



Discovery and Optimization of HIF-2 α Inhibitors

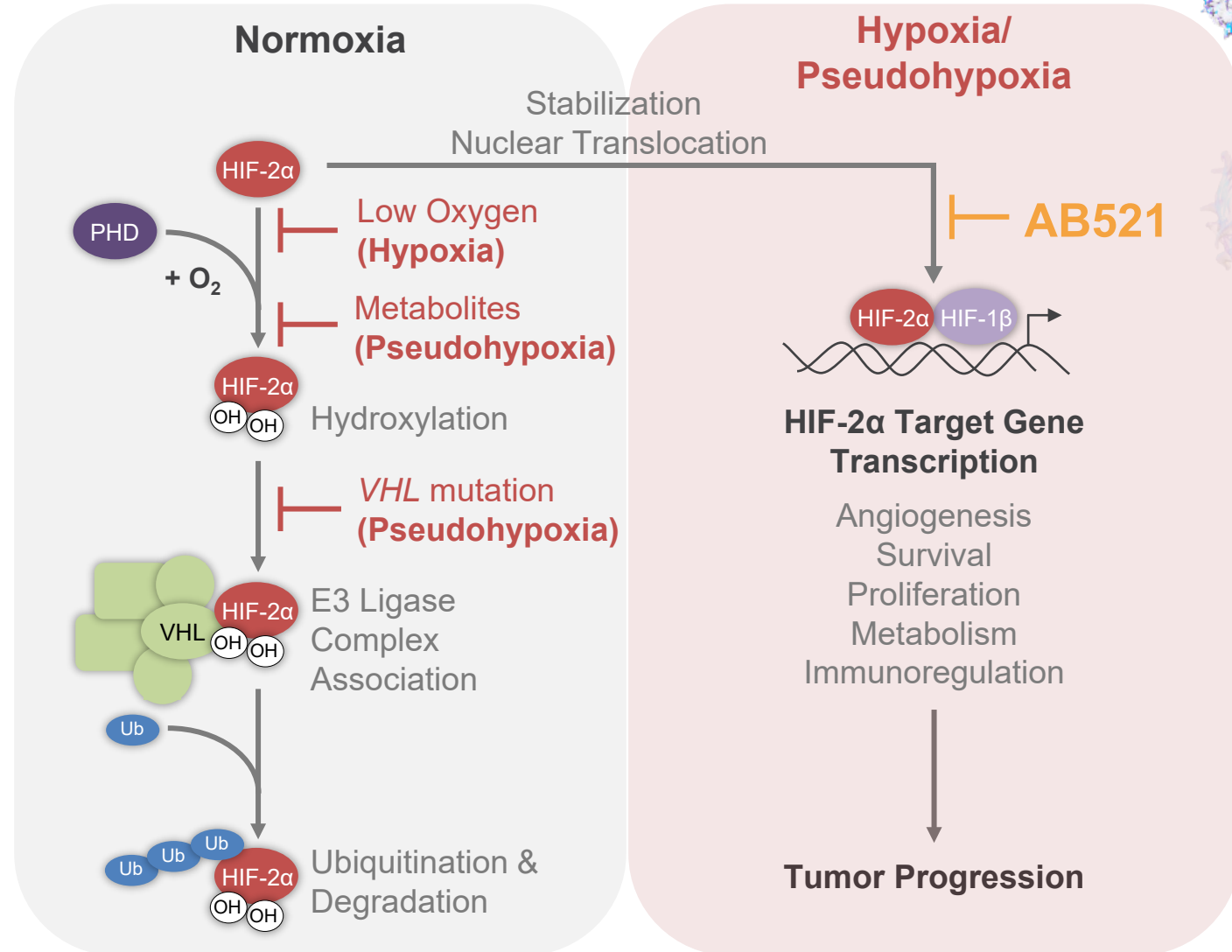
Ken Lawson

Discovery on Target - Small Molecules for Cancer Targets – Part 2

September 28th, 2023

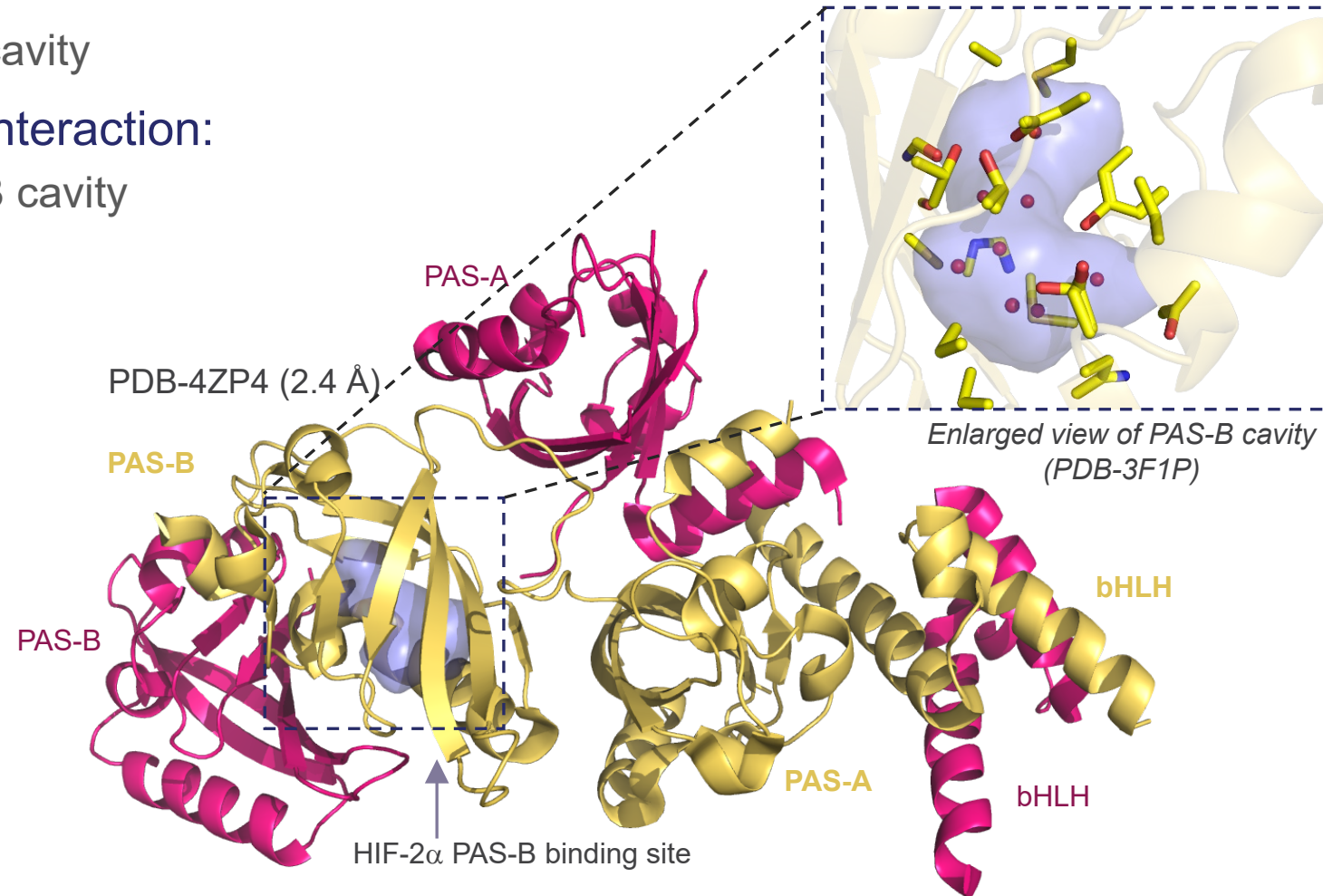
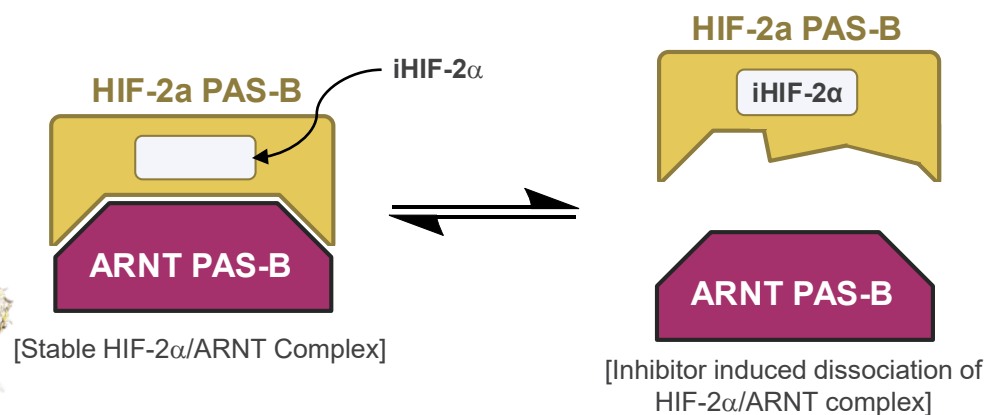
HIF-2 α Drives Physiological Changes to Adapt to Low Oxygen That are Hijacked by the Tumor

