



Synthesis, metabolic stability and antiviral evaluation of various alkoxyalkyl esters of cidofovir and 9-(S)-[3-hydroxy-2-(phosphonomethoxy)propyl]adenine

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ABSTRACT

Alkoxyalkyl esters of cidofovir (CDV) are orally active agents which inhibit the replication of a variety of double stranded DNA (dsDNA) viruses including variola, vaccinia, ectromelia, herpes simplex virus, cytomegalovirus, adenovirus and others. One of these compounds, hexadecyloxypropyl-CDV (HDP-CDV, CMX001) is in clinical development for prevention and treatment of poxvirus infection, vaccination complications, and for infections caused by cytomegalovirus, adenovirus, herpesviruses and other dsDNA viruses. This class of lipid analogs is potentially prone to undergo omega oxidation of the alkyl moiety which can lead to a short chain carboxylic acid lacking antiviral activity. To address this issue, we synthesized a series of alkoxyalkyl or alkyl glycerol esters of CDV and (S)-HPMPA having modifications in the structure of the alkyl residue. Antiviral activity was assessed in cells infected with vaccinia, cowpox or ectromelia viruses. Metabolic stability was determined in S9 membrane fractions from rat, guinea pig, monkey and human liver. All compounds had substantial antiviral activity in cells infected with vaccinia, cowpox or ectromelia. Metabolic stability was lowest in monkey liver S9 incubations where rapid disappearance of HDP-CDV and HDP-(S)-HPMPA was noted. Metabolic stability in monkey preparations increased substantially when a ω -1 methyl group (15-methyl-HDP-CDV) or a terminal cyclopropyl residue (14-cyclopropyl-tetradecyloxypropyl-CDV) was present in the alkyl chain. The most stable compound was 1-O-octadecyl-2-O-benzyl-sn-glycero-3-CDV (ODBG-CDV) which was not metabolized extensively by monkey liver S9. In rat, guinea pig or human liver S9 incubations, most of the modified antiviral compounds were considerably more stable.

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1. Introduction

Esterification of 1-(S)-[3-hydroxy-2-(phosphonomethoxy)propyl]cytosine (cidofovir, CDV) or 9-(S)-[3-hydroxy-2-(phosphonomethoxy)propyl]adenine (HPMPA) with various alkoxyalkyl or alkylglycerol groups leads to remarkable increases in antiviral activity against herpes virus¹ and orthopoxviruses.² This is due primarily to increased cellular uptake of the alkoxyalkyl esters of CDV and HPMPA and conversion to CDV diphosphate³ or HPMPA diphosphate.⁴ In mammalian cells cidofovir (CDV) and HPMPA alkoxyalkyl esters are cleaved by phosphatases of the phospholipase C type, releasing CDV and HPMPA which are sequentially phosphorylated to CDV- and HPMPA-diphosphate, the active

antivirals.^{3–5} Alkoxyalkyl esters of CDV are orally active⁶ against a variety of dsDNA virus infections including vaccinia, ectromelia, cytomegalovirus and adenovirus.^{7–10}

Long hydrocarbon chains such as those present in hexadecyloxypropyl-CDV (HDP-CDV) or hexadecyloxypropyl-(S)-HPMPA (HDP-HPMPA) may be hydroxylated at the ω or ω -1 carbon atoms by a mixed function oxidase (EC 1.14.14.1) in a process referred to as omega oxidation. The enzymes of omega oxidation are present in the endoplasmic reticulum of liver and kidney where the substrates are fatty acids; preferred substrates are fatty acids having 10 or 12 carbons in length¹¹; longer hydrocarbon chains may also be hydroxylated at the ω carbon or the ω -1 carbon.¹² After further oxidations catalyzed by alcohol dehydrogenase (EC 1.1.1.1) and aldehyde dehydrogenase (EC 1.2.1.3) the ω carbon is converted to a carboxylic acid which may then undergo repeated cycles of beta oxidation in mitochondria or peroxisomes leading to a short

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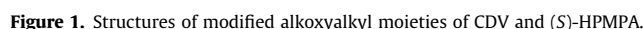
To see if the omega oxidation pathway for HDP-CDV or HDP-HPMPA can be slowed, we synthesized a series of alkoxyalkyl or alkylglycerol esters of CDV and HPMPA having modifications in their alkyl structure and assessed their in vitro cytotoxicity and antiviral activity against ectromelia, vaccinia and cowpox. Metabolic stability of the modified alkoxyalkyl esters was compared with their straight chain counterparts in liver S9 assays using liver preparations from guinea pig, rat, monkey and human sources.

2.1. Synthesis

2.2. Antiviral evaluation

2.3. Metabolic stability of CDV analogs

Various alkoxyalkyl esters of CDV were incubated with liver S9 fractions and an NADPH⁺ generating system for 90 min and disappearance was measured by LC-MS. To verify activity of the preparations, 7-ethoxycoumarin was used as a positive control (data not shown). Disappearance curves with rat, guinea pig and human liver S9 incubations show slow metabolism of HDP-CDV at both 1 and 10 μ M drug concentration (Fig. 2). However, monkey S9 degrades HDP-CDV very rapidly with 50% loss in 20 min. In contrast, ODBG-CDV is very slowly degraded by monkey S9; 15M-HDP-CDV and 14-cp-TDP-CDV are metabolized at intermediate rates with 50% reduction in approximately 45–70 min. ODBG-CDV metabolism at 10 and 1 μ M is minimal with 100% and 88.3% remaining at 90 min. Comparing the amount of intact drug



| cmpd | B | R | name | abbreviation |
|-----------|---|---|---|-------------------|
| <u>1</u> | | $-(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{15}\text{CH}_3$ | hexadecyloxypropyl cidofovir | HDP-CDV |
| <u>2</u> | | $-(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{14}\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_3$ | 15-methyl-hexadecyloxypropyl cidofovir | 15M-HDP-CDV |
| <u>3</u> | | $-(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{13}\text{CH}_2$ | 14-cyclopropyl-tetradecyloxypropyl cidofovir | 14-cp-TDP-CDV |
| <u>4</u> | | $-(\text{CH}_2)_{17}\text{CH}_3$ | 1-O-octadecyl-2-O-benzyl-sn-glycero-3-cidofovir | ODBG-CDV |
| <u>5</u> | | $-(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{12}\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_3$ | 13-methyl-tetradecyloxypropyl cidofovir | 13M-TDP-CDV |
| <u>6</u> | | $-(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{11}\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_3$ | 12-methyl-tridecyloxypropyl cidofovir | 12M-TRDP-CDV |
| <u>7</u> | | $-(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{15}\text{CH}_3$ | hexadecyloxypropyl (S)-HPMPA | HDP-(S)-HPMPA |
| <u>8</u> | | $-(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{14}\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_3$ | 15-methyl-hexadecyloxypropyl (S)-HPMPA | 15M-HDP-(S)-HPMPA |
| <u>9</u> | | $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{14}\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$ | hexadecenyloxyethyl (S)-HPMPA | HDNE-(S)-HPMPA |
| <u>10</u> | | $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{15}\text{CH}_3$ | hexadecyloxyethyl (S)-HPMPA | HDE-(S)-HPMPA |
| <u>11</u> | | $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{14}\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_3$ | 15-methyl-hexadecyloxyethyl (S)-HPMPA | 15M-HDE-(S)-HPMPA |

Scheme 1. Synthesis of CDV and (S)-HPMPA alkoxyalkyl esters.

