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Inhibition of the Aldehyde Dehydrogenase 1/2 Family by Psoralen and Coumarin Derivatives

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Abstract

Aldehyde dehydrogenase 2 (ALDH2), one of 19 ALDH superfamily members, catalyzes the NAD⁺-dependent oxidation of aldehydes to their respective carboxylic acids. In this study, we further characterized the inhibition of four psoralen and coumarin derivatives towards ALDH2 and compared them to the ALDH2 inhibitor daidzin for selectivity against five ALDH1/2 isoenzymes. Compound **2** (K_i =19 nM) binds within the aldehyde-binding site of the free enzyme species of ALDH2. Thirty-three structural analogs were examined to develop a stronger SAR profile. Seven compounds maintained or improved upon the selectivity towards one of the five ALDH1/2 isoenzymes, including compound **36**, a selective inhibitor for ALDH2 (K_i =2.4 μ M) and compound **32**, which was 10-fold selective for ALDH1A1 (K_i =1.2 μ M) versus ALDH1A2. Further medicinal chemistry on the compounds' basic scaffold could enhance the potency and selectivity for ALDH1A1 or ALDH2 and generate chemical probes to examine the unique and overlapping functions of the ALDH1/2 isoenzymes.

Graphical Abstract

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

These authors contributed equally

ASSESSMENT CODES

Authors will release the atomic coordinates and experimental data for the structures of ALDH2 in complex with compound **2** (PDB ID: 5L13) and ALDH1A1 in complex with compound **15** (5L2M), **32** (5L2O), and **34** (5L2N) upon article publication.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Compound Purity (PDF)

Molecular formula strings (CSV)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Thomas D. Hurley holds significant financial equity in SAJE Pharma, LLC. However, none of the work described in this study is related to, based on or supported by the company.

INTRODUCTION

Aldehydes can lead to cytotoxicity and carcinogenesis when present in large enough quantities within the human body.^{1, 2} The human body encounters numerous aldehydes from both the external environment and the internal metabolism of biomolecules.³ The aldehyde dehydrogenases (ALDHs) are one of many enzyme systems the body utilizes to alleviate aldehyde stress.⁴ The human genome has 19 functional genetic loci for members of the ALDH superfamily, the majority of which catalyze the NAD(P)⁺ dependent oxidation of aldehydes to their respective carboxylic acids or CoA esters.^{5, 6} ALDHs are separated into families and subfamilies based on their sequence similarity.⁷ The 19 ALDHs share similar yet distinct functions due to their varying substrate specificities and gene expression differences. Some are ubiquitously expressed, such as ALDH1A1 and ALDH2, while others are expressed preferentially in certain tissues or during certain periods of development. Naturally occurring mutations within various ALDHs can cause human diseases such as Sjogren-Larsson syndrome (ALDH3A2),⁸ type II hyperprolinemia (ALDH4A1),⁹ 4-hydroxybutyricaciduria (ALDH5A1)¹⁰, and pyridoxine dependent epilepsy (ALDH7A1).¹¹

The ALDH1/2 family consists of ALDH1A1, ALDH1A2, ALDH1A3, ALDH1B1, and ALDH2. The five isoenzymes primarily oxidize aliphatic aldehydes of varying length. ALDH1A1, ALDH1A2, and ALDH1A3 are cytosolic proteins which are involved in retinoid metabolism.¹² ALDH1A1 has been implicated in providing resistance to certain anti-cancer agents, such as cyclophosphamide, as well as having a functional role in cancer stem cells.^{13–15} ALDH1A2 and ALDH1A3 are critical for embryonic development in mice as individual genetic knockout of these two genes do not produce viable animals.^{16, 17} ALDH2 is a mitochondrial enzyme most known for its role in acetaldehyde metabolism during the conversion of ethanol to acetic acid.¹⁸ Other isoenzymes such as ALDH1A1 and ALDH1B1 also can contribute to the oxidation of acetaldehyde, especially when ALDH2 activity is reduced by the presence of the ALDH2*2 allele.^{19–21} ALDH1B1, a mitochondrial enzyme most similar to ALDH2, has recently been linked with colon cancer and diabetes.^{22, 23} ALDH1A1 and ALDH2 have also been linked to the metabolism of dopamine within different areas of the brain.²⁴ For the ALDH1/2 family of isoenzymes it is difficult to make specific assignment of function due to their overlapping substrate specificities. The discovery and development of isoenzyme-selective inhibitors or activators would better allow investigators to identify the individual contribution of these individual isoenzymes to the metabolism of these common substrates.

The majority of the ALDH superfamily, including the ALDH1/2 family, shares the same basic catalytic mechanism. NAD(P)⁺ binds to the enzyme and can sample multiple binding positions.²⁵ The conserved catalytic cysteine (Cys302 in ALDH2) is activated and performs a nucleophilic attack on the carbonyl carbon of the aldehyde forming a tetrahedral intermediate.²⁶ Once NAD(P)⁺ occupies the necessary binding position, the aldehydic hydride ion is transferred to the nicotinamide ring of NAD(P)⁺ forming NAD(P)H. The substrate-enzyme complex then undergoes a conformation change in which the NAD(P)H moves away to allow access of the catalytic site to a water molecule. The water molecule is deprotonated by a conserved glutamate residue (Glu268 in ALDH2) and performs a nucleophilic attack on the carbonyl carbon of the acyl-enzyme intermediate.²⁷ The bond

between the sulfur and carbonyl carbon is then broken regenerating the free enzyme and producing the carboxylic acid end product. Due to the similar catalytic mechanisms for the ALDH1/2 family, mechanism-based inhibitors may lack selectivity. However, selectivity can be achieved through taking advantage of the different aldehyde binding sites of the ALDH family which have evolved over time through substitutions of residues in the substrate binding tunnel.

One use of a chemical probe for ALDH2 is the treatment of alcohol abuse. The ALDH2*2 allele is found in ~40% of East Asians and leads to the alcohol flush response.^{28, 29} The E504K substitution (E487K after removal of the mitochondrial targeting signal) in the ALDH2*2 allele leads to decreased acetaldehyde metabolism to the point where individuals with the allele will develop nausea, vomiting, and vasodilation shortly after alcohol consumption. The ALDH2*2 allele is associated with a lower risk of alcoholism due in part to this physiological response.³⁰ Mimicking the ALDH2*2 response is an established treatment option for alcohol abuse. Disulfiram and daidzin and their derivatives are commonly used to treat alcohol abuse as ALDH2 inhibitors.³¹ However, disulfiram is non-selective and also inhibits ALDH1A1 as disulfiram causes the irreversible inactivation of ALDH enzymes through carbamoylation of the catalytic cysteine residue.^{32, 33} Additionally, disulfiram metabolites will chelate with copper and thereby inhibit copper-dependent enzymes.^{34, 35} Though daidzin reversibly inhibits ALDH2 two orders of magnitude greater than ALDH1A1, its effect on the activity of ALDH1A2, ALDH1A3, and ALDH1B1 has been understudied.^{36, 37}

We sought to further characterize the original set of psoralen and coumarin derivatives discovered in a high-throughput screen and expand upon those hits by examining a series of related analogs as inhibitors of the ALDH1/2 isoenzymes. These compounds are unique from the covalent inactivating Aldi compounds and N-N-diethylaminobenzaldehyde that we and others have previously characterized.³⁸⁻⁴⁰ Our initial goal was to determine the compounds' mechanism of action and to understand the structural basis for their inhibition of ALDH2, as their inhibition towards ALDH2 was the strongest amongst the ALDH1/2 isoenzymes. In order to create a common basis for comparison in our assays the inhibition profile for daidzin toward these same ALDH1/2 family members was also determined. Thirty-three additional psoralen and coumarin analogs were then evaluated as inhibitors toward the ALDH1/2 family of isoenzymes. Although many of the structural variations resulted in the loss of inhibition towards ALDH2, one coumarin derivative was found to be an ALDH2-selective inhibitor. Surprisingly a different coumarin derivative was found to be an ALDH1A1-selective inhibitor. Both compounds could be further developed to make them more selective for their respective isoenzymes. The overall chemical similarity between the compounds while possessing different isozyme selectivity highlights the effect small chemical changes can have when developing isoenzyme-selective probes for ALDH isoenzymes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Further Characterization of the Four Initial Aromatic Lactones

