

1 **Biased allosteric modulation at the CaSR engendered by structurally diverse**  
2 **calcimimetics**

3 Running title: *Biasing CaSR signalling with calcimimetics*

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## 23 **Summary**

### 24 *Background and purpose*

25 The clinical use of cinacalcet in hyperparathyroidism is complicated by its tendency  
26 to induce hypocalcaemia, arising, at least in part, via activation of CaSRs in the  
27 thyroid and stimulation of calcitonin release. CaSR allosteric modulators that  
28 selectively bias signalling of the receptor towards pathways that mediate desired  
29 effects (e.g. PTH suppression) at the exclusion of those that mediate undesirable  
30 effects (e.g. elevated serum calcitonin), may offer superior therapies.

### 31 *Experimental approach*

32 We characterised the ligand-biased profile of novel calcimimetics in HEK293 cells  
33 stably expressing the human CaSR and monitoring effects on  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation,  $\text{IP}_1$   
34 accumulation, pERK1/2 and receptor expression.

### 35 *Key results*

36 Phenylalkylamine calcimimetics were biased towards allosteric modulation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$   
37 mobilisation and  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation. *S,R*-calcimimetic B was biased only towards  $\text{IP}_1$   
38 accumulation. *R,R*-calcimimetic B and AC-265347 were biased towards  $\text{IP}_1$   
39 accumulation and pERK1/2. Nor-calcimimetic B was unbiased. In contrast to  
40 phenylalkylamines and calcimimetic B analogues, AC-265347 did not promote  
41 trafficking of a loss-of-expression naturally occurring CaSR mutation ( $\text{G}^{670}\text{E}$ ).

### 42 *Conclusions and implications*

43 The ability of *R,R*-calcimimetic B and AC-265347 to bias signalling towards  
44 pERK1/2 and  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation may explain their ability to suppress PTH levels *in*  
45 *vivo* at concentrations that have no effect on serum calcitonin levels. The  
46 demonstration that AC-265347 promotes CaSR signalling but not trafficking reveals a

novel profile of ligand-biased modulation at the CaSR. The identification of allosteric modulators that bias CaSR signalling towards distinct intracellular pathways provides an opportunity to develop desirable biased signalling profiles *in vivo* for mediating selective physiological responses.

#### Abbreviations:

$\text{Ca}^{2+}_{\text{o}}$ , extracellular calcium

$\text{Ca}^{2+}_{\text{i}}$ , intracellular calcium

CaSR, calcium sensing receptor

FHH, familial hypocalciuric hypercalcaemia

$\text{Mg}^{2+}_{\text{o}}$ , extracellular magnesium

NSHPT, neonatal severe hyperparathyroidism

pERK1/2, ERK1/2 phosphorylation

PTH, parathyroid hormone

65

## 66 **Introduction**

67 The human calcium sensing receptor (CaSR) is a family C G protein-coupled receptor  
68 (GPCR) primarily responsible for the regulation of extracellular calcium ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$ )  
69 concentrations in the body. When  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  rises, activation of the CaSR expressed in the  
70 parathyroid gland suppresses the secretion of parathyroid hormone (PTH). The drop  
71 in circulating PTH levels results in reduced renal  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  reabsorption and reduced bone  
72 resorption (reviewed in Brown, 2013). Additionally, CaSR activation in the kidney  
73 by elevated serum  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  inhibits  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  reabsorption, leading to enhanced renal  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$   
74 excretion independently of changes in PTH (Kantham *et al.*, 2009; Loupy *et al.*,  
75 2012). Elevated serum  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  also decreases bone resorption via CaSRs expressed on  
76 osteoblasts and osteoclasts (see Marie, 2010 for a review) and by stimulation of  
77 calcitonin secretion via CaSRs expressed on thyroid C cells (Freichel *et al.*, 1996).

78

79 The CaSR also has non-calciostatic roles. Thus, it mediates the modulation of blood  
80 pressure (see Smajilovic *et al.*, 2011 for a review) and protection against vascular  
81 calcification (Alam *et al.*, 2009), stimulation of gastrointestinal hormone secretion  
82 (Feng *et al.*, 2010; Mace *et al.*, 2012), modulation of electrolyte and water transport in  
83 the colon and kidney (reviewed in Macleod, 2013) and modulation of the proliferation  
84 and differentiation of numerous cell types, including colonic epithelial cells,  
85 keratinocytes, adipocytes and neurones.

86

87 Given its ubiquitous expression throughout the body and functionally diverse roles,  
88 drugs that target the CaSR may have therapeutic application in various clinical  
89 contexts. However, these drugs may also produce adverse effects arising from actions

90 in multiple tissues expressing the CaSR. Indeed, patients treated with the  
91 calcimimetic, cinacalcet (( $\alpha R$ )-(-)- $\alpha$ -methyl-*N*-[3-[3-[trifluoromethylphenyl]propyl]-  
92 1-naphthalenemethanamine hydrochloride), a positive allosteric CaSR modulator  
93 indicated for the treatment of secondary and some forms of primary  
94 hyperparathyroidism, have a tendency to develop adverse effects that restrict its use to  
95 only severely affected patients. The most problematic adverse effect is  
96 hypocalcaemia (Chonchol *et al.*, 2009), likely resulting from both suppressed renal  
97 calcium reabsorption induced by CaSR activation in the kidney, and calcitonin-  
98 mediated inhibition of bone resorption via CaSR activation in the thyroid C-cells  
99 (Arenas *et al.*, 2013). Thus, novel calcimimetics that selectively stimulate CaSR-  
100 mediated signalling in the parathyroid gland without affecting CaSRs in other tissues  
101 may have an improved side effect profile and enable treatment of less severe grades of  
102 hyperparathyroidism.

103  
104 One approach to directing desired physiological outcomes of GPCR activation is to  
105 selectively target those intracellular signalling pathways that couple to the anticipated  
106 effect, while avoiding those that couple to unwanted consequences. Such selectivity  
107 can be achieved with a drug that binds to and favours a receptor conformation that  
108 preferentially couples to a subset of desired intracellular signalling pathways  
109 (Kenakin, 2011). This concept is referred to as ligand-biased signalling, ligand-  
110 directed trafficking of receptor stimulus, functional selectivity or biased agonism  
111 (Kenakin & Christopoulos, 2013).

112  
113 The CaSR is subject to ligand-biased signalling on a number of levels (Leach *et al.*,  
114 2014). First, it binds multiple endogenous ligands, including  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ , L-amino

115 acids, polyamines and the glutamyl peptide,  $\gamma$ -glutathione.  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$ , spermine and L-  
116 phenylalanine have been demonstrated to preferentially activate distinct signalling  
117 pathways (Rey *et al.*, 2010; Thomsen *et al.*, 2012a), suggesting that each ligand has  
118 the propensity to stabilise a subset of preferred receptor states and subsequently  
119 stimulate the repertoire of intracellular signalling proteins that couple to these states.  
120 Second, positive allosteric modulators of the CaSR, such as cinacalcet, and negative  
121 CaSR modulators (calcilytics), such as NPS-2143 (2-chloro-6-[(2*R*)-3-[[1,1-dimethyl-  
122 2-(2-naphthalenyl)ethyl]amino-2-hydroxypropoxy]benzonitrile hydrochloride),  
123 engender biased allosteric modulation at the CaSR, such that they exhibit greater  
124 modulation of some pathways over others (Davey *et al.*, 2012; Leach *et al.*, 2013).  
125 Third, the “natural bias” of the CaSR can be altered in pathophysiological states. This  
126 has been demonstrated by naturally occurring mutations in the CaSR protein that alter  
127 its usual signalling bias (Leach *et al.*, 2012), a switch in CaSR signalling from  $G_{i/o}$  to  
128  $G_s$  in human breast cancer cells (Mamillapalli *et al.*, 2008), and an autoantibody  
129 directed against the CaSR in a patient with acquired hypocalciuric hypercalcemia,  
130 which potentiated inositol phosphate (IP) accumulation, yet inhibited ERK1/2  
131 phosphorylation (pERK1/2) (Makita *et al.*, 2007). Finally, the complement of  
132 intracellular signalling proteins to which the CaSR couples differs between cell types,  
133 thus, the capacity of the CaSR to couple to different signalling pathways depends  
134 upon its tissue-specific expression.

135

136 Proof-of-concept that tissue-specific effects can be achieved by targeting the CaSR  
137 with drugs was evident from early experiments with the prototypical calcimimetic,  
138 NPS-R568. During the development of the phenylalkylamine calcimimetics (e.g.  
139 NPS-R568 and cinacalcet), it was recognised that the natural hypocalcaemic effects of

140 these drugs may be complicated by stimulation of calcitonin release via activation of  
141 CaSRs in the thyroid. Thus, the need to suppress PTH secretion with minimal effects  
142 on calcitonin secretion was acknowledged (Fox *et al.*, 1999a; Fox *et al.*, 1999b), but  
143 remains sub optimally addressed.

144

145 Third generation agents appear to have enhanced tissue-selective effects. This is  
146 evident from studies with the novel dibenzylamine calcimimetic, *R,R*-calcimimetic B  
147 (*R*-1-(6-methoxy-4'-(trifluoromethyl)-3-biphenyl)-*N*-(*R*)-1-phenylethyl)ethanamine)  
148 and the structurally distinct calcimimetic, AC-265347 (1-benzothiazol-2-yl-1-(2,4-  
149 dimethyl-phenyl)-ethanol). Both calcimimetics inhibit PTH secretion at  
150 concentrations that do not induce calcitonin release in rats (Henley *et al.*, 2011; Ma *et*  
151 *al.*, 2011), demonstrating a means for normalising serum PTH and calcium levels  
152 without causing uncontrolled hypocalcaemia. How these compounds achieve this  
153 tissue specificity is unknown, but we hypothesise that it may be a result of ligand-  
154 biased allosteric modulation at the CaSR. This is based on the fact that distinct  
155 intracellular signalling pathways activated by the CaSR are responsible for its  
156 physiological effects, thus drugs may selectively promote suppression of PTH release  
157 by preferentially activating the pathways that couple to that response. For instance,  
158 CaSR suppression of PTH release is driven by phospholipase C (PLC)-mediated IP<sub>3</sub>  
159 production (Brown *et al.*, 1987; Kifor *et al.*, 1997) and pERK1/2 (Corbetta *et al.*,  
160 2002) but there is some evidence that CaSR-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub> release is not required for  
161 inhibition of PTH from bovine parathyroid cells (Russell *et al.*, 1999). Stimulation of  
162 both PLC and Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub> mobilisation have been linked to the release of calcitonin (Liu *et*  
163 *al.*, 2003; McGehee *et al.*, 1997; Thomsen *et al.*, 2012b) but in rat 6-23 medullary  
164 thyroid carcinoma cells, inhibition of pERK1/2 has no effect on Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub>-mediated

165 stimulation of calcitonin release (Thomsen *et al.*, 2012b). Thus, drugs that bias CaSR  
166 signalling towards pERK1/2 may achieve tissue-selective suppression of PTH  
167 secretion in the absence of calcitonin release.