Table 1

Antiviral activity of metabolically stable alkoxyalkyl prodrugs of CDV and (S)-HPMPA against orthopoxviruses

| Compound | Ectromelia | | | Cowpox | | | Vaccinia | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------|------------------------|------------------|------|------------------------|------------------|------|
| | EC ₅₀ | CC ₅₀ | S.I. | EC ₅₀ | CC ₅₀ | S.I. | EC ₅₀ | CC ₅₀ | S.I. |
| <i>Cidofovir compounds</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| HDP-CDV | 0.125 ± 0.06 | 25.3 ± 7.5 | 202 | 0.2 ± 0.1 | 25 ± 9.5 | 125 | 0.08 ± 0.03 | 25 ± 9.5 | 313 |
| 15M-HDP-CDV | 0.043 ± 0.007 | 78.0 ± 9.9 | 1810 | 0.1 ± 0.04 | 15 ± 4.0 | 150 | 0.2 ± 0.06 | 15 ± 4.0 | 75 |
| 14-cp-TDP-CDV | 0.74 ± 0.22 | 74.0 ± 4.5 | 100 | 0.5 ± 0.05 | 56 ± 13 | 112 | 0.3 ± 0.2 | 56 ± 13 | 187 |
| ODBG-CDV | 0.03 ± 0.007 | 35 ^a | 1100 | 0.3 ± 0.1 ^b | 47 ± 24 | 157 | 0.4 ± 0.1 ^b | 47 ± 24 | 118 |
| 13M-TDP-CDV | 0.39 ± 0.12 | 82 | 210 | 0.3 ± 0.1 | 37 ± 5.6 | 123 | 0.3 ± 0.2 | 37 ± 5.6 | 123 |
| 12M-TRDP-CDV | 0.35 ± 0.07 | 82 | 234 | 0.8 ± 0.2 | 44 ± 4.0 | 55 | 1.0 ± 0.4 | 44 ± 4.0 | 44 |
| <i>(S)-HPMPA compounds</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| HDP-(S)-HPMPA | 0.066 ± .014 | 84.7 ± 26.4 | 1280 | 0.02 ± .006 | 2.8 ± 1.3 | 140 | 0.01 ± 0.006 | 2.8 ± 1.3 | 280 |
| 15M-HDP-(S)-HPMPA | 0.044 ± 0.016 | 11.7 ± 5 | 266 | 0.04 ± 0.02 | 11.4 ± 14 | 285 | 0.04 ± 0.03 | 11.4 ± 14 | 285 |
| HDNE-(S)-HPMPA | 0.32 ± 0.12 | 2.32 ± 0.94 | 7.2 | 0.02 ± 0.002 | 1.7 ± 0.9 | 85 | 0.02 ± 0.004 | 1.7 ± 0.9 | 85 |
| HDE-(S)-HPMPA | 0.14 ± 0.06 | 40.5 ± 17.5 | 289 | 0.09 ± 0.03 | 14 ± 1.9 | 156 | 0.09 ± 0.05 | 14 ± 1.9 | 156 |
| 15M-HDE-(S)-HPMPA | 0.01 ± 0.006 | 59.6 ± 16.7 | 5960 | 0.01 ± 0.005 | 2.5 ± 0.1 | 250 | 0.01 ± 0.002 | 2.5 ± 0.1 | 250 |

Data are μM, mean ± SD (n = 3). When no SD is given the result is the average of two determinations. Abbreviations: HDP-CDV, hexadecyloxypropyl-cidofovir; 15M-HDP-CDV, 15-methyl-hexadecyloxypropyl-cidofovir; 14-cp-TDP-CDV, 14-cyclopropyl-tetradecyloxypropyl-cidofovir; ODBG-CDV, 1-O-octadecyl-2-O-benzyl-sn-glycero-3-cidofovir; 13M-TDP-CDV, 13-methyl-tetradecyloxypropyl-cidofovir; 12M-TRDP-CDV, 12-methyl-tridecyloxypropyl-cidofovir; HDP-(S)-HPMPA, hexadecyloxypropyl-(S)-HPMPA; 15M-HDP-(S)-HPMPA, 15-methyl-hexadecyloxypropyl-(S)-HPMPA; HDNE-(S)-HPMPA, ω-hexadecenyloxyethyl-(S)-HPMPA; HDE-(S)-HPMPA, hexadecyloxyethyl-(S)-HPMPA; 15M-HDE-(S)-HPMPA, 15-methyl-hexadecyloxyethyl-(S)-HPMPA. SI, selective index; EC₅₀, 50% effective concentration; CC₅₀, 50% cytotoxic concentration as μM. Antiviral assays are plaque reduction assays as noted in Methods.

^a Hostetler, K. Y. et al. *Antiviral Res.* **2007**, 73, 212.

^b Keith, K. A. et al. *Antimicrob. Agents Chemother.* **2004**, 48, 1869.

remaining in 1 μM monkey and human S9 incubations at 90 min, the % remaining of ODBG-CDV, 15M-HDP-CDV and 14-cp-TDP-CDV is 88.3%, 29.0% and 34.7% versus 16.7% for HDP-CDV, a differ-

ence which is highly significant at the *p* < 0.001 level (Table 2). The differences in human S9 incubations are much smaller, but there is a statistically significant difference at 90 min between HDP-CDV

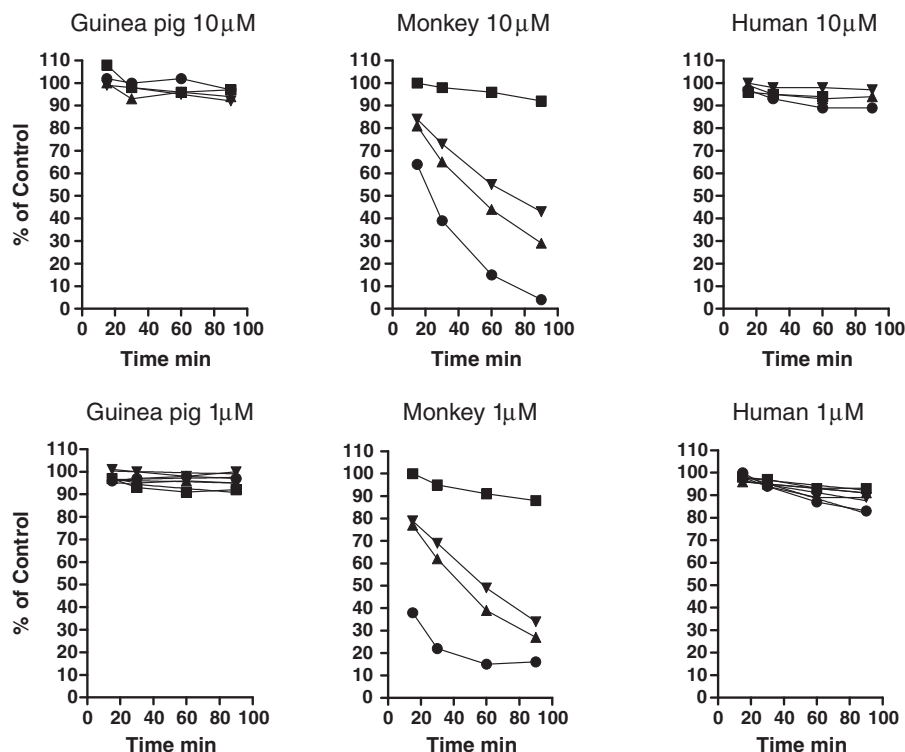


Figure 2. Metabolic stability of various alkoxyalkyl esters of CDV in Liver S9 fractions. Legend: HDP-CDV, circles; ODBG-CDV, squares; 15M-HDP-CDV, triangles; 14-cp-TDP-CDV, inverted triangles.

