



# MedChemica

CREATING A STEP CHANGE IN MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY

## Using Matched Molecular Pairs for CoreDesign®

Jess Stacey

jessica.stacey@medchemica.com

**Twitter @MedChemica**

**Twitter @covid\_moonshot**

[www.medchemica.com](http://www.medchemica.com)

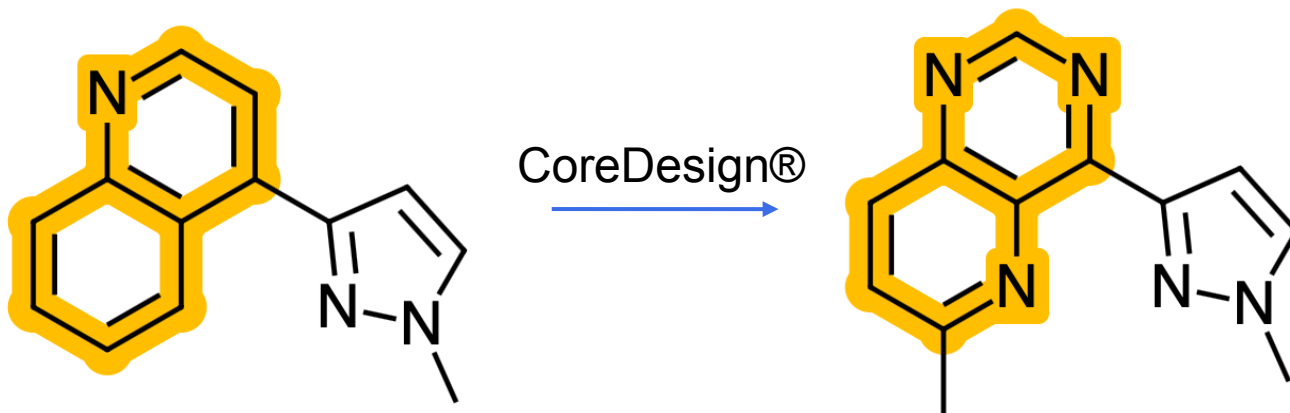
October 2022

## Agenda

- What are we trying to do?
- Introduce MMPs
- CoreDesign®
- Examples

# What are we trying to do?

Idea generation for new core structures



CoreDesign Uses:

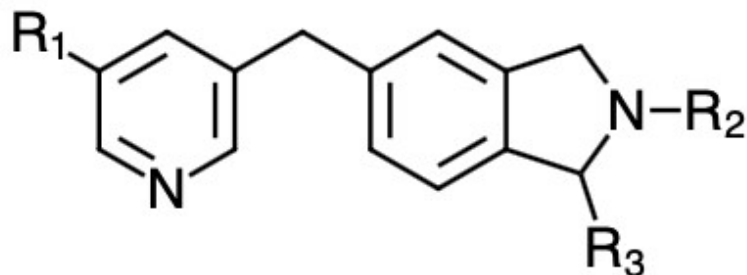
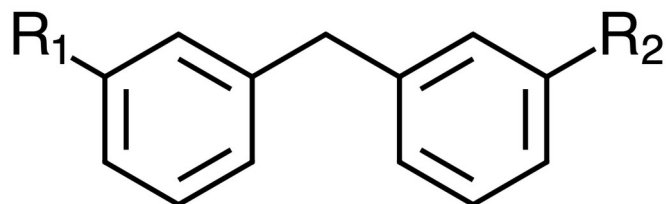
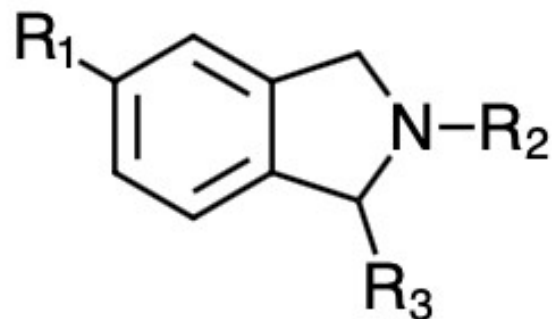
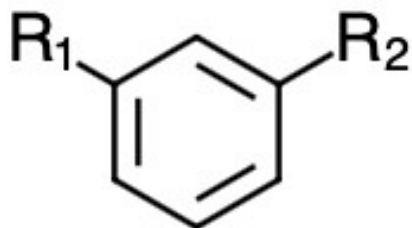
- Idea generator
- Scaffold hopping

Key Features:

- More **flexible** than RuleDesign as transformations do not have to be rules (i.e. can have one example)
- **Bibliography** of references provided to showcase the transformation (where available)

## What is a core?

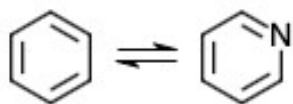
- A core of a molecule can be either a ring or ring system(s) that are connected via linker(s). Cores are therefore built of rings and linkers.



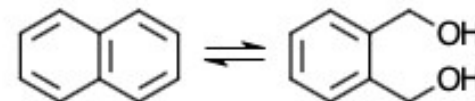
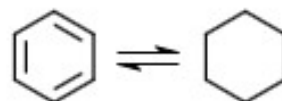
# What are we trying to do?

- Different Core Alterations
  - Or a combination of these

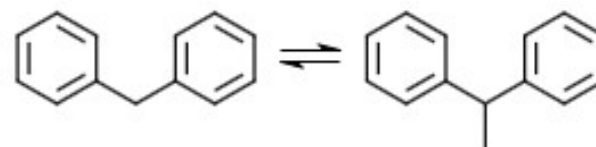
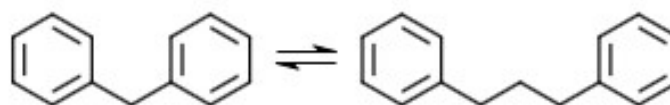
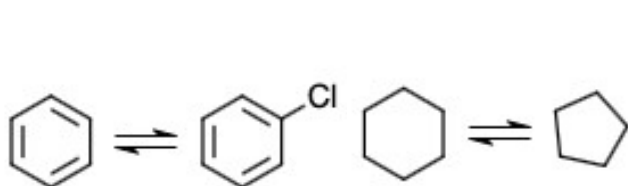
Changing an Atom(s)



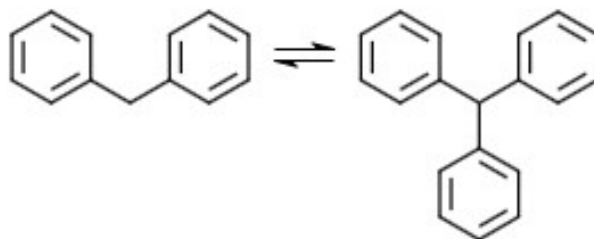
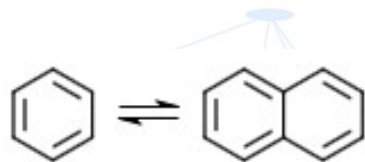
Changing or breaking a bond including changing the aromaticity of a ring



Adding or Removing an Atom(s) either to a ring or linker



Adding or Removing a Ring either to a ring or linker

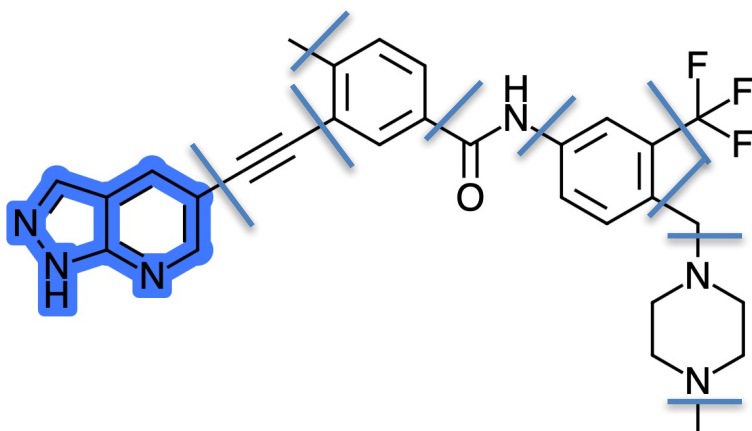




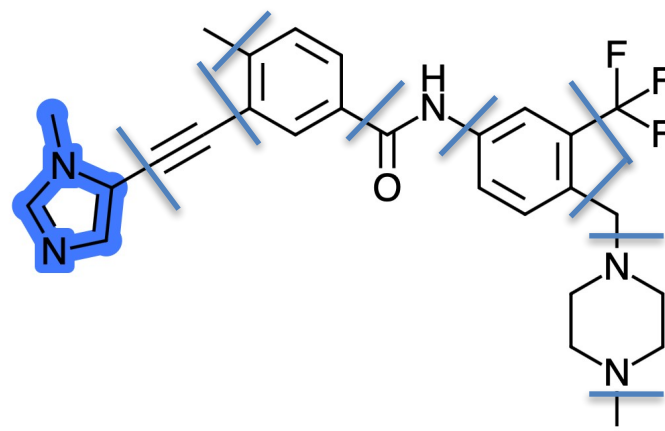
# Matched Molecular Pairs

# Matched Molecular Pairs

- Molecules that differ only by a well-defined structural chemical change are said to have a matched molecular pair
- Two methods of finding MMP
  - Fragment and Index Method



A - CHEMBL2316582



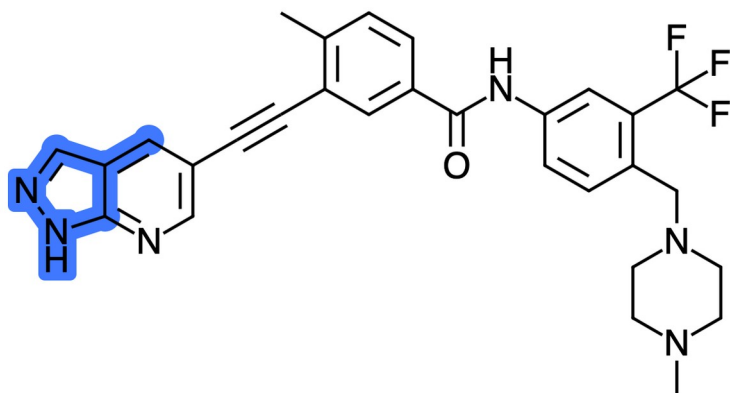
B - CHEMBL1784632

- Break all single rotatable bonds and groups on common 'core' parts
- Single, Double and Triple cuts combinations are made as standard
- Leads to many fragments from a single molecule
- ...and the same pair paired by many combinations of core / frag

