

Towards the development of new subtype-specific muscarinic receptor radiopharmaceuticals — Radiosynthesis and ex vivo biodistribution of [¹⁸F]3-(4-(2-(2-(2-fluoroethoxy)ethoxy)ethylthio)-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl)-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine

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Abstract: Muscarinic receptors have been implicated in neurological disorders including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and schizophrenia. Nineteen derivatives of thiadiazolyltetrahydropyridine (TZTP), a core that has previously shown high affinities towards muscarinic receptor subtypes, were synthesized and evaluated via in vitro binding assays. The title compound, a fluoro-polyethyleneglycol analog of TZTP (**4c**), was subsequently labelled with fluorine-18. Fluorine-18-labelled **4c** was produced, via an automated synthesis, in an average radiochemical yield of 36% (uncorrected for decay), with high radiochemical purity (>99%) and high specific activity (326 GBq/μmol; end-of-bombardment), within 40 min (*n* = 3). Ex vivo biodistribution studies following tail-vein injection of [¹⁸F]**4c** in conscious rats displayed sufficient brain uptake (0.4%–0.7% injected dose / gram of wet tissue in all brain regions at 5 min post injection); however, there were substantial polar metabolites present in the brain, thereby precluding future use of [¹⁸F]**4c** for imaging in the central nervous system.

Key words: fluorine-18, muscarinic receptor, thiadiazolyltetrahydropyridine (TZTP), positron emission tomography (PET).

Résumé : Les récepteurs muscariniques ont été impliqués dans des désordres neurologiques, dont la maladie d'Alzheimer, la maladie de Parkinson et la schizophrénie. On a réalisé la synthèse de dix-neuf dérivés de la thiadiazolyltétrahydropyridine (TZTP), un produit fondamental pour lequel des études antérieures ont permis de montrer de grandes affinités vis-à-vis des sous-types de récepteurs muscariniques, et on a évalué leurs propriétés par des essais de fixation in vitro. On a sub-séquemment marqué au fluor-18 le composé mentionné dans le titre (**4c**), un analogue fluoropolyéthylène-glycol de la TZTP. Le composé **4c** marqué au fluor-18 a été obtenu, par le biais d'une synthèse automatisée, avec un rendement radiochimique de 36 % (non corrigé pour la décroissance), avec une pureté radiochimique élevée (>99 %) et une activité spécifique élevée (326 GBq/μmol; fin du bombardement), en moins de 40 minutes (*n* = 3). Des études de biodistribution ex vivo à la suite d'injections dans la veine de la queue du [¹⁸F]**4c** dans des rats conscients ont démontré qu'il y se produit une absorption suffisante par le cerveau (0,4 à 0,7 % de la dose injectée / gramme de tissu mouillé dans toutes les régions du cerveau cinq minutes après l'injection) ; toutefois, plusieurs métabolites polaires sont présents dans le cerveau et cette situation élimine l'usage dans le futur du [¹⁸F]**4c** pour faire de l'imagerie du système nerveux central.

Mots-clés : fluor-18, récepteur muscarinique, thiadiazolyltétrahydropyridine (TZTP), tomographie à émission de positon (TEP).

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Introduction

Muscarinic acetylcholine receptors (mAChRs) are present in both the peripheral and central nervous system (CNS) and are responsible for mediating the metabotropic effects of acetylcholine.¹ There are 5 distinct subtypes of the muscarinic acetylcholine receptor, M₁, M₂, M₃, M₄, and M₅, each having distinct functions and unique distributions in the CNS.² The M₁ and M₂ receptors are abundant in the CNS and have postulated roles in Alzheimer's disease and schizophrenia, as well as a range of cognitive disorders.^{3,4} The M₃ and M₅ receptors are present in relatively lower concentrations in the CNS.³ M₃ receptors have no known correlations with neuropsychiatric disorders, whereas M₅ receptors have been linked to schizophrenia and addictions.^{3,4} The M₄ receptor is present in the CNS, particularly in the cortex, striatum, and hippocampus,^{2,3} and is associated with Parkinson's disease and schizophrenia.^{1,4} The synthesis of subtype-selective drugs that target mAChRs is an ongoing goal in drug development. To date, the only clinically approved drugs that target mAChRs are nonselective antagonists that are used for treating patients suffering from Parkinson's disease.

Applying imaging modalities such as single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) and positron emission tomography (PET)^{5,6} to elucidate the mechanism of action of new pharmaceuticals targeting muscarinic receptors *in vivo* has been of long-standing interest.⁷ Derivatization of the thiazolopyridine (TZTP) core⁸ has led to the development of muscarinic subtype-selective PET radiotracers.^{9–12} The M₂-specific agonist radiotracer, fluorine-18 (¹⁸F; *t*_{1/2} = 109.7 min) labelled fluoropropylthio-TZTP ([¹⁸F]FP-TZTP),^{11,13,14} was proven to be selective through knockout mice studies^{15,16} and is currently the only M₂-specific radiotracer established for human PET imaging.^{17,18} Fluorine-18-labelled FP-TZTP has been used to study risk factors of ageing^{19–21} and mood disorders.^{22,23}

Driven largely by the theory that M₁ receptor density is altered in the brain of patients with Alzheimer's disease in response to the degeneration of the cholinergic pathway, another TZTP derivative, 3-(4-(hexyloxy)-1,2,5-thiazol-3-yl)-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine (xanomeline), was found to exhibit M₁/M₄ selectivity.²⁴ While it was found that xanomeline increased cognitive function of patients with Alzheimer's disease, several side effects precluded its therapeutic use. Carbon-11 (¹¹C; *t*_{1/2} = 20.4 min) labelled xanomeline was evaluated in human subjects^{9,25} and a ¹⁸F-labelled xanomeline derivative was evaluated in rodents²⁵ but neither radiopharmaceutical was further pursued because of inadequate receptor selectivity.

The present study sought to systematically prepare new muscarinic receptor subtype-specific TZTP analogs for development as PET radiopharmaceuticals. We report the synthesis of hydroxy- and fluoro-alkyl as well as hydroxy- and fluoro-polyethyleneglycol (PEG) ether and thioether analogs of TZTP, and the determination of their *in vitro* binding affinities (*K*_i) towards the five muscarinic subtypes, as well as σ_1 and σ_2 receptors. All analogs synthesized in this work are amenable to labelling with either ¹⁸F or ¹¹C. A promising fluoro-PEG derivative of TZTP (**4c**), identified from initial *in vitro* screening, was radiolabelled with ¹⁸F and evaluated

for its potential to image muscarinic receptors in the rodent brain.

