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# Tightly linked morpholino-nucleoside chimeras: new, compact cationic oligonucleotide analogues

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### Supporting Information

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## Synthetic procedures General Information

TLC was performed on Kieselgel 60 F254 (Merck) with detection by UV-light (254 nm) and immersing into sulfuric acidic ammonium-molibdenate solution followed by heating. Flash column chromatography was performed on Silica gel 60 (Merck 0.040-0.063 mm). Organic solutions were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated in vacuum. Optical rotations were measured at room temperature with a Perkin-Elmer 241 automatic polarimeter. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 and 500 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 and 125 MHz) spectra were recorded with DRX-400, and Bruker Avance II 500 spectrometers at 25 °C. Chemical shifts are referenced to Me<sub>4</sub>Si (0.00 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H), to the residual solvent signals (D<sub>2</sub>O: 4.79, DMSO-d6: 2.50 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H) and to the residual solvent signals (CDCl<sub>3</sub>: 77.16, DMSO-d6: 39.52, CD<sub>3</sub>OD: 49.00 ppm for <sup>13</sup>C).

NMR spectra were recorded in D<sub>2</sub>O at 300 K using a Bruker Avance II 500 MHz spectrometer (Bruker, Billerica, MA, USA) equipped with a txi triple-resonance probehead. DSS was used as internal reference for 0 ppm. Typical 90° pulses were 13 and 16  $\mu$ s for <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C, and relaxation delays were generally in 2-3 s range. <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C heteronuclear Single Quantum Correlation (HSQC) spectra were recorded in 4K using «hsqcetgpsi2» pulse program and four scans for each of the 256 increments in indirect dimension. The 2D spectra were processed with the aid of Topspin 3.1 software using Gaussian window function (Lb= -5, GB= 0.05) in F2 and cosine-square (QSINE, SSB = 2) in F1 dimension. To support the <sup>1</sup>H/<sup>13</sup>C assignments heteronuclear multiple bond correlation experiments, HMBC (pulse program: "hmbcgplpndqf", 70 ms evolution time), and homonuclear correlated spectroscopy (COSY) with water presaturation (pulse program: "cosygpprqf"), The digital resolution of the processed spectra was typically 2–3 Hz.

The MALDI-TOF MS measurements were carried out with a Bruker Autoflex Speed mass spectrometer equipped with a time-of-flight (TOF) mass analyzer. In all cases 19 kV (ion source voltage 1) and 16.65 kV (ion source voltage 2) were used. For reflectron mode, 21 kV and 9.55 kV were applied as reflector voltage 1 and reflector voltage 2, respectively. A solid phase laser (355 nm,  $\geq$ 100 µJ/pulse) operating at 500 Hz was applied to produce laser desorption and 3000 shots were summed. 2,5-Dihydroxybenzoic acid (DHB) was used as matrix and F<sub>3</sub>CCOONa as cationising agent in DMF.

ESI-QTOF MS measurements were carried out on a maXis II UHR ESI-QTOF MS instrument (Bruker), in positive ionization mode. The following parameters were applied for the electrospray ion source: capillary voltage: 3.6 kV; end plate offset: 500 V; nebulizer pressure: 0.5 bar; dry gas temperature: 200 °C and dry gas flow rate: 4.0 L/min. The MS method

was tuned according to the examined mass range, which was 200-1000 m/z. Constant background correction was applied for each spectrum, the background was recorded before each sample by injecting the blank sample matrix (solvent). Na-formate calibrant was injected after each sample, which enabled internal calibration during data evaluation. Mass spectra were recorded by otofControl version 4.1 (build: 3.5, Bruker) and processed by Compass DataAnalysis version 4.4 (build: 200.55.2969).

UV-VIS spectra of compound **15** in forms of TFA salt and free base were recorded by a Lambda 25 UV-VIS double-beam spectrophotometer in DMSO ( $c 1 \mu g/mL$ ).

Dialdehydes (3a-3f) were prepared according to the literature procedure.<sup>1</sup>

#### 1. Preparation of periodate resin<sup>1</sup>

To a solution of NaOH (40 g) in water (3.0 l) Amberlite IRA-400 (200 g, 20-50 mesh Cl<sup>-</sup> form) ion exchange resin was added and stirred for 2 hours. The resin was neutralized by washing with water and added to a suspension of NaIO<sub>4</sub> (233 g) in water (4-5 l). After stirring overnight the resin was filtered off, washed with water and dried in vacuum over  $P_2O_5$  and KOH overnight. After drying, the resin was stored in the dark.

#### 2. Synthesis of 5'-amino derivatives 4a-4c



Scheme S1. Synthesis of 4a

#### 2',3'-O-Isopropylidene-uridine (2a)<sup>2</sup>



Uridine (10.0 g, 40.95 mmol) was dissolved in acetone (300 ml). and cc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (3 ml) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred overnight at room temperature. The solution was neutralized by Et<sub>3</sub>N and then evaporated. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 6:4  $\rightarrow$ 7:3) to yield **2a** (10.5 g, 91%) as a white foam. R*f*=0.42 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 1:1).

2',3'-O-Isopropylidene-5'-O-(p-toluenesulfonyl)uridine (2a-tosyl)<sup>3</sup>



**2a** (10.5 g, 36.94 mmol) was dissolved in abs. pyridine (20 ml) and TsCl (10.6 g, 55.4 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred overnight at room temperature. The next day water (50 ml) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 30 minutes. Then the mixture was concentrated, the residue was dissolved in EtOAc (400 mL) and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and 10% solution of NaHSO<sub>4</sub> solution. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane:acetone 7:3  $\rightarrow$ 6:4) to afford (**2a-tosyl**) (11.3 g, 70%) as a white foam. Rf= 0.75 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 6:4).

5'-Azido-5'-deoxy-2',3'-O-isopropylidene-uridine (29)<sup>4</sup>



**2a-tosyl** (11.3 g, 23.37 mmol) was dissolved in abs. DMF (30 ml). and NaN<sub>3</sub> (8.4 g, 128.9 mmol, 5 equiv.) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred overnight at 80 °C. The reaction was quenched by adding 10 ml of MeOH and 10 mL of water and the mixture was stirred for 30 minutes. Then it was evaporated, the residue was dissolved in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (500 ml) and washed with water. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (*n*-

hexane:acetone 7:3  $\rightarrow$  6:4) to afford **29** (5.4 g, 68%) as a white foam. Rf= 0.2 (*n*-hexane:acetone 7:3).

5'-Amino-5'-deoxy-2',3'-O-isopropylidene-uridine (4a)<sup>5</sup>



**29** (5.4 g, 17.46 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (30 ml) and Pd/C (1.1g, 20 m/m%) was added to the reaction mixture. The suspension was stirred under hydrogen atmosphere overnight. Then the solution was filtered through Celite and then was concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 9:1) to afford **4a** (3.9 g, 80%) as a white foam. Rf= 0.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 9:1).



Scheme S2. Synthesis of 4b

#### 2',3'-O-Isopropylidene-5-methyluridine (2b)<sup>3</sup>



5-Methyluridine (2 g, 7.75 mmol) was dissolved in acetone (60 ml). and cc.  $H_2SO_4$  (0.6 ml) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred overnight at room temperature. The solution was neutralized by Et<sub>3</sub>N and then evaporated. The crude product was purified by flash column

chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 7:3 $\rightarrow$ 1:1) to yield **2b** (2.3 g, 99%) as a white foam. R*f*=0.57 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 1:1).

#### 2',3'-O-Isopropylidene-5'-O-(p-toluenesulfonyl)-5-methyluridine (2b-tosyl)<sup>3</sup>



**2b** (2.3 g, 7.65 mmol) was dissolved in abs. pyridine (5 ml). and TsCl (2.19 g, 1.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred overnight at room temperature. After that, 50 ml water was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 30 minutes. Then the mixture was concentrated, the residue was dissolved in EtOAc (200 ml) and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and 10% solution of NaHSO<sub>4</sub>. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane:acetone 7:3  $\rightarrow$  6:4) to afford **2b-tosyl** (2.7 g, 78%) as a white foam. R*f*= 0.75 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 7:3).

5'-Azido-5'-deoxy-2',3'-O-isopropylidene-5-methyluridine (36)<sup>6</sup>



**2b-tosyl** (2.3 g, 5.1 mmol) was dissolved in abs. DMF (10 ml), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.3g, 2.0 mmol, 4 equiv.) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred overnight at 80 °C. The reaction was quenched by adding 10 ml of MeOH and 10 ml of water and stirred for 30 minutes. Then it was evaporated, the residue was dissolved in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (200 ml) and washed with water. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane:acetone 7:3) to afford **36** (1.34 g, 83%) as a white foam. R*f*= 0.2 (hexane:acetone 7:3).

5'-Amino-5'-deoxy-2',3'-O-isopropylidene-5-methyluridine (4b)



Compound **36** (1.2 g, 3.71 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH:DMF 10:1 (11 ml) and Pd-C (0.24 g, 20 m/m%) was added to the reaction mixture The suspension was stirred under hydrogen atmosphere overnight. Then the mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane:acetone 7:3  $\rightarrow$  6:4) to afford **4b** (0.87 g, 79%) as a white foam. Rf= 0.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 9:1). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> -6.09 (*c*=0.23; CHCl<sub>3</sub>) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.16 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 5.64 (s, 1H, H-1'), 5.01 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.85 – 4.79 (m, 1H, H-3'), 4.55 (br. s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 4.8 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.07 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 4.2 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 3.01 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 6.2 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 1.90 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.56 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.35 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.5, 150.6 (2C, 2x C=O), 138.4 (1C, thymine C-6), 114.6 (1C, *i*-propylidene C<sub>q</sub>), 111.2 (1C, thymine C-5), 93.9 (1C, C-1'), 87.6, 84.1, 81.3 (3C, C-2' & C-3' & C-4'), 43.4 (1C, C-5'), 27.2, 25.4 (2C, 2x *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.4 (1C, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>NaO<sub>5</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 320.1222, found 320.1217.



Scheme S3. Synthesis of 4c

2',3'-O-Isopropylidene-adenosine (2c)<sup>7</sup>



*p*-Toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (10.5 g, 55 mmol) and triethyl orthoformate (39 ml, 234 mmol) were subsequently added into the solution of adenosine (13.35g, 48 mmol) in acetone (1.5 l). The resulted mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. After neutralization with saturated aqueous solution of ammonium-hydroxide, the solution was evaporated until small volume and cooled to crystallize. After filtration, **2c** was obtained as white crystals (14.1 g, 92%). Rf=0.49 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 9:1).

#### 2',3'-O-Isopropylidene-5'-O-trityl-N-trityl-adenosine (2c-O,N-ditrityl)<sup>8</sup>



To a suspension of 2c (1.34 g, 5.00 mmol) in abs. pyridine (30 ml) trityl chloride (4.18 g, 15.00 mmol, 3 equiv.) was added and the reaction mixture was heated to 60 °C and stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was concentrated in *vacuo* and coevaporated with toluene. The residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (300 ml) and and successively washed with 10% aqueous solution of NaHSO<sub>4</sub>, saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 9:1  $\rightarrow$ 85:15) to yield compound **2c-O**,*N*-**ditrityl** (2.38 g, 63%) as a white solid. R*f*= 0.39 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 85:15).

2',3'-O-Isopropylidene-N-trityl-adenosine (2c-N-trityl)8



HFiP (12 ml), BF<sub>3</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O (0.154 ml, 0.18 g, 0.13 equiv.), and Et<sub>3</sub>SiH (11,65 ml, 8.5 g, 7.6 equiv.) were mixed and added to **2c-N-trityl** (7,6 g, 9.60 mmol). After 20 minutes, saturated aq. solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> was added to the reaction mixture and it was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane:acetone 75:25) to afford **2c-N-trityl** (4,7 g, 89%) as a white foam. R*f*= 0.16 (*n*-hexane:acetone 75:25).

2',3'-O-isopropylidene-5'-O-(p-toluenesulfonyl)-N-trityl-adenosine (2c-tosyl)<sup>8</sup>



**2c-N-trityl** (4.7 g, 8.55 mmol) was dissolved in abs. pyridine (15 ml). and TsCl (3.26 g, 17.10 mmol, 2 equiv.) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred overnight at room temperature. After that, 50 ml of water was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 30 minutes. Then the mixture was concentrated, the residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (300 mL) and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and 10% solution of NaHSO<sub>4</sub>. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane:acetone 85:15  $\rightarrow$  8:2) to afford **2c-tosyl** (3.6 g, 60%) as a white foam. R*f*= 0.12 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 8:2).

