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Pyrazolylthiazole as ΔF508-Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator Correctors with Improved Hydrophilicity Compared to Bithiazoles

Long Ye,[†] John M. Knapp,[†] Panjamaporn Sangwung,[‡] James C. Fettinger,[†] A. S. Verkman,[‡] and Mark J. Kurth*,[†]

[†]*Department of Chemistry, University of California, Davis, Davis, California 95616, and* [‡]*Department of Medicine and Physiology, University of California, San Francisco, California, 94143-0521*

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Deletion of phenylalanine residue 508 (ΔF508) in the cystic fibrosis (CF) transmembrane conductance regulator protein (CFTR) is a major cause of CF. Small molecule "correctors" of defective ΔF508-CFTR cellular processing hold promise for CF therapy. We previously identified and characterized bithiazole CF corrector **1** and s-*cis*-locked bithiazole **2**. Herein, we report the regiodivergent synthesis of Nγ and Nβ isomers of thiazole-tethered pyrazoles with improved hydrophilicity compared to bithiazoles. We synthesized a focused library of 54 pyrazolylthiazoles **3**, which included examples of both regioisomers **4** and **5**. The thiazole-tethered pyrazoles allowed incorporation of property-modulating functionality on the pyrazole ring (ester, acid, and amide) while retaining ΔF508-CFTR corrector activity (EC_{50}) of under 1 μM. The most active pyrazolylthiazole (**14h**) has an experimentally determined log *P* of 4.1, which is 1.2 log units lower than bithiazole CF corrector **1**.

Introduction

Cystic fibrosis (CF[a]), a serious disease afflicting ~1 in 2500 in the Caucasian population,[1] is caused by inherited mutations in the CF transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene.[2] The most common disease-causing mutation of CFTR is ΔF508, a deletion of phenylalanine at position 508, which accounts for ~70% of all CF alleles such that ~90% of CF patients carry at least one copy of ΔF508-CFTR allele.[3] The ΔF508 mutation alters CFTR biosynthesis, resulting in a misfolded, rapidly degraded protein that is poorly trafficked out of the endoplasmic reticulum to the cell surface.[4] Without physiological CFTR chloride channel functioning at epithelia cell membranes in lung, pancreas, and intestine, water and salt secretion are compromised, causing chronic respiratory infections, airway obstruction by viscous mucous, pancreatic exocrine insufficiency, etc.[5]

Small-molecule therapy for ΔF508-caused CF is thought to have considerable promise.[6] In our previous work, bithiazole lead compound **1** (Figure 1) was identified as a "corrector" capable of partially restoring the targeting of ΔF508-CFTR to the cell membrane in transfected cells and primary cultures of bronchial epithelial cells from ΔF508 patients.[7] In follow-up work, nanomolar corrector potency of the bithiazole class was obtained by locking the thiazole core of **1** into an s-*cis* conformation (see **2** in Figure 1).[8] Although s-*cis*-locked bithiazole corrector **2** affords improved potency compared to the original corrector **1**, its high hydrophobicity (clogP 6.65) is a concern for further development. Therefore, our focus has been to identify a new chemotype, based on the original bithiazole scaffold, that would allow for incorporation of property-modulating functionality while retaining corrector activity. Because of the lack of useful crystal structure data for ΔF508-CFTR, we embarked on a ligand-based compound design strategy wherein many of the core structural features of our previously identified bithiazole CF correctors were retained while simultaneously incorporating property-modulating modifications with the aim of improving hydrophilicity relative to **1**. Target compounds were synthesized and screened for corrector activity. This effort led us to a pyrazolylthiazole core (**3**) and the production of a focused library of pyrazolylthiazoles, including regioisomers **4** and **5**. As Figure 1 illustrates, pyrazole **3** retains many aspects of the core framework of **1** but replaces the right-hand thiazole with a pyrazole ring. Compared to the thiazole of **1**, the pyrazole ring accommodates the attachment of extra functionality, such as a C5 (see R^3 in **4**) or C3 (see R^3 in **5**) amide, to modulate properties such as log *P*.

One vexing drawback with the bithiazole core of **1** is that it essentially precludes modification. For example, consider the right-hand thiazole ring of **1** (red substructure): positions S1, C2, N3, and C4 are fixed and addition of substituents at C5 forces the two thiazole rings to adopt an orthogonal posture that is quite different from the conformation of s-*cis*-locked **2**, our best bithiazole corrector. In contrast, pyrazoles, which are considered a privileged heterocyclic structure with many reports of biological activity,[9] allow for modification at C5 (see **3**), Nβ (see **4**), and Nγ (see **5**). As illustrated in Figure 1, we reasoned that, as a starting point, retaining the *N*-(4-methylthiazol-2-yl)pivalamide on the left-hand thiazole ring and the 5-chloro-2-methoxyaryl on the right-hand thiazole ring (see bithiazole **1**) might impart corrector activity to pyrazolylthiazole **3** while allowing for the introduction of property-modulating functionality "X" at C5 (see **3**) of the pyrazole ring. However, there are two important differences caused by

*To whom correspondence should be addressed. Phone: (530) 554-2145. Fax: (530) 752-8995. E-mail: mjkurth@ucdavis.edu.

[a] Abbreviations: CFTR, cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator; SAR, structure−activity relationship; CF, cystic fibrosis; ER endoplasmic reticulum.

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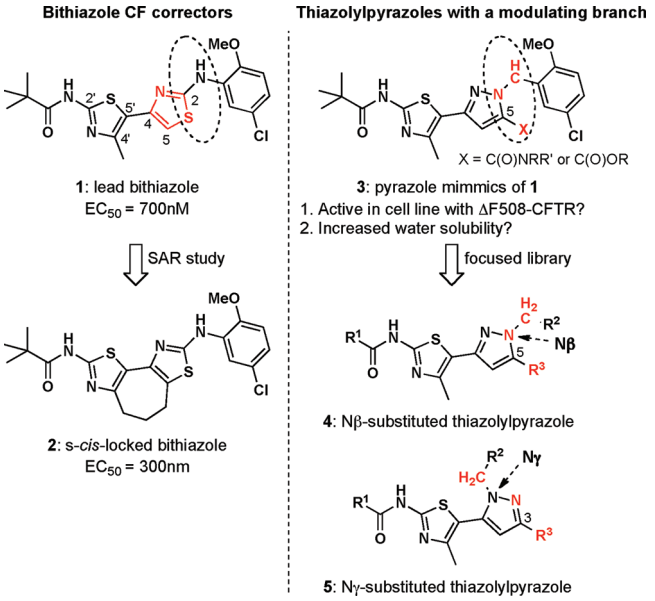


Figure 1. SAR around early bithiazole lead **1** led to s-*cis*-locked bithiazole **2**, but these compounds have poor hydrophilicity. The structural features of these bithiazoles inspired the design of pyrazolylthiazole libraries based on differentially Nβ- and Nγ-substituted analogues **4** and **5**, respectively.

