

**Supporting Information for:**

**A combined crystallographic and molecular dynamics study of  
cathepsin L retro-binding inhibitors**

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Figure S1: Schematic view of cathepsin L–inhibitor interactions

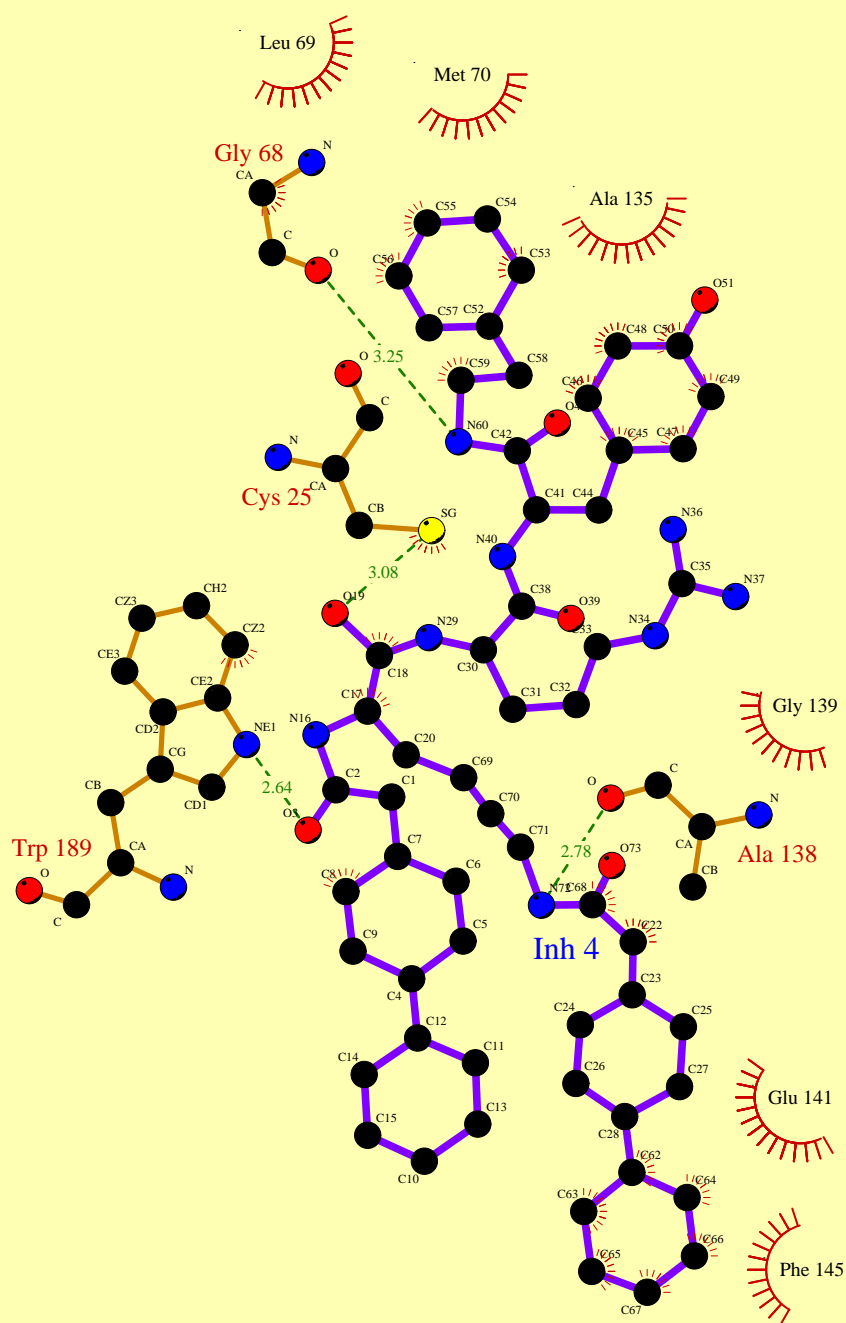
Figures S2 and S3: Stereo view of superposition of an MD snapshot of inhibitors **4** and **9** versus  
their crystal structure binding modes

Figure S4: Left intentionally blank

Figure S5: Interatomic distance fluctuations between cathepsin L and inhibitor **4**

Figure S6: Interatomic distance fluctuations between cathepsin L and inhibitor **9**