#### 5'-Azido-5'-deoxy-2',3'-O-isopropylidene-N-trityl-adenosine (2c-azide)



**2c-tosyl** (3.6 g, 5.12 mmol) was dissolved in abs. DMF (15 ml). and NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.66 g, 25.58 mmol, 5 equiv.) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred overnight at 80 °C. The reaction was quenched by adding MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O 1:1 (10ml) and stirred for 30 minutes. Then it was evaporated, the residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (300 ml) and washed with water. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane:acetone 8:2) to afford **2c-azide** (1.7 g, 57%) as a white foam. R*f*= 0.2 (hexane:acetone 7:3);  $[\alpha]_D$  +9.44 (*c*=0.18; CHCl<sub>3</sub>) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.03, 7.87 (2 x s, 2H, H-2, H-8), 7.34 (m, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 6H), 7.26 (q, *J* = 9.3, 8.1 Hz, 9H), 6.97 (s, 1H, N*H*), 6.08 (s, 1H, H-1'), 5.43 – 5.40 (m, 1H, H-2'), 5.01 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 3.5 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.35 (q, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.58 (h, *J* = 7.8, 7.1 Hz, 2H, H-5'a and H-5'b), 1.60 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene C*H*<sub>3</sub>), 1.36 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene C*H*<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  154.3 (1C, C-6), 152.5 (1C, C-2), 148.2 (1C, C-4), 145.0 (3C, 3x Arom. *C*<sub>q</sub>), 132.0 (1C, C-8), 129.1, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 127.1 (15C, 15x Arom.), 121.6 (1C, adenine C<sub>q</sub>), 114.8 (1C, *i*-propylidene *C*<sub>q</sub>), 90.6 (1C, C-1'), 85.6, 84.1, 82.1 (3C, C-2' & C-3' & C-4'),

71.5 (1C, NHTrt *C*<sub>q</sub>), 52.4 (1C, C-5'), 27.2, 25.4 (2C, 2x *i*-propylidene *C*H<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>8</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 597.24, found 597.2328.

5'-Amino-5'-deoxy-2',3'-O-isopropylidene-N-trityl-adenosine (4c)



Compound 2c-tosyl (1.7 g, 2.96 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH:DMF 10:3 (13 ml). and Pd-C (0.34 g, 20 m/m%) was added to the reaction mixture The suspension was stirred under hydrogen atmosphere overnight. Then the mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 95:5) to afford 4c (1.2 g, 73%) as a white foam. Rf= 0.36  $(CH_2Cl_2:MeOH 9:1)$ .  $[\alpha]_D -2.31$  (c=0.13; CHCl\_3) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\_3)  $\delta$  8.02 (s, 1H, adenine CH), 7.87 (s, 1H, adenine CH), 7.37 - 7.20 (m, 15H, 15x Arom. CH), 6.98 (s, 1H, NH-Trt), 5.99 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.44 (dd, J = 6.5, 3.2 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.99 (dd, J = 6.5, 3.5 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.23 (q, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.03 (dd, J = 13.4, 4.3 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 2.98 -2.92 (m, 1H, H-5'b), 1.61 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.36 (s, 3H, , *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  154.3 (1C, adenine C<sub>a</sub>), 152.5 (1C, adenine CH), 145.0 (1C, adenine C<sub>a</sub>), 140.1 (3C, 3x NHTrt Arom. C<sub>a</sub>), 139.4 (1C, adenine CH), 129.1, 128.00, 127.0 (15C, 15x Arom. CH), 121.7 (1C, adenine C<sub>a</sub>), 114.7 (1C, *i*-propylidene C<sub>a</sub>), 90.7, 87.38, 83.5, 81.8 (4C, C-1' & C-2' & C-3' & C-4'), 71.5 (1C, NH-Trt C<sub>q</sub>), 43.9 (1C, C-5'), 27.4 (1C, *i*propilidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.5 (1C, *i*-propilidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. ESI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 548.25, found 549.2606.

## 3. Sythesis of morpholino-ribonucleoside dimers 5-13 by double reductive amination-cyclization reactions

5'-Deoxy-2',3'-O-isopropylidene-5'-[6-trityl-2-(uracil-1-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-uridine (5)



**3a** (0.2 g, 0.41 mmol) and **4a** (0.12 g, 0.41 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in EtOH (10 ml) and stirred at room temperature for 10 min. After that, AcOH (2 drops) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.031 g, 0.49 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were added and the mixture was stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane:acetone 65:35) to give 5 (0.17 g, 57%) as a white solid. Rf= 0.30 hexane:acetone 1:1;  $[\alpha]_{D}$  +31.7 (c=0.12; CHCl<sub>3</sub>) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.50 -7.39 (m, 7H, 2x uracil H-6 & 5x Arom. CH), 7.26 (dt, J = 15.6, 7.3 Hz, 10H, 10x Arom. CH), 5.77 (dd, J = 11.3, 7.7 Hz, 2H, uracil H-5 & morpholine H-2), 5.62 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H, uracil H-5), 5.47 (d, 1H, H-1'), 5.11 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.73 (t, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.26 (dt, J = 8.6, 4.1 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 4.15 - 4.05 (m, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.23 (dt, J = 9.9, 4.3 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-3a & morpholine H-7a), 3.14 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 4.2 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7b), 3.02 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 2.93 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 2.64 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 10.3 Hz)1H, H-5'b), 2.09 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 1.99 (t, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 1.51 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.30 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.1, 163.7, 150.2, 150.0 (4C, 4x uracil C=O), 143.7 (3C, 3x OTrt Arom.  $C_{\alpha}$ ), 139.9 (2C, 2x uracil C-6), 128.7, 128.6, 127.9, 127.2 (15 C, 15x Arom. CH), 114.3 (1C, ipropylidene C<sub>a</sub>), 102.5, 102.2 (2C, 2x uracil C-5), 96.3 (1C, C-1'), 86.6 (1C, OTrt C<sub>a</sub>), 85.1 (1C, C-4'), 84.4 (1C, C-2'), 82.9 (1C, C-3'), 79.5 (1C, morpholine C-2), 75.6 (1C, morpholine C-6), 64.7 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.6 (1C, C-5'), 57.1 (1C, morpholine C-3), 53.1 (1C, morpholine C-5), 27.3 (1C, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.4 (1C, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>41</sub>N<sub>5</sub>NaO<sub>9</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 758.29, found 758.2797.

## 5'-Deoxy-2',3'-*O*-isopropylidene-5'-[6-trityl-2-(uracil-1-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-5methyluridine (6)



**3a** (0.2 g, 0.41 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (10 ml), **4b** (0.12 g, 0.41 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added and stirred at room temperature for 10 min. Then, AcOH (2 drops) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.031 g, 0.49 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight. Next day, the reaction mixture was diluted with water and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/acetone  $65:35 \rightarrow 6:4$ ) to give 6 (0.141 g, 46%) as an amorphous solid. Rf= 0.18 (*n*-hexane:acetone 6:4);  $[\alpha]_D$  +42.0 (c=0.1; CHCl<sub>3</sub>), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.48 – 7.38 (m, 6H, 5x Arom. CH & uracil H-6), 7.25 (dt, J = 22.2, 6.9 Hz, 10H, 10x Arom. CH), 7.02 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 5.81 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, 1000 Hz)morpholine H-2), 5.75 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, uracil H-5), 5.46 (s, 1H, H-1'), 5.10 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.79 – 4.71 (m, 1H, H-3'), 4.23 (s, 1H, H-4'), 4.10 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.21 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-7a & morpholine H-3a), 3.12 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7b), 3.01 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 2.97 – 2.88 (m, 1H, H-5'a), 2.68 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 2.14 - 2.06 (m, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 2.00 (dd, J = 12.6, 7.9 Hz,1H, morpholine H-3b), 1.83 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.53 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.31 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.6, 163.8, 150.2, 150.1 (4C, 2x uracil C=O & 2x thymine C=O), 143.7 (3C, 3x OTrt Arom. C<sub>a</sub>), 140.1 (1C, uracil C-6), 139.6 (1C, thymine C-6), 128.6, 127.9, 127.1 (15C, 15x Arom.), 114.3 (1C, *i*-propylidene C<sub>a</sub>), 110.5 (1C, thymine C-5), 102.4 (1C, uracil C-5), 95.9 (1C, C-1'), 86.6 (1C, O-Trt C<sub>a</sub>), 85.1 (1C, C-4'), 84.2 (1C, C-2'), 82.8 (1C, C-3'), 79.5 (1C, morpholine C-2), 75.5 (1C, morpholine C-6), 64.7 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.8 (1C, C-5'), 57.0 (1C, morpholine C-3), 53.5 (1C, morpholine C-5), 27.2, 25.3 (2C, 2x *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.3 (1C, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>41</sub>H<sub>43</sub>N<sub>5</sub>NaO<sub>9</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 772.2958, found 772.2947.

5'-Deoxy-2',3'-O-isopropylidene-5'-[6-trityl-2-(uracil-1)-yl-morpholine-4]-yl-N-trityladenosine (7), 5'-deoxy-2',3'-O-isopropylidene-5'-[3-etoxy 6-trityl-2-(uracil-1-yl)morpholine-4-yl]-N-trityl-adenosine (7-B1) and 5'-deoxy-2',3'-O-isopropylidene-5'-[6trityl-2-(uracil-1-yl)--3,4-dihydro-1,4-oxazine-4-yl]-N-trityl-adenosine (7-B2)



#### Method A

**3a** (0.2 g, 0.41 mmol) and **4c** (0.23 g, 0.41 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in EtOH (10 ml) and stirred at room temperature for 10 min. After that, AcOH (2 drops) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.031 g, 0.49 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were added and stirred overnight. Next day, The reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane:acetone 65:35) to give 7 (0.17 g, 42%) as a white solid, 7-B1 (9% after double chromatographic purification) as a white foam and 7-B2 (5%, after double chromatographic purification) as a white foam.

#### Method B

**3a** (0.2 g, 0,41 mmol) and **4c** (0.36 g, 0,66 mmol, 1.6 equiv.) were dissolved in a 1: 1 mixture of EtOH and  $CH_2Cl_2$  and stirred for 1 hour, then NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.062 g, 0.99 mmol, 2.4 equiv.) and triethylamine (0.14 ml, 0.99 mmol, 2.4 equiv.) were added and stirred for another hour. After that the solution of TFA (0.165 ml) in EtOH (1 ml) was added dropwise over 10 minutes and the reaction mixture was stirred for additional 3 hours. The reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane:acetone 65:35) to give 7 (0.25 g, 62%) as a white solid.

Compound 7: Rf= 0.19 hexane:acetone 6:4);  $[\alpha]_D +15.7$  (c=0.28; CHCl<sub>3</sub>) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.01 (s, 1H, adenine CH), 7.88 (s, 1H, adenine CH), 7.48 – 7.20 (m, 31H, 30 x Arom. CH & uracil H-6), 6.03 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.82 (dd, J = 9.7, 2.6 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.72 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, uracil H-5), 5.40 (dd, J = 6.5, 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.97 (dd, J = 6.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.33 (dt, J = 7.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 4.07 (dtd, J = 10.5, 5.1, 2.2 Hz, 1H,

morpholine H-6), 3.26 (dd, J = 9.7, 5.0 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7a), 3.14 – 3.03 (m, 2H, morpholine H-3a & morpholine H-7b), 2.92 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 2.84 (dd, J = 13.4, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 2.66 (dd, J = 13.3, 7.7 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 2.09 (t, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 2.03 – 1.90 (m, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 1.60 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.35 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.2, 154.3 (2C, 2x uracil C=O),152.3 (1C, adenine CH)\* 149.9, 148.27 (2C, 2x adenine  $C_q$ ), 145.0, 143.72 (6C, 3x OTrt Arom  $C_q$  & 3x NHTrt Arom.  $C_q$ ), 140.0 (1C, uracil C-6), 139.2 (1C, adenine CH)\*, 129.1, 128.71, 128.0, 127.3, 127.0 (30C, 30x Arom. CH), 121.6 (1C, adenine Cq), 114.9 (*i*-propylidene Cq), 102.5 (1C, uracil C-5), 90.3 (1C, C-1'), 86.8 (1C, OTrt  $C_q$ ), 84.8 (1C, C-4'), 83.6 (1C-C-2'), 82.9 (1C, C-3'), 79.7 (1C, morpholine C-2), 75.7 (1C, morpholine C-6), 71.5 (1C, NHTrt  $C_q$ ), 64.6 (1C, morpholine C-7), 60.0 (1C, C-5'), 56.8 (1C, morpholine C-3), 55.0 (1C, morpholine C-5), 27.3 (1C, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.6 (1C, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

[M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 1023.43, found 1023.4165.

