# A Click Chemistry Approach to C-3 Symmetric, G-Quadruplex Stabilising Ligands

# John E. Moses,\*<sup>a</sup> Dougal J. Ritson,<sup>a</sup> Fengzhi Zhang,<sup>a</sup> Caterina Lombardo,<sup>b</sup> Shozeb Haider,<sup>b</sup> Neil Oldham<sup>a</sup> and Stephen Neidle\*<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The School of Chemistry, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD, UK. Fax: (+44) 115-951-3555; Tel: (+44) 115-951-3533; E-mail: john.moses@nottingham.ac.uk.

<sup>b</sup> Department of Pharmaceutical and Biological Chemistry and CRUK Biomolecular Structure Group, The School of Pharmacy, University of London, 29-39 Brunswick Square, London, WC1N 1AX, UK. Fax: (+44) 20-7753-5970; Tel: (+44) 20-7753-5969; E-mail: stephen.neidle@pharmacy.ac.uk

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## **General Experimental**

Melting points were determined on a Stuart SMP3 machine and are uncorrected. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on VG Micron Autospec or Bruker Micro TOF. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR) spectra were obtained on Perkin Elmer 1600 series or Bruker Tensor 27 spectrometer. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV(III) 400, Bruker AV 400 or Bruker DPX 400 at 400 and 101 MHz, for <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR respectively, or on a JEOL 270 spectrometer at 270 and 70 Hz, for <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR respectively. Coupling constant are given in hertz (Hz), the shifts are given as parts per million (ppm) using tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. The following notations indicate the multiplicity of the signals: s (singlet), d (doublet), br s (broad signal), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet). Thin layer chromatography was performed on Merck precoated silica gel aluminium plates (60F-254) and visualised using UV absorption and/or an appropriate stain. Column chromatography was performed using Merck silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh). All solvents and reagents were used as received from commercial suppliers. Petrol ethers refers to petroleum ethers 40 - 60 °C. Dry THF was distilled from sodium wire/benzophenone and dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> from CaH<sub>2</sub> immediately prior to use. Microwave reactions were conducted on a CEM Discover Explorer microwave reactor.

**Molecular Modelling:** Automated docking studies were carried out using the AutoDock program. v4.0 (D. S. Goodsell, G. M. Morris and A. J. Olson. *J. Mol. Recogn.* 1996, **9**, 1). A Lamarckian genetic algorithm (LGA) was applied to investigate the plausible interactions between the ligand and G-quadruplex DNA. Values for all other docking parameters were kept as default. A total of 250 independent docking runs were undertaken to enhance the reliability of the docking process (R. Wang, Y. Lu and S. Wang. *J. Med. Chem.* 2003, **46**, 2287). Cluster analysis was carried out on the docked results using a root mean square (RMS) tolerance of 1.0 Å. The AMBER 9.0 suite (W. D. Cornell, P. Cieplak, C. I. Bayly, I. R. Gould, K. M. Merz Jr., D. M. Ferguson, D. C. Spellmeyer, T. Fox, J. W. Caldwell and P. A. Kollman, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1995, **117**, 5179; <u>http://ambermd.org</u>).was used for all subsequent 2

calculations. Positions of the  $K^+$  ions located within the central electronegative channel in the crystal structures were retained. Additional cations ( $K^+$ ) were added to the system such that the net -ve charge was zero. The ligand complex was then solvated in a waterbox whose boundary was at least 10 Å away from the solute. Equilibration step involved 220 ps of minimisation and dynamics followed by 20 ns of unrestrained MD simulation using the ParmBSC forcefield for nucleic acids.

## **Experimental Procedures**

## 1,3,5-Tris(hydroxymethyl)benzene, 5<sup>1</sup>



A solution of 1,3,5-tris(carbomethoxy)benzene (14.0 g, 55.5 mmol) in dry THF (80 mL) was added to a suspension of LAH (4.72 g, 124.2 mmol) in dry THF (100 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h then reflux for 10 h. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C and H<sub>2</sub>O was added carefully. When gas evolution had ceased a saturated solution of Rochelle's salt was added and stirred overnight. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted repeatedly with EtOAc which was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated. The residue was recrystallised from EtOAc to give 1,3,5-tris(hydroxymethyl)benzene **5** as fine colourless needles (4.49 g, 27.0 mmol, 49 %). mp 75 °C, (Lit.<sup>1</sup> mp 77 °C);  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (*d*<sub>6</sub>-DMSO, 400 MHz) 7.12 (3 H, s), 5.13 (3 H, t, *J* 5.7), 4.48 (6 H , d, *J* 5.7,);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (*d*-DMSO, 70 MHz) 142.6, 123.5, 63.6.

