

# Highly solvatochromic and tunable fluorophores based on a 4,5-quinolimide scaffold: Novel CDK5 probes

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## Supplementary Information

<u>Table of contents</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
Experimental synthetic methods	S2-S10
Photophysical methods and Photophysical properties of the naphthalimide <b>A1</b> and quinolimide derivatives <b>16-26</b>	S11-S12
Kinetic solubility of the naphthalimide <b>A1</b> and the quinolimide <b>16</b>	S10
Photostability of quinolimide <b>16</b> in comparison with naphthalimide <b>A1</b> (Fig. S1)	S13
Correlation between calculated and experimental $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{abs}}$ and $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{em}}$ values (Fig. S2)	S13
Computational methods	S14
Table S2. Calculated HOMO and LUMO energetic values for <b>A1</b> and the quinolimides <b>16-19</b> and bond length differences between excited and ground states (Fig S3).	S14
TD-DFT calculation Z-matrices or Cartesian coordinates and number of imaginary frequencies of <b>A1</b> and <b>16-19</b>	S15-S23
Cytotoxicity HTS methods and results of quinolimides <b>16-27</b>	S24
Titration of <b>29</b> -labelled CDK5 peptide with a control peptide (Fig. S4 and S5) and penetration of the <b>29</b> -labelled Pep-CDK5 peptide into glioblastoma U87 cells (Fig S5) methods	S26-S27
Spectra ( <sup>1</sup> H-NMR and <sup>13</sup> C-NMR)	S28-S59

**General Methods:** All reagents were of commercial quality. Solvents were dried and purified by standard methods. Analytical TLC was performed on aluminum sheets coated with a 0.2 mm layer of silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub>. Silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh) was used for flash chromatography. HPLC-MS was performed on a Sunfire C<sub>18</sub> (4.6×50 mm, 3.5 μm) column at 30°C, with a flow rate of 1 mL/min and gradient of 0.1% of formic acid in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (solvent A) in 0.1% of formic acid in H<sub>2</sub>O (solvent B) was used as mobile phase. Electrospray in positive mode was used for ionization. Optical rotations were determined in a Perkin Elmer 141 polarimeter. NMR spectra were recorded using Varian Inova or Mercury 400, and Varian Unity 500 spectrometers. The NMR spectra assignments were based on COSY, HSQC, and HMBC spectra. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on an Agilent 6520 Q-TOF instrument with an ESI source. MW experiments were carried out in sealed vessels in a MW Emrys<sup>TM</sup> Synthesizer (Biotage AB), with transversal IR sensor for reaction temperature monitoring. UV-visible spectroscopy measurements were made at 25 C° on a Lambda 35, Perkin Elmer, UV-vis spectrophotometer; Starna Cells (16.100-Q-10) 100 μL sub-micro cuvette, 1 cm path length. Fluorescence spectroscopy measurements were made at 25 C° on a PerkinElmer LS 50B luminescence spectrometer; Starna Cells (16.100F-Q-10) 100 μL sub-micro cuvette, 1 cm path length.

**Synthesis of 7-amino-6-methoxy-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-1-one<sup>1</sup> (1).** Iron (10.8 g, 193 mmol) was added to a solution of 6-methoxy-7-nitro-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-1-one (10 g, 48.3 mmol) in acetic acid (150 mL), and this mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 2 h. The cooled reaction mixture was filtered and the filtrate was concentrated under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in EtOAc (300 mL), and the resulting solution was successively washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL) and brine (100 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to dryness, to give **1** (8.8 g, 100 %) as a brown solid. Mp 64 °C. This compound was used in the next step without further purification. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t*<sub>R</sub> = 3.08 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ: 2.59 (m, 2H, 2-H), 2.91 (m, 2H, 3-H), 3.71 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.55 (brs, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.51 (dq, 1H, *J* = 8 and 1.0 Hz, 4-H), 6.84 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8 and 1.0 Hz, 5-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ: 24.9 (C<sub>3</sub>), 37.2 (C<sub>2</sub>), 56.2 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 112.0 (C<sub>4</sub>), 116.3 (C<sub>5</sub>), 120.4 (C<sub>7a</sub>), 137.5 (C<sub>7</sub>), 144.6 (C<sub>6</sub>), 146.7 (C<sub>3a</sub>), 208.1 (C<sub>1</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 178.0790, found: 178.0788.

**Synthesis of diethyl (2-((5-methoxy-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-4-yl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)phosphonate<sup>1</sup> (2).** HATU (22.7 g, 59.6 mmol) and DIPEA (21.6 mL, 124 mmol) were added to a solution of **1** (8.8 g, 49.7 mmol) and diethylphosphonoacetic acid (8.8 mL, 54.6 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (300 mL) and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. After that time, the transformation was incomplete, therefore, more diethylphosphonoacetic acid (4.0 mL, 24.9 mmol), HATU (9.4 g, 29.4 mmol) and DIPEA (4.3 mL, 29.4 mmol) were added. The mixture was stirred for another 2 h. Then, the reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (300 mL), washed with aqueous 0.2 N HCl (100 mL), aqueous 0.2 N NaOH (100 mL), water (100 mL) and brine (100 mL). The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography, using 0-20% gradient of MeOH in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as eluent, to give the desired product **2** (16.0 g, 76 % yield) as a pale yellow solid (m.p. 113 °C). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t*<sub>R</sub> = 1.30 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ: 1.29 [t, 6H, *J* = 7 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>(OEt)], 2.60 (m, 2H, 2-H), 2.95 (m, 2H, 3-H), 3.03 [d, 2H, *J* = 21 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>P(OEt)<sub>2</sub>], 3.80 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.16 [m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>(OEt)], 7.12 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 5-H), 7.18 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4-H), 8.75 (br s, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ: 16.0 and 16.1 [CH<sub>3</sub>(OEt)], 24.1 (C<sub>3</sub>), 35.3 [d, *J* = 131 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>P(OEt)<sub>2</sub>], 37.0 (C<sub>2</sub>), 56.2 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 62.3 and 62.4 [CH<sub>2</sub>(OEt)], 118.6 (C<sub>5</sub>), 122.2 (C<sub>7</sub>), 123.8 (C<sub>4</sub>), 130.3 (C<sub>7a</sub>), 146.5 (C<sub>3a</sub>), 151.6 (C<sub>6</sub>), 162.1 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, CONH), 204.7 (C<sub>1</sub>) ppm. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>P ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 356.1185, found: 356.1193.

**Synthesis of methyl 3-[(5-methoxy-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-4-yl)amino]-3-oxopropanoate (3).** Methyl 3-chloro-3-oxopropanoate (750 μl, 7.02 mmol) was added to a solution of 7-amino-6-methoxy-2,3-

<sup>1</sup> WO2009062285A1, 2009.

dihydro-1*H*-inden-1-one (**1**) (830 mg, 4.68 mmol) in anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (8 mL). Then, DIPEA (1.22 mL, 7.02 mmol) was added to the solution and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 h. The reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness. The residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (300 mL) and the resulting solution was successively washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL) and brine (100 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to dryness to give **3** (1.290 g, 100 %) as a brown solid (m.p 138 °C). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t*<sub>R</sub> = 1.21 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.62 (m, 2H, 2-H), 2.96 (m, 2H, 3-H), 3.49 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 3.75 (s, 3H, 6-OMe), 3.82 (s, 3H, CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H, 5-H), 7.19 (dt, 1H, *J* = 8.5, 1 Hz, 4-H), 9.16 (s, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 24.5 (C<sub>3</sub>), 37.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 41.7 (C<sub>2</sub>), 52.5 (6-OMe), 56.7 (CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 119.2 (C<sub>5</sub>), 122.6 (C<sub>7a</sub>), 124.1 (C<sub>4</sub>), 130.4 (C<sub>7</sub>), 147.0 (C<sub>3a</sub>), 152.0 (C<sub>6</sub>), 163.2 (CONH), 169.3 (CO<sub>2</sub>), 205.8 (C<sub>1</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 278.0950 found: 278.1027.

### Synthesis of 8-methoxy-4,5-dihydrocyclopenta[*de*]quinolin-2(1*H*)-one<sup>1</sup> (**4**) and diethyl (8-methoxy-2-oxo-1,2,4,5-tetrahydrocyclopenta[*de*]quinolin-3-yl)phosphonate (**5**)

Method A: NaH (94.4 mg, 2.8 mmol) was added to a solution of **2** (1.0 g, 2.8 mmol) in dry DMF (18 mL), and this mixture was heated at 180°C by MW irradiation for 5 min. Afterwards, the solvent was evaporated, the residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) and the resulting solution was successively washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL) and brine (5 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel, using (150:1) to (20:1) CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH gradient to afford the 4,5-dihydrocyclopenta[*de*]quinolin-2(1*H*)-one **4** (203.5 mg, 36% yield) and the phosphonate **5** (341.2 mg, 36% yield).

*8-Methoxy-4,5-dihydrocyclopenta[de]quinolin-2(1H)-one* (**4**): White solid (m.p. 275 °C). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t*<sub>R</sub> = 1.86 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD/CDCl<sub>3</sub> 1:1, 500 MHz) δ: 3.25 (m, 4H, 4-H and 5-H), 3.95 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.37 (s, 1H, 3-H), 7.04 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 7-H), 7.08 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 6-H), 7.76 (s, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD/CDCl<sub>3</sub> 1:1, 125 MHz) δ: 30.7 (C<sub>5</sub>), 31.2 (C<sub>4</sub>), 56.7 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 113.8 (C<sub>3</sub>), 114.2 (C<sub>7</sub>), 118.6 (C<sub>6</sub>), 126.2 (C<sub>8a</sub>), 128.5 (C<sub>3b</sub>), 138.2 (C<sub>5a</sub>), 145.2 (C<sub>8</sub>), 162.7 (C<sub>2</sub>), 167.1 (C<sub>3a</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 202.0790, found: 202.0792.

*Diethyl (8-methoxy-2-oxo-1,2,4,5-tetrahydrocyclopenta[de]quinolin-3-yl)phosphonate* (**5**): Yellow solid (m.p. 210 °C). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t*<sub>R</sub> = 2.31 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ: 1.34 [t, 6H, *J* = 7 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>(OEt)], 3.19 (t, 2H, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 5-H), 3.55 (m, 2H, 4-H), 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.24 [m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>(OEt)], 6.96 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 6-H), 7.00 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 7-H), 9.04 (br s, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ: 16.5 and 16.6 [CH<sub>3</sub>(OEt)], 30.2 (C<sub>5</sub>), 33.8 (C<sub>4</sub>), 56.5 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 62.5 and 62.6 [CH<sub>2</sub>(OEt)], 114.3 (d, *J* = 197 Hz, C<sub>3</sub>), 114.9 (C<sub>7</sub>), 117.3 (C<sub>6</sub>), 126.6 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, C<sub>3b</sub>), 126.7 (C<sub>8a</sub>), 139.2 (C<sub>5a</sub>), 143.2 (C<sub>8</sub>), 162.53 (d, *J* = 14 Hz, C<sub>2</sub>), 171.13 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, C<sub>3a</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>P ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 338.1079, found: 338.1085.

### Synthesis of diethyl (8-methoxy-2-oxo-1,2,4,5-tetrahydrocyclopenta[*de*]quinolin-3-yl)phosphonate (**5**).

Method B: LiCl (19.3 mg, 0.45 mmol) and DBU (67.9 μL, 0.45 mmol) were added to a solution of **2** (53.8 mg, 0.15 mmol) in dry THF (3 mL), and this mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. Afterwards, the solvent was evaporated, the residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL), and the resulting solution was successively washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL) and brine (5 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford **5** (50.6 mg, 100% yield).

### Synthesis of methyl 8-methoxy-2-oxo-1,2,4,5-tetrahydrocyclopenta[*de*]quinoline-3-carboxylate (**6**).

K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (707 mg, 5.12 mmol) was added to a solution of compound **3** (1.290 g, 4.65 mmol) in methanol (8 mL). This solution was heated at 70 °C for 30 min in microwave. The reaction mixture was cooled and the precipitate was filtered to give **6** (1.185 g, 100%) as a yellow solid (m.p 236 °C). This compound was used in the next step without further purification. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t*<sub>R</sub> = 2.21 min.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.18 (m, 2H, 5-H), 3.46 (m, 2H, 4-H), 3.87 (s, 6H, OMe), 6.93 (dt, 1H, *J* = 8, 1 Hz, 6-H), 6.96 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 7-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 30.4 (C<sub>5</sub>), 33.5 (C<sub>4</sub>), 52.2 (8-OMe), 56.4 (CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 114.8 (C<sub>7</sub>), 116.6 (C<sub>3</sub>), 117.4 (C<sub>6</sub>), 126.4 (C<sub>3b</sub>), 126.6 (C<sub>8a</sub>), 139.3 (C<sub>5a</sub>), 143.2 (C<sub>8</sub>), 161.2 (C<sub>2</sub>), 165.8 (CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 167.1 (C<sub>3a</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 260.0844, found: 260.0923.

