

Molecular Recognition of a Thymine Bulge by a High Affinity, Deazaguanine-based Hydrogen Bonding Ligand

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Electronic Supporting Information

Materials:

Anhydrous solvents and starting materials were purchased by the Aldrich Company and used without further purification unless otherwise specified. Water for all experiments was purified by a Millipore Direct Q-5 purification system. DNA oligomers were obtained from Integrated DNA Technologies purified by standard desalting. RNA was provided as page purified oligomers from Dharmacon, Inc. Chemical reactions were performed under nitrogen.

High and low resolution mass spectra were obtained by the Mass Spectrometry Laboratory, School of Chemical Science, University of Illinois. Mass spectra were obtained by field desorption (FD) on a Waters 70-VSE-A and by ESI on a Waters Micromass Q-ToF. Elemental analyses were performed at the University of Illinois, School of Chemical Sciences. Crystallographic analysis was obtained by the X-ray laboratory, School of Chemical Science, University of Illinois. High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was performed by a Dynamax SD-200 system with a UV detector set at 254 nm using an Alltech Denali C-18 column (250 × 10 mm) with a dual solvent system of 0.1% TFA/H₂O (Solvent A) and 0.1% TFA/MeCN (Solvent B). Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Varian *Unity* 400, Varian *Unity* 500 or Varian *INOVA* 500NB spectrometer at 21±3 °C unless otherwise mentioned. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm). Coupling constants (J) were reported in Hertz. ¹H NMR chemical shifts were referenced to the residual solvent peak at 7.26 ppm in chloroform-*d* (CDCl₃) and at 2.50 ppm in DMSO-*d*₆. ¹³C NMR chemical shifts were referenced to the center solvent peak at 77.16 ppm for CDCl₃ and at 40.45 ppm for DMSO-*d*₆. The purity of all ligands was estimated to be >99% by ¹H NMR (S26–S37) and by HPLC (S38–S40). Instrumentation for UV-Vis absorption, fluorescence, and isothermal titration calorimetry are described below. 2-6-Diheptanoylpyridine was synthesized according to literature procedure.ⁱ

¹H NMR Binding Studies. CDCl₃ was distilled from CaCl₂, passed through a column of activated (flame-dried) basic alumina, and stored over 4 Å molecular sieves. NMR tubes and volumetric flasks were dried in a 110 °C oven and cooled in a desiccator prior to sample

preparation. Samples (8-12) were prepared by adding aliquots of stock solutions of uracil or thymine and receptor via syringe directly into 1.0 mL volumetric flasks. The samples were transferred (0.700 mL) to NMR tubes via syringe. Spectra were acquired with a 500 MHz spectrometer using temperature control at 20 °C. For titration methods, the concentration of the host was such that no self-association was observed. Data were fit to a 1:1 binding isotherm using standard methods.ⁱⁱ

Thermal Denaturation Studies:

Thermal denaturation studies were performed with a temperature controlled Shimadzu 2501PC UV-Vis recording spectrophotometer enabled with an 8-well quartz sample cell (1.0 cm path, 130 μ L total volume). Stock solutions of 800 μ M DNA oligomers were prepared and annealed in a water bath >90 °C for 5 minutes then allowed to cool to ambient temperature. Five equivalents of the respective ligand was added, followed by 10 μ L of 100 mM sodium cacodylate pH 7.0, 10 μ L of 1.0 M NaCl, and 10 μ L of 10 mM EDTA. The samples were then diluted to 100 μ L with water to give final concentrations of 5 μ M DNA duplex, 25 μ M ligand, 10 mM sodium cacodylate pH 7.0, 100 mM NaCl, and 1.0 mM EDTA. Samples were then placed in the 8-well cell and cooled to 0 °C. The temperature dependent absorbance of each sample was monitored from 0 °C to 90 °C at 260 nm with a ramp rate of 1 °C per minute and monitoring every 0.5 °C. The melting temperature of each curve (inflection point of the sigmoidal transition) was determined by finding the maximum of the first derivative of the curve with Origin 7.0 (MicroCal, Inc. Northampton, MA).

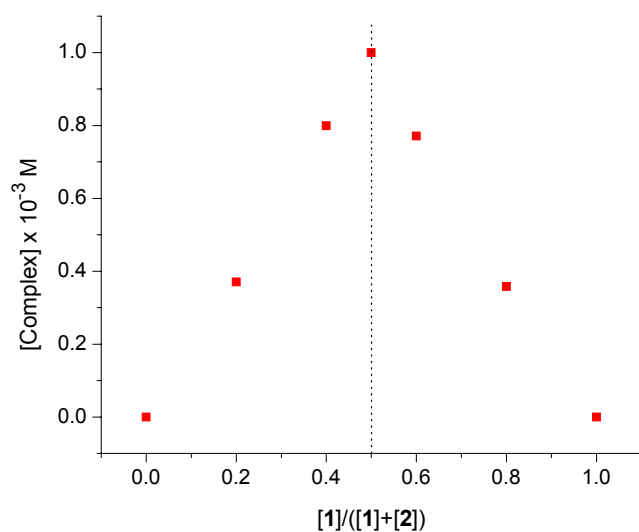
Isothermal Titration Calorimetry:

Isothermal titration calorimetry measurements were performed at 25 °C on a MicroCal VP-ITC (MicroCal, Inc., Northampton, MA). A standard experiment consisted of titrating 10 μ L of a 500 μ M ligand from a 250 μ L syringe (rotating at 300 rpm) into a sample cell containing 1.42 mL of a 5-40 μ M DNA/RNA solution. The duration of the injection was set to 24 s, and the delay between injections was 300 s. The initial delay prior to the first injection was 60 s. To derive the heat associated with each injection, the area under each isotherm (microcalories per second versus seconds) was determined by integration by the graphing program Origin 5.0 (MicroCal, Inc. Northampton, MA). The fitting requirements were such that the thermodynamic parameters were derived from curves that produced the lowest amount of deviation. In most cases, fitting to a sequential two-site binding model gave the best-fit data. Analogous low-affinity binding sites have previously been observed in aminoglycoside-16S rRNA interactions.ⁱⁱⁱ The ligand stock

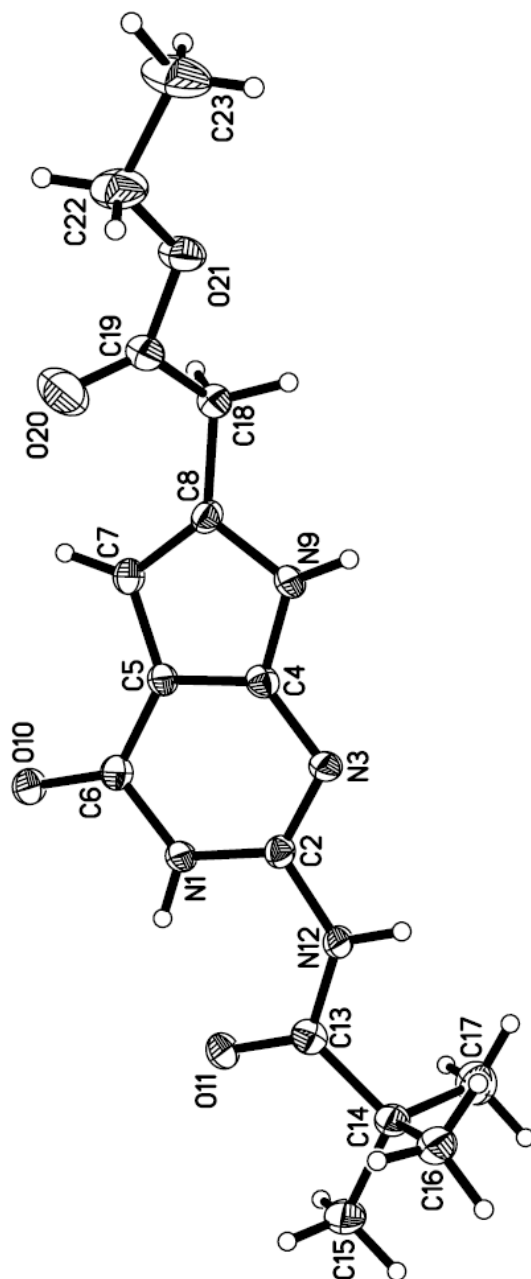
solution was 10 mM in water. The buffer solution for ITC experiments was 10 mM sodium cacodylate pH 7.0, 100 mM NaCl and 1.0 mM EDTA.

Job Plot Method.

The Job plot was performed in CDCl_3 . Host and guest solutions with concentrations of 2 mM were used. Aliquots were added to each sample to give a total volume of 1 mL and a constant total concentration of host and guest (2 mM).

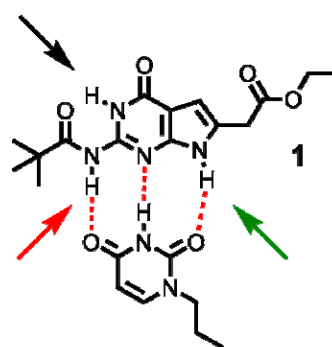
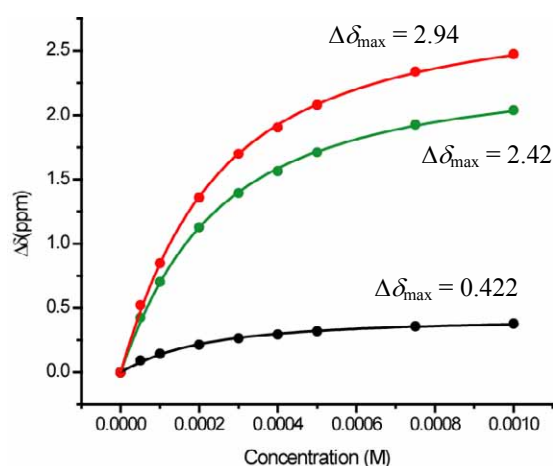


X-ray Crystal Structure of 1 (ORTEP)

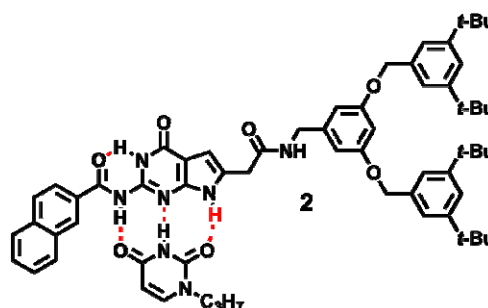
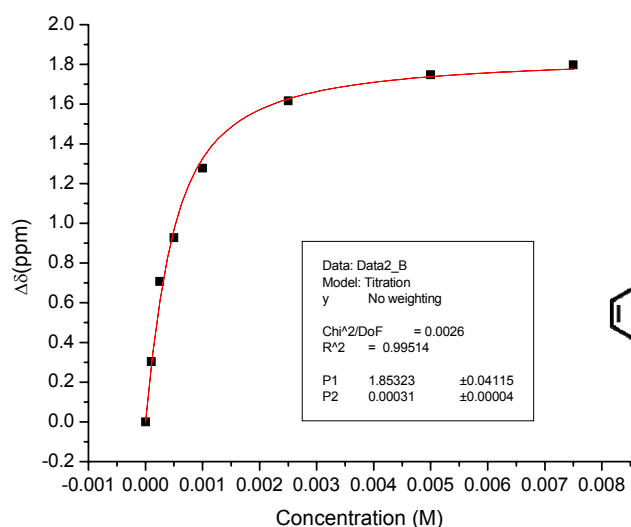


Binding Profiles

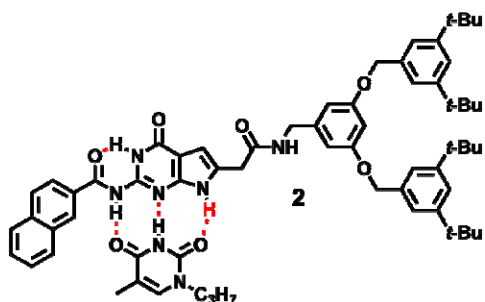
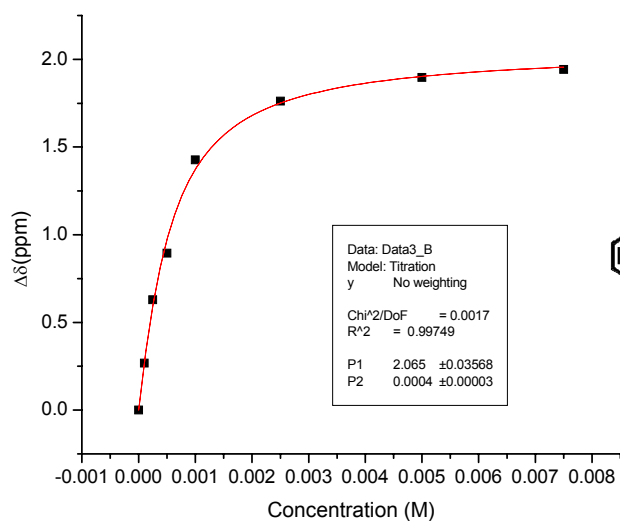
The following are representative binding profiles of selected protons on each receptor. Experiments were done either by titration or dilution method. The reported binding constants in the Results and Discussion are averages of the binding constants of the most visible protons and at least two trials.



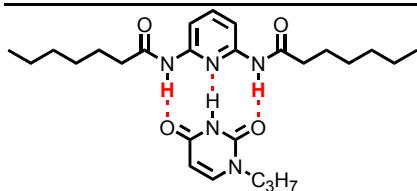
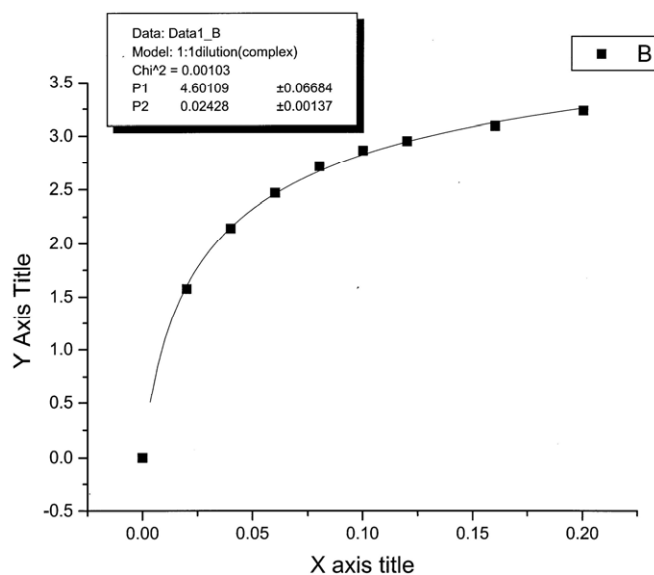
$$K_{\text{assoc}} = 5,800 \text{ M}^{-1}$$

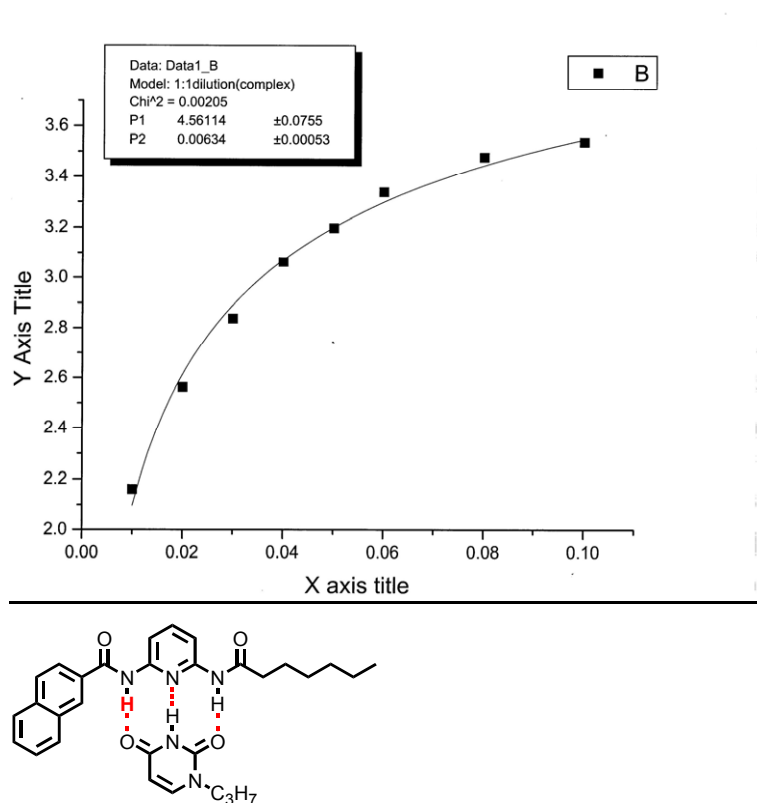


$$K_{\text{assoc}} = 2,860 \text{ M}^{-1}$$

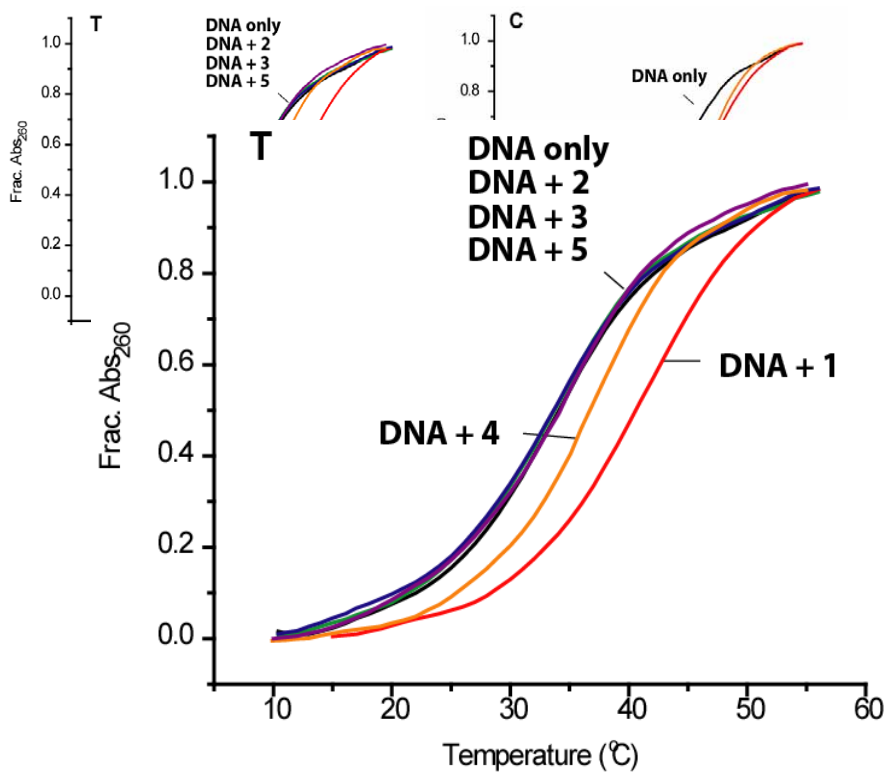


$$K_{\text{assoc}} = 2,560 \text{ M}^{-1}$$

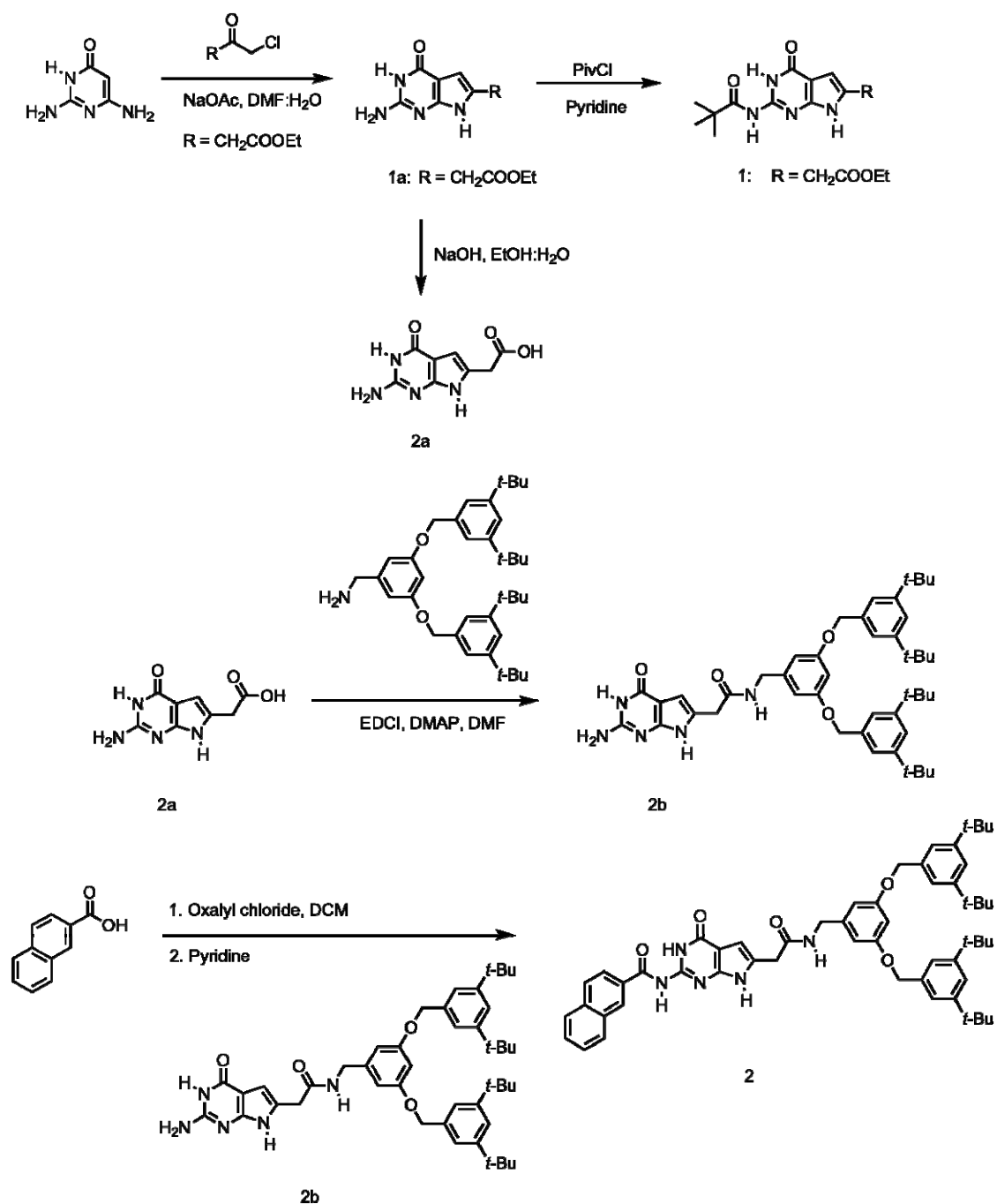




Thermal Denaturation Curves



Synthesis



2-Pivaloyl-8-methylene-ethylester-7-deazaguanine (1): 7-Deazaguanine-8-methylene-ethylester (300 mg, 1.3 mmol) was dissolved in pyridine (7 mL) and PivCl (184 μL , 1.5 mmol) was added at once. The mixture was stirred at 65 °C for 16

