,7H-5a,6,8,9-tetrahydro-1-oxopyrano[4,3b][1]benzo



To a solution of 0.4 mL of diisopropylamine in 28 mL of THF was cooled to -20° C. To this solution 1.8 mL of 1.6M *n*BuLi was added and stirred for 30 minutes. Thus obtained solution is the freshly prepared LDA and the reaction vessel is maintained at -20° C to reduce the decomposition. In another flask, to a solution of 250 mg (0.969 mmol) of **26** in 5 mL THF was

cooled to -78°C. To this solution 19.4 mL (1.9372 mmol) of freshly prepared LDA was added via syringe. After five minutes of stirring at -78°C the solution turned deep blue in color indicating the formation of anion. This solution was stirred at -78°C for 2 h. In another flask a suspended solution of 290 mg (9.6899 mmol) of paraformaldehyde in 10 mL THF was taken and cooled to 0°C. The anion formed in another flask is transferred to the paraformaldehyde-THF mixture via cannula and allowed to stir at 0°C and slowly warmed to room temperature. The color of the solution turned reddish brown after reaching to room temperature. The progress of the reaction was monitored using TLC using hexane and diethylether as a developing solvent. The reaction mixture was washed with water and extracted using methylene chloride. The organic layer was washed with aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution and brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. Column chromatographic on silica gel using gradient mixture of hexane and diethyl ether afforded to give a moderate yield 28% of 30 and 15% of starting material **26**. $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +23.7^\circ$ (C 3.5, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR CDCl₃ δ 6.06 (s, 1 H), 5.86 (s, 1 H), 5.11 (dd, J = 11, 4.4 Hz, 1 H, C5a-H), 4.75 (s, 1 H, =CH₂), 4.73 (s, 1 H, =CH₂), 3.90 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2 H, CH₂O), 2.69 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, CH₂), 2.48 (m, 1 H), 2.20 ~ 1.70 (a series of m, 5 H), 1.73 (s, 3 H, Me), $1.34 \sim 1.25$ (m, 1 H); ¹³C NMR δ 163.3, 162.1, 148.0, 132.8, 109.9, 109.1, 101.1, 98.2, 79.6, 59.6, 43.6, 40.0, 37.3, 32.6, 32.1, 30.5, 20.9. HRMS calculated for C₁₇H₂₁O₄ (M+H) 289.1440, found 289.1411.

(5aS,7S) - 3 - (2 - Acetoxyethyl) - 7 - isopropenyl - 1H, 7H - 5a, 6, 8, 9 - tetrahydro - 1 - oxopyrano [4, 3b] [1]



To a solution of 202 mg (0.7014 mmol) of **30** in 3 mL of distilled pyridine was added 143 mg (1.402 mmol) of acetic anhydride at 0°C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 7 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored using TLC using hexane and diethylether as a developing

solvent. The reaction mixture was washed with water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with 1M HCl, aqueous sodium bicarbonate and brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. Column chromatographic on silica gel using gradient mixture of hexane and diethyl ether afforded to give 140 mg of **31** in 62% yield. $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +16.9^\circ$ (C 0.15, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR CDCl₃ δ 6.10 (s, 1 H), 5.79 (s, 1 H), 5.13 (dd, J = 11.2, 4.8 Hz, 1 H, C5a-H), 4.75 (s, 1 H, =CH₂), 4.73 (s, 1 H, =CH₂), 4.33 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2 H, CH₂O), 2.76 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, CH₂), 2.48 (m, 1 H), 2.20 ~ 1.70 (a series of m, 5 H), 1.74 (s, 3 H, Me), 1.28 (qd, *J* = 12.8, 4 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR δ 170.9, 163.0, 160.9, 147.9, 132.9, 110.0, 109.6, 100.8, 98.5, 79.6, 60.8, 43.6, 40.0, 33.6, 32.5, 32.1, 30.5, 20.1, 20.9. HRMS calculated for C₁₉H₂₃O₅ (M+H) 331.1545, found 331.1536.

(5aS,7S)-3-(2-Acetoxyethyl)-7-(2-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9-tetrahydro-1oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (32)



To a solution of 143 mg (0.433 mmol) of **31** in 3 mL THF under argon was added 0.43 mL (0.433 mmol) of 1M BH₃•THF and the solution was stirred at -78°C for 30 minutes and stirred at -20°C for two days. To the solution at 0°C, 1 mL of water, 0.5 mL of 0.1% NaOH aqueous solution, and 0.5 mL of 30% H₂O₂ were added, and the resulting solution was stirred for 1 h. The solution was washed with water and extracted with methylene chloride. The organic layer was washed with aqueous solution of ammonium chloride and brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. Column chromatographic on silica gel using gradient mixture of hexane and diethyl ether afforded to give 72 mg of **32** in 56% yield along with 14% recovery of starting material **31**. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ δ 6.07 (s, 1 H), 5.78 (s, 1 H), 5.10 (m, 1 H, C5a-H), 4.32 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2 H, CH₂O), 3.56 (m, 2 H, CH₂OH) 2.76 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, CH₂), 2.47 (m, 1 H), 2.17 ~ 1.10 (a series of m, 7 H), 0.91 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR δ 170.9, 163.0,

160.9, 133.4, 118.1, 109.3, 100.8, 98.5, 79.9, 66.0, 60.8, 40.2, 39.5, 37.6, 37.5, 37.3, 33.6, 31.2, 21.0. HRMS calculated for C₁₉H₂₅O₆ (M+H) 349.1651, found 349.1649.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-3-(2-Acetoxyethyl)-7-[(2-methanesulfonyloxy)-1-methylethyl]-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9tetrahydro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (33)



To a solution of 85 mg (0.2442 mmol) of **32** in 3 mL of methylene chloride was added 0.11 mL (0.7326 mmol) of triethylamine at 0°C. To the above solution 28 μ L (0.3664 mmol) of methanesulfonyl chloride was added at 0°C, the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored using TLC using hexane and diethyl ether as a developing solvent. The reaction mixture was washed with water and extracted with methylene chloride. The organic layer was washed with aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate and brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. Column chromatographic on silica gel using gradient mixture of hexane and diethyl ether afforded to give 94 mg of **33** in 90% yield. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ δ 6.05 (s, 1 H), 5.76 (s, 1 H), 5.07 (m, 1 H, C5a-H), 4.29 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2 H, CH₂O), 4.10 (m, 2 H, CH₂OS), 3.00 (s, 3 H, CH₃S), 2.73 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, CH₂), 2.47 (d, *J* = 14 Hz, 1 H), 2.17 ~ 1.10 (a series of m, 7 H), 2.02 (s, 3 H, CH₃CO), 0.96 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR δ 170.9, 162.9, 162.3, 161.1, 132.7, 109.7, 100.7, 98.4, 79.4, 72.3, 60.8, 39.1, 37.6, 37.5, 37.4, 33.6, 32.3, 30.9, 13.3. HRMS calculated for C₂₀H₂₇O₈S (M+H) 427.1426, found 427.1434.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-3-(2-Acetoxyethyl)-7-[(1*R*) and (1S)- 2-(N3-adenyl)-1-methylethyl]-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9tetrahydro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (34)



To a solution of 94 mg (0.22 mmol) of 33 in 1.5 ml of DMA was added 33 mg (0.2442 mmol) of adenine and the resulting mixture was heated to 150°C for 7 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and 50 mg (0.59 mmol) of sodium bicarbonate was added and DMA was distilled out under reduced pressure to obtain a brown residue. This residue was made to dissolve in minimum amount of methanol and applied to column directly. Column chromatographic on silica gel using gradient mixture of chloroform and methanol afforded to give 5 mg of 34 in low yields. The product was further purified by HPLC using acetonitrile, water and 0.1% trifluoro acetic acid as solvents to give pure **34**. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ δ 8.07 (s, C8'H of adenine), 8.01 & 8.00 (2s, 1 H, C2'H of adenine; 2 diastereomers), 6.10 (s, 1 H, C10H), 5.79 & 5.78 (2s, 1 H, C4H), 5.05 (m, 1 H, C5aH), 4.54 (2dd, J = 13.5, 6.5 Hz, 1 H, CHN; 2 diastereomers), 4.34 & 4.33 (2t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2 H, CH₂O; 2 diastereomers), 4.07 (dd, J = 13.5, 8 Hz, 1 H, CHN), 2.78 & 2.76 (2t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2 H, CH₂; 2 diastereomers), 2.07 & 2.06 (2s, 3 H, Me; 2 diastereomers), $2.60 \sim 1.22$ (a series of m, 8 H), 0.91 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H, Me). ¹³C NMR 182.0, 181.6, 164.8, 163.3, 161.1, 155.8, 152.9, 148.0, 141.6, 131.1, 129.6, 129.1, 121.3, 100.7, 79.1, 78.9, 63.8, 59.2, 50.5, 33.6, 29.9, 21.1, 15.1. HRMS calculated for C₂₄H₂₈N₅O₅ (M+H) 466.2090, found 466.2081.

(5aS,7S)-7-[(3-acetoxy-1-propen-2-yl)]-3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9-tetrahyro-1-oxopyranol [4,3-b][1]benzopyran (35)



A solution of 200 mg (0.78 mmol) of **26**, 17 mg (78 µmol) of palladium acetate, 0.25 g (2.3 mmol) of benzoquinone, and 25 mg (0.16 mmol) of diethyl malonate in 5 mL of acetic acid under argon was stirred and heated to 75°C for 2 h and 47°C for 24 h. The reaction solution was cooled to 25°C, filtered through celite, washed with aqueous NaHCO₃, water, and brine, dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄), concentrated and column chromatographed on silica gel using a mixture of hexane: ethyl acetate as eluent to give 0.15 g (60% yield) of **35** (5a*S*, 7*S*)-7-[(3-acetoxy-1-propen-2-yl)]-3-methyl-1*H*, 7*H*-5a,6,8,9-tetrahyro-1-oxopyranol[4,3-b][1]benzopyran. [α]²²_D = +24.3° (c 0.07, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR δ 6.12 (s, 1 H), 5.73 (s, 1 H), 5.12 (s, 1 H, =CH₂), 5.10 - 5.09 (m, 1 H, CHO), 5.02 (s, 1 H, =CH₂), 4.58 (s, 2 H, CH₂OAc), 2.51 (dt, *J* = 14, 4 Hz, 1 H), 2.28 - 2.24 (m, 2 H), 2.20 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.11 (s, 3 H, CH₃CO), 2.11 ~ 2.05 (m, 1 H), 1.93 – 1.89 (m, 1 H), 1.77 (dd, *J* = 12, 11 Hz, 1 H), 1.36 – 1.31 (m, 1 H); ¹³C NMR δ 170.9, 163.4, 162.7, 161.9, 146.4, 131.8, 112.9, 110.0, 99.9, 97.5, 79.2, 66.1, 40.0, 39.5, 32.4, 32.3, 21.2, 20.3. HRMS calculated for C₁₈H₂₁O₅ (M+H⁺) 317.1389, found 317.1396.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-[(3-Hydroxy-1-propen-2-yl)]-3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9-tetrahyro-1-oxopyrano [4,3-b][1]benzopyran (36)



A solution of 0.59 g (1.9 mmol) of the above acetoxy tricyclic pyrone **35** and 0.51 g (3.7 mmol) of potassium carbonate in 5 mL of methanol was stirred at 0°C for 1 h. The solution was neutralized with 1 N HCl, and extracted with dichloromethane three times. The combined extract was washed with aqueous NH₄OH, water, and brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane and ether as eluents to give 0.42 g (82% yield) of compound **36**. $[\alpha]^{22}_{D} = +20.0^{\circ}$ (c 0.05, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR δ 6.12 (s, 1 H), 5.73 (s, 1 H), 5.13 – 5.12 (m, 1 H, CHO), 5.11 (s, 1 H, =CH₂), 4.94 (s, 1 H, =CH₂), 4.15 (d, *J*

= 7 Hz, 2 H, CH₂O), 2.51 (dt, J = 14, 4 Hz, 1 H), 2.34 - 2.23 (m, 2 H), 2.20 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.18 ~ 2.08 (m, 1 H), 1.93 - 1.83 (m, 1 H), 1.77 (q, J = 12 Hz, 1 H), 1.40 - 1.28 (m, 1 H); ¹³C NMR δ 163.5, 162.7, 161.7, 151.4, 132.2, 109.5, 109.4, 99.9, 97.4, 79.3, 64.9, 40.2, 38.9, 32.4 (2 C), 20.2; HRMS calculated for C₁₆H₁₉O₄ (M+H⁺) 275.1283, found 275.1305.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-[(3-methanesulfonyloxy-1-propen-2-yl)]-3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9-tetrahyro-1oxopyranol[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (37)



A cold (0°C) solution of 0.15 g (0.54 mmol) of alcohol **36**, 92 mg (0.80 mmol) of methanesulfonyl chloride, 0.20 mL (1.61 mmol) of triethylamine in 5 mL of methylene chloride was stirred under argon for 2 h. The reaction solution was diluted with dichloromethane (30 mL) and washed with aqueous NaHCO₃, water, and brine, dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄), concentrated, column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane, diethyl ether and ethyl acetate as eluents to give 77 mg (41% yield) of **37**. $[\alpha]^{22}_{D} = +21.1^{\circ}$ (c 0.09, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR δ 6.10 (s, 1 H), 5.71 (s, 1 H), 5.26 (s, 1 H, =CH₂), 5.14 (s, 1 H, =CH₂), 5.11 (dd, *J* = 12, 5 Hz, 1 H, CHO), 4.70 (s, 2 H, CH₂O), 3.03 (s, 3 H, SCH₃), 2.51 (dt, *J* = 14, 3 Hz, 1 H), 2.37 - 2.20 (m, 2 H), 2.19 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.15 ~ 2.03 (m, 1 H), 1.95 - 1.89 (m, 1 H), 1.77 (dd, *J* = 12, 11 Hz, 1 H), 1.32 (qd, *J* = 13, 4 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR δ 163.4, 162.6, 161.9, 144.8, 131.5, 116.1, 110.1, 99.9, 97.5, 78.9, 71.5, 39.8, 38.7, 38.1, 32.2, 32.1, 20.3; HRMS calculated for C₁₇H₂₁O₆S (M+H⁺) 353.1059, found 353.1044.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-{[3-(6-Amino-9*H*-purin-3-yl)-1-propen-2-yl]}-3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9tetrahydro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (38)



A solution of 77 mg (0.22 mmol) of mesylate **37** and 30 mg (0.22 mmol) of adenine in 1.5 mL of DMA was heated at 150°C under argon for 10 h. DMA was removed via distillation under vacuum (0.1 mm Hg), and the residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography using a gradient mixture of hexane, ethyl acetate, and methanol as eluents to give 19 mg (26% yield) of compound **38**. $[\alpha]^{22}_{D} = -24.7^{\circ}$ (c 0.09, CHCl₃) ¹H NMR δ 8.07 (s, 1 H, C2'H), 8.02 (s, 1 H, C8'H), 6.11 (s, 1 H), 5.72 (s, 1 H), 5.14 (s, 1 H, CH₂N), 5.05 (s, 2 H, =CH₂), 5.03 – 5.00 (m, 1 H, CHO), 4.92 (s, 1 H, CH₂N), 2.50 – 2.42 (m, 1 H), 2.32 - 2.29 (m, 1 H), 2.26 – 2.12 (m, 1 H), 2.20 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.08 ~ 1.93 (m, 2 H), 1.80 (q, *J* = 12 Hz, 1 H), 1.36 (qd, *J* = 12, 4 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR δ 163.4, 162.6, 162.0, 154.5, 154.2, 151.1, 145.9, 142.6, 131.3, 120.8, 114.2, 110.2, 99.9, 97.5, 78.8, 53.1, 39.9, 39.5, 32.3, 32.2, 20.3; HRMS calculated for C₂₁H₂₂N₅O₃ (M+H⁺) 392.1723, found 392.1715.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)-2-(6-chloropurin-9-yl)-1-methylethyl]-3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9tetrahydro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (40)



To a solution of 3.0 mg (0.15 mmol) of NaH in 1.5 mL of DMF under argon was added 23 mg (0.15 mmol) of 6-chloropurine at 25°C, and the solution was stirred for 1 h. This solution was then added to a solution of 50 mg (0.15 mmol) of bromide **39** in 1.5 mL of DMF via

cannula. The reaction solution was stirred at 25°C for 24 h and 80°C for 20 h, diluted with aqueous NH₄Cl, and extracted twice with diethyl ether. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of dichloromethane and methanol as eluents to give 50 mg (82% yield) of compound **40** (as two diastereomers at C12). ¹H NMR δ 8.69 & 8.68 (2 s, 1 H, C2'H), 8.04 & 8.03 (2 s, 1 H, C8'H), 6.03 (s, 1 H), 5.66 & 5.64 (2 s, 1 H), 5.00 – 4.90 (m, 1 H, C5aH), 4.28 (ddd, *J* = 14, 7, 2 Hz, 1 H, CH₂N), 4.04 (ddd, *J* = 14, 9, 3 Hz, 1 H, CH₂N), 2.48 – 2.38 (m, 1 H), 2.13 & 2.12 (2 s, 3 H, Me), 2.20 - 2.02 (m, 2 H), 1.96-1.78 (m, 1 H), 1.79 – 1.56 (m, 1 H), 1.50 – 1.40 (m, 1 H), 1.34 - 1.18 (m, 2 H), 0.91 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 163.4 & 163.3, 162.7 & 162.6, 161.9, 152.2, 151.4, 145.5, 131.8, 110.0, 99.8, 97.5, 79.2 & 79.0, 48.4 & 48.3, 39.1, 38.4 & 38.3, 38.26 & 38.2, 36.6, 36.4, 32.2 & 32.0, 31.6, 30.9, 28.0, 20.3, 13.94 & 13.91. HRMS calculated for C₂₁H₂₂ClN₄O₃ (M+H⁺) 413.1380, found 413.1372. 2D NOESY spectrum shows correlation of δ C8'-H (δ 7.21 ppm) signal with CH₂N (δ 3.93 and 3.39 ppm) peaks.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)-2-(N1-cytosinyl)-1-methylethyl]-3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9 tetrahyro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (41)



