



C4 Therapeutics

Discovery of a Potent and Selective BRD9
BiDAC Degrader with Activity in a
Preclinical Model of Synovial Sarcoma

Kate Jackson

4th Targeted Protein Degradation Summit
October 26-28, 2021



Forward-looking Statements and Intellectual Property

Forward-looking Statements

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BRD9: Drugging the Undruggable with a BiDAC Degrader Approach

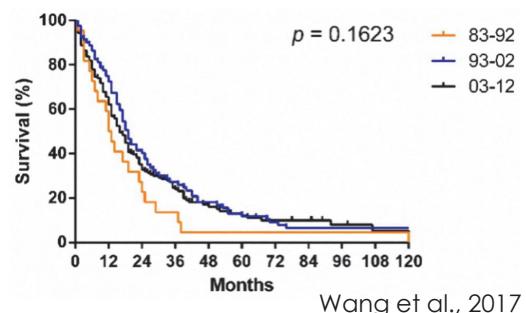
Strong Rationale for Degrader Approach

- Synovial sarcoma (SS) is dependent on BRD9 due to the oncogenic SS18-SSX translocation
- Inhibition of the BRD9 bromodomain is insufficient to ablate its oncogenicity

Brien et al. 2018

Clear Unmet Need

- Very limited benefit of treatments for metastatic or advanced synovial sarcoma, median survival ~18 months



Defined Patient Population

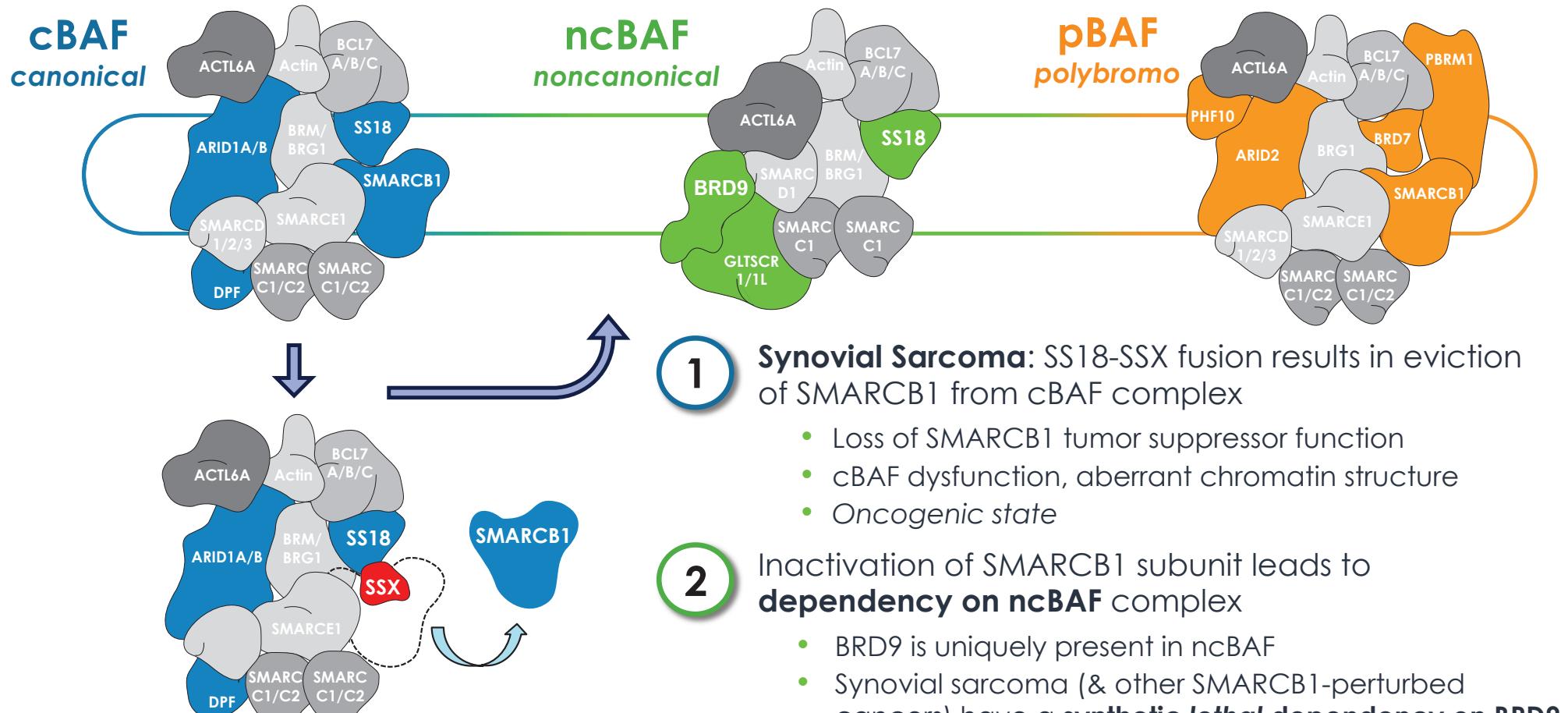
- US incidence: ~900 cases/year
- ~10% of all soft tissue sarcomas
- Median age at diagnosis: 34 years old

Patient figures represent estimated U.S. annual incidence

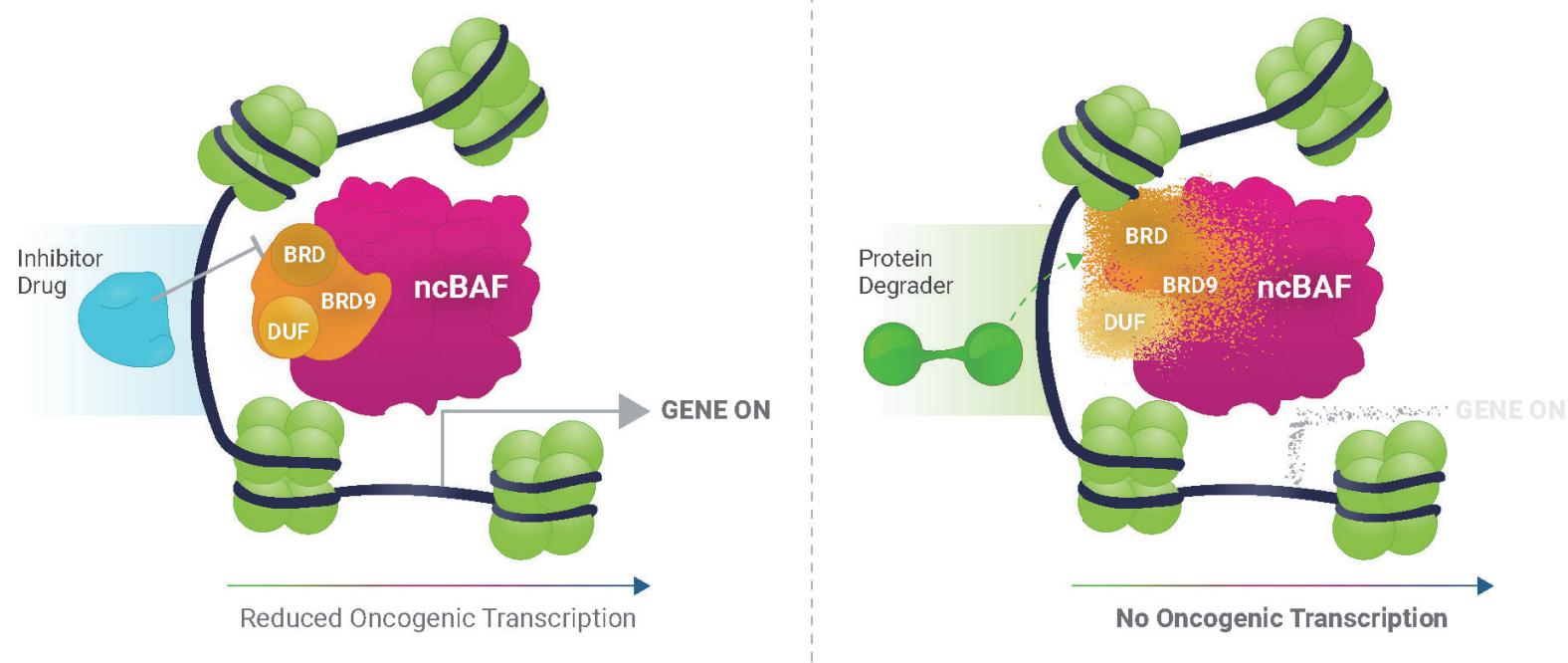
Source: NIH SEER Database, Primary Literature Consensus

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Synovial Sarcoma is Driven by Aberrant BAF Complex Biology

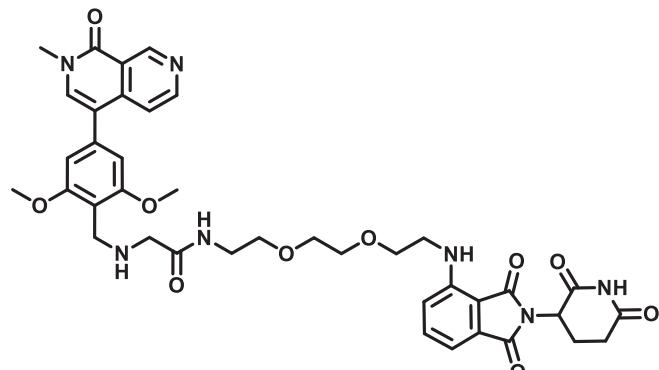


BRD9 Inhibition vs. Degradation

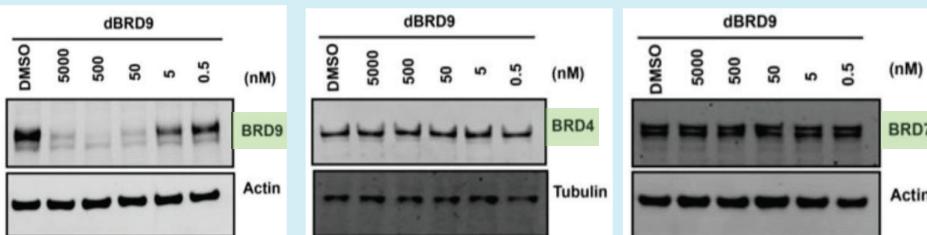


BRD9 associates with chromatin independent of its bromodomain, therefore traditional BRD9 inhibitors do not fully ablate oncogenic transcription

