

Identification of NVP-BKM120 as a Potent, Selective, Orally Bioavailable Class I PI3 Kinase Inhibitor for Treating Cancer

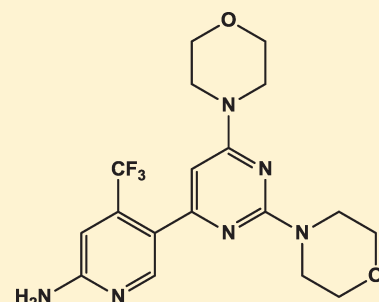
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S Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Phosphoinositide-3-kinases (PI3Ks) are important oncology targets due to the deregulation of this signaling pathway in a wide variety of human cancers. Herein we describe the structure guided optimization of a series of 2-morpholino, 4-substituted, 6-heterocyclic pyrimidines where the pharmacokinetic properties were improved by modulating the electronics of the 6-position heterocycle, and the overall druglike properties were fine-tuned further by modification of the 4-position substituent. The resulting 2,4-bismorpholino 6-heterocyclic pyrimidines are potent class I PI3K inhibitors showing mechanism modulation in PI3K dependent cell lines and *in vivo* efficacy in tumor xenograft models with PI3K pathway deregulation (A2780 ovarian and U87MG glioma). These efforts culminated in the discovery of **15** (NVP-BKM120), currently in Phase II clinical trials for the treatment of cancer.

KEYWORDS: NVP-BKM120, phosphoinositide-3-kinase, PI3K/AKT3 pathway



The phosphoinositide-3-kinase (PI3K) family of lipid kinases is involved in a diverse set of cellular functions, including cell growth, proliferation, motility, differentiation, glucose transport, survival, intracellular trafficking, and membrane ruffling.¹ PI3K's can be categorized into class I, II, or III, depending on their subunit structure, regulation, and substrate selectivity.² Class IA PI3K's are activated by receptor tyrosine kinases and consist of a regulatory subunit (p85) and a catalytic subunit (p110). There are three catalytic isoforms: p110 α , β , and δ . A single class IB PI3K, activated by GPCRs, consists of only one member: a p110 γ catalytic subunit and a p101 regulatory subunit. The primary *in vivo* substrate of the class I PI3K's is phosphatidylinositol (4,5) diphosphate (PtdIns(4,5)P₂), which upon phosphorylation at the 3-position of the inositol ring to form phosphatidylinositol triphosphate (3,4,5)P₃ (PIP₃) serves as a second messenger by activating a series of downstream effectors that mediate the cellular functions mentioned above. The PI3K isoforms have different distributions and share similar cellular functions, which are context dependent. In particular, p110 α pathway deregulation has been demonstrated in ovarian, breast, colon, and brain cancers.^{3,4} Inhibitors of PI3K α represent an intriguing therapeutic modality for these indications, and as such, there is much interest in generating suitable molecules to test this hypothesis in the clinic.^{5–10}

We have previously reported on a series of 6-hydroxyphenyl-2-morpholino pyrimidines,¹¹ as potent pan class I PI3K inhibitors that exhibit high selectivity toward protein kinases (serine/threonine

and tyrosine kinases). We have further reported on non-phenol containing heterocyclic, morpholino pyrimidines¹² such as compound **1** which demonstrate *in vivo* PI3K pathway modulation and modest tumor growth inhibition. Described herein are our efforts to identify potent morpholino pyrimidinyl inhibitors of class I PI3Ks that exhibit potency and pharmacokinetic properties which allow for maximal pathway modulation *in vivo* and have druglike properties suitable for clinical development. These efforts culminated in the identification of **15**, NVP-BKM120.