## 1,3,5-Tris(azidomethyl)benzene, 6<sup>2</sup>



1,3,5-Tris(hydroxymethyl)benzene 5 (2.01 g, 12.0 mmol) was suspended in dry ether (110 mL) under an N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. PBr<sub>3</sub> (2.90 mL, 30.9 mmol) was then added dropwise and the reaction was stirred at rt for 20 h before being cooled to 0  $^{\circ}$ C. A saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (30 mL) was added cafefully and the reaction neutralised by the careful addition of solid

NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with  $Et_2O$  (2 × 50 mL). The organics were combined, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated to give 1,3,5-tris(bromomethyl)benzene as a colourless solid, which was used without further purification.

A mixture of 1,3,5-tris(bromomethyl)benzene (1.00 g, 2.81 mmol) and NaN<sub>3</sub> (586 mg, 9.01 mmol) in DMF (12 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 4 h. The reaction was cooled to rt then poured into brine (15 mL), which was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 20). The combined organics were washed with brine (20 mL) then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (9:1 to 4:1, petrol ethers-EtOAc) to afford the title compound **6** as a colourless oil (626 mg, 2.58 mmol, 92 % over 2 steps).  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  3007, 2102, 1634;  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 7.26 (3 H, s), 4.41 (6 H, s);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 137.0, 127.5, 54.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>9</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 226.0870, found 226.0873.

#### General procedure for the preparation of the 4-ethynylaniline amides 8 and 9

4-Ethynylaniline 7 (1 eq) was dissolved in THF (2 mL/mmol) and cooled to 0  $^{\circ}$ C with stirring. To this solution was added Et<sub>3</sub>N (1 eq), followed by dropwise addition of the acid chloride (2 eq) in THF (2 ml/mmol). The reaction mixture was then allowed to warm to rt and stirred until the reaction had reached completion. The reaction was concentrated *in vacuo* and partitioned between water and EtOAc. The product was extracted with EtOAc (twice) and the combined organic layers were washed with water, brine and dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>). Removal of the solvent gave the crude product, which was used in the next step without further purification.

#### Chloro-N-(4-ethynylphenyl)-acetamide, 8



Yellow solid (72 %).  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  3400, 3301, 3011, 1692, 1589;  $\delta_{H}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 8.32 (1 H, s), 7.54 (4 H, m), 4.22 (2 H, s), 3.10 (1 H, s);  $\delta_{C}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 163.8, 137.1, 133.1,

119.7, 118.8, 83.1, 76.7, 42.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{10}H_8NOCINa [M+Na]^+$  216.0187, found 216.0187.

#### 4-Chloro-N-(4-ethynylphenyl)-butyramide, 9



Yellow solid (74 %).  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  3430, 3301, 3009, 1696, 1607, 1586;  $\delta_{H}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 7.49 (4 H, m), 7.37 (1 H, s), 3.67 (2 H, m), 3.07 (1 H, s), 2.59 (2 H, m), 2.21 (2 H, m);  $\delta_{C}$ (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 170.0, 138.1, 133.0, 119.4, 117.8, 83.3, 76.7, 44.4, 34.2, 27.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>CINNaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 244.0500, found 244.0507.

#### General procedure for the preparation of tertiary amines 10 – 19

The appropriate secondary amine (2 eq) was added dropwise to a solution of the alkyl chloride (8 or 9, 1 eq) in MeOH (3 mL/mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at rt, or under heating conditions, until the reaction was complete. The reaction was concentrated *in vacuo* and partitioned between water and EtOAc. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (twice) and the combined organic layers were washed with a saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, water and brine. The organics were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated *in vacuo* to give the desired amine which was used without further purification.

#### Dimethylamino-N-(4-ethynylphenyl)-acetamide, 10



Yellow oil (94 %).  $v_{\text{max}}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3300, 3011, 2952, 2835, 2790, 1690, 1606, 1579;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 9.26 (1 H, s), 7.47-7.61 (4 H, m), 3.13 (2 H, s), 3.07 (1 H, s), 2.43 (6 H, s);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 168.7, 138.2, 133.0, 119.0, 117.5, 83.5, 76.7, 63.5, 46.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 203.1779, found 203.1174.

## Diethylamino-N-(4-ethynylphenyl)-acetamide, 11



Brown oil (80 %).  $v_{\text{max}}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3300, 2975, 2825, 1686, 1605, 1578;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 9.52 (1 H, s), 7.47-7.59 (4 H, m), 3.18 (2 H, s), 3.07 (1 H, s), 2.67 (4 H, q, *J* 7.2), 1.11 (6 H, t, *J* 7.2);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 170.2, 138.2, 133.0, 118.9, 117.4, 83.5, 76.8, 58.1, 48.9, 12.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 231.1492, found 231.1503.