168  
169 To probe the ligand-biased signalling profile(s) required to achieve drug tissue  
170 selectivity, pathways that mediate distinct physiological receptor functions should  
171 ideally be dissected in systems such as primary or immortalised cells that maintain  
172 their physiological function. However, for the CaSR, this has been hampered by a  
173 lack of relevant cell lines and methods to study, for instance, parathyroid cell  
174 function. We have developed techniques to measure signalling in, and PTH release  
175 from, primary human parathyroid cells (Avlani *et al.*, 2013; Broadhead *et al.*, 2011;  
176 Mun *et al.*, 2009) but performing high throughput experiments in these cells is at  
177 present not possible. Thus, most studies of this nature must rely on recombinant cell  
178 systems to investigate CaSR signalling in response to agonists and drugs.  
179 Nonetheless, recombinant systems can still be used to identify bias and validate  
180 whether compounds with desirable *in vivo* properties have unique pharmacology *in*  
181 *vitro*, and vice versa.

182  
183 The current study thus primarily aimed to use a recombinant cell system to determine  
184 the potential for structurally distinct calcimimetics to engender ligand-biased  
185 signalling and subsequently promote coupling of the CaSR to three key signalling  
186 pathways that could mediate different physiological effects; IP<sub>1</sub> accumulation (a stable  
187 metabolite of IP<sub>3</sub>), Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub> mobilisation and pERK1/2. Furthermore, we have  
188 previously shown that CaSR modulators can be biased in their ability to modulate  
189 signalling versus trafficking at the CaSR (Leach *et al.*, 2013). Therefore, in addition



to acute signalling at the CaSR, we determined the ability of the calcimimetics to act as pharmacochaperones of a naturally occurring mutant CaSR, G<sup>670</sup>E. Differential effects on trafficking versus signalling may have important implications for the treatment of calcium handling disorders caused by mutations in the CaSR gene that result in a diverse range of molecular phenotypes.

## Materials and Methods

### *Synthesis of calcimimetics*

Synthesis of *R,R*-calcimimetic B (compound **3b** – appendix S1), its diastereoisomer *S,R*-calcimimetic B (compound **3a** – appendix S1) and nor-calcimimetic B (compound **3c** – appendix S1) was achieved using a two-step procedure derived from described literature (Harrington *et al.*, 2010). Full synthetic details and compound characterisation are given in Appendix S1. NPS-R568 and cinacalcet were prepared as described previously (Davey *et al.*, 2012). Calindol was purchased from Tocris Biosciences, whereas AC-265347 was from Sigma-Aldrich.

### *Cell culture*

Generation of FlpIn HEK293 TRex cells (Invitrogen) stably expressing the human CaSR under the control of tetracycline has been described previously (Davey *et al.*, 2012; Leach *et al.*, 2012). Cells were maintained in DMEM with 10% FBS, 200 µg ml<sup>-1</sup> hygromycin B and 5 µg ml<sup>-1</sup> blasticidin.

### *Optimisation of assay conditions*

214 The effect of ambient buffer  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  on allosteric modulation at the CaSR has  
215 previously been published by us (Davey *et al.*, 2012). Because  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  is both present  
216 in the buffer and added as the agonist, assay buffer  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  was optimised to achieve the  
217 best possible assay signal while avoiding complications that arise from the presence  
218 of physiological  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  concentrations (e.g. signalling desensitisation, potentiation of  
219 ambient  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  signalling). In this same cell system,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}_o$  is nearly 3 fold less potent  
220 than  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  as a CaSR agonist (data not shown). Thus, the presence of 1.18mM  
221 ambient  $\text{Mg}^{2+}_o$  has minimal effect on CaSR signalling. Therefore, all assays were  
222 performed under low  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  but physiologically relevant  $\text{Mg}^{2+}_o$  conditions. For  
223 concentration-response curves to  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$ , data are plotted and analysed without the  
224 ambient  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  concentration (i.e. only the added  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  is considered).

225

#### 226 $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$ mobilisation assays

227 Cells were seeded in a clear 96-well plate coated with poly-D-lysine (50  $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ ) at  
228 80,000 cells per well and incubated overnight in the presence of 100 ng ml<sup>-1</sup>  
229 tetracycline. The following day, cells were washed with 200  $\mu\text{l}$  assay buffer (150 mM  
230 NaCl, 2.6 mM KCl, 1.18 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ , 10 mM D-Glucose, 10 mM HEPES, 0.1 mM  
231  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$ , 0.5 % BSA and 4 mM probenecid at pH 7.4) and loaded with 100  $\mu\text{l}$  Fluo-4  
232 AM (1  $\mu\text{M}$ ) for 1 h at 37 °C.

233

234 Cells were washed again with 200  $\mu\text{l}$  assay buffer prior to the addition of fresh assay  
235 buffer. In functional interaction studies between  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  and the calcimimetics, the  
236 modulators were coadded with  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  (in all assays measuring agonist-stimulated  
237 receptor signalling events, each well was treated with a single agonist and/or  
238 modulator concentration). The release of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  was measured at 37°C using a

Flexstation<sup>®</sup> 1 or 3 (Molecular Devices; Sunnyvale, California). Fluorescence was detected for 60 s at 485 nm excitation and 525 nm emission but the peak  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation response (approximately 12 seconds after agonist addition) was used for the subsequent determination of the agonist response. We have previously shown that when allosterism at the CaSR is quantified in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation assays using the potency of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  obtained by plotting the area under the 60 second  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation trace, no significant difference in signalling or biased modulation is observed in comparison to parameters derived using the peak  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation response (Leach et al., 2013). Relative peak fluorescence units were normalised to the fluorescence stimulated by ionomycin to account for differences in cell number and loading efficiency, and further normalised to the maximum response observed for the WT CaSR in the absence of modulator.

#### *Extracellular regulated kinase 1/2 (ERK1/2) phosphorylation assays*

Cells were seeded at 80,000 cells per well into a poly-D-lysine coated (50  $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ ) transparent 96-well plate and grown overnight with 100 ng  $\text{ml}^{-1}$  tetracycline. The following day, cells were washed twice with PBS and serum-free DMEM containing 16 mM HEPES and 0.1 mM  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  was added to wells. Vehicle or agonist ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$ ) with or without modulator were coadded to wells and incubated for 2.5 minutes (the time determined in prior assays for pERK1/2 to peak) at 37°C. All data were normalised to the response stimulated by 10% FBS and then further normalised to the maximum response stimulated by  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  in the absence of modulator. pERK1/2 was determined using the SureFire pERK1/2 assay kit (kindly donated by Dr Michael Crouch, TGR biosciences, Adelaide) employing AlphaScreen technology

(PerkinElmer). All other details are as described previously (Leach *et al.*, 2013; Leach *et al.*, 2012).

#### *IPone accumulation assays*

Following overnight induction of receptor expression with 100 ng ml<sup>-1</sup> tetracycline in a T175cm<sup>2</sup> flask (where appropriate), cells were harvested and resuspended in assay buffer (150 mM NaCl, 2.6 mM KCl, 1.18 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 10 mM D-Glucose, 10 mM HEPES, 0.1 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub>, 50 mM LiCl, pH 7.4) at 1.43 x 10<sup>6</sup> cells ml<sup>-1</sup>. 7 µl agonist with or without modulator were added to wells of a 384 well white proxiplate (PerkinElmer) and 7 µl cells (1x10<sup>4</sup> cells) were added to these wells, centrifuged for 1 minute at 350 x g and incubated at 37°C for 45 minutes. The IP-One Tb™ assay kit (CisBio, France) was used to detect myo-inositol 1 phosphate (IP<sub>1</sub>), based on fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) between d2-conjugated IP<sub>1</sub> and Lumi4™-Tb cryptate conjugated anti-IP<sub>1</sub> antibody. These reagents were diluted 1:30 with lysis buffer and 3 µl of each was added to wells following agonist stimulation. Lysates were incubated for 1 hour and FRET was detected using an Envision plate reader (PerkinElmer) where emission of Lumi4™-Tb cryptate was detected at 620 nm and emission of d2-conjugated IP<sub>1</sub> at 665 nm. Results were calculated from the 665 nm / 620 nm ratio. Data were normalised to the maximum response stimulated by Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub> in the absence of modulator.

#### *Flow cytometry analysis for receptor expression*

FlpIn HEK293 TRex cells stably expressing the human wild-type (WT) or G<sup>670</sup>E mutant CaSR were seeded in a 96-well plate at a density of 80,000 cells per well in DMEM containing 100 ng ml<sup>-1</sup> tetracycline and 0.3 µM or 3 µM allosteric modulator

and incubated overnight at 37°C. The next day, cells were harvested with PBS supplemented with 0.1 % BSA, 2 mM EDTA and 0.05% NaN<sub>3</sub> (washing buffer) and transferred to wells of a 96 well v-bottom plate, centrifuged for 3 min at 350 x g, 4°C and resuspended in 100 µl blocking buffer (PBS, 5% BSA, 2 mM EDTA and 0.05% NaN<sub>3</sub>). Cells were incubated for 30 min in blocking buffer and subsequently incubated for 1 h with an AF647-conjugated 9E10 antibody (made in-house as described below), diluted in blocking buffer at 1 µg ml<sup>-1</sup>. Cells were subsequently washed with washing buffer and resuspended in washing buffer with Sytox blue stain (Molecular probes). The fluorescence signal was quantified using a FACS Canto (Becton Dickinson).

#### *Production of anti-cMyc:AF647 (9E10:AF647)*

Supernatant from the 9E10 hybridoma (ATCC Number: CRL-1729) was harvested and antibody purified over a HiTrap protein G sepharose column (GE Lifesciences). The purified antibody was coupled to AF647 Succinimidyl Ester (Life technologies) using standard protocols. Unincorporated fluor was removed using a 10kDa MWCO centrifugal concentrator (Merck Millipore). Degree of labeling was determined to be 3.6. The antibody conjugate was validated by titration in flow cytometry. A full description of antibody production, conjugation and validation can be found in the supplementary methods and results.

#### *Data analysis*

All nonlinear regression analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism<sup>®</sup> 6 (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA). Parametric measures of potency, affinity and cooperativity were estimated as logarithms (Christopoulos, 1998). Data of the

functional CaSR concentration response curves obtained were fitted as logarithms to the following four-parameter concentration response curve equation (Equation 1)

$$Y = \text{Bottom} + \frac{(\text{Top} - \text{Bottom}) \cdot (A^{nH})}{A^{nH} + EC_{50}^{nH}} \quad (1)$$

where Y is the response, Bottom and Top represent the bottom and top asymptotes of the curve, respectively, A denotes the agonist concentration (excluding ambient  $Ca^{2+}_o$  in the buffer), nH (Hill slope) describes the steepness of the curve,  $EC_{50}$  is the concentration of agonist that gives the mid-point response between Bottom and Top.

