Supplementary Information

Cellular uptake.

HEK-293T cells (human embryonic kidney) were grown in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 4 mM glutamine, 10% fetal calf serum (FCS) and 100 units/ml penicillin/streptomycin until 80% confluency. Cells were suspended using trypsin/EDTA and counted. Cells were then seeded in 24 well plates at $4x10^4$ cells per well and incubated overnight. Then cells were washed with warm PBS buffer and preincubated in 350 µl serum free medium (SFM) at 37°C for 30min. Compounds **9-12** were mixed with SFM at a final concentration of 500 nM. To each well different samples of **9-12** were added and incubated at 37°C for 2h. Each experiment was performed in triplicate. The internalisation of free fluorescein, under the same conditions, was tested simultaneously and untreated cells were used as negative control.
After incubation, cells were washed twice with PBS, harvested with trypsin/EDTA, washed again and resuspended in 1% FCS in PBS buffer. To analyze the internalisation of fluorescein-labeled PNA conjugates, cell-associated fluorescence was determined by flow cytometry analysis using a FACSAria flow cytometer (Becton Dickinson). A total of 10 000 events per sample were analyzed. FITC (530/30nm) band pass filter were used for fluorescence analysis of the cells suspensions.

MTT assay results for HEK-293T cells

According to protocol established by T. Mossman, *J. Immunol. Methods*, 1983, **65**, 55–63