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2 Account/Revue

³ Glucose derived inhibitors of glycogen phosphorylase*

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ABSTRACT

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8 1. Introduction

q One of the major aims of chemical biology [1], the 10 young and developing scientific field between chemistry 11 and biology, is to find matches between the biological and 12 chemical space [2]. The chemical space comprises (small) 13 molecules, some of which show complementary features 14 to certain points of the biological space constituted by the 15 structure of binding sites of biomacromolecules (mainly 16 but not only proteins). Good matches may result in 17 efficient agonists/antagonists of receptors or activators/ 18 inhibitors of enzymes. Such interactions contribute to the 19 basic understanding of the way of biological action of the 20 macromolecule, and may ultimately be utilised in drug 21 design and discovery.

In the context of this survey, the biological space is 22 23 represented by glycogen phosphorylase (GP), the main 24 regulatory enzyme of glycogen metabolism. GP, catalysing 25 the rate-determining step of glycogen degradation in the 26 liver by phosphorolysis, is directly responsible for the 27 regulation of blood glucose levels. Thus, the enzyme has 28 become a validated target in combatting non-insulin-29 dependent or type 2 diabetes mellitus (NIDDM or T2DM), 30 and its inhibitors are considered as potential antidiabetic

* Dedicated to Professor András Lipták on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Design, synthesis, and structure–activity relationships of glucose analogue inhibitors of glycogen phosphorylase are surveyed. © 2010 Académie des sciences. Published by Elsevier Masson SAS. All rights reserved.

agents. The biochemical and pharmacological background31of this research has been amply summarized in several32reviews of the past decade, therefore, the reader is kindly33referred to those papers [3–8].34

Diverse classes of compounds [4,9–12] can be found 35 among inhibitors of GP binding to one (or in specific cases 36 more) of the so far discovered binding sites of the enzyme 37 (Fig. 1). The most populated class of compounds is that of 38 glucose derivatives, first proposed and investigated 39 [4,13,14] by Fleet, Johnson, and Oikonomakos,¹ which 40 bind primarily to the active site of GP. This paper highlights 41 the most important "historical" moments of GP inhibitor 42 design among glucose analogues, and the main emphasis is 43 put on developments of the past couple of years, not or not 44 fully included in the last comprehensive reviews [11,12]. 45 Although the design of compounds was heavily based on 46 and supported by results of crystallographic investigations 47 of enzyme-inhibitor complexes and molecular dockings, 48 the syntheses and structure-activity relationships of the 49 inhibitors are pointed out in this overview. 50

2. Early glucose analogue inhibitors of glycogen phosphorylase

The weak binding of D-glucose anomers **1** and **2** to the 53 catalytic site of GP to act as the physiological regulator of 54

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¹ Passed away on Aug 31, 2008.

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Fig. 1. A schematic diagram of the muscle GPb dimeric molecule viewed down the molecular dyad. The positions are shown for the catalytic, allosteric, glycogen storage, the caffeine, the indole site, and the novel binding site for benzimidazole. The catalytic site, marked by 2-B-Dglucopyranosyl benzimidazole, is buried at the centre of the subunit and is accessible to the bulk solvent through a 15 Å-long channel. Binding of the competitive inhibitor benzimidazole promotes the less active T state through stabilization of the closed position of the 280 s loop (shown in white). The allosteric site, which binds the activator AMP (indicated in the figure), is situated at the subunit-subunit interface some 30 Å from the catalytic site. The inhibitor site or caffeine binding site, which binds purine compounds, such as caffeine and flavopiridol (indicated), is located on the surface of the enzyme some 12 Å from the catalytic site and, in the T state, obstructs the entrance to the catalytic site tunnel. The glycogen storage site (with bound maltopentaose) is on the surface of the molecule some 30 Å from the catalytic site, 40 Å from the allosteric site and 50 Å from the new allosteric inhibitor site. The new allosteric or indole binding site, located inside the central cavity, formed an association of the two subunits, bound indole-2 carboxamide analogues, N-benzoyl-N'-B-D-glucopyranosyl urea, and benzimidazole (indicated). The novel binding site with bound benzimidazole, also located on the surface of the molecule, is some 31 Å from the catalytic site. 32 Å from the allosteric site, and 32 Å from the indole site (figure by courtesy of N.-G. Oikonomakos and E.-D. Chrysina).