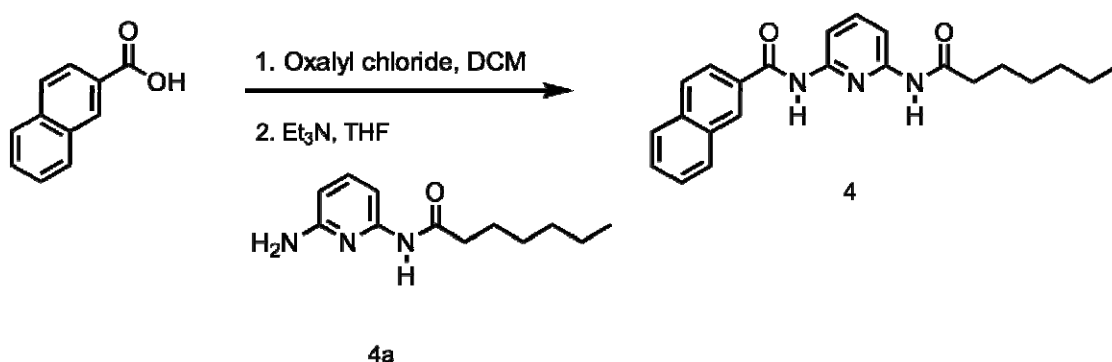
h. The solvent was evaporated to dryness and the solid was triturated with acetone. The solid was filtered off and washed with cold acetone to give 301 mg (74%) of a white crystalline solid: $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 11.83 (bs, 1H), 11.46 (bs, 1H), 10.78 (bs, 1H), 6.24 (d, $J = 2.0$, 1H), 4.11 (q, $J = 7.5$, 2H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 1.24 (s, 9H), 1.20 (t, $J = 7.5$, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 181.9, 170.9, 157.6, 148.8, 147.4, 127.4, 104.9, 102.4, 61.5, 34.0, 31.7, 27.4, 15.1; MS (FD) 320.2 m/z ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$, 321.1563; found, 321.1572.

7-Deazaguanine-8-methylcarboxylic acid (2a): 8-methylene-ethylester-7-deazaguanine (3.0 g, 12.6 mmol) was dissolved in $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{EtOH}$ (1:1 v/v) mixture and NaOH(s) (540 mg) was added. The solution was heated to 90 °C and stirred for 2 h. The solvent was fully evaporated and the residue was triturated with 2 N HCl (30 mL). The precipitated pink solid (2.6 g, 99%) was filtered and washed with water: mp >300 °C; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 12.40 (bs, 1H), 10.90 (s, 1H), 10.21 (s, 1H), 6.07 (s, 2H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 3.52 (s, 2H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 172.5, 158.3, 152.4, 126.0, 102.2, 100.9, 34.1; MS(FD) 208.1 m/z .

6-[[3,5-bis-(3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-benzyloxy)-benzylcarbamoyl]-methyl-7-Deazaguanine- (2b) – 2a (1.2 g, 5.8 mmol) was suspended in DMF (20 mL) and EDCI (1.2 g, 6.3 mmol) and DMAP (0.2 g, 1.6 mmol) were added at once. The suspension was stirred at room temperature for 10 min, after which **2c** (3.6 g, 6.3 mmol) dissolved in DMF (10 mL) was added dropwise. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. The solvent was fully evaporated, and the solid was suspended in CHCl_3 (100 mL) and washed with water (1×80 mL) and brine (1×80 mL). The organic layer was dried with Na_2SO_4 , filtered, and evaporated to dryness to give a solid that was purified by column chromatography using a 10% $\text{MeOH}:\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ gradient. The solvent was evaporated to give 2.75 g (65%) of a white solid: mp 162-165 °C; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 10.84 (s, 1H), 10.12 (s, 1H), 8.30 (t, $J = 6.0$, 1H), 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.27 (m, 4H), 6.59 (m, 1H), 6.53 (m, 2H), 5.99 (bs, 2H), 5.00 (s, 4H), 4.72 (d, $J = 5.5$, 2H), 3.42 (s, 2H), 1.29 (s, 36H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 170.0, 160.6, 159.4, 153.0, 152.1, 153.1, 142.8, 137.0, 125.9, 123.2, 122.5, 107.3, 100.9, 100.9, 71.1, 43.3, 35.9, 35.5, 32.3; MS (FD) 733.5 m/z ; Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{49}\text{H}_{59}\text{N}_5\text{O}_4$: C, 73.14; H, 8.10; N, 9.54. Found: C, 72.86; H, 8.04; N, 9.40.

2-Naphthylamide-(6-{[3,5-bis-(3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-benzyloxy)-

benzylcarbamoyl]-methyl}-7-deazaguanine (2) - 2-Naphthoic acid (400 mg, 2.3 mmol) was suspended in CH₂Cl₂ (12 mL) and oxalyl chloride (10 mL) was added at once. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 18 h, and the solvent was fully evaporated. After co-evaporating with CH₂Cl₂, the dried acid chloride was dissolved in pyridine (4 mL), and added dropwise to a solution of **2b** (1.55 g, 2.1 mmol) in pyridine (30 mL). The solution was stirred at 65 °C for 18 h. The solvent was fully evaporated, and the solid was taken up in CHCl₃ (30 mL), and washed with water (1 × 20 mL) and brine (1 × 20 mL). The organic layer was dried with Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated to dryness to give a yellow solid that was purified by column chromatography using a 10% MeOH:CH₂Cl₂ gradient. The solvent was evaporated to give 1.66 g (89%) of a yellow foam: mp 168-171 °C; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 12.13 (s, 1H), 10.62 (bs, 1H), 10.18 (bs, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H), 7.76 (m, 4H), 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 2.0, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 2.0, 4H), 6.57 (bt, *J* = 2.0, 1H), 6.41 (s, 1H), 6.35 (s, 2H), 6.19 (bs, 1H), 4.90 (s, 4H), 4.03 (bs, 2H), 3.51 (s, 2H), 1.31 (s, 36H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 169.9, 169.2, 160.7, 158.1, 151.4, 148.8, 147.4, 140.5, 135.9, 135.5, 132.4, 129.7, 129.6, 129.4, 128.7, 128.5, 127.8, 127.2, 124.1, 122.7, 107.0, 105.3, 102.5, 101.1, 77.6, 71.4, 44.0, 36.3, 31.2, 31.8; MS (FD) 887.6 *m/z*; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₅₆H₆₅N₅O₅, 888.5064; found, 888.5076; Anal. Calcd. for C₅₆H₆₅N₅O₅: C, 75.73; H, 7.38; N, 7.89. Found: C, 75.75; H, 7.27; N, 7.87.

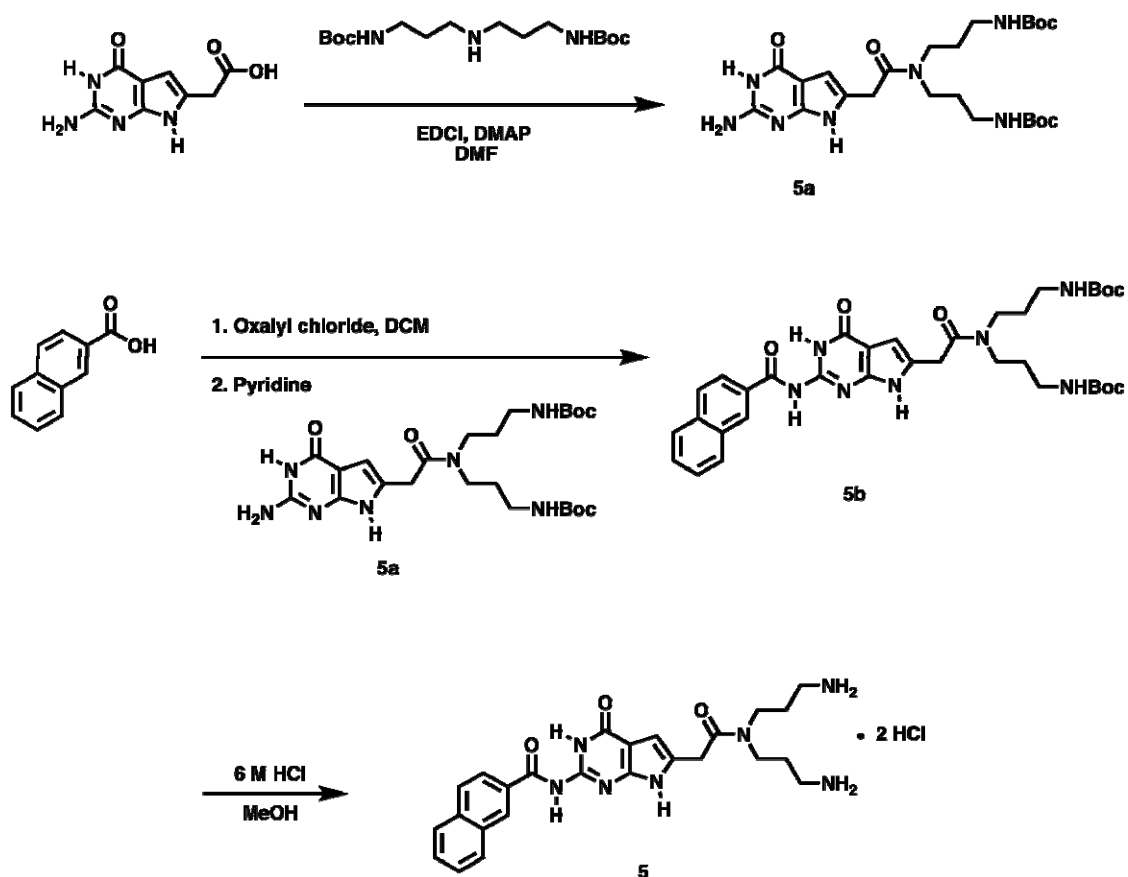


Heptanoic acid (6-amino-pyridin-2-yl)-amide (4a) – To a 50 mL round-bottom flask was added 2,6-diaminopyridine (2.4 g, 22.0 mmol) dissolved in THF (20 mL) and Et₃N (2.55 mL). Heptanoyl chloride (2.8 mL, 18.3 mmol) dissolved in THF (10

mL) was added dropwise at 0 °C. The reaction was allowed to stir at ambient temperature for 18 h. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was dissolved in 60 mL of H₂O. The product was extracted with CHCl₃ (3 x 60 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried with Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo to give a brown solid/oil that was purified by column chromatography in silica (4 x 10 cm) using 1:4 MeCN:CHCl₃ as eluent. The solid was recrystallized with 1:1 Et₂O: Hexanes to give 2.40 g (59%) of white needles: mp range: 67 – 68 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 (bs, 1H), 7.53 (bs, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 6.24 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 0.8, 1H), 4.27 (bs, 2H), 2.33 (t, *J* = 8.0, 2H), 1.70 (quin., *J* = 8.0, 2H), 1.34 (m, 6H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.8, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 172.1, 157.4, 150.3, 140.5, 103.6, 38.0, 31.7, 29.1, 25.7, 22.7, 14.3; MS (FD) *m/z* 221.2 (M⁺); Anal. Cal'd for: C, 65.13; H, 8.65; N, 18.99. Found: C, 65.23; H, 8.57; N, 18.77.

Naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid (6-heptanoylamino-pyridin-2-yl)-amide (4) –

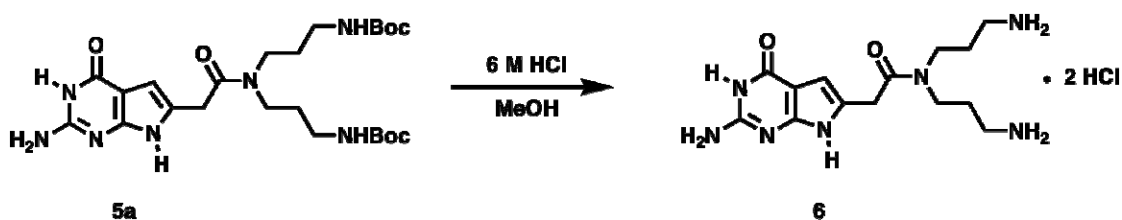
To a solution of naphthoic acid (75 mg, 0.4 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) was added oxalyl chloride (1 mL) dropwise. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The solvent was evaporated and co-evaporated with CH₂Cl₂. Once fully dried, the acid chloride was dissolved in THF (1 mL) and added slowly to a solution of **4a** (88 mg, 0.4 mmol), Et₃N (73 µL, 0.5 mmol), and THF (15 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The solvents were evaporated and the residue was dissolved in CHCl₃ (30 mL) and washed with water (1 x 30 mL) and brine (1 x 30 mL). The organic layer was dried with Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo to give a dull yellow solid that was purified by column chromatography, using 15% MeCN:CHCl₃ as eluent. The solvent was evaporated to give 114 mg (76%) of a white solid: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.40 (bs, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.0, 1H), 7.96 (m, 5H), 7.60 (m, 3H), 2.40 (t, *J* = 8.0, 1H), 1.74 (quin., *J* = 8.0, 2H), 1.39 (m, 2H), 1.32 (m, 4H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.0, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 171.9, 165.8, 149.88, 149.85, 141.2, 135.3, 132.7, 131.5, 129.3, 129.1, 128.4, 128.11, 128.03, 127.3, 123.6, 109.97, 109.85, 38.0, 31.8, 29.1, 25.5, 22.7; *m/z* MS(FD) 375.2.



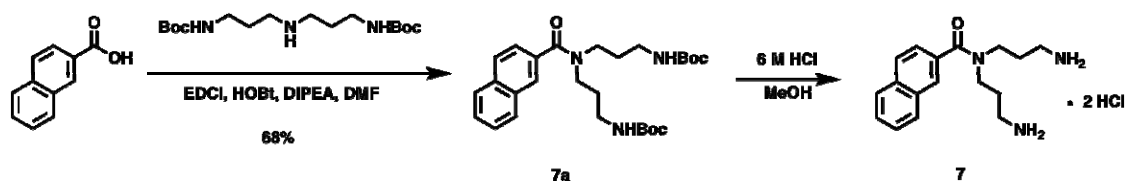
7-Deazaguanine-8-methylene-bis-3-Boc-propylamine amide (5a) – To 1.1 g (5.5 mmol) of 7-deazaguanine-8-methylene acetic acid **2a** and 2.0 g (6.0 mmol) of *tert*-butyl 3,3'-azanediylbis(propane-3,1-diyl)dicarbamate in 50 mL of DMF at 0 °C was added 0.6 g (4.9 mmol) of DMAP followed by 1.6 g (8.3 mmol) of EDCI. The suspension was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The solvent was evaporated to dryness, and the brown solid was suspended in CH₂Cl₂ and added directly to silica gel. Purification by column chromatography using a MeOH gradient from 0 to 10% in CH₂Cl₂ produced 1.95 g (3.7 mmol, 68%) of a yellow foam: ¹H NMR (500 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.78 (s, 1H), 10.15 (s, 1H), 6.92 (t, *J* = 5.0, 1H), 6.74 (t, *J* = 5.0, 1H), 6.00 (s, 2H), 5.89 (s, 1H), 3.53 (s, 2H), 3.24 (dt, *J* = 31.8, 7.5, 4H), 2.91 (dq, *J* = 35.7, 6.1, 4H), 1.60 (dq, *J* = 53.0, 7.0, 4H), 1.36 (s, 18H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆): δ 168.9, 158.5, 155.69, 155.52, 152.0, 151.1, 129.4, 124.8, 115.2, 99.86, 99.74, 77.61, 77.50, 45.3, 42.9, 37.61, 37.51, 32.3, 28.8, 28.3, 27.8; *m/z* (FD) 521.3; *m/z* HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]⁺: 522.3040; found 522.3047.

2-Naphthylamide-7-deazaguanine-8-methylene-bis-3-Boc-propylamine amide (5b) – To 80 mg (0.47 mmol) of 2-Naphthoic acid suspended in 2 mL of CH₂Cl₂ was added 2 mL of oxalyl chloride stirred at room temperature for 18 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and co-evaporated with CH₂Cl₂. The dried acid chloride was dissolved in 1 mL of pyridine, and added dropwise to a solution of 220 mg (0.42 mmol) of **5a** in 12 mL of pyridine. The solution was stirred at 65 °C for 18 h. The solvent was fully evaporated *in vacuo*, and the solid was taken up in CHCl₃ (60 mL), and washed with water (1 × 50 mL) and brine (1 × 50 mL). The organic layer was dried with Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated to dryness to give a yellow solid that was purified by column chromatography using a MeOH gradient from 0 to 10% in CH₂Cl₂ to produce 243 mg (0.36 mmol, 85%) of a yellow foam: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.99 (s, 1H), 11.81 (s, 1H), 11.57 (s, 1H), 8.73 (s, 1H), 8.11-8.02 (m, 4H), 7.71-7.63 (m, 2H), 6.96 (t, *J* = 5.4, 1H), 6.77 (t, *J* = 5.4, 1H), 6.20 (d, *J* = 1.8, 1H), 3.70 (s, 2H), 3.32 (d, *J* = 8.1, 2H), 3.25 (t, *J* = 7.2, 2H), 2.98 (q, *J* = 5.7, 2H), 2.90 (q, *J* = 6.3, 2H), 2.55-2.49 (m, 4H), 1.69 (dt, *J* = 13.9, 6.6, 2H), 1.58 (dt, *J* = 13.6, 5.6, 2H), 1.37 (s, 18H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 169.5, 169.3, 157.4, 156.39, 156.21, 148.5, 146.6, 135.5, 132.5, 130.44, 130.27, 130.0, 129.23, 129.19, 128.8, 128.4, 127.7, 125.1, 105.0, 101.5, 78.29, 78.18, 45.9, 43.7, 38.34, 38.22, 33.0, 29.5, 28.9, 28.5; *m/z* HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]⁺: 676.3459; found 676.3453.