**Synthesis of 8-methoxy-2-oxo-1,2,4,5-tetrahydrocyclopenta[de]quinoline-3-carboxylic acid (7).** 2 M NaOH was added to a suspension of **6** (50 mg, 0.193 mmol) in water (5 mL), and the mixture was stirred at reflux for 3 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with AcOEt (50 mL) and 2 M aqueous solution of HCl was added until pH=2 on the aqueous phase. After 30 min, the aqueous phase was washed with AcOEt (3×100 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated to give **7** (47 mg, 100 %) as a white solid. M. p. 237°C. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 2.4 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ: 3.15 (m, 2H, 5-H), 3.51 (m, 2H, 4-H), 3.85 (s, 3H, OMe), 6.93 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H, 6-H), 6.98 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 7-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ: 29.3 (C<sub>5</sub>), 32.5 (C<sub>4</sub>), 55.5 (OMe), 112.0 (C<sub>7</sub>), 114.7 (C<sub>6</sub>), 116.4 (C<sub>3</sub>), 130.9 (C<sub>3b</sub>), 136.3 (C<sub>8a</sub>), 137.8 (C<sub>5a</sub>), 149.6 (C<sub>8</sub>), 167.6 (C<sub>2</sub>), 169.4 (CO<sub>2</sub>H), 174.0 (C<sub>3a</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 246.0694, found: 246.0767.

**Synthesis of 8-methoxy-4,5-dihydrocyclopenta[de]quinolin-2(1H)-one (4).** Method B: The carboxylic acid **7** (1.012 g, 4.12 mmol) was dissolved in DMF (50 mL) and the solution was heated at 180 °C for 6 h. Then, the reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL) and the solution was successively washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) and brine (20 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated to dryness to give compound **3** (710 mg, 86%) as brown solid.

**Synthesis of 2-chloro-8-methoxy-4,5-dihydrocyclopenta[de]quinoline (8).** A solution of **4** (1.8 g, 8.9 mmol) in POCl<sub>3</sub> (30 mL, 322 mmol) was stirred at 110 °C for 45 min. Afterwards, the solvent was evaporated, the residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL), and the resulting solution was successively washed with 1N NaOH (50 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) and brine (50 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (elution with 300:1 to 100:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH gradient) yielding **8** (1.9 g, 100 %) as a white solid. M.p. 135 °C. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 5.15 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ: 3.13-3.56 (m, 4H, 4-H and 5-H), 4.01 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.01 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 7-H), 7.16 (s, 1H, 3-H), 7.22 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 6-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ: 29.6 (C<sub>5</sub>), 31.3 (C<sub>4</sub>), 56.2 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 111.2 (C<sub>7</sub>), 117.5 (C<sub>3</sub>), 120.5 (C<sub>6</sub>), 134.8 (C<sub>3b</sub>), 136.9 (C<sub>8a</sub> and C<sub>5a</sub>), 151.8 (C<sub>2</sub>), 151.9 (C<sub>8</sub>), 159.3 (C<sub>3a</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>10</sub>NOCl ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 220.0451, found: 220.0445.

**Synthesis of diethyl (2-chloro-8-methoxy-4,5-dihydrocyclopenta[de]quinolin-3-yl)phosphonate (9).** A solution of **5** (2.8 g, 8.3 mmol) in POCl<sub>3</sub> (28 mL, 300 mmol) was stirred at 110 °C for 45 min. After that time, the desired phosphonate was partially unprotected, therefore the solvent was evaporated, and the residue was stirred in EtOH (20 mL) at room temperature overnight. Afterwards, the solvent was evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (elution with 150:1 to 20:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/EtOH) to afford pure **9** (2.8 g, 96 %) as a yellow solid. M.p. 133 °C. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 4.19 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ: 1.35 [td, 6H, *J* = 7.1 and 0.6 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>(OEt)], 3.33 (m, 2H, 5-H), 3.79 (m, 2H, 4-H), 4.03 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.04-4.35 [m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>(OEt)], 7.15 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 7-H), 7.33 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 6-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ: 16.4 and 16.5 [CH<sub>3</sub>(OEt)], 29.8 (C<sub>5</sub>), 35.1 (C<sub>4</sub>), 56.4 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 62.6 and 62.7 [CH<sub>2</sub>(OEt)], 113.5 (C<sub>7</sub>), 117.0 (d, *J* = 195 Hz, C<sub>3</sub>) 121.6 (C<sub>6</sub>), 134.1 (d, *J* = 12 Hz, C<sub>3b</sub>), 137.1 (C<sub>8a</sub>), 138.6 (C<sub>5a</sub>), 151.6 (d, *J* = 12 Hz, C<sub>2</sub>), 151.6 (C<sub>8</sub>), 169.34 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, C<sub>3a</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>PCl ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 356.0740, found: 356.0737.

**General procedure for the synthesis of 8-methoxy-4,5-dihydrocyclopenta[de]quinoline (10) and diethyl (8-methoxy-4,5-dihydrocyclopenta[de]quinolin-3-yl)phosphonate (11).** Pd(C) (10% w/w) was added to a solution of the corresponding 2-chloro-derivative (**8** and **9**) (4.5 mmol) in MeOH (20 mL) and the resulting suspension was hydrogenated at room temperature under 20 psi of H<sub>2</sub> for 6 h. Afterwards, the catalyst was

filtered off and washed with MeOH (2×10 mL), the solvent was evaporated to dryness, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (elution with 150:1 to 10:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH) to afford **10** and **11**, respectively.

**Synthesis of 8-methoxy-4,5-dihydrocyclopenta[de]quinoline (10).** The general procedure was followed by using **8** as starting material (857 mg, 3.9 mmol) to afford 722 mg of compound **10** (100 %) as a brown solid. M.p. 160 °C. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 0.46 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 300 MHz) δ: 3.55 (m, 2H, 5-H), 3.76 (m, 2H, 4-H), 4.18 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.64 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 7-H), 7.71 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 6-H), 7.90 (d, 1H, *J* = 6 Hz, 3-H), 8.92 (d, 1H, *J* = 6 Hz, 2-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 75 MHz) δ = 30.8 (C<sub>5</sub>), 34.6 (C<sub>4</sub>), 57.6 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 117.1 (C<sub>7</sub>), 118.1 (C<sub>3</sub>), 125.3 (C<sub>6</sub>), 128.0 (C<sub>8a</sub>), 137.6 (C<sub>3b</sub>), 140.8 (C<sub>5a</sub>), 146.0 (C<sub>2</sub>), 148.3 (C<sub>8</sub>), 172.2 (C<sub>3a</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 186.0841, found: 186.0843.

**Synthesis of diethyl (8-methoxy-4,5-dihydrocyclopenta[de]quinolin-3-yl)phosphonate (11).** The general procedure was followed by using **9** as starting material (926 mg, 2.6 mmol) to afford 836 mg of compound **11** (100 %) as a brown solid. M.p. 82 °C. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 2.25 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ: 1.34 [t, 6H, *J* = 7 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>(OEt)], 3.36 (m, 2H, 5-H), 3.66 (m, 2H, 4-H), 4.07 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.07-4.25 [m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>(OEt)], 7.15 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 7-H), 7.35 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 6-H), 9.06 (d, 1H, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ: 16.5 [CH<sub>3</sub>(OEt)], 29.4 (C<sub>5</sub>), 33.0 (C<sub>4</sub>), 56.4 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 62.3 [CH<sub>2</sub>(OEt)], 112.4 (C<sub>7</sub>), 116.9 (d, *J* = 190.5 Hz, C<sub>3</sub>), 121.1 (C<sub>6</sub>), 134.7 (d, *J* = 13. Hz, C<sub>3b</sub>), 138.5 (C<sub>5a</sub>), 139.0 (C<sub>8a</sub>), 151.8 (d, *J* = 15 Hz, C<sub>2</sub>), 152.5 (C<sub>8</sub>), 163.21 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, C<sub>3a</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>P ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 322.1130, found: 322.1133.

**General procedure for the oxidation of the 8-methoxy-4,5-dihydrocyclopenta[de]quinolines 8-11.**

**Synthesis of the anhydrides 12-15.** The corresponding 8-methoxy-4,5-dihydrocyclopenta[de]quinoline **8-11** (0.5 mmol) was dissolved in a 5:1 mixture of acetic anhydride/acetic acid (3 mL) at 110 °C. CrO<sub>3</sub> (4.0 mmol) was added carefully to the stirred solution over a period of 30 min and the resulting green suspension was stirred at 110 °C for 30 min. After cooling to room temperature, the solvent was evaporated to dryness and the residue was stirred in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 mL) at 40 °C for 10 min. The resulting green suspension was then filtered through Clarcel<sup>®</sup> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield the corresponding anhydrides **12-15** (89-94%), which were taken to the next step without further purification.

**9-Methoxypyran[3,4,5-de]quinoline-4,6-dione (12).** From **10** (56 mg, 0.30 mmol). Orange solid (89 %). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 1.68 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ: 4.27 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.37 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 8-H), 8.38 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 3-H), 8.66 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 7-H), 9.30 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 2-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz) δ: 57.5, 109.8, 125.0, 126.2, 126.7, 136.3, 139.4, 151.1, 158.9, 160.3, 162.0, 165.4. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 230.0375, found: 230.0368.

**Diethyl (9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-4,6-dihydropyran[3,4,5-de]quinolin-3-yl)phosphonate (13).** From **11** (36 mg, 0.11 mmol). Orange solid (91 %). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 2.19 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ: 1.43 [t, 6H, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>(OEt)], 4.28 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.37-4.56 [m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>(OEt)], 7.42 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 8-H), 8.70 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 7-H), 9.72 (d, 1H, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 2-H). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>7</sub>P ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 366.0664, found: 366.0671.

**2-Chloro-9-methoxypyran[3,4,5-de]quinoline-4,6-dione (14).** From **8** (92 mg, 0.42 mmol). Orange solid (93 %). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 3.66 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ: 4.24 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.39 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 8-H), 8.34 (s, 1H, 3-H), 8.62 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 7-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ: 57.4, 110.1, 110.9, 124.9, 126.8, 129.2, 135.9, 138.8, 151.8, 158.2, 158.9, 160.9. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>6</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>Cl ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 263.9985, found: 263.9996.

**Diethyl (2-chloro-9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-4,6-dihydropyran[3,4,5-de]quinolin-3-yl)phosphonate (15).** From **9** (61 mg, 0.17 mmol). Orange solid (90 %). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* =

3.39 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ: 1.40 [t, 6H, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>(OEt)], 4.24 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.27-4.43 [m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>(OEt)], 7.41 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 8-H), 8.62 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 7-H). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>7</sub>PCl ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 400.0275, found: 400.0259.

**General procedure for the synthesis of imides 16-21, 26 and 27.** The corresponding amine (2-aminoethanol, n-butylamine, or *N*-Boc-ethylenediamine, 0.24 mmol) was added to a solution of the corresponding anhydride **12-15** (0.22 mmol) in dry EtOH (3 mL), and this mixture was heated at 120°C under MW irradiation for 1.5 h. Afterwards, the solvent was evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by flash chromatography, using 5-25% gradient of MeOH in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as eluent, to give the desired imides **16-21** and **26**.

**5-(2-Hydroxyethyl)-9-methoxy-4*H*-benzo[de][2,6]naphthyridine-4,6(5*H*)-dione (16).** From **12** (39.7 mg, 0.17 mmol). Yellow solid (31 mg, 67 %). M.p. 231 °C. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 0.81 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ: 3.97 (t, 2H, *J* = 5 Hz, 2'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.21 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.41 (t, 2H, *J* = 5 Hz, 1'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.23 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 8-H), 8.27 (d, 1H, *J* = 4 Hz, 3-H), 8.53 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 7-H), 9.16 (d, 1H, *J* = 4 Hz, 2-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ: 42.9 (1'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.0 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 61.5 (2'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 108.9 (C<sub>8</sub>), 114.3 (C<sub>6a</sub>), 123.2 (C<sub>3</sub>), 124.0 (C<sub>9b</sub>), 129.5 (C<sub>3a</sub>), 133.8 (C<sub>7</sub>), 138.9 (C<sub>9a</sub>), 150.5 (C<sub>2</sub>), 160.8 (C<sub>9</sub>), 163.6 (C<sub>6</sub>), 164.1 (C<sub>4</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 273.0797, found: 273.0797.

