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### 3,5-Dibenzoyl-1,4-dihydropyridines: Synthesis and MDR Reversal in Tumor Cells

Masami Kawase (河瀬雅美) \*<sup>1</sup>, Anamik Shah<sup>2</sup>, Harsukh Gaveriya<sup>2</sup>, Noboru Motohashi<sup>3</sup>, Hiroshi Sakagami<sup>4</sup>, Andreas Varga<sup>5</sup>, and Joseph Molnar<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Josai University, Saitama; <sup>2</sup>Department of Chemistry, Saurashtra University, India; <sup>3</sup>Meiji Pharmaceutical University, Tokyo, Japan; <sup>4</sup>Department of Dental Pharmacology, Meikai University School of Dentistry, Saitama; <sup>5</sup>Department of Molecular Parasitology, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany; <sup>6</sup>Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Microbiology, Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical University, Szeged, Hungary

Fifteen 4-phenyl-3,5-dibenzoyl-1,4-dihydropyridines (**1-15**) substituted at the 4-phenyl ring were synthesized and compared to their cytotoxic activity and multidrug resistance (MDR)-reversing activity in *in vitro* assay systems. Among them, 2-CF<sub>3</sub> (**5**) (IC<sub>50</sub>=8.7 μM), 2-Cl (**11**) (IC<sub>50</sub>=7.0 μM) and 3-Cl (**12**) (IC<sub>50</sub>=7.0 μM) derivatives showed the highest cytotoxic activity against human oral squamous carcinoma (HSC-2) cells. The activity of P-glycoprotein (Pgp) response for MDR in tumor cells was reduced by some of derivatives (**3, 4, 8, 12**), verapamil and nifedipine. These data suggest that 3,5-dibenzoyl-4-(3-chlorophenyl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethylpyridine (**12**) can be recommended as a new drug candidate for MDR cancer treatment.