Pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine Folate Analogues: "Inverted" Analogues of the Cytotoxic Agent LY231514[†]

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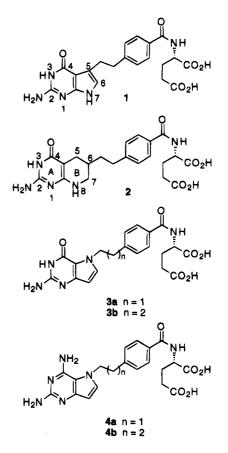
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 $N-\{4-[2-(2-Amino-4(3H)-oxo-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)ethyl]benzoyl\}-L-glutamic acid (3a) and N-\{4-[3-(2-amino-4(3H)-oxo-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)propyl]benzoyl\}-L-glutamic acid (3b) were synthesized as potential anticancer agents.$

In the course of our program directed toward the design and synthesis of inhibitors of folate-dependent biochemical processes as antitumor agents,¹ we recently synthesized N-{4-[2-(2-amino-4(3H)-oxo-7H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)ethyl]benzoyl}-L-glutamic acid (1, LY231514)² as an analogue of DDATHF [(6RS)-2]^{1,3} in which C-5 of the latter was deleted and the B ring aromatized. This compound, which was found to be a potent inhibitor of tumor growth both in vitro and in vivo, primarily as a consequence of inhibition of thymidylate synthase, is currently in Phase II clinical trials.

Pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine **3a** is a structural isomer of LY231514 (1) in which the pyrrole ring has been inverted. This modification leaves the distribution of the steric bulk and electronics of the molecule intact, but removes a potential hydrogen bond donor from position 7. By extending the alkyl chain which connects the pyrrole ring with the *N*-benzoylglutamate moiety by one methylene unit, target molecule **3b** more closely approximates the length of the spacer chain in DDATHF (2). The synthesis and inhibitory activity against dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) of the 2,4-diaminopyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine derivatives **4a** and **4b** have recently been reported.⁴

The key steps envisioned for the preparation of our target compounds **3a** and **3b** are illustrated in Scheme 1. It was anticipated that an appropriate derivative of pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine 5^5 could be substituted at N-5 using suitable alkylating reagents (i.e. the hydroxyethyl derivative **6a**, the bromoethyl derivative **6b**, or the iodopropyl derivative **6c**) and the N-alkylated products then converted to the target analogues **3a** and **3b** by previously exploited deprotection and amino acid coupling steps.^{1,6-8}



A protected derivative of pyrrolopyrimidine 5^5 was synthesized in four steps from the readily accessible 2-amino-6-methyl-5-nitro-4(3H)-pyrimidinone (8).⁹ Our synthetic plan involving formylation of the 6-methyl group of 8, followed by reductive ring closure, is a variant of the Batcho-Leimgruber indole synthesis.^{10,11} However, treatment of 8 with DMF dimethylacetal at 60 °C unexpectedly gave the N-methylated derivative 9 in 92% yield (Scheme 2). The stereochemistry of the enamine side chain at position 6 was deduced as (E) on the basis of the observed coupling constant of 12.3 Hz for the two olefinic protons. The extraneous methyl group was assigned to N-3 based upon (1) the presence of a carbonyl IR stretch at 1661 cm⁻¹, indicating an intact lactam

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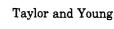
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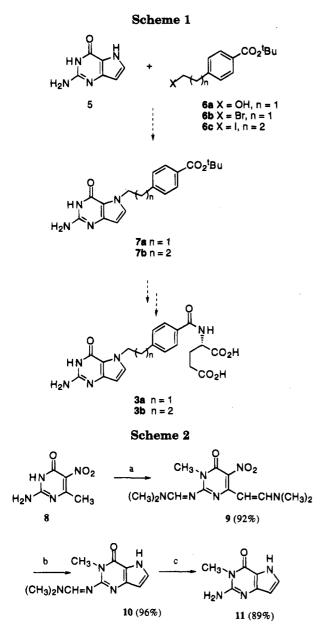
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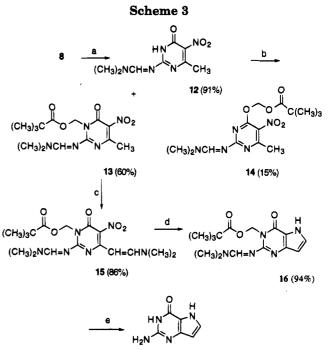




Reagents: a: DMF dimethylacetal, DMF; b: Na₂S₂O₄, THF/H₂O; c: 1N NaOH.

functionality, and thus the absence of O-methylation, and (2) the assumption that methylation had probably occurred at the sterically less congested ring nitrogen atom. Nevertheless, the feasibility of the projected pyrrole annulation reaction was readily demonstrated by reduction of 9 with sodium hydrosulfite to give in 96% yield the pyrrolo[3,2-d] pyrimidine 10, which was then deprotected with 1 N NaOH to yield 1-methyl-9-deazaguanine (11).

Treatment of 8 with DMF dimethylacetal in CH_2Cl_2 at room temperature for 1 h generated compound 12 (91%, Scheme 3). Reaction of pyrimidine 12 with 1.1 equiv of sodium hydride followed by addition of excess chloromethyl pivalate produced a 4:1 mixture of 13 (60%) and its O-alkylated isomer 14 (15%), separated by column chromatography. The protected pyrimidine 13 was then converted to 15 in 86% yield with DMF dimethylacetal at room temperature.¹² Subsequent reduction of the nitro group of 15 led directly to 16 (94% yield), which was deprotected with 1 N NaOH to form 9-deazaguanine



5 (48%)

Reagents; a: DMF dimethylacetal, CH_2Cl_2 ; b: NaH, chloromethyl pivalate; c: DMF dimethylacetal, DMF; d: Na₂S₂O₄; e: 1N NaOH.

