## **Supplementary Materials**

Structure	Fragment	Screen	$\Delta T_m$ (°C)	QM PfDHFR inhibition at 500 μM (%)	QM <i>Pf</i> DHFR IC <sub>50</sub> (mM)	WT <i>Pf</i> DHFR inhibition at 500 µM (%)	WT <i>Pf</i> DHFR IC <sub>50</sub> (mM)	HsDHFR inhibition at 500 µM (%)
H H	002	QM- NADPH	1.3±0.3	4.1±2.5	>2	32.4±2.2	0.7±0.04	1.7 ± 1.5
₽ ₽	101	QM- NADPH	ND	7.7±3.2		6.5±1.3		
OH OH	136	QM- NADPH	0.8±0.3	19.5±5.2	2.2±0.1			
OH NH	205	Both	1.33±0.3 (NADPH), 4.3±1.5 (Apo)	4.6±7.6	4.5±0.8	81.1±3.1	0.2±0.02	
	218	QM- NADPH	1.0±0	10.9±2.6	5.4±0.6	43.4±4.2	0.9±0.3	
H at a constant of the second	273	QM- NADPH	-0.8±0.6	9.9±6.3		20.4±5.5	4.3±0.3	
L - C - O	362	QM- NADPH	-0.8±0.3	3.3±3.7		3.9±0.9		$2.3 \pm 2.0$
	363	QM- NADPH	-1.3±0.3	2.1±2.1		1.1±4.6		
	753	QM- NADPH	-2.3±1.1	23.1±3.3		27.4±13.1	0.9±0.01	
$ \underset{Br}{ \begin{pmatrix} N \\ N \\ H \\$	935	Both	-1.5±0.5 (NADPH), - 1.8±1.5 (Apo)	1.3±4.4				

**Table S1.** Fragment hits obtained from QM *Pf*DHFR screen,  $\Delta T_m$  and inhibition results.

NH2	976	QM- NADPH	n.d.	5.3±2.8				
NH2	1136	Both	-0.75±0.9 (NADPH), 3.8±0.6(apo)	12.2±3.3	>2			
NH2 N	1150	QM- NADPH	-1.8±0.6	10.2±5.8				
Br OH	066	QM	-1.5 ±0.9	17.8±9.4	0.9±0.1			5.4±5.4
NH2	163	QM	1.8±0.3	16.3±4.4		2.3±9.3		
OH	173	QM	-1.2±1.3	12.2±2.0				
OH N Br	464	QM	-2.2±0.8	41.7±12.9	0.6±0.02	27.5±6.8	0.6±0.04	17.3±8.7
N HO O	626	QM	-1.2±0.6	7.0±2.3	1.0±0.1			
H N F OH	1002	QM	3.7±0.6	5.0±3.5	>2			
NH2	1078	QM	1.2±0.3	12.1±7.9	0.9±0.02	6.8±2.0		14.5±4.5
P-OH	1122	QM	-1.8±0.8	2.6±8.3				
F HN racemate	1158	QM	-1.2±1.5	7.5±12.6	>2			

QM: quadruple mutant (N51I + C59R + S108N + I164L).



Figure S1. Molecular docking results and binding mode schematic representation for test 4 (A), test 5 (B) in the active site of QM *Pf*DHFR (PDB 4DP3). Molecular docking results for L4 and 136 appear in orange and magenta, respectively, and polar contacts appear as black dashed lines.



**Figure S2**. Superimposition of crystal structures of compounds **4** (magenta, PDB 8JFB), **6** (cyan, PDB 8JFC) and **8** (green, PDB 8JFD). *Pf*DHFR chain A appears in colour, *Pf*DHFR chain B and TS domains appear in grey for clarity.

