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Rozwój innowacyjnych agonistów GPR40 jako potencjalnych leków w terapii cukrzycy typu 2

Rozprawa na stopień doktora nauk medycznych i nauk o zdrowiu w dyscyplinie nauki medyczne

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WYKAZ STOSOWANYCH SKRÓTÓW

AC	Adenyl cyclase / cyklaza adenylanowa			
ADME	Absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion / absorbcja, dystrybucja,			
	metabolism, wydalanie			
ALA	Alpha-linolenic acid / kwas alfa-linolenowy			
ALP	Alkaline phosphatase / alkaliczna fosfataza			
ALT	Alanine aminotransferase / aminotransferaza alaninowa			
AST	Aspartate aminotransferase / aminotransferaza asparaginianowa			
ATP	Adenosine-5'-triphosphate / adenozyno-5'-trifosforan			
cAMP	Aycylic adenosine-3',5'- monophosphate / cykliczny adenozyno-3',5'-			
	monofosforan			
СНО	Chinese hamster ovary cells / komórki jajnika chomika chińskiego			
CIII	Chromatographic hydrophobicity index / chromatograficzny wskaźnik			
СПІ	hydrofobowości			
Cl	Clearance / klirens osoczowy			
Clint	Intrinsic clearance / klirens wewnętrzny			
cLogD _{7.4}	Calculated logaritm of the distribution coefficient between n-octanol and water			
	(pH = 7.4) / obliczony logarytm współczynnika podziału między n-oktanol i			
	woda $(pH = 7.4)$			
C _{max}	Maximum observed concentration / obserwowane stężenie maksymalne			
CVD	Cardiovascular disease / choroby układu krążenia			
DAG	Diacylglycerol / diacyloglicerol			
DHA	Docosahexaenoic acid / kwas dokozaheksaenowy			
DPP4	Dipeptidyl peptidase 4 / dipeptydylopeptydaza 4			
EC ₅₀	Half maximal effective concentration / połowa maksymalnego efektywnego			
	stężenia			
EPA	Eicosapentaenoic acid / kwas eikozapentaenowy			
EPAC	Exchange protein directly activated by camp / białko wymienne aktywowane			
	przez camp			
ER	Endoplasmic reticulum / retikulum endoplazmatyczne			
F	Bioavailability / biodostępność			

FFA	Free fatty acid / wolne kwasy tłuszczowe		
FFAR	Free fatty acid receptor / receptor dla wolnych kwasów tłuszczowych		
FPG	Fasting plasma glucose / glukoza na czczo		
GK	Goto Kakizaki rat / nazwa własna szczepu szczurów		
GLP-1	Glucagon-like peptide-1 / peptyd glukagonopodobny-1		
GPCR	G-protein-coupled receptor / receptor sprzężony z białkiem G		
GPR40	G-protein-coupled receptor 40 / receptor 40 sprzężony z białkiem G		
GPR41	G-protein-coupled receptor 41 / receptor 41 sprzężony z białkiem G		
GPR43	G-protein-coupled receptor 43 / receptor 43 sprzężony z białkiem G		
GPR120	G-protein-coupled receptor 120 / receptor 120 sprzężony z białkiem G		
GSIS	Glucose stimulated insulin secretion / zależne od glukozy wydzielanie insuliny		
GTP	Guanosine-5'-triphosphate / guanozyno-5'-trifosforan		
GTT	Glucose tolerance test / test tolerancji glukozy		
HbA1c	Glycated haemoglobin A1c / hemoglobina glikowana A1c		
HepG2	Hepatocellular carcinoma cell line /linia komórkowa ludzkiego raka wątroby		
HTS	High-throughput screening / wysokoprzepustowe testy przesiewowe		
IDF	International Diabetes Federation / Międzynarodowa Federacja Diabetologiczna		
INS1	Rat insulinoma cell line / linia komórkowa szczurzej insulinoma		
IP3	Inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate / 1,4,5 -trisfosforan inozytolu		
IP3R	Inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor / receptor dla 1,4,5 -trisfosforanu inozytolu		
MIN6	Mouse insulinoma cell line / linia komórkowa mysiej insulinoma		
MW	Molecular weight / masa cząseteczkowa		
NADPH	Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate / fosforan dinukleotydu		
	nikotynoamidoadeninowego		
OGTT	Oral glucose tolerance test / doustny test obciążenia glukozą		
PIP2	Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate / fosfatydyloinozytol 4,5 bisfosforanu		
РК	Pharmacokinetics / farmakokinetyka		
РКА	Protein kinase A / kinaza białkowa A		
РКС	Protein kinase C / kinaza białkowa C		
PLC	Phospholipase C / fosfolipaza C		

PPAR	Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors / receptory aktywowane przez		
	proliferatory peroksysomów		
ROS	Reactive oxygen species / reaktwne formy tlenu		
STZ	Streptozotocin / streptozotocyna		
T _{1/2}	Half-life / okres póltrwania		
T1D	Type 1 diabetes / cukrzyca typu 1		
T2D	Type 2 diabetes / cukrzyca typu 2		
TBA	Total bile acids / całkowite kwasy żółciowe		
T _{max}	Time corresponding to occurrence of maximal concentration / czas uzyskania		
	stężenia maksymalnego		
Vd	Volume of distribution / objętość dystrybucji		
VGCC	Voltage-gated calcium channels / bramkowane napięciem kanały wapniowe		
WHO	World Health Organization / światowa organizacja zdrowia		
WT	Wild type / typ dziki		
ZDF	Zucker Diabetic Fatty rat / nazwa szczepu otyłego szczura		
ZDSD	Zucker Diabetic Sprague Dawley rat / nazwa szczepu szczura		
3D	Three-dimensional / trójwymiarowe		
7TM	Seven-(pass)-transmembrane / siedmio-transmembranowa domena		
[Ca ²⁺]i	Intracellural calcium / wewnątrzkomórkowe jony wapnia		

STRESZCZENIE W JĘZYKU POLSKIM

Badania nad oddziaływaniem niezestryfikowanych kwasów tłuszczowych na homeostazę glukozy, glukagonu i insuliny sięgają lat 60. i 70. XX wieku. Na początku XXI wieku rozpoczęły się intensywne badania sprzężonego z białkiem G - receptora 40 (GPR40), zwanego także receptorem wolnych kwasów tłuszczowych 1 (FFAR1). Wyniki badań pokazały, że syntetyczne analogi naturalnych ligandów GPR40 mogą znaleźć zastosowanie w leczeniu cukrzycy typu 2. Endogenne wolne kwasy tłuszczowe stymulują uwalniania insuliny w sposób zależny od stężenia glukozy we krwi. Entuzjazm dla nowych, podawanych doustnie potencjalnych leków na cukrzyce typu 2, nie wywołujących hipoglikemii w przeciwieństwie do niektórych zatwierdzonych leków, trwał do czasu, gdy firma Takeda wycofała z badań klinicznych fazy 3 TAK-875 (fasiglifam), najbardziej obiecującego kandydata na agonistę GPR40. Decyzja ta spowodowana była obawami o jego toksyczność w wątrobie. Niezależnie od tego, inne firmy również zatrzymały lub spowolniły swoje programy poszukiwania takich agonistów. Dzięki temu powstała przestrzeń dla tworzenia nowych leków, ale jednocześnie wiele problemów do rozwiązania, aby zaprojektować skuteczny i bezpieczny lek na bazie oddziaływania z GPR40, który mógłby być wykorzystany do leczenia cukrzycy typu 2.

Zaprojektowany i opracowany przez Celon Pharma S.A. innowacyjny związek CPL207280 został przebadany w licznych testach efektywności i bezpieczeństwa *in vitro* oraz *in vivo*. Związek ten wykazał się 3 razy wyższą aktywność wobec receptora GPR40 *in vitro* oraz działaniem farmakologicznym *in vivo* na zwierzęcych modelach cukrzycowych, podobnym do obserwowanego w przypadku TAK-875. CPL207280 prezentował 10-krotnie zmniejszoną toksyczność wobec hepatocytów, 10-krotnie zmniejszoną inhibicję transporterów kwasów żółciowych w wątrobie i brak ingerencji w proces fosforylacji oksydacyjnej w mitochondriach jak również żywotność mitochondriów w porównaniu z TAK-875. Co ważniejsze, nie stwierdzono hepatotoksyczności w badaniach toksykologicznych przeprowadzonych na szczurach i małpach. Właściwości te wskazują, że CPL207280 jest gotowy do dalszego rozwoju klinicznego jako kandydat na innowacyjny lek przeciwcukrzycowy.

STRESZCZENIE W JĘZYKU ANGIELSKIM

Tytuł w języku angielskim: Development of an innovative GPR40 agonist as a potential therapeutic in therapy of the type 2 diabetes.

Research on the interplay between non-esterified fatty acids and glucose, glucagon and insulin homeostasis dates to the 1960s and 1970s. At the beginning of the 21st century, a period of intense work began with the deorphanization of G-protein coupled receptor 40 (GPR40), also called the free fatty acid receptor 1 (FFAR1). As a result of these efforts, it turned out that synthetic analogs of natural GPR40 ligands may be utilized in the treatment of diabetes type 2. The activation of FFAR1, which is highly expressed on beta cells of pancreatic Langerhans islets, by medium-to long-chain endogenous free fatty acids, results in the stimulation of insulin release in a blood glucose concentration-dependent manner. The enthusiasm for new, orally dosed treatments for type 2 diabetes likely being free of the potential occurrence of hypoglycemia as some approved drugs, persisted until the Takeda company announced the withdrawal of their most promising GPR40 agonist drug candidate, TAK-875 (fasiglifam), from the Phase 3 clinical trials, due to some concerns about the liver safety. Independently, other companies stopped or slowed down their GPR40 agonist development programs as well. This fact has left an open space for new opportunities, but at the same time, many problems were raised regarding designing an effective and safe FFA1-based drug for the treatment of T2D.

CPL207280, an innovative compound designed and developed by Celon Pharma S.A., showed 3 times greater activity towards the receptor *in vitro* and exhibited similar pharmacological effects *in vivo* in diabetic animal models to that observed for TAK-875. CPL207280 showed 10 times reduced toxicity in hepatocytes, 10 times reduced inhibition of hepatic bile acid transporters and no interference with oxidative phosphorylation in mitochondria or mitochondria viability compared to TAK-875. More importantly, it showed no hepatotoxicity in toxicology studies in rats and monkeys. Therefore CPL207280 is ready for further clinical development as a potential innovative antidiabetic drug.

1. WSTĘP

1.1. Etiologia i patologia cukrzycy

Cukrzyca jest przewlekła, ogólnoustrojowa choroba metaboliczna charakteryzująca się podwyższonym poziomem glukozy we krwi, spowodowanym brakiem możliwości produkcji wystarczającej ilości insuliny lub też brakiem możliwości jej efektywnego wykorzystania. Insulina jest hormonem wytwarzanym w komórkach beta trzustki, niezbędnym do prawidłowej homeostazy glukozy. Większość komórek organizmu ma na swojej powierzchni receptory dla insuliny, które sa tetramerycznym kompleksem składającym się z dwóch podjednostek α , tworzących domene zewnątrzkomórkową oraz dwóch podjednostek β o aktywności kinazy tyrozynowej. Insulina wiążąc się z domeną zewnątrzkomórkową receptora, powoduje zmianę konformacji receptora umożliwiając tym samym jego autofosforylację. Kontakt ufosforylowanego receptora z białkowymi substratami aktywuje liczne szlaki wewnątrzkomórkowe umożliwiając mu spełnianie swojej funkcji (1). Aktywacja tych szlaków przez insuline, pozwala glukozie z krwiobiegu wniknać do komórek organizmu, w których przekształcana jest w energię (2). Działanie insuliny nie ogranicza się jednak tylko do metabolizmu glukozy. Szerokie spektrum szlaków przez nią aktywowanych powoduje, że zajmuje ona również ważną rolę w metabolizmie m.in. białek i tłuszczy (3). Niewystarczająca ilość insuliny w organizmie, lub niezdolność komórek do odpowiedzi na nia, prowadzi do wysokiego poziomu glukozy we krwi (hiperglikemia), czyli klinicznego wskaźnika cukrzycy. Niedobór insuliny, jeśli pozostanie niekontrolowany przez długi czas, może spowodować uszkodzenie wielu narządów organizmu, prowadząc do kalectwa i zagrażających życiu i zdrowiu pacjenta powikłaniom, takim jak np.: choroby układu krążenia (CVD, cardio-vascular disease), uszkodzenie nerwów (neuropatia), uszkodzenia nerek (nefropatia) czy choroby oczu (prowadzące do retinopatii, utraty wzroku, a nawet ślepoty) (4). Możliwie wczesne podjęcie odpowiedniej opieki diabetologicznej skutkuje znacznym opóźnieniem lub też całkowitym wykluczeniem wystąpienia wskazanych powikłań (5).

Pod względem etiologii, cukrzyca dzieli się na dwa główne typy: cukrzyca typu 1 (T1D, type 1 diabetes) oraz cukrzyca typu 2 (T2D, type 2 diabetes) (6). Cukrzyca typu 1 jest spowodowana reakcją autoimmunologiczną, w której układ odpornościowy organizmu atakuje komórki beta trzustki produkujące insulinę (7). W rezultacie organizm produkuje bardzo małe ilości insuliny lub w ogóle jej nie produkuje. Przyczyny tego destrukcyjnego procesu nie są w pełni poznane, ale

prawdopodobnie wynikają z połączenia podatności genetycznej oraz wpływów środowiskowych, takich jak np. infekcja wirusowa, która może zainicjować reakcję autoimmunologiczną. Toksyny, jak również niektóre składniki diety, mogą również mieć wpływ na rozwój choroby (7,8). Cukrzyca może rozwinąć się w każdym wieku, chociaż T1D występuje najczęściej u dzieci i ludzi młodych.

W T2D dochodzi do hiperglikemii, początkowo powodowanej niezdolnością komórek organizmu do odpowiedzi na insulinę, co jest określane mianem - insulinooporności. W stanie insulinooporności hormon jest nieskuteczny i z biegiem czasu sytuacja ta wymusza zwiększenie produkcji insuliny. Wraz z postępem T2D zapotrzebowanie organizmu na insulinę przekracza naturalną zdolność komórek beta do jej wytwarzania a wzmożona produkcja insuliny przez komórki beta trzustki ostatecznie prowadzi do ich niewydolności. Cukrzycę typu 2 najczęściej spotyka się u osób starszych, ale coraz częściej występuje u dzieci i młodszych dorosłych ze względu na rosnący poziom otyłości, brak aktywności fizycznej i niewłaściwą dietę. Dokładny czas wystąpienia T2D jest zwykle niemożliwy do ustalenia. W rezultacie konieczna jest długa diagnostyka wstępna i aż od jednej trzeciej do połowy osób z T2D w populacji może pozostawać niezdiagnozowana (4). Przyczyny T2D są nie do końca poznane, ale występuje silna korelacja z nadwagą i otyłością, ryzyko choroby wzrasta z wiekiem, a także ma związek z pochodzeniem etnicznym i historią rodzinną. Podobnie jak w T1D, T2D wynika z połączenia wielogenowej predyspozycji z czynnikami środowiskowymi (5).

Według danych Międzynarodowej Federacji Diabetologicznej (IDF, International Diabetes Federation) cukrzyca jest jednym z największych i wciąż narastających problemów współczesnej medycyny. Obecnie IDF szacuje, że na cukrzycę choruje 537 milionów ludzi na całym świecie, w tym ponad 61 milionów w samej Europie (5). Dodatkowo uważa się, że ponad 45% chorych jest nadal niezdiagnozowanych. Analizy IDF wskazują, że jeśli utrzymany zostanie dotychczasowy model stylu życia, bez wdrożenia programów profilaktycznych na dużą skalę, to w 2030 r. liczba chorych na cukrzycę sięgnie nawet 643 mln, z czego 90% będą stanowić osoby z T2D. Niestety obecnie szacuje się, że ponad 6,7 miliona ludzi każdego roku umiera z powodu cukrzycy i jej powikłań, co stanowi 11,8% ogólniej liczby zgonów poniżej 60 roku życia (5). W Polsce na cukrzycę choruje ponad 2,6 mln osób, a prawie 1,75 mln nie wie o swojej chorobie (5). Chociaż istnieją udokumentowane kliniczne interwencje mające na celu remisję cukrzycy, zaburzenie jako takie uważa się za nieodwracalne ze względu na postępującą utratę funkcji i masy komórek beta trzustki (9). Mechanizmy molekularne leżące u podstaw defektów komórek beta są słabo

wyjaśnione, ale coraz więcej danych wskazuje na to, że wywodzą się one z indywidualnego tła genetycznego i akumulacji wariantów genetycznych, które powstrzymują komórki beta przed dostosowaniem swojej funkcji i masy do postępującej patologii cukrzycowej (10).

Ponieważ mechanizmy leżace u podstaw niewydolności komórek beta nie są w pełni wyjaśnione, rozwinęło się jedynie leczenie objawowe dotyczące znanych szlaków, które poprawiają funkcjonowanie komórek beta. Globalny rynek rozwoju leków przeciwcukrzycowych ukierunkowany jest na rozwój substancji aktywnych wykazujących trwałe działanie w kierunku przywracania normoglikemii, przy zachowaniu łatwości podawania - najlepiej doustnego. Ponieważ w T2D insulinooporność jest kluczowym czynnikiem zwiekszającym obciążenie komórek beta i przyczyniającym się do utraty ich funkcji, leki uwrażliwiające tkanki na insulinę (np. metformina) stały się rutynowo przepisywane jako leki pierwszego rzutu (11). Niemniej jednak, po kilku latach ich podawania, stają się one nieuchronnie niewystarczające, gdy w organizmie pogłębia się niedobór insuliny z powodu utraty funkcji i masy komórek beta. Aby umożliwić dalszą kontrolę glikemii, leki uwrażliwiające na insulinę łączy się z substancjami stymulującym wydzielanie insuliny z komórek beta. Pierwszy doustny lek pobudzający wydzielanie insuliny - sulfonylomocznik (SU, sulfonylurea) - został zarejestrowany w latach pięćdziesiątych do leczenia T2D. Pomimo licznych dowodów na jego niekorzystne efekty uboczne, takie jak częste epizody hipoglikemii, działanie toksyczne wobec komórek beta trzustki, jest on nadal powszechnie stosowany w leczeniu T2D (12). Leki wspomagające wydzielanie insuliny, pozbawione tych ograniczeń, sukcesywnie wypierające pochodne SU z rynku, są osiągnięciem ostatnich lat. Należą do nich inhibitory dipeptydylopeptydazy 4 (DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase 4) i analogi peptydu glukagonopodobnego 1 (GLP-1, glucagon-like peptide 1). Inhibitory DPP-4 zwiększając poziom hormonów inkretynowych (przez hamowanie ich rozkładania w wątrobie), zmniejszają ryzyko hipoglikemii dzięki zaangażowaniu mechanizmu działania zależnego od glukozy (11,12). Okazały się one jednak umiarkowanymi kontrolerami glikemii, zwiększającymi ryzyko CVD (13). Największe korzyści terapeutyczne przynoszą analogi inkretyn (GLP-1) insulinotropowych hormonów jelitowych. Oprócz silnego wzmocnienia zależnego od glukozy wydzielania insuliny (GSIS, glucose stimulated insulin secretion), poprawiają one funkcję i żywotność komórek beta trzustki w warunkach T2D, a także zmniejszają apetyt, a co za tym idzie - masę ciała (14). Leki te są jednak drogie, nieoptymalne w podawaniu (zastrzyki) i choć pojawiły się pierwsze analogi do podawania doustnego (15,16) nadal często powoduja skutki uboczne ze strony przewodu pokarmowego takie jak: mdłości, wymioty, niestrawność czy biegunki (17). Pomimo tego, że na rynku jest kilka klas leków działających na komórki beta trzustki w T2D (pochodne SU, analogi GLP-1), nadal istnieje możliwość poprawy skuteczności i bezpieczeństwa terapii. Ponadto, biorąc pod uwagę niejednorodność mechanizmów leżących u podstaw niewydolności komórek beta u każdego pacjenta, wciąż istnieje potrzeba tworzenie nowych środków ułatwiających optymalizację terapii spersonalizowanej dla każdego pacjenta z T2D.

1.2. Receptory GPCR dla kwasów tłuszczowych

Receptory sprzężone z białkiem G (GPCR, G-protein-coupled receptor) stanowią najbardziej powszechną rodzinę białek wykorzystywaną do poszukiwania leków (18). Złożoność działania GPCR jest determinowana przez różnorodność bodźców zewnętrznych, na które mogą reagować (w tym lipidy, aminokwasy, białka, hormony, nukleotydy, neuroprzekaźniki, światło itp.) oraz różnorodność ścieżek wewnątrzkomórkowych, w których mogą uczestniczyć, co częściowo zależy, z którym konkretnie białkiem są sprzężone (Gα, Gβ lub Gγ). GPCR charakteryzują się siedmioma segmentami transbłonowymi (7TM, seven transmembrane), które na podstawie podobieństwa sekwencji można podzielić na 6 klas: klasa A - receptory rodopsyno-podobne, klasa B - receptory sekretyno-podobne, klasa C - receptory glutaminergiczne, klasa D - receptory dla feromonów grzybów, klasa E - receptory cyklicznego adenozyno-3',5'-monofosforanu (cAMP, cycylic adenosine-3',5'- monophosphate) oraz klasa F - receptory frizzled (FZD)/ smoothened (SMO) (19,20). Receptory dla wolnych kwasów tłuszczowych (FFAR, free fatty acid receptor) sa członkami rodopsyno-podobnej rodziny GPCR, a obecnie cztery receptory zostały sklasyfikowane i nazwane jako FFAR1 (GPR40, G-protein-coupled receptor 40), FFAR2 (GPR43, G-proteincoupled receptor 43), FFAR3 (GPR41, G-protein-coupled receptor 41) i FFAR4 (GPR120, Gprotein-coupled receptor 120). GPR40, GPR41 i GPR43 są blisko spokrewnione pod względem sekwencji i sa one u ludzi zlokalizowane na chromosomie 19q13.12 (21). Z drugiej strony, GPR120 znajdujący się na chromosomie 10 (10q23.33) u ludzi, wykazuje niewielką ogólną homologię z innymi FFAR. GPR41 i GPR43 mogą być aktywowane przez krótkołańcuchowe kwasy tłuszczowe i wykazują się różną aktywnością w zależności od liganda, który je aktywuje (22,23) W przeciwieństwie do tego GPR40 jest aktywowany selektywnie przez długołańcuchowe kwasy tłuszczowe. Szczegóły tej aktywacji opisano poniżej w punkcie 1.3.

1.3. Receptor 1 dla wolnych kwasów tłuszczowych (FFAR1/GPR40)

GPR40 (inaczej FFAR1) należy do rodziny GPCR (24) i jest obecny głównie na powierzchni komórek beta trzustki jak również na komórkach enteroendokrynnych jelita oraz w mniejszym stopniu w mózgu i kościach. Receptor ten jest aktywowany przez średnio- i długołańcuchowe kwasy tłuszczowe (np. kwas dokozaheksaenowy (DHA, docosahexaenoic acid), kwas eikozapentaenowy (EPA, eicosapentaenoic acid), kwas α -linolenowy (ALA, alpha-linolenic acid), które poprzez białko Gαq, w pierwszej kolejności aktywują fosfolipazę C (PLC, phospholipase C) w obecności guanozyno-5'-trifosforan (GTP, guanosine-5'-triphosphate). W komórkach beta trzustki po stymulacji glukoza, kanały wapniowe bramkowane napięciem (VGCC, voltage-gated calcium channels) podnoszą stężenie Ca^{2+} w cytozolu ([Ca^{2+}]i, intracellural calcium), co prowadzi do wydzielania insuliny. Jeśli receptor GPR40 jest aktywowany przez swój ligand, fosfolipaza C katalizuje hydrolize 4,5-bisfosforanu fosfatydyloinozytolu (PIP2, phosphatidylinositol 4,5bisphosphate) do diacyloglicerolu (DAG, diacylglycerol) i 1,4,5-trifosforanu inozytolu (IP3, inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate). DAG aktywuje kinazę białkową C (PKC, protein kinase C), która zwiększa aktywność VGCC i wzmaga pobudzanie pęcherzyków insulinowych na błonie komórkowej, czyniąc je gotowymi do wydzielania w większej ilości. IP3 aktywuje receptor dla IP3 (IP3R, inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor), dzięki czemu Ca²⁺ jest uwalniany z retikulum endoplazmatycznego (ER, endoplasmic reticulum), co prowadzi do wzrostu [Ca²⁺]i (25,26). To z kolei powiększa pulę wapnia dostarczaną przez VGCC, wzmacniając w ten sposób proces wyzwalający wydzielanie insuliny (Ryc. 1). Jest to ścieżka kanoniczna działająca w odpowiedzi na endogenne ligandy.



Rycina 1. Uproszczony schemat wydzielania insuliny w mechanizmie opartym o zależną od glukozy aktywację receptora GPR40. W komórkach beta trzustki po stymulacji glukozą, kanały wapniowe bramkowane napięciem (VGCC) podnoszą stężenie Ca^{2+} w cytozolu co prowadzi do wydzielania insuliny. Aktywacja receptor GPR40, wspomaga uwalnianie Ca^{2+} z retikulum endoplazmatycznego (ER), powiększając w ten sposób jego pule w cytozolu i wzmacniając proces wyzwalający wydzielanie insuliny.

Wraz z rozwojem badań nad GPR40 zauważono, że niektóre spośród syntetycznych agonistów wzbudzają jego większą aktywność niż naturalne ligandy. Takie związki nazywa się pełnymi agonistami, a związki, które wywołują odpowiedź porównywalną do endogennych ligandów – częściowymi agonistami. Pełni agoniści wiążą się w innym miejscu receptora niż częściowi agoniści i tym samym sprawiają, że GPR40 jest mniej specyficzny pod względem aktywowanych ścieżek sygnalizacyjnych. Aktywowany przez pełnego agonistę receptor GPR40 nie tylko angażuje białko sprzężone z Gαq (jak w przypadku aktywacji przez częściowego agonistę), ale blokuje też białko Gαs. To z kolei aktywuje cyklazę adenylową (AC, adenyl cyclase), która wytwarza cAMP, dzięki czemu aktywane są białka EPAC (the exchange protein activated by cAMP) i kinaza białkowa A (PKA, protein kinase A) (27). Oddziaływania te powodują efekty plejotropowe, wśród których dominujące są odpowiednio aktywacja VGCC i zwiększanie puli pęcherzyków insulinowych. Obydwa spośród wymienionych mechanizmów działają tylko wtedy, gdy poziom glukozy we krwi przekracza optymalne stężenie. Taka zależność jest szczególnie atrakcyjna z farmakologicznego punktu widzenia, gdyż otwiera możliwość opracowania agonisty

GPR40, który może nie tylko wzmagać wydzielanie insuliny, ale także zdecydowanie precyzyjniej je kontrolować w porównaniu do popularnych leków (SU), eliminując tym samym zagrożenie hipoglikemią. Struktura syntetycznego agonisty musi jednak różnić się od endogennych ligandów, ponieważ kwasy tłuszczowe w wysokich stężeniach wiązane są z opornością na insulinę w tkankach obwodowych (tłuszczu, wątrobie, mięśniach), jak również są uznawane za czynniki toksyczne dla komórek beta, szczególnie w warunkach T2D (28).

W tracie badań nad receptorem GPR40 wykazano, że delecja genu *Gpr40* w komórkach beta myszy osłabia zależne od FFA wydzielanie insuliny, natomiast nie ma wpływu na GSIS (29). Z drugiej strony, indukowalna, wzmożona ekspresja genu *Gpr40* w komórkach beta u zdrowych myszy i myszy T2D poprawiła tolerancję glukozy poprzez amplifikację GSIS (30). Gen *GPR40* występuje u ludzi w kilku wariantach genetycznych, w tym takich, które znoszą jego funkcję. Takie warianty są jednak rzadkie w populacji (31), dlatego też wydaje się, że GPR40 może być skutecznym celem terapeutycznym poprawiającym funkcję komórek beta w całej populacji T2D. Wyniki licznych badań wskazują, że zwiększona aktywacja receptora GPR40 poprawia, a jej obniżenie osłabia tolerancję glukozy w modelach zwierzęcych. Wnioski z tych prac doprowadziły do opracowania nowych, potencjalnie aktywnych związków o niskiej masie cząsteczkowej do leczenia T2D (29,30).

Po weryfikacji, że receptor GPR40 jest czynnikiem regulującym poziom glukozy u zwierząt, zaczęto poszukiwać związków małocząsteczkowych, które mogłyby przewyższyć FFA pod względem skuteczności i bezpieczeństwa w jego aktywacji. Pionierami syntezy takich cząsteczek były firmy Piramal i Merck, które poszukiwały agonistów głównie w swoich bibliotekach ligandów receptorów aktywowanych proliferatorami peroksysomów (PPAR, peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors) (32,33). Biorąc pod uwagę, że naturalne ligandy GPR40 (FFA) są lipofilowe, a zatem toksyczne w tym głownie dla wątroby (34), dużym wyzwaniem w rozwoju agonistów GPR40 było zaprojektowanie aktywnego, ale stosunkowo mało lipofilowego związku. Chociaż w fazie badań klinicznych znalazło się kilka cząsteczek, żadna z nich nie zakończyła wszystkich faz.

Struktura najbardziej zaawansowana w badaniach klinicznych - TAK-875 (fasiglifam) została zidentyfikowana w 2010 roku jako częściowy agonista GPR40 przez firmę Takeda (35). Związek wykazywał się efektywnością w aktywacji receptora, oznaczaną parametrem EC50 (połowa maksymalnego efektywnego stężenia), na poziomie 14 nM w komórkach z nadekspresją

GPR40 i poprawiał tolerancję glukozy u otyłych szczurów Wistar. W badaniu farmakokinetycznym (PK, pharmacokinetics) wykazywał on niski klirens osoczowy (Cl, clearance) i małą objętość dystrybucji (Vd, volume of distribution), co skutkowało przedłużonym okresem półtrwania (T_{1/2}, half life) w osoczu badanych gatunków (szczur - 4,7 godz.; pies - 5,9 godz.). Ponadto wykazywał on wysokie stężenie maksymalne (C_{max}, maximum observed concentration) i wysokie stężenie w osoczu z korzystną biodostępnością (F, bioavailability) (76,0%; 92,4%) odpowiednio u szczura i psa (35). TAK-875 wzmacniał GSIS w komórkach szczurzego nowotworu wywodzącego się z komórek beta wysp trzustkowych (INS-1, rat insulinoma cells), a także pierwotnych wysepkach szczurzych i ludzkich (36,37). Związek wykazał skuteczność obniżania glikemii w zwierzęcych modelach cukrzycy np. szczurów streptozotocynowych (STZ, streptozotocin-induced rat) czy Zucker Diabetic Fatty (ZDF, Zucker Diabetic Fatty rat), ale nie wywoływał efektu hipoglikemicznego u szczurów zdrowych. Wykazał również trwały efekt u szczurów ZDF po 6 tygodniach podawania w dawce 10 mg/kg masy ciała. Zmniejszał poziom glikowanej hemoglobiny (HbA1c, glicated hemoglobin A1c) o 1,7% zastosowany w monoterapii i o 2,4% po podaniu z metforminą, wykazując działanie addytywne (50 mg/kg) (38).

Podczas badania klinicznego fazy 1 u zdrowych ochotników TAK-875 wykazywał bardzo długi okres półtrwania wynoszący ok. 28-36 godzin, co pozwalało na jego podawanie raz dziennie (39). Przy jednorazowych dawkach dobowych w zakresie 25-800 mg nie wywoływał żadnych epizodów hipoglikemii. Częstość obserwowanych klinicznych skutków ubocznych była podobna do tej w ramieniu otrzymującym placebo i nie obserwowano korelacji pomiędzy zdarzeniami niepożądanymi (AE, adverse events) a dawkami. Następnie związek testowano w grupach pacjentów z T2D w różnych badaniach klinicznych fazy 2 i 3. TAK-875 wykazał zależny od dawki wpływ na poprawę poziomu insuliny na czczo i w 2 godziny po doustnym teście obciążenia glukozą (OGTT, oral glucose tolerance test), co powiązane było również z jednoczesnym zmniejszeniem stężenia glukozy na czczo (40). W 12-tygodniowym badaniu klinicznym fazy 2 przeprowadzonym z udziałem japońskich pacjentów z T2D (liczba pacjentów na ramię, n≥50) z niedostatecznie kontrolowaną cukrzycą, znacząco obniżał poziom glukozy na czczo (FPG, fasting plasma glucose) już po 2 tygodniach, w sposób zależny od dawki (41). Po 12 tygodniach maksymalna redukcja FPG wyniosła 50 mg/dl, a poziom HbA1c zmniejszył się średnio o 1,4%. Ponownie nie odnotowano żadnych poważnych AE związanych z podawaniem TAK-875. Hipoglikemia występowała niezależnie od dawki TAK-875 i wynosiła 0.7% wszystkich AE, natomiast w grupie leczonej glimepirydem parametr ten był znacznie wyższy – 4,1%. W trakcie badania 3 fazy, w którym TAK-875 był testowany w dawkach 25 i 50 mg przez 24 tygodnie, występowały rzadkie, choć częstsze niż w grupie placebo, AE zaistniałe w trakcie leczenia i związane z enzymami wątrobowymi: aminotransferazą alaninową (ALT, alanin aminotransferase) i aminotransferazą asparaginianową (AST, aspartate aminotransferase), czynnością wątroby i zapaleniem dróg żółciowych. Ogólnie lek był dobrze tolerowany i został uznany za dobrego kandydata do leczenia T2D (42,43). Niespodziewanie w 2013 roku firma Takeda zdecydowała się wstrzymać prace nad lekiem z powodu obaw związanych z toksycznością względem wątroby, wynikających z danych zebranych w światowych badaniach klinicznych (44).

Od tego czasu TAK-875 był intensywnie badany pod kątem możliwych mechanizmów, na drodze których może powodować uszkodzenie wątroby. Efekt ten okazał się plejotropowy i polega na blokowaniu transporterów kwasów żółciowych, krystalizacji w tkance wątroby w wysokich dawkach, wytwarzaniu reaktywnych form tlenu (ROS, reactive oxygen species) i hamowaniu fosforylacji oksydacyjnej w mitochondriach (45–47).

Ponieważ wciąż istnieją niezaspokojone potrzeby medyczne, które mogą pomóc populacji ludzkiej radzić sobie z coraz większą liczbą przypadków T2D na całym świecie, stale pojawiają się nowe opcje i pomysły na rozwój nowych, innowacyjnych leków. Przykładem tego jest CPL207280 – agonista GPR40, opracowany w laboratoriach Celon Pharma S.A. Przeprowadzone testy zarówno *in vitro* jak i *in vivo* wykazały, że jest on bardziej aktywny i bezpieczniejszy niż najbardziej zaawansowany dotychczas agonista FFA1 - TAK-875. Wprowadzone modyfikacje strukturalne miały na celu zmniejszenie masy cząsteczkowej i ogólnej lipofilności molekuły przy jednoczesnym utrzymaniu siły działania i biodostępności, czego efektem miało być zminimalizowania potencjalnego ryzyka wystąpienia skutków ubocznych.

Z uwagi na fakt, że w rozwoju klinicznym cząsteczka TAK-875 doszła najdalej spośród wszystkich rozwijanych agonistów receptora GPR40 oraz wykazywała efektywność w badaniach klinicznych na pacjentach z T2D, w niniejszym projekcie związek ten używany był jako związek referencyjny. Ponadto ze względu swoje działanie hepatotoksyczne był dobrym punktem odniesienia do porównania i wykazania bezpieczeństwa stosowania rozwijanego, nowego agonisty GPR40.

1.4. Proces rozwoju leku drobnocząsteczkowego na przykładzie CPL207280

Proces odkrycia nowego leku (ang. drug discovery) i jego dalszy rozwój (ang. drug development) do momentu, w którym może być podany grupie docelowej jest procesem bardzo kosztownym i długotrwałym. Trudno określić, jaki nakład finansowy wymagany jest, aby wprowadzić nowy lek na rynek, gdyż zależy on od wielu indywidualnych dla danego projektu czynników, niemniej jednak przyjmuje się, że koszty te wahają się pomiędzy 314 milionów a 2.8 miliarda dolarów (48). Średni czas wprowadzenia nowego leku na rynek szacuje się na co najmniej 12-15 lat, potrzebnych aby przejść drogę od pierwszego odkrycia do wdrożenia na rynek, przy czym same badania kliniczne to etap trwający średnio od 6-7 lat (49). Patrząc na to, że prawdopodobieństwo komercjalizacji nowej cząsteczki szacuje się na mniej niż 12%, całe przedsięwzięcie jest bardzo ryzykowne i powinno być dobrze przeanalizowane i zaprojektowane.

Podobnie jak w przypadku większości złożonych procesów, odkrycie i rozwój leków można podzielić na kilka mniejszych etapów (Ryc. 2.).



Rycina 2. Schemat rozwoju leku drobnocząsteczkowego na przykładzie związku CPL207280

Poszukiwania nowego leku drobnocząsteczkowego zawsze poprzedzone są identyfikacją potrzeby rynkowej czyli choroby, którą chcemy leczyć a także celu molekularnego (ang. molecular target), poprzez który chcemy to robić. Szczegółowe poznanie choroby i mechanizmów, jakie nią

steruja, sa być kluczowe na drodze poszukiwania nowego leku. Bardzo często proces rozwoju leku poprzedzony jest fazą badań podstawowych, które pomagają poznać i wyjaśnić mechanizmy stojące za konkretnym schorzeniem, a tym samym precyzyjniej określić cel działania nowej czasteczki. Po wyborze celu, następnym krokiem jest identyfikacja wszelkich substancji, które mogą mieć na niego jakiś wpływ regulujący. Postępy w zautomatyzowanych technikach syntezy chemicznej, umożliwiły szybki rozwój bibliotek chemicznych. Poszukiwanie prawdopodobnego kandydata na lek w tych ogromnych bibliotekach chemicznych zostało w XX wieku uproszczone przez wprowadzenie wysokoprzepustowych technik przesiewowych (HTS, High throughput screening), które wykorzystują postępy w robotyce, automatyzacji, miniaturyzacji i przetwarzaniu danych (50). Testy przesiewowe zwykle odbywa się w kilku etapach. Początkowo proste testy in vitro służące do wstępnego przeszukiwania bardzo dużej liczby związków następnie zostają zastąpione bardziej złożonymi testami w celu doprecyzowania początkowej grupy, która może zawierać kilkaset związków, aż do łatwiejszej do opanowania liczby, zwykle <10. W przypadki odkrycia związku CPL207280 etap ten obejmował testy przesiewowe biblioteki związków na komórkach CHO z nadekspresją receptora GPR40, a następnie funkcjonalny test wydzielania insuliny in vitro oraz określenie stabilności metabolicznej wobec frakcji mikrosomalnej będące jednym z elementów badań absorpcji, dystrybucji, metabolizmu i wydalania substancji chemicznych (ADME, absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion). Identyfikacja waskiej grupy potencjalnych cząsteczek wiodących (ang. lead) jest drugim ważnym etapem procesu badawczo-rozwojowego i oznacza przejście od badań do rozwoju. Chociaż prawdopodobnie potrzeba dalszych 10 lat prac rozwojowych, zanim lek będzie mógł zostać zgłoszony do dopuszczenia do obrotu, to w tym momencie lek najczęściej jest patentowany. Tak było również i w niniejszym projekcie, w którym w momencie identyfikacji wąskiej grupy struktur wiodących, do urzędu patentowego zostało złożone zgłoszenie patentowe umożliwiające ochronę rozwijanych dalej struktur (51). Koszty badań i rozwoju do tego momentu są stosunkowo skromne, ale po przekroczeniu tego punktu koszty gwałtownie rosną i firmy muszą chronić swoje inwestycje. Kolejny krok w procesie optymalizacji cząsteczki wiodącej ma na celu zmniejszenie liczby potencjalnych związków, zmierzającym do wyboru 1-2 cząsteczek o najwyższym potencjale rozwojowym. W tym celu w projekcie przeprowadzone były liczne badania właściwości fizykochemicznych struktur połączone z określeniem ich profilu farmakokinetycznego oraz pierwszych badań efektywności in vivo (52). Jednocześnie w procesie rozwoju leków podejmowane sa próby modyfikacji struktury molekularnej na różne sposoby w nadziei na zwiększenie skuteczności przy jednoczesnym zmniejszeniu wszelkich potencjalnych skutków ubocznych. W przypadku CPL207280 etap ten dotyczył m.in. zmiany formy morficznej cząsteczki poprzez przekształcenie ją w sól, zapewniającej jej optymalną do dalszego rozwoju postać krystaliczną. Brzmi to prosto, ale zwykle zajmuje 2–3 lata szczegółowych eksperymentów przedklinicznych przy użyciu technik *in silico, in vitro* i *in vivo.* W tym okresie rozpoczną się również prace nad zaprojektowaniem chemii procesowej, która będzie wykorzystana w kolejnych próbach klinicznych i ostatecznie do produkcji na pełną skalę. Równolegle rozpoczynają się prace nad przekształceniem cząsteczki do postaci, którą może przyjąć pacjent, tak aby substancja mogła wchodzić w interakcje z celem. To wcale nie jest proste zadanie. Idealnym farmaceutykiem z punktu widzenia pacjenta jest tabletka przyjmowana raz dziennie. Każde odejście od tego ideału ma negatywny wpływ na przestrzeganie zaleceń, tj. prawdopodobieństwo, że pacjent rzeczywiście zastosuje się do reżimu leczenia.