Aminopyrimidine **1** and analogues such as **3** (Figure 1) exhibit low or sub-nanomolar biochemical potency and sub-micromolar cellular potency against PI3K α . Even with high rodent CL values, such analogues can demonstrate PI3K pathway modulation in mouse xenograft models.¹² During our exploration of the C₆ position, it was noted that C₆ aminopyrimidine analogue **4**, while being less potent than **3** against PI3K α (>10 \times potency loss), exhibited a markedly reduced (>9 \times) rat CL value, increased %F, and increased oral AUC. Thus, superior pharmacokinetic properties were achievable within this scaffold and the challenge remaining was to retain this kind of pharmacokinetic profile while optimizing all the other attributes (potency, solubility, permeability, safety) necessary for advancement. To address this challenge, the approach taken focused on modifying the electronic properties of the C₆

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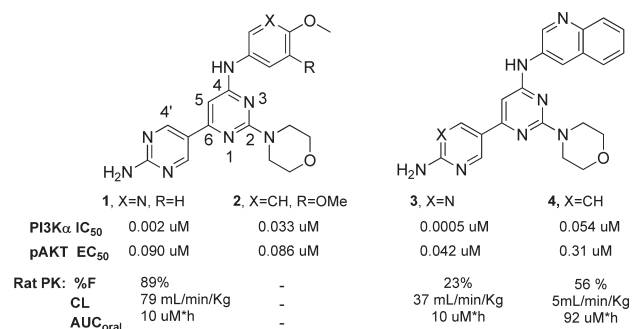


Figure 1. PI3K α enzymatic potency and rat PK properties of 6-substituted, 4-(aminopyrid-3-yl), 2-morpholino pyrimidines.

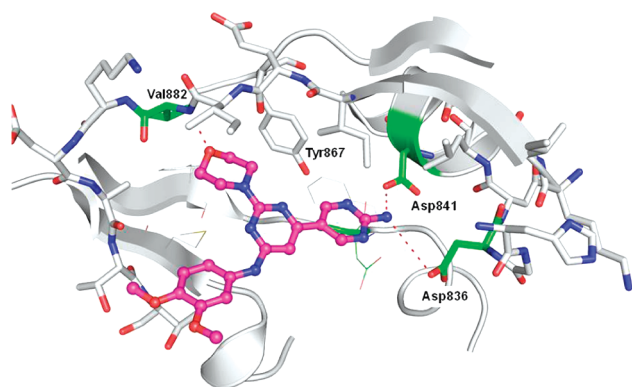


Figure 2. Structure of **2** in PI3K γ .

aminopyridine and C₆ aminopyrimidine moieties. It was hypothesized that electron withdrawing substituents would improve potency in the aminopyridines.¹³ In parallel, a series of substituted pyrimidines was surveyed, assessing the impact of substitution on PK.

To guide the C₆ aminoheterocycle modifications, we looked to the cocrystal structure of aminopyrimidine **2** (X = CH, R = OCH₃) in PI3K γ to gain an understanding of the aminopyrimidine binding interactions.¹⁴ Given the high homology between the α and γ isoforms and the nanomolar potency of **2** against the two isoforms,¹⁵ p110 γ was used as a surrogate for p110 α . The cocrystal structure of **2** in the ATP binding site of PI3K γ (Figure 2) indicates the key binding contacts being made by the aminopyrimidine as well as the morpholine group. The aminopyrimidine interacts *via* hydrogen bond interactions with Asp836, Asp841, and Tyr867. The C_{4'} position of the aminopyrimidine appears to provide a vector to a region of the active site where small groups would be tolerated. The morpholine oxygen forms a known hydrogen bond to the hinge Val882 NH.^{16,17} The central pyrimidine C₄ substituent extends out toward solvent and does not appear to make any specific hydrogen bonds. These latter two features are consistent with earlier structures of morpholino pyrimidines.^{11,12}

With this structural insight, our strategy to find optimal C₆ aminoheterocycles was to substitute the C_{4'} position of the C₆ aminopyrimidine or the C_{4'} position of the C₆ aminopyridine with small groups that could modulate the electronic properties of the heterocycle. Additionally, it was envisioned that the C_{4'} substitution would enforce the nonplanar conformation between the central pyrimidine and the C₆ heterocycle, which could disrupt

intermolecular crystal packing and improve aqueous solubility. Finally, upon identification of preferred C₆ aminoheterocycles, further optimization at the central pyrimidine C₄ position to modulate druglike properties and maintain potency was anticipated, since the cocrystal structure indicated this position was partially solvent exposed and would tolerate a range of substituents.

