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# Original article

# Benzothiazoles: Search for anticancer agents

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#### HIGHLIGHTS

- ► Synthesis and *in vitro* anticancer activity of a novel 2-amino benzothiazoles.
- ► Characterized by IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and HRMS technique.
- ► The title compound **4e** shown promising anti-tumor activity.

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### G R A P H I C A L A B S T R A C T



#### ABSTRACT

Novel derivatives of 2-amino benzothiazoles **4(a–j)** have been synthesized and tested for their antitumor activity using National Cancer Institute (NCI) disease oriented antitumor screen protocol against nine panel of cancer cell lines. Among the synthesized compounds, two compounds were granted NSC code and screened at National Cancer Institute (NCI)-USA for anticancer activity at a single high dose ( $10^{-5}$  M) and five dose in full NCI 60 cell panel. Among the selected compounds ,7-chloro-*N*-(2,6-dichlorophenyl) benzo[*d*]thiazol-2-amine (**4i**) with GI<sub>50</sub> values of 7.18 ×  $10^{-8}$  M against Non-Small Cell HOP-92 Lung Cancer cell line proved to be the most active members in this study. Virtual screening was carried out through docking the designed compounds into the ATP binding site of epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) to predict if these compounds have analogous binding mode to the EGFR inhibitors.

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#### 1. Introduction

Nowadays, health is one of the most important domains which we human beings have focused on in our society. However, tumor is the biggest killer of our lives, so there has been steadily increasing research in the field of anticancer therapy over recent years. With the current chemotherapy, lack of selectivity of chemotherapeutic agents against cancerous cells is a significant problem. Receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs) are high affinity cell surface receptors that bind polypeptide growth factors, cytokines and hormones. They have been shown to be key regulators of normal cellular processes and additionally play a critical role in the development and progression of many types of cancer [1]. Protein tyrosine kinases occupy a central position in the control of cellular proliferation. Over expression of certain RTKs show association with promotion and maintenance of malignancies. For example, the epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor tyrosine kinases of the erbB family (which includes erbB1–erbB4) is frequently expressed at high levels in certain carcinomas and shows an inverse correlation with survival (particularly breast, colon and bladder cancers) [2]. Thus, inactivation of the specific tyrosine kinases those are responsible for the malignant phenotype of certain cancers represent a potential approach for design of antiproliferative drugs [3].

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Benzothiazole type compounds have attracted considerable attention to anticancer research [4–14], and several attempts were made for modifying the benzothiazole nucleus to improve their antitumor activities. Modifications on the benzothiazole nucleus have resulted in a large number of compounds having diverse pharmacological activities. Among them imidazo benzothiazoles as well as polymerized benzothiazoles and other substituted benzothiazoles such as 2-(3.4-dimethoxyphenyl)-5-fluorobenzothiazole (PMX 610) (Fig. 1) has been shown to exhibit exquisitely potent ( $GI_{50} < 0.1 \text{ nM}$ ) and selective in vitro antitumor properties in human cancer cell lines (e.g., colon, non small - cell lung and breast subpanels) of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) 60 human cancer cell line screen [15] and also exhibited remarkable antitumor activity against malignant cell lines [16]. 2-(4-aminophenyl)-benzothiazole (CJM 126) and its analogs comprise a novel mechanistic class of antitumor agents [17,18]. These nucleuses come from the related structure polyhydroxylated 2-phenylbenzothiazoles, flavone quercetin and the isoflavone genistein, which are tyrosine kinase inhibitors bearing potent antitumor activity [19,20]. The isoflavone, genistein [21] and the flavone, quercetin [22] are competitive inhibitors at the ATP-binding site of kinases [23,24]. As the crystal structure of 5,6-dimethoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzothiazole was solved [20], the preliminary analysis based on comparisons between polyhydroxylated 2-phenylbenzothiazoles and the adenine fragment of ATP suggested that suitably substituted benzothiazoles might mimic the ATP competitive binding of genistein and quercetin at tyrosine kinases.

Hence in continuation of our efforts on the design and synthesis of novel anti-cancer agents [25–29] and keeping in mind the

medicinal importance of benzothiazole moiety, we synthesized and *in vitro* evaluated benzothiazoles at National Cancer Institute (NCI-USA) for anti-tumor activity. We have also tried to dock the synthesized compounds with the crystal structure of EGFR to explore the possible anticancer mechanism of our compounds. Prior compounds have been reported [30,31] to compare the anticancer activity of such compounds.