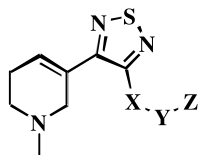
Results and discussion

Chemistry

The syntheses of 19 derivatives of TZTP (Table 1) are reported, including previously known compounds (**2a**,¹³ **4a**,^{11,12} **8a**,²⁶ **8b**,²⁶ **9c**,²⁵ and **10**⁸). Syntheses of the TZTP analogs were carried out by literature procedures with modifications. Thioether-PEG analogs of TZTP, with both fluoro (**4**) and hydroxyl (**2**) groups at the terminal position, were synthesized as shown in Scheme 1. To conserve the TZTP core (3-(4-chloro-1,2,5-thiazol-3-yl)-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine; **1**),⁸ fluoroalkyl and fluoro-PEG chains were synthesized from the respective diols (**5**, Scheme 2) for subsequent reactions with **1**. The diols were disubstituted with benzyl-protecting and tosyloxy-leaving groups (**6**). Nucleophilic displacement of the tosyloxy group of **6** with fluoride resulted in *O*-benzyl protected fluoroalkyl and fluoro-PEG chains (**7**). The hydroxyl analogs (**8**) were synthesized by reaction of the appropriate diol (**5**) with **1** (Scheme 3). Scheme 3 shows the synthesis of the desired fluoro-alkyl and fluoro-PEG ether-TZTP analogs (**9**), prepared by catalytic hydrogenation of **7** and *in situ* reaction with **1** in the presence of sodium hydride (NaH). Several TZTP derivatives with incorporated PEG groups have been synthesized in attempts to achieve subtype selectivity and improve water solubility, binding affinity, and agonist potency toward mAChRs.^{27,28} The present work further explores the use of PEG groups as a means of expanding the series of TZTP derivatives, by replacing alkyl groups with PEG chains; [¹⁸F]fluoro-PEG groups have demonstrated similar pharmacological advantages when incorporated into PET radiopharmaceuticals.²⁹ In preparation for *in vitro* binding assay studies, all 19 TZTP analogs synthesized in the present work (Table 1) were characterized by ¹H and ¹⁹F (when applicable) NMR spectroscopy, high resolution mass spectrometry, and elemental analysis (all compounds were >97% pure by elemental analysis).

In vitro binding assays

The thioether-TZTP derivatives (compounds **2** and **4**) as well as the ether derivatives (compounds **8–10**) were evaluated by the National Institute of Mental Health's Psychoactive Drug Screening Program to determine their binding affinities towards each of the five muscarinic subtypes, as well as towards σ_1 and σ_2 receptors; the σ receptors are known competition sites for ligands targeting mAChRs.³⁰ In the initial assay, all six thioether-TZTP derivatives (**2a–2c** and **4a–4c**) were measured for affinity towards the aforementioned receptors (Table S1 in the Supplementary data; values in parentheses), and a fluoro-PEG derivative of TZTP with moderate affinity towards the M₄ receptor (**4c**; *K*_i = 48 nM) was identified. Based on our initial binding assay, we advanced to radiolabelling this compound with fluorine-18, as it represents the first attempt to develop a PET radiotracer for imaging the M₄ receptor and is a novel fluorinated-PEG derivative of TZTP. As such, our goal was

Table 1. General structure and TZTP derivatives synthesized.

Structure	TZTP derivatives		
	X	Y	Z
2a	S	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂	OH
2b	S	CH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂	OH
2c	S	CH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂	OH
4a	S	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂	F
4b	S	CH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂	F
4c	S	CH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂	F
8a	O	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂	OH
8b	O	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂	OH
8c	O	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂	OH
8d	O	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂	OH
8e	O	CH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂	OH
8f	O	CH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂	OH
9a	O	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂	F
9b	O	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂	F
9c	O	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂	F
9d	O	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂	F
9e	O	CH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂	F
9f	O	CH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂	F
10	O	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂	H

to radiolabel the title compound, **4c**, with ¹⁸F and evaluate its potential for imaging the CNS via a preliminary ex vivo biodistribution study.

Radiochemistry

The radiosynthetic approach for [¹⁸F]**4c** was similar to our previously reported synthesis for [¹⁸F]FP-TZTP,¹⁴ where the appropriate tosyloxy-containing radiolabelling precursor (**3c**) was subjected to reaction with fluorine-18-labelled potassium cryptand fluoride (K[¹⁸F]/K₂₂₂) in CH₃CN at 90 °C for 10 min (Scheme 4) followed by HPLC purification (Fig. 1). The formulated product was >99% radiochemically pure (Fig. 2) and the log *D* was experimentally determined to be 1.73 ± 0.01 (pH = 7.4), using a previously reported method.³¹ The automated synthesis of [¹⁸F]**4c** resulted in a radiochemical yield of 35.6% ± 15.3% based on [¹⁸F]fluoride and uncorrected for decay in a synthesis time of 37 min (*n* = 3). The specific activity of [¹⁸F]**4c** was 326 ± 198 GBq/μmol (corrected to end-of-bombardment). Fluorine-18-labelled **4c** is the first reported ¹⁸F-labelled PEG derivative of TZTP. While the hydroxyl derivatives of TZTP (series **2** and **8**) are not amenable to labelling with ¹⁸F, similar compounds have been readily labelled by reaction of the respective desmethyl precursors with [¹¹C]CH₃I.^{9,12}

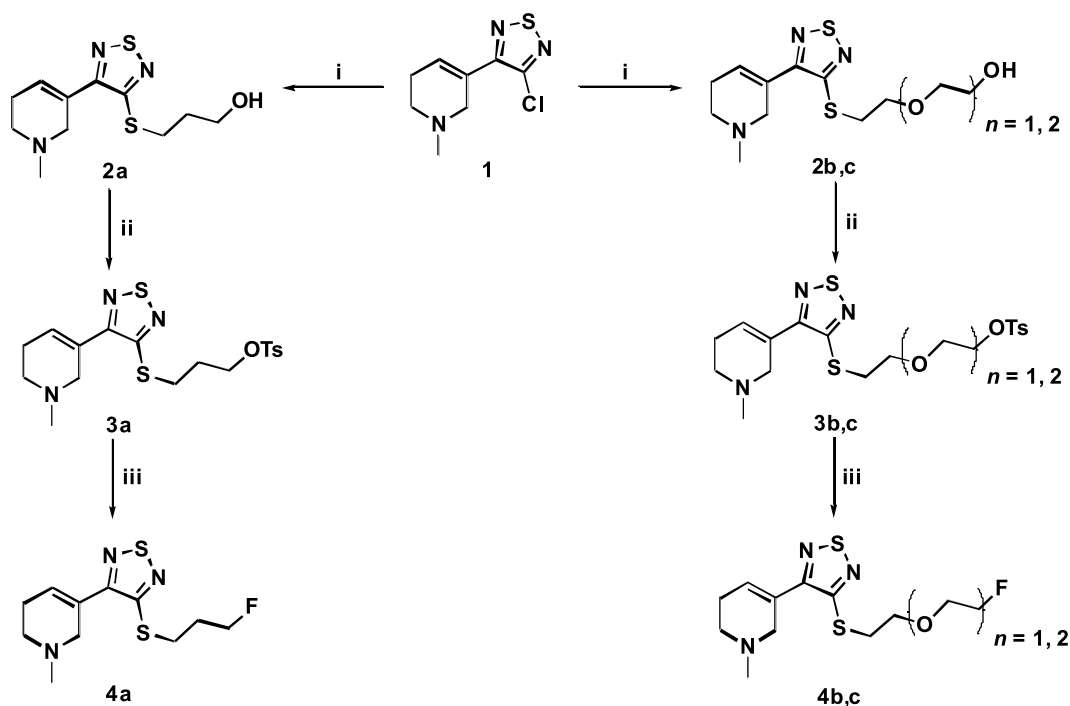
Ex vivo biodistribution in rodents

Preliminary ex vivo biodistribution studies using [¹⁸F]**4c** were subsequently carried out in conscious male Sprague-Dawley rats.^{32,33} Fluorine-18-labelled **4c** demonstrated fast and efficient uptake in the rodent brain (0.4%–0.7% injected dose / gram of wet tissue in all brain regions at 5 min post injection) following tail-vein injection (Fig. S1 in the Supplementary data). This uptake was followed by a fast wash-out, with most of the radioactivity cleared from the brain by 15 min. Radio-HPLC analysis of plasma identified a rapid degradation of the parent compound to both hydrophilic and lipophilic metabolites. At 15 min after injection of [¹⁸F]**4c** only 4.5% of the parent compound was unmetabolized. Analysis of brain homogenates 60 min after injection (Fig. 3) found that while the parent compound was present in the brain, there was a significant accumulation of radioactive polar metabolites (24%). Owing to the presence of radioactive metabolites in the brain, further studies were not justified because [¹⁸F]**4c** does not present suitable properties for imaging the CNS.

