

### Short communication

## **Identification of 19-(S/R)Hydroxyeicosatetraenoic Acid as the First Endogenous Non-Competitive Inhibitor of Cytochrome P450 CYP1B1 with Enantioselective Activity**

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## Running title

19-HETE enantiomers noncompetitively inhibit CYP1B1

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## Abbreviations

19-HETE, 19-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid; AA, arachidonic acid; Ang II, angiotensin II; CYP, cytochrome P450; DMSO, dimethyl sulfoxide; EETs, epoxyeicosatrienoic acids; EROD, 7-ethoxyresorufin O-deethylation; NADPH, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate.

## Abstract

The overexpression of cytochrome P450 1B1 (CYP1B1) is a common characteristic of several diseases and conditions, such as inflammation, cancer and cardiac hypertrophy. CYP1B1 is believed to contribute to pathogenesis of these diseases by mediating the formation of toxic compounds, either from exogenous or endogenous origin. We recently reported that an arachidonic acid metabolite, 19(S/R)-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic (HETE) acid, protects from cardiac hypertrophy by inhibiting the formation of toxic compounds, midchain HETEs, known to be formed by CYP1B1. This raised the question whether 19(S/R)-HETE can directly inhibit CYP1B1. In the current study, we are reporting that 19(S/R)-HETE enantioselectively inhibits human recombinant CYP1B1 activity measured by 7-ethoxyresorufin O-deethylation assay. 19(S)-HETE is more potent than the R enantiomer ( $K_i = 37.3$  and  $89.1$  nM, respectively). Non-competitive inhibition was identified as the mechanism of CYP1B1 inhibition, which underlines the potentially important physiological role of 19(S/R)-HETE as an endogenous CYP1B1 inhibitor; to our knowledge, 19(S/R)-HETE is the first inhibitor of its kind to be reported.

## Introduction

Cytochrome P450 1B1 (CYP1B1) is a member of the heme-thiolate monooxygenase superfamily; a group of enzymes that are known to have the capacity of metabolizing a wide range of endobiotics and xenobiotics (Faiq *et al.*, 2014). Arachidonic acid (AA) and 17 $\beta$ -estradiol are examples of endogenous substances that are metabolized by human CYP1B1, while polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and dioxins represent some of its xenobiotic substrates (Shimada *et al.*, 1997a; Tsuchiya *et al.*, 2004). Several CYP1B1-dependent metabolic transformations result in toxic and/or carcinogenic metabolites. CYP1B1 mediates the formation of dihydroxy-epoxy-polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which are very potent electrophiles attacking DNA to form adducts leading to mutation and neoplastic transformation. Also, CYP1B1 mediates the formation of mid-chain hydroxylated arachidonic acid, namely 5-, 8-, 9-, 11-, 12-, and 15-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic (HETE) acids (Choudhary *et al.*, 2004). Accumulating studies have reported the cardiotoxic effects of mid-chain HETEs and their involvement in the pathogenesis of hypertension, cardiac hypertrophy and heart failure (Dołęgowska *et al.*, 2009; Kayama *et al.*, 2009; Ahmed A. El-Sherbeni and El-Kadi, 2014). CYP1B1 is selectively expressed at low level in extrahepatic tissues and not in normal human liver. The expression of CYP1B1 only achieves high levels in abnormal tissues; CYP1B1 overexpression is actually regarded as a marker of malignancy phenotype, and was also reported in cardiovascular diseases (Jennings *et al.*, 2010; A. A. El-Sherbeni and El-Kadi, 2014; Maayah *et al.*, 2017). Therefore, considerable interests on CYP1B1 have been raised as a novel therapeutic target for cancer (Li *et al.*, 2015; Chang *et al.*, 2017; D'Uva *et al.*, 2018).

Another group of AA-associated metabolites that are formed by cardiac CYPs is subterminal HETEs exemplified as 16-, 17-, 18- and 19-HETE. Recently, we have demonstrated that both

enantiomers of 19-HETE (Figure 1) protect against Ang II-induced cardiac hypertrophy with preferential effect of 19(S)-HETE. One important finding of our study was that both enantiomers of 19-HETE inhibited the formation of mid-chain HETEs and the catalytic activity of CYP1B1 in two different cell lines; human ventricular cardiomyocytes RL-14 cells and rat cardiomyoblasts H9c2 cells (Shoieb and El-Kadi, 2018). In order to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the protective role of R- and S-enantiomers of 19-HETE in case of cardiac hypertrophy, in the current study we examined the inhibitory effect of both enantiomers on human recombinant CYP1B1 enzyme using 7-ethoxyresorufin O-deethylation (EROD) assay.