#### 2. Rational and design

Benzothiazoles act via competing with ATP for binding at the catalytic domain of tyrosine kinase [20]. The ATP binding site has the following features; Adenine region — contains two key Hydrogen bonds formed by the interaction of N-1 and N-6 amino group of the adenine ring. Many potent inhibitors use one of these Hydrogen bonds. Sugar region — a hydrophilic region, except a few e.g. EGFR. Hydrophobic pocket — though not used by ATP but plays an important role in inhibitor selectivity. Hydrophobic channels — it is not used by ATP and may be exploited for inhibitor specificity. Phosphate binding region — This is used for improving inhibitor selectivity [32].

In this study, we present a new sub-family of compounds containing 2-anilino benzothiazole core as EGFR inhibitors. Our strategy is directed toward designing a variety of ligands which are structurally similar with basic skeleton, 4-anilino quinazoline of tinibs (erlotinib, lapatinib, gefitinib and canaratinib) with diverse chemical properties (Fig. 2). We replaced quinazoline ring with benzothiazole since both are isosteric with adenine portion of ATP



Fig. 1. Reported and proposed antitumor benzothiazole derivatives.



**Fig. 2.** Proposed hypothetical model of the highly active 7-chloro-*N*-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)benzo[*d*]thiazol-2-amine (**4**i) bound to ATP binding site of EGFR protein tyrosine kinase.

and can mimic the ATP competitive binding regions of EGFR tyrosine kinase. Like 4-aniline group in tinibs (erlotinib, lapatinib, gefitinib and canaratinib) we introduced substituted aniline ring at 2nd position of benzothiazole since secondary amino group at 2nd position of benzothiazoles is acting as conformational lock and extending substituted aniline portion into the hydrophobic pockets of EGFR – tyrosine kinase, making predominantly hydrophobic



Fig. 3. Rational designing of proposed compounds based upon known EGFR-Tyrosine kinase inhibitor.

interactions with the protein mimicking the 3'-chloro-4'-[(3-fluorobenzyl) oxy] aniline group of lapatinib (Fig. 3). We put both electron withdrawing (Cl) and electron donating (CH<sub>3</sub>) anilines at 2nd position just to check the effect of these substituents over anticancer activity since it is well known that presence of electron withdrawing group on anilines provides protection from metabolism and provides specificity to the molecules.

#### 3. Chemistry

In Scheme 1 the compounds were synthesized using various isothiocyanates 2(a-e), which was prepared from different aromatic primary amines 1(a-e) [33]. Prepared isothiocyanates 2(a-e) yielded thioureas **3** (a-e) on condensation with 2,6-dimethyl and 2,6-dichloro aniline [25]. Oxidative cyclization of **3** (a-e) by bromine resulted in the synthesis of proposed compounds **4** (a-j). Physical data of the synthesized compound is given in Table 1.

The derivatives were characterized by spectral studies using IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and HRMS. The structures of thiocynates were confirmed through the following spectral data **2**(**a**–**e**). IR absorption peak at ~2200-2000 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponding to – SCN and <sup>1</sup>H NMR showing **a** ~ $\delta$  6.80–7.90 ppm for aromatic protons of isothiocyanates **2**(**a**–**e**). Thioureas **3**(**a**–**j**) were confirmed by the absence of characteristic IR absorption peak at ~2200–2000 cm<sup>-1</sup>



Scheme 1.

of – SCN group. Bands at ~1610–1600 cm<sup>-1</sup> confirmed formation of thioureas –NH–CS–NH–. Further occurrence of two broad peaks at ~ $\delta$  9.23 and 8.14 ppm corresponding two – NH groups substantiated the formation of thioureas. <sup>13</sup>C NMR confirmed conversion of – SCN to–NH–CS–NH– by a peak at ~ $\delta$  181–179 ppm corresponding to >C=S. The novel 2-amino benzothiazoles **4 (a–j)** showed IR absorption band at ~3300 (NH-strech), ~3000 (CH-strech), ~1600 (NH-bend) and ~700 (C–Cl) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra revealed all the corresponding peaks at ~ $\delta$  2.30 ppm for –CH<sub>3</sub>, ~ $\delta$  4.50 for –NH– and ~ $\delta$  6.76–8.23 ppm for aromatic protons. <sup>13</sup>C NMR gave valuable information to confirm cyclisation of substituted thioureas to respective substituted 2-amino benzothiazoles with characteristic peak at ~ $\delta$  172 ppm for C-2. Further HRMS gave all the molecular ion peaks corresponding to molecular weight of confirmed novel compounds.