Wszystkie powyższe prace zmierzają do tego, aby wyłonić cząsteczkę wiodącą, która będzie mogła przejść do dalszych analiz. W przypadku CPL207280 niezbędne było wykazanie zarówno efektywności wybranej cząsteczki względem jej celu terapeutycznego w zaawansowanych modelach zwierzęcych (53), jak również wykazanie bezpieczeństwa jej stosowania w licznych testach *in vitro* oraz *in vivo* oraz dopasowanych do dalszych planów klinicznych badaniach toksykologicznych (54). W tym momencie bazując na wszystkie jego zalety, ale również i słabości, należy podjąć decyzję, czy wyłonionego kandydata skierować do rozwoju klinicznego, gdzie koszty prowadzonego projektu ponownie gwałtownie rosną. Chociaż decyzja ta oparta jest na przesłankach naukowych, jest to w dużej mierze decyzja komercyjna. Ostatnim etapem ewaluacji kandydata na lek są badania kliniczne. Odbywają się one w czterech odrębnych fazach, z których pierwsze trzy prowadzone są przed wprowadzeniem leku na rynek, natomiast czwarta faza rozpoczyna się, gdy lek jest przepisywany po raz pierwszy i trwa przez cały okres życia produktu.

Związek CPL207280 rozwijany w niniejszym projekcie rozpoczął już fazę badań klinicznych. Po zakończeniu fazy 1 badań klinicznych, w której sprawdzane było jego bezpieczeństwo zarówno po jednokrotnym jak i 14 dniowym okresie przyjmowania jak również jego interakcje z pokarmem aktualnie rozpoczął 2 fazę badań klinicznych, w których oceniana będzie jego efektywność i bezpieczeństwo przyjmowania na pacjentach cierpiących na T2D.

2. CEL PROJEKTU

Celem niniejszego projektu było wyselekcjonowanie efektywnego, małocząsteczkowego agonisty receptora GPR40, który mógłby być wykorzystany do dalszego rozwoju jako innowacyjny lek stosowany w leczeniu chorych cierpiących na T2D. Założono, że poszukiwany agonista powinien selektywnie i zależnie od glukozy stymulować wydzielanie insuliny z komórek beta trzustki, a jednocześnie być pozbawiony efektów niepożądanych charakterystycznych dla pierwszych agonistów receptora GPR40 (hepatotoksyczności) oraz innych leków przeciwcukrzycowych (hipoglikemii).

Zaplanowane w projekcie prace skupiały się na wyłonieniu z biblioteki związków zaprojektowanych przez zespół Chemii Medycznej Celon Pharma S.A. cząsteczki wiodącej, wykazującej najwyższą efektywność w testach na komórkach *in vitro*, a następnie potwierdzenie jej efektywności i bezpieczeństwa w licznych testach *in vitro* oraz *in vivo*.

Wyniki większości badań przeprowadzonych w niniejszym projekcie przedstawiono w trzech, spójnych tematycznie pracach oryginalnych, opublikowanych w roku 2021, które są przedmiotem niniejszej rozprawy.

3. MATERIAŁY I METODY

Prace doświadczalne *in vi*tro w niniejszym projekcie w większości wykonane były w laboratoriach badawczo-rozwojowych Celon Pharma S.A. Z uwagi na złożony charakter niektórych doświadczeń oraz ograniczony czasowo harmonogram realizowanego projektu o charakterze ściśle komercyjnym, część prac zlecona była w firmach zewnętrznych. Niemniej jednak wybór podwykonawców, badanych parametrów, zakresu stężeń związków, przygotowanie roztworów związków do badania czy analiza statystyczna otrzymanych wyników leżała w kompetencji Celon Pharma S.A. Z uwagi na brak własnej infrastruktury do prowadzenia badań na zwierzętach wszystkie badania *in vivo* zostały zlecone firmom zewnętrznym. Podobnie jak w przypadku analiz *in vitro*, wybór podwykonawców, modeli badawczych, przygotowanie protokołu badania, wniosku do komisji bioetycznej jak również przygotowanie formulacji związku do analiz, analiza statystyczna oraz interpretacja wyników leżała w kompetencji Celon Pharma S.A. Szczegółowe opisy metod, wykorzystanych do zrealizowania projektu jak i użytych materiałów znajdują się w sekcji "Materiały i Metody" poszczególnych publikacji.

3.1. Związki chemiczne i odczynniki

Wszystkie związki chemiczne z biblioteki potencjalnych agonistów GPR40 oraz związki referencyjne wykorzystane w publikacjach (w tym TAK-875) zostały zsyntetyzowane przez zespół Chemii Medycznej Celon Pharma S.A. Wszystkie odczynniki zostały zakupione u komercyjnych dostawców i wykorzystywane zgodnie z przeznaczeniem.

3.2. Badania in vitro

Wszystkie badania *in vitro* za wyjątkiem: analizy selektywności i analizy off-targetów – Safety47 (wykonanych w DiscoverX) (53), profilowanie metabolitów i badania z wykorzystaniem sferoidów HepaRG (wykonanych w Cyprotex) i inhibicji transporterów kwasów żółciowych (wykonanych w Solvo Biotechnology) (54) zostały wykonane w laboratoriach Celon Pharma S.A. przy użyciu linii komórkowych oraz odczynników zakupionych od komercyjnych dostawców.

3.3. Badania in vivo

Wszystkie przedstawione badania na zwierzętach były wykonane za zgodą lokalnych komisji etycznych z wykorzystaniem komercyjnych szczepów zwierząt zgodnie z protokołami stworzonymi w Celon Pharma S.A na potrzeby projektu.

3.4. Analiza statystyczna

Otrzymane w projekcie wyniki poddano analizie statystycznej z wykorzystaniem programu komputerowego GraphPad Prism 7. Za wyniki istotne statystycznie uznano wartości p<0,05. Szczegółowy opis sposobu analizy statystycznej (wykorzystanych testów, poziom istotności statystycznej) wszystkich prezentowanych badań został opisany w poszczególnych publikacjach.

4. WYNIKI

- 4.1. Testy przesiewowe biblioteki związków (wyniki nieopublikowane)
 - 4.1.1. Testy przesiewowe biblioteki związków z wykorzystaniem komórek z nadekspresją receptora GPR40

Przedstawiona w publikacji 1 (52) grupa 4 wybranych związków stanowi niewielki procent wariantów chemicznych, które powstały w laboratoriach Celon Pharma S.A., a które były przebadane jako potencjalni agoniści receptora GPR40. Analiza struktur chemicznych opisanych w literaturze poprzednich agonistów GPR40, jak również ich właściwości fizyko-chemicznych, aktywności, bezpieczeństwa, a co najważniejsze zależności pomiędzy tymi parametrami (co jest opisane i przeanalizowane w publikacji 1) doprowadziła do syntezy ponad 200 związków chemicznych, z których do ostatecznej analizy biologicznej trafiło 155 cząsteczek.

W celu określenia siły wiązania się nowych cząsteczek z receptorem GPR40 oraz jego aktywacji, wykorzystano komórki jajnika chomika chińskiego (CHO, Chinese hamster ovary cells) z nadekspresją receptora GPR40 oraz akworyny (Perkin Elmer). Akworynę tworzą apoakworyna wraz z koelenterazyną, które razem z tlenem tworzą stabilny kompleks wrażliwy na obecność jonów wapnia. W chwili kontaktu kompleksu z jonami Ca²⁺ uwolnionymi w wyniku aktywacji receptora GPR40 przez ligandy na drodze zależnego od IP3 wyrzutu z ER, następuje zmiana konformacji kompleksu, utlenianie koelenterazyny i emisja promieniowania światła niebieskiego o długości fali 466 nm mierzona przy użyciu luminometru (Ryc.3).



Rycina 3. Schemat badania aktywacji receptora GPR40 w komórkach CHO z wykorzystaniem akworyny. W wyniku aktywacji receptora GPR40 przez agonistę, dochodzi do uwolnienia jonów Ca^{2+} z ER na drodze zależnej od IP3. Pod wpływem kontaktu z jonami Ca^{2+} kompleks akworyny zmienia konformację powodując emisję światła. Kinetyka emisji światła (intensywność, czas) był odczytywana przy użyciu luminometru i analizowana w porównaniu do kontroli pozytywnych (ALA oraz TAK-875).

Wykorzystując ten mechanizm działania, zbadano aktywację receptora GPR40 poprzez pomiar wzrostu stężenia Ca²⁺ (proporcjonalny do intensywności i długości luminescencji) pod wpływem badanych związków. Przebadano w ten sposób 155 związków w stężeniu 10 μM (Ryc. 4A) i 1 μM (Ryc. 4B). W przypadku związków wykazujących powyżej 50% aktywności kontroli pozytywnej (ALA) w stężeniu 1 μM, określona została ich wartość EC₅₀ (Ryc. 4C).



Rycina 4. Aktywność związków w teście pomiaru stężenia Ca^{2+} w komórkach CHO z nadekspresją receptora GPR40. Związki z biblioteki agonistów GPR40 badane były w stężeniu 10 i 1 μ M (A, B), a dla najbardziej aktywnych związków wyznaczona była wartość EC50 (C). Aktywność związków jest przedstawiona jako procent aktywności naturalnego liganda GPR40 - ALA. Na czerwono zaznaczono związek referencyjny TAK-875 a na zielono związek CPL207280.

4.1.2. Zależne od glukozy wydzielanie insuliny w hodowli komórek MIN6

Grupa 13 związków o najniższej wartości EC_{50} została zbadana w teście wydzielania insuliny w hodowli mysich komórek insulinomy (MIN6, mouse insulinoma cells) (Ryc.5). Związki CPL207313, CPL207280 oraz CPL207281 wykazały najwyższą aktywność w GSIS. Związek referencyjny TAK-875 wykazywał istotną aktywność tylko w najwyższym stężeniu 40 μ M, podczas gdy związki CPL207280 oraz CPL207281 wykazały aktywność już w najniższym badanym stężeniu 10 μ M. Aktywność tych związków była niezależna od zastosowanej dawki, efekt podanych związków był porównywalny we wszystkich testowanych stężeniach.



Rycina 5. Wpływ wybranych związków na GSIS w hodowli komórek MIN6 *in vitro*. Zależność wydzielania insuliny przez komórki MIN6 od dawki oceniano po 1-godzinnej inkubacji z badanymi związkami. Kontrola (CTR) - nietraktowane komórki po podaniu glukozy w stężeniu 20 mM. Dane przedstawiono jako średnie zmian \pm S.D. względem kontroli (CTR) z trzech niezależnych eksperymentów. Dane analizowano za pomocą testu One way ANOVA (post hoc test Dunnetta); *p < 0,05; **p < 0,01; ***p < 0,001; ****p < 0,001.

4.1.3. Stabilność związków w mikrosomach

Mikrosomy wątrobowe są powszechnie używane jako element badań ADME *in vitro*. Zawierają one różnorodne enzymy metabolizujące ksenobiotyki i wykorzystywane są w badaniach metabolizmu leków podawanych doustnie. Dodatkowo na podstawie parametrów oznaczanych z takiego pomiaru *in vitro*, takich jak klirens wewnętrzny (Cl_{int} , intrinsic clearance) oraz $T_{1/2}$ można z dużym prawdopodobieństwem przewidywać stabilność związku czy jego metabolizm in vivo u zwierząt oraz ludzi (55).

Najbardziej aktywne związki wytypowane w trakcie przeszukania biblioteki związków (Ryc.4.), oprócz potwierdzenia zdolności do wydzielania insuliny na komórkach MIN6, zostały przebadane na mikrosomach wątrobowych w celu określenia ich stabilności metabolicznej. Doświadczenia zostały przeprowadzone z wykorzystaniem frakcji S9 komórek wątroby szczura i człowieka. Jest to mieszanina mikrosomów i cytozolu, zawierająca różnorodne enzymy zdolne do metabolizowania leków. Mikrosomy pozyskane z tych dwóch gatunków zostały wybrane w celu oceny potencjalnego metabolizmu u człowieka, u którego lek byłby stosowany oraz u szczura z uwagi na największą dostępność i powszechność stosowania tego gatunku wśród modeli zwierzęcych. Wszystkie związki analizowane na preparatach mikrosomów ludzkich miały podobny profil i okazały się średnio stabilne w porównaniu ze związkami referencyjnymi - TAK-875 oraz AMG837 (Tab.1). Charakteryzowały się szybszym metabolizmem: wyższym Clint oraz krótszym T_{1/2}. Najbardziej stabilnym związkiem okazał się CPL207416 (Cl_{int} - 15.1, T_{1/2} – 90 min), natomiast najmniej stabilnym CPL207344 (Cl_{int} - 59.6, T_{1/2} - 23 min). W badaniu z wykorzystaniem mikrosomów szczurzych, związki wykazywały większą różnorodność profili metabolicznych. Udało się zidentyfikować związki stabilne z czasem $T_{1/2}$ dłuższym niż związku referencyjnego (TAK-875) - CPL207313 (Clint - 7.2, T_{1/2}-193 min.), CPL207344 (Clint - 6.1, T_{1/2} -226 min.) czy CPL207416 (Cl_{int} -6.3, T_{1/2}-218 min.) oraz takie, których metabolizm był bardzo szybki CPL207281 (Clint -39.6, T_{1/2} - 35 min.). Związek CPL207280 okazał się być średniostabilny na mikrosomach obu gatunków (Cl_{int} - 37.7, T_{1/2}-37 min. na mikrosomach szczurzych i $Cl_{int} - 20.5$, $T_{1/2} - 68$ min. na ludzkich) niemniej jego wysoka aktywność i optymalne właściwości fizyko-chemiczne zadecydowały, że znalazł się w grupie wyselekcjonowanej do dalszych badań. W wyselekcjonowanej do dalszych badań grupie, pomimo wysokiej stabilności na obu gatunkach, nie znalazł się natomiast związek CPL207416, który został odrzucony z uwagi na swoje właściwości fizyko-chemiczne (słabą rozpuszczalność, wysoką lipofilność) oraz niższą aktywność na komórkach MIN6 (Ryc. 5).

Opisane powyżej różnice w stabilności metabolicznej związków pomiędzy dwoma gatunkami pokazują, z jaką ostrożnością należy podchodzić do przenoszenia wyników uzyskanych na modelach zwierzętach do tych oczekiwanych w terapii u ludzi. Aby zweryfikować wyniki

(zarówno efektywności w wydzielaniu insuliny jak i metabolizmu) wybranych związków uzyskane *in vitro*, do tych bardziej wiarygodnych, uzyskanych na całym organizmie, przeprowadzono badanie PK oraz Test Tolerancji Glukozy (GTT, Glucose Tolerance Test) na szczurach (52,53).

Tabela 1. Określanie stabilności metabolicznej związków przy użyciu frakcji S9 mikrosomów człowieka i szczura. Badane związki inkubowano z frakcją mikrosomów wątroby w 37 °C w obecność kofaktora – fosforanu dinukleotydu nikotynoamidoadeninowego (NADPH, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate), który inicjuje reakcje. Stężenie niezmetabolizowanych związków mierzoną metoda LC/MS w 4 punktach czasowych. Uzyskane dane posłużyły do obliczenia Cl_{int} i T¹/₂. Stabilność metaboliczną związków oceniano, porównując do stabilności dwóch standardów o niskiej i wysokiej stabilności metabolicznej, odpowiednio werapamil i donepezil oraz stosując klasyfikację dostępną na stronach firmy Cyprotex (56).

Zwiazek	Mikrosomy ludzkie		Mikrosomy szczurze	
Związek	Cl _{int} [ul/min/mg]	$T_{1/2}\left[min\right]$	Cl _{int} [ul/min/mg]	$T_{1/2}\left[min\right]$
TAK-875	6.6	210	11.6	119
AMG-837	6.7	206	15.5	89
CPL207248	24.2	57	29.6	47
CPL207256	33.7	41	45.5	30
CPL207280	37.7	37	20.5	68
CPL207281	27.2	51	39.6	35
CPL207313	19.8	70	7.2	193
CPL207332	27.4	51	12.7	109
CPL207336	30.1	46	12	115
CPL207344	59.6	23	6.1	226
CPL207415	28.9	48	35.4	39
CPL207416	15.1	92	6.3	218
Cl _{int} [ul/min/mg białka]				
Związki stabilne	< 8.6		< 13.2	
Związki średnio stabilne 8.6 - 47		7	13.2 – 71	
Związki niestabilne	> 47		>71.9	

4.2. Wybór związku CPL207280 jako kandydata do dalszego rozwoju – publikacja 1

Końcowy etap wyboru związku CPL207280 jako głównego kandydata na lek przedstawiono w publikacji oryginalnej - Mach M.; **Bazydlo-Guzenda K.;** Buda P.; Matłoka M.; Dzida R.; Stelmach F; Gałązka K.; Wąsińska-Kałwa M.; Smuga D.; Hołowińska D.; Dawid U.; Gurba-Bryśkiewicz L.; Wiśniewski K.; Dubiel K.; Pieczykolan J.; Wieczorek M. - Discovery and Development of CPL207280 as New GPR40/FFA1 Agonist. European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry. 2021; 226: 113810.

Wyniki przedstawione w publikacji oraz ich analiza pokazują proces wyboru związku CPL207280 spośród grupy 4 najbardziej obiecujących cząsteczek wyselekcjonowanych we wcześniejszych testach *in vitro*.

Projektując struktury nowych agonistów GPR40 wzięto pod uwagę czynniki, które doprowadziły do porażki pierwszego z klasy agonisty – związku TAK-875, takie jak jego duża masa cząsteczkowa (powyżej 500 g/mol, łamiąca zasady Lipińskiego), długi T_{1/2} (ok 30 h u ludzi) czy wysoką lipofilność (Tab. 2). Z biblioteki zaprojektowanych i zsyntetyzowanych związków – potencjalnych agonistów GPR40 w przesiewowym teście aktywacji receptora na komórkach CHO, wyselekcjonowano grupę 4 najbardziej aktywnych związków. W celu potwierdzenia efektywności przeciwcukrzycowej, dla tych najbardziej obiecujących pod względem parametrów fizykochemicznych (lipofilność, rozpuszczalność czy forma morficzna) i aktywnych w testach *in vitro* związków: CPL207256, CPL207280, CPL207281, CPL207313 (opisanych w publikacji 1 odpowiednio: 5, 13, 12, 11) przeprowadzone zostały badania *in vivo*: badanie PK w celu określenia ważnych pod względem metabolizmu leku parametrów jak m.in. F, C_{max}, T_{1/2} oraz TTG na szczurach typu dzikiego (WT, wild type).

W porównaniu ze związkiem referencyjnym - TAK-875, po podaniu doustnym, badane związki szybciej osiągały T_{max}, w którym uzyskiwały podobne C_{max} (Tabela 1; publikacja 1). Wszystkie badane związki miały również krótszy czas półtrwania, który może okazać się zaletą, biorąc pod uwagę dane z badań klinicznych dla TAK-875, w których to właśnie długi T_{1/2} (nawet 51.6 h) (40) mógł być jednym z powodów akumulacji w wątrobie, co ostatecznie mogło prowadzić do uszkodzenia komórek wątroby i hepatotoksyczności (57). Wyjątkowo wysoka biodostępność (65%) CPL207280 w porównaniu z innymi związkami może sugerować, że przy niewielkim wzroście lipofilności osiągana jest równowaga pomiędzy wysoką aktywnością i optymalnymi parametrami PK. Zdolność wybranych związków do stymulacji wydzielania insuliny oraz będącego następstwem obniżania poziomy glukozy, w porównaniu ze związkami referencyjnymi, mierzono po podaniu doustnym w teście GTT, u szczurów typu prawidłowego (WT). Wszystkie badane związki silnie indukowały zależne od glukozy wydzielanie insuliny, a w przypadku związku CPL207280 jednokrotne podanie okazało się wystarczające do obniżania glukozy nie tylko zaraz po podaniu, ale również po 6 godzinach (Fig.3; publikacja 1)

Na podstawie analizy wyników pierwszych badań *in vitro* oraz *in vivo* nowych agonistów GPR40 i biorąc pod uwagę równowagę pomiędzy aktywnością, właściwościami farmakokinetycznymi oraz właściwościami fizykochemicznymi cząsteczki, wytypowano związek CPL207280 jako strukturę wiodąca do dalszych badań efektywności oraz bezpieczeństwa. Podsumowanie najważniejszych parametrów związku CPL207280 i wyników, na podstawie których podjęto tą decyzję przedstawiono w tabeli poniżej (Tab. 2)

Parametr	Związki			
T ur unicer	CPL207280	TAK-875		
Wzór chemiczny	$C_{18}H_{22}O_3$	$C_{29}H_{32}O_7S$		
Masa cząsteczkowa (MW)	286.37 g/mol	524.63 g/mol		
EC ₅₀	80 nM	270 nM		
CHILogD _{7.4}	2.33	2.65		
Cl _{int} (człowiek)	37.7 [ul/min/mg]	6,6 [ul/min/mg]		
T _{1/2} (człowiek)	37 min	210 min		
C _{max}	1699 ng/ml	1831 ng/ml		
T _{max}	1 h	2 h		
T _{1/2}	1.41 h	2.9 h		
F	65%	36%		

Tabela 2. Zestawienie najważniejszych parametrów fizyko-chemicznych, PK i aktywności związku CPL207280 w odniesieniu do TAK-875.

4.3. Analiza efektywności związku CPL207280 – publikacja 2

Wstępne badania efektywności zarówno *in vitro* jak i *in vivo* dla związku CPL207280 zostały zaprezentowane w oryginalnej pracy – **Bazydlo-Guzenda K.;** Buda P.; Matłoka M.; Mach M.; Stelmach F.; Dzida R.; Smuga D.; Hucz-Kalitowska J.; Teska-Kaminska M.; Vialichka V.; Kaminska B.; Dubiel K.; Wieczorek M. and Pieczykolan J. CPL207280 – a novel GPR40/FFA1 specific agonist shows a favorable safety profile and exerts anti-diabetic effects in type 2 diabetic animals. Molecular Pharmacology. 2021; 100(4):335-347.

Aktywacja receptora GPR40 przez wyselekcjonowany z biblioteki związków - CPL207280 została potwierdzona w badaniu stymulacji wydzielania insuliny w komórkach INS-1 (Fig.3; publikacja 2). Dodatkowo, badanie z wykorzystaniem związku GW1100 (antagonisty receptora GPR40) potwierdziło, że działanie to odbywa się za pośrednictwem receptora GPR40 oraz, że jest ono zależne od stężenia glukozy (Fig.3B; publikacja 2). W celu dalszego badania selektywności, a co za tym idzie bezpieczeństwa CPL207280, przeprowadzono badanie przesiewowe wpływu związku na rodziny pokrewnych strukturalnie i pełniących podobne funkcje receptorów GPCR oraz PPAR (Tab.1; publikacja 2), a także szerokiego panelu kanałów jonowych, transporterów, receptorów, enzymów niekinazowych i receptorów jądrowych (panel Safety47) (Tab.2., publikacja 2). Badania te potwierdziły brak interakcji z najczęstszymi niespecyficznymi białkami ("off target"), które mogłyby powodować niepowodzenie rozwoju leku (58). Co więcej, stymulacja mysich i szczurzych komórek insulinoma przez CPL207280 w wysokich stężeniach nie powodowała cytotoksyczności, w odróżnieniu od TAK-875, który już w stężeniu 5 μM wywoływał efekt toksyczny porównywalny z efektem osiąganym przez CPL207280 w 20 - krotnie wyższym stężeniu (100 μM) (Fig. 4; publikacja 2).

Aktywność CPL207280 w hodowli komórkowej przekładała się na jego wysoką efektywność w badaniach *in vivo* w modelach zwierzęcych, zarówno w przypadku zwierząt zdrowych jak i różnych zwierząt cukrzycowych (ZDSD - Zucker Diabetic Sprague Dawley, GK – Goto Kakizaki, ZDF) (Fig. 8, 9, 10; publikacja 2). Uzyskiwane efekty obniżania glukozy połączone ze stymulacją wydzielania insuliny bez wystąpienia hipoglikemii nawet w wysokich dawkach (100 mg/kg) (Fig. 8; publikacja 2) wskazują, że CPL207280 jest dobrym kandydatem na nowy, obniżający poziom glukozy związek, rozwijany w celu leczenia pacjentów z T2D.

4.4. Analiza bezpieczeństwa stosowania związku CPL207280 – publikacja 3

Po wykazaniu, że związek CPL207280 jest aktywny zarówno w badaniach *in vitro* jak i w badaniach *in vivo* w różnych modelach zwierzęcych, w tym na modelowych zwierzętach cukrzycowych, w oryginalnej pracy - **Bazydlo-Guzenda K**.; Buda P.; Mach M.; Pieczykolan J.; Kozlowska I.; Janiszewski M.; Drzazga E.; Dominowski J.; Ziolkowski H.;. Wieczorek M; Gad S. C. Evaluation of the hepatotoxicity of the novel GPR40 (FFAR1) agonist CPL207280 in the rat and monkey. PLOS ONE. 2021; 16(9):e0257477 pokazano, w jaki sposób analizowane było bezpieczeństwo związku CPL207280, ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem hepatotoksyczności.

Jak pokazuje przykład związku TAK-875, aby odnieść sukces kliniczny, kandydat na lek musi być nie tylko aktywny i selektywnie działać na swój target, ale jednocześnie wykazywać się bezpieczeństwem stosowania przy długotrwałym podawaniu. Aby ocenić związek CPL207280 pod kątem potencjalnych toksyczności, wykonano szereg badań *in vitro* takich jak: badanie jego cytotoksyczności na hepatocytach oraz ludzkich komórkach raka wątroby - HepG2 (Fig. 1; publikacja 3), hamowanie transporterów kwasów żółciowych (Fig. 4; publikacja 3) czy wpływ na mitochondria (Fig. 2; publikacja 3). Dodatkowo, przeanalizowano jego wpływ na właściwości hepatosferoidów 3D (struktury przestrzennej zbudowanej z hepatocytów) takie jak: integralność błony wewnętrznej komórek, zawartość adenozyno-5'-trifosforanu (ATP, adenosine-5'triphosphate), glutationu czy funkcję fosfohydrolazy ATP w komórkach itp. (Tab. 1; publikacja 3) Wszystkie wykonane badania *in vitro* nie ujawniły jakiejkolwiek potencjalnej toksyczności związku CPL207280 w porównaniu do TAK-875, który w wysokich dawkach ($\geq 25 \mu$ M na hepatocytach) działał cytotoksycznie na komórki, hamując wiele transporterów kwasów żółciowych oraz wpływając niekorzystnie na mitochondria (Fig. 1, Tab. 1, Fig. 4; publikacja 3)

W celu oceny szybkości metabolizmu CPL207280 i porównania go ze związkiem TAK-875 wykonane były badania stabilności metabolicznej, zarówno z wykorzystaniem mikrosomów jak i hepatocytów różnych gatunków zwierząt oraz profilowanie powstających w trakcie metabolizmu wątrobowego jego metabolitów (Tab. 2, Tab.3; publikacja 3). CPL207280 charakteryzował się wysokim Cl_{int} zarówno w mikrosomach jak i całych hepatocytach większości gatunków, w tym także ludzkich. Profil metaboliczny CPL207280 uzyskany w hepatocytach ludzkich był najbardziej zbliżony do profilu uzyskanego u małp, co przyczyniło się do ostatecznej decyzji w sprawie wyboru małp, oprócz szczurów, jako drugiego gatunku w badaniach toksykologicznych. Wyniki metabolizmu uzyskane *in vitro* znalazły swoje odzwierciedlenie w przeprowadzonych badaniach *in vivo* gdyż zarówno pojedyncze jak i wielokrotne podanie CPL207280 szczurom i małpom potwierdziło szybki metabolizm związku (krótki T_{1/2} i wysoki Cl_{int}), wysoką F, C_{max} ale pokazały też brak jego akumulacji w organizmie po 14 dniach podawania (Tab. 4, publikacja 3). Testowane parametry mogące sugerować hepatotoksyczność, takie jak aktywność enzymów wątrobowych: ALT, AST, alkalicznej fosfatazy (ALP, alkaline phosphatase) oraz poziom całkowitych kwasów żółciowych (TBA, total bile acids) nie zmieniły się u zwierząt otrzymujących CPL207280 przez 56 dni, nawet w najwyższych dawkach (małpa 250 mg/kg, szczur 600 mg/kg) (Fig. 8, 9; publikacja 3). Wyjątek stanowi grupa szczurów otrzymująca związek CPL207280 w najwyższej dawce (1200 mg/kg), u której wystąpił istotny wzrost aktywności ALT i ALP (Fig. 8A i B; publikacja 3). Ponadto badania histopatologiczne przeprowadzone po zakończeniu badania nie wykazały istotnych zmian w tkance wątroby, za wyjątkiem niewielkiego wzrostu jej masy po 56 dniach podawania u szczurów, która wracała do normy po okresie wymycia ('wash out") związku (fig. 8K; publikacja 3).
5. PODSUMOWANIE

Cukrzyca typu 2 jest chorobą przewlekłą, która od momentu diagnozy towarzyszy pacjentowi przez resztę jego życie, a im dłuższa terapia, tym bardziej wymagający jest projekt stworzenia nowego leku. W związku z tym równoczesne bezpieczeństwo stosowania oraz skuteczność działania były priorytetem przy projektowaniu nowych struktur chemicznych agonistów GPR40. Każda terapia wiąże się z pewnym ryzykiem działań niepożądanych, natomiast przyjęcie nowego leku przez agencje regulacyjne wymaga, aby korzyści z nowego leczenia przewyższały potencjalne ryzyko wystąpienia tych działań niepożądanych. Ponieważ poszukiwania efektywnych agonistów GPR40 trwają już od ponad dekady i dostępne są dane dla innych związków w tej klasie, możliwe było przeanalizowanie błędów i wad agonistów CPL207280.

Istnieją dane wskazujące, że im większa i bardziej lipofilowa cząsteczka, tym bardziej prawdopodobne jest, że jej stosowanie doprowadzi do niepożądanych skutków ubocznych związanych z oddziaływaniem na wątrobę, co jest bardzo częstym powodem niepowodzenia wielu nowych projektów badawczych (59). Wiadomo było również, że poprzedni kandydaci na lek po długotrwałym podawaniu w wyższych stężeniach mogą hamować transportery kwasów żółciowych czy krystalizować wewnątrz komórek wątroby, powodując jej uszkodzenie (57). W związku z powyższym w laboratoriach Celon Pharma S.A. zaprojektowano nowe cząsteczki tak, aby uniknąć tych niekorzystnych efektów. W porównaniu z referencyjnymi związkami, wielkość (masa molowa) CPL207280 została zmniejszona o około 30% przy zachowaniu jednocześnie wysokiej aktywności względem receptora GPR40. W rzeczywistości pod względem masy cząsteczkowej CPL207280 jest podobny do naturalnych, endogennych kwasów tłuszczowych, ale jest bardziej efektywny. Ogólną lipofilność molekularną utrzymywano na jak najniższym poziomie, aby znaleźć optymalną równowagę bezpieczeństwa i dobrej biodostępności. Chiralność obecna w strukturze CPL207280 odpowiada za doskonałą selektywność względem GPR40, co jest kolejnym aspektem długoterminowego bezpieczeństwa. Cząsteczka CPL207280 została zaprojektowana jako ciecz - co eliminuje możliwości krystalizacji po podaniu, natomiast długotrwała stabilna i optymalna w podaniu postać stała została uzyskana w postaci soli, w pełni kompatybilnej z istniejącą pierwszą linią leczenia cukrzycy typu 2 (52).

Opracowana w oparciu o racjonalne projektowania leków cząsteczka CPL207280 wykazuje się selektywnością wobec podobnych strukturalnie oraz pełniących podobne funkcje receptorów GPCR i PPAR. W testach *in vitro* trzy razy silniej aktywuje receptor niż najbardziej zaawansowany do tej pory agonista GPR40 - TAK-875. CPL207280 zwiększa zależne od glukozy wydzielanie insuliny zarówno w mysich komórkach *in vitro* jak również w zwierzęcych modelach T2D (53). Analizując aktywność CPL207280 w różnych modelach zwierzęcych można zauważyć, że największą efektywnością w regulacji poziomu glukozy uzyskiwano w modelach ZDSD oraz ZDF wiekiem odpowiadającym początkowym etapom choroby, kiedy komórki beta trzustki były jeszcze w stanie spełniać swoją funkcję wydzielniczą. W modelu szczurów GK posiadających defekt komórek beta trzustki uzyskane efekty nie były tak istotne. Wyniki te sugerują, że CPL207280 jako nowy lek przeciwcukrzycowy mógłby być stosowany podobnie jak pochodne sulfonylomocznika - jako terapia uzupełniająca dla metforminy, wspomagając jej działanie, ale bez występowania negatywnych skutków ubocznych w postaci częstych hipoglikemii.

Jednym z głównych wyzwań w rozwoju innowacyjnych leków jest zachowanie równowagi między skutecznością nowego leku a jego bezpieczeństwem oraz identyfikacja pierwszych sygnałów potencjalnej toksyczności na jak najwcześniejszym etapie (58). Przykład TAK-875, którego rozwój został zakończony podczas 3 fazy badań klinicznych z powodu hepatotoksyczności pokazuje, że profil bezpieczeństwa powinien być dokładnie przeanalizowany już na etapie optymalizacji struktury. Nie zawsze dążenie do jak najwyższej aktywności oraz długiego czasu półtrwania związku w organizmie powinny być celem wiodącym projektu, gdyż w przypadku TAK-875 to właśnie długi T_{1/2} (ok 30 h) (39), który był jeszcze dodatkowo wydłużony u pacjentów z T2D (ok 50 h) (u których funkcje wątroby mogą być z różnych powodów upośledzone) (40), był uznany za jeden z powodów hepatotoksycznosci. Projektując CPL207280 i prowadząc przeszukiwanie biblioteki związków nie chodziło jedynie o wytypowanie cząsteczki o jak najwyższej aktywności, ale o znalezienie związku, który wykazuje równowagę pomiędzy aktywnością, metabolizmem oraz bezpieczeństwem podczas długotrwałego stosowania.

Badania metabolizmu związku CPL207280 zarówno *in vitro* na mikrosomach i hepatocytach różnych gatunków zwierząt, jak i badania PK na różnych gatunkach zwierząt wykazały krótszy T_{1/2} w stosunku do TAK-875 (53,54). Krótszy T_{1/2} cząsteczki może zwiększać jej bezpieczeństwo minimalizując możliwości akumulacji po wielokrotnym podawaniu z drugiej strony zaś może wymuszać konieczność podawania leku wielokrotnie w ciągu dnia, co może być

mniej komfortowe dla pacjentów. Jednak obecne możliwości rozwoju różnych postaci leku, w tym formulacja o przedłużonym uwalnianiu, może być rozwiązaniem tego problemu, co też zostało zastosowane w tym przypadku jako jeden z elementów przygotowania związku do badania klinicznego 1 fazy (60). Badania farmakokinetyczne na różnych gatunkach zwierząt wykazały, że CPL207280 ma wysoką F we krwi oraz szybką absorbcję, co pozwala mu osiągać C_{max} już po około 1 h po podaniu, a co za tym idzie bardzo szybko po podaniu spełniać swoją funkcję normalizacji glikemii. Lepsza biodostępność CPL207280 w stosunku do TAK-875 w połączeniu z jego wyższą aktywnością, wskazuje na możliwość zastosowania go w niższych dawkach w czasie przyszłej terapii zmniejszając tym samym czas jego ekspozycji, a co za tym idzie, ryzyko działań niepożądanych. Ryzyko negatywnych skutków jest również minimalizowane przez mniejszą objętość dystrybucji CPL207280 sugerującą, że związek ten nie wykazuje tendencji do akumulacji w wątrobie i innych tkankach obwodowych, w przeciwieństwie do TAK-875.

Wysoka aktywność związku CPL207280 w regulacji poziomu glukozy zwierząt reprezentujących różne modele i fenotypy cukrzycy oraz brak identyfikacji oznak toksyczności, w tym szczególnie hepatotoksyczności, nawet po 8 tygodniach podawania w wysokich dawkach, daje nadzieję, że inspirowana naturalnymi kwasami tłuszczowymi cząsteczka osiągnęła optymalną równowagę pomiędzy aktywnością oraz bezpieczeństwem i może być dalej rozwijana jako atrakcyjny kandydat na lek, dedykowany do leczenia cukrzycy typu 2. Potwierdzeniem pozytywnych wyników bezpieczeństwa z badań przedklinicznych dla związku CPL207280 jest ukończenie przez niego z sukcesem pierwszej fazy badania klinicznego na zdrowych ochotnikach zarówno po podaniu jednokrotnym jak i wielokrotnym (NCT04622111, identyfikator w bazie badań klinicznych - Clinical Trials), natomiast ewaluacja jego aktywności przeciwcukrzycowej nastąpi w rozpoczętym badaniu fazy 2 na pacjentach z cukrzyca typu 2 (NCT05248776, identyfikator w bazie badań klinicznych - Clinical Trials).

6. WNIOSKI

- CPL207280 został wyselekcjonowany z biblioteki zaprojektowanych i zsyntetyzowanych potencjalnych agonistów GPR40 do dalszego rozwoju jako kandydat na lek w leczeniu T2D.
- CPL207280 selektywnie aktywuje receptor GPR40 i stymuluje wydzielanie insuliny w komórkowych testach *in vitro*.
- CPL207280 poprawia glikemię i wykazuje wysoką aktywność w stymulacji wydzielania insuliny w zwierzęcych modelach cukrzycy.
- Optymalne właściwości fizyko-chemiczne (zmniejszona masa cząsteczkowa i lipofilowość) oraz parametry farmakokinetyczne (wysoka F, szybka eliminacja) CPL207280 zapewniają odpowiedni balans pomiędzy aktywnością związku a bezpieczeństwem jego stosowania manifestujący się brakiem oznak toksyczności zarówno w testach *in vitro* jak i *in vivo*.
- CPL207280 jest proponowany jako skuteczny i bezpieczny kandydat do badań klinicznych we wskazaniu – T2D

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8. ZAŁĄCZNIKI

- 8.1. Kopie opublikowanych prac
- 8.2. Oświadczenia współautorów

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ABSTRACT

Due to a unique mechanism that limits the possibility of hypoglycemia, the free fatty acid receptor (FFA1) is an attractive target for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. So far, however, none of the promising agonists have been able to enter the market. The most advanced clinical candidate, TAK-875, was withdrawn from phase III clinical trials due to liver safety issues. In this article, we describe the key aspects leading to the discovery of CPL207280 (**13**), the design of which focused on long-term safety. The introduction of small, nature-inspired acyclic structural fragments resulted in compounds with retained high potency and a satisfactory pharmacokinetic profile. Optimized synthesis and upscaling provided a stable, solid form of CPL207280-51 (**45**) with the properties required for the toxicology studies and ongoing clinical trials.

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1. Introduction

Research on the interplay between fats or non-esterified fatty acids and glucose/glucagon/insulin homeostasis dates to the 1960s and 1970s [1]. At the beginning of the 21st century a period of intense work began with the deorphanization of seven-(pass)-transmembrane domain (7TM) G-protein coupled receptor 40 (GPR40), also called the Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1 (FFA1) [2]. As a result of these efforts, it turned out that synthetic analogs of natural GPR40 ligands may be utilized in the treatment of type 2 diabetes (T2D) [3,4]. The activation of FFA1, which is highly expressed on β -cells of pancreatic Langerhans islets, by medium-to long-chain endogenous free fatty acids (FFAs), results in the stimulation of insulin release in blood glucose concentration dependent manner (GSIS). Such a mechanism promoted GPR40 focused research programs by many pharmaceutical companies [5]. The enthusiasm for new, orally dosed, treatments for T2D possibly being free of the

potential occurrence of hypoglycemia, unlike for some approved drugs, persisted until the Takeda Company announced by the end of 2013 withdrawal of their most promising GPR40 agonist drug candidate, TAK-875 (fasiglifam), from the Phase III clinical trials, caused by the concerns of the liver safety [6]. Independently, other players stopped or slowed down their programs as well, only to mention Astellas Pharma (ASP5034), Ely-Lilly (LY-2881835), Amgen (AMG-837), and later: Japan Tobacco (JTT-851), Astellas Pharma (AS2034178), or Jiangsu Hengrui Medicine Co. (SHR0534) [6,7]. This fact has left an open space for new opportunities, but at the same time, many problems to be resolved to design an effective and safe FFA1-based drug for the treatment of T2D. As there are still unmet medical needs that could help the human population cope with the ever-increasing number of T2D cases worldwide, new options and ideas are constantly emerging in the medical research landscape [8,9]. Whenever the activation of GPR40 is mentioned, a memory of previous failures can be felt, interwoven with a growing hope for better solutions that would enable the suitable utilization of this otherwise attractive target [10,11].

