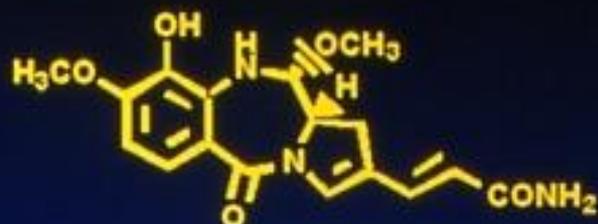


**XIV convegno nazionale divisione di chimica farmaceutica**

**Ligandi alchilanti del solco minore del  
DNA: nuovi risultati nella  
progettazione di farmaci antitumorali**

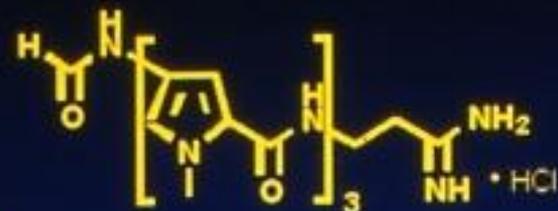
**Salsomaggiore, 21-25 Settembre 1998**

# NATURAL COMPOUNDS



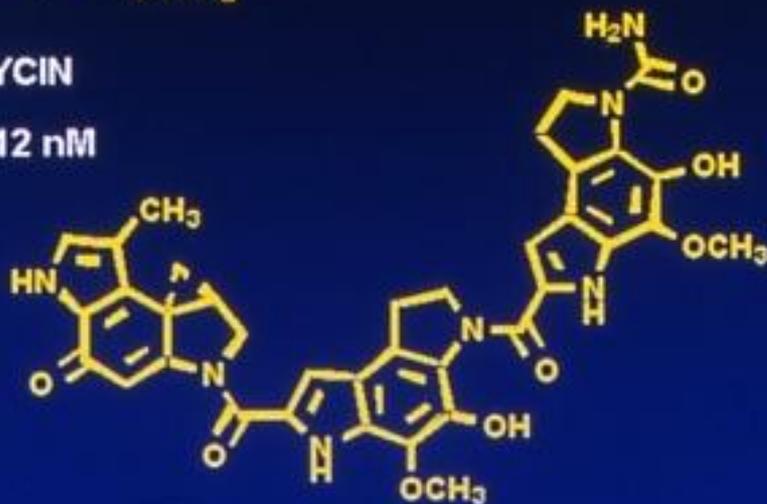
**ANTHRAMYCIN**

IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 12 nM



**DISTAMYCIN A**

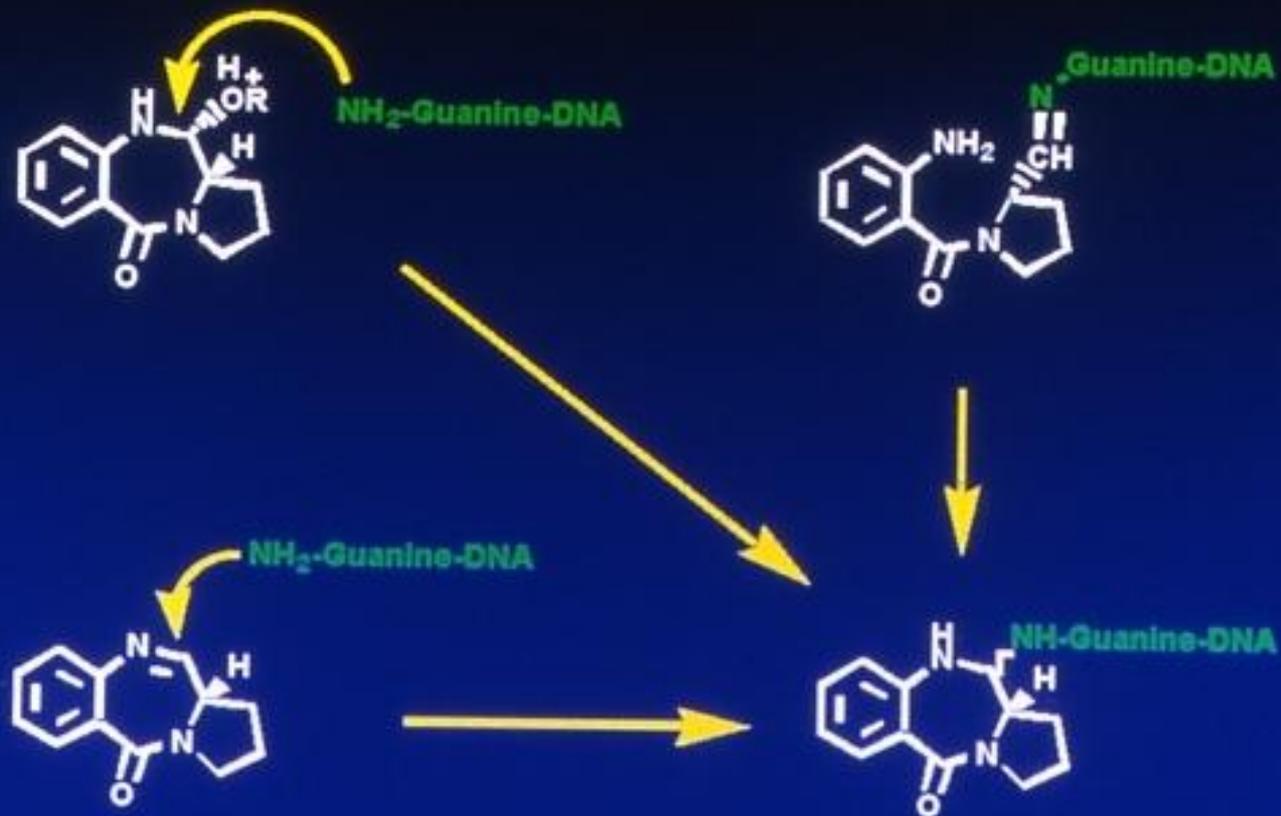
IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 10 μM