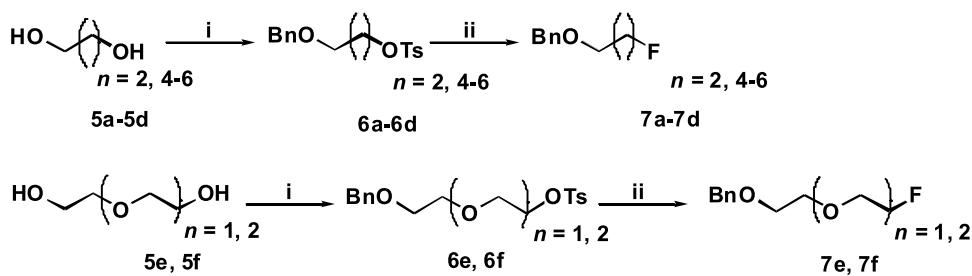
Conclusion

We report the synthesis of 13 new TZTP derivatives that are amenable for radiolabelling with ¹¹C and (or) ¹⁸F. Com-

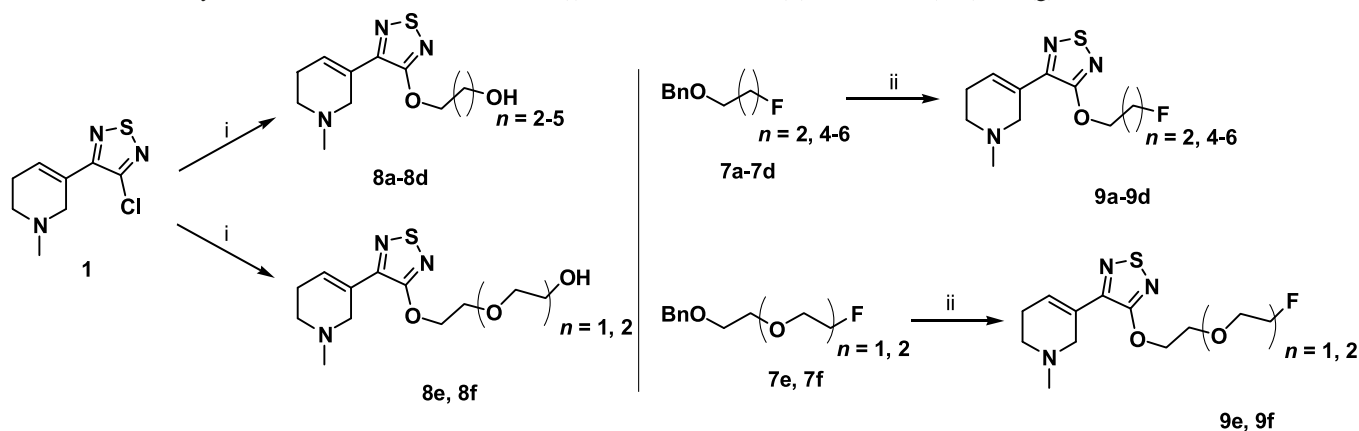
Scheme 1. General syntheses of thioether-TZTP derivatives and radiolabelling precursors. (i) 1, Li₂S, DMF; 2, bromo- or chloro-alcohol, K₂CO₃, DMF. (ii) TsCl, Et₃N, DMAP, CH₂Cl₂. (iii) TBAF, THF.



Scheme 2. General syntheses of benzyl-protected fluoro-alcohols. (i) 1, BnBr, KOH, neat; 2, Et₃N, DMAP, TsCl, CH₂Cl₂. (ii) TBAF, THF, microwave heating.

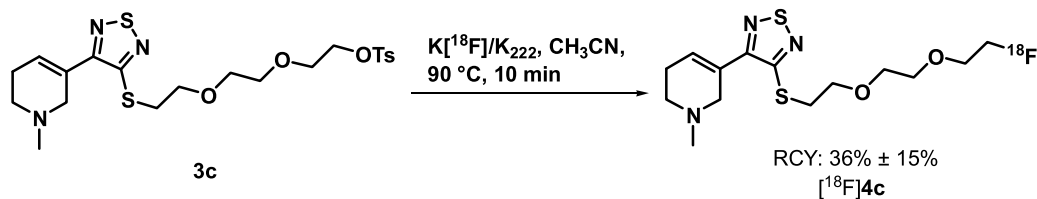
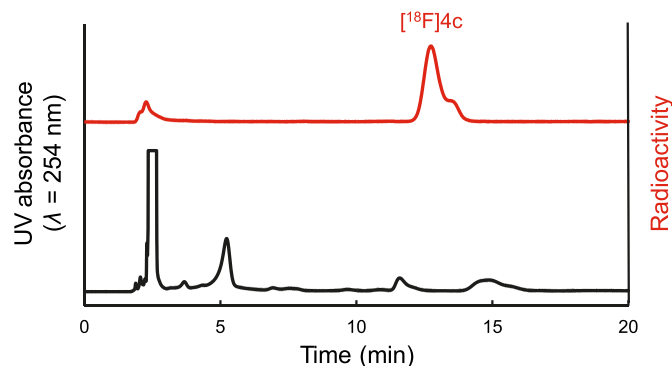
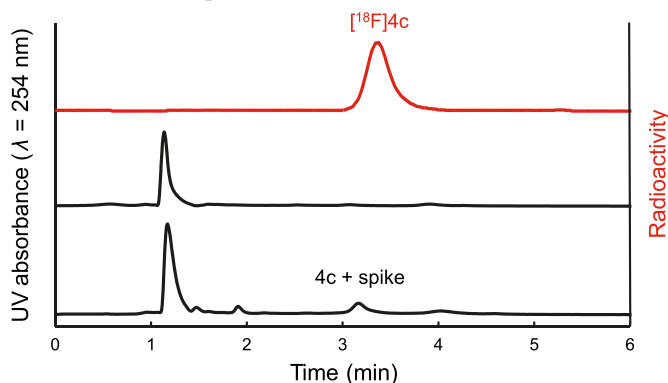


Scheme 3. General syntheses of ether-TZTP derivatives. (i) 5a–5f, NaH, THF. (ii) 1, Pd/C, Pd(OH)₂, H₂(g), THF; 2, NaH, 1, THF.



compound **4c** was chosen as a lead compound for radiolabelling based on *in vitro* binding assays and represents the first fluoro-PEG derivative of TZTP. Automated radiosynthesis of [¹⁸F]**4c** was achieved with good radiochemical yields, high specific activity, and excellent radiochemical purity within

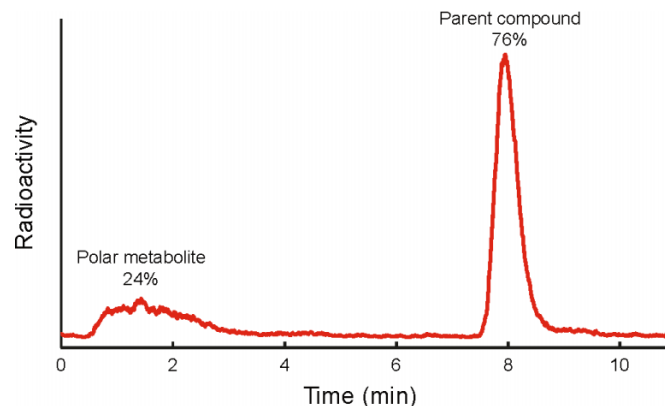
40 min. *Ex vivo* biodistribution studies in rodent models showed appreciable amounts of polar radioactive metabolites in the brain, suggesting that [¹⁸F]**4c** is not suitable for further development as a radiopharmaceutical for imaging the CNS.