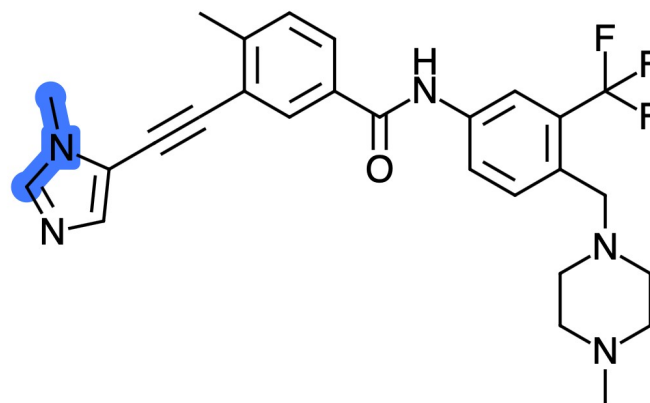


# Matched Molecular Pairs

- Molecules that differ only by a well-defined structural chemical change are said to have a matched molecular pair
- Two methods of finding MMP
  - Fragment and Index Method
  - Maximum Common Substructure Method



A - CHEMBL2316582

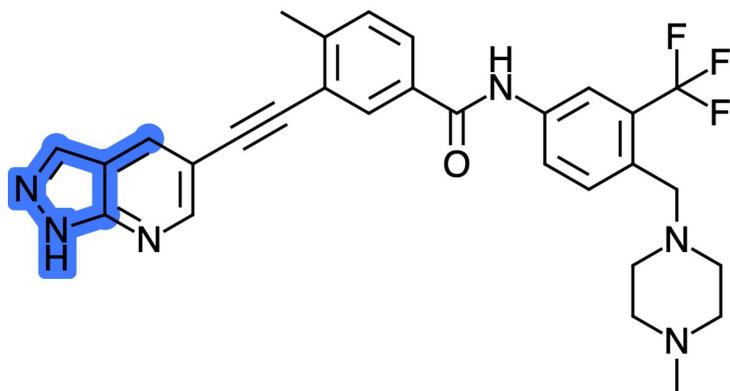


B - CHEMBL1784632

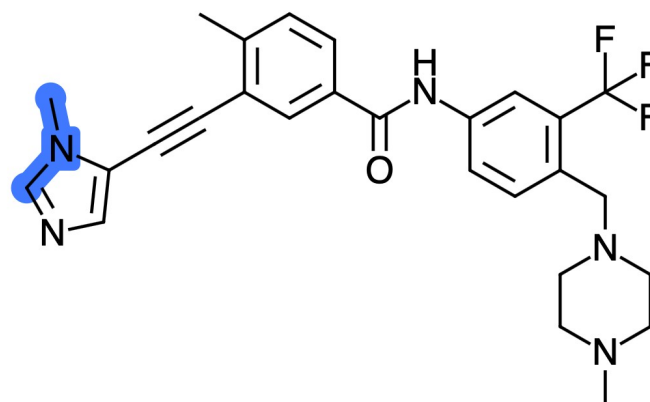
- Structures matched by overlapping of the matching heavy atom
- Semantically the same matched pair as F/I but syntactically different in that 'points of modification' **are not** the same
- Encoding of the resultant transformation can be different



# Matched Molecular Pairs As SMIRKS



A - CHEMBL2316582



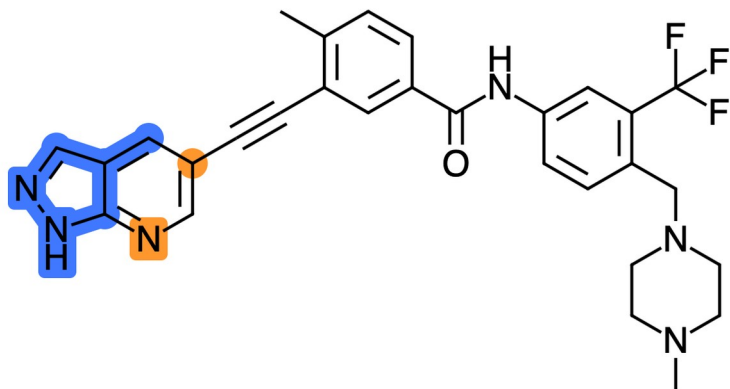
B - CHEMBL1784632

- MMP encoded as SMIRKS
  - [c][c]1[c][n][n][c]1 >> [c][n][C]
  - Along with delta values of properties

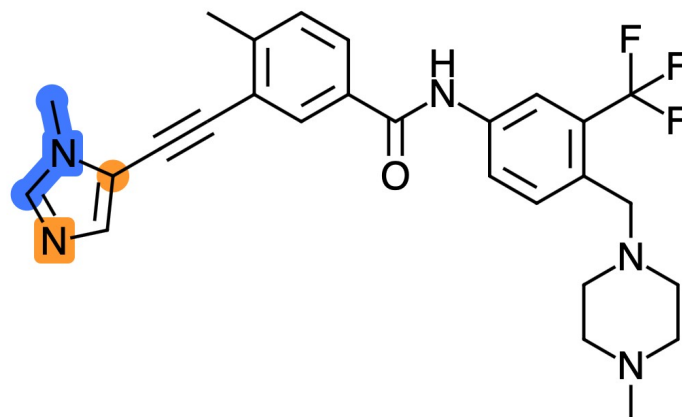


`smirk.RunReactants((mol,))`

- Capture the environment around a transformation – up to 4 atoms



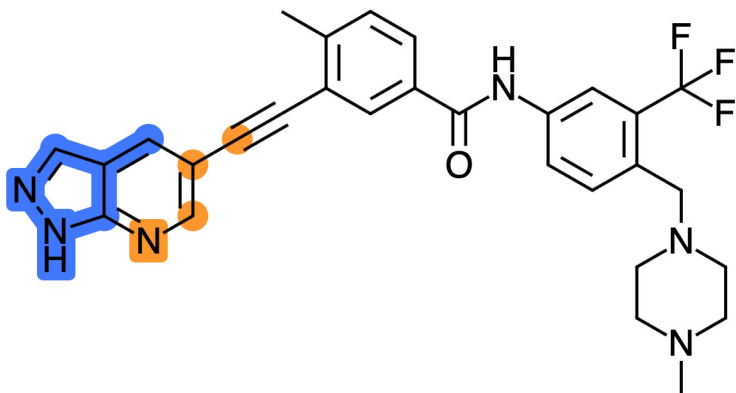
A - CHEMBL2316582



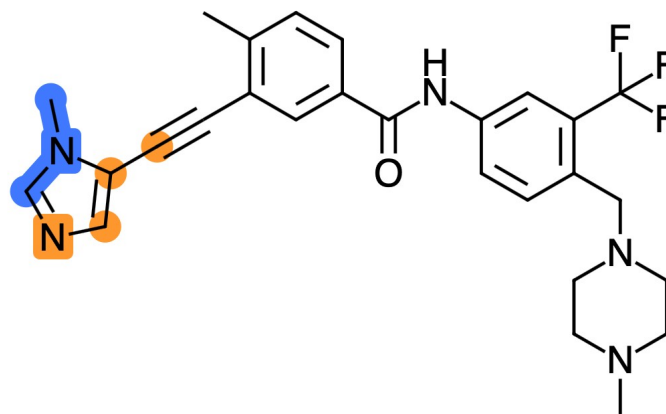
B - CHEMBL1784632

- Environment size 1: [c][c][c]1[c][n][n][c]1[n] >> [c][n]([c][n])[C]

- Capture the environment around a transformation – up to 4 atoms



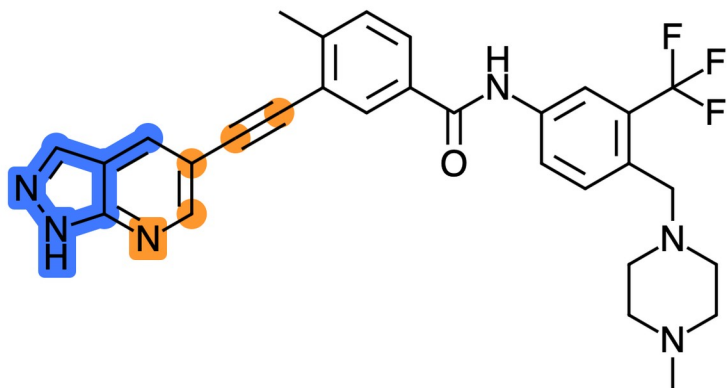
A - CHEMBL2316582



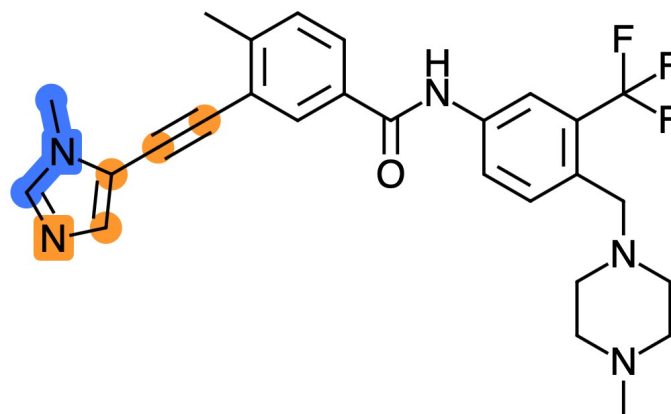
B - CHEMBL1784632

- Environment size 1: [c][c][c]1[c][n][n][c]1[n] >> [c][n]([c][n])[C]
- Environment size 2: [C][c]1[c][c]2[c][n][n][c]2[n][c]1 >> [C][c]1[c][n][c][n]1[C]