- HIF-2 α protein levels are exquisitely controlled in the cell
- HIF-2 α is a transcription factor comprised of two proteins
 - Stably-expressed β subunit (HIF-1 β /ARNT)
 - Oxygen-sensitive α subunit (HIF-2 α)
 - HIF-1 α and HIF-3 α isoforms exist
- Therapeutic Hypothesis
 - HIF-2 α drives transcriptional changes that promote tumor progression in **hypoxia** or **pseudohypoxia**
 - Disrupting α - β dimer formation will prevent gene transcription and block tumor progression



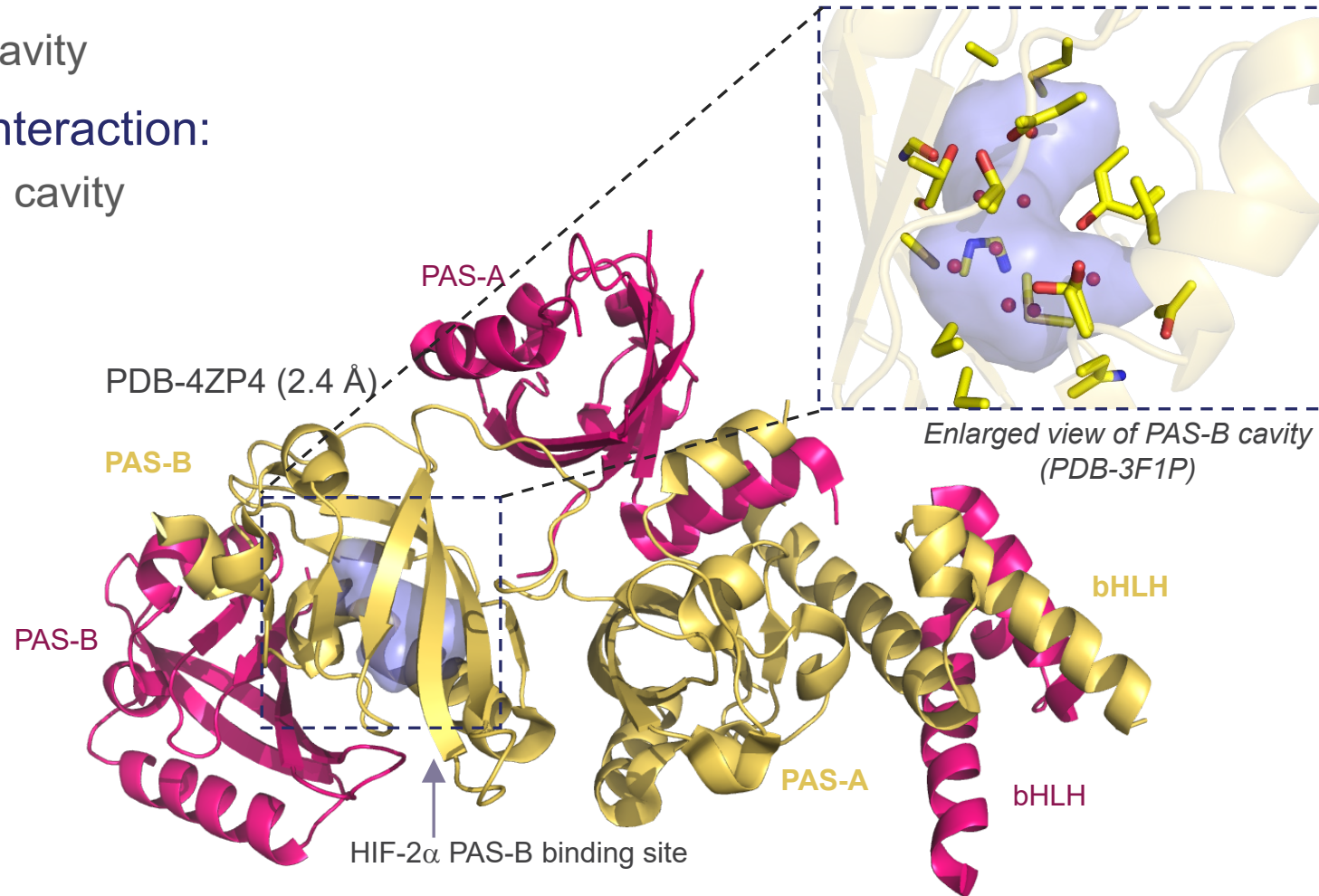
Fundamentals of Targeting the HIF-2 α /ARNT Complex

- X-ray crystal structure shows internal hydrophobic cavity ($\sim 290 \text{ \AA}^3$) with 8 water molecules¹
 - HIF-1 α lacks analogous hydrophobic cavity
- Basis for regulation of protein-protein interaction:
 - Small molecule binds to HIF-2 α PAS-B cavity
 - conformational change
 - HIF dimerization disrupted
 - gene transcription inactive



