

which the positive sulfur and carbonyl oxygen were within 2.3 Å of one another, with neither having any apparent severe steric strain. Such interactions, if present, would be expected to decrease the effective positive charge on the sulfur, stabilizing the episulfonium ring and rendering it less susceptible to nucleophilic attack. The existence of such an unexpected conformational distribution is presently being investigated.

Several conclusions can be drawn from this preliminary study. First, **7** has a half-life on the order of hours in strongly acidic water at ambient temperature. This is in contrast to simple aliphatic ESIs which often cannot even be isolated at room temperature. Second, ESIs with relatively acidic  $\beta$  protons are likely to undergo elimination as well as nucleophilic addition under physiological conditions. Since **4** and **6** also have the necessary structural requirements to undergo elimination, this decomposition route may be relevant for them as well. Such a route could play a role in the toxicological profile of the DHEs. Third, if significant intramolecular stabilization is present in **7**, as indicated (but not proven) by the NMR and modeling data, it would support increased stability for the putative ultimate carcinogens **4** and **6**, which also have suitably positioned carbonyls. The cysteine-based ESI **5** is predicted to be less stable by this argument. This hypothesis is presently being tested and further studies on these and compounds based on the parent molecules (GSH and MA) will be reported in a subsequent paper.

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**Registry No.** **7**, 114301-30-3; **7-HClO<sub>4</sub>**, 114301-33-6; **8**, 7652-46-2; **9**, 77109-48-9; **10**, 114301-31-4; **11**, 35356-70-8; **12**, 114301-32-5; **BrCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH**, 540-51-2; **HSCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH**, 60-24-2.

James G. Henkel,\* George S. Amato

Section of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy  
School of Pharmacy U-92  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, Connecticut 06268

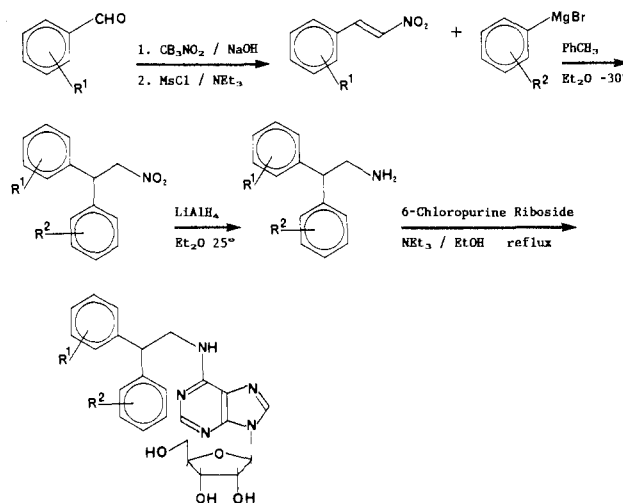
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### ***N*<sup>6</sup>-[2-(3,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(2-methylphenyl)-ethyl]adenosine and Its Uronamide Derivatives. Novel Adenosine Agonists with Both High Affinity and High Selectivity for the Adenosine A<sub>2</sub> Receptor**

Sir:

Extracellular adenosine acts as a local hormone, operating through two major subclasses of membrane-bound adenosine receptors, called A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub>, which are distinguished by their structure-activity relationships.<sup>1-3</sup> Relative affinities of compounds for these adenosine re-

