

Supplementary Information

Structure-Activity Relationship Studies on 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles targeting *Mtb*-FtsZ as antitubercular agents

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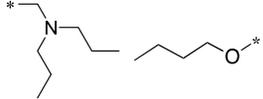
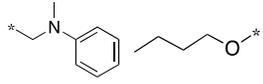
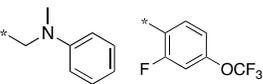
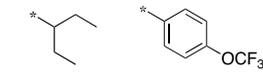
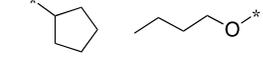
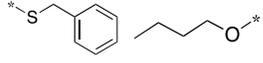
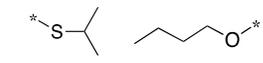
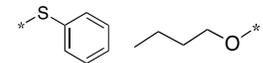
Computational analysis of preliminary pharmacokinetic toxicities and docking studies

i. pkCSM prediction of possible toxicities for top 13 compounds. Top 13 compounds based on the MIC values were analysed by the pkCSM program²⁸ for their predicted pharmacokinetic and toxicity profiles. Results are summarized in Table S1. For the virtual AMES test, all compounds bearing an aryl group-containing substituent at the 2-position are predicted to be positive, except for **10e-6** and **11e**. For the hERG I toxicity, two lead compounds, SB-P17G-A38 and SB-P-17G-A42, are predicted to be positive, which are 5-(substituted benzamido)benzimidazoles, although **5c-7** and **10e-6** were predicted to be non-toxic for hERG I. All top 14 compounds (entries 4-16) were predicted to be negative. However, all compounds in this table are predicted to be positive against hERG II, as well as hepatotoxicity. Oral toxicity (LD₅₀) of all compounds in this table is predicted to be very low, i.e., 2.3-2.7 mol/kg (320-420 g/kg). For Caco-2 permeability predictions (log P_{app}: >0.9 is considered high permeability), most of the compounds show good permeability, which corresponds to potential oral bioavailability. The log P_{app} value for the most potent compound **20g** is 0.69, which is considered fairly good. For the predictions on their properties with cytochrome P3A4 (CYP3A4), only aromatic group-containing compounds show interaction as substrate and/or inhibitor. Thus, all 6-dimethylaminobenzimidazoles with 5-(alkyl carbamate) and 2-alkylsulfanyl substituents do not have appreciable interactions with CYP3A4.

Table S1 pkCSM prediction of pharmacokinetic and toxicity profiles of top 13 compounds

The image shows the chemical structure of a benzimidazole derivative. It consists of a benzimidazole ring system. At the 2-position, there is a substituent R¹. At the 5-position, there is a carbonyl group (C=O) attached to an NH group, with a substituent R² attached to the carbonyl carbon. The nitrogen at the 1-position is also substituted with a methyl group.

Entry	Compound	R ¹	R ²	MIC ^a (μg/mL)	AMES	hERG1	LD ₅₀ (mol/Kg)	Caco-2 ^d	CYP3A4 inhibitor	CYP3A4 substrate
1	SB-P17G-C2			0.06	No	No	2.55	0.85	No	No
2	SB-P17G-A38			0.16	No	Yes	2.39	0.83	No	Yes
3	SB-P17G-A42			0.16	No	Yes	2.43	0.23	No	Yes
4	20g			0.015 ^c (0.0039 ^b)	No	No	2.58	0.69	No	No
5	20f			<0.031 ^c (<0.0081 ^b)	No	No	2.59	0.80	No	No
6	6b			<0.078	Yes	No	2.30	0.88	Yes	No
7	6c			0.078	No	No	2.65	0.89	No	No
8	11c			0.14 ^c (0.09 ^b)	No	No	2.60	0.85	No	No

9	11a		0.16	No	No	2.74	0.89	No	No
10	11e		0.16	No	No	2.31	0.84	Yes	No
11	10e-6		0.29 ^c (0.19 ^b)	No	No	2.40	0.83	Yes	Yes
12	5c-7		0.31	No	No	2.43	1.14	Yes	Yes
13	6a		0.31	No	No	2.57	0.87	No	No
14	20b		0.31	Yes	No	2.31	0.75	Yes	No
15	20c		0.31	No	No	2.68	0.88	No	No
16	20e		0.31	Yes	No	2.27	0.86	No	No

^{a,b,c} See the caption in Table 1.

