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Electronic Supplementary Information

Expanding the binding space of argonaute-2: incorporation of either E or Z isomers of 6'-vinylphosphonate at the 5' end of the antisense strand improves RNAi activity

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General conditions

TLC was performed on Merck silica gel 60 plates coated with F254. Compounds were visualized under UV light (254 nm) or after spraying with the p-anisaldehyde staining solution followed by heating. Flash column chromatography was performed using a Teledyne ISCO Combi Flash system with pre-packed RediSep Teledyne ISCO silica gel cartridges and Prep-Achiral supercritical fluid chromatography. All moisture-sensitive reactions were carried out under anhydrous conditions using dry glassware, anhydrous solvents, and argon atmosphere. All commercially available reagents and solvents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich unless otherwise stated and were used as received. ESI-MS spectra were recorded on a Waters QTof Premier instrument using the direct flow injection mode. 1 H NMR spectra were recorded at 6600 MHz. 13 C NMR spectra were recorded at 151 MHz. 31 P NMR spectra were recorded at 243 MHz. Chemical shifts are given in ppm referenced to the solvent residual peak (DMSO- d_6 – 1 H: δ at 2.50 ppm and 13 C δ at 39.5 ppm; CDCl₃ – 1 H: δ at 7.26 ppm and 13 C δ at 77.16 ppm; CD₃CN – 1 H: δ at 1.94 ppm and 13 C δ at 1.32 ppm respectively). Coupling constants are given in Hertz. Signal splitting patterns are described as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), septet (sept), broad signal (brs), or multiplet (m).

Syntheses of building blocks

2-((2R,3R,4R,5R)-3-((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-5-(2,4-dioxo-3,4-dihydropyrimidin-1(2H)-yl)-4-methoxytetrahydrofuran-2-yl)acetaldehyde 2: To a clear solution of 1 synthesized as previously described (1.0 g, 2.59 mmol) in DCM (30 mL) was added Dess-Martin periodinane (1.37 g, 3.23 mmol) at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred for 2 h at 22 °C and then cooled to 0 °C. The reaction mixture was diluted with NaHCO₃ solution (25 mL). The organic layer was separated and washed with 5% sodium thiosulfate solution (25 mL), and the resulting organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness to afford aldehyde 2 (0.93 g, 99%) as a white foam, which was used for next step without further purification. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.40 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 9.66 (t, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (dt, J = 7.4, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 2.87 – 2.79 (m, 2H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.10 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 201.0, 163.0, 150.4, 141.2, 102.2, 87.7, 80.9, 78.2, 73.0, 57.5, 46.2, 25.6, 17.8, -4.8, -4.9 ppm.

[[(E)-3-[(2R,3S,4R,5R)-5-[(1S)-2,4-bis(oxidanylidene)pyrimidin-1-yl]-3-[1,1-dimethylethyl (dimethyl)silyl]oxy-4-methoxy-tetrahydrofuran-2-yl]prop-1-enyl]-(2,2-dimethylpropanoy loxymethoxy)phosphorylloxymethyl 2,2-dimethylpropanoate 3 and (((Z)-3-((2R,3R,4R,5R)-3-((2R,3R,4R,5R)-3-((2R,3R,4R,5R)-3-((2R,3R,4R,5R)-3-((2R,3R,4R,5R)-3-((2R,3R,4R,5R)-3-((2R,3R,4R,5R)-3-((2R,3R,4R,5R)-3-((2R,3R,4R,5R)-3-((2R,3R,4R)-3-((2R,3R,4R)-3-((2R,3R,4R)-3-((2R,3R)-3-((2R,3R)-3-((2R,3R)-3-((2R,3R)-3-((2R)-2-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-2-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-2-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-2-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-2-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-2-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-2-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-2-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-2-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-2-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-3-((2R)-2-((2R)-2-((2R)-2-((2R)-2-((2R)-2-((2R)-2-((2R)-2-((2R)-2-((2R)-2((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-5-(2,4-dioxo-3,4-dihydropyrimidin-1(2H)-yl)-4-methoxytetra hydrofuran-2-yl)prop-1-en-1-yl)phosphoryl)bis(oxy))bis(methylene)bis(2,2-dimethylpropa *noate*) 4: To a clear solution of [bis(2,2-dimethylpropanoyloxymethoxy) phosphorylmethyl-(2,2dimethylpropanoyloxymethoxy)phosphoryl]oxymethyl-2,2-dimethylpropanoate (bis-POM VP reagent) (8.18 g, 12.94 mmol) in anhydrous THF (30 mL) was added sodium hydride (620.93 mg, 15.52 mmol, 60% purity) at -30 °C. After stirring for 10 min at 0 °C, the solution was cooled to -30 °C, and aldehyde dissolved in anhydrous THF (20 mL) was added. After stirring for 3 hr at 0 °C, the reaction was guenched with 10% ammonium chloride (30 mL). Ethyl acetate (EtOAc; 30 mL) was added, and organic layer was removed. The aqueous layer was washed with EtOAc (2 x 20 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness. The crude compound was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient: 40-80% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the E-isomer 3 (2.0 g, 56% yield) as a white foam and the Z-isomer 4 (0.4, 11% yield) as a white foam. The Z-isomer was the faster moving spot in TLC and eluted first during column chromatography.

Data for 3: ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.96 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.92 – 6.80 (m, 1H), 5.93 – 5.83 (m, 1H), 5.78 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 5.71 – 5.64 (m, 5H), 4.06 (td, J = 8.1, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (dd, J = 7.7, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (dd, J = 5.4, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 2.76 – 2.60 (m, 1H), 2.50 – 2.42 (m, 1H), 1.22 (s, 19H), 0.91 (s, 9H), 0.10 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.0, 163.3, 149.9, 149.4, 149.3, 140.4, 120.2, 119.0, 102.8, 90.6, 83.0, 81.6, 81.6, 81.0, 73.8, 58.6, 38.8, 36.9, 36.8, 26.9, 25.8, 18.2, -4.4, -4.7 ppm. ³¹P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 17.19 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for $C_{30}H_{51}N_2O_{12}PSiNa$ [M + Na]⁺ 713.2847, found 713.2839.

Data for 4: ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.39 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.78 – 6.59 (m, 1H), 5.85 – 5.75 (m, 2H), 5.65 – 5.55 (m, 5H), 5.28 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (q, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (dt, J = 8.7, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 2.98 – 2.89 (m, 1H), 2.86 – 2.77 (m, 1H), 1.15 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 18H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 176.1, 163.1, 163.0, 151.1, 151.0, 150.4, 140.8, 118.0, 116.8, 102.1, 87.0, 82.0, 81.7, 81.3, 81.3, 79.2, 71.5, 57.6, 38.2, 38.2, 34.0, 34.0, 26.5, 26.5 ppm. ³¹P NMR (243 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 16.24 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for C₃₀H₅₂N₂O₁₂PSi [M + H]⁺ 691.3027, found 691.3029.

[(E)-3-[(2R,3S,4R,5R)-5-[(1S)-2,4-bis(oxidanylidene)pyrimidin-1-yl]-3-hydroxy-4-methoxy-tetrahydrofuran-2-yl]prop-1-enyl]-(2,2-dimethylpropanoyloxymethoxy)phosphoryl]oxymethyl 2,2-dimethylpropanoate 5: A solution containing 3 (0.55 g, 796.19 μmol) in 20 mL of HCOOH/H₂O (1:1, v/v) was stirred at 22 °C for 18 h. TLC analysis confirmed the formation of the product. The solution was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (gradient: 0-5% methanol in DCM) to afford 5 (0.38 g, 83% yield) as a white hygroscopic foam. 1 H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.39 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.80 – 6.57 (m, 1H), 6.03 – 5.92 (m, 1H), 5.80 – 5.74 (m, 1H), 5.64 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.61 – 5.57 (m, 2H), 5.57 – 5.54 (m, 2H), 5.29 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (q, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.88 – 3.82 (m, 2H), 3.35 (s, 5H), 2.69 – 2.52 (m, 2H), 1.14 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 18H) ppm. 13 C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 176.0, 163.0, 150.5, 150.5, 150.4, 141.0, 119.2, 118.0, 102.2, 87.3, 81.5, 81.4, 81.4, 71.6, 57.7, 38.2, 37.1, 36.9, 26.5 ppm. 31 P NMR (243 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 17.77 ppm. HRMS (ESI+) m/z calcd for $C_{24}H_{37}N_2O_{12}$ PNa [M + Na]+ 599.1982, found 599.1976.

[(E)-3-[(2R,3S,4R,5R)-3-[[bis(1-methylethyl)amino]-(2-cyanoethoxy)phosphanyl]oxy-5-[(1S)-instance of the context of the cont2,4-bis(oxidanylidene)pyrimidin-1-yl]-4-methoxy-tetrahydrofuran-2-yl]prop-1-enyl]-(2,2dimethylpropanoyloxymethoxy)phosphorylloxymethyl 2,2-dimethylpropanoate 7: To a clear solution of 5 (0.3 g, 520.36 µmol) and 5-(ethylthio)-1H-tetrazole (67.73 mg, 520.36 µmol) in acetonitrile anhydrous (ACN) (10)mL) was added 2-cyanoethyl-*N*,*N*,*N*′,*N*′tetraisopropylphosphorodiamidite (313.68 mg, 1.04 mmol, 330.54 µL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 22 °C for 2 h. TLC analysis confirmed formation of the product. The reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated, and the residue thus obtained was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient: 60-95% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 7 (0.29 g, 71.0% yield) as a white foam. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 9.05 (s, 1H), 7.36 (ddt, J = 8.2, 3.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.85 – 6.69 (m, 1H), 6.02 - 5.86 (m, 1H), 5.80 (dd, J = 4.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.64 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 5.58(dt, J = 13.5, 2.7 Hz, 5H), 4.19 - 4.03 (m, 3H), 3.94 - 3.79 (m, 2H), 3.75 - 3.62 (m, 3H), 3.48 -3.36 (m, 3H), 2.85 - 2.63 (m, 5H), 2.60 - 2.51 (m, 1H), 2.15 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 1.95 - 1.93 (m, 2H), 1.24 – 1.15 (m, 43H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 177.6, 177.6, 163.8, 163.7, 151.2, 151.2, 151.1, 151.1, 150.8, 150.8, 141.3, 141.3, 120.9, 120.8, 119.7, 119.6, 119.6, 119.5, 103.2, 103.1, 89.8, 89.2, 82.9, 82.8, 82.6, 82.6, 82.3, 82.3, 82.1, 81.6, 81.5, 74.7, 74.6, 74.6, 74.5, 60.9, 59.8, 59.6, 59.2, 59.0, 58.9, 58.9, 58.8, 58.8, 58.1, 44.1, 44.1, 44.0, 44.0, 39.4, 38.0, 38.0, 37.8, 37.8, 27.1, 25.0, 24.9, 24.9, 24.9, 24.9, 24.8, 21.0, 20.9 ppm. ^{31}P NMR (243 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 149.71, 149.62, 17.36, 17.22 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for $C_{33}H_{54}N_4O_{13}P_2Na$ [M + Na]⁺ 799.3060, found 799.3090.

[(E)-3-[(2R,3S,4R,5R)-5-[(1S)-2,4-bis(oxidanylidene)pyrimidin-1-yl]-3-hydroxy-4-methoxy-tetrahydrofuran-2-yl]prop-1-enyl]-(2,2-dimethylpropanoyloxymethoxy)phosphoryl]oxymethyl 2,2-dimethylpropanoate 6: A solution containing 4 (0.45 g, 651.43 μmol) in 10 mL of HCOOH/H₂O (1:1, v/v) was stirred at 22 °C for 16 h. TLC analysis confirmed the formation of the product. The solution was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (gradient: 0-5% methanol in DCM) to afford 6 (0.31 g, 82% yield) as an off-white hygroscopic foam. 1 H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.39 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.78 – 6.59 (m, 1H), 5.85 – 5.75 (m, 2H), 5.65 – 5.55 (m, 5H), 5.28 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (q, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (dt, J = 8.7, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 2.98 – 2.89 (m, 1H), 2.86 – 2.77 (m, 1H), 1.15 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 18H) ppm. 13 C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 176.1, 163.1, 163.0, 151.1, 151.0, 150.4, 140.8, 118.0, 116.8, 102.1, 87.0, 82.0, 81.7, 81.3, 81.3, 79.2, 71.5, 57.6, 38.2, 38.2, 34.0, 34.0, 26.5, 26.5 ppm. 31 P NMR (243 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 16.24 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for C₂₄H₃₇N₂O₁₂PNa [M + Na]⁺ 599.1982, found 599.1976.

[(E)-3-[(2R,3S,4R,5R)-3-[[bis(1-methylethyl)amino]-(2-cyanoethoxy)]2,4-bis(oxidanylidene)pyrimidin-1-yl]-4-methoxy-tetrahydrofuran-2-yl[prop-1-enyl]-(2,2-dime thylpropanoyloxymethoxy)phosphorylloxymethyl 2,2-dimethylpropanoate 8: To a clear solution of 6 (0.3 g, $520.36 \mu mol$) and 5-(ethylthio)-1*H*-tetrazole (67.73 mg, $520.36 \mu mol$) in anhydrous ACN (10 mL) was added 2-cyanoethyl-N,N,N',N'-tetraisopropylphosphorodiamidite (313.68 mg, 1.04 mmol, 330.54 μL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 22 °C for 2 h. TLC analysis confirmed formation of the product. The reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated, and the residue thus obtained was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient: 60-85% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 8 (0.29 g, 73% yield) as a white hygroscopic foam. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 8.97 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.76 - 6.56 (m, 1H), 5.84 (dd, J = 10.1, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 5.80 - 5.73 (m, 1H), 5.66 - 5.55 (m, 5H), 4.23 - 4.17 (m, 1H), 4.16 - 4.11 (m, 1H), 3.94 - 3.78 (m, 3H), 3.76 - 4.11 (m, 1H), 3.94 - 3.78 (m, 2H), 3.76 - 4.11 (m, 2H), 3.96 - 4.11 (m 3.60 (m, 2H), 3.47 - 3.39 (m, 3H), 3.17 - 3.01 (m, 1H), 2.98 - 2.81 (m, 1H), 2.73 - 2.64 (m, 2H),1.21 – 1.17 (m, 29H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 177.6, 177.6, 163.8, 163.7, 151.6, 151.4, 151.3, 151.3, 141.3, 141.3, 119.8, 119.7, 119.6, 119.5, 103.1, 103.0, 89.0, 88.4, 83.0, 83.0, 82.8, 82.5, 82.5, 82.5, 82.5, 82.4, 82.4, 82.4, 82.3, 74.8, 74.7, 74.5, 74.4, 59.8, 59.7, 59.2, 59.1, 58.9, 58.9, 58.6, 58.6, 58.1, 44.1, 44.1, 44.1, 44.0, 39.4, 39.4, 35.2, 35.1, 27.1, 27.1, 25.0, 24.9, 24.9, 24.9, 24.9, 24.8, 21.0, 20.9 ppm. ³¹P NMR (243 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 149.99, 149.71, 16.06, 15.98 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for $C_{33}H_{54}N_4O_{13}P_2Na$ [M + Na]⁺ 799.3060, found 799.3071.

