Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Fentanyl Acrylic Derivatives

Shaohua Li, Devora Cohen-Karni, Marina Kovaliov, Nestor Tomycz, Boyle Cheng, Donald Whiting, and Saadyah Averick

Materials and Methods:

N-Phenyl-*N*-piperidin-4-yl-propionamide was purchased from Astatech Inc., 4-bromophenethyl bromide, N,N-diisopropylethylamine, N,N'-dimethylethylenediamine, sodium azide, sodium ascorbate, tris(2-pyridylmethyl)amine (TPMA), butyl acrylate, tert-butyl acrylate, 3dimethylamino-1-propyne, 3-butyn-1-ol, poly(ethylene glycol) methyl ether acrylate (average $M_{\rm p}$ 480), palladium acetate, and ethylenebis(diphenylphosphine) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Copper(II) bromide was purchased from Fisher Scientific. All other reagents were purchased from Aldrich and were used without further purification. Forskolin, IBMX, and Ro-20-1724 were purchased from Sigma. CHO cells expressing the Human mu Opioid Receptor were purchased from ChanTest Corporation and cultured according to manufactures instructions. cAMP assay was purchased from Promega and used according to manufactures instructions. Hot plate was purchased from IITC Life Sciences. Polar surface area (PSA), cLogP, and molecular weight were determined using ChemDraw Ultra. ¹H and ¹³C NMR was measured in CDCl₃ or DMSO-d₆ on a Bruker Avance 500 MHz spectrometer. HPLC spectra were collected using an 1260 Infinity Isocratic Pump with an ZirChrom®-PBD column (50 mm x 2.1 mm i.d., 3 micron). The mobile phase was acetonitrile/10 mM ammonium acetate (v/v = 45/55) with 0.1 mM citrate (pH 4.4) and the temperature was 25 °C. The flow rate was set at 0.3 ml/min. IR spectra were obtained on Themo Scientific Nicolet iS10. Samples were analyzed by ESI-MS on a LCQ (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA) mass spectrometer operated using flow injection analysis (FIA) for sample introduction. The number of microscans was set to 20 for all acquisitions. Data was processed using Xcalibur (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA).

Synthesis of Fentanyl Derivatives:

Synthesis of Fen-Br. N-phenyl-N-piperidin-4-yl-propionamide (Norfentanyl, 0.93 g, 4.0 mmol) and 4-bromophenethyl bromide (1.58 g, 6.0 mmol) was dissolved in 15 mL DMF, followed by addition of *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (0.78 g, 6.0 mmol). The reaction was kept stirring at 60 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature before ethyl ether (100 mL) was added, and the organics were washed with 1 N NaOH (30 mL×3), water (30 mL×3) and brine (30 mL×3). The organics were then dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The organics were redissolved in ethyl ether, and pure Fen-Br were precipitated as HCl salt by addition of HCl in ethanol solution (95%): UV-Vis (λ_{abs}): 227 nm; IR (ATR): 2933, 2464, 1647,

1490, 1394, 1271, 1072, 1044, 1011, 939, 812, 701, cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.41-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.68 (tt, *J* = 12.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.70 (m, 2H), 2.53 (m, 2H), 1.93 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.85 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.6-1.4 (m, 4H), 1.01 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆): δ 172.2, 140.4, 139.3, 131.45, 131.27, 130.8, 129.7, 128.6, 119.3, 59.6, 53.0, 52.3, 32.7, 30.6, 28.3, 10.0; MS: m/z 417.07 [M+H]⁺.

Synthesis of Fen-Acrylates by Heck Coupling. Fen-Br (270 mg, 0.6 mmol) and acrylates (3 mmol, 5 eq) were dissolved in Et₃N (2 mL) and DMF (3 mL). Palladium acetate (6.7 mg, 0.03 mmol) and ethylenebis(diphenylphosphine) (12.0 mg, 0.03 mmol) was added, and the reaction was kept stirring at 140 °C under N₂ overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature before dichloromethane (100 mL) was added, and the solution was passed through a neutral alumina column to remove the Pd catalyst. The mixture was washed with 1 M NaOH, water and brine, and was dried over MgSO₄. The organics were concentrated under vacuum, and redissolved in ether. Crude product was precipitated by addition of HCl in ethanol, and the precipitate was further purified by column chromatography (1:2 Hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford the desired product.