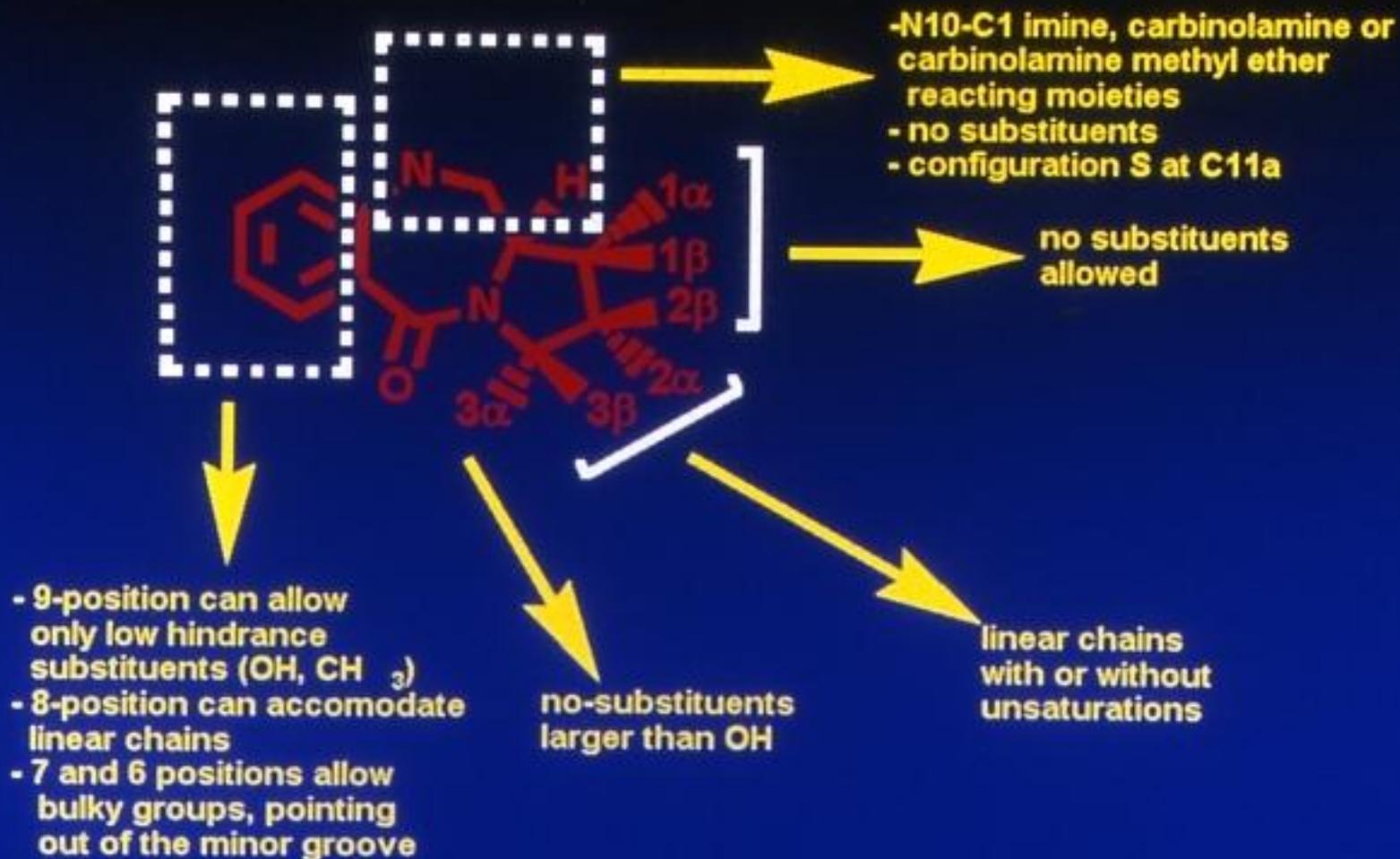
**(+)-CC-1065**

IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 20 pM

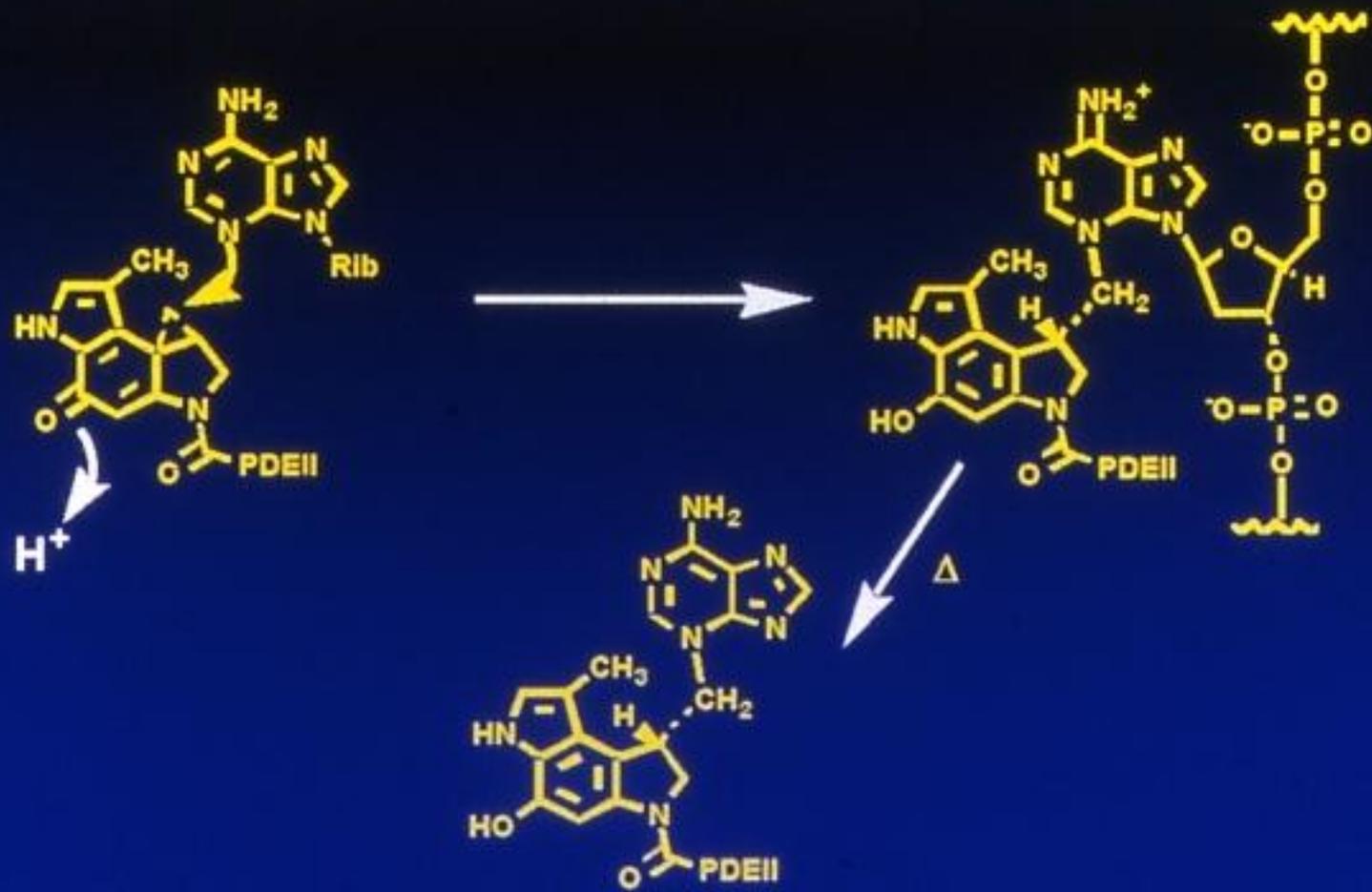
# POSSIBLE MECHANISM OF DNA ALKYLATION BY PBD's



# PBD's SAR



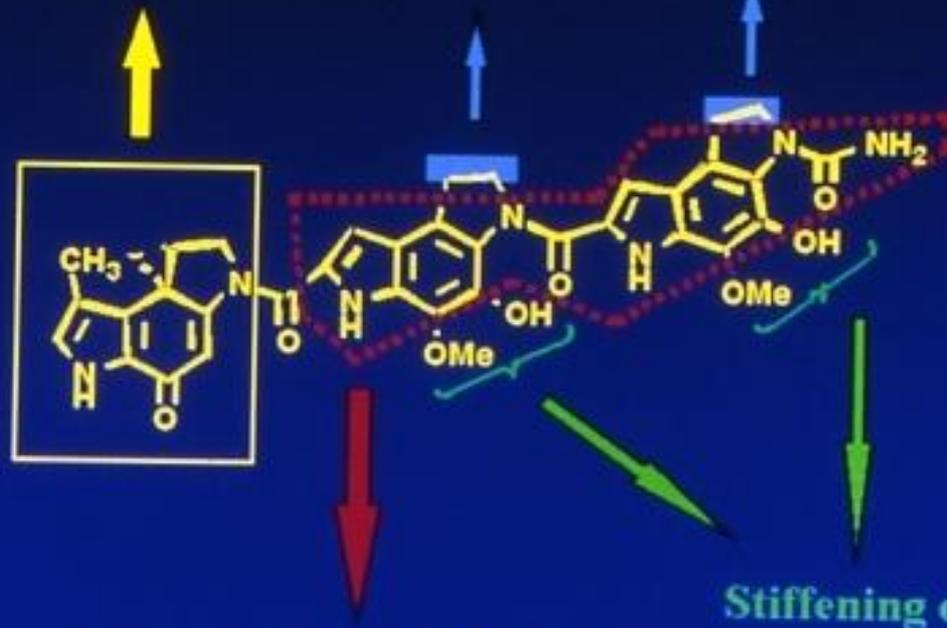
# CC-1065 DNA ALKYLATION



# CC-1065 SAR

**Antitumor activity**  
**Sequence specificity**  
**DNA Bonding**

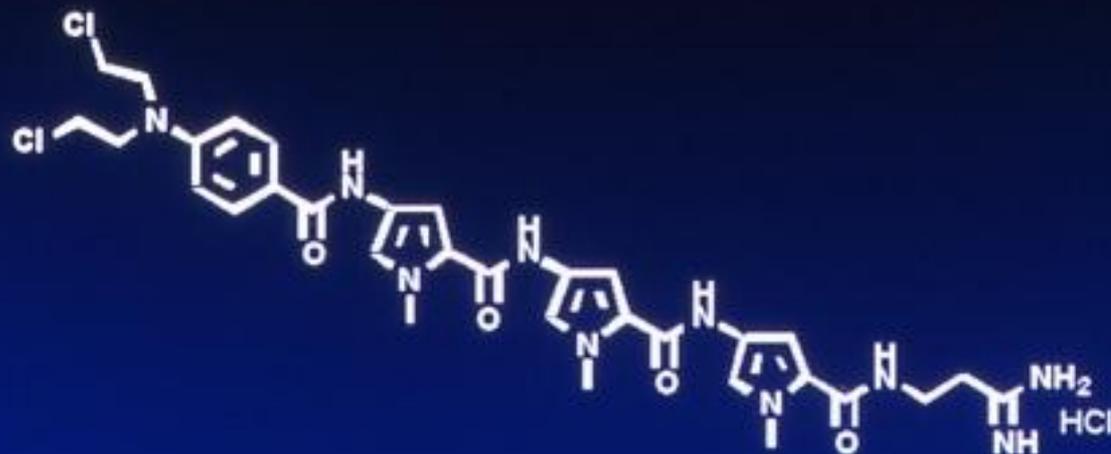
**Modulation of Sequence Specificity**  
**DNA Winding**  
**Delayed Death**



**Increase Rate of Alkylation**  
**Increase Cytotoxic Potency**

**Stiffening of helix**

**TALLIMUSTINE**  
**(FCE 24517, BENZOYLMUSTARD**  
**DERIVATIVE OF DISTAMYCIN A)**



$IC_{50} = 50.3 \text{ ng/ml}$   
 $O.D = 3.13 \text{ mg/Kg}$   
 $T/C = 175$

**Mode of action: still under investigation**

**Binds to A-T rich sequences in the minor groove of B-DNA**

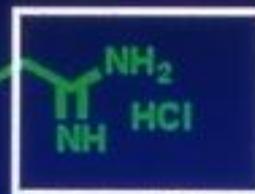
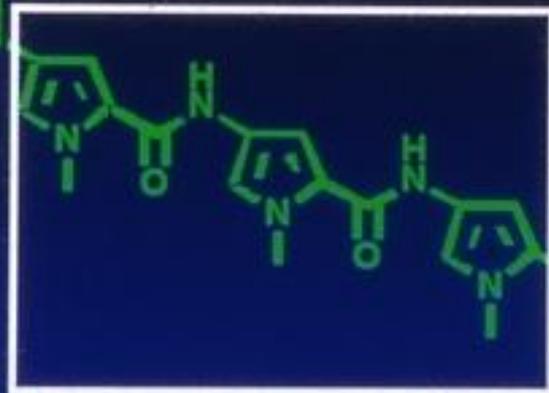
**Alkylates N-3 adenine in DNA with high sequence selectivity**

# DISTAMYCIN SAR

The substitution of the formyl group with an alkylating moiety lead to an increase of cytotoxicity



An increase of the number of pyrrole rings is associated with an increase in cytotoxicity



The isosteric replacement of pyrrole units with pyrazole units maintains the AT sequence selectivity, while the replacement with imidazole, furan or thiazole rings leads to an alteration of DNA sequence binding in favour of GC recognition.