## Materials and methods

### Materials

19(R)- and 19(S)-HETEs were purchased from Cayman Chemical (Ann Arbor, MI). 7-ethoxyresorufin (7-ER) and nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADPH) tetrasodium salt were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO). Human recombinant CYP1B1 microsomes supplemented with NADPH–cytochrome P450-oxidoreductase (Corning-Supersomes™) were obtained from Fisher Scientific (Hampton, NH); all other chemicals were purchased from Fisher Scientific (Toronto, ON).

### Determination of CYP1B1-inhibition kinetics by 19-HETE enantiomers

The O-dealkylation rate of 7-ER by recombinant human CYP1B1 was measured in the absence and presence of 19(R)-HETE or 19(S)-HETE. Briefly, 96-well solid black polystyrene microplates were used to carry out the fluorescent assay. The reaction mixture containing 100 mM potassium phosphate (pH 7.4) buffer supplemented with 5 mM magnesium chloride hexahydrate and 1 pmol of human CYP1B1, was incubated with 10-100 nM of 7-ER. In addition, 0, 5, 10, 20, or 40 nM of either 19(R)-HETE or 19(S)-HETE was added to the reaction mixture. The volume of the reaction mixture was 100  $\mu$ L. The reaction was initiated by the addition of 100  $\mu$ L of 2 mM NADPH, the fluorescent signal related to the formation of resorufin was measured every min (excitation and emission wavelengths of 550 and 585 nm, respectively) for 30 min at 37°C using a BioTek Synergy H1 Hybrid Reader (BioTek Instruments, Inc.). The quantity of formed resorufin was measured by the construction of standard curve of 0-200 nM of resorufin dissolved in the same incubation buffer. The formation rate of resorufin in each well was determined over the first 9-min period using linear regression. The formation rates of resorufin at different 7-ER concentrations were fitted to Michaelis-Menten equation; while, 19(R)-HETE-CYP1B1 and 19(S)-HETE-CYP1B1

inhibition rates were fitted to competitive, noncompetitive, uncompetitive, and mixed models of enzyme inhibition. The most probable enzyme inhibition model was selected according to Akaike information criteria (AIC). The fitting was carried out using GraphPad Prism (version 5.01; GraphPad Software, Inc., La Jolla, CA).

### **Determination of 19(R)-HETE and 19(S)-HETE in-vitro stability**

In order to assess the stability of 19-HETE enantiomers in solution under the same experimental conditions of the kinetic study, the stability experiment has been performed using 7-ER concentration corresponding to the  $K_m$  of the reaction (86 nM). 19(R)-HETE and 19(S)-HETE were added to the reaction mixture at their  $K_i$  concentrations of 89.1 and 37.3 nM, respectively. After initiation of the reaction using 2 mM NADPH, 200  $\mu$ L was taken from the mixture at the start of the reaction ( $T_0$ ), after 10, 20 and 30 min at 37°C. The reaction was stopped using 400  $\mu$ L ice-cold acetonitrile and the extraction of 19-HETE enantiomers was performed using ethyl acetate and dried using speed vacuum (Savant, Farmingdale, NY, USA). The analysis of 19-HETE enantiomers was performed using liquid chromatography–electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (LC–ESI–MS) as previously described (Shoieb and El-Kadi, 2018).

## Results and discussion

Inhibition of CYP1B1 is proposed as one of the strategies in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases and cancer chemoprevention (Mikstacka *et al.*, 2007). In this regard, we tested the capacity of both enantiomers of 19-HETE to inhibit the catalytic activity of human recombinant CYP1B1, based on our previous finding that 19(R)- and 19(S)-HETE protected against the Ang II-induced cellular hypertrophy via decreasing the level of cardiotoxic mid-chain HETEs; the major metabolites of CYP1B1 (Shoieb and El-Kadi, 2018). For that purpose, the inhibition kinetics of both enantiomers of 19-HETE on CYP1B1 activity were carried out using CYP1B1 substrate 7-ER, a compound that is metabolized via oxidative reaction by this enzyme (Shimada *et al.*, 1997b). The experimental conditions such as the concentrations of 7-ER, concentration of the recombinant enzyme in addition to the incubation time were all optimized before the addition of either 19(R)-HETE or 19(S)-HETE.