**Diethyl (5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-benzo[de][2,6]naphthyridin-3-yl)phosphonate (17).** From **13** (26.8 mg, 0.073 mmol). Yellow solid (15.0 mg, 51 %). M.p. 174 °C. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 1.17 min. <sup>1</sup>H-RMN (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 1.30 [t, 6H, *J* = 7 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>(OEt)], 3.85 (t, 2H, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.11 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.18-4.44 [m, 6H, 1'-CH<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>2</sub>(OEt)], 7.23 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 8-H), 8.53 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 7-H), 9.52 (d, 1H, *J* = 5 Hz, 2-H). <sup>13</sup>C-RMN (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 15.4 [CH<sub>3</sub>(OEt)], 42.0 (1'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 56.0 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 60.1 (2'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 62.7 [CH<sub>2</sub>(OEt)], 108.9 (C<sub>8</sub>), 113.4 (C<sub>6a</sub>), 122.5 (d, *J* = 11 Hz, C<sub>9b</sub>), 124.5 (d, *J* = 190 Hz, C<sub>3</sub>), 132.1 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, C<sub>3a</sub>), 133.5 (C<sub>7</sub>), 139.6 (C<sub>9a</sub>), 152.3 (d, *J* = 10 Hz, C<sub>2</sub>), 159.6 (C<sub>9</sub>), 161.6 (d, *J* = 5 Hz, C<sub>4</sub>), 164.1 (C<sub>6</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>P ([M+1]<sup>+</sup>): 409.1086, found: 409.1099.

**2-Chloro-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-9-methoxy-4*H*-benzo[de][2,6]naphthyridine-4,6(5*H*)-dione (18).** From **14** (65.5 mg, 0.25 mmol). Yellow solid (52.0 mg, 68 %). M.p. 240 °C. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 1.93 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ: 3.96 (t, 2H, *J* = 5 Hz, 2'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.20 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.41 (t, 2H, *J* = 5 Hz, 1'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.31 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 8-H), 8.32 (s, 1H, 3-H), 8.56 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz, 7-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ: 43.0 (1'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.1 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 61.5 (2'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 110.2 (C<sub>8</sub>), 114.3 (C<sub>6a</sub>), 123.1 (C<sub>9b</sub>), 125.2 (C<sub>3</sub>), 132.3 (C<sub>3a</sub>), 133.7 (C<sub>7</sub>), 138.6 (C<sub>9a</sub>), 151.5 (C<sub>2</sub>), 160.0 (C<sub>9</sub>), 163.0 (C<sub>4</sub>), 163.3 (C<sub>6</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Cl ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 307.0407, found: 307.0421.

**Diethyl (2-chloro-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-benzo[de][2,6]naphthyridin-3-yl)-phosphonate (19).** From **15** (67.2 mg, 0.16 mmol). Yellow solid (34.7 mg, 49 %). M.p. 170 °C. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 2.08 min. <sup>1</sup>H-RMN (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 1.33 [t, 6H, *J*: 7 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>(OEt)], 3.91 (t, 2H, *J* = 5 Hz, 2'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.14 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.16-4.33 [m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>(OEt)], 4.34 (t, 2H, *J* = 5 Hz, 1'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.28 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 8-H), 8.51 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 7-H). <sup>13</sup>C-RMN (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 16.5 [CH<sub>3</sub>(OEt)], 43.6 (1'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.2 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 61.1 (2'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 64.0 and 64.1 [CH<sub>2</sub>(OEt)], 111.2 (C<sub>8</sub>), 114.4 (C<sub>6a</sub>), 122.4 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, C<sub>9b</sub>), 127.0 (d, *J* = 193.5 Hz, C<sub>3</sub>), 133.8 (C<sub>7</sub>), 138.6 (C<sub>9a</sub>), 140.2 (d, *J* = 5 Hz, C<sub>3a</sub>), 152.1 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, C<sub>2</sub>), 159.2 (C<sub>9</sub>), 162.5 (d, *J* = 5 Hz, C<sub>4</sub>), 162.7 (C<sub>6</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>PCl ([M+1]<sup>+</sup>): 443.0697, found: 443.0689.

**5-Butyl-9-methoxy-4*H*-benzo[de][2,6]naphthyridine-4,6(5*H*)-dione (20).** From **12** (84.4 mg, 0.37 mmol). Yellow solid (68.4 mg, 65 %). M.p. 122 °C. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 4.82 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ: 0.90 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4'-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.37 (m, 2H, 3'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.63 (m, 2H, 2'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.08 (m, 2H, 1'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.15 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.20 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 8-H), 8.26 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 3-H),

8.50 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 7-H), 9.14 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.5$  Hz, 2-H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 13.9 (4'- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 20.5 (3'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 30.3 (2'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 40.5 (1'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 56.9 ( $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 108.8 ( $\text{C}_8$ ), 114.8 ( $\text{C}_{6a}$ ), 123.0 ( $\text{C}_3$ ), 124.1 ( $\text{C}_{9b}$ ), 129.8 ( $\text{C}_{3a}$ ), 133.4 ( $\text{C}_7$ ), 138.9 ( $\text{C}_{9a}$ ), 150.5 ( $\text{C}_2$ ), 160.6 ( $\text{C}_9$ ), 162.8 ( $\text{C}_6$ ), 163.4 ( $\text{C}_4$ ). HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 285.1161, found: 285.1163.

**Diethyl (5-butyl-9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-5,6-dihydro-4H-benzo[de][2,6]naphthyridin-3-yl)phosphonate (21).** From **13** (76.2 mg, 0.21 mmol). Yellow solid (39.5 mg, 45 %). M.p. 124 °C. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min)  $t_R = 4.67$  min.  $^1\text{H}$ -RMN (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 0.90 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 4'- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.36 [t, 6H,  $J = 7.5$  Hz,  $\text{CH}_3(\text{OEt})$ ], 1.28-1.44 (m, 2H, 3'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.63 (m, 2H, 2'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.11 (m, 2H, 1'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.17 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 4.36 [p, 4H,  $J = 7$  Hz,  $\text{CH}_2(\text{OEt})$ ], 7.28 (d, 1H,  $J = 8$  Hz, 8-H), 8.57 (d, 1H,  $J = 8$  Hz, 7-H), 9.59 (d, 1H,  $J = 5$  Hz, 2-H).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -RMN (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 13.9 (4'- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 16.5 and 16.6 [ $\text{CH}_3(\text{OEt})$ ], 20.5 (3'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 30.2 (2'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 40.8 (1'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 57.1 ( $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 63.8 and 63.8 [ $\text{CH}_2(\text{OEt})$ ], 110.0 ( $\text{C}_8$ ), 114.9 ( $\text{C}_{6a}$ ), 123.6 (d,  $J = 11$  Hz,  $\text{C}_{9b}$ ), 125.5 (d,  $J = 189.5$  Hz,  $\text{C}_3$ ), 133.55 (d,  $J = 6$  Hz,  $\text{C}_{3a}$ ), 134.2 ( $\text{C}_7$ ), 140.6 ( $\text{C}_{9a}$ ), 153.54 (d,  $J = 10$  Hz,  $\text{C}_2$ ), 160.3 ( $\text{C}_9$ ), 161.9 (d,  $J = 5$  Hz,  $\text{C}_4$ ), 162.2 ( $\text{C}_6$ ). HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : Calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6\text{P}$  ( $[\text{M}+1]^+$ ): 421.1450, found: 421.1452.

**tert-Butyl (2-(9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-4H-benzo[de][2,6]naphthyridin-5(6H)-yl)ethyl)-carbamate (26).** From **12** (30 mg, 0.13 mmol). Brown solid (35 mg, 81 %). M.p. 215°C. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min)  $t_R = 3.35$  min.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 1.20 (s, 9H), 3.47 (q, 2H,  $J = 6$  Hz, 1'-H), 4.24 (s, 3H, OMe), 4.27 (t, 2H,  $J = 6$  Hz, 2'-H), 4.88 (t, 1H,  $J = 6$  Hz, NH-Boc), 7.21 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 8-H), 8.27 (d, 1H,  $J = 4$  Hz, 3-H), 8.52 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 7-H), 9.14 (d, 1H,  $J = 4$  Hz, 2-H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 28.5 (Boc), 39.7 ( $\text{C}_2$ ), 40.4 ( $\text{C}_1$ ), 57.2 (OMe), 79.5 (Boc), 109.5 ( $\text{C}_8$ ), 114.7 ( $\text{C}_{6a}$ ), 123.4 ( $\text{C}_3$ ), 124.4 ( $\text{C}_{9b}$ ), 129.8 ( $\text{C}_{3a}$ ), 133.9 ( $\text{C}_7$ ), 139.1 ( $\text{C}_{9a}$ ), 150.7 ( $\text{C}_2$ ), 156.4 [ $\text{CO}(\text{Boc})$ ], 160.9 ( $\text{C}_9$ ), 163.4 ( $\text{C}_4$ ), 163.84 ( $\text{C}_6$ ). HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 372.1494, found: 372.1567.

**tert-Butyl (2-(2-chloro-3-(diethoxyphosphoryl)-9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-4H-benzo[de][2,6]-naphthyridin-5(6H)-yl)ethyl)carbamate (27).** From **15** (120 mg, 0.3 mmol). Yellow syrup (65 mg, 40 %). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min)  $t_R = 4.68$  min.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 1.24 (s, 9H, Boc), 1.33 (t, 6H,  $J = 7$  Hz, Et), 3.45 (m, 2H, 2'-H), 4.13 (s, 3H, OMe), 4.17-4.38 (m, 6H, 1'-H+ Et), 4.95 (m, 1H, NH-Boc), 7.27 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 8-H), 8.50 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 7-H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 14.4 [d,  $J = 7$  Hz,  $\text{CH}_3$  (Et)], 26.2 (Boc), 37.4 ( $\text{C}_1$ ), 38.9 ( $\text{C}_2$ ), 55.0 (OMe), 77.2 (Boc), 109.0 ( $\text{C}_8$ ), 112.3 ( $\text{C}_{6a}$ ), 120.4 (d,  $J = 9$  Hz,  $\text{C}_{9b}$ ), 124.9 (d,  $J = 193$  Hz,  $\text{C}_3$ ), 131.6 ( $\text{C}_7$ ), 136.4 ( $\text{C}_{9a}$ ), 138.0 (d,  $J = 5$  Hz,  $\text{C}_{3a}$ ), 150.7 (d,  $J = 6$  Hz,  $\text{C}_2$ ), 154.0 [ $\text{CO}(\text{Boc})$ ], 157.0 ( $\text{C}_9$ ), 159.9 (d,  $J = 5$  Hz,  $\text{C}_4$ ), 160.2 ( $\text{C}_6$ ). HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{30}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}_8\text{P}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 542.1454, found: 542.1457.

**General procedure for the synthesis of the N-Boc-amino acid quinolimide derivatives 22 and 23.** A solution of (S)-3-Amino-2-(N-Boc-amino)-propionic acid (102.1 mg, 0.50 mmol) and  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (209.2 mg, 2.49 mmol) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1.5 mL) was slowly added to a solution of the corresponding anhydride **12** or **14** (0.50 mmol) in dioxane (7.5 mL) under  $\text{Ar}_2$  atmosphere. The resulting suspension was vigorously stirred at reflux temperature for 30 min. Then, the reaction mixture was cooled to rt, evaporated to dryness, and the residue was diluted with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (50 mL). The aqueous solution was washed with ethyl ether (50 mL), acidified with 6 N HCl and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3×100mL). The combined organic layers were dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography, using 2-10% gradient of EtOAc in hexane with 0.5 % of acetic acid as eluant to give the corresponding N-Boc-amino acid derivative **22** or **23**.

