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Structure-Based Design of 3-Carboxy-Substituted 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroquinolines as Inhibitors of Myeloid Cell Leukemia-1 (Mcl-1)

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Chemistry

All reactions were performed in oven-dried glassware under an inert (N₂) atmosphere, unless otherwise stated. Anhydrous solvents were used as supplied without further purification. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian 400 MHz NMR spectrometer at 25 °C. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) and are referenced to residual non-deuterated solvent peak (CHCl₃: δ_H 7.26, δ_C 77.2; DMSO: δ_H 2.50, δ_C 39.5). Mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker AmaZon X mass spectrometer using atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI). All final molecules were confirmed to be >90% pure by HPLC prior to biological testing using a Waters 1525 analytical/preparative HPLC equipped with a Atlantis T3 C18 reversed phase column according to one of the following gradients: (I) 100% solvent (A) to 100% solvent (B) over 10min at 1 ml min⁻¹; (II) 50% solvent (A) to 100% solvent (B) over 22 min at 1 ml min⁻¹; or (III) 100% solvent (B) isocratic over 22min at 1 ml min⁻¹, where solvent (A) is H₂O with 0.1% TFA and solvent (B) is CH₃CN-H₂O, 9:1 with 0.1% TFA.

General procedure A: Sulfonamide synthesis. Compound \pm -**5** was dissolved in anhydrous chloroform (0.1 M), followed by adding corresponding sulfonyl chloride (2 eq), DIPEA (2.5 eq), DMAP (0.1 eq). Reaction was refluxed overnight under N₂ atmosphere. TLC indicated the reaction was complete. The volatiles were evaporated and the residual was reconstituted in EtOAc and washed with 1M HCl. The organic layer was collected and dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated and purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel using an eluent of Hex/EtOAc 3:1 to give compounds \pm -**7a-e**.

General procedure B: Ester hydrolysis. Compound \pm -**7a-e**, \pm -**5**, \pm -**9** or \pm -**10** was dissolved in a mixed solvent of THF/MeOH/H₂O 3:1:1 (0.1 M). LiOH·H₂O (5 eq) was added to the reaction, which was then stirred overnight at room temperature. TLC indicated the reaction was complete. The volatiles were evaporated, and the residue was partitioned between Et₂O and 1M NaOH. The aqueous layer was collected and acidified with 1M HCl, then partitioned with CH₂Cl₂. The CH₂Cl₂ layer was collected, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated to yield products \pm -**8a-e**, \pm -**6**, \pm -**2** or \pm -**11**.

*Methyl quinoline-3-carboxylate*¹ (**4**). Quinoline-3-carboxylic acid **3** (2.50 g, 14.4 mmol, 1 eq) was suspended in MeOH (72 mL), and SOCl₂ (2.09 mL, 28.8 mmol, 2 eq) was added slowly at 0 °C. The reaction was then heated at a gentle reflux overnight. TLC indicated the reaction was complete. The volatiles were evaporated and the residue was partitioned between DCM and saturated NaHCO₃ solution. The organic layer was collected and dried over NaSO₄, filtered and concentrated to yield compound **4** as a yellow solid (2.64 g, 98%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 9.46 (1H, s, Ar), 8.88 (1H, s, Ar), 8.20 (1H, d, J = 8.8Hz, Ar), 7.95 (1H, d, J = 8.8Hz, Ar), 7.85 (1H, t, J = 8.0Hz, Ar), 7.64 (1H, t, J = 7.2Hz, Ar), 4.02 (3H, s, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 160.9, 145.2, 144.9, 133.9, 127.0, 124.6, 124.3, 122.6, 121.9, 118.1, 47.7.