Four aromatic lactones were previously identified as inhibitors of the ALDH1/2 family of enzymes, **1** (2CB5), **2** (2P3), **3** (2P4) and **4** (2BS4) (Figure 1).⁴¹ The IC₅₀ values for daidzin for the ALDH1/2 family were measured to compare our results to compounds (including CVT-10216) already described in the literature as ALDH2-selective inhibitors.^{36, 37, 42}

Consistent with prior work, daidzin was found to be about 100-fold more potent toward ALDH2 than ALDH1A1 (Table 1). However, our IC₅₀ values are 10-fold higher than prior values. The discrepancy between the values reported here and the values in the literature stems from the fact that our group uses propionaldehyde (K_m for ALDH2 is ~0.1 μM) as the standard substrate for the ALDH1/2 isoenzymes at 100 μM and the original reports on isoflavones, such as daidzin and prunetin, utilized formaldehyde (K_m for ALDH2 is ~320 μM)⁴³ as the substrate at 600 μM.³⁶ We chose to utilize propionaldehyde, rather than formaldehyde, as substrate in our assays in order to have as many enzymes as possible evaluated for inhibition against a single common substrate (propionaldehyde was used in all enzyme assays, except ALDH3A1). On the other hand, because IC₅₀ measurements are dependent on the concentration utilized in the assays relative to their isoenzyme specific K_m values, our assays will be more stringent for inhibition, because only very strong inhibitors will be able to overcome the 1,000-fold concentration excess of propionaldehyde in the ALDH2 assay. In regards to the other ALDH1/2 enzymes, we found daidzin to inhibit ALDH1B1 (IC₅₀ = 5.1 ± 0.5 μM) and ALDH1A2 (IC₅₀ = 4.5 ± 0.6 μM) with similar potencies to ALDH2 (IC₅₀ = 3.5 ± 0.1 μM), while being less potent toward ALDH1A1 and ALDH1A3. Inhibition of ALDH1A1 and ALDH1A3 by daidzin was observed, but compound solubility issues prevented full dose-response analyses.

Compounds **1**, **2**, and **3** are psoralen derivatives with varying alkyl substitutions to the aromatic ring structure (Figure 1). Compound **4** is a coumarin derivative with a methyl 2-methoxypropanoate chain and is a potential substrate for the *in vitro* esterase reaction of ALDH2. The IC₅₀ values of the four aromatic lactones for seven isoenzymes were determined in order to better characterize the selectivity of the compounds towards/for the ALDH1/2 family of isoenzymes versus other ALDH isoenzymes as previously only single point activity measurements had been utilized.

The four lactones lacked inhibitory effect toward ALDH1L1 (rat), ALDH3A1, ALDH4A1 and ALDH5A1.⁴¹ **4** showed selectivity towards ALDH2 versus the other eight isoenzymes tested with an IC₅₀ value of 1.5 ± 0.3 μM. The other three compounds inhibited ALDH2 most strongly, though they also inhibited the majority of the other ALDH1/2 isoenzymes at sub-micromolar concentrations. The lowest IC₅₀ measured was that of **2** for ALDH2 (IC₅₀ = 0.11 ± 0.02 μM). **2** inhibited each of the five ALDH1/2 isoenzymes the strongest and was the only one of the three which completely inhibited all five isoenzymes. **3** has similar IC₅₀ values as **2** for ALDH2 (IC₅₀ = 0.19 ± 0.01 μM) and ALDH1A3, but only partially inhibits ALDH1B1 and ALDH1A2 and does not inhibit ALDH1A1. **1** had the highest IC₅₀ values of the aromatic lactones for the five ALDH1/2 isoenzymes and only partially inhibited ALDH1A1. The partial inhibition of the enzymes by these compounds could not be

determined from the single point activity measurements previously reported.⁴¹ The number and length of the alkyl substituents on the aromatic lactones positively correlates with the potency of inhibition towards ALDH1A1 (Figure 1 and Table 1). Covariation experiments were completed with **2**, **3**, and **4** to better understand their mechanism of inhibition toward ALDH2 (Figure 2A–C). **2**, **3**, and **4** were all found to be competitive versus varied NAD⁺ for ALDH2, with K_i values of 19 ± 1 nM, 87 ± 8 nM and 310 ± 36 nM respectively. In prior work, **3** was found to be non-competitive (mixed-type) with respect to varied propionaldehyde for ALDH2 with a K_i = 35 nM.⁴¹ These mechanisms of inhibition were surprising, since the esterase screen utilized to discover these compounds was designed to select against compounds competitive toward coenzyme binding.⁴⁴ Therefore, we solved the crystal structure of **2** bound to ALDH2. Compound **2** was chosen for this analysis, as it is the largest of the three psoralen derivatives, fully inhibited all ALDH1/2 isoenzymes, and had the lowest K_i value. The structure of ALDH2 in complex with compound **2** was solved to a resolution of 2.40 Å, with the ligand modeled at full occupancy in each of the eight monomers (Table 2). In the absence of coenzyme, **2** binds within the substrate binding site of ALDH2 (Figure 2D) and is surrounded by four phenylalanine side chains (residues 170, 296, 459, and 465). To accommodate the binding of **2**, the catalytic Cys302 rotates towards the NAD⁺ binding site. The propyl alkyl substituent extends into a pocket formed in part by Glu268, Glu476, Trp177, and Thr244 while the methyl substituents on the furan ring are oriented towards the solvent exposed entrance. Given the larger binding site of ALDH1A1, it is possible the additional contacts provided by the extension of the propyl chain into this pocket are essential for ALDH1A1 inhibition. The narrower binding sites for the other ALDH1/2 members apparently do not require these contacts. The lactone carbonyl of **2** mimics the position of a potential aldehyde substrate and hydrogen bonds with the peptide nitrogen of Cys302 (Figure 2E) in a manner similar to that predicted for the incoming aldehyde substrate as it engages the oxyanion hole. In addition to the contribution from hydrophobic interactions, this one hydrogen bond orients the compound in the substrate binding site.

The shift of Cys302 towards the NAD⁺ site likely explains the competitive inhibition pattern towards varied NAD⁺, since both NAD⁺ and **2** bind to the same enzyme species in solution - the free enzyme. A structural comparison of **2** and productive NAD(H) binding to ALDH2 demonstrates the impact of Cys302 movement on coenzyme binding (Figure 3). When Cys302 resides in this shifted position, NAD⁺ cannot be productively positioned to accept the hydride ion during the dehydrogenase reaction. Additionally the propyl chain proximal to the aromatic lactone may also hinder the positioning of the nicotinamide ring of NAD⁺. Similarly, **2** cannot bind to the free enzyme form of ALDH2 if Cys302 is not rotated away. Consequently, the binding of **2** prevents the productive binding of NAD⁺ and vice versa. Although the majority of **2** binds within the substrate binding site, just enough of the compound overlaps with the nicotinamide binding pocket to explain the competitive inhibition pattern toward NAD⁺. Compound **2** prevents the productive positioning of NAD⁺ within the enzyme for catalysis. However, the binding of NAD⁺ in a manner not conducive to catalysis is still possible in the presence of **2**. This is further supported by the inhibition of ALDH2 by **2** under saturating NAD⁺ conditions for the covariation experiment with propionaldehyde.⁴¹ The non-competitive (mixed-type) inhibition pattern towards substrate

could also be explained by non-productive binding of NAD⁺ to the enzyme in the presence of inhibitor. For most linear aliphatic substrates ALDH2 appears to follow an iso-ordered bi-bi reaction mechanism where NAD⁺ will bind to the enzyme first and the coenzyme undergoes conformational changes prior to assuming the productive conformation required for hydride transfer.^{45, 46} When propionaldehyde is varied under saturating NAD⁺ concentrations, the binding of NAD⁺ to the free enzyme would be essentially irreversible and reduce the population of free enzyme in solution to essentially zero. However, **2** may still bind to one of the non-productively positioned complexes with NAD⁺, such off-pathway complexes would be consistent with the observed kinetic data.^{47, 48}

As previously discussed,⁴¹ **4** may inhibit ALDH2 through multiple mechanisms, including both through positioning of the aromatic lactone moiety near Cys302, but also through its ester group as a potential competitive esterase substrate. Using the structure of **2** bound to ALDH2 as a basis for interpretation, either the aromatic lactone or the ester could face Cys302 when binding in the substrate binding pocket. Additional experiments demonstrate that **4** exhibits a time-dependence for inhibition, but the time-dependence is not observed for the inhibition phase, but is related to the length of time the enzyme remains inhibited after complex formation. After more than a day of incubation with stoichiometric amounts of **4** and ALDH2 the amount of inhibition begins to decrease, suggesting a slow hydrolysis of the ester over time. However, we have not been able to determine the contribution of ALDH2 to ester hydrolysis versus the natural non-enzymatic hydrolysis of the ester in solution, since they have similar time-frames and the free acid form of **4** is not inhibitory (see below). Clearly though, the hydrolysis of **4** limits its use as an ALDH2 inhibitor for *in vivo* studies.