Fundamentals of Targeting the HIF-2 α /ARNT Complex

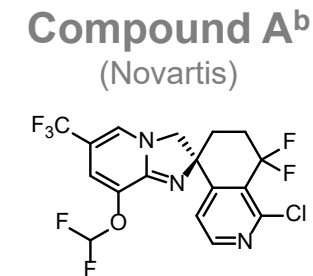
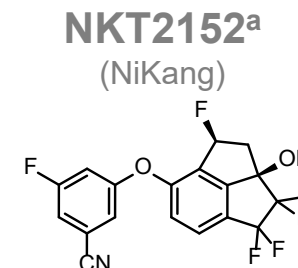
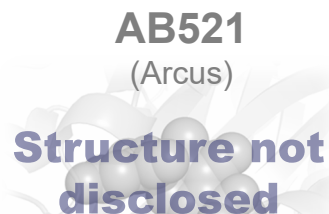
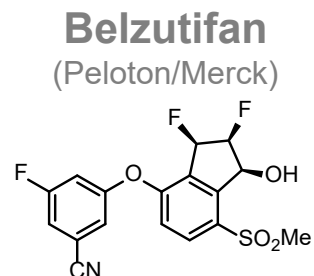
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 - HIF-1 α lacks analogous hydrophobic cavity
- Basis for regulation of protein-protein interaction:
 - Small molecule binds to HIF-2 α PAS-B cavity
 - conformational change
 - HIF dimerization disrupted
 - gene transcription inactive
- Design challenges:
 - Small internal pocket limits ligand size
 - Binding affinity may not correlate with functional activity
 - High affinity ligands often possess undesirable physicochemical properties (high lipophilicity)
 - Intellectual property considerations



Status and Characterization of Clinical HIF-2 α Inhibitors

- HIF-2 α inhibition (Belzutifan) has demonstrated significant clinical activity in patients with advanced ccRCC¹

Assay



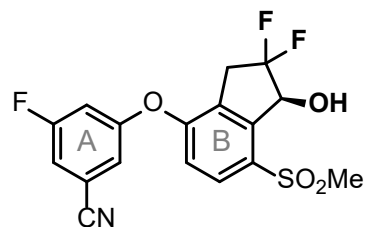
ccRCC Clinical Trial Status	Phase 3 ^c	Phase 1/1b	Phase 1/2	Phase 1/1b
HIF-2 α Reporter Gene Assay ^d IC ₅₀ (nM)	17 \pm 10 (n = 8)	8.2 \pm 2.5 (n = 24)	5.3 \pm 1.4 (n = 3)	19 \pm 8.7 (n = 9)
Reporter Control ^d IC ₅₀ (nM)	> 10,000	> 10,000	> 10,000	> 10,000
HIF-2 α 786-O Luc. 100% Serum IC ₅₀ (nM)	62 \pm 6.6 (n = 4)	47 \pm 14 (n = 24)	120 \pm 13 (n = 2)	270 \pm 73 (n = 9)

^aPrepared according to WO2022086822. ^bPrepared according to WO2021220170, compound A. ^cBelzutifan is approved for treatment of VHL disease. ^d786-O renal adenocarcinoma cells (mutant for VHL and HIF-1 α) stably expressing HIF or control CMV luciferase (Luc) reporter constructs

- Arcus's clinical HIF-2 α inhibitor, AB521, is presently in clinical development and has demonstrated a favorable PK/PD and safety profile in healthy human volunteers

Design and Discovery of Arcus Back-up HIF-2 α Inhibitors

- Pharmacophore mapping and structure-aided design approach toward novel starting points

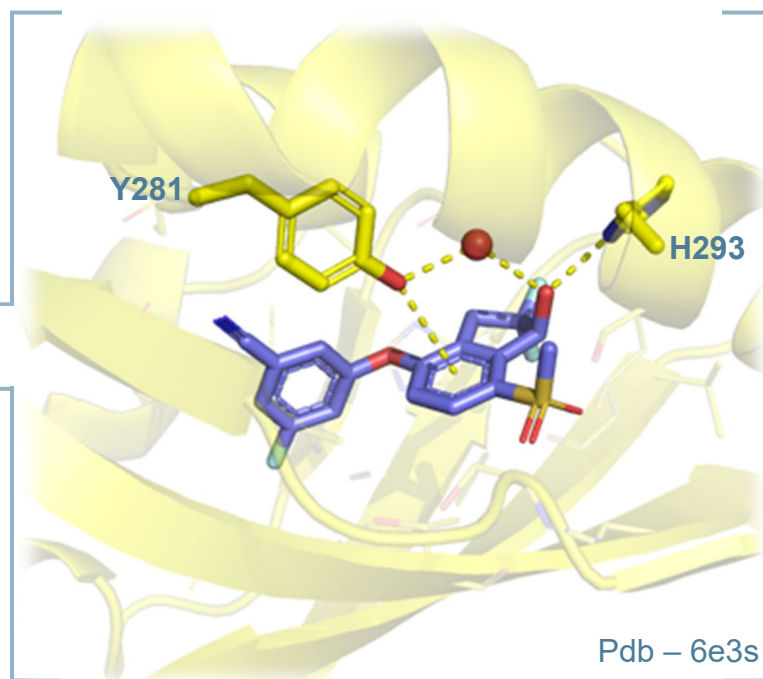


PT2385

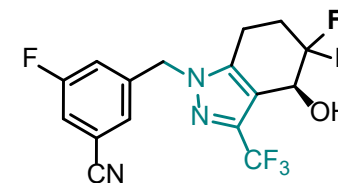
HIF-2 α Biochemical (SPA) IC₅₀ = 35.7 nM
 HIF-2 α Cell-Based (Luc) IC₅₀ = 27.4 nM
 HIF-2 α 100% Serum (Luc) IC₅₀ = 186 nM

(Peloton's 1st-generation HIF-2 α inhibitor)

PT2385 bound to HIF-2 α PAS-B domain¹



Pdb – 6e3s

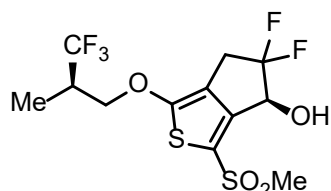


Compound 1

HIF-2 α Biochemical IC₅₀ > 20,000 nM
 HIF-2 α Cell-Based IC₅₀ > 10,000 nM
 HIF-2 α 100% Serum (Luc) IC₅₀ > 40,000 nM

Tetrahydroindazole Core Design

Cycloalkyl[c]thiophenes HIF-2 α inhibitors
 by Merck KGaA³



ITC: K_D = 42 nM
 VEGF-A ELISA IC₅₀ = 305 nM

Key HIF-2 α PAS-B/inhibitor interactions:

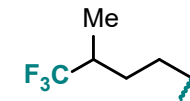
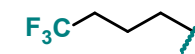
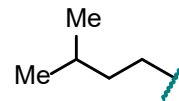
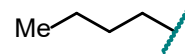
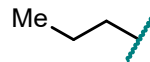
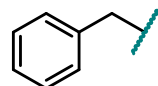
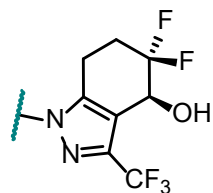
Y281 $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ - Interaction is stronger when aromatic ring (B) is electron deficient²