(5aS,7S)-7-((R)-1-(4-amino-1,2-dihydropyrimidin-2-yloxy) propan-2-yl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-3-methylpyrano[4,3-b]chromen-1(5aH)-one (42)



To a solution of 24 mg (0.59 mmol) of NaH in 3 mL of DMF under argon was added 66 mg (0.59 mmol) of cytosine at 25°C, and the solution was stirred for 1 h. This solution was then added to a solution of 0.20 g (0.59 mmol) of bromide 39 in 2 mL of DMF via cannula, and the resulting solution was stirred at 25°C for 24 h and 85°C for 24 h. The reaction solution was diluted with dichloromethane and washed with water, and brine, dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of dichloromethane and methanol as eluents to give 21 mg (10% yield) of compound 42 (less polar; 2 diastereomers (-O compound) and 62 mg (28% yield) of compound 41 (more polar; 2 diastereomers) along with 25 mg of tricyclic pyrone 26 (from dehydrobromination reaction). Compound 41: (more polar) ¹H NMR δ 7.21 (d, J = 7 Hz, 1 H, C6'H), 6.04 (s, 1 H), 5.87 (d, J =7 Hz, 1 H, C5'H), 5.72 (s, 1 H), 5.06 – 5.00 (m, 1 H, C5aH), 3.98 – 3.84 (m, 1 H, CH₂N), 3.42 – 3.33 (m, 1 H, CH₂N), 2.48 – 2.38 (m, 1 H), 2.30 – 2.10 (m, 1 H), 2.19 (s, 3 H), 2.08 – 1.92 (m, 2 H), 1.78 - 1.52 (m, 3 H0, 1.30 - 1.12 (m, 1 H), 0.84 (d, J = 6 Hz, 3 H); 13 C NMR δ 165.5, 163.6, 162.7, 161.9, 156.9, 146.0, 132.5, 109.4, 100.0, 97.4, 95.2, 79.46 & 79.40, 53.9, 38.3, 37.1 & 36.5, 32.3, 31.8 & 31.0, 29.9 & 28.0, 20.3, 13.5. 2D NOESY spectrum shows correlation of δ 7.21ppm signal with δ 3.93 and 3.39 ppm. Compound 42 (less polar): ¹H NMR δ 8.02 (d, J = 7Hz, 1 H, C6'H), 6.10 (d, J = 7 Hz, 1 H, C5'H), 6.07 (s, 1 H), 5.70 (s, 1 H), 5.08 (m, 1 H, C5aH), 4.97 (s, 2 H, NH₂), 4.22 - 4.13 (m, 2 H, CH₂N), 2.46 (d, J = 14 Hz, 1 H), 2.19 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.15 - 1.54 (m, 5 H), 1.34 - 1.10 (m, 2 H), 1.01 (d, J = 7 Hz, 3 H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 165.4, 164.9, 163.5, 162.8, 161.7, 157.6, 133.0, 109.3, 100.0, 99.7, 97.5, 79.8 & 79.6, 69.7, 39.4, 37.4 & 37.3, 37.2 & 37.1, 36.9, 32.5 & 32.4, 31.2 & 28.5, 20.3, 13.5 & 13.4. HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₂₄N₃O₄ $(M+H^+)$ 370.1767, found 370.1760. 2D NOESY spectrum shows no correlation between δ 8.02 and 4.22 – 4.13 ppm.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)-2-Amino-1-methylethyl)- 3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9-tetrahydro-1oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (48)



To a cold (-20°C) solution of 500mg (1.94 mmol) of **26** in 2 mL THF was added 0.64mL (0.64 mmol) of BH₃•THF complex (1.0 M in THF). After stirring the solution from -20°C to 0°C over a period of 30 minutes was added the hydroxylamine-*O*-sulfonic acid and refluxed the reaction mixture for 3 h. Cool down to the room temperature and diluted with 1N HCl and extracted with ethyl acetate twice. Combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated to recover 310 mg (62%) the starting material **26**. The aqueous layer was basified using 3 M NaOH and extracted with ethyl acetate twice. Organic layer was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated to give 125 mg (62%; based on reacted **26**) of **48** as a mixture of two diastereomers at C12 (1:1; based on 13C NMR spectrum). ¹H NMR δ 6.07 (s, 1H, C4H), 5.71 (s, 1H, C10H), 5.07 (m, 1H, C5aH), 2.73 (m, 1H, 2 isomer, CHN), 2.58 (m, 1H, 2 isomers, CHN), 2.46 (d, 1H), 2.19 (s, 3H, Me), 2.15–1.10 (m, 7H), 0.91 (d, J = 7 Hz, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 163.4, 162.7, 161.7, 132.9, 109.3, 100.0, 97.5, 79.8 and 79.7 (2 isomers), 66.0, 46.0 and 45.9 (2 isomers), 40.9, 39.1, 38.5 and 38.4 (2 isomers), 37.1, 32.6 and 32.4 (2 isomers), 31.3, 31.2, 28.6, 20.3, 15.5, 14.3. HRMS calculated for C₁₇H₂₂NO₃ (M+1) 276.1601, found 276.1610.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)-2-(3-amino-4-cyanopyrazol-1-yl)-1-methylethyl]-3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9-tetrahyro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (43)



To a mixture of 16 mg (0.15 mmol) of 3-aminopyrazole-4-carbonitrile and 6 mg (0.15 mmol)mmol; 40% oil) of sodium hydride under argon was added 0.5 mL of DMF, and the solution was stirred at 25°C for 1 h. To it was added a solution of 50 mg (0.15 mmol) of bromide 39 in 1 mL of DMF via cannula, and the solution was stirred at 25°C for 24 h and 85°C for 24 h. The reaction solution was cooled to 25°C, diluted with dichloromethane, washed with water, and brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate as eluents to give 23 mg (43% yield) 43. ¹H NMR δ 7.51 and 7.48 (2s, 1 H, C5'H), 6.10 (s, 1 H), 5.72 (s, 1 H), 5.10 – 5.00 (m, 1 H, C5aH), 4.26 (bs, 1 H, NH), 4.11 (bs, 1 H, NH), 3.95 (dd, J = 14, 6 Hz, 1 H, CH₂N), 3.69 (dd, J = 14, 8 Hz, 1 H, CH₂N), 2.56 – 2.42 (m, 1 H), 2.20 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.16 – 1.90 (m, 3 H), 1.80 - 1.50 (m, 3 H), 1.34 – 1.12 (m, 1 H), 0.89 & 0.84 (2d, J = 7 Hz, 3 H, Me; 2 diastereomers); ¹³C NMR δ 163.5 & 163.4, 162.8 & 162.7, 161.9, 157.0, 140.3, 134.7, 132.3 & 132.1, 114.5 & 113.8, 109.8 & 109.7, 99.9 & 97.5, 79.4 & 79.3, 56.5 & 51.6, 39.1 & 39.06, 38.1 & 37.9, 37.5 & 37.4, 36.7 & 36.4, 32.3 & 32.1, 28.1 & 27.9, 20.3, 13.7 & 13.6. HRMS calculated for $C_{20}H_{22}N_4O_3Na$ (M+Na⁺) 389.1590, found 389.1593. 2D NOESY spectrum shows correlation between C5'-H of pyrazole (8 7.51 and 7.48 ppm, two diastereomers) with 3.95 and 3.69 ppm signals.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)-2-(pyrimidino-2-thio)-1-methylethyl]-3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9tetrahyro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (44)



To a mixture of 17 mg (0.15 mmol) of 2-mercaptopyrimidine and 6 mg (0.15 mmol) of NaH (in 40% oil) under argon was added 0.5 mL of DMF, and the solution was stirred at 25°C

for 1 h. To it was added a solution of 50 mg (0.15 mmol) of bromide **39** in 1.5 mL of DMF via cannula, and the solution was stirred at 25°C for 48 h, diluted dichloromethane, washed with water, and brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate as eluents to give 49 mg (90% yield) of compound **44**. ¹H NMR δ 8.51 (d, *J* = 5 Hz, 1 H, C4'H), 6.97 (t, *J* = 5 Hz, 1 H, C5'H), 6.09 (s, 1 H), 5.71 (s, 1 H), 5.11 – 5.02 (m, 1 H, C5aH), 3.31 (dd, *J* = 13, 7 Hz, 1 H, CH₂S), 3.02 (dd, *J* = 13, 6 Hz, 1 H, CH₂S), 2.52 – 2.44 (m, 1 H), 2.20 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.08 – 1.95 (m, 1 H), 1.90 - 1.56 (m, 4 H), 1.34 – 1.10 (m, 2 H), 1.04 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 3 H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 172.7, 163.4 & 163.3, 162.6, 161.7, 157.3 (2 C), 132.7, 116.6, 109.4, 100.0, 97.5, 79.7 & 79.5, 39.9 & 39.8, 39.2, 37.5 & 37.4, 35.6 & 35.5, 32.4 & 32.3, 31.0 & 28.5, 20.2, 16.0 & 15.9. HRMS calculated for C₂₀H₂₃N₂O₃S (M+H⁺) 371.1429, found 371.1443.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)-2-(N2-Acetyl-N9-guaninyl)-1-methylethyl]-3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9-tetrahyro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (46)



To a solution of 57 mg (0.29 mmol) of N²-acetylguanine in 1 mL of DMF under argon was added 13 mg (40% oil; 0.32 mmol) of sodium hydride, and the solution was stirred at 25°C for 30 min. To it, a solution of 0.10 g (0.29 mmol) of bromide **39** in 2 mL of DMF was added via cannula under argon, and the solution was stirred at 25°C for 24 h and 60°C for 48 h. The solution was diluted with dichloromethane and washed with water, and brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of chloroform and methanol to give 20 mg (15% yield) of compound **46** along with 30 mg of compound **26** (tricyclic pyrone). Compound **53**: ¹H NMR δ 12.23 (bs, 1 H, NH), 10.49 (bs, 1 H, NH), 7.73 (s, 1 H, C8'H), 6.11 (s, 1 H), 5.73 & 5.71 (2s, 1 H, 2 diastereomers at C12), 5.08 – 5.02 (m, 1 H,

C5aH), 4.45 (dd, J = 13, 6 Hz, 1 H, CH₂N), 4.03 (dd, J = 13, 9 Hz, 1 H, CH₂N), 2.50 (t, J = 14 Hz, 1 H), 2.39 (s, 3 H, COMe), 2.20 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.06 – 1.94 (m, 2 H), 1.86 – 1.56 (m, 3 H), 1.36 – 1.22 (m, 2 H), 0.87 (d, J = 7 Hz, 3 H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 173.4, 163.45 & 163.41, 162.7, 161.9, 157.0, 153.4, 148.2, 143.6, 132.1, 112.5, 109.9, 99.9, 97.5, 79.4 & 79.2, 51.4 & 51.3, 39.2 & 39.17, 38.5 & 38.4, 36.7, 32.3 & 32.2, 30.8 & 28.3, 24.8, 20.3, 13.6 & 13.5. HRMS calcd for C₂₃H₂₆N₅O₅ (M+H⁺) 452.1934, found 452.1917. 2D NOESY spectrum shows correlation between δ 7.73 with 4.45 and 4.03 ppm signals.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)-2-[(N1-thyminyl)-1-methylethyl]-3-methyl-1*H*,7*H*-5a,6,8,9tetrahyro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (45)



To a solution of 14 mg (0.35 mmol) of NaH in 2 mL of DMF under argon was added 45 mg (0.35 mmol) of thymine at 25°C, and the solution was stirred for 1 h. To it was added a solution of 0.10 g (0.29 mmol) of bromide 39 in 1 mL of DMF via cannula. The reaction solution was stirred at 25°C for 24 h and 80°C for 24 h, cooled to 25°C, and added 9 µL of acetic DMF was removed under vacuum at 50°C, and the resulting solid was column acid. chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of dichloromethane and methanol as eluent to give 45 mg (42 % yield) of compound 45. ¹H NMR & 9.17 (bs, 1 H, NH), 6.94 (s, 1 H, C6'H), 6.07 (s, 1 H), 5.70 (s, 1 H), 5.10 - 5.00 (m, 1 H, C5aH), 3.82 (dd, J = 13, 6 Hz, 1 H, CH₂N), 3.40 (dt, J = 13, 9 Hz, 1 H, CH₂N), 2.50 – 2.42 (m, 1 H), 2.18 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.10 - 1.50 (m, 5 H), 1.91 (s, 3 H, Me), 1.34 - 1.12 (m, 2 H), 0.89 (d, J = 7 Hz, 3 H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 164.2, 163.4, 162.7, 161.8, 151.1, 140.7 & 140.6, 132.1, 110.9 & 110.8, 109.84 & 109.80, 99.9, 97.5, 79.4 & 79.2, 52.3 & 52.1, 39.1, 38.4 & 38.2, 37.5 & 37.4, 36.7 & 36.4, 32.3 & 32.2, 30.9 & 28.1, 20.3, 13.5 & 12.5. HRMS calculated for $C_{21}H_{25}N_2O_5$ (M+H⁺) 385.1763, found 385.1760. 2D NOESY spectrum shows correlation between C6'-H of thymine (δ 6.94) with CH₂N (3.82 and 3.40) signals.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)-2-(2-Amino-9*H*-purin-9-yl)-1-methylethyl]-3-methyl 1*H*,7*H*- 5a,6,8,9-tetrahydro-1-oxopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran (47)



To a solution of 96 mg (0.29 mmol) of Cs₂CO₃ in 1 mL of DMF under argon at 25°C was added 40 mg (0.29 mmol) of 2-aminopurine, and the solution was stirred for 1 h. This solution was then added to a solution of 0.10 g (0.29 mmol) of bromide **39** in 2 mL of DMF via cannula. The reaction solution was stirred at 25°C for 24 h, and DMF was removed under vacuum distillation at 50°C/0.1 mm Hg. The resulting residue was subjected to a silica gel column and eluted with a gradient mixture of methylene chloride and methanol to give 56 mg (48% yield) of compound **47** (as two diastereomers at C12). Compound **47:** ¹H NMR δ 8.66 (s, C6'H), 7.72 & 7.71 (2s, C8'H, 2 diastereomers), 6.07 (s, 1 H), 5.70 (s, 1 H), 5.29 (2, 2 H, NH₂), 5.00 (dt, *J* = 11, 5 Hz, 1 H, C5aH), 4.09 (dd, *J* = 8, 6 Hz, 1 H, CH₂N), 3.90 (m, 1 H, CH₂N), 2.46 (t, *J* = 14 Hz, 1 H), 2.18 & 2.17 (2s, 3 H, Me), 2.13 - 1.80 (m, 2 H), 1.73 - 1.42 (m, 3 H), 1.38-1.16 (m, 2 H), 0.87 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 163.3 & 163.2, 162.5, 161.8, 160.0, 153.64 & 153.61, 149.7, 142.9, 132.0, 128.1, 109.7 & 109.6, 99.8, 97.4, 79.3 & 79.1, 47.1, 39.1, 38.1 & 38.0, 37.9 & 37.88, 36.2, 32.2 & 32.0, 31.0, 29.8, 27.8, 21.5, 20.2, 13.8 & 13.7. HRMS calcd for C₂₁H₂₄N₅O₃ (M+H⁺) 394.1879, found 394.1879. 2D NOESY spectrum shows correlation between δ 7.72 with 4.09 and 3.90 ppm signals.

4-bromo-6-methyl-2H-pyran-2-one (49)


To 10 mL of dry DMF under argon atmosphere was dropwise added the solution of PBr₃ in ether (8.734 g, 32 mmol in 18 mL ether) at 0°C. Then, a solution of 1.0 g (8.0 mmol) of 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2-pyrone **24** in 8 mL DMF was transferred to the above PBr₃ solution. The resultant solution was heated to 60°C for 12 h. The resultant solution was cooled to 0°C and quenched with water, extracted with diethyl ether three times. Combined organic layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. Column chromatography on silica gel using the gradient mixture of hexane and diethyl ether gave 1.251g of **49** (83% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.33 (bs, 1 H), 6.13 (bs, 1 H), 2.16 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR δ 162.1, 160.4, 141.1, 114.5, 108.3, 19.6.

