



Leader in Targeted Protein Modulation

NX-1607: a First-In-Class Inhibitor of Casitas B-lineage Lymphoma B (CBL-B) for Immuno-Oncology

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Drug Discovery Chemistry, San Diego, April 02, 2024

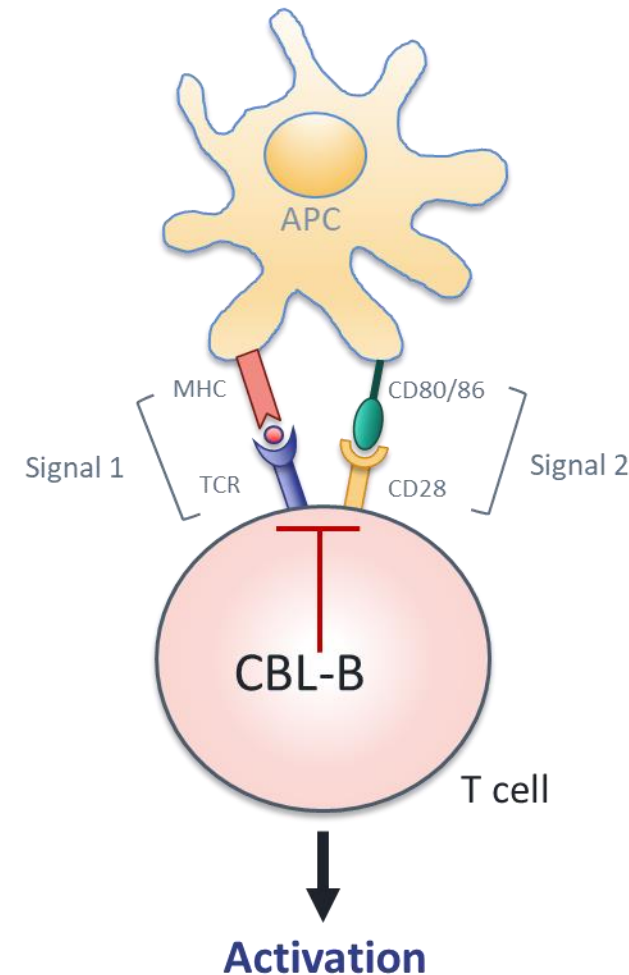
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CBL-B Is a Modulator of Immune Cell Activation

- CBL-B is an E3 ubiquitin ligase highly expressed in cells of the immune system
- CBL-B regulates T, B, and NK cell activation
- Blocking CBL-B removes a brake on the immune system
- *cbl-b* deficient mice demonstrate robust T-cell and NK cell-mediated antitumor immunity



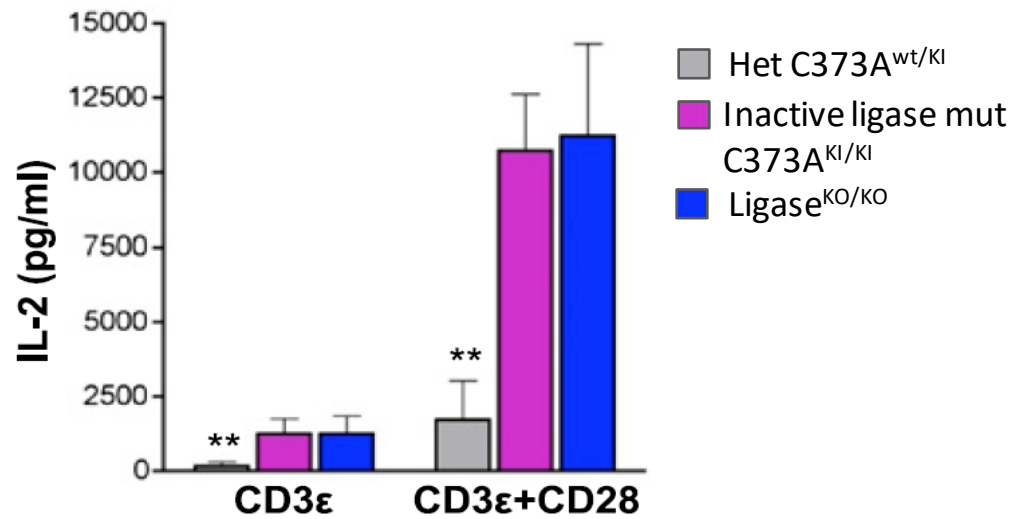
CBL-B inhibition

- ↑ IL-2 production
- ↑ Proliferation
- ↑ Central memory phenotype
- ↑ Anti-tumor activity
- ↓ Threshold of activation
- ↓ T-cell exhaustion

Synergy with anti-PD-1

Loss of CBL-B Activity Results in Enhanced T-cell Activation

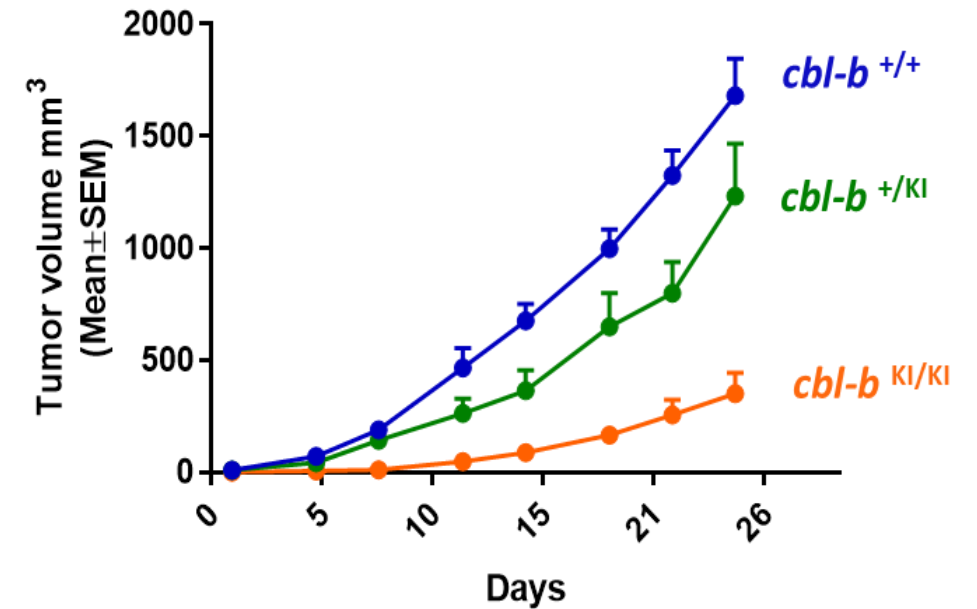
KO and ligase inactive (KI) T-cells exhibit increased IL-2 secretion upon *ex vivo* stimulation



Paolino et. al. *J. Immunology*, 2011

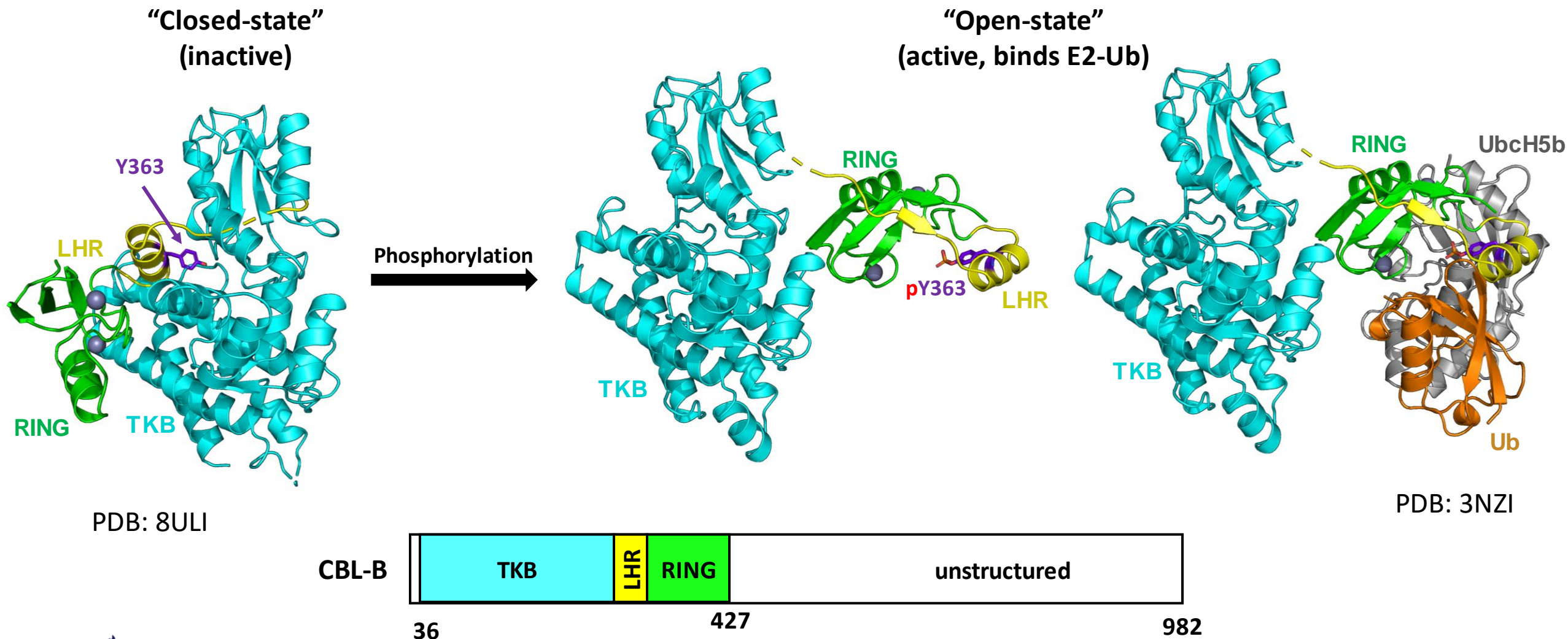
Ligase-dead or KO exhibit enhanced and equivalent response to either single or double stimulation

Ligase-inactive *cbl-b* knock-in mice exhibit tumor growth inhibition (TC-1 syngeneic model)

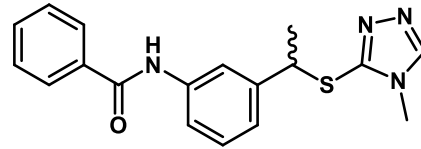
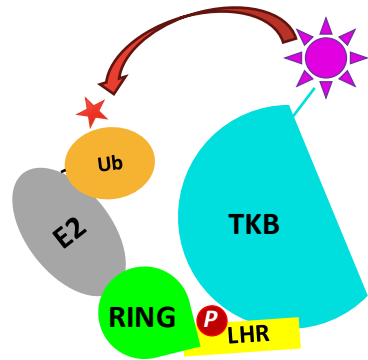
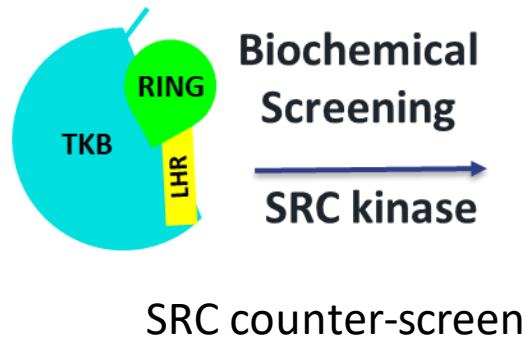


Unpublished Data

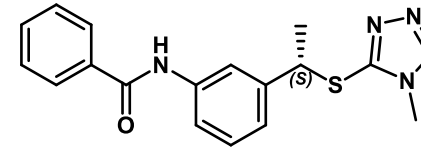
Activation of CBL-B Requires Phosphorylation



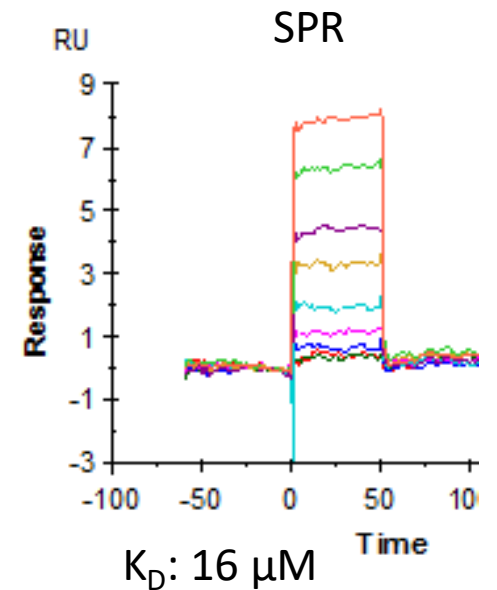
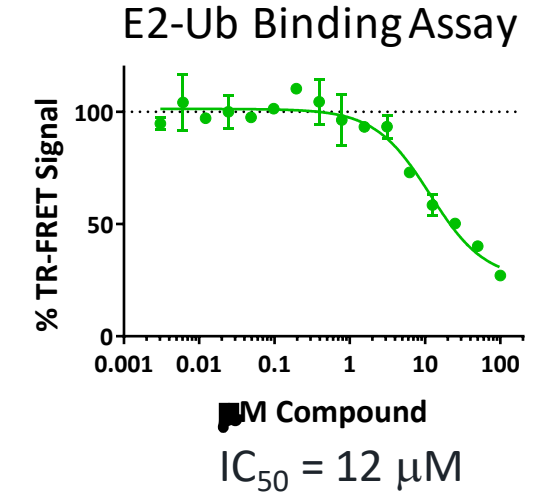
NRX-3 Is a Specific, Intramolecular Glue Inhibitor of CBL-B



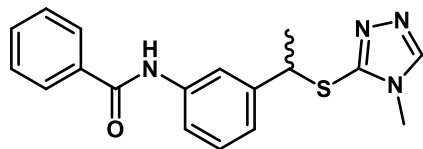
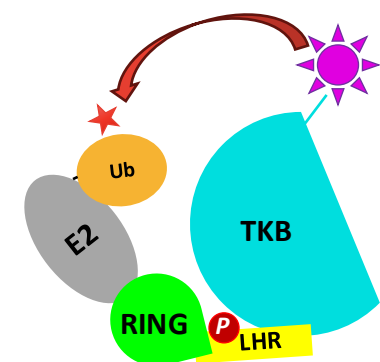
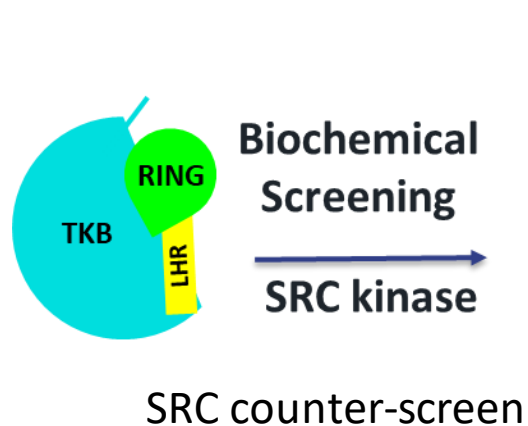
NRX-1
Singleton hit from
300K HTS screen



