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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication****Dickinson et al.**(10) **Pub. No.: US 2018/0147250 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: May 31, 2018**(54) **SYNTHETIC SUBSTRATES FOR ENZYMES THAT CATALYZE REACTIONS OF MODIFIED CYSTEINES AND RELATED METHODS***A61K 31/4375* (2006.01)*C07K 5/068* (2006.01)*C07K 5/062* (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.**CPC *A61K 38/05* (2013.01); *A61K 31/35*(2013.01); *A61K 31/365* (2013.01); *C07K**5/0606* (2013.01); *A61K 31/4375* (2013.01);*C07K 5/06086* (2013.01); *A61K 31/498*

(2013.01)

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Rahul S. Kathayat, Chicago, IL (US);
Michael W. Beck, Chicago, IL (US)(21) Appl. No.: **15/827,497**(22) Filed: **Nov. 30, 2017****Related U.S. Application Data**

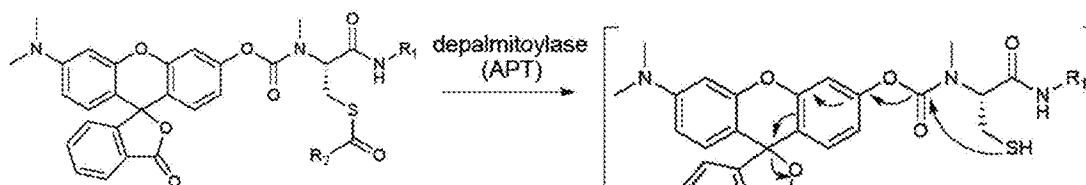
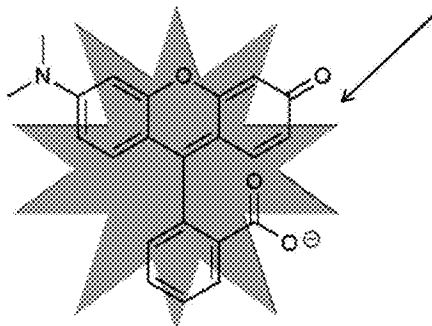
(60) Provisional application No. 62/428,034, filed on Nov. 30, 2016, provisional application No. 62/556,873, filed on Sep. 11, 2017.

Publication Classification(51) **Int. Cl.***A61K 38/05* (2006.01)*A61K 31/35* (2006.01)*A61K 31/365* (2006.01)*A61K 31/498* (2006.01)

(57)

ABSTRACT

Synthetic probes for detecting the activity of enzymes that catalyze reactions of post-translationally modified cysteine residues are described. The probes include “turn-on” probes that include a carbamate linkage that is cleaved via an intramolecular reaction with a free thiol produced by an enzyme catalyzed activity. The probes also include ratio-metric, Michael addition-based probes that respond to enzymatic activity by a change in structure that results in a change in fluorescence properties. Methods of using the probes to detect enzymatic activity and disease are described. For example, the probes can be used to detect enzymatic activity in a variety of samples, including live cells and heterogeneous tissues. In addition, prodrugs that can be activated by enzymes that catalyze reactions of post-translationally modified cysteine residues and methods of using the prodrugs to treat disease are described.

**DPP-1:** R₁ = CH₃, R₂ = (CH₂)₁₄CH₃**DPP-2:** R₁ = CH₃, R₂ = (CH₂)₈CH₃**DPP-3:** R₁ = Lys-C(O)O-CH₃, R₂ = (CH₂)₈CH₃

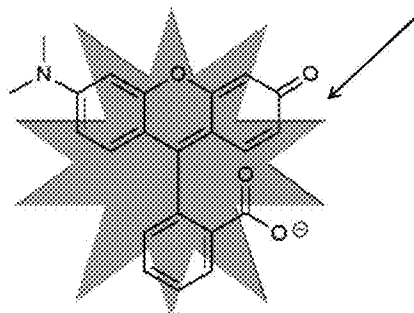
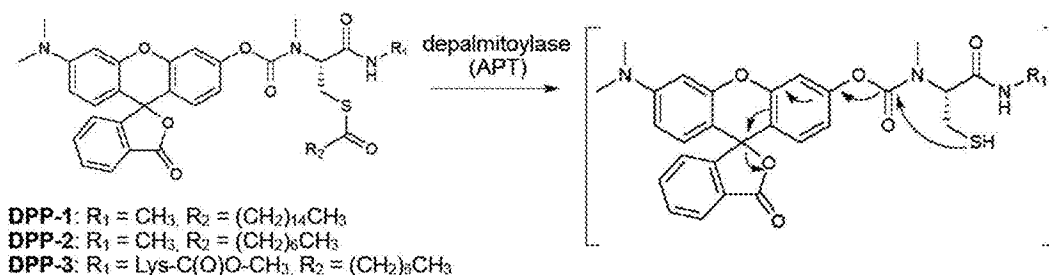


FIG. 1

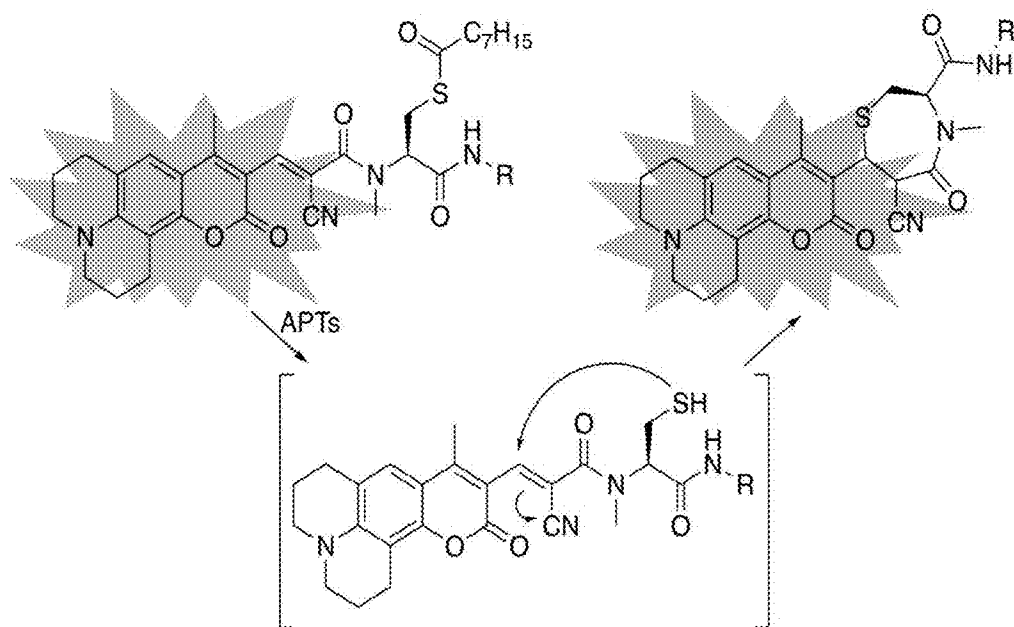


FIG. 2

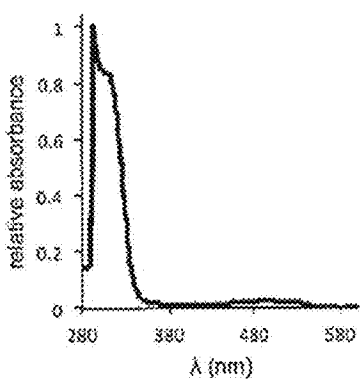


FIG. 3A

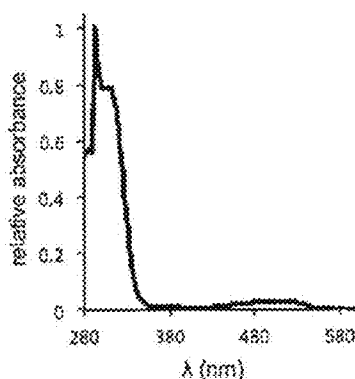


FIG. 3B

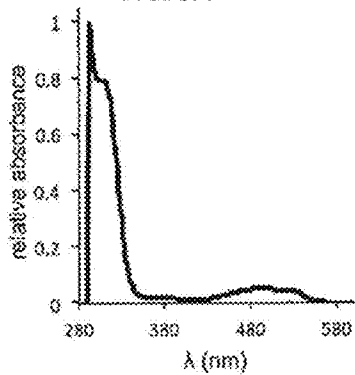


FIG. 3C

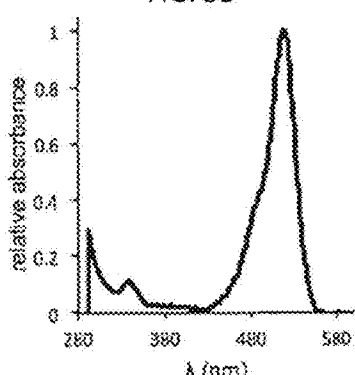


FIG. 3D

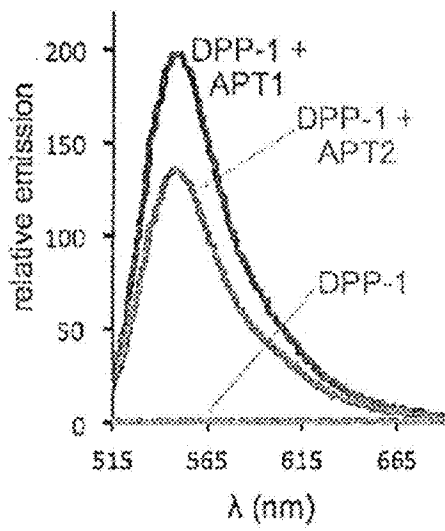


FIG. 4A

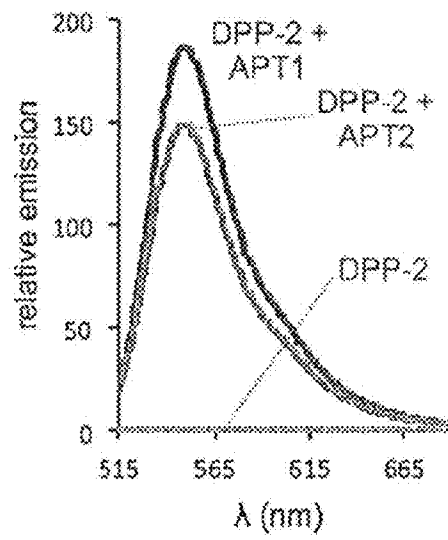


FIG. 4B

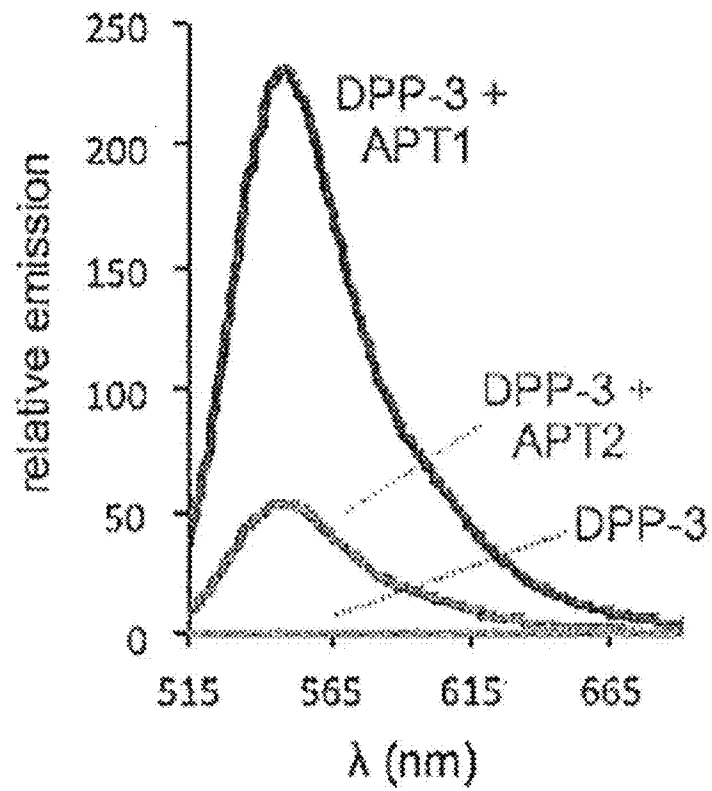


FIG. 4C

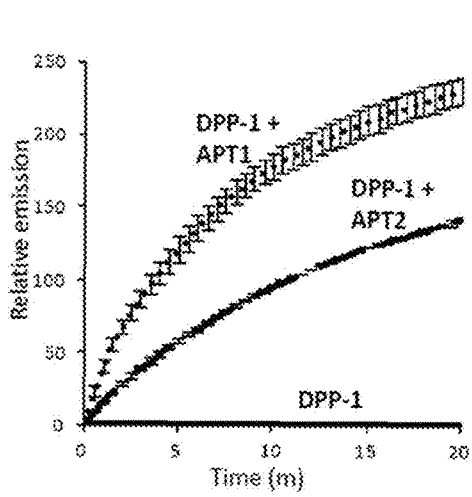


FIG. 5A

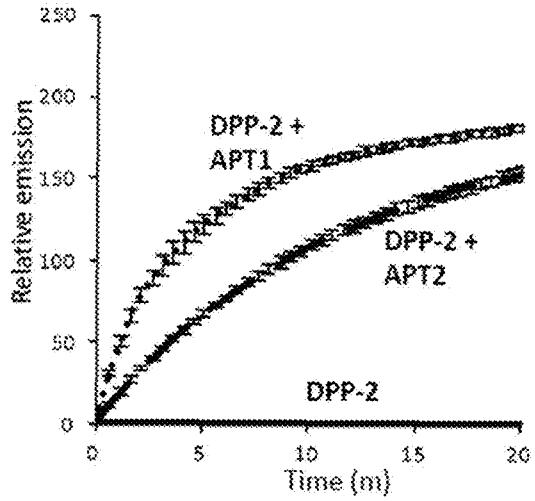


FIG. 5B

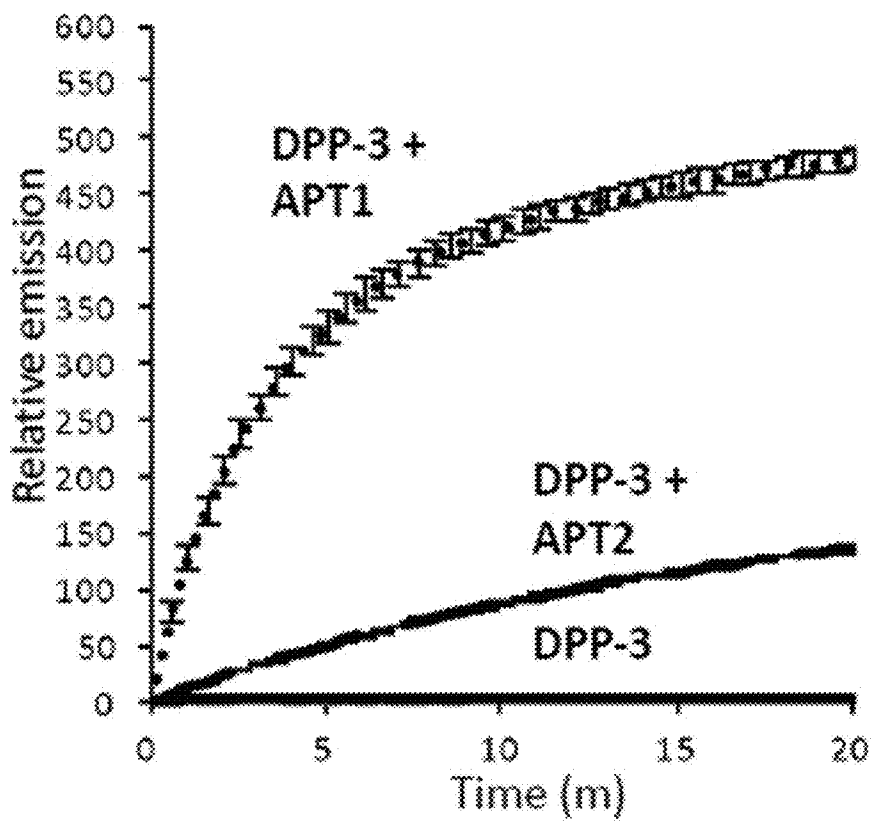


FIG. 5C

FIG. 6A

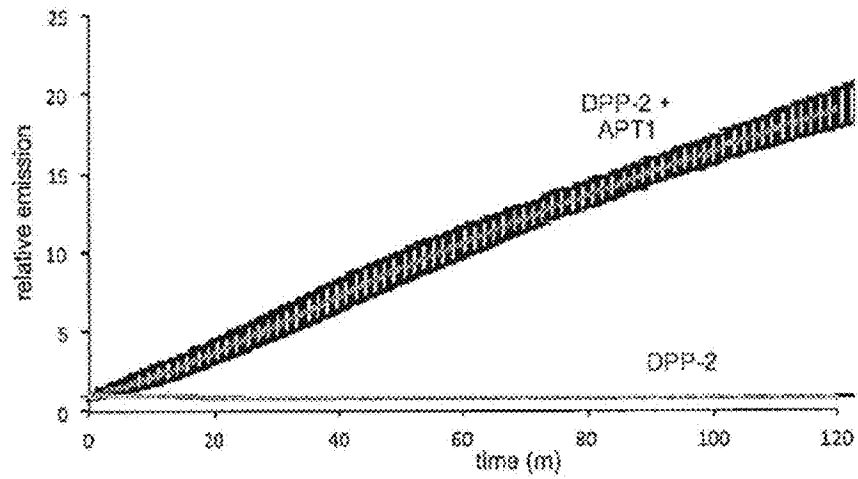
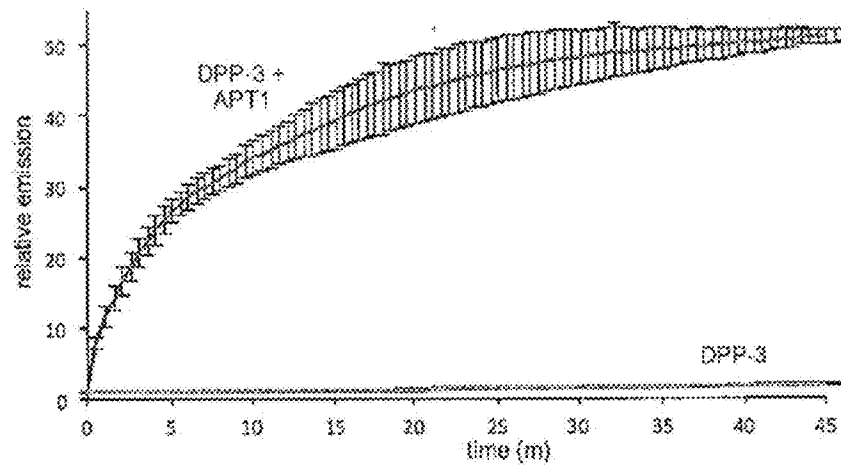