- Capture the environment around a transformation – up to 4 atoms



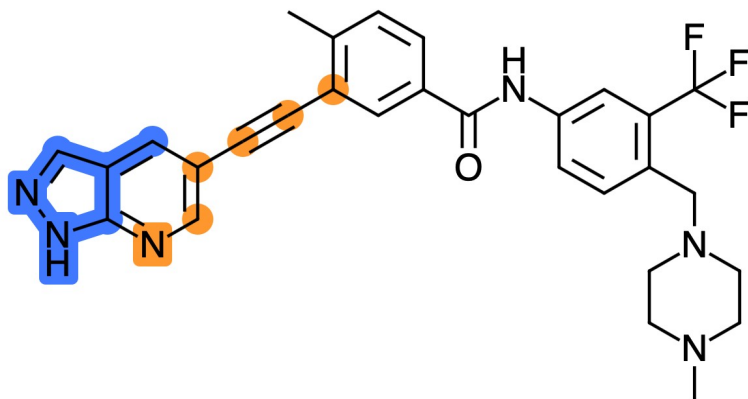
A - CHEMBL2316582



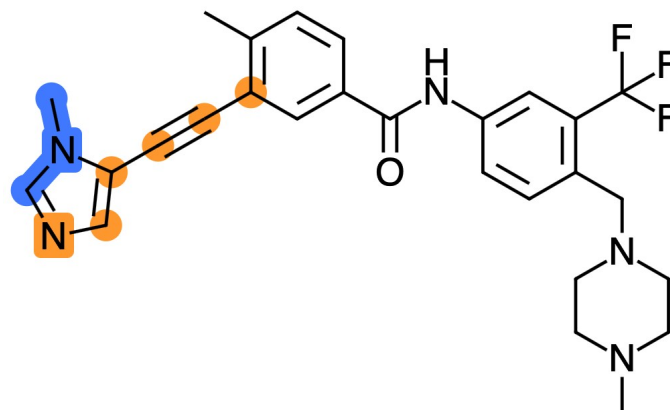
B - CHEMBL1784632

- Environment size 1: [c][c][c]1[c][n][n][c]1[n] >> [c][n]([c][n])[C]
- Environment size 2: [C][c]1[c][c]2[c][n][n][c]2[n][c]1 >> [C][c]1[c][n][c][n]1[C]
- Environment size 3: [C]#[C][c]1[c][c]2[c][n][n][c]2[n][c]1 >> [C]#[C][c]1[c][n][c][n]1[C]

- Capture the environment around a transformation – up to 4 atoms



A - CHEMBL2316582



B - CHEMBL1784632

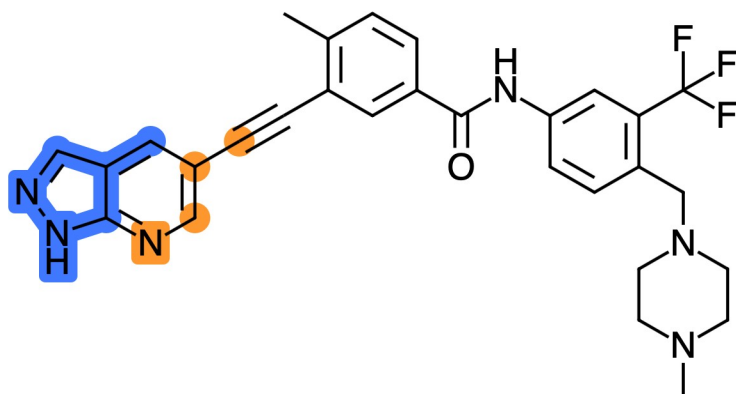
- Environment size 1: [c][c][c]1[c][n][n][c]1[n] >> [c][n]([c][n])[C]
- Environment size 2: [C][c]1[c][c]2[c][n][n][c]2[n][c]1 >> [C][c]1[c][n][c][n]1[C]
- Environment size 3: [C]#[C][c]1[c][c]2[c][n][n][c]2[n][c]1 >> [C]#[C][c]1[c][n][c][n]1[C]
- Environment size 4: [c][C]#[C][c]1[c][c]2[c][n][n][c]2[n][c]1 >> [c][C]#[C][c]1[c][n][c][n]1[C]

- A rule requires 6 or more MMPs with 95% confidence <sup>1</sup>
- RuleDesign® applies rules to improve a property of interest to provide new molecule suggestions
- RuleDesign gives ideas and a new direction **based upon rules**
- CoreDesign gives new ideas based upon any previously seen examples – with references

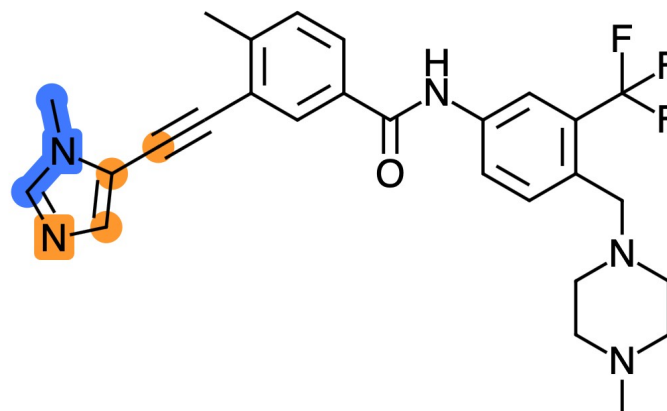
1. Leach et al. *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **2017**, **57**, 2424 - 2436

# CoreDesign® Key Differences

- Apply any MMPs that are within the database with environment size 1 or 2
- Property value is not of interest



A - CHEMBL2316582



B - CHEMBL1784632

$\Delta -2$

- MMP env size 1
- MMP env size 2
- ~~MMP env size 3~~
- ~~MMP env size 4~~

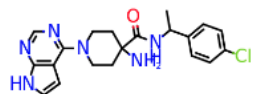


- Cores are built up of rings and linkers (or a combination)
- These are known as our **rinker** transformations
- A rinker transformation can be associated to a bibliography as long as the transformation has previously been seen within the same journal article
- Therefore, we can create a biology along with our CoreDesign suggestions

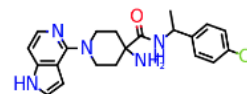
\* Rinker != Riniker \*



## Results viewer



CHEMBL2325997



1c566a39-3936-4691-a20b-4235c6413910\_4

### > Properties

### ∨ References

Compound A	Compound B	Journal	Title	DOI
CHEMBL4468832	CHEMBL4526935	J. Med. Chem.	Synthesis and Antichlamydial Activity of Molecules Based on Dysregulators of Cylindrical Proteases.	10.1021/acs.jmedchem.0c00371 <a href="#">↗</a>
CHEMBL4649394	CHEMBL4632548	J. Med. Chem.	Treating Cancer by Spindle Assembly Checkpoint Abrogation: Discovery of Two Clinical Candidates, BAY 1161909 and BAY 1217389, Targeting MPS1 Kinase.	10.1021/acs.jmedchem.9b02035 <a href="#">↗</a>
			2-Aminomethylene-5-	

\* Rinker != Riniker \*

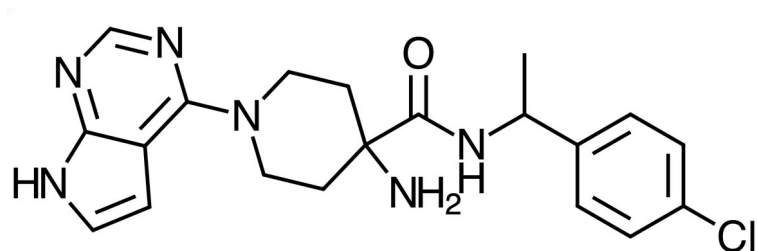




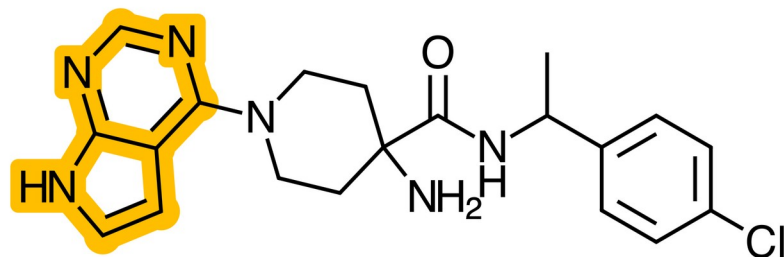
# CoreDesign®

How it works...

# Performing CoreDesign Transformation

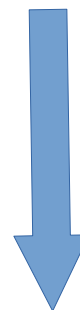


Input Molecule



With a defined core

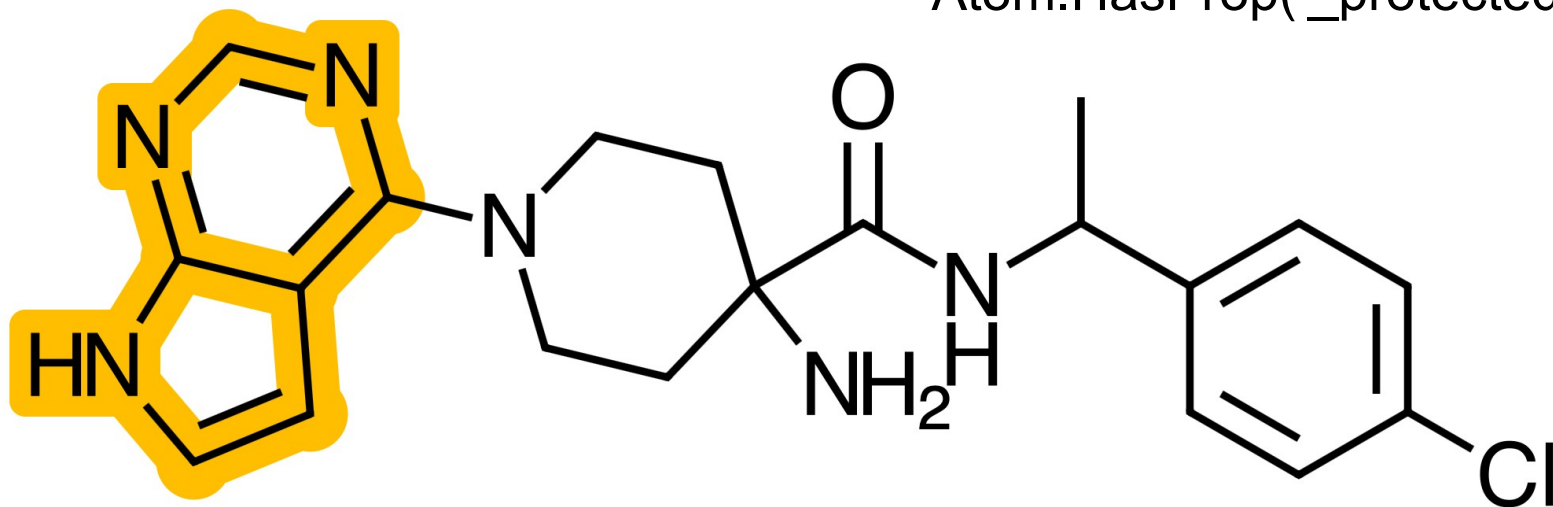
Apply CoreDesign  
Transformations



Products

- Need to let the mol object know what is the core and what isn't
- Protect atoms that are not part of the core

Atom.HasProp('\_protected', '1')



Atom.HasProp('core', '1')

