Supporting information

Facile access to 4'-(N-acylsulfonamide) modified nucleosides and evaluation of their inhibitory activity against SARS-CoV-2 RNA cap N7-guanine-methyltransferase nsp14

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<u>General</u>

All dry solvents and reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and were used without further purification. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) analyses were carried out on 60 F-254 aluminium sheets. Purifications by column chromatography were performed using a Biotage Isolera 1 system with Column Flash Pure from Büchi. NMR experiments were recorded on Bruker 400, 500 or 600 spectrometers at 20°C. Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (ppm) relative to the residual solvent signal: $CDCl_3$ ($\delta_H = 7.26$, $\delta_C = 77.36$), CD_3OD ($\delta_H = 3.31$, $\delta_C = 49.00$ (CH_3), DMSO ($\delta_H = 2.5$, $\delta_C = 39.52$).¹ *J* values are in Hz. HRMS analyses were obtained with electrospray ionization (ESI) in positive or negative mode on a Q-TOF Micromass spectrometer. Analytical RP-HPLC was performed on a UHPLC Thermoscientific Ultimate3000 system equipped with a LPG-3400RS pump, a DAD 3000 detector and an WPS-3000TBRS Autosampler, Column Oven TCC-3000SD. Buffers and aqueous mobile-phases for RP-HPLC were prepared using water purified with a Milli-Q system (purified to 18.2 M\Omega.cm). 4-aminobenzenesulfonyl azide **2f** and 9-Fluorenylmethyl thiol were synthesized as previously described.^{2, 3}

RP-HPLC analysis: System A: RP-HPLC (Accucore^M C18 aQ column, 2.6 μ m, 4.6×50 mm) with CH₃CN and 0.1% aqueous trifluoroacetic acid (aq. TFA, 0.1%, v/v, pH 2.0) as the eluents [0% CH₃CN (2 min), followed by linear gradient from 0 to 100% (25 min) of CH₃CN] at a flow rate of 1 mL.min⁻¹. Triple UV detection was achieved at 210, 260 and 650 nm.

The purity of the final compounds was determined by RP-HPLC analysis with detection at 260 nm. Under this condition we did not notice any depurination as demonstrated by the NMR spectra and the purity provided.

S3

Chemical synthesis

General method for the synthesis of sulfonyl azide derivatives (2a-e)



To a solution of commercially available sulfonyl chloride **1a-e** at 0.1 M in dry MeCN was added NaN₃ (2 eq.). The solution was stirred at 60°C for 16 h. Thereafter, the solution was diluted by 10 with AcOEt, washed by water and brine. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated to dryness. The resulting sulfonyl azide derivative **2a-e** was used for the sulfo-click reaction without further purification or analysis.

Synthesis of tetrabutylammonium thioacetate derivatives

4'-carboxylic acid-3'-O-TBDMS-2'-deoxy-N-Bz-adenosine (4a)



3'-O-TBDMS-adenosine **3a** (1.0 g, 2.1 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of CH₃CN-H₂O (10 mL, 1:1, v/v). Thereafter, BAIB (1.51 g, 4.7 mmol) and TEMPO (70 mg, 0.4 mmol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3h. The reaction was checked for completion by TLC (DCM-MeOH, 9:1, v/v) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting yellow powder was triturated with *n*-pentane at 0°C. The resulting white solid in suspension was filtrated and dried under vacuum giving the product **4a** as a white powder (804 mg, 1.6 mmol, 78%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD) δ = 0.21 (s, 3H), 0.22 (s, 3H), 0.99 (s, 9H), 2.55-2.67 (m, 2H), 4.54 (bs, 1H), 4.92 (bs, 1H), 6.76 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.67 (m, 3H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 8.72 (s,1H), 8.92 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, MeOD): δ = -4.8, 18.9, 26.2, 41.8, 77.5, 87.1, 87.2, 124.9, 129.4, 129.8, 133.9, 135.0, 144.5, 151.0, 153.16, 153.22, 168.2, 173.9 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₂₉N₅O₅Si: 484.2016; found 484.2022. *R*_f (DCM-MeOH, 9:1, v/v) 0.17.



