

CRTh2: Can Residence Time Help ?

RSC-SCI Symposium on GPCR2 in Medicinal Chemistry

Allschwil, Basel
15-17 September 2014



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Almirall
Barcelona, Spain

Introduction

Paul Ehrlich, *The Lancet* (1913), 182, 445

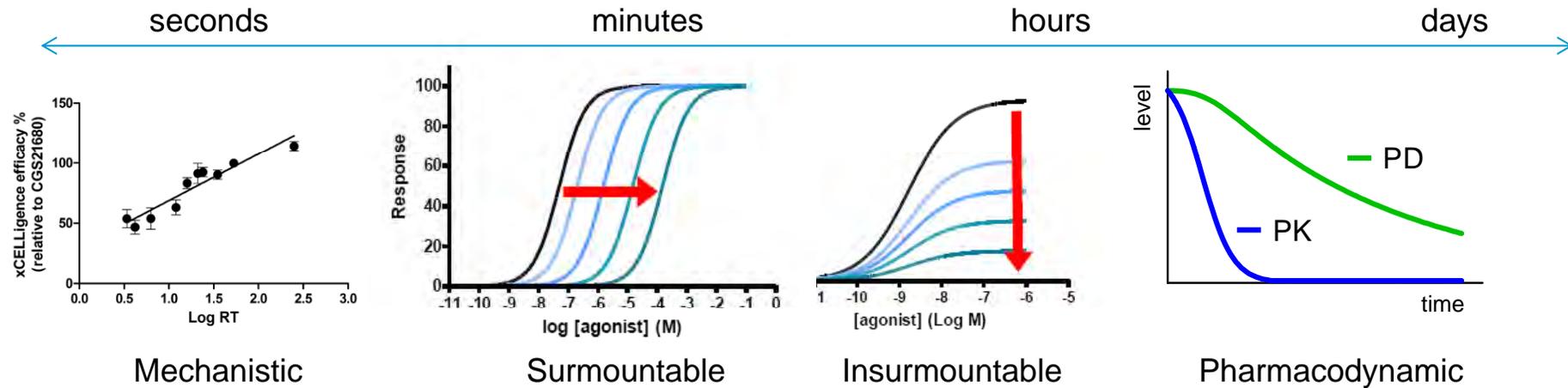
“A substance will not work unless it is bound”

100 years on:

“What a substance does once it’s bound
may depend on how long it’s bound for”

The influence of Binding Kinetics

Residence time / Dissociation half-life



Partial vs Full agonism

- M3 agonists
- A_{2A} agonists



Efficacy vs substrate concentration

- Lovastatin
- Candasaratan

Mechanism-based toxicity

- Clozapine
- Haloperidol
- Celecoxib
- Aspirin



Duration of Action

- Ipratropium vs Acridinium

Kinetic Selectivity

- M3 vs M2 antagonism

Potency has little influence over these behaviours

The CRTh2 Programme

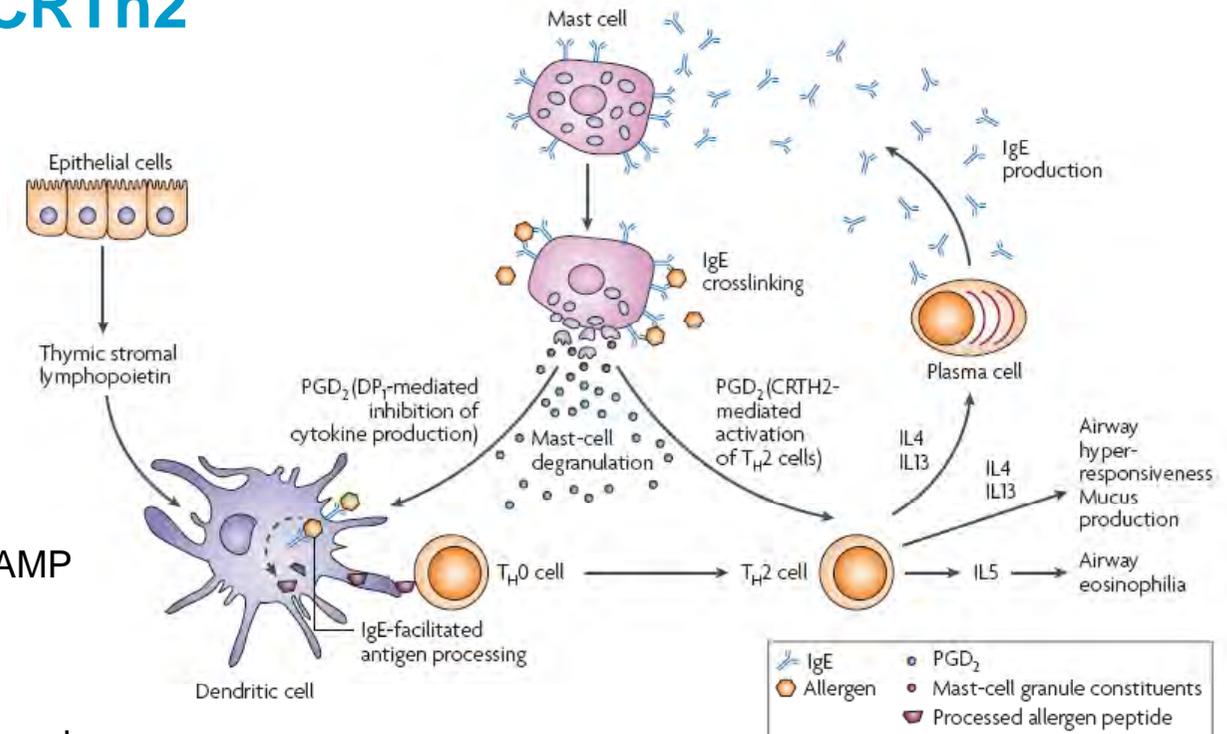
Brief introduction to CRTh2

Real name:

- Chemoattractant Receptor-homologous molecule expressed on T-Helper 2 cells
- Also known as DP2

CRTh2 activation:

- induces a reduction of intracellular cAMP and calcium mobilization.
- is involved in chemotaxis of Th2 lymphocytes, eosinophils, mast cells and basophils.
- inhibits the apoptosis of Th2 lymphocytes
- stimulates the production of IL4, IL5, and IL13, leading to:
 - eosinophil recruitment and survival
 - mucus secretion
 - airway hyper-responsiveness
 - immunoglobulin E (IgE) production
 - etc



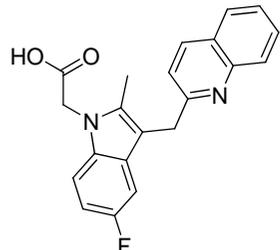
CRTh2 and DP1 review. *Nat. Rev. Drug Disc.* (2007), 6, 313

CRTh2 antagonism:

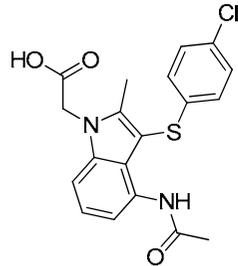
- Should block pro-inflammatory PGD₂ effects on key cell types
- Potential benefit in:
 - asthma
 - allergic rhinitis
 - atopic dermatitis.

CRTTh2 – A Target of interest

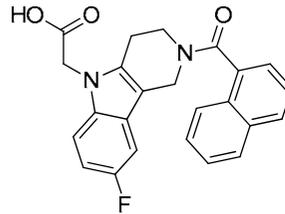
Indole acetic acids



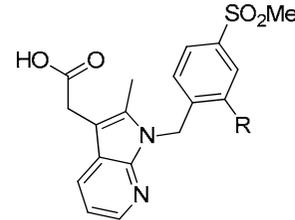
Oxagen-Eleventa
OC-459
Phase III



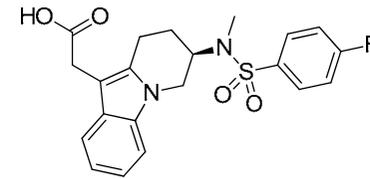
AstraZeneca
AZD-1981
Phase II



Actelion
Setipiprant
Phase III



Novartis
R = CF₃ QAW-039
R = H QAV-680
Phase II/II

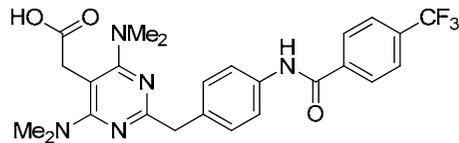


Merck
MK-7246
Phase I

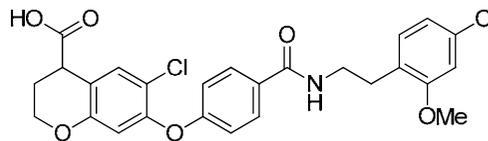
?

Pulmagen-Teijin
ADC-3680
Phase II

Aryl acetic acids



Boehringer
BI671800
Phase II



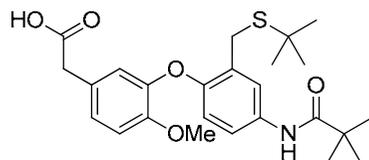
Array
ARRY-502
Phase II

?

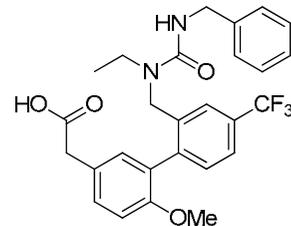
Roche
RG-7581
Phase I



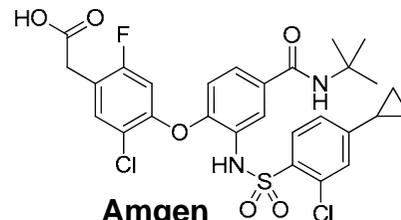
AstraZeneca
AZD-5985 or
AZD-8075
Phase I/II



Panmira
AM461
Phase I



Panmira
AM211
Phase I



Amgen
AMG-853
Phase II

- All compounds are acids
- Plenty of Competition
- Plenty of Attrition
- First compounds high dose and/or BID

Our internal programme

We want to find a

Once-a-day

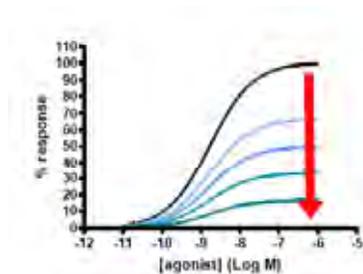
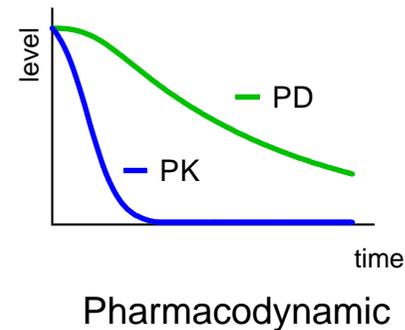
Oral

low dose (≤ 10 mg)

CRTh2 antagonist for mild-moderate asthma

- Therefore, we chose to deliberately look for slowly dissociating CRTh2 antagonists:

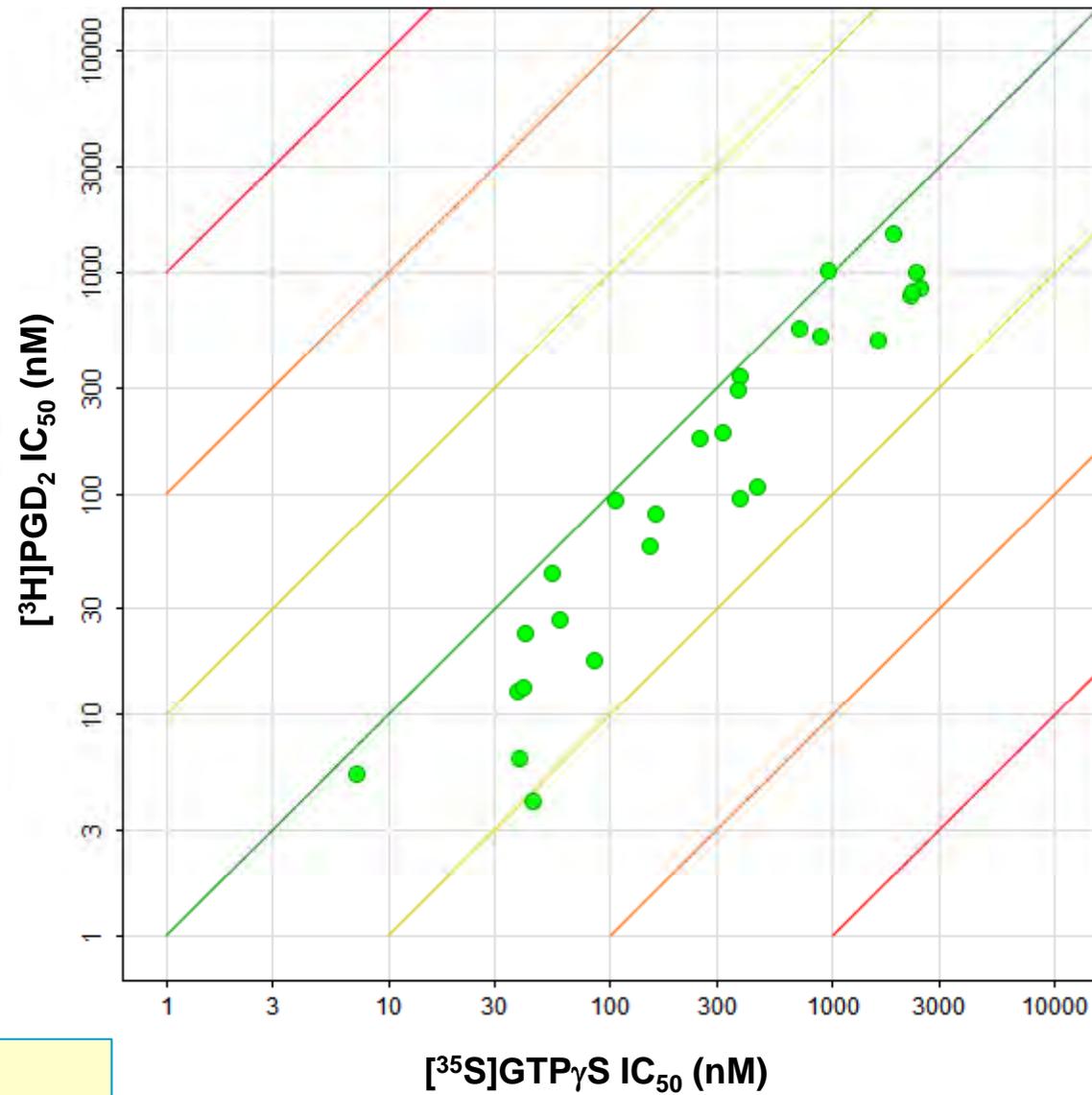
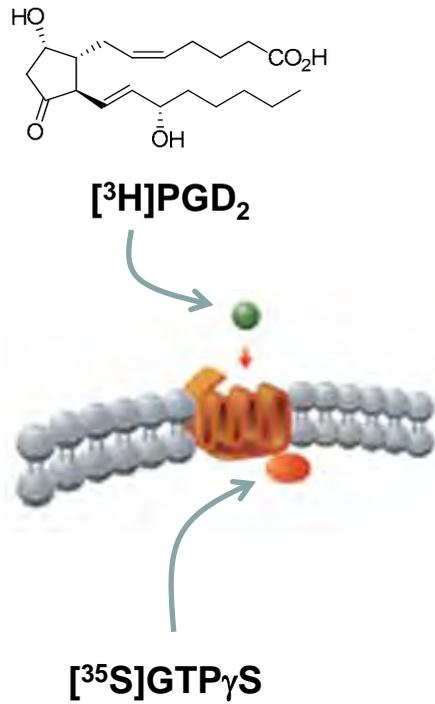
- To maintain receptor occupancy beyond normal PK and extend duration of action
- to reduce the pressure of finding a carboxylic acid with desirable PK properties
- to add the possibility of extra protection due to insurmountability against PGD₂ burst