Table 2

Metabolic stability of CDV analogs in human and monkey liver S9 fractions after a 90 min exposure

| Compound | Monkey S9 | | Human S9 | |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Mean \pm SD | <i>p</i> value | Mean \pm SD | <i>p</i> value |
| HDP-CDV | 16.7 \pm 2.1 | — | 83.3 \pm 2.3 | — |
| ODBG-CDV | 88.3 \pm 2.5 | <0.001 | 92.3 \pm 4.0 | <0.05 |
| 15M-HDP-CDV | 29.0 \pm 1.0 | <0.001 | 91.3 \pm 1.5 | <0.05 |
| 14-cp-TDP-CDV | 34.7 \pm 0.58 | <0.001 | 88.0 \pm 2.6 | ns |

Result expressed as % compound remaining after 90 min incubation at 1 μ M. Data are % of compound remaining after a 90 min incubation, *n* = 3. Abbreviations as in Table 1. The *p* values are versus HDP-CDV. Statistics by Tukey-Kramer Multiple Comparisons test (InStat, San Diego). Additional statistical comparisons: ODBG-CDV versus 15M-HDP-CDV: monkey *p* <0.001; ODBG-CDV versus 14-cp-TDP-CDV: monkey *p* <0.001. 15M-HDP-CDV versus 14-cp-TDP-CDV: monkey *p* <0.05.

(83.3%) and ODBG-CDV (92.3%) and 15M-HDP-CDV (91.3%) at the *p* <0.05 level (Table 2).

2.4. Metabolic stability of HPMPA analogs

Several alkoxyalkyl esters of (S)-HPMPA were also compared in monkey and human liver S9 incubations (Fig. 3). In human liver S9, HDP-HPMPA and 15M-HDP-HPMPA were degraded slowly at both 1 and 10 μ M concentrations. However, HDNE-HPMPA is degraded very rapidly. This was especially pronounced in monkey S9 fractions where there was 98% degradation (1 μ M) and 80% degradation by 90 min (10 μ M). Interestingly, monkey S9 degradation of HDP-CDV (Fig. 2) is much more rapid than HDP-HPMPA (Fig. 3) suggesting that the nature of the nucleobase may also affect metabolic stability independently of the nature of the alkyl chain.

3. Discussion

Introduction of a ω -1 methyl, a terminal double bond, or a terminal cyclopropyl residue in the alkyl moiety had little effect on antiviral activity of the various compounds compared with the activity of HDP-CDV or HDP-(S)-HPMPA. Esterification of CDV with a 1-*O*-octadecyl-2-*O*-benzyl-*sn*-glycerol moiety also produced a highly active compound. In general all antiviral compounds with modifications in the alkyl moiety retained excellent submicromolar EC₅₀ values although HDNE-(S)-HPMPA had unacceptably low selectivity (Table 1). In contrast, changes to the alkyl function or addition of a 2-*O*-benzyl group had a pronounced effect on the metabolic stability versus that of straight chain alkyl compounds such as HDP-CDV especially in monkey liver S9 fractions (Fig. 2, Table 2). The order of metabolic stability in monkey liver S9 in 1 and 10 μ M incubations was as follows: ODBG-CDV \gg 14-cp-TDP-CDV = 15M-HDP-CDV > HDP-CDV. The presence of a ω -1 methyl group or a terminal cyclopropyl residue appears to increase metabolic stability. Unexpectedly, introduction of a 2-*O*-benzyl group (ODBG-CDV) provides the greatest metabolic stability in spite of the remote position of the benzyl group to the omega end of the octadecyl alkyl chain. The reasons for this observation are not clear, but the 2-*O*-benzyl group may provide steric hindrance preventing proper binding of the alkyl chain to the enzymes which catalyze omega oxidation. Although HDP-CDV is highly susceptible to metabolic conversion in monkey liver (Fig. 2), compound stability was much greater in S9 fractions from rat, guinea pig and human liver. For example, in monkey S9 fractions at 1 and 10 μ M compound, only 4–16% of HDP-CDV remained after 90 min, but in human and guinea pig liver S9 incubations, 83–97% of the initial HDP-CDV remained after 90 min. This suggests that in vivo testing of HDP-CDV in monkey models of smallpox or monkeypox infection is unlikely to produce levels of intact drug sufficient for successful treatment of these infections. A better choice for treating

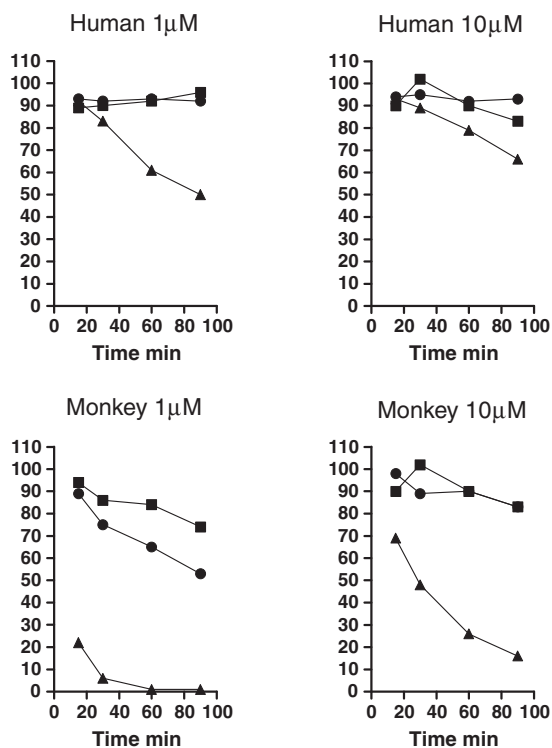


Figure 3. Metabolic stability of alkoxyalkyl esters of (S)-HPMPA in liver S9 fractions. Legend: HDP-(S)-HPMPA, circles; 15M-HDP-(S)-HPMPA, squares; HDNE-(S)-HPMPA, triangles.

monkey poxvirus infection models with CDV analogs might be ODBG-CDV, 14-cp-TDP-CDV or 15M-HDP-CDV, in that order, based on the data in Figure 2. Although HDP-CDV is relatively stable in human S9 incubations, ODBG-CDV and 15M-HDP-CDV are somewhat more stable at 90 min with 91–92% remaining versus 83% for HDP-CDV ($p < 0.05$) (Table 2).