4'-tetrabutylammonium thioacetate-2'-deoxy-N-Bz-adenosine (6a)



(a) Coupling reaction: 4'-carboxylic acid-3'-O-TBDMS-2'-deoxy-N-Bz-adenosine 4a (400 mg, 800 μ mol) was dissolved in dry DMF (5 mL). Thereafter, 9-fluorenylmethanethiol (200 mg, 1.0 mmol), BOP reagent (530 mg, 1.2 mmol) and dry DIEA (230 μ L, 2.4 mmol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3h. The reaction was checked for completion by TLC (DCM-MeOH, 9 : 1, v/v), then diluted with AcOEt (100 mL), washed by aq. 10% citric acid (100 mL), aq. sat. NaHCO₃ (100 mL) and brine (100 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated to dryness. The resulting residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column with a linear gradient of AcOEt (0-80%) in cyclohexane as the mobile phase, giving the 4'-(9-fluorenylmethyl thioester)-3'-O-TBDMS-2'-deoxy-N-Bz-adenosine **5a** as a white powder (460 mg, 670 μ mol, 84%).

(b) Deprotection: 4'-(9-fluorenylmethyl thioester)-3'-O-TBDMS-2'-deoxy-N-Bzadenosine **5a** (250 mg, 400 μ mol) was dissolved in dry THF (3 mL). Thereafter, a solution of TBAF 1M in THF (950 μ L, 950 μ mol) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system A). The crude was diluted with DCM (10 mL) and the resulting mixture purified by chromatography on a silica gel column in with a linear gradient of MeOH (0-20%) in DCM as the mobile phase, giving the product **6a** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization in H₂O (202 mg, 330 μ mol, 83%). R_f (DCM-MeOH, 9:1, v/v) = 0.1. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO) δ = 0.92 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 12H), 1.30 (hex., J = 7.4 Hz, 8H), 1.53-1.59 (m, 8H), 2.27-2.29 (m, 2H), 3.14-3.17 (m, 8H), 4.53 (bs, 1H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 5.46 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.57-6.59 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.65 (m, 3H), 8.05 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.72 (s, 1H), 9.31 (s, 1H), 11.14 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO) δ = 13.5, 19.2, 23.1, 40.1, 57.6, 75.3, 84.2, 96.2, 125.4, 128.4, 132.4, 133.5, 143.9, 151.5, 152.1, 165.6, 211.9 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M-H]⁻ Calcd for C₁₇H₁₄N₅O₄S : 384.0766; found 384.0772.





4'-carboxylic acid-2',3'-O-TBDMS-N-Bz-adenosine (4b)



2',3'-*O*-TBDMS-adenosine **3b** (500 mg, 834 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of CH₃CN-THF-H₂O (15 mL, 1:1:1, v/v/v). Thereafter, BAIB (538 mg, 1.7 mmol) and TEMPO (52 mg, 334 μ mol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 hours. The reaction was checked for completion by TLC (DCM-MeOH, 9:1, v/v) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column in with a linear gradient of MeOH (0-8%) in DCM as the mobile phase, giving the product **4b** as a white powder (373 mg, 608 μ mol, 87%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ = -0.38 (s, 3H), -0.05 (s, 3H), 0.14 (s, 3H), 0.17 (s, 3H), 0.71 (s, 9H), 0.94 (s, 9H), 4.47 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.54-4.56 (m, 1H), 4.76-4.79 (m, 1H), 6.21 (s, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.67 (m, 3H), 8.05-8.07 (m, 2H), 8.76 (s, 1H), 8.83 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO): δ = -5.6, -5.0, -4.85, -4.81, 17.4, 17.8, 25.4, 25.6, 75.0, 75.4, 83.0, 86.9, 125.3, 128.44, 128.49, 132.4, 133.3, 142.5, 150.5, 151.8, 152.4, 165.7, 171.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₉H₄₂N₅O₆Si₂: 612.2679; found 612.2690. *R*_f (DCM-MeOH, 9:1, v/v) 0.5.