^d Caco-2 prediction value is in log P_{app} 10^{-6} cm/s

ii. Docking analysis of 20g in the putative binding site on *Mtb*-FtsZ. Next, we performed docking analysis of the most potent compound **20g** by following up Li's *Mtb*-FtsZ homology model for the putative binding site of our 2,5,6-trisubstituted benzimidazoles,²⁹ using the Autodock 4.2 program. The comparison of docking poses of SB-P17G-C2, SB-P17G-A38 and **20g** based on the energy minimization protocol shows very clear overlap of cyclohexyl moieties in three compounds, and a recognizable deviation of the benzimidazole moiety of **20g** downward (Fig. S1A). However, the docking poses of these compounds based on simple docking are very different from the poses in Fig. S1A, especially **20g** takes a unique pose, illustrated in Fig. S1B and Fig. S1C. In this docking pose, **20g** holds 3 hydrogen bonding interactions with Thr298 and Arg296, as well as vander Waals interactions with Leu189, Val203, Met215 and Ile300. Fig. S1D illustrates a rather narrow and deep cleft, where in the 2-cyclohexymethylsufanyl and 6-dimethylamino groups fit very well and the n-butyl ester moiety is exposed. This docking analysis appears to explain the excellent MIC value (0.0039 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$; normalized value 0.015 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) of **20g**. The PDB file of Fig. S1B-D is provided as a separate Supplemental Material.

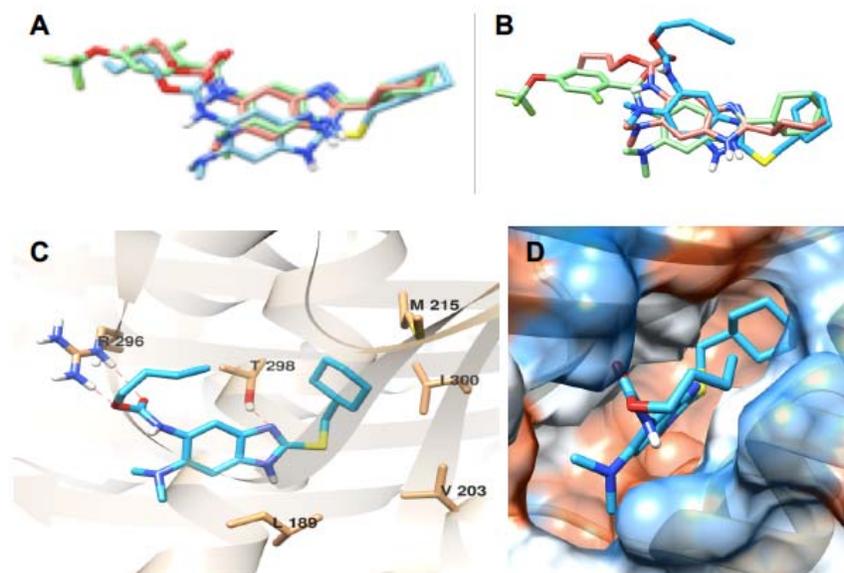


Fig. S1 Molecular docking analysis of **20g** as compared to SB-P17G-C2 and SB-P17G-A38. (A) Overlay of **20g**, SB-P17G-C2 and SB-P17G-A38 based on energy-minimization method; (B) Overlay of **20g**, SB-P17G-C2 and SB-P17G-A38 based on molecular docking method; (C) Polar and hydrophobic interactions of **20g** with Mtb-FtsZ; (D) Protein surface interaction with **20g** at the binding cleft.

Synthetic procedures and characterization data for intermediates

1-(Cyclopentanecarboxamido)-5-dimethylamino-2,4-dinitrobenzene (3a). A solution of **1.1** (1 g, 4.42 mmol) and cyclopentanecarbonyl chloride (5.30 mmol) in pyridine (4 mL) was refluxed overnight. After the starting material disappeared (TLC analysis), the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a brown residue. The brown residue was triturated in methanol to give **3a** (0.99 g, 70% yield) as yellow solid: mp 118-120 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.62-1.71 (m, 2 H), 1.74- 1.81 (m, 2 H), 1.82-1.93 (m, 2 H), 1.99-2.07 (m, 2 H), 2.81- 2.90 (quintet, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.04 (s, 6 H), 8.57 (s, 1 H), 8.83 (s, 1 H), 10.96 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 26.0, 30.4, 42.7, 48.2, 106.2, 125.2, 127.7, 131.6, 138.9, 150.4, 176.4; LRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₄H₁₈N₄O₅: 322.1, found: 323.1 (M+1)⁺.

The same procedure as that for **3a** was used for the synthesis of compounds **3b-3g**.

