AMINOPYRIMIDINES USEFUL AS KINASE INHIBITORS

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to compounds useful as inhibitors of Aurora protein kinases. The invention also relates to pharmaceutically acceptable compositions comprising the compounds of the invention, methods of using the compounds and compositions in the treatment of various disorders, and processes for preparing the compounds.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The Aurora proteins are a family of three related serine/threonine kinases (termed Aurora-A, -B and -C) that are essential for progression through the mitotic phase of cell cycle. Specifically Aurora-A plays a crucial role in centrosome maturation and segregation, formation of the mitotic spindle and faithful segregation of chromosomes. Aurora-B is a chromosomal passenger protein that plays a central role in regulating the alignment of chromosomes on the meta-phase plate, the spindle assembly checkpoint and for the correct completion of cytokinesis.

[0003] Overexpression of Aurora-A, -B or -C has been observed in a range of human cancers including colorectal, ovarian, gastric and invasive duct adenocarcinomas.

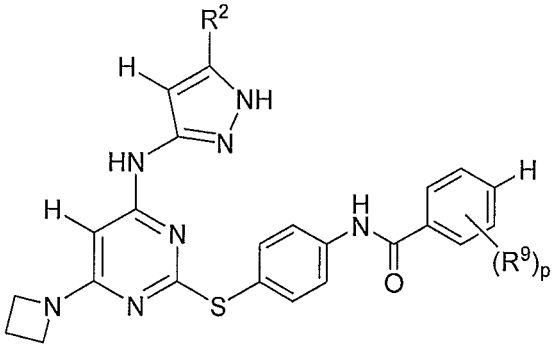
[0004] A number of studies have now demonstrated that depletion or inhibition of Aurora-A or -B in human cancer cell lines by siRNA, dominant negative antibodies or neutralizing

antibodies disrupts progression through mitosis with accumulation of cells with 4N DNA, and in some cases this is followed by endoreduplication and cell death.

[0005] The Aurora kinases are attractive targets due to their association with numerous human cancers and the roles they play in the proliferation of these cancer cells. It would be desirable to have an Aurora kinase inhibitor with favorable drug-like properties, such as stability in human liver microsomes. Accordingly, there is a need for compounds that inhibit Aurora kinases and also exhibit favorable drug-like properties.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] This invention provides compounds and pharmaceutically acceptable compositions thereof that are useful as inhibitors of Aurora protein kinases. These compounds are represented by formula I:



I

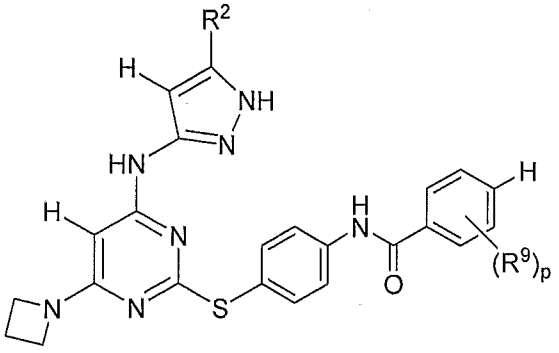
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^2, R^9, and p are as defined herein.

[0007] These compounds and pharmaceutically acceptable compositions thereof are useful for inhibiting kinases in vitro, in vivo, and ex vivo. Such uses include treating or preventing myeloproliferative disorders and proliferative disorders such as melanoma, myeloma, leukemia, lymphoma, neuroblastoma, and cancer. Other uses include the study of kinases in biological and pathological phenomena; the study of

intracellular signal transduction pathways mediated by such kinases; and the comparative evaluation of new kinase inhibitors.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0008] The present invention provides a compound of formula I:



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^2 is C_{1-3}alkyl or cyclopropyl;

R^9 is halo, C_{1-3}alkyl, -O-(C_{1-3}alkyl), -S-(C_{1-3}alkyl), $-OCF_3$, or CF_3;

and p is 1-2.

[0009] In some embodiments, R^2 is methyl.

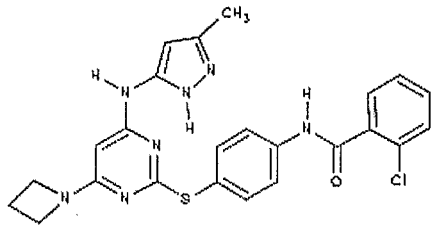
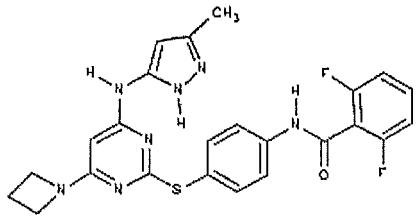
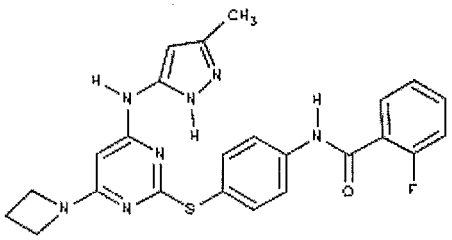
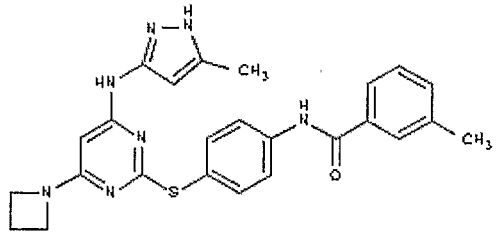
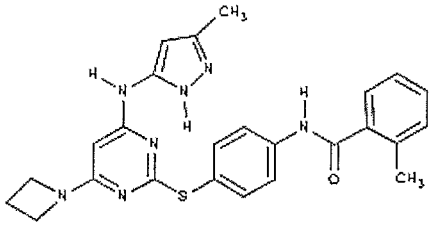
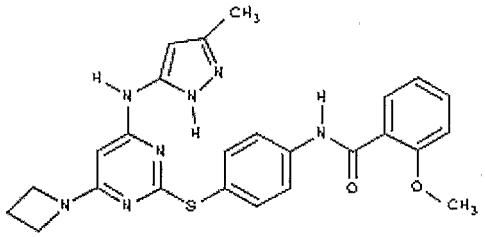
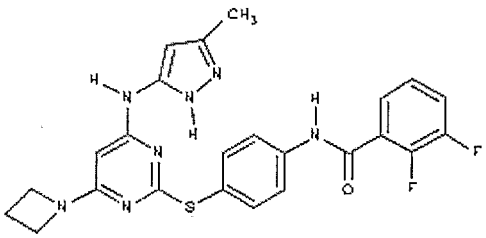
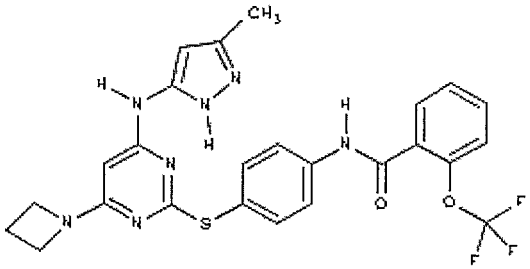
[0010] In other embodiments, p is 1.

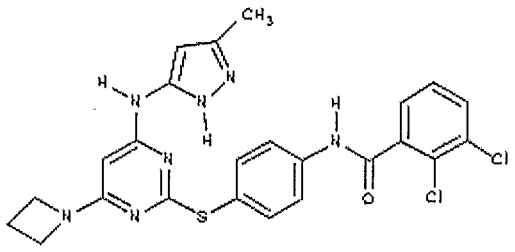
[0011] In some embodiments, R^9 is substituted in the ortho position.

[0012] In some aspects of the invention, R^9 is CF_3, halo, C_{1-3}alkyl, or -S-(C_{1-3}alkyl). In some embodiments, R^9 is F, Cl, or CF_3.

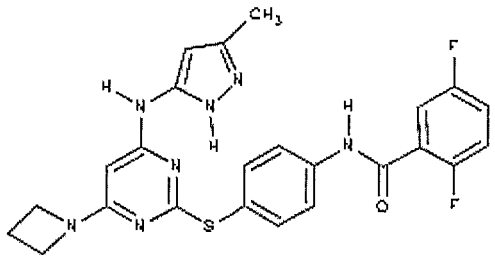
[0013] One aspect provides a compound selected from Table 1 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof):

Table 1:

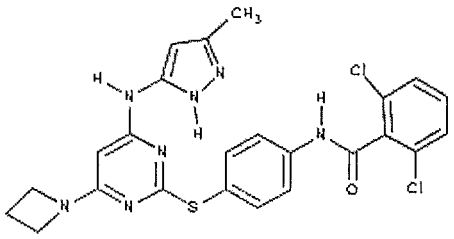
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 I-3	 I-4
 I-5	 I-6
 I-7	 I-8



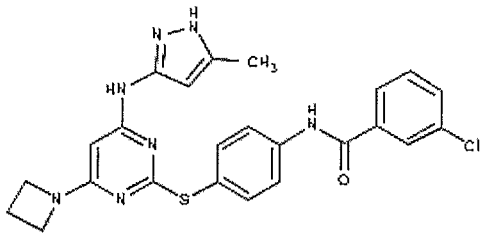
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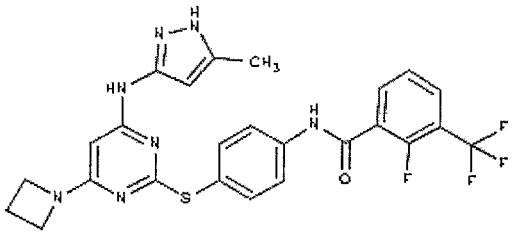
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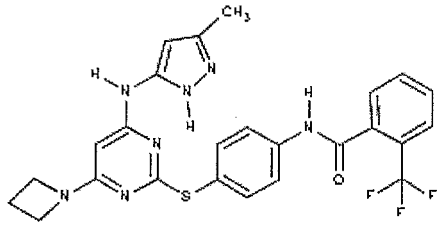
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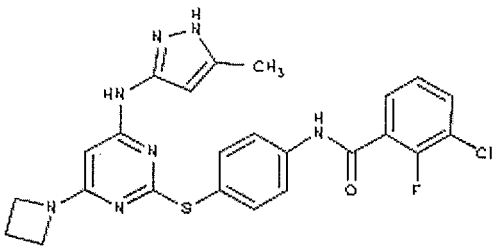
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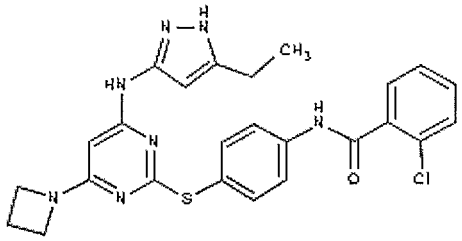
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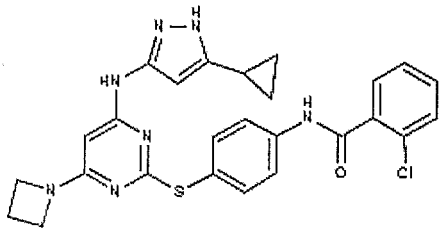
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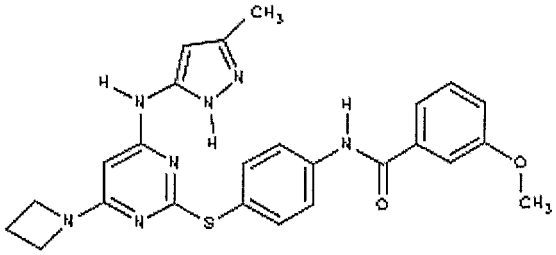
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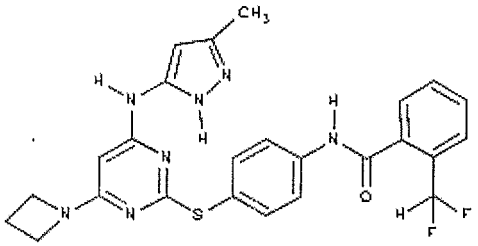
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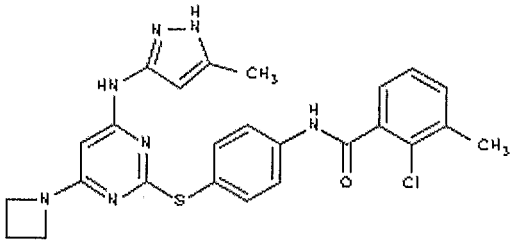
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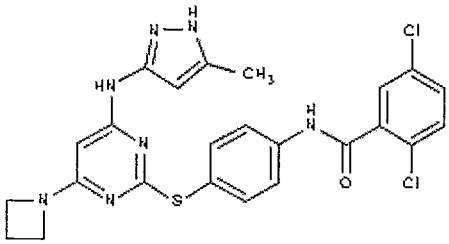
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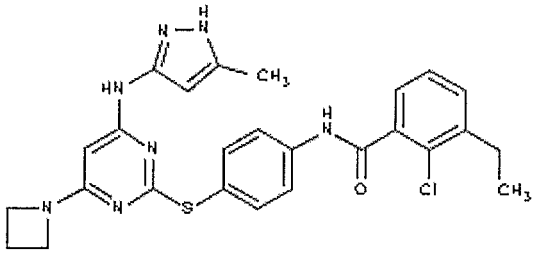
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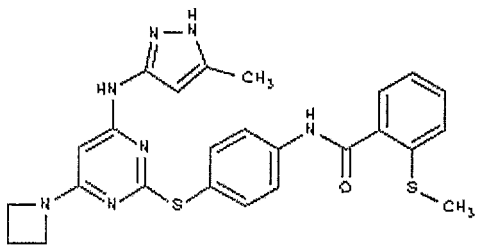
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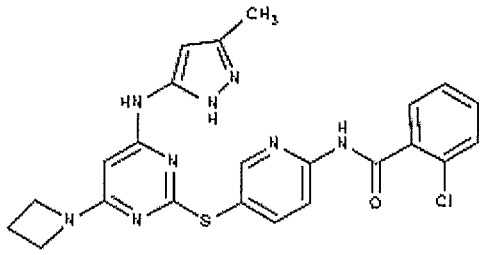
I-21



I-22



I-23



I-24

[0014] For purposes of this invention, the chemical elements are identified in accordance with the Periodic Table of the Elements, CAS version, Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 75th Ed. Additionally, general principles of organic chemistry are described in texts known to those of ordinary skill in the art, including, for example, "Organic Chemistry", Thomas Sorrell, University Science Books, Sausalito: 1999, and "March's Advanced Organic Chemistry", 5th Ed., Ed.: Smith, M.B. and March, J., John Wiley & Sons, New York: 2001, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0015] As described herein, a specified number range of atoms includes any integer therein. For example, a group having from 1-4 atoms could have 1, 2, 3, or 4 atoms.

