Far-Red and Near-Infrared Seminaphthofluorophores for Targeted Pancreatic Cancer Imaging

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Figure S1. Energy levels and depiction of frontier molecular orbitals (HOMO and LUMO), calculated absorption spectra and physicochemical properties of seminaphthofluorescein. Molecular orbital, dipole moment and UV-Vis spectra calculations were carried out using time-dependent density functional theory (TD-DFT) on the gas-phase at the B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) level of the optimized geometries. Log D values at pH 7.4 and polar surface area were calculated using Marvin and JChem calculator plugins (ChemAxon, Budapest, Hungary).



Figure S2. Energy levels and depiction of frontier molecular orbitals (HOMO and LUMO), calculated absorption spectra and physicochemical properties of seminaphthorhodamines. Molecular orbital, dipole moment and UV-Vis spectra calculations were carried out using time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT) on the gas-phase at the B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) level of the optimized geometries. Log D values at pH 7.4 and polar surface area were calculated using Marvin and JChem calculator plugins (ChemAxon, Budapest, Hungary).



MW = 396.41 g/mol Log D = 3.87Formal charge = +1H-bond donors = 3H-bond acceptors = 4Polar surface area = 81.35 Å^2 Dipole moment = 15.63 Debye MW = 410.44 g/molLog D = 3.99Formal charge = +1H-bond donors = 2H-bond acceptors = 4Polar surface area = 70.35 Å^2 Dipole moment = 7.96 Debye MW = 424.47 g/molLog D = 1.61Formal charge = +1H-bond donors = 1 H-bond acceptors = 4Polar surface area = 58.77 Å^2 Dipole moment = 6.97 Debye MW = 438.49 g/molLog D = 1.21Formal charge = +1H-bond donors = 0H-bond acceptors = 4Polar surface area = 47.77 Å^2 Dipole moment = 7.59 Debye MW = 395.41 g/molLog D = 3.82Formal charge = 0H-bond donors = 2H-bond acceptors = 5Polar surface area = 78.62 Å^2 Dipole moment = 5.76 Debye MW = 423.46 g/molLog D = 4.76Formal charge = 0H-bond donors = 0H-bond acceptors = 5Polar surface area = 55.84 Å^2 Dipole moment = 6.58 Debye MW = 476.54 g/molLog D = 2.30Formal charge = +1H-bond donors = 1 H-bond acceptors = 4Polar surface area = 58.77 Å^2 Dipole moment = 5.95 Debye MW = 490.57 g/mol Log D = 1.91Formal charge = +1H-bond donors = 0H-bond acceptors = 4Polar surface area = 47.77 Å^2

Figure S3. Energy levels and depiction of frontier molecular orbitals (HOMO and LUMO), calculated absorption spectra and physicochemical properties of seminaphthorhodafluors. Molecular orbital, dipole moment and UV-Vis spectra calculations were carried out using time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT) on the gas-phase at the B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) level of the optimized geometries. Log D values at pH 7.4 and polar surface area were calculated using Marvin and JChem calculator plugins (ChemAxon, Budapest, Hungary).



Figure S4. pH-dependent spectral properties of dual-emitting seminaphthofluorescein (1) and seminaphthorhodafluors (3, 5 and 11). (A) Absorption spectra (solid lines) and normalized fluorescence emission spectra (dash lines) of 1, 3, 5 and 11 in acidic solution (pH 1.9, HCl). (B) Absorption spectra and normalized fluorescence emission spectra of the conjugate bases in basic solution (pH 12.1, NaOH). (C-F) Excitation Emission Matrices (EEMs), of 1 (C), 3 (D), 5 (E) and 11 (F) in acidic solution. (G-J) EEMs of the conjugate bases in basic solution. (K) Tabulated spectral properties of 1, 3, 5 and 11 in acidic solution. (L) Tabulated spectral properties of the conjugate bases in basic solution. Fluorophore concentrations range from 10 to 15 μ M. Aqueous solutions contain 10% DMSO and 12.5 mM HCl or NaOH. Red emitting species in (A) were excited at 480 nm or 510 nm. NIR emitting species in (B) were excited at 630 nm. Emission spectra in (A and B) are normalized to their corresponding absorption peaks. The color scale of EEMs (C-J) are normalized to the maximum of each plot. The spectral properties of compounds 1, 3, 5, and 11 are pH sensitive as a result of the hydroxyl groups with pK_a values in the physiological range. In acid, the hydroxyl forms of the compounds display structured absorption peaks with maxima ranging from 530 to 585 nm, modest Stokes shifts, and fluorescence emission maxima between 600 and 624 nm. The conjugate bases of these compounds display broad featureless absorption peaks ranging from 599-643 nm, large Stokes shifts, and broad fluorescence emission peaks in the NIR. Quantum yields of the NIR emitting species were generally ~3-5 times higher in the organic solvents MeOH and DMSO as compared to aqueous solution.



Figure S5. pH- and solvent-dependent absorption spectra of seminaphthofluorescein (1) and seminaphthorhodafluors (3, 5 and 11). (A-D) Absorption spectra as a function of pH for 1 (A), 3 (B), 5 (C) and 11 (D). (E-F) Absorption spectra of 1, 3, 5 and 11 as a function of solvents including MeOH (E) and DMSO (F) display short and long wavelength absorption bands attributed to tautomer formation. (G) Absorption spectra of methyl ether derivatives (2, 4, 6 and 12) in DMSO do not exhibit tautomer formation. (H) Tautomerization equilibria. Chromophore concentrations range from 10 to 15 μ M. Aqueous solutions contain 10% DMSO and 12.5 mM HCl, phosphate buffer, or NaOH. Ratiometric absorption spectra with pK_a values in the physiological range were observed for 1, 3, 5 and 11. Well defined isosbestic points indicate spectral changes result from acid-base equilibria between two species. In aqueous solution at low pH, a single tautomer with hydroxyls on the annulated ring dominate. Absorptions from both tautomers are apparent in organic solvents. Long wavelength tautomers are more pronounced in 3 and 5 as compared to 1 and 11; and in DMSO as compared to MeOH. Methyl ether derivatives 2, 4, 6 and 12 approximate naphthol tautomers , existing as single species similar to short wavelength tautomers of 1, 3, 5, and 11 in organic solvents.