5-Dimethylamino-2,4-dinitro-1-(phenylacetamido)benzene (3b). Yellow solid; 55% yield; mp 125-128 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.02 (s, 6 H), 3.82 (s, 2 H), 7.33-7.37 (m, 3 H), 7.37-7.43 (m, 2 H), 8.53 (s, 1 H), 8.75 (s, 1 H), 10.82 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 42.7, 46.1, 106.2, 125.1, 127.5, 128.2, 129.5, 129.7, 131.6, 133.0, 138.4, 150.2, 171.1; LRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₆H₁₆N₄O₅: 344.1, found: 345.1 (M+1)⁺.

5-Dimethylamino-1-(2-ethylbutanamido)-2,4-dinitrobenzene (3c). Yellow solid; 92% yield; mp 98-100 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 6 H), 1.58-1.79 (m, 4 H), 2.19-2.27 (m, 1 H), 3.06 (s, 6 H), 8.63 (s, 1 H), 8.85 (s, 1 H), 10.96 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.1, 25.8, 42.7, 53.6, 106.3, 125.2, 127.7, 131.7, 138.7, 150.4, 176.3; LRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₄H₂₀N₄O₅: 324.2, found: 325.2 (M+1)⁺.

5-Dimethylamino-1-(2-methylpropanamido)-2,4-dinitrobenzene (3d). Yellow solid; 74% yield; mp 105-107 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.30 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6 H), 2.62-2.72 (m, 1 H), 3.05 (s, 6 H), 8.57 (s, 1 H), 8.78 (s, 1 H), 10.99 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 19.4, 38.0, 42.7, 106.2, 125.2, 127.6, 131.6, 138.8, 150.3, 177.0; LRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₂H₁₆N₄O₅: 296.1, found: 297.2 (M+1)⁺.

1-Benzamido-5-dimethylamino-2,4-dinitrobenzene (3e). Yellow solid; 96% yield; mp 190-193 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.1 (s, 6 H), 7.52-7.56 (m, 2 H), 7.60-7.64 (m, 1 H), 7.96-7.99 (m, 2 H), 8.75 (s, 1 H), 8.87 (s, 1 H), 11.88 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 42.8, 106.2, 125.4, 127.5, 127.8, 129.3, 131.8, 133.2, 133.7, 139.0, 150.4, 166.3; LRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₅H₁₄N₄O₅: 330.1, found: 331.1 (M+1)⁺.

5-Dimethylamino-2,4-dinitro-1-(thiophene-2-carboxamido)benzene (3f). Yellow solid; 91% yield; mp 212-215 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.08 (s, 6 H), 7.18-7.20 (m, 1 H), 7.67 (s, 1 H), 7.76 (s, 1 H), 8.64 (s, 1 H), 8.87 (s, 1 H), 11.82 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 42.8, 106.1, 125.2, 127.8, 128.6, 129.6, 131.8, 133.1, 138.8, 138.9, 150.3, 160.9; LRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₃H₁₂N₄O₅S: 336.1, found: 337.1 (M+1)⁺.

1-(Furan-2-carboxamido)-5-dimethylamino-2,4-dinitrobenzene (3g). Yellow solid; 81% yield; mp 185-188 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.07 (s, 6 H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.63 (s, 1 H), 8.65 (s, 1 H), 8.85 (s, 1 H), 11.88 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 42.7, 106.3, 113.1, 117.1, 125.3, 127.7, 131.7, 138.4, 146.0, 147.1, 150.2, 157.0; LRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₃H₁₂N₄O₆: 320.1, found: 321.1 (M+1)⁺.

5-Dimethylamino-2,4-dinitro-1-(tetrahydropyran-4-carboxamido)benzene (3h). To a solution of **2** (0.44 mmol) in acetonitrile was added tetrahydropyran-4-carboxylic acid (3 equiv.) and phosphorus trichloride (3 equiv.). The reaction mixture was refluxed overnight. After the completion of the reaction, solvent from the reaction mixture was evaporated under vacuum to give the crude reaction mixture, which was washed with sodium bicarbonate (30 mL x 3) and water (30 mL x 3). The product was extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL x 3) and dichloromethane (DCM) (30 mL x 3). The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated by a rotary evaporator to give the crude product. Purification of the crude product by flash chromatography on silica gel using DCM and hexanes (9:1), followed by 100 % ethyl acetate as eluent afforded **3h** as a yellow solid (71 mg, 47 % yield): ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.79 – 1.93 (m, 4 H), 2.61 – 2.67 (m, 1 H), 3.06 (s, 6 H), 3.46 – 3.51 (m, 2 H), 4.05 – 4.09 (m, 2 H), 8.56 (s, 1 H), 8.83 (s, 1 H), 11.06 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 29.1, 42.8, 44.2, 67.2, 106.4, 127.7, 138.7, 150.4, 174.3; LRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₄H₁₈N₄O₆: 338.1, found: 339.1 (M+1)⁺.

