Facile Synthesis of SAM-Peptide Conjugates through Alkyl Linkers

Targeting Protein N-terminal Methyltransferase 1

Gang Zhang, and Rong Huang*

Department of Medicinal Chemistry, Institute for Structural Biology, Drug Discovery & Development, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, 23219

E-mail: rhuang@vcu.edu

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General Information

Starting materials, reagents, and solvents were obtained from commercial sources and used as received. Progress of the reactions was monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) analysis (Analtech, 0.25 mm silica gel GF254 on glass plates) or by analytical LC-MS using an PelkinElmer AxION 2 TOF MS with UV detection at 214 and 254 nm and an electrospray mode (ESI) coupled with a Flexar/s275/s200EP PDA detector. Purification of intermediates and final products was carried out on normal phase using an ISCO CombiFlash system and prepacked SiO₂ cartridges eluted with optimized gradients of either hexane-ethyl acetate mixture or dichloromethane-methanol as described. Preparative high pressure liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) was performed on Waters instruments. Systems were run with 5-95% acetonitrile/water gradient with a 0.05% TFA modifier. NMR spectra were recorded on a BrukerAV400 (Avance 400 MHz) instrument. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to deuterated solvent as the internal standard (CDCl₃ 7.26 ppm, DMSO-d₆ 2.50 ppm, CD₃OD 3.31), and coupling constants (J) are in hertz (Hz). Peak multiplicities are expressed as follows: singlet (s), doublet (d), doublet of doublets (dd), triplet (t), quartet (q), multiplet (m), and broad singlet (br s). All final products were characterized by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and MS analyses. Except for the known compounds, all new compounds were also characterized and confirmed by HRMS or MALDI-MS. MALDI-MS data was collected using a Micromass MALDI-R or Voyager DE-Pro operating in reflectron mode.

Synthesis of SAM-Peptide conjugates



Scheme S1 Synthesis of SAM-Peptide conjugates

Compounds 4 and 5 were synthesized according to the procedures we previously reported.^[1]

Synthesis of compound 6

2-[(Benzyloxycarbonyl)amino]acetaldehyde (6a)[2,3]

To a solution of ethanolamine (2.0 g, 32.8mmol) in dry CH_2CI_2 (30 mL) at 0°C was added a solution CbzCl (3.7 mL, 26.2 mmol) in dry CH_2CI_2 (20 mL) dropwise. The mixture was stirred for 2 h at 0°C and then at room temperature for 18 h. The resulting mixture was washed with a saturated solution of NaHCO₃ and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH_2CI_2 (3 X 50 mL). The organic phase was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to give the crude benzyl 2-hydroxyethylcarbamate as pale yellow oil (5.1 g, in quantitative yield), which was used in the next step without purification. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCI₃): δ 7.35 (m, 5 H), 5.10 (s, 2 H), 3.69 (t, 2 H), 3.34 (t, 2 H), 2.34 (brs, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCI₃): 157.1, 136.4, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 66.9, 62.2, 43.6. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for C₁₀H₁₄NO₃ [M + H]⁺ m/z 196.0968, found m/z 196.0967.

To a solution of Benzyl 2-hydroxyethylcarbamate (200 mg, 1.02 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in DCM (10 mL) was added a solution of Dess-Martin periodinane (456 mg, 1.08mmol, 1.05 eq.) in DCM (5 mL) dropwise. After the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1.5 h, a mixture of 2.1 M aqueous Na₂S₂O₃ (6 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (6 mL) were added. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether (3 X 10 mL). After drying over anhydrous MgSO₄, the volatiles were removed *in vacuo* to afford the crude aldehyde **6a** (198 mg) in quantitative yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.63 (s, 1 H), 7.34 (m, 5 H), 5.49 (brs, 1 H), 5.13 (s, 2 H), 4.11 (s, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 196.4, 156.2, 136.1, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 67.2, 51.7. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for C₁₀H₁₁NO₃Na [M + Na]⁺ m/z 216.0631, found m/z 216.0634.