#### Pyrrolidino-N-(4-ethynylphenyl)-acetamide, 12



Brown oil (97 %).  $v_{\text{max}}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3300, 3011, 2819, 1687, 1605, 1579;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 9.19 (1 H, s), 7.44-7.60 (4 H, m), 3.28 (2 H, s), 3.04 (1 H, s), 2.69 (4 H, m), 1.86 (4 H, m);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 169.3, 138.2, 133.0, 119.0, 117.4, 83.5, 76.7, 59.8, 54.6, 24.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 229.1335, found 229.1335.

#### Piperidino-N-(4-ethynylphenyl)-acetamide, 13



Pale yellow solid (95 %).  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  3300, 3011, 2942, 1687, 1605, 1579;  $\delta_{H}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 9.38 (1 H, s), 7.52 (4 H, m), 3.09 (2 H, s), 3.06 (1 H, s), 2.57 (4 H, m), 1.67 (4 H, q, *J* 5.6), 1.51 (2 H, m);  $\delta_{C}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 170.5, 140.5, 135.2, 121.2, 119.7, 85.8, 78.9, 65.0, 57.2, 28.6, 25.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 243.1492, found 243.1507.

#### Morpholino-N-(4-ethynylphenyl)-acetamide, 14



Yellow oil (98 %).  $v_{\text{max}}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3305, 3011, 2816, 1690, 1580;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 9.10 (1 H, s), 7.54 (4 H, m), 3.78 (4 H, t, *J* 4.8), 3.14 (2 H, s), 3.06 (1 H, s), 2.78 (4 H, t, *J* 4.8);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 168.0, 137.9, 133.0, 119.0, 117.7, 83.4, 76.7, 67.0, 62.5, 53.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 245.1285, found 245.1297.

#### 4-Dimethylamino-N-(4-ethynylphenyl)-butyramide, 15



Orange oil (53 %).  $v_{\text{max}}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3301, 3011, 2827, 1683, 1601;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 10.26 (1 H, s), 7.41-7.51 (4 H, m), 3.03 (1 H, s), 2.51 (2 H, t, *J* 6.0), 2.45 (2 H, t, *J* 6.0), 2.32 (6 H, s), 1.86 (2 H, m);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 171.7, 139.5, 132.9, 118.9, 116.8, 83.6, 76.4, 59.2, 45.1, 37.3, 22.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 231.1492, found 231.1497.

4-Diethylamino-N-(4-ethynylphenyl)-butyramide, 16



Brown oil (46 %).  $v_{\text{max}}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3301, 2975, 1681, 1601;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 10.42 (1 H, s), 7.41-7.51 (4 H, m), 3.04 (1 H, s), 2.53-2.69 (8 H, m), 1.88 (2 H, m), 1.17 (6 H, t, *J* 7.2);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$ (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 171.7, 139.4, 132.9, 119.3, 116.8, 83.6, 76.4, 52.9, 46.8, 37.9, 22.7, 10.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 259.1805, found 259.1820.

## 4-Pyrrolidino-N-(4-ethynylphenyl)-butyramide, 17



Orange oil (50 %).  $v_{\text{max}}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3674, 3461, 3300, 3011, 2970, 2812, 1682, 1599;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 10.07 (1 H, s), 7.48 (4 H, m), 3.06 (1 H, s), 2.54-2.67 (8 H, m), 1.85-1.96 (6 H, m);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 171.8, 139.4, 132.9, 119.1, 116.9, 83.6, 76.4, 55.9, 54.0, 37.3, 23.8, 23.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 257.1648, found 257.1658.

#### 4-Piperidino-N-(4-ethynylphenyl)-butyramide, 18



Orange oil (44 %).  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  3432, 3300, 3011, 2941, 2812, 1685, 1595;  $\delta_{H}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 9.38 (1 H, s), 7.47 (4 H, m), 3.04 (1 H, s), 2.32-2.48 (8 H, m), 1.83-1.93 (2 H, m), 1.49-1.67 (6 H, m);  $\delta_{C}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 171.8, 139.0, 132.9, 119.4, 117.1, 83.6, 76.5, 57.3, 54.3, 36.1, 25.9, 24.4, 22.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O[M+H]<sup>+</sup> 271.1805, found 271.1790.