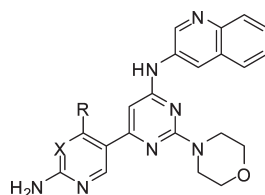
C_{4'} modified, C₆ pyridyl or pyrimidyl substituted 2-morpholino 4-aminoquinolyl pyrimidines, synthesized as previously described,¹² were initially screened in biochemical PI3K assays, and compounds with PI3K α IC₅₀ values < 100 nM were tested in the A2780 ovarian carcinoma cell line (where the PI3K pathway is deregulated due to PTEN deletion) for inhibition of cell proliferation and phosphorylation of AKT^{Ser473} as target modulation readout.

The results of the C_{4'} modified, C₆ substituent survey (Table 1) indicate that the biochemical potency of the C₆ aminopyridine can be improved by introduction of an electron withdrawing group at the C_{4'} position, as is evident in the 3 \times , 12 \times , and 20 \times biochemical potency improvement in CF₃, CN, and Cl replacement of H. Additionally, substitution at the C_{4'} position of the aminopyridine does not compromise the rat PK properties, as the CL and AUC are minimally impacted with the CF₃ substitution, 7 vs 4. In contrast to the trends in C₆ aminopyridines, substitution at the C_{4'} position of the C₆ aminopyrimidine does not markedly increase the enzymatic or cellular potency. However, substitution at the C_{4'} position of the C₆ aminopyrimidine can improve the PK properties, as is evident in **10**, where the rat CL is reduced 3-fold and oral AUC increased 3-fold relative to **3**.

While the biochemical and PK parameters can be improved with C_{4'} substitution on the C₆ aminoheterocycle, all compounds with the C₄ aminoquinoline exhibit low aqueous solubility, as well as low Caco-2 permeability.¹⁸ The low solubility and permeability potentially could play a role in the lack of correlation between the biochemical potency and cellular activity. Additionally, this solubility range would not be sufficient for further development if concentrations in excess of the cell activity (0.1–1 μ M) would need to be achieved *in vivo* for efficacy, as well as not sufficient to assess the safety profile of the compound.

With these considerations in mind, we further explored C₄ position SAR with the preferred C_{4'} substituted C₆ aminoheterocycles, to arrive at potent PI3K inhibitors with improved solubility. From earlier work¹² it was known that the C₄ position could tolerate a wide range of moieties. Additionally, it was known that a morpholine group at the C₄ position maintained reasonable potency while improving solubility relative to the aminoquinoline (compound **12**, Table 2). As such, compounds which contained the C₄ morpholine and the C_{4'} substituted C₆ aminopyridines or aminopyrimidines were prepared. The properties of these analogues are shown in Table 2.

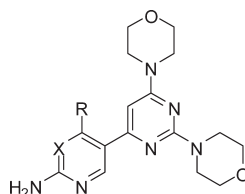
All bis morpholino compounds demonstrate biochemical activity against PI3K in the nanomolar range, mechanism modulation <300 nM, and inhibition of cell proliferation approximately between 0.5 and 1.5 μ M. Additionally, the solubility at pH 7 was markedly improved for all bis morpholino compounds (at least 10–1000 \times) relative to the C₄ aminoquinoline analogues. This increased solubility, along with the high permeability, *vide infra*, may account for the comparable cellular potency of the bismorpholino compounds in Table 2 relative to the more biochemically potent but less soluble aminoquinoline compounds in Table 1. The additional morpholine at the C₄ position did not compromise the rat PK parameters,¹⁹ as, for both C₆ substituted aminopyridines as well as C₆ substituted aminopyrimidines in