Fen-Acry-EtOH (85%): UV-Vis (λ_{abs}): 216, 278 nm; IR (ATR): 2932, 2447, 1713, 1642, 1495, 1402, 1266, 1042, 740, 707, cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.69 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.39 (m, 5H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (dd, J = 8.5, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (tt, J = 12.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 2 H), 3.90 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.63 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 3.23 (m, 2H), 3.14 (m, 2H), 2.84 (td, J = 12.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 2.2–1.9 (m, 6H), 1.02 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; DMSO- d_6): δ 172.6, 172.0, 166.8, 144.6, 138.6, 137.7, 133.1, 130.8, 129.92, 129.73, 129.10, 129.06, 128.96, 127.2, 118.3, 66.3, 59.5, 56.9, 49.7, 46.69, 46.53, 29.8, 28.7, 28.2, 27.8, 9.9; MS: m/z 451.13 [M+H]⁺.

Fen-Acry-Bu (90%): UV-Vis (λ_{abs}): 217, 281 nm; IR (ATR): 2976, 2599, 2495, 1474, 1296, 1171, 1035, 806 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.66 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.39 (m, 5H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.40 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (tt, *J* = 12.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.00 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76 – 2.60 (m, 2H), 2.52 (td, *J* = 12.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 2.19 – 2.15 (m, 2 H), 1.96 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.82 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.70 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (m, 2H). 1.46 (q, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 1.03 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.0, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆): δ 172.6, 166.7, 144.5, 140.2, 138.6, 133.1, 130.8, 130.0, 129.7, 129.12, 129.10, 128.99, 118.4, 64.2, 56.5, 51.4, 49.5, 46.6, 30.8, 29.7, 28.2, 27.8, 19.1, 14.0, 9.9; MS: m/z 463.20 [M+H]⁺.

Fen-Acry-tBu (75%): UV-Vis (λ_{abs}): 216, 272 nm; IR (ATR): 2978, 2929, 2598, 2496, 1702, 1652, 1368, 1278, 1148, 975, 830, 713 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.66 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.39 (m, 5H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (dd, J = 8.5, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.40 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (tt, J = 12.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H),), 3.00 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.52 (td, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (td, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (td, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.52 (td, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.52 (td, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.52 (td, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.52 (td, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.52 (td, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.52 (td, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.52 (td, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.52 (td, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.52 (td, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.52 (td, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H

J = 12.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 2.19 – 2.15 (m, 2 H), 1.96 (dd, J = 15.0, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.82 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.55 (s, 9H), 1.46 (q, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; DMSO- d_6): δ 172.6, 171.97, 171.89, 166.0, 143.6, 140.0, 138.6, 133.2, 130.8, 129.9, 129.7, 129.10, 129.07, 128.97, 128.93, 120.0, 80.4, 56.5, 53.6, 51.3, 46.6, 45.7, 42.4, 34.4, 28.3, 18.4, 17.2, 9.9, 8.8; MS: m/z 463.20 [M+H]⁺.

*Fen-Acry-PEO*₉ (70%): UV-Vis (λ_{abs}): 217, 283 nm; IR (ATR): 3292, 2928, 2628, 1643, 1560, 1464, 1376, 1265, 1101, 706 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.68 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.39 (m, 5H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (dd, J = 8.5, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (tt, J = 12.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.8 – 3.4 (m, 36H), 3.00 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76 – 2.60 (m, 2H), 2.52 (td, J = 12.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 2.19 – 2.15 (m, 2 H), 1.96 (dd, J = 15.0, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.82 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (q, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆): δ 172.6, 166.7, 158.8, 157.4, 144.8, 140.3, 139.4, 138.6, 133.0, 130.8, 129.9, 129.7, 129.15, 128.97, 118.1, 107.4, 71.7, 70.0, 68.8, 63.9, 60.6, 58.5, 56.5, 54.9, 54.4, 51.3, 49.6, 49.0, 42.36, 42.30, 40.48, 40.41, 40.31, 40.24, 40.09, 39.73, 39.65, 39.48, 36.8, 35.5, 34.6, 29.7, 28.2, 27.7, 25.6, 16.1, 15.1, 9.9; MS: m/z 817.40 [M+H]⁺.