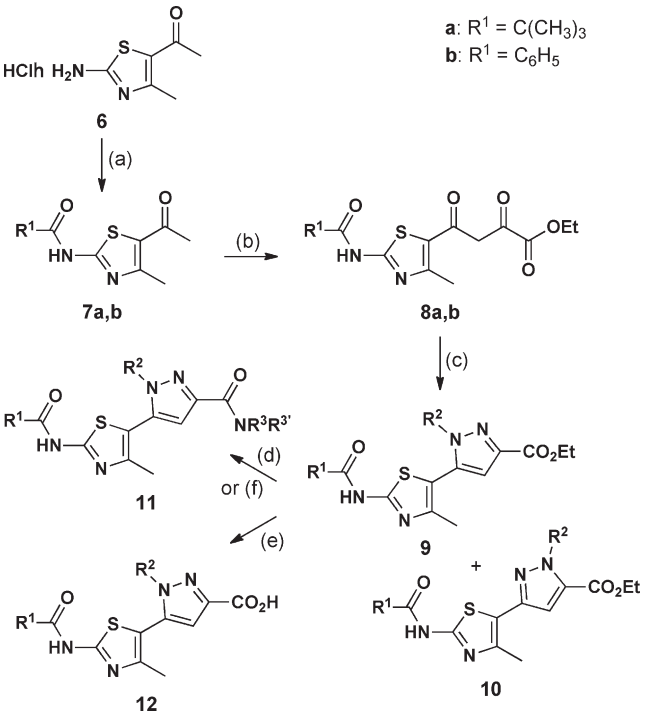
the thiazole → pyrazole modification. First, the aniline moiety of **1** is replaced with a benzylic moiety in **3**; this might cause the loss of a possible hydrogen bonding interaction with the target protein. Second, the thiazole "S" is replaced with a pyrazole "C—X" (X = carboxylic acid derivative in this work); this might cause nonproductive interaction with the target protein. On the other hand, the X-moiety could be exploited to improved drug properties, such as log *P* in this work, and might also lead to alternative productive interactions with the target protein. These two thiazole → pyrazole implications are highlighted by the ellipses in **1** versus **3** as well as the red substructures in **4** and **5** (Figure 1). To investigate the consequences of these structural changes vis-à-vis the discovery of a new CF corrector chemotype, we designed a focused library based on the pyrazolylthiazole scaffold wherein the substituents adorning the pyrazole substructure are varied.

Results and Discussion

Chemistry. Pyrazoles can be synthesized through a Knorr cyclocondensation between a 1,3-diketone and hydrazine or a substituted hydrazine.[10] This general method often suffers from lack of regioselectivity in the production of substituted pyrazoles.[11] There are only sporadic reports addressing the synthesis of pyrazolylthiazoles by this condensation reaction.[12] However, none of these methods involve diversification of this heteroatom-rich bisazole or delineate routes to acquire both *N*-regioisomers of the pyrazole from a common intermediate. Our discovery efforts led us to explore general and integrated synthetic methods to access a series of functionally and regioisomerically diversified pyrazolylthiazoles; the results are reported herein.

This synthetic effort began with conversion of the amino group of **6** into amide **7** (Scheme 1; two variants, pivaloyl and benzoyl, were prepared based on our bithiazole work) through a CDI-mediated coupling reaction, which occurred in greater than 79% yield. Both of these amides demonstrated corrector activity in prior bithiazole studies.[7] Amide

Scheme 1. Synthesis of Nγ-Substituted Pyrazolylthiazoles[a]

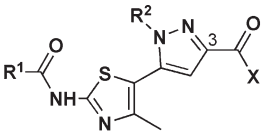


[a] Reagents and conditions: (a) R^1CO_2H, CDI, DMF, 85 °C; (b) diethyl oxalate, LHMDS, THF, −78 °C; (c) R^2NHNH_2, EtOH; (d) $R^3R^{3'}NH$, $AlMe_3$, DCM, 0 °C; (e) NaOH, THF/H_2O; (f) ethanol amine, MW, 160 °C, 30 min.

7 was then subjected to Claisen reaction with diethyl oxalate in the presence of 2.1 equiv of LHMDS, giving 1,3-diketone **8** in excellent yield (> 90%). With the 2,4-dioxo-4-(thiazol-5-yl)-butanoate **8** in hand, we turned to pyrazole formation and expected both pyrazole regioisomers, **9** and **10**, in the reaction with monosubstituted hydrazines. In fact, the condensation reaction between **8** and substituted hydrazines proceeds with excellent selectivity to deliver the Nγ regioisomers **9** in good yield (> 87%; **9**:**10** > 10:1). A minor byproduct was found to be **7**, indicating that the 2,4-dioxobutanoate moiety is susceptible to a reverse Claisen reaction in the presence of hydrazine nucleophiles. The excellent regioselectivity of this condensation reaction reflects the fact that the two carbonyl groups in **8** have very different electrophilicity. From pyrazolylthiazole **9**, the final diversification in this series was achieved by converting the ester moiety into the corresponding amide (→**11**) via aminolysis in good yield (> 73%) or acid (→ **12**) by saponification. Thirty-nine Nγ-substituted pyrazolylthiazoles were prepared (see Table 1) by varying all three diversity points (two R^1 inputs, four R^2 inputs, and four $NR^3R^{3'}$ inputs). The X-ray crystal structure determined for one Nγ-substituted analogue (**9b**) is shown in Figure 2.

Because the Nβ-substituted pyrazole regioisomer could not be accessed in practical yield through the direct condensation of **8** with monosubstituted hydrazines, an alternate route was explored to synthesize these compounds (Scheme 2). First, **8** was reacted with hydrazine monohydrate to deliver pyrazole **13** in 63% yield. The Nβ position of **13** was then selectively alkylated, giving mainly **10** (R = H) in 59−66% yield when R^1 = pivaloyl (**10**:**9** = 8:1). The major byproduct of this reaction is *N*-alkylation of the amide moiety, leading to formation of bis-alkylated product (**10**: R = R^2). This complication was so severe with the benzamide analogue

Table 1. Nγ-Substituted Pyrazolylthiazole Analogues



R^1 = $C(CH_3)_3$, C_6H_5
R^2 = $CH_2CH{=}CH_2$, C_6H_4(4-Br), $CH_2C_6H_5$, $(CH_2)_2OH$
X = OEt, NHC_6H_4(4-OMe), $NHCH_2C_6H_5$, $NH(CH_2)_2OH$, $N(CH_2CH_2)_2O$, OH

compd	R^1	R^2	X	compd	R^1	R^2	X
9a	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	OEt	**11m**	C_6H_5	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	$NH(CH_2)OH$
9b	$C(CH_3)_3$	C_6H_4(4-Br)	OEt	**11n**	C_6H_5	C_6H_4(4-Br)	$NH(CH_2)OH$
9c	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_5$	OEt	**11o**	C_6H_5	$CH_2C_6H_5$	$NH(CH_2)OH$
9d	$C(CH_3)_3$	CH_2CH_2OH	OEt	**11p**	C_6H_5	CH_2CH_2OH	$NH(CH_2)OH$
9e	C_6H_5	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	OEt	**11q**	C_6H_5	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	NHC_6H_4(4-OMe)
9f	C_6H_5	C_6H_4(4-Br)	OEt	**11r**	C_6H_5	C_6H_4(4-Br)	NHC_6H_4(4-OMe)
9g	C_6H_5	$CH_2C_6H_5$	OEt	**11s**	C_6H_5	$CH_2C_6H_5$	NHC_6H_4(4-OMe)
9h	C_6H_5	CH_2CH_2OH	OEt	**11t**	C_6H_5	CH_2CH_2OH	NHC_6H_4(4-OMe)
11a	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	NHC_6H_4(4-OMe)	**11u**	C_6H_5	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	$N(CH_2CH_2)_2O$
11b	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	$NHCH_2C_6H_5$	**11v**	C_6H_5	C_6H_4(4-Br)	$N(CH_2CH_2)_2O$
11c	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	$N(CH_2CH_2)_2O$	**11w**	C_6H_5	$CH_2C_6H_5$	$N(CH_2CH_2)_2O$
11d	$C(CH_3)_3$	C_6H_4(4-Br)	NHC_6H_4(4-OMe)	**11x**	C_6H_5	CH_2CH_2OH	$N(CH_2CH_2)_2O$
11e	$C(CH_3)_3$	C_6H_4(4-Br)	$NHCH_2C_6H_5$	**12a**	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	OH
11f	$C(CH_3)_3$	C_6H_4(4-Br)	$N(CH_2CH_2)_2O$	**12b**	$C(CH_3)_3$	C_6H_4(4-Br)	OH
11g	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_5$	NHC_6H_4(4-OMe)	**12c**	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_5$	OH
11h	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_5$	$NHCH_2C_6H_5$	**12d**	C_6H_5	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	OH
11i	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_5$	$N(CH_2CH_2)_2O$	**12e**	C_6H_5	C_6H_4(4-Br)	OH
11j	$C(CH_3)_3$	CH_2CH_2OH	NHC_6H_4(4-OMe)	**12f**	C_6H_5	$CH_2C_6H_5$	OH
11k	$C(CH_3)_3$	CH_2CH_2OH	$NHCH_2C_6H_5$	**12g**	C_6H_5	CH_2CH_2OH	OH
11l	$C(CH_3)_3$	CH_2CH_2OH	$N(CH_2CH_2)_2O$				