FIG. 6B



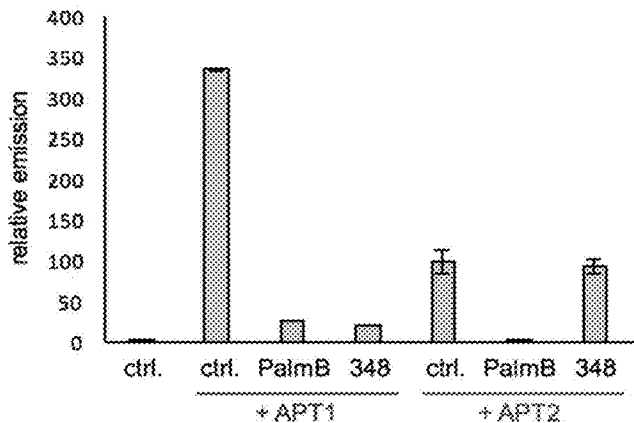


FIG. 7

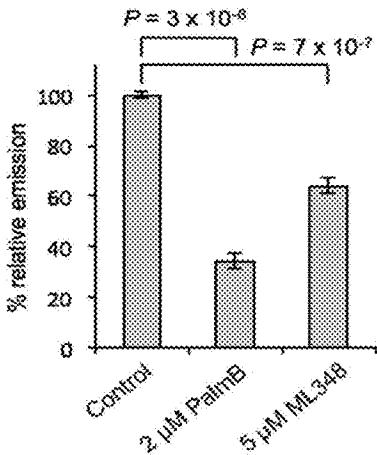


FIG. 8

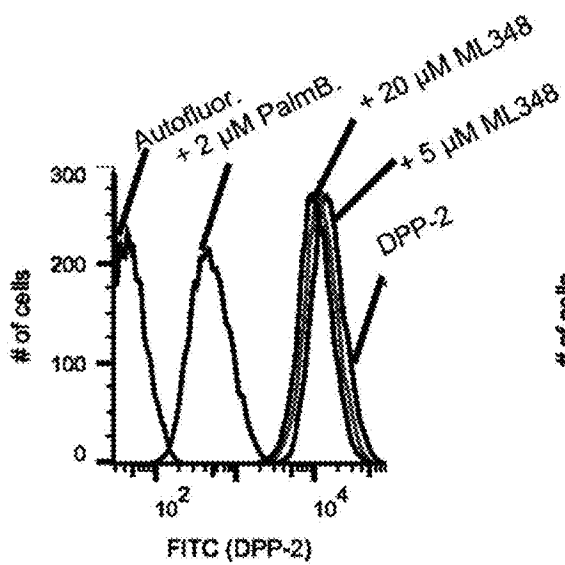


FIG. 9A

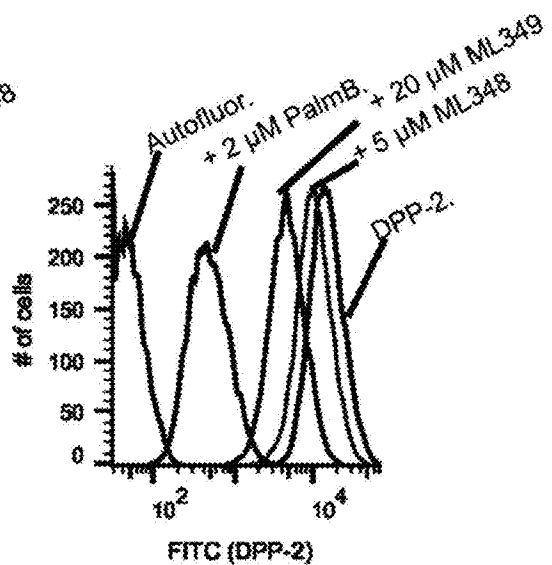


FIG. 9B

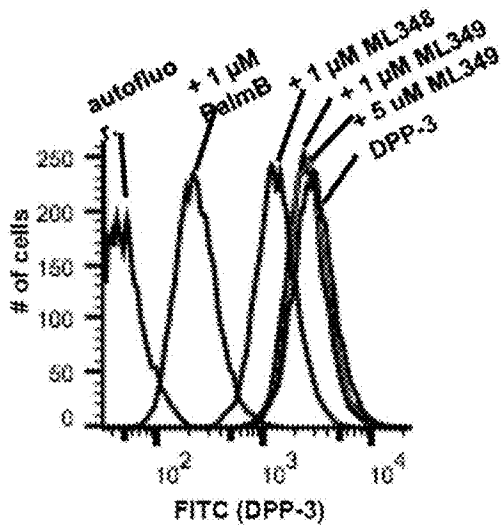


FIG. 10

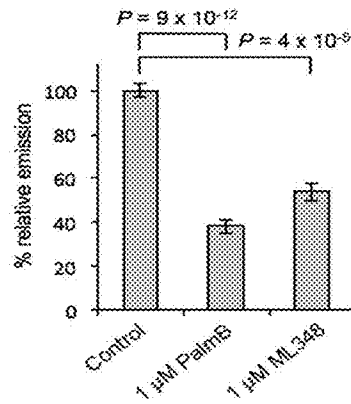


FIG. 11

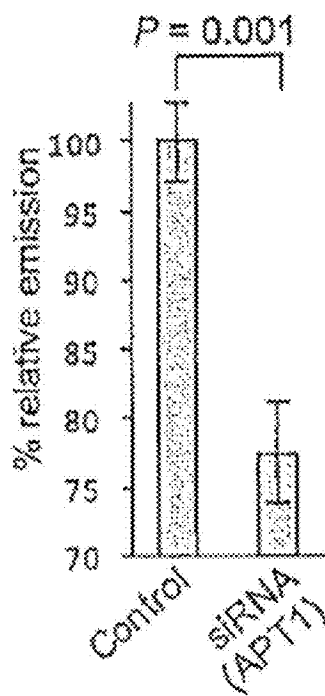


FIG. 12A

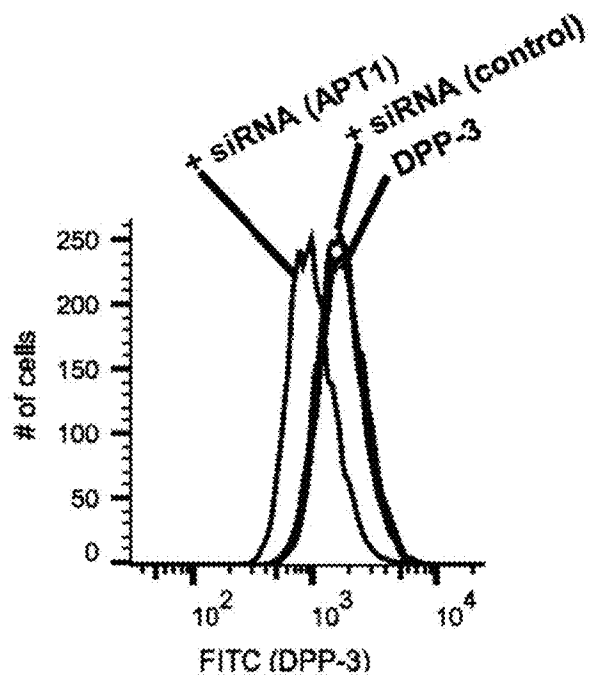


FIG. 12B

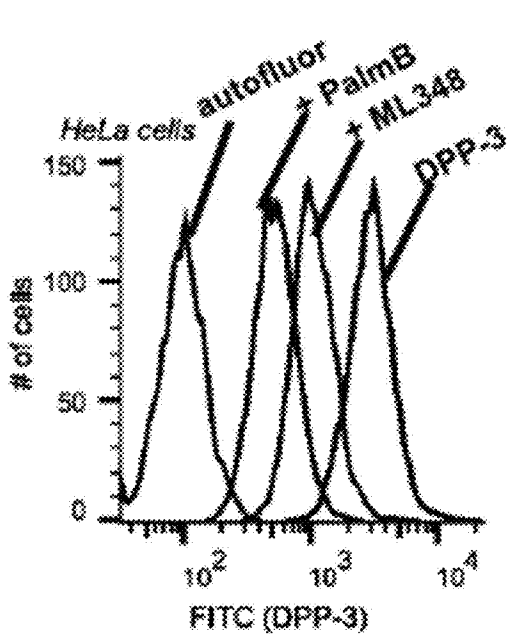


FIG. 13A

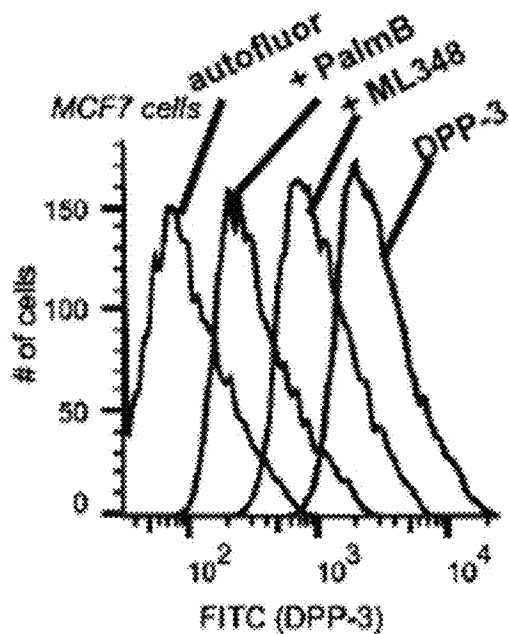


FIG. 13B

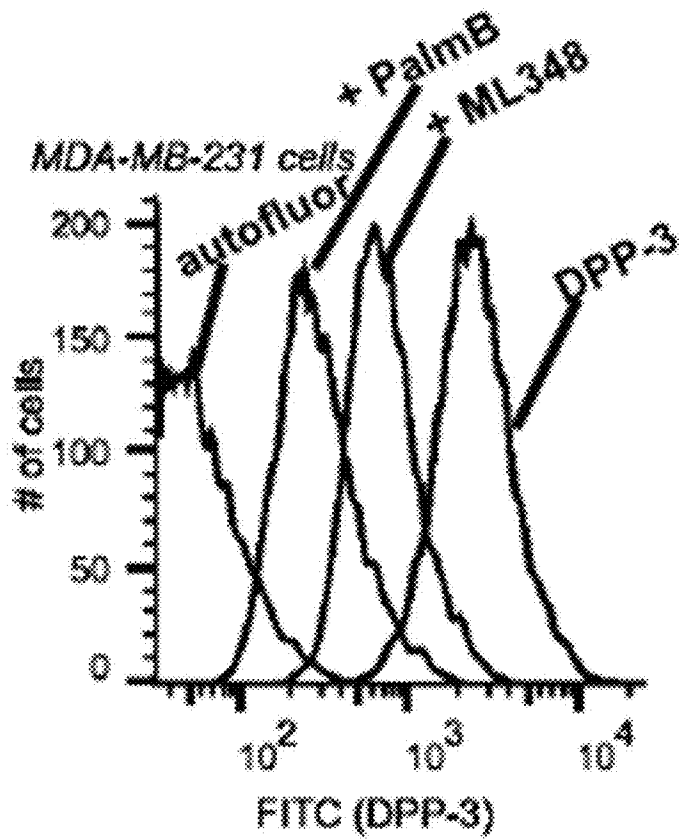


FIG. 13C

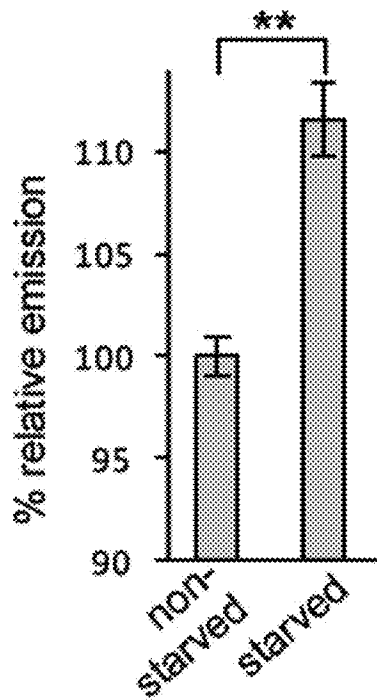


FIG. 14

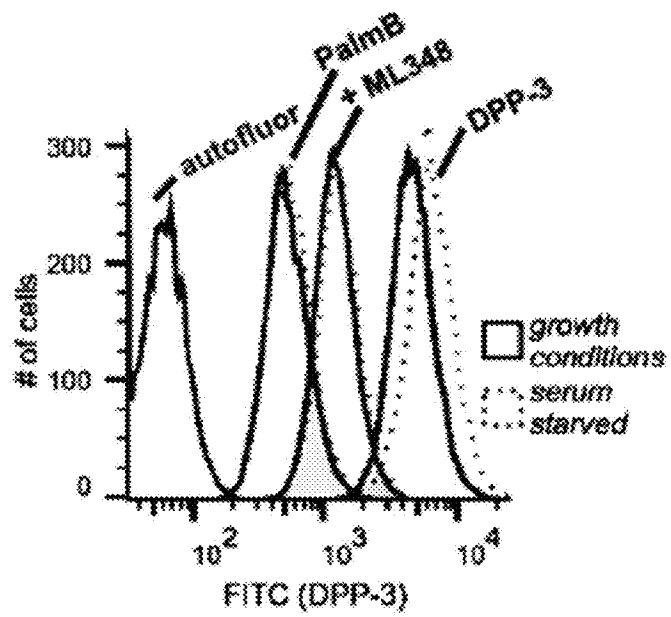


FIG. 15

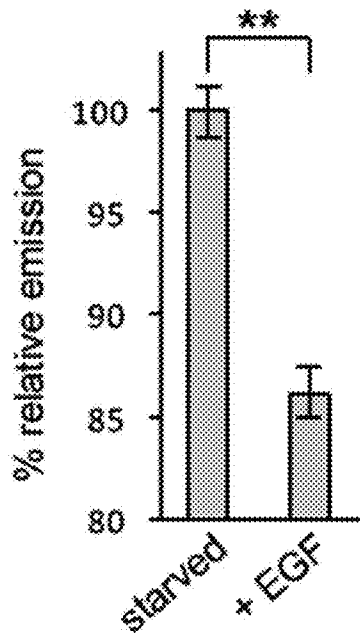


FIG. 16

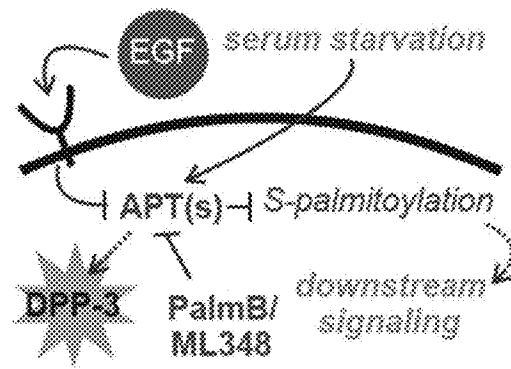


FIG. 17

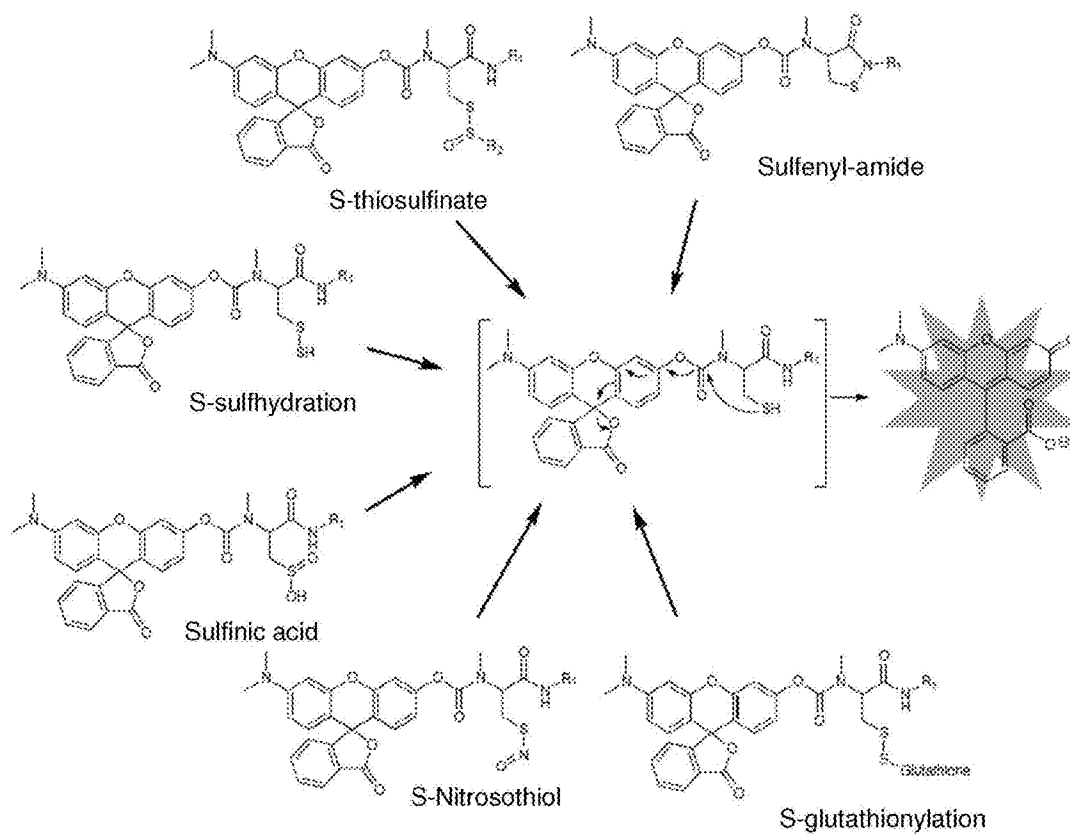


FIG. 18

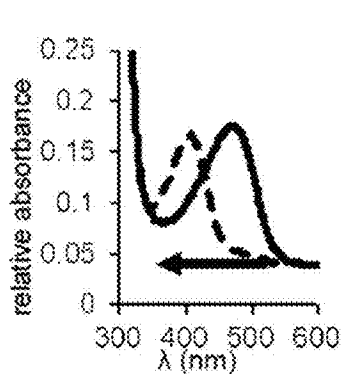


FIG. 19A

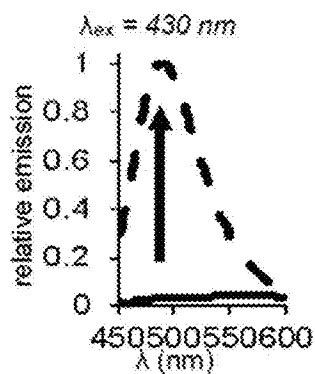


FIG. 19B

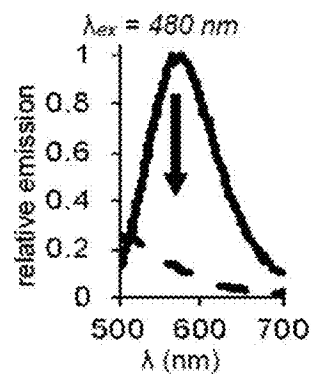


FIG. 19C

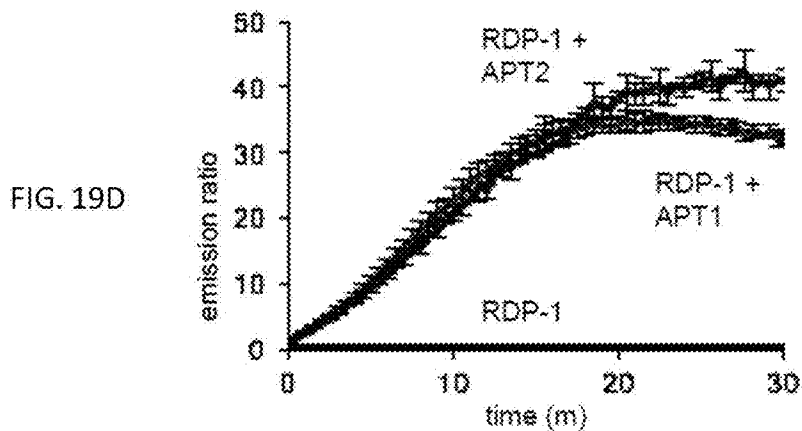


FIG. 19D

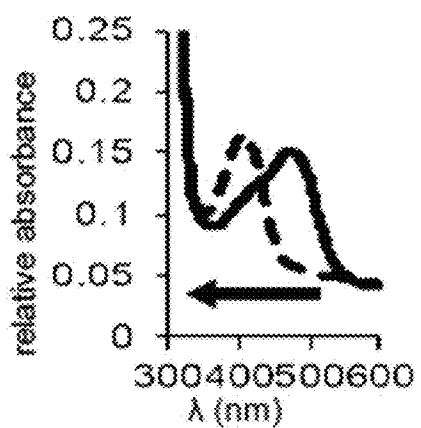


FIG. 20A

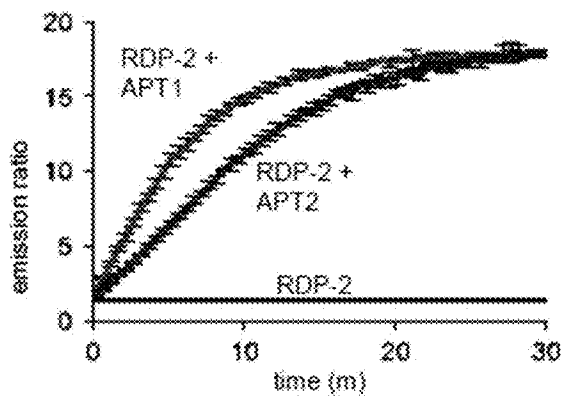


FIG. 20B

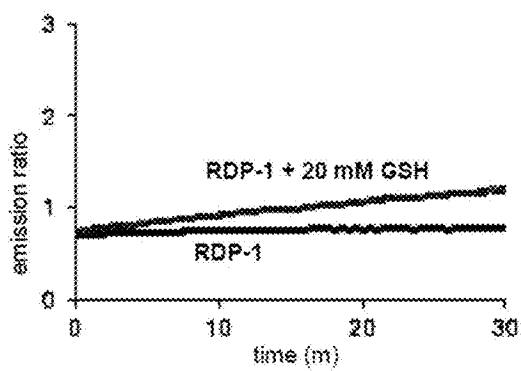


FIG. 21A

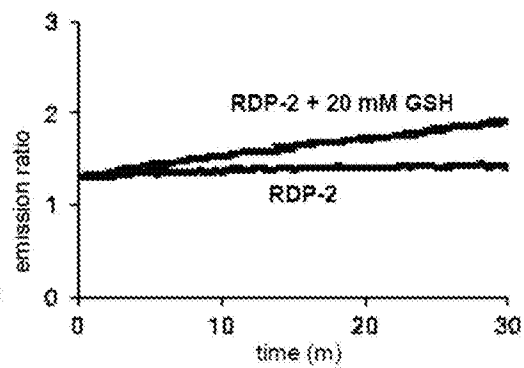


FIG. 21B

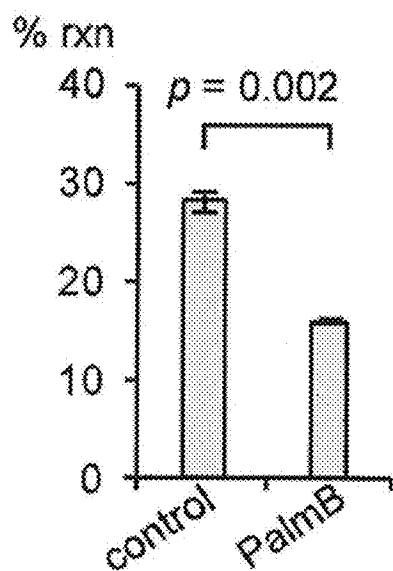


FIG. 22

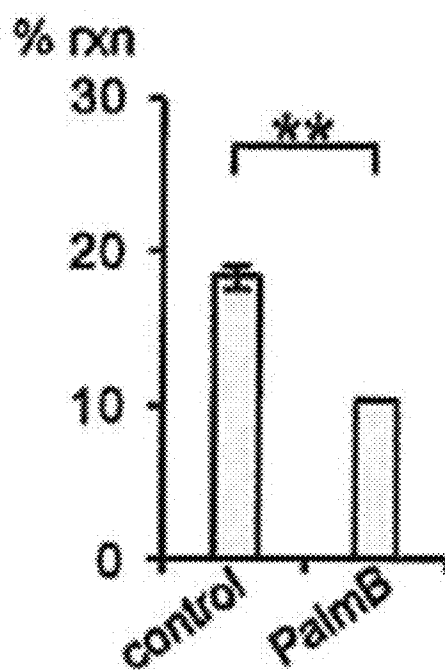


FIG. 23

FIG. 24

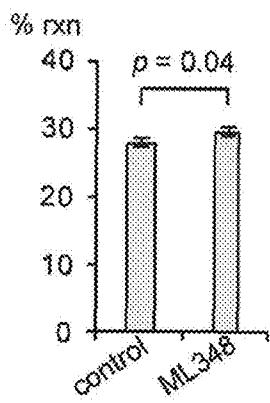


FIG. 25

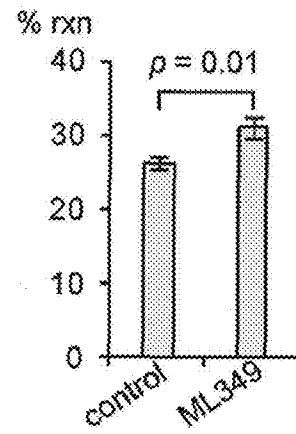


FIG. 26A

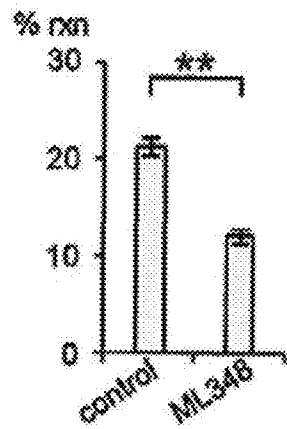
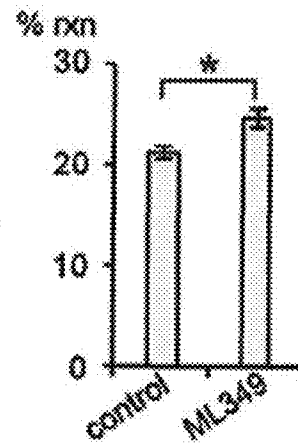
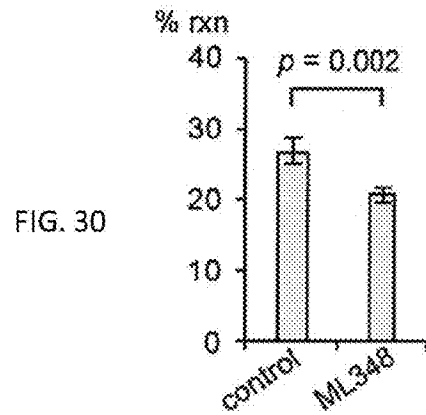
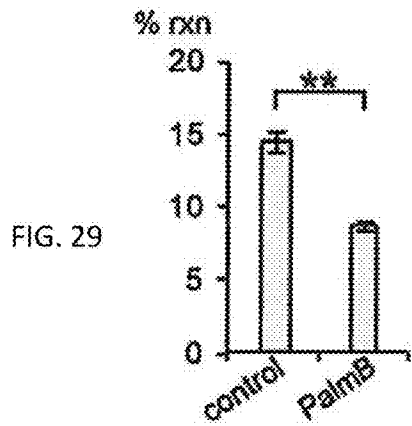
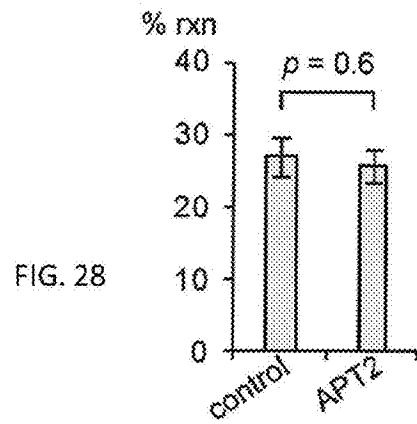
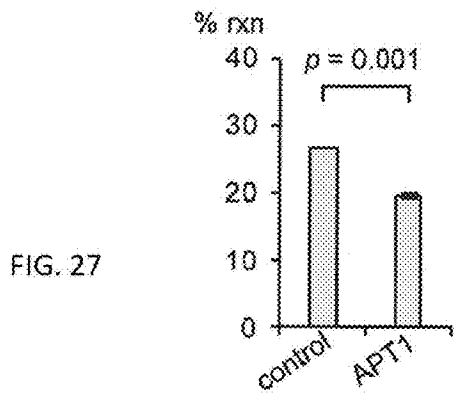


FIG. 26B





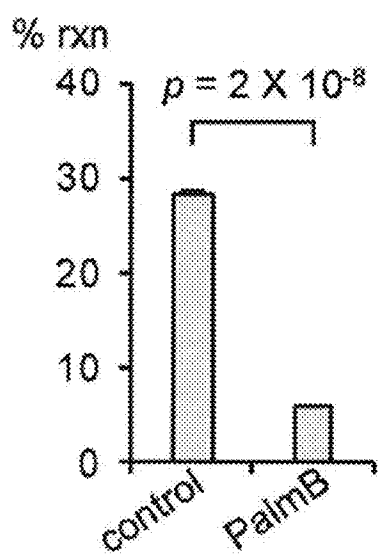


FIG. 31

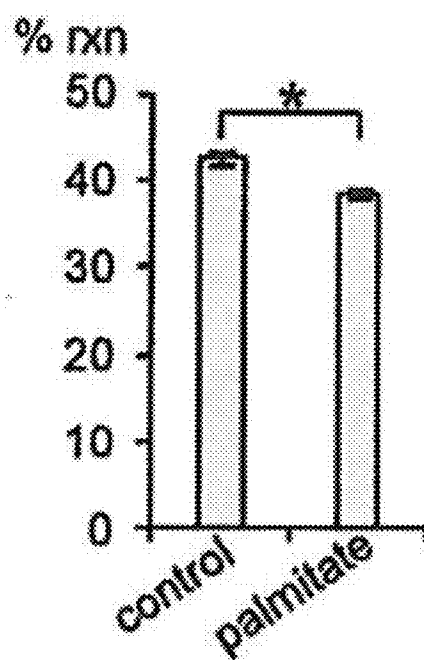


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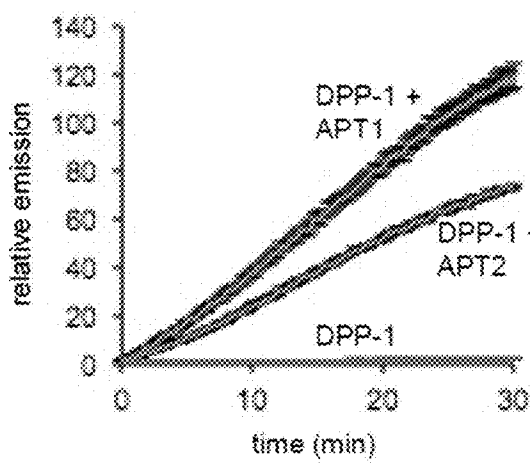


FIG. 33A

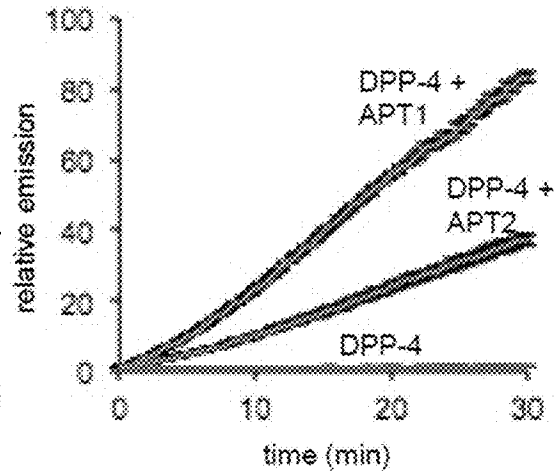


FIG. 33B

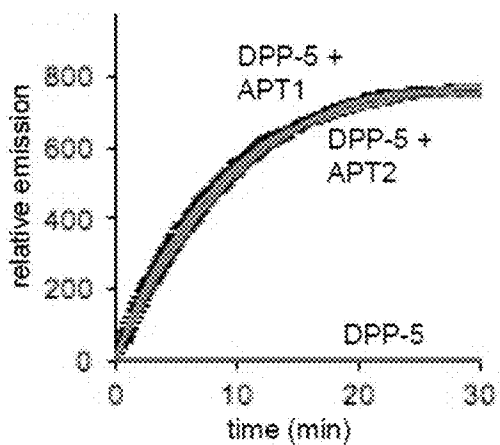


FIG. 33C

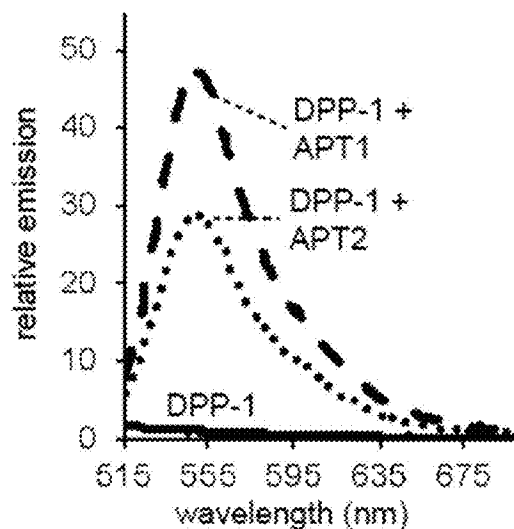


FIG. 33D

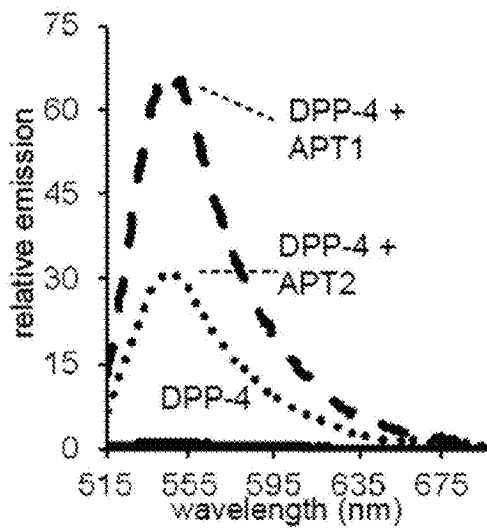


FIG. 33E

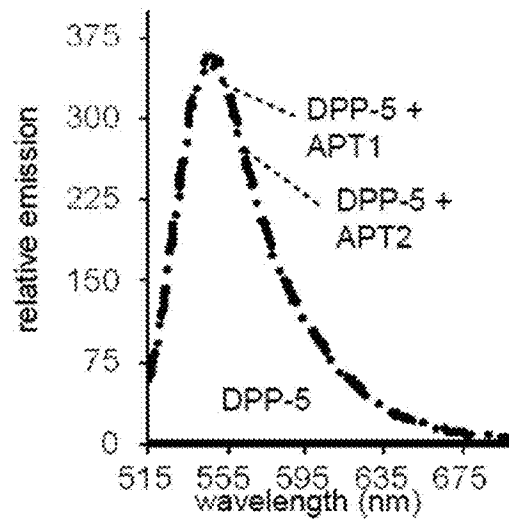


FIG. 33F

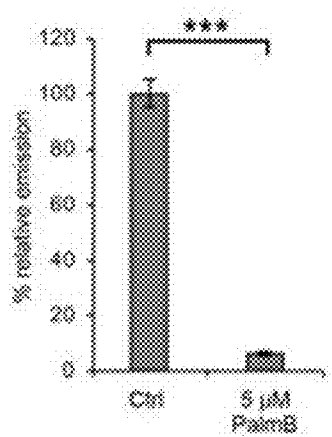


FIG. 34

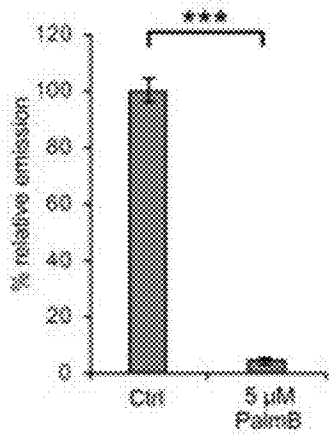


FIG. 35

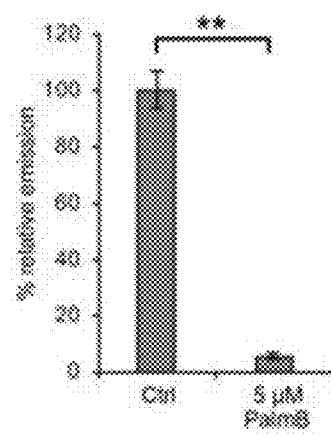


FIG. 36

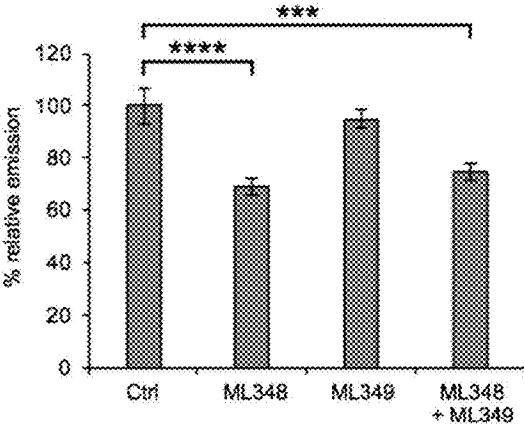


FIG. 37

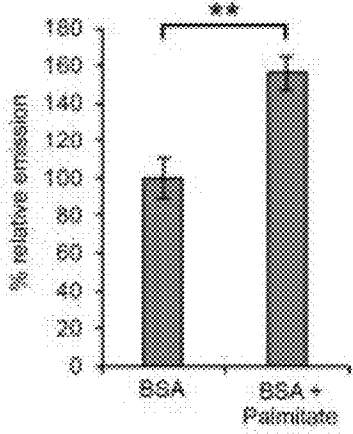


FIG. 38

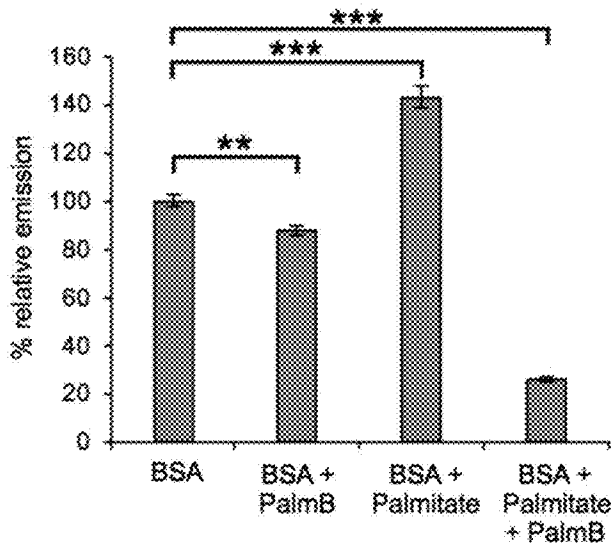


FIG. 39

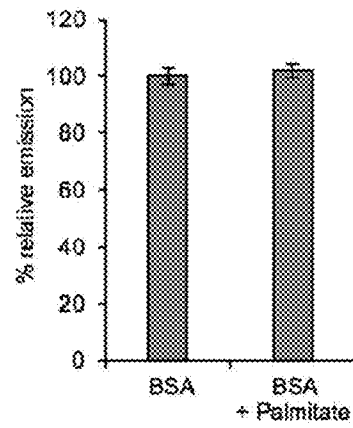


FIG. 40

**SYNTHETIC SUBSTRATES FOR ENZYMES
THAT CATALYZE REACTIONS OF
MODIFIED CYSTEINES AND RELATED
METHODS**

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The presently disclosed subject matter claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 62/428,034, filed Nov. 30, 2016; and of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 62/556,873, filed Sep. 11, 2017, the disclosures of each of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

[0002] This invention was made with government support under Grant No. R35-GM119840 awarded by the National Institutes of Health. The government has certain rights in the invention.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0003] The presently disclosed subject matter relates to molecular probes that can detect the activity of enzymes (such as acyl protein thioesterases (APTs) that catalyze reactions of modified cysteine residues, as well as to prodrugs that can be converted to their parent drugs in the presences of such enzymes. The presently disclosed subject matter further provides methods of detecting the activity of enzymes that catalyze reactions of modified cysteine residues, and to methods of detecting and/or treating diseases associated with increased activity of such enzymes.

ABBREVIATIONS

[0004]	° C.=degrees Celsius
[0005]	%=percentage
[0006]	λ_{em} =emission wavelength
[0007]	λ_{ex} =excitation wavelength
[0008]	μ L=microliter
[0009]	μ m=microns
[0010]	μ M=micromolar
[0011]	APT=acyl protein thioesterase
[0012]	Boc=tert-butoxycarbonyl
[0013]	BSA=bovine serum albumin
[0014]	Cys=cysteine
[0015]	DMSO=dimethylsulfoxide
[0016]	DPP=depalmitoylation probe
[0017]	EGF=epidermal growth factor
[0018]	FITC=fluorescein isothiocyanate
[0019]	g=grams
[0020]	GSH=glutathione
[0021]	h (or hr)=hours
[0022]	m (or min)=minutes
[0023]	mL=milliliter
[0024]	mM=millimolar
[0025]	MRI=magnetic resonance imaging
[0026]	nm=nanometer
[0027]	nM=nanomolar
[0028]	PalmB=palmostatin B
[0029]	PATs=protein acyltransferases
[0030]	PTM=post-translational modification
[0031]	RDP=ratiometric depalmitoylation probe
[0032]	S=seconds
[0033]	shRNA=short hairpin ribonucleic acid
[0034]	siRNA=short interfering ribonucleic acid

[0035]	Trt=triphenyl methane
[0036]	UV-Vis=ultraviolet-visible

BACKGROUND

[0037] Palmitoylation and depalmitoylation of cysteine residues on target proteins plays a key role in regulating protein localization, trafficking, and resultant cell signaling. See Linder and Deschenes (2007) *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* 8, 74-84; Eisenberg et al. (2013) *Biochem Soc Trans* 41, 79-83; Topinka and Bredt (1998) *Neuron* 20, 125-134; and Chan et al. (2016) *Nat Chem Biol* 12, 282-289. Recent advances in mass spectrometry-based protein profiling techniques have greatly expanded the catalog of human proteins modified by S-palmitoylation to include hundreds of putative targets. See Peng et al. (2016) *Curr Opin Chem Biol* 30, 77-86; and Hernandez et al. (2013) *Curr Opin Chem Biol* 17, 20-26. There are 23 protein acyltransferases (PATs) in humans that act as the “writers” that install the lipid modification. See Zhenq et al. (2013) *J Am Chem Soc* 135, 70782-7085. Acyl protein thioesterases (APTs) are the “erasers” of S-palmitoylation (see Linder and Deschenes (2007) *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* 8, 74-84), including the lysosomal degradation enzyme protein palmitoylthioesterase-1 (see Verkruijse and Hofmann (1996) *J Biol Chem* 271, 15831-15836) and the putatively cytosolic proteins acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1) and acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2), which are part of the metabolic serine hydrolase (mSH) superfamily. See Long and Cravatt (2011) *Chem Rev* 111, 6022-6063. In addition, three previously uncharacterized enzymes, the α/β -hydrolase domain-containing protein 17 members A-C, were recently identified as regulators of N-Ras depalmitoylation and are potentially additional S-palmitoylation erasers. See Lin and Conibear (2015) *Elife* 4, e11306.

[0038] APT enzymes have been proposed to contain no substrate specificity and to act constitutively to depalmitoylate proteins universally from intracellular membranes. See Rocks et al. (2010) *Cell* 141, 458-471. However, several lines of evidence suggests that S-palmitoylation is, in fact, regulated and dynamic, including findings that PSD-95 is rapidly depalmitoylated following glutamate stimulation (see EI-Husseini et al. (2002) *Cell* 108, 849-863), that activation of FGF receptors by FGF2 leads to palmitoylation of cell adhesion molecules in neurons (see Ponomaskin et al. (2008) *J Neurosci* 28, 8897-8907), and that T-cell activation induces accelerated palmitate cycling. See Zhang et al. (2010) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 107, 8627-8632. Indeed, the APT enzymes themselves can be S-palmitoylated (see Kong et al. (2013) *J Biol Chem* 288, 9112-9125), potentially resulting in auto-regulatory mechanisms. To address the roles of APT activities in cell signaling, several classes of small molecule inhibitors have been developed, including the pan-depalmitoylase inhibitor palmostatin B (PalmB) and the APT1- and APT2-specific inhibitors ML348 and ML349. See Davda and Martin (2014) *Medchemcomm* 5, 268-276; Dekker et al. (2010) *Nat Chem Biol* 6, 449-456; Rusch et al. (2011) *Angew Chem Int Ed Engl* 50, 9838-9842; and Adibekian et al. (2012) *J Am Chem Soc* 134, 10345-10348.

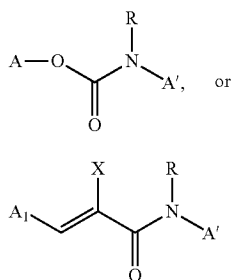
[0039] Current approaches to study S-palmitoylation primarily involve proteomics, monitoring the trafficking of microinjected fluorescent substrates (see Dekker et al. (2010) *Nat Chem Biol* 6, 449-456; and Gormer et al. (2012) *Chembiochem* 13, 1017-1023), or the use of cell-permeable substrate mimetics. See Creaser and Peterson (2002) *J Am Chem Soc* 124, 2444-2445. These approaches reveal the

balance between palmitoylation and depalmitoylation, but cannot reveal potential upstream regulatory mechanisms particularly related to the depalmitoylases.

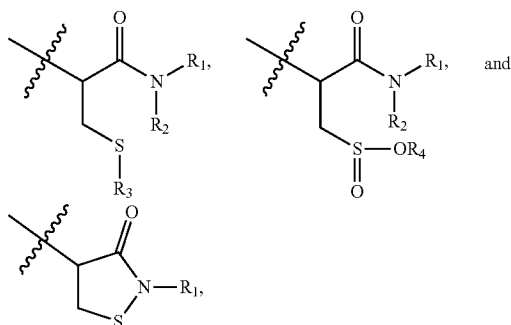
[0040] Accordingly, there is an ongoing need for further methods for studying S-palmitoylation and other PTMs of cysteines. More particularly, there is an ongoing need for additional methods to study the regulation and dynamics of S-palmitoylation, such as methods that can monitor the activity levels of depalmitoylases in physiological relevant contexts, such as in live cells and heterogeneous tissues. There is also a need for additional synthetic molecular probes that can detect the activity of depalmitoylases and related enzymes. For example, there is the need for synthetic probes containing chemical linkers that can be cleaved in the presence of depalmitoylases or ratiometric probes that can undergo a change in detectable properties in the presence of depalmitoylases. There is also the need for synthetic molecular probes with good water solubility.

SUMMARY

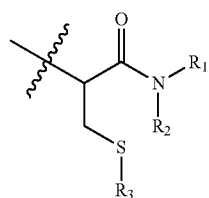
[0041] In some embodiments, the presently disclosed subject matter provides a compound having a structure of Formula (Ia) or (Ib):



wherein: A is a residue of a compound A-OH, wherein A-OH is a pro-fluorescent, fluorescent, bio-luminescent, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)-detectable or therapeutically active compound; A₁ is a residue of a compound A₁-H, wherein A₁-H is a fluorescent or bioluminescent compound; X is H or an electron-withdrawing moiety, wherein the electron-withdrawing moiety is selected from the group comprising CN, NO₂, —C(=O)H, keto, and amido; R is selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; and A' is selected from the group comprising:



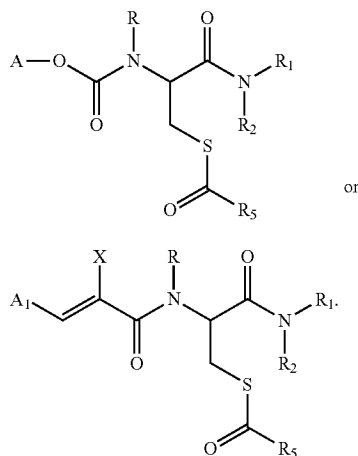
wherein: R₁ is selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; and R₂ is selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; or wherein R₁ and R₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an amino acid or peptidyl residue; R₃ is selected from the group comprising alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, —S(=O)R₅, —SH, —N(=O), S-glutathione, and —C(=O)R₅; R₄ is selected from H and R₅; and R₅ is selected from the group comprising alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, and substituted aralkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. In some embodiments, A' is



(Ia)

[0042] In some embodiments, the compound has a structure of Formula (IIa) or (IIb):

(Ib)



(IIa)

(IIb)

[0043] In some embodiments, R₅ is —(CH₂)_nCH₃ wherein n is 1-18. In some embodiments, R₁ and R₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an amino acid or peptidyl residue and further wherein the amino acid or peptidyl residue comprises a positively charged amino acid residue.

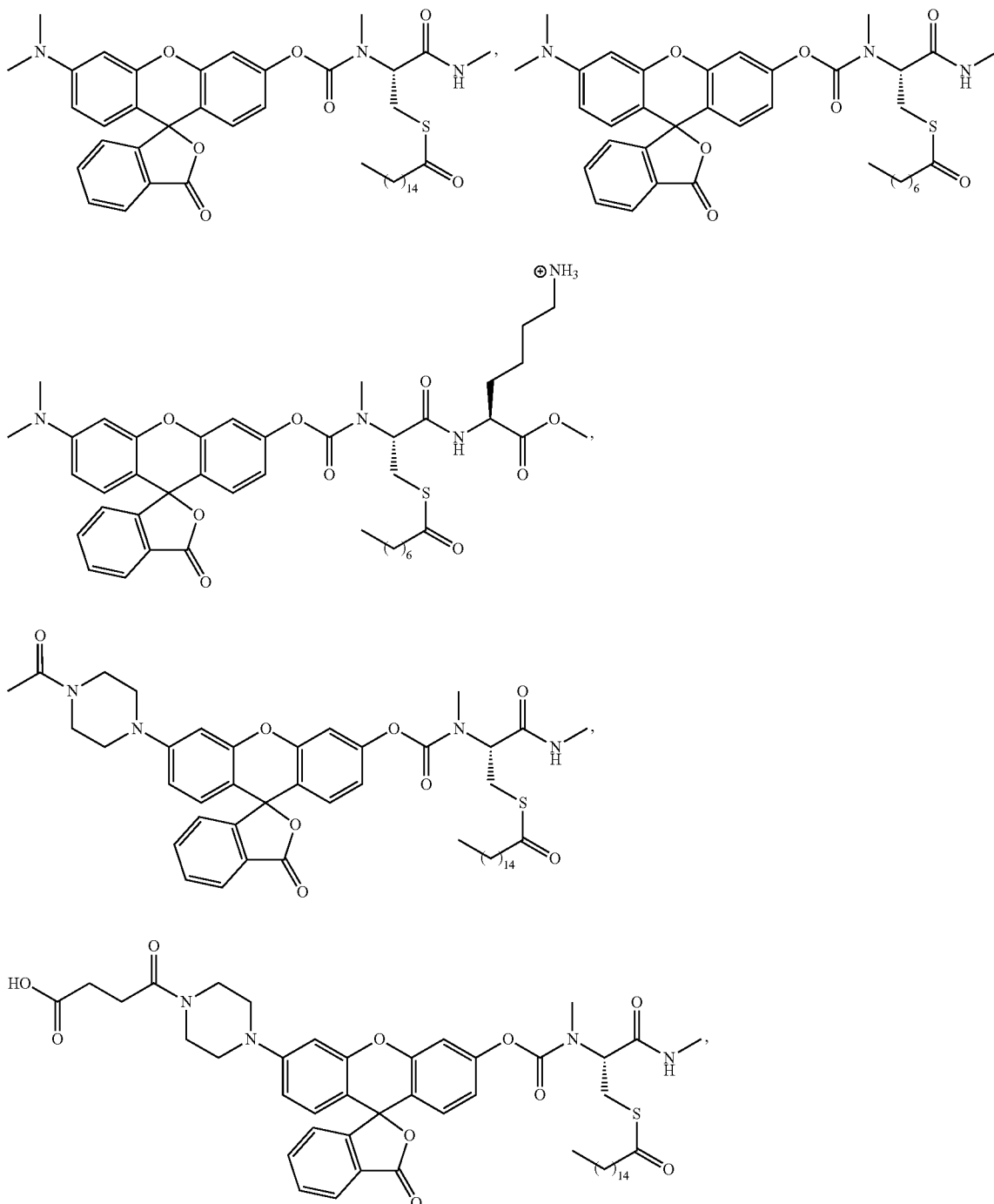
[0044] In some embodiments, the compound has a structure of Formula (Ia) wherein A is a residue of a compound A-OH, wherein A-OH is a pro-fluorescent, fluorescent or a therapeutically active compound and wherein the OH of the compound A-OH is a phenolic group. In some embodiments, A-OH is a rhodol or a fluorescein derivative.

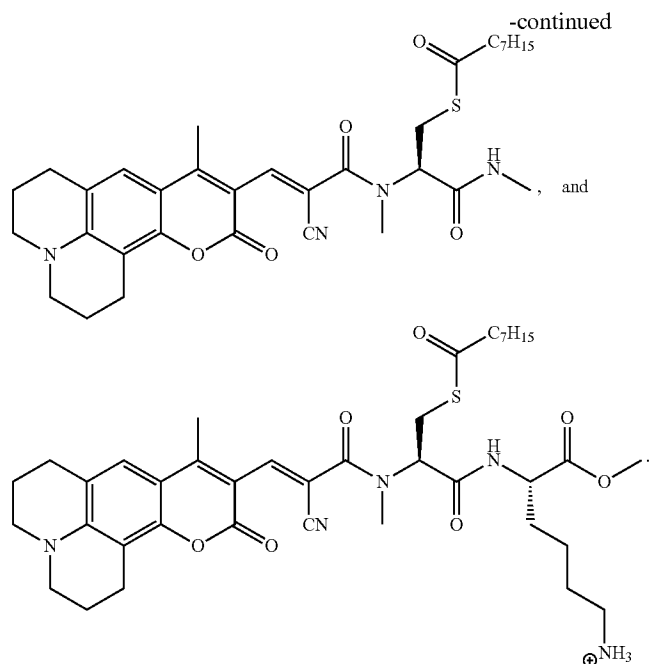
[0045] In some embodiments, A is a residue of a compound A-OH, wherein A-OH is a therapeutically active compound and wherein the compound of Formula (Ia) is a

carbamate prodrug of the compound A-OH. In some embodiments, the presently disclosed subject matter provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a carbamate prodrug of the compound A-OH (i.e., wherein the carbamate prodrug is a compound of Formula (1a), wherein A is a residue of a compound A-OH, wherein A-OH is a therapeutically active compound); and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

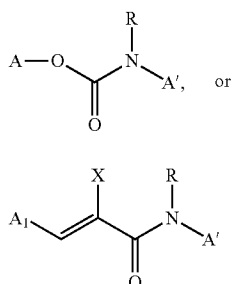
[0046] In some embodiments, the compound has a structure of Formula (1b), wherein A is a residue of a compound A₁-H wherein A₁-H is a fluorescent compound. In some embodiments, A₁-H is a coumarin derivative. In some embodiments, X is CN.

[0047] In some embodiments, the compound is selected from the group comprising:

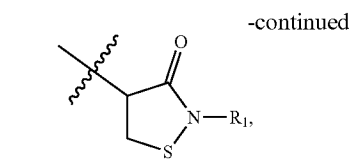
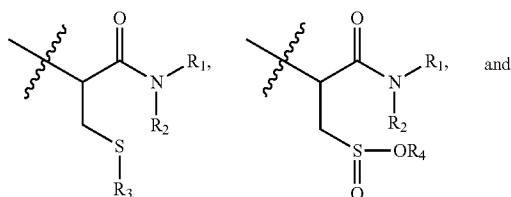




[0048] In some embodiments, the presently disclosed subject matter provides a method of detecting enzymatic activity in a sample, the method comprising: contacting the sample with a compound of Formula (1a) or (1b):



wherein: A is a residue of a compound A-OH, wherein A-OH is a pro-fluorescent or fluorescent compound; A₁ is a residue of a compound A₁-H, wherein A₁-H is a fluorescent compound; X is H or an electron-withdrawing moiety, wherein the electron-withdrawing moiety is selected from the group comprising CN, NO₂, —C(=O)H, keto, and amido; R is selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; and A' is selected from the group comprising:

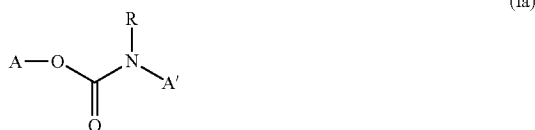


wherein: R₁ is selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; and R₂ is selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; or wherein R₁ and R₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an amino acid or peptidyl residue; R₃ is selected from the group comprising alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, —S(=O)R₅, —SH, —N(=O), S-glutathione, and —C(=O)R₅; R₄ is selected from H and R₅; and R₅ is selected from the group comprising alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, and substituted aralkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and detecting one or more fluorescence signals in the sample, wherein detecting the one or more fluorescence signals detects the presence and/or amount of enzymatic activity of an enzyme in the sample that catalyzes a reaction of a modified cysteine substrate.

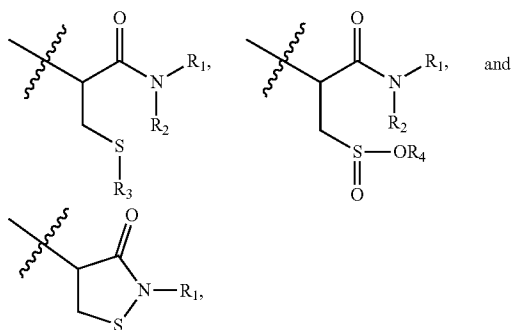
[0049] In some embodiments, the enzyme is a thioesterase, an abhydrolyase domain containing 17A (ABHD17) protein, or a thioetherase. In some embodiments, the sample is an in vitro sample. In some embodiments, the sample comprises a live cell, tissue, or organ. In some embodiments, the sample is a subject or a cell, tissue, or fluid obtained from a subject and wherein detecting enzymatic activity further detects a disease state associated with increased or decreased activity of an enzyme that catalyzes a reaction of a modified cysteine substrate.

[0050] In some embodiments, the presently disclosed subject matter provides a method of treating a disease in a

subject in need of treatment thereof, wherein the method comprises: administering to the subject a compound of Formula (Ia):



wherein: A is a residue of a compound A-OH, wherein A-OH is a therapeutic compound; R is selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; and A' is selected from the group comprising:



wherein R_1 is selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; and R_2 is selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; or wherein R_1 and R_2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an amino acid or peptidyl residue; R_3 is selected from the group comprising alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, $-S(=O)R_5$, $-SH$, $-N(=O)$, S-glutathione, and $-C(=O)R_5$; R_4 is selected from H and R_5 ; and R_5 is selected from the group comprising alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, and substituted aralkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pharmaceutical formulation thereof. In some embodiments, the disease is selected from the group comprising cancer; a neurological disorder; a neurodegenerative disease; a metabolic disorder, diabetes, an autoimmune disease; an infectious disease; liver disease; kidney disease; atherosclerosis; and hypertension.

[0051] Accordingly, it is an object of the presently disclosed subject matter to provide molecular probes and prodrugs that are responsive to enzymes that catalyze reactions of modified cysteine residues, as well as related pharmaceutical formulations, methods of detecting enzymatic activity and disease, and methods of treating disease.

[0052] An object of the presently disclosed subject matter having been stated hereinabove, and which is achieved in whole or in part by the presently disclosed subject matter, other objects will become evident as the description proceeds hereinbelow.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0053] FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram showing the design and activation mechanism of exemplary depalmitoylation probes (DPPs) of the presently disclosed subject matter that have cleavable linkers. The structures of three particular exemplary DPPs for determining cysteine deacylase activity are shown, depalmitoylation probe 1 (DPP-1), depalmitoylation probe 2 (DPP-2), and depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP3). These DPPs include a cysteine residue tethered to a pro-fluorescent molecule by a biologically stable carbamate linker. Deacylase activity on the cysteine releases the thiol form of the probe, which rapidly cyclizes, breaking the carbamate linkage and releasing a fluorescent product. In some embodiments, the physical and biological properties of the probe can be tuned by modulating the acyl modification on the thiol (R_2) and the C-terminal amide modification on the cysteine (R_1).

[0054] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram showing the design and activation mechanism of exemplary ratiometric depalmitoylation probes (RDPs) of the presently disclosed subject matter. The RDPs include a S-palmitoyl-cysteine analog residue coupled to a weakly active Michael acceptor moiety at the 3-position of an amino coumarin-based fluorophore. Deacylase activity on the cysteine releases the thiol form of the probe, which undergoes an intramolecular Michael addition to cyclize to provide a seven-membered ring, breaking up the conjugated π -system and causing a change in the spectral properties of the probe.

[0055] FIG. 3A is a graph showing the ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) spectrum of a 100 micromolar (μ M) solution of depalmitoylation probe 1 (DPP-1) in 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer (20 millimolar mM, at pH 7.4, 150 mM sodium chloride (NaCl) and 1% Triton X-100).

[0056] FIG. 3B is a graph showing the ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) spectrum of a 100 micromolar (μ M) solution of depalmitoylation probe 2 (DPP-2) in 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer (20 millimolar mM, at pH 7.4, 150 mM sodium chloride (NaCl) and 1% Triton X-100).

[0057] FIG. 3C is a graph showing the ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) spectrum of a 100 micromolar (μ M) solution of depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3) in 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer (20 millimolar mM, at pH 7.4, 150 mM sodium chloride (NaCl) and 1% Triton X-100).

[0058] FIG. 3D is a graph showing the ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) spectrum of a 5 micromolar (μ M) solution of N,N-dimethylrhodol in 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer (20 millimolar mM, at pH 7.4, 150 mM sodium chloride (NaCl) and 1% Triton X-100).

[0059] FIG. 4A is a graph showing the fluorescence emission spectrum of a 5 micromolar (μ M) solution of depalmitoylation probe 1 (DPP-1) in 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer (20 millimolar mM, at pH 7.4, 150 mM sodium chloride (NaCl) and 1% Triton X-100), as well as the fluorescence emission spectra after treatment of DPP-1 with either 50 nanomolar (nM) acyl protein thioesterase 1 (DPP-1+APT1) or with 50 nM acyl protein thioesterase 2 (DPP-1+APT2) for 20 minutes. The excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) is 485 nanometers (nm).