4'-tetrabutylammonium thioacetate-N-Bz-adenosine (6b)



(a) Coupling reaction: 4'-carboxylic acid-2',3'-O-TBDMS-*N*-Bz-adenosine **4b** (500 mg, 815 μ mol) was dissolved in dry DMF (10 mL). Thereafter, 9-fluorenylmethanethiol (242 mg, 1.14 mmol), BOP reagent (503 mg, 1.14 mmol) and dry DIEA (426 μ L, 2.4 mmol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. The reaction was checked for completion by TLC (DCM-MeOH, 9 : 1, v/v), diluted with AcOEt (100 mL), washed by aq. 10% citric acid (100 mL) and brine (100 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated to dryness. The resulting residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column with a linear gradient of MeOH (0-10%) in DCM as the mobile phase, giving the 4'-(9-fluorenylmethyl thioester)-2',3'-*O*-TBDMS-*N*-Bz-adenosine **5b** as a white powder (453 mg, 562 μ mol, 69%).

(b) Deprotection: 4'-(9-fluorenylmethyl thioester)-2',3'-O-TBDMS-*N*-Bz-adenosine **5b** (453 mg, 562 μ mol) was dissolved in dry THF (16 mL). Thereafter, a solution of TBAF 1M in THF (2 mL, 2 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system A). The crude was diluted with DCM (20 mL) and the resulting mixture purified by chromatography on a silica gel column in with a linear gradient of MeOH (0-16%) in DCM as the mobile phase, giving the product **6b** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization in H₂O (318 mg, 495 μ mol, 88%). *R*_f (DCM-MeOH, 9:1, v/v) = 0.1. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ = 1.0 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 12H), 1.39 (hex., _J = 7.4 Hz, 8H), 1.60-1.68 (m, 8H), 3.19-3.24 (m, 2H), 4.45 (dd, *J*₁ = 4.4, *J*₂ = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.60-4.63 (m, 1H), 6.39 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.67 (m, 3H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.70 (s, 1H), 9.33 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD) δ = 13.9, 20.7, 24.8, 59.5, 76.8, 77.1, 88.9, 95.2, 124.7, 129.4, 129.8, 133.8, 135.1, 145.2, 150.9, 153.2, 154.0, 168.0, 217.0 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M-H]⁻ Calcd for C₁₇H₁₄N₅O₅S : 400.0721; found 400.0741.



Synthesis of 4'-(N-acylsulfonamide)-2'-deoxy-adenosine derivatives

4'-(N-((4-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-2'-deoxy-N-Bz-adenosine (7a)



4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl azide **2a** (8 mg, 35 μ mol) was dissolved in dry NMP (1 mL). Thereafter, 4'-tetrabutylammonium thioacetate-2'-deoxy-*N*-Bz-adenosine **6a** (20 mg, 32 μ mol), water (300 μ L) and NaHCO₃ (8 mg, 96 μ mol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system A). 0.1% aq. TFA (pH 2.0, 10 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-50%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase, giving the desired product **7a** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (16 mg, 29 μ mol, 90%, 94% purity). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): δ = 2.33-2.36 (m, 2H), 4.18 (s, 1H), 4.36 (bs, 1H), 5.59 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.59-6.63 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.66 (m, 3H), 7.99-8.06 (m, 4H), 8.23-8.27 (m, 2H), 8.72 (s, 1H), 9.26 (s, 1H), 11.15 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO): δ = 40.4, 74.7, 84.3, 89.6, 123.2, 125.2, 128.1, 128.4, 132.4, 133.4, 143.8, 148.1, 150.0, 151.5, 151.7, 152.1, 165.6, 175.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₂₀N₇O₈S: 554.1089; found 554.1088.



4'-(N-((4-trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-2'-deoxy-N-Bz-adenosine (7b)



4-(trifluoromethyl)benzenesulfonyl azide (23 mg, 93 μmol) **2e** was dissolved in dry NMP (1 mL). Thereafter, 4'-tetrabutylammonium thioacetate-2'-deoxy-*N*-Bz-adenosine **6a** (40 mg, 62 μmol), water (300 μL) and NaHCO₃ (16 mg, 186 μmol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system A). 0.1% aq. TFA (pH 2.0, 10 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-50%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase, giving the desired product **7b** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (34 mg, 58 μmol, 94%, 97% purity). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): δ = 2.32-2.45 (m, 2H), 4.21 (s, 1H), 4.39 (bs, 1H), 5.63 (bs, 1H), 6.60-6.63 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.66 (m, 3H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.99-8.06 (m, 4H), 8.73 (s, 1H), 9.21 (bs, 1H), 11.17 (bs, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO): δ = 40.1, 74.5, 84.5, 89.2, 125.2, 125.3, 127.6, 128.5, 132.4, 133.4, 143.8, 150.1, 151.5, 152.0, 165.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₂₀F₃N₆O₆S: 577.1112; found 577.1115.