Compound 7-B1: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.01 (s, 1H, adenine CH), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H, adenine CH), 7.62 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H, uracil H-6), 7.42 (dt, J = 6.2, 1.4 Hz, 4H, 4x Arom. CH), 7.33 (dt, J = 5.9, 1.6 Hz, 4H, 4x Arom. CH), 7.30 – 7.18 (m, 23H, 23x Arom. CH), 6.00 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.72 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.65 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H, uracil H-5), 5.40 (dd, J = 6.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.97 (dd, J = 6.5, 4.4 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.31 (dt, J = 8.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 4.10 (ddd, J = 10.2, 7.6, 4.6 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-6), 4.00 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3), 3.25 (dd, J = 9.8, 5.3 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7a), 3.15 (dq, J =9.8, 7.3 Hz, 1H, OEt  $CH_2a$ ), 3.02 (qd, J = 8.6, 5.5 Hz, 3H, OEt  $CH_2b$  & morpholine H-7b & H-5'a), 2.81 - 2.71 (m, 2H, H-5'b & morpholine H-5a), 2.54 (dd, J = 11.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 1.60 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.36 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.80 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H, OEt CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 163.4, 154.2 (2C, 2x uracil C=O), 150.1, 148.1 (2C, 2x adenine C<sub>q</sub>), 145.0, 143.8 (6C, 3x OTrt Arom. C<sub>q</sub> & 3x NHTrt Arom. C<sub>q</sub>), 142.3 (1C, uracil C-6), 129.0, 128.7, 127.9, 127.2, 126.9 (30 C, 30x Arom. CH), 121.5 (1C, adenine  $C_{a}$ ), 114.7 (1C, *i*-propylidene  $C_{a}$ ), 101.0 (1C, uracil C-5), 90.3 (1C, C-1'), 86.9 (1C, morpholine C-3), 86.6 (1C, OTrt C<sub>q</sub>), 86.0, 83.6, 82.9 (3C, C-2' & C-3' & C-4'), 81.2 (1C, morpholine C-2), 76.0 (1C, morpholine C-6), 71.4 (1C, NHTrt C<sub>a</sub>), 67.8 (1C, OEt CH<sub>2</sub>), 64.6 (1C, morpholine C-7), 55.7 (1C, C-5'), 47.1 ('C, morpholine C-5), 27.3, 25.5 (2C, 2x *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.4 (1C, OEt CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>62</sub>H<sub>60</sub>N<sub>8</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 1067.4534,

found 1021.480 [M-EtOH+Na]<sup>+</sup>. In the MALDI-spectrum, the mass of an ethanol-eliminated product was detected instead of the expected product.

Compound **7-B2**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.99 (s, 1H, adenine CH), 7.84 (s, 1H, adenine CH), 7.44 – 7.36 (m, 6H, 6x Arom. CH), 7.33 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 7H, 7x Arom. CH), 7.23 (tt, J = 14.1, 6.8 Hz, 17H, 17x Arom. CH), 7.07 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H, uracil H-6), 6.01 (dd, J = 10.3, 2.3 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.58 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, uracil H-5), 5.53 (s, 1H, morpholine H-3), 5.43 – 5.34 (m, 1H, H-2'), 4.95 (dd, *J* = 6.5, 4.2 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.30 (dt, *J* = 8.8, 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 4.17 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.37 (dd, J = 9.9, 4.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7a), 3.27 – 3.14 (m, 3H, morpholine H-7b & morpholine H-5a & H-5'a), 3.04 (ddd, J = 24.0, 13.1, 7.5 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-5b & H-5'b), 1.59 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.34 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 163.5, 154.3 (2C, 2x uracil C=O), 150.2, 148.2 (2C, 2x adenine C<sub>q</sub>), 145.8 (1C, uracil C-6), 145.0, 143.7 (6X, 3x OTrt Arom. C<sub>q</sub> & 3x NHTrt Arom. C<sub>q</sub>), 129.1, 128.7, 128.0, 127.26, 127.0 (30C, 30x Arom. CH), 121.5 (1C, adenine C<sub>q</sub>), 115.2 (1C, morpholine C-3), 114.8 (1C, *i*-propylidene C<sub>a</sub>), 102.0 (1C, uracil C-5), 90.4 (1C, C-1'), 87.0 (1C, OTrt C<sub>a</sub>) 85.5 (1C, C-4'), 83.9 (1C, C-2'), 82.5 (1C, C-3'), 73.5 (1C, morpholine C-6), 71.5 (1C, NHTrt C<sub>q</sub>), 63.4 (1C, morpholine C-7), 56.5 (1C, morpholine C-5), 49.1 (1C, C-5'), 27.3, 25.5 (2C, 2x *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>60</sub>H<sub>54</sub>N<sub>8</sub>NaO<sub>7</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 1021.4115, found 1021.472.

5'-Deoxy-2',3'-*O*-isopropylidene-5'-[6-triphenylmethoxymethyl-2-(hypoxanthine-9-yl)morpholine-4-yl]-5-methyluridine (8)



**3b** (0.23 g, 0.8 mmol) and **4b** (0.398 g, .0783 mmol) were dissolved in EtOH (10 ml) and stirred for 10 min. AcOH (2 drops) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.059 g, 0.936 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were added and the stirring was continued overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient elution CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 6:4 $\rightarrow$ 1:1) to give 8 (0.31 g, 51%) as white foam. Rf= 0.25 hexane:acetone 1:1);  $[\alpha]_{D}$  +24.1 (c=0.22; CHCl<sub>3</sub>) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.34 (s, 1H), 8.01 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 7.43 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 7H, arom.), 7.23 (dt, J = 25.6, 7.0 Hz, 11H, 11x Arom. CH), 7.08 (s, 1H), 5.95 (s, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.53 (s, 1H, H-1'), 5.06 (s, 1H, H-2'), 4.75 (s, 1H, H-3'), 4.27 (s, 1H, H-4'), 4.17 (s, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.30 (s, 2H, morpholine H-3a & morpholine H-7a), 3.11 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-7b & morpholine H-5a), 2.92 (s, 1H, H-5'a), 2.76 (d, J = 4.3 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 2.42 (s, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 2.19 (s, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 1.81 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.53 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.30 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.6, 158.6 (2C,2x thymine C=O), 150.2, 148.1 (2C, 2x hypoxanthine  $C_{a}$ ), 143.6 (3C, 3x OTrt Arom.  $C_{a}$ ), 145.8, 139.3 (1C, thymine C-6), 129.3, 128.6, 127.8, 127.1 (15C, 15x Arom. CH), 124.1 (1C, hypoxanthine C<sub>a</sub>), 114.4 (1C, *i*-propylidene C<sub>a</sub>), 110.6 (1C, thymine C-5), 95.4 (1C, C-1'), 86.6 (1C, OTrt-C<sub>a</sub>), 85.1 (1C, C-4'), 83.9 (1C, C-2'), 82.7 (1C, C-3'), 79.5 (1C, morpholine C-2), 75.4 (1C, morpholine C-6), 64.5 (1C, morpholine C-7), 60.2 (1C, C-5'), 58.1 (1C, morpholine C-2), 53.5 (1C, morpholine C-5), 27.1, 25.3 (2C, 2x *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.2 (1C, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: calcd for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>43</sub>N<sub>7</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 796.3071, found 796.3083.

5'-Deoxy-2',3'-O-isopropylidene-5'-[6-trityl-2-(hypoxanthine-9-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-*N*-trityl-adenosine (9)



**3b** (0.27 g, 0.5 mmol) and **4c** (0.25 g, 0.5 mmol) were dissolved in EtOH (10 ml) and stirred for 10 min. AcOH (2 drops) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.037 g, 0.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were added and stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic phase was diluted dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient elution  $CH_2Cl_2$ :acetone 8:2 $\rightarrow$ 7:3 $\rightarrow$ 6:4) to give 9 (0.24 g, 48%) as white solid. Rf= 0.46  $(CH_2Cl_2:acetone 1:1); [\alpha]_D + 14.3 (c=0.3; CHCl_3) ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) \delta 8.22, 7.99,$ 7.98, 7.84 (4x s, 4x 1H, adenine H-2, H-8 & hypoxanthine H-2, H-8), 7.42 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 6H, 6x Arom. CH), 7.32 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 7H, 7x Arom. CH), 7.29 – 7.17 (m, 21H, 21x Arom. CH), 7.01 (s, 1H, NH), 6.01 (s, 1H, H-1'), 5.92 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.40 (d, J = 6.4Hz, 1H, H-2'), 5.00 – 4.96 (m, 1H, H-3'), 4.36 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 5.1 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 4.17 – 4.08 (m, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.29 (dd, J = 9.4, 4.7 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7a), 3.18 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H, 1H, 1H)morpholine H-3a), 3.12 (dd, J = 8.4, 4.3 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7b), 3.00 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 2.83 (dd, J = 13.2, 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 2.72 (dd, J = 13.0, 7.4 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 2.42 (t, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 2.21 (dd, J = 21.5, 10.4 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 1.60 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.36 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.1, 154.2 (2C, hypoxanthine C-6 & adenine C-6), 152.4, 148.4, 148.2 (2C, adenine & hypoxanthine C<sub>q</sub>), 144.9, 143.7 (6C, 6x Trt Arom C<sub>q</sub>), 140.3, 139.5 (2C, 2x hypoxanthine and adenine CH), 129.0, 128.7, 127.9, 127.2, 127.0 (30C, Arom. CH), 124.4, 121.6, 114.8 (1C, *i*-propylidene C<sub>a</sub>), 90.4 (1C, C-1'), 86.8 (1C, OTrt C<sub>a</sub>), 84.6 (1C, C-4'), 83.7 (1C, C-2'), 83.0 (1C, C-3'), 79.8 (1C, morpholine C-2), 75.6 (1C, morpholine C-6), 71.4 (1C, NHTrt C<sub>a</sub>), 64.5 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.9 (1C, C-5'), 57.7 (1C, morpholine C-3), 55.0 (1C, morpholine C-5), 27.3, 25.5 (2C, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>61</sub>H<sub>56</sub>N<sub>10</sub>NaO<sub>6</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 1047.4282, found 1047.4391.

## 5'-Deoxy-2',3'-*O*-isopropylidene-5'-[6-trityl-2-(*N*-trityl-adenine-9-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-*N*-trityl-adenosine (10)



**3c** (0.749 g, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (20 ml) and **4c** (0.549 g, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min at room temperature. Than, AcOH (2 drops) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.075 g, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight. Next day, the reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (hexane/acetone  $8:2 \rightarrow 7:3$ ) because of the imperfect purification, the compound was re-purified by flash chromatography (gradient elution CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 99:1 $\rightarrow$ 98:2 $\rightarrow$ 97:3 $\rightarrow$ 96:4 $\rightarrow$ 95:5) to give 10 (0.64 g, 50%) as a white solid. Rf= 0.27 (hexane:acetone 7:3);  $[\alpha]_D$  +6.00 (c=0.15; CHCl<sub>3</sub>), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.04, 8.00, 7.89, 7.79 (4xs, 4H, 2x adenine H-2, 4x adenine H-8), 7.42 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 6H, 6x Arom. CH), 7.38 – 7.29 (m, 14H, 14x Arom.), 7.04 (s, 2H, 2x NH), 5.98 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.93 (dd, J = 9.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.40 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.98 (dd, J = 5.9, 4.3 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.35 (dd, J = 9.9, 5.2 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 4.18 -4.08 (m, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.30 (dd, J = 9.3, 4.8 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7a), 3.14 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 3.10 - 3.05 (m, 1H, morpholine H-7b), 2.99 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 2.81 (dd, J = 13.1, 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 2.66 (dd, J = 13.0, 7.2 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 2.43 (t, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 2.17 (t, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 1.57 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.33 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 154.2, 154.1, 152.4, 152.2, 148.2, 148.1 (6C, 2x adenine CH, 4x adenine C<sub>q</sub>), 144.9, 144.9, 143.6 (3C, 3x OTrt Arom. C<sub>q</sub>), 128.9, 128.6, 127.8, 127.1, 126.9 (45C, 45x Arom. CH), 121.6, 120.6 (2C, 2x adenine C<sub>a</sub>), 114.6 (1C, *i*-propylidene C<sub>a</sub>), 90.4 (1C, C-1'), 86.7 (1C, OTrt C<sub>g</sub>), 84.7 (1C, C-4'), 83.6 (1C, C-2'), 82.9 (1C, C-3'), 79.5 (1C, morpholine C-2), 75.4 (1C, morpholine C-6), 71.4 (2C, 2x NHTrt C<sub>a</sub>), 64.5 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.7 (1C, C-5'), 57.5 (1C, morpholine C-3), 55.2 (1C, morpholine C-5), 27.2, 25.4 (2C, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS *m/z* calcd for C<sub>80</sub>H<sub>71</sub>N<sub>11</sub>NaO<sub>5</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 1288.5537, found 1288.5447.