2-Naphthylamide-7-deazaguanine-8-methylene-bis-3-propylamine amide hydrochloride (5): To 15 mL of 6 N HCl in MeOH at 0 °C was added 1.5 g (2.2 mmol) of **5b** and stirred at room temperature 1 h. The solvent was fully removed under reduced pressure to give 1.21 g (2.2 mmol, 99%) of a dull yellow foam: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O) δ 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 4.0, 1H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 3.9, 2H), 5.98 (s, 1H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 3.45 (q, *J* = 7.9, 4H), 2.98 (dt, *J* = 26.7, 7.5, 4H), 1.95 (ddt, *J* = 25.3, 15.8, 8.5, 4H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 171.6, 169.3, 158.8, 149.4, 146.2, 135.6, 132.5, 129.6, 129.2, 128.59, 128.54, 128.45, 127.6, 127.0, 123.6, 104.3, 101.3, 65.6, 45.4, 42.6, 37.0, 32.3, 26.6, 25.6; *m/z* HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]⁺: 476.2410; found 476.2404.



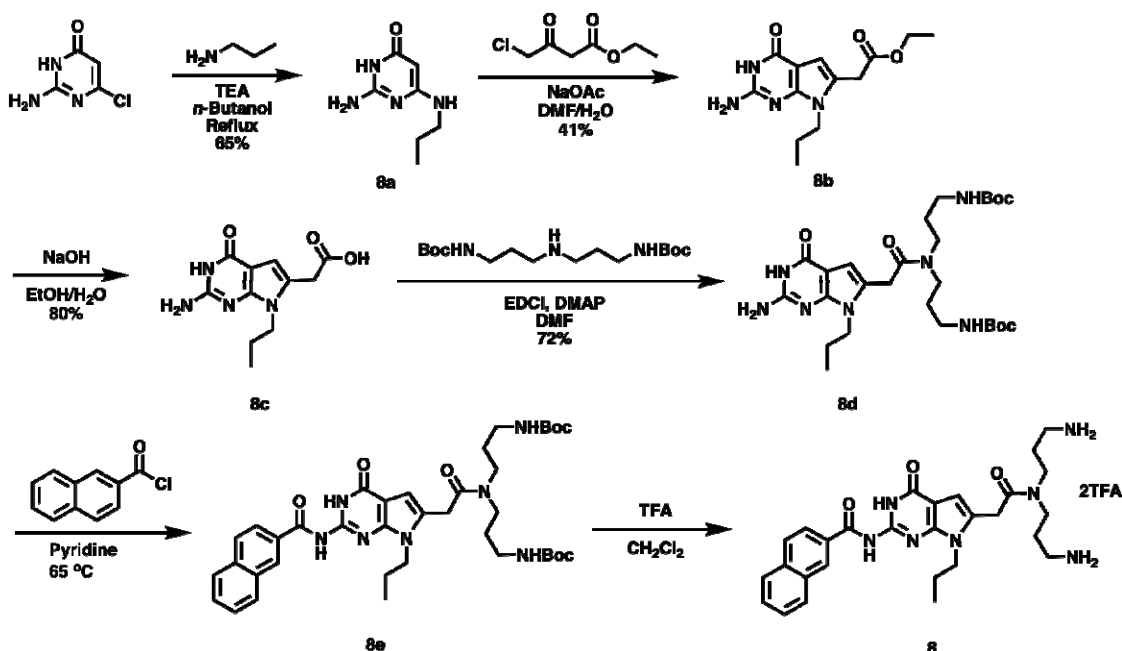
7-Deazaguanine-8-methylene-bis-3-Boc-propylamine amide (6): To 15 mL of 6 N HCl in MeOH at 0 °C was added 2.0 g (3.7 mmol) of **5a** and stirred at room temperature 1 h. The solvent was fully evaporated to give 1.44 g (3.6 mmol, 98%) of a dull yellow foam: ¹H NMR (500 MHz; D₂O) δ 6.35 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 2H), 3.53 (t, *J* = 7.9, 2H), 3.47 (t, *J* = 7.0, 2H), 3.05-3.02 (m, 2H), 2.96 (t, *J* = 7.3, 2H), 2.05-1.99 (m, 2H), 1.93 (quintet, *J* = 7.2, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 171.6, 158.4, 151.4, 141.3, 126.7, 101.9, 100.4, 45.3, 42.5, 36.9, 31.8, 26.5, 25.5; *m/z* HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]⁺: 322.1991; found 322.1993.



2-Naphthoylamide-bis-3-Boc-propylamine amide (7a): To 1.0 g (5.8 mmol) of 2-naphthoic acid, 1.9 g (5.8 mmol) of *tert*-butyl 3,3'-azanediylbis(propyl-3-yl)dicarbamate, and 0.64 g (5.2 mmol) of DMAP in 30 mL of DMF at 0 °C was added 1.7 g (8.7 mmol) of EDCI. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The solvent was evaporated to dryness, and the clear oil was suspended in 200 mL of CH₂Cl₂ and washed sequentially with 100 mL of saturated NaHCO₃, 100 mL of brine, and 100 mL of water. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ followed by removal of solvent under reduced pressure to produce 2.2 g of crude clear foam. Purification by column chromatography using a MeOH gradient from 0 to 10% CH₂Cl₂ produced 2.1 g (4.1 mmol, 74%) of a clear brittle foam: ¹H NMR (500 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.00-7.95 (m, 3H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.5, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 3.43 (s, 2H), 3.21 (s, 2H), 3.02 (s, 2H), 2.73 (s, 2H), 1.73 (s, 2H), 1.62 (s, 2H), 1.39 (s, 9H), 1.20 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 172.4, 156.4, 156.1, 134.0, 133.6, 132.9, 128.62, 128.49, 128.0, 127.2, 127.0, 126.1, 79.1, 46.9, 42.1, 37.8, 29.6, 28.7, 28.4, 28.04, 123.88; *m/z* HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]⁺: 486.2968; found 486.2962.

2-Naphthylamide-bis-3-propylamine amide hydrochloride (7) – To 15 mL of 6 N HCl in MeOH at 0 °C was added 1.0 g (2.1 mmol) of **3a** and stirred at room temperature 1 h. The solvent was fully evaporated to give 0.73 g (2.1 mmol, 99%) of a clear colorless foam: ¹H NMR (500 MHz; D₂O) δ 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 7.97 (sextet, *J* = 4.5, 2H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.65-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.6, 1H), 3.66 (t, *J* = 7.0, 2H), 3.41 (t, *J* = 7.7, 2H), 3.11 (t, *J* = 7.5, 2H), 2.68 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 7.2, 2H), 2.09 (quintet, *J* = 7.3, 2H), 1.89 (dt, *J* = 15.6, 7.8, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125

MHz; CD₃OD) δ 174.7, 135.0, 134.21, 134.04, 129.9, 129.4, 128.9, 128.5, 128.1, 127.0, 124.4, 47.7, 43.1, 38.3, 38.0, 27.6, 26.7; m/z HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[M+H]^+$: 286.1919; found 286.1912.



2-amino-6-(propylamino)pyrimidin-4(3H)-one (8a): To a refluxing suspension of 4.1 g (28 mmol) of 2-amino-6-(propylamino)pyrimidin-4(3H)-one and 7.8 mL (56 mmol) of triethylamine in 200 mL of n -butanol was added 4.7 mL (56 mmol) of propylamine and left overnight. The clear yellow solution was cooled to ambient temperature and washed with 100 mL (3 \times), dried over Na₂SO₄ and condensed under reduced pressure. The resulting solid was suspended in a 10 mL of n -butanol and triturated in 600 mL of pentane to produce 3.1 g (18.2 mmol) of an off-white amorphous solid: mp 248-250 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.64 (s, 1H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 6.11 (s, 2H), 4.39 (s, 1H), 2.97 (s, 2H), 1.45 (sextet, J = 7.2, 2H), 0.85 (t, J = 7.4, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.5, 163.3, 155.1, 75.2, 42.9, 22.4, 11.8; m/z HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[M+H]^+$: 169.1089; found 169.1091.

ethyl 2-(2-amino-4-oxo-7-propyl-4,7-dihydro-3H-pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-6-yl)acetate (8b): To a suspension of 2.1 g (12.4 mmol) of **8a** and 1.2 g (14.9 mmol) of NaOAc in 65 mL of DMF and 15 mL of water was added 3.4 mL (24.9 mmol) of ethyl-4-chloroacetoacetate and stirred for 4 days. The mixture was diluted to 1.0 L with water, filtered, and extracted with 400 mL of CHCl₃ (3 \times). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and condensed under reduced pressure to produce a red crude solid. The solid was suspended in a minimal amount of MeCN and precipitated with 1:1 Et₂O/hexanes to produce 1.4 g (5.1 mmol, 41%) of a light brown solid:

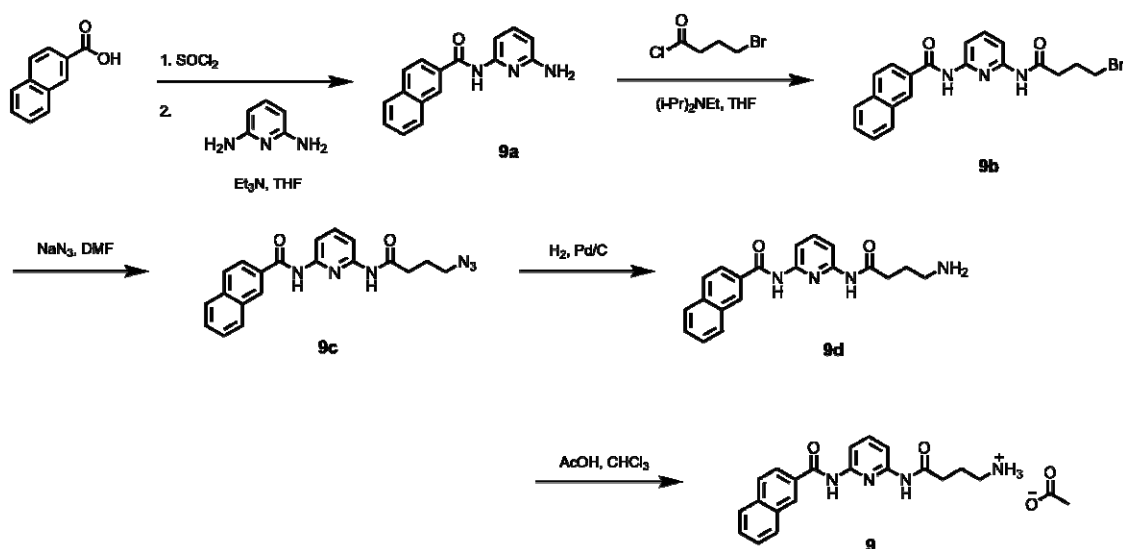
mp 204-205 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz; DMSO- d_6) δ 10.25 (s, 1H), 6.19 (s, 2H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 4.09 (q, $J = 7.1$, 2H), 3.79 (t, $J = 7.6$, 2H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 1.59 (dq, $J = 15.1$, 7.5, 2H), 1.19 (t, $J = 7.1$, 3H), 0.83-0.79 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz; DMSO- d_6) δ 170.3, 158.5, 152.4, 150.9, 124.7, 101.3, 99.4, 60.7, 43.3, 32.4, 23.1, 14.2, 11.2; m/z HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 279.1457; found 279.1448; Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$: C, 56.10; H, 6.52; N, 20.13. Found: C, 56.83; H, 6.51; N, 19.97.

2-(2-amino-4-oxo-7-propyl-4,7-dihydro-3H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-6-yl)acetic acid (8c): To a refluxing solution of 0.63 g (2.3 mmol) of **8b** in 30 mL of 1:1 EtOH:water was added 0.18 g (4.5 mmol) of NaOH and stirred for 4 h. The solution was cooled to ambient temperature, neutralized with conc. HCl and condensed under reduced pressure to produce an off-white crude precipitate. The resulting solid was triturated in cold water to produce 0.45 g (1.8 mmol, 80%) of off-white solid: mp dec. > 250 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz; DMSO- d_6) δ 12.52 (s, 1H), 10.23 (s, 1H), 6.18 (s, 2H), 6.08 (s, 1H), 3.80 (t, $J = 7.7$, 2H), 3.61 (s, 2H), 1.61 (sextet, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 0.82 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz; DMSO- d_6) δ 172.0, 158.6, 152.3, 150.9, 125.5, 101.2, 99.3, 43.3, 32.6, 23.1, 11.2; m/z HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 251.1144; found 251.1149.

tert-butyl 3,3'-(2-(2-amino-4-oxo-7-propyl-4,7-dihydro-3H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-6-yl)-acetylazanediy)bis(propane-3,1-diyl)dicarbamate (8d): To 0.25 g (0.81 mmol) of **(8c)** and 0.43 g (1.3 mmol) of *tert*-butyl 3,3'-azanediy)bis(propane-3,1-diyl)dicarbamate in 15 mL of DMF at 0 °C was added 0.11 g (0.89 mmol) of DMAP followed by 0.20 g (1.0 mmol) of EDCI. The suspension was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The solvent was evaporated to dryness, and the resulting solid was suspended in 200 mL of CH_2Cl_2 and washed sequentially with 100 mL saturated Na_2CO_3 , 100 mL of brine, and 100 mL of water. The organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by column chromatography using a MeOH gradient from 0 to 10% in CH_2Cl_2 produced 0.33 g (0.58 mmol, 72%) of a light yellow foam: ^1H NMR (400 MHz; DMSO- d_6) δ 10.21 (s, 1H), 6.94 (t, $J = 5.2$, 1H), 6.77 (t, $J = 5.6$, 1H), 6.16 (s, 2H), 5.97 (s, 1H), 3.77 (t, $J = 7.6$, 2H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 3.26 (dt, $J = 31.7$, 7.5, 4H), 2.92 (dq, $J = 25.6$, 6.2, 4H), 1.70-1.51 (m, 6H), 1.36 (d, $J = 3.7$, 15H), 0.81 (t, $J = 7.4$, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 170.2, 160.6, 156.6, 152.14, 152.02, 126.8, 101.5, 100.3, 79.7, 79.3, 46.3, 44.3, 43.5, 38.4, 37.8, 32.9, 29.9, 28.80, 28.74, 28.3, 23.8, 11.6; m/z HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 564.3510; found 564.3508.

tert-butyl3,3'-(2-(2-(2-naphthamido)-4-oxo-7-propyl-4,7-dihydro-3H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-6-yl)acetylazanediy)bis(propane-3,1-diyl)dicarbamate (8e): To 147 mg (0.85 mmol) of 2-Naphthoic acid suspended in 2 mL of CH₂Cl₂ was added 2 mL of oxalyl chloride stirred at room temperature for 18 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and co-evaporated with CH₂Cl₂. The dried acid chloride was dissolved in 2 mL of pyridine, and added dropwise to a solution of 247 mg (0.44 mmol) of **8d** in 12 mL of pyridine. The solution was stirred at 65 °C for 18 h. The solvent was fully evaporated *in vacuo*, and the solid was taken up in CHCl₃ (60 mL), and washed with water (1 × 50 mL) and brine (1 × 50 mL). The organic layer was dried with Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated to dryness to give a yellow solid that was purified by column chromatography using a MeOH gradient from 0 to 10% in CH₂Cl₂ to produce 175 mg (0.25 mmol, 56%) of a yellow foam: ¹H NMR (500 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 12.06 (s, 1H), 11.86 (s, 1H), 8.75 (s, 1H), 8.07 (td, *J* = 21.4, 8.6, 4H), 7.67 (tdd, *J* = 14.4, 6.4, 1.4, 2H), 6.96 (t, *J* = 5.3, 1H), 6.78 (t, *J* = 5.5, 1H), 6.27 (s, 1H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 7.6, 2H), 3.81 (s, 2H), 3.36 (d, *J* = 7.4, 2H), 3.25 (t, *J* = 7.4, 2H), 2.98 (q, *J* = 6.0, 2H), 2.90 (q, *J* = 6.3, 2H), 1.71 (dq, *J* = 15.0, 7.5, 4H), 1.59 (dt, *J* = 14.0, 7.0, 2H), 1.37 (d, *J* = 1.4, 18H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 169.5, 168.0, 157.8, 156.48, 156.37, 148.1, 145.6, 135.6, 132.5, 129.52, 129.41, 129.26, 129.05, 128.89, 128.0, 127.4, 123.5, 104.6, 102.3, 79.6, 79.2, 46.2, 44.4, 43.3, 38.2, 37.6, 32.6, 29.9, 28.66, 28.59, 28.1, 23.8, 11.5; *m/z* HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]⁺: 718.3928; found 718.3937.

N-(6-(2-(bis(3-aminopropyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-4-oxo-7-propyl-4,7-dihydro-3H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-naphthamide (8): To a solution of 130 mg (0.181 mmol) of **8e** in 5 mL of CH₂Cl₂ was added 2 mL of TFA dropwise and stirred for 1 h. The solution was condensed under reduced pressure and the resulting oil was dissolved in 10 mL of water. The solution was filtered and purified by RP-HPLC using a gradient of 4:1 0.1% TFA/H₂O: 0.1% TFA/MeCN to 0.1% TFA/MeCN over 30 min to produce 0.121 mg (0.163 mmol, 90%) of a light yellow clear film as the bis TFA salt: ¹H NMR (500 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 8.46 (s, 1H), 7.94-7.81 (m, 4H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 2H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 7.7, 2H), 3.92 (s, 2H), 3.55 (dt, *J* = 26.2, 7.4, 4H), 3.04 (t, *J* = 7.6, 2H), 2.96 (t, *J* = 7.2, 2H), 2.01 (dq, *J* = 26.9, 8.1, 4H), 1.75 (sextet, *J* = 7.6, 2H), 0.92 (t, *J* = 7.4, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 172.3, 170.6, 159.8, 150.2, 147.2, 136.7, 133.6, 131.1, 130.62, 130.45, 130.37, 129.65, 129.51, 128.7, 128.0, 124.9, 104.8, 102.7, 46.6, 45.4, 43.8, 38.22, 38.05, 32.8, 27.8, 26.7, 24.5, 11.5; *m/z* HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]⁺: 518.2880; found 518.2880.



Naphthylene-2-carboxylic acid (6-amino-pyridin-2-yl)-amide (9a). To 2.0 g (11.6 mmol) of 2-naphthoic acid suspended in SOCl_2 (40 mL) and the solution was refluxed (80 °C) for 20 h. The mixture was cooled and the excess SOCl_2 was evaporated. The residue was co-evaporated with benzene and placed on high-vacuum to give a tan solid. A solution of 2,6-diaminopyridine (1.5 g, 14.0 mmol) in Et_3N (1.6 mL, 11.6 mmol) and THF (40 mL) was prepared and cooled in an ice-bath. The dried acid chloride dissolved in THF (20 mL) was added dropwise and the reaction was allowed to stir at room temperature for 20 h. The solvents were evaporated and the residue was dissolved in CHCl_3 (60 mL) and washed with H_2O (2 x 100 mL). The organic layer was dried with Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated in vacuo to give a brown solid. Purified by column chromatography using 1:4 $\text{MeCN}:\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ mixture as eluent. The product **5a** was isolated and the solvent was evaporated to give a white solid that was recrystallized with CHCl_3 . After two recrystallizations, the crops were combined to give a total of 2.23 g of a white crystalline solid (73%): $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz; $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 10.27 (s, 1H), 8.66 (s, 1H), 8.07-8.00 (m, 4H), 7.67-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.44 (dt, $J = 17.6, 8.4$, 2H), 6.28 (dd, $J = 7.8$, 1H), 5.84 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz; $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 165.8, 158.9, 150.8, 139.2, 134.6, 132.4, 132.0, 129.4, 128.7, 128.2, 127.9, 127.0, 124.8, 104.3, 102.4; m/z HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 264.1137; found 264.1137.