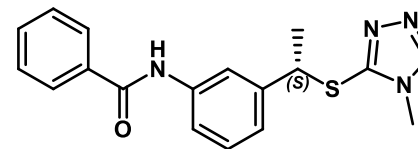
NRX-3
Resolved Screening hit
mw = 338; LE = 0.29



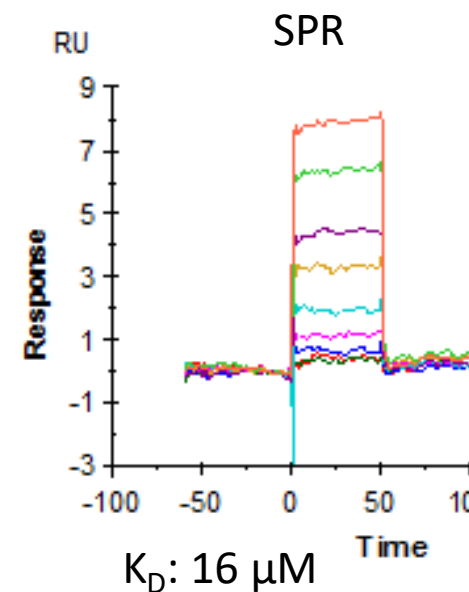
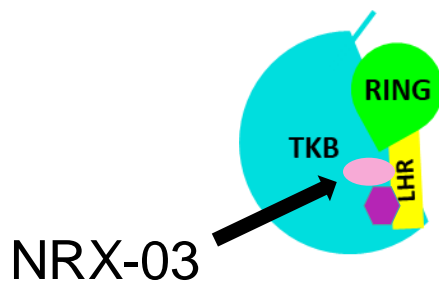
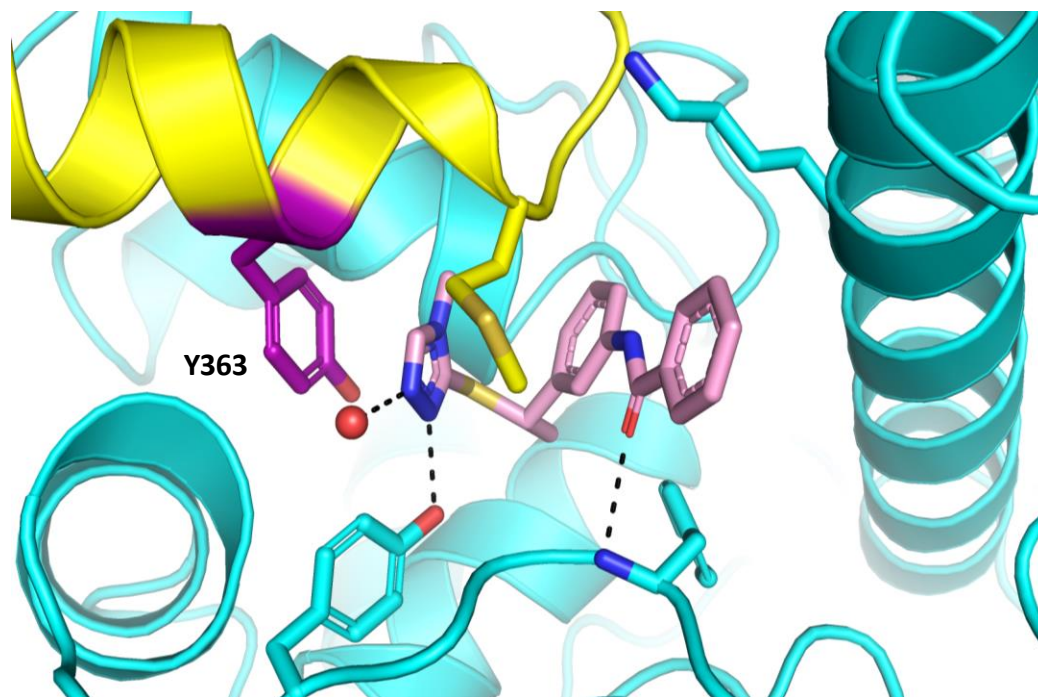
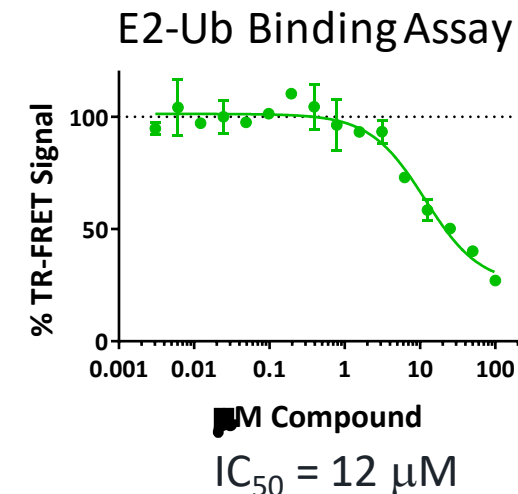
NRX-3 Is a Specific, Intramolecular Glue Inhibitor of CBL-B



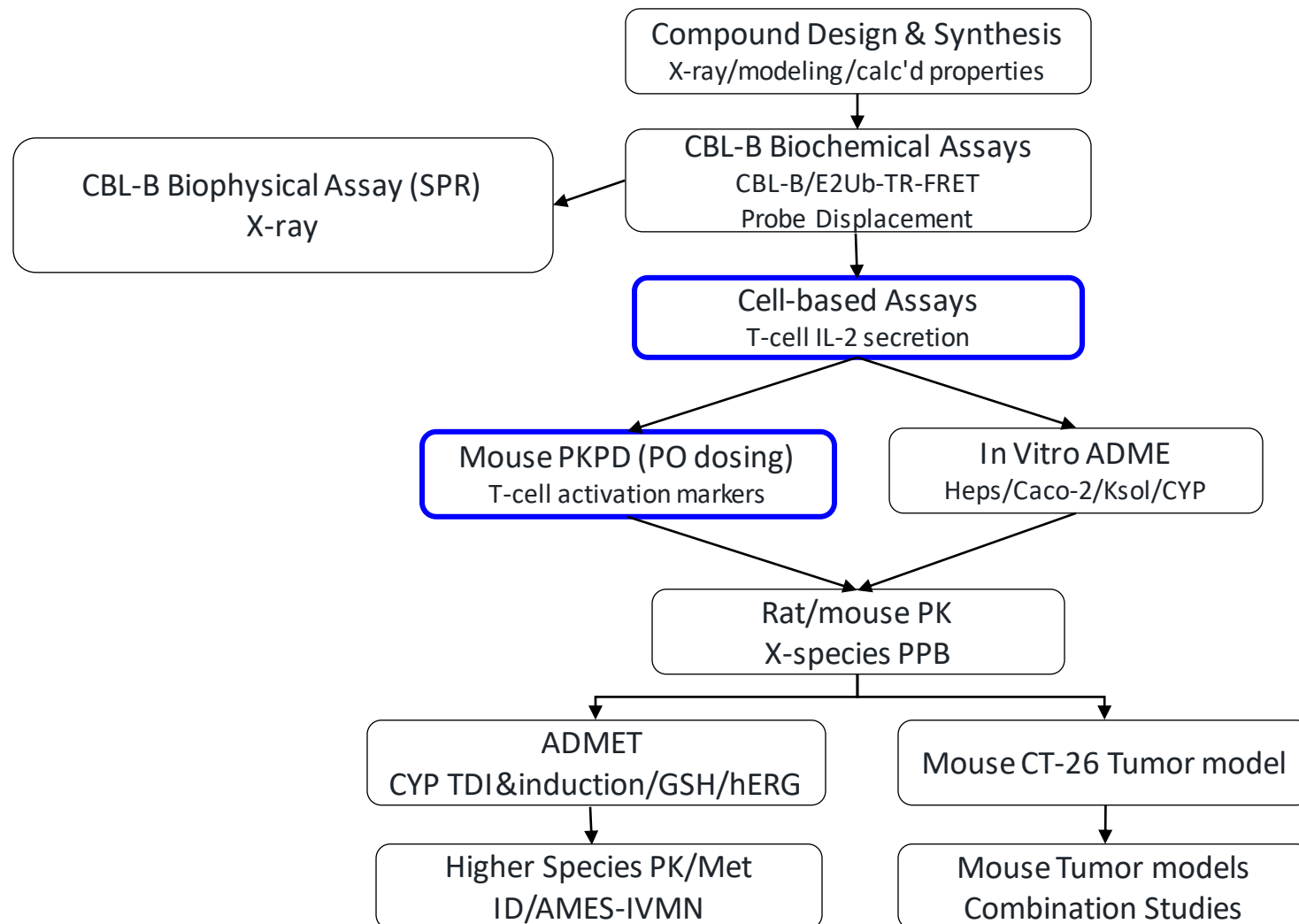
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Singleton hit from
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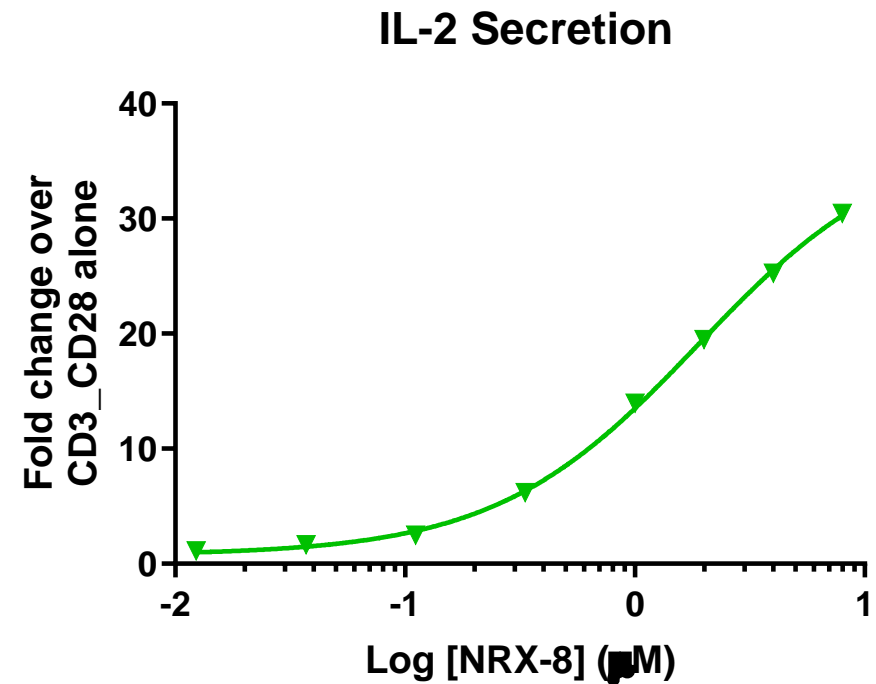
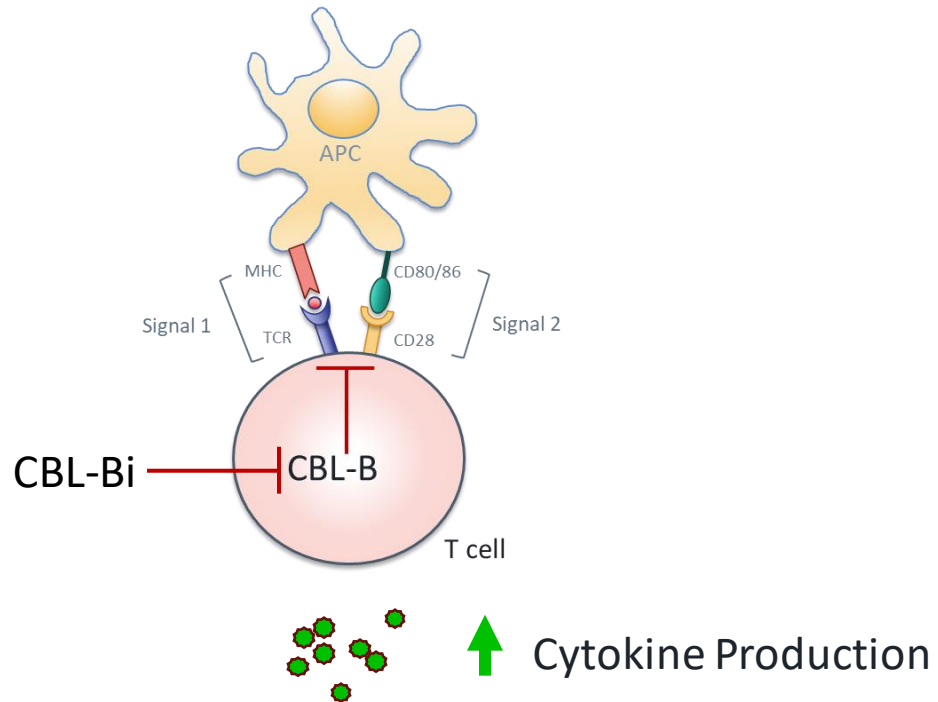
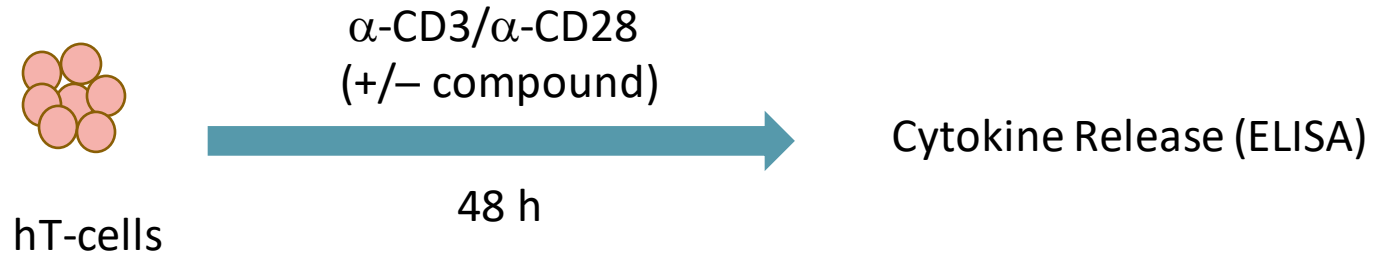