(5).^{13,14} To the best of our knowledge there are only two previous syntheses of 9-deazaguanine (5). The method of Imai¹³ is long and low-yielding (10 steps, <1% yield) while the method of Klein¹⁴ failed in our hands. Furthermore, our synthesis produces the fully protected and soluble 2-amino-4(3H)-oxo-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine derivative 16 suitable for further transformations.

It was hoped that Mitsunobu coupling¹⁵ of **16** with the hydroxyethyl derivative **6a**¹⁶ would lead to pyrrolopyrimidine 17. Disappointingly, however, Mitsunobu coupling of alcohol **6a** with the protected pyrrolopyrimidine 16 produced a mixture of the desired product 17 contaminated with a range of side products, and attempts to purify the material were fruitless. We thus turned to attempts to alkylate 16 with the primary bromide 6b. which was prepared by esterification of 4-carboxyphenethyl bromide¹⁷ with isobutylene/sulfuric acid. Addition of 1.1 equiv of NaH in DMF to pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine 16, followed by bromide 6b, gave the desired alkylation product 17 in only 10% yield, in addition to considerable recovered starting material 16 (83%) and a small amount (8%) of tert-butyl 4-vinylbenzoate^{16,18,19} (8%) (Scheme 4).

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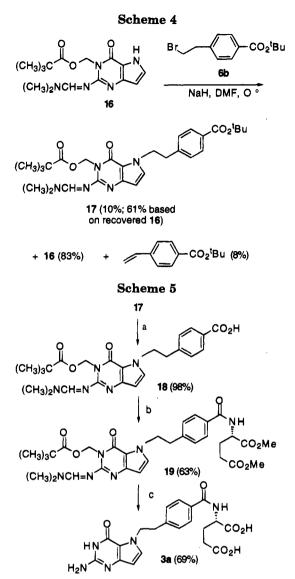
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⁽¹²⁾ Reaction of the O-alkylated isomer 10 with DMF dimethylacetal led to mixtures of unidentified products along with unreacted starting material.

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⁽¹⁹⁾ tert-Butyl 4-vinylbenzoate, an intermediate in the synthesis of alcohol **6a** by standard hydroboration/oxidation,¹⁶ was prepared by us from formaldehyde and 4-[(tert-butyloxycarbonyl)benzyl]triphenylphosphonium bromide (Rosowsky, A.; Forsch, R. A.; Moran, R. G. J. Med. Chem. 1989, 32, 709) and was thus available as an authentic sample.

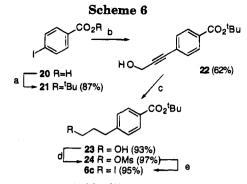


Reagents: a: TFA, CH₂Cl₂; b: N-methylmorpholine, 2-chloro-4,6dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazine, dimethyl L-glutamate hydrochloride; c: 1N NaOH.

Despite the fact that all efforts to find conditions which would promote displacement over elimination (variations in solvent, use of crown ethers, different counter-anions, etc.) were unsuccessful, the yield of 17 based upon recovered starting material averaged 61%. Since the starting bromide 6b was readily available, we decided to focus our attention on the final stages of our projected syntheses.

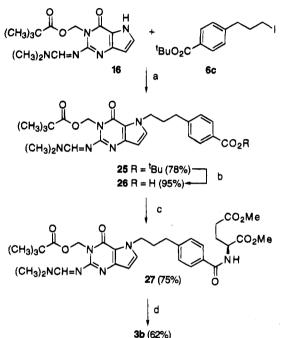
Scheme 5 illustrates the remaining reactions utilized to generate the target molecule 3a. The tert-butyl ester 17 was converted to the free acid 18 with trifluoroacetic acid in CH₂Cl₂ (98% yield). Coupling of 18 with dimethyl L-glutamate using N-methylmorpholine and 2-chloro-4,6dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazine²⁰ gave 19 in 63% yield. The final target antifolate 3a was then obtained (69% yield) in the usual way by saponification with 1 N NaOH.

The synthesis of target molecule 3b proved to be straightforward. The alkyl iodide 6c was synthesized by a series of reactions (Scheme 6) previously utilized²¹ to generate the corresponding methyl ester of 6c.²² Thus,



Reagents: a: isobutylene, H₂SO₄, CH₂Cl₂, b: propargyl alcohol, Pd(PPh₃)₄, Cul, NEt₃, CH₂Cl₂; c: H₂, Pd/C, MeOH; d: MsCl, NEt₃; e: Nal, acetone.





Reagents: a: NaH, DMF; b: TFA, CH₂Cl₂; c: N-methylmorpholine, 2-chloro-4,6-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazine, dimethyl L-glutamate hydrochloride; d: 1N NaOH.

commercially available 4-iodobenzoic acid (20) was esterified with sulfuric acid in isobutylene/methylene chloride to generate 21 (87%). A palladium-catalyzed coupling of 21 with propargyl alcohol gave the alkyne 22 in 62% yield. Reduction to the primary alcohol 23 (93%), conversion to the mesylate 24 (97%), and subsequent reaction with NaI in acetone then produced iodide 6c (95%).

Addition of sodium hydride to pyrrolopyrimidine 16, followed by iodide 6c, gave 25 in 78% yield (Scheme 7). The free acid 26, obtained in 95% yield from 25 with trifluoroacetic acid in CH₂Cl₂, was coupled with dimethyl L-glutamate hydrochloride as described above (75% yield), and final saponification then gave the target antifolate **3b** (62% yield).