[0016] As described herein, compounds of the invention may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents, such as are illustrated generally above, or as exemplified by particular classes, subclasses, and species of the invention. It will be appreciated that the phrase "optionally substituted" is used interchangeably with the phrase "substituted or unsubstituted." In general, the term "substituted", whether preceded by the term "optionally" or not, refers to the replacement of hydrogen radicals in a given structure with the radical of a specified substituent. Unless otherwise indicated, an optionally substituted group may have

a substituent at each substitutable position of the group, and when more than one position in any given structure may be substituted with more than one substituent selected from a specified group, the substituent may be either the same or different at every position. Combinations of substituents envisioned by this invention are preferably those that result in the formation of stable or chemically feasible compounds.

[0017] The term "stable", as used herein, refers to compounds that are not substantially altered when subjected to conditions to allow for their production, detection, and preferably their recovery, purification, and use for one or more of the purposes disclosed herein. In some embodiments, a stable compound or chemically feasible compound is one that is not substantially altered when kept at a temperature of 40 °C or less, in the absence of moisture or other chemically reactive conditions, for at least a week.

[0018] The term "alkyl" as used herein, means an unbranched or branched, straight-chain hydrocarbon that is completely saturated and has a single point of attachment to the rest of the molecule. Specific examples of alkyl groups include, but are not limited to, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, n-propyl, and sec-butyl.

[0019] The term "cycloalkyl" refers to a monocyclic hydrocarbon that is completely saturated and has a single point of attachment to the rest of the molecule. Suitable cycloalkyl groups include, but are not limited to, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, and cyclopentyl.

[0021] The term "unsaturated", as used herein, means that a moiety has one or more units of unsaturation.

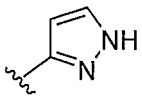
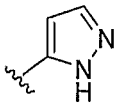
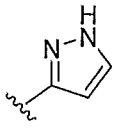
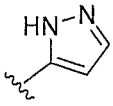
[0022] The terms "haloalkyl" means an alkyl substituted with one or more halogen atoms. This includes perfluorinated alkyl groups, such as CF_3.

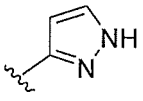
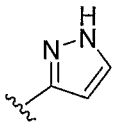
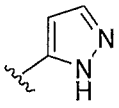
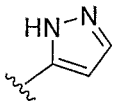
[0023] The term "halogen" means F, Cl, Br, or I.

[0024] The term "protecting group", as used herein, refers to an agent used to temporarily block one or more desired reactive sites in a multifunctional compound. In certain embodiments, a protecting group has one or more, or preferably all, of the following characteristics: a) reacts selectively in good yield to give a protected substrate that is stable to the reactions occurring at one or more of the other reactive sites; and b) is selectively removable in good yield by reagents that do not attack the regenerated functional group. Exemplary protecting groups are detailed in Greene, T.W., Wuts, P. G in "Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis", Third Edition, John Wiley & Sons, New York: 1999, and other editions of this book, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference. The term "nitrogen protecting group", as used herein, refers to an agents used to temporarily block one or more desired nitrogen reactive sites in a multifunctional compound. Preferred nitrogen protecting groups also possess the characteristics exemplified above, and certain exemplary nitrogen protecting groups are also detailed in Chapter 7 in Greene, T.W., Wuts, P. G in "Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis", Third Edition, John Wiley & Sons, New York: 1999, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0025] Unless otherwise indicated, structures depicted herein are also meant to include all isomeric (e.g., enantiomeric, diastereomeric, and geometric (or conformational)) forms of the structure; for example, the R and S configurations for each asymmetric center, (Z) and (E) double bond isomers, and (Z) and (E) conformational isomers. Therefore, single stereochemical isomers as well as enantiomeric, diastereomeric, and geometric (or conformational) mixtures of the present compounds are within the scope of the invention.

[0026] Unless otherwise indicated, all tautomeric forms of the compounds of the invention are within the scope of the

invention. As would be understood by a skilled practitioner, a pyrazole group can be represented in a variety of ways. For example, a structure drawn as  also represents other possible tautomers, such as . Likewise, a structure drawn as  also represents other possible tautomers, such as .

[0027] Unless otherwise indicated, a substituent can freely rotate around any rotatable bonds. For example, a substituent drawn as  also represents . Likewise, a substituent drawn as  also represents .

[0028] Additionally, unless otherwise indicated, structures depicted herein are also meant to include compounds that differ only in the presence of one or more isotopically enriched atoms. For example, compounds having the present structures except for the replacement of hydrogen by deuterium or tritium, or the replacement of a carbon by a ^{13}C- or ^{14}C-enriched carbon are within the scope of this invention. Such compounds are useful, for example, as analytical tools or probes in biological assays.

[0029] The compounds of this invention may be prepared in light of the specification using steps generally known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Those compounds may be analyzed by known methods, including but not limited to LCMS (liquid chromatography mass spectrometry) and NMR (nuclear

magnetic resonance). It should be understood that the specific conditions shown below are only examples, and are not meant to limit the scope of the conditions that can be used for making compounds of this invention. Instead, this invention also includes conditions that would be apparent to those skilled in that art in light of this specification for making the compounds of this invention. Unless otherwise indicated, all variables in the following schemes are as defined herein.

[0030] The following abbreviations are used:

DIPEA is diisopropylethylamine

DMF is dimethylformamide

n-BuOH is *n*-butanol

t-BuOH is tert-butanol

MeOH is methanol

EtOAc is ethyl acetate

TFA is trifluoroacetic acid

DMSO is dimethyl sulfoxide

Rt is retention time

DCM is dichloromethane

MeCN is acetonitrile

THF is tetrahydrofuran

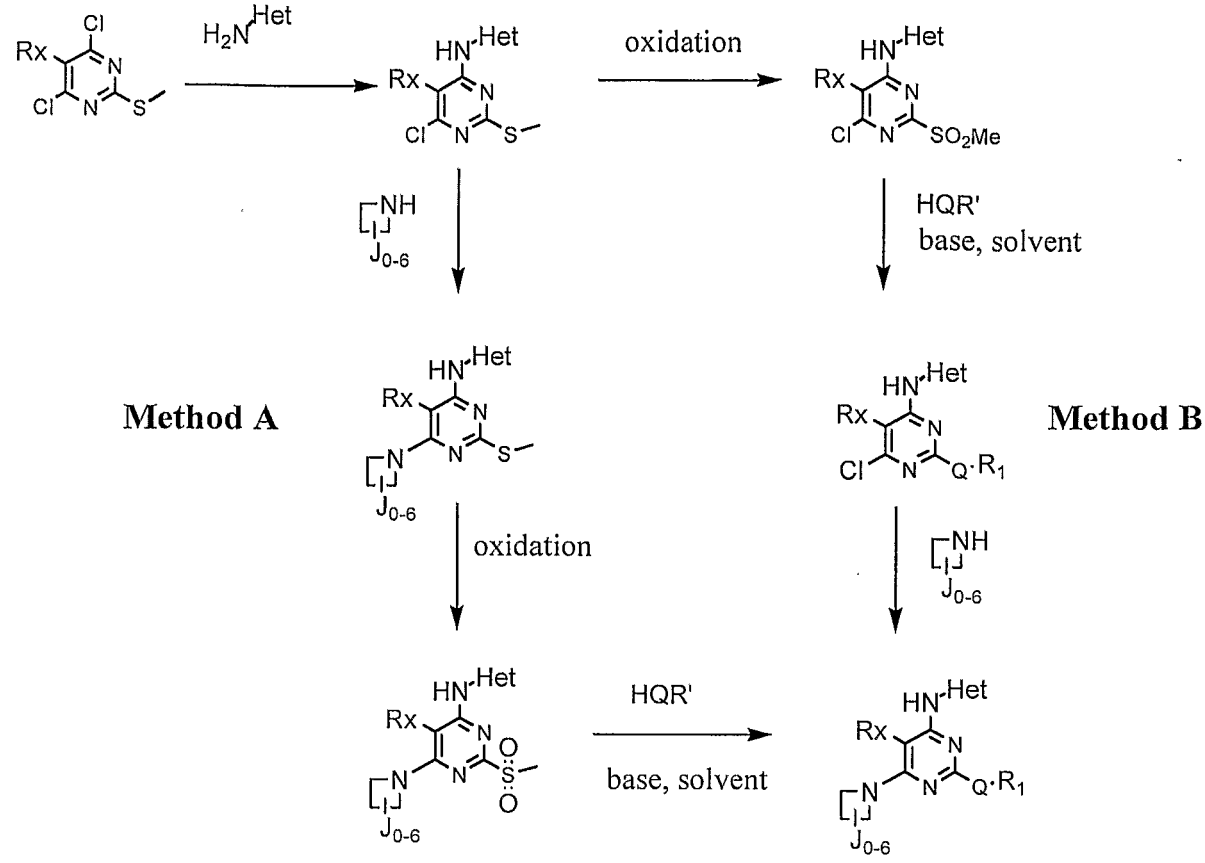
TBTU is 2-(1H-Benzotriazole-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate

HPLC is high performance liquid chromatography

LCMS liquid chromatography mass spectrometry

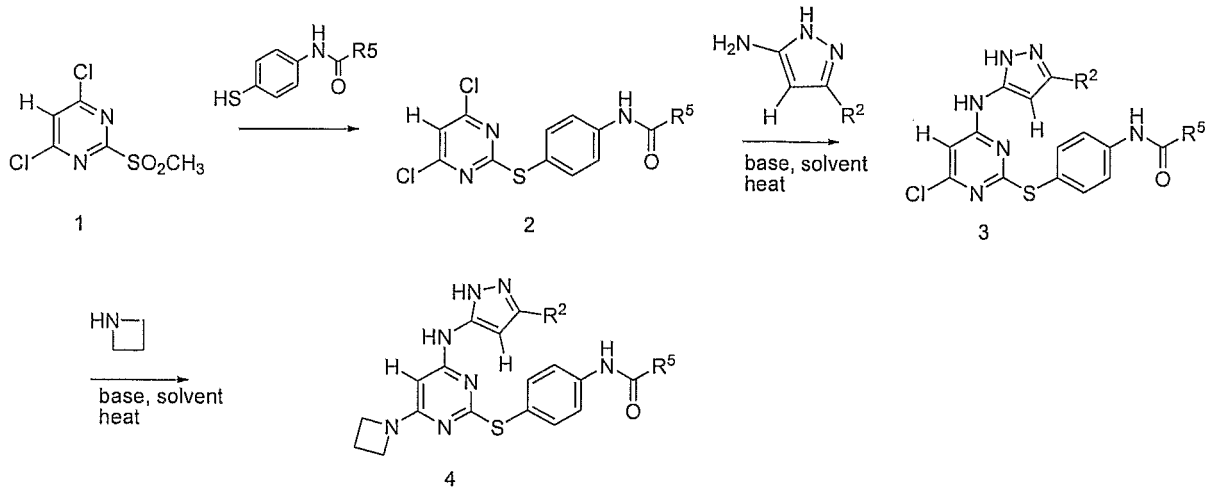
^{1}H NMR is nuclear magnetic resonance

General Scheme



[0031] The general scheme above shows some methods of making compounds of this invention.

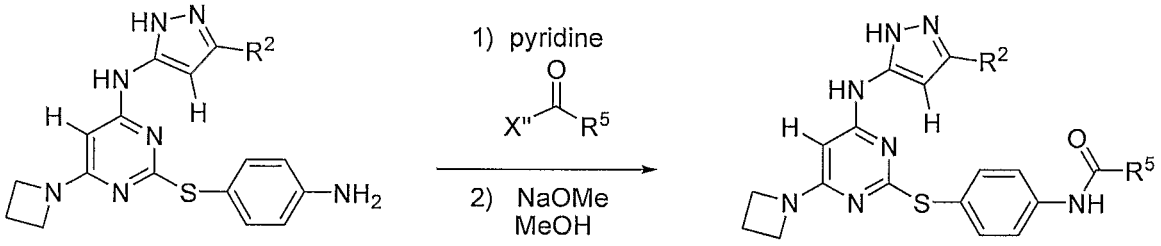
Scheme I



[0032] Scheme I above shows a general route for the preparation of compounds of formula 4 (in Scheme I), wherein

the variables are as defined herein. The dichlorinated pyrimidine of formula 1 is combined with HQ-R^1 to form a compound of formula 2. In some embodiments, the two compounds are heated in the presence of a suitable solvent (e.g. t-BuOH) for 16 hours. In other embodiments, the two compounds are mixed at 0 °C in the presence of acetonitrile and triethylamine for 1 hour. The compound of formula 2 is then heated in the presence of a suitable solvent (e.g. DMF) and a suitable base (e.g. DIPEA/NaI) with an optionally substituted aminopyrazole to form a compound of formula 3, which is heated in the presence of azetidine in the presence of a suitable solvent (e.g. n-BuOH) to form a compound of formula 4.

Scheme II



5 6

[0033] Scheme II above shows a general route for the preparation of compounds of formula 6 (in Scheme II), wherein R^2 and R^5 are as defined herein. The compound of formula 5 is combined with a suitable acid chloride (wherein X″ is Cl) in the presence of pyridine to form an intermediate compound that, upon mixing in the presence of sodium methoxide and methanol, forms the compound of formula 6. In some embodiments, X″ can be OH, in which case a suitable acid coupling reagent is used to couple the acid to the amine. Examples of suitable acid coupling reagents include, but are not limited to, EDC, DCI, and HOBT. Suitable solvents for these coupling reactions include, but are not limited to, THF, CH_2Cl_2, and dioxane.