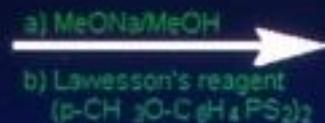
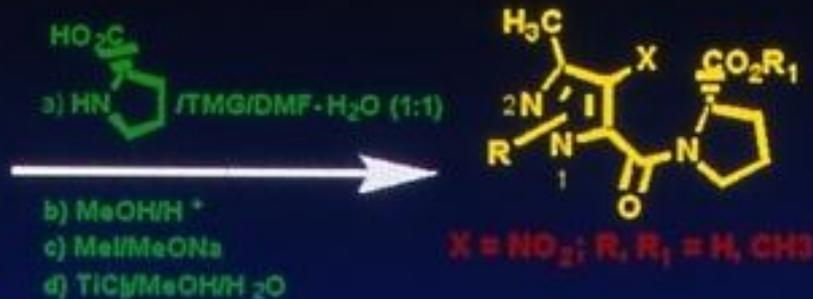
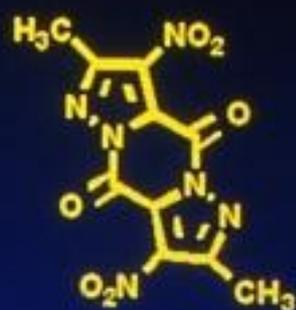
The amidino moiety can be replaced by ionizable and non-ionizable groups, with a modulation of basic strength, lipophilicity and metabolic stability

# GOAL

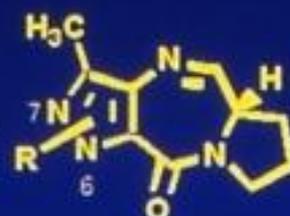
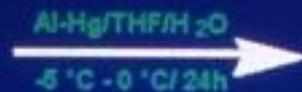
- Heterocycle substitution, in order to modulate sequence selectivity and potency in *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays



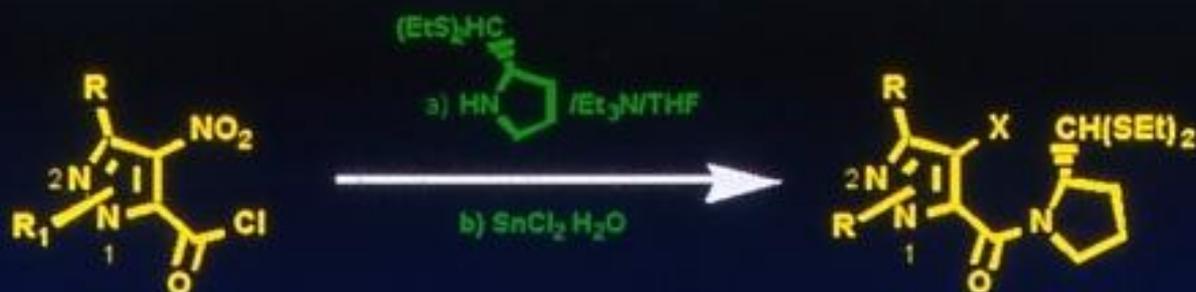
# PBD's PYRAZOLE ANALOGS



$X = \text{O, S}$

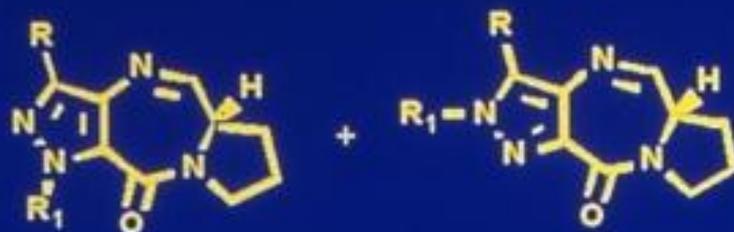


# PBD's PYRAZOLE ANALOGS

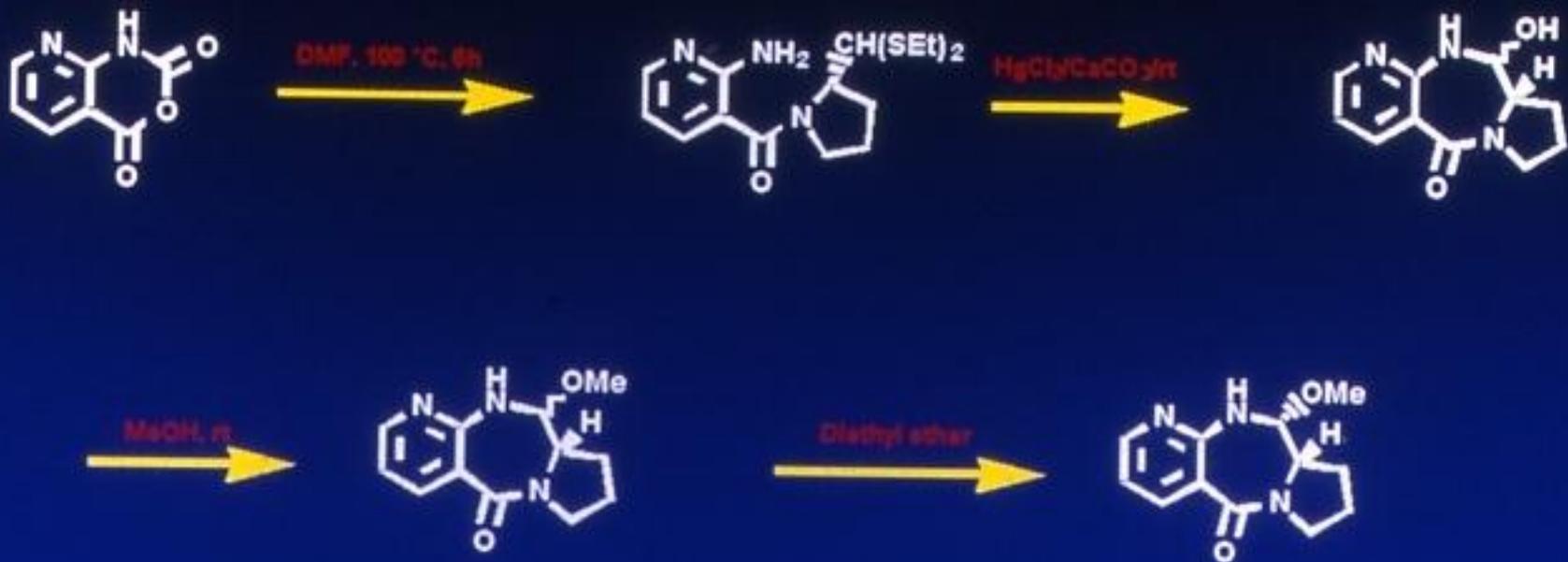


R = Me, i-Pr,  $MeO_2C$ ; R<sub>1</sub> = Me, Et, Bn, 4-Cl-Bn, 4-MeO-Bn, 3,4-diMe-Bn

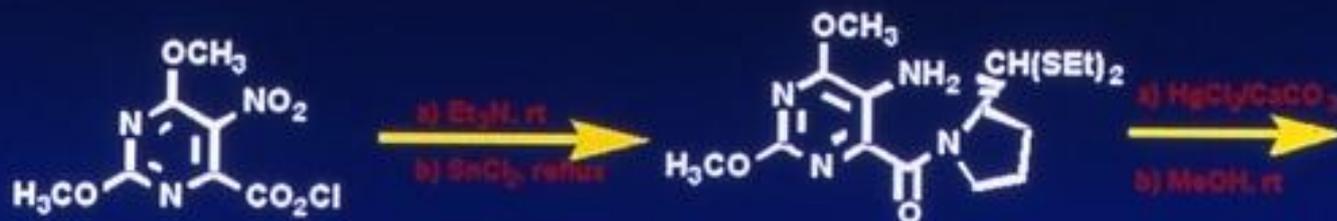
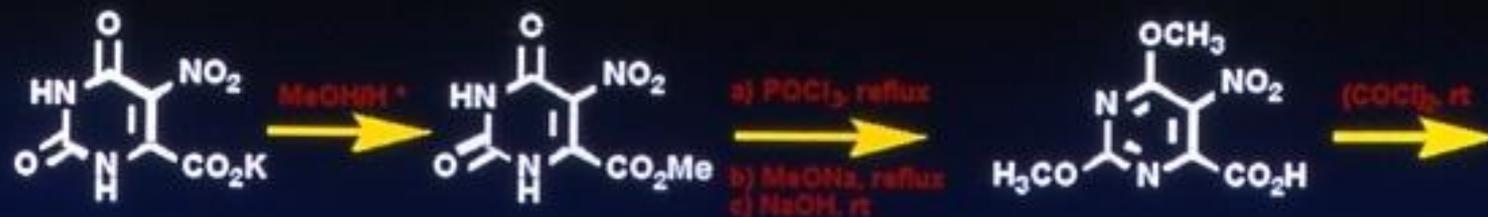
$HgCl_2/CaCO_3$   
 $MeCN/H_2O$



# PBD's PYRIDINE ANALOG



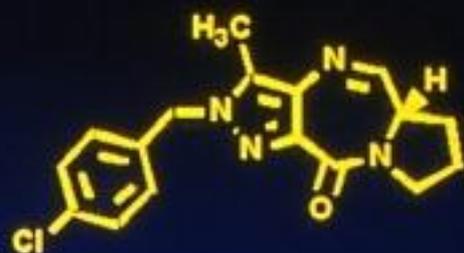
# PBD's PYRIMIDINE ANALOG



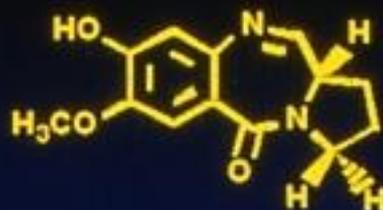
# PBD's PYRAZINE ANALOGS



# RESULTS

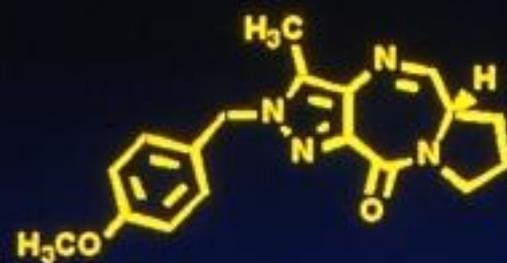


IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 0.19 μM

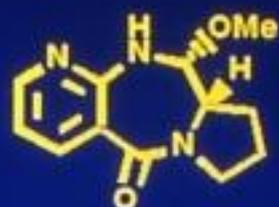


DC-81

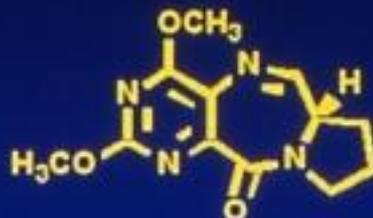
IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 0.38 μM