4'-(N-((4-aminophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-2'-deoxy-N-Bz-adenosine (7c)

4-aminobenzenesulfonyl azide **2f** (21 mg, 88 μ mol) was dissolved in dry NMP (1 mL). Thereafter, 4'-tetrabutylammonium thioacetate-2'-deoxy-*N*-Bz-adenosine **6a** (50 mg, 80 μ mol), water (250 μ L) and NaHCO₃ (15 mg, 176 μ mol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system A). 0.1% aq. TFA (pH 2.0, 10 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-50%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase, giving the desired product **7c** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (35 mg, 67 μ mol, 85%, 99% purity). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO): δ = 2.36-2.40 (m, 1H), 2.59-2.63 (m, 1H), 4.36 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.39-4.41 (m, 1H), 6.58-6.62 (m, 3H), 7.55-7.67 (m, 5H), 8.05-8.07 (m, 2H), 8.66 (s, 1H), 8.83 (s, 1H), 12.47 (bs, 1H).¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO): δ = 38.6, 73.7, 85.9, 86.3, 112.4, 122.9, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 129.9, 132.5, 133.3, 143.4, 150.8, 151.3, 151.5, 153.9, 165.7, 169.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₂₂N₇O₆S: 524.1352; found 524.1357.

4'-(N-((4-acetamidophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-2'-deoxy-N-Bz-adenosine (7d)

4-acetamidobenzenesulfonyl azide (25 mg, 105 μ mol) was dissolved in dry NMP (1 mL). Thereafter, 4'-tetrabutylammonium thioacetate-2'-deoxy-*N*-Bz-adenosine **6a** (60 mg, 96 μ mol), water (250 μ L) and NaHCO₃ (18 mg, 210 μ mol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system A). 0.1% aq. TFA (pH 2.0, 10 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-60%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase, giving the desired product **7d** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (42 mg, 80 μ mol, 84%, 96% purity). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO) δ = 2.07 (s, 3H), 2.36-2.39 (m, 1H), 2.56-2.59 (m, 1H), 4.35 (bs, 1H), 4.41 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.89 (bs, 1H), 6.59-6.61 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.66 (m, 3H), 7.74-7.87 (m, 4H), 8.05-8.07 (m, 2H), 8.77 (bs, 1H), 8.80 (s, 1H), 10.35 (s, 1H), 11.25 (bs, 1H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO): δ = 24.1, 38.9, 73.9, 85.5, 86.8, 118.3, 125.8, 128.4, 128.5, 128.7, 132.5, 133.3, 143.5, 150.6, 151.5, 157.6, 165.6, 169.0. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₅H₂₄N₇O₇S: 566.1452; found 566.1447.

4'-(N-((4-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-2'-deoxy-adenosine (9a)

Ammonia aqueous solution 28% (2 mL) was added to a stirred solution of 4'-(*N*-((4-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl))-2'-deoxy-*N*-Bz-adenosine **7a** (8 mg, 14 μ mol) in MeOH (1 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 16h. Volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-40%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase giving the desired product **9a** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (7 mg, 13 μ mol 93%, 94% purity). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ = 2.30-2.35 (m, 1H), 2.46-2.53 (m, 1H), 4.35-4.40 (m, 2H), 6.48-6.52 (m, 1H), 8.17-8.21 (m, 2H), 8.39-8.43 (m, 2H), 8.45 (s, 1H), 8.49 (bs, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ = 73.9, 86.4, 87.0, 119.2, 124.4, 129.1, 141.0, 145.0, 146.7, 149.5, 150.1, 154.5, 171.0 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₆N₇O₇S: 450.0826; found 450.0824.