[0060] FIG. 4B is a graph showing the fluorescence emission spectrum of a 5 micromolar (μ M) solution of depalmitoylation probe 1 (DPP-1) in 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer (20 millimolar mM, at pH 7.4, 150 mM sodium chloride (NaCl) and 1% Triton X-100).

toylation probe 2 (DPP-2) in 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer (20 millimolar mM, at pH 7.4, 150 mM sodium chloride (NaCl) and 1% Triton X-100), as well as the fluorescence emission spectra after treatment of DPP-2 with either 50 nanomolar (nM) acyl protein thioesterase 1 (DPP-2+APT1) or with 50 nM acyl protein thiotransferase 2 (DPP-2+APT2) for 20 minutes. The excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) is 485 nanometers (nm).

[0061] FIG. 4C is a graph showing the fluorescence emission spectrum of a 5 micromolar (μ M) solution of depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3) in 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer (20 millimolar mM, at pH 7.4, 150 mM sodium chloride (NaCl) and 1% Triton X-100), as well as the fluorescence emission spectra after treatment of DPP-3 with either 50 nanomolar (nM) acyl protein thioesterase 1 (DPP-3+APT1) or with 50 nM acyl protein thiotransferase 2 (DPP-3+APT2) for 20 minutes. The excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) is 485 nanometers (nm).

[0062] FIG. 5A is a graph showing the results of an in vitro fluorescence assay of 5 micromolar (μ M) depalmitoylation probe 1 (DPP-1). The assay was performed with either 50 nanomolar (nM) purified acyl protein thioesterase 1 (DPP-1+APT1) or 50 nM acyl protein thioesterase 2 (DPP-1+APT2). The excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) was 490/9 nanometers (nm) and the emission wavelength (λ_{em}) was 545/20 nm. Error bars are standard deviation ($n=3$). Data was normalized to the background of the background fluorescence of the probe alone.

[0063] FIG. 5B is a graph showing the results of an in vitro fluorescence assay of 5 micromolar (μ M) depalmitoylation probe 2 (DPP-2). The assay was performed with either 50 nanomolar (nM) purified acyl protein thioesterase 1 (DPP-2+APT1) or 50 nM acyl protein thioesterase 2 (DPP-2+APT2). The excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) was 490/9 nanometers (nm) and the emission wavelength (λ_{em}) was 545/20 nm. Error bars are standard deviation ($n=3$). Data was normalized to the background of the background fluorescence of the probe alone.

[0064] FIG. 5C is a graph showing the results of an in vitro fluorescence assay of 5 micromolar (μ M) depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3). The assay was performed with either 50 nanomolar (nM) purified acyl protein thioesterase 1 (DPP-3+APT1) or 50 nM acyl protein thioesterase 2 (DPP-3+APT2). The excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) was 490/9 nanometers (nm) and the emission wavelength (λ_{em}) was 545/20 nm. Error bars are standard deviation ($n=3$). Data was normalized to the background of the background fluorescence of the probe alone.

[0065] FIG. 6A is a graph showing the in vitro fluorescence assay of 25 micromolar (μ M) depalmitoylation probe 2 (DPP-2) without detergent in 20 millimolar (mM) 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer, either alone or with 50 nanomolar (nM) purified acyl protein thioesterase 1 (+APT1). The excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) was 490/9 nanometers (nm) and the emission wavelength (λ_{em}) was 545/20 nm. Error bars are standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0066] FIG. 6B is a graph showing the in vitro fluorescence assay of 25 micromolar (μ M) depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3) without detergent in 20 millimolar (mM) 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer, either alone or with 50 nanomolar (nM) purified acyl protein thioesterase 1 (+APT1). The excitation wavelength

(λ_{ex}) was 490/9 nanometers (nm) and the emission wavelength (λ_{em}) was 545/20 nm. Error bars are standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0067] FIG. 7 is a graph showing the in vitro effect of small molecule inhibitors to block the signal of depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3). The fluorescence response of DPP-3 was quantified for 5 micromolar (μ M) DPP-3 treated with either 50 nanomolar (nM) purified acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1) or 50 nM acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2) for 30 minutes each in the presence of 50 μ M of either pan-APT inhibitor palmostatin B (PalmB) or APT1-specific inhibitor ML348 ("348"). As controls, the response was also measured for DPP-3 with each of APT1 and APT2 alone ("ctrl"), as well as for DPP-3 without enzyme ("ctrl"). The excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) was 490/9 nanometers (nm) and the emission wavelength (λ_{em}) was 545/20 nm. Error bars are standard deviation ($n=4$).

[0068] FIG. 8 is a graph showing the relative fluorescence response of depalmitoylation probe 2 (DPP-2) in human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells. Five micromolar (μ M) DPP-2 was loaded into HEK293T cells for 15 minutes after pretreatment with either dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO, "Control") or 5 μ M inhibitor (either pan-acyl protein thioesterase (APT) inhibitor palmostatin B (PalmB) or acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1)-specific inhibitor ML348), and then analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=6$). Statistical analysis was performed with a two-tailed Student's t-test with unequal variance.

[0069] FIG. 9A is a graph showing the results of the flow cytometry analysis of the inhibition of depalmitoylation probe 2 (DPP-2). Human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells were loaded with 5 micromolar (μ M) DPP-2 for 5 minutes after pretreatment with either dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) or an inhibitor (2 μ M pan-acyl protein thioesterase (APT) inhibitor palmostatin B (PalmB) or 5 μ M or 20 μ M of acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1)-specific inhibitor ML348), and then analyzed by flow cytometry.

[0070] FIG. 9B is a graph showing the results of the flow cytometry analysis of the inhibition of depalmitoylation probe 2 (DPP-2). Human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells were loaded with 5 micromolar (μ M) DPP-2 for 5 minutes after pretreatment with either dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) or an inhibitor (2 μ M pan-acyl protein thioesterase inhibitor (APT) palmostatin B (PalmB) or 5 μ M or 20 μ M acyl protein thioesterase (APT2)-specific inhibitor ML349), and then analyzed by flow cytometry.

[0071] FIG. 10 is a graph showing the results of the flow cytometry analysis of the inhibition of depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3). Human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells were loaded with 5 micromolar (μ M) DPP-2 for 5 minutes after pretreatment with either dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) or an inhibitor (1 μ M pan-acyl protein thioesterase (APT) inhibitor palmostatin B (PalmB), 1 μ M acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1)-specific inhibitor ML348 or 1 μ M or 5 μ M acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2)-specific inhibitor ML349), and then analyzed by flow cytometry.

[0072] FIG. 11 is a graph showing the relative fluorescence response of depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3), in human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells. One micromolar (μ M) DPP3 was loaded into HEK293T cells for 15 minutes after treatment with either dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO, "Control"), 1 μ M pan-acyl protein thioesterase (APT) inhibitor palmostatin B (PalmB) or 1 μ M acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1)-specific inhibitor ML348, and then

analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=6$). Statistical analysis was performed with a two-tailed Student's *t*-test with unequal variance.

[0073] FIG. 12A is a graph showing the relative fluorescence response of depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3) in human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells without (control) or with RNA interference (RNAi) knockdown of acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1). Five micromolar (μ M) DPP3 was loaded into HEK293T cells for 15 minutes after treatment with either a control small interfering RNA (siRNA) or a siRNA targeting APT1. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=6$). Statistical analysis was performed with a two-tailed Student's *t*-test with unequal variance.

[0074] FIG. 12B is a graph showing the fluorescence response of depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3) in human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells with or without RNA interference (RNAi) knockdown of acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1). Five micromolar (μ M) DPP3 was loaded into HEK293T cells for 5 minutes after treatment with either a control small interfering RNA (siRNA (control)) or a siRNA targeting APT1 (siRNA(APT1)) and then the cells were analyzed by flow cytometry. Analysis of DPP-3 without any siRNA (DPP-3) is also shown.

[0075] FIG. 13A is a graph showing the flow cytometry analysis of depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3) in human cervical cancer (HeLa) cells. HeLa cells were loaded with 5 micromolar (μ M) DPP-3 for 5 minutes and then analyzed by flow cytometry. Inhibition by either 1 μ M palmostatin B (PalmB) or 1 μ M ML348 knocks down the depalmitoylation signal as measured by DPP-3. Analysis of DPP-3 alone (DPP-3) is also shown.

[0076] FIG. 13B is a graph showing the flow cytometry analysis of depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3) in human breast adenocarcinoma (MCF-7) cells. MCF-7 cells were loaded with 5 micromolar (μ M) DPP-3 for 5 minutes and then analyzed by flow cytometry. Inhibition by either 1 μ M palmostatin B (PalmB) or 1 μ M ML348 knocks down the depalmitoylation signal as measured by DPP-3. Analysis of DPP-3 alone (DPP-3) is also shown.

[0077] FIG. 13C is a graph showing the flow cytometry analysis of depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3) in human breast adenocarcinoma (MDA-MF-231) cells. MDA-MF-231 cells were loaded with 5 micromolar (μ M) DPP-3 for 5 minutes and then analyzed by flow cytometry. Inhibition by either 1 μ M palmostatin B (PalmB) or 1 μ M ML348 knocks down the depalmitoylation signal as measured by DPP-3. Analysis of DPP-3 alone (DPP-3) is also shown.

[0078] FIG. 14 is a graph showing the relative fluorescence of depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3) in human epidermoid carcinoma (A431) cells under non-starved and starved conditions. A431 cells were grown in normal media conditions ("non-starved") or serum starved conditions for 24 hours and then loaded with 5 micromolar (μ M) DPP-3 for 15 minutes and analyzed by fluorescence microscopy.

[0079] FIG. 15 is a graph showing the flow cytometry analysis of depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3) in human epidermoid carcinoma (A431) cells under non-starved and starved conditions. A431 cells were grown in normal media conditions (solid lines) or serum starved conditions (dotted lines) for 24 hours and then loaded with 5 micromolar (μ M) DPP-3 for 15 minutes and analyzed by flow cytometry. Inhibition by either 1 μ M palmostatin B (PalmB) or 1 μ M of acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1)-specific inhibitor ML348 knocks down the depalmitoylation signal as measured by

DPP-3. Analysis further indicates that serum starvation increases the depalmitoylase activity, but is knocked down to comparable levels as observed under growth conditions by treatment with inhibitor.

[0080] FIG. 16 is a graph showing the relative fluorescence of depalmitoylation probe 3 (DPP-3) in human epidermoid carcinoma (A431) cells under starved conditions in the presence or absence of 1 nanogram per milliliter (ng/mL) of epidermal growth factor (EGF). A431 cells were grown in serum starved conditions for 24 hours and then loaded with 5 micromolar (μ M) DPP-3 for 15 minutes in either the absence (starved) or presence of 1 ng/mL EGF (EGF) and analyzed by fluorescence microscopy.

[0081] FIG. 17 is a schematic diagram showing a proposed epidermal growth factor (EGF)-induced depalmitoylation signaling pathway through transient deactivation of acyl protein thioesterases.

[0082] FIG. 18 is a schematic diagram showing the generality of approach to study "erasers" of cysteine post-translational modifications (PTMs) using the presently disclosed probes, including where the PTM is other than S-palmitoylation or formation of another thioester. PTMs that can be studied include S-thiosulfonates, sulfenyl-amides, S-sulhydration, sulfinic acids, S-glutathionylation, and S-nitrosothiol.

[0083] FIG. 19A is a graph showing the ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) absorption spectra of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 1 (RDP-1; 15 micromolar (μ M), solid line) and of its deacylated form (dotted line) at pH 7.4.

[0084] FIG. 19B is a graph showing the fluorescence emission spectra of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 1 (RDP-1; 5 micromolar (μ M), solid line) and of its deacylated form (dotted line) at pH 7.4 at an excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) of 430 nanometers (nm).

[0085] FIG. 19C is a graph showing the fluorescence emission spectra of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 1 (RDP-1, 15 micromolar (μ M), solid line) and of its deacylated form (dotted line) at pH 7.4 at an excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) of 480 nanometers (nm).

[0086] FIG. 19D is a graph showing the ratiometric response of 1 micromolar (μ M) ratiometric depalmitoylation probe-1 (RDP-1) to 200 nanomolar (nM) acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1) or 200 nM acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2). Data is shown as the ratio of the emission of RDP-1 divided by the emission of its deacylated form. Error bars are \pm standard deviation. For comparison the response of RDP-1 with no enzyme is also shown.

[0087] FIG. 20A is a graph showing the ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) absorption spectra of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 2 (RDP-2; 15 micromolar (μ M), solid line), and of its deacylated form (dotted line) at pH 7.4.

[0088] FIG. 20B is a graph showing the ratiometric response of 1 micromolar (μ M) ratiometric depalmitoylation probe-2 (RDP-2) to 200 nanomolar (nM) acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1) or 200 nM acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2). Data is shown as the ratio of the emission of the RDP-2 divided by the emission of its deacylated form. Error bars are \pm standard deviation. For comparison the response of RDP-2 with no enzyme is also shown.

[0089] FIG. 21A is a graph showing the response of 1 micromolar (μ M) ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 1 (RDP-1) to 20 millimolar (mM) glutathione (GSH) in pH 7.4 buffer. Data is also shown for RDP-1 in the absence of GSH. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0090] FIG. 21B is a graph showing the response of 1 micromolar (μM) ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 2 (RDP-2) to 20 millimolar (mM) glutathione (GSH) in pH 7.4 buffer. Data is also shown for RDP-2 in the absence of GSH. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0091] FIG. 22 is a graph showing the quantification of the ratiometric response of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 1 (RDP-1) in live human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells with and without inhibition by palmostatin B (PalmB). The cells were loaded with 1 micromolar (μM) RDP-1 for 10 minutes after treatment with either dimethylsulfoxide (control) or 20 μM PalmB for 30 minutes and then analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. "Blue" fluorescence was measured at an excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) of 430 nanometers (nm) and an emission wavelength (λ_{em}) of 470 nm. "Green" fluorescence was measured at λ_{ex} of 480 nm and λ_{em} of 575 nm. Ratiometric images were generated by dividing the green channel by the blue channel. $p=0.002$. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0092] FIG. 23 is a graph showing the quantification of the ratiometric response of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 2 (RDP-2) in live human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells with and without inhibition by palmostatin B (PalmB). The cells were loaded with 1 micromolar (μM) RDP-2 for 10 minutes after treatment with either dimethylsulfoxide (control) or 20 μM PalmB for 30 minutes and then analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. "Blue" fluorescence was measured at an excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) of 430 nanometers (nm) and an emission wavelength (λ_{em}) of 470 nm. "Green" fluorescence was measured at λ_{ex} of 480 nm and λ_{em} of 575 nm. Ratiometric images were generated by dividing the green channel by the blue channel. $**p<0.005$. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0093] FIG. 24 is a graph showing the quantification of the ratiometric response of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 1 (RDP-1) in live human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells with and without inhibition by acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1)-specific inhibitor ML348. The cells were loaded with 1 micromolar (μM) RDP-1 for 10 minutes after treatment with either dimethylsulfoxide (control) or 10 μM ML348 for 30 minutes, and then analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. "Blue" fluorescence was measured at an excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) of 430 nanometers (nm) and an emission wavelength (λ_{em}) of 470 nm. "Green" fluorescence was measured at λ_{ex} of 480 nm and λ_{em} of 575 nm. Ratiometric images were generated by dividing the green channel by the blue channel. $p=0.04$. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0094] FIG. 25 is a graph showing the quantification of the ratiometric response of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 1 (RDP-1) in live human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells with and without inhibition by acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2)-specific inhibitor ML349. The cells were loaded with 1 micromolar (μM) RDP-1 for 10 minutes after treatment with either dimethylsulfoxide (control) or 10 μM 349 for 30 minutes, and then analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. "Blue" fluorescence was measured at an excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) of 430 nanometers (nm) and an emission wavelength (λ_{em}) of 470 nm. "Green" fluorescence was measured at λ_{ex} of 480 nm and λ_{em} of 575 nm. Ratiometric images were generated by dividing the green channel by the blue channel. $p=0.01$. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0095] FIG. 26A is a graph showing the quantification of the ratiometric response of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 2 (RDP-2) in live human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells with and without inhibition by acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1)-specific inhibitor ML348. The cells were loaded with 1 micromolar (μM) RDP-2 for 10 minutes after treatment with either dimethylsulfoxide (control) or 5 μM ML348 for 30 minutes, and then analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. "Blue" fluorescence was measured at an excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) of 430 nanometers (nm) and an emission wavelength (λ_{em}) of 470 nm. "Green" fluorescence was measured at λ_{ex} of 480 nm and λ_{em} of 575 nm. Ratiometric images were generated by dividing the green channel by the blue channel. $**p<0.005$. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0096] FIG. 26B is a graph showing the quantification of the ratiometric response of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 2 (RDP-2) in live human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells with and without inhibition by acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2)-specific inhibitor ML349. The cells were loaded with 1 micromolar (μM) RDP-2 for 10 minutes after treatment with either dimethylsulfoxide (control) or 5 μM 349 for 30 minutes and then analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. "Blue" fluorescence was measured at an excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) of 430 nanometers (nm) and an emission wavelength (λ_{em}) of 470 nm. "Green" fluorescence was measured at λ_{ex} of 480 nm and λ_{em} of 575 nm. Ratiometric images were generated by dividing the green channel by the blue channel. $*p<0.03$. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0097] FIG. 27 is a graph showing the quantification of the ratiometric response of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 2 (RDP-2) in live human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells with and without knockdown of acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1). The cells were transfected with either a control short hairpin ribonucleic acid (shRNA) vector (control) or a vector generating shRNA targeting APT1 (APT1) for 48 hours and then loaded with 1 micromolar (μM) RDP-2 for 10 minutes and analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. "Blue" fluorescence was measured at an excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) of 430 nanometers (nm) and an emission wavelength (λ_{em}) of 470 nm. "Green" fluorescence was measured at λ_{ex} of 480 nm and λ_{em} of 575 nm. Ratiometric images were generated by dividing the green channel by the blue channel. $p=0.001$. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0098] FIG. 28 is a graph showing the quantification of the ratiometric response of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 2 (RDP-2) in live human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells with and without knockdown of acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2). The cells were transfected with either a control short hairpin ribonucleic acid (shRNA) vector (control) or a vector generating shRNA targeting APT2 (APT2) for 48 hours and then loaded with 1 micromolar (μM) RDP-2 for 10 minutes and analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. "Blue" fluorescence was measured at an excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) of 430 nanometers (nm) and an emission wavelength (λ_{em}) of 470 nm. "Green" fluorescence was measured at λ_{ex} of 480 nm and λ_{em} of 575 nm. Ratiometric images were generated by dividing the green channel by the blue channel. $p=0.6$. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0099] FIG. 29 is a graph showing the quantification of the ratiometric response of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 2 (RDP-2) in human colon organoids with and without inhibition by palmostatin B (PalmB). The organoids were

treated with dimethylsulfoxide (control) or 40 micromolar (μM) PalmB for 30 minutes and then loaded with 5 μM RDP-2 for 10 minutes and analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. “Blue” fluorescence was measured at an excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) of 430 nanometers (nm) and an emission wavelength (λ_{em}) of 470 nm. “Green” fluorescence was measured at λ_{ex} of 480 nm and λ_{em} of 575 nm. Ratiometric images were generated by dividing the green channel by the blue channel. $**p < 0.005$. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0100] FIG. 30 is a graph showing the quantification of the ratiometric response of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 2 (RDP-2) in human colon organoids with and without inhibition by acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1)-specific inhibitor ML348. The organoids were treated with dimethylsulfoxide (control) or 40 micromolar (μM) ML348 for 30 minutes and then loaded with 5 μM RDP-2 for 10 minutes and analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. “Blue” fluorescence was measured at an excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) of 430 nanometers (nm) and an emission wavelength (λ_{em}) of 470 nm. “Green” fluorescence was measured at λ_{ex} of 480 nm and λ_{em} of 575 nm. Ratiometric images were generated by dividing the green channel by the blue channel. $p=0.002$. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0101] FIG. 31 is a graph showing the quantification of the ratiometric response of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 1 (RDP-1) in human liver carcinoma (HEPG2) cells with and without inhibition by palmostatin B (PalmB). The cells were treated with dimethylsulfoxide (control) or 40 micromolar (μM) PalmB for 30 minutes and then loaded with 1 μM RDP-1 for 10 minutes and analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. “Blue” fluorescence was measured at an excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) of 430 nanometers (nm) and an emission wavelength (λ_{em}) of 470 nm. “Green” fluorescence was measured at λ_{ex} of 480 nm and λ_{em} of 575 nm. Ratiometric images were generated by dividing the green channel by the blue channel. $p=2 \times 10^{-8}$. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0102] FIG. 32 is a graph showing the quantification of the ratiometric response of ratiometric depalmitoylation probe 2 (RDP-2) in human liver carcinoma (HEPG2) cells with and without inhibition by palmitate. The cells were treated with 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA, control) or 1 micromolar (μM) palmitate in 1% BSA for 6 hours and then loaded with 1 μM RDP-2 for 10 minutes and analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. “Blue” fluorescence was measured at an excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) of 430 nanometers (nm) and an emission wavelength (λ_{em}) of 470 nm. “Green” fluorescence was measured at λ_{ex} of 480 nm and λ_{em} of 575 nm. Ratiometric images were generated by dividing the green channel by the blue channel. $*p < 0.03$. Error bars are \pm standard deviation ($n=3$).

[0103] FIG. 33A is a graph showing an in vitro fluorescence assay of 1 micromolar (μM) depalmitoylation probe 1 (DPP-1). The assay was performed with either 50 nanomolar (nM) purified acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1) or acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2). Fluorescence is normalized based on the fluorescence of the probe in the absence of enzyme. The excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) was 490/9 nanometers (nm) and the emission wavelength (λ_{em}) was 545/20 nm. Error bars are standard deviation of the mean ($n=4$).

[0104] FIG. 33B is a graph showing an in vitro fluorescence assay of 1 micromolar (μM) depalmitoylation probe 4 (DPP-4). The assay was performed with either 50 nanomolar

(nM) purified acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1) or acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2). Fluorescence is normalized based on the fluorescence of the probe in the absence of enzyme. The excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) was 490/9 nanometers (nm) and the emission wavelength (λ_{em}) was 545/20 nm. Error bars are standard deviation of the mean ($n=4$).

[0105] FIG. 33C is a graph showing an in vitro fluorescence assay of 1 micromolar (μM) depalmitoylation probe 5 (DPP-5). The assay was performed with either 50 nanomolar (nM) purified acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1) or acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2). Fluorescence is normalized based on the fluorescence of the probe in the absence of enzyme. The excitation wavelength (λ_{ex}) was 490/9 nanometers (nm) and the emission wavelength (λ_{em}) was 545/20 nm. Error bars are standard deviation of the mean ($n=4$).

[0106] FIG. 33D is a graph showing a fluorescence emission spectrum of a depalmitoylation probe 1 (DPP-1) in 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazine-ethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer (20 millimolar mM, at pH 7.4, 150 mM sodium chloride (NaCl)), as well as the emission spectra after treatment of DPP-1 with either 50 nanomolar (nM) acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1, dashed line) or 50 nM acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2, dotted line) for 20 minutes. The emission wavelength (λ_{em}) is 485 nanometers (nm). Data is normalized to the background of the probe alone (solid line).

[0107] FIG. 33E is a graph showing a fluorescence emission spectra of depalmitoylation probe 4 (DPP-4) in 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazine-ethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer (20 millimolar mM, at pH 7.4, 150 mM sodium chloride (NaCl)), as well as the emission spectra after treatment of DPP-4 with either 50 nanomolar (nM) acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1, dashed line) or 50 nM acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2, dotted line) for 20 minutes. The emission wavelength (λ_{em}) is 485 nanometers (nm). Data is normalized to the background of the probe alone (solid line).

[0108] FIG. 33F is a graph showing a fluorescence emission spectra of depalmitoylation probe 5 (DPP-5) in 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazine-ethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer (20 millimolar mM, at pH 7.4, 150 mM sodium chloride (NaCl)), as well as the emission spectra after treatment of DPP-5 with either 50 nanomolar (nM) acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1, dashed line) or 50 nM acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2, dotted line) for 20 minutes. The emission wavelength (λ_{em}) is 485 nanometers (nm). Data is normalized to the background of the probe alone (solid line).

[0109] FIG. 34 is a graph showing the relative fluorescence response of depalmitoylation probe 5 (DPP-5) in human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells. One micromolar (μM) DPP-5 was loaded into HEK293T cells for 20 minutes with dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO, “Ctrl”) and 5 μM inhibitor (palmostatin B (PalmB)) after a 30 minute treatment of the cells with either DMSO or 5 μM PalmB, and then analyzed by epifluorescence microscopy. $***p < 0.005$. Error bars are standard errors of the mean ($n=3$). Statistical analysis was performed with a two-tailed Student’s t-test with unequal variance.

[0110] FIG. 35 is a graph showing the relative fluorescence response of depalmitoylation probe 5 (DPP-5) in human liver carcinoma (HepG2) cells. One micromolar (μM) DPP-5 was loaded into HepG2 cells for 20 minutes with dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO, “Ctrl”) and 5 μM inhibitor

(palmostatin B (PalmB)) after a 30 minute treatment of the cells with either DMSO or 5 μ M PalmB, and then analyzed by epifluorescence microscopy. *** $p < 0.005$. Error bars are standard errors of the mean ($n=3$). Statistical analysis was performed with a two-tailed Student's t-test with unequal variance.

[0111] FIG. 36 is a graph showing the relative fluorescence response of depalmitoylation probe (DPP-5) in human cervical cancer (HeLa) cells. One micromolar (μ M) DPP-5 was loaded into HeLa cells for 20 minutes with dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO, "Ctrl") and 5 μ M inhibitor (palmostatin B (PalmB)) after a 30 minute treatment of the cells with either DMSO or 5 μ M PalmB, and then analyzed by epifluorescence microscopy. ** $p < 0.01$. Error bars are standard errors of the mean ($n=3$). Statistical analysis was performed with a two-tailed Student's t-test with unequal variance.

[0112] FIG. 37 is a graph showing the quantification of live cell imaging of depalmitoylation probe 5 (DPP-5) in human liver carcinoma (HepG2) cells with or without selective inhibitors of acyl protein thioesterase 1 (APT1) or acyl protein thioesterase 2 (APT2). HepG2 cells were treated for 30 minutes with 1 micromolar (μ M) Hoechst 33342, and either dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO, "Ctrl") 10 μ M of the APT1-specific inhibitor ML348, 10 μ M of the APT2-specific inhibitor ML349, or 10 μ M of each of ML348 and 349. Then the cells were washed, loaded with 1 μ M DPP-5 for 20 minutes, and analyzed by epifluorescence microscopy. Error bars are standard errors of the mean ($n=12$). Statistical analysis was performed with a two-tailed Student's t-test with unequal variance. *** P value < 0.005 , **** P value < 0.0008 .

[0113] FIG. 38 is a graph showing the quantification of the relative fluorescence emission of depalmitoylation probe 5 (DPP-5) in human liver carcinoma (HepG2) cells treated with or without exogenous palmitate. HepG2 cells were treated with 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA) or with 1% BSA and 1 millimolar (mM) palmitate for 6 hours post-starvation, washed, loaded with 1 micromolar (μ M) DPP-5 for 20 minutes, and imaged by epifluorescence microscopy. Error bars are standard errors of the mean ($n=3$). Statistical analysis was performed with a two-tailed Student's t-test with unequal variance. ** P value < 0.02 .

[0114] FIG. 39 is a graph showing palmitate-induced activation of S-depalmitoylase activity measured using depalmitoylation probe 5 (DPP-5) in human liver carcinoma (HepG2) cells. HepG2 cells were pretreated with 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA) with or without 1 millimolar (mM) palmitate, treated with 1 micromolar (μ M) Hoechst 33342 nuclear stain and dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) or 5 μ M palmostatin B (PalmB) for 30 minutes, washed, loaded with 1 μ M DPP-5 for 20 minutes, and then analyzed by epifluorescence microscopy. Error bars are standard errors of the mean ($n=10$). Statistical analysis was performed with a two-tailed Student's t-test with unequal variance. ** P value < 0.003 , *** P value < 0.0001 .

[0115] FIG. 40 is a graph showing the effect of palmitate-induced activation of S-depalmitoylase activity on diacetyl rhodol in human liver carcinoma (HepG2) cells. HepG2 cells were pretreated with 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA) with or without 1 millimolar (mM) palmitate, treated with 1 micromolar (μ M) Hoechst 33342 nuclear stain for 30 minutes, washed, loaded with 1 μ M diacetyl rhodol for 20 minutes, and then analyzed by epifluorescence microscopy.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0116] The presently disclosed subject matter will now be described more fully. The presently disclosed subject matter can, however, be embodied in different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein below and in the accompanying Examples. Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the embodiments to those skilled in the art.

[0117] All references listed herein, including but not limited to all patents, patent applications and publications thereof, and scientific journal articles, are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties to the extent that they supplement, explain, provide a background for, or teach methodology, techniques, and/or compositions employed herein.

[0118] Throughout the specification and claims, a given chemical formula or name shall encompass all optical and stereoisomers, as well as racemic mixtures where such isomers and mixtures exist.

I. Definitions

[0119] While the following terms are believed to be well understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, the following definitions are set forth to facilitate explanation of the presently disclosed subject matter.

[0120] Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood to one of ordinary skill in the art to which the presently disclosed subject matter belongs.

[0121] Following long-standing patent law convention, the terms "a," "an," and "the" refer to "one or more" when used in this application, including the claims.

[0122] The term "and/or" when used in describing two or more items or conditions, refers to situations where all named items or conditions are present or applicable, or to situations wherein only one (or less than all) of the items or conditions is present or applicable.

[0123] The use of the term "or" in the claims is used to mean "and/or" unless explicitly indicated to refer to alternatives only or the alternatives are mutually exclusive, although the disclosure supports a definition that refers to only alternatives and "and/or." As used herein "another" can mean at least a second or more.

[0124] The term "comprising," which is synonymous with "including," "containing," or "characterized by" is inclusive or open-ended and does not exclude additional, unrecited elements or method steps. "Comprising" is a term of art used in claim language which means that the named elements are essential, but other elements can be added and still form a construct within the scope of the claim.

[0125] As used herein, the phrase "consisting of" excludes any element, step, or ingredient not specified in the claim. When the phrase "consists of" appears in a clause of the body of a claim, rather than immediately following the preamble, it limits only the element set forth in that clause; other elements are not excluded from the claim as a whole.

[0126] As used herein, the phrase "consisting essentially of" limits the scope of a claim to the specified materials or steps, plus those that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristic(s) of the claimed subject matter.

[0127] With respect to the terms "comprising," "consisting of," and "consisting essentially of," where one of these

three terms is used herein, the presently disclosed and claimed subject matter can include the use of either of the other two terms.

[0128] Unless otherwise indicated, all numbers expressing quantities of size, temperature, time, weight, volume, concentration, and so forth used in the specification and claims are to be understood as being modified in all instances by the term “about”. Accordingly, unless indicated to the contrary, the numerical parameters set forth in this specification and attached claims are approximations that can vary depending upon the desired properties sought to be obtained by the presently disclosed subject matter.

[0129] As used herein, the term “about,” when referring to a value is meant to encompass variations of in one example $\pm 20\%$ or $+10\%$, in another example $\pm 5\%$, in another example $\pm 1\%$, and in still another example $\pm 0.1\%$ from the specified amount, as such variations are appropriate to perform the disclosed methods.

[0130] Numerical ranges recited herein by endpoints include all numbers and fractions subsumed within that range (e.g. 1 to 5 includes, but is not limited to, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.75, 3, 3.90, 4, and 5).

[0131] As used herein the term “alkyl” can refer to C_{1-20} inclusive, linear (i.e., “straight-chain”), branched, or cyclic, saturated or at least partially and in some cases fully unsaturated (i.e., alkenyl and alkynyl) hydrocarbon chains, including for example, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, octyl, ethenyl, propenyl, butenyl, pentenyl, hexenyl, octenyl, butadienyl, propynyl, butynyl, pentynyl, hexynyl, heptynyl, and allenyl groups. “Branched” refers to an alkyl group in which a lower alkyl group, such as methyl, ethyl or propyl, is attached to a linear alkyl chain. “Lower alkyl” refers to an alkyl group having 1 to about 8 carbon atoms (i.e., a C_{1-8} alkyl), e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 carbon atoms or having up to about 5 carbon atoms. “Higher alkyl” refers to an alkyl group having about 10 to about 20 carbon atoms, e.g., 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 20 carbon atoms. In certain embodiments, “alkyl” refers, in particular, to C_{1-8} straight-chain alkyls. In other embodiments, “alkyl” refers, in particular, to C_{1-8} branched-chain alkyls.

[0132] Alkyl groups can optionally be substituted (a “substituted alkyl”) with one or more alkyl group substituents, which can be the same or different. The term “alkyl group substituent” includes but is not limited to alkyl, substituted alkyl, halo, arylamino, acyl, hydroxyl, aryloxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, arylthio, aralkyloxy, aralkylthio, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxo, and cycloalkyl. In some embodiments, there can be optionally inserted along the alkyl chain one or more oxygen, sulfur or substituted or unsubstituted nitrogen atoms, wherein the nitrogen substituent is hydrogen, lower alkyl (also referred to herein as “alkylaminoalkyl”), or aryl.

[0133] Thus, as used herein, the term “substituted alkyl” includes alkyl groups, as defined herein, in which one or more atoms or functional groups of the alkyl group are replaced with another atom or functional group, including for example, alkyl, substituted alkyl, halogen, aryl, substituted aryl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, nitro, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, sulfate, and mercapto.

[0134] The term “aryl” is used herein to refer to an aromatic substituent that can be a single aromatic ring, or multiple aromatic rings that are fused together, linked covalently, or linked to a common group, such as, but not limited to, a methylene or ethylene moiety. The common linking

group also can be a carbonyl, as in benzophenone, or oxygen, as in diphenylether, or nitrogen, as in diphenylamine. The term “aryl” specifically encompasses heterocyclic aromatic compounds. The aromatic ring(s) can comprise phenyl, naphthyl, biphenyl, diphenylether, diphenylamine and benzophenone, among others. In particular embodiments, the term “aryl” means a cyclic aromatic comprising about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms, e.g., 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 carbon atoms, and including 5- and 6-membered hydrocarbon and heterocyclic aromatic rings.

[0135] The aryl group can be optionally substituted (a “substituted aryl”) with one or more aryl group substituents, which can be the same or different, wherein “aryl group substituent” includes alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, aralkyloxy, carboxyl, acyl, halo, nitro, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxy carbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, acyloxy, acylamino, aroylamino, carbamoyl, alkylcarbamoyl, dialkylcarbamoyl, arylthio, alkylthio, alkylene, and $-NR'R''$, wherein R' and R'' can each be independently hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, and aralkyl.

[0136] Thus, as used herein, the term “substituted aryl” includes aryl groups, as defined herein, in which one or more atoms or functional groups of the aryl group are replaced with another atom or functional group, including for example, alkyl, substituted alkyl, halogen, aryl, substituted aryl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, nitro, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, sulfate, and mercapto.

[0137] Specific examples of aryl groups include, but are not limited to, cyclopentadienyl, phenyl, furan, thiophene, pyrrole, pyran, pyridine, imidazole, benzimidazole, isothiazole, isoxazole, pyrazole, pyrazine, triazine, pyrimidine, quinoline, isoquinoline, indole, carbazole, and the like.

[0138] “Heteroaryl” as used herein refers to an aryl group that contains one or more non-carbon atoms (e.g., O, N, S, Se, etc) in the backbone of a ring structure. Nitrogen-containing heteroaryl moieties include, but are not limited to, pyridine, imidazole, benzimidazole, pyrazole, pyrazine, triazine, pyrimidine, and the like.

[0139] “Alkylene” refers to a straight or branched bivalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 20 carbon atoms. The alkylene group can be straight, branched or cyclic. The alkylene group also can be optionally unsaturated and/or substituted with one or more “alkyl group substituents.” There can be optionally inserted along the alkylene group one or more oxygen, sulfur or substituted or unsubstituted nitrogen atoms (also referred to herein as “alkylaminoalkyl”), wherein the nitrogen substituent is alkyl as previously described. Exemplary alkylene groups include methylene ($-CH_2-$); ethylene ($-CH_2-CH_2-$); propylene ($-(CH_2)_3-$); cyclohexylene ($-C_6H_{10}-$); $-CH=CH-CH=CH-$; $-CH=CH-CH_2-$; $-(CH_2)_q-N(R)-(CH_2)_r-$, wherein each of q and r is independently an integer from 0 to about 20, e.g., 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 20, and R is hydrogen or lower alkyl; methylenedioxy ($-O-CH_2-O-$); and ethylenedioxy ($-O-(CH_2)_2-O-$). An alkylene group can have about 2 to about 3 carbon atoms and can further have 6-20 carbons.

[0140] “Arylene” refers to a bivalent aromatic group.

[0141] “Aralkylene” refers to a bivalent groups including both arylene and alkylene moieties.

[0142] As used herein, the term “acyl” refers to a carboxylic acid group wherein the —OH of the carboxylic acid group has been replaced with another substituent. Thus, an acyl group can be represented by $RC(=O)-$, wherein R is an H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, or substituted aryl group as defined herein. Specific examples of acyl groups include formyl (i.e., $-C(=O)H$), acetyl, and benzoyl.

[0143] The term “keto” as used herein refers to the group $R-C(=O)-$, wherein R is alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl.

[0144] “Aralkyl” refers to an aryl-alkyl-group wherein aryl and alkyl are as previously described, and can include substituted aryl and substituted alkyl. Exemplary aralkyl groups include benzyl, phenylethyl, and naphthylmethyl.

[0145] The term “thioether” refers to the —SR group, wherein R is alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl or substituted aryl.

[0146] The term “thioester” refers to the $-S-C(=O)R$ group, wherein R is alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, or substituted aryl.

[0147] The terms “hydroxyl” and “hydroxyl” refer to the —OH group.

[0148] The term “phenol” as used herein can refer to a compound of the formula $R-OH$ group, wherein R is aryl or substituted aryl.

[0149] The term “phenolic” refers to a hydroxyl group that is directly attached to an aromatic group, e.g., a phenyl ring, a naphthyl ring, etc.

[0150] The terms “mercapto” or “thiol” refer to the —SH group.

[0151] The term “carboxyl” refers to the $-C(=O)-$ group.

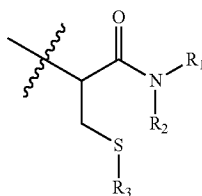
[0152] The terms “carboxylate” and “carboxylic acid” can refer to the groups $-C(=O)O^-$ and $-C(=O)OH$, respectively. In some embodiments, “carboxylate” can refer to either the $-C(=O)O^-$ or $-C(=O)OH$ group.

[0153] The term “amido” refers to the group $-C(=O)-NR_1R_2$, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl or substituted aryl.

[0154] The term “carbamate” refers to the group $-O-C(=O)-NR-$, wherein R is H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, or substituted aryl.

[0155] The term “aliphatic” as used herein refers to a hydrocarbon compound or moiety that is not aromatic. The compound or moiety can be saturated or partially or fully unsaturated (i.e., can include alkenyl and/or alkynyl groups). In some embodiments, the term “aliphatic” refers to a chemical moiety wherein the main chain of the chemical moiety does not comprise an arylene group.

[0156] A line crossed by a wavy line, e.g., in the structure:



indicates the site where a chemical moiety can bond to another group.

[0157] The term “electron-withdrawing” refers to an atom, substituent, or moiety that draws electron density from neighboring atoms toward itself (e.g., via inductive or resonance effects). In some embodiments, the electron-withdrawing group is electron-withdrawing compared to a hydrogen atom. Exemplary electron withdrawing groups include, but are not limited to, cyano (i.e., —CN), nitro (i.e., —NO₂), and acyl (e.g., formyl, keto, and amido).

[0158] The term “peptide” as used herein refers to a polymer of amino acid residues, wherein the polymer can optionally further contain a moiety or moieties that do not consist of amino acid residues (e.g., an alkyl group, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a protecting group, or a synthetic polymer, such as, but not limited to a biocompatible polymer). The term applies to amino acid polymers in which one or more amino acid residue is an artificial chemical mimetic of a corresponding naturally occurring amino acid, as well as to naturally occurring amino acid polymers and non-naturally occurring amino acid polymer.

[0159] The terms “peptidyl” and “peptidyl moiety” refer to a monovalent peptide or peptide derivative (e.g., a peptide comprising one or more terminal or side chain protecting or other moieties to mask a reactive functional group).

[0160] The term “amino acid” refers to naturally occurring and synthetic amino acids, as well as amino acid analogs and amino acid mimetics that function in a manner similar to the naturally occurring amino acids. Naturally occurring amino acids are those encoded by the genetic code, as well as those amino acids that are later modified, e.g., hydroxyproline, γ -carboxylglutamate, and O-phosphoserine. Amino acid analogs are compounds that have the same basic chemical structure as a naturally occurring amino acid, i.e., an α carbon that is bound to a hydrogen, a carboxyl group, an amino group, and an R group, e.g., homoserine, norleucine, methionine sulfoxide, methionine methyl sulfonium.

