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Synthesis and Pharmacological Evaluation of Fluorine-Containing D_3 Dopamine Receptor Ligands

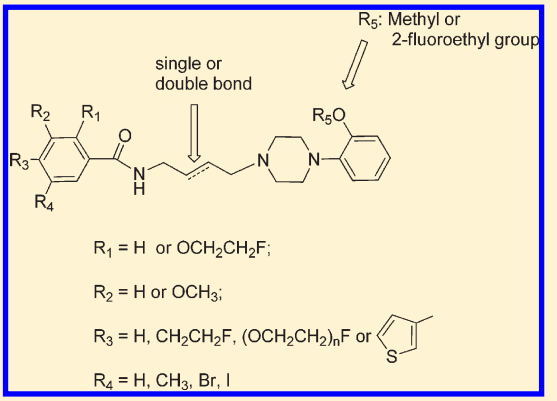
Zhude Tu,[†] Shihong Li,[†] Jinquan Cui,[†] Jinbin Xu,[†] Michelle Taylor,[∥] David Ho,[∥] Robert R. Luedtke,[∥] and Robert H. Mach*[,†,‡,§]

[†]Department of Radiology, [‡]Department of Cell Biology and Physiology, and [§]Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri 63110, United States

[∥]Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, Texas 76107, United States

Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: A series of fluorine-containing *N*-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazine and *N*-(2-fluoroethoxy)piperazine analogues were synthesized, and their affinities for human dopamine D_2, D_3, and D_4 receptors were determined. Radioligand binding studies identified five compounds, **18a**, **20a**, **20c**, **20e**, and **21e**, which bind with high affinity at D_3 (K_i = 0.17−5 nM) and moderate to high selectivity for D_3 vs D_2 receptors (ranging from ∼25- to 163-fold). These compounds were also evaluated for intrinsic activity at D_2 and D_3 receptors using a forskolin-dependent adenylyl cyclase assay. This panel of compounds exhibits varying receptor subtype binding selectivity and intrinsic activity at D_2 vs D_3 receptors. These compounds may be useful for behavioral pharmacology studies on the role of D_2-like dopamine receptors in neuropsychiatric and neurological disorders. Furthermore, compound **20e**, which has the highest binding affinity and selectivity for the D_3 receptor (K_i = 0.17 nM for D_3, 163-fold selectivity for D_3 vs D_2 receptors), represents a candidate fluorine-18 radiotracer for *in vivo* PET imaging studies on the regulation of D_3 receptor expression.



INTRODUCTION

Dopamine receptors are G protein-coupled receptors and are classified into two major types, the D_1-like and D_2-like receptors. The D_1-like receptor subtypes include the D_1 (rat D_{1a}) and D_5 (rat D_{1b}) receptors, whereas the D_2-like receptor subtypes include the D_2, D_3, and D_4 receptors. Agonist stimulation of D_1-like receptors results in an activation of adenylyl cyclase. Stimulation of D_2-like receptors results in an inhibition of adenylyl cyclase activity, an increase in the release of arachidonic acid, activation of G protein-coupled inwardly rectifying potassium channels (GIRKs), activation of phospholipase D (PLD), and also an increase in phosphatidylinositol hydrolysis.[1] D_2 and D_3 receptors have ∼46% overall amino acid sequence homology and 78% sequence homology within the transmembrane-spanning segments.[2]

There is a large body of evidence indicating that D_3 dopamine receptors may play an important role in a number of neurological and neuropsychiatric disorders.[3] First, the high density of D_3 receptors in limbic regions[4−7] suggests that this receptor subtype may play a role in the etiology of schizophrenia and that D_3-selective antagonists may exhibit an antipsychotic profile devoid of extrapyramidal side effects.[2,5,7] Second, prolonged treatment of 6-hydroxydopamine unilaterally lesioned rats with L-DOPA is a rodent model of L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia (LID); previous studies have suggested that there is an upregulation of D_3 receptors in dyskinetic animals.[8−10] D_3 receptor selective ligands have been shown to be effective in attenuating L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia in rats, suggesting that the D_3 receptor may be an important therapeutic target for the treatment of LID.[11−15] Finally, the positive reinforcing effects of psychostimulants, such as cocaine and methamphetamine, may be mediated, in part, by the stimulation of D_3 receptors. Therefore, D_3 receptor selective partial agonists and/or antagonists may be useful pharmacotherapeutic agents for the treatment of substance abuse.[16−21]

Positron emission tomography (PET) is a noninvasive imaging technique that has been used to study the expression of dopamine receptors in the brain. However, the identification of D_3 receptor specific PET radioligands has been challenging because of the high degree of amino acid sequence homology between D_2 and D_3 receptor binding sites in the ligand binding domain.[1,20,3,22−25] A number of D_3-selective ligands have served as lead compounds for PET radiotracer development (Figure 1).[26−30] Unfortunately, none of the D_3 receptor selective radiotracers reported to date have shown promise in *in vivo*

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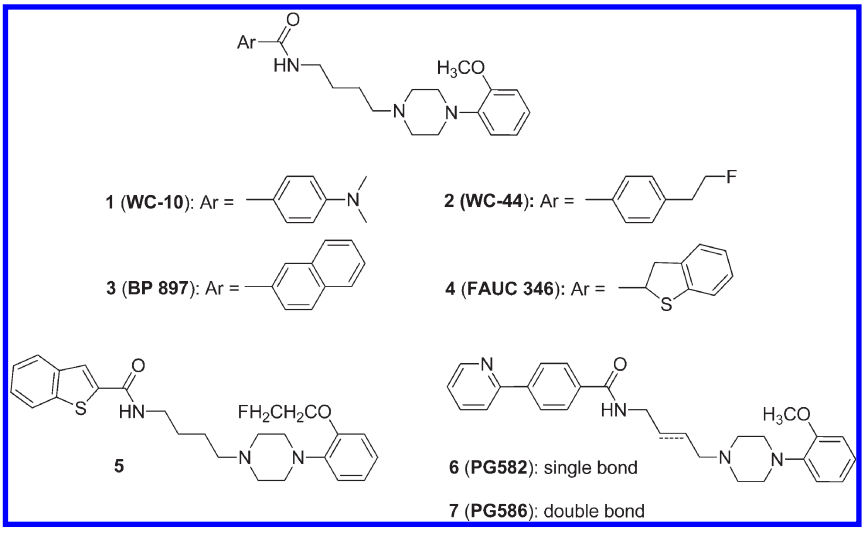
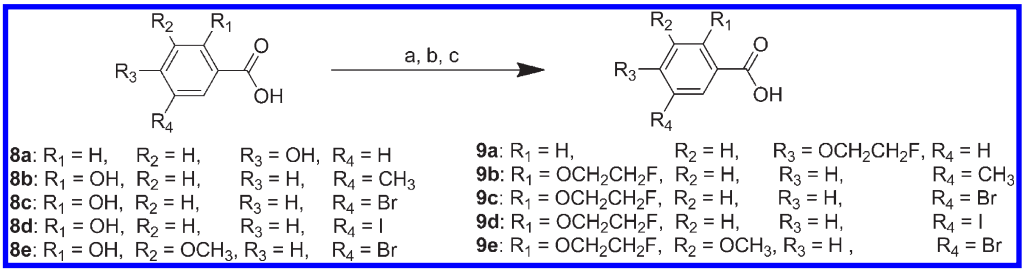


Figure 1. Representative dopamine D_3 receptor ligands.