### Scheme I. Synthesis of *N*<sup>6</sup>-(2,2-Diarylethyl)adenosines



ceptor subtypes can be determined by using specific A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> receptor binding assays.<sup>4</sup> Many potent and selective A<sub>1</sub> agonists have been found, typified by *R*-PIA (**1**)<sup>5</sup> and CPA (**2**)<sup>6</sup> (Table I and Chart D). However, progress toward potent and selective A<sub>2</sub> agonists has been much slower. For instance, NECA (**3**),<sup>7</sup> although very potent at A<sub>2</sub> receptors,<sup>8</sup> is slightly A<sub>1</sub> selective in the A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> binding assays.<sup>4</sup> Among the few known A<sub>2</sub>-selective agonists are 2-(phenylamino)adenosine (CV-1808, **4**)<sup>8</sup> and *N*<sup>6</sup>-(1-naphthalenylmethyl)adenosine (**5**).<sup>9-11</sup> Although the former compound has the greatest A<sub>2</sub> selectivity yet reported, its selectivity is only 5-fold and its binding affinity is 1 order of magnitude lower than that of NECA.<sup>4</sup> In this communication we wish to report the discovery of a series of agonists with 2-4-fold stronger A<sub>2</sub> affinity than NECA, which show up to a 40-fold selectivity for the A<sub>2</sub> receptor.

Recently we reported<sup>12</sup> that *N*<sup>6</sup>-(2,2-diphenylethyl)adenosine (CI-936, **6**) is a moderately potent A<sub>2</sub> agonist with 25 nM A<sub>2</sub> affinity, a nearly balanced receptor binding profile, and an excellent profile in behavioral tests predictive of antipsychotic-like activity. Simply bridging the phenyl rings, to give *N*<sup>6</sup>-(9-fluorenylmethyl)adenosine (**7**),<sup>11</sup> markedly increases the affinity at the A<sub>2</sub> receptor, to give a balanced agonist with 5 nM affinities at both receptors. Results such as these convinced us that a detailed examination of this series might be fruitful in a search for potent, A<sub>2</sub>-selective adenosine agonists.

Several different conceptual approaches to the modification of the 2,2-diphenylethyl side chain of **6** were examined. As alluded to above, bridging of the two phenyl

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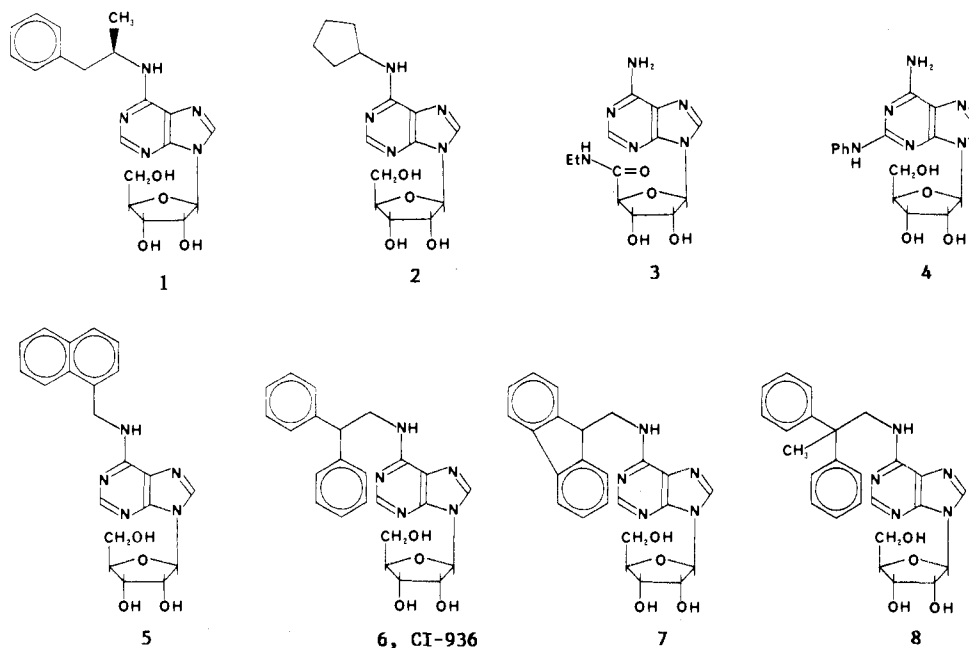
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Table I. Receptor Binding Affinities of Adenosine Agonists