9-[(2R,5R)-4-[tert-butyl(dimethyl)silyl]oxy-3-methoxy-5-[2-[(3-methoxyphenyl)-(4-methoxy phenyl)-phenyl-methoxy/ethyl/tetrahydrofuran-2-yl/purin-6-amine 10: To a clear solution of 9 synthesized as described previously² (2.0 g, 4.88 mmol) in dry pyridine (30 mL) was added 4,4'dimethoxytrityl chloride (1.99 g, 5.86 mmol) in three portions. The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 22 °C and then quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ solution (30 mL). After extraction with DCM (2 x 40 mL), the combined organic layers were washed with brine (40 mL) and with saturated NH₄Cl (25 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness. The crude compound was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient: 10-50% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 10 (2.31 g, 66% yield) as a white foam. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO d_6) δ 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.36 – 7.31 (m, 4H), 7.26 (dd, J = 8.5, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.23 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 6.85 - 6.79 (m, 4H), 5.96 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (dd, J = 6.1, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (dd, J =4.6, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.07 - 4.02 (m, 1H), 3.71 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 6H), 3.27 (s, 3H), 3.07 (ddd, J = 9.2, 6.8, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.01 - 2.94 (m, 1H), 2.09 - 1.99 (m, 1H), 0.91 (s, 9H), 0.09 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 6H)ppm. 13 C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 158.0, 156.1, 152.7, 149.3, 145.2, 140.1, 135.8, 135.8, 129.6, 129.5, 127.7, 127.6, 126.6, 119.3, 113.1, 85.5, 85.3, 82.5, 81.0, 73.3, 59.8, 59.8, 57.5, 55.0, 33.5, 25.7, 17.9, -4.7, -4.8 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for $C_{39}H_{50}N_5O_6Si$ [M + H]⁺ 712.3530, found 712.3542.

N-[9-[(2R,5R)-4-[tert-butyl(dimethyl)silyl]oxy-3-methoxy-5-[2-[(3-methoxyphenyl)-(4-methoxyphenyl)-phenyl-methoxy]ethyl]tetrahydrofuran-2-yl]purin-6-yl]benzamide 11: To a solution of 10 (2.19 g, 3.08 mmol) in DCM (30 mL) was added pyridine (729.98 mg, 9.23 mmol, 746.40 μL) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (37.58 mg, 307.62 μmol). The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, and benzoyl chloride (1.08 g, 7.69 mmol, 892.69 μL) was added. The mixture was stirred at 22 °C for 1 h. TLC indicated that the starting material was consumed completely. The reaction mixture was quenched by addition methanol (1 mL), and then extracted with DCM (50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (50 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. To a solution of this crude compound THF (30 mL) was added ammonium hydroxide, 28% NH₃ (215.64 mg, 6.15 mmol, 239.60 μL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 15 °C for 4 h. TLC indicated that the bis-benzoyl compound was consumed completely. All the volatile matters were removed under high vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (0-10% methanol in DCM) to afford 11 (1.71 g, 68% yield) as a white foam. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.26 (s, 1H), 8.75 (s, 1H), 8.72 (s, 1H), 8.08 – 8.03 (m, 2H), 7.68 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.16 (m, 8H), 6.87 – 6.81 (m,

4H), 6.12 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (dd, J = 6.2, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (dd, J = 4.5, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (ddd, J = 8.4, 4.9, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 7H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.15 – 3.06 (m, 1H), 3.05 – 2.98 (m, 1H), 2.11 – 2.00 (m, 2H), 0.92 (s, 9H), 0.11 (s, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 165.6, 158.0, 152.1, 151.8, 150.6, 145.2, 143.7, 135.8, 135.8, 133.3, 132.5, 129.6, 129.5, 128.5, 127.8, 127.6, 126.6, 126.0, 113.1, 113.1, 85.5, 85.5, 82.8, 81.1, 73.2, 59.8, 59.8, 57.6, 55.0, 33.5, 25.7, 25.6, 17.8, -4.7, -4.8 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for C₄₆H₅₄N₅O₇Si [M + H]⁺ 816.3793, found 816.3786.

N-[9-[(2R,5R)-4-[tert-butyl(dimethyl)silyl]oxy-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-methoxy-tetrahydrofuran-2-yl|purin-6-yl|benzamide 12: To a solution of 11 (1.3 g, 1.59 mmol) in DCM (30 mL) were added dodecane-1-thiol (483.66 mg, 2.39 mmol, 572.38 µL) and trifluoroacetic acid (726.58 mg, 6.37 mmol, 490.93 µL). The mixture was stirred for 2 h at 22 °C. TLC showed complete consumption of starting material. The reaction mixture was washed with aq. NaHCO₃ (30 mL x 2) to bring the pH to 7 and diluted with DCM (30 mL). The organic layers were washed with brine (30 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under high vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient: 0-5% methanol in DCM) to afford 12 (0.72 g, 1.40 mmol, 88% yield) as a white hygroscopic foam. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.42 (s, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.25 - 7.21 (m, 2H), 6.86 - 6.80 (m, 1H), 6.74 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.29(d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (dd, J = 5.8, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (dd, J = 4.6, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (ddd, J = 4.6, 3.6 Hz, 1H)8.6, 5.1, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.74 - 2.67 (m, 1H), 2.64 (ddd, J = 10.6, 7.9, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 1.12 -0.97 (m, 2H), 0.11 (s, 9H), -0.67 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 165.7, 152.1, 151.8, 150.5, 143.7, 133.3, 132.5, 128.5, 128.5, 126.0, 85.5, 82.3, 81.4, 73.3, 57.6, 57.4, 54.9, 36.2, 25.7, 17.9, -4.7, -4.8 ppm. HRMS (ESI+) m/z calcd for C₂₅H₃₆N₅O₅Si [M + H]+ 514.2486, found 514.2477.

N-[9-[(2R,5R)-4-[tert-butyl(dimethyl)silyl]oxy-3-methoxy-5-(2-oxoethyl)tetrahydrofuran-2-yl]purin-6-yl]benzamide 13: To a clear solution of **12** (0.5 g, 973.41 μmol) in DCM (20 mL) at 0 °C was added Dess-Martin periodinane (516.08 mg, 1.22 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 3 h and then quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ (15 mL) and 10% sodium thiosulfate solution (15 mL). This mixture was diluted with DCM (20 mL), and then the organic layer was separated, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness to afford **13** (0.49 g, 98% yield) as a white foam that was used for the next step without further purification.

[[(E)-3-[(2R,5R)-5-(6-benzamidopurin-9-yl)-3-[tert-butyl(dimethyl)silyl]oxy-4-methoxy-tetra hydrofuran-2-yl[prop-1-enyl]-(2,2-dimethylpropanoyloxymethoxy)phosphoryl[oxymethyl-2,2dimethylpropanoate 14 [(Z)-3-((2R,5R)-5-(6-benzamidopurin-9-vl)-3-(tertand butyl(dimethyl)silyl]oxy-4-methoxy-tetrahydrofuran-2-yl]prop-1-enyl]-(2,2-dimethylpropan oyloxymethoxy)phosphorylloxymethyl 2,2-dimethylpropanoate 15: To a clear solution of bis-POM VP reagent (1.51 g, 2.39 mmol) in anhydrous THF (15 mL) at 0 °C was added sodium hydride (115 mg, 2.87 mmol, 60% purity). After stirring for 5 min at 0 °C, 13 (0.49 g, 957.70 umol) dissolved in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was then stirred for 1.5 h at 22 °C. TLC confirmed consumption of starting material. The reaction was quenched with 10% NH₄Cl solution (30 mL). EtOAc (30 mL) was added to this mixture, and organic layer was separated after stirring. The aqueous layer was washed with EtOAc (2 x 20mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness. The crude compound thus obtained was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient: 40-80% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the E-isomer 14 (210 mg, 27% yield) and the Zisomer 15 (60 mg, 8% yield), both as white foams.

Data for 14: ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.03 (s, 1H), 8.80 (s, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 8.05 – 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.65 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 3H), 6.91 – 6.79 (m, 1H), 6.00 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 5.90 – 5.80 (m, 1H), 5.69 – 5.60 (m, 4H), 4.56 – 4.50 (m, 1H), 4.42 (t, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (ddd, J = 8.5, 5.7, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 3H), 2.77 – 2.56 (m, 2H), 1.19 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 18H), 0.95 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 9H), 0.15 (d, J = 3.3 Hz, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.9, 176.9, 164.7, 152.8, 151.4, 149.9, 149.8, 149.7, 149.6, 142.6, 133.7, 133.0, 133.0, 129.0, 128.0, 124.2, 120.1, 118.8, 88.3, 82.5, 82.1, 81.6, 81.5, 73.9, 58.7, 38.8, 37.7, 37.5, 26.9, 25.8, 18.3, -4.4, -4.6 ppm. ³¹P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 17.37 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for C₃₈H₅₇N₅O₁₁PSi [M + H]⁺ 818.3561, found 818.3570.

Data for 15: 1 H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.00 (s, 1H), 8.82 (s, 1H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.05 – 8.01 (m, 2H), 7.65 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.77 – 6.49 (m, 1H), 6.11 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 5.78 – 5.63 (m, 6H), 4.47 (t, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (t, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (dt, J = 9.0, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 3H), 3.17 (dt, J = 15.9, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.10 – 2.99 (m, 1H), 1.23 – 1.16 (m, 19H), 0.94 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 9H), 0.14 (d, J = 3.3 Hz, 6H) ppm. 13 C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.9, 176.9, 164.6, 152.8, 151.6, 150.2, 150.1, 149.7, 142.6, 133.8, 133.0, 129.1, 128.0, 123.9, 119.0, 117.8, 87.6, 83.7, 82.5, 81.5, 81.5, 81.5, 81.4, 73.7, 58.6, 38.9, 38.9, 34.6, 34.5, 27.0, 27.0, 27.0, 26.9, 25.9, 18.3, -4.5, -4.6 ppm. 31 P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 16.11 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for C₃₈H₅₇N₅O₁₁PSi [M + H]⁺ 818.3561, found 818.3566.

[(E)-3-[(2R,5R)-5-(6-benzamidopurin-9-yl)-3-hydroxy-4-methoxy-tetrahydrofuran-2-yl]prop-1-enyl]-(2,2-dimethylpropanoyloxymethoxy)phosphoryl]oxymethyl 2,2-dimethylpropanoate 16: To a clear solution of 14 (0.3 g, 366.78 μmol) in formic acid (2 mL) was added water (2 mL), and the mixture was stirred at 22 °C for 12 h. All the volatile matters were then removed under high vacuum, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient: 0-5% methanol in DCM) to afford 16 (0.16 g, 62% yield) as a hygroscopic foam. 1 H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.24 (s, 1H), 8.77 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.70 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.07 – 8.02 (m, 2H), 7.65 (ddt, J = 8.7, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 6.86 – 6.59 (m, 1H), 6.13 (dd, J = 5.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.04 – 5.92 (m, 1H), 5.60 – 5.52 (m, 4H), 5.45 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (td, J = 5.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (q, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (dt, J = 9.2, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 3H), 2.70 (qd, J = 15.6, 8.8 Hz, 2H), 1.09 (dd, J = 5.0, 1.2 Hz, 16H) ppm. 13 C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 176.0, 165.6, 163.1, 152.0, 151.8, 150.6, 150.5, 150.5, 143.5, 133.3, 132.5, 128.5, 128.5, 126.0, 119.2, 118.0, 86.0, 82.7, 81.7, 81.4, 81.3, 71.6, 57.7, 38.1, 37.4, 37.3, 26.4 ppm. 31 P NMR (243 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 17.81 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for C₃₂H₄₃N₅O₁₁P [M + H]⁺ 704.2697, found 704.2677.

[(Z)-3-[(2R,5R)-5-(6-benzamidopurin-9-yl)-3-hydroxy-4-methoxy-tetrahydrofuran-2-yl]prop-I-enyl]-(2,2-dimethylpropanoyloxymethoxy)phosphoryl]oxymethyl 2,2-dimethylpropanoate 17: To a clear solution of 15 (0.2 g, 244.52 μmol) in formic acid (1.5 mL) was added water (1.5 mL), and the mixture was stirred at 22 °C for 12 h. Volatile matters were removed under high vacuum, and residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient: 0-5% methanol in DCM) to afford 17 (0.12 g, 70% yield) as a hygroscopic foam. 1 H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.78 (s, 1H), 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 8.07 – 8.04 (m, 2H), 7.66 – 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.57 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 6.76 – 6.49 (m, 1H), 6.16 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 5.86 – 5.77 (m, 1H), 5.74 – 5.64 (m, 4H), 4.39 – 4.31 (m, 2H), 4.19 (td, J = 6.7, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 3.17 (ddddd, J = 15.5, 8.4, 6.9, 2.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (ddtd, J = 13.0, 6.9, 3.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 1.22 (s, 9H), 1.20 (s, 9H) ppm. 13 C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.1, 177.0, 165.2, 163.8, 152.5, 151.7, 149.9, 149.8, 149.7, 142.0, 133.4, 133.1, 128.9, 128.3, 123.7, 119.7, 118.4, 87.4, 83.2, 82.5, 82.5, 81.6, 81.6, 81.6, 81.6, 72.2, 59.2, 38.9, 38.9, 33.6, 33.6, 27.0, 26.9 ppm. 31 P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 16.12 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for C_{32} H₄₃N₅O₁₁P [M + H]⁺ 704.2697, found 704.2701.