 \pm -Methyl 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate² (\pm -5). Borane-pyridine complex (8M; 3.50 mL, 27.6 mmol, 2 eq) was added to a solution of **4** (2.58 g, 13.8 mmol, 1 eq) in glacial acetic acid (100 mL), and the reaction was stirred at room temperature overnight. TLC indicated the reaction was complete. The reaction mixture was concentrated to dryness, and then partitioned between EtOAc and saturated NaHCO₃ solution. The organic layer was collected and dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated and

purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel using an eluent of Hex:EtOAc 1:1 to give compound \pm -**5** as a pale solid (2.32 g, 88%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.02-6.98 (2H, m, Ar), 6.66 (1H, t, J = 7.2Hz, Ar), 6.53 (1H, d, J = 8.0Hz, Ar), 3.97 (1H, s, NH), 3.74 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.58-3.54 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 3.39-3.34 (1H, m, CH_aC<u>H_b</u>N), 3.03-3.01 (2H, m, CH and C<u>H_a</u>CH_bCH), 2.96-2.92 (1H, m, CH_aC<u>H_b</u>CH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 169.5, 139.1, 124.8, 122.4, 114.7, 112.7, 109.6, 47.2, 38.8, 33.6, 24.9.

 \pm -1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid³ (±-6). Compound ±-5 was saponified on a scale of 0.32 mmol according to general procedure B to yield compound ±-6 as a light brown solid (25 mg, 43%): ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz) δ 12.36 (1H, s, COOH), 6.85-6.78 (2H, m, Ar), 6.41-6.37 (2H, m, Ar), 5.69 (1H, s, NH), 3.35-3.32 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bNH), 3.12 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bNH), 2.78-2.66 (3H, m, CH and CH₂CHCH₂NH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 143.7, 129.8, 127.4, 119.7, 118.2, 114.8, 43.5, 38.4, 29.5; t_R = 1.3 min (96.3%, I).

 \pm -*Methyl* 1-(*phenylsulfonyl*)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (\pm -**7a**). Compound \pm -**5** was coupled to benzenesulfonyl chloride according general procedure A on a scale of 0.79 mmol to yield compound \pm -**7a** as a light yellow solid (242 mg, 93%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.76 (1H, d, J = 8.0Hz, Ar), 7.62 (2H, d, J = 7.6Hz, Ar), 7.54 (1H, t, J = 7.2Hz, Ar), 7.42 (2H, t, J = 7.6Hz, Ar), 7.21 (1H, t, J = 7.6Hz, Ar), 7.10 (1H, t, J = 6.8Hz, Ar), 7.04 (1H, d, J = 7.2Hz, Ar), 4.47-4.42 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 3.69 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.52-3.45 (1H, m, CH_aC<u>H_bN</u>), 2.68 (2H, m, CH and C<u>H_aCH_bCH), 2.56-2.51 (1H, m, CH_aC<u>H_bCH); ¹³C NMR</u> (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 167.9, 134.5, 131.2, 128.3, 124.5, 124.4, 123.8, 122.2, 122.1, 120.7, 120.0, 47.5, 42.6, 32.9, 24.4.</u>

 \pm -*Methyl 1-((4-bromophenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate* (\pm -**7b**). Compound \pm -**5** was coupled to 4-bromobenzenesulfonyl chloride according to general procedure A on a scale of 0.53 mmol to yield compound \pm -**7b** as a light brown solid (195 mg, 90%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.75 (1H, d, J = 7.6Hz, Ar), 7.56 (2H, d, J = 8.8Hz, Ar), 7.48 (2H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar), 7.22 (1H, t, J = 7.2Hz, Ar), 7.13 (1H, t, J = 6.8Hz, Ar), 7.07 (1H, d, J = 7.6Hz, Ar), 4.45-4.41 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 3.71 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.54-3.48 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 2.77-2.69 (2H, m, CH and CH_aCH_bCH), 2.63-2.56 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bCH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 167.8, 133.6, 130.9, 127.7, 124.6, 123.9, 123.8, 123.4, 122.3, 121.0, 119.9, 47.5, 42.7, 33.2, 24.4.