4'-(N-((4-trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-2'-deoxy-adenosine (9b)

Ammonia aqueous solution 28% **7b** (2 mL) was added to a stirred solution of 4'-(*N*-((4-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl))-2'-deoxy-*N*-Bz-adenosine (20 mg, 35 μ mol) in MeOH (1 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 16h. Volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-40%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase giving the desired product **9b** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (17 mg, 30 μ mol 86%, 98% purity). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ = 2.33-2.37 (m, 1H), 2.52-2.56 (m, 1H), 4.38-4.42 (m, 2H), 6.49-6.52 (m, 1H), 8.01-8.17 (m, 4H), 8.46 (s, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ = 38.9, 73.8, 86.3, 86.7, 119.2, 126.5-126.7 (m), 128.7, 133.3 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 33.1 Hz), 141.3, 143.1, 147.3, 149.0, 153.8, 158.5 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 35.8 Hz), 170.5 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₇H₁₆F₃N₆O₅S: 473.0849; found 473.0849.

4'-(N-((4-aminophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-2'-deoxy-adenosine (9c)

Ammonia aqueous solution 28% (4 mL) was added to a stirred solution of 4'-(*N*-((4-aminophenyl)sulfonyl))-2'-deoxy-*N*-Bz-adenosine **7c** (72 mg, 120 μ mol) in MeOH (1 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 16h. Volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-50%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase giving the desired product **9c** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (58 mg, 111 μ mol 98%, 97% purity). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD) δ = 2.39-2.43 (m, 1H), 2.61-2.67 (m, 1H), 4.40 (d, *J* = 9.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.52-4.53 (m, 1H), 6.53-6.56 (m, 1H), 6.65-6.68 (m, 2H), 7.67-7.69 (m, 2H), 8.45 (s, 1H), 8.50 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, MeOD) δ = 40.4, 75.7, 88.7, 88.8, 113.8, 121.1, 125.1, 131.5, 144.0, 148.2, 149.3, 153.5, 155.5, 170.9 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₇N₇O₅S: 420.1012; found 420.1099.

Synthesis of 4'-(N-acylsulfonamide)-adenosine derivatives

4'-(N-((4-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-N-Bz-adenosine (8a)

4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl azide **2a** (10 mg, 46 μ mol) was dissolved in dry NMP (1 mL). Thereafter, 4'-tetrabutylammonium thioacetate-*N*-Bz-adenosine **6b** (27 mg, 42 μ mol), water (300 μ L) and NaHCO₃ (7 mg, 84 μ mol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system A). 0.1% aq. TFA (pH 2.0, 10 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-50%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase, giving the desired product **8a** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (23 mg, 41 μ mol, quant., 98% purity). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): δ = 4.05 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (s, 1H), 4.48 (bs, 1H), 5.49 (bs, 1H), 5.59 (bs, 1H), 6.18 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.67 (m, 3H), 8.02-8.07 (m, 4H), 8.26-8.29 (m, 2H), 8.73 (s, 1H), 9.27 (s, 1H), 11.18 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO): δ = 74.2, 75.7, 86.5, 87.6, 123.3, 125.3, 128.2, 128.5, 132.4, 133.4, 143.7, 148.3, 150.1, 151.6, 152.8, 165.6, 174.8 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₂₀N₇O₉S: 570.1038; found 570.1032.

4'-(N-((4-trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-N-Bz-adenosine (8b)

4-(trifluoromethyl)benzenesulfonyl azide **2e** (12 mg, 46 μ mol) was dissolved in dry NMP (1 mL). Thereafter, 4'-tetrabutylammonium thioacetate-*N*-Bz-adenosine **6b** (27 mg, 42 μ mol), water (300 μ L) and NaHCO₃ (10 mg, 120 μ mol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system A). 0.1% aq. TFA (pH 2.0, 10 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-50%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase, giving the desired product **8b** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (21 mg, 40 μ mol, 96%, 100% purity). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): δ = 4.13 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (s, 1H), 4.52-4.55 (m, 1H), 5.66 (bs, 1H), 5.77 (bs, 1H), 6.16 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.68 (m, 3H), 7.92-8.12 (m, 6H), 8.78 (s, 1H), 8.96 (bs, 1H), 11.26 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO): δ = 73.6, 74.0-74.2 (m), 85.5-86.0 (m), 87.4, 122.2, 124.5, 125.7, 125.8, 128.1, 128.4, 128.5, 132.4, 133.3, 143.6, 150.5, 151.6, 152.1, 165.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₂₀F₃N₆O₇S: 593.1061; found 593.1060.