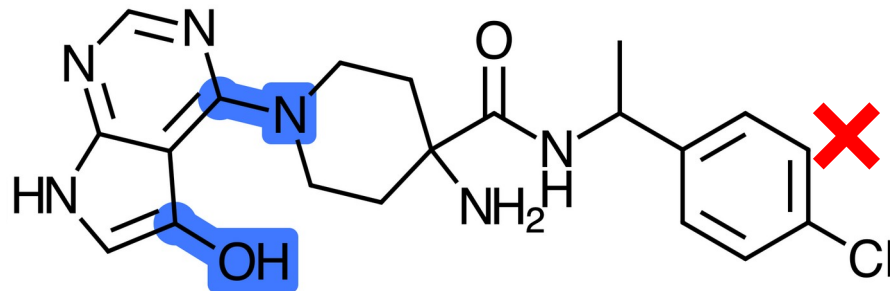
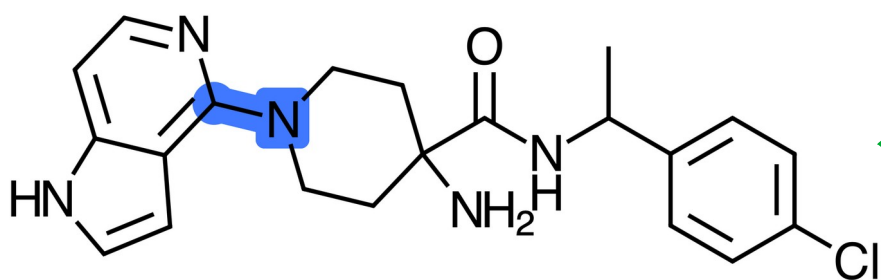
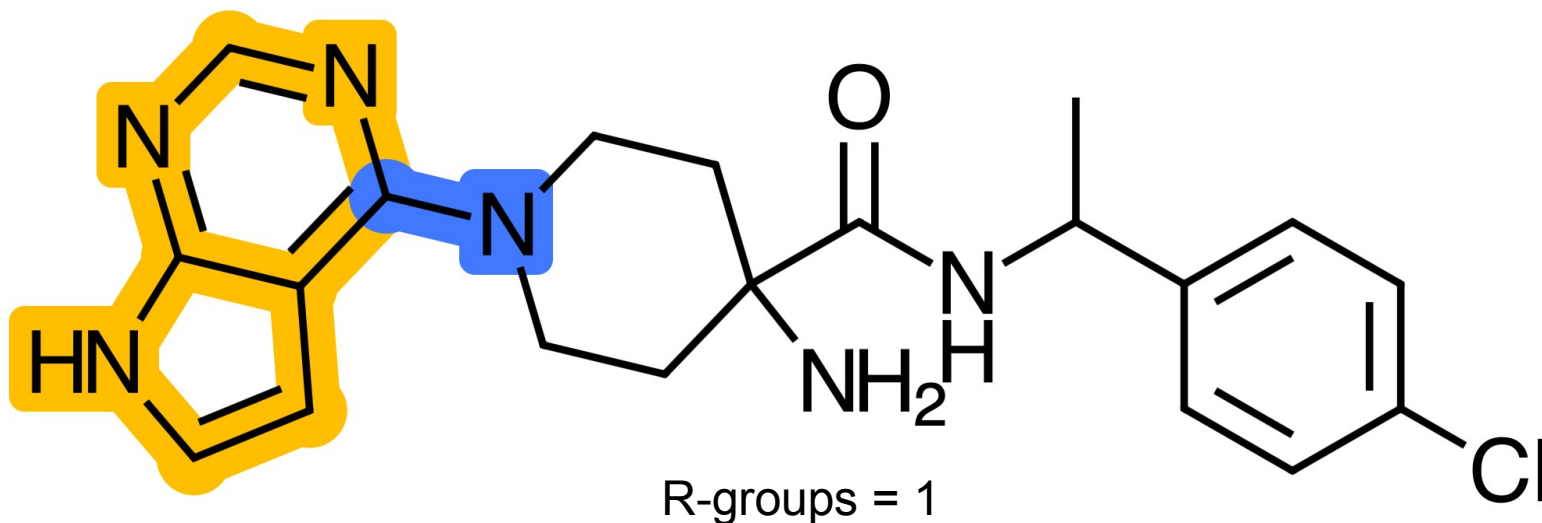


## Filtering Molecules...

Do not allow core substituents  
Linker length range

# Number of Core Substituents

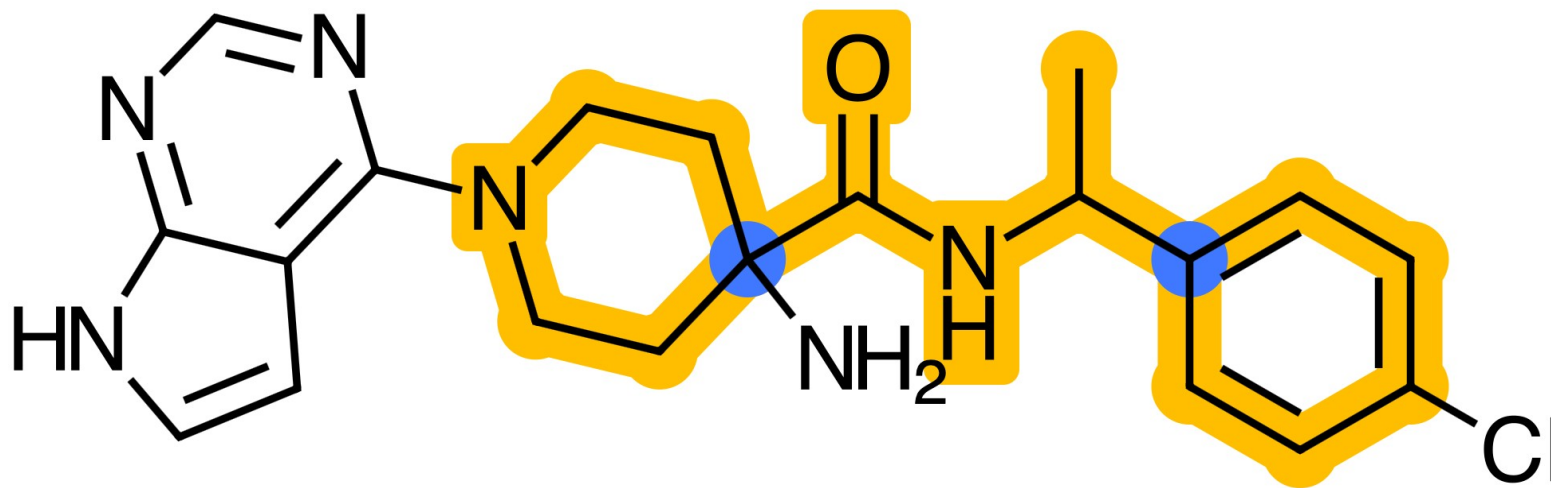
- Calculate the number of core substituents and compare



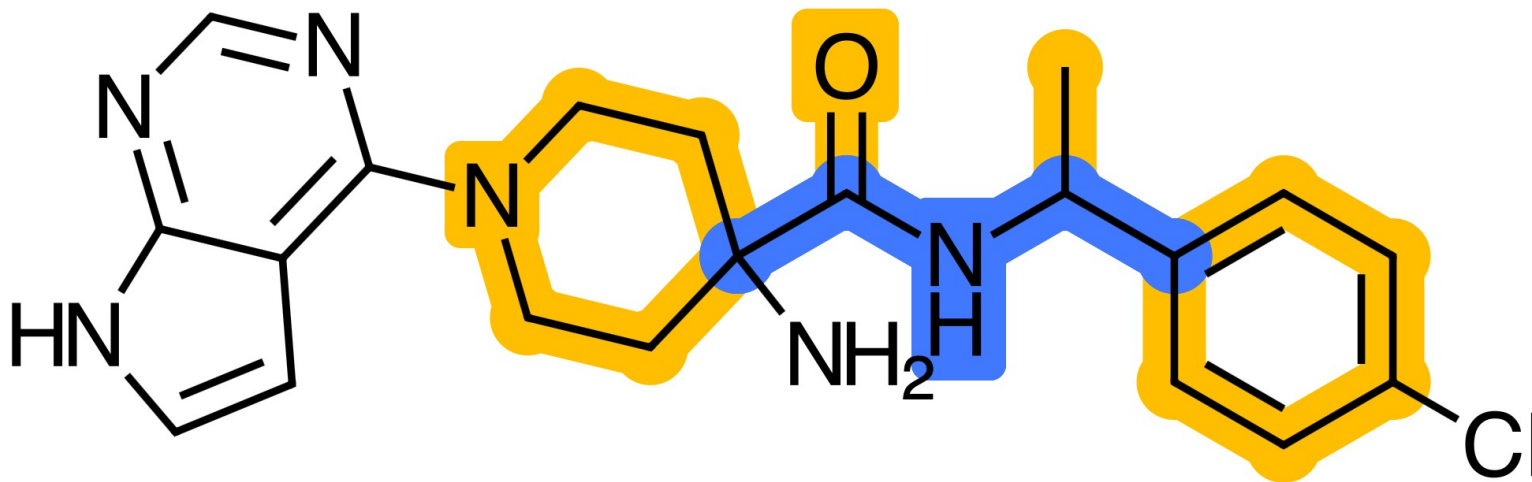


## Linker Length

- Set a range the linker length can change by (if linker present)



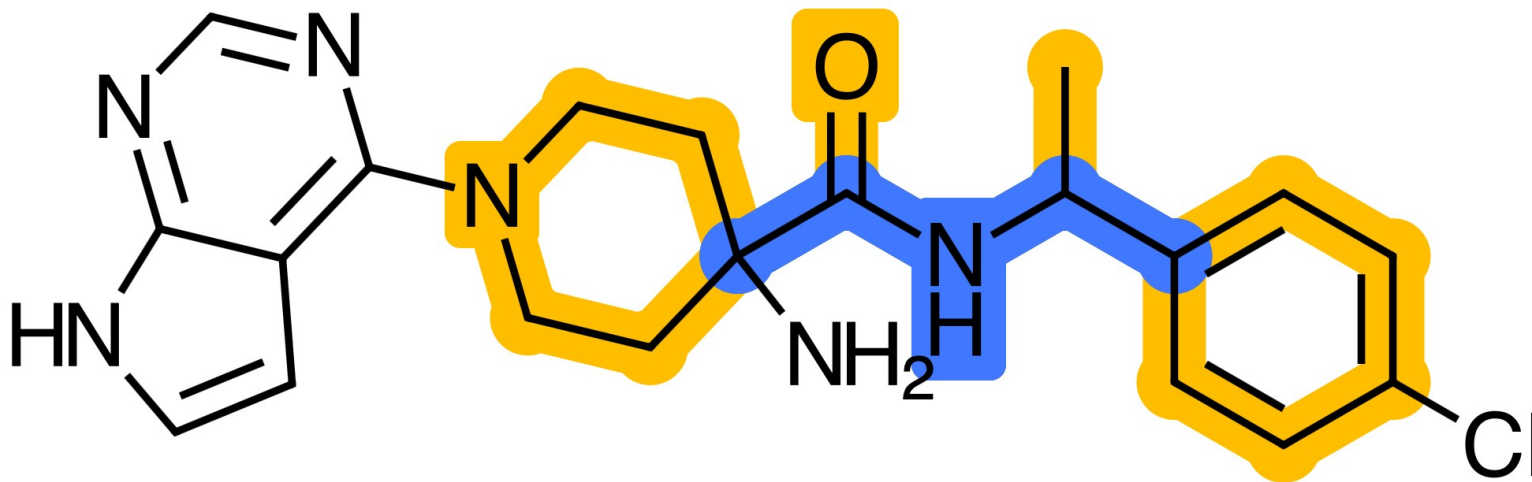
- Set a range the linker length can change by (if linker present)