[0161] Such analogs have modified R groups (e.g., norleucine) or modified peptide backbones, but retain the same basic chemical structure as a naturally occurring amino acid. Amino acid mimetics are chemical compounds that have a structure that is different from the general chemical structure of an amino acid, but that functions in a manner similar to a naturally occurring amino acid.

[0162] The term “amino acid residue” as used herein refers to a monovalent amino acid or derivative thereof. In some embodiments, the term “amino acid residue” refers to the group $-NHC(R')C(=O)OR''$, wherein R' is an amino acid side chain or protected derivative thereof and wherein R'' is H or a carboxylic acid protecting group, e.g., methyl.

[0163] “Pharmaceutically acceptable” refers to those carriers, compositions, and/or dosage forms that are, within the scope of sound medical judgment, suitable for contact with the tissues of human beings and animals without excessive toxicity, irritation, allergic response, or other problems or complications commensurate with a reasonable benefit/risk ratio. Thus, in some embodiments, the presently disclosed compounds can be provided in formulations comprising the compound and a carrier that is pharmaceutically acceptable for use in humans.

[0164] In some embodiments, “treatment” or “treating” refers to an amelioration of disease or disorder, or at least one discernible symptom thereof. “Treatment” or “treating” also refers to an amelioration of at least one measurable

physical parameter associated with a disease or disorder that is not necessarily discernible by the subject. "Treatment" or "treating" can also refer to inhibiting the progression of a disease or disorder either physically (e.g., stabilization of a discernible symptom), physiologically (e.g., stabilization of a physical parameter), or both. "Treatment" or "treating" also refers to delaying the onset of a disease or disorder.

[0165] The term "therapeutically active" refers to a compound that has a biological activity that can treat a disease or disorder.

[0166] The term "prodrug" as used herein refers to a compound that generates a therapeutically active compound as a result of spontaneous chemical reaction(s), enzyme catalyzed chemical reaction(s), and/or metabolic chemical reaction(s), or a combination of each. In particular embodiments, as used herein the term "prodrug" refers to a carbamate prodrug of a therapeutically active alcohol or phenol that can be converted to the therapeutically active compound as a result of a combination of an enzyme catalyzed reaction that transforms a sulfur containing group in the prodrug into a thiol, followed by a ring forming reaction between the sulfur of the thiol group and the carbonyl carbon of the carbamate, resulting in the cleavage of the carbamate linkage. Thus, prodrugs can undergo some form of a chemical transformation to produce a compound that is biologically active or is a precursor of a biologically active compound. In some cases, the prodrug is biologically active, usually less than the drug itself, and serves to improve drug efficacy or safety through improved oral bioavailability, pharmacodynamic half-life, etc. Prodrug forms of compounds may be utilized, for example, to improve bioavailability, improve subject acceptability such as by masking or reducing unpleasant characteristics such as bitter taste or gastrointestinal irritability, alter solubility such as for intravenous use, provide for prolonged or sustained release or delivery, improve ease of formulation, or provide site-specific delivery of the compound.

[0167] The term "pro-fluorescent" as used herein refers to a compound or complex that generates a fluorescent compound as a result of spontaneous chemical reaction(s), enzyme catalyzed chemical reaction(s), and/or metabolic chemical reaction(s), or a combination of each. In particular embodiments, as used herein the term "pro-fluorescent" refers to a carbamate conjugate of a fluorescent alcohol or phenol that can be converted to a fluorescent or more fluorescent compound as a result of a combination of an enzyme catalyzed reaction that transforms a sulfur containing group in the prodrug into a thiol, followed by a ring forming reaction between the sulfur of the thiol group and the carbonyl carbon of the carbamate, resulting in the cleavage of the carbamate linkage. Thus, pro-fluorescent compounds can undergo some form of a chemical transformation to produce a compound that is fluorescent or is a precursor of a fluorescent compound.

[0168] The term "bioluminescent" refers to a compound or moiety that produces light under physiological conditions (e.g., a particular pH or the presence of a particular product or intermediate of a biological process, such as but not limited to, hydrogen peroxide or peroxyxynitrite) and/or in the presence of an enzyme. Thus, for example, bioluminescent probes of the presently disclosed subject matter can include, but are not limited to, caged fluorophores, wherein the fluorophore can include luciferin, rhodamines (e.g., tetramethylrhodamine isothiocyanate), coumarins, resorufin, and

dextran-CANPE-HCC (see Li and Zheng, (2012), *Photochem Photobio Sci* 11, 460-471).

[0169] The term "MRI-detectable" refers to a compound or moiety that absorbs and emits radio frequency energy when placed in an external magnetic field. In some embodiments, MRI-detectable probes of the presently disclosed subject matter can include, but are not limited to, caged metals, wherein the metal can include iron oxide, iron platinum, manganese, and gadolinium, or metal-containing compounds.

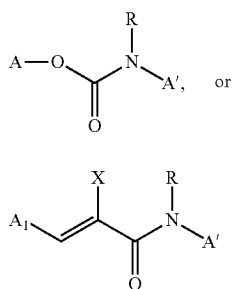
II. Synthetic Substrates for Enzymes that Catalyze Reactions of Modified Cysteines

[0170] Protein lipidation of cysteine residues by thioester formation with palmitate, a C₁₆ saturated fatty acid, is a prevalent post-translational modification (PTM) in mammalian systems. See, e.g., Linder and Deschenes (2007) *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* 8, 74-84. Hundreds of human proteins are modified by reversible palmitoylation of cysteine residues (S-palmitoylation). However, the regulation of depalmitoylation is poorly understood.

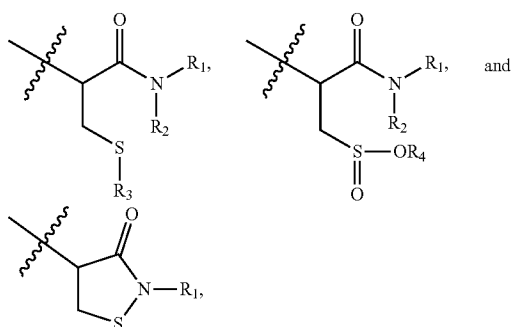
[0171] The half-life of the S-palmitoyl group on a given protein target can vary from minutes to days (see Lu and Hofmann (1995) *J Biol Chem* 270, 7241-7256; and Noland et al. (2016) *Structure* 24, 179-186) depending on the activity of the S-depalmitoylases on the target. Moreover, the S-depalmitoylases are not statically active, but respond dynamically to cellular changes, such as growth factor signaling and neuronal activation. See El-Husseini et al. (2002) *Cell* 108, 849-863; and Ponimaskin et al. (2008) *J Neurosci* 28, 8897-8907. The S-depalmitoylases themselves have been found to be regulated through S-depalmitoylation (see Kong et al. (2013) *J Biol Chem* 288, 9112-9125), resulting in a complex web of interconnected lipid signaling cascades. Cellular localization of the S-depalmitoylases is a key determinant of activity on a given target (see Kong et al. (2013) *J Biol Chem* 288, 9112-9125), but other regulatory mechanisms are also believed to be at play. Therefore, methods to measure S-depalmitoylase activities in live cells would be useful to uncover how proteome S-palmitoylation levels are regulated through dynamic S-depalmitoylases.

[0172] Provided in accordance with some embodiments of the presently disclosed subject matter are small molecule probes to monitor the endogenous activity levels of "erasers" of S-palmitoylation, such as acyl protein thioesterases (APTs), as well as erasers of other cysteine PTMs. As described below, live-cell analysis with the presently disclosed probes reveals rapid growth factor-mediated inhibition of the depalmitoylation activity of APTs, exposing a new regulatory mechanism of dynamic lipid signaling.

[0173] The presently disclosed subject matter provides in some aspects synthetic probe compounds that report on or respond to endogenous levels of enzymatic activity with respect to cysteine post-translational modifications (PTMs). These probes include a substrate moiety (i.e., a moiety that acts as a substrate for an enzyme that catalyzes a reaction of a modified cysteine) and a reporter moiety. In some embodiments, the presently disclosed subject matter provides a compound having a structure of Formula (Ia) or (Ib):

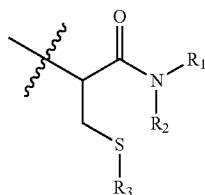


wherein A is an aliphatic or aromatic moiety; A₁ is an aromatic moiety; X is H or an electron-withdrawing moiety; R is selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, or substituted aryl; and A' is selected from the group comprising:

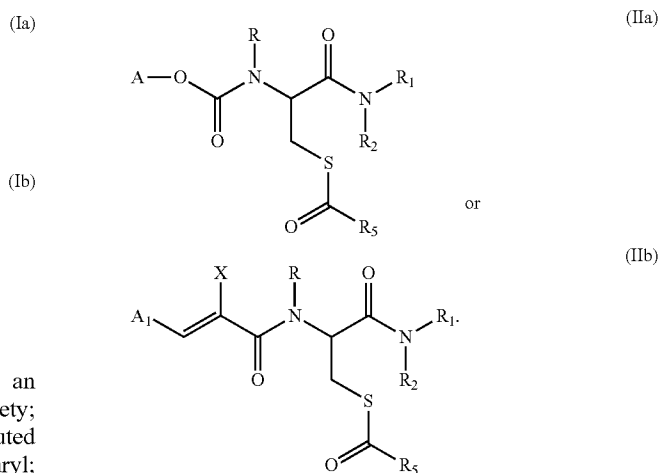


wherein R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, substituted aryl; or wherein R₁ and R₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an amino acid or peptidyl residue; R₃ is selected from the group comprising alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, —S(=O)R₅, —SH, —N(=O), S-glutathione, and —C(=O)R₅; R₄ is selected from H and R₅; and R₅ is selected from the group comprising alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, and substituted aralkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

[0174] In some embodiments, A' is



[0175] In some embodiments, R₃ is an acyl group (i.e., —C(=O)R₅), such that the compound of Formula (Ia) or (Ib) is a compound having a structure of Formula (IIa) or (IIb):



[0176] Thus, the compound can comprise an acylated thiol residue. In some embodiments, R₅ is —(CH₂)_nCH₃, wherein n is 1-18. In some embodiments, n is 14 so that the R₅ group is the same as that in a naturally occurring S-palmitoylated protein. In some embodiments, n is smaller than 14. Thus in some embodiments, n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12. In some embodiments, n is 6 or 7.

[0177] In some embodiments, R is H or alkyl. For instance, in some embodiments, R is C₁-C₅ alkyl (e.g., methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, n-pentyl, iso-pentyl, neo-pentyl, etc.). In some embodiments, R is methyl.

[0178] In some embodiments, R₁ and R₂ are each independently H or alkyl. For example, in some embodiments, R₁ is C₁-C₅ alkyl (e.g., methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, n-pentyl, iso-pentyl, neo-pentyl, etc.). In some embodiments, R₁ is methyl. In some embodiments, R₂ is H.

[0179] In some embodiments, R₁ and R₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an amino acid residue or a peptidyl residue. The amino acid or peptidyl residue can comprise a charged amino acid side chain, for example a positively charged amino acid side chain, or another modification to enhance the water solubility of the probe. In some embodiments, R₁ and R₂ together form an amino acid or peptidyl residue comprising a lysine, histidine or arginine residue. In some embodiments, the amino acid or peptidyl residue comprises a lysine residue. In some embodiments, R₁ and R₂ together comprises a peptidyl residue (e.g., comprising 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 amino acid residues) wherein the C-terminal residue (i.e., the residue farthest away from the modified cysteine residue) comprises a positively charged amino acid side chain (e.g., the side chain of a lysine residue). In some embodiments, the amino acid or peptidyl residue comprises a protecting group (e.g., an amino or carboxylate protecting group known in the art of peptide synthesis or another group that masks the reactivity of a reactive functional group). In some embodiments, the amino acid or peptidyl residue comprises a protected carboxylate, e.g., at the C-terminus. In some embodiments, the C-terminal carboxylate is protected as an amide or carbamate moiety.

[0180] In some embodiments, the compound is a compound of Formula (Ia). The compound of Formula (Ia) comprises a conjugate including a carbamate linkage between residue A of a parent compound A-OH and an

amine having the formula $\text{HNR}(\text{A}')$, wherein the amine comprises a modified cysteine residue. In some embodiments, the parent compound A-OH is a pro-fluorescent, fluorescent, bioluminescent, MRI-detectable, and/or therapeutically active compound. Thus, in some embodiments, the carbamate conjugate of Formula (I) can be a prodrug or a pro-fluorescent probe that can release a drug or a fluorescent or pro-fluorescent compound in the presence of an enzyme that targets cysteine PTMs. In some embodiments, A is an aromatic moiety such that the OH of the corresponding parent A-OH compound is a phenolic group. In some embodiments, A is a residue of a parent compound A-OH , wherein A-OH is a xanthone derivative. In some embodiments, A-OH is a rhodol or fluorescein derivative. In some embodiments, A comprises one or more solubility enhancing moieties.

[0181] FIG. 1 shows the structures of exemplary depalmitoylation probes (DPPs) of Formula (Ia) (and Formula (IIa)) wherein A is the residue of a parent compound comprising a pro-fluorescent rhodol derivative. The pro-fluorescent rhodol derivative is tethered to an S-acylated peptidyl residue via a carbamate linkage. Although the carbamate linkage is generally stable under physiological conditions, thioesterase activity (e.g., APT activity) on the probe (FIG. 1, top) results in a reaction cascade involving (i) cleavage of the thioester to provide a free thiol group, and (ii) intramolecular reaction of the free thiol group at the carbonyl carbon of the carbamate, which then results in cleavage of the carbamate and release of a fluorescent compound (FIG. 1, bottom).

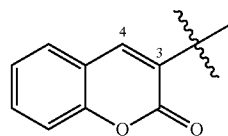
[0182] In some embodiments, the compound of Formula (Ia) or Formula (IIa) is a prodrug of a therapeutically active compound, such as, but not limited to, an alcohol- or a phenol-containing compound known in the art for the treatment of a disease, such as a disease associated with increased activity of an enzyme or enzymes (e.g., APTs) that catalyze reactions of modified cysteine residues. For example, A-OH can be a compound known in the art for the treatment of cancer, a neurological disorder; a neurodegenerative disease; a metabolic disorder (e.g., diabetes); an autoimmune disease; an infectious disease; liver disease; kidney disease; atherosclerosis; or hypertension.

[0183] Accordingly, in some embodiments, A is a residue of a compound A-OH , wherein A-OH is a therapeutically active compound and wherein the compound of Formula (Ia) is a carbamate prodrug of the parent compound A-OH . Many biologically active compounds contain one or more phenolic or hydroxyl groups.

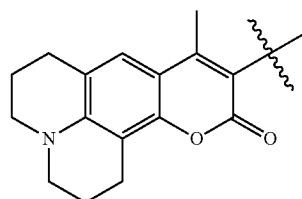
[0184] Exemplary prodrugs of Formula (Ia) and (IIa) can be based on parent compounds, such as, but not limited to, combretastatin A4, topotecan, fulvestrant, raloxifene, lasofoxifene, bazedoxifene, piperidoxifene, daidzein, resveratrol, equol, acetaminophen nonivamide, niclosamide, acobifene, amodiaquine, genistein, arzoxifene, coumarin derivatives, such as aesculetin and daphnetin, and resorcinol derivatives, such as luminespib, or their derivatives. In some embodiments, the prodrug of Formula (Ia) or (IIa) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt is provided as part of a pharmaceutical formulation further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

[0185] In some embodiments, the compound is a compound of Formula (Ib). In some embodiments, the compound of Formula (Ib) comprises a conjugate comprising a linker including a Michael acceptor between a moiety A_1 derived from a fluorescent or bioluminescent parent compound $\text{A}_1\text{-H}$ and an amine having the formula $\text{HNR}(\text{A}')$, wherein the amine comprises a modified cysteine residue. In

some embodiments, A is a residue of a compound $\text{A}_1\text{-H}$, wherein $\text{A}_1\text{-H}$ is a fluorescent compound. For instance, in some embodiments $\text{A}_1\text{-H}$ is a derivative of coumarin, i.e.:



In some embodiments, the coumarin derivative is substituted (e.g., with a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkyl group) at the 4-position. In some embodiments, the coumarin derivative is substituted by a methyl group at the 4-position. In some embodiments, $\text{A}_1\text{-H}$ is an amino coumarin derivative, such as, but not limited to a julolidine-based amino coumarin derivative. In some embodiments, A_1 has a structure of the formula:

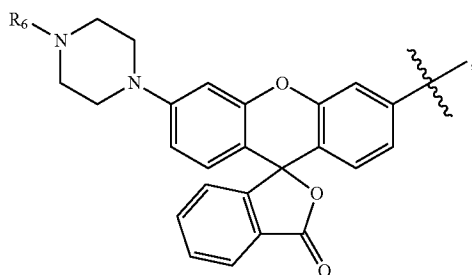


optionally wherein one or more aromatic or aliphatic carbon atom is substituted with another group, such as a solubility enhancing group as described further hereinbelow. In some embodiments, the electron-withdrawing group X of Formula (Ib) or (IIb) is CN , NO_2 , keto, amido, or formyl. In some embodiments, X is CN .

[0186] FIG. 2 shows the structures of exemplary depalmitoylation probe (DPP) compounds of Formula (Ib) (and Formula (IIb)) wherein A_1 is the residue of a parent compound comprising a julolidine-based amino coumarin derivative. The coumarin derivative is tethered at the 3-position of the coumarin core structure to an S-acylated peptidyl residue via a linkage comprising an α,β unsaturated carbonyl group that can serve as a Michael acceptor. Thioesterase activity (e.g., APT activity) on the probe results in a reaction cascade involving (i) cleavage of the thioester to provide a free thiol group, and (ii) an intramolecular Michael addition, wherein the free thiol group reacts with an alkene carbon, thereby forming a seven membered ring. Both the acylated (FIG. 2, top left) and deacylated/cyclized forms (FIG. 2, top right) of the probe have fluorescent properties. However, the fluorescent properties of the different forms can be different. For instance, the two forms can have different excitation and/or emission maxima. Thus, a signal associated with each form of the probe can be detected. Accordingly, the probes of Formulas (Ib) and (IIb) can be used as ratiometric depalmitoylation probes (RDPs).

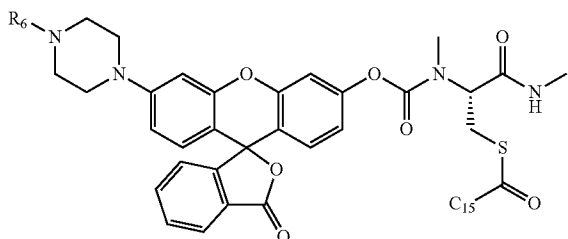
[0187] In some embodiments, A or A' includes one or more solubility enhancing substituents (e.g., water solubility enhancing substituents). The solubility enhancing substituents can include groups such as, but not limited to, a charged moiety or a moiety that can become charged under physiological conditions or a moiety that can hydrogen bond with water. In some embodiments, A or A' is an aromatic moiety that is substituted with one or more solubility enhancing substituents including, but not limited to, a carboxylate group, a hydroxyl group, an ether, a polyether, a sulfate

group, a phosphate group, and an amino group. In some embodiments, the solubility enhancing group is attached to an aromatic core moiety of A or A' (e.g., a fluorophoric or pro-fluorophoric moiety) via a suitable linker, such as an alkenylene, aralkylene or arylene group. In some embodiments, the linker includes a piperazinyl moiety. Thus, in some embodiments, A or A' comprises one or more piperazine-comprising substituent, wherein the piperazine is further substituted with a solubility enhancing moiety, such as a group that comprises a carboxylate. In some embodiments, the piperazinyl-moiety is covalently attached (e.g., via an amide linkage) to a di- or other polycarboxylic acid. In some embodiments, the solubility enhancing moiety is a succinyl-based moiety (e.g., $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OH}$). In some embodiments, A is a residue of a pro-fluorescent rhodol derivative and A has a structure of the formula:



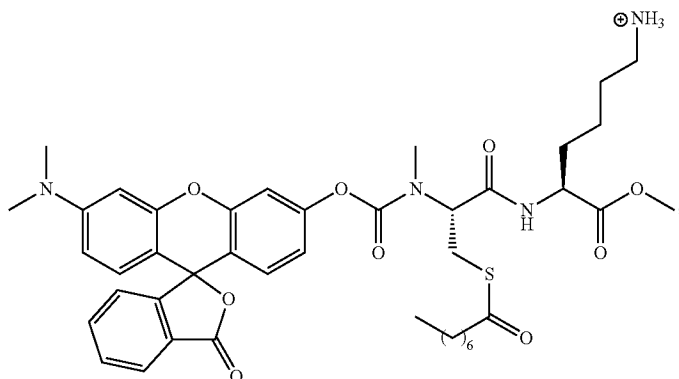
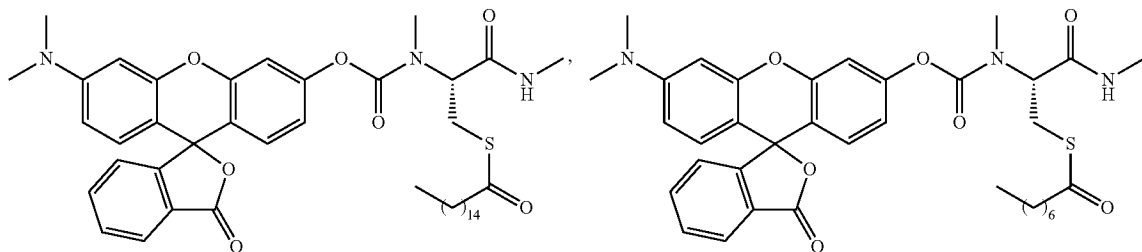
wherein R_6 is $-\text{C}(=\text{X}_1)\text{R}_7$, wherein X_1 is selected from the group comprising O, N or S, and R_7 is selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl. In some embodiments, X_1 is O. In some embodiments, R_7 is alkyl (e.g., C_1 - C_5 alkyl), or substituted alkyl (e.g., substituted C_1 - C_5 alkyl). In some embodiments, R_7 is methyl. In some embodiments, R_7 is carboxylate-substituted C_1 - C_5 alkyl group. In some embodiments R_7 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OH}$.

[0188] In some embodiments, the compound of Formula (Ia) has a structure of the formula:

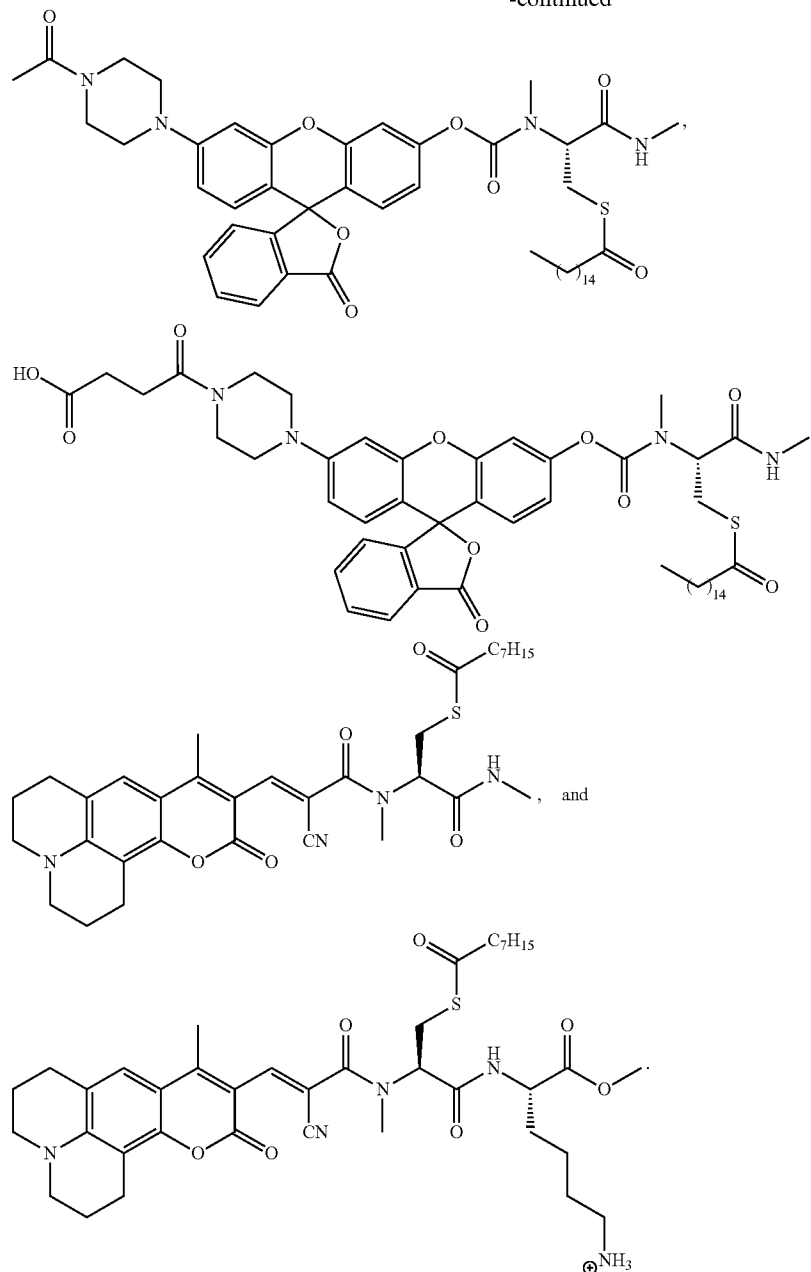


wherein R_6 is as defined above.

[0189] In some embodiments, the compound is selected from the group comprising:



-continued



[0190] Methods of preparing particular examples of the presently disclosed compounds are described below in the Examples. More generally, the compounds of Formula (Ia) and/or Formula (IIa) can be prepared for example, by preparing an activated form of the compound A-OH, e.g., the parent drug or fluorescent, pro-fluorescent, bioluminescent, or MRI-detectable molecule. In some embodiments, the compound A-OH can be activated via contact with triphosgene or another suitable reagent to form a haloformate (e.g., a chloroformate), which can be reacted with a suitable amine that contains a modified cysteine residue. The reaction can take place in the presence of a base (e.g., triethylamine) and in a non-polar organic solvent, such as,

but not limited to tetrahydrofuran (THF). In some embodiments, the amine that contains a modified cysteine residue contains a protected thiol. For example, the thiol can be protected with a trityl group (i.e., a triphenylmethyl group) or another thiol protecting group known in the field of synthetic organic chemistry. The protected thiol can be deprotected to form a free —SH group, which can, in some embodiments, be acylated by reaction with an acid chloride, activated ester, or anhydride to form a thioester. Alternatively, the —SH group can be transformed into another functional group, e.g., a thioether, a S-thiosulfonate, a —S—S—H group, a S—S—glutathione group, a sulfinic acid or sulfinic acid ester, or a S-nitrosothiol group, via chemical

transformations known in the art, such as through the use of a suitable coupling reagent or via cysteine oxidation chemistry. In some embodiments, the thiol group can be acylated or otherwise modified and then the carbamate compound can be further modified, e.g., to add or change the group attached to the carboxy group of the modified cysteine residue (i.e., the NR_1R_2 of the A' moiety of the compound of Formula (Ia)). In some embodiments, this further modification can be performed using typical chemical reactions used in the preparation of synthetic peptides and/or peptide mimetics.

[0191] The compounds of Formula (Ib) and/or Formula (IIb) can be prepared for example, from a benzaldehyde of a compound $\text{A}_1\text{-H}$, e.g., the parent fluorescent or bioluminescent molecule or a derivative thereof. For example, in some embodiments, benzaldehydes of the formula $\text{A}_1\text{-C}$ ($=\text{O}$)H can be prepared using an electrophilic aromatic substitution reaction, such as a Friedel-Crafts acylation reaction, a Vilsmeier reaction, a Duff reaction, a Gattermann reaction or a Gattermann-Koch reaction. In a Vilsmeier reaction, for instance, an aromatic compound $\text{A}_1\text{-H}$ is reacted with dimethylformamide (DMF) and phosphorus oxychloride (POCl_3). However, other methods of forming a benzaldehyde can comprise the oxidation of aromatic methyl groups or benzyl alcohols using a suitable oxidant (e.g., manganese dioxide or pyridinium chlorochromate (PCC)) or the reduction of benzylic acid groups using various reducing agents (e.g., via conversion of the benzylic acid to a benzoyl chloride using thionyl chloride followed by reduction using a Pd catalyst and hydrogen gas). When X is CN, the benzaldehyde can then be reacted with an amino acid or peptidyl residue further comprising a suitably modified cysteine residue and an α -cyano substituent. This residue can be prepared, for example, by forming an amide bond between the N-terminal amine of an amino acid or peptidyl residue and cyanoacetic acid (e.g., using a carbodiimide coupling reagent). In some embodiments, the modified cysteine residue contains a protected thiol. For example, the thiol can be protected with a trityl group (i.e., a triphenylmethyl group) or another thiol protecting group known in the field of synthetic organic chemistry. The protected thiol can be deprotected to form a free $-\text{SH}$ group, which can, in some embodiments, be acylated by reaction with an acid chloride, activated ester, or anhydride to form a thioester. Alternatively, the $-\text{SH}$ group can be transformed into another functional group, e.g., a thioether, a S-thiosulfonate, a $-\text{S}-\text{S}-\text{H}$ group, a S-S-glutathione group, a sulfinic acid or sulfinic acid ester, or a S-nitrosothiol group, via chemical transformations known in the art, such as through the use of a suitable coupling reagent or via cysteine oxidation chemistry.

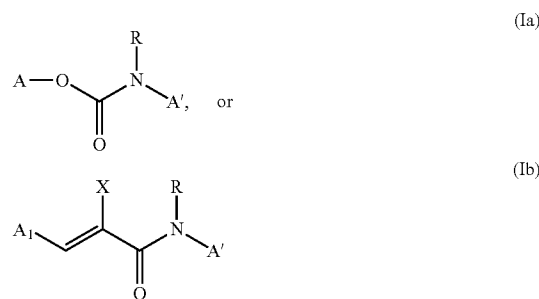
III. Methods of Detecting Enzymatic Activity and Disease

[0192] The presently disclosed subject matter provides in some aspects probes for the study of the regulation and biological significance of cysteine PTMs. In some embodiments, the probes can report on and/or respond to endogenous levels of depalmitoylation activity. However, again, the approaches of the presently disclosed subject matter as outlined herein can be immediately deployable to monitor and/or respond to enzymes with activity with respect to a wide variety of other PTMs. See FIG. 18.

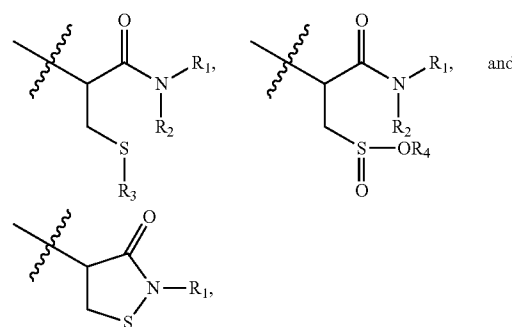
[0193] As described below in the Examples, in a representative embodiment, a probe, DPP-3, is deployed to dis-

cover that growth factor stimulation results in a rapid decrease of depalmitoylation activity in epidermoid carcinoma (A431) cells, uncovering a new mechanism regulating lipid signaling. As also described below in the Examples, in additional representative embodiments, a probe RDP-2 monitors endogenous enzymatic activity in primary tissue samples, while a probe RDP-1 is used to demonstrate that APT activity is linked to lipid metabolism. In yet a further representative embodiment described in the Examples, a probe DPP-5 is used to study changes in S-depamitoylation levels due to lipid stress.

[0194] Accordingly, in some embodiments, the presently disclosed subject matter provides a method of detecting enzymatic activity in a sample, the method comprising: contacting the sample with a compound of Formula (Ia) or (Ib):



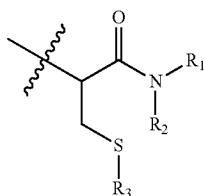
wherein A is an aliphatic or aromatic moiety; A_1 is an aromatic moiety; X is H or an electron-withdrawing moiety; R is selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, or substituted aryl; and A' is selected from the group comprising:



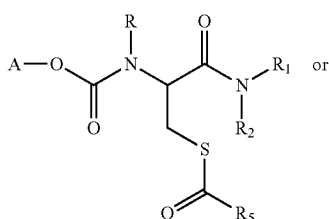
wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, substituted aryl; or wherein R_1 and R_2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an amino acid or peptidyl residue; R_3 is selected from the group comprising alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{R}_5$, $-\text{SH}$, $-\text{N}(=\text{O})$, S-glutathione, and $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{R}_5$; R_4 is selected from H and R_5 ; and R_5 is selected from the group comprising alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, and substituted aralkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and detecting a signal in the sample, wherein the presence or amount of the signal is indicative of the presence or amount of enzymatic

activity of an enzyme in the sample, further wherein the enzyme is an enzyme that catalyzes a reaction of a modified cysteine substrate.

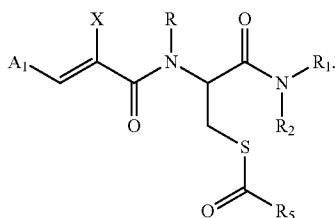
[0195] In some embodiments, A' is



[0196] In some embodiments, R₃ is an acyl group (i.e., —C(=O)R₅), such that the compound of Formula (Ia) or (Ib) is a compound having a structure of Formula (IIa) or (IIb):



(IIa)



(IIb)

[0197] Thus, the compound can comprise an acylated thiol residue. In some embodiments, R₅ is —(CH₂)_nCH₃, wherein n is 1-18. In some embodiments, n is 14 so that the R₅ group is the same as that in a S-palmitoylated protein. In some embodiments, n is smaller than 14. Thus in some embodiments, n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12. In some embodiments, n is 6 or 7.

[0198] In some embodiments, R is H or alkyl. For instance, in some embodiments, R is C₁-C₅ alkyl (e.g., methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, n-pentyl, iso-pentyl, neo-pentyl, etc.). In some embodiments, R is methyl.

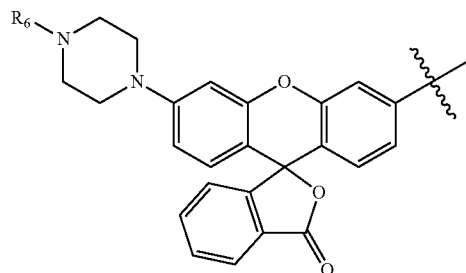
[0199] In some embodiments, R₁ and R₂ are each independently H or alkyl. For instance, in some embodiments, R₁ is C₁-C₅ alkyl (e.g., methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, n-pentyl, iso-pentyl, neo-pentyl, etc.). In some embodiments, R₁ is methyl. In some embodiments, R₂ is H.

[0200] In some embodiments, R₁ and R₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an amino acid residue or a peptidyl residue. In some embodiments, the amino acid or peptidyl residue comprises a lysine residue. In some embodiments, R₁ and R₂ together comprise a peptidyl residue wherein the C-terminal residue (i.e., the residue

farthest away from the modified cysteine residue) comprises a positively charged amino acid side chain (e.g., the side chain of a lysine residue). In some embodiments, the amino acid or peptidyl residue comprises a protected carboxylate, e.g., at the C-terminus. In some embodiments, the C-terminal carboxylate is protected as an amide or carbamate.

[0201] In some embodiments, X is selected from the group comprising H, CN, NO₂, —C(=O)H, keto, and amido. In some embodiments, X is CN.

[0202] In some embodiments, A or A' is substituted with one or more solubility enhancing moiety including, but not limited to, a carboxylate group, a hydroxyl group, an ether, a polyether, a sulfate group, a phosphate group, and an amino group. In some embodiments, the solubility enhancing group is attached to an aromatic core moiety of A or A' (e.g., a fluorophoric or pro-fluorophoric moiety) via a suitable linker, such as an alkenylene, aralkylene or arylene group. In some embodiments, the linker includes a piperazine moiety. Thus, in some embodiments, A or A' comprises one or more piperazine-comprising substituent, wherein the piperazine is further substituted with a solubility enhancing moiety, such as a group that comprises a carboxylate. In some embodiments, the piperazine moiety is covalently linked (e.g., via an amide linkage) to a dicarboxylic acid or to another polycarboxylic acid. In some embodiments, the solubility enhancing moiety is a succinyl-based moiety (e.g., —C(=O)CH₂CH₂C(=O)OH). In some embodiments, A is a residue of a rhodol derivative and A has a structure of the formula:



wherein R₆ is —C(=X₁)R₇, wherein X₁ is selected from the group comprising O, N or S, and R₇ is selected from the group comprising H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl. In some embodiments, X₁ is O. In some embodiments, R₇ is alkyl (e.g., C₁-C₅ alkyl), or substituted alkyl (e.g., substituted C₁-C₅ alkyl). In some embodiments, R₇ is methyl. In some embodiments, R₇ is carboxylate-substituted C₁-C₅ alkyl. In some embodiments R₇ is —CH₂CH₂C(=O)OH.

[0203] In some embodiments, A is a residue of a compound A-OH, wherein A-OH is a pro-fluorescent, fluorescent compound, bio-luminescent, or MRI-detectable moiety, and detecting a signal comprises detecting one or more fluorescence, luminescence, or MRI signals.

[0204] In some embodiments, A is a residue of a compound A-OH, wherein A-OH is a pro-fluorescent compound. In some embodiments, A₁ is a residue of a compound A₁-H, wherein A₁-H is a fluorescent compound. In some embodiments, detecting a signal comprises detecting a fluorescence signal (i.e., detecting the fluorescence emission signal from the sample, following illumination of the sample with radiation (e.g., light) of a suitable excitation wavelength). In

some embodiments, detecting a signal comprises illuminating the sample or a portion thereof with light at a wavelength at or near the excitation wavelength associated with the fluorophore derived from A-OH and then detecting the fluorescence in the sample at a suitable emission wavelength. In some embodiments, the detecting comprises quantifying the fluorescence and comparing it to the signal obtained from a sample without the compound and/or obtained from a sample derived from a different source (e.g., a different organism, organ, tissue, cell or extract) or from the same source at a different time point.

[0205] Since enzymatic action on a compound of Formula (Ia) results in the cleavage of the linkage between the detectable moiety A and the remainder of the probe, in some embodiments, the compounds of Formula (Ia) can be used as “turn-on” probes. However, for compounds of Formula (Ib), compound detection is possible both for the compound as provided (e.g., in its acylated form) and after the compound has been acted upon by the enzyme (e.g., in its deacylated form). Thus, the compounds of Formula (Ib) can act as ratiometric probes. In some embodiments, the use of a ratiometric probe in a heterogeneous sample can be particularly useful, as it can help to overcome issues related to unequal probe uptake and distribution that can result in both false negatives and false positives. Accordingly, the use of ratiometric probes can be particularly beneficial for studying dynamic regulation of enzymes during metabolic signaling where samples of interest can include primary samples and/or complex tissues.

[0206] In some embodiments, the compound is a compound of Formula (Ib) and detecting a signal in the sample comprises detecting two fluorescence signals, a first fluorescence signal and a second fluorescence signal, wherein the first fluorescence signal is a signal associated with the compound of Formula (Ib) (e.g., the acylated sample), and the second fluorescence signal is a fluorescence signal associated with a compound formed by the cyclization of a thiol product of an enzyme-catalyzed reaction of the compound of Formula (Ib) (e.g., the deacylated signal). In some embodiments, the first fluorescence signal is detected following excitation of the sample at a first wavelength, and the second fluorescence signal is detected following excitation of the sample at a second wavelength and/or wherein the first fluorescence signal and the second fluorescence signals are detected at different emission wavelengths. In some embodiments, a ratiometric signal is provided by dividing the first fluorescence signal by the second fluorescence signal.

[0207] In some embodiments, the enzyme is selected from the group comprising a thioesterase, an abhydrolyase domain containing 17A (ABHD17) protein, and a thioesterase. In some embodiments, the enzyme is an acyl protein thioesterase, such as APT1 or APT2.

[0208] In some embodiments, the sample is an in vitro sample, such as, but not limited to a sample comprising an isolated enzyme, a cell extract, or a tissue extract. In some embodiments, the sample comprises a live cell or tissue. In some embodiments, the live cell or tissue is selected from the group comprising liver cells or tissue, kidney cells or tissue, breast cells or tissue, skin cells or tissue, brain cells or tissue, cervical cells or tissue, bladder cells or tissue, pancreas cells or tissue, lung cells or tissue, stomach cells or tissue, blood cells or tissue, and colon cells or tissue. In some embodiments, the sample is present in a living organism, e.g., a mammal, optionally a human.

[0209] In some embodiments, detecting enzymatic activity in the sample further detects a disease associated with increased or decreased activity of the enzyme. Thus, the method can be used to diagnose a disease, the progress of a disease, or the progress of the treatment of a disease in a subject from which the sample is derived. In some embodiments, the disease can be selected from the group including, but not limited to, cancer, a neurological disorder, a neurodegenerative disorder, a metabolic disorder, diabetes, an autoimmune disease, an infectious disease, a liver disease, a kidney disease, atherosclerosis, and hypertension.