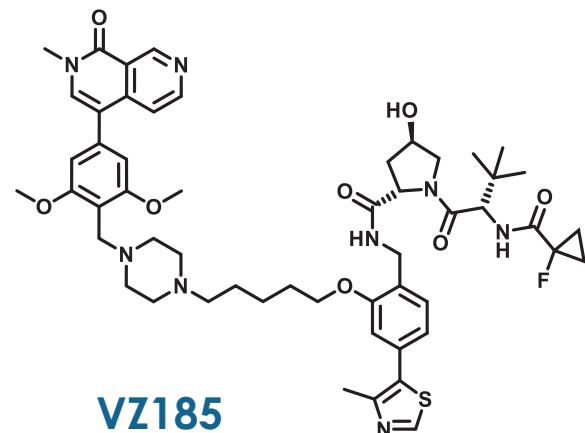
Published BRD9 Degraders – Excellent In Vitro Tool Compounds



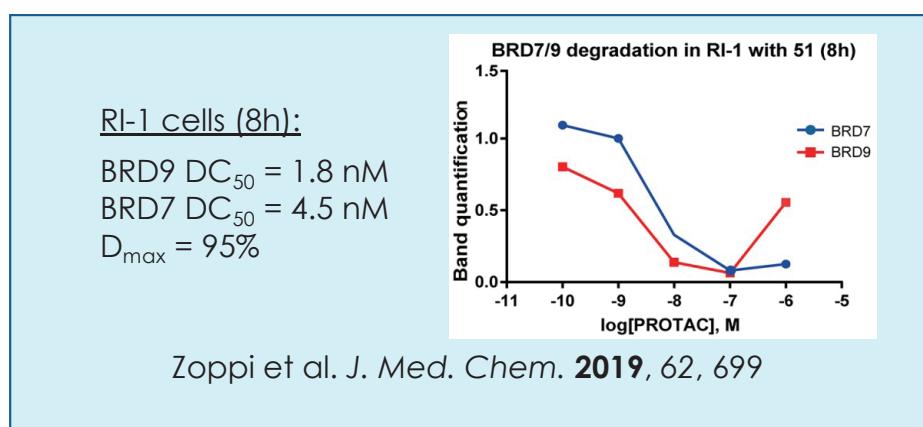
dBRD9



Remillard et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl. 2017, 56, 5738



VZ185

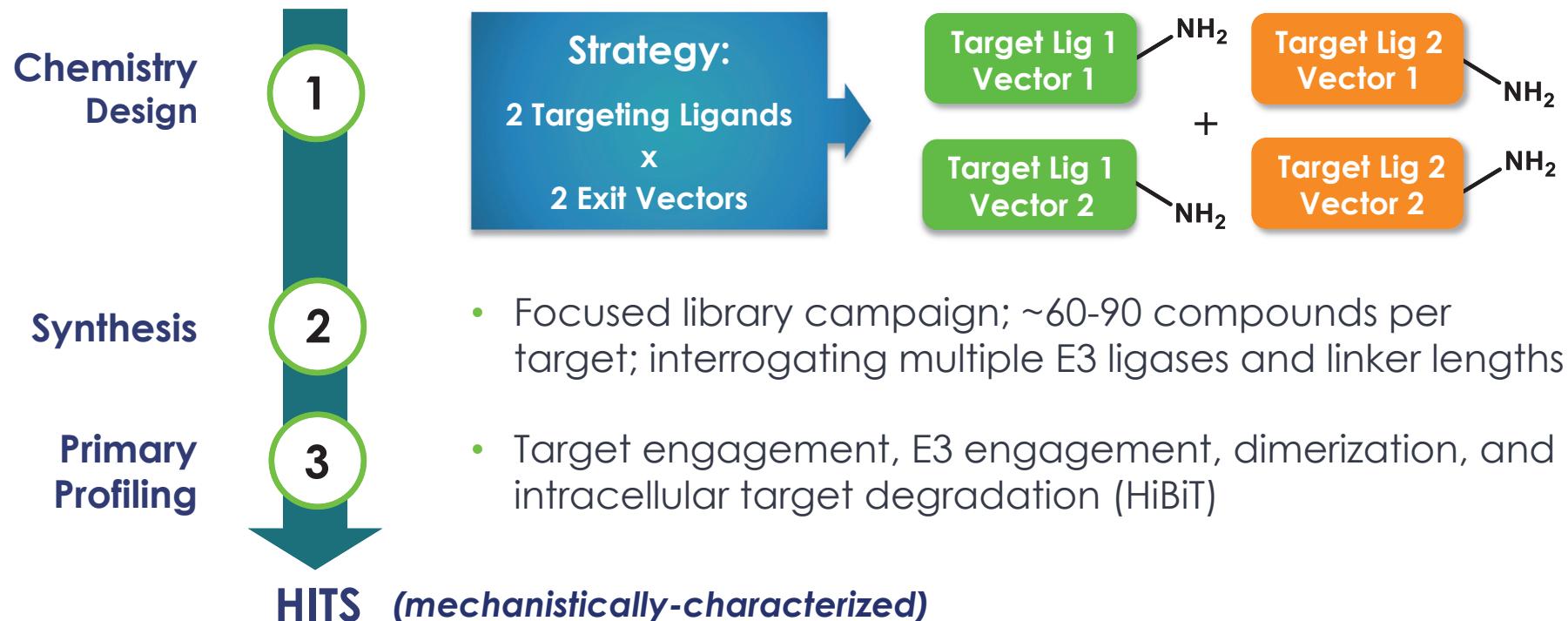


Zoppi et al. J. Med. Chem. 2019, 62, 699

C4T's Approach to BiDAC Degrader Discovery

C4T TORPEDOTM Platform

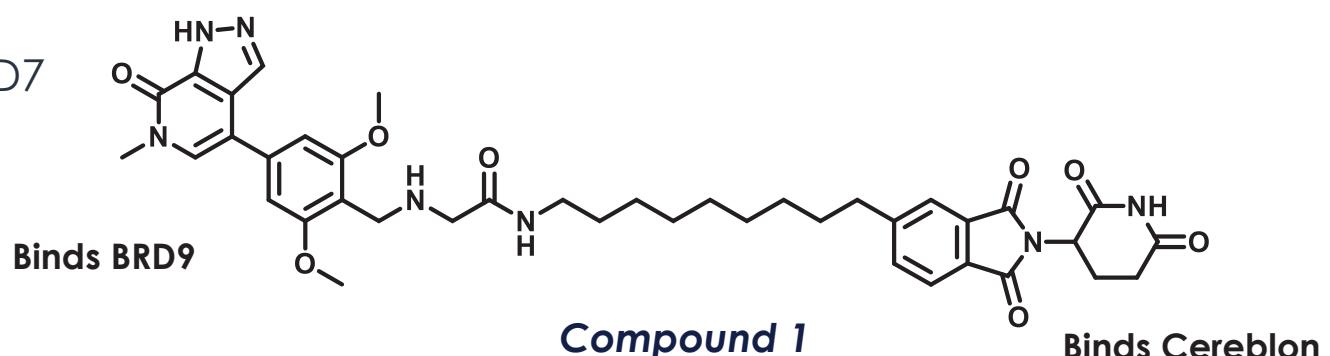
An operationally refined, information rich approach that is successful ~75% of the time



BRD9 BiDAC Degrader HIT

GOAL: Identify a drug-like compound with a mouse PK profile suitable to demonstrate proof-of-concept efficacy in a mouse xenograft model

- ✓ Potently degrades BRD9
- ✓ Selective over BRD4 & BRD7
- ✗ Drug-like properties
- ✗ Plasma stability
- ✗ Mouse PK