## 5'-Deoxy-2',3'-*O*-isopropylidene-5'-[6-trityl-2-(6-*N*-trityl-adenine-1-yl)-morpholine-4yl]-5-methyluridine (11)



**3c** (0.3 g, 0.40 mmol) and **4b** (0.12 g, 0.40 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in EtOH (10 ml) and stirred at room temperature for 10 min. After 10 min, AcOH (2 drops) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.030 g, 0.48 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were added and stirred overnight. Next day, The reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient elution *n*-hexane:acetone 7:3 $\rightarrow$ 6:4) to give 11 (0.19 g, 46%) as a white solid. Rf= 0.16 (*n*-hexane:acetone 7:3);  $[\alpha]_D$  +17.5 (*c*=0.12; CHCl<sub>3</sub>), <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(400 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta 8.04, 7.98 (2 \text{ s}, 2 \text{ H}, \text{ adenine H-2, H-8}), 7.42 (d, J = 6.9 \text{ Hz}, 9 \text{ H}, 9 \text{ x Arom}.$ *CH*), 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 12H, 12x Arom. *CH*), 7.30 – 7.15 (m, 32H, 32x Arom. *CH*), 7.08 (s, 1H, NH), 6.95 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 5.95 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.46 (s, 1H, H-1'), 4.99 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.71 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 6.6 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.19 (d, *J* = 18.4 Hz, 2H, H-4' & morpholine H-6), 3.28 (s, 2H, morpholine H3a & morpholine H-7a), 3.10 (dd, J =23.4, 10.3 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-7b & morpholine H-5a), 2.78 (dd, J = 16.7, 9.8 Hz, 2H, H-5'ab), 2.47 (t, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 2.19 (t, J = 10.7 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 1.81 (s, 3H, thymine  $CH_3$ ), 1.53 (s, 3H, *i*-propilidene  $CH_3$ ), 1.26 (s, 3H, *i*-propilidene  $CH_3$ ) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.2 (1C, thymine C=O), 154.1 (1C, adenine C<sub>g</sub>), 152.4 (2C, adenine C-2 & C-8), 150.2 (1C, thymine C=O), 148.3 (1C, adenine C<sub>q</sub>), 145.0, 143.7 (6C, 3x OTrt Arom C<sub>q</sub> & 3x NHTrt Arom C<sub>q</sub>), 138.9 (1C, thymine C-6), 129.0, 128.7, 127.9, 127.1, 126.9 (30C, 30x Arom CH), 120.5 (1C, adenine C<sub>q</sub>), 114.6 (1C, *i*-propylidene C<sub>q</sub>), 110.9 (1C, thymine C-5), 95.2 (1C, C-1'), 86.7 (1C, OTrt-C<sub>a</sub>), 85.1 (1C, C-4'), 84.0 (1C, C-2'), 82.6 (1C, C-3'), 79.4 (1C, morpholine C-2), 75.5 (1C, morpholine C-6), 71.4 (1C, NHTrt-C<sub>a</sub>), 64.6 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.9 (1C, C-5'), 58.0 (1C, morpholine C-3), 54.6 (1C, morpholine C-5), 27.3, 25.4 (2C, 2x *i*-propilidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.3 (1C, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>61</sub>H<sub>58</sub>N<sub>8</sub>NaO<sub>7</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 1037.4326, found 1037.4322.

5'-Deoxy-2',3'-*O*-isopropylidene-5'-[6-trityl-2-(*N*-trityl-cytosine-1-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-*N*-trityl-adenosine (12)



4c (1.42 g, 2.6 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (30 ml) 3d (1.95 mg, 2.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min at room temperature. Than, AcOH (4 drops) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (196 mg, 3.1 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight. Next day, the reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O (200 ml) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5x100 ml). The combined organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (hexane:acetone 1:1) to give to give 12 (1.85 g, 58%) as a yellowish foam. Rf= 0.2 (nhexane:acetone 1:1);  $[\alpha]_D$  +5.0 (*c*=0.2; CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.94, 7.83 (2x s, 2x1H, adenine H-2 & H-8), 7.40 – 7.31 (m, 15H, 15x Arom. CH), 7.31 – 7.17 (m, 41H, Arom. CH & cytidine H-6), 6.96 (s, 1H, adenine NH), 5.96 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.89 (dd, J = 9.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.34 (dd, J = 6.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 5.04 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H, cytidine H-5), 4.93 (dd, J = 6.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.28 (dd, J = 11.1, 4.7 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 4.05 -3.99 (m, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.21 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 3.15 (dd, J = 9.8, 5.1 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7a), 2.98 (dd, J = 9.8, 4.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7b), 2.80 (d, J = 12.7 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 2.78 – 2.72 (m, 1H, H-5'a), 2.57 (dd, J = 13.4, 6.9 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 2.04 – 1.96 (m, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 1.80 – 1.73 (m, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 1.59 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.34 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 165.4 (1C, cytosine C-2), 154.7, 154.2, 148.3 (3C, cytosine C-4 & 2x adenine C<sub>a</sub>), 152.4, 139.2\* (2C, adenine C-2 & C-8) 145.0, 144.0, 143.8 (9C, 3x OTrt Arom. C<sub>a</sub> & 6x NHTrt Arom. C<sub>a</sub>), 140.8 (1C, cytosine C-6), 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.9, 127.9, 127.7, 127.1, 127.0 (45C, 45x Arom. CH), 121.7 (1C, adenine C<sub>a</sub>), 114.9 (1C, *i*-propylidene C<sub>a</sub>), 94.6 (1C, cytosine C-5), 90.2 (1C, morpholine C-2), 86.6 (1C, OTrt C<sub>a</sub>), 84.7 (1C, C-4'), 83.5 (1C, C-2'), 82.7 (1C, C-3'), 80.7 (1C, C-1'), 75.5 (1C, morpholine C-6), 71.4, 71.0 (2C, 2x NHTrt C<sub>a</sub>), 64.9 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.8 (1C, C-5'), 57.3 (1C, morpholine C-3), 55.0 (1C, morpholine C-5), 27.3, 25.5 (2C, 2x *i*-propyliene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. \*Signal can be seen only in HSQC. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>79</sub>H<sub>71</sub>N<sub>9</sub>NaO<sub>6</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 1264.5425, found 1264.5487.

5'-Deoxy-2',3'-*O*-isopropylidene-5'-[6-(4,4'-trityl)-2-(2-*N*-trityl-guanine-9-yl) morpholine-4-yl]-5-methyluridine (13)



**3e** (0.4 g, 0.5 mmol) and **4b** (0.19 g, 0.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were dissolved in EtOH (10 ml) and stirred at room temperature for an hour. After that, glacial AcOH (0,03 ml, 0,5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.049 g, 0.8 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) were added and stirred overnight. Next day, The reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (hexane:acetone 1:1) to crude **13** (0.25 g, 0.24 mmol, 50%) as a yellowish foam which was used for the deprotection without NMR characterization. (R*f*= 0.30 *n*-hexane:acetone 1:1). MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>61</sub>H<sub>58</sub>N<sub>8</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 1053.4378, found 1053.419.

#### 4. Synthesis of deprotected ribonucleosyl-morpholino dinucleotides 14-22

#### 5'-Deoxy-5'-[6-hydroxymethyl-2-(uracil-1-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-uridine (14)



#### Method A

Compound 5 (0.1 g, 0.14 mmol) was dissolved in 90% aqueous TFA (5 ml) and  $Et_3SiH$  was added (0.65 ml, 1.011 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and co-evaporated with toluene 3 times. Then the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH 7:3) to give 14 (0.052

g, 87%) as an amorphous solid. R/= 0.26 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 7:3);  $[\alpha]_D$  +23.00 (*c*=0.001; MeOH) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O)  $\delta$  7.73 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H, uracil H-6), 7.57 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H, uracil H-6), 5.77 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H, 2x uracil H-5), 5.70 (dt, *J* = 4.2, 2.9 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-2 & H-1'), 4.24 (ddd, *J* = 5.8, 3.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.18 – 4.08 (m, 1H, H-3'), 3.96 (ddd, *J* = 6.9, 5.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.89 (ddd, *J* = 8.6, 5.1, 2.6 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.65 (ddd, *J* = 12.3, 3.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7a), 3.64 – 3.55 (m, 1H, morpholine H-7b), 3.09 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 2.91 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7b), 3.09 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 2.91 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7b), 3.09 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 2.91 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7b), 3.09 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 2.91 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7b), 3.09 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 2.91 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7b), 2.89 – 2.84 (m, 1H, H-5'a), 2.76 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 2.29 (t, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 2.16 (t, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O)  $\delta$  166.1, 165.9, 151.3, 151.0 (4C, 4x uracil *C*=O), 142.1, 142.0 (2C, 2x uracil C-6), 102.2, 102.1 (2C, 2x uracil C-5), 91.0 (1C, C-1'), 80.0 79.4, 76.3, 72.9, 71.3 (5C, C-2' & C-3' & C-4' & morpholine C-2 & morpholine C-6), 62.0 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.3, 55.3 (2C, morpholine C-3 & morpholine C-5), 52.2 (1C, C-5') ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>5</sub>NaO<sub>9</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 476.1496, found 476.1388.

#### Method B (One-pot reaction)



**3a** (0.2 g, 0,41 mmol) and **4a** (0.19 g, 0,66 mmol, 1.6 equiv.) were dissolved in a 1: 1 mixture of EtOH and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and stirred for 1 hour, then NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.062 g, 0.99 mmol, 2.4 equiv.) and triethylamine (0.14 ml, 0.99 mmol, 2.4 equiv.) were added and stirred for another hour. After that the solution of TFA (0.165 ml) in EtOH (1 ml) was added dropwise over 10 minutes and the reaction mixture was stirred for additional 3 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, then 90% aqueousTFA (8 ml) and Et<sub>3</sub>SiH (0.198 ml, 1.2 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were added to the mixture and it was stirred for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and co-evaporated with toluene 3 times. Then the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH 8:2 $\rightarrow$ 7:3) to give 14 (0.13 g, 70% for 2 steps) as a white foam.

5'-Deoxy-5'-[6-hydroxymethyl-2-(uracil-1-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-5-methyluridine (15)



#### Method A

90 % aqueous TFA (5.0 ml) and Et<sub>3</sub>SiH (0.086 mL, 0.54 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were added to 6 (0.13 g, 0.18 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. After that, the solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and co-evaporated with toluene 3 times. Then the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 8:2) to give 15 (0.075 g, 89%) as a white foam. Rf= 0.21 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 8:2);  $[\alpha]_D$  +11.8 (c=0.11; DMSO) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD)  $\delta$  7.78 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, uracil H-6), 7.44 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 5.89 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.80 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.75 (d, J = 8.1Hz, 1H, uracil H-5), 4.33 – 4.26 (m, 1H, H-2'), 4.17 (s, 1H, H-4'), 4.10 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.03 - 3.94 (m, 1H, morpoline H-6), 3.68 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-7ab), 3.29 (s, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 3.15 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 3.06 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 3.02 - 2.94 (m, 1H, H-5'b), 2.50 (t, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 2.41 (t, J =11.1 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 1.89 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD) δ 166.2, 165.9, 152.4, 151.7 (4C, 2x uracil C=O & 2x thymine C=O), 142.4 (1C, uracil C-6), 138.9 (1C, thymine C-6), 112.0 (1C, thymine C-5), 103.1 (1C, uracil C-5), 92.7 (1C, C-1'), 81.7 (1C, C-4'), 80.4 (1C, morpholine C-2), 77.7 (1C, morpholine C-6), 73.9 (1C, C-2'), 72.8 (1C, C-3'), 63.5 (1C, morpholine C-7), 60.7 (1C, C-5'), 56.7 (1C, morpholine C-3), 54.4 (1C, morpholine C-5), 12.4 (1C, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>5</sub>NaO<sub>9</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 490.1550, found 490.1548.

#### Method B (One-pot reaction)



**3a** (0.57 g, 1.2 mmol) and **4b** (0.56 g, 1.9 mmol, 1.6 equiv.) were dissolved in a 1: 1 mixture of EtOH and  $CH_2Cl_2$  (20 ml) and stirred for 1 hour, then NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.177 g, 2.8 mmol, 2.4 equiv.) and triethylamine (0.39 ml, 2.8 mmol, 2.4 equiv.) were added and stirred for another hour. After that the solution of TFA (0.19 ml) in EtOH (2 ml) was added dropwise over 10 minutes and the reaction mixture was stirred for additional 3 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, then 90% aqueousTFA (10 ml) and Et<sub>3</sub>SiH (0.564 ml, 3.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were added to the mixture and it was stirred for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and co-evaporated with toluene 3 times. Then the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH 85:15) to give **15** (0.42 g, 77% for 2 steps) as a white foam.

#### 5'-Deoxy-5'-[6-hydroxymethyl-2-(uracil-1-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]- adenosine (16)



Compound 7 (0.13 g, 0.14 mmol) was dissolved in 90% aqueous TFA (5 ml) and Et<sub>3</sub>SiH was added (0.13 ml, 0.76 mmol , 3.0 equiv.) and stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and co-evaporated with toluene 3 times. Then the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH 8:2) to give **16** (0.047 g, 52%) as an amorph solid. R*f*= 0.11 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 8:2);  $[\alpha]_D$  +26.15 (*c*=0.003; H<sub>2</sub>O) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD)  $\delta$  7.09 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H, adenine *CH*), 7.00 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H, adenine *CH*), 6.56 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.6 Hz, 1H, uracil H-6), 4.82 (dd, *J* = 4.3, 2.0 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 4.60 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 3.2 Hz, 1H, uracil H-5), 4.54 (dt, *J* = 10.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 3.54 (td, *J* = 4.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 3.17 – 3.05 (m, 2Hm H-3' & H-4'), 2.68 (dt, *J* = 8.3, 4.1 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-6), 2.48 – 2.38 (m, 2H, morpholine H-7a,b), 1.98 – 1.87 (m, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 1.81 – 1.69 (m, 2H, H-5'a,b), 1.70 – 1.59 (m, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 1.08 – 0.98 (m, 2H, morpholine H-3b & morpholine H-5b) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD)  $\delta$  156.6, 151.7 (2C, 2x uracil *C*=O), 149.9 (1C, adenine *C*<sub>q</sub>), 142.8 (1C, uracil C-6), 1030 (1C, uracil C-5), 89.6 (1C, C-1'), 82.7 (1C, C-4'), 80.6 (1C, morpholine C-2), 77.5 (1C, morpholine C-6), 74.2 (1C,

C-2'), 72.9 (1C, C-3'), 63.2 (1C, morpholine C-7), 60.5 (1C, C-5'), 56.8 (1C, morpholine C-3), 54.0 (1C, morpholine C-5) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>8</sub>O<sub>7</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 499.1768, found 499.1660.