[0034] Accordingly, this invention relates to processes for making the compounds of this invention.

[0035] Methods for evaluating the activity of the compounds of this invention (e.g., kinase assays) are known in the art and are also described in the examples set forth.

[0036] The activity of the compounds as protein kinase inhibitors may be assayed *in vitro, in vivo* or in a cell line. *In vitro* assays include assays that determine inhibition of either the kinase activity or ATPase activity of the activated kinase. Alternate *in vitro* assays quantitate the ability of the inhibitor to bind to the protein kinase and may be measured either by radiolabelling the inhibitor prior to binding, isolating the inhibitor/kinase complex and determining the amount of radiolabel bound, or by running a competition experiment where new inhibitors are incubated with the kinase bound to known radioligands.

[0037] Another aspect of the invention relates to inhibiting kinase activity in a biological sample, which method comprises contacting said biological sample with a compound of formula I or a composition comprising said compound. The term "biological sample", as used herein, means an in vitro or an ex vivo sample, including, without limitation, cell cultures or extracts thereof; biopsied material obtained from a mammal or extracts thereof; and blood, saliva, urine, feces, semen, tears, or other body fluids or extracts thereof.

[0038] Inhibition of kinase activity in a biological sample is useful for a variety of purposes that are known to one of skill in the art. Examples of such purposes include, but are not limited to, blood transfusion, organ-transplantation, biological specimen storage, and biological assays.

[0039] Inhibition of kinase activity in a biological sample is also useful for the study of kinases in biological and pathological phenomena; the study of intracellular signal

transduction pathways mediated by such kinases; and the comparative evaluation of new kinase inhibitors.

[0040] The Aurora protein kinase inhibitors or pharmaceutical salts thereof may be formulated into pharmaceutical compositions for administration to animals or humans. These pharmaceutical compositions, which comprise an amount of the Aurora protein inhibitor effective to treat or prevent an Aurora-mediated condition and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, are another embodiment of the present invention.

[0041] The term "Aurora-mediated condition" or "Aurora-mediated disease" as used herein means any disease or other deleterious condition in which Aurora (Aurora A, Aurora B, and Aurora C) is known to play a role. Such conditions include, without limitation, cancer, proliferative disorders, and myeloproliferative disorders.

[0042] Examples of myeloproliferative disorders include, but are not limited, to, polycythemia vera, thrombocythemia, myeloid metaplasia with myelofibrosis, chronic myelogenous leukaemia (CML), chronic myelomonocytic leukemia, hypereosinophilic syndrome, juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia, and systemic mast cell disease.

[0043] The term "cancer" also includes, but is not limited to, the following cancers: epidermoid Oral: buccal cavity, lip, tongue, mouth, pharynx; Cardiac: sarcoma (angiosarcoma, fibrosarcoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, liposarcoma), myxoma, rhabdomyoma, fibroma, lipoma and teratoma; Lung: bronchogenic carcinoma (squamous cell or epidermoid, undifferentiated small cell, undifferentiated large cell, adenocarcinoma), alveolar (bronchiolar) carcinoma, bronchial adenoma, sarcoma, lymphoma, chondromatous hamartoma, mesothelioma; Gastrointestinal: esophagus (squamous cell carcinoma, larynx, adenocarcinoma, leiomyosarcoma, lymphoma), stomach (carcinoma, lymphoma, leiomyosarcoma), pancreas (ductal adenocarcinoma, insulinoma, glucagonoma, gastrinoma, carcinoid tumors, vipoma), small

bowel or small intestines (adenocarcinoma, lymphoma, carcinoid tumors, Karposi's sarcoma, leiomyoma, hemangioma, lipoma, neurofibroma, fibroma), large bowel or large intestines (adenocarcinoma, tubular adenoma, villous adenoma, hamartoma, leiomyoma), colon, colon-rectum, colorectal; rectum, Genitourinary tract: kidney (adenocarcinoma, Wilm's tumor [nephroblastoma], lymphoma, leukemia), bladder and urethra (squamous cell carcinoma, transitional cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma), prostate (adenocarcinoma, sarcoma), testis (seminoma, teratoma, embryonal carcinoma, teratocarcinoma, choriocarcinoma, sarcoma, interstitial cell carcinoma, fibroma, fibroadenoma, adenomatoid tumors, lipoma); Liver: hepatoma (hepatocellular carcinoma), cholangiocarcinoma, hepatoblastoma, angiosarcoma, hepatocellular adenoma, hemangioma, biliary passages; Bone: osteogenic sarcoma (osteosarcoma), fibrosarcoma, malignant fibrous histiocytoma, chondrosarcoma, Ewing's sarcoma, malignant lymphoma (reticulum cell sarcoma), multiple myeloma, malignant giant cell tumor chordoma, osteochronfroma (osteocartilaginous exostoses), benign chondroma, chondroblastoma, chondromyxofibroma, osteoid osteoma and giant cell tumors; Nervous system: skull (osteoma, hemangioma, granuloma, xanthoma, osteitis deformans), meninges (meningioma, meningiosarcoma, gliomatosis), brain (astrocytoma, medulloblastoma, glioma, ependymoma, germinoma [pinealoma], glioblastoma multiform, oligodendroglioma, schwannoma, retinoblastoma, congenital tumors), spinal cord neurofibroma, meningioma, glioma, sarcoma); Gynecological: uterus (endometrial carcinoma), cervix (cervical carcinoma, pre-tumor cervical dysplasia), ovaries (ovarian carcinoma [serous cystadenocarcinoma, mucinous cystadenocarcinoma, unclassified carcinoma], granulosa-thecal cell tumors, Sertoli-Leydig cell tumors, dysgerminoma, malignant teratoma), vulva (squamous cell carcinoma, intraepithelial carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, fibrosarcoma, melanoma), vagina (clear cell

carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, botryoid sarcoma (embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma), fallopian tubes (carcinoma), breast; Hematologic: blood (myeloid leukemia [acute and chronic], acute lymphoblastic leukemia, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, myeloproliferative diseases, multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndrome), Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma [malignant lymphoma] hairy cell; lymphoid disorders; Skin: malignant melanoma, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, Karposi's sarcoma, keratoacanthoma, moles dysplastic nevi, lipoma, angioma, dermatofibroma, keloids, psoriasis, Thyroid gland: papillary thyroid carcinoma, follicular thyroid carcinoma; medullary thyroid carcinoma, undifferentiated thyroid cancer, multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2A, multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2B, familial medullary thyroid cancer, pheochromocytoma, paraganglioma; and Adrenal glands: neuroblastoma. Thus, the term "cancerous cell" as provided herein, includes a cell afflicted by any one of the above-identified conditions. In some embodiments, the cancer is selected from colorectal, thyroid, or breast cancer.

[0044] In some embodiments, the compounds of this invention are useful for treating cancer, such as colorectal, thyroid, breast, and lung cancer; and myeloproliferative disorders, such as polycythemia vera, thrombocythemia, myeloid metaplasia with myelofibrosis, chronic myelogenous leukemia, chronic myelomonocytic leukemia, hypereosinophilic syndrome, juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia, and systemic mast cell disease.

[0045] In some embodiments, the compounds of this invention are useful for treating hematopoietic disorders, in particular, acute-myelogenous leukemia (AML), chronic-myelogenous leukemia (CML), acute-promyelocytic leukemia (APL), and acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL).

[0046] In addition to the compounds of this invention, pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives or prodrugs of the compounds of this invention may also be employed in

compositions to treat or prevent the above-identified disorders.

[0047] A "pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or prodrug" means any pharmaceutically acceptable ester, salt of an ester or other derivative of a compound of this invention which, upon administration to a recipient, is capable of providing, either directly or indirectly, a compound of this invention or an inhibitorily active metabolite or residue thereof. Such derivatives or prodrugs include those that increase the bioavailability of the compounds of this invention when such compounds are administered to a patient (e.g., by allowing an orally administered compound to be more readily absorbed into the blood) or which enhance delivery of the parent compound to a biological compartment (e.g., the brain or lymphatic system) relative to the parent species.

[0048] Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of the compounds of this invention include, without limitation, esters, amino acid esters, phosphate esters, metal salts and sulfonate esters.

[0049] The compounds of this invention can exist in free form for treatment, or where appropriate, as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

[0050] As used herein, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable salt" refers to salts of a compound which are, within the scope of sound medical judgment, suitable for use in contact with the tissues of humans and lower animals without undue toxicity, irritation, allergic response and the like, and are commensurate with a reasonable benefit/risk ratio.

[0051] Pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of this invention include those derived from suitable inorganic and organic acids and bases. These salts can be prepared *in situ* during the final isolation and purification of the compounds. Acid addition salts can be prepared by 1) reacting the purified compound in its free-based form with a suitable

organic or inorganic acid and 2) isolating the salt thus formed.

[0052] Examples of suitable acid salts include acetate, adipate, alginate, aspartate, benzoate, benzenesulfonate, bisulfate, butyrate, citrate, camphorate, camphorsulfonate, cyclopentanepropionate, digluconate, dodecylsulfate, ethanesulfonate, formate, fumarate, glucoheptanoate, glycerophosphate, glycolate, hemisulfate, heptanoate, hexanoate, hydrochloride, hydrobromide, hydroiodide, 2-hydroxyethanesulfonate, lactate, maleate, malonate, methanesulfonate, 2-naphthalenesulfonate, nicotinate, nitrate, oxalate, palmoate, pectinate, persulfate, 3-phenylpropionate, phosphate, picrate, pivalate, propionate, salicylate, succinate, sulfate, tartrate, thiocyanate, tosylate and undecanoate. Other acids, such as oxalic, while not in themselves pharmaceutically acceptable, may be employed in the preparation of salts useful as intermediates in obtaining the compounds of the invention and their pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts.

[0053] Base addition salts can be prepared by 1) reacting the purified compound in its acid form with a suitable organic or inorganic base and 2) isolating the salt thus formed.

[0054] Salts derived from appropriate bases include alkali metal (e.g., sodium and potassium), alkaline earth metal (e.g., magnesium), ammonium and $N^+(C_{1-4}$ alkyl$)_4$ salts. This invention also envisions the quaternization of any basic nitrogen-containing groups of the compounds disclosed herein. Water or oil-soluble or dispersible products may be obtained by such quaternization.

[0055] Base addition salts also include alkali or alkaline earth metal salts. Representative alkali or alkaline earth metal salts include sodium, lithium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and the like. Further pharmaceutically acceptable salts include, when appropriate, nontoxic ammonium, quaternary

ammonium, and amine cations formed using counterions such as halide, hydroxide, carboxylate, sulfate, phosphate, nitrate, loweralkyl sulfonate and aryl sulfonate. Other acids and bases, while not in themselves pharmaceutically acceptable, may be employed in the preparation of salts useful as intermediates in obtaining the compounds of the invention and their pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salts.

[0056] Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers that may be used in these pharmaceutical compositions include, but are not limited to, ion exchangers, alumina, aluminum stearate, lecithin, serum proteins, such as human serum albumin, buffer substances such as phosphates, glycine, sorbic acid, potassium sorbate, partial glyceride mixtures of saturated vegetable fatty acids, water, salts or electrolytes, such as protamine sulfate, disodium hydrogen phosphate, potassium hydrogen phosphate, sodium chloride, zinc salts, colloidal silica, magnesium trisilicate, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, cellulose-based substances, polyethylene glycol, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, polyacrylates, waxes, polyethylene-polyoxypropylene-block polymers, polyethylene glycol and wool fat.

[0057] The compositions of the present invention may be administered orally, parenterally, by inhalation spray, topically, rectally, nasally, buccally, vaginally or via an implanted reservoir. The term "parenteral" as used herein includes subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intra-articular, intra-synovial, intrasternal, intrathecal, intraperitoneal, intrahepatic, intralesional and intracranial injection or infusion techniques.

[0058] Sterile injectable forms of the compositions of this invention may be aqueous or oleaginous suspension. These suspensions may be formulated according to techniques known in the art using suitable dispersing or wetting agents and suspending agents. The sterile injectable preparation may

also be a sterile injectable solution or suspension in a non-toxic parenterally-acceptable diluent or solvent, for example as a solution in 1,3-butanediol. Among the acceptable vehicles and solvents that may be employed are water, Ringer's solution and isotonic sodium chloride solution. In addition, sterile, fixed oils are conventionally employed as a solvent or suspending medium. For this purpose, a bland fixed oil may be employed including synthetic mono- or di-glycerides. Fatty acids, such as oleic acid and its glyceride derivatives are useful in the preparation of injectables, as are natural pharmaceutically-acceptable oils, such as olive oil or castor oil, especially in their polyoxyethylated versions. These oil solutions or suspensions may also contain a long-chain alcohol diluent or dispersant, such as carboxymethyl cellulose or similar dispersing agents which are commonly used in the formulation of pharmaceutically acceptable dosage forms including emulsions and suspensions. Other commonly used surfactants, such as Tweens, Spans and other emulsifying agents or bioavailability enhancers which are commonly used in the manufacture of pharmaceutically acceptable solid, liquid, or other dosage forms may also be used for the purposes of formulation.

[0059] The pharmaceutical compositions of this invention may be orally administered in any orally acceptable dosage form including, but not limited to, capsules, tablets, aqueous suspensions or solutions. In the case of tablets for oral use, carriers commonly used may include lactose and corn starch. Lubricating agents, such as magnesium stearate, may also be added. For oral administration in a capsule form, useful diluents may include lactose and dried cornstarch. When aqueous suspensions are required for oral use, the active ingredient may be combined with emulsifying and suspending agents. If desired, certain sweetening, flavoring or coloring agents may also be added.

[0060] Alternatively, the pharmaceutical compositions of this invention may be administered in the form of suppositories for rectal administration. These can be prepared by mixing the agent with a suitable non-irritating excipient which is solid at room temperature but liquid at rectal temperature and therefore will melt in the rectum to release the drug. Such materials may include cocoa butter, beeswax and polyethylene glycols.