Scheme 4. Radiosynthesis of [¹⁸F]4c. RCY = radiochemical yield, not corrected for decay.**Fig. 1.** Semipreparative HPLC purification (20:80 CH₃CN:H₂O + 0.1 N ammonium formate + 1% formic acid (pH 4), Semi-Prep LUNA C18(2) (250 mm × 10 mm, 10 μm, λ = 254 nm) at 6 mL/min) of [¹⁸F]4c (*t_R* = 13 min).**Fig. 2.** Analytical HPLC (Phenomenex Prodigy C18 (ODS prep), 30:70 CH₃CN:H₂O + 0.1 N ammonium formate; λ = 254 nm; 3.0 mL/min) of purified [¹⁸F]4c (from top to bottom: gamma, UV (254 nm), and UV spiked with 4c (254 nm); *t_R* = 3.2 min).

Experimental section

General methods

3-Chloro-(pyridine-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazole was purchased from commercial suppliers and was used as received without further purification unless otherwise specified. Compound **1**, 3-(3-chloro-1,2,5-thiadiazol-4-yl)-1,2,5,6-tetrahydro-1-methylpyridine,⁸ and compound **3a**, 3-(4-(1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylthio)propyl-4-methylbenzenesulfonate,¹⁴ were prepared by literature procedures. All water used was distilled and deionized and all mobile phases were made with HPLC-grade solvents. Flash column

Fig. 3. HPLC analysis (see the Metabolism studies section for HPLC conditions) of rat brain homogenates at 60 min post injection of [¹⁸F]4c.

chromatography purification was accomplished using silica gel 60 (63–200 μm, Caledon). Preparative thin-layer chromatography (PTLC) was accomplished using silica gel GF plates (20 cm × 20 cm, 2000 μm) from Analtech. All new compounds were obtained as oils following purification.

High resolution mass spectrometry (HR-MS) was conducted by the Advanced Instrumentation for Molecular Structure Laboratory or by the Centre for Biological Timing and Cognition at the University of Toronto. Elemental analysis (EA) was performed by the Analytical Laboratory for Environmental Science Research and Training, University of Toronto. Proton and carbon-13 NMR spectra were recorded at 25 °C in CDCl₃ on a Varian Mercury 300 MHz or 400 MHz spectrometer with an autoswitchable H/F/C/P 5 mm probe with gradients. Proton NMR chemical shifts were reported using either tetramethylsilane (TMS, 0.00 ppm) as an internal standard or referencing to the residual proton in CDCl₃ (7.26 ppm). The proton resonances of primary alcohols were often not observed owing to exchange. For ¹³C NMR, shifts were referenced to CDCl₃ (77.0 ppm). Fluorine-19 NMR shifts were referenced to external CFC₃ (0.00 ppm). Tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF) was prepared by evaporation of tetrahydrofuran (THF) from a 1.0 M solution under reduced pressure, and then drying under reduced pressure overnight, as modified from a previously reported literature procedure.³⁴ THF was freshly distilled over lithium aluminum hydride (LiAlH₄).

All animal experiments were carried out under humane conditions, with approval from the Animal Care Committee at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

Chemical synthesis

3-(4-(1-Methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylthio)propan-1-ol (**2a**)

Compound **2a** was prepared by minor modifications to a literature procedure.¹³ Briefly, 250 mg of **1** (1.16 mmol) was dissolved in 3 mL of anhydrous DMF in an oven-dried round-bottomed flask under nitrogen. Li₂S (2.9 mmol) was added to the mixture with stirring at 60 °C in an oil bath for 5 h. Upon consumption of the starting material, the reaction was cooled to room temperature (RT) and 3-bromopropanol (2.9 mmol) was added, followed by addition of K₂CO₃ (2.9 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at RT for 35 min. Upon completion, the reaction was diluted with ether (50 mL), washed with H₂O (3 × 50 mL) and brine (50 mL), dried over NaSO₄, and concentrated. PTLC purification was performed (20:80 EtOAc:Hex) to yield 217 mg of **2a** (69%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ: 6.77–6.71 (m, 1H), 3.71 (t, ³J_{HH} = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.45–3.42 (m, 2H), 3.37 (t, ³J_{HH} = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.22 (br, 1H), 2.63–2.57 (m, 2H), 2.51–2.43 (m, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.04–1.91 (m, 2H). HR-MS calcd. for C₁₁H₁₈N₃O₂S₂ [M + 1]: 272.0897; found: 272.0885. EA calcd.: C 48.68, H 6.33, N 15.49; found: C 48.39, H 6.46, N 14.90.

2-(2-(4-(1-Methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylthio)ethoxy)ethanol (**2b**)

The general procedure for the synthesis of **2a** was followed using **1** (1.16 mmol) in DMF with 2.5 equiv. of Li₂S, 2.5 equiv. of 2-(2-chloroethoxy)ethanol, and 2.5 equiv. of K₂CO₃ to give 304 mg of **2b** (87%) after PTLC purification. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ: 6.77–6.72 (m, 1H), 3.84 (t, ³J_{HH} = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.76–3.72 (m, 2H), 3.64–3.59 (m, 2H), 3.51 (t, ³J_{HH} = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.45–3.42 (m, 2H), 2.63–2.57 (m, 2H), 2.52–2.44 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H). HR-MS calcd. for C₁₂H₂₀N₃O₂S₂ [M + 1]: 302.0991; found: 302.0990. EA calcd.: C 47.81, H 6.37, N 13.94; found: C 47.92, H 6.32, N 13.60.

2-(2-(2-(4-(1-Methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylthio)ethoxy)ethoxy)ethanol (**2c**)

The general procedure for the synthesis of **2a** was followed using **1** (1.16 mmol) in DMF with 2.5 equiv. of Li₂S, 2.5 equiv. of 2-(2-(2-chloroethoxy)ethoxy)ethanol, and 2.5 equiv. of K₂CO₃. After PTLC purification, **2c** was obtained in a 95% yield (542 mg). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ: 6.77–6.71 (m, 1H), 3.83 (m, 2H), 3.75–3.71 (m, 2H), 3.69–3.66 (m, 4H), 3.63–3.59 (m, 2H), 3.51 (t, ³J_{HH} = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.45–3.42 (m, 2H), 2.63–2.59 (m, 2H), 2.52–2.45 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H). HR-MS calcd. for C₁₄H₂₄N₃O₃S₂ [M + 1]: 346.1253; found: 346.1266. EA calcd.: C 48.67, H 6.72, N 12.17; found: C 47.64, H 6.88, N 11.83

2-(2-(4-(1-Methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylthio)ethoxy)ethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (**3b**)

Compound **3b** was made by an analogous procedure to that of compound **3a**.¹⁴ Briefly, 267 mg (0.89 mmol) of **2b** was dissolved in 8 mL of CH₂Cl₂ followed by the addition of 1.5 equiv. of *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (TsCl), 3 equiv. of triethylamine (TEA), and a catalytic amount of dimethyl-

laminopyridine (DMAP; 1 mol%). Compound **3b** was obtained in an 86% yield (348 mg). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ: 7.82–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.29 (m, 2H), 6.75–6.70 (m, 1H), 4.19–4.14 (m, 2H), 3.74 (t, ³J_{HH} = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.71–3.66 (m, 2H), 3.44–3.36 (m, 4H), 2.62–2.56 (m, 2H), 2.51–2.42 (m, 8H).