H293-[PT2385]-[H₂O]-Y281 Hydrogen bonding network is critical for binding

A-Ring – Hydrophobic/non-specific interactions

Moderate-to-Good Potency Observed with Aliphatic A-Ring Replacements

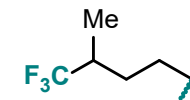
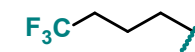
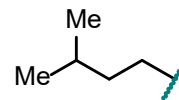
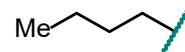
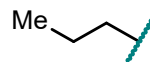
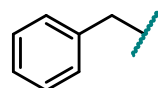
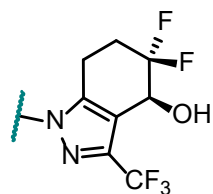
- Incorporation of lipophilic side-chains led to significant potency gains
 - Generally good correlation between biochemical binding (SPA) and cell-based functional assays (786-O Luciferase)



Compound ID	2	3	4	5	6	7
HIF-2 α Biochemical IC ₅₀ (nM)	> 20,000	4,850	946	164	89.2	44.1
HIF-2 α Cell-Based (nM)	> 10,000	4,610	727	154	59.2	116
HIF-2 α Cell-Based 100% Serum IC ₅₀ (nM)	> 40,000	> 40,000	> 40,000	4,780	736	965

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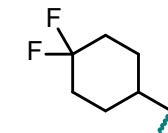
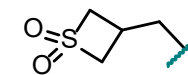
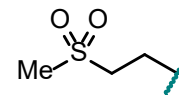
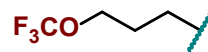
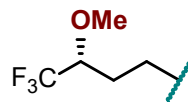
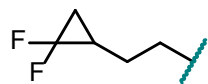
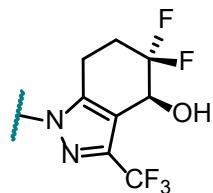


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HIF-2 α Cell-Based 100% Serum IC ₅₀ (nM)	> 40,000	> 40,000	> 40,000	4,780	736	965
Hepatocyte CL _{int} (μ L/min/10 ⁶ cells) hu / rat	-	-	95 / 190	-	260 / 110	270 / 160
CYP Inh. IC ₅₀ (μ M) 2C8 / 2C9 / 2C19 / 2D6 / 3A4	-	-	-	-	-	>40 / >40 / 8.1 / 18 / 30
CYP TDI (% Act. loss, 30 min) 2C8 / 2C9 / 2D6 / 3A4	-	-	-	-	-	0 / 0 / 2 / 6

- Lipophilic inhibitors offered sub-optimal properties (oils) and poor hepatocyte stability

Balancing Polarity of Side-Chains Reduces Hepatocyte Intrinsic Clearance

- Sulfone-containing side-chains '0113 and 0309 demonstrate reduced clearance to human and rat hepatocytes
 - Reduced HIF-2 α potency was observed with incorporation of polar groups

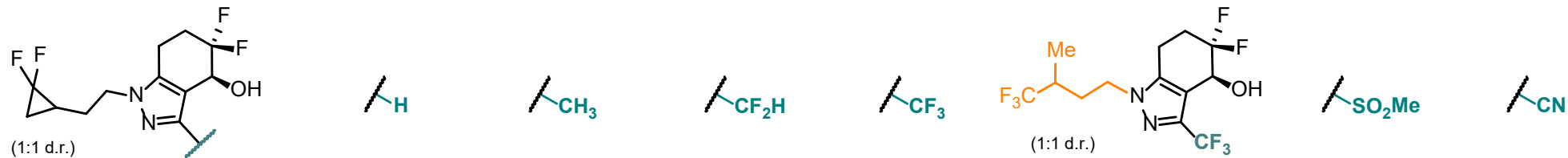


Compound ID	8	9	10	11	12	13
HIF-2 α Biochemical IC ₅₀ (nM)	65.2	n.d.	n.d.	205	153	692
HIF-2 α Cell-Based (nM)	49.3	12.9	29.5	383	342	767
HIF-2 α Cell-Based 100% Serum IC ₅₀ (nM)	328	59.0	230	2,200	570	> 40,000
Hepatocyte CL _{int} (μ L/min/10 ⁶ cells) hu / rat	235 / 174	63 / 184	216 / 198	< 2.7 / 32.2	15.3 / < 2.7	< 2.7 / 4.8
cLogP	4.3	3.0	4.4	1.6	2.5	3.9

- Cyclic motifs exhibit reduced potency, but improved hepatocyte stability despite high lipophilicity

A Highly Electron Deficient Pyrazole is Required to Retain HIF-2 α Potency

- Strong electron withdrawing groups (e.g. $-\text{CF}_3$) are highly preferred at pyrazole C3 position
 - Sulfone and nitrile groups lead to reduced SAR, contrasting published SAR for binding in this region

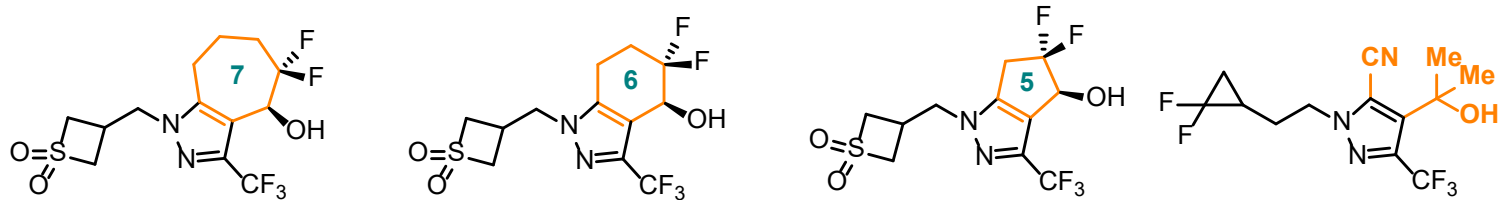


Compound ID	14	15	16	8	7	17	18
HIF-2 α Biochemical IC ₅₀ (nM)	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	65.2	44.1	2,150	797
HIF-2 α Cell-Based (nM)	> 10,000	> 10,000	1,380	49.3	116	4,100	973
HIF-2 α Cell-Based 100% Serum IC ₅₀ (nM)	> 40,000	> 40,000	10,600	328	965	> 30,000	6,600

- Reducing lipophilicity by replacement of trifluoromethyl group was untenable

[6,5] and [5,5]-Cycloalkyl-Pyrazole Inhibitors Exhibit Similar Potency

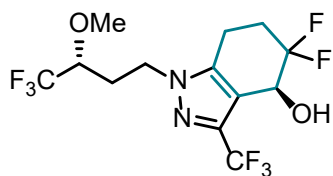
- Investigation of cycloalkyl-carbinol revealed [6,5] and [5,5] rings systems exhibited similar potency
 - Larger [7,5] rings or acyclic inhibitor designs were inactive



Compound ID	19	12	20	21
HIF-2 α Cell-Based (nM)	> 10,000	342	208	> 10,000
HIF-2 α Cell-Based 100% Serum IC ₅₀ (nM)	> 40,000	570	411	> 40,000
Hepatocyte CL _{int} (μ L/min/10 ⁶ cells) hu / rat	n.d.	15.3 / < 2.7	5.0 / 47	n.d.