55 the enzyme [15] raised the possibility to design glucose 56 derivatives with much higher affinity to the active site. 57 Enzymatic tests of a large series of α - and β -D-glucopyr-58 anosides, 1-thio-D-glucopyranosides, N-acyl-β-D-gluco-59 pyranosylamines and related compounds [13] revealed 60 1-deoxy-D-gluco-heptulopyranose 2-phosphate (3) and N-61 acetyl- β -D-glucopyranosylamine (**4**) as the first glucose 62 derivatives with an inhibitor constant (K_i) in the low 63 micromolar range. Anhydro-heptonamides 5 and 6 were 64 less effective, however, a formal combination of 6 with an 65 anomeric substituent similar to that of 4 gave again a low 66 micromolar inhibitor 7. Ring closure of 7 to glucopyr-67 anosylidene-spiro-hydantoin 8 strengthened the binding by a factor of \sim 5. The spiro-epimeric hydantoin **9** proved 68 much less efficient, indicating that the presence of a β -D-69 70 anomeric NH was very important to make a good inhibitor. This was rationalized by crystallographic investigation of 71 72 the enzyme-inhibitor complex [16] to show the presence 73 of a specific H-bridge between NH and His377 next to the 74 catalytic site also present in N-acyl- β -D-glucopyranosylamine type inhibitors (Fig. 2a for an illustration). The 75 synthetic problems with the stereoselective preparation of 76 the properly configured spiro-hydantion 8 [17–19] were 77 essentially overcome by the highly stereoselective synthe-Q1 78 sis of spiro-thiohydantoin 10 [20] which proved equipo-02 79 tent with 8 (Fig. 3). 80

3. Glucose derivatives tested recently as inhibitors of glycogen phosphorylase

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3.1. N-Acyl-β-D-glucopyranosylamines and related compounds

Following the success of the first N-acvl-B-p-glucopy-86 ranosylamine type inhibitors like 4. several modifications of 87 the acyl group were carried out. A widely applied general 88 method for the preparation of such compounds starts with 89 the reaction of per-O-acetylated β -D-glucopyranosyl azide 90 11 with triaryl- or trialkyl phosphanes (PMe₃ proved the 91 most advantageous [27]) and the intermediate phosphini-92 mine is then reacted with a carboxylic acid or acid chloride 93 or anhydride to get protected amides 14 (Scheme 1, for an 94 95 exhaustive review see [28]). Reduction of 11 to 15 followed by acylation can be an alternative synthetic route. Subse-96 97 quent deprotection yields test compounds of type 14(R = H), 98 and several recent examples as inhibitors of rabbit muscle GP b (RMGPb) are shown in Fig. 4. 99

Substitution in the methyl group of N-acetyl-B-D-100 glucopyranosylamine makes the inhibition weaker (Fig. 101 4, compare **4** and **14a,b**). The α -anomeric trifluoroaceta-102 mide **17** proved configurationally stable (for a discussion 103 on the stability of *N*-acyl-glycosylamine anomers see ref. 104 [27]) but showed no inhibition. From a larger collection of 105 monoamides of dicarboxylic acids, 14c showed similar 106 inhibition to that of **4**, while its methylester **14d** proved 107 significantly weaker. In the series of oxamic acid deriva-108 tives, the efficiencies of acid 14e and ester 14f were 109 reversed, both being much less effective than 4. Introduc-110 tion of a large side chain as in 14g made a weak inhibitor. 111 Among aromatic amides, the 2-naphthoyl derivative 14h 112 proved the most efficient, and in this series, the position 113 114 occupied by the aromatic moiety becomes also important (Fig. 5 also). Necessity of the intact homoaromatic system 115 is indicated by 1,4-benzodioxane carboxamide 14i. Chan-116 ging the acyl part to a dimethoxyphosphoryl residue (18) 117 resulted in a practical loss of inhibition. 118