Insurmountable

Assays

GTP γ S vs PGD $_2$ binding



Good correlation
[^{35}S]GTP γ S Assay favoured

GTP γ S vs ESC Isolated cell



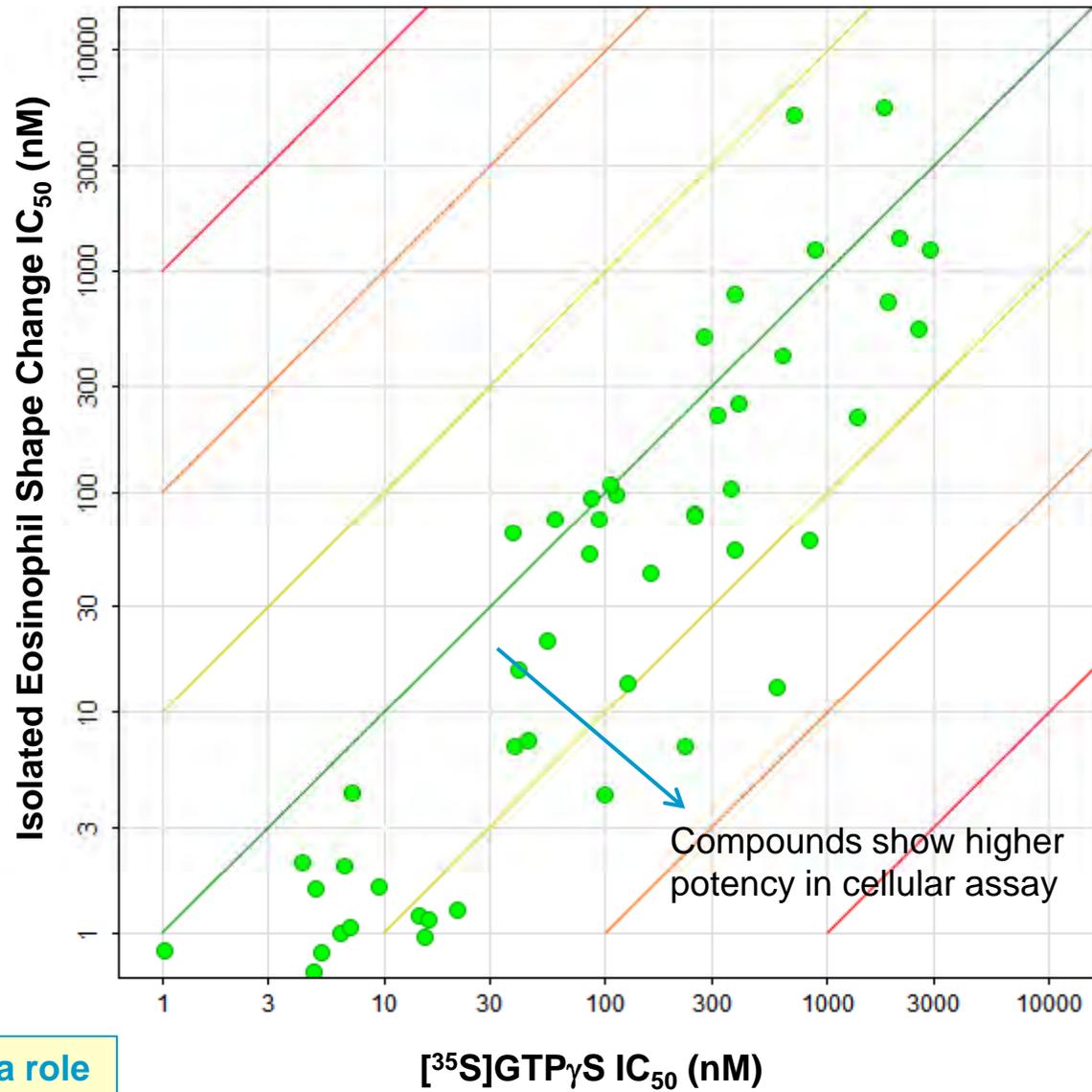
Whole cell



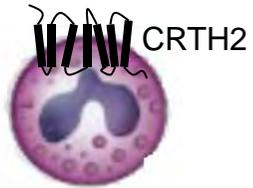
membranes

+ 0.1% BSA

Protein binding plays a role



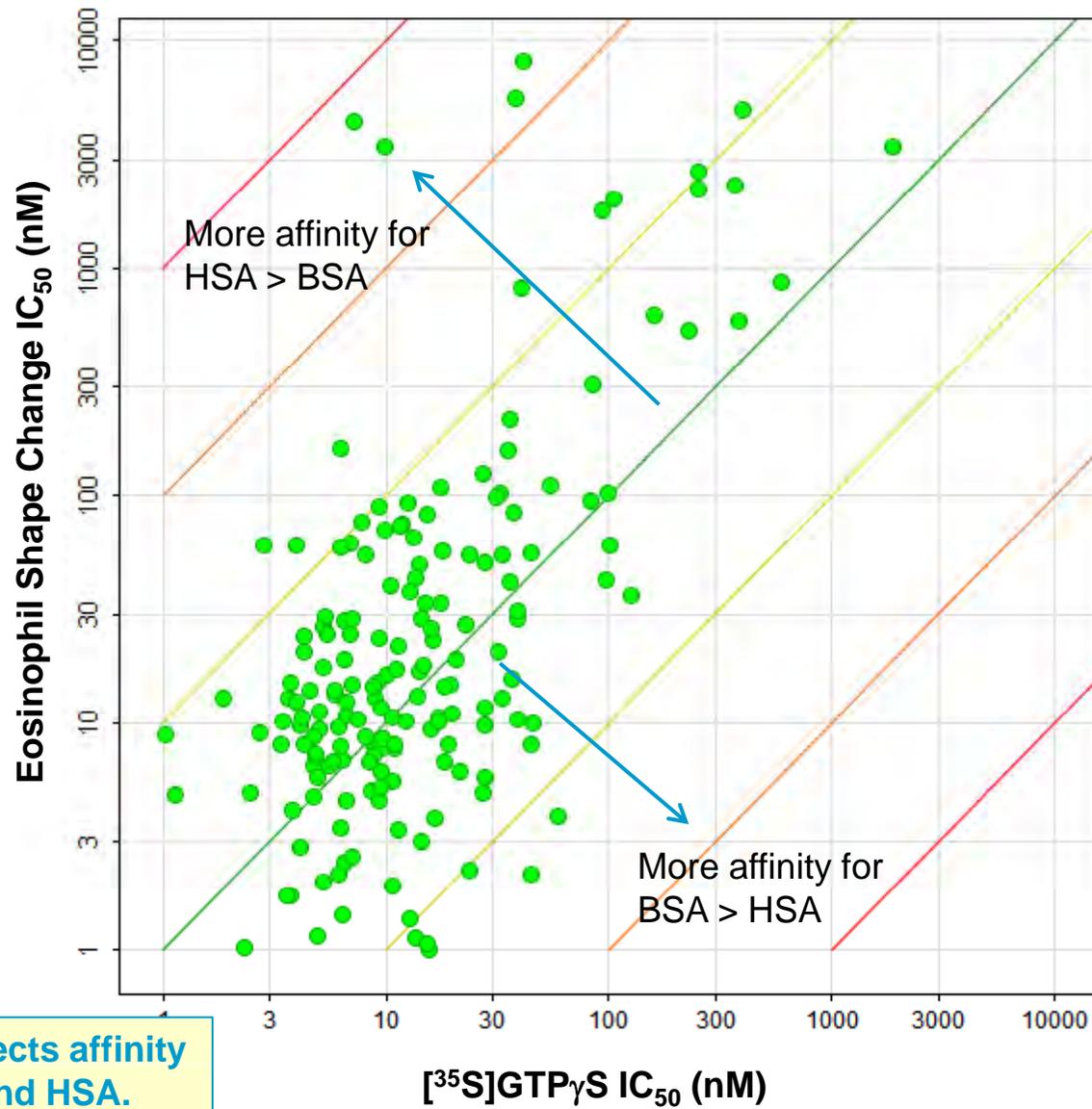
GTP γ S vs ESC Human Whole Blood



Whole cell
+ 4% HSA

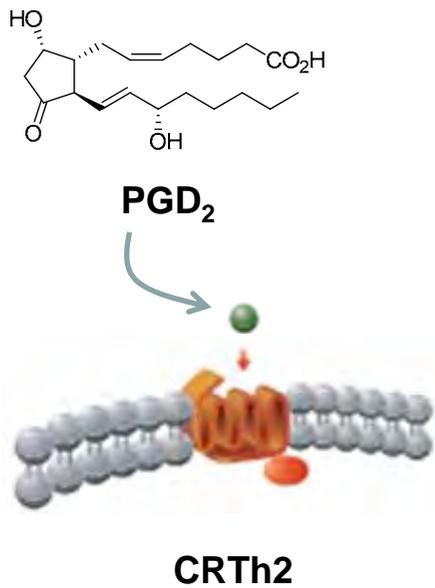
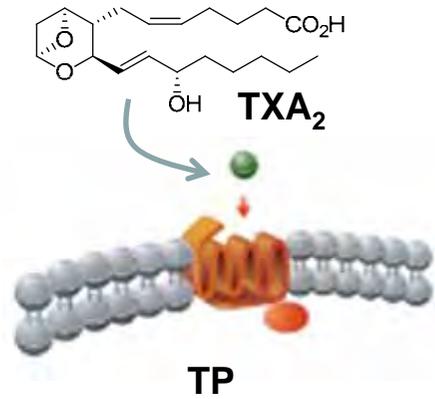


membranes
+ 0.1% BSA

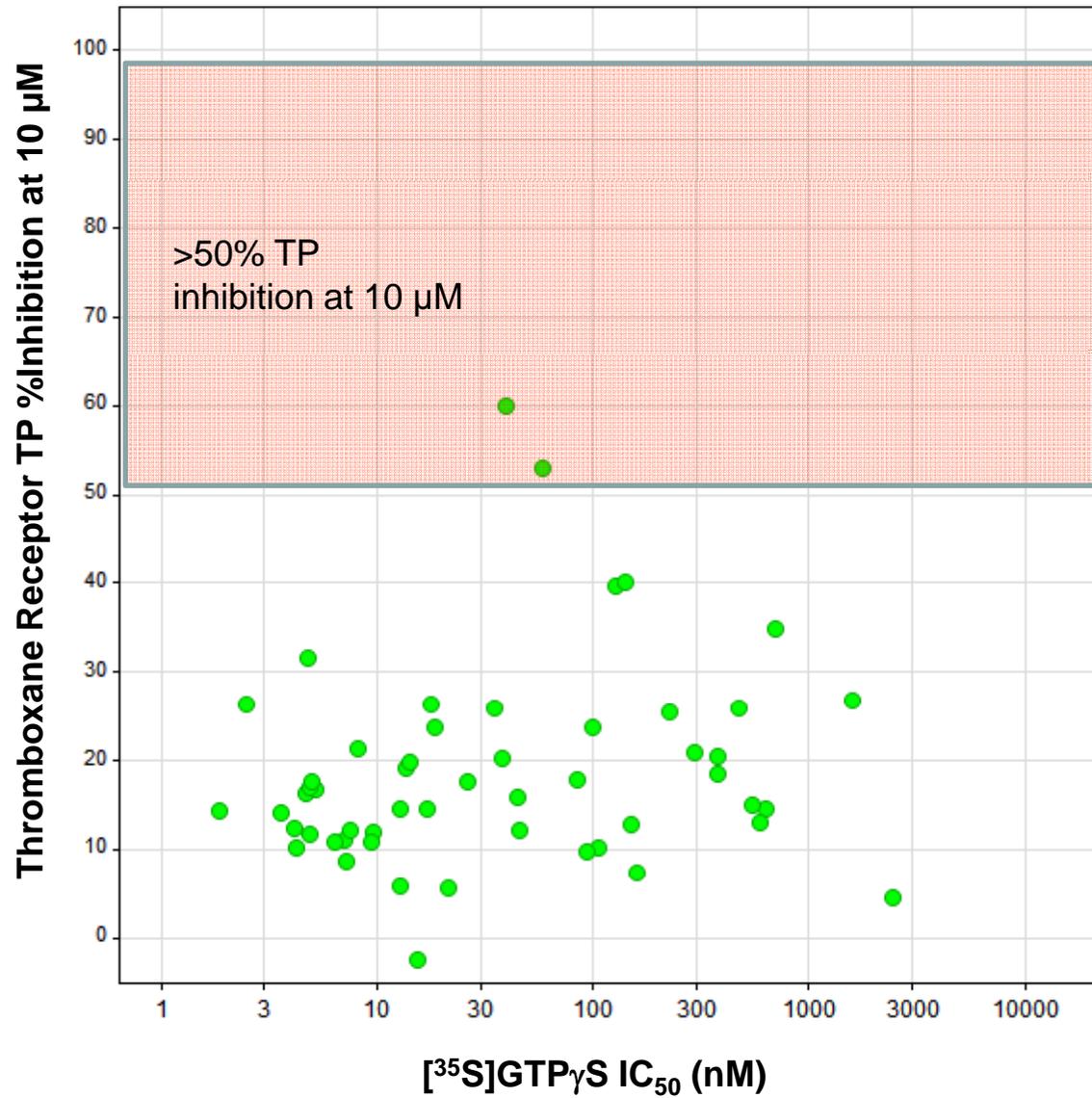


“Shift” assay simply reflects affinity of compounds for BSA and HSA. ESC IC₅₀ is “Real” Potency

GTP γ S vs TP Receptor Selectivity



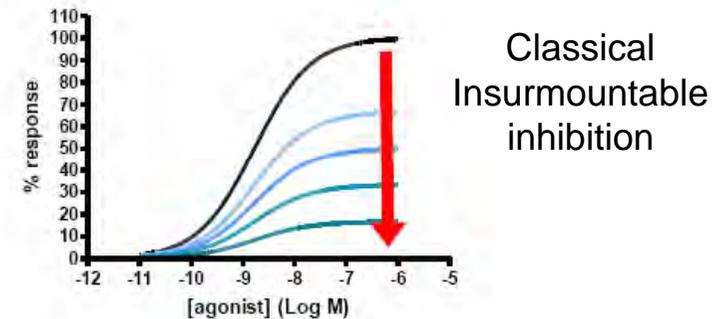
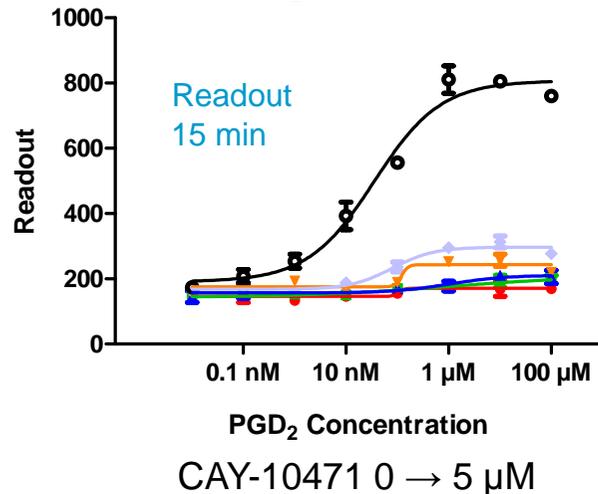
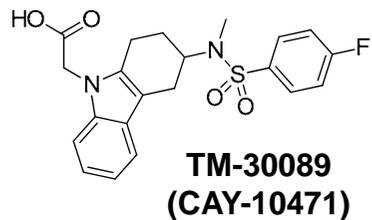
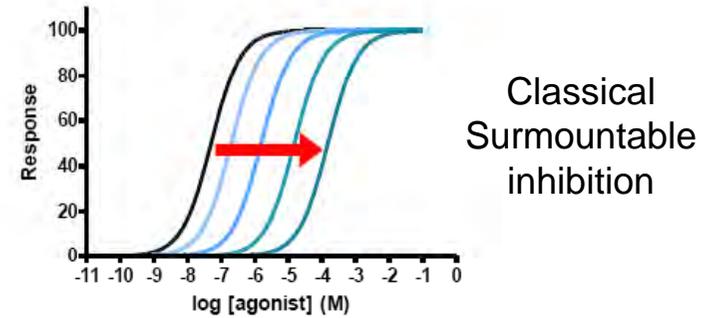
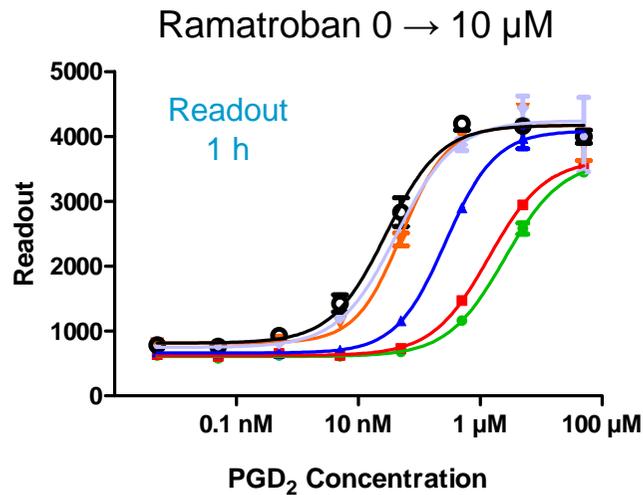
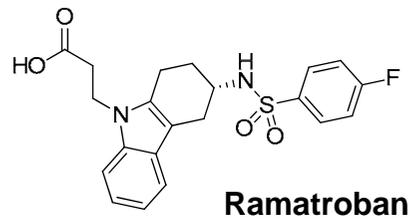
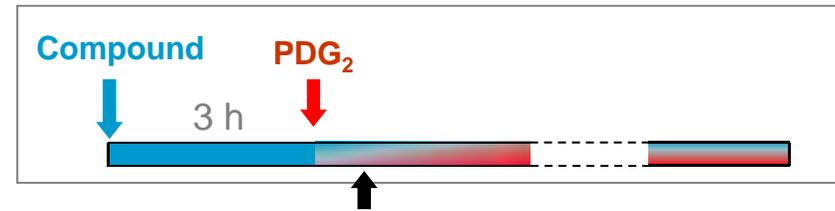
Compounds are
CRTh2 selective