 \pm -*Methyl* 1-((4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (\pm -**7c**). Compound \pm -**5** was coupled to 4-fluorobenzenesulfonyl chloride according to general procedure A on a scale of 1.05 mmol to yield compound \pm -**7c** as a light yellow solid (307 mg, 84%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.76 (1H, d, J = 7.6Hz, Ar), 7.65-7.62 (2H, m, Ar), 7.23 (1H, t, J = 7.2Hz, Ar), 7.14-7.06 (4H, m, Ar), 4.45-4.41 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 3.71 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.54-3.47 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 2.75-2.64 (2H, m, CH and CH_aCH_bCH), 2.60-2.53 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bCH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 167.8, 161.8, 159.2, 131.0, 130.6, 125.0, 124.9, 124.5, 123.9, 122.3, 120.9, 120.1, 111.8, 111.6, 47.5, 42.6, 33.1, 24.4.

 \pm -*Methyl* 1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (\pm -**7d**). Compound \pm -**5** was coupled to 4-biphenylsulfonyl chloride according to general procedure A on a scale of 0.52 mmol to yield compound \pm -**7d** as a pale solid (203 mg, 96%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.82 (1H, d, J = 8.0Hz, Ar), 7.70 (2H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar), 7.64 (2H, d, J = 8.8Hz, Ar), 7.58 (2H, d, J = 7.2Hz, Ar), 7.48-7.39 (3H, m, Ar), 7.24 (1H, t, J = 7.6Hz, Ar), 7.13 (1H, t, J = 8.0Hz, Ar), 7.07 (1H, d, J = 7.6Hz, Ar), 4.53-4.48 (1H, m, CH₃CH_bN), 3.72 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.56-3.49 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 2.75 (2H, d, J = 8.4Hz, CH₂CH), 2.67-2.62 (1H, m, CH); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 167.9, 141.1, 134.2, 133.1, 131.3, 124.5, 124.3, 123.8, 122.9, 122.8, 122.5, 122.2, 120.8, 120.0, 47.5, 42.6, 33.1, 24.5.

±-*Methyl* 1-(*naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl*)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (±-**7e**). Compound ±-**5** was coupled to 2-naphthylsulfonyl chloride according to general procedure A on a scale of 0.54 mmol to yield compound ±-**7e** as an off-white solid (197 mg, 95%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz) δ 8.29 (1H, s, Ar), 7.90-7.83 (4H, m, Ar), 7.65-7.53 (3H, m, Ar), 7.24 (1H, t, J = 8.4Hz, Ar), 7.12 (1H, t, J = 7.2Hz, Ar), 7.03 (1H, d, J = 8.0Hz, Ar), 4.47-4.42 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 3.58 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.48-3.42 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 2.59 (2H, d, J = 8.0Hz, CH₂CH), 2.53-2.48 (1H, m, CH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100MHz) δ 167.9, 131.6, 131.3, 130.1, 127.3, 124.7, 124.5, 124.2, 123.8, 123.2, 122.9, 122.2, 120.7, 119.9, 117.4, 47.4, 42.7, 33.1, 24.4.

±-1-(*Phenylsulfonyl*)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-**8a**). Compound ±-**7a** was saponified according to general procedure B on a scale of 0.35 mmol to yield compound ±-**8a** as a pale solid (108 mg, 98%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz) δ 7.79 (1H, d, J = 8.8Hz, Ar), 7.64 (2H, d, J = 7.2Hz, Ar), 7.57 (1H, t, J = 7.6Hz, Ar), 7.44 (2H, t, J = 8.0Hz, Ar), 7.24 (1H, t, J = 8.0Hz, Ar), 7.13 (1H, t, J = 7.2Hz, Ar), 7.06 (1H, d, J = 6.8Hz, Ar), 4.48-4.43 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 3.56-3.50 (1H, m, CH_aC<u>H_bN), 2.75-2.69 (2H, m, CH and CH_aCH_bCH), 2.60-2.54 (1H, m, CH_aC<u>H_bCH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100MHz) δ 173.4, 134.4, 131.2, 128.4, 124.5, 123.5, 122.4, 122.3, 120.9, 120.2, 42.2, 32.9, 24.1; MS (APCI+) m/z Calcd (M⁺): 317.0, Found: 317.0 (M⁺); t_B = 11.7 min (100%, II).</u></u>