Figure S6. pH-independent spectral properties of red-emitting methyl ether derivatives (**2**, **4**, **6** and **12**) and NIR-emitting seminaphthorhodamines (**9**, **10** and **13**) in pH 7.4 buffer. (A) Absorption spectra (solid lines) and normalized fluorescence emission spectra (dash lines) of methyl ether derivatives (**2**, **4**, **6** and **12**). (B) Absorption spectra and normalized fluorescence emission spectra of seminaphthorhodamines (**9**, **10** and **13**). (C-F) EEMs of methyl ether derivatives **2** (C), **4** (D), **6** (E) and **12** (F), (G-I) EEMs of seminaphthorhodamines **9** (G), **10** (H) and **13**(I). (J) Tabulated spectral properties of methyl ether derivatives. (K) Tabulated spectral properties of seminaphthorhodamines. Fluorophore concentrations range from 10 to 15 μ M. Aqueous solutions contain 10% DMSO and 12.5 mM pH 7.4 phosphate buffer. Red emitting methyl ether derivatives in **a** were excited at 480 nm. NIR emitting seminaphthorhodamines in (B) were excited at 630 nm. Emission spectra in (A and B) are normalized to their corresponding absorption peaks. The color scale of EEMs (C-I) are normalized to the maximum of each plot. Replacing the ionizable hydyroxyl groups with a methyl ether (compounds **2**, **4**, **6**, **12**) removes both the pH and tautomeric equilibria of compounds **1**, **3**, **5**, **11**, thus approximating naphthol tautomers in a range of solvents and pH values. Absorption spectra of the methyl ether derivatives are nearly identical to their corresponding hydroxyl analogs. Emission wavelengths of the methyl ethers remain in the orange/red region. Quantum yields of the methyl ethers remain in the orange/red region. Quantum yields of the methyl ethers range from ~10-45% and are generally improved as compared to their hydroxyl analogs (improvements of ~40 fold for **2**,

30 fold for 4 and more than 2 fold for 6). Alternatively, replacing the hydroxyl group with an NH₂ group (compounds 9, 10 and 13) provides another method to remove the pH dependence while maintaining the long wavelength NIR emission observed in the conjugate bases of compounds 3, 5, and 11 in a range of pH values for the resulting seminaphthorhodamines. The seminaphthorhodamines show no sensitivity to pH over a wide range encompassing physiological pH. Emission maxima are all greater than 740 nm with large Stokes shifts. The seminaphthorhodamines are approximately twice as bright as the corresponding long wavelength emissions observed for the conjugate bases of compounds 3, 5 and 11. Quantum yields of the NIR emitting species were generally ~3-5 times higher in the organic solvents MeOH and DMSO as compared to aqueous solution.



Figure S7. pH- and solvent independent absorption spectra of methyl ether derivatives (2, 4, 6 and 12). (A-D) Absorption spectra as a function of pH for methyl ether derivatives 2 (A), 4 (B), 6 (C) and 12 (D). (E-H) Absorption spectra of methyl ether derivatives as a function of solvents including DMSO, MeOH and pH 7.4 phosphate buffer. Chromophore concentrations range from 10 to 15 μ M. Aqueous solutions contain 10% DMSO and 12.5 mM HCl, phosphate buffer, or NaOH. No pH or tautomeric equilibria are observed for the methyl ether derivatives. There was no significant change in wavelength upon changing solvents from DMSO to MeOH to aqueous solution.



Figure S8. Absorption spectra of seminaphthorhodamines (9, 10 and 13) as a function of pH and solvent. (A-C) Absorption spectra as a function of pH for pH independent seminaphthorhodamines 9 (A), 10 (B) and 13 (C). (D-F) Absorption spectra of seminaphthorhodamines as a function of solvents including DMSO, MeOH, and pH 7.4 phosphate buffer. Chromophore concentrations range from 10 to 15 μ M. Aqueous solutions contain 10% DMSO and 12.5 mM HCl, phosphate buffer, or NaOH. No pH equilibria are observed for the seminaphthorhodamine derivatives. Seminaphthorhodamines 9, 10 and 13 display moderate sensitivity to polarity with the longest wavelengths in DMSO and the shortest in aqueous solution.



Figure S9. pH dependent spectral properties of transposed seminaphthorhodafluors (7 and 8). (A) Absorption spectra (solid lines) and normalized fluorescence emission spectra (dash lines) of conjugate acids in acidic solution (pH 1.9, HCl). (B) Absorption spectra and normalized fluorescence emission spectra of 7 and 8 in basic solution (pH 12.1, NaOH). (C-D) EEMs of conjugate acids in acidic solution. (E-F) EEMs of 7 (E) and 8 (F) in basic solution. (G) Absorption spectra as a function of pH for 7. (H) Absorption spectra as a function of pH for 8. (I) Tabulated spectral properties of the conjugate acids in acidic solution. (J) Tabulated spectral properties of 7 and 8 in basic solution. Fluorophore concentrations are 15 μ M. Aqueous solutions contain 10% DMSO and 12.5 mM HCl, phosphate buffer, or NaOH. Red emitting species in (A) and (B) were excited at 480 nm. NIR emitting species in (A) and (B) were excited at 480 nm. NIR emitting species in (A) and (B) were excited at 630 nm. Emission spectra in (A) and (B) are normalized to their corresponding absorption peaks. The color scale of EEMs (C-F) are normalized to the maximum of each plot. Compared to seminaphthorhodafluors 3 and 5, the hydroxyl and amine groups are transposed in compounds 7 and 8. Seminaphthorhodafluors 3 and 5 were isolated as acidic salts with pK_a values in the physiological range, resulting in ratiometric spectral properties (short wavelength absorption and emission for the acids with long wavelength absorption and emission for the conjugate bases). The transposed compounds were isolated as neutral species, having pK_a values

approximately 2 units lower, thus displaying no sensitively to pH over the physiological range. At physiological pH and in organic solvents, both 7 and 8 displayed an absorption maxima near 525 nm. Protonation leads to a long wavelength absorption near 600 nm for 7 and short wavelength absorption near 450 nm for 8. Compound 8 was short wavelength absorbing and emitting as both the base and conjugate acid with no long wavelength species observed. Interestingly, 7 displayed dual emission as both the base and conjugate acid. These dual emissions are attributed to different tautomeric forms exhibiting less strained geometries.



Figure S10. Cell viability, cellular uptake and subcellular localization of compounds 2, 12, and 13 in Capan-1 cells. a, Cytotoxicity of 2, 12, and 13. b, Cellular uptake of 2, 12, and 13. c-e, Subcellular localization of compounds 2 (c), 12 (d) and 13 (e). Fluorescence images containing synthesized fluorophores are labeled as 2, 12 or 13 (red). Images of subcellular organelles stained with commercial fluorescent trackers are labeled as DAPI (blue), ER (green) or Mito (green). The merge columns show images of (top) phase contrast of the compound of interest, followed successively below by colocalization of DAPI + the compound of interest, colocalization of DAPI + ER + the compound of interest, and colocalization of DAPI + Mito + the compound of interest. Compounds 12 and 13 demonstrated extensive accumulation in the mitochondria and limited accumulation in the nucleus and ER.