compd	formula <sup>b</sup>	mp, °C	K <sub>i</sub> (nM) <sup>a</sup> ± SE		K <sub>i</sub> ratio: A <sub>2</sub> /A <sub>1</sub>
			A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>2</sub>	
1	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>23</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	143-145	1.2 ± 0.2	124 ± 9	106
2	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>21</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	123-128	0.59 ± 0.02	460 ± 15	780
3	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	153-155	6.3 ± 0.5	12 ± 1.5	1.87
4	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>18</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	242-244	600 ± 27	116 ± 10	0.19
5	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>21</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	145-150	24 ± 4	9.4 ± 1.1	0.38
6	C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>25</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	106-108	6.8 ± 0.2	25 ± 3	3.61
7	C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>23</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	139-142	5.2 ± 0.5	4.9 ± 0.5	0.95
8	C <sub>25</sub> H <sub>27</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	109-114	37 ± 2.6	30 ± 1.9	0.79
9	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>29</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	99-106	9.3 ± 0.3	18.8 ± 3.4	2.03
10	C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>23</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	102-108	2.6 ± 0.1	6.0 ± 1.0	2.31
11	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>29</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	112-124	229 ± 13	62 ± 15	0.27
12	C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>23</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	102-112	61 ± 5	19 ± 0.6	0.31
13	C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>23</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	110-115	18.4 ± 1.0	6.4 ± 0.12	0.34
14	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>29</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	100-106	30.2 ± 2.5	6.1 ± 0.6	0.20
15	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>33</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	107-117	140 ± 31	19.5 ± 2.2	0.14
16	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>31</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	183-184	142 ± 23	4.4 ± 0.2	0.031
16A (+) isomer	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>31</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	168-169	188 ± 31	6.2 ± 0.3	0.033
16B (-) isomer	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>31</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	195-197	118 ± 17	3.1 ± 0.1	0.027
17	C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>34</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	103-112	207 ± 29	5.6 ± 0.6	0.027
18	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>32</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	122-127	1010 ± 79	43 ± 1.8	0.042
19	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>34</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	117-126	232 ± 45	8.7 ± 1.1	0.038

<sup>a</sup>A<sub>1</sub> binding was carried out with [<sup>3</sup>H]-N<sup>6</sup>-cyclohexyladenosine in rat brain membranes, and A<sub>2</sub> binding was carried out with [<sup>3</sup>H]NECA binding in rat striatal membranes in the presence of 50 nM unlabeled CPA.<sup>4</sup> Values are means ± interexperimental standard errors of three or more independent determinations. <sup>b</sup>All compounds had NMR, IR, and MS fully in accord with the assigned structures, and all new compounds had correct elemental analyses.

Chart I



groups produced the balanced agonist 7, and methylation of the 2-position of the ethyl side chain gave an agonist 8,<sup>12</sup> which was slightly A<sub>2</sub> selective. Despite these results, we felt that success was most likely to come in the large number of compounds available to us through substitution of the aromatic rings. Therefore, we set out to synthesize ring substituted 2,2-diarylethylamines as precursors of the desired derivatives of 6.