 \pm -1-((4-Bromophenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (\pm -8b). Compound \pm -7b was saponified according to general procedure B on a scale of 0.26 mmol to yield compound \pm -8b as a pale solid (97 mg, 95%): ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400MHz) δ 12.76 (1H, s, COOH), 7.74 (2H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar), 7.54-7.50 (3H, m, Ar), 7.19-7.05 (3H, m, Ar), 4.20-4.16 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 3.64-3.58 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 2.67-2.53 (3H, m, CH and CH₂CH); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 100MHz) δ 173.7, 138.3, 135.9, 133.1, 130.0, 129.5, 129.1, 127.9, 127.1, 125.6, 123.6, 47.5, 38.1, 29.1; MS (APCI+) m/z Calcd (M⁺): 396.9, Found: 396.9 (M⁺); t_R = 15.1 min (100%, II).

 \pm -1-((4-Fluorophenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (\pm -8c). Compound \pm -7c was saponified according to general procedure B on a scale of 0.26 mmol to yield compound \pm -8c as a pale solid (84 mg, 97%): ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400MHz) δ 12.75 (1H, s, COOH), 7.73-7.69 (2H, m, Ar), 7.57 (1H, d, J = 7.6Hz, Ar), 7.42 (2H, t, J = 8.4Hz, Ar), 7.24-7.09 (3H, m, Ar), 4.20-4.16 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 3.63-3.57 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 2.69-2.55 (3H, m, CH and CH₂CH); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 100MHz) δ 173.7, 166.4, 163.9, 135.9, 130.3, 130.2, 129.9, 129.5, 127.1, 125.6, 123.7, 117.4, 117.2, 47.5, 38.0, 29.1; MS (APCI+) m/z Calcd (M⁺): 335.0, Found: 336.0 (M+H⁺); t_R = 12.8 min (100%, II).

 \pm -1-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-ylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-8d). Compound ±-7d was saponified according to general procedure B on a scale of 0.33 mmol to yield compound ±-8d as a pale solid (123 mg, 95%): ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz) δ 12.75 (1H, s, COOH), 7.88 (2H, d, J = 8.8Hz, Ar), 7.43 (4H, d, J = 7.2Hz, Ar), 7.62 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar), 7.52-7.42 (3H, m, Ar), 7.24-7.09 (3H, m, Ar), 4.26-4.21 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 3.65-3.59 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 2.70-2.59 (3H, m, CH and CH₂CH); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 100 MHz) δ 173.7, 145.2, 138.4, 137.9, 136.2, 130.0, 129.6, 129.3, 129.2, 128.0, 127.8, 127.5, 127.1,

125.4, 123.5, 47.5, 38.0, 29.2; MS (APCI+) m/z Calcd (M⁺): 393.1, Found: 394.0 (M+H⁺); $t_R = 17.7$ min (98.4%, II).

±-1-(*Naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl*)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-**8e**). Compound ±-**7e** was saponified according to general procedure B on a scale of 0.31 mmol to yield compound ±-**8e** as a pale solid (113 mg, 98%): ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 12.73 (1H, s, COOH), 8.48 (1H, s, Ar), 8.15 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar), 8.08-8.02 (2H, m, Ar), 7.74-7.62 (3H, m, Ar), 7.56 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar), 7.21 (1H, t, J = 7.2Hz, Ar), 7.14-7.07 (2H, m, Ar), 4.34-4.30 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 3.74-3.68 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 2.67-2.59 (3H, m, CH and CH₂CH); ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 100 MHz) δ 137.7, 136.2, 134.8, 132.1, 130.1, 129.9, 129.8, 129.7, 129.3, 128.7, 128.3, 127.1, 125.3, 123.4, 122.2, 47.6, 38.1, 29.2; MS (APCI+) m/z Calcd (M⁺): 367.0, Found: 368.0 (M+H⁺); t_R = 15.5 min (100%, II).