For functional interaction experiments between  $Ca^{2+}_o$  and the allosteric modulators,  $pEC_{50}$  values obtained for each curve in the absence and presence of modulator were fitted to an allosteric ternary complex model (Equation 2)

$$pEC_{50} = \text{Log} \left[ 10^{\text{Log} \alpha \beta} \times [B] + 10^{-pK_B} \right] - \text{Log} d \quad (2)$$

where  $pEC_{50}$  is the negative logarithm of the agonist  $EC_{50}$  in the presence of allosteric modulator,  $pK_B$  is the negative logarithm of the “functional” dissociation constant of the allosteric modulator determined in signalling assays,  $\alpha \beta$  is the overall cooperativity between the allosteric modulator and orthosteric agonist, and d is the estimate of the  $EC_{50}$  in the absence of modulator. An extra sum of squares F test was used to determine whether data obtained in  $IP_1$  accumulation,  $Ca^{2+}_i$  mobilisation and pERK1/2 assays were fitted best when the allosteric modulator functional  $pK_B$  values were shared across the three different pathways. In a second analysis that constrained the functional  $pK_B$  across datasets (Supplemental Table 1, Supplemental Figure 9), an extra sum of squares F test was used to determine whether the cooperativities between the three pathways differed.

For the “cooperativity bias plot”, the pEC<sub>50</sub> of Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub> in the absence and presence of modulator in IP<sub>1</sub> accumulation, Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub> mobilisation and pERK1/2 assays was first fitted to equation 2 and 150 XY coordinates of points that defined the curve that best fit equation 2 were determined. Next, the XY coordinates for the different pathways were plotted against one another, with IP<sub>1</sub> accumulation or Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub> mobilisation data on the y-axis against pERK1/2 data on the x-axis. XY coordinates corresponding to the effects of 0, 0.003, 0.01, 0.03, 0.1, 0.3, 1, 3 and 10 µM modulator are represented by symbols on the plots. If the allosteric modulator shows equal cooperativity in the assays, the data points will be coincident and the cooperativity bias plots will overlap with the line of identity. If, however, the modulator exerts greater cooperativity in one of the pathways, the points will fall either side of this line towards the preferred pathway.

For agonist concentration response curves in the absence of Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub> and Mg<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub>, data were fitted as logarithms to an operational model of agonism (Equation 3)

$$E = \frac{E_m \cdot \tau_B \cdot [B]^n}{K_B + [B]^n \cdot (\tau_B + 1)} \quad (3)$$

where E is the effect (response) stimulated by the allosteric agonist, E<sub>m</sub> is the maximum response of the system stimulated by the full agonist (Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub>), τ<sub>B</sub> is an operational measure of allosteric agonist efficacy, defined as the inverse of the fraction of receptors that must be occupied by agonist to obtain the half-maximal response, [B] is the allosteric agonist concentration and n is the transducer slope.

## Results

### *Rationale for choice of ligands and signalling pathways*

The structures of the calcimimetics used in this study are shown in Figure 1. The prototypical phenylalkylamine calcimimetics, cinacalcet and NPS-R568 (3-(2-chlorophenyl)-*N*-((1*R*)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)ethyl)-1-propanamine) have been well characterised *in vitro* and *in vivo* (Nemeth *et al.*, 2004; Nemeth *et al.*, 1998). Calindol ((*R*)-2-[*N*-(1-(1-naphthyl)ethyl)aminomethyl]indole) was the most potent calcimimetic identified at the Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles (ICSN, France) from a series of diamines based around the structure of NPS-R568 (Kessler *et al.*, 2004). *R,R*-calcimimetic B was the most potent CaSR ligand identified by Amgen in a dibenzylamine series and exhibited ideal *in vivo* pharmacodynamics. In an IP accumulation assay, *R,R*-calcimimetic B was estimated to have greater affinity than NPS-R568 (Harrington *et al.*, 2010; Henley *et al.*, 2011). The published synthesis of *R,R*-calcimimetic B employed a route yielding a diastereomeric ratio (d.r.) of 14:1 of *R,R*-calcimimetic B and the corresponding *S,R*-diastereoisomer (*S*-1-(6-methoxy-4'-(trifluoromethyl)-3-biphenyl)-*N*-(*R*)-1-phenylethyl)ethanamine) respectively, which were then separated via HPLC (Harrington *et al.*, 2010). *S,R*-calcimimetic B was 100-fold less potent than *R,R*-calcimimetic B (Harrington *et al.*, 2010), comparable to the stereoselectivity of the *R*- and *S*-isomers of NPS- 568 and cinacalcet (Hammerland *et al.*, 1998; Nemeth *et al.*, 2004). Given the remarkable difference in potency of the individual diastereoisomers, we sought to isolate and further characterise each one independently. Adapting the synthesis of Harrington *et al.*, we were able to generate a mixture of diastereoisomers with a d.r. of 4:1. These were successfully isolated by either chiral HPLC or preparative layer chromatography (PLC) (see Appendix S1 for full synthetic methods). Structurally, the contrasting pharmacological behaviour of each diastereoisomer can be attributed to the spatial orientation of the methyl group adjacent to the biphenyl and amino moieties. With this in mind, it was of interest to



386 evaluate the pharmacological activity of the 'nor' calcimimetic B derivative (*R-N*-((6-  
387 methoxy-4'-(trifluoromethyl)-3-biphenyl)methyl)-1-phenylethanamine), with a  
388 methylene group replacing the methyl of interest. This was synthesised in a similar  
389 fashion to the *R,R*- and *S,R*-calcimimetic B derivatives. AC-265347 was identified in  
390 a screen by ACADIA Pharmaceuticals as a potent calcimimetic. It is structurally  
391 distinct from the phenylalkylamine calcimimetics and calcimimetic B, and was found  
392 to have improved potency over cinacalcet in an IP accumulation assay (Ma *et al.*,  
393 2011).

394  
395 We investigated the effects of the calcimimetics in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation, IP  
396 accumulation and pERK1/2 assays because each of these pathways has been  
397 undeniably linked to CaSR regulation of PTH release from parathyroid chief cells  
398 and/or calcitonin release from thyroid C cells, as outlined in the introduction.  
399 Although additional pathways are also involved in the regulation of PTH and  
400 calcitonin release, we selected those for which assays can be reliably performed in a  
401 high throughput manner to enable robust quantification of allosteric modulation and  
402 biased signalling.

#### 403 404 *Calcimimetics are biased modulators of CaSR signalling*

405 To evaluate the extent to which calcimimetics engender ligand-biased modulation at  
406 the CaSR, we first characterised their ability to potentiate the endogenous agonist,  
407  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$ , in  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation and pERK1/2 assays. These  
408 experiments generated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  concentration-response curves in the absence and  
409 presence of the allosteric modulators.

411 As expected, cinacalcet, NPS-R568, calindol, AC-265347, *R,R*-calcimimetic B, *S,R*-  
412 calcimimetic B and nor-calcimimetic B, potentiated agonist-mediated activation of the  
413 CaSR in each assay, demonstrated by a leftward shift in the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  concentration-  
414 response curve, and a consequent increase in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  potency. In some instances, the  
415 calcimimetics elicited a concomitant increase in the baseline response due to  
416 potentiation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}_o$  in the buffer (Davey *et al.*, 2012) and/or agonist  
417 activity. No changes in the maximum response elicited by  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  were observed in the  
418 presence of the calcimimetics. Experimental data from  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation assays for a  
419 representative calcimimetic from each class of compound are shown in Figure 2.  
420 Data for all calcimimetics across each pathway are shown in Appendix S3,  
421 Supplemental Figures 2-8.

422

423 We have previously demonstrated that both calcimimetics and calcilytics can exhibit  
424 biased allosteric modulation via two (albeit related) mechanisms. The first arises  
425 from the ability of modulators to bind with distinct affinities to CaSR conformations  
426 that mediate different signalling pathways (Davey *et al.*, 2012). Divergent affinities  
427 indicate that the modulators stabilise distinct receptor states, a requirement of ligand-  
428 biased signalling. The second arises from cooperativities between a modulator and  
429 the orthosteric agonist that differ at a given receptor state (Davey *et al.*, 2012; Leach  
430 *et al.*, 2013). Thus, an allosteric ternary complex model (equation 2) was used to  
431 quantify the parameters that governed the activity of the calcimimetics in each assay  
432 to estimate the functional affinity (functional  $\text{pK}_B$ ) of the modulators and their overall  
433 cooperativity ( $\alpha \beta$ ) with  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  (Table 1). An F-test was used to determine whether  
434 the functional affinity and/or cooperativity of each calcimimetic differed across  
435 signalling assays. However, because functional affinity and cooperativity parameters

are correlated in the nonlinear regression algorithm, it is sometimes difficult to separate out the two effects. Thus, results of nonlinear regression analyses that assumed the binding affinity to be the same or not the same across pathways are presented in Appendices 2 and 3 of the Supplemental data.

These analyses established a number of key findings. First, the phenylalkylamine calcimimetics, NPS-R568 and calindol, exhibited ligand-biased modulation that favoured activation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation and  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation. This was manifested as a lower functional affinity for the receptor state that coupled to pERK1/2 (Table 2, Figure 3A). Cinacalcet also demonstrated a tendency to modulate pERK1/2 less favourably than the other two pathways (Table 2, Figure 3A and B), but significance for this effect was only reached if its functional affinity was assumed to be the same across pathways (Supplemental Table 1, Supplemental Figure 9) and was thus indicative of weaker cooperativity in pERK1/2 assays. Second, *S,R*-calcimimetic B was biased towards modulation of  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation, but showed no preference between  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation or pERK1/2. Similar to cinacalcet, significance was only reached when its functional affinity was assumed to be the same across pathways (Supplemental Table 1, Supplemental Figure 9). Third, nor-calcimimetic B was relatively unbiased in its ability to modulate the three pathways, and its estimated functional affinities and cooperativities were comparable in all three assays. Finally, *R,R*-calcimimetic B and AC-265347 were biased towards modulation of pERK1/2 and  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation, either in terms of functional affinity (Figure 3A) or cooperativity (Figure 3B and Supplemental Figure 9). The bias arising from AC-265347 can be visualised in Figures 4A-C where the different effects of 0.1  $\mu\text{M}$  AC-265347 on  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  signalling in the three different assays are apparent. The bias engendered by multiple

concentrations of AC-265347 can be visualised in the modulator “cooperativity bias plot” as shown in Figure 4D. This illustrates the impact of equivalent AC-265347 concentrations on  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  potency in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation or  $\text{IP}_1$  assays on the y-axis, and pERK1/2 assays on the x-axis. If AC-265347 modulated both pathways equally, the data would converge on the line of identity. However, because it modulates one pathway to a greater degree than the other, the data points are distributed away from the line of identity towards the preferred pathway (i.e. towards  $\text{IP}_1$  over pERK1/2 and towards pERK1/2 over  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$ ).