Figure S11. Biodistribution profile of compound **2**, **12**, **13** and MB in healthy CD-1 mice. Representative images of the fluorescence intensity in the peritoneal cavity over time following systemic administration of compound **2** (A), **12** (B), **13** (C), and MB (D). All images are representative of data collected for n = 3 systemically injected mice per compound. All fluorescence images were collected at 50 ms exposure time. All images are displayed with equivalent normalization between time points and to images of a control, uninjected mouse. In = Intestine; Li = liver; Pa = pancreas; Sp = spleen; St = stomach; Bl = Bladder; Ki = Kidney.(E) *Ex vivo* resected organ normalized fluorescence intensity comparison of compound **2**, **12**, and **13**. Mean resected organ fluorescence intensity 4 hours after systemic administration of compounds **2**, **12**, or **13**. All mean fluorescence intensity was calculated for n = 3 injected mice per compound. Fluorescence intensities for each organ were normalized to the muscle fluorescence intensity per animal. Data is presented as the mean \pm S.D.



Figure S12. Biodistribution of compound **12** in PDAC mice and *ex vivo* pathology of resected PDAC tissue from uninjected control mice. (A) Representative images of the fluorescence intensity in the peritoneal cavity over time following systemic administration of compound **12** in PDAC tumor bearing mice and (B) corresponding mean fluorescence intensities measured for each organ. All images are representative of data collected for n = 5 systemically administered mice. All fluorescence images were collected at 50 ms exposure time. All images are displayed with equivalent normalization between time points. Quantified fluorescence intensity for each organ was normalized to the muscle intensity per animal per time point. Data is presented as the mean \pm S.D. In = Intestine; Li = liver; Pa = pancreas; Sp = spleen; St = stomach; Bl = Bladder; Ki = Kidney. (C-E) Representative microscopy images of (C) medium and (D) large duct type adenocarcinoma tissue and of (E) normal pancreatic acinar cells next to small duct type adenocarcinoma tissue resected from uninjected PDAC tumor bearing mice. Control IF images were collected from serial sections that had been stained using the same procedure as those for cytokeratin visualization, but with blank staining solution to demonstrate antibody staining specificity. Images were collected in the compound **12** fluorescence channel and were normalized to compound **12** fluorescence images in Figure 7 for each respective tissue type to demonstrate autofluorescence in the compound **12** fluorescence channel in unstained PDAC tissue.

Synthesis and Characterization Data

General. Unless otherwise indicated, all commercially available starting materials were used directly without further purification. Silica gel Sorbent Technologies 32-63 μ m was used for flash column chromatography. ¹H- and ¹³C NMR were obtained on either a ARX-400 or ARX 600 Advance Bruker spectrometer. Chemical shifts (δ) are given in ppm relative to DMSO-*d*₆ (2.50 ppm, ¹H, 39.52 ¹³C) unless otherwise indicated. MS (HRMS, ESI) spectra were obtained at the PSU Bioanalytical Mass Spectrometry Facility on a ThermoElectron LTQ-Orbitrap high resolution mass spectrometer with a dedicated Accela HPLC system. Compounds **1** and **2** were synthesized as described in the literature.¹⁸



Scheme S1. Synthesis of 2-(2,4-dihydroxybenzoyl)benzoic acid, 15.

2-(2,4-dihydroxybenzoyl)benzoic acid, 15. NaOH (50 g, 1.25 mol) is dissolved in 100 mL of DI water while cooling in an ice bath. Fluorescein (**14**) is added in one portion and the mixture is refluxed 5h. The mixture is cooled down to room temperature and neutralized to pH 7 using concentrated HCl. The mixture is treated with 2% NaHCO₃ to dissolve the solid formed, and then extracted with ethyl ether (3×100 mL). The aqueous phase is acidified to pH 2 using concentrated HCl, then extracted with ethyl ether (300 mL). The ethyl ether is evaporated to leave a brown residue. The target compound **15** is isolated by recrystallization from water. Yield: 4.35 g, 56%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 13.19 (s, 1H), 12.24 (s, 1H), 10.71 (s, 1H), 8.00 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.74 – 7.67 (m, 1H), 7.65-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.42 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.95 – 6.90 (m, 1H), 6.33 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.29 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 200.51, 166.76, 165.01, 164.42, 140.00, 134.75, 132.32, 129.99, 129.74, 129.48, 127.45, 113.29, 108.34, 102.55. HR ESI [M + H]⁺ *m/z* 259.0602, calc. for C₁₄H₁₁O₅ 259.0600.



Scheme S2. Synthesis of 2-(4-amino-2-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoic acid, 17.

2-(4-amino-2-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoic acid, **17.** Rhodamine 110 hydrochloride (**16**) (0.2 g, 0.545 mmol) is mixed with NaOH (0.375g, 9.27 mmol) and 180 μ L of water. The mixture is stirred and heated at 160 °C for 2 h,

0.5 mL of 50% NaOH is added in one portion and the mixture heated and stirred at 160 °C for an additional 1 h. The mixture is allowed to cool down to room temperature and diluted with 10 mL of water. The mixture is acidified to pH 1 with concentrated HCl. The resulting mixture is extracted with ethyl ether (2 × 50 mL), the organic extracts are combined, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and the solvent evaporated under vacuum to leave **17** as a pale yellow solid. Yield: 0.130 g, 93%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 13.01 (s, 1H), 12.59 (s, 1H), 7.95 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (s, 2H), 6.05 – 5.97 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 198.31, 166.92, 164.98, 156.82, 140.07, 134.48, 131.95, 129.84, 129.69, 129.31, 127.68, 109.79, 106.48, 98.16. HR ESI [M + H]⁺ *m/z* 258.0754, calc for C₁₄H₁₂NO₄ 258.0760; HR ESI [M + Na]⁺ *m/z* 280.0575, calc. for C₁₄H₁₁NO₄Na⁺ 280.0580.



Scheme S3. Synthesis of 2-(4-(dimethylamino)-2-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoic acid, 20.

2-(4-(dimethylamino)-2-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoic acid, 20. 3-dimethyl amino phenol (**18**) (5 g, 36.44 mmol) and phthalic anhydride (**19**) (5.39 g, 36.44 mmol) are dissolved in 150 mL of toluene and refluxed 18 h. The solvent is evaporated under vacuum to leave a purple residue. The residue is dissolved in ethyl acetate and the mixture passed through a plug of silica gel using EtOAc:Hexanes 1:1, EtOAc:Hexanes 3:1, and EtOAc for elution; 4.32 g, 42% of **20** are obtained. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.51 (s, 1H), 8.09 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.53 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.78, 170.69, 165.29, 156.10, 141.35, 134.44, 132.96, 131.23, 129.34, 128.15, 127.81, 110.45, 104.13, 97.89, 40.09. HR ESI [M + H]⁺ *m/z* 286.1094, calc for C₁₆H₁₆NO₄ 286.1073; HR ESI [M + Na]⁺ *m/z* 308.0915, calc. for C₁₆H₁₅NO₄Na⁺ 308.0893.



Scheme S4. Synthesis of 2-(8-hydroxy-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H,5H-pyrido[3,2,1-ij]quinoline-9-carbonyl)benzoic acid, 22.