**Synthesis of (S)-2-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-(9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-4H-benzo[de][2,6]naphthyridin-5(6H)-yl)propanoic acid (22).** From **12** (114.5 mg, 0.5 mmol). Orange solid (90 mg, 40 %). M.p. 205 °C.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -15.92$  (c 1.0, MeOH). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min)  $t_R = 2.64$  min.  $^1\text{H}$ -RMN (300 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$ : 1.16 [s, 9H,  $\text{CH}_3(\text{Boc})$ ], 4.13 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 4.35 (m, 3H,  $\alpha$ -H and  $\beta$ -H), 7.17 (d, 1H,  $J = 7$  Hz, NH), 7.52 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 8-H), 8.29 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.5$  Hz, 3-H), 8.48 (d,

1H,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 7-H), 9.20 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.5$  Hz, 2-H).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -RMN (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$ : 27.9 [ $\text{CH}_3(\text{Boc})$ ], 40.4 ( $\text{C}_\beta$ ), 50.8 ( $\text{C}_\alpha$ ), 56.7 ( $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 78.2 [ $\text{C}(\text{Boc})$ ], 109.7 ( $\text{C}_8$ ), 113.8 ( $\text{C}_{6a}$ ), 122.6 ( $\text{C}_3$ ), 123.3 ( $\text{C}_{9b}$ ), 129.0 ( $\text{C}_{3a}$ ), 133.0 ( $\text{C}_7$ ), 138.1 ( $\text{C}_{9a}$ ), 150.5 ( $\text{C}_2$ ), 155.3 [ $\text{CO}(\text{Boc})$ ], 160.3 ( $\text{C}_9$ ), 162.3 ( $\text{C}_6$ ), 163.1 ( $\text{C}_4$ ), 171.7 ( $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ). HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : Calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_7$  ( $[\text{M}+1]^+$ ): 416.1380, found: 416.1380.

**Synthesis of (S)-2-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-(2-chloro-9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-4H-benzo[de][2,6]naphthyridin-5(6H)-yl)propanoic acid (23).** From **14** (113 mg, 0.42 mmol). Orange solid (54.8 mg, 29%). M.p. 152 °C. HPLC-MS (2-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min)  $t_R = 9.09$  min.  $^1\text{H}$ -RMN (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 1.16 and 1.18 [2s, 9H,  $\text{CH}_3(\text{Boc})$ ], 4.06 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 4.30-4.59 (m, 2H,  $\beta$ -H), 4.71 (m, 1H,  $\alpha$ -H), 5.38 (d, 1H,  $J = 8$  Hz, NH), 7.17 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 8-H), 8.18 (s, 1H, 3-H), 8.42 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 7-H).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -RMN (100 MHz,  $\text{Cl}_3\text{CD}$ )  $\delta$ : 28.1 [ $\text{CH}_3(\text{Boc})$ ], 41.6 ( $\text{C}_\beta$ ), 52.2 ( $\text{C}_\alpha$ ), 57.1 ( $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 80.6 [ $\text{C}(\text{Boc})$ ], 110.2 ( $\text{C}_8$ ), 114.0 ( $\text{C}_{6a}$ ), 123.0 ( $\text{C}_{9b}$ ), 125.3 ( $\text{C}_3$ ), 132.0 ( $\text{C}_{3a}$ ), 133.9 ( $\text{C}_7$ ), 138.5 ( $\text{C}_{9a}$ ), 151.5 ( $\text{C}_2$ ), 156.0 [ $\text{CO}(\text{Boc})$ ], 159.9 ( $\text{C}_9$ ), 162.7 ( $\text{C}_4$ ), 162.9 ( $\text{C}_6$ ), 173.4 ( $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ). HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : Calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}_7\text{Cl}$  ( $[\text{M}+1]^+$ ): 450.0990, found: 450.0990.

**General procedure for the synthesis of the N-Fmoc-amino acid derivatives 24 and 25.** TFA (4 mL) was added to a solution of the corresponding N-Boc-derivative **22** or **23** (0.21 mmol) in dioxane (2 mL) and this mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness, dissolved in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (2 mL), and the solution was lyophilized to remove residual TFA. The crude was redissolved in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1 mL) with  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (1.06 mmol), and the pH was checked to ensure that the solution was basic. A solution of N-(9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyloxy) succinimide (77.6 mg, 0.23 mmol) was then prepared in dioxane (5 mL) and slowly added to the stirring solution of the amino acid. The reaction was allowed to proceed for 3 h before concentrating to remove most of the dioxane and re-diluted to a total volume of 10 mL in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The solution was washed with diethyl ether (50 mL) to remove excess Fmoc-OSu. The aqueous layer was acidified with 6 N HCl and the product extracted into  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (50 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel, using 1-10% gradient of MeOH into  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  as eluant to afford the corresponding Fmoc-amino acids **24** and **25**.

**Synthesis of (S)-2-(((9H-fluoren-9-yl)methoxy)carbonyl)amino]-3-(9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-4H-benzo[de][2,6]naphthyridin-5(6H)-yl)propanoic acid (24).** From **22** (87.2 mg, 0.21 mmol). Yellow solid (88 mg, 78%). M.p. 180 °C.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -19.74$  (c 0.9, MeOH). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min)  $t_R = 5.06$  min.  $^1\text{H}$ -RMN (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$ : 3.97-4.23 [m, 3H, 9-H (Fmoc) and  $\text{CH}_2$  (Fmoc)], 4.10 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 4.41 (s, 3H,  $\alpha$ -H and  $\beta$ -H), 7.22 (td, 1H,  $J = 1$  and 7.5 Hz, Fmoc), 7.27 (td, 1H,  $J = 1$  and 7.5 Hz, Fmoc), 7.39 (t, 2H,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, Fmoc), 7.44 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 8-H), 7.55 (d, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, Fmoc), 7.62 (d, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, Fmoc), 7.77 (br s, 1H, NH), 7.85 (d, 2H,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, Fmoc), 8.22 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.5$  Hz, 3-H), 8.39 (d, 1H,  $J = 8$  Hz, 7-H), 9.15 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.5$  Hz, 2-H).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -RMN (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$ : 39.9 ( $\text{C}_\beta$ ), 46.5 [aliphatic-CH(Fmoc)], 51.3 ( $\text{C}_\alpha$ ), 56.6 ( $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 65.8 [aliphatic- $\text{CH}_2$ (Fmoc)], 109.6 ( $\text{C}_8$ ), 113.7 ( $\text{C}_{6a}$ ), 120.0 [CH(Fmoc)], 122.6 ( $\text{C}_3$ ), 123.3 ( $\text{C}_{9b}$ ), 125.1 [CH(Fmoc)], 125.2 [CH(Fmoc)], 127.0 [CH(Fmoc)], 127.1 [CH(Fmoc)], 127.6 [CH(Fmoc)], 128.9 ( $\text{C}_{3a}$ ), 133.1 ( $\text{C}_7$ ), 138.1 ( $\text{C}_{9a}$ ), 140.6 [C(Fmoc)], 143.7 [C(Fmoc)], 150.4 ( $\text{C}_2$ ), 155.9 [CO(Fmoc)], 160.3 ( $\text{C}_9$ ), 162.3 ( $\text{C}_6$ ), 163.2 ( $\text{C}_4$ ), 171.5 ( $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ). HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : Calcd for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_7$  ( $[\text{M}+1]^+$ ): 538.1536, found: 538.1523.

**Synthesis of (S)-2-(((9H-fluoren-9-yl)methoxy)carbonyl)amino]-3-(2-chloro-9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-4H-benzo[de]-[2,6]naphthyridin-5(6H)-yl)propanoic acid (25).** From **23** (120 mg, 0.26 mmol). Yellow solid (108.5 mg, 71%). M.p. 151 °C.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -34.09$  (c 1.1, MeOH). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min)  $t_R = 6.69$  min.  $^1\text{H}$ -RMN (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$ : 3.89 [t, 3H,  $J = 7$  Hz, CH(Fmoc)], 3.96-4.11 [m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ (Fmoc)], 4.06 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 4.33-4.46 (m, 3H,  $\alpha$ -H and  $\beta$ -H), 7.22 (t, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, Fmoc), 7.27 (t, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, Fmoc), 7.37-7.40 (m, 3H, NH and Fmoc), 7.45 (m, 2H, 8-H and Fmoc), 7.56 (d, 1H,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, Fmoc), 7.85 (d, 2H,  $J = 8$  Hz, Fmoc), 8.10 (s, 1H, 3-H), 8.35 (d, 1H,  $J = 8$  Hz, 7-H).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -RMN (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  = 41.2 ( $\text{C}_\beta$ ), 46.5 [aliphatic-CH(Fmoc)], 51.9 ( $\text{C}_\alpha$ ), 56.7 ( $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 65.7 [ $\text{CH}_2$ (Fmoc)],



110.9 (C<sub>8</sub>), 113.9 (C<sub>6a</sub>), 120.1 [CH(Fmoc)], 122.6 (C<sub>9b</sub>), 123.7 (C<sub>3</sub>), 125.0 [CH(Fmoc)], 125.2 [CH(Fmoc)], 127.0 [CH(Fmoc)], 127.6 [CH(Fmoc)], 132.6 (C<sub>3a</sub>), 133.0 (C<sub>7</sub>), 137.5 (C<sub>9a</sub>), 140.6 [C(Fmoc)], 143.6 [C(Fmoc)], 143.8 [C(Fmoc)], 149.7 (C<sub>2</sub>), 155.9 [CO(Fmoc)], 159.0 (C<sub>9</sub>), 162.0 (C<sub>4</sub>), 162.1 (C<sub>6</sub>), 171.2 (CO<sub>2</sub>H). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Cl ([M+1]<sup>+</sup>): 572.1146, found: 572.1153.

**Synthesis of 2-bromo-*N*-(2-(9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-4*H*-benzo[*de*][2,6]naphthyridin-5(6*H*)-yl)ethyl)acetamide (28).** Trifluoroacetic acid (154  $\mu$ L, 2.02 mmol) was added to a solution of *tert*-butyl (2-(9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-4*H*-benzo[*de*][2,6]naphthyridin-5(6*H*)-yl)ethyl)carbamate (**26**) (30 mg, 0.08 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 2 h in Ar<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The stirred reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum and the residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL). The resulting solution was successively washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) and brine (20 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to dryness, to give of 5-(2-aminoethyl)-9-methoxy-4*H*-benzo[*de*][2,6]naphthyridine-4,6(5*H*)-dione trifluoroacetate (15 mg, 93 %) as a yellow-brown solid. M.p. 137 °C (HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 0.40 min. R=93%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$ : 3.27 (t, 2H, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2'-H), 4.10 (s, 3H, OMe), 4.36 (t, 2H, *J* = 5.5, 1'-H), 7.33 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 8-H), 8.15 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 3-H), 8.38 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 7-H), 8.96 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$ : 38.91, 39.85, 57.50, 110.64, 115.20, 124.17, 125.06, 130.95, 134.94, 139.23, 151.28, 161.65, 164.43, 165.08. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 272.0957, found: 272.1029.

5-(2-Aminoethyl)-9-hydroxy-4*H*-benzo[*de*][2,6]naphthyridine-4,6(5*H*)-dione trifluoroacetate (15 mg, 0.055 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL). The solution was stirred at -15°C for 30 minutes. Then, 2-bromoacetyl bromide (7.1  $\mu$ L, 0.08 mmol) and DIPEA (10.2  $\mu$ L, 0.06 mmol) were added to the solution. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1.5 h at rt. Afterwards, the residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL) and the resulting solution was successively washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) and brine (20 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to dryness, to give **28** (6.7 mg, 32 %) as a yellow foam. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 1.32 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 3.63 (q, 2H, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2'-H), 3.71 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>Br), 4.17 (s, 3H, OMe), 4.37 (m, 2H, 1'-H), 6.96 (brs, 1H, NH), 7.23 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 8-H), 8.30 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 3-H), 8.55 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 7-H), 9.17 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 27.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>Br), 38.0 (C<sub>1'</sub>), 38.8 (C<sub>2'</sub>), 55.9 (OMe), 107.9 (C<sub>8</sub>), 113.1 (C<sub>6a</sub>), 122.2 (C<sub>3</sub>), 123.1 (C<sub>9b</sub>), 128.3 (C<sub>3a</sub>), 132.9 (C<sub>7</sub>), 137.9 (C<sub>9a</sub>), 149.4 (C<sub>2</sub>), 160.0 (C<sub>9</sub>), 162.2 (C<sub>6</sub>), 163.0 (C<sub>4</sub>), 165.1 (CONH). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>BrN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 392.0167, found: 392.0220.