Initial Characterization of Psoralen- and Coumarin-Derived Analogs

High-throughput screening assays are fraught with complications in which the initial hit compounds promote protein aggregation or interfere with the screening assay in a manner that resembles inhibition. Consequently, utilization of an orthogonal assay system where the analytical readout is distinct and the development of interpretable SAR on the hits help to guard against pursuing non-specific compounds. We purchased other psoralen- and coumarin-derived analogs to develop SAR on the initial coumarin and psoralen compounds, and to understand the selectivity of the psoralen analogs for ALDH2 so we could take advantage of the selectivity of **4** toward ALDH2. Because of the behavior of **4**, we hypothesized that similar compounds, without the ester group, could reversibly inhibit ALDH2 while maintaining selectivity. A total of 33 compounds were ordered from ChemDiv, ChemBridge, and Sigma-Aldrich as representatives of all the available analogs using the binding location of **2** to ALDH2 as a guide for compound selection. Twelve compounds share the psoralen sub-structure of **1**, **2**, and **3** and twenty-one compounds share the coumarin sub-structure of **4**. The effect of 10 μ M compound on the activity of ALDH1A1, ALDH2, and ALDH3A1 was measured to determine selectivity amongst these three isoenzymes (Tables 3 and 4). The compound scaffold is oriented as seen in Figure 2F.

The first three analogs (**5–7**) had additional alkyl chains added to the psoralen structure. The addition of a t-butyl group at R₃ in **5** lowered the inhibition towards ALDH2. The addition of a methyl group to R₁ in **6** nearly eliminated inhibition towards ALDH2. Lengthening the

alkyl chain at R₅ to three carbons in **7** maintained inhibition towards ALDH2. Increasing the size of the ring structure of psoralen had differing results. The addition of a cyclohexane to the furan ring in **8** lessened inhibition towards ALDH2. Additional rings proximal to the lactone carbonyl (**9–11**) maintained inhibition towards ALDH2 showing some selectivity against ALDH1A1. The addition of a phenyl group at R₃ in **13** eliminated inhibition towards ALDH1A1 and ALDH2. The addition of a benzyl group at either R₅ in **14** or R₆ in **12** negatively impacted inhibition of ALDH2, but led to moderate inhibition of ALDH1A1. Compounds **15** and **16** represent a large group of available compounds in which psoralen derivatives are linked to other chemical structures through a 1-(piperidin-1-yl)propan-1-one (**15**) or N-benzylpropionamide (**16**) linker at R₆. The 1-(piperidin-1-yl)propan-1-one linker is tolerated, as **15** inhibits both ALDH1A1 and ALDH2 >90% at 10 μM. Compound **16** was the only psoralen analog which showed inhibition towards ALDH3A1, suggesting the N-benzylpropionamide linker itself is responsible for the ALDH3A1 inhibition.

Additions to the psoralen scaffold generally resulted in the loss of inhibition towards ALDH2 due to the narrow substrate binding site of ALDH2 (Figure 2F). Adding bulky side chains to the aromatic ring structure reduced or eliminated inhibition of ALDH2 and eventually other ALDH1/2 isoenzymes as seen with the aromatic side chains in **12–14** and the t-Bu group in **5**. Even smaller groups such as the methyl added to the central aromatic ring in **6** can lead to loss of inhibition. Even though increasing the size of the psoralen derivatives increases the chances of eliminating ALDH2 inhibition, the addition of a fourth ring proximal to the lactone (**9–11**) maintained ALDH2 selectivity versus ALDH1A1.

The coumarin analogs are variations of **4** which all lack the ester group of **4**. As reported previously, slightly changing the ester portion of **4** led to the elimination of ALDH2 inhibition.⁴¹ Three different methyl ketones (**17–19**) similar to **4** did not inhibit ALDH2. Additionally **17** and **18** inhibited ALDH1A1 and/or ALDH3A1 unlike **4**. An amide (**20**) similar to **4** inhibited ALDH1A1 as well. Removing the ester side chain to leave the ether (**21**) led to inhibition of ALDH3A1, while **22**, the free acid form of **4**, did not inhibit any ALDH isoenzymes. These results are consistent with **4** behaving differently than the other described analogs and the fact that carboxylates generally are poor inhibitors of ALDH1/2 isoenzymes.

As subtle changes to the methyl 2-methoxypropanoate group of **4** at position R₂ led to the elimination of ALDH2 inhibition and the loss of selectivity against ALDH1A1 and ALDH3A1, more diverse substituents were examined. The addition of oxygen-containing rings had varied results. A 3-methylfuran ring at R₃ and R₄ in **23** led to partial inhibition of ALDH2, while addition of a furan ring at R₁ and R₂ in **24** led to strong inhibition of ALDH3A1 with no inhibition of ALDH2. The addition of 4H-pyran-4-one at R₂ and R₃ in **25** led to slight inhibition of ALDH1A1. The addition of a δ-valerolactone at R₂ and R₃ in **26** led to inhibition of ALDH2 with lesser inhibition of ALDH1A1 and ALDH3A1. Compounds **27–33** changed the methyl 2-methoxypropanoate group at R₂ in **4** to more diverse structural groups. In most of these compounds changes at R₂ increased inhibition towards ALDH1A1 and ALDH3A1, but diminished inhibition of ALDH2. Compounds **27** and **28** contain unsaturated alkyl chains at R₂ and inhibit ALDH1A1 and ALDH3A1.

Compound **29** has a large 2-oxo-2-phenylethoxy group at R₂ and inhibits ALDH1A1, as well as demonstrating moderate inhibition of ALDH3A1.

Compound **30** has a terminal nitrile at R₂ and inhibits ALDH1A1, ALDH2, and ALDH3A1 at similar levels. Compounds **31** and **32** both appear to selectively inhibit ALDH1A1, though **31** only inhibits 50% at 10 μM most likely due to the large N-phenylacetamide group at R₂. Compound **32** contains a diethylamine in the same position and inhibits ALDH1A1 ~85% at 10 μM. The last analogs went beyond altering the methyl 2-methoxypropanoate group or adding to the ring structure (**33–37**). Three of these compounds showed selectivity towards either ALDH1A1 or ALDH2. Compounds **34**, which added a methane sulfonyl at R₂ and a benzyl group at R₆, and **37**, which added isobutyramide at R₃, selectively inhibited ALDH1A1 and **36**, which replaced the methyl 2-methoxypropanoate group with a hydrogen at R₂ and added a bromine at R₃ and ketoxime at R₆, selectively inhibited ALDH2. Of the 33 analogs tested, seven showed potential selectivity for ALDH2 based off activity at 10 μM compound (**7**, **9**, **10**, **11**, **23**, **26**, and **36**) and two compounds showed selectivity and potency towards ALDH1A1 (**32** and **34**). These nine compounds, as well as the strong ALDH1A1 and ALDH2 inhibitor, **15**, were selected for further analysis.

Due to the hydrophobic nature of the substrate binding site within the free enzyme species of ALDH2, the logP values for the 33 analogs in addition to the initial four hits were examined (Tables 3 and 4). No direct correlation between logP values and inhibition of ALDH1A1 or ALDH2 could be discerned.

EC₅₀ Determination of Selected Analogs

EC₅₀ values were measured in regards to ALDH1A1, ALDH2, and ALDH3A1 for the ten selected compounds. Three compounds were excluded from further study for one of two reasons (Table 5). Both **9** and **23** are selective for ALDH2 (IC₅₀ = 0.15 ± 0.01 μM for each) but only partially inhibit the enzyme. We sought complete inhibitors of the isoenzymes so these analogs were not pursued further. Compound **26** was selective for ALDH2 versus ALDH1A1; however the compound was not characterized further as it partially inhibited ALDH3A1 activity.