3-[(Benzyloxycarbonyl)amino]propionaldehyde (6b)

Compound benzyl 2-hydroxypropylcarbamate was prepared from 3-amino-1-propanol following the same method as described above. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.32 (m, 5 H), 5.10 (s, 2 H), 3.66 (t, 2 H), 3.33 (t, 2 H), 1.69 (m, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 157.2, 136.5, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 66.8, 59.8, 38.0, 32.5. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for C₁₁H₁₅NO₃Na (M + Na)⁺ m/z 232.0944, found m/z 232.0935.

Compound **6b** was prepared from benzyl 2-hydroxypropylcarbamate following the same method as described for **6a**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.74 (s, 1 H), 7.33 (m, 5 H), 5.20 (brs, 1 H), 5.08 (s, 2 H), 3.47 (t, 2 H), 2.70 (s, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 201.0, 156.3, 136.4, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 66.7, 44.1, 34.5. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for C₁₁H₁₃NO₃Na [M + Na]⁺ m/z 230.0788, found m/z 230.0785.

Synthesis of compound 7

5'-N-benzyloxycarbonylaminoethyl-N'-[4-{(2S)-2-(N-tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino-butyric acid}] tert-butyl ester-5'-deoxy-2',3'-O,O-(1-methylethylidene)adenosine (**7a**)

To a stirred solution of compound **5** (233 mg, 0.41 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in CH_2CI_2 (5 mL) was added into a solution of aldehyde **6a** (88 mg, 0.45 mmol, 1.1 eq.) in CH_2CI_2 (5 mL) at room temperature. The solution was stirred for 20 min at room temperature. Then sodium triacetoxyborohydride (105 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.2 eq.) was added in portions and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. Saturated aqueous Na_2CO_3 (10 mL) was added to quench the reaction. The mixture was extracted with CH_2CI_2 (2 X 10 mL), dried with anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by ISCO

CombiFlash system (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 30:1) to give **7a** as a white solid (237 mg, 0.32 mmol, 78%).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 8.22 (s, 1 H), 8.21 (s, 1 H), 7.32 (m, 5 H), 7.29 (m, 1 H), 7.27 (m, 1 H), 6.15 (m, 1 H), 5.42 (m, 1 H), 5.09 (s, 2 H), 5.06 (m, 1 H), 4.28 (m, 1 H), 4.11 (m, 1 H), 3.13 (m, 2 H), 2.85 (m, 1 H), 2.64 (m, 3 H), 2.49 (m, 2 H), 1.98 (m, 1 H), 1.64 (m, 1 H), 1.54 (s, 3 H), 1.44 (s, 9 H), 1.42 (s, 9 H), 1.32 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD): 173.9, 158.7, 158.1, 157.4, 154.0, 150.2, 142.1, 138.4, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 120.8, 115.8, 91.6, 86.5, 85.1, 84.7, 82.6, 80.5, 67.5, 57.4, 55.4, 54.0, 52.1, 40.1, 30.2, 28.8, 28.4, 27.6, 25.8. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for C₃₆H₅₃N₈O₉ [M + H]⁺ m/z 741.3930, found m/z 741.3954.

5'-N-benzyloxycarbonylaminopropyl-N'-[4-{(2S)-2-(N-tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino-butyric acid}] tert-butyl ester-5'-deoxy-2',3'-O,O-(1-methylethylidene)adenosine (**7b**)