The two target analogs 3a and 3b were tested for in vitro inhibition of human CCRF-CEM lymphoblastic leukemic cell growth and found to have IC_{50} values of $0.2 \,\mu$ g/mL and $0.4 \,\mu$ g/mL, respectively, some two orders of magnitude less than those of the lead compounds 1 $(0.007 \,\mu\text{g/mL})$ and 2 $(0.007 \,\mu\text{g/mL})$. These results suggest

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⁽²²⁾ An alternative route to the iodide 6c has recently been published: see ref 16.

that the hydrogen-bonding donor N-H at position 7 in LY231514 (1) may be critically important for maximum cell growth inhibitory activity.²³

Experimental Section

2-Amino-6-methyl-5-nitro-4(3H)-oxopyrimidine (8).⁹ In a 100 mL, round-bottom flask, open to the atmosphere, 2-amino-6-methyl-4(3H)-oxopyrimidine (20.0 g, 0.16 mmol) was dissolved in H₂SO_{4(concd)} (100 mL) and cooled to 0 °C, and HNO_{3(concd)} (17.6 mL) was added dropwise over 30 min. The mixture was warmed to rt, stirred for 3 h, and poured into Et₂O (1500 mL), and the precipitate was filtered and dissolved in 1 N NaOH. HOAc_(gl) was added to precipitate product, and the solid was collected by vacuum filtration, washed with H₂O (2 × 10 mL), and air-dried overnight in a vacuum oven to yield 24.3 g (89%) of 8 as a pale yellow solid: mp > 300 °C, (lit.⁹ mp > 300 °C); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 300 MHz) δ 11.60 (s, 1 H), 7.0 (br s, 2 H), 2.16 (s, 3 H).

6-[(2(E)-Dimethylamino)ethenyl]-2-[[(N,N-dimethylamino)methylene]amino]-3-methyl-5-nitro-4(3H)-oxopyrimidine (9). In a 50 mL round-bottom flask, flushed with nitrogen, were combined 8 (0.85 g, 5.0 mmol), DMF dimethylacetal (6 mL), and $DMF_{(anhyd)}\,(30$ mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at 60 °C and cooled, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, Et₂O (5 mL) was added, the mixture was triturated, and the solid was collected by vacuum filtration. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with 2% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ as the eluent to yield 1.35 g (92%) of **9** as an orange solid: mp 232-235 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 8.57 (s, 1 H), 7.88 (d, 1 H, J = 12.3 Hz), 5.61 (d, 1 H, J = 12.3 Hz), 3.47 (s, 3 H), 3.23 (s, 3 H), 3.14 (s, 3 H), 3.00 (br s, 6 H); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 159.15, 158.25, 157.22, 156.84, 152.60, 124.90, 90.32, 42.23, 35.96, 29.93; IR (KBr) 2921, 1661, 1618, 1598, 1534, 1499, 1471, 1443, 1379, 1323, 1288, 1098, 1076, 851, 795 cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 294 (M⁺, 1), 277 (25), 262 (90), 235 (50); HRMS calcd for $C_{12}H_{18}N_6O_3$ 294.1442, found 294.1449. Anal. Calcd for $C_{12}H_{18}N_6O_3$: C, 48.97; H, 6.17; N, 28.56. Found: C, 48.67; H, 6.23; N, 28.46.

2-[[(N,N-Dimethylamino)methylene]amino]-3-methyl-4(3H)-oxo-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine (10). In a 100 mL round-bottom flask a mixture of 9 (0.75 g, 2.55 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (2.78 g, 15.98 mmol), and THF/H₂O (2:1, 20 mL) was stirred at rt for 15 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, H₂O (3 mL) was added, the solid was collected by filtration, washed with H_2O (2 \times 10 mL), and air-dried, and the product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with 2% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ as the eluent to yield 0.54 g (96%) of 10 as a white powder: mp 241-242 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 9.95 (s, 1 H), 8.50 (s, 1 H), 7.20 (m, 1 H), 6.31 (d, 1 H, J = 1.9 Hz), 3.69 (s, 3 H), 3.15 (s, 3 H), 3.12 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (MeOD/CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 156.96, 156.74, 155.21, 144.62, 128.52, 114.95, 102.02, 41.25, 35.25, 30.17; IR (KBr) 3147, 3091, 2971, 2929, 1668, 1612, 1527, 1485, 1422, 1393, 1330, 1105, 1084, 1020, 978, 865, 774, 724, 583 cm⁻¹; MS m/z(relative intensity) 219 (M⁺, 100), 175 (94), 148 (62), 108 (35); HRMS calcd for C₁₀H₁₃N₅O₁ 219.1122, found 219.1117.

2-Amino-3-methyl-4(3H)-oxo-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine (11). A sealed tube containing a mixture of 10 (250 mg, 1.14 mmol), 1 N NaOH (10 mL), and MeOH (2 mL) was heated at 100 °C for 5 h and cooled, $AcOH_{(gl)}$ was added to pH 7, the volume was reduced to 2 mL, and the product was collected by vacuum filtration and purified by column chromatography on silica gel with 5% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ as the eluent to yield 170 mg (89%) of 11 as a white powder: 270-274 °C (dec.); ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 300 MHz) δ 11.36 (s, 1 H), 7.10 (m, 1 H), 6.21 (s, 2 H), 5.88 (m, 1 H), 3.28 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 300 Mz) δ 155.02, 152.34, 145.84, 128.41, 113.08, 101.14, 28.84; IR (KBr) 3443, 3401, 3211, 3084, 1689, 1626, 1534, 1513, 1415,

1161, 767, cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 164 (M⁺, 100), 134 (13), 119 (20), 108 (59), 83 (37); HRMS calcd for $C_7H_8N_4O_1$ 164.0699, found 164.0697.