±-*Methyl* 1-((4-(4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)phenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3carboxylate (±-9). ±-7c (170 mg, 0.49 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in 4 mL DMSO (0.1 M), followed by the addition of 4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenol (92 mg, 0.59 mmol, 1.2 eq) and K₂CO₃ (101 mg, 0.74 mmol, 1.5 eq). The reaction was stirred at 100 °C for 48 h. TLC indicated the reaction was complete. The reaction mixture was cooled and then partitioned between EtOAc (80 mL) and H₂O (40 mL). The organic layer was collected, washed repeatedly with H₂O (5 x 40 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated and purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel using an eluent of Hex/EtOAc 6:1 to give compound ±-9 as a light brown oil (170 mg, 73%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.77 (1H, d, J = 8.0Hz, Ar), 7.57 (2H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar), 7.21 (1H, t, J = 6.4Hz, Ar), 7.12-7.05 (2H, m, Ar), 6.93 (2H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar), 6.77 (2H, s, Ar), 4.47-4.42 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 3.71 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.51-3.45 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 2.78-2.69 (2H, d, J = 8.0Hz, CH₂CH), 2.65-2.60 (1H, m, CH), 2.36 (6H, s, 2xCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 167.9, 156.9, 147.8, 133.5, 131.3, 128.2, 125.9, 124.5, 123.7, 122.2, 120.7, 119.9, 115.3, 112.8, 47.5, 42.6, 33.0, 24.5, 16.1; MS (APCI+) m/z Calcd (M⁺): 485.1, Found: 486.0 (M+H⁺); t_R = 11.9 min (97.3%, III).

±-1-((4-(4-Chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)phenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-2). Compound ±-9 was saponified according to general procedure B on a scale of 0.30 mmol to yield compound ±-2 as an off-white solid (140 mg, 99%): ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 12.74 (1H, s, COOH), 7.64 (2H, d, J = 8.8Hz, Ar), 7.57 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar), 7.22-7.16 (2H, m, Ar), 7.12-7.07 (3H, m, Ar), 7.00 (2H, s, Ar), 4.23-4.19 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 3.64-3.58 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 2.75-2.59 (3H, m, CH and CH₂CH), 2.33 (6H, s, 2xCH₃); ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 100 MHz) δ 173.8, 161.5, 152.9, 138.3, 136.2, 133.1, 129.9, 129.8, 129.3, 127.0, 125.4, 124.7, 123.6, 120.7, 118.3, 47.4, 37.9, 29.2, 20.7; MS (APCI+) m/z Calcd (M⁺): 471.1, Found: 472.0 (M+H⁺); t_R = 9.7 min (96.5%, III).

 \pm -Methyl 1-(3-(4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)propyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (\pm -10). Compound \pm -6 (153 mg, 0.80 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in 8 mL 1,2-dichloroethane (0.1 M), followed by 3-(4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)propanal (170 mg, 0.80 mmol, 1 eq), and NaBH(OAc)₃ (340 mg, 1.60 mmol, 2 eq). The reaction was stirred at 35 °C overnight. TLC indicated the reaction was complete. Saturated NaHCO₃ solution was added to the mixture to quench the reaction. Then the reaction mixture was partitioned between DCM and H₂O, and organic layer was collected, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated and purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel using an eluent of Hex/EtOAc 7:3 to yield compound \pm -10 as a light yellow solid (135 mg, 44%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.08-6.99 (2H, m, Ar), 6.66-6.59 (4H, m, Ar), 3.98 (2H, t, J = 5.6Hz, O-CH₂), 3.71 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.54-3.38 (4H, m, CH₂N and NCH₂CH₂), 3.01 (2H, d, J = 6.8Hz, CH₂CH), 2.94-2.93 (1H, m, CH), 2.35 (6H, s, 2xCH₃), 2.06-2.03 (2H, m, CH₂CH₂CH₂); ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 100 MHz) δ 173.9, 156.6, 144.4, 137.1, 129.4, 127.5, 120.4, 116.2, 114.5, 110.9, 65.5, 51.9, 50.7, 48.2, 38.2, 30.6, 29.7, 26.4, 20.9.

