

Novel Granzyme B inhibitors for early cancer treatment response measurement via PET

Magdalini Thanopoulou¹, N. Shikut¹, E. Verhulst², M. Berg³, C. Kersten⁴, T. Schirmeister⁴, F. Elvas⁵, F. do Reis Rocho², R. Pacifico¹, I. de Meester², P. Van Der Veken¹

¹Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

²Laboratory of Medicinal Biochemistry, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

³Infla-med Center of Excellence, University of Antwerp, Belgium

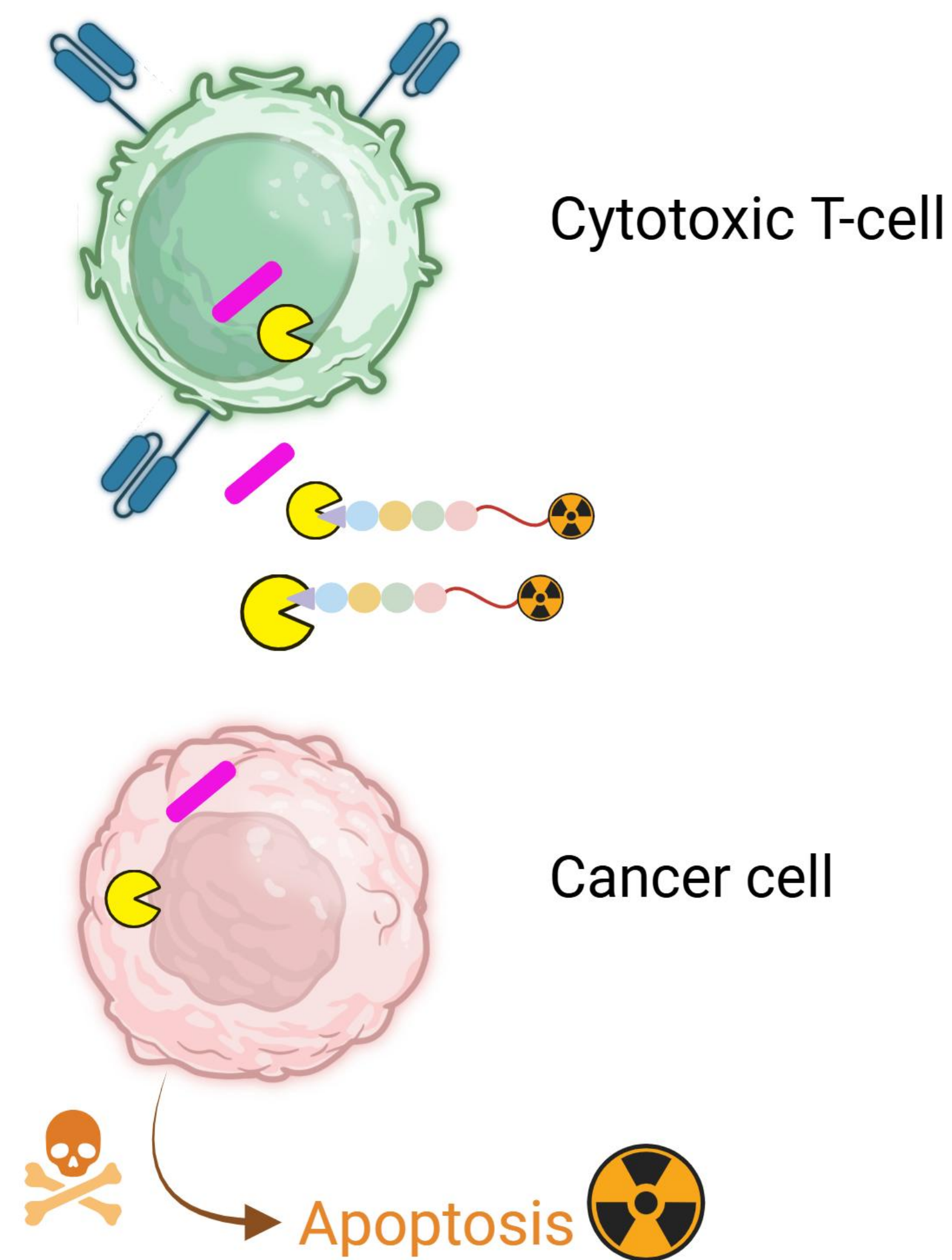
⁴Institute of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany

