Supporting Information

Less-toxic Amphiphilic Molecules linked by Aromatic: Broadspectrum Antibacterial Activity and Less Drug Resistance

Wenchao Chu,^{a‡} Yi Yang,^{a‡} Shangshang Qin,^{a,c‡} Jianfeng Cai, ^b Mengmeng Bai, ^a Hongtao Kong, ^a En Zhang,^{*a,c}

^aSchool of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Institute of Drug Discovery and Development; Key Laboratory of Advanced Pharmaceutical Technology, Ministry of Education of China; Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou 450001, PR China.

^bDepartment of Chemistry, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Ave, Tampa, Florida 33620, United States of America.

^cCollaborative Innovation Center of New Drug Research and Safety Evaluation, Henan Province, Zhengzhou 450001, PR China.

E-mail: zhangen@zzu.edu.cn;

Table of contents

Scheme S1	S1
Scheme S2 and Table S1	S2
Figure S1, Figure S2 and Table S2	S 3
Figure S3	S4
Figure S4	S 5
Figure S5	S 6
Figure S6 and Figure S7	S 7
Materials and instrumentation	S8
General Procedure for the Synthesis of compounds 1a-1f	S8-S10
General Procedure for the Synthesis of compounds 2a-2h	S10-S12
General Procedure for the Synthesis of compounds 3a-3h	S12-S13
General Procedure for the Synthesis of compounds 4a-4w, 5a-5j	S13-S22
Biological Section	S22-S31
Copies of ¹ H and ¹³ C NMR Spectra for intermediates 1a-1f	S32-S43
Copies of ¹ H and ¹³ C NMR Spectra for intermediates 2a-2h	S44-S59
Copies of ¹ H and ¹³ C NMR Spectra for intermediates 3a-3h	S60-S75
Copies of ¹ H and ¹³ C NMR Spectra for compounds 4a-4w, 5a-5j	S76-S141
HPLC chromatogram for compounds 4a-4w, 5a-5j	S142-S152
References	S153



reaction conditions: a) CBr4, PPh3, CH3CN, rt, 4h; b) Br(CH2)_nBr, K2CO3, acetone, reflux, 24h; c) Bromoacetylbromide, K2CO3, DCM, H2O; d) Aqueous dimethylamine, EtOH, reflux, 10h;

Scheme S1. Synthesis of intermediate 1a-1f and 3a-3h.



reaction conditions: a) EtOH, 85°C, pressure tube, 24h.

Scheme S2. Synthesis of amphiphilic molecules 4a-4w and 5a-5j

Table S1. MICs of selected compounds against clinical resistant bacterial isolates

Q. 1	MIC (µg/mL)							
Strains	4a	4b	4 g	4 m	4r	4s	5e	5 f
^a (G+) MRSA-1114044	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	0.5	0.5
(G+) MRSA-1115041	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.5
(G+) MRSA-1202610	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
(G+) MRSA-1202628	4	1	2	2	2	0.5	2	1
(G+) MRSA-20130910162	4	1	2	2	1	1	2	1
(G+) MRSA-20130911034 sall	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
(G+) MRSA-831164	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
(G+) MRSA-826084	4	1	2	1	1	0.5	4	1
(G+) MRSA-905132	4	1	2	1	1	0.5	1	0.5

(G+) MRSA-904142	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
^b (G-) K. peneumoniae-13-10 (bla _{NDM-1})	4	1	4	2	2	1	1	2
(G-) E. coli-13-22 (bla _{NDM-1})	2	4	4	8	8	2	8	4
(G-) E. coli-13-33 (bla _{NDM-1})	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1
(G-) <i>C. freundii</i> -13-61 (<i>bla_{NDM-1}</i>)	1	1	2	2	2	1	4	1
(G-) <i>E. cloacae</i> -14-56 (<i>bla_{NDM-1}</i>)	2	1	2	2	2	1	4	1
(G-) E. aerogenes-15-92 (bla_{KPC})	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2

^a(G+): Gram positive bacteria; ^b(G-): Gram negative bacteria.



Fig S1. (a) Compound **4g** was incubated in 50% plasma for different times, then its bactericidal activity against *S. aureus* was evaluated; (b) Compound **4g** was evaluated against MRSA strain 1115041 in different culture media (50% plasma, 50% serum and 50% blood). (c) The MIC and MBC values of compound **4g** at different concentrations of trypsin.



Control 4g (2µg/mL) 4g (3µg/mL) 4g (4µg/mL) Van Control 4g (6µg/mL) 4g (8µg/mL) 4g (12µg/mL) Van

Fig S2. Photographs of *S. aureus* (a) exponential phase and (b) stationary phase after treatment with compound **4g** or commercial antibiotics.

Comnd	MBIC ₅₀ /MBIC ₇₀ /MBIC ₈₀ (µg/mL)			MBEC (µg/mL)			
Compa.	S. aureus E. coli			S. aureus	E. coli		
4g	1.8 / 10.1 / 30.1	11.3 / 22.9 / 36		8	16		

Table S2. MBIC and MBEC of compound 4g against S. aureus and E. coli.



Fig S3. Mechanism of antibacterial action of molecules at 10 μ g/mL. (a) and (b) Cytoplasmic membrane depolarization of *S. aureus* and *E. coli*, respectively. (c) and (d) Inner membrane permeabilization of *S. aureus* and *E. coli*, respectively. (e) Outner membrane permeabilization of *E. coli*. The control was treatment with sterile water.



Fig S4. Electron scanning microscopy images of HeLa cells. (a) Non-treated cells (negative). Cells treated with 4g at (b) 64 × MIC and (c) 8 × MIC of *S. aureus* for 24 h.
(d) Cells treated with 0.1% Triton X (positive).



Fig S5. Fluorescence microscopy images of HeLa cells after treatment with **4g** for 24 h and staining with calcein AM and propidium iodide. (a-c) Non-treated cells (negative). (d-f) Cells treated with **4g** ($64 \times$ MIC of *S. aureus*). (g-i) Cells treated with **4g** ($8 \times$ MIC of *S. aureus*), and (j-l) Cells treated with 0.1% Triton-X (positive).



Fig S6. (a) The process of the In vivo experiment; (b) *In vivo* efficacy of compound 4g in a mouse model of MRSA-1115041 skin infection. Bacterial counts of skin samples. P-values (*) were 0.041, 0.0072, and 0.0106 for samples treated with 3.3 mg/kg/d 4g, 6.6 mg/kg/d 4g, and 3.3 mg/kg/d vancomycin (Van), compared with the control.



Fig S7. Pathological assay based on hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) staining. (a) Untreated skin; (b) Infected skin without any antibacterial treatment; (c), (d) Infected skin treated with 6.6 mg/kg/d and 3.3 mg/kg/d **4g**, respectively; (e): Infected skin treated with 3.3 mg/kg/d vancomycin. All the skin showing architecture of epidermis, dermis, and subcutaneous tissues. Scale bar 50 μm.

Experimental section

Materials and instrumentation

Reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial sources (shanghai darui finechemical, Energy Chemical, Aladdin, Macklin) and were used without further purification. All the solvents were of analytical grade. All the chemicals were used as supplied. Drug-sensitive bacterial strains, *E. coli, S. aureus, E. faecalis, S. maltophilia* obtained from American type culture collection. Drug-resistant bacteria, Methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA), Carbapenemase-producing *E. aerogenes (bla_{KPC})* and NDM-1-producing *Enterobacteriaceae (bla_{NDM-1})* were collected from a teaching hospital located in Zhengzhou, Henan Province. All isolates were identified by VITEK2 compact (bioMerieux, France) and 16S rRNA gene sequencing. PCR and nucleotide sequencing were employed to screen for the presence of *bla*_{NDM} gene, the primers and PCR program conditions were described previously¹. Sheep RBCs were used for hemolytic assay.

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 MHz and 100 MHz spectrometer, respectively, and TMS as internal standard reference. Coupling constants (J) are given in hertz (Hz). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Waters Micromass Q-T of Micromass spectrometer. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on glass plates pre-coated with silica gel (5-40um, Qingdao Marine Chemical Factory China) to monitor the reactions. Visualization was accomplished using UV light, ethanol solution of phospho molybdate and iodine powder. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel. For optical density and fluorescence measurements, Tecan Infinite Pro series M200 Microplate Reader was used. The biological experiments were performed with a 1300 series A2 Biological Safety Cabinet. TDL-5M Desktop Low-speed Refrigerated Centrifuge was used in antibacterial studies. SEM images were obtained on a Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope TSM-7500F (JEOL Ltd. Japan) at 10.0kv. All the membraneactive agents were confirmed with \geq 95% purity by using HPLC (Waters alliance acquity e2698HPLC C-18 4.6 \times 250 mm, 5 μ m) analysis in the eluate MeCN / H₂O containing 0.1% TFA.

General Procedure for the Synthesis compounds 1a-1f.

1. The Synthesis of 1,4-bis(2-bromoethoxy) benzene (1a).

Carbon tetrabromide (19.9 g, 60 mmol, 2.4 eq) was added in small portions to a solution of 1,4-bis(2-hydroxyethoxy)benzene (5.0 g, 25 mmol, 1 eq) and triphenylphosphine (15.7 g, 60 mmol, 2.4 eq) in anhydrous acetonitrile (0.12 L); the reaction mixture was kept at 0°C during the addition. The resulting mixture was then warmed to 25°C for 4 h under argon atmosphere. The product was precipitated by the addition of cold water (0.2 L), and the solid was filtered and washed with methanol/water (3:2, 3×100 mL). The product was recrystallized from methanol to obtain the title compound as white crystals ². Yield 68%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.86 (s, 4H), 4.24 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 4H), 3.61 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 4H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.85, 116.12, 68.74, 29.25.