Inhibition of EROD is a well-reported assay carried out predominantly to examine the inhibitory potencies of CYP1B1 inhibitors (Androutsopoulos *et al.*, 2011). Inhibitory activity of 19(R)-HETE (Figure 2A) and 19(S)-HETE (Figure 2B) on CYP1B1 was studied. Foremost experiments involved the assessment of 7-ER-O-deethylase kinetics by determination of the rate of resorufin formation over time. Based on the nonlinear regression analysis and fitting to Michaelis-Menten model, the maximal EROD activity ( $V_{max}$ ) in the control containing 0.1% DMSO was 16.7 pmol resorufin/pmol P450/min ( $R^2=0.9888$ ) (Table 1). The Michaelis-Menten constant ( $K_m$ ) value for the current EROD reaction is 86.6 nM (Table 1). During the co-incubation of 10 nM of either 19-HETE enantiomers with different concentrations of 7-ER, we observed a significant inhibition of CYP1B1 enzymatic activity. This finding prompted us to test increasing concentrations (0-40 nM)



of either 19(R)-HETE or 19(S)-HETE with different concentrations (0-100 nM) of 7-ER in order to characterize the mode of inhibition by 19-HETE enantiomers.

Nonlinear regression analysis and comparisons showed that the mode of inhibition for 19(R)-HETE and 19(S)-HETE is noncompetitive inhibition of CYP1B1 enzyme. Dixon plots showed that 19(R)-HETE (Figure 3A) and 19(S)-HETE (Figure 3B) have  $K_i$  values of 89.1 and 37.3 nM, respectively (Table 1). The  $K_i$  values of both enantiomers showed that the S-enantiomer is more potent than the R-enantiomer by approximately 2.4 fold. This comes in agreement with our previous work demonstrating that the S-enantiomer of 19-HETE has a preferential effect over the R-enantiomer in inhibiting the formation of mid-chain HETEs (Shoieb and El-Kadi, 2018). In accordance with being noncompetitive inhibitors, the in vitro stability study showed that both enantiomers of 19-HETE are metabolically stable in solution during the 30 min-time course of the kinetic experiment as there was no significant difference in the level of both enantiomers during the duration of the experiment (Table 2, Supplemental Figure 1 & 2). Discovery of selective and potent inhibitors of CYP1B1 enables for the design of CYP1B1-targeted cardiovascular treatment and prevention in addition to cancer chemotherapy (Pingili *et al.*, 2017; Ware, 2017).

To date, more than fifty synthetic and natural compounds have been designed or recognized as inhibitors of CYP1B1 (Li *et al.*, 2017). Various CYP1B1 inhibitors with varying mode of inhibition have been identified. For instance, trans-resveratrol inhibited CYP1B1 enzymatic activity via mixed-type inhibitory mechanism and the  $K_i$  was 0.75  $\mu$ M (Chang *et al.*, 2000). Also, myricetin and quercetin with  $K_i$  230 and 120 nM, respectively exhibited mixed-type inhibition while apigenin with  $K_i$  60 nM acted as a competitive inhibitor of CYP1B1 (Chaudhary and Willett, 2006). Moreover, tetramethoxystilbene (TMS) noncompetitively inhibited EROD activity of CYP1B1 with  $IC_{50}$  value of 2 nM when using 2  $\mu$ M of 7-ER as a substrate (Chun *et al.*, 2009). In

the present study, both enantiomers of 19-HETE inhibited CYP1B1 enzymatic activity in the nanomolar range and more potently than some of the previously mentioned CYP1B1 inhibitors proposing them to be introduced as therapeutic and preventive modalities in CYP1B1-targeted therapies.

In the current study, there is a significant difference in the inhibitory activity between R- and S-enantiomers of 19-HETE. To the best of our knowledge, the current study is the first to characterize the enantioselective pattern of inhibition of CYP1B1 by enantiomers of 19-HETE. Enantioselective inhibition of CYP enzymes has been previously documented. S002-333, a novel and potent antithrombotic agent, inhibited CYP2B6-mediated bupropion 6-hydroxylation in a stereoselective manner. While the S-enantiomer showed strong inhibition with IC<sub>50</sub> value of 5.28 μM, the R-enantiomer showed much less inhibition on CYP2B6 catalytic activity with IC<sub>50</sub> value of more than 50 μM (Bhateria *et al.*, 2016).