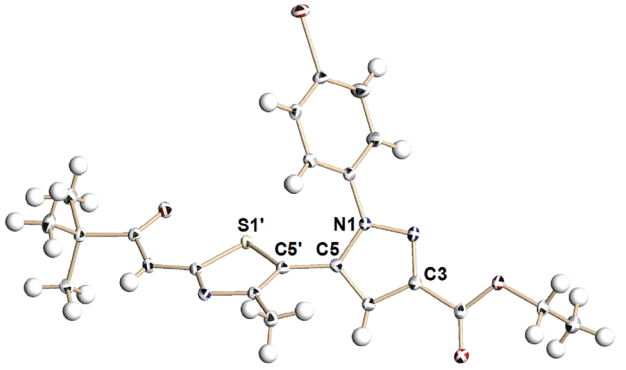
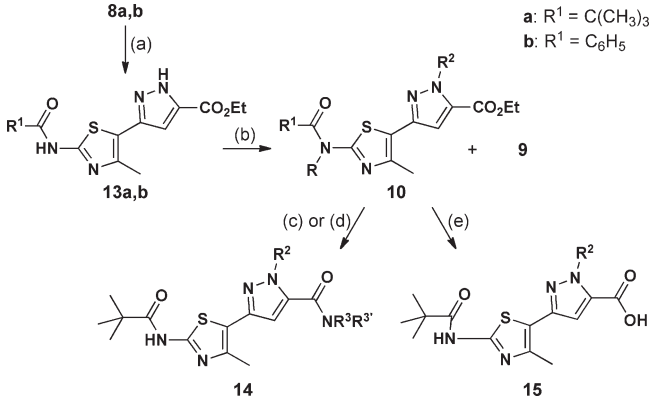


Figure 2. X-ray crystallographic structure of Nγ-substituted pyrazolylthiazole **9b** (note: the S1′−C5′−C5−N1 dihedral angle is 62.4°).

of **13** (R^1 = C_6H_5) that the major product was, in fact, the bisalkylation product (**10**: R = R^2); the desired monoalkylated product (**10**: R = H) was obtained in only 20% yield. Therefore, final diversification on the Nβ-substituted isomers was focused on pivaloyl amide analogues of **10** and consisted of hydrolysis or aminolysis to deliver **14** and **15**, respectively. Unlike the relatively easy aminolysis of **9** (Scheme 1) that proceeds at 0 °C, initial attempts at the aminolysis of **10** (0 °C in DCM; Scheme 2) failed to deliver **14**. X-ray crystallographic analysis of **10a** (R^1 = ^{t}Bu/R^2 = allyl; Figure 3) reveals that the R^2 substituent imparts significant steric hindrance at the carboethoxy and retards amidyl formation at the pyrazole C5

Scheme 2. Synthesis of Nβ-Substituted Pyrazolylthiazole



Reagents: (a) $NH_2NH_2{\cdot}H_2O$, EtOH; (b) R^2X, K_2CO_3, acetone, 60 °C; (c) $R^3R^{3'}NH$, $AlMe_3$, DCM, MW, 100 °C; (d) $NH_2(CH_2)_2OH$, EtOH, MW 180 °C; (e) NaOH, THF/H_2O.

position. This challenge was overcome by employing microwave irradiation in the $AlMe_3$-mediated aminolysis, delivering various amides and completing pyrazole diversification. In total, 15 Nβ-substituted pyrazolylthiazoles were prepared for this focused library (see Table 2).

Structure−Activity Relationships. The Nγ- and Nβ-regioisomeric pyrazolylthiazoles were assayed for ΔF508-CFTR corrector activity. Our established cell-based corrector assay was used in which I^- influx was measured in FRT cells coexpressing human ΔF508-CFTR and the I^--sensitive

fluorescent sensor YFP-H148Q/I152L.[13] Following 24 h incubation with test compounds, I^- influx was determined from the kinetics of YFP-H148Q/I152L quenching in response to I^- addition in cells treated with a cAMP agonist and the potentiator genistein. Out of the 54 compounds tested, eight had significant corrector activity as judged by concentration-dependent increases in I^- influx as exemplified in Figure 4 for **14g** and **14h**.

Structures for these compounds as well as their EC_{50} and V_{max} values from ion influx data are summarized in Table 3. Their EC_{50} values range from 0.93 to 8.5 μM while increasing I^- influx up to 7.3 μM/s (note: increased I^- influx is a quantitative measure of effective ΔF508-CFTR corrector activity). As illustrated in Table 3, pyrazolylthiazole **14h** is the best corrector among the eight hits and of comparable potency to our previously reported bithiazole **1**. Of the eight active compounds, **10b**, the only ester, and **11d**, the only Nγ-substituted pyrazole, are the least effective pyrazolylthiazole correctors. Considering that ester-containing pyrazolylthiazoles **9** and **10** are all inactive except for **10b**, the carboxamide group at C5 of the pyrazole ring seems to be an important determinant of activity. Another observation from Table 3 is that the majority of active pyrazolylthiazoles are Nβ-substituted pyrazole isomers; there is only one active Nγ-substituted corrector (**11d**) and it has relatively low activity.

An understanding of the active geometries of our compounds is necessary to develop insights regarding the ΔF508-CFTR binding site. Molecular models were constructed based on the X-ray crystal structures of bisazoles **9b** (Figure 2) and **10a** (Figure 3) to examine these various geometries). Image (A) in Figure 5 depicts initial lead compound **1** in its effective s-*cis* conformation.[8] In this conformation, the bithiazole rings are nearly coplanar, which we believe positions the aniline moiety to extend into an important binding pocket.[8] Our least active compound, **11d** (image (B)), is forced to adopt a nonplanar geometry about the pyrazolylthiazole core with a tethering S−C−C−N dihedral geometry of 62.4°. This conformational change (planar to nearly orthogonal) relative to **1** is the consequence of steric interactions between the Nγ 4-bromophenyl substituent on the pyrazole ring and the neighboring thiazole ring; the X-ray crystal structure of **9b** (the ester precursor to amide **11d**; Figure 2) reflects this conformational predisposition. As discussed in other published work,[8] we speculate that a planar arrangement of the bis-heterocycle core is vital for corrector activity and the

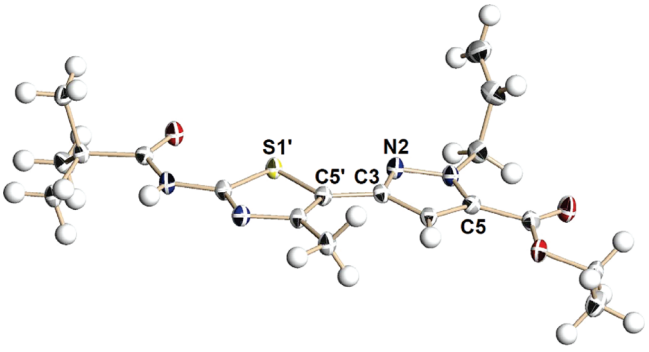


Figure 3. X-ray crystallographic structure of Nβ-substituted pyrazolylthiazole **10a** (note: the S1′−C5′−C3−N2 dihedral angle is 2.6°).