2. The Synthesis of 1,4-bis(n-bromoethoxy) benzene (1b-1f).

A mixture of hydroquinone / naphthalene-1,6-diol / naphthalene-2,3-diol (73 mmol, 1 eq), dibromoalkane (0.22 mol, 3 eq), and potassium carbonate (45 g, 0.33 mol, 4.5 eq) were refluxed in acetone (150 mL) for 24 h under argon atmosphere. After the reaction mixture was cooled to 25 °C and filtered through celite, and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in dichloromethane (100mL) and washed with water (2 × 50 mL), and brine (2 × 50 mL) and dried with sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel; eluent: petroleum ether /EtOAc=300:1-60:1), afforded products as a white solid. All the intermediates were characterized by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR.

1,4-bis(3-bromoethoxy) benzene (1b): Yield 64%. White solid.¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.84 (s, 4H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 4H), 3.60 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 4H), 2.33 – 2.25 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.09, 115.60, 66.05, 32.49, 30.08.

1,4-bis(4-bromoethoxy) benzene (1c): Yield 59%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.81 (s, 4H), 3.93 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 4H), 3.48 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 4H), 2.11 – 2.00 (m, 4H), 1.96 – 1.83 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.11, 115.44, 67.49, 33.55, 29.54, 28.03.

1,4-bis(5-bromoethoxy) benzene (1d): Yield 70%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.84 (s, 4H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 4H), 3.46 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 2.01 – 1.91 (m, 4H), 1.86 – 1.77 (m, 4H), 1.68 – 1.59 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.13, 114.43, 67.21, 32.59, 31.50, 27.53, 23.84.

1,6-bis(3-bromopropoxy) naphthalene (1e): Yield 57%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.09 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 8.32 – 8.24 (m, 2H), 8.11-8.00 (m, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 5.16 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 4.65 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 4.60 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.40 (dt, J = 12.1, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.33 (dt, J = 12.1, 6.1 Hz, 2H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.96, 149.30, 130.67, 121.46, 118.42, 115.65, 114.27, 112.47, 101.52, 97.84, 60.26, 60.11, 27.28, 27.15, 24.86, 24.79.

2,3-bis(3-bromopropoxy) naphthalene (1f): Yield 48%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68 (dd, J = 6.1, 3.3 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (dd, J = 6.2, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (s, 2H), 4.26 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 4H), 3.67 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 2.43 (p, J = 6.1 Hz, 4H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.88, 129.35, 126.35, 124.36, 124.15, 108.54, 66.29, 32.30, 30.08.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of compounds 2a-2h.

1-Aminoalkanes (60 mmol 1eq) were dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (200 mL), K_2CO_3 (90 mmol 1.5eq) was dissolved in water (100 mL), and the aqueous solution was then added to the organic solution. The two-phase solution was cooled to 0 °C. Bromoacetyl bromide (90 mmol 1.5eq) was added through syringe dropwise to the solution while maintaining the temperature at 0 °C for about 30 min. The reaction mixture was then set at room temperature and stirred for about 6 h. After the reaction organic layer was collected, the aqueous solution was washed with CH_2Cl_2 . The organic solution was then washed with water (3 × 100 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The organic layer was removed under reduced pressure to obtain colorless liquids or solids with 100% yield. The products were characterized by ¹H NMR, and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy.

2-bromo-N-butylacetamide (2a): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 2H), 3.13 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (dt, *J* = 14.9, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (dq, *J* = 14.3,

7.3 Hz, 2H), 0.79 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.48, 39.84, 31.14, 29.08, 19.92, 13.63.

2-bromo-N-pentylacetamide (2b): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.55 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 2H), 3.29 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.66 – 1.45 (m, 2H), 1.45 – 1.22 (m, 4H), 0.92 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.29, 40.25, 29.41, 28.95, 22.31, 13.97.

2-bromo-N-hexylacetamide (2c): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.65 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 3.26 (dd, *J* = 13.1, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.62 – 1.42 (m, 2H), 1.39 – 1.18 (m, 6H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.93, 40.55, 31.38, 29.02, 28.97, 26.45, 26.21, 22.51, 13.98.

2-bromo-N-heptylacetamide (2d): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.65 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 3.26 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.59 – 1.47 (m, 2H), 1.37 – 1.22 (m, 8H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.26, 40.26, 31.67, 29.34, 29.25, 28.87, 26.76, 22.54, 14.02.

2-bromo-N-octylacetamide (2e): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.60 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 2H), 3.27 (dd, *J* = 13.1, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.59 – 1.48 (m, 2H), 1.36 – 1.22 (m, 10H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.20, 40.27, 31.75, 29.36, 29.25, 29.17, 29.13, 26.80, 22.61, 14.05.

2-bromo-N-nonylacetamide (2f): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.85 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 2H), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.59 – 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.34-1.11 (m, 12H), 0.83 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.29, 40.44, 31.81, 29.42, 29.19, 29.18, 29.10, 26.77, 26.14, 22.62, 14.06.

2-bromo-N,N-dibutylacetamide (2g): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.84 (s, 2H), 3.41 – 3.14 (m, 4H), 1.65 – 1.54 (m, 2H), 1.54 – 1.45 (m, 2H), 1.30 (tq, *J* = 14.8, 7.4 Hz, 4H), 0.91 (dt, *J* = 16.5, 7.3 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.81, 48.62, 46.05, 31.15, 29.25, 26.48, 26.13, 20.03, 13.79, 13.71.

2-bromo-N,N-dihexylacetamide (2h): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) & 3.81 (s, 2H),

3.37 - 3.16 (m, 4H), 1.65 - 1.54 (m, 2H), 1.54 - 1.45 (m, 2H), 1.33 - 1.22 (m, 12H), 0.86 (q, J = 6.5 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.24, 47.82, 45.16, 30.56, 30.47, 28.15, 26.19, 25.53, 25.51, 21.55, 12.99, 12.95.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of compounds 3a-3h.

4 mL aqueous dimethylamine (40%, m/m, excessive) reacted with 5 mmol N-alkyl-2bromoe-thanamides in **30** mL ethanol under stirring and reflux for 10 h, then the organic phases of the mixture was removed by rotary evaporator. Water (30ml) then add to the mixture, the water phase was extracted by CH_2Cl_2 . The organic phases were combined and dried by Na₂SO₄. After the solvent had been removed under reduced pressure, the crude product was chromatographed on a silica gel column (DCM/MEOH/TEA=22:1

:0.05 V/V/V) to give light yellow oil. The compounds were characterized by ¹H NMR, and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy.

2-(dimethylamino)-N-butylacetamide (3a): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.89 (s, 1H), 2.87 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.52 (s, 2H), 1.89 (s, 6H), 1.12 (dt, *J* = 14.9, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (dq, *J* = 14.2, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.54 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.33, 63.17, 45.97, 38.61, 31.77, 20.14, 13.76.

2-(dimethylamino)-N-pentylacetamide (3b): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.11 (s, 1H), 3.21 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.88 (s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 6H), 1.53 – 1.41 (m, 2H), 1.37 – 1.18 (m, 4H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.43, 62.21, 44.99, 37.87, 28.35, 28.11, 21.34, 12.96.

2-(dimethylamino)-N-hexylacetamide (3c): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.12 (s, 1H), 3.25 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.91 (s, 2H), 2.26 (s, 6H), 1.48 (dd, *J* = 14.6, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.35 – 1.21 (m, 6H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.27, 63.08, 45.84, 38.78, 31.35, 29.51, 26.49, 22.41, 13.86.

2-(dimethylamino)-N-heptylacetamide (3d): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.06 (s, 1H), 3.15 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (s, 2H), 2.17 (s, 6H), 1.49 – 1.32 (m, 2H), 1.30 – 1.06 (m, 8H), 0.77 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.38,

63.19, 45.96, 38.86, 31.69, 29.64, 28.91, 26.88, 22.53, 14.00.

2-(dimethylamino)-N-octylacetamide (3e): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.09 (s, 1H), 3.20 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.86 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 6H), 1.55 – 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.34-1.12 (m, 10H), 0.81 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.36, 63.18, 45.96, 38.86, 31.74, 29.63, 29.19, 29.14, 26.91, 22.58, 14.02.

2-(dimethylamino)-N-nonylacetamide (3f): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.15 (s, 1H), 3.27 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.94 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 6H), 1.51 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.37 – 1.22 (m, 12H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.28, 63.13, 45.91, 38.85, 31.79, 29.61, 29.42, 29.22, 29.16, 26.90, 22.59, 14.02.

2-(dimethylamino)-N,N-dibutylacetamide (3g): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.27 - 3.12 (m, 4H), 2.98 (s, 2H), 2.18 (s, 6H), 1.48 - 1.36 (m, 4H), 1.19 (td, *J* = 15.2, 7.5 Hz, 4H), 0.87 - 0.75 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.06, 61.79, 47.02, 45.36, 45.22, 30.95, 29.60, 20.09, 20.98, 13.72, 13.66.

2-(dimethylamino)-N,N-dihexylacetamide (3h): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.44 (s, 2H), 3.28 – 3.14 (m, 4H), 2.52 (s, 6H), 1.57 – 1.38 (m, 4H), 1.31 – 1.20 (m, 12H), 0.85 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.67, 60.62, 47.41, 45.87, 45.31, 31.53, 31.46, 28.85, 27.54, 26.64, 26.50, 22.53, 22.51, 13.95, 13.93.