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2. Results and discussion

T2D is an insidious, chronic disease and its proper management requires lifelong care. Its early symptoms can be mistaken for fatigue or simply go unnoticed, causing many patients to be unaware of the disease before they are positively diagnosed, while elevated blood glucose values and increasing insulin resistance slowly destroy the entire body. On the other hand, inconvenient insulin injections or treatment with oral medications like glimepiride (from the sulfonylurea group) or rosiglitazone (from the thiazolidinedione group) can cause hypoglycemia, which can be life-threatening in severe cases. In addition to potential episodes of unbalanced glucose, those drugs, as many other antidiabetic agents like GLP-1 analogs, DPP-4 inhibitors, SGLT-2 inhibitors, or α -glucosidase inhibitors, may exhibit other but mainly gastrointestinal side-effects, and harmful drug-drug interactions, limiting, to some extent, their use. Therefore, T2D treatment is an exceedingly difficult task that should be planned in the long-term perspective, considering all the aspects, including the patient's lifestyle and aging. From a medicinal chemistry point of view, any incompatibilities that occurred during the drug design phase, due to the long dosing time, may result in further safety complications.

2.1. Relevant literature highlights

The failure of TAK-875 meant that we needed to reflect on the state of knowledge of the FFA1 agonists and identify points that may be crucial in creating future molecules better tolerated by the human body.

Clinical trial analysis regarding fasiglifam pointed out the imbalance in ALT elevations and Hy's Law cases as a manifestation of the drug-induced liver injury (DILI) in humans [12]. However, some additional symptoms like the hepatobiliary transporters inhibition and bile acids homeostasis disruption were found in the follow-up explanatory animal studies [13,14]. Pharmacokinetic (PK) analysis from the phase I clinical trials on healthy volunteers revealed a relatively long *fasiglifam* half-life in plasma exceeding 24 h for every dose, varying from 28.1 to 36.6 h, which may be the cause of the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) accumulation. The half-life of related GPR40 inactive fasiglifam metabolite M – I in plasma was even longer (from 35.7 up to 52.5 h) [15]. These observations mean that it is a long process to completely remove fasiglifam from the body. On the other hand, T2D is known to have a detrimental effect on liver health [16,17]. As hepatic clearance is the major elimination pathway for *fasiglifam*, this already long process may be further delayed in diabetic patients.

In dogs, 600 mg/kg of TAK-875 dose caused DILI and microscopic examination of the liver tissue exhibited granulomatous inflammation combined with crystalline drug deposits [14]. Therefore, a simple property such as the ability to form a solid-state (or the lack thereof) may indicate favorable routes in new structures research.

Regardless of the new approaches which are being developed to avoid future failures in the GPR40 area, it has been shown that there is a strong positive correlation between DILI and the lipophilicity of the newly designed molecules, which can be controlled in the drug discovery process by the ligand efficiency (LE) and ligandlipophilicity efficiency (LLE) parameters [18–22]. The first parameter correlates with the number of non-hydrogen atoms in the molecule (heavy atoms number – H.A.) and thus molecular weight (MW). The second parameter is related to the lipophilicity, expressed as the logarithm of the partition coefficient (LogP) between *n*-octanol and water, or (more suitably) distribution coefficient at physiological pH (LogD_{7.4}).

The evolution of the TAK-875 molecule began with inspiration from docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), belonging to the most potent essential endogenous FFAs activating GPR40 (Scheme 1) [23]. The drug discovery process provided firstly achiral Cmp. 1/4p, then chiral Cmp. 7, and finally more polar fasiglifam as a clinical candidate [24-26]. Regarding Cmp. 1/4p, this optimization process was done, however, at an expense of more than a double loss of the potency (connected with the loss of LE) and a clear violation of Lipinski's rule of five (RO5) in terms of MW. With eleven rotatable bonds, TAK-875 exceeds the recommended value that should be kept below ten, and three aromatic rings (including one fused) place fasiglifam molecule at the edge of the allowable count. Crossing this barrier might affect aqueous solubility and cause CYP450, and hERG inhibition [27,28]. The work of the Takeda Pharmaceutical Company confirmed, as well as the others, that FFA1 is sensitive towards the chirality of the ligand (human affinity K_i value for the R-isomer of TAK-875 is ten times bigger than for its S enantiomer) [25]. Hoping for better selectivity and fewer off-target problems, we planned to preserve ligand chirality in our drug design program. Guided by the future drug's safety profile, we decided to be extremely strict in keeping all these parameters possibly in their respective optimal ranges.

The TAK-875 structure, as well as the other representatives of FFA1 agonists, can be divided into three parts: head, tail, and, optionally, a solubilizing group, as they refer to the respective building blocks that can be consecutively prepared and conveniently merged by the alkylation reaction at the phenol function (Scheme 1). However, from the drug discovery point of view, the FFA1 agonist molecule should be viewed as the entire molecule. While unacceptably high lipophilicity can cause DILI, a lack of the proper structure, including the key-acidity, can lead to a significant activity drop. To illustrate these relationships, we treated the TAK-875 molecule with diazomethane (Scheme 1). This simple reaction destroyed all previous drug design process efforts, leaving methyl ester **1** virtually inactive.

In 2012 Amgen announced the discovery of AM-1638, the first representative of the FFA1 full-agonists class, having improved efficacy, as compared to its predecessor AMG-837 [29]. The difference in new pharmacophore arrangements relies mostly on the reversed configuration at the chiral center and the change from para to meta orientation of the tail-part at the head subunit (Scheme 2). It was shown that these compounds, besides activating GSIS, are capable to induce glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) and gastric inhibitory polypeptide (GIP) secretion from enteroendocrine cells, enhancing an antidiabetic effect as compared to sole GSIS cascade activation [30]. AM-1638, as well as its successors: AM-5262, Cmp. 8 and Cmp. 20 violate RO5 in terms of MW and cLogP [31,32]. In parallel, Amgen developed the AM-4668 structure resembling the previous AMG-837 rather than the fully agonistic structures just introduced [33]. It was designed to reduce the overall molecular lipophilicity and potential blood-brain barrier (BBB) permeation and by this, limit the activation of GPR40 receptors, expressed in the central nervous system (CNS), whose function is not fully understood. That has left the AM-4668 molecule with additional oxygen and two nitrogen atoms in its structure and cLogD_{7,4} value at 2.320, still higher than for TAK-875 (Scheme 1).

The introduction of nitrogen atoms into the structures of FFA1 agonists can increase the molecular lipophilicity at pH = 7.4, which may cause possible DILI. Unlike DHA, TAK-875 (Scheme 1), or AMG-837 (Scheme 2), in dual GPR40/120 agonist GW-9508, the cLogD value attains a local maximum at about pH = 4 (Chart 1). For another clinical candidate LY-2881835, the unfavorable maximum of lipophilicity occurs almost exactly at the physiological pH range [5].

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Scheme 1. The evolution of *fasiglifam* (TAK-875). *hEC*₅₀ values are taken directly from literature references. cLogP and cLogD_{7.4} values were calculated using MedChem DesignerTM software from Simulations Plus, Inc. Reagents and conditions: (i) diazomethane, r.t. 30 min., quantitatively.



Scheme 2. The evolution of FFA1 full agonists by Amgen. *h*EC₅₀ values are taken directly from literature references. cLogP and cLogD_{7,4} values were calculated using MedChem DesignerTM software from Simulations Plus, Inc.



Chart 1. cLogP and cLogD change, for the selected FFA1 agonists: DHA, AMG-837, TAK-875, GW-9508, and LY-2881835 in full pH range, calculated using MedChem DesignerTM software from Simulations Plus, Inc. The respective structures are shown in different colors: DHA – deep blue, AMG-837 – red, TAK-875 – orange, GW-9508 – olive, LY-2881835 – light green. Solid lines represent respective curve courses of cLogD, while the dotted lines constant values of cLogP.

So far, analysis of human FFA1 crystallized with the appropriate ligands in conjunction with molecular modeling, radioligand binding, and functional assays have revealed that there may be up to three binding sites for GPR40 agonists [34]. Partial agonists such as TAK-875 interact with FFA1 to occupy the outer leaflet pocket (A1) locating the carboxyl group at the polar center of the receptor and placing the remaining lipophilic ligand residue at the hydrophobic region near the outer surface of the cell membrane (4PHU PDB structure) [35]. On the other hand, more lipophilic full agonists, like AM-1638, can interact with a hydrophobic, inner leaflet pocket (A2), located deeper inside the cell membrane bilayer [36]. These two binding sites seem to interact synergistically and can accept two different ligands simultaneously (5TZY PDB structure) [37]. The third external site was found to be suitable for the interaction with hydrophilic compounds of different scaffolds. Interestingly, in the 4PHU structure, apart from TAK-875 in pocket A1, monoolein was found in pocket A2 – a primary oleic acid glycerol monoester, whose lipophilicity at physiological pH is higher ($cLogD_{7.4} = 5.897$) than for the parent, free acid ($cLogD_{74} = 4.928$; Fig. 1). Based on these observations, it can be hypothesized, that oleic acid, as a representative of FFAs, may bind to pocket A1, while its monoacylglycerol derivative to pocket A2. Under natural conditions, those interactions may occur simultaneously, producing a synergistic effect. Mimicking this situation using artificial, having significantly higher MW, full FFA1 agonists, whose design was geared towards long half-life values, might be questionable as the relatively high lipophilicity required to enter the A2 pocket at the same time may be the cause of the unexpected DILI. However, a more optimistic hypothesis could assume that the activity of a potent and safe partial agonist, occupying pocket A1 may be significantly boosted by endogenous monoacylglycerol FFA esters, whose plasma concentration, especially in the most demanding postprandial might be sufficient phase. to support normoglycemia.



Fig. 1. II. Unmodified 4PHU structure of FFA1 with TAK-875 molecule occupying the A1 pocket and monoolein in pocket A2. I., III. Closeups at the A1 and A2 pockets, respectively. Carbon atoms are displayed in green, oxygen atoms in red, and sulfur atoms in yellow.

2.2. The concept of new FFA1 agonist structures

Despite the simple architecture comprising the lipophilic hydrocarbon chain, and a single polar carboxyl group, FFAs, as well their metabolites, are involved in many vital processes, performing signaling, regulatory, and structural function [38,39]. Importantly, their properties, including the ability for solidification, strongly depend on the geometry of the lipophilic part. As it is shown in Chart 1, DHA with MW < 350, being well tolerated by the human body, has a pH-dependent water solubility, which is a direct result of the carboxyl function presence. When looking for a lipophilic structural component that would be equally well tolerated, we turned our attention to squalene, a natural steroid precursor that appears to be fully biocompatible, even without any polar functional group. Recent works show that covalently bound to the API, functionalized squalene is an important component in the formation of multidrug nanoparticles as a tool for modern drug delivery [40,41]. Based on the assumption that the isoprenoid or terpenoid subunit of squalene might exhibit a similar safety profile, we decided to include such linear (acyclic) residues in the hope of reducing MW, overall lipophilicity, and thus, the possibility of DILI (Scheme 3). This approach has also given us some leeway in a crowded patent space, which is mainly concerned with compounds containing cyclic structures in both the head and the tail portions [5,7,42,43].

Since TAK-875 has reached the Phase III clinical trial stage, we decided to make the utility of the data available for that compound, and we were using it as a comparative reference from the earliest stage of drug discovery. As we wanted initially to get some hints that could put our research on a promising track, we performed the FFA1 *in vitro* activity assays repetitively, in small groups of tested

structures. To improve the chance of possible trends readout, together with each screening set, TAK-875 was used and the potency of new structures was expressed as a $P_{TAK-875}$ value, by the following equation:

$P_{TAK-875} = [EC_{50} (TAK-875) / EC_{50} (tested compound)] x 100\%$

The above equation gives, expressed in percent, the enhancement or decrease of activity of the tested compound with relation to the reference compound TAK-875. Since the reference itself is relatively active ($EC_{50} = 14$ nM), this approach changed the perspective on how we perceived the results obtained. A compound having a PTAK-875 of 10% would be quite inactive, but would still have, according to the given equation, an EC₅₀ value in the range of 140 nm, which may be quite attractive for the typical drug discovery programs, whose structure-activity relationships (SAR) focuses on the constant increase in potency [25]. Our in vitro screening environment and the cell line used behaved, however, differently, yielding EC₅₀ values for TAK-875 on average close to 270 nM. Using TAK-875 as the reference for the P_{TAK-875} expression helped us to bridge these, apparently different, screening conditions before testing the most active hits in vivo. Maintaining a constant single reference has also given us the flexibility to compare the molecules of different scaffolds.

We started our work by examining the TAK-875 head molecule, and by using various linear units as the tail part, we could approach a maximum of about 60% of the original *fasiglifam* activity with the best-performing geranyl derivative **2** ($P_{TAK-875} = 58\%$, Scheme 3). However, when we decided to open the dihydrobenzofuranyl fragment of TAK-875 and replace it with the bioisosteric DS-1558 head, we were delighted to see a strong increase in potency (**4**,



Scheme 3. Development of new FFA1 agonist towards reduced MW. Isoprenoid (in the form of prenol) or terpenoid (in the form of geraniol) subunits of squalene have been incorporated into respective head-parts, derived from TAK-875, DS-1558, or AMG-837. FFA1 activities are expressed as $P_{TAK-875}$ values. cLogD_{7,4} values were calculated using MedChem DesignerTM software from Simulations Plus, Inc.

 $P_{TAK-875} = 158\%$). Such an increase, to a lesser extent, was maintained with another head part switch coming from the AMG-837 structure (**5**, $P_{TAK-875} = 126\%$). Simultaneously, it was surprising to observe a huge loss of potency for the shorter, prenyl analog **3** ($P_{TAK-875} = 7\%$). At this point, we started to suspect that besides structural aspects, the activity against FFA1 might depend on overall molecular polarity because together with the activity drop, the structure of **3** was related to a low cLogD_{7.4} value when compared with the other compounds bearing geranyl subunit.

Since, we observed that an ethoxy substituent in the DS-1558 head is prone to elimination, we decided to utilize a more stable AMG-837 head and build a simple homologous model with increasing in length *n*-alkyl rests as respective tail-parts (6–10, Chart 2). Linear aliphatic fragments, having full rotational flexibility and small steric demands, were expected to adapt to the receptor's binding pocket leaving mainly the lipophilicity parameter as the variable affecting the potency. While planning this model, we did not expect that simple MW lowering can have such a strong influence on the compounds' potencies. With such an approach we have shown that there is a threshold LogD_{7.4} value required for a compound to display high FFA1 activity. Importantly, the difference between active and inactive compounds can be as little as only one heavy atom (6 and 7, Chart 2). As it is shown in Chart 2, there also appears to be an optimal range of cLogD_{7.4} values above which the activity drops again (10 and 5 as an extension of homologous series, Chart 2). We have also found, that some structures may have irritation toxicity risks (shown by the exclamation marks in Chart 2), which, because of long-term treatment, we wished to avoid.

On calculating the cLogD_{7.4} values, we observed a rule of thumb

that for every additional polar atom (O, N) that is positioned in the molecular structure, five to six non-polar carbon atoms should be added to keep the molecular lipophilicity constant. Using this approach to FFA1 drug design with an acyclic tail, it is possible to fine-tune the overall molecular lipophilicity with small incremental changes of one carbon atom, unsaturation, or configuration. Large changes introduced by the addition of cyclic, lipophilic structures (such as a benzene ring) can cause a rapid increase of MW and the need for additional polar atoms to regain the optimal lipophilicity range, again resulting in a further MW gain and, possibly RO5 violations.

Having all those new data in hand, we have concluded, that in terms of optimal cLogD_{7.4} range compound **5** (Scheme 3 or Chart 3) is too lipophilic, or in other words – there is a possibility to lower its size while preserving the FFA1 potency. Compared to compound **4** (Scheme 3), we were able to remove one prenyl residue from the geranyl tail and we synthesized compound 11 (Chart 3), which unlike compound 3 (Scheme 3), retained high potency. To make a small SAR study around compound 11, we decided to prepare its saturated analog 12 and homolog 13 (CPL207280, Chart 3). An additional methyl group installed into prenyl residue was meant to slightly modify the lipophilicity, increase steric hindrance, and additionally stabilize the double bond to prevent its eventual isomerization. At this point, it is good to note, that compounds 11 and **13**, together with the inactive **6**, have the smallest number of rotatable bonds (seven) of all the compounds obtained and show no structural alerts towards toxicity risks according to The OSIRIS Property Explorer [44].



Chart 2. Development of a series of homologous compounds with the increasing length of *n*-alkyl residues (black dots and the structural formulas, **6**–**10**). Other color dots (**5** – red), (**11** – orange), (**12** – purple), (**13** – green), (AMG-837 free acid – blue) representing other molecules are placed for the comparison with Chart 3. The yellow dot, representing the cLogD_{7.4} value for TAK-875 is placed at the reference line. An area below the TAK-875 reference line represents compounds of lower potency than TAK-875 while the area above represents compounds of higher potency. The red dotted line connecting **6** and **7** can be used for the estimation of the potency in respect to cLogD_{7.4}. An exclamation mark indicates compounds having potential structural alerts towards toxicity risks according to The OSIRIS Property Explorer and the color applied expresses their respective severity (red – high risk, orange – medium risk). FFA1 activities are expressed as $P_{TAK-875}$ values. cLogD_{7.4} values were calculated using MedChem DesignerTM software from Simulations Plus, Inc.



Chart 3. New compounds that were chosen for *in vivo* testing, shown as color dots and structural formulas: (5 - red), (11 - orange), (12 - purple), (13; CPL207280 - green). Homologous compounds with the increasing length of *n*-alkyl residues (black dots, **6–10**) with a black stripped line and the other color dots: (AMG-837 free acid – blue) (TAK-875 – yellow) are placed for the comparison with Chart 2. FFA1 activities are expressed as $P_{TAK-875}$ values. The chart, as opposite to Chart 2, represents measured CHILogD₇₄ values of the respective compounds.

So far, all our conclusions have been based on calculated LogD values, which may not necessarily correspond to reality. As we wanted to stick to more tangible data, we decided to estimate the relative lipophilicity of our compounds as CHILogD, a method that was introduced in recent years as the alternative to traditional, time and resources consuming, *n*-octanol/water LogD partition quantification [45]. We were glad to see, that the activity pattern of the homologous series (compounds 6-10) as well all other compounds' (5 and 11–13) respective lipophilicities, calculated at physiological pH, were in perfect relative agreement with each other with c.a. 0.5 LogD shift, observed between the calculated and measured values, which is to be expected as different LogD calculating programs may give different results (compare Chart 2 and Chart 3). As can be observed from Chart 3, CPL207280 (13) is significantly less lipophilic than TAK-875, not to mention AMG-837. Given the excellent relative agreement between calculated and measured values, based on Chart 2 and cLogD calculations, improved polarity is supposed to be expected for CPL207280 in respect to AM-4668 (Scheme 2), whose lipophilicity had previously been reduced to prevent excessive penetration to CNS [33].

As we utilize various heads of different partial agonists, we assumed that CPL207280 (**13**) would behave similarly. Indeed, our *in vitro* (STC-1 enteroendocrine cell line) and *in vivo* (Goto Kakizaki rat) studies did not confirm any additional GLP-1 secretion (unpublished data), which suggested that CPL27280 is a partial-agonist. Bridging this information with molecular modeling, we looked at the difference in ligand-receptor interaction that takes place in the A1 binding pocket of the 4PHU FFA1 crystal structure.

While both TAK-875 and CPL207280 (**13**) interact with the key amino acids: Arg-183 and Arg-258, unlike TAK-875, CPL207280 (**13**) is completely hidden inside the binding pocket, filling the input space of the receptor with its tail-part complementarily (Fig. 2 I. compare with Fig. 1 I./II.). Compared to natural α -linolenic acid

(ALA), an analog of CPL207280 in terms of carbon atoms count, it can be seen, that both compounds exhibit similar conformation within the binding pocket. Due to its flexibility, ALA forms an internal loop, the equivalent of which in the case of CPL207280 (**13**) is reproduced by a more rigid methylacetylene group (Fig. 2 II.).

2.3. In vivo confirmation of antidiabetic utility

To obtain the proof of the potential antidiabetic utility of the newly developed compounds **5** and **11–13** (Chart 3), we decided to test their performance *in vivo*. As the animal model non-diabetic Wistar Han rats have been chosen. Selected pharmacokinetic analysis data are combined in Table 1.

As shown in Table 1, when compared to TAK-875, new compounds achieve shorter T_{max} values when dosed orally. All of them, as well, have shorter half-life times than TAK-875, which may be beneficial, when considering the Phase I clinical trials data for TAK-875 (*fasiglifam*) in healthy volunteers [15]. The exceptionally high bioavailability of CPL207280 (**13**) compared to other compounds may suggest that with a slight increase in lipophilicity due to the addition of one carbon atom, we might have achieved the sweet spot with an optimal balance of activity, PK parameters, and hopefully – safety.

Intraperitoneal (*i.p.*) glucose tolerance test (IPGTT) was performed using the same animal model (Fig. 3 I.). Briefly, animals, after the oral administration of the experimental compounds, were simultaneously challenged with *i.p.* glucose bolus, repeated after another 6 h from the first dosage of the test compound. The efficacy of the compounds was measured as the ability to lower plasma glucose levels and associated insulin release, compared with the vehicle. Every compound, including two references: TAK-875 and *sitagliptin* (DPP-4 inhibitor), was orally dosed in a fixed amount of 10 mg/kg of the body weight. CPL207280 (**13**) outperforms every



Fig. 2. I. CPL207280 (**13**) docked in pocket A1 of 4PHU FFA1 structure. Carbon atoms are displayed in green, and oxygen atoms are in red. **II**. The imposition of CPL207280 (**13**, displayed in orange) and natural α-linolenic acid (ALA, displayed in olive) docked in pocket A1 of 4PHU FFA1 structure. To view the receptor's inner binding pocket several receptor amino acids have been removed from its structure. The blue arrow indicates the 14th carbon atom of ALA. Calculations have been done using the open-source program AutoDock Vina [46].

Table 1
Selected PK parameters for compounds 5, 11, 12, 13 (CPL207280), and TAK-875 as a
reference, obtained in Wistar Han rats (Charles River) animal model.

Parameter	TAK-875 ^a	5 ^b	11 ^b	12 ^a	13 ^a
C _{max} [ng/ml]	1831	257	1069	1097	1699
T_{max}	2 h	15 min	15 min	15 min	1 h
T½ [h]	2.90	1.08	1.10	0.98	1.41
F	36%	18%	33%	31%	65%

^a An oral dose of 3 mg/kg.

 $^{\rm b}$ An oral dose of 1.2 mg/kg. The meaning of the parameters is explained in the abbreviations section.

other compound used in IPGTT, including the references (Fig. 3 III. and IV.). Together with lowered glucose levels increased levels of released insulin were simultaneously observed (Fig. 3 II. and VI.). Importantly, CPL207280 (**13**) together with compound **5**, showed a statistically significant glucose-lowering effect after 6 h from t = 0 and the second glucose challenge, even though according to $T\frac{1}{2}$ value, taken from PK study, at that moment the concentration of both compounds should be expected at the levels referring to less than 6.25% of the original dose (Fig. 3 V.). In contrast to compound **5**, the lack of a structural toxicity risk together with high bioavailability led to the decision to select CPL207280 (**13**) for further development.

2.4. SAR studies

The promising structure of the CPL207280 (**13**), as well as the remaining **5**, **11**, **12**, formed the basis for further attempts focusing on optional improvements. It should be emphasized, however, that adding another polar atom, without the additional five to six more non-polar ones, would result in an unacceptable increase in polarity combined with an immediate loss of potency. An obvious representative of such dead-end is the inactive structure **27**, which among other, more positive examples, is shown in Table 2. Its analog **28**, having an oxygen atom replaced with carbon regains the lipophilicity and, to some extent, the potency. However, it must be noted, that sufficient lipophilicity has to be combined with the proper structure design to compete with the activity of CPL207280

(13). We found that FFA1 is not sensitive to the *cis/trans* geometry when comparing the activity of geranyl (5) with that of the neryl (14) analog. We were astounded with a tremendous loss of potency in respect to 5 when the methylacetylene substituent was replaced with the cyclopropyl one (both enantiomers 15 and 16), being a typical structural feature of FFA1 full agonists. Due to the geranyl residue presence, the potency loss observed in this case is certainly not linked with insufficient lipophilicity. The importance of both the chirality and the local structural flexibility next to the carboxyl group can be seen from analogs 17 and 18 where the structural modifications applied are accompanied by a progressive loss of the activity. The fluorine atom, which is present in the structure of 19 and, in respect with 11, increases the lipophilicity towards that of 13, seems to be the unnecessary sterical ballast. Again, the change from chiral methylactylene residue into its saturated analog (22) or interchange to the spirocyclohexane (20) or dimethyl-methylene (21) strongly and adversely affect the FFA1 activity. Meta (23) and ortho (24) analogs of 12, also provided no benefit. An oxygen atom, which is usually viewed as just a convenient chemical point for joining the head and the tail portions during the synthesis of FFA1 agonists, in lower MW compounds appears to be an essential structural attribute required for their high potency. Like compound 25, which is devoid of any oxygen atom except the carboxyl group, similarly, analog 26, containing nitrogen as a popular linkage among FFA1 agonists (e.g., GW-9508, Chart 1), when compared with 12, shows significantly lower activity. This observation resembles the natural metabolism of PUFAs, which undergo epoxidation and hydroxylation. It has been shown that such reactions, especially if occurring at the terminal positions of FFAs hydrocarbon chain, produce derivatives with increased activity over the parent PUFA on GPR40 expressed in the cells of the vascular system [3,47]. Coincidently, the linking oxygen atom of CPL207280 (13), when docked in pocket A1 of 4PHU FFA1 crystal structure, has almost the same coordinates as the 14th carbon atom in the ALA chain of 18 carbon atoms, creating local polarity and presumably mimicking natural PUFA metabolites (Fig. 2 II., indicated by the blue arrow).

Some of the structures presented in Table 2, to limit unnecessary or time-consuming efforts connected with the chiral resolution,

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Fig. 3. IPGTT test, obtained in Wistar Han rats (Charles River) animal model. **I.** Glucose levels curve courses after the first and the second glucose bolus. **III.** AUC values covering full experimental time 0-9 h. **IV.** AUC values for the first glucose bolus and experimental time 0-6 h. **V.** AUC values for the second glucose bolus and experimental time 6-9 h. The baseline for AUC calculation was set at the respective glucose level at t = 0 for each animal. **VI.** AUC values for insulin release related to the first glucose bolus covering the first 3 h of the experiment. Each compound, dosed in constant amounts of 10 mg/kg, is represented in different color: **5** – red, **11** – orange, **12** – purple, CPL207280 (**13**) – green; references: *sitagliptin* – light blue, TAK-875 – black; vehicle – grey. Data are presented as mean concentrations ±SEM (**I, II**) or ±SD (**III** – **VI**) (n = 7). The results were analyzed using one-way ANOVA (**III** – **VI**) or two-way ANOVA (**I, II**) with Dunnet's post hoc test versus control; *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ****p < 0.001.

have been tested against FFA1 activity as the racemic or diastereoisomeric mixtures. Since there is no single case reported where one enantiomer would simultaneously inhibit the other, with a well-established *in vitro* screening procedure in hand, an inactive racemate would not produce a large increase in potency if split into chiral antipodes, and on the other hand, a potent racemate could give us only hope for better results if optical purity was improved.

While our attempts (compounds **14–28**) did not result in significant improvement in potency, they did lead to a better understanding of key aspects influencing SAR. The most important observation concerns the high sensitivity of the CPL207280 (**13**) to any structural changes. However, we have found that Johnson&Johnson examined the structure shown in Fig. 4 [48]. Reported activities for the short *n*-alkyl series were above the 1 μ M range. Since it is difficult to compare EC₅₀ values from different experiments without common reference, we considered them as another example of adverse structural changes affecting the potency, not to mention higher overall lipophilicity relative to CPL207280 (**13**). With this in mind, we have dispensed with additional structural modifications related to the methylacetylene substituent or the carboxyl group bioisostere, leaving the CPL207280 (**13**) as closely resembling the natural FFAs motives as possible [49].

The chirality at the β position to the carboxylic group has a profound influence on overall activity. For example, the *R*-enantiomer of compound **11** exhibits only 1% and 3% of the maximum effect (E_{max}) at 1 and 10 μ M concentrations, respectively. In this case, there is no doubt about the synthetic path and the associated process economy. Since the presence of another chiral center would influence both of those aspects, we wanted to know what the consequences of introducing chirality would be compared to maintaining planar symmetry in the tail portion of our scaffold.

Based on the conformation of compound 8 in the binding receptor pocket and concerning the existing parameters of CPL207280 (13), we made selected modifications in positions T₁, T₂, and T₃, so that they had the greatest impact on potency (Table 2, compounds 29-39). With the chiral geraniol derivatives available, we obtained diastereoisomeric **29** and **30** and we found the T₃ position rather nonselective to the chirality introduced. As it comes to position T_2 . symmetric modifications 31 and 32 retained the high FFA1 potency but the introduction of the third substituent as a simple methyl group in 33 resulted in the opposite effect. The nearly doubled potency of single diastereoisomer 34 over its diastereoisomeric mixture **35** indicates strong chiral recognition of FFA1 at the T₂ site. Finally, the low potency of compound **39** indicates that position T₁ may contain only small substituents, like methyl group, which introduced to yield compounds 36 and 37, gave some moderate FFA1 selectivity. Synthesis of diastereoisomeric mixture 38 showed, that initial loss of the potency could be corrected by a slight increase in lipophilicity. Among the examples prepared, only compound 34 was more active than CPL207280 (13) but at the expense of possible structural toxicity alerts, which for safety reasons we wished to avoid. Besides, the in vitro stability measured using human liver microsomes indicated a 30% longer half-life for CPL207280 (13). Taking all the information obtained and bearing in mind the low bioavailability of saturated compound 12 we concluded that no significant benefits would support the introduction of another chirality, that would certainly have an economic impact on the production process.

2.5. Chemistry

All test compounds have been obtained utilizing known

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Table 2

SAR exploration in search of possible new CPL207280 (13) analogs. The activity of the compounds is expressed as $P_{TAK-875}$. Some compounds have been tested as racemates (**rac**) or diastereoisomeric mixtures (**dm**). An exclamation mark (1) indicates any structural alerts towards toxicity risks according to The OSIRIS Property Explorer. $CLogD_{7.4}$ values were calculated using MedChem DesignerTM software from Simulations Plus, Inc. $T_1 - T_3$ in the tail part of compound **8** indicate the position of modification used to obtain compounds **29–39**.

* R (R/S) configuration at the head part for racemates (rac) ** (R/S) configuration at the tail part for diastereoisomeric mixtures (dm)

Cmp.	Structure/Substituent R	%P _{TAK-875}	cLogD _{7.4}	Toxicity Alert
5	СО2Н	126%	3.303	!
8	$T_3 T_1$	260%	1.937	_
	$R = \underbrace{T_2}_{T_2} O^{T_{R}_{R_{R_{R_{R}_{R_{R_{R_{R_{R}_{R_{R}}}}}}}}}$			
11		191%	1.476	_
13	R =	202%	1 702	
12	$R = \frac{3}{0^{-3}}$	303%	1.783	1
CPL207280 (13)		338%	1.712	_
	$R = \mathbf{O}^{\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{x}}}}$			
14		115%	3.303	!
	R=			
	0-122			
15	\sum	4%	3.703	!
	CO ₂ H			
16	$\overline{\gamma}$	4%	3.703	!
	CO ₂ H			
17	со ₂ н	40%	2.792	!
18	CO ₂ H	7%	2.586	!
19		107%	1.558	_
	ll I			
	CO ₂ H			

Table 2 (continued)

Cmp.	Structure/Substituent R	%Р _{ТАК-875}	cLogD _{7.4}	Toxicity Alert
20		0%	2.563	-
	CO ₂ H			
21	CO ₂ H	0%	1.817	_
22	CO ₂ H	32%	2.403	!
23 (rac)	O CO ₂ H	0%	1.593	1
24 (rac)	CO ₂ H	0%	1.557	1
25 (rac)		0%	1.697	_
26 (rac)	R = NH	10%	1.260	_
27	O_CO ₂ H	0%	-0.223	_
28	CO ₂ H	14%	1.225	-
29		104%	3.578	!
30		94%	3.578	!
31		162%	1.321	-
32	R =	191%	2.125	!

(continued on next page)

Table 2 (continued)

Cmp.	Structure/Substituent R	%P _{TAK-875}	cLogD _{7.4}	Toxicity Alert
33 (rac)	$R = \bigcirc \bigcirc \overset{S_{2}}{\overset{S_{2}}}{\overset{S_{2}}{\overset{S_{2}}{\overset{S_{2}}{\overset{S_{2}}}{\overset{S_{2}}{\overset{S_{2}}}{\overset{S_{2}}{\overset{S_{2}}}{\overset{S_{2}}{\overset{S_{2}}}{\overset{S_{2}}{\overset{S_{2}}}{\overset{S_{2}}}{\overset{S_{2}}{\overset{S_{2}}}{\overset{S_{2}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}$	16%	1.796	_
34		414%	1.757	!
35 (dm)	$R = O^{\frac{1}{2}}$	255%	1.757	!
36		80%	1.233	_
37	$R = _{N_{N}} _{N} _{N} _{N}} _{N}} _{N} _{N} _{N} _{N} _{N} _{N} _{N}} _{N}} _{N} _{N} _{N} _{N} _{N} _{N} _{N}} _{N} _{N} _{N} _{N} _{N} _{N} _{N} _{N} _{$	50%	1.233	_
38 (dm)		170%	1.745	!
39		13%	1.611	_
	v			



Fig. 4. A series of FFA1 agonists developed by Johnson&Johnson.

chemistry and readily available building blocks. The references: AMG-873 and TAK-875, were prepared according to the literature, including AMG-837-head methyl ester and TAK-875-head methyl ester as a part of the respective synthetic routes [25,50]. Access to the methyl or ethyl ester of the DS-1558-head, as well as the other achiral analogs, are also known from the literature [51].

Most of the compounds have been obtained utilizing classical carboxylic acid synthesis via Knoevenagel condensation, Michael addition of Grignard reagent, and decarboxylation. In Scheme 4 there are given three general routes showing how we synthesized our compounds. According to route I., compounds based on the AMG-873-head (and cyclopropyl analogs), as well as ortho and meta isomers were obtained. Sometimes, however, we observed insufficient reactivity (like in the case of neo-pentyl ether 33, Scheme 5), or we were unable to perform the alkylation reaction (like in the case of iso-butyl phenyl analog 25, Table 2). In such events, we were following route II, with the proper substituent chosen at the beginning of the synthetic process. Route III. is dedicated to the compounds having nitrogen atom as a linkage (like 26, Table 2). Different reactivity of the amino intermediate requires the alkylation reaction before the decarboxylation step. Despite Meldrum's acid and dimethyl malonate are synthetic equivalents in the Knoevenagel condensation, we observed, that Meldrum's acid is more suitable for the reactions in which the product can be conveniently crystallized off after the reaction is finished. If the reaction product requires purification by column chromatography, we have found that dimethyl malonate is more suitable as it provides compounds that are less prone to retro-condensation. The racemic mixtures (if needed) have been separated according to the given methods as free acids, esters, diastereoisomeric salts, or by the installation of chiral auxiliary R¹* to obtain the separable diastereoisomeric mixtures [52].

One of the advantages of CPL207280 (**13**), like the most active endogenous agonists, is its liquid state giving no possibility for crystallization after ingestion, but at the same time causing some challenges in the large-scale process development. For the production to be economically viable, we realized that the original small-scale alkylation step, based on the Mitsunobu conditions, had to be replaced to lower the costs of purifying the intermediates by column chromatography. As CPL207280 (**13**) bears the AMG-837 head in its structure, we started modifying the existing synthetic process after the stage of chiral separation utilizing aminoindanol salt (Scheme 5) [50].

The economy of the developed process depends on the shortening of the isolation steps, the use of cheap raw materials, and the possible recovery of valuable substances. For this purpose, the synthesis of the methyl ester **40** was carried out by using gaseous hydrogen chloride dissolved in methanol. During the concentration, the chiral aminoindanol hydrochloride auxiliary spontaneously crystallizes from the reaction mixture and can be easily separated by filtration. As the alkylating agent, based on the literature data, the corresponding primary acyclic chloride 41 was prepared, starting from 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene [53]. The hydrogen chloride addition reaction under solvent-free conditions proceeds smoothly but provides equilibrium of the primary and tertiary chloride which shifts towards the undesirable product by distillation. We have found that acidic catalysts in the form of an ion-exchange resin can disturb this equilibrium, giving a mixture of reactive primary chloride (about 60% content) along with a nonreactive counterpart. An excess of the alkylation mixture was used to obtain an intermediate methyl ester which was directly hydrolyzed to CPL207280 (13). The water-soluble potassium salt of compound 13 was extracted with the organic phase to remove all excess liquid reagents and impurities, then acidified and reextracted to give the organic phase solution of **13**. Since we were looking for a solid form of CPL207280, we started with the



Scheme 4. General Routes I. – III. leading to FFA1 agonists. Reagents and conditions: (i) Knoevenagel condensation utilizing dimethyl malonate or Meldrum's acid; (ii) Michael addition of Grignard reagent to install R³; (iii) nitro group reduction to obtain amine; (iv) alkylation utilizing an acyclic halide or Mitsunobu conditions utilizing acyclic alcohol; (v) decarboxylation process at elevated temperature; (vi) esterification reaction to install R¹ (typically methyl ester) or R¹* (chiral ester); (vii) R¹/R¹* ester cleavage in basic hydrolytic conditions. The specific reaction conditions are given in the experimental section together with the literature references.

preparation of its calcium salt CPL207280-CA (43), which is quite straightforward from 13 according to the available procedures [54]. Regardless of the crystal-like appearance, the obtained material proved to be amorphous in X-ray powder diffraction (XRPD) analysis and unstable during storage under aging conditions. Since neither magnesium, neither strontium, belonging to the same group of the periodic table as calcium, nor the cations of the first periodic table group provided salts with API-acceptable properties, we started looking for more advanced options. Perindopril erbumine used to treat high blood pressure, inspired us to try *t*-butylamine, which as CPL207280 (13) counterion was effective in providing fine crystals **42**. Although *t*-butylamine can serve as pharmaceutically acceptable substance (possibly due to the low dose of 4 mg perindopril erbumine per tablet), as a reagent it is labeled as toxic (GHS06 code). Again, for safety reasons, we have decided that this salt (42) would enter the synthesis process only as a convenient step allowing the purification of the production batch to meet demanding API requirements before it would be converted into the final form CPL207280-51 (45) for which metformin free base (44) was selected as a countercation. Metformin (or N,N'-dimethylbiguanide) is the first-line therapy for T2D with the strongest evidence of long-term safety [55]. Since FFA1 agonists act through GSIS, it would be reasonable to combine their action with the insulin-sensitizing synergistic effect derived from N,N'-dimethylbiguanide. With the smallest dose of 500 mg/tablet/day for metformin and maintenance dose in the range 1500-2500 mg/day,

it would be quite unlikely for CPL207280-51 (**45**) to cause any side effects if the reason was connected with the 30% content of N,N'-dimethylbiguanide alone. Additionally, the presence of N,N'-dimethylbiguanide as a part of CPL207280-51 (**45**) salt would create full compatibility in the case of add-on therapy to the existing standard of T2D care.

Recent works indicate, that *metformin* may support pancreatic wellness by reducing meta-inflammation of β -cells caused by lipotoxicity through the activation of GPR40 – phospholipase C – inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate – pathway [56]. Concomitantly the same research group has found that the FFA1 agonist itself, TAK-875, is capable of ameliorating β -cells lipotoxicity-induced inflammation by inhibiting the TLR4-NF- κ B pathway [57]. Although those data are preliminary, it would be advantageous if both *metformin* and an FFA1 agonist, in addition to their primary antidiabetic action of insulin sensitization and GSIS, could have a secondary, synergistic beneficial effect as the long-term protectants of pancreatic β -cells homeostasis.

According to the synthetic idea depicted in Scheme 5 three batches (1.3–1.4 kg) of CPL207280-51 (**45**) were obtained in repetitive 98%+ purity (calculated on dry substance), the total content of impurities below 0.8% (for each single known impurity below 0.15%, and below 0.1% for single unspecified impurity), with (*R*)-isomer content below the detection limit, and confirmed 6 months shelf life (25 ± 2 °C; $60 \pm 5\%$ relative humidity) with no signs of decomposition, structural changes or microbiological



Scheme 5. Synthetic modifications towards the large-scale synthesis of CPL207280 (13), CPL207280-CA (43), and CPL207280-51(45). Reagents and conditions: (i) gaseous HCl/ methanol; (ii) gaseous HCl, neat; (iii) Amberlyst® 15 hydrogen form ion-exchange resin; (iv) K₂CO₃/DMF, r.t. to 40 °C; (v) KOH/DMF-water, 40 °C; (vi) H⁺ (aqueous citric acid); (vii) aqueous LiOH; (viii) aqueous CaCl₂; (ix) *t*-butylamine/*t*-butyl methyl ether; (x) NaOH/2-propanol/acetone; (xi) acetonitrile/toluene/ethanol/water. Grey frames indicate starting materials. Green frame indicates stable form of CPL207280 (13) as of *N*,*N*⁻-dimethylbiguanide salt. Given yields regard large-scale synthesis (1.3–1.4 kg/batch) and purification of the final product to the standards of API, without any reprocessing stages.