Naphthylene-2-carboxylic acid (6-(4-bromo-butyrylamino) pyridin-2-yl)-amide (9b): 4-bromobutyric acid chloride (176 μL , 1.52 mmol) dissolved in THF (5 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of **5a** (400 mg, 1.50 mmol) dissolved in THF (25 mL) and $(i\text{-Pr})_2\text{NEt}$ (264 μL , 1.52 mmol) and stirred at ambient temperature. The THF was evaporated and co-evaporated with CHCl_3 . The residue was dissolved in CHCl_3 (50 mL) and washed with 5% (w/v) NaHCO_3 (1 x 50

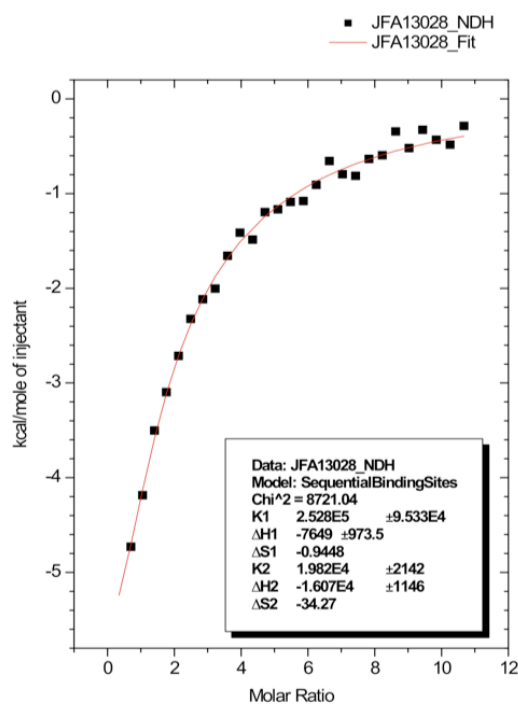
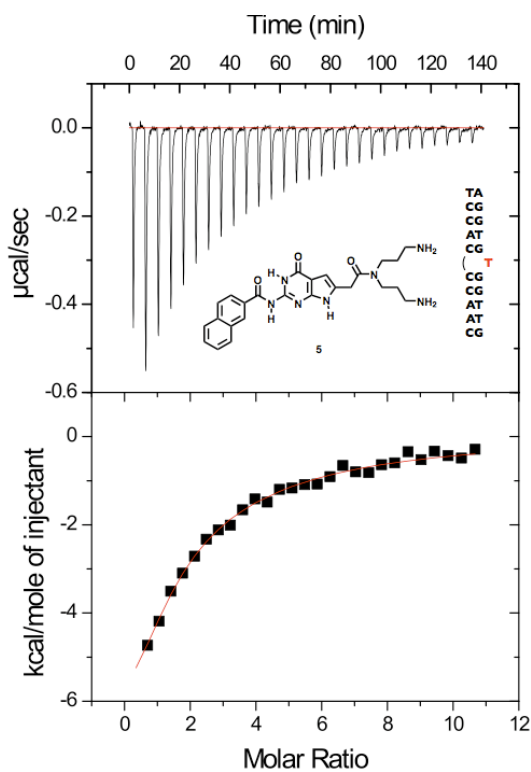
mL) and H₂O (2 x 50 mL). The organic layer was dried with Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo to give a brown residue. The product was purified by column chromatography using 1:4 MeCN:CH₂Cl₂ as eluent. The product fractions were collected, and the solvent was evaporated to give 615 mg (98%) of a yellow oil. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): 8.42 (s, 2H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 7.99-7.91 (m, 5H), 7.80 (t, *J* = 8.0, 1H), 7.68 (bs, 1H), 7.60 (dq, *J* = 7.2, 2.4, 2H), 3.55 (t, *J* = 6.4, 2H), 2.63 (t, *J* = 6.8, 2H), 2.30 (quintet, *J* = 6.4, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 171.8, 166.7, 151.06, 150.90, 140.8, 135.1, 132.7, 132.1, 129.8, 129.2, 128.7, 128.3, 127.5, 125.1, 111.3, 110.4, 35.1, 28.7; *m/z* FD 412.2; *m/z* HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]⁺: 412.0661; found 412.0658.

Naphthylene-2-carboxylic acid (6-4-azido-butyrylamino) pyridin-2-yl)-amide (9c): NaN₃ (48 mg, 0.74 mmol) was added to a solution of **5b** (200 mg, 0.49 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) and the reaction was allowed to stir at ambient temperature for 20 h. The DMF was evaporated, and the residue was dissolved CHCl₃ (20 mL) and washed with H₂O (1 x 20 mL) and brine (1 x 20 mL). The organic layer was dried with Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo to give a yellow oil that was purified by column chromatography using 5% MeCN:CH₂Cl₂ as eluent. The product was isolated, and the solvents were evaporated to give 90 mg (50%) of a yellow oil: ¹H-NMR (500 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.51 (s, 1H), 10.29 (s, 1H), 8.63 (s, 1H), 8.07-8.00 (m, 4H), 7.85-7.82 (m, 3H), 7.66-7.60 (m, 2H), 3.38 (t, *J* = 6.9, 2H), 2.52 (t, *J* = 7.3, 2H), 1.85 (quintet, *J* = 7.1, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 171.7, 166.2, 150.9, 150.7, 140.3, 134.8, 132.4, 131.8, 129.4, 128.9, 128.4, 128.0, 127.2, 124.8, 110.9, 110.1, 50.6, 33.4, 24.5; *m/z* HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]⁺: 375.1569; found 375.1559.

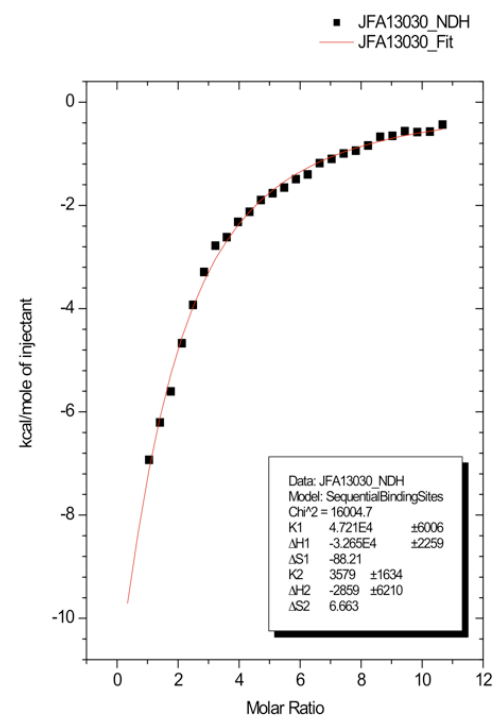
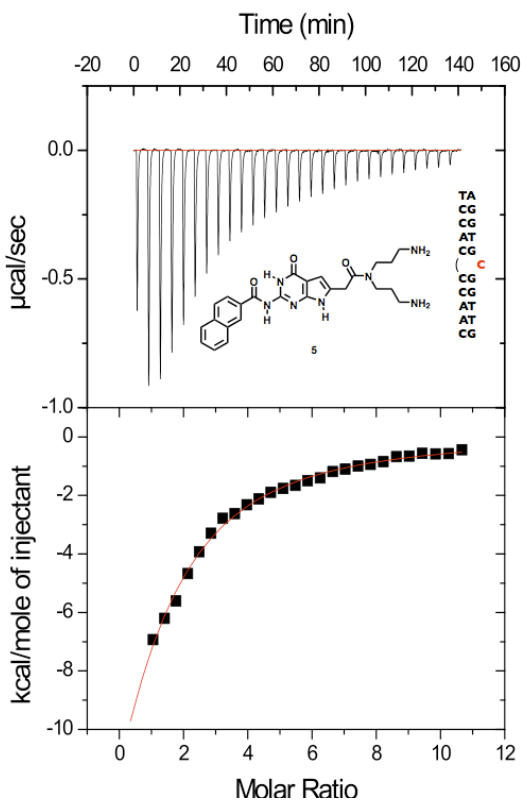
Naphthylene-2-carboxylic acid (6-4-amino-butyrylamino) pyridin-2-yl)-amide (9d): **5c** (90 mg, 0.24 mmol) was dissolved in cold MeOH (20 mL), and Pd/C was carefully added (50 mg; 10% on act. ca.). The air in the solution was evacuated and re-pressurized with a H₂ balloon. The reaction was hydrogenated for 2 h using the hydrogenation apparatus at atmospheric pressure. The solution was filtered through Celite and the Celite was washed with 5% NEt₃/MeOH. The solvent was evaporated to give a faint yellow oil 54 mg (65%) that was purified with column chromatography using 1% Et₃N/5% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂. The product was isolated and the solvents evaporated to give 54 mg (65%) of a yellow oil which was carried directly to the next step.

Naphthylene-2-carboxylic acid (6-4-ammonium-butyrylamino) pyridin-2-yl)-amide acetate (9): **5d** (300 mg, 0.86 mmol) was suspended in CHCl_3 (20 mL) and AcOH (65 mg, 1.1 mmol, glacial) was added dropwise. The reaction was allowed to stir at room temperature for 20 min and the solvents were evaporated. The pink oil was triturated with CHCl_3 to give 270 mg (78%) of a white solid **5** that was filtered and washed with more CHCl_3 : ^1H -NMR (400 MHz; D_2O): 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, $J = 7.6$, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J = 8.8$, 2H), 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.61 (t, $J = 8.0$, 1H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.22 (d, $J = 8.0$, 1H), 2.97 (t, $J = 7.6$, 2H), 2.33 (t, $J = 7.6$, 2H), 1.88 (quintet, $J = 8.4$, 2H), 1.87 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz; $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 172.0, 166.7, 151.00, 150.88, 140.9, 135.1, 132.7, 132.1, 129.8, 129.2, 128.7, 128.3, 127.6, 125.1, 111.3, 110.4, 39.2, 33.5, 23.5; m/z HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 363.1821; found 363.1813.

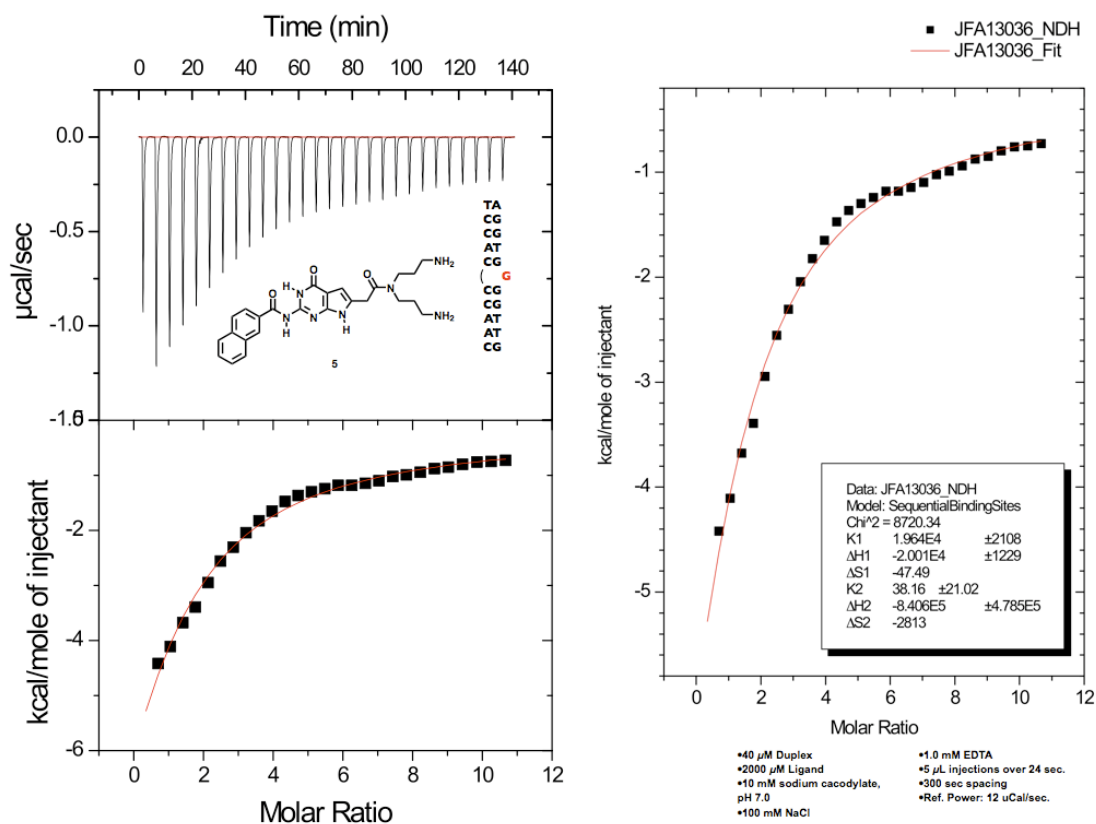
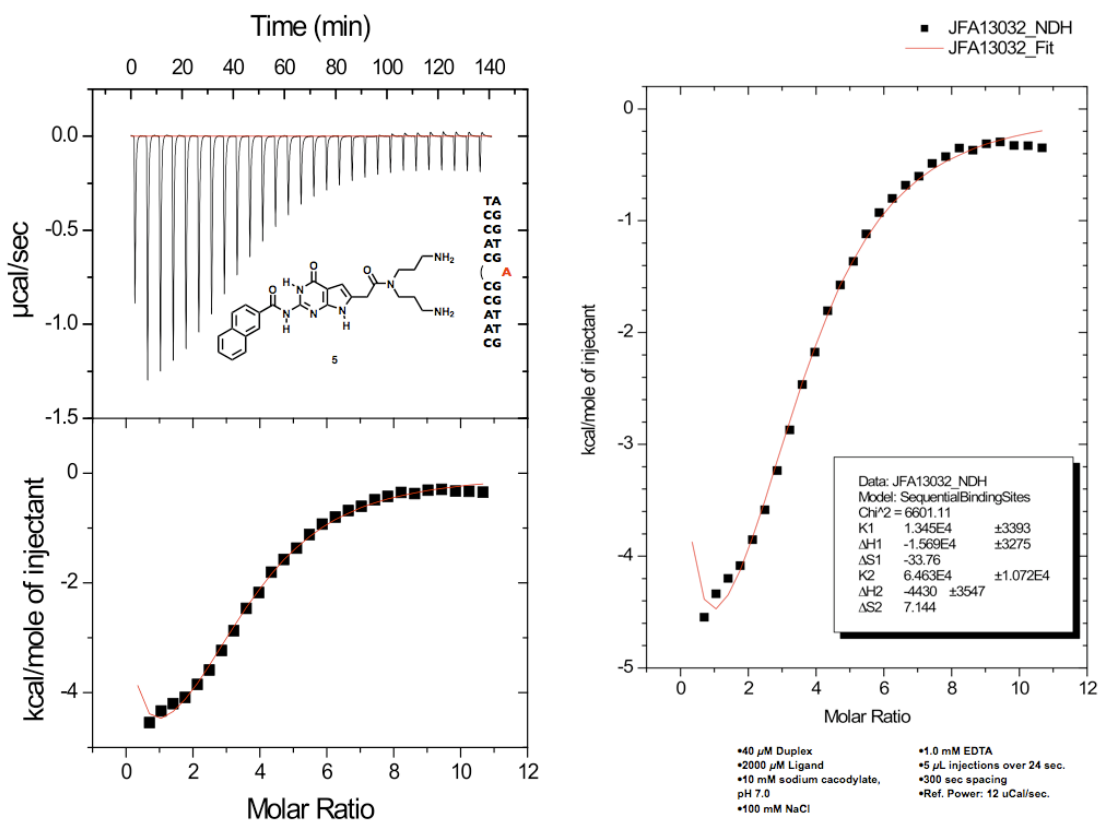
Isothermal Titration Calorimetry:

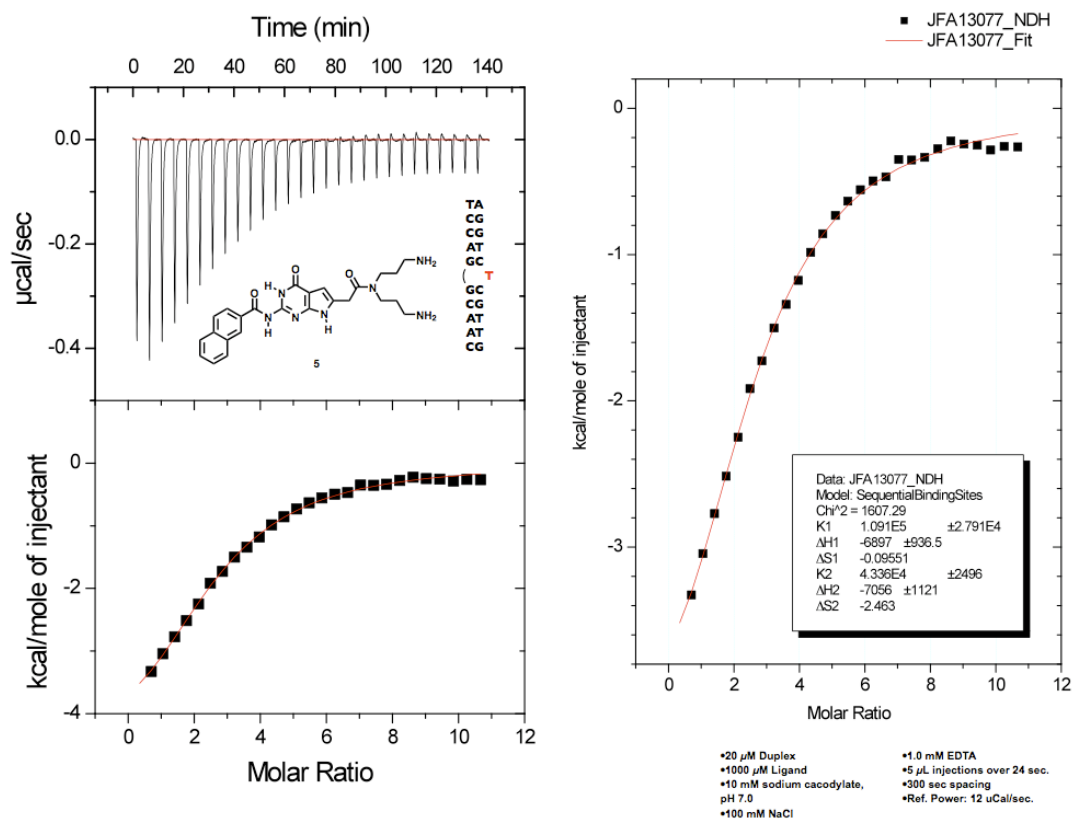


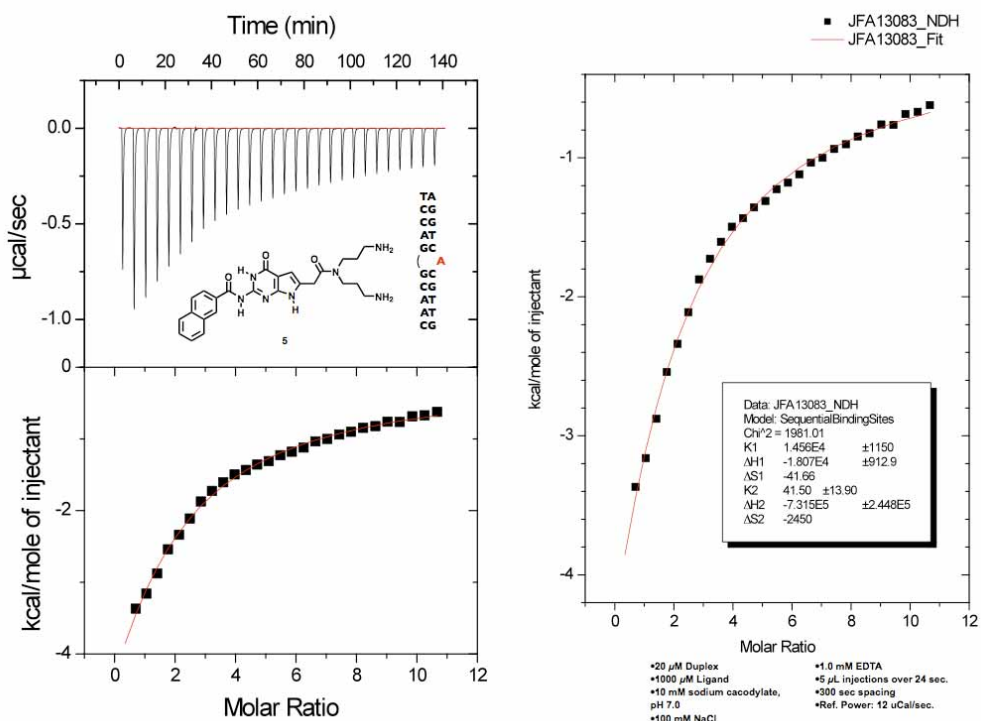
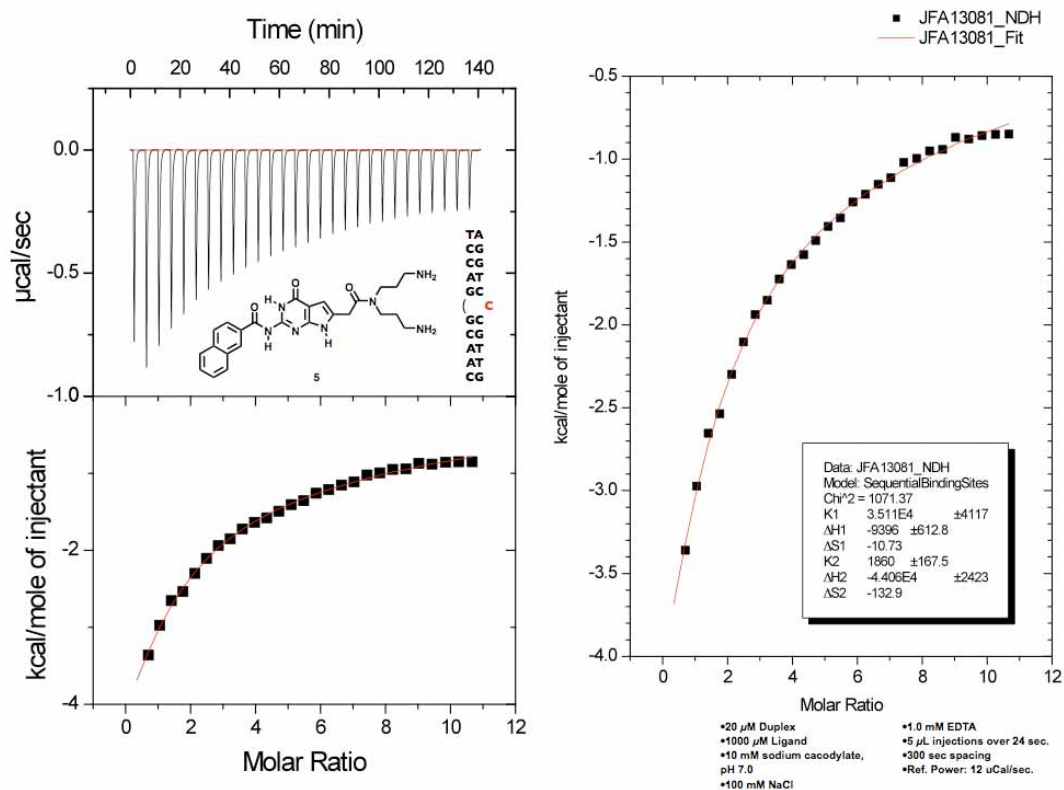
•20 µM Duplex
•1000 µM Ligand
•10 mM sodium cacodylate,
pH 7.0
•100 mM NaCl
•1.0 mM EDTA
•5 µL injections over 24 sec.
•300 sec spacing
•Ref. Power: 12 uCal/sec.