However, it is important to note that rapid metabolism of HDP-CDV (CMX001) in humans has not been an issue and the drug has been used successfully to treat a variety of infections with double stranded DNA viruses including adenovirus, cytomegalovirus, herpes simplex virus, BK virus, JC virus where it is effective orally when administered once or twice a week.^{18–20} In an immunosuppressed patient with a disseminated vaccinia infection, after 3 weeks of ineffective treatment with ST-246 and vaccinia immune globulin, the infection cleared after CMX001 was added to the regimen.^{21,22}

With analogs of (S)-HPMPA, metabolic stability of straight chain alkoxyalkyl esters was substantially greater in monkey liver S9 fractions with 53–83% of the intact compound remaining after 90 min (Fig. 3). This suggests that the nature of the nucleobase (adenine versus cytosine) may also be important in determining metabolic stability. In human liver S9 the straight alkyl chain HDP-(S)-HPMPA was metabolically stable with 92–93% of intact compound after 90 min. Of note was the lack of stability and rapid metabolism of HDNE-(S)-HPMPA, a compound with a double bond at the end of the alkyl chain. Although the antiviral activity of the compound was generally good (0.3–0.74 μM), selectivity was poor and it was rapidly metabolized by monkey and human liver S9 fractions (Fig. 3).

4. Conclusion

A series of alkoxyalkyl esters of CDV and (S)-HPMPA designed to resist omega oxidation were synthesized placing functional groups at the end or at the ω-1 position of the alkyl chain or adding a 2-O-

benzyl residue as in ODBG-CDV. The antiviral activity of the modified compounds was not greatly affected by these changes and all compounds retained excellent submicromolar EC₅₀ values. However, there were profound changes in the metabolic stability of the compounds versus the straight alkyl chain compounds, particularly in monkey liver S9 preparations where straight chain HDP-CDV was rapidly metabolized and the modified compounds were substantially more stable. ODBG-CDV, which has a straight alkyl chain at the sn-1 position of glycerol and a 2-O-benzyl group, was the most stable even though the added functional group is not close to the ω end of the alkyl chain. In human liver S9 fractions, HDP-CDV was substantially more stable than in monkey S9 fractions. ODBG-CDV and 15M-HDP-CDV were slightly more stable than HDP-CDV in human liver S9 ($p < 0.05$). Our findings may have significance which could affect the design of new alkoxyalkyl esters of acyclic nucleoside phosphonates for treatment of human viral infections.

5. Experimental

5.1. Chemistry

¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian HG spectrophotometer operating at 400 MHz and are reported in units of ppm relative to internal tetramethylsilane at 0.00 ppm and the numbering system used for peak assignments is as shown in Scheme 1. Low resolution electrospray ionization mass spectra (ESI-MS) were recorded on a Finnigan LCQDECA spectrometer and high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on an Agilent 6230 Accurate-Mass TOFMS spectrometer, both at the small molecule facility, Department of Chemistry, University of California, San Diego. Chromatographic purification was done using the flash method with silica gel 60 (EMD Chemicals, Inc., 230–400 mesh). Cyclic cidofovir (cCDV) was provided by Gilead Sciences, Inc. and cyclic (S)-HPMPA (cHPMPA) was prepared as described previously.²³ Purity of the new, tested compounds was assessed by HPLC analysis at the Department of Chemistry, University of California, San Diego using an Agilent 1260 Infinity Binary HPLC, a Phenomenex (Torrance, CA) Synergi™ Polar-RP (4 μm, 150 × 4.6 mm) column equipped with SecurityGuard™ (pentafluorophenylpropyl) protection column and UV detection at 274 nm. Solutions were prepared in MeOH (1 mg/mL). Mobile phase A was HPLC grade water with 0.1% formic acid and mobile Phase B was HPLC grade methanol with 0.1% formic acid. The gradient (1.0 mL/min) was run as follows: 0–15 min: 10%B–95% B; 15–18 min: 95% B; 18–20 min: 95%B–10% B, and 20–25 min: 10% B. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using Analtech silica gel-GF (250 μm) plates. The products were visualized with UV light, phospray (Supelco, Bellefonte, PA, USA) and charring. Syntheses and characterization of compounds **1**, **4**, **7**, and **8** (Scheme 1) were previously reported by Kern et al.,² Wan et al.,¹⁵ Beadle et al.,²⁴ and Morrey et al.,²⁵ respectively. Grignard coupling reactions between isoamyl or isobutyl magnesium bromide and ω-bromo-α-alkanols were carried out as described by Yuasa and Tsuruta¹⁴ to provide 15-methyl-hexadecanol, 14-methyl-pentadecanol, 13-methyl-tetradecanol and 12-methyl-tridecanol.

5.1.1. General procedure. Synthesis of (ω-1)-methyl-alkylmethanesulfonates

The (ω-1)-methyl alkanol (1 molequiv) and triethylamine (1.2 mol equiv) were dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and cooled to 0 °C. Methanesulfonyl chloride (1.2 mol equiv in CH₂Cl₂) was added dropwise to the stirred solution over 10 min. The reaction was stirred overnight, quenched with 1 N aq HCl and extracted three times with diethyl ether. The organic layer was then washed with brine, dried

over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the corresponding (ω -1)-methylalkylmethanesulfonates which were used in the next step without further purification.

5.1.1.1. 15-Methyl-hexadecylmethanesulfonate. Yield 98%. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.20 (t, 2H, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 3.00 (s, 3H), 1.1–1.4 (m, 27H), 0.86 (d, 6H, $J = 6.6$ Hz).

5.1.1.2. 14-Methyl-pentadecylmethanesulfonate. Yield 87%. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.22 (t, 2H, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 3.03 (s, 3H), 1.1–1.4 (m, 25H), 0.87 (d, 6H, $J = 6.6$ Hz).

5.1.1.3. 13-Methyl-tetradecylmethanesulfonate. Yield 88%. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.23 (t, 2H, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 2.99 (s, 3H), 1.1–1.8 (m, 23H), 0.86 (d, 6H, $J = 6.6$ Hz).

5.1.1.4. 12-Methyl-tridecylmethanesulfonate. Yield 88%. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.21 (t, 2H, 6.9 Hz), 2.99 (s, 3H), 1.1–1.8 (m, 21H), 0.86 (d, 6H, 6.6 Hz).

5.1.2. 14-Cyclopropyl-tetradecyl bromide

A solution of trifluoroacetic acid (2.96 g, 26 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL) was slowly added to a solution of diethyl zinc (26 mL of 1 M solution in hexanes) and freshly distilled CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL) being stirred at 0 °C in an ice bath. After stirring the mixture for 20 min, a solution of CH_2I_2 (6.94 g, 26 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) was added followed by 20 min of stirring. Finally, a solution of 16-bromohexadecene (3.19 g, 13 mmol, prepared according to Balachander and Sukenik¹⁷) in 10 mL of dichloromethane was added, the ice bath was removed and the reaction was stirred for an additional 30 min. The reaction was quenched by addition of aq HCl followed by aq NH_4Cl solution. The mixture was extracted with hexanes and the organic layer washed with saturated aq NaHCO_3 and dried with brine and anhydrous MgSO_4 . The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel. Elution with hexanes gave 3.34 g (79%) of product. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.38 (t, 2H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.8 (m, 2H), 1.12–1.4 (m, 24H), 0.63 (m, 1H), 0.36 (m, 2H), 0.037 (m, 2H). ESI-MS $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ = 316$.

5.1.3. General procedure. Synthesis of (ω -1)-methyl-alkoxyalkan-1-ols

To a solution of 1,3-propanediol or ethylene glycol (5 mol equiv) in anhydrous N,N -DMF (20 mL/mmol) was added NaH (1.2 mol equiv) and the mixture was stirred for 30 min. To this solution was added the (ω -1)-methylalkylmethanesulfonate (1 mol equiv) all at once. The reaction mixture was heated to 80 °C and kept overnight. The solvents were evaporated under vacuum and the residue was added to water and extracted three times with CH_2Cl_2 . The organic phase was dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was adsorbed on silica gel and purified by flash chromatography. Elution with Hexanes/EtOAc (80%:20%) gave the pure products as waxy solids.