#### *Third generation calcimimetics are agonists at the CaSR*

In  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation assays, the calcimimetics stimulated receptor activity in the presence of vehicle (buffer) alone. AC-265347, *R,R*-calcimimetic B and nor-calcimimetic B also did so in pERK1/2 assays. We previously simulated the effects of cinacalcet on signalling in the presence of an ambient concentration of agonist to reconstruct the experimental conditions under which our  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation and pERK1/2 assays are undertaken (Davey *et al.*, 2012). These simulations suggested that positive modulation of ambient agonists in the buffer ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}_o$ ) was expected. Accordingly, when we omitted ambient  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}_o$  from the assay buffer,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation and  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation stimulated by cinacalcet, NPS-R568 and calindol on their own was largely inhibited (Figure 5), indicating that the observed “baseline effect” was primarily due to potentiation of ambient agonist activity. In contrast, AC-265347 and the calcimimetic B analogues retained activity in the absence of ambient  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}_o$  (Figure 5). The effects of omitting only  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  from the buffer can be observed in Supplemental Figure 10.

486

487 We fitted the agonist activity of the calcimimetics (in the absence of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}_o$ )  
488 to the standard operational model of agonism (Equation 3) (Black & Leff, 1983) to  
489 gain a second estimate of the functional affinity of the modulators at the CaSR. These  
490 estimates were similar to the affinities estimated for the modulators using the  
491 allosteric ternary complex model (Table 2). Of note is the comparable affinity of AC-  
492 265347 between  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation and  $\text{IP}_1$  assays. This is in contrast to its affinity in  
493 “potentiation assays”, which were strongly suggestive of a higher affinity for the  
494 receptor state that coupled to  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation (Table 1, Figure 3A, Supplemental  
495 Figure 8). Thus, the receptor state that mediates direct calcimimetic activation of the  
496 CaSR may be distinct from the state that modulates  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  activity at the receptor.

497

498 Our analysis additionally derived an operational measure of agonism, defined as  $\tau_B$ ,  
499 which reflects both the degree to which the agonist can activate the receptor, and the  
500 stimulus-response coupling between the receptor and the intracellular signalling  
501 pathway. Interestingly, although  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  is more potent in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation than  $\text{IP}_1$   
502 assays, there was no significant difference in the activity of the modulators in the two  
503 assays ( $p > 0.1$  unpaired t-test), indicating that they do not follow the same natural  
504 biased profile as the endogenous agonist.

505

506 *Calcimimetics differentially modulate trafficking of a naturally occurring loss-of-*  
507 *expression mutant*

508 We have previously shown that both calcimimetics and calcilytics are also biased in  
509 their abilities to modulate CaSR trafficking (Leach *et al.*, 2013). This may have  
510 important implications for patients with loss-of-expression CaSR mutations that cause

511 disorders of calcium metabolism such as familial hypocalciuric hypercalcaemia  
512 (FHH) and neonatal severe hyperparathyroidism (NSHPT). Thus, to determine the  
513 ability of each of the CaSR modulators to correct trafficking and signalling of  
514 defective CaSR mutants, we investigated the consequences of the modulators at the  
515 naturally occurring loss-of-expression mutant, G<sup>670</sup>E (Kobayashi *et al.*, 1997).  
516 Expression of this mutant receptor at the cell surface is greatly reduced but its affinity  
517 for cinacalcet is unaltered (Leach *et al.*, 2013; Leach *et al.*, 2012). This mutant also  
518 signals efficiently in Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub> mobilisation and pERK1/2 assays (Leach *et al.*, 2013;  
519 Leach *et al.*, 2012).

520  
521 The affinities and cooperativities of AC-265347, cinacalcet, NPS-R568 and calindol  
522 were unaltered at the G<sup>670</sup>E mutation compared to the wildtype, as assessed in Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub>  
523 mobilisation assays (Table 3). The affinity of the calcimimetic B analogues, however,  
524 was reduced approximately 100-fold, although *R,R*-calcimimetic B and nor-  
525 calcimimetic B were still able to bind to the receptor and potentiate Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub>-mediated  
526 signalling.

527  
528 Overnight treatment of HEK293 cells with cinacalcet, NPS-R568, calindol, *R,R*-  
529 calcimimetic B and nor-calcimimetic B restored cell surface expression of the G<sup>670</sup>E  
530 mutant (Table 3; Figure 6). *S,R*-calcimimetic B and AC-265347, however, had no  
531 effect on expression. In the case of *S,R*-calcimimetic B, this was likely due to lower  
532 receptor occupancy in comparison to the other calcimimetics due to its reduced  
533 functional affinity. The inability of AC-265347 to rescue G<sup>670</sup>E expression, however,  
534 was not due to reduced affinity or to reduced cooperativity, which were comparable to  
535 the other calcimimetics. The inability of AC-265347 to restore trafficking may be

related to its lower lipophilicity relative to the other compounds. This parameter can be represented by calculated partition coefficient (CLog P, see Figure 1), which for AC-265347 was found to be considerably lower than for the other allosteric modulators tested. Thus, AC-265347 may have a reduced propensity to cross cell membranes to pharmacochaperone misfolded receptors trapped in the ER and Golgi compartments.

## Discussion

The present study evaluated the pharmacological activity of structurally related and diverse calcimimetics across multiple measures of receptor activity, identifying distinct ligand-biased profiles for each compound. Importantly, whereas phenylalkylamine modulators are biased towards  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_{\text{i}}$  mobilisation and  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation, *S,R*-calcimimetic B is biased only towards modulation of  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation, and nor-calcimimetic B is unbiased. *R,R*-calcimimetic B and AC-265347 on the other hand are biased *towards* pERK1/2 and  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation. Of note, although  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_{\text{i}}$  mobilisation via Gq-coupled receptors typically stems from the PLC-IP pathway, the divergence in bias between  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_{\text{i}}$  and  $\text{IP}_1$  assays observed herein suggests that CaSR-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_{\text{i}}$  mobilisation is also facilitated via alternative mechanisms. This is supported by a number of previous findings. In rat medullary thyroid carcinoma cells,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_{\text{o}}$  activation of the CaSR resulted in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_{\text{i}}$  influx via ion-gated calcium channels in addition to  $\text{IP}_3$ -mediated calcium mobilisation (Thomsen *et al.*, 2012b).  $\text{Sr}^{2+}_{\text{o}}$ , on the other hand, stimulated CaSR-mediated PLC/ $\text{IP}_3$ / $\text{Ca}^{2+}_{\text{i}}$  mobilisation, but did not trigger opening of calcium channels in these cells (Thomsen *et al.*, 2012b). Similarly, although both  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_{\text{o}}$  and L-phenylalanine stimulated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_{\text{i}}$  mobilisation in CaSR-transfected HEK293 cells, only  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_{\text{o}}$  promoted  $\text{IP}_1$

561 accumulation and diacylglycerol production (Rey et al., 2005). Finally, we recently  
562 showed that truncation of the CaSR after R<sup>866</sup> resulted in a complete inability of the  
563 receptor to stimulate Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub> mobilisation, whereas IP accumulation was reduced, but  
564 maintained (Goolam *et al.*, 2014). In the same study, mutations in intracellular loops  
565 2 and 3 greatly impaired IP accumulation but had a weaker affect on Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub>  
566 mobilisation. These findings suggest Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub> mobilisation stimulated from the CaSR is  
567 in part driven via an IP-independent mechanism.

568  
569 Intriguingly, although AC-265347 is a positive modulator of CaSR signalling, it is a  
570 neutral modulator of receptor trafficking. These findings build on our earlier studies  
571 of prototypical CaSR positive and negative allosteric modulators that initially  
572 identified bias in modulation by these compounds (Davey *et al.*, 2012; Leach *et al.*,  
573 2013).

574  
575 Ligand-biased signalling by CaSR modulators may be driven by ligand-specific  
576 stabilisation of distinct receptor states that couple preferentially to particular  
577 intracellular signalling pathways. This is suggested by the different functional  
578 affinities or cooperativities with the endogenous agonist estimated at each pathway.  
579 We introduced this concept several years ago (Leach *et al.*, 2007) and have  
580 subsequently observed biased allosteric modulation at the M<sub>4</sub> muscarinic (Leach *et*  
581 *al.*, 2010), A<sub>1</sub> adenosine (Aurelio *et al.*, 2009) and glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1)  
582 (Koole *et al.*, 2011) receptors, indicating that pathway selectivity may be achieved  
583 with allosteric modulators acting at a number of GPCRs.

584



585 AC-265347 exhibited high cooperativity in pERK1/2 assays, maximally enhancing  
586 the potency of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  nearly 10-fold, in comparison to the 3-fold enhancement in  
587 potency observed with cinacalcet. This is consistent with previous findings indicating  
588 that AC-265347 is more potent than cinacalcet with respect to  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation  
589 assays but has comparable potency with respect to cellular proliferation (Ma *et al.*,  
590 2011). This suggests that AC-265347 exhibits ligand-biased modulation of distinct  
591 CaSR signalling pathways. pERK1/2 plays a significant role in the suppression of  
592 PTH release (Corbetta *et al.*, 2002; Thomsen *et al.*, 2012b) but may be less important  
593 for CaSR-mediated stimulation of calcitonin release (Thomsen *et al.*, 2012b). Thus,  
594 compounds that favour pERK1/2 over  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation may have reduced  
595 propensity to induce calcitonin-dependent hypocalcaemia when compared to  
596 cinacalcet. Accordingly, there is pronounced separation (300-fold) in the  
597 concentration of S-AC-265347 required to suppress serum PTH levels versus the  
598 concentration that reduces serum  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  levels in healthy rats (Ma *et al.*, 2011).  
599 Similarly, concentrations of calcimimetic B that maximally inhibit PTH secretion in  
600 nephrectomised rats have little effect on calcitonin release or serum  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  levels  
601 (Henley *et al.*, 2011). In contrast, cinacalcet concentrations required to maximally  
602 suppress PTH secretion also stimulate calcitonin release and reduce serum  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$   
603 levels in rats (Nemeth *et al.*, 2004), suggesting less selectivity of cinacalcet for  
604 suppression of PTH release. AC-265347 and R,R-calcimimetic B are thus potentially  
605 important lead compounds of value in elucidating the roles of pERK1/2 in CaSR-  
606 mediated regulation of PTH and calcitonin release.

607

608 The fact that third generation but not phenylalkylamine calcimimetics are agonists in  
609 their own right may also contribute to their parathyroid selectivity. When stimulus-

response coupling is strong, for instance in tissues such as the parathyroid glands where CaSR expression is high, partial agonist effects will become more pronounced.

The CaSR is promiscuous in its coupling to intracellular signalling pathways, and the influence of individual pathways to physiological outcomes such as regulation of hormone release from chief cells of the parathyroid and parafollicular C cells of the thyroid, and control of ion transport in the kidney, is still being elucidated. Although we have selected to investigate the modulatory effects of calcimimetics on three key signalling pathways that regulate some of the physiological actions of the CaSR, these pathways are not exhaustive. For instance, G12/13-mediated cytoskeletal rearrangements are important for CaSR-mediated suppression of PTH release (Quinn *et al.*, 2007) but experiments that measure G12/13-mediated membrane ruffling, for instance, are not amenable to high throughput screening techniques and have subsequently not been included in the present study. Our ongoing work aims to extend these studies to examine activity across multiple pathways in primary cell lines, to establish the link between signalling bias and *in vivo* pharmacological and physiological calcimimetic effects.

