

Oxopyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidines as Covalent L858R/T790M Mutant Selective Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) Inhibitors

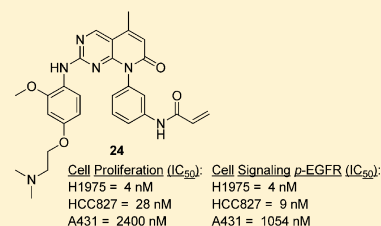
Ryan P. Wurz,^{*,†} Liping H. Pettus,[†] Kate Ashton,[†] James Brown,[†] Jian Jeffrey Chen,[†] Brad Herberich,[†] Fang-Tsao Hong,[†] Essa Hu-Harrington,[†] Tom Nguyen,[†] David J. St. Jean, Jr.,[†] Seifu Tadesse,[†] David Bauer,[‡] Michele Kubryk,[‡] Jinghui Zhan,[‡] Keegan Cooke,[‡] Petia Mitchell,[‡] Kristin L. Andrews,[§] Faye Hsieh,^{||} Dean Hickman,^{||} Nataraj Kalyanaraman,^{||} Tian Wu,[⊥] Darren L. Reid,[⊥] Edward K. Lobenhofer,[○] Dina A. Andrews,[#] Nancy Everds,[#] Roberto Guzman,[#] Andrew T. Parsons,⁺ Simon J. Hedley,[▽] Jason Tedrow,[▽] Oliver R. Thiel,[▽] Matthew Potter,[∞] Robert Radinsky,[‡] Pedro J. Beltran,[‡] and Andrew S. Tasker[†]

[†]Medicinal Chemistry, [‡]Oncology Research, [§]Molecular Structure, ^{||}Pharmacokinetics and Drug Metabolism, [⊥]Oral Delivery – Product and Process Development, [○]Discovery Toxicology, [#]Pathology, [▽]Chemical Process R&D, Amgen Inc., One Amgen Center Drive, Thousand Oaks, California 91320-1799, United States

[◆]Medicinal Chemistry, ⁺Chemical Process R&D, [∞]Analytical R&D, Amgen Inc., 360 Binney Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142-1011, United States

Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: In nonsmall cell lung cancer (NSCLC), the threonine⁷⁹⁰–methionine⁷⁹⁰ (T790M) point mutation of EGFR kinase is one of the leading causes of acquired resistance to the first generation tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs), such as gefitinib and erlotinib. Herein, we describe the optimization of a series of 7-oxopyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidinyl-derived irreversible inhibitors of EGFR kinase. This led to the discovery of compound **24** which potently inhibits gefitinib-resistant EGFR^{L858R,T790M} with 100-fold selectivity over wild-type EGFR. Compound **24** displays strong antiproliferative activity against the H1975 nonsmall cell lung cancer cell line, the first line mutant HCC827 cell line, and promising antitumor activity in an EGFR^{L858R,T790M} driven H1975 xenograft model sparing the side effects associated with the inhibition of wild-type EGFR.



KEYWORDS: Epidermal growth factor receptor, EGFR, nonsmall cell lung cancer, EGFR T790M mutant, irreversible inhibitor, kinase inhibitor

A aberrant signaling by the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR, ErbB1) kinase is a well validated target in the lung cancer setting. Several EGFR inhibitors, such as gefitinib and erlotinib (Figure 1), have achieved significant clinical benefit in the management of nonsmall cell lung cancer (NSCLC) in patients with activating point mutations in exon 21 in the EGFR kinase domain, such as L858R and in-frame deletions, such as del(E746–A750), in exon 19. Unfortunately, a secondary threonine⁷⁹⁰–methionine⁷⁹⁰ mutation (T790M) in the EGFR catalytic domain is responsible for approximately 50% of the clinically acquired drug resistance in NSCLC patients.^{1–3}