**Synthesis of diethyl (5-(2-(2-bromoacetamido)ethyl)-2-chloro-9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-benzo[*de*][2,6]naphthyridin-3-yl)phosphonate (29).** Trifluoroacetic acid (71  $\mu$ L, 0.63 mmol) was added to a solution of *tert*-butyl (2-(2-chloro-3-(diethoxyphosphoryl)-9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-4*H*-benzo[*de*][2,6]naphthyridin-5(6*H*)-yl)ethyl)carbamate (**27**) (14 mg, 0.025 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL). The solution was stirred at room temperature overnight in Ar<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Afterwards, the stirred mixture was concentrated under vacuum and the residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL). The resulting solution was successively washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) and brine (20 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to dryness, to give diethyl (5-(2-aminoethyl)-2-chloro-9-methoxy-4,6-dioxo-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-benzo[*de*][2,6]naphthyridin-3-yl)phosphonate trifluoroacetate (14 mg, 100 %) as a yellow syrup. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t<sub>R</sub>* = 0.81 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 1.29 (t, 3H, *J* = 7 Hz, Et), 3.25 (t, 2H, *J* = 6 Hz, 2'-H), 4.11 (s, 3H, OMe), 4.20 (m, 4H, Et), 4.35 (t, 2H, *J* = 6, 1'-H), 7.52 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 8-H), 8.52 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 7-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 18.1 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, Et), 41.0 and 41.2 (C<sub>1'</sub> and C<sub>2'</sub>), 59.1 (OMe), 66.9 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, Et), 114.6 (C<sub>8</sub>), 116.8 (C<sub>6a</sub>), 125.3 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, C<sub>9b</sub>), 127.8 (d, *J* = 196 Hz, C<sub>3</sub>), 136.7 (C<sub>7</sub>), 141.4 (C<sub>9a</sub>), 142.9 (d, *J* = 5 Hz, C<sub>3a</sub>), 153.6 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, C<sub>2</sub>), 162.2 (C<sub>9</sub>), 165.1 (C<sub>6</sub>), 165.3 (d, *J* = 5 Hz, C<sub>4</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. For C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>C<sub>1</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6</sub>P ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 442.0929, found: 442.0942. This trifluoroacetate (12 mg, 0.021 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL). The solution was stirred at -15°C for 30 minutes. Then, 2-bromoacetyl bromide (3.7  $\mu$ L, 0.042 mmol) and DIPEA (7.14  $\mu$ L, 0.042 mmol) were added to the solution. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1.5 h at rt. Afterwards, the residue

was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL) and the resulting solution was successively washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) and brine (20 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to dryness, to give **29** (3.5 mg, 30 %) as a yellow syrup. HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B for 10 min) *t*<sub>R</sub> = 2.92 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 1.35 (t, 3H, *J* = 7 Hz, Et), 3.64 (m, 2H, 2'-H), 3.77 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>Br), 4.14 (s, 3H, OMe), 4.17-4.47 (m, 6H, 1'-H and Et), 7.09 (m, 1H, NH), 7.29 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 8-H), 8.51 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 7-H). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>BrClN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>P ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 564.0120, found: 564.0148.

**Fluorescence experiments.** Excitation and emission spectra of compounds were determined for 7.5 μM, 12 μM or 44 μM solutions in solvents of diverse polarity. The spectra were recorded between 300 and 690 nm (0.5 nm increments and 0.1 s integration time) with excitation set at the appropriate excitation wavelength. Slit widths were set to 15 nm for excitation and to 6 or 20 nm for emission, depending on the observed emission intensity. All the spectra were corrected for background fluorescence by subtracting a blank scan of the solvent solution. Data are summarized in Table 1.

**Fluorescence quantum yield determination.** Fluorescence quantum yields (Φ) were determined in solvents of different polarity, and calculated with reference to a standard, which was selected depending on the photophysical properties of the corresponding fluorophore.<sup>2</sup> Quinine sulphate dihydrate in 0.1 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (Φ = 0.55) was used as reference, except for **17**, **19**, **20**, **21**, **24**, **25**, and **26** that were calculated with reference to a C-102 standard (in EtOH). A 12 μM solution of the corresponding fluorophore was compared to a 12 μM solution of the standard to assure that the absorbance is less than 0.1 at identical excitation wavelengths. The following equation was used to calculate the quantum yield:

$$\Phi = \frac{I_x A_r n_x^2 \Phi_r}{A_x I_r n_r^2}$$

where x and r denote the sample and standard, respectively, A is the absorption at the excitation wavelength, I is the integrated fluorescence intensity, and n is the refractive index of the solvent. Cross-calibration between standards yielded less than 10% error for this method and instrumentation.

**Photostability assay.** A 12 μM solution of the corresponding chromophore in dioxane (**A1** and **16**) was illuminated at their maximum absorption wavelength (**A1**: 360 nm, **16**: 372 nm) by light of the Xenon lamp of the spectrofluorometer (slits widths were set to 15 nm for excitation and the emission). During the time of illumination (1 h; data interval: 2 seconds), the fluorescence maximum (**A1**: 425 nm, **16**: 460 nm) was recorded as a function of time.

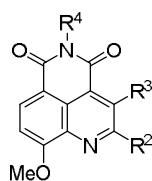
**Determination of the kinetic solubility of the naphthalimide A1 and the quinolimide 16 in buffer pH 7.4/DMSO (1%).** Kinetic solubility was determined according to the previously reported methods.<sup>3</sup> The solubility of naphthalimide **A1** was: 610±10 μM. The solubility of quinolimide **16** was: 2000±10 μM.

<sup>2</sup> (a) C. Wuerth, M. Grabolle, J. Pauli, M. Spieles and U. Resch-Genger, *Nat. Protoc.*, 2013, **8**, 1535-1550, 1516 pp; (b) A. M. Brouwer, *Pure Appl. Chem.*, 2011, **83**, 2213-2228; (c) K. Rurack and M. Spieles, *Anal. Chem.*, 2011, **83**, 1232-1242.

<sup>3</sup> (a) B. Bard, S. Martel and P.-A. Carrupt, *Eur. J. Pharm. Sci.*, 2008, **33**, 230-240; (b) J. Alsenz and M. Kansy, *Adv. Drug Delivery Rev.*, 2007, **59**, 546-567; (c) L. Di, P. V. Fish and T. Mano, *Drug Discovery Today*, 2012, **17**, 486-495.

**Table S1. Photophysical properties of the naphthalimide A1 and quinolimide derivatives 16-**

**26**



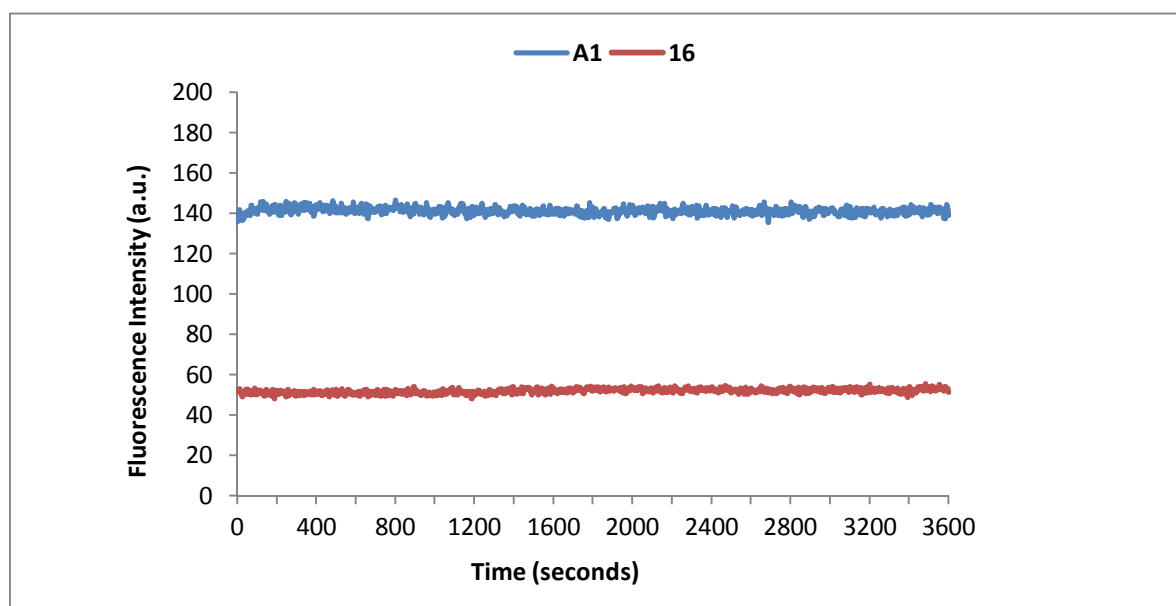
Compd <sup>a</sup>	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	solvent	$\lambda_{\max}^{\text{abs}}$ (nm)	$\epsilon$ (M <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-1</sup> )	$\lambda_{\max}^{\text{em}}$ (nm)	$\Phi_{\text{F}}$ <sup>b</sup>
A1			(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> OH	toluene	362	12251	425	0.64
				dioxane	360	12085	425	0.61
				MeOH	366	12794	442	0.57
				DMSO	368	11898	442	0.47
				H <sub>2</sub> O	377	6770	457	0.61
				In vacuum <sup>c</sup>	346		390	
16	H	H	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> OH	toluene	377	7873	455	0.90
				dioxane	372	8649	460	0.67
				MeOH	375	6760	490	0.28
				DMSO	377	6849	490	0.03
				H <sub>2</sub> O	381	8776	503	0.04
				In vacuum <sup>c</sup>	365		434	
17	PO(OEt) <sub>2</sub>	H	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> OH	toluene	395	4939	484	0.46
				dioxane	390	4252	487	0.54
				MeOH	397	5157	514	0.06
				DMSO	397	4325	510	0.01
				H <sub>2</sub> O	403	3752	525	0.01
				In vacuum <sup>c</sup>	382		463	
18	H	Cl	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> OH	toluene	381	7555	467	0.83
				dioxane	376	7023	470	0.67
				MeOH	379	7562	500	0.12
				DMSO	382	4399	504	0.01
				H <sub>2</sub> O	385	2740	510	0.03
				In vacuum <sup>c</sup>	371		446	
19	PO(OEt) <sub>2</sub>	Cl	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> OH	toluene	401	4476	494	0.52
				dioxane	404	5280	503	0.31
				MeOH	411	3997	525	0.007
				DMSO	395	3725	527	0.0003
				H <sub>2</sub> O	402	3435	536	0.001
				In vacuum <sup>c</sup>	391		483	

**Table 1.** (Continuation)

Compd <sup>a</sup>	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	solvent	$\lambda_{\max}^{\text{abs}}$ (nm)	$\epsilon$ (M <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-1</sup> )	$\lambda_{\max}^{\text{em}}$ (nm)	$\Phi_{\text{F}}$ <sup>b</sup>
<b>20</b>	H	H	n-Bu	toluene	373	10166	454	0.99
				dioxane	370	10640	461	0.79
				MeOH	373	6961	495	0.38
				DMSO	378	9898	492	0.05
				H <sub>2</sub> O	379	2889	510	0.10
<b>21</b>	PO(OEt) <sub>2</sub>	H	n-Bu	toluene	393	4618	475	0.98
				dioxane	387	5814	485	0.62
				MeOH	396	4981	515	0.06
				DMSO	396	4924	516	0.01
				H <sub>2</sub> O	406	3830	518	0.02
<b>24</b>	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> CH(NHFmoc)CO <sub>2</sub> H	toluene	376	2394	460	0.93
				dioxane	373	7242	461	0.71
				MeOH	373	6873	493	0.07
				DMSO	374	8781	483	0.04
				H <sub>2</sub> O	382	2227	498	0.02
<b>25</b>	H	Cl	CH <sub>2</sub> CH(NHFmoc)CO <sub>2</sub> H	toluene	385	3509	474	0.60
				dioxane	376	10268	473	0.58
				MeOH	379	6099	502	0.06
				DMSO	380	7682	510	0.01
				H <sub>2</sub> O	394	2341	512	0.02
<b>26</b>	H	H	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> NHBoc	toluene	374	5089	455	0.71
				dioxane	370	5125	461	0.59
				MeOH	372	4778	490	0.28
				H <sub>2</sub> O	379	2897	500	0.13

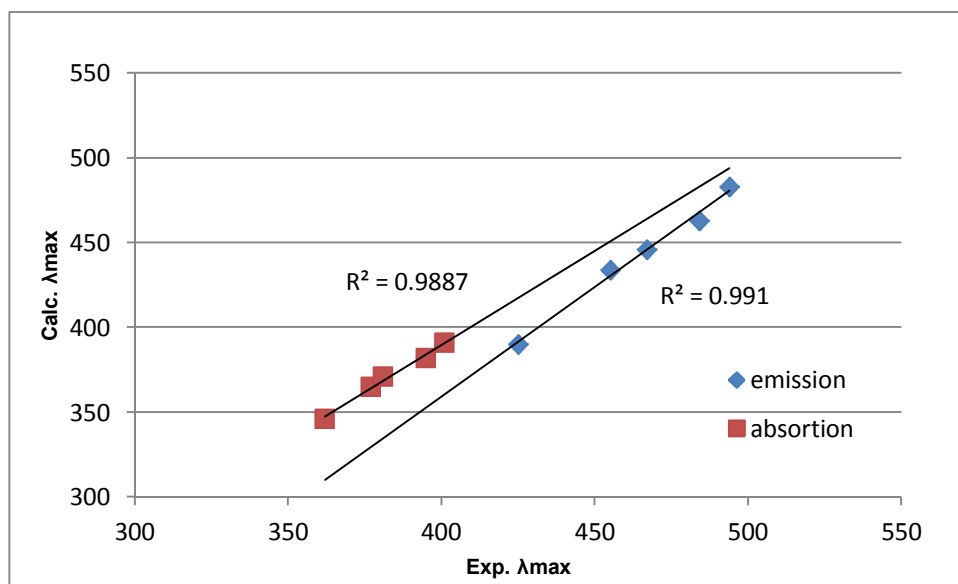
<sup>a</sup>Measured in duplicate at a 12  $\mu\text{M}$  concentration, except for **A1** that was measured at a 7.5  $\mu\text{M}$ . <sup>b</sup>Quantum yields calculated with reference to quinine sulfate (in 0.1 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), except for **17**, **19**, **20**, **21**, **24**, **25**, and **26** that were calculated with reference to a C-102 standard (in EtOH). <sup>c</sup>TD-DFT calculations in vacuum.