## 4. Pharmacology

The *in vitro* anticancer screening at NCI is a two-stage process, beginning with the evaluation of all compounds against the 60 cell lines at a single dose of 10  $\mu$ M. The output from the single dose screen is reported as a mean graph and is available for analysis by the COMPARE program. Compounds which exhibit significant growth inhibition are evaluated against the 60 cell panel at five concentration levels. The human tumor cell lines of the cancer screening panel are grown in RPMI 1640 medium containing 5% fetal bovine serum and 2 mM L-glutamine. For a typical screening experiment, cells are inoculated into 96 well microtiter plates in 100  $\mu$ L at plating densities ranging from 5000 to 40,000 cells/well depending on the doubling time of individual cell lines. After cell inoculation, the microtiter plates are incubated at 37 °C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>,

Table 1

Physicochemical properties of the synthesized compounds	4(a-	-j)	)
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No.	Compounds	NSC code	Molecular formula	Melting point (°C)	Percentage yield (%)
4a		105624/759789	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>2</sub> S	146-148	32
4b	Br S NH-	-	$C_{15}H_{13}BrN_2S$	156-160	28
4c	O2N S NH-	-	$C_{15}H_{13}N_3O_2S$	162-166	41
4d		_	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>13</sub> ClN <sub>2</sub> S	128-134	23
4e		-	$C_{15}H_{13}N_3O_2S$	124-128	30
4f		-	$C_{14}H_{10}C_{12}N_2S$	138-142	38
4g		-	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>7</sub> BrCl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>2</sub> S	122-125	42
4h		-	$C_{13}H_7Cl_2N_3O_2S$	172-174	44
4i		105628/759790	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>7</sub> Cl <sub>3</sub> N <sub>2</sub> S	165-168	31
4j		-	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>7</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S	152-156	34



Fig. 4. 2D and 3D view of 2-anilino benzothiazole template used for pharmacophoric mapping alignment.

95% air and 100% relative humidity for 24 h prior to addition of experimental drugs.

After 24 h, two plates of each cell line are fixed *in situ* with TCA, to represent a measurement of the cell population for each cell line at the time of drug addition (Tz). Experimental drugs are solubilized in dimethyl sulfoxide at 400 fold the desired final maximum test concentration and stored frozen prior to use. At the time of drug addition, an aliquot of frozen concentrate is thawed and diluted to twice the desired final maximum test concentration with complete medium containing 50  $\mu$ g/ml gentamicin. Additional four, 10-fold or ½ log serial dilutions are made to provide a total of five drug concentrations plus control. Aliquots of 100  $\mu$ L of these different drug dilutions are added to the appropriate microtiter wells already containing 100  $\mu$ L of medium, resulting in the required final drug concentrations.

Following drug addition, the plates are incubated for an additional 48 h at 37 °C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>, 95% air, and 100% relative humidity. For adherent cells, the assay is terminated by the addition of cold TCA. Cells are fixed *in situ* by the gentle addition of 50  $\mu$ L of cold 50% (w/v) TCA (final concentration, 10% TCA) and incubated for 60 min at 4 °C. The supernatant is discarded, and the plates are washed five times with tap water and air dried. Sulforhodamine B (SRB) solution (100  $\mu$ l) at 0.4% (w/v) in 1% acetic acid is added to each well, and plates are incubated for 10 min at room temperature. After staining, unbound dye is removed by washing five times with 1% acetic acid and the plates are air dried. Bound stain is subsequently solubilized with 10 mM trizma base, and the absorbance is read on an automated plate reader at a wavelength of 515 nm. For suspension cells, the methodology is the same except that the assay is terminated by fixing settled cells at the bottom of the wells by gently adding 50  $\mu$ L of 80% TCA (final concentration, 16% TCA). Using the seven absorbance measurements [time zero, (Tz), control growth, (C), and test growth in the presence of drug at the five concentration levels (Ti)], the percentage growth is calculated at each of the drug concentrations levels. Percentage growth inhibition is calculated as:

 $[(Ti-Tz)/(C-Tz)] \times 100$  for concentrations for which  $Ti\!>\!/=Tz$ 

 $[(Ti - Tz)/Tz] \times 100$  for concentrations for which Ti < Tz.