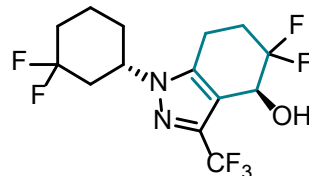
Further Investigation of [5,5]-Core Scaffold Revealed SAR Divergence

- Broadly, HIF-2 α potency for acyclic pyrazole-N1 side chains track well
- In contrast, substituted cyclohexane substituents are only well-tolerated in [5,5]-core
 - Cyclohexane containing analog '1190 exhibited Low CL_{int} in human hepatocytes



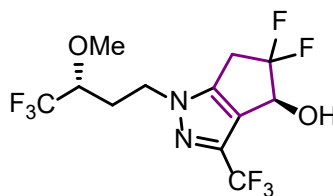
Compound 9

HIF-2 α Luc IC₅₀ = 12.9 nM₁
 HIF-2 α 100% Serum IC₅₀ = 59 nM₁
 Hep. CL_{int} (h/r; μ L/min/10⁶cells) = 63 / 184



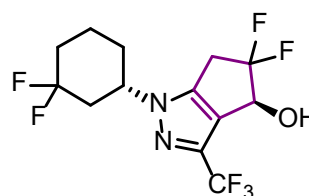
Compound 22

HIF-2 α Luc IC₅₀ = 6.5 μ M₁
 HIF-2 α 100% Serum IC₅₀ > 40.0 μ M₁
 Hep. CL_{int} (h/r; μ L/min/10⁶cells) = n.d.



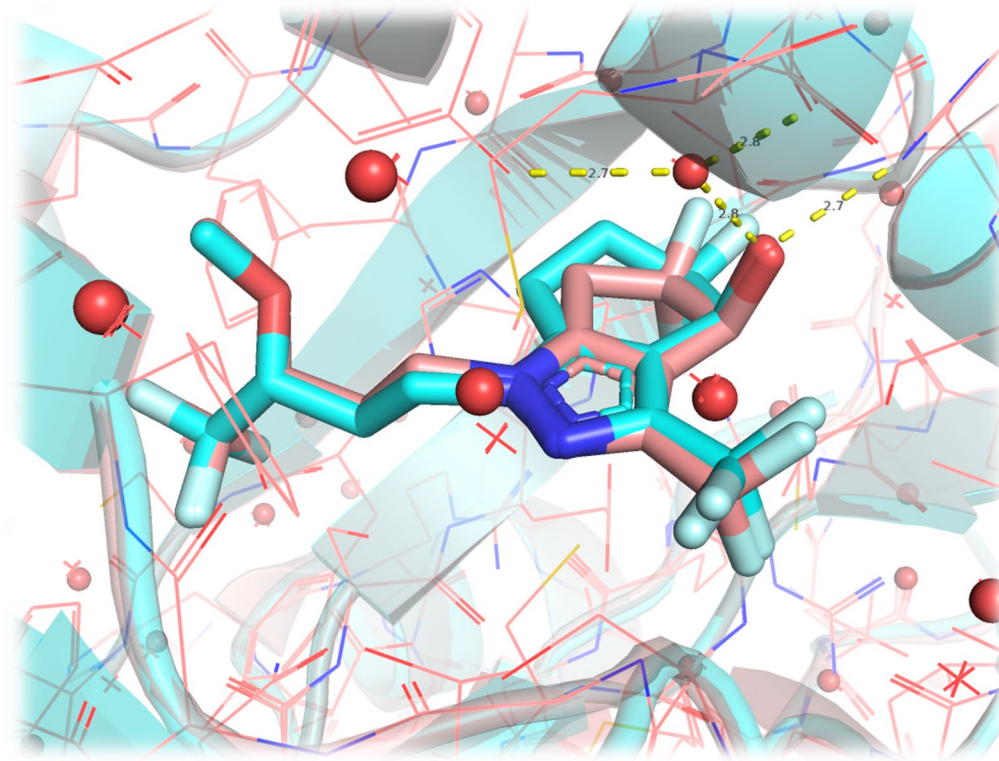
Compound 23

HIF-2 α Luc IC₅₀ = 19.9 nM₁
 HIF-2 α 100% Serum IC₅₀ = 172 nM₁
 Hep. CL_{int} (h/r; μ L/min/10⁶cells) = 98 / 227



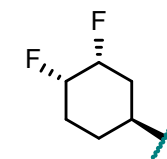
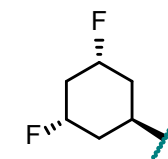
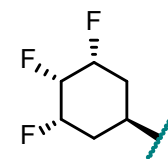
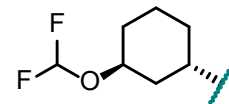
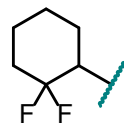
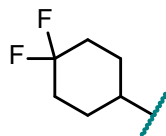
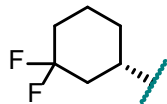
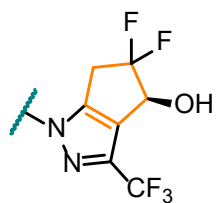
Compound 24

HIF-2 α Luc IC₅₀ = 35.3 nM₁
 HIF-2 α 100% Serum IC₅₀ = 422 nM₁
 Hep. CL_{int} (h/r; μ L/min/10⁶cells) = 6.3 / 23



Further Optimization of B-Ring Cyclohexane Increased Potency and Improved Metabolic Stability in vitro

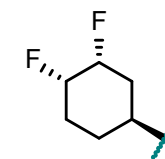
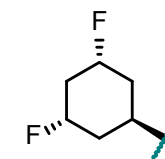
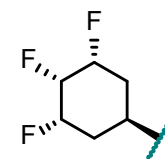
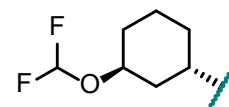
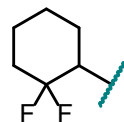
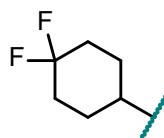
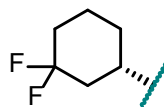
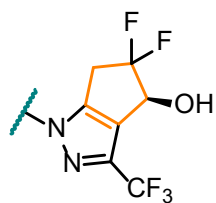
- Pharmacokinetic properties were highly variable, but broadly improved with increased polarity of cyclohexyl group
 - Syn*-fluorine substitution proved optimal pathway to increase polarity without diminishing target potency



Compound ID	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
HIF-2 α Cell-Based (nM)	41.3	86.6	3,530	92.4	60.4	206	39.2
HIF-2 α Cell-Based 100% Serum IC ₅₀ (nM)	372	628	> 40,000	1,790	336	1,070	154
Hepatocyte CL _{int} (μ L/min/10 ⁶ cells) hu / rat	6.3 / 23	26 / 70	n.d.	38 / 42	6.3 / 3.9	13 / 24	5.0 / 13
cLogP	4.4	3.8	4.4	5.5	3.1	3.7	3.3