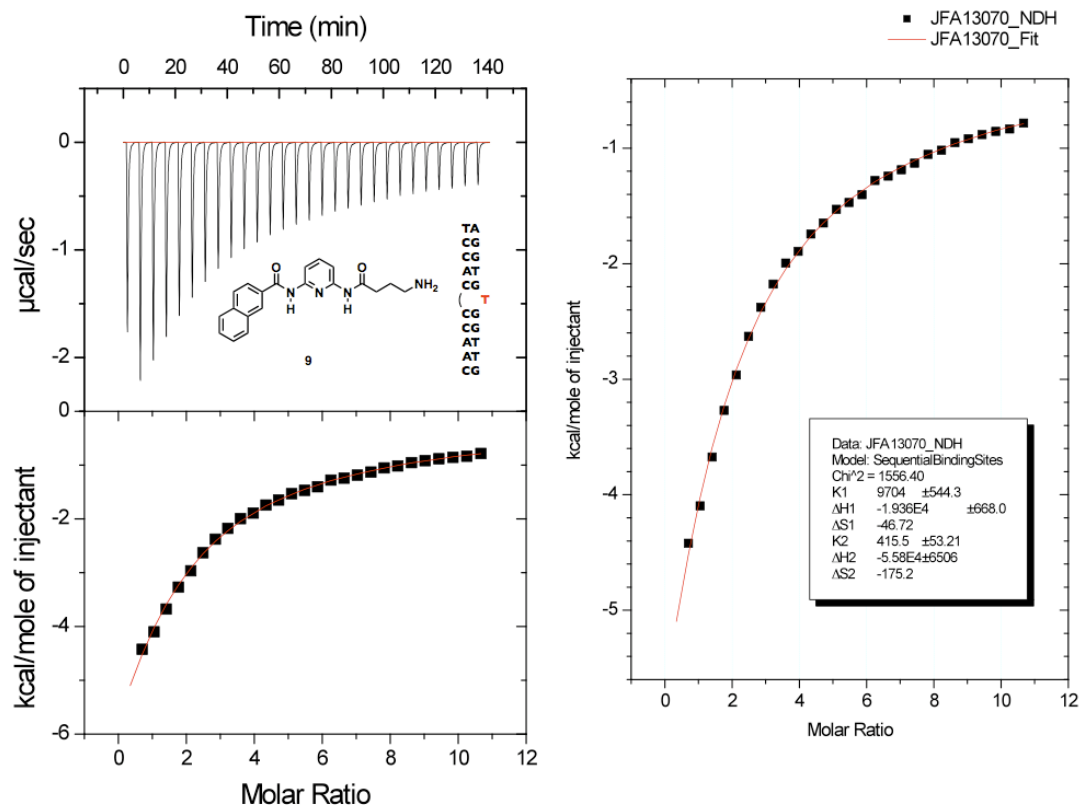


•20 µM Duplex
•1000 µM Ligand
•10 mM sodium cacodylate,
pH 7.0
•100 mM NaCl
•1.0 mM EDTA
•5 µL injections over 24 sec.
•300 sec spacing
•Ref. Power: 12 uCal/sec.

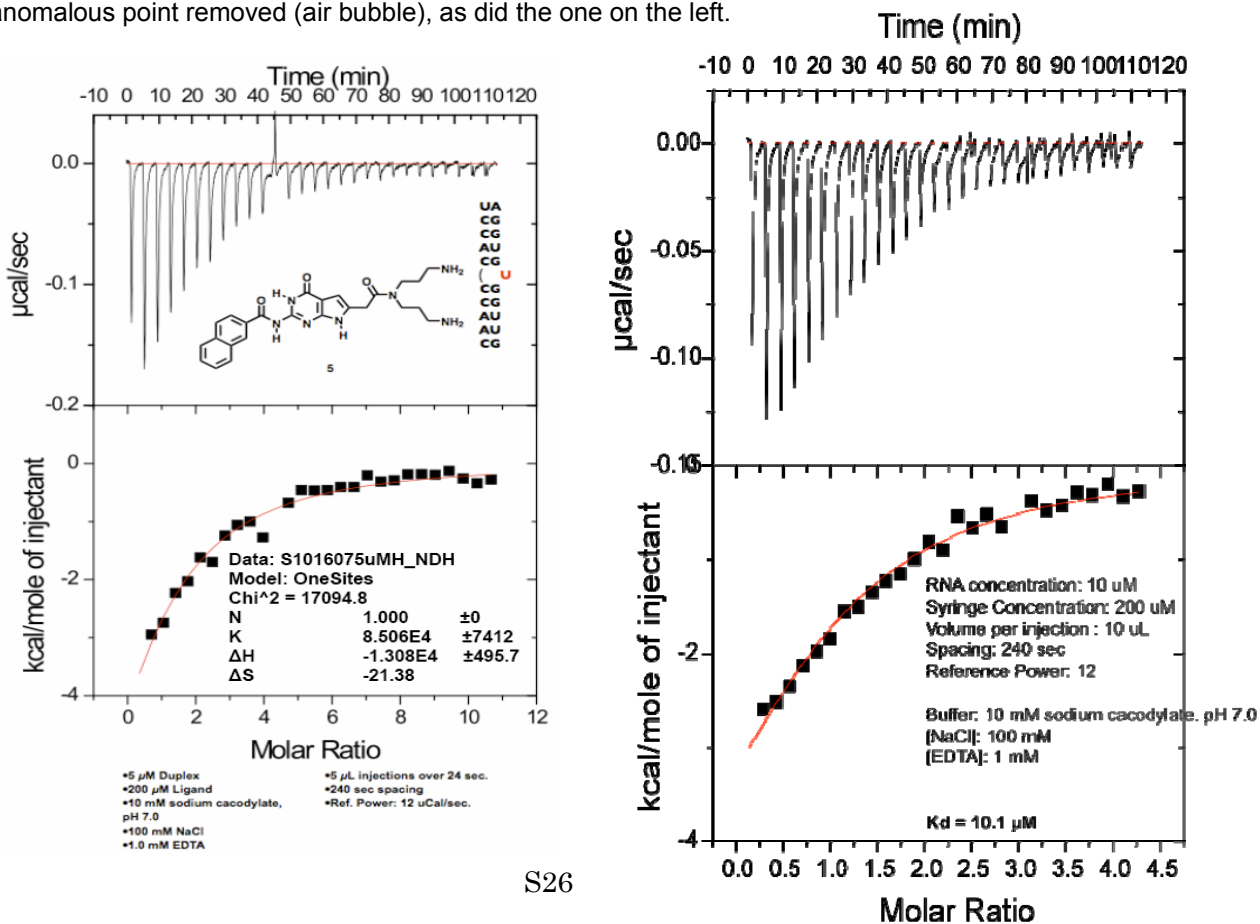




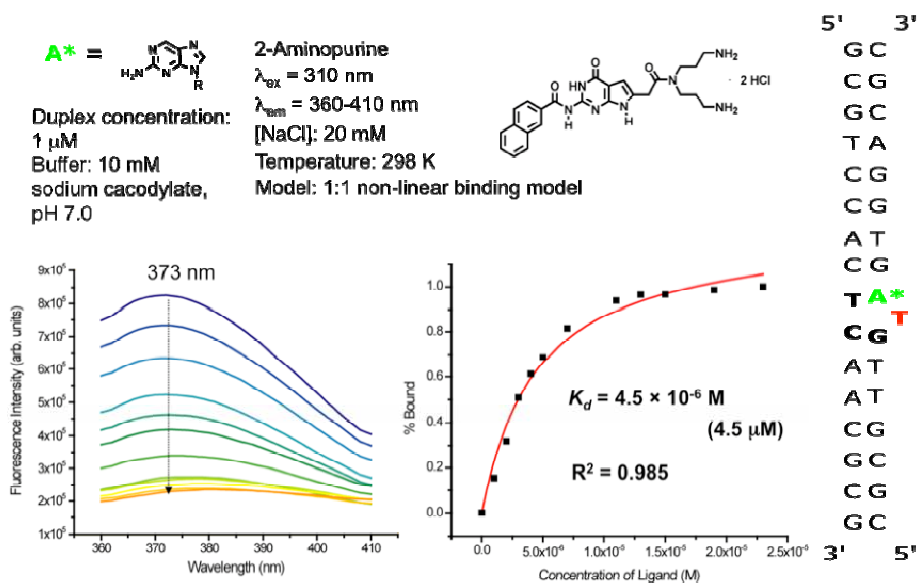




Two representative RNA titrations shown below. The one on left (also shown in text) had one anomalous point removed (air bubble), as did the one on the left.

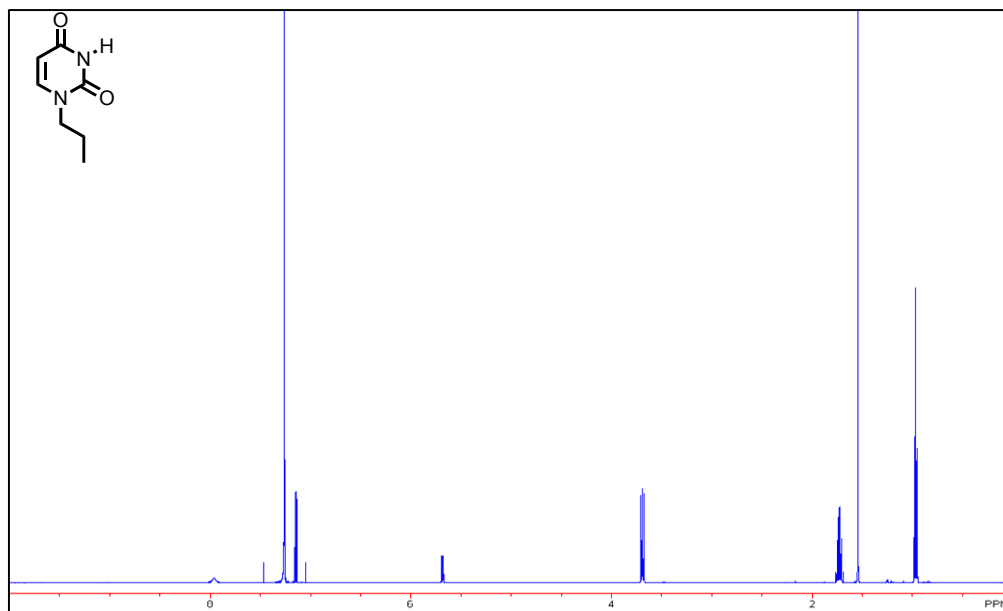


Fluorescent Binding Titration

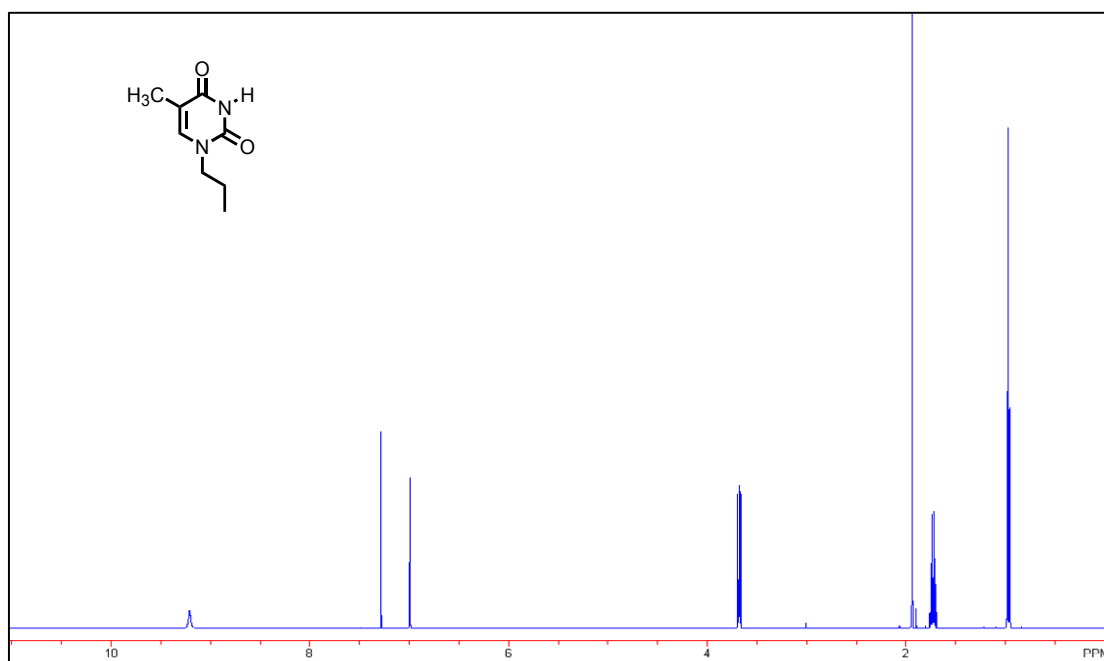


^1H NMR of Key Compounds

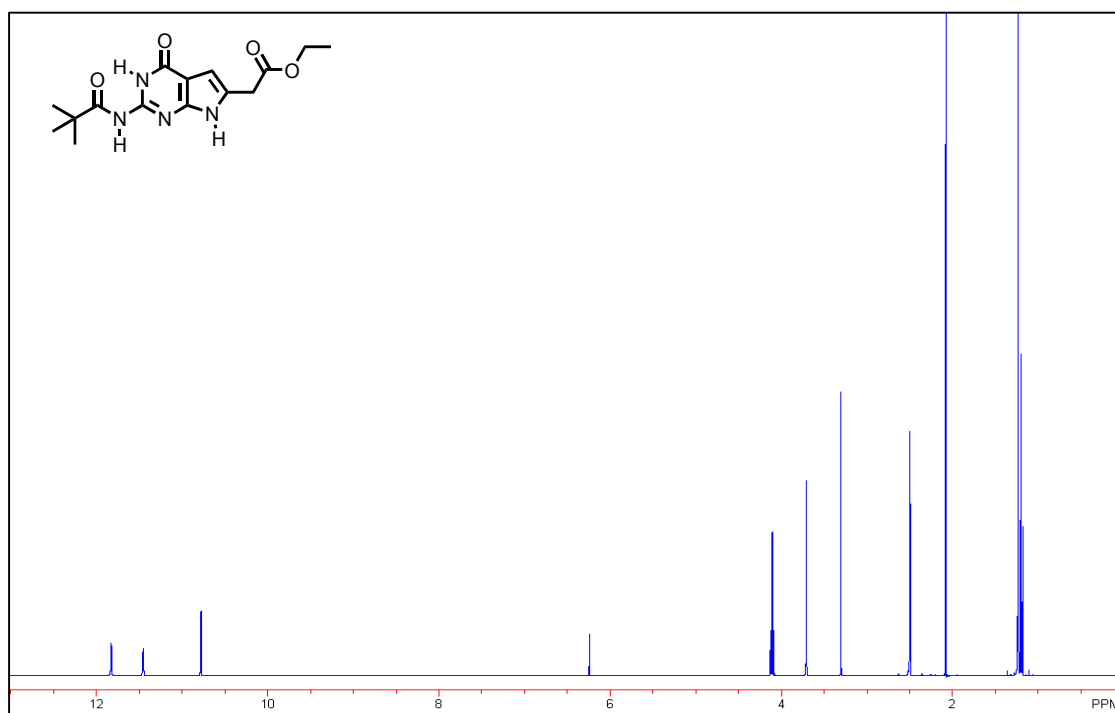
n-propyl uracil (CDCl_3)



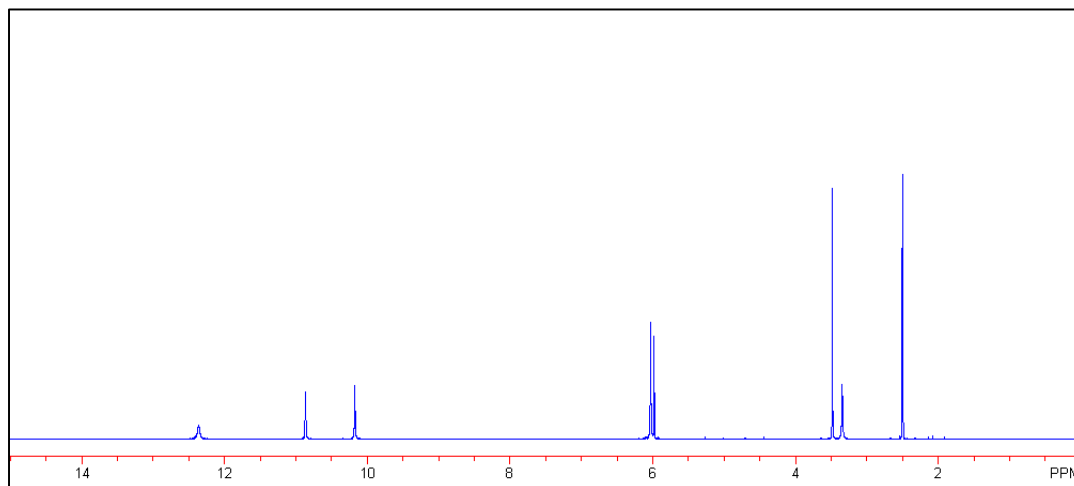
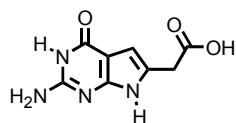
n-propyl thymine (CDCl_3)