5.1.3.1. 15-Methyl-hexadecyloxypropanol. Yield 74%. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.77 (t, 2H), 3.61 (t, 2H), 3.42 (t, 2H), 1.83 (pentet, 2H), 1.56 (m, 2H), 1.53 (septet, 1H), 1.25 (m, 22H), 1.15 (m, 2H), 0.86 (d, 6H).

5.1.3.2. 14-Methyl-pentadecyloxypropanol. Yield 80%. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.79 (q, 2H), 3.61 (t, 2H), 3.42 (t, 2H), 1.83 (pentet, 2H), 1.56 (m, 2H), 1.53 (septet, 1H), 1.25 (m, 20H), 1.15 (m, 2H), 0.86 (d, 6H).

5.1.3.3. 13-Methyl-tetradecyloxypropanol. Yield 66%. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.77 (q, 2H), 3.62 (t, 2H), 3.43 (t, 2H),

1.82 (pentet, 2H), 1.56 (m, 2H), 1.53 (septet, 1H), 1.25 (m, 18H), 0.86 (d, 6H).

5.1.3.4. 12-Methyl-tridecyloxypropanol. Yield 65%. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.77 (t, 2H), 3.61 (t, 2H), 3.42 (t, 2H), 1.83 (pentet, 2H), 1.56 (m, 2H), 1.54 (septet, 1H), 1.25 (m, 16H), 1.15 (m, 2H), 0.86 (d, 6H).

5.1.3.5. 15-Methyl-hexadecyloxyethanol. Yield 58%. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.72 (q, 2H), 3.53 (t, 2H), 3.47 (t, 2H), 1.59 (pentet, 2H), 1.51 (septet, 1H), 1.26 (m, 22H), 1.15 (m, 2H), 0.86 (d, 6H).

5.1.3.6. ω -Hexadecenyloxyethanol. Yield 61%. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.81 (m, 1H), 4.97 (m, 1H), 4.91 (m, 1H), 3.73 (q, 2H), 3.53 (t, 2H), 3.47 (t, 2H), 2.04 (q, 2H), 1.58 (m, 2H), 1.26 (m, 22H).

5.1.4. 14-Cyclopropyl-tetradecyloxypropanol

To a solution of 1,3-propanediol (6.08 g, 80 mmol) in anhydrous N,N -DMF (20 mL) was carefully added NaH (1.2 g, 30 mmol as 60% oil suspension) and the mixture was stirred for 30 min. This solution was slowly added to a stirred solution of 14-cyclopropyltetradecyl bromide (2.5 g, 7.9 mmol) in N,N -DMF (19 mL). The reaction mixture was kept overnight at 80 °C. Solvents were evaporated and the residue was treated with water and extracted with CHCl_3 . The organic phase was dried over MgSO_4 . Purification on silica gel (hexanes/EtOAc 80:20) gave 1.56 g (65% yield) of 14-cyclopropyl-tetradecyloxypropanol as a white solid. ^1H NMR (δ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 3.78 (q, 2H; $J = 6$ Hz), 3.61 (t, 2H, $J = 6$ Hz), 3.42 (t, 2H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 2.53 (t, 1H, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 1.8 (m, 2H), 1.5 (m, 2H), 1.14–1.04 (m, 24H), 0.64 (m, 1H), 0.38 (m, 2H), 0.013 (m, 2H). APCI-MS: 313.23 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$.

5.1.5. General procedure. Esterification of cyclic cidofovir

Anhydrous cyclic cidofovir (cCDV, 1 mol equiv), the appropriate alkoxyalkanol (2 mol equiv) and triphenyl-phosphine (2 mol equiv) were added to anhydrous N,N -dimethylformamide (6.5 mL per mmol cCDV) and stirred vigorously under a nitrogen atmosphere. Diisopropyl azodicarboxylate (DIAD, 2 mol equiv) was added in three portions over 15 min and then the mixture was allowed to stir overnight. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue adsorbed onto silica gel and purified by flash column chromatography. Gradient elution from 100% CH_2Cl_2 to 15% EtOH/85% CH_2Cl_2 yielded the cyclic diesters which were also recrystallized from p -dioxane. Each cCDV ester was isolated as an approx. equimolar mixture of the axial and equatorial diastereomers and yields are reported based on cCDV.

5.1.5.1. 15-Methyl-hexadecyloxypropyl cyclic cidofovir. Synthesized from cCDV (835 mg, 3.2 mmol), 3-(15-methyl-hexadecyloxy)propan-1-ol (2.00 g, 6.4 mmol), triphenyl-phosphine (838 mg, 6.4 mmol) and DIAD (1.3 g, 6.4 mmol). Yield 950 mg (53%) as a white solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD): δ 7.27, 7.24 (pair d, 1H), 5.78, 5.76 (pair d, 1H), 4.42–4.34 (m, 1H), 3.89–3.84 (m, 1H), 4.25–4.05 (m, 5H), 3.48, 3.51 (pair t, 2H), 3.40, 3.49 (pair t, 2H), 1.98, 1.92 (pair q, 2H), 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.51 (m, 1H), 1.26 (m, 22H), 1.15 (m, 2H), 0.86 (d, 6H). ESI-MS 558.54 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 580.52 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$.

5.1.5.2. 13-Methyl-tetradecyloxypropyl cyclic cidofovir. Synthesized from cCDV (335 mg, 1.28 mmol), 3-(13-methyltetradecyloxy)propan-1-ol (680 mg, 2.57 mmol), triphenyl-phosphine (675 mg, 2.57 mmol) and DIAD (480 mg, 2.37 mmol). Obtained 311 mg (46%) as a white solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD): δ 7.51, 7.49 (pair d, 1H), 5.71, 5.66 (pair d, 1H), 4.47–

3.93 (m, 7H), 3.84–3.69 (m, 2H), 3.51, 3.49 (pair t, 2H), 3.43, 3.41 (pair t, 2H), 1.93 (m, 2H), 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.52 (m, 1H), 1.29 (m, 18H), 1.16 (m, 2H), 0.88 (d, 6H). ESI-MS 530.27 $[M+H]^+$, 552.25 $[M+Na]^+$.

5.1.5.3. 12-Methyl tridecyloxypropyl cyclic cidofovir. Synthesized from cCDV (335 mg, 1.28 mmol), 3-(12-methyltridecyloxy)propan-1-ol (700 mg, 2.57 mmol), triphenylphosphine (675 mg, 2.57 mmol) and DIAD (480 mg, 2.57 mmol). Yield 265 mg (40%) as an off-white solid. 1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 7.53, 7.44 (pair d, 1H), 5.62, 5.66 (pair d, 1H), 4.42–3.85 (m, 7H), 3.82–3.82 (m, 2H), 3.43, 3.41 (pair t, 2H), 3.46, 3.33 (pair t, 2H), 1.83 (m, 2H), 1.49 (m, 2H), 1.47 (m, 1H), 1.24 (m, 16H), 1.14 (m, 2H), 0.84 (d, 6H). ESI-MS 516.26 $[M+H]^+$, 538.26 $[M+Na]^+$.