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-cyclopentyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4a). To a solution of **3a** (1.4 g, 4.5 mmol) in ethanol (25 mL), solid stannous chloride dihydrate (SnCl₂·2H₂O) (7.1 g, 31.6 mmol) was added. Concentrated hydrochloric acid (18 mL) was added to the reaction mixture such that the final concentration of HCl was 4 N in the reaction flask. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 4 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was basified with 30% sodium hydroxide solution. Excess stannous chloride formed a soluble salt in presence of excess base. It was then extracted with dichloromethane (30 mL x 3), dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to give a dark brown oil. The brown oil was purified by flash chromatography on alumina using 100% ethyl acetate as eluent to afford **4a** as a pale brown solid: 87% yield; mp 100-103 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.54-1.64 (m, 2 H), 1.68-1.79 (m, 2 H), 1.86-1.95 (m, 2 H), 2.04- 2.12 (m, 2 H), 2.61 (s, 6 H), 3.19- 3.27 (m, 1 H), 6.78 (s, 1 H), 7.22 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.5, 32.4, 39.6, 44.6, 98.5, 106.5, 132.9, 134.2, 138.0, 138.2, 157.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₂₀N₄H⁺: 245.1687, Found: 245.1759 (Δ = 0.38 ppm).

The same procedure as that for **4a** was used for the synthesis and characterization of compounds **4b-4h** and **9a-9e**.

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-benzyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4b). Brown Solid; 59% yield; 80-83 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.61 (s, 6 H), 4.09 (s, 2 H), 6.68 (s, 1 H), 7.16-7.24 (m, 6 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 35.6, 44.5, 98.7, 106.6, 126.9, 128.7, 128.9, 133.1, 134.6, 137.0, 138.1, 138.4, 151.8; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₈N₄H⁺: 267.1527, Found: 267.1600 (Δ = 1.73 ppm).

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-(pentan-3-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4c). Brown solid; 87 % yield; mp 80-82 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 6 H), 1.71-1.89 (m, 4 H), 2.62 (s, 6 H), 2.71-2.79 (m, 1 H), 6.81 (s, 1 H), 7.23 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.3, 27.7, 44.1, 44.6, 98.7, 106.5, 133.1, 134.4, 137.8, 138.0, 157.1; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₂₂N₄H⁺: 247.1845, Found: 247.1918 (Δ = -0.35 ppm).

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-isopropyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4d). Brown solid; 69% yield; mp 83-85 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.38 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6 H), 2.62 (s, 6 H), 3.11-3.22 (m, 1 H), 6.79 (s, 1 H), 7.23 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.8, 29.1, 44.7, 98.7, 106.8, 133.1, 134.3, 138.1, 138.3, 158.8; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₈N₄H⁺: 219.1530, Found: 219.1603 (Δ = 0.68 ppm).

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4e). Brown solid; 96% yield; mp 90-93 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.57 (s, 6 H), 6.77 (s, 1 H), 7.22 (s, 1 H), 7.29-7.33 (m, 3 H), 8.06-8.09 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 44.4, 98.9, 107.4, 126.4, 128.9, 129.3, 130.4, 134.5, 138.8, 139.1, 150.6, 171.3; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₆N₄H⁺: 253.1376, Found: 253.1449 (Δ = -0.47 ppm).

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4f). Brown solid; 87% yield; mp 100-102 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.58 (s, 6 H), 6.77 (s, 1 H), 6.94-6.96 (m, 1 H), 7.21 (s, 1 H), 7.23-7.25 (m, 1 H), 7.62-7.63 (m, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 44.4, 98.3, 107.0, 125.8, 127.0, 127.9, 133.9, 134.9, 138.9, 139.1, 146.1; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₄N₄SH⁺: 259.0941, Found: 259.1013 (Δ = -0.89 ppm).

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-(furan-2-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4g). Yellow solid; 99% yield; mp 92-95 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.62 (s, 6 H), 6.42-6.43 (m, 1 H), 6.80 (s, 1 H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 4 Hz, 1 H), 7.25 (s, 1 H), 7.37-7.38 (m, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 44.4, 98.4, 107.2, 109.2, 112.1, 134.3, 139.9, 139.2, 142.6, 143.0, 145.9; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₄N₄OH⁺: 243.1159, Found: 243.1232 (Δ = 3.44 ppm).

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-tetrahydropyranyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4h). Brown solid; 91% yield; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.94 – 2.01 (m, 4 H), 2.66 (s, 6 H), 3.02 – 3.14 (m, 1 H), 3.48 – 3.56 (m, 2 H), 4.04 – 4.08 (m, 2 H), 6.82 (s, 1 H), 7.29 (s, 1 H); HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₂₀N₄OH⁺: 261.171, Found: 261.1708 (Δ = 0.69 ppm).