2-(8-hydroxy-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H,5H-pyrido[3,2,1-ij]quinoline-9-carbonyl)benzoic acid, 22. Phthalic anhydride (**19**) (0.392 g 2.64 mmol) and 8-hydroxyjulolidine (**21**) (0.5 g, 2.64 mmol) are dissolved in 12 mL of toluene. The mixture is refluxed 24 h, then the solvent evaporated under vacuum. The target compound **22** is isolated as a pale yellow solid by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5 for elution. Yield: 622 mg, 70%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 13.02 (s, 1H), 12.94 (s, 1H), 7.97 – 7.91 (m, 1H), 7.65 (dt, J = 7.5, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dt, J = 7.6, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 3.24 (dd, J = 11.6, 7.0 Hz, 4H), 2.59 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 1.90 – 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.81 – 1.70 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 197.98, 167.04, 159.77, 148.79, 140.16, 131.76, 129.85, 129.66, 129.19, 127.70, 112.43, 108.38, 104.61, 54.91, 49.39, 48.94, 26.66, 21.09, 20.09, 19.57. HR ESI [M + H]⁺ *m/z* 338.1379, calc. for C₂₀H₂₀NO₄ 338.1386; HR ESI [M + Na]⁺ *m/z* 360.1197, calc. for C₂₀H₁₉NO₄Na⁺ 360.1206.



Scheme S5. Synthesis of 8-methoxynaphthalen-1-ol, 24.

8-methoxynaphthalen-1-ol, 24. Under Ar atmosphere 1,8-dihydroxynaphthalene (**23**) (1 g, 6.24 mmol) and ground K₂CO₃ are suspended in 5 mL of acetone, CH₃I (0.88 g, 6.24 mmol) is added in one portion. The mixture is refluxed for 4 h. The mixture is allowed to cool down to room temperature, diluted with 15 mL of DI water and then acidified to pH 1 using 6M HCl. The aqueous phase is extracted with ethyl acetate (2×50 mL). The organic extracts are combined, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and the solvent evaporated under vacuum. The target compound **24** is isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using EtOAc:Hexanes 25:75 for elution. Yield: 0.86 g, 79%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.38 (s, 1H), 7.45 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 6.93 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 6.6, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 155.89, 154.00, 136.32, 127.46, 126.17, 120.95, 118.49, 114.56, 110.05, 104.44, 56.16, 40.12.



Scheme S6. Synthesis of 8-aminonaphthalen-1-ol, 26.

8-aminonaphthalen-1-ol, 26. Aminonaphthalene sulfonic acid (**25**) (12.5 g, 56 mmol) is made into a paste with 15 mL of water. KOH (22.3 g, 397 mmol) and NaOH (22.39 g, 560 mmol) are melted at 200 °C in a stainless steel beaker while being stirred using a mechanical stirrer (320 rpm). The aminonaphthalene sulfonic acid paste is added portion wise. The temperature is increased slowly to 260 °C while stirred. When the temperature reaches 260 °C, the mixture turns dark brown, then it liquefies and the thick melt turns black giving off white fumes. The

mixture is kept for additional 15 min at this temperature. The mixture is cooled rapidly to avoid further oxidation. The solidified cake is dissolved in 500 mL of DI water, and filtered. The filtrate is acidified with concentrated HCl to pH 1 and filtered again. The filtrate is neutralized by adding solid NaHCO₃ portion wise. The precipitate formed is filtered, washed with water (300 mL) and dried under vacuum. 5.3 g (59%) of **26** are obtained. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.11 – 7.03 (m, 3H), 6.86 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 155.37, 146.33, 137.19, 126.93, 125.78, 118.89, 114.39, 113.84, 107.33, 107.22. HR ESI [M + H]⁺ *m/z* 160.0753, calc. for C₁₀H₁₀NO 160.0756.



Scheme S7. Synthesis of N-(8-hydroxynaphthalen-1-yl)acetamide, 28.

N-(8-hydroxynaphthalen-1-yl)acetamide, 28. 8-amino-1-naphthol (26) (5 g, 31 mmol) is suspended in 100 mL of DI water. 6N HCl is added until a homogeneous solution is obtained, the mixture is sonicated to help to dissolve the solid. A yellow-black solution is obtained at pH around 1. Acetic anhydride (4.81 g, 47.12 mmol) is added in one portion and the mixture stirred at room temperature, after a few seconds a precipitate starts forming. Solid NaHCO₃ is added portion wise until pH 6-7 is reached. A cream precipitate is obtained. The precipitate is filtered and washed with water and dissolved in a minimum amount of ethanol. The solution is brought to boil and then activated carbon is added, the mixture is boiled for additional 3 min, then filtered and washed with cold ethanol. DI water is added to the filtrate until a turbid solution is obtained, after 30 min upon standing, the target compound precipitates as small yellow needles. The recrystallized product is filtered, washed with water and then dried under vacuum. 2.05 g, (33%) of **28** are obtained. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 11.23 (s, 1H), 11.08 (s, 1H), 8.41 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 6.4, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 167.67, 153.34, 136.17, 135.60, 126.29, 126.05, 122.87, 119.94, 115.10, 114.67, 110.12, 25.29. HR ESI [M + H]⁺ *m/z* 202.0856, calc. for C₁₂H₁₁NO₂ 202.8202; [M + Na]⁺ *m/z* 224.0675, calc. for C₁₂H₁₀NO₂Na 224.0675.



Scheme S8. Synthesis of 8-(dimethylamino)naphthalen-1-ol, 31.

8-(dimethylamino)naphthalen-1-ol, 31. Under Ar atm, 1.7 M *n*-butyl lithium in hexanes (4.71 g, 73.6 mmol) is added in a continuous stream to a stirred solution of *N*,*N*-dimethyl-1-naphthylamine (**29**) (2.74 g, 16 mmol) in 35 mL of anhydrous ether. The mixture is stirred 48 h at room temperature. The lithiated naphthylamine (**30**) solution is cooled down to 0 °C and 2 M *n*-butyl magnesium chloride in hexanes (7.93 g, 67.9 mmol) is added slowly in order to keep the temperature at 0 °C. After 20 min, the reaction mixture is cooled down to -30 °C and maintained at this temperature for 4 h while dry O₂ is passed through the solution with stirring. A light yellow-grey precipitate forms and the mixture can not be longer stirred. A solution of 10% acetic acid in water (100 mL) is added under Ar atm, followed by the addition of Zn powder (1 g). The two phases are stirred for 30 min until effervescence had ceased and the aqueous phase is neutral. The flocculated Zn is filtered and the phases separated. The organic phase is washed with saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 × 50 mL), water (1 × 50 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent evaporated under vacuum. The target compound **31** is isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using 20% ether in hexanes, after pre-absorbing the crude mixture onto silica. Yield: 1.5 g, 50%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.36 (s, 1H), 7.66 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 6.85 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.91, 150.08, 136.40, 127.75, 126.80, 125.69, 119.06, 118.05, 116.87, 110.05, 46.47. HR ESI [M + H]⁺ *m/z* 188.1072, calc. for Cr₁₂H₁₄NO 188.1069.