Testing Funnel Designed To Identify Optimal T-cell Activators

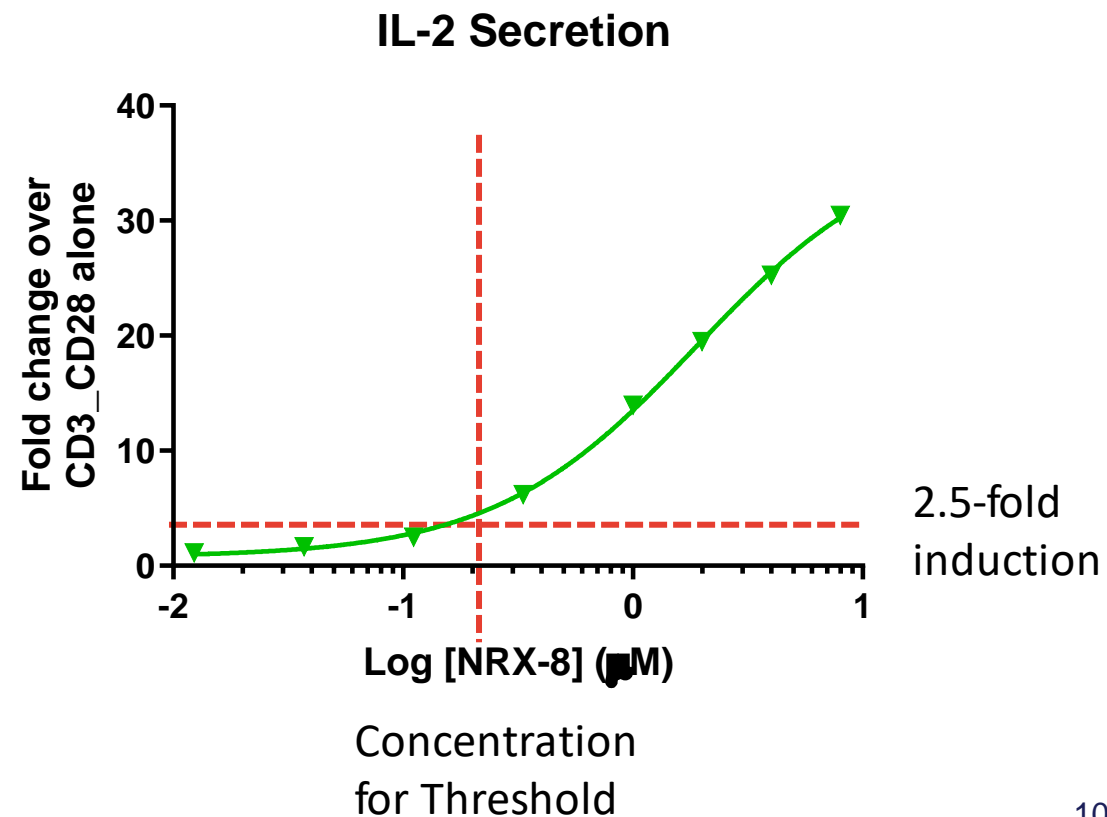
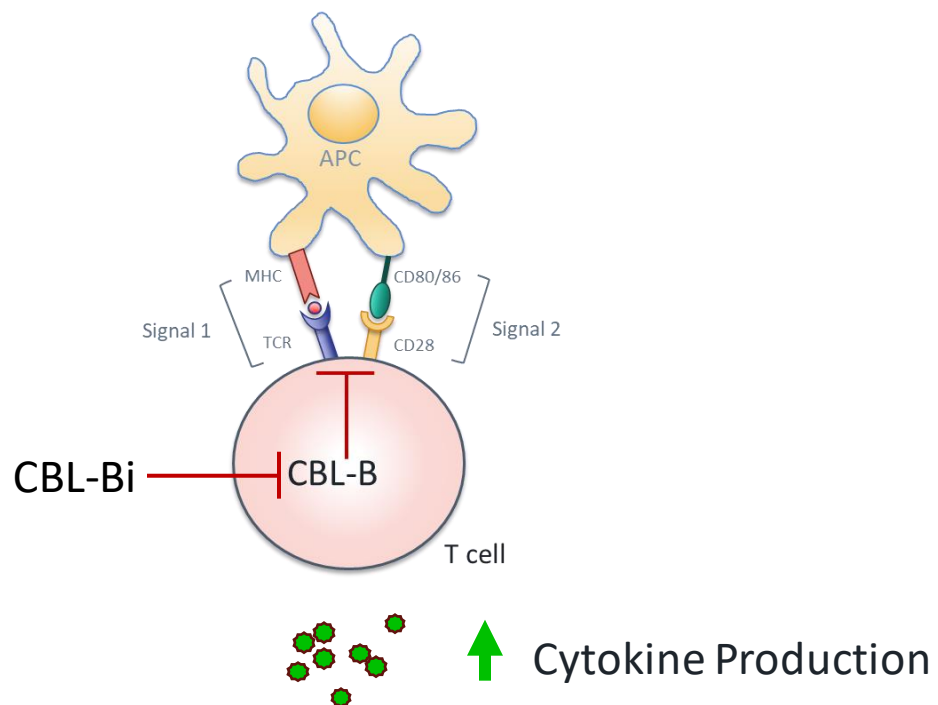
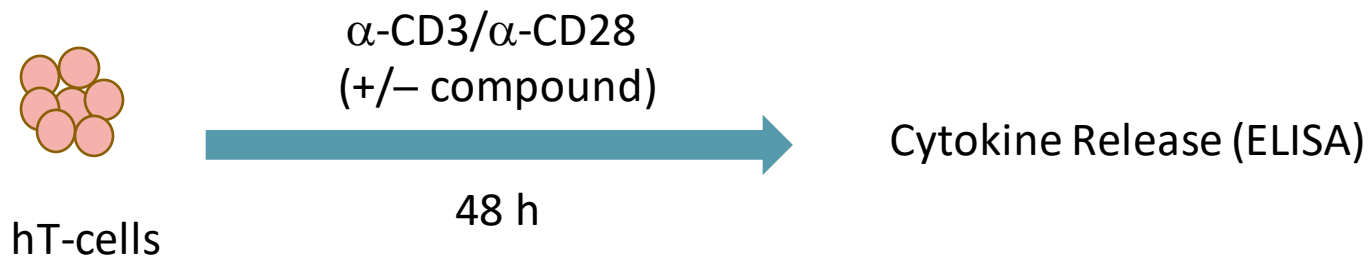


- T-cell activation assays (*in vitro/vivo*) were primary drivers of optimization
- *In vitro* ADMET was collected in parallel with *in vivo* assays

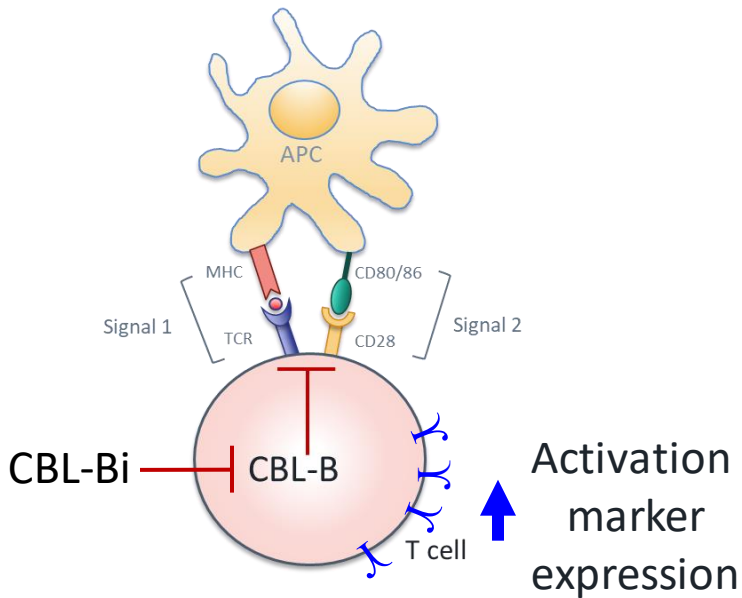
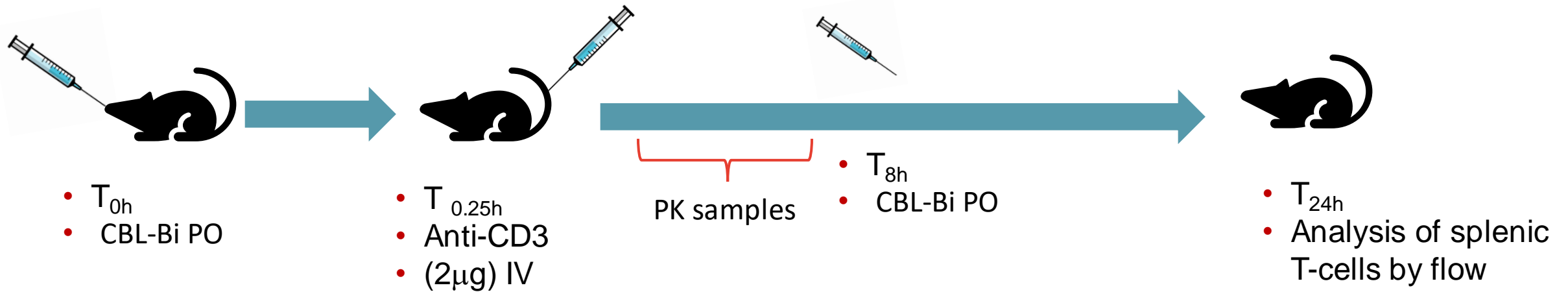
Cytokine Release Assay for T-cell Activation



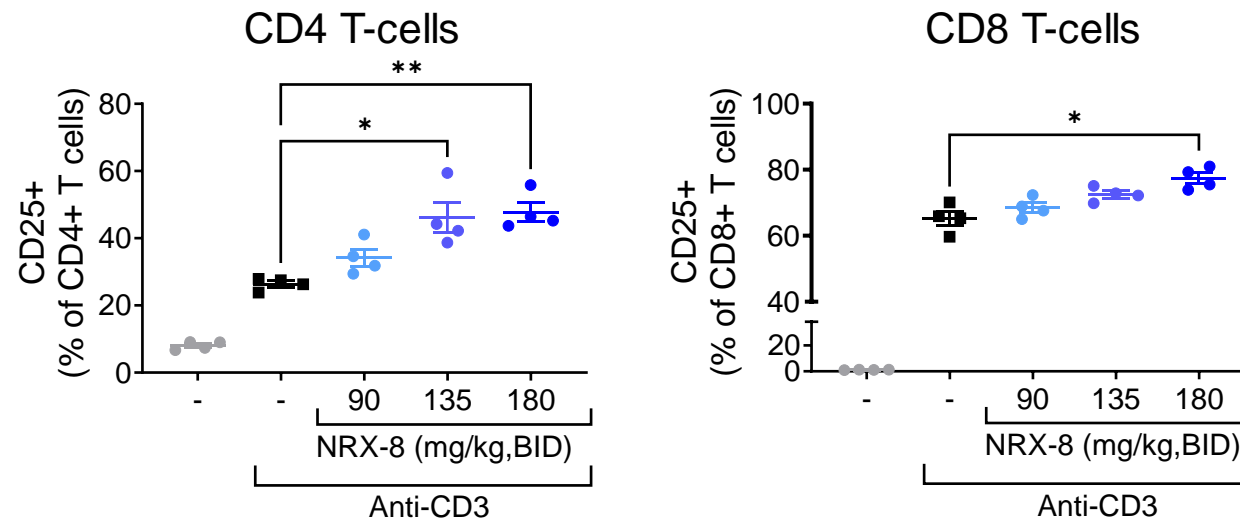
Cytokine Release Assay for T-cell Activation



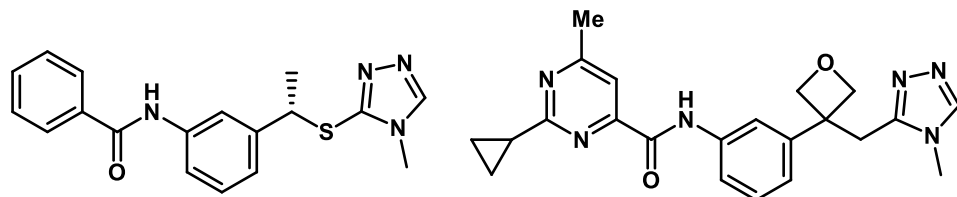
Mouse PK/PD Assay for T-cell Activation



Activation marker expression level in T-cells:

