



Showcasing research from Doctor Richard Hopkinson's laboratory, School of Chemistry and Institute of Structural and Chemical Biology, University of Leicester, UK.

N-Acyloxymethyl-phthalimides deliver genotoxic formaldehyde to human cells

Formaldehyde is a toxic and carcinogenic pollutant and human metabolite. However, the full extent of formaldehyde's effects on biology are unknown. A major hindrance for biologically relevant studies on formaldehyde is the lack of controllable delivery methods. To address this issue, we have developed *N*-acyloxymethyl-phthalimides as formaldehyde-releasing delivery agents and have demonstrated their effects on human cell biology as a consequence of formaldehyde release. These simple molecules provide an accessible and broadly applicable toolkit for studying formaldehyde, and also have potential as cancer chemotherapeutics. Cover background image by freshidea - stock.adobe.com.

As featured in:



See Lonnie, P. Swift, Peter J. McHugh, Richard J. Hopkinson *et al.*, *Chem. Sci.*, 2023, **14**, 12498.