Scheme S9. Synthesis of 1-hydroxy-7-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-10-iminium chloride, **3**.

1-hydroxy-7-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-10-iminium chloride, 3. Compound **17** (100 mg, 0.388 mmol) and 1,8-dihydroxynaphthalene (**23**) (93.4 mg, 0.583 mmol) are dissolved in 1.5 mL of methanesulfonic acid. 1.5 mL of TFA is added and the mixture heated at 80 °C for 24h. The mixture is allowed to cool down to room temperature and then poured into 20 mL of DI water. The precipitate formed is filtered and washed with water until the filtrate is neutral. The title compound is isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5 for elution. 144 mg, (97%) of **32** are obtained. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO)

δ 9.86 (s, 1H), 8.05 – 7.98 (m, 1H), 7.79 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.76 – 7.69 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.05 – 7.00 (m, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO) δ 168.80, 154.80, 152.95, 151.39, 151.24, 148.21, 136.56, 135.55, 130.01, 128.65, 128.18, 126.25, 124.55, 124.10, 123.87, 123.31, 118.68, 113.96, 112.20, 111.82, 111.72, 104.67, 99.58, 84.17. HR ESI [M + H]⁺ *m/z* 382.1081, calc for C₂₄H₁₆NO₄ 382.1073. Compound **32** (50 mg, 131 µmol) is dissolved in 25 mL of anhydrous MeOH. 0.750 mL of acetyl chloride is added dropwise. The mixture is stirred and heated at 50 °C for 48h. 0.3 mL of acetyl chloride is added and the mixture is kept at 50 °C for additional 24 h. The solvent is evaporated under vacuum. The title compound **3** is purified in a C₁₈ reversed phase SPE cartridge using MeOH:H₂O 2:8, MeOH:H₂O 1:1 for elution. Yield 45.44 mg (88%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 11.47 (s, 1H), 8.91 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 2H), 8.34 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 165.09, 161.45, 160.00, 158.19, 157.57, 154.18, 138.39, 133.70, 133.59, 133.52, 131.77, 130.97, 130.75, 130.42, 129.08, 127.17, 122.51, 121.50, 119.26, 117.47, 117.10, 114.08, 112.28, 96.84, 52.48. HR ESI [M]⁺ *m/z* 396.1240, calc, for C₂₅H₁₈NO₄ 396.1230.



Scheme S10. Synthesis of 1-methoxy-7-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-10-iminium bicarbonate, 4.

1-methoxy-7-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-10-iminium bicarbonate, 4. Compound **17** (150 mg, 0.583 mmol), and compound **24** (152 mg, 0.875 mmol) are dissolved in 1 mL of methanesulfonic acid, then 1 mL of TFA is added. The mixture is stirred at 80 °C for 16h. The mixture is cooled down to room temperature and poured into 50 mL of DI water. The mixture is neutralized to pH 6-7 by portion wise addition of solid NaHCO₃. The precipitate formed is filtered and washed with water (25 mL), then air dried. The title compound **33** is isolated by flash column chromatography using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 9:1 for elution. Yield 157 mg (68%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.05 – 7.99 (m, 1H), 7.78 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (dt, *J* = 8.6, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 5.68 (s, 2H), 4.05 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 168.83, 157.04, 153.02, 151.59, 151.31, 148.04, 136.49, 135.58, 130.04, 128.46, SI-24

128.17, 126.22, 124.58, 124.42, 124.14, 123.19, 120.30, 114.95, 112.83, 111.72, 108.26, 104.64, 99.48, 84.29, 56.42. HR ESI $[M + H]^+$ *m/z* 396.1230, calc. for C₂₅H₁₈NO₄ 396.1230. Compound **33** (50 mg, 126 µmol) is dissolved in 2 mL of MeOH. To this solution is added concentrated H₂SO₄ (100 µL) dropwise, then the mixture is refluxed for 24h. The mixture is allowed to cool down to room temperature, then poured into 50 mL of ice water and 200 mg of NaHCO₃ is added in one portion. The precipitate formed is washed with 2% NaHCO₃ (2 × 10 mL). The solid is transferred to a flask containing 50 mL of 2% HOAc. The pH of the solution is adjusted to 6-7 using 1 M NaOH. The aqueous phase is extracted with CHCl₃ (3 x 100 mL). The organic phase is dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent evaporated under vacuum to leave a dark purple solid. The title compound **4** is isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 9:1 for elution. Yield 49 mg, 94%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.97 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 2H), 8.34 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04 – 7.85 (m, 4H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.24 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 165.07, 161.76, 160.07, 158.44, 158.33, 153.23, 138.40, 133.62, 133.54, 133.33, 131.96, 131.00, 130.80, 130.43, 129.09, 127.03, 123.23, 121.82, 120.86, 117.96, 117.43, 113.08, 109.82, 96.87, 56.82, 52.77, 52.48. HR ESI [M]⁺ *m/z* 410.1400, calc. for C₂₆H₂₀NO₄ 410.1386.



Scheme S11. Synthesis of N-(1-hydroxy-7-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-10-ylidene)-N-N-dimethyl iminium bicarbonate, **5**.

N-(1-hydroxy-7-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-10-ylidene)-N-N-dimethyl iminium bicarbonate, **5**. Compound **20** (0.750 g, 2.63 mmol) and **23** (0.632 g, 3.94 mmol) are dissolved in 6.5 mL of methanesulfonic acid, then TFA (6.5 mL) are added. The mixture is heated at 80 °C for 24h, then allowed to cool down to room temperature. The mixture is poured into 300 mL of DI water, the purple solid is filtered and washed with water (3×100 mL), then dried under vacuum. The target compound **34** is separated by flash chromatography on silica gel using CHCl₃:MeOH 9:1 for elution. Yield 0.778 g, 72%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.12 (s, 1H), 8.08 – 8.04 (m, 1H), 7.65 (dqd, *J* = 14.4, 7.3, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.18 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 4.2 Hz, 2H), 6.55 – 6.48 (m, 2H), 3.03 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.70, 154.32, 153.52, 152.23, 150.95, 148.59, 136.63, 135.18, 129.88, 129.16, 129.00, 126.97, 125.23, 124.43, 124.11, 124.06, 119.69, 113.38, 112.72, 112.56,

110.23, 105.84, 97.93, 83.39, 40.44. HR ESI $[M + H]^+$ found 410.1392, calc. for C₂₆H₂₀NO₄ 410.1368. Compound **34** (100 mg, 243 µmol) is dissolved in 2 mL of MeOH. To this solution is added concentrated H₂SO₄ (100 µL) dropwise, then the mixture is refluxed for 16 h. The mixture is allowed to cool down to room temperature, then poured into 50 mL of ice water and filtered. The precipitate is washed with 2% NaHCO₃ (2 × 10 mL). The solid is transferred to a flask containing 50 mL of 2% HOAc. The pH of the solution is adjusted to 6-7 using 1 M NaOH. The aqueous phase is extracted with CHCl₃ (3 × 100 mL). The organic phase is dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent evaporated under vacuum to leave a dark purple solid. The target compound **5** is isolated by flash column chromatography. A dark purple band is eluted with CHCl₃:MeOH 9:1, 8:2; yield 36 mg. A second green band was eluted with CHCl₃:MeOH 1:1, then 1:3; yield 61 mg. Total yield of **34**, 97 mg, (94%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.32 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 3.39 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 165.29, 158.40, 154.28, 153.85, 138.93, 135.22, 134.73, 133.24, 130.70, 129.87, 128.79, 127.72, 124.06, 120.52, 117.48, 113.21, 96.43, 94.54, 79.25, 52.13. HR ESI [M⁺] *m/z* 424.1540, calc for C₂₇H₂₂NO₄⁺ 424.1543.