In vitro dissociation assays CRTh2

GTP γ S binding

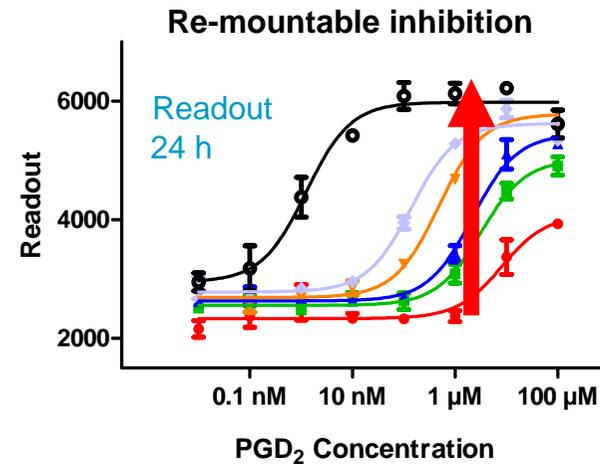
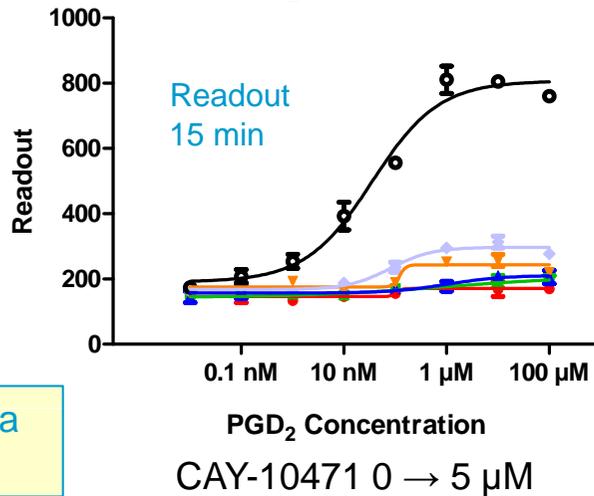
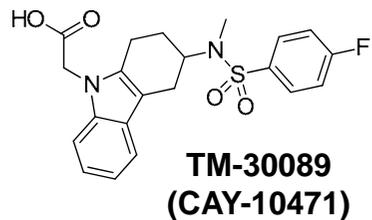
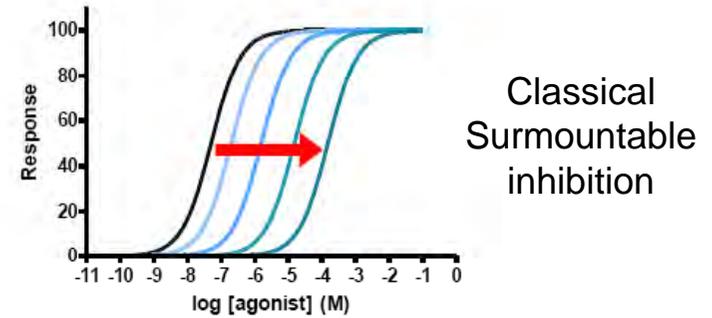
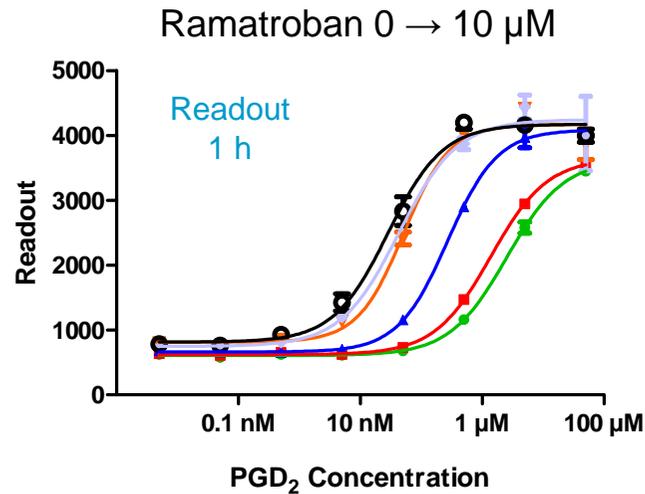
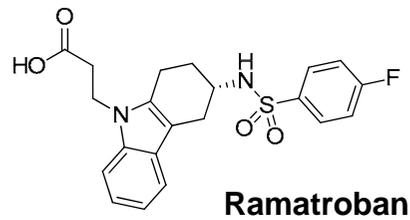
- Membranes over-expressing human CRTh2
- PGD₂ agonism produces allows [³⁵S]-GTP γ S binding, detected by radioactivity



In vitro dissociation assays CRTh2

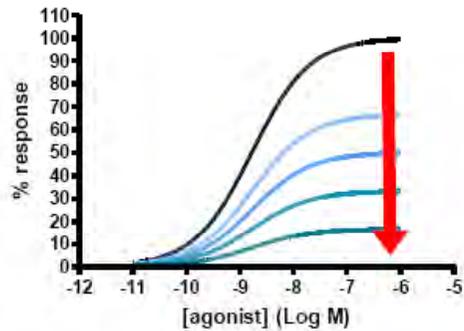
Surmountability vs Insurmountability

- Membranes over-expressing human CRTh2
- PGD₂ agonism produces allows [³⁵S]GTP_γS binding, detected by radioactivity

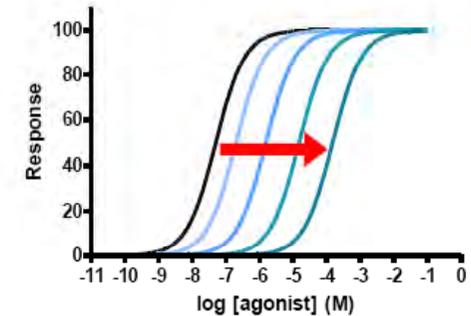


Surmountability is just a question of time

When is the insurmountable surmountable ?

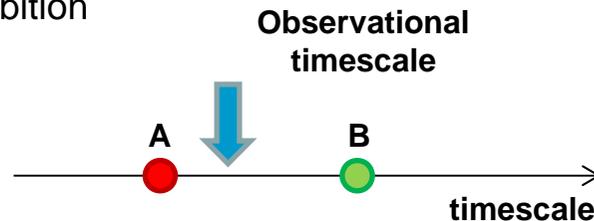


Classical
Insurmountable inhibition

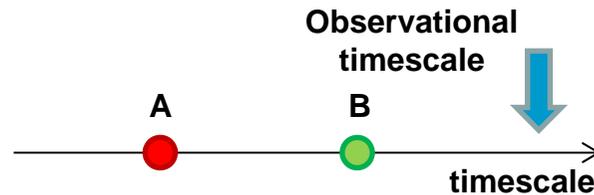


Classical
Surmountable inhibition

Competitive compounds
with different kinetics



B seems immobile in the
experiment: Insurmountable

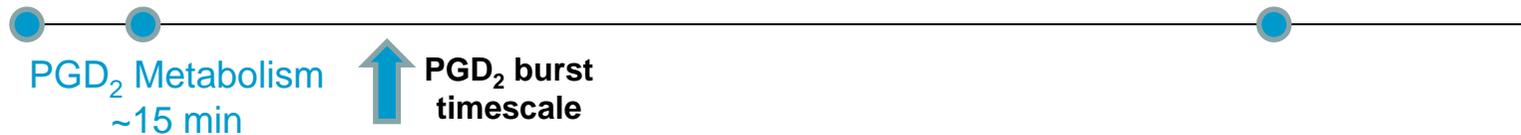


A and B reach equilibrium
during the experiment.
Surmountable behaviour

PGD₂ Release
from Mast cells

PGD₂ Kinetics
~15 min

CRTh2 antagonist
Kinetics ~24 h

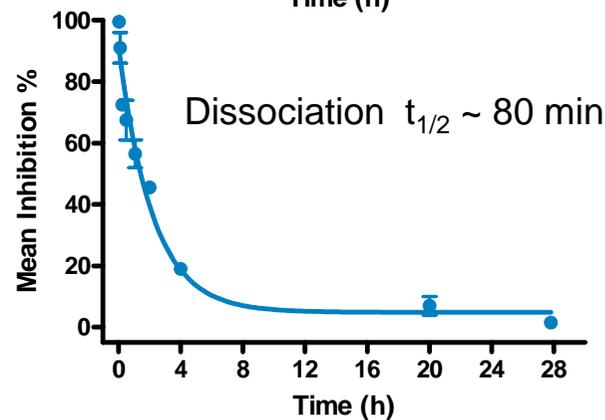
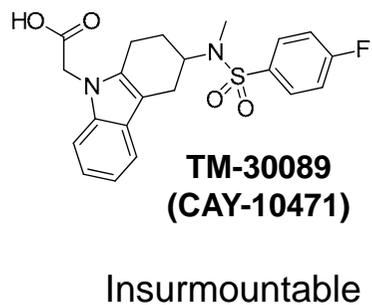
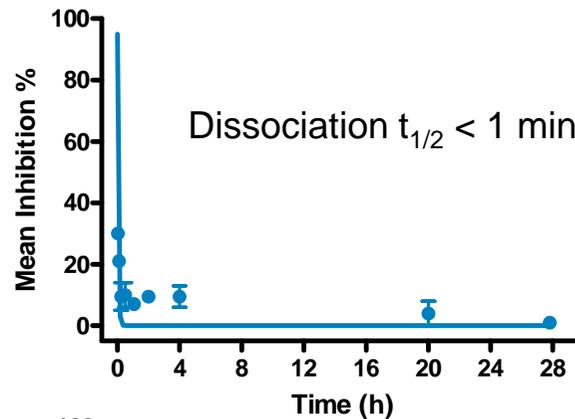
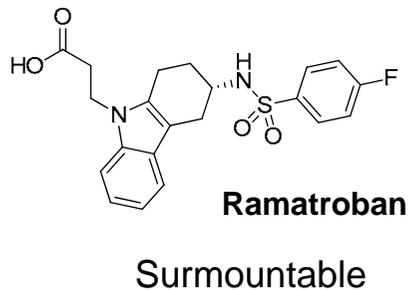
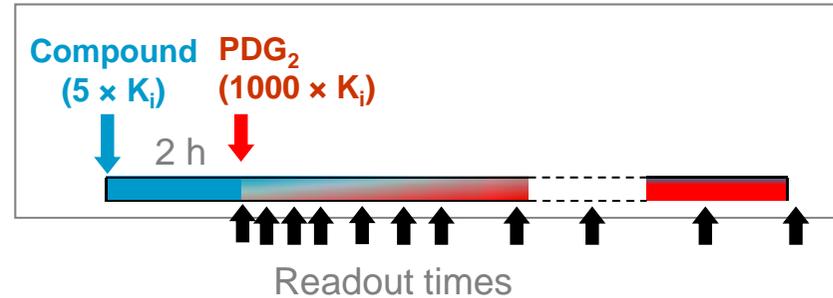


Long resident CRTh2 antagonists will have an insurmountable behaviour against PGD₂ burst

In vitro dissociation assays CRTh2

Washout experiments

- Membranes pre-incubated with compound
- Antagonist effectively swamped by agonist
- Decay of inhibition followed by time
- Automated Filtration reading in 96-well format
- Readings from 2 min to 28 h



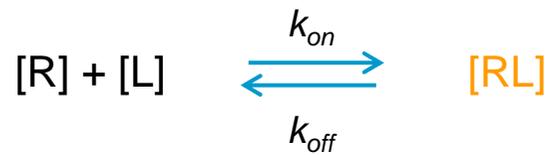
“Worst case” scenario for dissociation half-life

- No rebinding possible.
- Physiological system may be less demanding

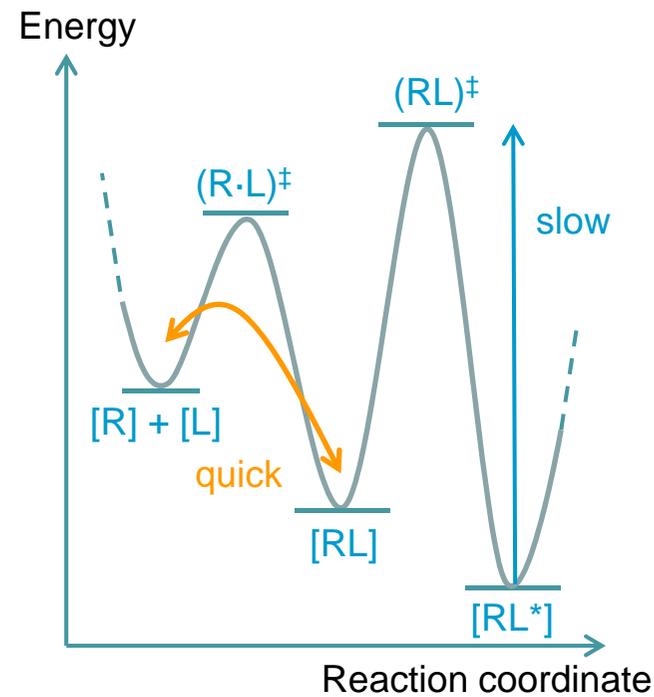
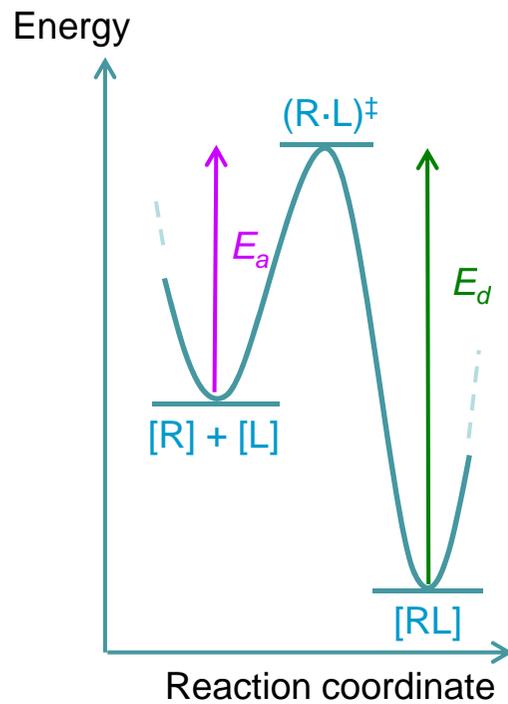
Mechanisms of slow dissociation

On rates by mechanism – also independent of potency

Simple fit

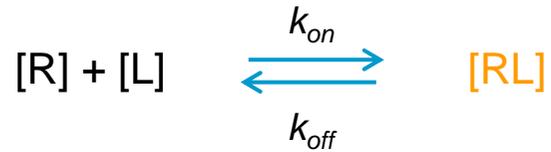


Induced fit



On rates by mechanism

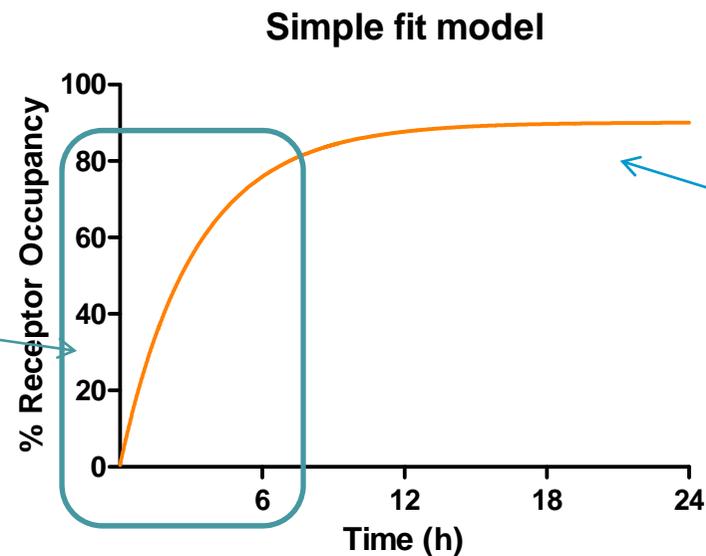
Simple fit



- If the off rate is slow, the on rate is also slow

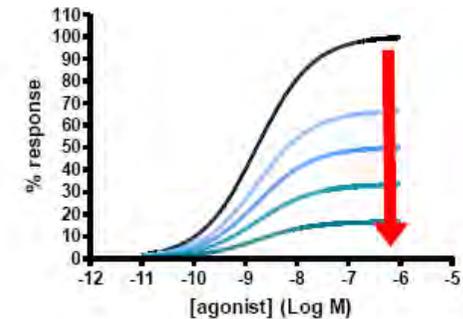
However, the time to “get on” is about 6 h.

