Synthesis, biological evaluation, and molecular modeling of of new naphthalene-chalcone derivatives as potential anticancer agents on MCF-7 breast cancer cells by targeting tubulin colchicine binding site

1. Experimental section.

1.1. Chemistry.

All starting materials and reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers. TLC was performed on 0.20 mm Silica Gel 60 F₂₅₄ plates (Qingdao Ocean Chemical Factory, Shandong, China). Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (NMR) were recorded on a Bruker spectrometer (400 MHz) with TMS as an external reference and reported in parts per million. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on Bruker MicroQTOFII using ESI method.

1-(2-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)ethan-1-one (2)

To a solution of 1-(2-hydroxynaphthalen-1-yl)ethan-1-one (1, 10 mmol) in acetone (50 mL) was added Cs₂CO₃ (20 mmol) and methyl iodide (12 mmol) and stirred at room temperature for 12 hours. Then, the reaction mixture was filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel using EtOAc/petroleum ether as eluent to afford 1-(2-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)ethan-1-one (2).

General procedures for the synthesis of 3a-3t

A mixture of compound 2 (1.0 mmol) and commercially available aryl aldehyde (1.0 mmol) in MeOH (10 mL) was stirred at ice bath for 0.5 h. Then a solution of KOH aqueous (50%, 3 mL) was added dropwise to the reaction and this was stirred at room temperature for a further 24 hours. After completion of reaction, the reaction mixture was poured on crushed ice and neutralized with concentrated HCl. The precipitated solid was filtered and recrystallized from ethanol to provide the target compounds **3a**. **3t**. The most of compounds have not been reported in literature except compounds **3b**, **3h**, **3k**, **3n**, **3q** and **3r**.

(*E*)-3-(3-Hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(2-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3a**)

Yellow solid, yield = 59 %, mp 135-136 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.91 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.80 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.66 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.40-7.44 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.35-7.37 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.31 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.21 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.16 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz, ArH), 6.96 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 6.95 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2.4 Hz, ArH), 6.78 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 5.64 (s, 1H, OH), 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.89 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 197.53, 154.09, 148.90, 146.08, 145.91, 131.63, 131.21, 128.89, 128.31, 128.13, 127.50, 127.30, 124.27, 124.14, 123.77, 122.57, 113.44, 113.24, 110.55, 56.75, 56.10; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₁H₁₈NaO4⁺: 357.1097 found 357.1098.

Yellow solid, yield = 48 %, mp 127-129 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.94 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.82 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.67 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH),

(*E*)-3-(4-Bromophenyl)-1-(2-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3b**)

7.43-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.40 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.26 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.09 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 3.93 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 196.71, 153.77, 143.68, 133.11, 131.71, 131.65, 131.07, 131.00, 129.39, 128.78, 128.35, 127.73, 127.65, 127.15, 124.41, 123.71, 123.59, 123.45, 122.75, 112.59, 56.18; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₀H₁₅BrNaO₂⁺: 389.0148 found 389.0149.

(*E*)-1-(2-Methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)-3-(2,3,4-trimethoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3c**) Yellow solid, yield = 63 %, mp 107-108 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.89-7.92 (m, 1H), 7.78-7.81 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.51-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.06-7.11 (m, 1H), 6.65-6.68 (m, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 197.92, 155.93, 154.02, 153.59, 142.43, 141.41, 131.69, 131.16, 128.91, 128.13, 127.96, 127.37, 124.31, 124.06, 123.86, 123.56, 121.79, 113.22, 107.78, 61.55, 61.01, 56.73, 56.17; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₃H₂₂NaO₅⁺: 401.1359 found 401.1359.

(*E*)-3-(2-Bromophenyl)-1-(2-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3d**)

Yellow solid, yield = 41 %, mp 150-152 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 7.94 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.82 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.72 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.71 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.67 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.54 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.47 (dt, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.31-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.21 (dt, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.02 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 3.96 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ: 196.73, 153.87, 143.64, 134.26, 132.97, 132.88, 131.20, 131.14, 131.03, 130.91, 130.60, 128.36, 127.71, 127.57, 127.48, 127.27, 127.11, 125.26, 123.64, 122.51, 112.43, 56.10; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+K]⁺ C₂₀H₁₅BrKO₂⁺: 404.9887 found 404.9889.