Chloroacetamido-5-dimethylamino-2,4-dinitrobenzene (7). To a solution of **2** (1.00 g, 3.31 mmol.) in DCM (20 mL) was added chloroacetyl chloride (315 μL, 3.96 mmol.) and triethylamine (TEA) (553 μL, 3.96 mmol). The reaction mixture was refluxed overnight. Upon confirming the full consumption of the starting material **2** by TLC, the reaction mixture was diluted with DCM (30 mL), washed thrice with water (50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude product. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel with 1:3 AcOEt: hexanes as the eluent to give **7** (1.24 g, 93% yield) as a yellow solid: mp 152 - 153 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.07 (s, 6 H), 4.26 (s, 2 H), 8.48 (s, 1 H), 8.81 (s, 1 H), 11.83 (bs, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 42.5, 43.2, 106.2, 125.1, 127.3, 131.7, 137.2, 149.8, 166.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* calcd for C₁₀H₁₁ClN₄O₅H⁺: 303.0491, found 303.0490 (Δ 0.26 ppm).

5-Dimethylamino-2,4-dinitro-1-*N,N*-dipropylaminomethylcarboxamidobenzene (8a). To a solution of chloroacetamido-5-dipropylamino-2,4-dinitrobenzene in THF (10 mL) was added *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA) (0.35 mL, 2.0 mmol) and 2 M dimethylamine in THF (0.35 mL, 2.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred under reflux overnight. The reaction mixture was evaporated to get yellow residue. The residue was dissolved in DCM, washed three times with water (30 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude product. The crude product was purified using flash column chromatography on silica gel, using AcOEt:hexanes (1:1) as eluent to give **8a** (0.3 g, 71% yield) as a yellow solid: mp 94 - 97 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 6 H), 1.46-1.57 (m, 4 H), 2.49-2.55 (, 4 H), 3.03 (s, 6 H), 3.25 (s, 2 H), 8.61 (s, 1 H), 8.82 (s, 1 H), 12.31 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.6, 20.3, 42.4, 57.7, 59.9, 106.1, 125.2, 127.3, 131.2, 137.9, 149.9, 173.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₆H₂₅N₅O₅H⁺: 368.1928, found 368.1934 (Δ -1.41 ppm).

Compounds **8b-8e** were synthesized using the same procedure as that for **8a**.

5-Dimethylamino-2,4-dinitro-1-(morpholin-4-yl)acetamidobenzene (8b). Yellow solid; 78% yield; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.52 (br. s., 4 H), 2.90 (s, 6H), 3.09 (s, 2 H), 3.67 (bs, 4 H), 8.36 (s, 1 H), 8.51 (s, 1 H), 12.11 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 42.0, 53.3, 62.2, 66.2, 105.3, 124.4, 126.7, 130.7, 137.3, 149.3, 170.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_5\text{O}_6\text{H}^+$: 354.1408, found 354.1412 (Δ -1.11 ppm).

5-Dimethylamino-2,4-dinitro-1-(piperidin-1-yl)methylcarboxamidobenzene (8c). Yellow solid; 93% Yield; mp 152-154 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.45 (bs, 2 H), 1.66-1.70 (m, 4 H), 2.52 (bs, 4 H), 3.01 (s, 6 H), 3.12 (s, 2 H), 8.57 (s, 1 H), 8.77 (s, 1 H), 12.34 (bs, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 23.4, 25.7, 42.4, 54.9, 63.2, 105.9, 125.1, 127.2, 131.1, 137.9, 149.8, 171.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_5\text{O}_5\text{H}^+$: 352.1615, found 352.1622 (Δ -1.77 ppm).

5-Dimethylamino-2,4-dinitro-1-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)methylcarboxamidobenzene (8d). Yellow solid; 79% yield; mp 94-95 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.83 (bs, 4 H), 2.66 (bs, 4 H), 2.97 (s, 6 H), 3.30 (s, 2 H), 8.45 (s, 1 H), 8.64 (s, 1 H), 12.18 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 23.8, 42.1, 54.0, 59.1, 105.5, 124.7, 126.9, 130.8, 137.6, 149.5, 171.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_5\text{O}_5\text{H}^+$: 338.1459, found 338.1466 (Δ -2.07 ppm).