5'-Deoxy-5'-[6-hydroxymethyl-2-(hypoxanthine-9-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-5-methyluridine (17)



Compound 8 (0.26 g, 0.337 mmol) was dissolved in 90% aqueous TFA (5 ml) and Et<sub>3</sub>SiH was added (0.16 ml, 1.011 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and co-evaporated with toluene 3 times. Then the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH 7:3) to give 17 (0.14 g, 86%) as an amorphous solid. Rf= 0.26 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 7:3);  $[\alpha]_D$  -1.875 (c=0.16; DMSO) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.28, 8.08 (2xs, 2x 1H, hypoxanthine H-2 & H-8), 7.44 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 5.76 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.2 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.72 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.37 (s, 1H, 2'-OH), 5.16 (s, 1H, 3'OH), 4.82 (t, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine 7 OH), 4.08 (s, 1H, H-2'), 3.92 (s, 2H, H-3' & H-4'), 3.84 - 3.76 (m, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.44 (qd, J = 11.5, 5.7 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-7ab), 3.11 (d, J = 10.1 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 2.96 (d, J = 10.8Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 2.78 (t, J = 10.7 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-3b & H-5'a), 2.69 (dd, J =13.4, 6.4 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 2.11 (t, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 1.80 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  163.7, 156.6, 150.7, 147.8, 123.9 (5C, hypoxanthine C-4, C-5 & C-6 and thymine C-2 & C-4), 146.4\*, 138.8\* (2C, hypoxanthine C-2 & C-8) 136.6 (1C, thymine C-6), 109.8 (1C, thymine C-5), 88.7 (1C, C-1'), 80.9 (1C, C-4'), 79.1 (1C, morpholine C-2), 76.9 (1C, morpholine C-6), 72.1 (1C, C-2'), 71.2 (1C, C-3'), 61.9 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.4 (1C, C-5'), 56.0 (1C, morpholine C-3), 54.3 (1C, morpholine C-5), 12.1 (1C, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. \*Note: Peak can only be seen in HSQC spectrum. MALDI-ToF MS: m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>7</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 514.1765, found 514.1643.

#### 5'-Deoxy-5'-[6-hydroxymethyl-2-(hypoxanthine-9-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-adenosine (18)



Compound 9 (0.21 g, 0.206 mmol) was dissolved in 90% aqueous TFA (5 ml) and Et<sub>3</sub>SiH (0.197 ml, 1.24 mmol, 6.0 equiv.) was added and stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and co-evaporated with toluene 3 times. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient elution  $CH_2Cl_2:MeOH 7:3 \rightarrow 6:4$ ) to give **18** (0.090 g, 84%) as white solid. Rf= 0.25 (CH\_2Cl\_2:MeOH 6:4); [α]<sub>D</sub> -6.47 (*c*=0.17; DMSO) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.34, 8.25, 8.15, 8.07 (4xs, 4x1H, 2x H-2 & 2xH-8), 7.28 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 5.87 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.74 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 4.60 (t, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.22 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.08 (dd, J = 9.5, 5.6 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.82 – 3.74 (m, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.42 – 3.38 (m, 2H, morpholine H-7ab), 3.10 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 2.95 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 2.85 (dd, J = 13.5, 3.3 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 2.77 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 2.75 – 2.70 (m, 1H, H-5'b), 2.09 (t, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  156.8, 156.1, 149.3, 147.8, 123.9, 119.2 (6C, 6x hypoxanthine and adenine  $C_{q}$ ), 88.0 (1C, C-1'), 81.6 (1C, C-4'), 79.1 (1C, morpholine C-2), 76.9 (1C, morpholine C-6), 72.8 (1C, C-2'), 71.6 (1C, C-3'), 61.9 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.6 (1C, C-5'), 56.0 (1C, morpholine C-3), 54.3 (1C, morpholine C-5) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>10</sub>NaO<sub>6</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 523.1778, found 523.1791.

#### 5'-Deoxy-5'-[(2-adenine-9-yl)-6-hydroxymethyl-morpholine-4-yl]-adenosine (19)



Compound **10** (0.27 g, 0.213 mmol) was dissolved in 90% aqueous TFA (5 ml), then  $Et_3SiH$  (0.31 ml, 1.92 mmol, 9.0 equiv.) was added and stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with toluene, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the

residue was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 7:3→6:4) to give **19** (0.076 g, 72%) as a white solid. R*f*= 0.25 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 7:3);  $[\alpha]_D -5.0$  (*c*=0.1; DMSO) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  8.35 (s, 1H, adenine *CH*), 8.31 (s, 1H, adenine *CH*), 8.16 (s, 1H, adenine *CH*), 7.30 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 4H, 2x N*H*<sub>2</sub>), 5.88 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.78 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.64 (s, 1H, 3'OH), 5.40 (s, 1H, 2'OH), 4.81 (s, 1H, morpholine 7-OH), 4.60 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.23 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.09 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 5.7 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.85 – 3.74 (m, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.40 (s, 2H, morpholine H-7a,b), 3.11 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 2.96 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 2.90 – 2.84 (m, 1H, H-5'a), 2.82 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 2.09 (t, *J*= 10.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  156.1, 152.8, 152.7, 149.3, 149.0, 119.2, 118.5 (8C, adenine carbons), 88.0 (1C, C-1'), 81.6 (1C, C-4'), 78.9 (1C, morpholine C-1), 76.8 (1C, morpholine C-6), 72.8 (1C, C-2'), 71.6 (1C, C-3'), 62.0 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.6 (1C, C-5'), 56.0 (1C, morpholine C-3), 54.4 (1C, morpholine C-5) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>11</sub>NaO<sub>5</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 522.1938, found 522.1922.



90 % aqueous TFA (5.0 ml) and Et<sub>3</sub>SiH (0.13 ml, 0.845 mmol, 6.0 equiv.) were added to **11** (0.14 g, 0.141 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. After 2 h, the solution was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 7:3) to give **20** (0.053 g, 77%) as a white solid. Rf= 0.15 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 8:2);  $[\alpha]_D$  +0.01 (*c*=0.3; DMSO) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  8.34, 8.17 (2xs, 2x1H, adenine H-2 & H-8), 7.46 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 7.32 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 5.84-5.77 (1H, m, morpholine H-2), 5.76-5.71 (m, 1H, H-1'), 5.45 (s, 1H, 2'OH), 5.27 (s, 1H, 3'OH), 4.88 (s, 1H, morpholine 7-OH), 4.10 (s, 1H, H-2'), 3.94 (s, 2H, H-4', H-3'), 3.81 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 3.0 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.12 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 2.97 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 2.81 (d, *J* = 11.7 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-3b & H-5'a), 2.74 – 2.65 (m, 2H, H-5'b & morpholine H-3b), 2.11 (t, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 1.80 (s, 3H,

thymineCH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  163.8, 156.1, 152.8, 150.7, 149.0 (5C, 2x thymineC=O & 2x adenine  $C_q$ , adenine CH), 136.7 (1C, thymine C-6), 118.5 (1C, adenine  $C_q$ ), 109.9 (1C, thymine C-5), 88.8 (1C, C-1'), 78.9 (1C, morpholine C-2), 76.8 (1C, morpholine C-6), 72.1 (1C, C-2'), 81.0, 71.2 (2C, C-4' & C-3'), 62.1 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.4 (1C, C-5'), 56.1 (1C, morpholine C-3), 54.4 (1C, morpholine C-5), 12.1 (1C, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>8</sub>NaO<sub>7</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 513.1822, found 513.1816.

5'-Deoxy-5'-[2-(cytosine-1-yl)-6-hydroxymethyl-morpholine-4-yl]-adenosine (21)



Compound 12 (1.6 g, 1.29 mmol) was dissolved in 90% TFA (20 ml) and Et<sub>3</sub>SiH (1.85 ml, 11.6 mmol, 9.0 equiv.) was added and stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with toluene an concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CHCl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 6:4) to give **21** (0.3g, 50%) as a white solid. Rf = 0.22 (CHCl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 6:4);  $[\alpha]_D$  +16.0 (*c*=0.15; DMSO). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$ 8.33, 8.15 (2x s, 2x 1H, adenine H-2, H-8), 7.58 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H, cystosine H-6), 7.28 (s, 2H,  $NH_2$ ), 7.19 (s, 1H), 5.87 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.73 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H, cytosine H-5), 5.65 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.50 (s, 1H, 2'OH), 5.25 (s, 1H, 3'OH), 4.75 (s, 1H, morpholine 7-OH), 4.57 (s, 1H, H-2'), 4.19 (s, 1H, H-3'), 4.03 (dd, J = 9.3, 6.2 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.72 - 3.64 (m, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.39 (HDO + morpholine H-7a,b), 2.89 (t, J = 12.6 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-3a & H-5a), 2.79 (dd, J = 13.4, 3.1 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 2.65 (dd, J = 13.4, 7.0 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 2.06 – 1.92 (m, 2H, morpholine H-3b & H-5b) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  165.4 (1C, cytosine C-2), 156.1, 154.2, 149.3 (3C, 2x adenine  $C_q$  & cytosine C-4), 152.7 (1C, adenine CH), 141.5 (1C, cytosine C-6), 119.2 (1C, adenosine C<sub>q</sub>), 94.1 (1C, cytosine C-5), 88.1 (1C, C-1'), 81.6 (1C, C-4'), 79.6 (1C, C-1'), 76.7 (1C, morpholine C-6), 72.8 (1C, C-2'), 71.6 (1C, C-3'), 62.1 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.6 (1C, C-5'), 56.6 (morpholine C-3), 54.3 (1C, morpholine C-5) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: m/z calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>9</sub>NaO<sub>6</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 498.1825, found 498.1813.

#### 5'-Deoxy-5'-[2-guanosine-9-yl-6-hydroxymethyl-morpholine-4-yl]-5-methyluridine (22)



90 % aqueous TFA (15 ml) and Et<sub>3</sub>SiH (0.116 ml, 0.73 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were added to 13 (0.25 g, 0.24 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. After that, the solution was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 7:3 $\rightarrow$ 6:4) to give 22 (0.08 g, 67%) as a white foam. Rf= 0.15 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 7:3);  $[\alpha]_D$  +30.0 (c=0.1; MeOH). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  11.06 (d, J = 193.6 Hz, 1H, base NH), 8.35 (s, 1H, base NH), 7.86 (s, 1H, guanine H-8), 7.45  $(d, J = 3.9 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}, \text{thymine H-6}), 6.65 (s, 2\text{H}, \text{guanine NH}_2), 5.72 (d, J = 4.9 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}, \text{H-1'}),$ 5.56 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.4 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.39 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H, H-2' OH), 5.21 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H, H-3' OH), 4.84 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7 OH), 4.11 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 3.92 (dd, J = 6.7, 4.0 Hz, 2H, H-3' & H-4'), 3.73 (dtd, J = 10.7, 5.3, 2.2 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.46 - 3.41 (m, 2H, morpholine H-7a,b), 3.04 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 2.94 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 2.77 (dd, J = 13.6, 3.6 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 2.70 -2.60 (m, 2H, H-5'b & morpholine H-3b), 2.07 (t, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 1.80 (s, 1H, morpholine H-5b) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  166.0, 158.7, 154.8 (3C, 2x thymine C=O & guanine C=O), 152.0, 151.8 (2C, 2x guanine C<sub>g</sub>), 138.3 (1C, thymine C-6), 116.7 (1C, guanine C<sub>a</sub>), 111.8 (1C, thymine C-5), 90.5 (1C, C-1'), 82.0 (1C, C-3'), 79.5 (1C, morpholine C-6), 77.4 (1C, morpholine C-2), 73.3 (1C, C-2'), 72.3 (1C, C-4'), 63.0 (1C, morpholine C-7), 60.4 (1C, C-5'), 57.2 (1C, morpholine C-3), 54.3 (1C, morpholine C-5), 13.0 ('C, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>8</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 529.1874, found 529.1843.

#### 5'-Deoxy-5'-[6-hydroxymethyl-2-(thymine-1-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-5-guanosine (24)



**3f** (0.9 g, 1.8 mmol) and 5'-amino-5'-deoxy-guanosine (**23**)<sup>9</sup> (0.82 g, 2.9 mmol, 1.6 equiv.) were dissolved in a 1: 1: 1 mixture of EtOH,  $CH_2Cl_2$  and DMF (30 ml) and stirred for 1 hour, then NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.27 g, 4.3 mmol, 2.4 equiv.) and triethylamine (0.61 ml, 4.3 mmol, 2.4 equiv.) were added and stirred for another hour. After that the solution of TFA (0.25 ml) in EtOH (3 ml) was added dropwise over 10 minutes and the reaction mixture was stirred for additional 3 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, then 90% aqueousTFA (10 ml) and Et<sub>3</sub>SiH (0.867 ml, 5.4 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were added to the mixture and it was stirred for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and co-evaporated with toluene 3 times. Then the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH 1:1 $\rightarrow$ 4:6) to give **24** (0.46 g, 51% for 2 steps) as a white foam.