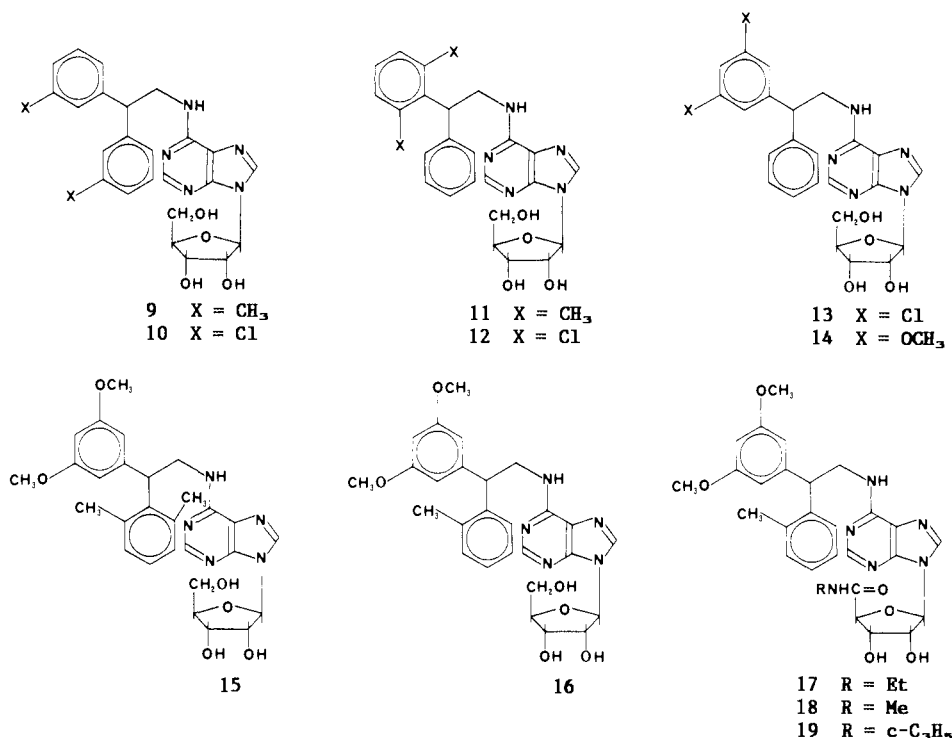
Because none of the extant syntheses<sup>13,14</sup> met our re-

quirements of flexibility, overall yields, and speed, we developed the simple preparation of 2,2-diarylethylamines shown in Scheme I, which allowed us to synthesize a large number of such compounds. In this synthesis an aryl aldehyde is condensed with nitromethane<sup>15</sup> and dehydrated by mesyl chloride to the corresponding nitrostyrene.<sup>16</sup> Michael addition of an aryl Grignard reagent, followed by LiAlH<sub>4</sub> reduction, provides the amines in 30-70% overall yields in most cases. The amines can be converted into the desired adenosines by reaction with 6-chloropurine ribonucleoside and NEt<sub>3</sub> in refluxing EtOH.<sup>17</sup>

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Chart II



Monosubstitution of one of the phenyl rings at the ortho or meta positions generally improved the receptor binding of the agonist, but usually by similar amounts at both receptors. Disubstitution proved more interesting.<sup>18</sup> When a single meta substituent was put in each ring, agonists such as 9 and 10 (Chart II), with rather similar affinities to the monosubstituted analogues were obtained. If, however, the two substituents were in the same ring, potent agonists with 3–6-fold A<sub>2</sub> selectivity were obtained, as exemplified by the bis-ortho-substituted agonists 11 and 12, and the bis-meta agonists 13 and 14 (Table I). Initial attempts to increase the A<sub>2</sub> selectivity by placing a meta substituent in the unsubstituted phenyl ring of 13 or 14 were unsuccessful, as the single meta substituent either enhanced A<sub>1</sub> affinity or dramatically decreased A<sub>2</sub> affinity.

Binding results obtained from several of the above compounds were used to refine a pharmacophore model of the N<sup>6</sup> binding region of the A<sub>2</sub> receptor, which will be reported on in detail elsewhere.<sup>19</sup> Combining results generated by this model with the observed deleterious effects of ortho and di-meta substitution on A<sub>1</sub> receptor affinity, suggested that the best A<sub>2</sub> selectivity and affinity would be obtained with agonists that combined ortho substitution in one ring with 3,5-disubstitution in the other ring. The tetrasubstituted analogue 15 fulfilled our expectations of weak A<sub>1</sub> affinity, with a K<sub>i</sub> of 140 nM, but the A<sub>2</sub> affinity had also deteriorated 3-fold, resulting in an agonist with moderate affinity and only 7-fold A<sub>2</sub> selectivity. However, the combination of a single *o*-methyl substituent on one ring with 3,5-dimethoxy substitution on the other ring (16) proved to be very successful, as the A<sub>1</sub> affinity was still as strongly attenuated as in 15, but the

A<sub>2</sub> affinity was slightly potentiated, giving a very potent agonist with 4.4 nM A<sub>2</sub> affinity and 32-fold A<sub>2</sub> selectivity.

