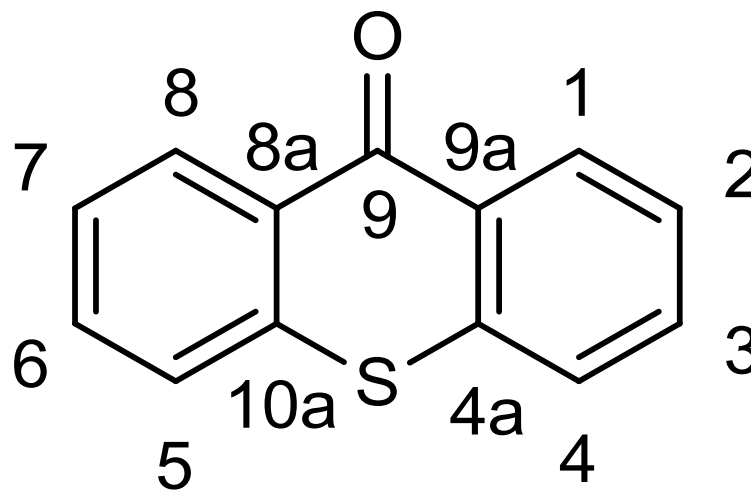


**Antitumor activity of novel  
synthetic thioxanthonic  
derivatives mediating cell cycle  
arrest and apoptosis in human  
tumor cell lines**

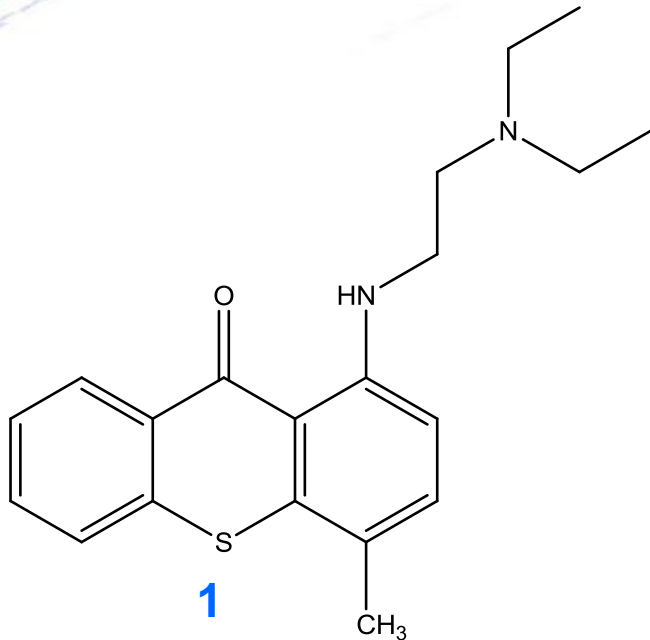
**Andreia Palmeira**, Ana Paiva, Kantima Choosang, Hugo Seca, P. Pakkong,  
Emília Sousa, Madalena Pinto, M. Helena Vasconcelos



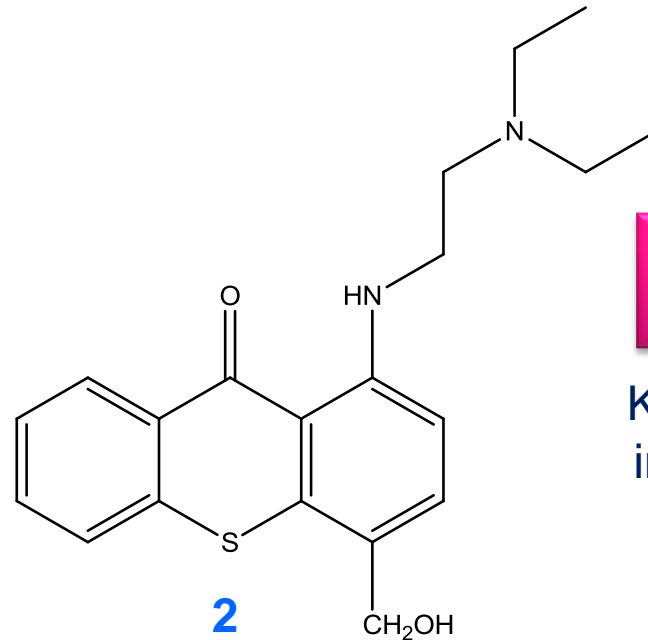
- ◆ Antitumor activity
- ◆ Antiparasitic activity
- ◆ Photoinitiation activity
- ◆ P-glycoprotein inhibitory activity

# INTRODUCTION

1st Generation



**1**  
**Lucanthone**



**2**  
**Hycanthone**

**Antischistosomal agents**

Kill schistosomes by interfering with their nucleic acid synthesis



Withdrawn due to mutagenicity

**Antitumor activity**

- ◆ Clinical trials (*per os*) as antischistosomal agent
- ◆ Secondary Effects:
  - ◆ nausea, vomiting, cardiovascular and CNS effects
- ◆ Not active *in vitro*

- ◆ More active
- ◆ Oral or IM
- ◆ Secondary Effects:
  - ◆ anorexia, vomiting, ↑transaminases, icterus