[0061] The pharmaceutical compositions of this invention may also be administered topically, especially when the target of treatment includes areas or organs readily accessible by topical application, including diseases of the eye, the skin, or the lower intestinal tract. Suitable topical formulations may be prepared for each of these areas or organs.

[0062] Topical application for the lower intestinal tract can be effected in a rectal suppository formulation (see above) or in a suitable enema formulation. Topically-transdermal patches may also be used.

[0063] For topical applications, the pharmaceutical compositions may be formulated in a suitable ointment containing the active component suspended or dissolved in one or more carriers. Carriers for topical administration of the compounds of this invention may include, but are not limited to, mineral oil, liquid petrolatum, white petrolatum, propylene glycol, polyoxyethylene, polyoxypropylene compound, emulsifying wax and water. Alternatively, the pharmaceutical compositions may be formulated in a suitable lotion or cream containing the active components suspended or dissolved in one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. Suitable carriers may include, but are not limited to, mineral oil, sorbitan monostearate, polysorbate 60, cetyl esters wax, cetearyl alcohol, 2-octyldodecanol, benzyl alcohol and water.

[0064] For ophthalmic use, the pharmaceutical compositions may be formulated as micronized suspensions in isotonic, pH

adjusted sterile saline, or as solutions in isotonic, pH adjusted sterile saline, either with or without a preservative such as benzylalkonium chloride. Alternatively, for ophthalmic uses, the pharmaceutical compositions may be formulated in an ointment such as petrolatum.

[0065] The pharmaceutical compositions of this invention may also be administered by nasal aerosol or inhalation. Such compositions may be prepared as solutions in saline, employing benzyl alcohol or other suitable preservatives, absorption promoters to enhance bioavailability, fluorocarbons, and/or other conventional solubilizing or dispersing agents.

[0066] The amount of kinase inhibitor that may be combined with the carrier materials to produce a single dosage form will vary depending upon the host treated, the particular mode of administration, and the indication. In an embodiment, the compositions should be formulated so that a dosage of between 0.01 - 100 mg/kg body weight/day of the inhibitor can be administered to a patient receiving these compositions. In another embodiment, the compositions should be formulated so that a dosage of between 0.1 - 100 mg/kg body weight/day of the inhibitor can be administered to a patient receiving these compositions.

[0067] It should also be understood that a specific dosage and treatment regimen for any particular patient will depend upon a variety of factors, including the activity of the specific compound employed, the age, body weight, general health, sex, diet, time of administration, rate of excretion, drug combination, and the judgment of the treating physician and the severity of the particular disease being treated. The amount of inhibitor will also depend upon the particular compound in the composition.

[0068] According to another embodiment, the invention provides methods for treating or preventing cancer, a proliferative disorder, or a myeloproliferative disorder comprising the step

of administering to a patient one of the herein-described compounds or pharmaceutical compositions.

[0069] The term "patient", as used herein, means an animal, including a human.

[0070] In some embodiments, said method is used to treat or prevent a hematopoietic disorder, such as acute-myelogenous leukemia (AML), acute-promyelocytic leukemia (APL), chronic-myelogenous leukemia (CML), or acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL).

[0071] In other embodiments, said method is used to treat or prevent myeloproliferative disorders, such as polycythemia vera, thrombocythemia, myeloid metaplasia with myelofibrosis, chronic myelogenous leukaemia (CML), chronic myelomonocytic leukemia, hypereosinophilic syndrome, juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia, and systemic mast cell disease.

[0072] In yet other embodiments, said method is used to treat or prevent cancer, such as cancers of the breast, colon, prostate, skin, pancreas, brain, genitourinary tract, lymphatic system, stomach, larynx and lung, including lung adenocarcinoma, small cell lung cancer, and non-small cell lung cancer.

[0073] Another embodiment provides a method of treating or preventing cancer comprising the step of administering to a patient a compound of formula I or a composition comprising said compound.

[0074] Another aspect of the invention relates to inhibiting kinase activity in a patient, which method comprises administering to the patient a compound of formula I or a composition comprising said compound. In some embodiments, said kinase is an Aurora kinase (Aurora A, Aurora B, Aurora C), Abl, Arg, FGFR1, MELK, MLK1, MuSK, Ret, or TrkA.

[0075] Depending upon the particular conditions to be treated or prevented, additional drugs may be administered together with the compounds of this invention. In some cases, these

additional drugs are normally administered to treat or prevent the same condition. For example, chemotherapeutic agents or other anti-proliferative agents may be combined with the compounds of this invention to treat proliferative diseases.

[0076] Another aspect of this invention is directed towards a method of treating cancer in a subject in need thereof, comprising the sequential or co-administration of a compound of this invention or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and another therapeutic agent. In some embodiments, said additional therapeutic agent is selected from an anti-cancer agent, an anti-proliferative agent, or a chemotherapeutic agent.

[0077] In some embodiments, said additional therapeutic agent is selected from camptothecin, the MEK inhibitor: U0126, a KSP (kinesin spindle protein) inhibitor, adriamycin, interferons, and platinum derivatives, such as Cisplatin.

[0078] In other embodiments, said additional therapeutic agent is selected from taxanes; inhibitors of bcr-abl (such as Gleevec, dasatinib, and nilotinib); inhibitors of EGFR (such as Tarceva and Iressa); DNA damaging agents (such as cisplatin, oxaliplatin, carboplatin, topoisomerase inhibitors, and anthracyclines); and antimetabolites (such as AraC and 5-FU).

[0079] In yet other embodiments, said additional therapeutic agent is selected from camptothecin, doxorubicin, idarubicin, Cisplatin, taxol, taxotere, vincristine, tarceva, the MEK inhibitor, U0126, a KSP inhibitor, vorinostat, Gleevec, dasatinib, and nilotinib.

[0080] In another embodiment, said additional therapeutic agent is selected from Her-2 inhibitors (such as Herceptin); HDAC inhibitors (such as vorinostat), VEGFR inhibitors (such as Avastin), c-KIT and FLT-3 inhibitors (such as sunitinib), BRAF inhibitors (such as Bayer's BAY 43-9006) MEK inhibitors (such as Pfizer's PD0325901); and spindle poisons (such as

Epothilones and paclitaxel protein-bound particles (such as Abraxane®).

[0081] Other therapies or anticancer agents that may be used in combination with the inventive anticancer agents of the present invention include surgery, radiotherapy (in but a few examples, gamma-radiation, neutron beam radiotherapy, electron beam radiotherapy, proton therapy, brachytherapy, and systemic radioactive isotopes, to name a few), endocrine therapy, biologic response modifiers (interferons, interleukins, and tumor necrosis factor (TNF) to name a few), hyperthermia and cryotherapy, agents to attenuate any adverse effects (e.g., antiemetics), and other approved chemotherapeutic drugs, including, but not limited to, alkylating drugs (mechlorethamine, chlorambucil, Cyclophosphamide, Melphalan, Ifosfamide), antimetabolites (Methotrexate), purine antagonists and pyrimidine antagonists (6-Mercaptopurine, 5-Fluorouracil, Cytarabile, Gemcitabine), spindle poisons (Vinblastine, Vincristine, Vinorelbine, Paclitaxel), podophyllotoxins (Etoposide, Irinotecan, Topotecan), antibiotics (Doxorubicin, Bleomycin, Mitomycin), nitrosoureas (Carmustine, Lomustine), inorganic ions (Cisplatin, Carboplatin), enzymes (Asparaginase), and hormones (Tamoxifen, Leuprolide, Flutamide, and Megestrol), Gleevec™, dexamethasone, and cyclophosphamide.

[0082] A compound of the instant invention may also be useful for treating cancer in combination with the following therapeutic agents: abarelix (Plenaxis depot®); aldesleukin (Prokine®); Aldesleukin (Proleukin®); Alemtuzumabb (Campath®); alitretinoin (Panretin®); allopurinol (Zyloprim®); altretamine (Hexalen®); amifostine (Ethyol®); anastrozole (Arimidex®); arsenic trioxide (Trisenox®); asparaginase (Elspar®); azacitidine (Vidaza®); bevacuzimab (Avastin®); bexarotene capsules (Targretin®); bexarotene gel (Targretin®); bleomycin (Blenoxane®); bortezomib (Velcade®); busulfan

intravenous (Busulfex®); busulfan oral (Myleran®); calusterone (Methosarb®); capecitabine (Xeloda®); carboplatin (Paraplatin®); carmustine (BCNU®, BiCNU®); carmustine (Gliadel®); carmustine with Polifeprosan 20 Implant (Gliadel Wafer®); celecoxib (Celebrex®); cetuximab (Erbitux®); chlorambucil (Leukeran®); cisplatin (Platinol®); cladribine (Leustatin®, 2-CdA®); clofarabine (Clolar®); cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan®, Neosar®); cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan Injection®); cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan Tablet®); cytarabine (Cytosar-U®); cytarabine liposomal (DepoCyt®); dacarbazine (DTIC-Dome®); dactinomycin, actinomycin D (Cosmegen®); Darbepoetin alfa (Aranesp®); daunorubicin liposomal (DanuoXome®); daunorubicin, daunomycin (Daunorubicin®); daunorubicin, daunomycin (Cerubidine®); Denileukin diftitox (Ontak®); dexrazoxane (Zinecard®); docetaxel (Taxotere®); doxorubicin (Adriamycin PFS®); doxorubicin (Adriamycin®, Rubex®); doxorubicin (Adriamycin PFS Injection®); doxorubicin liposomal (Doxil®); dromostanolone propionate (dromostanolone®); dromostanolone propionate (masterone injection®); Elliott's B Solution (Elliott's B Solution®); epirubicin (Ellence®); Epoetin alfa (epogen®); erlotinib (Tarceva®); estramustine (Emcyt®); etoposide phosphate (Etopophos®); etoposide, VP-16 (Vepesid®); exemestane (Aromasin®); Filgrastim (Neupogen®); floxuridine (intraarterial) (FUDR®); fludarabine (Fludara®); fluorouracil, 5-FU (Adrucil®); fulvestrant (Faslodex®); gefitinib (Iressa®); gemcitabine (Gemzar®); gemtuzumab ozogamicin (Mylotarg®); goserelin acetate (Zoladex Implant®); goserelin acetate (Zoladex®); histrelin acetate (Histrelin implant®); hydroxyurea (Hydrea®); Ibritumomab Tiuxetan (Zevalin®); idarubicin (Idamycin®); ifosfamide (IFEX®); imatinib mesylate (Gleevec®); interferon alfa 2a (Roferon A®); Interferon alfa-2b (Intron A®); irinotecan (Camptosar®); lenalidomide

(Revlimid®); letrozole (Femara®); leucovorin (Wellcovorin®, Leucovorin®); Leuprolide Acetate (Eligard®); levamisole (Ergamisol®); lomustine, CCNU (CeeBU®); meclorethamine, nitrogen mustard (Mustargen®); megestrol acetate (Megace®); melphalan, L-PAM (Alkeran®); mercaptopurine, 6-MP (Purinethol®); mesna (Mesnex®); mesna (Mesnex tabs®); methotrexate (Methotrexate®); methoxsalen (Uvadex®); mitomycin C (Mutamycin®); mitotane (Lysodren®); mitoxantrone (Novantrone®); nandrolone phenpropionate (Durabolin-50®); nelarabine (Arranon®); Nofetumomab (Verluma®); Oprelvekin (Neumega®); oxaliplatin (Eloxatin®); paclitaxel (Paxene®); paclitaxel (Taxol®); paclitaxel protein-bound particles (Abraxane®); palifermin (Kepivance®); pamidronate (Aredia®); pegademase (Adagen (Pegademase Bovine)®); pegaspargase (Oncaspar®); Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta®); pemetrexed disodium (Alimta®); pentostatin (Nipent®); pipobroman (Vercyte®); plicamycin, mithramycin (Mithracin®); porfimer sodium (Photofrin®); procarbazine (Matulane®); quinacrine (Atabrine®); Rasburicase (Elitek®); Rituximab (Rituxan®); sargramostim (Leukine®); Sargramostim (Prokine®); sorafenib (Nexavar®); streptozocin (Zanosar®); sunitinib maleate (Sutent®); talc (Sclerosol®); tamoxifen (Nolvadex®); temozolomide (Temodar®); teniposide, VM-26 (Vumon®); testolactone (Teslac®); thioguanine, 6-TG (Thioguanine®); thiotepa (Thioplex®); topotecan (Hycamtin®); toremifene (Fareston®); Tositumomab (Bexxar®); Tositumomab/I-131 tositumomab (Bexxar®); Trastuzumab (Herceptin®); tretinoin, ATRA (Vesanoid®); Uracil Mustard (Uracil Mustard Capsules®); valrubicin (Valstar®); vinblastine (Velban®); vincristine (Oncovin®); vinorelbine (Navelbine®); zoledronate (Zometa®) and vorinostat (Zolinza®).

[0083] For a comprehensive discussion of updated cancer therapies see, http://www.nci.nih.gov/, a list of the FDA approved oncology drugs at http://www.fda.gov/cder/cancer/druglistframe.htm, and The Merck Manual, Seventeenth Ed. 1999, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0084] Another embodiment provides a simultaneous, separate or sequential use of a combined preparation.

[0085] Those additional agents may be administered separately, as part of a multiple dosage regimen, from the kinase inhibitor-containing compound or composition. Alternatively, those agents may be part of a single dosage form, mixed together with the kinase inhibitor in a single composition.

[0086] In order that this invention be more fully understood, the following preparative and testing examples are set forth. These examples are for the purpose of illustration only and are not to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention in any way. All documents cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference.

EXAMPLES

[0087] As used herein, the term "Rt(min)" refers to the HPLC retention time, in minutes, associated with the compound. Unless otherwise indicated, the HPLC method utilized to obtain the reported retention time is as follows:

Column: ACE C8 column, 4.6 x 150 mm

Gradient: 0-100% acetonitrile+methanol 60:40 (20mM Tris phosphate)

Flow rate: 1.5 mL/minute

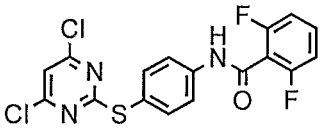
Detection: 225 nm.