Rf=0.15 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 1:1);  $[\alpha]_D$  -7.86 (*c*=0.14; DMSO). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  7.90, 7.56 (2x s, 2H, guanine H-8 & thymine H-6), 5.81 – 5.67 (m, 1H, H-1'), 5.62 (d, *J* = 9.7

Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 4.43 (t, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.10 (t, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.02 (t, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.71 (s, 1H, D<sub>2</sub>O & morpholine H-6), 3.44 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-7a,b), 2.96 – 2.74 (m, 2H, morpholine H-3a & morpholine H-5a), 2.66 (dd, J = 13.7, 6.9 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 2.54 (s, 1H, H-5'b), 2.25 (t, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 2.05 (t, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 1.79 (s, 3H thymine CH<sub>3</sub>)ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  164.03, 157.19, 153.83, 151.58, 150.33 (5C, 2x thymine C=O & 3x guanine C<sub>q</sub>), 136.86, 136.83 (2C, guanine C-8 & thymine C-6) 116.93 (1C, guanine C<sub>q</sub>), 109.90 (1C, thymine C-5), 87.39 (1C, C.-1'), 81.85, (1C, C-4'), 79.08 (1C, morpholine C-2), 77.06 (1C, morpholine C-6), 73.04 (1C, C-2'), 71.78 (1C, C-3'), 62.19 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.92 (1C, C-5'), 55.84 (1C, morpholine C-3), 54.21 (1C, morpholine C-5), 12.25 (1C, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>8</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 529.1874, found 529.1781.

#### 5. Synthesis of a 2'-deoxyribonucleosyl morpholino dinucleotide 29

#### 5.1. Synthesis of 5'-O-DMTr-protecetd secodialdehyde from 5-methyluridine

#### 5'-O-(4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl)-5-methyluridine (25)<sup>10</sup>



5-Methyluridine (1.0 g, 3.87 mmol) and DMTrCl (1.57 g, 4.64 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were dissolved in abs. pyridine (5 ml) and stirred at room temperature overnight. Next day, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc and extracted with 10% aqueous solution of NaHSO<sub>4</sub>. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 7:3→6:4) to give **25** (1.91 g, 88%) as a white foam. R*f*=0.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 6:4);  $[\alpha]_D$  +3.4(*c*=0.29; CHCl<sub>3</sub>) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  7.52 (s, 1H, H-6), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H, 2x Arom. *CH*), 7.29 (dt, *J* = 16.8, 7.6 Hz, 8H, 8x Arom. *CH*), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4H, 4x Arom. *CH*), 5.82 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.48 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H, 2'O*H*), 5.18 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H, 3'O*H*), 4.20 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 5.4 Hz, 1H, H-2), 4.12 (dd, *J* = 10.1, 5.1 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 3.97 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 3.9 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.74 (s, 6H, 2x DMTrO *CH*<sub>3</sub>), 3.25 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 4.1 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 3.19 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 2.51 (dt, *J* = 3.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (s, 3H, thymine *CH*<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  163.7, 158.2, 150.7 (4C, 2x *C*=O & 2x Arom. *C*<sub>9</sub>), 144.8 (1C, Arom. *C*<sub>9</sub>),

135.9 (1C, C-6), 135.4, 135.2 (2C, 2x Arom.  $C_q$ ), 129.8, 128.0, 127.7, 126.9, 113.3 (13C, 13x Arom. *C*H), 109.6 (1C, C-5), 88.0, 82.9, 73.3, 70.2 (4C, C-1', C-2', C-3', C-4'), 85.9 (1C, DMTr $C_q$ ), 63.5 (1C, C-5'), 55.1 (2C, 2x DMTrO *C*H<sub>3</sub>), 11.7 (1C, thymine *C*H<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: m/z calcd for  $C_{31}H_{32}N_2NaO_8S$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 583.206, found 583.182.

5'-O-(4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl)-5-methyluridine-secodialdehyde (26)



1.0 g (1.8 mmol) **25** was dissolved in MeOH (40 ml), then 4.0 g  $IO_4^-$  resin was added to the solution and was stirred overnight in dark. Next day, the reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product **26** was used for the reductive amination reaction without purification.(R*f*= 0.57 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 1:1).

#### 5.2. Synthesis of 5'-amino 5'-deoxy-thymidine

5'-O-(p-Toluenesulfonyl)-thymidine (27)<sup>11</sup>



Thymidine (2.0 g, 8.2 mmol) was dissolved in dry pyridine and cooled to 0 °C. TsCl (1.96 g, 10.3 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at 0 °C. Next day, H<sub>2</sub>O (10 ml) was added and stirred for 10 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc, extracted with H<sub>2</sub>O and 10% aqueous solution of NaHSO<sub>4</sub>. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 96:4 $\rightarrow$ 95:5) to give **27** (2.0 g, 62%) as a white solid. R*f*= 0.30 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 9:1); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> +22.9 (0.44g/100mL; DMSO) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  7.80 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H, 2x Arom.*CH*), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, 2x Arom. *CH*), 7.39 (s, 1H, H-6), 6.16 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.45 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (dd, *J* = 10.9, 3.3 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 4.18 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (s, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H, tosyl CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.16 (dt, *J* = 13.7, 6.9 Hz, 1H, H-2'a), 2.07 (ddd, *J* = 13.5, 6.5, 4.0 Hz, 1H, H-2'b), 1.77 (s, 3H, thymine

*CH*<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  163.7, 150.4 (2C, 2x *C*=O), 145.2 (1C, tosyl *C*<sub>q</sub>), 135.9 (1C, thymine C-6), 132.1 (1C, tosyl *C*<sub>q</sub>), 130.2 127.7 (4C, 4x Arom. *C*H), 109.8 (1C, C-5), 84.0, 83.2, 70.0 (3C, C-1', C-3', C-4'), 70.2 (1C, C-5'), 38.4 (1C, C-2'), 21.1 (1C, tosyl *C*H<sub>3</sub>), 12.1 (1C, thymine *C*H<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>7</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 419.0889, found 419.0826.

#### 5'-Azido-5'-deoxy-thymidine (28)<sup>12</sup>



Compound **27** (1.92 g, 4.87 mmol) was dissolved in dry DMF (10 ml). NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.26 g, 19.5 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) was added and stirred overnight at 80°C. Next day, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc and extracted with H<sub>2</sub>O. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 95:5) to give **28** (0.74 g, 57%) as a white solid. R*f*= 0.43 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 95:5); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub>=+79.14 (*c*=0.35; DMSO) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  7.50 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H, H-6), 6.21 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.42 (s, 1H), 4.25 – 4.15 (m, 1H, H-3'), 3.85 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 5.2 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.56 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 2H, H-5'ab), 2.51 (dt, *J* = 3.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H, O*H*), 2.26 (dt, *J* = 13.9, 7.0 Hz, 1H, H-2'a), 2.09 (ddd, *J* = 13.5, 6.5, 3.7 Hz, 1H, H-2'b), 1.80 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  163.7, 150.5 (2C, 2x *C*=O), 136.1 (1C, thymine C-6), 109.9 (1C, thymine C-5), 84.6, 83.9, 70.8 (3C, C-1', C-3', C-4'), 51.7 (1C, C-5'), 38.1 (1C, C-2), 12.1 (1C, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: : *m/z* calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>5</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 290.0865, found 290.0869.

#### 5'-Amino-5'-deoxy-thymidine (29)<sup>13</sup>



Compound **28** (0.7 g, 2.61 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of MeOH (10 ml) and DMF (2 ml) and Pd/C (0.070 g) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred under H<sub>2</sub> athmosphere overnight. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 6:4) to give **29** (0.38 g, 60%) as white solid. Rf= 0.17 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 6:4);  $[\alpha]_D$ =+22.7 (*c*=0.15; DMSO)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  7.65 (s, 1H, H-6), 6.14 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 4.20 (dt, J = 6.3, 3.3 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 3.65 (dd, J = 8.5, 5.1 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 2.73 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H, H-5'a,b), 2.51 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 2.14 (dd, J = 13.5, 7.3 Hz, 1H, H-2'a), 2.04 (ddd, J = 13.3, 6.2, 3.4 Hz, 1H, H-2'b), 1.79 (s, 3H, thymine  $CH_3$ ) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  163.8, 150.5 (2C, 2xCO), 136.3 (1C, C-6), 109.6 (1C, C-5), 87.8, 83.4, 70.8 (3C, C-1', C-3', C-4'), 43.7 (1C, C-5'), 39.0 (1C, C-2'), 12.2 (1C, thymine  $CH_3$ ) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>3</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 264.0960, found 264.1013.

#### 5.3. Double reductive amination cyclization reaction

## 5'-Deoxy-5'-[6-(4,4'-triphenylmethyloxymethyl)-2-(thymine-1-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]thymidine (30)



Compound 26 (0.77 g, 1.37 mmol), and 29 (0.33 g, 1.37 mmol) were dissolved in EtOH (20 ml) and stirred for 10 min at room temperature. AcOH (3 drops) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.103 g, 1.64 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were added and the stirring was continued overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, the organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 98:2 $\rightarrow$ 95:5) to give **30** (0.47 g, 45%) as a white solid. Rf= 0.28 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 95:5);  $[\alpha]_{D}$ =+7.6(*c*=0.25; DMSO) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  7.54 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 7.48 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 7.38 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, 2x Arom. CH), 7.33 – 7.19 (m, 7H, 7x Arom. CH), 6.87 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4H, 4x Arom. CH), 6.18 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H, thymidine H-1'), 5.70 (dd, J = 9.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.35 (s, 1H, OH), 4.19 (s, 1H, H-3'), 4.02 – 3.93 (m, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.90 – 3.82 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.74 (s, 6H, 2x OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.11 (dd, J = 9.1, 5.0 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7a), 2.99 (d, J = 10.6 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 2.93 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-7b & morpholine H-3a), 2.76 (dd, J = 13.2, 2.9 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 2.63 (dd, J = 13.4, 7.0 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 2.38 – 2.26 (m, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 2.20 (dt, J = 13.2, 6.6 Hz, 1H, H-2'a), 2.14 - 2.04 (m, 2H, H-2'b & morpholine H-5b), 1.78 (s, 6H, 2x thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  163.7, 163.6, 150.5, 150.1 (4C, 4x C=O), 136.3, 136.1 (2C, 2x thymine C-6), 158.1, 144.8, 135.5, 135.4 (5C, 5x Arom  $C_q$ ), 129.7, 127.9, 127.7, 126.7, 113.2 (13C, 13x Arom. CH), 109.9, 109.6 (2C, 2x thymine C-5), 85.5 (1C, DMTrO  $C_q$ ), 83.6, 83.6 (2C, C-1' & C-4'), 78.7 (1C, morpholine C-2), 74.8 (1C, morpholine C-6), 71.4 (1C, C-3'), 64.3 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.0 (1C, C-5'), 55.0 (2C, 2x OCH<sub>3</sub>), 54.9 (1C, morpholine C-3), 54.7 (1C, morpholine C-5), 38.3 (1C, C-2'), 12.2, 12.1 (2C, 2x thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>5</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub> [M-DMTr+Na]<sup>+</sup> 488.176, found 488.1761.

#### 6. Synthesis of tri- and tetranucleotide derivatives 37 and 45

#### 5'-Azido-5'-deoxyuridine (32)<sup>4</sup>



90% aqueous TFA (20 ml) was added to the 2',3'-O-isopropylidene derivative **31** (1,7 g, 5.5 mmol) and stirred at room temperature for 4 hours. After that the mixture was evaporated and co-evaporated with toluene. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 7:3 $\rightarrow$ 4:6) to give **32** (1 g, 69%) as a white solid. R*f*= 0.29 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 1:1).

#### 5'-Azido-uridine-secodialdehyde (33)



0.66 g (1.2 mmol) **32** was dissolved in MeOH (15 ml), then 2.6 g  $IO_4^-$  resin was added to the solution and was stirred overnight in dark. Next day, the reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product **33** was used for the reductive amination reaction without purification.(R*f*= 0.62 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 8:2).