	4 (B21588)	6 (B21591)	8 (B21594)
PDB ID code	8JFB	8JFC	8JFD
Data collection			
wavelength (Å)	1.5418	1.5418	1.5418
space group	$P2_{1}2_{1}2_{1}$	$P2_{1}2_{1}2_{1}$	$P2_{1}2_{1}2_{1}$
cell parameters			
<i>a, b, c</i> (Å)	57.777, 156.233, 167.051	56.978, 155.757, 165.044	57.355, 156.500, 165.269
a, b, g (deg)	90.0, 90.0, 90.0	90.0, 90.0, 90.0	90.0, 90.0, 90.0
resolution <sup>a</sup> (Å)	16.27-2.65 (2.75-2.65)	24.31-2.30 (2.40-2.30)	16.76-2.30 (2.40-2.30)
completeness (%)	93.15 (96.52)	99.1 (97.7)	98.9 (98.1)
redundancy	2.82 (2.40)	3.52 (2.76)	2.64 (2.04)
$< l/\sigma(l) >$	8.38 (2.05)	10.06 (2.70)	9.49 (2.26)
Wilson B-factor	34.14	24.95	27.48
$R_{\rm merge}{}^{\rm b}$	0.1140 (0.3949)	0.0862 (0.2639)	0.0980 (0.3406)
Refinement			
$R_{work}^{c}$	0.2118 (0.2614)	0.1876 (0.2330)	0.2024 (0.2526)
$R_{free}{}^{c}$	0.2805 (0.3449)	0.2378 (0.2917)	0.2560 (0.3243)
Average B-factors			
(A <sup>2</sup> ) (No. of Atoms) Chains A/B			
Protein	37.0(8691)/41.9(8599)	31.8(8650)/42.3(8678)	34.5(8615)/42.4(8647)
Inhibitor	33.3/62.8 (45)	40.6/65.7 (45)	23.7/49.3 (45)
NDP	52.3/81.6 (71)	35.2/92.4 (71)	35.9/73.2 (71)
UMP	59.5/59.7 (30)	33.3/36.3 (30)	37.4/45.7 (30)
GOL	-	23.2/30.0 (12)	28.1/30.1 (12)
Water	30.52 (285)	31.53 (642)	33.76 (620)
RMSD			
Bond lengths (Å)	0.008	0.008	0.008
Bond angles (°)	0.983	0.927	0.920
Ramachadran Plot			
favored (%)	94.39	96.63	96.62
allowed (%)	5.61	3.37	3.29
outlier (%)	0	0	0.10

**Table S2.** Data collection and refinement statistics of the ternary complexes of *Pf*DHFR-TS V1/S.

<sup>a</sup>Values in parentheses are for the highest-resolution shell.

 ${}^{b}R_{merge} = \Sigma_{hkl}\Sigma_{i}|I_{i}(hkl) - \langle I(hkl)\rangle|/\Sigma_{hkl}\Sigma_{i}I_{i}(hkl)$ , where  $I_{i}(hkl)$  is the intensity of an individual reflection and  $\langle I(hkl)\rangle$  is the mean intensity of symmetry-equivalent reflections.

 ${}^{c}R_{\text{work}} = \Sigma_{\text{hkl}} ||F_{\text{obs}}| - |F_{\text{calc}}|| / \Sigma_{\text{hkl}} |F_{\text{obs}}|$ , where  $F_{\text{obs}}$  and  $F_{\text{calc}}$  are the observed and calculated structure-factor amplitudes, respectively.  $R_{\text{free}}$  was calculated in the same manner as  $R_{\text{work}}$  but using only a 5% unrefined subset of the reflection data.



**Figure S3.** Molecular docking results and binding mode schematic representation for **6** in the active site of *Hs*DHFR (PDB 4DDR). Hydrogen bonds appear in pink, charge pairing interactions appear in purple, and  $\pi$ - $\pi$  appear in green.



Figure S4. SPR profiles for 2, 4, 6 and 8 binding to QM *Pf*DHFR. Raw data appears as colour lines, curve fitting appears as thin black lines. n.d.: not determined.