General Synthesis of aromatic derivatives 4a-4w, 5a-5j.

1,4-bis(n-bromoethoxy)benzene / (3-bromopropoxy)benzene (0.8 mmol, 1eq) were added to the organic solutions EtOH (10mL) of 2-(N, N-Dimethyl)-N- alkylethanamide (3eq) in a screw-top pressure tube at 85 °C for about 24 h. After the reaction, the solvent was evaporated, and the product was dissolved with a small volume of acetone, after precipitated using excess EtOAc or diethyl ether at low temperature for a few hours. Finally, the product was filtered and washed multiple times with EtOAc or diethyl ether. All the final products were characterized by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and HRMS.

4a: Yield 45%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.55 (t, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (s, 4H), 4.46 – 4.34 (m, 4H), 4.20 (s, 4H), 4.04 – 3.93 (m, 4H), 3.31 (s, 12H), 3.11

(dd, J = 12.7, 6.7 Hz, 4H), 1.47 - 1.38 (m, 4H), 1.46 - 1.38 (m, 16H), 0.86 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 163.03, 152.04, 115.75, 63.02, 62.72, 62.04, 52.08, 31.16, 28.63, 28.29, 26.28, 21.99, 13.90. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for $C_{32}H_{60}Br_2N_4O_4 [M-2Br]^{2+}$: 282.2302, found: 282.2286.

4b: Yield 80%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.56 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (s, 4H), 4.48 – 4.34 (m, 4H), 4.21 (s, 4H), 4.06 – 3.92 (m, 4H), 3.31 (s, 12H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.7 Hz, 4H), 1.42 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.1 Hz, 4H), 1.30-1.20 (m, 20H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 163.01, 152.02, 115.74, 63.01, 62.73, 62.03, 52.11, 31.17, 28.60, 28.57, 26.31, 22.03, 13.90. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₄H₆₄Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 296.2458, found: 296.2464.

4c: Yield 75%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.55 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (s, 4H), 4.46 – 4.34 (m, 4H), 4.19 (s, 4H), 3.98 (s, 4H), 3.31 (s, 12H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.7 Hz, 4H), 1.47 – 1.37 (m, 4H), 1.31-1.18 (m, 24H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 163.01, 152.02, 115.74, 63.00, 62.73, 62.02, 52.12, 31.23, 28.89, 28.63, 28.61, 28.59, 26.31, 22.03, 13.91. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₆H₆₈Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 310.2615, found: 310.2621.

4d: Yield 45%. White oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.63 (s, 2H), 6.89 (s, 4H), 4.15 (s, 4H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 4H), 3.82 – 3.57 (m, 4H), 3.25 (s, 12H), 3.12 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 6.8 Hz, 4H), 2.17 (dq, *J* = 11.7, 5.8 Hz, 4H), 1.46 – 1.37 (m, 4H), 1.35 – 1.24 (m, 4H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 163.37, 152.94, 116.01, 65.61, 62.62, 62.47, 51.74, 31.15, 22.99, 19.98, 14.04. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C_{28H52}Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 254.1989, found: 254.1993.

4e: Yield 65%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.61 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (s, 4H), 4.13 (s, 4H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 4H), 3.76 – 3.60 (m, 4H), 3.24 (s, 12H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.7 Hz, 4H), 2.17 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 5.6 Hz, 4H), 1.48 – 1.39 (m, 4H), 1.31-1.21 (m, 8H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.86, 152.46, 115.52, 65.13, 62.13, 62.01, 51.26, 28.48, 28.22, 22.49, 21.70, 13.83. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₀H₅₆Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 268.2145, found: 268.2149.

4f: Yield 45%. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.61 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (s, 4H), 4.14 (s, 4H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 4H), 3.72-3.60 (m, 4H), 3.24 (s, 12H), 3.12 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.7 Hz, 4H), 2.21-2.10 (m, 4H), 1.50-1.36 (m, 4H), 1.36-1.16 (m, 12H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.87, 152.47, 115.55, 65.18, 62.16, 62.05, 51.23, 30.83, 28.50, 25.98, 22.53, 21.97, 13.85. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₂H₆₀Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 282.2302, found: 282.2308.

4g: Yield 80%. White oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.75 (t, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (s, 4H), 4.16 (s, 4H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 4H), 3.80 – 3.57 (m, 4H), 3.24 (s, 12H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 6.5 Hz, 4H), 2.27 – 2.06 (m, 4H), 1.54 – 1.35 (m, 4H), 1.34-1.13 (m, 16H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 163.39, 152.95, 115.97, 65.61, 62.55, 51.72, 31.68, 29.08, 28.80, 26.78, 22.97, 22.51, 14.42. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₄H₆₄Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 296.2458, found: 296.2462.

4h: Yield 41%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.70 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (s, 4H), 4.58 (s, 4H), 3.99 (t, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 4H), 3.96 – 3.81 (m, 4H), 3.44 (s, 12H), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 6.5 Hz, 4H), 240-2.20 (m, 4H), 1.65 – 1.43 (m, 4H), 1.40 – 1.12 (m, 20H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.86, 152.48, 115.53, 65.17, 62.14, 62.04, 51.25, 31.18, 28.58, 28.55, 26.33, 22.52, 22.03, 13.90. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₆H₆₈Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 310.2615, found: 310.2621.

4i: Yield 53%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.51 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (s, 4H), 4.09 (s, 4H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 4H), 3.73 – 3.59 (m, 4H), 3.23 (s, 12H), 3.12 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.7 Hz, 4H), 2.16 (td, *J* = 11.6, 5.8 Hz, 4H), 1.49 – 1.35 (m, 4H), 1.30-1.14 (m, 24H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 163.34, 152.95, 115.95, 65.58, 62.52, 62.45, 55.40, 51.80, 31.74, 29.42, 29.15, 29.13, 29.09, 26.82, 22.99, 22.56, 14.44. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₈H₇₂Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 324.2771, found: 324.2778.

4j: Yield 45%. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.54 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (s, 4H), 4.07 (s, 4H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.60 – 3.51 (m, 4H), 3.21 (s, 12H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 6.8 Hz, 4H), 1.94 – 1.80 (m, 4H), 1.77 – 1.62 (m, 4H), 1.49 – 1.36 (m, 4H), 1.35 - 1.25 (m, 4H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 163.38, 153.01, 115.85, 67.63, 64.68, 62.22, 51.70, 38.74, 31.16, 26.14, 19.97, 19.65, 14.04. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₀H₅₆Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 268.2145, found: 268.2148.

4k: Yield 78%. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.64 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (s, 4H), 4.12 (s, 4H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.64 – 3.47 (m, 4H), 3.22 (s, 12H), 3.10 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.8 Hz, 4H), 1.94 – 1.80 (m, 4H), 1.76 – 1.64 (m, 4H), 1.49 – 1.37 (m, 4H), 1.35 – 1.20 (m, 8H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 163.40, 153.01, 115.85, 67.63, 64.65, 62.23, 55.42, 51.66, 28.98, 28.73, 26.15, 22.21, 19.63, 14.36. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₂H₆₀Br₂N₄O₄[M-2Br]²⁺: 282.2302, found: 282.2308.

41: Yield 44%. Yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.62 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (s, 4H), 4.11 (s, 4H), 3.94 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 4H), 3.64 – 3.50 (m, 4H), 3.22 (s, 12H), 3.10 (dd, J = 12.5, 6.6 Hz, 4H), 1.92-1.78 (m, 4H), 1.75 – 1.65 (m, 4H), 1.46-1.35 (m, 4H), 1.33-1.19 (m, 12H), 0.85 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 163.39, 153.00, 115.85, 67.63, 64.64, 62.23, 56.47, 55.44, 51.67, 31.34, 29.03, 26.48, 26.14, 22.50, 19.63, 14.39. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₄H₆₄Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 296.2458, found: 296.2464.

4m: Yield 32%. Yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ8.50 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (s, 4H), 4.06 (s, 4H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.64 – 3.44 (m, 4H), 3.21 (s, 12H), 3.10 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.8 Hz, 4H), 1.99 – 1.78 (m, 4H), 1.78 – 1.62 (m, 4H), 1.48 – 1.34 (m, 4H), 1.30-1.19 (m, 16H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 163.36, 153.02, 115.85, 67.65, 64.67, 62.25, 55.42, 51.74, 31.68, 29.09, 28.79, 26.77, 26.15, 22.51, 19.65, 14.41. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₆H₆₈Br₂N₄O₄[M-2Br]²⁺: 310.2615, found: 310.2622.

4n: Yield 47%. Yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.48 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (s, 4H), 4.05 (s, 4H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.62 – 3.50 (m, 4H), 3.21 (s, 12H), 3.10 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.8 Hz, 4H), 1.94 – 1.79 (m, 4H), 1.75 – 1.65 (m, 4H), 1.49 – 1.35 (m, 4H), 1.33-1.19 (m, 20H), 0.85 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 163.35, 153.01, 115.84, 67.64, 64.65, 62.24, 55.42, 51.74, 31.69, 31.19, 29.11, 29.09, 26.81, 26.14, 22.55, 19.65, 14.42. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₈H₇₂Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 324.2771, found: 324.2774.