Scheme 1[a]



[a] Reagents and conditions: (a) 98% H_2SO_4, methanol; (b) $BrCH_2CH_2F$, K_2CO_3, acetone; (c) NaOH, methanol/H_2O.

imaging or brain uptake studies in rodents or nonhuman primates. One of the main limitations of many D_3-selective ligands is their relatively high lipophilicity, which could compromise their ability to cross the blood−brain barrier and label D_3 receptors *in vivo*.

Over the past decade, our group has focused on identifying candidate ligands having the right balance between D_3 receptor affinity (1−5 nM), selectivity (>50-fold selective for D_3 versus D_2 receptors), and lipophilicity (log P = 2.0−4.0) to give a suitable signal:noise ratio in PET imaging studies. We previously reported benzamide analogues, **1** (**WC-10**) (K_i = 0.8 nM for D_3 receptor, D_2/D_3 ratio = 43) and **2** (**WC-44**) (K_i = 2.4 nM for D_3, D_2/D_3 ratio = 23), as lead compounds for radiotracer development.[24] Quantitative autoradiography studies using [^{3}H]-**1** demonstrated it has high affinity and moderate selectivity for D_3 vs D_2 receptor,[24,31] which is consistent with *in vitro* screening data using competition binding assays.[25] However, microPET studies of [^{11}C]-**1** in rhesus brain have exhibited high levels of variability for D_3 imaging between subjects, and similar studies using [^{18}F]-**2** have not shown good target to nontarget ratios.[25]

Our laboratory has continued to investigate the structure−activity relationships of conformationally flexible benzamide analogues by optimizing the structures of **1** and **2** to identify promising candidates for imaging the D_3 receptor with PET. The longer half-life of ^{18}F ($t_{1/2}$ = 109.8 min) compared to ^{11}C ($t_{1/2}$ = 20.4 min) places fewer time constraints on radiotracer synthesis and permits longer scan sessions for ^{18}F-labeled radiotracers versus ^{11}C-labeled radiotracers. In this paper, we report the synthesis and *in vitro* evaluation of a series of fluorine-containing conformationally flexible benzamide analogues, in which the structure was altered by (1) replacing the 2-methoxyphenyl group in the piperazinyl ring with a 2-(2-fluoroethoxy)phenyl group, (2) introducing a 2-fluoroethoxy or 2-fluoroethyl group in the 2- and 4-position of the benzamide moiety, and (3) comparing the effect of having a double bond (*trans*-butenyl) within the four carbon chain that links the arylamide with the 4-phenylpiperazine moiety.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chemistry. The target compounds were synthesized as depicted in Schemes 1−3. The synthesis of the substituted benzoic acids (**9a**−**e**) was accomplished as outlined in Scheme 1. The acids were first converted into the corresponding methyl esters by Fischer esterification. *O*-Alkylation of 2-hydroxyl or 4-hydroxyl group was achieved by treatment with 1-bromo-2-fluoroethane in acetone using potassium carbonate as the base. Hydrolysis of the methyl ester with sodium hydroxide in aqueous methanol afforded the corresponding 2-fluoroethoxybenzoic acids **9a**−**e**. The synthesis of the 4-fluoropegylated benzoic acids **12a** and**12b** is shown in Scheme 2. *O*-Alkylation of the phenol group of 4-hydroxybenzoic acid methyl ester with either 2-(2-chloroethoxy)ethanol or 2-(2-(2-chloroethoxy)ethoxy)ethanol in the presence of potassium carbonate in tetrahydrofuran afforded **10a** and **12b** (Scheme 2). Conversion of alcohols **10a**

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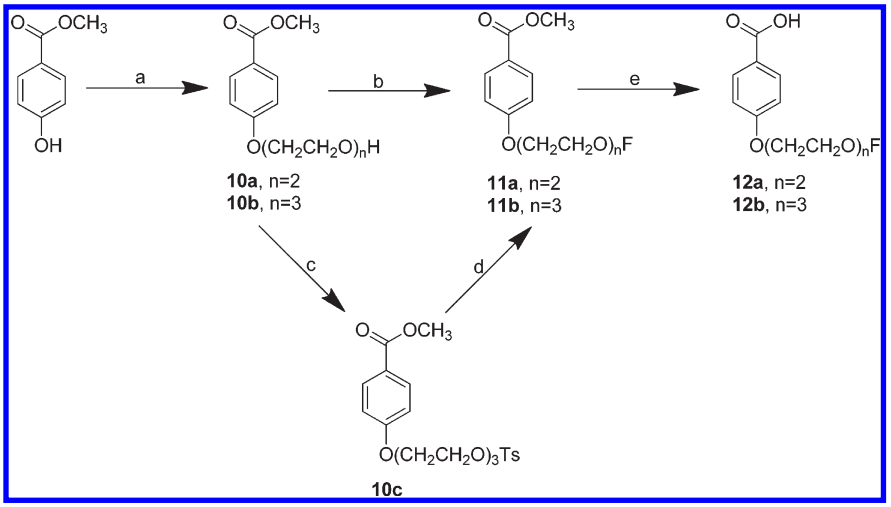
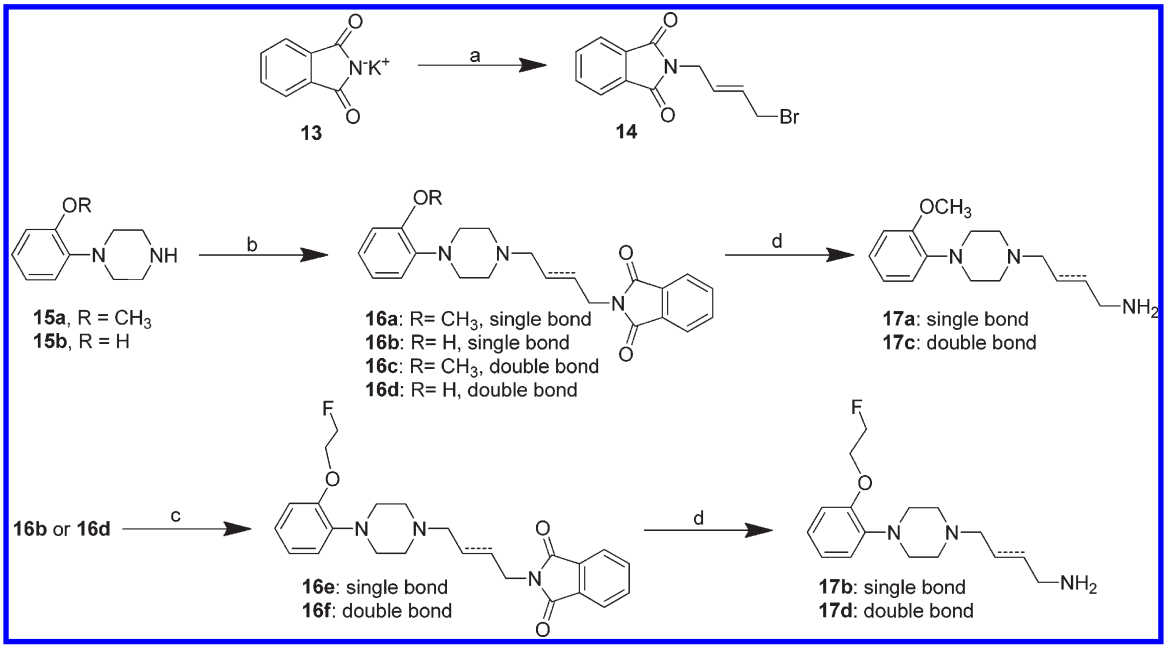
Scheme 2[a]



[a] Reagents and conditions: (a) 2-(2-chloroethoxy)ethanol or 2-(2-(2-chloroethoxy)ethoxy)ethanol, K_2CO_3, THF; (b) DAST, CH_2Cl_2, 0 °C; (c) triethylamine, *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride, CH_2Cl_2; (d) TBAF/THF, reflux, 4 h; (e) NaOH, methanol/H_2O.