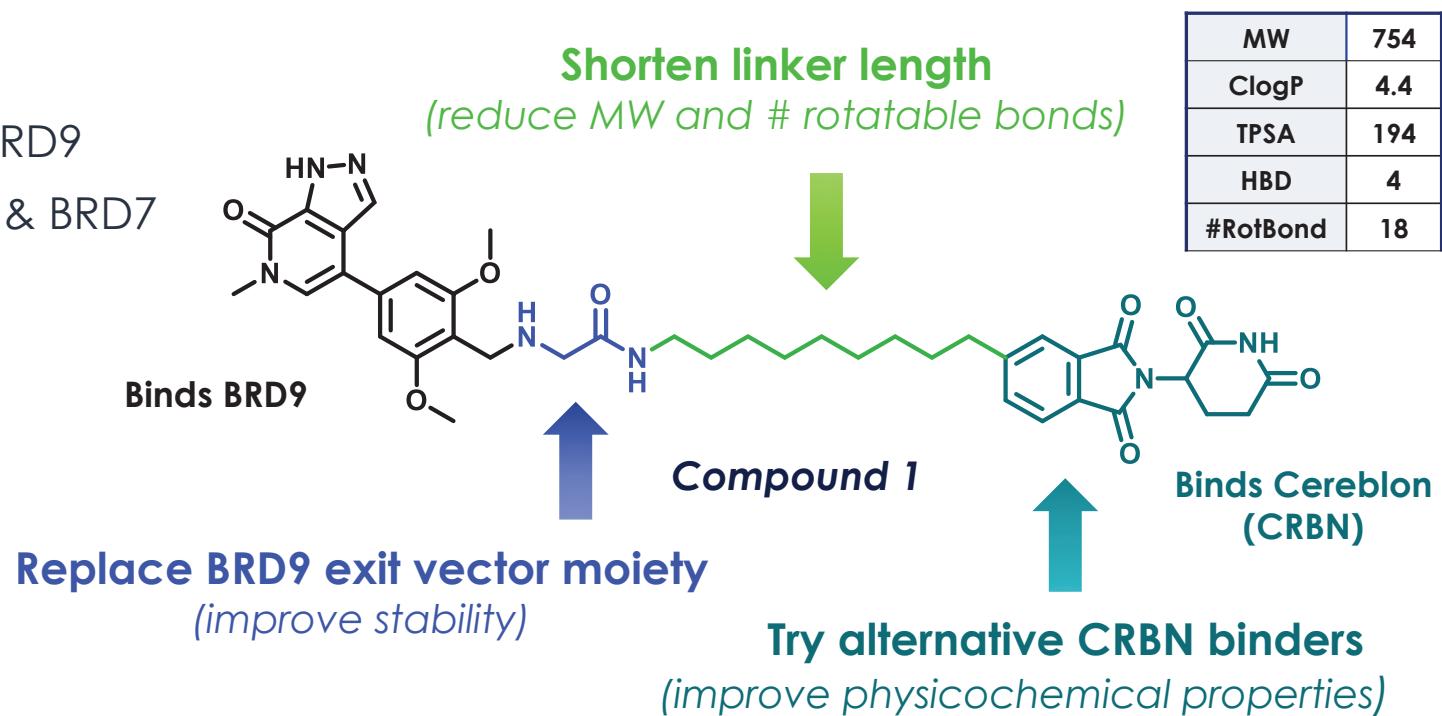


BRD9-HiBiT DC ₅₀ (2h)	E _{max} (2h)
5 nM	4 %

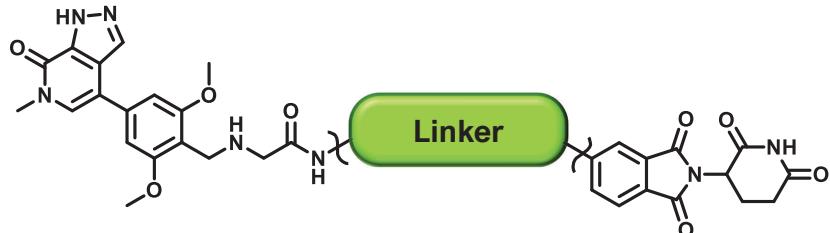
BRD9 BiDAC Degrader HIT: Design Objectives

GOAL: Identify a drug-like compound with a mouse PK profile suitable to demonstrate proof-of-concept efficacy in a mouse xenograft model

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Linker Length and Composition

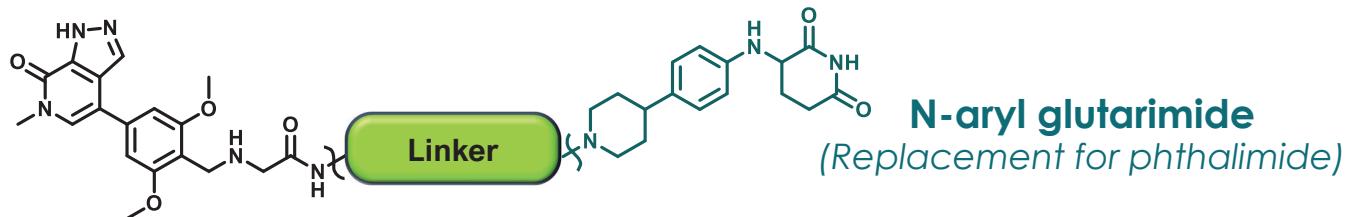


Compound	Linker	BRD9 DC₅₀ 2h (nM)	E_{max} 2h (%)
1 (HIT)		5	4
2		91	3
3		3	3
4		67	4
5		242	23
6		>9990	67

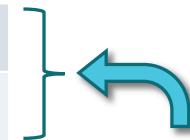
- Alkyl >> PEG
- Reduction of linker length tolerated with some loss of potency

Will shorter linker lengths be tolerated with non-phthalimide CRBN binders?

Shorter Linker Length Tolerated with Alternate CRBN Binder



Compound	Linker	BRD9 DC ₅₀ 2h, (nM)	E _{max} 2h (%)	Mouse IV CL [mL/min/kg]
7		160	23	107
8		>9990	67	--
9		>9990	67	--
10		>9990	62	--
11		135	5	--
12		>9990	58	--
13		249	4	--
14		187	9	93
15	none (piperidine amide)	>9990	55	25

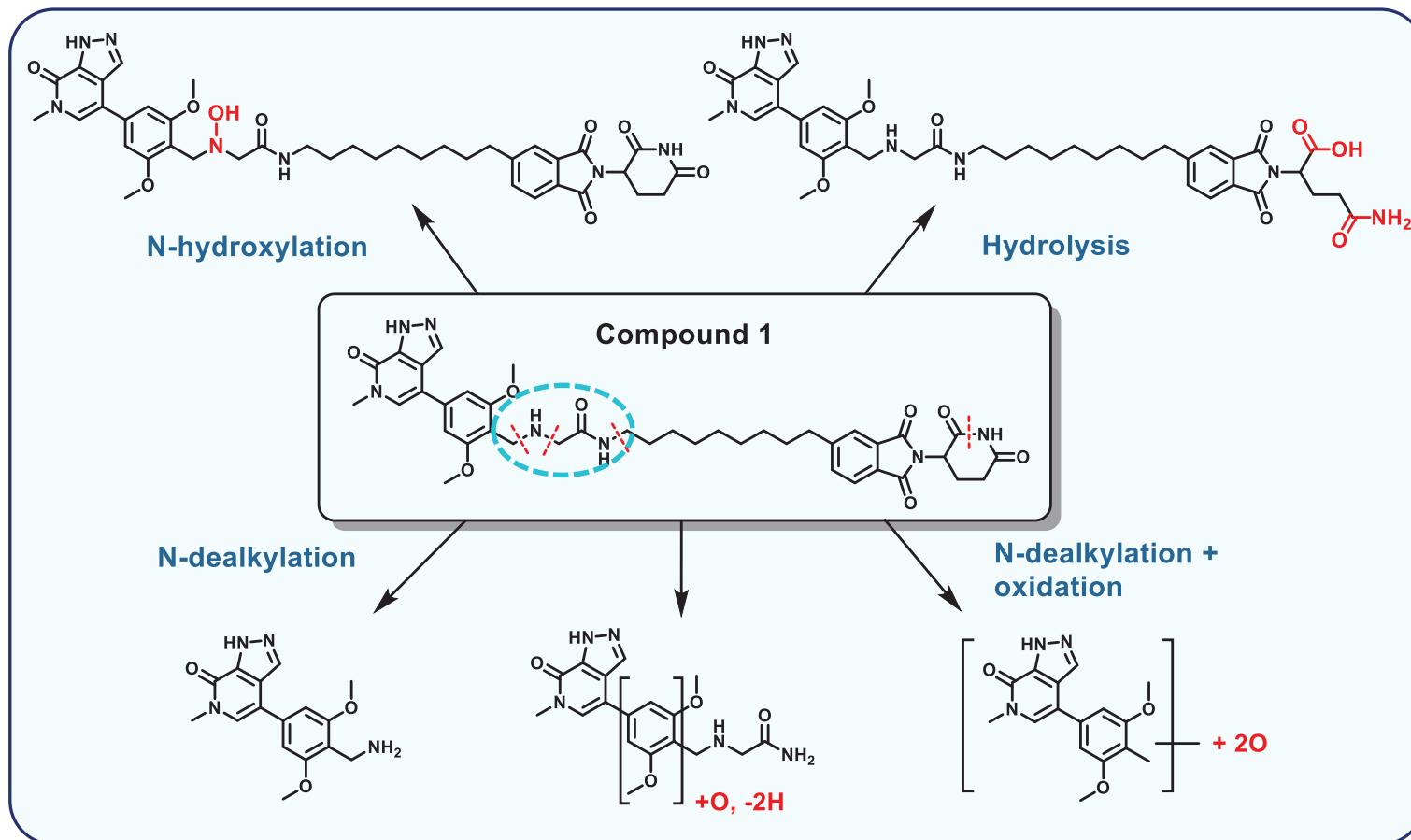


- Easy to miss degradation signal if not exploring systematically



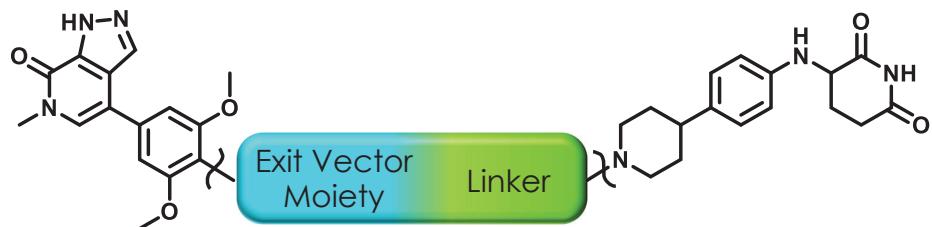
- Desirable reduction in MW
- Key analogs for next round of optimization