4-azido-6-methyl-2*H*-pyran-2-one (50)



To the vacuum dried mixture of 0.32 g (11.561 mmol) of bromide **49** and 0.152 g ((2.34 mmol) of NaN₃ was added 5 mL of DMF and stirred at room temperature for 3 h under argon atmosphere. Water was added to the reaction and extracted with diethyl ether three times. Combined organic layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. Column chromatography on silica gel using the gradient mixture of hexane and diethyl ether gave 0.204 g of **50** (87% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 5.76 (s, 2 H), 2.26 (s, 3 H) ¹³C NMR δ 163.9, 162.6, 156.4, 99.1, 96.9, 19.9.

4-amino-6-methyl-2H-pyran-2-one (51)



In a round bottom flask, taken 0.204 g of azide **50** (1.35 mmol) and vacuum flame dried thoroughly, purge argon and added 6 mL of dry ethanol via syringe. If not completely soluble, warm a little. Open under stream of argon and added 0.021 g of 10% Pd/C. Hydrogen balloon was fitted on top and stir the reaction mixture for 2 h. Reaction was monitored was TLC. The

reaction was filtered through celite and further washed with ethanol. Organic solvent was removed through rotary evaporator to give 0.168 g of amine (**51**) (100%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 5.58 (s, 1 H), 5.14 (s, 1 H), 4.25 - 4.4 (bs, 2H), 2.19 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO) δ 163.69, 161.47, 159.84, 98.68, 80.47, 19.54.

(5aS,7S)- 3-Methyl-7-(prop-1-en-2-yl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-1H-pyrano[4,3-b]quinolin-1-one

(52)

(5a*S*,7*S*)- 3-methyl-9-(prop-1-en-2-yl)-7,8,9,10-tetrahydro-1*H*-pyrano[4,3- c]isoquinolin-1one (53)



A solution of 0.17 g (1.34 mmol) of 4-amino-6-methyl-2-pyrone (**51**), 0.34 g (2.28 mmol) of (*S*)-perillaldehyde (**25**), and 35 mg (0.15 mmol) of 10-camphorsulfonic acid in 12 mL of toluene was stirred at 85°C under argon for 3 days. The reaction solution was cooled to 25°C, diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with aqueous NH₄OH, and brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane and diethyl ether as eluents to give 63 mg (18% yield) of compound **52** and 62 mg (18% yield) of compound **53**, along with 0.11 g of (*S*)- perillaldehyde. Compound **52**: $[\alpha]^{22}_{D} = -59.0^{\circ}$ (c 0.10, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR δ 8.17 (s, 1 H, C10H), 6.45 (s, 1 H, C4H), 4.82 (s, 1 H, =CH₂), 4.77 (s, 1 H, =CH₂), 3.18 (dd, *J* = 18, 5 Hz, 1 H), 3.00 - 2.82 (m, 3 H), 2.60 - 2.42 (m, 1 H), 2.32 (s, 3 H, Me),

2.15 ~ 2.02 (m, 1 H), 1.83 (s, 3 H, Me), 1.78 – 1.62 (m, 1 H); ¹³C NMR δ 165.6, 163.2, 158.0, 152.6, 147.9, 137.3, 131.8, 114.3, 110.2, 105.7, 41.0, 38.8, 28.3, 27.3, 21.1, 20.2. HRMS calculated for C₁₆H₁₈NO₂ (M+H⁺) 256.1338, found 256.1351. Compound **53**: $[\alpha]^{22}_{D} = -76.5^{\circ}$ (c 0.09, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR δ 8.76 (s, 1 H, C10H), 6.83 (s, 1 H, C4H), 4.89 (s, 1 H, =CH₂), 4.77 (s, 1 H, =CH₂), 3.82 (dd, *J* = 21, 5 Hz, 1 H), 3.22 (dd, *J* = 21, 5 Hz, 1 H), 3.06 - 2.92 (m, 1 H), 2.58 – 2.37 (m, 1 H), 2.40 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.20 ~ 2.03 (m, 2 H), 1.86 (s, 3 H, Me), 1.80 – 1.65 (m, 1 H); ¹³C NMR δ 162.3, 157.5, 156.2, 154.5, 151.0, 148.3, 132.1, 114.5, 110.3, 106.5, 41.1, 33.8, 27.3, 26.3, 20.9, 19.8. HRMS calculated for C₁₆H₁₈NO₂ (M+H⁺) 256.1338, found 256.1337.

4-hydroxy-1-(4-methoxybenzyl)-6-methylpyridin-2(1*H*)-one (55)



A solution of 2.0 g (16 mmol) of pyrone 24 and 2.2 g (16 mmol) of 4methoxybenzylamine (54) in 30 mL of ethanol was reflux for 24 h, cooled to 25°C, and ethanol was removed under vacuum. Crystallization the resulting solid in ethyl acetate gave 1.65 g of 4hydroxy-1-(4-methoxybenzyl)-6-methylpyridin-2(1H)-one (55). The mixture was dissolved in ethyl acetate (70 mL) and washed with 2 N HCl (20 mL), water, and brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated to give 1.01 g (26% yield) of pure 55. This material was used in the following step without further purification. Compound 55: ¹H NMR δ 7.08 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H), 6.08 (s, 1 H), 5.86 (s, 1 H), 5.24 (s, 2 H, CH₂N), 3.77 (s, 3 H, OMe), 2.24 (s, 3 H, Me); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 165.9, 164.1, 158.2, 147.7, 129.6, 127.7 (2 C), 114.0 (2 C), 100.5, 96.0, 55.0, 44.8, 19.9. HRMS calculated for C₁₄H₁₆NO₃ (M+H⁺) 246.1125, found 246.1133.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)-3-methyl-7-(prop-1-en-2-yl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-2*H*chromeno[3,2-c]pyridin-1(5a*H*)-one (56)



A solution of 1.0 g (4.1 mmol) of compound **55**, 0.61 g (4.1 mmol) of (*S*)-perillaldehyde (**25**), 0.35 g (4.1 mmol) of piperidine, and 0.24 g (4.1 mmol) of acetic acid in 30 mL of chloroform was reflux for 12 h, cooled to 25°C, diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with aqueous NH₄Cl, and brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate as eluents to give 1.38 g (90% yield) of compound **56**. $[\alpha]^{22}{}_{D} = +5.7^{\circ}$ (c 0.18, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR δ 7.10 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H), 6.38 (s, 1 H), 5.67 (s, 1 H), 5.21 (s, 2 H, CH₂N), 5.10 – 5.00 (m, 1 H, C5aH), 4.74 (s, 2 H, =CH₂), 3.77 (s, 3 H, OMe), 2.58 – 2.47 (m, 1 H), 2.22 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.20 – 2.00 (m, 2 H), 1.90 – 1.61 (m, 2 H), 1.74 (s, 3 H, Me), 1.44 – 1.22 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR δ 161.5, 159.8, 158.8, 148.2, 145.3, 131.7, 129.1, 127.9 (2 C), 114.1 (2 C), 111.3, 109.5, 103.7, 100.3, 78.2, 55.3, 46.3, 43.4, 39.9, 32.4, 31.9, 20.8, 20.7. HRMS calculated for C₂₄H₂₈NO₃ (M+H⁺) 378.2069, found 378.2050.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)-3-methyl-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)-1-hydroxypropan-2-yl]-6,7,8,9tetrahydro-2*H*-chromeno[3,2-c]pyridin-1(5a*H*)-one (57)



To a cold (-20°C) solution of 1.15 g (3.06 mmol) of compound **56** in 20 mL of THF under argon was added 1.53 mL (1.53 mmol) of BH₃•THF (1.0 M in THF). After standing at -20°C for 4 days, the reaction solution was stirred at 0°C, and 10 mL of 0.5% aqueous NaOH and 5 mL of 30% H₂O₂ were added. The solution was stirred at 0°C for 2 h, diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with aqueous NH₄Cl, and brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate as eluents to give 0.79 g (69% yield; based on reacted **56**) of **57**. Compound **57**: ¹H NMR δ 7.08 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H), 6.33 (s, 1 H), 5.64 (s, 1 H), 5.19 (s, 2 H, CH₂N), 5.15 – 4.96 (m, 1 H, C5aH), 3.75 (s, 3 H, OMe), 3.58 – 3.44 (m, 2 H, CH₂O), 2.47 (d, *J* = 12 Hz, 1 H), 2.24 – 2.18 (m, 1 H), 2.19 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.11 – 1.94 (m, 3 H), 1.75 - 1.46 (m, 2 H), 1.22 – 1.02 (m, 1 H), 0.88 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 161.7, 160.0, 158.9, 145.3, 132.5, 129.2, 128.0 (2 C), 114.3 (2 C), 111.1, 103.9, 100.5, 78.7 & 78.6 (2 diastereomers), 66.0 & 65.9, 55.5, 46.5, 40.25 & 40.21, 39.5 & 37.1, 37.5 & 37.3, 32.6 & 32.5, 31.3 & 28.7, 20.9, 13.4 & 13.3. The signal intensities indicate the ratio of two diastereomers is 1:1. HRMS calculated for C₂₄H₃₀NO₄ (M+H⁺) 396.2175, found 396.2192.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)-3-methyl-7-[(1*R*) and (1*S*)-(2-methanesulfonyloxy)-1methylethyl]-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-2*H*-chromeno[3,2-c]pyridin-1(5a*H*)-one (58)



To a cold (0°C) solution of 0.13 g (0.33 mmol) of alcohol **57** and 0.14 mL (0.97 mmol) of triethylamine in 4 mL of dichloromethane was added 38 μ L (0.49 mmol) of methanesulfonyl chloride under argon. The reaction solution was stirred at 0°C for 2 h, diluted with dichloromethane, washed with aqueous NaHCO₃, and brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate as eluents to give 0.12 g (79% yield) of mesylate **58**. ¹H NMR δ 7.10 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H), 6.38 (s, 1 H), 5.66 (s, 1 H), 5.21 (bs, 2 H, CH₂N), 5.06 – 4.98 (m, 1 H, C5aH), 4.21 – 4.08 (m, 2 H, CH₂O), 3.78 (s, 3 H, OMe), 3.03 (s, 3 H, MeS), 2.52 (d, *J* = 14 Hz, 1 H), 2.22 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.20 – 2.18 (m, 2 H), 1.94 – 1.85 (m, 1 H), 1.78 - 1.52 (m, 3 H), 1.32 – 1.12 (m, 1 H), 1.00 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 161.6, 159.8, 158.8, 145.5, 131.6, 129.1, 128.0 (2 C), 114.2 (2 C), 111.5, 103.6, 100.2, 78.1 & 78.0 (2 diastereomers), 72.4, 55.4, 46.4, 38.9, 37.5 & 37.4, 37.35, 37.2 & 37.1, 37.0, 32.2 & 32.1, 30.8 & 28.6, 20.8, 13.3 & 13.2. The signal intensities indicate the ratio of two diastereomers is 1:1. HRMS calculated for C₂₅H₃₂NO₆S (M+H⁺) 474.1950, found 474.1945.

(5a*S*,7*S*)-2-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-7-((2*R*) and (2*S*)-1-(6-amino-3*H*-purin-3-yl)propan-2-yl)-3methyl-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-2*H*-chromeno[3,2-c]pyridin-1(5a*H*)-one (59)



A solution of 0.12 g (0.25 mmol) of mesylate **58** and 34 mg (0.25 mmol) of adenine in 2 mL of DMA was heated at 150°C under argon for 10 h, cooled to 25°C, diluted with dichloromethane and washed with water, and brine, dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane, ethyl acetate, dichloromethane, and methanol as eluents to give 23 mg (18% yield) of **59**. ¹H NMR δ 8.06 (s, 1 H, C2'H), 7.99 (s, 1 H, C8'H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H), 6.39 (s, 1 H), 5.66 (s, 1 H), 5.21 (bs, 2 H, CH₂N), 5.06 – 4.94 (m, 1 H, C5aH), 4.51 (dd, *J* = 13, 6 Hz, 1 H, CH₂N), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 13, 9 Hz, 1 H, CH₂N), 3.77 (s, 3 H, OMe), 2.60 – 2.30 (m, 2 H), 2.11 (s, 3 H, Me), 2.20 – 2.18 (m, 2 H), 1.98 – 1.55 (m, 2 H), 1.50 - 1.20 (m, 2 H), 0.90 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 161.7, 159.9, 158.9, 154.6, 152.8, 150.4, 145.6, 143.2, 131.5, 129.1, 128.0 (2 C), 119.7, 114.3 (2 C), 111.7, 103.7, 100.4, 78.2, 55.5 & 54.7, 46.6, 39.1 & 36.2, 38.3, 37.2, 32.1 & 31.0, 29.9 & 27.8, 22.7 & 21.8, 21.0 & 20.8, 13.4. The signal intensities indicate the ratio of two diastereomers is 1:1. HRMS calculated for C₂₉H₃₃N₆O₃ (M+H⁺) 513.2614, found 513.2627. 2D NOESY spectrum shows NOE correlation between C2'-H (δ 8.08 ppm) and CH₂N (4.51 and 4.08 ppm) signals.

4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2-pyridone (61)



In a 10 ml round bottom flask, taken 250 mg (1.98 mmol) of pyrone **24** dissolved in 1 mL of 28% NH₄OH and mixture was refluxed at 100°C for 6 h. Reaction was allowed to cool to

room temperature. Solid was separated by filtration and recrystallized from ethanol in 81% yield as a yellow solid **61**. M.P. 322°C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ ppm 10.87 (bs, 1H), 5.7 (s, 1H), 5.3 (s, 1H), 2.1 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR δ 167.6, 164.8, 146, 98.2, 95.8, 18.5.

(7*S*)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-3-methyl-7-(prop-1-en-2-yl)-2*H*-chromeno[3,2-c]pyridin-1(5a*H*)one (62)



A solution of 250 mg (2.0 mmol) of compound **61**, 300 mg (2.0 mmol) of (*S*)perillaldehyde **25**, 170 mg (2.0 mmol) of piperidine, and 120 mg (2 mmol) of acetic acid in 15 mL of chloroform was reflux for 12 h, cooled to 25°C, diluted with methylene chloride, washed with aqueous NH₄Cl, and brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate as eluents to give 500 mg (97% yield) of compound **62**. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 12.66 (bs, 1H), 6.3 (s, 1H), 5.64 (s, 1H), 5.1 (dd, *J* = 11 Hz, 5Hz, 1H), 4.75 (m, 1H, =CH), 4.73 (m, 1H, =CH), 2.48 (ddd, *J* =14Hz, 4Hz, 2.4Hz, 1H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.22-2.02 (m, 3H), 1.88-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.74(s, 3H, MeC=), 1.31 (ddd, *J* = 25Hz, 12.8Hz, 4Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR δ 163.2, 162.4, 148.4, 144.8, 131.7, 110.4, 109.6, 103.4, 99.1, 78.5, 43.6, 40.0, 32.5, 32.1, 20.9, 19.3.

(7*S*)-tert-butyl-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-3-methyl-1-oxo-7-(prop-1-en-2-yl)-1*H*-chromeno[3,2c]pyridine-2(5a*H*)-carboxylate (63)



Taken 200 mg of pyridinone **62** (0.78 mmol) and 19 mg of DMAP (0.15 mmol) together in a round bottom flask and vacuum flame dried, purge argon and added 3 mL of acetonitrile. Added 273 μ l of dry triethylamine (1.94 mmol) via syringe and cool to 0°C and stir for 30 minutes. Open quickly and added 340 mg of (Boc)₂O (1.55 mmol) and warm to room temperature by stirring for 24 h. Dilute with water and extract ethyl acetate twice. Combine ethyl acetate washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate, column chromatographed to give 268 mg of **63** (97%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.3 (s, 1H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 5.1 (dd, *J* = 11 Hz, 5Hz, 1H), 4.75 (m, 1H, =CH), 4.73 (m, 1H, =CH), 2.48 (ddd, *J*=14Hz, 4Hz, 2.4Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H) 2.22-2.02 (m, 3H), 1.88-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.74(s, 3H, MeC=), 1.5 (s, 9H), 1.31 (ddd, *J* = 25Hz, 12.8Hz, 4Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR δ 161.9, 156.6, 152.13, 151.1, 147.7, 137.3, 109.7,109.0, 109, 106.2, 83.6, 78.0, 43.1, 39.9, 32.7, 31.7, 27.6, 24.1, 20.1.

(7*S*)-tert-butyl-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-7-((*R*)-1-hydroxypropan-2-yl)-3-methyl-1-oxo-1*H*-chro meno[3,2-c]pyridine-2(5a*H*)-carboxylate (64)



To a cold (-20°C) solution of 265 mg (0.74 mmol) of compound **63** in 6 mL of THF under argon was added 0.37 mL (0.37 mmol) of BH₃•THF (1.0 M in THF). After standing at -20°C for 2 days, the reaction solution was stirred at 0°C, and 2 mL of 0.5% aqueous NaOH and 1 mL of 30% H₂O₂ were added. The solution was stirred at 0°C for 2 h, diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with aqueous NH₄Cl, and brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate as eluents to give 62 mg (65% yield; based on reacted **63**) of **64** as a mixture of two diastereomers at C12 (1:1; based on 13C NMR spectrum). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.38 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 5.05-5.00 (t, *J*= 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.62 – 3.52 (m, 2H, CH₂O), 2.46 (m, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H, Me), 2.13 – 1.99 (m, 2H), 1.73 – 1.51 (m, 3H), 1.54 (s, 9H), 1.19 – 1.12 (m, 2H), 0.90 (d, *J*=7 Hz, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR (two diastereomers) δ 162.1, 156.7, 152.2, 151.2, 138.1, 109.2, 108.8, 106.5, 83.9, 78.4, 65.7,40.0, 39.5, 37.2, 32.8, 31.01, 27.8, 24.2, 13.5 and13.2 (Me of two diastereomers).