Syntheses of analogues **19** of spiro-hydantoins **8-10** 119 were envisaged by photocyclization of acyl urea derivatives **20** outlined in Scheme 2a. To this end, reported 121 cyclizations of 3-oxoalkyl glycosides [38,39] **23** resulting 122 in stereoselective formation of spiro-acetals **24** (Scheme 2b) served as analogies. Thus, a photoexcitation of **20** might have resulted in intermediate **22** which, upon

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Fig. 2. Outline of binding of glucose analogues at the active site of glycogen phosphorylase (GP) highlighting (a) important H-bonds between N-acyl-β-Dglucopyranosylamine type inhibitors and His377 and (b) binding modes of N-acyl-N'-β-D-glucopyranosyl ureas as observed by X-ray crystallography.

а



Fig. 3. Inhibition of glycogen phosphorylase (GP) by D-glucose and the most efficient inhibitors of early glucose analogue derivatives ($K_i \ [\mu M]$ against RMGPb).

intramolecular hydrogen abstraction to give **21** and subsequent radical combination could have given the target compounds **19**.

To test this hypothesis, N-acyl-N'- β -p-glucopyranosyl ureas of type 27 (Scheme 3) were needed. Only two examples of this class of compounds were known in the literature [40] which were obtained by a modification of the original synthesis. Azide 11 was transformed to urea 26 by Pintér et al.'s method [41] and then acylation was carried out to give 27 (R = Ac, R' = Me or Ph). Irradiation of 27 under various conditions brought about a Norrish I type cleavage of the R'CO moieities leading back to 26 instead of the expected Norrish II type cyclization [42]. Quite unexpectedly, the deprotected compounds 27 (R=H, R' = Me K_i = 305 μ M; R' = Ph K_i = 4.6 μ M) proved efficient inhibitors of GP [43] and the benzoyl derivative had similar potency to those of spiro-hydantoins 8 and 10. Initiated by this serendipitous finding, synthetic and enzymatic studies were started to get insight in structure-activity relationships of B-D-glucopyranosyl derivatives attached to aromatic rings by linkers of 3-6 atoms analogous to amide groups.

N-Aryl-N'-β-D-glucopyranosyl ureas 13 were obtained (Scheme 1) either via acid catalysed hydration of carbodiimide 12 obtained from azide 11 by a Staudinger type transformation, or by reacting glucosylamine 15 with isocyanates, or by in situ conversion of 15 into glucosylisocyanate 16 [44] followed by amine addition. Removal of the protecting groups was straightforward under Zemplén conditions. Further compounds of the protected *N*-acyl-*N*'- β -D-glucopyranosyl urea series **27** (Scheme 3) were obtained in reactions of glucosylamine 15 with acylisocyanates or from glucosylisocyanate 16 upon treatment with arenecarboxamides. During these syntheses, anomerization was observed in almost every cases thereby diminishing the yield of the target compounds [45]. Furthermore, deprotection of acyl ureas 27 was always accompanied by the cleavage of the R'CO group, both under base or acid catalysed transesterification conditions. These side reactions could be circumvented by the addition of unprotected β -p-glucopyranosylamine obtained in situ from β -D-glucopyranosylammonium carbamate [46] (25) to various acyl-isocyanates to give directly the unprotected

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Scheme 1.

168 27 ureas [45]. Biurets 28 [47] and 29 [42] were prepared in
169 reactions of urea 26 with phenyl and 2-naphthoyl
170 isocyanates, respectively.