How to Improve PK? Metabolite-ID for the Original HIT



- Met-ID studies suggest glycyl in exit vector region is a source of metabolic instability
- **Next SAR step →** Identify alternative structural feature to replace glycine

Glycyl Replacement Can Offer Potency & Metabolic Stability Improvement



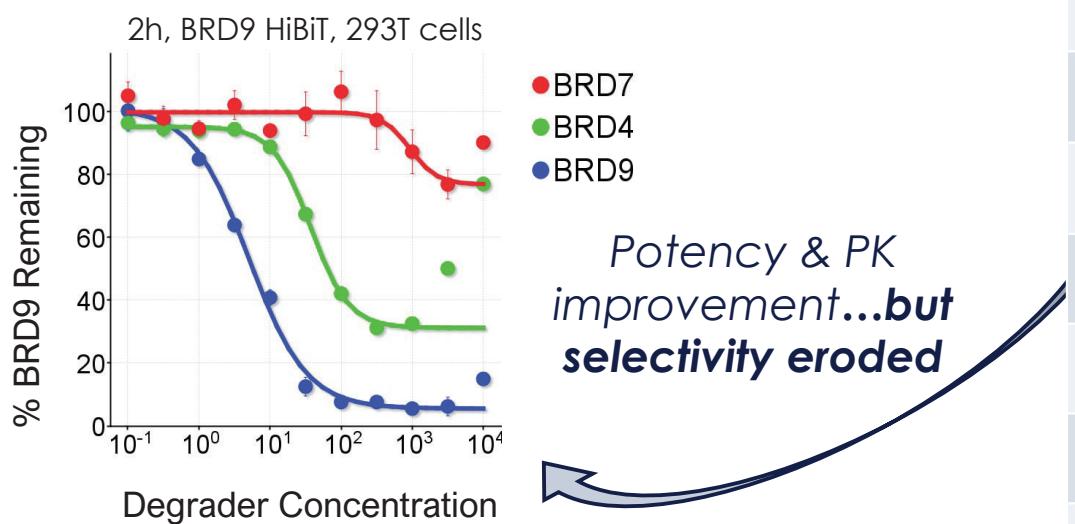
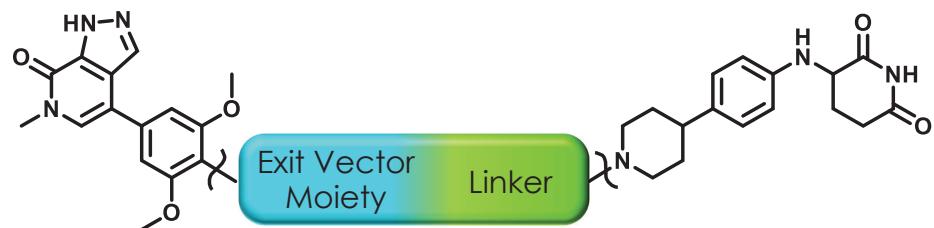
Goals:

- Improve potency
- Improve metabolic stability

Cmpd	Linker	BRD9 DC ₅₀ 2h, (nM)	E _{max} 2h (%)	Mouse IV CL [mL/min/kg]
14		187	9	93
15		88	3	102
16		305	24	88
17		224	11	56
18		25	10	68
19		98	18	79
20		7	4	157
21		5	4	36
22		35	8	103
23		43	8	86
24		63	19	31



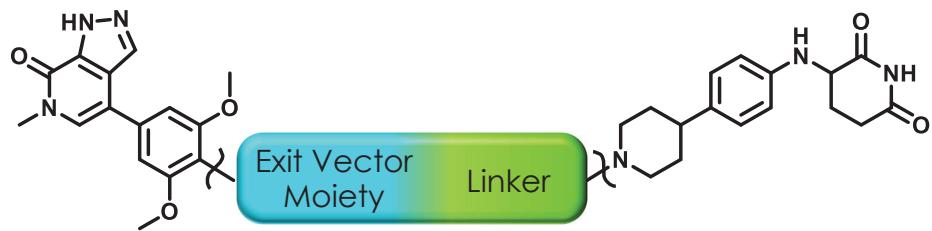
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Single Atom Change is Beneficial for Bromodomain Selectivity

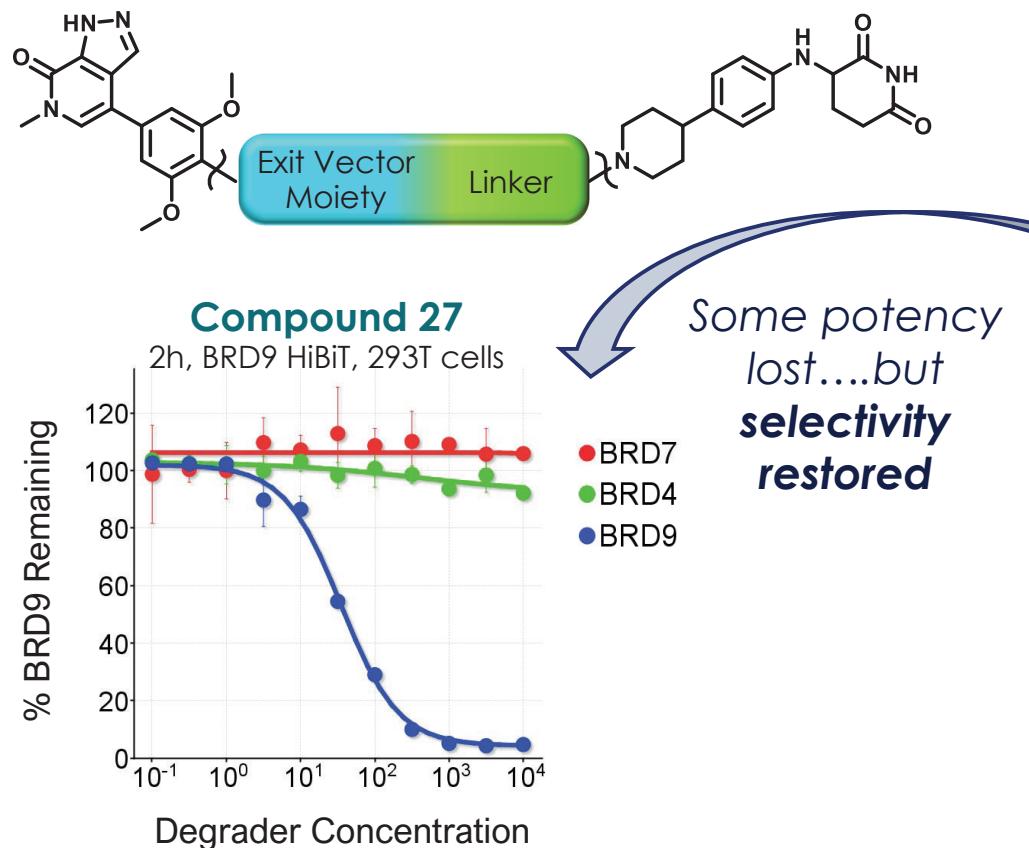


Hypothesis:

- Small modification in exit vector region could influence exit trajectory & ternary complex structure, thereby influencing selectivity over BRD4 and BRD7

Cmpd	Linker	BRD9 DC ₅₀ 2h, (nM)	E _{max} 2h (%)	Mouse IV CL [mL/min/kg]
21		5	4	36
25		15	8	154
26		158	36	10
27		39	5	31
28		>5000	45	42
29		55	7	55
30		7	4	157
31		286	24	42
32		>1000	58	--
33		6	15	786