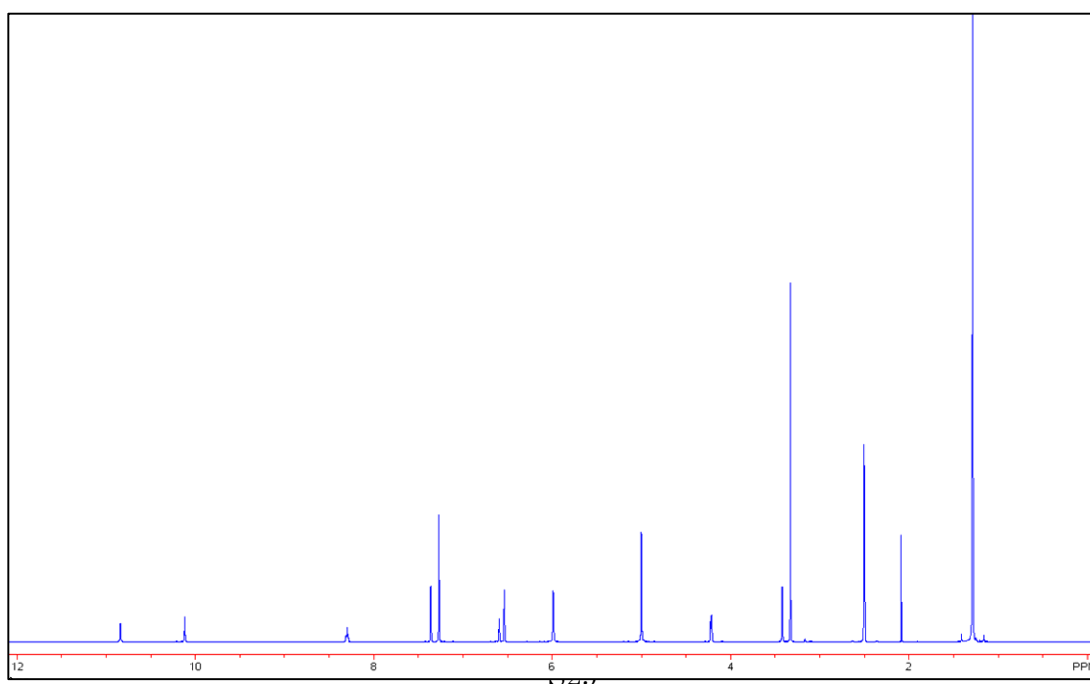
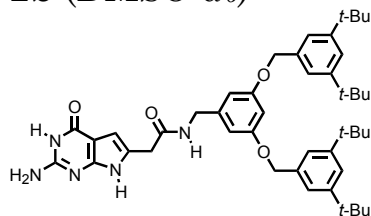
1 (DMSO-*d*₆)



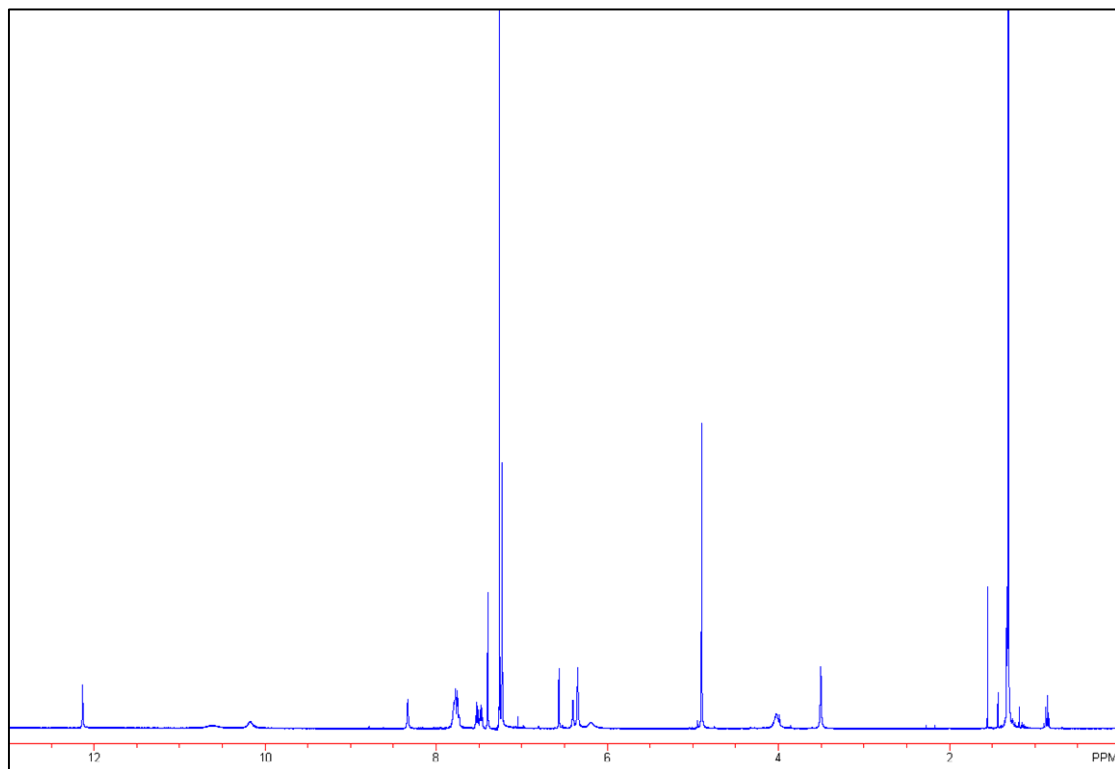
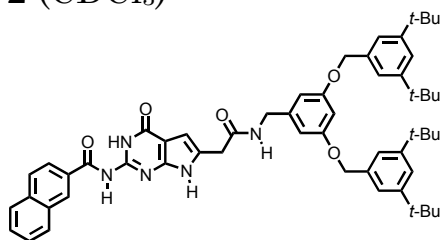
2a (DMSO-*d*₆)

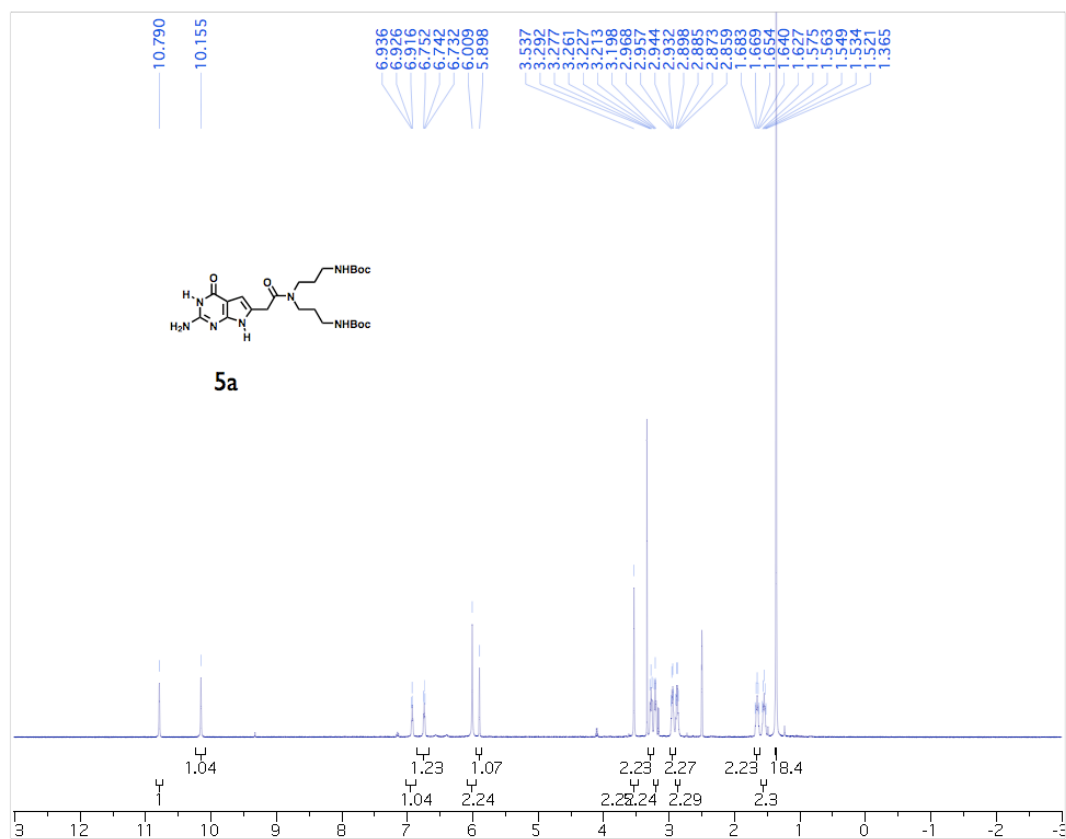


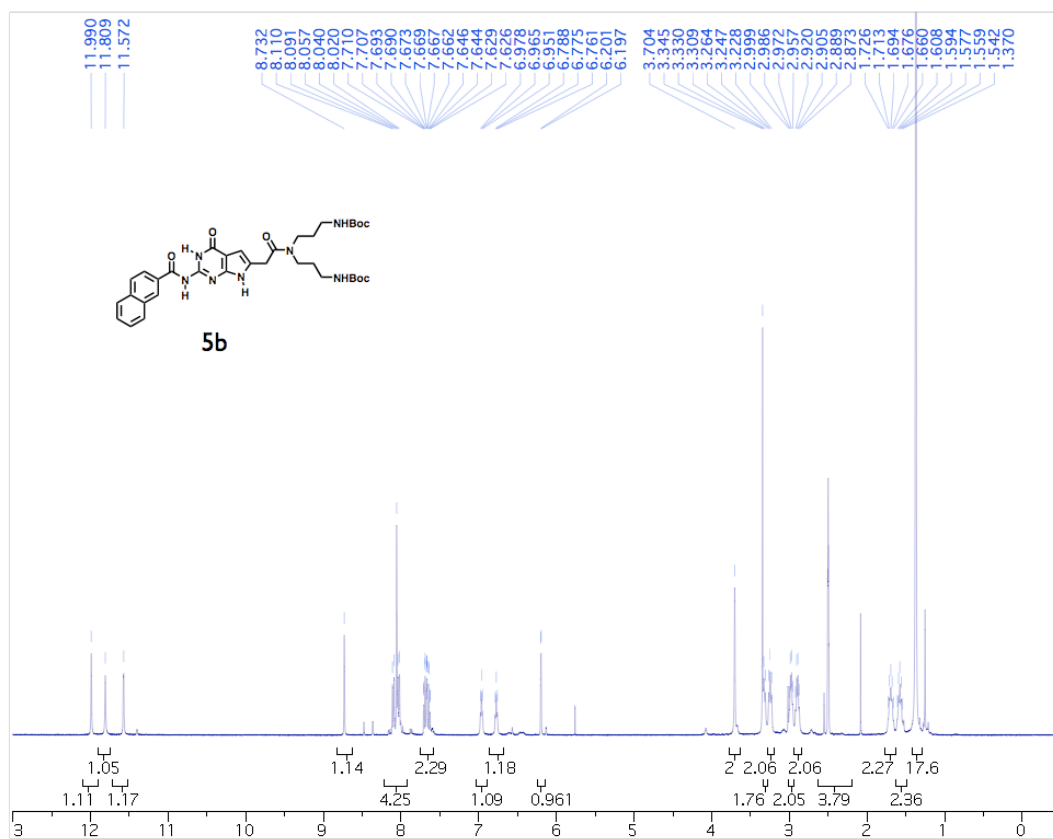
2b (DMSO-*d*₆)

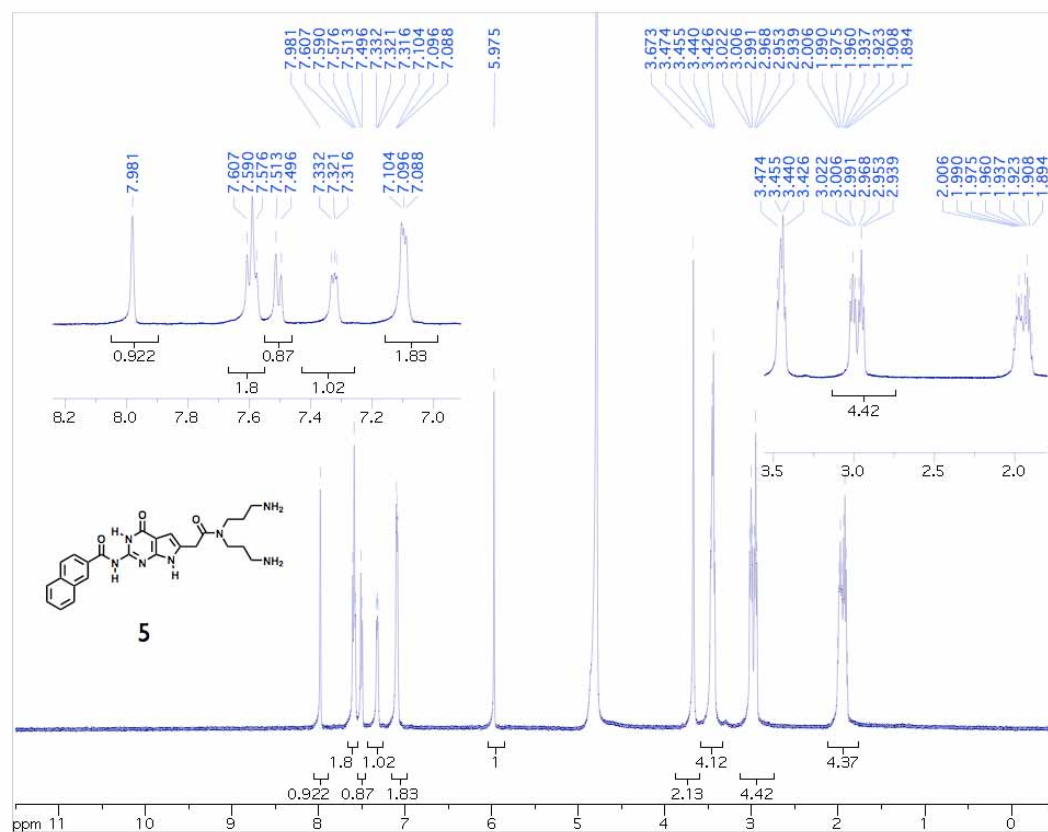


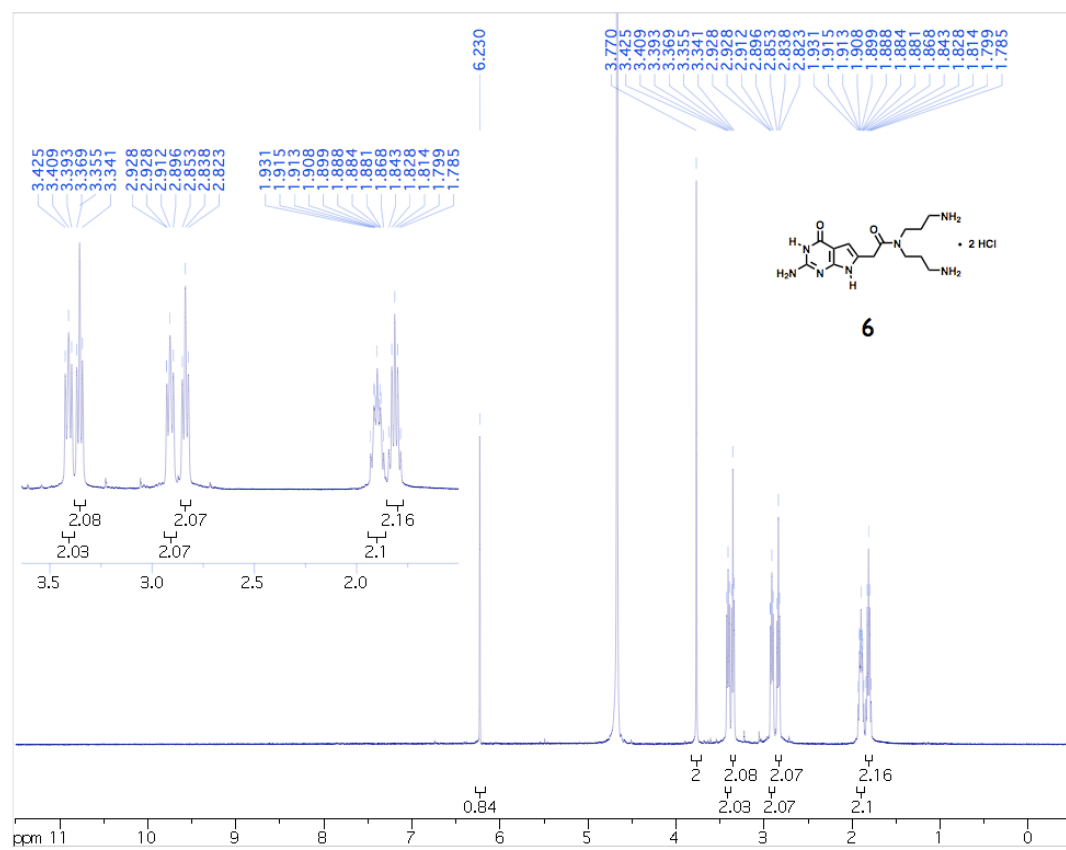
2 (CDCl₃)