[[(E)-3-[(2R,5R)-5-(6-benzamidopurin-9-yl)-3-[2-cyanoethoxy-(diisopropylamino)phosphanyl] oxy-4-methoxy-tetrahydrofuran-2-yl]prop-1-enyl]-(2,2-dimethylpropanoyloxymethoxy)phosph oryl]oxymethyl-2,2-dimethylpropanoate 18: To a clear solution of 16 (0.2 g, 284.22 µmol) and 5-

(ethylthio)-1H-tetrazole (37.00 mg, 284.22 μmol) in anhydrous ACN (10 mL) was added 2cyanoethyl-N,N,N',N'-tetraisopropylphosphorodiamidite (171.33 mg, 568.44 µmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 22 °C for 1 h. TLC analysis confirmed formation of the product. The reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated, and the residue thus obtained was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient: 50-95% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 18 (0.19 g, 74% yield) as a white foam. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 9.40 (s, 1H), 8.68 (s, 1H), 8.26 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H, 7.67 - 7.61 (m, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.86 - 6.71 (m, 1H), 6.08 (dd, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H)15.3, 4.4 Hz, 1H, 5.94 - 5.82 (m, 1H), 5.58 - 5.50 (m, 4H), 4.70 - 4.59 (m, 2H), 4.34 - 4.21 (m, 2H)1H), 3.94 - 3.75 (m, 2H), 3.69 (dh, J = 10.2, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.51 - 3.34 (m, 3H), 2.88 - 2.68 (m, 4H), 1.25 - 1.20 (m, 14H), 1.13 (td, J = 3.1, 0.7 Hz, 18H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 177.5, 152.8, 151.3, 151.3, 151.1, 151.0, 151.0, 143.8, 143.8, 134.9, 133.6, 129.6, 129.1, 126.0, 126.0, 120.8, 120.7, 119.7, 119.6, 119.6, 119.4, 88.6, 88.3, 83.2, 82.7, 82.7, 82.6, 82.5, 82.5, 82.5, 82.5, 82.3, 82.2, 74.8, 74.7, 74.5, 74.4, 59.9, 59.8, 59.3, 59.1, 59.0, 59.0, 58.8, 58.8, 44.1, 44.1, 44.1, 44.0, 39.3, 38.2, 38.1, 27.0, 25.0, 25.0, 25.0, 24.9, 24.9, 24.9, 21.1, 21.0, 21.0, 21.0 ppm. ³¹P NMR (243 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 149.97, 149.33, 17.43, 17.27 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for $C_{41}H_{60}N_7O_{12}P_2 [M + H]^+ 904.3775$, found 904.3786.

[[(Z)-3-[(2R,5R)-5-(6-benzamidopurin-9-yl)-3-[2-cyanoethoxy-(diisopropylamino)phosph anyl]oxy-4-methoxy-tetrahydrofuran-2-yl]prop-1-enyl]-(2,2-dimethylpropanoyloxymethoxy) phosphorylloxymethyl 2,2-dimethylpropanoate 19: To a clear solution of 17 (0.1 g, 142.11 µmol) and 5-(ethylthio)-1H-tetrazole (18.50 mg, 142.11 µmol) in anhydrous ACN was added 2cyanoethyl-N,N,N',N'-tetraisopropylphosphorodiamidite (85.67 mg, 284.22 µmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 22 °C for 1 h. TLC analysis confirmed formation of the product. The reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated, and the residue thus obtained was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient: 50-95% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 19 (950 mg, 74% yield) as a white foam. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.99 (s, 1H), 8.82 (s, 1H), 8.37 (d, J = 14.2 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (dt, J = 7.1, 1.3 Hz, 2H, 7.65 - 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.80 - 6.51 (m, 1H), 6.16 - 6.09(m, 1H), 5.78 - 5.72 (m, 1H), 5.71 - 5.63 (m, 4H), 4.75 - 4.58 (m, 1H), 4.53 - 4.37 (m, 1H), 4.32(ddt, J = 8.7, 6.1, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 4.00 - 3.87 (m, 2H), 3.80 - 3.63 (m, 3H), 3.53 - 3.41 (m, 3H), 3.25-3.01 (m, 2H), 2.83 - 2.64 (m, 2H), 1.27 - 1.16 (m, 32H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.9, 176.9, 164.6, 152.9, 152.9, 151.8, 151.7, 150.3, 149.6, 142.5, 142.5, 133.8, 132.9, 129.0 127.95, 123.8, 123.8, 119.3, 118.9, 118.1, 118.0, 117.8, 117.7, 87.4, 87.3, 83.1, 82.8, 82.0, 82.0, 81.6, 81.5, 81.5, 81.5, 81.4, 74.2, 74.1, 73.3, 73.2, 59.0, 58.9, 58.8, 58.5, 58.2, 58.0, 43.6, 43.5, 43.4, 38.9, 38.8, 34.7, 34.7, 34.5, 27.0, 26.9, 24.8, 24.8, 24.7, 20.5 ppm. ³¹P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.94, 150.03, 16.08, 15.93 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for C₄₁H₆₀N₇O₁₂P₂ [M + H]⁺ 904.3775, found 904.3765.

Syntheses of oligonucleotides

Syntheses of oligonucleotides for preparation of siRNAs targeting Ttr and Sod1 mRNAs were performed on a ABI DNA/RNA synthesizer at scales between 1-10 µmol using commercially available 5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-fluoro- and 5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-O-methyl-3'-O-(2-cyanoethyl-N,N-diisopropyl)phosphoramidite monomers of uridine, 4-N-acetylcytidine, 6-N-benzoyladenosine, and 2-N-isobutyrylguanosine using standard solid-phase oligonucleotide synthesis protocols^{1, 3}. The GalNAc ligand was introduced at the 3' end of the sense strand of the siRNA using a functionalized solid support as described⁴. The (n-1)-mer of the desired antisense strand was first synthesized on a solid-support under standard solid-phase synthesis conditions and the 5'-DMTr was removed. The VP-modified phosphoramidite 7 or 8 was then introduced at the 5' terminus of the solid-support bound oligonucleotide using 0.25 M 5-(ethylthio)-1*H*-tetrazole in acetonitrile as phosphoramidite activator to obtain the desired 5'-phosphonate-modified, fulllength antisense strand. The phosphite triester was converted into a phosphorothioate linkage with 0.1 M DDTT. No DMT removal step was required as VP-containing phosphoramidites lack the DMT group. After completion of synthesis, the 5'-phosphonate-modified oligonucleotides were deprotected in 30% ammonia solution containing 5% DEA (v/v) for 5 h at 60 °C. The crude oligonucleotides were purified by IEX-HPLC using a column packed with TSK-Gel Super Q-5PW support and a linear gradient of 15-45 % buffer B over 120 min with 5 mL/min flow rate (buffer A, 0.02 M Na₂HPO₄ in 15% acetonitrile, pH 8.5; buffer B, buffer A plus 1 M NaBr). All single strands were purified to >90% based on HPLC (260 nm)

For preparation of siRNAs targeting ApoB, sense strands were synthesized on solid support functionalized with GalNAc (Reference 4), and antisense strands were assembled on support functionalized with 2'-O-methyl-uridine (porosity 616 Å, loading 87 µmol/g; LGC Biosearch Technologies). The single strands were synthesized on K&A H-8-SE synthesizer. A solution of 0.5 M 5-(S-ethylthio)-1H-tetrazole in acetonitrile was used as the activator. The solutions of commercially available phosphoramidites and synthesized phosphoramidites were used at 0.1 M in anhydrous acetonitrile or DCM. The oxidizing reagent was 0.05 M I₂ in THF/pyridine/H₂O. A solution of 100 mM 3-amino-1,2,4-dithiazole-5-thione (TCI Chemicals) dissolved in acetonitrilepyridine (2:3 v/v) was employed as sulfurizing agent. The detritylation reagent was 3% trichloroacetic acid in DCM. Waiting times for coupling, capping, oxidation, and sulfurization step were 450 s, 25 s, 80 s, and 300 s, respectively. After completion of the automated synthesis, the oligonucleotide was manually released from the solid support and deprotected using a solution of concentrated aqueous ammonia and 40% aqueous methylamine (1:1, v/v, both from Sigma Aldrich). Cleavage from solid support and quantitative deprotection was achieved using a solution of ammonia and ethanol (3:1, v/v). After filtration through a 0.45-µm nylon filter, oligonucleotides were purified by ion exchange HPLC using a Dionex DNA Pac100 column (9 x 250 mm; ThermoFisher). Appropriate gradients of mobile phase (buffer A, 20 mM Tris, pH 7.4, 20% acetonitrile; buffer B, 500 mM NaClO₄ in buffer A) were employed.

Oligonucleotides were desalted by size exclusion chromatography on an AKTA desaltification system using a HiPrep 26/10 packed with Sephadex G25 resin (GE Healthcare) with elution with sterile nuclease-free water at 10 mL/min. The isolated yields for the final oligonucleotides were calculated based on the ratios of measured to theoretical 260 nm optical density units. Extinction coefficients were calculated using the following extinction coefficients for each residue: A, 13.86;

T/U, 7.92; C, 6.57; and G, 10.53 M⁻¹cm⁻¹. The identities of modified oligonucleotides were verified by mass spectrometry (Table S1). Purities were evaluated by analytical reverse-phase HPLC. For reverse-phase HPLC, a C-18 column was used with a gradient of 2-29% buffer B (buffer A, 95 mM hexafluoroisopropanol, 16.3 mM TEA, 0.05 mM EDTA; buffer B: methanol) over 39 min. Equimolar amounts of complementary sense and antisense strands were annealed by heating in a water bath at 95 °C for 5 min and cooling to room temperature to obtain the desired siRNAs. The siRNA samples were analyzed for purity, endotoxin, and osmolality, and the observed values were within the allowed range for the concentration tested.

Table S1. Sequences and chemical modifications of sense and antisense strands of siRNAs targeting *Ttr*, *Sod1*, and *ApoB* mRNAs ^a

Entry	Sequence 5'-3'a	Antisense		Mass (M-H) ⁻	
		(AS) or sense (S) strand	Target	Cald.	Obsd.
ON1	u•U•auaGagcaagaAcAcuguu•u•u	AS	Mouse Ttr	7655.11	7656.32
ON2	I•U•auaGagcaagaAcAcuguu•u•u	AS		7731.11	7731.81
ON3	III • <i>U</i> • aua <i>G</i> agcaaga <i>A</i> c <i>A</i> cuguu • u • u	AS		7745.14	7745.80
ON4	IV•U•auaGagcaagaAcAcuguu•u•u	AS		7745.14	7745.78
ON5	a•a•caguGuUCUugcucuauaaL	S		8685.45	8685.62
ON6	u•U•uagAgUGaggaUuAaaaug•a•g	AS	Rat Sod1	7774.16	7772.64
ON7	I ● <i>U</i> ●uag <i>A</i> g <i>UG</i> agga <i>U</i> u <i>A</i> aaaug●a●g	AS		7850.16	7849.69
ON8	Ⅲ ● <i>U</i> ●uag <i>A</i> g <i>UG</i> agga <i>U</i> u <i>A</i> aaaug●a●g	AS		7864.18	7865.32
ON9	IV•U•uagAgUGaggaUuAaaaug•a•g	AS		7864.18	7864.05
ON10	c●a•uuuU _{hd} AaUCCucacucua●a●a	S		7042.97	7043.34
ON11	$u \bullet U \bullet c U u G u U c U g a a U g U c C a G g \bullet g \bullet u$	AS	Mouse ApoB	7557.80	7557.50
ON12	I ● <i>U</i> ●c <i>U</i> u <i>G</i> u <i>U</i> c <i>U</i> gaa <i>U</i> g <i>U</i> c <i>C</i> a <i>G</i> g●g●u	AS		7633.80	7633.50
ON13	$\mathbf{H} \bullet U \bullet \mathbf{c} U \mathbf{u} G \mathbf{u} U \mathbf{c} U \mathbf{g} \mathbf{a} \mathbf{a} U \mathbf{g} U \mathbf{c} C \mathbf{a} G \mathbf{g} \bullet \mathbf{g} \bullet \mathbf{u}$	AS		7648.90	7647.10
ON14	^{III} U•cUuGuUcUgaaUgUcCaGg•g•u	AS		7632.80	7631.00
ON15	IV • U • cUuGuUcUgaaUgUcCaGg • g • u	AS		7648.90	7647.10
ON16	IVU•cUuGuUcUgaaUgUcCaGg•g•u	AS		7632.80	7631.00
ON17	C•c•UgGaCaUUCaGaAcAaGaAL	S		8697.30	8696.10

^a Chemical modifications: •, PS linkage; lower case, 2'-OMe; italicized upper case, 2'-fluoro; L, trivalent-GalNAc; 2'-O-hexadecyl uridine; I, 5'-(E)-VP; III, 6'-(E)-VP; and IV, 6'-(Z)-VP.

In vitro assay

The *in vitro* gene silencing activities of siRNAs targeting Ttr and ApoB were evaluated in primary mouse hepatocytes. Cells were plated in 96-well format (20,000 cells/well) in hepatocyte plating medium (Primacyt). Ttr-targeting siRNAs were tested at 0.001, 0.01, and 0.1 nM, and ApoB-targeting siRNAs were tested at 200 and 20 nM. Each concentration was tested in quadruplicate. Cells were incubated 48 h at 37 °C and subsequently lysed. RNA was isolated using a Dynabeads mRNA Isolation Kit (Invitrogen). mRNA was quantified using the Quantigene Singleplex assay system (ThermoFisher), according to the manufacturer's protocol. cDNA synthesis was accomplished with the High-capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit (Applied Biosystems). Probes for murine Ttr, ApoB, and Gapdh were obtained from ThermoFisher. Real-time PCR was done in an ABI 7900HT RT-PCR system (Applied Biosystems) using the $\Delta\Delta$ Ct (RQ) assay. For each well, the target mRNA level was normalized to Gapdh mRNA level. The activity of a given siRNA is expressed as percent of target mRNA concentration in treated cells relative to the target mRNA concentration averaged across control wells treated with a non-targeting siRNA and PBS.

Table S2. Sequences and chemistries of siRNAs targeting ApoB mRNA^a

sequences and enemistres of sixt was targeting upon mix at						
Duplex	Sense strand (upper) and antisense strand (lower) ^a (5'-3')					
si-9 (Control)	C●c●UgGaCaUUCaGaAcAaGaAL					
S1-9 (Control)	u●U●cUuGuUcUgaaUgUcCaGg●g●u					
si-10	C•c•UgGaCaUUCaGaAcAaGaAL					
81-10	I●U●cUuGuUcUgaaUgUcCaGg●g●u					
a: 11	C•c•UgGaCaUUCaGaAcAaGaAL					
si-11	∭●U●cUuGuUcUgaaUgUcCaGg●g●u					
si-12	C•c•UgGaCaUUCaGaAcAaGaAL					
81-12	IV●U●cUuGuUcUgaaUgUcCaGg●g●u					
a; 12	C•c•UgGaCaUUCaGaAcAaGaAL					
si-13	^{III} U●cUuGuUcUgaaUgUcCaGg●g●u					
si-14	C•c•UgGaCaUUCaGaAcAaGaAL					
81-14	IV U•cUuGuUcUgaaUgUcCaGg•g•u					

^aChemical modifications: ●, PS linkage; lower case, 2'-OMe; italicized upper case, 2'-fluoro; L, trivalent-GalNAc; I, 5'-(E)-VP; III, 6'-(E)-VP; and IV, 6'-(Z)-VP.