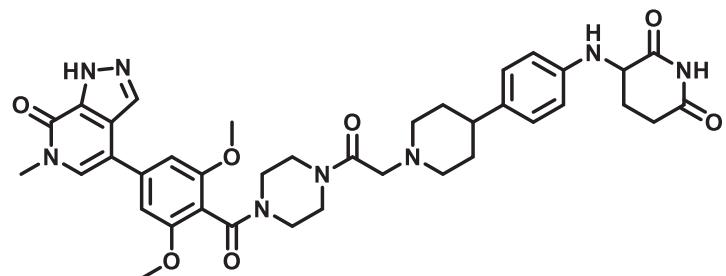
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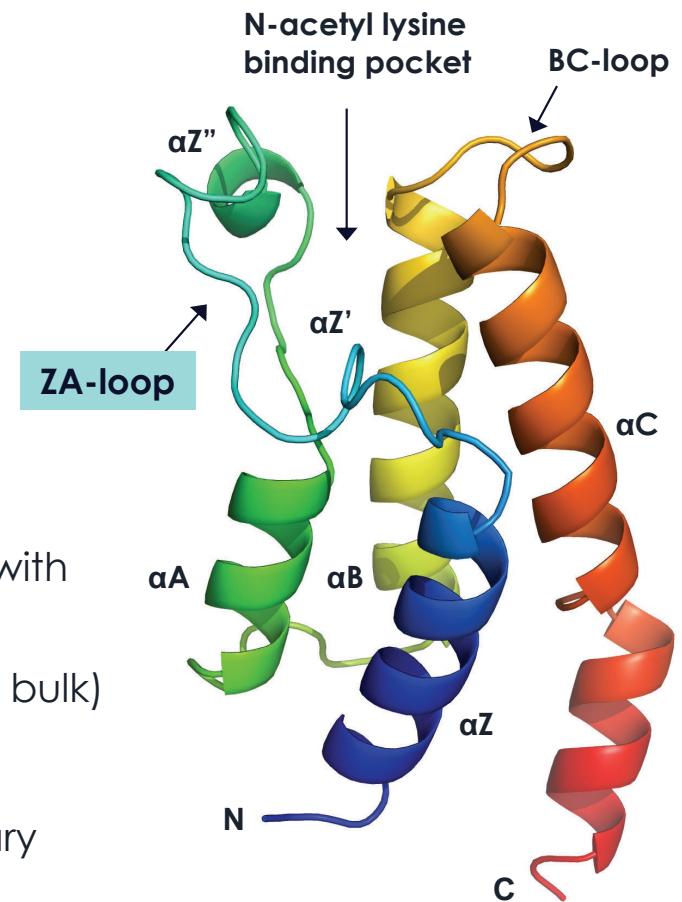
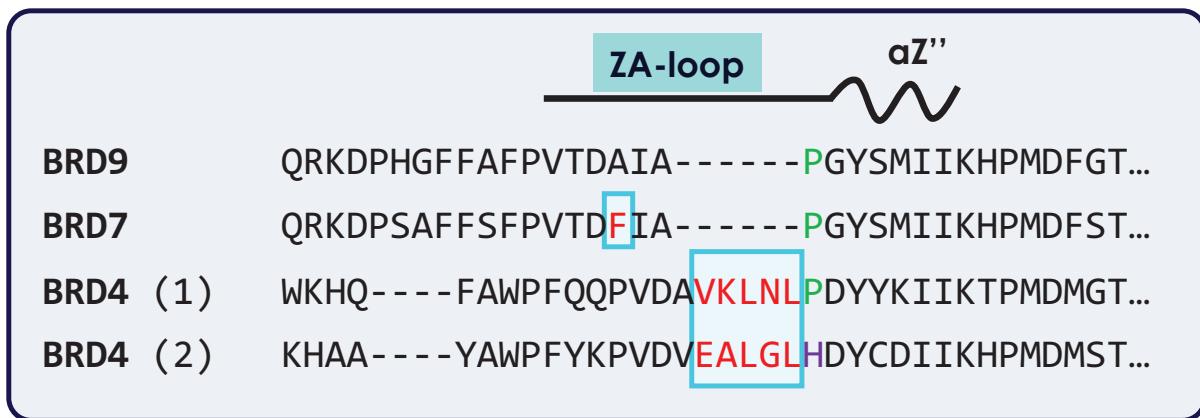


Compound 27: Reasonable balance of potency, mouse IV PK, and selectivity

Mouse IV PK (2 mg/kg)			Mouse PO PK (10 mg/kg)
CL (mL/min/kg)	T _{1/2} (h)	V _{d,ss} (ng*h/mL)	%F
31	7	4.8	0.1

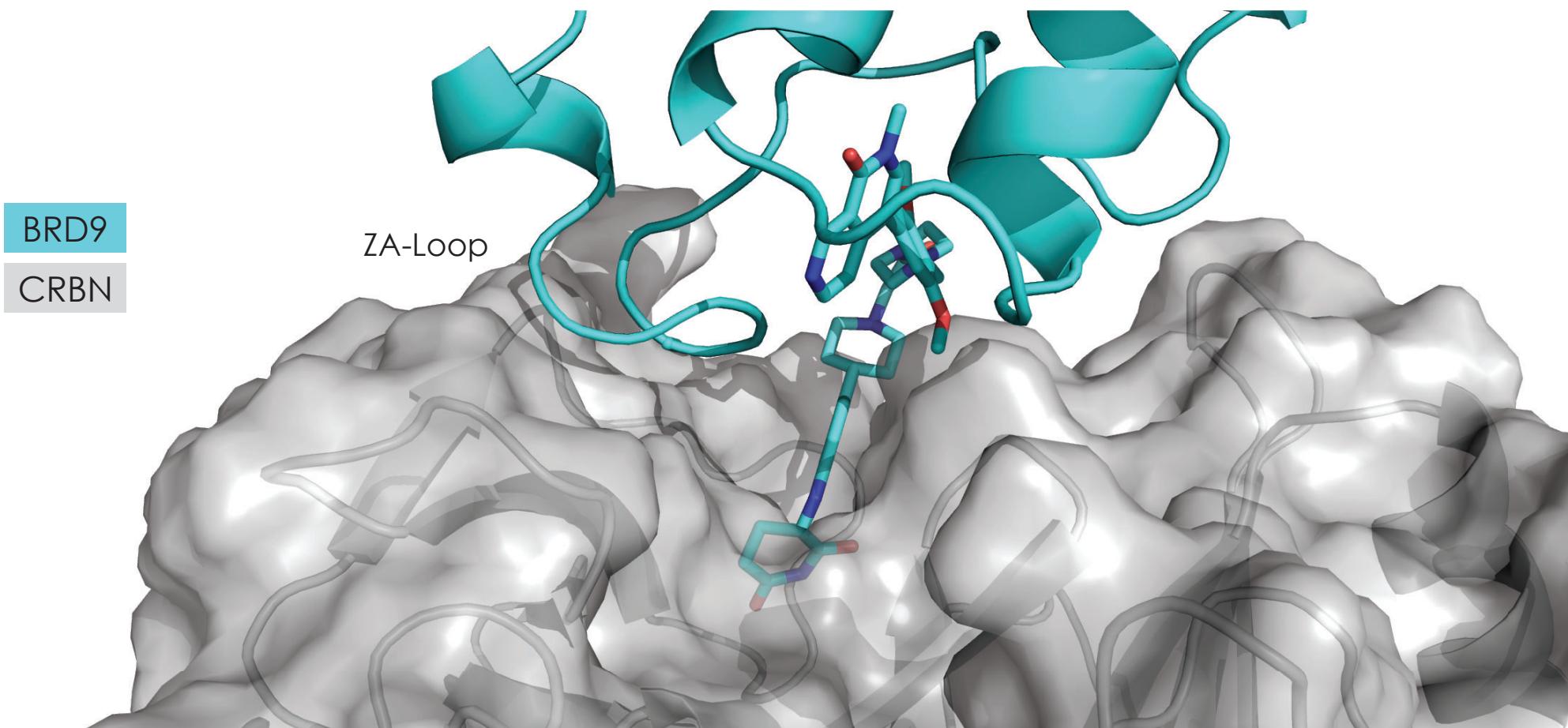
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31		286	24	42
32		>1000	58	--
33		6	15	786

Selectivity Considerations: BRD Sequence Alignments Diverge at ZA-loop

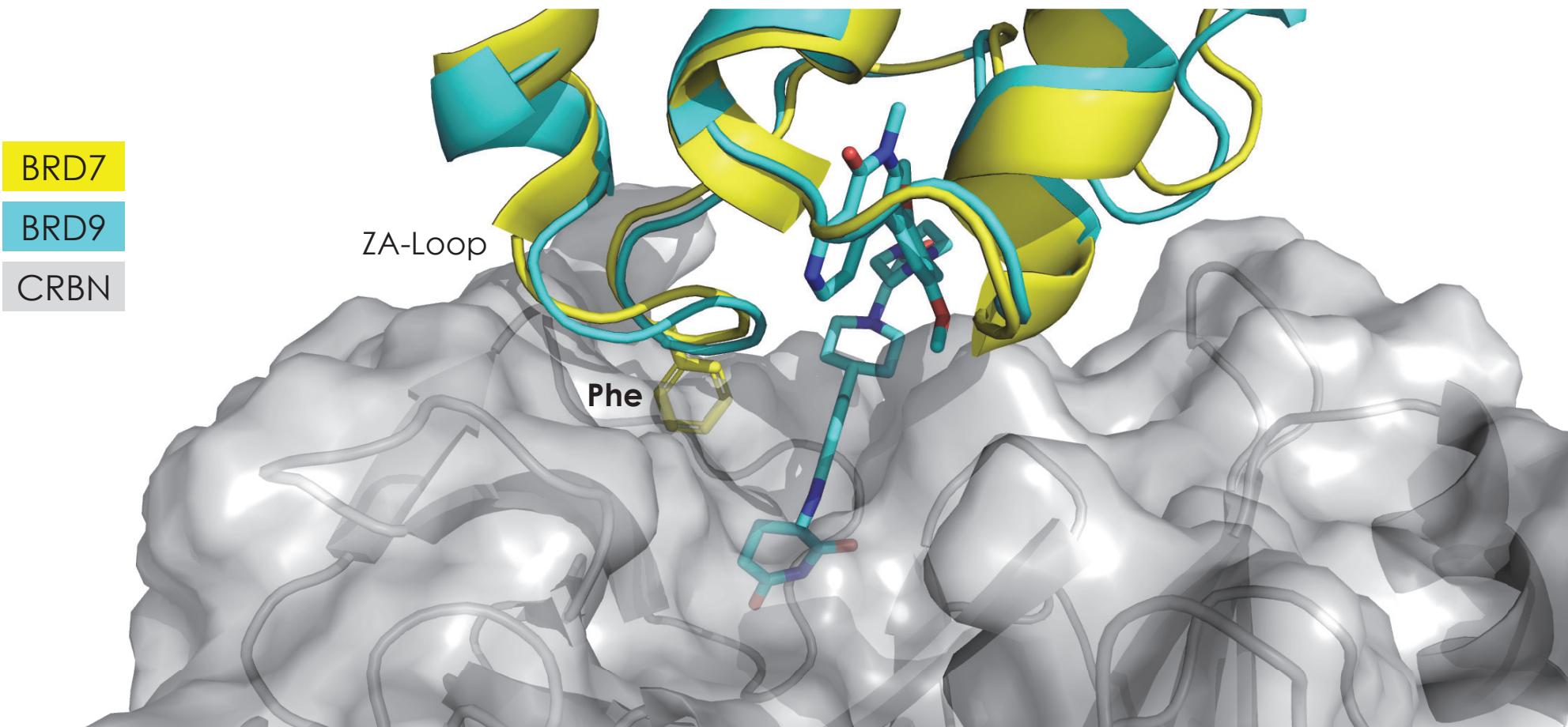


- Bromodomain sequences deviate within the ZA-loop near $\alpha Z''$
 - Modeling and HDX data suggest this region might interact with CRBN in the ternary complex
- In **BRD7**, there is Phe just before ZA-loop rather than Ala (added bulk)
- In **BRD4**, there is ≥ 4 residue insertion in ZA-loop relative to BRD9
- Selectivity partially attributed to involvement of ZA-loop in ternary complex