4'-(N-((4-aminophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-N-Bz-adenosine (8c)

4-aminobenzenesulfonyl azide **2f** (11 mg, 46 μ mol) was dissolved in dry NMP (1 mL). Thereafter, 4'-tetrabutylammonium thioacetate-*N*-Bz-adenosine **6b** (27 mg, 42 μ mol), water (300 μ L) and NaHCO₃ (7 mg, 84 μ mol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system A). 0.1% aq. TFA (pH 2.0, 10 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-50%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase, giving the desired product **8c** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (22 mg, 40 μ mol, 96%, 98% purity). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD): δ = 4.22 (dd, J_1 = 4.8 Hz, J_2 = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, , J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.59-4.62 (m, 1H), 6.14 (d, , J_1 = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.67-6.70 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.74 (m, 5H), 8.10-8.12 (m, 2H), 8.65 (s, 1H), 9.02 (s, 1H).¹³C NMR (125 MHz, MeOD): δ = 74.0, 75.0, 86.8, 91.2, 113.9, 125.1, 129.6, 129.8, 131.5, 134.1, 134.2, 134.7, 145.4, 151.6, 152.3, 153.4, 155.5, 168.4, 170.5 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₂₂N₇O₇S: 540.1296; found 540.1292.

4'-(N-((4-acetamidophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-N-Bz-adenosine (8d)

4-acetamidobenzenesulfonyl azide (34 mg, 140 μ mol) was dissolved in dry NMP (2 mL). Thereafter, 4'-tetrabutylammonium thioacetate-*N*-Bz-adenosine **6b** (90 mg, 140 μ mol), water (600 μ L) and NaHCO₃ (24 mg, 280 μ mol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system A). 0.1% aq. TFA (pH 2.0, 20 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-50%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase, giving the desired product **8d** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (76 mg, 131 μ mol, 94%, 94% purity). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ = 2.15 (s, 3H), 4.23 (dd, J_1 = 4.8 Hz, J_2 = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (dd, J_1 = 7.6 Hz, J_2 = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 6.14 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.80 (m, 5H), 7.99-8.12 (m, 4H), 8.63 (s, 1H), 9.0 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD): δ = 24.1, 74.1, 75.0, 86.7, 91.3, 120.2, 125.3, 129.6, 129.8, 130.6, 134.2, 134.3, 134.7, 145.37, 145.41, 151.6, 152.3, 153.3, 168.5, 170.6, 172.1 . HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₅H₂₄N₇O₈S: 582.1402; found 582.1386.

S34

4'-(N-((4-methyl-3-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-N-Bz-adenosine (8e)

4-methyl-3-nitrobenzenesulfonyl azide **2b** (27 mg, 112 μ mol) was dissolved in dry NMP (600 μ L). Thereafter, 4'-tetrabutylammonium thioacetate-*N*-Bz-adenosine **6b** (66 mg, 102 μ mol), water (300 μ L) and NaHCO₃ (26 mg, 308 μ mol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system A). 0.1% aq. TFA (pH 2.0, 10 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-60%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase, giving the desired product **8e** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (55 mg, 94 μ mol, 92%, 95% purity). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): δ = 2.56 (s, 3H), 4.08 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (s, 1H), 4.51 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 5.55 (bs, 1H), 5.65 (bs, 1H), 6.17 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.67 (m, 4H), 8.02-8.08 (m, 3H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.75 (s, 1H), 9.15 (bs, 1H), 11.21 (bs, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO): δ = 19.7, 74.0, 75.1, 86.8, 87.0, 123.0, 125.4, 128.4, 128.5, 131.3, 132.4, 133.0, 133.4, 143.7, 148.0, 150.2, 151.6, 152.6, 165.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₂₂N₇O₉S: 584.1194; found 584.1206.