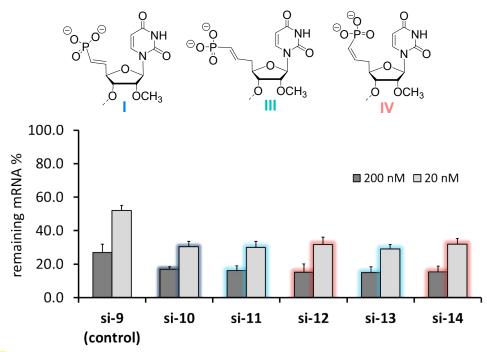


Figure S1: Percent *ApoB* mRNA remaining after treatment of primary mouse hepatocytes with 20 or 200 nM indicated siRNAs for 48 hours. The antisense strands of **si-10**, **si-11**, and **si -12** have two phosphorothioate linkages at the 5' ends, whereas **si-13** and **si-14** have one. Levels of *ApoB*

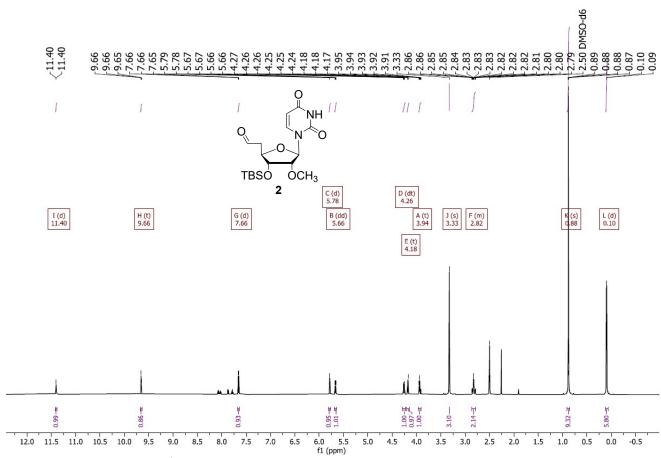
mRNA were quantified using RT-qPCR and were normalized to *ApoB* mRNA in cells treated with a non-targeting siRNA. Plotted are averages ± standard deviation (n=4).

In vivo assays

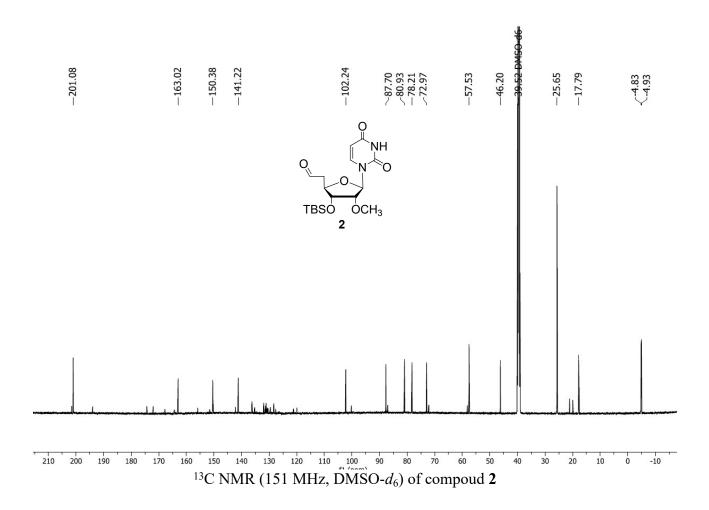
All studies were conducted using protocols consistent with local, state, and federal regulations, as applicable, and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at Alnylam Pharmaceuticals. For analyses in mice of *Ttr*-targeted siRNAs, mice were given a single subscapular subcutaneous injection of 0.3 mg/kg siRNA, prepared in an injection volume of 10 μ L/g body weight in PBS. At the indicated time pre- or post-dosing, animals were anesthetized with isofluorane, and blood was obtained via retroorbital bleed. TTR protein was quantified by ELISA from serum isolated from whole blood. The ELISA was performed according to the manufacturer's protocol (ALPCO, 41-PALMS-E01) after a 3025-fold dilution of the serum samples. Data were normalized to prebleed TTR levels for each individual. All samples were assayed in duplicate, and each data point is the average of all the mice within each cohort (n = 3). Data were analyzed using a two-way ANOVA with a Tukey post-hoc test for multiple comparison in GraphPad Prism.

Female SD rats (Charles River Laboratories) of 11-12 weeks were used for analyses of *Sod1*-targeted siRNAs. Rats were given one intrathecal administration of 0.6 mg in 30 μL of artificial cerebrospinal fluid. There were 2-3 rats for each group. Rats were euthanized on day 14, and tissue samples were harvested and flash frozen. RNA isolation was performed on tissue lysate using the Chemagic 360 system (Perkin Elmer) and cDNA synthesis was performed using the SuperScript IV VILO cDNA kit (Invitrogen, catalog no. 11754050) in accordance with the manufacturer's protocol. *Sod1* mRNA levels were determined using qPCR on a LightCycler 480 system (Roche), and data were normalized to *PPIB* mRNA levels and are reported as a percentage of *Sod1* mRNA levels in the artificial cerebrospinal fluid control-treated rats.

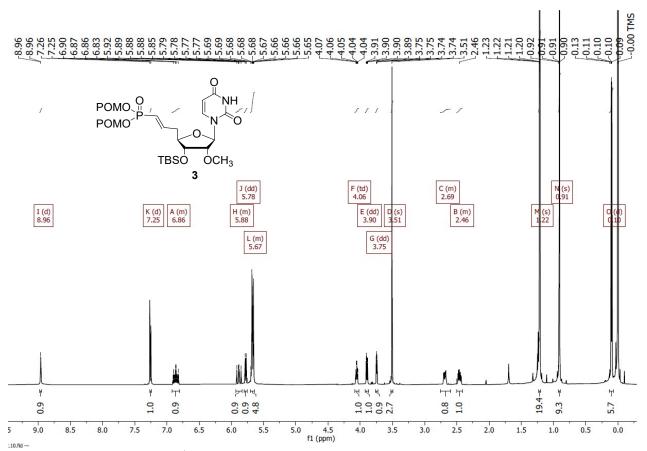
 1 H, 13 C, and 31 P NMR data for new compounds



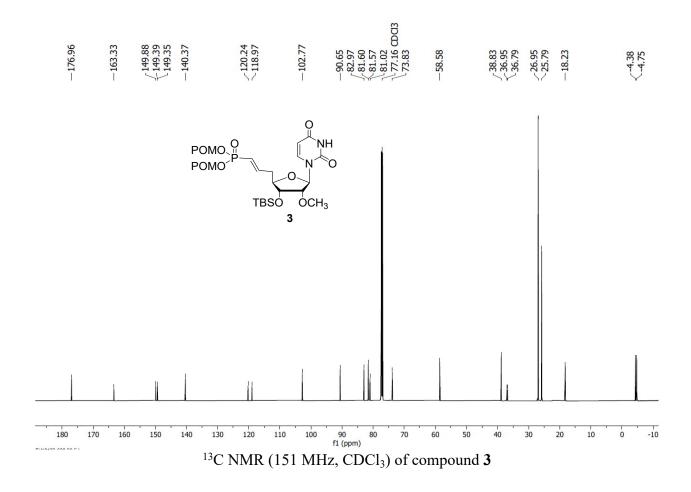
 1 H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_{6}) of compoud 2



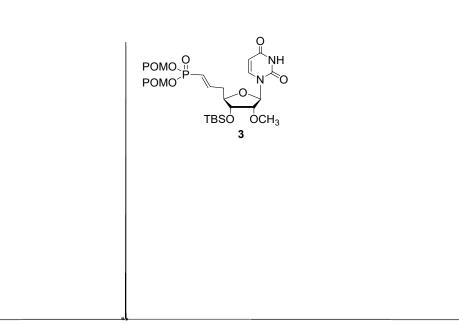
S-17



¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) of compoud 3

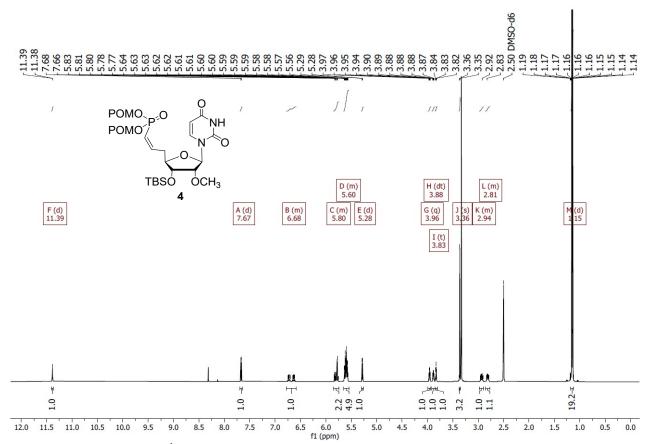




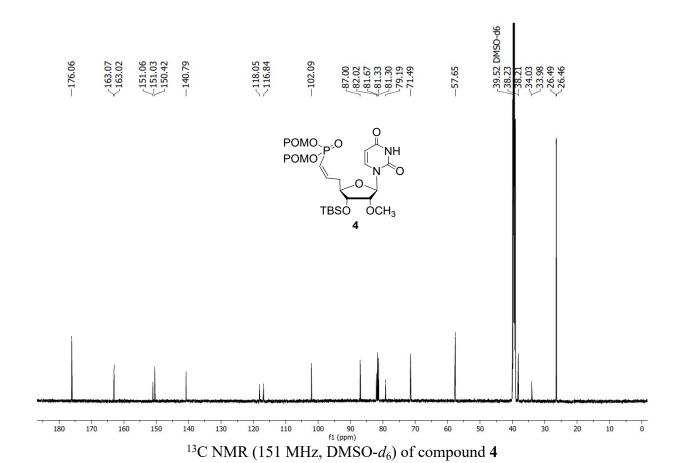


190 170 150 130 110 90 70 50 30 10 -10 -30 -50 -70 -90 -110 -130 -150 -170 -190 f1 (ppm)

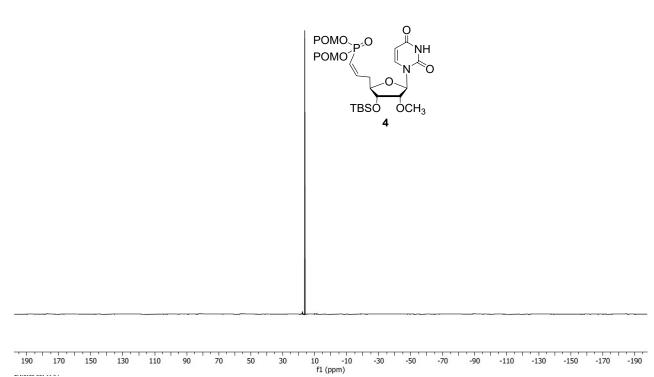
 ^{31}P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl₃) of compoud 3



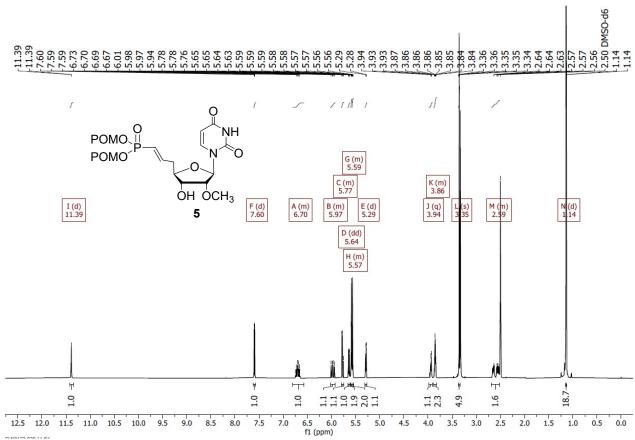
 1 H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_{6}) of compoud 4



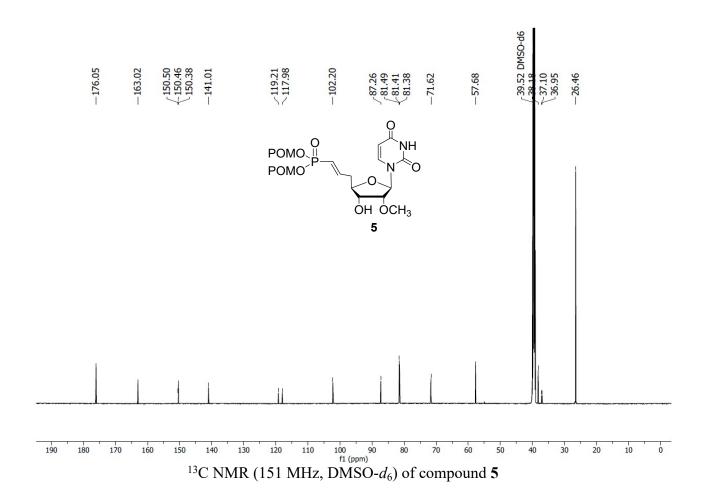




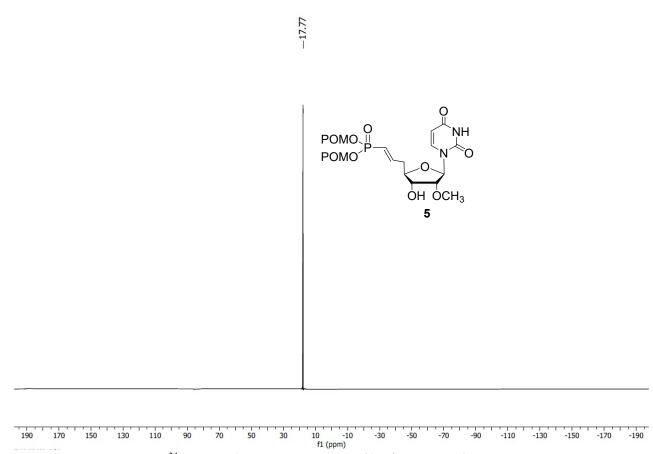
 31 P NMR (243 MHz, DMSO- d_6) of compoud **4**



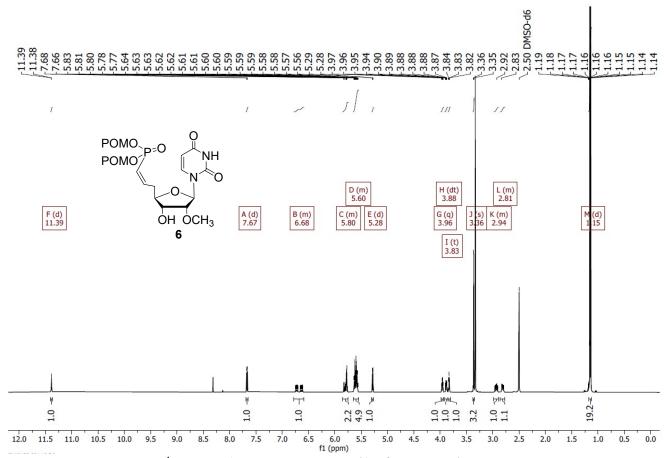
 $^1\mathrm{H}$ NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) of compound 5