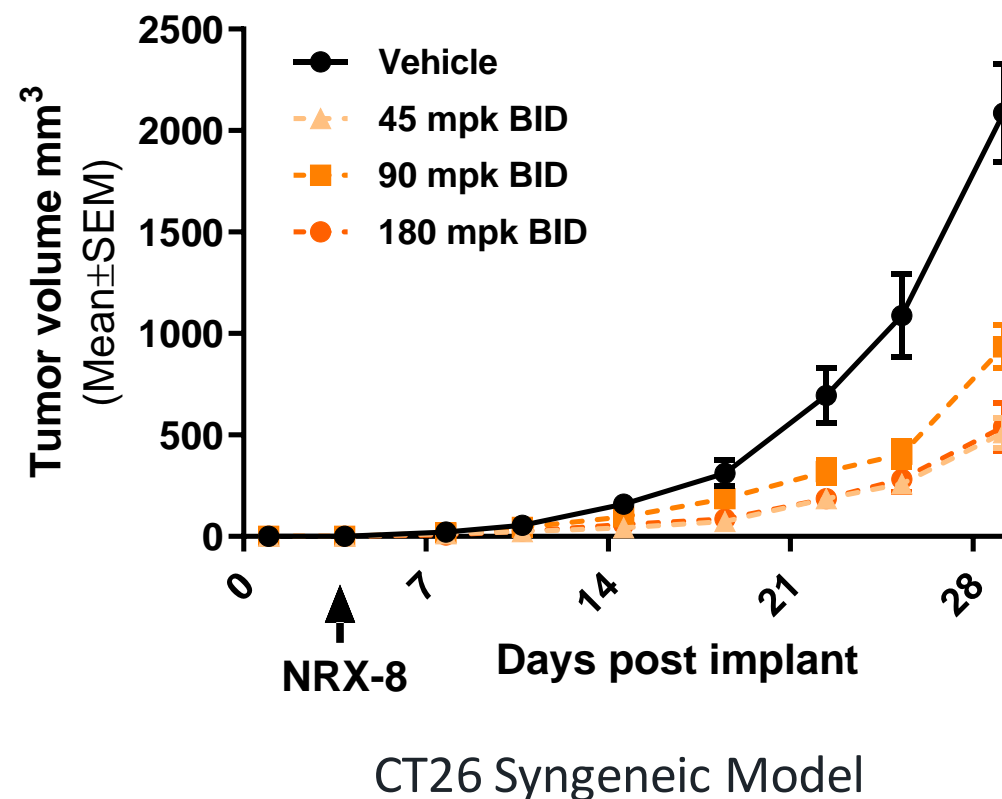


Amide Series Provided Early POC



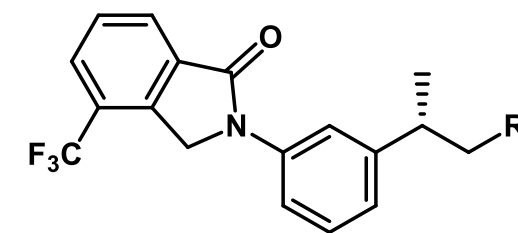
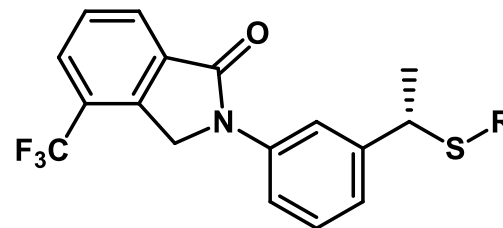
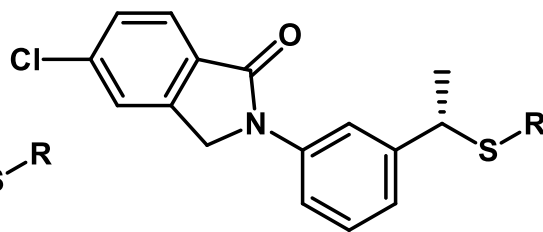
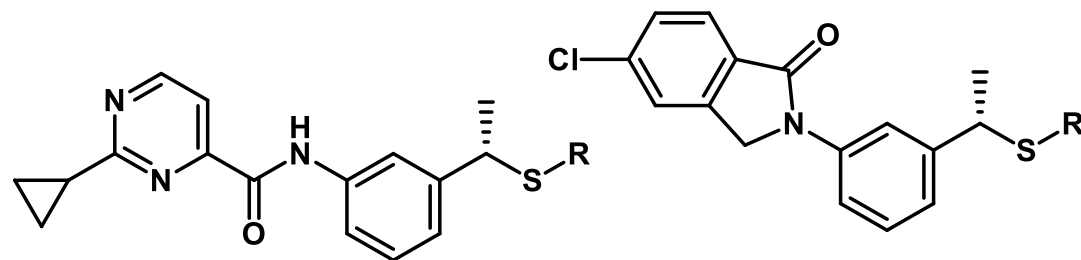
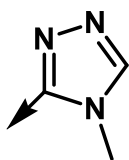
	NRX-3	NRX-8
CBL-B E2-Ub: IC ₅₀ (μM)	12	0.021
T-cell IL-2 AUC		29
T-cell IL-2 2.5X (μM)		0.1
Hep Stability h/m (pred CL hep, ml/min/kg)		<1/34
Plasma stability m/r T _{1/2} (min)		>1000/>1000
Dose mg/kd; freq		180/BID
Free Conc 2h/6h (μM)		1.8/-
Fold increase CD25+/CD4+ cells (24h)		2.1

First confirmation that CBL-B inhibition reproduces the genetic phenotype.



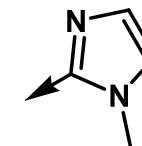
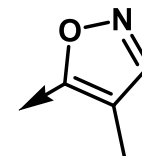
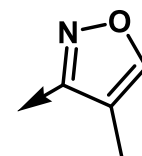
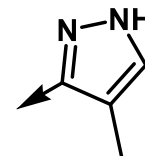
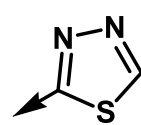
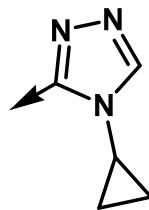
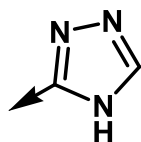
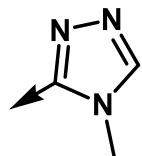
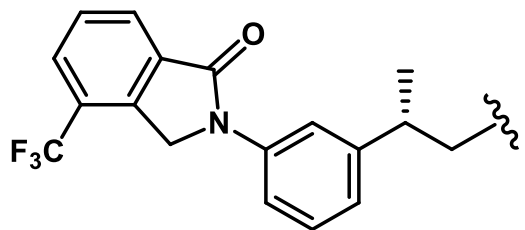
Cyclizing the Amide Solves the Variable Plasma Stability Problem

R =



	NRX-5	NRX-9	NRX-10	NRX-11
CBL-B E2-Ub: IC ₅₀ (μM)	0.092	0.62	0.18	0.059
Hep Stability h/m (pred CL hep, ml/min/kg)				15/77
Plasma stability m/r T _{1/2} (min)	140/-			>1000/>1000

1,2,4-Triazole is the Optimal Heterocycle for CBL-B Affinity



	NRX- 11	NRX-12	NRX-13	NRX-14	NRX-15	NRX-16	NRX-17	NRX-18
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CBL-B E2-Ub: IC₅₀ (μM)

0.059

0.34

0.74

0.72

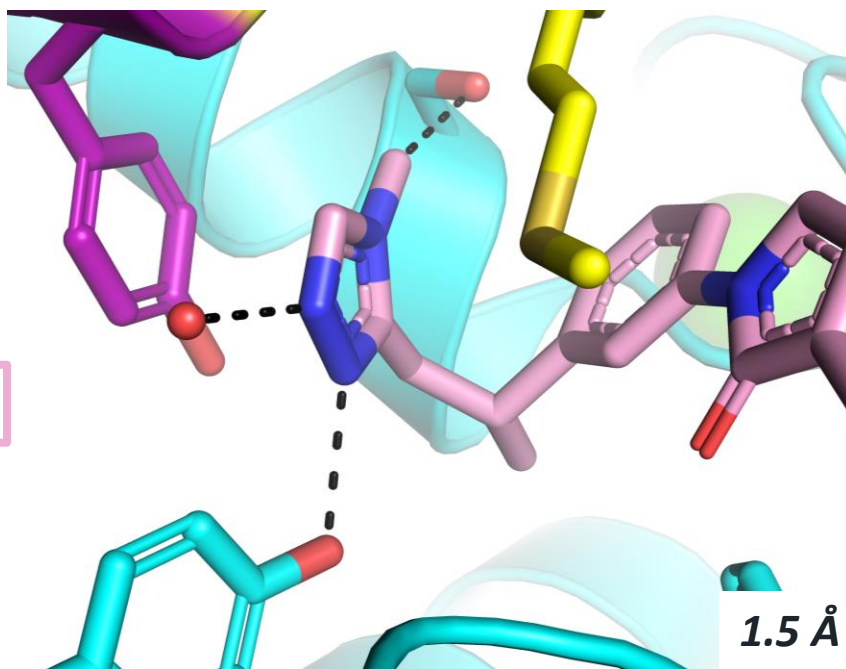
0.51

0.35

2.7

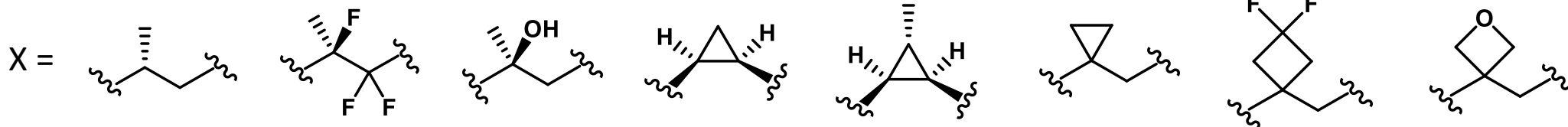
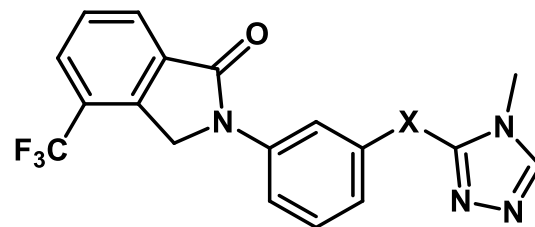
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NRX-11



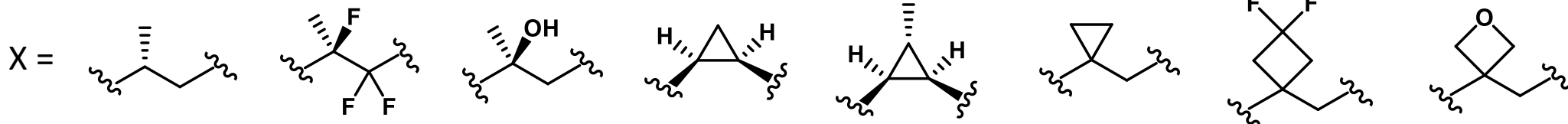
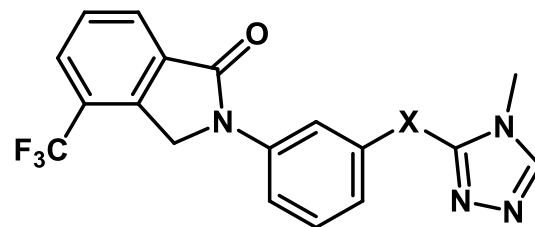
- Two H-bond acceptors required for affinity
- N-Methyl is the optimal ring substituent for affinity

Spacer SAR for Affinity and Metabolic Stability



	NRX-11	NRX-19	NRX-20	NRX-21	NRX-22	NRX-23	NRX-24	NRX-25
CBL-B E2-Ub IC ₅₀ (μM)	0.059	0.15	6.9	0.33	0.039	0.045	0.025	0.067
T-cell IL-2 2.5x (μM)	1.5	0.44	-	2.2	0.21	0.34	0.13	2.5
Hep Stability h/m (pred CL hep, ml/min/kg)	15/76	<8/35	<8/<28	<8/50	<8/79	17/80	15/17	<8/<28

Spacer SAR for Affinity and Metabolic Stability



	NRX-11	NRX-19	NRX-20	NRX-21	NRX-22	NRX-23	NRX-24	NRX-25
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CBL-B E2-Ub IC₅₀ (μM)

0.056

0.15

6.9

0.33

0.039

0.045

0.025

0.067

T-cell IL-2 2.5x (μM)

1.5

0.44

-

2.2

0.21

0.34

0.13

2.5

Hep Stability h/m

(pred CL hep, ml/min/kg)

15/76

1.7/35

<8/<28

<8/50

<8/79

<8/<28

Mouse
PKPD

Dose
mg/kd; freq

180; BID#

180; BID#

#BID doses at T 0, 8h

Free Conc
2h/6h (μM)

0.44/0.11

4.3/2.6

Fold
increase

2.3

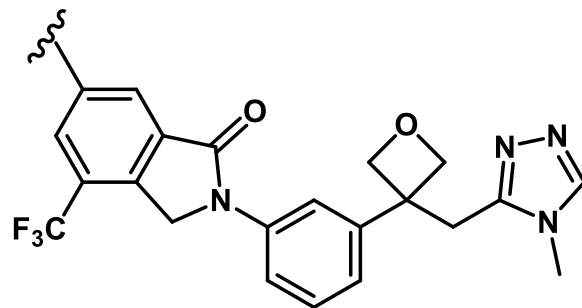
2.6

CD25+/CD4
+ cells (24h)

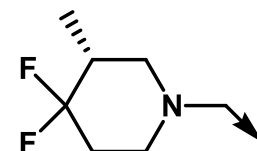
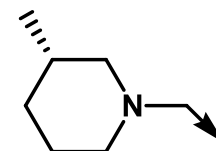
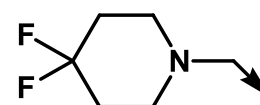
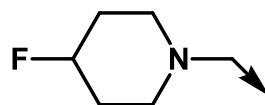
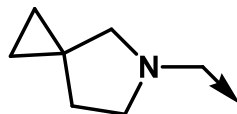
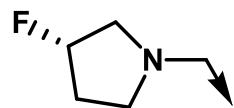
Co-Crystal Structures Suggest a New Pocket for Affinity

A 3D molecular model of a protein binding pocket. The protein surface is shown in cyan, with a yellow and green region on the left. A ligand molecule is bound in the center, shown in pink and purple. A red circle highlights a specific region of the protein surface, with arrows pointing to two residues: Cys 289 and Glu 268. The Cys 289 residue is shown in yellow, and the Glu 268 residue is shown in red.