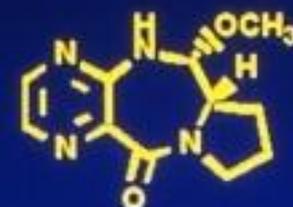
IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 0.38 μM



IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 31.2 μM



IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 11 μM

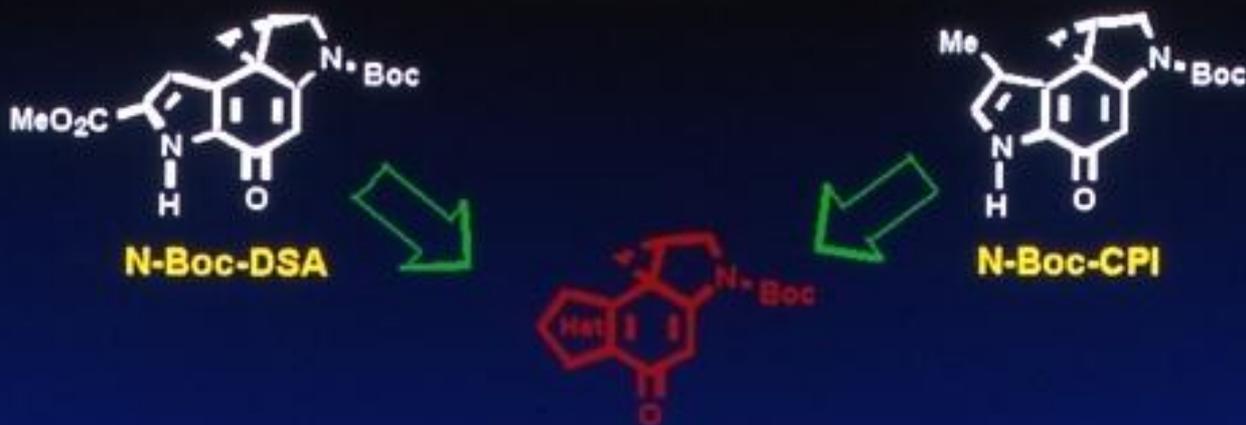


IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 15 μM

# CONCLUSIONS

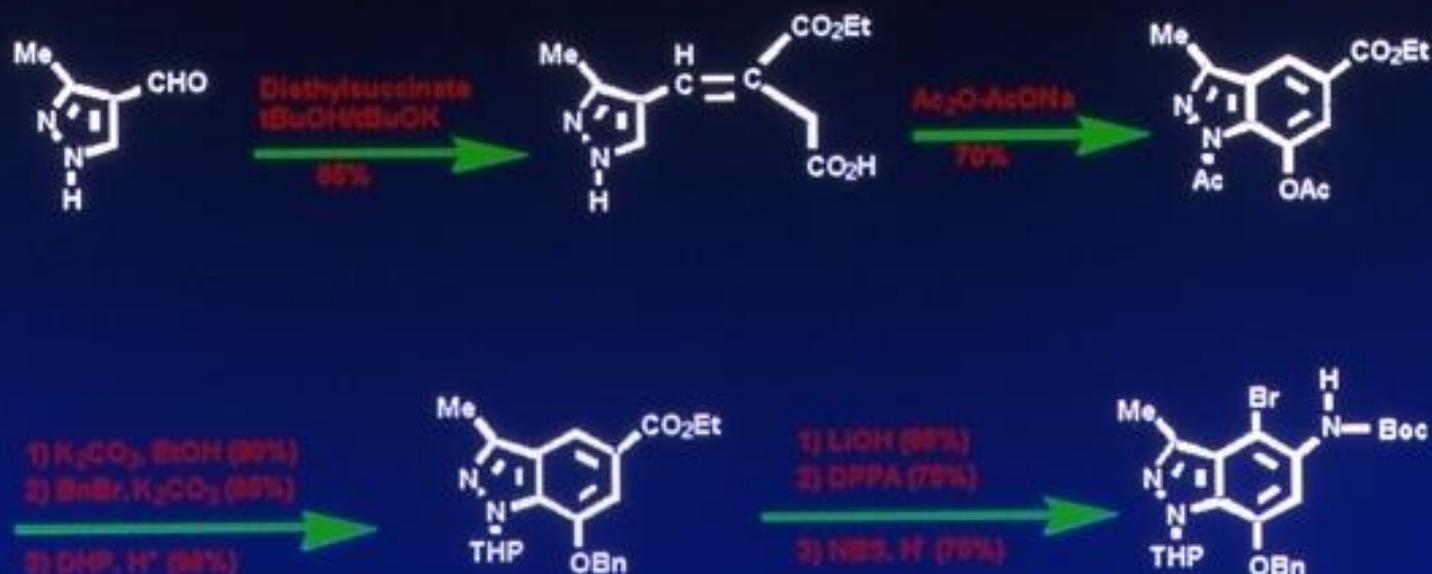
- **Substitution at N7 position increase cytotoxicity with respect to the N6 substituted compounds**
- **N7-benzyl or N7-substituted benzyl are the best substituents in terms of cytotoxicity**
- **Bulky groups at C8 position produce a decrease of cytotoxicity**
- **The low cytotoxicity of six-membered analogs is probably due to the greater basicity of the A ring**
- **Some compounds show cytotoxicity comparable to DC-81, this seems to confirm the importance of C2 chain in linking DNA**

# GOAL



- 1) Studies in order to determine the sequence selectivity with different heterocycles**
- 2) To study in more details the effect of different heterocycles on chemical reactivity of cyclopropane ring**

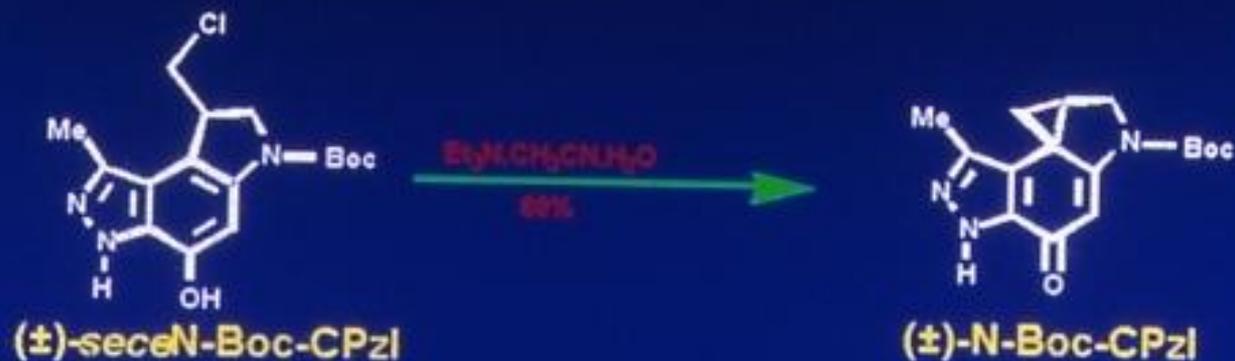
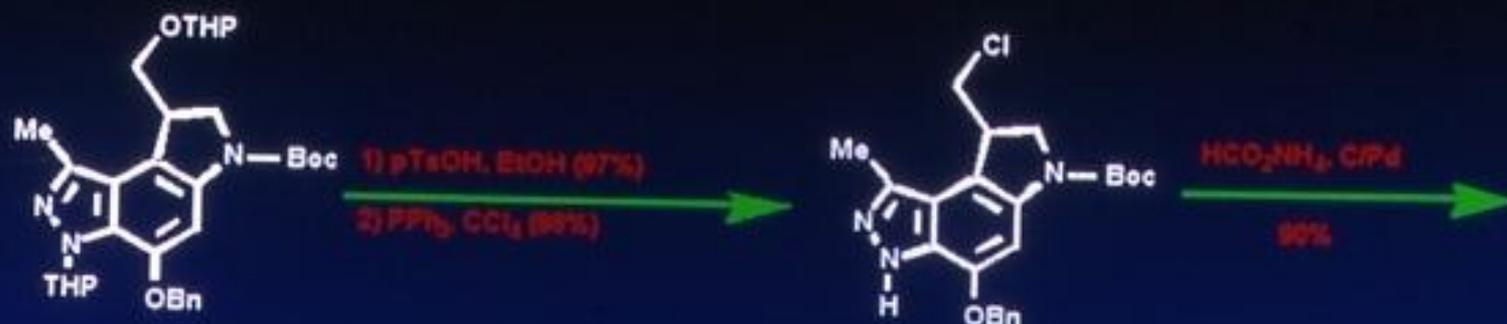
# CPZI SYNTHESIS