In order to address resistance to the first generation of reversible tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs), a second generation of irreversible^{4,5} EGFR inhibitors was developed.^{6–9} CI-1033 (canertinib),¹⁰ HKI-272 (neratinib),^{11,12} and PF-00299804 (dacomitinib)¹³ advanced into late stage clinical development and structurally resemble the first generation of EGFR inhibitors (Figure 1). Afatinib (gilotrif) was recently approved by the US FDA for treatment of late-stage NSCLC patients with actively mutated EGFR.¹⁴ All the second generation inhibitors, however, lack significant selectivity between EGFR^{T790M} mutants and the

wild-type kinase which leads to dose-limiting toxicities in these patients, including skin rash and diarrhea. Only limited clinical efficacy was observed for these inhibitors, and this may be due to the fact that the inhibitors at the tolerated therapeutic concentrations are insufficient to adequately suppress the functions of EGFR^{T790M} mutant.

The desire to identify inhibitors selective for the EGFR mutants (especially T790M) while sparing EGFR^{WT} led to a third generation of irreversible EGFR inhibitors pioneered by Zhou and co-workers with the discovery of WZ-4002 (Gatekeeper Pharmaceuticals Inc.). This generation of inhibitors demonstrated that much higher levels of selectivity for EGFR^{T790M} were possible (Figure 2).¹⁵ Since that report, a significant number of third generation inhibitors have entered early clinical trials. Recent disclosures by Clovis Oncology and AstraZeneca revealed their clinical candidates CO-1686¹⁶ and

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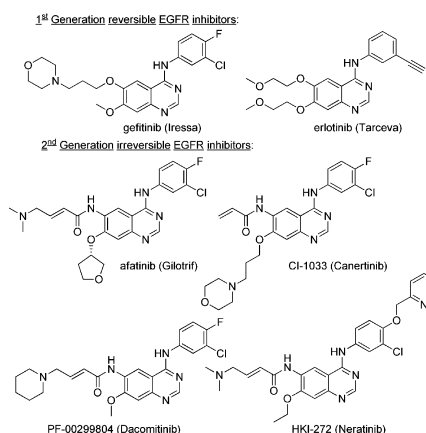


Figure 1. First and second generation EGFR inhibitors.

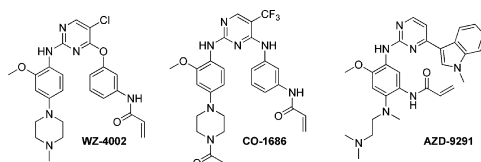


Figure 2. Third generation EGFR inhibitors.

AZD-9291^{17–19} which possess selectivity for the EGFR^{L858R,T790M} mutant over EGFR^{WT}^{20–22}.

Our efforts in this area began with compound **1** which was the result of structure-guided design. Inspired by our previous research efforts on p38 MAP kinase^{23,24} and the structural similarities of the ATP binding pockets of p38 and EGFR, we explored the fusion of a pyridone ring onto the scaffold of WZ-4002 (Figure 3). The carbonyl oxygen of the pyridone ring would

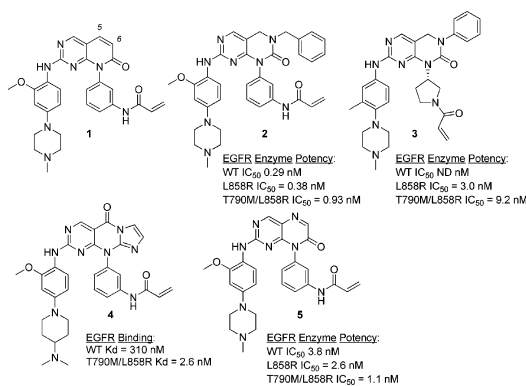
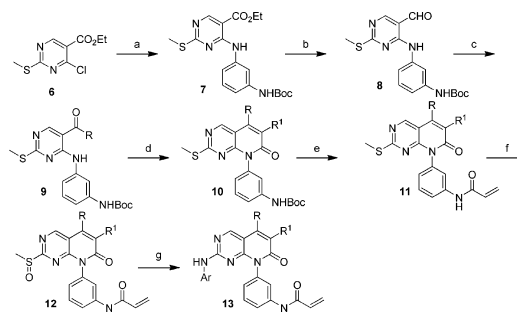