Three dose response parameters are calculated for each experimental agent. Growth inhibition of 50% (GI<sub>50</sub>) is calculated from  $[(Ti-Tz)/(C-Tz)] \times 100 = 50$ , which is the drug concentration resulting in a 50% reduction in the net protein increase (as measured by SRB staining) in control cells during the drug incubation. The drug concentration resulting in total growth inhibition (TGI) is calculated from Ti = Tz. The LC<sub>50</sub> (concentration of drug resulting in a 50% reduction in the measured protein at the end of the drug treatment as compared to that at the beginning) indicating



Fig. 5. Common biopharmacophore of 4(a-j).

a net loss of cells following treatment is calculated from [(Ti–Tz)/Tz]  $\times$  100 = -50. Values are calculated for each of these three parameters if the level of activity is reached; however, if the effect is not reached or is exceeded, the value for that parameter is expressed as greater or less than the maximum or minimum concentration tested [34–36].

#### 5. Pharmacophore mapping

A pharmacophore is the ensemble of steric and electronic features that is necessary to ensure the optimal supramolecular interactions with a specific biological targets and to trigger (or to block) its biological response. 3D pharmacophore modeling is







Fig. 7. Binding mode of Lapatinib (C) and compound 4i (D) in the ATP binding site of EGFR-TK showing residue within 5 Å.

#### Table 2

Glide docking results based on hydrophobic interaction, hydrogen bonding interaction, glide dock score, E-model and good Vdw-interaction.