Piperidines and Pyrrolidines Optimally Fill the New Pocket

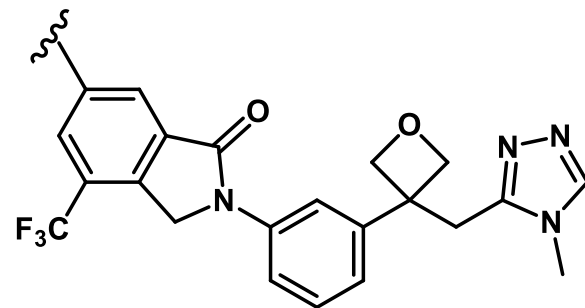


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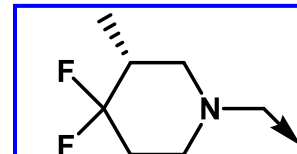
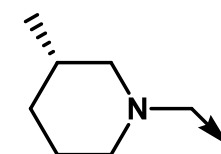
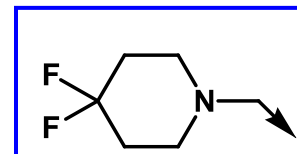
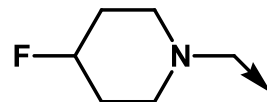
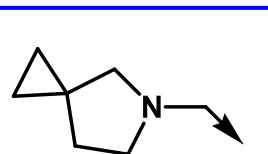
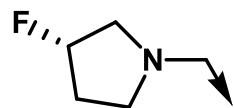


	NRX-25	NRX-26	NRX-27	NRX-28	NRX-29	NRX-30	NRX-31
CBL-B E2-Ub IC ₅₀ (nM)	150	5.1	5.1	4.8	6.2	8.8	4.9
TR-FRET Probe Displacement (nM)		9.1	4.2	4.7	8.6	2.0	1.6
T-cell IL-2 AUC		32.2	38	43.1	39	23.4	54
T-cell IL-2 2.5x (nM)	2500	72.1	6.4	12.8	17.6	6.3	0.38
Hepatocyte Stability h/m (pred CL hep, ml/min/kg)	<8/<28	<8/58	<8/70	<8/67	<8/54	13/75	14/61

Piperidines and Pyrrolidines Optimally Fill the New Pocket

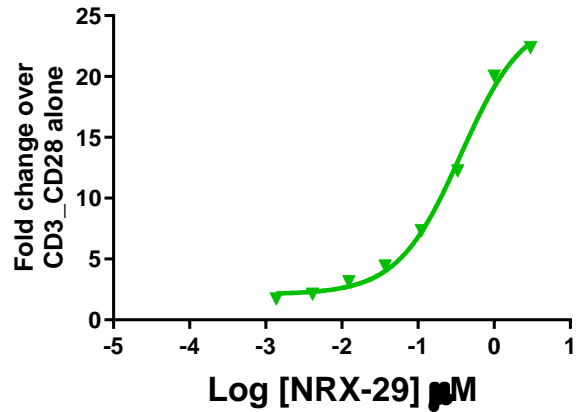


H

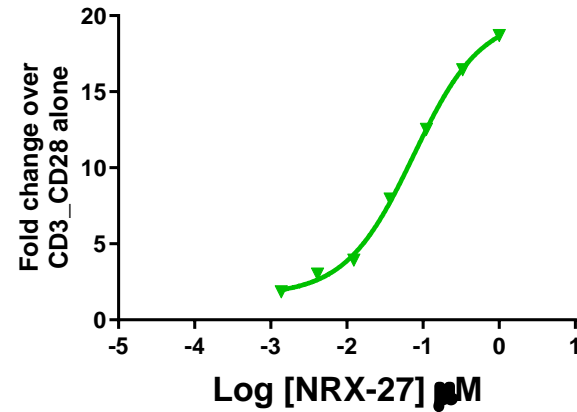


	NRX-25	NRX-26	NRX-27	NRX-28	NRX-29	NRX-30	NRX-31
CBL-B E2-Ub IC ₅₀ (nM)	150	5.1	5.1	4.8	6.2	8.8	4.9
TR-FRET Probe Displacement (nM)		9.1	4.2	4.7	8.6	2.0	1.6
T-cell IL-2 AUC		32.2	38	43.1	39	23.4	54
T-cell IL-2 2.5x (nM)	2500	72.1	6.4	12.8	17.6	6.3	0.38
Hepatocyte Stability h/m (pred CL hep, ml/min/kg)	<8/<28	<8/58	<8/70	<8/67	<8/54	13/75	14/61

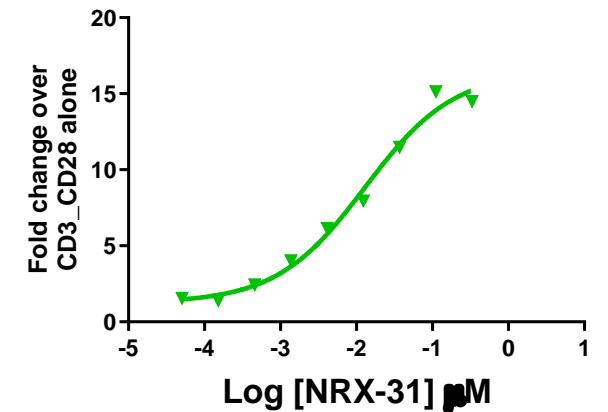
Hypothesis: Slow Off-rate Drives T-cell Activity



T-cell IL-2 AUC	39
T-cell IL-2 2.5x (nM)	17.6

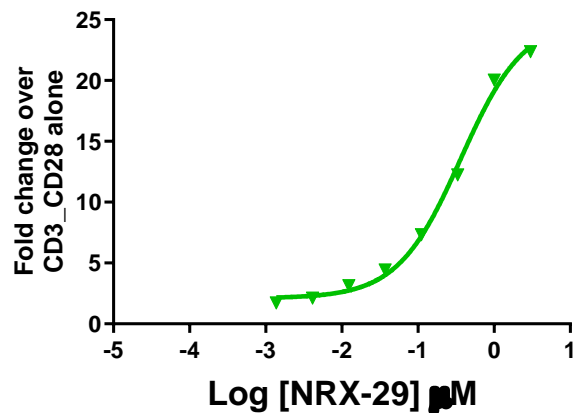


T-cell IL-2 AUC	38
T-cell IL-2 2.5x (nM)	6.4

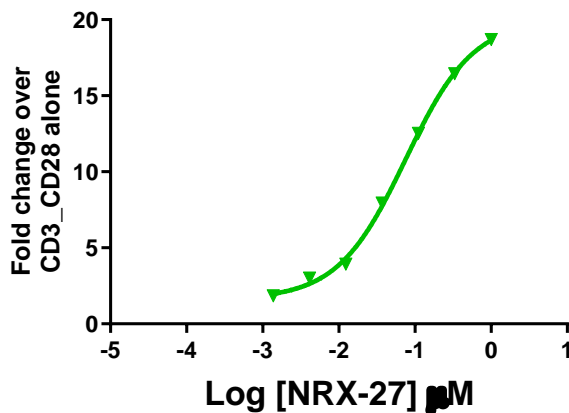


T-cell IL-2 AUC	54
T-cell IL-2 2.5x (nM)	0.38

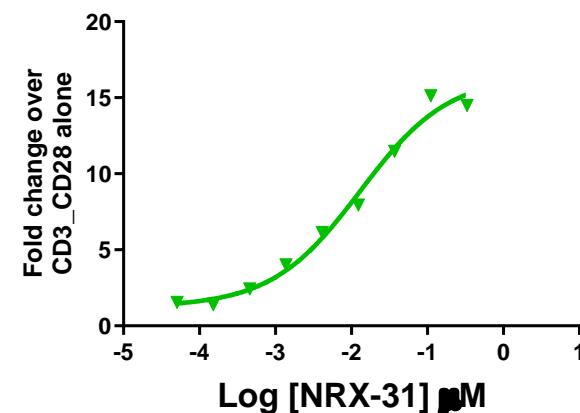
Hypothesis: Slow Off-rate Drives T-cell Activity



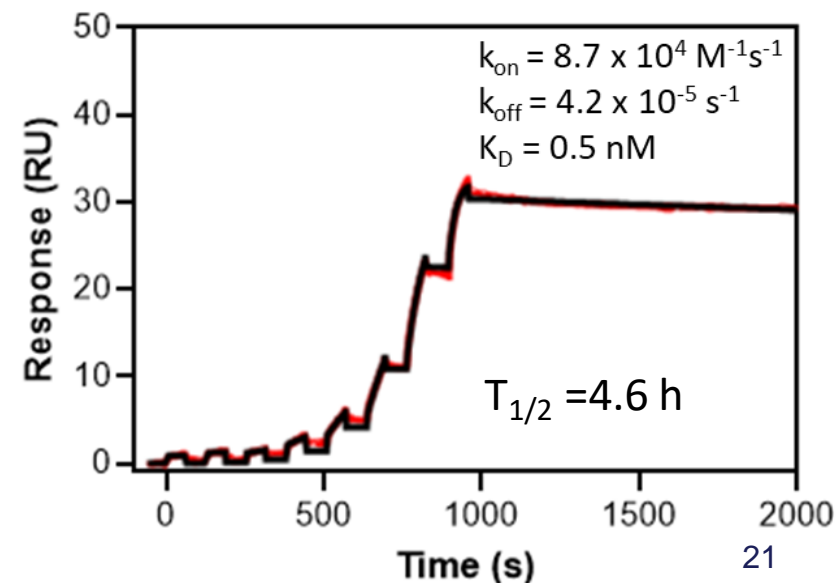
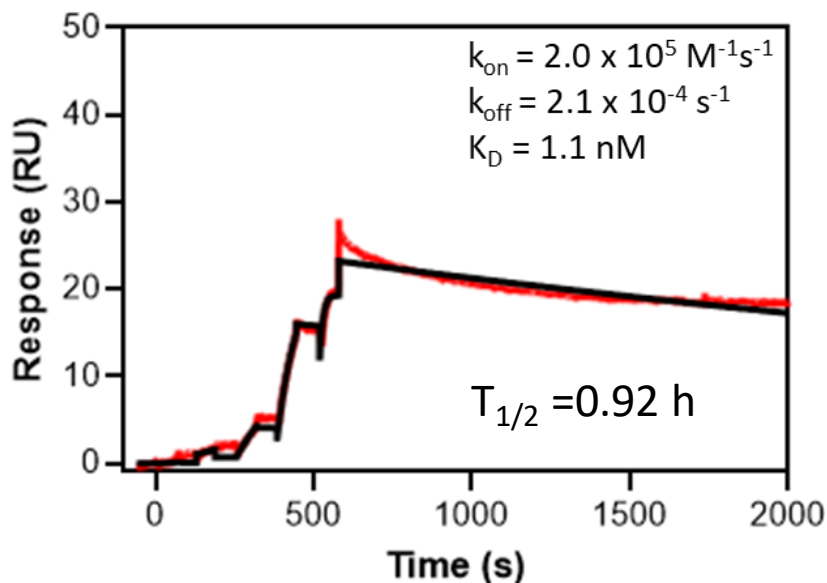
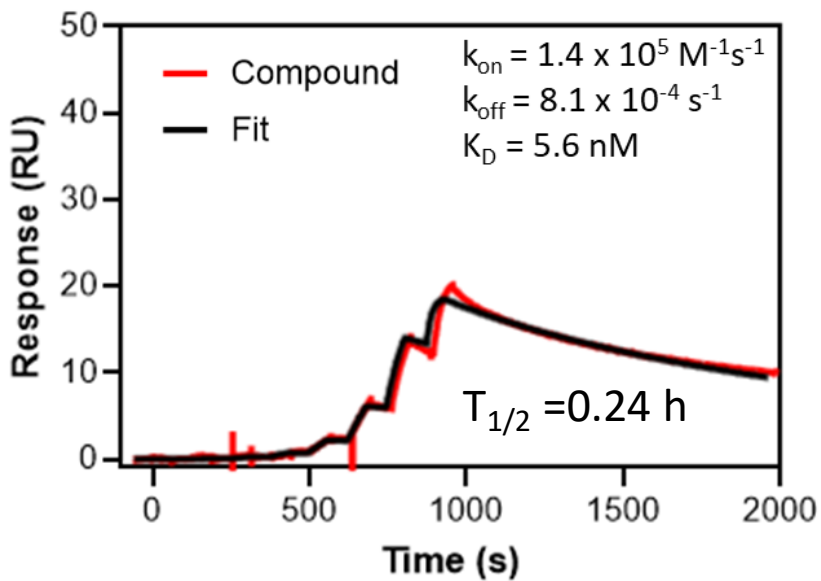
T-cell IL-2 AUC	39
T-cell IL-2 2.5x (nM)	17.6