[0088] Mass spec. samples were analyzed on a MicroMass Quattro Micro mass spectrometer operated in single MS mode with electrospray ionization. Samples were introduced into the mass spectrometer using chromatography. Mobile phase for all mass spec. analyses consisted of 10mM pH 7 ammonium acetate

and a 1:1 acetonitrile-methanol mixture, column gradient conditions was 5%-100% acetonitrile-methanol over 3.5 mins gradient time and 5 mins run time on an ACE C8 3.0 x 75mm column. Flow rate was 1.2 ml/min.

[0089] ^{1}H-NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz using a Bruker DPX 400 instrument. The following compounds of formula I were prepared and analyzed as follows.

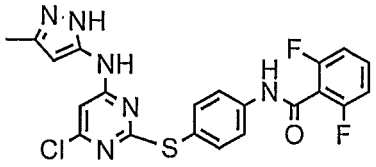
Example 1



2,6-Difluoro -*N*-[4-(4,6-dichloro-pyrimidin-2-ylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-benzamide:

[0090] A 250ml round bottom flask equipped with a condenser was charged with 4,6-dichloro-2-methanesulfonyl pyrimidine (4.2g, 18.8mmol), 2,6-difluoro-*N*-(4-mercapto-phenyl)-benzamide (4.98g, 18.8mmol) and tert-butanol (75ml) under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was degassed thoroughly and then heated at 90°C for 2h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and concentrated *in vacuo*. The solid residue was taken up in ethyl acetate (50ml) and washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution and brine. The organic was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated until the product began to precipitate. The mixture was then cooled and aged for 12 hrs. The product was collected by filtration, washed with cold ethyl acetate and dried. This gave the title compound as an off-white solid (2.7g, 35%). 1H NMR (DMSO) 7.32 (2H, m), 7.61 (3H, m), 7.79 (1H, s), 7.82 (2H, d), 10.9 (1H, s). MS (ES+): 412.19

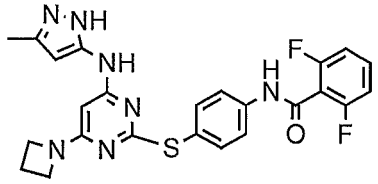
Example 2



2,6-Difluoro-*N*-{4-[4-chloro-6-(5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-ylamino)-pyrimidin-2-ylsulfanyl]-phenyl}-benzamide:

[0091] A 50ml round bottom flask was charged with 2,6-difluoro-*N*-[4-(4,6-dichloro-pyrimidin-2-ylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-benzamide (1.0g, 2.3mmol), 5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-ylamine (250mg, 2.58mmol), sodium iodide (351mg, 2.34mmol), diisopropylethyl amine (333mg, 2.58mmol) and dimethylformamide (5ml) under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred at 90°C for 18h, then allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (25ml), washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution and brine. The organic was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The compound was purified by flash chromatography (75 to 80% ethyl acetate/petrol) to give the title compound (1.08g, 98%). 1H NMR (DMSO) 2.00 (3H, s), 5.25 (1H, brs), 6.48 (1H, brs), 7.30-7.97 (7H, m), 10.28 (1H, s), 10.89 (1H, s), 11.90 (1H, s); MS(ES+): 473.4.

Example 3



***N*-{4-[4-Azetidin-1-yl-6-(5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-ylamino)-pyrimidin-2-ylsulfanyl]-phenyl}-2,6-Difluoro -benzamide: (Compound I-2)**

[0092] A 10ml round bottom flask was charged with 2,6-difluoro-*N*-{4-[4-chloro-6-(5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-ylamino)-pyrimidin-2-ylsulfanyl]-phenyl}-benzamide (150mg, 0.31mmol),

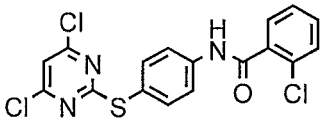
azetidine (35mg, 0.62mmol), diisopropyl ethylamine (80mg, 0.62mmol) and n-butanol (1.5ml). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80°C for 4h, then cooled and concentrated *in vacuo*. The compound was purified by preparative HPLC (MeCN/water + 0.05% TFA 10/90 to 100/0 over 10 min) to give the title compound as the trifluoroacetic acid salt (54mg, 29%). 1H NMR (DMSO) 2.05 (3H, s), 2.25-2.36 (2H, m), 3.70-3.98 (4H, m, masked), 5.31 (1H, s), 5.52 (1H, brs), 7.39 (2H, m), 7.46-7.67 (3H, m), 7.79 (2H, d), 9.35 (1H, brs), 11.04 (1H, s), 11.80 (1H, brs); MS (ES+):494.5.

[0093] Table 2 below depicts data for compounds made according to the method described in Scheme I and in Examples 1-3. Compound numbers correspond to those compounds depicted in Table 1.

Table 2

Compound No	M+1 (obs)	1H NMR	Rt (mins)
I-3	476.5	(DMSO-d6): 2.01 (3H, s), 2.32 (2H, m), 3.77-3.94 (4H, m), 5.39 (1H, s), 5.55 (1H, brs), 7.30-7.41 (2H, m), 7.45-7.70 (4H, m), 7.79-7.90 (2H, m), 9.25 (1H, brs), 10.68 (1H, s), 11.68 (1H, brs)	8.99

Example 4

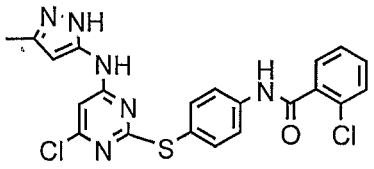


2-Chloro-*N*-[4-(4,6-dichloro-pyrimidin-2-ylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-benzamide:

[0094] A 250 mL round bottom flask was charged with 4,6-dichloro-2-methanesulfonylpyrimidine (7.00 g, 26.6 mmol), 2-chloro-*N*-(4-mercapto-phenyl)-benzamide (6.33 g, 27.9 mmol) and acetonitrile (100 mL) under nitrogen. Once the solid had dissolved, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0°C and triethylamine (3.7 mL, 26.6 mmol) was added dropwise. The solution was stirred at 0°C for 10 min and then allowed to

warm to room temperature and stirred for 1 h. After this time, water (50 mL) was added and a white solid precipitated and the reaction mixture stirred for an additional 4 h. After this time, the reaction mixture was filtered and the solid washed with acetonitrile (2 x 10 mL) to give the title compound as a white solid (8.03 g, 74%). 1H NMR (DMSO) 7.4-7.6 (5H, m), 7.7 (1H, s), 7.80-7.85 (2H, d), 10.9 (1H, s). MS (ES+): 412

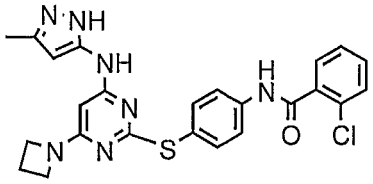
Example 5



2-Chloro-*N*-{4-[4-chloro-6-(5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-ylamino)-pyrimidin-2-ylsulfanyl]-phenyl}-benzamide:

[0095] A 250 mL round bottom flask was charged with 2-chloro-*N*-[4-(4,6-dichloro-pyrimidin-2-ylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-benzamide (12.5 g, 30.4 mmol), 5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-ylamine (3.55 g, 36.5 mmol), sodium iodide (4.56 g, 30.4 mmol), *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (6.9 mL, 40.0 mmol) and *N,N*-dimethylformamide (125 mL) under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred at 90°C for 5 h, then allowed to cool to room temperature. Water (600 mL) was added and the resulting suspension stirred at room temperature for 2 h and the solid collected by filtration and dried. The resulting white solid was triturated with hot ethyl acetate (50 mL), filtered and washed with ethyl acetate (1 x 20 mL) to give the title compound as a white solid (11.76 g, 82 %). 1H NMR (DMSO): 2.16 (3H, s), 5.30 (1H, s), 6.48 (1H, s), 7.49-7.62 (6H, m), 7.89 (2H, m), 10.28 (1H, s), 10.84 (1H, s), 11.93 (1H, s); MS (ES+): 471.

Example 6



N-{4-[4-Azetidin-1-yl-6-(5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-ylamino)-pyrimidin-2-ylsulfanyl]-phenyl}-2-chloro-benzamide: (Compound I-1)

[0096] A 500 mL round bottom flask was charged with 2-chloro-*N*-{4-[4-chloro-6-(5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-ylamino)-pyrimidin-2-ylsulfanyl]-phenyl}-benzamide (16.0 g, 34.0 mmol), azetidine (3.87 g, 68.0 mmol), *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (13.0 mL, 74.7 mmol) and *n*-butanol (250 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90°C for 5 h. The reaction mixture was cooled and concentrated *in vacuo*. Diethyl ether (200 mL) was added and a light brown solid precipitated. The solution was filtered and the solid recrystallized from ethanol to give the pure product as a white solid (9.42 g, 52%) 1H NMR (DMSO): 2.04 (3H, s), 2.32 (2H, m), 3.87 (4H, m), 5.39 (1H, s), 5.66 (1H, br s), 7.48-7.59 (6H, m), 7.82 (2H, m), 9.87 (1H, s), 10.74 (1H, s), 11.68 (1H, s); MS (ES+): 492.

[0097] Another method used to prepare example 6 is described below:

[0098] To a suspension of 2-chloro-*N*-{4-[4-chloro-6-(5-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-ylamino)-pyrimidin-2-ylsulfanyl]-phenyl}-benzamide (169 g, 0.36 mol) in 2-propanol (1.3 L) azetidine (100 g, 1.76 mol) was added portion wise. The reaction mixture was heated to 80-82°C. After 24 hours, di-isopropylethylamine (73.4 g, 0.57 mol) was added. The progress of the reaction was monitored by HPLC. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduce pressure to dryness, azeotroped with methanol three times (3 x 650 mL), stirred for 2 hours in methanol (1 L) at 40°C, and cooled to 10°C. The resulting off-white solid

was filtered. The isolated material was slurried in refluxing acetonitrile for 3 hours, cooled to 20-25°C, filtered and dried in a vacuum oven overnight. The material was slurried again in refluxing acetonitrile for 3 hours, cooled to 20-25°C, and filtered. The material was allowed to dry until it was a constant weight. The desired product was isolated as an off-white solid (154 g, 86%).

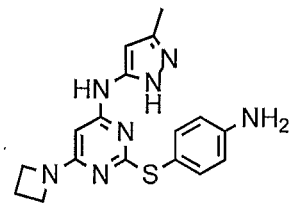
[0099] Table 3 below depicts data for certain exemplary compounds made according to the method described in Scheme I and in Examples 4-6. Compound numbers correspond to those compounds depicted in Table 1.

Table 3

Compound No	M+1 (obs)	1H NMR	Rt (mins)
I-5	473	(DMSO-d6): 2.07 (3H, s), 2.30 (2H, m), 2.39 (3H, s), 3.91 (4H, m), 5.40 (1H, s), 5.58 (1H, brs), 7.35 (2H, m), 7.40 (2H, m), 7.55 (2H, d), 7.89 (2H, d), 9.21 (1H, brs), 10.55 (1H, brs), 11.68 (1H, s)	9.20
I-6	488.5	(DMSO-d6): 2.07 (3H, s), 2.31 (2H, m), 3.82-3.94 (7H, m), 5.40 (1H, s), 5.56 (1H, brs), 7.08 (1H, m), 7.19 (1H, d), 7.42-7.61 (4H, m), 7.87 (2H, d), 9.21 (1H, brs), 10.34 (1H, brs), 11.68 (1H, brs)	9.24
I-7	495	(DMSO-d6): 2.05 (3H, s), 2.35 (2H, m), 3.98 (4H, m), 5.40 (1H, s), 5.54 (1H, brs), 7.38 (1H, m), 7.49 (1H, m), 7.59 (2H, d), 7.64 (1H, m), 7.83 (2H, d), 9.50 (1H, brs), 10.80 (1H, brs), 11.6 (1H, brs)	9.22
I-8	543	(DMSO-d6): 2.09 (3H, s), 2.38 (2H, m), 3.95 (4H, m), 5.46 (1H, s), 5.60 (1H, brs), 7.49-7.63 (4H, m), 7.70 (2H, m), 7.88 (2H, d), 9.49 (1H, brs), 10.75 (1H, brs), 11.6 (1H, brs)	9.46
I-9	526	(DMSO-d6): 2.05 (3 H, s), 2.34-2.27 (2 H, m), 3.91 (4 H, t), 5.41 (1 H, s), 5.60 (1 H, br s), 7.58-7.50 (4 H, m), 7.83-7.79 (3 H, m), 9.37 (1 H, br s), 10.83 (1 H, s)	9.55
I-10	494	(DMSO-d6): 2.02 (3 H, s), 2.34-2.27 (2 H, m), 3.92-3.88 (4 H, m), 5.38 (1 H, s), 5.58 (1 H, br s), 7.49-7.43 (2 H, m), 7.58-7.53 (3 H, m), 7.82 (2 H, d), 9.36 (1 H, br s), 10.75 (1 H, s)	9.26

I-11	526	(DMSO-d6): 2.05 (3 H, s), 2.34-2.27 (2 H, m), 3.91 (4 H, t), 5.46 (1 H, s), 5.59 (1 H, br s), 7.62-7.51 (5 H, m), 7.79 (2 H, d), 9.38 (1 H, br s), 10.98 (1 H, s)	9.52
I-12	492.52	(DMSO-d6): 1.99 (3H, s), 2.33 (2H, m), 3.89 (4H, m), 5.39 (1H, s), 5.60 (1H, br s), 7.58 (3H, m), 7.69 (1H, d), 7.91 (3H, m), 8.00 (1H, d), 9.24 (1H, s), 10.56 (1H, s), 11.77 (1H, s)	9.598
I-13	544.59	(DMSO-d6): 2.03 (3H, s), 2.34 (2H, m), 3.89 (4H, m), 5.37 (1H, s), 5.56 (1H, br s), 7.57 (3H, m), 7.82 (2H, s), 7.99 (2H, m), 9.42 (1H, s), 10.90 (1H, s), 11.90 (1H, s)	9.636
I-14	526.61	(DMSO) 2.05 (3H, s), 2.33 (2H, m), 3.96 (4H, m), 5.48 (1H, s), 5.60 (1H, brs), 7.58 (2H, d), 7.62-7.92 (6H, m), 9.54 (1H, brs), 10.84 (1H, brs).	9.16
I-15	-	(DMSO-d6): 2.02 (3H, s), 2.33 (2H, m), 3.90 (4H, m), 5.36 (1H, s), 5.55 (1H, br s), 7.41 (1H, t), 7.58 (2H, d), 7.62 (1H, m), 7.78 (3H, m), 9.35 (1H, s), 10.67 (1H, s), 11.83 (1H, s)	9.451
I-16	506.55	(DMSO-d6): 107 (3H, t), 2.29 (2H, m), 2.42 (2H, m), 3.17 (3H, s), 3.88 (4H, m), 4.11 (1H, m), 5.47 (1H, s), 5.66 (1H, br s), 7.56 (6H, m), 7.81 (2H, d), 9.23 (1H, s), 10.71 (1H, s), 11.74 (1H, s)	9.232
I-17	518.64	(DMSO-d6): 0.54 (2H, m), 0.84 (2H, m), 1.71 (1H, m), 2.31 (2H, m), 3.17 (3H, d), 3.87 (4H, m), 4.12 (1H, m), 5.49 (1H, s), 5.72 (1H, br s), 7.54 (6H, m), 7.83 (2H, d), 9.20 (1H, s), 10.70 (1H, s), 11.74 (1H, s)	9.316

Example 7

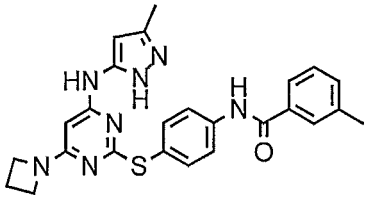


2-(4-aminophenylthio)-6-(azetidin-1-yl)-*N*-(3-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)pyrimidin-4-amine.