±-1-(3-(4-Chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)propyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-11). Compound (±-10) was saponified according to general procedure B on a scale of 0.13 mmol to give compound ±-11 as a pale brown solid (43 mg, 90%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.07-7.00 (2H, m, Ar), 6.71-6.65 (4H, m, Ar), 3.98 (2H, t, J = 5.6Hz, O-CH₂), 3.54-3.45 (4H, m, CH₂N and NCH₂CH₂), 3.05-2.98 (3H, m, CH₂CH and CH), 2.34 (6H, s, 2xCH₃), 2.08-2.05 (2H, m, CH₂CH₂CH₂); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 179.1, 156.6, 144.4, 137.1, 129.5, 127.5, 120.1, 116.4, 114.5, 111.0, 65.5, 50.5, 48.3, 38.2, 30.3, 26.3, 20.9; MS (APCI+) m/z Calcd (M⁺): 373.1, Found: 372.3 (M+H⁺); t_R = 8.6 min (97.6%, III).

±-Acetoxymethyl 1-((4-(4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)phenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3carboxylate (±-12). Compound ±-2 (100 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in DMF (2 mL), followed by bromomethyl acetate (20 μL, 0.20 mmol, 1 eq) and K₂CO₃ (59 mg, 0.40 mmol, 2 eq). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. TLC indicated the reaction was complete, which was then partitioned between EtOAc (50 mL) and H₂O (50 mL). The organic layer was collected, washed repeatedly with H₂O (4 x 20 mL), then dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated and purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel using an eluent of Hex/EtOAc 1:1 to give compound ±-12 as a white powder (103 mg, 95%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.74 (1H, d, J = 8.0Hz, Ar), 7.57 (2H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar), 7.22 (1H, t, J = 8.0Hz, Ar), 7.13-7.06 (2H, m, Ar), 6.93 (2H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar), 6.78 (2H, s, Ar), 5.75 (2H, s, OCH₂O), 4.42-4.37 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 3.57-3.51 (1H, m, CH_aCH_bN), 2.78-2.66 (3H, m, CH₂CHCH₂N), 2.63 (6H, s, 2xCH₃), 2.12 (3H, s, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 171.1, 169.4, 161.8, 152.5, 138.3, 136.0, 132.8, 130.8, 129.3, 129.1, 128.1, 127.1, 125.5, 124.8, 120.1, 117.5, 46.9, 37.9, 28.9, 20.9, 20.7; MS (APCI+) m/z Calcd (M⁺): 543.1, Found: 544.0 (M+H⁺); t_R = 10.7 min (100%, III).

Biology

General. All chemical reagents were ACS grade or higher unless otherwise indicated. All buffers were passed through Chelex-100 (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA) to remove trace metals. The D_2O , DMSO- d_6 , ¹⁵NH₄Cl, and ¹³C-labeled glucose were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc. (Andover, MA).

Protein Production. A His6-MBP tagged recombinant human Mcl-1 residues 172 to 327 was produced in E. coli in either LB or minimal media supplemented with ¹⁵NH₄Cl to produce unlabeled or ¹⁵N-labeled Mcl-1. The tagged protein was initially purified from the crude cell lysate by IMAC chromatography (GE Healthcare Life Sciences), and after dialysis to remove the imidazole the affinity tag was cleaved using PreScission Protease (GE Healthcare Life Sciences). A Sephacryl S-200 size exclusion column was used as a final purification step before the protein was concentrated with a 10,000 MWCO centifugal filter concentrator (Millipore). The protein purity was shown to be >98% by Coomassie Brilliant Blue (Bio-Rad) stained SDS-PAGE gel and the final concentration was determined using the Bradford protein assay (Bio-Rad) with BSA standards (Pierce).

FITC-Bak BH3 Peptide. A 6-aminohexanoic acid linker was conjugated to the *N*-terminus of the Bak-BH3 peptide (GQVGRQLAIIGDDINR), capped with fluorescein (on the amino group of the linker), and the peptide was amidated on the C-terminus to give FITC-Ahx-GQVGRQLAIIGDDINR-CONH₂, hereafter referred to as "FITC-Bak" (synthesized by Neo BioScience in >95% purity).