(*E*)-1-(2-Methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3e**)
Yellow solid, yield = 62 %, mp 162-163 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 8.24 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.96 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.80-7.91 (m, 6H, ArH), 7.46-7.50 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.24-7.41 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.20 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 3.96 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ: 197.18, 154.46, 142.48, 133.75, 132.04, 131.67, 131.59, 131.29, 130.91, 128.98, 128.86, 128.27, 127.71, 126.95, 126.29, 125.59, 125.46, 124.27, 123.62, 123.27, 113.17, 56.73; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+K]⁺ C₂₄H₁₈KO₂⁺: 377.0938 found 377.0939.

(*E*)-1-(2-Methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3f**)

Yellow solid, yield = 59 %, mp 107-109 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 7.94 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.77-7.85 (m, 6H, ArH), 7.68-7.72 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.43-7.51 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.34-7.39 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.21 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 3.94 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ: 197.65, 154.22, 146.13, 134.45, 133.31, 132.25, 131.65, 131.39, 130.82, 129.07, 128.93, 128.78, 128.67, 128.21, 127.88, 127.62, 127.50, 126.82, 124.22, 123.76, 123.58, 113.23, 56.77; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₄H₁₈NaO₂⁺: 361.1199 found 361.1198.

(*E*)-3-(3-Bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(2-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3g**)

Yellow solid, yield = 60 %, mp 168-169 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 7.92 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.81 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.64-7.69 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.41-7.45 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.31-7.38 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.18 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.97 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 6.85 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 3.92 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 197.41, 157.68, 154.09, 144.31, 133.32, 131.55, 131.38, 129.39, 128.85, 128.69, 128.21, 127.79, 127.60, 124.11, 123.39, 113.08, 112.28, 111.82, 77.46, 77.14, 76.82, 56.72, 56.51; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+K]⁺ C₂₁H₁₇BrKO₃⁺: 434.9993 found 434.9994.

(*E*)-1-(2-Methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3h**) Yellow solid, yield = 42 %, mp 109-110 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.93 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.81 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.66 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.42-7.46 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.36-7.39 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.24-7.34 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.08 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.07 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.00-7.01 (m, 1H, ArH), 6.90 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2.0 Hz, ArH), 3.92 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 197.70, 159.92, 154.20, 145.95, 136.06, 131.59, 131.41, 129.96, 129.14, 128.87, 128.19, 127.63, 124.16, 123.42, 121.34, 116.75, 113.18, 77.45, 77.13, 76.81, 56.72, 55.41; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₁H₁₈NaO₃⁺: 341.1148 found 341.1149.

(*E*)-3-(4-Methoxy-3-nitrophenyl)-1-(2-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3i**) Yellow solid, yield = 55 %, mp 157-159 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.95 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.95 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz, ArH), 7.83 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.70 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2.0 Hz, ArH), 7.67 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.46 (dt, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.38 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.33 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.26 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.09 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.05 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 3.99 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.94 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 196.94, 154.31, 142.46, 139.76, 133.87, 131.72, 131.48, 129.12, 128.88, 128.30, 127.75, 127.43, 125.72, 124.22, 123.96, 123.03, 114.00, 113.86, 113.10, 56.89, 56.71; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₁H₁₇NNaO₅⁺: 386.0999 found 386.0999.

(*E*)-1-(2-Methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3**j)

Yellow solid, yield = 65 %, mp 149-150 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.92 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.81 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.67 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.31-7.46 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.17 (d, 1H, *J* = 3.6 Hz, ArH), 7.01 (dd, 1H, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 3.6 Hz, ArH), 6.90 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 3.92 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 197.06, 154.18, 140.09, 138.41, 131.95, 131.59, 131.39, 129.47, 128.86, 128.39, 128.18, 127.86, 127.62, 124.21, 124.18, 123.30, 113.16, 56.73; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ C₁₈H₁₄NaO₂S⁺: 317.0607 found 317.0607.