It is noteworthy that CYP1B1 regulates several metabolic pathways. For example, AA is oxidized by CYP1B1 to produce the cardiotoxic mid-chain HETEs metabolites. In rat neonatal cardiomyocytes, 15-HETE has been reported to be capable of elevating isoproterenol-induced β-adrenergic response sensitivity. Moreover, 5-, 12-, and 15-HETE were capable of inducing cellular hypertrophy in RL-14 cells, human ventricular cardiomyocytes, via MAPK- and NF-κB-dependent pathways (Zhang *et al.*, 2014; Maayah and El-Kadi, 2016). Furthermore, CYP1B1 is responsible for some vital physiological processes in blood vessels, importantly the development and progression of hypertension. In Ang II-induced hypertension, CYP1B1 mediates cell migration, induces proliferation and increases protein synthesis in vascular smooth muscle cells through regulation of the metabolism of AA (Yaghini *et al.*, 2010). The fact that CYP1B1 expression is vastly enhanced in several tumors such as prostate, breast and colon cancers, suggests that

CYP1B1 inhibitors could be considered as an accepted therapeutic strategy in treatment and prevention of cancer (Gibson *et al.*, 2003; Tokizane *et al.*, 2005).

In summary, CYP1B1 is considered one of the important CYPs. It is involved in the metabolism of many endobiotics, xenobiotics and in the activation pathways of various procarcinogens. The findings of the current study show that both enantiomers of 19-HETE noncompetitively inhibited CYP1B1 enzymatic activity with higher potency of the S-enantiomer. The current study suggests that 19(R)-HETE and 19(S)-HETE could be considered as a novel therapeutic modality in the treatment of hypertension, cardiac hypertrophy and cancer. Moreover, given that a noncompetitive inhibitor might bind to the enzyme regulatory region, 19(R)-HETE and 19(S)-HETE could be considered to unravel the obscure mechanisms of CYP1B1 enzymatic reaction.

## **Authorship Contributions**

*Participated in research design:* Shoieb, El-Kadi.

*Conducted experiments:* Shoieb.

*Performed data analysis:* Shoieb, El-Sherbeni and El-Kadi.

*Wrote or contributed to the writing of the manuscript:* Shoieb, El-Sherbeni and El-Kadi.

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## Footnotes

This work was supported by a grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research [Grant 106665] to A.O.S.E. S.M.S. is the recipient of Antoine Noujaim Graduate Scholarship in Pharmaceutical Sciences.



## Figure legends

### **Fig. 1. R- and S-enantiomers of 19-HETE**

Both enantiomers represent an example of stereoisomerism of P450-mediated arachidonic acid metabolites. Incorporation of hydroxyl group in the carbon skeleton of arachidonic acid generates a chiral center, hence there are 2 enantiomers for each HETE metabolite.

### **Fig. 2. Inhibitory effect of 19(R)-HETE and 19(S)-HETE on EROD activity mediated by human recombinant CYP1B1**

In 96-well solid black polystyrene plates, the reaction mixture containing 100 mM potassium phosphate (pH 7.4) buffer supplemented with 5 mM magnesium chloride hexahydrate and 1 pmol of human CYP1B1, was incubated with 10-100 nM of 7-ER. In addition, 0, 5, 10, 20, or 40 nM of either 19(R)-HETE (A) or 19(S)-HETE (B) was added to the reaction. The reaction was initiated by the addition of 100  $\mu$ L of 2 mM NADPH, the fluorescent signal related to the formation of resorufin was measured every one minute (excitation and emission wavelengths of 550 and 585 nm, respectively) for 30 min at 37°C using a BioTek Synergy H1 Hybrid Reader (BioTek Instruments, Inc.). The quantity of formed resorufin was measured by the construction of standard curve of 0-200 nM of resorufin dissolved in the same incubation buffer. Each point represents the mean of 6 independent experiments  $\pm$  SE.

### **Fig. 3. Dixon plots representing the inhibitory effect of 19(R)-HETE and 19(S)-HETE on EROD activity mediated by human recombinant CYP1B1**

The Y-axis represents the reciprocal of EROD activity expressed in picomoles of resorufin/ pmol CYP1B1/min while the X-axis represents 19(R)-HETE (A) or 19(S)-HETE (B) concentrations in nM in the presence of increasing concentration of the substrate 7-ER (10-100 Nm). Each point represents the mean of 6 independent experiments  $\pm$  SE.