T-cell IL-2 AUC	38
T-cell IL-2 2.5x (nM)	6.4

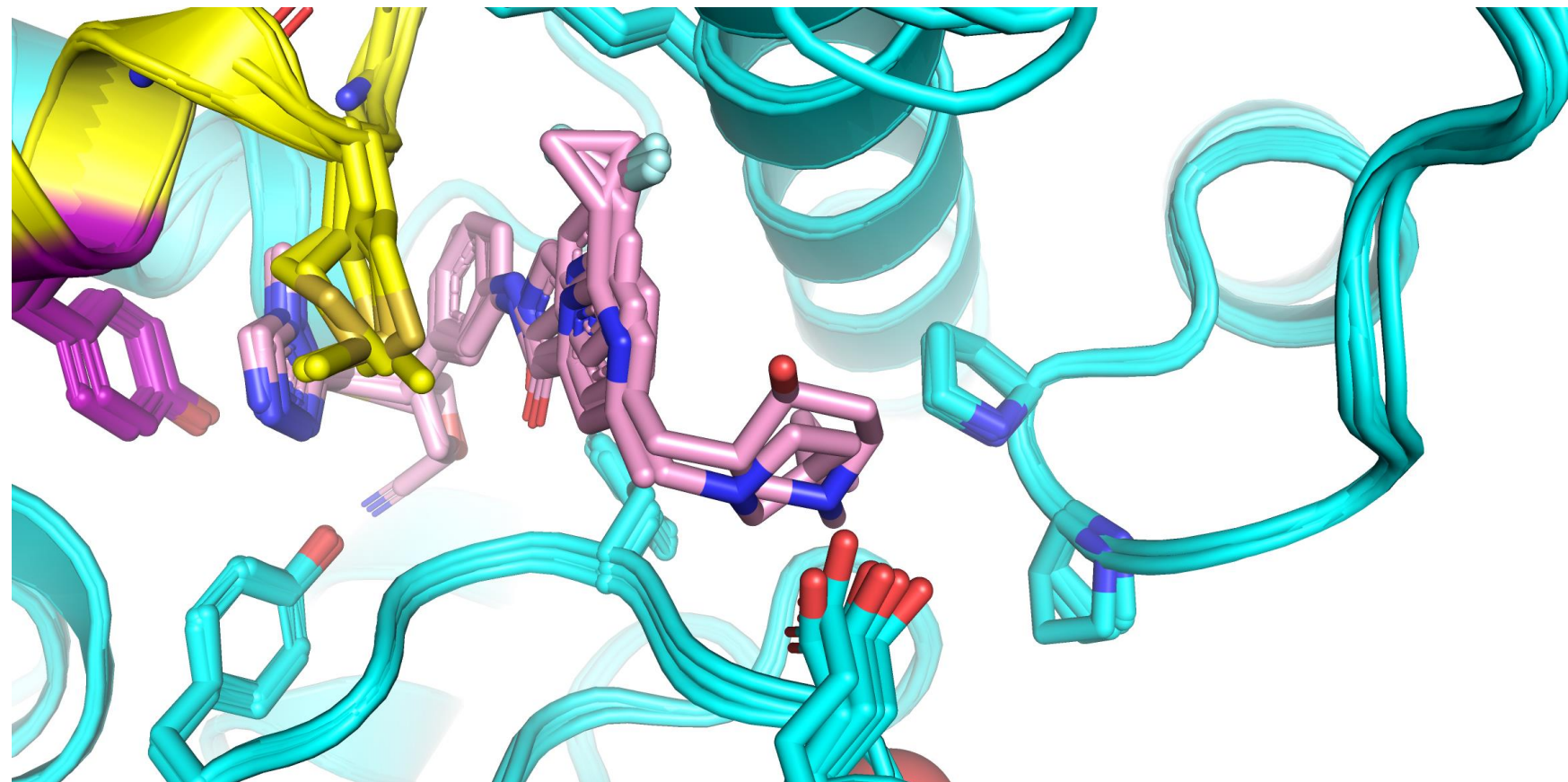


T-cell IL-2 AUC	54
T-cell IL-2 2.5x (nM)	0.38



Structural Hypothesis for Slow Off-Rate

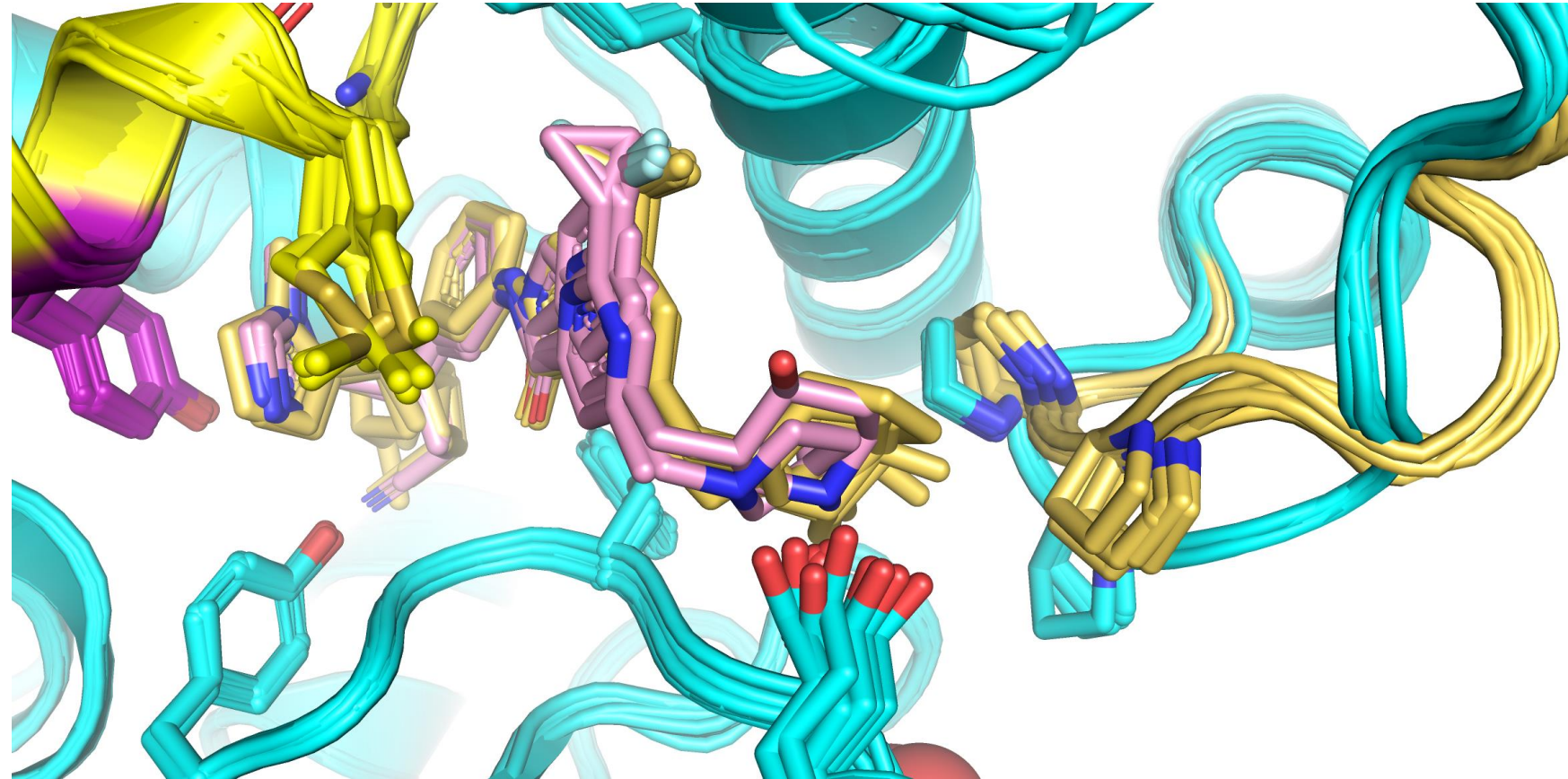
Overlay of crystal structures of 5 inhibitor (pink) structures with CBL-B that either do not fill or sub-optimally fill the second pocket (Cyan) shows a highly consistent protein structure



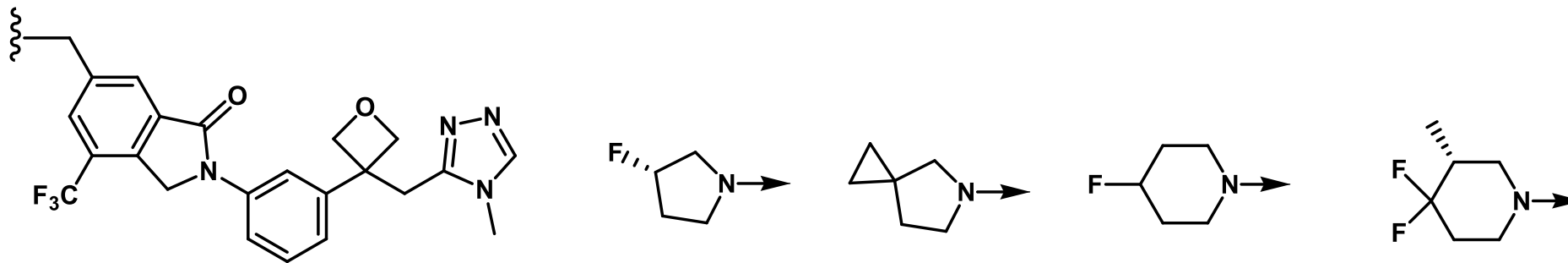
Structural Hypothesis for Slow Off-Rate

Overlay of crystal structures of 5 inhibitor (pink) structures with CBL-B that either do not fill or sub-optimally fill the second pocket (Cyan) shows a highly consistent protein structure

Overlay of 6 crystal structures of inhibitors with slightly larger substituents reveals a large movement in the pro-pro loop (Gold)



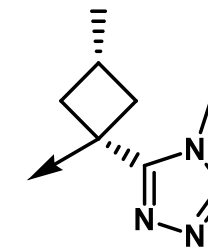
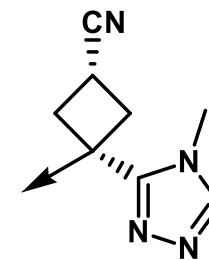
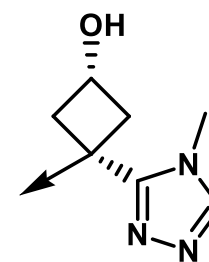
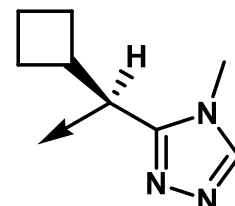
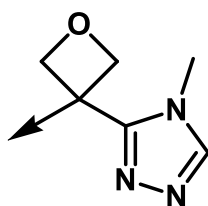
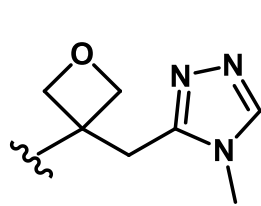
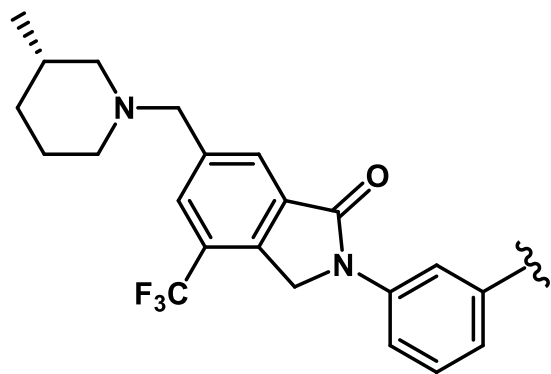
T-cell Activity Drives *in vivo* PD



		NRX-26	NRX-27	NRX-28	NRX-31
	T-cell IL-2 2.5x (nM)	72.1	6.4	12.8	0.38
	Hepatocyte Stability h/m (pred CL hep, ml/min/kg)	<8/58	<8/70	<8/67	14/61
Mouse PKPD	Dose mg/kg; freq	180/BID#	180/BID#	135/BID#	180/BID# 90/QD
	Free Conc 2h/7.5h (nM)	200/-	830/54	455/22	844/100 830/19
	Fold increase CD25+/CD4+ cells (24h)	1.3	2.0	1.6	3.6 2.2

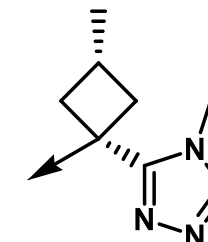
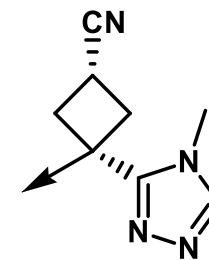
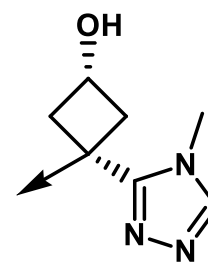
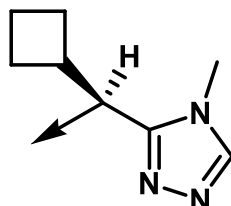
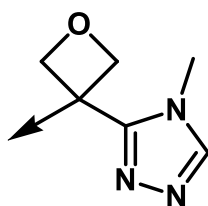
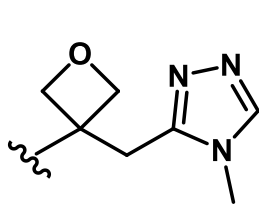
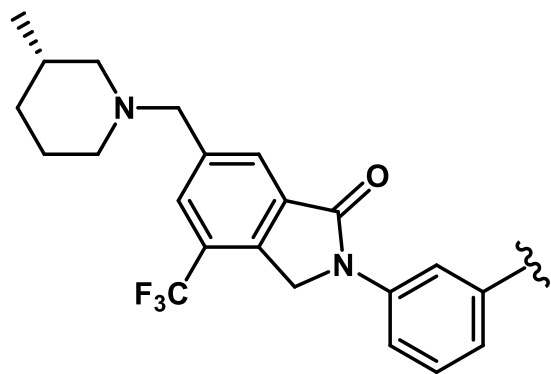
#BID doses at T 0, 8h

Shortened Linkers Provide Improved Activity



	NRX-30	NRX-32	NRX-33	NRX-34	NRX-35	NRX-36
CBL-B Probe Displacement-IC ₅₀ (nM)	2.0	65.1	0.47	2.7	2.5	0.46
T-cell IL-2 2.5x (nM)	6.3	-	0.057	4.89	1.79	0.054
Hepatocyte Stability h/m (pred CL hep, ml/min/kg)	13/75	<8/71	16/60	9/66	14/59	18/67

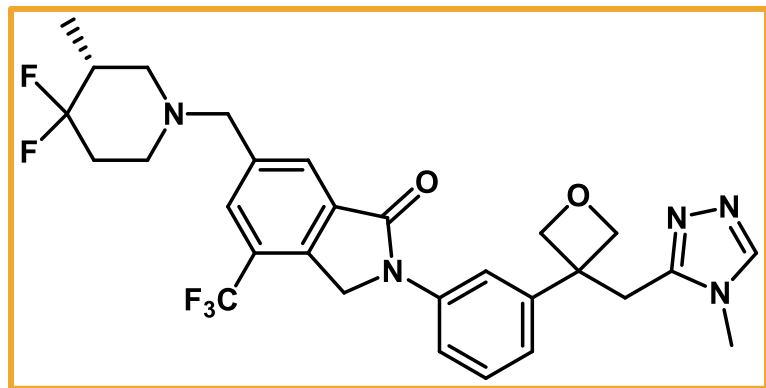
Shortened Linkers Provide Improved Activity