(*E*)-3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-(2-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3**k)

Yellow solid, yield = 58 %, mp 142-143 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.93 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.81 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.66 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.41-7.46 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.36-7.39 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.33-7.35 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.31 (d, 1H, J = 2.4 Hz, ArH), 7.26 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.06 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 3.92 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 197.31, 154.28, 144.23, 136.56, 133.21, 131.57, 129.75, 129.25, 128.88, 128.23, 127.69, 124.26, 124.08, 123.28, 113.11, 77.44, 77.13, 76.81, 56.72; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₀H₁₅ClNaO₂⁺: 345.0653 found 345.0653.

(*E*)-1-(2-Methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)-3-(2,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3**I) Yellow solid, yield = 63 %, mp 147-149 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.92 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.82 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.70 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.63 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.44 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.36 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.33 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.07 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.02 (s, 1H, ArH), 6.44 (s, 1H, ArH), 3.93 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 198.01, 154.46, 153.93, 152.62, 143.26, 141.44, 131.71, 130.95, 128.92, 128.07, 127.34, 127.01, 124.44, 124.17, 115.09, 113.46, 110.85, 110.01, 96.72, 56.83, 56.45, 56.41, 56.14; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₃H₂₂NaO₅⁺: 401.1359 found 401.1360.

(*E*)-3-(2-Fluorophenyl)-1-(2-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3m**)

Yellow solid, yield = 59 %, mp 146-147 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.93 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.81 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.69 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.56 (dt, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.49 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.45 (dt, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.31-7.38 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.18 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.14 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.02-7.07 (m, 1H, ArH), 3.93 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 197.48, 160.21 (d, 1C, *J* = 253.2 Hz), 154.41, 137.91, 132.05 (d, 1C, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 131.65, 131.57 (d, 1C, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 130.93 (d, 1C, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 129.23, 129.21, 128.93, 128.24, 127.67, 124.53 (d, 1C, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 124.23, 124.10, 123.21, 122.82 (d, 1C, *J* = 11.4 Hz), 116.17 (d, 1C, *J* = 21.7 Hz), 113.13, 56.69; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₀H₁₅FNaO₂⁺: 329.0948 found 329.0948.

Yellow solid, yield = 61 %, mp 142-144 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.93 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.82 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.69 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH),

(*E*)-1-(2-Methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-one (**3n**)

7.48-7.50 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.44 (dt, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.35-7.38 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.30 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz, ArH), 7.11 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 3.93 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 197.73, 154.20, 146.06, 134.69, 131.60, 131.41, 130.73, 128.99, 128.89, 128.63, 128.20, 127.62, 124.21, 123.45, 113.17, 77.47, 77.15, 76.83, 56.72; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₀H₁₆NaO₂⁺: 311.1043 found 311.1044. (*E*)-3-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1-(2-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**30**)

Yellow solid, yield = 66 %, mp 142-143 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.94 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.82 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.67 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.45 (dt, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.27-7.39 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.18-7.21 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.08 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.03-7.06 (m, 1H, ArH), 3.93 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : ¹³C NMR (101 MHz,) δ 197.24, 161.80 (d, 1C, *J* = 245.7 Hz), 154.36, 144.07, 136.97 (d, 1C, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 131.66, 131.53, 130.46 (d, 1C, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 129.92, 128.88, 128.25, 127.73, 124.56 (d, 1C, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 124.27, 124.05, 123.19, 117.37 (d, 1C, *J* = 21.5 Hz), 114.65 (d, 1C, *J* = 21.8 Hz), 113.08, 56.70; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+K]⁺ C₂₀H₁₅FKO₂⁺: 345.0688 found 345.0689.

(*E*)-1-(2-Methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)-3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3p**) Yellow solid, yield = 49 %, mp 113-114 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.93 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.82 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.65 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.44 (dt, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.36-7.39 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.33 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.18 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.00 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 6.71 (s, 2H, ArH), 3.92 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.83 (s, 6H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 197.53, 154.11, 153.48, 146.20, 140.51, 131.63, 131.23, 130.13, 128.89, 128.37, 128.15, 127.59, 124.23, 124.20, 123.61, 113.31, 105.75, 61.06, 56.80, 56.24; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+K]⁺ C₂₃H₂₂KO₅⁺: 417.1099 found 417.1099.