2-[[(N,N-Dimethylamino)methylene]amino]-6-methyl-5-nitro-4(3H)-oxopyrimidine (12). In a 50 mL roundbottom flask flushed with nitrogen were combined 8 (1.0 g, 5.9 mmol), DMF dimethylacetal (4 mL), and CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 5 h, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, H₂O (5 mL) was added, the mixture was triturated, and the solid was collected by vacuum filtration. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with 0.5-1% MeOH/CH2Cl2 as the eluent to yield 1.2 g (91%) of 12 as a yellow solid: mp 205-206 °C; ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 300 MHz) δ 12.22 (s, 1 H), 8.69 (s, 1 H), 3.18 (s, 3 H), 3.04 (s, 3 H), 2.24 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆, 270 MHz) & 160.31, 159.83, 158.89, 156.61, 132.05, 41.21, 35.13, 21.21; IR (KBr) 3182, 3069, 2978, 2929, 2802, 1647, 1541, 1492, 1415, 1344, 1323, 1210, 1090 cm⁻¹; MS m/z(relative intensity) 225 (M⁺, 99), 208 (41), 98 (100), 83 (27); HRMS calcd for C₈H₁₁N₅O₃ 225.0863, found 225.0855. Anal. Calcd for C₈H₁₁N₅O₃: C, 42.67; H, 4.92; N, 31.10. Found: C, 42.58; H, 5.00; N, 31.25.

2-[[(N,N-Dimethylamino)methylene]amino]-6-methyl-5-nitro-4(3H)-oxo-3-[(pivaloyloxy)methyl]pyrimidine (13) and 2-[[(N,N-Dimethylamino)methylene]amino]-6-methyl-5-nitro-4-[(pivaloyloxy)methoxy]pyrimidine (14). In a two-neck 100 mL round-bottom flask flushed with argon were placed NaH (0.34 g, 11.5 mmol, 80% in mineral oil) and $DMF_{(anhyd)}\ (20\ mL).$ To this mixture was added $12\ (2.35\ g,$ 10.4 mmol) slowly. The mixture became viscous and was allowed to stir at rt for 1 h. Chloromethyl pivalate (2 mL) was added dropwise over 5 min, and the reaction was stirred for 12 h at rt, after which time it became fluid. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL), extracted with 5% AcOH (1 \times 30 mL) and H_2O (1 \times 30 mL), dried with MgSO₄, and filtered, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude products were purified by column chromatography on silica gel with CH2Cl2-0.5% MeOH/CH2Cl2 as the eluent to yield 2.10 g (60%) of 13 as a pale yellow solid: mp 133-134 °C; [¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 8.73 (s, 1 H), 6.21 (s, 2 H), 3.26 (s, 3 H), 3.14 (s, 3 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 1.15 (s, 9 H); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃, 270 MHz) δ 177.25, 161.04, 159.57, 157.73, 155.64, 132.12, 65.27, 41.91, 38.78, 35.75, 26.96, 22.17; IR (KBr) 2964, 2929, 1682, 1626, 1478, 1408, 1323, 1126, 1112, 1070 cm⁻¹; MS m/z(relative intensity) 339 (M⁺, 100), 226 (40), 225 (47), 210 (47); HRMS calcd for $C_{14}H_{21}N_5O_5$ 339.1544, found 339.1538. Anal. Calcd for $C_{14}H_{21}N_5O_5$: C, 49.55; H, 6.24; N, 20.64. Found: C, 49.38; H, 6.38; N, 20.79] and 0.53 g (15%) of 14 as a pale yellow gum: [¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) d 8.75 (s, 1 H), 6.16 (s, 2 H), 3.23 (s, 3 H), 3.21 (s, 3 H), 2.52 (s, 3 H), 1.17 (s, 9 H); IR (KBr) 2964, 2929, 1739, 1626, 1555, 1485, 1450, 1323, 1105, 1069, 1020 cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 339 (M⁺, 35), 225 (24), 210 (49), 208 (100), 150 (23); HRMS calcd for $C_{14}H_{21}N_5O_5$ 339.1544, found 339.1537].

4-[(2(E)-Dimethylamino)ethenyl]-2-[[(N,N-dimethylamino)methylene]amino]-5-nitro-4(3H)-oxo-3-[(pivaloyloxy)methyl]pyrimidine (15). In a 50-mL round-bottom flask flushed with nitrogen were combined 13 (1.1 g, 3.2 mmol), DMF_(anhyd) (10 mL), and DMF dimethylacetal (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at rt, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, 20% ether/hexanes was added, and the solid was filtered and dried under house vacuum. The product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with CH2Cl2-0.5% MeOH/CH2Cl2 as the eluent to yield 1.1 g (86%) of **15** as an off-white solid: mp 206-207 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 8.59 (s, 1 H), 7.97 (d, 1 H, J = 12.2 Hz), 6.18 (s, 2 H), 5.72 (d, 1 H, J = 12.2 Hz), 3.22 (s, 3 H), 3.15 (br s, 3 H), 3.09 (s, 3 H), 2.96 (br s, 3 H), 1.15 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 270 MHz) δ 176.94, 157.96, 156.97, 156.11, 154.77, 152.59, 122.74, 89.83, 64.71, 45.20 (br), 41.11, 38.18, 36.6 (br), 34.86, 26.46; IR (KBr) 2957, 2922, 1718, 1661, 1626, 1597, 1506, 1393, 1372, 1287, 1245, 1076, 957, 795 cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 394 (M⁺, 4), 377 (27), 263 (35), 234 (12), 220(20); HRMS calcd for C17H26N6O5 394.1967, found 394.1958.

⁽²³⁾ Alkylation of N-7 in LY231514 (1) results in loss of tumor inhibitory activity: Taylor, E. C.; Young, W. B.; Shih, C. J.; Gossett, L. S., unpublished observations. Also, replacement of N-7 in 1 by either sulfur or oxygen leads to loss of activity: Taylor, E. C., Patel, H. H.; Sabitha, G.; Chaudhari, R.; Young, W. B., manuscripts in progress.