#### 4-Morpholino-N-(4-ethynylphenyl)-butyramide, 19



Orange oil (44 %).  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  3431, 3301, 3011, 2967, 2860, 1691, 1587;  $\delta_{H}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 8.68 (1 H, s), 7.39-7.48 (4 H, m), 3.69 (4 H, t, *J* 4.8), 3.04 (1 H, s), 2.40 (8 H, m), 1.87 (2 H, m);  $\delta_{C}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 171.6, 138.7, 132.8, 119.3, 117.4, 83.4, 76.8, 66.6, 57.6, 53.5, 35.2, 21.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 273.1598, found 273.1591.

## General procedure for the preparation of tristriazole ligands 20 - 24 and 27 - 29

A microwave tube was charged with the mixture of **6** (0.2 mmol), the desired alkyne (**10** – **19**, 0.6 mmol), CuSO<sub>4</sub>.5H<sub>2</sub>O (0.06 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) and a freshly made solution of sodium ascorbate (0.36 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL). The mixture was stirred and heated in a microwave reactor for 15 min at 120 °C. The reaction mixture was then cooled and diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL), filtered and the solid was washed with water, EtOH and Et<sub>2</sub>O successively then dried *in vacuo*. A sample was purified by preparative HPLC (*vide infra*) for biological testing.

2-Dimethylamino-*N*-{4-[1-(3-{4-[4-(2-dimethylamino-acetylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol -1-yl}-5-{4-[4-(2-dimethylamino-acetylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-ylmethyl}-benzyl)-1*H*-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-acetamide, 20



Yellow powder (54 %).  $\delta_{\rm H}$  ( $d_6$ -DMSO, 400 MHz) 9.80 (3 H, s), 8.52 (3 H, s), 7.73 (12 H, m), 7.34 (3 H, s), 5.64 (6 H, s), 3.09 (6 H, s), 2.30 (18 H, s);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  ( $d_6$ -DMSO, 101 MHz) 169.1, 147.0, 138.9, 137.8, 127.8, 126.1, 126.0, 121.5, 120.2, 63.2, 53.0, 45.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>45</sub>H<sub>52</sub>N<sub>15</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 850.4372, found 850.4337. 2-Diethylamino-*N*-{4-[1-(3-{4-[4-(2-diethylamino-acetylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-y l}-5-{4-[4-(2-diethylamino-acetylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-ylmethyl}-benzyl)-1*H*-[1 ,2,3]triazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-acetamide, 21



Yellow solid (45 %).  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 9.49 (3 H, s), 7.74 (6 H, d, *J* 8.8), 7.72 (6 H, d, *J* 8.8), 7.23 (3 H, s), 5.41 (6 H, s), 3.17 (6 H, s), 2.67 (12 H, q, *J* 7.2), 1.11 (18 H, t, *J* 7.2);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 170.2, 148.0, 137.8, 137.1, 127.5, 126.4, 126.0, 119.6, 119.5, 58.1, 53.4, 48.9, 12.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>51</sub>H<sub>64</sub>N<sub>15</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 934.5311, found 934.5306.

2-Pyrrolidin-1-yl-*N*-{4-[1-(3-{4-[4-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-acetylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-yl}-5-{4-[4-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-acetylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-ylmethyl}-benzyl)-1*H*-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-acetamide, 22



Yellow solid (45 %).  $\delta_{\rm H}$  ( $d_6$ -DMSO, 400 MHz) 9.78 (3 H, s), 8.51 (3 H, s), 7.69-7.81 (12 H, m), 7.33 (3 H, s), 5.64 (6 H, s), 3.27-3.47 (6 H, s), 2.61 (6 H, br s), 1.75 (12 H, br s), 1.13-1.10 (6 H, m);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  ( $d_6$ -DMSO, 101 MHz) 168.3, 147.0, 138.9, 137.8, 127.8, 126.1, 126.0, 11

121.5, 120.2, 56.5, 53.4, 53.0, 23.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{51}H_{57}N_{15}NaO_3$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 950.4661, found 950.4619.

2-Piperidin-1-yl-*N*-{4-[1-(3-{4-[4-(2-piperidin-1-yl-acetylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1yl}-5-{4-[4-(2-piperidin-1-yl-acetylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-ylmethyl}-benzyl)-1*H*-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-acetamide, 23



Yellow solid (41 %).  $\delta_{\rm H}$  ( $d_6$ -DMSO, 400 MHz) 9.72 (3 H, s), 8.51 (3 H, s), 7.72 (12 H, m), 7.33 (3 H, s), 5.64 (6 H, s), 3.07 (6 H, s), 2.49 (12 H, br s), 1.57 (18 H, m);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  ( $d_6$ -DMSO, 101 MHz) 169.1, 147.0, 138.7, 137.7, 127.8, 126.2, 126.0, 121.5, 120.1, 63.1, 54.6, 53.0, 25.9, 24.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>54</sub>H<sub>64</sub>N<sub>15</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 970.5311, found 970.5301.