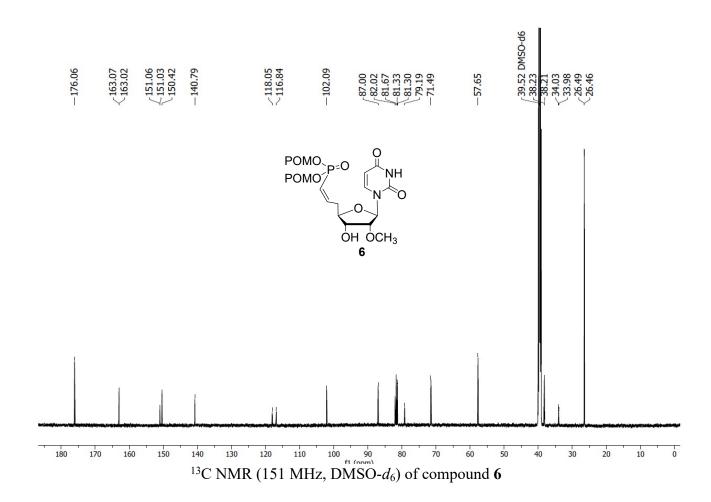
S-25



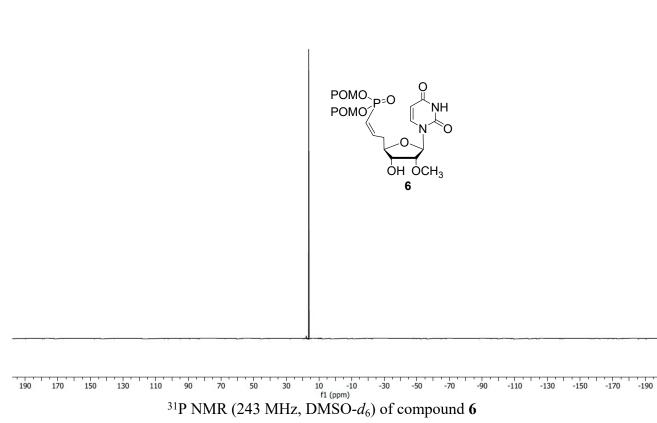
³¹P NMR (243 MHz, DMSO- d_6) of compound **5**

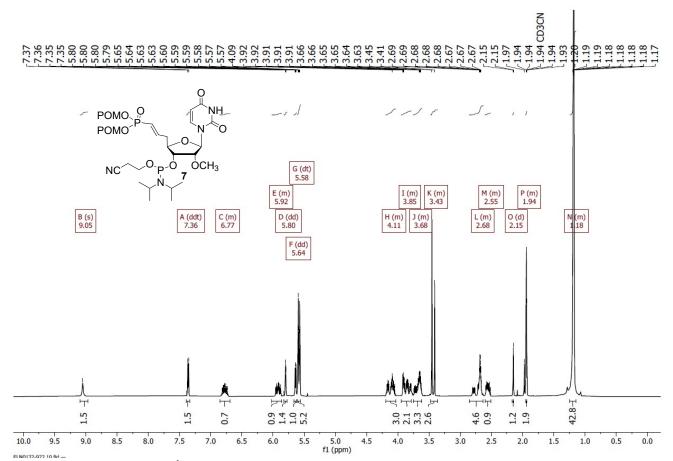


 1 H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_{6}) of compound **6**

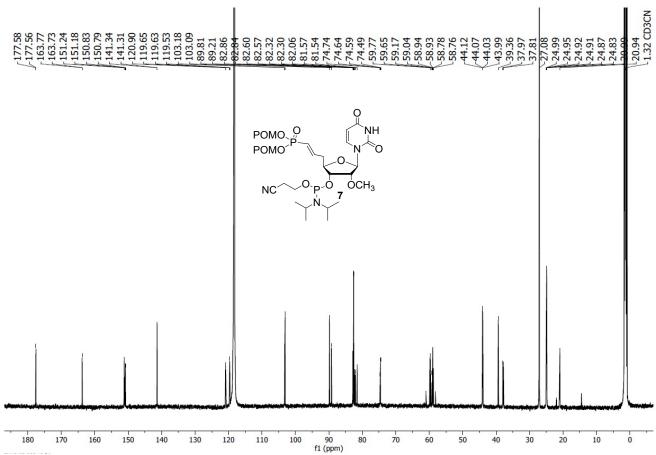




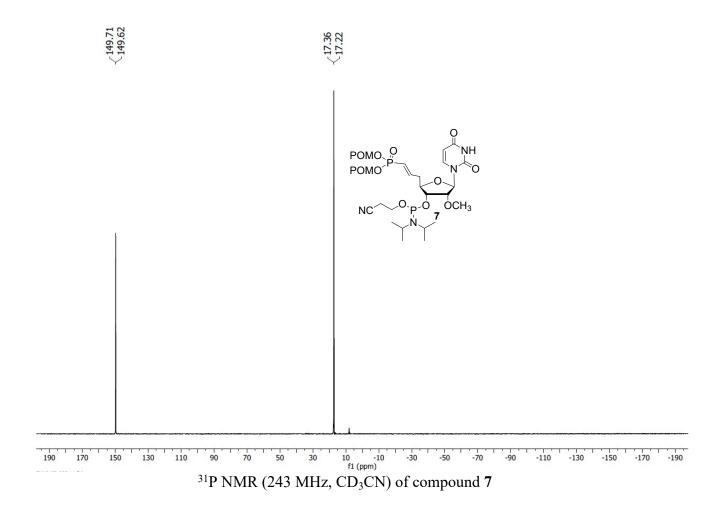




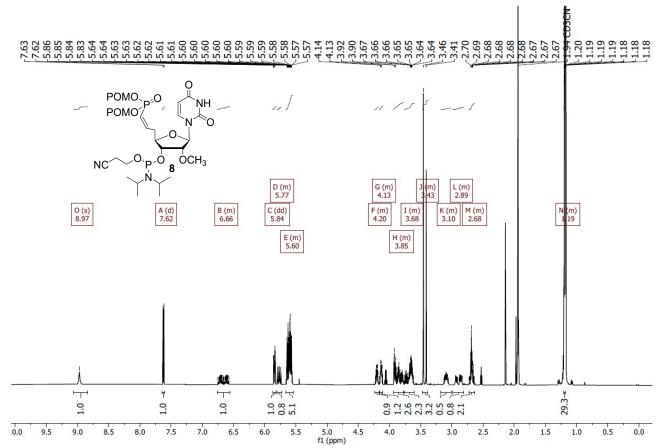
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN) of compound 7



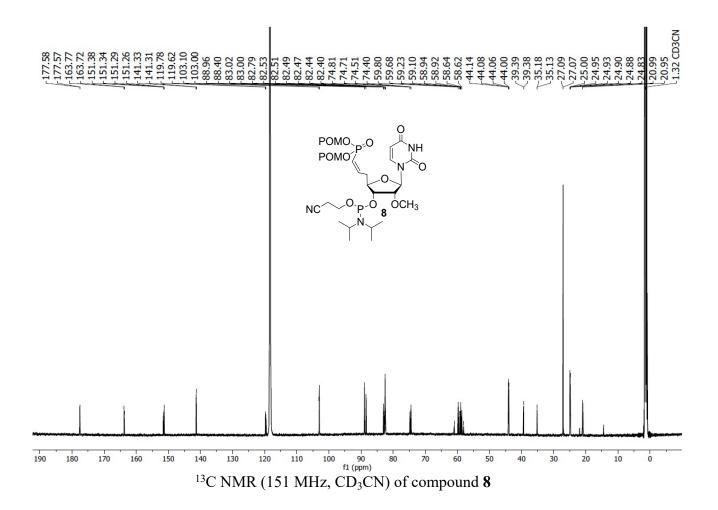
¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃CN) of compound 7



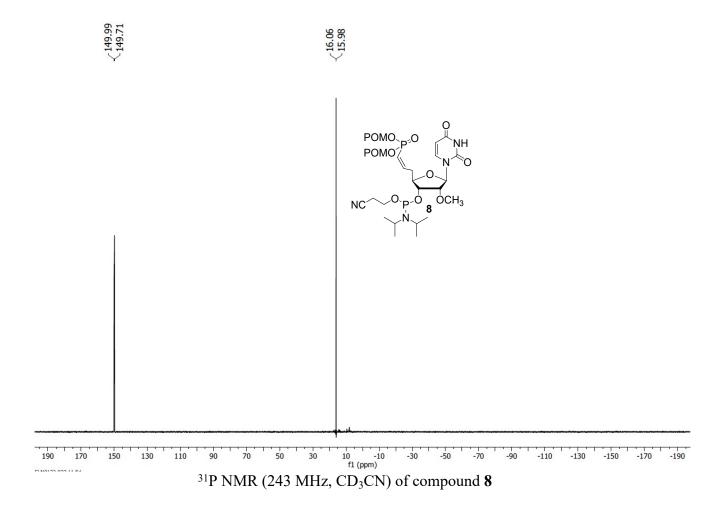
S-32



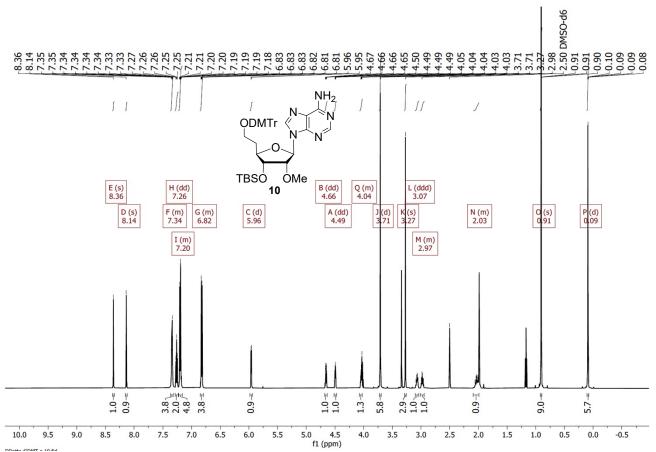
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN) of compound 8



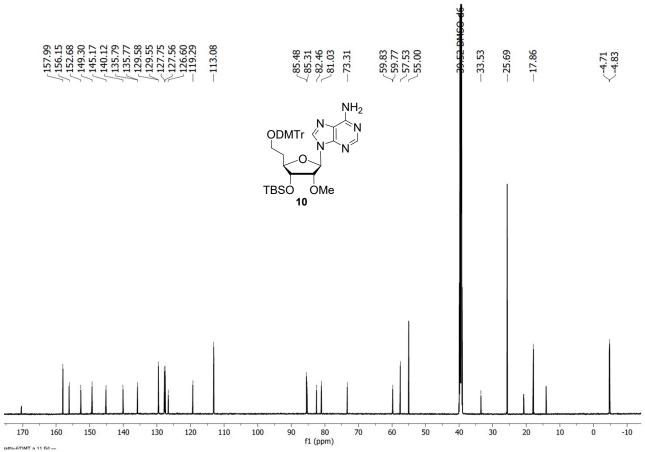
S-34



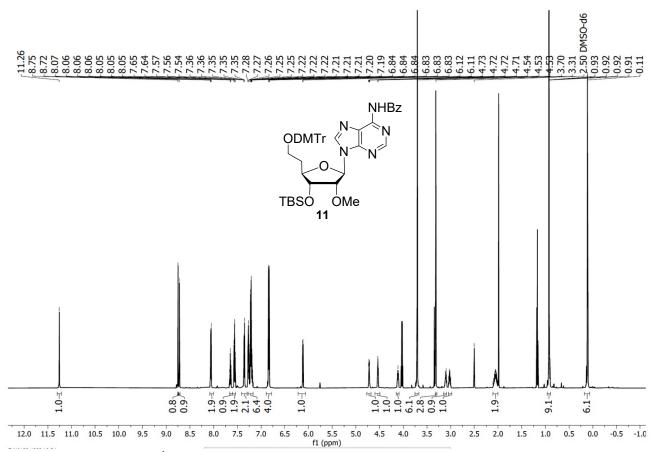
S-35



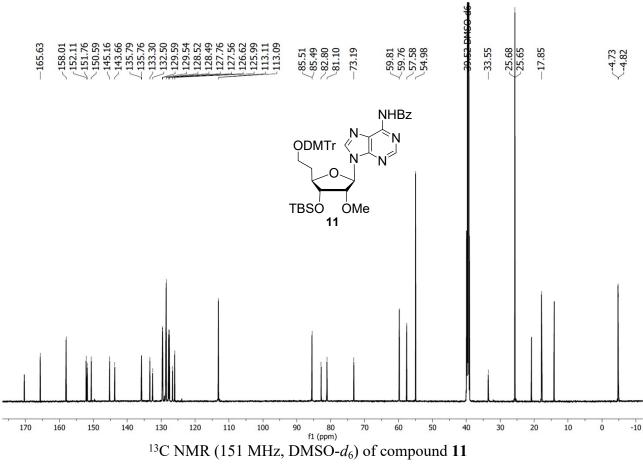
 1 H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_{6}) of compound **10**

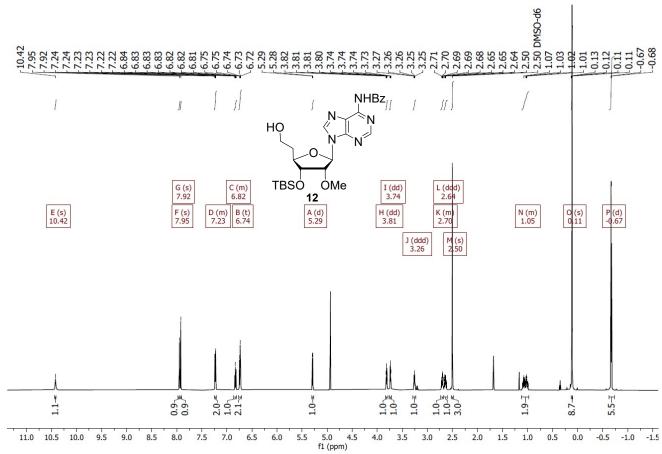


 13 C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) of compound ${\bf 10}$

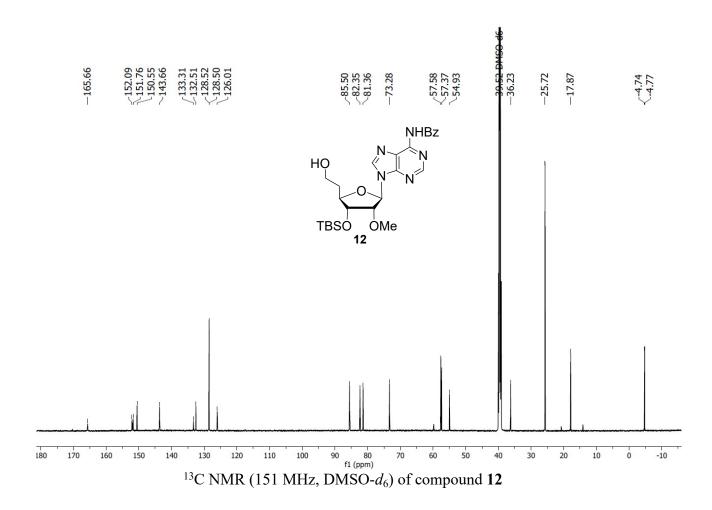


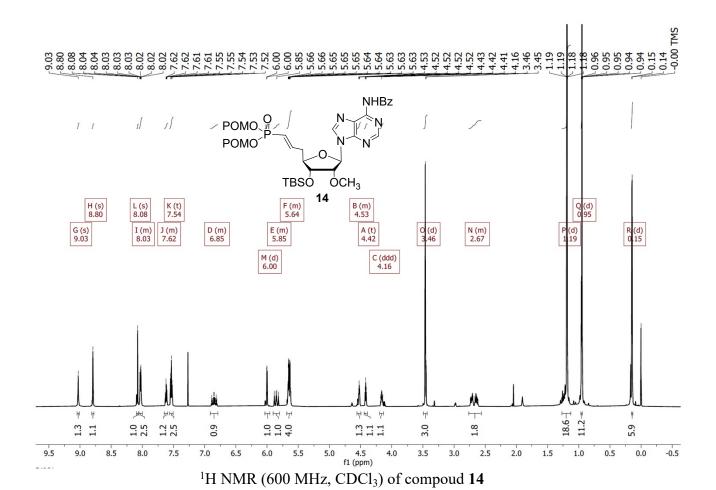
 1 H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_{6}) of compoud 11