It must also be noted that allosterism may be influenced by the kinetics of ligand binding relative to the different time points underlying response generation in each experiment. Thus, an alternative explanation for the observed bias is that each ligand stabilises the same state with different kinetics. However, the same direction of bias towards  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation over pERK1/2 is also observed following preincubation of the CaSR with cinacalcet and NPS-R568 for 30 minutes prior to measurement of agonist-mediated receptor signalling (Davey *et al.*, 2013). Thus, differences in

635 modulator bias in the different assays likely reflect true biased signalling and not an  
636 equilibrium artefact. For the detection of agonism, the transient nature of agonist-  
637 mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation, pERK1/2 and indeed many other GPCR signalling  
638 responses means signalling will often subside before equilibrium binding can be  
639 reached. Thus, the receptor may no longer elicit a response once true equilibrium is  
640 obtained. Therefore, it is assumed that one of the most relevant responses for the  
641 purpose of detecting receptor signalling and indeed biased signalling is the response  
642 elicited upon first exposure of a cell to the activating agonist.

643

644 In addition to differences in agonist effects and biased modulation of different  
645 signalling pathways, we found that AC-265347, unlike the other calcimimetics tested,  
646 was unable to restore expression of the  $\text{G}^{670}\text{E}$  loss-of-expression mutant. Importantly,  
647 this and our previous study have identified unique ligand-biased profiles whereby a  
648 drug can positively modulate CaSR signalling and trafficking (cinacalcet, NPS-R568,  
649 calindol, *R,R*-calcimimetic B and nor-calcimimetic B), negatively modulate CaSR  
650 signalling and positively modulate trafficking (NPS-2143) (Leach *et al.*, 2013) or  
651 positively modulate signalling without affecting trafficking (AC-265347). The  
652 inability of AC-265347 to rescue expression may be due to its lower lipophilicity,  
653 which makes it less likely to cross the cell membrane. Thus, compartmentalisation of  
654 receptors away from the cell surface restricts its access to only a subset of the  
655 available receptor pool. This represents an alternative means by which a drug can  
656 bias the activity of a receptor; one that is governed by its interaction with receptors  
657 that signal (cell surface receptors) versus those that can traffic to the cell surface  
658 (intracellular receptors).

659

660 The diverse pharmacological profile exhibited by each of the allosteric modulators  
661 offers exciting possibilities for their use beyond treatments for secondary  
662 hyperparathyroidism. For instance, future identification of pure “trafficking  
663 modulators” may be beneficial in disease states where reduced CaSR expression has  
664 been identified, such as colon cancer (Hizaki *et al.*, 2011; Singh *et al.*, 2012), and  
665 primary and secondary hyperparathyroidism (Cetani *et al.*, 2000; Kifor *et al.*, 1996;  
666 Yano *et al.*, 2000). Furthermore, drugs may be fine-tuned to the needs of distinct  
667 patients carrying naturally occurring CaSR mutations, depending on the impact of  
668 their mutation on receptor signalling and/or trafficking. The ability to tailor drug  
669 therapies to patients harbouring naturally occurring mutations may become an  
670 important consideration not just for the CaSR, but also for other GPCRs. Indeed,  
671 naturally occurring mutations in the glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor, for instance,  
672 engender signalling bias, with some mutations altering receptor coupling to only a  
673 subset of intracellular signalling pathways (Koole *et al.*, 2011). Thus, a  
674 pharmacogenomics approach may be essential for the future treatment of certain  
675 patient subtypes.

676

677 In conclusion, the current study has characterised structurally diverse calcimimetics  
678 and identified distinct ligand-biased signalling engendered by different classes of  
679 compounds. Although at present it is unclear which biased profile will be desirable in  
680 different disease states, the identification of biased ligands provides novel tools to  
681 probe the *in vivo* consequences of differentially promoting CaSR signalling and  
682 trafficking.

683

684

685

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689

690 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS:**

691 AC, ADC, AEC and KL planned and coordinated the study, AEC, KJG and KL  
692 performed experimental assays, SNM synthesised calcimimetic B analogues, SGBF  
693 prepared and evaluated the AF647-conjugated 9E10 antibody, AEC, SNM, KJG,  
694 PMS, PJS, ADC, AC and KL wrote the manuscript.

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**Figure 1 Structure of the CaSR allosteric modulators examined in this study.** Calculated partition coefficient (CLog P) obtained from PerkinElmer ChemBioDraw software are shown.

**Figure 2 Structurally distinct calcimimetics potentiate  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -mediated receptor activation with different potencies.**  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -mediated  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation in the presence of 0 (●), 0.003  $\mu\text{M}$  (□), 0.01  $\mu\text{M}$  (○), 0.03  $\mu\text{M}$  (◐), 0.1  $\mu\text{M}$  (△), 0.3  $\mu\text{M}$  (◇), 1  $\mu\text{M}$  (▽), 3  $\mu\text{M}$  (◑) and 10  $\mu\text{M}$  (⊗) cinacalcet (A), *R,R*-calcimimetic B (B) and AC-265347 (C). Data are mean + s.e.m from at least 4 independent experiments performed in duplicate.

**Figure 3 Calcimimetics display distinct functional affinities and/or cooperativities for CaSR conformations that couple to different signalling pathways.** Modulator functional affinities (functional  $\text{pK}_B$ ) and cooperativities ( $\alpha\beta$ ) were determined as described in the Methods, by fitting the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$   $\text{pEC}_{50}$  in the absence and presence of modulator determined in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation (white bars), pERK1/2 (grey bars) and  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation (black bars) assays to an allosteric ternary complex model (equation 2). The affinity of the modulator was unconstrained in each pathway. Statistical differences shown by asterisks are demonstrated where an F-test determined that the data were fitted best when the modulator affinities and cooperativities were different between the three pathways. Data are mean + s.e.m from at least 4 independent experiments performed in duplicate.

**Figure 4 AC-265347 preferentially modulates pERK1/2 and IP<sub>1</sub> accumulation over Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub> mobilisation.** Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub>-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub>-mobilisation (A), pERK1/2 (B) and IP<sub>1</sub> accumulation (C) in the absence (●) and presence of 0.1 μM (Δ) AC-265347. A “bias plot” (D) depicts AC-265347’s preferential modulation of pERK1/2 and IP<sub>1</sub> accumulation versus Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub>-mobilisation. Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub> pEC<sub>50</sub> in the absence and presence of modulator was determined in IP<sub>1</sub> accumulation, Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub> mobilisation and pERK1/2 assays and fitted to an allosteric ternary complex model (equation 2) to determine 150 XY coordinates of points that defined the curve that best described the model. The XY coordinates for the different pathways are plotted against one another, with IP<sub>1</sub> accumulation or Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub> mobilisation data on the y-axis against pERK1/2 data on the x-axis. Grey and black dashed lines join IP<sub>1</sub> accumulation and Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub> mobilisation XY coordinates, respectively, corresponding to the effects of 0 (●), 0.003 μM (□), 0.01 μM (○), 0.03 μM (◐), 0.1 μM (Δ), 0.3 μM (◑), 1 μM (▽), 3 μM (◒) and 10 μM (⊗) AC-265347. The dotted line represents the line of identity, which is a theoretical representation of how the data would look if the pathways were modulated equally by AC-265347.

**Figure 5 Calcimimetics are agonists at the CaSR.** Activity of calcimimetics in the absence of ambient Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub> and Mg<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub> measured in Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub>-mobilisation (closed circles) and IP<sub>1</sub> accumulation assays (open circles). Data are mean + s.e.m from 3 independent experiments performed in triplicate.

**Figure 6 CaSR modulators differentially rescue the G<sup>670</sup>E loss-of-expression mutant.** Whereas overnight treatment with the calcimimetics has minimal effect on the expression of the WT CaSR in HEK cells, cinacalcet, NPS-R568, calindol, *R,R*-

973 calcimimetic B and nor-calcimimetic B rescue the expression of the G<sup>670</sup>E mutant.

974 AC-265347 and *S,R*-calcimimetic B, however, do not rescue cell surface expression.

975 Data are mean + s.e.m from at least 4 independent experiments.

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980 **DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:**

981 AEC, SNM, KJG, SGBF, PJS, PMS, ADC and KL have nothing to declare. AC has

982 previously published work on the CaSR in collaboration with researchers from

983 Amgen.

984

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987 NHMRC Overseas Biomedical postdoctoral training fellowship. AC and PMS are

988 Principal Research Fellows of the NHMRC.

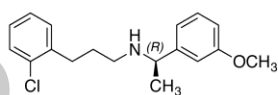
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990 **COMPETING INTERESTS:**

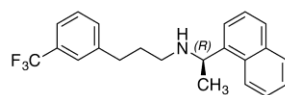
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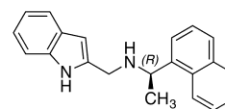
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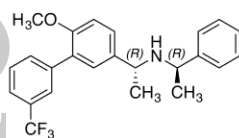
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CLogP: 4.92



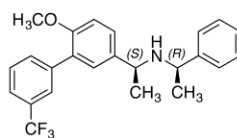
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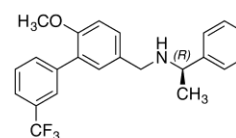
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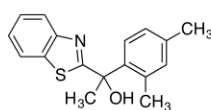
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CLogP: 5.47



*S,R*-Calcimimetic B  
CLogP: 5.47



nor-Calcimimetic B  
CLogP: 5.16



AC-265347  
CLogP: 3.74

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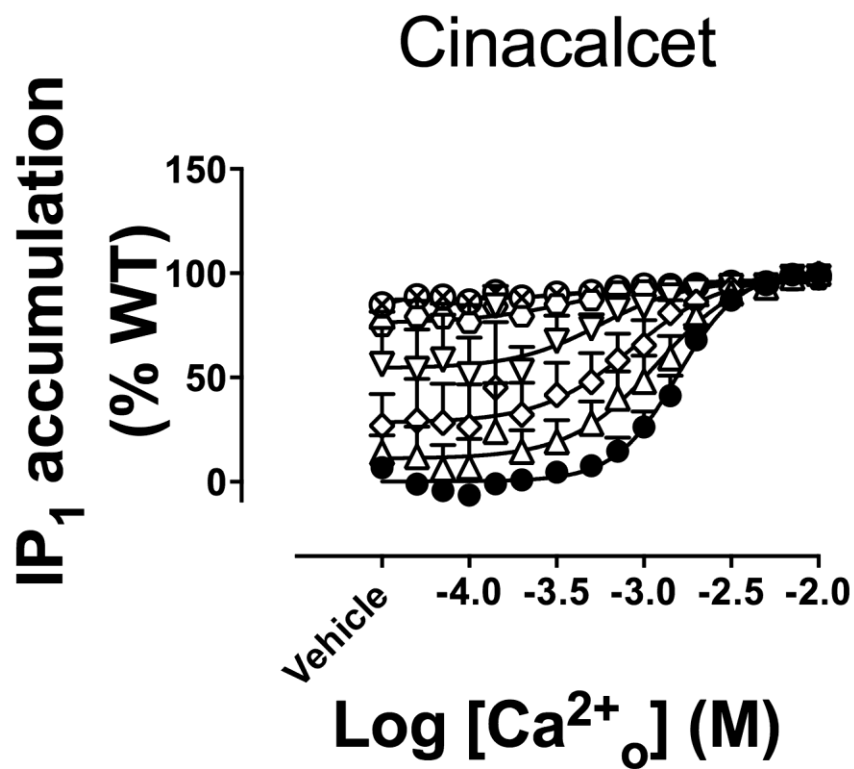
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A