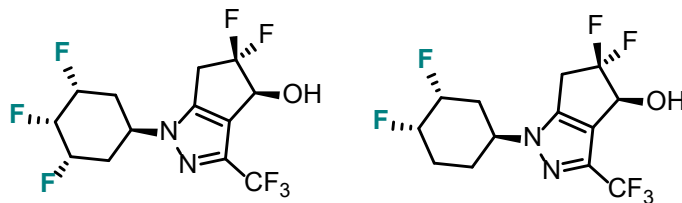
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HIF-2 α Cell-Based (nM)	41.3	86.6	3,530	92.4	60.4	206	39.2
HIF-2 α Cell-Based 100% Serum IC ₅₀ (nM)	372	628	> 40,000	1,790	336	1,070	154
Hepatocyte CL _{int} (μ L/min/10 ⁶ cells) hu / rat	6.3 / 23	26 / 70	n.d.	38 / 42	6.3 / 3.9	13 / 24	5.0 / 13
cLogP	4.4	3.8	4.4	5.5	3.1	3.7	3.3

Lead Inhibitors Exhibit Encouraging Potency and Pharmacokinetic Profile



Compound ID	28	30
HIF-2 α Cell-Based (nM)	60.4	39.2
HIF-2 α Cell-Based 100% Serum IC ₅₀ (nM)	336	154
Hepatocyte CL _{int} (μ L/min/10 ⁶ cells) hu / rat	6.3 / 3.9	5.0 / 13
CYP Inh. IC ₅₀ (μ M) 2C8 / 2C9 / 2C19 / 2D6 / 3A4	>40 / >40 / >40 / >40 / >40	>40 / >40 / >40 / >40 / >40
CYP TDI (% Act. loss, 30 min) 2C8 / 2C9 / 2D6 / 3A4	0 / 0 / 0 / 3.7	0 / 0 / 0 / 0
MDCK-II-MDR1 P _{app} (A-B, cm/s•10 ⁻⁶)	30 (ER = 0.9)	33 (ER = 0.6)
Plasma Protein Binding (%Unbound, UC)	n.d.	23% / 21%
Rat PK Parameters: CL (L/h/kg) / %F	2.5 / 129%	5.2 / 67%

Progress towards target profile for 2nd-Gen Inhibitors

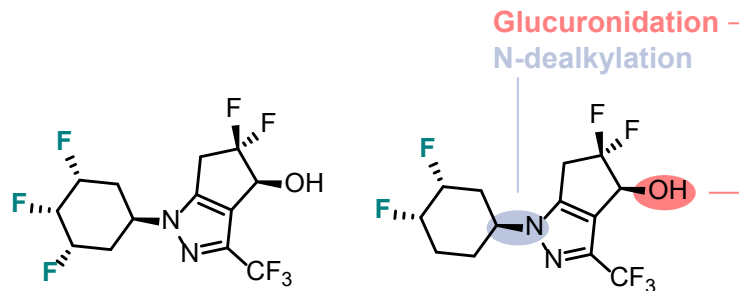
• Favorable attributes of lead inhibitors

- ✓ Target potency in HIF-2 α serum assay
- ✓ Low CL_{int} in human hepatocytes
- ✓ Clean CYP inhibition profile
- ✓ High permeability/predicted oral bioavailability

• Areas for continued optimization

- Poor correlation of systemic clearance in rodents with in vitro predictors

Metabolite ID Reveals O-Glucuronidation as Primary Metabolic Pathway



Compound ID	28	30
HIF-2 α Cell-Based (nM)	60.4	39.2
HIF-2 α Cell-Based 100% Serum IC ₅₀ (nM)	336	154
Hepatocyte CL _{int} (μ L/min/10 ⁶ cells) hu / rat	6.3 / 3.9	5.0 / 13
CYP Inh. IC ₅₀ (μ M) 2C8 / 2C9 / 2C19 / 2D6 / 3A4	>40 / >40 / >40 / >40 / >40	>40 / >40 / >40 / >40 / >40
CYP TDI (% Act. loss, 30 min) 2C8 / 2C9 / 2D6 / 3A4	0 / 0 / 0 / 3.7	0 / 0 / 0 / 0
MDCK-II-MDR1 P _{app} (A-B, cm/s•10 ⁻⁶)	30 (ER = 0.9)	33 (ER = 0.6)
Plasma Protein Binding (%Unbound, UC)	n.d.	23% / 21%
Rat PK Parameters: CL (L/h/kg) / %F	2.5 / 129%	5.2 / 67%

Progress towards target profile for 2nd-Gen Inhibitors

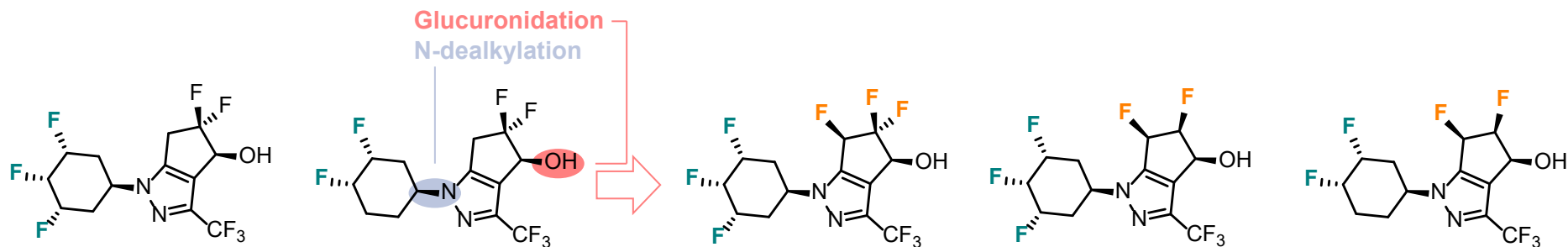
• Favorable attributes of lead inhibitors

- ✓ Target potency in HIF-2 α serum assay
- ✓ Low CL_{int} in human hepatocytes
- ✓ Clean CYP inhibition profile
- ✓ High permeability/predicted oral bioavailability

• Areas for continued optimization

- Poor correlation of systemic clearance in rodents with in vitro predictors
- Metabolite ID identified unfavorable metabolic pathway

Tuning Cyclopentapyrazole Fluorine Pattern Reduces Clearance and Minimizes O-Glucuronidation



Compound ID	28	30	31	32	33
HIF-2α Cell-Based (nM)	60.4	39.2	14.0	104	52.0
HIF-2α Cell-Based 100% Serum IC₅₀ (nM)	336	154	62.4	269	190
Hepatocyte CL_{int} (μ L/min/10 ⁶ cells) hu / rat	6.3 / 3.9	5.0 / 13	8.7 / 21	<2.7 / <2.7	< 2.7 / 3.3
CYP Inh. IC₅₀ (μ M) 2C8 / 2C9 / 2C19 / 2D6 / 3A4	>40 / >40 / >40 / >40 / >40	>40 / >40 / >40 / >40 / >40	>40 / >40 / >40 / >40 / >40	>40 / >40 / 25 / >40 / >40	>40 / >40 / >40 / >40 / >40
CYP TDI (% Act. loss, 30 min) 2C8 / 2C9 / 2D6 / 3A4	0 / 0 / 0 / 3.7	0 / 0 / 0 / 0	0 / 0 / 0 / 0.1	2.5 / 0 / 0.5 / 0	0 / 0 / 0 / 0
MDCK-II-MDR1 P_{app} (A-B, cm/s \cdot 10 ⁻⁶)	30 (ER = 0.9)	33 (ER = 0.6)	-	29 (ER = 1.0)	31 (ER = 0.8)
Plasma Protein Binding (%Unbound, UC)	n.d.	23% / 21%	-	48% / 47%	47% / 60%
Rat PK Parameters: CL (L/h/kg) / %F	2.5 / 129%	5.2 / 67%	-	2.8 / 149%	1.3 / 35%