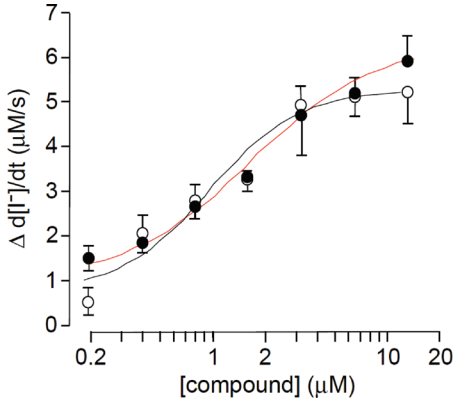
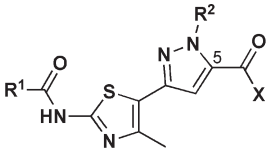


Figure 4. Dose−response relation for increased I^- influx in ΔF508-CFTR cells treated with pyrazolylthiazoles: **14g** (in black) and **14h** (in red).

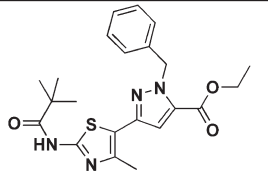
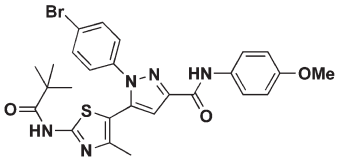
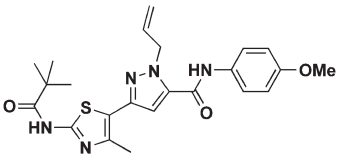
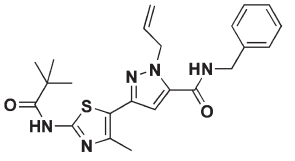
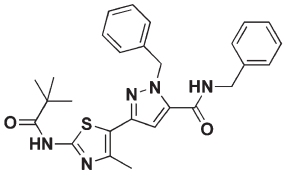
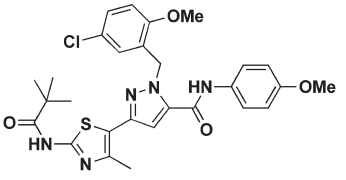
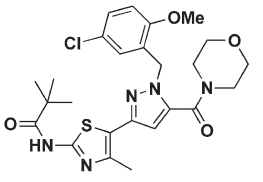
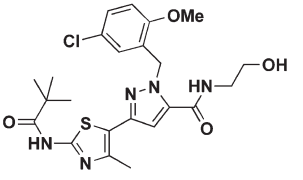
Table 2. Nβ-Substituted Pyrazolylthiazole Analogues



R^1 = $C(CH_3)_3$
R^2 = $CH_2CH{=}CH_2$, C_6H_4(4-Br), $CH_2C_6H_3$(2-OMe/4-Cl)
X = OEt, NHC_6H_4(4-OMe), $NHCH_2C_6H_5$, $N(CH_2CH_2)_2O$, $NH(CH_2)_2OH$, OH

compd	R^1	R^2	X	compd	R^1	R^2	X
10a	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	OEt	**14f**	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_5$	$N(CH_2CH_2)_2O$
10b	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_5$	OEt	**14g**	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_3$(2-OMe/4-Cl)	NHC_6H_4(4-OMe)
10c	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_3$(2-OMe/4-Cl)	OEt	**14h**	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_3$(2-OMe/4-Cl)	$N(CH_2CH_2)_2O$
14a	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	NHC_6H_4(4-OMe)	**14i**	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_3$(2-OMe/4-Cl)	$NHCH_2C_6H_5$
14b	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	$NHCH_2C_6H_5$	**14j**	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_3$(2-OMe/4-Cl)	$NH(CH_2)_2OH$
14c	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	$N(CH_2CH_2)_2O$	**15a**	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2CH{=}CH_2$	OH
14d	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_5$	NHC_6H_4(4-OMe)	**15b**	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_5$	OH
14e	$C(CH_3)_3$	$CH_2C_6H_5$	$NHCH_2C_6H_5$				

Table 3. Pyrazolylthiazole ΔF508-CFTR Corrector Activity

corrector structure	corrector number	EC_{50} (μM)[a]	V_{max} (μM/s)[b]
	**10b**	8.5	2.6
	**11d**	3.4	2.5
	**14a**	0.93	0.5
	**14b**	3.0	1.4
	**14e**	0.75	1.0
	**14g**	1.0	6.1
	**14h**	1.0	7.26
	**14j**	3.0	2.4

[a] Concentration where the increased I^- influx is 50% of V_{max}. [b] V_{max} is maximum increase in I^- influx due to compound effect.

orthogonal posture of Nγ-substituted analogues may explain why most of these pyrazolylthiazoles are inactive. These structural insights are further supported by conformational analysis of **14g**, one of our most potent pyrazolylthiazole (image (C)). Nβ substitution on the pyrazole ring of **14g** allows the two heterocycles to adopt a nearly coplanar conformation without confronting steric congestion. Indeed, the bisazole dihedral angle in crystalline Nβ-substituted pyrazole analogue **10a** is 2.6° (e.g., nearly planar; see also the X-ray crystal structure of **10a** in Figure 3). Image (C) shows the s-*cis* conformation of bisazole **14g** in which the Nβ benzyl moiety can extend into the important binding pocket discussed above (in the context of **11d**).[8] In contrast, the s-*trans* conformation of **14g** (image (D)), obtained by an ~180° rotation around the tethering thiazole-pyrazole bond, allows the C5 carboxamide moiety to occupy this binding pocket. These possibly "dually active conformations" of **14g** may account for some of the corrector activity of bisazole **14g** compared to, for example, bisazole **14j**.

As various carboxamide-substituted Nβ-substituted pyrazoles are active (see **14a**/**b**/**e**/**g**/**h**/**j**) while the majority of the corresponding esters are not, the carboxamide group at C5 of the pyrazole seem to play a significant role in effecting corrector activity. Noting that **14h**, our most active pyrazolylthiazole,