Before this time the ligand is a partial antagonist



Simulation: Dissociation half-life 24 h
Concentration of [L] at $10 \times IC_{50}$

Once “on”, the ligand behaves as an insurmountable antagonist



Sufficient PK levels needed for sufficient time to ensure receptor becomes saturated

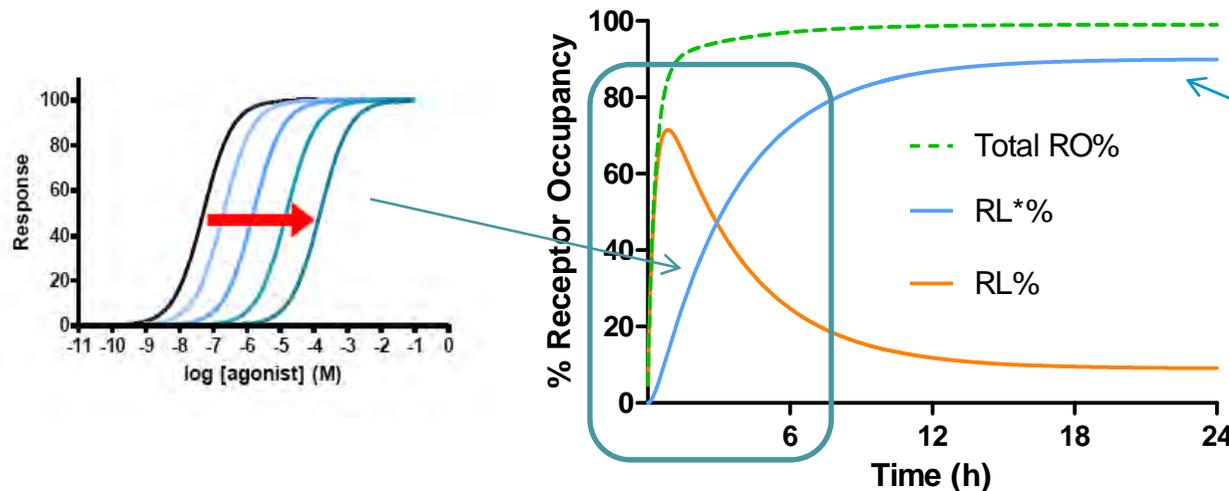
On rates by mechanism

Induced fit



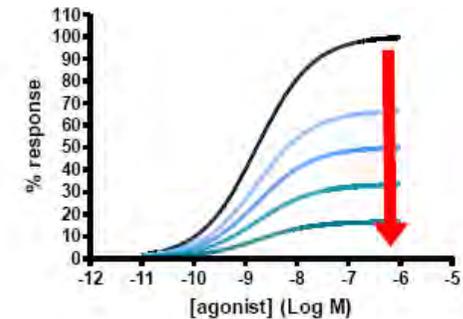
The ligand binds quickly (Total RO%)
However at this point it behaves as a classical surmountable ligand

Induced fit model



Simulation: k_4 Dissociation half-life 24 h
Concentration of [L] at $10 \times IC_{50}$

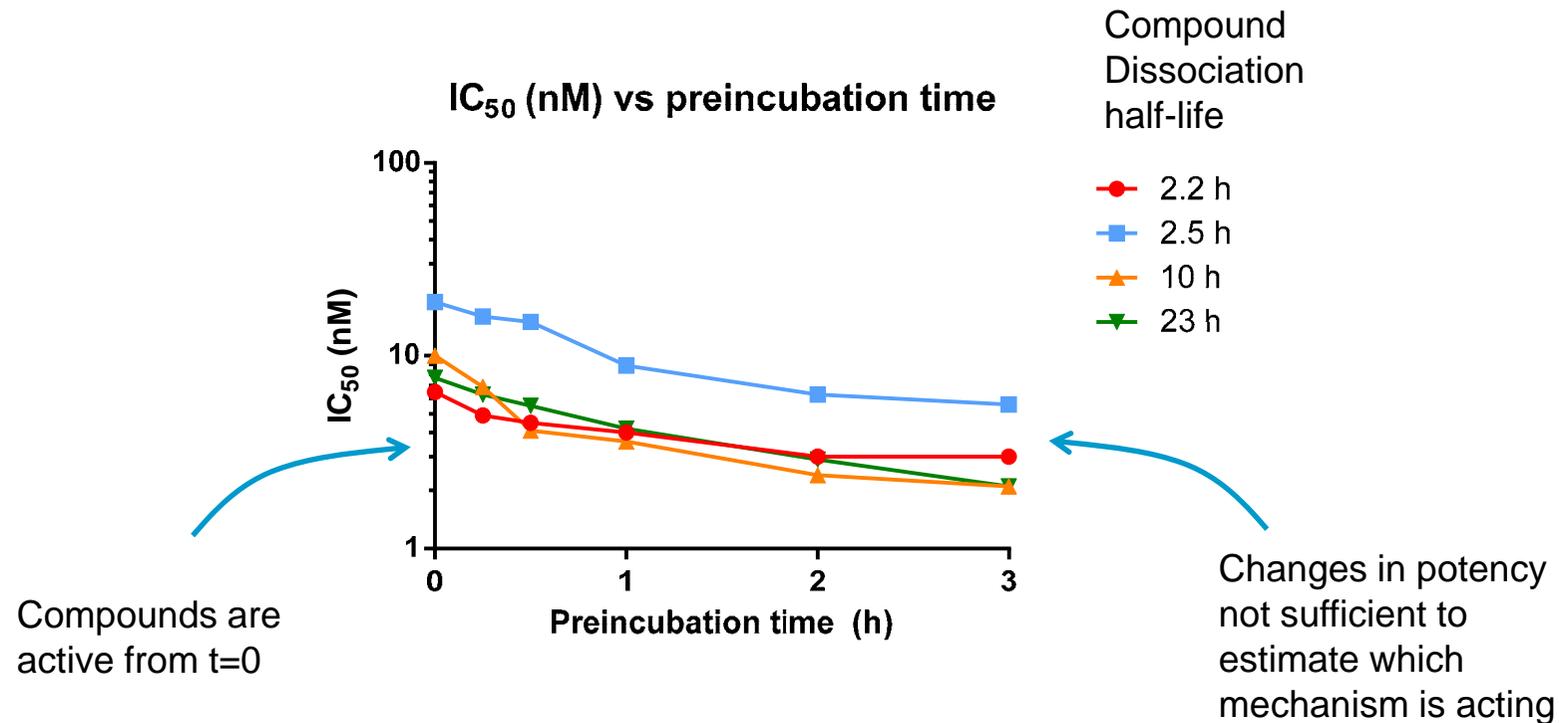
Once "on", the ligand behaves as an insurmountable antagonist



Sufficient PK levels needed for sufficient time to ensure receptor becomes saturated

Which mechanism is it ?

- No radio-labelled ligands
- No Biacore
- Slow dissociating compounds get more potent with time

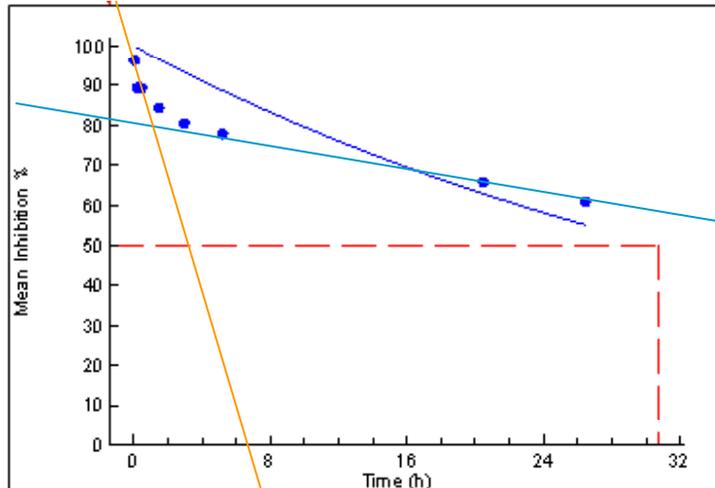


“Real” potency may be better than in vitro potency

Which mechanism is it ?



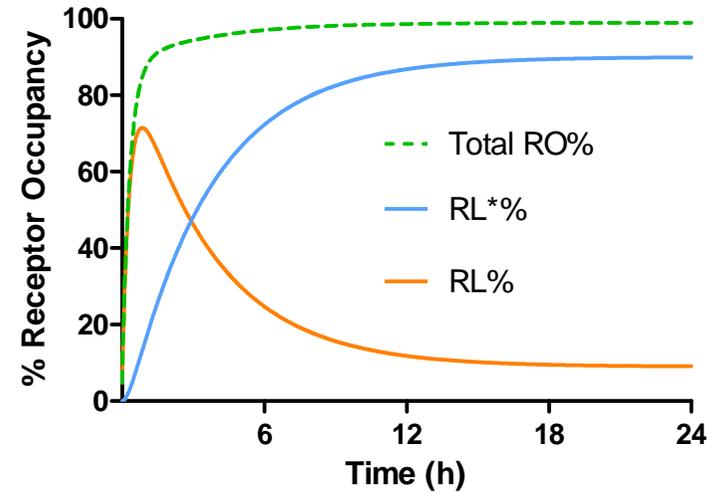
2 h Pre-incubation at $10 \times IC_{50}$
 Dissociation $t_{1/2}$ 25 h \pm 3.5



Residual [RL] fast
 Dissociation

Majority [RL*] fast
 Dissociation

Induced fit model



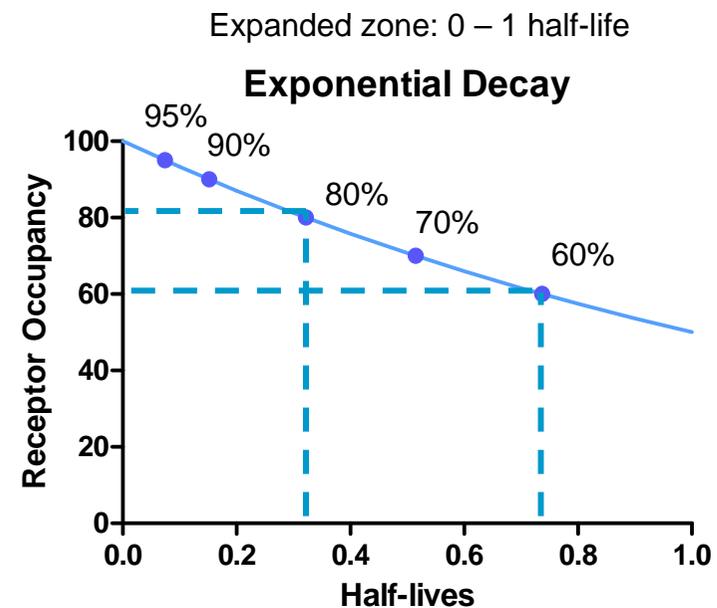
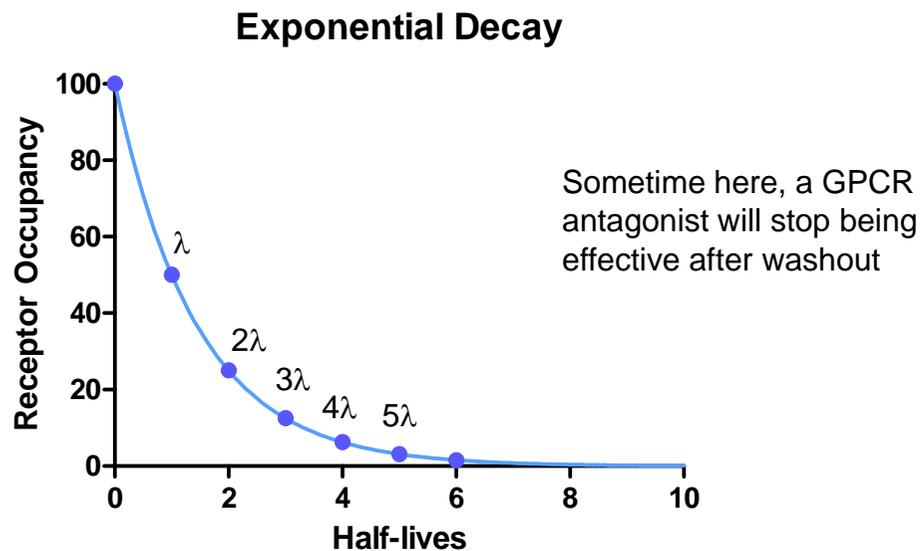
Mechanism unknown, but induced fit suspected

How long is long? Mechanistic or Pharmacodynamic?