Table 1. Selected C₆ Aminopyridyl/Pyrimidyl Analogue SAR

entry	X	R	PI3K α IC ₅₀ ^a (μ M)	prolif EC ₅₀ ^b (μ M)	pAKT ^{Ser473} EC ₅₀ ^b (μ M)	CL ^c	AUC ^d	V _{ss} ^e
3	N	H	<0.002 \pm 0.004 (15)	0.146 \pm 0.10 (6)	0.042 \pm 0.01 (4)	37 \pm 5.7	7 \pm 2.6	1.9 \pm 0.2
4	CH	H	0.11 \pm 0.15 (16)	0.54 \pm 0.19 (10)	0.31 \pm 0.09 (3)	5 \pm 0.8	92 \pm 22	0.8 \pm 0.1
5	CH	Cl	0.0024 \pm 0.0004 (2)	0.28 \pm 0.14 (4)	0.29			
6	CH	CN	0.0041 \pm 0.0001 (2)	0.19 \pm 0.05 (4)	1.3 \pm 0.78 (2)			
7	CH	CF ₃	0.021 \pm 0.010 (9)	0.083 \pm 0.24 (17)	0.45 \pm 0.22 (7)	8 \pm 0.3	114 \pm 19	2.6 \pm 0.4
8	N	NH ₂	0.0026 \pm 0.0001 (2)	0.17	0.18			
9	NH	O	0.0074 \pm 0.0008 (2)	3.2 \pm 1.2 (4)				
10	N	CF ₃	0.0022 \pm 0.002 (8)	0.58 \pm 0.49 (12)	0.43 \pm 0.11 (4)	11. \pm 3.2	26 \pm 3.4	2.8 \pm 0.8
11	N	CH ₃	0.008 \pm 0.009 (8)	0.19 \pm 0.11 (8)	0.09			

^a ATP depletion assay; the value in parentheses is the number of replicates. ^b A2780 cell line. ^c Rat, IV, 5 mg/kg dose, mL/(min \cdot kg). ^d Rat, oral, 20 mg/kg dose, μ M \cdot h. ^e Rat, IV, 5 mg/kg dose, L/kg.

Table 2. Selected 2,4-Bismorpholino Pyrimidyl Analogue SAR



entry	X	R	PI3K α IC ₅₀ ^a (μ M)	pAKT ^{Ser473} EC ₅₀ ^b (μ M)	prolif EC ₅₀ ^b (μ M)	CL ^c	AUC ^d	V _{ss} ^e	%F	sol ^f
12	N	H	0.0184 \pm 0.001 (2)	0.10	0.93 \pm 0.11 (2)					25
13	CH	Cl	0.034 \pm 0.006 (6)	0.11	1.77 \pm 0.68 (4)	22 \pm 5	29 \pm 6	1.11 \pm 0.7	69 \pm 14	45
14	CH	CN	0.068 \pm 0.014 (5)	0.10 \pm 0.10 (3)	0.51 \pm 0.48 (3)	11 \pm 2	86 \pm 5	1.6 \pm 0.1	98 \pm 6	11
15	CH	CF ₃	0.030 \pm 0.017 (24)	0.055 \pm 0.02 (11)	0.52 \pm 0.50 (30)	3 \pm 0.4	178 \pm 3	3.1 \pm 0.4	50 \pm 7	132
16	N	NH ₂	0.023 \pm 0.011 (10)	0.079 \pm 0.03 (11)	1.46 \pm 2.0 (33)	9 \pm 0.1	64 \pm 7	4.5 \pm 0.9	68 \pm 14	8
17	NH	O	0.015 \pm 0.008 (8)	0.073 \pm 0.01 (2)	0.68 \pm 0.22 (4)	24 \pm 4	24 \pm 3	2.8 \pm 1.2	56 \pm 15	22
18	N	CF ₃	0.014 \pm 0.006 (14)	0.070 \pm 0.03 (3)	0.45 \pm 0.10 (3)	11 \pm 2	62 \pm 5	2.1 \pm 0.2	83 \pm 3	61

^a ATP depletion assay; the value in parentheses is the number of replicates. ^b A2780 cell line. ^c Rat, IV,¹⁹ mL/(min \cdot kg). ^d Rat, oral,¹⁹ μ M \cdot h. ^e Rat, IV,¹⁹ L/kg. ^f Solubility at pH 7, μ M

Table 2, low to moderate CL and moderate to high %F were observed. All bismorpholino compounds in Table 2 exhibit high stability in both rat and human liver microsomes, with Cl_{int} \leq 9 μ L/min/mg in both species.

Compound **15** was of particular interest, as the solubility was the highest (170 μ M on crystalline material) and it was among the most potent bismorpholino compounds in cell based assays (50 nM target modulation; 500 nM cell proliferation). Figure 3 shows the cocrystal structure of **15** in PI3K γ .²⁰ The binding mode was as expected with one of the morpholines binding to the hinge at Val882 and the aminopyridine group interacting *via* hydrogen bonds to Asp836, Asp841, and Tyr867.