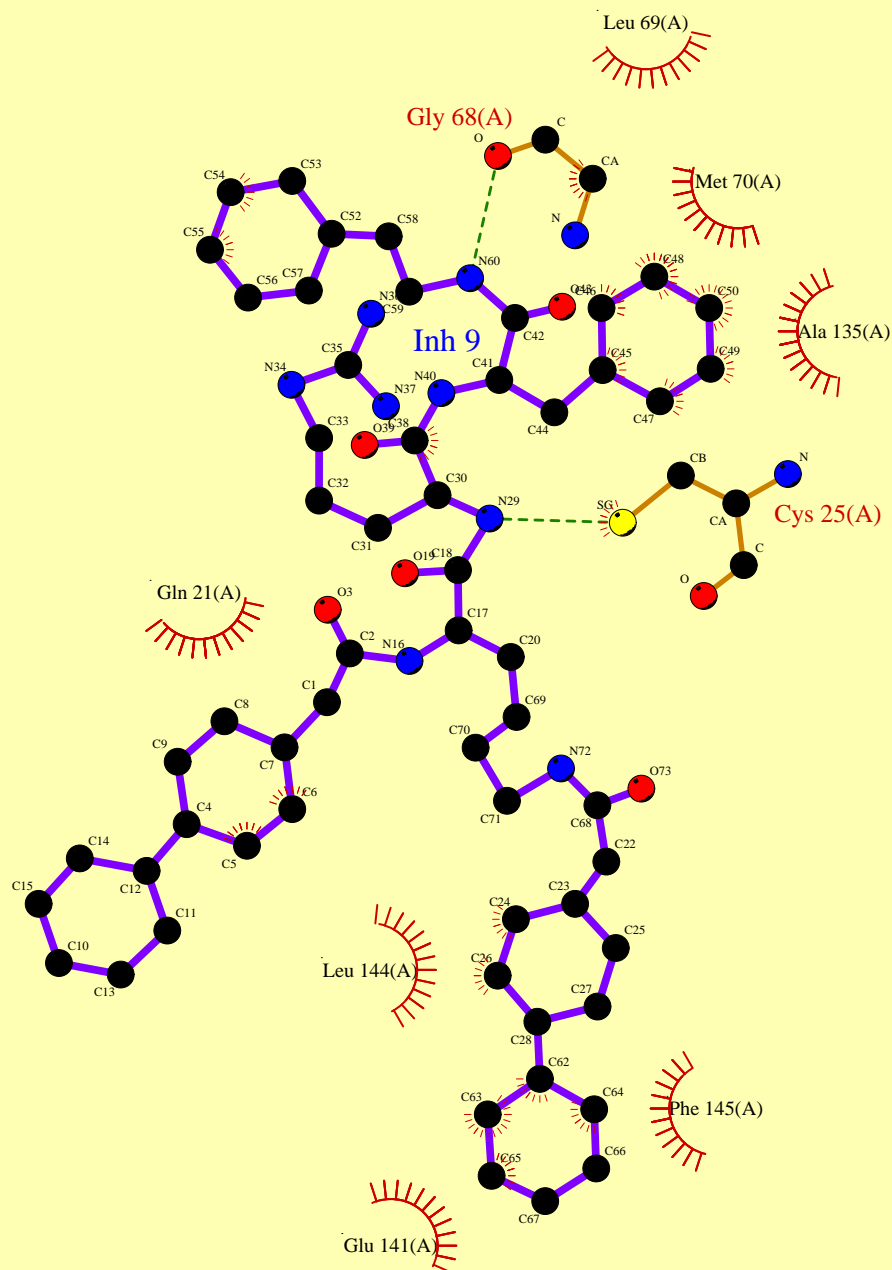
Figure S7: Interatomic distance fluctuations between cathepsin L and inhibitor **14**



## Key

- — ● Ligand bond
- — ● Non-ligand bond
- --- ● 3.0 Hydrogen bond and its length
- His 53 Non-ligand residues involved in hydrophobic contact(s)
- Corresponding atoms involved in hydrophobic contact(s)