5.1.5.4. 14-Cyclopropyl-tetradecyloxypropyl cyclic cidofovir. Synthesized from cCDV (130 mg, 0.5 mmol), 3-(14-cyclopropyltetradecyloxy)propan-1-ol (312 mg, 1 mmol), triphenylphosphine (524 mg, 2 mmol), DIAD (400 mg, 2.0 mmol). Obtained 160 mg (30%) as an off-white solid. 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ_H 7.2 (br s, 3H), 5.67 (d, 1H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 4.23 (m, 6H), 3.85 (m, 1H), 3.4 (m, 4H), 1.92 (m, 2H), 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.25 (m, 24H), 0.66 (m, 1H), 0.37 (m, 2H), -0.009 (m, 2H). ^{31}P NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 13.75 (S), 12.115 (S). ESI-MS: 556.43 $[M+H]^+$.

5.1.6. General procedure. Synthesis of cidofovir esters

The cyclic cidofovir diesters were suspended in 1 N NaOH (10 mL/1 mmol) and stirred while heating at 60 °C for 1 h, during which time the solution became clear. The solution was then cooled to 25 °C and acidified with acetic acid to a pH of approximately 5. The crude product was collected by vacuum filtration and then purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel. The CDV monoesters were eluted from silica using CH_2Cl_2 /MeOH 80%:20%. Evaporation of the product-containing fractions gave the final products as white to off white powders.

5.1.6.1. 15-Methyl-hexadecyloxypropyl cidofovir, sodium salt. Yield 76%. 1H NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 7.72 (d, 1H, $J = 7.3$ Hz, H-6); 5.88 (d, 1H, $J = 7.3$ Hz, H-5); 4.09 (dd, 1H, $J_{1'a,2'} = 3.3$ Hz, $J_{gem} = 14.0$ Hz, H-1'a); 3.96–3.91 (m, 2H, $-P-O-CH_2$); 3.80 (dd, 1H, $J_{1'b,2'} = 7.6$ Hz, $J_{gem} = 13.9$ Hz, $-CH_a-P$); 3.74–3.71 (m, 2H, H-3'); 3.66–3.63 (m, 1H, H-2'); 3.59 (dd, 1H, $J_{CHb,P} = 9.3$ Hz, $J_{gem} = 12.8$ Hz, $-CH_b-P$); 3.51 (t, 2H, $J = 6.7$ Hz, $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$); 3.41 (t, 2H, $J = 6.6$ Hz, $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$); 1.84 (pentet, 2H, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2O-$); 1.58–1.49 (m, 2H, $CH_2-O-CH_2CH_2-$); 1.28 (m, 24H, $-(CH_2)_{12}-$); 1.19–1.14 (m, 1H, $-CH(CH_3)_2$); 0.88 (d, 6H, $-CH(CH_3)_2$). ^{31}P NMR (160 MHz) δ 17.12, singlet. HRMS (ESI-) calcd for $C_{28}H_{53}N_3O_7P$ $[M-H]^-$ 574.3627, found 574.3625 ($E = -0.4$ ppm). HPLC analysis: retention time 16.87 min, purity 99.6%.

5.1.6.2. 13-Methyl-tetradecyloxypropyl cidofovir, sodium salt. Yield 57%. 1H NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 7.90 (d, 1H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H-6); 5.97 (d, 1H, $J = 7.2$ Hz, H-5); 4.17 (dd, 1H, $J_{1'a,2'} = 2.8$ Hz, $J_{gem} = 13.6$ Hz, H-1'a); 3.94–3.89 (m, 2H, $-P-O-CH_2$); 3.81 (dd, 1H, $J_{1'b,2'} = 8.0$ Hz, $J_{gem} = 14.0$ Hz, H-1'b); 3.79 (dd, 1H, $J_{CHa,P} = 2.8$ Hz, $J_{gem} = 9.0$ Hz, $-CH_a-P$); 3.75 (dd, 1H, $J_{CHb,P} = 2.4$ Hz, $J_{gem} = 11.6$ Hz, $-CH_b-P$); 3.69 (m, 1H, H-2'); 3.59; 3.57; 3.52 (t, 2H, $J = 6.4$ Hz, $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$); 3.41 (t, 2H, $J = 6.6$ Hz, $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$); 1.84 (pentet, 2H, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2O-$); 1.57–1.48 (m, 2H, $CH_2-O-CH_2CH_2-$); 1.28 (m, 20H, $-(CH_2)_{10}-$); 1.19–1.14 (m, 1H, $-CH(CH_3)_2$); 0.87 (d, 6H, $J = 6.8$ Hz, $-CH(CH_3)_2$). ^{31}P NMR (160 MHz) δ 17.18, singlet. HRMS (ESI-) calcd for $C_{26}H_{49}N_3O_7P$ $[M-H]^-$ 546.3314, found 546.3312 ($E = -0.4$ ppm). HPLC analysis: retention time 16.36 min, purity 95.5%.

5.1.6.3. 12-Methyl-tridecyloxypropyl cidofovir, sodium salt. Yield 77%. 1H NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 7.65 (d, 1H, $J = 7.3$ Hz, H-6); 5.84 (d, 1H, $J = 7.2$ Hz, H-5); 4.05 (dd, 1H, $J_{1'a,2'} = 3.6$ Hz, $J_{gem} = 13.9$ Hz, H-1'a); 3.95–3.90 (m, 2H, $-P-O-CH_2$); 3.82 (dd, 1H, $J_{1'b,2'} = 7.2$ Hz, $J_{gem} = 13.9$ Hz, H-1'b); 3.75–3.62 (m, 3H, H-3' + $-CH_a-P$); 3.60 (dd, 1H, $J_{CHb,P} = 9.2$ Hz, $J_{gem} = 12.8$ Hz, $-CH_b-P$); 3.51 (t, 2H, $J = 6.4$ Hz, $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$); 3.41 (t, 2H, $J = 6.6$ Hz, $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$); 1.84 (pentet, 2H, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2O-$); 1.59–1.48 (m, 2H, $CH_2-O-CH_2CH_2-$); 1.29 (m, 18H, $-(CH_2)_9-$); 1.20–1.14 (m, 1H, $-CH(CH_3)_2$); 0.88 (d, 6H, $J = 6.6$ Hz, $-CH(CH_3)_2$). ^{31}P NMR (160 MHz) δ 17.35, singlet. HRMS (ESI-) calcd for $C_{25}H_{47}N_3O_7P$ $[M-H]^-$ 532.3157, found 532.3155 ($E = -0.4$ ppm). HPLC analysis: retention time 16.03 min, purity 92.0%.