The biochemical activity of **15** was assessed across class I PI3K's, related lipid kinases, and against more than 200 protein kinases. Some of the data are shown in Table 3. Compound **15** exhibited 50–300 nM activity for class I PI3K's, including the

most common p110 α mutants. Additionally, **15** exhibited lower potency against class III and class IV PI3K's, where 2, 5, >5, and >25 μ M biochemical activity was observed for inhibition of VPS34, mTOR, DNAPK, and PI4K, respectively. No significant activity was observed against the protein kinases tested.

In vitro evaluation of **15** across a range of PI3K deregulated cell lines from a variety of tumor types, including ovarian, glioblastoma, breast, and prostate, was conducted (Table 4). Across all cell lines, pathway modulation and antiproliferative activity was consistent with cellular PI3K inhibition.

The behavior consistent with selective *in vitro* inhibition of class I PI3K's translated to *in vivo* settings in two models of PI3K-AKT pathway driven cancers: the A2780 ovarian carcinoma and the U87MG glioma model, which carry a PTEN deletion. In A2780 xenograft tumors (Figure 4), oral dosing of **15** at 3, 10, 30, 60, and 100 mg/kg resulted in a dose dependent modulation of

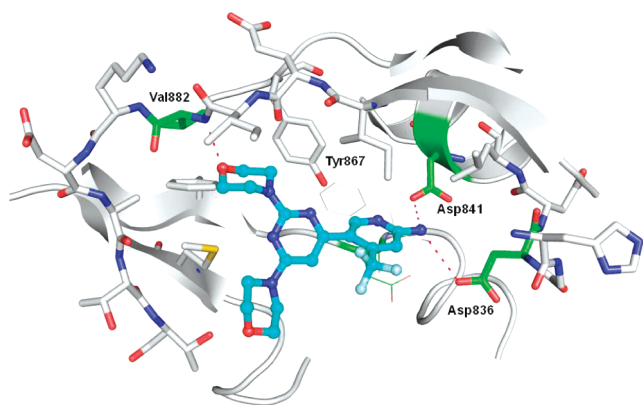


Figure 3. Structure of 15, NVP-BKM120, in PI3K γ .

Table 3. Biochemical Activity of 15, NVP-BKM120, against Class I, III, IV, PI3, and Related Kinases

class	enzyme	IC ₅₀ (μ M)	enzyme	IC ₅₀ (μ M)
Class I PI3K's ^a	p110 α	0.052 \pm 0.037	p110 β	0.166 \pm 0.029
	p110 α -H1047R	0.058 \pm 0.002	p110 δ	0.116
	p110 α -E545K	0.099 \pm 0.006	p110 γ	0.262 \pm 0.094
Class III PI3K's ^b	VPS34	2.4 \pm 1.5		
Class IV PI3K's	mTOR ^c	4.6 \pm 1.9	DNAPK ^d	>5
PI4K ^b	PI4K β	>25		

^a Filter binding assay. ^b ATP depletion assay. ^c TR-FRET assay. ^d Pro-mega SignaTECT.

Table 4. Cellular Activity of 15 across Multiple Cell Lines with PI3K Pathway Deregulation

cell line	genotype	pAKT ^{Ser473} EC ₅₀ (μ M)	GI ₅₀ (nM)
A2780	PTEN del	0.074	0.635
U87MG	PTEN del	0.13	0.698
MCF7	E545K-PIK3CA	<0.100	0.158
DU145	LKB1 mutant	0.073	0.435

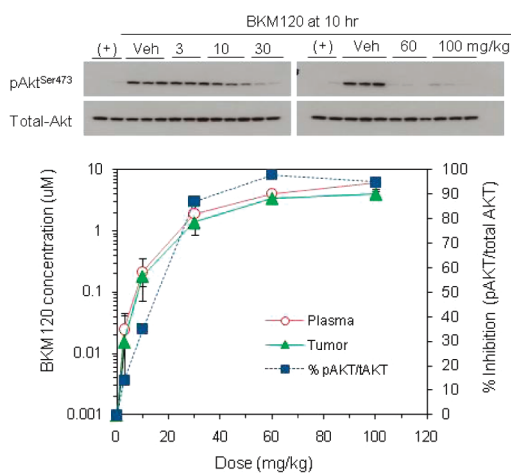


Figure 4. pAKT^{Ser473} inhibition and plasma exposure of 15, NVP-BKM120, in an A2780 xenograft model.