Fig. 5. X-ray crystallography analysis of CPL207280-51 (**45**). Carbon atoms displayed in grey, oxygen atoms in red, nitrogen atoms in lavender, and hydrogen atoms in white. Two hydrogen atoms belonging to one of the water molecules were not recorded.

contamination. The composition and the structure of CPL207280-51 (**45**) were confirmed by the X-ray crystallography analysis (Fig. 5) [58]. We have found that the presence of water during the last crystallization step stabilizes final salt **45** to give repeatable DSC-TGA analyses showing the 4.15% loss of mass, equivalent to one water molecule content. The elemental composition calculated for CPL207280-51 (**45**) including an additional molecule of water is consistent with the combustion analysis result, suggesting a monohydrate structure.

CPL207280-51 (**45**) has particularly good water solubility which has not been tested above a confirmed concentration of 50 mg/mL after 24 h. Immediate water solubility at 37 °C is also >50 mg/mL. By comparison, the solubility of CPL207280-CA (**43**) in the same conditions is fifty times lower. Diluted aqueous solutions of CPL207280-51 (**45**) show slight alkalinity, reaching pH values in the range 8.0–8.5, depending on the compound's concentration. In this sense, neutralizing the influence of the carboxyl group, the *N*,*N*'dimethylbiguanide salt of CPL207280 (**13**) may protect the gastric mucosa from the side-effect irritations, typical of known oral nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [59].

3. Conclusions

Based on a rational approach to drug design, we have developed the CPL207280 molecule (**13**) which, in our *in vitro* tests, is more than three times more potent than the most advanced FFA1 agonist TAK-875 to date. The ability of this novel structure to effectively lower elevated blood glucose levels by GSIS was supported *in vivo* in an IPGTT challenge experiment in rats. Structural modifications

Table 3

Selected drug discovery parameters characteristic of CPL207280 (13) compared with TAK-875 and AMG-837.

De ser en et e se	CDI 207200 (12)	TAK 075	ANAC 027
Parameter	CPL207280 (13)	IAK-875	AIMG-837
Formula	C ₁₈ H ₂₂ O ₃	C ₂₉ H ₃₂ O ₇ S	C ₂₆ H ₂₁ F ₃ O ₃
MW	286.37 g/mol	524.63 g/mol	438.44 g/mol
Heavy Atoms Count	21	37	32
Rotatable Bonds Count	7	11	9
Aromatic Rings Count	1	3	3
hEC ₅₀	80 nM	270 nM	120 nM
pEC ₅₀	7.10	6.57	6.92
CHILogD _{7.4} ^a	2.33	2.65	3.45
LE ^a	0.473	0.249	0.303
LLE ^a	4.77	3.92	3.47
LELP ^a	4.92	10.66	11.39

^a Calculation details of CHILogD_{7,4}, LE, LLE, and LELP are provided in the supplementary data.

introduced were aimed at reducing the molecular weight and overall lipophilicity while maintaining potency and bioavailability to minimize the potential risk of side effects, including DILI. With a focus on safety in long-term treatment, we were extremely strict in enforcing the general principles of drug discovery, which are summarized for CPL207280 (**13**) in Table 3. As it can be seen, LE, LLE, and LELP parameters, in respect to TAK-875 and AMG-837 have been also improved.

We hope that with our approach of using small, nature-inspired, acyclic structural motifs, we have achieved the optimal balance of properties characteristic of an attractive drug candidate, having a solid form dedicated to T2D treatment [60]. CPL207280-51 (**45**) has completed Phase I clinical trials showing good tolerability and no adverse effects [61]. Analyses at the molecular level and preclinical studies again support the safety and efficacy of CPL207280 (**13**) [62]. Due to emerging concerns about the cost-effectiveness of new classes of drugs being introduced for the treatment of diabetes, we optimized the CPL207280-51 (**45**) synthesis process by using cheap raw materials, recovery of chiral auxiliaries, reducing the use of valuable catalysts, and reducing the number of transition steps, while ensuring the quality required for API [63].

4. Experimental section

4.1. General methods

All Starting reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification unless otherwise specified. Dichloromethane for the reactions in anhydrous conditions was distilled from calcium hydride before use. *N*,*N'*-Dimethylformamide was dried over molecular sieves A3. Toluene was dried over sodium wire. Dry THF was distilled over lithium aluminum hydride and then stored under argon over sodium wire. All extracts after reaction workup were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate.

For preparative flash column chromatography separation Merck silica gel 60 (0.015–0.040 mm, CAS No. 7631-86-9, EC Number 231-545-4) was used. TLC (Thin Layer Chromatography) analysis was performed using Merck 0.25 mm Silica gel 60 F_{254} TLC plates on aluminum foil. TLC spots were observed under UV light or stained in acidic cerium ammonium molybdate solution and then heated with a heat gun.

NMR spectra have been taken using Varian Unity Inova 300 MHz or JEOL JNM-ECZ600R spectrometer. Chemical shifts (δ) are given in [ppm] in reference to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard. In the absence of the internal standard, the values of chemical shifts are given according to the signals of residual solvents, which have been set for ¹H NMR: CHCl₃ (7.26 ppm), DMSO

(2.50 ppm); for ¹³C NMR: CHCl₃ (77.16 ppm), DMSO (39.52 ppm). Those values are consistent with their respective shifts in reference to TMS. Multiplicities are recorded as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), br (broad). Coupling constants (*J*) are given in [Hz]. In ¹³C NMR DEPT 135° spectra, positive signals (CH₃ and CH) have been assigned as (+) while negative signals (CH₂) have been assigned as (-). Since ¹³C NMR DEPT 135° spectra were taken as the auxiliary experiments, the values of chemical shifts are given as from ¹³C NMR data.

Low resolution (LR) mass spectra, routinely used to identify the reaction product before isolation, have been taken in-house using TLC-MS Interface and Agilent 6130 Quadrupole LC-MS or Advion Expression CMS with electrospray ionization (ESI) technique and acetonitrile containing 10% of methanol (v/v) as mobile phase. The positive ionization technique has been assigned as ESI(+), while negative as ESI(-). High resolution (HR) mass spectra have been obtained in-house using mass spectrometer 6545 (Agilent Technologies, Waldbronn, Germany) coupled with Infinity II 1290 UHPLC (Agilent Technologies, Waldbronn, Germany) with mass accuracy for all compounds below 2 ppm.

Specific optical rotations were measured using JASCO P2000 Polarimeter. Stable, having confirmed single structure (non-mixtures) samples, were weighed into 2 mL calibration flasks with the accuracy of (0.1 mg). The solutions have been prepared in airconditioned to 20 °C, separate measurement room and with appropriate solvent kept at the same temperature to avoid volume contraction. Unless otherwise stated specific rotation was measured at D line (589 nm) wavelength, filtered from sodium lamp as a light source. Current measuring chamber (holder) temperature, exact concentration (expressed in g/100 mL), and measurement cell dimensions (3.5 mm internal diameter and 100 mm of optical path length) were used for the calculation of specific rotation ($[\alpha]$). For samples having relatively small specific rotation values (below $\pm 10^{\circ}$) the measurements were repeated for shorter wavelength filtered from mercury lamp as a light source.

DSC-TGA measurements were done using the Thermal Analysis System TGA/DSC 3+ by Mettler-Toledo.

Melting points (m.p.) were assigned using BUCHI-M560 melting point apparatus and were not corrected.

Structural alerts towards toxicity risks were indicated using The OSIRIS Property Explorer [44].

Molecular modeling has been done using the open-source program AutoDock Vina and MMFF94s Merck Molecular force field optimization [46].

cLogP and cLogD values have been calculated using MedChem Designer[™] software (version 5.0.0.5) from Simulations Plus, Inc.

Measurements outsourced from the Institute of Organic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kasprzaka 44/52, 01–224 Warsaw, Poland: combustion elemental analysis (automatic UNIcube analyzer by Elementar); X-ray crystallography analysis (Bruker X8 APEXII monocrystalline diffractometer with the copper lamp); optical rotatory dispersion (ORD) spectra (Jasco J-815); circular dichroism (CD) spectra (Jasco J-715/Jasco J-815).

Measurements outsourced from the Pharmaceutical Research Institute, Rydygiera 8, 01–793 Warsaw, Poland: X-ray powder diffraction (XRPD) analysis (Rigaku MiniFlex); microscopy analysis (automated static image analysis system Morphologi G3 from Malvern).

4.2. Synthesis

4.2.1. Chemical library for SAR studies

An access to the references and intermediates is available from the literature data: TAK-875 [25,43]; methyl 2-[(3S)-5-hydroxy-2,3-dihydro-1-benzofuran-3-yl]acetate (TAK-875-head: HEAD-A) [25,43]; methyl (3*S*)-3-ethoxy-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propanoate (DS-1558-head: HEAD-B) [51]; AMG-837 [43,50,64]; methyl (3 *S*)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)hex-4-ynoate (AMG-837-head (**40**): HEAD-C) [43,50,64]; methyl (3*S*)-3-cyclopropyl-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propanoate (HEAD-D-*S*) [65]; methyl (3*R*)-3-cyclopropyl-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propanoate (HEAD-D-*R*) [65]; methyl (3*R*)-3-(2-fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)hex-4-ynoate (HEAD-E) [43,66]; 3-(3-hydroxyphenyl)hex-4-ynoic acid (HEAD-F) [67]. The above HEADs were obtained according to Route I. depicted in Scheme 4. Using the appropriate aldehyde and Meldrum's acid or dimethyl malonate according to the Route II. (which is essentially the same as Route I.) the following products were obtained: **24 rac, 25 rac, 33 rac** (Scheme 4).

2-[1-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexyl]acetic acid (HEAD-G) was obtained as in the literature [68]. Instead of octyl ether, methyl ether was applied, which was classically removed after decarboxylation (Route I., Scheme 4) using BBr₃ in dichloromethane.

According to the literature data, methyl 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-3methylbutanoate (HEAD-H) and ethyl 2-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)acetate (HEAD-I) were obtained [69].

The HEADs, which were obtained as free acids were converted into the corresponding methyl esters by stirring overnight in methanol containing 1.5 M of gaseous hydrogen chloride (ca. 10 mL per 1 g of the substrate) and then evaporated. Similarly, methyl 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propanoate (HEAD-J) and methyl (2*E*)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)prop-2-enoate (HEAD-K) were obtained from the commercially available 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propanoic acid and (2*E*)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)prop-2-enoic acid.

The assignment of the configuration for the HEADs, which were separated into enantiomers was carried out based on literature data, comparative specific rotation measurements, biological activity, and X-ray diffraction analysis (as for CPL207280-51). However, in some cases (as for **15** and **16**), where both enantiomers were GPR40 inactive, the assignment of the configuration could be reversed. As a rule, both separated enantiomers were converted to their corresponding derivatives, but only the more active structure has been presented. Some compounds were tested as racemates (rac) or as diastereoisomeric mixtures (dm).

4.2.1.1. Procedure A: Alkylation reaction using an alkyl halide. The corresponding HEAD ester was dissolved in a minimal amount of dry DMF, allowing undisturbed stirring (ca. 4.3 M). Then grounded potassium carbonate (3.3 molar equivalents) was added followed by the alkyl halide (1.5 molar equivalents). The mixture was stirred overnight at 40 °C. When TLC analysis confirmed complete starting HEAD consumption, the mixture was filtered through a G4 filter funnel, and the solid residue was washed with TBME. The filtrate was diluted with ethyl acetate and the organic phase was washed with water, 1% aqueous sulfuric acid, 3% aqueous sodium bicarbonate, brine, and dried. The product identity was confirmed by LR TLC- MS (ESI, spectra not recorded). The organic phase was filtered by a pad of silica gel to purify the solution from the most polar fraction, concentrated, and then directly hydrolyzed according to procedure C.

4.2.1.2. Procedure B: Alkylation reaction under Mitsunobu conditions. The appropriate HEAD ester, triphenylphosphine (2 molar equivalents), and the appropriate alcohol (1.7 molar equivalents) were dissolved in dry THF (ca. 0.4 M). Then, while stirring, *N*,*N*-diisopropyl azodicarboxylate (DIAD, 3 molar equivalents) was injected causing a slight, but noticeable increase in the temperature of the reaction mixture. Typically, the reaction was complete after 3 h. TLC analysis (heptane/ethyl acetate 3:1) showed the entire consumption of starting HEAD and the formation of the desired product of much lower polarity. Then water was added and the

product was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was separated, washed with brine, and dried. The product identity was confirmed by LR TLC- MS (ESI, spectra not recorded). The organic phase was concentrated and coarsely purified by column chromatography on silica gel (mobile phase: heptane/ethyl acetate from 100:1 to 10:1) to give the product, which was then hydrolyzed according to procedure C.

4.2.1.3. Procedure C: Hydrolysis. The substrate (ester) was dissolved in THF/methanol/water 4/2/1 mixture (0.12 M) and then an aqueous lithium hydroxide solution (2 molar equivalents) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at r.t. TLC analysis (heptane/ethyl acetate 2:1) showed complete consumption of starting material and formation of a new, more polar product, which identity was confirmed by LR TLC- MS (ESI, spectra not recorded). Water was added and the reaction mixture was acidified with 3% aqueous sulfuric acid. The reaction product was extracted twice using ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried, and concentrated. The final product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (mobile phase: heptane/ethyl acetate from 10:1 to 3:1) or by crystallization.

4.2.1.4. TAK-875 methyl ester: methyl 2-[(3S)-6-({3-[4-(3methanesulfonylpropoxy)-2,6-dimethylphenyl]phenyl}methoxy)-2,3dihydro-1-benzofuran-3-yl]acetate (1). TAK-875 (100)mg. 0.191 mmol) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (5 mL, 0.04 M) and while stirring, diazomethane vapor was transferred from its ethereal solution (0.78 M) through the cannula by argon overpressure (argon inlet needle directly inserted to diazomethane solution: the first cannula needle placed over this solution and the second one placed directly in the TAK-875 solution to pass the diazomethane through the reaction solution). When a yellow color appeared in the TAK-875 solution the transfer of diazomethane was stopped. An excess of diazomethane in the TAK-875 solution was purged with argon. TLC analysis showed complete consumption of the starting material. The solution was concentrated to give the product an amorphous white solid (102 mg, quantitatively).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, br, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (s, br, 1H), 7.08–7.06 (m, 1H), 7.02 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (s, 2H), 6.48 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (s, 2H), 4.74 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.28–4.23 (m, 1H), 4.13 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.84–3.77 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.29–3.24 (m, 2H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.38–2.32 (m, 2H), 1.99 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 172.4, 161.3, 160.1, 157.3, 141.1, 137.8, 137.3, 135.0, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 125.7, 124.4, 121.7, 113.4, 107.5, 97.6, 77.7, 70.5, 65.5, 52.1, 51.9, 41.0, 39.6, 37.9, 22.9, 21.2. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 125.7, 124.4, 113.4, 107.5, 97.6, 51.9, 41.0, 37.9, 21.2; δ (–): 77.7, 70.5, 65.5, 52.1, 39.6, 22.9. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M+H]⁺ calcd for [C₃₀H₃₅O₇S]⁺ 539.20980, obs. 539.21028. [α]²⁰₂ = +4.93° (c = 1.01, methanol), [α]²⁰_{Hg(405)} = +31.85° (c = 1.01, methanol).

4.2.1.5. 2-[(3S)-6-{[(2E)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-yl]oxy}-2,3dihydro-1-benzofuran-3-yl]acetic acid (**2**). The product was obtained from HEAD-A and commercially available (2E)-3,7dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-ol (geraniol) according to the Procedure B followed by Procedure C as an amorphous solid (153 mg, 43%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 11.28 (s, br, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.48–6.40 (m, 2H), 5.48 (td, J = 6.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 5.14–5.05 (m, 1H), 4.77 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.29 (dd, J = 9.2, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.87–3.74 (m, 1H), 2.83 (dd, J = 16.9, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (dd, J = 16.8, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.18–2.02 (m, 4H), 1.73 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.61 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 178.3, 161.2, 160.3, 141.3, 131.9, 124.4, 123.9, 120.8, 119.5, 107.3, 97.2, 77.6, 65.3, 39.7, 39.6, 37.7,

26.4, 25.8, 17.8, 16.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) $\delta(+)$: 124.4, 123.9, 119.5, 107.3, 97.2, 37.7, 25.8, 17.8, 16.8; $\delta(-)$: 77.6, 65.3, 39.7, 39.6, 26.4. HR-MS (m/z): $[M - H]^-$ calcd for $[C_{20}H_{25}O_4]^-$ 329.17583, obs. 329.17609. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +12.07^\circ$ (c = 1.02, methanol), $[\alpha]_{Hg(405)}^{20} = +74.57^\circ$ (c = 1.02, methanol).

4.2.1.6. 2-[(3S)-6-[(3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]-2,3-dihydro-1benzofuran-3-yl]acetic acid (**3**). The product was obtained from HEAD-A and commercially available 3-methylbut-2-en-1-ol (prenol) according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a solid (198 mg, 70%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.48–6.36 (m, 2H), 5.53–5.41 (m, 1H), 4.77 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 4.29 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.88–3.73 (m, 1H), 2.82 (dd, *J* = 16.9, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 1.79 (s, br, 3H), 1.73 (s, br, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 178.2, 161.2, 160.3, 138.3, 124.4, 120.8, 119.7, 107.3, 97.2, 77.6, 65.2, 39.6, 37.7, 26.0, 18.3. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 0.) (+): 124.4, 119.7, 107.3, 97.2, 37.7, 26.0, 18.3; δ(-): 77.6, 65.2, 39.6. HR-MS (*m/z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₅H₁₇O₄]⁻ 261.11323, obs. 261.11321. [α]_D²⁰ = +13.79° (c = 1.02, methanol).

4.2.1.7. (3S)-(4-{[(2E)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-yl]oxy}phenyl)-3-ethoxypropanoic acid (**4**). The product was obtained from HEAD-B and commercially available (2E)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-ol (geraniol) according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (40 mg, 27%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 9.97 (s, br, 1H), 7.30–7.20 (m, 2H), 6.94–6.86 (m, 2H), 5.53–5.43 (m, 1H), 5.13–5.05 (m, 1H), 4.69 (dd, J = 9.2, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.46–3.29 (m, 2H), 2.84 (dd, J = 15.6, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (dd, J = 15.6, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 2.19–2.04 (m, 4H), 1.73 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.15 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 176.4, 158.8, 141.3, 132.8, 131.9, 127.8, 123.9, 119.6, 114.8, 77.5, 65.0, 64.3, 43.5, 39.6, 26.4, 25.8, 17.8, 16.7, 15.2. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) $\delta(+)$: 127.8, 123.9, 119.6, 114.8, 77.5, 25.8, 17.8, 16.7, 15.2; $\delta(-)$: 65.0, 64.3, 43.5, 39.6, 26.4. HR-MS (m/z): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₂₁H₂₉O₄]⁻ 345.20713, obs. 345.20717. Due to ca. 2% content of compound **18** (elimination product of low FFA1 activity), the specific rotation was not measured (for details see the supplementary data).

4.2.1.8. (3S)-3-(4-{[(2E)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-yl]oxy}phenyl) hex-4-ynoic acid (**5**). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available (2E)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-ol (geraniol) according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a syrup/ oil (246 mg, 73%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.33–7.24 (m, 2H), 6.91–6.83 (m, 2H), 5.48 (td, J = 6.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 5.14–5.04 (m, 1H), 4.51 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 4.11–3.99 (m, 1H), 2.80 (dd, J = 15.7, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, J = 15.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.20–2.02 (m, 4H), 1.83 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.73 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.61 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 177.0, 158.1, 141.3, 133.0, 131.9, 128.4, 124.0, 119.7, 114.9, 79.6, 79.1, 65.0, 43.4, 39.7, 33.3, 26.4, 25.8, 17.8, 16.8, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.4, 124.0, 119.7, 114.9, 33.3, 25.8, 17.8, 16.8, 3.8; δ (–): 65.0, 43.4, 39.7, 26.4. HR-MS (m/z): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₂₂H₂₇O₃]⁻ 339.19657, obs. 339.19654. [α]^D_D = +6.99° (c = 1.01, methanol), [α]²⁰_{Hg(405)} = +24.37° (c = 1.01, methanol).

4.2.1.9. (3S)-3-(4-propoxyphenyl)hex-4-ynoic acid (**6**). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available propan-1-yl bromide according to Procedure A followed by Procedure C as an amorphous solid (73 mg, 52%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 10.94 (s, br, 1H), 7.32–7.26 (m, 2H),

6.89–6.81 (m, 2H), 4.10–4.00 (m, 1H), 3.90 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.86–1.72 (m, 2H), 1.02 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 177.4, 158.4, 132.9, 128.4, 114.7, 79.6, 79.1, 69.7, 43.5, 33.3, 22.7, 10.7, 3.8; ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.4, 114.7, 33.3, 10.7, 3.8; δ (–): 69.7, 43.5, 22.7. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₅H₁₇O₃]⁻ 245.11832, obs. 245.11788. [α]²⁰_D = +5.85° (c = 1.00, methanol), [α]²⁰_{Hg(405)} = +22.88° (c = 1.00, methanol).

4.2.1.10. (35)-3-(4-butoxyphenyl)hex-4-ynoic acid (7). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available butan-1-yl bromide according to Procedure A followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (178 mg, 64%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 10.77 (s, br, 1H), 7.33–7.22 (m, 2H), 6.89–6.80 (m, 2H), 4.10–4.01 (m, 1H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.81–1.69 (m, 2H), 1.56–1.40 (m, 2H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 177.4, 158.4, 132.8, 128.4, 114.7, 79.6, 79.1, 67.8, 43.5, 33.3, 31.5, 19.4, 14.0, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.4, 114.7, 33.3, 14.0, 3.8; δ (–): 67.8, 43.5, 31.5, 19.4. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₆H₁₉O₃]⁻ 259.13397, obs. 259.13376. [α]_D²⁰ = +6.27° (c = 1.01, methanol), [α]_{Hg(405)} = +22.00° (c = 1.01, methanol).

4.2.1.11. (3S)-3-[4-(pentyloxy)phenyl]hex-4-ynoic acid (**8**). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available pentan-1-yl bromide according to Procedure A followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (129 mg, 75%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 10.45 (s, br, 1H), 7.31–7.25 (m, 2H), 6.88–6.81 (m, 2H), 4.09–3.99 (m, 1H), 3.93 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.80–1.72 (m, 2H), 1.49–1.30 (m, 4H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 177.2, 158.4, 132.9, 128.4, 114.7, 79.6, 79.1, 68.2, 43.5, 33.3, 29.1, 28.3, 22.6, 14.2, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.4, 114.7, 33.3, 14.2, 3.8; δ (–): 68.2, 43.5, 29.1, 28.3, 22.6, HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₇H₂₁O₃]⁻ 273.14962, obs. 273.14942. [α]_D²⁰ = +5.52° (c = 1.01, methanol), [α]_{Hg}²⁰(405) = +18.92° (c = 1.01, methanol).

4.2.1.12. (3S)-3-[4-(hexyloxy)phenyl]hex-4-ynoic acid (**9**). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available hexan-1-yl bromide according to Procedure A followed by Procedure C as an amorphous solid (75 mg, 43%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 10.85 (s, br, 1H), 7.31–7.24 (m, 2H), 6.89–6.79 (m, 2H), 4.09–3.99 (m, 1H), 3.93 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.82–1.70 (m, 2H), 1.51–1.37 (m, 2H), 1.38–1.23 (m, 4H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 177.2, 158.4, 132.9, 128.4, 114.7, 79.6, 79.1, 68.2, 43.5, 33.3, 31.7, 29.4, 25.9, 22.8, 14.2, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.4, 114.7, 33.3, 14.2, 3.8; δ (–): 68.2, 43.5, 31.7, 29.4, 25.9, 22.8. HR-MS (*m/z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₈H₂₃O₃]⁻ 287.16527, obs. 287.16520. [α]_D²⁰ = +6.57° (c = 1.01, methanol), [α]_{Hg(405)}²⁰ = +23.21° (c = 1.01, methanol).

4.2.1.13. (35)-3-[4-(heptyloxy)phenyl]hex-4-ynoic acid (10). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available heptan-1-yl bromide according to Procedure A followed by Procedure C as an amorphous solid (108 mg, 67%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.32–7.24 (m, 2H), 6.89–6.80 (m, 2H), 4.10–4.00 (m, 1H), 3.93 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.80 (dd, J = 15.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, J = 15.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 3H),

1.87–1.69 (m, 2H), 1.50–1.22 (m, 8H), 0.90 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 177.2, 158.4, 132.9, 128.4, 114.7, 79.6, 79.1, 68.2, 43.5, 33.3, 31.9, 29.4, 29.2, 26.2, 22.8, 14.2, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.4, 114.7, 33.3, 14.2, 3.8; δ (–): 68.2, 43.5, 31.9, 29.4, 29.2, 26.2, 22.8. HR-MS (m/z): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₉H₂₅O₃]⁻ 301.18092, obs. 301.18090. [α]²⁰_D = +5.49° (c = 1.00, methanol), [α]²⁰_{Hg(405)} = +34.50° (c = 1.00, methanol).

4.2.1.14. (3S)-3-{4-[(3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]phenyl}hex-4-ynoic acid (**11**). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available 3,3-dimethylallyl bromide according to Procedure A followed by Procedure C as a crystalline white solid (1.73 g, 44%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 11.33 (s, br, 1H), 7.33–7.26 (m, 2H), 6.90–6.82 (m, 2H), 5.55–5.42 (m, 1H), 4.49 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 4.10–3.98 (m, 1H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 1.74 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 176.5, 158.2, 138.2, 133.1, 128.4, 119.9, 115.0, 79.7, 79.1, 65.0, 43.4, 33.3, 25.9, 18.3, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ(+): 128.4, 119.9, 115.0, 33.3, 25.9, 18.3, 3.8; δ(-): 65.0, 43.4. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M - H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₇H₁₉O₃]⁻ 271.13397, obs. 271.13381. [α]²_D⁰ = +7.82° (c = 1.01, methanol), [α]²_{Hg(405)} = +27.94° (c = 1.01, methanol). Melting point: 52.1–53.1 °C (from *n*-pentane).

4.2.1.15. (3S)-3-[4-(3-methylbutoxy)phenyl]hex-4-ynoic acid (**12**). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available 3-methylbutan-1-yl bromide according to Procedure A followed by Procedure C as a crystallizing upon fridge storage (+4 °C) white solid (1.8 g, 70%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 9.95 (s, br, 1H), 7.34–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.91–6.80 (m, 2H), 4.13–4.00 (m, 1H), 3.96 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 3H), 1.97–1.74 (m, 1H), 1.66 (q, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 0.97 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 177.4, 158.4, 132.8, 128.4, 114.7, 79.6, 79.1, 66.5, 43.5, 38.1, 33.3, 25.2, 22.7, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 166.5, 43.5, 38.1, 33.3, 25.2, 22.7, 3.8; $\delta(-)$: 66.5, 43.5, 38.1 HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₇H₂₁O₃]⁻ 273.14962, obs. 273.14924. [α]_D²⁰ = +4.74° (c = 1.01, methanol), [α]_{Hg(405)}²⁰ = +22.86° (c = 1.01, methanol). Melting point: 26.4–27.1 °C.

4.2.1.16. (3S)-3-{4-[(2,3-dimethylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]phenyl}hex-4ynoic acid (CPL207280, **13**). The product was obtained according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C from HEAD-C and 2,3dimethylbut-2-en-1-ol [43,70]. A syrup/oil (1.16 g, 88%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.36–7.22 (m, 2H), 6.91–6.80 (m, 2H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 4.14–3.94 (m, 1H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.77 (s, 6H), 1.74 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 176.3, 158.6, 133.1, 131.0, 128.4, 124.2, 115.1, 79.7, 79.1, 69.5, 43.4, 33.4, 21.1, 20.4, 16.8, 3.7. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.4, 115.1, 33.4, 21.1, 20.4, 16.8, 3.7; δ (–): 69.5, 43.4. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₈H₂₁O₃]⁻ 285.14962, obs. 285.14925. [α]_B² = +7.52° (c = 1.02, methanol), [α]_{Hg(405)} = +25.13° (c = 1.02, methanol).

4.2.1.17. (3S)-3-(4-{[(2Z)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-yl]oxy} phenyl)hex-4-ynoic acid (14). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available (2Z)-3,7-dimethyl-2,6-octadien-1-ol (nerol) according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (123 mg, 37%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.31–7.25 (m, 2H), 6.89–6.82 (m, 2H), 5.49 (td, J = 6.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.16–5.05 (m, 1H), 4.48 (dd, J = 6.7, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 4.11–3.99 (m, 1H), 2.81 (dd, J = 15.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd, J = 15.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.17–2.07 (m, 4H), 1.83 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.80 (dd, J = 2.3, 1.0 Hz, 3H), 1.69 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 3H), 1.61 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 177.1, 158.1, 141.7, 133.0,

132.3, 128.4, 123.8, 120.6, 114.9, 79.6, 79.1, 64.7, 43.4, 33.3, 32.6, 26.7, 25.8, 23.6, 17.8, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) $\delta(+)$: 128.4, 123.8, 120.6, 114.9, 33.3, 25.8, 23.6, 17.8, 3.8; $\delta(-)$: 64.7, 43.4, 32.6, 26.7. HR-MS (m/z): $[M - H]^-$ calcd for $[C_{22}H_{27}O_3]^-$ 339.19657, obs. 339.19621. $[\alpha]_{D^0}^{20} = +4.07^\circ$ (c = 1.00, methanol), $[\alpha]_{Hg(436)}^{20} = +12.07^\circ$ (c = 1.00, methanol).

4.2.1.18. (S)-3-Cyclopropyl-3-(4-{[(2E)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-yl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid (**15**). The product was obtained from HEAD-D-S and commercially available (2E)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-ol (geraniol) according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (24 mg, 21%). The NMR spectral analysis was exactly the same as for the enantiomer **16**. HR-MS (m/z): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₂₂H₂₉O₃]⁻ 341.21222, obs. 341.21214. [α]²⁰_D = -22.07° (c = 0.52, methanol).

4.2.1.19. (R)-3-Cyclopropyl-3-(4-{[(2E)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1yl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid (**16**). The product was obtained from HEAD-D-R and commercially available (2E)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6dien-1-ol (geraniol) according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (35 mg, 26%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.18–7.11 (m, 2H), 6.89–6.83 (m, 2H), 5.54–5.45 (m, 1H), 5.15–5.06 (m, 1H), 4.52 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.84–2.65 (m, 2H), 2.40–2.28 (m, 1H), 2.20–2.04 (m, 4H), 1.73 (s, br, 3H), 1.69 (s, br, 3H), 1.61 (s, 3H), 1.08–0.93 (m, 1H), 0.63–0.50 (m, 1H), 0.48–0.36 (m, 1H), 0.32–0.22 (m, 1H), 0.19–0.10 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 178.8, 157.7, 141.2, 135.9, 131.9, 128.3, 124.0, 119.8, 114.7, 64.9, 46.1, 41.8, 39.7, 26.4, 25.8, 17.8, 17.5, 16.8, 5.4, 4.2. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.3, 124.0, 119.8, 114.7, 46.1, 25.8, 17.8, 17.5, 16.8; δ (–): 64.9, 41.8, 39.7, 26.4, 5.4, 4.2. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₂₂H₂₉O₃]⁻ 341.21222, obs. 341.21229. [α]_D⁰ = +22.97° (c = 0.73, methanol).

4.2.1.20. 3-(4-{[(2E)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-yl]oxy}phenyl) propanoic acid (**17**). The product was obtained from HEAD-J and commercially available (2E)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-ol (geraniol) according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a solid (289 mg, 36%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) *δ*: 11.56 (s. br, 1H), 7.17–7.08 (m, 2H), 6.91–6.81 (m, 2H), 5.55–5.45 (m, 1H), 5.15–5.07 (m, 1H), 4.52 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.91 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.66 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.19–2.03 (m, 4H), 1.74 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.62 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) *δ*: 179.5, 157.6, 141.2, 132.2, 131.9, 129.3, 124.0, 119.7, 114.9, 65.0, 39.7, 36.1, 29.9, 26.4, 25.8, 17.8, 16.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) *δ*(+): 129.3, 124.0, 119.7, 114.9, 25.8, 17.8, 16.8; *δ*(-): 65.0, 39.7, 36.1, 29.9, 26.4. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): $[M - H]^-$ calcd for $[C_{19}H_{25}O_3]^-$ 301.18092, obs. 301.18067.

4.2.1.21. (2E)-3-(4-{[(2E)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-yl]oxy} phenyl)prop-2-enoic acid (**18**). The product was obtained from HEAD-K and commercially available (2E)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-ol (geraniol) according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a solid (309 mg, 38%).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 11.75 (s, br, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.52–7.48 (m, 2H), 6.95–6.90 (m, 2H), 6.32 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 5.51–5.46 (m, 1H), 5.13–5.05 (m, 1H), 4.59 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.17–2.07 (m, 4H), 1.75 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.61 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 172.8, 161.3, 147.0, 141.8, 132.0, 130.2, 126.9, 123.9, 119.2, 115.3, 114.7, 65.2, 39.7, 26.4, 25.8, 17.8, 16.8. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 147.0, 130.2, 123.9, 119.2, 115.3, 114.7, 25.8, 17.8, 16.8; δ (-): 65.2, 39.7, 26.4. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₉H₂₃O₃]⁻ 299.16527, obs. 299.16506.

4.2.1.22. (3R)-3-{2-fluoro-4-[(3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]phenyl} hex-4-ynoic acid (**19**). The product was obtained from HEAD-E and

commercially available 3,3-dimethylallyl bromide according to Procedure A followed by Procedure C as a solid (25 mg, 62%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.41 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (dd, *J* = 12.2, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 5.52–5.41 (m, 1H), 4.47 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 4.35–4.27 (m, 1H), 2.79 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 1.74 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: -121.21 (dd, *J* = 12.2, 9.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 177.0, 160.5 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 244.5 Hz), 159.4 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 10.9 Hz), 138.8, 129.7 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 5.9 Hz), 119.5 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 14.3 Hz), 119.3, 110.8 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 2.8 Hz), 102.4 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 2.5.1 Hz), 79.2, 78.3, 65.3, 41.6, 27.4, 27.4 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 2.7 Hz), 18.3, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta(-)$: 65.3, 41.6. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M - H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₇H₁₈FO₃]⁻ 289.12455, obs. 289.12457. The amount of material left after all necessary experiments was insufficient to make the specific rotation measurement.

4.2.1.23. 2-(1-{4-[(3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]phenyl}cyclohexyl) acetic acid (**20**). The product was obtained from HEAD-G and commercially available 3,3-dimethylallyl alcohol (prenol) according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a solid (132 mg, 89%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.29–7.22 (m, 2H), 6.90–6.83 (m, 2H), 5.55–5.47 (m, 1H), 4.49 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (s, 2H), 2.18 (dd, J = 12.7, 4.8 Hz, 2H), 1.82–1.71 (m, 2H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 1.75 (s, 3H), 1.59–1.35 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 177.6, 157.0, 138.1, 136.9, 127.7, 120.0, 114.4, 64.7, 48.3, 40.2, 36.2, 26.3, 26.0, 22.4, 18.3. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 127.7, 120.0, 114.4, 26.0, 18.3; δ (-): 64.7, 48.3, 36.2, 26.3, 22.4. HR-MS (m/z): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₉H₂₅O₃]⁻ 301.18092, obs. 301.18061.

4.2.1.24. 3-Methyl-3-{4-[(3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]phenyl}butanoic acid (**21**). The product was obtained from HEAD-H and commercially available 3,3-dimethylallyl alcohol (prenol) according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a solid (68 mg, 54%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 10.18 (s, br, 1H), 7.32–7.26 (m, 2H), 6.90–6.84 (m, 2H), 5.56–5.47 (m, 1H), 4.51 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.63 (s, 2H), 1.81 (s, 3H), 1.75 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 177.8, 157.2, 140.3, 138.0, 126.5, 120.1, 114.4, 64.9, 48.3, 36.6, 29.1, 25.9, 18.3. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 126.5, 120.1, 114.4, 29.1, 25.9, 18.3; δ (–): 64.9, 48.3. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₆H₂₁O₃]⁻ 261.14962, obs. 261.14941.

4.2.1.25. (3 S)-3-[4-(3-methylbutoxy)phenyl]hexanoic acid (**22**). (3S)-3-[4-(3-methylbutoxy)phenyl]hex-4-ynoic acid (**12**) (500 mg, 1.82 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (40 mL), then 10% Pd/C (200 mg) was added as a suspension in ethanol (10 ml) and the reaction mixture was sttired overnight in pressure stainless-steel vessel at r.t. over hydrogen gas at a pressure of 20 bar. When TLC analysis (methanol 10% (v/v) in dichlorometane) indicated complete consumption of the starting material, the catalyst was filtered off on a Celite® Hyflo Super Cel® pad, the filtrate was concentrated and purified chromatographicaly on silica gel (eluted heptane/ethyl acetate 6:1 to 1:2). The product was obtained as an amorphous solid (437 mg, 86%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.11–7.04 (m, 2H), 6.86–6.79 (m, 2H), 3.96 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.10–2.96 (m, 1H), 2.67–2.50 (m, 2H), 1.91–1.76 (m, 1H), 1.66 (q, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.72–1.46 (m, 2H), 1.23–1.09 (m, 2H), 0.96 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 178.7, 157.8, 135.8, 128.4, 114.5, 66.4, 41.9, 40.9, 38.7, 38.2, 25.2, 22.8, 20.6, 14.1. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.4, 114.5, 40.9, 25.2, 22.8, 14.1; δ (-): 66.4, 41.9, 38.7, 38.2, 20.6. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₇H₂₅O₃]⁻ 277.18092, obs. 277.18097. [α]_D²⁰ = +13.39° (c = 1.00, methanol).

4.2.1.26. 3-[3-(3-methylbutoxy)phenyl]hex-4-ynoic acid (**23 rac**). The product was obtained from HEAD-F (methyl ester) and commercially available 3-methylbutan-1-yl bromide according to Procedure A followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (182 mg, 72%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.26–7.19 (m, 1H), 6.97–6.92 (m, 2H), 6.79 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 2.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.11–4.03 (m, 1H), 3.99 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.82 (dd, *J* = 15.8, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 15.8, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.92–1.77 (m, 1H), 1.68 (q, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 0.97 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 177.2, 159.5, 142.5, 129.7, 119.6, 113.9, 113.1, 79.4, 79.2, 66.4, 43.3, 38.2, 34.1, 25.2, 22.7, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 129.7, 119.6, 113.9, 113.1, 34.1, 25.2, 22.7, 3.8; δ (–): 66.4, 43.3, 38.2. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₇H₂₁O₃]⁻ 273.14962, obs. 273.14928.

4.2.1.27. 3-[2-(3-methylbutoxy)phenyl]hex-4-ynoic acid (**24 rac**). The product was obtained according to Route II (Scheme 4). from Meldrum's acid and 2-(3-methylbutoxy)benzaldehyde [71] as syrup/oil (848 mg, 15% overall yield).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.59 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.19 (m, 1H), 6.95 (td, J = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (dd, J = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (ddq, J = 9.2, 4.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.08–3.95 (m, 2H), 2.86 (dd, J = 15.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (dd, J = 15.5, 9.9 Hz, 1H), 1.88 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.96–1.81 (m, 1H), 1.75–1.65 (m, 2H), 0.97 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 178.0, 155.7, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 120.5, 111.2, 79.2, 79.0, 66.4, 41.4, 38.2, 28.4, 25.2, 22.7, 22.7, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.7, 128.4, 120.5, 111.2, 28.4, 25.2, 22.7, 22.7, 3.8; δ (–): 66.4, 41.4, 38.2. HR-MS (m/z): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₇H₂₁O₃]⁻ 273.14962, obs. 273.14929.

4.2.1.28. 3-[4-(2-methylpropyl)phenyl]hex-4-ynoic acid (**25 rac**). The product was obtained according to Route II (Scheme 4). from dimethyl malonate and commercially available 4-(2-methylpropyl) benzaldehyde as a syrup/oil (421 mg, 18% overall yield).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.32–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.13–7.07 (m, 2H), 4.13–4.03 (m, 1H), 2.82 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.93–1.76 (m, 1H), 1.84 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 177.3, 140.7, 138.2, 129.5, 127.1, 79.5, 79.2, 45.2, 43.4, 33.7, 30.3, 22.5, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 129.5, 127.1, 33.7, 30.3, 22.5, 3.8; δ (–): 45.2, 43.4. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₆H₁₉O₂]⁻ 243.13905, obs. 243.13883.

4.2.1.29. 3-{4-[(3-methylbutyl)amino]phenyl}hex-4-ynoic acid (**26 rac**). The product was obtained according to Route III (Scheme 4). from dimethyl malonate and commercially available 3methylbutan-1-yl bromide as described in the literature [72]. Overall yield: 13% (solid, 150 mg).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃ + 5% CD₃OD) δ : 7.18–7.12 (m, 2H), 6.58–6.52 (m, 2H), 4.00–3.91 (m, 1H), 3.11–3.01 (m, 2H), 2.69 (dd, *J* = 15.4, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (dd, *J* = 15.4, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.78 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.67 (tt, *J* = 13.3, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.51–1.41 (m, 2H), 0.91 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃ + 5% CD₃OD) δ : 174.2, 147.4, 130.1, 128.1, 113.2, 80.2, 78.4, 43.5, 42.5, 38.5, 33.4, 26.0, 22.6, 3.7. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃ + 5% CD₃OD, 0EPT 135°) δ (+): 128.1, 113.2, 33.4, 26.0, 22.6, 3.7; δ (–): 43.5, 42.5, 38.5. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₇H₂₂NO₂]⁻ 272.16560, obs. 272.16533.