## Inhibitor 4



## Key

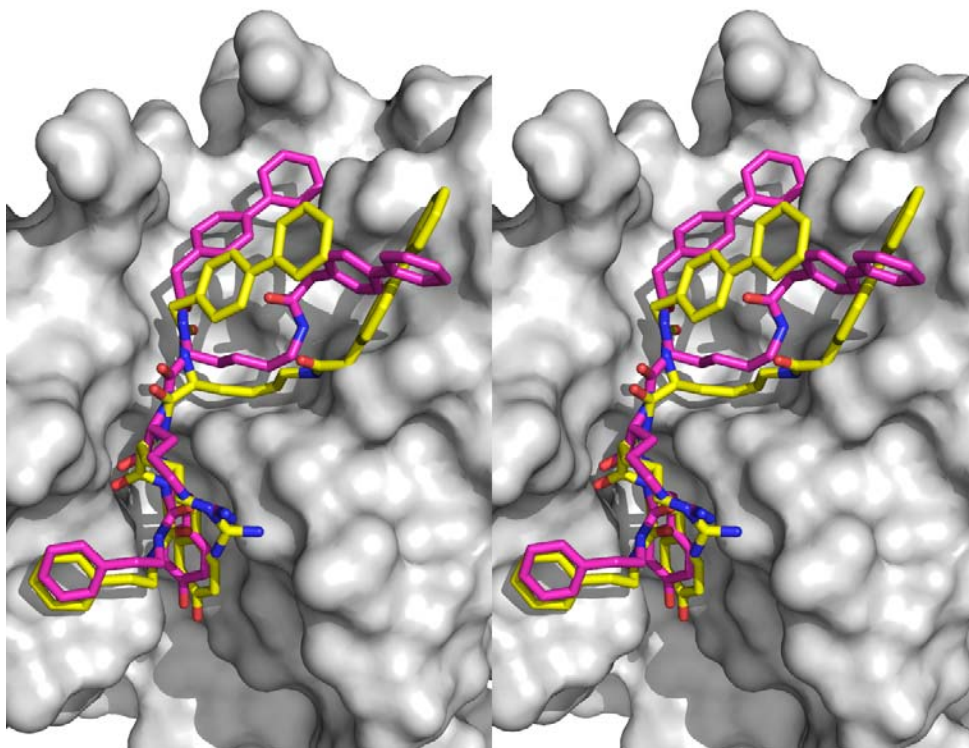
- Ligand bond
- Non-ligand bond
- Hydrogen bond

- His 53 Non-ligand residues involved in hydrophobic contact(s)
- Corresponding atoms involved in hydrophobic contact(s)