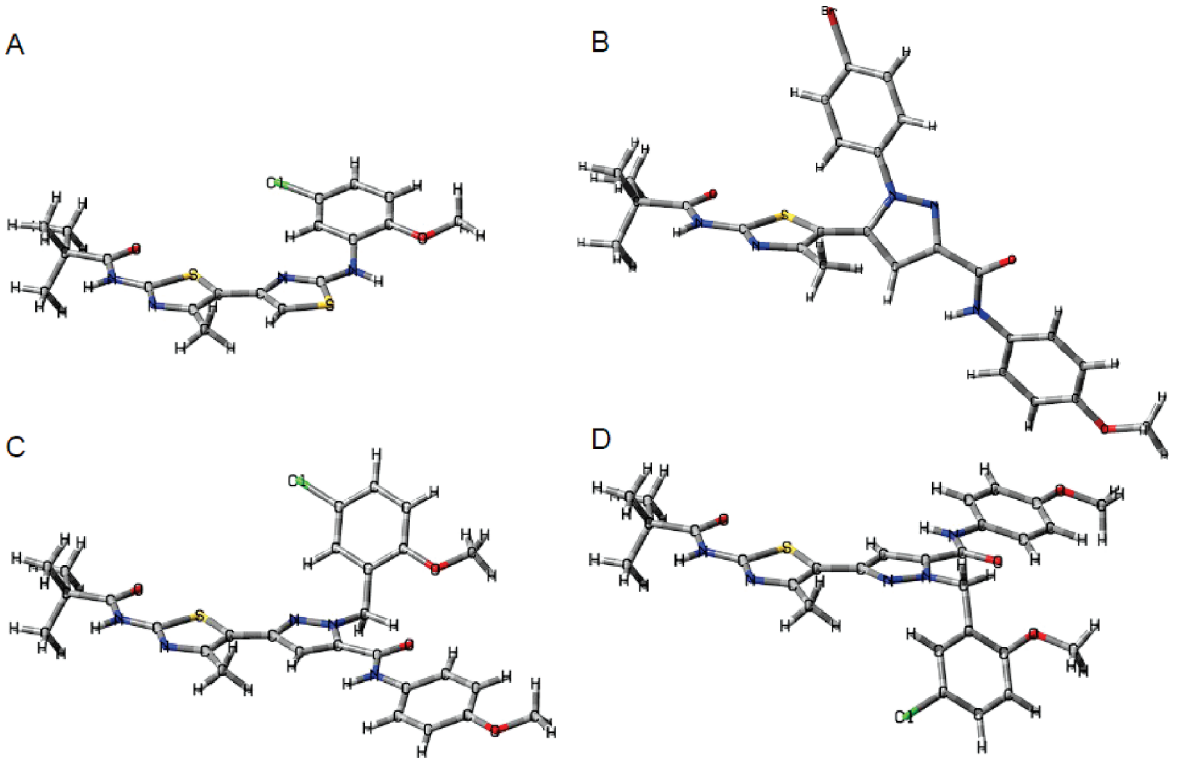


Figure 5. Bisazole molecular models. (A) **1**: s-*cis* bithiazole conformation (active conformation; see s-*cis*-locked bithiazole **2** in Figure 1). (B) **11d**: Nγ substituted pyrazole ring nearly orthogonal to the thiazole ring. (C) **14g**: Nβ substituted s-*cis* pyrazolylthiazole → places Nβ benzyl moiety in the same region of space as the aniline moiety in **1**. (D) **14g**: Nβ substituted s-*trans* pyrazolylthiazole → places the C5 amide moiety in the same region of space as the aniline moiety in **1**.

has an amide derived from a secondary amine while all other active pyrazolylthiazoles incorporate amides derived from primary amines, suggests that the carboxamide might function as hydrogen bond acceptor (as opposed to functioning as an H-bond donor). As discussed above and illustrated in Figure 6a, we also note that free rotation about the thiazole—pyrazole C, C-tether of Nβ-substituted pyrazolylthiazoles places the Nβ benzyl moiety "**B**" of this heterocycle, in its s-*cis* configuration, in nearly the same relative position as the aniline moiety "$\mathbf{A^1}$" of the active[8] s-*cis* conformer bithiazole (see left and center structures in Figure 6a, respectively). This conformational homology is not possible in Nγ-substituted pyrazolylthiazoles.

A superimposition of s-*cis* bithiazole **1** and s-*trans* conformer pyrazolylthiazole **14a** (see Figure 6b) illustrates another interesting point. Specifically, the s-*trans* conformer pyrazolylthiazole can place its C5 amide moiety ($\mathbf{A^2}$ on the pyrazole) in a similar position as the aniline (e.g., $\mathbf{A^1}$) moiety of the s-*cis* bithiazole conformer. Consequently, Nβ substituted pyrazoles can also, apparently, be active by placing the C5 amide moiety ($\mathbf{A^2}$) in the binding site addressed by the aniline moiety ($\mathbf{A^1}$) of bithiazoles **1** or **2** (see right and center structures in Figure 6a, respectively).

It is most interesting to note that Nβ-substituted pyrazolylthiazole **14j**, which presents a 5-chloro-2-methoxybenzyl substituent at Nβ and a C5 amide derived from 2-aminoethanol, retains corrector activity. As illustrated in Figure 6a, this intriguing result suggests that perhaps the active presentation of **14j** is its s-*cis* conformation (compare the s-*cis* pyrazolylthiazole and s-*cis*-locked bithiazole conformations). In contrast, pyrazolylthiazoles **14a** and **14b** may be active through their s-*trans* conformation (compare the s-*trans* pyrazolylthiazole and the s-*cis*-locked bithiazole conformations). The implication here is that pyrazolylthiazoles

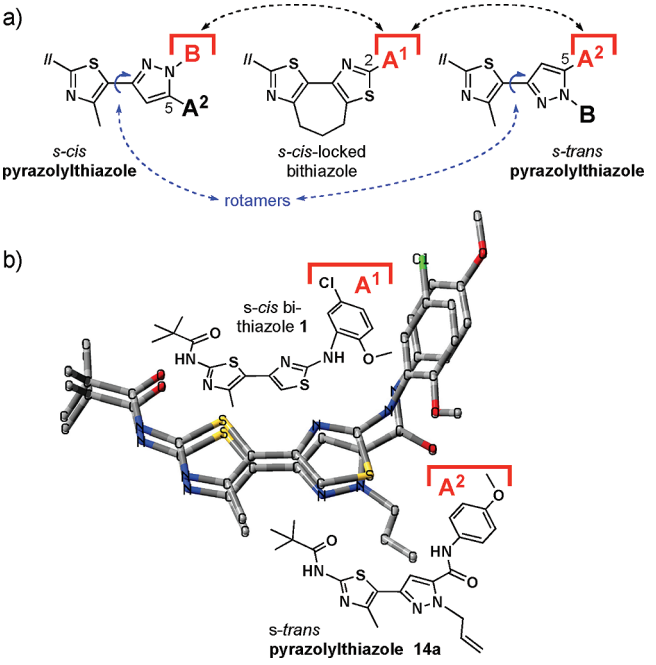


Figure 6. (a) Pyrazolylthiazole (s-*cis*/s-*trans*) vs s-*cis*-locked bithiazole conformational interplay where the Nβ benzyl (**B**) moiety can overlay the C2 thiazole aniline ($\mathbf{A^1}$) moiety or the C5 pyrazole amide ($\mathbf{A^2}$) moiety can overlay the C2 thiazole aniline ($\mathbf{A^1}$) moiety. (b) Superimposed wireframe models of bithiazole **1** and thiazolylpyrazole **14a**.

14e, **14g**, and **14h**, with aryl-containing benzyl and amide moieties, may be active through either (or both) their s-*cis* or their s-*trans* conformations. Studies employing additional pyrazolylthiazole analogues are underway to probe/validate these initial insights.

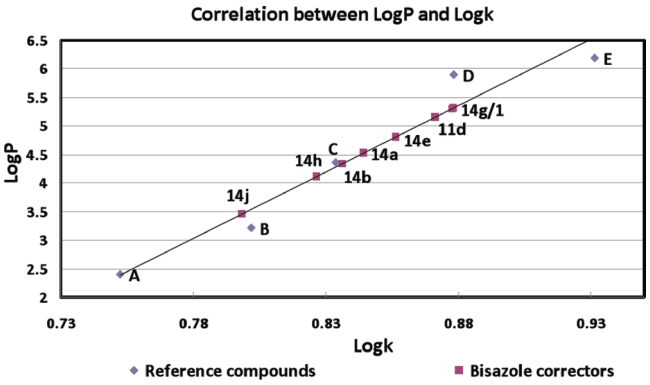


Figure 7. Standard calibration curve correlating experimentally determined capacity factor k with log P. Data are shown for reference compounds (♦: A = 4-chlorophenol, B = 2,4-dichlorophenol, C = 3,4,5-trichlorophenol, D = pentachlorophenol, E = p,p'-DDT), bithiazole **1**, and pyrazolylthiazole **11d**/**14a**/**14b**/**14e**/**14g**/**14h**/**14j** (■).