Fluorescence Polarization Competition Assay. Fluorescence polarization experiments were conducted using a BMG PHERAstar FS multimode microplate reader equipped with two PMTs for simultaneous measurements of the perpendicular and parallel fluorescence emission. The assays were performed in black polypropylene 384-well microplate (Costar) with a final volume of 20 μ L. Initially the affinity (K_d) of the FITC-Bak peptide was determined by titrating Mcl-1¹⁷²⁻³²⁷ into 10 nM FITC-Bak peptide in 20 mM HEPES, pH 6.8, 50 mM NaCl, 3 mM DTT, 0.01% Triton X-100 and 5% DMSO at room temperature while monitoring the perpendicular and parallel fluorescence emission with a 485 nm excitation and 520 nm emission filters. The fluorescence polarization competition assay (FPCA) was performed using 100 nM Mcl-1¹⁷²⁻³²⁷ in the same buffer (thus, 15 nM FITC-Bak) with varying concentrations of either unlabeled peptide or THQ-based Mcl-1 inhibitor. Regression analysis was carried out using Origin (OriginLab, Northampton, MA) to fit the data to the Hill equation (1) to determine the initial binding affinity (K_d) and the IC₅₀ in the FPCA. For the fluorescence polarization competition titrations, an equation derived by Nikolovska-Coleska *et al.* was used to calculate the K_i from the IC₅₀ data.⁴ The affinity of FITC-Bak for Mcl-1¹⁷²⁻³²⁷ was determined to be 33.8 ± 0.50 nM in the assay conditions used.

¹⁵N-Mcl-1 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy. NMR spectra was collected at 25 °C with a Bruker AVANCE 800 NMR spectrometer (800.27 MHz for protons) equipped with pulsed-field gradients, four frequency channels, and triple resonance, z-axis gradient cryogenic probes. A one-second relaxation delay was used, and quadrature detection in the indirect dimensions was obtained with states-TPPI phase cycling; initial delays in the indirect dimensions were set to give zero- and first-order phase corrections of 90° and -180° , respectively.^{5,6} Data were processed using the processing program nmrPipe on Linux workstations.⁷ All proton chemical shifts are reported with respect to the H₂O or HDO

signal, taken to be 4.658 ppm relative to external TSP (0.0 ppm) at 37 °C. The ¹⁵N chemical shifts were indirectly referenced using the zero-point frequency at 37 °C of 0.10132905 for ¹⁵N-¹H, as previously described.^{8,9}

Uniformly ¹⁵N-labeled Mcl-1 was used to collect two-dimensional ¹H,¹⁵N-fast HSQC (heteronuclear single quantum coherence) spectra of Mcl-1 with and without \pm -**2** to detect changes in the backbone ¹⁵N and ¹H resonances of Mcl-1 due to the direct interaction with the compound.¹⁰ The NMR samples contained 131 μ M ¹⁵N-labeled Mcl-1, (182 μ M \pm -**2**), 20 mM HEPES, pH 6.8, 50 mM NaCl, 3 mM DTT, 20% D₂O, and 5% DMSO-*d*₆.

CellTiter-Blue® viability assay. A375 cells were plated at 5,000 cells/well seeding density in a 96 well black walled plate (Corning). Cells were cultured in 100 μ L DMEM (Gibco) plus 10% HIFBS and PenStrep overnight. Using a separate plate, serial dilutions were made of each compound in DMEM. 10 μ L of each serial dilution was transferred into the experimental plate so that the final compound concentrations were 4.69, 9.38, 18.75, 37.5, 75, 150, or 300 μ M and 1% DMSO solvent. Untreated control cells also received DMSO vehicle at 1% final concentration. Cells were cultured with and without test compounds for 48 h and then 20 μ L of CellTiter-Blue® reagent (Promega) was added to each well and to control wells containing media only to account for background. Cells were then incubated for 2 h and fluorescence was read using Molecular Devices Spectra Max M5 (560Ex/590Em). Results were recorded as percent viability determined by dividing the experimental values by the untreated controls and subtracting the background from cell-free wells.

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¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra

Methyl quinoline-3-carboxylate (4).











Methyl 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (±-5).

1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-6).













Methyl 1-(phenylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (±-7a).







Methyl 1-((4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (±-7c).





Methyl 1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (±-7d).