40: Yield 66%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.62 (t, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (s, 4H), 4.11 (s, 4H), 3.93 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.63 – 3.50 (m, 4H), 3.21 (s, 12H), 3.10 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.6 Hz, 4H), 1.87 (dt, *J* = 15.7, 7.8 Hz, 4H), 1.78 – 1.63 (m, 4H), 1.46 – 1.38 (m, 4H), 1.31-1.14 (m, 24H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 163.39, 153.00, 115.83, 67.62, 64.60, 62.22, 51.68, 31.75, 29.42, 29.14, 29.07, 26.82, 26.15, 22.56, 19.63, 14.44. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₄₀H₇₆Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 338.2928, found: 338.2934.

4p: Yield 89%. Light yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.61 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (s, 4H), 4.08 (s, 4H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 4H), 3.55 – 3.42 (m, 4H), 3.20 (s, 12H), 3.12 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.8 Hz, 4H), 1.99 – 1.61 (m, 8H), 1.54 – 1.35 (m, 8H), 1.35 – 1.25 (m, 4H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.92, 152.57, 115.26, 67.40, 64.31, 61.73, 51.22, 30.66, 28.21, 22.40, 21.65, 19.47, 13.52. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₂H₆₀Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 282.2302, found: 282.2312.

4q: Yield 77%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.61 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (s, 4H), 4.08 (s, 4H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 4H), 3.55 – 3.44 (m, 4H), 3.20 (s, 12H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.8 Hz, 4H), 1.85 – 1.67 (m, 8H), 1.47 – 1.37 (m, 8H), 1.31 – 1.22 (m, 8H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.91, 152.56, 115.25, 67.40, 64.28, 61.73, 51.24, 28.47, 28.23, 28.20, 22.40, 21.69, 21.64, 13.84. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₄H₆₄Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 296.2458, found: 296.2463.

4r: Yield 89%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.56 (s, 2H), 6.84 (s, 4H), 4.06 (s, 4H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 4H), 3.54 – 3.42 (m, 4H), 3.19 (s, 12H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.6 Hz, 4H), 1.86 – 1.66 (m, 8H), 1.50-1.33 (m, 8H), 1.33-1.19(m, 12H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.90, 152.57, 115.24, 67.40, 64.25, 61.73, 51.26, 30.83, 28.55, 28.22, 25.96, 22.40, 21.99, 21.65, 13.86. HR-MS

(ESI) Calculated for C₃₆H₆₈Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 310.2615, found: 310.2618.

4s: Yield 85%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.58 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (s, 4H), 4.06 (s, 4H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 4H), 3.55 – 3.43 (m, 4H), 3.19 (s, 12H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.7 Hz, 4H), 1.75 (tt, *J* = 14.6, 7.4 Hz, 8H), 1.49 – 1.35 (m, 8H), 1.31-1.19 (m, 16H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.90, 152.58, 115.25, 67.42, 64.26, 61.75, 51.26, 31.17, 28.58, 28.27, 28.21, 26.26, 22.41, 21.99, 21.65, 13.89. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₈H₇₂Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 324.2771, found: 324.2778.

4t: Yield 80%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.58 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (s, 4H), 4.06 (s, 4H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 4H), 3.54 – 3.43 (m, 4H), 3.19 (s, 12H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.7 Hz, 4H), 1.84 – 1.65 (m, 8H), 1.50 – 1.32 (m, 8H), 1.32-1.28 (m, 20H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.90, 152.57, 115.23, 67.40, 64.22, 61.72, 54.89, 51.26, 31.19, 28.61, 28.59, 28.23, 26.32, 22.41, 22.04, 21.65, 13.91. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₄₀H₇₆Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 338.2928, found: 338.2931.

4u: Yield 59%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.59 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (s, 4H), 4.06 (s, 4H), 3.90 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 4H), 3.54 – 3.43 (m, 4H), 3.19 (s, 12H), 3.10 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.7 Hz, 4H), 1.85 – 1.63 (m, 8H), 1.49 – 1.34 (m, 8H), 1.31-1.14 (m, 24H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.90, 152.58, 115.24, 67.42, 64.23, 61.75, 51.28, 31.23, 28.92, 28.63, 28.61, 28.58, 28.22, 26.31, 22.41, 22.04, 21.66, 13.91. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₄₂H₈₀Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 352.3084, found: 352.3090.

4v: Yield 45%. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 6.88 (s, 4H), 4.54 (s, 4H), 3.98 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 4H), 3.89 – 3.69 (m, 4H), 3.29 (s, 12H), 3.24 (dd, J = 15.1, 7.9 Hz, 8H), 2.12 (dd, J = 10.0, 5.5 Hz, 4H), 1.60 –1.48 (m, 4H), 1.48-1.37 (m, 4H), 1.27 (ddd, J = 19.0, 15.0, 7.4 Hz, 8H), 0.90 (dt, J = 18.9, 7.3 Hz, 12H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.95, 152.44, 115.55, 65.19, 61.58, 59.94, 54.91, 51.37, 46.46, 45.19, 30.12, 29.11, 22.54, 19.52, 19.44, 13.67, 13.62. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for

S18

 $C_{36}H_{68}Br_2N_4O_4 [M-2Br]^{2+}$: 310.2615, found: 310.2621.

4w: Yield 40%. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 6.88 (s, 4H), 4.52 (s, 4H), 3.97 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 4H), 3.87 – 3.69 (m, 4H), 3.33-3.27(m, 12H), 3.27-3.10 (m, 8H), 2.23 – 2.03 (m, 4H), 1.58-1.49 (m, 4H), 1.49-1.39 (m, 4H), 1.35-1.18 (m, 24H), 0.86 (dt, J = 13.7, 6.7 Hz, 12H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.93, 152.46, 115.51, 65.19, 61.54, 59.92, 54.89, 51.43, 46.69, 45.44, 30.92, 30.91, 28.04, 26.90, 25.90, 25.86, 22.55, 22.06, 21.99, 13.88, 13.83. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₄₄H₈₄Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 366.3241, found: 366.3256.

5a: Yield 78%. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.67 (s, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.00-6.88 (m, 3H), 4.19 (s, 2H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.77 – 3.63 (m, 2H), 3.26 (s, 6H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (td, *J* = 11.6, 5.8 Hz, 2H), 1.48-1.37 (m, 2H), 1.29-1.19 (m, 6H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.87, 158.10, 129.50, 120.86, 114.46, 64.48, 62.10, 62.00, 51.23, 30.84, 28.51, 25.98, 22.44, 21.98, 13.86. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₁₉H₃₃BrN₂O₂ [M-Br]⁺: 321.2537, found: 321.2543.

5b: Yield 83%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.64 (t, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 3H), 4.16 (s, 2H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.73 – 3.64 (m, 2H), 3.26 (s, 6H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (td, *J* = 11.6, 5.8 Hz, 2H), 1.47 – 1.39 (m, 2H), 1.33-1.15 (m, 8H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.86, 158.10, 129.50, 120.87, 114.45, 64.47, 62.09, 61.99, 51.25, 31.17, 28.57, 28.29, 26.28, 22.43, 22.00, 13.90. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₂₀H₃₅BrN₂O₂ [M-Br]⁺: 335.2693, found: 335.2710.

5c: Yield 75%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.69 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 6.99-6.90 (m, 3H), 4.20 (s, 2H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.81 – 3.61 (m, 2H), 3.27 (s, 6H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (td, *J* = 11.6, 5.9 Hz, 2H), 1.50-1.35 (m, 2H), 1.29-1.20 (m, 10H), 0.84 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.87, 158.10, 129.48, 120.84, 114.45, 64.48, 62.08, 61.99, 51.24, 31.19, 28.59, 28.55, 26.34, 22.46, 22.03, 13.90. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₂₁H₃₇BrN₂O₂ [M-Br]⁺: 349.2850, found: 349.2858.

5d: Yield 33%. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.71 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.98-6.92 (m, 3H), 4.19 (s, 2H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.76 – 3.64 (m, 2H), 3.26 (s, 6H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (td, *J* = 11.7, 5.9 Hz, 2H), 1.47 – 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.28-1.21 (m, 12H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.86, 158.11, 129.48, 120.85, 114.47, 64.50, 62.11, 62.03, 51.26, 31.23, 28.90, 28.64, 28.61, 28.55, 26.33, 22.46, 22.04, 13.90. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₂₂H₃₉BrN₂O₂ [M-Br]⁺: 363.3006, found: 363.3013.

5e: Yield 65%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.78 – 8.63 (m, 2H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 4.34-4.10 (m, 8H), 3.92 – 3.80 (m, 2H), 3.80 – 3.70 (m, 2H), 3.31 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 12H), 3.20 – 3.03 (m, 4H), 2.41-2.32 (m, 2H), 2.32-2.21 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.36 (m, 4H), 1.32-1.12 (m, 12H), 0.91 – 0.77 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.94, 162.88, 156.49, 153.81, 135.48, 126.90, 123.50, 120.01, 119.40, 117.40, 106.89, 103.35, 64.70, 64.63, 62.13, 62.03, 61.96, 51.35, 51.29, 30.82, 28.52, 28.50, 25.99, 22.56, 22.41, 21.97, 21.96, 13.85. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₆H₆₂Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 307.2380, found: 307.2383.

5f: Yield 69%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.79 – 8.65 (m, 2H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.34 – 4.13 (m, 8H), 3.90 – 3.80 (m, 2H), 3.80 – 3.70 (m, 2H), 3.31 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 12H), 3.20 – 3.04 (m, 4H), 2.42 – 2.33 (m, 2H), 2.32 – 2.22 (m, 2H), 1.52 – 1.35 (m, 4H), 1.30-1.13(m, 16H), 0.82 (q, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.94, 162.88, 156.49, 153.82, 135.49, 126.89, 123.51, 120.02, 119.40, 117.40, 106.90, 103.35, 64.71, 64.63, 62.13, 62.04, 61.96, 51.37, 51.29, 31.15, 31.14, 28.57, 28.55, 28.28, 26.29, 22.57, 22.43, 21.98, 13.87. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₈H₆₆Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 321.2537, found: 321.2540.