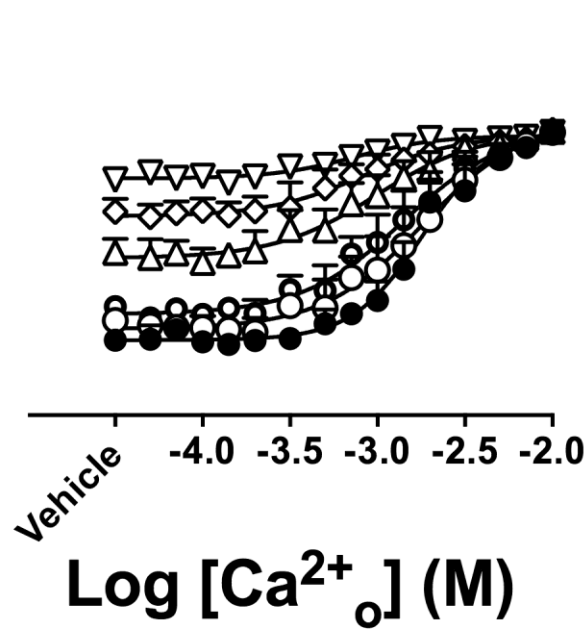
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B

IP<sub>1</sub> accumulation

(% WT)

*R,R*-calcimimetic B



bph\_12937\_f2B

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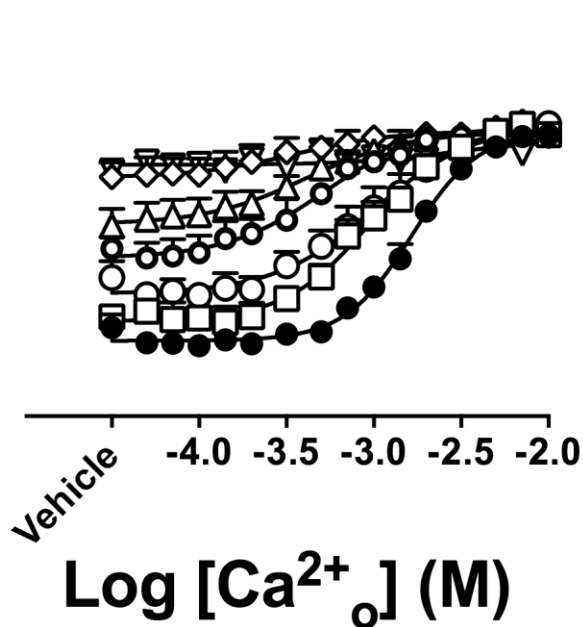
C

IP<sub>1</sub> accumulation  
(% WT)

AC-265347

150  
100  
50  
0

Vehicle -4.0 -3.5 -3.0 -2.5 -2.0  
Log [Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub>] (M)

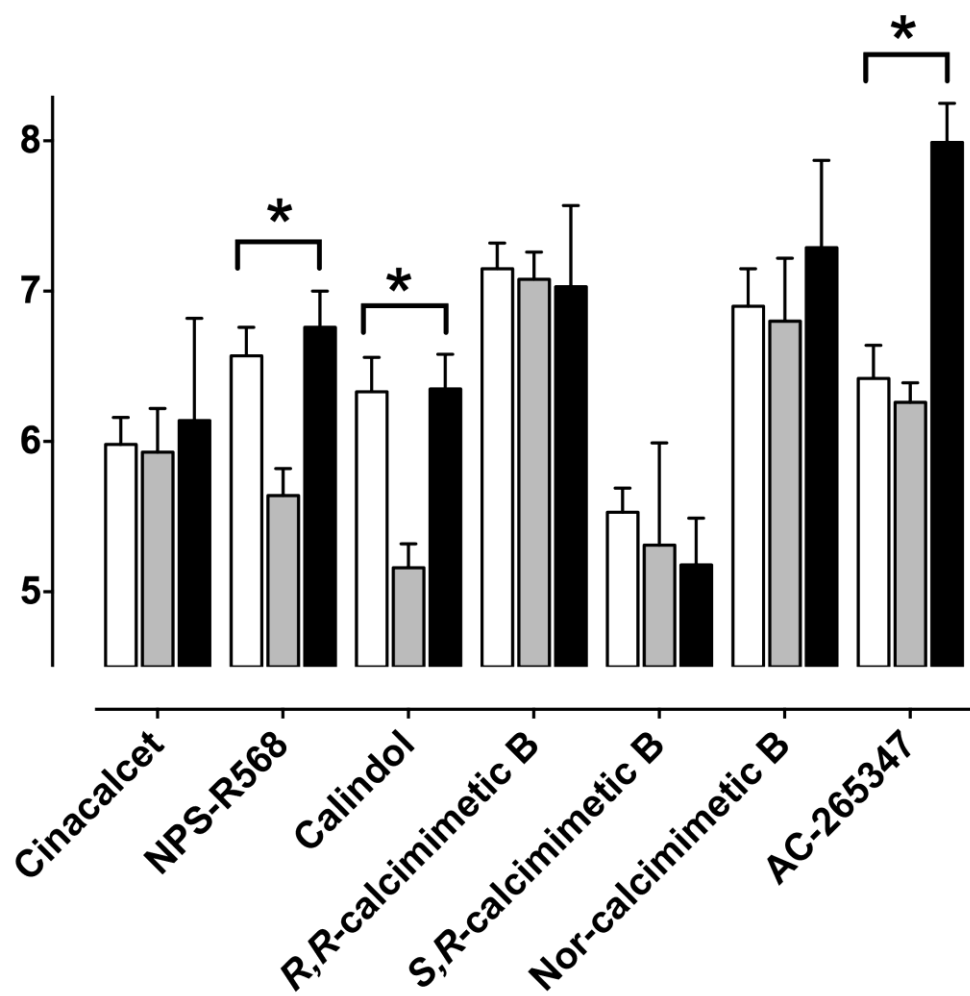


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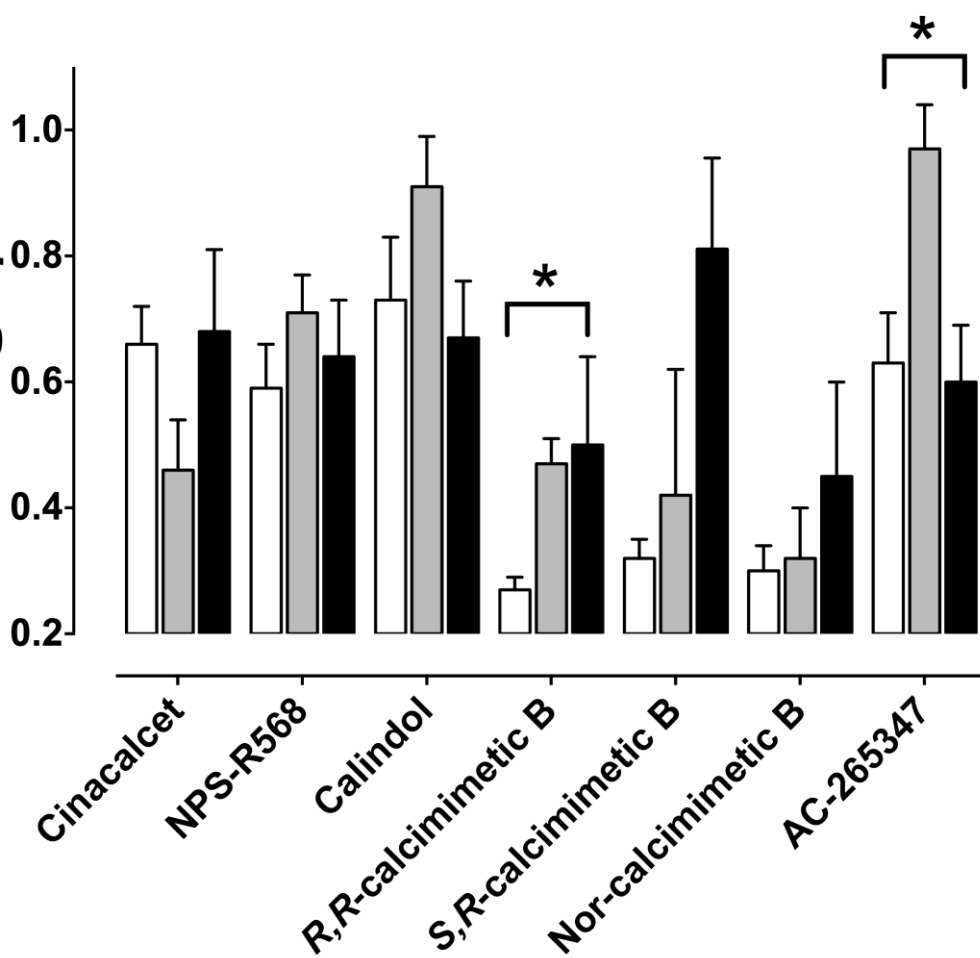
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bph\_12937\_f2C