Most important results of the enzyme kinetic studies are
collected in Fig. 5. Comparison of entries 1, 2, 4, 13, and 14
shows that the inhibition is strongest for the acyl urea type
compounds (entry 4). Introduction of a tetrahedral element
into the linker makes weaker inhibitors (compare entries 2–
3, 4–6). Replacement of one NHCO by a more rigid bond
(entries 4, 7, 9) seems less detrimental, although the



Fig. 4. Inhibition of rabbit muscle glycogen phosphorylase b (RMGPb) by *N*-acyl- β -p-glucopyranosylamines and related compounds. Illustrative examples of the most efficient members of larger series of compounds detailed in the referred papers.

inhibition is weakened, showing the necessity of a polar part 178 179 capable for participation in H-bonds as well. Entries 7 and 8 indicate again that higher flexibility due to a rotatable 180 element of the linker is not advantageous (of course, the 181 absence of the H-bond donor amide moiety from the 182 anomeric carbon must also contribute to the weaker 183 binding). Constitutional isomers of the NHCONHCO moiety 184 (entries 10-12) also make significantly less efficient 185 inhibitors. Comparison of columns A-C demonstrate the 186 importance of the size and orientation of the aromatic 187 appendage the 2-naphthyl derivatives exhibiting the 188 strongest binding. Accordingly, N-2-naphthoyl-N'-β-D-glu-189 copyranosyl urea (entry 4C) was the first nanomolar glucose 190 analogue inhibitor of GP. Protein crystallography showed 191 acyl ureas of entries 4A and 4C to bind also to the new 192 allosteric site of the enzyme [43]. 193

X-Ray crystallographic studies of GP-N-acyl-N'-B-D-194 glucopyranosyl urea complexes revealed that, contrary to 195 the *N*-acyl- β -D-glucopyranosylamines, there is no H-bond 196 between the β -anomeric NH and His377 (Fig. 2b) [43]. As 197 the acyl ureas are much more inhibitory than the 198 corresponding glucosylamines (Fig. 5, entries 1 and 4), 199 the stronger binding must be due to extended interactions 200 of the urea and especially the aromatic parts of the 201 molecules in the β -channel² of the enzyme. This observa-202 tion was utilized in further inhibitor design discussed in 203 Section 3.4. 204

3.2. $N-\beta$ -*p*-glucopyranosyl heterocycles 210

The problems encountered in the synthesis of *N*-acyl-β- 211 D-glucopyranosyl ureas necessitated a quest for more 212 stable compounds. To this end, bioisosteric replacement of 213

 $^{^2}$ The β -channel or β -pocket is an empty space next to the catalytic site of GP in the direction of the β -anomeric substituent of bound <code>p-glucose</code> surrounded by amino acid side chains of mixed character.

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HO TO Visiting An		Ar		
	HO OH	А	В	С
Entry	linker			
1.	NHCO	81 ²³ 144 ²⁶	191 ³⁵ 444 ³⁴	10 ³⁴ 13 ³⁵
2.	NHCONH	18 ⁴⁸	350 ⁴⁸ (IC ₅₀)	5.2 ⁴⁸
3.	NHCOCH ₂	1100 (IC ₅₀) ³⁴	-	
4.	NHCONHCO	4.6 ⁴³	10 ⁴²	0.35 ⁴²
5.	NHCONHCH ₂	42 % (1 mM) ⁴⁸	-	
6.	NHCOCH ₂ CH ₂	85 ³⁴	-	-
7.	NHCOCH=CH	18 ³⁴	-	3.5 ³⁴
8.	CH ₂ COCH=CH	-	-	52 % (100 μM) ⁴⁹ *
9.	NHCOC≡C	62 ³⁴	-	-
10.	NHCOCONH	100 ⁵⁰	144 ⁵⁰	56 ⁵⁰
11.	CONHCONH	No inh. ⁴⁸	-	-
12.	CONHNHCO	22 % (3.75 mM) ⁵⁰	-	-
13.	NHCONHCONH	21 ⁴⁷	-	-
14.	NHCONHCONHCO	-		$45~\%~(625~\mu M)^{42}$
15.	~N ~	151 ³⁵	136 ³⁵	1635
10.	N=Ń	162 ⁵¹	625 ⁵¹ (IC ₅₀)	36 ⁵¹

Fig. 5. Comparison of inhibition of rabbit muscle glycogen phosphorylase b (RMGPb) (K_i [μ M]) by N-acyl- β - $_D$ -glucopyranosylamines, N-substituted-N'- β - $_D$ -glucopyranosyl ureas and related compounds. Against rat liver glycogen phosphorylase (GP).