5g: Yield 45%. Pink solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.71 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (dd,

J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, J = 6.2, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.36 – 4.08 (m, 8H), 3.90 – 3.79 (m, 2H), 3.79 – 3.66 (m, 2H), 3.28 (t, J = 14.2 Hz, 12H), 3.18 – 3.05 (m, 4H), 2.41-2.31 (m, 2H), 2.31-2.21 (m, 2H), 1.42 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 4H), 1.28-1.14 (m, 20H), 0.83 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 162.94, 162.88, 156.49, 153.82, 135.49, 126.89, 123.49, 120.02, 119.40, 117.38, 106.89, 103.35, 64.72, 64.63, 62.12, 62.03, 61.95, 51.38, 51.31, 31.17, 28.58, 26.34, 22.56, 22.42, 22.02, 13.89. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₄₀H₇₀Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 335.2693, found: 335.2697.

5h: Yield 66%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.62 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 5.7 Hz, 2H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 4.26 – 4.10 (m, 8H), 3.86 – 3.77 (m, 2H), 3.77 – 3.68 (m, 2H), 3.28 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 12H), 3.17 – 3.06 (m, 4H), 2.38-2.30 (m, 2H), 2.30-2.21 (m, 2H), 1.46 – 1.37 (m, 4H), 1.29-1.15 (m, 24H), 0.83 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 5.3 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.93, 162.87, 156.49, 153.81, 135.49, 126.91, 124.50, 123.46, 120.01, 119.40, 117.36, 106.88, 103.35, 64.62, 62.02, 51.41, 51.33, 31.22, 28.91, 28.89, 28.61, 26.34, 22.54, 22.41, 22.04, 13.91. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₄₂H₇₄Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 349.2850, found: 349.2853.

5i: Yield 85%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.73 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 6.1, 3.3 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (s, 2H), 7.34 (dd, *J* = 6.1, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 4.24 (s, 4H), 4.19 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 4H), 3.83 – 3.71 (m, 4H), 3.31 (s, 12H), 3.10 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.7 Hz, 4H), 2.33 (dd, *J* = 9.8, 5.5 Hz, 4H), 1.48 – 1.34 (m, 4H), 1.27-1.67 (m, 16H), 0.82 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.93, 148.00, 128.96, 126.24, 124.14, 108.28, 65.42, 62.17, 51.39, 31.16, 28.53, 28.31, 26.32, 22.45, 21.99, 13.87. HR-MS (ESI) Calculated for C₃₈H₆₆Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 321.2537, found: 321.2544.

5j: Yield 31%. White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.84 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 3.3 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (s, 2H), 7.34 (dd, *J* = 6.1, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 4.28 (s, 4H), 4.18 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 4H), 3.87 – 3.70 (m, 4H), 3.33 (s, 12H), 3.10 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 6.5 Hz, 4H), 2.38-2.30 (m, 4H), 1.47-1.35 (m, 4H), 1.30-1.15 (m, 20H), 0.82 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 162.94, 148.02, 128.96, 126.23, 124.12, 108.26, 65.44, 62.23, 62.16, 51.36, 31.19, 28.61, 28.52, 26.39, 22.47, 22.02, 13.89. HR-MS

S21

(ESI) Calculated for C₄₀H₇₀Br₂N₄O₄ [M-2Br]²⁺: 335.2693, found: 335.2696.

Biological Section

Microorganisms and culture conditions: The antibacterial activity of all the molecules were evaluated against both Gram-positive bacteria (*S. aureus, E. faecalis,* MRSA) and Gram-negative bacteria (*E. coli, S. maltophilia,* bla_{*NDM-1*} -containing strains, bla_{*KPC*} -containing strains). All the bacteria were cultured in Muller-Hinton broth (5.0 g of beef extract, 17.5 g of casein hydrolysate, and 1.5 g of starch in 1000 mL of distilled water) while *E. coli* was grown in Luria-Bertani broth (10.0 g of tryptone, 5.0 g of yeast extract, and 10 .0 g of NaCl in 1000 mL of distilled water). Brain-heart infusion broth (5.0 g beef heart infusion form, 12.5 g of calf brains infusion form, 2.5 g Na₂HPO₄, 2.0 g D-glucose, 10 g of peptone and 5.0 g NaCl in 100 mL of sterile distilled water) was used for stock samples of bacteria, the freezed dried stock samples of bacteria in 33.3% glycerol were stored at -80 °C. For solid media, Mueller-Hinton agar (5.0 g of beef extract, 17.5 g of casein hydrolysate, 1.5 g of starch and 12.5 g of agar in 1000 mL of distilled water) was used as growth medium.

Cell culture: Human cervical carcinoma cell line (HeLa cells), maintained in complete DMEM media (Bioind) supplemented with 10% FBS (Zeta Life), at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO_2 in air. All the cells were mycoplasma free. The cells were trypsinized, counted and seeded in 96-well plates for viability studies or in 12-well plates for other studies. The cells allowed to adhere overnight before they were used for experiments.

Antibacterial assay (minimum inhibitory concentration): Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of all the molecules **(4a-4w, 5a-5j)** were determined by broth microdilution method according to CLSI guidelines. The test medium for most species was cation-adjusted Muller-Hinton broth (MHB). The 4-6 h grown culture as described in the microorganism and culture condition section gives about 10⁸ CFU/mL of bacteria. The bacterial cultures were then diluted to give approximately 10⁶ CFU/mL in different media (Muller-Hinton broth media for *S. aureus, E. faecalis, S. maltophilia*, MRSA,

bla_{NDM-1} -containing strains, bla_{KPC} -containing strains and Luria-Bertani media for E. coli) which were then used for determining antibacterial efficacy. All the final compounds were water soluble at room temperature. Stock solutions of the final compounds were prepared with sterile Milli-Q water. Then the stock solutions were serially diluted to different concentration (256 µg/mL, 128 µg/mL, 64 µg/mL, 32 µg/mL, 16 μg/mL, 8 μg/mL, 4 μg/mL, 2 μg/mL, 1 μg/mL, 0.5 μg/mL) by using different media (Muller-Hinton broth media for S. aureus, E. faecalis, S. maltophilia, MRSA, bla_{NDM-1} -containing strains, bla_{KPC} -containing strains and Luria-Bertani media for E. coli). These dilutions (100 µL) were added to the wells of 96 well plate followed by the addition of 100 µL of bacterial suspension (10⁶ CFU/mL). Two controls were made: one containing 200 µL of media (negative contrast) and the other containing 200 µL of bacterial solution (10⁶ CFU/mL, positive contrast). The plates were then incubated at 37 °C for 16-20 h. After the incubation, read the results. Each concentration was determined in twice and the whole experiment was repeated at least twice. The antibacterial activity was thus expressed as minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC). A glycopeptides antibiotic vancomycin and a β -lactams antibiotic meropenem were used to compare the antibacterial efficacy in this study.

Antibacterial activity in plasma (Plasma stability): Bacteria (*S. aureus*) was grown in a similar way as mentioned in the microorganism and culture condition and finally diluted in the respective media to give 10^6 CFU/mL. The fresh sterile defiber sheep blood (from commercial resource) was centrifuged at 3500 rpm for 10 min. The plasma, separated from the blood cells after centrifugation, was carefully collected. The test compound **4g** was dissolved in 50% sterile Milli-Q water and 50% plasma at a concentration of 512 µg/mL. The test compound **4g** was dissolved in sterile Milli-Q water as the control. Three such test samples were preincubated at 37 °C in 50% plasma for 2 h, 4 h and 6 h respectively. Then the three samples were serially diluted to several concentration (256 µg/mL, 128 µg/mL, 64 µg/mL, 32 µg/mL, 16 µg/mL, 8 µg/mL, 4 µg/mL). After that, 50 µL of the above solutions was added to wells of a 96-well plate and 150 µL of the bacterial suspension (10^5 CFU/mL) was added to wells. The plate was then incubated for 20-24 h at 37 °C. To determine the minimum bactericidal concentration (MBC), the bacterial suspension that appeared to have less/little turbidity was plated (20 μ L) and the agar plates were incubated for 20-24 h at 37 °C. Concentration at which no bacterial growth (no bacterial colony) was observed was taken as the MBC of the respective compounds.

Bactericidal activity in complex mammalian fluids: The fresh sterile defiber sheep blood was bought from a biochemical reagent company (China). Plasma was obtained as mentioned above. Serum was used the Zeta Life fetal bovine serum. Methicillinresistant S. aureus (MRSA-1115041) was grown in way as mentioned in the microorganism and culture conditions. Finally, MRSA was diluted with 50% Muller-Hinton broth (MHB) medium and 50% mammalian media (serum, plasma, blood), individually in a way to give 10⁵ CFU/mL of MRSA in 50% serum, 50% plasma, and 50% blood (having 50% MHB medium). The tested molecule 4g was dissolved in sterile water with the serial dilution method at the concentration of (512 μ g/mL, 256 μg/mL, 128 μg/mL, 64 μg/mL, 32 μg/mL, 16 μg/mL, 8 μg/mL, 4 μg/mL). Then 50 μL of the dilutions was added to the wells of a 96-well plate and 150 μ L of the bacterial suspension (10⁵ CFU/mL) was added separately to the wells containing the dilutions of the compound 4g. The plate was then incubated for 20-24 h at 37 °C and minimum bactericidal concentration of the test compounds was determined by plating the bacterial suspension (20 µL) directly from the wells onto Muller-Hinton agar (MHA) plate. The agar plates were incubated at 37 °C for 20-24 h and colonies were observed to determine the MBC.