Anal. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{26}N_6O_5$: C, 51.77; H, 6.64; N, 21.31. Found: C, 51.57; H, 6.75; N, 21.56.

2-[[(N.N-Dimethylamino)methylene]amino]-4(3H)-oxo-3-[(pivaloyloxy)methyl]-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine (16). In a 100 mL round-bottom flask were combined 15 (0.46 g, 1.17 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (1.20 g, 6.9 mmol), and THF/H₂O (2:1, 30 mL). The mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, H₂O (5 mL) was added, and the solid was collected by vacuum filtration and washed with $H_2O~(2\,\times\,10$ mL). The product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with 2% MeOH/CH2Cl2 as the eluent to yield 0.35 g (94%) of 16 as a white powder: mp 267-268 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 9.91 (s, 1 H), 8.52 (s, 1 H), 7.23 (m, 1 H), 6.40 (s, 2 H), 6.31 (m, 1 H), 3.14 (s, 3 H), 3.05 (s, 3 H), 1.16 (s, 3 H); $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 178.34, 156.99, 156,10, 154.22, 145.45, 129.19, 115.04, 103.01, 66.55, 41.51, 39.42, 35.57, 27.71 (3); IR (KBr) 3203, 2964, 2922, $1725, 1668, 1619, 1485, 1337, 1140, 1098, 1027, 964, 781 \text{ cm}^{-1};$ MS m/z (relative intensity) 319 (M⁺, 100), 218 (30), 206 (43), 190 (36), 149 (22), 119 (22), 85 (27), 69 (73); HRMS calcd for $C_{15}H_{21}N_5O_3\,319.1646,\,found\,319.1660.\,$ Anal. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{21}$ N₅O₃: C, 56.41; H, 6.63; N, 21.93. Found: C, 56.29; H, 6.75; N. 21.85.

2-Amino-4(3H)-oxo-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine (5). In a 50 mL round-bottom flask were combined **16** (200 mg, 0.63 mmol), 1 N NaOH (6 mL) and THF (4 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 4 days, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, H₂O (1 mL) was added, AcOH_(gl) was added to pH 5, and the precipitate was removed by filtration and purified by recrystallization from 20% MeOH/EtOAc to yield 45 mg (48%) of **5** as a white solid: mp 310–315 °C dec (lit.^{13.14} > 300 °C dec); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 300 MHz) δ 11.41 (s, 1 H), 10.50 (s, 1 H), 7.08 (m, 1 H), 5.90 (m, 1 H), 5.77 (s, 2 H); MS *m*/z (relative intensity) 150 (M⁺, 98), 133 (14), 108 (34), 78 (100); HRMS calcd for C₆H₆N₄O 150.0543, found 150.0535.

t-Butyl 4-(2-Bromoethyl)benzoate (6b). In a sealed tube 4-carboxyphenethyl bromide¹⁷ (1.93 g, 8.46 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (8 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. Isobutylene $(\sim 30 \text{ mL})$ was bubbled in, $H_2SO_{4(concd)}$ (3 drops) was added, the tube was sealed and warmed to rt, and the mixture was stirred for 24 h. The flask was recooled to -78 °C, the lid was removed, and the tube was warmed to rt to remove excess isobutylene. The remaining solution was poured into H₂O (100 mL), neutralized with 2 N NaOH, and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ $(2 \times 100 \text{ mL})$, the organic layers were combined, dried with MgSO4, filtered, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with 5% EtOAc/hexanes as the eluent to yield 2.39 g (88%) of 6b as a clear liquid: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.95 (d, 2 H, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.26 (d, 2 H, J = 8.1Hz), 3.58 (t, 2 H, J = 7.4 Hz), 3.21 (t, 2 H, J = 7.4 Hz), 1.59 (s, 2 Hz), 1.59 (s, 29 H); IR (neat) 2992, 2971, 2922, 1703, 1612, 1365, 1281, 1253, 1154, 1112, 1020, 844, 759, 696 cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 285 (M⁺, 11), 230 (98), 229 (100), 213 (60), 215 (65), 149 (61), 135 (61), 103 (38), 77 (35), 97 (30); HRMS calcd for C13H17BrO2 284.0404, found 284.0412.

t-Butyl 4-[2-[2-[[(N,N-Dimethylamino)methylene]amino]-4(3H)-oxo-3-((pivaloyloxy)methyl)-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]ethyl]benzoate (17). To a mixture of NaH (43 mg, 1.72 mmol) and DMF_(anhyd) (10 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise 16 (500 mg, 1.56 mmol) in DMF (2 mL), and the mixture was stirred for 20 min. Bromide 6b (530 mg, 1.87 mmol) was added all at once, and the mixture was stirred for 2 h at 0 °C, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with 1% MeOH/CH2Cl2 as the eluent to yield 80 mg (10%) of 17 as a white powder: shrinks 65 °C, melts 120-121 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 8.49 (s, 1 H), 7.87 (d, 2 H, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.14 (d, 2 H, J = 8.2 Hz), 6.69 (d, 1 H, J = 2.7Hz), 6.38 (s, 2 H), 6.09 (d, 1 H, J = 2.7 Hz), 4.56 (t, 2 H, J =7.0 Hz), 3.18 (t, 2 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 3.13 (s, 3 H), 3.04 (s, 3 H), 1.58 (s, 9H), 1.17 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 270 MHz) δ 177.16, 165.21, 155.77, 154.69, 153.44, 144.68, 142.73, 130.94, 129.84, 129.11, 128.33, 112.84, 100.53, 80.32, 65.15, 49.79, 40.37, 38.28, 37.90, 34.45, 27.69 (3), 26.59 (3); IR (KBr) 2971, 2922, 1704, 1661, 1619, 1541, 1492, 1407, 1287, 1161, 1133, 1105 cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 523 (M⁺, 54), 332 (64), 218 (25), 149 (80), 148 (78), 72 (100); HRMS calcd for $C_{28}H_{37}N_5O_5$ 523.2797, found 523.2797. Anal. Calcd for $C_{28}H_{37}N_5O_5$: C, 64.23; H, 7.12; N, 13.38. Found: C, 64.21; H, 7.18; N, 13.23;. Also isolated were 0.42 g (83%) of **16** and 25 mg (8%) of *tert*-butyl 4-vinylbenzoate.^{16,18,19}