(*R*)-2-((7*S*)-2-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-2,5a,6,7,8,9-hexahydro-3-methyl-1-oxo-1*H*chromeno[3,2-*c*]pyridin-7-yl)propyl methanesulfonate (65)



To a cold (0°C) solution of 400 mg (1.11 mmol) of alcohol **64** and 0.47 mL (3.34 mmol) of triethylamine in 8 mL of dichloromethane was added 129 μ L (1.67 mmol) of methanesulfonyl chloride under argon. The reaction solution was stirred at 0°C for 2 h, diluted with dichloromethane, washed with aqueous NaHCO₃, and brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate as eluents to give 382 mg (79% yield) of mesylate **65** as a mixture of two diastereomers at C12

(1:1; based on 13C NMR spectrum). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.31 (s, 1H), 5.89 (s, 1H), 5.05-5.00 (m, *J*= 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.15 – 4.08 (m, 2H, CH₂O), 3.01 (s, 3H), 2.46 (m, 1 H), 2.27 (s, 3H, Me), 2.13 – 1.99 (m, 2H), 1.73 – 1.51 (m, 3H), 1.54 (s, 9H), 1.19 – 1.12 (m, 2H), 0.90 (d, *J*=7 Hz, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR (two diastereomers) δ 161.9, 156.5, 151.9, 150.9, 137.2, 108.9, 108.7, 106.0, 83.7, 77.7 and 77.77.61 (two diastereomers), 72.2, 38.71, 37.02 and 37.8 (two diastereomers), 36.7 and 36.6 (two diastereomers) 32.25 and 32.15 (two diastereomers), 31.48, 30.25, 28.1, 27.51, 23.9, 12.98.

(7*S*)-7-((*R*)-1-(6-amino-5,6-dihydropurin-3-yl)propan-2-yl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-3-methyl-2*H*chromeno[3,2-c]pyridin-1(5a*H*)-one (66)



(7*S*)-7-((*R*)-1-(6-amino-4*H*-purin-9(8*H*)-yl)propan-2-yl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-3-methyl-2*H*-chromeno[3,2-c]pyridin-1(5a*H*)-one (67)



A solution of 0.12 g (0.25 mmol) of mesylate **65** and 34 mg (0.25 mmol) of adenine in 2 mL of DMA was heated at 150°C under argon for 10 h, cooled to 25° C, diluted with

dichloromethane and washed with water, and brine, dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed on silica gel using a gradient mixture of hexane, ethyl acetate, dichloromethane, and methanol as eluents to give 23 mg (18% yield) of **66** and 8 mg (6% yield) of **67**. Compound **66** (more polar; 2 diastereomers at C12) ¹H NMR δ 8.08 (s, H of adenine), 7.98 and 7.97 (2s, 1H, H of adenine; 2 diastereomers), 6.30 (s, 1H), 5.63 and 5.62 (2s, 1H), 5.02 (m, 1H, C5aH), 4.50 (dd, *J*=13, 6 Hz, 1H, CHN), 4.08 (2dd, *J*=13, 8 Hz, 1H, CHN; 2 diastereomers), 2.46 (m, 2H), 2.25 and 2.24 (2s, 3H, Me; 2 diastereomers), 2.10–1.22 (a series of m, 6H), 0.91 (d, *J*=7Hz, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR (2 diastereomers) δ 163.2 and 163.1, 162.4, 161.7, 154.4, 154.0, 150.7, 142.3, 131.7 and 131.6, 121.0, 199.8, 99.7, 97.3, 79.0, 78.8, 54.5 and 54.4, 38.9, 38.1 and 38.0, 37.1 and 36.9, 36.1, 32.0 and 31.9, 30.7, 27.6, 20.1, 13.3 and 13.2. HRMS calcd for C₂₁H₂₄N₅O₃ (M+H) 394.1881, found 394.1875.

4-hydroxy-6-methyl-3-((*E*)-(phenylimino)methyl)pyridin-2(1*H*)-one (68)



Taken 3.6 g of pyridinone **61** (23.98 mmol), 2.23 g of aniline (23.98 mmol), 15 mL of triethyl orthoformate together in a round bottom flask followed by addition of 20 mL of 3:1 DMF : AcOH and reflux at 130°C for 2 h. Color changes from yellow to brown. Cool to room temperature. Dilute brine and extract methylene chloride twice followed by extraction with 10% methanol in methylene chloride. Organic layer dried over sodium sulfate and crystallize from methylene chloride to obtain 3.81 g of **68** as yellow solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ ppm 9.89 (bs, 1H), 8.91 (d, 1H, *E/Z* isomer), 7.2-7.6 (m, 5H), 5.7 (s, 1H), 2.2 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) 185.1, 166.9, 153.1, 150.3, 138.6, 130.2, 126.9, 118.6, 107.0, 20.2.

1,2-dihydro-4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2-oxopyridine-3-carbaldehyde (69)



Taken 3.41 g of pyridinone **68** and added 50 mL of 5% K_2CO_3 in water and reflux in open for 1 h. Cool to room temperature. Acidify to pH ~1 by adding conc. HCl at 0°C. Filter the solid and crystallize from ethanol to yield 2.08 g of **69** (85%) as yellow solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ ppm 13.52 (bs, 1H), 11.73 (bs, 1H), 9.83 (bs, 1H), 5.86 (s, 1H), 2.2 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆) 193.3, 174.7, 163.3, 157.1, 105.3, 97.7, 19.6

7-methyl-6*H*-pyrano[3,2-c]pyridine-2,5-dione (70)



A mixture of 60 mg (.36 mmol) of aldehyde **69** and 146 mg (.43 mmol) of [(Methoxycarbonyl)methylene]triphenyl phosphorane (Wittig reagent) together in a round bottom flask and added freshly distilled toluene and reflux for 2 h. Color changes from yellow to purple. Cool to RT, precipitate formed, filter it, vacuum dried and crystallized from methanol to yield compound **70**. Yield 55% as yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) d ppm 2.08 - 2.39 (m, 1 H) 2.39 - 2.63 (m, 1 H) 3.10 - 3.48 (m, 2 H) 5.84 - 6.47 (m, 1 H) 7.35 - 7.73 (m, 1 H) 7.92 (d, J=9.37 Hz, 1 H) 12.01(br. s, 1 H)

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CHAPTER 2 - Insight into the inhibition of aggregation of Alzheimer's Aβ peptides and disaggregation of Aβ oligomers using various biophysical techniques

2.1 Introduction

Neurodegenerative disease such as Alzheimer's disease and Huntington's disease involve the neuronal damage caused by the deposition of protein aggregates both extracellularly and intracellularly, which leads to abnormal brain function. The neurotoxicity of amyloid beta- ($A\beta$) peptide has been widely accepted as one of the fundamental causes of Alzheimer's disease. Our goal is to study the inhibition of aggregation and disaggregation of oligomers and protofibrils using different tricyclic pyrone molecules such as CP2, in solution. In this chapter, I will discuss different biophysical techniques such as atomic force microscopy (AFM), surface plasmon resonance (SPR) spectroscopy, circular dichroism (CD) spectroscopy and protein quantification assay and use them to study the kinetics of aggregation of amyloid $A\beta$ peptide and disaggregation of $A\beta42$ oligomers and protofibrils. Also, our objective is to search for the role of TP molecules in the counteraction of $A\beta$ toxicity.

2.2 Background

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a cerebral degenerative disorder characterized by gradual loss of memory, impaired judgment etc. and is affecting 1% of the world population. AD involves two kinds to protein aggregates; (I) Extracellular aggregates, also known as neuritic plaques are composed of A β peptide aggregates, which are derived from the proteolytic processing of a transmembrane amyloid precursor protein (APP), by β - and γ - secretase enzymes. These A β aggregates tend to adopt β -sheet conformation.¹ Amyloid plaque is deposited in cerebral blood vessels and cortex. (II) Intercellular aggregates, also known as

neurofibrillary tangles (NFT) is composed of phophorylated microtubule-associated tau protein and $A\beta$.² In addition to that, the pathogenesis of AD is also related to genetic mutations responsible for familial forms of AD. The mutations could be in APP itself or in presenilin 1 (PS1) and presenilin II (PS II).³ Although the detailed mechanism of A β aggregation is not fully resolved, a general hypothesis of A β aggregation is widely accepted and is as shown in **Figure 1.2**.⁴ A β 42 monomers rapidly oligomerize into paranuclei. Paranuclei themselves then can oligomerize to form larger, beaded protofibrils and fibrils. Monomers, paranuclei, and large oligomers are predominately unstructured but do contain β -sheet/ β -turn and helical (α) elements.⁴

Amyloid fibrils are insoluble filamentous structures with width ~10 nm and length of 0.1-10 μ m. Using Solid State Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy, the β -sheet structure of A β (10-35) was revealed to have anti-parallel a β -sheet organization.⁵ Subsequently, it was found that full length A β (1-42) forms β -sheet structure with the same registry and orientation as shown in **Figure 2.1**.⁶



Figure 2.1 Structural model for A β 42 fibrils, (Taken from protein data bank, provided by Luhrs *et al.*).⁶

Recent studies have suggested that intracellular A β oligomers rather than protofibrils or fibrils are the primary toxic species leading to the AD.⁷⁻⁸ It has been found that intracellular A β

aggregates are more toxic then the extracellular A β aggregates.⁹ Utilization of compounds that reduce the level of A β , prevent A β aggregation, and disaggregate existing A β aggregates has been proposed as a therapeutic strategy for AD. Different biophysical techniques including atomic force microscopy (AFM), circular dichroism (CD) spectroscopy, surface plasmon resonance (SPR) spectroscopy, and a protein quantification assays were used to study to study the mechanism of aggregation of Alzheimer A β peptide in solution phase as described in detail in the following sections.

2.3 Biophysical experiments conducted to study the inhibition of aggregation of amyloid Aβ peptides and disaggregation of Aβ oligomers and protofibrils

2.3.1 Use of atomic force microscopy to study the inhibition of aggregation and disaggregation of $A\beta$ peptide

Atomic force microscopy (AFM) is a powerful tool to study the growth/kinetics and morphology of amyloid beta peptide, both in air/solid phase and in solution phase. AFM is used for the screening of small organic molecules as amyloid inhibitors along with other analytical techniques.

2.3.1.1 Introduction and background

AD involves the transformation of non-toxic soluble α -helical monomers into insoluble β -sheet fibrils. These insoluble fibrils are deposited in the extracellular part of the brain and along the walls of cerebral blood vessels as amyloid plaque.⁹ A significant amount of evidence suggests that these amyloid plaques play a central role in AD pathogenesis.⁹ Although electron microscopy and X-ray diffraction studies revealed the structure and morphology of beta sheet fibrils, they were unsuccessful in providing any insight on the structure and mechanism of aggregation.^{11,12} On the other hand, AFM studies have shown the presence of different

intermediates such as small soluble oligomers, large oligomers and protofibrils. In 1990s, AFM was used by Oda *et al.* to study the inhibition of A β fibrils formation by clusterin.¹³ Lansbery *et al.* used the AFM and showed the formation and structure of A β protofibrils.¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Recently, McLaurin *et al.* published an extensive data on the structure of soluble A β 40 oligomers.¹⁶ Using AFM, Liu *et al.* reported that amino acid residues 17-20 and 30-35 play a critical role in the formation of oligomers and protofibrils.¹⁷ Our primary focus is to make use of AFM spectroscopy and study the effect of TP compounds on A β inhibition of aggregation and disaggregation of soluble oligomers and protofibrils.

2.3.1.2 Preparation of $A\beta 40$ stock solution

A stock solution was prepared by dissolving 0.2 mg of A β 40 (0.046 µmol) in 50 µL of DMSO (purchased from BACHEM, Bachem California Inc. Torrance, CA). 10 µL of A β 40 was taken and diluted it with 90 µL of phosphate buffer (50 mM Na₂HPO₄ and 100 mM NaCl, pH 7.4, filtered through "Fischer brand PTFE 0.2 µm) and 100 µL of deionized distilled water (filtered through "Fischer brand PTFE 0.2 µm) to make the total volume to 200 µL. Solution was ultra centrifuged and filtered through a 10,000 molecular weight cutoff ("microcon centrifugal filter devices" purchased from Millipore Corporation, Bedford, MA) at 13,000 r.p.m and 4°C for 30 minutes and was used for different experiments.¹⁸

2.3.1.3 Preparation of $A\beta 42$ stock solution

A stock solution was prepared by dissolving 0.25 mg of A β 42 in 150 µL (0.055 µmol) of DMSO (purchased from CALBIOCHEM, CAT# PP69)). A small aliquot, 20 µL of A β 42 (0.0073 µmol) was taken and diluted it with 80 µL of phosphate buffer (50 mM Na₂HPO₄ and 100 mM NaCl, pH 7.4, filtered through "Fischer brand PTFE 0.2 µm pore size) and 100 µL of deionized distilled water (filtered through "Fischer brand PTFE 0.2 µm pore size) to make the total volume up to 200 µL. Solution was ultra centrifuged and was filtered through a 10,000 molecular weight cutoff ("microcon centrifugal filter devices" purchased from Millipore Corporation, Bedford, MA) at 13,000 r.p.m and 4°C for 30 minutes and was used as is for different experiments.¹⁸

2.3.1.4 AFM instrumentation and sample preparation

A Nanoscope IIIa SPM AFM (Digital Instruments Inc., Santa Barbara, CA, USA) workstation equipped with a multimode head using E-series or J-series piezoceramic scanner (Digital Instruments, Santa Barbara, CA). AFM probes were silicon nitride microcentilevers with 300kHz resonance frequency and 40 N/m spring constant model images were acquired at scan rate of 0.5-1 Hz. Prior to sample preparation, all the stock solutions were vortexed for 30-45 seconds. From the aliquot, 10 μ L sample was removed and immediately spotted on freshly

cleaved micas. After waiting for 60-90 seconds, unbound A β peptide was washed with water twice (80 µL each), and dried with argon. AFM images were collected using a tapping mode with a high-aspect ration tip (Veeco Nanoprobe TM tips, Model TESP-HAR; Nanoscience Instruments, Inc., Phoenix, AZ, USA). Image J software at an 8-bit resolution was used to carry out grain analysis to collect quantitative data. The image was adjusted by setting a threshold so that no noise on the image was present. The same threshold was used for all other images in the same independent experiment. The drive amplitude and force constant were adjusted, to minimize the force of interaction between the tip and the mica surface, thus limiting the sample deformation. For each experiment, 25 µm² images from three independent AFM scans were used to determine the density (particles/field) of monomers/ oligomers and protofibrils.¹⁸

2.3.1.5 Inhibition of aggregation of $A\beta 40$ with several compounds

In vitro MC65 cell assay demonstrated the efficacy of CP2 as an amyloid inhibitor.^{19,20} We studied the inhibition effect of two equivalents of CP2 and compared it with thioflavin T, curcumin and Congo red. A stock solution of 200 μ L as explained in **2.3.1.2** was prepared and divided into five different vials (30 μ L, 37 μ M) and two equivalents of different compounds such as CP2, TP17, curcumin, congo red and TP17 (**Figure 2.2**) were added. After 24 h and 48 h, a small aliquot was taken and AFM images were captured. Different areas of the mica were scanned and representative images are shown in **Figure 2.3**.¹⁸



Figure 2.2. Structure of CP2, TP4, TP17, thioflavin T, Congo red and curcumin.



Continued....



Figure 2.3. AFM images of inhibition of aggregation of A β 40 monomers (Scale bar 1 μ m).

2.3.1.6 Inhibition of aggregation of $A\beta 42$ with several compounds

Since the hydrophobicity of A β 42 is more than A β 40, it aggregates fast in buffer solution and is thus more toxic. Similar to A β 40 inhibition of aggregation studies, we studied A β 42 inhibition of aggregation. A stock solution of 200 μ L as explained in **2.3.1.3** was prepared and divided into five different vials (30 μ L, 37 μ M) and two equivalents of different compounds such as CP2, TP17, curcumin, Congo red etc. were added. After 24 h and 48 h, a small aliquot was taken and AFM images were captured. Different areas were scanned and representative images are shown in **Figure 2.4.** CP2, Congo red and curcumin have similar inhibitory activities, while TP17 and thioflavin T are inactive.¹⁸



Continued....



Figure 2.4. AFM images of inhibition of aggregation of A β 42 monomers.