pAKT^{Ser473}. Partial inhibition of pAKT^{Ser473} was observed at 3 and 10 mg/kg, and near complete inhibition was observed at

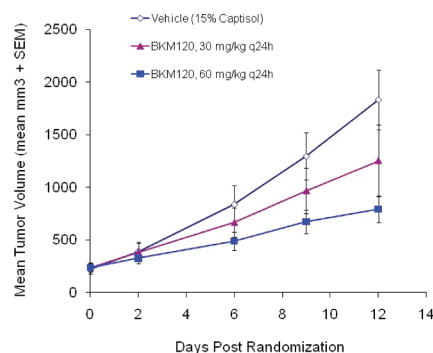


Figure 5. Efficacy of compound 15, NVP-BKM120, in an A2780 xenograft model.

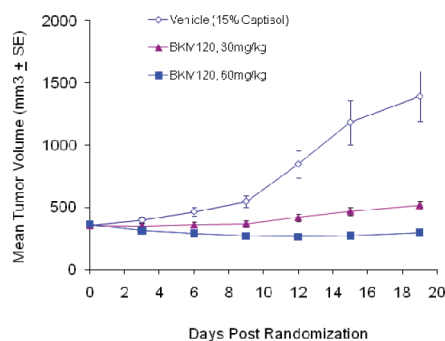


Figure 6. Antitumor activity of 15, NVP-BKM120, against the subcutaneous U87MG glioma tumor model.

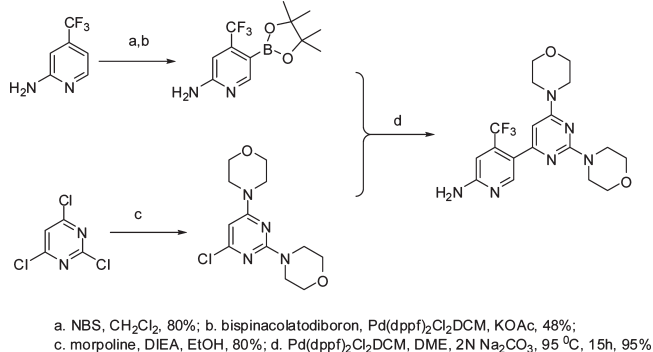
doses of 30, 60, or 100 mg/kg, respectively. Inhibition of pAKT (normalized to total AKT) tracked well with both plasma and tumor drug exposure. pAKT modulation was also time dependent, with >90% target modulation achieved with the 60 and 100 mg/kg dose at the 10 h time point when the plasma and tumor exposure was ca. 2 μ M.²¹

Consistent with the mechanism modulation observed, significant tumor growth inhibition was obtained in the A2780 tumor model at 60 mg/kg upon multiple dosing (Figure 5). Efficacy was associated with significant inhibition of the PI3K pathway, as assessed by reduction in pAKT^{Ser473}, for up to 16 h.

As was the case *in vitro*, 15 displays *in vivo* activity across a range of PI3K pathway deregulated tumor xenograft models.²² In the established U87MG glioma model, significant single agent activity was obtained with 15 at daily oral doses of 30 and 60 mg/kg (Figure 6) in a well tolerated manner.²³ This activity in the U87MG model, coupled with the high permeability and lack of efflux exhibited by 15,²⁴ suggests that 15 may have utility in PI3K-driven gliomas.

With these encouraging rodent pharmacology activities, compound 15 was studied further. Profiling indicated that 15 exhibited no reversible or time dependent CYP450 (3A4, 2C9, 2D6) inhibition up to 50 μ M or CYP3A4 induction up to 25 μ M, exhibited high permeability with no propensity for efflux,²³ demonstrated no cardiotoxicity potential,²⁵ and showed a clean profile (>10 μ M) against enzymes, receptors, and transporters included in internal safety and the external MDS Pharma Services panels. The melting point of 15 is 153 $^{\circ}$ C, its log *D* (pH 7.4) is 2.9, and its p*K*_a is 5.1. The synthesis of 15 is straightforward, proceeding in four steps for the research route (Scheme 1).