**Figure S1.- Photostability assay**



**Figure S1.** Variation of fluorescence maxima with excitation time

## TD-DFT CALCULATIONS

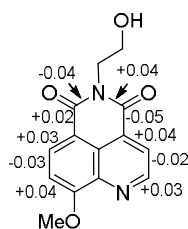


**Figure S2.** Linear correlations between calculated  $\lambda_{max}^{abs}$  and  $\lambda_{max}^{em}$  in vacuum and experimental values in toluene.

**Computational methods** The photophysical properties of the naphthalimide **A1** and quinolimides **16-19** have been modelled by means of TD-DFT calculations at the PBE0/6-31+G(d,p) computational level<sup>4</sup> within the Gaussian-09 program.<sup>5</sup> The geometry of the ground ( $S_0$ ) and first singlet excited electronic ( $S_1$ ) states of all systems has been optimized at the PBE0/6-31+G(d,p) level and they have been confirmed to be energetic minima by frequency calculations at the same computational level.

**Table S2. Calculated HOMO and LUMO energetic values (au) for A1 and the quinolimides 16-19.**

Compd	$S_0$			$S_1$		
	HOMO	LUMO	LUMO-HOMO	HOMO	LUMO	LUMO-HOMO
<b>A1</b>	-0.24599	-0.09329	0.15270	-0.23822	-0.10073	0.13749
<b>16</b>	-0.25422	-0.10570	0.14852	-0.24491	-0.11539	0.12952
<b>17</b>	-0.25578	-0.11238	0.14340	-0.24747	-0.12380	0.12367
<b>18</b>	-0.25908	-0.11252	0.14656	-0.24989	-0.12290	0.12699
<b>19</b>	-0.25612	-0.11486	0.14126	-0.24904	-0.12910	0.11994



**Figure S3.** Bond length differences between the  $S_1$  and  $S_0$  states in the quinolimide scaffold of **16**.

<sup>4</sup> (a) C. Adamo and V. Barone, *J. Chem. Phys.*, 1999, **110**, 6158-6170; (b) P. C. Hariharan and J. A. Pople, *Theor. Chim. Acta*, 1973, **28**, 213-222.

<sup>5</sup> M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, B. Mennucci, G. A. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, M. Caricato, X. Li, H. P. Hratchian, A. F. Izmaylov, J. Bloino, G. Zheng, J. L. Sonnenberg, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, T. Vreven, J. A. Montgomery Jr., J. E. Peralta, F. Ogliaro, M. J. Bearpark, J. Heyd, E. N. Brothers, K. N. Kudin, V. N. Staroverov, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, K. Raghavachari, A. P. Rendell, J. C. Burant, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, N. Rega, N. J. Millam, M. Klene, J. E. Knox, J. B. Cross, V. Bakken, C. Adamo, J. Jaramillo, R. Gomperts, R. E. Stratmann, O. Yazyev, A. J. Austin, R. Cammi, C. Pomelli, J. W. Ochterski, R. L. Martin, K. Morokuma, V. G. Zakrzewski, G. A. Voth, P. Salvador, J. J. Dannenberg, S. Dapprich, A. D. Daniels, Ö. Farkas, J. B. Foresman, J. V. Ortiz, J. Cioslowski and D. J. Fox, *Gaussian 09*, Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford, CT, USA, 2009.

**Geometry (Å), Total energy (hartree), and number of imaginary frequencies of the optimized S<sub>0</sub> and S<sub>1</sub> electronic configurations of A1 and the quinolimides 16-19.**

**A1(S<sub>0</sub>), Total Energy= -934.120469394 Hartree, NIMAG= 0**

C,-2.3613252496,1.9464412143,-2.1441054249  
C,-0.9595863409,2.0076114903,-2.1868666403  
C,-0.2353776638,2.5685629563,-1.1543949039  
C,-0.9143793874,3.0879560958,-0.0265354276  
C,-2.3309483865,3.0354543056,0.0446266869  
C,-3.0444683301,2.450305193,-1.0486389387  
C,1.2298291713,2.6094845742,-1.2240824279  
C,-0.1888915982,3.6584638934,1.0433939994  
C,1.286313888,3.7265376202,0.9862876022  
C,-0.8499670079,4.1607697397,2.1483464355  
C,-2.2521436209,4.1092412778,2.2166644301  
H,-2.7623762484,4.5064068284,3.0887010759  
H,-2.8940857067,1.4998755797,-2.975002009  
H,-0.4197921767,1.6094018708,-3.0407017639  
H,-0.2607633636,4.5911881412,2.9523350833  
O,-4.3824038613,2.4360521516,-0.9140813481  
C,-5.1625509191,1.8649478856,-1.9484666436  
H,-6.1990491242,1.9588519691,-1.6245760785  
H,-5.0242109726,2.4054867899,-2.8919699672  
H,-4.9176306246,0.8057901968,-2.088324295  
O,1.8620664285,2.145959613,-2.1695049478  
O,1.9578144938,4.2147354185,1.8818465824  
C,3.3561067669,3.3027253997,-0.2467581346  
H,3.6014366193,3.4584660605,-1.3004148588  
H,3.6628291161,4.1765266045,0.3315253587  
C,4.067495023,2.0679765602,0.2895001551  
H,5.1487252887,2.2276152235,0.1483046533  
H,3.8849231823,1.9710459088,1.3650673817  
O,3.6482432862,0.8639973863,-0.3105420255  
H,3.3564561146,1.0521961711,-1.2133421106  
N,1.8984225249,3.2110919082,-0.1591888085  
C,-2.9824387767,3.5566054569,1.1839980827  
H,-4.0652863643,3.5138439553,1.2332465374

**A1(S<sub>1</sub>), Total Energy= -934.112912158 Hartree, NIMAG= 0**

C,-2.3224764608,1.9359201224,-2.1691570543  
C,-0.949849258,2.0000394169,-2.2176528307  
C,-0.2422534609,2.5860838892,-1.1378588768  
C,-0.9174825386,3.1048807452,-0.0035596919  
C,-2.3330768171,3.0471941454,0.0650751789  
C,-3.0171194291,2.4531549558,-1.0372935849  
C,1.2284613453,2.6239057403,-1.209004561  
C,-0.1758856602,3.6775938964,1.0539943429

C,1.266748719,3.7434262187,0.9950869607  
C,-0.8647471502,4.1967309976,2.187314687  
C,-2.2444637282,4.1347830991,2.240205042  
H,-2.7640680324,4.532190629,3.1075843202  
H,-2.8732340715,1.4910371342,-2.9893762455  
H,-0.3804861905,1.6138203801,-3.055673838  
H,-0.2774859721,4.6317138446,2.9883127538  
O,-4.3421021161,2.4174990345,-0.9313184434  
C,-5.138638083,1.8401006753,-1.9577230544  
H,-6.1677486446,1.9366244256,-1.614119848  
H,-5.013293101,2.3821201805,-2.9007386963  
H,-4.8931805125,0.7817597325,-2.0928401927  
O,1.8207021667,2.1375996622,-2.1819774764  
O,1.9659098384,4.2365505751,1.8811959329  
C,3.3471243392,3.291621922,-0.2464952189  
H,3.6007191753,3.4674577781,-1.2959818332  
H,3.6537348104,4.1503390783,0.3538837854  
C,4.045327168,2.0416920399,0.2694013013  
H,5.1292380056,2.1973367041,0.1456490016  
H,3.8471363272,1.9232149461,1.3400657949  
O,3.6291129043,0.8527428777,-0.3647847397  
H,3.3292521345,1.0667817926,-1.2592766588  
N,1.8895375603,3.2100887239,-0.1645293079  
C,-3.0007908705,3.5677421218,1.1961047222  
H,-4.0816362167,3.5278679552,1.2518356394

**16(S<sub>0</sub>), Total Energy= -950.137771623 Hartree, NIMAG= 0**

C,-2.3662694124,1.961934033,-2.1225758548  
C,-0.9650550888,2.0165699449,-2.1870603103  
C,-0.223979762,2.5723164769,-1.1634886457  
C,-0.8953132296,3.0873801747,-0.0324128977  
C,-2.3090044747,3.0454060981,0.0679115524  
C,-3.0472582225,2.4632318925,-1.0209990544  
C,1.2399166894,2.6169160768,-1.2355848194  
C,-0.1747466197,3.6550529474,1.0373966746  
C,1.3055180925,3.7271752348,0.9815815461  
C,-0.8639015328,4.1416591695,2.125332407  
C,-2.2707116176,4.0511899624,2.1209615671  
H,-2.8380474917,4.4295092818,2.9691030309  
H,-2.9095137233,1.5188862832,-2.9486066768  
H,-0.4418543611,1.6175963849,-3.0508515377  
H,-0.3245819937,4.5810847569,2.9582275188  
O,-4.373450534,2.4508278753,-0.8767719623  
C,-5.1623435582,1.8860408302,-1.9073536672  
H,-6.1950705615,1.9827027973,-1.5729657216  
H,-5.0309605061,2.429749822,-2.8503474807  
H,-4.9227917177,0.8262557201,-2.0536998152  
O,1.8742919293,2.159973654,-2.1801205883  
O,1.9671760576,4.2129909612,1.8838641894  
N,-2.9760459305,3.5266272518,1.1377853453  
C,3.3692718372,3.3071521623,-0.2527076993  
H,3.6152353452,3.4472839113,-1.3080709098



H,3.6802176952,4.1877872681,0.3131032668  
C,4.0714692975,2.0742780124,0.3016934608  
H,5.1531620723,2.2159025513,0.1465255069  
H,3.8983439498,1.9993179797,1.3801257949  
O,3.6250401585,0.8651262432,-0.2664588573  
H,3.3897729165,1.0232631201,-1.1906105183  
N,1.9112164468,3.2208565118,-0.165763454

**16(S<sub>1</sub>)**, Total Energy= -950.127328098 Hartree, NIMAG= 0

C,-2.32093181,1.9539530022,-2.1499723597  
C,-0.9460147402,2.0150380447,-2.2175453389  
C,-0.2345230904,2.5921359639,-1.1493920001  
C,-0.9040772071,3.1088437023,-0.0015012693  
C,-2.3030959928,3.0613084149,0.096082405  
C,-3.0077594849,2.4668387444,-1.0084262439  
C,1.2467732192,2.6378380209,-1.2251417707  
C,-0.1547163458,3.6812211679,1.0533267384  
C,1.2789791122,3.7548611807,0.993102226  
C,-0.894165918,4.1748863853,2.1572636159  
C,-2.2772859097,4.0709346278,2.1402884436  
H,-2.8493530638,4.447180896,2.986335913  
H,-2.8834193261,1.5137959129,-2.9649874984  
H,-0.3895504904,1.6311462821,-3.0652605059  
H,-0.371557294,4.6231444096,2.9946378118  
O,-4.3172026136,2.4302265239,-0.8904584841  
C,-5.1363765842,1.8620826329,-1.9062200916  
H,-6.1565148334,1.9646702054,-1.5397507376  
H,-5.0244860239,2.4096957423,-2.8473358074  
H,-4.898961239,0.8032739751,-2.0493611535  
O,1.8250600721,2.157068626,-2.2045080149  
O,1.9905596299,4.2435123741,1.8690039611  
N,-3.0140920469,3.5335117164,1.1500111331  
C,3.3604630423,3.2926167926,-0.2580913663  
H,3.6225178693,3.4491272114,-1.3084907302  
H,3.6717995132,4.158351197,0.3296633277  
C,4.0421014375,2.043726518,0.2842392195  
H,5.1279549432,2.1753591999,0.1511863758  
H,3.8464151874,1.9518878236,1.3572294037  
O,3.5941958677,0.8475948847,-0.3145891499  
H,3.3837418103,1.02431125,-1.2407638969  
N,1.9032544599,3.2219019606,-0.183412765