5-Dimethylamino-1-(*N*-methyl-*N*-phenylamino)methylcarboxamido-2,4-dinitrobenzene (8e). Yellow solid; 65% yield; mp 142-144 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.06 (s, 6 H), 3.18 (s, 3 H), 4.05 (s, 2 H), 6.78 - 6.83 (m, 2 H), 6.86 (s, 1 H), 7.23 - 7.30 (m, 2 H), 8.61 (s, 1 H), 8.78 (s, 1 H), 11.94 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 40.4, 42.5, 59.9, 106.1, 113.5, 119.2, 125.1, 127.3, 129.4, 131.5, 137.7, 148.7, 150.0, 171.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_5\text{O}_5\text{H}^+$: 374.1459, found 374.1463 (Δ -1.12 ppm).

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-*N,N*-dipropylaminomethyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (9a). Brown solid; 45% yield; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.89 (t, J = 6 Hz, 6 H), 1.52-1.59 (m, 4 H), 2.54-2.58 (m, 4 H), 2.70 (s, 6 H), 3.92 (s, 2 H), 6.86 (s, 1 H), 7.28 (s, 1 H); LRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_5$: 289.2, found: 290.2 ($\text{M}+1$) $^+$.

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-morpholin-4-ylmethyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (9b). Brown solid; 28% yield; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.48-2.55 (m, 4 H), 2.68 (s, 6 H), 3.65-3.72 (m, 4 H), 3.74 (s, 2 H), 6.82 (s, 1 H), 7.28 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 44.5, 53.7, 56.8, 66.8, 77.2, 98.3, 107.1, 132.9, 133.9, 138.5, 149.6; LRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_5\text{O}$: 275.2, found: 276.2 ($\text{M}+1$) $^+$.

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-piperidin-1-ylmethyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (9c). Brown solid; 91% yield; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.44-1.46 (m, 2 H), 1.54-1.61 (m, 4 H), 2.45 (s, 4 H), 2.68 (s, 6 H), 3.68 (s, 2 H), 6.75 (s, 1 H), 7.35 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 23.6, 25.5, 44.3, 54.3, 56.9, 60.1, 98.3, 106.7, 133.0, 134.2, 137.9, 138.0, 150.2; LRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_5$: 273.2, found: 274.2 ($\text{M}+1$) $^+$.

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-pyrrolidin-1-ylmethyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (9d). Brown solid; 45 % yield; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.77-1.80 (m, 4 H), 2.59 - 2.70 (m, 10 H), 3.88 (s, 2 H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 7.23 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 23.5, 44.5, 53.8, 54.2, 77.2, 98.2, 107.1, 133.4, 134.0, 138.3, 150.6; LRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_5$: 259.2, found: 260.2 ($\text{M}+1$) $^+$.

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-(*N*-methyl-*N*-phenylamino)methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (9e). Brown solid; 65% yield; mp 120-122 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.68 (s, 6 H), 3.03 (s, 3 H), 4.03 (bs, 2 H), 4.65 (s, 2 H), 6.79 - 6.83 (m, 4 H), 7.23 - 7.29 (m, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 39.4, 44.6, 52.2, 76.9, 98.6, 107.1, 113.1, 117.9, 129.4, 133.8, 138.3, 138.6, 149.5, 151.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₇H₂₁N₅H⁺: 296.187, found 296.1868 (Δ 0.54 ppm).

4-Dimethylamino-1,2-di(4-methylbenzenesulfonylamino)-5-nitrobenzene (15). To a solution of 4-fluoro-5-nitro-1,2-di(4-methylbenzenesulfonylamino)benzene (100 mg, 0.21 mmol) and diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA) (0.23 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL) was added a solution of 2 M dimethylamine in THF (115 μL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with water, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude product. The crude product was purified on column chromatography on silica gel using 1:1 AcOEt: hexanes as eluent to give **15** (735 mg, 70% yield) as an amber solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.40 (s, 6 H), 2.78 (s, 6 H), 7.01 (s, 1 H), 7.07 (s, 1 H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.6, 42.4, 106.9, 113.8, 127.7, 127.7, 128.1, 129.8, 129.9, 132.4, 133.9, 135.6, 140.2, 144.7, 145.0, 146.9; LRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₂₂H₂₄N₄O₆S₂ : 504.1, found: 505.1 (M+1)⁺.

1,2-Diamino-4-dimethylamino-5-nitrobenzene (16). To a solution of 1,2-diamino-4-fluoro-5-nitrobenzene (50 mg, 0.29 mmol.), dissolved in anhydrous *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) (10 mL), was added dimethylamine solution (2 M in THF) (1.5 mL, 3.0 mmol.). The mixture was heated to 120 °C for 1 h in a sealed tube. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and the washed with 5 % aqueous lithium chloride solution three times. The organic layer was collected, dried over magnesium sulfate, and evaporated on a rotary evaporator. The resulting crude product was purified by column chromatography on alumina, using ethyl acetate as the eluent to give **16** as a red solid (19 mg, 98% yield) (This reaction was also performed in the microwave, and the reaction went to completion in 30 min.): ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.79 (s, 6 H), 3.16 (bs, 2 H), 4.26 (bs, 2 H), 6.26 (s, 1 H), 7.52 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 43.6, 103.1, 116.8, 125.5, 130.7, 144.3, 145.5. LRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₈H₁₂N₄O₂: 196.1, found: 197.1 (M+1)⁺.

