

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Apoptosis Inducer BZL101

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Apoptosis Inducer BZL101*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C69134.

An orally active aqueous extract derived from the plant *Scutellaria barbata* with potential antineoplastic activity. Sparing normal cells, apoptosis inducer BZL101 specifically facilitates translocation of the protein apoptosis-inducing factor (AIF) from the mitochondrial membrane into the nucleus in tumor cells, thereby causing tumor cell-specific chromatin condensation and DNA degradation followed by the induction of caspase-independent apoptosis. AIF is both a mitochondrial intermembrane flavoprotein with oxidoreductase activity and a caspase-independent death effector that, similar to cytochrome c, is released from mitochondria early in the apoptotic process.