(*E*)-1-(2-Methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)-3-(2-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3q**) Yellow solid, yield = 62 %, mp 124-126 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.91 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.80 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.69 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.66 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 7.49 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.6 Hz, ArH), 7.43 (dt, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.32-7.37 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.21 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 6.93 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 6.85 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.78 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 198.22, 158.68, 154.16, 141.59, 132.00, 131.68, 131.22, 129.41, 128.93, 128.13, 127.45, 124.36, 124.11, 123.85, 123.61, 120.77, 113.29, 111.22, 77.47, 77.16, 76.84, 56.77, 55.53; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+K]⁺ C₂₁H₁₈KO₃⁺: 357.0888 found 357.0886.

(*E*)-3-(4-(Dimethylamino)phenyl)-1-(2-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3r**) Yellow solid, yield = 57 %, mp 147-148 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.89 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.80 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.67 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.31-7.43 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.20 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 6.93 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 6.62 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.00 (s, 6H, NCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 197.70, 153.77, 147.73, 131.76, 130.75, 130.58, 128.87, 128.04, 127.31, 124.52, 124.23, 124.04, 113.35, 111.90, 56.79, 40.31; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₂H₂₁NNaO₂⁺: 354.1465 found 354.1466.

(*E*)-3-(4-(Diethylamino)phenyl)-1-(2-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3s**) Yellow solid, yield = 64 %, mp 142-144 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.89 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.80 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.67 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.40 (dt, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.31-7.35 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.17 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 6.90 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 6.56 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 3.90 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.34 (q, 4H, J = 7.2 Hz, NCH₂CH₃), 1.15 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz, NCH₂CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 197.70, 153.72, 149.77, 147.97, 131.79, 130.93, 130.65, 128.86, 128.00, 127.26, 124.57, 124.34, 124.01, 123.57, 121.35, 113.36, 111.24, 56.78, 44.61, 12.65; HRMS (TOF) calcd for [M+K]⁺ C₂₄H₂₅KNO₂⁺: 398.1517 found 398.1518.

(*E*)-3-(3-Amino-4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(2-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3t**) Yellow oil, yield = 43 %; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.90 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 7.79 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.64 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.41 (dt, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.34 (dt, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.29 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz, ArH), 7.15 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 6.96 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz, ArH), 6.92 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, COCH=CH), 6.88 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 6.71 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 4.10 (s, 2H, NH₂), 3.89 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ : 197.86, 153.99, 150.34, 146.77, 134.58, 131.63, 131.13, 128.85, 128.13, 127.68, 127.48, 126.81, 124.27, 124.13, 123.69, 122.30, 114.78, 113.23, 110.36, 77.46, 77.14, 76.83, 56.72, 55.75; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]⁺ C₂₁H₂₀NO₃⁺: 334.1438 found 334.1438.

1.2 In vitro anticancer assay

Human breast carcinoma (MCF-7) cells were seeded in 96-well plates at 1×10^4 cells/well, and cultured in RPMI-1640 with 10% fetal bovine serum for 24 h. Then,

different concentrations (0.3125, 0.625, 1.25, 2.5, 5.0, 10 and 20 μ M) of the tested compounds (**3a-3t**) or positive control (cisplatin) were added. After 48 h of culture, the culture medium was removed, and cells were incubated with tetrazolium dye [3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazo-lium bromide (MTT) solution for 4 h. Then, the supernatant was removed and the precipitates (formazan crystal) were dissolved in DMSO. The optical densitys (OD) at a wavelength of 570 nm were measured by the Spectramax M5 Microtiter Plate Luminometer (Molecular Devices, USA).

1.3 In vitro tubulin polymerization assay

To evaluate the effect of the compound **3a** on tubulin assembly *in vitro*, varying concentrations of compound **3a**, colchicine (Aladdin, Shanghai, China) or vehicle DMSO were incubated with purified tubulin protein in PEM buffer [100 mM PIPES (1,4-Piperazinediethanesulfonic acid), 1 mM MgCl₂, and 1 mM EGTA(ethylene glycol tetraacetic acid)] containing 1 mM GTP and 5 % glycerol. Tubulin assembly was monitored by a spectrophotometer (SPECTRA MAX 190) in absorbance at 340 nm for 20 minutes.