# INTRODUCTION

## Intercalating Agents

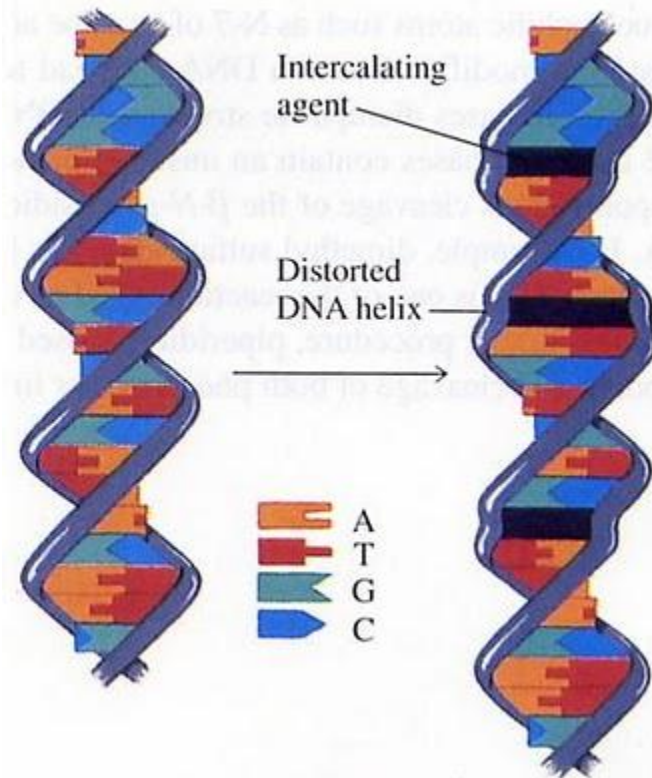
### Intercalating agents

- ◆ Planar and chromophoric (generally aromatic)
- ◆ Planar area  $\geq 22 \text{ \AA}$  (3-4 aromatic rings)

Intercalates between base pairs

Hydrogen bond  
 $\Pi$ -stacking  
van der Waals

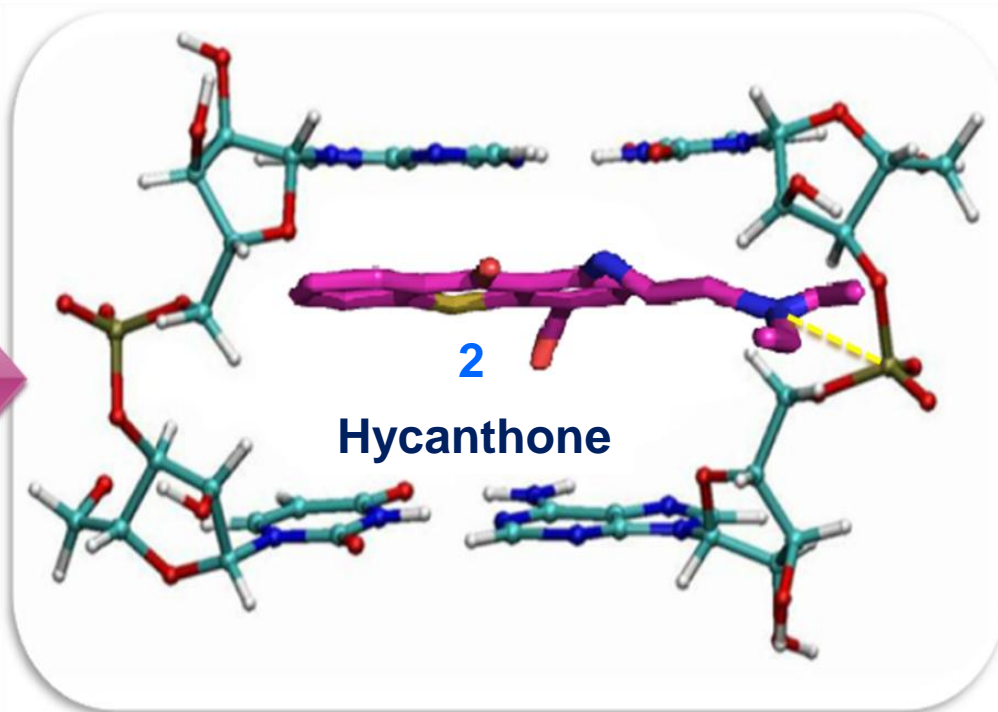
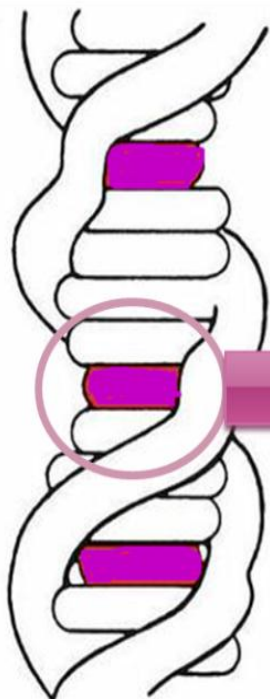
- ◆ Tertiary DNA structure is distorted (uncoiled)
  - ◆ Larger distance between base pairs ( $3.4 \text{ \AA} \rightarrow 7.8 \text{ \AA}$ )
- ◆ Alteration in sugar-phosphate torsion angles