**Table 1.** The mean values and standard error of kinetic parameters of resorufin formation by human recombinant CYP1B1, in the absence and presence of 19(R)-HETE or 19(S)-HETE

<b>K<sub>m</sub> (nM)</b>	<b>V<sub>max</sub> (pmol/pmol P450/min)</b>	<b>K<sub>i</sub> (nM)</b>	
		19(R)-HETE	19(S)-HETE
86.6 ± 10.4	16.7 ± 1.1	89.1 ± 11.5	37.3 ± 5.5

Results are presented as mean and SE, based on at least 3 individual experiments. K<sub>m</sub>, V<sub>max</sub> and K<sub>i</sub> mean ± SE were determined by Enzyme Kinetics module from GraphPad Prism, version 5.01.

**Table 2.** The mean values and standard error of 19(R)-HETE or 19(S)-HETE levels calculated as a percentage of the metabolite level at the beginning of the experiment ( $T_0$ ). Data are represented as mean  $\pm$  SE where n=3.

	<b>19(R/S)-HETE levels as a percentage of their levels at zero time (%)</b>			
<b>Time Interval</b> ( $T_{min}$ )	$T_0$	$T_{10}$	$T_{20}$	$T_{30}$
<b>19(R)-HETE</b>	100 $\pm$ 17.1	98.6 $\pm$ 7.8	96.3 $\pm$ 1.3	98.5 $\pm$ 8.9
<b>19(S)-HETE</b>	100 $\pm$ 5.9	99.7 $\pm$ 1.3	100.1 $\pm$ 0.9	98.9 $\pm$ 4.6

Figure 1

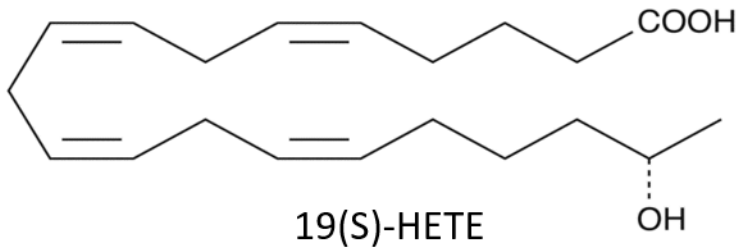
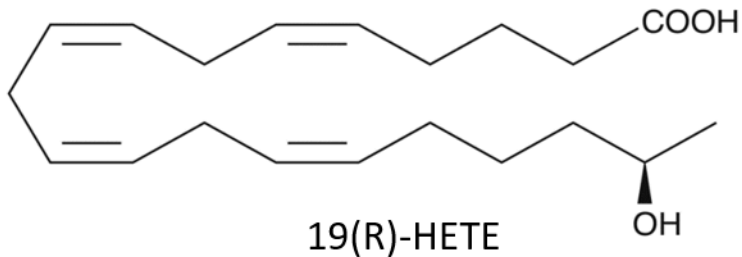