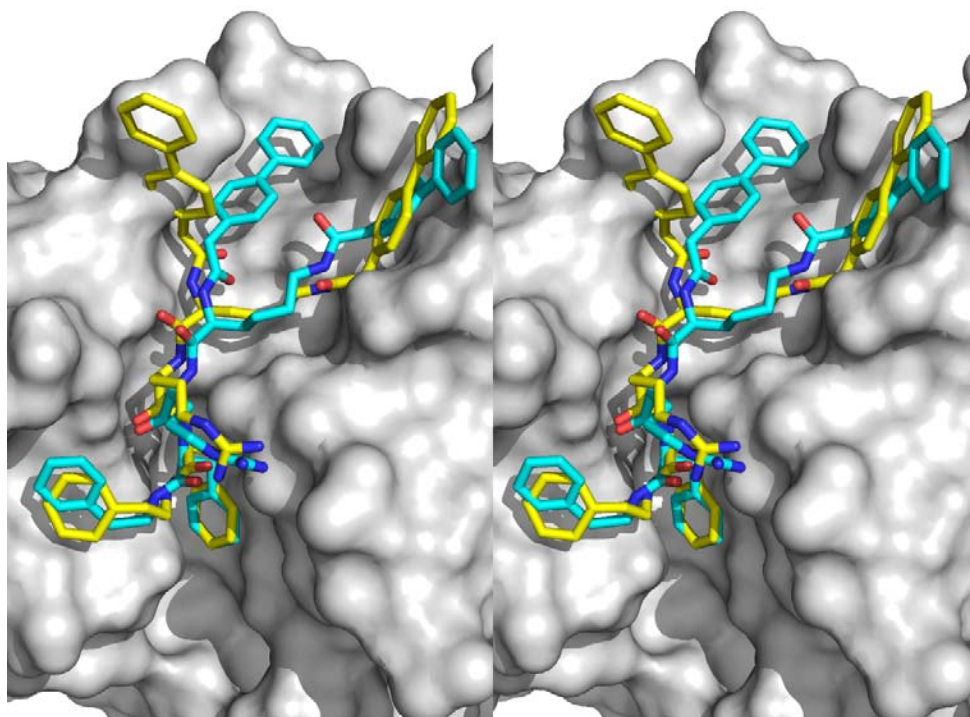
## Inhibitor 9



**Figure S1.** Schematic view of cathepsin L – inhibitor interactions for (a) cathepsin L with inhibitor **4**, (b) cathepsin L with inhibitor **9** and (c) cathepsin L with inhibitor **14**. Hydrogen bonds between cathepsin L and the inhibitors (less than or equal to 3.2 Å) are indicated by broken lines. These figures were prepared with the program LIGPLOT.<sup>1</sup>



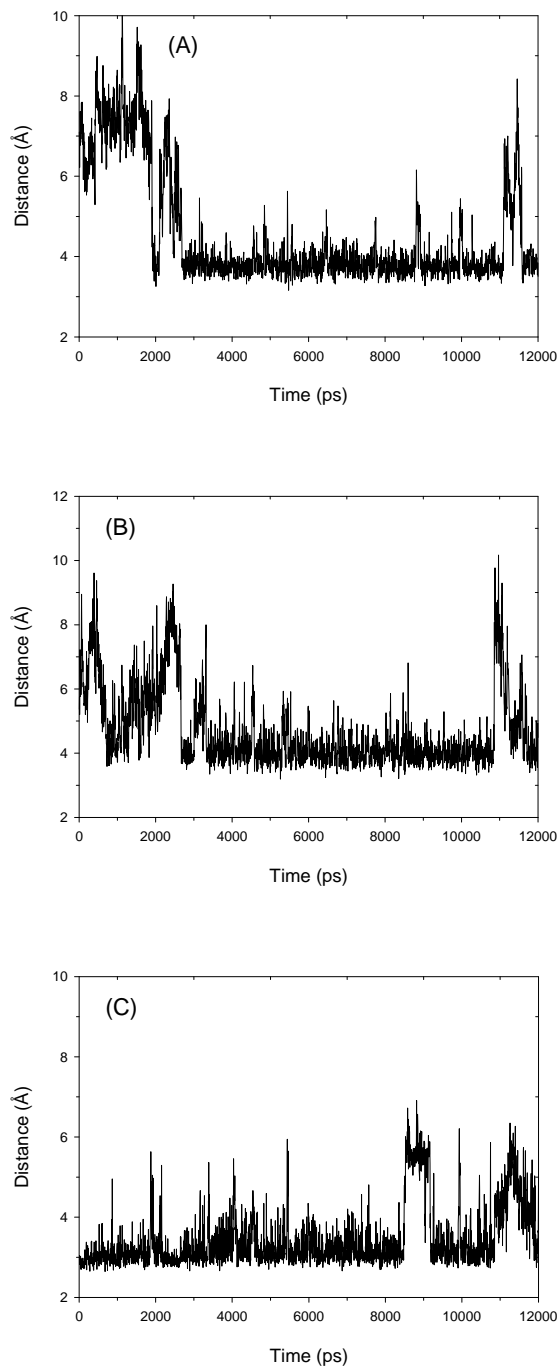
**Figure S2.** Stereo view of superposition of an MD snapshot of inhibitor **4** and the crystal structure binding mode. The magenta-colored carbon chains correspond to the MD snapshot.



**Figure S3.** Stereo view of superposition of an MD snapshot of inhibitor **9** and the crystal structure binding mode. The cyan-colored carbon chains correspond to the MD snapshot.