214 NHCO moieties in acyl ureas and related compounds was 215 envisaged. As the first example of such studies, the NHCO 216 unit of *N*-acyl- β -*D*-glucopyranosylamines was changed to 217 1,2,3-triazole because some literature examples indicated 218 similarities [56] of these two moieties. Three series of 1-*D*-219 glucopyranosyl-4-substituted-1,2,3-triazoles [51] were prepared by copper(I) catalysed azide-alkyne cycloaddition (CuAAC) [57] outlined in Scheme 4. From β -Dglucopyranosyl azide **11** conditions 1a, frequently applied in the literature, proved to be a straightforward way to the per-O-acetylated 1- β -D-glucopyranosyl-4-substituted-1,2,3-triazoles in 58–96% yields. Transformations of the



OAc (Cl₃CO)₂CO, CH₂C AcO NH2.HO2CNH2 H₂O, NaHCO₂ OAc ÒAc 'nн 15 25 16 R'CONH₂ **R'CONCO** Ra-Ni R'CONCO **OR** CO₂, NH₃ R'COC EtOAc ZnClo OAc 11 26 27 hv in MeOH or PhH reflux PhNCO neat, reflux R = Ac н R'CONCC R' = aryl \cap 28 29 Scheme 3.

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226 α -azide **30** required higher catalyst loads (conditions 1b) 227 and the yields for the corresponding per-O-acetylated $1-\alpha$ -228 D-glucopyranosyl-4-substituted-1,2,3-triazoles were low-229 er (36–72%). The aqueous conditions were unsatisfactory 230 for the reactions of (hept-2-ulopyranosylazide)onamide 31 231 for which conditions 1c were found the best to give 75-87% 232 of the corresponding O-protected glucosyl triazoles with 233 51-73% conversion of the starting 31 in one day. Removal 234 of the protecting groups was effected by the Zemplén 235 protocol to give triazoles 32-34 in generally very good 236 vields.

237 From these 1,2,3-triazoles, only compounds 32 showed 238 significant inhibition (e.g. $R = CH_2OH K_i = 26 \mu M$ [51] or 239 14 µM; [35]). Inhibitor constants for other members of this 240 series can be found in Fig. 5, entry 15 to show acceptable 241 similarity with those of glucosyl amides in entry 1. 242 Comparative crystallographic studies of the amide and 243 triazole series revealed that pairs of the compounds with 244 the same aglycon bound to the enzyme in essentially the 245 same way in most cases [35]. Thereby, the bioisosteric

OAc

relationship for NHCO-1,2,3-triazole was proven for the GP 246 case as well. 247

Investigations of some N- β -D-glucopyranosyl deriva-248tives of pyrimidine and purine heterocycles ("glucosyl249nucleosides") showed these compounds to have inhibitory250effect towards GP, and the best inhibitors are collected in251Fig. 7.252

3.3. C-β-D-glucopyranosyl derivatives253

The first C- β -p-glucopyranosyl heterocycles tested as 254 inhibitors of GP were methyl-1,3,4-oxadiazole 38, tetra-255 256 zole 39, benzothiazole 40, and benzimidazole 41 (Scheme 5, R = H in each) [59]. Common starting material for the 257 syntheses of these compounds was the per-O-acetylated or 258 -benzoylated 2,6-anhydro-aldononitrile (β-D-glucopyra-259 nosyl cyanide) 36. 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of protected 260 **36** with azide ion gave 5- β -D-glucopyranosyl tetrazole **39** 261 which was transformed into $2-\beta$ -p-glucopyranosyl-5-262 substituted-1,3,4-oxadiazoles 38 via an N-acyl-nitrilimine 263



OAc

Fig. 6. Synthesis of aldehyde 4-(β-D-glucopyranosyl)thiosemicarbazones and their enzymatic evaluation against rabbit muscle glycogen phosphorylase *b* (RMGP*b*).