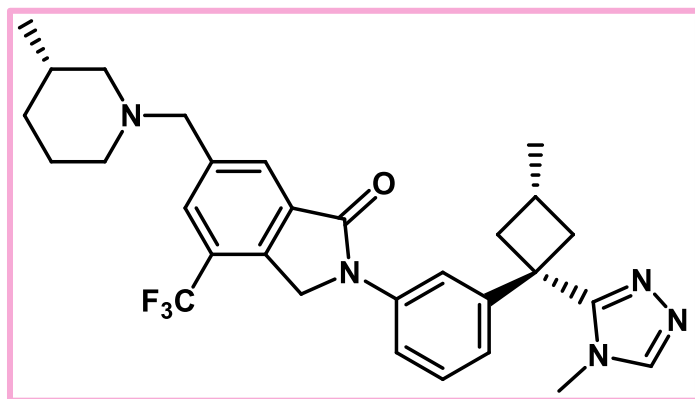
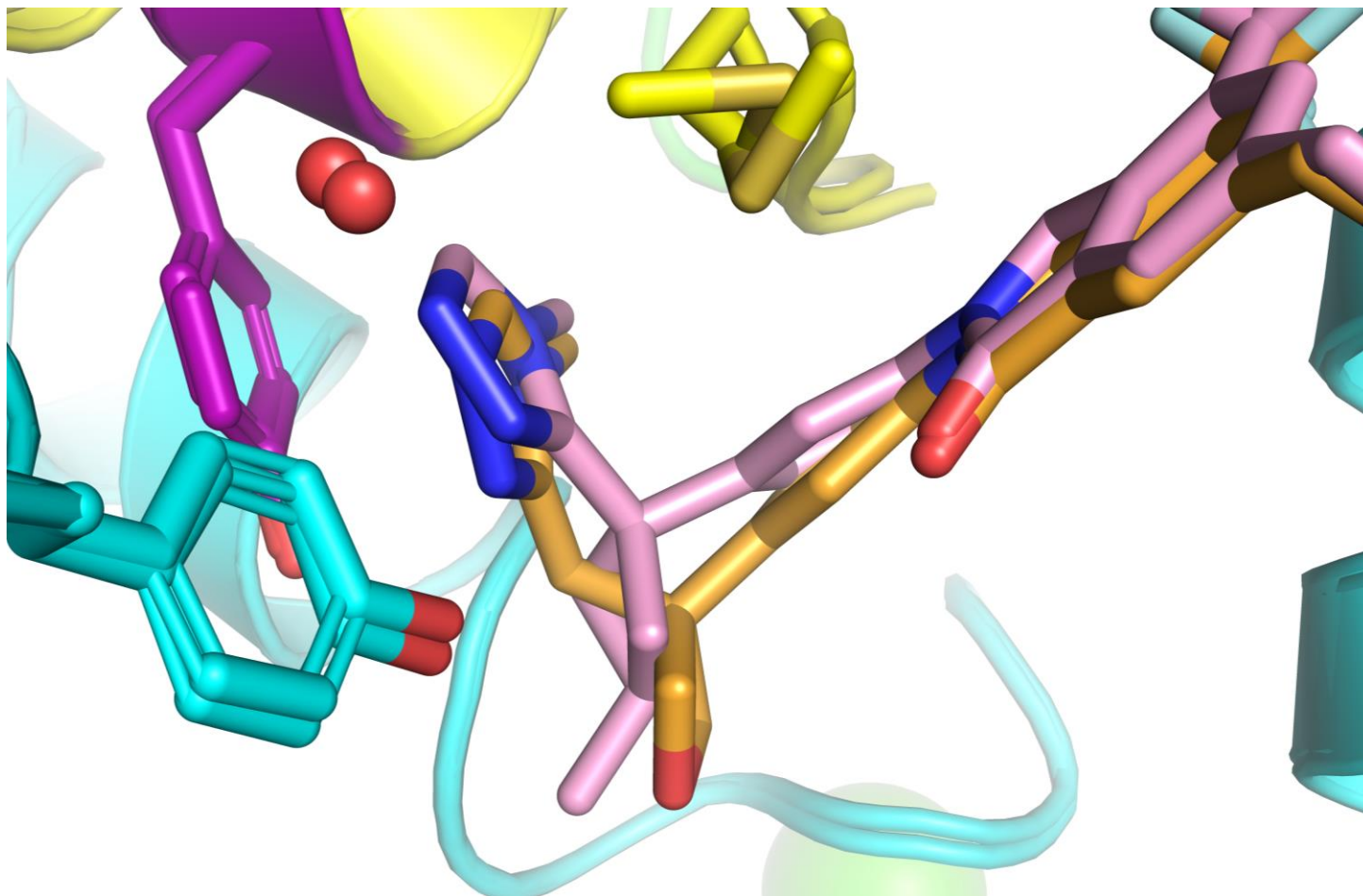
	NRX-30	NRX-32	NRX-33	NRX-34	NRX-35	NX-1607	
CBL-B Probe Displacement-IC ₅₀ (nM)	2.0	65.1	0.47	2.7	2.5	0.46	
T-cell IL-2 2.5x (nM)	6.3	-	0.057	4.89	1.79	0.054	
Hepatocyte Stability h/m (pred CL hep, ml/min/kg)	13/75	<8/71	16/60	9/66	14/59	18/67	
Mouse PKPD	Dose mg/kd; freq					90/QD	45/BID#
	Free Conc 2h/7.5h (nM)					280/48	120/5
	Fold increase CD25+/CD4+ cells (24h)					2.6	4.4

#BID doses at T 0, 8h

Shortened Spacer Molecules Maintain Key Interactions

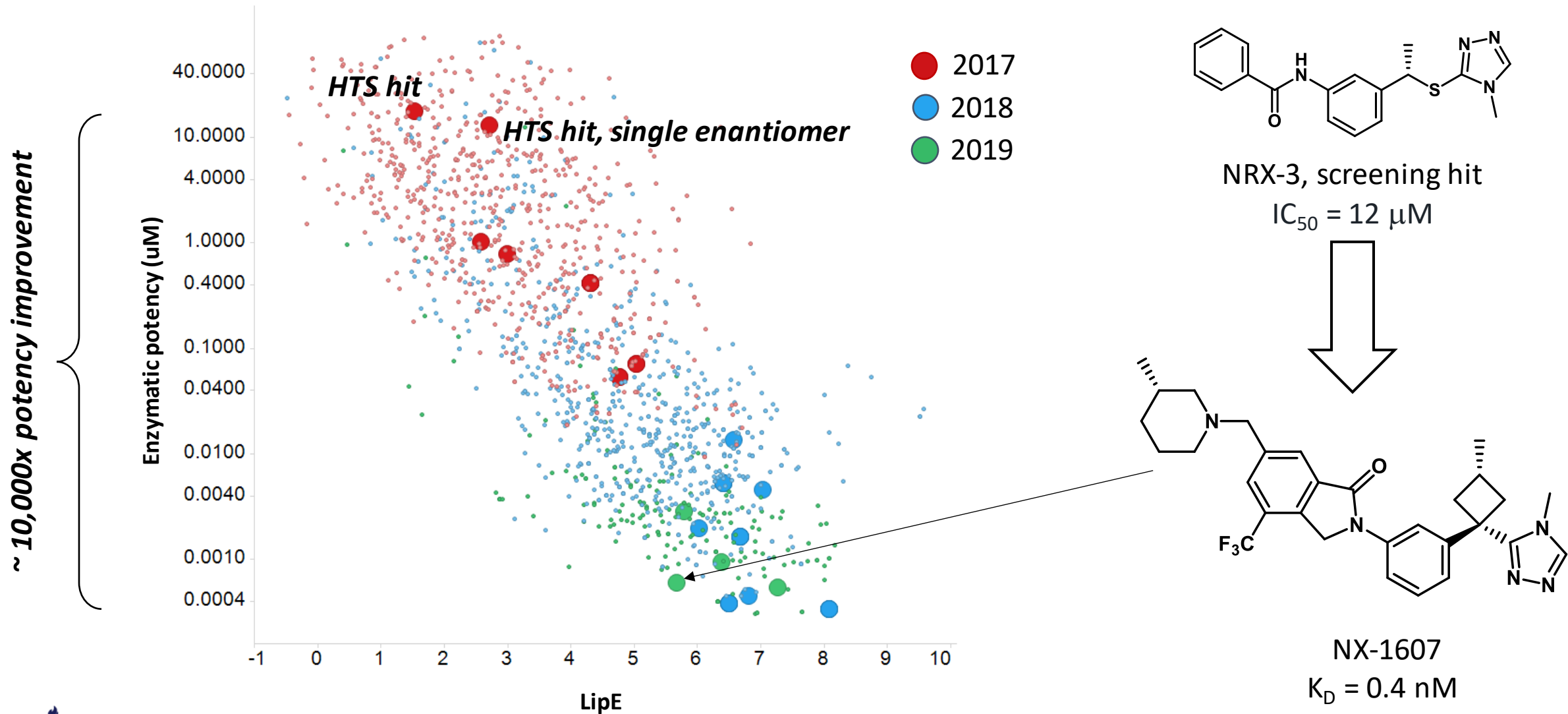


NRX-31



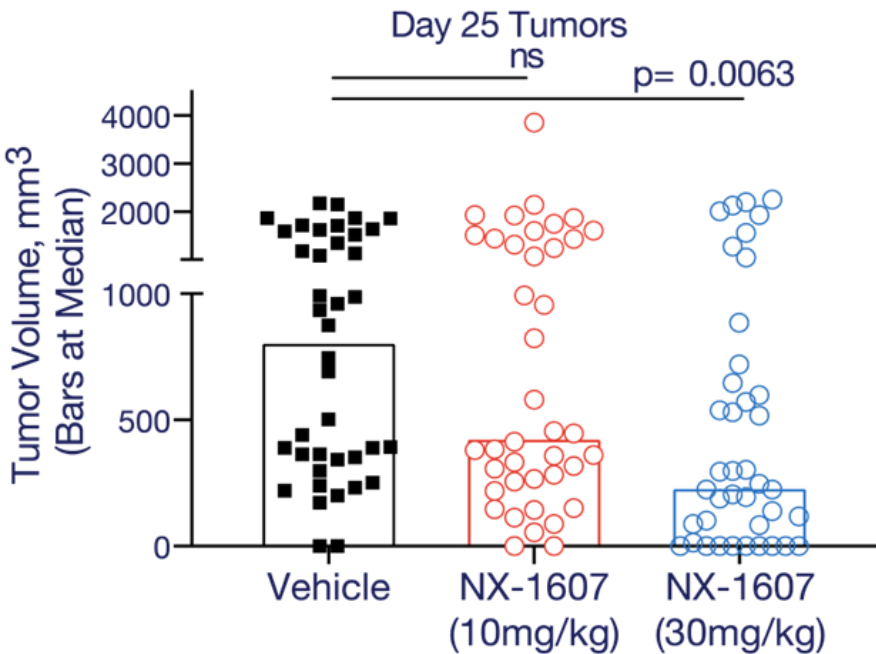
NX-1607

Over 10,000-fold Enzymatic Potency Improvement Achieved While Improving Molecular Properties

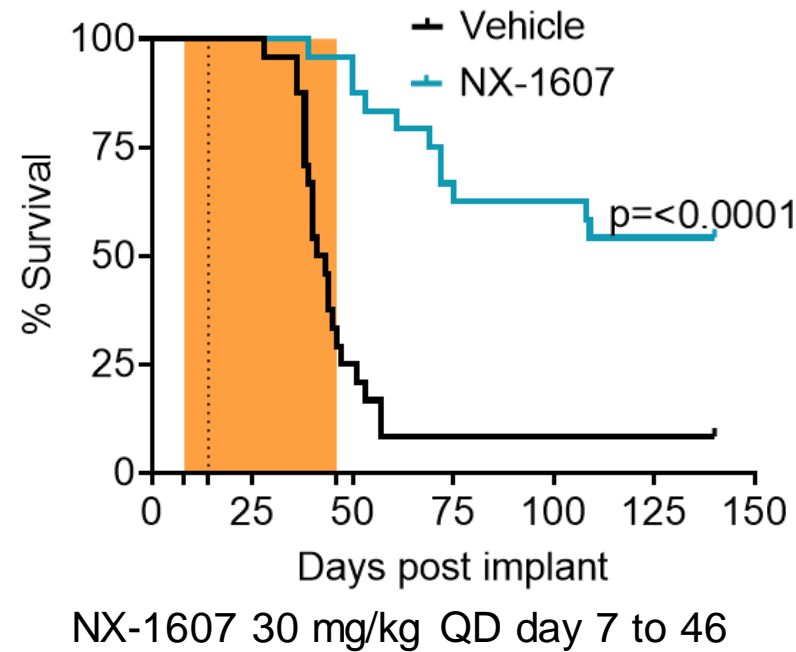


Single-Agent NX-1607 Induces Antitumor Response in Multiple Models

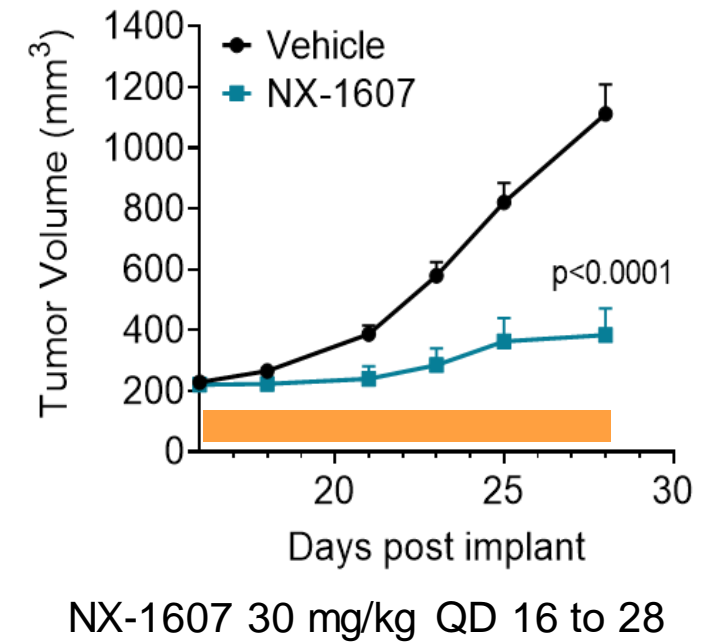
Colorectal (CT26)



Triple-Negative Breast (4T1)



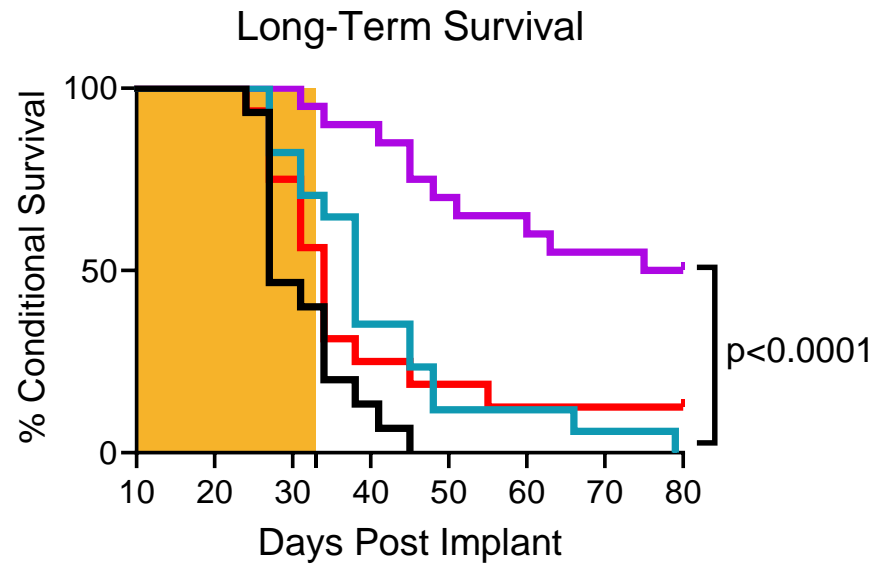
B Cell Lymphoma (A20)



