#### **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Synthesis and duplex-forming ability of oligonucleotides containing 4'-carboxythymidine analogs

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Scheme S1 Synthetic route of oligonucleotide S6.

(2'*R*)-2'-Deoxy-2'-*N*,3'-*O*-2-(Trichloromethyl)oxazolino-5'-*O*-trityl-5-methyluridine (S2): Under a nitrogen atmosphere, Et<sub>3</sub>N (58 µL, 0.41 mmol) was added to a solution of compound S1<sup>1</sup> (1.00 g, 2.07 mmol) in CCl<sub>3</sub>CN (4.0 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 12 h. The resulting mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue (1.60 g) was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 30 g, *n*-hexane:EtOAc = 3:2) to give compound S2 (556 mg, 42%) as a white foam. Mp: 104–108 °C.  $[\alpha]_D^{22}$  +12.2 (c 1.00, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). IR:  $\nu_{max}$  (KBr): 3168, 3055, 2927, 1695, 1478, 1448, 1368, 1306, 1263 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.82 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 3H), 3.46 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (ddd, *J* = 4.0, 4.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (dd, *J* = 4.5, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15–7.46 (m, 16H), 9.58 (brs, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 12.10, 63.91, 85.76, 86.83, 86.86, 86.98, 95.19, 111.43, 127.15, 127.40, 127.80, 127.97, 128.51, 128.61, 138.61, 143.14, 143.37, 149.98, 163.12, 163.93. MS (EI): m/z = 625 (M<sup>+</sup>, 0.3), 384 (3.1), 382 (3.2), 368 (4.8), 331 (3.1), 366 (5.1), 243 (100). HRMS (EI): Calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>26</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>5</sub> [M<sup>+</sup>], 625.0938, found, 625.0963.

(2'*R*)-2'-Trifluoroacetamidothymidine (S3): A solution of compound S2 (507 mg, 0.809 mmol) in 80% AcOH (10 mL) was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was concentrated in vacuo. The obtained residue (515 mg) was dissolved in anhydrous MeOH (10 mL), then Et<sub>3</sub>N (56 µL, 0.40 mmol) and CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Et (70 µL, 0.89 mmol) were added to this solution at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1.5 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue (540 mg) was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 15 g, CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH = 15:1 to 5:1) to give compound S3 (185 mg, 65%, 2 steps) as a white powder. Mp: 172–177 °C.  $[\alpha]_D^{21}$  +1.1 (c 1.00, MeOH). IR:  $\nu_{max}$  (KBr): 3494, 3250, 2989, 2699, 2506, 1682, 1474, 1428, 1270, 1205 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 1.86 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 3H), 3.79 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (dd, *J* = 3.0, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.11–4.12 (m, 1H), 4.37 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 12.56, 57.34, 62.93, 87.70, 88.82, 112.00, 117.67 (q, *J* = 290 Hz), 137.85, 152.65, 162.10 (q, *J* = 39 Hz), 166.06. MS (EI): *m*/*z* = 353 (M<sup>+</sup>, 2.9), 264 (2.1), 240 (10.1), 228 (30.6), 203

(10.1), 180 (86.4), 168 (21.6), 152 (31.9), 138 (15.3), 126 (55.5), 110 (24.8), 95 (19.8), 84 (38.1), 69 (100). HRMS (EI): Calcd for  $C_{12}H_{14}F_3N_3O_6$  [M<sup>+</sup>], 353.0835, found, 353.0824.

(2'*R*)-5'-*O*-(4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl)-2'-trifluoroacetamidothymidine (S4): Under a nitrogen atmosphere, DMTrCl (253 mg, 0.747 mmol) was added to a solution of compound S3 (132 mg, 0.374 mmol) in anhydrous pyridine (2.0 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2.5 h. The reaction was quenched with sat. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> at 0 °C, and the product was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layer was washed with water and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue (422 mg) was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 15 g, CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH = 30:1) to give compound S4 (202 mg, 83%) as a white powder. Mp: 242–243 °C.  $[\alpha]_D^{22}$  +7.8 (c 1.00, MeOH). IR:  $v_{max}$  (KBr): 3444, 3263, 3062, 2932, 2838, 1728, 1702, 1607, 1508, 1469, 1382, 1302, 1252 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 1.32 (s, 3H), 3.41–3.44 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 4.21 (m, 1H), 4.46 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.29 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.87–7.57 (m, 13H), 8.31 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 10.64, 54.45, 55.46, 63.22, 70.56, 84.50, 85.39, 86.83, 111.28, 112.71, 115.27 (q, *J* = 286 Hz), 120.84, 126.66, 127.48, 127.70, 129.64, 134.48, 134.72, 135.27, 136.60, 143.44, 151.05, 158.28, 157.82 (q, *J* = 37 Hz), 164.25. MS (EI): m/z = 655 (M<sup>+</sup>, 7.8), 336 (2.1), 303 (100), 288 (8.8), 228 (16.5), 180 (27.3). HRMS (EI): Calcd for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>32</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> [M<sup>+</sup>], 655.2141, found, 655.2133.