[00100] tert-butyl 4-(4-(5-methyl-1H-pyrazol-3-ylamino)-6-(azetidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-2-ylthio)phenylcarbamate (prepared using method similar to that described for example 6) (2.53g, 5.6 mmol) was dissolved in 1:1 TFA-DCM (20 mL) and the resulting solution allowed to stand overnight at room temperature. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo*. The

residue was taken up in EtOAc and washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (x2) then brine and dried over sodium sulfate. The resulting tan solid (1.8g, 91%) [MS (ES+) 354] was used without further purification or characterization in the next step.

Example 8



***N*-(4-(4-(3-methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-ylamino)-6-(azetidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-2-ylthio)phenyl)-3-methylbenzamide (I-4)**

[00101] 2-(4-Aminophenylthio)-6-(azetidin-1-yl)-N-(3-methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)pyrimidin-4-amine (200mg, 0.57 mmol) was taken up in pyridine (2mL) and m-toluoyl chloride (0.187 mL, 1.42 mmol) was added dropwise at room temperature. After 15 minutes the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the residue taken up in methanol (3mL). Sodium methoxide (25% w/w solution in MeOH, 1mL) was added and the resulting cloudy solution stirred at room temperature for 15 minutes. The reaction mixture was purified directly by chromatography (silica, 5-100% EtOAc-petrol gradient elution) to give the title compound (89mg, 33%) as a white solid. 1H NMR: (400 MHz, DMSO) 1.99 (3H, brs), 2.31 (2H, qn), 2.42 (3H, s), 3.88 (4H, t), 5.39 (1H, brs), 5.67 (1H, vbrs), 7.43-7.46 (2H, m), 7.54 (2H, d), 7.73-7.76 (2H, m), 7.91 (2H, d), 9.23 (1H, brs), 10.42 (1H, s), 11.67 (1H, brs). ES+ 472.

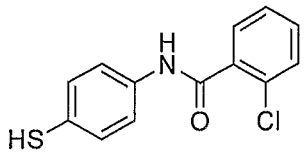
[00102] Table 4 below depicts data for certain exemplary compounds made according to the method described in Scheme II and in Examples 7-8. Compound numbers correspond to those compounds depicted in Table 1.

Table 4

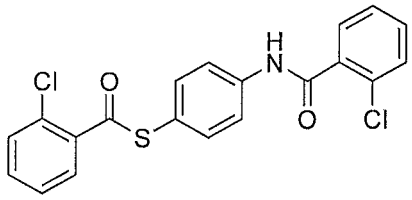
Compound No	M+1 (obs)	1H NMR	Rt (mins)
I-4	472	(DMSO-d6): 1.99 (3H, brs), 2.31 (2H, qn), 2.42 (3H, s), 3.88 (4H, t), 5.39 (1H, brs), 5.67 (1H, vbrs), 7.43-7.46 (2H, m), 7.54 (2H, d), 7.73-7.76 (2H, m), 7.91 (2H, d), 9.23 (1H, brs), 10.42 (1H, s), 11.67 (1H, brs)	9.42
I-18	488.24	(DMSO) 2.0 (3H, s, Me), 2.27-2.32 (2H, m, alk), 3.85-3.90 (6H, m, alk and Me), 5.41 (H, s, ar), 5.65 (H, brs, ar), 7.18 (1H, m, ar), 7.45-7.56 (5H, m, ar), 7.90-7.91 (2H, d, ar), 9.17 (H, s, NH), 10.40 (H, s, NH) and 11.65 (H, s, NH).	9.24
I-19	508.21	(DMSO) 2.04 (3H, s, CH3), 2.28-2.32 (2H, m ,alk), 3.17 (3H, s, CH3), 3.87-3.91 (4H, t, alk), 4.08 (H, m, alk), 5.4 (H, brs, ar), 5.6 (H, brs, ar), 7.19-7.49 (H, t, CHF2), 7.55-7.57 (2H, d, ar), 7.70-7.80 (4H, m, ar), 7.84-7.86 (2H, d, ar), 9.2 (H, s, NH), 10.75 (H, s, NH) and 11.65 (H, brs, NH)	9.214
I-20	506.00	(400 MHz, DMSO) 2.04 (3H,brs), 2.30 (2H, qn), 2.41 (3H, s), 3.88 (4H, t), 5.40 (1H, brs), 5.59 (1H, vbrs), 7.36-7.40 (2H, m), 7.49-7.55 (3H, m), 7.82 (2H, d), 9.22 (1H, brs), 10.71 (1H, s), 11.68 (1H, brs).	9.31
I-21	526.00	(400 MHz, DMSO) 2.04 (3H, brs), 2.30 (2H, qn), 3.88 (4H, t), 5.41 (1H, brs), 5.58 (1H, vbrs), 7.56 (2H, d), 7.60-7.66 (2H, m), 7.71 (1H, s), 7.81 (2H, d), 9.22 (1H, brs), 10.81 (1H, s), 11.68 (1H, brs).	9.51
I-22	520.00	(400 MHz, DMSO) 1.22 (3H, t), 2.05 (3H, brs), 2.28 (2H, qn), 2.79 (2H, q), 3.88 (4H, t), 5.40 (1H, brs), 5.50 (1H, vbrs), 7.36-7.43 (2H, m), 7.48-7.51 (1H, m), 7.54 (2H, d), 7.83 (2H, d), 9.22 (1H, brs), 10.72 (1H, s), 11.68 (1H, brs).	9.64
I-23	504.00	(400 MHz, DMSO) 2.05 (3H, brs), 2.30 (2H, qn), 2.46 (3H, s), 3.88 (4H, t), 5.40 (1H, brs), 5.60 (1H, vbrs), 7,29 (1H, t), 7.44 (1H, d), 7.48-7.54 (4H, m), 8.84 (2H, d), 9.21 (1H, brs),, 10.56 (1H, s), 11.68 (1H, brs).	9.01
I-24	493.00	($CDCl_3$): 2.15-2.20 (3H, s), 2.30-2.40 (2H, m), 4.00-4.10 (4H, t), 5.57 (1H, s), 5.85 (1H, s), 7.35-7.45 (3H, m), 7.65-7.70 (1H, d), 8.10-8.15 (1H, d), 8.35-8.40 (1H, s), 8.49 (1H, s), 9.60-9.70 (1H, br s).	9.021

[00103] The experimentals shown below describe the preparation of some of the compounds used in the examples described herein.

Compound a

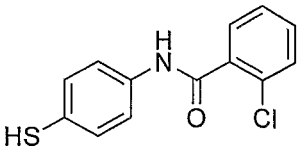


2-chloro-*N*-(4-mercaptophenyl)benzamide



S-4-(2-chlorobenzamido)phenyl 2-chlorobenzothioate

[00104] Degassed EtOAc (3.2 L) was charged in a flask. The solvent was cooled to 0°C under nitrogen. 4-aminobenzenethiol (435 g, 3.48 mol) was melted and added directly to the flask. Triethylamine (773 g, 7.65 mol) was added over 30 minutes forming a precipitate. Then, 2-chlorobenzoyl chloride (1340 g, 7.65 mol) was added neat keeping the temperature below 5°C. After complete addition, the mixture was heated to 20°C for one hour. The slurry was filtered and the cake washed with EtOAc (780 mL). The material was dried at 50°C under vacuum with a nitrogen sweep until a constant weight was obtained. The compound was carried on to the next reaction without further purification.



2-chloro-*N*-(4-mercaptophenyl)benzamide

[00105] S-4-(2-chlorobenzamido)phenyl 2-chlorobenzothioate (305 g, 0.76 mol), EtOAc (325 mL), and water (65 mL) were charged to a flask fitted with a reflux condenser. A solution of NaOH (3 eq., 50% aq.) was added and the mixture heated to 70°C for 30-40 minutes. EtOAc was removed by distillation at 100mm Hg and the mixture was cooled to 5°C. The mixture was acidified with 6N HCl to pH 2. The solid was then collected by vacuum filtration and washed with water (390 mL). The solid was taken up in CH_2Cl_2 (520 mL) and washed with saturated aqueous $NaHCO_3$. The organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4, filtered, and concentrated to give the desired material (174 g, 87%).

Example 10: Aurora-2 (Aurora A) Inhibition Assay

[00106] Compounds were screened for their ability to inhibit Aurora-2 using a standard coupled enzyme assay (Fox et al., Protein Sci., (1998) 7, 2249). Assays were carried out in a mixture of 100mM Hepes (pH7.5), 10mM $MgCl_2$, 1mM DTT, 25mM NaCl, 2.5mM phosphoenolpyruvate, 300 µM NADH, 30 µg/ml pyruvate kinase and 10 µg/ml lactate dehydrogenase. Final substrate concentrations in the assay were 400µM ATP (Sigma Chemicals) and 570µM peptide (Kemptide, American Peptide, Sunnyvale, CA). Assays were carried out at 30 °C and in the presence of 40nM Aurora-2.

[00107] An assay stock buffer solution was prepared containing all of the reagents listed above, with the exception of Aurora-2 and the test compound of interest. 55 µl of the stock solution was placed in a 96 well plate followed by addition of 2 µl of DMSO stock containing serial dilutions of the test compound (typically starting from a final concentration of 7.5µM). The plate was preincubated for 10 minutes at 30°C and the reaction initiated by addition of 10 µl of Aurora-2. Initial reaction rates were determined with a Molecular Devices SpectraMax Plus plate reader over a 10

minute time course. IC50 and Ki data were calculated from non-linear regression analysis using the Prism software package (GraphPad Prism version 3.0cx for Macintosh, GraphPad Software, San Diego California, USA).

Example 11: Aurora-1 (Aurora B) Inhibition Assay(radiometric)

[00108] An assay buffer solution was prepared which consisted of 25 mM HEPES (pH 7.5), 10 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.1% BSA and 10% glycerol. A 22 nM Aurora-B solution, also containing 1.7 mM DTT and 1.5 mM Kemptide (LRRASLG), was prepared in assay buffer. To 22 µL of the Aurora-B solution, in a 96-well plate, was added 2 µl of a compound stock solution in DMSO and the mixture allowed to equilibrate for 10 minutes at 25°C. The enzyme reaction was initiated by the addition of 16 µl stock [γ-^{33}P]-ATP solution (~20 nCi/µL) prepared in assay buffer, to a final assay concentration of 800 µM. The reaction was stopped after 3 hours by the addition of 16 µL 500 mM phosphoric acid and the levels of ^{33}P incorporation into the peptide substrate were determined by the following method.

[00109] A phosphocellulose 96-well plate (Millipore, Cat no. MAPHNOB50) was pre-treated with 100 µL of a 100 mM phosphoric acid prior to the addition of the enzyme reaction mixture (40 µL). The solution was left to soak on to the phosphocellulose membrane for 30 minutes and the plate subsequently washed four times with 200 µL of a 100 mM phosphoric acid. To each well of the dry plate was added 30 µL of Optiphase 'SuperMix' liquid scintillation cocktail (Perkin Elmer) prior to scintillation counting (1450 Microbeta Liquid Scintillation Counter, Wallac). Levels of non-enzyme catalyzed background radioactivity were determined by adding 16 µL of the 500 mM phosphoric acid to control wells, containing all assay components (which acts to denature the enzyme), prior to the addition of the [γ-^{33}P]-ATP solution. Levels of enzyme catalyzed ^{33}P incorporation were calculated by subtracting mean

background counts from those measured at each inhibitor concentration. For each Ki determination 8 data points, typically covering the concentration range 0 - 10 μM compound, were obtained in duplicate (DMSO stocks were prepared from an initial compound stock of 10 mM with subsequent 1:2.5 serial dilutions). Ki values were calculated from initial rate data by non-linear regression using the Prism software package (Prism 3.0, Graphpad Software, San Diego, CA).

Example 12: Itk Inhibition Assay: Radioactivity-based Assay

[00110] The compounds of the present invention were evaluated as inhibitors of human Itk kinase using a radioactivity-based assay.