4.2.1.30. 2-{4-[(2,3-dimethylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]phenoxy}acetic acid (**27**). The product was obtained from HEAD-I and 2,3-dimethyl-2-buten-1-yl chloride (**41**, 1.33 eq, 60% content) according to Procedure A followed by Procedure C as a solid (921 mg, 58%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: (11.37, s, br, 1H), 6.87 (s, 4H), 4.63 (s, 2H), 4.45 (s, 2H), 1.78 (s, 6H), 1.74 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 174.8, 154.6, 151.8, 131.1, 124.1, 116.0, 70.0, 66.0, 21.1, 20.4, 16.8. ¹³C

NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 116.0 (116.01), 116.0 (115.98), 21.1, 20.4, 16.8; δ (-): 70.0, 66.0. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M - H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₄H₁₇O₄]⁻ 249.11323, obs. 249.11277.

4.2.1.31. 3-{4-[(2,3-dimethylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]phenyl}propanoic acid (**28**). The product was obtained from HEAD-J and 2,3-dimethyl-2-buten-1-yl chloride (**41**, 1.33 eq, 60% content) according to Procedure A followed by Procedure C as a solid (3.6 g, 87%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) *δ*: 11.63 (s, br, 1H), 7.16–7.10 (m, 2H), 6.92–6.84 (m, 2H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 2.92 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.71–2.62 (m, 2H), 1.79 (s, 6H), 1.76 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) *δ*: 179.4, 158.0, 132.3, 131.1, 129.3, 124.1, 115.0, 69.4, 36.1, 29.9, 21.1, 20.4, 16.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) *δ*(+): 129.3, 115.0, 21.1, 20.4, 16.8; *δ*(–): 69.4, 36.1, 29.9. HR-MS (*m/z*): $[M - H]^-$ calcd for $[C_{14}H_{19}O_3]^-$ 247.13397, obs. 247.13422.

4.2.1.32. (3S)-3-(4-{[(3R)-3,7-dimethylocta-6-en-1-yl]oxy}phenyl) hex-4-ynoic acid (**29**). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available (3R)-3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-ol [(R)-(+)- β -citronellol] according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (210 mg, 37%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.32–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.88–6.80 (m, 2H), 5.15–5.06 (m, 1H), 4.10–4.01 (m, 1H), 4.02–3.94 (m, 2H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.75–2.66 (m, 1H), 2.10–1.91 (m, 2H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.88–1.75 (m, 1H), 1.68 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 3H), 1.60 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 3H), 1.74–1.50 (m, 2H), 1.46–1.32 (m, 1H), 1.28–1.14 (m, 1H), 0.94 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 177.2, 158.4, 132.9, 131.4, 128.4, 124.8, 114.8, 79.6, 79.1, 66.5, 43.5, 37.3, 36.3, 33.3, 29.7, 25.8, 25.6, 19.7, 17.8, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ(+): 128.4, 124.8, 114.8, 33.3, 29.7, 25.8, 19.7, 17.8, 3.8; δ(-): 66.5, 43.5, 37.3, 36.3, 25.6. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₂₂H₂₉O₃]⁻ 341.21222, obs. 341.21201. [α]_D^D = +9.06° (c = 1.01, methanol), [α]_{Hg(405)}^A = +29.11° (c = 1.01, methanol).

4.2.1.33. (3S)-3-(4-{[(3S)-3,7-dimethylocta-6-en-1-yl]oxy}phenyl) hex-4-ynoic acid (**30**). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available (3S)-3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-ol [(S)-(-)- β -citronellol] according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (170 mg, 43%). The NMR spectral analysis was exactly the same as for the diastereoisomer **29**. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₂₂H₂₉O₃]⁻ 341.21222, obs. 341.21169. [α]²⁰_D = +1.51° (c = 1.01, methanol), [α]²⁰_{Het}(365) = +13.81° (c = 1.01, methanol).

4.2.1.34. (3S)-3-[4-(2-methylpropoxy)phenyl]hex-4-ynoic acid (**31**). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available 2-methylpropan-1-yl bromide according to Procedure A followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (356 mg, 80%).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.29–7.26 (m, 2H), 6.86–6.83 (m, 2H), 4.07–4.02 (m, 1H), 3.70 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 8.5 Hz), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 6.7 Hz), 2.07 (dt, *J* = 13.3, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.01 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 177.5, 158.5, 132.8, 128.4, 114.8, 79.6, 79.1, 74.6, 43.5, 33.3, 28.4, 19.4, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.4, 114.8, 33.3, 28.4, 19.4, 3.8; δ (-): 74.6, 43.5. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₆H₁₉O₃]⁻ 259.13397, obs. 259.13431. [α]²⁰_D = +6.06° (c = 1.02, methanol), [α]²⁰_{Hg(405)} = +21.38° (c = 1.02, methanol).

4.2.1.35. (3S)-3-[4-(2-ethylbutoxy)phenyl]hex-4-ynoic acid (**32**). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available 2-ethylbutan-1-yl bromide according to Procedure A followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (435 mg, 67%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.32–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.89–6.81 (m, 2H), 4.09–3.99 (m, 1H), 3.82 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (dd, J = 15.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, J = 15.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.71–1.58 (m, 1H), 1.55–1.36 (m, 4H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 6H). ¹³C

NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 176.9, 158.6, 132.8, 128.4, 114.8, 79.7, 79.1, 70.3, 43.4, 41.0, 33.3, 23.5, 11.3, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) $\delta(+)$: 128.4, 114.8, 33.3, 11.3, 3.8; $\delta(-)$: 70.3, 43.4, 23.5. HR-MS (*m/z*): [M - H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₈H₂₃O₃]⁻ 287.16527, obs. 287.16492. [α]^D_D = +5.13° (c = 1.00, methanol), [α]²⁰_{Hg(405)} = +34.96° (c = 1.00, methanol).

4.2.1.36. 3-[4-(2,2-dimethylpropoxy)phenyl]hex-4-ynoic acid (**33 rac**). The product was obtained according to Route II (Scheme 4). from dimethyl malonate and 4-(2,2-dimethylpropoxy)benzalde-hyde [43] as solid/wax (95 mg, 4% overall yield).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.34–7.22 (m 2H), 6.90–6.80 (m, 2H), 4.10–3.98 (m, 1H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.03 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 177.3, 158.9, 132.8, 128.4, 114.8, 79.7, 79.1, 78.0, 43.4, 33.3, 32.0, 26.8, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.4, 114.8, 33.3, 26.8, 3.8; δ (–): 78.0, 43.4. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₇H₂₁O₃]⁻ 273.14962, obs. 273.14955.

4.2.1.37. (3S)-3-{4-[(2S)-2-methylbutoxy]phenyl}hex-4-ynoic acid (**34**). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available (S)-(-)-2-methylbutan-1-ol according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (93 mg, 14%). The NMR spectral analysis was exactly the same as for the diastereoisomeric mixture **35 dm**. HR-MS (m/z): [M - H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₇H₂₁O₃]⁻ 273.14962, obs. 273.14909. [α]^D_D = +13.42° (c = 2.19, methanol).

4.2.1.38. (3S)-3-[4-(2-methylbutoxy)phenyl]hex-4-ynoic acid (**35** *dm*). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available 2-methylbutan-1-ol according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (156 mg, 33%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.31–7.24 (m, 2H), 6.88–6.81 (m, 2H), 4.10–3.99 (m, 1H), 3.80 (dd, J = 9.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (dd, J = 9.0, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, J = 15.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, J = 15.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.92–1.77 (m, 1H), 1.83 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.64–1.48 (m, 1H), 1.33–1.17 (m, 1H), 1.00 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.94 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 177.1, 158.6, 132.8, 128.4, 114.8, 79.6, 79.1, 73.1, 43.4, 34.9, 33.3, 26.3, 16.7, 11.5, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.4, 114.8, 34.9, 33.3, 16.7, 11.5, 3.8; δ (-): 73.1, 43.4, 26.3. HR-MS (m/z): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₇H₂₁O₃]⁻ 273.14962, obs. 273.14910.

4.2.1.39. (3S)-3- $\{4-[(2R)-butan-2-yloxy]phenyl\}hex-4-ynoic acid ($ **36**). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available <math>(S)-(+)-butan-2-ol according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a solid (345 mg, 46%)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 10.32 (bs, 1H), 7.30–7.22 (m, 2H), 6.87–6.79 (m, 2H), 4.33–4.21 (m, 1H), 4.09–4.01 (m, 1H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.81–1.67 (m, 1H), 1.67–1.52 (m, 1H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 177.1, 157.5, 132.9, 128.5, 116.2, 79.7, 79.1, 75.3, 43.5, 33.3, 29.4, 19.4, 9.9, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.5, 116.2, 75.3, 33.3, 19.4, 9.9, 3.8; δ (–): 43.5, 29.4 HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₆H₁₉O₃]⁻ 259.13397, obs. 259.13354. Since this product is formed by the inversion of the configuration at the chiral center of the starting alcohol, instead of the simple specific rotation measurement, the difference between compounds **36** and **37** was confirmed by the CD spectra. Selected values of CD spectrum: –6.31479° (278.6 nm), –5.29875° (285 nm). For full data see the supplementary data.

4.2.1.40. (3S)-3-{4-[(2S)-butan-2-yloxy]phenyl}hex-4-ynoic acid (**37**). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available (R)-(-)-butan-2-ol according to Procedure B followed by

Procedure C as a syrup/oil (278 mg, 56%).

The NMR spectral analysis was exactly the same as for the diastereoisomer **36**. HR-MS (m/z): $[M - H]^-$ calcd for $[C_{16}H_{19}O_3]^-$ 259.13397, obs. 259.13356. Since this product is formed by the inversion of the configuration at the chiral center of the starting alcohol, instead of the simple specific rotation measurement, the difference between compounds **36** and **37** was confirmed by the CD spectra. Selected values of CD spectrum: 3.90002° (277 nm), 2.71404° (283.6 nm). For full data see the supplementary data.

4.2.1.41. (3S)-3-[4-(pentan-2-yloxy)phenyl]hex-4-ynoic acid (**38** *dm*). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available pentan-2-ol according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (276 mg, 44%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.33–7.22 (m, 2H), 6.89–6.79 (m, 2H), 4.41–4.26 (m, 1H), 4.11–3.98 (m, 1H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 3H), 1.79–1.64 (m, 1H), 1.60–1.35 (m, 3H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 177.3, 157.5, 132.8, 128.4, 116.1, 79.7, 79.1, 73.8, 43.5, 38.8, 33.3, 19.9, 18.9, 14.2, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.4, 116.1, 73.8, 33.3, 19.9, 14.2, 3.8; δ (–): 43.5, 38.8, 18.9. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₇H₂₁O₃]⁻ 273.14962, obs. 273.14932.

4.2.1.42. (3S)-3-[4-(pentan-3-yloxy)phenyl]hex-4-ynoic acid (**39**). The product was obtained from HEAD-C and commercially available pentan-3-ol according to Procedure B followed by Procedure C as a syrup/oil (75 mg, 22%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.31–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.88–6.80 (m, 2H), 4.12–3.99 (m, 2H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.72–1.60 (m, 4H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 176.8, 158.0, 132.7, 128.4, 116.2, 80.4, 79.7, 79.1, 43.4, 33.3, 26.2, 9.8, 3.8. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.4, 116.2, 80.4, 33.3, 9.8, 3.8; δ (-): 43.4, 26.2. HR-MS (*m*/*z*): [M – H]⁻ calcd for [C₁₇H₂₁O₃]⁻ 273.14962, obs. 273.14939. [α]_D²⁰ = +7.53° (c = 1.02, methanol), [α]_{Hg(405)}²⁰ = +23.09° (c = 1.02, methanol).

4.2.2. Process optimization towards the large-scale synthesis

4.2.2.1. Methyl (3S)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)hex-4-ynoate (**40**) [50]. (3S)-3-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)hex-4-ynoic acid (1S,2R)-1-amino-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-ol salt [50] (200 g, 0.566 mol) was dissolved in cold 1.5 M gaseous HCl solution in methanol (0.5 M) and stirred overnight at r.t. The reaction mixture was concentrated to give solid aminoindanol hydrochloride. TBME was added, the precipitate was filtered off, washed with TBME, and recovered. The filtrate was transferred to a separatory funnel, washed twice with water, and thoroughly washed with aqueous sodium bicarbonate, then with brine, separated, and dried. Upon concentration under vacuum, a light yellow syrup/oil was quantitatively obtained, which was carried over to the next synthetic step (alkylation) without any further purification.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.24–7.18 (m, 2H), 6.80–6.74 (m, 2H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 4.08–3.99 (m, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.77 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 1.81 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 172.3, 155.0, 133.0, 128.6, 115.6, 79.7, 79.0, 52.0, 43.6, 33.6, 3.7. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.6, 115.6, 52.0, 33.6, 3.7; δ (–): 43.6.

4.2.2.2. 2,3-Dimethyl-2-buten-1-yl chloride (**41**) [73]. To neat 2,3dimethyl-1,3-butadiene cooled to 0 °C gaseous HCl was admitted through a glass capillary under stirring. The addition of hydrogen chloride was stopped when the reaction mixture weight gain indicated the absorption of 1 M equivalent of HCl. The content of the reaction flask was vacuum distilled (2–8 mbar, 28 °C) to give the mixture of a product **41** accompanied with the tertiary chloride (3-chloro-2,3-dimethyl-1-butene). To the obtained distillate Amberlyst® 15 hydrogen form resin (2% by weight) was added and was stirred overnight at 30 °C in a glass flask protected from light. The equilibrium of isomers was confirmed by the ¹H NMR experiment as ca. 60% molar content of the desired product (776 g, 99.7%). The resin was filtered off and the filtrate was stored at +4 °C.

¹H NMR of the substrate: 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 5.05 (s, br, 2H), 4.99–4.97 (m, 2H), 1.93 (s, 6H).

3-Chloro-2,3-dimethyl-1-butene (tertiary chloride): ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 5.05 (s, br, 1H), 4.87–4.84 (m, 1H), 1.95 (dd, J = 1.4, 0.6 Hz, 3H), 1.74 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 149.1, 111.2, 71.4, 31.8, 19.5. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 31.8, 19.5; δ (–): 111.2.

2,3-Dimethyl-2-buten-1-yl chloride (**41**) ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 4,14–4.12 (m, doublet-like, 2H), 1.79–1.76 (m, 6H), 1.73–1.70 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 132.6, 124.7, 47.5, 21.2, 20.3, 17.1. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 21.2, 20.3, 17.1; δ (–): 47.5.

4.2.2.3. (3S)-3-{4-[(2,3-dimethylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]phenyl}hex-4vnoic acid (CPL207280, 13) TBME solution and (3S)-3-{4-[(2,3dimethylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]phenyl}hex-4-ynoic acid t-butylamine salt (42). Methyl (3S)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)hex-4-ynoate (40, 150 g, 0.687 mol) was dissolved in DMF (510 mL) and anhydrous potassium carbonate powder (120 g, 0.868 mol) was added. Then under stirring 2,3-dimethyl-2-buten-1-yl chloride (41 ca. 60% molar content, 167 g. 1.408 mol) was added causing the initial increase of the reaction mixture temperature up to 40 °C. The stirring was continued overnight without heating. The inorganic salts were filtered off and washed twice with 100 mL of DMF. The filtrate was placed in a flask to which aqueous potassium hydroxide (210 g KOH, 3.743 mol, dissolved in 210 mL of water) was added in portions under stirring to keep the reaction mixture temperature below 60 °C. The stirring was continued overnight without heating. The reaction mixture was diluted with TBME (600 mL) and water (600 mL) and transferred to the separatory funnel. The bottom, aqueous phase was separated and acidified with aqueous citric acid (350 g, 1.562 mol in 500 mL of water) to pH below 5 and extracted twice with TBME (2×900 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine and separated to give CPL207280 (13) as a free acid solution in TBME.

The CPL207280 (**13**) as a free acid solution in TBME was diluted with TBME (1 L) and *t*-butylamine (73 mL, 0.695 mol) was added under stirring to produce (3S)-3-{4-[(2,3-dimethylbut-2-en-1-yl) oxy]phenyl}hex-4-ynoic acid *t*-butylamine salt (**42**), which was filtered off and washed with TBME. To meet the API purity specification the product was recrystallized from hot (60 °C) acetone (2.4 L) and water (150 mL) to give upon cooling fine colorless crystals, which were filtered off, washed with acetone, and dried. Average yield: 70%, 172.9 g.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-D₆) δ: 7.26–7.17 (m, 2H), 6.86–6.78 (m, 2H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 3.99–3.89 (m, 1H), 2.39 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.75 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.73 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 6H), 1.17 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D₆ diluted sample) δ: 173.0, 157.3, 134.7, 129.8, 128.2, 123.8, 114.3, 82.3, 76.9, 68.5, 49.4, 46.0, 33.5, 28.6, 20.7, 20.0, 16.5, 3.3. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D₆, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.2, 114.3, 33.5, 28.6, 20.7, 20.0, 16.5, 3.3; δ (–): 68.5, 46.0.

4.2.2.4. (3S)-3-{4-[(2,3-dimethylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]phenyl}hex-4ynoic acid calcium salt (**43**). A portion of (3S)-3-{4-[(2,3dimethylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]phenyl}hex-4-ynoic acid TBME solution (CPL207280, **13**) from the previous experiment was dried over sodium sulfate, and under stirring activated carbon powder was added. The solution was filtered through the pad of silica and washed with TBME. After concentration, the free acid of CPL207280 (13) was obtained (light yellow syrup, 30.8 g, 0.108 mol), which was dissolved in 430 mL of water, containing lithium hydroxide monohydrate (4.52 g, 0.108 mol) and cooled to 15 °C. Under vigorous stirring a solution of calcium chloride (anhydrous, 6.0 g, 0.054 mol) in cold (0 °C) water (124 mL) was added dropwise to form calcium salt (43) precipitate which was immediately filtered off, washed with cold (0 °C) water, collected, and vacuum dried (30 °C/2 mbar) to constant mass (27.8 g, 84.6%). This product was dissolved at 40 °C in ethanol (80 mL) and acetone (80 mL) and then 1,4-dioxane (320 mL) was added to precipitate fine needles overnight. The crystal-like material was filtered off, washed with 1,4-dioxane (80 mL) and n-pentane (80 mL), collected, and vacuum dried (30 °C/1 mbar) to constant mass (19.7 g, 60%). Regardless of crystalline appearance, the obtained salt turned out to be amorphous and unstable in long-term storage (XRPD analysis - see supplementary data).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-D₆) δ : 7.30–7.20 (m, 2H), 6.84–6.75 (m, 2H), 4.42 (s, 2H), 4.11–3.99 (m, 1H), 2.44 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (dd, *J* = 15.1, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.74 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 3H), 1.71 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D₆) δ : 177.3, 157.2, 135.0, 129.7, 128.2, 123.8, 114.1, 82.7, 76.7, 68.5, 46.4, 33.0, 20.6, 19.9, 16.4, 3.2. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D₆, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.2, 114.1, 33.0, 20.6, 19.9, 16.4, 3.2; δ (–): 68.5, 46.4.

4.2.2.5. 1-Carbamimidamido-N.N'-dimethylmethanimidamide (N.N'*dimethylbiguanide.* **44**). Metformin hydrochloride (244 Ø. 1.473 mol) was placed in 2-propanol (1.3 L) and under stirring a cold (+4 °C) solution of sodium hydroxide (61 g, 1.525 mol) in water (65 mL) was slowly added and the stirring was prolonged for 6 h at r.t. The precipitate of inorganic salts was filtered off and washed with 2-propanol (300 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure at 45 °C until the crystals started to form spontaneously. The flask was cooled to 20 °C and the crystals of the raw product were filtered off and washed with acetone (150 mL). The product was dissolved at 60 °C in acetone (1.0 L) and any residues were filtered off while at 60 °C and washed with 300 mL of acetone at the same temperature. The filtrate was again concentrated under reduced pressure at 45 °C until the crystals started to form spontaneously. The flask was cooled to 20 °C and the crystals of the product were filtered off, washed with acetone, collected, and dried in a vacuum. The evaporation of the mother liquor gave the second crop of the product. Combined yield 71% (135.1 g).

Since the ¹³C NMR spectra of *N*,*N*-dimethylbiguanide (**44**) are sensitive to concentration and the temperature of the measurement, they have to be compared at the same conditions. ¹³C NMR of the substrate: metformin hydrochloride (300 MHz, 15 mg/0.7 mL DMSO-D₆) δ : 159.1, 158.5, 37.4. ¹³C NMR of the product **44**: (300 MHz, 15 mg/0.7 mL DMSO-D₆) δ : 161.8, 161.8, 36.5.

4.2.2.6. CPL207280-51 (3S)-3- $\{4-[(2,3-dimethylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]$ phenyl}hex-4-ynoic acid N,N'-dimethylbiguanide salt (**45**). (3S)-3- $\{4-[(2,3-Dimethylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]$ phenyl}hex-4-ynoic acid t-butylamine salt (**42**, 134 g, 0.373 mol) was suspended in TBME (1.0 L) and under stirring a solution of anhydrous citric acid (59 g, 0.307 mol) in water (1.0 L) was added. The stirring was continued for 15 min and then the reaction mixture was transferred to the separatory funnel to separate the organic upper phase. The organic phase was washed with brine, separated, concentrated in a vacuum at 40 °C, and vacuum dried at 45 °C to a constant mass of 112 g (quantitatively) of light yellow syrup/oil (CPL207280, **13**). The free acid intermediate was dissolved in acetonitrile (700 mL) and filtered to remove any undissolved impurities. Separately, N,N'dimethylbiguanide (**44**, 50.2 g, 0.389 mol) was dissolved in a mixture of acetonitrile (2.7 mL), anhydrous ethanol (20 mL), and toluene (20 mL). The solution of **44** was filtered to remove any undissolved impurities. The filtered solutions of **13** and **44** were combined and intensively stirred overnight to form a colorless precipitate, which was filtered off and washed with acetone (300 mL). Without drying the filtered material was placed again in the flask and was stirred overnight in a mixture of TBME (3.3 L), acetone (450 mL), and water (40 mL) to form final fine crystals. The material obtained was filtered off and dried in a vacuum at 25 °C to the constant weight (144 g, 93% yield).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-D₆) δ: 7.46 (s, br, 6H) 7.25–7.18 (m, 2H), 6.86–6.78 (m, 2H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 3.95 (ddd, J = 9.6, 4.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (s, 6H), 2.32 (dd, J = 14.7, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.18 (dd, J = 14.7, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.75 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 3H), 1.73 (d, br, J = 1.1 Hz, 3H), 1.71–1.67 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D₆) δ: 174.0, 160.0, 158.4, 157.1, 135.5, 129.7, 128.1, 123.8, 114.2, 83.2, 76.3, 68.6, 47.4, 37.2, 33.8, 20.6, 19.9, 16.4, 3.3. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-D₆, DEPT 135°) δ (+): 128.1, 114.2, 37.2, 33.8, 20.6, 19.9, 16.4, 3.3; δ (–): 68.6, 47.4.

4.3. Experimental biology

Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism software (version 7). Experimental data are presented as mean \pm standard deviation (SD) or \pm standard error of the mean (SEM). Statistical significance between the mean of treated groups was compared to the mean of the control group using one-way or two-way ANOVA followed by a post hoc comparison (Dunnet's or Sidak). P-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant. The EC₅₀ value was determined based on logarithm values, using non-linear regression (curve fit) and four parameters variable slope equation.

4.3.1. FFA1 receptor in vitro activation - calcium ions concentration measurement

Activation of FFA1 receptor was performed on commercially available CHO-K1 cell line overexpressing human FFA1 receptor and luminescent protein aequorin (PerkinElmer), the luminescence of which grows significantly upon calcium ions binding. Cells were collected after passage in the amount of 2×10^6 and incubated for 3 h in HBSS solution (GIBCO) with the addition of 0.015% BSA and 5 µM of coelenterazine (Promega) - the aequorin prosthetic group necessary for bioluminescence reaction. Cells were dispensed (with the dispenser) in the amount of 5×10^3 cells to the well of a plate, placed in the measurement chamber of luminometer, with prepared solutions of 2x concentrated tested compounds in reaction buffer (HBSS) in the concentration range of $0.01-10 \mu$ M. As a result of the measurement, the luminescence changes in the time curve were obtained, the integration of which allowed to calculate the relative amount of calcium ions released to the cytosol. Compounds that strongly activate the receptor cause the efflux of a high amount of calcium ions to the cytosol and high luminescence of cells. Curves plotted from obtained results allowed to determine EC₅₀ values. The test results for each compound were expressed as a percent of the activation of the experimental system by ALA (positive control). To get the referential maximal efficacy (E_{max}) the cells were treated with a 10 µM concentration of ALA. All synthesized compounds were initially tested at 10 μ M and 1 μ M concentration to set the concentration range for EC₅₀ measurement. All active compounds (of PTAK-875 about 100% and above) at these concentrations gave E_{max} comparable to that of 10 μ M ALA, which refers to the maximal physiological effect of calcium ions release in commercial CHO cells overexpressing FFA1 receptor. The compounds, which at the concentration of 1 μ M showed 0% ALA activity were considered inactive, and their EC₅₀ values were not calculated.

Since the potencies of the tested compounds are expressed as $P_{TAK-875}$ value, to retrieve the EC_{50} of the respective compound the EC_{50} value for the reference (TAK-875, 270 nM) can be used with the following equation:

 EC_{50} (tested compound) = 270 × 100 / %P_{TAK-875} [nM]

4.3.2. Animal studies

All animal studies were conducted according to the relevant national regulatory guidelines and individual experiments approved by the Local Bioethical Committee in Poland (approval no.: 32/2016; 48/2016). PK study and IPGTT study were done at the Tri-city Central Animal Laboratory Research and Service Center, Dębinki 1, 80–211 Gdańsk, Poland.

All animals were maintained on a standard chow diet (recommended by the supplier) and acclimated to the experimental facility for a minimum of 7 days before treatment. All animals were housed in cages on a ventilated rack. The animals were housed under a 12-h light, 12-h dark cycle (and were allowed ad libitum access to water). During quarantine, animals were marked, weighed, and had a blood glucose measurement. The fasting blood glucose level was used for animal randomization to experimental groups in the IPGTT study.

4.3.3. Pharmacokinetic study of compounds **5**, **11**, **12**, **13** (CPL207280), and TAK-875

A PK study was performed on 8–10 weeks old Wistar HAN (Crl:WI (HAN)) rat males (n = 5, Charles River) with an initial body weight of about 250-300 g. Rats fasted for 12 h and next they were administrated intravenously (i.v.) with 3 mg/kg of the tested compound and orally (p.o.) with 3 mg/kg (TAK-875, 12, 13) or 1.2 mg/kg (5, 11) of the tested compound in 5%DMSO/40%PEG300/55%PBS. Next at specific times after administration (0.08, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 12, and 24 h), each animal was bled by venepuncture and the samples were collected into tubes containing the anticoagulant, K2EDTA. Four hours after compound administration, the food was restored to cages. The samples were centrifuged (1200 RCF for 5 min at approximately 4 °C) and the analyte was extracted from an aliquot of the received animal plasma according to protein precipitation assay. The extracted samples were injected into an ultrahigh performance liquid chromatography (Infinity II Agilent Technologies 1290) coupled with tandem mass spectrometry (Sciex QTrap 6500). The calibration range for this assay spanned from 10.0 to 2000.0 ng/mL. The mean C_{max} and T_{max} values placed in Table 1 have been read from the compound's concentration plot.

4.3.4. IPGTT test study of compounds **5**, **11**, **12**, **13** (CPL207280), TAK-875, and sitagliptin

The study was performed on 8–10 weeks old Wistar HAN (CrI:WI (HAN)) rat males (n = 7, Charles River) with an initial body weight of about 250–300 g. Rats fasted for 12 h and next were administrated *p.o.* with 10 mg/kg of tested compound or vehicle (5% DMSO/40%PEG300/55%PBS). Just after, the first glucose bolus (2 g/kg) was *i.p.* administrated. The second glucose bolus (2 g/kg) was *i.p.* administrated 6 h later. At t = 0 and t = 6 h (before glucose administration) and 0.08, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 6.25, 6.5, 7, 8, 9 h after compounds administration, glucose concentration in blood was measured using standard Accu-Chek® Performa glucometer. During the first glucose challenge (up to 3 h) insulin level in the blood was measured. For insulin measurement, blood was sampled from the jugular vein, allowed to clot for a minimum of 30 min at room temperature, and then centrifuged at 4 °C, (2000 RCF) for 15 min. The resultant serum was analyzed using a Rat Insulin ELISA kit

(Mercodia).

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

All contributors of this work at the time of their direct involvement in the project were the full-time employees of Celon Pharma S.A. A patent application WO 2019/134984 A1, based on the present observations, has been filed. M. Wieczorek is the CEO of Celon Pharma S.A. Some of the authors are the shareholders of Celon Pharma S.A.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2021.113810.

Abbreviations

ALA	α-Linolenic acid
ALT	Alanine transaminase
API	Active pharmaceutical ingredient
AUC	Area under the concentration-time curve
са	Circa
CD	Circular Dichroism
CHI	Chromatographic hydrophobicity index
cLogD _{7.4}	Calculated Log of the distribution coefficient between n
	octanol and water ($pH = 7.4$)
cLogP	Calculated Log of the partition coefficient between <i>n</i> -
	octanol and water
C_{max}	Maximum serum concentration
Cmp.	Compound
CNS	Central nervous system
CYP450	Cytochromes P450
DEPT	Distortionless enhancement by polarization transfer
	(NMR method)
DHA	Docosahexaenoic acid
DILI	Drug-induced liver injury
dm	Diastereoisomeric mixture
DMF	<i>N,N</i> ′-Dimethylformamide
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
DPP-4	Dipeptidyl peptidase 4
DSC-TGA	Differential scanning calorimetry combined with
	thermogravimetric analysis
EC ₅₀	Half maximal effective concentration
ESI	Electrospray Ionization
F	Bioavailability
FFA	Free fatty acid
FFA1	Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1

GIP	Gastric inhibitory polypeptide
GLP-1	Glucagon-like peptide-1
GPR40	G-protein coupled receptor 40
GSIS	Glucose-stimulated insulin secretion
h	Refers to human
H^+	Proton (acidic conditions)
H.A.	Heavy atoms number
hERG	Potassium ion channel with the alpha protein subunit encoded by <i>h</i> ERG gene
hERG gene	The human <i>Ether-à-go-go</i> -Related Gene (KCNH2)
HPLC	High performance liquid chromatography
HR	High resolution
IGS	International Genetic Standarization Program
i.p.	Intraperitoneal
IPGTT	Intraperitoneal glucose tolerance test
i.v.	Intravenous
K:	Ligand-receptor affinity constant
IF	Ligand efficiency
LE	Ligand efficiency dependent lipophilicity
LLEI	Ligand-lipophilicity efficiency
Lee	Logarithm
LogD	Log of the distribution coefficient between <i>n</i> octanol
LUGD	and water
LogD	Log of the partition coefficient between n octanol and
LUGI	water
ID	
	Mass sportroscopy
	Mologular weight
	Nuclear factor light shein onhanger of activated
INF-KB	R colle
	D CEIIS Nuclear Magnetic Peropance
	Nucleal Magnetic Resonance
PDD	PIOLEIII Dala Dalik The logarithmic inverse certs of the hydrogen ions
рп	The logarithmic inverse scale of the hydrogen lons
DIZ	Dhamma aa kin atiaa
PK	Pharmacokinetics
p.o.	per os (orally)
PUFA	Polyunsaturated fatty acid
P _{TAK-875}	$[EC_{50} (TAK-875)/EC_{50} (tested compound)] \times 100\%$
rac	racemate
RO5	Lipinski's rule of five
RCF	Relative centrifugal force
RCSB	Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics
r.t.	Room temperature
SAR	Structure-activity relationship
SGLT-2	Sodium/glucose cotransporter 2
t	Time
T2D	Type 2 diabetes
TBME	<i>t</i> -Butyl methyl ether
THF	Tetrahydrofuran
TLC	Thin layer chromatography
TLR4	Toll-like receptor 4
T1/2	Half-life
T _{max}	The time take to reach C _{max}
X-ray	Roentgen radiation (X-radiation)
XRPD	X-ray powder diffraction

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CPL207280, a Novel G Protein–Coupled Receptor 40/Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1–Specific Agonist, Shows a Favorable Safety Profile and Exerts Antidiabetic Effects in Type 2 Diabetic Animals

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ABSTRACT

G protein-coupled receptor (GPR) 40 is a free fatty acid receptor mainly expressed in pancreatic β -cells activated by medium- and long-chain fatty acids and regulating insulin secretion via an increase in cytosolic free calcium ($[Ca^{2+}]_i$). Activation of GPR40 in pancreatic β -cells may improve glycemic control in type 2 diabetes through enhancement of glucose-stimulated insulin secretion. However, the most clinically advanced GPR40 agonist-TAK-875 (fasiglifam)-was withdrawn from phase III because of its hepatotoxicity resulting from the inhibition of pivotal bile acid transporters. Here, we present a new, potent CPL207280 agonist and compare it with fasiglifam in numerous in vitro and in vivo studies. CPL207280 showed greater potency than fasiglifam in a Ca^{2+} influx assay with a human GPR40 protein (EC₅₀ = 80 vs. 270 nM, respectively). At the 10 μ M concentration, it showed 3.9 times greater enhancement of glucose-stimulated insulin secretion in mouse MIN6 pancreatic β -cells. In Wistar Han rats and C57BL6 mice challenged with glucose, CPL207280 stimulated 2.5 times greater insulin secretion without causing hypoglycemia at 10 mg/kg compared with fasiglifam. In three diabetic rat models, CPL207280 improved glucose tolerance and increased insulin area under the curve by 212%, 142%, and 347%, respectively. Evaluation of potential off-target activity (Safety47) and selectivity of CPL207280 (at 10 μ M) did not show any significant off-target activity. We conclude that CPL207280 is a potent enhancer of glucose-stimulated insulin secretion in animal disease models with no risk of hypoglycemia at therapeutic doses. Therefore, we propose the CPL207280 compound as a compelling candidate for type 2 diabetes treatment.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

GPR40 is a well-known and promising target for diabetes. This study is the first to show the safety and effects of CPL207280, a novel GPR40/free fatty acid receptor 1 agonist, on glucose homeostasis both in vitro and in vivo in different diabetic animal models. Therefore, we propose the CPL207280 compound as a novel, glucose-lowering agent, overcoming the unmet medical needs of patients with type 2 diabetes.

Introduction

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G protein–coupled receptor (GPR) 40 (or FFA1) is a free fatty acid receptor mainly expressed in pancreatic β -cells (Itoh and Hinuma, 2005; Schnell et al., 2007). It mediates signaling from free fatty acid (FFA) to modulate glucose-stimulated insulin secretion (GSIS) (Briscoe et al., 2003; Itoh et al., 2003). GPR40 emerged as an antidiabetic target and was proposed as a novel treatment modality for patients with type 2

ABBREVIATIONS: ADR, adverse drug reaction; AUC, area under the curve; BSA, bovine serum albumin; F, bioavailability; FFA, free fatty acid; FFA1, free fatty acid receptor 1; FFA2, free fatty acid receptor 2; FFA3, free fatty acid receptor 3; FFAF, free fatty acids free; GK, Goto-Kakizaki rat; GPCR, G protein–coupled receptor; GPR, G protein–coupled receptor; GSIS, glucose-stimulated insulin secretion; GTT, glucose tolerance test; HBSS, Hanks' balanced salt solution; hERG, the human ether-a-go-go related gene; HG, high glucose; KRBH, Krebs-Ringer bicarbonate HEPES buffer; LG, low glucose; PEG, polyethylene glycol; PPAR, proliferator-activated receptor; SU, sulfonylurea; T2D, type 2 diabetes; ZDF, Zucker diabetic fatty rat; ZDSD, Zucker diabetic Sprague-Dawley rat.

diabetes (Hara et al., 2011) in whom blood glucose control by popular drugs (i.e., metformin) is insufficient. Modulation of GSIS by FFA is perceived as an adaptive mechanism in a T2D milieu. A high concentration of lipids aggravates insulin resistance while enhancing insulin secretion to match the systemic demand (Nagasumi et al., 2009). Glucose dependence of the GPR40 insulinotropic activity is particularly important from the clinical perspective. Interestingly, it may allow prevention of the main adverse effect (iatrogenic hypoglycemia) of the currently popular sulfonylureas (SUs), which stimulates insulin secretion irrespective of glucose levels (Sola et al., 2015). Consequently, sulfonylureas impart a constant workload on β -cells instead of ensuring a fine-tuning of insulin secretion depending on the demand. This, in turn, leads to a Ca^{2+} overload and propels β -cell dysfunction, leading to cell death (Iwakura et al., 2000).

Impairments of β -cells function and mass decline as the T2D signs of progress are caused in part by elevated FFAs described as glucolipotoxicity (Poitout et al., 2010). Although GPR40 is a receptor for FFAs that might suggest its deleterious effects, aggregating evidence shows that GPR40 is not the gateway for glucolipotoxicity (Latour et al., 2007; Kebede et al., 2008; Lan et al., 2008; Alquier and Poitout, 2009). This fundamental feature permits GPR40 to become a promising candidate target for a novel secretagogue. Nevertheless, for successful therapy, the novel GPR40 agonist must also be safe, which means being structurally different from FFAs, to circumvent their toxicity. Moreover, to become fully developed, the drug must show much greater potency than FFAs and must not induce tachyphylaxis (Sharma and Alonso, 2014). Meeting all of these three conditions has become particularly challenging on the pathway of GPR40 synthetic agonist development. For example, fasiglifam (TAK-875; Takeda) was shown not to cause tachyphylaxis, and it demonstrated 400 times greater potency at GPR40 than the cognate ligand oleic acid (Tsujihata et al., 2011; Ito et al., 2016). It showed an antidiabetic effect in numerous animal diabetes models by improving glucose control in both acute and chronic administration (fasting parameters) (Ito et al., 2013, 2016). More importantly, it improved glucose tolerance and hemoglobin HbA1c levels in a small phase II clinical study (n > 50) in a cohort of mixedethnicity subjects (Burant et al., 2012). However, in a largepopulation phase III study (n > 5000), it demonstrated safety alerts in 2.5% of individuals (Marcinak et al., 2017). Although its structure was profoundly different to that of FFA, it turned out to be toxic for hepatocytes in the liver (especially through bile acid inhibition) (Li et al., 2015; Wolenski et al., 2017). Ever since TAK-875 entered phase III clinical trials, we have kept it as a benchmark for comparison purposes.

We have developed CPL207280, a new agonist of GPR40, which is at least three times more potent at human GPR40 and 10 times less toxic on insulinoma cells than TAK-875, which translates into a broader therapeutic window. Here, we compare the biologic properties of CPL207280 and TAK-875, and we have found that the addition of CPL207280 improved glucose tolerance in MIN6 pancreatic β -cells as well as in healthy Wistar Han rats and diabetes rat models (GK, ZDSD, ZDF rats). Incubation of CPL207280 with the rat and mouse insulinoma (INS-1 and MIN6) cells for 48 hours did not cause significant cell viability changes, whereas TAK-875 reduced rat and mouse insulinoma cell viability at higher concentrations, indicative of a narrower safety window.

Materials and Methods

Cells and Compounds. CHO cell line overexpressing human GPR40 receptor and aequorin was obtained from Perkin Elmer (ES-652-AF). Mouse insulinoma (MIN6) (C0018008) and rat insulinoma (INS-1) cell lines (C0018007) were obtained from AddexBio. GW1100 was obtained from Calbiochem (371830). Cells were routinely tested for possible mycoplasma contamination.

CPL207280 and TAK-875 molecules were synthesized in-house with a purity >98% as based on high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) area integration with UV detection at a wavelength of 254 nM (Mach, et al., 2019).

Acquorin Assay. CHO cells overexpressing human GPR40 receptor and aequorin were seeded in a T25 flask with a Ham's F-12 full medium 24 hours before the experiment. Subsequently, 2.5×10^6 cells were collected by trypsinization with 0.25% trypsin for 3 minutes, centrifuged (200g, 5 minutes), and resuspended in a 1-ml HBSS buffer (Gibco). Free fatty acids free (FFAF) 10%-BSA (final concentration 0.015%) and Coelenterazine h (in a methanol solution, final concentration 5 μ M) were diluted in an HBSS buffer, added to the cell suspension, and agitated gently for 2 hours at room temperature (RT). Next, cells were suspended with HBSS and mixed for the next hour. Then, cells were transferred into a glass cylinder with a magnetic mixer, mixed, and seeded (final density 5000 cells per well) on a 96-well plate comprising an array of investigated compounds in dilutions. The measurement of the luminescence signal was carried out continuously for 1 minute, and the resulting curves were used to calculate the area under the curve (AUC). CPL207280 activity was calculated as a percentage of α -linolenic acid activity (used as a control) at 10 uM.

Cell Viability Assay. For the cell viability assay, 20×10^3 INS-1 or 50×10^3 MIN6 cells were seeded in 100 µl of RPMI 1640 or Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium full media (with 0.05 mM β -mercaptoethanol) in a 96-well plate (transparent bottoms) coated with poly(D-lysine) (Corning). On the following day, 100 µl of the full media containing $500 \times$ RT-Glo (Promega) and a $2 \times$ concentrated tested compound at 5 concentrations up to 100 µM was added. After 48 hours of incubation at 37° C and 5% CO₂, the luminescence was measured using the VICTOR Nivo Multimode Microplate Reader (Perkin Elmer).