Time-dependent killing: An overnight culture of bacteria *S. aureus* was diluted 1:10,000 in MHB medium and incubated at 37 °C with aeration at 225 rpm for 2 h (early exponential) or 5 h (late exponential). Bacteria at the early stage of growth were then challenged with compound **4g** at 2 μ g/mL, 3 μ g/mL, 4 μ g/mL and antibiotics vancomycin (3 μ g/mL) in culture tubes at 37 °C and 225 rpm; Bacteria at the last phase of growth were then challenged with compound **4g** at 6 μ g/mL, 8 μ g/mL, 12 μ g/mL and antibiotics vancomycin (8 μ g/mL) in culture tubes at 37 °C and 225 rpm. At different

intervals, 100 μ L bacteria solution were removed to 96-well plate, centrifuged at 4,000 rpm for 3 min (TDL 5M centrifuge) and resuspended in 100 μ L of sterile phosphate buffered saline (1×PBS). Ten-fold serially diluted suspensions were plated on MHA plates and incubated at 37 °C overnight. Colonies were counted and CFU per mL was calculated. Experiments were performed with biological replicates.

Biofilm disruption assay (determination of viable count and imaging): The bacteria S. aureus (4-6 h grown) were diluted to $\sim 10^5$ CFU/mL into suitable media. The 96-well plates containing 100 µL of these suspensions were incubated under stationary conditions (for about 24 h for S. aureus). After incubation, the bacteria suspensions were centrifuged at 3,500 rpm for 5 min, the medium was removed, and the wells were washed with 1×PBS once. Compound 4g against S. aureus (100 µL at 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, and 128 µg/mL) was then added to the wells containing preformed bacterial biofilms and allowed to incubate for 24 h at 37°C. A control was made where 100 µL of the above medium was added. After 24 h, medium was discarded, and the planktonic cells were removed by washing with 1×PBS. Then 100 µL of trypsin-EDTA solution was added to the treated biofilm to make the suspension of bacterial cells present within the biofilm. Cell suspension was then assessed by plating the 10-fold serial dilutions of the suspension on suitable agar plates. After 24 h of incubation, bacterial colonies were counted, and cell viability was expressed as log₁₀ (CFU/well) along with the control. For visualizing the disruption of biofilm by the small molecules, $100 \ \mu L$ of 0.1% of crystal violet (CV) was added into the wells and incubated for 10 min. Then the crystal violet solution was discarded, and the plates were washed twice with 1×PBS. Finally, imaging of the stained wells was taken using a digital camera.

Minimum biofilm eradication concentration (MBEC) assay³: Biofilm eradication assays involve three phases separated by wash steps, including (i) initial biofilm establishment on well surfaces without test compound; (ii) biofilm treatment with test compound; and (iii) recovery of viable biofilms in fresh medium alone. This assay was used to demonstrate the biofilm eradication activities of compound 4g. Biofilm eradication assays were performed in 96-well plates, and microtitre wells were

inoculated with 100 mL of a 1:1000-fold exponential phase *S. aureus* and *E. coli* (10^{8} CFU/mL) and were incubated for 24 h at 37 °C. After 24h, medium and planktonic cells were removed and 100 mL of two-fold serial dilutions of test compound was added to the wells in fresh medium and was incubated for 24 h at 37 °C (phase 2). After this time, the contents were removed and 100 µL of fresh medium only was added to allow viable biofilms to recover and to disperse planktonic bacteria into the medium resulting in a turbid microtiter well (24 h incubation at 37 °C; phase 3). After this final phase, microtitre plates were examined for visible bacterial growth (turbidity) and the MBEC was recorded as the lowest concentration at which no turbidity could be observed (due to eradicated biofilms).

Minimum biofilm inhibitory concentration (MBIC) determination³: In 96-well plates, two-fold serial dilutions of test compounds **4g** was added in MHB medium. Then, 1:1000-fold exponential-phase *S. aureus* and *E. coli* (10⁸ CFU/mL) in MHB was added to each well and allowed to incubate at 37 °C for 24 h. After this time, the contents from the 96-well plates were removed and the wells were rinsed with water, followed by the addition of 100 μ L of 0.1% crystal violet to stain the biofilms (10 min incubation at room temperature). The plates were then rinsed, and 100 mL of ethanol was added to dissolve the crystal violet stained biofilms. Minimum concentrations required to inhibit 80% of biofilm formation (MBIC₈₀) were determined (OD₅₄₀) by comparing compound treated versus untreated wells and the resulting data were used to generate dose response curves using Spss 20.0. Note: these experiments were performed to determine whether the antibiofilm activities of compound **4g** were dependent on or independent of their antibacterial activities.

Scanning Electron Microscopy: Overnight culture of *S. aureus* was diluted in suitable media. Subsequently, cells were harvested by centrifugation at 4000 rpm for 3 min, then washed with 1×PBS Twice. Compound 4g was added to *S. aureus* suspension respectively at a final concentration of 16 μ g/mL, and samples were left at 37 °C for 3h. A sample without antibacterial agents was used as a control. After the antibacterial agent treatment, cells were centrifuged and resuspended with 1×PBS Twice. The cells

were sequentially dehydrated with 50, 75, 95, and 100% ethanol. Finally, replacement of ethanol with tert-butanol. 5 μ L of dehydrated cells was then dropped on a small piece of silicon wafer and dried at vacuum drying oven. Before being imaged, the silicon wafers containing bacteria were sputter coated with gold. The final results were examined in JEOL TSM-7500F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope at 10.0kv operating voltage.

Cytoplasmic membrane depolarization assay: The 4-6 h grown bacteria were harvested (3,500 rpm, 5 min), washed and resuspended with 1×PBS (S. aureus) and 5 mM HEPES buffer, 5 mM glucose and 100 mM KCl solution at 1:1:1 ratio (E. coli). Then the bacterial suspension ($\sim 10^8$ CFU/mL, 150 μ L) was added to the wells of a 96well plate (Black plate, clear bottom with lid). Then 3,5-dipropyl-thiacarbocyanne $(diSC_3(5))$ (10 µM, 50 µL) was added to the wells containing bacterial suspension and pre-incubated for about 30 min for S. aureus and 40 min for E. coli (additional 50 µL of 200µM of EDTA was also added in case of *E. coli*). After the incubation, fluorescence was measured for the next 8 min at every 1 min interval at an excitation wavelength of 622 nm (slit width: 10 nm) and emission wavelength of 670 nm (slit width: 5 nm). Bacterial suspensions were then transferred to another well-plate containing 10 µL of 420 μg/mL of small molecules 4a, 4b, 4g, 4m, 4r, 4s, 5e, 5f and fluorescence intensity was monitored immediately for another 12 min at every 1 min interval, the final concentration of small molecules was 20 µg/mL. A control experiment was performed by treating the preincubated bacterial suspension and dye solution only with sterile Milli-Q water (50 µL).

Inner membrane permeabilization assay: The 4-6 h grown bacteria were harvested (3500 rpm, 5 min), washed and resuspended similarly as the previous method. Then the bacterial suspension (~ 10^8 CFU/mL, 150 µL) was added to the wells of a 96-well plate (Black plate, clear bottom with lid). Then propidium iodide (PI) (10 µM, 50 µL) was added to the wells containing bacterial suspension and pre-incubated for about 30 min for *S. aureus* and 40 min for *E. coli*. After the incubation, fluorescence was measured for the next 8 min at every 1 min interval at an excitation wavelength of 535 nm (slit

width: 10 nm) and emission wavelength of 617 nm (slit width: 5 nm). Bacterial suspensions were then transferred to another well-plate containing 10 μ L of 420 μ g/mL of small molecules and fluorescence intensity was monitored immediately for another 12 min at every 1 min interval, the final concentration of small molecules **4a**, **4b**, **4g**, **4m**, **4r**, **4s**, **5e**, **5f** was 20 μ g/mL. A control experiment was performed by treating the preincubated bacterial suspension and dye solution only with sterile Milli-Q water (50 μ L).

Outer membrane permeabilization assay: The outer membrane permeabilization activity of the small molecules**4a**, **4b**, **4g**, **4m**, **4r**, **4s**, **5e**, **5f** was determined by the N-phenylnapthylamine (NPN) assay. Mid-log phase bacteria (*E. coli*) were harvested similarly as mentioned in earlier experiments, washed and resuspended similarly as the previous method. Bacterial suspension ($\sim 10^8$ CFU/mL, 150 mL) was transferred into the wells of a black 96-well plate. Then NPN dye (10 mM, 50 mL) was added to the wells containing bacterial suspension and pre-incubated for about 40 min for *E. coli*. After the incubation, fluorescence was monitored for next 8 min at every 1 min interval at an excitation wavelength of 350 nm (slit width: 10 nm) and emission wavelength of 420 nm (slit width: 5 nm). Then, the bacterial suspensions were transferred to another black well-plate containing 40 mL of 420 mg/mL of small molecules and fluorescence intensity was monitored immediately for another 12 min at every 1 min interval, the final concentration of small molecules was 40 mg/mL. A control experiment was performed by treating the preincubated bacterial suspension and dye solution only with sterile Milli-Q water (50 mL).