The log *P* Measurements. The log P represents a compound's partition coefficient log value determined from octanol versus water, where a smaller log P correlates with better water solubility. The log P is a well-established parameter for the ADME profiling as it has implications in solubility, absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion[14] (which are important for orally administered drugs) and, according Lipinski's rule of 5,[14] should generally be < 5 for good bioavailability.

The log P can be related to the experimentally determined capacity factor k by measuring the retention time of the compound using reverse-phase HPLC.[15−17] (see Supporting Information for ClogP values). A standard calibration curve is constructed using compounds with known log P values and experimentally determined log k values (see diamond data points in Figure 7); this standard calibration curve is then used to correlate log k (determined from measured retention time; see Supporting Information) with log P for each pyrazolylthiazole corrector. These data for **11b** and **14a**/**b**/**e**/**g**/**h**/**j** are depicted in Figure 7. Most of the active pyrazolylthiazole correctors (squares in Figure 7) have log P values of less than 5, while bithiazole **1** has a log P greater than 5. The most active pyrazolylthiazole, **14h**, has a log P value of 4.1, which is ∼1.2 log P units better than bithiazole **1**, and **14j** has a log P of 3.5.

Conclusions

Synthetic access to both Nγ- and Nβ-substituted regioisomeric pyrazolylthiazoles was achieved by regiodivergent synthesis from the common intermediate **8**. Of the 54 pyrazolylthiazoles prepared, eight demonstrated significant ΔF508-CFTR corrector activity. This new class of bisazole correctors was designed by replacing one thiazole ring of our previously reported bithiazole correctors with a pyrazole ring. The resulting pyrazolylthiazole correctors diversify the bisazole corrector family, function as a new chemotype with corrector activity, and allow for incorporation of additional functionality to modulate drug properties such as log P. The work reported here led to the discovery of new correctors with improved hydrophilicity and with a structural core that accommodates diversification. Ongoing studies will capitalize on the structural, conformational, and log P insights reported here.

Experimental Section

All purchased starting materials and reagents were used without further purification. Product purification was performed either on an automated flash chromatography system (Combiflash by Teledyne: 35 min of elution with linear gradient from 100% hexane to 100% EtOAc solvent) with silica gel columns or on an HPLC system [Waters: 15 mL/min flow rate, linear gradient elution with 0.1% TFA-containing H_2O/MeCN from 5 to 95% MeCN in 20 min, Xterra Prep MS C_{18} OBD column (19 mm × 100 mm), and dual wavelength absorbance detector]. NMR spectra (^{1}H at 600 MHz; ^{13}C at 151 MHz) were recorded in $CDCl_3$ solvent on a Varian 600. Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million relative to internal TMS or solvent. Coupling constants are expressed in units of hertz (Hz). Splitting patterns are designated as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), and bs (broad singlet). LC/MS (Waters Micromass ZQ) specifications are as follows: electrospray (+) ionization, mass ranging from 100 to 900 Da, 20 V cone voltage. LC: Xterra MS C_{18} column (2.1 mm × 50 mm × 3.5 μm), 0.2 mL/min water/acetonitrile (containing 0.1% TFA), 30 min linear gradient 0−100% acetonitrile. The LC/MS UV detector is a diode array with 200−400 nm wavelength range. Purity is based on the peak area percentage of the UV diode array signals. Compound purities by RP-HPLC were ≥95%.

ΔF508-CFTR Corrector Activity Assay. FRT epithelial cells stably coexpressing human ΔF508-CFTR and the high-sensitivity halide-sensing fluorescent protein YFP-H148Q/I152L[18] were used as described previously.[6] Cells were grown at 37 °C (95% air/5% CO_2) for 24 h and then incubated for 16−20 h with 50 μL of medium containing the test compound. At the time of the assay, cells were washed with PBS and then incubated with PBS containing forskolin (20 μM) and genistein (50 μM) for 20 min. Measurements were carried out using aFLUOstar fluorescence plate reader (Optima; BMG LABTECH Gmbh) equipped with 500 ± 10 nm excitation and 535 ± 15 nm emission filters (Chroma Technology Corp.). Each well was assayed individually for I^- influx by recording fluorescence continuously (200 ms per point) for 2 s (baseline) and then for 12 s after rapid (< 1 s) addition of 165 μL PBS in which 137 mM Cl^- was replaced by I^-. Initial I^- influx rate was computed exponential regression. All experiments contained negative control (DMSO vehicle) and positive control [*N*-(2-(5-chloro-2-methoxyphenylamino)-4′-methyl-4,5′-bithiazol-2′-yl)benzamide].

1-(2-Amino-4-methylthiazol-5-yl)ethanone HCl (6). Thiazole **6** was prepared as described in the literature.[19]

General Procedure A: Preparation of 8 via CDI-Mediated Amide Formation. Carboxylic acid (1.75 equiv) was dissolved in DMF (3.3 mL/mmol of carboxylic acid) and carbonyldiimidazole (CDI; 1.75 equiv) was added slowly to manage CO_2 evolution. After all the CDI had been added, the solution was stirred for an additional 15 min, at which point thiazole HCl salt **6** (1 equiv) was added. The reaction mixture was warmed to 85 °C and stirred for 20 h. After the reaction was complete, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured into water (17 mL/mmol of carboxylic acid) to precipitate the product, which was then collected by filtration, washed with water (3 × 200 mL), and dried under vacuum at 100 °C for 18 h to deliver **7**.

***N*-(5-Acetyl-4-methylthiazol-2-yl)pivalamide (7a).** Pivalic acid (5.0 g, 49 mmol) was reacted with the thiazole·HCl **6** (5.4 g, 28 mmol) by general procedure A, and **7a** was obtained as an off-white solid (5.3 g, 79%). ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 9.06 (s, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 190.66, 176.46, 158.72, 155.21, 125.30, 39.29, 30.44, 27.16 18.08. LC/MS: calcd [M + H$^+$] = 241.10, found 241.12.

(*Z*)-Ethyl 2-Hydroxy-4-(4-methyl-2-pivalamidothiazol-5-yl)-4-oxobut-2-enoate (8a). To a solution of LHMDS (1M; 50.3 mL, 50.3 mmol) in THF (50 mL) cooled to −78 °C was slowly added **7a** (5.5 g, 22.9 mmol) in dry THF (100 mL) via a syringe, and the mixture was stirred for 30 min. Diethyl oxalate (3.7 mL,

27.4 mmol) was added quickly in one portion, and the resulting mixture was stirred at −78 °C for 2 h before being allowed to warm to room temperature for another 2 h. When the reaction was completed, water (50 mL) and 1N aq HCl (50 mL) were sequentially added to the reaction mixture and the product was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 100 mL). The combined organic extract was washed with brine twice and dried over $MgSO_4$. Filtration and solvent removal under vacuum delivered the crude product, which was purified on a silica gel column with automated flash chromatography (solvent system: gradient hexane/ethyl acetate) to give **8** as a yellow solid (7.22 g, 92%). ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 9.08 (s, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 4.39 (q, J = 6, 2H), 2.71 (s, 3H), 1.40 (t, J = 6, 3H), 1.35 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$3) δ 186.24, 176.56, 165.29, 162.01, 160.00, 157.46, 123.06, 101.63, 62.57, 39.33, 27.08, 18.60, 14.12. LC/MS: ESI-MS, calcd [M + H$^+$] = 341.12, found 341.04.