Topoisomerase  
DNA/RNA polymerase

Inhibits  
**REPLICATION**  
and **TRANSCRIPTION**

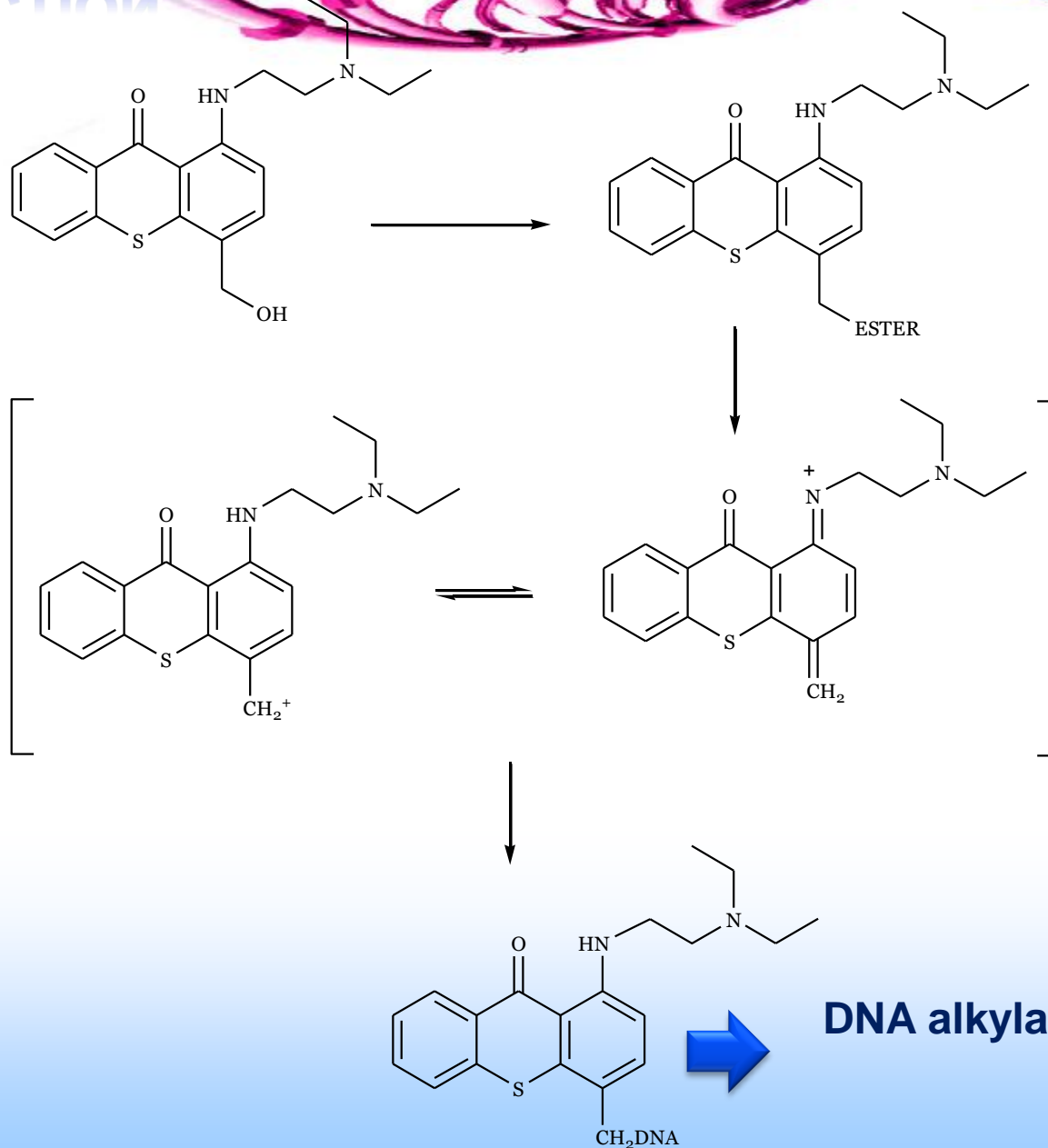
## Intercalating agents



- ◆ Tricyclic system → AT=AT intercalation
- ◆ Protonated amine → electrostatic interaction with phosphates in DNA
- ◆ C-4 chain outside the groove
- ◆ Sulphur atom → large → helix distortion

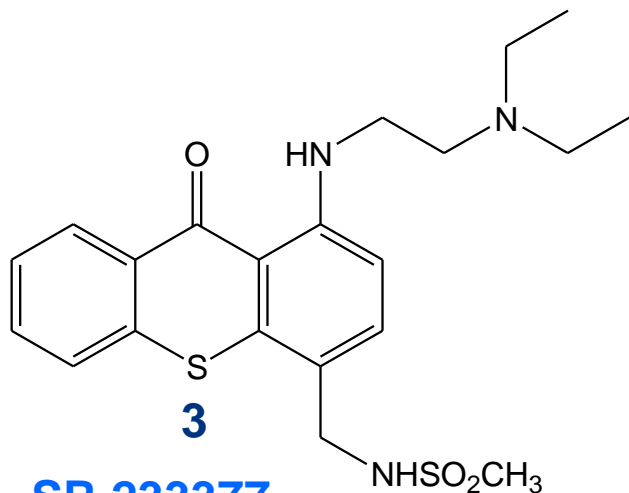
# INTRODUCTION

# Mutagenicity



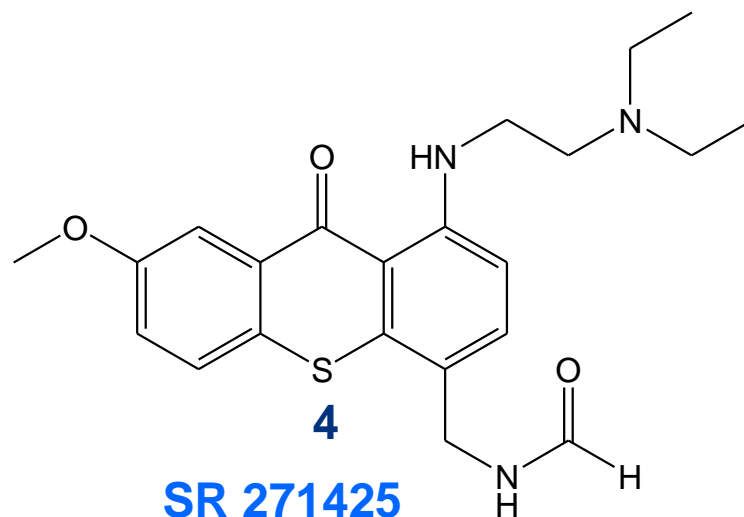
Carbonium ion

DNA alkylation



**SR 233377**

- ◆ Colon, pancreatic, mammary adenocarcinoma (*in vitro*)
- ◆ Colon, pancreatic, mammary adenocarcinoma (*in vivo*) (IV)
- ◆ Clinical trials (I): dose-limiting toxicity
  - ◆ Myelotoxicity, QT interval prolongation (life-threatening)



**SR 271425**

- ◆ ↑ antitumor activity, broadspectrum
- ◆ ↓ hepatic toxicity
- ◆ Orally active
  
- ◆ Clinical trials (I) → Cardiotoxicity  
QT interval prolongation  
*Torsade de Pointes*