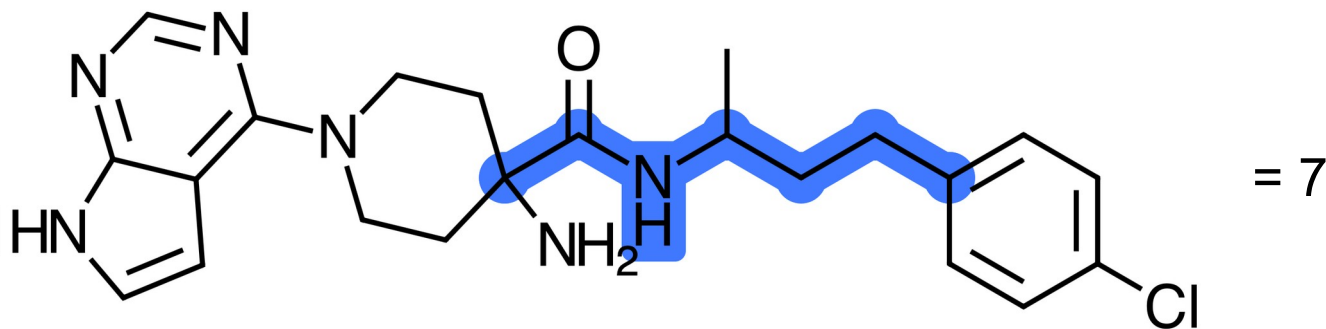
`Chem.GetShortestPath(mol, atom1, atom2)` = 5

## Linker Length

- Set a range the linker length can change by (if linker present)



`Chem.GetShortestPath(mol, atom1, atom2)` = 5



= 7

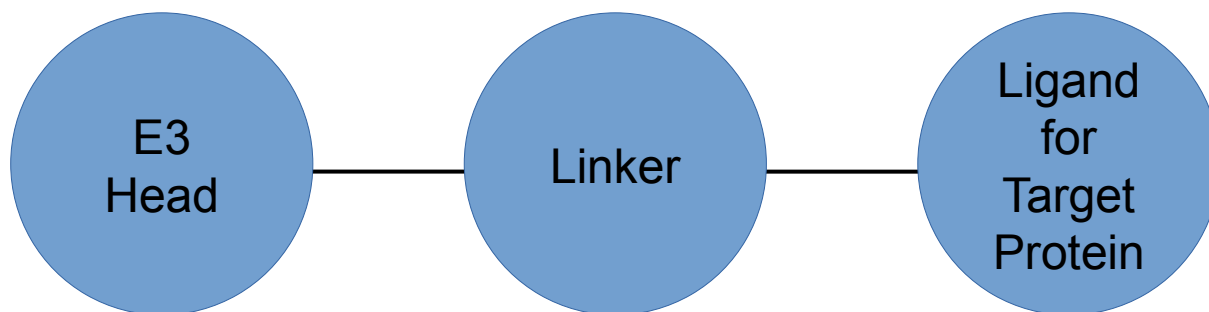
$\Delta = +2$



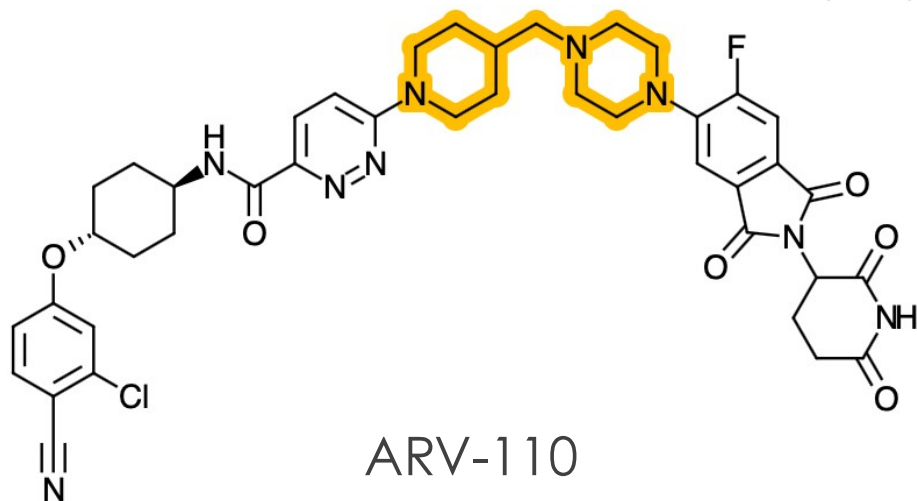
# PROTACs Examples

# What is a PROTAC?

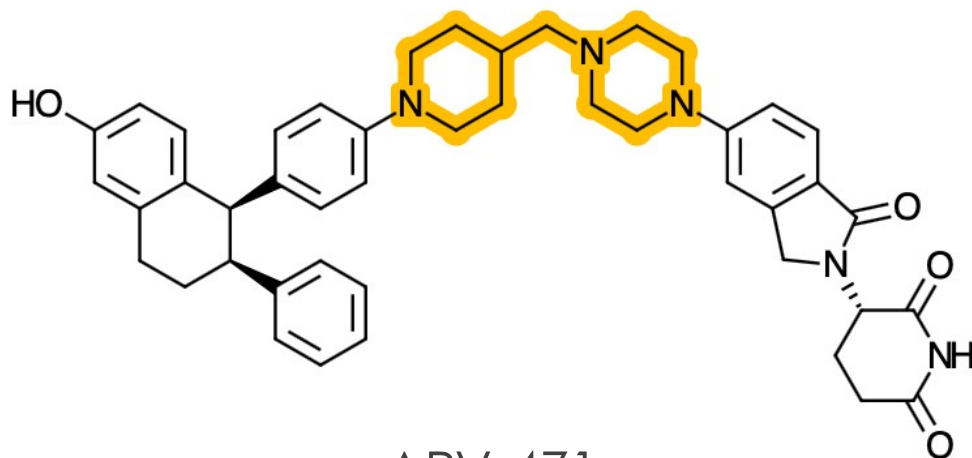
- Built from three components:



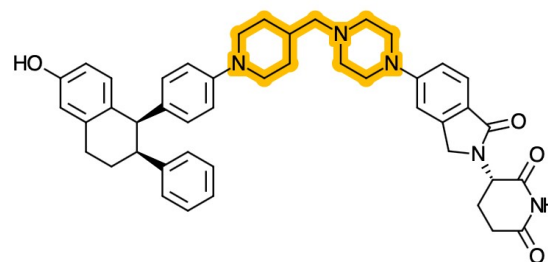
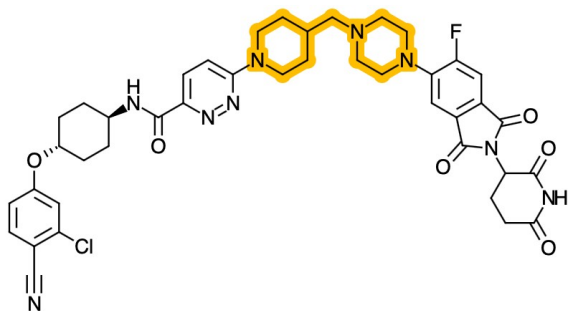
- A **P**roteolysis **T**argeting **C**himera
- Used to remove a selected protein from cells
- Changing the linker (& linker length) is a known problem as other two building blocks are specific for binding



ARV-110

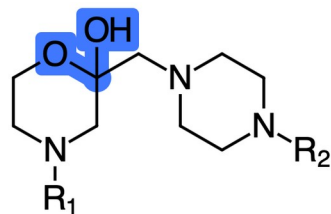
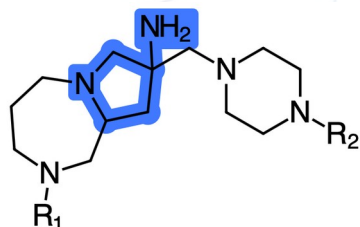
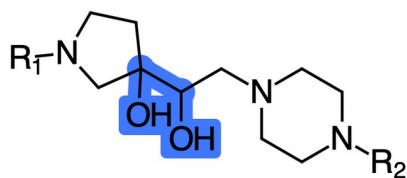
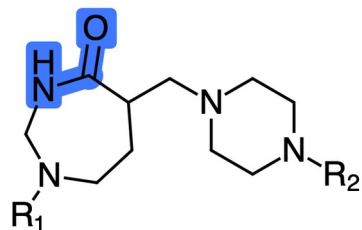
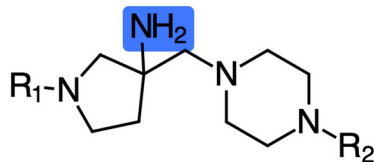
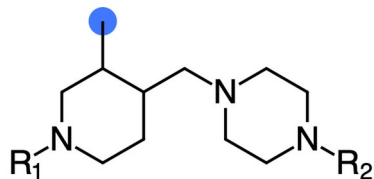


ARV-471

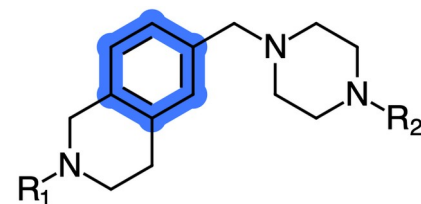
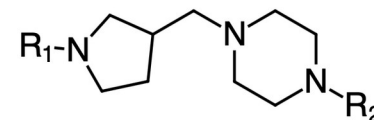
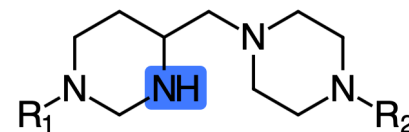
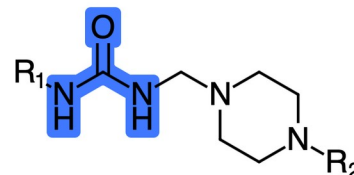
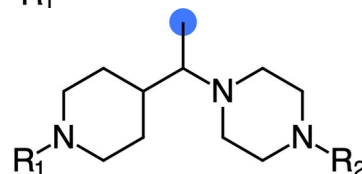
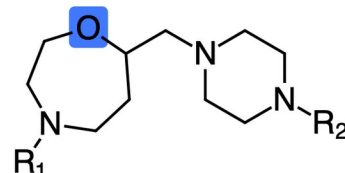
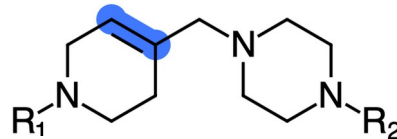
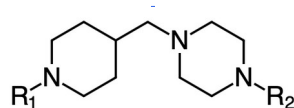