The seven remaining compounds did not inhibit ALDH3A1 and fully inhibited ALDH1A1 and/or ALDH2. For these compounds EC₅₀ values for ALDH1B1, ALDH1A2, and ALDH1A3 were also calculated in addition to those for ALDH1A1, ALDH2, and ALDH3A1 (Table 6).

Compounds **7**, **10**, and **11** had IC₅₀ values for the ALDH1/2 family of isoenzymes very similar to the psoralen derivatives found through the high-throughput screen and were more potent than daidzin. No improvement to the selectivity for any one particular isoenzyme of the ALDH1/2 family was seen from adding the cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, or propyl group to the psoralen backbone. These additional groups would fit between Trp177 and Met174 in ALDH2, both of which are conserved throughout the ALDH1/2 family (Figure 2E). Compound **7** most likely doesn't inhibit ALDH1A1 due to the lack of the longer alkyl chain at R₆ to anchor itself in the larger pocket. Compound **15** showed a ~10-fold preference towards inhibiting ALDH1A1 (IC₅₀ = 0.13 ± 0.01 μM) versus the other four ALDH1A/2

isoenzymes. Compound **32** was found to be selectively inhibit ALDH1A1 ($IC_{50}=0.76 \pm 0.07 \mu M$) with only minor effects on ALDH1A2. Compound **34** showed a preference towards ALDH1A1 ($IC_{50}=2.8 \pm 0.1 \mu M$) while also inhibiting ALDH1B1, ALDH1A2, and ALDH1A3 activity. **34** had no measurable effect on the activity of ALDH2. **36** selectively inhibited ALDH2 ($IC_{50}=4.6 \pm 0.5 \mu M$) while also exhibiting two-fold activation of ALDH1A3 ($AC_{50}=35 \pm 3 \mu M$). The inhibition properties of **15**, **32**, **34**, and **36** were further explored through crystallographic and kinetic studies.

Characterization of Compound 15 Binding

The structure of **15** bound to ALDH1A1 was solved to a resolution of 1.70 Å (Table 2). The structure shows that **15** binds within the substrate binding site of ALDH1A1 (Figure 4A). However, the psoralen backbone of **15** has shifted relative to the position of **2** bound to ALDH2 and is bound between Tyr297, Gly458, His293, and Phe290. As a consequence of this shift, the piperidine ring of the longer linker structure of **15** is positioned near the catalytic cysteine. Unlike the alkyl chain of **2**, the piperidine ring in this position does not approach the NAD(H) binding site (Figures 3B and 4B). Covariation experiments were used to evaluate the mechanistic differences between the binding of **15** to ALDH1A1 and to ALDH2. **15** was found to exhibit uncompetitive inhibition ($K_i=170 \pm 13 \text{ nM}$) towards varied NAD^+ for ALDH1A1, which is consistent both with the distance between the NAD^+ and **15** binding sites in ALDH1A1 and is expected for compounds that displace aldehyde substrates for ordered Bi Bi systems (Figure 4C). Uncompetitive inhibition would suggest that **15** binds only to the enzyme-coenzyme complex and not to the free enzyme. However, the structural data of **15** bound to the free enzyme appears to contradict the kinetic data, but the concentration ranges utilized for the two experiments did not overlap. The concentration of **15** used in the crystallography experiment was 400-fold times the highest concentration utilized in the kinetic experiment (200 μM vs 0.5 μM). Thus, **15** appears to also bind to the free enzyme, but under the conditions of the steady-state kinetic experiments, this complex formation is kinetically insignificant and yields an uncompetitive pattern. A similar pattern of uncompetitive inhibition towards varied coenzyme in a kinetic experiment, compared to a complex between the free enzyme and inhibitor, was also observed with daidzin and ALDH2.^{36, 37} Interestingly, **15** exhibited competitive inhibition ($K_i=1.1 \pm 0.1 \mu M$) towards varied NAD^+ for ALDH2 (Figure 4D). This result is similar to the mechanism exhibited by **2**, suggesting **15** retains a binding relationship similar to **2** bound to ALDH2. These data would infer that the psoralen substructure of **15** binds to ALDH2 with the 1-acylpiperidine extending past Cys302 and posed toward the NAD^+ site, consistent with its competitive mode of inhibition. However, for ALDH1A1 the presence of Gly458 and its larger substrate binding pocket promotes a shift in binding mode and mechanism of inhibition for **15**. The residue corresponding to Gly458 in the other four ALDH1/2 isoenzymes is either an asparagine or aspartate (D457 in ALDH2) which precludes the binding mode observed in ALDH1A1.

Characterization of Compound 34 Binding

The structure of the coumarin derivative **34** bound to ALDH1A1 was solved to a resolution of 1.70 Å (Table 2). **34** binds within the substrate binding site (Figure 5A) and the lactone

carbonyl is oriented towards the catalytic cysteine though not close enough to form a hydrogen bond like **2** in ALDH2 (Figure 5B). Although the electron density for the benzyl group of **34** was diffuse, the movement of Trp178 was reminiscent of the interaction between CM037 and ALDH1A1 in the same region, which also resulted in more diffuse density in this region.⁴⁹ The additional benzyl group prevents the compound from binding closer to the catalytic cysteine. **34** does not inhibit ALDH2 and the mode of binding provides insight into this selectivity. The methane sulfonyl group of **34** binds in the pocket formed by Gly458 in ALDH1A1. This additional space only exists in ALDH1A1. The corresponding aspartate/asparagine residues in the other ALDH1/2 isoenzymes would force the coumarin scaffold to adopt a position like **2** in ALDH2. However, unlike the flexible linker in **15**, the large benzyl ring proximal to the lactone cannot adopt a conformation to productively bind within the NAD⁺-binding cleft and the benzyl ring of **34** would encounter more steric hindrance from as the conserved tryptophan (Trp177 in ALDH2) since the residues surrounding Trp177 are bulkier in ALDH2.

Characterization of Compound **32** Binding

The structure of compound **32** bound to ALDH1A1 was solved to a resolution of 2.05 Å, with the ligand modeled at full occupancy in each of the eight monomers (Table 2). Surprisingly, **32** binds in the coenzyme binding cleft of ALDH1A1 (Figure 6A) between Pro227 and Val250 in a position similar to the adenine ring of NAD⁺ (Figure 6B). The fact that **32** bound in the coenzyme binding site ALDH1A1 and the fact the crystal formed in a unique space group (P1) raises the possibility that the binding site might be influenced by the crystal environment. However, there are structural reasons for the selectivity between ALDH2 and ALDH1A1 in this binding location which suggest that binding within the coenzyme site is not an artifact of this particular crystal form (Figure 7). There are three amino acid substitutions of residues that directly contact **32** between ALDH1A1 and ALDH2. In particular, Ile249 in ALDH2 is Val250 in ALDH1A1 and although it is the addition of a single methyl group, the substitution narrows this side of the site enough to impede binding of the diethylamino substituent in ALDH2. In addition, Val252 and Ala233 in ALDH2 versus Leu253 and Ser234 in ALDH1A1 may loosen the contacts between the enzyme and **32** on the side away from Ile249 sufficiently that the binding energetics cannot overcome the steric clash at 249 through small shifts toward this side of the binding cleft. Covariation experiments were completed to further characterize the interaction of **32** with ALDH1A1. If **32** was bound to the NAD⁺ binding site as seen in the crystal structure the inhibition profile versus varied NAD⁺ would be predicted to be competitive. Surprisingly, **32** was found to be noncompetitive versus varied NAD⁺ for ALDH1A1 with $K_i = 1.2 \pm 0.1 \mu\text{M}$ and noncompetitive versus varied acetaldehyde for ALDH1A1 with $K_i = 0.87 \pm 0.04 \mu\text{M}$ (Figure 6C) Although noncompetitive inhibition versus NAD⁺ is inconsistent with the binding of **32** to the NAD⁺ site, it is also a different mode of inhibition from compounds determined to bind in the substrate binding site, **2** (competitive) and **15** (uncompetitive), which suggests **32** binds differently than these other analogs. A similar compound to **32** was also tested to support the kinetic data of **32**. **30** is a coumarin derivative which essentially replaces the diethylamine of **32** with a terminal cyano group. **30** inhibits both ALDH1A1 and ALDH2 as Ile249 in ALDH2 does not provide selectivity against the linear cyano group in this binding position. **30** was found to be noncompetitive versus varied NAD⁺ for

ALDH1A1 and be noncompetitive (mixed-type) versus varied NAD^+ for ALDH2 (Figure 6D) which is consistent with the inhibition mode of **32**. The reason behind the discrepancy between the kinetic data and structural data remains unclear. There is a possibility that **32** could bind to a different location in the enzyme when NAD^+ is present, and when NAD^+ is absent (as in the case of the structure) the compound prefers to bind in the NAD^+ binding site. The possibility of multiple binding sites is supported by the compound exhibiting noncompetitive inhibition towards varied NAD^+ or varied substrate (Figure 6C). This additional site could be the substrate binding site where **34**, another coumarin derivative, binds.