[0210] In some embodiments, the presently disclosed subject matter provides a method of detecting a disease associated with increased or decreased activity of an enzyme that catalyzes a reaction of a modified cysteine substrate, the method comprising: contacting the subject or a sample from a subject with a compound of Formula (Ia) or Formula (Ib); and detecting one or more signal, wherein detecting the one or more signal indicates the presence or level of activity of an enzyme associated with a disease. In some embodiments, the one or more signal comprises one or more fluorescence signal.

IV. Pharmaceutically Acceptable Salts and Pharmaceutical Formulations

[0211] In some embodiments, the presently disclosed compounds are provided as pharmaceutically acceptable salts or formulations to aid in their administration to various samples of biological origin, e.g., cell extracts, live cells, tissues, organoids, organs, or whole organisms (e.g., animals, such as a mammal, optionally a human) to detect enzymatic activity and/or disease. Additionally, as described above, in some embodiments, the compounds of Formula (Ia) and (Ib) can be used as prodrugs of therapeutically active alcohol or phenol compounds of the formula A-OH. In some embodiments, the compound of formula A-OH is a compound known in the art to have therapeutic biological activity either in vitro and/or in vivo. In some embodiments, the compound of formula A-OH is a compound that has undergone or is undergoing clinical trials to treat a disease associated with an enzyme or enzymes (e.g., APTs) that catalyze reactions of modified cysteine residues. For example, A-OH can be a compound known in the art for the treatment of cancer, a neurological disorder; a neurodegenerative disease; a metabolic disorder (e.g., diabetes); an autoimmune disease; an infectious disease; liver disease; kidney disease; atherosclerosis; or hypertension. When a compound of Formula (Ia) or (IIa) is administered to a subject suffering from such a disease, enzymatic activity can result in cleavage of the carbamate linker and release of the parent compound.

[0212] In some embodiments, the subject is a human subject, although it is to be understood that the principles of the presently disclosed subject matter indicate that the presently disclosed subject matter is effective with respect to all vertebrate species, including mammals, which are intended to be included in the terms “subject” and “patient”. Moreover, a mammal is understood to include any mammalian species for which employing the compositions and methods disclosed herein is desirable, particularly agricultural and domestic mammalian species.

[0213] As such, the methods of the presently disclosed subject matter are particularly useful in warm-blooded vertebrates. Thus, the presently disclosed subject matter con-

cerns mammals and birds. More particularly provided are methods and compositions for mammals such as humans, as well as those mammals of importance due to being endangered (such as Siberian tigers), of economic importance (animals raised on farms for consumption by humans), and/or of social importance (animals kept as pets or in zoos) to humans, for instance, carnivores other than humans (such as cats and dogs), swine (pigs, hogs, and wild boars), ruminants (such as cattle, oxen, sheep, giraffes, deer, goats, bison, and camels), and horses. Also provided is the treatment of birds, including the treatment of those kinds of birds that are endangered, kept in zoos or as pets (e.g., parrots), as well as fowl, and more particularly domesticated fowl, for example, poultry, such as turkeys, chickens, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, and the like, as they are also of economic importance to humans. Thus, also provided is the treatment of livestock including, but not limited to domesticated swine (pigs and hogs), ruminants, horses, poultry, and the like.

[0214] In some embodiments, the compounds as described herein can be provided and/or administered as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt. Such pharmaceutically acceptable salts include, but are not limited to, gluconate, lactate, acetate, tartarate, citrate, phosphate, borate, nitrate, sulfate, and hydrochloride salts. The salts of the compounds described herein can be prepared, for example, by reacting a base compound with a desired acid in solution. After the reaction is complete, the salts are crystallized from solution by the addition of an appropriate amount of solvent in which the salt is insoluble. In some embodiments, as described in more detail herein below, the hydrochloride salt of a compound is made by passing hydrogen chloride gas into an ethanolic solution of the free base. In some embodiments, the acetate salt can be made by contacting one of the presently disclosed compounds with a solution comprising acetic acid. Accordingly, in some embodiments, the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a hydrochloride salt. In some embodiments, the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is an acetate salt.

[0215] Pharmaceutical formulations comprising the aforementioned prodrug compounds also are provided herein. These pharmaceutical formulations comprise compounds as described herein, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Pharmaceutical formulations can be prepared for oral, intravenous, or aerosol administration to a subject as discussed in greater detail below. Also, the presently disclosed subject matter provides such compounds that have been lyophilized and that can be reconstituted to form pharmaceutically acceptable formulations for administration, for example, as by intravenous or intramuscular injection.

[0216] The therapeutically effective dosage of any particular prodrug compound, the use of which is within the scope of embodiments described herein, will vary somewhat from compound to compound, and patient to patient, and will depend upon the condition of the patient and the route of delivery. As a general proposition, a dosage from about 0.1 to about 50 mg/kg will have therapeutic efficacy, with all weights being calculated based upon the weight of the active compound, including the cases where a salt is employed. Toxicity concerns at the higher level can restrict intravenous dosages to a lower level, such as up to about 10 mg/kg, with all weights being calculated based on the weight of the active base, including the cases where a salt is employed. A dosage from about 10 mg/kg to about 50 mg/kg can be employed for oral administration. Typically, a dosage from

about 0.5 mg/kg to 5 mg/kg can be employed for intramuscular injection. Preferred dosages are 1 pmol/kg to 50 pmol/kg, and more preferably 22 pmol/kg and 33 pmol/kg of the compound for intravenous or oral administration. The duration of the treatment can be varied depending upon the disease being treated or its severity. In some embodiments, the treatment can comprise administration of a prodrug compound one or more times per day for a period of two to three weeks or until the condition is essentially controlled. Lower doses given less frequently can be used prophylactically to prevent or reduce the incidence of recurrence of the disease.

[0217] In accordance with the present methods, compounds as described herein can be administered orally as a solid or as a liquid, or can be administered intramuscularly or intravenously as a solution, suspension, or emulsion. Alternatively, the compounds or salts also can be administered by inhalation, intravenously, or intramuscularly as a liposomal suspension. When administered through inhalation the compound or salt can be in the form of a plurality of solid particles or droplets having a particle size from about 0.5 to about 5 microns, and preferably from about 1 to about 2 microns.

[0218] Pharmaceutical formulations suitable for intravenous or intramuscular injection are further embodiments provided herein. The pharmaceutical formulations comprise a compound described herein, a prodrug as described herein, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in any pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. If a solution is desired, water is the carrier of choice with respect to water-soluble compounds or salts. With respect to the water-soluble compounds or salts, an organic vehicle, such as glycerol, propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, or mixtures thereof, can be suitable. In the latter instance, the organic vehicle can contain a substantial amount of water. The solution in either instance can then be sterilized in a suitable manner known to those in the art, and typically by filtration through a 0.22-micron filter. Subsequent to sterilization, the solution can be dispensed into appropriate receptacles, such as depyrogenated glass vials. The dispensing is preferably done by an aseptic method. Sterilized closures can then be placed on the vials and, if desired, the vial contents can be lyophilized.

[0219] In addition to the presently disclosed compounds, the pharmaceutical formulations can contain other additives, such as pH-adjusting additives. In particular, useful pH-adjusting agents include acids, such as hydrochloric acid, bases or buffers, such as sodium lactate, sodium acetate, sodium phosphate, sodium citrate, sodium borate, or sodium gluconate. Further, the formulations can contain antimicrobial preservatives. Useful antimicrobial preservatives include methylparaben, propylparaben, and benzyl alcohol. The antimicrobial preservative is typically employed when the formulation is placed in a vial designed for multi-dose use. The pharmaceutical formulations described herein can be lyophilized using techniques well known in the art.

[0220] In yet another embodiment of the subject matter described herein, there is provided an injectable, stable, sterile formulation comprising a compound or a salt thereof, in a unit dosage form in a sealed container. The compound or salt is provided in the form of a lyophilizate, which is capable of being reconstituted with a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to form a liquid formulation suitable

for injection thereof into a subject. The unit dosage form typically comprises from about 10 mg to about 10 grams of the compound salt.

[0221] Other pharmaceutical formulations can be prepared from the water-insoluble compounds disclosed herein, or salts thereof, such as aqueous base emulsions. In such an instance, the formulation will contain a sufficient amount of pharmaceutically acceptable emulsifying agent to emulsify the desired amount of the compound or salt thereof. Particularly useful emulsifying agents include phosphatidylcholines and lecithin.

[0222] Additional embodiments provided herein include liposomal formulations of the compounds disclosed herein. The technology for forming liposomal suspensions is well known in the art. When the compound is an aqueous-soluble salt, using conventional liposome technology, the same can be incorporated into lipid vesicles. In such an instance, due to the water solubility of the compound, the compound can be substantially entrained within the hydrophilic center or core of the liposomes. The lipid layer employed can be of any conventional composition and can either contain cholesterol or can be cholesterol-free. When the compound of interest is relatively water-insoluble, again employing conventional liposome formation technology, the salt can be substantially entrained within the hydrophobic lipid bilayer that forms the structure of the liposome. In either instance, the liposomes that are produced can be reduced in size, as through the use of standard sonication and homogenization techniques.

[0223] The liposomal formulations comprising the compounds disclosed herein can be lyophilized to produce a lyophilizate, which can be reconstituted with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, such as water, to regenerate a liposomal suspension.

[0224] Pharmaceutical formulations also are provided which are suitable for administration as an aerosol by inhalation. These formulations comprise a solution or suspension of a compound of interest described herein or a salt thereof, or a plurality of solid particles of the compound or salt. The desired formulation can be placed in a small chamber and nebulized. Nebulization can be accomplished by compressed air or by ultrasonic energy to form a plurality of liquid droplets or solid particles comprising the compounds or salts. The liquid droplets or solid particles should have a particle size in the range of about 0.5 to about 10 microns, more preferably from about 0.5 to about 5 microns. The solid particles can be obtained by processing the solid compound or a salt thereof, in any appropriate manner known in the art, such as by micronization. Most preferably, the size of the solid particles or droplets will be from about 1 to about 2 microns. In this respect, commercial nebulizers are available to achieve this purpose. The compounds can be administered via an aerosol suspension of respirable particles in a manner set forth in U.S. Pat. No. 5,628,984, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[0225] When the pharmaceutical formulation suitable for administration as an aerosol is in the form of a liquid, the formulation will comprise a water-soluble active compound in a carrier that comprises water. A surfactant can be present, which lowers the surface tension of the formulation sufficiently to result in the formation of droplets within the desired size range when subjected to nebulization.

[0226] As used herein, the term "water-soluble" is meant to define any composition that is soluble in water in an amount of about 50 mg/mL, or greater. Also, as used herein, the term "water-insoluble" is meant to define any composition that has a solubility in water of less than about 20 mg/mL. In some embodiments, water-soluble compounds or salts can be desirable.

V. Methods of Treating Disease

[0227] Disclosed in accordance with some embodiments are methods of medical treatment that involve the administration of prodrugs that become active in a cell in the presence of one or particular cellular enzyme(s). The prodrugs are recognized by enzymes that cleave palmitoylated or other modified cysteine residues, thereby releasing the active form of the drug into the cell. Therapeutic indications involving post-translational modifications include, but are not limited to, cancer, neurological disorders, neurodegenerative diseases, diabetes, autoimmune diseases, infectious diseases, liver disease, kidney disease, atherosclerosis, or hypertension. See Howell et al. (2006) *International Review of Cytology* 252, 1-69; Paulsen, C. E. & Carroll, K. S. (2013) *Chem Rev* 113, 4633-4679; Lin et al. (2012) *ACS Chem Biol* 7, 947-960.

[0228] Thus, in some embodiments, the presently disclosed subject matter provides a method for treating a disease or condition involving post-translational modification of a cysteine residue in a protein in the subject. The method can comprise providing a subject in need of such treatment; and administering to the subject a prodrug in accordance with the presently disclosed subject matter (i.e., a compound of Formula (Ia) or (IIa)). An enzyme that acts on the post transitional modification acts on the prodrug to release the active form of the drug. This approach can provide cell- or tissue-specific delivery of the drug, increased bioavailability of the drug (such as increased solubility) and/or other desirable characteristics.

EXAMPLES

[0229] The following Examples have been included to provide guidance to one of ordinary skill in the art for practicing representative embodiments of the presently disclosed subject matter. In light of the present disclosure and the general level of skill in the art, those of skill can appreciate that the following Examples are intended to be exemplary only and that numerous changes, modifications, and alterations can be employed without departing from the scope of the presently disclosed subject matter.

Example 1

Materials and Methods for Examples 2-6

[0230] General Materials and Methods.

[0231] Silica gel P60 (SiliCycle, Inc., Quebec City, Canada; 40-63 μm , 230-400 mesh) was used for column chromatography. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed using SiliCycle 60 F254 silica gel (SiliCycle, Inc., Quebec City, Canada; precoated sheets, 0.25 mm thick). All chemicals for synthesis were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, Mo., United States of America) or Fisher Scientific (Pittsburgh, Pa., United States of America) and used as received. ML348 and ML349 were purchased from Tocris (Bristol, United Kingdom). EGF was obtained

from Gold Biotechnology (Olivette, Mo., United States of America). Synthesis of N,N-dimethylrhodol was adapted from previous reports. See Sauers et al., *Dyes and Pigments*, 1987, 8, 35-53; and Smith et al., *J. Chem. Soc., Perkins Trans 2*, 1993, 1195-1204. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were collected in NMR solvents: CDCl_3 , CD_3OD , or CD_3CN (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, Mo., United States of America) at 25°C . using a 500 MHz Bruker Avance II+ spectrometer (Bruker Corporation, Billerica, Mass., United States of America) with 5 mm QNP probe. ^1H -NMR chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to the peak of residual proton signals from (CDCl_3 7.26 ppm, CD_3OD 3.31 ppm, $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ 2.50 ppm or CD_3CN 1.94 ppm). Multiplicities are given as: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), dd (doublet of doublets), m (multiplet). ^{13}C -NMR chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to the peak of residual proton signals from (CDCl_3 77.16 ppm, CD_3OD 49.0 ppm, $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ 39.52 ppm or CD_3CN 1.32 and 118.26 ppm). Analysis of NMR was done in iNMR version 5.5.1. and NMR plots were obtained from Topspin 2.1. High resolution mass was obtained from Agilent 6224 TOF High Resolution Accurate Mass Spectrometer (HRA-MS) (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, Calif., United States of America) using a combination of atmospheric-pressure chemical ionization (APCI) and electrospray ionization (ESI). Low resolution mass spectral analyses and liquid chromatography analysis were carried out on an Advion Expression-L mass spectrometer (Advion, Ithaca, N.Y., United States of America) coupled with an Agilent 1220 Infinity LC System (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, Calif., United States of America). Synthetic procedures and characterization of DPP-1, DPP-2, DPP-3 and their synthetic intermediates described below in Examples 2-4.

[0232] Cloning.

[0233] All plasmids were constructed by Gibson Assembly from PCR products generated using Q5 Hot Start DNA Polymerase (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, Mass., United States of America) or Phusion Polymerase (homemade). Plasmids containing the genes for APT1 and APT2 were a gift from Anil Mukherjee. The genes for APT1 and APT2 were cloned into a pET-30 expression vector with a His-tag for purification. Catalytically inactivating mutations S119A and S122A were installed into the expression vectors for APT1 and APT2, respectively.

[0234] Purification of APT1 and APT2.

[0235] The plasmids for overexpression of APT1 or APT2, or their catalytically inactive mutant forms, were transformed into *E. coli* ROSETTA™ DE3 (MilliporeSigma, Billerica, Mass., United States of America). The cells were cultured in 500 mL lysogeny broth (LB) media with 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ of kanamycin in a 1 L flask shaking at 37°C . until $\text{OD}_{600}\approx 0.6$ and then 1 mM isopropyl β -D-1 thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) was added. Cultures were then grown at 18°C . for an additional 20 h. The cells were harvested by centrifugation and lysed by sonication in 30 mL lysis buffer (50 mM NaH_2PO_4 , 300 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, pH 7.5). Cell debris was discarded after centrifugation and the lysis supernatant was incubated with 2 mL TALON® Metal Affinity Resin (for APT1 and APT2) (Clontech Laboratories, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America) or His60 Ni Superflow Resin (for mutant APT1 and APT2) (Clontech Laboratories, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America) with gentle shaking on ice for 1 h. The His-tagged

proteins were purified under standard immobilized metal affinity chromatography (IMAC) by washing and eluting the resin with wash buffer (50 mM NaH_2PO_4 , 300 mM NaCl, 10 mM imidazole 5% glycerol, pH 7.5) and elution buffer (50 mM NaH_2PO_4 , 300 mM NaCl, 50-300 mM imidazole, 5% glycerol, pH 7.5). The purified proteins were then desalted on GE Disposable PD-10 Desalting Columns (GE Healthcare, Little Chalfont, United Kingdom) and stored in the protein storage buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 300 mM NaCl, 1 mM dithiothreitol (DTT), 10% Glycerol) at -80°C . Each purified APT was validated by 12% sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) gel for purity. Purified proteins were stored in individual aliquots in protein storage buffer at -80°C . A fresh aliquot of protein was thawed for each experiment.

[0236] In Vitro Kinetic Assays and Emission Spectra of DPP-1, DPP-2, and DPP-3.

[0237] 50 μL of 7.5 μM DPP1-3 in HEPES (20 mM, pH=7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100) were added to a 384-well black flat bottom plate (Corning Life Sciences, Corning, N.Y., United States of America) and placed in an Infinite M200 Pro (Tecan, Mannedorf, Switzerland) plate reader at 37°C . for 5 min to warm. 25 μL of either 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) buffer alone or HEPES buffer containing 150 nM APT1 or APT2, was added using a multi-channel pipette, resulting in a final concentration of 5 μM DPP1-3 and 50 nM APT1 or APT2. Fluorescence intensities (λ_{ex} 490/9 nm, λ_{em} 545/20 nm, Gain 70, No. of flashes 25, Integration time 100 μs and Z-position 20000 μm) were measured at 30 second (s) time intervals for 20 min. At the end of 20 min kinetic run, emission spectra were obtained (λ_{ex} 485 nm, λ_{em} 510-700 nm, Gain 100, No. of flashes 25, Integration time 100 μs and Z-position 20,000 μm). For the catalytically inactive enzyme experiments, 10 times more APT1(S119A) and APT2 (S122A) enzyme were used.

[0238] In Vitro Inhibitor Assays of DPP-3.

[0239] 20 μL of 300 nM APT1/APT2 in HEPES (20 mM, pH=7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton-X 100) were added to 20 μL of buffer/300 μM PalmB/300 μM ML348 and incubated at 37°C . for 30 min. Similarly, for the no APT control, 20 μL buffer was added to 20 μL of buffer containing 0.3% DMSO. 25 μL of the mixture was added to the 50 μL of 7.5 μM DPP-3 in HEPES buffer for a final concentration of 50 μM PalmB/ML348, 50 nM APT1/2, and 5 μM of DPP-3. After incubation for 20 min at 37°C ., 60 μL of each mixture was transferred to a 384-well black flat bottom plate. Fluorescence intensities (λ_{ex} 490/9 nm, λ_{em} 545/20 nm, Gain 70, No. of flashes 25, Integration time 100 μs and Z-position 20,000 μm) were then measured after 10 min.

[0240] UV-Vis.

[0241] UV-Vis measurements were carried out on a Shimadzu UV-2700 UV-VIS spectrophotometer (Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Columbia, Md., United States of America). Samples for absorption measurements were contained in 1 cm \times 1 cm quartz cuvettes with 1 cm light path (Hellma analytics). HEPES (20 mM, pH=7.4, 150 mM NaCl) containing 1% Triton X-100 was used to make dilute solution of DPP1, DPP2, and DPP3 of 1.0-0.1 absorbance at 310 nm. Extinction coefficients were calculated by linear least-squares fitting of plots of A vs. concentration. All fits gave R^2 values of >0.999 .

[0242] Cell Culture and Maintenance.

[0243] HEK293T and HeLa cells (American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), Manassas, Va., United States of America), A431 cells (gift from Yamuna Krishnan), MDA-MB-231 and MCF-7 cells (gift from Cellular Screening Center, University of Chicago) were maintained in DMEM/High Glucose (10% FBS, 1% P/S, L-Glutamine, Sodium pyruvate, Gibco/Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America) with 10% FBS (Gibco/Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America; Qualified US origin) at 37° C. and 5% CO₂. HEK293T, MDA-MB-231, and MCF-7 cells are listed in the online database of commonly misidentified cell lines maintained by the International Cell Line Authentication Committee (ICLAC). Fresh cells or early passage aliquots were obtained, which were frozen down at an early passage (passage 5) in individual aliquots. The cells were then used for less than 25 passages for all experiments. Multiple biological replicates were performed with cells from different passages and freshly thawed aliquots. There was no testing for *mycoplasma* infection or further authentication because early passage cells were used for all experiments.

[0244] Fluorescence Imaging of DPP-2 and DPP-3.

[0245] HEK293T (650,000 cells per dish) cells were plated with 1.5 mL of Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) (High Glucose, 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS)) in a 35 mm glass bottom dish (D35-10-1.5-N; Cellvis, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America) 24 hrs prior to imaging. 30 min before the addition of the DPP probe, the cell culture media was removed and cells were washed with 1 mL of Dulbecco's phosphate-buffered saline (DPBS). The media was then replaced with 1 mL of DMEM containing 1 μ M Hoechst 33342 and either 0.1% DMSO carrier as a control, 1 or 2 μ M Palm B, 0.1, 1.0, or 5 μ M ML348, and incubated for 30 min at 37° C. and 5% CO₂. The media was removed, the cells were washed with 1 mL of Live Cell Imaging Solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Mass., United States of America), and 1 mL of 1 μ M DPP-2 or DPP-3 in Live Cell Imaging Solution was added to each plate. For ML348 0.1, 1.0, or 5 μ M was added along with DPP-2 or DPP-3. After incubation for 15 min at 37° C. and 5% CO₂, images were obtained on an inverted epi-fluorescence microscope (Olympus IX83; Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) attached with EMCCD camera (Photometrics EVOLVE™ Delta; Photometrics, Tucson, Ariz., United States of America) with 40 \times oil objective (N/A 1.3) for DPP-2 (excitation filter 500/20, dichroic chroma 89007, emission filter 535/30, exposure time 200 ms, EM gain 25), Hoechst 33342: (excitation filter 402/15, emission filter 455/50, dichroic chroma 89013, exposure time 30 ms, EM gain 25), and brightfield (exposure time 5 ms, EM gain 5), and for DPP-3 (exposure time 500 ms, EM gain 150), Hoechst 33342: (exposure time 30 ms, EM gain 25), and brightfield (exposure time 20 ms, EM gain 5). Analyses were performed in ImageJ. For data analysis, the average fluorescence intensity per image in each experimental condition was obtained by selecting regions of interest (ROIs) in the brightfield image. For display, the data were normalized to the average fluorescence intensity of the control conditions. Each experiment was repeated at least three separate times with identical results.

[0246] Flow Cytometry.

[0247] Cells were plated on a 10 cm dish with 10 mL of DMEM/High Glucose (10% FBS, 1% P/S, L-Glutamine,

Sodium pyruvate) 36-48 hours prior to the day of experiment and maintained at 37° C., 5% CO₂ so as to obtain 80-90% confluency. Cells were washed with DPBS and trypsinized with 1 mL 0.05% Trypsin. 5 mL of DMEM/High Glucose (10% FBS, L-Glutamine, Sodium pyruvate) was added and cells were spun down at 1200 rpm for 3 min. Media was discarded and cells were resuspended in 5 mL of Live Cell Imaging Solution and again spun down at 1200 rpm for 3 min. The cells pellets obtained were resuspended in 3-5 mL of Live Cell Imaging Solution and divided into 500 μ L aliquots. The aliquots were treated with either 0.2% DMSO carrier or 1 μ M of PalmB/ML348 or 1 μ M/5 μ M of ML349 inhibitor. After 30 min of incubation at room temperature, 1 μ L of 2.5 mM DPP-3 in DMSO was added to each aliquot for a final concentration of 5 μ M, and the solutions were mixed. After 5 min incubation at room temperature, fluorescence signal in FITC channel was measured for 10000 cells (5000 for HeLa experiments) on a LSR-Fortessa 4-15 HTS (BD digital instrument, 488 nm laser with 530/30 nm filter for FITC; BD, Franklin Lakes, N.J., United States of America). For analyzing DPP2 in HEK293T cells, the aliquots were treated with either 0.2% DMSO carrier or 2 μ M of PalmB, 5 or 20 μ M of ML348/ML349 and then analyzed by the protocol as mentioned above. Data was analyzed by FlowJo software version 10.0.8. For comparison of A431 starved versus non-starved, parallel 10 cm dishes of A431 cells were plated in 10 mL of DMEM (high glucose, 10% FBS, 1% P/S), and grown for 36 h. The growth media was removed, and replaced by 10 mL of either DMEM (High glucose) with 10% FBS to maintain "growth" conditions, or DMEM (High glucose) without FBS respectively for "starvation" conditions, and incubated for 14 h. After trypsinization, both plates were treated with 5 mL of DMEM (high glucose) for spinning the cells down, and further processing and analysis were performed as described above by flow cytometry.

[0248] APT1 RNAi by Fluorescence Microscopy.

[0249] 30,000 cells per well were plated in 250 μ L DMEM glutamax (high glucose, 10% FBS) in an 8-well imaging dish (Lab-Tek Chambered Coverglass, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Mass., United States of America). After 12 h, the cells were transfected with 5 pmol control/APT1 siRNA using Lipofectamine RNAi Max (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Mass., United States of America) using the standard protocol. After 48 h the media was replaced by 1 μ M Hoechst 33342 in 300 μ L DMEM, high glucose. After 15 min of incubation at 37° C., the cells were washed with 1 mL of Live Cell Imaging Solution and replaced by 5 μ M DPP3 in Live Cell Imaging Solution. After 15 min of incubation at room temperature, images were obtained on an inverted epi-fluorescence microscope (Olympus IX83; Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) attached with EMCCD camera (Photometrics EVOLVE™ Delta; Photometrics, Tucson, Ariz., United States of America) with 40 \times oil objective (N/A 1.3) for DPP-3 (excitation filter 500/20, dichroic chroma 89007, emission filter 535/30, exposure time 100 ms, EM gain 50), Hoechst 33342: (excitation filter 402/15, emission filter 455/50, dichroic chroma 89013, exposure time 40 ms, EM gain 30), and brightfield (exposure time 30 ms, EM gain 10). Analyses were performed in ImageJ. For data analysis, the average fluorescence intensity per image in each experimental condition was obtained by selecting ROIs in the brightfield image, and the data was

normalized to the average fluorescence intensity of the control siRNA conditions. The experiment was repeated in three biological replicates.

[0250] APT1 RNAi by Flow Cytometry.

[0251] 350,000 cells per well were plated in 2 mL DMEM glutamax (high glucose, 10% FBS) in a 6-well dish. After 12 h, the cells were transfected with 30 pmol control/APT1 siRNA using Lipofectamine RNAi Max (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Mass., United States of America) using the standard protocol. After 48 h the media was removed, the cells were washed with 1.5 mL of DPBS, and removed from the plate by incubation with 200 μ L of 0.05% trypsin. The cells were resuspended in 1.2 mL DMEM glutamax (high glucose, 10% FBS) and centrifuged at 500 rcf for 3 min. The supernatant was discarded, the cells were washed twice with 1 mL of Live Cell Imaging Solution, and the cell pellet was then resuspended in Live Cell Imaging Solution to generate 500 μ L aliquots. 1 μ L of 2.5 mM DPP-3 in DMSO was added to each aliquot for a final concentration of 5 μ M. After 5 min incubation at room temperature, fluorescence signal in the FITC channel was measured for 10,000 cells on a LSR-Fortessa 4-15 HTS (BD digital instrument, 488 nm laser with 530/30 nm filter for FITC; BD, Franklin Lakes, N.J., United States of America). Data was analyzed by FlowJo software version 10.0.8.

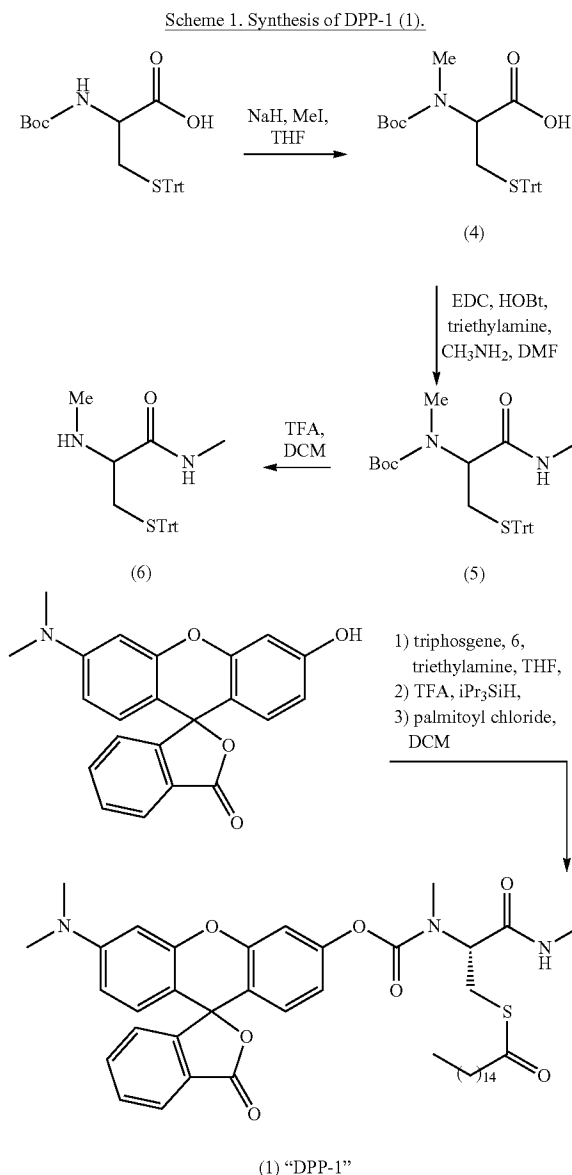
[0252] Starvation and EGF Stimulation of A431 Cells.

[0253] Parallel 35 mm glass bottom dishes (D35-10-1.5-N; Cellvis, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America) of A431 cells (450,000) were plated in 2 mL of DMEM glutamax (high glucose, 10% FBS, 1% P/S), and grown for 36 h. The growth media was removed, and replaced by 1.5 mL of either DMEM (High glucose) with 10% FBS to maintain "growth" conditions, or DMEM (High glucose) without FBS respectively for "starvation" conditions, and incubated for 24 h. The media was replaced by 1 mL of "growth" or "starvation" media containing 1 μ M Hoechst 33342. After incubation for 15 min at 37° C., the media from both the serum starved or full serum dishes was removed, and the cells were washed with 1 mL Live cell imaging solution. 1 mL Live Cell Imaging Solution containing 5 μ M DPP-3 was then added and the dish was incubated at room temperature for 15 minutes. For EGF stimulation experiments, two parallel dishes of cells were serum starved, then incubated with DPP-3 in either the absence or the presence of 1 ng/mL EGF. The cells were then imaged for DPP-3 (excitation filter 500/20, dichroic chroma 89007, emission filter 535/30, exposure time 150 ms, EM gain 50), Hoechst 33342: (excitation filter 402/15, emission filter 455/50, dichroic chroma 89013, exposure time 25 ms, EM gain 30), and brightfield (exposure time 20 ms, EM gain 10 for starvation experiment or exposure time 5 ms, EM gain 5 for EGF stimulation experiment). For data analysis, the average fluorescence intensity per image in each experimental condition was obtained by selecting ROIs in the brightfield image. For display, the data were normalized to the average fluorescence intensity of the control conditions. For the starvation experiments, the non-starved cells were used as the control conditions and arbitrarily set to '100', while for the EGF stimulation experiments the starved, no EGF cells were used as the reference control. Each separate experiment was repeated at least three times. The data from each biological replicate for the EGF stimulation was analyzed individually. The average results from the three biological replicate experiments for both experiments were analyzed in batch.

Example 2

Synthesis of DPP-1

[0254]



[0255] DPP-1 (or 1) was prepared as shown above in Scheme 1. First, compound 4 was prepared via a reaction adapted from Vippila et al. (2015) *J Nat Prod* 78, 2398-2404. To a suspension of NaH (60% in oil, 1.837 g, 45.93 mmol, 3.0 eq) in dry tetrahydrofuran (THF) (21 mL) at 0° C. and under N₂, a solution of Boc-Cys(Trt)-OH (7.014 g, 15.13 mmol, 1.0 eq) in 35 mL dry THF was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min, followed by the addition of MeI (3.8 mL, 61.0 mmol, 4.0 eq). The ice bath was removed and reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with 100 mL of EtOAc and washed with H₂O (pH-2). The aqueous layer was again washed with 100 mL of EtOAc, and

the combined organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated to give a crude product, which was then purified by column chromatography (Silica gel; 3-7% methanol (MeOH): dichloromethane (DCM)) to give 4 (3.5774 g, 49% isolated yield). R_f : 0.26 (silica gel TLC; 5% MeOH:DCM). HRA-MS(+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{31}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$ [M^+] 477.1974, found 477.1970. NMR characterization was not completed due to a lack of solubility in any common NMR solvent.

[0256] A solution of 4 (0.600 g; 1.256 mmol; 1.0 eq), EDC.HCl (0.362 g, 1.888 mmol, 1.5 eq.), HOBt (80%, 0.320 g, 2.360 mmol, 1.5 eq), $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2\text{—HCl}$ (93.4 mg, 1.383 mmol, 1.1 eq) and trimethylamine (177.0 μL , 1.270 mmol, 1.0 eq) in 3 mL dry DMF was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with 30 mL of DCM and washed with H_2O (pH~3). The aqueous layer was washed again with 20 mL DCM and the combined organic layer was dried with Na_2SO_4 , filtered, evaporated to give a crude product, and purified by column chromatography (Silica gel; 5-15% EtOAc:DCM) to give 5 (512.4 mg, 83% yield). R_f : 0.41 (silica gel TLC; 10% EtOAc:DCM). HRA-MS(+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{34}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$ [M^+] 490.2290; found 490.2277 (70V). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz; CD_3CN), δ : 7.40 (d, $J=7.4$ Hz, 6H), 7.32 (t, $J=7.6$ Hz, 6H), 7.24 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 3H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 4.30 (dd, $J=150.5$, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (s, 1H), 2.61-2.54 (m, 5H), 2.24 (s, 2H), 1.44 and 1.39 (s, 9H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (126 MHz; CD_3CN , Rotamers), δ : 170.6, 145.7, 130.3, 129.0, 127.8, 81.0, 80.8, 67.3, 60.8, 58.7, 32.6, 32.4, 31.7, 31.3, 28.5, 26.2.

[0257] A solution of 5 (491.9 mg; 1.0 mmol; 1 eq) in 3 mL of 20% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA):DCM was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen for 25 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with 25 mL of DCM followed by rotatory evaporation at 35° C. The crude product was then purified by column chromatography (Silica gel; 0-10% MeOH in 1:1 EtOAc:DCM) to afford 6 (0.3717 g; 95% yield). R_f : 0.5 (silica gel TLC; 10% MeOH in 1:1 EtOAc:DCM). HRA-MS(+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$ [M^+] 390.1766; found 390.1764. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz; CD_3CN), δ : 7.40-7.38 (m, 6H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 6H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 3.19 (dd, $J=7.2$, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 2.70 (q, $J=6.3$ Hz, 4H), 2.58 (dd, $J=13.0$, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (126 MHz; CDCl_3 , Rotamers), δ : 171.4, 167.6, 162.2, 162.0, 143.9, 129.5, 128.2, 127.2, 117.6, 115.3, 67.6, 60.5, 60.3, 31.0, 30.3, 26.3, 21.0, 14.2.

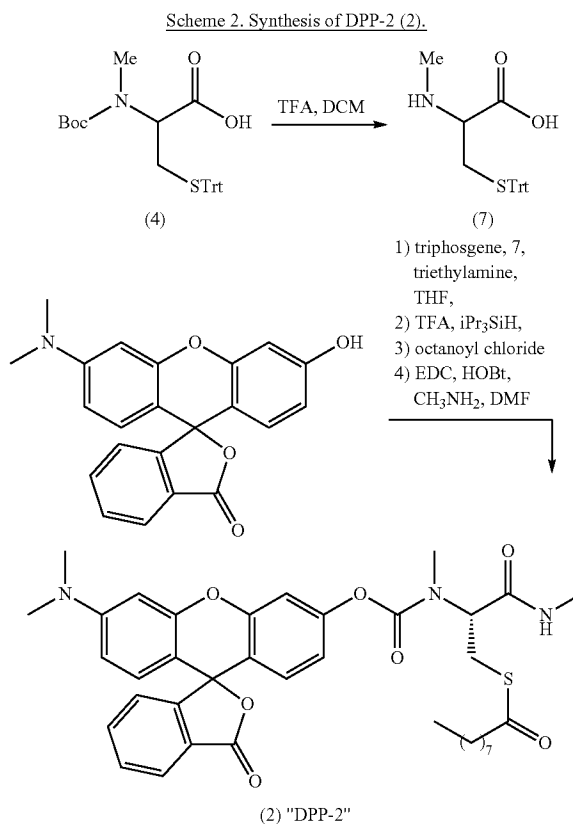
[0258] To a solution of triphosgene (0.148 g; 0.499 mmol; 1 eq) in dry THF (5 mL) at 0° C., a solution of rhodol (0.1744 g; 0.485 mmol; 1 eq) with triethyl amine (0.59 mL; 0.844 M in THF; 1 eq) in dry THF (10 mL) was added dropwise over 20 m. The ice bath was then replaced by a 40° C. water bath, and nitrogen was flushed through to evaporate the THF. Dry THF (5 mL) was freshly added to the reaction mixture followed by dropwise addition of 3 mL THF solution of 6 (132.9 mg; 0.340 mmol; 0.7 eq), followed by the addition of triethyl amine (0.4 mL; 0.844 M sol in THF, 0.7 eq). The reaction mixture was evaporated and the crude product was dissolved in DCM (5 mL). Triisopropyl silane (348 μL ; 5 eq to amine) and TFA (2.1 mL) was added to the solution and stirred room temperature. After 5 m, the reaction mixture was diluted with 20 mL DCM and evaporated by rotary evaporation. 4 mL of palmitoyl chloride and 1 mL of DCM was added to the dried crude product and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 m at room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with 30 mL DCM and washed with 30 mL H_2O (pH~8). The aqueous layer was further washed with DCM (20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated by rotary evaporation. The crude product was purified by successive

column chromatography steps (Silica gel; a. 10-100% EtOAc:DCM, b. 1-5% MeOH:DCM, c. 30-70% EtOAc:Hexane) to afford DPP-1 (71.3 mg; 27% yield). R_f : 0.24 (silica gel TLC, 1:1 EtOAc:Hexane). HRA-MS(+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{44}\text{H}_{57}\text{N}_3\text{O}_7\text{S}$ [M^+] 771.3917; found 771.3926. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz; CDCl_3), δ : 8.00 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.14 (d, $J=7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, $J=5.8$, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 6.78-6.75 (m, 2H), 6.60 (d, $J=8.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.46-6.39 (m, 2H), 4.79-4.69 (m, 1H), 3.57-3.43 (m, 1H), 3.33-3.26 (m, 1H), 3.02 (s, 2H), 2.97 (s, 6H), 2.92 (s, 1H), 2.83 (d, $J=4.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.77 (d, $J=2.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.55 (q, $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H), 1.63 (m, 2H), 1.23 (m, 25H), 0.87 (t, $J=6.9$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (126 MHz; CDCl_3), δ : 198.8, 169.7, 169.3, 155.3, 153.2, 152.4, 152.3, 152.3, 152.2, 135.0, 129.7, 129.0, 128.7, 126.9, 125.0, 124.1, 117.0, 116.9, 110.3, 110.3, 109.2, 105.9, 98.5, 83.5, 59.6, 58.7, 44.2, 40.3, 32.0, 31.7, 31.1, 31.1, 29.8, 29.8, 29.8, 29.7, 29.7, 29.7, 29.5, 29.5, 29.3, 29.0, 27.3, 26.4, 26.3, 25.7, 25.7, 22.8, 14.2.