Insulin Secretion Assay. MIN6 or INS-1E cells $(50 \times 10^3 \text{ per})$ well) were seeded in a 96-well plate (transparent bottoms) coated with poly(D-lysine). After 72 or 48 hours, respectively, cells were washed twice with Krebs-Ringer bicarbonate HEPES buffer (KRBH) (containing 2.8 mM glucose and 0.1% FFAF BSA) and incubated in this buffer for 2 hours at 37°C. Before the end of starvation (15 minutes), GW1100 was added to dedicated wells with INS-1E cells to a final concentration of 10 µM. Next the medium was replaced with KRBH supplemented with 20 mM glucose and CPL207280 and TAK-875 at concentrations up to 40 μ M or GW1100 at a concentration of 10 μ M, and cells were incubated for 1 hour. Finally, 100 μ l of supernatant was collected, centrifuged at 1500g for 5 minutes, and frozen at -80° C. On the next day, the samples were diluted in KRBH, and insulin levels were determined using a mouse or rat insulin ELISA kit (Mercodia) in line with the manufacturer's instructions. Cells remaining in the well were lysed with a radioimmunoprecipitation assay (RIPA) buffer, and the total protein concentration, used for insulin concentration normalization, was measured using a BCA kit (Thermo Fisher).

Off-Target Analysis. The selectivity of CPL207280 against representative members of GPCR and PPAR was performed using GPCR Screening and Profiling Services by DiscoverX (Eurofins DiscoverX Corporation, Fremont, CA) in line with the service provider's protocol. The assays were performed at 10 μ M, utilizing the Calcium No Wash^{PLUS} (FFAR2), Path-Hunter β -Arrestin (FFAR3, GPR55, GPR119, GPR120, GPR142), Hit Hunter cAMP assay (glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor (GLP1R), and NHR Protein Interaction (PPAR α , PPAR γ) functional cell-based assays. The compound activity was analyzed using the chemical and biological information system (CBIS) data analysis suite (ChemInnovation, CA).

Safety 47 assay, a panel of 47 potential off-target proteins, was performed by DiscoverX (Eurofins DiscoverX Corporation, Fremont, CA) in line with the service provider's protocol. The screening was performed at 10 μ M using functional cell-based, binding, and enzymatic assays utilizing the Calcium No Wash^{PLUS} assay (adenosine A2A receptor -ADORA2A, ADRA1A, arginine vasopressin receptor 1A - AVPR1A, cholecvstokinin A receptor -CCKAR, CHRM1, CHRM3, endothelin receptor type A -EDNRA, HRH1, HTR2A, HTR2B), NHR Protein Interaction assay glucocorticoid receptor -(GR), Nuclear Translocation assay androgen receptor -(AR), Ion Chanel Assay [calcium channel, voltage-dependent, L type, alpha 1C subunit -CAV1.2, γ-aminobutyric acid type A receptor -GABAA, hERG, HTR3A, potassium voltage-gated channel KQT-like member 1/minimal potassium channel -KvLQT1/mink, nicotinic acetylcholine receptors -nAChR(a4/b2), voltage-gated sodium channel subunit α -NAV1.5, N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor -NMDAR (1A/ 2B), DAT], Hit Hunter cAMP assay (HTR1B, OPRD1, OPRK1, ADRA2A, ADRB1, ADRB2, CHRM2, CNR1, CNR2, DRD1, DRD2S, HRH2, HTR1A), KINOMEscan kinase binding assays (insulin receptor -INSR, LCK, ROCK1, VEGFR2), Neurotransmitter Transporter Uptake Assay (DAT, norepinephrine transporter -NET, serotonin transporter -SERT), and a variety of enzyme inhibition assays (acetylcholinesterase - AChE, COX1, COX2, monoamine oxidase A - MAOA, PDE3A, PDE4D2).

The compound activity was analyzed using the chemical and biological information system (CBIS) data analysis suite (ChemInnovation, CA). Detailed information about each assay condition is available at the Eurofins DiscoverX Corporation website.

Animal Care. The following animals were used this study: 8- to 9-week-old male C57BL6/cmdb mice (Experimental Center of the Medical University in Bialystok), 8- to 10-week-old male Wistar Han rats [Crl:WI (Han); Charles River], 10- to 12-week-old GK rats (GK/ MolTac; Taconic), and 9-week-old ZDF and ZL rats (Vital River Laboratories Research Models and Services; Beijing, China). All animals (except ZDF rats) were maintained on a standard chow diet (recommended by the supplier) and acclimated to the experimental facility for a minimum of 7 days before treatment. The ZDF rats were fed with a diet of Purina Rodent LabDiet 5C08 (equivalent to LabDiet 5008) for the first week upon arrival. Next, all rats were put on a diet regimen in which the animals had access to food for 8 hours during the day and were fasted overnight.

All animals were housed in cages on a ventilated rack. The animals were housed under a 12-hour light/dark cycle (and were allowed ad libitum access to water). During quarantine, animals were marked, weighed, and had a blood glucose measurement (adapted to venous punctures in the tail vein and the experimenter performing the measurements). The fasting blood glucose level was used for animal randomization to experimental groups (n = 7/8) in the glucose tolerance test (GTT) study.

All procedures on animals were conducted in accordance with the relevant national regulatory guidelines, and individual experiments were approved by the Local Bioethics Committee in Poland (approval number: 56/2013; 32/2016; 42/2017).

Pharmacokinetic Study. Wistar Han rats (n = 4/5) were fasted for 12 hours, and at specific times after oral or intravenous administration of CPL207280 (5% DMSO/40% PEG300/55% PBS) (0.08, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 4, 7, 12, and 24 hours), each animal was bled by venipuncture, and the samples were collected into tubes containing the anticoagulant, K₂EDTA. Tubes were placed on wet ice pending processing. Next, the samples were centrifuged (1200g for 5 minutes at approximately 4°C). The analyte (CPL207208) was extracted from an aliquot of the animal K₂EDTA plasma in line with the protein precipitation assay. The extracted samples were injected into an ultrahigh-performance liquid chromatography (Infinity II Agilent Technologies 1290) coupled with tandem mass spectrometry (Sciex QTrap 6500). The calibration range for this assay spanned from 10.0 to 2000.0 ng/ml. The mean C_{max} and T_{max} values from Table 3 are read from a compound concentration plot. **Glucose Tolerance Test.** Male C57BL6/cmdb mice were fasted for 12 hours and administered intravenously (tail vein) with the 10 mg/ kg of CPL207280, TAK-875, or vehicle (5% DMSO/40% PEG300/55% PBS); the glucose bolus was administered immediately after that. Just before and after 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 2.5, and 3 hours after administration of a compound, glucose concentration in blood was measured.

Wistar Han rats were fasted for 12 hours and then administered orally with 10 mg/kg of CPL207280, TAK-875, or the vehicle (5% DMSO/40% PEG300/55% PBS), and the first glucose bolus was administered immediately after that. The second glucose bolus was administered 6 hours later. Prior to the glucose administration and after 0.08, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 6.25, 6.5, 7, 8, and 9 hours, glucose concentration in blood was measured. Insulin concentration in blood was measured only during the first glucose bolus administration.

ZDSD rats were starved for 6 hours, after which they were orally administered CPL207280 at 3, 10, 30, and 100 mg/kg b.wt.; TAK-875 at 100 mg/kg; glibenclamide at 30 mg/kg; or the vehicle (0.9% NaCl). At 1 hour later, a glucose bolus was administered. Blood glucose and insulin were measured 1 and 0.5 hours prior to glucose administration, as well as during the glucose challenge for up to 4 hours.

GK rats were fasted for 6 hours and next given orally 30 mg/kg CPL207280, TAK-875, or the vehicle (5% DMSO/55% PEG300/40% PBS). At 1 hour later, animals were challenged with glucose. Blood glucose and insulin were measured right before drug and glucose administration and over the course of the GTT at t = 0.08, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 3, and 6 hours. Because of the high concentration of fasting blood glucose observed in ZDSD and GK rats, there was a concern about the physical condition of the animals during the study after being fasted overnight. Therefore, in line with the animal supplier's suggestion, we decided to reduce the fasting time from 12 to 6 hours. This was sufficient for obtaining glucose level standardization and did not affect the animals' condition or the experiment results.

ZDF rats were fasted overnight for 16 hours and orally gavaged at 5 and 15 mg/kg of CPL207280, 15 mg/kg of TAK-875, or the vehicle (0.9% NaCl), followed by an oral glucose bolus 0.5 hours after the dose. Blood samples for glucose and insulin measurement were collected from each animal right before drug administration; just before glucose loading; and after 0.25, 0.5, 1, and 2 hours after glucose administration. In all in vivo studies, animals (except ZDF rats) were intraperitoneally challenged with a glucose bolus (2 g/kg). At different time points, one or two drops of blood were directly used for a glucose measurement using a standard Accu-ChekPerforma glucometer. For insulin measurement, blood was sampled from the jugular vein, allowed to clot for a minimum of 30 minutes at room temperature, and then centrifuged at 4°C, 10,000 rpm, for 10 minutes. The resultant serum was analyzed using a Rat Insulin ELISA kit (Mercodia).

The time and administration mode of glucose during the GTT study were changed during the compound development. In the first, proof-ofconcept animal studies on healthy animals, glucose was administrated intravenously immediately after compound administration because of CPL207280's good pharmacokinetic properties (Table 3). During the compound development, to allow for a comparison of CPL207280 results with other GPR40 agonists, whose pharmacokinetics are different from ours and the $T_{\rm max}$ occurs later e.g. TAK-875 (Negoro et al., 2010), the time of glucose bolus administration. During the GTT study in ZDSD and GK diabetic rat models, we observed that insulin concentration peak occurred 0.5 hours after compound administration. After combining those findings with the data from the TAK-875 study on ZDF rats (Ito et al., 2013) in which glucose was administered orally, we decided to adapt this study to the literature data.

Statistical Analysis. Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism software (version 7). All experiments presented in this manuscript were exploratory, so the null hypothesis has not been stated. Experimental data are presented as means \pm S.D. EC₅₀ value was determined based on logarithm values using nonlinear regression (curve fit) and four-parameter variable slope equation. Statistical significance between the mean of the treated groups was compared with the mean of the control group using one-way or two-way ANOVA followed by a post



Fig. 1. Chemical structure of (3S)-3-{4-[(2,3-dimethylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]-phenyl}hex-4-ynoic acid—CPL207280 and TAK-875.

hoc comparison (Dunnet or Sidak). A P value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Dose dependence between the doses was analyzed using one-way ANOVA, followed by a post hoc comparison (Tukey's).

Results

Characteristics of CPL207280 Activity In Vitro

After reviewing the compound library in search of GPR40 agonists, we identified CPL207280 (Fig. 1) as the lead structure for further development. In contrast to TAK-785 and other GPR40 agonists, CPL207280, by incorporation into its structure small acyclic motifs, has significantly reduced the molecular weight and overall lipophilicity at physiologic pH = 7.4 to avoid potential liver toxicity adverse effects (Mach et al., 2019).

The activity of CPL207280 on GPR40 was characterized using a variety of biochemical and cell-based assays on cell lines that expressed GPR40. To compare the efficacy of CPL207280 and TAK-875 (the best characterized GPR40 agonist so far), we used the Ca^{2+} release assay in CHO cells expressing a human GPR40. In this assay, Ca^{2+} released from internal stores of endoplasmic reticulum (ER) competes



Fig. 2. EC₅₀ values of CPL207280 in Ca²⁺ secretion assay on CHO cells overexpressing human GPR40. The activity of CPL207280 and TAK-875 is expressed as a percentage of the activity of the naturally occurring GPR40/FFA1 ligand α -linolenic acid in aequorin Ca²⁺ flux. Data are presented as means \pm S.D. from three independent experiments performed in two technical replicates each.

with coelenterazine in a complex with aequorin, resulting in a shift of absorbance at 470 nm. The measurements were performed in the presence of a low concentration of FFAF BSA to minimize the effect of albumin binding. CPL207280 demonstrated EC₅₀ of 80 nM and TAK-875 of 270 nM (Fig. 2), which shows three times lesser potency of TAK-875. CPL207280 tested with the use of the Calcium No Wash^{PLUS} Assay, Path-Hunter β -Arrestin, and NHR Protein Interaction assays did not demonstrate any activity on the related GPR receptors, i.e., GPR41 (FFA2), GPR43 (FFA3), GPR55, GPR119, GPR120, GPR142, PPAR α , or PPAR γ when applied at 10 μ M concentration; this indicates that the activity was specific to GPR40 (Table 1).

Potentiation of Insulin Secretion by CPL207280 in Mouse and Rat Insulinoma Cells

A GPR40 receptor is expressed predominantly in β -cells of the pancreatic islet, and its activation improves glucose-stimulated insulin secretion (Itoh and Hinuma, 2005; Schnell et al., 2007). We studied the insulinotropic effect of CPL207280 and TAK-875 in mouse (MIN6) and rat (INS-1E) insulinoma cells. Cells were maintained for 2 hours under low-glucose (LG) (2.8 mM) conditions and next were exposed to high glucose (HG) (20 mM) for 1 hour. The addition of compounds to HG cultures increased the amount of secreted insulin both in MIN6 (Fig. 3A) and INS-1E (Fig. 3B) cells. A significant effect for TAK-875 was observed only at the highest concentration (40 µM), whereas for CPL207280, a similar effect was present at all tested concentrations, suggesting greater potency of the latter (Fig. 3A). The effect for CPL207280 was dose-independent. To study whether CPL207280s effect is mediated via the GPR40 receptor, we treated the INS-1E cells with a selective antagonist of the GPR40 receptor, GW1100. In the presence of GW1100, the glucose-stimulated insulin secretion by CPL207280 was abolished (Fig. 3B). The fact that GW1100 blocked this action confirmed that the observed GSIS effect of CPL207280 is mediated via GPR40.

CPL207280 Treatment Does Not Induce Cytotoxicity In Vitro

Calcium overload in pancreatic β -cells compromises their viability through a mechanism known as excitotoxicity (Maedler et al., 2005). This phenomenon is ascribed to SUs as the adverse effect contributing to its secondary failure. Sulfonylureas hold the plasma membrane in the depolarized state by inhibition of KATP. This in turn causes a voltage-gated calcium channel-dependent influx and excess of Ca^{2+} in the cytosol. The activation of GPR40 also leads to rises in $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ and hence may aggravate excitotoxicity. Furthermore, GPR40 was found to activate voltage-gated calcium channels, which inevitably contributes to elevated intracellular Ca²⁺ levels (Fujiwara et al., 2005). To address potential excitotoxicity, we tested whether long-term treatment with CPL207280 may reduce the viability of β -cells under stimulatory conditions. INS-1 and MIN6 cells were incubated in media supplemented with 11.2 mM glucose with the tested agonists at various concentrations for 48 hours. Next, cell viability was measured with an RT-Glo assay, which is based on luciferase activity in the presence of intact cellular metabolism. CPL207280 did not affect the viability of MIN6 cells at concentrations up to 100 µM. By contrast, TAK-875 reduced

TABLE 1

Selectivity study results

Compounds were tested at 10 μ M in agonist mode with the GPCR and NHR biosensor assays. Data were normalized (as a percentage) to the maximal and minimal response observed in the presence of control ligand and vehicle. For Gi cAMP assays, 15 μ M forskolin was used.

Activity [%Ctr]	FFAR2	FFAR3	GPR119	GPR120	GPR55	GPR142	GLP1R	ΡΡΑΒγ	PPARa
Assay	Calcium flux	cAMP	β -Arrestin	β -Arrestin	β -Arrestin	β -Arrestin	β -Arrestin	NHR Protein Interaction	NHR Protein Interaction
CPL207280 TAK-875	$^{-1}_{9.1}$	$\begin{array}{c} 28.5\\ 22.8\end{array}$	9.1 7.3	$\begin{array}{c} 0.5 \\ 6 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 6.3\\ 14.8\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 8.5 \\ -13.4 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} -2.6 \\ -1.5 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1.2\\ 4.1\end{array}$	0.9 8.7

cell viability by 63% at higher concentrations (Fig. 4A). A considerably stronger effect occurs in INS-1 cells, for which reduction of cell viability by 25% was observed after treatment with CPL207280 only at 100 μ M. In case of TAK-875, 37% less viability was detected at 5 μ M with up to 100% of dead cells at 10 μ M (Fig. 4B).

Safety-related drug failures remain a major challenge during drug development. Off-target interactions are often the cause of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) in animal models or clinical studies. That is why careful characterization and identification of drug candidates' secondary pharmacology profiles early in the drug discovery process might help reduce the incidence of ADRs (Bowes et al., 2012). To identify undesirable off-target activities that could impair the development of CPL207280 (as was the case with TAK-875), we performed a screening of 47 most common off-targets (Safety47 Panel, Eurofins).

Safety47 Panel consists of assays designed to study the activity of several GPCR, transporters, ion channels, nuclear receptors, kinases, and nonkinase enzymes. The experiment was performed at 10 μ M, the concentration 125 times higher than EC₅₀ to the intended therapeutic target. The results of each test in the panel (both agonist and antagonist mode) are considered negative if the activation or inhibition of a given pathway does not exceed 70% of the control.

The obtained results, summarized in Table 2, showed that CPL207280 neither inhibits nor activates any of the studied pathways. Therefore CPL207280 shall be regarded as a safe compound in terms of biomarkers tested in Safety47 Panel.

Pharmacokinetic Study

The PK profile of CPL207280 was studied in Wistar Han rats (Fig. 5; Table 3) after administration orally and intravenously at a dose of 3 mg/kg. Compound CPL207280 demonstrated high plasma clearance, resulting in plasma half-life of 1.4 hours. This could be advantageous compared with TAK-875, which, when administered at high doses, induced accumulation of total bile acids in circulation in rats and dogs and caused liver injury accompanied by elevation of alanine aminotransferease (ALT) and bilirubin (Wolenski et al., 2017). Additionally, oral administration of CPL207280 exhibited rapid absorption, high C_{max} , and high plasma exposure with high bioavailability (63%) (Table 3).

Efficacy of CPL207280 in Healthy Rodents

The first proof-of-concept study consisted of a GTT performed in young C57BL6/cmdb male mice. To ensure maximal drug exposure, mice were administered intravenously (tail vein) either the respective compound (10 mg/kg) or the vehicle. Glucose was administered immediately after the injection. Next, blood glucose was measured for up to 120 minutes with a standard glucometer. Both compounds reduced glucose levels in a similar, effective fashion and reduced the AUC 2 times compared with the vehicle (Fig. 6). No adverse effects, including changes in the animals' behavior, were observed during the study.

We further tested whether a single dose of CPL207280 can improve a postprandial glucose range after consecutive glucose



Fig. 3. The effect of CPL207280 on GSIS in vitro. The dose-response relationship of CPL207280 and TAK-875 on insulin secretion in MIN6 cells (A) and effect of GW1100 on CPL207280 potentiation of insulin secretion in INS-1E cells (B) were evaluated after 1-hour incubation; Control (CTR)-untreated cells at 20 mM glucose. Data are presented as mean fold changes \pm S.D. of control (untreated cells at 20 mM glucose) from three independent experiments performed in two technical replicates each (A) and four independent experiments performed in two technical replicates each (B). Data were analyzed using one-way ANOVA test (Dunnett's post hoc). *P < 0.05; **P < 0.01. LG- low glucose (2.8 mM); HG - high glucose (20 mM).



Fig. 4. Cytotoxicity of CPL207280 in insulinoma cells. The viability of MIN6 (A) and INS-1 (B) cells after 48-hour incubation with CPL207280 and TAK-875 at concentrations up to 100 μ M was evaluated using a luminescence assay. Control cells were treated with 0.5% DMSO, a solvent. Data are presented as mean fold changes of control cells \pm S.D. from three independent experiments performed in two technical replicates each. Data were analyzed using a two-way ANOVA test (Sidak post hoc). **P < 0.05; ****P < 0.0001 vs. control.

challenges 6 hours apart. CPL207280 displayed excellent pharmacokinetic properties. The compound after a single 3-mg/kg dose in rats displayed excellent oral bioavailability (%F = 63), a total plasma C_{max} of 1.7 µg/ml, but also a shorter half-life (1.4 hours versus 4.1 hours for the TAK-875 compound) (Negoro et al., 2010) (Table 3). To be sure that the concentration of the CPL207280 in the blood allows it to be effective in glucose lowering 6 hours after administration (during the second GTT), a 10-mg/kg dose was selected for this study. CPL207280 administration in fasted state did not have any effect on glucose levels prior to the glucose tolerance test (30 minutes after CPL207280 administration). No adverse effects, including changes in the animal's behavior, were observed during the study. Interestingly, both CPL207280 and TAK-875 reduced glucose levels significantly after the first, but also after the second, glucose challenge, 6 hours post-drug administration (Fig. 7A). However, only CPL207280 demonstrated a substantial and statistically significant reduction of glucose AUC: by 50% in the first (Fig. 7D) and 25% in the second GTT (Fig. 7E). This effect is likely to have resulted from its greater capacity to enhance GSIS, as CPL207280 evoked a substantial elevation of insulin levels in the first hour compared with TAK-875 (Fig. 7B). In total, CPL207280 increased the insulin level (presented as AUC) 13.6 times, whereas TAK-875 augmented AUC 5.5 times (Fig. 7F). The increase of plasma insulin levels was most evident 15 and 30 minutes after glucose administration. The therapeutic effect durability suggests that administration of CPL207280 once daily may improve postprandial hyperglycemia in subjects with diabetes throughout the day.

CPL207280 Stimulates Insulin Secretion and Reduces Postprandial Glucose Levels in Diabetic Rats

Zucker Diabetic Sprague-Dawley Rat Model. To assess the capacity of CPL207280 to improve glycemia in diabetic rodent models and compare it with TAK-875, the reference compound, as well as with glibenclamide, a sulfonylurea available on the market, a dose-response study was performed in a ZDSD rat. A ZDSD rat is a new T2D animal model that was developed to display polygenic obesity and diabetes with an intact leptin pathway (Peterson et al., 2015). Rats aged 12 weeks were fasted for 6 hours, and next the compounds or the vehicle was administered orally at doses 3, 10, 30, and 100 mg/kg b.wt. The 100-mg/kg dose was also chosen to study the potential risk of hypoglycemia. A glucose bolus was administered 1 hour later. Blood glucose was measured 1 hour and 0.5 hours prior to the glucose bolus administration, as well as during a glucose challenge for up to 4 hours. No adverse effects, including changes in the animals' behavior, were observed during the study. No hypoglycemia events were observed, even for the highest dose of 100 mg/kg. CPL207280 improved glucose tolerance and reduced glucose AUC already at the lowest dose by 38%, and the effect was dose-independent (no significant differences between doses), as the AUC values for all doses were reduced to a similar degree (Fig. 8, A and B). The improvement in glucose excursions was a result of an increase of GSIS by 207% (AUC) (Fig. 8D). This effect was also dose-independent (no significant differences between doses were observed), and the second highest observable effect was recorded at the lowest dose. The results suggest that EC_{50} for CPL207280 in vivo is less than 3 mg/kg. In contrast to healthy animals, the glucose-lowering and insulin augmenting effect was observed before stimulation with a glucose bolus. The increase of plasma insulin levels was most evident at 0.5 hours after the compound administration (before the glucose bolus); however, after the glucose load, it is still at a very high level (significantly different from the vehicle) even 3 hours after the glucose load (for dose 30 and 100 mg/kg).

TABLE 2

The assays were performed at 10 µM in agonist and antagonist mode, and the data were normalized (and presented as a percentage of response) to the maximal and minimal response observed in the presence of control ligand and vehicle. The results of the Safety47 Panel

Response	% -1.2 12.7	$-9.1 \\ 37.4 \\ -12.4$	$^{-16.4}_{-2.8}$	$^{-7.2}_{31}$	-9.9 1.2	$-0.1 \\ 0.7 \\ -20$	$^{-15}_{-15}$	
Mode	Opener Blocker	Opener Blocker Opener	Blocker Inhibitor Blocker	Blocker Inhibitor	Inhibitor Inhibitor Labibitor	Inhibitor Inhibitor	Inhibitor Inhibitor Inhibitor	
Target	KvLQT1/minK	nAChR9(a4/b2) NMDAR(1A/2B)	AChE hERG	NAV1.5 CoX1	COX2 MAOA PDF3A	PDE4D2 INSR	LCK ROCK1 VEGFR2	
Response	% -40.8 7.2	$22.4 \\ -9.2 \\ 25.5$	$\begin{array}{c} -1.1\\ 20\\ -7.6\end{array}$	-0.6 7.1	-16.7	-10.1 6.4 -8.1	18.3 11.1 12.5	-21.1
Mode	Agonist Antagonist	Agonist Antagonist Agonist	Antagonist Agonist Antagonist	Agonist Antagonist	Agonist Antagonist	Opener Opener	Blocker Blocker Blocker	Blocker Blocker
Target	HTR2B	OPRD1 OPRK1	OPRM1	AR	GR	HTR3A	DAT NET	SERT CAV1.2
Response	% 63 –3.9	$16.3 \\ -9.4 \\ -0.7$	$39.2 \\ -0.9$	-3.9	0.5 -8.9 -	$^{-1.2}_{34.2}$	$^{-17.9}_{-5.2}$	-5.4 6.3
Mode	Agonist Antagonist	Agonist Antagonist Agonist	Antagonist Agonist Antagonist	Agonist Antagonist	Agonist Antagonist	Agonist Antagonist Agonist	Antagonist Agonist Antagonist	Agonist Antagonist
Target	CNR1	CNR2 DRD1	DRD2S	EDNRA	HRH1 UPU0	HTR1A	HTR1B	HTR2A
Response	% -19.4 17.8	-3.9 -8.1 24.3	-7.1 - 0.1 -0.32.3	$-\frac{1}{45.5}$	-3 -17.7	- 1.3 - 8.5	$^{-1}_{-6.3}$	-5 -3.2
Mode	Agonist Antagonist	Agonist Antagonist Agonist	Antagonist Agonist Antagonist	Agonist Antagonist	Agonist Antagonist	Agonist Antagonist Agonist	Antagonist Agonist Antagonist	Agonist Antagonist
Target	ADORA2A	ADRA1A ADRA2A	ADRB1	ADRB2	AVPR1A	CURM1 CHRM1	CHRM2	CHRM3

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The effect of insulin secretion before the glucose load was expected, as in fasted ZDSD rats, hyperglycemia is still present and permits action of CPL207280 to further propel insulin secretion. Surprisingly, although TAK-875 and glibenclamide increased GSIS by 211% and 251%, respectively, they failed to improve glucose tolerance or reduce glucose AUC.

Goto-Kakizaki Rat Model. A GK rat is a lean model for T2D that accumulates mutations in the pancreas that cause both β -cell mass cell death and impairment of their function. In turn, these events cause insufficient insulin secretion and evoke glucose intolerance, leading to diabetes (Al-Awar et al., 2016). Because of the lower potential of insulin secretion expected in this model, although the 3-mg/kg dose was already effective in the ZDSD rats study, in this study we decided to choose one of the higher doses to get the maximum possible antidiabetic effect.

To study the effectiveness of CPL207280, 14-week-old GK rats were fasted for 6 hours and then were orally administered 30 mg/kg of the test compounds or the vehicle. At 1 hour later, the animals were challenged with glucose. Blood was sampled from the tail just before drug administration and over the course of the GTT for up to 6 hours. Samples were probed for glucose and insulin measurements. No adverse effects, including changes in the animals' behavior, were observed during the study. Rats treated with CPL207280 showed considerably improved glucose tolerance as compared with vehicle-treated rats (Fig. 9A). The effect emerged at 5 minutes after administration and remained significant for up to 6 hours. CPL207280 lowered the glucose AUC by 30% (Fig. 9B). Furthermore, rats treated with CPL207280 demonstrated elevated levels of insulin 1 hour after drug administration and after 1 and 2 hours from the glucose challenge (Fig. 9C), but due to impairment in β -cell function in GK rats, this effect is not as strong (and significant) as in other rat models. In contrast, TAK-875 given at the same dose demonstrated a moderate effect, which did not reach statistical significance (Fig. 9, A and C). The insulin AUC (counted from the baseline concentration at t = -1hour) increased by 143% for CPL207280 compared with the control AUC (Fig. 9D). TAK-875 demonstrated a weaker improvement of an insulin AUC and thus lower glucose-normalizing capacity in GK rats.

Zucker Diabetic Fatty Rat Model. A ZDF rat is a popular model for T2D that develops obesity and insulin resistance at a young age. Hyperglycemia, progressively developing with age, is associated with impaired pancreatic β -cell function, loss of pancreatic β -cell mass, and decreased responsiveness of liver and extrahepatic tissues to the actions of insulin and glucose (Pal et al., 2016). To study the effectiveness of CPL207280 and TAK-875 in this model, 16-hour fasting ZDF rats were administered the tested compounds orally at 5 and 15 mg/kg first and then glucose 30 minutes after a primary dosing. Blood glucose and insulin were determined in each animal up to 2 hours after glucose administration. No adverse effects, including changes in the behavior of the animals, were observed during the study. Serum glucose AUC was decreased significantly in all treatment groups (Fig. 10B) by 81%, 77%, and 70% for CPL207280 at 5 and 15 mg/kg or TAK-875, respectively. The glucose tolerance in the CPL207280-treated group was even better than that in the normal ZL rats used as a control (Fig. 10, A and B). Serum insulin AUC was enhanced significantly



Fig. 5. Mean concentration-time profile of CPL207280. The compound concentration in Wistar Han rats (n = 4/5) plasma was measured after oral and intravenous administration at 3 mg/kg. Data are presented as means \pm S.D.

and was dose-dependent in the CPL207280-treated group (Fig. 10, C and D). The amount of insulin secreted after CPL207280 administration was elevated significantly 15 minutes after glucose load; therefore, despite the maximum insulin concentration observed 30 minutes after glucose load (Fig. 10C), the blood glucose level decreased already after 15 minutes (Fig. 10A).

Discussion

GPR40 (or FFA1) belongs to the GPCRs family and is highly expressed in β -pancreas cells. Activation of GPR40 by medium- and long-chain FFAs or synthetic compounds has been reported to enhance insulin secretion in a glucosedependent manner and is considered to have potential as a novel target for the treatment of T2D (Mancini and Poitout, 2015). The present results showed that CPL207280 increased Ca²⁺ in CHO cells expressing human GPR40 with a higher potency than TAK-875 (the reference compound; Fig. 2) and had no impact on cells expressing related receptors: GPR41 (FFA2), GPR43 (FFA3), GPR55, GPR119, GPR120, GPR142 (Table 1). Despite activation of GPR40/FFA1 by some thiazolidinediones acting as PPARy agonists (Kotarsky et al., 2003), CPL207280 was found to not affect PPAR α or PPAR γ in a nuclear receptor reporter activation assay (Table 1). Collectively, these data demonstrate that CPL207280 is a potent and selective GPR40/FFA1 agonist with a mechanism distinct from those of other clinically available oral insulinotropic drugs, including SUs and dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors (Winzell and Ahrén, 2007).

Long-chain FFAs, natural ligands for GPR40, acutely enhance insulin secretion, and chronic exposure to FFAs causes toxicity, such as death or dysfunction of β -cells (Sharma

TABLE 3

Pharmacokinetic parameters for CPL207280 in fasted Wistar Han rats

	C_{max}	T_{max}	AUC	$t_{1/2}$	F
Oral Intravenous	ng/ml 1699 17,365	min 60 5	ng h/ml 17,559 27,128	h 0.49	% 63

 $t_{1/2}$, half-life.

and Alonso, 2014). Therefore, GPR40/FFA1 has been considered as a potential mediator of lipotoxicity (Steneberg et al., 2005), but a number of experimental observations do not support the central role of GPR40/FFA1 in lipotoxicity (Latour et al., 2007; Kebede et al., 2008; Lan et al., 2008; Alquier and Poitout, 2009). In the present study, we did not observe any signs of toxicity in insulinoma cells treated for 48 hours, in contrast to TAK-875, which reduced viability of rat and mouse insulinoma cells at higher concentrations, which suggests a narrower window of safety (Fig. 4). These data are in contrast to the previously presented results (Tsuiihata et al., 2011) that showed no evidence of β -cell dysfunction in vitro after the prolonged exposure to TAK-875. Authors showed that TAK-875 did not affect caspase 3/7 activity after prolonged 72-hour incubation. Nonetheless, it must be emphasized that although caspase 3/7 activity is widely accepted as a reliable indicator for cell apoptosis, it may not reflect other types of death potentially mediated by TAK-875, e.g., necrosis. Additionally, 1% BSA in culture medium was used in the TAK-875 study. In this paper, we presented data from experiments in which FBS/BSA-free media were used to determine the cytotoxicity in each cell line. It is important to note that TAK-875 is highly bound to plasma proteins (99.8% in rats) (Otieno et al., 2018), so the addition of BSA to the caspase 3/7 activity experiment could cause the TAK-875 binding to BSA, and therefore the cytotoxicity effect could be attenuated. The mechanism underlining TAK-875driven cell death has yet to be elucidated.

One of the main challenges in decreasing the high attrition rate in the drug discovery and development process is achieving a good balance between drug efficacy and potential adverse effects as early as possible (Bowes et al., 2012). The example of TAK-875, the development of which was terminated during phase III of clinical trials due to hepatotoxicity, showed that the safety profile should also be carefully studied as early as at the structure optimization process. Therefore, early profiling against a plethora of targets that are known to underlie ADRs, such as hERG (which is linked to cardiac arrhythmias) or the 5-hydroxytryptamine (serotonin) receptor 2B (which is linked to cardiac valvulopathy) was performed in this study and confirmed CPL207280's selectivity of and lack of interaction with the tested off-targets (Table 2).

One of the proposed mechanisms of TAK-875 hepatotoxicity after multiple administrations in human is its long halflife and accumulation in the liver at high doses (Wolenski et al., 2017). Additionally, this half-life is longer in patients with type 2 diabetes compared with healthy volunteers (51.6 hours vs. 36.6 hours for a 50-mg dose) (Leifke et al., 2012; Naik et al., 2012). Results obtained from a pharmacokinetic study on Wistar Han rats demonstrated that in addition to the high bioavailability and concentration in the blood (Table 3), CPL207280 is characterized by a shorter half-life. This reduced the risk of accumulation during long-term administration. Despite this shorter half-life for CPL207280, its high activity still provides an antidiabetic effect, which has been demonstrated in animal studies.

Because CPL207280 exhibited a favorable effect as an insulin secretagogue in mouse insulinoma cells, subsequently, the glucose-lowering effects of CPL207280 were evaluated in vivo during GTT in healthy rodents. A single administration of CPL207280 reduced plasma glucose levels during GTT in healthy rats after both the first and the second glucose challenge (Fig. 7, A, C, D, and E). Notably, the administration of



Fig. 6. Improvement of glucose tolerance in C57BL6/cmdb mice treated with CPL207280. The effect of intravenous administration of CPL207280 or TAK-875 on blood glucose concentration after a glucose challenge in C57BL6/cmdb mice (A) and corresponding AUCs (B) was evaluated during GTT. Data are presented as means \pm S.D. (n = 7). The results were analyzed using one-way ANOVA (B) or two-way ANOVA (A) with Dunnett's post hoc test vs. control; * P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001.

CPL207280 in the fasted state did not have any effect on glucose levels prior to the GTT (Fig. 7A) in contrast to diabetic models, in which we observed stimulation of insulin secretion and glucose lowering (Figs. 8, A and C, 9, A and C, and 10, A and C) before the glucose load. Collectively, these observations indicate glucose dependence of CPL207280 and TAK-875 action. This corresponds with the results of the previous study demonstrating that TAK-875 did not increase the risk of hypoglycemia in patients with T2D (Leifke et al., 2012). As postprandial hyperglycemia caused by insufficient insulin secretion in response to blood glucose levels is observed in patients with T2D (Wajchenberg, 2007; Leahy, 2005), we tested CPL207280 in GTT in different diabetic rat models (GK, ZDSD, ZDF). Provided that the T2D rat models used in this study represent different stages of diabetes or different phenotypes typically observed in humans, this study allows us to compare CPL207280 with other T2D drugs available on the market and meet the expectations of patients with T2D.



Fig. 7. Improvement of glucose tolerance and GSIS in two consecutive GTTs in Wistar Han rats treated with CPL207280. The effect of oral administration of 10 mg/kg CPL207280 or TAK-875 on blood glucose and insulin concentration after two consecutive glucose challenges in fasted Wistar Han rats was evaluated during GTT. The graphs show glucose concentration (A); insulin concentration (B); glucose AUCs in both (C), first (D), and second (E) GTTs; and insulin AUC in first GTT (F). Data are presented as mean concentrations \pm S.D. (n = 7). The results were analyzed using one-way ANOVA (C–F) or two-way ANOVA (A and B) with Dunnett's post hoc test vs. control; * P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001.



Fig. 8. Improvement of glucose tolerance and GSIS in diabetic ZDSD rats treated with CPL207280. The effect of oral administration of CPL207280 or TAK-875 on blood glucose and insulin concentration after a glucose challenge in fasted ZDSD rats was evaluated during GTT. Graphs present glucose concentrations (A) and glucose AUC (B), insulin concentrations (C), and corresponding insulin AUC (D). Data are presented as means \pm S.D. (n = 7). The results were analyzed using one-way ANOVA (B and D) or two-way ANOVA (A and C) with Dunnett's post hoc test vs. control. *P < 0.05; **P < 0.01; ***P < 0.001;

A ZDSD rat model was developed as an alternative to ZDF rats, which are a gold standard for diabetes studies. However, despite sharing many of the characteristics of the human condition, ZDF rats have a genetic defect in the leptin receptor, which is considered a disadvantage, and that makes them an artificial model (Peterson et al., 2015). Unlike ZDF rats, a ZDSD model exhibits type 2 diabetes with a long prediabetic condition in the presence of an intact leptin pathway. Animals demonstrate obesity, impaired glucose tolerance, insulin resistance, dyslipidemia, and prediabetic hypertension—symptoms reflecting the initial stage of diabetes development very well (Weir and Bonner-weir, 2004). In ZDSD rats, CPL207280 enhanced insulin secretion and reduced plasma glucose levels in GTT but also reduced blood glucose prior to the GTT in all tested concentrations (Fig. 8). Interestingly, glibenclamide used as a control, representing sulfonylureas, a class of medicines commonly used in T2D therapy, also significantly increased insulin concentration, immediately after administration, but was not effective in lowering glucose concentrations (Fig. 8B). Although a ZDF rat as a T2D model has some disadvantages, it also has many advantages and is one of the most popular models employed to demonstrate the antidiabetic activity of new compounds. In a ZDF rat, which develops obesity and high insulin resistance at a young age and then, with aging, prodevelops hyperglycemia, gressively CPL207280 also



Fig. 9. Improvement of glucose tolerance and GSIS in diabetic GK rats treated with CPL207280. The effect of oral administration of CPL207280 or TAK-875 on blood glucose and insulin concentration after a glucose challenge in fasted GK rats was evaluated during GTT. The graphs show glucose concentrations (A) and glucose AUC (B), insulin concentrations (C), and corresponding insulin AUC (D). Data are presented as means \pm S.D. (n = 7) and were analyzed using one-way ANOVA (B and D) or by use of two-way ANOVA (A and C) with Dunnett's post hoc test vs. control. *P < 0.05; **P < 0.01; ***P < 0.001; ***P < 0.001.

improved glucose tolerance of the subjects and induced their insulin secretion in a dose-dependent manner. Our findings support the previous results (Ito et al., 2013) showing that administration of TAK-875 in ZDF rats resulted in an improvement of glucose tolerance and fasting hyperglycemia (Fig. 10).

During progression toward diabetes, when the β -cell mass becomes inadequate at some critical point, glucose levels increase over a relatively short time (Weir and Bonner-weir, 2004). Some similarities to this diabetes stage are represented by the GK rat, which is a nonobese T2D model with a defective β -cell number and function, leading to insufficient insulin secretion. As GPR40 agonists act as insulin secretagogues, we explored whether CPL207280 can regulate glucose levels also in this diabetic phenotype. Interestingly, in this model, we also observed that a single oral administration of CPL207280 enhanced insulin secretion and reduced plasma glucose levels during GTT but also has a glucose-lowering effect prior to the glucose tolerance test (Fig. 9). This finding confirmed that a glucose-lowering effect exerted through a GPR40 agonist occurs only under the condition of an elevated glucose level in the blood, unlike SUs that act on β -cells to continuously secrete insulin independently of blood glucose levels, resulting in hypoglycemia. It is worth noting that, among the tested diabetic models, GK rats showed the least response to CPL207280 in terms of insulin AUC (Fig. 9). This observation suggests that treatment with CPL207280 may be less effective in those individuals whose β -cell function is substantially impaired.