Scheme 3[a]



[a] Reagents and conditions: (a) (*E*)-1,4-dibromobut-2-ene, DMF, 0 °C; (b) 2-(4-bromobutyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione or **14**, $N(C_2H_5)_3/CH_2Cl_2$, room temperature; (c) 2-fluoro-1-bromoethane, K_2CO_3, acetone, reflux; (d) hydrazine, ethanol, reflux 5 h.

and **10b** to the corresponding fluoro derivatives **11a** and **11b** was accomplished using two different methods. Direct conversion of the hydroxyl group of **10a** with diethylaminosulfur trifluoride (DAST) gave **11a** in modest yield (43%). Alternatively, conversion of the hydroxyl group of **10b** to the corresponding tosylate group, **10c**, followed by displacement with tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF) gave **11b** in an overall yield of 56%. Hydrolysis of **11a** and **11b** with sodium hydroxide in aqueous methanol afforded benzoic acids **12a** and **12b.**

The substituted 4-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)butan-1-amines (**17a,b**) and the substituted 4-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)-*trans*-but-2-en-1-amines (**17b,d**) were synthesized according to Scheme 3. Treatment of potassium 1,3-dihydro-1,3-dioxoisoindole (**13**) with *trans*-1,4-dibromo-2-butene in *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) gave 2-(*trans*-4-bromobut-2-enyl)-1,3-dihydro-1,3-dioxoisoindole, **14**, in modest yield (69%). The *N*-alkylation of 1-(2-methoxylphenyl)piperazine (**15a**) or 1-(2-hydroxylphenyl)piperazine (**15b**) with either 2-(4-bromobutyl)-1,3-dihydro-1,3-dioxoisoindole or **14** produced **16a**−**d**. *O*-Alkylation of the phenol group in **16b** and **16d** with 1-bromo-2-fluoroethane in acetone using potassium carbonate as the base afforded compounds **16e,f**. Treatment of **16a,c** and **16e,f** with hydrazine in refluxing ethanol (Scheme 3) afforded the corresponding amines **17a**−**d** in variable yields.

The target benzamides **18a**−**c**, **19a**−**g**, **20b**−**d,f**, and **21b**−**d**, were synthesized by coupling amines **17a**−**d** with substituted

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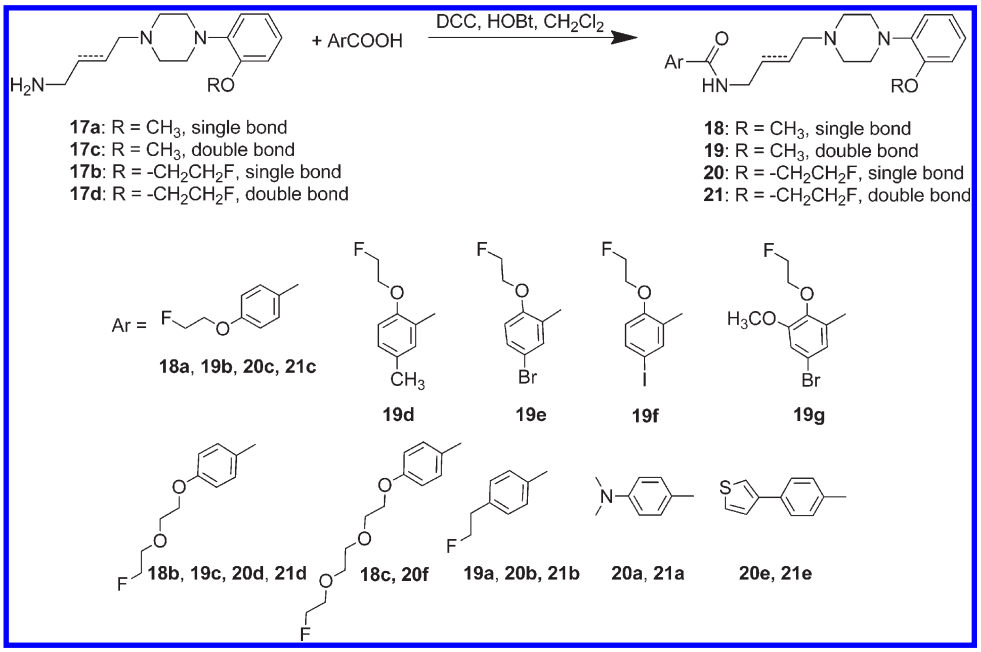
Scheme 4



benzoic acids **9a**−**e**, **12a**,**b**, and 4-(2-fluoroethyl)benzoic acid[25] with *N*,*N*′-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) in dichloromethane (Scheme 4). Benzamides **20a**,**e** and **21a**,**e**, were prepared by coupling amines **17b**,**d** with the corresponding commercially available benzoic acid. All final compounds were converted into the corresponding oxalic acid salt for *in vitro* binding studies.

***In Vitro* Binding Studies.** Compounds were first evaluated for affinity at human D_2 and D_3 dopamine receptors expressed in stably transfected HEK cells. Analogues which exhibited high binding affinity at D_3 receptors were further evaluated for affinity at (a) D_4 dopamine receptors and (b) σ_1 and σ_2 sigma receptors. The σ receptor binding studies were undertaken because of the ubiquitous expression of sigma receptors in the CNS. Therefore, high σ_1 or σ_2 receptor binding affinity would preclude the usefulness of a D_3-selective radiotracer for PET imaging studies. The σ receptor binding studies were included to ensure that our compounds bind with low affinity for σ receptors.

The [^{125}I]-IABN inhibition constants (K_i) at D_2 and D_3 receptors are reported in Table 1. The ligand binding selectivity, in terms of a selectivity index, is calculated as $K_i(D_2)/K_i(D_3)$. For the ensuing discussion, binding affinities are characterized as very high (K_i < 1.0 nM), high (K_i = 1−10 nM), moderate (K_i = 11−50 nM), or low (K_i > 50 nM).

The radioligand binding assays identified a number of potentially useful structure−activity trends as well as several promising fluorinated analogues which could serve as potential PET radiotracers. First, in a comparison of **1** and **18a**−**c**, it was observed that replacing the 4-dimethylamino group in the benzamide moiety with a 4-(2-fluoroethoxy) group (compound **18a**) resulted in a D_3 binding affinity (K_i = 1.1 nM) comparable to **1** (K_i = 0.8 nM). However, there was a decrease in D_3 receptor affinity when the 4-(2-fluoroethoxy) group was homologated to the corresponding fluoropegylated groups, **18b** and **18c**. Thus, the D_3 vs D_2 selectivity for **18b** and **18c** was <15-fold, whereas the D_3 vs D_2 selectivity for **18a** was ∼25-fold.