[00111] Assays were carried out in a mixture of 20 mM MOPS (pH 7.0), 10mM $MgCl_2$, 0.1% BSA and 1mM DTT. Final substrate concentrations in the assay were 7.5 μM [γ-^{33}P]ATP (400μCi ^{33}P ATP/ μmol ATP, Amersham Pharmacia Biotech / Sigma Chemicals) and 3μM peptide (SAM68 protein Δ332-443). Assays were carried out at 25 °C. in the presence of 50 nM Itk. An assay stock buffer solution was prepared containing all of the reagents listed above, with the exception of ATP and the test compound of interest. 50 μL of the stock solution was placed in a 96 well plate followed by addition of 2μL of DMSO stock containing serial dilutions of the test compound (typically starting from a final concentration of 50μM with 2-fold serial dilutions) in duplicate (final DMSO concentration 2%). The plate was pre-incubated for 10 minutes at 25°C and the reaction initiated by addition of 50μL [γ-^{33}P]ATP (final concentration 7.5μM).

[00112] The reaction was stopped after 10 minutes by the addition of 100μL 0.2M phosphoric acid + 0.01% TWEEN 20. A multiscreen phosphocellulose filter 96-well plate (Millipore, Cat no. MAPHN0B50) was pretreated with 100μL 0.2M phosphoric

acid + 0.01% TWEEN 20 prior to the addition of 170µL of the stopped assay mixture. The plate was washed with 4 x 200µL 0.2M phosphoric acid + 0.01% TWEEN 20. After drying, 30µL Optiphase 'SuperMix' liquid scintillation cocktail (Perkin Elmer) was added to the well prior to scintillation counting (1450 Microbeta Liquid Scintillation Counter, Wallac).

[00113] Ki(app) data were calculated from non-linear regression analysis of the initial rate data using the Prism software package (GraphPad Prism version 3.0cx for Macintosh, GraphPad Software, San Diego California, USA).

Example 13: JAK3 Inhibition Assay

[00114] Compounds were screened for their ability to inhibit JAK using the assay shown below. Reactions were carried out in a kinase buffer containing 100 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 1 mM DTT, 10 mM $MgCl_2$, 25 mM NaCl, and 0.01% BSA. Substrate concentrations in the assay were 5 µM ATP (200 uCi/µmole ATP) and 1 µM poly(Glu)$_4$Tyr. Reactions were carried out at 25 °C and 1 nM JAK3.

[00115] To each well of a 96 well polycarbonate plate was added 1.5 µl of a candidate JAK3 inhibitor along with 50 µl of kinase buffer containing 2 µM poly(Glu)$_4$Tyr and 10 µM ATP. This was then mixed and 50µl of kinase buffer containing 2 nM JAK3 enzyme was added to start the reaction. After 20 minutes at room temperature (25C), the reaction was stopped with 50µl of 20% trichloroacetic acid (TCA) that also contained 0.4 mM ATP. The entire contents of each well were then transferred to a 96 well glass fiber filter plate using a TomTek Cell Harvester. After washing, 60 µl of scintillation fluid was added and ^{33}P incorporation detected on a Perkin Elmer TopCount.

Example 14: JAK2 Inhibition Assay

[00116] The assays are as described above in Example 33 except that JAK-2 enzyme was used, the final poly(Glu)$_4$Tyr

concentration was 15 µM, and final ATP concentration was 12 µM.

Example 15: FLT-3 Inhibition Assay

[00117] Compounds were screened for their ability to inhibit FLT-3 activity using a radiometric filter-binding assay. This assay monitors the 33P incorporation into a substrate poly(Glu, Tyr) 4:1 (pE4Y). Reactions were carried out in a solution containing 100 mM HEPES (pH 7.5), 10 mM $MgCl_2$, 25 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT, 0.01% BSA and 2.5% DMSO. Final substrate concentrations in the assay were 90 µM ATP and 0.5mg/ml pE4Y (both from Sigma Chemicals, St Louis, MO). The final concentration of a compound of the present invention was generally between 0.01 and 5 µM. Typically, a 12-point titration was conducted by preparing serial dilutions from 10 mM DMSO stock of test compound. Reactions were carried out at room temperature.

[00118] Two assay solutions were prepared. Solution 1 contains 100 mM HEPES (pH 7.5), 10 mM $MgCl_2$, 25 mM NaCl, 1 mg/ml pE4Y and 180 mM ATP(containing 0.3mCi of [γ-33^P]ATP for each reaction). Solution 2 contains 100 mM HEPES (pH 7.5), 10 mM $MgCl_2$, 25 mM NaCl, 2 mM DTT, 0.02% BSA and 3 nM FLT-3. The assay was run on a 96 well plate by mixing 50µl each of Solution 1 and 2.5 ml of the compounds of the present invention. The reaction was initiated with Solution 2. After incubation for 20 minutes at room temperature, the reaction was stopped with 50µl of 20% TCA containing 0.4mM of ATP. All of the reaction volume was then transferred to a filter plate and washed with 5% TCA by a Harvester 9600 from TOMTEC (Hamden, CT). The amount of ^{33}P incorporation into pE4y was analyzed by a Packard Top Count Microplate Scintillation Counter (Meriden, CT). The data was fitted using Prism software to get an IC50 or Ki.

Example 16: Microsomal Stability Assay

[00119] Microsomal stability was monitored by generation of depletion-time profiles in microsomes from a range of species (male CD-1 mouse, male Sprague-Dawley rat, male Beagle dog, male Cynomolgus monkey and pooled mixed gender human). Compound spiking solutions were made up by diluting down the compound stock solution in DMSO (typically 10 mM) to give a solution in acetonitrile (0.5 mM). Compound (to give final concentration of 5 μM) was incubated with a final reaction mixture (1000 μL) consisting of liver microsome protein (1 mg/mL) and a β-nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate, reduced form (NADPH)-regenerating system (RGS) [consisting of 2 mM β-nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADP), 20.5 mM isocitric acid, 0.5 U of isocitrate dehydrogenase/mL, 30 mM magnesium chloride, and 0.1 M phosphate buffer (PB) pH 7.4] in the presence of 0.1 M PB (pH 7.4).

[00120] The reaction was initiated by the addition (250 μL) of the pre-incubated RGS to the pre-incubated microsome/VRT/PB mixture (pre-incubation in both instances was for 10 minutes at 37 °C). Samples were incubated within Eppendorf vials (1.5 ml) on a heater shaker (DPC Micromix 5 (settings; form 20, amplitude 4) modified to be heated, to 37 °C, by two plate heaters fixed to the deck and controlled by a Packard Manual Heater) attached to a Multiprobe II HT Ex automated liquid handler. The liquid handler was programmed (WinPREP software) to sample the microsomal incubation mixture after 0, 2, 10, 30 and 60 minutes of incubation and transfer an aliquot (100 μL) to a stop block (96-well block) containing 100 μL of chilled methanol. The % organic in the stop mixture was optimized for analysis by addition of appropriate volumes of aqueous/organic (typically 100 μL of 50:50 methanol: water).

[00121] Prior to analysis the stop block was placed on a shaker (DPC Micromix 5; 10 min, form 20, amplitude 5) to precipitate out proteins. The block was then centrifuged (Jouan GR412; 2000 rpm, 15 min, 4 °C). A sample aliquot (200 μL) was then transferred to an analysis block and the block was centrifuged again (Jouan GR412; 2000 rpm, 5 min, 4 °C) prior to being sent for analysis. Depletion profiles were determined by monitoring the disappearance of VRT by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). Samples were injected (20 μL; Agilent 1100 liquid chromatographic system equipped with autosampler) onto an analytical column. Mobile phase consisted of Water + 0.05% (v/v) formic acid (A) and methanol + 0.05% (v/v) formic acid (B).

[00122] Running a gradient method optimized for the compound of interest carried out the compound elution from analytical column. The total run time was 6 minutes with a flow rate of 0.35 mL/min. The entire column effluent entered the electrospray ionization source (positive mode) of a Micromass Quattro LC tandem mass spectrometer between 0.5 and 5.9 min of the run. The mass spectrometry was optimized for the compound of interest. All incubations were conducted in duplicate and results were expressed as % parent remaining at either 30 minutes or 60 minutes relative to 0 minutes sample.

Example 17: Analysis of cell proliferation and viability

[00123] Compounds were screened for their ability to inhibit cell proliferation and their effects on cell viability using Colo205 cells obtained from ECACC and using the assay shown below.

[00124] Colo205 cells were seeded in 96 well plates and serially diluted compound was added to the wells in duplicate. Control groups included untreated cells, the compound diluent (0.1% DMSO alone) and culture medium without cells. The cells

were then incubated for 72 or 96 hrs at 37C in an atmosphere of 5% CO2/95% humidity.

[00125] To measure proliferation, 3 h prior to the end of the experiment 0.5 µCi of 3H thymidine was added to each well. Cells were then harvested and the incorporated radioactivity counted on a Wallac microplate beta-counter. Cell viability was assessed using Promega CellTiter 96AQ to measure MTS conversion. Dose response curves were calculated using either Prism 3.0 (GraphPad) or SoftMax Pro 4.3.1 LS (Molecular Devices) software.

Example 18: Abl Kinase Activity Inhibition Assay and Determination of the Inhibition Constant Ki

[00126] Compounds were screened for their ability to inhibit N-terminally truncated (Δ 27) Abl kinase activity using a standard coupled enzyme system (Fox *et al.*, Protein Sci., 7, pp. 2249 (1998)). Reactions were carried out in a solution containing 100 mM HEPES (pH 7.5), 10 mM $MgCl_2$, 25 mM NaCl, 300 µM NADH, 1 mM DTT and 3% DMSO. Final substrate concentrations in the assay were 110 µM ATP (Sigma Chemicals, St Louis, MO) and 70 µM peptide (EAIYAAPFAKKK, American Peptide, Sunnyvale, CA). Reactions were carried out at 30 °C and 21 nM Abl kinase. Final concentrations of the components of the coupled enzyme system were 2.5 mM phosphoenolpyruvate, 200 µM NADH, 60 µg/ml pyruvate kinase and 20 µg/ml lactate dehydrogenase.

[00127] An assay stock buffer solution was prepared containing all of the reagents listed above with the exception of ATP and the test compound of interest. The assay stock buffer solution (60 µl) was incubated in a 96 well plate with 2 µl of the test compound of interest at final concentrations typically spanning 0.002 µM to 30 µM at 30 °C for 10 min. Typically, a 12 point titration was prepared by serial dilutions (from 1 mM compound stocks) with DMSO of the test compounds in daughter plates. The reaction was initiated by

the addition of 5 µl of ATP (final concentration 110 µM). Rates of reaction were obtained using a Molecular Devices Spectramax plate reader (Sunnyvale, CA) over 10 min at 30 °C. The Ki values were determined from the residual rate data as a function of inhibitor concentration using nonlinear regression (Prism 3.0, Graphpad Software, San Diego, CA).

[00128] Compound 14 was found to inhibit Abl kinase

Example 19: Mutant Abl Kinase (T315I) Activity Inhibition Assay and Determination of the Inhibition Constant IC50

[00129] Compounds were screened for their ability to inhibit the T315I mutant form of human Abl at Upstate Cell Signaling Solutions (Dundee, UK). In a final reaction volume of 25 µl, the T315I mutant of human Abl (5-10 mU) was incubated with 8 mM MOPS pH 7.0, 0.2 mM EDTA, 50 µM EAIYAAPFAKKK, 10 mM Mg Acetate, [γ-^{33}P-ATP] (specific activity approx. 500 cpm/pmol, 10mM final assay concentration) and the test compound of interest at final concentrations over the range 0-4µnM. The reaction was initiated by the addition of the MgATP mix. After incubation for 40 minutes at room temperature, the reaction was stopped by the addition of 5 µl of a 3% phosphoric acid solution. 10 µl of the reaction was then spotted onto a P30 filtermat and washed three times for 5 minutes in 75 mM phosphoric acid and once in methanol prior to drying and scintillation counting. Inhibition IC50 values were determined from non-linear regression analysis of the residual enzyme activities as a function of inhibitor concentration (Prism 3.0, Graphpad Software, San Diego, CA).

Example 20: Arg (Abl-2), FGFR1, MELK, MLK1, MuSK, Ret, and TrkA Inhibition Assay

[00130] Compound I-1 was screened for its ability to inhibit Arg (Abl-2), FGFR1, MELK, MLK1, MuSK, Ret, and TrkA using screening methods known to one of ordinary skill in the art.

All of the above enzymes were screened with ATP concentrations at or close to the K_m for ATP.

[00131] Table 5 below depicts the Ki values obtained from Example 20:

Table 5

Compound No	Arg (uM)	FGFR1 (uM)	MELK (uM)	MLK1 (uM)	MuSK (uM)	Ret (uM)	TrkA (uM)
I-1	0.012	0.005	0.017	< .018	.070	0.008	< 0.006

[00132] Table 6 below depicts data from Examples 10-11 and 16 described above.

Table 6

Compound No	Aurora A Ki (uM)	Aurora B Ki (uM)	Microsomal Stability (% remaining after 30 min.)	Microsomal Stability (% remaining after 60 min.)
I-1	0.001	0.007	96	79
I-2	0.0019	0.0065	107	77
I-3	0.0022	0.01	51	66
I-4	0.0025	0.024	76	-
I-5	0.00087	0.014	98	65
I-6	0.003	0.026	80	-
I-7	0.0010	0.0051	102	69
I-8	0.00067	0.011	100	-
I-9	0.00085	0.0065	-	69
I-10	0.0018	< 0.025	-	-
I-11	0.00071	0.007	-	69
I-12	0.0014	0.019	94	-
I-13	0.00035	0.006	85	74
I-14	0.00038	0.0045	103	78
I-15	0.00076	0.0075	73	84
I-16	0.00056	0.0075	91	63
I-17	0.00065	0.006	93	-
I-18	0.00060	0.008	89	58
I-19	0.0012	0.019	109	91
I-20	0.00077	0.006	53	-
I-21	0.00078	0.0065	86	-
I-22	< 0.00035	< 0.006	1	46
I-23	0.0014	0.006	-	-
I-24	0.0010	0.018	-	-

[00133] Table 7 below depicts data from Examples 13-15 and 18-19.