Synthesis of Fen-Acry-OH. Fen-Acry-tBu (270 mg, 0.6 mmol) was dissolved in dichloromethane (20 mL) with slow addition of trifluoroacetic acid (1 mL). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. 1 N HCl (40 mL) was added, and the reaction mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (20 mL) three times. The organics were combined, washed with water and brine, and was evaporated under high vacuum to afford pure Fen-Acry-OH (95%): UV-Vis (λ_{abs}) 216, 279 nm; IR (ATR): 2924, 2469, 1659, 1649, 1455, 1366, 1271, 1146, 829, 812, 708, cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.58 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.5–7.4 (m, 5H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.34 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (tt, *J* = 12.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (m, 2H), 3.02 (m, 4H), 2.69 (m, 2H), 2.2–1.9 (m, 6H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆): δ 172.6, 168.0, 158.8, 158.5, 143.9, 139.7, 138.6, 133.4, 130.9, 130.0, 129.7, 129.00, 128.96, 119.5, 56.6, 55.4, 51.6, 49.2, 29.8, 28.2, 27.8, 9.9; MS: m/z 407.20 [M+H]⁺.

Synthesis of Fen-Acrylates or Fen-Acrylamides by EDC/DMAP coupling reaction. Fen-Acry-OH (160 mg, 0.4 mmol) and the desired alcohol or amine (0.6 mmol) was dissolved in dichloromethane. EDC (191 mg, 1 mmol) and DMAP (6.1 mg, 0.05 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. Additional dichloromethane (50 mL) was added to the reaction mixture, which was then washed with 1 N NaOH, water and brine. The organics was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvent was precipitated by dropwise addition of HCl in ethanol.

*Fen-Acry-PEO*₇ (60%): UV-Vis (λ_{abs}) 217, 281 nm; IR (ATR): 3394, 2863, 2514, 1706, 1651, 1454, 1377, 1257, 1103, 951, 831, 711, cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.67 (d, J = 16.0

Hz, 1H), 7.52–7.45 (m, 5H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (dd, J = 8.5, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.46 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (tt, J = 12.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.65 – 3.60 (m, 24H), 3.56 (m, 2H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 3.27 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 3.12 (s, 2H), 2.84 (td, J = 12.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 2.19 (m, 2 H), 2.00 (dd, J = 15.0, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.96 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; DMSO- d_6): δ 172.6, 166.7, 144.8, 138.7, 133.1, 130.8, 130.0, 129.7, 129.15, 128.98, 118.1, 71.7, 68.8, 63.9, 60.7, 58.5, 56.64, 56.61, 56.57, 51.55, 51.47, 49.56, 49.54, 49.52, 49.48, 42.5, 28.2, 27.87, 27.83, 9.9; MS: m/z 729.33 [M+H]⁺.

*Fen-Acmd-PEO*₈ (54%): UV-Vis (λ_{abs}) 217, 279 nm; IR (ATR): 3346, 2868, 1621, 1449, 1237, 1091, 930, 829, 705, cm⁻¹;¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.76 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59–7.42 (m, 5H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (dd, J = 8.5, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (tt, J = 12.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.8 – 3.5 (m, 28H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 3.27 (s, 2H), 3.12 (s, 2H), 2.84 (s, 2H), 2.19 (m, 2 H), 2.00 (dd, J = 15.0, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.96 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆): δ 165.5, 139.0, 138.62, 138.59, 134.0, 130.8, 130.0, 129.7, 129.0, 128.2, 122.5, 71.7, 70.4, 70.07, 70.04, 69.6, 58.5, 56.6, 51.4, 49.5, 42.4, 29.7, 28.2, 27.8, 9.9; MS: m/z 772.40 [M+H]⁺.

Mu Opioid Receptor Activation:

CHO cells expressing the Human mu Opioid Receptor were cultured according to manufactures instructions. Cells were plated at 90% confluency in black 96 well plates. Prior to the cAMP assay forskolin was added to each well for a final concentration of 100 μ M followed by an induction buffer of IBMX (final concentration 500 μ M) and Ro-20-1724 (100 μ M). 30 minutes after the addition of induction buffer fentanyl derivatives were added. Cells were incubated for 30 min and a cAMP assay was conducted according to instructions provided by Promega.