Scheme 1. Synthesis of 15

Table 5. PK Properties of 15 across Species²⁶

species	IV			PO
	<i>t</i> _{1/2} ^a	CL ^b	<i>V</i> _{ss} ^c	%F
mouse	1.6	11	1.4	71–89
rat	11	3 ± 0.4	3.1 ± 0.4	50
dog	6.6 ± 0.8	7.3 ± 1.5	3.1 ± 0.4	>100
monkey	3.6	13	3.1	44

^a Units of hour. ^b Units of mL/(min kg). ^c Units of L/kg.

The pharmacokinetic properties of 15 were evaluated across multiple species (Table 5). Low to moderate CL was observed for 15 across species, as CL values of 11, 3, 13, and 7 mL/(min kg) were observed in mouse, rat, dog, and monkey, respectively. Additionally, 15 exhibited medium to high oral bioavailability across species as 80%, 50%, 44%, and 100% was observed in mouse, rat, dog, and monkey, respectively.

With the favorable cellular potency, kinase selectivity, pre-clinical pharmacology, rodent, dog, and monkey pharmacokinetics, physical properties, and preclinical safety profile, 15 was advanced into clinical trials in 2008 and has since shown clinical activity in patients with cancer.²⁷ Specifically promising activity has been observed in those patients with an activated PI3K pathway.²⁸

In summary, we have described the structure guided optimization of a series of 6-aminoheterocyclic, 4-substituted, 2-morpholino pyrimidines which exhibited high CL and low aqueous solubility into a compound suitable for clinical development. Modification of the aminoheterocycle with small groups that modulated the ring electronics either improved potency or reduced the *in vivo* CL values. Incorporation of a morpholine group at the C₄ central pyrimidine position increased the aqueous solubility while retaining sufficient potency, selectivity, and favorable *in vivo* properties. The combination of these modifications led to the discovery of a series of substituted 6-aminoheterocyclic, 2,4-bismorpholino pyrimidines. From this series, compound 15 (NVP-BKM120) has advanced into humans and is currently being assessed in phase II trials.²⁹

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information. Experimental details for the synthesis and characterization of all compounds, biological assay,

and pharmacology model procedures. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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■ ABBREVIATIONS

PI3K, phosphoinositide-3-kinase; DNAPK, DNA dependent protein kinase; PI4K, 1-phosphatidylinositol-4-kinase; mTOR, mammalian target of rapamycin; PTEN, phosphatase and tensin homologue; NBS, *N*-bromosuccinimide; DIEA, diisopropylethylamine; Pd(dppf)₂Cl₂-DCM, dichloro[1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene] palladium(II) dichloromethane adduct; DIEA, diisopropylethylamine; DME, dimethoxyethane; CYP, cytochrome P450; CL, clearance; PK, pharmacokinetics

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(19) 5 mg/kg IV dose and 20 mg/kg oral dose for all compounds except **16**, which was dosed 5 mg/kg IV and 10 mg/kg orally.

(20) Structure of **15** in PI3K γ submitted under PDB accession code 3SDS.

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(23) Female nude mice (6–8 weeks of age from Charles River) were implanted with 5×10^6 U87MG cells (in 0.2 mL 50% matrigel) s.c. into the right flank. Mice were randomized when tumors reached a mean size of 350 mm³ ($n = 12$ /group) and were treated with either vehicle or BKM120 at 30 or 60 mg/kg, q.d. Body weights are included in the Supporting Information for both A2780 and U87MG efficacy studies.

(24) P_{appA-B} ($\text{cm/s} \times 10^{-6}$) = 42, P_{appB-A} ($\text{cm/s} \times 10^{-6}$) = 21.

(25) Dofetilide binding IC₅₀ > 30 μ M; no significant findings in isolated rabbit heart model and dog telemetry.

(26) Mouse PK (female CD1 mice, 5 mg/kg IV, 10 mg/kg PO), rat PK (female CD rats, 5 mg/kg IV, 20 mg/kg PO), dog PK (male and

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