**17(S<sub>0</sub>)**, Total Energy= -1674.52432988 Hartree, NIMAG= 0

C,-2.2427854067,1.7611534,-1.843847769  
C,-0.8540789396,1.8858277181,-1.9984656974  
C,-0.0813087093,2.5410418484,-1.0617414285  
C,-0.6965327375,3.0957601604,0.0863076683  
C,-2.0987278618,2.9818819202,0.2688659789  
C,-2.8744764492,2.296186628,-0.7315570531  
C,1.3652648181,2.6452520373,-1.2559880684  
C,0.0620399697,3.7656708137,1.0763693337  
C,1.5348231399,3.8872831585,0.8836154938

C,-0.5984749181,4.2833756859,2.1851537905  
C,-2.0070145906,4.1089997103,2.2485419473  
H,-2.5318660412,4.51475157,3.1095409915  
H,-2.8113491812,1.2403382488,-2.604922311  
H,-0.3599452769,1.4634709873,-2.8681895166  
O,-4.1848791975,2.2295782406,-0.4942555218  
C,-5.0094034618,1.5673185289,-1.4351971342  
H,-6.0217960522,1.6359329011,-1.0378839907  
H,-4.9663105267,2.0588915641,-2.4142633202  
H,-4.7265383311,0.5129153297,-1.5365064189  
O,1.9491822369,2.1555334448,-2.2171911569  
O,2.2571437163,4.4393155855,1.6927098567  
N,-2.7328430805,3.4900311079,1.3416759111  
C,3.5158477565,3.5008223595,-0.4866493758  
H,3.6749851137,3.5702211348,-1.5653114489  
H,3.8202724004,4.4360912998,-0.0129396768  
C,4.3209944583,2.3476981938,0.0989410271  
H,5.3792066767,2.5255154498,-0.151696264  
H,4.2334452839,2.3472686947,1.1900793316  
O,3.8934548647,1.0807238349,-0.3436732499  
H,3.5883473301,1.1569452463,-1.2578257397  
N,2.0746949276,3.3491513855,-0.2838379553  
P,0.0807791021,5.1708711525,3.6291730882  
O,-1.0185815867,5.4627255573,4.5859628795  
O,0.803842887,6.4270806345,2.9693780764  
O,1.2667839437,4.3054871537,4.2797444989  
C,1.9409662625,7.0637558807,3.5798043223  
H,1.6764815552,7.3720464576,4.5980064206  
H,2.7538173063,6.3331494276,3.626044023  
C,1.0408542985,3.5555044655,5.4902259855  
H,0.2409297012,4.0324292287,6.0646408926  
H,1.9772653999,3.6374050298,6.04960926  
C,2.3105347982,8.2551678942,2.7301281062  
H,3.178608067,8.762550425,3.1630804259  
H,2.5656554944,7.937737821,1.7152294393  
H,1.4833134152,8.9683983872,2.6760935867  
C,0.7176064955,2.1115928814,5.1760177938  
H,1.5041723619,1.6590567219,4.565282823  
H,0.6304807218,1.5403609927,6.1063104009  
H,-0.2329151449,2.0270607701,4.639895964

17(S<sub>1</sub>), Total Energy= -1674.51348724 Hartree, NIMAG= 0

C,-2.1998271459,1.7587128613,-1.8776153742  
C,-0.8397529949,1.8920735007,-2.0347750793  
C,-0.0905189466,2.5637500617,-1.0504290547  
C,-0.6991003134,3.1108550338,0.119190326  
C,-2.0818245145,2.9838579781,0.3011662378  
C,-2.830609524,2.2964468274,-0.7178157513  
C,1.3733742176,2.6707516159,-1.2519364692  
C,0.0886691162,3.7858232368,1.0919853426  
C,1.511529967,3.9170020176,0.8952473722  
C,-0.6206529732,4.2986243187,2.2277010835

C,-2.0092987516,4.0968610634,2.280818093  
H,-2.5383563809,4.4905564553,3.1457904527  
H,-2.7882208889,1.2462860932,-2.6295344539  
H,-0.3137937806,1.4947551558,-2.8958420118  
O,-4.1226026407,2.2032757963,-0.5018029593  
C,-4.9835946634,1.5497450468,-1.4291600377  
H,-5.9789313555,1.6260933515,-0.9947937112  
H,-4.9625395733,2.0554414895,-2.3994173009  
H,-4.7065542169,0.4967875733,-1.5389906208  
O,1.8988805854,2.1550461359,-2.2425015276  
O,2.2820281964,4.476638102,1.6674938973  
N,-2.758292379,3.4690664926,1.3738702494  
C,3.5098956946,3.4870837985,-0.4941488082  
H,3.6840474177,3.5659289078,-1.5709504971  
H,3.8194119509,4.4118967249,-0.0042225513  
C,4.2913480204,2.3179701797,0.0909788587  
H,5.3561262738,2.480230154,-0.1410778321  
H,4.1837378386,2.3091435898,1.1798342506  
O,3.850700133,1.0593931324,-0.3689125321  
H,3.5978334719,1.139470103,-1.2976068407  
N,2.0679875278,3.3525402944,-0.3034473023  
P,0.0359331028,5.1925249771,3.6467594945  
O,-1.0501976754,5.4950350274,4.6196006981  
O,0.7713031443,6.4501066059,2.990389604  
O,1.2457442309,4.3554208193,4.3093834466  
C,1.9328099116,7.0535313793,3.5803574771  
H,1.6956095664,7.3706784142,4.6030150504  
H,2.7274587615,6.3026394404,3.6140793474  
C,1.0176389993,3.5768353405,5.4950847375  
H,0.2004614982,4.0245056594,6.0697454667  
H,1.9428149121,3.6613877426,6.0735767953  
C,2.3222854224,8.2341308436,2.7232235641  
H,3.2109505982,8.7189180809,3.1406422835  
H,2.5517384464,7.9062184123,1.7054194915  
H,1.513923042,8.9697293538,2.6795477486  
C,0.7268225762,2.1322075718,5.1479777164  
H,1.5321917984,1.7086430814,4.5407033368  
H,0.6346649466,1.5395693088,6.0646142187  
H,-0.2112856404,2.0431399192,4.5912702948

**18(S<sub>0</sub>), Total Energy= -1409.57537870 Hartree, NIMAG= 0**

C,-2.3544949625,1.9510778175,-2.1418696469  
C,-0.9539448695,2.0086366867,-2.2094699427  
C,-0.2128554679,2.5665758892,-1.1861806873  
C,-0.8853105357,3.0781034602,-0.0563728483  
C,-2.2959440916,3.0330367745,0.0443507206  
C,-3.0368998072,2.4513060189,-1.0398592475  
C,1.2517552918,2.6178144917,-1.2573690399  
C,-0.1679727489,3.6475048385,1.0168606256  
C,1.3146935718,3.7211381487,0.9640413348  
C,-0.8479862522,4.1342433922,2.1069843765  
C,-2.2573541754,4.034227759,2.0856645954

Cl,-3.1311302004,4.6501946339,3.4574696374  
H,-2.8990454446,1.5064618453,-2.9662999447  
H,-0.4314096345,1.6110614162,-3.07416679  
H,-0.3158707187,4.5742951323,2.9426120625  
O,-4.3619530451,2.4386030663,-0.8919936609  
C,-5.154075327,1.8773488356,-1.9230663924  
H,-6.1858790576,1.9767358154,-1.5871412613  
H,-5.0211838926,2.422658361,-2.8647798114  
H,-4.9172967756,0.8172129262,-2.0705846268  
O,1.8873394749,2.1671969064,-2.2026390013  
O,1.971325674,4.2025861682,1.8712183189  
N,-2.9585828016,3.5158191978,1.1182412449  
C,3.3794309223,3.3047767981,-0.2645415808  
H,3.630275633,3.4379021224,-1.3195048917  
H,3.6904624805,4.1879201045,0.2973077351  
C,4.072379659,2.070765231,0.3002166686  
H,5.1552637906,2.2019849242,0.1452056239  
H,3.8972906207,2.0041113497,1.3786471884  
O,3.6135815544,0.862133073,-0.2585564483  
H,3.4146031777,1.0068439323,-1.1929854369  
N,1.9205201076,3.2217682728,-0.1842774831

**18(S<sub>1</sub>), Total Energy= -1409.56469482 Hartree, NIMAG= 0**

C,-2.3112628774,1.9424033584,-2.1697886033  
C,-0.9374715446,2.0079489277,-2.2371381914  
C,-0.2233921541,2.5876530915,-1.1697110951  
C,-0.8900927756,3.1001387861,-0.0252284307  
C,-2.2866095819,3.0478496669,0.0724538933  
C,-2.9973665385,2.4538861484,-1.0292081538  
C,1.259393315,2.6373042374,-1.2464151283  
C,-0.143796201,3.6748014241,1.0335606365  
C,1.290129138,3.751038736,0.9740563379  
C,-0.8760441202,4.1658870898,2.1404571624  
C,-2.2601199412,4.048837441,2.1028096123  
Cl,-3.1652693795,4.6509408049,3.4598078293  
H,-2.8735793878,1.4997391963,-2.9835074683  
H,-0.3801853042,1.6252105372,-3.0849397137  
H,-0.3621139899,4.6145860661,2.9809257411  
O,-4.3052975041,2.4202799334,-0.9042108971  
C,-5.1311570964,1.8581571358,-1.9191752411  
H,-6.1494624593,1.9664540302,-1.5497025659  
H,-5.0166992719,2.4069971262,-2.8590988666  
H,-4.8991380089,0.7984418176,-2.0635928734  
O,1.836814764,2.1604763928,-2.2266198084  
O,1.9987710156,4.2380213374,1.8521515008  
N,-2.9954756576,3.5185746094,1.129218531  
C,3.3719298835,3.2900589214,-0.2727919446  
H,3.6386857997,3.435695106,-1.3233896402  
H,3.6838559929,4.16048313,0.3077008357  
C,4.0444201938,2.0423700747,0.2843744224  
H,5.131536317,2.1639312888,0.1531655569  
H,3.8446182622,1.9617259036,1.3572657442

O,3.5862548819,0.8445266876,-0.3028928341  
H,3.4136964878,1.0046634327,-1.2394750959  
N,1.9141598923,3.2229629502,-0.2038998616

19(S<sub>0</sub>), Total Energy= -2133.94540925 Hartree, NIMAG= 0

C,-2.3049148978,2.4442104171,-2.2258161095  
C,-0.915935639,2.6175268896,-2.3294564153  
C,-0.1432013912,2.9034185258,-1.2225578464  
C,-0.7679935636,3.0396340118,0.0390879995  
C,-2.1663684813,2.8835136757,0.1677358131  
C,-2.9422867989,2.5714890172,-1.0001869258  
C,1.3034177165,3.0929989218,-1.3633848226  
C,-0.0290140702,3.3868134344,1.1952021219  
C,1.4622644781,3.3198654715,1.0963260367  
C,-0.6931804666,3.6702481356,2.3853227552  
C,-2.089344065,3.3506276147,2.3981677885  
Cl,-2.9616120282,3.3340779075,3.8932576399  
H,-2.8727027746,2.2125168331,-3.119075662  
H,-0.4241276857,2.5310906371,-3.2935010622  
O,-4.2527930628,2.4303643994,-0.7987268375  
C,-5.0770161186,2.1136576051,-1.905553105  
H,-6.0886633201,2.0422840327,-1.5069992779  
H,-5.0377565467,2.9023282978,-2.6661317746  
H,-4.7895896932,1.1535794961,-2.3499773009  
O,1.8829813696,3.042690795,-2.4417903766  
O,2.1751454661,3.2269193711,2.0742541115  
N,-2.7839970447,2.9838638097,1.3583836045  
C,3.4726519736,3.3720452721,-0.2797588304  
H,3.7035980017,3.8621271612,-1.2285665001  
H,3.8370062357,3.9878635984,0.5454695936  
C,4.1268624448,1.9965585406,-0.2110903259  
H,5.2096567926,2.1398815081,-0.3569110537  
H,3.9774516972,1.5622307554,0.7812092817  
O,3.5984533822,1.0741300411,-1.1354202369  
H,3.4300470854,1.5293702164,-1.970382594  
N,2.0136022986,3.3193595701,-0.1845414512  
P,0.0410562896,4.629005443,3.7704413207  
O,-0.9525852527,5.4882959051,4.4578471133  
O,1.2305384826,5.502682798,3.124888278  
O,0.7683916776,3.5059752749,4.6280756172  
C,1.0108542669,6.8980599246,2.8356962887  
H,0.5002461265,6.9737312544,1.8673841534  
H,0.3579126562,7.32492839,3.6020252335  
C,1.4890992506,3.8670594428,5.8242748639  
H,0.8443391039,4.4907121526,6.4532341977  
H,2.3706423242,4.4474382129,5.5299887716  
C,2.3566043867,7.5819377639,2.7921266267  
H,2.2243039696,8.6412947047,2.5495587973  
H,2.8598874517,7.5105092854,3.7606176731  
H,3.0031846555,7.1323022548,2.0329852031  
C,1.8823804066,2.5908399408,6.5270010053  
H,2.509278049,1.9719649685,5.8793394135