General Procedure B: Preparation of Nγ-Substituted Pyrazoles, 9 via Cyclocondensation with 8. A mixture of substituted hydrazine (or hydrazine hydrochloride; 1.05 equiv) and **8** in absolute ethanol (3.3 mL/mmol of **8**) was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. After the starting material was consumed as indicated by TLC, the solvent was removed by rotoevaporation and the concentrate was extracted with ethyl acetate (3.3 mL/mmol of **8**) and washed with water. The ethyl acetate layer was dried over Na_2SO_4, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to deliver the crude Nγ-substituted pyrazole product, which was then purified by silica gel column chromatography (Combiflash).

Ethyl 1-(4-Bromophenyl)-5-(4-methyl-2-pivalamidothiazol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylate (9b). *para*-Bromophenylhydrazine (0.14 g, 0.64 mmol) was reacted with **8a** (0.217 g, 0.63 mmol) by general procedure B. After purification, an off-white product was obtained (0.27 g, 87%). ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.80 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 6, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 6, 2H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 4.46 (q, J = 6, 2H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, J = 6, 3H), 1.33 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 176.30, 162.19, 158.25, 147.48, 144.95, 138.29, 135.34, 132.52, 126.59, 122.64, 113.14, 112.69, 61.58, 39.34, 27.37, 15.90, 14.61. LC/MS: calcd [M + H$^+$] and [M + 2 + H$^+$] = 491.08 and 493.08, found 490.97 and 492.86.

General Procedure C: Preparation of 11a-I via Aminolysis of Nγ-Substituted Pyrazole Ester 9. Pyrazolylthiazole **9** (1 equiv) was dissolved in dry DCM (15 mL/mmol of **9**) and cooled to 0 °C for 10 min. $AlMe_3$ (2.0 equiv) in hexane (1.0 M) was added, and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. When the reaction was complete, water was added, followed by 0.1N aq HCl to neutralized the mixture, which was then extracted with EtOAc. The EtOAc layer was dried over Na_2SO_4, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude amide **10**, which was then purified by silica gel column chromatography with Combiflash.

1-(4-Bromophenyl)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-(4-methyl-2-pivalamidothiazol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxamide (11d). Pyrazolylthiazole **9b** (100 mg, 0.20 mmol) was reacted with anisidine (28 mg, 0.22 mmol) by general procedure C, and an off-white solid product was obtained (85 mg, 73% yield). ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.84 (s, 1H), 8.64 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 9.0, 2H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.8, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.8, 2H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.91 (d, J = 9.0, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.05 (d, J = 5.6, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 176.29, 159.15, 158.35, 156.63, 147.90, 147.53, 138.28, 136.09, 132.67, 131.03, 126.38, 122.64, 121.74, 114.46, 112.81, 111.50, 77.43, 77.22, 77.01, 55.71, 39.34, 27.36, 15.93. LC/MS: calcd [M + H$^+$] = 568.10, found 568.10.

Synthesis of Ethyl 3-(4-Methyl-2-pivalamidothiazol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (13). 2,4-Dioxo-4-(thiazol-5-yl)butanoate **8** (2.0 g, 5.9 mmol) and hydrazine hydrate (0.40 mL, 6.4 mmol) were dissolved in absolute ethanol (20 mL), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. When the reaction was over, the reaction mixture was concentrated to half volume by rotoevaporation and the resulting solid was collected by filtration. This solid residue was washed with cold ethanol (×3), dried under vacuum, and used in the next step without further purification. A small portion of product remained in the ethanol filtrate, which was concentrated under reduced pressure and the resulting solid collected. The two portions of product were combined and weighed (1.66 g, 83%). ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO + $CDCl_3$) δ 13.79 and 11.99 (s and s, 1H), 11.77 (s, 1H), 6.97 and 6.85 (s and s, 1H), 4.34 and 4.29 (q and q, J = 7.1, 2H), 2.46 and 2.37 (s and s, 3H), 1.31 (triplet overlapping, J = 7.1, 3H), 1.23 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO + $CDCl_3$) δ 176.83(minor) and 176.53, 161.81(minor) and 158.79, 156.90 (minor) and 156.00, 144.96 (minor) and 144.87, 143.11(minor) and 143.07, 135.30(minor) and 134.57, 116.84, 106.91and 106.22 (minor), 60.93, and 60.15 (minor), 40.05 (minor) and 38.74, 26.59, 16.38 and 15.92 (minor), 14.24 (minor) and 14.15. LC/MS: calcd [M + H$^+$] = 337.13, found 337.05.

General Procedure D: Preparation of 10 via Alkylation of the Pyrazolylthiazole 13. Pyrazolylthiazole **13** (1 equiv), K_2CO_3 (0.75−0.85 equiv), and an alkylating agent were dissolved in acetone (3.3 mL/mmol of **13**). The mixture was then refluxed (60 °C) for 24 h. When the reaction was complete, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and concentrated under reduced pressure. Water was added to the resulting mixture, which was then extracted with EtOAc (3×). The organic extracts were combined, dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered, and concentrated by rotoevaporation. The resulting crude product was then purified by silica gel chromatography (Combiflash; hexane/EtOAc gradient elution).

Ethyl 1-Allyl-3-(4-methyl-2-pivalamidothiazol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (10a, R = H, R^2 = Allyl). Allyl bromide (0.172 mL, 1.98 mmol) was reacted with pyrazolylthiazole **13** (0.5 g, 1.49 mmol) by general procedure D. Product **10a** was obtained after purification (0.33 g, 59% yield). ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.71 (s, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 6.04 (m, 1H), 5.19 (m, 3H), 5.14 (dd, J = 1.1, 17.0, 1H), 4.37 (q, J = 7.1 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.1, 3H), 1.33 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 175.75, 159.36, 155.65, 143.29, 143.19,133.10, 133.09, 118.20, 117.74, 109.61, 61.21, 54.15, 39.11, 27.21, 16.35, 14.23. LC/MS: calcd [M + H$^+$] = 377.17, found 377.13.

Ethyl 1-Benzyl-3-(4-methyl-2-pivalamidothiazol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (10a, R = H, R^2 = Bn). Benzyl chloride (0.12 mL, 0.96 mmol) was reacted with pyrazolylthiazole **13** (0.27 g, 0.80 mmol) by general procedure D. Product **10b** was obtained after purification (0.23 g, 66%). ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.74 (s, 1H), 7.31 (m, 5H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 5.76 (s, 2H), 4.33 (q, J = 7.1, 2H), 2.51 (t, J = 7.1 3H), 1.33 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 175.98, 159.62, 155.77, 143.82, 143.61, 137.08, 133.27, 128.89, 128.70, 128.46, 128.06, 128.05, 127.96, 118.51, 109.99, 61.40, 60.59, 55.22, 39.31, 27.43, 21.26, 16.73, 14.41, 0.21. LC/MS: calcd [M + H$^+$] = 427.18, found 427.08.

Ethyl 1-(5-Chloro-2-methoxybenzyl)-3-(4-methyl-2-pivalamidothiazol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (10a, R = H, R^2 = CH$_2$(2-MeO-5-Clphenyl)). 2-(Bromomethyl)-4-chloro-1-methoxybenzene (0.37 g, 1.57 mmol) was reacted with **13** (0.5 g, 1.49 mmol) by general procedure D. Product **10c** was obtained after purification (0.37 g, 51%). ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.70 (s, 1H), 7.17 (dd, J = 2.6, 8.7, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.7, 1H), 6.59 (d, J = 2.6, 1H), 5.76 (s, 2H), 4.32 (q, J = 7.1, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 1.34 (t, J = 7.1, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 175.90, 159.47, 155.74, 155.25, 144.02, 143.96, 134.06, 128.38, 128.00, 127.27, 125.79, 118.39, 111.59, 110.01, 61.48, 56.01, 50.28, 39.31, 27.45, 16.75, 14.36. LC/MS: purity and calcd [M + H$^+$] and [M + 2+H$^+$] = 491.15 and 493.14, found 491.10 and 493.08.