Scheme S12. Synthesis of *N*-(1-methoxy-7-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-10-ylidene)-N-methylmethanaminium chloride, **6**.

N-(1-methoxy-7-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-10-ylidene)-N-

methylmethanaminium chloride, 6. Compound **34** (50 mg, 0.122 mmol), K₂CO₃ (67.5 mg, 0.488 mmol) are suspended in 0.6 mL of anhydrous DMF, CH₃I (104 mg, 0.732 mmol) is added in one portion. The mixture is stirred at 60 °C for 6h, then allowed to cool down to room temperature. 2 mL of saturated NH₄Cl are added to quench the reaction. The precipitate formed is filtered and washed with 0.5% NaOH (2 mL), then with water (25 mL). The title compound **6** is isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 9:1 for elution. Yield: 4.5 mg, (8%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.36 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.45, 160.65, 159.55, 159.11, 158.31, 154.73, 139.21, 134.11, 133.58, 133.39, 131.66, 131.12, 130.89, 130.39, 129.82, 127.38, 123.24, 120.99, 119.99, 118.60, 117.63, 114.24, 109.24, 96.78, 57.11, 52.76, 42.53, 29.84. HR ESI [M⁺] *m/z* 438.1698, calc for C₂₈H₂₄NO₄⁺; 438.1699.



Scheme S13. Synthesis of methyl 2-(1-amino-10-oxo-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-7-yl)benzoate, 7.

Methyl 2-(1-amino-10-oxo-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-7-yl)benzoate 7. Compound 15 (200 mg, 0.774 mmol), and compound 28 (234 mg, 1.16 mmol) are dissolved in 2.5 mL of methanesulfonic acid, then 2.5 mL of TFA are added. The mixture is stirred at 80 °C for 24h, then cooled down to room temperature. The mixture is poured into 50 mL of DI water, the precipitate obtained is filtered and washed with DI water, then air dried. The title compound is isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 9:1. 33 mg of a mixed fraction containing the target product 35 is isolated. 17 mg of the 35 mixed fraction are dissolved in 1 mL of MeOH, 50 µL of concentrated sulfuric acid are added in one portion. The mixture is refluxed for 16h, the mixture is allowed to cool down to room temperature and poured into 10 mL of DI water. 200 mg of NaHCO₃ is added in one portion. The precipitate formed is filtered and washed with aqueous 2% NaHCO₃, the precipitate is then suspended in 25 mL of 2% HOAc, a dark brown black suspension is obtained, the mixture is neutralized to pH 6-7 by adding solid NaHCO₃ portion wise. The aqueous phase is extracted with CHCl₃ (3 x 50 mL), the organic extracts are combined, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and the solvent evaporated under vacuum to leave a black precipitate. The title compound 7 is isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 9:1 for elution. Yield 2.7 mg, 15%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.29 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (td, J = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (td, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (dd, J = 9.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (s, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 185.06, 158.17, 146.15, 137.97, 135.26, 132.99, 131.36, 131.30, 130.72, 129.90, 129.82, 125.81, 122.57, 117.43, 112.65, 111.41, 105.15, 52.60. HR ESI $[M + H^+] m/z$ 396.1240, calc for C₂₅H₁₈NO₄⁺ 396.1230.



Scheme S14. Synthesis of Methyl 2-(1-(dimethylamino)-10-oxo-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-7-yl)benzoate, 8.

Methyl 2-(1-(dimethylamino)-10-oxo-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-7-yl)benzoate, 8. Compound 15 (200 mg, 0.774 mmol), compound **31** (217.5 mg, 1.16 mmol) are dissolved in 2.5 mL of methanesulfonic acid, then 2.5 mL of TFA is added. The mixture is stirred at 80 °C for 24 h, then cooled down to room temperature. The mixture is poured into 50 mL of DI water, the precipitate obtained is filtered and washed with DI water, then air dried. The crude mixture is separated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5 for elution; 15 mg of a mixed fraction containing 36 is isolated. 10 mg of the 36 mixed fraction are dissolved in 1 mL of MeOH, 50 µl of concentrated Sulfuric acid is added in one portion. The mixture is refluxed for 16 h, the mixture is allowed to cool down to room temperature and poured into 10 mL of DI water. 200 mg of NaHCO₃ are added in one portion. The precipitate formed is filtered and washed with aqueous 2% NaHCO₃, the precipitate is then suspended in 25 mL of 2% HOAc. The mixture is neutralized to pH 6-7 by adding solid NaHCO₃ portion wise. The aqueous phase is extracted with CHCl₃ (3 x 50 mL), the organic extracts are combined, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and the solvent evaporated under vacuum. The crude mixture was separated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 9:1 for elution. The isolated fraction (5.9 mg) containing the target product 8 was further separated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using EtOAc:MeOH 95:5 for elution. Yield, 1.5 mg, (14.5%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.29 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (td, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 7.3Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dd, J = 7.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (dd, J = 9.1, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (s, 2H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.04 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.77, 158.79, 152.34, 138.80, 135.39, 132.90, 131.35, 131.12, 130.80, 130.54, 130.21, 129.80, 129.52, 125.54, 123.04, 121.50, 117.37, 116.79, 116.12, 105.25, 52.52, 45.39. HR ESI $[M^+]$ *m/z* 424.1556, calc for C₂₇H₂₂NO₄⁺ 424.1543.



Scheme S15. Synthesis of 1-amino-7-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-10-iminium chloride, 9.