5'-Deoxy-2',3'-*O*-isopropylidene-5'-[6-azidomethyl-2-(uracil-1-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-5methyluridine (34)



Compound 33 (1.75 g, 6.55 mmol) and 4b (1.95 g, 6.55 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in EtOH (30 ml) and stirred at room temperature for 10 min. After that, AcOH (2 drops) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.49 g, 6.86 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were added and stirred overnight. Next day, The reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic phase was dried over Na2SO4, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 97:3 $\rightarrow$ 95:5) to give **34** (1.67 g, 47%) as a white solid. Rf= 0.17 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 97:3);  $[\alpha]_{D}$ =+89.41 (c=0,34; CHCl<sub>3</sub>)<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.46 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H, uracil H-6), 7.08 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H, thymine H-6), 5.81 (dd, J = 9.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.76 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H, uracil H-5), 5.45 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.11 (dd, *J* = 6.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.75 (dd, *J* = 6.6, 4.8 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.22 (dt, J = 8.8, 4.0 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 4.07 (qd, J = 6.8, 4.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.50 (dd, J = 13.2, 3.7 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7a), 3.29 (dd, J = 13.4, 5.0 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7b), 3.20 (d, J = 10.6 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 3.04 - 2.93 (m, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 2.93 (d, J)= 9.2 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 2.70 (dd, J = 13.1, 3.3 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 2.17 (t, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 2.08 (t, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 1.87 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.54 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.33 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.6, 163.8, 150.2 150.1 (4C, 2x uracil C=O & 2x thymine C=O), 139.8 (1C, uracil C-6), 139.7 (1C, thymine C-6), 114.4 (1C, *i*-propylidene C<sub>a</sub>), 110.5 (1C, thymine C-5), 102.7 (1C, uracil C-5), 95.9 (1C, C-1'), 84.8 (1C, C-4'), 84.0 (1C, C-2'), 82.7 (1C, C-3'), 79.5 (1C, morpholine C-2), 75.2 (1C, morpholine C-6), 59.4 (1C, morpholine C-7), 56.4 (1C, C-5'), 53.0 (1C, morpholine C-3), 52.4 (1C, morpholine C-5), 27.1 (1C, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.2 (1C, *i*propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.2 (1C, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>8</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 555.2030, found 555.1936.

5'-Deoxy-2',3'-*O*-isopropylidene-5'-[6-aminomethyl-2-(uracil-1-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-5methyluridine (35)


Compound 34 (1 g, 1.88 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH:DMF 1:1 (20 ml). and Pd-C (0.2 g, 20 m/m%) was added to the reaction mixture The mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature under H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Then the solution was filtered through a pad of Celite, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 8:2) to afford **35** (0.73 g, 76%) as a white foam. Rf= 0.20 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 8:2);  $[\alpha]_{D}$ =+37.5 (c=0.28; MeOH) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  7.71 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, uracil H-6), 7.59 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 5.80 – 5.71 (m, 1H, H-1'), 5.61 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H, uracil H-5 & morpholine H-2), 4.98 (dd, J = 6.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.70 (dd, J = 6.6, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.13 (dd, J = 7.3, 4.3 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.80 - 3.57 (m, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.00 - 2.83 (m, 2H, 1H, 1H)morpholine H-3a & morholine H-5a), 2.74 – 2.60 (m, 4H, H-5'a,b & morpholine H-7a,b), 2.17 (t, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 1.96 (t, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 1.78 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.49 (s, 3H, i-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.29 (s, 3H, i-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 163.9, 163.0, 150.3, 150.0 (4C 2x uracil C=O) & 2x thymine C=O), 141.0 (1C, uracil C-6), 138.1 (1C, thymine C-6), 113.5 (*i*-propylidene C<sub>a</sub>), 109.6 (1C, thymine C-5), 101.8 (1C, uracil C-5), 91.3 (1C, C-1'), 83.1 (2C, C-2' & C-4'), 82.0 (1C, C-3'), 78.9 (1C, morpholine C-2), 76.7 (1C, morpholine C-6), 59.3 (1C, morpholine C-7), 55.7 (1C, morpholine C-3), 54.2 (1C, morpholine C-5), 43.3 (1C, C-5'), 27.0 (1C, *i*-propyledene CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.3 (1C, *i*propyledene CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.1 (1C, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>6</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 529.2125, found 529.2232.

5'-Deoxy-2',3'-*O*-isopropylidene-5'-{2-(uracil-1-yl)-6-[2-(thymine-1-yl)-6-tritylmorpholine-4-yl-methyl]-morpholine-4-yl}5-methyluridine (36)



Compound **3f** (0.58 g, 1.16 mmol) and **35** (0.59 g, 1.16 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in EtOH (15 ml) and stirred at room temperature for 10 min. After that, AcOH (2 drops) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.087 g, 1.39 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were added and stirred overnight. Next day, The reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 97:3) to give **36** (0.13 g, 41%) as a white solid. Rf= 0.29 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 1:1);  $[\alpha]_{D}$ =+1.82 (c=0.11; CHCl<sub>3</sub>) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  9.94, 9.59, 9.34 (3x s, 3H, 3x N*H*), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 9H), 7.30 - 7.18 (m, 17H, 15x) Arom. CH & thymine H-6' & uracil H-6), 7.01 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 5.79 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2'), 5.75 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.54 (s, 1H, uracil H-5), 5.49 (s, 1H, H-1'), 5.07 (s, 1H, H-2'), 4.74 (s, 1H, H-3'), 4.23 (s, 1H, H-4'), 4.05 (s, 2H, morpholine H-6 & morpholine H-6'), 3.27 (dd, J = 9.0, 4.3 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7a), 3.16 - 3.05 (m, 3H, morpholine H-3a & morpholine H-3'a & morpholine H-7'b), 2.95 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-5a & morpholine H-5'a), 2.90 - 2.82 (m, 1H, H-5'a), 2.74 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, 1H, H-5'b), 2.60 (s, 1H, morpholine H-7a), 2.54 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7b), 2.09 (t, J =11.1 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5'b), 2.02 (t, J = 10.1 Hz, 3H, morpholine H-5b & morpholine H-3b & morpholine H-3'b), 1.89 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.85 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.55 (s, 3H, *i*propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.33 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.2, 163.85, 150.4, 150.2, 150.0 (6C, 6x C=O), 143.9 (3C, 3x OTrt Arom. C<sub>q</sub>), 139.8, 139.4, 135.6 (3C, 2x thymine C-6 & uracil C-6), 128.8, 128.0, 127.3 (15C, 15x Arom. CH), 114.6 (1C, ipropylidene C<sub>a</sub>), 111.1, 111.0 (2C, 2x thymine C-5), 102.6 (1C, uracil C-5), 95.8 (1C, C-1'), 86.9 (1C, OTrt C<sub>a</sub>), 85.1 (1C, C-4'), 84.1 (1C, C-2'), 83.0 (1C, C-3'), 79.7 (2C, morpholine C-2 & morpholine C-2'), 75.6 (2C, morpholine C-6 & morpholine C-6'), 64.8 (1C, morpholine C-7'), 60.3 (1C, morpholine C-7), 60.0 (1C, C-5'), 56.9, 56.7 (2C, morpholine C-3 & morpholine C-3'), 55.5, 55.2 (2C, morpholine C-5 & morpholine C-5'), 27.4, 25.5 (2C, 2x *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.6, 12.4 (2C, 2x thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>51</sub>H<sub>56</sub>N<sub>8</sub>NaO<sub>12</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>995.4015, found 995.3074.

5'-Deoxy-5'-{2-8uracil-1-yl}-6-[2-(thymine-1-yl)-6-trityl-morpholine-4-yl-methyl]morpholine-4-yl}5-methyluridine (37)



90% aqueous TFA (5 ml) and Et<sub>3</sub>SiH (0.064 mmol, 0.047 g, 3 equiv.) were added to 36 (0.13 g, 0.13 mmol) and stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. After that, the mixture was evaporated and co-evaporated with toluene. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 8:2) to give 37 (0,08 g, 85%) as a white solid. Rf= 0.21 $(CH_2Cl_2:MeOH 8:2); [\alpha]_D = +19.1 (c=0.22; DMSO)$ <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  11.35 (d, J = 21.7 Hz, 3H, 3x NH), 7.64 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, uracil H-6), 7.55 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 7.45 (s, 1H, thymine H-6'), 5.73 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.61 (dd, J = 14.0, 8.9 Hz, 3H, uracil H-5 & 1.morpholine H-2 & 2. morpholine H-2), 5.42 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H, 2'-OH), 5.21 (s, 1H, 3'-OH), 4.83 (t, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H, morpholine 7'-OH), 4.09 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.00 – 3.85 (m, 3H, H-3' & H-4', morpholine H-6), 3.78 – 3.62 (m, 1H, morpholine H-6'), 3.41 (s, 2H + H<sub>2</sub>O, morpholine H-7' a,b). 2.96 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5'a), 2.88 (t, J = 10.7 Hz, 1H, 3H, morpholine H-5a & morpholine H-3a & morpholine H-3'a), 2.77 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 2.67 - 2.42 (m, morpholine H-5'b & morpholine H-7a,b + solvent), 2.20 (t, J = 10.4 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-3b & morpholine H-3'b), 2.01 (dt, J = 20.8, 10.9 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-5b & morpholine H-5'b), 1.79 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 6H, 2x thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  163.8, 163.7, 163.0, 150.7, 150.1, 150.1 (6C, 6x C=O), 140.8\* (1C, uracil C-6) 136.7, 136.5 (2C, thymine C-5 & thymine C-5'), 109.9, 109.5 (2C, 2x thymine C<sub>a</sub>), 102.0 (1C, uracil C-5), 88.8 (1C, C-1'), 80.9 (1C, C-4'), 79.0 (1C, morpholine C-2), 78.8 (1C, morpholine C-2'), 76.9 (1C, morpholine C-6), 73.4 (1C, morpholine C-6'), 72.1 (1C, C-2'), 71.4 (1C, C-3'), 62.0 (1C, morpholine C-7'), 59.9 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.5 (1C, C-5'), 55.7 (2C, morpholine C-3 & morpholine C-3') 55.4\* (1C, morpholine C-5') 12.1, 12.0 (2C, 2x thymine  $CH_3$ ) ppm. \*Note that peaks can only be seen in HSQC. MALDI-ToF MS: m/z calcd for  $C_{29}H_{38}N_8NaO_{12}$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>713.2609, found 713.2506.

#### 5'-Azido-5'-deoxy-5-methyluridine (39)<sup>6</sup>



90% aqueous TFA (40 ml) was added to the 2',3'-O-isopropylidene derivative **38** (3.4 g, 10.52 mmol) and stirred at room temperature for 4 hours. After that the mixture was evaporated and co-evaporated with toluene. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 1:1) to give **39** (2.65 g, 89%) as a white solid. R*f*= 0.28 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 1:1).

#### 5'-Azido-5'-deoxy-5-methyluridine-secodialdehyde (40)



2.2 g (7.7 mmol) **39** was dissolved in MeOH (80 ml), then 8.8 g  $IO_4^-$  resin was added to the solution and was stirred overnight in dark. Next day, the reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product **40** was used for the reductive amination reaction without purification. (R*f*= 0.70 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 1:1).

5'-Deoxy-2',3'-*O*-isopropylidene-5'-[6-azidomethyl-2-(thymine-1-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-5methyluridine (41)



40 (1.8 g, 6.6 mmol) and 4b (2.54 g, 8.53 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in EtOH (30 ml) and stirred at room temperature for 10 min. After that, AcOH (2 drops) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.64 g, 10.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were added and stirred overnight. Next day, the reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 97:3) to give 41 (1.5 g, 42%) as a white solid. Rf= 0.63  $(CH_2Cl_2:MeOH 9:1); [\alpha]_D = +90.31 (c=0.32; CHCl_3)^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) \delta 7.26 (s, 1H, 1H)$ thymine H-6), 7.08 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 5.80 (dd, J = 9.8, 2.6 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.45 -5.42 (m, 1H, H-1'), 5.14 - 5.10 (m, 1H, H-2'), 4.75 (dd, J = 6.5, 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.24 (dt, J = 8.9, 4.2 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.53 (dd, J = 13.3, 3.6 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.27 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7a), 3.24 - 3.16 (m, 2H, morpholine H-7b & morpholine H-3a), 3.01 (q, J =6.7 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-5a & H-5'a), 2.73 - 2.63 (m, 1H, H-5'b), 2.20 (t, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 2.10 (t, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 1.90 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.86 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.52 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.30 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.5, 164.1, 150.3, 150.2 (4C, 4x thymine C=O), 139.9, 135.37 (2C, 2x thymine C-6), 114.2 (1C, *i*-propylidene C<sub>q</sub>), 111.2, 110.4 (2C, 2x thymine C-5), 96.1 (1C, C-1'), 84.8(1C, C-4'), 84.2 (1C, C-2'), 82.8 (1C, C-3'), 79.3 (1C, morpholine C-2), 75.1 (1C, morpholine C-6), 59.4 (1C, morpholine C-7), 56.3 (1C, C-5'), 52.7 (1C, morpholine C-3), 52.5 (1C, morpholine C-5), 27.2, 25.3 (2C, 2x i-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.5, 12.3 (2C, 2x thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: m/z calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>8</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+ :</sup>569.2187, found 569.2107.