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264 intermediate obtained by acylation of **39** [59.60]. Oxadia-265 zoles **38** could also be prepared by oxidation [60] of 2.6anhydro-aldose acylhydrazones [61] 35, and the two 266 267 pathways proved comparable with respect of yields and 268 operational difficulties. Nitrile 36 was ring-closed to benzothiazole **40** with 2-aminothiophenol. The analogous 269 270 reaction with 1,2-diaminobenzene was unsuccessful, 271 therefore, benzimidazole 41 was obtained via thioimidate 272 **37**. Deprotection was carried out by the Zemplén method.



Fig. 7. Inhibitory effect of β -D- glucopyranosyl nucleosides against rabbit muscle glycogen phosphorylase *b* (RMGP*b*) [58] (*K*_i [μ M]).

Per-O-benzovlated or -benzvlated nitriles 36 were also 273 transformed into two other series of 1.2.4-oxadiazoles 274 (Scheme 6). 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition with nitrile-oxides 275 generated in situ furnished 5-β-D-glucopyranosyl-3-276 substituted-1,2,4-oxadiazoles 43 [60,62]. Addition of 277 hydroxylamine to 36 produced amidoxime 42 which upon 278 O-acvlation with either carboxylic acids or acid chlorides 279 followed by cyclodehydration gave 3-B-D-glucopyranosyl-280 5-substituted-1,2,4-oxadiazoles 44 [63]. The protecting 281 groups were removed by standard methods. 282

Results of enzyme kinetic studies are presented in Fig. 8. 283 β -D-glucopyranosyl cyanide **36** is a somewhat better 284 inhibitor than anhydro-aldonamide 5, while tetrazole 39 285 and amidoxime 42 are inactive. Benzimidazole 41 binds 286 stronger than benzothiazole 40, and this can be attributed to 287 the H-bond between the NH of the heterocycle and His377 288 which is necessarily absent for 40. X-ray crystallography has 289 shown 41 also to be present at the new allosteric site and the 290 new "benzimidazole site" has been discovered by investi-291 gating this compound (Fig. 1) [64]. From the three 292 oxadiazole series (38, 43, 44), compounds 43 are the most 293 active. The tendency of strengthening the inhibition by a 294



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Fig. 9. β-D-Glucopyranosyl carbocycles as inhibitors of rabbit muscle glycogen phosphorylase *b* (RMGP*b*) (K_i [μM]).

295 large and properly oriented aromatic substituent can be 296 observed in the oxadiazoles, too: compounds with a 2-297 naphthyl appendage (**43d**, **44d**) are the best inhibitors. 298 Although all three oxadiazoles could be considered as 299 bioisosteric replacements [65,66] of NHCO, these results 300 suggest that in the case of GP, $5-\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-3-301 substituted-1,2,4-oxadiazoles **43** are the best choice.

302 β -p-glucopyranosyl hydroquinone derivative **46** in its303O-acetyl protected form was prepared by aromatic304electrophilic substitution in 1,4-dimethoxybenze using305penta-O-acetyl- β -p-glucopyranose as a source of glucosy-306lium ion. Subsequent oxidation gave protected benzoqui-307none **47** which was reduced to **45** [67]. The deprotected308compounds were moderately inhibitory against GP (Fig.

9). Cyclopropane **48** was obtained from per-*O*-benzoylated 309 nitrile **36** by EtMgBr–Ti(OiPr)₄ followed by Zemplén 310 deprotection [68]. This compound had no inhibition of GP. 311

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3.4. Glucopyranosylidene-spiro-heterocycles

Studies on N-acyl- β -p-glucopyranosylamines and N-313 $acyl-N'-\beta$ -p-glucopyranosyl ureas allowed to conclude that 314 it is possible to make very efficient inhibitors even in the 315 absence of a H-bond to His377, provided that interactions 316 in the β -channel are strong enough. Combining these facts 317 with the spirobicyclic structure of hydantoins, a novel 318 design principle for efficient glucose-based inhibitors of GP 319 could be set up [69,70]: 320



Fig. 8. C-β-p-glucopyranosyl heterocycles and their precursors as inhibitors of rabbit muscle glycogen phosphorylase b (RMGPb) (K_i [μM]).