2-(2-(2-(4-(1-Methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylthio)ethoxy)ethoxy)ethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (**3c**)

Compound **3c** was made by an analogous procedure to that of compound **3a**.¹⁴ Briefly, 350 mg (1.01 mmol) of **2c** was dissolved in 8 mL of CH₂Cl₂ followed by the addition of 1.5 equiv. of TsCl, 3 equiv. of TEA, and catalytic DMAP (1 mol%). Compound **3c** was obtained in a 72% yield (352 mg). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 7.82–7.78 (m, 2H), 7.65–7.31 (m, 2H), 6.77–6.73 (m, 1H), 4.18–4.15 (m, 2H), 3.79 (t, ²J_{HF} = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.71–3.68 (m, 2H), 3.61–3.59 (m, 4H), 3.48 (t, ³J_{HH} = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.44–3.42 (m, 2H), 2.62–2.58 (m, 2H), 2.49–2.43 (m, 8H).

3-(4-(3-Fluoropropylthio)-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl)-1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine (**4a**)

Compound **4a** was prepared by modifications to the literature procedures.^{11,13} To an oven-dried round-bottomed flask containing 4.9 mmol TBAF (dried under reduced pressure overnight) was added 10 mL of freshly distilled THF, followed by 0.33 mmol of **3a**. The reaction was refluxed for 3 h and then diluted with 50 mL H₂O and washed with 50 mL of EtOAc (×2). The combined organic layer was washed with 50 mL of brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated. The product was purified using PTLC (7:93 MeOH:CH₂Cl₂) to yield 37 mg of **4a** (36%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ: 6.70–6.65 (m, 1H), 4.52 (dt, ²J_{HF} = 47.1 Hz, ³J_{HH} = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.39–3.35 (m, 2H), 3.33 (t, ³J_{HH} = 7.22 Hz, 2H), 2.56–2.49 (m, 2H), 2.44–2.37 (m, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.12 (dm, ³J_{HF} = 26.5 Hz, 2H). ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 282 MHz) δ: –221.51 (tt, ²J_{HF} = 47.2 Hz, ³J_{HF} = 26.5 Hz). HR-MS calcd. for C₁₁H₁₆FN₃S₂ [M]: 273.0770; found: 273.0772. EA calcd.: C 48.32, H 5.91, N 15.37; found: C 48.23, H 6.03, N 15.12.

3-(2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)ethylthio)-4-(1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazole (**4b**)

Compound **4b** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **4a**. Briefly, 0.3 mmol of **3b** in THF was reacted with 5 equiv. of TBAF. **4b** was obtained in a 33% yield (36 mg). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ: 6.79–6.75 (m, 1H), 4.57 (dm, ²J_{HF} = 47.6 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (t, ³J_{HH} = 6.43 Hz, 2H), 3.76 (dm, ³J_{HF} = 29.5 Hz, 2H), 3.52 (t, ³J_{HH} = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.49–3.45 (m, 2H), 2.66–2.61 (m, 2H), 2.53–2.47 (m, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 282 MHz) δ: –223.36 (tt, ²J_{HF} = 47.6 Hz, ³J_{HF} = 29.5 Hz). HR-MS calcd. for C₁₂H₁₉FN₃O₂S₂ [M + 1]: 304.0948; found: 304.0950. EA calcd.: C 47.50, H 5.99, N 13.85; found: C 47.67, H 6.11, N 13.35.

3-(2-(2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)ethoxy)ethylthio)-4-(1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazole (**4c**)

Compound **4c** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **4a**. Briefly, 150 mg (0.3 mmol) of **3c** was used in THF (0.1 M) with 5 equiv. of TBAF. **4c** was obtained in a

29% yield (31 mg). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 6.80–6.75 (m, 1H), 4.56 (dm, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.87–3.79 (m, 3H), 3.73–3.68 (m, 5H), 3.54–3.46 (m, 4H), 2.68–2.62 (m, 2H), 2.54–2.47 (m, 2H), 2.49 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 282 MHz) δ : –223.31 (tt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.9$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 29.6$ Hz). HR-MS calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{23}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}_2$ [$\text{M} + 1$]: 348.1210; found: 348.1212. EA calcd.: C 48.39, H 6.39, N 12.10; found: C 49.07, H 6.74, N 11.66.

3-(Benzyloxy)propyl-4-methylbenzenesulfonate (6a)

To an oven-dried round-bottomed flask under an atmosphere of N_2 was added propane-1,3-diol (**5a**, 0.11 mol), 1.4 mL (0.01 mol) of benzyl bromide, and KOH (0.02 mol, neat). The reaction proceeded at RT. Upon consumption of benzyl bromide (monitored by TLC, 40:60 EtOAc:Hex), the reaction mixture was diluted with 50 mL of H_2O and washed with CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were washed with 50 mL of brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated. CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) was added and the mixture was cooled on ice. Triethylamine (0.05 mol) and DMAP (1 mol%) were added. After 10 min of stirring, 0.03 mol of TsCl was added and the reaction proceeded until completion, as monitored by TLC (40:60 EtOAc:Hex). The mixture was then cooled on ice, diluted with 100 mL H_2O , and washed with dichloromethane (100 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were washed with 100 mL of brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated. The final product was purified by flash chromatography (40:60 EtOAc:Hex) to yield 2.40 g of **6a** (75%). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 7.81–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.22 (m, 7H), 4.40 (s, 2H), 4.17 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.50 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5.8$, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.98–1.90 (q, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$ Hz, 2H).

5-(Benzyloxy)pentyl-4-methylbenzenesulfonate (6b)

Compound **6b** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **6a**. Briefly, 0.07 mol of pentane-1,5-diol (**5b**), 0.02 mol of benzyl bromide, and 0.055 mol of KOH were used. Following the workup of the reaction mixture, 10 mL of dichloromethane, 0.07 mol of triethylamine, catalytic DMAP (1 mol%), and 0.035 mol of TsCl were reacted and purified (vide supra). Compound **6b** was obtained in a 65% yield (4.54 g). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 7.81–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.26 (m, 7H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 4.02 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.42 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.71–1.61 (m, 2H), 1.60–1.51 (m, 2H), 1.46–1.36 (m, 2H).

6-(Benzyloxy)hexyl-4-methylbenzenesulfonate (6c)

Compound **6c** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **6a**. Briefly, 0.06 mol of hexane-1,6-diol (**5c**), 0.02 mol of benzyl bromide, and 0.055 mol of KOH were used. Following the workup, 10 mL of dichloromethane, 0.07 mol of triethylamine, DMAP (1 mol%), and 0.04 mol of TsCl were reacted and purified (vide supra). Compound **6c** was obtained in a 61% yield (4.40 g). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 7.81–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.28 (m, 7H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 4.01 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.43 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H) 1.67–1.51 (m, 4H), 1.35–1.28 (m, 4H).

7-(Benzyloxy)heptyl-4-methylbenzenesulfonate (6d)

Compound **6d** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **6a**. Briefly, 0.02 mol of hexane-1,6-diol (**5d**), 0.008 mol of benzyl bromide, and 0.015 mol of KOH were

used. After workup, 8 mL of CH_2Cl_2 , 0.025 mol of triethylamine, DMAP (1 mol%), and 0.02 mol of TsCl were reacted and purified (vide supra). **6d** was obtained in a 69% yield (2.06 g). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 7.81–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.25 (m, 7H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 4.01 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.44 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.66–1.51 (m, 4H), 1.36–1.20 (m, 6H).