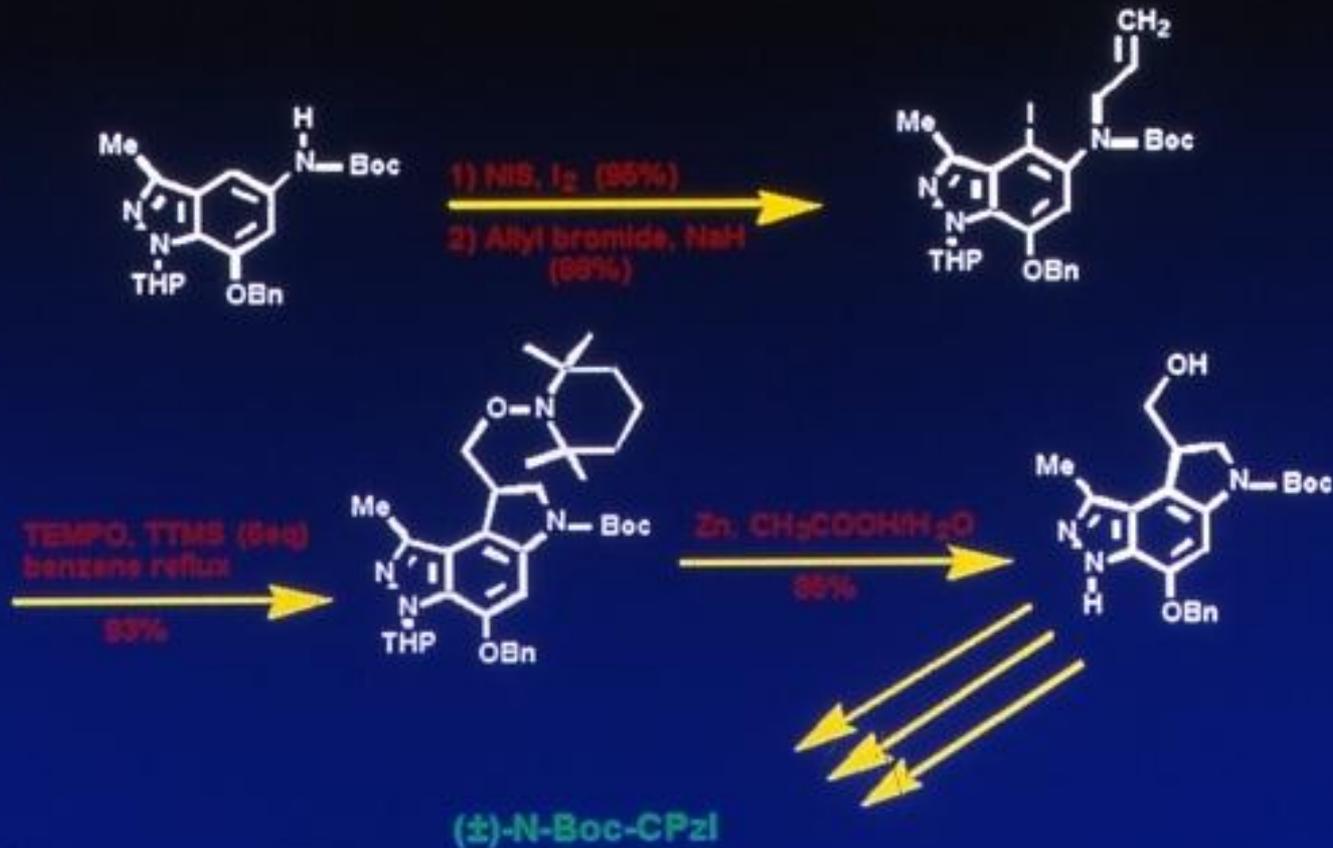
# CPzI SYNTHESIS



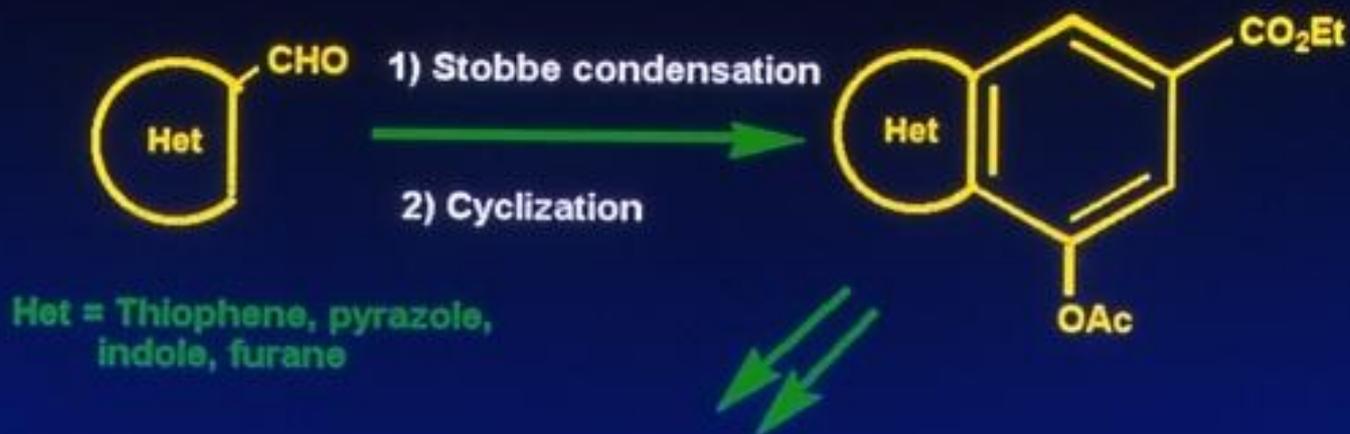
# CPZI SYNTHESIS



# ALTERNATIVE SYNTHESIS

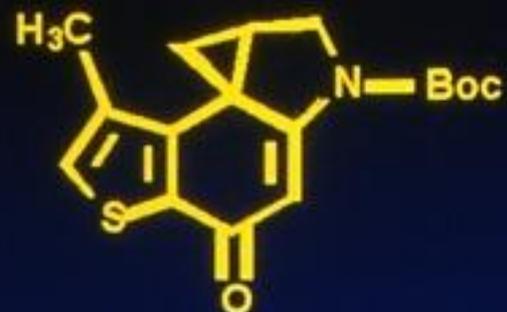
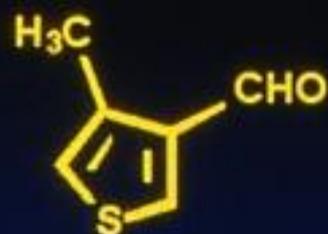


# FLEXIBLE STOBBE'S APPROACH TO CPI ANALOGS

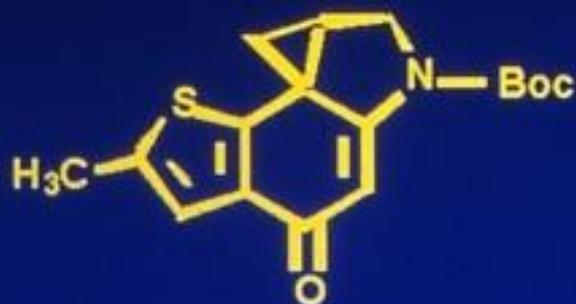
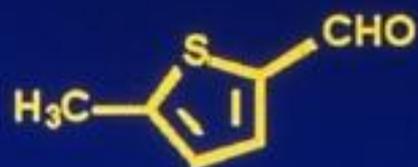


**CPI ANALOGS**

# THIOPHENE DERIVATIVES SYNTHESIS

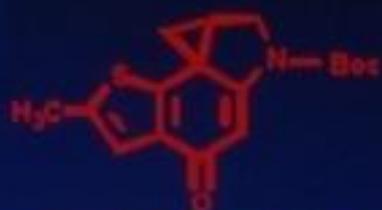


**(±)-N-Boc-CTI**



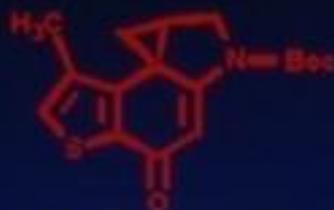
**(±)-N-Boc-ICTI**

# RESULTS



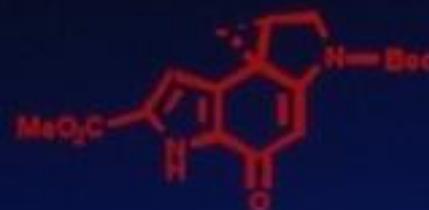
**(±)-N-Boc-iCTI**

**IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 = 14.5 nM**



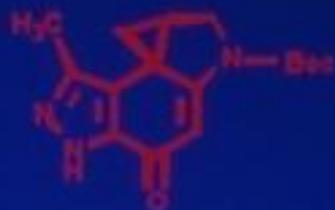
**(±)-N-Boc-CTI**

**IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 = 29 nM**



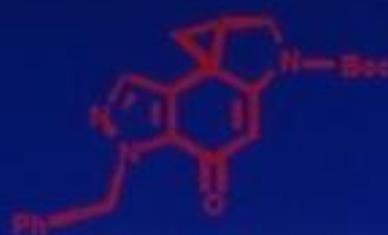
**(+)-N-Boc-DSA**

**IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 = 6 nM**



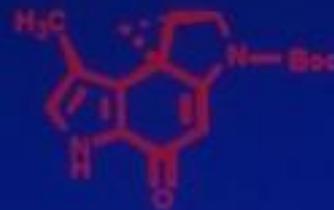
**(±)-N-Boc-CPzI**

**IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 = 370 nM**



**(±)-N-Boc-dMNBCPzI**

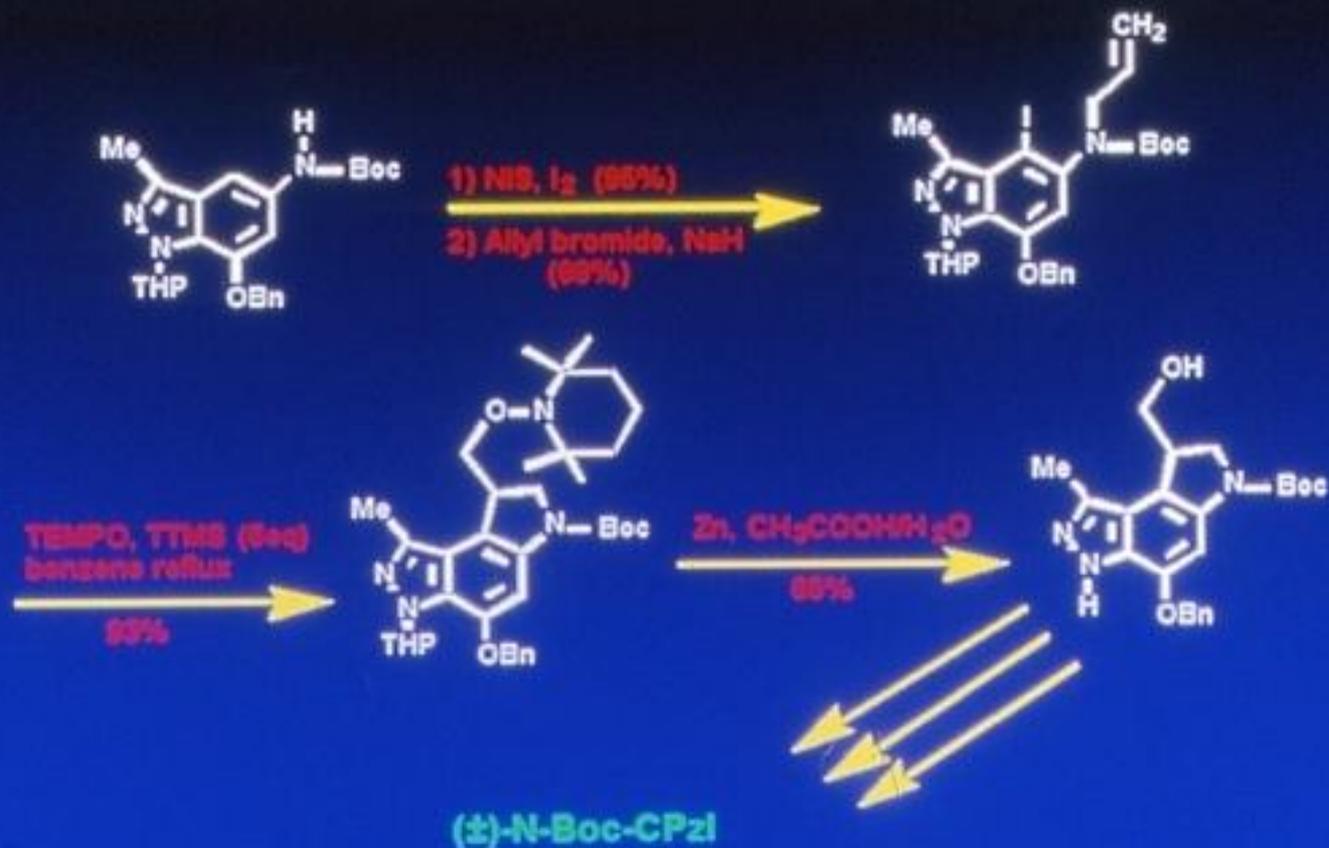
**IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 = 3,064 nM**



