Reporting Summary

Nature Portfolio wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Portfolio policies, see our Editorial Policies and the Editorial Policy Checklist.

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a  Confirmed

☐  The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement

☐  A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly

☐  The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided

  *Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.*

☐  A description of all covariates tested

☐  A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons

☐  A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)

☐  For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. F, t, r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P value noted

  *Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.*

☐  For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings

☐  For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes

☐  Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen’s d, Pearson’s r), indicating how they were calculated

  *Our web collection on statistics for biologists contains articles on many of the points above.*

Software and code

Policy information about availability of computer code

Data collection  LightCycler 480 Software release 1.5.1.62 SP3, SparkControl magellan 2.2, Microbeta2 Windows Workstation V2.2.0.19, PMEMD CUDA (AMBER 18)

Data analysis  GraphPad Prism 8, Schrödinger Release 2019-3: Canvas, Schrödinger Release 2019-3: Maestro, AMBER18, AMBERTOOLS18

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Portfolio guidelines for submitting code & software for further information.

Data

Policy information about availability of data

All manuscripts must include a data availability statement. This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A description of any restrictions on data availability
- For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our policy

Data from Figure 1-3 and 6 are available in the article, in the source data file or in the supplemental information. Data from docking and MD simulations is available from any of the authors upon reasonable request.
Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

- [ ] Life sciences
- [ ] Behavioural & social sciences
- [ ] Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/documents/rr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf](https://nature.com/documents/rr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf)

Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

| Sample size | Describe how sample size was determined, detailing any statistical methods used to predetermine sample size OR if no sample-size calculation was performed, describe how sample sizes were chosen and provide a rationale for why these sample sizes are sufficient. |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Data exclusions | Data points were only excluded for technical reasons |
| Replication | Initial DMS screening was performed once, with two validation experiments for all hit compounds. For activity and inhibition studies all experiments were performed at least three times with similar results unless otherwise stated. |
| Randomization | Randomization was not relevant in this study |
| Blinding | Blinding was not relevant in this study |

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

| Materials & experimental systems | Methods |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| n/a | n/a |
| ☒ | ☒ |
| Antibodies | ChiP-seq |
| Eukaryotic cell lines | Flow cytometry |
| Palaeontology and archaeology | MRI-based neuroimaging |
| Animals and other organisms | |
| Human research participants | |
| Clinical data | |
| Dual use research of concern | |

Eukaryotic cell lines

Policy information about [cell lines](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-018-0214-9)

| Cell line source(s) | HEK293-EBNA |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Authentication | Cell lines were used as is and were not authenticated. |
| Mycoplasma contamination | Hek293 cells have previously been tested for mycoplasma in the lab. |
| Commonly misidentified lines | No commonly misidentified lines were used. |

(See [IITAC register](https://www.iitac.org))