1-amino-7-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-10-iminium chloride, 9. Compound **17** (310 mg, 1.21 mmol), 8-aminonaphthalen-1-ol (**26**) (287.75 mg, 1.81 mmol) are dissolved in 4.5 mL of methanesulfonic acid, then 4.5 mL of TFA is added. The mixture is stirred at 80 °C for 18 h, then cooled down to room temperature. The mixture is poured into 60 mL of DI water, the mixture is brought to pH 5 by portion wise

addition of solid NaHCO₃. The dark green precipitate obtained is filtered and washed with DI water. The title compound **37** is isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 9:1 for elution. Yield 254.9 mg, 56%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.01 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (td, J = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (td, J = 7.5, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36 - 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.00 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (dd, J = 7.7, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, J = 1.8Hz, 1H), 6.48 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (s. 2H), 5.69 (s. 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz. DMSO) & 168.81, 152.83, 151.27, 150.99, 149.26, 146.12, 136.51, 135.56, 130.04, 128.83, 128.31, 126.32, 124.58, 124.11, 123.88, 123.27, 115.01, 111.96, 111.69, 110.79, 110.69, 104.78, 99.30, 84.15. HR ESI $[M + H]^+$ m/z 381.1232, calc. for C₂₄H₁₇N₂O₃ 381.1233. Compound **37** (25 mg, 66 µmol) is dissolved in 20 mL of anhydrous MeOH: 1.0 mL of acetyl chloride is added drop wise. The mixture is stirred and heated at 50 °C for 48 h; 0.5 mL of acetyl chloride is added and the mixture is kept at 50 °C for additional 24 h. The solvent is evaporated under vacuum. The title compound 9 is isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 90:10, 85:15, 80:20 for elution. Yield 24 mg, 93%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.70 (s, 2H), 8.32 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.99 - 7.94 (m, 1H), 7.88 (dd, J = 10.9, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 7.70 - 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.57.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (s, 2H), 7.23-7.13 (m, 4H), 6.86 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.56 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 165.08, 160.42, 158.80, 157.07, 156.39, 149.40, 137.94, 134.03, 133.90, 133.49, 131.31, 130.92, 130.64, 130.42, 129.10, 127.83, 121.75, 120.61, 116.80, 115.91, 115.79, 113.85, 108.57, 97.90, 52.46. HR ESI $[M]^+$ m/z 395.1386, calc. for C₂₅H₁₉N₂O₃⁺ 395.1390.



Scheme S16. Synthesis of N-(1-amino-7-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-10-ylidene)-Nmethylmethanaminium, 10.

N-(1-amino-7-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-10H-benzo[c]xanthen-10-ylidene)-N-methylmethanaminium, 10. Compound 20 (450 mg, 1.58 mmol), 8-aminonaphthalen-1-ol (26) (326.41 mg, 2.05 mmol) are dissolved in 2 mL of methanesulfonic acid, then 2 mL of TFA is added. The mixture is stirred at 80 °C for 24 h, then cooled down to room temperature. The mixture is poured into 150 mL of DI water, the mixture is neutralized by portion wise addition of NaHCO₃, the dark green precipitate obtained is filtered and washed with DI water then air dried. The target compound **38** is isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5, 9:1, Yield 265 mg, 41 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.03 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (dt, *J* = 7.5, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (dt, *J* = 7.4, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 6.98 (dd, *J* = 10.7, 4.6 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.59 – 6.56 (m, 2H), 6.50 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (s, 2H), 2.99 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 168.79, 152.91, 152.01, 151.05, 149.36, 146.15, 136.57, 135.59, 130.08, 128.84, 128.08, 126.21, 124.62, 124.08, 123.98, 123.20, 114.81, 111.57, 110.80, 110.48, 109.98, 105.01, 98.68, 83.95. HR ESI [M+ H⁺] *m/z* 409.15743, calc. for $C_{26}H_{21}N_2O_3^+$ 409.15466. Under Ar, compound **38** (25 mg, 0.043 mmol) is dissolved in 12.5 mL of anhydrous MeOH. The solution is cooled down to 0 °C in an ice bath, 0.375 mL of acetyl chloride is added drop wise. The mixture is stirred and heated at 50 °C for 48 h; 0.2 mL of acetyl chloride is added and the mixture is kept at 50 °C for additional 24 h. The solvent is evaporated under vacuum. 27 mg (96%) of **10** are obtained. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.33 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.92 – 7.85 (m, 2H), 7.68 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.26 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 3.38 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 165.10, 158.47, 157.60, 156.82, 156.39, 149.34, 137.95, 133.89, 133.52, 130.96, 130.69, 130.41, 129.13, 127.95, 121.73, 117.08, 115.74, 115.55, 113.83, 108.24, 97.33, 52.77, 52.48. HR ESI [M⁺] *m/z* 423.17298, calc. for $C_{27}H_{23}N_2O_3^+$ 423.17031.



Scheme S17. Synthesis of 15-hydroxy-9-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydrobenzo[7,8]chromeno[2,3-f]pyrido[3,2,1-ij]quinolin-4-ium chloride, **11**.

15-hydroxy-9-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydrobenzo[7,8]chromeno[2,3-f]pyrido[3,2,1ij]quinolin-4-ium chloride, 11. Compound **22** (200 mg, 0.593 mmol), 1,8-dihydroxynaphthalene (**23**) (142 mg, 0.889 mmol) are dissolved in 1.5 mL of methanesulfonic acid, then 1.5 mL of TFA is added. The mixture is stirred at 80 °C for 24 h, then cooled down to room temperature. The mixture is poured into 50 mL of DI water, the precipitate obtained is filtered and washed with DI water then dried under vacuum. 256 mg (93%) of **39** are obtained. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 11.39 (s, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 3.63 (d, *J* = 22.7 Hz, 6H), 2.76 (s, 2H), 2.06 (s, 2H), 1.91 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 166.46, 158.01, 157.68, 156.84, 137.90, 133.16, 130.38, 126.35, 125.32, 122.66, 119.13, 118.37, 115.38, 113.42, 112.67, 105.31, 50.94, 50.64, 26.89, 19.77, 18.86. HR ESI [M+ H⁺] *m/z* 462.1690, calc. for C₃₀H₂₄NO₄⁺ 462.17108. Compound **39** (50 mg, 0.108 mmol) is dissolved in 25 mL of anhydrous MeOH. 0.75 mL of acetyl chloride is added drop wise. The mixture is stirred and heated at 50 °C for 48 h. 0.3 mL of acetyl chloride is added and the mixture is kept at 50 °C for additional 24 h. The solvent is evaporated under vacuum, the target compound **11** is isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 90:10 for elution. Yield 46 mg, 90%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 11.50 (s, 1H), 8.33 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.92 - 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.73 (dd, J = 12.5, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.95 - 6.87 (m, 2H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.33 (s, 2H), 2.78 (s, 2H), 2.08 (s, 2H), 1.92 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 201.26, 164.65, 157.10, 156.33, 152.34, 130.52, 129.06, 116.89, 113.67, 113.39, 112.24, 105.24, 103.61, 52.59, 50.51, 19.55, 18.60. HR ESI [M]⁺ m/z 476.1858, calc. for C₃₁H₂₆NO₄⁺ 476.1856.



Scheme S18. Synthesis of 15-methoxy-9-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydrobenzo[7,8]chromeno[2,3-f]pyrido[3,2,1-ij]quinolin-4-ium chloride, **12**.