Example 3

Synthesis of DPP-2

[0259]



[0260] DPP-2 (or 2) was synthesized as shown in Scheme 2, above. First, a solution of 4 (1.24 g; 2.596 mmol; 1 eq) in 10 mL of 20% TFA:DCM was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen for 25 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with 20 mL DCM followed by rotatory evaporation at 35° C. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (Silica gel; 5-40% MeOH:DCM) to afford 7 (887.4 mg; 90% yield). R_f : 0.33 (silica gel TLC; 15% MeOH:DCM). HRA-

MS(+): Calculated for $C_{23}H_{23}NO_2S$ [M^+] 377.1449; found 377.1440. 1H -NMR (500 MHz; $(CD_3)_2SO$), δ : 7.33-7.29 (m, 12H), 7.22 (m, 3H), 3.19 (t, $J=5.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.14 (s, 1H), 2.85 (s, 1H), 2.70 (s, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR (126 MHz; $(CD_3)_2SO$, Rotamers), δ : 168.3, 162.4, 144.0, 129.2, 128.2, 126.9, 66.3, 60.7, 48.6, 35.8, 31.7, 31.2, 30.8.

[0261] To a solution of triphosgene (0.132 g; 0.445 mmol; 1 eq) in dry THF (5 mL) at 0° C. was added a solution of rhodol (0.157 g; 0.437 mmol; 1 eq) with triethyl amine (0.42 mL; 1.055 M sol in THF, 1 eq) in dry THF (10 mL) dropwise over 20 min. The ice bath was replaced by a 40° C. water bath and nitrogen was flushed over the solution until the THF evaporated. Dry THF (5 mL) was added to the reaction mixture followed by dropwise addition of 4 mL THF solution of 7 (115.7 mg; 0.307 mmol; 0.7 eq) and triethyl amine (0.29 mL; 1.055 M sol in THF, 0.7 eq). The reaction mixture was evaporated and the crude was redissolved in DCM (5 mL). Triisopropyl silane (313 μ L; 5 eq to amine) and TFA (2.1 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature. After 5 min, the reaction mixture was diluted with 20 mL DCM and evaporated by rotary evaporation. 3 mL of octanoyl chloride was then added to the crude product and reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with 30 mL of DCM and washed with 30 mL H_2O (pH~8). The aqueous layer was further washed with DCM (20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated by rotary evaporation. Purification by column chromatography (Silica gel; 5-25% MeOH:DCM) gave the carboxylic acid product (120.2 mg) as a mixture (45%; analyzed by LCMS).

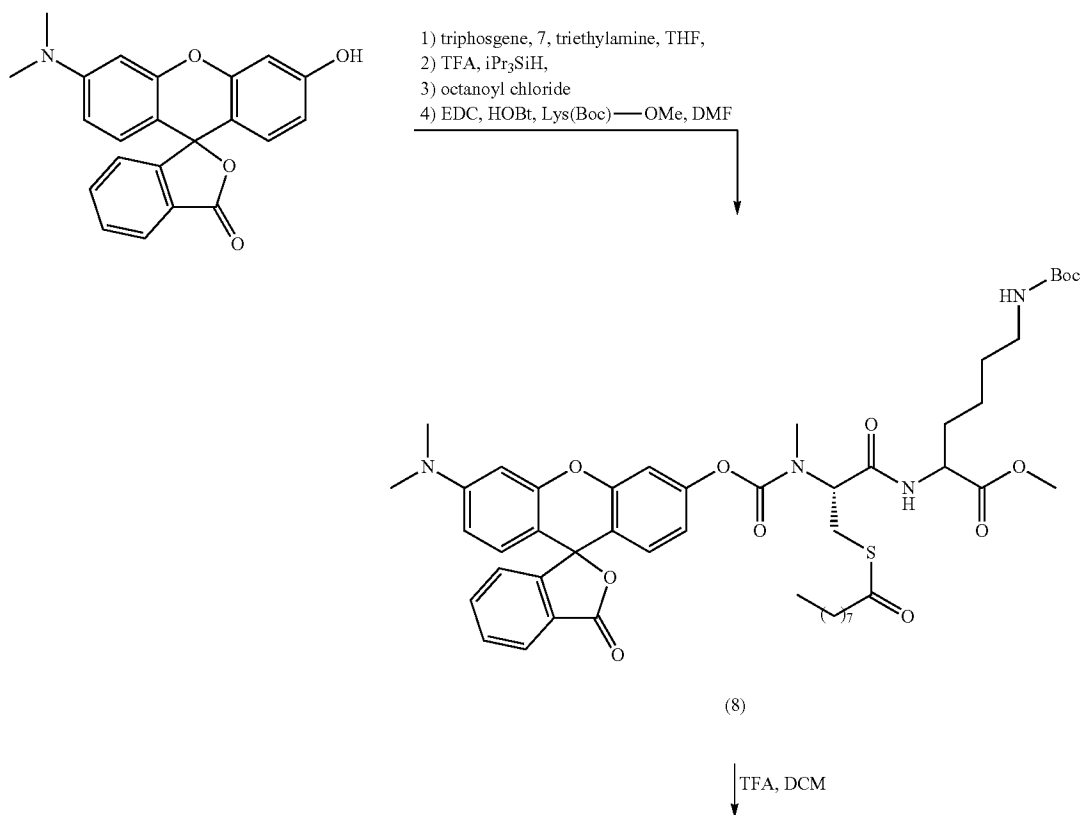
To this mixture in DMF (1 mL), EDC.HCl (35.7 mg), HOBt (80%; 34.5 mg), methylamine hydrochloride (12.7 mg) and triethyl amine (0.27 mL; 0.342 M in DMF) was added. After 10 min, the reaction was diluted with 30 mL DCM and washed with H_2O (20 mL; pH-3). The organic layer was collected, dried with Na_2SO_4 and evaporated by rotary evaporation. The crude was purified by successive column chromatography (Silica gel; a. 10-40% EtOAc:DCM, b. 2% MeOH:DCM, c. 30-65% EtOAc:Hexane) to afford DPP-2 (49.9 mg, 25% yield). R_f : 0.23 (silica gel TLC; 1:1 EtOAc:Hexane). HRA-MS(+): Calculated for $C_{36}H_{41}N_3O_7S$ [M^+] 659.2665; found 659.2675. 1H -NMR (500 MHz; $CDCl_3$), δ : 8.01 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.16 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, $J=2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.78 (m, 2H), 6.61 (d, $J=8.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.48 (d, $J=2.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.42 (dd, $J=8.9, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.81-4.69 (m, 1H), 3.58-3.47 (m, 1H), 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.04 (s, 2H), 2.99 (s, 6H), 2.94 (s, 1H), 2.89 (t, $J=4.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.82 (t, $J=4.7$ Hz, 2H), 2.56 (q, $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H), 1.66-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.29-1.24 (m, 9H), 0.84 (t, $J=5.9$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR (126 MHz; $CDCl_3$), δ : 198.8, 169.7, 169.4, 169.1, 155.4, 153.2, 152.5, 152.3, 152.3, 152.3, 135.0, 129.7, 129.0, 128.7, 127.0, 125.1, 124.1, 117.0, 117.0, 110.3, 110.3, 109.2, 105.9, 98.5, 83.5, 58.7, 58.7, 44.2, 44.2, 40.3, 31.7, 31.7, 31.1, 29.0, 27.3, 26.4, 25.7, 25.5, 22.7, 14.2.

Example 4

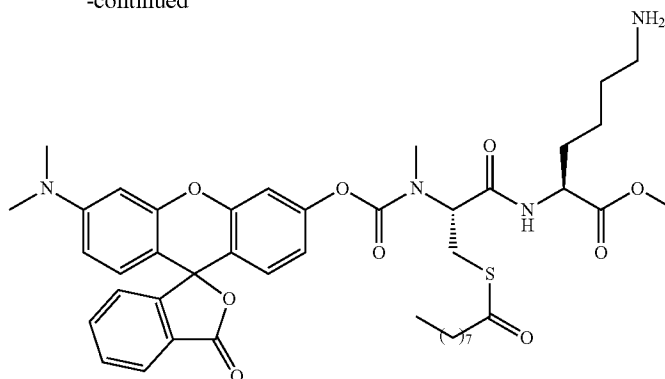
Synthesis of DPP-3

[0262]

Scheme 3. Synthesis of DPP-3 (3).



-continued



(3) "DPP-3"

[0263] DPP-3 (or 3) was synthesized as shown above in Scheme 3. First, to a solution of triphosgene (173.4 mg; 0.584 mmol; 1 eq) in dry THF (7 mL) at 0° C., a solution of rhodol (209.0 mg; 0.582 mmol; 1 eq) with triethyl amine (0.7 mL; 0.844 M sol in THF, 1 eq) in dry THF (15 mL) was added dropwise over 20 min. The ice bath was replaced by a 40° C. water bath and nitrogen was flushed over the solution to evaporate the. Dry THF (10 mL) was added to the mixture followed by dropwise addition of 5.3 mL THF solution of 7 (153.7 mg; 0.407 mmol; 0.7 eq) and triethyl amine (0.49 mL; 0.844 M sol in THF, 0.7 eq). The reaction mixture was evaporated by rotary evaporation and the crude product was dissolved in DCM (5 mL). To this solution, triisopropyl silane (416 μ L; 5 eq to amine) and TFA (2.1 mL) was added and the reaction stirred at room temperature. After 5 min the reaction mixture was diluted with 20 mL DCM and evaporated by rotary evaporation. 3 mL of octanoyl chloride was added to the obtained product and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with 40 mL of DCM and washed with 30 mL H₂O (pH~8). The aqueous layer was washed again with DCM (30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated by rotary evaporation. Purification by column chromatography (Silica gel; 5-25% MeOH:DCM) gave corresponding acid (144.5 mg) as a mixture (80%; analyzed by LCMS). To this mixture in DMF (2 mL), EDC.HCl (70.4 mg), HOBt (80%; 59.2 mg), H-Lys(Boc)-OMe.HCl (106.3 mg) and triethyl amine (0.52 mL; 0.342 M in DMF) was added. After 40 min stirring at room temperature, the reaction was diluted with 30 mL DCM and washed with H₂O (20 mL; pH~3). The organic layer was collected, dried with Na₂SO₄, and evaporated by rotary evaporation. The crude was purified by successive column chromatography (Silica gel; a. 2% MeOH:DCM, b. 25-60% EtOAc:Hexane) to afford 8 (96.0 mg; 27% yield). R_f: 0.4 (silica gel TLC; 1:1 EtOAc:Hexane). HRA-MS(+): Calculated for C₄₇H₆₀N₄O₁₁S [M⁺] 888.3979; found 888.3994. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz; CDCl₃), δ : 8.00 (d, J=7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.15 (d, J=7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, J=1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.80-6.75 (m, 2H), 6.59 (d, J=8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, J=2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (dd, J=8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.82-4.72 (m, 1H), 4.61-4.55 (m, 2H), 3.73 (d, J=3.1 Hz, 3H), 3.51-3.47 (m, 1H), 3.32 (m, 1H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 2.97 (d, J=9.9 Hz, 7H), 2.55 (t, J=7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.88-1.83 (m, 1H), 1.67-1.61 (m, 4H), 1.47-1.40 (m, 11H), 1.31-1.23 (m, 11H), 0.83 (t, J=5.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz; CDCl₃), δ : 198.8, 172.5, 172.3, 169.6, 168.8, 156.1, 155.2, 154.0,

153.2, 152.5, 152.3, 152.2, 135.0, 129.7, 129.1, 128.7, 127.0, 125.0, 124.2, 117.0, 110.2, 109.2, 105.9, 98.5, 83.5, 79.2, 60.5, 59.8, 59.3, 52.7, 52.6, 52.3, 52.2, 44.2, 40.3, 32.0, 31.8, 31.7, 29.5, 29.0, 28.5, 27.3, 25.6, 22.6, 21.2, 14.3, 14.1.

[0264] A solution of 8 (96 mg; 0.108 mmol; 1 eq) in 20% TFA:DCM (3 mL) was stirred at room temperature. After 10 min, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL DCM and evaporated three times to remove all TFA. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (Silica gel; 5% MeOH:DCM (0.1% TFA)) to afford DPP-3 (75.3 mg; 88% yield). R_f: 0.06 (silica gel TLC; 5% MeOH:DCM(0.1% TFA)). HRA-MS(+): Calculated for C₄₂H₅₂N₄O₉S [M⁺] 788.3455; found 788.3462. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz; CD₃OD), δ : 8.28 (d, J=7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (dt, J=23.9, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J=10.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J=6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, J=10.7 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (s, 2H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 4.98 (s, 8H), 3.70 (d, J=7.8 Hz, 3H), 3.53 (m, 1H), 3.40 (m, 1H), 3.09 (s, 2H), 2.95 (s, 1H), 2.86 (s, 2H), 2.54 (m, 1H), 1.92-1.91 (m, 1H), 1.79 (m, 1H), 1.64-1.61 (m, 4H), 1.43 (m, 2H), 1.26-1.19 (m, 12H), 0.80 (t, J=6.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz; CD₃OD), δ : 200.2, 173.6, 173.0, 171.1, 170.9, 168.7, 159.5, 158.8, 157.7, 155.6, 155.1, 154.6, 134.8, 132.5, 131.8, 131.0, 130.9, 129.8, 120.9, 120.7, 119.9, 119.7, 117.5, 111.4, 111.32, 111.1, 98.4, 61.5, 60.8, 60.7, 54.0, 53.7, 52.8, 44.8, 41.6, 40.4, 33.1, 32.7, 31.4, 31.4, 30.00, 29.9, 29.0, 28.5, 27.9, 27.8, 26.7, 26.6, 24.1, 23.9, 23.6, 20.9, 14.4.

Example 5

In Vitro Activity of APTs with DPP-1, DPP-2, and DPP-3

[0265] Carbamate-containing DPPs DPP-1, DPP-2, and DPP-3 were synthesized as described above in Examples 2-4. As expected, carbamate modification on DPP-1 forces the rhodol fluorophore of these DPPs into the lactone form, which has minimal visible absorbance and very low fluorescence. See FIGS. 3A-3D. However, incubation of 5 μ M DPP-1 with either 50 nM APT1 or 50 nM APT2 resulted in an ~250-fold enhancement in fluorescence signal after 20 min. See FIG. 4A and FIG. 5A. These data validate the general DPP design strategy and confirm that DPP-1 is a good substrate for in vitro APT biochemical assays. However, since DPP-1 has relatively poor water solubility, detergents were used to facilitate the running of the in vitro assays.

[0266] DPP-2 has a C₇-lipid rather than a C₁₅-lipid. In vitro assays with purified APTs revealed that DPP-2 in fact functions slightly better than DPP-1 as a substrate, possibly due to improved solubility. See FIG. 4B and FIG. 5B. With a structure based on both the natural N-Ras substrate and pharmacological data (see Davda and Martin (2014) *Medchemcomm* 5, 268-276), DPP-3 features an additional lysine residue. In vitro assays of DPP-3 revealed striking reaction kinetics with APT1 (see FIG. 4C and FIG. 5C) and a modest selectivity for APT1 over APT2, confirming that target engagement can be tuned by modifications proximal to the acyl cysteine. Since both DPP-2 and DPP-3 are water soluble, the enzymatic assays can be performed in the absence of detergents. See FIGS. 6A and 6B. Confirming the in vitro response of the DPPs, catalytically inactivating point mutations and inhibitors (see FIG. 7) abrogate the DPP signal.

Example 6

Live Cell Assays with DPP-1, DPP-2, and DPP-3

[0267] Given that DPP-2 and DPP-3 show a 200- and 400-fold enhancement in fluorescence (see FIGS. 4B and 4C respectively) after 20 min of reaction with 50 nM APT1 and function in water, live-cell experiments were pursued. Whole human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells were used as a model cell line. Incubation of HEK293T cells with 1 μM DPP-2 for 15 min resulted in robust intracellular fluorescent signal as monitored by live cell fluorescence microscopy (See FIG. 8) or flow cytometry (see FIGS. 9A and 9B), confirming the presumed high basal activity of APTs. The fluorescent signal is perturbed by inhibition with 2 μM PalmB, 5 μM ML348, or 5 μM ML349. See FIGS. 9A and 9B. DPP-3 also functions in live cells, except inhibition with lower amounts of PalmB or ML348 were needed to perturb the signal. See FIGS. 10 and 11. Without being bound to any one theory, this result is believed to be due to better uptake of DPP-2. Moreover, the DPP-3 signal is not substantially perturbed by the APT2 inhibitor ML349 (See FIG. 10), suggesting DPP-3 selectivity in live cells mirrors what was observed in vitro.

[0268] To further validate the inhibitor experiments, RNAi knockdown of APT1 was determined to block the DPP-3 signal similarly to ML348. See FIGS. 12A and 12B. However, neither APT1 knockdown or ML348 treatment blocked the signal to the same level as PalmB treatment. Without being bound to any one theory, it is believed that either APT2 or other depalmitoylases can act on DPP-3.

[0269] Finally, to confirm that DPP-3 can function in a variety of cell types, the flow cytometry experiments were repeated in HeLa, MCF-7, and MDA-MB-231 cells, which revealed that DPP-3 can detect endogenous depalmitoylase activities in each of these model cell lines. See FIGS. 13A-13C. Collectively, these results appear to confirm that DPPs, such as both DPP-2 and DPP-3, can measure endogenous depalmitoylase levels in a variety of cellular contexts.

[0270] Encouraged by the performance of DPPs in live cells, the hypothesis that cell signaling events modulate depalmitoylase activity levels was studied. DPP-3 was deployed in epidermoid carcinoma A431 cells, which express high levels of the epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor, respond to EGF stimulation, and are devoid of endogenous mutations of HRAS, KRAS and NRAS. It was hypothesized that DPP-3 is detecting the APT(s) that regulate NRAS, since the probe was designed based on this substrate, and that if S-palmitoylation signaling is indeed

regulated at the depalmitoylase level, cells with normal Ras signaling would be more likely to show an effect. A431 cells were serum starved to make them susceptible to transient activation by EGF, which intriguingly resulted in an increase in basal depalmitoylase activity levels, which is knocked down by inhibition with PalmB or M348 to similar levels as non-serum starved cells. See FIGS. 14 and 15. Even more strikingly, stimulation of serum starved cells with 1 ng/mL EGF for 15 min results in an inhibition of depalmitoylation activity (see FIG. 16), which appears to confirm the hypothesis that APTs are in fact dynamically regulated by upstream signaling events.

[0271] Further, the present disclosure of EGF-induced deactivation of depalmitoylation activity supports a proposed model in which membrane-bound proteins are activated via enhanced membrane retention through inhibition of APTs. See FIG. 17. Thus, without being bound to any one theory, it appears that depalmitoylation is dynamically regulated in a temporally dynamic manner.

Example 7

Methods and Materials for Examples 8-13

[0272] Synthetic Materials and Methods.

[0273] Silica gel P60 (SiliCycle, Inc., Quebec City, Canada; 40-63 μm, 230-400 mesh) was used for column chromatography. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed using SiliCycle 60 F254 silica gel (SiliCycle Inc., Quebec City, Canada; precoated sheets, 0.25 mm thick). All chemicals for synthesis were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, Mo., United States of America) or Fisher Scientific (Pittsburgh, Pa., United States of America) and used as received. ML348 and ML349 were purchased from Tocris (Bristol, United Kingdom). ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra were collected in NMR solvents CDCl₃/(CD₃)₂CO (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, Mo., United States of America) at 25° C. using a 500 MHz Bruker Avance II+ spectrometer (Bruker Corporation, Billerica, Mass., United States of America) with 5 mm QNP probe. ¹H-NMR chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to the peak of residual proton signals from (CDCl₃ 7.26 ppm or (CD₃)₂CO 2.05 ppm). Multiplicities are given as: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), dd (doublet of doublets), m (multiplet). ¹³C-NMR chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to the peak of residual proton signals from (CDCl₃ 77.16 ppm or (CD₃)₂CO 29.84 ppm and 206.26 ppm). Analysis of NMR and plots were obtained using TopSpin 3.5 pl 7 (Bruker Corporation, Billerica, Mass., United States of America). High resolution mass was obtained from Agilent 6224 TOF High Resolution Accurate Mass Spectrometer (HRA-MS) (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, Calif., United States of America) using combination of APCI and ESI. Low resolution mass spectral analyses and liquid chromatography analysis were carried out on an Advion Expression-L mass spectrometer (Ithaca, N.Y., United States of America) coupled with an Agilent 1220 Infinity LC System (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, Calif., United States of America). All experiments utilizing a plate reader were carried out on a BioTek (Winooski, Vt., United States of America) monochromator-based Synergy Neo2 Multi-Mode Reader at 37° C. IUPAC names for compounds were generated using MarvinSketch (Version 17.8.0, ChemAxon, Budapest, Hungary). tert-butyl (R)-methyl(1-(methylamino)-1-oxo-3-(tritylthio)propan-2-

yl)carbamate and N-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-N-methyl-S-trityl-L-cysteine were obtained as previously reported. See Kathavat et al. (2017) Nat Chem Biol 13, 150-152; and Vippila et al. (2015) J Nat Prod 78, 2398-2404.

[0274] Purification of APT1 and APT2.

[0275] Recombinant human APT1, APT2, APT1(S119A), and APT2(S122A) were purified as described above in Example 1. Purified proteins were stored in individual aliquots in protein storage buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 300 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT, 10% Glycerol) at 80° C. A fresh aliquot of protein was thawed for each experiment.

[0276] In Vitro Kinetic Assays of RDP-1 and RDP-2.

[0277] 100 μ L of 400 nM of APT1 or APT2, or buffer without added enzymes, were added to buffer (20 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100, pH 7.4, degassed by bubbling N₂ through the solution for 1 h) and prewarmed to 37° C. in a heating block for 5 min. The buffer solutions were then added using a multichannel pipet to a black-walled clear-bottom 96-well plate (Nunc, Roskilde, Denmark) containing 100 μ L of 2 μ M RDP-1 or RDP-2 in buffer (20 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100, pH 7.4, 0.15% DMSO) that had been pre-warmed in the plate reader at 37° C. for 5 min, resulting in a final concentration of 200 nM APT1 or APT2, 1 μ M RDP-1 or RDP-2, and 0.1% DMSO. Fluorescent intensities λ_{ex1} =430/24 nm, λ_{em1} =470/24 nm; λ_{ex2} =480/20, λ_{em2} =575/40; gain=75; No. of flashes=8) were obtained as a ratio of em1/em2 in kinetic mode in 30 s intervals for 30 min. For the catalytically inactive enzyme experiments, 10 times more APT1(S119A) and APT2(S122A) enzyme were used.

[0278] Stability of RDP-1 and RDP-2 with Biological Reductant.

[0279] RDP-1 or RDP-2 were added to buffer (20 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100, pH 7.4, degassed by bubbling N₂ through the solution for 1 h) prewarmed to 37° C. in a heating block for 5 min containing no reducing agent or GSH using a multichannel pipet to at least three wells of a black-walled clear-bottom 96-well plate (Nunc, Roskilde, Denmark; Final concentration: 1 μ M RDP-1/RDP-2, 20 mM GSH, 20 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100, pH 7.4, 4.1% DMSO). Fluorescent intensities (λ_{ex1} =430/25 nm, λ_{em1} =470/24 nm; λ_{ex2} =480/20, λ_{em2} =575/40; gain=75; No. of flashes=10) were obtained as a ratio of em₁/em₂ in kinetic mode in 30 s intervals for 30 min.

[0280] UV-Vis and Fluorescence Spectra.

[0281] A 30 μ M solution of RDP-1 or RDP-2 in buffer (20 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100, pH 7.4, 0.15% DMSO) was diluted in half with buffer or buffer containing DTT (20 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100, pH 7.4, 40 mM DTT) to chemically deacylate the probe. After 1 h incubation at room temperature, 150 μ L of the solutions were placed in a black-walled glass-bottom 96-well plate (Celvis, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America) and UV-Vis measurements (No. of flashes=8, step size=1 nm), fluorescent emission (λ_{ex1} =430/24 nm, λ_{em1} =450/5 nm to 800 nm, step size=1 nm, gain=57, No. of flashes=10; λ_{ex2} =480/20 nm, λ_{em2} =500/5 nm to 800 nm, step size=1 nm, gain=95, No. of flashes=10), and fluorescent excitation spectra (λ_{ex1} =300/24 nm to 450 nm, λ_{em1} =470/5 nm, step size=1 nm, gain=57, No. of flashes=10; λ_{ex2} =400/20 nm to 550 nm, λ_{em2} =575/5 nm, step size=1 nm, gain=95, No. of flashes=10) were obtained on a plate reader.

[0282] Cell Culture and Maintenance.

[0283] HEK293T (ATCC) and HEPG2 (gift from Prof. Chuan He) cells were maintained in DMEM/High Glucose (10% FBS, 1% P/S, L-Glutamine, Sodium pyruvate, Gibco/Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America) with 10% FBS (Gibco/Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America; Qualified US origin) at 37° C. and 5% CO₂. The cells were then used for less than 25 passages for all experiments. Multiple biological replicates were performed with cells from different passages and freshly thawed aliquots.

[0284] Colon Organoids Culture and Maintenance.

[0285] Generation of human colon organoids was performed as previously described (see Sato et al. (2011) Gastroenterology 141, 1762-1772) with some modifications. Briefly, pinch biopsies from colons of healthy human subjects were collected and washed three times with ice-cold phosphate buffered saline (PBS) before an incubation at 4° C. in 8 mM EDTA/PBS for 30 min, with gentle agitation. Individual crypts were released from the tissue by repeated titration through a P1000 tip. Crypts and tissue were passed through a 100 μ m cell strainer (FALCON™ 352360; Corning Life Sciences, Corning, N.Y., United States of America). Crypts were then transferred to a microfuge tube and centrifuged at 300 g for 5 min. Supernatant was discarded and pellets were resuspended in human organoid growth media [Advanced DMEM/F12, Glutamax, 1 \times HEPES buffer, Pen/Strep, N2 supplement, B-27 Supplement Minus Vitamin A (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Mass., United States of America), 1.25 mM N-acetyl-L-(+)-cysteine, 10 mM Nicotinamide, 50% L-WRN conditioned media (L-WRN cells were a generous gift from T. C. He, Department of Surgery, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill., United States of America), murine epidermal growth factor (50 ng/mL; Peprotech, Rocky Hill, N.J., United States of America), recombinant human R-spondin1 (500 ng/mL; Peprotech), Jagged-1 (1 μ M; Anaspec, Fremont, Calif., United States of America), 10 μ M Y-27632, 30 μ M SB202190, 500 nM A-8301, 2.5 μ M Chir99021, 500 nM LY2157299 (all chemical compounds from Cayman Chemical, Ann Arbor, Mich., United States of America), 10 nM Leu15-Gastrin I and 10 μ g/mL ciprofloxacin (Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, Mo., United States of America)]. Organoids were mixed with Matrigel (Corning 356253, Corning Life Sciences, Corning, N.Y., United States of America) in a 1:2 ratio, plated onto pre-warmed 6-well tissue culture plates (Corning 3506, Corning Life Sciences, Corning, N.Y., United States of America), and placed in a 37° C./5% CO₂ incubator. After an hour, 2 mL organoid growth media was added. Organoids were maintained in culture for several weeks with media changes every 2-3 days.

[0286] Fluorescence Imaging of RDP-1 and RDP-2 with HEK293T Cells.

[0287] HEK293T were plated with 500 mL of DMEM (Gibco, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America; High Glucose, Glutamax, 10% FBS) a four well chambered imaging dish (D35C4-20-1.5-N, Cellvis, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America) which were precoated with 4 μ g Poly-D-lysine (30-70 kilodalton (kDa), Alfa Aesar, Haverhill, Mass., United States of America) for 2 h at room temperature or overnight at 4° C. and grown to ca. 80% confluence prior to imaging. 30 min before the addition of the RDP, the cell culture media was removed and cells were washed with 500 μ L of serum-free DMEM (Gibco, Gaith-

ersburg, Md., United States of America, High Glucose, Glutamax, no FBS). The media was then replaced with 500 μ L of serum-free DMEM containing 100 nM Mitotracker Deep Red (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Mass., United States of America; to assist in focusing and processing) and either 0.1% DMSO carrier as a control or Palm B, ML348, or ML349 in DMSO and incubated for 30 min at 37° C. and 5% CO₂. The media was removed, the cells were washed with 500 μ L of Live Cell Imaging Solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Mass., United States of America), and 500 μ L of 1 μ M RDP-1 or RDP-2 along with the appropriate inhibitor or DMSO as control in Live Cell Imaging Solution was added to each well. After incubation for 10 min at 37° C. and 5% CO₂, the cells were washed with 500 μ L Live Cell Imaging Solution and 500 μ L of Live Cell Imaging Solution containing DMSO or the appropriate inhibitor was added to the cells immediately before images were obtained on an inverted epi-fluorescence microscope (Olympus IX83; Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) attached with EMCCD camera (Photometrics EVOLVE™ Delta; Photometrics, Tucson, Ariz., United States of America) with 40x oil objective (N/A 1.3) for RDP-1 (excitation filter 1 430/24 nm, dichroic chroma 89007, emission filter 1 470/24 nm, exposure time 100 ms, EM gain 80, excitation filter 2 480/20 nm, dichroic chroma 49014, emission filter 2 575/40 nm, exposure time 70 ms, EM gain 50) or for RDP-2 (excitation filter 1 430/24 nm, dichroic chroma 89007, emission filter 1 470/24 nm, exposure time 70 ms, EM gain 50, excitation filter 2 480/20, dichroic chroma 49014, emission filter 2 575/40 nm, exposure time 50 ms, EM gain 30), brightfield (exposure time 50 ms, EM gain 30), and MitoTracker Deep Red: (excitation filter 640/30 nm, emission filter 705/72 nm, dichroic chroma 89016, exposure time 15 ms, EM gain 15). Analyses were performed in ImageJ as described below. Each experiment was repeated at least three separate times with identical results.

[0288] Epifluorescent Imaging of RDP-2 with APT1/APT2 shRNA.

[0289] Short Hairpin RNA (shRNA) plasmids were constructed in pLKO.1 vector (see Moffat et al. (2006) Cell 124, 1283-1298) by restriction cloning adapting the protocol available on the Addgene organization website. Three shRNAs were constructed for APT1 and two shRNAs were constructed for APT2 using the Broad Institute's Online Genetic Perturbation Platform database. The sequences for each target are shown in Table 1, below.

TABLE 1

Sequences for RNAi.		
Target	Sequence	SEQ ID Number
APT1	CGGTGGTCTAATAGAGATAT	SEQ ID NO: 1
APT1	CTATGCCTTCATGGTTTGATA	SEQ ID NO: 2
APT1	CAGGAAATGATGGATGTCAA	SEQ ID NO: 3
APT2	GGCTGCTTCTTATCCATTTTC	SEQ ID NO: 4
APT2	GCAGCTGTGAAGGAATTTCTT	SEQ ID NO: 5

[0290] For experiments, the appropriate shRNA clones (50 ng/ μ L) were pooled. The pLKO.1 vector was used as a control shRNA in comparison to shRNAs for the targets of

interest. 120,000 HEK293T cells/well were plated in 500 μ L DMEM glutamax (10% FBS) into two wells of a four well chambered imaging dish (D35C4-20-1.5-N, Cellvis, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America) which were precoated with 4 μ g Poly-D-lysine (30-70 KDa, Alfa Aesar, Haverhill, Mass., United States of America) for 2 h at room temperature or overnight at 4° C. After 18-20 h, the media was replaced by fresh 500 μ L DMEM glutamax (10% FBS) and the cells were transfected with 600 ng control/APT1/APT2 shRNAs following manufacture's conditions. Briefly, 26.2 μ L of opti-MEM containing 1.8 μ L of Lipofectamine 3000 was added to mix of 13.6 μ L opti-MEM, 1.2 μ L P3000 and 12 μ L shRNAs mix (50 ng/ μ L), and resulting DNA: Lipofectamine mix was incubated at room temperature for 15 min. After incubation 52 μ L of the DNA:Lipofectamine mix was added to the corresponding well of the four well chambered imaging dish. After 32-35 h the media was replaced with 100 nM MitoTracker Deep red in 500 μ L serum-free DMEM. After 30 min of incubation at 37° C., the cells were washed with 500 μ L of Live Cell Imaging Solution and replaced by 1 μ M RDP-2 in Live Cell Imaging Solution. After incubation for 10 min at 37° C. and 5% CO₂, the cells were washed with 500 μ L Live Cell Imaging Solution and 500 μ L of Live Cell Imaging Solution and images were obtained on an inverted epi-fluorescence microscope (Olympus IX83; Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan, United States of America) attached with EMCCD camera (Photometrics EVOLVE™ Delta, Photometrics, Tucson, Ariz., United States of America) with 40x oil objective (N/A 1.3) for RDP-2 (excitation filter 1 430/24 nm, dichroic chroma 89007, emission filter 1 470/24 nm, exposure time 60 ms, EM gain 30, excitation filter 2 480/20 nm, dichroic chroma 49014, emission filter 2 575/40 nm, exposure time 50 ms, EM gain 30), brightfield (exposure time 50 ms, EM gain 30), and MitoTracker Deep Red: (excitation filter 640/30 nm, emission filter 705/72 nm, dichroic chroma 89016, exposure time 15 ms, EM gain 15). Analyses were performed in ImageJ (Wayne Rasband, NIH). Each experiment was repeated in at least three biological replicates with identical results.

[0291] Quantification and Display of Fluorescence Images of RDP-1 and RDP-2 for Cultured Cells.

[0292] The probe channel data were expressed as a ratio of the blue channel divided by the green channel and normalized to the average fluorescence intensity of the control conditions. To eliminate errors from autofluorescence, the images were thresholded using the bluer channel images at the same minimum level that included the maximum number of cells in focus (as determined visually by the mitochondrial dye) while limiting the signal from areas where cells are not present. The average value of all nonzero pixels from the blue channel:green channel ratio image were calculated in ImageJ for three different measurements from each experiment. The percent deprotected was estimated by imaging RDP-1/2 in buffer (20 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100, pH 7.4, 0.1% DMSO) and for dye deprotected with 20 mM DTT in buffer (20 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100, pH 7.4, 0.1% DMSO) for 1 h at room temperature before aliquoted into individual tubes and stored at -80° C. A fresh aliquot of the solution was thawed for each experiment and diluted to 250 nM (RDP-1) or 500 nM (RDP-2) in buffer (20 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100, pH 7.4, 10 mM DTT) and allowed to equilibrate for 30 m before being imaged. The resulting images

were divided in the same manner as above and the average ratio was taken from at least three images in a circle with a diameter of 150 pixels drawn at the center of the image. The ratios obtained from deprotected and protected dyes were interpreted to be the ratio at 100% and 0%, respectively, and fit by linear least squares. The resulting equation for the line was used to estimate the percent deacylation of the dye.

[0293] Epifluorescent Imaging of RDP-2 with Human Colon Organoids.

[0294] At least 24 h before imaging experiments, cultured colon organoids were split using a 25G needle and 1 mL syringe, pelleted, and 50-100 organoids per well were replated in eight-well chambered slides (20 μ L droplets/well; 250 μ L organoid growth media; Cellvis, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America) for treatment and imaging. 30 min before the addition of RDP-2, the cell culture media was removed and cells were washed with 300 μ L of serum-free FluoroBrite DMEM (Gibco, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America; High Glucose, Glutamax, no FBS). The media was then replaced with 300 μ L of serum-free FluoroBrite DMEM containing 0.2% DMSO carrier as a control, Palm B, or ML348 incubated for 30 min at 37° C. and 5% CO₂. The media was removed, the cells were washed with 300 μ L of Live Cell Imaging Solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Mass., United States of America), and 300 μ L of 5 μ M RDP-2 along with the appropriate inhibitor or DMSO as control in Live Cell Imaging Solution was added to each well. After incubation for 10 min at 37° C. and 5% CO₂, the cells were washed with 300 μ L Live Cell Imaging Solution and 300 μ L of Live Cell Imaging Solution containing DMSO or the appropriate inhibitor was added to the cells immediately before images were obtained on an inverted epi-fluorescence microscope (Olympus IX83; Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) attached with EMCCD camera (Photometrics EVOLVE™ Delta, Photometrics, Tucson, Ariz., United States of America) with 40 \times oil objective (N/A 1.3) for RDP-2 (excitation filter 1 430/24 nm, dichroic chroma 89007, emission filter 1 470/24 nm, exposure time 150 ms, EM gain 100, excitation filter 2 480/20 nm, dichroic chroma 49014, emission filter 2 575/40 nm, exposure time 75 ms, EM gain 75), brightfield (exposure time 50 ms, EM gain 30). Analyses were performed in ImageJ. Each experiment was repeated at least three separate times with identical results. Images were quantified and displayed in a similar manner to the cell culture experiments except that ROIs were manually selected for the tissue portion in focus with out setting a threshold.

[0295] Fluorescence Imaging of RDP-1 with HEPG2 Cells.

[0296] HEPG2 were plated with 500 mL of DMEM (Gibco, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America; High Glucose, Glutamax, 10% FBS) a four well chambered imaging dish (D35C4-20-1.5-N, Cellvis, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America) which were precoated with 4 μ g Poly-D-lysine (30-70 KDa, Alfa Aesar, Haverhill, Mass., United States of America) for 2 h at room temperature or overnight at 4° C. and grown to ca. 80% confluence prior to imaging. 30 min before the addition of the RDP, the cell culture media was removed and cells were washed with 500 μ L of serum-free DMEM (Gibco, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America; High Glucose, Glutamax, no FBS). The media was then replaced with 500 μ L of serum-free DMEM containing 100 nM Mitotracker Deep Red (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Mass., United States of

America) to assist in focusing and processing) and either 0.1% DMSO carrier as a control or Palm B in DMSO and incubated for 30 min at 37° C. and 5% CO₂. The media was removed, the cells were washed with 500 μ L of Live Cell Imaging Solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Mass., United States of America), and 500 μ L of 1 μ M RDP-1 along with the Palm B or DMSO as control in Live Cell Imaging Solution was added to each well. After incubation for 10 min at 37° C. and 5% CO₂, the cells were washed with 500 μ L Live Cell Imaging Solution and 500 μ L of Live Cell Imaging Solution containing DMSO or the appropriate inhibitor was added to the cells immediately before images were obtained on an inverted epi-fluorescence microscope (Olympus IX83; Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) attached with EMCCD camera (Photometrics EVOLVE™ Delta, Photometrics, Tucson, Ariz., United States of America) with 40 \times oil objective (N/A 1.3; excitation filter 1 430/24 nm, dichroic chroma 89007, emission filter 1 470/24 nm, exposure time 80 ms, EM gain 60, excitation filter 2 480/20 nm, dichroic chroma 49014, emission filter 2 575/40 nm, exposure time 50 ms, EM gain 30) Analyses were performed in ImageJ. Each experiment was repeated at least three separate times with identical results.

[0297] Preparation of Palmitate Solution.

[0298] A stock solution of 5 mM sodium palmitate in 5% BSA (fatty acid free, Sigma, St. Louis, Mo., United States of America) in DMEM (Gibco, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America; High Glucose, Glutamax, no FBS) was prepared by dissolving BSA in DMEM and sodium palmitate was added. The resulting suspension was sonicated for 30 mins and then incubated at 37° C. for 24 h. The now clear solution was then briefly mixed on a vortex mixture and filtered through a 0.22 μ m syringe filter (PVDF, 30 mm diameter, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, Tex., United States of America). The resulting solution was aliquotted and stored at -20° C. Solutions containing only 5% BSA were prepared in the same way as a control. Solutions were thawed immediately before use and dilution to the required concentration in DMEM (Gibco, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America; High Glucose, Glutamax, no FBS).

[0299] Fluorescence Imaging of Lipid Metabolism in HEPG2 Cells with RDP-1.