2.3.1.7 Disaggregation of $A\beta 42$ oligomers with several compounds

A stock solution of 200 μ L as explained in **2.3.1.3** was prepared. Stock solution was kept at 4°C for 24 h and small aliquot was taken. AFM confirms the formation of small oligomers. Once oligomers formed, stock solution was divided into five different vials (30 μ L, 37 μ M) and two equivalents of different compounds such as CP2, TP17, curcumin, congo red etc. were added. Samples were stored at 4°C to slow down the speed of aggregation. After 24 h and 48 h, a small aliquot was taken and AFM images were captured. Different areas were scanned and representative images are shown in **Figure 2.5**) CP2, congo red and curcumin have similar inhibitory activities, while TP17 and Thioflavin T are inactive.¹⁸





Figure 2.5. AFM images of disaggregation of Aβ42 oligomers.

2.3.1.8 Disaggregation of $A\beta 42$ protofibrils with CP2

According to the proposed aggregation hypothesis, A β 42 monomers tend to aggregate to form the soluble oligomers. If untreated, soluble oligomers aggregate further to form long protofibrils and fibrils. We studied the efficacy of CP2 on A β 42 protofibril disaggregation. A stock solution of 200 µL was prepared as explained in **2.3.1.3**. The stock solution was stored at
4° C for 4 days and AFM image was taken to confirm the formation of A β protofibrils. Once the protofibrils had formed, 30 µL of A β 42 (37 µM) was taken and to it was added two equivalents of CP2. After the addition of CP2, the sample was stored at 25°C for 24 h. After 24 h, a small aliquot was taken and AFM was recorded. Different areas were scanned and a representative image is shown in **Figure 2.6**.¹⁸



Figure 2.6. AFM images of disaggregation of A β 42 protofibrils; (a) A β 42 protofibrils formed form the incubation of A β 42 monomer (37 μ M) at 4°C for 4 days. (b) Incubation of A β 42 protofibrils with CP2 (two equivalents) for 24 h at room temperature.

2.3.1.9 Disaggregation of $A\beta 42$ oligomers with CP2 over the period of five days

While performing the disaggregation of A β 42 oligomers experiment, we found that the disaggregated A β 42 monomers tend to re-aggregate to oligomers over time. We studied how much CP2 is needed to maintain the A β 42 in monomeric form. A β 42 (37 μ M) oligomers were treated with 2, 5, and 10 equivalents of CP2 over a period of five days. Each day, a small aliquot (10 μ L) was removed from the stock and AFM images were taken. Three representative images are used to calculate the particle density using Image J software and the results are summarized in **Figure 2.7**.¹⁸



Figure 2.7. Disaggregation of A β 42 oligomers with different equivalents of CP2 over the period of five days. Quantitative analysis of particle density in 25 μ m². A β oligomeric density from three independent AFM scans was calculated using Image J program.

2.3.1.10 Result and discussion

Using AFM spectroscopy, we studied the efficacy of some compounds such as CP2 and TP4 synthesized in our laboratory and compared it with different commercially available amyloid beta inhibitors such as thioflavin T^{21} , congo red²² and curcumin.²³ Tricyclic pyrone molecule TP17 was used as a negative control.²⁰ Different areas of the mica surface were scanned and a few representative pictures of the result of inhibition of aggregation of Aβ40 (**Figure 2.3**) and Aβ42 (**Figure 2.4**), disaggregation of Aβ42 oligomers (**Figure 2.5**), disaggregation of Aβ42 protofibrils (**Figure 2.6**) with CP2, Thioflavin T, congo red, curcumin, TP17 were captured. Based on our previous results²⁰, we predicted low affinities of thioflavin T

and TP17 to the A β oligomers and consistent results were obtained (**Figure 2.5**). Since A β 40 is less hydrophobic than A β 42, lower amounts of aggregates were formed (**Figure 2.3**). Bioactive compounds CP2, congo red and curcumin inhibits the extent of aggregation by about 50% over a period of 48 h, whereas no such inhibitory effect was observed for TP17 and thioflavin T (**Figure 2.8**). Also, when compared to the control, two equivalents of CP2, Congo red and curcumin are sufficient enough to slow down the speed of aggregation (**Figure 2.9**).¹⁸



Figure 2.8. Inhibition of aggregation of A β 40 with two equivalents of CP2, TP17, thioflavin T, curcumin and congo red separately over 24 h and 48 h. Quantitative analysis of particle density in 25 μ m² AFM scans. A β oligomeric density from three independent AFM scans was calculated using Image J program. Error bars represent standard deviation.



Figure 2.9. Inhibition of aggregation of A β 42 with two equivalents of CP2, TP17, thioflavin T, curcumin and congo red separately over 24 h and 48 h. Quantitative analysis of particle density

in 25 μ m² AFM scans. A β oligometric density from three independent AFM scans was calculated using Image J program. Error bars represent standard deviation.

It is widely accepted that $A\beta$ oligomers are toxic to neurons and play a critical role in AD progression.⁷ Also, compared to A β 42, A β 40 is less toxic and thus we focused our studies on toxic A β 42 oligomers and protofibrils.¹⁹ We investigated whether CP2, curcumin and congo red have similar effects on A β 42 disaggregation of the toxic oligomers to non-toxic monomers. A β 42 oligomers were grown based on a published protocol.²⁴ A β 42 oligomers were treated with two equivalents of different compounds such as CP2, thioflavin T, congo red, curcumin and TP17 and AFM images were recorded after 24 h and 48 h (**Figure 2.5**). Due to the size limitation of AFM, A β 42 monomers and dimers (< 2 nm diameter) were too small to be observed. Different areas were scanned and image J software was used to calculate the peptide density (average three images) and the results are summarized in **Figure 2.10**. After 24 h and 48 h of incubation of different compounds in A β 42 oligomers at 4°C, a 50% decrease in aggregates was observed for CP2, Congo red and curcumin. After 48 h, CP2 showed the greatest disaggregating ability. Curcumin had a greater disaggregation activity than congo red. Thioflavin T and TP17 did not show disaggregation activities.¹⁸



Figure 2.10. Disaggregation of A β 42 oligomers with two equivalents of CP2, TP17, thioflavin T, curcumin and congo red separately over 24 h and 48 h. Quantitative analysis of particle density in 25 μ m² AFM scans. A β oligomeric density from three independent AFM scans was calculated using Image J program. Error bars represent standard deviation. n =3, *p, **p, ****p, *****p, *****p < 0.01 compared with their respective controls.

Surprisingly, after 24 h, disaggregated A β 42 tends to re-aggregate over time and more aggregates were observed for CP2, curcumin and congo red over time (**Figure 2.10**). We studied the amount to CP2 required to maintain A β 42 peptide in monomeric form (derived from the disaggregation of oligomers) without aggregation over 5 days. Hence, A β 42 oligomers (37 μ M) in pH 7.4 PBS solution were prepared (confirmed by AFM) and treated with various amounts of

CP2 and incubated at 4°C over 5 days (days 2–6). Each day, an aliquot was removed and AFM images were taken (in various locations of the mica), and three representative images were used to calculate the peptide particle density. The results are summarized in **Figure 2.7**. On day 4, protofibrils were observed in the A β 42 solution without CP2, and on day 6, protofibrils predominated. It was observed that A β 42 solutions incubated with 2 and 5 equivalents of CP2 showed lesser amounts of oligomers after 24 h and 48 h but the oligomers size increased after 5 days. On the other hand, in the presence of 10 equivalent of CP2, only ~8% of oligomers were observed compared with zero equivalent of CP2 after 5 days. The results suggest that disaggregated A β 42 monomer and smaller oligomers tend to aggregate and can recombine to form larger oligomers over time It is suggestive that CP2 binds to A β oligomers and breaks apart the oligomers into small monomer and dimer. The binding of CP2 with monomeric A β and A β oligomers is reversible and A β 42 monomer re-aggregates to form oligomers over time in a closed compartment.¹⁸

Also, based on A β aggregation pathway (**Figure 1.2**) A β oligomers undergo nucleation polymerization and aggregate to form protofibrils, which have been revealed to be toxic to neuronal cells and to affect learning in mice.^{25,26} We studied the disaggregation of A β 42 protofibrils with CP2. A β 42 protofibrils were produced by incubation of A β 42 monomer in PBS for 4 days (confirmed by AFM). To preformed A β 42 protofibrils, two equivalents of CP2 was added and incubated at 25°C for 24 h. After 24 h, a small aliquot was taken and AFM images revealed the disappearance of protofibrils and presence of small amounts of oligomers (**figure 2.6**).

Detailed AFM studies were conducted in our laboratory and the results have shown that CP2 inhibits the A β aggregation formation, disaggregates soluble oligomers to non-toxic monomers and protofibrils to small oligomers.¹⁸

2.3.2 Use of surface plasmon resonance spectroscopy to study the interaction of tricyclic pyrone and Aβ peptide

2.3.2.1 Introduction and background

Surface plasmon resonance (SPR) is one of the most sensitive tools to detect the mass change above the gold-coated metal surface.²⁷ SPR used to study the direct binding of protein-protein, protein-compound, ligand-receptor, host-guest, and protein-antibody etc. interactions. In SPR spectroscopy, a change in the mass above the metal surface can be quantified in situ by monitoring a shift in SPR angle (**Figure 2.11**). A SPR spectrometer can sense the change in pg/mm².²⁸

A β monomers polymerize to form insoluble fibrils, which are toxic to neurons. Previous studies indicate that A β polymerization involves interactions between the A β peptides.²⁹ A pharmacological approach to prevent the amyloid formation is to use drugs that specifically disrupts the A β - A β interactions. Tjernberg *et al.* reported a small peptide ligands that can bind to the full length A β , and hinder A β -A β interaction thus inhibits aggregation. Their aim was to find a region of A β peptide, which is crucial for A β aggregation. Using SPR spectroscopy, they arrest the A β fibril formation by a pentapeptide ligand (beta sheet breakers) and confirmed it by AFM spectroscopy.³⁰ Our goal is to study the binding affinity of TP compound CP2 to A β 40 and A β 42 monomers and small soluble oligomers (confirmed by AFM).



Figure 2.11. Schematic representation of SPR principle.²⁸ (This picture is modified from the manufacturer's handbook)

2.3.2.2 Binding of CP2 and TP17 to $A\beta40$ and $A\beta42$ monomers

A Biacore 3000 (Biacore Inc., Piscataway, NJ, USA), equipped with four flow cells in one sensor chip (CM5), was used for real-time binding studies. The A β 40 and A β 42 peptides were separately immobilized on gold sensor CM5 chips as described.³¹ First, carboxymethylated dextran of CM5 was activated with N-hydroxysuccinimide in pH 7.4 buffer, followed by the coupling with A β peptides. Free activated unreacted chip surface was blocked by ethanolamine. The resulting A β -bound sensor chip was used in the SPR studies, and the amounts of bound A β were measured from the SPR graph. The reference cells were prepared following the same procedure but without addition of A β peptides (**Figure 2.12**).



Figure 2.12. Immobilization of A β on to CM5 gold chip. (1) Activation and immobilization of A β on gold CM5 sensor chip. (2) The surface activated by EDC/NHS was exposed to a fresh A β 40/ A β 42 solution to form a peptide bond between the amine group on the peptide and the carboxylic group on the CM5 surface. (3) The deactivation of unreacted sites was achieved by blocking NHS-activations with ethanolamine.³¹

CP2 and TP17 were dissolved in 50 mM Tris buffer to a concentration of 800 μ M and injected into flow cells. The chip surface was exposed to compounds for 60 s, then to running buffer (10 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 3.4 mM EDTA, 0.05% surfactant P20, pH 7.4) for 180 s. The response unit (RU) was recorded, converted to pmol bound compound, and analyzed (1RU = 1 pmol). The flow cells were then regenerated with regenerating buffer containing urea, while leaving the immobilized A β peptides intact. The same chips with the same amounts of bound A β peptides were used for consecutive analysis of different compounds and comparisons were made only between the bindings to the same chips. The amounts of bound compounds were calculated by the Δ RU value, obtained by subtracting the RU at the time before compound injection from





Figure 2.13. Real-time detection of the binding of tricyclic pyrone to A β 40 (A and B) and A β 42 (C and D) by SPR. The results from a typical experiment are shown. Color code: Blue is cell surface without immobilized A β and Red is cell surface with immobilized A β .

2.3.2.3 Binding of CP2 to $A\beta 42$ oligomers using anti-oligomer antibody (AB9234)

We have shown that in real time binding studies, CP2 binds to A^β peptide. Also, AFM studies have shown that CP2 disaggregates AB42 oligomers to monomers but the mechanism of disaggregation is still unknown. In order to shed some light, we are interested in knowing if CP2 binds to Aβ42 oligomers. For real time binding studies using SPR, injecting Aβ42 oligomers to the flow cell does not confirm the binding of the oligomers as it could be only the monomers that bound to the surface. We therefore modified our experiment and used AB9234 antibody as a host that binds to the activated gold surface of CM5 sensor chip.³² AB9234 is an anti amyloid oligomer antibody that specifically binds to all types of AB oligomers.³³ A Biacore 3000 (Biacore Inc., Piscataway, NJ, USA), equipped with four flow cells in one sensor chip (CM5), was used for real-time binding studies. Carboxymethylated dextran (CM5) of sensor chip is of 1:1 mixture of N-ethyl-N-[(dimethylamino)activated by injecting 200 μL propyl]carbodiimide (EDC) and N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS) in pH 7.4 buffer solution for 30 min, followed by the injection of antibody AB9234 (10 µL of AB9234 was diluted with 600 µL of pH 5.0 sodium acetate buffer, injected at the rate of 10 µL per minute). Anti-amyloid oligomer antibody AB9234 was immobilized on the first gold sensor CM5 chip flow cell, and the second flow cell is used as a reference (without immobilization of AB9234). Antibody cdk5, a negative control, was immobilized on the third flow cell, and the fourth flow cell had no immobilization (used as a reference). The resulting AB9234 bound sensor chip (and the cdk5 bound chip) was used in the SPR studies. The reference cells were prepared similarly but without the addition of AB9234 or cdk5 for correction of background bindings. A running buffer solution consisting of 10 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 3.4 mM EDTA, 0.05% surfactant P20, pH 7.4, was used as a washing solvent between injections of reagents, antibody, AB42 oligomers, and CP2. After immobilization of the antibody, a solution of A β 42 oligomers (prepared by incubation of a 10 μM solution of Aβ42 monomer in pH 7.4 PBS buffer for 24 h at 4°C; formation of small Aβ42 oligomers were confirmed by AFM) was injected to the cell, and binding was observed. To the bound AB9234-AB42 oligomer, a solution of CP2 (40 µM in the aforementioned running buffer) was injected followed by washing with the running buffer solution. The amounts of immobilized antibody, bound Aβ42 oligomers and CP2 were determined based on the amounts of response

units obtained from the sensograms. The amounts of immobilization and bindings were calculated by the Δ RU value, obtained by subtracting the RU at the time before compound injection from the RU at the time just after injection of running buffer (**Figure 2.14**). RUs are equivalent to picograms and can be converted into picomol. One RU is defined to be 1 pg/mm² of bound protein molecules and can be converted into pmol/mm².³⁴



Figure 2.14. SPR sensogram of the in real-time binding of CP2 to A β 42 oligomers-AB9234 antibody complex. The first two injections showed the immobilization of anti-amyloid oligomer antibody, the following five injections were A β 42 oligomers, and the last injection was CP2. Lower concentrations of A β 42 were used in the first four injections and higher concentration of A β was used in the fifth injection to ensure that the immobilized antibody was bound with the oligomer.

2.6.2.4 Result and discussion

SPR has been used extensively to study the interaction of peptides and proteins with other peptides and small organic molecules. In search of potential amyloid beta inhibitors, Tjernberg *et al.* studied the binding of small peptides (called beta sheet breakers) to full length $A\beta 40$

peptide.³⁰ In general, $A\beta$ peptide was immobilized from a solution of very low concentration (~ pmol/L) on a sensor chip and maintained in a pH 7.4 buffer solution. When a drug molecule/peptide flows through the chip and a binding occurs between the drug/peptide and Aβ-peptide, the refractive index of the medium next to the chip will change. This is represented by a response unit (RU) that is equivalent to the mass of bound drug in picograms.³⁴ We observed less binding of Aβ42 over Aβ40 (**Figure 2.13**) because of faster aggregation of Aβ42 during the course of the experiment. CP2 was injected and binding of TP compounds onto the gold chip having Aβ was observed (Δ RU). TP17 was used as a negative control. Using Biaevaluation software, version 3.0, analysis of sensograms was performed. The kinetic result fits the binding curves to a 1:1 Langmuir binding model. Whereas, 1.5 equivalents of CP2 bind to 1 equivalent of Aβ40 monomers and 1 equivalent of CP2 binds to Aβ42 monomers. No interaction was observed for inactive TP17-Aβ peptide. The dissociation constant K_D (M) is derived from the equation, K_D = kd/ka, where kd and ka are dissociation- and association-rate constants, respectively. CP2 binds to Aβ40 with a high affinity (K_D= 5.05 nM) as compared to Aβ42 (K_D = 269 nM).²⁰

On the other hand, for CP2 to A β 42 oligomer binding studies, anti-amyloid oligomer antibody (AB9234, ~150 KDa MW) was immobilized onto the CM5 gold chip. Based on the sensogram (**Figure 2.14**), after two injections of the antibody, there were 0.052 pmol of antiamyloid oligomer antibody immobilized. After eluting the flow cells with running buffer for 20 min to remove all unbound antibody, preformed 10 μ M A β 42 oligomers were injected (four injections over 100 min) into the flow cells and 0.426 pmol of A β 42 oligomers were found to bind to the antibody. After washing the flow cell with running buffer for 100 min to remove any unbound A β oligomer, a solution of CP2 (40 μ M) was injected and then washed with running buffer, 0.21 pmol of CP2 was found to bind to the antibody–A β oligomer complex. The data suggests that for each antibody, there are eight molecules of CP2 (MW ~510) bind to each A β 42 oligomer-antibody. Similar binding studies were also carried out by immobilizing anti-Cdk5 antibody in one of the flow channels as a negative control, and no bindings of A β 42 oligomers were found. We also found that CP2 did not bind to anti-amyloid oligomer antibody alone when CP2 was injected to a separate flow cell immobilized with the antibody alone. The real-time binding study using SPR shows Aβ42 oligomers bind to anti-amyloid oligomer antibody and CP2 binds to the Aβ oligomer–antibody complex.¹⁸

2.3.3 Use of protein quantification assay to study the inhibition of aggregation of $A\beta$ with and without tricyclic pyrone molecule CP2

2.3.3.1 Introduction and background

Conversion of soluble, non-toxic A β monomers aggregate to insoluble toxic, beta sheet fibrils play a crucial role in pathology of AD. Any compound that either inhibits or slows down the kinetics of aggregation can be screened as a potential therapeutic agent for AD. Studies have shown that in terms of toxicity, concentration plays a very crucial role and A β is toxic even in nanomolar range.²⁰ The Pierce Micro BCATM protein assay reagent kit has been used for quantitation of amyloid beta protein.³⁵ The micro BCA reagent kit can quantify protein up to 0.5-20 µg/mL of the sample.³⁶ This quantification experiment utilized bicinchoninic acid (BCA) as a detection reagent for Cu⁺¹ which is formed, when Cu⁺² is reduced by the protein in alkaline environment. A purple colored solution is formed when two molecules of BCA chelates with one molecule of Cu⁺¹ and this complex exhibits a strong absorbance at 530-590 nm wavelength.