Fig. 10. Improvement in glucose tolerance and GSIS in diabetic ZDF rats treated with CPL207280. The effect of oral administration of CPL207280 or TAK-875 on blood glucose and insulin concentration after a glucose challenge in fasted ZDF rats was evaluated during GTT. The graphs show glucose concentrations (A) and glucose AUC (B), insulin concentrations (C), and corresponding AUC (D). Data are presented as means \pm S.D. (n = 8). The results were analyzed using one-way ANOVA with (B and D) or two-way ANOVA (A and C) with Dunnett's post hoc test vs. control. *P < 0.05; **P < 0.01; ***P < 0.001;

Glucose-stimulated insulin secretion in vivo typically follows a biphasic time course and consists of a rapid and transient first phase followed by a sustained second phase (Barbosa et al., 1998; Rorsman et al., 2000). The first phase of insulin secretion is mediated by the pool of insulin secretory granules located near the plasma membrane, whereas the second phase involves the transport of insulin granules from an intracellular reserve pool to the plasma membrane (Wang and Thurmond, 2009). It was examined that GPR40 agonists potentiated the second phase of insulin secretion preferentially in pancreatic islets (Ferdaoussi et al., 2012). The high and sustained insulin level observed in diabetic animal studies (Figs. 8C, 9C, and 10C) is probably the second phase of insulin release. The first phase of insulin secretion in response to the elevated blood glucose level in diabetic animal models occurred just after compound administration but was unnoticed. Therefore, we observed the glucose-lowering effect even before the insulin peak (Figs. 9A and 10A) or even before the glucose bolus administration (Fig. 8A).

In conclusion, in the present study, we demonstrate that CPL207280 exhibited favorable pharmacological effects in various T2D animal models representing and relevant to different diabetes phenotypes without a detectable risk of hypoglycemia. Additionally, CPL207280 successfully completed a phase I trial and met its primary endpoint with no adverse safety signals detected (NCT04622111). Therefore, we propose the CPL207280 compound as a novel, glucoselowering agent that overcomes the unmet medical needs of patients with T2D.

Authorship Contributions

- Participated in research design: Bazydlo-Guzenda, Buda, Hucz-Kalitowska, Teska-Kaminska, Pieczykolan.
- Conducted experiments: Bazydlo-Guzenda, Buda, Vialichka.
- Performed data analysis: Bazydlo-Guzenda, Buda, Matloka.
- Contributed new reagents or analytic tools: Mach, Stelmach, Dzida, Smuga, Dubiel.

Wrote or contributed to the writing of the manuscript: Bazydlo-Guzenda, Buda, Kaminska, Wieczorek, Pieczykolan.

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Evaluation of the hepatotoxicity of the novel GPR40 (FFAR1) agonist CPL207280 in the rat and monkey

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Abstract

GPR40 (FFAR1) is a promising target for the managing type 2 diabetes (T2D). The most advanced GPR40 agonist TAK-875 exhibited satisfactory glucose-lowering effects in phase II and III studies. However, the phase III studies of TAK-875 revealed drug-induced liver injury (DILI). It is unknown whether DILI is a consequence of a specific GPR40 agonist or is an inherent feature of all GPR40 agonists. CPL207280 is a novel GPR40 agonist that improves diabetes in Zucker Diabetic Fatty (ZDF) rats, Goto Kakizaki (GK) rats and db/db mice. In this report, the DILI-related toxicity of CPL207280 was compared directly with that of TAK-875. In vitro studies evaluating hepatic biliary transporter inhibition, mitochondrial function, and metabolic profiling were performed in hepatocytes from different species. The long term toxicity of CPL207280 was studied in vivo in rats and monkeys. Activity of CPL207280 was one order of magnitude lesser than that of TAK-875 for the inhibition of bile acid transporters. CPL207280 had a negligible effect on the hepatic mitochondria. In contrast to TAK-875, which was metabolized through toxic glucuronidation, CPL207280 was metabolized mainly through oxidation. No deleterious hepatic effects were observed in chronically treated healthy and diabetic animals. The study presents promising data on the feasibility of creating a liver-safe GPR40 agonist. Additionally, it can be concluded that DILI is not a hallmark of GPR40 agonists; it is linked to the intrinsic properties of an individual agonist.

Introduction

GPR40 (FFAR1) has drawn attention as a potential target for T2D management. It is a G protein-coupled receptor (GPCR) for long and medium chain free fatty acids (FFAs) that is expressed in the membranes of β -cells in the islets of Langerhans. Activation of GPR40 amplifies glucose-dependent insulin secretion mainly via the G α_q -mediated pathway, which ensures data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript. The specific roles of these authors are articulated in the 'author contributions' section. Study was created under the contract with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education No. 50//DW/2017/01/1 as a part of the "Implementation doctorate" program (awarded: KB-G). Gad Consulting Services had no role in funding of the study, SCG affiliated to it merely provided the external scientific expertise.

Competing interests: All authors declare no conflict of interest. The authors KB-G, PB, MM, JP, MJ, ED, IK, JD, MW were employees of Celon Pharma S.A. when the present study was conducted. SCG was employed by Gad Consulting Services and provided the external scientific expertise sat the stage of design and revision of the study. This does not alter our adherence to PLOS ONE policies on sharing data and materials. regulation of glucose within the range of physiologically accepted concentrations [1]. Therefore, it is plausible that GPR40 agonists might supersede the popularity of currently administered sulfonylureas, owing to glucose dependence of the effect, minimizing the risk of hypoglycemic episodes. This promising GPR40's modus operandi initiated pursue for synthetic, potent and selective compounds. Indeed, over the past two decades there have been many lead-molecules proposed as potential drugs including GW9508, TAK-875, AMG-837, AM-1638, AM-5262, TUG-424, TUG-770, LY2881835, JTT-851, P11187, SHR0534, AS2034178 [2–11]. In preclinical development, all of them displayed considerably greater potencies than FFAs and ensured pivotal glucose-dependent effects. The fraction of them accessed clinical trials but only few reached advanced phases [12, 13]. The latter are mainly represented by TAK-875 (Takeda), that proved efficacious in T2D patients and improved postprandial glucose and HbA1c levels, with a negligible risk of hypoglycemia, compared with those on glimepiride [14-16]. Further, positive outcomes were obtained for a similar compound MK-8666 (Merck) in clinical trials [17]. Despite successful glycemic control, both molecules were withdrawn from development due to indications of drug-induced liver injury (DILI). In phase I, TAK-875 was well tolerated following a single administration of increasing doses [18]. It was also well tolerated in a short (2 or 12 weeks) phase II study [16, 19]. Nevertheless, safety reports from numerous clinical sites during phase III studies were a cause for concern [20]. Serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) elevations $> 3 \times$ upper limit of normal (ULN) cases rapidly increased in 2.7% of the study participants within six months; however, the same was not observed in the control group. This proportion was perceived as idiosyncratic DILI (iDILI) and therefore, the development was terminated. DILI is characterized by complex pathophysiology and has been a major reason for attrition in drug development [21]. To date, many drug properties and cellular mechanisms underlying DILI have been described [22, 23]. These include compound lipophilicity, production of reactive acyl glucuronide metabolite, oxidative stress, decrease in respiratory capacity of hepatic mitochondria, and inhibition of bile/xenobiotic transporters and cytochromes in the liver. TAK-875 has been studied in numerous in vitro and in vivo studies to identify its mechanism of toxicity. TAK-875 led to the impairment of bile acid transport due to inhibition of biliary transporters, such as bile salt export pump (BSEP), taurocholate co-transporting polypeptide (NTCP), organic anion-transporting polypeptides (OATPs), and multidrug resistance-associated proteins (MRPs). These malfunctions resulted in the accumulation of bile acids in hepatocytes and serum and accumulation of TAK-875 in the liver [24, 25]. TAK-875 induced mitochondrial dysfunction in hepatocytes by interfering with oxidative phosphorylation and reduction of glutathione content [24]. Similarly, TAK-875's primary metabolite acyl-glucuronide was shown to enhance the toxicity of its parent drug, although, to a lesser extent. In a 14-day toxicology study in rats, TAK-875 showed a dose-dependent effect on ALT, total bile acids (TBA), and bilirubin (T-BIL) levels in serum. TAK-875 significantly increased ALT at doses of 200 and 600 mg/kg after seven days. Further, TAK-875 increased TBA and T-BIL levels at a dose of 600 mg/kg. The effect was less pronounced in dogs and was observed in only 2 of 6 animals treated with 600 mg/kg for 14 days. Collectively, all these pre and clinical studies have questioned whether the toxicity of GPR40 agonists is associated with a specific compound or is represented by the entire class represented by TAK-875.

CPL207280 is a novel GPR40 agonist that can stimulate the cognate receptor better than TAK-875. CPL207280 was carefully modeled and designed to minimize lipophilicity and molecular weight to address all potential safety concerns related to molecular properties [26]. To evaluate whether CPL207280 differs from GPR40 agonists, the hepatocytes toxicity due to the agonist treatment was compared with that of TAK-875 in *in vitro* assays. These included experiments, such as evaluation of human hepatocyte viability in 2D cultures, mitochondrial

function and respiration in 2D and 3D cultures, function of human bile acid transporters, and metabolic profiling in hepatocytes of various species with a focus on potentially toxic reactive acyl-glucuronide. Next, toxicity was studied in a repeat-dose study in appropriate animal species, including rats and monkeys. These species were chosen based on similarity to human in both CPL207280's metabolic elimination rate and metabolic profile when incubated with microsomes and hepatocytes. After ensuring similar pharmacokinetic (PK) dose-exposure relationships for CPL207280 and TAK-875, it was possible to compare pharmacodynamics, that is, liver safety markers and TBA and T-BIL levels in serum for both drugs in a 14-day study in rats [25].

Methods and materials

Materials

CPL207280 was designed and manufactured by Celon Pharma S.A., Poland. TAK-875 was synthesized by Celon Pharma Ltd., based on the reference compound TAK-875 by Takeda Ltd., Japan. Cryopreserved hepatocytes and microsomes used in the stability study were procured from Cyprotex Ltd. (Cheshire, UK).

Viability assays

To study the viability of the liver cells, 5×10^3 HepG2 (ATCC[®]) or human primary cells (ThermoFisher Scientific, USA) were seeded in 100 µL of DMEM media (Gibco; Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) supplemented with fetal bovine serum (FBS)- in a 96-well plate. The following day, media was replaced with fetal bovine serum (FBS-)-free medium, and the following concentrations of the studied compounds were added in duplicates: 0.39, 0.78, 1.56, 3.125, 6.25, 12.5, 25, 50, and 100 µM. After 48 h, MTT test (Promega, USA) for HepG2 cells or RT-glo (Promega) tests for human primary cells were performed according to the manufacturer's protocol. The experiments were performed in triplicates.

Study of respiration in hepatocytes (Seahorse)

HepG2 cells (25×10^3) were seeded in DMEM in special 8-well SeahorseXF plates coated with collagen (rat tail type 1 collagen: stock solution 3 mg/mL; Gibco, 125 µg/mL in 20 mM acetic acid; 50 µL/well (transparent bottoms). All procedures were performed in accordance with the Mito stress test user guide (Agilent Technologies, USA). Control compound concentration was as follows: Oligomycin, 2 µM; FCCP, 0.5 µM; Rotenone/Antimycin A, 0.5 µM.

Stability in microsomes and cryopreserved hepatocytes

Williams E media supplemented with 2 mM L-glutamine, 25 mM HEPES, and the test compound (final substrate concentration 3 μ M; final DMSO concentration 0.25%) were pre-incubated at 37°C, prior to adding a suspension of cryopreserved hepatocytes (final cell density 0.5 × 106 viable cells/mL in Williams E media supplemented with 2 mM L-glutamine and 25 mM HEPES) to initiate the reaction. The final incubation volume was 500 μ L. Two control compounds (verapamil and donepezil) were included for each microsomal species, along with the appropriate vehicle control. The reactions were terminated by transferring 50 μ L of incubate to 100 μ L methanol containing an internal standard (metoprolol) at appropriate time points (0, 10, 20, 40, 60, and 120 min for the test compound and 0, 5, 10, 20, 40, and 60 min for the control compounds). The termination plates were centrifuged at 4000 x g at 4°C for 30 min to precipitate the protein. The supernatants were then collected for analysis, and LC-MS/ MS was used for detection purposes. The system consisted of an Acquity[™] Binary Solvent Manager, Acquity[™] 4-position heated column manager, 2777 Ultra High Pressure Autosampler, and a Xevo-TQ MS triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (Waters Ltd., Herts, UK). This process was carried out twice.

Metabolite profiling

Suspensions of cryopreserved human, rat, and monkey hepatocytes were pooled from a minimum of three individuals. All cryopreserved hepatocytes were purchased from a commercial supplier. Test or control compound at a concentration of 3 μ M was incubated at 37 °C. The cell density was 0.5 ×10⁶ viable cells/mL. The final DMSO concentration during the incubation was 0.25%. Control incubations were performed in lysed cells to reveal any non-enzymatic degradation. Two control compounds were identified in each species. Samples (50 μ L) were removed from the incubation mixture at 0, 10, 20, 40, 60, and 120 min and added to methanol containing an internal standard (100 μ L) to stop the reaction. The samples were centrifuged (4000 x g at 4°C for 30 min) and the supernatants at each time point were pooled for analysis by LC MS/MS using Cyprotex generic methods. Following hepatocyte stability assays, the samples were utilized for metabolite profiling. Metabolites were separated using a UPLC column (2.1 × 100 mm ACQUITY UPLC[®] HSS T3 1.8 μ m.). Metabolites were characterized using a mass spectrometer comprising Waters Xevo QT of G2-S, Acquity Binary Solvent Manager, Acquity Column Manager, and 2777 Autosampler.

Transporters assay

In the vesicular transport inhibition assay (for BSEP, MRP) compounds were incubated with membrane vesicle preparations and the probe substrate. Incubations were carried out in the presence of 4 mM ATP or AMP to distinguish between transporter-mediated uptake and passive diffusion into the vesicles. For MRP2 and MRP3, reactions were carried out in the presence of 2 mM glutathione. Compounds were added to the reaction mixture in 0.75 μ L of solvent (1% of the final incubation volume). The reaction mixtures were pre-incubated for 15 min at 37 ± 1°C. Reactions were initiated by the addition of 25 μ L of 12 mM MgATP (or 12 mM AMP in assay buffer as a background control) and preincubated separately. Reactions were quenched by the addition of 200 μ L of ice-cold washing buffer and immediate filtration via glass fiber filters mounted on a 96-well plate (filter plate). The filters were washed (5 × 200 μ L of ice-cold washing buffer), dried, and the amount of substrate inside the filtered vesicles was determined by liquid scintillation counting.

For the uptake transporter inhibition assay, cells were washed twice with 100 μ L of the appropriate buffer (HK, pH 7.4) for OATP1B1, followed by HBSS (pH 7.4) for (NTCP, OAT1, OAT2v1, OATP1A2, and OATP1B3). Uptake experiments were carried out at 37 ± 1°C in 50 μ L of the respective buffer containing the probe substrate and the compound or solvent. The organic solvent concentration was equal in all wells and did not exceed 1.5% (v/v). After the experiment, cells were washed twice with 100 μ L of cold appropriate buffer and lysed with 50 μ L of 0.1 M NaOH. Radiolabeled probe substrate transport was determined by measuring an aliquot (35 μ L) from each well for liquid scintillation counting.

Three dimensional spheroids

Hepatic spheroids were formed by seeding HepaRG^{\sim} cells into round-bottom ultra-low adhesion 96-well spheroid plates (Corning^{\mathbb{R}}) in 3D liver media with 0.5% DMSO, 100 U/mL penicillin, and 100 mg/L streptomycin. Cells were incubated at 37°C and 5% CO₂ until spheroid formation and then compound-treated. The test compound was diluted in the vehicle, and serial dilutions were made in a 0.5% vehicle in HepaRG^{\sim} induction media. Eight

concentrations of the test compound in triplicate were then incubated for 14 days with re-dosing on days 4, 7, 10, and 13 (16 h prior to assay) of compound exposure. L-buthionine sulfoximine was used as positive control for GSH content, whereas rotenone was simultaneously used as a positive control for mitochondrial dysfunction and ATP content. At the end of the incubation period, the cells were loaded with the relevant dye for each cell health marker: DNA structure–Hoescht, GSH content–mBCL, ROS formation–DHE, mitochondrial dysfunction–MitoTracker, and cellular ATP content–CellTiter-Glo[®], Promega. The plate was then scanned using an automated confocal fluorescent cellular imager, ArrayScan[®] XTI (Thermo Scientific Cellomics) at 37°C and 5% CO₂. Further, the cellular ATP content was measured using CellTiter-Glo[®] (Promega, USA).

Pharmacokinetics in rats and monkeys

Animals were cared for in accordance with the principles outlined in the current "Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals" as published by the Canadian Council on Animal Care and the "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals," a NIH publication [27]. The study was approved by the ethics committee of the institution (ITR Laboratories, Canada).

Each rat and monkey was bled by venipuncture at specific times after administration and the samples were collected into tubes containing the anticoagulant K₂EDTA. The tubes pending processing were placed on wet ice. Following collection, the samples were centrifuged (1200 × g for 10 min at approximately 4 °C) within 60 min of collection, and the resulting plasma was recovered and split into two aliquots of approximately equal volume (minimum 100 μ L of plasma in each aliquot). The analyte (CPL207280) and its internal standard (CPL207280-d7) were extracted from a 25.0 μ L aliquot of the animal K₂EDTA plasma using a semi-automated protein precipitation extraction. The extracted samples were injected into a high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) system (Shimadzu LC-20AD pumps and Shimadzu SIL-20AC autosampler) connected to a Hypersil Gold PFP, 50 × 4.6 mm, 5 μ m column. The mobile phase consisted of 2 mM ammonium acetate with 0.05% acetic acid and methanol. The gradient chromatographic separation using a flow rate of 1.00 mL/min was at a nominal temperature of 28°C. The detection was carried out using an API 5000 triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (Applied Biosystems). The calibration range for this assay ranged from 10.0 to 2000.0 ng/mL.

Pharmacokinetics in mice

All procedures on mice were approved by the local ethics committee (approval no.: 45/2017 from 27.07.2017 Experimental Center of the Medical University in Bialystok, Poland) and were conducted in accordance with EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments [28]. The study was performed in 128 male C57BL6/cmdb mice, 20–25 g, 8–10 weeks old. The mice were separated into four groups of 32 mice per group. The animals were fasted for 12 h (water *at libitum*). At time point t = 0, animals received a single dose of the compounds orally. Each compound was prepared in a formulation of 5% DMSO/55% PEG/40% citrate buffer pH 3 and administered at a dose of 3 mg/kg. Four hours after drug administration, the animals received standard chow. At each of the eight time points (15 min, 30 min, 1 h, 2 h, 4 h, 7 h, 12 h, and 24 h), four mice in each group were euthanized and the liver of the euthanized mice was collected. After solubilization in extraction buffer, the solutions were shaken for 1 min and then centrifuged for 4 min (4000 x g). Supernatants were collected and analyzed HPLC (Agilent Technologies 1260, Sciex QTrap 4500).

Healthy animals in the toxicology study

Rats. Forty-seven male and forty-seven female Wistar Han rats were procured from Charles River Kingston (3121 US Highway 209, Stone Ridge, NY 12484, USA). Rats were cared for in accordance with the principles outlined in the current "Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals" as published by the Canadian Council on Animal Care and the "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals," a NIH publication. The study was approved by the ethics committee of the institution (ITR Laboratories, Canada). At baseline, the rats were approximately 8 to 9 weeks old. The body weights of the rats ranged from 207 to 239 g for males and 164 to 188 g for females. The test and control/vehicle items were administered the test compounds for 14 or 56 consecutive days by oral gavage, using a gavage needle attached to a syringe. The dose volume was 10 mL/kg for all animals. The actual volume administered to each rat was calculated and adjusted based on the most recent practical body weight of each animal.

Monkeys. Eight male and eight female Cynomolgus monkeys (Macaca fascicularis), as well as one spare monkey/sex, were received from Worldwide Primates, Inc. (16450 S 180 ST, Miami, FL USA 33187). Monkeys were handled in accordance with the principles outlined in the current "Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals" as published by the Canadian Council on Animal Care and the "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals," a NIH publication. The study was approved by the ethics committee of the institution (ITR Laboratories, Canada). At baseline, the monkeys were approximately 2 to 3 years old. The body weights of the monkeys ranged from 2.3 to 3.1 kg for males and 2.2 to 3.2 kg for females. Approximately 1 h prior to dosing, the animals were water and food-deprived. Water and food were resumed at 60 min post dosing. The test and control/vehicle were administered by oral gavage for 14 or 56 consecutive days, using a gavage tube attached to a syringe. The dose volume was 5 mL/kg for all animals. The gavage tube was rinsed with approximately 4 mL of reverse osmosis water to ensure that the entire dose was delivered. The actual volume administered to each monkey was calculated and adjusted based on the most recent practical body weight of each animal.

For the pharmaco- and toxico-kinetic study, animals (unanesthetized) were bled from the jugular venipuncture. Further, the samples were collected into tubes containing the anticoagulant K₂EDTA. For gross examination and organ weight study, all animals were euthanized upon administration of the last dose, following an overnight period without food. These animals were anesthetized with isoflurane (rats) or ketamine (monkeys) to allow collection of blood samples for clinical pathology evaluation, followed by exsanguination. In monkeys, euthanasia via an intravenous overdose of sodium pentobarbital was followed by exsanguination resulting from the transection of major blood vessels. The necropsy consisted of external examination, including references to all clinically recorded lesions as well as a detailed internal examination.

Diabetic animals

Rats. Male ZDF rats (n = 8) and ZL rats (n = 8) were aged 9 weeks and were housed 2–3 per cage within a small animal facility in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care. The study was approved by the ethics committee of the institution (CrownBio, China). All animals had *ad libitum* access to water during the entire study period. The animals were fed a diet of Purina Rodent LabDiet 5C08, equivalent to LabDiet 5008. Treatment-grouped rats (N = 8) underwent oral gavage with the test compound or vehicle at 10 mL/kg for 6 weeks. For fasting blood levels of ALT and AST after overnight fasting, blood was collected from the jugular vein or through a

cardiac puncture (on the day of euthanasia, the last day of the study). Blood was collected in AXYGEN microtubes (MCT-150-C) for clinical blood chemistry measurements. Next, the sample was allowed to clot for a minimum of 30 min at room temperature and then centrifuged at 4°C and 4000 x g for 10 min. The resultant serum was transferred into three prelabeled AXYGEN microtubes for blood chemistry analysis using the ADVIA 2400 chemistry system. Rats were euthanized by overdose of CO₂ followed by decapitation.

Monkeys. All animals aged 8–20 years had *ad libitum* access to water and were fed twice daily with a complete nutritionally balanced diet (Beijing Keao Xieli Feed Co., LTD, Beijing, China) enriched with seasonal fruits. The cynomolgus monkeys used in the study were cared for and handled in accordance with all applicable Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care regulations and guidelines. The study was approved by the ethics committee of the institution (CrownBio, China). After each treatment (weighing, bleeding, or dosing), the animals were clinically observed on the day of the procedure and, if previously anesthetized, the animals were monitored to stand up and alert. Nine selected diabetic animals were subjected to daily test compound (powder) dosing via natural feeding with bananas (n = 3). Blood from overnight-fasted animals was collected weekly in the morning for measurement of serum ALT and AST levels on days 0, 7, 14, 21, 28, and 35. Blood samples (1.5 mL) were collected from a cephalic or saphenous vein into BD Vacutainer[®] and K₂-EDTA tubes.

Results

Viability of hepatocytes

CPL207280 in contrast to TAK-875 was designed to reduce molecular weight and lipophilicity whereby minimize the risk of liver toxicity. This was enabled by introduction of small acyclic motif bound to aromatic structure. Concomitantly, the chiral carbon residue between carboxyl and aromatic groups enhanced selectivity and potency (Fig 1A and 1B) [26, 29]. To study the potential toxicity in the liver, HepG2 and human primary hepatocytes were incubated with CPL207280 and TAK-875 for 48 h, and their viability was measured. Neither compound exhibited altered viability at concentrations up to 10 μ M (Fig 1C and 1D). At 100 μ M, TAK-875 abolished the growth of HepG2 and primary cells. In contrast, CPL207280 reduced viability by only 20%, suggesting a broader safety window for future studies.

The effect of CPL207280 and TAK-875 on hepatic mitochondria

To study whether both compounds may interfere with oxidative phosphorylation, as reported for TAK-875, [24, 25] respiration was studied in HepG2 cells using the Seahorse XF platform. The oxygen consumption rate (OCR) decreased dramatically after injection of TAK-875 at a concentration of 10 μ M and higher, thus indicating its impact on basal respiration (Fig 2B). Addition of oligomycin, an ATP synthase inhibitor, reduced ATP synthesis. Following the addition of FCCP, an uncoupler of mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation, TAK-875 showed a dose-dependent reduction in maximal respiratory capacity. In contrast, CPL207280 reduced basal and maximal respiration at the highest concentration of 100 μ M and did not alter ATP synthesis (Fig 2A and 2C). Moreover, TAK-875 induced acidification of media with EC₅₀ = 46 μ M, suggesting a switch from oxidative to non-oxidative respiration. This effect was absent for CPL207280 over the entire range of concentrations (Fig 2D). All these results were suggestive of mitochondrial damage caused more prominently by TAK-875.



Fig 1. Comparison of CPL207280 and TAK-875 structures and hepatotoxicity *in vitro*. Structures of CPL207280 (A) and TAK-875 (B) and viability of HepG2 cells (C) and primary human hepatocytes (D) incubated with a range of concentrations of CPL207280 and TAK-875 for 48 hours. Values are normalized to appropriate DMSO-treated controls. Data denote mean \pm SD. Statistical analysis was performed using Two-Way ANOVA followed by Sidak's post-hoc test; n = 3; ***, p < 0.001; **, p < 0.01; *, p < 0.5.

CPL207280 and TAK-875 act differently on mitochondria of hepatic 3D spheroids

Next, mitochondrial defects caused by TAK-875 and CPL207280 in a 3D spheroid system were comprehensively analyzed. Spheroids composed of HepaRG[™] cells are structurally similar to real hepatic tissue in contrast to monolayer clonal or primary cells. They comprise threedimensional (3D) cell cultures, which allow for better recapitulation of the complex in an in vivo microenvironment than traditional 2D monolayer models [30]. They also allow the treatment duration to be extended from hours to days. Therefore, they offer more valuable data than classic 2D cell cultures. Spheroids were exposed to increasing concentrations of test compounds (0.05–100 μ M) for 14 days. Further, they were monitored for various cellular and mitochondrial health markers such as spheroid count, spheroid size, DNA structure, mitochondrial mass, mitochondrial membrane potential ($\Delta \psi m$), oxidative stress, glutathione content, and cellular ATP. Neither compound altered the spheroid count or spheroid size (Table 1). TAK-875 impaired DNA structure, decreased mitochondrial mass, dose-dependently decreased mitochondrial membrane potential, increased reactive oxygen species (ROS), and reduced cell glutathione content in a dose-dependent manner. In contrast, CPL207280 did not affect these markers within the same range of concentrations. TAK-875 potently reduced cellular ATP content, whereas only a slight impact was observed with administration of CPL207280. Thus, TAK-875 interferes with many vital cellular processes at relatively low concentrations, not greater than 10 µM. CPL207280 requires concentrations of at least one order of magnitude greater than TAK-875 to induce a significant toxic effect.



Fig 2. The effect of CPL207280 and TAK-875 on hepatocyte respiration. Representative tracing of oxygen consumption rates following a mitochondrial stress test in HepG2 cells treated with CPL207280 (A) and TAK-875 (B). Basal Oxygen Consumption rate (C) and Extracellular Acidification Rate (D). Statistical analysis was made by Two-Way ANOVA followed by Sidak's post-hoc test. ***, p < 0.001; **, p < 0.01; *, p < 0.05; n = 3.

Comparison of stability of CPL207280 and TAK-875 in microsomes and hepatocytes of different species

GRP40 agonists are considered compounds that are quickly metabolized, which can be problematic for development of drugs with desired, sustainable effect. TAK-875 was designed to

Parameter	Estimated AC ₅₀ (µM) (95% CI of AC ₅₀)					
	CPL207280	TAK-875				
Spheroid count	NR	NR				
Spheroid size	NR	NR				
DNA structure	NR	34.2 (21.6 to 54.6)				
Mitochondrial mass	NR	>100				
Mitochondrial membrane potential	NR	56.4 (38.8 to 83.9)				
Oxidative stress	NR	>100				
Glutathione content	NR	54.7 (31.7 to 99.1)				
Cellular ATP	>100	30.1 (19.7 to 46.6)				

Table 1. Effects of CPL207280 and TAK-875 or	n pivotal hepatocyte health markers
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HepaRG^{∞} spheroids were loaded with fluorescent dyes to detect the studied markers and then incubated with test compounds for 14 days at concentrations up to 100 μ M. Data represent calculated AC₅₀, that is, the concentration at which a 50% maximum effect is observed for each cell health parameter, unless the effect was negligibly low so that AC₅₀ was impossible to assess—NR (not reduced).

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Compound	pound Rat (Sprague Dawley) Mouse (CD)		Human		Dog (Beagle)		Monkey (Cynomolgus)		Mini pig			
	Cl _{int} [μl/ min/mg]	T _{1/2} [min]	Cl _{int} [μl/ min/mg]	T _{1/2} [min]	Cl _{int} [µl/ min/mg]	T _{1/2} [min]	Cl _{int} [µl/ min/mg]	T _{1/2} [min]	Cl _{int} [μl/ min/mg]	T _{1/2} [min]	Cl _{int} [µl/ min/mg]	T _{1/2} [min]
CPL207280	21.1	69	11.9	116	49.2	28	17.1	81	60.9	23	45	31
TAK-875	11.6	119	4	343	6.6	210	12.4	112	39.2	30	91.1	15
				Intrinsi	c Clearance Cl _i	_{int} [μl/min/	'mg protein] *					
Stable compound	< 13.	.2	< 8.	< 8.8		< 8.6		<5.3		5	< 13.2	
Unstable compound	>71.	9	> 48	3	> 47	7	>28.	9	>67.	8	>71.	9

Table 2. Stability of CPL207280 and TAK	-875 in the presence o	f microsomes from	different species
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The test compounds were incubated with microsomes for 0, 10, 20, 40, 60, and 120 min, after which the supernatant was subjected to LC-MS/MS analysis for quantitative assessment of test compounds. Data represent the mean half-life of the parent compound, $T_{1/2}$, and mean intrinsic clearance, CL_{int} (n = 2). Based on the mean clearance data, the extent of metabolism from greatest to least was monkey \approx human >> dog \approx rat > mouse.

* Reference ranges of values by Cyprotex.

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ensure a relatively long $T_{1/2}$ and slow clearance rate in humans, which resulted in its long exposure (approximately 30 h) in humans [18]. To compare the rate of CPL207280 metabolism with that of TAK-875, the compounds were incubated with microsomes (phase I) and hepatocytes of different species: mouse, rat, dog, monkey, and human. The second aim of this experiment was to select animal species for further toxicity studies, that is, species, which ensure a metabolic rate of CPL207280 similar to that of humans. As expected, of all the tested species, metabolism rate of TAK-875 observed in dog and rat microsomes was similar to that of humans (Table 2). This was in line with previous reports and supports the choice of animal species for TAK-875 treatment in a previous toxicology study [31].

Based on the values obtained from different species, TAK-875 was classified as a stable compound. CPL207280 proved to be an unstable compound and was metabolized at a high rate by human and monkey microsomes. Microsomes offer only limited insight into metabolism (usually phase I and II) because they possess only a fraction of enzymes. To obtain a comprehensive insight into the metabolic rate, the next study was performed in hepatocytes, equipped with all enzymes involved in liver metabolism. Again, CPL207280 showed high clearance rates for humans and was similar for monkeys (Table 3). These results contributed to the final decision on choosing monkeys, besides rats, as a second species in a repeat-dose toxicity study of CPL207280. Note that for TAK-875, rats were chosen as the first species, while the second species was the dog. Hence, the *in vivo* comparison of the toxicity of CPL207280 and TAK-875 was enabled only in rats.

Table 3. Stabili	ty of CPL207280 a	nd TAK-875 in the	presence of hep	atocytes from	different species
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Compound	Rat (Sprague Dawley)		Mouse (CD)		Human		Dog (Be	eagle)	Monkey (Cynomolgus)	
	Cl _{int} [µl/ min/mg]	T _{1/2} [min]								
CPL207280	7.51	186	3.46	404	82.8	17	7.76	180	81.4	17

Test compounds were incubated with hepatocytes for 0, 10, 20, 40, 60, and 120 min, after which the supernatant was subjected to LC-MS/MS analysis for quantitative assessment of test compounds. Data represent the mean half-life of the parent compound, $T_{1/2}$, and mean intrinsic clearance, CL_{int} (n = 2). Based on the mean clearance data, the extent of metabolism from greatest to least was monkey \approx human >> dog \approx rat > mouse.

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Glucuronide metabolite of CPL207280 is produced in negligible amounts in the human and rat hepatocytes

A number of carboxylic acid-containing drugs have been withdrawn from the market due to adverse effects stemming from the formation and reactivity of acyl glucuronide metabolites (for review [32]). It is hypothesized that reactive acyl glucuronides form protein adducts via both trans-acylation and glycation mechanisms. To analyze whether CPL207280 is bioprocessed to glucuronide metabolites, metabolite profiling was performed in primary hepatocytes from different species: humans, rats, mice, monkeys, and dogs. To that end, hepatocytes from different species were incubated with 10 µM CPL207280 for the time course justified by the previously established $T_{1/2}$ of the compound for each species. Hence, the maximal incubation time was 120 min for rats, mice, and dogs, and 60 min for humans and monkeys. In all species, 23 metabolites were identified, of which 12 were produced by human hepatocytes (Fig 3A). Monkey hepatocytes produced nine, seven, four, and two human metabolites. The analysis revealed that CPL207280 undergoes oxidation, desaturation, reduction, glucuronidation, and glutathione binding (the latter only in rat hepatocytes). In human hepatocytes, the main products that emerged after 60 min of incubation resulted from oxidation and accounted for 85.7% of the amount of the parent compound (Fig 3B). Glucuronidation gave rise to three products comprising 6.0% of the parent amount (M15, M17, and M22). Human and rat hepatocytes produced negligible amounts of glucuronide.



Fig 3. Metabolic profiling of CPL207280. Qualitative characterization of subsequent metabolites (A) and quantitative analysis (B). Data show the percent of the parent compound after incubation time. Human, monkey and rat hepatocytes were exposed to 10 μ M concentration of the compound for the time determined by T_{1/2} in the given species. That is: for 60 minutes for human and monkey and 120 minutes for rat hepatocytes. Next, the supernatant was collected and metabolic changes of the parent compound were identified using UPLC followed by LC-MS/MS.

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The largest amount of glucuronide (M15) was observed in monkeys (15.8% of the parent amount). Collectively, of all tested species, monkey and rat generated metabolites that covered all the metabolites found in humans and that there were no metabolites unique for human. These results, supported by the metabolic-rate study suggested that rats and monkeys are the suitable species for further toxicology studies. As TAK-875 was previously studied in rats and dogs, only rats turned out to be a common platform for comparison of both compounds *in vivo*.

CPL207280 shows little propensity to cause bile acid transporters inhibition

Different types of bile acids (BAs) are produced by the liver from cholesterol and are transported to the bile and further to the upper intestines to facilitate digestion of foods. Next, they move along with the digested nutrients down the gut and are reabsorbed in the ileum, wherein they enter the blood and return to the liver. This process is called enterohepatic circulation and was found to be impaired in the livers of rats and dogs treated with TAK-875 [25]. The causative mechanism of this impairment was identified as TAK-875 and its glucuronide metabolite-driven inhibition of crucial BA transporters in the liver. These include liver uptake transporters Na⁺-taurocholate co-transporting polypeptide (NTCP), organic anion transporting polypeptides (OATPs), liver export transporters, bile salt export pump (BSEP), and multidrug resistance-associated proteins (MRPs). In particular, inhibition of the BSEP transporter has been well characterized in pathological states and pharmacology. Blockade of BSEP results in retention of bile acids, which culminates in cholestasis and contributes to DILI [33, 34]. There are, however, compensatory mechanisms provided by other transporter isoforms; therefore, susceptibility of the drug for DILI increases as the drug targets more isoforms [35]. We studied the BA transporters that are inhibited by TAK-875, and by CPL207280 in vitro (Fig 4A). As expected, TAK-875 inhibited BSEP at low concentrations. In contrast, CPL207280 inhibited BSEP at higher concentrations, resulting in greater IC₅₀ values. CPL207280 showed no affinity to MRP2 and MRP3 transporters, whereas TAK-875 showed IC $_{50}$ of 48.1 and 31.8 µM, respectively. CPL207280 demonstrated at least 10-fold less inhibitory potency than TAK-875, for MRP4 efflux transporters, and influx transporters including OAT1, OAT2v1, OATP1A2 and OATP1B1. The only similarity was observed for the NTCP influx transporter (Fig 4B). Inhibition of the NTCP influx transporter may lead to the blockade of recirculation of total bile acids (TBA) and bilirubin, and in consequence their elevated levels in the bloodstream.

Comparison of pharmacokinetic parameters of CPL207280 and TAK-875

When doses of 40 to 600 mg/kg/day were administered, TAK-875 induced the accumulation of TBA in the circulation in rats and dogs and caused liver injury accompanied by elevation of ALT and bilirubin and no changes in other liver-injury markers [3, 25]. To study whether the same is possible for CPL207280 *in vivo*, we first tested whether counterpart doses ensured similar drug exposure in plasma. To address this question, a pharmacokinetic study comparing both molecules in animal models was performed. Rats were administered 3 mg/kg of compounds p.o. or the same dose i.v. CPL207280 demonstrated greater bioavailability (63%) than TAK-875 (38%) (Fig 5A and 5B).

The latter also demonstrated a greater distribution volume (V_d) of 20%, which is indicative of greater organ penetration. CPL207280 was quickly absorbed, reaching C_{max} in approximately 1 h and was quickly eliminated from circulation, which was reflected by 2x greater K_{el}. TAK-875 reached C_{max} after 2 h (Fig 5C). Better bioavailability of CPL207280 but quick

Transporter	Estimated IC ₅₀ (µ		
Transporter	CPL207280	TAK-875	ion
MRP2	ND	48.1 (43.2 to 53.4)	ibit
MRP3	ND	31.8 (21.8 to 46.5)	inh
MRP4	131 (89.3 to 191.9)	6.9 (5.4 to 8.7)	375
BSEP	> 100	47.3 (34,9 to 66,7)	Y-Y
OAT1	245.0 (152.5 to 399.7)	34.8 (7.4 to 162.4)	f T/
OAT2v1	> 300	62.8 (45.5 to 86.7)	o %
OATP1A2	118 (88.4 to 156.7)	10.6 (5.2 to 21.8)	
OATP1B1	17.9 (11.7 to 27.3)	0.49 (0.14 to 1.66)	
OATP1B3	42.9 (11.7 to 27.3)	3.44 (2.3 to 5.2)	
NTCP	46.8 (9.2 to 238.6)	53.1 (0.7 to 4112)	



А

ND – not determined

Fig 4. Inhibition of bile acid transporters by test compounds CPL207280 and TAK-875. The transformed HEK cells or vesicles expressing indicated transporters were incubated with a range of concentrations (up to 300μ M) of test compounds for 1 hour. Next, the inhibition of substrate specific for each transporter was measured. Data represent mean IC₅₀ (A) and percent of inhibition for CPL207280 relative to that of TAK-875 (B); n = 2.

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elimination resulted in only slightly greater exposure compared with that of TAK-875. Despite these differences in PK parameters, the overall exposure was comparable and generated adequate conditions for the comparison of toxic effects in rats. The smaller volume distribution for CPL207280 suggests that this compound does not accumulate in the liver, in contrast to TAK-875. To address this question, both compounds were administered p.o. to mice on one occasion. At the time points 15 min, 30 min, 1 h, 2 h, 4 h, 7 h, 12 h, and 24 h, the animals were euthanized and their liver specimens were collected, and the compound content was quantified. Indeed, TAK-875 tended to penetrate the liver more than serum as compared to CPL207280. For the latter serum was observed to be the central compartment (Fig 6A and 6B).

In monkeys, CPL207280 and TAK-875 administered on a single occasion showed similar bioavailability of approximately 99% (Fig 5D and 5E). Notably, CPL207280 demonstrated greater C_{max} when administered orally and intravenously. The half-life of CPL207280 was almost twice shorter than that of TAK-875 with i.v. administration. Eventually, the higher elimination rate led to a lesser exposure (AUC) to CPL207280 than to TAK-875 (Fig 5F).

Repeat dose study in rats and monkeys—Pharmacokinetics

A previous pharmacokinetic study in monkeys and rats allowed the comparison of PK parameters of TAK-875 and CPL207280 administered on one occasion. Some stable compounds may accumulate in plasma when administered repeatedly. TAK-875 tended to accumulate in plasma of rats in a 14-day repeat-dose study [25]. For dose 200 mg/kg at day 1, TAK-875 exposure in plasma amounted to 1.21 mg*h/mL and increased to 3.74 at day 14. Similarly, for dose 600 mg/kg of TAK-875 at day 1, AUC was equal to 2.01 mg*h/mL and increased to 6.61 at day 14. This suggested accumulation of TAK-875 in the body, resulting in an increased



Fig 5. Pharmacokinetic profiles of CPL207280 and TAK-875. Plasma concentrations of CPL207280 and TAK-875 in rats (A, B, respectively) and monkeys (D, E, respectively). Pharmacokinetic parameters obtained in rats (C) and monkeys (F) after single oral (p.o.) and intravenous (i.v.) administration of doses. Note that in rats, both compounds show similar exposure—AUC and maximal concentration— C_{max} , but differ significantly in terms of the bioavailability and clearance rate. Data are mean; n = 5 (rats); n = 3 (monkeys).