# INTRODUCTION

DNA binding

Aminoalkyl  
thioxanthenes

~~DNA alkylation~~



Electrophilic  
carbonium  
ion



~~MUTAGENICITY~~

ANTISCHISTOSOMAL

DNA  
intercalation



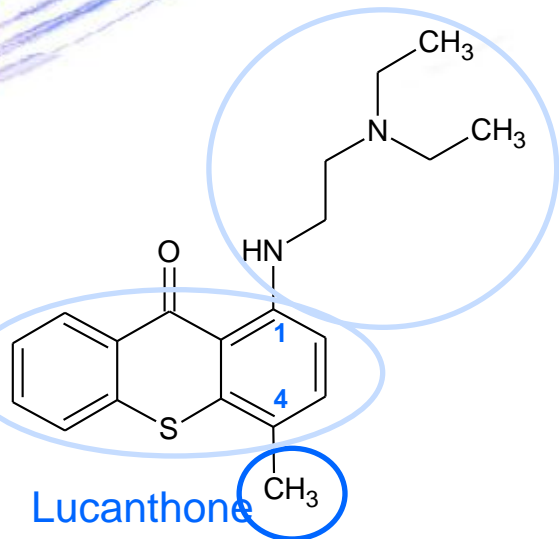
Planar  
chromophore  
Cationic amine



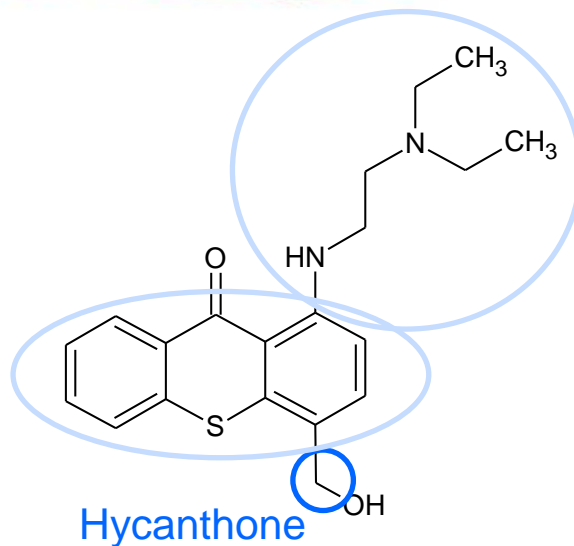
ANTITUMOR

MUTAGENICITY  
(↑frameshift mutations)