4-[2-[2-[[(N.N-Dimethylamino)methylene]amino]-4(3H)oxo-3-[(pivaloyloxy)methyl]-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]ethyl]benzoic Acid (18). In a 50 mL round-bottom flask flushed with argon were combined 17 (295 mg, 0.56 mmol), TFA (2 mL), and CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL). The mixture was stirred for 2 h, the solvents were removed under reduced pressure, Et₂O (5 mL) was added, the mixture was triturated, the white precipitate was collected by vacuum filtration, and the product was air-dried on a house vacuum overnight to yield 310 mg (98%) of 18 as a white solid: mp 185-186 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 12.51 (s, 1 H), 8.93 (s, 1 H), 7.93 (d, 2 H, J = 8.1Hz), 7.19 (d, 2 H, J = 8.1 Hz), 6.85 (d, 1 H, J = 2.7 Hz), 6.32 (d, 2 H, J = 2.7 Hz), 6.27 (s, 2 H), 4.46 (t, 2 H, J = 7.3 Hz), 3.33 (s, 3 H), 3.17 (s, 3 H), 3.10 (t, 2 H, J = 7.3 Hz), 1.19 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃/MeOH, 270 MHz) δ 176.96, 167.93, 157.41, 153.21, 152.14, 142.19, 135.09, 132.21, 129.36, 128.33, 128.10, 110.98, 97.19, 64.67, 49.34, 40.81, 38.09, 37.24, 34.84, 26.05; IR (KBr) 3464, 2964, 2936, 2872, 1703, 1668, 1562, 1387, 1189, 1126, 971, 724 cm⁻¹; FABMS calcd for C₂₄H₃₀N₅O₅ 468.2247, found 468.2245.

Dimethyl {4-[2-[2-[[(N,N-Dimethylamino)methylene]amino]-4(3H)-oxo-3-[(pivaloyloxy)methyl]-5H-pyrrolo-[3,2-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]ethyl]benzoyl}-L-glutamate (19). To a 20 mL round-bottom flask, flushed with argon, were combined 18 (150 mg, 0.27 mmol), N-methylmorpholine (2 mL), 2-chloro-4,6-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazine (49 mg, 0.28 mmol), and CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL), and the mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h. Dimethyl L-glutamate hydrochloride (59 mg, 0.28 mmol) was added, and the mixture was stirred for 12 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with 1% $MeOH/CH_2Cl_2$ as the eluent to yield 100 mg (63%) of 19 as an off-white solid: mp 62-64 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 8.49 (s, 1 H), 7.71 (d, 2 H, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.18 (d, 2 H, J = 8.2Hz), 7.00 (d, 1 H, J = 7.32 Hz), 6.69 (d, 1 H, J = 2.8 Hz), 6.38 (s, 2 H), 6.08 (d, 1 H, J = 2.8 Hz), 4.83–4.76 (m, 1 H), 4.55 (t, 2 H, J = 7.0 Hz, 3.78 (s, 3 H), 3.65 (s, 3 H), 3.18 (t, 2 H, J =7.0 Hz), 3.12 (s, 3 H), 3.04 (s, 3 H), 2.55-2.40 (m, 2 H), 2.38-2.40 (m, 2 H), 2.38-2.13 (m, 1 H), 2.12–2.07 (m, 1 H), 1.16 (s, 9 H); MS m/z(relative intensity) 624 (M⁺, 23), 332 (44), 255 (100), 223 (28), 195 (38), 91 (30); HRMS calcd for C31H40N6O8 624.2910, found 624.2888.

N-{4-[2-(2-Amino-4(3H)-oxo-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)ethyl]benzoyl}-L-glutamic Acid (3a). In a 20 mL round-bottom flask were combined 19 (75 mg, 0.12 mmol). 1 N NaOH (4 mL), and THF (1 mL). The solution was stirred at rt for 4 days, the solvent reduced to 1 mL under reduced pressure, AcOH_(gl) (5 drops) added, and the precipitate collected by vacuum filtration, washed with H_2O (2 \times 2 mL), CH_2Cl_2 (2 \times 2 mL), Et₂O (2 \times 2 mL), and air-dried on a house vacuum overnight to yield 35 mg (69%) of 3a as a white solid: mp > 175 °C dec; ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 270 MHz) δ 12.3 (br s, 2 H), 10.40 (br s, 1 H), 8.47 (d, 1 H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.73 (d, 2 H, J =8.3 Hz), 7.18 (d, 2 H, J = 8.3 Hz), 6.95 (d, 1 H, J = 2.6 Hz), 5.77 (d, 1 H, J = 2.6 Hz), 5.74 (s, 2 H), 4.40 (t, 2 H, J = 7.1Hz), 4.36-4.29 (m, 1 H), 3.04 (t, 2 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.32 (t, 2 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.07-1.86 (m, 2 H); MS m/z (relative intensity) 624 (M⁺, 23), 332 (44), 255 (100), 223 (28), 195 (38), 91 (30); FABMS calcd for $C_{20}H_{22}N_5O_6$ 428.1570, found 428.1575. Anal. Calcd for $C_{20}H_{21}N_5O_6$: C, 56.05; H, 5.18; N, 16.35. Found: C, 55.97; H, 5.01; N, 16.08.