2-Morpholin-4-yl-*N*-{4-[1-(3-{4-[4-(2-morpholin-4-yl-acetylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol -1-yl}-5-{4-[4-(2-morpholin-4-yl-acetylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-ylmethyl}-benzyl)-1*H*-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-acetamide, 24



Yellow solid (56 %). δ<sub>H</sub> (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) 9.18 (3 H, s), 7.77 (6 H, d, *J* 8.4), 7.70 (3 H, s), 7.64 (6 H, d, *J* 8.4), 7.25 (3 H, s), 5.55 (6 H, s), 3.83 (12 H, t, *J* 4.4), 3.19 (6 H, s), 2.68 (12 H, 12 t, J 4.4);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz) 168.1, 148.1, 137.6, 137.1, 127.4, 126.4, 126.2, 119.8, 119.4, 67.0, 62.5, 53.8, 53.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>51</sub>H<sub>58</sub>N<sub>15</sub>O<sub>6</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 976.4689, found 976.4740.

4-Pyrrolidin-1-yl-*N*-{4-[1-(3-{4-[4-(4-pyrrolidin-1-yl-butyrylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazo l-1-yl}-5-{4-[4-(4-pyrrolidin-1-yl-butyrylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-ylmethyl}-benzy l)-1*H*-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-butyramide, 27



Yellow solid (34 %).  $\delta_{\rm H}$  ( $d_6$ -DMSO, 400 MHz) 9.92 (3 H, s), 8.45 (3 H, s), 7.68 (6 H, d, J 8.8), 7.60 (6 H, d, J 8.8), 7.28 (3 H, s), 5.59 (6 H, s), 2.23-2.42 (24 H, m), 1.58-1.75 (18 H, m);  $\delta_{\rm C}$ ( $d_6$ -DMSO, 101 MHz) 171.7, 147.0, 139.6, 137.8, 127.8, 126.0, 125.7, 121.4, 119.7, 55.6, 54.0, 53.0, 35.0, 24.8, 23.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>57</sub>H<sub>69</sub>N<sub>15</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 1034.5600, found 1034.5594.

4-Piperidin-1-yl-*N*-{4-[1-(3-{4-[4-(4-piperidin-1-yl-butyrylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-yl}-5-{4-[4-(4-piperidin-1-yl-butyrylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-ylmethyl}-benzyl)-1*H*-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-butyramide, 28 # Supplementary Material (ESI) for Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry

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Yellow solid (42 %).  $\delta_{\rm H}$  ( $d_6$ -DMSO, 400 MHz) 9.95 (3 H, s), 8.51 (3 H, s), 7.74 (6 H, d, J 8.4), 7.66 (6 H, d, J 8.4), 7.34 (3 H, s), 5.67 (6 H, s), 2.23-2.36 (24 H, m), 1.75 (6 H, m), 1.37-1.50 (18 H, m);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  ( $d_6$ -DMSO, 101 MHz) 171.7, 147.0, 139.6, 137.8, 127.8, 126.0, 125.7, 121.4, 119.7, 58.6, 54.5, 53.0, 35.0, 26.1, 24.7, 22.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>60</sub>H<sub>76</sub>N<sub>15</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 1054.6250, found 1054.6196.

4-Morpholin-4-yl-*N*-{4-[1-(3-{4-[4-(4-morpholin-4-yl-butyrylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triaz ol-1-yl}-5-{4-[4-(4-morpholin-4-yl-butyrylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-ylmethyl}-benz yl)-1*H*-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-butyramide, 29



Yellow solid (67 %). δ<sub>H</sub> (*d*<sub>6</sub>-DMSO, 400 MHz) 9.95 (3 H, s), 8.51 (3 H, s), 7.74 (6 H, d, *J* 8.4), 7.66 (6 H, d, *J* 8.4), 7.34 (3 H, s), 5.67 (6 H, s), 3.55 (12 H, t, *J* 4.5), 2.27-2.40 (24 H, m), 1.76 14 (6 H, m);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  ( $d_6$ -DMSO, 101 MHz) 171.7, 147.0, 139.6, 137.8, 127.8, 126.1, 125.7, 121.4, 119.7, 66.7, 58.2, 53.8, 53.0, 34.9, 22.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>57</sub>H<sub>70</sub>N<sub>15</sub>O<sub>6</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 1060.5628, found 1060.5618.