Necessary Receptor Occupancy for efficacy - Pharmacodynamic

Target	Class	Receptor Occupancy
GPCR	Antagonist	60-80%
	Agonist high efficacy	2-30%
	Agonist low efficacy	60-95%
Ligand-gated ion channels	Antagonist	65-95%
	Agonist	5-80%
Transporters	All	60-85%
Enzyme	Inhibitors	70-99%

Grimwood and Hartig, Pharm. Therap. 122, 281, 2009

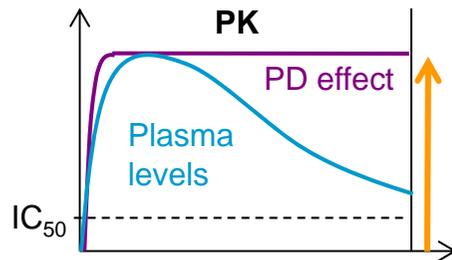


For a GPCR antagonist, count on about **half a half-life** extra of PD effect

DoA Scenarios for full coverage over 24h

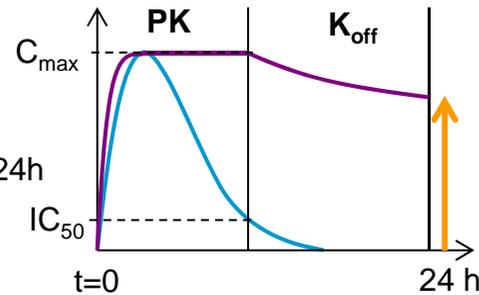
Many CRTh2 antagonists in the clinic are twice daily

PK only effect:
“classic” drug. PK-PD relationship



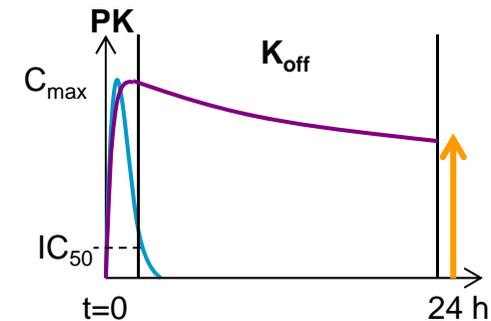
- Dissociation Half-life = not necessary

**Some PK
Some residence time**



- Dissociation Half-life ~ 24 h

**Little PK
Really long residence time**



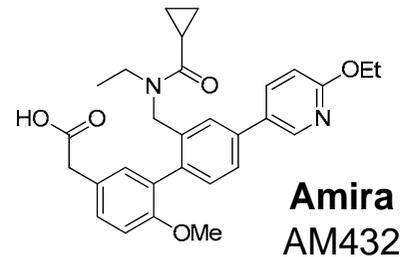
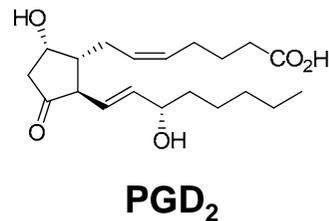
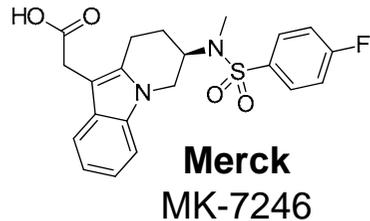
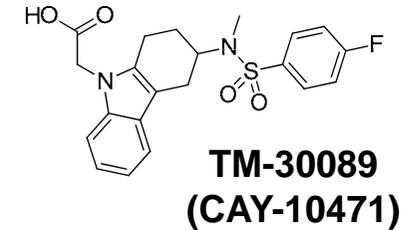
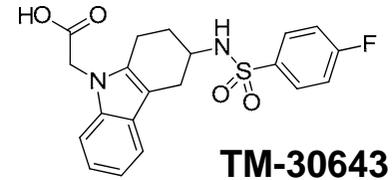
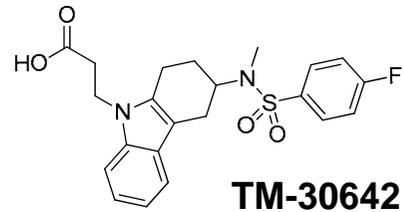
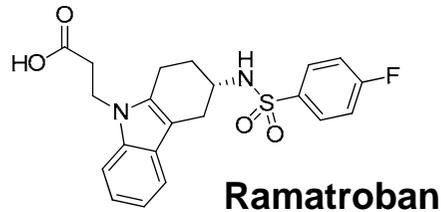
- Dissociation Half-life ~ 48 h

To turn a twice-daily compound into a once-daily compound, we want to add on a **Dissociation half-life of ≥ 24 h**

Chemical Series

Structure-Activity Relationships (SAR)
Structure-Kinetic Relationships (SKR)

Are there slow-dissociating CRTh2 antagonists?



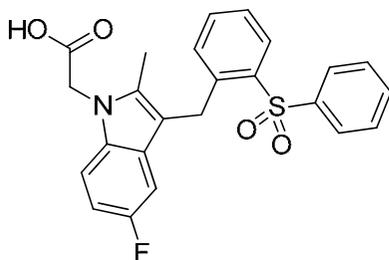
Structure not
disclosed
**Pulmagen
ADC-3680**

Compound	Potency	Dissociation half-life*	Reference
Ramatroban	pA ₂ 36 nM	5 min	<i>Mol. Pharmacol.</i> (2006), <u>69</u> , 1441
TM-30642	pA ₂ 20 nM	8 min	--- // ---
MK-7246	K _i 2.5 nM	33 min	<i>Mol. Pharmacol.</i> (2011), <u>79</u> , 69
PGD ₂	K _D 11 nM	11 min	<i>Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.</i> (2011), <u>21</u> , 1036
AM432	IC ₅₀ 6 nM	89 min	--- // ---
ADC-3680	K _i 1.6 nM	20 min	<i>American Thoracic Society (ATS)</i> , May 17-22, 2013
QAW-039	K _d 1 nM	12 min	<i>ERS 8 September 2014</i>
QAV-680	K _d 15 nM	1 min	<i>ERS 8 September 2014</i>

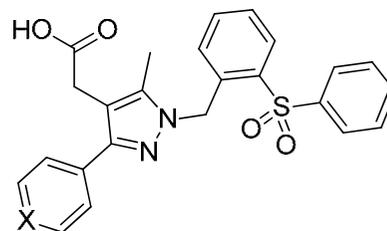
Published residence times are all "short"

Pyrazoles

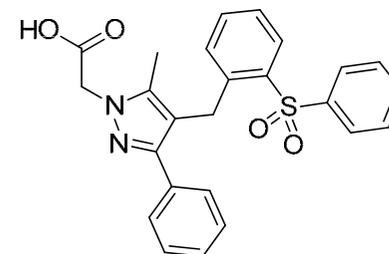
- Indole nucleus developed by Oxagen. Beginnings of slow dissociation observed
- First series of Pyrazoles gave active compounds, but no significant residence time (BMCL, 2013, 23, 3349)
- Second series of Reverse Pyrazoles gave a similar story (Eur J Med Chem, 2014, 71, 168)



Indole



Pyrazoles



Reverse Pyrazoles

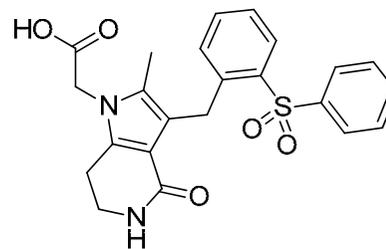
	Oxagen	X = CH	X = N	General	Ph	General
GTP _γ S IC ₅₀ (nM)	14	7	4	4 – 100	35	32 – 450
Dissociation t _{1/2} (h)	1.3	0.2	1.9	0.02 – 0.7	0.2	0.04 – 0.7

SAR pretty good. No SKR advances observed in either core or tail sections

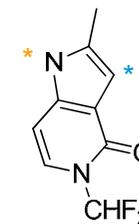
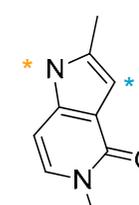
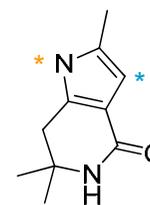
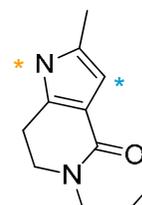
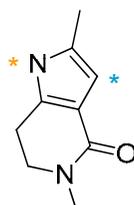
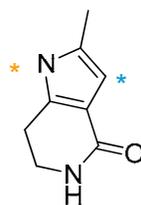
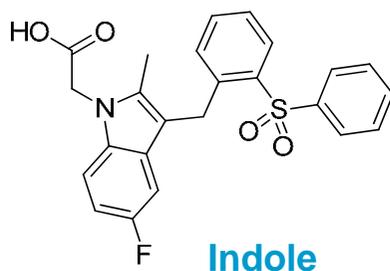
Pyrazoles series abandoned for general lack of Residence time

Pipas

- Third series of Pyrazolopyrimidinones (Pipas) gave active compounds with long residence (BMCL Accepted for publication)
- Core SAR flat. Core SKR varied



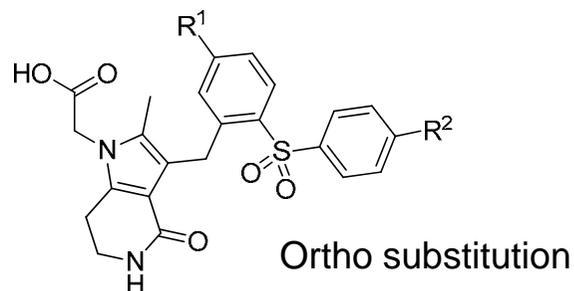
Pyrazolopyrimidinones (Pipas)



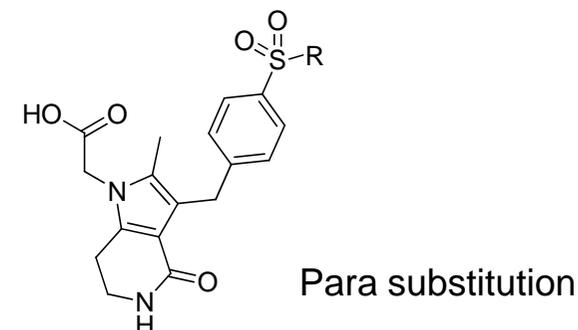
	Oxagen	PiPa	N-Me	N-Bn	diMe	N-Me*	N-CHF ₂ *
GTP _γ S IC ₅₀ (nM)	14	5	5	1	4	5	2
Dissociation t _{1/2} (h)	1.3	2.3	5.3	6.6	10	8	21

Pipas

- Tail SAR flat. Tail SKR varied
- Sulphone positioning ultimately affects SKR



R ¹	R ²	GTP _γ S IC ₅₀	Dissociation t _{1/2}
H	H	5 nM	2.3 h
MeO	H	4 nM	4.2 h
H	F	5 nM	3.3 h
MeO	F	7 nM	23 h



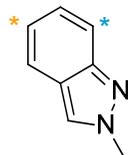
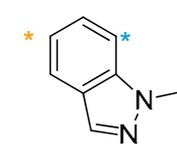
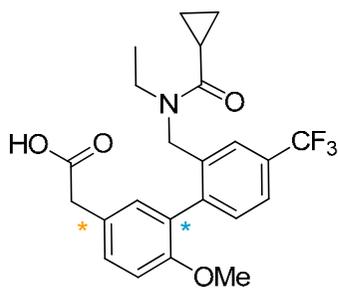
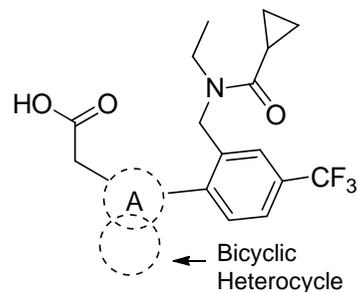
R	GTP _γ S IC ₅₀	Dissociation t _{1/2}
Ph	170 nM	n.d.
Me	900 nM	n.d.
Bn	3 nM	0.9 h

Ultimately Potent but no duration

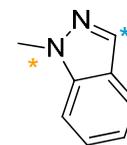
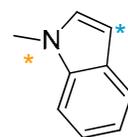
- Pipa series was essentially impermeable.
- Not suitable for an oral programme.
- Series abandoned due to impermeability

Biaryl series

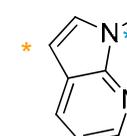
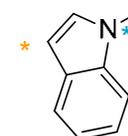
- Fourth series of diverse biaryl compounds finally gave good activity and long residence time (BMCL Accepted for publication)
- Core SAR and SKR varied



6,5-ring



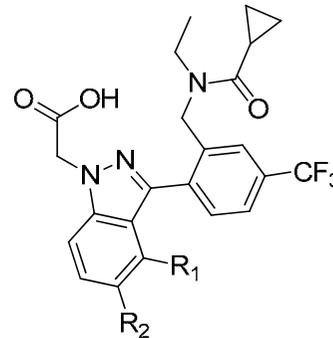
5,6-ring



	Amira	Indazole	Indazole	Indole	Indazole	Indole	Azaindole
GTP γ S IC ₅₀ (nM)	16	48	48	19	19	37	9
Dissociation t _{1/2} (h)	2	1.4	1.2	4.0	1.6	2.5	2.3

Biaryl series – Indazole core

- 6 member ring SAR flat. SKR varied



R ¹	R ²	GTP _γ S IC ₅₀	Dissociation t _{1/2}
H	H	19 nM	1.6 h
Cl	H	6 nM	3.2 h
F	H	4 nM	5 h
H	Cl	16 nM	2.8 h
F	Cl	15 nM	10.5 h

- Small substituents in R₁ led to moderate increased in both potency and dissociation t_{1/2}
- Substitution in R₂ led to minimal changes in binding potency

Good starting point for the search of the desired Residence time

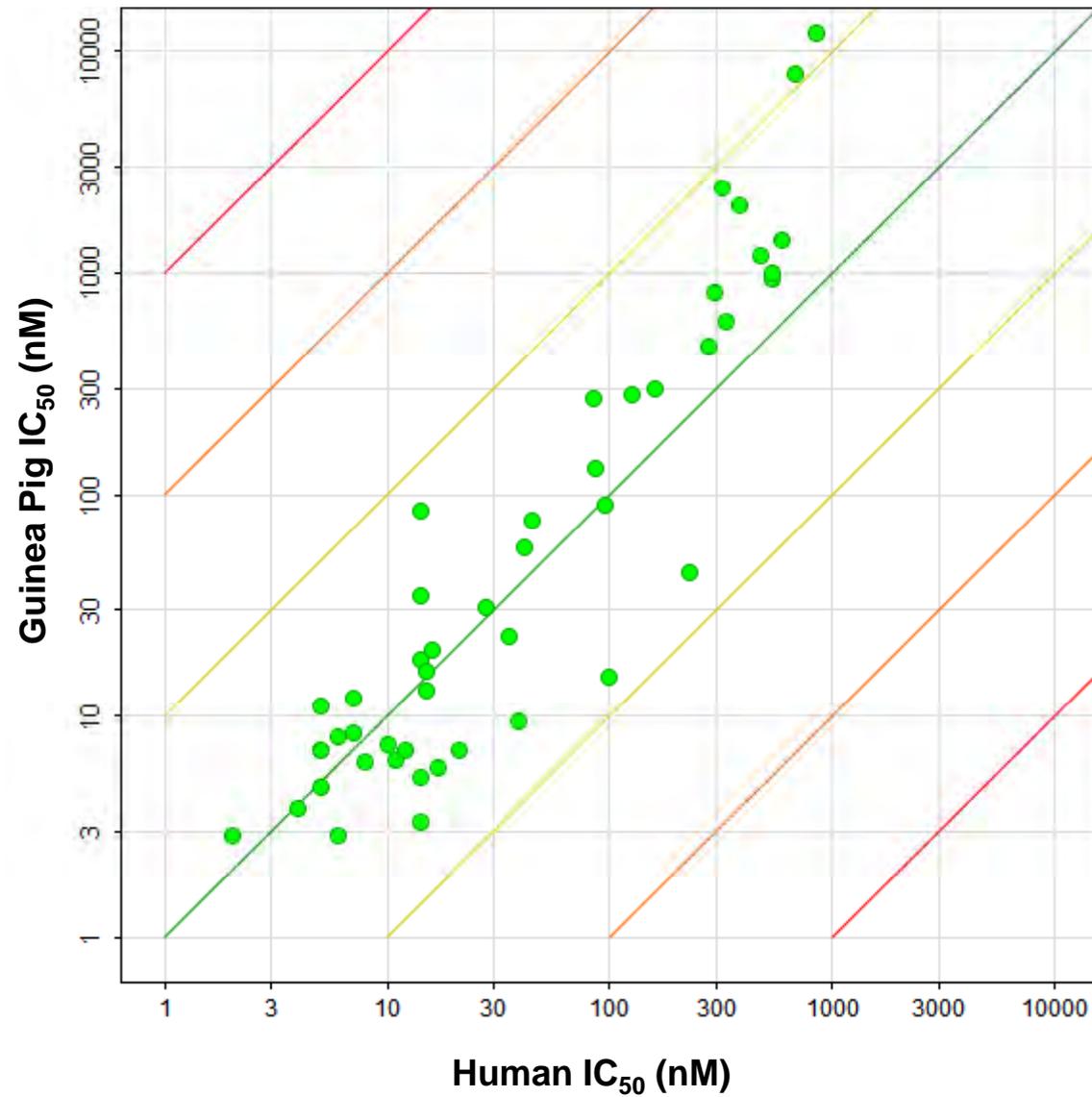
Species differences

Percentage of identical residues among all ungapped positions between the pairs.

	Human	Guinea Pig	Rat	Mouse
Human	100%	73%	78%	80%
Guinea Pig		100%	69%	70%
Rat			100%	94%
Mouse				100%

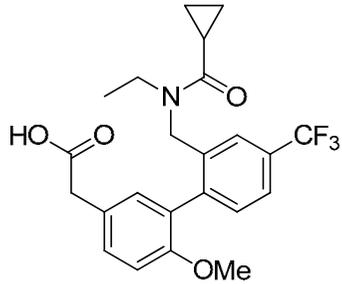
How similar are these species ?