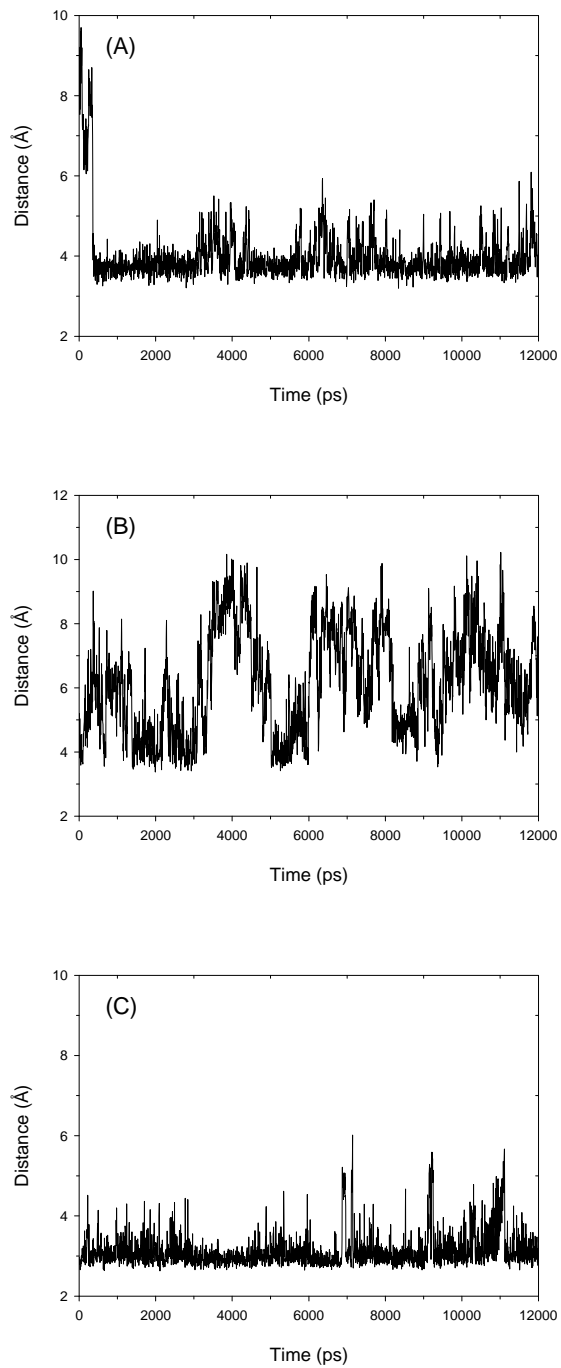
**Figure S4.** Intentionally left blank.

Figures S5 to S7 below are based on a duplicate MD simulation carried out to verify the reproducibility of the results from the original MD run. They are the equivalent of Figures 5 to 7 in the main text.

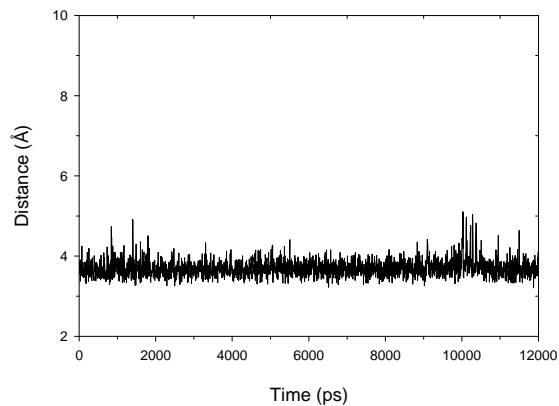


**Figure S5.** Interatomic distance fluctuations between cathepsin L and inhibitor **4**. (a) Trp184 CG – Inhibitor C4. This tracks the interaction of the backbone biphenyl with the Trp184 indole ring. (b) Leu144 CD2 – Inhibitor C28. This tracks the interaction of the side chain biphenyl with a nonpolar binding site represented by the Leu144 side chain. (c) Ala138 carbonyl O – Inhibitor Lys Nε. This tracks the locking of the inhibitor Lys side chain by formation of a hydrogen bond. See Figure S1a for atom numbering of inhibitor **4**. Together these distances provide an indication of the disposition and mobility of the biphenyl groups.





**Figure S6.** Interatomic distance fluctuations between cathepsin L and inhibitor **9**. (a) Trp184 CG – Inhibitor C4, (b) Leu144 CD2 – Inhibitor C28, (c) Ala138 carbonyl O – Inhibitor Lys Nε. See Figure S1b for atom numbering of inhibitor **4**. The significance of the various tracked distances is as in Figure S5.



**Figure S7.** Interatomic distance fluctuations between cathepsin L and inhibitor **14**. Trp184 CG – Inhibitor C4. See Figure S1c for atom numbering of inhibitor **14**. This tracks the interaction of the backbone biphenyl with the Trp184 indole ring.

#### References

1. Wallace, A. C., Laskowski, R. A. & Thornton, J. M. (1995). LIGPLOT: a program to generate schematic diagrams of protein-ligand interactions. *Protein Eng.* **8**, 127-134.