To further explore the structure−activity relationships of this series, the structures of the amides were modified by introducing the 2-fluoroethoxy group in the 2-position compared to 4-position of the benzamide moiety. These analogues also had

Table 1. D_2, D_3, and D_4 Affinities (K_i ± SD, nM) of the Benzamide Analogues

	D_2	D_3	D_4	D_2/D_3 ratio	log P^a
1	34.4 ± 4.7	0.8 ± 0.1	896 ± 272	43	3.09
2	54.5 ± 4.4	2.4 ± 0.4	804 ± 46	23	2.94
18a	27.1 ± 3.5	1.1 ± 0.1	1400 ± 320	25	3.48
18b	20.9 ± 3.7	6.2 ± 0.9	ND	3.4	3.08
18c	52.0 ± 6.6	4.2 ± 0.2	2100 ± 380	12.2	2.72
19a	131 ± 13	24.9 ± 3.3	ND	5.2	3.43
19b	55.3 ± 6.0	6.2 ± 0.3	ND	8.9	3.55
19c	59.2 ± 5.8	18.2 ± 2.3	ND	3.3	3.16
19d	17.8 ± 0.8	18.5 ± 2.4	ND	1	3.66
19e	13.4 ± 2.3	13.6 ± 2.0	ND	1	4.49
19f	13.2 ± 0.8	10.9 ± 1.5	ND	1.2	4.73
19g	57.6 ± 3.7	13.8 ± 1.2	ND	4.2	4.15
20a	15.1 ± 1.7	0.65 ± 0.2	890 ± 100	23	3.75
20b	21.4 ± 2.9	6.9 ± 1.0	ND	3.1	3.68
20c	15.1 ± 2.7	0.52 ± 0.03	990 ± 200	29	3.73
20d	14.2 ± 1.9	2.5 ± 0.3	ND	5.7	3.34
20e	27.7 ± 5.4	0.17 ± 0.01	246 ± 13	163	4.67
20f	31.7 ± 2.1	5.2 ± 0.3	ND	6.1	2.98
21a	35.2 ± 2.5	3.6 ± 0.6	ND	9.8	3.83
21b	17.7 ± 2.7	1.1 ± 0.2	890 ± 380	16.1	3.61
21c	37.9 ± 5.0	8.4 ± 1.3	ND	4.5	3.81
21d	64.8 ± 8.4	19.6 ± 3.2	ND	3.3	3.41
21e	70.5 ± 9.6	1.1 ± 0.2	182 ± 5	64	4.74
21f	25.9 ± 2.4	11.2 ± 2.2	ND	2.3	3.26
21g	10.9 ± 0.4	6.7 ± 1.1	ND	1.6	3.72
21h	12.0 ± 0.6	3.1 ± 0.3	ND	3.9	4.36

[a] Calculated using ACD log D software, Advanced Chemistry Development, Toronto, Canada.

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a methyl or halogen atom (Br or I) in the 5-position and the *trans* double bond 4-carbon spacer group. This approach generally resulted in compounds with only moderate affinity for both D_3 and D_2 receptors (compounds **19d**−**f**), except for compound **19g** which displayed a 4-fold selectivity for D_3 versus D_2 receptors. Based on these results, a higher D_3 receptor affinity and selectivity were observed when the 2-fluoroethoxy is in the 4-position of the benzamide region (compound **19b**) rather than the 2-position.

The next substitution involved replacing the 2-methoxy group with a 2-fluoroethoxy group in the *N*-phenylpiperazinyl moiety. The replacement of a methoxy group with a 2-fluoroethoxy group is a standard method for preparing a potential ^{18}F-labeled radiotracer. This modification generally resulted in compounds having a slightly increased D_3 binding affinity when compared with the corresponding *N*-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazinyl analogues (e.g., **20a** vs **1**, **20c** vs **18a**, and **20d** vs **18c**). However, one exception to this trend was noticed, with **20b** having a lower D_3 affinity than its corresponding 2-methoxy analogue, **2**. An interesting observation was in the substitution of the 4-position of the benzamide group with a 3-thiophene ring to give compound **20e**; this analogue displayed both the highest D_3 binding affinity (0.17 nM) and greatest D_3 vs D_2 receptor selectivity (163-fold) among the compounds reported in this paper.

When the saturated 4-carbon spacer linking the arylamide with the *N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)piperazine moiety was replaced with a *trans* double bond, the binding affinity at both D_2 and D_3 receptors generally decreased. However, replacing the single bond with a *trans* double bond caused a larger reduction in D_3 affinity relative to the reduction in D_2 affinity. This trend was also observed with the *N*-(2-fluoroethoxyphenyl)piperazine-containing analogues shown in Table 1. These results are consistent with the *N*-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazinyl analogues described by Taylor et al.[32] but opposite to what has been reported with the corresponding *N*-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)piperazinylbenzamide analogues.[20,33] Therefore, the effect of the single vs double bond replacement on binding selectivity appears to be governed by the type of substitution on the *N*-phenylpiperazine group. The only analogue showing an increase in D_3 affinity when the *trans* double bond was introduced was **21b**, which had a 6-fold higher affinity at D_3 receptors when compared with its saturated analogue **20b**.

Affinity at dopamine D_4 receptors was determined on compounds having a high affinity (K_i < 5 nM) for D_3 receptors and high selectivity for D_3 vs D_2 receptors (>10-fold). All compounds that were tested exhibited low binding affinity at D_4 receptors (Table 1).

Since many dopamine ligands have been shown to bind to σ_1 and σ_2 receptors, we determined the σ receptor binding affinities for compounds having a high D_3 receptor affinity and good selectivity for D_3 vs D_2 receptors. All of the compounds tested exhibited low binding affinities at σ_1 and σ_2 receptors. The affinity ratios of D_3 to σ receptors were >260-fold (Table 2). Compound **20e**, which has the highest D_3 affinity and D_3 vs D_2 selectivity ratio, binds with low affinity at both σ_1 and σ_2 receptors. This observation eliminates any concern that σ receptor binding might interfere with the imaging signal when a ^{18}F-radiolabeled derivative of **20e** is made for PET imaging studies of the D_3 receptor.