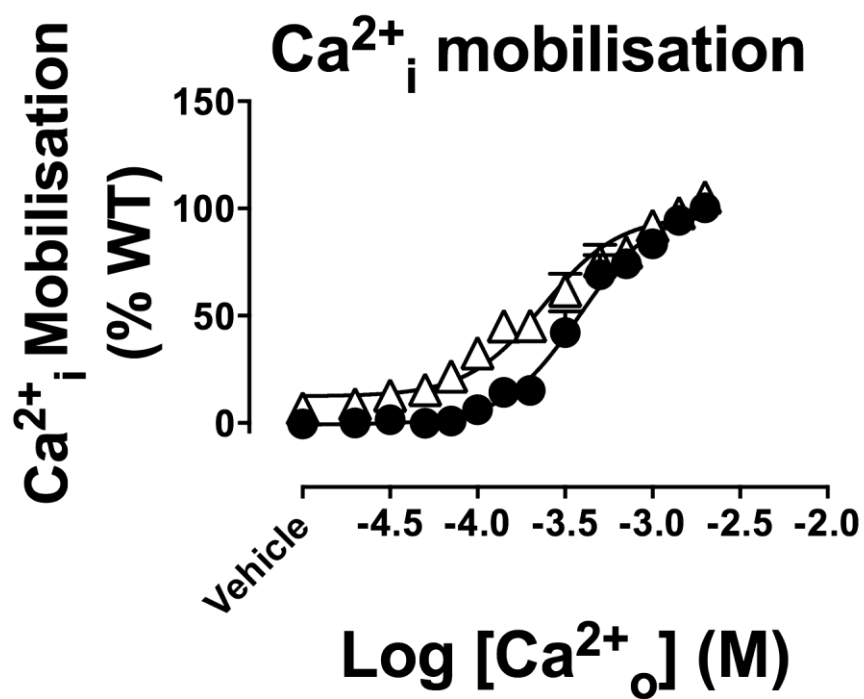


bph\_12937\_f3A



bph\_12937\_f3B

A



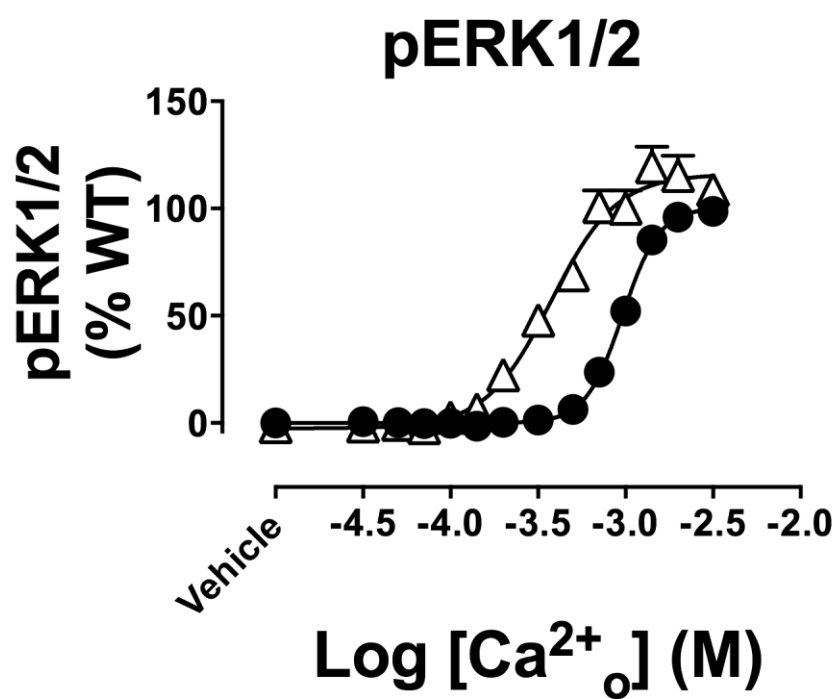
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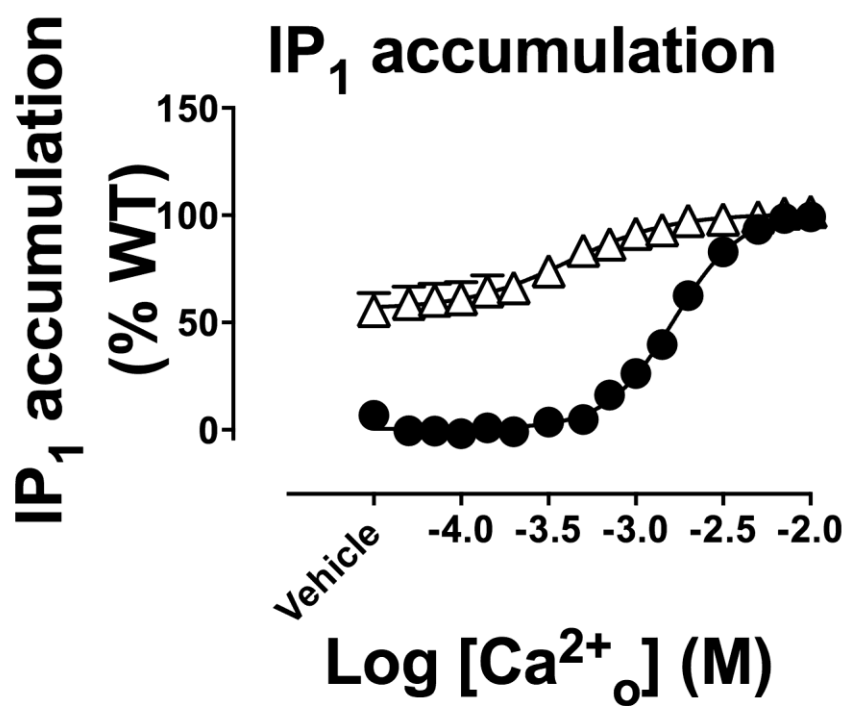
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B



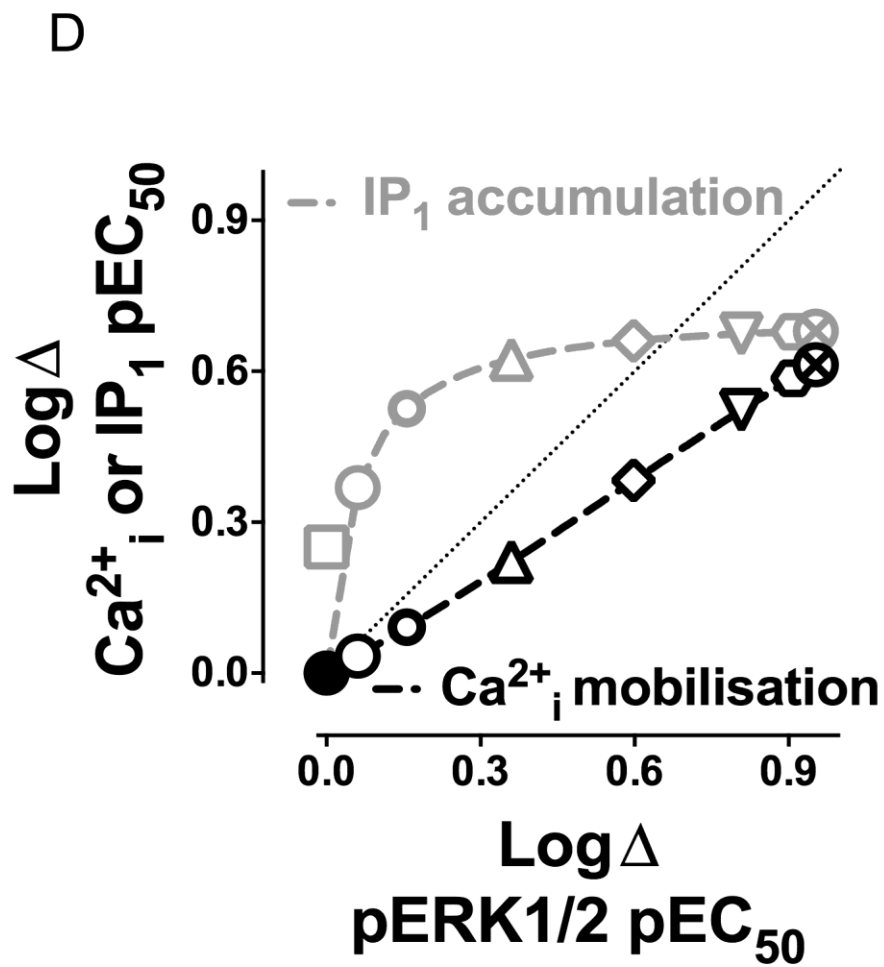
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C

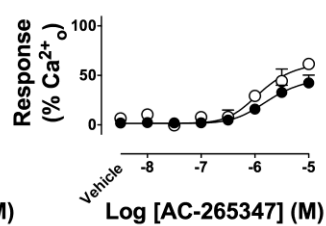
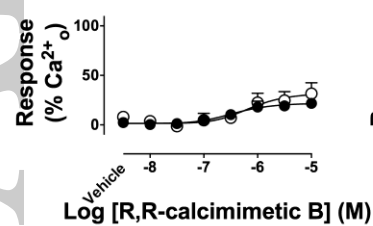
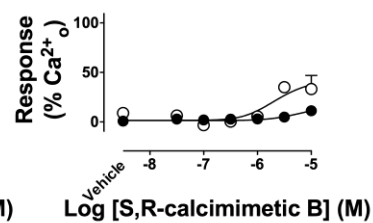
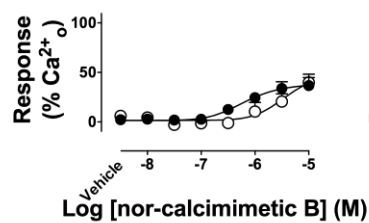
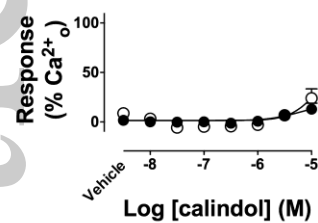
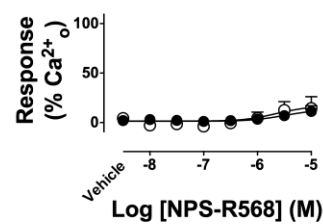
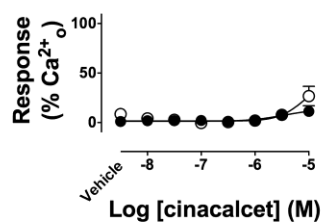
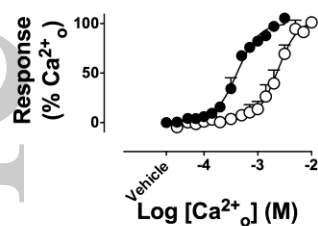


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bph\_12937\_f4D



●  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation  
○  $\text{IP}_1$  accumulation

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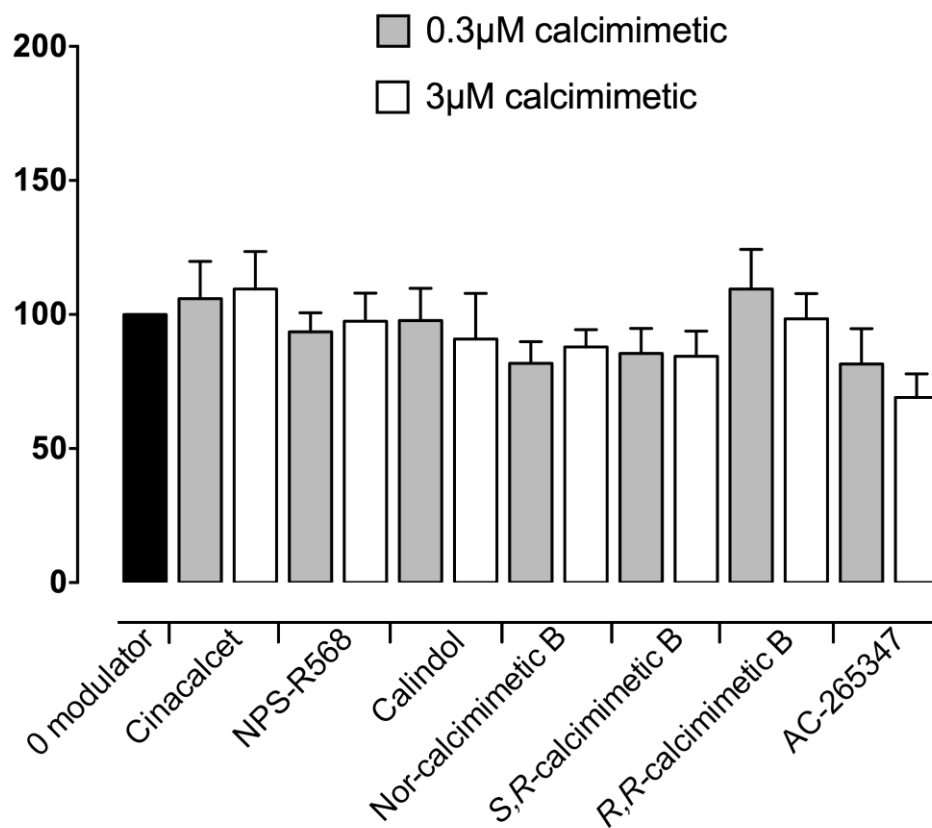
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## WT CaSR