GTP γ S potencies human vs GP

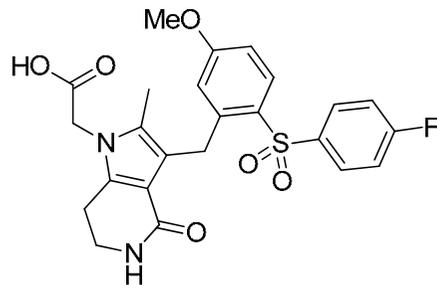


Similar Potencies

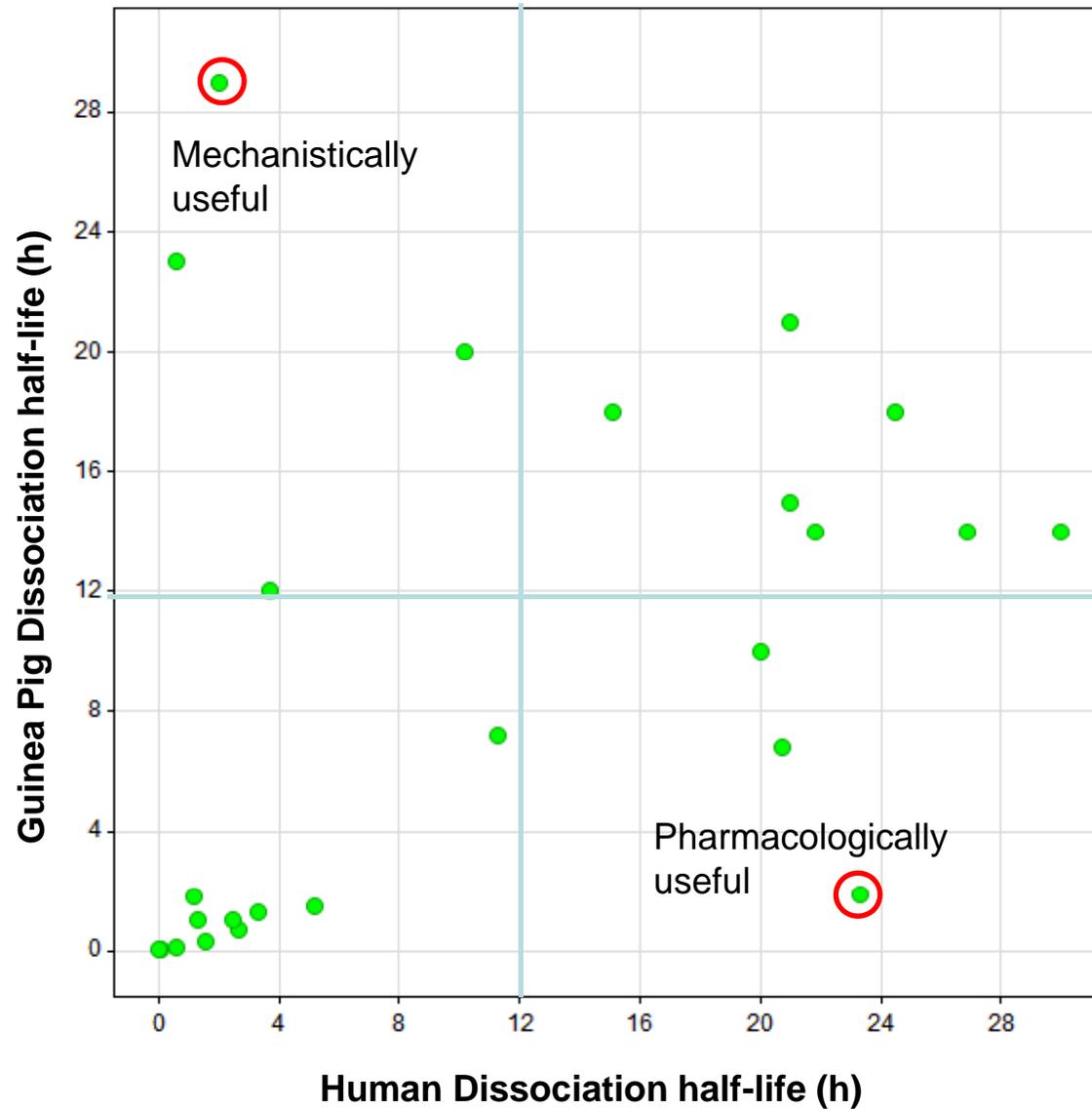
GTP human vs GP Residence Time



species	t _{1/2}
Human	2 h
Guinea pig	29 h

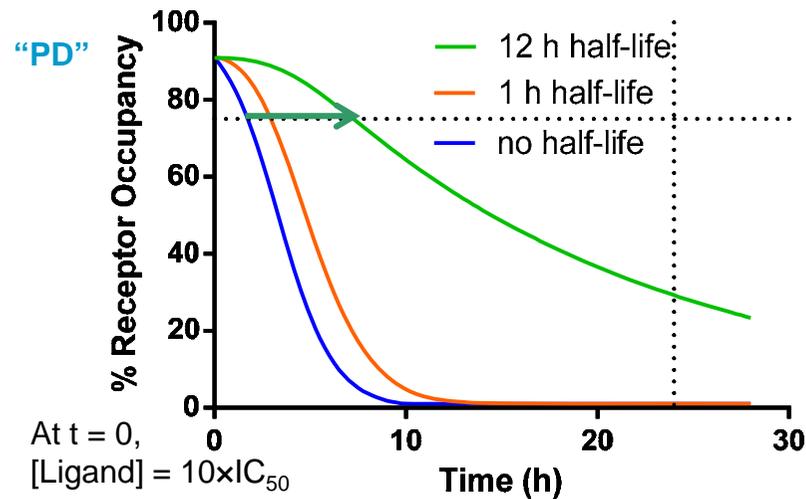


species	t _{1/2}
Human	23 h
Guinea pig	1.9 h



PK-PD Disconnection Simulations

PK half-life 1 h

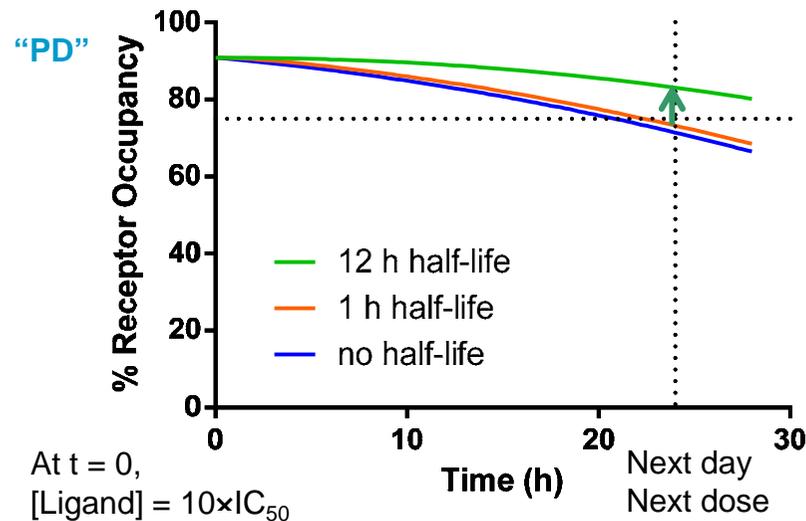


GPCR threshold

A 1 h Dissociation half-life is barely noticeable in the PD
Poor drug – short duration of action

A 12 h Dissociation half-life is definitely observable
A short acting drug keeps working long beyond its expectations

PK half-life 12 h



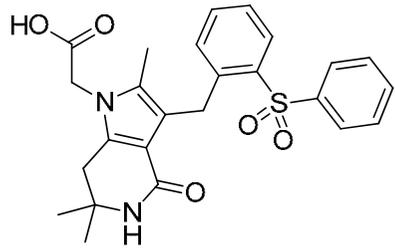
GPCR threshold

A 1 h Dissociation half-life goes completely unnoticed
Good PK means once-a-day dosing

A 12 h Dissociation half-life is barely noticeable
A great drug is really efficacious over 24 h

For the greatest observable effect, Dissociation half-life \gg PK half-life

PK-PD disconnection model

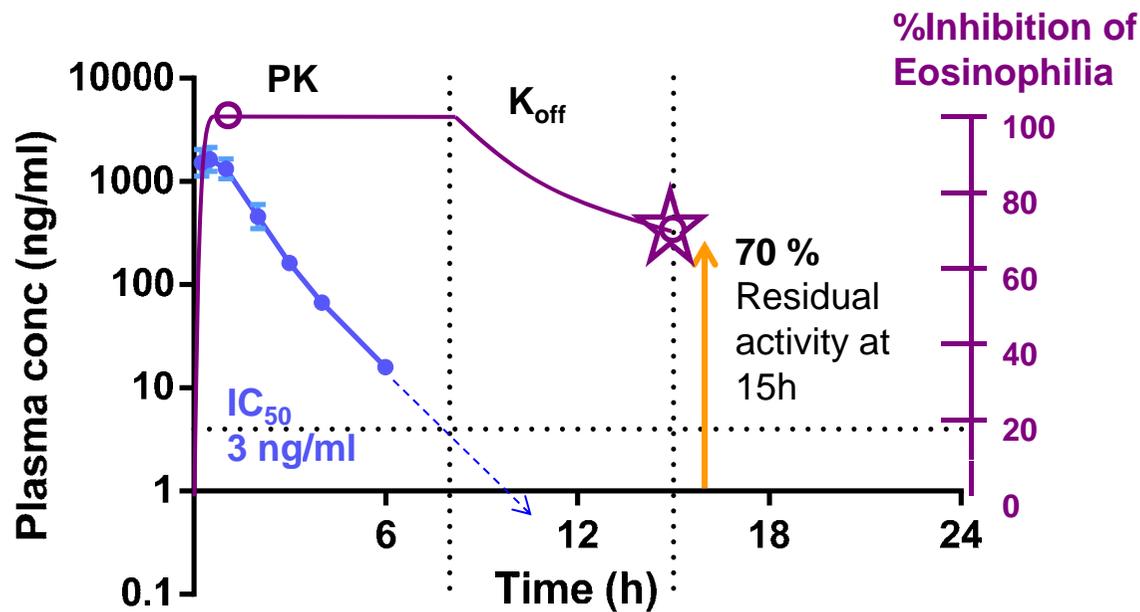


**diMe-Pyrrolopiridinone
guinea pig profile**
 Eosinophilia IC_{50} 3 ng/ml
 Dissociation $t_{1/2}$ **20 h**
 PK $t_{1/2}$ **0.9 h**

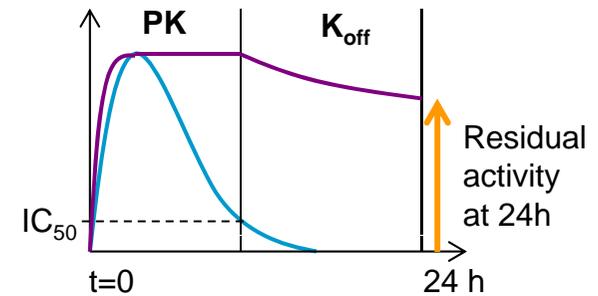
3 mg / kg dose

Timepoint	Plasma levels	Eosinophilia Inhibition
1 h	1300 ng/ml	100%
15 h	undetectable	70%

Guinea pig PK 3 mg/kg s.c.

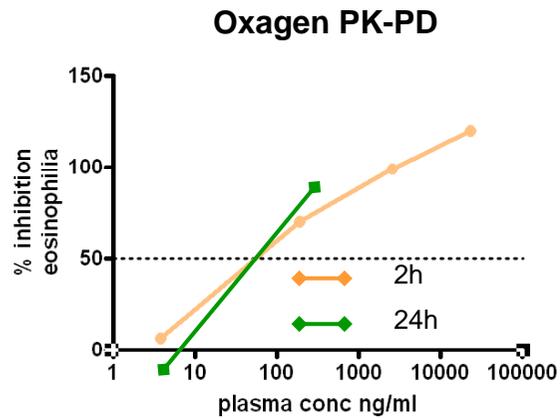


Short PK, Long residence time
PK-PD disconnection

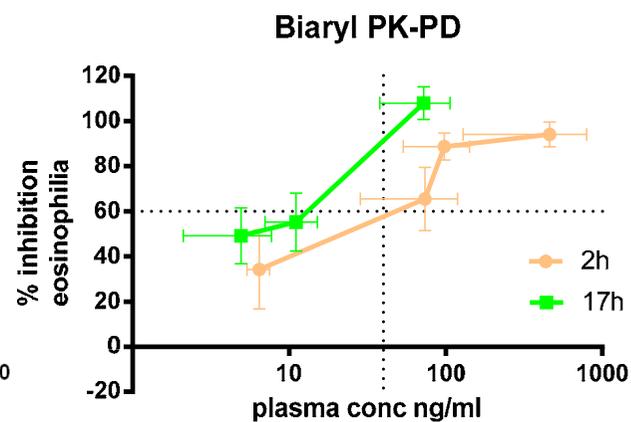


PK-PD Disconnection in Guinea Pig Eosinophilia

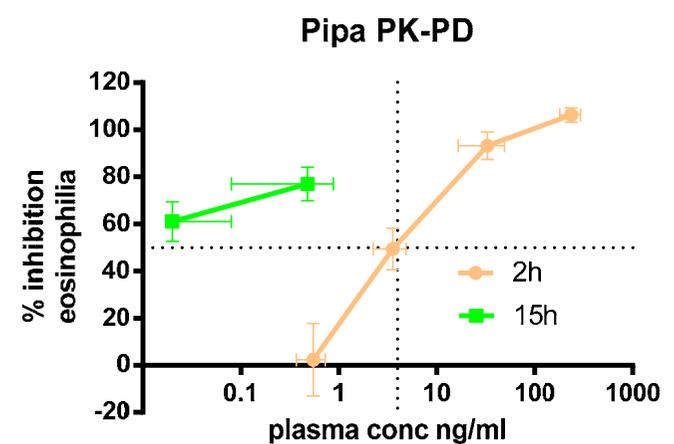
	Oxagen	BiAryl	PiPas
Eosinophilia IC ₅₀ (ng/ml)	~50	~40	~5
Gp Dissociation Half-life	1 h	15 h	20 h
Gp Pharmacokinetic Half-life	5 h	3 h	0.9 h



Good PK
Short Dissociation
No separation PK-PD



OK PK
Good Dissociation
Small separation PK-PD



Poor PK
Good Dissociation
Large separation PK-PD

Long residence time translates to a PK-PD disconnection
Remember: half a half-life

Molecular Determinants of Long Residence

Where is long Residence?

Selected **general reports** or **Structure Kinetic Relationships** (SKRs)

- Trend analysis of D2 antagonists. *Bioorg. Med. Chem* (2011), 19, 2231.
- Trend analysis of Pfizer and literature data. *Med. Chem. Comm.* (2012), 3, 449
- Review of molecular determinants. *Drug Disc. Today.* (2013), 18, 667

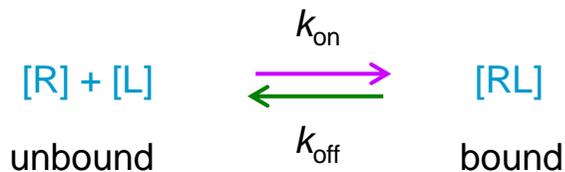
{ Molecular size / weight ?
Lipophilicity ?
Charged state ?
Rigidity ?
Don't know ?