Figure 3. Bicyclic scaffolds resulting from the fusion of heterocycles onto the core of WZ-4002.

serve as a hydrogen-bond acceptor to satisfy the coordination requirements of a crystallographically resolved water molecule in the ATP binding pocket of EGFR protein and help improve inhibitor potency. Ding and co-workers have also explored similar approaches and recently communicated their efforts involving the fusion of cyclic ureas (compounds 2–3),^{25,26} a pyrimidino[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-4(1*H*)-one scaffold (compound 4),²⁷ and a pteridine-7(8*H*)-one scaffold (compound 5)²⁸ onto the WZ-4002 core with varying degrees of selectivity for EGFR^{L858R,T790M} over EGFR^{WT}.

We designed a synthesis of the 7-oxopyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidinyl core that would allow for versatile analoging (Scheme 1).^{29,30}

Scheme 1. Synthesis of EGFR Inhibitor Analogs^a

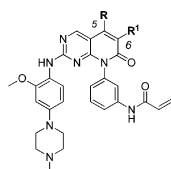


^aReagents and conditions: (a) K₂CO₃ (2 equiv), *m*-NH₂-C₆H₄-NHBoc, DMF, 80 °C, 86%; (b) (i) LiAlH₄ (2.5 equiv), THF, 0 °C; (ii) MnO₂, CHCl₃, rt, 66% (2 steps); (c) (i) RMgBr (3.2 equiv), THF, 0 °C–rt, 1 h; (ii) MnO₂, CHCl₃, 60 °C, 16 h; (d) R¹CH₂CO₂Et, LiHMDS, THF, –78 °C–rt; (e) (i) TFA, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 30 min; (ii) acryloyl chloride, Hunig's base, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C–rt, 1 h; (f) *m*-CPBA (1.1 equiv), CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C, 1 h; (g) DMAC, Ar–NH₂ (2.2 equiv), 95 °C, 6 h.

Commercially available ethyl 4-chloro-2-(methylthio)pyrimidine-5-carboxylate (**6**) underwent an S_NAr-type displacement with mono-Boc protected 1,3-phenylenediamine to produce diaryl amine **7** in high yield. Reduction of the ethyl ester with lithium aluminum hydride afforded the corresponding alcohol, which was subsequently oxidized with MnO₂ to aldehyde **8**. Treatment of the aldehyde with the appropriate Grignard reagent followed by oxidation of the resulting secondary alcohol to ketone **9** provided a substrate for an aldol-like cyclcondensation reaction with ester enolates to afford the 7-oxopyridopyrimidinyl scaffold (**10**).³¹ In this manner, analogs with the desired substitution patterns at the 5- and 6-positions of the pyridone ring could be prepared. The Boc-protecting group was removed with TFA, and the acrylamide warhead was introduced using acryloyl chloride to provide intermediate **11**. Oxidation of the methyl(thio)pyrimidinyl motif to the sulfoxide with *m*-CPBA furnished sulfoxide (**12**) which underwent S_NAr displacement with the desired aniline to afford the final product **13**.

An NCI-H1975 adenocarcinoma cell line bearing EGFR^{L858R,T790M} point mutations and an HCC827 adenocarcinoma cell line bearing the deletion mutation (EGFR^{Δ746–750}) were used for potency optimization while a A431 epidermoid carcinoma cell line bearing overexpressed EGFR^{WT} was used as a counterscreen, allowing an early assessment of selectivity over EGFR^{WT}.