2.3.3.2 Inhibition of aggregation of $A\beta 40$ and $A\beta 42$ with CP2

A Micromax RF refrigerated microcentrifuge (Thermo Electron Co., Fisher Scientific, Pittsburgh, PA) and a UV-Vis spectrometer (Shimadzu UV-120-02; Columbia, MD) were used for the experiment. Prior to the experiment, synthetic A β 40 and A β 42 (0.2 mg in 200 μ L) were dissolved in hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP), a low polar solvent that stabilizes the α -helix structure and disrupts inter-strand hydrogen bonding between the beta sheets. Sample was kept at 25°C for 48 h, and after which HFIP was allowed to evaporate at 25°C. Four different concentrations of A β peptides, 30, 40, 50, 60 μ M for A β 40, and 10, 20, 30, 40 μ M for A β 42 were freshly dissolved in pH 7.4 PBS buffer (500 μ L) and treated each with 500 μ L of freshly prepared Micro BCATM reagent. The solutions were incubated at 60°C for 30 minutes, cooled to

25°C, and absorbance was measured using a UV spectrometer at 569 nm wavelength (a BCA reagent was used as a reference) within 10 minutes. Linear correlations (A β 40 & 42 with and without CP2; 2 equivalents) between the absorbance and concentration were obtained (**Graph 2.1**).¹⁸ Once the linear correlation was observed, Monomeric A β 40 and A β 42 peptides were treated with 2 equivalents of CP2 separately for 1 week at 25°C, and each day the concentrations of A β 40 and A β 42 peptides were quantified using a micro BCATM protein assay reagent kit and results are summarized in **Figure 2.15**.¹⁸



Graph 2.1. Correlations of concentrations of monomeric A β 40 and A β 42 separately versus UV absorbance with and without CP2 using Micro BCATM protein assay reagent kit. Left panel: A β 40, diamond is A β 40 with CP2 and square is A β 40 without CP2; Right panel: A β 42, triangle is A β 42 with CP2 and circle is A β 42 without CP2.



Figure 2.15. Quantification of soluble A β 40 and A β 42 peptide separately in PBS buffer (pH 7.4) at 25°C over 7 days using a micro BCATM protein assay reagent kit in the absence (marked in square for A β 40 and circle for A β 42) and presence (marked in diamond for A β 40 and triangle for A β 42) of 2 equivalents of CP2.

2.6.3.3 Result and discussion

We have already observed, by AFM and SPR spectroscopy, that CP2 binds to $A\beta$ monomers and inhibit its aggregation. Also, CP2 binds to toxic $A\beta$ oligomers and protofibrils and disaggregates them to non-toxic monomers (by AFM). Using Micro BCATM protein assay kit, we investigated whether CP2 inhibits $A\beta$ fibril formation in PBS buffer solution (pH 7.4) over time at 25°C. In the absence of CP2, we found ~73% of A β 40 and ~43% of A β 42 in the solution after 1 week. On the other hand, in the presence of two equivalents of CP2, there was ~88% and ~81% of A β 40 (**Table 2.1**) and A β 42 (**Table 2.2**), respectively that remained in the solution after 1 week of incubation. The data shows that CP2 inhibits the fibril formation, which is in agreement with the results of the inhibitions of aggregation of A β peptides (vide supra), as further aggregation of oligomers leads to protofibrils and fibrils.¹⁸

Days	Day 1	Day 2	Day 4	Day 6	Day 7
Αβ40 (μΜ)	49	45	42.5	40	36
Aβ40 + CP2 (μM)	49	46.7	44.9	45.2	43

Table 2.1. Amount of A β 40 peptide (μ M) over 7 days at 25°C in PBS buffer (pH 7.4) at 25°C with and without CP2 (two equivalents) determined by micro BCATM protein assays.

Days	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 6	Day 7
Aβ42 (μM)	35	35	32.5	25	15	15
Αβ42 + CP2 (μM)	40	40	37.5	35	32.5	32.5

Table 2.2. Amount of A β 40 peptide (μ M) over 7 days at 25°C in PBS buffer (pH 7.4) at 25°C with and without CP2 (two equivalents) determined by micro BCATM protein assays.

2.3.4 Use of circular dichroism (CD) spectroscopy to study the inhibition of aggregation of $A\beta$ with and without tricyclic pyrone molecule CP2

2.3.4.1 Introduction and background

Circular dichroism helps in studying the real time secondary structure of the protein (**Figure 2.16**).³⁷ It is known that A β aggregation involves the transformation of soluble unordered α -helix/ random coil to β -sheet rich conformation. Numerous reports have shown the use of CD spectroscopy to study the kinetics of A β aggregation pathway.³⁸⁻⁴⁰ In general, most CD studies performed so far have used fluorinated solvents such as trifluoroethanol (TFE) and hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP). Since fluorinated solvents promote intramolecular hydrogen bonding, which indicates that stable α -helix conformation is intramolecular and β -sheet structure are intermolecular. TFE and HFIP are weaker proton donors than water and thus promote structure formation by intramolecular hydrogen bonding rather than intermolecular hydrogen bonding with the solvent. Barrow *et al.* performed detailed studies into the structure and kinetics of A β (39-43) aggregation in solution phase and concluded that the A β peptide adopts a mixture of random coil, α -helix and β -sheet with the relative ratio depending on the solvent composition, concentration of peptides, temperature, pH etc.⁴¹ It was observed that increasing the percentage

of TFE favors the formation of α -helix and random coil and a maxima was observed in 90% trifluoroethanol (TFE). Similar results were obtained in hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP). We also obtained the similar results for A β 42 as shown in **Figure 2.17**.

However, for real time *in vitro* inhibitors studies, use of fluorinated solvent (HFIP) is not a suitable solvent due to its low volatility. It was also found that the morphology and stability of soluble oligomers are different in HFIP when compared with aqueous buffer.⁴² Recently, Andrisano *et al.* developed a highly reproducible *in vitro* assay and validated it by studying different synthesized and commercially available amyloid inhibitors.⁴³ We used their published protocol to study the kinetics of Aβ42 aggregation and effect of CP2 on the inhibition/stabilization of α -helix/ random coil secondary conformation of Aβ42.



Figure 2.16. CD spectrum of different conformations of Aβ peptide.³⁷



Figure 2.17. CD spectrum showing the effect of TFE on Aβ42 peptide.

2.3.4.2 Study of inhibition of aggregation of $A\beta 42$ with CP2 (1.25 equivalents)

A Jasco J-815 Spectropolarimeter CD instrument (JASCO; Easton, MD) and a quartz cell (0.1 cm length; 200 μ L internal volume) were used to record CD spectra in a spectral range of 190 – 260 nm, 1 nm data pitch, 1 nm bandwidth, and at 50 nm/min scan speed. A solution of A β 42 (40 μ M) in phosphate buffer solution containing NaCl, Na₂CO₃, NaOH, and acetonitrile was prepared according to the reported method⁴³ to monitor A β 42 solution structure in the absence and presence of 1.25 equivalents of CP2 over 48 h at 25°C in a time course manner. In order to remove already preformed aggregates, A β 42 (0.12 mg) was dissolved in hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP; 200 μ L), a low polar solvent that stabilizes the a-helix structure and disrupts inter-strand hydrogen bonds between of the beta sheet, by brief sonication and vortexing, kept at 25°C for 48 h, and HFIP was evaporated at 25°C. The resulting A β 42 was redissolved in a freshly prepared mixture (70 μ L) of CH₃CN/Na₂CO₃ (0.3 mM)/NaOH (0.25 M) (48.3:48.3:3.4, v/v/v) by brief sonication and vortexing providing an alkaline solution of A β 42 (0.38 mM). An aliquot (30 μ L) of the A β 42 solution was diluted with phosphate buffer saline (PBS; 0.25 mL) solution to give a 40 μ M solution of A β 42 in phosphate buffer (7.7 mM) that

contained NaCl (8.9 mM), Na2CO3 (15.5 mM), NaOH (0.91 mM), and 5.1% acetonitrile. CP2 (1.25 equivalents; 10 μ L of 1.5 mM in PBS-ethanol, 9:1) was added to 280 μ L of the above Aβ42 (40 μ M) solution, and CD spectra were recorded at regular interval over 48 h. The control solutions that contained the above incubation buffer with and without CP2 were prepared and their contributions were subtracted in the CD spectra of Aβ42 with and without CP2, respectively (**Figure 2.18**). Although CP2 can interfere with the experiments, 1.25 equivalents of CP2 alone showed only a small absorption and did not change the overall shape of Aβ42. To follow Aβ42 conformational changes and inhibition studies with CP2, the CD wavelength at 215 nm (beta sheet structure) was plotted verses the time of incubation (**Figure 2.19**).¹⁸



Figure 2.18. CD spectra of A β 42 (40 μ M) in phosphate buffer (7.7 mM) containing NaCl (8.9 mM), Na₂CO₃ (15.5 μ M), NaOH (0.91 mM), and 5.1% acetonitrile solution with and without CP2 over 48 h. The control solutions that contained the above incubation buffer with and without CP2 were prepared and their contribution was subtracted in the CD spectra. Left panel: A β 42 alone; 0 h: black; 9 h: light blue; 19 h: green; 21 h: dark blue; 45 h: brown; and 48 h: red. Right panel: A β 42 + CP2 (1.25 equivalents); 0 h: black; 9.5 h: light blue; 15.5 h: green; 20 h: dark blue; 23 h: brown; and 48 h: red.



Figure 2.19. Trend of β -sheet content over time: circle is A β 42 alone and square is A β 42 + CP2.

2.3.4.3 Results and discussion

It is accepted that $A\beta$ undergoes conformational changes or misfolding from random coil/ α -helix to β -sheet structure, resulting in oligomerization and insoluble fibrils formation.^{43,44} CD spectroscopy offers a real-time monitoring of protein conformations in aqueous solution.⁴⁴ A PBS buffer solution containing Na₂CO₃-NaOH-acetonitrile was established⁴³ recently to study $A\beta$ conformational changes in the presence of $A\beta42$ inhibitors and marketed drugs for AD treatment using CD. Hence, the same buffer solution was used to examine whether CP2 maintains $A\beta42$ random coil/ α -helix structures and blocks β -sheet formation over times using CD spectroscopy. **Figure 2.18**, left panel, shows $A\beta42$ conformational changes in the absence of CP2 over 48 h, in which CD value at 198 nm (random coil structure) gradually decreased over time and 215 nm (β -sheet) value increased. On the other hand, in the presence of 1.25 equivalents of CP2 (**Figure 2.18, right panel**), although band at 198 nm decreased slightly due to some unknown reason, CD values at 215 nm versus time is shown in **Figure 2.19**. Kinetics proceeds in three phases: a lag phase with significant conformation change (until 0-9 hours), an exponential phase where there is rapid increase in aggregation (10-32 hours) followed by a

plateau phase (after 32 h), where majority of the conformation is beta sheet. No such aggregation pattern was observed in the presence of CP2. The results imply that CP2 stabilizes A β 42 random coil/ α -helix structures and blocks β -sheet formation. The intensity at 198 nm of A β 42 peptide plus CP2 is weaker than that of A β 42 alone because the solution of A β -CP2 is slightly diluted compared with that of A β alone (from the addition of a solution of CP2 in PBS) and the contribution of the CD graph of CP2 (control) was subtracted from the observed A β -CP2 graph.¹⁸

2.4 Conclusion

Amyloid A β aggregation is the main culprit in AD. Reducing the levels of intracellular A β , preventing A β aggregation, and eliminating the existing A β aggregates have been proposed for treatment of AD. AFM studies demonstrated that tricyclic pyrone compound CP2 inhibits A β aggregation and disaggregates A β 40 and A β 42 oligomers and protofibrils as well. SPR spectroscopy and protein quantification assay studies showed that CP2 binds to A β 42 monomer and oligomers. CD studies revealed that CP2 stabilizes the random coil/ α -helix structures of monomeric A β 42 peptide in PBS buffer, which leads to the inhibition of aggregate formation. Protein quantification assay results suggested that CP2 not only disaggregates A β oligomers but also inhibit fibril formation.

2.5 References

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CHAPTER 3 - Biological evaluation of tricyclic pyrone and pyridinone compounds: *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies

3.1 Introduction

Alzheimer disease (AD) is most common cause of dementia and is considered one of the leading causes of death worldwide. AD is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by memory loss and other cognitive disabilities. In AD patients, the cognitive decline is accompanied by impaired performances of daily activities, behavior, speech etc. AD affects patient's life at home and at work. The main pathophysiological hallmarks of AD are extracellular deposits of amyloid plaques formed by aggregated beta-amyloid (AB) peptide and intracellular neurofibrillary tangles (NFTs) composed of filamentous aggregates of hyperphosphorylated tau protein in the brain. This $A\beta$ peptide is derived from the processing of large amyloid precursor protein (APP), a transmembrane protein by different enzymes. Although the etiology of AD is very complex and not yet fully resolved, numerous studies have shown that amyloid plays a central role in the neurodegeneration in AD. This hypothesis is supported by results indicating that amyloid aggregates are toxic to neuronal cell in culture and toxicity is directly linked to the extent of AB aggregation. Recently, it is reported that soluble small oligomeric intermediates rather then insoluble fibrils are primary toxic species in AD.¹ In this chapter, I will discuss in vitro biological activity of different tricyclic pyrone molecules using MC6 cell assay and effectiveness of tricyclic pyrone molecule CP2 in vivo activity on 5X FAD (familial alzheimer disease) transgenic mice.

3.2 Background

 $A\beta$ aggregation is widely accepted as the first pathological process in AD. Several findings support this theory. A number of genes found to be mutated in AD patients are related

to the biology of A β such as the gene for APP on chromosome 21, the gene for apoE4 on chromosome 19, and genes for PS1 and PS2 on chromosomes 14 and 1, respectively.² Also, Aβ is proved to be toxic to neuronal cell even in nanomolar concentration and causes death via membrane lipid peroxidation, which impairs the function of membrane ion-motive ATPases, glucose and glutamate transporters, leading to membrane depolarization, excessive Ca²⁺ influx, and mitochondrial dysfunction.³ It is believed that any molecule that either inhibits aggregation or disaggregate preformed oligomers can serve as an attractive therapeutic target for AD. For successful screening of organic compounds, an efficient and reproducible screening model is a must. So far, limited cell culture models have shown a convincing and reproducible linkage between the intracellular Aß aggregation and the cell death. This hinders the screening for various potentially therapeutic organic molecules. Recently, a screening model using primary neurons from Tg2576 APP transgenic mice has shown AB oligomer accumulations but preparation of this model is very time-consuming. Due to toxicity issues detection of aggregations is observed by electron microscopy.⁴ On the other hand, MC65 cell line can be conveniently used to screen potential bioactive compounds.⁵⁻⁷ MC65 is a human neuroblastoma cell line that conditionally expresses C99, a 99 amino acid residue carboxy terminal fragment derived from amyloid precursor protein after cleavage by the beta secretase enzyme. C99 is cleaved by γ -secretase enzyme leading to the generation of A β (Figure 3.1). Following the transgene induction, significant loss of cell viability was observed after 72 h. Compared with the method described by Takahashi et al. MC65 cells are easily propagated and cell toxicity is measured quantitatively by simple 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) assay.⁶



Figure 3.1. Schematic representation of C99 expression.