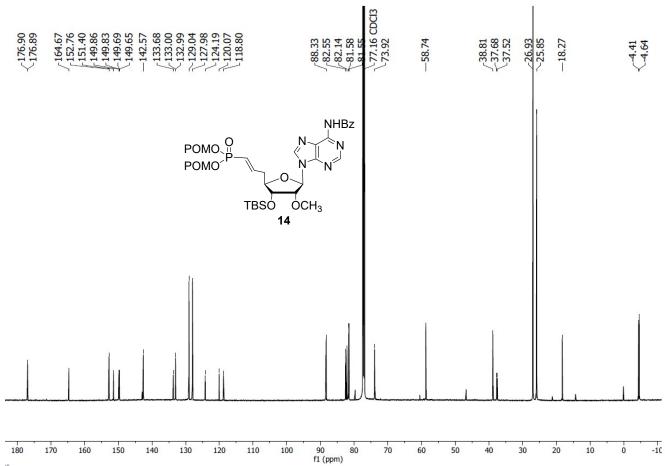


 1 H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_{6}) of compoud 12

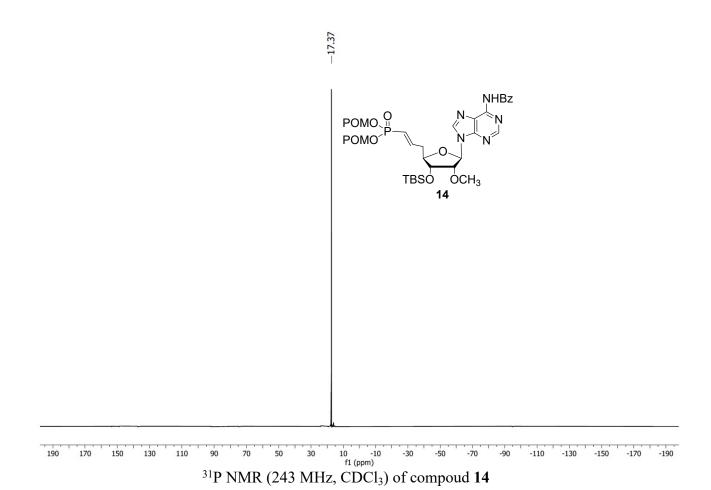




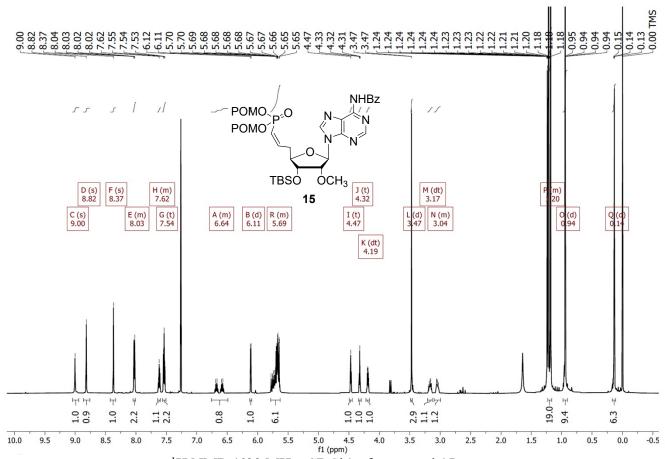
S-42



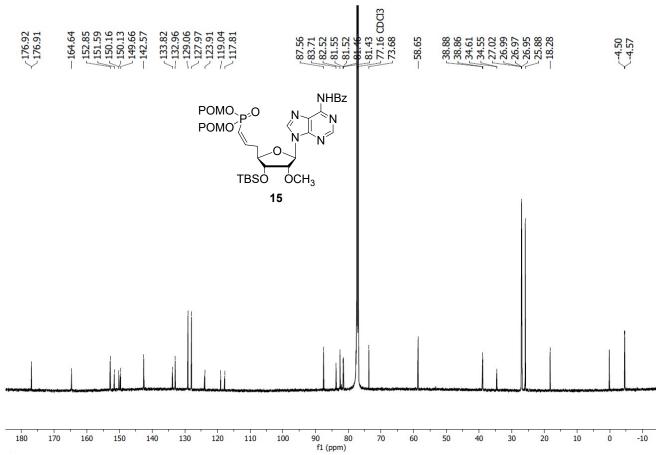
¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 14



S-44

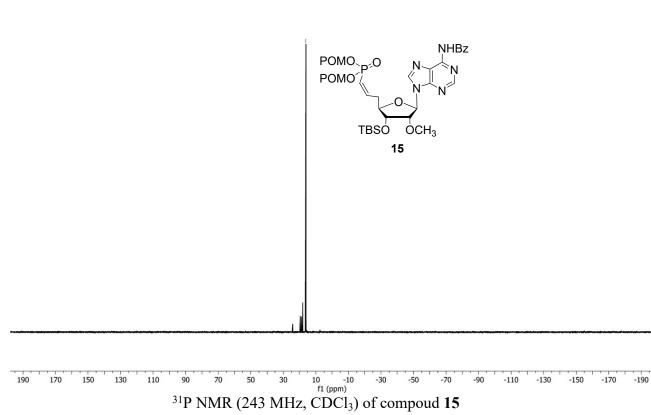


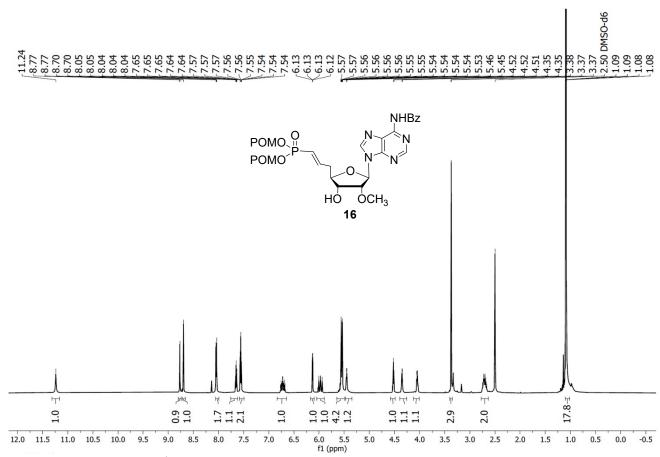
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) of compoud 15



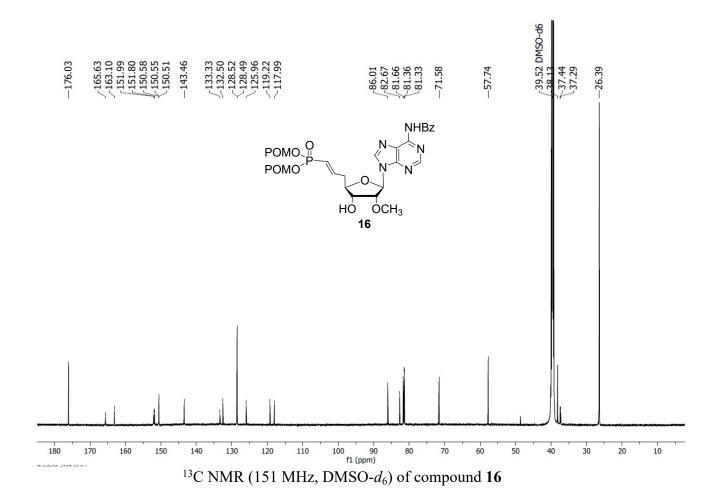
¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **15**





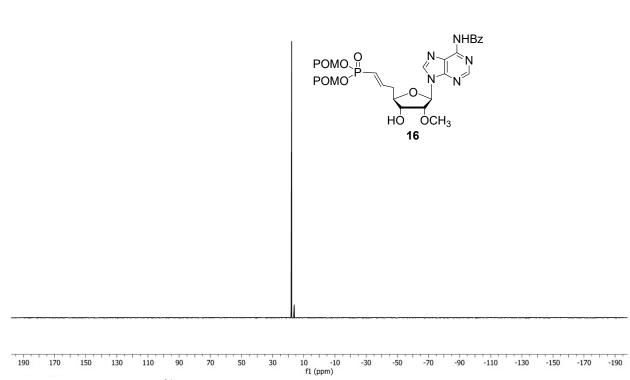


 1 H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_{6}) of compoud **16**

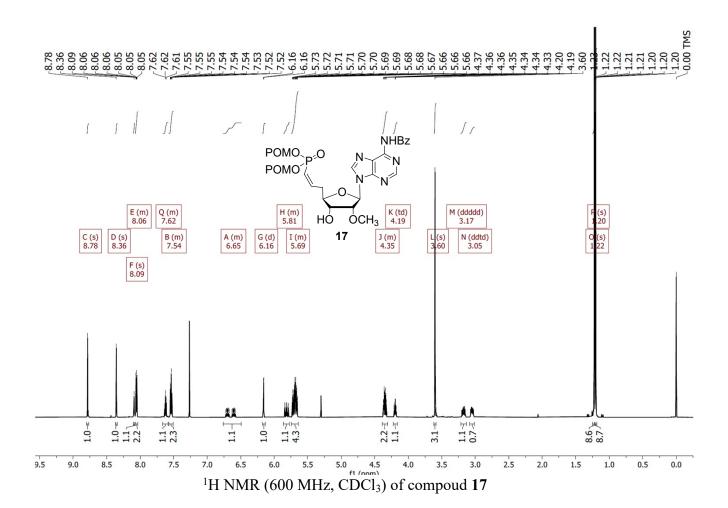


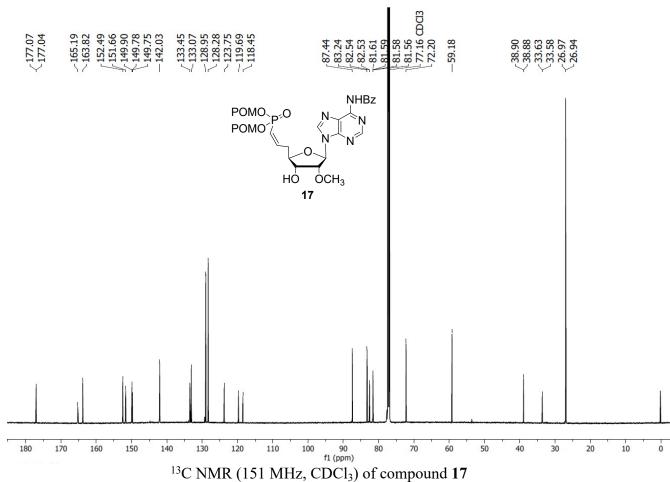
S-49



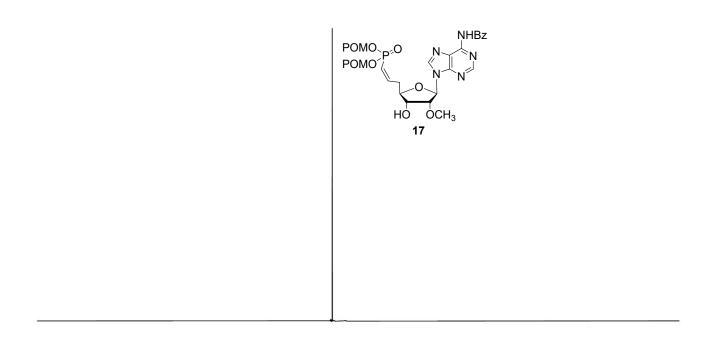


 31 P NMR (243 MHz, DMSO- d_6) of compoud **16**









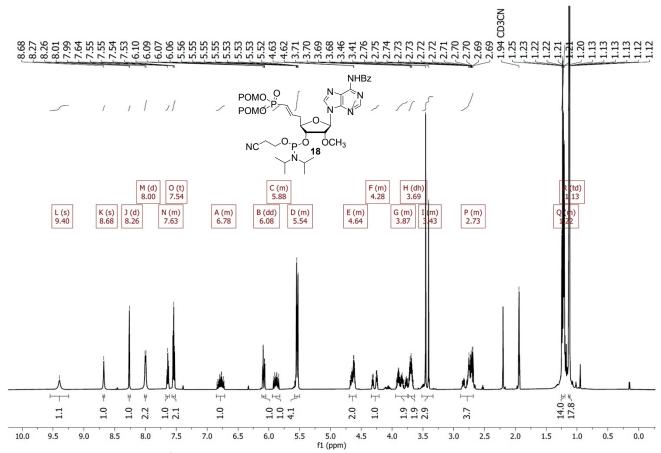
90 70 50 30 10 -10 -30 -50 -70 31P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl₃) of compoud **17**