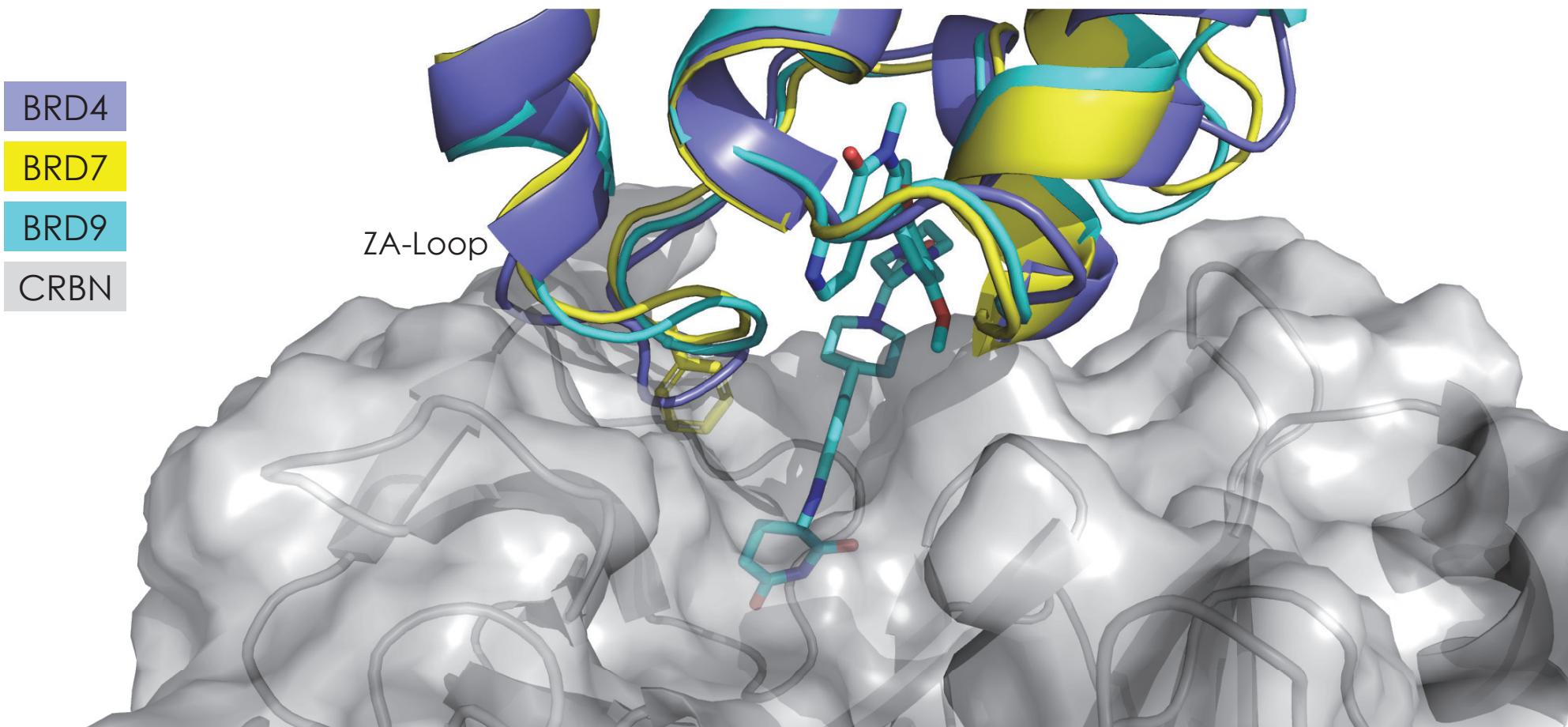
Compound 21 Ternary Complex Model



Compound 21 Ternary Complex Model

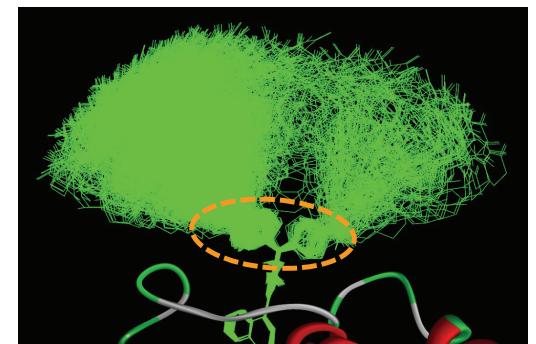
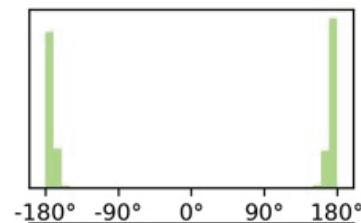
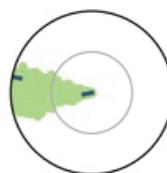
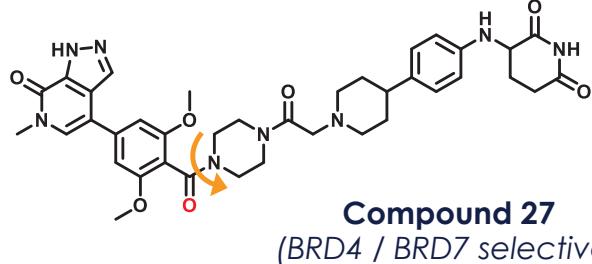
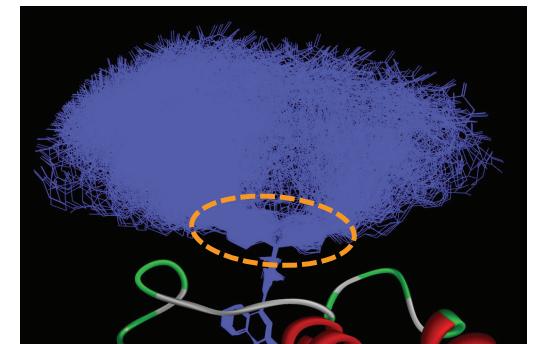
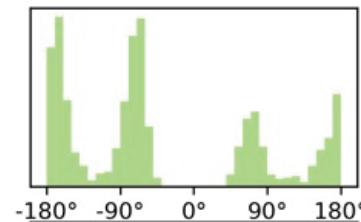
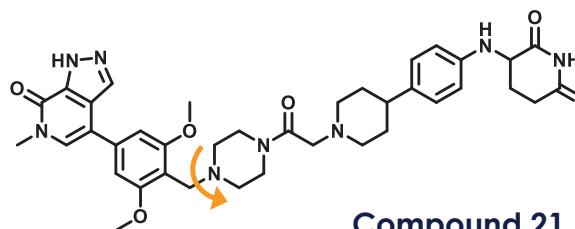


Compound 21 Ternary Complex Model



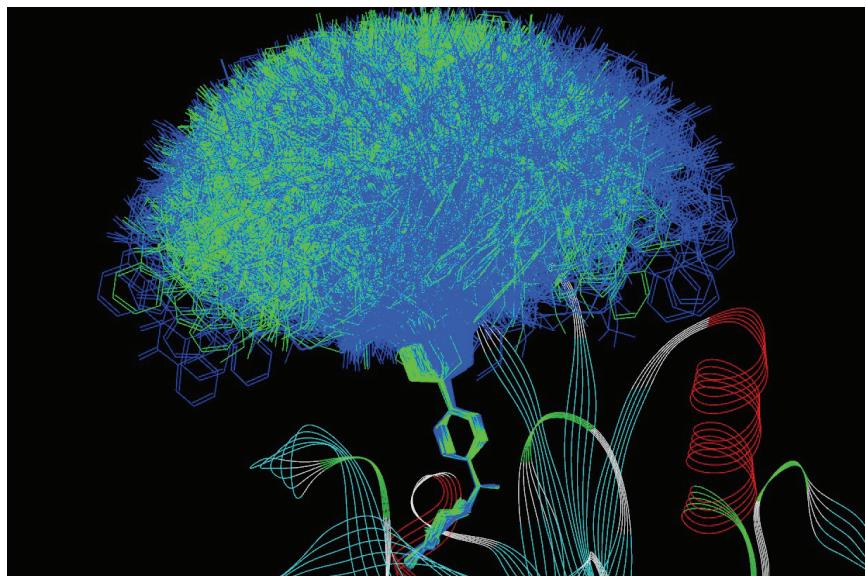
Comparing Ternary Complex Models for Compound 21 and 27