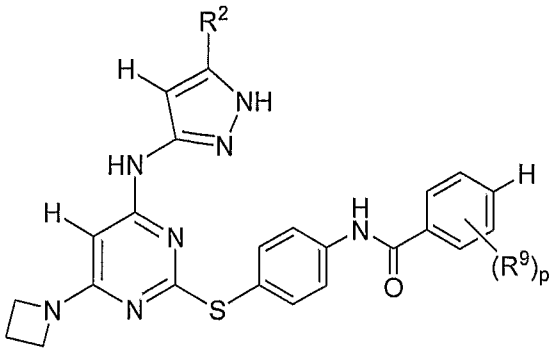
Table 7

Compound Number	FLT-3 Ki (uM)	JAK-2 Ki (uM)	JAK-3 Ki (uM)	Abl (T315I) Ki (uM)	Abl (wild) Ki (uM)
I-1	0.1	0.38	0.16	0.66	0.036
I-2	0.18	0.067	0.15	0.26	0.007
I-3	0.22	0.061	0.13	-	-
I-4	0.33	0.081	0.41	-	-
I-5	0.07	0.19	0.46	-	0.068
I-6	0.12	1.1	0.82	-	
I-7	0.25	0.041	0.15	-	0.035
I-8	0.17	1.7	0.81	-	
I-9	-	-	-	-	0.024
I-10	-	-	-	-	
I-11	0.11	0.33	0.27	0.43	0.021
I-12	0.54	0.046	0.18	-	-
I-13	0.35	0.13	0.22	-	-
I-14	0.17	0.72	0.18	-	0.036
I-15	0.16	0.046	0.12	0.17	0.031
I-16	0.15	0.44	0.13	-	-
I-17	0.1	0.41	0.079	-	-
I-18	-	0.063	0.2	-	-
I-19	0.16	0.41	0.27	-	-
I-20	0.24	0.29	0.061	-	-
I-21	0.55	0.6	0.26	-	-
I-22	0.19	0.5	0.062	-	-
I-23	-	-	-	-	-
I-24	0.7	0.66	0.5	-	-

[00134] While we have described a number of embodiments of this invention, it is apparent that our basic examples may be altered to provide other embodiments that utilize or encompass the compounds, methods, and processes of this invention. Therefore, it will be appreciated that the scope of this invention is to be defined by the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A compound of formula I:



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:
R^2 is C_{1-3}alkyl or cyclopropyl;
R^9 is halo, C_{1-3}alkyl, -O-(C_{1-3}alkyl), -S-(C_{1-3}alkyl), or CF_3;
and p is 1-2.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^2 is methyl.

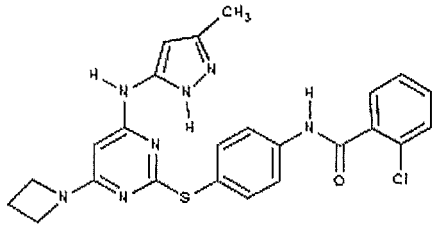
3. The compound of claim 2, wherein p is 1.

4. The compound of claim 2, wherein R^9 is substituted in the ortho position.

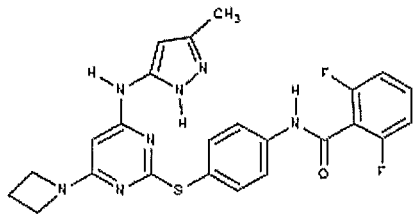
5. The compound claim 3, wherein R^9 is substituted in the ortho position.

6. The compound of claim 5, wherein R^9 is F, Cl, or CF_3.

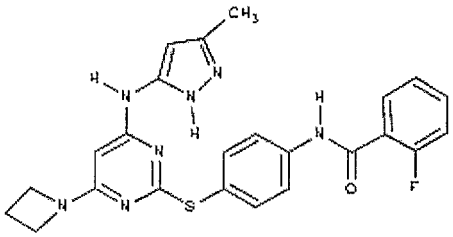
7. The compound of claim 1 selected from the following:



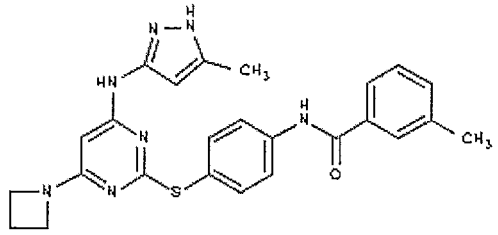
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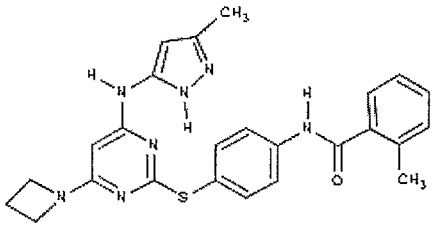
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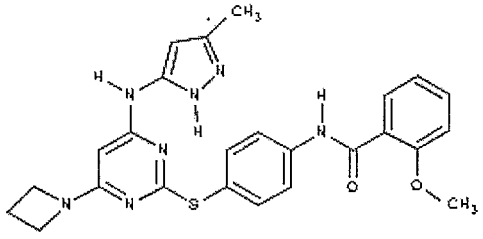
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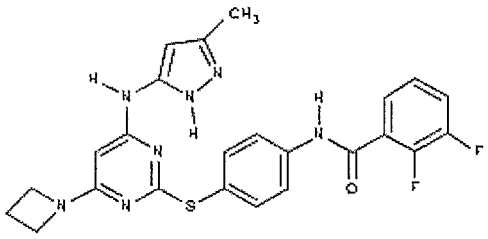
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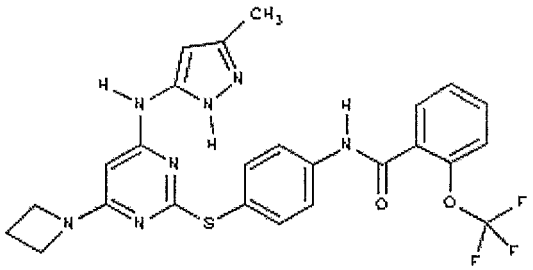
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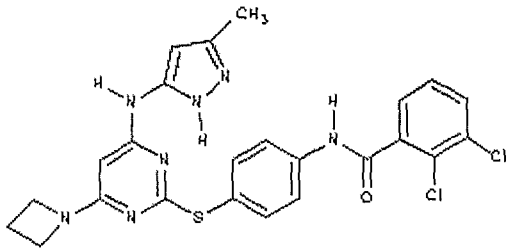
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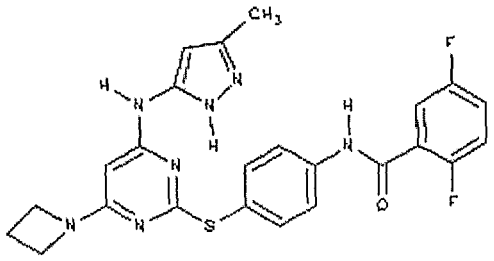
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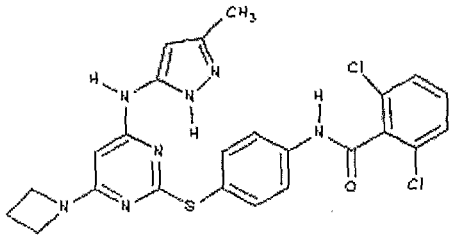
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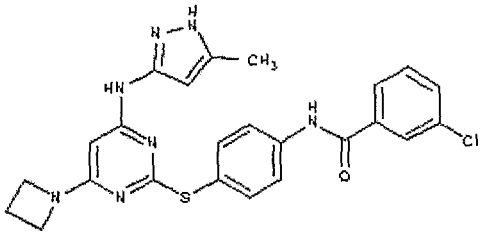
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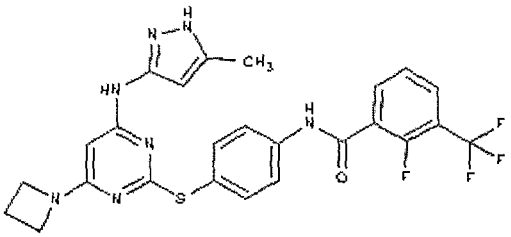
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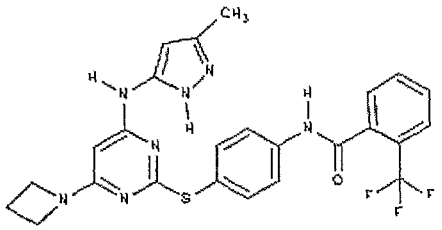
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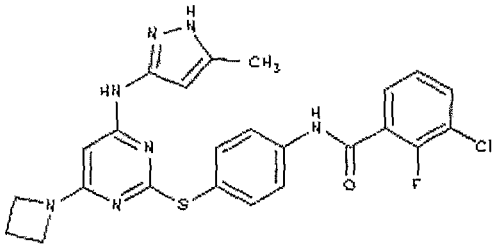
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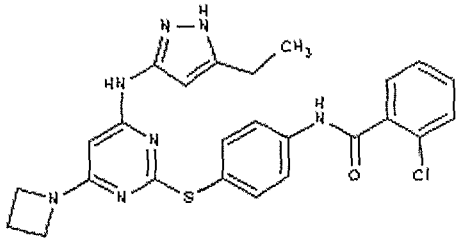
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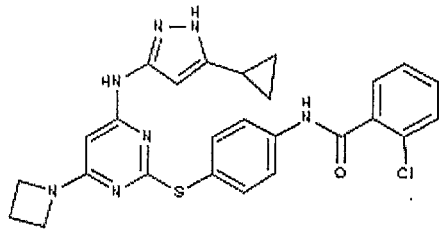
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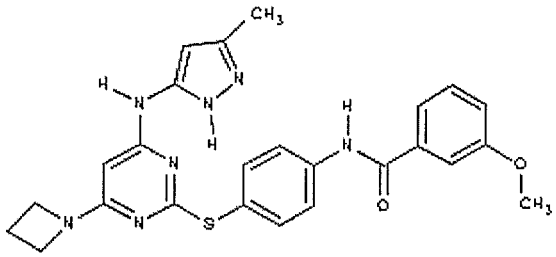
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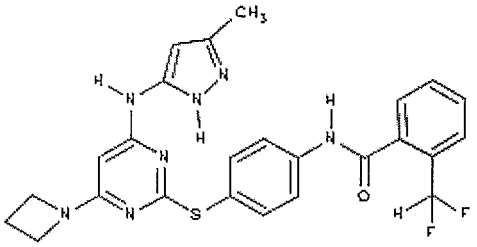
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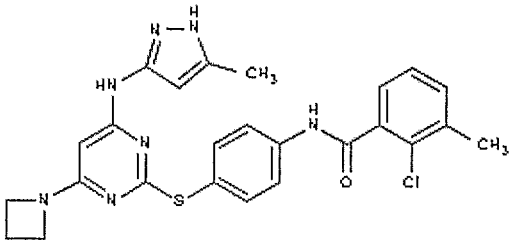
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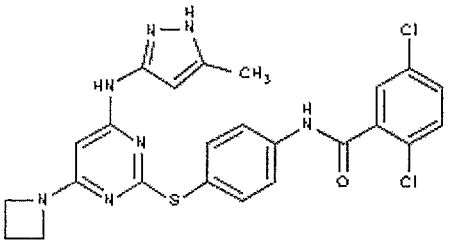
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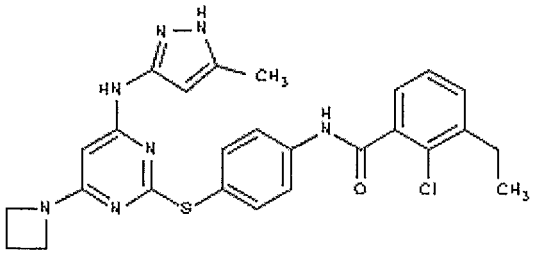
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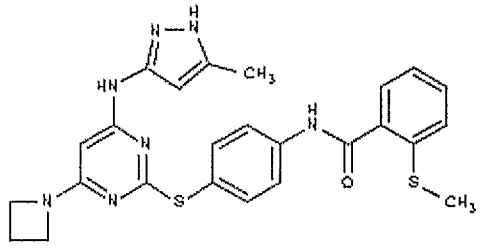
I-20



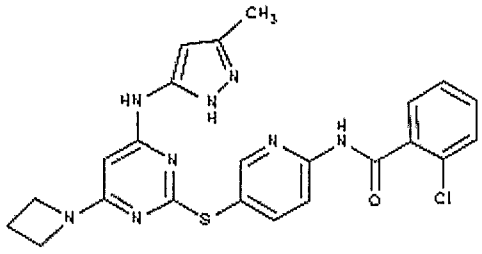
I-21



I-22



I-23



I-24

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8. A composition comprising a compound of any one of claims 1-7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant, or vehicle.

9. A method of inhibiting Aurora protein kinase activity in a biological sample comprising contacting said biological sample with a compound of any one of claims 1-7.

10. A method of treating a proliferative disorder in a patient comprising the step of administering to said patient a compound of any one of claims 1-7.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said proliferative disorder is selected from melanoma, myeloma, leukemia, lymphoma, neuroblastoma, or a cancer selected from colon, breast, gastric, ovarian, cervical, lung, central nervous system (CNS), renal, prostate, bladder, pancreatic, brain (gliomas), head and neck, kidney, liver, melanoma, sarcoma, or thyroid cancer in a patient in need thereof wherein said method comprises administering to said patient a compound of any one of claims 1-7.

12. A method of treating cancer in a subject in need thereof, comprising the sequential or co-administration of a compound of any one of claims 1-7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and another therapeutic agent.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein said therapeutic agent is selected from taxanes, inhibitors of bcr-abl, inhibitors of EGFR, DNA damaging agents, and antimetabolites.

14. The method according to claim 12, wherein said therapeutic agent is selected from Paclitaxel, Gleevec, dasatinib, nilotinib, Tarceva, Iressa, cisplatin, oxaliplatin, carboplatin, anthracyclines, AraC and 5-FU.

15. The method according to claim 12, wherein said therapeutic agent is selected from camptothecin, doxorubicin, idarubicin, Cisplatin, taxol, taxotere, vincristine, tarceva, the MEK inhibitor, U0126, a KSP inhibitor, vorinostat, Gleevec, dasatinib, and nilotinib.