No.	Compounds	Hydrophobic interaction (within 5 Å)	H-bond interaction	Glide score (kcal/mol)	E-model	Good Vdw -interaction
4a		ALA-743, ARG-841, ASP-855, CYS-797, GLY-791, GLY-796, ILE-744, LEU-718, LEU-777, LEU-788, LEU-792, LEU-844, LEU-858, LYS-745, MET-1002, MET-766, MET-793, PHE-856, PRO-794, THR-790, THR-854, VAL-726, PHE-795, VAL-845	N- of benzothiazole and H atom of amino acid backbone of MET-793	-7.85	-70.781	221
4b	Br S NH	ALA-743, ARG-776, ARG-841, ASN-842, ASP-855, CYS-775, CYS-797, GLN-791, GLY-857, LEU-718, LEU-777, LEU-788, LEU-792, LEU-844, LEU-858, LYS-745, MET-766, PHE-856, THR-790, VAL-726, VAL-774, LEU-795, VAL-845	N- of benzothiazole and H atom of amino acid backbone of MET-793	-8.23	-80.710	234
4c	O <sub>2</sub> N S NH	ALA-743, ARG-841, ASN-842, ASP-855, CYS-775, CYS-797, GLY-796, GLY-857, LEU-718, LEU-777, LEU-788, LEU-858, LYS-745, MET-766, PHE-856, THR-790, THR-854, VAL-726, VAL-769, LEU-778	N- of benzothiazole and H atom of amino acid backbone of MET-793	-8.48	-85.15	268
4d		ALA-743, ARG-841, ASN-842, ASP-855, CYS-797, GLY-796, ILE-744, ILE-789, LEU-718, LEU-777, LEU-788, LEU-792, LEU-844, LYS-745, MET-1002, MET-766, MET-793, THR-790, THR-854, VAL-726, VAL-774, GLY-721, TYR-727, VAL-843	N- of benzothiazole and H atom of amino acid backbone of MET-793	-8.44	-95.56	198
4e		ALA-743, ARG-841, ASN-842, ASP-855, CYS-797, GLY-796, ILE-744, ILE-789, LEU-718, LEU-777, LEU-788, LEU-792, LEU-844, LYS-745, MET-1002, MET-766, MET-793, PHE-856, THR-790, THR-854, VAL-720, VAL-843, GLY-721, TYR-727	N- of benzothiazole and H atom of amino acid backbone of MET-793 N- of Nitro group and H atom of amino acid backbone of ASP-855	-8.80	-89.86	298
4f		ALA-743, ARG-841, ASN-842, ASP-855, CYS-797, GLY-719, GLY-796, ILE-744, ILE-789, LEU-718, LEU-777, LEU-788, LEU-792, LEU-844, LYS-745, MET-1002, MET-766, MET-793, SER-720, THR-790, THR-854, VAL-726, LEU-778, GLY-721	N- of benzothiazole and H atom of amino acid backbone of MET-793	-8.94	-74.92	231
4g		ALA-743, ARG-776, ARG-841, ASN-842, ASP-885, CYS-775, CYS-797, GLY-857, LEU-718, LEU-788, LEU-792, MET-766, MET-793, PHE-856, THR-790, THR-854, VAL-726, VAL-769, VAL-774, LYS-745	N- of benzothiazole and H atom of amino acid backbone of MET-793	-8.68	-71.03	282
4h		ALA-743, ARG-841, ASN-842, ASP-855, CYS-797, GLY-719, ILE-744, ILE-789, LEU-718, LEU-777, LEU-788, LEU-844, LYS-745, MET-1002, SER-720, THR-790, THR-854, VAL-720, GLY-721	N- of benzothiazole and H atom of amino acid backbone of MET-793	-8.48	-79.45	221
4i		ALA-743, ARG-841, ASP-855, CYS-797, GLN-791, ILE-744, ILE-789, LEU-718, LEU-777, LEU-788, LEU-844, LYS-745, MET-1002, MET-766, MET-793, THR-790, THR-854, VAL-726, LEU-758, GLY-797, TYR-727	N- of benzothiazole and H atom of amino acid backbone of MET-793	-9.95	-98.16	301
4j		ALA-743, ARG-841, ASN-842, ASP-855, CYS-797, GLY-719, LEU-718, LEU-771, LEU-792, LEU-842, LYS-745, MET-766, MET-793, PHE-856, THR-854, ILE-789, GLY-721, ILE-744	N- of benzothiazole and H atom of amino acid backbone of MET-793 N- of Nitro group and H atom of amino acid backbone of ASP-855	-9.49	-92.18	254

a technique for designing the interaction of a small molecule ligand with a macromolecular target. Vlife MDS MolSign module is used for the identification, generation and analysis of pharmacophore by aligning small organic molecules based on their pharmacophore features using PLS method [37]. A pharmacophore can be derived in a ligand-based manner, by flexibility overlaying a set of active molecules and determining those conformations that are able to be overlaid in such a way that a maximum number of important chemical features geometrically overlap. To be a useful tool for drug design, a pharmacophore model has to provide valid information for medicinal chemist investigating structure-activity relationship. The pharmacophore model has to describe the nature of the functional groups involved in ligand-target interactions, as well as the type of the non-covalent bonding and interchange distances.

All the structures of the compounds were drawn in 2D-APPL mode of software and exported to 3D. Three-dimensional structures of all compounds have been constructed using MDS 3.5 version of Vlife science and their geometries were subsequently optimized to make the conformations having least potential energy. Energy minimizations were performed using Merck molecular force field (MMFF) and MMFF charge [38] followed by considering distance-dependent dielectric constant of 1.0 and convergence criterion of 0.01 kcal/mol. The compounds were then subjected to conformational analysis using Montecarlo conformational search with RMS gradient of 0.001 kcal/mol using a MMFF force field. Molecular alignment is a crucial step for

pharmacophoric study to obtain meaningful results. This method is based on moving of molecules in 3D space, which is related to the conformational flexibility of molecules. The goal is to obtain optimal alignment between the molecular structures [39]. All molecules in the data set were aligned by template-based method using 2-anilino benzothiazole as template, where a template is built by considering common substructures in the series as shown in Fig. 4. A highly bioactive energetically stable conformation in this class of compounds is chosen as a reference molecule on which other molecules in the data set are aligned, considering template as a basis for the alignment. All the synthesized molecules were taken for pharmacophore development. Highly active molecule to set as reference. The reference molecule is the molecule on which other molecules of the aligned data set get aligned. For pharmacophoric identification tolerance limit and maximum distance allowed between two features were set up to 10 Å. This abstract model containing chemical functionalities such as hydrogen bond donor,