Intrinsic Activity at Dopamine Receptors. The intrinsic activity of compounds **18a,c**, **20a,c,e**, and **21b,e** at D_3 and D_2 receptors was also evaluated. This assay measures the ability of the compounds to inhibit forskolin-dependent stimulation of adenylyl cyclase activity in stably transfected HEK 293 cells expressing human D_2 or D_3 dopamine receptors. For each compound, the inhibition was compared to the intrinsic efficacy of the full agonist quinpirole and the antagonist haloperidol. The compounds that were evaluated were all partial agonists at D_3 dopamine receptors, displaying intrinsic efficacy from 34.5 ± 1.7% (**20e**) to 68.8 ± 5.6% (**18a**) (Table 3). As previously reported, the constituent at the *para* position of the benzamide group plays a pivotal role in determining the intrinsic activity of our compounds. For example, **1**, **2**, **18a**, and **18c** each contain an 4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazine moiety with a saturated 4-carbon spacer, yet their efficacy compared to quinpirole varies from 34% to 64% at D_2 receptors and 18% to 96% at D_3 receptors. In addition, the structure of the 4-carbon spacer influences efficacy. For example, substitution of a *trans* double bond (**21e**) for the saturated spacer (**20e**) had minimal effect on efficacy at D_2 receptors (29% vs 21% maximal efficacy), while efficacy at D_3 receptors increased almost 60% (35% to 55% maximal efficacy) (Table 3). The diverse range of D_3 and D_2 receptor affinities and intrinsic activities at these receptors indicates that these

Table 2. Sigma Receptor Affinities (K_i ± SD, nM) of Selected Analogues

	D_3	σ_1	σ_2	D_3/σ_1 ratio	D_3/σ_2 ratio
1	0.8 ± 0.1	1260 ± 290	1570 ± 310	1573	1970
2	2.4 ± 0.4	3540 ± 2500	2210 ± 260	1476	919
18a	1.1 ± 0.1	4780 ± 730	660 ± 36	4344	601
18c	4.2 ± 0.2	4870 ± 470	1120 ± 30	1159	266
20a	0.65 ± 0.2	1960 ± 50	650 ± 38	3017	1002
20c	0.52 ± 0.03	4360 ± 570	794 ± 14	8377	1527
20e	0.17 ± 0.01	20900 ± 5250	5960 ± 360	122706	35047
21b	1.1 ± 0.2	7200 ± 880	2020 ± 260	6541	1839
21e	1.1 ± 0.2	7780 ± 540	1320 ± 33	7076	1200
haloperidol		1.5 ± 0.3	24.2 ± 3.0		

Table 3. Intrinsic Efficacy of Selected Analogues at Dopamine D_2 and D_3 Receptors[a]

compd	hD_2 HEK	hD_3 HEK
haloperidol	−0.6 ± 1.6	4.0 ± 5.5
1	33.5 ± 3.1	18.7 ± 2.2
2	35.3 ± 1.0	96.2 ± 4.2
18a	58.6 ± 1.1	68.8 ± 5.6
18c	63.8 ± 4.2	59.9 ± 7.4
20a	66.3 ± 1.0	64.5 ± 8.3
20c	73.2 ± 0.7	50.3 ± 5.2
20e	29.3 ± 7.3	34.5 ± 1.7
21b	65.8 ± 0.2	65.5 ± 7.2
21e	21.2 ± 5.5	55.4 ± 4.2
quinpirole	100	100

[a] The intrinsic efficacy of the test compounds was evaluated by determining the percent inhibition of a forskolin-dependent whole cell adenylyl cyclase assay. The results were normalized to the percent inhibition obtained using the full agonist quinpirole at human D_2 (1 μM) and D_3 (100 nM) receptors expressed in stably transfected HEK 293 cells. For D_2 receptors the maximum inhibition was >90%, and for D_3 receptors the maximum inhibition ranged from 38% to 53%. The test drug was used at a concentration equal to approximately 10 times the K_i value that was determined from the radioligand binding analysis. The mean ± SEM values are reported for $n \geq 3$.

compounds are useful probes for studying the behavioral pharmacology of D_3 and D_2 receptors in animal models of substance abuse, schizophrenia, and L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia. In addition, since most dopamine receptor imaging agents have been either antagonists (e.g., [^{11}C]raclopride and [^{18}F]fallypride) or full agonists (e.g., [^{11}C]-(+)-4-propyl-9-hydroxynaphthoxazine ([^{11}C]-(+)-PHNO) and [^{11}C]-*N*-propylapomorphine ([^{11}C]NPA)) at both D_2 and D_3 receptors, it will be of interest to see if the partial agonists described here are capable of serving as radiotracers for imaging the D_3 receptor *in vivo* with PET.

In summary, we observed that the 2-methoxy group in the 4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazinyl moiety can be replaced with a 2-fluoroethoxy group, a commonly used strategy for preparing ^{18}F-labeled PET radiotracers, without causing a significant change in D_3 receptor affinity or D_3 vs D_2 selectivity ratio. An exception to this trend was the structural congeners which contained the 4-(2-fluoroethyl)benzamide moiety: **21b** had a much *higher* D_3 affinity than its 4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazine analogue, **19a** (K_i = 1.1 ± 0.2 nM vs 24.9 ± 3.3 nM, respectively), and **20b**, which had a *lower* D_3 affinity and poorer D_3 vs D_2 selectivity ratio than its corresponding 4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazine analogue, **2**. Replacing the saturated 4-carbon spacer that links the benzamide and the 4-phenylpiperazinyl moieties with a *trans* double bond reduced the binding affinity at D_3 and D_2 receptors. However, the presence of the *trans* double bond can modulate the intrinsic efficacy of the analogue. Finally, although increasing the length of the 2-fluoroethoxy side chain by pegylation did not dramatically alter the D_3 binding affinity or the D_3 vs D_2 receptor binding selectivity, it did decrease the log *P* value, which may facilitate the penetration of the blood−brain barrier.

CONCLUSION

In the present study, we have reported the synthesis and pharmacological evaluation of a series of benzamides which have high binding affinity for D_3 receptors and good selectivity for D_3 vs D_2 receptors. Within the series, five compounds exhibited high D_3 binding affinity (≤5.0 nM) and/or moderate to high selectivity for D_3 vs D_2 receptors, including **18a**, **20a**, **20c**, **20e**, and **21e**. Moreover, all of these analogues contain a fluorine atom, thus providing candidate ligands for PET imaging studies via the corresponding ^{18}F-labeled analogues.

Since recent studies indicate that the density of D_3 receptors in the striatal regions of brain is ∼40% that of the D_2 receptor,[32] ligands having a high D_3 versus D_2 selectivity (>50-fold) will likely be needed in order to image D_3 versus D_2 receptors in the CNS. Among the five compounds described above, **20e** displayed the highest D_3 affinity (0.17 nM) and selectivity for D_3 vs D_2 receptors (163-fold). However, the high lipophilicity of this analogue (log *P* = 4.67) may limit its utility as a PET radiotracer because of its predicted low brain uptake and relatively high level of nonspecific binding. *In vivo* evaluation of a number of the fluorinated ligands described above is currently ongoing to assess their suitability for use as PET tracers for studying the *in vivo* expression and regulation of D_3 dopamine receptors in the CNS.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General. 4-Dimethylaminobenzoic acid was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Milwaukee, WI) and 3-thienylbenzoic acid from Matrix Scientific (Columbia, SC). All other synthetic intermediates were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used as received unless otherwise stated. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was distilled from sodium hydride immediately prior to use.