170

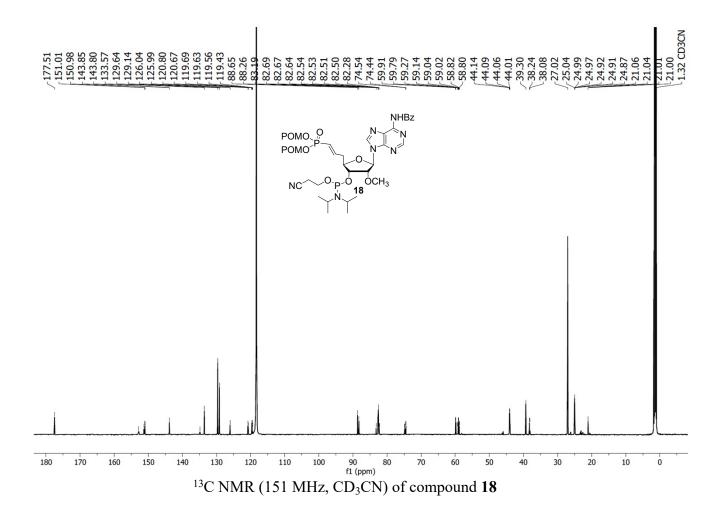
150

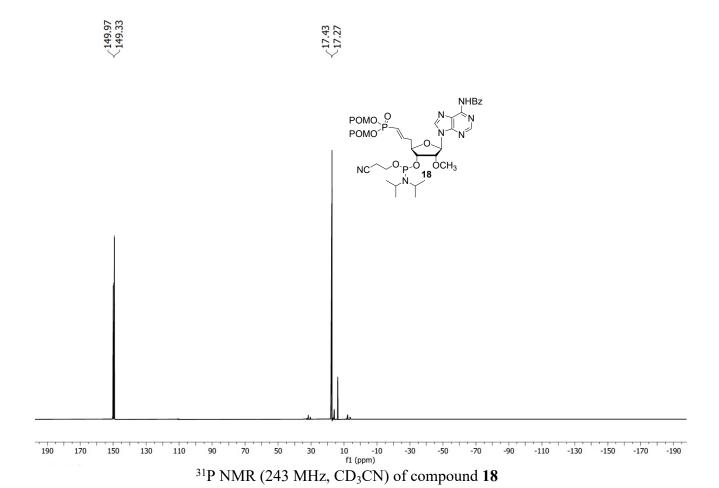
130

110

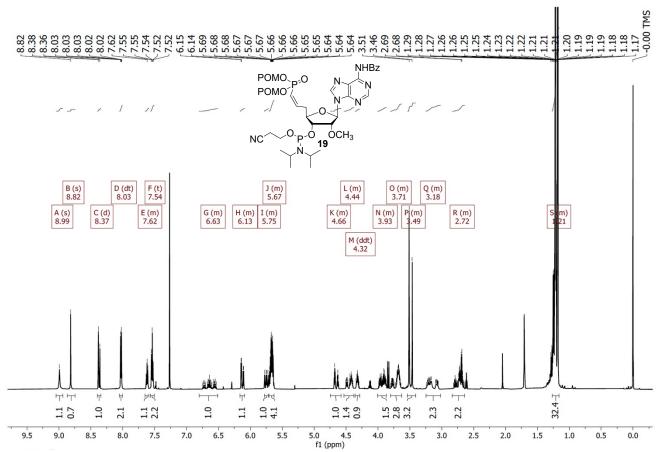


¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN) of compound 18

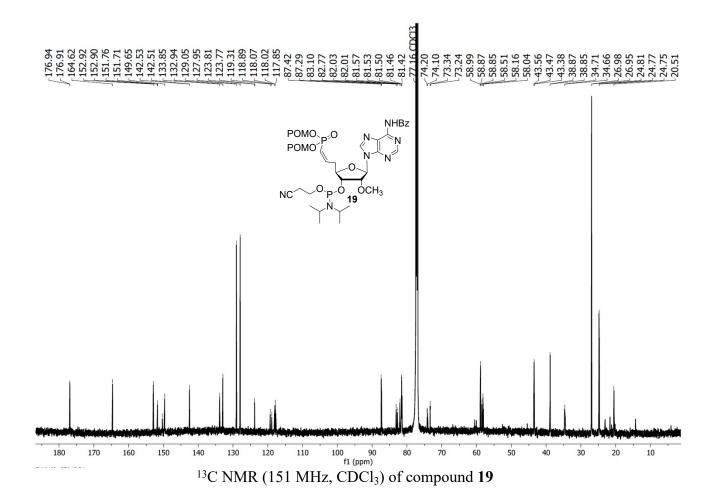


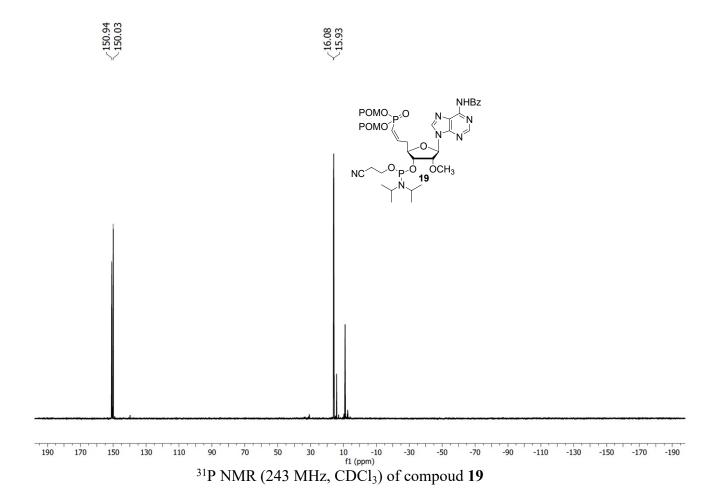


S-56

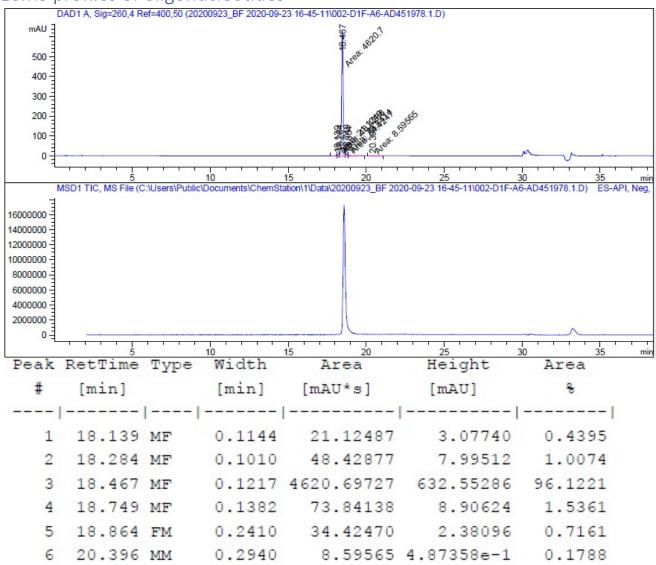


¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) of compoud 19

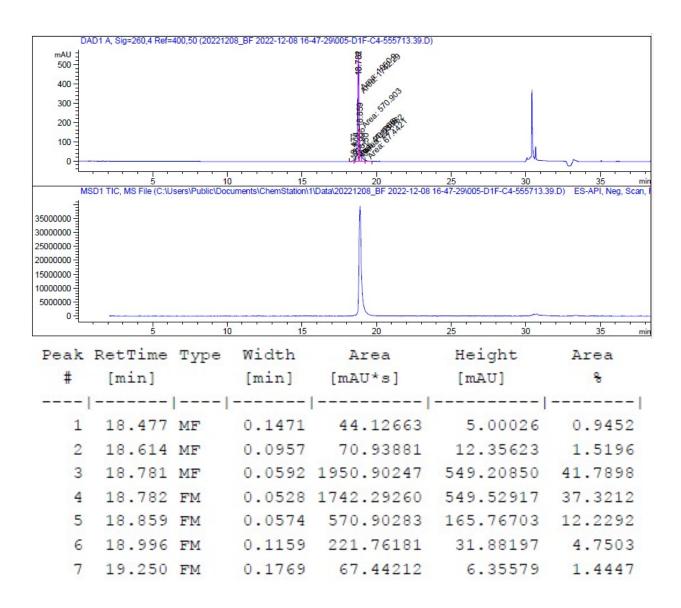




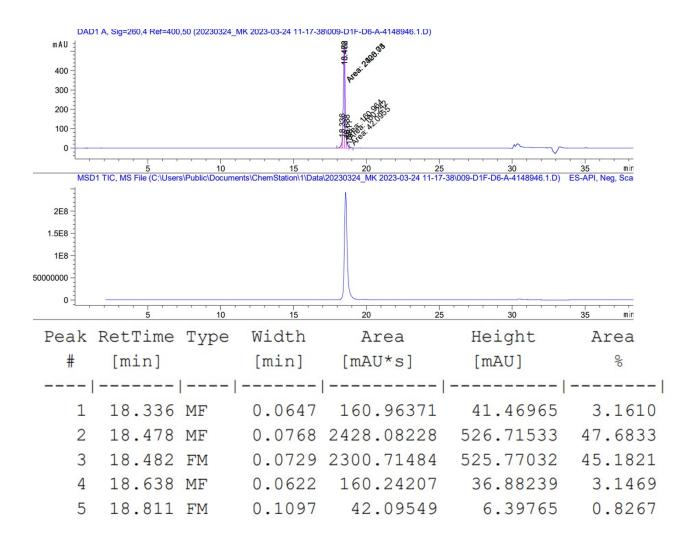
LCMS profiles of oligonucleotides



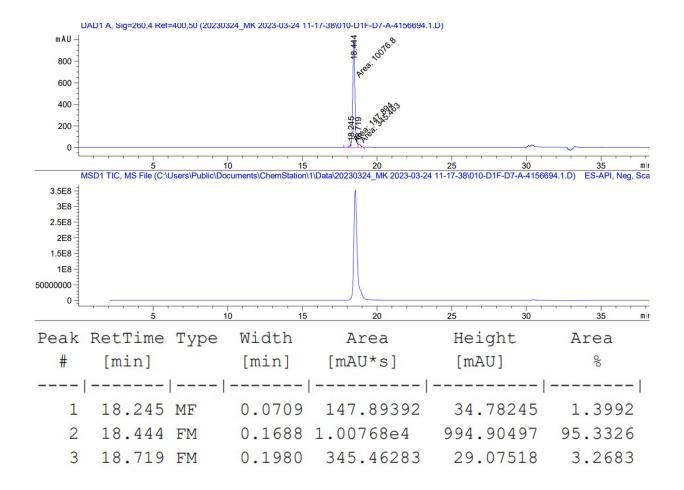
LCMS profile of ON1



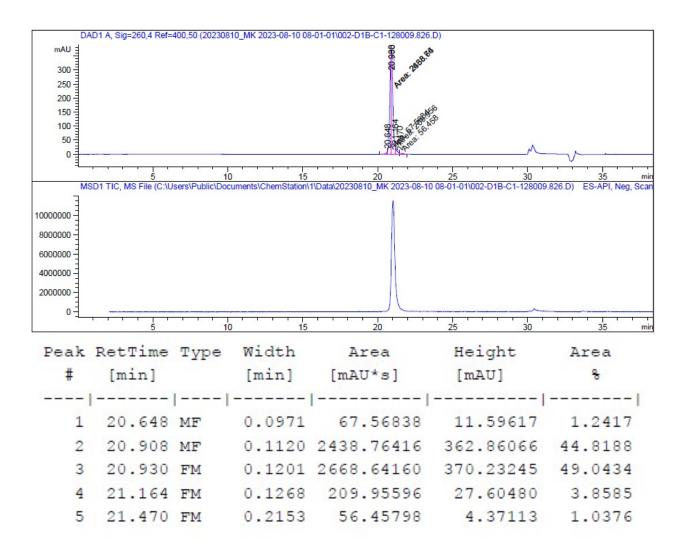
LCMS profile of **ON2**



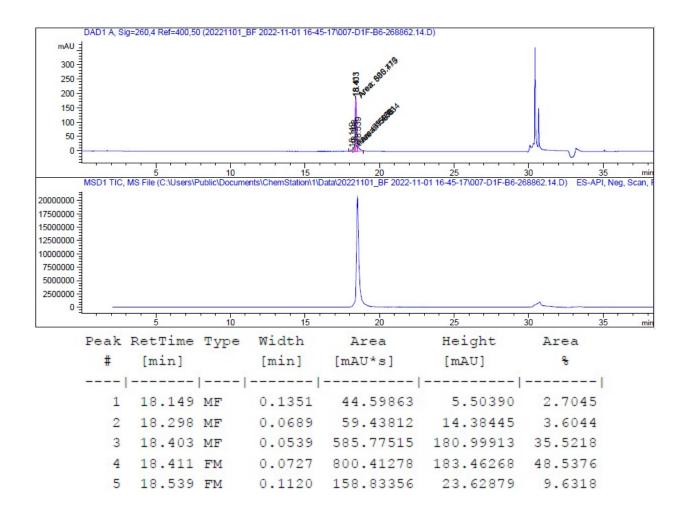
LCMS profile of **ON3**



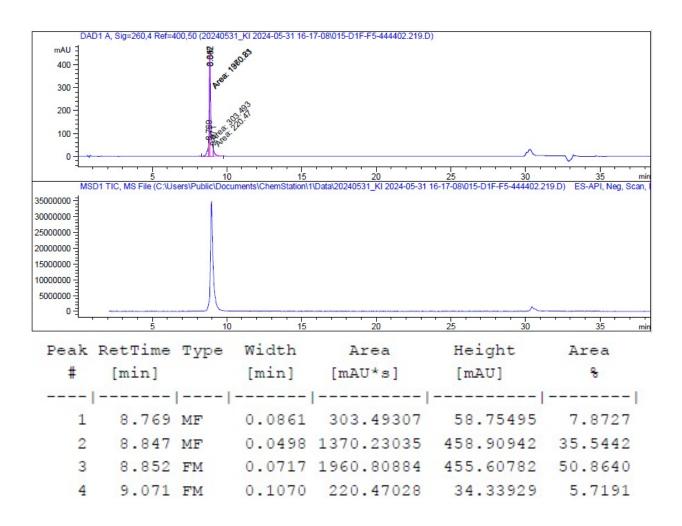
LCMS profile of **ON4**



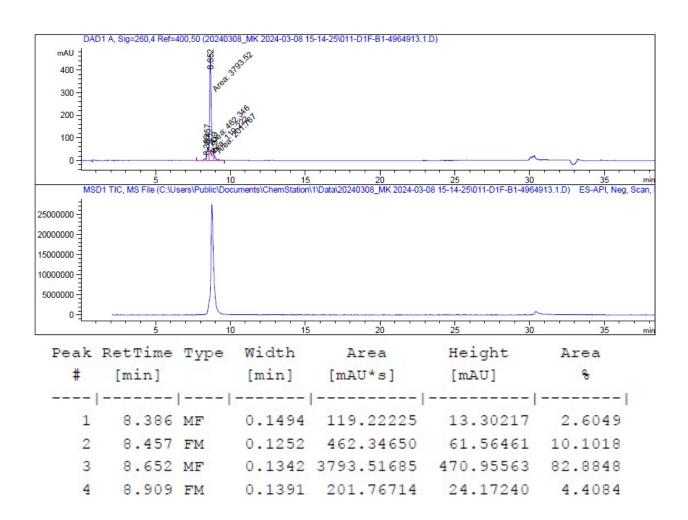
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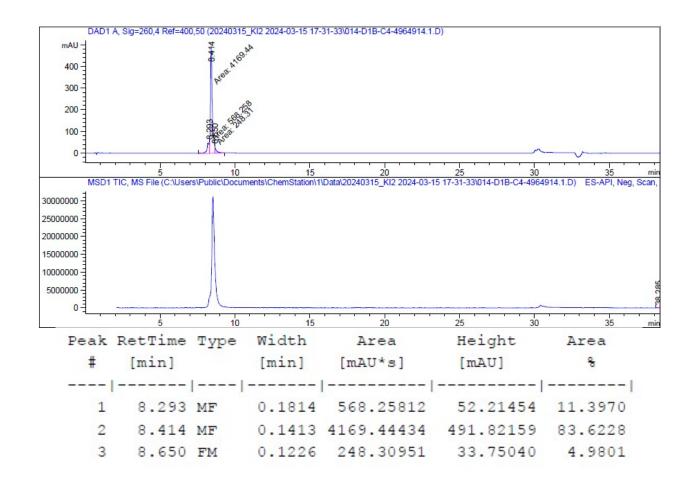
LCMS profile of **ON6**