15-methoxy-9-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydrobenzo[7,8]chromeno[2,3-f]pyrido[3,2,1-ij]quinolin-4-ium chloride, 12. Under Ar atm, compound **39** (25 mg, 0.054 mmol) is dissolved in 0.5 mL of anhydrous DMF, to this solution is added K₂CO₃ (22.5 mg, 0.162 mmol) and CH₃I (31 mg, 0.217 mmol). The mixture is heated at 60 °C for 24 h, then allowed to cool down to room temperature. 2 mL of saturated NH₄Cl is added to quench the reaction. The precipitate formed is filtered and washed with 0.5% NaOH (2 mL), then with water (25 mL). The title compound **12** is isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 90:10 for elution. Yield: 16 mg, 59%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.36 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.91 – 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.82 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 4.22 (s, 3H), 4.05 – 3.89 (m, 2H), 3.84 – 3.69 (m, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.38 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.95 – 2.74 (m, 2H), 2.39 – 2.01 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.59, 158.81, 156.53, 154.52, 153.32, 138.73, 134.59, 133.58, 132.36, 131.54, 130.76, 130.56, 129.86, 129.77, 126.66, 125.79, 123.21, 120.99, 118.11, 117.86, 114.58, 108.74, 106.16, 56.79, 52.74, 52.32, 52.05, 28.08, 20.40, 20.18, 19.65. HR ESI [M]⁺ *m/z* 490.2026, calc. for C₃₂H₂₈NO₄⁺ 490.2012.



Scheme S19. Synthesis of 15-amino-9-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydrobenzo[7,8]chromeno[2,3-f]pyrido[3,2,1-ij]quinolin-4-ium chloride, 13.

15-amino-9-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydrobenzo[7,8]chromeno[2,3-f]pyrido[3,2,1ij]quinolin-4-ium chloride, 13. Compound 22 (100 mg, 0.296 mmol) and compound 26 (71 mg, 0.444 mmol)

are dissolved in 1.5 mL of methanesulfonic acid, then 1.5 mL of TFA is added. The mixture is stirred at 80 °C for 24 h, then cooled down to room temperature. The mixture is poured into 50 mL of DI water, then neutralized by portion wise addition of NaHCO₃, the green precipitate obtained is filtered and washed with DI water then air dried. The target compound is isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 90:10. 80:20, and then 100% MeOH to elute the last dark green band that corresponds to the target compound 40. The MeOH fraction is evaporated under vacuum, and the resulting solid is dissolved in a mixture of CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 90:10 and filtered trough a 0.22 µm filter to remove any dissolved silica. Yield 52 mg, 39 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.01 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (td, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (td, J = 7.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.01 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (s, 2H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 3.23 -3.10 (m, 2H), 2.98 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 2H), 1.85 -1.75 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, 101 MHz) DMSO) & 168.83, 153.34, 152.90, 149.78, 149.33, 147.24, 146.83, 145.90, 145.24, 144.55, 136.55, 135.57, 130.04, 128.76, 126.35, 124.61, 124.19, 123.96, 123.31, 118.66, 115.22, 115.01, 112.06, 110.74, 110.65, 108.55, 106.10, 104.40, 84.50, 63.19, 49.20, 48.32, 26.76, 21.64, 21.13, 20.73, 18.57. HR ESI $[M+H]^+ m/z$ 461.1869, calc. for $C_{30}H_{25}N_2O_3^+$ 461.1859. Compound 40 (20 mg, 0.043 mmol) is dissolved in 15 mL of anhydrous MeOH; 0.75 mL of acetyl chloride is added drop wise. The mixture is stirred and heated at 50 °C for 48 h; then 0.2 mL of acetyl chloride is added and the mixture is kept at 50 °C for additional 24 h. The solvent is evaporated under vacuum. 21 mg (100%) of the target compound 13 are obtained. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.32 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (td, J = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.92 – 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.69 – 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.90 – 6.79 (m, 2H), 3.73 – 3.61 (m, 4H), 3.57 (s, 1H), 3.27 (d, 3.14), 3.27 (d, 3.14), 3.27 (d, 3.14), 3.14), 3.14 J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.82 – 2.74 (m, 2H), 2.10 (dd, J = 12.5, 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.91 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.57, 156.75, 156.60, 153.20, 152.80, 148.90, 138.31, 134.80, 133.87, 133.38, 131.49, 130.59, 130.39, 129.97, 128.08, 127.94, 125.73, 121.57, 117.28, 116.96, 116.34, 114.91, 110.34, 106.08, 54.50, 52.75, 51.76, 51.26, 28.00, 21.21, 20.38, 19.56. HR ESI $[M^+]$ m/z 475.2029, calc. for $C_{31}H_{27}N_2O_3^+$ 475.2016.



Figure S13. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 15.



Figure S14. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 15.



Figure S15. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 15.



Figure S16. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 17.


Figure S17. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 17.



Figure S18. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 17.



Figure S19. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 20.



Figure S20. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 20.



Figure S21. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 20.



Figure S22. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 22.



Figure S23. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 22.



Figure S24. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 22.



Figure S25. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 24.



Figure S26. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 24.



Figure S27. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 26.



Figure S28. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 26.



Figure S29. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 26.



Figure S30. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 28.



Figure S31. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 28.



Figure S32. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 28.



Figure S33. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 31.



Figure S34. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 31.



Figure S35. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 31.



Figure S36. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **32**.



Figure S37. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 32.



Figure S38. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 31.



Figure S39. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 3.



Figure S40. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **3**.



Figure S41. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 3.



Figure S42. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 33.



Figure S43. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 33.



Figure S44. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 33.



Figure S45. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 4.



Figure S46. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 4.



Figure S47. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 4.



Figure S48. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 34.



Figure S49. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 34.



Figure S50. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 34.



Figure S51. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 5.



Figure S52. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **5**.


Figure S53. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 5.



Figure S54. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 6.



Figure S55. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 6.



Figure S56. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 6.



Figure S57. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 7.



Figure S58. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 7.



Figure S59. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 7.



Figure S60. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 8.



Figure S61. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 8.



Figure S62. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 8.



Figure S63. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 37.



Figure S64. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 37.



Figure S65. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 37.



Figure S66. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 9.



Figure S67. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 9.



Figure S68. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 9.



Figure S69. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **38**.



Figure S70. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 38.



Figure S71. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 38.



Figure S72. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 10.



Figure S73. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 10.



Figure S74. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 10.



Figure S75. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **39**.



Figure S76. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **39**.



Figure S77. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 39.



Figure S78. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 11.



Figure S79. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 11.



Figure S80. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 11.



Figure S81. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 12.



Figure S82. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 12.



Figure S83. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 12.



Figure S84. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 40.



Figure S85. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 40.



Figure S86. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 40.



Figure S87. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 13.



Figure S88. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 13.


Figure S89. HR ESI positive mode spectrum of compound 13.