t-Butyl 4-Iodobenzoate (21). In a sealed tube 4-iodobenzoic acid (20) (2.90 g, 11.7 mmol) and CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) were combined and cooled to -78 °C with a dry ice/acetone bath. Isobutylene (~100 mL) was bubbled in, H₂SO_{4(coned)} (3 drops) was added, the tube was sealed and warmed to rt, and the mixture was stirred for 72 h. The flask was recooled to -78°C, the lid was removed, and the tube was warmed to rt to remove excess isobutylene. The remaining solution was poured into H₂O (100 mL), neutralized with 1 N NaOH, and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2 × 100 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried with MgSO₄, and filtered, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with 3% EtOAc/hexanes as the eluent to yield 3.10 g (87%) of **21** as a clear liquid: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.77 (d, 2 H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.69 (d, 2 H, J = 8.4 Hz), 1.59 (s, 9 H); MS m/z (relative intensity) 304 (M⁺, 16), 248 (100), 231 (55), 203 (16), 76 (26); HRMS calcd for C₁₁H₁₃O₂I 303.9962, found 303.9959.

t-Butyl 4-(3-Hydroxy-1-propynyl)benzoate (22). In a 100 mL round-bottom flask flushed with argon and equipped with a reflux condenser were combined 21 (3.00 g, 9.9 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.57 g, 0.49 mmol), CuI (0.09 g, 0.49 mmol), NEt₃ (2.51 g, 24.7 mmol), propargyl alcohol (1.66 g, 29.6 mmol), and CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL). The mixture was refluxed for 5 min and cooled, the solvent removed under reduced pressure, and the crude material purified by column chromatography on silica gel with CH_2Cl_2 as the eluent to yield 1.41 g (62%) of 22 as a yellow liquid: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.93 (d, 2 H, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.47 (d, 2 H, J = 8.2 Hz), 4.53 (s, 2 H), 1.67 (s, 1 H), 1.59 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 166.01, 132.01, 129.87, 129.87, 127.53, 90.95, 85.24, 82.12, 51.82, 28.72; IR (neat) 3408 (br), 2964, 2922, 2859, 1703, 1598, 1288, 1154, 1112, 1027, 1013, 774 cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 232 (M⁺, 43), 177 (31), 176 (77), 175 (30), 159 (86), 132 (25), 131 (100), 103 (53), 77 (50); HRMS calcd for C14H16O3 232.1100, found 232.1111. Anal. Calcd for C14H16O3: C, 72.39; H, 6.94. Found: C, 72.45; H, 7.12.

t-Butyl 4-(3-Hydroxy-1-propyl)benzoate (23). A mixture of 22 (1.38 g, 5.94 mmol), 10% Pd-C (250 mg), and MeOH (75 mL) was shaken under 50 psi of hydrogen for 4 h and then poured through Celite, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield 1.30 g (93%) of 23 as a clear liquid: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 270 MHz) δ 7.91 (d, 2 H, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.24 (d, 2 H, J = 8.1 Hz), 3.67 (t, 2 H, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.76 (m, 2 H), 1.89 (m, 2 H), 1.59 (s, 9 H); $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 166.60, 147.71, 130.15, 128.91, 81.43, 62.27, 34.50, 32.70, 28.78; IR (neat) 3396, 2968, 2924, 2866, 1698, 1604, 1285, 1154, 1103, 849, 762 cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 236 (M⁺, 8), 181 (61), 180 (46), 164 (21), 163 (95), 162 (99), 136 (38), 135 (53), 118 (43), 117 (100), 91 (53), 77 (33); HRMS calcd for C14H20O3 236.1413, found 236.1423. Anal. Calcd for C14H20O3: C, 71.16; H, 8.54. Found: C, 71.14; H, 8.66. This compound, whose spectroscopic data correspond in all respects with those reported for this material prepared via a different route,16 was carried on to the iodide 6c as previously described.16

t-Butyl 4-[3-[2-[[(Dimethylamino)methylene]amino]-3-[(pivaloyloxy)methyl]-4(3H)-oxo-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]propyl]benzoate (25). To a mixture of NaH (12 mg, 0.4 mmol, 80% in mineral oil) and DMF(anhyd) (5 mL), was added 16 (0.12 g, 0.4 mmol) in $DMF_{(anhyd)}$ (2 mL) all at once, the mixture was stirred for 2 h at rt, and 6c (500 mg, 1.4 mmol) in $DMF_{(anhyd)}$ (3 mL) was added dropwise over 10 min. The mixture was stirred for 2 h, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with 2% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ as the eluent to yield 157 mg (78%) of 25 as a white powder: mp 124–126 °C; ¹H NMR (ČDCl₃, 270 MHz) δ 8.59 (s, 1 H), 7.89 (d, 2 H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.21 (d, 2 H, J = 8.0 Hz), 6.97 (d, 1 Hz)H, J = 2.6 Hz), 6.35 (s, 2 H), 6.22 (d, 1 H, J = 2.6 Hz), 4.39 (t, 2 H, J = 6.9 Hz), 3.14 (s, 3 H), 3.04 (s, 3 H), 2.68 (m, 2 H), 2.17 (m, 2 H), 1.58 (s, 9 H), 1.16 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 270 MHz) δ 177.57, 165.65, 156.15, 155.04, 153.76, 146.07, 144.79, 130.98, 129.77, 129.49, 128.09, 113.63, 101.19, 80.63, 65.57, 48.17, 40.78, 38.69, 34.83, 32.81, 32.56, 28.11, 27.00; IR (KBr) 3105, 2964, 2922, 1703, 1675, 1619, 1548, 1492, 1281, 1105, 774 cm⁻¹; FABMS calcd for $C_{29}H_{40}N_5O_5$ 538.3029, found 538.3024.