2-(2-(Benzyloxy)ethoxy)ethyl-4-methylbenzenesulfonate (6e)

Compound **6e** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **6a**. Diethyleneglycol (**5e**; 0.03 mol), 0.008 mol of benzyl bromide, and 0.03 mol of KOH were used. After workup, 20 mL of dichloromethane, 0.02 mol of triethylamine, DMAP (1 mol%), and 0.07 mol of TsCl were reacted and purified (vide supra). Compound **6e** was obtained in a 43% yield (1.24 g). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 7.81–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.26 (m, 7H), 4.53 (s, 2H), 4.19–4.14 (m, 2H), 3.72–3.67 (m, 2H), 3.63–3.59 (m, 2H), 3.58–3.54 (m, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H).

2-(2-(2-(Benzyloxy)ethoxy)ethoxy)ethyl-4-methylbenzenesulfonate (6f)

Compound **6f** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **6a**. Briefly, 0.04 mol of diethyleneglycol (**5f**), 0.01 mol of benzyl bromide, and 0.04 mol of KOH were used. Following the workup, 20 mL of dichloromethane, 0.02 mol of triethylamine, DMAP (1 mol%), and 0.06 mol of TsCl were reacted and purified (vide supra). Compound **6f** was obtained in a 35% yield (1.40 g). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 7.81–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.26 (m, 7H), 4.55 (s, 2H), 4.17–4.12 (m, 2H), 3.70–3.66 (m, 2H), 3.65–3.60 (m, 4H), 3.59 (s, 4H), 3.04 (s, 3H).

((3-Fluoropropoxy)methyl)benzene (7a)

To a glass vial (Biotage) under an atmosphere of N_2 containing 0.02 mol of TBAF (dried under reduced pressure overnight) was added 20 mL of freshly distilled THF followed by 500 mg (1.6 mmol) of **6a**. The reaction was sealed and microwave heated for 1 h at 160 $^\circ\text{C}$. THF was removed under reduced pressure and the resulting product was dissolved in 50 mL of EtOAc and washed with 50 mL of H_2O . The aqueous layer was washed a second time with 50 mL of EtOAc and the combined organic layers were washed with 50 mL of brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated. The product was purified by flash chromatography (30:70 EtOAc:Hex (v/v)) to yield 179 mg of **7a** (68%). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 7.37–7.25 (m, 5H), 4.56 (dt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.1$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 3.60 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.99 (dm, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 25.8$ Hz, 2H). ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz) δ : –222.05 (tt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.0$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 25.7$ Hz).

((5-Fluoropentyloxy)methyl)benzene (7b)

Compound **7b** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **7a**, where 0.02 mol of TBAF and 1.4 mmol of **6b** were used in 20 mL of THF. Compound **7b** was obtained in a 70% yield (198 mg). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 7.35–7.25 (m, 5H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 4.43 (dt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.4$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.48 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.78–1.62 (m, 4H), 1.54–1.45 (m, 2H). ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz) δ : –218.66 (tt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.4$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 24.8$ Hz).

((6-Fluorohexyloxy)methyl)benzene (7c)

Compound **7c** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **7a**, where 0.02 mol of TBAF and 1.4 mmol of **6c** were used in 20 mL of THF. Compound **7c** was obtained in a 72% yield (209 mg). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 7.35–7.24 (m, 5H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 4.42 (dt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.4$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.47 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.76–1.59 (m, 4H), 1.45–1.39 (m, 4H). $^{19}\text{F NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz) δ : –218.55 (tt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.3$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 24.9$ Hz).

((7-Fluoroheptyloxy)methyl)benzene (7d)

Compound **7d** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **7a**, where 0.02 mol of TBAF and 1.3 mmol of **6d** were used in 20 mL of THF. Compound **7d** was obtained in an 85% yield (251 mg). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 7.35–7.24 (m, 5H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 4.42 (dt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.5$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.46 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.75–1.58 (m, 4H), 1.45–1.30 (m, 6H). $^{19}\text{F NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz) δ : –218.46 (tt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.5$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 24.9$ Hz).

((2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)ethoxy)methyl)benzene (7e)

Compound **7e** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **7a**, where 0.02 mol of TBAF and 1.4 mmol of **6e** were used in 20 mL of THF. Compound **7e** was obtained in a 91% yield (252 mg). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 7.36–7.25 (m, 5H), 4.58 (s, 2H), 4.56 (dm, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.80–3.78 (m, 1H), 3.73–3.69 (m, 3H), 3.67–3.63 (m, 2H). $^{19}\text{F NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz) δ : –223.27 (tt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.7$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 29.4$ Hz).

((2-(2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy)methyl)benzene (7f)

Compound **7f** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **7a**, where 0.02 mol of TBAF and 1.3 mmol of **6f** were used in 20 mL of THF. Compound **7f** was obtained in a 90% yield (273 mg). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 7.36–7.26 (m, 5H), 4.57 (s, 2H), 4.55 (dm, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.80–3.77 (m, 1H), 3.72–3.67 (m, 7H), 3.66–3.62 (m, 2H). $^{19}\text{F NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz) δ : –223.34 (tt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.7$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 29.8$ Hz).

3-(4-(1-Methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yloxy)propan-1-ol (8a)

To an oven-dried round-bottomed flask under an atmosphere of N_2 , 1.16 mmol of propane-1,3-diol (**5a**) was added to 2.5 mL of freshly distilled THF. To the reaction mixture was added 0.92 mmol of 60% NaH, and the mixture was stirred at RT for 30 min. Compound **1** (0.23 mmol) was added and the reaction was refluxed overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with 30 mL of H_2O and washed with 30 mL of CH_2Cl_2 ($\times 2$). The combined organic layers were then washed with 40 mL of brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated. The product was purified by PTLC (30:70 EtOAc:Hex (v/v)) and **8a** was obtained in a yield of 25.2 mg (43%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 7.04–7.00 (m, 1H), 4.59 (t, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.78 (t, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.46–3.44 (m, 2H), 2.60–2.56 (m, 2H), 2.47–2.42 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.11–2.04 (m, 2H). HR-MS calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$ [$M + 1$]: 256.1114; found: 256.1112. EA calcd.: C 51.74, H 6.71, N 16.46; found: C 51.72, H 6.73, N 16.06.

4-(4-(1-Methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yloxy)butan-1-ol (8b)

Compound **8b** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **8a**, where 1.15 mmol of butane-1,4-diol (**5b**), 0.92 mmol of 60% NaH, and 0.23 mmol of **1** in 2.5 mL of freshly distilled THF were used. Compound **8b** was obtained in a 48% yield (30 mg). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 7.07–7.02 (m, 1H), 4.48 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 4.46$ Hz, 2H), 3.71 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.44$ Hz, 2H), 3.47–3.42 (m, 2H), 2.61–2.55 (m, 2H), 2.48–2.41 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.00–1.89 (m, 2H), 1.78–1.67 (m, 2H). HR-MS calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$ [$M + 1$]: 270.1271; found: 270.1269. EA calcd.: C 53.51, H 7.11, N 15.60; found: C 52.56, H 6.85, N 15.49.