Propensity of bacterial resistance development: In order to evaluate the propensity of developing bacterial resistance towards the compounds, the potent compound **4g** was used in the study. First, MIC of compound **4g** was determined against *S. aureus* and *E. coli*, and subsequently the compound was challenged repeatedly at the 1/2 MIC level. Two control antibiotics norfloxacin and colistin were chosen for *S. aureus* and for *E. coli*, respectively. In case of norfloxacin and colistin, the initial MIC values were determined against respective bacteria. After the initial MIC experiment, serial

passaging was initiated by transferring bacterial suspension grown at the sub-MIC of the compound/antibiotics (at MIC/2) and was subjected to another MIC assay. After 24 h incubation period, cells grown at the sub-MIC of the test compound/antibiotics were once again transferred and assayed for MIC experiment. The process was repeated for16 passages for both *S. aureus* and *E. coli* respectively. The MIC for test compound to the control antibiotics was plotted against days to determine the propensity of bacterial resistance development.

Hemolytic activity: Red blood cells (RBCs) were isolated from sheep blood and resuspended in 1×PBS (5%). RBC suspension (150 μ L) was then added to solutions of serially diluted small molecules (4a-4w, 5a-5j) at the concentration of (5120, 2560, 1280, 640, 320, 160, 80, 40, 20, 10 μ g/mL) in a 96-well plate (50 μ L). Two controls were prepared, one 50 μ L RBC suspension (5%) and the other with 50 μ L of 0.1% solution of Triton X-100. The plate was then incubated for 1 h at 37 °C. After the incubation, the plate was centrifuged at 3,500 rpm for 5 minutes. Supernatant (100 μ L) from each well was then transferred to a fresh 96-well plate and absorbance at 540 nm was measured. Percentage of hemolysis was determined as (A–A₀) / (A_{total}–A₀) × 100, where A is the absorbance of the test well, A₀ is the absorbance of the negative control (5% RBC suspensions), and A_{total} the absorbance of wells with 0.1% Triton X-100.

Cytotoxicity study: Cytotoxicity of the small molecules were evaluated by the Cell Counting Kit-8 (CCK-8). Briefly, 5×10^3 cells in 100 µL medium were seeded to each of 96-well plates. After 24 h incubation at 37 °C, the culture medium was removed and replaced with fresh medium (100 µL) containing the candidate compound **4g** in different concentration. And only media was used as negative control. At the end of the treatment (24 h), the medium was discarded and washed twice with the new culture medium, then added 100 µL new medium (with 5% CCK-8) to each well. Cells were incubated at 37 °C for a further 4 h and then the absorbance at 450 nm was measured using a Microplate Reader. Results were expressed as percent viability = [A-A₀ / A_{nc}-A₀] × 100%, where A is the absorbance of the treated cells, A_{nc} is the absorbance of the negative control and A₀ is absorbance of the background (new medium containing 5% CCK-8). The average 50% inhibitory concentration (IC₅₀) was determined from the dose-response curves according to the inhibition ratio for each concentration. Each concentration was analyzed in triplicate and the experiment was repeated three times.

Fluorescence and electron scanning microscopy: As mentioned above for the cytotoxicity study, cells were seeded into the wells of a 12-well plate and then treated with compounds at various concentrations 4g. For positive control 0.1% Triton X-100 was used. All the treated and untreated cells (as negative control) were washed once with $1 \times PBS$ (the images were captured with a $10 \times$ objective in electron microscope) and stained with 2μ M calcein AM (Fluka) and 4.5μ M propidium iodide (PI) (Sigma-Aldrich) (50 μ L of 1:1 calcein AM: PI) for 15 min at 37 °C under 5% CO₂-95% air atmosphere. Finally, the images were captured with a $10 \times$ objective in fluorescence microscope using a band-pass filter for calcein AM at 500-550 nm and a long-pass filter for PI at 590-800 nm.

Acute dermal toxicity: All animal experiments were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and carried out in accordance to the policy of the National Ministry of Health of China. The mice were housed in individually ventilated cages (IVC) maintained with controlled environment. They were housed in pathogen free conventional caging systems, bedding material used were corncob. The husbandry conditions: Light: dark cycle—12:12 hours, Animal Room Temp: $22 \pm 2^{\circ}$ C, Relative humidity: 30-40%. Animals were randomly selected, marked to permit individual identification and kept in their cages for at least 5 days before the experiment to allow for acclimatization to the experimental conditions. The acute dermal toxicity was performed on female KM mice (~30g). The mice were anesthetized by intraperitoneal injection of chloral hydrate. The fur on the back of the mice were shaved using a sterile razor, then cover the shaved area with depilatory paste, after treated for 3 min remove depilatory paste thoroughly using gauze sponges and water. Compound 4g was dissolved in saline at concentrations of 300 µg/mL, 900 µg/mL, 1500 µg/mL, 2100 μ g/mL, 30000 μ g/mL, respectively. Group (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) of mice (n = 3) were treated with 100 µL of 4g (concentration of 300 µg/mL, 900 µg/mL, 1500 µg/mL, 2100 µg/mL,

 $30000 \ \mu\text{g/mL}$) at the skin of back; The antibacterial agents were hypodermic injection once with 12 h intervals. The dosage for each group were continued for four days. The animals were observed carefully and then observed carefully every day. Particular attention was paid to the changes in fur, eyes and mucous membranes, and observations of tremors, convulsions, salivation, diarrhea, lethargy, sleep and coma. Acute dermal toxicity showed no sign of irritation or unnatural behave when the concentration is less than 1500 μ g/mL.

In Vivo Study: female KM mice (~30g) were used for the experiments. The fur on the back of the mice were shaved using a sterile razor, then cover the shaved area with depilatory paste, after treated for 3 min remove depilatory paste thoroughly using gauze sponges and water. The 60μ L $\sim 10^9$ CFU/mL live MRSA was inoculated subcutaneously on the fur was shaved. The abscess can be seen after the bacteria inoculated for 24h. In the experiment one group of mice (n = 5) were left untreated and served as a control; Group (1) of mice (n = 5) were treated with 100 µL of vancomycin (concentration of 500/mL) at the site of infection; Group (2,3) of mice (n = 5) were treated with 100 μ L of 4g (concentration of 500 µg/mL, 1000 µg/mL) at the site of infection. The antibacterial agents were hypodermic injection once with 12 h intervals. The dosage for each group were continued for four days. 24h after the last dose the mice were sacrificed, and the infected skin was severed aseptically. The infected skin placed into 1 mL of sterile saline and homogenized. The dilutions of the homogenate were plated onto agar plates, which were incubated overnight at about 37°C. The bacterial titer was expressed as log_{10} (CFU/ abscess). The statistical significance of differences between control and experimental groups was calculated by using of the GraphPad Prism 7 statistical software. P < 0.05 was considered significant. The infected skin was also stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E), and their morphology was investigated under a light microscope at 10 × magnification.







1a





-116.116

-68.742

-29.252

70 160 150 140 130 120	110 100 90 80 70 60 50	40 30 20 10 0



4.068 4.053 4.039 4.039 4.039 3.599 3.583

2.323 2.308 -2.292 2.277 2.262










 3.948

 3.948

 3.918

 3.918

 3.918

 3.493

 3.459

 3.459

 3.459

 3.459

 3.459

 3.459

 3.459

 3.459

 3.459

 3.459

 3.459

 2.018

 2.018

 2.018

 1.919

 1.919

 1.919

 1.919

 1.919

 1.919

 1.872





(r)
-	•
.	•
_	•
\sim)
Ś)
.	1

-115.439

-67.486

~33.553 ~29.538 ~28.034



 l	Ll



955 939 924 479 445	993 976 958 958 921 847 830 847 677 777 664 664 618 618 600







-114.426



-67.214

~32.586 ~31.501 ~27.531 ~23.836

														.1 1	ł		
														Uu.		4	
70	160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90 fl	80 (ppm) ^{\$39}	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

$\begin{array}{c} 9.105\\ 9.080\\ 9.080\\ 8.311\\ 8.2591\\ 8.2582\\ 8.2$



1e



-151.960 -149.302 -130.666 -130.666 118.418 118.418 1115.655 -114.268 -114.268	-101.520 -97.836	<pre><60.264 60.113 </pre>	L27.151 L24.864 L24.798
--	---------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------



1e





) 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 2
$116 \\ 57 \\ 57 \\ 57 \\ 57 \\ 57 \\ 57 \\ 57 \\ 5$	3333333
4 4 4 m m m	6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6







878	
48.	
_	

129.348126.347 124.361 124.158

-108.542

-66.291

~32.296 ~30.076



1f





-166.480	-39.842	~31.136 ~29.083	-19.924 -13.630	
2a OBr Br				
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	40	30	20 10) 0





-40.250





-166.933

-40.54731.38129.02328.97226.21226.212-13.984

N H Br

2c

	<u> </u>	л	**************************************	L

	'		1	·	1	· ·		· 1	·	1 1	1	·	· 1	' 1	1	'		
30	170	160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90 fl (pp	80 om)	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0
									S49									



-165.262

-40.26131.675 29.342 29.252 28.874 28.874 26.757 222.540 -14.015



				1
		Ì		
ļ				

	·	I	·	·	·	, 1 ,	I	·	· 1	· 1	·	'	1 1	, 1	1	·	·	.
30	170	160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90 fl (pp	80 m)	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0



-165.203

`N` H

O II Br 2e

-40.269

-31.747
-29.257
-29.175
-29.139
-20.139
-26.801
-124.683

fl (ppm)



-166.295												-40.439	531.805 29.419 29.190	29.182 29.105 26.760		
	2f	<u>_</u> Br														
								h								
i																
30 170 1	60 150	140	130	120	110	100	90 fl (ppr	N	70	60	50	40	l. 	20	ـــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ	0















-170.332	-63.170	$\sqrt{45.969}$ -38.615 $\sqrt{31.773}$	-20.136 -13.762
38			
30 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 fl (ppm) s61	70 60 50	0 40 30	20 10 0



-169.430		62.208	44.988 37.870	728.351 28.113 -21.335 -12.964	
N N 3b					
			1		
	 	· · · · · · · ·	·····	.	