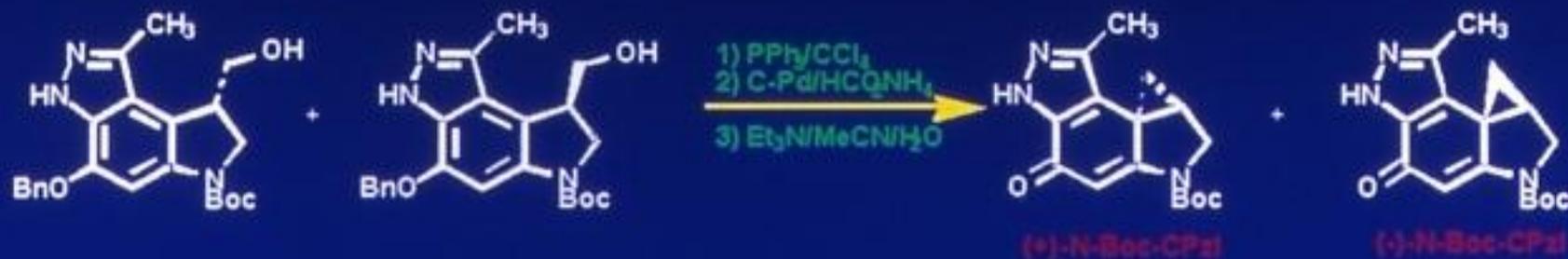
**(+)-N-Boc-CPI**

**IC<sub>50</sub> L1210 = 330 nM**

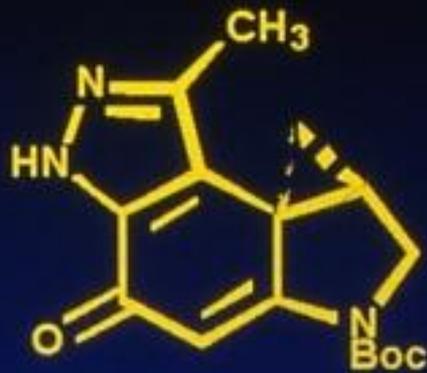
# ALTERNATIVE SYNTHESIS



# ENANTIOMERIC RESOLUTION



# ENANTIOMERIC DISTINCTION



**(+)-N-Boc-CPzl**

**L1210 72h 206 nM**



**(-)-N-Boc-CPzl**

**L1210 72h 923 nM**

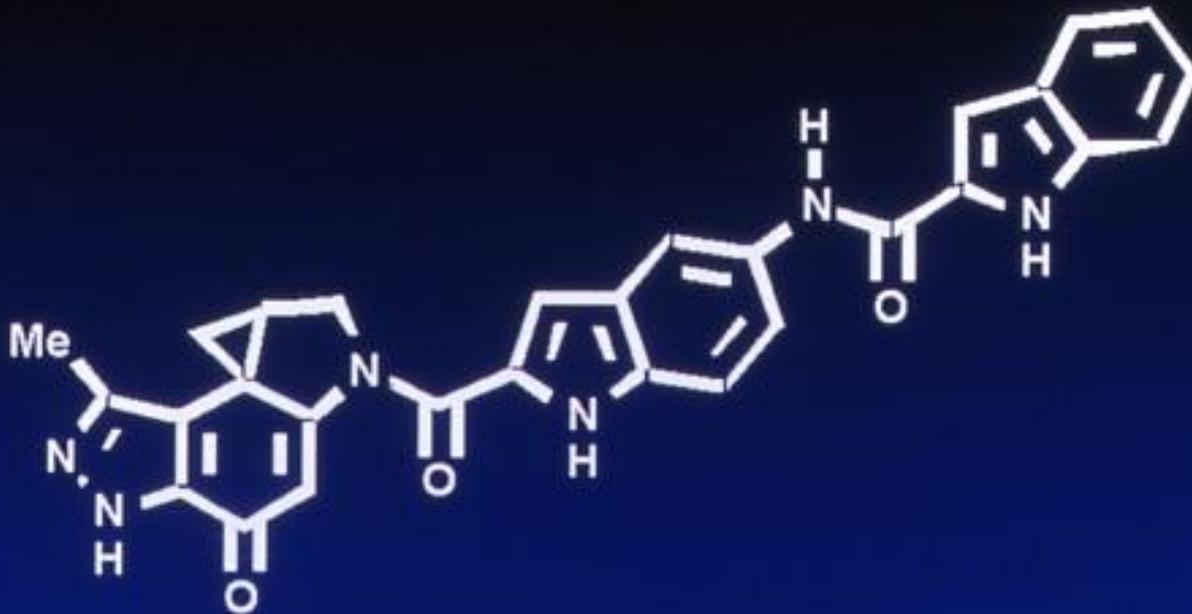
# CONCLUSIONS

- **A benzyl group on pyrazole nucleus is detrimental in terms of cytotoxicity**
- **The enantiomeric distinction has been confirmed also for N-Boc-CPzI derivative.**
- **The surprising potency of thiophene analogs is not clear and is still under investigation.**

# CC-1065 ANALOGS (CPZI)



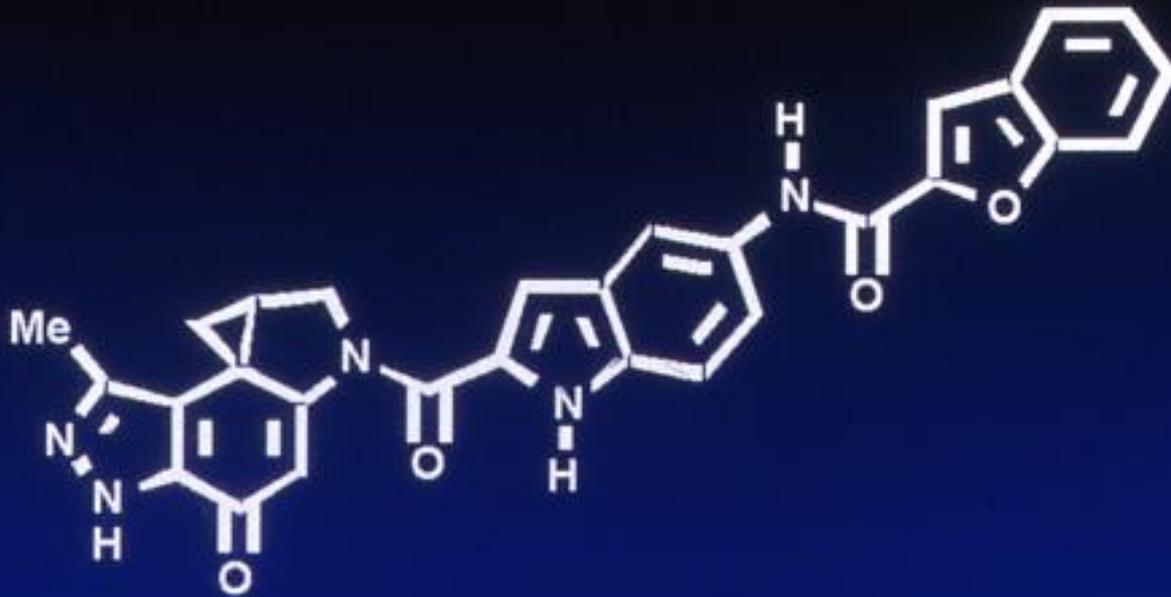
# RESULTS



**In vitro activity on L1210 cell lines (48 h treatment): 35 pM**

**In vivo activity: L1210 - O.D. 0.1 mg/Kg; T/C% 150**

# RESULTS



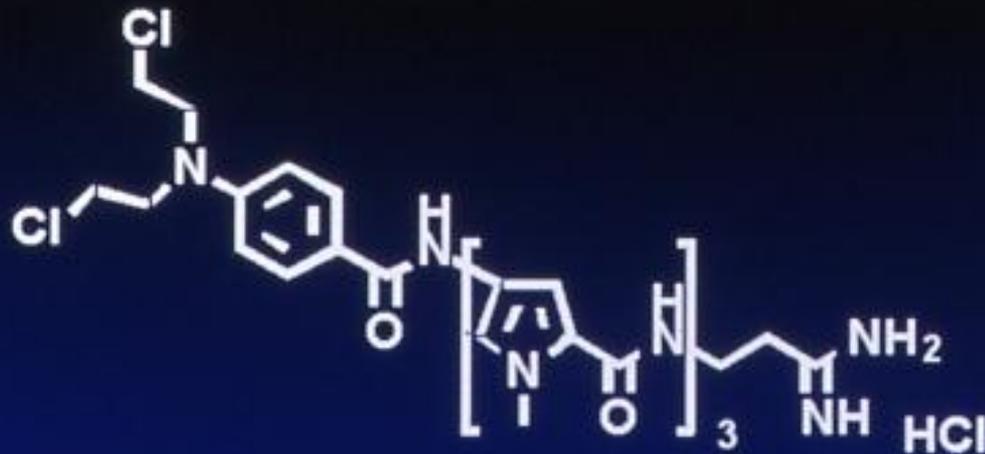
**In vitro activity on L1210 cell lines (48 h treatment): 25 pM**