(2'*R*)-3'-*O*-[2-Cyanoethoxy(diisopropylamino)phosphino]-5'-*O*-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-triflu oroacetamidothymidine (S5): Under a nitrogen atmosphere, DIPEA (0.28 mL, 1.6 mmol) and *i*-Pr<sub>2</sub>NP(Cl)OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CN (81  $\mu$ L, 0.37 mmol) were added to a solution of compound S4 (202 mg, 0.310 mmol) in anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2.0 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction was quenched with sat. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> at 0 °C, and the product was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layer was washed with sat. NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, water and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue (280 mg) was chromatographed (silica gel, 15 g, CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH = 30:1) to give S5 with a small amount of impurity (201 mg), which was reprecipitated to give compound S5 (188 mg, 71%) as a white powder. Mp: 118–123 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.05–1.19 (m, 12H), 1.32 (s, 1.5H), 1.34 (s, 1.5H), 2.31–2.62 (m, 2H), 3.34–3.97 (m, 12H), 4.27 (m, 0.5H), 4.45–4.50 (m, 1H), 4.66 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 9.5 Hz, 0.5H), 4.94–5.11 (m, 1H), 6.39 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 0.5H), 6.42 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 0.5H), 6.85–7.44 (m, 13H), 7.62 (s, 0.5H), 7.68 (s, 0.5H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 0.5H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.5H), 9.67 (brs, 1H). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (161 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 150.32, 151.67. MS (FAB): *m*/z = 856 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (FAB): Calcd for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>50</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>9</sub>P [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 856.3298, found, 856.3301.

**Synthesis of oligonucleotide S6:** Phosphoramidite **S5** was used and the 0.2  $\mu$ mol scale synthesis of oligonucleotides was performed on an automated DNA synthesizer (Applied Biosystems Expedite<sup>TM</sup> 8909) using a standard phosphoramidite protocol (DMTr-ON mode). After treatment with 28% NH<sub>3</sub> aq., rt, 1.5 h then 55 °C, 12 h, removal of ammonia was carried out *in vacuo*. The

crude **S6** was purified with Sep-Pak<sup>®</sup> Plus C18 cartridges (Waters) followed by reversed-phase HPLC (Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5  $\mu$ m, 10 x 50 mm). The composition of **S6** was confirmed by MALDI-TOF mass analysis. Yield and MALDI-TOF-MS data ([M-H]<sup>-</sup>) for **S6**; 26% yield, found 3646.68 (calcd 3647.38).

#### References

J. F. Codington, I. L. Doerr and J. J. Fox, J. Org. Chem., 1964, 29, 558; I. A. Mikhailopulo, G. V. Zaitseva, E. V. Vaaks, J. Balzarini, E. De Clercq, H. Rosemeyer and F. Seela, *Liebigs Ann. Chem.*, 1993, 513.

# ON1a

### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min. Column temp. : 50°C.



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### ON1b

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min. Column temp. : 50°C.





### ON1c

### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min. Column temp. : 50°C.





# ON1d

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5  $\mu$ m, 4.6  $\times$  50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min. Column temp. : 50°C.





### ON2a

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min. Column temp. : 50°C.





#### ON2b

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min.

Column temp. : 50°C.







### ON2c

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min.

Column temp. : 50°C.





### ON2d

### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min.

Column temp. : 50°C.





# ON3a

### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min. Column temp. : 50°C.





#### ON3b

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min.

Column temp. : 50°C.





# ON3c

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min. Column temp. : 50°C.



## ON3d

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min. Column temp. : 50°C.





### ON4a

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min. Column temp. : 50°C.





#### ON4b

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 7-13% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min.

Column temp. : 50°C.





#### ON4c

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min. Column temp. : 50°C.





# ON4d

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min.

Column temp. : 50°C.





### ON5a

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min.

Column temp. : 50°C.





#### ON6a

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm.

Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer.

Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min. Column temp. : 50°C.





#### **S6**

#### HPLC

Column : Waters XBridge<sup>®</sup> MS  $C_{18}$  2.5 µm, 4.6 × 50 mm. Gradient : 5-11% MeCN in triethylammonium acetate (0.1 M, pH 7.0) buffer. Flow rate : 1.0 mL/min. Column temp. : 50°C.

















Compound 1 (diastereoisomers on the basis of chirality at the phosphorus)

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# Compound S2



# Compound S3



# Compound S4