**Figure S5.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compound 1-HCl.



**Figure S6.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 1-HCl.



#### 372 CT135-HCI (1 ml) Sample Name: Injection Volume: 2.0 CT135-HCI (1 ml) Vial Number: RD3 Channel: UV\_VIS\_3 Sample Type: unknown Wavelength: 280.0 Control 15-60\_30min\_AB\_flow 0-6\_column B (1-2\_6-1) Bandwidth: 1 Program: Quantif. Standard CALIBRATION Dilution Factor: 1.0000 Method: Recording Sample Weight: 12/8/2021 18:16 1.0000 Time: Run Time 30.00 Sample Amount: 1.0000 (min):

No.	Ret.Time	Peak Name	Height	Area	Rel.Area	Amount	Туре
	min		mAU	mAU*min	%	ng	
1	13.96	na	33.427	3.130	1.77	n.a.	BMB*
2	14.71	na	11.534	1.058	0.60	n.a.	BMB*
3	15.17	na	4.409	0.304	0.17	n.a.	BMB*
4	16.95	na	1461.851	170.811	96.75	n.a.	BMB
5	19.28	na	11.540	1.250	0.71	n.a.	BMB*
Total:			1522.761	176.553	100.00	0.000	

Figure S7. HPLC profile of compound 1-HCl.



**Figure S8.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compound 2-HCl.



**Figure S9.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 2-HCl.



383 C	CT136-HCI (1 ml) (not complete soluble) (OK)		
Sample Name:	CT136-HCI (1 ml) (not complete soluble) (OK)	Injection Volume:	1.0
Vial Number:	GA8	Channel:	UV_VIS_3
Sample Type:	unknown	Wavelength:	280.0
Control Program:	15-60_30min_AB_flow 0-6_column B (1-2_6-1)	Bandwidth:	1
Quantif. Method:	Standard CALIBRATION	Dilution Factor:	1.0000
Recording Time:	12/9/2021 17:47	Sample Weight:	1.0000
Run Time (min):	30.00	Sample Amount:	1.0000

No.	Ret.Time min	Peak Name	Height mAU	Area mAU*min	Rel.Area %	Amount ng	Туре
1	13.97	na	6.753	0.602	0.87	n.a.	BMB*
2	14.72	na	17.547	1.718	2.47	n.a.	BMB*
3	15.94	na	572.206	66.668	96.04	n.a.	BMB
4	17.21	na	4.520	0.431	0.62	n.a.	BMB*
Total:			601.027	69.419	100.00	0.000	

Figure S10. HPLC profile of compound 2-HCl.

#### <sup>1</sup>H NMR in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>







# Figure S12. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 3-HCl.



37	5 CT	137-HCI (0.5 ml)					
Sample Name: Vial Number: Sample Type: Control Program: Quantif. Method: Recording Time: Run Time (min):		CT137-HCI (0.5 ml) RD4 unknown 15-60_30min_AB_flow 0-6 Standard CALIBRATION 12/8/2021 18:52 30.00	_column B (1-2_6-1)	Injection Channel: Wavelen Bandwida Dilution F Sample V Sample P	Volume: gth: th: Factor: Veight: Amount:	1.0 UV_VIS_ 280.0 1 1.0000 1.0000 1.0000	_3
No.	Ret.Time	Peak Name	Height	Area	Rel.Area	Amount	Туре
	min		mAU	mAU*min	%	ng	
1	13.96	na	37.904	3.823	3.78	n.a.	BMB*
2	17.02	na	821.642	97.314	96.22	n.a.	BMB
Total:			859.546	101.137	100.00	0.000	

Figure S13. HPLC profile of compound 3-HCl.



**Figure S14.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compound 4-HCl.

19



**Figure S15.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 4-HCl.



377	CT138-HCI (1 ml)		
Sample Name:	CT138-HCI (1 ml)	Injection Volume:	1.0
Vial Number:	RD5	Channel:	UV_VIS_3
Sample Type:	unknown	Wavelength:	280.0
Control Program	15-60_30min_AB_flow 0-6_column B (1-2_6-1)	Bandwidth:	1
Quantif. Method:	Standard CALIBRATION	Dilution Factor:	1.0000
Recording Time:	12/9/2021 15:59	Sample Weight:	1.0000
Run Time (min):	30.00	Sample Amount:	1.0000

No.	Ret.Time	Peak Name	Height	Area	Rel.Area	Amount	Туре
	min		mAU	mAU*min	%	ng	
1	15.02	na	522.387	56.121	100.00	n.a.	BMB
Total:			522.387	56.121	100.00	0.000	

Figure S16. HPLC profile of compound 4-HCl.