**In vivo activity: L1210 - O.D. 0.1 mg/Kg; T/C% 463**

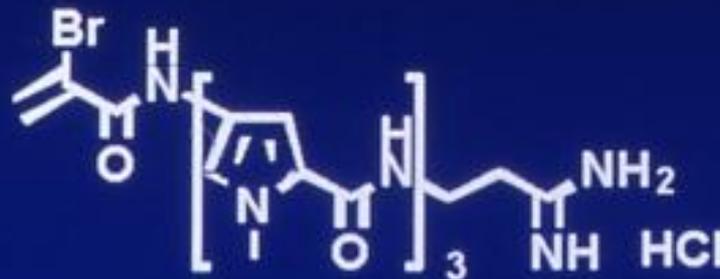
# CONCLUSIONS

- **The substitution of the pyrrole moiety with a pyrazole nucleus does not change sequence selectivity (high AT specificity).**
- **The presence of a benzofurane ring on the “carrier” confers to the CC-1065 analogs good potency and activity with respect to the (indole)<sub>2</sub>-derivative. This is in agreement with the studies performed by Upjohn Company.**
- **These results confirm the hypothesis that the presence of a hydrophilic function (pyrazole nitrogen) confers to the drug an increase in stability in water solution and consequently a better distribution to tumor treated animals. In fact the increase of hydrophobic characteristics of the molecule (benzyl chain) produce the opposite effect.**

# REFERENCE COMPOUNDS

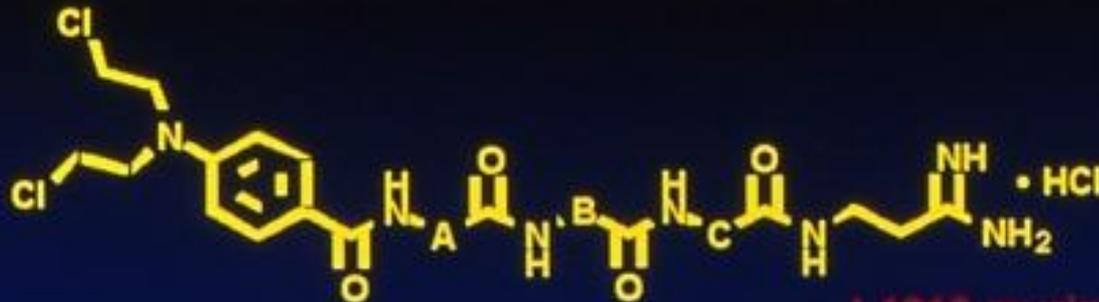


**Tallimustine**  
**IC<sub>50</sub>=50.3 ng/ml**  
**O.D=6.25 mg/Kg**  
**%T/C=125**



**IC<sub>50</sub>=49.6 ng/ml**  
**O.D=12.5 mg/Kg**  
**%T/C=175**

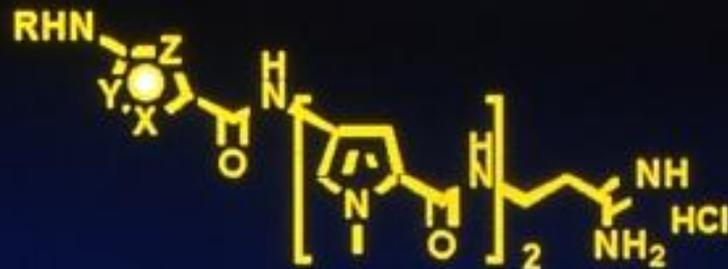
# Tallimustine Pyrazole Derivatives



L1210 murine leukemia

A	B	C	IC <sub>50</sub> (ng/mL)	O.D. (mg/Kg)	% T/C
pyrrole	pyrrole	pyrrole	50.3	6.25	125
pyrrole	pyrrole	pyrazole	35	6.25	213
pyrrole	pyrazole	pyrazole	225	12.5	213
pyrazole	pyrrole	pyrrole	1398	12.5	218
pyrrole	pyrazole	pyrrole	78.6	n.d	n.d
pyrazole	pyrazole	pyrrole	1887	n.d	n.d
pyrazole	pyrazole	pyrazole	1325	12.5	100

# Tallimustine Derivatives



X=CH Y=S Z= N (thiazole)  
R= benzoic acid mustard

X=CH Y=S Z= N (thiazole)  
R= $\alpha$ -bromoacryloyl

X= N-CH<sub>3</sub> Y= N Z= CH (pyrazole)  
R= benzoic acid mustard

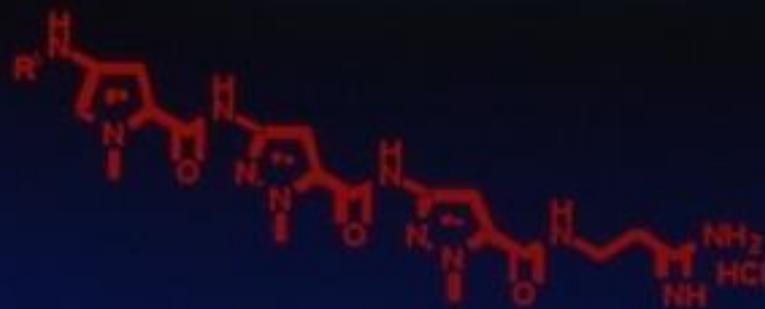
X= N-CH<sub>3</sub> Y= N Z= CH (pyrazole)  
R= $\alpha$ -bromoacryloyl

X= N-CH<sub>3</sub> Y=CH Z= N (imidazole)  
R= benzoic acid mustard

L1210 murine leukemia

IC <sub>50</sub> (ng/mL)	O.D. (mg/Kg)	% T/C
32460	n.d	n.d
23820	n.d	n.d
1398	12.5	118
151	30	181
1902	25	114

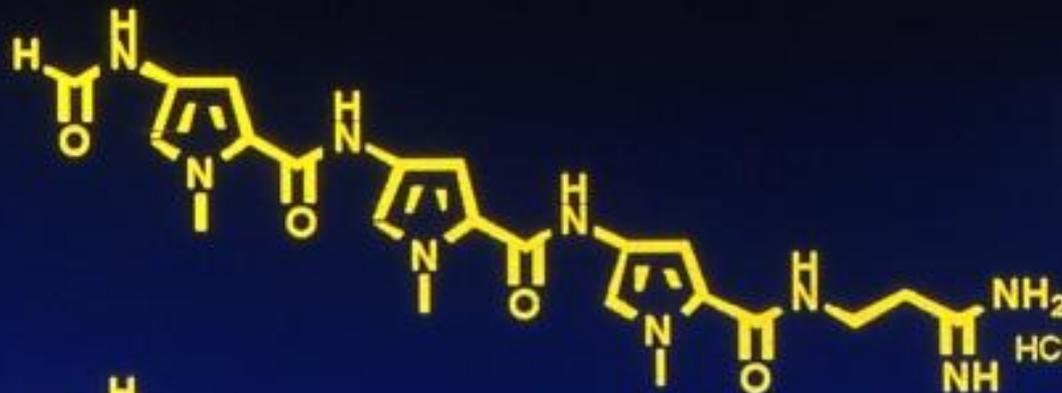
# Tallimustine Derivatives



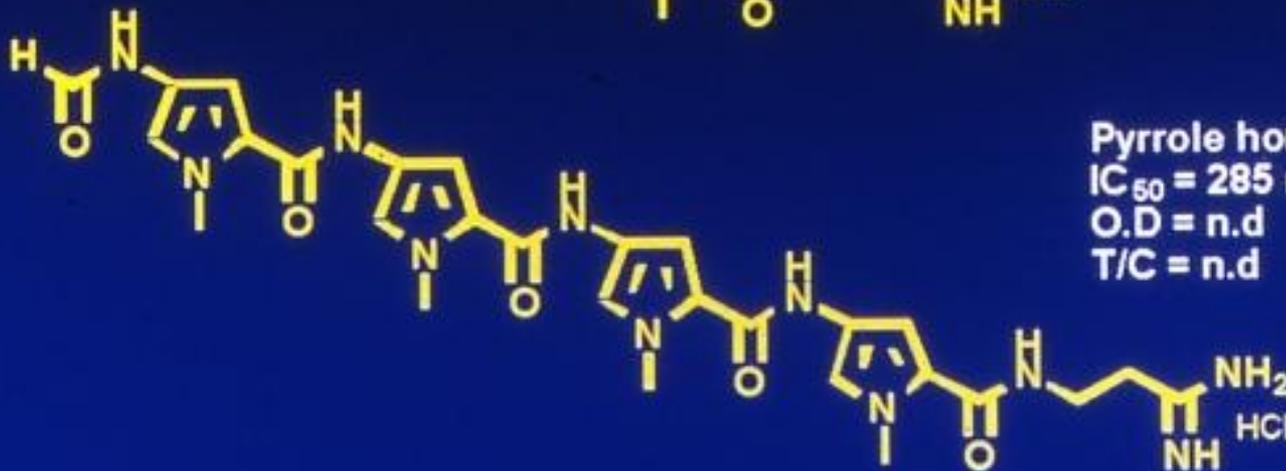
L1210 murine leukemia

Chemical Structure	IC <sub>50</sub> (ng/mL)	O.D. (mg/Kg)	% T/C
<p>Structure 1: Benzamide core with a chlorine atom and a chlorine-ethylamino group.</p>	225	12.5	213
<p>Structure 2: Benzamide core with a bromine atom and a bromine-ethylamino group.</p>	6.27	1.56	750
<p>Structure 3: Benzamide core with a chlorine atom and a chlorine-ethylamino group, and a vinyl group at the para position.</p>	10.8	n.d	n.d
<p>Structure 4: Vinyl group with a bromine atom.</p>	46.6	n.d	n.d