6-Dimethylamino-5-nitro-2-sulhydryl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (17). To a solution of **16** (1.0 g, 5.09 mmol.) in THF (10 mL) and methanol (10 mL) was added carbon disulfide (776 mg, 10.19 mmol.) and TEA (1.03g, 10.19 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated to 50 °C for 4 h. The reaction was complete when a red solid crashed out of the solution and the reaction mixture was clear and colorless. The reaction mixture was monitored by FIA Mass to ensure all the starting material was consumed. The solvent was evaporated by a rotary evaporator to give a crude product as a red solid. The crude product was washed with water (20 mL), filtered, and washed further with water (20 mL x3). After the water washes, the solid was rinsed with methanol (10 mL) and allowed to dry in air overnight, and under vacuum for 4 h to give **17** (0.92 g, 76% yield) as a red solid: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 6.55 (s, 1 H), 7.31 (s, 1 H), 12.40 (bs, 1H), 12.48 (bs, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 43.3, 98.7, 106.7, 125.4, 136.1, 136.8, 144.2, 171.2; LRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₉H₁₀N₄O₂S: 238.1, found: 239.1 (M+1)⁺.

6-Dimethylamino-2-(methylsulfonyl)-5-nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (18a). To compound **17** (500 mg, 2.1 mmol.) was added water (5 mL), ethanol (5 mL), and potassium hydroxide (318 mg, 5.67 mmol.) to form a reddish-black solution. Methyl iodide (301 mg, 2.12

mmol.) was added to this solution, and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature overnight. The reaction was monitored by FIA Mass for the consumption of the starting material. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (30 mL) and extracted with DCM (30 mL x 3), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude product. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, using 1:1 AcOEt:hexanes as eluent to give **18a** (445 mg, 84% yield) as a red solid: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.60 (s, 6 H), 2.66 (s, 3 H), 6.79 (s, 1 H), 7.22 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 15.2, 44.4, 98.4, 105.8, 134.0, 135.6, 137.7, 138.1, 149.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₀H₁₂N₄O₂SH⁺: 253.0754, found 253.0756 (Δ -1.01 ppm).

In a similar manner, compound **18b-18d** and **18f** were synthesized and characterized.

2-(Benzylsulfanyl)-6-*N,N*-dimethylamino-5-nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (18b). Red solid; 83% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.81 (s, 6 H), 4.54 (s, 2 H), 7.12 (s, 1 H), 7.23-7.37 (m, 5 H), 8.05 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 37.11, 44.01, 102.6, 113.4, 127.9, 128.8, 128.9, 136.1, 138.4, 144.2, 154.3, 155.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₆H₁₆N₄O₂SH⁺: 329.0994, found 329.1067 (Δ -1.46 ppm).

6-Dimethylamino-2-(isopropylsulfanyl)-5-nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (18c). Red solid; 58% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.41 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6 H), 2.81 (s, 6 H), 4.01 (septet, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.17 (s, 1 H), 8.11 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 23.65, 39.12, 44.25, 103.2, 113.4, 134.0, 138.6, 143.0, 144.3, 154.4; LRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₂H₁₆N₄O₂S: 280.1, found: 281.1 (M+1)⁺.

6-Dimethylamino-2-(ethylsulfanyl)-5-nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (18d). Red solid; 69% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3 H), 2.80 (s, 6 H), 3.31 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.12 (s, 1 H), 8.04 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.92, 26.96, 44.10, 102.9, 112.9, 133.5, 138.2, 142.8, 144.2, 155.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₁H₁₄N₄O₂SH⁺: 267.091, found 267.0916 (Δ -1.99 ppm).