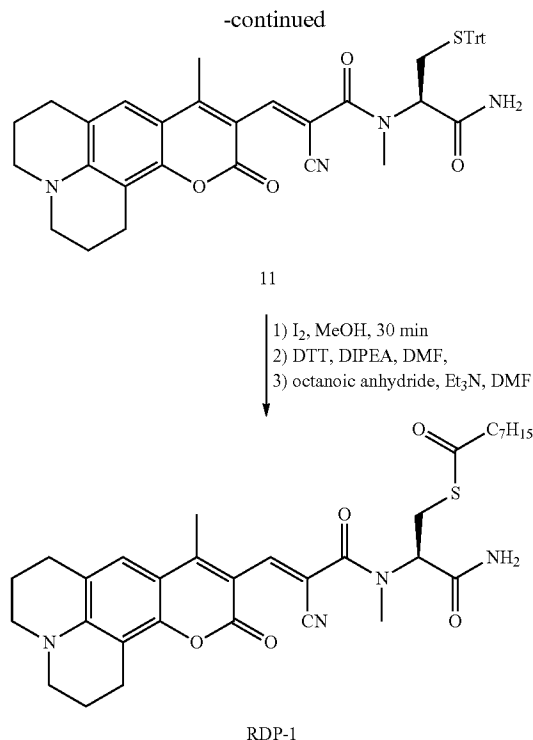
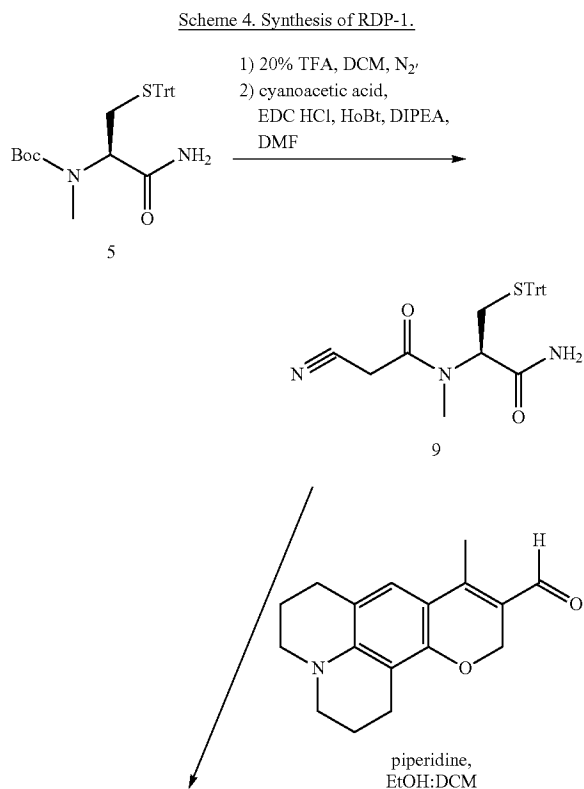
[0300] HEPG2 were plated with 500 mL of DMEM (Gibco, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America, High Glucose, Glutamax, 10% FBS) a four well chambered imaging dish (D35C4-20-1.5-N, Cellvis, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America) which were precoated with 4 μ g Poly-D-lysine (30-70 KDa, Alfa Aesar, Haverhill, Mass., United States of America) for 2 h at room temperature or overnight at 4° C. and grown to ca. 70% confluence prior to serum starvation overnight (DMEM, Gibco, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America; High Glucose, Glutamax, no FBS). 6 h before the experiment, media was replaced with DMEM (Gibco, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America; High Glucose, Glutamax, no FBS) with 1% BSA (fatty acid free, Sigma, St. Louis, Mo., United States of America) with 1 mM sodium palmitate or with out as a control. After 6 h, the cell culture media was removed and cells were washed with 500 μ L of serum-free DMEM (Gibco, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America; High Glucose, Glutamax, no FBS). The media was then replaced with 500 μ L of serum-free DMEM containing 100 nM Mitotracker Deep Red (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Mass., United States of America; to assist in focusing and

processing) and incubated for 30 min at 37° C. and 5% CO₂. The media was removed, the cells were washed with 500 μL of Live Cell Imaging Solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Mass., United States of America), and 500 μL of 1 μM RDP-1 in Live Cell Imaging Solution was added to each well. After incubation for 10 min at 37° C. and 5% CO₂, the cells were washed with 500 μL Live Cell Imaging Solution and 500 μL of Live Cell Imaging Solution containing DMSO or the appropriate inhibitor was added to the cells immediately before images were obtained on an inverted epi-fluorescence microscope (Olympus IX83; Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) attached with EMCCD camera (Photometrics EVOLVE™ Delta, Photometrics, Tucson, Ariz., United States of America) with 40× oil objective (N/A 1.3; excitation filter 1 430/24 nm, dichroic chroma 89007, emission filter 1 470/24 nm, exposure time 80 ms, EM gain 60, excitation filter 2 480/20 nm, dichroic chroma 49014, emission filter 2 575/40 nm, exposure time 50 ms, EM gain 30). Analyses were performed in ImageJ as described above. Each experiment was repeated at least three separate times with identical results.

Example 8

Synthesis of RDP-1

[0301]



[0302] RDP-1 was prepared as shown above in Scheme 4, starting from compound 5 described above in Example 2.

[0303] ((2R)-2-(2-cyano-N-methylacetamido)-N-methyl-3-[(triphenylmethyl)-sulfanyl]propanamide) (9). In a vial sealed with a rubber septa and equipped with a stir bar, 5 (0.2542 g, 0.5 mmol) was dissolved in 5 mL CH₂Cl₂ and placed under a nitrogen atmosphere. Trifluoroacetic acid was slowly added until the concentration was ca. 20% v/v and allowed to stir for 1 h. After complete boc-deprotection as determined by LC-MS, the mixture was concentrated and then redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) and washed with sat. bicarbonate (50 mL). The organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated in a round bottom flask. A stirbar, cyanoacetic acid (0.1322 g, 1.5 mmol), EDC.HCl (0.9935 g, 5.2 mmol), and hoBt (0.2381 g, 1.5 mmol) were added to the flask, sealed with a rubber septa, and placed under a flow of nitrogen. The flask was then cooled to 0° C. in an ice bath before adding DMF ca. 15 mL and DIPEA (0.27 mL, 1.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to slowly warm to room temperature and react overnight. The following day, the reaction was diluted with brine (50 mL) and extracted into EtOAc (3×75 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. Purification by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0% to 100% EtOAc in Hexanes) yielded 9 with quantitative yield. R_f (70% EtOAc in Hexanes)=0.39. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz; CDCl₃) b: 7.42 (d, J=10, 6H), 7.30 (t, J=10, 6H), 7.23 (t, J=10, 3H), 5.71 (s, 1H), 4.50 (m, 1H), 3.47 (s, 2H), 2.77 (m 4H), 2.68 (m, 3H), 2.65 (m, 1H). ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz; CDCl₃) b: 168.8, 144.3, 129.6, 129.5, 128.4, 128.2, 127.3, 127.0, 67.2, 56.4, 29.9, 26.3, 25.7. HRA-MS(+) Calculated for C₂₇H₂₇N₃O₂S [M⁺] 457.1824; found 457.1839.

[0304] Synthesis of 10 (6-methyl-4-oxo-3-oxa-13-azatetracyclo[7.7.1.0^{2,7}.0^{13,17}]heptadeca-1,5,7,9(17)-tetraene-5-carbalde-hyde) (10). A previously-reported procedure was adapted for the synthesis of 10. See Rooker and Buccella (2015) ChemSci 6, 6456-6461. To a flame-dried vial equipped with a stirbar, 2,3,6,7-Tetrahydro-9-methyl-1H, 5H-quinolizino[9,1-gh]coumarin (see Park et al. (2009) Dyes Pigments 82, 258-267) (0.6064 g, 2.4 mmol) was dissolved in a minimal amount of dry DMF (ca. 4 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere. POCl₃ (6.8 mmol, 0.63 mL) was added dropwise over 5 min. The resulting solution was allowed to stir for 1 h until complete by LC-MS. The reaction was then quenched by dilution with 5 mL CH₂Cl₂, followed by sat. bicarbonate solution until gas evolution ceased. The resulting mixture was diluted with 50 mL brine extracted into CH₂Cl₂ (3×100 mL). The organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. Purification by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0% to 5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) yielded 10 (0.544 g, 80.8%) as an orange solid in 80.8% yield. R_f (5% MeOH in DCM)=0.50. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz; CDCl₃) b: 10.37 (s, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 3.34 (m, 4H), 2.88 (t, J=10 Hz, 2H), 2.78 (m, 5H), 1.98 (m, 4H). ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz; CDCl₃) δ: 191.6, 163.3, 159.3, 152.3, 148.6, 124.6, 119.4, 111.5, 109.1, 106.0, 50.3, 49.9, 27.8, 21.3, 20.3, 20.2, 14.9. HRA-MS(+) Calculated for C₁₇H₁₇NO₃ [M⁺]283.1208; found 283.1243.

[0305] Synthesis of ((2E)-2-cyano-N-methyl-3-{6-methyl-4-oxo-3-oxa-13-azatetracyclo[7.7.1.0^{2,7}.0^{13,17}]heptadeca-1,5,7,9(17)-tetraen-5-yl}-N-[(1R)-1-(methylcarbonyl)-2-[(triphenylmethyl)sulfanyl]ethyl]prop-2-enamide) (11). In a flame-dried vial equipped with a stir bar, 10 (0.1140 g, 0.4 mmol) and 2 (0.1843 g, 0.4 mmol) were dissolved in 10 mL 9:1 dry CH₂Cl₂:dry EtOH followed by two drops of piperidine. The vial was then capped and allowed to stir at room temperature for 72 h. When complete as determined by LC-MS, the reaction mixture was concentrated and purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0% to 10% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) to yield a mixture of both the Z and E isomers of 11 (0.127 g, 99.6%) as a red solid, which were used without further purification. R_f (10% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂)=0.67. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, [CD₃]₂CO): 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.46 (d, J=10 Hz, 6H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.34 (t, J=10 Hz, 6H), 7.25 (m, 3H), 4.73 (m, 1H), 3.38 (m, 6H), 2.94 (m, 4H), 2.80 (m, 4H), 2.69 (d, J=5 Hz, 3H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 1.96 (m, 4H). ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz; CDCl₃) b: 191.2, 168.9, 164.6, 159.8, 154.4, 150.6, 147.7, 144.6, 143.6, 129.5, 127.8, 126.5, 123.3, 119.4, 116.9, 110.3, 109.8, 108.8, 108.5, 105.6, 105.4, 66.6, 50.0, 49.5, 29.9, 27.6, 26.2, 21.0 (Extra peaks present likely due to mixture of Z and E isomers). HRA-MS(+) Calculated for C₄₄H₄₂N₄O₄S [M⁺] 722.2927; found 722.2934.

[0306] Synthesis of RDP-1 ((2E)-2-cyano-N-methyl-3-{6-methyl-4-oxo-3-oxa-13-azatetracyclo[7.7.1.0^{2,7}.0^{13,17}]heptadeca-1,5,7,9(17)-tetraen-5-yl}-N-[(1R)-1-(methylcarbonyl)-2-(octanoyl sulfanyl)ethyl]prop-2-enamide). In a vial, 11 (0.1272 g, 0.1 mmol) was dissolved in 3 mL of MeOH, followed by addition of iodine (0.0370 g, 0.2 mmol). The solution was stirred for 30 min before quenching with a 10 mL solution containing 0.2 M sodium citrate and 0.2 M sodium ascorbate in H₂O at pH 4.0. The resulting mixture was extracted into CH₂Cl₂ (3×30 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, concentrated, semi-purified by flash column chromatography (gra-

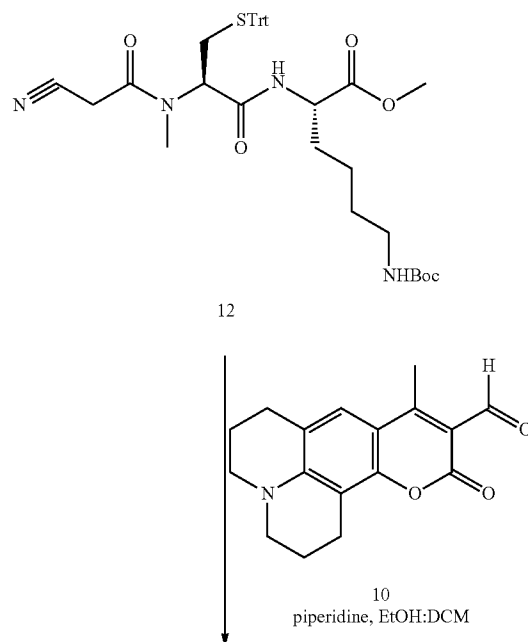
dient of 0% to 10% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂), and used without further purification. The resultant red residue was dissolved in 3 mL dry DMF in a vial under a nitrogen atmosphere, to which DTT (0.0472 g, 0.4 mmol) and then 0.05 mL of DIPEA (0.4 mmol) were added, after which the red solution turned yellow. After 5 min, product formation was confirmed by LC-MS and the solution was diluted with 1 M HCl (10 mL) and extracted into EtOAc (3×20 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated. The resulting orange-yellow oil was dissolved in 3 mL DMF and octanoic anhydride (0.72 mL, 2.4 mmol) was added immediately followed by the dropwise addition of DIPEA (0.42 mL, 2.4 mmol). After 30 min, the red solution was diluted with 30 mL brine and extracted into CH₂Cl₂ (3×30 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, concentrated, and purified by flash column chromatography (first column gradient of 0% to 100% CH₂Cl₂ in hex to 10% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂, second column 0% to 100% EtOAc in hex) to yield RDP-1 as a red solid (0.0332 g, 44.7%). R_f (5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) =0.47. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, [CD₃]₂CO): 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 5.11 (s, 1H), 4.97 (s, 1H), 3.36 (m, 6H), 3.30 (s, 1H), 3.07 (s, 1H), 2.78 (m, 10H), 2.59 (t, J=5 Hz), 2.54 (m, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 1.97 (m, 7H), 1.62 (m, 4H) HRA-MS(+) Calculated for C₃₃H₄₂N₄O₅S [M⁺] 606.2876; found 606.2874. Purity ascertained by LC-MS.

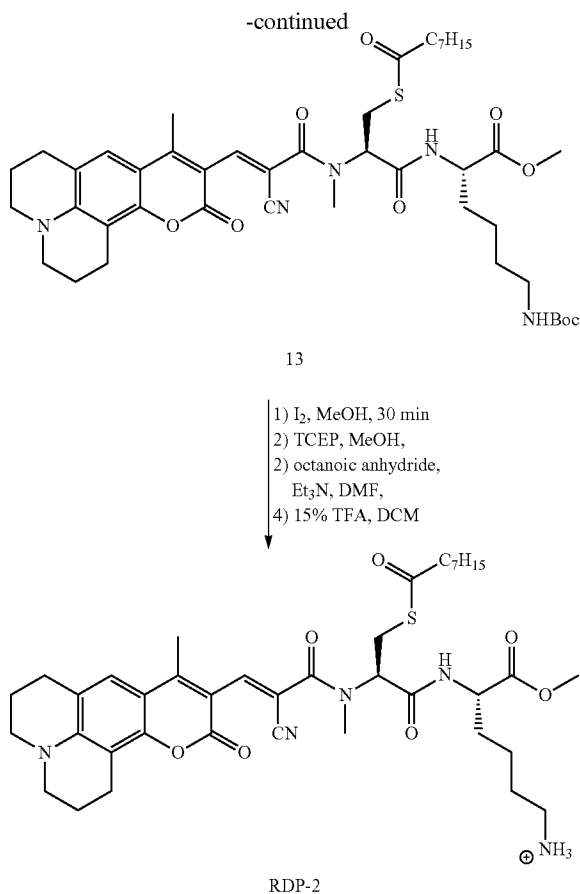
Example 9

Synthesis of RDP-2

[0307]

Scheme 5. Synthesis of RDP-2.





[0308] RDP-2 was prepared as shown above in Scheme 5 from compound 12, which was synthesized from compound 5 of Example 2.

[0309] Synthesis of 6 (methyl (2S)-6-[[[(tert-butoxy)carbonyl]amino]-2-[(2R)-2-(2-cyano-N-methylacetamido)-3-[(triphenylmethyl)sulfanyl]propanamido]-hexanoate) (12). In a vial sealed with a rubber septa and equipped with a stir bar, 5 (2.0000 g, 4.2 mmol) was dissolved in 10 mL CH₂Cl₂ and placed under a nitrogen atmosphere. Trifluoroacetic acid was slowly added until the concentration was ca. 20% v/v and allowed to stir for 1 h. After complete boc-deprotection as determined by LC-MS, the mixture was concentrated and then dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) and dried by rotary evaporation. Dissolving and drying was then repeated two additional times. After the last time, the vial was dried in vacuo and in a separate flame dried flask sealed with a septa and under nitrogen atmosphere cyanoacetic acid (1.8026 g, 21.2 mmol) and EDC.HCl (1.0156 g, 5.3 mmol) were dissolved in dry DMF (15 mL). After 1 h, 1.0000 g (2.6 mmol) of the boc-deprotected cysteine was added to the mixture of EDC and cyanoacetic acid followed by the addition of DIPEA (0.92 mL, 5.3 mmol). The resulting solution was then stirred at room temperature (rt) for 48 h before being diluted with brine (100 mL) and extracted into CH₂Cl₂ (3×100 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, concentrated, and purified by flash column chromatography (0% to 10% MeOH in 1:1 EtOAc:CH₂Cl₂) and used without further purification. R_f (10% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂)=0.38. Under a nitrogen atmo-

sphere in a flame dried vial sealed with a septa equipped with a stir bar, 1.0000 g of the resulting oil, (2.2 mmol), NH₂-Lys(Boc)-OMe.HCl (1.0014 g, 3.3 mmol), EDC.HCl (4.3122 g, 22.5 mmol), and hoBt (1.0334 g, 6.7 mmol) were cooled down to 0° C. in an ice bath before the addition of DMF (40 mL) and DIPEA (1.2 mL, 6.7 mmol). After 5 minutes of stirring at 0° C. the solution was allowed to warm up to rt. After 3 h, when complete as determined by LC-MS, the solution was diluted with brine (100 mL) and extracted into EtOAc (3×100 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, concentrated, and purified by flash column chromatography (0% to 10% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂, 2×) to yield 12 (0.3770 g, 24.4%). R_f (50% EtOAc in hexanes)=0.33. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.42 (m, 6H), 7.30 (m, 6H), 7.22 (m, 3H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 4.56 (m, 5H), 4.39 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 5H), 3.69 (s, 2H), 3.44 (s, 3H), 3.10 (m, 3H), 2.78 (s, 2H), 1.41 (s, 9H). ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz; CDCl₃) b: 172.2, 172.1, 161.7, 156.3, 144.2, 129.5, 129.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.2, 126.9, 114.6, 79.2, 67.1, 56.4, 52.8, 52.6, 52.4, 52.1, 29.5, 28.4, 25.8 HRA-MS(+) Calculated for C₃₈H₄₆N₄O₆S [M⁺] 686.3138; found 686.3142.

[0310] Synthesis of 7 (methyl (2S)-6-[[[(tert-butoxy)carbonyl]amino]-2-[(2R)-2-[(2E)-2-cyano-N-methyl-3-{6-methyl-4-oxo-3-oxa-13-azatetra-cyclo-[7.7.1.0^{2,7}.0^{13,17}]heptadeca-1,5,7,9(17)-tetraen-5-yl]prop-2-enamido]-3-[(triphenylmethyl)sulfanyl]propanamido]hexanoate) (13). In a flame-dried vial equipped with a stir bar, 12 (0.2426 g, 0.4 mmol) and 10 (0.1000 g, 0.4 mmol) were dissolved in 10 mL 9:1 dry CH₂Cl₂:dry EtOH followed by two drops of piperidine. The vial was then capped and allowed to stir at room temperature. After 48 h, an addition 0.1000 g of 10 (0.4 mmol) was added and it was allowed to stir for 48 h longer. When complete as determined by LC-MS, the reaction mixture was concentrated and purified by flash column chromatography (First column gradient of 0% to 30% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂, second column gradient of 0% to 100% EtOAc in Hexanes) to yield a mixture of both the Z and E isomers of 13 (0.0710 g, 21.1%) as a red solid, which were used without further purification. R_f (50% EtOAc in hexanes)=0.28. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, [CD₃]₂CO): 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.46 (m, 6H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.33 (m, 6H), 7.24 (m, 3H), 4.96 (m, 1H), 4.78 (s, 2H), 4.34 (m, 2H), 4.24 (m, 1H), 3.68 (m, 1H), 3.62 (s, 1H), 3.38 (m, 2H), 3.30 (m, 1H), 2.99 (m, 4H), 2.81 (m, 3H), 2.77 (m, 1H), 2.57 (m, 1H), 2.52 (m, 1H), 2.45 (m, 1H), 1.96 (m, 6H), 1.50 (m, 3H), 1.40 (m, 3H), 1.34 (m, 9H), 1.29 (m, 1H) ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz; [CD₃]₂CO) b: 173.0947, 169.116, 165.3539, 160.8237, 155.8995, 151.5859, 151.4283, 148.6708, 148.1291, 145.6671, 144.6527, 130.3529, 128.8953, 128.787, 127.7135, 127.5264, 124.5226, 120.5734, 117.7371, 111.9364, 111.2766, 110.8531, 109.238, 109.1001, 106.1259, 78.2747, 67.2249, 53.9198, 52.1372, 50.6403, 50.0986, 40.7131, 31.2981, 30.9337, 28.6489, 28.2352, 24.1974, 22.0012, 21.8831, 20.849, 20.6717, 15.649 (extra peaks present likely due to mixture of Z and E isomers). HRA-MS(+) Calculated for C₅₅H₆₁N₅O₈S [M⁺] 951.4241; found 951.4222.

[0311] Synthesis of RDP-2 ((5S)-5-[(2R)-2-[(2E)-2-cyano-N-methyl-3-{6-methyl-4-oxo-3-oxa-13-azatetracyclo[7.7.1.0^{2,7}.0^{13,17}]heptadeca-1,5,7,9(17)-tetraen-5-yl]prop-2-enamido]-3-(octanoylsulfanyl)propanamido]-6-methoxy-6-oxohexan-1-aminium). Iodine (0.0379 g, 0.02 mmol) was added in one portion to a mixture of 13 (0.0710 g, 0.01 mmol) and 1 mL MeOH in a vial equipped with a stirbar. After 30 mins, the solution was quenched with a

solution of 0.2 M sodium citrate and 0.2 M sodium ascorbate in water at pH 4.0 (5 mL) and extracted into CH_2Cl_2 (3×15 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated before redissolving in MeOH (1 mL) and a solution of (tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine) (0.4278 g, 1.5 mmol) in MeOH 1 mL and 0.5 mL water was added. After 2 h, the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and dissolved in 1 mL DMF. Octanoic anhydride (0.22 mL, 0.75 mmol) was then added followed by trimethylamine dropwise over 10 mins (0.10 mL, 0.75 mmol). After 30 mins, the solution was diluted with brine (5 mL) and the pH was adjusted to 8 with 1 M NaOH before extracting into CH_2Cl_2 (3×10 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, concentrated, and purified by flash column chromatography (first column gradient of 0% to 20% MeOH in CH_2Cl_2 , second column gradient of 0% to 100% EtOAc in hexanes, third column gradient of 0% to 5% MeOH in CH_2Cl_2) R_f (5% MeOH in CH_2Cl_2)=0.38. HRA-MS(+) Calculated for $\text{C}_{44}\text{H}_{61}\text{N}_5\text{O}_9\text{S}$ [M+] 835.4190; found 835.4197. The resulting oil was then dissolved in 0.5 mL DCM containing 15% v/v TFA and stirred for 30 min at room temperature. The solution was then concentrated and purified by flash column chromatography (first column gradient of 0% to 20% MeOH in CH_2Cl_2 , second column gradient of 0% to 10% MeOH in CH_2Cl_2) yielding 0.0042 g (6.3%) of red oil. R_f (5% MeOH in CH_2Cl_2)=0.50. HRA-MS(+) Calculated for $\text{C}_{39}\text{H}_{54}\text{N}_5\text{O}_7\text{S}$ [M+] 736.3744; found 736.3807. Purity ascertained by LC-MS.

Example 10

Photophysical Properties of RDPs

[0312] The photophysical properties of RDP-1 and RDP-2 were tested in vitro. RDP-1 and RDP-2 have absorbance maxima at 470 nm and 473 nm, respectively. See FIGS. 19A and 20A. Upon deacylation, the absorbance maxima dramatically shift to 406 nm and 407 nm, respectively, indicating that the Michael addition is occurring as designed. See FIG. 2. Illumination with either 430 or 480 nm light permits selective excitation of the two forms of the probe, with the fluorescence emission upon 430 nm excitation increasing upon deacylation (see FIG. 19B for RDP-1) and the fluorescence emission upon 480 nm excitation decreasing upon deacylation. See FIG. 19C for RDP-1. These ratiometric fluorescence responses were used to monitor enzymatic activity of RDP-1 and RDP-2 with purified human APT1 and APT2, incubation 1 μM probe with 200 nM enzyme results in a rapid change in the ratiometric response, with a ratio change from 0.7 to 34 for RDP-1 (see FIG. 19D) and 1.9 to 16 for RDP-2 after just 20 min. See FIG. 20B. Neither RDP-1 nor RDP-2 responds to catalytically inactive APTs or 20 mM glutathione. See FIGS. 21A and 21B.

Example 11

Measurement of APT Activity in Live Cells with RDPs

[0313] The ability of the RDPs to visualize endogenous S-depalmitoylase activity in living cells was evaluated using fluorescence spectroscopy. Similar to the in vitro ratiometric fluorescence studies, the redder emission (480/20 nm, excitation, 575/40 nm emission) and bluer emission (430/24 nm

excitation, 470/24 nm emission) were monitored simultaneously, and the intensities were divided at both wavelengths to generate ratiometric images. The percent deprotected dye was estimated by assuming a linear relationship between the acylated (0%) and deacylated dye (100%). Treating data in this way has the benefit of allowing for the comparison of the probes in situations where there are differences in microscope settings day to day or between different cell or tissue types. Treatment of HEK293T cells with 1 μM RDP-1 or RDP-2 for 10 min results in about 28% and 18% depalmitoylation, respectively. See FIGS. 22 and 23. Pretreatment of the cells with the non-specific S-depalmitoylase inhibitor PalmB decreased the measured depalmitoylation activity almost in half for RDP-1 and RDP-2. See FIGS. 22 and 23. Treating cells with either ATP1 or APT2-selective inhibitor, ML348 and ML349, respectively, resulted in a slight increase in depalmitoylation activity from RDP-1. See FIGS. 24 and 25. Without being bound to any one theory, this observation was attributed to possible compensatory mechanisms, including changes in localization of other APTs that mask effects for the pan-depalmitoylase probe, RDP-1. In contrast, RDP-2 showed an about 30% decrease in depalmitoylation activity in ML348-treated HEK293T cells and an increase by about 12% upon ML349 treatment. See FIGS. 26A and 26B.

[0314] Without being bound to any one theory, the increase in RDP-2 signal upon APT2 inhibition is believed to be attributable to APT1 activation or change in localization to compensate for the loss of APT2, suggesting that RDP-2, which includes a lysine residue, is more sensitive to changes in APT1 activity, further illustrating why the unselective probe, RDP-1, shows increased activity with selective inhibitors. APT2 knockdown experiments with RDP-2 reveal that the compensatory APT activity only occurs with transient inhibition of APT2, while knocking down APT1 decreases RDP-2 deacylation similar to the levels with ML348. See FIGS. 27 and 28.

Example 12

Measurement of APT Activity in Organoids with RDPs

[0315] To determine the ability of RDPs to measure enzymatic activity in heterogenous primary tissue samples, human colon organoids were selected as an exemplary model in which to detect endogenous S-depalmitoylases and human metabolism. Imaging organoids can be challenging due to the high level of heterogeneity inherent to the tissue, and therefore, provides a challenging testbed to assay the presently disclosed probes. Colon organoids loaded with RDP-2 confirm that these human tissues have S-depalmitoylase activity. See FIG. 29. Pretreating the organoids with PalmB inhibited the measured S-depalmitoylation by about 50%. Furthermore, an about 20% decrease in S-depalmitoylase activity was observed when the organoids were treated with ML348, suggesting that APT1-like activity is present in the human colon. See FIG. 30. Accordingly, these studies show that RDPs can monitor endogenous APTs in primary tissue samples. A high degree of structural heterogeneity was observed between the organoids, substantiating the usefulness of the ratiometric nature of the RDP probes.

Example 13

Measurement of APT Activity Changes with RDPs
During Lipid Stress

[0316] RDPs were tested for their ability to measure subtle changes to endogenous S-depalmitoylases during lipid stress conditions. Dysregulated fatty acid synthesis and stress has been observed in several diseases including cancer and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. See Rohrig and Schulze, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 2016, 16, 732-749; Zhang et al., *Lipids Health Dis.*, 2012, 11, 1; and Nissar et al., *Toxicol. Res. (Bamb)*, 2015, 4, 1344-1358. As the liver is a major center of production of fatty acids, HEPG2 cells were chosen for study as they should be particularly sensitive to changes in fatty acid pools. See Rohrig and Schulze, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 2016, 16, 732-749. Additionally, treatment of HEPG2 with palmitate has been previously demonstrated to alter lipid metabolism and cause ER stress. Zhang et al., *Lipids Health Dis.*, 2012, 11, 1; and Nissar et al., *Toxicol. Res. (Bamb)*, 2015, 4, 1344-1358.

[0317] PalmB treatment of HEPG2 cells displayed an about 60% decrease in deacylation of RDP-1, confirming that the present probes can monitor APT activity in HEPG2 cells. See FIG. 31. Pretreatment of HEPG2 cells with palmitate for 6 hours resulted in a decrease in APT activity, as measured by RDP-1. See FIG. 32. Thus, the present study appears to validate the presence of a link between cellular lipid status and S-depalmitoylation activity.

Example 14

Methods and Materials for Examples 15-18

[0318] Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) Glutamax (10569-010, Gibco, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America), fetal bovine serum (FBS, Qualified US origin; Gibco, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America), Live Cell Imaging Solution (A14291DJ, Molecular Probes, Eugene, Oreg., United States of America), Opti-MEM (31985-070, Gibco, Gaithersburg, Md., United States of America), and Hoechst 33342 (Fisher, Hampton, N.H., United States of America), were purchased as mentioned in parenthesis. Silica gel P60 (SiliCycle Inc. Quebec City Canada; 40-63 μm , 230-400 mesh) was used for column chromatography. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed using SiliCycle 60 F254 silica gel (precoated sheets, 0.25 mm thick; SiliCycle Inc., Quebec City, Canada). All chemicals for synthesis were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, Mo., United States of America) or Fisher Scientific (Pittsburgh, Pa., United States of America) and used as received. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were collected in NMR solvents CDCl_3 (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, Mo., United States of America) at 25° C. using a 500 MHz Bruker Avance II+ spectrometer (Bruker Corporation, Billerica, Mass., United States of America) with 5 mm QNP probe or 400 MHz Bruker DRX400 spectrometer (Bruker Corporation, Billerica, Mass., United States of America). ^1H -NMR chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to the peak of residual proton signals from (CDCl_3 7.26 ppm). Multiplicities are given as: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), dd (doublet of doublets), m (multiplet). ^{13}C -NMR chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to the peak of residual proton signals from (CDCl_3 77.16 ppm). Analysis of NMR was

done in iNMR version 5.5.1. and NMR plots were obtained from Topspin 2.1. High resolution mass was obtained from Agilent 6224 time-of-flight (TOF) High Resolution Accurate Mass Spectrometer (HRA-MS) (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, Calif., United States of America) using combination of APCI and ESI. Low resolution mass spectral analyses and liquid chromatography analysis were carried out on an Advion Expression-L mass spectrometer (Advion, Ithaca, N.Y., United States of America) coupled with an Agilent 1220 Infinity LC System (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, Calif., United States of America). In vitro biochemical assays with purified APT1/APT2 enzymes were performed on Biotek synergy Neo2 plate reader (BioTek, Winooski, Vt., United States of America).

[0319] In Vitro Kinetic Assays and Emission Spectra of DPP-1, DPP-4, and DPP-5.

[0320] 150 μL of 2 μM DPP-1, DPP4 or DPP-5 in HEPES (20 mM, pH=7.4, 150 mM NaCl) were added to a 96-well optical bottom plate (Nunc 265301, Fisher Scientific, Pittsburgh, Pa., United States of America) at room temperature. 150 μL of either HEPES buffer alone or HEPES buffer containing 100 nM APT1 or APT2 (purification using previous methods), was added using a multi-channel pipette, resulting in a final concentration of 1 μM DPP-1/DPP4/DPP-5 and 50 nM APT1 or APT2. Fluorescence intensities (λ_{ex} 490/20 nm, λ_{em} 545/20 nm, Gain 80, read from bottom with height 4.5 mm, and sweep method) were measured at 15 s time intervals for 30 min at 37° C. Following the 30 min kinetic run, emission spectra were obtained (λ_{ex} 480/20 nm, λ_{em} 515-700 nm, Gain 80, read from bottom with height 4.5 mm, and sweep method).

[0321] Enzyme Kinetics Analysis of DPP-5.

[0322] 150 μL of 1 M DTT in HEPES buffer was added to different concentrations of 150 μL DPP-5 and then the stable fluorescence intensities of totally deacylated product were measured by the methods described above. Fluorescence intensity of per molar deacylated-product was then calculated by linear least-squares fitting of plots of fluorescence vs. concentration. For Michaelis-Menten constant, in vitro kinetics curves were obtained for different final concentrations of DPP-5 in HEPES with 50 nM APT1 or APT2. The fluorescence intensities measured were then normalized to the concentrations of product by fluorescence-intensity-permolar-product. A Lineweaver-Burk plot was used to calculate the Michaelis constant, K_M , and the maximum velocity, V_{max} , which is proportional to k_{cat} by concentration of APT1 or APT2. All fits have R^2 values of >0.99.

[0323] Log P Analysis of DPP-1/4/5.

[0324] 2 μL of 1 mM of DPP-1/4/5 was dissolved in 500 μL of HEPES buffer in two 1.5 mL tubes. To one tube, 500 μL of 1-octanol was added and the tube was shaken for 10 min followed by keeping it undisturbed for 10 min. Then, 10 μL of aqueous phase from each tube was placed in a 96 well plate reader. To this, 190 μL of 1M NaOH was added and fluorescence intensities (λ_{ex} 490/20 nm, λ_{em} 545/20 nm, Gain 80, read from bottom with height 4.5 mm, and sweep method) were measured at 15 second time intervals for 1 hr at room temperature. The fluorescence read out at saturation was used to calculate Log P values by following equation:

$$\log P = \log(F_{oct}/F_{aq})$$

$$F_{oct} = F_{total} - F_{aq}$$

where: F_{oct} =Fluorescence of 1-octanol fraction;
 F_{aq} =Fluorescence of the aqueous fraction after treatment

with 1-octanol, and F_{total} = Fluorescence of the aqueous fraction with no treatment with 1-octanol.

[0325] Cell Culture and Maintenance.

[0326] HEK293T, HeLa cells, and HepG2 cells were obtained and maintained as described in Example 1.

[0327] Epifluorescent Imaging of DPP-5 with PalmB.

[0328] 250,000 HEK293T cells/well, 120,000 HeLa cells/well, or 100,000 HepG2 cells/well were plated in 700 μ L DMEM glutamax (10% FBS+1% P/S) into 4-well chambered imaging dish (D35C4-20-1.5-N, Cellvis, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America), which were pre-coated with 5 μ g Poly-D-lysine (30-70 KDa, Alfa Aesar, Haverhill, Mass., United States of America) for 2 h. After 20-24 h, the media was replaced by 1 μ M Hoechst 33342 and DMSO/5 μ M PalmB in 400 μ L DMEM glutamax. After 30 min of incubation at 37° C., the cells were washed with 400 μ L of Live Cell Imaging Solution and replaced by 1 μ M DPP-5 with DMSO or 5 μ M of PalmB in Live Cell Imaging Solution. After 20 min of incubation at 37° C., images were obtained on an inverted epifluorescence microscope (Olympus IX83; Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) attached with EMCCD camera (Photometrics EVOLVE™ Delta, Photometrics, Tucson, Ariz., United States of America) with 40x oil objective (N/A 1.3) for DPP-5 (excitation filter 500/20, dichroic chroma 89007, emission filter 535/30), Hoechst 33342 (excitation filter 402/15, emission filter 455/50, dichroic chroma 89013), and brightfield. Analyses were performed in ImageJ. For data analysis, the average fluorescence intensity per image in each experimental condition was obtained by selecting ROI in Brightfield and applying that to the corresponding DPP-5 image, average background fluorescence intensity was subtracted and data was normalized to the average fluorescence intensity of the DMSO control. Each experiment was repeated in at least two biological replicates with identical results.

[0329] Epifluorescent Imaging of DPP-5 with ML348 and ML349.

[0330] 16,000 HepG2 cells/well were plated in 100 μ L DMEM glutamax (10% fetal bovine serum (FBS)) into 4 wells of a 96-well chambered imaging dish (P96-1-N, Cellvis, Mountain View Calif., United States of America), which were pre-coated with 0.7 μ g Poly-D-lysine (30-70 KDa, Alfa Aesar, Haverhill, Mass., United States of America) for 2 hrs. After 24 h, cells were washed with Live Cell Imaging Solution and replaced by 1 μ M Hoechst 33342 and DMSO/10 μ M ML348/10 μ M ML349/10 μ M of both ML348 and ML349 in 100 μ L DMEM glutamax. After 30 min of incubation at 37° C., the cells were washed with 100 μ L of Live Cell Imaging Solution and replaced by 1 μ M DPP-5 in Live Cell Imaging Solution. After 20 min of incubation at 37° C., images were obtained on an inverted epifluorescence microscope (Leica DMi8; Leica Microsystems, Wetzlar, Germany) equipped with a camera (Hamamatsu Orca-Flash 4.0; Hamamatsu, Hamamatsu City, Japan) with 63x oil objective (N/A 1.4) and light source (Sutter Lamda XL, 300 W Xenon; Sutter Instrument, Novato, Calif., United States of America) for DPP-5 (YFP filter cube 1525306), Hoechst 33342 (DAPI filter cube), and brightfield using Leica LASX software (Leica Microsystems, Wetzlar, Germany). Analyses were performed in ImageJ. Each experiment was repeated in three biological replicates and 8-12 images were considered for plotting bar graphs for quantification. For detailed data analysis, the average fluorescence intensity per image in each experimental condition was obtained by

selecting ROI in Brightfield and applying that to the corresponding DPP-5 image, average background fluorescence intensity was subtracted and data was normalized to the average fluorescence intensity of the control experiment. Epifluorescent imaging for comparing DPP-1, DPP-4 and DPP-5. 250,000 HEK293T cells/well were plated in 700 μ L DMEM glutamax (10% FBS+1% P/S) into three wells of a 4-well chambered imaging dish (D35C4-20-1.5-N, Cellvis, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America), which were pre-coated with 5 μ g Poly-D-lysine (30-70 KDa, Alfa Aesar, Haverhill, Mass., United States of America) for 2 h. After 18 h, the media was replaced by 1 μ M Hoechst 33342 in 400 μ L DMEM glutamax. After 30 min of incubation at 37° C., the cells were washed with 400 μ L of Live Cell Imaging Solution and replaced by 1 μ M DPP-1/DPP-4/DPP-5 in Live Cell Imaging Solution. After 20 min of incubation at 37° C., images were obtained and analyzed as described above.

[0331] Epifluorescent Imaging of DPP-5 with Palmitate.

[0332] 100,000 HepG2 cells/well were plated in 700 μ L DMEM glutamax (10% FBS) into two wells of a 4-well chambered imaging dish (D35C4-20-1.5-N, Cellvis, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America), which were pre-coated with 5 μ g Poly-D-lysine (30-70 KDa, Alfa Aesar, Haverhill, Mass., United States of America) for 2 hrs. After 18 h, media was replaced by 500 μ L DMEM glutamax for starvation. After 6 h of starvation, cells were treated for another 6 h with 500 μ L of 1% BSA±1 mM Palmitate made with DMEM glutamax. Then, 20 μ L of 21 μ M Hoechst 33342 in DMEM glutamax was added to each well such that final concentration of Hoechst 33342 is 1 μ M. After 30 min of incubation at 37° C., the cells were washed with 400 μ L of Live Cell Imaging Solution and replaced by 1 μ M DPP-5 in Live Cell Imaging Solution. After 20 min of incubation at 37° C., images were obtained and analysis was performed as described above. Each experiment was repeated in two biological replicates with identical results.

[0333] Epifluorescent Imaging of DPP-5 with PalmB on Palmitate Treatment.

[0334] 13,000 HepG2 cells/well were plated in 100 μ L DMEM glutamax (10% FBS) into 4 wells of a 96-well chambered imaging dish (P96-1-N, Cellvis, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America). After 18 h, media was replaced by 100 μ L DMEM glutamax for starvation. After 6 h of starvation, cells were treated for another 6 h with 100 μ L of 1% BSA±1 mM Palmitate made with DMEM glutamax. Then, 100 μ L of 1 μ M Hoechst 33342 prepared in 1% BSA±1 mM Palmitate with DMSO/5 μ M PalmB was added to respective wells. After 30 min of incubation at 37° C., the cells were washed with 100 μ L of Live Cell Imaging Solution and replaced by 1 μ M DPP-5 in Live Cell Imaging Solution. After 20 min of incubation at 37° C., images were obtained on Leica epi-fluorescent microscope (Leica Microsystems, Wetzlar, Germany) and analyzed as described above.

[0335] Epifluorescent Imaging of Diacetyl Rhodol on Palmitate Treatment.

[0336] 13,000 HepG2 cells/well were plated in 100 μ L DMEM glutamax (10% FBS) into 2 wells of a 96-well chambered imaging dish (P96-1-N, Cellvis, Mountain View, Calif., United States of America). After 18 h, media was replaced by 100 μ L DMEM glutamax for starvation. After 6 h of starvation, cells were treated for another 6 h with 100 μ L of 1% BSA±1 mM Palmitate made with DMEM gluta-

max. Then, 100 μ L of 1 μ M Hoechst 33342 prepared in 1% BSA \pm 1 mM Palmitate was added to respective wells. After 30 min of incubation at 37 $^{\circ}$ C., the cells were washed with 100 μ L of Live Cell Imaging Solution and replaced by 1 μ M diacetyl rhodol in Live Cell Imaging Solution. After 20 min of incubation at 37 $^{\circ}$ C., images were obtained on Leica epifluorescent microscope (Leica Microsystems, Wetlar, Germany) and analyzed as described above.