Compound 33 is Projected to have a Pharmacokinetic Profile Suitable for QD Dosing

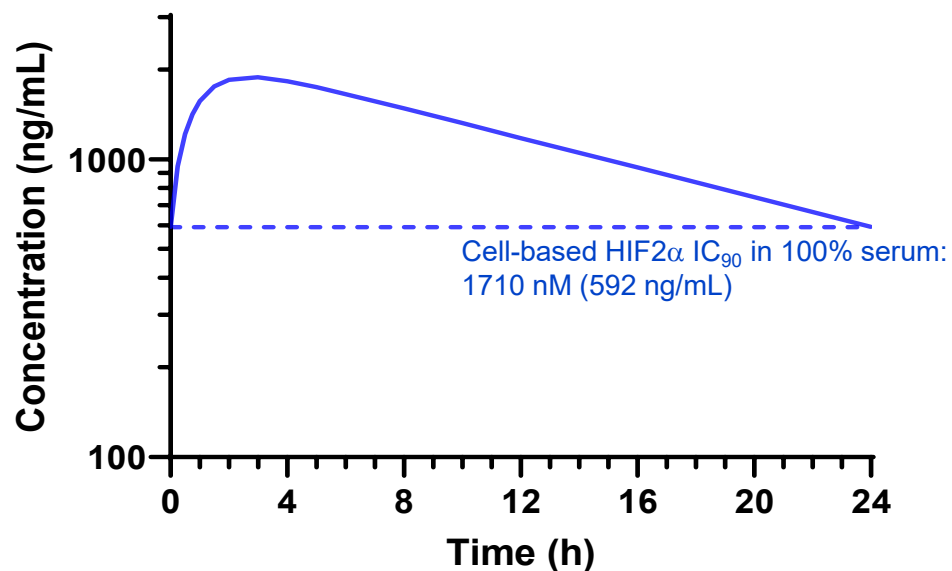
- Compound 33 is stable to human hepatocytes and intestinal microsomes, and it exhibits low efflux potential (Caco-2)

Species	Hepatocytes			In vivo		
	CL _{int} ($\mu\text{L}/\text{min}/10^6$ cells)	T _{1/2} (h)	f _{u,p}	CL (L/h/kg)	V _{ss} (L/kg)	T _{1/2} (h)
Mouse	33.5	10.8	0.443	2.13	1.59	1.56
Rat	3.20	10.3	0.597	1.25	3.1	2.71
Dog	540	>40	0.576	0.740	0.98	1.55
Human	1.00	>40	0.465	0.064 ^a <i>projected</i>	1.12 <i>projected</i>	12 <i>projected</i>

Table: Summary of experimental PK parameters in mouse, rat, and dog. Rats were dosed 0.5 mg/kg IV in DMAC:EtOH:polyethylene glycol (31.6:36.8:31.6). Mice were dosed 1 mg/kg IV in DMAC:Ethanol:Propylene Glycol:Saline (10:10:30:50). Dogs were dosed 1.0 mg/kg IV in DMA/PG/water (1:1:1).

Compound 33 is Projected to have a Pharmacokinetic Profile Suitable for QD Dosing

Predicted steady state human PK profile of Compound 33



Predicted Human PK Parameters

CL (L/h/kg)	0.064
V _{ss} (L/h)	1.12
T _{1/2} (h)	12

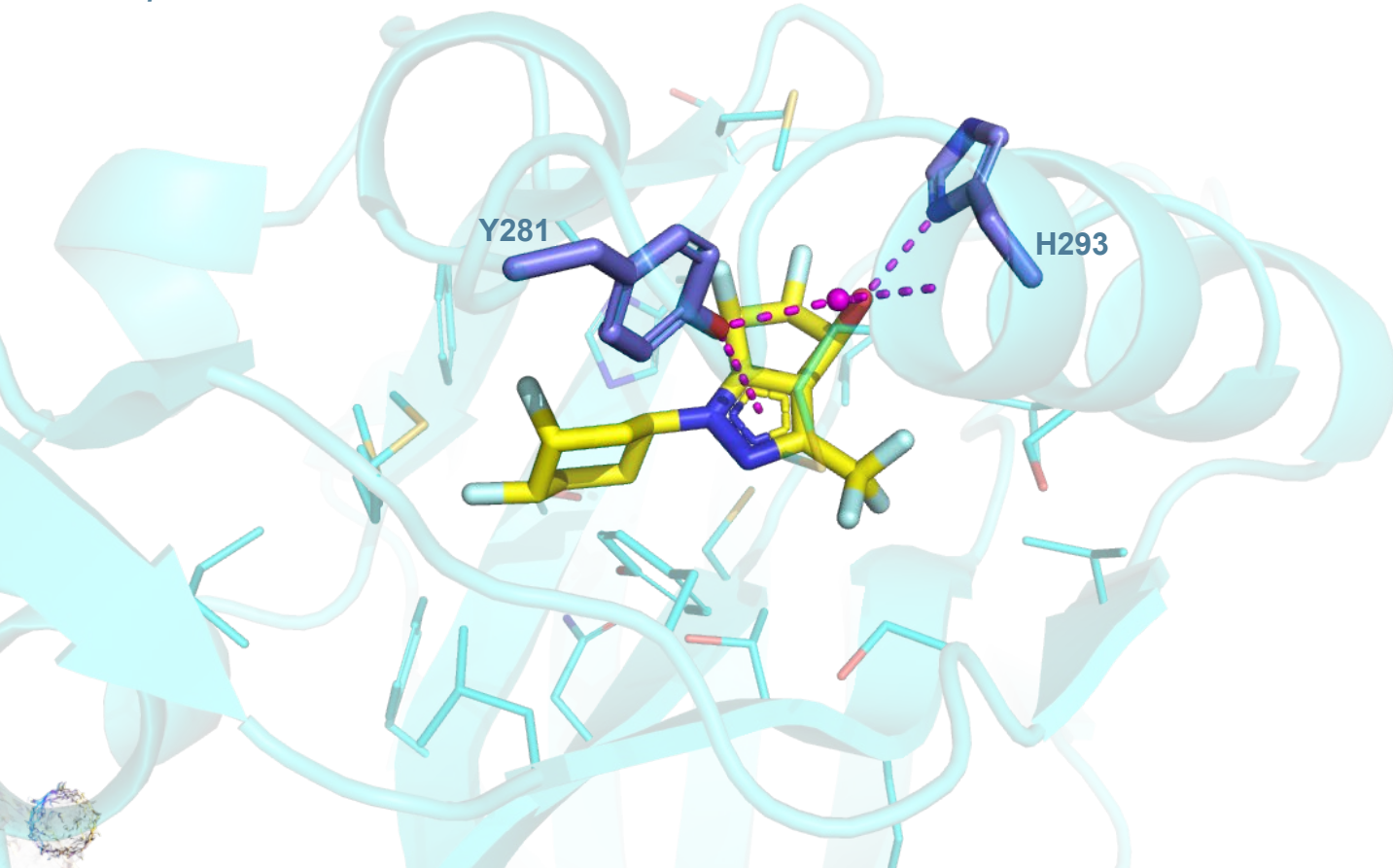
Potency and Exposure Target of 33

HIF-2 α 100% human serum IC ₅₀ (nM)	190
HIF-2 α 100% human serum IC ₉₀ (nM)	1710

- Compound 33 is predicted to possess excellent oral bioavailability and limited potential for DDI in humans