S36

4'-(N-((3-chloro-4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-N-Bz-adenosine (8f)

3-chloro-4-methylbenzenesulfonyl azide **2c** (23 mg, 99 μ mol) was dissolved in dry NMP (600 μ L). Thereafter, 4'-tetrabutylammonium thioacetate-*N*-Bz-adenosine **6b** (58 mg, 90 μ mol), water (300 μ L) and NaHCO₃ (22.8 mg, 272 μ mol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system A). 0.1% aq. TFA (pH 2.0, 10 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-60%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase, giving the desired product **8f** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (44 mg, 76 μ mol, 85%, 97% purity). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): δ = 2.34 (s, 3H), 4.06 (s, 1H), 4.21 (s, 1H), 4.51 (bs, 1H), 5.60 (bs, 1H), 5.66 (bs, 1H), 6.17 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.64 (m, 5H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 8.74 (s, 1H), 9.23 (bs, 1H), 11.21 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO): δ = 19.5, 74.1, 75.4, 86.6, 87.3, 125.3, 127.0, 128.46, 128.51, 130.9, 132.4, 132.6, 133.4, 143.8, 150.1, 151.7, 152.8, 165.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₂₁ClN₆O₇S: 573.0954; found 573.0968.

4'-(N-((3,4-dichlorophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-N-Bz-adenosine (8g)

3,4-dichlorobenzenesulfonyl azide **2d** (13 mg, 52 μ mol) was dissolved in dry NMP (600 μ L). Thereafter, 4'-tetrabutylammonium thioacetate-*N*-Bz-adenosine **6b** (30 mg, 47 μ mol), water (300 μ L) and NaHCO₃ (11.7 mg, 140 μ mol) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system A). 0.1% aq. TFA (pH 2.0, 10 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-60%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase, giving the desired product **8g** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (24 mg, 40 μ mol, 86%, 99% purity). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): δ = 4.22-4.23 (m, 1H), 4.50 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.56-4.58 (m, 1H), 6.13 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.68 (m, 3H), 7.91-7.96 (m, 2H), 8.05-8.15 (m, 3H), 8.70 (s, 1H), 8.82 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO): δ = 72.8, 73.1, 84.1, 88.1, 125.9, 127.8, 128.5, 128.6, 129.4, 131.7, 132.0, 132.6, 133.3, 137.1, 139.2, 143.5, 150.8, 151.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₉Cl₂N₆O₇S: 593.0407; found 593.0421.

S40

4'-(N-((4-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-adenosine (10a)

Ammonia aqueous solution 28% (2 mL) was added to a stirred solution of 4'-(*N*-((4-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl))-*N*-Bz-adenosine **8a** (10 mg, 17 μ mol) in MeOH (1 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 16h. Volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-30%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase giving the desired product **10a** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (10 mg, 16 μ mol 84%, 96% purity). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ = 4.07 (dd, J_1 = 4.6 Hz, J_2 = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.35-4.42 (m, 2H), 6.01 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 8.19-8.23 (m, 2H), 8.39-8.43 (m, 2H), 8.46 (s, 1H), 8.47 (bs, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ = 72.9, 73.3, 85.0, 88.5, 119.4, 124.4, 129.2, 141.2, 145.1, 146.7, 149.8, 150.1, 154.9, 170.8 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₆N₇O₈S: 466.0776; found 466.0760.

S42

4'-(N-((4-trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-adenosine (10b)

Ammonia aqueous solution 28% (2 mL) was added to a stirred solution of 4'-(*N*-((4-trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-*N*-Bz-adenosine **8b** (13 mg, 22 μ mol) in MeOH (1 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 16h. Volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-40%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase giving the desired product **10b** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (12 mg, 20 μ mol 91%, 93% purity). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ = 4.00 (t, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (s, 1H), 4.37-4.41 (m, 1H), 5.36 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (s, 2H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 8.87 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ = 74.1, 75.6, 86.1, 87.4, 118.5, 122.6, 125.0-125.1 (m), 125.3, 127.5, 130.3, 140.0, 149.3-149.5 (m), 149.9, 152.5, 155.9, 174.8 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₇H₁₆F₃N₆O₆S: 489.0799; found 489.0796.