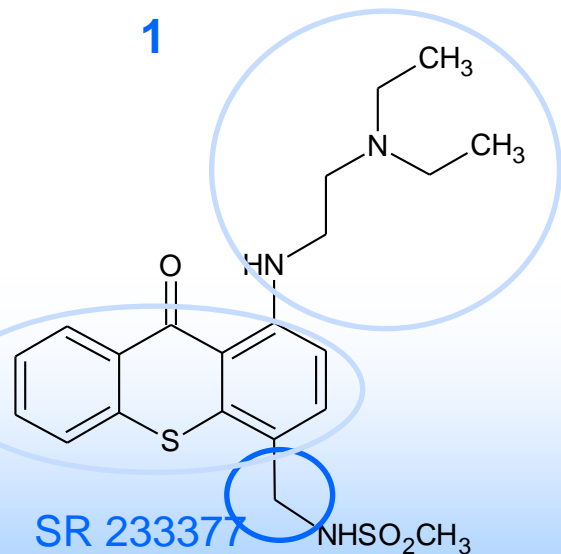
# INTRODUCTION



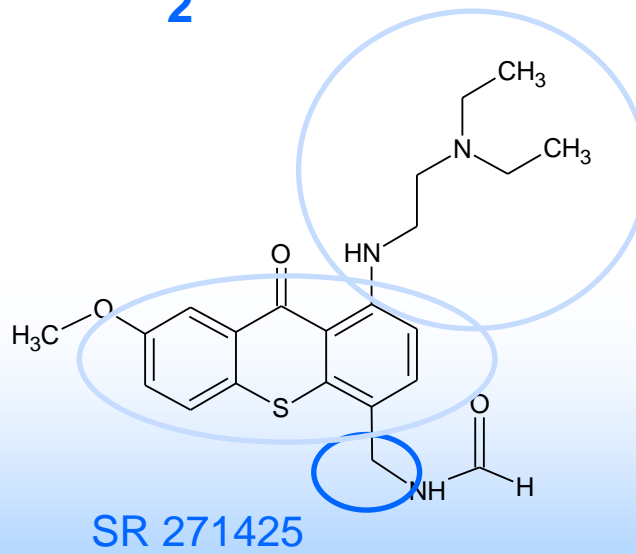
1



2

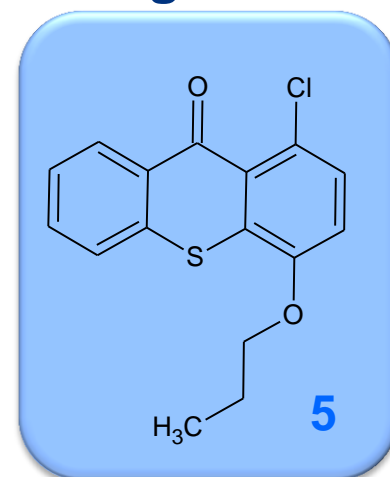


3



4

## Thioxanthenes investigated as antitumor agents



1-chloro-4-propoxy-9H-thioxanthene-9-one

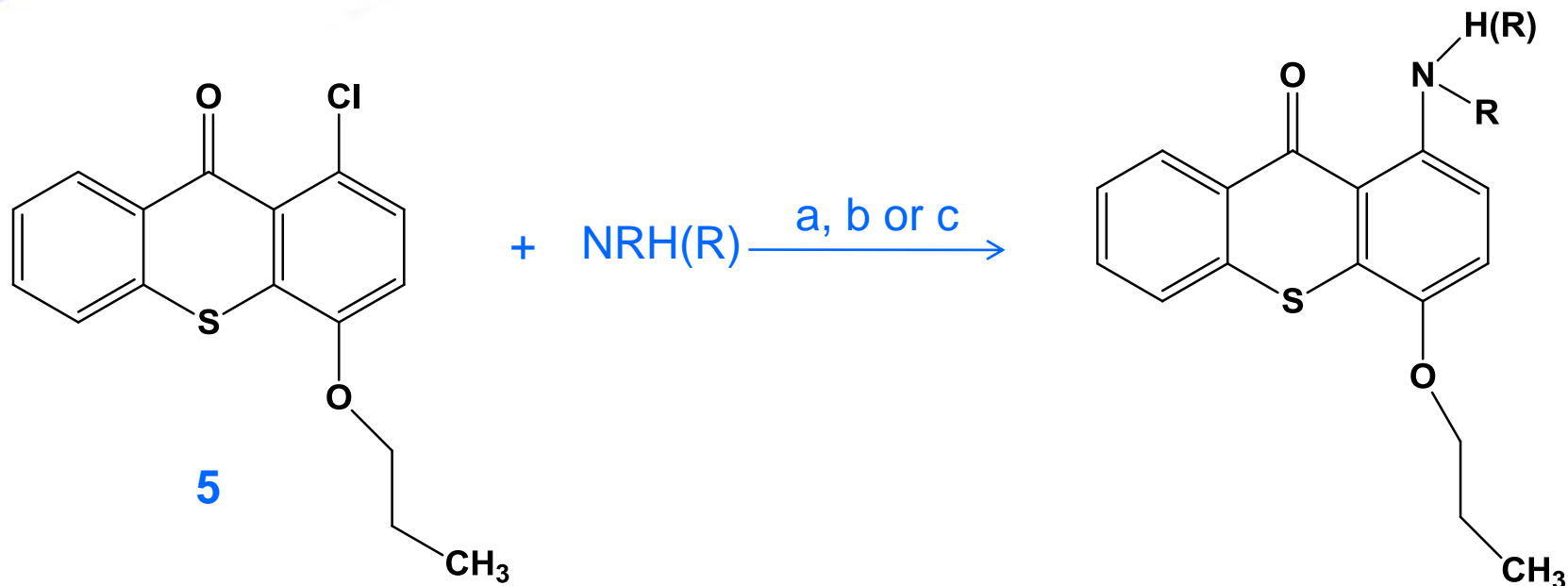
“chemical tool”





## AIMS

- ◆ To obtain new thioxanthonic derivatives with potent **cell growth inhibitory** effect, more **effective** and **safe**, through the synthesis of a diversity of aminated thioxanthonones by appendance of different primary and secondary amines

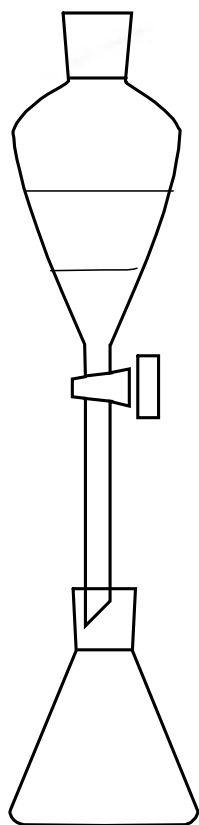


- a)  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$ , MeOH,  $100^\circ\text{C}$ , 2 days
- b)  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$ , MeOH,  $100^\circ\text{C}$ , 2 days
- c)  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$ , NMP, MW  $205^\circ\text{C}$ , 50 min

**27 thioxanthone  
derivatives  
were obtained**

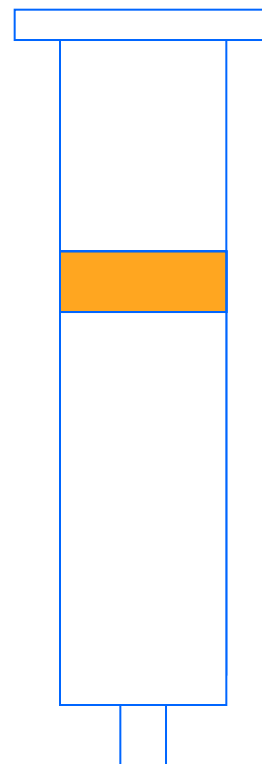
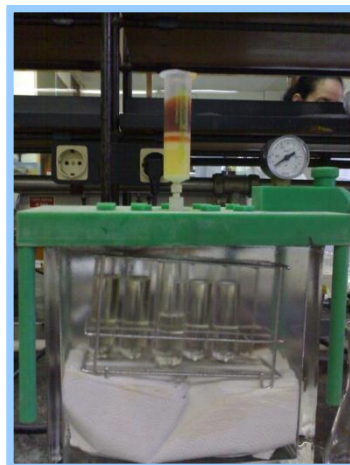
## PROTOCOL

Liquid-  
liquid  
extraction



NMP/ether

Flash  
chromatography  
using silica  
columns



Amine

Thioxanthone  
(product)

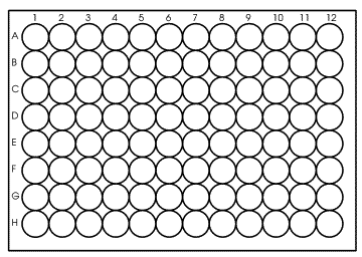
Thioxanthone  
(reagent)

- Structure elucidation ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, HMBC, HSQC, elemental analysis)

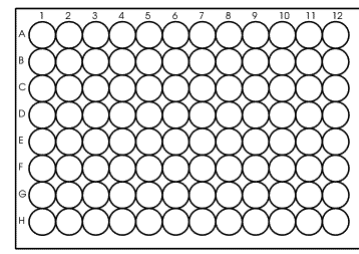


# PROTOCOL

## Cell growth inhibition



37°C  
24h



37°C  
48h

Cell growth analysed using the sulphorhodamine B assay

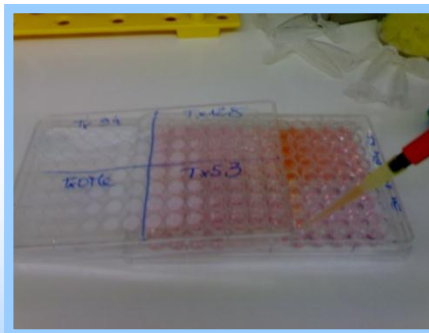
Melanoma (A375-C5)

Breast cancer (MCF-7)

Lung cancer (NCI-H460)

Chronic myelogenous leukemia (K562)