All air-sensitive reactions were carried out in oven-dried glassware under an inert nitrogen atmosphere unless otherwise stated. Standard handling techniques for air-sensitive materials were employed throughout this study. Yields were not optimized. Melting points were determined on a Haake-Buchler or Mel-Temp melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. ^{1}H NMR spectra were recorded at 300 MHz on a Varian Mercury-VX spectrometer with $CDCl_3$ as the solvent and tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard. The following abbreviations were used to describe peak patterns wherever appropriate: br = broad, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, and m = multiplet. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Analtech GHLF silica gel glass plates, and visualization was aided by UV. Elemental analyses (C, H, N) were determined by Atlantic Microlab, Inc. (Norcross, GA), and the results are within 0.4% of the calculated values unless otherwise noted. The purity of the target compounds was determined by elemental analysis and by HPLC methods. All of the compounds reported in this paper have a purity ≥95%. The synthesis of benzoic acid intermediates **9a**−**e**, **12a**,**b**, and the amine intermediates **17a**−**d** can be found in the Supporting Information section.

General Method for Preparing the Substituted Benzamide Analogues. *4-(2-Fluoroethoxy)-N-(4-(4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-piperazin-1-yl)-butyl)benzamide (**18a**).* A mixture of compound **17a** (379 mg, 1.44 mmol) and **9a** (221 mg, 1.20 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 mL) was stirred at 0 °C (ice−water bath). Dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) (356 mg, 1.73 mmol) and hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBT) (234 mg, 1.73 mmol) were added to the above solution. Then the ice bath was removed, and the reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 15 h. Dichloromethane (60 mL) was added into the reaction mixture, and the solution was washed with saturated aqueous $NaHCO_3$ solution (3 × 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure, and the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using dichloromethane/methanol (20/1, v/v) as the mobile phase to give **18a** (443 mg, 86%). Mp (oxalate salt): 151.5−152.6 °C. ^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 1.61−1.69 (m, 4H), 2.48 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 2.66 (s, 4H), 3.08 (s, 4H), 3.48 (q, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 4.19 (t, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (t, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (t, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (t, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (br s, 1H), 6.82−7.04 (m, 6H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{24}H_{32}FN_3O_3 \cdot 1.5H_2C_2O_4$) C, H, N.

*4-(2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)ethoxy)-N-(4-(4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazin-1-yl)butyl)benzamide (**18b**).* **18b** was made from **12a** and **17a**. Yield: 84%. Mp (oxalate salt): 127.9−129.0 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 1.66−1.68 (m, 4H), 2.47 (t, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 2H), 2.65 (s, 4H), 3.08 (s, 4H), 3.47 (q, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 3.76 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 2H), 4.17 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 4.52 (t, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (t, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 6.83−7.04 (m, 6H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{26}H_{36}FN_3O_4 \cdot H_2C_2O_4$) C, H, N.

*4-(2-(2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy)-N-(4-(4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazin-1-l)butyl)benzamide (**18c**).* **18c** was prepared from **12b** and **17a**. Yield: 98%. Mp (oxalate salt): 103.0−103.9 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 1.60 (s, 4H), 1.67 (t, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 4H), 2.47 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 2.66 (s, 4H), 3.08 (s, 4H), 3.47 (q, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 3.69−3.76 (m, 4H), 3.80 (t, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.88 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 4.16 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 4.48 (t, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (t, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.83−7.04 (m, 6H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{28}H_{40}FN_3O_5 \cdot H_2C_2O_4 \cdot 0.4H_2O$) C, H, N.

*4-(2-Fluoroethyl)-N-(4-(4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazin-1-yl)-trans-butyl-2-enyl)benzamide (**19a**).* **19a** was prepared from 4-(2-fluoroethyl)benzoic acid and **17c**. Yield: (397 mg, 98%). Mp (oxalate salt): 116.7−121.3 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.63 (s, 4H), 3.03 (t,

J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 3.08− 3.12 (m, 6H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 4.06−4.08 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 4.57 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (t, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 6.82−7.04 (m, 4H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{24}H_{30}FN_3O_2 \cdot 0.5H_2C_2O_4 \cdot H_2O$) C, H, N.

*4-(2-Fluoroethoxy)-N-(4-(4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazin-1-yl)-trans-butyl-2-enyl)benzamide (**19b**).* **19b** was prepared from **9a** and **17c**. Yield: 77%. Mp (oxalate salt): 133.6−134.9 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.67 (s, 4H), 3.08−3.09 (m, 6H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 4.09 (t, J = 4.3 Hz, 2H), 4.22 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (t, J = 5.3 Hz, 2H), 6.13 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 6.83−7.04 (m, 6H), 7.75 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{24}H_{30}FN_3O_3$) C, H, N.

*4-(2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)ethoxy)-N-(4-(4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazin-1-yl)-trans-butyl-2-enyl)benzamide (**19c**).* **19c** was prepared from **12a** and **17c**. Yield: 99%. Mp (oxalate salt): 108.3−109.8 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.67 (s, 4H), 3.07−3.10 (m, 6H), 3.77 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.86−3.94 (m, 3H), 4.06−4.10 (m, 2H), 4.19 (m, 2H), 4.52 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (t, J = 3.3 Hz, 2H), 6.10 (t, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 6.82−7.04 (m, 6H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{26}H_{34}FN_3O_4 \cdot H_2C_2O_4$) C, H, N.

*2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)-5-methyl-N-(4-(4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazin-1-yl)-trans-butyl-2-enyl)benzamide (**19d**).* **19d** was prepared from **9b** and **17c**. Yield: 79%. Mp (oxalate salt): 151.1−152.3 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.67 (s, 4H), 3.07−3.09 (m, 6H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 4.06−4.14 (m, 2H), 4.26 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.86 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 6.80−7.04 (m, 5H), 7.214 (dd, J = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (br s, 1H), 8.00 (dd, J = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H), Anal. ($C_{25}H_{32}FN_3O_3 \cdot H_2C_2O_4$) C, H, N.

*5-Bromo-2-(2-fluoroethoxy)-N-(4-(4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazin-1-yl)-trans-butyl-2-enyl)benzamide (**19e**).* **19e** was prepared from **9c** and **17c**. Yield: 35%. Mp (oxalate salt): 157.6−158.7 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.65(s, 4H), 3.06−3.10 (m, 6H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 4.09 (t, J = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 5.76−5.80 (m, 2H), 6.80−7.04 (m, 5H), 7.52 (dd, J = 2.4, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (br s, 1H), 8.32 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H). Anal. ($C_{24}H_{29}BrFN_3O_3$) C, H, N.

*2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)-5-iodo-N-(4-(4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazin-1-yl)-trans-butyl-2-enyl)benzamide (**19f**).* **19f** was prepared from **9d** and **17c**. Yield: 60%. Mp (oxalate salt): 162.2−163.6 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.65 (s, 4H), 3.07−3.10 (m, 6H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 4.09 (t, J = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 5.74−5.82 (m, 2H), 6.71 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.84−7.04 (m, 4H), 7.71 (dd, J = 2.4, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (br s, 1H), 8.49 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H). Anal. ($C_{24}H_{29}FIN_3O_3 \cdot H_2C_2O_4 \cdot 0.5H_2O$) C, H, N.

*5-Bromo-2-(2-fluoroethoxy)-3-methoxy-N-(4-(4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazin-1-yl)-trans-butyl-2-enyl)benzamide (**19g**).* **19g** was prepared from **9e** and **17c**. Yield: 84%. Mp (oxalate salt): 193.5−195.5 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.66 (s, 4H), 3.06−3.10 (m, 6H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 4.06 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (t, J = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (t, J = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 5.76 (t, J = 3.3 Hz, 2H), 6.84−7.04 (m, 4H), 7.14 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (br s, 1H). Anal. ($C_{25}H_{31}BrFN_3O_4 \cdot H_2C_2O_4$) C, H, N.