Selected **specific reports** or **Structure Kinetic Relationships** (SKRs)

- Therapeutic Complement Inhibitors. *J. Mol. Recognit.* (2009), 22, 495
- Slow dissociation M3 antagonists. *J. Med. Chem.* (2011), 54, 6888
- CCR2 antagonists. *J. Med. Chem.* (2013), 56, 7706
- CDK8/CycC inhibitors. *PNAS* (2013), 110, 8081.
- Adenosine A1 Receptor antagonists. *J. Med. Chem.* (2014), 57, 3213

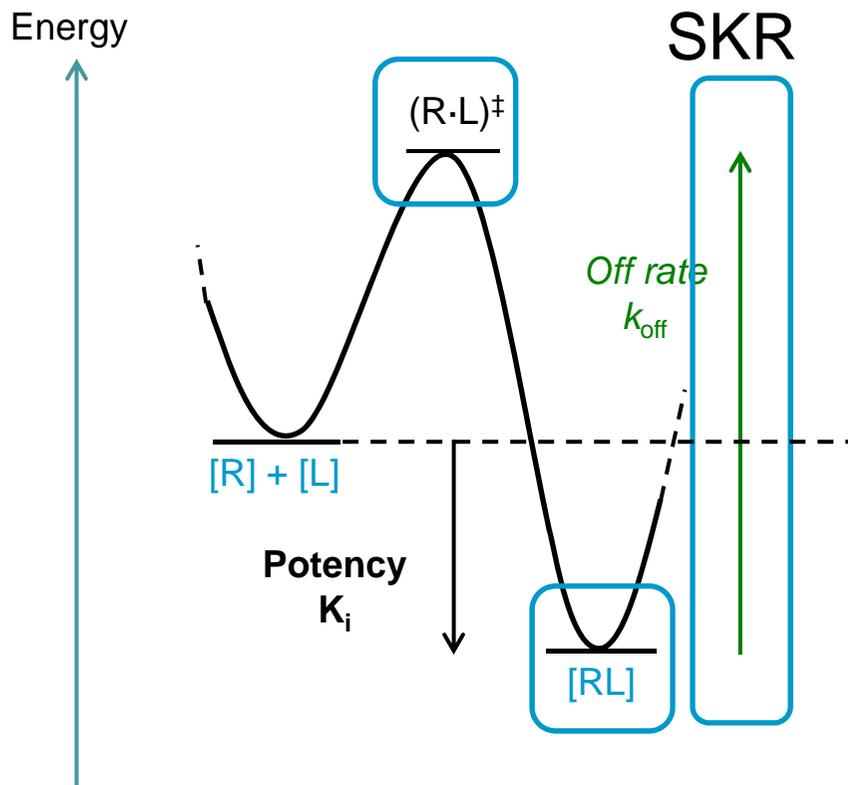
Energetic concept of Residence Time

Standard model



Structure Kinetic Relationships (SKRs) have been largely ignored:

- Residence Time
- Dissociation half-life
- Slow or fast kinetics
- Off-rate, k_{off}



The Dissociation rate is controlled by 2 factors:

- (1) The potency (SAR)
- (2) The Transition state energy

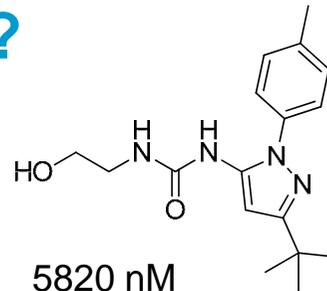


Potency can be measured
If we can control the transition state energy, we can control the binding kinetics

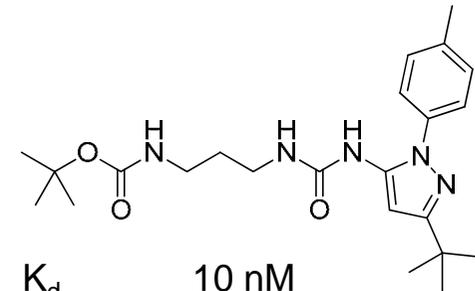
Where is Long Residence ?

Are more active compounds longer resident ?

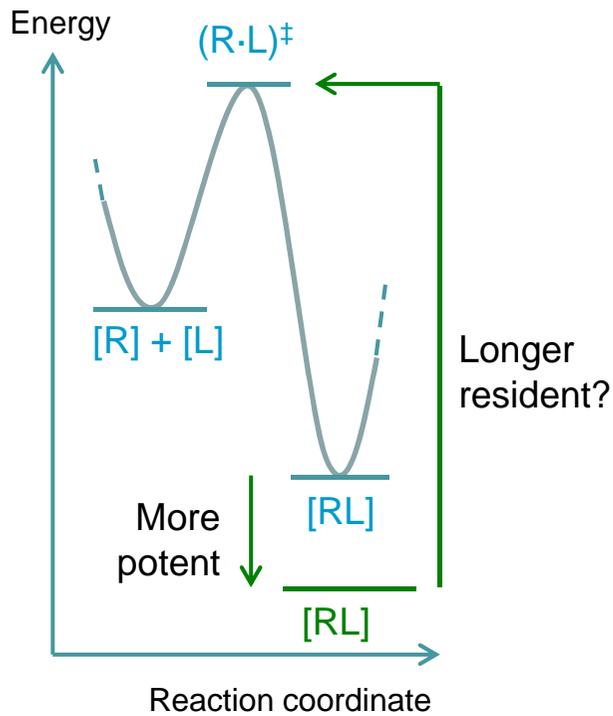
CDK8/CycC inhibitors
PNAS (2013), 110, 8081.



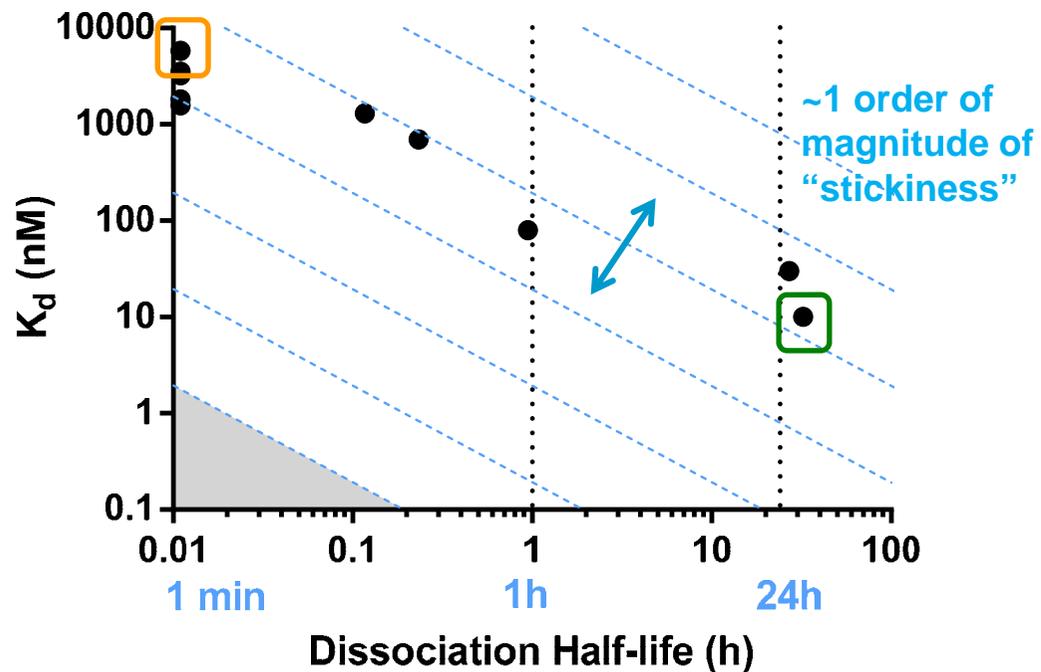
K_d 5820 nM
 Diss $t_{1/2}$ < 1.4 min



K_d 10 nM
 Diss $t_{1/2}$ 32 h



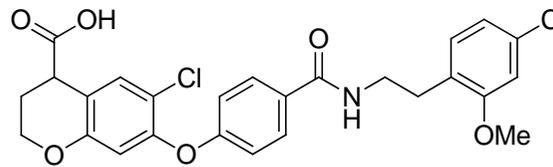
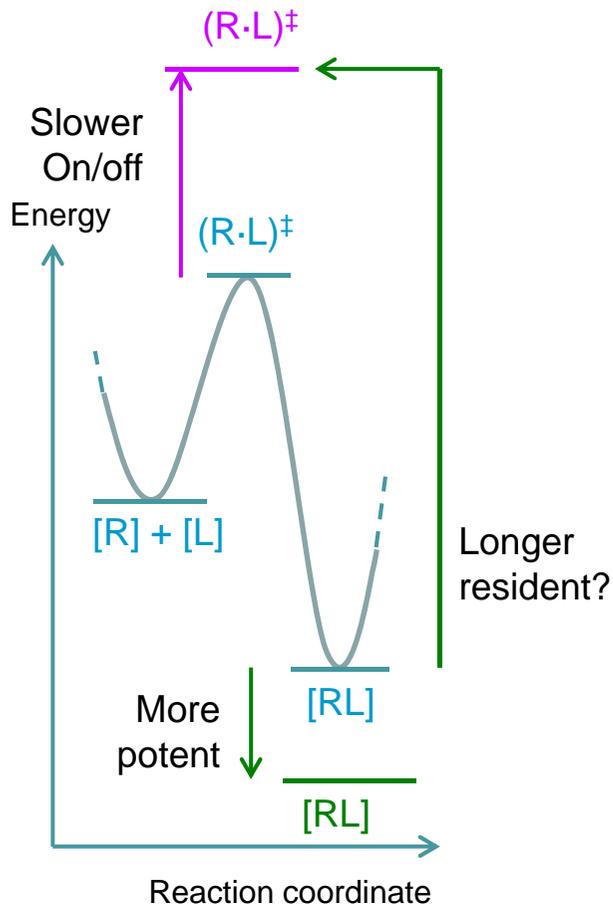
Dissociation Half-life vs Potency



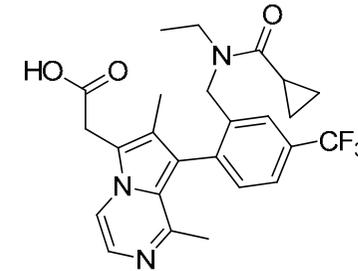
Clearly, Residence Time is linked to Potency

Where is long Residence?

Are more active compounds longer resident?

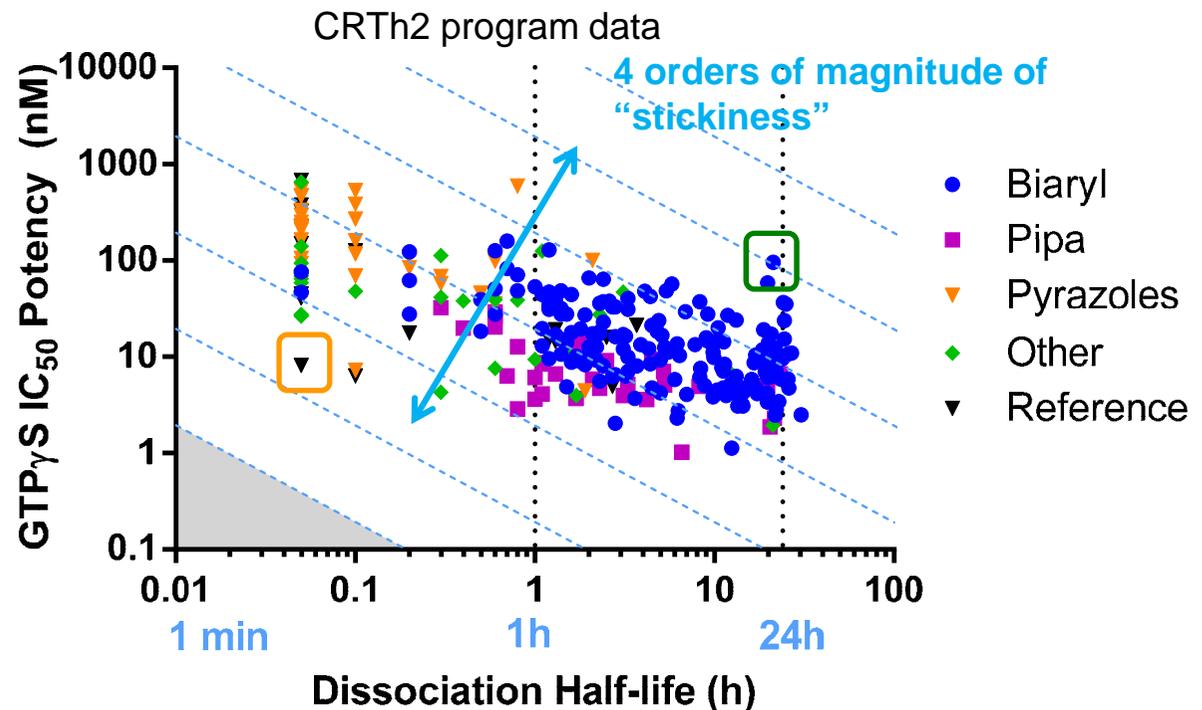


IC₅₀ 8 nM
Diss t_{1/2} 5 min



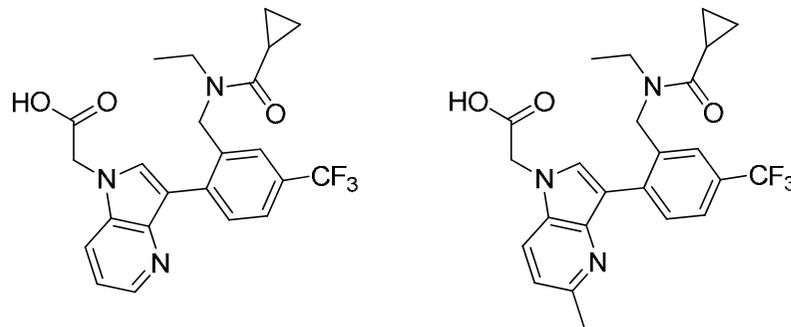
IC₅₀ 98 nM
Diss t_{1/2} 21 h

Dissociation Half-life vs Potency



We are affecting the transition state more than the final binding position

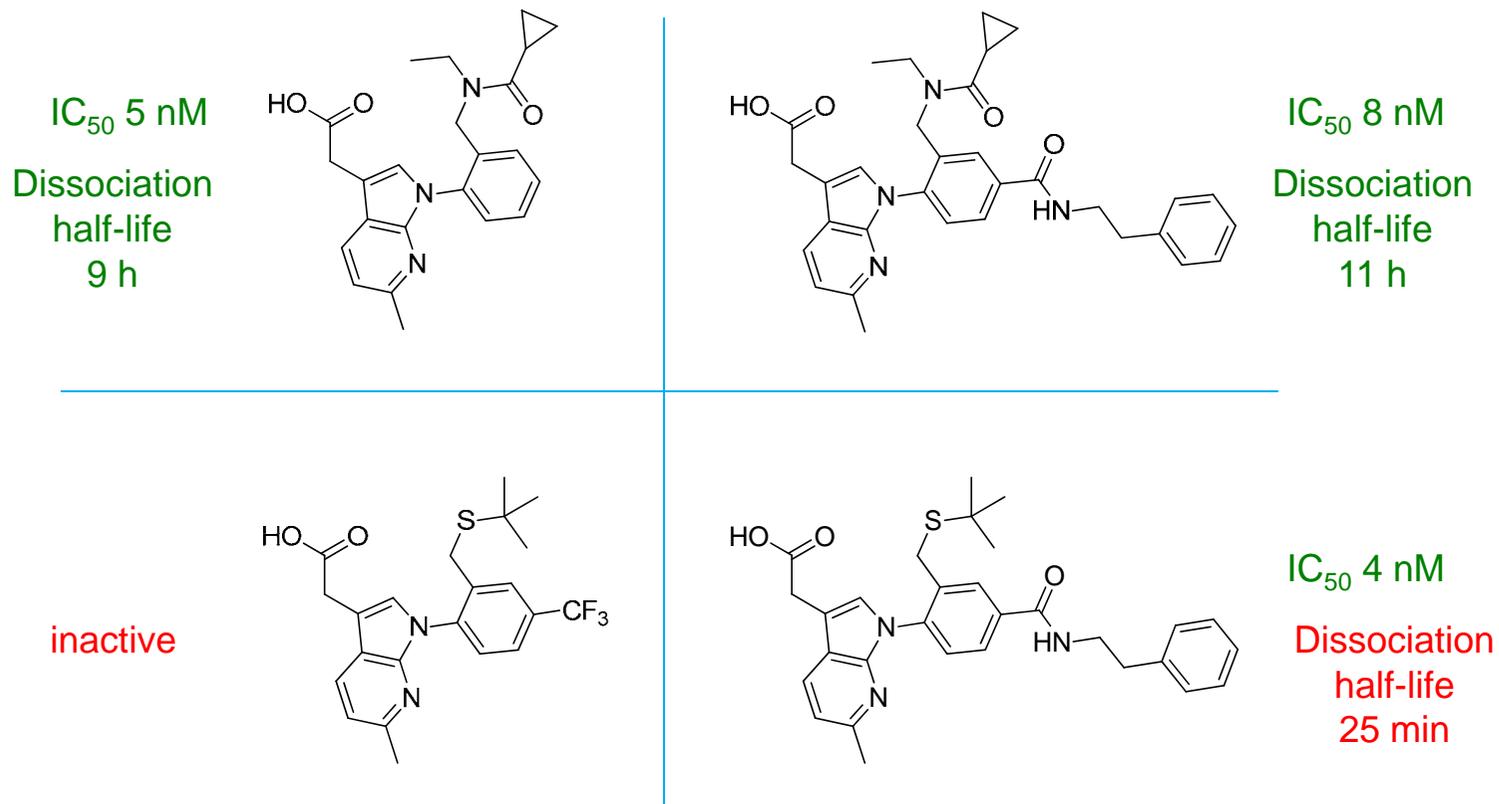
Homing in on Residence Time in the Biaryl series