N-(4-Ethynyl-phenyl)-acrylamide, 30



To a solution of 4-ethynylaniline 7 (2.00 g, 17.1 mmol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 mL) at 0 °C under N<sub>2</sub>, was added acryloyl chloride (1.67 mL, 20.5 mmol) dropwise. Dry Et<sub>3</sub>N (2.90 mL, 20.8 mmol) was then added dropwise and the reaction was stirred 1 h at 0 °C then 1 h at rt. MeOH (1 mL) was added and the reaction was stirred a further 1 h before the solution was washed with  $H_2O$  (2 × 10 mL), brine (10 mL) and dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (9:1 to 4:1, petrol ethers-EtOAc) to afford N-(4-ethynyl-phenyl)-acrylamide **30** as a colourless solid (2.50 g, 14.6 mmol, 85 %).  $R_{\rm F}$  0.29 (7:3, petrol ether-EtOAc);  $v_{\text{max}}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3429, 3301, 3012, 2108, 1689, 1634, 1586;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.83 (2 H, d, J 9.6), 7.72 (2 H, d, J 9.7), 7.56 (1 H, br s), 6.60 (1 H, dd, J 18.7, 1.5), 6.35 (1 H, dd, J 18.7, 11.3), 5.87 (1 H, dd, J 11.3, 1.5), 2.83 (1 H, s); δ<sub>C</sub> (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 163.6, 138.2, 133.0, 130.9, 128.4, 127.2, 119.6, 118.0, 83.3; *m/z* (ESI) 194 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 12 %), 172 (51); HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{11}H_{10}NO [M+H]^+$  172.0762, found 172.0755.

*N*-[4-(1-{3,5-Bis-[4-(4-acryloylamino-phenyl)-[1,2,3]triazol-1-ylmethyl]-benzyl}-1*H*-[1,2, 3]triazol-4-yl)-phenyl]-acrylamide, 31



1,3,5-Tris(azidomethyl)benzene **6** (301 mg, 1.24 mmol), **30** (633 mg, 3.70 mmol), 2,6-lutidine (140  $\mu$ L, 1.22 mmol) and CuSO<sub>4.5H2</sub>O (10 mol%, 31 mg, 0.123 mmol) were

added to DMSO (15 mL). Sodium ascorbate (436 mg, 2.20 mmol) was dissolved in water/DMSO (1:1, 4 mL) and added to the rest of the mixture which was then stirred for 2 min. The reaction was sealed, placed in a microwave reactor and heated at 120 °C for 20 min. The reaction was cooled to rt, then water (25 mL) was added and the solid was filtered, washing consecutively with  $H_2O$ , MeOH then EtOAc. The product **31** was dried in a vacuum oven and used without further purification.

#### General procedure for tristriazole ligands 32 - 36

The crude tristriazole **31** (1 eq) was dissolved in DMSO (0.1 M solution) and filtered. The amine (8 eq) was added and the reaction was heated to 70 °C (40 °C in the case of **32** and **33**) until mass spectrometry indicated the reaction had finished. The reaction was cooled to rt then brine (3 volumes) and H<sub>2</sub>O (2 volumes) were added. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C for  $\frac{1}{2}$  h then filtered and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O. A sample was purified by HPLC for spectroscopic analysis and biological testing.

*N*-{4-[1-(3,5-Bis-{4-[4-(3-dimethylamino-propionylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-ylmet hyl}-benzyl)-1*H*-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-3-dimethylamino-propionamide, 32



Obtained as a brown solid (157 mg, 0.176 mmol, 57 % over 2 steps).  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (400 MHz, MeOD) 8.33 (3 H, s), 7.76 (6 H, d, *J* 8.4), 7.68 (6 H, d, *J* 8.4), 7.36 (3 H, s), 5.68 (6 H, s), 3.53 (6 H, t, *J* 6.4), 2.97 (24 H, m);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (101 MHz, MeOD) 168.7, 147.5, 138.3, 137.4, 127.2, 126.1, 125.8, 120.8, 119.9, 53.8, 53.0, 42.3, 30.0; *m/z* (ESI) 892 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup> 100 %), 649 (5); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>48</sub>H<sub>58</sub>N<sub>15</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 892.4842, found 892.4806. *N*-{4-[1-(3,5-Bis-{4-[4-(3-diethylamino-propionylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-ylmethy

l}-benzyl)-1*H*-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-3-diethylamino-propionamide, 33



Obtained as a brown solid (57 mg, 0.054 mmol, 18 % over 2 steps).  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (400 MHz, MeOD) 8.34 (3 H, s), 7.77 (6 H, d, *J* 8.7), 7.69 (6 H, d, *J* 8.7), 7.37 (3 H, s), 5.68 (6 H, s), 3.55 (6 H, t, *J* 6.6), 3.32 (12 H, q, *J* 7.3), 2.96 (6 H, t, *J* 6.6), 1.40 (18 H, t, *J* 7.3);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (101 MHz, MeOD) 168.6, 147.5, 138.4, 137.4, 127.2, 126.1, 125.8, 120.8, 119.9, 95.0, 53.0, 47.3, 47.4, 29.8; *m/z* (ESI) 977 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup> 100 %), 721 (5); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>54</sub>H<sub>69</sub>N<sub>15</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 976.5781, found 976.5731.