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- such molecules should have a rigid spirobicyclic scaffold in which a (preferably five-membered hetero) cycle is 324 attached to the anomeric carbon of p-glucopyranose; 326
 - this cycle, although it may, should not necessarily be a Hbond donor towards His 377;
 - a suitably oriented, large aromatic appendage must be present on this cycle to fit into the β -channel.

This principle was first verified by spiro-oxathiazolines 335 53, the synthesis of which followed well elaborated pathways [71] (Scheme 7): per-O-acetylated 1-thio-β-D-336 glucopyranose **49** was reacted with *in situ* generated 337 nitrile-oxides to give hydroximothioates 50 which under-338 went a ring-closure upon oxidation by NBS to yield the 339 target compounds 53 after Zemplén deprotection. Synthe-



sis of the analogous spiro-oxadiazoline 54 was also 340 attempted. To this end, glucosyl azide 11 was transformed 341 in a Staudinger type reaction into $N-\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl 342 amidoxime 51. Oxidative treatment of 51 gave oxadiazole 343 52 probably via 54. The driving force for the tautomeric 344 ring opening must be the aromatization of the heterocycle. 345

A series of glucopyranosylidene-spiro-isoxazolines 58 346 was prepared by 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of nitrile-oxides 347 to exo-glycals 57 (Scheme 8) [62]. The exomethylene 348 sugars were made by Julia olefination of per-O-benzylated 349 or -silylated lactone 55. Protecting group exchange to get 350 the per-O-acetylated 57 was necessary because upon 351 hydrogenolytic debenzylation of **58**, the isoxazoline ring 352 also opened up due to a cleavage of the N-O bond. O-353 deacetylation of 58 could be achieved by the Zemplén 354 protocol. Another way to 57 was reported by transforming 355 per-O-acylated nitriles 36 to 2,6-anhydro-aldose tosylhy-356



Fig. 10. Inhibition of rabbit muscle glycogen phosphorylase b (RMGPb) (K_i [μ M]) by glucopyranosylidene-spiro-heterocycles.

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HO- HO	HOCONH ₂	
	Х	$K_{\rm i}$ [μ M]
6	Н	370 ²⁴
7	NHCOOMe	16 ¹⁸
59	OEt	21 % (at 625 $\mu M)^{75}$
60	SPh	No inh. (at 625 $\mu M)^{75}$
61	NHPh	No inh. (at 625 $\mu M)^{75}$
62	N_3	1800^{78}
63	NHCOMe	310 ⁷⁸
HO- HO	OH OH SO ₂ NH ₂	No inh. (at 625 μM) ⁷⁶
64		

Fig. 11. Inhibition of rabbit muscle glycogen phosphorylase *b* (RMGP*b*) by various monosaccharide derivatives.

drazones followed by a Bamford-Stevens type carbene generation to yield the target *exo*-glycals [72,73].

359 Enzyme kinetic investigation of these spirocycles (Fig.

360 10) indicated low micromolar inhibition of GP by the

phenyl substituted derivatives **53a** and **58a**. Substitution361in the para-position of the aromatic ring gave somewhat362better inhibitors (**53c**, **58b**,c). The 2-naphthyl derivatives363(**53d**, **58d**) were nanomolar inhibitors, thereby fully364validating the design principles.365

3.5. Miscellaneous compounds 366

Several O-, S-, and N-glucosides (Fig. 11, **59-63**) of β -D-367 gluco-hept-2-ulopyranosonamide were prepared by nu-368 cleophilic substitutions of the corresponding glycosyl 369 bromide [75]. These compounds can be regarded as 370 anomerically extended variants of amide 6 for which a 371 β -anomeric carbamate moiety (**7**) significantly improved 372 the inhibitory efficiency. On the other hand, the new 373 substitution patterns of **59-63** weakened the inhibition. 374