Linker length range -2 to +2

**Allow** new core substituents  
Suggestions = 8,186



**Do not allow** new core substituents  
Suggestions = 3,214





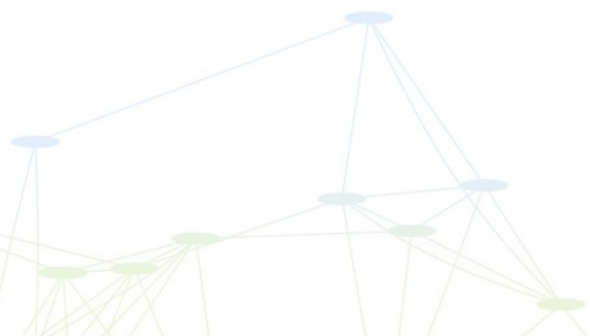
- Two issues remain in focusing suggestions:

Will the core or linker change maintain potency?

- Filter by preferred vectors, overall shape, docking?

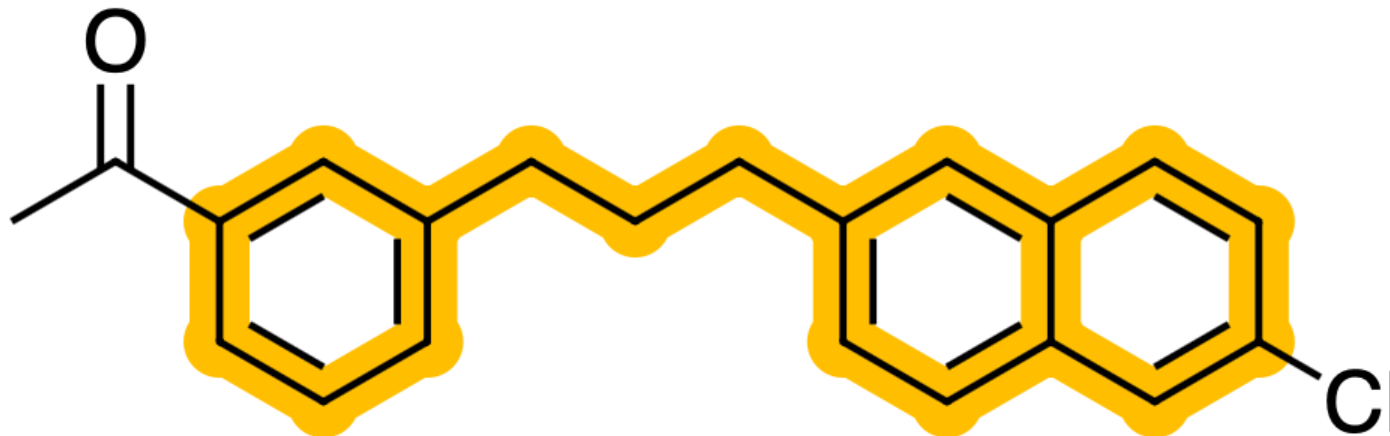
What effect does the replacement have on ADMET properties?

- Particularly in large molecules: on permeability?
  - Understand change in HBD/A, tPSA?

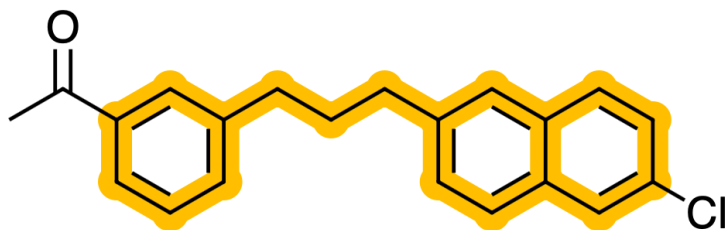




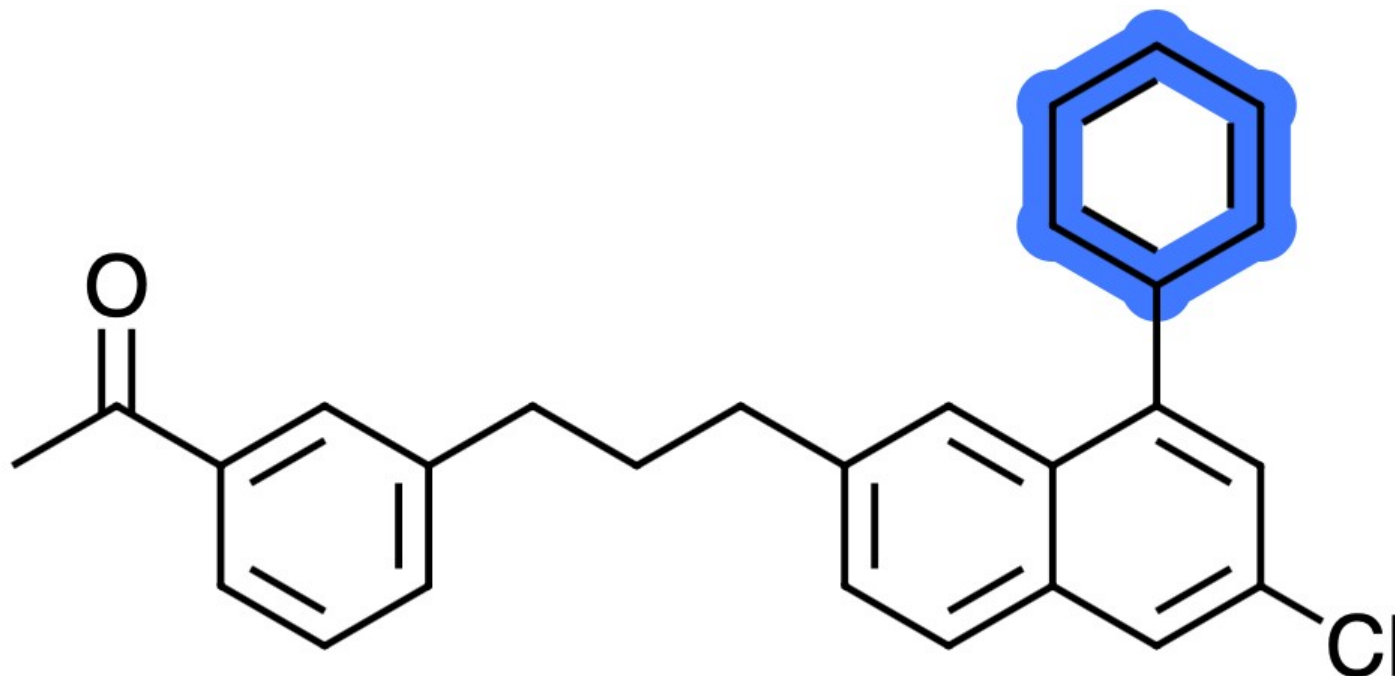
Million Pound Question...  
Ask the audience...