4-[3-[2-[[(N,N-Dimethylamino)methylene]amino]-4(3H)oxo-3-[(pivaloyloxy)methyl]-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidin5-yl]propyl]benzoic Acid (26). In a 50 mL round-bottom flask flushed with argon were combined 25 (150 mg, 0.28 mmol), TFA (1 mL), and CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL). The mixture was stirred for 2 h, the solvents were removed under reduced pressure, and the crude material was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with 2% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ as the eluent to yield 128 mg (95%) of **26** as a white powder: shrinks 130 °C, melts 145-147 °C; ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 270 MHz) δ 12.80 (s, 1 H), 8.50 (s, 1 H), 7.79 (d, 2 H, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.34 (d, 1 H, J = 2.6 Hz), 7.25 (d, 2 H, J = 7.9 Hz), 6.13 (s, 2 H), 6.06 (d, 1 H, J = 2.6 Hz), 4.30 (t, 2 H, J = 6.8 Hz), 3.10 (s, 3 H), 2.93 (s, 3 H), 2.57 (m, 2 H), 2.04 (m, 2 H), 1.05 (s, 9 H); $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR (CDCl₃/MeOD, 300 MHz) δ 178.57, 169.92, 157.42, 155.11, 154.74, 147.06, 143.08, 132.68, 130.48, 129.24, 128.80, $113.59,\,100.83,\,66.31,\,48.52,\,41.47,\,39.36,\,35.49,\,33.31,\,33.15,$ 27.37; IR (KBr) 3422, 2964, 2929, 1710, 1668, 1626, 1605, 1415, 1386, 1203, 1126, 710 cm⁻¹; FABMS calcd for C₂₅H₃₂N₅O₅ 482.2403, found 482.2421.

Dimethyl N-{4-[3-[2-[[(N,N-Dimethylamino)methylene]amino]-4(3H)-oxo-3-[(pivaloyloxy)methyl]-5H-pyrrolo-[3,2-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]propyl]benzoyl}-L-glutamate (27). In a 20 mL round-bottom flask flushed with argon were combined 26 (145 mg, 0.30 mmol), N-methylmorpholine (2 mL), 2-chloro-4,6-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazine (34 mg, 0.33 mmol), and CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL). The mixture was stirred at rt for 2 h, dimethyl L-glutamate hydrochloride (70 mg, 0.33 mmol) was added, and the mixture was stirred for 12 h at rt. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure, and the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with 1% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ as the eluent to yield 144 mg (75%) of 27 as a gum which crystallized upon standing: mp 65-67 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 8.48 (s, 1 H), 7.72 (d, 2 H, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.00 (d, 1 H, J = 10.0 Hz), 6.99 (d, 2 H, J = 8.1 Hz), 6.97 (d, 1 H, J = 2.9 Hz), 6.35 (s, 2 H), 6.19 (d, 1 H, J = 2.8Hz), 4.79 (m, 1 H), 4.39 (t, 2 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 3.64 (s, 3 H), 3.12 (s, 3 H), 3.03 (s, 3 H), 2.68 (t, 2 H, J = 8.0 Hz),2.46 (m, 2 H), 2.30 (m, 1 H), 2.17 (m, 3 H), 1.15 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 270 MHz) δ 177.62, 173.59, 172.39, 166.93, $156.24,\,155.07,\,153.84,\,145.51,\,144.74,\,131.32,\,131.04,\,128.52,$ $127.24,\,113.66,\,101.22,\,77.21,\,65.62,\,52.53,\,52.18,\,51.85,\,48.23,$ 40.86, 38.74, 34.90, 32.87, 32.52, 30.16, 27.03; IR (neat) 3337, 2943, 2921, 2865, 1724, 1675, 1668, 1618, 1541, 1492, 1429, 1408, 1344, 1238, 1154, 1126, 1105, 1027 cm⁻¹; FABMS calcd for C₃₂H₄₃N₆O₈ 639.3142, found 639.3126.

N-{4-[3-(2-Amino-4(3H)-oxo-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]propyl]benzoyl}-L-glutamic Acid (3b). In a 20 mL round-bottom flask were combined 27 (70 mg, 0.11 mmol), 1 N NaOH (2.2 mL), and THF (2 mL). The solution was stirred at rt for 5 days, the solvent reduced to 1 mL under reduced pressure, AcOH_(gl) (5 drops) added, and the precipitate collected by vacuum filtration, washed with $H_2O~(3 \times 5 mL), CH_2Cl_2~(2$ \times 10 mL), and acetone (2 \times 5 mL), and air-dried on a house vacuum overnight to yield 30 mg (62%) of **3b** as a white solid: mp 184–187 °C dec; ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 270 MHz) δ 12.5 (s br, 2 H), 10.50 (s, 1 H), 8.46 (d, 1 H, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.65 (d, 2 H, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.23 (d, 2 H, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.16 (d, 1 H, J = 2.8Hz), 5.85 (d, 1 H, J = 2.8 Hz), 5.79 (s, 2 H), 4.34 (m, 1 H), 4.21(t, 2 H, J = 6.8 Hz), 2.56 (m, 3 H), 2.30 (t, 2 H, J = 7.5 Hz),2.06–1.91 (m, 3 H); FABMS calcd for $C_{21}H_{24}N_5O_6$ 442.1727, found 442.1727. Anal. Calcd for C21H23N5O6: C, 56.99; H, 5.47; N, 15.83. Found: C, 56.53; H, 5.61; N, 15.64.

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