5-(4-(1-Methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yloxy)pentan-1-ol (8c)

Compound **8c** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **8a**, where 1.15 mmol of pentane-1,5-diol (**5c**), 0.92 mmol of 60% NaH, and 0.23 mmol of **1** in 2.5 mL of freshly distilled THF were used. Compound **8c** was obtained in a 34% yield (22 mg). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 7.07–7.02 (m, 1H), 4.47 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.54$ Hz, 2H), 3.69 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.42$ Hz, 2H), 3.48–3.43 (m, 2H), 2.61–2.55 (m, 2H), 2.49–2.42 (m, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 1.95–1.83 (m, 2H), 1.70–1.51 (m, 4H). HR-MS calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$ [$M + 1$]: 284.1427; found: 284.1425. EA calcd.: C 55.10, H 7.47, N 14.83; found: C 58.85, H 7.07, N 14.82.

6-(4-(1-Methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yloxy)hexan-1-ol (8d)

Compound **8d** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **8a**, where 1.15 mmol of hexane-1,6-diol (**5d**), 0.92 mmol of NaH (60% in mineral oil), and 0.23 mmol of **1** in 2.5 mL of freshly distilled THF were used. Compound **8d** was obtained in a 25% yield (17 mg). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 7.07–7.01 (m, 1H), 4.49–4.41 (m, 2H), 3.67–3.60 (m, 2H), 3.48–3.40 (m, 2H), 2.62–2.55 (m, 2H), 2.51–2.42 (m, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.14 (br, 1H), 1.91–1.80 (m, 2H), 1.65–1.54 (m, 2H), 1.53–1.39 (m, 4H). HR-MS calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$ [$M + 1$]: 298.1584; found: 298.1582. EA calcd.: C 56.54, H 7.79, N 13.75; found: C 55.02, H 7.42, N 13.75.

2-(2-(4-(1-Methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yloxy)ethoxy)ethanol (8e)

Compound **8e** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **8a**, where 0.084 mmol of diethyleneglycol (**5e**), 0.42 mmol of 60% NaH, and 0.46 mmol of **1** in 3 mL of freshly distilled THF were used. Compound **8e** was obtained in a 74% yield (89 mg). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 7.08–7.04 (m, 1H), 4.64–4.60 (m, 2H), 3.92–3.89 (m, 2H), 3.76–3.73 (m, 2H), 3.67–3.63 (m, 2H), 3.46–3.43 (m, 2H), 2.59–2.55 (m, 2H), 2.47–2.42 (m, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H). HR-MS calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}$ [$M + 1$]: 286.1220; found: 286.1218. EA calcd.: C 50.50, H 6.72, N 14.73; found: C 49.91, H 6.70, N 14.37.

2-(2-(2-(4-(1-Methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yloxy)ethoxy)ethoxy)ethanol (8f)

Compound **8f** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **8a**, where 0.084 mmol of diethyleneglycol (**5f**), 0.42 mmol of 60% NaH, and 0.46 mmol of **1** in 3.0 mL of

freshly distilled THF were used. **8f** was obtained in a 65% yield (81 mg). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 6.77–6.73 (m, 1H), 3.85–3.80 (m, 2H), 3.75–3.71 (m, 2H), 3.69–3.66 (m, 4H), 3.63–3.59 (m, 2H), 3.53–3.49 (m, 2H), 3.45–3.42 (m, 2H), 2.63–2.58 (m, 2H), 2.51–2.45 (m, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H). HR-MS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{S}$ [$M + 1$]: 330.1482; found: 330.1476. EA calcd.: C 51.04, H 7.04, N 12.76; found: C 50.07, H 6.89, N 12.52.

3-(3-Fluoropropoxy)-4-(1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazole (**9a**)

To an oven-dried round-bottomed flask under an atmosphere of N_2 containing 3 mL of freshly distilled THF was added 0.5 mmol of **7a** followed by 10 mg each of Pd/C and $\text{Pd}(\text{OH})_2$. The reaction vessel was purged with $\text{H}_2(\text{g})$ and maintained under an atmosphere of $\text{H}_2(\text{g})$ for 2 h while stirring vigorously. Upon consumption of the starting material as monitored by TLC (60:40 EtOAc:Hex (v/v)), the reaction mixture was purged with N_2 and cooled in an ice bath, and 1.0 mmol of NaH (60% in mineral oil) was added. The mixture was stirred for 30 min at RT followed by the addition of 0.2 mmol of **1**. The reaction mixture was subsequently refluxed overnight. Upon consumption of the starting material, the reaction was filtered through celite and the THF was removed under reduced pressure. The product was dissolved in 30 mL of CH_2Cl_2 and washed with 30 mL of H_2O , and the aqueous layer was further extracted with 30 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic layers were washed with 30 mL of brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated. The product was purified by PTLC (60:40 EtOAc:Hex (v/v)) to yield 21 mg **9a** (41%). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 7.04–6.99 (m, 1H), 4.63 (dm, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.61 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.47–3.43 (m, 2H), 2.60–2.55 (m, 2H), 2.48–2.42 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.25 (dm, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 25.6$ Hz, 2H). ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz) δ : –222.38 (tt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.0$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 25.8$ Hz). HR-MS calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{17}\text{FN}_3\text{OS}$ [$M + 1$]: 258.1071; found: 258.1068. EA calcd.: C 51.34, H 6.27, N 16.33; found: C 51.64, H 6.27, N 15.84.

3-(5-Fluoropentyloxy)-4-(1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazole (**9b**)

Compound **9b** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **9a**, where 0.4 mmol of **7b** was used followed by 1.4 mmol of 60% NaH and 0.23 mmol of **1**. Compound **9b** was obtained in a 29% yield (19 mg). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 7.07–7.03 (m, 1H), 4.48 (dt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 46.9$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.47 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.50–3.47 (m, 2H), 2.64–2.59 (m, 2H), 2.50–2.44 (m, 2H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 1.94–1.86 (m, 2H), 1.85–1.72 (m, 2H), 1.64–1.56 (m, 2H). ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz) δ : –219.18 (tt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.1$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 25.4$ Hz). HR-MS calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{21}\text{FN}_3\text{OS}$ [$M + 1$]: 286.1384; found: 286.1380. EA calcd.: C 54.71, H 7.06, N 14.72; found: C 54.90, H 6.87, N 14.79.

3-(6-Fluorohexyloxy)-4-(1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazole (**9c**)

Compound **9c** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **9a**, where 0.4 mmol of **7c** was used followed by 1.4 mmol of 60% NaH and 0.23 mmol of **1**. Compound **9c** was obtained in a 39% yield (27 mg). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 7.07–7.03 (m, 1H), 4.46 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.9$ Hz,

2H), 4.46 (dt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.2$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.48–3.45 (m, 2H), 2.61–2.56 (m, 2H), 2.48–2.43 (m, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 1.90–1.83 (m, 2H), 1.79–1.68 (m, 2H), 1.53–1.48 (m, 4H). ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz) δ : –218.79 (tt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.2$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 25.3$ Hz). HR-MS calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{23}\text{FN}_3\text{OS}$ [$M + 1$]: 300.1540; found: 300.1536. EA calcd.: C 56.16, H 7.41, N 14.03; found: C 56.58, H 7.39, N 13.77.

3-(7-Fluoroheptyloxy)-4-(1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazole (**9d**)

Compound **9d** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **9a**, where 0.4 mmol of **7d** was used followed by 1.4 mmol of 60% NaH and 0.23 mmol of **1**. Compound **9d** was obtained in a 35% yield (25 mg). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 7.08–7.04 (m, 2H), 4.45 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 4.45 (dt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.6$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.47–3.44 (m, 2H), 2.61–2.56 (m, 2H), 2.48–2.43 (m, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 1.89–1.81 (m, 2H), 1.76–1.62 (m, 2H), 1.51–1.40 (m, 5H). ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz) δ : –218.62 (tt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.5$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 25.2$ Hz). HR-MS calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{25}\text{FN}_3\text{OS}$ [$M + 1$]: 314.1697; found: 314.1693. EA calcd.: C 57.48, H 7.72, N 13.41; found: C 57.69, H 7.65, N 13.17.