Compound 33 is Projected to have a Pharmacokinetic Profile Suitable for QD Dosing

Compound 33 bound to HIF-2 α /ARNT dimer, 1.9Å resolution



Predicted Human PK Parameters

CL (L/h/kg)	0.064
V _{ss} (L/h)	1.12
T _{1/2} (h)	12

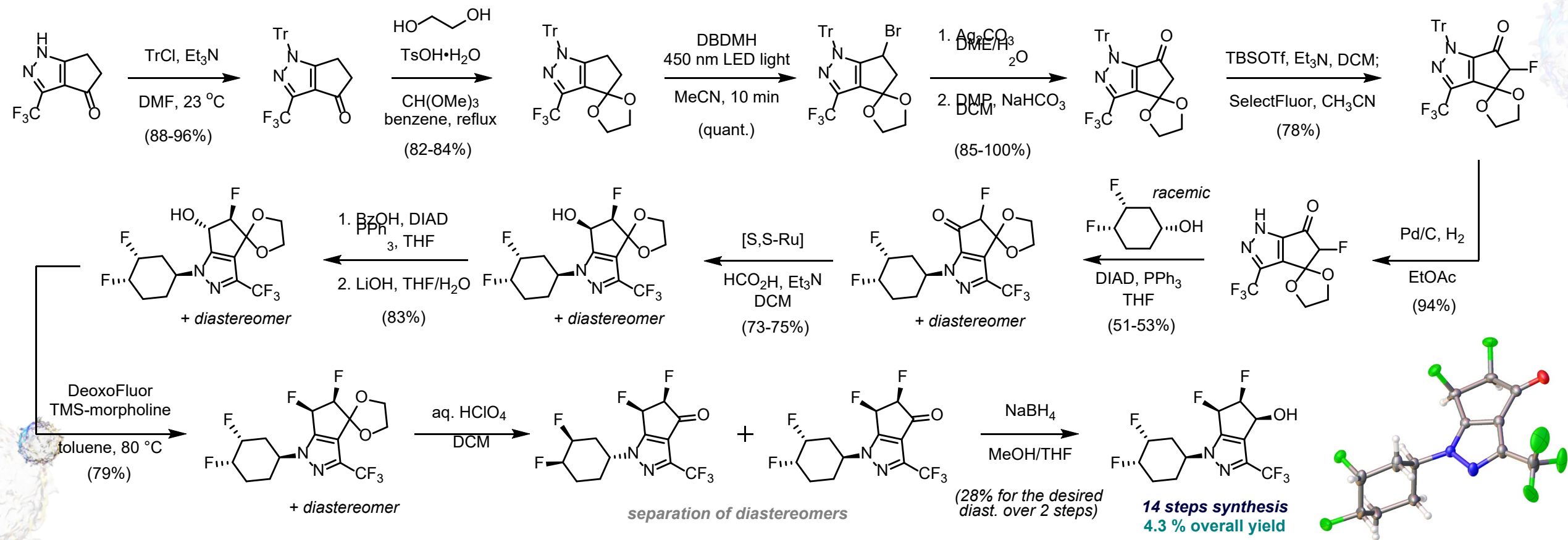
Potency and Exposure Target of 33

HIF-2 α 100% human serum IC ₅₀ (nM)	190
HIF-2 α 100% human serum IC ₉₀ (nM)	1710

- **Compound 33 is predicted to possess excellent oral bioavailability and limited potential for DDI in humans**

Compound 33 is Synthesized in high Stereochemical Purity following 14-steps which Install six Stereocenters

- With minimal optimization the current synthetic route enabled the preparation of gram quantities of **33** to support preclinical characterization



Arcus Inhibitors Potently Inhibit HIF-2 α Function under Physiologically Relevant Conditions

Characterization of 33 , AB521, and select competitor molecules in clinical development

	Assay	Compound 33	AB521	Belzutifan	Compound A ^a (Novartis)
Potency	HIF-2 α Cell-Based IC ₅₀ (nM)	52.0 \pm 1.2 (n = 2)	8.21 \pm 2.48 (n = 24)	16.9 \pm 10.1 (n = 8)	18.9 \pm 8.7 (n = 9)
	Cell-Based Reporter Control (nM)	> 10,000	> 10,000	> 10,000	> 10,000
	HIF-2 α Cell-Based 100% Serum IC ₅₀ (nM)	190 \pm 54 (n = 2)	46.49 \pm 14.2 (n = 24)	61.78 \pm 6.58 (n = 4)	265 \pm 73 (n = 9)
DMPK	Rat PK Parameters: CL (L/h/kg) / %F	1.25 / 35%	0.909 / 51%	1.14 / -	0.08 / 80%
	Hepatocyte CL _{int} (μ L/min/10 ⁶ cells) human / rat	<2.7 / 3.3	<2.7 / <2.7	<2.7 / 22.0	<2.7 / 3.2
	CYP TDI (% Activity loss, 30 min) 2C8 / 2C9 / 2D6 / 3A4	0.0 / 0.0 / 0.0 / 0.0	7.9 / 2.9 / 1.3 / 9.4	0.0 / 0.0 / 4.1 / 2.7	0.0 / 0.0 / 0.0 / 0.0
	CYP Inh. IC ₅₀ (μ M) 2C8 / 2C9 / 2C19 / 2D6 / 3A4	>40 / >40 / >40 / >40 / >40	>40 / 37.0 / 30.4 / >40 / >40	>40 / >40 / 23.7 / >40 / >40	19.6 / 38.6 / 4.03 / 2.17 / >40

^aPrepared according to WO2021220170, compound A.

Compound 33 is a Potent and Selective Inhibitor of HIF-2 α

- Hypoxia inducible factors (HIFs) are responsible for driving transcriptional changes upon exposure to low oxygen (Hypoxia)
- Iterative interrogation of structure activity relationship trends and structure-based design culminated in the discovery of potent and selective backup HIF-2 α inhibitors
 - Structurally distinct from AB521 and competitor molecules
- Compound **33** potently binds the HIF-2 α PAS-B domain and inhibits HIF-2 α function in vitro
- Compound **33** is predicted to possess excellent oral bioavailability and low DDI potential in humans

The image features a white background with four decorative molecular structures in the corners. Each structure is a complex, spherical arrangement of atoms, rendered in a light blue and white color scheme with a semi-transparent effect. They are positioned in the top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners, with one partially visible in the top-left.

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