Compound **7b** was prepared from **6b** as described above. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 8.22 (s, 1 H), 8.21 (s, 1 H), 7.30 (m, 5 H), 6.16 (m, 1 H), 5.47 (m, 1 H), 5.05 (m, 3 H), 4.34 (m, 1 H), 4.08 (m, 1 H), 3.13 (m, 2 H), 2.85 (m, 1 H), 2.62 (m, 3 H), 2.43 (m, 2 H), 1.94 (m, 1 H), 1.66 (m, 1 H), 1.58 (m, 3 H), 1.44 (s, 9 H), 1.42 (s, 9 H), 1.38 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD): 173.7, 158.8, 158.0, 157.5, 154.0, 150.2, 142.1, 138.5, 129.5, 129.0, 128.8, 120.8, 115.6, 91.8, 86.7, 85.2, 84.8, 82.6, 80.5, 67.4, 57.4, 54.2, 53.1, 52.0, 39.8, 29.8, 28.8, 28.7, 28.4, 28.1, 27.5. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for C₃₇H₅₅N₈O₉ [M + H]⁺ m/z 755.4087, found m/z 755.4065.

Synthesis of compound 3

5'-N-aminoethyl-N'-[4-{(2S)-2-(N-tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino-butyric acid}] tert-butyl ester-5'-deoxy-2',3'-O,O-(1-methylethylidene)adenosine (**3a**)

To a solution of compound **7a** (420 mg, 0.57 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in methanol (20 mL) was added Palladium on activated charcoal (42 mg, 0.1 eq. w/w). The reaction mixture was degassed under vacuum and then under an atmosphere of H₂ overnight. The reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of celite. The volatiles were removed to afford 3a (344 mg, 100%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 8.26 (s, 1 H), 8.23 (s, 1 H), 6.18 (m, 1 H), 5.43 (m, 1 H), 5.06 (m, 1 H), 4.31 (m, 1 H), 4.14 (m, 1 H), 2.89 (m, 1 H), 2.71 (m, 3 H), 2.61 (m, 3 H), 2.54 (m, 1 H), 1.98 (m, 1 H), 1.66 (m, 1 H), 1.60 (s, 3 H), 1.46 (s, 9 H), 1.44 (s, 9 H), 1.39 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD): 173.6, 158.4, 157.6, 154.2, 150.3, 142.0, 120.9, 116.3, 92.3, 91.1, 86.3, 85.1, 84.2, 83.0, 80.8, 57.2, 53.5, 53.1, 52.3, 38.8, 30.7, 28.8, 28.4, 27.5, 25.6. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for C₂₈H₄₇N₈O₇ [M + H]⁺ m/z 607.3562, found m/z 607.3560.

5'-N-aminopropyl-N'-[4-{(2S)-2-(N-tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino-butyric acid}] tert-butyl ester-5'-deoxy-2',3'-O,O-(1-methylethylidene)adenosine (**3b**)

Compound **3b** was prepared from **7b** as described above. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 8.26 (s, 1 H), 8.23 (s, 1 H), 6.18 (m, 1 H), 5.50 (m, 1 H), 5.06 (m, 1 H), 4.33 (m, 1 H), 4.07 (m, 1 H), 2.82 (m, 1 H), 2.68 (m, 2 H), 2.60 (m, 3 H), 2.43 (m, 2 H), 1.94 (m, 1 H), 1.65 (m, 1 H), 1.60 (s, 3 H), 1.55 (m, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H), 1.44 (s, 9 H), 1.39 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD): 173.4, 158.3, 157.5, 154.0, 150.3, 142.0, 120.8, 115.9, 93.8, 91.5, 86.1, 85.1, 84.5, 82.9, 80.8, 57.4, 53.9, 53.4, 52.1, 39.8, 29.8, 28.8, 28.3, 27.5, 25.7, 9.3. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for C₂₉H₄₉N₈O₇ [M + H]⁺ m/z 621.3719, found m/z 621.3739.

Synthesis of compound 1

Peptide synthesis:

The peptides (G*P, G*PKR, G*PPKR, A*PPKR, G*SPKR, A*SPKR, G*PKRIA and G*PRRRS) were synthesized using a Liberty Automated Microwave Peptide Synthesizer (CEM) with the manufacturers standard coupling cycles at 0.1mmol scale. The peptides were synthesized on Rink Amide MBHA resin (Chem Impex) using N- α -Fmoc-protected amino acids (Chem Impex) or α -bromo carboxylic acids (Alfa Aesar).