Serial dilutions of test compounds



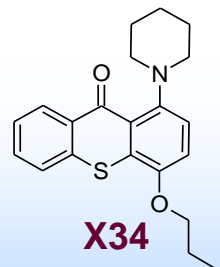
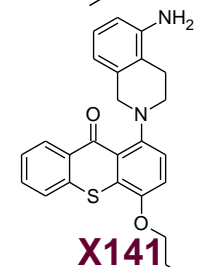
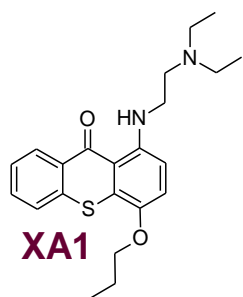
Levels of apoptosis (flow cytometry)

Cell cycle (flow cytometry)

# RESULTS

## Cell growth inhibition

	GI <sub>50</sub> (μM)											
	K562 (Leukemia)			A375-C5 (Melanoma)			MCF-7 (Breast Cancer)			NCI-H460 (Lung Cancer)		
X104	16.5	±	3.06	H			H			H		
X105	H			81.67	±	2.85	85	±	1	58.33	±	7.17
X127	12.98	±	0.36	H			H			H ±		
X128	19.23	±	0.98	55	±	1.53	65.67	±	1.45	59.33	±	7.88
X129	104.71	±	7.29	H			H			H		
X131	15.57	±	3.15	H			H			H		
X141	3	±	0.48	24.33	±	3.28	34	±	3.06	39.33	±	6.44
X15	21.47	±	2.61	33	±	2.65	33	±	2.31	27.33	±	2.73
X18	4.81	±	4.21	27.33	±	5.33	48	±	3.05	38.67	±	4.41
X34	3.72	±	1.47	13.33	±	0.33	15	±	1	13.33	±	0.67
X41	16.22	±	0.48	73	±	5.5	111	±	11.72	73	±	6.62
X48	16.99	±	2.33	20	±	2.08	28.33	±	2.85	22.67	±	2.52
X53	29.79	±	3.02	60.33	±	1.85	92.67	±	2.6	89.67	±	2.4
X54	H			H			H			H		
X62	59.45	±	2.77	H			H			H		
X79	60.58	±	2.01	H			H			H		
X86	20.96	±	2.08	54.75	±	9.42	70.75	±	6.9	61.25	±	4.12
X87	92.92	±	3.33	H			H			H		
X96	18.13	±	4.35	34	±	4.04	34.33	±	2.96	35	±	5.2
XA1	1.9	±	0.15	8.5	10.6			8.8				
XA3	H			H			H			H		
XA4	52.95	±	1.47	H			H			H		
XAc	13.57	±	2.96	8.23	±	0.34	9.37	±	0.18	8.7	±	0.2
XOH	22.73	±	0.64	15.33	±	0.88	23.33	±	1.45	21	±	1.53
XOH131	4.38	±	0.44	34.33	±	1.86	24.33	±	2.85	23	±	2.52
XOH1H	74.32	±	7.16	34	±	6.51	39	±	3.61	28.67	±	2.19
XOMe	4.47	±	1.93	H			H			H		