With a synthetic route in hand to facilitate exploration of a structure–activity relationship for the 7-oxopyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidinyl analogs, compound **1** was prepared (via Scheme 1, omitting step *c*). Compound **1** displayed single digit nanomolar activity in both of the EGFR mutant cell lines with good selectivity against the A431 cell line (Table 1). This compound was further profiled in a biochemical cell signaling assay by meso scale discovery (MSD)³² and showed reduced selectivity (ca. 17-fold) against the A431 cell line (Table 3). Given the large differences in affinities for ATP³³ between the different mutant forms and EGFR^{WT}, we believed it would be beneficial to further improve upon selectivity over EGFR^{WT} in order to give a better window of tolerability. These large differences in ATP affinity also influenced our decision to use cell-based assays to direct SAR efforts instead of the traditional enzyme-based assays.

Table 1. Antiproliferation Activities for Compounds Arising from Modifications to the Pyridone Ring^a

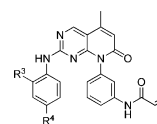
compd	R	R ¹	H1975 IC ₅₀ (nM)	HCC827 IC ₅₀ (nM)	A431 IC ₅₀ (nM)
AZD9291	N/A	N/A	26	6	849
1	H	H	8	4	5229
14	Me	H	4	12	1200
15	Me	OMe	10	41	1387
16	H	OMe	273	61	201
17	H	Bn	4	18	250

^aData represent an average of at least two separate determinations. Standard deviations are reported in the Supporting Information and vary by less than ±50%.

Modeling studies docking 7-oxopyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidinyl analogs into the reported crystal structure of WZ-4002 in EGFR^{T790M} (PDB code: 3IKA) suggested that introduction of small hydrophobic groups into the gatekeeper pocket would potentially benefit selectivity. The threonine present in EGFR^{WT} is more sterically congested and polar in nature while the EGFR^{T790M} bears a methionine residue which is hydrophobic and, given the lack of a β-branch, more accommodating of small aliphatic substitutions. Given these differences in the gatekeeper pocket between the T790M mutant and EGFR^{WT} protein, we investigated a brief but focused series of substitution patterns in the 5- and 6-positions on the 7-oxopyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidinyl ring.

Introduction of a methyl group in the 5-position of the pyridone ring (14) led to a compound which was roughly equipotent to compound 1 in the H1975 (H1975 IC₅₀ = 4 nM) and HCC827 cell lines (HCC827 IC₅₀ = 12 nM) and also >100-fold selective against the wild-type expressing cell line (A431 IC₅₀ = 1200 nM). This potency and selectivity profile was also confirmed by the MSD assay in which the potency in the A431 cell line remained ca. 100-fold (A431 IC₅₀ = 386 nM, Table 3). Introduction of a methoxy group to the 6-position (compound 15) resulted in a very similar profile with slight erosion in potency in the H1975 cell line (H1975 IC₅₀ = 10 nM) and a small loss in selectivity. Removal of the 5-methyl group (compound 16) led to a significant loss in potency and a complete loss in selectivity for the EGFR^{L858R,T790M} mutant over EGFR^{WT}. Introduction of a benzyl group in the 6-position (compound 17) was found to adversely influence selectivity over EGFR^{WT}.

Compound 14 was then evaluated for its pharmacodynamic (PD) effect in female athymic nude mice. These mice were implanted with matrigel plugs containing H1975 tumor cells (5 × 10⁶ cells) and dosed orally with 14 at 30 mg/kg. At 4 h post dosing, tumor cell plugs and plasma were harvested. Total p-EGFR levels in the plug were measured with a quantitative MSD assay resulting in 90% inhibition of p-EGFR (Table 2). Compound 14 was also efficacious in an H1975 murine xenograft model resulting in tumor stasis at 30 mg/kg QD.³⁴ However, in an exploratory 4-day rat toxicology study, hepatobiliary toxicity (moderate to marked increased serum biomarkers of hepatobiliary perturbation/injury with histologic evidence of minimal to mild portal inflammation and

Table 2. Antiproliferation Activities for Compounds Arising from Modifications to the Left-Hand Side^a