General Procedure E: Preparation of 14a−i via Aminolysis of 10 with Nonalcoholic Amines. To a solution of ethyl ester **10** (1 equiv) in dry DCM (10 mL/mmol of **10**), which was chilled at 0 °C in a sealed microwave reaction vessel, was added 2.0 M trimethyl aluminum (1.2 equiv) in hexanes. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 10 min, and then the amine reactant

(1.2 equiv) in dry DCM (1 mL/mmol of **10**) was injected into the mixture. The reaction tube was then mounted to the microwave reactor and irradiated with microwave at 100 °C for 40 min. After cooling, water and 0.1N aq HCl were added to the reaction mixture sequentially to neutralize the solution. DCM extraction (3×), drying over $MgSO_4$, filtration, and rotoevaporation gave a residue which purified by silica gel chromatography (CombiFlash).

1-Allyl-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(4-methyl-2-pivalamidothiazol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (14a). Ethyl ester **10a** (100 mg, 0.27 mmol) was reacted with anisidine (40 mg, 33 mmol) by general procedure E and gave **14a** (45 mg, 67%). ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.80 (s, 1H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.7, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 9.0, 2H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 6.08 (ddd, J = 5.8, 10.9, 16.1, 1H), 5.23−5.10 (m, 4H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 176.02, 157.72, 157.19, 155.66, 143.92, 143.35, 136.48, 133.56, 130.21, 124.50, 122.59, 118.31, 118.09, 114.53, 105.41, 77.46, 77.25, 77.04, 55.74, 54.19, 39.33, 27.44, 16.71. LC/MS: calcd [M + H$^+$] = 454.19, found 454.16.

1-Allyl-*N*-benzyl-3-(4-methyl-2-pivalamidothiazol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (14b). Ethyl ester **10a** (100 mg, 0.27 mmol) was reacted with benzylamine (36 μL, 33 mmol) by general procedure E and gave **14b** (85 mg, 91% yield). ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.93 (s, 1H), 7.30 (m, 4H), 6.87 (t, J = 5.6, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.02 (ddt, J = 5.7, 11.3, 17.0, 1H), 5.12 (m, 4H), 4.59 (d, J = 5.8, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 2.9, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 176.09, 159.69, 155.66, 143.74, 143.20, 137.89, 136.22, 133.66, 128.98, 127.98, 127.89, 118.34, 117.82, 105.52, 54.04, 43.75, 39.28, 27.38, 16.63. LC/MS: calcd [M + H$^+$] = 438.20, found 438.13.

Synthesis of *N*,1-Dibenzyl-3-(4-methyl-2-pivalamidothiazol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (14e). Ethyl ester **10b** (100 mg, 0.23 mmol), benzylamine (0.51 mL, 4.7 mmol), and sodium cyanide (5.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) were mixed in MeOH (8 mL) and refluxed for 18 h. Upon cooling, the methanol was removed by rotoevaporation and the residue was taken up in EtOAc (50 mL), washed with water (50 mL; 3×) and 0.1N aq HCl (50 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The concentrate was purified by silica gel chromatography (Combiflash), giving pure product of **14e** (31.9 mg, 34.41%). ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.71 (s, 1H), 7.37−7.23 (m, 10H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 6.24 (t, J = 5.6, 1H), 5.79 (s, 2H), 4.58 (d, J = 5.8, 2H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 175.94, 159.67, 155.63, 143.79, 143.36, 137.70, 137.31, 136.12, 129.07, 128.71, 128.33, 128.00, 127.99, 127.94, 118.46, 105.32, 54.98, 43.80, 39.31, 27.44, 16.74. LC/MS: calcd [M + H$^+$] = 488.21, found 488.20.

1-(5-Chloro-2-methoxybenzyl)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(4-methyl-2-pivalamidothiazol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (14g). Ethyl ester **10c**(30 mg, 0.061 mmol) was reacted with anisidine (12 mg, 0.098 mmol) by general procedure E to give **14g** (26 mg, 75%). ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.83 (s, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.5, 2H), 7.16 (dd, J = 2.6, 8.7, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 9.0, 2H), 6.79 (d, J = 2.5, 1H), 6.75 (d, J = 8.7, 2H), 5.78 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 176.00, 157.68, 157.18, 155.73, 155.47, 144.06, 143.84, 130.26, 128.52, 128.15, 127.91, 125.76, 122.42, 118.27, 114.53, 111.67, 105.38, 55.97, 55.71, 49.90, 39.32, 27.43, 16.71. LC/MS: calcd [M + H$^+$] = 568.18, found 568.17.

***N*-(5-(1-(5-Chloro-2-methoxybenzyl)-5-(morpholine-4-carbonyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-4-methylthiazol-2-yl)pivalamide (14h).** Ethyl ester **10c** (30 mg, 0.061 mmol) was reacted with morpholine (7 μL, 0.091 mmol) by general procedure E to give **14h** (28 mg, 87%). ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.74 (s, 1H), 7.19 (dd, J = 2.6, 8.7, 1H), 6.86 (d, J = 2.6, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.7, 1H), 6.38 (d, J = 9.6, 1H), 5.50 (s, 2H), 3.79 (d, J = 12.0, 3H), 3.66 (d, J = 24.8, 4H), 3.45 (s, 4H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 175.95, 160.92, 155.76, 155.55, 143.95, 143.31, 136.09, 128.96, 128.83, 127.45, 125.67, 118.40, 111.95, 105.67, 66.82, 56.16, 49.29, 39.31, 27.43, 16.72. LC/MS: calcd [M + H$^+$] = 532.18, found 532.14.

General Procedure F for Preparation of Amide 11m−p and 14j: Aminolysis of 9 or 10 with Alcoholic Amine. Pyrazolylthiazole **9** or **13** was dissolved in dry ethanol (4 mL) in a 10 mL microwave reaction tube. Ethanolamine (20 equivalent) was added to the solution, the tube was sealed, placed in a microwave reactor, and the reaction mixture was heated at 180 °C for 30 min. After the tube had cooled, ethanol was removed under reduced pressure, aq NH_4Cl was added, and the mixture was extracted with chloroform (×3). The chloroform extracts were combined and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to give a crude product, which was purified with HPLC.

1-(5-Chloro-2-methoxybenzyl)-*N*-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-(4-methyl-2-pivalamidothiazol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (14j). Following general procedure F, **14j** was obtained in 33% yield. ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.19 (dd, J = 2.6, 8.7, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.8, 1H), 6.73 (d, J = 2.6, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 5.76 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.82 (t, J = 5.4, 2H), 3.59 (dd, J = 5.5, 10.3, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 1.37 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 178.26, 160.36, 159.63, 155.31, 140.97, 137.49, 134.35, 128.57, 127.81, 127.17, 125.52, 117.96, 111.65, 104.79, 77.35, 77.22, 77.01, 76.80, 61.75, 55.85, 49.93, 42.12, 39.94, 26.56, 13.43. LC/MS: calcd [M + H$^+$] = 506.16, found 506.15.

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Supporting Information Available: CCDC information for **9b** and **10a** X-ray crystallographic structures, calculated and extrapolated log *P* values of active pyrazolylthiazoles **11d**/**14a**/**14b**/**14e**/**14g**/**14h**/**14j** and the bithiazole **1**, log *k* and log *P* values of reference compounds (used to establish the log *P* vs log *k* trendline) and pyrazolylthiazole correctors, experimentals for the preparation of pyrazolylthiazole carboxylic acids of both regioisomers of N-substituted pyrazoles, and HPLC/mass spectral data for active pyrazolylthiazoles **11d**/**14a**/**14b**/**14e**/**14g**/**14h**/**14j**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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