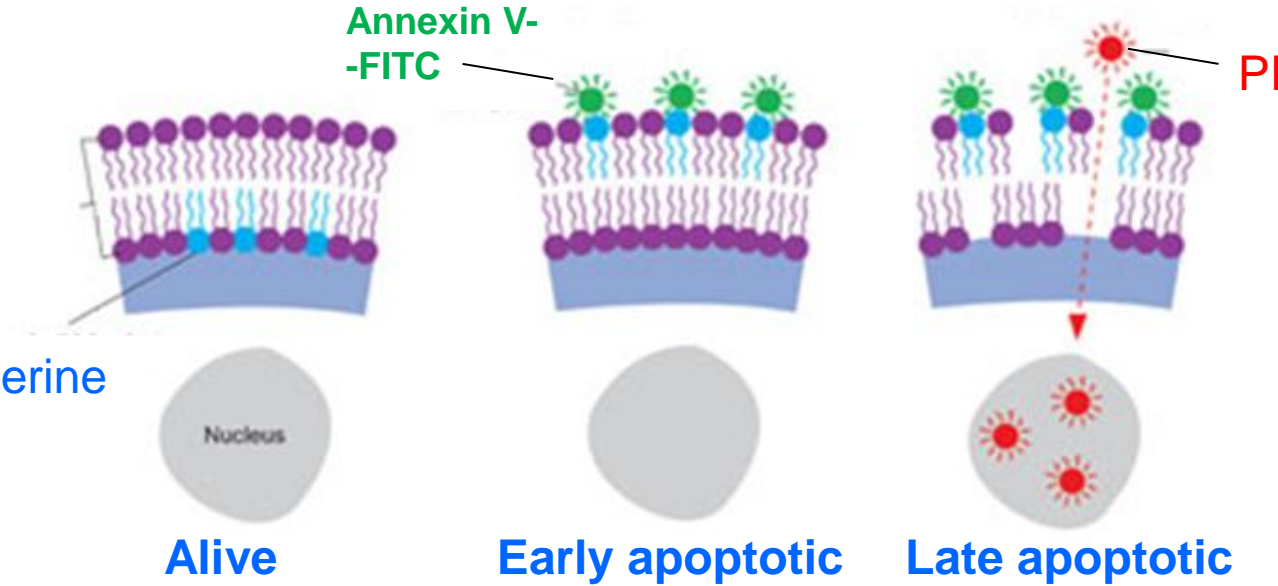


# PROTOCOL

## Levels of apoptosis

Annexin V-FITC

PI



Phosphatidylserine



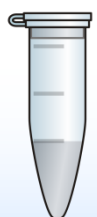
Alive

Early apoptotic

Late apoptotic



48h  
37°C



Centrifuge  
Resuspend

Annexin V-FITC

10 min, RT

Propidium iodide

2 min, 4°C

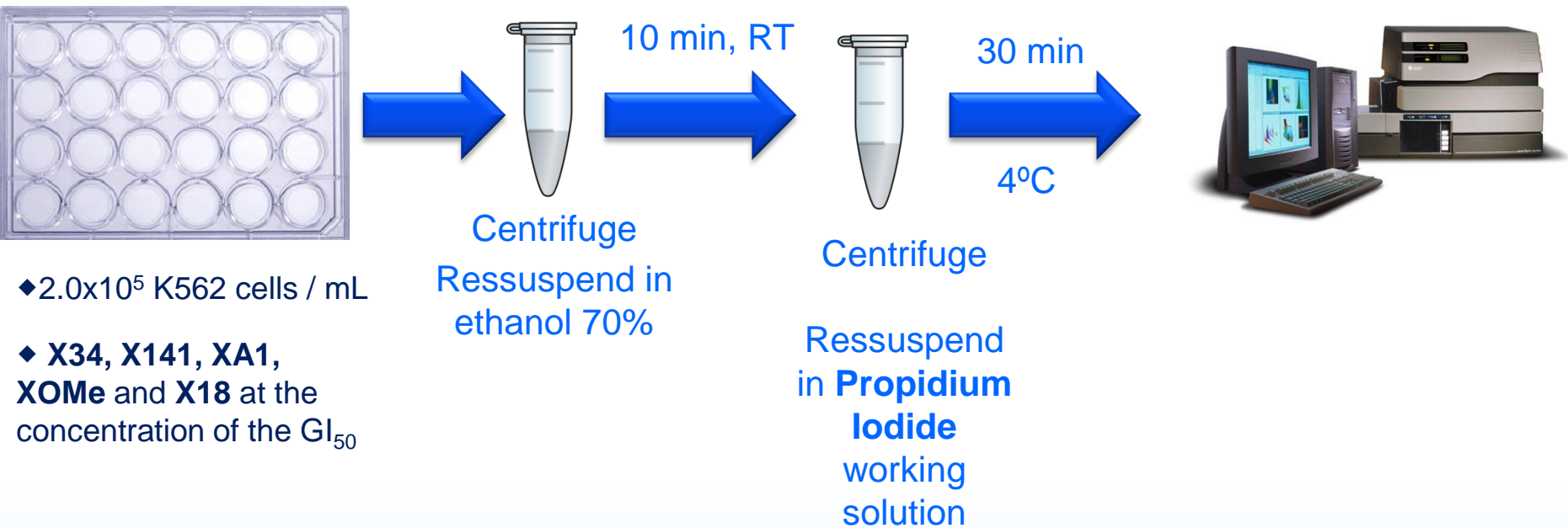


◆  $2.0 \times 10^5$  K562 cells / mL  
◆ X34, X141, XA1, XOMe and X18 at the concentration of the  $GI_{50}$



# PROTOCOL

# Cell cycle



Propidium Iodide working solution =  $40 \mu\text{g/ml}$  PI,  $100 \mu\text{g/ml}$  RNase in PBS