4'-(N-((4-aminophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-adenosine (10c)

Ammonia aqueous solution 28% (2 mL) was added to a stirred solution of 4'-(*N*-((4aminophenyl)sulfonyl))-*N*-Bz-adenosine **8c** (12 mg, 18 μ mol) in MeOH (1 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 16h. Volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-30%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase giving the desired product **10c** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (12 mg, 16 μ mol 88%, 95% purity). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ = 4.21 (dd, *J*₁ = 4.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.48-4.53 (m, 2H), 6.07 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.65-6.69 (m, 2H), 7.68-7.72 (m, 2H), 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.54 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD) δ = 74.4, 74.9, 86.8, 91.1, 113.9, 125.1, 131.5, 143.8, 149.2, 149.8, 154.6, 155.5, 170.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₈N₇O₆S: 436.1034; found 436.1039.

S46

4'-(N-((4-methyl-3-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-adenosine (10d)

Ammonia aqueous solution 28% (2 mL) was added to a stirred solution of 4'-(*N*-((4-methyl-3-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-*N*-Bz-adenosine **8e** (34 mg, 58 μ mol) in MeOH (1 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 16h. Volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-60%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase giving the desired product **10d** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (32 mg, 54 μ mol, 96%, 96% purity). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ = 2.61 (s, 3H), 4.10-4.12 (m, 1H), 4.39-4.42 (m, 1H), 4.44 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.46-8.49 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ = 19.8, 72.9, 73.2, 84.6, 88.4, 119.3, 123.9, 131.5, 134.1, 138.2, 139.0, 141.3, 147.1, 148.5, 149.2, 154.1, 170.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₇H₁₈N₇O₈S: 480.0932; found 480.0949.

4'-(N-((3-chloro-4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-adenosine (10e)

Ammonia aqueous solution 28% (2 mL) was added to a stirred solution of 4'-(*N*-((3-chloro-4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-*N*-Bz-adenosine **8f** (34 mg, 53 μ mol) in MeOH (1 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 16h. Volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-60%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase giving the desired product **10e** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (30 mg, 52 μ mol, quant., 97% purity). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ = 2.42 (s, 3H), 4.06-4.07 (m, 1H), 4.38-4.41 (m, 1H), 4.44 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.8 Hz, , 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (bs, 2H), 8.40 (s, 1H), 8.43 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ = 19.8, 72.5, 73.2, 84.6, 88.5, 119.5, 126.2, 127.7, 132.1, 133.6, 138.1, 141.0, 142.4, 147.3, 150.6, 155.0, 169.8. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₇H₁₈N₆O₆SCI: 469.0697; found 469.0695.

4'-(N-((3,4-dichlorophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-adenosine (10f)

Ammonia aqueous solution 28% (2 mL) was added to a stirred solution of 4'-(*N*-((3,4-dichlorophenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide)-*N*-Bz-adenosine **8g** (10 mg, 18 μ mol) in MeOH (1 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 16h. Volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by RP-chromatography with a linear gradient of MeCN (0-60%) in 0.1% aq. TFA as the mobile phase giving the desired product **10f** as a white amorphous powder after lyophilization (11 mg, 18 μ mol, quant., 97% purity). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ = 4.09-4.10 (m, 1H), 4.38-4.40 (m, 1H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.89-7.93 (m, 2H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (s, 1H), 8.47 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ = 72.9, 73.2, 84.9, 88.5, 119.4, 127.7, 129.4, 131.6, 131.8, 136.7, 139.7, 141.2, 146.9, 149.7, 154.6, 158.3 (q), 170.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₅Cl₂N₆O₆S: 489.0145; found 489.0161.

Molecular Docking Studies

All calculations were performed using Autodock Vina (The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA) on an MSI computer with a 2.30 GHz Intel Core i5-8300H. The solved X-ray crystal structure of SARS-CoV nsp14 (PDB 5C8T) was used as a static receptor for docking. Both the co-crystalized ligand SAM and ions were removed from the SARS-CoV nsp14 protein using VMD 1.9.3 software. The ligand structures were drawn and minimized using MarvinSketch (ChemAxon). Targeted protein and ligand structures with polar hydrogens were converted to the required PDBQT format using MGL Tools (version 1.5.6). The docking was performed with a search box located at x = -11.155, y = -40.77, z = -3.688 coordinates, with a search box size of 25 × 25 × 25 Å3. After calculations, PDB files were analyzed using Pymol (version 2.3).

Calculated affinity of **7d** and **8a** about -11 kcal.mol⁻¹.

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