NAM-C3-GPKR (1a)

To a suspension of G*PKR on resin (0.04 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in DMF (3 mL) was added compound **3b** (50 mg, 0.08 mmol, 2.0 eq.) and anhydrous K_2CO_3 (11 mg, 0.08 mmol, 2.0 eq.). The mixture was shaken at room temperature overnight. The suspension was filtered, and the resin was washed alternatively with H_2O (2 mL x 3), MeOH (2 mL x 3), and CH_2CI_2 (2 mL x 3). The peptide conjugates were cleaved from the resin in the presence of a cleavage cocktail containing trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) (Sigma Aldrich)/2,2'- (Ethylenedioxy)-diethanethiol (Sigma Aldrich)/triisopropylsilane (TIPS) (Acros Organics)/water (94:2.5:1:2.5 v/v) at room temperature for 4-5 h and resin was rinsed with a small amount of TFA. Volatiles of the filtrate were removed under N_2 and the residue was precipitated with 10 vol. cold anhydrous ether, and collected by centrifugation. The supernatant was discarded and the pellet was washed with chilled ether and air-dried. The white precipitate was dissolved in ddH₂O and purified by reverse phase HPLC using a waters system with a XBridge (BEH C18, 5µm, 10 X 250 mm) column with 0.05% TFA in water (A) and 0.05% TFA in CH₃CN (B) as the mobile phase with monitoring at 214 nm and 254 nm. MALDI-TOF (positive) *m*/z: calcd for $C_{36}H_{63}N_{16}O_9$ [M + H]⁺ m/z 863.5, found m/z 862.1.

NAM-C3-GPKRIA (1b)

Compound **1b** was prepared from **3b** and G*PKRIA as described above. MALDI-TOF (positive) m/z: calcd for $C_{45}H_{79}N_{18}O_{11}$ [M + H]⁺ m/z 1047.6, found m/z 1047.7.

NAM-C3-GPRRRS (1c)

Compound **1c** was prepared from **3b** and G*PRRRS as described above. MALDI-TOF (positive) m/z: calcd for $C_{45}H_{80}N_{23}O_{12}$ [M + H]⁺ m/z 1134.6, found m/z 1135.1.

NAM-C2-GP (1d)

Compound **1d** was prepared from **3a** and G*P as described above. MALDI-TOF (positive) m/z: calcd for $C_{23}H_{37}N_{10}O_7$ [M + H]⁺ m/z 565.3, found m/z 567.5.

NAM-C2-GPKRIA (1e)

Compound **1e** was prepared from **3a** and G*PKRIA as described above. MALDI-TOF (positive) m/z: calcd for C₄₄H₇₇N₁₈O₁₁ [M + H]⁺ m/z 1033.6, found m/z 1033.9.

NAM-C2-GPRRRS (1f)

Compound **1f** was prepared from **3a** and G*PRRRS as described above. MALDI-TOF (positive) m/z: calcd for C₄₄H₇₈N₂₃O₁₂ [M + H]⁺ m/z 1120.6, found m/z 1120.8.

NAM-C2-APPKR (1g)

Compound **1g** was prepared from **3a** and A*PPKR as described above. MALDI-TOF (positive) m/z: calcd for C₄₁H₇₀N₁₇O₁₀ [M + H]⁺ m/z 960.5, found m/z 960.3.

NAM-C2-ASPKR (1h)

Compound **1h** was prepared from **3a** and A*SPKR as described above. MALDI-TOF (positive) m/z: calcd for C₃₉H₆₈N₁₇O₁₁ [M + H]⁺ m/z 950.5, found m/z 950.5.

NAM-C2-GPPKR (1i)

Compound **1i** was prepared from **3a** and G*PPKR as described above. MALDI-TOF (positive) m/z: calcd for C₄₀H₆₈N₁₇O₁₀ [M + H]⁺ m/z 946.5, found m/z 946.2.