*4-(Dimethylamino)-N-(4-(4-(2-(2-fluoroethoxy)phenyl)piperazin-1-yl)butyl)benzamide (**20a**).* **20a** was prepared from 4-dimethylaminobenzoic acid and **17b**. Yield: 80%. Mp (oxalate salt): 103.4−106.3 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 1.60−1.80 (m, 4H), 2.45 (t, J = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 2.65 (s, 4H), 3.00 (s, 6H), 3.12 (s, 4H), 3.46 (q, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 4.19 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (br s, 1H), 6.66 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 6.83−7.00 (m, 4H), 7.676 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{25}H_{35}FN_4O_2 \cdot H_2C_2O_4$) C, H, N.

*4-(2-Fluoroethyl)-N-(4-(4-(2-(2-fluoroethoxy)phenyl)piperazin-1-yl)-butyl)benzamide (**20b**).* **20b** was prepared from 4-(2-fluoroethyl)benzoic acid and **17b**. Yield: 95%. Mp (oxalate salt): 140.5−142.1 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 1.60−1.78 (m, 4H), 2.46 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.63 (s, 4H), 3.00 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H) 306−3.10 (m, 4H), 3.48 (q, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 4.20 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.67−4.71 (m, 2H), 4.85 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (br s, 1H), 6.83−6.90 (m, 2H), 6.95−6.98 (m, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.71(dd, J = 2.1, 6.3 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{25}H_{33}F_2N_3O_2 \cdot 0.5H_2C_2O_4$) C, H, N.

4-(2-Fluoroethoxy)-N-(4-(4-(2-(2-fluoroethoxy)phenyl)piperazin-1-yl)butyl)benzamide (20c). **20c** was prepared from **9a** and **17b**. Yield: 80%. Mp (oxalate salt): 110.3−112.8 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 1.60−1.72 (m, 4H), 2.45 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.63 (s, 4H), 3.10 (s, 4H), 3.47 (q, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 4.20 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 4.28 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 4.69 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 4.83 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 6.59 (br s, 1H), 6.83−7.00 (m, 6H), 7.73 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{25}H_{33}F_2N_3O_3 \cdot H_2C_2O_4$) C, H, N.

*4-(2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)ethoxy)-N-(4-(4-(2-(2-fluoroethoxy)phenyl) piperazin-1-yl)butyl)benzamide (**20d**).* **20d** was prepared from **12a** and **17b**. Yield: 77%. Mp (oxalate salt): 110.5−112.6 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 1.67−1.71 (m, 4H), 2.50 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.68 (s, 4H), 3.13 (s, 4H), 3.47 (q, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.85−3.91 (m, 3H), 4.16−4.213.47 (m, 3H), 4.29 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.66−4.7169 (m, 2H), 4.85 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 6.6159 (br s, 1H), 6.83−7.04 (m, 6H), 7.73 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{27}H_{37}F_2N_3O_4 \cdot H_2C_2O_4$) C, H, N.

*4-(Thiophen-3-yl)-N-(4-(4-(2-(2-fluoroethoxy)phenyl)piperazin-1-yl) butyl)benzamide (**20e**).* **20e** was prepared from 4-(thiophen-3-yl) benzoic acid and **17b**. Yield: 62%. Mp (oxalate salt): 193.3−194.1 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 1.68−1.72 (m, H), 2.48 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.65 (s, 4H), 2.10 (s, 4H), 3.50 (q, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 4.19 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (br s, 1H), 6.82−7.00 (m, 4H), 7.41 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{27}H_{32}FN_3O_2S \cdot H_2C_2O_4$) C, H, N.

*4-(2-(2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy)-N-(4-(4-(2-(2-fluoroethoxy) phenyl)piperazin-1-yl)butyl)benzamide (**20f**).* **20f** was prepared from **12b** and **17b**. Yield: 82%. Mp (oxalate salt): 110.7−111.6 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 1.67−1.69 (m, 4H), 2.48 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 3H), 2.67 (s, 4H), 3.12 (s, 4H), 3.47 (q, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 3.68−3.76 (m, 4H), 3.80 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 4.12 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 4.20 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (br s, 1H), 6.82−7.02 (m, 6H), 7.73 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{29}H_{41}F_2N_3O_5 \cdot H_2C_2O_4$) C, H, N.

*4-(Dimethylamino)-N-(4-(4-(2-(2-fluoroethoxy)phenyl)piperazin-1-yl)-trans-butyl-2-enyl)benzamide (**21a**).* **21a** was prepared from 4-dimethylaminobenzoic acid and **17d**. Yield: 50%. Mp (oxalate salt): 84.9−85.9 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$) δ 2.66 (s, 4H), 3.01 (s, 6H), 3.07 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.14 (s, 4H), 4.09 (t, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 4.21 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.86 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 5.76−5.80 (m, 2H), 6.05 (s, 1H), 6.66 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.82−6.87 (m, 1H), 6.94−6.97 (m, 3H), 7.68 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{25}H_{33}FN_4O_2 \cdot H_2C_2O_4 \cdot H_2O$) C, H, N.

*4-(2-Fluoroethyl)-N-(4-(4-(2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)phenyl)piperazin-1-yl)-trans-butyl-2-enyl)benzamide (**21b**).* **21b** was prepared from 4-(2-fluoroethyl)benzoic acid and **17d**. Yield: 72%. Mp (oxalate salt): 155.0−156.1 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.67 (s, 4H), 3.01 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 2H), 3.07− 3.13 (m, 6H), 4.10 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 2H), 4.20−4.20 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.68−4.76 (m, 2H), 4.84 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 5.76−5.80 (m, 2H), 6.18 (br s, 1H), 6.82−6.88 (m, 1H), 6.95−6.97 (m, 3H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.704 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{25}H_{31}F_2N_3O_2 \cdot 0.5H_2C_2O_4$) C, H, N.

*4-(2-Fluoroethoxy)-N-(4-(4-(2-(2-fluoroethoxy)phenyl)piperazin-1-yl)-trans-butyl-2-enyl)benzamide (**21c**).* **21c** was prepared from **9a** and **17d**. Yield: 48%. Mp (oxalate salt): 112.8−125.1 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.68 (s, 4H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.15 (s, 3H), 4.10 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 4.20 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 4.70 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 4.86 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 5.70−5.90 (m, 2H), 6.170 (br s, 1H), 6.81−6.85 (m, 1H), 6.93−7.00 (m, 5H), 7.75 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{25}H_{31}F_2N_3O_3 \cdot 2H_2C_2O_4$) C, H, N.

*4-(2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)ethoxy)-N-(4-(4-(2-(2-fluoroethoxy)phenyl) piperazin-1-yl)-trans-but-2-enyl)benzamide (**21d**).* **21d** was prepared from **12a** and **17d**. Yield: 76%. Mp (oxalate salt): 113.4−115.0 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.67 (s, 4H), 3.08 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 3.84−3.14 (s, 4H), 3.77 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.86−3.96 (m, 3H), 4.08 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 4.17−4.22 (m, 3H), 4.30 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.66−4.70 (m, 2H), 4.85 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 5.77−5.80 (m, 2H), 6.11 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.84−6.88 (m, 1H), 6.93−6.99 (m, 5H), 7.74 (td, J = 2.4, 9.0 Hz, 2H). Anal. ($C_{27}H_{35}F_2N_3O_4 \cdot 1.5H_2C_2O_4$) C, H, N.