Characterization of Compound **36** Binding to ALDH2

Compound **36** was the lone ALDH2-selective compound (apart from **4**) discovered in this study. Covariation experiments were performed to determine how **36** inhibits ALDH2 in part due to the diverse inhibition profile of the other compounds towards ALDH1A1. **36** was found to competitively inhibit the binding of NAD^+ to ALDH2 with a $K_i = 2.4 \pm 0.1 \mu\text{M}$ (Figure 8). This result suggests that **36** also alters the conformation of the catalytic cysteine interfering with the productive binding of NAD^+ for catalysis similar to **2** and **3**. If **36** were to adopt a similar conformation to that of **2**, the ketoxime would occupy the same pocket as the propyl chain. The bromine would be oriented towards Met174 which could lead to a favorable interaction between the halogen substituent and the sulfur side chain atom. This potential interaction is not possible for the three ALDH1A isoenzymes since a glycine occupies the equivalent position. However, it is unclear what effect the equivalent glutamate in ALDH1B1 would have on **36** binding. The glutamate of ALDH1B1 could provide additional contacts for **36** binding, thus the rationale for selectivity towards ALDH2 by **36** is still unclear.

Aromatic Binding Regions of ALDH1A1 and ALDH2

Since the binding modes and kinetic data are distinct for particular compound/enzyme pairs, we reasoned that aspects of the substrate binding sites and differences in kinetic mechanism underlie these differences. In particular, structural comparisons of the three compound-enzyme complexes with compound in the substrate binding site highlighted the presence of two distinct aromatic binding “boxes” or “slots” (Figure 9). In ALDH2 the aromatic binding region is located between four phenylalanine residues (170, 296, 459, 465) near the catalytic cysteine and surround **2**. The isoflavone of the ALDH2 inhibitor daidzin binds in the same aromatic region as does the activator Alda-1.^{37, 50} The aromatic binding region of ALDH1A1 is wider, extends farther from the catalytic cysteine and is more surface exposed. Of the four phenylalanine residues near the catalytic cysteine in ALDH2, Phe459 is replaced by a valine and Phe296 is replaced by a tyrosine. The aromatic binding region of ALDH1A1 has additional aromatic residues at His293 and Phe290. The corresponding residues in ALDH2 are Phe292 and Gln289. Although Phe292 in ALDH2 is aromatic, the side chain of Asp457 blocks any connection of the two binding sites, which makes the binding region in ALDH2 smaller than that in ALDH1A1, though the two regions do overlap. Compounds have the ability to bind throughout the aromatic region in ALDH1A1 due to Gly458, as previously described for the ALDH1A1 inhibitors CM037 and CM026.⁴⁹

A second aromatic binding pocket exists in ALDH isoenzymes, namely the adenine binding cleft within the coenzyme binding site, where the adenine ring is positioned between a conserved proline (Pro227 in ALDH1A1) and beta-branched amino acid (Val250 in ALDH1A1). However, there is only one aromatic amino acid within this structural element (Phe244) with the remainder being primarily aliphatic side chains. Consequently, while the site is hydrophobic, there are fewer aromatic groups present in this region than in the substrate binding site which may reflect the more hydrophilic nature of the adenosine group of NAD⁺ and lead to greater partitioning into the substrate site for most of these compounds. However, the structure of **32** shows that at least one of the compounds presented in this work can bind to the adenine site. Although, the kinetic data support binding at an additional site, most likely the aromatic binding region in the substrate binding site.

CONCLUSION

Selective compounds for the individual members of the ALDH1/2 family of isoenzymes would be useful in determining their relative contributions to biological function. This study characterized a series of aromatic lactones which inhibit the ALDH1/2 family with the goal of developing an ALDH2-selective inhibitor. The agreement between the structure activity relationships and structural studies show the interactions are both specific and selective. The psoralen and coumarin analogs take advantage of multiple aromatic binding regions of the ALDH1/2 isoenzymes. Although psoralen and coumarin derivatives can form Michael additions, all but two compounds tested have at least a methyl group at position R₅ preventing such a reaction and thus eliminating the possibility of covalent inhibition by this means. Additionally, the kinetic and structural data demonstrate a non-covalent means of inhibition. Aromatics can bind within the hydrophobic substrate binding site as well as the NAD⁺ binding site. The size of the compound and the neighboring residues help determine to which of the sites the compounds bind.

The differing binding modes of the derivatives make it somewhat challenging to predict where compounds will bind though some basic observations can be applied. The small coumarin analogs can bind in the NAD⁺ binding site like **32**, but once they reach a size threshold the compounds prefer the substrate binding site (e.g. **34**). The absence of an amino acid side chain at Gly458 in ALDH1A1 allows for a larger aromatic binding area, best exemplified by **15**. The unique aromatic binding regions linked to topological differences allow the same coumarin ring structure to be selective for different isoenzymes as substituents are varied to better match the target enzyme's structural features.

Surprisingly, **32** achieves selectivity towards ALDH1A1 by binding in the more highly conserved adenine binding site. Our initial screen was designed to avoid compounds which bound in the NAD⁺ binding site as we reasoned these would have lower selectivity. **32** shows that selectivity is possible through binding in this location. **36** achieves selectivity towards ALDH2 while competitively inhibiting the productive binding of NAD⁺. Although the exact binding location of **36** is unknown, the compound most likely binds in similar position to **2** in the substrate binding pocket. **36** inhibits ALDH2 with similar IC₅₀ values to daidzin *in vitro* and is more selective. Daidzin, previously described as an ALDH2-selective inhibitor, inhibited the activity of three of the five ALDH1/2 isoenzymes. Several additional

derivatives in this study improve upon daidzin's potency towards the ALDH1/2 isoenzymes in our assays. Future experiments will consist of further developing structure-activity relationships for **32** and **36** and determining their effects in various cellular models.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Materials

All materials were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO), unless otherwise noted. Compounds purchased from ChemDiv Corporation (San Diego, CA) and ChemBridge Corporation (San Diego, CA) were >95% pure based on the spectra (either NMR or LC/MS) provided by the vendor. Following receipt from the vendor, their chemical identities were further verified by LC/MS to check for correct molecular weight in the Department of Chemistry, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN or the Chemical Genomics Core Facility, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN and used without further purification. Compound **22**, purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, was not checked for purity by the company and daidzin, purchased from TZS Scientific LLC (Framingham, MA), was >99% pure by their analysis, though with no accompanying spectra. For both of these compounds, the purity was checked by LC/MS and NMR in the Chemical Genomics Core Facility, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN.

Expression of ALDH isoenzymes

Human ALDH1A1, ALDH1A2, ALDH2, ALDH1B1, ALDH3A1, and rat ALDH1L1 were prepared and purified as previously described.^{25, 39, 51, 52} Human ALDH1A3 was prepared by one of two protocols. The first was by using the previous described method which yielded very little protein for enzymatic study.⁵² The second was using a His-tagged construct for full length ALDH1A3 generously provided by Jaume Farres which was subcloned into the pET-30Xa/LIC expression plasmid. His-tagged ALDH1A3 was produced and purified as previously described for ALDH3A1, except only a single passage on a nickel-NTA column was used for purification.³⁹ The two ALDH1A3 constructs behaved similarly when used in kinetic experiments.