Sulfonamide **64** prepared recently by two different 375 methods [76,77] had no inhibition against RMGPb. 376

Very recently, multivalent molecules have been designed and proposed for inhibition of GP [79]. Compound **65** (Fig. 12) was prepared by acylation of amidoxime **42** with trimesic acid chloride. To get compound **67** containing a spacer, **42** was acylated with 4-pentynoic acid followed by CuAAC with 1,3,5-tris(azidomethyl)benzene. These compounds have three glucose units, each potentially capable to 383



Fig. 12. Probing multivalency for the inhibition of rabbit muscle glycogen phosphorylase (RMGP).

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Fig. 13. Triterpene–glucose conjugates and protected monosaccharide derivatives [81] as inhibitors of rabbit muscle glycogen phosphorylase *a* (RMGP*a*) (IC₅₀ [μM]).

bind to an active site of GP. It was found that the homotrivalent derivatives **65** and **67** had slightly better inhibitory activity than the corresponding monovalent compounds **44b** and **66**, respectively. Homobivalent compounds **68** were made by CuAAC from *N*-ω-azidoalkanoyl-β-D-glucopyranosylamines and 1,7-octadiyne, but had no effect on the enzyme [80].

391 Potentially heterobivalent compounds were designed 392 by tethering pentacyclic triterpenes and D-glucose deri-393 vatives [80]: C-28 propargyl esters of oleanolic, ursolic, or 394 maslinic acids were coupled by CuAAC with β-D-glucopyr-395 anosyl azide and $N-\omega$ -azidoalkanoyl- β -p-glucopyranosy-396 lamines to give compounds 69 and 70, respectively. 397 Derivatives with both per-O-acetylated and unprotected 398 sugar parts were tested against GP and the best inhibitors 399 are shown in Fig. 12. Micromolar inhibitors could be 400 identified among both protected and unprotected glucose 401 derivatives, and also the triterpene part and, in some cases, 402 the linker length had a bearing on the efficiency of the 403 compounds.

404 Oleanolic acid and p-glucose were also conjugated via 405 C-6 ethers and glucuronic esters in several ways [81]. Most 406 efficient compounds are 71b and 72a (Fig. 13) interest-407 ingly with an unprotected and a protected sugar unit, 408 respectively. Based on molecular docking, 71b was 409 proposed to bind at the allosteric site of GP. Per-O-410 benzylated precursor sugars 73 and 74 containing a 411 propargyl group also exhibited inhibition of GP, the latter 412 in the low micromolar range.

413 4. Conclusion

414 Extensive synthetic efforts supported by crystallo-415 graphic studies on enzyme–inhibitor complexes have 416 resulted in several new types of glucose analogue 417 inhibitors of GP. Among them, *N*-acyl-*N*'- β -D-glucopy-418 ranosyl ureas, glucopyranosylidene-spiro-oxathiazolines 419 and -isoxazolines represent novel scaffolds which, in the presence of suitable substituents, exhibit nanomolar 420 efficiency. Further increase in the binding strength of 421 glucose analogues may be expected from a better 422 exploitation of interactions of the molecules in the β -423 channel of the enzyme. This will need a strong collabora-424 tion between synthetic and computational chemists, as 425 well as crystallographers and biochemists. Nevertheless, 426 due to the extremely high flexibility of the catalytic site of 427 GP, synthesis and enzyme kinetic study of a large number 428 of compounds will be inevitable. 429

5. Note added in proof

While this manuscript was under review, an interesting
paper appeared on enzyme kinetic and crystallographic
investigations of a series of 3-deoxy-3-fluoro- β -D-gluco-
pyranosyl pyrimidine derivatives [82].431
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Uncited references

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[21–26,] [29–37], [48–51], [54,55,58], [74,78].	Q3

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