#### <sup>1</sup>H NMR in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>



**Figure S17.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compound 5-HCl.



# **Figure S18.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 5-HCl.



380	CT141-HCI (0.5 ml)		
Sample Name:	CT141-HCI (0.5 ml)	Injection Volume:	1.0
Vial Number:	RD8	Channel:	UV_VIS_3
Sample Type:	unknown	Wavelength:	280.0
Control Program:	15-60_30min_AB_flow 0-6_column B (1-2_6-1)	Bandwidth:	1
Quantif. Method:	Standard CALIBRATION	Dilution Factor:	1.0000
Recording Time:	12/8/2021 21:17	Sample Weight:	1.0000
Run Time (min):	30.00	Sample Amount:	1.0000

No.	Ret.Time	Peak Name	Height	Area	Rel.Area	Amount	Туре
	min		mAU	mAU*min	%	ng	
1	13.96	na	38.211	3.790	1.59	n.a.	BMB*
2	17.01	na	1934.245	234.896	98.41	n.a.	BMB
Total:			1972.456	238.686	100.00	0.000	

Figure S19. HPLC profile of compound 5-HCl.

#### <sup>1</sup>H NMR in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>



**Figure S20.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compound 6-HCl.



**Figure S21.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 6-HCl.



384	CT1	CT142-HCI (1 ml)							
Sample Na	me: C	T142-HCI (1 ml)			Injection Volui	ne:	2.0		
Vial Numbe	er: R	RE1			Channel:		UV_VIS_3		
Sample Type: unknown					Wavelength:		280.0		
Control Program: 15-60_30min_AB_flow 0-6_column B (1-2_6-1)				Bandwidth:		1			
Quantif. Me	ethod: S				Dilution Facto	r:	1.0000		
Recording	lime: 1	2/8/2021 21:53			Sample Weigh	nt:	1.0000		
Run Time (	min): 3	0.01			Sample Amou	nt:	1.0000		
No.	Ret.Tim	e Peak Name	Height	Area	Rel.Area	Amount	Туре		
	min		mAU	mAU*min	%	ng			
1	13.96	na	22.608	2.065	0.84	n.a.	BMB*		
2	14.98	na	2193.459	242.824	99.16	n.a.	BMB		
Total:			2216.067	244.889	100.00	0.000			

Figure S22. HPLC profile of compound 6-HCl.



**Figure S23.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compound 7-HCl.

#### <sup>13</sup>C NMR in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>



**Figure S24.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 7-HCl.



38	8 C <sup>.</sup>	T144-HCI (1 ml)						
Sample Name: Vial Number: Sample Type: Control Program: Quantif. Method: Recording Time: Run Time (min):		CT144-HCI (1 ml) RE3 unknown 15-60_30min_AB_flow 0-6_column B (1-2_6-1) Standard CALIBRATION 12/8/2021 23:06 30.00			Injection Volume: Channel: Wavelength: Bandwidth: Dilution Factor: Sample Weight: Sample Amount:		2.0 UV_VIS_3 280.0 1 1.0000 1.0000 1.0000	
No.	Ret.Tim min	e Peak Name	Height mAU	Area mAU*min	Rel.Area %	Amount ng	Туре	
1	13.96	na	20.513	2.037	1.94	n.a.	BMB*	
2	17.07	na	825.330	102.974	98.06	n.a.	BMB	
Total:			845.843	105.011	100.00	0.000		

Figure S25. HPLC profile of compound 7-HCl.



**Figure S26.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compound 8-HCl.

### <sup>13</sup>C NMR in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>





No.	Ret.Time	Peak Name	Height	Area	Rel.Area	Amount	Туре
	min		mAU	mAU*min	%	ng	
1	13.96	na	7.565	0.720	0.60	n.a.	BMB*
2	15.20	na	1037.876	116.663	97.99	n.a.	BMB
3	17.15	na	14.746	1.674	1.41	n.a.	BMB*
Total:			1060.187	119.058	100.00	0.000	

Figure S28. HPLC profile of compound 8-HCl.