NAM-C2-GSPKR (1j)

Compound **1j** was prepared from **3a** and G*SPKR as described above. MALDI-TOF (positive) m/z: calcd for C₃₈H₆₆N₁₇O₁₁ [M + H]⁺ m/z 936.5, found m/z 936.4.

NTMT1, PRMT1 and G9a inhibition assays

Human NTMT1, PRMT1, and G9a were expressed in *E. Coli* BL21 (DE3) codon plus RIL cells in LB medium in the presence of 50 µg/mL of kanamycin, respectively.^[4-6] All inhibitory activities were determined with both substrates at their K_m values at 37 °C (For NTMT1, SAM at 8 µM, RCC1-10 at 0.9 µM; for PRMT1, SAM at 20 µM, H4-12 at 25 µM; for G9a, SAM at 2 µM, H3-15 at 20 µM). NTMT1 assay was performed under the following condition: pH7.4, 25 mM Tris, pH7.4, 50 mM KCl, 0.2 µM His-NTMT1, 10 µM SsSAH hydrolyase, 8 µM SAM, 15 µM ThioGlo 1, various concentration of inhibitor.^[4] The assay was initiated by the addition of the peptide substrate RCC1-10 which was the first 10 residues of RCC1. Fluorescence was then measured in a FlexStation 3 Muti-Mode Microplate Reader using 370 nm excitation and 500 nm emission. The IC₅₀ values were determined by fitting the activity data with GraphPad. Similar experiments were carried out for inhibitory effects on PRMT1 and G9a.^[5,6]

K_i values calculation

Except compound 1c, K_i values of all other compounds were calculated by the Cheng-Prusoff equation.^[7] This equation is:

 $K_i = (IC_{50}/(1+(S/K_m)))$

Where K_i is the inhibition constant, IC_{50} is the functional strength of the inhibitor, [S] is fixed substrate concentration and Km is the Michaelis-Menten constant.

For compound 1c, its K_i value was fitted with GraphPad using Morrison equation.^[8]

 $\begin{aligned} & \mathsf{Q} = (\mathsf{K}_{i}^{*}(1 + (S/\mathsf{K}_{m}))) \\ & \mathsf{Y} = \mathsf{Vo}^{*}(1 - (((\mathsf{E}t + X + \mathsf{Q})) - (((\mathsf{E}t + X + \mathsf{Q})^{2}) - 4^{*}\mathsf{E}t^{*}X)^{*}0.5))/(2^{*}\mathsf{E}t))) \end{aligned}$

Where Et is the concentration of enzyme used in the experiment. S is fixed substrate concentration, K_m is the Michaelis-Menten constant, V_0 is the enzyme velocity with no inhibitor, expressed in the same units as Y. K_i is the inhibition constant.

Docking study of NAM-C3-GPRRRS 1c

The X-ray crystal structure of human protein N-terminal RCC1 methyltransferase (pdb:2EX4) complexed with S-adenosyl homocysteine (SAH) was obtained from pdb.org. The protonation state of the protein and the ligand were calculated using the default settings. The active site was defined by a sphere of 6.0 Å from the native ligand SAH in the crystal structure. Molecules used for the docking experiments were constructed in ChemBio3D Ultra 13.0 and minimized using the MMFF94x force field. The ligand for docking was prepared using SYBYL X2.1, and the energy was minimized using the external Tripos force field. The docked poses were scored using CHEMPLP scoring function. The best docked pose of the ligand was visualized using Pymol Version 1.3 and its score was shown in the table below.

Supplementary Table 1 The score of the best docked pose of NAM-C3-GPRRRS

Score	S (PLP)	S (hbond)	S (cho)	S (metal)	DE (clash)	DE (tors)	intcor
109.01	-98.57	8.56	0.00	0.00	1.27	17.95	21.02

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K_i curve for Compound 1c.







































HPLC-UV spectrum of 1c (NAM-C3-GPRRRS)