[0337] Flexible Ligand-Rigid Receptor Molecular Docking.

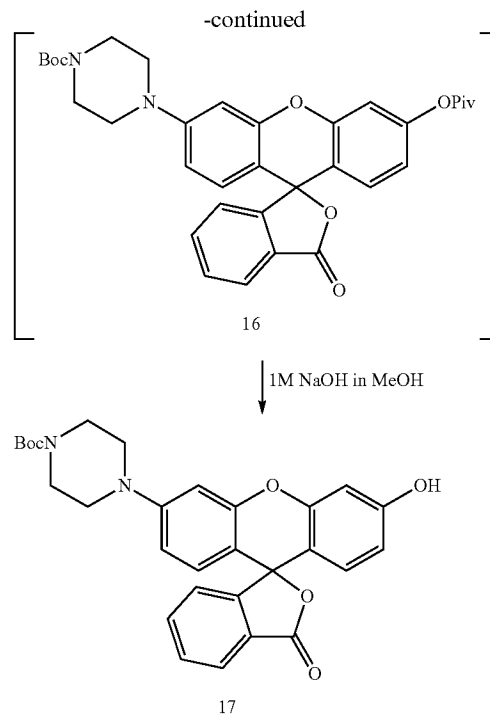
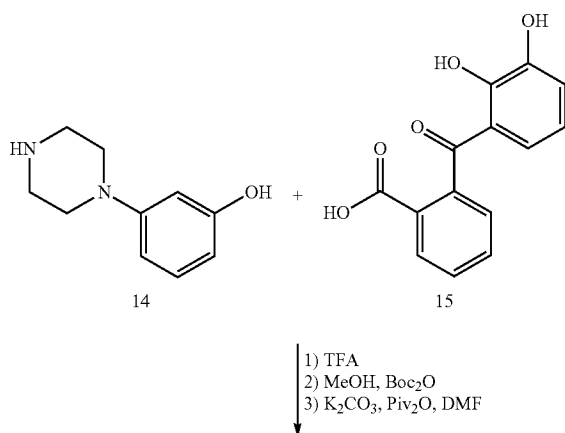
[0338] Flexible ligand-rigid receptor molecular docking was performed with DPP-4 and DPP-5 using Autodock Vina 1.1.2 (exhaustiveness=1024) (see Trott and Olson (2010) *J Comput Chem* 31, 455-461) on a homebuilt server with an Intel Xeon E3-1220 V3 3.1 GHz Quad-Core Processor and 16 GB of ECC RAM running the latest stable release of Debian 8 Linux. Ligands were prepared in Avogadro 1.1.1 (see Hanwell et al. (2012) *J Cheminform* 4, 17) and MGL-Tools 1.5.7rc1 (see Morris et al. (2009) *J Comput Chem* 30, 2785-2791) with energy minimization carried out using the MMFF94s forcefield as implemented in openbabel 2.3.2. See O'Boyle et al. (2011) *J Cheminform* 3, 33. Receptor structures PDB: 5SYM and 5SYN (see Won et al. (2016) *ACS Chem Biol* 11, 3374-3382) were prepared in PyMOL 1.7 (Schrodinger, LLC, New York, N.Y., United States of America). Existing hydrogens, where present, were removed and replaced using MolProbity 4.4 (see Chen et al. (2010) *Acta Crystallogr D Biol Crystallogr* 66, 12-21) to ensure the structure properly modeled protonation at pH 7.4. Grid volumes were set to enclose the active site. Analysis of the lowest five energy confirmations and generation of figures were performed using PyMOL.

Example 15

Synthesis of DPP-4 and DPP-5

[0339]

Scheme 6. Synthesis of Compound 17.



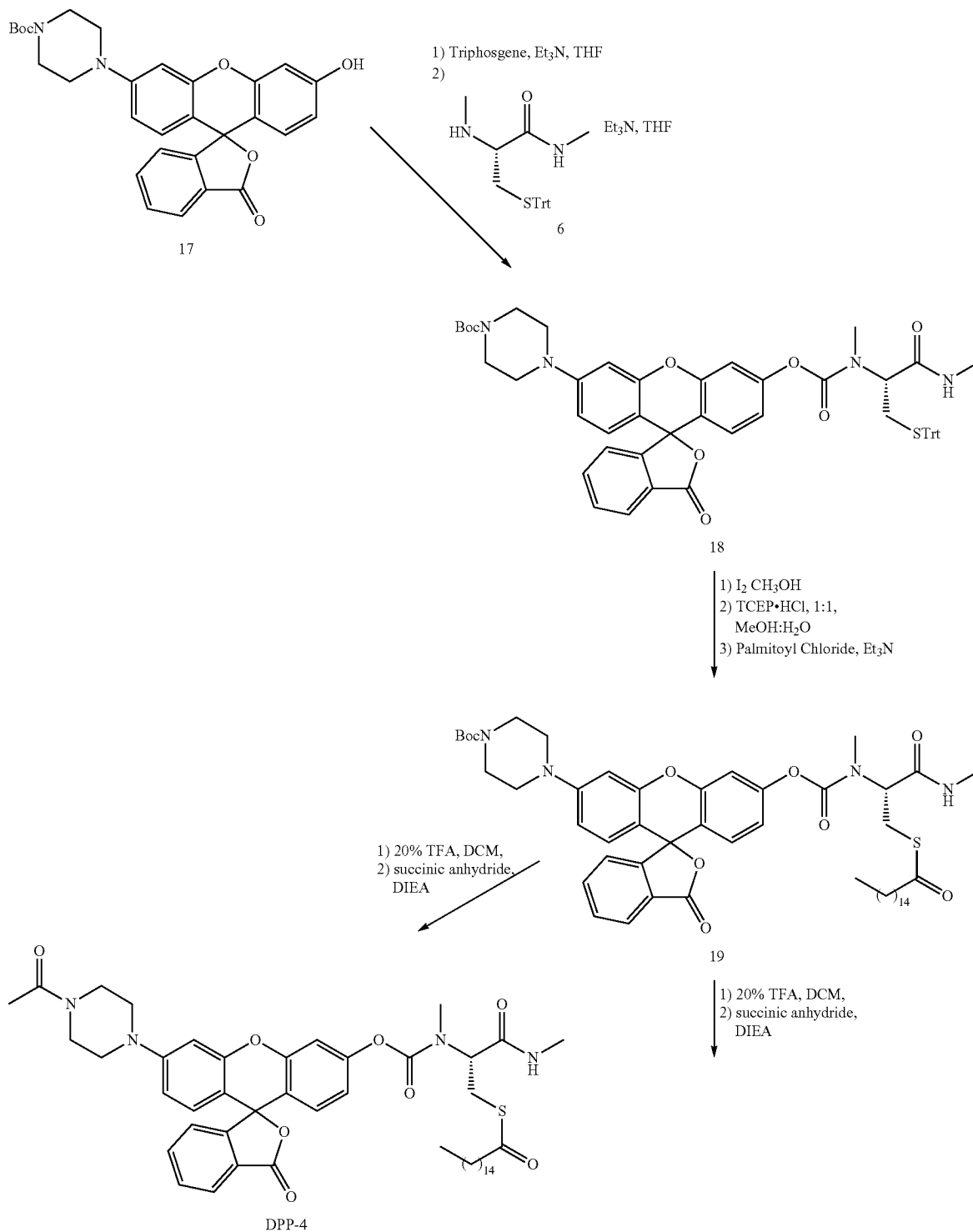
[0340] The synthesis of intermediate Boc-protected rhodol (compound 17) used in the preparation of additional DPPs comprising piperazine-based fluorophore substitutions was performed as shown above in Scheme 6 via a route adapted from the literature. See Dickinson and Chang (2008) *J Am Chem Soc* 130, 9638-9639.

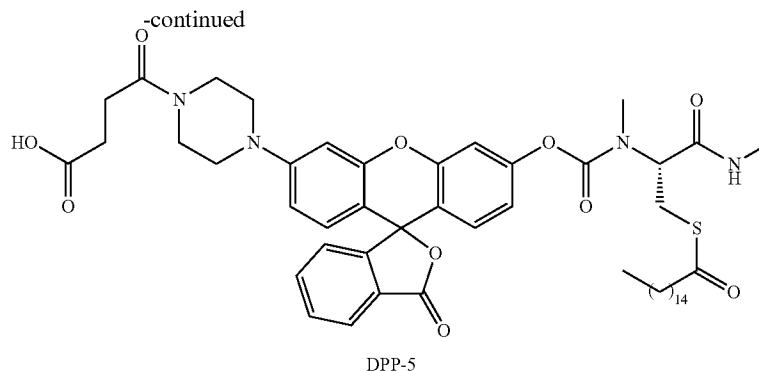
[0341] Briefly, to a mixture of 14 (2.143 g, 1.0 eq, 12.02 mmol) and 15 (see Smith et al. (1993) *J Chem Soc, Perkin Trans 2*, 1195-1204) (3.053 g, 1.0 eq, 11.82 mmol) in a pressure flask, TFA (5 mL) was added, and the resulting reaction mixture was stirred at 95 $^{\circ}$ C. for 9 h. The reaction mixture was diluted 3 \times with 30 mL of DCM, followed by rotatory evaporation to remove the residual TFA. To the resultant crude material, Et₃N (7.2 mL, 5 eq, 51.7 mmol) and MeOH (25 mL) were added. After stirring for 5 min, Boc₂O (2.106 g, 0.93 eq, 9.6 mmol) was added. After stirring the resultant reaction mixture overnight at room temperature, the MeOH was removed by rotatory evaporation. To the crude mixture, K₂CO₃ (4.287 g, 3.0 eq, 31.0 mmol), pivalic anhydride (2.1 mL, 1.0 eq, 10.3 mmol) and DMF (15 mL) were added and the reaction stirred for 1 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with 30 mL DCM, filtered, and evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (Silica; 0-20% EtOAc:DCM) to yield 16. The combined fractions of 16 were evaporated and dissolved in MeOH (60 mL), to which 3 M NaOH (30 mL) was added, and reaction mixture stirred for 30 min at room temperature. The reaction mixture was then evaporated by rotatory evaporation, the crude product was diluted by DCM (50 mL), and then washed by aq. HCl (pH~3-4). The aqueous layer was further extracted by DCM 2 \times 30 mL, the combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, and then evaporated to give a crude product. Purification by column chromatography (Silica; 0-5% MeOH:DCM) yielded 17 (3.892 g, 65%). Rf: 0.41 (Silica; 5% MeOH:DCM). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 9.04-8.92 (b, 1H), 8.02 (dd, J=6.4, 1.9 Hz,

1H), 7.61-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.09 (m, 1H), 6.73 (d, J=8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.67-6.64 (m, 2H), 6.60-6.52 (m, 3H), 3.51 (d, J=4.7 Hz, 4H), 3.21 (s, 4H), 1.46 (s, 9H). ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz; CDCl₃): 170.3, 162.1, 154.9, 153.8, 153.5, 148.6,

134.0, 129.8, 129.6, 129.5, 129.2, 126.2, 125.2, 114.3, 112.5, 111.3, 110.7, 103.1, 80.6, 53.5, 52.4, 49.2, 47.7, 28.5, 27.2, 27.1. HRA-MS(+): Calculated for C₂₉H₂₈N₂O₆ [M+]
500.1947; found 500.1953.

Scheme 7. Synthesis of DPP-4 and DPP-5





[0342] The synthesis of additional DPPs was then performed as shown in Scheme 7, above, using intermediate Boc-protected rhodol 17 and compound 6 described above in Example 2.

[0343] Synthesis of 18.

[0344] To a solution of 17 (306.4 mg, 0.612 mmol, 1.0 eq) in dry THF (7 mL) Et₃N (0.8 M, 0.77 mL, 0.613 mmol, 1.0 eq) was added. The resultant solution was added dropwise over 15 min to a solution of triphosgene (181.6 mg, 0.612 mmol, 1.0 eq) in dry THF (5 mL) in an ice bath. After 5 min, the ice bath was replaced by a 40° C. water bath and N₂ flushed through the reaction mixture to evaporate the solvent completely. Then, the 40° C. water bath was removed and the crude product was suspended in dry THF (4 mL). To this reaction mixture, 6 (0.32 M, 1.88 mL, 0.609 mmol, 1.0 eq), followed by Et₃N (0.8 M, 0.77 mL, 0.613 mmol, 1.0 eq), were added dropwise. After 15 min of stirring, the reaction mixture was quenched by five drops of 1M HCl and the solvent evaporated by rotary evaporation. The crude reaction crude was purified by column chromatography (Silica; 5-25% EtOAc:DCM) to yield 18 (259.8 mg; 46%). Rf: 0.39 (Silica; 15% EtOAc:DCM). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 8.05 (t, J=6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.45 (m, 6H), 7.33-7.09 (m, 11H), 6.84-6.63 (m, 5H), 6.15-6.07 (m, 1H), 4.35 (m, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (t, J=4.8 Hz, 4H), 3.25 (d, J=4.5 Hz, 4H), 2.90 (d, J=0.8 Hz, 2H), 2.83-2.68 (m, 5H), 1.53 (s, 10H). ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 169.4, 169.1, 169.1, 155.0, 154.6, 153.0, 153.0, 152.9, 152.8, 152.4, 152.2, 151.9, 151.9, 144.4, 135.1, 129.8, 129.6, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.0, 126.8, 126.6, 125.0, 124.0, 123.9, 117.3, 117.3, 116.5, 116.4, 112.3, 110.3, 110.2, 109.1, 102.2, 82.8, 82.7, 80.1, 67.2, 67.1, 67.1, 67.0, 58.5, 48.1, 31.3, 30.8, 30.7, 30.3, 28.4, 26.3, 26.1. HRA-MS(+): Calculated for C₅₄H₅₂N₄O₈S [M⁺] 916.3506; found 916.3508.

[0345] Synthesis of 19.

[0346] To a solution of 18 (408 mg, 0.445 mmol, 1.0 eq) in MeOH (10 mL), I₂ (226 mg in 4 mL MeOH; 0.890 mmol, 2.0 eq) was added dropwise over 5 min. The reaction mixture was quenched with a solution of 0.2 M sodium citrate and 0.2 M sodium ascorbate at pH ~3-4 until the yellow color disappeared. The quenched reaction mix was diluted with DCM (25 mL) and washed with brine (25 mL). The aqueous layer was washed again with DCM (25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated by rotary evaporation. The resultant crude containing the disulfide product was suspended with 1 mL H₂O and dissolved with minimal amount of MeOH. Then TCEP. HCl (638 mg, 2.23 mmol, 5.0 eq) was added. The reaction

mixture was stirred at room temperature until no starting material was observed by LC-MS. The reaction was treated with 20 mL 0.1 M HCl and extracted with 25 mL DCM. The aqueous layer was washed again with DCM (25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated by rotary evaporation. The resultant crude containing the free thiol product was dissolved with 4 mL DCM and added into palmitoyl chloride (405 μL, 1.335 mmol, 3.0 eq). The red solution was treated with Et₃N dropwise until no starting material was observed by LC-MS. The resulting reaction mixture was diluted with DCM (25 mL) and washed with concentrated NaHCO₃ followed by brine (20 mL). The aqueous layer was washed again with DCM (20 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated by rotary evaporation. Purification by column chromatography (Silica; 0-100% Ethyl acetate in Hexane plus 2% MeOH) afforded 19 as light red oil (240.4 mg, 59.2%). Purity was assayed by LC/MS. R_f: 0.53 (Silica; 1:2 EtOAc:DCM). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 8.03 (d, J=7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.69-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.10 (m, 2H), 6.83-6.77 (m, 2H), 6.70-6.61 (m, 3H), 6.26 (m, 1H), 4.83-4.71 (m, 1H), 3.59 (s, 4H), 3.48 (dd, J=14.2, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.37-3.31 (m, 1H), 3.23 (s, 4H), 3.06 (s, 2H), 2.95 (s, 1H), 2.87 (t, J=4.7 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (t, J=4.2 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (m, 2H), 1.65 (dt, J=14.9, 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.27 (s, 32H), 0.89 (t, J=6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 198.6, 169.3, 169.2, 155.1, 154.6, 152.8, 152.3, 152.2, 151.9, 135.1, 129.8, 128.9, 126.6, 125.2, 80.1, 44.1, 31.9, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 29.2, 29.1, 28.9, 28.4, 27.3, 25.5, 22.6, 14.1. HRA-MS(+): Calculated for C₅₁H₆₈N₄O₉S [M⁺] 912.4707; found 912.4720.

[0347] Synthesis of DPP-4. A solution of 19 (61.0 mg, 66.8 pmol, 1.0 eq) in 20% TFA:DCM (5 mL) was stirred for 30 min at room temperature, followed by dilution with DCM (3×20 mL) and evaporation by rotatory evaporation. The resulting crude was suspended in DCM (5 mL) and acetic anhydride (51 μL, 0.540 mmol, 8.0 eq) was added followed by slowly addition of DIEA until reaction was completed. The reaction mix was diluted with DCM (20 mL) then washed with concentrated NaHCO₃ followed by brine (20 mL). The aqueous layer was washed again with DCM (20 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated by rotary evaporation.

[0348] Purification by column chromatography (Silica; 50% DCM in ethyl acetate with 0-5% MeOH) afforded DPP-4 as colorless oil (35.0 mg, 61.4%). R_f: 0.2 (Silica; 1:1 EtOAc:DCM). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz; CDCl₃): δ 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.69-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.10 (m, 2H), 6.85-6.77 (m, 2H),

6.70-6.67 (m, 2H), 6.62 (dd, $J=8.9$, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.25 (br, 1H), 4.82-4.70 (m, 1H), 3.79-3.74 (m, 2H), 3.63 (t, $J=4.9$ Hz, 2H), 3.48 (dd, $J=14.1$, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.37-3.24 (m, 5H), 3.06 (s, 2H), 2.96 (s, 1H), 2.88 (t, $J=3.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.83 (t, $J=3.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.56 (m, 2H), 1.66 (m, 2H), 1.27 (m, 27H), 0.89 (t, $J=7.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3): δ 198.8, 171.3, 169.5, 169.3, 169.2, 155.3, 153.1, 152.6, 152.5, 152.3, 152.0, 135.2, 129.9, 129.0, 128.9, 126.7, 125.2, 124.1, 117.4, 116.7, 112.5, 110.3, 109.6, 102.5, 82.7, 60.5, 58.8, 48.5, 48.2, 46.0, 44.2, 41.1, 32.0, 31.2, 29.8, 29.7, 29.5, 29.3, 29.0, 27.4, 26.4, 25.7, 22.8, 21.4, 21.2, 14.3, 14.2. HRA-MS(+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{62}\text{N}_4\text{O}_8\text{S}$ [M+] 854.4288; found 854.4261.

[0349] Synthesis of DPP-5.

[0350] A solution of 19 (63.4 mg, 69.4 μmol , 1.0 eq) in 20% TFA:DCM (5 mL) was stirred for 30 min at room temperature, followed by dilution with DCM (3 \times 20 mL) and evaporation by rotary evaporation. The resulting crude was suspended in DCM (5 mL) and succinic anhydride (55.6 mg, 0.555 mmol, 8.0 eq) was added followed by slowly addition of DIEA until reaction was completed. The reaction mix was acidified with 10 mL 1M HCl and diluted with DCM (20 mL) then washed with brine (20 mL). The aqueous layer was washed again with DCM (20 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated by rotary evaporation. Purification by column chromatography (Silica; 0-10% MeOH in DCM) afforded DPP-5 as a pink solid (43.8 mg, 69.1%). R_f : 0.33 (Silica; 5% MeOH:DCM). ^1H -NMR (500 MHz; CDCl_3): δ 8.03 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.69-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.85-6.76 (m, 2H), 6.67 (dd, $J=7.8$, 4.9 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (dd, $J=8.9$, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d, $J=4.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.81-4.71 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 2H), 3.70 (s, 2H), 3.64 (s, 1H), 3.47 (dd, $J=14.1$, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.35-3.23 (m, 4H), 3.06 (s, 2H), 2.95 (s, 1H), 2.87 (t, $J=4.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, $J=4.7$, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 2.72-2.65 (m, 4H), 2.57 (q, $J=7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.67-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.25 (d, $J=7.0$ Hz, 24H), 0.89 (t, $J=6.9$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3): δ 198.9, 176.6, 170.4, 169.5, 169.4, 155.3, 153.1, 152.5, 152.3, 152.0, 135.2, 130.0, 129.0, 128.9, 126.6, 125.2, 124.1, 117.4, 116.6, 112.4, 110.3, 109.5, 102.4, 82.8, 48.2, 48.0, 45.0, 44.2, 41.5, 32.0, 31.2, 31.1, 29.8, 29.7, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 29.0, 28.8, 28.0, 27.4, 26.6, 26.5, 25.6, 22.8, 14.2. HRA-MS(+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{50}\text{H}_{64}\text{N}_4\text{O}_{10}\text{S}$ [M $^+$]912.4343; found 912.4344.

Example 16

Characterization and In Vitro Activity of DPP-4 and DPP-5

[0351] The rhodol-based scaffold of the presently disclosed DPPs offers several synthetically tractable positions at which to install solubilizing groups. For example, in DPP-4 and DPP-5, a piperazine moiety was covalently attached to the xanthene portion of the rhodol scaffold, in a similar strategy to that previously used to make modified fluorescent probes. See Dickinson and Chang (2008) *J Am Chem Soc* 130, 9638-9639. DPP-4 has an acetyl amide modification on the piperazine, while DPP-5 has a succinylated amide and, thus, includes a carboxylic acid. These modifications are not located at or near the substrate recognition portion of the probe (i.e., the palmitoylated cysteine residue), and, therefore, should have minimal interference with enzymatic activity by S-depalmitoylases reacting at the

substrate recognition portion of the probe. Molecular modeling appeared to confirm this lack of interference.

[0352] In vitro kinetics of DPP-4 and DPP-5 with recombinantly expressed APT1 and APT2 were compared to those of DPP-1. Both DPP-1 (see FIG. 33A) and DPP-4 (see FIG. 33B) display relatively slow kinetics with APT1 and APT2 in the absence of detergents. After incubation for 30 minutes with 1 μM probe and 50 nM APT1 or APT2, DPP-1 and DPP-4 showed only about 50- or 30-fold and 70- or 30-fold enhancement in the intensities of their fluorescence signals, respectively. See FIGS. 33D and 33E. DPP-5 showed a more rapid turn-on response to both APT1 and APT2 (see FIG. 33C), with a 350-fold increase in the intensity of the fluorescent signal with both enzymes. See FIG. 33F. Without being bound to any one theory, it is believed that the more rapid kinetics of DPP-5 is due to the enhanced water solubility afforded by the additional carboxylate group. Log P analysis of DPP-1, DPP-4, and DPP-5 appears to confirm the relatively higher water solubility of DPP-5 compared to the other two probes. See Table 2, below. Kinetic analysis (see Table 3, below) revealed that DPP-5 has kinetic parameters comparable to those of previously reported N-Ras-based semisynthetic substrates for APT1 and APT2. See Rusch et al. (2011) *Angew Chem Int Ed* 50, 9838-9842. Quantitative analysis of DPP-1 and DPP-4 could not be performed in view of their slow kinetics in the absence of detergents.

TABLE 2

LogP analysis of DPP probes.	
Probe	LogP
DPP-1	1.57
DPP-4	1.74
DPP-5	0.79

TABLE 3

Kinetic Parameters of APT1 and APT2 with DPP-5.			
	K_M (μM)	K_{cat} (s^{-1})	K_{cat}/K_M ($\text{s}^{-1}\text{M}^{-1}$)
APT1	1.6	0.044	2.8×10^4
APT2	2.1	0.066	3.1×10^4

Example 17

Live Cell Assays with DPP-5

[0353] Human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells were loaded with 1 μM DPP-5 for 20 minutes and then analyzed by fluorescence microscopy. Cells loaded with DPP-5 displayed a bright, intracellular fluorescent signal. To determine whether the observed signal was due to endogenous S-depalmitoylases, palmostatin B (PalmB), a β -lactone-based pan-inhibitor of the S-depalmitoylases (see Dekker et al. (2010) *Nat Chem Biol* 6, 449-456) was also added to the cells. Pretreatment of the HEK293T cells with PalmB prior to the addition of DPP-5 abolished about 95% of the fluorescent signal. See FIG. 34.

[0354] The activity of DPP-5 was also assayed in other cell lines. The PalmB imaging studies were repeated in human liver carcinoma (HepG2) cells and human cervical

cancer (HeLa) cells. See FIGS. 35 and 36. Treatment of both cell lines with 1 μ M probe for 20 minutes resulted in a robust intracellular fluorescent signal. Pretreatment of the cells with 5 μ M PalmB blocked more than about 95% of the turn-on response, indicating that DPP-5 is measuring endogenous enzyme-mediated S-depalmitoylation. Additionally, 10 μ M ML348, an APT1-specific inhibitor, decreased the intensity of the signal from DPP-5 by about 30% in HepG2 cells, while 10 μ M ML349, an APT2-specific inhibitor, resulted in no change in signal. See FIG. 37. Further, treating the cells with both inhibitors affects DPP-5 to levels similar to that seen with the APT1 inhibitor alone. See FIG. 37. The differential reduction in the intensity of the DPP-5 signal with PalmB and ML348 reinforces the general reactivity of DPP-5 with all possible S-depalmitoylases and suggests that enzyme-targeted analogues of DPP-5 would be useful additions to the S-depalmitoylation toolbox. To compare the signal obtained with DPP-5 to DPP-1 and DPP-4, imaging experiments were conducted in HEK293T cells with identical concentrations of each probe and identical microscope settings. While DPP-5 treatment resulted in a robust fluorescent signal, DPP-1 and DPP-4 displayed relatively low levels of fluorescence, further confirming the advantage of adding a carboxylate group to the probe structure.

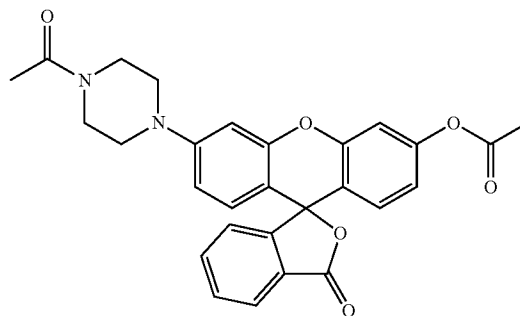
Example 18

Study of Palmitate Effects on Lipid Stress with DPP-5

[0355] Endogenous palmitate has been shown to cause ER stress and affect 3-cell viability. See Baldwin et al. (2012) *Am J Physiol Endocrinol Metab* 302, E1390-1398; and Cunha (2008) *J Cell Sci* 121, 2308-2318. Aberrant S-depalmitoylation has been demonstrated to be one of the mechanisms by which excess palmitate induces ER stress (see Baldwin et al. (2012) *Am J Physiol Endocrinol Metab* 302, E1390-1398), but the role of S-depalmitoylation dynamics in this process is largely unexplored. To test whether lipid stress through palmitate treatment causes a response from the S-depalmitoylases, a study was performed to determine if DPP-5 could detect dynamic alterations in the S-depalmitoylases caused by exogenous palmitate treatment. Pretreatment of HepG2 cells with 1 mM palmitate for 6 hours post-starvation resulted in about a 50% increase in the intensity of the S-depalmitoylase signal as measured by DPP-5. See FIG. 38. Further, pretreatment of HepG2 cells

with PalmB reduces the intensity of the DPP-5 signal, indicating that palmitate induces activation of S-depalmitoylase activity at the location at which DPP-5 is measuring the signal. See FIG. 39.

Scheme 8. Structure of Diacetyl rhodol.



[0356] To rule out the possibility that the changes in fluorescence signal are due to differential accumulation of DPP-5 in cells upon palmitate treatment, imaging was performed with a control probe, diacetyl rhodol (see Scheme 8, above) which maintains the pro-fluorophore core. Once it enters cells, the diacetyl rhodol probe is rapidly activated by intracellular esterases, thereby allowing the measurement of cell permeability and update of a related, non-APT-active compound. No measurable effect was seen on the fluorescence signal from HepG2 cells loaded with 1 μ M diacetyl rhodol with 1 mM palmitate addition in the cells. See FIG. 40. Collectively, these data suggest that the S-depalmitoylases respond to local lipid homeostatic levels. These data further suggest that caution should be taken when adding exogenous lipids to metabolically label the proteome with lipids, as the lipid changes could cause alterations in the activities of the S-depalmitoylases, perturbing the system. Different responses to palmitate stress were also observed with RDP-type probes. Without being bound to any one theory, differential response could be due to differences in subcellular localization or APT preference.

[0357] It will be understood that various details of the presently disclosed subject matter may be changed without departing from the scope of the presently disclosed subject matter. Furthermore, the foregoing description is for the purpose of illustration only, and not for the purpose of limitation.

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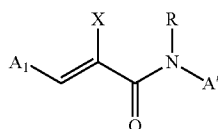
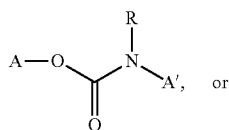
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What is claimed is:

1. A compound having a structure of Formula (Ia) or (Ib):



wherein:

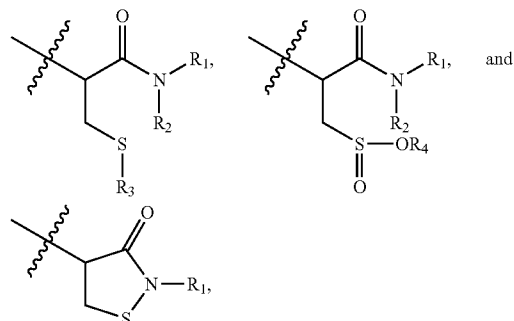
A is a residue of a compound A-OH, wherein A-OH is a pro-fluorescent, fluorescent, bio-luminescent, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)-detectable or therapeutically active compound;

A₁ is a residue of a compound A₁-H, wherein A₁-H is a fluorescent or bioluminescent compound;

X is H or an electron-withdrawing moiety, wherein the electron-withdrawing moiety is selected from the group consisting of CN, NO₂, —C(=O)H, keto, and amido;

R is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; and

A' is selected from the group consisting of:



wherein:

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; and

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; or

wherein R_1 and R_2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an amino acid or peptidyl residue;

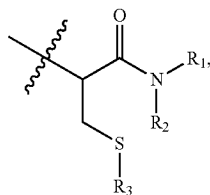
R_3 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, $-S(=O)R_5$, $-SH$, $-N(=O)$, S-glutathione, and $-C(=O)R_5$;

R_4 is selected from H and R_5 ; and

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, and substituted aralkyl; or a

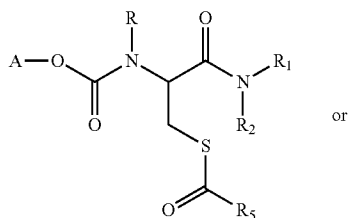
pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein A' is



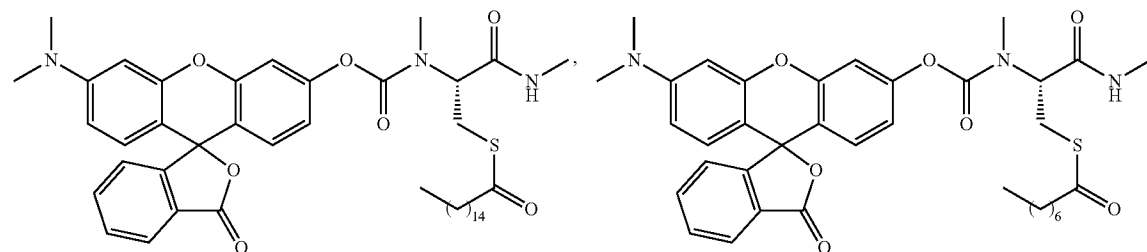
wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are as defined in claim 1.

3. The composition of claim 2, wherein the compound has a structure of Formula (IIa) or (IIb):

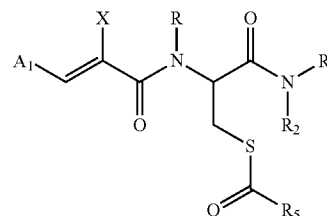


(IIa)

or



-continued



(IIb)

wherein A, A_1 , X, R, R_1 , R_2 , and R_5 are as defined in claim 1.

4. The compound of claim 3, wherein R_5 is $-(CH_2)_nCH_3$ wherein n is 1-18.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an amino acid or peptidyl residue and further wherein the amino acid or peptidyl residue comprises a positively charged amino acid residue.

6. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound has a structure of Formula (Ia) wherein A is a residue of a compound A-OH, wherein A-OH is a pro-fluorescent, fluorescent or a therapeutically active compound and wherein the OH of the compound A-OH is a phenolic group.

7. The compound of claim 6, wherein A-OH is a rhodol or a fluorescein derivative.

8. The compound of claim 6, wherein A is a residue of a compound A-OH, wherein A-OH is a therapeutically active compound and wherein the compound of Formula (Ia) is a carbamate prodrug of the compound A-OH.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 8 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

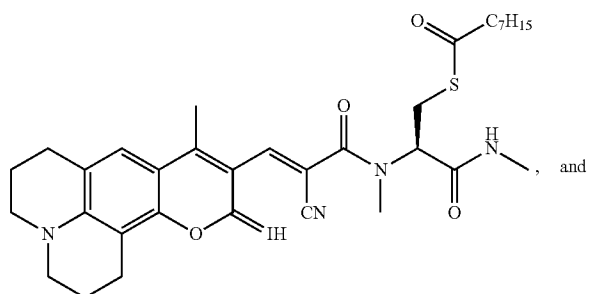
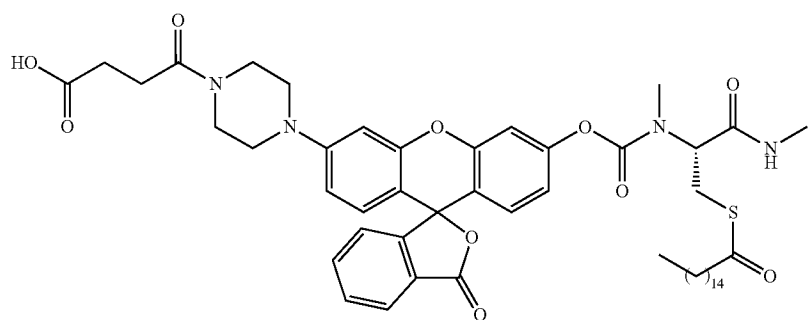
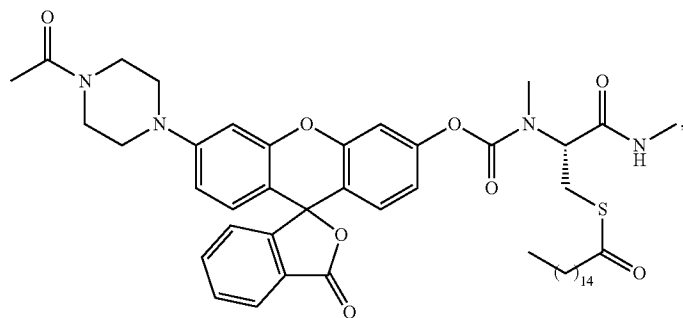
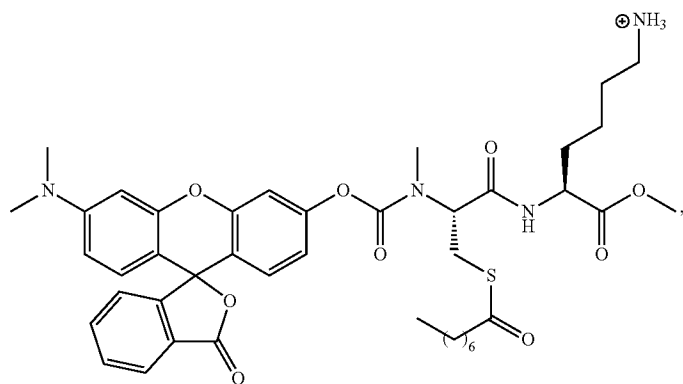
10. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound has a structure of Formula (Ib), wherein A is a residue of a compound A_1-H wherein A_1-H is a fluorescent compound.

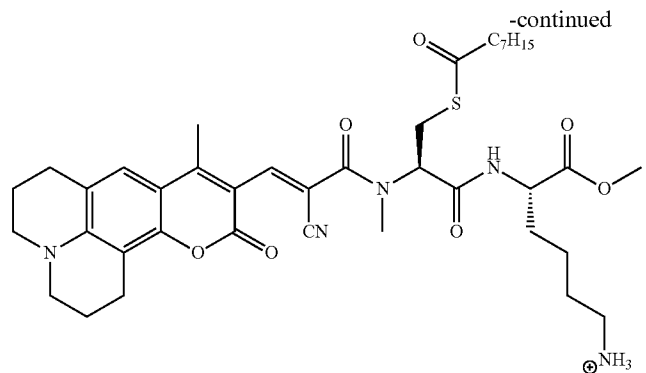
11. The compound of claim 10, wherein A_1-H is a coumarin derivative.

12. The compound of claim 1, wherein X is CN.

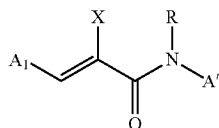
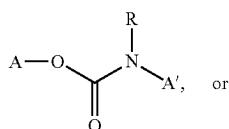
13. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

-continued





14. A method of detecting enzymatic activity in a sample, the method comprising:
contacting the sample with a compound of Formula (Ia) or (Ib):



(Ia)

(Ib)

wherein:

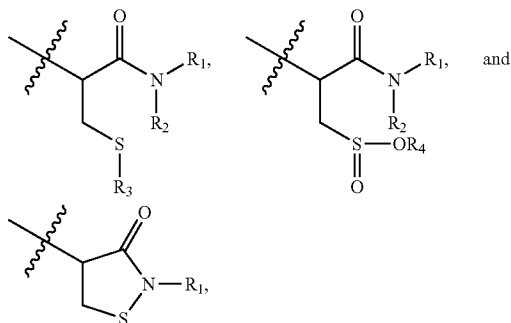
A is a residue of a compound A-OH, wherein A-OH is a pro-fluorescent or fluorescent compound;

A₁ is a residue of a compound A₁-H, wherein A₁-H is a fluorescent compound;

X is H or an electron-withdrawing moiety, wherein the electron-withdrawing moiety is selected from the group consisting of CN, NO₂, —C(=O)H, keto, and amido;

R is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; and

A' is selected from the group consisting of:



wherein:

R₁ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; and

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; or

wherein R₁ and R₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an amino acid or peptidyl residue;

R₃ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, —S(=O)R₅, —SH, —N(=O), S-glutathione, and —C(=O)R₅;

R₄ is selected from H and R₅; and

R₅ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, and substituted aralkyl; or a

pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and detecting one or more fluorescence signals in the sample, wherein detecting the one or more fluorescence signals detects the presence and/or amount of enzymatic activity of an enzyme in the sample that catalyzes a reaction of a modified cysteine substrate.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the enzyme is a thioesterase, an abhydrolyase domain containing 17A (ABHD17) protein, or a thioetherase.

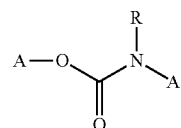
16. The method of claim 14, wherein the sample is an *in vitro* sample.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the sample comprises a live cell, tissue, or organ.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the sample is a subject or a cell, tissue, or fluid obtained from a subject and wherein detecting enzymatic activity further detects a disease state associated with increased or decreased activity of an enzyme that catalyzes a reaction of a modified cysteine substrate.

19. A method of treating a disease in a subject in need of treatment thereof, wherein the method comprises:

administering to the subject a compound of Formula (Ia):



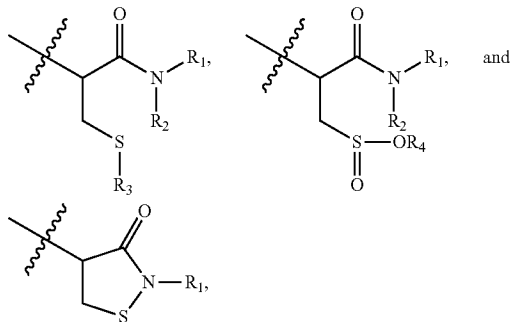
(Ia)

wherein:

A is a residue of a compound A-OH, wherein A-OH is a therapeutic compound;

R is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; and

A' is selected from the group consisting of:



wherein:

R₁ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; and

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, and substituted aryl; or

wherein R₁ and R₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an amino acid or peptidyl residue;

R₃ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, —S(=O)R₅, —SH, —N(=O), S-glutathione, and —C(=O)R₅;

R₄ is selected from H and R₅; and

R₅ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aralkyl, and substituted aralkyl; or a

pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pharmaceutical formulation thereof.

20. The method of claim **19**, wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of cancer; a neurological disorder; a neurodegenerative disease; a metabolic disorder, diabetes, an autoimmune disease; an infectious disease; liver disease; kidney disease; atherosclerosis; and hypertension.

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