*N*-{4-[1-(3,5-Bis-{4-[4-(3-pyrrolidin-1-yl-propionylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-ylmet hyl}-benzyl)-1*H*-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-3-pyrrolidin-1-yl-propionamide, 34



Obtained as a brown solid (120 mg, 0.124 mmol, 60 % over 2 steps).  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (400 MHz, MeOD) 8.32 (3 H, s), 7.75 (6 H, d, J 8.6), 7.67 (6 H, d, J 8.6), 7.35 (3 H, s), 5.67 (6 H, s), 3.75 (6 H, br s), 3.59 (6 H, t, J 6.5), 3.18 (6 H, br s), 2.96 (6 H, t, J 6.5), 2.19 (6 H, br s), 2.09 (6 H, br s);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (101 MHz, MeOD) 168.5, 147.5, 138.4, 137.4, 127.1, 126.1, 125.8, 120.8, 119.9, 54.1, 53.0, 50.9, 31.5, 22.6; *m/z* (ESI) 971 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup> 100 %); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>54</sub>H<sub>64</sub>N<sub>15</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 970.5311, found 970.5332.

*N*-{4-[1-(3,5-Bis-{4-[4-(3-piperidin-1-yl-propionylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-ylmeth yl}-benzyl)-1*H*-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-3-piperidin-1-yl-propionamide, 35



Obtained as a brown solid (171 mg, 0.169 mmol, 53 % over 2 steps).  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (400 MHz, MeOD) 8.32 (3 H, s), 7.75 (6 H, d, *J* 8.8), 7.66 (6 H, d, *J* 8.8), 7.35 (3 H, s), 5.67 (6 H, s), 3.63 (6 H, m), 3.50 (6 H, t, *J* 6.8), 3.03 (6 H, m), 2.97 (6 H, t, *J* 6.8), 2.00 (6 H, m), 1.83 (9 H, m), 1.57 (3 H, m);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (101 MHz, MeOD) 168.4, 147.5, 138.4, 137.4, 127.2, 126.1, 125.8, 120.8, 119.9, 53.2, 53.0, 52.7, 30.0, 22.8, 21.2; *m/z* (ESI) 1013 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup> 25 %), 539 (18), 507 (100); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>57</sub>H<sub>70</sub>N<sub>15</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 1012.5781, found 1012.5738. *N*-{4-[1-(3,5-Bis-{4-[4-(3-morpholin-4-yl-propionylamino)-phenyl]-[1,2,3]triazol-1-ylmet

hyl}-benzyl)-1*H*-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-3-morpholin-4-yl-propionamide,



Obtained as a brown solid (96 mg, 0.094 mmol, 36 % over 2 steps).  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (400 MHz, MeOD) 8.32 (3 H, s), 7.76 (6 H, d, *J* 8.8), 7.68 (6 H, d, *J* 8.7), 7.37 (3 H, s), 5.68 (6 H, s), 4.10 (6 H, br s), 3.85 (6 H, br s), 3.59 (12 H, t, *J* 6.7), 3.25 (6 H, br s), 3.00 (6 H, t, *J* 6.6);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (101 MHz, MeOD) 168.3, 147.5, 138.4, 137.4, 127.2, 126.1, 125.8, 120.8, 119.9, 63.6, 53.0, 53.0, 52.0, 29.6; *m/z* (ESI) 1019 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup> 19 %), 589 (3), 510 (100); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>54</sub>H<sub>64</sub>N<sub>15</sub>O<sub>6</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 1018.5159, found 1018.5104.





























ppm (t1)











119.898 120.838 125.829 126.079 127.137 137.385 138.375 147.460 2<u>1.216</u> 22.824 168.403 5<del>2.670</del> 5<del>2.959</del> 53.191 29.993 | 200 ppm (t1) 50 | 150 | 100 0 13.15 11.95 1 5.44 6.05 2.79 6.20 2.79 5.92 L\_\_\_\_ 0.0 10.0 ppm (t1) 5.0



## **HPLC Procedures**

Preparative HPLC was performed with an Agilent Technologies 1200 series system using a reverse phase column (YMC Co., Ltd., YMC-Pack R&D ODS-A,  $100 \times 20$  mm I.D., particle size S-5 µm, 12 nm). Analytical HPLC was carried out on using the same instrument as for preparative HPLC, using a reverse phase column (YMC Co., Ltd., YMC-Pack R&D ODS-A,  $100 \times 4.6$  mm I.D., particle size S-5 µm, 12 nm). Solvents were HPLC grade purchased from Fischer Scientific.