3.3 MC65 cell death is related to the intracellular generation and aggregation of Aβ

In neuronal cells, generation and aggregation of A β is believed to have the toxic effect. Intracellular aggregation of proteins is being linked to neurodegenerative processes. The mechanism by which intracellular A β protein misfolds, aggregates and become toxic is complex and is poorly understood. The MC65 cell model linked the neuronal cell death to the toxicity of intracellular A β generation. Western blot analysis demonstrated the predominant formation of dimer, tetramer and pentamer aggregates after 24 h as shown in **Figure 3.2**. No monomeric A β was observed by Tricine gel analysis. The C99 was induced by removal of Tetracycline (TC). At indicated times, the cells were homogenized. Cellular proteins (5 µg protein each) were subjected to Tris/tricine sodium dodecyl sulfate–polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and western blot analysis with antibody 6E10 (for A β 1–17). A β Standard, synthetic A β 40 and A β 42, served as standard A β monomer peptides.⁸



Figure 3.2. MC65 cell death is dependent upon $A\beta$ generation and closely related to $A\beta$ aggregation into $A\beta$ -Oligomeric complexes.

In order to confirm the generation and toxicity of A β intracellularly, MC65 cells were treated with L-685 458, a highly specific γ -secretase inhibitor. No A β generation was observed (**figure 3.3A**). L-658 458 also inhibits the aggregate formation in a dose dependent manner (**Figure 3.3B**). Since the p8 (8 Kda) band is partially reduced by a γ -secretase inhibitor, it indicates that it is not entirely composed of A β peptide.⁸ The γ -secretase results indicated that MC65 cell death is dependent on the production of A β . The ELISA quantification suggested that both L-685 458 and CP2 reduced A β oligomeric formation.



Figure 3.3. Treatment of MC65 cells with TP compounds and a γ -secretase inhibitor, L-685 458 (A) MC65 cells: –TC, without TC to induce C99 expression; +TC, with TC to suppress C99 expression. n = 3, **p < 0.001 compared with the –TC group. (B) L-685 458 of indicated concentrations was added at the same time as TC removal. Cellular proteins from 24 h cultures were analyzed by western blot using 6E10.

CP2 molecule target A β peptide and the dose independent effect of CP2 on A β was studied and was compared with TP17 (a negative control) (**Figure 3.5**). Without CP2, A β aggregates were observed. Whereas, the addition of CP2 lowered the formation of higher molecular weight cellular A β oligomer aggregates. A lower effect was observed for N9' analog and no effect was observed for TP17 (**Figure 3.4A**). In addition, a dose dependent study of CP2 was carried out by removal of TC and different concentrations of CP2 were added (**Figure 3.4B**).⁸



Figure 3.4. Dose dependent study of CP2. CP2 inhibits the formation of A β -OCs. (A) MC65 cells were treated with the indicated compounds for 24 h (2 μ M N9'- analog and TP17 were used). Western blot of cellular proteins was analyzed with 6E10 (B) MC65 cells were treated with TC or without TC, but with the indicated concentrations of CP2 for 24 h. Cellular proteins were analyzed by western blots using 6E10.

We observed that tricyclic pyrone molecule CP2 ameliorates A β toxicity and reduces the levels of intracellular A β oligomers. Compound CP2 can be easily modified to produce a series of new compounds. Possible modifications include functionalization of methyl group, C10 double bond, substitute adenine with other heterocycles, replacement of oxygen at position 2 with nitrogen, pyranoquinoline and pyranoisoquinoline etc. (**Chapter 1**). This structure activity relationship (SAR) can help us elucidate the mechanism of inhibition of aggregation.

3.4 Tricyclic pyrone and pyridinone molecules inhibit the formation of Aβ oligomers and protect MC65 cell death

Compounds that protect cell death induced by the intracellular toxic A β oligomers can be further used for the drug development in Alzheimer's disease. We have screened several TP compounds (**Figure 3.5** and **Figure 3.6**) using the MC65 cell assay (**Figure 3.7** and **Table 3.1**). MC65 cells were grown in the presence of 1 μ g/ml tetracycline (TC).⁵ The cell toxicity was induced by the removal of TC to induce C99 expression. To do so, the cells were washed extensively with phosphate buffer (PBS), and plated on a 96-well plate at a density of 2 x 10⁵ cells/cm² in Opti-MEM (without phenol-red) from Gibco/BRL (Carlsbad, CA). For testing the protective effect of various TP analogs, various doses of TP compound were added to culture media without TC. After incubation for 72 h, the cell viability was determined using a colorimetric MTT [3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide] assay, the results of which were comparable to data obtained using counts of viable cells based on trypan blue exclusion and the LIVE/DEAD assay.⁸⁻⁹ Different batches of MC65 cells produce small variations in the activities. Three batches were used to study these compounds and the average of the EC₅₀ of different TP analogs is summarized in **Table 3.1**.¹⁰



Figure 3.5. Structures of various tricyclic pyrone molecules.


Figure 3.6. Synthesized tricylic pyrone and pyridinone compounds.

Tricyclic pyrone compound CP2 bearing a strong MC65 neuroprotective activity ($EC_{50} = 0.15\mu M$) and a low toxicity (**Figure 3.7**).⁸ Both CP2 (R and S configuration, N3' analog)

have similar MC65 neuroprotective effect, whereas the N9' analog is less active with EC_{50} around 3.0 μ M. N10' analog and TP17 are inactive thus can be used as a control for future experiments.



Figure 3.7. MC65 protection assay for different TP compounds. L-685 458 of indicated concentrations was added at the same time as TC removal. At 72 h, viability was assessed by MTT assay. Data are expressed as mean percentage viability (n = 7) with parallel +TC cultures set at 100% viability. Error bars represent standard error. ***p < 0.001, **p < 0.01, compared with untreated –TC controls.

Compound	EC ₅₀ (μM)	Compound	EC ₅₀ (μM)
2	0.31 ± 0.03	45	6.92 ± 0.69
29	3.0 ± 0.30	43	8.30 ± 0.83
38	1.95 ± 0.20	44	1.38 ± 0.14
40	0.93 ± 0.09	59	0.35 ± 0.03
47	0.86 ± 0.09	52	Inactive
41	Inactive	53	2.49 ± 0.25

46	Inactive	56	1.25 ± 0.13
34	0.31 ± 0.04		

 Table 3.1. TP compounds and their IC50 inhibitory activities.

Compound **38** has a structure similar to **2** (CP2) containing a double at C12 is 6 folds less active. Substituting the adenine of CP2 with other heterocycles lowers the activity. Compounds **41** and **46** are surprisingly inactive. Simple tricyclic pyridinone **56**, which have a nitrogen atom at position 2, possesses an EC₅₀ of 1.25 μ M, and its adenine derivative **59** has similar EC₅₀ activity as that of CP2. The Linear fused pyranoquinoline (**52**) is inactive however, the L-shape fused pyranoisoquinoline (**53**), lacking an adenine unit, is 8 fold less active then CP2. Further investigation is required on the synthesis of N2 and N5 containing tricyclic pyrones.

3.5 Tricyclic pyrone molecule CP2 penetrates MC65 cell

Previous experiments have shown that compound CP2 interacts with the intracellular and the extracellular A β . Rapid accumulation of CP2 was observed inside the cells as well as on the cell surface when we incubated the radiotracer [¹⁴C]CP2 molecule to the MC65 cells (**figure 3.8**). Radiotracer [¹⁴C]CP2 (0.04 µCi) was added to the cell culture wells of 2.5 X 10⁶ cells and was incubated for the indicated period of time. The cells were scraped and spun down. Cell pellets were washed with ice-cold phosphate buffer and trypsinized. The supernatant was kept as 'trypsinizable cell surface', and pallets were called 'non-trypsinizable intracellular fraction'. Fractions were subjected to scintillation counting. Results showed that compound CP2 easily penetrated the cells, interacted/binded to the A β monomers and A β oligomers, and disrupted aggregation by either binding to the A β peptide or by changing the conformation of the peptide or by some unknown complex mechanism (**figure 3.8**).⁸



Figure 3.8. CP2 rapidly accumulates inside cells. MC65 cells were incubated with $[^{14}C]CP2$ for the indicated periods of time, washed, and the cell-associated counts that were trypsinizable from cell pellets (cell surface CP2, empty circles) and those remaining in cells after trypsinization (intracellular CP2, filled circles) were quantified. Expressed values are quantities of CP2 calculated from the radioactivity of 10^5 cells.

3.6 In vivo studies of CP2 on 5X FAD mice

3.6.1 Introduction and background

Amyloid plaque in the brain is mainly composed of A β peptide. Also, a strong genetic association between early-onset familial alzheimer disease (FAD) and A β peptides is well established.¹¹⁻¹³ Association of A β 42 and FAD favors the causative role for A β 42 in the etiology of AD.¹⁴ Dr. Vasser *et al.* developed a rapid AD amyloid model of transgenic mice where five different FAD mutations were expressed [APP K670N, M67IL (Swedish) + I716V (Florida) + V717I (London) and human PS1 M146 1 + L286V]. These "5X FAD" transgenic mice develop cerebral amyloid plaque and gliosis at 2 months of age. A β 42 aggregates and reduced synaptic

markers are the characteristics of 5X FAD transgenic mice.¹⁴ Interestingly, accumulation of intraneuronal A β 42 was observed before the amyloid plaque formation.¹⁴ Accumulation of intraneuronal A β was observed in the brain of AD mice.¹⁵⁻¹⁶ We are interested in studying the efficacy of CP2 in 5X FAD transgenic model. Our collaborator Dr. Lee-Way Jin in UC Davis Health System, Sacramento, CA, has conducted all the *in vivo* experiments.

3.6.2 Experimental for in vivo studies

The UC Davis Animal Care and Use Committee approved all animal procedures followed on animals. 5X FAD mice were obtained from Dr. Robert Vassar, Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Northwestern University.¹² Bioactive compound CP2 or an equivalent amount of DMSO (solvent; mock) was dissolved in 100 μ L of artificial cerebrospinal fluid to make a working solution of 100 μ M concentration. The solution was transferred into osmotic mini-pumps (Alzet, Cupertino, CA). A reported procedure to implant the pump was followed.¹⁷ Three-month-old 5x FAD transgenic mice were anesthetized with an intraperitoneal (i.p.) injection of Ketamin (100 mg/Kg body weight) with Xylazine (10 mg/Kg body weight). A braininfusion cannula (brain infusion kit #3, Alzet) was stereotaxically positioned (antero-posterior, 0.7 mm; mediolateral, 1.5 mm; dorsoventral; 3 mm to Bregma) by cementing with Loctite 454 (Alzet, Cupertino, CA). This cannula was then connected to the subcutaneously implanted osmotic mini-pump (Alzet model 1002). Mice were infused (n = 6 for each group) at a flow rate of 0.25 μ L/h for 2 weeks of CP2 or vehicle (DMSO). After 2 weeks, the mice were sacrificed and their brains were removed and snap frozen for Aβ42 ELISA.¹⁸

3.6.3 *Aβ42* ELISA

The corresponding 1 mm-thick fresh frozen mouse brain sections containing hippocampus and subiculum were homogenized in 300 μ L of radioimmune precipitation assay (RIPA) buffer containing protease inhibitors mixture solution. The homogenates were sonicated briefly then incubated for 20 min at 4°C. The RIPA insoluble fraction from brain homogenate

was obtained after centrifugation at 100,000 x g. The pellet was resuspended in 300 μ L of 70% formic acid (FA) and then incubated for 30 min at 4°C. FA soluble fraction was obtained by 100,000 x g centrifugation. The FA extracts were neutralized by diluting 1:20 in 1 mole/L Tris buffer (pH 11). The Aβ42 concentration in each sample was determined by Aβ42 specific sandwich ELISA following the protocol of the manufacturer (IBL, Minneapolis, MN). All readings were in the linear range of the assay. The average of the duplicates was determined, and then the mean and standard error for each group of mice was calculated. The values were expressed in nanograms of Aβ per milligram of protein. The statistical significance of differences between groups was examined by t-test, using the SigmaStat 3.1 program (Systat Inc. Point Richmond, CA).¹⁸

3.6.4 Results and discussion

Neurons in these transgenic mice were engineered to generate a large amount of A β 42, which results in robust A β accumulation and aggregation in brain.¹⁴ Histologically detectable amyloid depositions begin by 2 months, especially in hippocampus and subiculum, and increase sharply between 2-4 months. We infused 100 μ M CP2 or mock solution (DMSO alone) into cerebral ventricles of 3-month-old 5x FAD mice for two weeks at a speed of 0.25 μ L/h (equivalent to approximately 370 ng per day). At the completion of this treatment, the mice were sacrificed and brains removed for quantification of A β levels by sandwich ELISA. The brains slices were extracted sequentially by RIPA and FA respectively. Previously, we found that the majority of A β in 5X FAD brain resides in the RIPA-soluble and FA-soluble fractions, which are roughly equivalent to the non-fibrillar and fibrillar A β species respectively.¹⁹ CP2 treatment resulted in a 40% reduction of RIPA-soluble A β and a 50% reduction of FA-soluble A β (**Figure 3.9**). Thus, in a mouse model with perhaps the most robust A β 42 production among all AD models, a short 2-week treatment of CP2 showed a promising anti-A β effect.¹⁸



Figure 3.9. CP2 treatment reduces the level of cerebral A β . Brains from mice treated with CP2 or mock solution were sequentially extracted with RIPA and FA. A β 42 levels in the RIPA and FA extracts (RIPA soluble and FA soluble, respectively) were measured by ELISA. A β levels were expressed in nanograms per milligram of brain protein. CP2 reduced the levels of both RIPA and FA soluble A β 42. Error bars represent standard error. n = 6. The p values were obtained by comparing the two groups using t-test.

3.7 Conclusion

The neurotoxicity of amyloid β -protein is widely considered as one of the fundamental causes of neurodegeneration. In our laboratory, we synthesized a series of tricyclic pyrones and pyridinones and screened these compounds against Alzheimer's disease, which leads to the discovery of compound CP2, a small molecule that easily penetrates into the cells. Our data suggests that CP2 not only inhibits the A β aggregation but also disaggregates the preformed toxic small oligomers and protofibrils. Other than cell permeability character, CP2 also favors blood brain barrier passage. Our results strongly demonstrate that A β oligomeric complexes (A β -OC's, tetramers and pentamers) are the major culprit causing MC65 cell death. We believe that CP2 is a novel small compound, which has the ability to inhibit intracellular A β aggregation. Treatment of 5X familial Alzheimer's disease mice with CP2 over the period of two weeks resulted in 40% decrease in non-fibrillar aggregates and a 50% in decrease in fibrillar A β species.