H,2.4464392265,2.8280783594,7.4346878284  
H,0.9967526449,2.0152270316,6.8097255972

19(S<sub>1</sub>), Total Energy= -2133.93392953 Hartree, NIMAG= 0

C,-2.2350015925,2.6084473864,-2.2892712091  
C,-0.868585452,2.7388337796,-2.3624771778  
C,-0.1204752433,2.9618879083,-1.1863858568  
C,-0.7452611419,3.0762190496,0.0802887528  
C,-2.1307041086,2.912171252,0.1843478559  
C,-2.880322516,2.6819518741,-1.021938461  
C,1.355103353,3.0478696805,-1.3010260952  
C,0.0156632116,3.3507448824,1.2499764737  
C,1.4578950449,3.2551389865,1.1776112401  
C,-0.7157090561,3.6109811035,2.4605851682  
C,-2.0855023837,3.2470182449,2.4292658014  
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P,-0.044547529,4.5693333497,3.8404935546  
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H,2.5931327651,7.6568900857,3.6813580447  
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H,2.8067630808,2.9804011437,7.2868811104

H,1.3491900416,2.0679487697,6.8423201399

**Cytotoxicity results.** Taking into account the literature precedent on the antitumor activity of quinolimide derivatives,<sup>6</sup> compounds **16-27** were included in a HTS for cytotoxicity in non-small cell lung cancer (A549), colon (HT29), breast (MDA-MD-231), and pancreas (PSN1) human cancer cell lines, using doxorubicin as positive control and according to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) protocols. As shown in Table S2, none of our quinolimide derivatives showed cytotoxicity at a concentration below  $10^{-5}$  M.

**Cytotoxicity assays.** A colorimetric assay, using the sulforhodamine B (SRB) reaction, was adapted for a quantitative measurement of cell growth and viability, following the technique described by Skehan, P. A. *et al.*<sup>7</sup> Cells (MDA-MB-231, A549, HT-29 and PSN1) were seeded in 96 well microtiter plates, at  $5 \times 10^3$  cells per well in aliquots of 195  $\mu$ L of RPMI medium, and they were allowed to attach to the plate surface by growing in drug free medium for 18 h. Afterwards, samples were added in aliquots of 5  $\mu$ L [dissolved in (3:7) DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O]. After 48 h exposure, cells were fixed by adding 50  $\mu$ L of cold 50% (wt/vol) trichloroacetic acid, and incubating at 4 °C for 60 min. Then, the plates were washed with deionized H<sub>2</sub>O and dried. 100  $\mu$ L of SRB solution (0.4% wt/vol in 1% acetic acid) was added to each microtiter well and these were incubated at room temperature for 10 min. Unbound SRB was removed by washing with 1% acetic acid, the plates were air dried, and the bound stain was solubilized with Tris buffer. Optical densities were read on an automated spectrophotometer plate reader at a single wavelength of 490 nm. Data analysis was automatically generated by the high throughput screening LIMS implemented at the laboratory. The three response parameters GI<sub>50</sub> (50% cell growth inhibition), LC<sub>50</sub> (50% lethal concentration), and TGI (total growth inhibition) were extracted from concentration-response curves by linear interpolation, according to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) protocols.<sup>8</sup>

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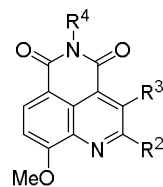
<sup>6</sup> M. F. Braña, A. Gradillas, A. Gómez, N. Acero, F. Llinares, D. Muñoz-Mingarro, C. Abradelo, F. Rey-Stolle, M. Yuste, J. Campos, M. A. Gallo and A. Espinosa, *J. Med. Chem.*, 2004, **47**, 2236-2242.

<sup>7</sup> P. Skehan, R. Storeng, D. Scudiero, A. Monks, J. McMahon, D. Vistica, J. T. Warren, H. Bokesch, S. Kenney and M. R. Boyd, *J. Natl. Cancer. Inst.*, 1990, **82**, 1107-1112.

<sup>8</sup> R. H. Shoemaker, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 2006, **6**, 813-823.



**Table S2.** Cytotoxicity HTS results of quinolimides **16-27**



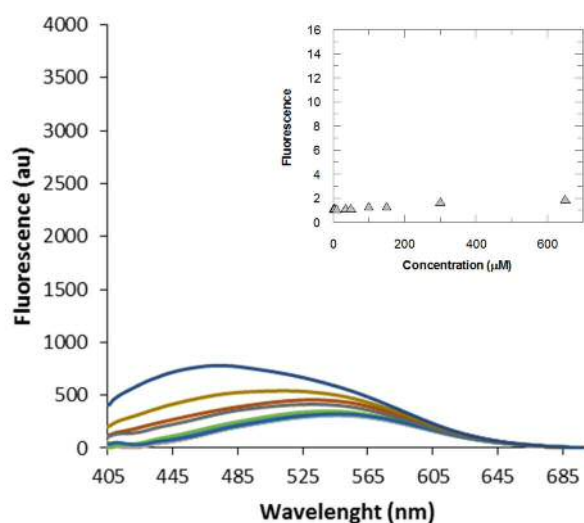
Compd	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	R <sup>4</sup>	Chemical Formula	MW(g/mol)	GI <sub>50</sub> (μM)			
						Lung A549	Colon HT29	Breast MDA-MD-231	Pancreas PSN1
16	H	H	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> OH	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	272.26	>36.7	>36.7	>36.7	>36.7
17	H	PO(OEt) <sub>2</sub>	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> OH	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>21</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub> P	408.35	>24.5	>24.5	>24.5	>24.5
18	Cl	H	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> OH	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>11</sub> ClN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	306.70	>32.6	>32.6	>32.6	>32.6
19	Cl	PO(OEt) <sub>2</sub>	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> OH	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>20</sub> ClN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub> P	442.79	>22.6	>22.6	>22.6	>22.6
20	H	H	n-Bu	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	284.32	>35.2	>35.2	>35.2	>35.2
21	H	PO(OEt) <sub>2</sub>	n-Bu	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>25</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub> P	420.40	>23.8	>23.8	>23.8	>23.8
24	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> CH(NHFmoc)CO <sub>2</sub> H	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>23</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	537.53	>18.6	>18.6	>18.6	>18.6
25	Cl	H	CH <sub>2</sub> CH(NHFmoc)CO <sub>2</sub> H	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>22</sub> ClN <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	571.97	>17.5	>17.5	>17.5	>17.5
26	H	H	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> NHBoc	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>21</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	371.39	>26.9	>26.9	>26.9	>26.9
27	Cl	PO(OEt) <sub>2</sub>	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> NHBoc	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>29</sub> ClN <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> P	541.92	>18.5	>18.5	>18.5	>18.5
<b>Doxorubicin<sup>a</sup></b>						0.07	0.10	0.09	

<sup>a</sup>Reference drug

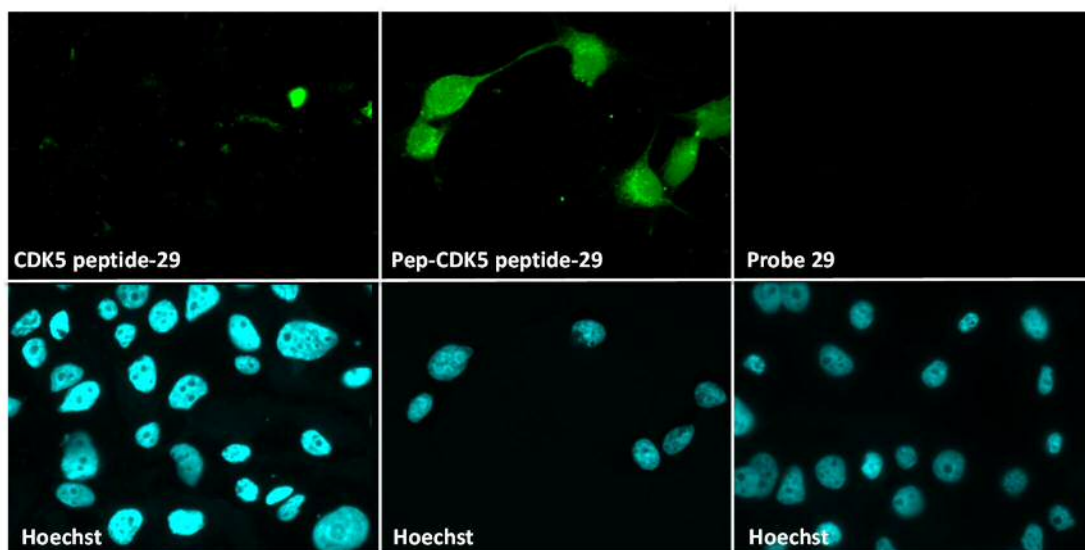
**Peptide synthesis and labelling.** Peptides used in this study were purchased from GL Biochem, (Shanghai, China), labelled on their unique cysteine with the bromomethyl acetamide **29** in a 5-10 fold excess dye overnight, then purified from free dye on NAP-5 columns (GE Healthcare). CDK5 peptide: GVPSSALREICLLK; PEP-CDK5 peptide: KETWWETWWTEKK GVPSSALREICLLK; P25 peptide: KEAFWDRCLSVINLM; CTL peptide VESSDTIDNVKSKIQDKEGC.

**Fluorescence titration experiments.** Fluorescence titration assays were performed in 96-well plates in 200 $\mu$ L 50 mM potassium phosphate (50 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>/K<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, pH 7.4) 150mM NaCl using a Clariostar spectrofluorimeter (BMG). Bromomethyl acetamide **29** fluorescently-labelled peptides or proteins were excited at 390 nm and emission signal acquired at between 405 and 605 nm unless stated otherwise. Data analysis was performed using the GraFit Software (Erathicus Ltd). Experiments were performed in triplicate, and error bars indicate standard deviation from average.

**Cell culture, internalization and microscopy.** Cell culture media, serum and antibiotics were purchased from Invitrogen. U87 cells were cultured in DMEM + Glutamax supplemented with 10% FCS, 100 units/mL penicillin (G sodium salt) and 100  $\mu$ g/mL streptomycin at 37°C in an atmosphere containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. 2 $\mu$ M **29**-Labelled CDK5 peptide or Pep-CDK5 peptide was overlaid onto U87 cells grown to 50-60% confluency in DMEM complemented with 10% of glucose, for 3 hours. Cells were then fixed with formalin in PBS for 10min, washed in PBS and nuclei stained with Hoechst. Indirect immunofluorescence was performed with rabbit polyclonal anti-p25 (C-19 from Santa Cruz) at 1:250 dilution in blocking buffer (4% BSA, 4% goat serum and 0,1% Triton) overnight, washed and then incubated with Alexa647-conjugated secondary antibodies at 1:500 dilution for 1h, washed again in PBS, and nuclei were stained with Hoechst, washed in water and mounted on glass slides in Mowiol. Fluorescent cells were observed with a Zeiss microscope equipped with a CoolSnap Camera and images were acquired using MetaMorph software. Excitation band/dichroic/emission band filters for imaging fluorescent signals were as follows: Hoechst: 340-380/400/450-490 nm; Alexa647-conjugated antibodies were imaged using the Cy5 filters: 590-650/ 660/662-737 nm; **29** fluorescence was imaged using the GFP filters: 450-490/495</500-550nm.



**Figure S4.** Titration of 5  $\mu$ M **29**-labelled K5 peptide with an irrelevant peptide (Ctrl)



**Figure S5.** 2  $\mu$ M **29**-labelled Pep-CDK5 peptide penetrates readily into U87 cells, whereas neither the CDK5 peptide alone, nor **29** alone were observed upon observation through the GFP filter. Nuclear staining with Hoechst is shown in the lower panels, whereas upper panels represent fluorescence emission of **29** through the GFP filter of the microscope.

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra**