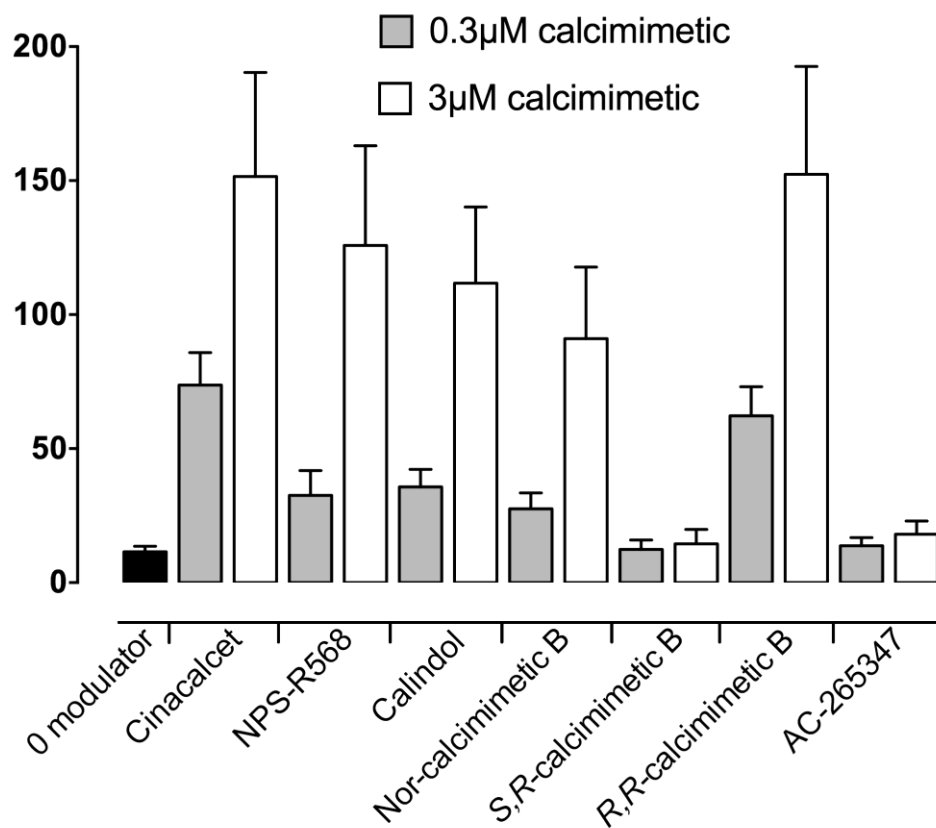
Cell surface expression  
(% WT CaSR)



bph\_12937\_f6A

## G<sup>670</sup>E CaSR

Cell surface expression  
(% WT CaSR)



bph\_12937\_f6B

**Table 1. Pharmacological parameters that govern the allosteric activity of CaSR modulators in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$  mobilisation, pERK1/2 and  $\text{IP}_1$**

**accumulation assays.** The potency of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}_o$  in the presence of increasing concentrations of modulator was fitted to an allosteric ternary complex model (Equation 2) to quantify the equilibrium dissociation constant ( $pK_B$ ) and cooperativity ( $\alpha\beta$ ) of the modulators at the human CaSR, using a model in which the binding affinity was not constrained across pathways.

Grouped data analysis

	$\text{Ca}^{2+}_i$ mobilisation		pERK1/2		$\text{IP}_1$ accumulation	
	$pK_B \pm s.e.m. (n)$	$\text{Log}\alpha\beta \pm s.e.m. (\alpha\beta)$	$pK_B \pm s.e.m. (n)$	$\text{Log}\alpha\beta \pm s.e.m. (\alpha\beta)$	$pK_B \pm s.e.m. (n)$	$\text{Log}\alpha\beta \pm s.e.m. (\alpha\beta)$
<b>Cinacalcet</b>	$5.98 \pm 0.18 (18)^a$	$0.66 \pm 0.06 (4.6)^a$	$5.93 \pm 0.29 (13)^a$	$0.46 \pm 0.08 (2.9)^a$	$6.14 \pm 0.33 (4)$	$0.68 \pm 0.13 (4.8)$
<b>NPS-R568*</b>	$6.57 \pm 0.19 (15)$	$0.59 \pm 0.07 (3.9)$	$5.64 \pm 0.18 (4)$	$0.71 \pm 0.06 (5.1)$	$6.76 \pm 0.24 (4)$	$0.64 \pm 0.09 (4.3)$
<b>Calindol*</b>	$6.33 \pm 0.23 (4)$	$0.73 \pm 0.10 (5.4)$	$5.16 \pm 0.16 (4)$	$0.91 \pm 0.08 (8.1)$	$6.35 \pm 0.23 (4)$	$0.67 \pm 0.09 (4.7)$
<b>S,R-Calcimimetic B</b>	$5.53 \pm 0.16 (4)$	$0.32 \pm 0.03 (2.1)$	$5.31 \pm 0.68 (3)$	$0.42 \pm 0.20 (2.6)$	$5.18 \pm 0.31 (3)$	$0.81 \pm 0.14 (6.5)$
<b>R,R-Calcimimetic B*</b>	$7.15 \pm 0.17 (4)$	$0.27 \pm 0.02 (1.9)$	$7.08 \pm 0.18 (4)$	$0.47 \pm 0.04 (3.0)$	$7.03 \pm 0.54 (4)$	$0.50 \pm 0.14 (3.2)$
<b>nor-calcimimetic B</b>	$6.90 \pm 0.25 (7)$	$0.30 \pm 0.04 (2.0)$	$6.80 \pm 0.42 (5)$	$0.32 \pm 0.08 (2.1)$	$7.29 \pm 0.58 (4)$	$0.45 \pm 0.15 (3.0)$

AC-265347*	$6.42 \pm 0.22$ (5)	$0.63 \pm 0.08$ (4.3)	$6.26 \pm 0.13$ (4)	$0.97 \pm 0.07$ (9.3)	$7.99 \pm 0.26$ (4)	$0.60 \pm 0.09$ (4.0)
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<sup>a</sup>Data sets taken from those used in (Leach *et al.*, 2013)

\* Significant difference in  $pK_B$  and/or  $Log\alpha\beta$  between pathways (p<0.05, F test)

**Table 2.** Pharmacological parameters that govern calcimimetic agonism at the CaSR. Agonist concentration-response curves were fitted to an operational model of agonism (Equation 3) (Black & Leff, 1983) to quantify the equilibrium dissociation constant ( $pK_B$ ) of the calcimimetics and their operational measure of agonism ( $\tau_B$ ).

	<b>Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub> mobilisation</b>		<b>IP<sub>1</sub> accumulation</b>	
	<i>pK<sub>B</sub> ± s.e.m. (n)</i>	<i>Logτ<sub>B</sub> ± s.e.m. (τ<sub>B</sub>)</i>	<i>pK<sub>B</sub> ± s.e.m. (n)</i>	<i>Logτ<sub>B</sub> ± s.e.m. (τ<sub>B</sub>)</i>
<b><i>R,R</i>-Calcimimetic B</b>	6.77 ± 0.23 (3)	-0.27 ± 0.04 (0.54)	6.48 ± 0.28 (3)	-0.16 ± 0.06 (0.69)
<b><i>S,R</i>-Calcimimetic B</b>	5.44 ± 0.29 (3)	-0.10 ± 0.10 (0.79)	5.89 ± 0.26 (3)	-0.06 ± 0.07 (0.87)
<b>nor-calcimimetic B</b>	6.44 ± 0.14 (3)	-0.10 ± 0.03 (0.79)	5.61 ± 0.29 (3)	-0.008 ± 0.09 (0.98)
<b>AC-265347</b>	5.94 ± 0.14 (3)	-0.02 ± 0.14 (0.95)	6.04 ± 0.18 (3)	0.08 ± 0.05 (1.1)

**Table 3. Pharmacological properties of CaSR modulators at the naturally occurring G<sup>670</sup>E mutant.** Cell surface expression of the mutant following overnight treatment with modulator was determined by FACS analysis. The potency of Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>o</sub> in Ca<sup>2+</sup><sub>i</sub> mobilisation assays in the presence of increasing concentrations of modulator was fitted to an allosteric ternary complex model (Equation 2) to quantify the equilibrium dissociation constant ( $pK_B$ ) and cooperativity ( $\alpha\beta$ ) of the modulators at the G<sup>670</sup>E mutant.

	Cell surface expression (% WT)			Ca <sup>2+</sup> <sub>i</sub> mobilisation	
	<i>0 modulator</i>	<i>0.3 <math>\mu</math>M</i>	<i>3 <math>\mu</math>M</i>	<i><math>pK_B \pm s.e.m. (n)</math></i>	<i><math>Log\alpha\beta \pm s.e.m. (\alpha\beta)</math></i>
<b>Cinacalcet</b>	12 $\pm$ 2	74 $\pm$ 12	152 $\pm$ 39	6.00 $\pm$ 0.19 (7) <sup>a</sup>	0.59 $\pm$ 0.06 (3.9) <sup>a</sup>
<b>NPS-R568</b>		33 $\pm$ 9	126 $\pm$ 37	6.61 $\pm$ 0.14 (4)	0.74 $\pm$ 0.14 (5.5)
<b>Calindol</b>		36 $\pm$ 7	112 $\pm$ 28	6.33 $\pm$ 0.31 (3)	0.53 $\pm$ 0.10 (3.4)
<b><i>R,R</i>-calcimimetic B</b>		62 $\pm$ 11	152 $\pm$ 40	5.27 $\pm$ 0.37 (4)	0.51 $\pm$ 0.12 (3.2)
<b><i>S,R</i>-calcimimetic B</b>		12 $\pm$ 3	14 $\pm$ 5	Not performed	Not performed
<b>nor-calcimimetic B</b>		28 $\pm$ 6	91 $\pm$ 27	6.21 $\pm$ 0.23 (3)	0.42 $\pm$ 0.06 (2.6)
<b>AC-265347</b>		14 $\pm$ 3	18 $\pm$ 5	6.62 $\pm$ 0.23 (3)	0.72 $\pm$ 0.10 (5.2)

<sup>a</sup>Data sets taken from those used in (Leach *et al.*, 2013)