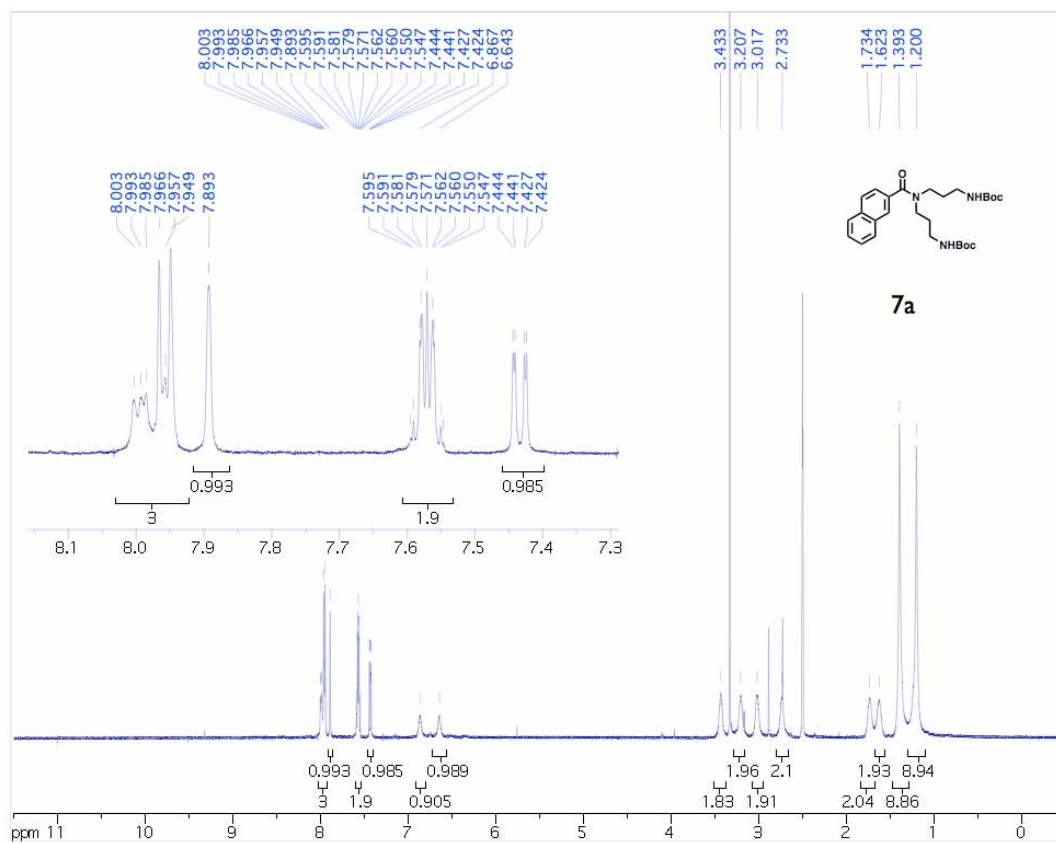


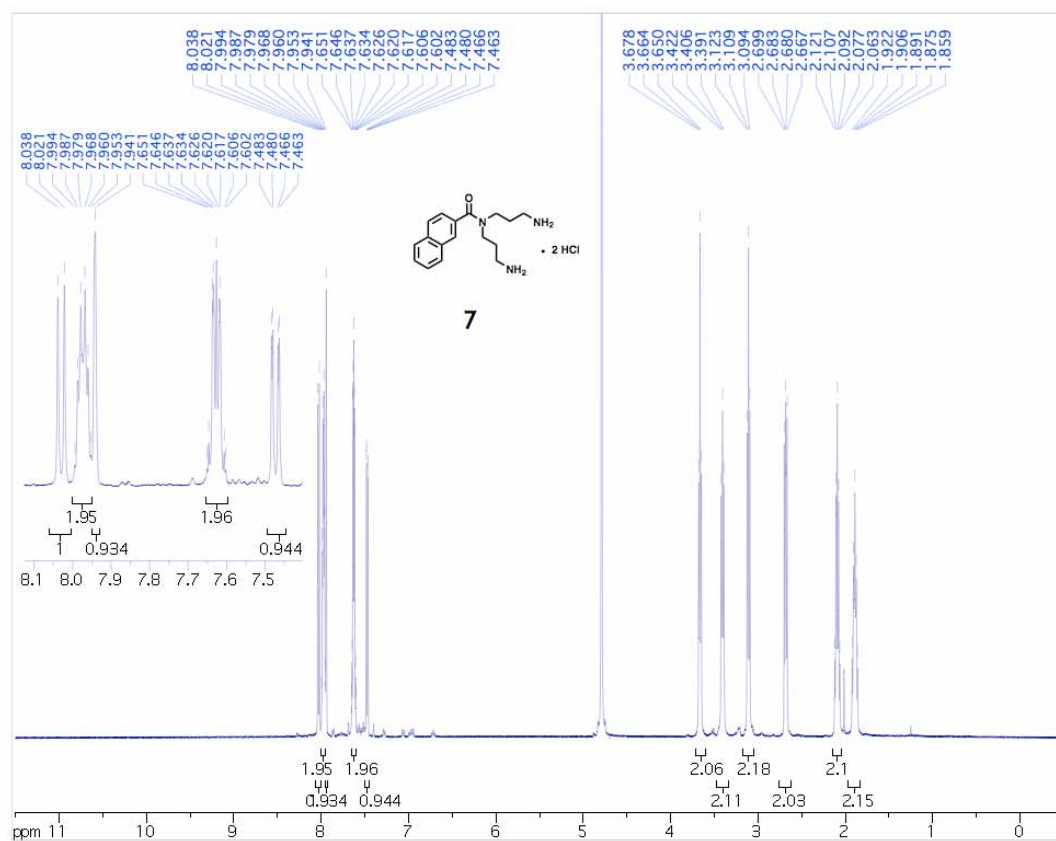


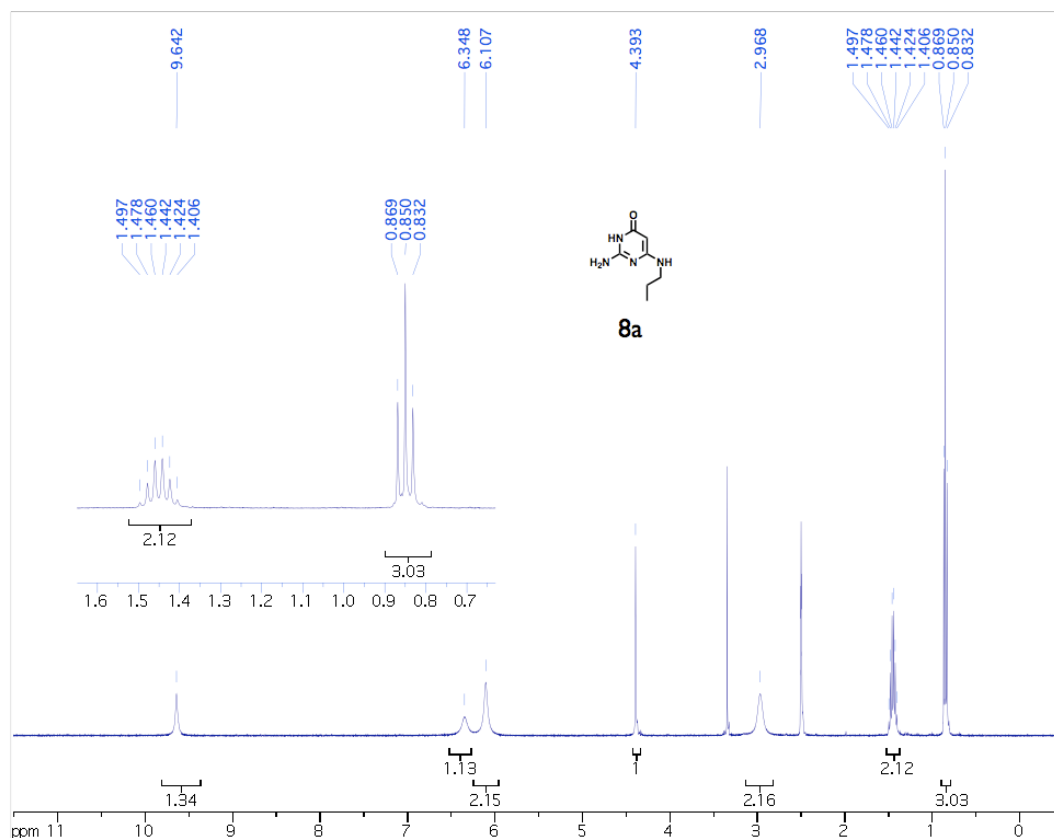


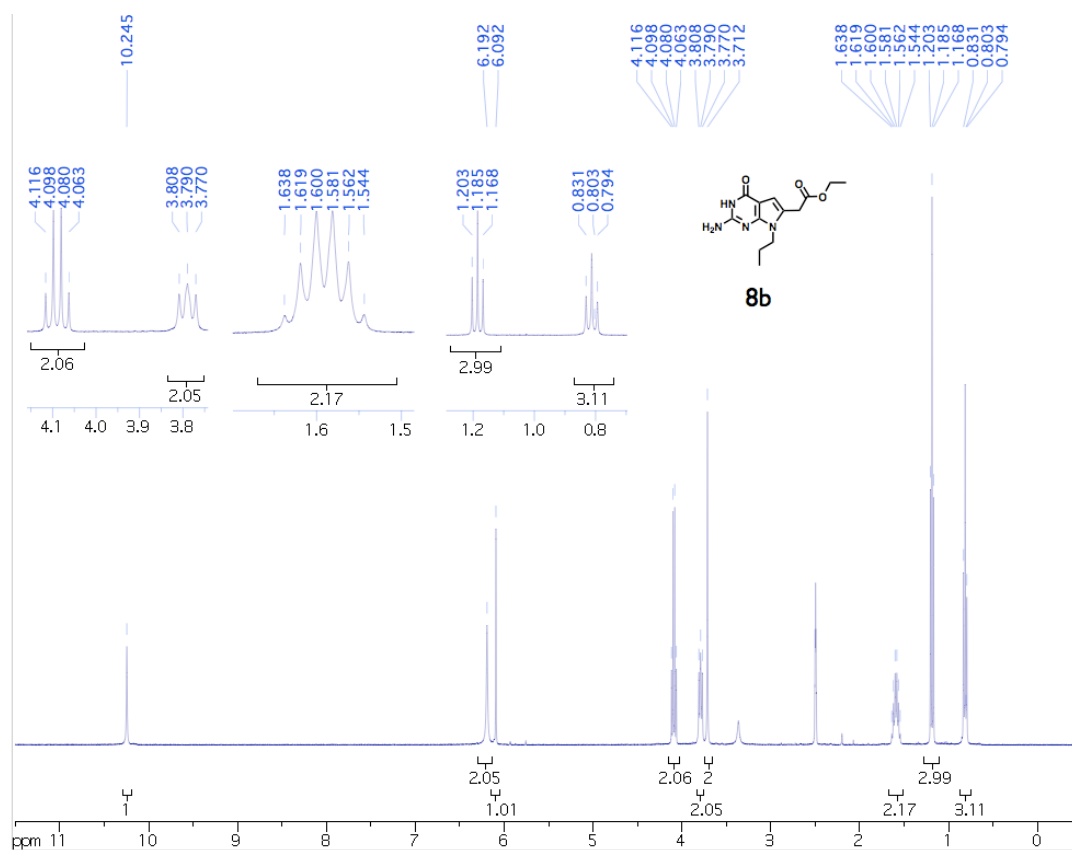


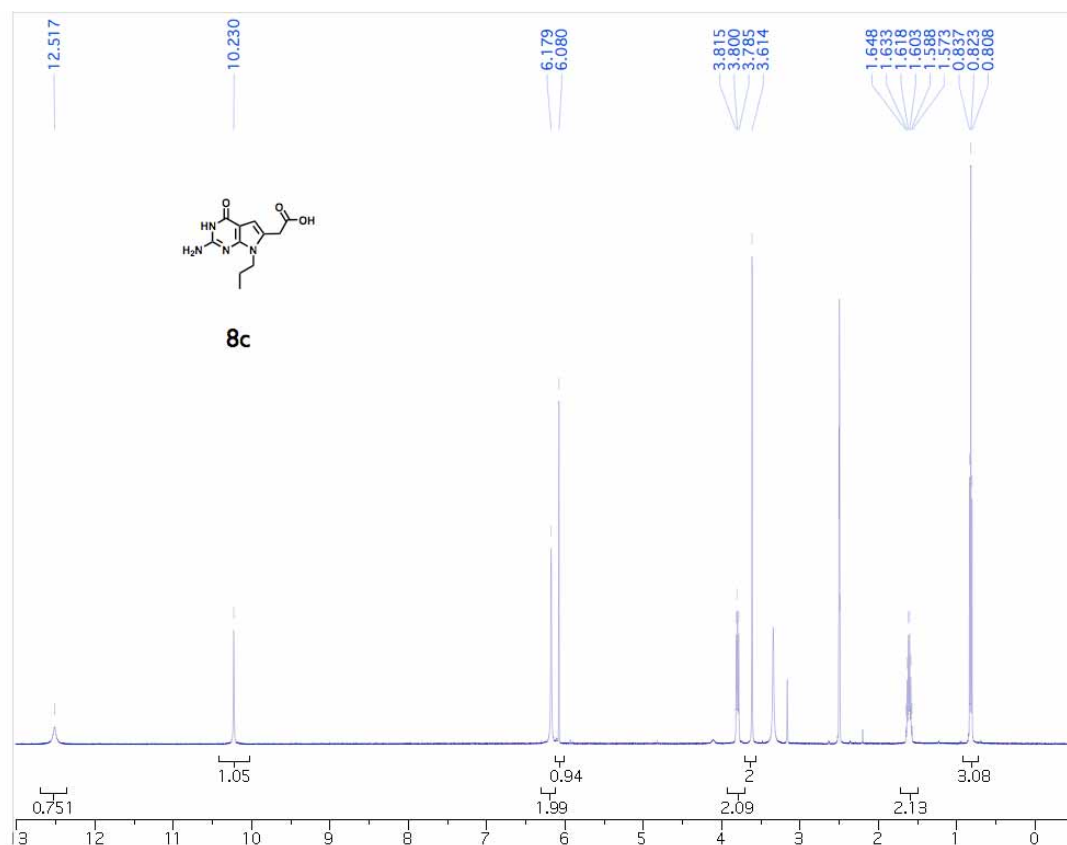


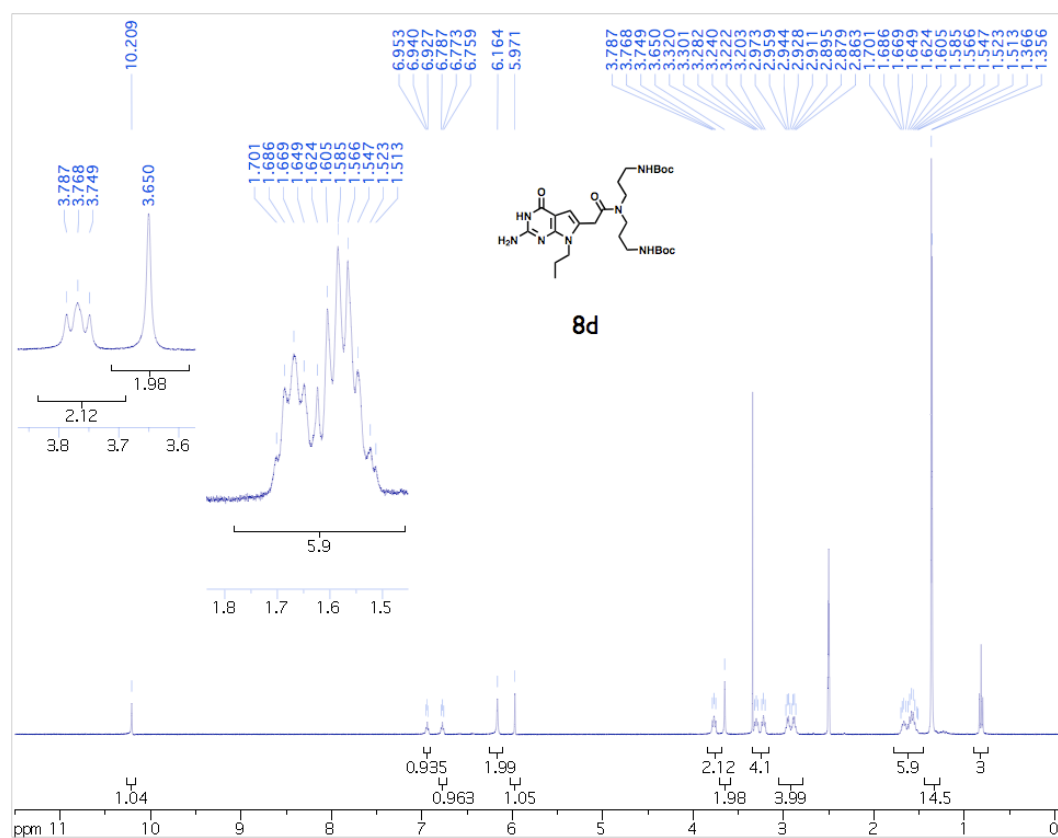


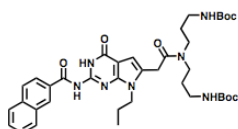




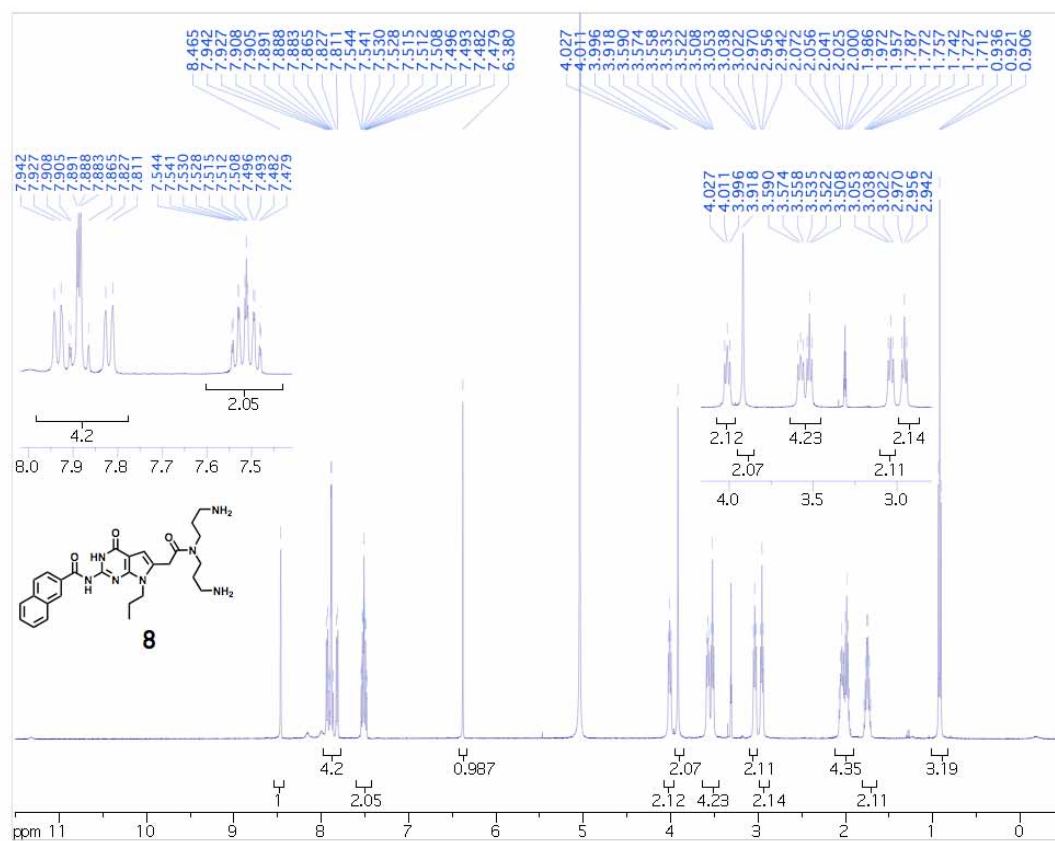


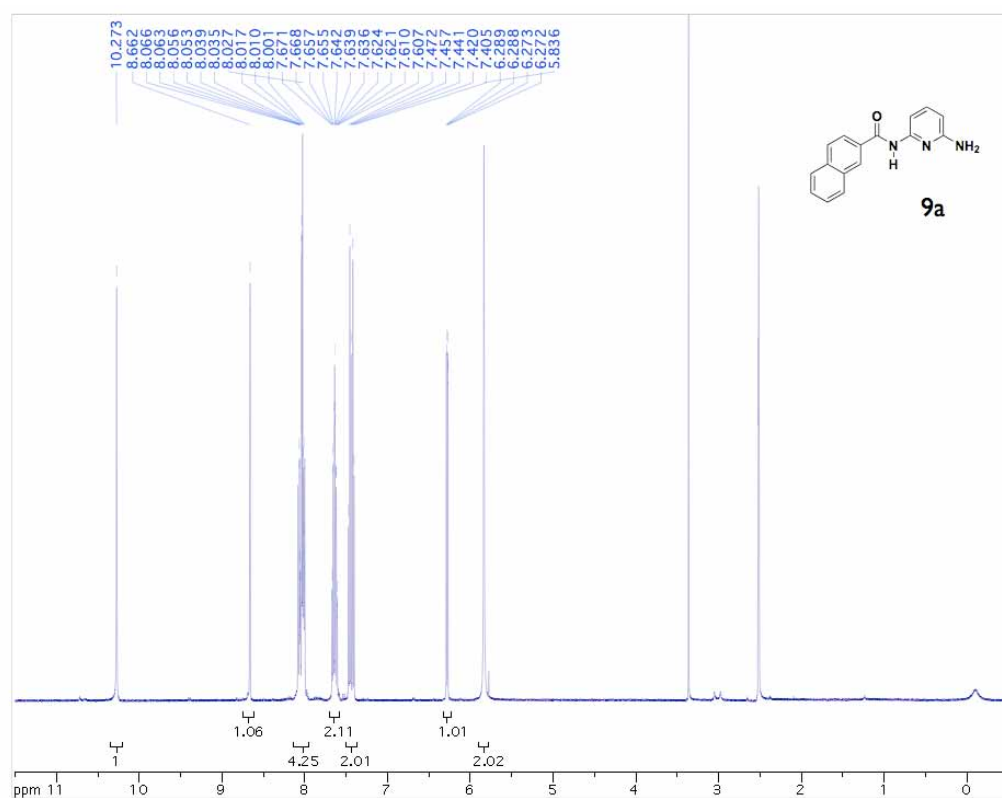


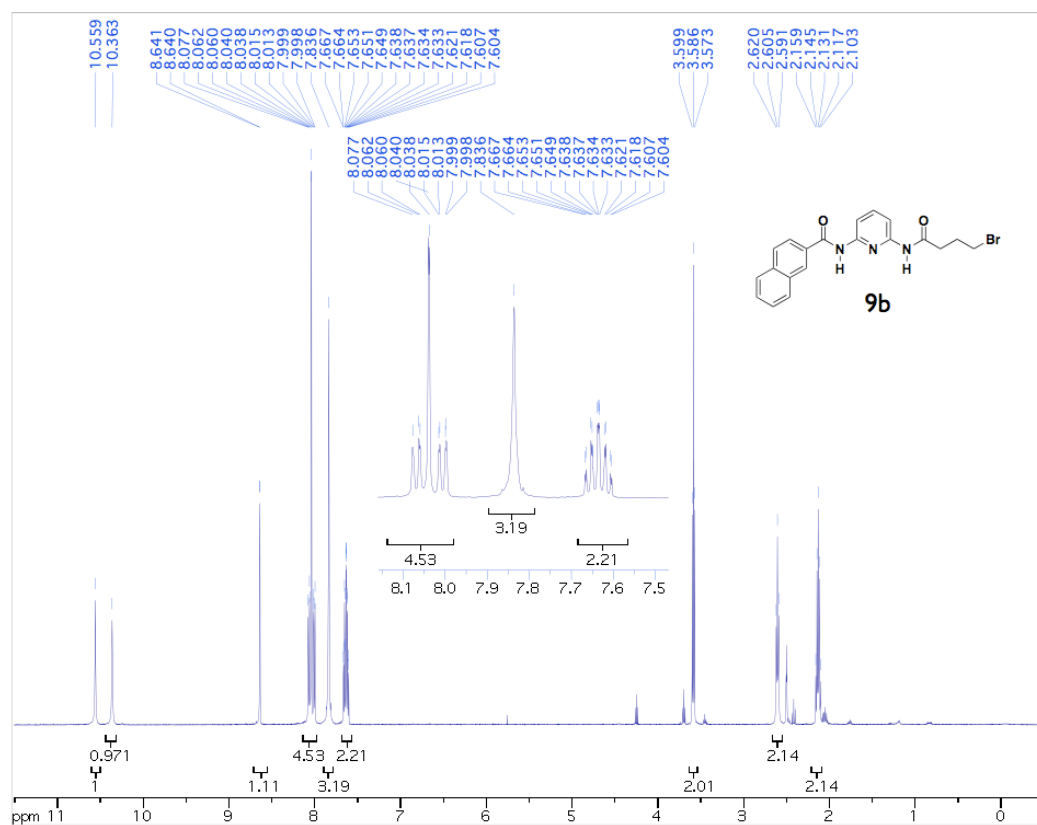


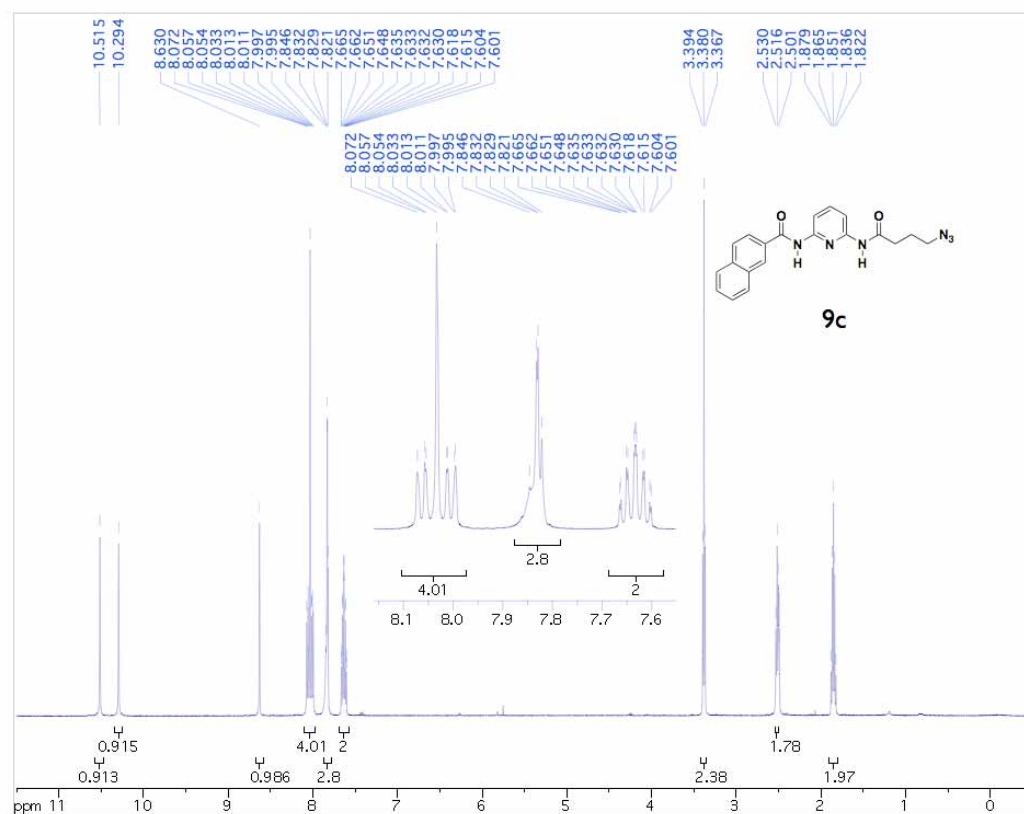


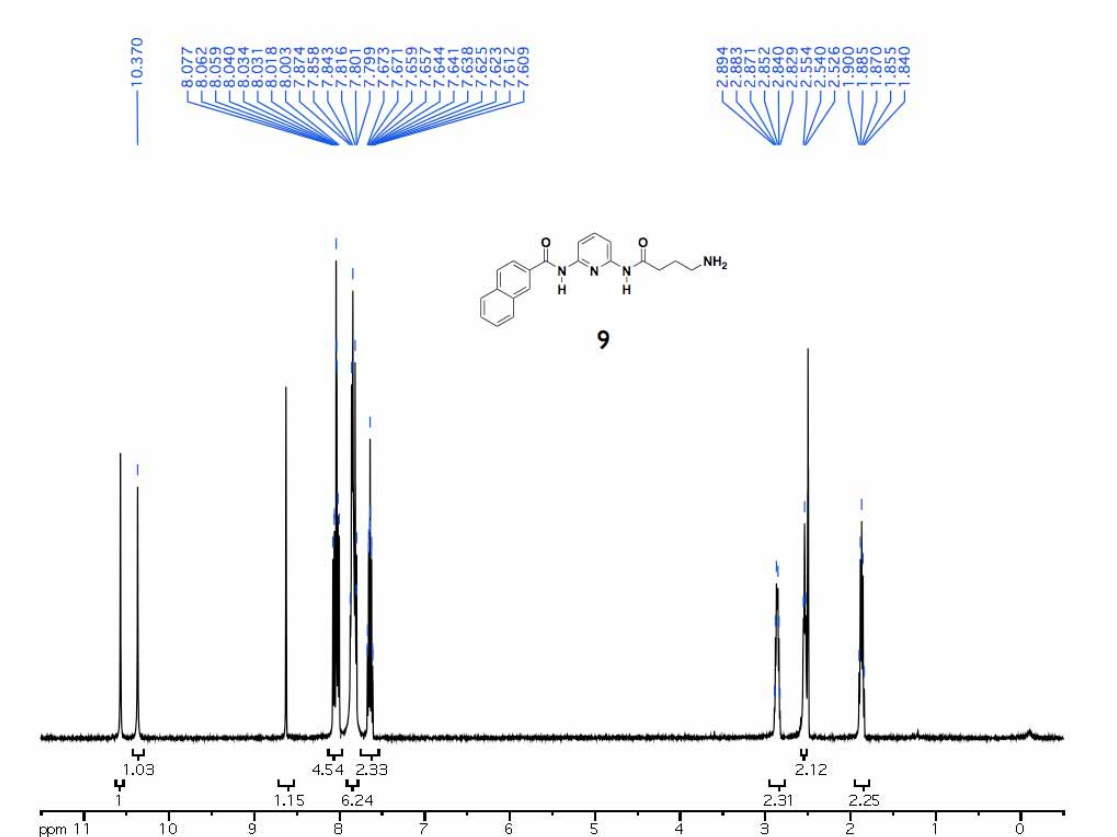