5.1.6.4. 14-Cyclopropyltetradecyloxypropyl cidofovir, sodium salt. Yield 80%. 1H NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 7.68 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, H-6); 5.94 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, H-5); 4.15 (dd, 1H, $J_{1'a,2'} = 2.8$ Hz, $J_{gem} = 13.6$ Hz, H-1'a); 3.96–3.91 (m, 2H, $-P-O-CH_2$); 3.81 (dd, 1H, $J_{1'b,2'} = 7.6$ Hz, $J_{gem} = 14.0$ Hz, H-1'b); 3.76 (dd, 1H, $J_{CHb,P} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{gem} = 9.2$ Hz, $-CH_b-P$); 3.73; 3.66; 3.59; 3.54; 3.52 (t, 2H, $J = 6.4$ Hz, $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$); 3.41 (t, 2H, $J = 6.8$ Hz, $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$); 1.84 (pentet, 2H, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2O-$); 1.57–1.49 (m, 2H, $CH_2-O-CH_2CH_2-$); 1.29 (m, 20H, $-(CH_2)_{10}-$); 1.20–1.16 (m, 2H, $-CH_2$ -cyclopropyl); 0.65 (m, 1H, cyclopropyl); 0.39 (ddd, 2H, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 8 Hz, 8 Hz, cyclopropyl); -0.003 (ddd, 2H, $J = 5.5$ Hz, 10 Hz, 10 Hz). ^{31}P NMR (160 MHz) δ 17.03, singlet. HRMS (ESI-) calcd for $C_{28}H_{51}N_3O_7P$ $[M-H]^-$ 572.3470, found 572.3471 ($E = 0.2$ ppm). HPLC analysis: retention time 16.73 min, purity 99.5%.

5.1.7. General procedure. Esterification of cyclic HPMPA

Diethylazodicarboxylate (DIAD, 1.4 mol equiv) was added to a mixture of cyclic HPMPA (cHPMPA, 1 mol equiv), an alkoxyalkanol (1 mol equiv), triphenylphosphine (1.4 mol equiv), and dry *N,N*-dimethylformamide (10 mL/mmol cHPMPA); and the mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressure, the residue adsorbed onto silica gel and purified by flash column chromatography. Gradient elution from 100% CH_2Cl_2 to 15% EtOH/85% CH_2Cl_2 yielded the cyclic diesters which were also recrystallized from *p*-dioxane. Each cHPMPA ester was isolated as an approx. equimolar mixture of the axial and equatorial diastereomers and yields are reported based on cHPMA.

5.1.7.1. Hexadecyloxyethyl (S)-cyclic HPMPA. Synthesized from cHPMPA (200 mg, 0.7 mmol), 2-(hexadecyloxy)ethan-1-ol (mg, 0.7 mmol), triphenylphosphine (262 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DIAD (202 mg, 1.0 mmol). Obtained 182 mg (47%) as an off-white solid. 1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 8.24, 8.22 (pair s, 1H), 8.04, 8.01 (pair s, 1H), 4.59–4.15 (m, 9H), 3.51 (t, 2H), 3.41 (t, 2H), 1.54 (m, 2H), 1.27 (m, 26 H), 0.87 (t, 3H); ESI-MS: m/z 552.38 $[M-H]^-$.

5.1.7.2. ω -Hexadecenylloxyethyl (S)-cyclic HPMPA. Synthesized from cHPMPA (100 mg, 0.35 mmol), 2-(hexadecenylloxy)ethan-1-ol (100 mg, 0.35 mmol), triphenylphosphine (138 mg, 0.52 mmol) and DIAD (106 mg, 0.52 mmol). Obtained 75 mg (39%) as an off-white solid. 1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 8.27, 8.28 (pair s, 1H), 7.93, 7.90 (pair s, 1H), 5.81 (m, 1H), 4.97 (m, 1H), 4.92 (m, 1H), 4.56–4.06 (m, 7H), 3.66 (t, 2H), 3.60 (t, 2H), 3.47 (m, 2H), 2.04 (pentet, 2H), 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.26 (br s, 22 H). ESI-MS: m/z 550.44 $[M-H]^-$.

5.1.7.3. 15-Methylhexadecyloxyethyl (S)-cyclic HPMPA. Synthesized from cHPMPA (190 mg, 0.67 mmol), 2-(15-methylhexadecyloxy)ethan-1-ol (201 mg, 0.67 mmol), tri-

phenylphosphine (245 mg, 0.94 mmol) and DIAD (190 mg, 0.94 mmol). Obtained 130 mg (34%) as an off-white solid. ^1H NMR (400 Mz, CD_3OD) δ 8.26, 8.24 (pair s, 1H), 8.04, 8.02 (pair s, 1H), 4.59–4.15 (m, 9H), 3.51 (t, 2H), 3.41 (t, 2H), 1.54 (m, 2H), 1.52 (m, 1H), 1.27 (br s, 22 H), 1.16 (m, 2H), 0.87 (d, 6H). ESI-MS: m/z 566.26 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$.

5.1.8. General procedure. synthesis of (S)-HPMPA esters

The cyclic (S)-HPMPA diesters were suspended in 1 N NaOH (10 mL/ 1 mmol) and stirred while heating at 60 °C for 1 h, during which time the solution became clear. The solution was cooled to 25 °C and acidified with acetic acid to a final pH of approximately 5. The precipitated crude product was collected by vacuum filtration and then purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel. The alkoxyalkyl monoesters were eluted from silica using 20% methanol-dichloromethane. Evaporation of product fractions gave the monoesters as white to off-white powders.

5.1.8.1. Hexadecyloxyethyl (S)-HPMPA, sodium salt. Yield 73%. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 8.29 (s, 1H, H-8), 8.22 (s, 1H, H-2), 4.47 (dd, 1H, $J_{1'a,2'} = 3.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{gem}} = 14.5$ Hz, H-1'a); 4.39 (dd, 1H, $J_{1'b,2'} = 6.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{gem}} = 13.7$ Hz, H-1'b); 3.95 (m, 2H, $-\text{P}-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-$); 3.80 (m, 1H, H-2'); 3.73–3.62 (m, 3H, H-3' + $-\text{CH}_3-\text{P}-$); 3.53–3.49 (m, 3H, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-$ + $-\text{CH}_b-\text{P}-$); 3.40 (t, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-$); 1.50 (m, 2H, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_{13}-$); 1.26 (m, 26H, $-(\text{CH}_2)_{13}-$); 0.87 (t, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$). ESI-MS: m/z 570.32 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$. HRMS (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{49}\text{N}_5\text{O}_6\text{P}$ $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ 570.3426, found 570.3428 ($E = 0.4$ ppm). HPLC analysis: retention time 16.43 min, purity 90.8%.

5.1.8.2. ω -Hexadecenyloxyethyl (S)-HPMPA, sodium salt. Yield 80%. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 8.38 (s, 1H, H-8), 8.25 (s, 1H, H-2), 5.79 (m, 1H, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$); 4.97 (d, 1H, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$); 4.91 (d, 1H, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$); 4.55 (dd, 1H, $J_{1'a,2'} = 2.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{gem}} = 14.4$ Hz, H-1'a); 4.43 (dd, 1H, $J_{1'b,2'} = 7.2$ Hz, $J_{\text{gem}} = 14.4$ Hz, H-1'b); 4.05 (m, 2H, $-\text{P}-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-$); 3.91 (m, 1H, H-2'); 3.87 (dd, 1H, $J_{\text{CHa,P}} = 9.2$ Hz, $J_{\text{gem}} = 13.2$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_a-\text{P}-$); 3.76 (dd, 1H, $J_{\text{CHb,P}} = 8.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{gem}} = 13.2$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_b-\text{P}-$); 3.68 (dd, 1H, $J_{3'a,2'} = 4.6$ Hz, $J_{\text{gem}} = 12.6$ Hz, H-3'a); 3.60 (t, 2H, $J = 6.7$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-$); 3.54 (dd, 1H, $J_{3'b,2'} = 4.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{gem}} = 12.8$ Hz, H-3'b); 3.47 (t, 2H, $J = 6.6$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-$); 1.55 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_{11}-$); 1.37 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$); 1.26 (m, 22H, $-(\text{CH}_2)_{11}-$). ESI-MS: m/z 568.32 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$. HRMS (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{47}\text{N}_5\text{O}_6\text{P}$ $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ 568.3269, found 568.3268 ($E = -0.2$ ppm). HPLC analysis: retention time 16.13 min, purity 94.3%.