*4-(Thiophen-3-yl)-N-(4-(4-(2-(2-fluoroethoxy)phenyl)piperazin-1-yl)-trans-but-2-enyl)benzamide (**21e**).* **21e** was prepared from 4-(thiophen-3-yl)benzoic acid and **17d**. Yield: 62%. Mp (oxalate salt): 140.5−142.1 °C. ^{1}H NMR (free base, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.66 (s, 4H), 3.08 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 3.14 (s, 4H), 4.12 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 4.22 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.86 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 5.80−5.82 (m, 2H), 6.23 (br s, 1H), 6.83−6.88 (m, 1H), 6.93−7.00 (m, 3H), 7.42 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (td, J = 3.6, 10.5 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (td, J = 3.3, 13.2 Hz, 2H). The elemental analysis was conducted on the free base of **21e**. Anal. ($C_{27}H_{30}FN_3O_2S$) C, H, N.

***In Vitro* Binding Studies.** *Dopamine Receptor Binding Assays.* The binding properties of membrane-associated receptors were characterized by a filtration binding assay.[34] For human D_2 long, D_3, and D_4 dopamine receptors expressed in HEK 293 cells, 50 μL of membrane homogenates was suspended in 50 mM Tris-HCl/150 mM NaCl/10 mM EDTA buffer, pH = 7.5 and incubated with 50 μL of [^{125}I]IABN[34] at 37 °C for 60 min, using 20 μM (+)-butaclamol to define the nonspecific binding. The radioligand concentration was equal to approximately 0.5 times the K_d value, and the concentration of the competitive inhibitor ranged over 5 orders of magnitude for competition experiments. For each competition curve, two concentrations of inhibitor per decade were used, and triplicates were performed. Binding was terminated by the addition of the cold wash buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl/150 mM NaCl, pH = 7.5) and filtration over a glass-fiber filter (Schleicher and Schuell No. 32). A Packard Cobra gamma counter was used to measure the radioactivity. The equilibrium dissociation constant and maximum number of binding sites were generated using unweighted nonlinear regression analysis of data modeled according to the equation describing mass action binding. The concentration of inhibitor that inhibits 50% of the specific binding of the radioligand (IC_{50} value) was determined by using nonlinear regression analysis to analyze the data of competitive inhibition experiments. Competition curves were modeled for a single site, and the IC_{50} values were converted to equilibrium dissociation constants (K_i values) using the Cheng and Prusoff[35] correction. Mean K_i values ± SEM are reported for at least three independent experiments.

Sigma Receptor Binding Assays. Before determining the σ_1 and σ_2 receptor binding assays, the compounds were dissolved in either DMF, DMSO, or ethanol and then diluted in 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer containing 150 mM NaCl and 100 mM EDTA at pH = 7.4. The procedures for isolating the membrane homogenates and performing the σ_1 and σ_2 receptor binding assays have been described previously.[24,33]

Briefly, the σ_1 receptor binding assays were conducted in 96-well plates using guinea pig brain membrane homogenates (~300 μg of protein) and ~5 nM (+)-[^{3}H]pentazocine (34.9 Ci/mmol; Perkin-Elmer, Boston, MA). The total incubation time was 90 min at room temperature. Nonspecific binding was determined from samples that contained 10 μM cold haloperidol. After 90 min, the reaction was terminated by adding 150 μL of ice-cold wash buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, 150 mM NaCl, pH = 7.4) using a 96-channel transfer pipet (Fisher Scientific, Pittsburgh, PA). The samples were harvested and filtered rapidly through a 96-well fiber glass filter plate (Millipore, Billerica, MA) that had been presoaked with 100 μL of 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer at pH = 8.0 for 1 h. Each filter was washed three times with 200 μL of ice-cold wash buffer, and the filter was counted in a Wallac 1450 MicroBeta liquid scintillation counter (Perkin-Elmer, Boston, MA).

The σ_2 receptor binding assays were conducted using rat liver membrane homogenates (~300 μg of protein) and ~5 nM [^{3}H]-DTG (58.1 Ci/mmol; Perkin-Elmer, Boston, MA) in the presence of 1 μM (+)-pentazocine to block σ_1 sites. The incubation time was 2 h at room temperature. Nonspecific binding was determined from samples that contained 10 μM cold haloperidol. All other procedures were identical to those described above for the σ_1 receptor binding assay.

Data from the competitive inhibition experiments were modeled using nonlinear regression analysis to determine the concentration that inhibits 50% of the specific binding of the radioligand (IC_{50} value). Competitive curves were best fit to a one-site fit and gave pseudo-Hill coefficients of 0.6−1.0. K_i values were calculated using the Cheng and Prusoff method[35] and were presented as the mean ± SEM. For these calculations, we used a K_d value of 7.89 nM for (+)-[^{3}H]pentazocine and guinea pig brain and a K_d value of 30.73 nM for [^{3}H]-DTG and rat liver.[24]

Whole Cell Adenylyl Cyclase Assay. The accumulation of ^{3}H-cyclic AMP in HEK cells was measured by a modification of the method of Shimizu et al.[36] Transfected HEK cells were treated with serum-free media containing 2,8-[^{3}H]adenine (ICN Pharmaceutical Inc., Costa Mesa, CA), and cells were incubated at 37 °C for 75 min. Cells and drugs diluted in serum-free media containing 0.1 mM 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine (Sigma) were mixed to give a final volume of 500 μL, and cells were incubated for 20 min at 37 °C. The reaction was stopped by addition of 500 μL of 10% trichloroacetic acid and 1 mM cyclic AMP. After centrifugation, the supernatants were fractionated using Dowex AG1-X8 and neutral alumina to separate the [^{3}H]ATP and the [^{3}H]cyclic AMP. Individual samples were corrected for column recovery by monitoring the recovery of the cyclic AMP using spectrophotometric analysis at OD 259 nm.[34,36]

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information. Experimental procedures and analytical data for compounds **9a**−**e**, **10a**−**c**, **11a**, **11b**, **12a**, **12b**, **14**, **16a**−**f**, and **17a**−**d**, HPLC conditions to confirm the purity of final compounds, and elemental analysis data on all new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

*Phone: (314) 362-8538. Fax: (314) 362-0039. E-mail: rhmach@mir.wustl.edu.

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■ ABBREVIATIONS

CIMS, chemical ionization mass spectrometry; DCC, *N*,*N*′-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide; DMF, *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide; DMSO, dimethyl sulfoxide; DAST, diethylaminosulfur trifluoride;

DTG, 1,3-ditolylguanidine; GIRKs, G protein-coupled inwardly rectifying potassium channels; HEK cells, human embryonic kidney 293 cells; [^{125}I]IABN, [^{125}I]-*N*-benzyl-5-iodo-2,3-dimethoxy[3.3.1]azabicyclononan-3-β-ylbenzamide; LID, L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia; PET, positron emission tomography; PLD, phospholipase D; SPECT, single photon emission computed tomography; TBAF, tetra-*n*-butylammonium fluoride.

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