8e



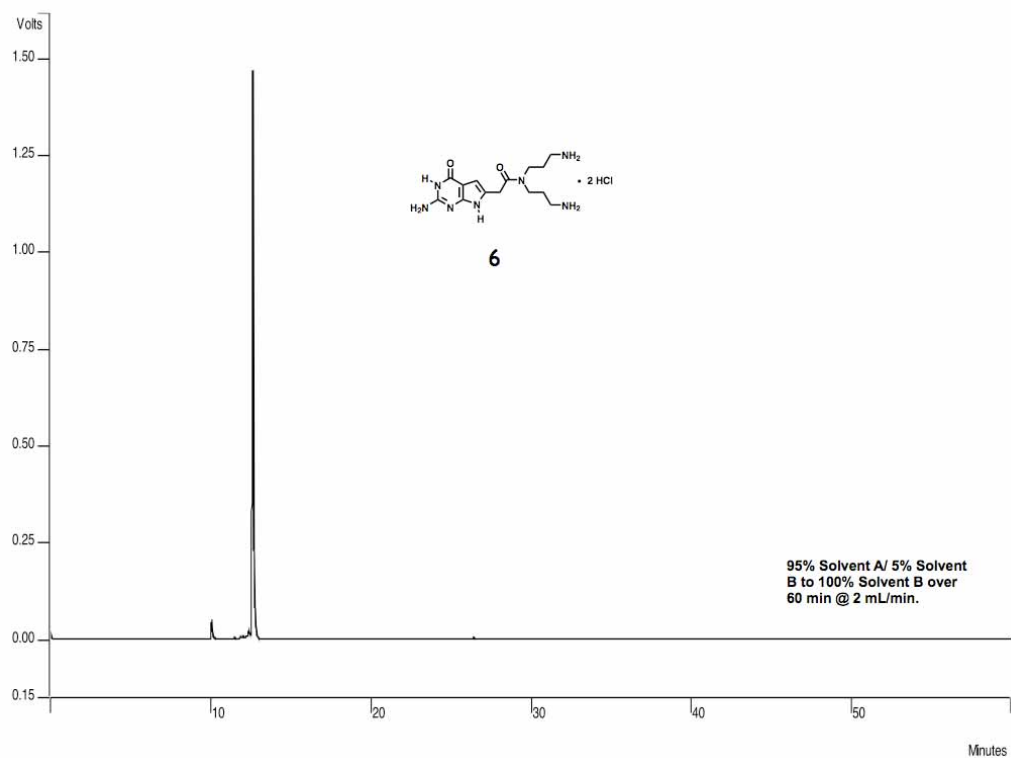
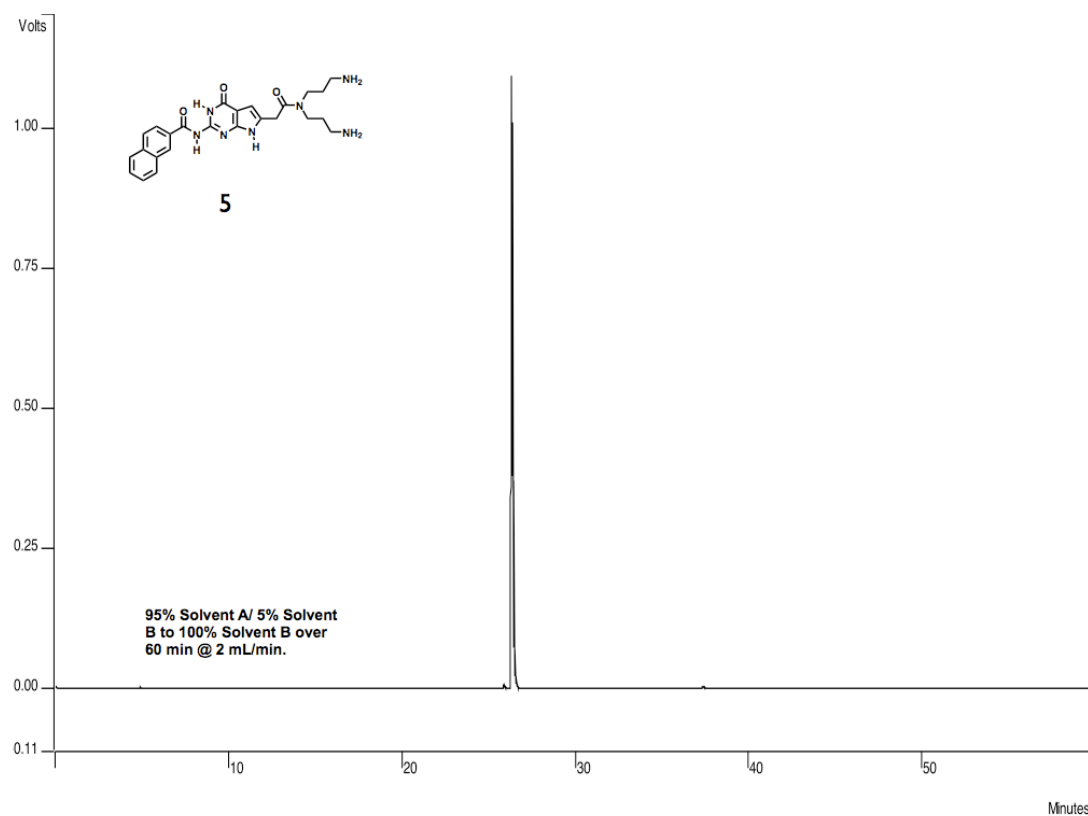


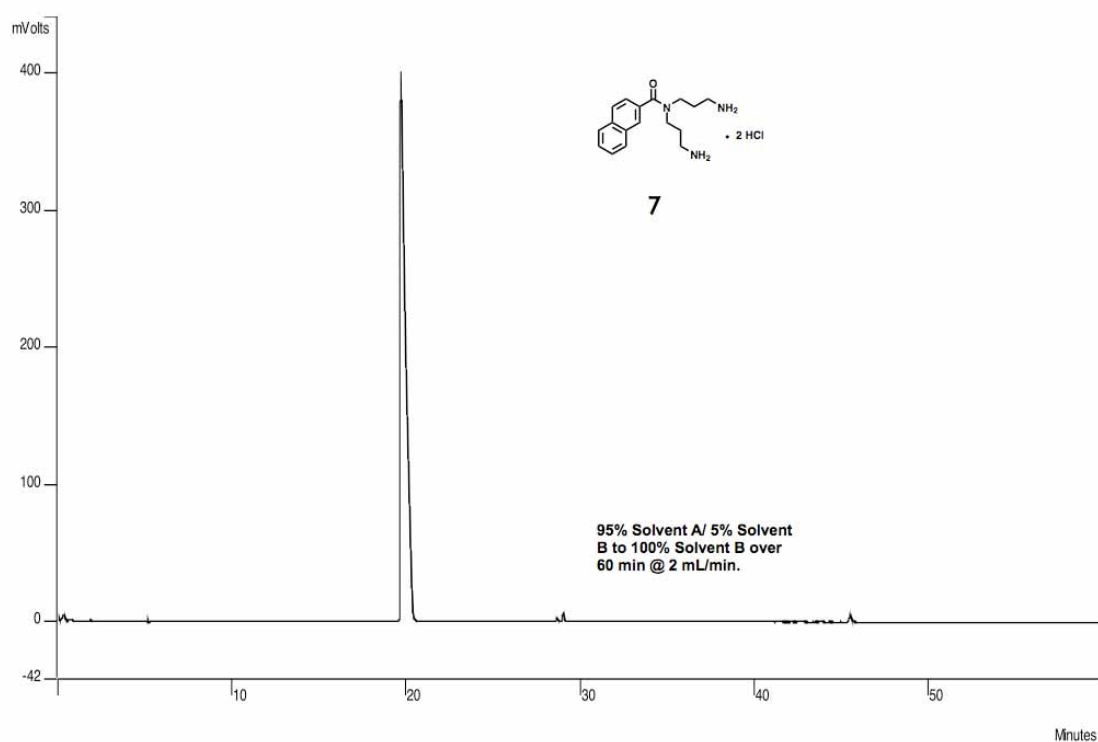


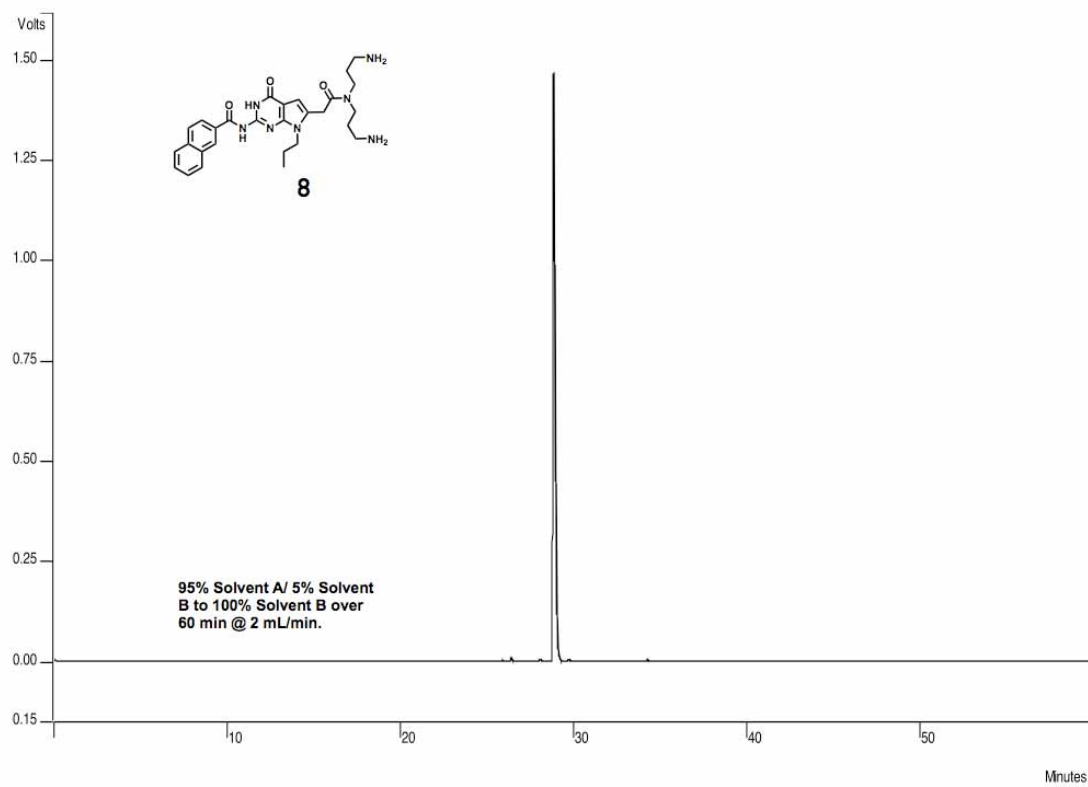


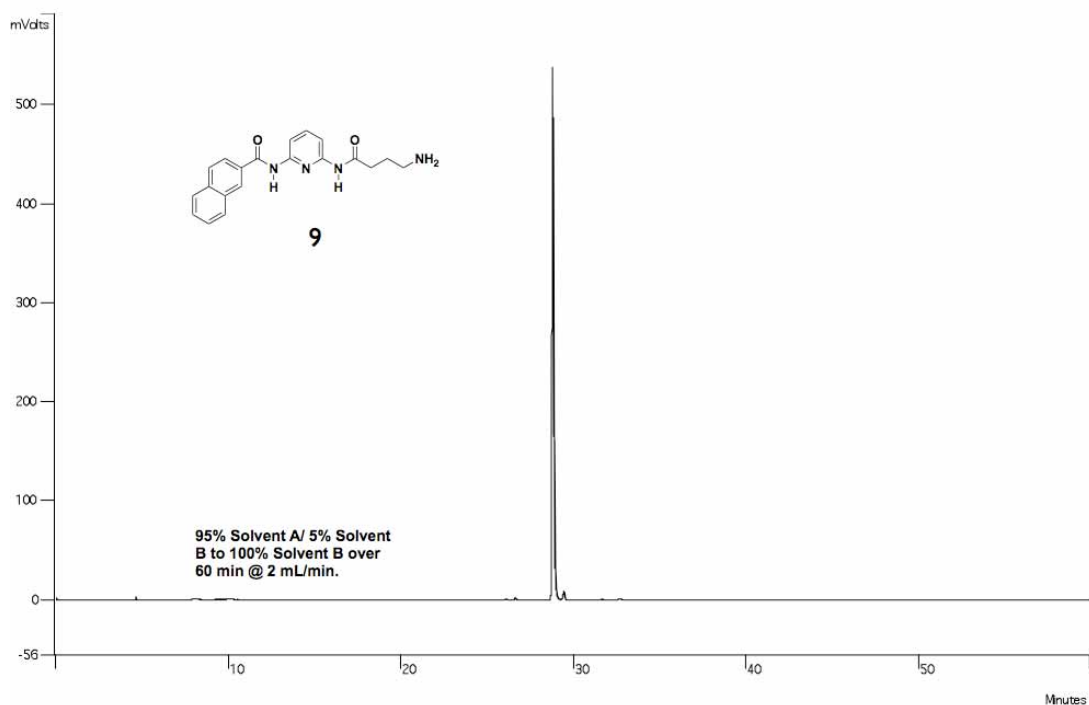


HPLC traces for final compounds:









ⁱ Kato, T.; Kondo, G.; Kihara, H. *Chem. Lett.* **1997**, 1143–1144.

ⁱⁱ Connors, K. A. *Binding Constants: The Measurement of Molecular Complex Stability*; Wiley: New York, 1987.

ⁱⁱⁱ Kaul, M; Pilch, D. S. *Biochemistry* **2002**, 41, 7695–7706.