Developmental Thera	apeutics Program	m	NSC: D-75	9789/1	Test Date	Test Date: Jun 20, 2011						
One Dose Mea	an Graph		Experimen	t ID: 11060	Report Date: Nov 29, 2011							
Panel/Cell Line	Growth Percent		Mean Growth Percent - Growth Percent									
Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer	Г							1				
A549/ATCC	32.59											
HOP-62	45.72											
NCI-H226	69.67											
NCI-H23	57.55											
NCI-H322M	71.00											
NCI-H522	19.68											
Colon Cancer												
COLO 205	32.18											
HCC-2998 HCT-116	19.36											
HCT-15	19.91											
HT29	9.15											
KM12 SW/-620	11.14											
CNS Cancer	21.59											
SF-268	61.04											
SF-295	18.89											
SNB-19	45.33											
SNB-75	-15.50											
U251	33.95											
Melanoma	24.69											
M14	26.22											
MDA-MB-435	-23.68											
SK-MEL-2	34.59											
SK-MEL-28 SK-MEL-5	45.53											
UACC-257	56.09											
UACC-62	35.66				•							
Ovarian Cancer	40.21											
OVCAR-3	18.74											
OVCAR-4	62.99											
OVCAR-5	65.64											
NCI/ADB-RES	56.40											
SK-OV-3	47.08				-							
Renal Cancer	57.70											
786-0	57.78											
ACHN	52.24											
CAKI-1	22.12											
SN12C	50.04											
UO-31	43.68											
Prostate Cancer												
PC-3	40.37											
DU-145 Breast Cancer	62.14											
MCF7	19.80											
MDA-MB-231/ATCC	46.96											
HS 5781 BT-549	54.08											
T-47D	45.79				-							
MDA-MB-468	2.04											
Moon	37 20											
Delta	61.07											
Range	94.68					-						
	150		100	50	0 5	0 _1	no _1/	50				
	150		100	50	-5	-10	-13					

hydrogen bond acceptor and aromatic carbon center, can serve as an effective search filter.

# 6. Docking study

The molecular docking tool, GLIDE (Schordinger Inc., USA) (2006) was used for ligand docking studies into tyrosine kinase receptor binding pocket. The crystal structures of tyrosine kinase was obtained from protein data bank (PDB ID: 1XKK) [40]. The

protein preparation was carried out using 'protein preparation wizard' in Maestro 9.0 in two steps, preparation and refinement. After ensuring chemical correctness, water molecules in the crystal structures were deleted and hydrogens were added, where they were missing. Using the OPLS 2005 force field energy of crystal structure was minimized [41]. Grids were defined centering them on the ligand in the crystal structure using the default box size. The ligands were built using maestro build panel and prepared by Ligprep 2.2 module which produce the low energy conformer of