3.8 References

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Formula C H O F	W 278.3435			
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.9945	Comment	STANDARD 1H C	BSERVE
Date	Oct 31 2007	Date Stamp	Oct 31 2007	
File Name	C:\NMR BACKUP	010609NMR BACKUP/20	0\HUA-NEW\SAND	DEEP\BOOK5\SR-5-116-DP
Frequency (MHz)	199.98	Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients 32
Original Points Count	5984	Points Count	8192	Pulse Sequence s2pul
Receiver Gain	4.00	Solvent	CHLOROFORM-	1
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	1004.2203	Sweep Width (Hz)	3000.30	Temperature (degree C) 29 000





Formula C H O F	FW 278.3435				
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.3005	Comment	Std proton	Date	Oct 31 2007
Date Stamp	Oct 31 2007				
File Name	C:\NMR BACKUR	V010609NMR BACKUP/4	00ISRANAISRAN	AISR-5-116-FR10-15-13C	
Frequency (MHz)	100.53	Nucleus	13C	Number of Transients	2000
Original Points Count	31375	Points Count	32768	Pulse Sequence	s2pul
Receiver Gain	30.00	Solvent	CHLOROFORM-	d	
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	10529.1475	Sweep Width (Hz)	24125.45	Temperature (degree C	25.000



Formula C_H_O?	FW 261.33	361+?		
Acquisition Time (sec)	2.0486	Comment	Std proton	Date Nov 1 2007
Date Stamp	Nov 1 2007	File Name	C:\NMR BACKU	JPI010609NMR BACKUPI400\SRANA\SRANA\SR-7-11-FR8
Frequency (MHz)	399.77	Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients 10
Original Points Count	13104	Points Count	16384	Pulse Sequence s2pul
Receiver Gain	16.00	Solvent	CHLOROFORM	I-d
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	2409.4956	Sweep Width (Hz)	6396.42	Temperature (degree C) 25.000



Formula C_H_O?	FW 261.33	81+?			
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.3005	Comment	Std proton	Date	Nov 1 2007
Date Stamp	Nov 1 2007				
File Name	C:\NMR BACKU	P\010609NMR BACKUP	400\SRANA\SRAN	A\SR-7-011-FR8-13C	
Frequency (MHz)	100.53	Nucleus	13C	Number of Transients	3000
Original Points Count	31375	Points Count	32768	Pulse Sequence	s2pul
Receiver Gain	30.00	Solvent	CHLOROFORM	-d	
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	10532.0928	Sweep Width (Hz)	24125.45	Temperature (degree C	25.000





Formula C_H_O_F	W 290.3542			
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.9945	Comment	STANDARD 1H O	BSERVE
Date	Mar 17 2008	Date Stamp	Mar 17 2008	
File Name	C:\NMR BACKUP	010609NMR BACKUP/20	0\HUA-NEW\SAND	EEP\BOOK 7\SR-7-104-FR7
Frequency (MHz)	199.98	Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients 32
Original Points Count	5984	Points Count	8192	Pulse Sequence s2pul
Receiver Gain	34.00	Solvent	CHLOROFORM-d	
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	1002.3889	Sweep Width (Hz)	3000.30	Temperature (degree C) 29.000





Formula C H O	FW 290.3542				
Acquisition Time (sec) 1.3005	Comment	Std proton	Date	Dec 14 2007
Date Stamp	Dec 14 2007				
File Name	C:INMR BACKU	PI010609NMR BACKUP	400\SRANA\SRAN	IA\SR-7-40-FR11-13C	
Frequency (MHz)	100.53	Nucleus	130	Number of Transients	5000
Original Points Count	r 31375	Points Count	32768	Pulse Sequence	s2pul
Receiver Gain	30.00	Solvent	CHLOROFORM	-d	
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	10548.2900	Sweep Width (Hz)	24125.45	Temperature (degree C	() 19.000



Formula C_H_O_F	W 328.40	022		
Acquisition Time (sec)	2.0486	Comment	Std proton	Date Apr 8 2008
Date Stamp	Apr 8 2008	File Name	C:\NMR 0310	09I400\SRANA\SR-TP4-ACETATE
Frequency (MHz)	399.77	Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients 32
Original Points Count	13104	Points Count	16384	Pulse Sequence s2pul
Receiver Gain	22.00	Solvent	CHLOROFOR	RM-d
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	2409 1055	Sween Width (Hz)	6396.42	Temperature (degree CI 25 000







Formula C_H_O_F	W 350.4061				
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.3005	Comment	Std proton	Date	Feb 25 2008
Date Stamp	Feb 25 2008				
File Name	C:\NMR BACKU	PI010609NMR BACKUPI4	00\SRANA\SRAN	A\SR-7-88-FR14-13C	
Frequency (MHz)	100.53	Nucleus	13C	Number of Transients	2000
Original Points Count	31375	Points Count	32768	Pulse Sequence	s2pul
Receiver Gain	30.00	Solvent	CHLOROFORM-	d	
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	10549,7627	Sweep Width (Hz)	24125.45	Temperature (degree C	25.000



Formula C_H_NO ?	FW 332.414	40+?		
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.9945	Comment	STANDARD 1H C	DBSERVE
Date	Jun 52008	Date Stamp	Jun 5 2008	
File Name	C:\NMR BACKUP	010609NMR BACKUPI20	00/HUA-NEWISANI	DEEP\BOOK8\SR-8-54-DP
Frequency (MHz)	199.98	Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients 32
Original Points Count	5984	Points Count	8192	Pulse Sequence s2pul
Receiver Gain	39.00	Solvent	CHLOROFORM-	d
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	1003.1215	Sweep Width (Hz)	3000.30	Temperature (degree C) 29,000







Formula C_H_O_ FW 318.3643

Acquisition Time (sec)	2.0486	Comment	Std proton	Date Sep 30 2008
Date Stamp	Sep 30 2008	File Name	C:\NMR 0310	09\400\SRANA\SR-9-21-RECOLUMN-FR23
Frequency (MHz)	399.76	Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients 32
Original Points Count	9827	Points Count	16384	Pulse Sequence s2pul
Receiver Gain	38.00	Solvent	CHLOROFOR	M-d
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	2015.1156	Sweep Width (Hz)	4797.03	Temperature (degree C) 25.000
















Formula C H N O FW 389.4503							
Acquisition Time (sec)	2.0486	Comment	SR-8-82-dp				
Date	Jul 17 2008			Date Stamp	Jul 17 2008		
File Name	C:\SANDEE	P NMR\SR-8-82-DP		Frequency (MHz)	399.76		
Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients	64	Original Points Count	9827		
Points Count	16384	Pulse Sequence	s2pul	Receiver Gain	50.00		
Solvenz	CHLOROFO	RM-d		Spectrum Offset (Hz)	2016.2867		
Sween Width (Hz)	4797.03	Temperature (degree C	25,000				





Formula C_H_N_O_FW	/ 389.4	503			
Acquisition Time (sec) 1.3	3005	Comment	SR-8-82-#14-	13C	
Date Ju	ul 19 2008	Date Stamp	Jul 19 2008	File Name	C:\SANDEEP NMR\SR-8-82-FR14-13C
Frequency (MHz) 10	00.53	Nucleus	13C	Number of Transients	20000
Original Points Count 31	1375	Points Count	32768	Pulse Sequence	s2pul
Receiver Gain 30	0.00	Solvent	CHLOROFOR	M-d	
Spectrum Offset (Hz) 10	0556.2627	Sweep Width (Hz)	24125.45	Temperature (degree C	25.000







Formula C, H, BrO	FW 337.	2514			
Acquisition Time (sec)	2.0486	Comment	Std proton	Date	Jan 12 2008
Date Stamp	Jan 12 2008			File Name	C:\SANDEEP NMR\1 SR-TPBROMIDE
Frequency (MHz)	399.77	Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients	8
Original Points Count	13104	Points Count	16384	Pulse Sequence	s2pul
Receiver Gain	42.00	Solvent	CHLOROFO	RM-d	
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	2408.5327	Sweep Width (Hz)	6396.42	Temperature (degree C	25.000



Formula C H BrO I	FW 337.2	514		
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.3005	Comment	Std proton	Date Jan 12 2008
Date Stamp	Jan 12 2008	File Name	C:\SANDEEP	NMR\SR-TPBROMIDE-13C
Frequency (MHz)	100.53	Nucleus	13C	Number of Transients 10000
Original Points Count	31375	Points Count	32768	Pulse Sequence s2pul
Receiver Gain	30.00	Solvent	CHLOROFOR	RM-d
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	10552,7070	Sweep Width (Hz)	24125.45	Temperature (degree C) 25,000







Formula C_H_CIN O			FW	410.8966		
Acquisition Time (sec)	2.0486	Comment		Std proton	Date	Oct 2 2007
Date Stamp	Oct 2 2007				File Name	C:ISANDEEP NMRISR-5-104-FR11
Frequency (MHz)	399.77	Nucleus		1H	Number of Transients	32
Original Points Count	9828	Points Co	unt	16384	Pulse Seguence	s2pul
Receiver Gain	30.00	Solvent		CHLOROFO	RM-d	
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	2008.9603	Sweep Wi	dth (Hz)	4797.31	Temperature (degree C	25.000



Formula C_H_CIN O		FW 41	2.9125	
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.3005	Comment	Std proton	Date Oct 4 2007
Date Stamp	Oct 4 2007	File Name	C:\NMR 03100	9400\SRANA\SR-5-104-FR11-TP7-13C
Frequency (MHz)	100.53	Nucleus	13C	Number of Transients 10000
Original Points Count	31375	Points Count	32768	Pulse Seguence s2pul
Receiver Gain	30.00	Solvent	CHLOROFOR	M-d
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	10551.9717	Sweep Width (Hz)	24125.45	Temperature (degree C) 25.000









Formula C H NO	FW 389.4574				
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.4976	Comment	13C OBSERVE	Date	Nov 5 2008
Date Stamp	Nov 5 2008				
File Name	C:\NMR BACKUP	010609NMR BACKUP/20	01HUA-NEWISAND	EEP\BOOK 9\SR-9-47-FR	28-13C
Frequency (MHz)	50.29	Nucleus	130	Number of Transients	100000000
Original Points Count	18720	Points Count	32768	Pulse Sequence	s2pul
Receiver Gain	40.00	Solvent	CHLOROFORM-d		
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	4878.9351	Sweep Width (Hz)	12500.00	Temperature (degree C	29.000





Formula C_H_N O	FW 367.4415					
Acquisition Time (sec)	2.0487	Comment	Std proton	Date	Nov 5 2008	
Date Stamp	Nov 5 2008					
File Name	C:DOCUMENTS AND SETTINGS/DUY HUA/DESKTOP/SANDEEP/THESISNMR/NEW					
L	FOLDER(TPSAANL	BISR-9-47-FR011-17				
Frequency (MHz)	399.76	Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients	32	
Original Points Count	13103	Points Count	16384	Pulse Sequence	s2pul	
Receiver Gain	44.00	Solvent	CHLOROFORM-d	Spectrum Offset (Hz)	2416.5151	
Sweep Width (Hz)	6395.91	Temperature (degree (0125.000			











Formula C H NO	FW 273.3	3700			
Acquisition Time (sec)	2.0486	Comment	Std proton	Date	Nov 16 2007
Date Stamp	Nov 16 2007				
File Name	C:\SANDEEF	NMR\SR-7-24-CRDUE-E	BASIC	Frequency (MHz)	399.77
Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients	32	Original Points Count	9828
Points Count	16384	Pulse Sequence	s2pul	Receiver Gain	36.00
Solvent	CHLOROFO	RM-d		Spectrum Offset (Hz)	2008.9603
Sweep Width (Hz)	4797.31	Temperature (degree C	3 25.000		





Formula C H NO F	W 273.3	700			
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.3005	Comment	Std proton	Date	Nov 25 2007
Date Stamp	Nov 25 2007			File Name	C3SANDEEP NMR\SR-7-29-BASE-13C
Frequency (MHz)	100.53	Nucleus	13C	Number of Transients	5000
Original Points Count	31375	Points Count	32768	Pulse Sequence	s2pui
Receiver Gain	30.00	Solvent	CHLOROFOR	RM-d	
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	10548.2900	Sweep Width (Hz)	24125.45	Temperature (degree C	25.000

















Formula C_H_N.O	FW 448.51	142		
Acquisition Time (sec	2.0486	Comment	Std proton	Date Jan 30 2008
Date Stamp	Jan 30 2008	File Name	C:\SANDEEP N	NMR/SR-5-115-FR10-15-13C.FID/SR-7-68-FR12-DP
Frequency (MHz)	399.77	Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients 32
Original Points Count	13104	Points Count	16384	Pulse Sequence s2pul
Receiver Gain	52.00	Solvent	CHLOROFORM	M-d
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	2409 1055	Sween Width (Hz)	6396.42	Temperature (degree C) 25,000



Formula C_H_N_O	FW 449.5	023		
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.3005	Comment	Std proton	Date Feb 2 2008
Date Stamp	Feb 2 2008	File Name	C:\SANDEEP	NMR\SR-7-68-FR11-12-13C-DP
Frequency (MHz)	100.53	Nucleus	13C	Number of Transients 64000000
Original Points Count	31375	Points Count	32768	Pulse Sequence s2pul
Receiver Gain	30.00	Solvent	CHLOROFOR	RM-d
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	10554.7441	Sweep Width (Hz)	24125.45	Temperature (degree C) 25.000





Formula C_H_N_O	FW 382.4	528		
Acquisition Time (sec)	2.0486	Comment	Std proton	Date Oct 9 2007
Date Stamp	Oct 9 2007	File Name	C:\SANDEEP	NMR\SR-5-109-FR7-10-AFTERWORKUP
Frequency (MHz)	399.77	Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients 32
Original Points Count	9828	Points Count	16384	Pulse Sequence s2pul
Receiver Gain	30.00	Solvent	CHLOROFOR	RM-d
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	2008.3746	Sweep Width (Hz)	4797.31	Temperature (degree C) 25,000















Formula C H BrO FW 189.0067									
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.9945	Comment	STANDARD 1	H OBSERVE					
Date	Aug 28 2008	Date Stamp	Aug 28 2008						
File Name	C:\NMR 03100	9\200\BOOK 9\SR-9-011	-DP	Frequency (MHz)	199.98				
Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients	64	Original Points Count	5984				
Points Count	8192	Pulse Sequence	s2pul	Receiver Gain	40.00				
Solvent	CHLOROFORM-d			Spectrum Offset (Hz)	1002.0226				
Sweep Width (Hz)	3000.30	Temperature (degree C	3 29.000						
























































Formula C H NO	FW	123.1525				
Acquisition Time (sec) 1.4976		Comment	13C OBSERVE	Date	Nov 20 2008	
Date Stamp Nov 20 2008		20 2008				
File Name C:\NMR BACKU		V010609NMR BAC	KUP\200\HUA-NEW\SAN	DEEP\BOOK 9\SR-9-58-	-13C	
Frequency (MHz)	50.2	9	Nucleus	13C	Number of Transients	20000
Original Points Coun	t 1872	0	Points Count	32768	Pulse Sequence	s2pul
Receiver Gain	40.0	0	Solvent	DMSO-d6	Spectrum Offset (Hz)	4916.1436
Sweep Width (Hz)	1250	0.00	Temperature (de	aree C) 29.000		





	Formula C_H_NO_F	W 259.3	434			
Acquisition Time (sec) 2.0487			Comment	Std proton	Date	Nov 17 2008
	Date Stamp	Nov 17 2008			File Name	C:\NMR 031009\400\SRANA\SR-9-61-DP
	Frequency (MHz)	399.76	Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients	32
	Original Points Count	13103	Points Count	16384	Pulse Sequence	s2pul
Receiver Gain 30.00 Solvent			Solvent	CHLOROFORM-d		
	Spectrum Offset (Hz)	2416 5151	Sweep Width (Hz)	6395.91	Temperature (degree C)	25.000



ļ	Formula C_H_NO_ FW 259.3434							
	Acquisition Time (sec)	1.3005	Comment	Std proton	Date	Nov 17 2008		
Date Stamp Nov 17 2008		Nov 17 2008	File Name	Name C:\NMR 0310		31009/400/SRANA/SR-9-61-13C		
	Frequency (MHz)	100.53	Nucleus	13C	Number of Transients	500		
	Original Points Count	31375	Points Count	32768	Pulse Sequence	s2pul		
Receiver Gain 30.00		Solvent	CHLOROFORM-d					
	Spectrum Offset (Hz)	10554.7910	Sweep Width (Hz)	24125.45	Temperature (degree C)	25.000		

Н



ļ	Formula C_H_NO_F	W 359.4	593			
Acquisition Time (sec) 2.0487 Cr Date Stamp Nov 17 2008			Comment	Std proton	Date	Nov 17 2008
					File Name	C:\NMR 031009\400\SRANA\SR-9-60-DP
	Frequency (MHz)	399.76	Nucleus	1H	Number of Transients	32
6	Original Points Count	13103	Points Count	16384	Pulse Sequence	s2pul
Receiver Gain 12.00 Sol			Solvent	CHLOROFORM-d		
	Spectrum Offset (Hz)	2415.3440	Sweep Width (Hz)	6395.91	Temperature (degree C)	25.000



Formula C H NO FW 359.45	593		
Acquisition Time (sec) 1.3005	Comment	Std proton	Date Nov 17 2008
Date Stamp Nov 17 2008	File Name	C:\NMR 0310	09/400/SRANA/SR-9-60-13C
Frequency (MHz) 100.53	Nucleus	13C	Number of Transients 2000
Original Points Count 31375	Points Count	32768	Pulse Sequence s2pul
Receiver Gain 30.00	Solvent	CHLOROFORM-d	
Spectrum Offset (Hz) 10540 8008	Sweep Width (Hz)	24125.45	Temperature (degree C) 25,000





Formula C H NO	FW 375.5017	,			
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.3005	Comment	Std proton	Date	Nov 20 2008
Date Stamp	Nov 20 2008				
File Name	C:INMR BACKU	P\010609NMR BACKUP\4	00\SRANA\SRAN	A\SR-9-63-FR11-13-13C	
Frequency (MHz)	100.53	Nucleus	130	Number of Transients	300
Original Points Count	31375	Points Count	32768	Pulse Sequence	s2pul
Receiver Gain	30.00	Solvent	CHLOROFORM-	4	
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	10551.8457	Sweep Width (Hz)	24125.45	Temperature (degree C	25.000



Formula C_H_NO ?	FW 358	.4513+?			
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.9945	Comment STANDARD 1		H OBSERVE	
Date	Dec 3 2008	Date Stamp	Dec 3 2008	File Name	C:\NMR 031009\200\BOOK 9\SR-9-73-DP
Frequency (MHz)	199.98	Nucleus	18	Number of Transients	32
Original Points Count	5984	Points Count	8192	Pulse Sequence	s2pul
Receiver Gain	Gain 4.00 Solvent CHLOROF			tM-d	
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	1008.6158	Sweep Width (Hz)	3000.30	000.30 Temperature (degree C) 29.000	



Formula C_H_NO?	FW 358.49	44+?			
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.4976	Comment	13C OBSERVE	Date	Dec 3 2008
Date Stamp	Dec 3 2008				
File Name	C:\NMR BACKUP	N010609NMR BACKUP(2)	00\HUA-NEW\SAN	DEEP\BOOK 9\SR-9-73-13	c
Frequency (MHz)	50.29	Nucleus	13C	Number of Transients	400
Original Points Count	18720	Points Count	32768	Pulse Sequence	s2pul
Receiver Gain 40.00		Solvent	CHLOROFORM-	d	
Spectrum Offset (Hz)	4867,1089	Sweep Width (Hz)	12500.00	Temperature (degree C)	29.000


