Fig 6. Pharmacokinetic profiles in mice. Concentrations of CPL207280 (A) and TAK-875 (B) in serum and liver. Data are represented as mean \pm SEM (n = 3) concentrations of the compounds in mouse plasma and liver following a single oral administration. Note that CPL207280 shows greater concentrations in serum than in liver in contrast to TAK-875, which tends to mainly occur in the liver.

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Fig 7. Pharmacokinetic profiles of CPL207280 in repeated-dose administration 14- and 56-day study in rats and monkeys. Wistar Han rats were orally given 300, 600 and 1200 mg/kg/day of the test compound for 14 days and 50, 150, 500 mg/kg/day (n = 6, 3 males + 3 females) for 56 days (A). Cynomolgus monkeys were orally given 50, 100, 200 mg/kg (n = 4, 2 males + 2 females) of the test compound and 50, 150, 250 mg/kg/ day (n = 8, 4 males + 4 females) for 56 days (B). Plots represent dose–exposure and dose– C_{max} relationships. Data are mean ± SEM.

pharmacodynamic response and potential toxicity. Following this observation, concentrations of CPL207280 in rat plasma at days 1, 14, and 56 were determined in the course of repeated administration of doses of 50, 150, 300, 500, 600, and 1200 mg/kg/day (Fig 7A). At day 1, there was a linear correlation between dose and exposure, as well as dose and C_{max} for doses up to 300 mg/kg. At higher doses, the PK values were lower than expected. At days 14 and 56, the exposure dropped insignificantly compared with that on day 1. This tendency was not observed for the C_{max} . Next, the exposure and C_{max} values for doses 300 mg/kg and 600 mg/kg on days 1 and 14 with those for TAK-875 were compared (Table 4).

At day 1, CPL207280 demonstrated greater exposure by 50% than TAK-875 at a dose of 600 mg/kg. Further, the exposure was doubled at a dose of 300 mg/kg of CLP207280 than a dose of 200 mg/kg of TAK-875. Notably, increased exposure of TAK-875 was observed after 14 days,

Table 4.	The main pharmacokinetic parameters of CPL207280 compared with those of TAK-875 in rats in the repeat dose 14-day study (n = 6, 3 males and +3	
females)		

PK RAT	TAK-875	CPL207280	TAK-875	CPL207280	TAK-875	CPL207280	TAK-875	CPL207280
Day		1		1		14		14
C _{max} (Mean) [ng/ml]	296000*	226910	465000*	256855	271000*	171795	383000*	194088
AUC24h (Mean) [ng x hr/mL]	1210000*	2350180	2010000*	2923280	3740000*	1605030	6610000*	2156620
Dose mg/kg/day	200*	300	600*	600	200*	300	600*	600

Data for TAK-875 (marked with "*") were adopted from a previous study [25].

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which exceeded the CPL207280 exposure by 200% for 600 mg/kg. The C_{max} remained unchanged. In monkeys, there was a clear dose-exposure and dose- C_{max} linear correlation. These dependences did not change after 14 and 56 days of treatment (Fig 7B). Because TAK-875 had different pharmacokinetics in monkeys when administered on a single occasion than CPL207280, the repeat dose pharmacokinetics for it were not carried out in this species.

Repeat-dose study in rats—Safety

The preclinical safety of TAK-875 was studied in rats and dogs in a 14-day repeated-dose study because of the similar qualitative and quantitative metabolite profiles of these species and humans [25, 31, 36]. Treatment with TAK-875 dose-dependently induced elevation of ALT, bilirubin, and total bile acids after 7 days. Further, an effect of the same magnitude was observed at day 14. Given that CPL207280 demonstrated similar exposure to TAK-875 in rats after single administration, in the current study, rats were treated with the same dose range (0-600) and one dose of 1200 mg/kg doubling the highest dose studied in rats for TAK-875. After 14 days, liver injury markers ALT, ALP, AST in fasted blood were measured. After this time, the rats showed treatment-related adverse effects in the 1200 mg/kg group, corresponding to $C_{max} = 250 \,\mu g/mL$. Further, the death of one subject occurred on day 7. Necropsy showed decreased lymphoid cellularity in the splenic white pulp and diffused epithelial hyperplasia of the non-glandular gastric region, possibly related to death. The significant increases in ALT and ALP from 34.2±8.5 to 60.0±8.0 and from 86.3±30.2 to 136.1±55.3, respectively, were only observed in 1200 mg/kg group (Fig 8A-8C). Surprisingly, in all groups, CPL207280 evoked dose-dependent enlargement of the liver, expressed as a percentage of body weight (Fig 8D).

However, the tested liver injury markers did not change in CPL207280 groups treated with doses, in which they were significantly elevated due to TAK-875. In addition, histopathological examination revealed no microscopic changes in the liver tissue, except for a slight increase in its actual mass, suggesting no liver injury. The toxic effect of TAK-875 was described as dose and duration-dependent, that is, in dogs higher doses (150 mg/kg) caused liver injury after a shorter time (13-weeks), while liver injury was observed for lower doses (80 mg/kg) after a longer exposure of 39 weeks (3 times longer) [36]. To further analyze whether toxicity might occur after a longer repeat-dose regimen, the time of exposure was increased four times, up to 56 days (Fig 8E–8I). After this time, none of the previously monitored markers nor TBA and T-BIL were altered for the tested doses of 50, 150, and 500 mg/kg. Again, a slight increase in the liver mass was observed, and the histopathological analysis revealed mild to moderate hypertrophy of centrilobular hepatocytes at doses ≥ 150 mg/kg/day, correlating with an increase in liver weight (Fig 8J). This phenomenon was reversible after 28 days, suggesting an adaptive reaction of hepatocytes to the workload imposed by CPL207280 metabolism (Fig 8K).

Repeat-dose study in monkeys-Safety

As monkeys were the primary species whose hepatocytes showed a spectrum of CPL207280 metabolites similar to that observed for human hepatocytes, we decided to perform a repeatdose study in a cynomolgus monkey. The doses were chosen based on the body surface area and amounted to 50, 100, and 200 mg/kg in the 14-day study and to 20, 150, and 250 mg/kg in the 56-day study [37]. No alteration of liver safety parameters was observed in monkeys within the tested dose range, that is, 50–250 mg/kg/day, irrespective of the treatment duration (Fig 9). Interestingly, neither hypertrophy nor increased liver mass was observed after the 14 and 56-day treatment.



Fig 8. The effect of CPL207280 on liver toxicity markers in rats treated chronically. Serum levels of the biochemical markers (A-C) and liver mass (D) after 14 days of treatment. Data are mean \pm SD, n = 10 (5 males + 5 females). Serum levels of the biochemical markers (E-I) and liver mass (J, K) in rats treated for 56 days. Statistical analysis was performed using One-way ANOVA, followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test. Levels of TBA and changes in liver mass after wash-out were analyzed using Two-Way ANOVA followed by Sidak's post-hoc test; ***, p< 0.001; **, p< 0.01; *, p< 0.05; n = 20 (10 males + 10 females). T-BIL—total bilirubin; TBA—total bile acids.

Repeat-dose study in diabetic rats and monkeys

T2D impairs liver metabolism. Hence, drugs that do not cause DILI in metabolically healthy subjects may still pose a risk of DILI in T2D individuals [38, 39]. To address this eventuality with regards to CPL207280, the safety of the compound was studied in Zucker diabetic fatty rats (ZDF) and diabetic cynomolgus monkeys challenged by chronic administration. ZDF rats constitute a genetically modified T2D model, in which leptin receptor deficiency and genetic defects of β -cells converge to induce severe T2D accompanied by its common comorbidities, such as fatty liver and steatosis. In contrast, only a fraction of cynomolgus monkeys develop insulin resistance and β -cell deficiency spontaneously when fed a high-fat diet; hence, their T2D is believed to have a similar etiology to that of humans [40, 41]. ZDF rats were fed a highfat diet to induce diabetes. When the rats were 9 weeks old, treatment with CPL207280 commenced at doses of 15 and 45 mg/kg/day. ALT and AST levels were monitored at the start of the study after 15, 29, and 42 days. The markers changed over the course of the study for both diabetic ZDF and their lean healthy littermates, Zucker lean (ZL). Treatment with CPL207280 at any dose failed to alter the ALT and AST levels compared to the control vehicle-treated ZDF group (Fig 10A and 10B). The choice of the highest dose for the treatment of cynomolgus monkeys was based on allometric scaling and amounted to ½ of the highest dose in ZDF rats (22 mg/kg). The lowest dose was 2.2 mg/kg. Monkeys were treated for 28 days, after which the treatment was withdrawn, and monkeys were followed-up for an additional 7 days. Similar to



Fig 9. The effect of CPL207280 on liver toxicity markers in monkeys treated chronically. Serum levels of the biochemical markers (A-C) and liver mass (D) after 14 days of treatment. Data are mean \pm SD, n = 4 (2 males + 2 females). Serum levels of the biochemical markers (E-I) and liver mass (J, K). Data are mean \pm SD. Statistical analysis was performed using One-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test. Levels of TBA and changes in liver mass after wash-out were analyzed using Two-Way ANOVA followed by Sidak's post-hoc test; n = 12 (6 males + 6 females) for doses 0 and 250 mg/kg; n = 8 (4 males + 4 females) for doses 50 and 150 mg/kg. T-BIL—total bilirubin; TBA—total bile acids.

ZDF rats, ALT and AST levels changed over time in both the treatment group and the vehicle group. Notably, none of the doses altered liver safety markers as compared to that of the vehicle group over 28 treatment days, suggesting intact liver metabolism, and its vitality (Fig 10C and 10D).

Discussion

In this study, the liver safety of CPL207280, a novel GPR40 agonist developed for T2D treatment, was evaluated with a focus on addressing all toxicity-related concerns accounting for overall hepatotoxicity identified for the compound predecessor TAK-875 (Table 5). Interestingly, in this early drug-development stage, CPL207280 showed great liver-safety profiles in rats, monkeys, and human cells. Additionally, the study suggested that it is feasible to create a GPR40 agonist, which is safe for the liver and may circumvent mechanisms of toxicity known for the class represented by TAK-875.

In the current study, TAK-875 was used as a reference for CPL207280 to evaluate its safety properties: effect on viability of hepatocytes, inhibition of efflux bile acid transporters, production of reactive glucuronide metabolites, retention/deposition in the liver, and effect on liver safety markers of model animals. Recently, the liver safety of two GPR40 agonists—AMG-873 and TUG-770—was studied in mice and compared with TAK-875 [42]. It was found that only TAK-875 had a propensity for DILI and the other two were seemingly safe for the liver.



Fig 10. The effect of **CPL207280** on liver toxicity markers in diabetic rats and monkeys. ZDF rats were treated with indicated doses for 42 days and serum was collected for ALT and AST analysis at different time points of the study (A, B). Diabetic cynomolgus monkeys were treated with indicated doses for 28 days followed by a 7-day wash-out (B). Serum was collected at different time points of the study for analysis of ALT and AST; Data are mean \pm SEM; n = 8 for rats, n = 3 for monkeys.

However, the authors admitted that this study had limitations, as the actual drug exposure was unknown and might have been unequal despite using the same doses of all compounds. Similarly, in the other studies of ZYDG2 or HD-6277 researchers performed comparison of liver toxicity (including inhibition of bile transporters and toxicology study in rats and dogs, respectively) with that of TAK-875. However, the *in vivo* studies missed an equal drug-exposures to

Table 5.	Summar	y of the com	parative	literature	and featu	ures of	CPL202	7280 and	l TAK-	875
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	CPL207280	TAK-875		
Toxicity for human hepatocytes	<			
Inhibition of bile acids transporters in liver	<			
Mitochondria Injury	<			
Acyl glucuronide presence in human hepatocytes	No	Yes		
Bioavailability in rats	>			
Penetration into the liver	<			
Exposure in rat plasma for the same dose	2			
Accumulation in rat plasma after repeat dose *	No	Yes		
Propensity to elevate bile acids and bilirubin in plasma *	No	Yes		
Propensity to elevate liver enzyme damage markers *	<			

*-[25].

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enable fair toxicity comparison [43, 44]. Drug-exposure divergences result from different absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME) of specific agonists in the studied animal species. In the current study, we ensured CPL207280 exposures similar to that of TAK-875 in previous study. Furthermore, the metabolic profile of CPL207280 justified choosing rat as the first model for toxicology, which was also the case for TAK-875. These aggregate properties enabled fair *in vivo* liver toxicity comparison [25]. However, the second species chosen for toxicology study of TAK-875 was a dog. In contrast, based on metabolite and compound clearance properties, monkey appeared as the appropriate second species for studying effects of CPL207280. This discrepancy in choice of the second model limited the *in vivo* comparison of both molecules to studies in rats only. The comparison in rats, however, was indirect and performed retrospectively via literature [25].

The direct toxicity evaluation of CPL207280 and TAK-875 was enabled in in vitro experiments. Notably, starting with the study of the direct effect of test compounds on hepatocytes (HepG2 and human primary cells), we found that CPL207280 is 10 times better tolerated by hepatocytes than TAK-875. In the viability study, TAK-875 showed an IC_{50} of approximately 50μ M, which was in line with the values reported in initial studies detailing TAK-875 toxicity (Fig 1) [25]. This was also in agreement with a more recent study by others who reported IC_{50} values of 68 and 56 μ M when the time of incubation was 24 and 48 h, respectively [45]. Authors underscored that the longer hepatocytes were incubated with the compound, the more sensitive they become to toxicity of the compound. Given that the time of incubation may influence sensitivity to compounds, we later studied CPL207280 in 3D cultures that permitted 14 day-long incubation periods (discussed further). Next, the inhibition of efflux bile acid transporters was studied in detail and compared for CPL207280 and TAK-875. Importantly, CPL207280 showed potency that was at least one order of magnitude less than TAK-875 for the inhibition of majority of transporters, which suggested 10 times lower toxicity that is in keeping with the effect observed in hepatocytes (Figs 1, 4 and 11B). The IC_{50} values for TAK-875 appeared very close to those reported in previous studies, except for NTCP [24, 25]. Inhibition of NTCP (51 μ M) appeared weaker than the previously reported (4.6 or 2.0 μ M). However, this may be a result of the poor confidence interval at 95%, measured for TAK-875 for this very transporter (Fig 4). NTCP is an influx transporter that directs bile acids from the portal vein into the hepatocytes. This process can be compensated by OATP1B1 and OATP1B3; therefore, it is unlikely that sole inhibition of NTCP at the level determined for TAK-875 might be of significance for the safety of CPL207280 [46]. The transporters that are more risky for liver safety include those belonging to efflux transporters, especially when compensatory action of the others is blocked. Of these transporters, BSEP and Mrp2 play a prominent role as they dispose of bile acids from hepatocytes [47, 48]. BSEP was inhibited by TAK-875 at IC₅₀ of 47.3 μ M and MRP2 at 48.1 μ M, which falls in the range of IC₅₀ assessed in the direct viability study in hepatocytes, implying that this mechanism may largely contribute to the observed toxicity in vitro. Importantly, CPL207280 showed no or very weak propensity to block either of the transporters. Taking into account the IC_{50} of TAK-875 in hepatocyte viability assays and the concentrations in human serum, it has been long debated whether TAK-875 induces hepatotoxicity in humans through inhibition of bile transport. This is because the TAK-875 did not reach the IC_{50} concentration in phase II or III [15, 16]. Moreover, the very high plasma protein binding (PPB) of TAK-875 (> 99.4%) further reduced its free plasma concentration levels, which is likely negligible for liver toxicity [31]. Nevertheless, it has been reported that TAK-875 accumulated in dog liver, thereby its local concentration might greatly exceed that of IC₅₀, likely resulting in elevated bile acids in blood observed for both rats and dogs in the 14-day study [25, 36]. Importantly, such compound deposits were not observed in the current study focused on CPL207280 in either rat or monkey livers (not published).



Fig 11. The scheme of potential processes that do not succumb to CPL207280 but are altered by TAK-875 leading to hepatotoxicity. In contrast to CPL207280, TAK-875 impairs hepatic mitochondria through DNA damage, ROS production, reducing inner membrane potential ($\Delta \psi$), that precipitate the reduction of respiration (A); CPL207280 does not inhibit pivotal bile acid transporters, whereas TAK-875 abolishes their function thereby causes accumulation of bile acids in hepatocytes and their increase in circulation (B); CPL207280 is a small compound, which is quickly metabolized through an oxidation, yet bigger and more lipophilic TAK-875 forms reactive acyl-glucuronide, that has propensity to form covalent bonds with proteins whereby compromises enzymatic processes in the liver (C). All mentioned processes lead to the damage of the liver and increase ALT, AST, ALP, TBA and bilirubin in the circulation (D). TBA—total bile acids; The structures of depicted compounds are symbolic and not the actual, however, they reflect the difference in molecular weights.

Although it is fair to assume that TAK-875 crystals were the cause of liver injury in humans, the exact mechanism of TAK-875-mediated DILI remains unclear, especially since the concentration of TBA has never been studied in the clinic. Recently, an elegant study combining mathematical modeling and in vitro experiments for evaluation of TAK-875 mechanisms of toxicity was carried out [49]. Simulations using PK data from human and in vitro toxicity data delivered similar outcomes to those observed in the clinic. Although ALT elevations were calculated, due to the limitations of the system, the authors were unsuccessful in obtaining TBA and T-BIL values. However, interestingly, the study showed that mitochondrial dysfunction and transporter inhibition must coexist to induce toxicity and that they have a synergistic effect. This finding underscores the importance of studying both mechanisms for toxicity inference. To address this scenario in the current work, respiration in hepatocytes was studied using the Seahorse XF platform. Notably, CPL207280 caused a slight respiration inhibition at 100 µM in contrast to TAK-875, which fully stopped oxidative respiration and tremendously reduced the spare capacity at the same concentration (Fig 2B). In a more detailed study in 3D spheroids, CPL207280 had no effect on mitochondria and DNA (Table 1, Fig 11A). In contrast, TAK-875 impaired mitochondrial function and caused DNA damage. TAK-875 also reduced glutathione content in the cells, and even though it was reported elsewhere of no account for TAK-875 toxicity, it might still underlie the observed elevated oxidative stress (Table 1) [45]. Regarding the deleterious effects of the parent molecule, it has been proposed

that glucuronide (TAK-875-Glu), one of the main metabolites of TAK-875, might accumulate aside TAK-875 in the liver, thus causing additional injuries. Glucuronides are considered to be under special attention in the mechanisms underlying DILI [50]. They may form reactive species through the opening of the ring and sharing atoms for covalent bonds with proteins and DNA (Fig 11C). The chief metabolites of CPL207280 in human hepatocytes after 60-minute incubation appeared to be products of oxidation and accounted for over 73% of all metabolites. Importantly, glucuronide products appeared in negligible amounts, accounting for 6% of the total metabolites. Therefore, it was decided not to study CPL207280 glucuronide metabolite in vitro as it was unlikely that it might contribute to DILI in a significant manner. Furthermore, this metabolite was produced largely in monkey hepatocytes, so its toxicity was studied in vivo at concentrations greater than those expected in humans (Fig 3B). By contrast, TAK-875 and TAK-875-Glu were often investigated in parallel in a previous study. TAK-875-Glu turned out to be the main metabolite in dogs, rats and humans, and was studied alongside with its parent compound in numerous assays [31]. It is fair to note that TAK-875-Glu showed less toxicity in hepatocytes than its parent. It also demonstrated less potency in inhibition of bile acid transporters and was weaker at blocking phosphorylating oxidation and respiration [24, 25]. Recently, during the development of MK-8666 by Merck, a compound structurally similar to TAK-875, it has been shown that emerging glucuronide derivatives produce reactive acyl [51]. Indeed, glucuronide has an alarmingly short half-life, whereas only stable glucuronides with a half-life above 7 h are perceived as non-reactive, and thus non-toxic [52]. Furthermore, protein adducts covalently bound to MK-8666 metabolites have been found in hepatocytes. This scenario was considered a likely cause of the failure of MK-8666 in the clinical trial conducted on diabetic subjects, driving one patient into a state described by Hy's law (ALT > 5x ULN and T-BIL > 2x ULN) [51].

In a previous study, it was observed that TAK-875 accumulated in rat plasma in a 14-day repeated dose study (Table 4). In the current study, CPL207280 did not accumulate in the plasma or liver. In contrast, TAK-875 tended to be retained in mouse livers in a single-dose study (Fig 6). Additionally, in rats, this compound showed a greater distribution volume (V_d) than CPL207280 (Fig 5C). This subject was studied extensively in the previous work by calculating V_d in humans and rats, where even greater distribution volume in humans was observed [31]. It is fair to assume that this property may further propel mechanisms of toxicity by generating high concentrations locally. This may escalate in T2D subjects, whose livers are often exhausted by metabolic syndrome and thus they have less capacity to neutralize xenobiotic toxicity. Interestingly, in a 14-day study conducted in rats, no CPL207280 accumulation in plasma even at a dose above the maximum tolerated dose (MTD, 600 mg/kg) was observed (Fig 7). More importantly, no ALT, AST, and ALP elevation in a range of doses (up to 600 mg/ kg) was observed, whereas TAK-875 showed significant elevation at doses of 200 mg/kg and greater [24, 25]. For TAK-875, this was associated with increases in T-BIL and TBA. In the second species (dogs), TAK-875 induced elevation of ALT and formed crystals in the livers of two of six animals treated with the highest dose (600 mg/kg). In contrast, in the second species (monkey) in a longer, 56-day study, CPL207280 did not alter liver injury indicators or T-BIL and TBA. This is of great importance, as these markers were recognized as tightly linked with TAK-875 liver toxicity, and their elevation might precede any alteration in ALT, AST, and ALP (Figs 8, 10 and 11D). In rats treated with CPL207280, minimal to mild centrilobular hepatocyte hypertrophy of the liver was noted, which fully subsided following the 28-day recovery period. Hepatocellular hypertrophy is frequently seen in the liver following exposure to agents that cause hepatic enzyme induction. In the present study, we considered an adaptive response due to detected induction of Cyp3a4 (data unpublished), rather than a pathological alteration. The limitation of the present study was that it did not cover the immune-toxicity aspect of
CPL207280. In a recent study utilizing microarrays to study TAK-875 activated pathways in the liver, it was proposed that TAK-875 induces TLR-mediated immune response [42]. Moreover, it has been shown that TAK-875-Glu metabolite may evoke adaptive immune attack via Nrf2 response genes, which may contribute to toxicity [24]. Notably, for CPL207280, a negligible amount of the aforementioned metabolite was observed and hence CPL207280 is unlikely to cause an immune response. In addition, histopathology revealed no elevated immune cell infiltration in the livers of monkeys and rats (data not published). Nevertheless, the implication of the CPL207280 parent and its metabolites in inflammation should not be ruled out and warrants further investigation.

The exact mechanisms underlying TAK-875 and MK-8666 toxicity have not been fully elucidated. This phenomenon may rely on specific metabolic conditions in the liver of individuals with T2D. It must be emphasized that for both reference compounds, the toxicity in humans was observed in individuals burdened by metabolic syndrome and the toxicity rate observed was 2.7% within the first half-year of administration [20]. Subjects with certain genetic makeup may be more susceptible to DILI because of their liver metabolic limitations [38]. Therefore, a thorough study of the DILI is possible only in appropriate *in vivo* models representing the target syndrome, which is diabetes. To address this prerequisite condition, toxicity was studied in relevant diabetic rat and monkey models at effective doses [29]. The effects of TAK-875 in a diabetic rat model (ZDF) were studied elsewhere to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of the compound in β -cells after 6 weeks of treatment [53]. However, the authors did not publish liver-safety parameters. In the present study, the ZDF model was used to study the liver safety of CPL207280 in T2D. The ZDF rat is considered a high-end T2D model, which provides diabetic comorbidities that render it more similar to human disorders. Furthermore, a more robust monkey model of spontaneous T2D was used to support the findings from ZDF rats. Importantly, both models provided the target disease, CPL207280 metabolites, and ADME, as discussed previously. Chronic treatment with CPL207280 in the range of therapeutic doses failed to elevate ALT and AST in both species, suggesting that patients with T2D will be exposed to liver-safe doses of CPL207280.

Conclusions

The main objective for the GPR40 agonist designers has been to devise compounds structurally different to FFAs and much more potent than FFAs [54, 55]. This was in order to avoid lipotoxicity, which may contribute to diabetes progression [56, 57]. In fact, synthetic agonists were reported not to be lipotoxic in the diabetic *milieu* (owing to beneficial activation of GPR40) [58, 59], but they eventually turned out toxic specifically to the liver. The accumulated body of evidence in this work suggests that CPL207280 is a peculiar GPR40 agonist, that significantly differs from other agonists, especially TAK-875 in terms of the structure and potency that determine liver safety in animal models. This feature provides a greater chance for safer use in the target population of patients with diabetes.

Supporting information

S1 File. (XLSX)

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whome ho.d.h (miejscowość, data)

ATEUS2 MACH

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Konceptualizacja projektu, projektowanie syntezy chemicznej, synteza chemiczna, analiza wyników, interpretacja wyników, tworzenie i korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako...X.... %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako. 2000, (imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro* wybór modli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświadczającego)

hallo 10.11-1011 (miejscowość, data)

(imię i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

przeprowadzenie części powtórzeń eksperymentów *in vitro*, interpretacja i przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X.%.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 40.%, (imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro* wybór modli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Penel Buda

(podpis oświadczającego)

Varun Vour, 220322 (miejscowość, data)

Milioloy Matioliq (imię i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Analiza danych z badania PK, interpretacja wyników, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X%.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 10%,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro* wybór modeli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Mattolin

(podpis oświadczającego)

miejscowość, data)

busine hus imie i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Synteza chemiczna, konceptualizacja syntezy chemicznej, interpretacja wyników.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 10 %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro* wybór modli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

1222

(podpis oświadczającego)

(miejscowość, data)



Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Synteza chemiczna, konceptualizacja syntezy chemicznej, interpretacja wyników.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako. X.... %.

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro* wybór modli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Filip Helm

(podpis oświadczającego)

miejscowość, data)

KINGA GAŁĄŻŁA (imię i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Synteza chemiczna, konceptualizacja syntezy chemicznej, interpretacja wyników.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako.......%.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów in vitro wybór modli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów in vivo, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz in vitro na komórkach, analizę danych z badań in vitro i in vivo, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Kingo Geigzho

(podpis oświadczającego)

(miejscowość, data)

MAKGORZATA WASINSKA-KAEWA (imie i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Synteza chemiczna, konceptualizacja syntezy chemicznej, interpretacja wyników.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako.X....%.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako. %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro* wybór modli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Marjonate Hoberto due

(podpis oświadczającego)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Synteza chemiczna, analiza fizykochemiczna związków chemicznych.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako......%.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako. 100. %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro* wybór modeli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

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(podpis oświadczającego)

Jarszana. (miejscowość, data)

agmara Motocsinske (imie i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Analiza fizykochemiczna związków chemicznych.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako..... %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako.

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów in vitro wybór modeli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów in vivo, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz in vitro na komórkach, analizę danych z badań in vitro i in vivo, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświadczającego)

(miejscowość, data)

Myszula Dawrd (imie i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Analiza fizykochemiczna związków chemicznych.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako...X... %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako. AO %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro* wybór modeli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkladu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświadczającego)

Kozun Nony, 25.01.2022 (miejscowość, data)

Lichio Gunbe - Bryskie uicz (imię i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Analiza fizykochemiczna związków chemicznych.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako......%.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako........%,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro* wybór modeli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświadczającego)

(miejscowość, data)

KRYSJOF KISNIEKSKI imie i nazwisko

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Synteza chemiczna, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 10%,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro* wybór modeli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Winhi

(podpis oświadczającego)

walk walk ful (miejscowość, data)



Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Konceptualizacja projektu, pozyskanie dofinansowania, nadzór nad pracami, interpretacja wyników, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 10 %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro* wybór modeli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświadczającego)

WARSI twit, 28 2. WIL (miejscowość, data)

(imie i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Konceptualizacja projektu, pozyskanie dofinansowania, nadzór nad pracami, interpretacja wyników, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 10 %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro* wybór modeli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświadczającego)

2802.2027 (miejscowość, data)



Jako współautor pracy pt. "Discovery and development of CPL207280 as new GPR40/FFA1 agonist"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Konceptualizacja projektu, pozyskanie dofinansowania, nadzór nad pracami, interpretacja wyników, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 10 %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro* wybór modeli i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników biologicznych, przedstawienie graficzne wyników biologicznych, korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkladu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Diegal

(podpis oświadczającego)

(miejscowość, data)

PAWEK BUDA (imie i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "CPL207280, a Novel G Protein–Coupled Receptor 40/Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1–Specific Agonist, Shows a Favorable Safety Profile and Exerts Antidiabetic Effects in Type 2 Diabetic Animals"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

przeprowadzenie części powtórzeń eksperymentów *in vitro*, udział w projektowaniu eksperymentów *in vivo*, analizę danych z badań *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, korekta manuskryptu.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 50%,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Povet Bude

(podpis oświadczającego)

lla zun Nowy 220322 (miejscowość, data)

<u>(imięli nazwisko)</u>

Jako współautor pracy pt. "CPL207280, a Novel G Protein–Coupled Receptor 40/Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1–Specific Agonist, Shows a Favorable Safety Profile and Exerts Antidiabetic Effects in Type 2 Diabetic Animals"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

analizę danych z badań *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X%.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 50%,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświadczającego)

ous, Lo.S. will miejscowość, data)



Jako współautor pracy pt. "CPL207280, a Novel G Protein–Coupled Receptor 40/Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1–Specific Agonist, Shows a Favorable Safety Profile and Exerts Antidiabetic Effects in Type 2 Diabetic Animals"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Konceptualizacja projektu, projektowanie syntezy chemicznej, synteza chemiczna, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako...... %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako......%, (imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

M. Ray S

(podpis oświadczającego)

miejscowość, data)



Jako współautor pracy pt. "CPL207280, a Novel G Protein–Coupled Receptor 40/Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1–Specific Agonist, Shows a Favorable Safety Profile and Exerts Antidiabetic Effects in Type 2 Diabetic Animals"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Synteza chemiczna, konceptualizacja syntezy chemicznej.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako...X.... %.

Wkład **Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda** w powstawanie publikacji określam jako. 500, (imie i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Filip Steling

(podpis oświadczającego)

Wowstana 10/04/2022 miejscowość, data)

(imię i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "CPL207280, a Novel G Protein–Coupled Receptor 40/Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1–Specific Agonist, Shows a Favorable Safety Profile and Exerts Antidiabetic Effects in Type 2 Diabetic Animals"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Synteza chemiczna, konceptualizacja syntezy chemicznej.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 50 %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Uluija

(podpis oświadczającego)

Snava, 79.03.7077

DANIAN SHUGA (imie i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "CPL207280, a Novel G Protein–Coupled Receptor 40/Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1–Specific Agonist, Shows a Favorable Safety Profile and Exerts Antidiabetic Effects in Type 2 Diabetic Animals"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Synteza chemiczna, analiza fizykochemiczna związków chemicznych.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 50%,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Scentin h

(podpis oświadczającego)

miejscowość, data)

JOANNA HVC2 - KALITO WSKA (imię i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "CPL207280, a Novel G Protein–Coupled Receptor 40/Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1–Specific Agonist, Shows a Favorable Safety Profile and Exerts Antidiabetic Effects in Type 2 Diabetic Animals"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

pomoc w projektowaniu eksperymentów *in vivo*, organizacja badań *in vivo*, pomoc w interpretacji wyników eksperymentów *in vivo*.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 50%,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświadczającego)

Ule Ferre, 24.03.201 (miejscowość, data)

HAKGORIATA TESKA - KAMINSKA (imie i nazwisko)

OŚWIADCZENIE

Jako współautor pracy pt. "CPL207280, a Novel G Protein–Coupled Receptor 40/Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1–Specific Agonist, Shows a Favorable Safety Profile and Exerts Antidiabetic Effects in Type 2 Diabetic Animals"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

pomoc w projektowaniu eksperymentów *in vivo*, organizacja badań *in vivo*, pomoc w interpretacji wyników eksperymentów *in vivo*.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład **Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda** w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 50%, (imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

5 Tella-Ullipla

(podpis oświadczającego)

52awa 25.03.2022 (miejscowość, data)

VARVARA VIALICHKA (imię i nazwisko)

OŚWIADCZENIE

Jako współautor pracy pt. "CPL207280, a Novel G Protein–Coupled Receptor 40/Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1–Specific Agonist, Shows a Favorable Safety Profile and Exerts Antidiabetic Effects in Type 2 Diabetic Animals"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

przeprowadzenie części powtórzeń eksperymentu *in vitro* – wydzielanie insuliny na komórkach INS-1E.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X%.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 50%,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

VARVARA VIALICHIKA

(podpis oświadczającego)

Bożena Kamińska-Kaczmarek (imię i nazwisko)

OŚWIADCZENIE

Jako współautor pracy pt. "CPL207280, a Novel G Protein–Coupled Receptor 40/Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1–Specific Agonist, Shows a Favorable Safety Profile and Exerts Antidiabetic Effects in Type 2 Diabetic Animals"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

nadzór nad pracami, interpretacja wyników, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 50 %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Bhemiusus Prof. dr hab. Bożena Kamińska-Kaczmarek

(podpis oświadczającego)

.....

n. von WARSI miejscowość, data)



Jako współautor pracy pt. "CPL207280, a Novel G Protein-Coupled Receptor 40/Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1-Specific Agonist, Shows a Favorable Safety Profile and Exerts Antidiabetic Effects in Type 2 Diabetic Animals"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Konceptualizacja projektu, pozyskanie dofinansowania, nadzór nad pracami, interpretacja wyników.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 50 %, (imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów in vitro, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów in vivo, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz in vitro na komórkach, analizę danych z badań in vitro i in vivo, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświadczającego)

. war, wals (miejscowość, data)

HACIEJ WIECOPEU (imię i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "CPL207280, a Novel G Protein–Coupled Receptor 40/Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1–Specific Agonist, Shows a Favorable Safety Profile and Exerts Antidiabetic Effects in Type 2 Diabetic Animals"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Konceptualizacja projektu, pozyskanie dofinansowania, nadzór nad pracami, interpretacja wyników, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 50 %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

French

(podpis oświadczającego)

stant, 18-abou miejscowość, data)

JELVY PIECYKOLAN

Jako współautor pracy pt. "CPL207280, a Novel G Protein–Coupled Receptor 40/Free Fatty Acid Receptor 1–Specific Agonist, Shows a Favorable Safety Profile and Exerts Antidiabetic Effects in Type 2 Diabetic Animals"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Konceptualizacja projektu, pozyskanie dofinansowania, nadzór nad pracami, interpretacja wyników, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 50 %, (imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro* na komórkach, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekty manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświądczającego)

(miejscowość, data)

PAWEK BUDA (imie i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Evaluation of the hepatotoxicity of the novel GPR40 (FFAR1) agonist CPL207280 in the rat and monkey"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Organizacja i koordynacja badań toksykologicznych, współtworzenie i weryfikacja protokołów badań toksykologicznych, nadzór regulacyjny nad badaniami toksykologicznymi.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X.. %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 55.%, (imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro*, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekta manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Peuel Bude

(podpis oświadczającego)

miejscowość, data)



Jako współautor pracy pt. "Evaluation of the hepatotoxicity of the novel GPR40 (FFAR1) agonist CPL207280 in the rat and monkey"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Konceptualizacja projektu, projektowanie syntezy chemicznej, synteza chemiczna, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako...... %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako. 55... %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro*, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekta manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkladu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświadczającego)



Jako współautor pracy pt. "Evaluation of the hepatotoxicity of the novel GPR40 (FFAR1) agonist CPL207280 in the rat and monkey"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Konceptualizacja projektu, pozyskanie dofinansowania, nadzór nad pracami, interpretacja wyników, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 55 %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro*, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekta manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświadczającego)
Izabela Kozlowska

(imię i nazwisko)

OŚWIADCZENIE

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Evaluation of the hepatotoxicity of the novel GPR40 (FFAR1) agonist CPL207280 in the rat and monkey"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Organizacja i koordynacja badań toksykologicznych, współtworzenie i weryfikacja protokołów badań toksykologicznych, nadzór regulacyjny nad badaniami toksykologicznymi.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 55 %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro*, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekta manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

ela Kozlowska (Mar 16, 2022 14:22 GM

(podpis oświadczającego)

annua, LO. R. 2022 (miejscowość, data)

MICHAL JANISZE WSKI

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Evaluation of the hepatotoxicity of the novel GPR40 (FFAR1) agonist CPL207280 in the rat and monkey"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

pomoc w hodowli komórkowej, pomoc techniczna w przygotowaniu niezbędnych do eksperymentów in vitro odczynników, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako...X... %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako.5.5... %,

(imie i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów in vitro, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów in vivo, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz in vitro, analizę danych z badań in vitro i in vivo, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekta manuskryptu.

(mervtorvczny opis wkladu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imie i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświadczającego)

(miejscowość data)

EWA DRIAZEA (imie i nazwisko)

OŚWIADCZENIE

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Evaluation of the hepatotoxicity of the novel GPR40 (FFAR1) agonist CPL207280 in the rat and monkey"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

pomoc w hodowli komórkowej, pomoc techniczna w przygotowaniu niezbędnych do eksperymentów in vitro odczynników, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako. %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako. 55. %, (imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów in vitro, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów in vivo, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz in vitro, analizę danych z badań in vitro i in vivo, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekta manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Eva Droupo (podpis oświadczającego)

(miejscowość, data)

DOH (NOWSK) 1ię i nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Evaluation of the hepatotoxicity of the novel GPR40 (FFAR1) agonist CPL207280 in the rat and monkey"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Romac is audirie i interpretagi angentia sobilenda metaboliana, over noplaneure metabolianego, presentage grafiane angulian, Novella menustry 152

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako. X.... %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako. 5. %,

(iniç i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia) obejmował on: Zapojelstwawe i menowadnewe ekspenywentów in Uho jujkor Madeli badowcyde i rapochowane ekspenywentów in Uho in uco badowcych dle aucliz in Uho, anolico alawych z badou in Uho in uco, wterpet je wywlów, predstawiene greficne wywlów, przydawowe i kojelsto (merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświadczającego)

Ola 1 17 -01. 2022 (miejscowość, data)

Aubert Zistkeuski

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Evaluation of the hepatotoxicity of the novel GPR40 (FFAR1) agonist CPL207280 in the rat and monkey"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Analiza danych farmakokinetycznych z badań toksykologicznych, interpretacja wyników farmakokinetycznych.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako...X.... %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako...5.5...%, (imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro*, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekta manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

15TIL

(podpis oświadczającego)

Various, Balou (miejscowość, data)

(imic i)nazwisko)

Jako współautor pracy pt. "Evaluation of the hepatotoxicity of the novel GPR40 (FFAR1) agonist CPL207280 in the rat and monkey"

oświadczam, iż mój własny wkład merytoryczny w przygotowanie, przeprowadzenie i opracowanie badań oraz przedstawienie pracy w formie publikacji stanowi:

Konceptualizacja projektu, pozyskanie dofinansowania, nadzór nad pracami, interpretacja wyników, korekta manuskryptu.

Mój udział procentowy w przygotowaniu publikacji określam jako X %.

Wkład Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda w powstawanie publikacji określam jako 55 %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

obejmował on: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro*, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekta manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

Jednocześnie wyrażam zgodę na wykorzystanie w/w pracy jako część rozprawy doktorskiej lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

(podpis oświadczającego)

Shayne Cox Gad

STATEMENT

As a coauthor of article pt. "Evaluation of the hepatotoxicity of the novel GPR40 (FFAR1) agonist CPL207280 in the rat and monkey"

I declare that my own contribution to the preparation, conduct and development of research and presentation of the work in the form of the publication is:

ENG: Consultation in the field of toxicological studies design, analysis and interpretation of toxicological results, manuscript correction.

PL: Konsultacje w zakresie projektowania badań toksykologicznych, analiza i interpretacja wyników toksykologicznych, korekta manuskryptu.

I define my percentage share in the preparation of the publication as X %.

I describe Katarzyna Bazydło-Guzenda's contribution to the publication as 55 %,

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

It included:

ENG: design and conduct of *in vitro* experiments, selection of research models and design of *in vivo* experiments, setting up the methods for *in vitro* analyzes, *in vitro* and *in vivo* data analysis, interpretation of the results, graphical presentation of the results, preparation and correction of the manuscript.

PL: zaprojektowanie i przeprowadzenie eksperymentów *in vitro*, wybór modeli badawczych i zaprojektowanie eksperymentów *in vivo*, ustawienie metod badawczych dla analiz *in vitro*, analizę danych z badań *in vitro* i *in vivo*, interpretacja wyników, przedstawienie graficzne wyników, przygotowanie i korekta manuskryptu.

(merytoryczny opis wkładu kandydata do stopnia w powstanie publikacji)*

At the same time, I consent to the use of the above-mentioned work as part of the doctoral dissertation lek/mgr Katarzyny Bazydło-Guzenda

(imię i nazwisko kandydata do stopnia)

Skyre & Dal

(signature)

* in particular, participation in the preparation of the concept, methodology, performance of research, interpretation of the results