-170.274											-63.076	CV8 5V	-+3.0+2	~29.509	~20.494 ~22.412	-13.857	
~~~	NH 3c	N															
ł																	
30 170	160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90 f1 (ppn	 80 n)	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	



30	170	160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90 fl (ppi	80 m)	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0
		N H 3d	O   N									62			2	~22	-13	
	170.375											53.188		45.963 38.862 31.694	29.638 28.910 26.877	22.529	13.996	



	-170.3	~~~	N N	 								-63.18	-45.95	738.86 731.73 729.65	29.15	~20.91	-14.02	
		3e	Η															
								<u></u>										
30	170	160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90 f1 (ppi	80 n)	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0


-170.279											-63.126	745.910	500.022 31.789 529.615	29.426 29.226 29.167	22.595	-14.019	
$\sim$	3	n H f	 N														
													1			1	
									l								
······			140		120	110	100	······································	/	70	,,,,,,,,			UU			·
30 17	0 160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90 fl (ppn _{\$71}	80 n)	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0



	-169.064											-61.791	47.017 45.366 45.222	_30.953 ~29.597	20.090 19.984 13.726 13.666		
<u></u>	N J 3g	O   N_N_															
30	170	160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90 f1 (ppr	80 n)	70	60	50 40	30	20	0	0



-167.674										60.616	47.414 45.866 45.305	31.532 531.460 26.646	22.535 722.535 73:554	<13.939	
	3h	N													
30 170	160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90 80 fl (ppm)	) 70	60	50 4	0 30	20	10	0























	o —162.869 -	-152.471			-115.545					65.184	$\begin{cases} 62.162 \\ 62.052 \end{cases}$	-51.228		530.829 28.496 -25.978	722.529 721.967	-13.850	
C ₆ H ₁₃ −N H	ŬN Br	~~°~Į	4f			∙C ₆ H ₁₃											
					1												
		1															
30 170	160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90 fl (ppi	80 n)	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0







	-162.864	-152.483			-115 577					65.172	62.141 62.040	-51.249	-31.182	/28.586 /28.558	20.321 22.521 22.026	-13.900	
С ₈ Н ₁₇ —N Н	O N Br	~	4h			∙C ₈ H ₁₇											
30 170	160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90 f1 (ppi ^{S91}	80 m)	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0






















































-162.954 -152.442	-115.549	~65.185 ~61.580 ~59.939	-54.907 -51.372 -46.455 -45 107		$\frac{1}{29.109}$	19.528	$\begin{pmatrix} 13.6/0 \\ 13.622 \end{pmatrix}$	
Br N N N O Av	D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D							
		1 11						
	130 120 110	70 60		<b>T_</b>			 	







-162.869 -158.100	-129.495	-120.857 -114.456			-64.476	$\begin{cases} 62.101 \\ 62.003 \end{cases}$	-51.231		730.838 728.510 -25.983	722.441 721.981	-13.859	
Br H N- N- 5a	-C ₆ H ₁₃											
		ł										
70 160 150 140	130	120	110 100	90 fl (pp 5123	80 70 pm)	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

.....



-162.863 -158.100	-129.499	-120.866	—114.453				64.472	62.099	-51.247		28.565 28.291	20.281 22.435 21.999	-13.896	
$ \begin{array}{c}  & Br \\  & H \\  & N \\  & Sb \\ \end{array} $														
170 160 150 140	130	120	110	100	90 fl (p	80 pm)	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0



-162.867 -158.104	-129.476	-120.839 -114.454			$\begin{cases} 64.485 \\ 62.081 \\ 61.997 \end{cases}$	-51.237	731.189	28.598 28.551 26.339 22.457	-13.903	
	H N=C ₈ H ₁₇									
50										
1 .										
						l				
70 160 150	140 130	120	110 100	90 80 fl (ppm) _{S127}	70 60	50	40	30 20	10	0



-162.860 -158.113	-129.477	-120.853	—114.474	$\begin{pmatrix} 64.505 \\ 62.119 \\ 62.039 \end{pmatrix}$	-51.261	$\begin{array}{c} 31.226\\ \hline 28.899\\ \hline 28.642\\ \hline 28.614\\ \hline 28.554\\ \hline 28.554\\ \hline 28.554\\ \hline 28.554\\ \hline 28.554\\ \hline 28.560\\ \hline 28.554\\ \hline 28.560\\ \hline 2901\\ \hline 13.901\end{array}$	
$Br H_{N-C_{9}H_{19}}$							
5d							
170 160 150 140	l 120	l 	· · · · ·				























· · ·	170	1.00	1.50	1.40	120	120	110	100	 		(0)	50	40	20	20	10	
						   		ngha gan ya Afrida wa	-1441-1-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14		-						
		O Br Br		∑N−C7H11 ∠N−C7H11	5												
		-162.9	—148.0		√128.9 −126.2	~124.1	-108.2			-65.42	-62.17	-51.38	-31 16	28.52	~20.31 ~22.45 ~21.98	-13.87	







4b



mente chromatogram										
	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area							
1	6.74	340439	100.00							

4c

HPLC chromatogram



	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area
1	2.61	4400	0.61
2	3.05	12737	1.77
3	3.85	4208	0.59
4	4.38	686325	95.56
5	6.60	10557	1.47




HPLC chromatogram





	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area
1	2.29	31421	0.84
2	2.59	3627141	97.46
3	4.25	63198	1.70

4f



	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area
1	2.84	7253	1.43
2	3.25	495888	97.76
3	7.74	4087	0.81



4h



4i

1

**HPLC** chromatogram



## HPLC chromatogram

7.00

71039

100.00

	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area
1	3.00	13081	1.60
2	3.25	3768	0.46
3	5.01	7924	0.97
4	5.76	8145	1.00
5	7.97	782299	95.96

## HPLC chromatogram







	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area
1	3.02	17795	1.02
2	3.57	1675193	96.16
3	10.10	49054	2.82

41

## **HPLC** chromatogram



	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area
1	2.87	20308	4.59
2	3.53	421854	95.41

**HPLC** chromatogram





**HPLC** chromatogram 3.639 0.10-Q -0.05--2.963 -7.262 0.00-_____ 8.00 分钟 2.00 6.00 10.00 12.00 14.00 0.00 4.00

HPLC chromatogram			
Retention Time(min)	Area	06 Area	
( /\ k± )	2068. 215 # T.L.S	70 A Ca	

III De un omavogram			
	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area
1	2.96	12450	1.48
2	3.64	807236	96.19
3	7.26	19532	2.33

40



	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area
1	3.01	12688	2.13
2	3.49	8345	1.40
3	8.21	575727	96.48

HPLC chromatogram



#### Retention Time(min) (分钟) Area (微伏*秒) % Area 16273 1 0.46 0.78 2 2.96 15317 0.43 3 3.36 3497118 97.80 4 3.80 26576 0.74 5 4.47 15952 0.45 6 7.77 4616 0.13

4q



	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area
1	2.86	21171	0.85
2	3.21	2454603	98.51
3	3.55	15992	0.64

4r





## **HPLC** chromatogram







HPLC chromatogram



## HPLC chromatogram

	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area
1	3.04	9223	0.42
2	4.14	15916	0.73
3	5.69	2157979	98.85

4ι	l
----	---

# HPLC chromatogram



	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area
1	2.55	7236	0.82
2	2.84	3795	0.43
3	3.09	854058	97.06
4	3.34	14833	1.69





**HPLC** chromatogram 0.15 4700 0.10 AU -3.029 4.286 0.05 0.00 2.00 4.00 6.00 8.00 10.00 12.00 14.00 0.00 分钟 HPLC chromatogram

	8		
	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area
1	3.03	27627	1.22
2	4.29	2179	0.10
3	4.50	52206	2.30
4	4.70	2190683	96.39

5a





	_			
	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area	
1	2.83	4070	0.23	
2	4.75	1730392	99.77	





HPLC of	chromatogram
---------	--------------

	Retention Time(min) (分钟)	Area (微伏*秒)	% Area
1	5.69	15308	0.43
2	6.29	11493	0.32
3	7.11	3515800	98.24
4	12.06	36256	1.01





 2
 4.59
 331545
 3.82

 3
 4.84
 8266033
 95.30

HPLC chromatogram



# References

- 1. D. Doyle, G. Peirano, C. Lascols, T. Lloyd, D. L. Church and J. D. Pitout, J. *Clin. Microbiol.*, 2012, **50**, 3877-3880.
- 2. R. Joseph, A. Naugolny, M. Feldman, I. M. Herzog, M. Fridman and Y. Cohen, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2016, **138**, 754-757.
- Y. Abouelhassan, Q. Yang, H. Yousaf, M. T. Nguyen, M. Rolfe, G. S. Schultz and R. W. Huigens, 3rd, *Int. J. Antimicrob. Agents*, 2017, 49, 247-251.