Compound 16 is a 1:1 mixture of diastereoisomers, because differential substitution on the aromatic rings generates a chiral center at the benzylic position of the diarylethylamines, which were prepared as racemic mixtures. The diastereoisomers of 16 were separated by semipreparative HPLC using a stationary phase of cyclodextrin bonded to silica. (This system recognizes only the chiral center in the side chain, as it is equally effective in separating the enantiomers of the aglycon of 16.) Both diastereoisomers of 16 had good A<sub>2</sub> affinity, with the more potent of the two isomers 16B now having a K<sub>i</sub> of 3.1 nM for the A<sub>2</sub> receptor and 37.5-fold A<sub>2</sub> selectivity. As this profile appeared to be suitable for a ligand for use in A<sub>2</sub> receptor studies, a sample of 16B was tritiated.<sup>20</sup> Unfortunately, although 16B showed good binding to the A<sub>2</sub> receptor, it also showed high nonspecific binding in the rat striatal membrane homogenates used in the standard binding assays, and thus was not superior to [<sup>3</sup>H]NECA in this application.

Adenosine shows a dramatic increase in A<sub>2</sub> potency when the 5'-hydroxymethyl group is converted to an *N*-ethylcarboxamide (NECA) group.<sup>7</sup> However, the 300-fold increase in potency observed is in large part due to the stability of NECA to adenosine deaminase and adenosine kinase; if 2-chloroadenosine is taken as a metabolically stable proxy for adenosine, the potency increase for NECA over adenosine is only 1.5-fold in A<sub>1</sub> binding and 6-fold in A<sub>2</sub> binding.<sup>4</sup> It has been observed<sup>21</sup> that a similar enhancement of A<sub>2</sub> affinity by 5'-NECA modification is also seen for A<sub>1</sub>-selective N<sup>6</sup>-substituted agonists, but is much less dramatic for agonists that have balanced receptor affinities. Compound 17, the NECA analogue of 16, proved to have slightly weaker A<sub>2</sub> affinity than 16, but a slightly greater loss of A<sub>1</sub> affinity improved the A<sub>2</sub> selectivity to that of 16B. The *N*-methyl and cyclopropyl uronamides

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18 and 19 were also prepared. As would be expected from the parent N<sup>6</sup>-substituted NECA analogue,<sup>7</sup> 19 showed nearly as high a selectivity ratio as 17, with less than a 2-fold loss of affinity, but 18, unlike in the parent series,<sup>4,22</sup> was somewhat less A<sub>2</sub> selective than 17, and showed a 10-fold loss in binding affinity.

In summary, we have identified a series of N<sup>6</sup>-substituted adenosine derivatives that show substantial selectivity for the A<sub>2</sub> receptor. Development of a detailed model of the N<sup>6</sup> binding region of the A<sub>2</sub> receptor allowed us to refine the series, producing several agonists with 3-6 nM affinity and 20-40-fold binding selectivity for the A<sub>2</sub> re-

ceptor. This potency and selectivity should make these compounds very useful probes for adenosine pharmacology.

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<sup>†</sup>Department of Chemistry.

<sup>‡</sup>Department of Pharmacology.