Compound Inhibition and IC₅₀ Determination

Inhibition of ALDH isoenzymes by the compounds and the respective IC₅₀ curves were determined by measuring the formation of NAD(P)H spectrophotometrically at 340 nm (molar extinction coefficient of 6220 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹) on a Beckman DU-640 spectrophotometer using purified recombinant enzyme. All assays were performed at 25° C and were initiated by addition of the substrate after a 2 min incubation period. The assay components for these selectivity assays were designed to provide the maximal stringency toward ALDH2 such that the substrate concentration utilized was >500-fold above K_M for ALDH2 while keeping below 15-fold over K_M for the other isoenzymes.⁴³ For the ALDH1A family members and ALDH2, the assay included 100–200 nM enzyme, 200 μM NAD⁺, 100 μM propionaldehyde (K_M values ~100 nM for ALDH2⁴¹, ~50 μM for ALDH1A1⁵³, ALDH1A2⁵⁴, and K_M value for ALDH1A3 determined empirically by varying propionaldehyde concentration⁴¹), and 1% DMSO in 25 mM BES buffer, pH 7.5. The assay for ALDH1B1 used 500 μM NAD⁺ and 200 μM propionaldehyde (K_M ~ 14 μM)⁵⁵. For ALDH4A1 the assay included 500 μM

NAD⁺ and 20 mM propionaldehyde ($K_M \sim 9$ mM)⁵⁶. For ALDH5A1 the assay included 200 μ M NAD⁺ and 2 mM propionaldehyde ($K_M \sim 600$ μ M)⁵⁷. For ALDH1L1 the assay included 500 μ M NADP⁺ and 4 mM propionaldehyde ($K_M \sim 700$ μ M)⁵⁸. For ALDH3A1, the assay included the commonly utilized substrate benzaldehyde at 300 μ M ($K_M \sim 200$ μ M)⁵⁹ alongside 300 μ M NADP⁺, 20 nM ALDH3A1 and 1% DMSO. Assays for ALDH3A1, ALDH4A1, and ALDH5A1 were performed in 100 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.5. All compounds were soluble in assays up to 100 μ M and did not interfere with the analytical output measured by the assays unless otherwise noted. Data were fit to the four parameter EC₅₀ equation using SigmaPlot (v12) and the values represent the mean/SEM of three independent experiments (each n=3).

Selection and Characterization of Analogs of Initial Inhibitors

Thirty-three additional psoralen and coumarin derivatives were ordered from ChemDiv, ChemBridge, and Sigma-Aldrich to build structure-activity relationships. Compounds were initially tested for their effect on the oxidation of aldehyde substrate by ALDH1A1, ALDH2, and ALDH3A1. Compounds which showed potential selectivity for ALDH1A1 or ALDH2 were examined further by measuring EC₅₀ values for each of the three enzymes. EC₅₀ curves for ALDH1A2, ALDH1A3, and ALDH1B1 inhibition were determined for compounds which continued to show selectivity towards ALDH2 or ALDH1A1. Data were fit to the four parameter EC₅₀ equation using SigmaPlot (v12) and the values represent the mean/SEM of three independent experiments.

Steady-State Kinetic Characterization with ALDH1A1 and ALDH2

The mode of inhibition towards varied coenzyme (NAD⁺) was determined via steady-state kinetics by varying inhibitor and coenzyme concentrations at fixed substrate concentrations. Dehydrogenase activity was measured spectrophotometrically by measuring the formation of NADH at 340 nm (molar extinction coefficient of 6220 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹) on a Beckman DU-640 spectrophotometer. All assays included 100 – 200 nM enzyme, 1 mM propionaldehyde, and 1% DMSO in 25 mM BES buffer, pH 7.5 at 25°C. For ALDH2 ranges of 15 – 400 μ M NAD⁺ and either 0 – 100 nM **2**, 0 – 1 μ M **3**, 0 – 2 μ M **4**, 0 – 10 μ M **15**, 0 – 50 μ M **30**, or 0 – 10 μ M **36** were used. For ALDH1A1 ranges of 20 – 200 μ M NAD⁺ and either 0 – 500 nM **15**, 0 – 50 μ M **30**, or 0 – 4 μ M **32** were used. The mode of inhibition of **32** toward varied acetaldehyde was determined via steady-state kinetics by varying inhibitor and substrate concentrations at fixed coenzyme concentrations. Assays included 300 nM ALDH1A1, 1 mM NAD⁺, 30 – 500 μ M acetaldehyde, 0 – 1.5 μ M **32**, and 1% DMSO in 25 mM BES buffer, pH 7.5 at 25°C. All data were fit to the tight binding or single substrate-single inhibitor non-linear velocity expressions for competitive, non-competitive, mixed type non-competitive, and uncompetitive inhibition using SigmaPlot (v12, Enzyme Kinetics Module) to evaluate goodness of fit. Lineweaver-Burk plots were generated using SigmaPlot(v12) to better visualize the inhibition. All data represent the mean/SEM of at least three independent experiments (each n=3).

Crystallization of ALDH1A1 and ALDH2 in Complex with Compounds

Crystals of ALDH2 in complex with **2** were grown by equilibrating 8 mg/mL ALDH2 and 200 μ M **2** in 2% DMSO with 100 mM Na-ACES, pH 6.4, 100 mM guanidine-HCl, 10 mM MgCl_2 , 4 mM dithiothreitol, and 18% PEG 6000. Crystals of ALDH1A1 were grown by equilibrating 3 mg/mL ALDH1A1 with 100mM Na-BisTris, pH 6.2 – 6.6, 9 – 11% PEG3350, 200 mM NaCl, and 5 mM YbCl_3 . Crystals of ALDH1A1 in complex with **15** and **32** were grown in the presence of 200 μ M compound and 2% (v/v) DMSO (co-crystallization). The crystal of ALDH1A1 in complex with **34** was prepared by soaking an apo-ALDH1A1 crystal overnight with crystallization solution containing 500 μ M **34** with 2% (v/v) DMSO. Crystals were cryoprotected for flash-freezing with 18% (v/v) ethylene glycol for ALDH2 and 20% (v/v) ethylene glycol for ALDH1A1. Diffraction data were collected at Beamline 19-ID operated by the Structural Biology Consortium at the Advanced Proton Source (APS), Argonne National Laboratory. Diffraction data were indexed, integrated, and scaled using HKL2000 or HKL3000 program suites.⁶⁰ HKL2000 version 0.96 was used for the structure of ALDH2 in complex with **2**, HKL2000 version 706 was used for the structures of ALDH1A1 in complex with **15** and **34**, and HKL3000 version 712 was used for the structure of ALDH1A1 in complex with **32**. The CCP4 program suite was used for molecular replacement and refinement with the human apo-ALDH2 structure (PDB Code 3N80) as a model for ALDH2 and human apo-ALDH1A1 structure (PDB Code 4WJ9) for ALDH1A1.⁶¹ The Coot molecular graphic application was used for model building.⁶² An oxidized cysteine residue (CSO) was modeled in the active site at position 303 for the structures of ALDH1A1 in complex with **15** and **34**. The TLSMD (Translation/Libration/Screw Motion Determination) server was used to determine dynamic properties of ALDH1A1.^{63, 64}

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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ABBREVIATIONS USED

ALDH	aldehyde dehydrogenase
BES	N,N-Bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-aminoethanesulfonic acid

ACES	N-(2-acetamido)-2-aminoethanesulfonic acid
BisTris	Bis(2-hydroxyethyl)aminotris(hydroxymethyl)methane

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Figure 1.
Structures of the four partially characterized aromatic lactones.

Figure 2. The binding characteristics of substituted psoralens to ALDH2

Lineweaver-Burk representations for the competitive inhibition patterns of compounds **2** (A), **3** (B), and **4** (C) versus varied NAD^+ at saturating concentrations of propionaldehyde (1 mM). The reported K_i values are the mean/SEM of at least three independent experiments ($n = 3$). (D) Representative electron density map for **2** bound to ALDH2 with the original figure-of-merit weighted $F_o - F_c$ map in green contoured at 2.5 standard deviations and the original figure-of-merit weighted $2F_o - F_c$ map in blue contoured at 1.0 standard deviations obtained after initial refinement before addition of solvent or ligand to the structure factor calculations. (E) Hydrogen bond between lactone carbonyl of **2** and peptide nitrogen of Cys302 shown as black dashed line. (F) **2** binds within the catalytic tunnel of ALDH2. The structure of ALDH2 is displayed using a ribbons and side chain representation with the molecular surface of the substrate binding site displayed in transparent green. The orientation of **2** in this panel is chosen to match the orientation of the compounds in Table 3 to better visualize the SAR.