	4-Azaindole	Me-4-Azaindole
GTP γ S IC ₅₀ (nM)	14	16
Dissociation t _{1/2} (h)	1.3	21

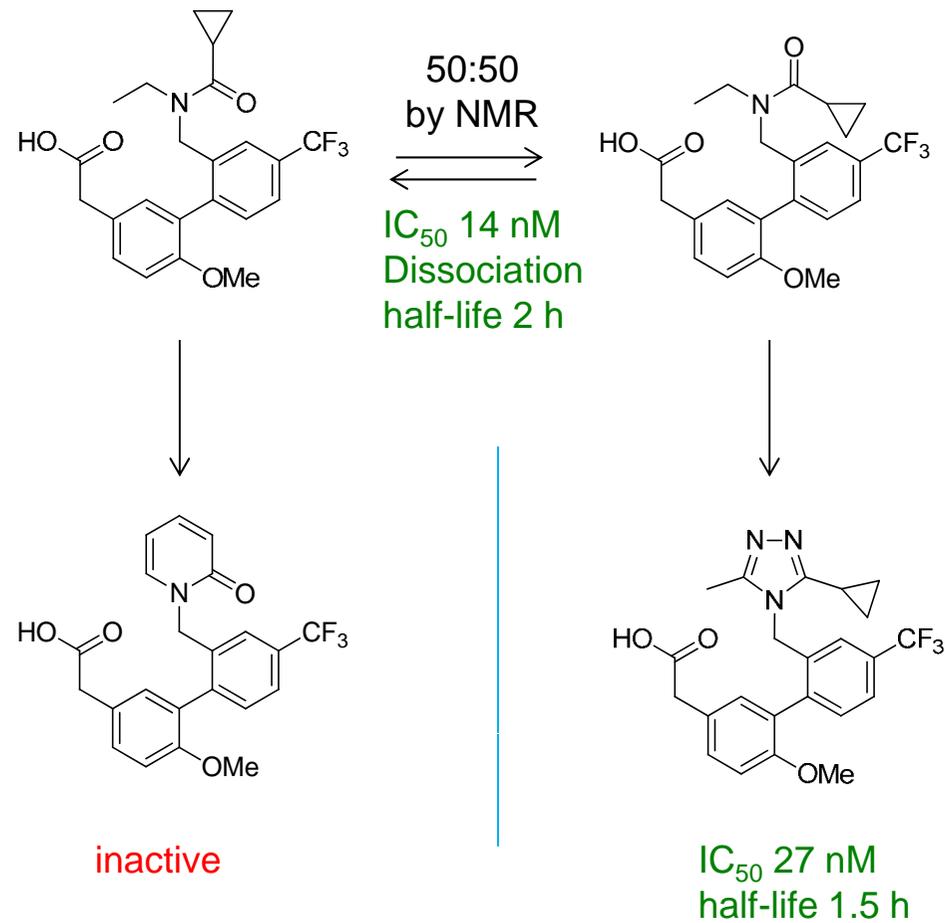
A Magic Methyl for SKR ?

Homing in on Residence Time in the Biaryl series



Long Residence Time in the Biaryls comes from an H-Bond Acceptor in ortho

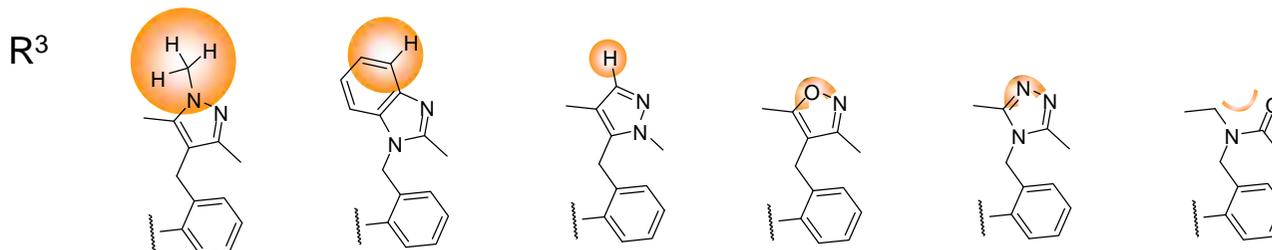
Amide Rotamers



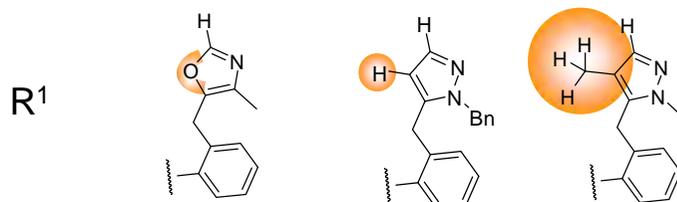
Long Residence Time in the Biaryls comes from an H-Bond Acceptor in ortho in a specific position

H-Bond Acceptors – Steric requirements

Do very subtle steric effects first determine Potency binding, then residence binding?



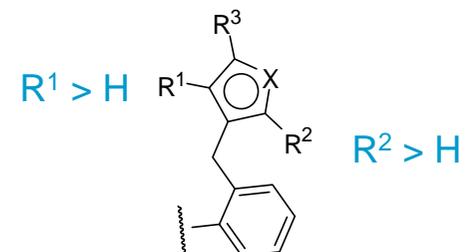
	Me	Fused	Pyrazole	Isoxazole	Triazole	Amide
R3 Sterics	Large	Medium	Small	Minimum	Minimum	-
Potency	Low	Medium	High	High	High	High
Residence	-	Low	Medium	High	High	High



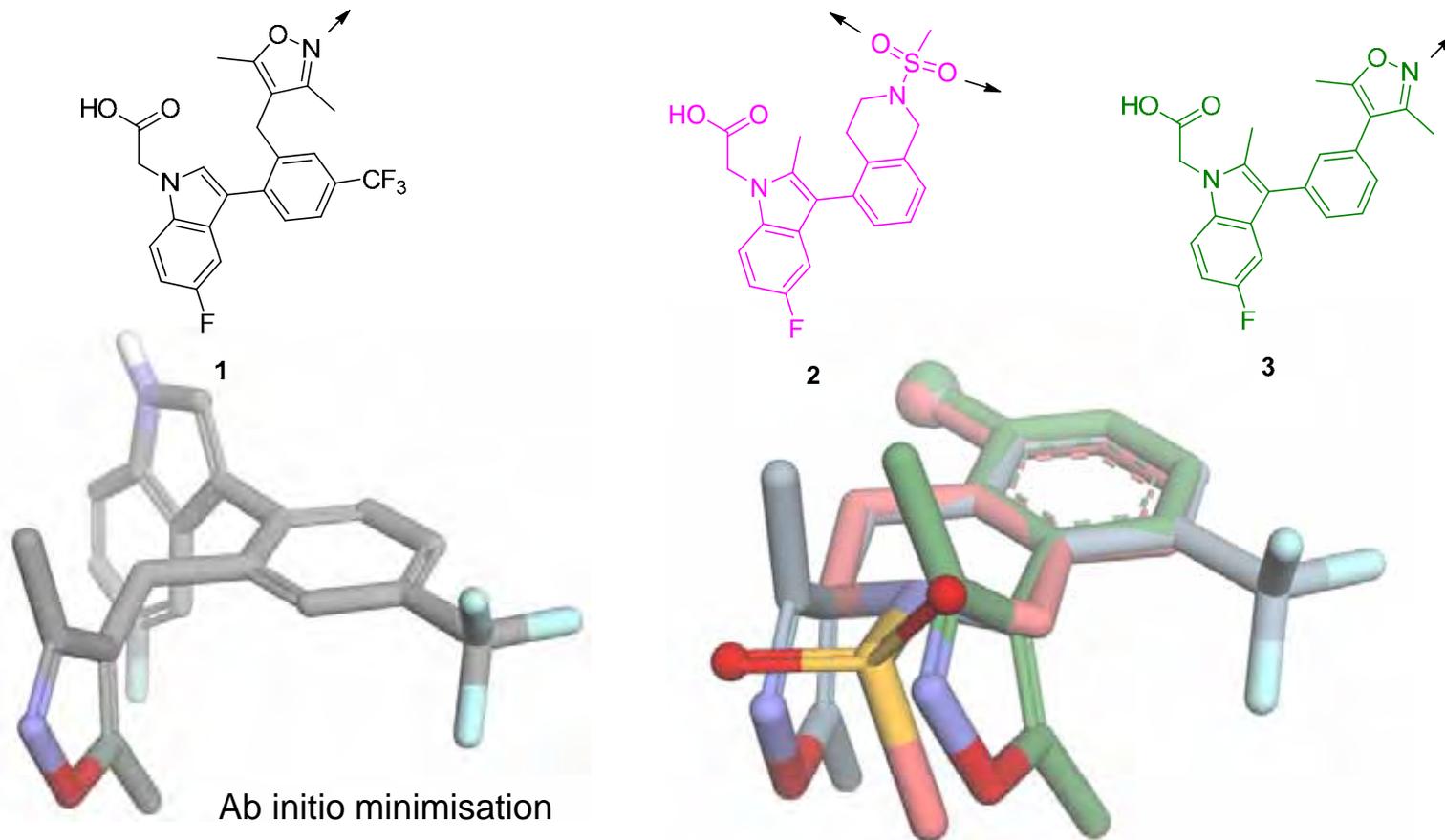
	Oxazole	Pyrazole	Pyrazole
R1 Sterics	Minimum	Small	Large
Potency	Low	Medium	High
Residence	-	-	Medium

Steric Requirements for HBA

$$R^3 \leq H$$



Can we check the H-Bond Acceptor location?



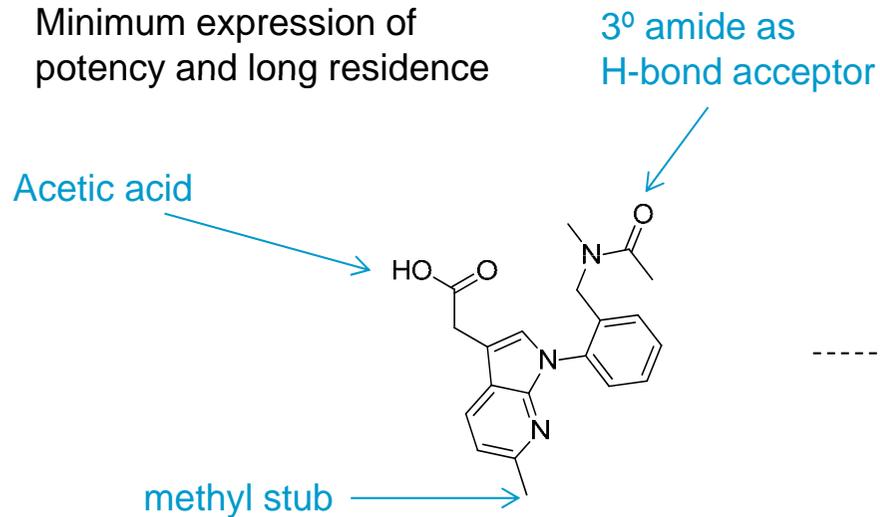
Compound	1	2	3
GTP γ S IC ₅₀	20 nM	4 nM	6 nM
Dissociation t $\frac{1}{2}$	10 h	1.7 h	18 h

Can we achieve truly long residence?

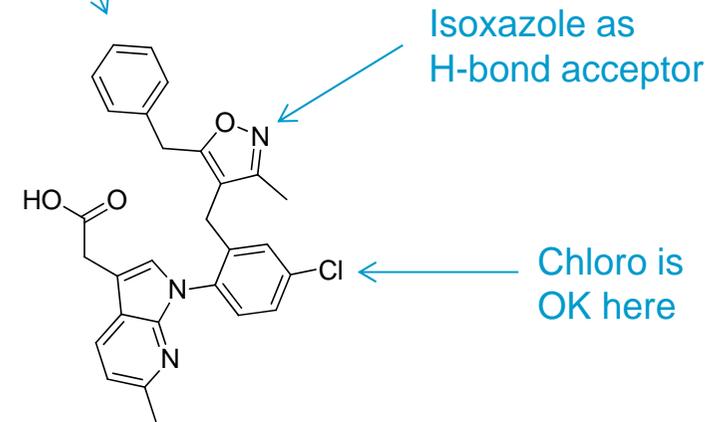
If we understand it, we can harness it.

Position-by-position analysis of good structural features for Residence Time

Minimum expression of potency and long residence



Benzyl to bump up lipophilicity



	Azaindole
GTP γ S IC ₅₀ (nM)	14 nM
Dissociation t_{1/2} (h)	1.5 h
cLogP	1.1
cLogD	-1.1

	Azaindole
GTP γ S IC ₅₀ (nM)	2.5 nM
Dissociation t_{1/2} (h)	46 ± 15 h
cLogP	4.8
cLogD	2.4

Once-a-day purely from Residence Time ?

Lead Compound Profile

In vitro and In vivo	
human GTP γ S IC ₅₀	4 nM
ESC hWB IC ₅₀	3 nM
Dissociation t _{1/2} (h)	22 h
gp GTP γ S IC ₅₀ (nM)	3 nM
Dissociation t _{1/2} (h)	14 h
Eosinophilia IC ₅₀	4 nM
Eosinophilia ID ₅₀ at 2 h	0.020 mg/kg
PK-PD Disconnection	Yes

Safety	
hERG, Na _v 1.5, Ca _v 1.2	> 10 μ M
Working heart	Clean
Cytotox	> 100 μ M
GreenScreen	Clean
CYP3A4	20 μ M
Major metabolite	Glucuronide
Acyl Glucuronide stability	t _{1/2} > 4 h

Physical Chemistry	
Solubility pH 1 and 7.4	> 1 mg/ml
LogD	1.3
Caco (AB/BA)	24 / 6

Pharmacokinetics	
Rat Clearance	9 ml/min/kg
Volume	0.5 L/kg
Terminal half-life	1.6 h
Bioavailability	80%
Dog Clearance	2 ml/min/kg
Volume	0.9 L/kg
Terminal half-life	8 h
Bioavailability	51%
Pred. Human Clearance	2 ml/min/kg
Pred. Volume	1.4 L/kg
Pred. Terminal half-life	biphasic
PK-PD dose simulation	2-6 mg QD

An oral, low dose (<10 mg), once-a-day CRTh2 Antagonist

CRTh2: Can Residence Time Help ?

- For a purely antagonistic effect, prolonging Receptor Occupancy prolongs PD effect
- You will only really appreciate a PK-PD disconnection if Dissociation half-life > PK terminal half-life
- For GPCR antagonism, you should count on extending the PD effect by half a half-life
- A “PK phase” of antagonism is needed to “set” the ligand in the receptor, regardless of mechanism
- We are pretty good at explaining what’s behind Structure-Activity Relationships (SAR)
Structure-Kinetic Relationships (SKR) are in their infancy and/or qualitative
- **Residence Time can be designed**
- To find Long Residence, you need to look for it

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Pathology and Toxicology

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