6-Dimethylamino-5-nitro-2-(phenylsulfanyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (18e). To a solution of **17** (100 mg, 0.4 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) was added iodobenzene (81.6 mg, 0.4 mmol.), cuprous iodide (7.6 mg, 0.04 mmol.), 1,10-phenanthroline (7.2 mg, 0.04 mmol.), and potassium carbonate (110 mg, 0.8 mmol.). The reaction mixture was heated in a pressure vessel for 22 h at 140 °C. The reaction was monitored by FIA Mass. Upon completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (40 mL) and washed thrice with brine (80 mL) and thrice with water (80 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude product. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using 1:3 AcOEt: hexanes as eluent to give **18e** (41 mg, 31% yield) as a red solid: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.79 (s, 6 H), 7.05 (s, 1 H), 7.27-7.29 (m, 3 H), 7.45-7.54 (m, 2 H), 7.89 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 44.12, 100.4, 116.8, 128.7, 129.7, 129.8, 130.1, 133.8, 134.9, 139.0, 144.3; LRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₅H₁₄N₄O₂S: 314.1, found: 315.1 (M+1)⁺.

2-(Cyclohexylsulfanyl)-6-dimethylamino-5-nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (18f). Red solid; 58% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.21 - 1.44 (m, 3 H), 1.46 - 1.65 (m, 3 H), 1.73-1.75 (m, 2 H), 2.04 - 2.18 (m, 2 H), 2.83 (s, 6 H), 3.73 - 3.96 (m, 1 H), 7.16 (bs, 1 H), 8.07 (bs, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.3, 25.6, 33.4, 44.0, 46.6, 102.6, 113.2, 133.7, 138.3, 142.4, 144.1, 154.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₅H₂₀N₄O₂SH⁺: 321.138, found 321.1385 (Δ -1.57 ppm).

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-(methylsulfanyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (19a). To a solution of **18a** (444 mg 1.8 mmol.), dissolved in ethanol (10 mL), was added solid stannous chloride dihydrate (1.42 g, 6.3 mmol.). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 3 h. The reaction was monitored by TLC for the consumption of the starting material. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was diluted with water (100 mL), and solid sodium carbonate was added until the solution became basic. The reaction mixture was extracted thrice with DCM (50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude product. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on alumina using 1.5% methanol/DCM as eluent to give **19a** (316 mg, 81% yield) as a beige solid: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.60 (s, 6 H), 2.66 (s, 3 H), 6.79 (s, 1 H), 7.22 (s, 1 H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 15.2, 44.4, 98.4, 105.8, 134.0, 135.6, 137.7, 138.1, 149.2; LRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_4\text{S}$: 222.1, found: 223.1 ($\text{M}+1$) $^+$.

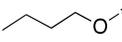
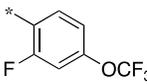
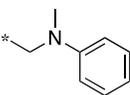
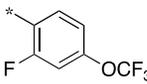
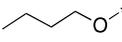
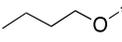
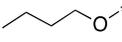
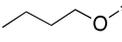
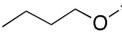
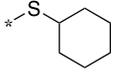
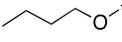
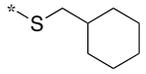
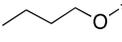
In a similar manner, **19b**, **19c** and **19d** were synthesized and characterized.

5-Amino-2-(benzylsulfanyl)-6-dimethylamino-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (19b). Beige solid; 87% yield; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.59 (s, 6 H), 4.41 (s, 2 H), 6.78 (s, 1 H), 7.15-7.23 (m, 5 H), 7.28 (s, 1 H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 37.9, 44.3, 98.3, 106.1, 127.2, 128.4, 128.7, 133.8, 135.2, 136.7, 138.0, 138.4, 146.7; LRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{S}$: 298.1, found: 299.1($\text{M}+1$) $^+$.

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-(isopropylsulfanyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (19c). Beige solid; 87% yield; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 6 H), 2.63 (s, 6 H), 3.87-3.89 (m, 1 H), 6.86 (s, 1 H), 7.33 (s, 1 H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 23.4, 38.9, 44.5, 98.4, 106.3, 134.1, 135.5, 138.0, 138.4, 146.4; LRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{S}$: 250.1, found: 251.1 ($\text{M}+1$) $^+$.

5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-2-(ethylsulfanyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (19d). Beige solid; 89% yield; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.35 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3 H), 2.63 (s, 6 H), 3.22 (q, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2 H), 6.84 (s, 1 H), 7.29 (s, 1H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.9, 27.4, 44.3, 98.3, 106.0, 134.0, 135.5, 137.7, 138.1, 147.4; LRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_4\text{S}$: 236.1, found: 237.1 ($\text{M}+1$) $^+$.

Table S2 Accurate MIC ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) of compounds determined by *Procedure B*.

Compound	R ¹	R ²	MIC
SB-P17G-C2			0.008
SB-P17G-A38			0.019
10e-6			0.19
11b			1.6
11c			0.09
11d			1.6
20a			6.25
20d			0.78
20f			<0.02
20g			0.0039

MIC: Minimum concentration of the compound required to inhibit growth of 99% of *Mtb* H37Rv cells.