- Do not allow new core substituents
- Linker length range -2 to +2
- 8 examples

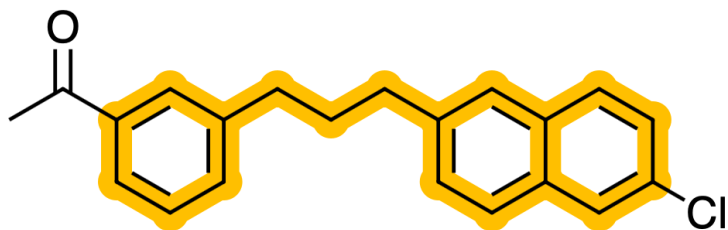


- Do not allow new core substituents
- Linker length range -2 to +2

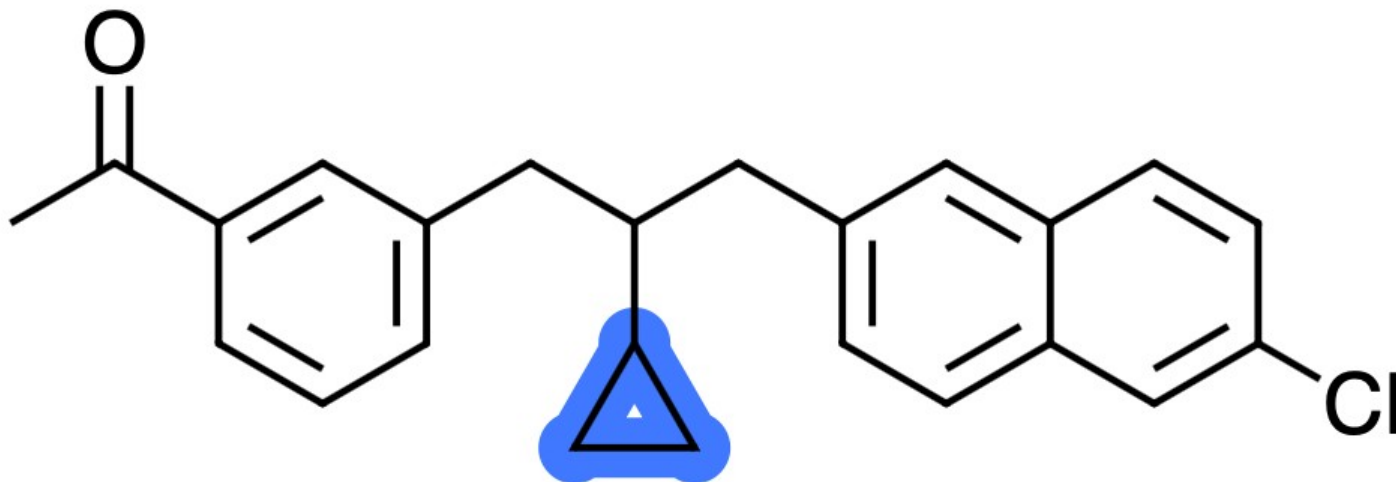


- We believe this is adding a new core substituent



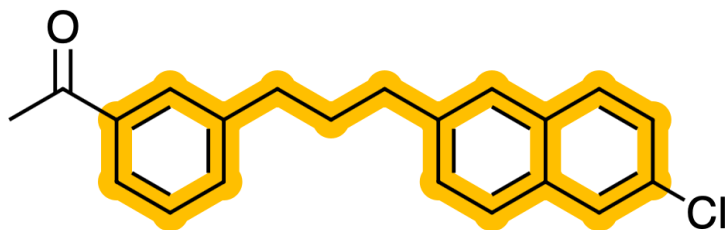


- Do not allow new core substituents
- Linker length range -2 to +2

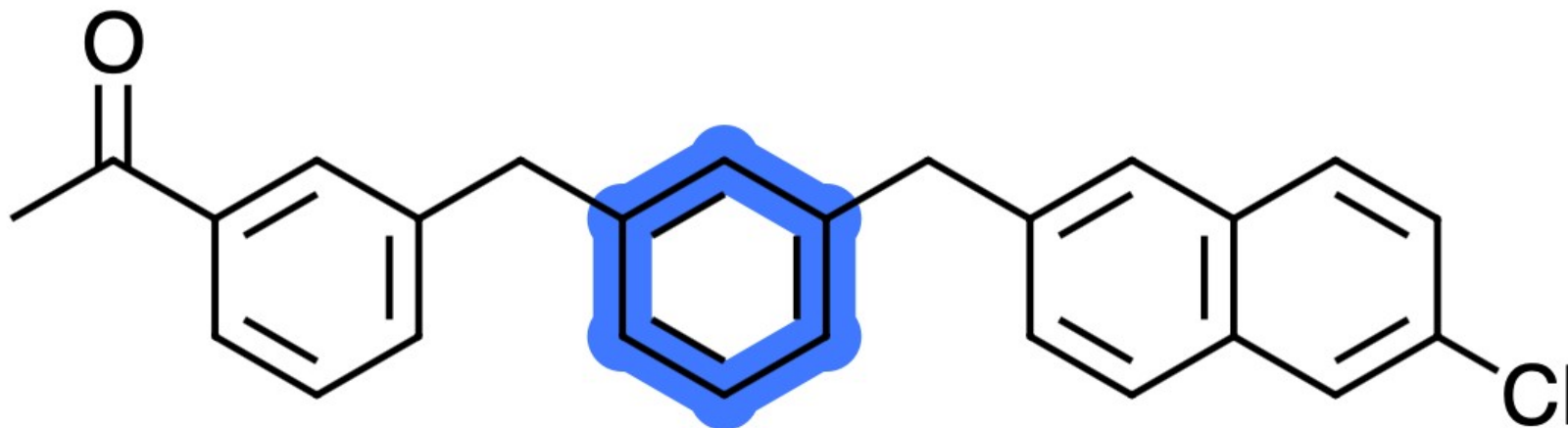


- We believe this is adding a new core substituent



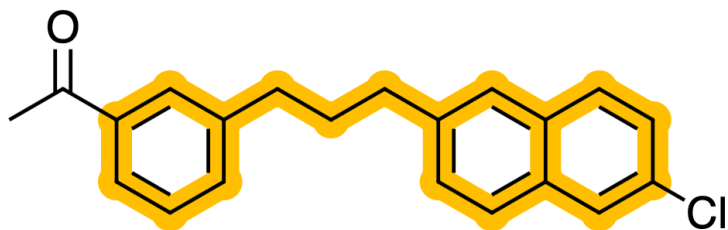


- Do not allow new core substituents
- Linker length range -2 to +2

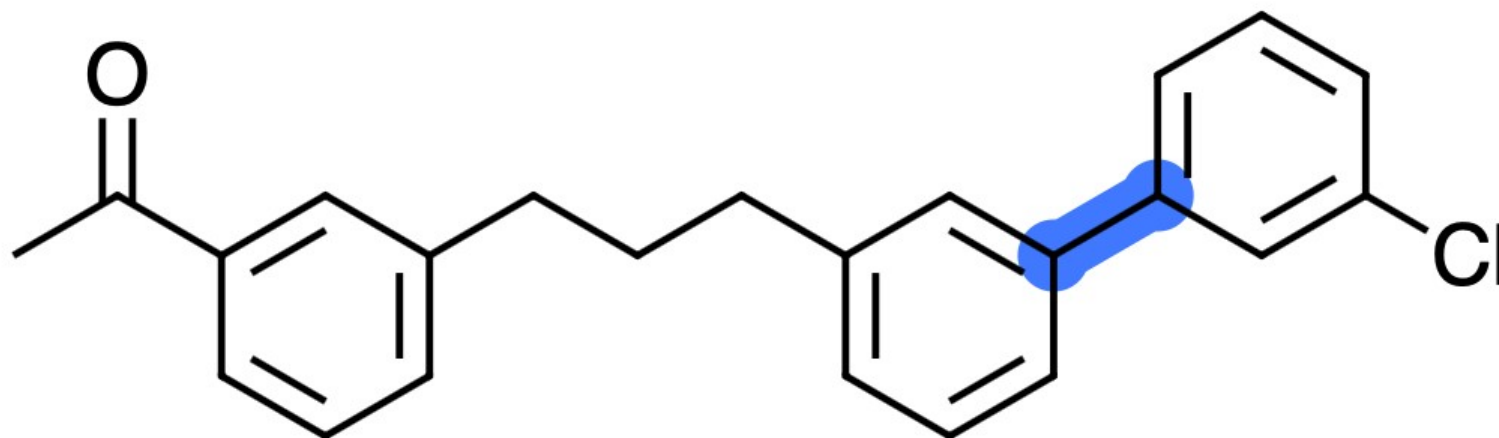


- We do not believe this is adding a new core substituent





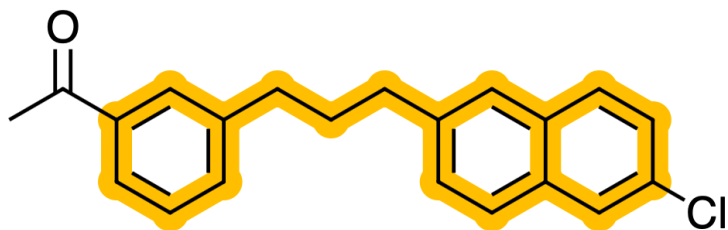
- Do not allow new core substituents
- Linker length range -2 to +2



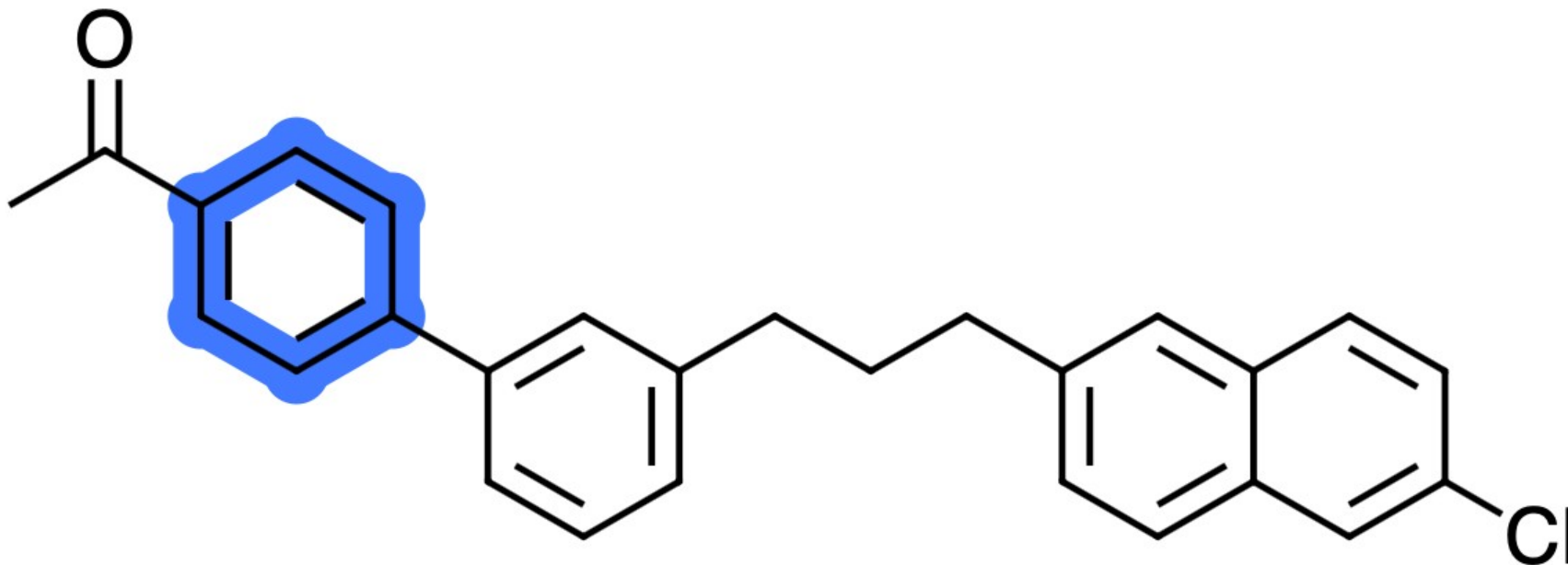
- We do not believe this is adding a new core substituent





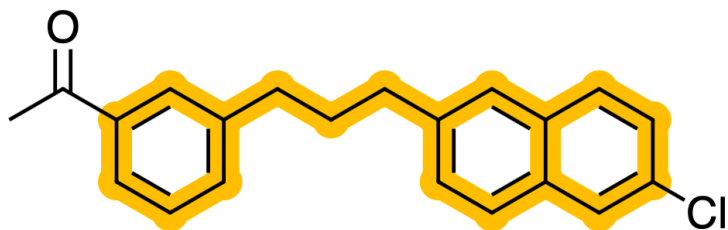


- Do not allow new core substituents
- Linker length range -2 to +2

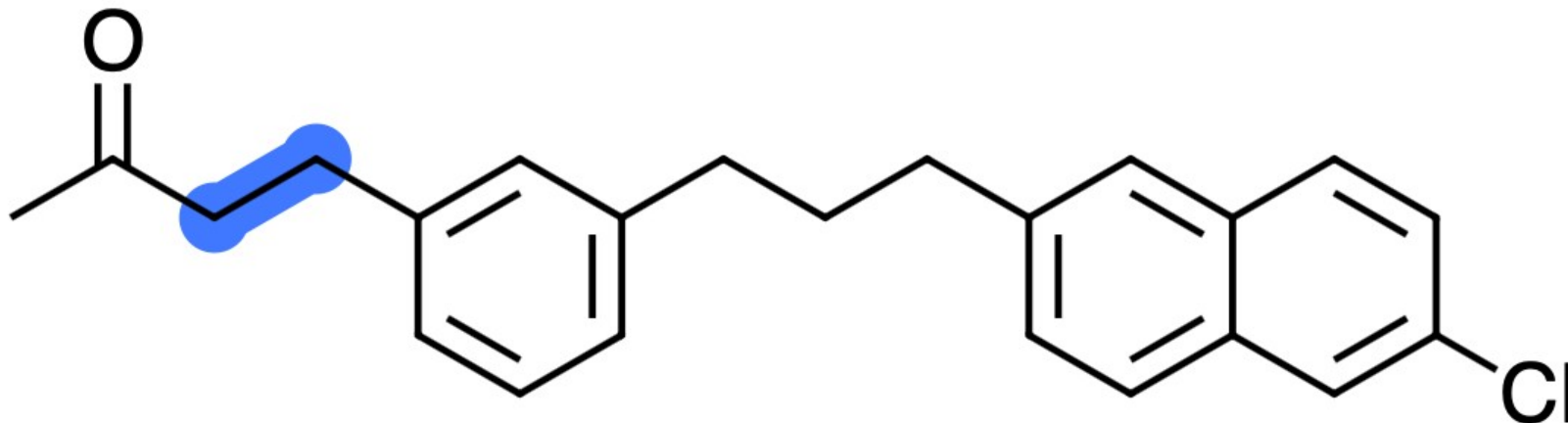


- We do not believe this is adding a new core substituent
- Linker length change is +2