Figure 3. Potential interactions between psoralens and the active site of ALDH2

(A) Overlay of **2** (black) bound to ALDH2 (orange) and NAD⁺/NADH (purple/green) bound to ALDH2 (cyan). (B) Expanded view of the same overlay showing surface of ALDH2 for each binding partner using the same color scheme as in panel A. (PDB ID codes 1O00, 1O02, 1O04)

Figure 4. Binding characteristics of compound 15

(A) Electron density map of **15** bound to ALDH1A1 with the original figure-of-merit weighted F_o-F_c map in green contoured at 2.5 standard deviations and the original figure-of-merit weighted $2F_o-F_c$ map in blue contoured at 1.0 standard deviation obtained after initial refinement before addition of solvent or ligand to the structure factor calculations. (B) Comparison of binding modes of **15** (black) bound to ALDH1A1 (orange) and **2** (yellow), NADH (green), and NAD⁺ (purple) bound to ALDH2 (cyan). NAD⁺/NADH binding positions obtained from PDB1O02 and 1O04. (C) Lineweaver-Burk representation of the uncompetitive inhibition pattern for **15** versus varied NAD⁺ for ALDH1A1 at saturating concentrations of propionaldehyde (1 mM). (D) Lineweaver-Burk representation of competitive inhibition for **15** versus varied NAD⁺ with ALDH2 at saturating concentration of propionaldehyde (1 mM). Values are the mean/SEM of three independent experiments ($n=3$).

Figure 5. Binding mode of compound 34

(A) Electron density map of **34** bound to ALDH1A1 with the original figure-of-merit weighted F_o-F_c map in green contoured at 2.5 standard deviations and the original figure-of-merit weighted $2F_o-F_c$ map in blue contoured at 1.0 standard deviation obtained after initial refinement before addition of solvent or ligand to the structure factor calculation. (B) Overlay of **34** (black) bound to ALDH1A1 (orange) and **2** (yellow) bound to ALDH2 (cyan).

Figure 6. Binding characteristics of substituted coumarins

(A) Representative electron density map of **32** bound to ALDH1A1 with the original figure-of-merit weighted $F_o - F_c$ map in green contoured at 2.5 standard deviations and the original figure-of-merit weighted $2F_o - F_c$ map in blue contoured at 1.0 standard deviation obtained after initial refinement before addition of solvent or ligand to the structure factor calculations. (B) Overlay of **32** and NADH (PDB 4WB9) bound to ALDH1A1 (C) Lineweaver-Burk representation of noncompetitive inhibition for **32** versus varied NAD^+ with ALDH1A1 at saturating concentrations of propionaldehyde (1 mM) and noncompetitive inhibition for **32** versus varied acetaldehyde at saturating concentrations of NAD^+ (1 mM). (D) Lineweaver-Burk representations of noncompetitive inhibition for **30** versus varied NAD^+ with ALDH1A1 and of noncompetitive inhibition (mixed-type) inhibition for **30** with varied NAD^+ with ALDH2 at saturating concentrations of propionaldehyde (1 mM). Values are the mean/SEM of three independent experiments ($n=3$).

Figure 7. Selectivity for 32

Comparison of binding of **32** (black) to ALDH1A1 (purple) overlaid onto the equivalent region of ALDH2 (green). The non-conserved residues between ALDH1A1 and ALDH2 are labeled.

Figure 8.

Lineweaver-Burk representation of competitive inhibition for **36** versus varied NAD^+ with ALDH2 at saturating concentrations of propionaldehyde (1 mM). Values are the mean/SEM of three independent experiments ($n=3$)

Figure 9. Distinct aromatic binding boxes of ALDH1A1 and ALDH2
 Compound **2** bound to ALDH2 shown in green. Compound **15** bound to ALDH1A1 shown in cyan. Compound **34** bound to ALDH1A1 shown in purple.

IC₅₀ values were determined for **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, and daidzin with nine ALDH isoenzymes. Values are the mean/SEM of three independent experiments (n=3)

Table 1

	IC ₅₀ (μM)						
Inhibitor	ALDH2	ALDH1B1	ALDH1A1	ALDH1A2	ALDH1A3	ALDH1L1 (rat)	ALDH3A1
Daidzin	3.5 ± 0.1	5.1 ± 0.5	>200	4.5 ± 0.6	>200	NI	NI
1	0.34 ± 0.05	0.88 ± 0.28	0.34 ± 0.05#	0.76 ± 0.07	1.1 ± 0.1	NI	NI
2	0.11 ± 0.02	0.36 ± 0.12	0.22 ± 0.05	0.30 ± 0.04	0.40 ± 0.06	NI	NI
3	0.19 ± 0.01	0.31 ± 0.07#	NI	0.33 ± 0.04#	0.27 ± 0.05	NI	NI
4	1.5 ± 0.3	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI

[#] ~60% max inhibition

NI= no inhibition

Table 2

Data collection and refinement statistics for enzyme-compound complexes

Compound	2	15	34	32
Enzyme	ALDH2	ALDH1A1	ALDH1A1	ALDH1A1
PDB Code	5L13	5L2M	5L2N	5L2O
Data Collection				
Date of Collection	Nov 2012	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Mar 2016
Space Group	P2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2 ₁	P422	P422	P1
Cell Dimensions				
a,b,c (Å)	99,127,295	109,109,83	109,109,83	91,98,127
α,β,γ (deg)	90,90,90	90,90,90	90,90,90	81,86,64
Resolution (Å)	50.0-2.40	50.0-1.70	50.0-1.70	50.0-2.05
R _{merge}	0.093 (0.280) ^a	0.077 (0.501)	0.099 (0.654)	0.069 (0.280)
R _{meas}	ND ^b	0.083 (0.546)	0.108 (0.716)	0.093 (0.377)
R _{pim}	ND ^b	0.032 (0.214)	0.041 (0.284)	0.061 (0.251)
CC1/2	ND ^b	0.943 (0.778)	0.905 (0.637)	0.955 (0.845)
I/σ _{<I>}	16.2 (5.0)	19.3 (3.6)	14.2 (2.8)	10.7 (2.7)
Completeness (%)	94.2 (85.7)	97.6 (97.0)	98.9 (100)	90.8 (91.7)
Redundancy	5.0 (4.8)	6.4 (6.3)	6.4 (6.1)	2.1 (2.1)
Refinement				
No. of reflections	131537	51675	52057	211433
No. of protein atoms	30485	3811	3798	30488
No. of water molecules	1711	309	283	2326
No. of inhibitor molecules	8	1	1	8
Occupancy of inhibitor(s)	1	1	1	1
R _{work} /R _{free}	0.16/0.21	0.22/0.24	0.21/0.24	0.17/0.20
RMSD				
Bond Length (Å)	0.009	0.010	0.010	0.012
Bond Angle (deg)	1.324	1.395	1.373	1.388
Ramachandran plot ^c				
Preferred (%)	96.05%	97.14%	97.34%	97.05%
Outliers (%)	0.56%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%
Clashscore (percentile) ^c	1.69 (100%)	2.76 (99%)	1.98 (99%)	1.70 (100%)
MolProbity score (percentile) ^c	1.16 (100%)	1.22 (98%)	1.09 (99%)	1.23 (100%)
Average B (Å ²)				
Protein	27.5	38.3	40.5	19.5
	Chain A: 26.4			Chain A: 28.8
	B: 33.4 C: 29.2			B: 30.3 C: 24.8
Inhibitor	D: 27.2 E: 28.0	29.7	38.0	D: 23.9 E: 33.9
	F: 39.2 G: 34.2			F: 31.0 G: 26.3
	H: 28.3			H: 33.9

Compound	2	15	34	32
Solvent	29.4	30.2	35.1	26.5

^aValues in parenthesis are those from the highest resolution shell.

ND^b Processing values not available in HKL2000 version 0.96

^cGenerated with Molprobit.

Structure activity relationships for psoralen derivatives based on percent activity at 10 μ M compound. The values for **1**, **2**, and **3** from our previous study are included for comparison. Compounds picked for further study highlighted in gray. Values are the mean/SEM from at least three trials (n = 3).