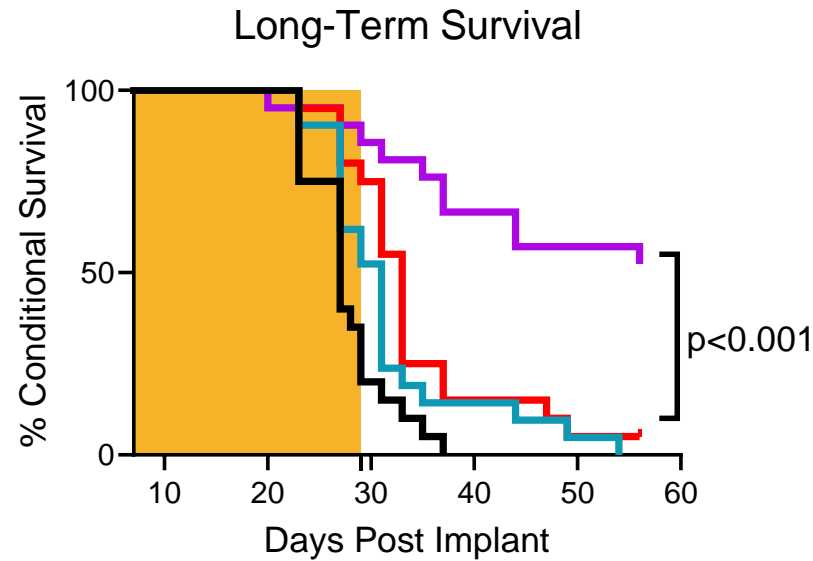
Shaded area indicates dosing period

NX-1607 and Anti-PD-1 Synergize to Enhance Survival in Multiple Models

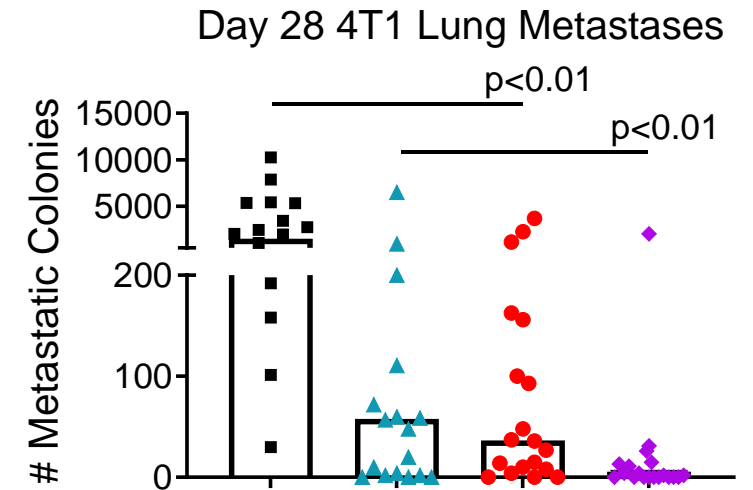
Colorectal (CT26)



Colorectal (MC38)



Triple-Negative Breast (4T1)



■ Vehicle ▲ NX-1607 ● anti-PD-1 ◆ NX-1607+anti-PD-1

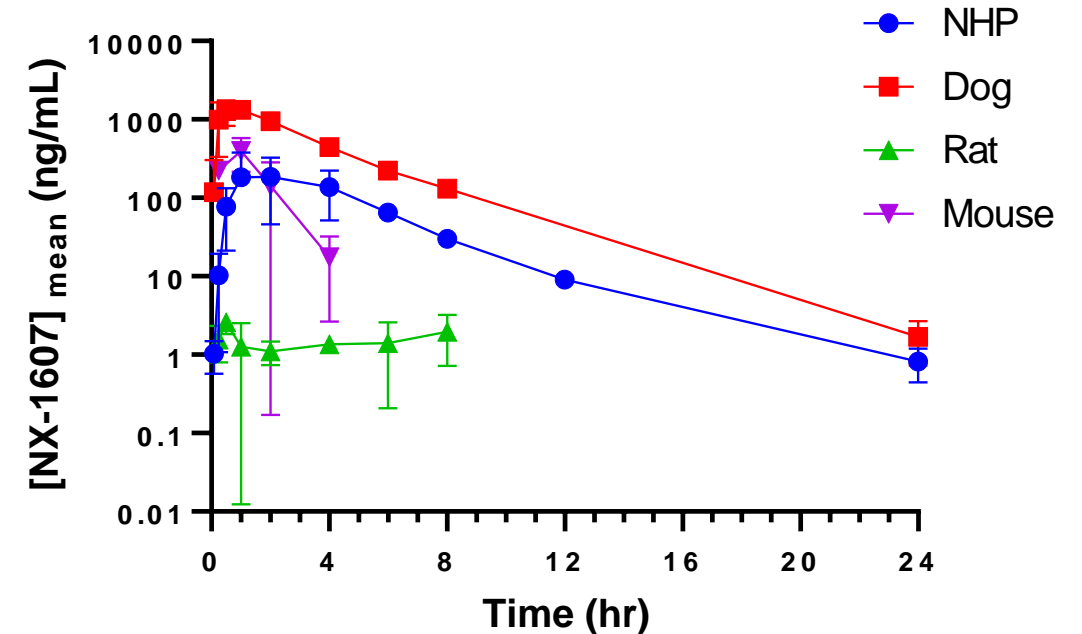
Shaded area indicates dosing period: NX-1607 (30 mg/kg, PO daily) and anti-PD-1 (twice a week at 10 mg/kg)

NX-1607 Cross-Species PK

Cross-Species PK Findings

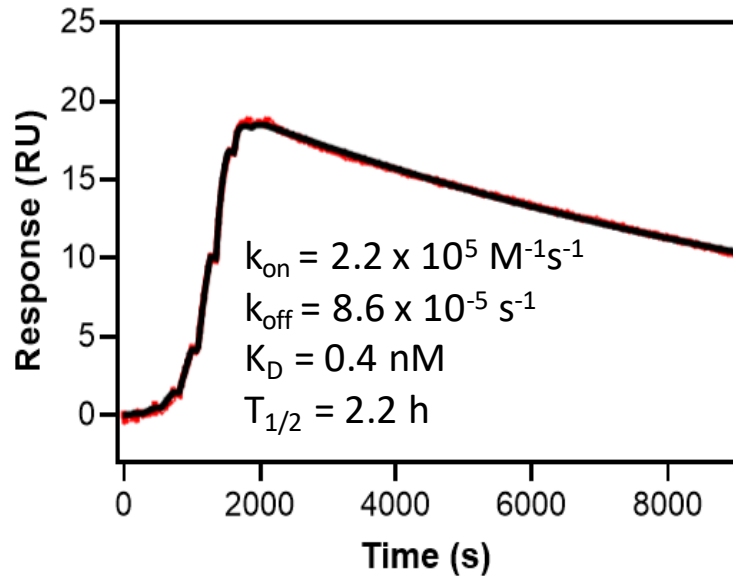
Parameters	Unit	Mouse	Rat	Dog	NHP
IV Dose	mg/kg	1	1	1	0.5
PO Dose	mg/kg	10	10	10	10
CL	mL/min/kg	59	40	16	27
	%Q	49	59	52	61
Vss	L/kg	1.4	3.2	2.0	2.8
IVT _{1/2}	h	0.33	1.4	1.7	1.6
F	%	25	0.23	48	7
PPB	% bound	97.3	96.2	94.6	96.2

Mean Plasma vs Time profiles for NX-1607 after 10 mg/kg PO Dose



- NX-1607 has CL rates ~50% of LBF across preclinical species
- Is moderately bound to plasma
- Has moderate to good oral bioavailability (except in rat)

NX-1607 Displays Favorable *in vitro* Safety Profile

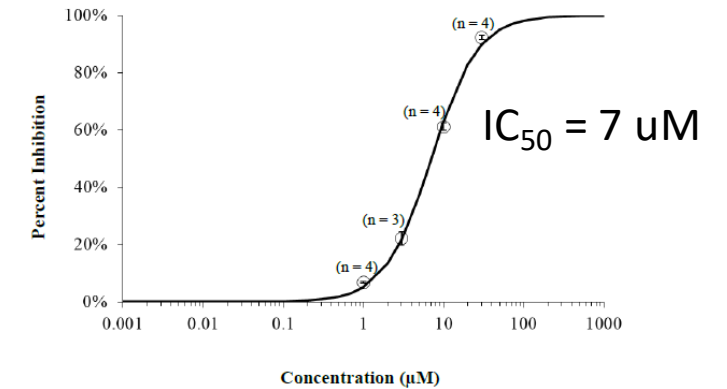


SPR sensogram for the binding kinetics and affinity measurements of NX-1607 to CBL-B.

The dark red curves are fitted curves generated from a 1:1 binding model.

NX-1607 Properties	
Parameter	Value
mw	537.6 amu
pKa/LogD _{7.4}	8.3/3.5
Solubility (PBS, pH=7.4)	230 uM
K _D CBL-B (nM) spr	0.4
K _D C-CBL (nM) spr	1.43
CACO Permeability A-B(10 ⁻⁶ cm/sec) B-A Ratio	18.3 2.3
hPPB	97.1
CYP (%I @ 10 uM) 1A2/2B6/2C9/2C19/2D6/	14/18/48/42/28
CYP3A4 IC ₅₀ , uM Tst/mid	3.9/6.0
GSH trapping/TDI	Neg
Ames/MNT (+/- S9)	Neg

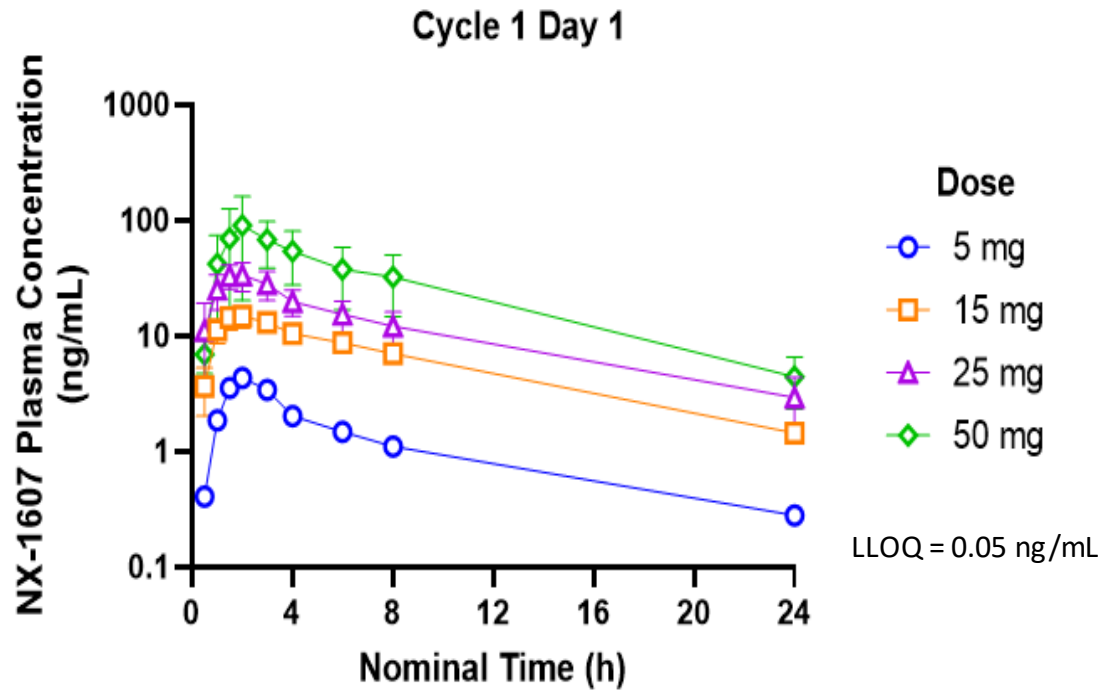
Concentration-response relationship of NX-1607 on hERG current



- Measured IC₅₀ (CERE&hERG) values are >100X predicted efficacious free drug concentration in patients
- 28-day Tox studies in rat and NHP were supportive of advancement to clinical testing.

NX-1607-101 Interim Clinical PK Results Suggest Linear PK

Preliminary PK data suggest NX-1607 has dose-proportional exposures and a mean half-life of 6 to 8 hours at doses ranging from 5 to 50 mg (NCT05107674).



Dose	Cycle 1 Day 1			
	C_{max} (ng/mL)	AUC_{0-last} (h*ng/mL)	T_{max} (h)	$t_{1/2}$ (h)
5 mg (n=1)	4.35	26.2	2.0	7.72
15 mg (n=9)	16.2 (38.5)	129 (33.4)	2.0 (1.5 - 6.0)	7.14 (19.8)
25 mg (n=6)	30.1 (109)	201 (103)	1.5 (1.0 - 3.0)	6.82 (27.5)
50 mg (n=2)	79.2 (134)	502 (113)	2.5 (2.0 - 3.0)	5.88 (7.7)

C_{max} and AUC_{0-last} are presented as geometric mean (geometric %CV); T_{max} is presented as median (range); $t_{1/2}$ is presented as mean (%CV)

Dose-proportional increases in PK/PD observed in NX-1607-101 clinical trial are consistent with the potent anti-tumor activity seen in preclinical mouse models:

Whelan, S., et al. (2022) Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) 2022, Boston, MA.

Summary

- A novel HTS assay was developed to screen for multiple modes of CBL-B inhibition
- A singleton hit was confirmed to be an intramolecular glue, stabilizing the closed, inactive state of the ligase
- The compound series was optimized for T-cell activation leveraging *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays
- NX-1607:
 - Single-agent efficacy in multiple mouse tumor models
 - Synergizes with anti-PD1
 - Pre-clinical safety profile supportive of clinical study
 - Currently in a Phase 1 clinical trial (NCT05107674)
 - Linear PK in patients at doses from 5 to 50 mg