Figure 2

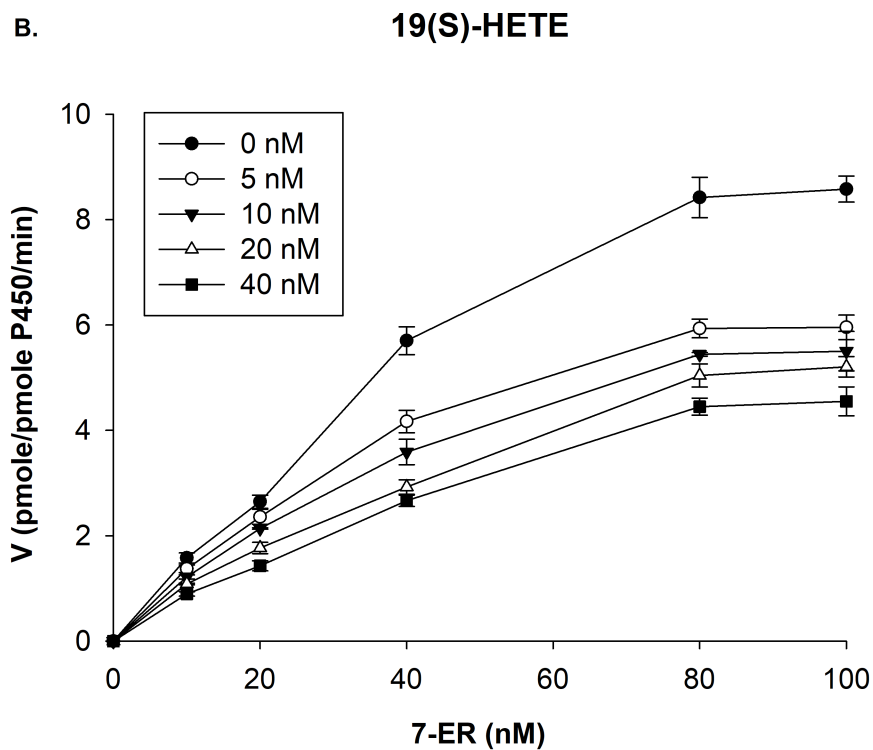
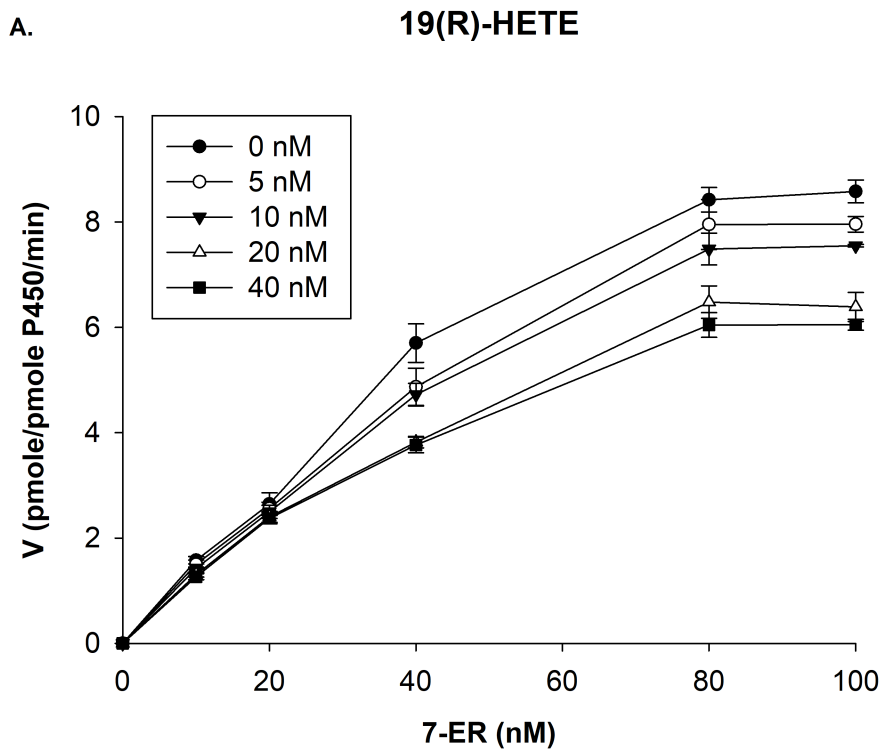
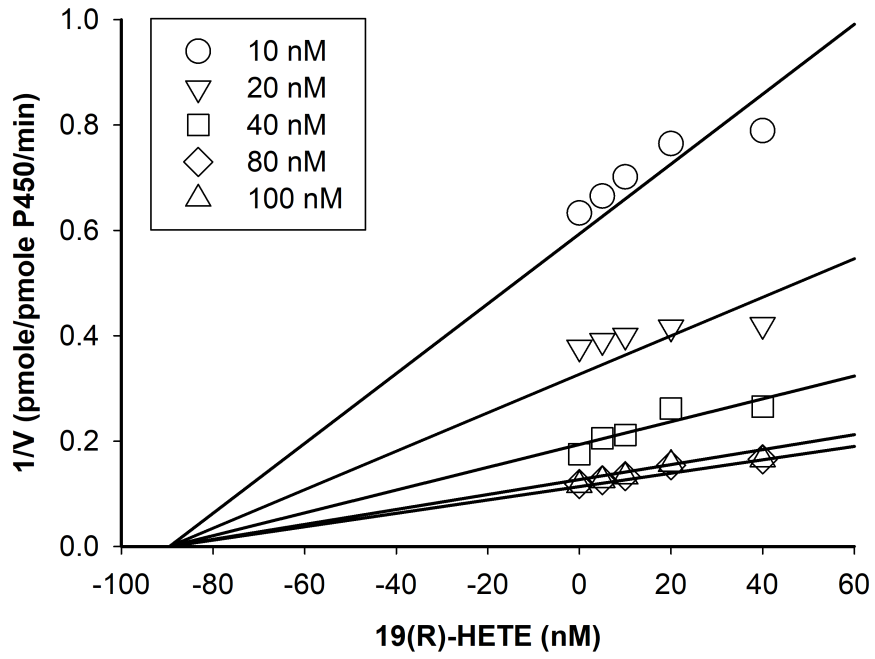


Figure 3

A.



B.