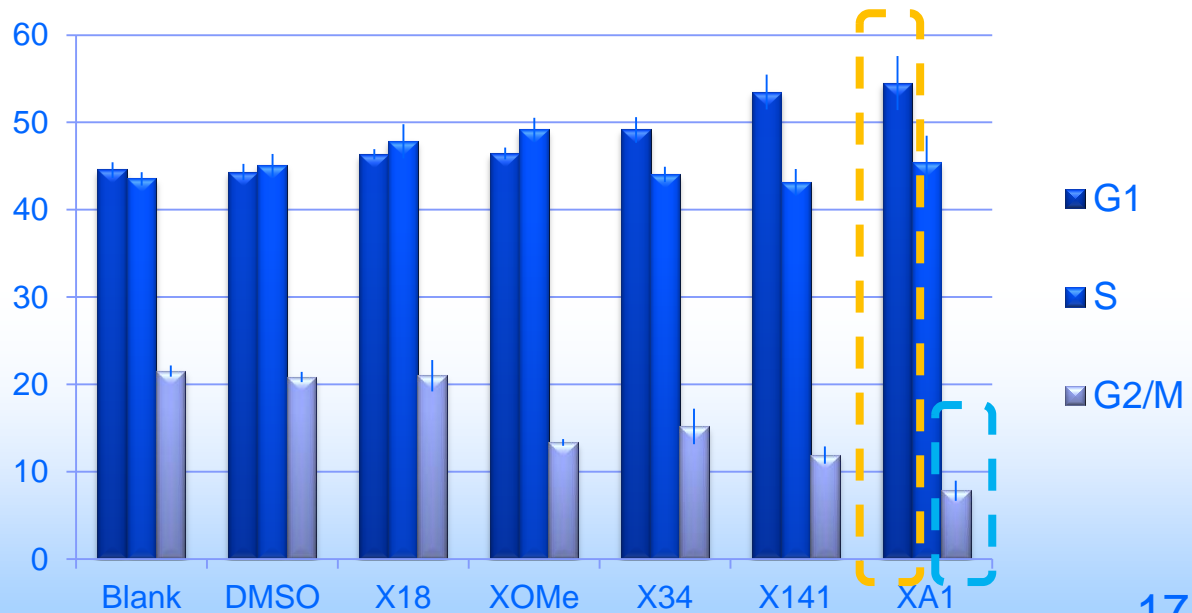
# RESULTS

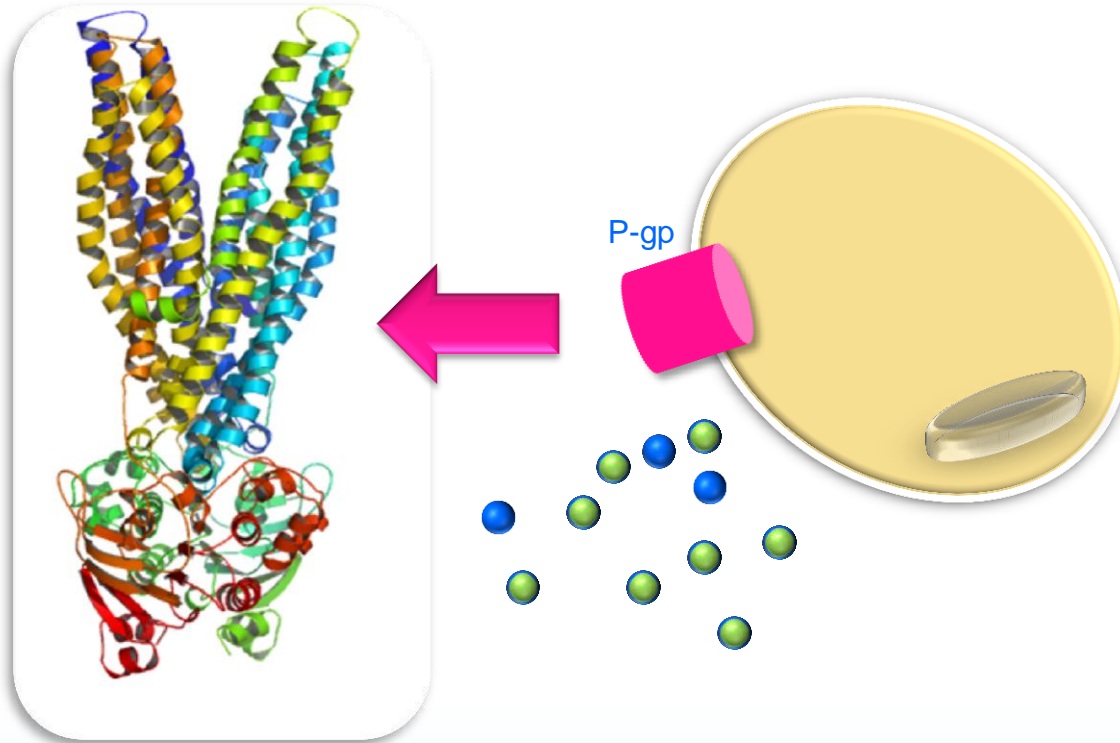
# Apoptosis & Proliferation

Treatment	Viable	Apoptotic
Blank	95.70%	3.90%
DMSO	92.90%	6.50%
X18	89.10%	9.20%
XOMe	86.40%	13.00%
X34	81.80%	16.80%
X141	81.70%	17.60%
XA1	77.40%	22.10%

↑ apoptosis

G1-phase arrest





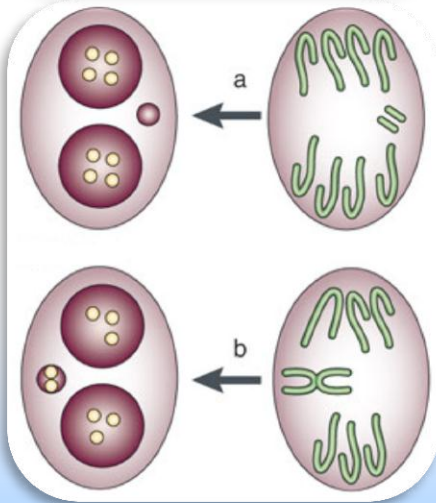
- Rhodamine-123
- Thioxanthone derivative

### P-glycoprotein (P-gp) inhibition

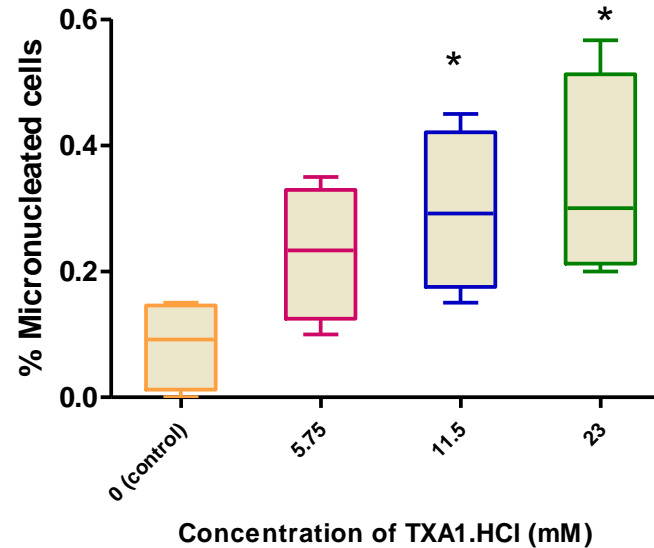
- ◆ Increased rhodamine accumulation in a P-gp overexpressing cell line
- ◆ Competitive and noncompetitive inhibitors
- ◆ Partially reversed resistance of a P-gp overexpressing cell line to doxorubicin (submitted for publication)

# PROTOCOL

# Micronuclei assay\*



Concentration of TXA1.HCl (mM) vs %Micronucleated cells

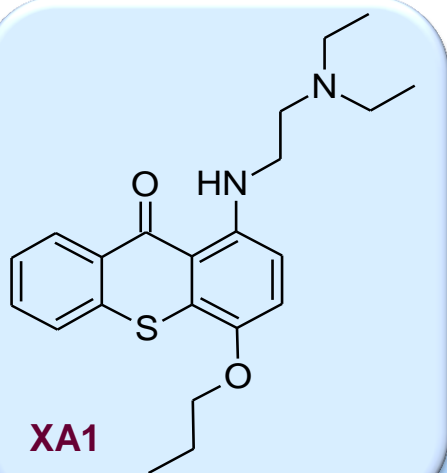


Not genotoxic at the lowest conc. tested

\*Ana Sara Gomes, Davide Vieira, Emília Sousa, Carlos Afonso, Madalena Pinto, Félix Carvalho, Alice Santos-Silva, "Synthesis and genotoxicity evaluation of a thioxanthone derivative". 4th Meeting Young Researchers of University of Porto (IJUP'11), Porto, Portugal, 17-19 February 2011

## CONCLUSION

- ◆ Appendage diversity and the introduction of amines to the thioxanthone scaffold was a successful strategy in the discovery of potent possible antitumor agents
- ◆ Both increase in the level of apoptosis and/or cell cycle arrest seem to be implicated in the growth inhibitory effect induced by the new thioxanthonic derivatives



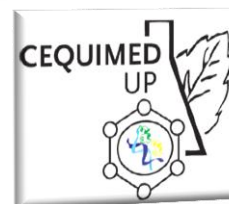
**NEXT STEP...**

Cardiotoxicity?

Intercalation?

Synthesis of XA1 derivatives

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Prof.Doutora Emília Sousa  
Prof.Doutora Madalena Pinto  
Prof.Doutora Helena Vasconcelos

CEQUIMED-UP (FFUP)  
Cancer Drug Resistance Group(IPATIMUP)