Methyl 1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (±-7d).



Methyl 1-(naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (±-7e).



Methyl 1-(naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (±-7e).











1-((4-Bromophenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-8b).



1-((4-Bromophenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-8b).



1-((4-Fluorophenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-8c).



1-((4-Fluorophenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-8c).



1-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-ylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-8d).







1-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-ylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-8d).



1-(Naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-8e).



1-(Naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-8e).

Methyl 1-((4-(4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)phenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (±-**9**).



Methyl 1-((4-(4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)phenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (±-9).



1-((4-(4-Chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)phenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-**2**).



1-((4-(4-Chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)phenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-**2**).













1-(3-(4-Chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)propyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-11).



1-(3-(4-Chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)propyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-11).

Acetoxymethyl 1-((4-(4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)phenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (±-12).



Acetoxymethyl 1-((4-(4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)phenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (±-**12**).



HPLC Spectra

1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-6).



Reported by User: System Report Method: University of Maryland Report Method ID: 1270 Page: 1 of 1 Project Name: McI-1 Date Printed: 10/19/2015 6:05:24 PM US/Eastern 1-(Phenylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid(±-8a).

9/2/2015 5:39:19 PM EDT

10/19/2015 5:57:13 PM EDT



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Reported by User: System Report Method: University of Maryland Report Method ID: 1270 Page: 1 of 1

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Date Acquired:

Date Processed:

Project Name: McI-1 Date Printed: 10/19/2015 6:05:58 PM US/Eastern 1-((4-Bromophenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-8b).



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Reported by User: System Report Method: University of Maryland Report Method ID: 1270 Page: 1 of 1 Project Name: McI-1 Date Printed: 10/19/2015 6:06:31 PM US/Eastern

1-((4-Fluorophenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-8c).



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND The Founding Campus — Mcl-1



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Reported by User: System Report Method: University of Maryland Report Method ID: 1270 Page: 1 of 1 Project Name: McI-1 Date Printed: 10/19/2015 6:04:10 PM US/Eastern

1-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-ylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-8d).



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	SAMPLE	INFORMATIC	D N	
Sample Name: Sample Type: Vial: Injection #:	SF-5-133 Unknow n 1:f,1 1	Acquired By: Sample Set Name: Acq. Method Set: Processing Method:	System Anal_254_50%A_22min Lee_THQ	
Injection Volume: Run Time:	25.00 ul 22.0 Minutes	Channel Name: Proc. Chnl. Descr.:	W2489 ChA W2489 ChA 254nm	
Date Acquired: Date Processed:	9/2/2015 6:07:59 PM EDT 10/19/2015 5:58:39 PM EDT			
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Reported by User: System Report Method: University of Maryland Report Method ID: 1270 Page: 1 of 1 Project Name: McI-1 Date Printed: 10/19/2015 6:07:08 PM US/Eastern 1-(Naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-8e).



Reported by User: System Report Method: University of Maryland Report Method ID: 1270 Page: 1 of 1 Project Name: McI-1 Date Printed: 10/19/2015 6:07:38 PM US/Eastern Methyl 1-((4-(4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)phenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (±-9).



Reported by User: System Report Method: University of Maryland Report Method ID: 1270 Page: 1 of 1 Project Name: McI-1 Date Printed: 10/19/2015 6:08:08 PM US/Eastern 1-((4-(4-Chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)phenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-**2**).



Reported by User: System Report Method: University of Maryland Report Method ID: 1270 Page: 1 of 1 Project Name: McI-1 Date Printed: 10/19/2015 6:08:39 PM US/Eastern 1-(3-(4-Chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)propyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (±-11).



Reported by User: System Report Method: University of Maryland Report Method ID: 1270 Page: 1 of 1 Project Name: McI-1 Date Printed: 10/19/2015 6:09:40 PM US/Eastern Acetoxymethyl 1-((4-(4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)phenyl)sulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (±-**12**).



Reported by User: System Report Method: University of Maryland Report Method ID: 1270 Page: 1 of 1 Project Name: McI-1 Date Printed: 10/19/2015 6:10:18 PM US/Eastern