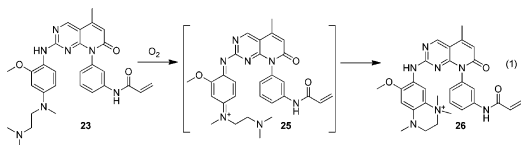
Cmpd	R ³	R ⁴	H1975 IC ₅₀ (nM)	HCC827 IC ₅₀ (nM)	A431 IC ₅₀ (nM)	PD ^b % Inhib
AZD9291	N/A	N/A	26	6	849	92
14	OMe		4	12	1200	90
18	H		4	7	>3000	5
19	OMe		30	58	>5000	NT
20	OMe		68	211	>1000	NT
21	OMe		4	33	681	NT
22	OMe		>10,000	Undef.	NT	NT
23	OMe		8	22	>1000	80
24	OMe		4	28	2400	90

^aData represents an average of at least two separate determinations. Standard deviations are reported in the Supporting Information and vary by less than ±50%. ^bAthymic nude mice were implanted with matrigel plugs containing 5 × 10⁶ H1975 cells. Animals (n = 3) were treated with control or compound (30 mg/kg po dose). Plug and plasma samples were collected 4 h post sample administration. Results denotes % p-EGFR/PRAS40 vs control. NT = not tested.

hepatocellular necrosis) was observed at low exposure multiples. Due to the observed toxicity, we decided to explore structure–activity relationships (SAR) for replacements for the *N*-methylpiperazine motif on the left-hand side of the inhibitor while maintaining the 5-methyl substitution on the pyridone ring. It quickly became apparent that small modifications to the left-hand side had a significant impact on the properties of the inhibitor. For example, removal of the *ortho*-methoxy group on the aniline resulted in compound 18 which maintained potency in the proliferation assays. However, this compound had a greatly diminished pharmacodynamic (PD) effect as compared to 14 presumably due to a precipitous drop in exposure. *N*-Acylation of the piperazinyl group (compound 19) resulted in loss in inhibitor potency as did removal of the methyl group (compound 20).

An *N*-methylpiperidine (compound 21) was a replacement that was tolerated in terms of potency in the mutant cell lines but resulted in a loss in selectivity for the EGFR^{L858R,T790M} mutant over EGFR^{WT}. A morpholino-group (compound 22) resulted in complete loss of potency in the proliferation assay due to a significant loss in permeability. Ring opening of the *N*-methylpiperazine to a *N,N,N'*-trimethylethylenediamine (compound 23) resulted in a compound that was virtually equipotent to 14 and maintained a robust PD effect. Compound 23 was

found to be slightly less efficacious in an H1975 xenograft model than **14** (90% TGI at 30 mg/kg QD). However, in an exploratory 4-day rat toxicology study this analogue was devoid of hepatobiliary toxicity. Efforts to prepare this compound on larger scale for additional toxicology studies led to the realization of a potential stability liability for this compound. A variable amount of the quaternary ammonium salt byproduct (**26**) was observed during isolation of the final API. Mechanistically, this decomposition product presumably results from oxidation of the electron-rich aniline ring to aza-quinone intermediate **25** followed by 1,4-nucleophilic addition to restore aromaticity (eq 1).



This mechanistic proposal led to the design of an analog with a slightly less electron-rich aniline. Compound **23**, the corresponding ether linked analogue (of compound **24**), was prepared and found to have slightly improved potency and greatly improved stability. Compound **24** also maintained the robust PD effect as observed with compound **23**. Its selectivity was also confirmed in the MSD assay with >100-fold selectivity over EGFR^{WT} (Table 3). Hepatobiliary toxicity was also not observed when this compound was tested in a 4-day rat toxicology study.