5'-Deoxy-2',3'-*O*-isopropylidene-5'-[6-aminomethyl-2-(thymine-1-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-5-methyluridine (42)



Compound 41 (1.5 g, 2.74 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH:DMF 1:1 (10 ml:10 ml) and Pd-C (0.3g, 20 m/m%) was added to the reaction mixture The mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature under H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere gas was bubbled through the solvent. Then the solution was filtered through a pad of Celite, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 8:2) to afford 42 (1.1 g, 77%) as a white foam. Rf= 0.22 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 8:2);  $[\alpha]_D$ =+81.88 (c=0.16; CHCl<sub>3</sub>) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 7.33 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 7.18 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 5.82 (dd, J = 9.9, 2.6 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.54 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.05 (dd, J = 6.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.75 (dd, J = 6.6, 5.0 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.18 (dt, J = 6.3, 5.1 Hz, 1H, H-4'), 3.85 (dddd, J = 10.4, 6.9, 4.7, 2.2 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-6), 3.05 (dt, J = 10.8, 2.1 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 2.95 - 2.89 (m, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 2.83 – 2.80 (m, 2H, morpholine H-7a,b), 2.79 – 2.77 (m, 2H, H-5'a,b), 2.16 (t, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 2.02 (t, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 1.92 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.91 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.56 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.35 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.7, 164.4, 150.2, 150.2 (4C, 4x thymine C=O), 139.1, 135.9 (2C, 2x thymine C-6), 114.5 (1C, *i*-propylidene C<sub>q</sub>), 110.7, 110.6 (2C, 2x thymine C-5), 94.7 (1C, C-1'), 84.5, 83.6, 82.2 (3C, 3x skeleton C), 79.4, 77.0 (2C, morpholine C-2 & morpholine C-6), 59.4, 56.3, 54.3, 43.3 (4C, morpholine C-3 & morpholine C-5 & morpholine C-7 & C-5'), 26.9, 25.0 (2C, 2x i-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.0, 11.9 (2C, 2x thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>6</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 543.2282, found 543.2190.

#### 5'-Deoxy-5'-[6-azidomethyl-2-(thymine-1-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-5-methyluridine (43)



90% TFA (20 ml) was added to 41 (1.4 g, 2.56 mmol) and stirred at room temperature for 4 hours. After that the mixture was evaporated and coevaporated with toluene. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 1:1) to give 43 (1.1 g, 85%) as a white solid. Rf= 0.25 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 9:1);  $[\alpha]_D$ =+60.0 (c=0.37; MeOH)<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD)  $\delta$  7.52 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 7.40 (s, 1H, thymine H-6), 5.91 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.6 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-2), 5.75 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 4.30 (dd, J = 5.7, 4.0 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.17 -4.07 (m, 3H, H-3' & H-4' & morpholine H-6), 3.55 (dd, J = 13.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H, H-5'a), 3.40 -3.33 (m, 1H, H-5'b), 3.33 - 3.26 (m, 1H, morpholine H-5a), 3.13 (d, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3a), 3.09 - 2.95 (m, 2H, morpholine H-7a,b), 2.56 (t, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-5b), 2.48 (t, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-3b), 1.87 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.86 (s, 3H, thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD) δ 166.2, 166.0, 152.3, 151.8 (4C, 4x thymine C=O), 139.1, 137.4 (2C, 2x thymine C-6), 112.0, 111.9 (2C, 2x thymine C-5), 93.2 (1C, C-1'), 81.7, 80.29, 76.1, 73.9, 72.9 (5C, 3x skeleton C & morpholine C-2 & morpholine C-6), 60.6 (1C, morpholine C-7), 56.5 (1C, morpholine C-5), 54.6 (1C, morpholine C-3), 53.2 (1C, C-5'), 12.4, 12.4 (2C, 2x thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>8</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 529.1874, found 529.1768.

5'-Deoxy-5'-[6-azidomethyl-2-(thymine-1-yl)-morpholine-4-yl]-5-methyluridinesecodialdehyde (44)



1.0 g (1.8 mmol) **43** was dissolved in MeOH (40 ml), then 4.0 g  $IO_4^-$  resin was added to the solution and was stirred overnight in dark. Next day, the reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product **44** was used for the reductive amination reaction without purification.(R*f*= 0.75 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 1:1).

5'-Deoxy-2',3'-*O*-isopropylidene-{2(thymine 1-yl)-6-[2-(thymine-1-yl)-6-azidomethylmorpholine-4-ylmethyl-(2-(thymine-1-yl))-morpholine-4-ylmethyl]-morpholine-4ylmethyl}-5-methyluridine (45)



Compound 44 (0.75 g, 1.49 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (30 ml) and 42 (0.77 g, 1.49 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added and stirred at room temperature for 10 min. Then, AcOH (2 drops) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.110 g, 1.75 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred for overnight. Next day, the reaction mixture was diluted with water and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone  $1:1 \rightarrow CH_2Cl_2:MeOH 9:1$ ) to give 45 (0.64 g, 47%) as an amorph solid. Rf= 0.41 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone 1:1);  $[\alpha]_D = +76.36$  (*c*=0.33; CHCl<sub>3</sub>), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>+ MeOD)  $\delta$ 7.33, 7.24, 7.21 (4x s, 4H, rybothymidine H-6 & thymine H-6 & thymine H-6' & thymine H-6"), 5.86 – 5.71 (m, 3H, morpholine H-2 & morpholine H-2"), 5.60 (s, 1H, H-1'), 5.07 – 5.02 (m, 1H, H-2'), 4.79 – 4.73 (m, 1H, H-3'), 4.26 – 4.17 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.14 (s, 1H, morpholine H-6), 4.10 - 4.01 (m, 2H, morpholine H-6' & morpholine H-6''), 3.51 (dd, J =13.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7"a), 3.37 – 3.29 (m, 1H, morpholine H-7"b), 3.09 (dt, J = 21.5, 10.2 Hz, 3H, morpholine H-5a & morpholine H-3a & morpholine H-3'a & morpholine H-3"a), 3.00 – 2.90 (m, 2H, morpholine H-5a & morpholine H-5"a), 2.83 – 2.67 (m, 4H, H-5'a,b & morpholine H-7a & morpholine H-7'a), 2.57 (dd, J = 12.6, 4.1 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7'b), 2.44 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H, morpholine H-7b), 2.18 (dq, J = 19.3, 10.6, 9.6 Hz, 5H, morpholine H-3b & morpholine H-3'b & morpholine H-3"b & morpholine H-5'a & morpholine H5"b), 2.02 (dd, J = 25.1, 12.5 Hz, 2H, morpholine H-5b & morpholine H-5'b), 1.92 – 1.85 (m, 12H, 4x thymine CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.57 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.36 (s, 3H, *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>+ MeOD)  $\delta$  164.6, 164.4, 164.3, 150.1, 149.9 (8C, 8x thymine C=O), 139.0, 135.7 (4C, 4x thymine C-6), 114.4 (1C, *i*-propylidene C<sub>q</sub>), 110.5 (4C, 4x thymine C-5), 94.2 (1C, C-1), 84.4 (1C, C-4'), 83.6 (1C, C-2'), 82.1 (1C, C-3'), 79.8 (1C, morpholine C-2"), 78.9 (2C, morpholine C-2 & morpholine C-2'), 74.9 (1C, morpholine C-6"), 72.8 (1C, morpholine C-6'), 72.3 (1C, morpholine C-6), 59.9 (1C, morpholine C-7), 59.1 (2C, morpholine C-7" & C-5"), 56.1 (2C, morpholine C-3 & morpholine C-3"), 55.5 (1C, morpholine C-3"), 54.9, 54.6 (2C, morpholine C-5 & morpholine C-5') 53.8 (1C, morpholine C-5"), 52.1 (1C, morpholine C-7"), 26.8, 24.9 (2C, 2x *i*-propylidene CH<sub>3</sub>), 11.9, 11.8 (4C, 4x thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>43</sub>H<sub>56</sub>N<sub>14</sub>NaO<sub>14</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 1015.4100, found 1015.4007.

#### 5'-Deoxy-{2-(thymine 1-yl)-6-[2-(thymine 1-yl)-6-azidomethyl-morpholine-4-ylmethyl-(2-(thymine-1-yl))-morpholine-4-ylmethyl]-morpholine-4-ylmethyl}-5-methyluridine (46)



90% aqueous TFA (5 ml) was added to **45** (0.44 g, 0.45 mmol) and stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. After that the mixture was evaporated and co-evaporated with toluene. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 9:1) to give **46** (2.65 g, 89%) as a white solid. R*f*= 0.18 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 9:1);  $[\alpha]_D$ =+214.4 (*c*=0.18; MeOH) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  11.42 (d, *J* = 11.8 Hz, 2H, 2x N*H*), 11.35 (s, 1H, N*H*), 7.54 (s, 4H, 4x thymine H-6), 7.46 (s, 2H), 5.74 (s, 2H), 5.67 (s, 3H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 3.93 (d, *J* = 18.5 Hz, 8H), 3.53 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.48 – 3.41 (m, 1H), 3.40 – 3.29 (m, 2H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 2.94 (s, 8H), 2.69 (d, *J* = 41.2 Hz, 5H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.12 (s, 2H), 1.79 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 18H, 4x thymine CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  163.8, 163.6, 163.5, 158.0, 150.7, 150.1, 15.0 (8C, 8x *C*=O), 136.8, 136.3, 136.2, 136.1 (4C, 4x thymine C-6), 110.0, 109.7, 109.7, 109.6 (4C, 4x thymine C-5), 89.0, 78.6, 74.8, 72.0, 71.3 (9C, 4x skeleton *C*H 5x morpholine *C*H), 59.5, 56.0, 55.1, 51.7 (10C, 3x morpholine C-7 & 3x morpholine C-5 & 3x morpholine C-3 & C-5'), 48.6 (1C, morpholine *C*H), 18.6, 12.1, 12.1 (4C, 4x thymine *C*H<sub>3</sub>) ppm. MALDI-ToF MS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>52</sub>N<sub>14</sub>NaO<sub>14</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>975.3787, found 975.3600.

#### NMR study of compound 15 in forms of TFA salt and free base



Scheme S4. Conversion of TFA salt of 15 into free base

#### Treatment of 15 with anion exchange resin

Compound **15** (CF<sub>3</sub>COOH salt) (0.14 g, 0.11 mmol) was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O and Serdolit Blue OH<sup>-</sup> anion exchange resin (200 mg) was added and stirred for 10 minutes. After that the resin was filtered and compound **15** (free base) was concentrated under reduced pressure. The acidity of H<sub>2</sub>O solution of **15** was measured prior and after the treatment of anion exchange resin, pH(TFA salt) = 6.0; pH(free base) = 9.4.

#### NMR measurments

Highest field NMR spectra were recorded at 300 K using a BrukerNEO/Avance III 700 MHz spectrometer (Bruker, Billerica, MA, USA) equipped with prodigy triple-resonance probehead. Typical 90° pulses were 8.3, and 12 us for 1H and 13C excitations and relaxation delays were in the 2.5-3 s range. Direct chemical shift referencing was performed for 1H using TMS or solvent chemical shifts (DMSO-d6, 2.51 and 40 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C). Improved off-resonance ROESY spectra<sup>14</sup> were measured at 500 MHz (Bruker Avance II. spectrometer) with 300 ms mixing time and 55° tilt angle of the spin-lock field of 8.3 kHz strength. The spectra were processed using Topspin 3.1 or 4.1 softwares.

Chemical shifts in ppm							
15 (TFA salt)					15 (base form)		
Assignment	Туре	<sup>13</sup> C	$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	<sup>13</sup> C	1H	$^{1}\mathrm{H}$
Base							
u2,t2	C=O	151.0, 150.5			151.9, 151.6		
u4,t4	C=O	164.1, 163.2			165.6, 164.9		
u5	СН	102.4	5.63		102.3	5.57	
u6	СН	141.1	7.66		140.8	7.60	
t5	C	110.3			110.2		
t6	СН	137.1	7.40		136.9	7.40	
Me-t5	CH <sub>3</sub>	12.3	1.82		12.6	1.79	
Furanose ring							
1'	СН	90.1	5.74		89.4	5.73	
2'	СН	72.7	4.12		72.7	4.06	
3'	СН	71.8	3.94		71.7	3.88	
4'	СН	80.9	4.13		81.3	4.13	
5'	CH <sub>2</sub>	59.7	2.87	2.82	59.9	2.73	2.62
Morpholine ring							
2	СН	79.2	5.71		79.5	5.62	
3	CH <sub>2</sub>	55.8	3.06	2.43	56.5	2.91	2.17
5	CH <sub>2</sub>	54.2	2.92	2.24	54.6	2.88	2.01
6	СН	76.9	3.81		77.31	3.7	
7	CH <sub>2</sub>	62.4	3.49		62.5	3.43	
TFA							
	CF <sub>3</sub>	117.6 (q)			-		
	C=O	158.2 (q)			-		

Table S1. <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shift assignments of salt form and free base form of **15** 



Figure S1. ROESY connectivities of compound **15**. (Blue arrows: internucleotid H-H connectivities, Red arrows: H-H connectivities within on nucleoside unit)

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# NMR spectra of the compounds NMR spectra of compound 4b





## NMR spectra of compound 2c-azide







S55





S57
































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### NMR spectra of compound 15 in MeOD







NMR spectra of compound 15 (TFA salt) in DMSO at 300 K





NMR spectra of compound 15 (TFA salt) in DMSO at 340 K



NMR spectra of compound 15 (base form) in DMSO at 300 K























































NMR spectra of compound 34












NMR spectra of compound 36









































Figure S2. Superimposed UV-VIS spectra of 15-TFA salt and 15-free base