⁵Molecular Imaging and Radiology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Antwerp, Belgium

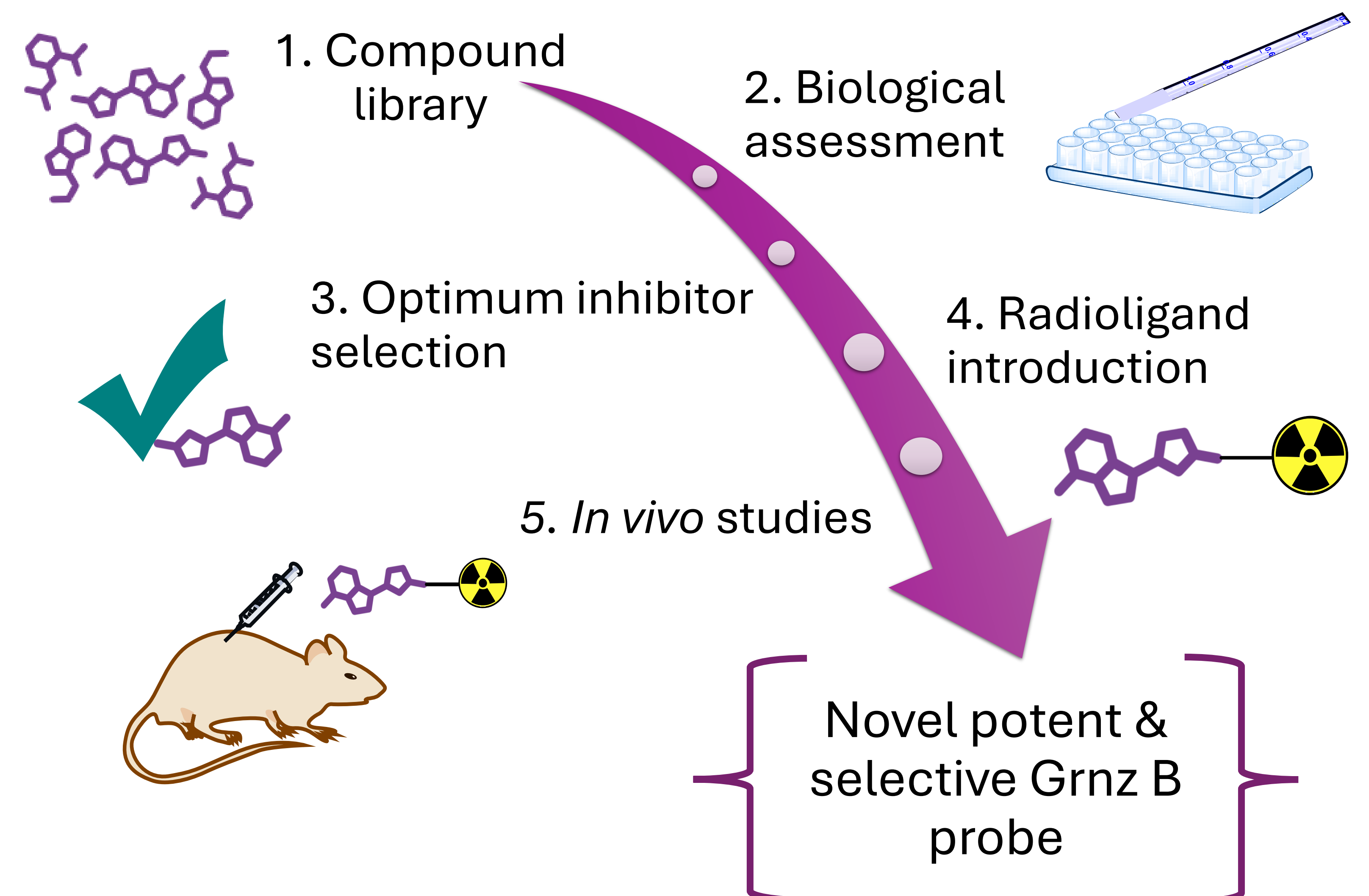
Introduction

• **Granzyme B (Grnz B)** is a **serine protease** secreted by **cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL)** and natural killer (NK) cells to target pathogen infected and **cancer cells**.¹