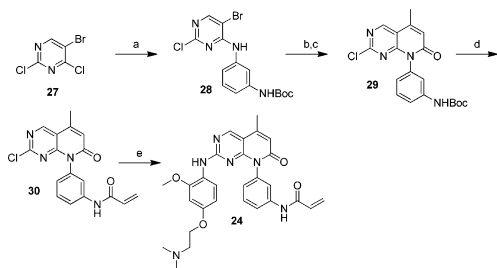
Table 3. Cell Signaling: Inhibition of p-EGFR by MSD^a

compd	H1975 IC ₅₀ (nM)	HCC827 IC ₅₀ (nM)	A431 IC ₅₀ (nM)
AZD9291	15	6	348
1	3	3	50
14	4	12	386
23	6	12	521
24	4	9	1054

^aData represent an average of at least two separate determinations. Standard deviations are reported in the Supporting Information and vary by less than ±50%.

As demand for larger quantities of material grew to facilitate additional studies, a more efficient synthetic route was developed (Scheme 2). This alternative route used commercially available

Scheme 2. Second Generation Synthesis of Compound 24^a



^aReagents and conditions: (a) K₂CO₃ (1.3 equiv), *m*-NH₂-C₆H₄-NHBoc, DMF, rt, 16 h, 98%; (b) PdCl₂(PhCN)₂, P(*o*-tolyl)₃, crotonic acid, DIEA, PhMe, 60 °C; (c) Ac₂O, 60 °C, 1 h, 60% (2 steps); (d) (i) 4 N HCl, 1,4-dioxane, 50 °C (ii) 10N NaOH, acryloyl chloride, 92% (2 steps); (e) Ar-NH₂-HCl (1.1 equiv), 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol, reflux, 16 h, 51%.

5-bromo-2,4-dichloropyrimidine (**27**) and an S_NAr displacement with the mono-Boc protected 1,3-phenylenediamine to furnish **28**. Heck coupling with crotonic acid followed by intramolecular dehydration of the resulting adduct with Ac₂O afforded the 7-oxopyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine core **29** in modest yields. Subsequent Boc-deprotection using HCl, followed by neutralization with NaOH and treatment with acryloyl chloride, yielded the compound **30**. Anilines could be introduced via S_NAr displacement of the chloride in refluxing 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol. In the case of compound **24**, it is noteworthy that the use of the monohydrochloride salt of the aniline is critical for the success of this reaction to prevent displacement of the chloride by the more electron-rich dimethylamine pendant of this reactant.

Modeling of compound **24** in the EGFR^{T790M} protein suggested a number of key interactions with the mutant EGFR protein that likely contributed to this compound's potency.³⁵ The N-H of the aminopyrimidine engages the linker residue in a pair of hydrogen bonding interactions (2.9, 3.2 Å) with the Met793 residue of the linker region of the EGFR protein in the ATP binding pocket. The crystallographically resolved water molecule between catalytic Lys745/Asp855 residues has an H-bond satisfied by the pyridone carbonyl. The 5-methyl group is projected back into the gatekeeper pocket engaging the Met790 residue with van der Waals contacts. This is sterically and electrostatically unfavorable in the case of EGFR^{WT} protein where the gatekeeper residue is a threonine. The acrylamide motif is projected with the right trajectory onto the floor of the ATP binding pocket to allow for a Michael addition with the Cys797 residue.

The pharmacokinetic (PK) properties of several compounds were assessed (Table 4). These were found to have clearance in

Table 4. Pharmacokinetic Properties of Selected Compounds^a

compd	iv ^b			po	
	CL ((L/h)/kg)	V _{dss} (L/kg)	t _{1/2} (h)	AUC _(0-inf) (μM·h)	F (%)
1	8.9	19	1.4	0.18	6.6 ^c
14	10.6	7.8	3.0	0.18	9.5 ^c
23	7.7	20	2.6	0.16	21 ^d
24	9.0	22	4.5	0.66	10 ^e