3-(2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)ethoxy)-4-(1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazole (**9e**)

Compound **9e** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **9a**, where 0.4 mmol of **7e** was used followed by 1.4 mmol of 60% NaH and 0.23 mmol of **1**. Compound **9e** was obtained in a 45% yield (30 mg). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 7.12–7.07 (m, 1H), 4.64–4.61 (m, 2H), 4.58 (dm, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.96–3.92 (m, 2H), 3.79 (dm, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 29.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.47–3.44 (m, 2H), 2.60–2.55 (m, 2H), 2.49–2.43 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz) δ : –223.51 (tt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.7$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 28.9$ Hz). HR-MS calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{19}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$ [$M + 1$]: 288.1177; found: 288.1173. EA calcd.: C 50.16, H 6.361, N 14.62; found: C 50.25, H 6.44, N 14.40.

3-(2-(2-(2-Fluoroethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy)-4-(1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazole (**9f**)

Compound **9f** was prepared in an analogous manner to that of **9a**, where 0.4 mmol of **7f** was used followed by 1.4 mmol of 60% NaH and 0.23 mmol of **1**. Compound **9f** was obtained in a 62% yield (46 mg). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 7.11–7.07 (m, 1H), 4.63–4.60 (m, 3H), 4.51–4.48 (m, 1H), 3.93–3.90 (m, 2H), 3.79–3.77 (m, 1H), 3.74–3.68 (m, 5H), 3.47–3.45 (m, 2H), 3.60–3.56 (m, 2H), 2.47–2.43 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz) δ : –223.30 (tt, $^2J_{\text{HF}} = 47.7$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 29.5$ Hz). HR-MS calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{23}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}$ [$M + 1$]: 332.1439; found: 332.1434. EA calcd.: C 50.74, H 6.69, N 12.68; found: C 50.87, H 6.75, N 12.86.

3-(Hexyloxy)-4-(1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazole (**10**)

To an oven-dried round-bottomed flask, 71 mg (0.7 mmol) of 1-hexanol was added to 3 mL of freshly distilled THF. To the reaction mixture was added 34 mg (1.4 mmol) of 95% NaH, and the mixture was allowed to stir at RT for 30 min. Compound **1** (0.35 mmol) was subsequently added and the reaction was refluxed overnight. The reaction was diluted with 30 mL of H_2O and washed with

30 mL of CH₂Cl₂ (×2). The combined organic layers were then washed with 40 mL of brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated. The product was purified by PTLC (30:70 EtOAc:Hex (*v/v*)) and **9** was obtained in a yield of 58 mg (60%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ: 7.09–7.04 (m, 1H), 4.47–4.41 (m, 2H), 3.48–3.43 (m, 2H), 2.61–2.55 (m, 2H), 2.49–2.42 (m, 5H), 1.89–1.78 (m, 2H), 1.52–1.39 (m, 2H), 1.38–1.31 (m, 4H), 0.94–0.87 (m, 3H). HR-MS calcd. for C₁₄H₂₄N₃OS [M + 1]: 282.1635; found: 282.1633. EA calcd.: C 59.75, H 8.24, N 14.93; found: C 59.68, H 8.14, N 14.67.

In vitro binding assays

All K_i determinations were conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health's Psychoactive Drug Screening Program (NIMH PDSP), contract No. NO1MH32004. The NIMH PDSP is directed by Bryan L. Roth, M.D., Ph.D., at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Project Officer Jamie Driscoll at NIMH, Bethesda, Maryland, USA (<http://pdsp.med.unc.edu/>).

Radiochemical synthesis

Synthesis of [¹⁸F]-3-(2-(2-(2-fluoroethoxy)ethoxy)ethylthio)-4-(1-methyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazole ([¹⁸F]**4c**)

A Scanditronix MC 17 cyclotron was used for [¹⁸F]fluoride production and the radiosynthesis was carried out via general automated methods using a GE FX_{FN} radiofluorination module as previously reported in detail by our laboratory for the synthesis of [¹⁸F]**4a**,¹⁴ with only minor modifications.

Briefly, to a reaction vessel containing reactive [¹⁸F]fluoride was added 3 mg of **3c** dissolved in 500 μL of CH₃CN. The reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C for 10 min, and the reaction was quenched with 500 μL of H₂O. The reaction mixture was then purified via semipreparative HPLC (20:80 CH₃CN:H₂O + 0.1 N ammonium formate + 1% formic acid (pH 4), Semi-Prep LUNA C18(2) (250 mm × 10 mm, 10 μm, λ = 254 nm)) at 6 mL/min. The major radiochemical peak (t_R = 13 min) was collected and formulated as previously described.¹⁴ The formulated product was analyzed by HPLC (30:70 CH₃CN:H₂O + 0.1 N ammonium formate, Prodigy C18 ODS Prep column (250 mm × 4.6 mm, 10 μm, λ = 254 nm)) at a flow of 3 mL/min. HPLC analysis of formulated [¹⁸F]**4c** revealed high radiochemical (>99%) purities. Coinjection of the radioactive product with an authentic standard of **4c** under several different HPLC conditions (solvents, pH, wavelength; see Table S2 in the Supplementary data) with different analytical columns further established the identity of the radiotracer. Specific activity was calculated at the end of synthesis from the formulated product and was determined by integration of the UV peak of an analytical HPLC chromatogram in comparison with standard solutions containing known concentrations of **4c**.

Ex vivo biodistribution

Ex vivo biodistribution studies in conscious male Sprague–Dawley rats were conducted as previously described by our group.^{32,33} All rats received ~2.6 MBq of

[¹⁸F]**4c** in 0.3 mL of buffered saline via the tail vein and were sacrificed by decapitation at either 5, 15, 30, or 60 min after injection (*n* = 1 per time point). The brains were removed and regions of interest (striatum, thalamus, hypothalamus, hippocampus, frontal cortex, rest of cortex, cerebellum, rest of brain, as well as whole blood from the trunk, bone, and heart) were excised, blotted, weighed, and then counted for radioactivity (Fig. 3).

Metabolism studies

Following tail-vein injection of [¹⁸F]**4c** as described above, whole blood was collected at various time points from the trunk in a heparinized tube and centrifuged, and the plasma was separated for metabolite analysis by HPLC via the method of Hilton et al.,³⁵ with minor modifications. Briefly, rat plasma from each time point was directly loaded onto a 5 mL HPLC injector loop and injected onto a capture column (4.6 mm × 20 mm) that was packed in-house with OASIS HLB 30 μm (Waters, New Jersey). The capture column was eluted with 1% aqueous CH₃CN (2 mL/min) for 3 min and then back-flushed (19:81 CH₃CN:H₂O + 0.1 N ammonium formate, 2.0 mL/min) onto a Phenomenex 10 μm Luna C18 column (250 mm × 4.6 mm). The column effluents from both columns were monitored through a flow detector (Bioscan Flow-Count) operated in coincidence mode. Whole brain removed from a control rat and treated with ~1 MBq of [¹⁸F]**4c** and whole brain removed from a rat sacrificed at 60 min after injection of [¹⁸F]**4c** in the tail vein were individually homogenized with ice-cold 80% ethanol and centrifuged as previously described by our laboratory,³⁶ prior to radio-HPLC analysis of the supernatant using the aforementioned method.

Supplementary data

Supplementary data for this article are available on the journal Web site (canjchem.nrc.ca).

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