Alexander J. Bridges,<sup>\*,†</sup> Robert F. Bruns<sup>†</sup>  
Daniel F. Ortwine,<sup>†</sup> Steven R. Priebe<sup>†</sup>  
Deedee L. Szotek,<sup>†</sup> Bharat K. Trivedi<sup>†</sup>

Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Research Division  
Warner-Lambert Company  
2800 Plymouth Road  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105  
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## Articles

### Nonisomerizable Analogues of (*Z*)- and (*E*)-4-Hydroxytamoxifen. Synthesis and Endocrinological Properties of Substituted Diphenylbenzocycloheptenes

Raymond McCague,<sup>\*,†</sup> Guy Leclercq,<sup>‡</sup> and V. Craig Jordan<sup>§</sup>

Drug Development Section, Cancer Research Campaign Laboratory, Institute of Cancer Research, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5NG, U.K., Laboratoire de Cancerologie Mammaire, Service de Medecine, Institut Jules Bordet, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium, and Department of Human Oncology, University of Wisconsin Clinical Cancer Center, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53792. Received June 25, 1987

Substituted 8,9-diphenyl-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-benzocycloheptenes 6-8, which are ring-fused analogues of (*Z*)-*trans*-4-hydroxytamoxifen, (*E*)-*cis*-tamoxifen, and (*E*)-*cis*-4-hydroxytamoxifen, were synthesized from 7-methoxy-1-benzosuberone. The hydroxy compounds 6 and 8 were individually prepared via a common synthetic intermediate from which either the perfluoro-*p*-tolyl or the methyl ether functions could be cleaved specifically. Compounds were assayed for binding affinity to estrogen receptors in cytosol and in MCF-7 whole cells and for growth inhibition of MCF-7 cells in vitro and rat uteri in vivo. The endocrinological properties of the cyclic analogues 5-7 paralleled those of the corresponding derivatives of tamoxifen although in the MCF-7 assay 6 was slightly less effective than 4-hydroxytamoxifen at 10<sup>-6</sup> and 10<sup>-7</sup> M. The compound 8 analogous to *cis*-4-hydroxytamoxifen antagonized the growth stimulation by estradiol of MCF-7 cell or rat uterus growth, and it is therefore an antiestrogen, but its potency was somewhat less, both as an antiestrogen and an estrogen, than reported for *cis*-4-hydroxytamoxifen attributable to modification of the biochemical properties of the latter by isomerization to the more potent *trans* isomer. Curiously, in the absence of estradiol, compound 8 stimulated MCF-7 cell growth at low concentration (10<sup>-8</sup> M) but inhibited growth at higher concentration. In contrast, compound 7, which lacked the hydroxy function, was a full estrogen in the rat uterine growth assay. These compounds should be ideal for further structure-activity studies of triarylethylene-based antiestrogens without complications caused by isomerization.

(*Z*)-*trans*-4-Hydroxytamoxifen (1-[4-[2-(dimethylamino)ethoxy]phenyl]-1-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1-butene) (2) is an important metabolite of the nonsteroidal antiestrogen tamoxifen (1) in patients undergoing treatment for advanced breast cancer.<sup>1</sup> It has attracted considerable interest since it has a much greater antiestrogenic potency in vitro than the parent drug.<sup>2,3</sup> However, although the pure isomers of 4-hydroxytamoxifen can be prepared,<sup>4</sup> they undergo a facile isomerization to give a mixture of isomers,<sup>5,6</sup> a process that has been shown to occur during cell culture experiments;<sup>7,8</sup> for instance, when MCF-7 cells are grown in a medium containing (*E*)-*cis*-4-

hydroxytamoxifen, it is the *trans* isomer that preferentially accumulates in the cells.<sup>8</sup> (*Trans* and *cis* are used in this paper to refer to the relative positions of the aryl ring bearing the basic side chain and alkyl function on the

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<sup>†</sup>Institute of Cancer Research.

<sup>‡</sup>Institut Jules Bordet.

<sup>§</sup>University of Wisconsin.

\*Address correspondence to Dr. R. McCague, Cancer Research Campaign Laboratory, Institute of Cancer Research, 15 Cotswold Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5NG, England.