Table 3

Compound	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	LogP	% Activity @ 10 μ M Compound			
								ALDH1A1	ALDH2	ALDH3A1	
1	H	H	CH3	H	CH3	propyl	4.47	48.6 $\pm$ 2.3	6.25 $\pm$ 0.49	96.1 $\pm$ 8.3	
2	H	CH3	CH3	H	CH3	propyl	4.92	36.3 $\pm$ 3.2	1.61 $\pm$ 0.14	86.3 $\pm$ 4.2	
3	H	CH3	CH3	H	CH3	CH3	4.39	90.5 $\pm$ 4.0	19.5 $\pm$ 1.2	95.3 $\pm$ 6.4	
5	H	H	<i>n</i> -Bu	H	CH3	CH3	3.94	94.5 $\pm$ 0.1	69.7 $\pm$ 2.3	87.0 $\pm$ 1.3	
6	CH3	CH3	CH3	H	CH3	CH3	4.36	78.4 $\pm$ 1.9	87.2 $\pm$ 0.4	102 $\pm$ 4	
7	H	CH3	CH3	H	propyl	H	4.47	74.1 $\pm$ 2.0	23.8 $\pm$ 1.4	80.4 $\pm$ 1.4	
8	H		H	CH3	CH3	CH3	4.48	64.3 $\pm$ 2.7	61.3 $\pm$ 1.6	96.1 $\pm$ 2.8	
9	H	CH3	CH3	H			3.89	82.4 $\pm$ 0.8	42.2 $\pm$ 0.5	93.4 $\pm$ 3.5

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Compound	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	LogP	% Activity @ 10μM Compound		
								ALDH1A1	ALDH2	ALDH3A1
10	H	CH3	CH3	H			4.27	56.3 ± 2.7	16.3 ± 1.1	94.1 ± 2.1
11	H	CH3	CH3	H			4.26	50.8 ± 2.3	8.25 ± 0.51	87.1 ± 4.9
12	H	H	CH3	H	CH3	benzyl	4.98	58.5 ± 2.9	83.6 ± 1.0	90.3 ± 5.1
13	H	H	phenyl	H	CH3	CH3	4.80	87.4 ± 4.4	92.8 ± 2.7	88.9 ± 4.1
14	H	CH3	CH3	H	benzyl	H	4.80	57.0 ± 1.3	73.7 ± 1.6	81.6 ± 2.8
15	H	CH3	CH3	H	CH3		4.06	8.69 ± 0.42	3.80 ± 1.32	105 ± 2

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Compound	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	LogP	% Activity @ 10μM Compound		
								ALDH1A1	ALDH2	ALDH3A1
16	H	CH3	CH3	H	CH3		4.52	93.6 ± 6.5	69.8 ± 4.0	68.3 ± 10.2

Table 4

Structure activity relationships for coumarin derivatives based on percent activity at 10 μ M compound. The values for **4** from our previous study are included for comparison. Compounds picked for further study highlighted in gray. Values are the mean/SEM from at least three trials (n = 3).

Compound	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	LogP	% Activity @ 10 μ M Compound		
								ALDH1A1	ALDH2	ALDH3A1
4	H		H	H	CH ₃	H	1.90	84.8 $\pm$ 1.8	5.72 $\pm$ 1.18	94.5 $\pm$ 8.4
17	H		H	H	CH ₃	H	1.72	68.7 $\pm$ 2.3	94.4 $\pm$ 0.2	101 $\pm$ 2

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Compound	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	LogP	% Activity @ 10μM Compound		
								ALDH1A1	ALDH2	ALDH3A1
18	H		H	H	CH3	H	1.37	52.2 ± 2.4	99.1 ± 2.8	64.1 ± 3.9
19	H		H	H	H	H	1.40	91.4 ± 3.4	93.3 ± 1.2	106 ± 2
20	H		H	H	CH3	H	1.71	28.5 ± 0.6	89.5 ± 2.8	67.1 ± 1.9

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Compound	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	LogP	% Activity @ 10μM Compound		
								ALDH1A1	ALDH2	ALDH3A1
21	H		H	H	CH3	H	2.46	80.2 ± 5.1	94.8 ± 3.7	36.4 ± 0.8
22	H		H	H	CH3	H	1.63	97.5 ± 0.9	99.3 ± 2.1	93.9 ± 5.6
23	H	CH3		CH3	CH3	CH3	3.92	71.5 ± 2.1	46.4 ± 1.7	98.1 ± 1.3

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								% Activity @ 10μM Compound		
Compound	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	LogP	ALDH1A1	ALDH2	ALDH3A1
24			H	H	H	H	1.77	61.0 ± 0.4	95.2 ± 0.1	28.3 ± 0.9
25	CH3			H	CH3	CH3	2.10	67.4 ± 1.3	80.2 ± 3.0	79.2 ± 2.1
26	H			H	CH3	H	2.11	65.2 ± 1.8	25.5 ± 4.2	53.6 ± 1.6
27	H		H	H	CH3	H	3.01	35.5 ± 0.8	94.6 ± 2.6	9.46 ± 0.87

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Compound	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	LogP	% Activity @ 10μM Compound		
								ALDH1A1	ALDH2	ALDH3A1
28	H		H	H	CH3	H	3.94	37.3 ± 0.4	93.3 ± 1.4	23.7 ± 1.0
29	H		H	H	CH3	H	3.19	29.0 ± 1.4	97.8 ± 0.9	67.1 ± 6.1
30	H		H	H	CH3	H	1.22	35.7 ± 0.7	41.3 ± 2.5	20.4 ± 2.1
31	H		H	H	CH3	H	2.85	49.6 ± 3.0	95.0 ± 0.2	95.5 ± 2.4
32	H		H	H	CH3	H	3.63	14.3 ± 2.1	71.7 ± 1.1	109 ± 2

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								% Activity @ 10μM Compound		
Compound	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	LogP	ALDH1A1	ALDH2	ALDH3A1
33	H		H	H			2.64	58.7 ± 1.2	64.4 ± 1.2	103 ± 1
34	H		H	H	CH3	benzyl	3.44	24.6 ± 3.8	99.7 ± 1.2	86.9 ± 4.3
35	H	OH	H	H	CH3		1.82	96.6 ± 4.0	101 ± 1	105 ± 3
36	H	H	Br	H	H		2.10	96.0 ± 4.0	48.2 ± 2.0	91.7 ± 2.8

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Compound	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	LogP	% Activity @ 10μM Compound		
								ALDH1A1	ALDH2	ALDH3A1
37	H	CH3		H	CH3	H	2.05	59.8 ± 3.1	96.3 ± 1.9	105 ± 3

Table 5

IC₅₀ values for four analogs with ALDH1A1, ALDH2, and ALDH3A1. Values are the mean/SEM of three independent experiments (n=3).

Compound	Structure	IC ₅₀ (μM)		
		ALDH1A1	ALDH2	ALDH3A1
9		NI	0.15 ± 0.01 [#]	NI
23		NI	0.15 ± 0.01 [#]	NI
26		NI	0.47 ± 0.02	5.4 ± 1.0 [#]

[#] 50–60% max inhibition

NI= No inhibition

Table 6

EC₅₀ values were calculated for seven analogs with the ALDH1A/2 family of isoenzymes in addition to ALDH3A1. AC₅₀ curves had a maximum activity of ~200% control. Values are the mean/SEM of three independent experiments (n=3).

Compound	Structure	IC ₅₀ (μM)					
		ALDH2	ALDH1B1	ALDH1A1	ALDH1A2	ALDH1A3	ALDH3A1
Daidzin		3.5 ± 0.1	5.1 ± 0.5	>200	4.5 ± 0.6	>200	NI
7		0.36 ± 0.03	0.086 ± 0.002	NI	0.069 ± 0.009	AC ₅₀ 0.87 ± 0.09	NI
10		0.067 ± 0.006	0.095 ± 0.015	0.13 ± 0.01 [#]	0.065 ± 0.004	NI	NI
11		0.067 ± 0.003	0.16 ± 0.01	0.17 ± 0.02 [#]	0.13 ± 0.01	0.17 ± 0.02 [#]	NI
15		2.0 ± 0.2	2.6 ± 0.3	0.13 ± 0.01	1.6 ± 0.1	14 ± 1	NI

Compound	Structure	IC ₅₀ (μM)					
		ALDH2	ALDH1B1	ALDH1A1	ALDH1A2	ALDH1A3	ALDH3A1
32		NI	NI	0.76 ± 0.07	>10	NI	NI
34		NI	13 ± 1	2.8 ± 0.1	11 ± 1	10 ± 1	NI
36		4.6 ± 0.6	NI	NI	NI	AC ₅₀ 35 ± 3	NI

50–60% max inhibition

NI= No inhibition