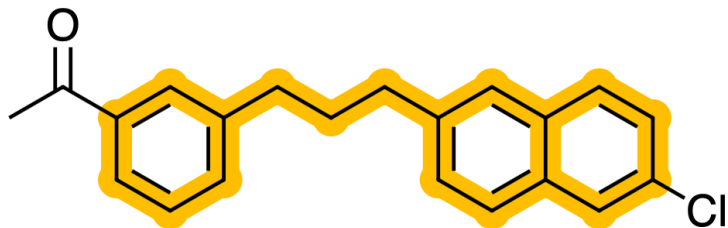


- Do not allow new core substituents
- Linker length range -2 to +2

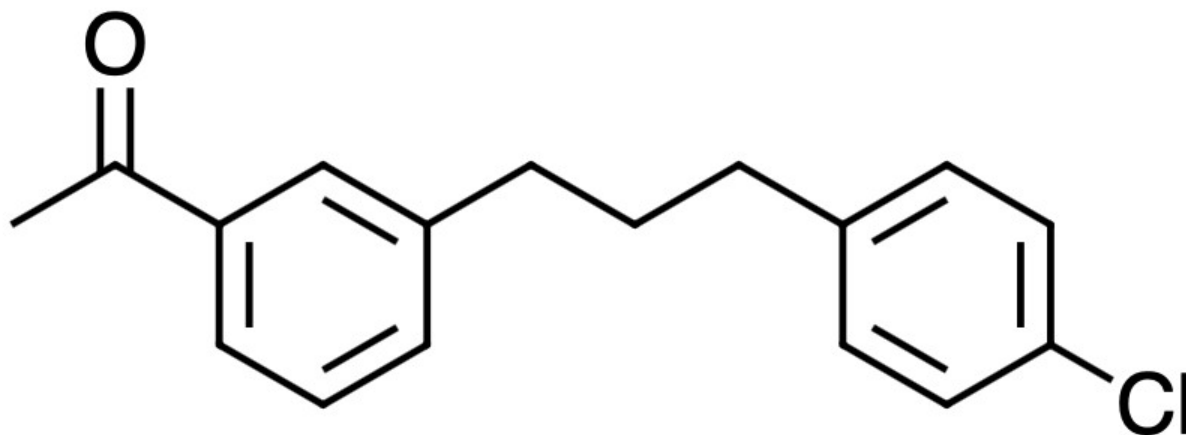


- We do not believe this is adding a new core substituent
- However, the linker length change is +4



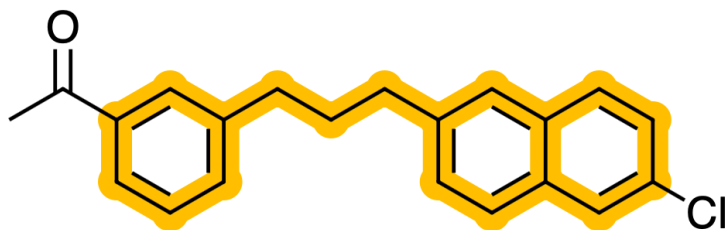


- Do not allow new core substituents
- Linker length range -2 to +2

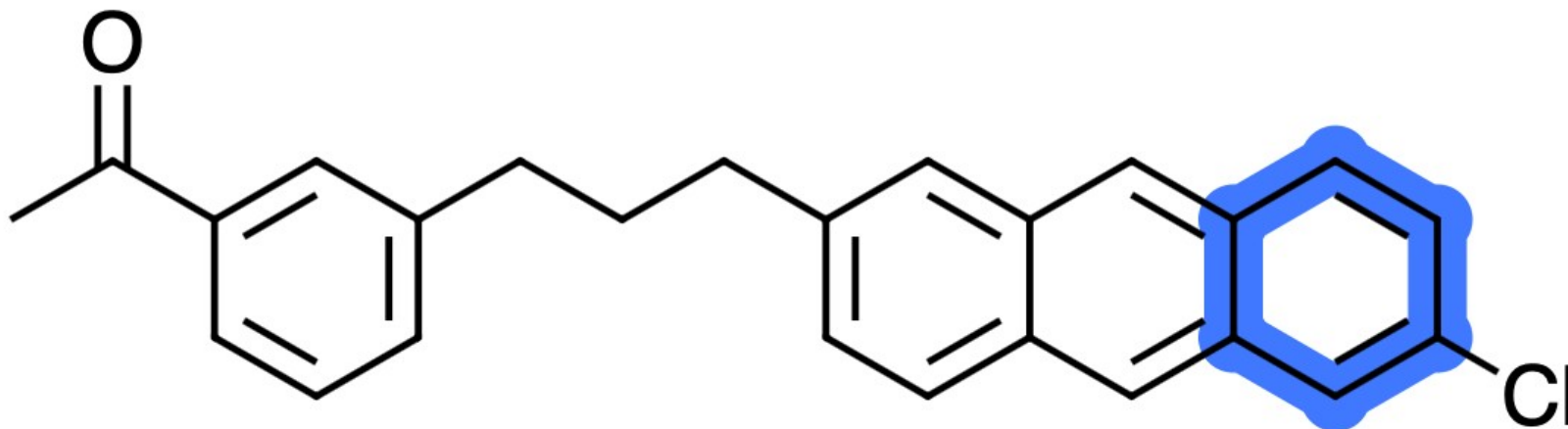


- We do not believe this is adding a new core substituent





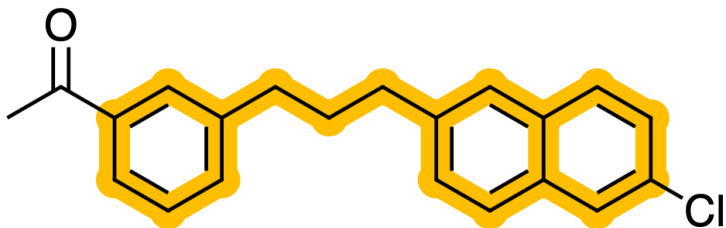
- Do not allow new core substituents
- Linker length range -2 to +2



- We do not believe this is adding a new core substituent

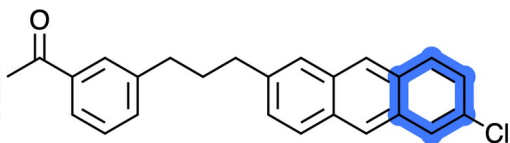
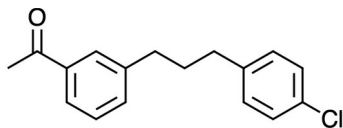
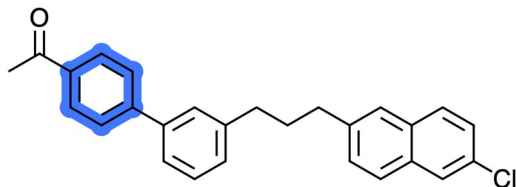
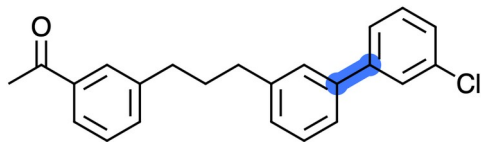
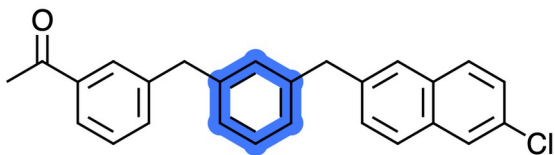


## Summary

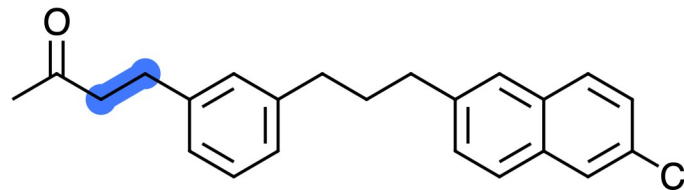
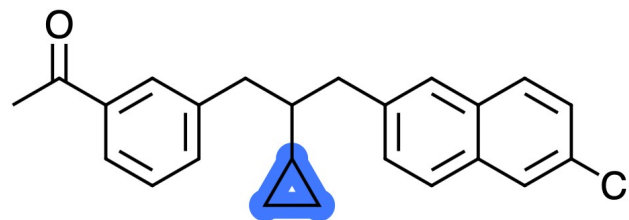
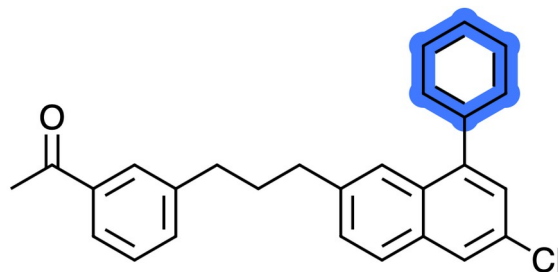


- Do not allow new core substituents
- Linker length range -2 to +2

### Results Allowed



### Results Not Allowed





Thank you for taking part

## Conclusions

- MMPs can be used for CoreDesign
  - We can guide the user to iterate in the bibliography where previously seen examples with the same transformation can be reviewed
- Two new filters have been created
- RDKit can be used to achieve this
  - Setting atoms as ‘\_protected’ helps to optimise
  - Exploits the GetShortestPath function





Thank you for listening