^aPharmacokinetic parameters following administration in male Sprague–Dawley rats; mean values from three animals per dosing route. ^bDosed at 1 mg/kg as a solution in DMSO. ^cpo doses were 10 mg/kg in 1% Pluronic F68, 2% hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC), 15% hydroxypropyl β-cyclodextrin (HPBCD), 82% water/methanesulfonic acid pH 4.5. ^dpo doses were 10 mg/kg in 20% hydroxypropyl β-cyclodextrin (HPBCD), 80% water/methanesulfonic acid pH 4.0. ^epo doses were 10 mg/kg in 1% Pluronic F68, 2% hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC), 97% water/methanesulfonic acid pH 4.0.

excess of liver blood flow in rats and low oral bioavailability. This was believed to be related to the high turnover of the acrylamide motif in the presence of glutathione. Although these compounds had poor pharmacokinetic properties in rats,^{36,37} we believed it would be possible to obtain a sustained pharmacodynamic (PD) effect due to the covalent nature of the interaction. Compound **24** was then evaluated in a time course PD experiment upon oral dosing at 30 mg/kg.³⁸ At 2, 4, 8, 12, and 24 h time points post dosing, tumor cell plugs and plasma were harvested. Compound **24** showed a >50% inhibition of phosphorylation of EGFR for

>12 h. Compound **24** reached the maximal concentration of 0.10 μM at 2 h, and systemic exposure ($\text{AUC}_{0-\text{inf}}$) was 0.33 $\mu\text{M}\cdot\text{h}$.

In a mouse H1975 xenograft model, compound **24** was administered orally at 30 mg/kg daily (QD) beginning on day 6. This resulted in 90% tumor growth inhibition ($\text{AUC}_{0-t} = 0.56 \mu\text{M}\cdot\text{h}$). It is noteworthy that no changes in body weights of all treatment groups were observed.³⁹

The selectivity of compound **24** against a panel of 100 protein and lipid kinases was examined in the ScanMAX KINOMEScan panel.⁴⁰ In this panel, the competitive binding of **24** at 1 μM was measured as a percentage of control (POC). Competitive binding (POC < 30%) by **24** was observed for only two kinases, BTK (17% POC) and TTK (4% POC). As a follow-up, the K_d values were measured on a number of kinases including BLK (320 nM), BTK (290 nM), EGFR^{WT} (220 nM), EGFR^{T790M} (0.96 nM), ERBB2 (220 nM), ERBB4 (130 nM), GAK (430 nM), ITK (140 nM), JAK1 (JH2 domain-pseudokinase, 2800 nM), JAK3 (30 nM), TTK (81 nM), and TXK (410 nM). Compound **24** possessed moderate permeability and high efflux ($10 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm/s}$ and $\text{ER} = >37$ and >37 , respectively in human and rat LLC-PK1 cell line transfected with a MDR1 gene), but exhibited low plasma protein binding ($F_u = 0.25, 0.27, 0.54$, and 0.46 in mouse, rat, human and dog, respectively).

In summary, a novel class of T790M mutant-selective EGFR inhibitors was designed. Compound **24** was highly selective against a panel of 100 kinases and had excellent cellular potency in proliferation assays. Compound **24** was orally efficacious in an H1975 plug PD assay in mice resulting in a >50% inhibition of p-EGFR for >12 h. In an H1975 xenograft model, oral dosing of compound **24** at 30 mg/kg daily for 2 weeks led to significant tumor growth inhibition with no observed loss in body weight. In an exploratory 4-day rat toxicology study, no hepatobiliary toxicity was observed. Additional data regarding compound **24** will be reported in due course.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acsmchemlett.5b00193.

Experimental procedure for the preparation of compound **24**; NMR data for all compounds; Description of assays; ScanMAX KINOMEScan panel data for compound **24** (PDF)

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

*Telephone: 805-313-5400. Fax: 805-480-1337. E-mail: rwurz@amgen.com.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

■ ABBREVIATIONS

AUC, area under the plasma concentration–time curve; CL, clearance; EC_{50} , molar concentration that produces half maximal response; F , bioavailability; MRT, mean residence time; V_{ss} , volume of distribution in steady state

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