- ~1.5k TCMs generated for Compounds 21 & 27, **superimposed using BRD9** (CRBN removed)
- **Compound 21:** TCMs cover broad conformational space due to flexible C-N bond in exit vector
- **Compound 27:** TCMs occupy two major clusters due to more narrowly-defined amide conformation

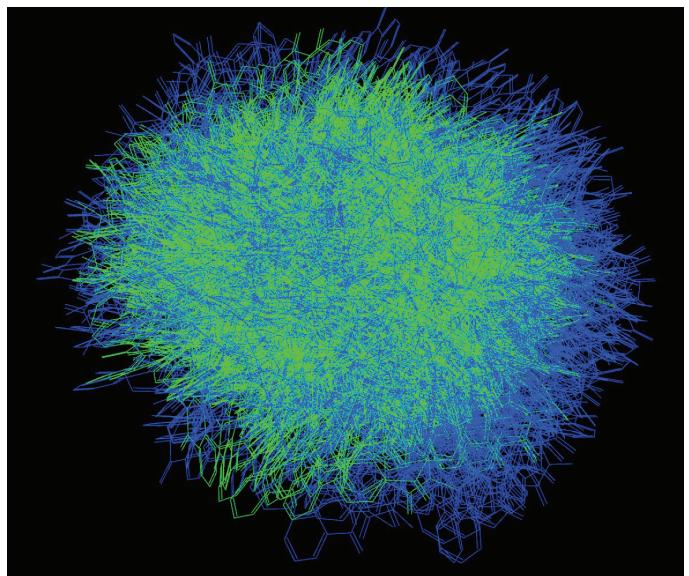


Comparing Ternary Complex Models for Compound 21 and 27

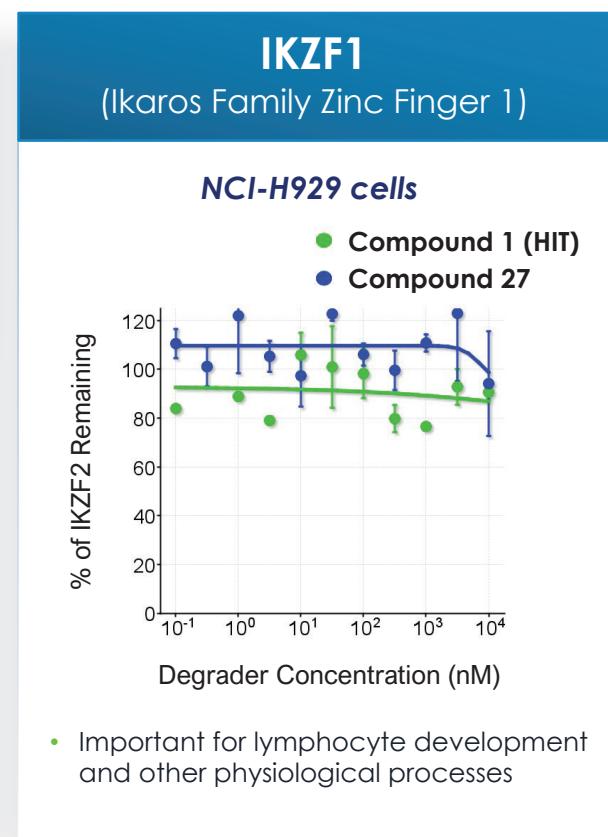
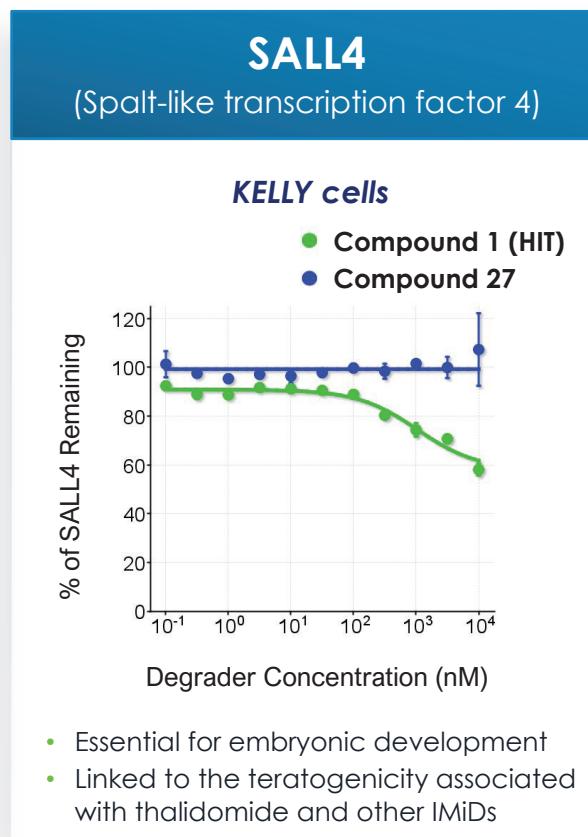
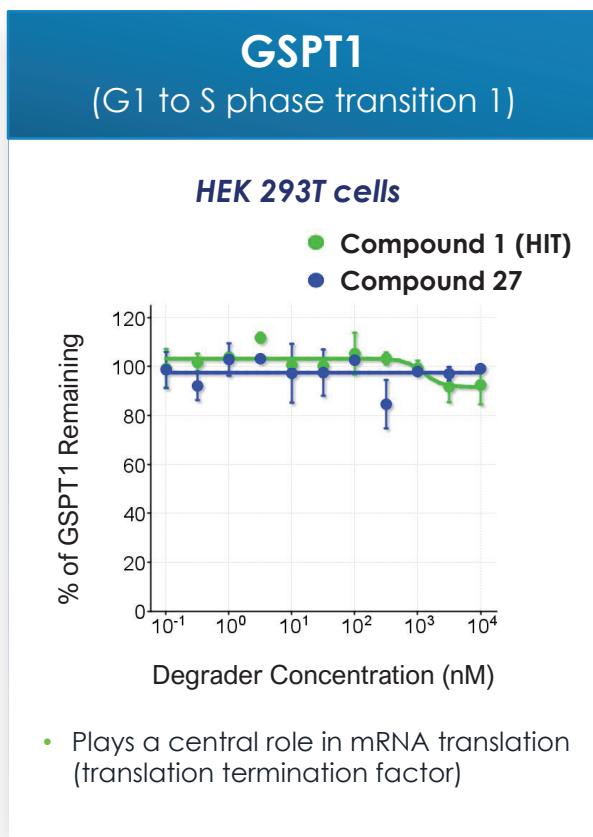
- ~1.5k TCMs generated for Compounds 21 & 27 **superimposed using CRBN** (BRD9 removed)
- **Compound 21:** Broader conformational space, larger radius sampled → less selective
- **Compound 27 :** Smaller radius sampled → more selective



90°
→



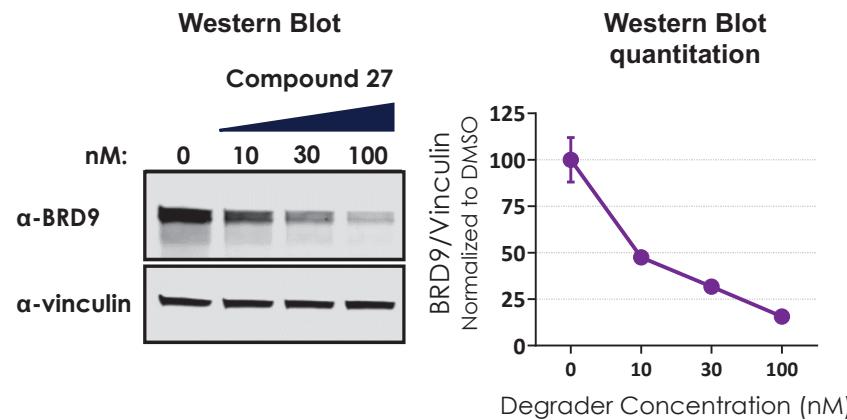
Selectivity: Compound 27 Does Not Degrade Neomorphic Off-targets



Compound 27 Degrades Endogenous BRD9, Inhibits Synovial Sarcoma Cell Growth

Endogenous BRD9 Degradation

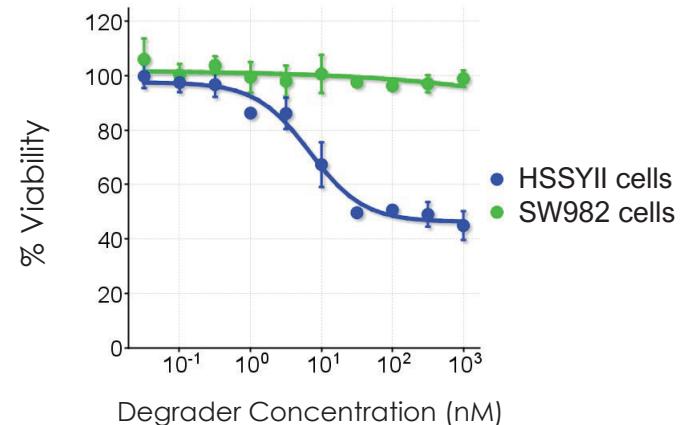
Yamato-SS Synovial Sarcoma cells (2 hours)



- Compound 27 degrades endogenous BRD9 in the Yamato-SS synovial sarcoma cell line