# RESULTS

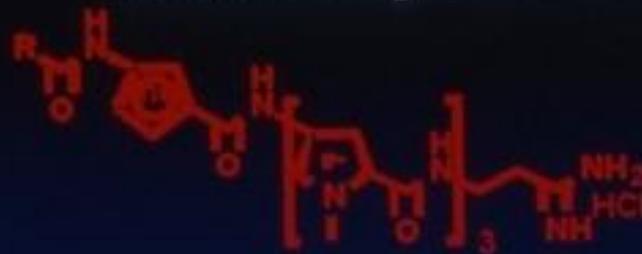


**Distamycin A**  
IC<sub>50</sub> = 5216 ng/ml  
O.D = 200 mg/Kg  
T/C = 113



**Pyrrole homologou**  
IC<sub>50</sub> = 285 ng/ml  
O.D = n.d  
T/C = n.d

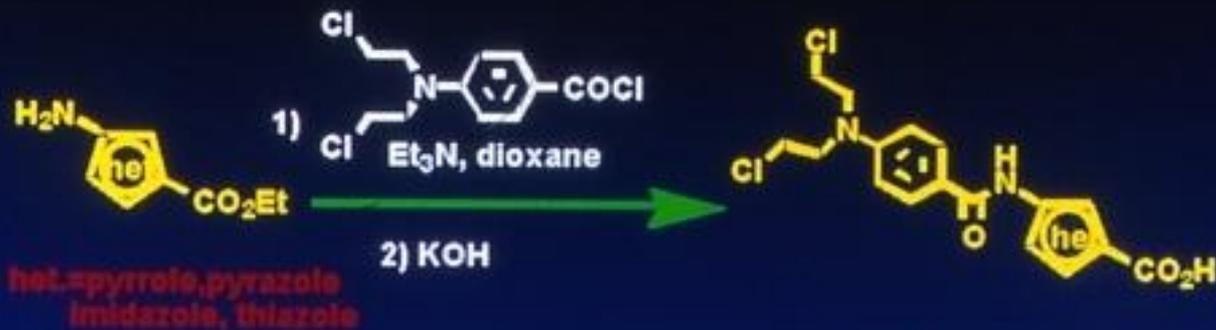
# Distamycin Derivatives



L1210 murine leukemia

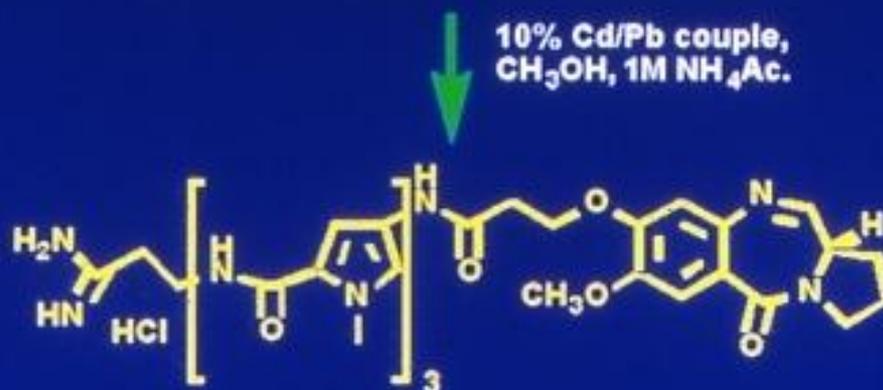
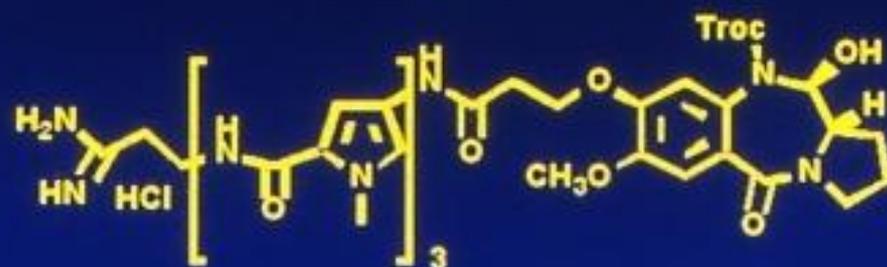
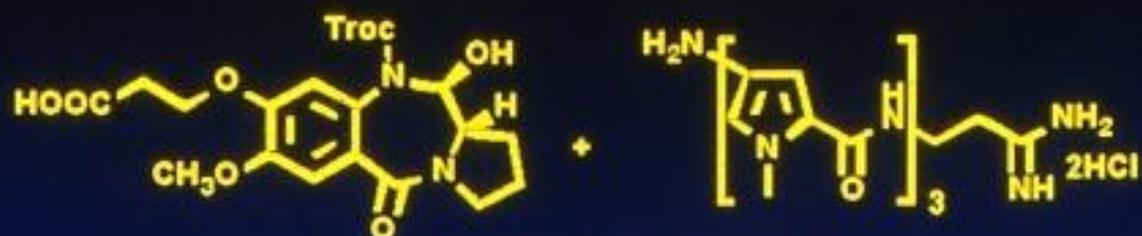
R	heterocycle	IC <sub>50</sub> (ng/mL)	O.D. (mg/Kg)	% T/C
	pyrrole	16.3	0.39	138
	pyrrole	4.7	3.12	206
	pyrazole	29.1	3.13	144
	pyrazole	9.9	6.25	200
	imidazole	2000	6.25	125
	imidazole	35	6.25	163

# SYNTHESIS

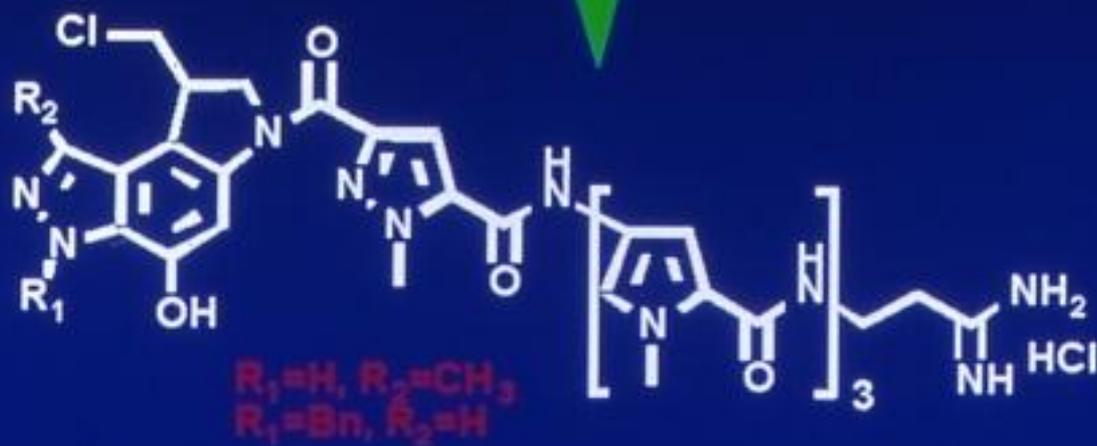
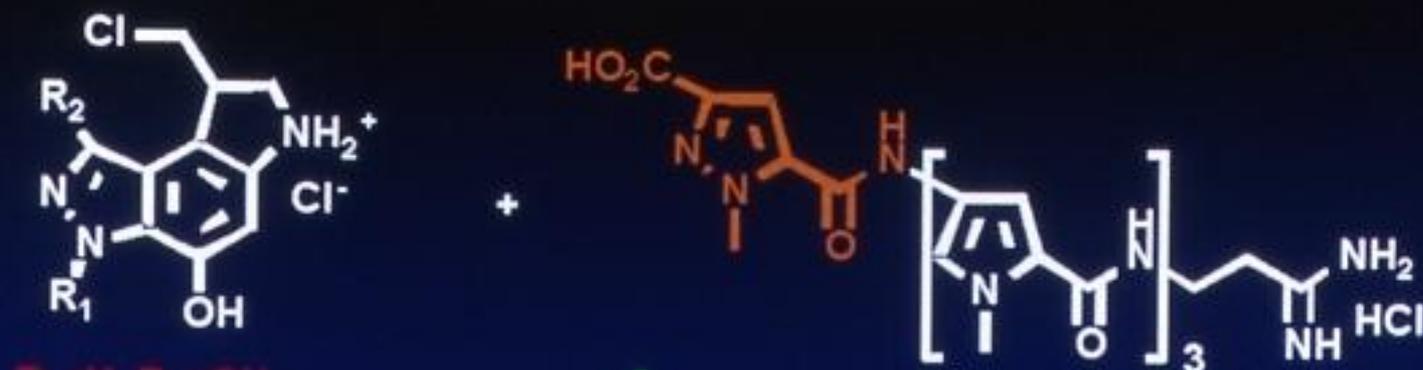




# HYBRID PBD-DISTAMYCIN



# HYBRID CC-1065-DISTAMYCIN PYRAZOLE HOMOLOGUE



# CONCLUSIONS

- **For the compounds having the same oligopeptide frame the derivatives bearing an  $\alpha$ -bromoacryloyl moiety show a better biological profile with respect to BAM counterparts**
- **Replacement of a pyrrole with pyrazole appears devoid effects when occurring at the amidine terminus, while appears detrimental when occurring near the BAM moiety**
- **Biological profile of tallimustine derivatives is a result of cooperative effects due to both by the nature of alkylating moiety and oligopeptidic fragment**

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- **Dr. Nicola Mongelli (Farmacia Upjohn)**
- **Dr. Paolo Cozzi (Farmacia Upjohn)**
- **Dr. Abdel Naser Zaid**
- **Dr. Andrea Guiotto**
- **Dr. Alberto Leoni**
- **Dr. Romeo Romagnoli**
- **Dr. Barbara Cacciari**
- **Dr. Giampiero Spalluto**