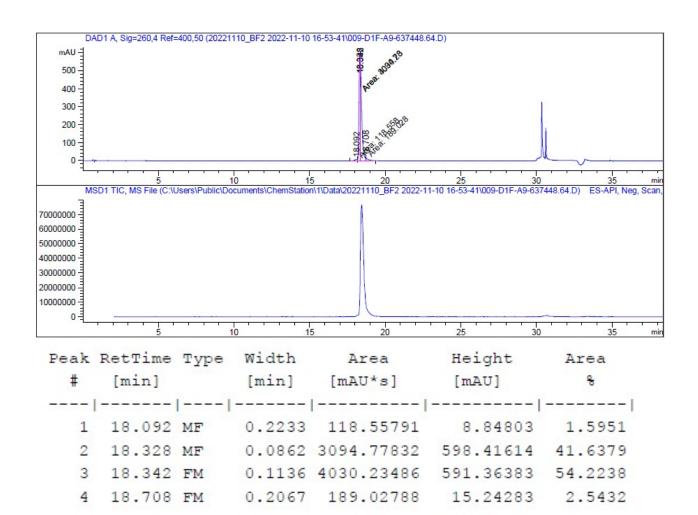
LCMS profile of ON7



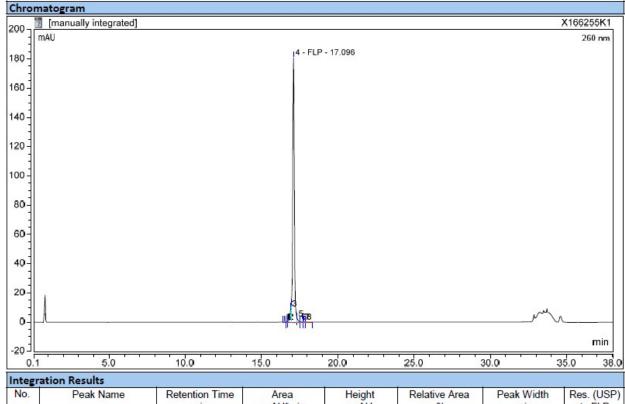
LCMS profile of **ON8**



LCMS profile of ON9

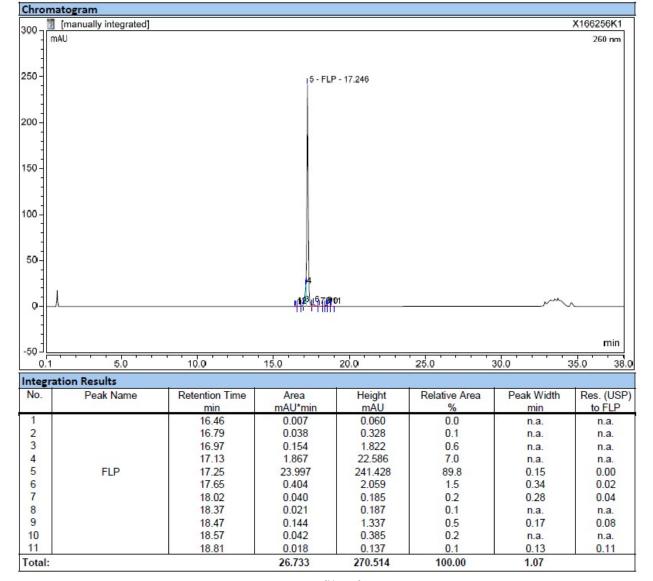


LCMS profile of ON10

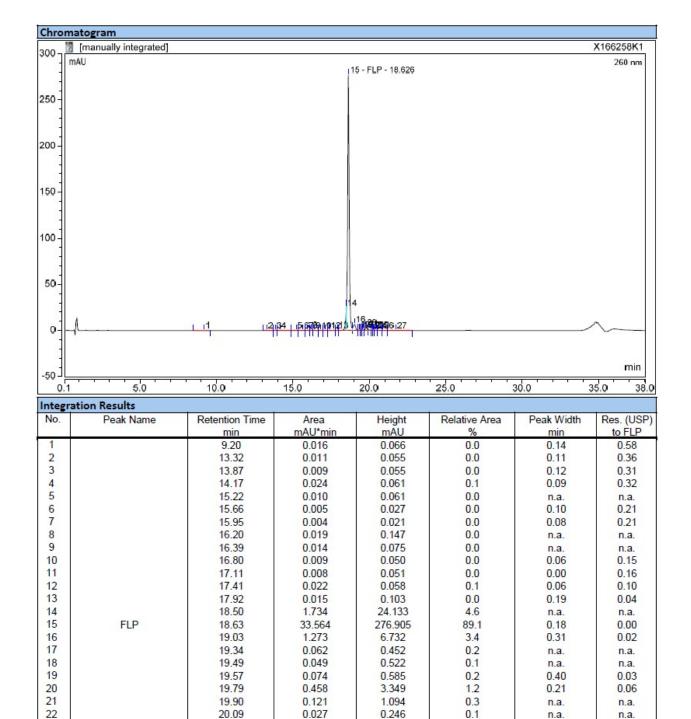


mAU*min mĂU min to FLP 0.0 16.50 0.008 0.075 n.a. n.a. 2 3 4 5 16.69 0.299 0.026 0.1 n.a. n.a. 16.91 0.972 9.257 4.3 n.a. n.a. FLP 17.10 21.454 180.755 94.5 0.18 0.00 17.34 0.162 2.391 0.7 n.a. n.a. 6 17.54 0.026 0.229 0.1 n.a. n.a. 17.77 0.026 0.212 0.1 n.a. n.a. 8 17.88 0.018 0.097 0.1 n.a. n.a. 100.00 22.692 193.315 0.18 Total:

LCMS profile of ON11



LCMS profile of ON12



LCMS profile of ON13

0.176

0.104

0.054

0.054

315.446

0.022

0.027

0.024

0.012

0.036

37.650

20.28

20.43

20.56

20.90

21.74

23

24

25

26

27

Total:

0.1

0.1

0.1

0.1

0.0

0.1

100.00

n.a.

n.a.

0.26

n.a.

n.a.

0.21

2.54

n.a.

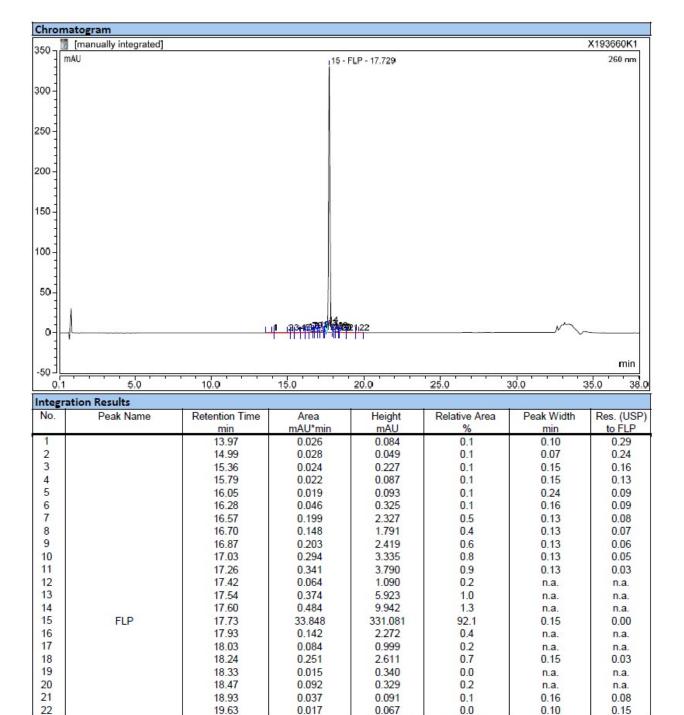
n.a.

0.08

n.a.

n.a.

0.16



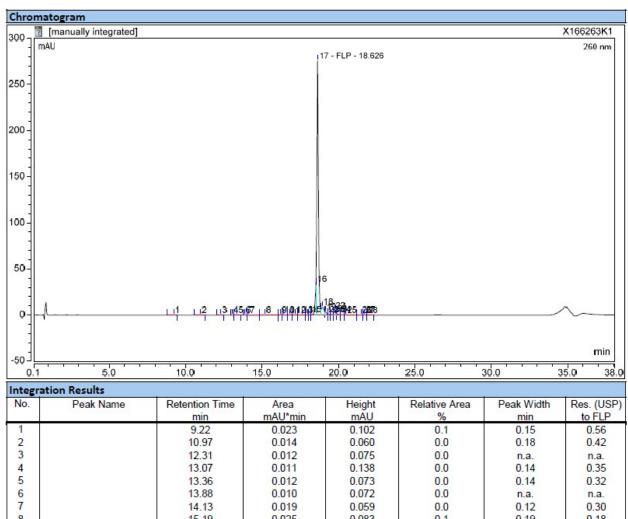
LCMS profile of **ON14**

100.00

2.10

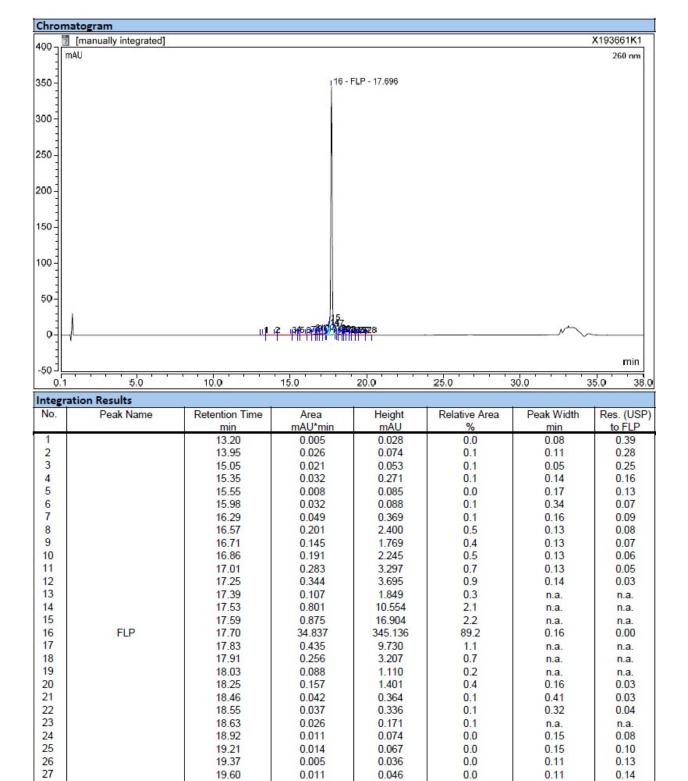
36.759

Total:



8 15.19 0.025 0.083 0.1 0.19 0.18 9 16.21 0.025 0.214 0.1 0.23 0.12 10 16.41 0.021 0.116 0.14 0.1 0.14 11 16.80 0.010 0.059 0.0 0.09 0.13 12 17.17 0.012 0.070 0.0 0.15 0.09 13 0.028 0.069 0.1 0.21 0.05 17.62 14 17.98 0.016 0.107 0.0 0.23 0.03 15 18.18 0.225 0.018 0.0 n.a. n.a. 18.52 2.047 33.253 16 5.3 n.a. n.a. 17 FLP 18.63 33.201 275.640 85.3 0.18 0.00 18 18.97 1.861 8.671 4.8 0.51 0.01 19 0.393 19.15 3.552 1.0 n.a. n.a. 0.097 20 19.30 0.750 0.2 n.a. n.a. 21 0.746 19.64 0.088 0.2 n.a. n.a. 22 19.74 0.621 4.486 1.6 0.23 0.05 23 19.86 0.181 1.446 0.5 n.a. n.a. 24 0.055 0.298 20.11 0.1 n.a. n.a. 25 20.49 0.071 0.149 0.2 n.a. n.a. 26 21.47 0.135 0.030 0.1 0.60 0.07 27 21.68 0.020 0.132 0.1 0.24 0.14 28 21.85 0.007 0.035 0.0 n.a. n.a. 38.929 330.817 100.00 3.74 Total:

LCMS profile of **ON15**



LCMS profile of ON16

405.389

0.0

100.00

0.08

3.35

0.19

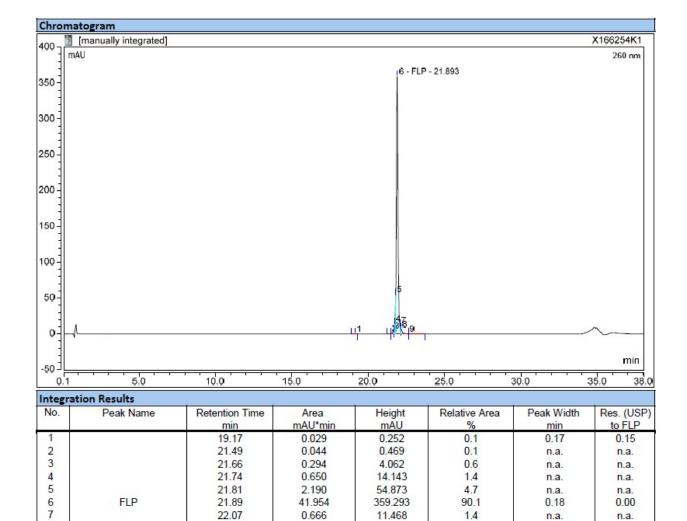
0.003

39.041

19.94

28

Total:



LCMS profile of ON17

0.145

450.674

1.5

0.1

100.00

n.a.

n.a.

0.35

n.a.

n.a.

0.680

0.043

46.550

22.15

22.63

8

9

Total:

References:

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