Viability Effects

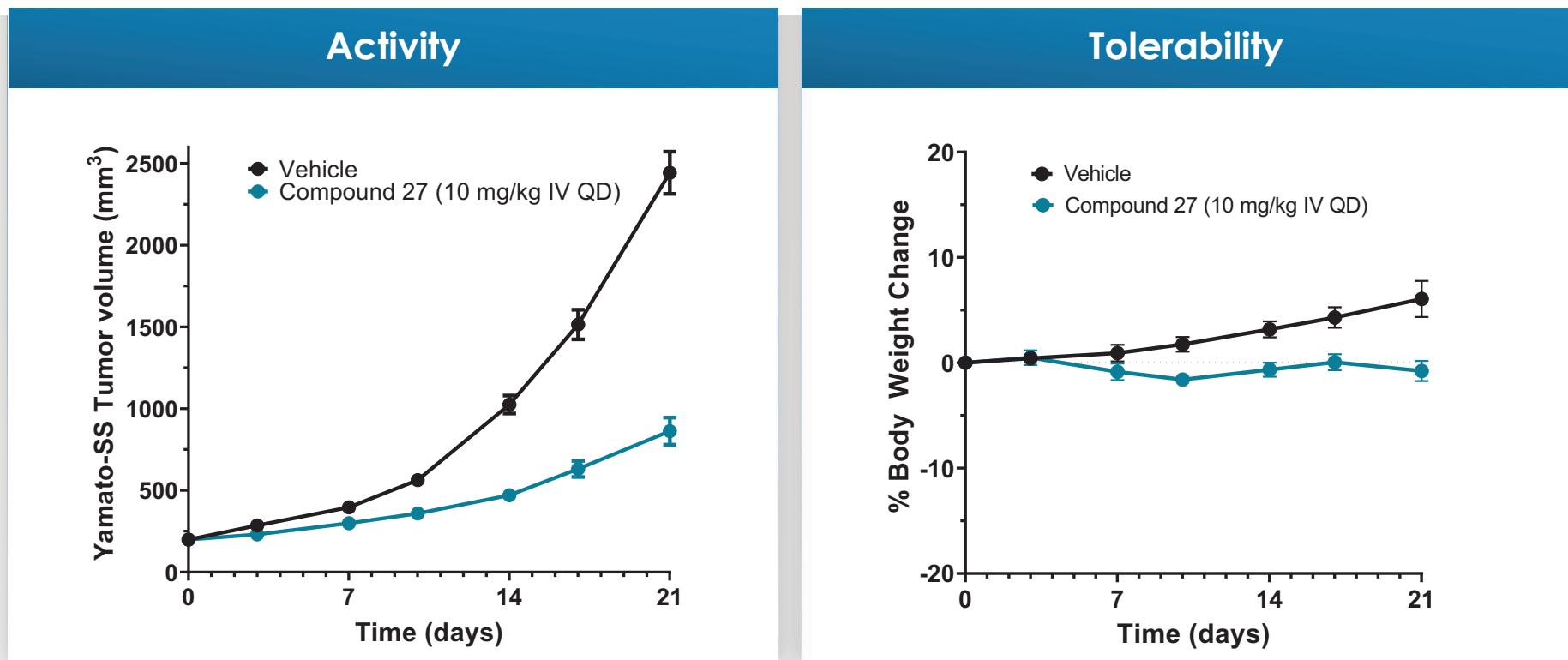
HSSYII Synovial Sarcoma cells (144 hours)



- Compound 27 results in growth inhibition of BAF-perturbed HSSYII synovial sarcoma cells but not BAF-wild type SW982 soft tissue sarcoma cells

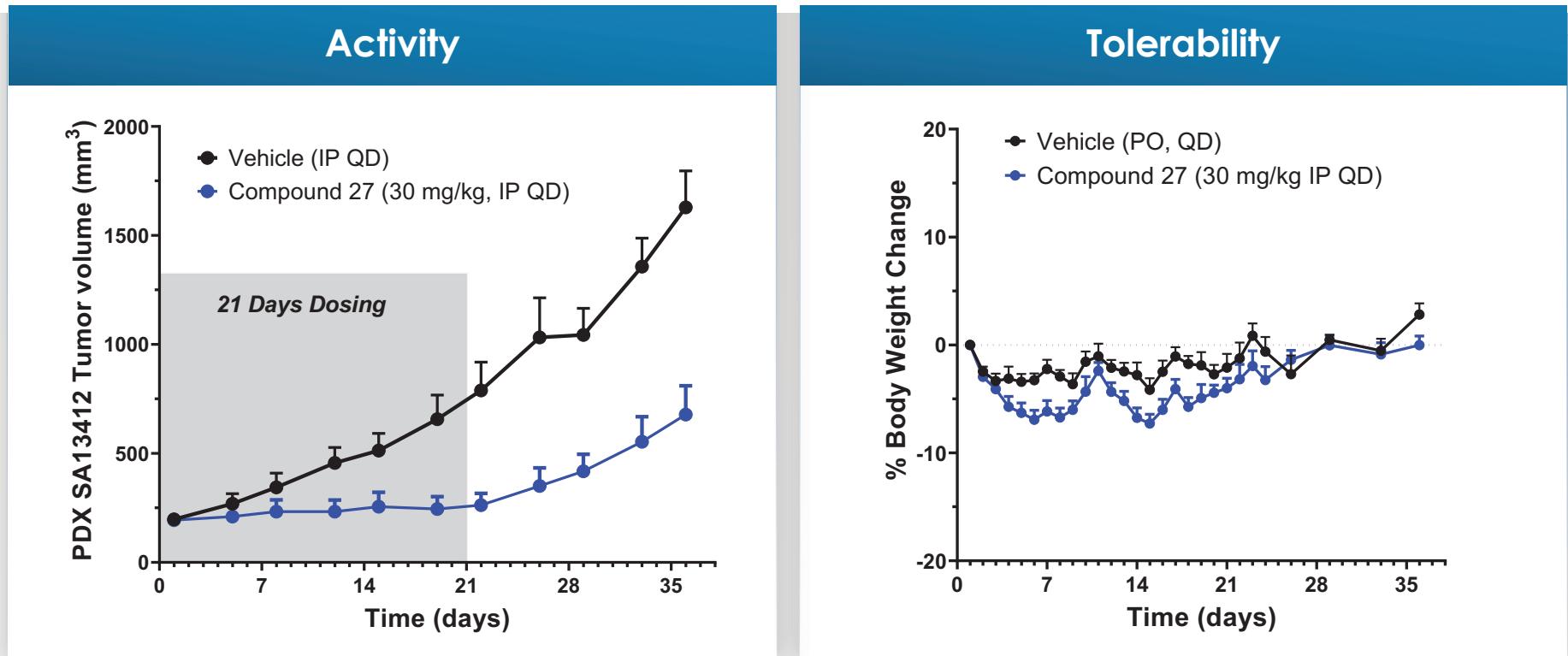
Compound 27 Inhibits Growth of Synovial Sarcoma Xenograft Model

Synovial Sarcoma CDX (Yamato-SS)



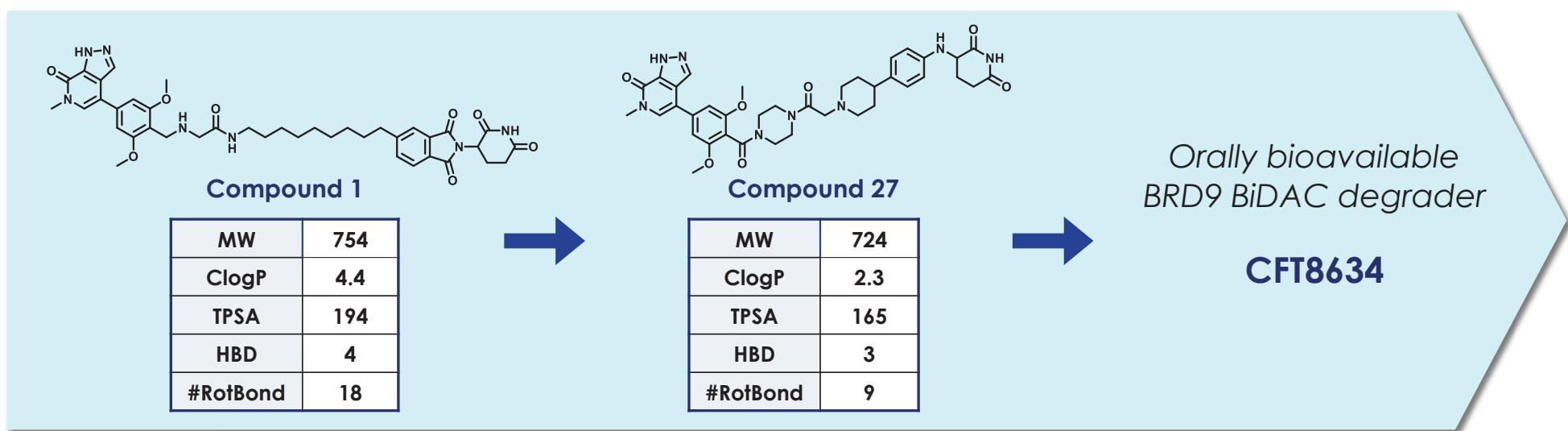
Compound 27 is Efficacious in a PDX Model of Synovial Sarcoma

Synovial Sarcoma PDX (SA13412)



Conclusions

- Compound 27 is a potent and selective BiDAC degrader of BRD9 with improved drug-like properties relative to the HIT Compound 1
- Compound 27 demonstrated efficacy in both cell-derived and patient-derived models of synovial sarcoma (IV or IP dosing)
- Compound 27 was used as a launching point for further optimization, eventually leading to the discovery of the orally-bioavailable BRD9 BiDAC degrader, CFT8634



Thank You