1.4 Cell cycle analysis

MCF-7 cells were seeded in 6-well plates and incubated at 37 °C for overnight and treatment with DMSO or compound **3a** (0.5, 2.0 and 10.0 μ M) for 24 h. The cells were washed twice with PBS, and incubated for 0.5 h at 37 °C in a PBS solution containing 1 mg/mL RNase A and propidium iodide (PI). Cell cycle was analyzed by flow cytometry (TASC240, USA).

1.5 Apoptosis assay

MCF-7 cells were grown in 6-well plates and treated with compound **3a** (0.5, 2.0 and 10.0 μ M) or DMSO for 24 h. After treatment, the cells were collected and stained with PI (propidium iodide) for 20 min. Apoptosis was analyzed using a flow cytometer.

1.6 Docking studies

The 3D structure of tubulin (1SA0) was downloaded from the Protein Data Bank (www.rcsb.org). The docking procedure was performed using Autodock vina 1.1.2. The search grid of the tubulin was identified as center_x: 118.921, center_y: 89.718, and center_z: 5.932 with dimensions size_x: 15, size_y: 15, and size_z: 15. The result of molecular docking study was visualized using PyMOL



Figure S2: ¹³C NMR of Compound 3a



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Figure S3: HRMS of Compound 3a



Figure S5: ¹³C NMR of Compound 3b



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Figure S6: HRMS of Compound 3b



Figure S8: ¹³C NMR of Compound 3c



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Figure S9: HRMS of Compound 3c



Figure S10: ¹H NMR of Compound 3d



Figure S11 : ¹³C NMR of Compound 3d



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Figure S12: HRMS of Compound 3d



Figure S13 : ¹H NMR of Compound 3e



Figure S14 : ¹³C NMR of Compound 3e



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Figure S15: HRMS of Compound 3e





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Figure S18: HRMS of Compound 3f



Figure S19 : ¹H NMR of Compound 3g



Figure S20 : ¹³C NMR of Compound 3g



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Figure S21: HRMS of Compound 3g



Figure S22 : ¹H NMR of Compound 3h



Figure S23 : ¹³C NMR of Compound 3h



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Figure S24: HRMS of Compound 3h



Figure S25: ¹H NMR of Compound 3i



Figure S26 : ¹³C NMR of Compound 3i



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Figure S27: HRMS of Compound 3i





-0.7 -0.6 -0.5

Figure S29: ¹³C NMR of Compound 3j



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Figure S30: HRMS of Compound 3j



Figure S31 : ¹H NMR of Compound 3k



Figure S32 : ¹³C NMR of Compound 3k



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Figure S33: HRMS of Compound 3k



Figure S34 : ¹H NMR of Compound 31



Figure S35 : ¹³C NMR of Compound 31

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Figure S36: HRMS of Compound 31

Figure S37 : ¹H NMR of Compound 3m

Figure S38 : ¹³C NMR of Compound 3m

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Figure S39: HRMS of Compound 3m

Figure S40 : ¹H NMR of Compound 3n

Figure S41 : ¹³C NMR of Compound 3n

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Figure S42: HRMS of Compound 3n

Figure S43 : ¹H NMR of Compound 3o

Figure S44: ¹³C NMR of Compound 3o

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Figure S45: HRMS of Compound 3o

Figure S46 : ¹H NMR of Compound 3p

Figure S47: ¹³C NMR of Compound 3p

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Figure S48: HRMS of Compound 3p

Figure S49: ¹H NMR of Compound 3q

Figure S50 : ¹³C NMR of Compound 3q

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Figure S51: HRMS of Compound 3q

Figure S53: ¹³C NMR of Compound 3r

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Figure S54: HRMS of Compound 3r

Figure S55 : ¹H NMR of Compound 3s

Figure S56 : ¹³C NMR of Compound 3s

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Figure S57: HRMS of Compound 3s

Figure S59 : ¹³C NMR of Compound 3t

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Figure S60 : HRMS of Compound 3t