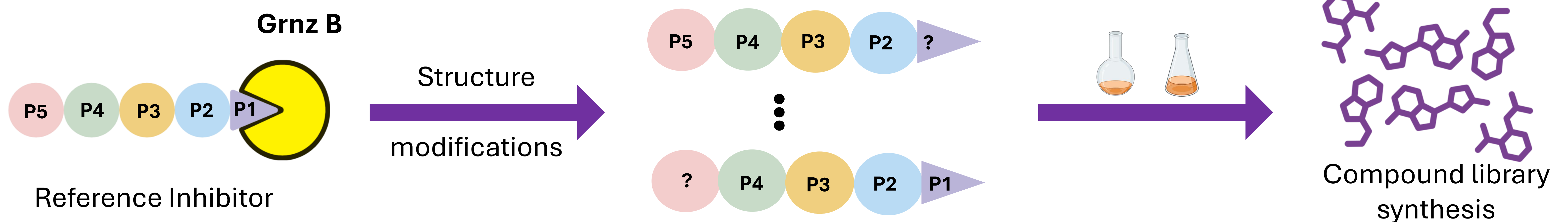
• Targeting Grnz B provides a **direct window to cancer treatment response**.¹



Aims & Objectives

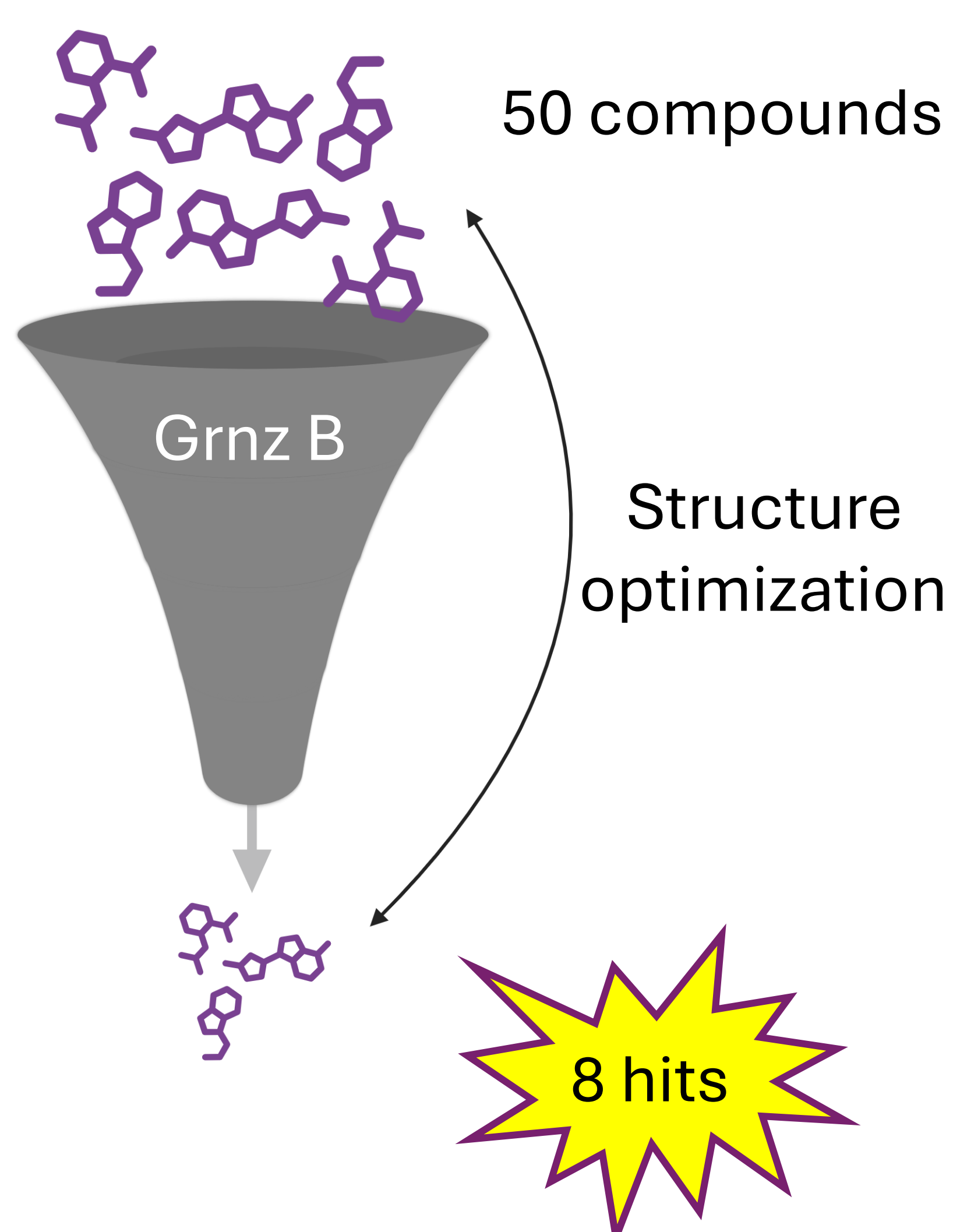