5.1.8.3. 15-Methylhexadecyloxyethyl (S)-HPMPA, sodium salt. Yield 66%. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 8.29 (s, 1H, H-8), 8.22 (s, 1H, H-2), 4.47 (dd, 1H, $J_{1'a,2'} = 3.9$ Hz, $J_{\text{gem}} = 14.5$ Hz, H-1'a); 4.39 (dd, 1H, $J_{1'b,2'} = 6.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{gem}} = 14.6$ Hz, H-1'b); 3.94 (m, 2H, $-\text{P}-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-$); 3.80 (m, 1H, H-2'); 3.78–3.60 (m, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{P}-$ + $-\text{CH}_2-\text{OH}$); 3.51 (t, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-$), 3.40 (t, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-$), 1.49 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$); 1.27 (m, 24 H, $-(\text{CH}_2)_{12}-$), 1.17 (m, 1H, $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.87 (d, 6H, $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$). ESI-MS: m/z 586.25 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. HRMS (ESI-) calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{51}\text{N}_5\text{O}_6\text{P}$ $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ 584.3582, found 584.3586 ($E = 0.7$ ppm). HPLC analysis: retention time 16.48 min, purity 94.7%.

5.2. Antiviral methods

5.2.1. Ectromelia inhibition assay

ECTV-Moscow strain was used to infect BSC-1 cells at 50–75 plaques per well for 1 h in DMEM (Lonza, Basel) supplemented with 2% Fetal Clone II (Hyclone, ThermoFisher, Pittsburgh). Serial dilutions of the compounds were made in DMEM-2% FCII and added to the infected cells along with DMEM-5% FCII-1% Carboxymethylcellulose (CMC Overlay media Lonza, Hyclone, Sigma, St.

Louis, MO). The cultures were incubated 4–5 days and stained with crystal violet (0.13% crystal violet, 5% ethanol, 10% formaldehyde) to visualize plaque formation. The percent plaque reduction was determined by comparing the number of plaques in the treated wells to a group of untreated wells. The final concentration of compound in the culture was plotted versus the % plaque reduction to determine the concentration at which the plaque reduction is 50%.

5.2.2. Cytotoxicity assay BSC-1 cells

Serial dilutions of the compounds were made in DMEM (Lonza) supplemented with 2% Fetal Clone II (Hyclone). The compound dilutions were mixed with BSC-1 cells at 5000 cells per reaction in 100 μL total volume. At the given time point, 20 μL of MTS solution (CellTiter 96 Aqueous One Solution Cell Proliferation Assay, Promega, Madison, WI) was added to each reaction and incubated 2–4 h. The OD_{490} was read and the % cell viability for each reaction was calculated based on untreated cells. The compound concentration was plotted versus the % cell viability to determine the concentration at which the cell viability was 50%.

5.2.3. Vaccinia and cowpox inhibition assays

Vaccinia virus (Copenhagen) and cowpox virus (Brighton), were obtained from Dr. John Huggins of the US Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases, Frederick, MD. Monolayers of human foreskin fibroblast (HFF) cells in 6-well plates were infected with either vaccinia virus or cowpox virus to yield 20–30 plaques per well. Following a 1 h adsorption, the medium was aspirated from the wells, solutions containing different concentrations of test compounds were added in an agarose overlay, and plates were incubated for 3 d. Infected monolayers were then stained with a 0.02% solution of neutral red in PBS, plaques were enumerated, and EC_{50} values were calculated as described above.

5.2.4. Cytotoxicity assays HFF cells

HFF cells were seeded into 96-well plates containing 2.5×10^4 cells per well and incubated for 24 h to allow monolayers to form. Growth media was replaced with MEM containing 2% FBS and solutions containing different concentrations of test compounds. The plates were incubated for 7 d, the media aspirated, and the cells stained with 0.01% neutral red in PBS. Absorbance was measured at 540 nm to determine the number of viable cells. Cytotoxicity is expressed as the concentration of drug that reduced cell viability by 50% (CC_{50}), and was interpolated from the experimental data.

5.3. Metabolic stability in liver S9 fractions

5.3.1. Test method

Test articles were incubated in Liver S9 fractions at 37 °C. Samples were pulled from the incubation mixture at specified time points (0–90 min) and added to a solution of 1% ammonium hydroxide in N-propyl alcohol. The amount of test article in each sample was quantified by HPLC/MS/MS.

5.3.2. Reaction mixture preparations

Test article solutions were prepared in DMSO/ACN/deionized water (5:5:190 v/v/v). A single species liver S9 suspension was prepared by diluting commercial pooled S9 fractions (CellDirect, Carlsbad, CA for rat, monkey, human; XenoTech, Lenexa, KS for guinea pig) with phosphate buffer. The test article solutions were diluted 10 fold into the S9 suspension. Reaction mixtures were allowed to equilibrate at 37 °C for approximately 2 min before adding a solution of NADPH regeneration system (BD Biosciences) to start the reaction. The reaction solution was mixed by multiple aspiration/dispense actions. The final reaction mixture contained

S9 at 3 mg/mL protein concentration, NADPH regeneration solution at 1x concentration, and test article at either 1 or 10 μ M.

5.3.3. Sample analysis

Immediately after the addition, and mixing of NADPH, a Time zero sample (20 μ L) was withdrawn from the reaction mixture. The sample was placed in a microtiter plate containing 80 μ L of *n*-propyl alcohol with 1% ammonium hydroxide. The microtiter plate was then sealed and placed on an orbital mixer for 10 min. At 15, 30, 60 and 90 min after the Time 0 sample was withdrawn, subsequent samples were withdrawn and given the same treatment. The microtiter plates were placed in a refrigerator for at least 48 hours. The plates were then centrifuged for 10 min at 2254 RCF; after which, the supernatant was transferred to the final plate. The components in the final plate were eluted from a Zorbax Eclipse XDB C8 HPLC column with a linear gradient (Solvent A = water with 0.1% Formic Acid, Solvent B = isopropyl alcohol with 0.1% Formic Acid). The test article was detected by electrospray ionization-mass spectrometry on an Agilent 1200SL/6410 system.

5.3.4. Special considerations

Typically, test articles are extracted from S9 incubations by acetonitrile protein precipitation. That method produces inconsistent results with the test articles described here. Extractions of these test articles at basic pH using *n*-propyl alcohol containing ammonium ions were more efficient and reproducible. Furthermore, the test articles were not immediately extracted from the precipitated protein. It is necessary to wait at least 24 h at room temperature or 48 h if refrigerated for extracted concentration to stabilize in the samples. The test articles are very stable in these conditions and no degradation was observed even if the samples were left on the bench for up to 7 days.

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Supplementary data

Supplementary data (HPLC analysis of compounds **2**, **3**, **5**, **6**, **9**, **10** and **11** and ^1H NMR spectra of **2**, **6** and **11**) associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at [doi:10.1016/j.bmc.2011.03.034](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bmc.2011.03.034).

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