Hot Plate Withdrawal Assay:

All experiments were performed in compliance with the relevant laws and institutional guidelines and conducted with the approval of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at the Allegheny Health Network. CD-1 Mice were purchased from Charels Rivers Laboratories (Male, 30 g) and housed for 1 week prior to initiation of experiments. 30 min prior to placement on a 55 °C Hotplate (IITC Life Sciences), mice were dossed subcutaneously with fentanyl, saline or Fentanyl derivatives (10 μ L/g). Mice were placed on the hot plate and monitored for hind paw licking or jumping. At the first sign of these symptoms the time was marked and animals were removed from the hot plate and euthanized. Animals that did not show a response after 30 seconds were removed and euthanized.



Fig. S1 ¹H NMR spectrum of Fen-Br.



Fig. S2 ¹³C NMR spectrum of **Fen-Br**.





Fig. S3 ¹H NMR spectrum of Fen-Acry-OH.



Fig. S4 ¹³C NMR spectrum of Fen-Acry-OH.



Fig. S5 ¹H NMR spectrum of Fen-Acry-EtOH.

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6)



Fig. S6 ¹³C NMR spectrum of Fen-Acry-EtOH.



Fig. S7 ¹H NMR spectrum of Fen-Acry-Bu.



Fig. S8 ¹³C NMR spectrum of **Fen-Acry-Bu**.



Fig. S9 ¹H NMR spectrum of Fen-Acry-tBu.



Fig. S10 ¹³C NMR spectrum of Fen-Acry-tBu.



Fig. S11 ¹H NMR spectrum of Fen-Acry-PEO₇.



Fig. S12 ¹³C NMR spectrum of Fen-Acry-PEO₇.



Fig. S13 ¹H NMR spectrum of Fen-Acry-PEO₉.



Fig. S14 ¹³C NMR spectrum of Fen-Acry-PEO₉.



Fig. S15 ¹H NMR spectrum of Fen-Acmd-PEO₈.





Fig. S16 ¹H NMR spectrum of Fen-Acmd-PEO₈.



Fig. S17 Chromatographic profile of Fen-Br.



Fig. S18 Chromatographic profile of Fen-Acry-OH.



Fig. S19 Chromatographic profile of Fen-Acry-EtOH.



Fig. S20 Chromatographic profile of Fen-Acry-Bu.



Fig. S21 Chromatographic profile of Fen-Acry-tBu.



Fig. S22 Chromatographic profile of Fen-Acry-PEO₇.



Fig. S23 Chromatographic profile of Fen-Acry-PEO₉.



Fig. S24 Chromatographic profile of Fen-Acmd-PEO₈.



Fig. S25 UV-Vis spectrum of Fen-Br.



Fig. S26 UV-Vis spectrum of Fen-Acry-OH.



Fig. S27 UV-Vis spectrum of Fen-Acry-Bu.



Fig. S28 UV-Vis spectrum of Fen-Acry-EtOH.







Fig. S30 UV-Vis spectrum of Fen-Acry-PEO₉.



Fig. S31 UV-Vis spectrum of Fen-Acry-PEO₇.



Fig. S32 UV-Vis spectrum of Fen-Acmd-PEO₈.



Fig. S33 IR spectrum of Fen-Br.



Fig. S34 IR spectrum of Fen-Acry-OH.



Fig. S35 IR spectrum of Fen-Acry-EtOH.



Fig. S36 IR spectrum of Fen-Acry-Bu.



Fig. S37 IR spectrum of Fen-Acry-tBu.



Fig. S38 IR spectrum of Fen-Acry-PEO9.



Fig. S39 IR spectrum of Fen-Acry-PEO7.



Fig. S40 IR spectrum of Fen-Acmd-PEO8.

ESI-MS spectra



Fig. S41 ESI-MS spectrum of Fen-Br.



Fig. S42 ESI-MS spectrum of Fen-Acry-OH.

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Fig. S43 ESI-MS spectrum of Fen-Acry-EtOH.



Fig. S44 ESI-MS spectrum of Fen-Acry-Bu.



Fig. S45 ESI-MS spectrum of Fen-Acry-tBu.







Fig. S46 ESI-MS spectrum of Fen-Acry-PEO₇.



Fig. S47 ESI-MS spectrum of Fen-Acry-PEO₉.





Fig. S48 ESI-MS spectrum of Fen-Acmd-PEO₈.