#### Solvents

Solvent A: MeOH/0.1% TFA

Solvent B: H<sub>2</sub>O/0.1% TFA

#### **Preparative HPLC**

Flow rate: 3.5 mL/min; Run program: 0-2 min, 10% solvent A. 2-40 min, gradient from 10% solvent A to 35% solvent A. 40-60 min, gradient from 35% solvent A to 75% solvent A. 60-70 min, gradient from 75% solvent A to 100% solvent A. 70-80 min, 100% solvent A.

## **Analytical HPLC**

Flow rate: 1.25mL/min; Run program: 0-2 min, 10% solvent A. 2-40 min, gradient from 10% solvent A to 35% solvent A. 40-55 min, gradient from 35% solvent A to 75% solvent A. 55-60 min, gradient from 75% solvent A to 100% solvent A.

# **HPLC Traces**



















#	Time	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
1	44.247	114.8	7.2	0.2463	0.177	0.845
2	45.063	31.9	2	0.254	0.049	0.833
3	46.307	361.4	25.2	0.2212	0.556	0.783
4	47.592	152.7	9.6	0.2203	0.235	0.752
5	48.238	63457	2612.1	0.3934	97.662	0.16
6	49.188	255.5	11.9	0.2756	0.393	0.202
7	49.818	380.8	32.7	0.172	0.586	0.872
8	52.103	139.8	18.2	0.1194	0.215	0.954
9	60.446	13.1	1.8	0.1121	0.020	0.947
10	60.861	11.2	1.4	0.1209	0.017	1.046
11	62.101	7.2 1.2	0.0877	0.011	1.096	
12	62.284	22.1	4	0.0868	0.034	1.068
13	64.89	28.8	7.1	0.0615	0.044	0.954







24	59.321	9	1.2	0.1177	0.012	0.932
25	62.266	14	2.2	0.0977	0.018	0.904
26	62.543	14.4	1.8	0.1152	0.019	0.725







## **MS Experimental Procedures**

Electrospray ionization mass spectrometry was performed on a Waters (Altrincham, UK) Synapt High Definition Mass Spectrometer (HDMS) - a hybrid quadrupole/ion mobility/orthogonal acceleration time of flight (oa-TOF) instrument operated in the negative ion mode. Samples were infused to the standard electrospray (z-spray) source using a Harvard apparatus 22 dual syringe pump, model 55-2222 and 100  $\mu$ L Hamilton syringes, at infusion rates between 3-5  $\mu$ L/min. The capillary of the ESI source was held at -2.5 kV, and the sample cone operated at -10-20V, required to preserve non-covalent interactions. The oa-TOF-MS was operated over the scanning range of *m*/*z* 500-10000 at a pressure of 1.8 x 10<sup>-6</sup> mbar.

#### Sample preparation

G-Quadruplex samples were prepared in ammonium acetate buffer (25 mM, pH 7) at 10  $\mu$ M. Triazole ligand **28** was titrated in to the solution to give final concentrations between 5 and 25  $\mu$ M.

# **Mass Spectra**



## 10 $\mu$ M *h*-Tel + 5 $\mu$ M ligand **28**



10 μM *h*-Tel + 7.5 μM ligand **28** 







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## 10 μM *h*-Tel + 15 μM ligand **28**



10 μM *h*-Tel + 20 μM ligand **28** 



10 μM h-Tel + 20 μM ligand 28 Repeat



10 μM *h*-Tel + 10 μM ligand **28** Repeat



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**MS** Plots

Fig. S1 Plot of G-quadruplex:28 complex ([QL]) over free G-quadruplex concentration ([G]) vs concentration of 28 in solution ([L]), revealing a  $K_D$  of 23  $\mu$ M (reciprocal of the slope) for the first binding event. Data derived from ESI-MS titration measurements.





Fig. S2 A plot of fraction of each species (G-quadruplex = diamonds; G-quadruplex:28 = squares; G-quadruplex:(28)<sub>2</sub> = triangles) vs fraction of sites occupied. Data derived from ESI-MS analysis of the G-quadruplex:28 complex.

#### References

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- 2) Y. Song, E. K. Kohlmeir and T. J. Meade, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2008, 130, 6662.