1. Compound Library Synthesis

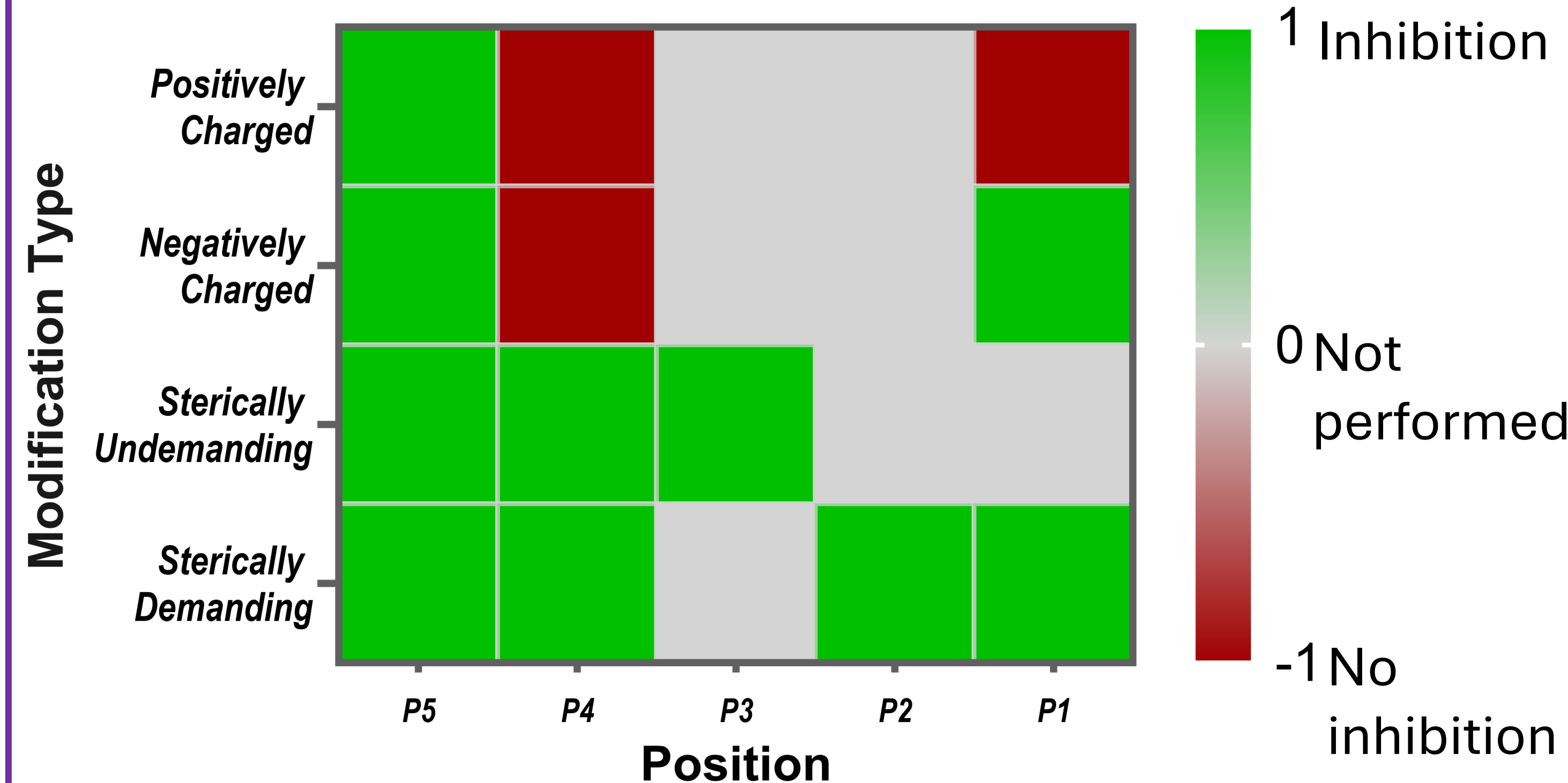


2. In vitro Biological Evaluation

A. Grnz B Screening

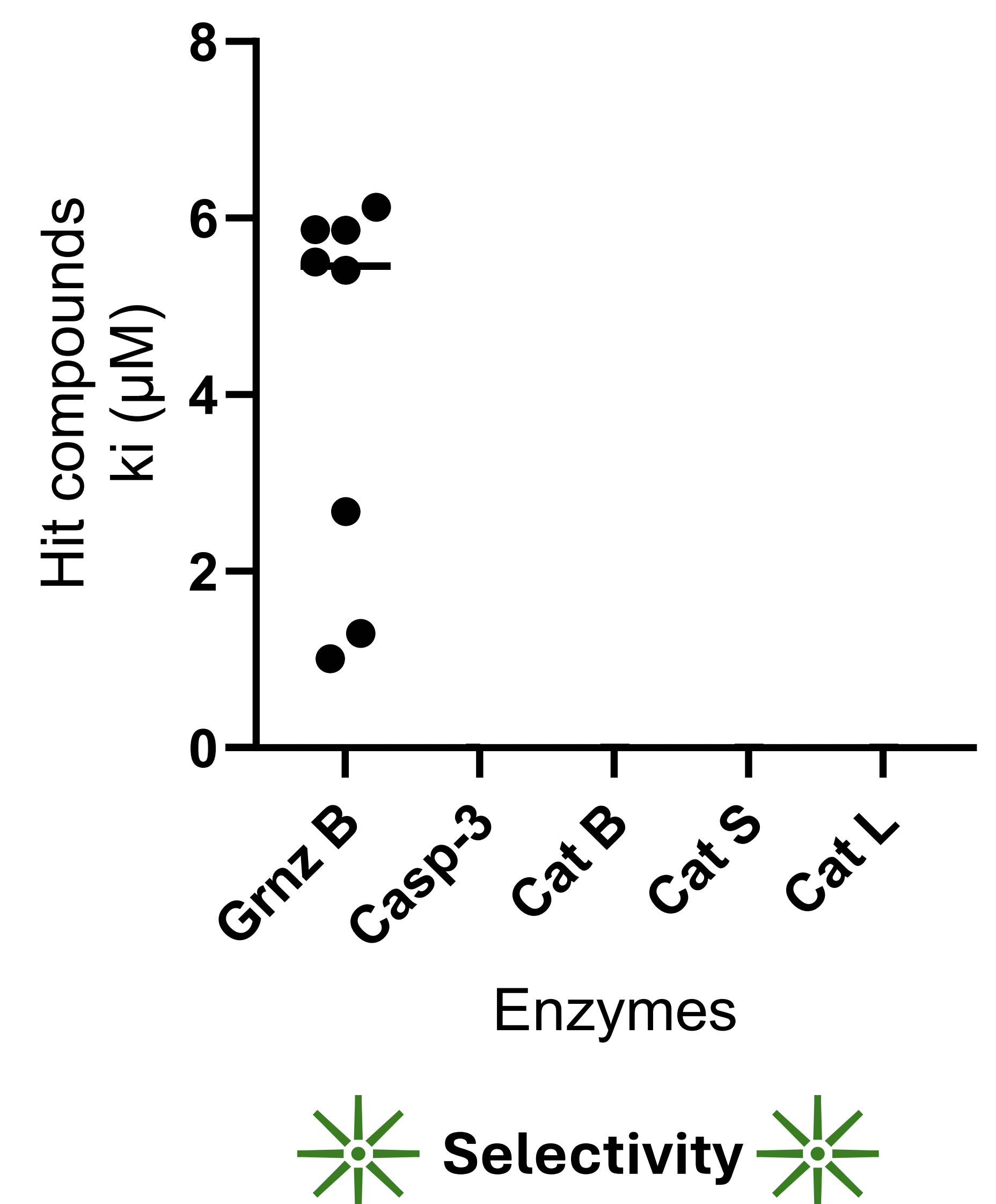


B. SAR Study



- ✓ **P1** requires a **negatively** charged moiety
- ✓ **P5** modifications are **well-tolerated**
- ✓ **Low/no** tolerance in the **P2 – P4** modifications

C. Off-target Screening



3. In vivo Evaluation – Future Work