National Cancer Institute Developmental Therapeutics Program In-Vitro Testing Results																
NSC : D - 759	789/1				Experiment ID : 1107NS88							Test	Туре : 08		Units : M	olar
Report Date : I	Novemb	oer 29, 2	011		Tes	t Date	: July 2	25, 2011				QNS	:		MC :	
COMI : 105624	4				Stai	n Reag	gent : S	SRB Dual-	Pass F	Related	I	SSPI	: 0XXS			
						Lo	og10 Cor	ncentration								
Panel/Cell Line	Time Zero	Ctrl	-8.0	Mean -7.0	Optical -6.0	Densiti -5.0	es -4.0	-8.0	-7.0	ercent G -6.0	-5.0	-4.0	GI50		TGI	LC50
Leukemia CCRF-CEM HL-60(TB) MOLT-4 RPMI-8226 SR	0.549 0.902 0.646 0.767 0.562	1.969 2.535 1.975 1.870 1.752	1.890 2.644 2.031 1.887 1.733	1.817 2.627 2.122 1.874 1.740	1.568 1.811 1.651 1.595 0.792	1.376 1.398 1.391 1.371 0.712	1.732 1.768 1.793 1.578 0.824	94 107 104 101 98	89 106 111 100 99	72 56 76 75 19	58 30 56 55 13	83 53 86 73 22	<ul> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> <li>4.12E-7</li> </ul>	~ ~ ~ ~ ~	1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4	<ul> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> </ul>
Non-Small Cell Lung A549/ATCC EKVX HOP-62 NCI-H226 NCI-H322M NCI-H460 NCI-H522	Cancer 0.305 0.801 0.358 0.638 0.823 0.212 0.371	1.413 1.712 0.956 1.841 1.557 1.817 1.089	1.450 1.647 1.010 1.768 1.537 1.850 0.984	1.505 1.615 0.945 1.749 1.593 1.859 0.982	1.230 1.363 0.753 1.590 1.491 1.510 0.643	0.788 1.154 0.590 1.334 1.312 0.569 0.569	1.065 1.281 0.415 1.421 1.326 1.024 0.616	103 93 109 94 97 102 85	108 89 98 92 105 103 85	83 62 66 79 91 81 38	44 39 39 58 67 22 28	69 53 10 65 69 51 34	3.86E-6 > 1.00E-4 > 1.00E-4 5.52E-7	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4	<ul> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> </ul>
Colon Cancer COLO 205 HCC-2998 HCT-116 HCT-15 HT29 KM12 SW-620	0.248 0.544 0.189 0.286 0.157 0.468 0.188	0.781 1.898 1.391 1.597 1.006 2.261 1.209	0.816 1.858 1.410 1.526 0.989 2.288 1.175	0.846 1.768 1.426 1.572 0.941 2.318 1.149	0.683 1.489 0.985 0.918 0.491 1.452 0.688	0.510 1.260 0.447 0.585 0.245 0.997 0.408	0.588 1.386 0.779 0.817 0.491 1.335 0.644	107 97 102 95 98 101 97	112 90 103 98 92 103 94	82 70 66 48 39 55 49	49 53 21 23 10 30 22	64 62 49 40 39 48 45	> 1.00E-4 2.30E-6 9.20E-7 6.29E-7 1.55E-6 9.49E-7	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4	<ul> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> </ul>
CNS Cancer SF-268 SF-295 SF-539 SNB-19 SNB-75 U251	0.476 0.712 0.698 0.542 0.962 0.313	1.488 1.988 1.767 1.330 1.743 1.313	1.429 1.876 1.757 1.284 1.587 1.288	1.487 1.834 1.732 1.227 1.436 1.365	1.273 1.272 1.509 1.022 1.365 1.110	1.126 0.903 1.309 0.910 1.244 0.945	0.818 0.888 1.217 0.779 1.213 0.619	94 91 99 94 80 97	100 88 97 87 61 105	79 44 76 61 52 80	64 15 57 47 36 63	34 14 48 30 32 31	2.93E-5 7.25E-7 6.68E-5 5.83E-6 1.26E-6 2.54E-5	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4	<ul> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> </ul>
Melanoma LOX IMVI MALME-3M M14 MDA-MB-435 SK-MEL-2 SK-MEL-2 SK-MEL-28 SK-MEL-5 UACC-257 UACC-62	0.281 0.616 0.386 0.455 0.471 0.493 0.383 0.909 0.782	2.074 0.987 1.270 1.843 0.879 1.259 2.102 1.801 2.373	1.965 0.994 1.322 1.769 0.856 1.215 2.021 1.808 2.243	1.942 0.999 1.310 1.650 0.875 1.194 1.963 1.793 2.135	1.385 0.829 0.898 0.419 0.746 0.996 1.517 1.651 1.605	0.687 0.784 0.760 0.338 0.666 0.841 0.948 1.532 1.149	1.299 0.814 0.856 0.411 0.687 0.918 1.406 1.563 1.368	94 102 106 95 94 94 95 101 92	93 103 104 86 99 92 92 99 85	62 57 58 -8 67 66 66 83 52	23 45 42 -26 48 45 33 70 23	57 53 53 -10 53 55 60 73 37	2.42E-7 	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	1.00E-4 1.00E-4 8.22E-7 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4	<pre>&gt; 1.00E-4 &gt; 1.00E-4</pre>
Ovarian Cancer IGROV1 OVCAR-3 OVCAR-4 OVCAR-5 OVCAR-8 NCI/ADR-RES SK-OV-3	0.531 0.426 0.417 0.507 0.404 0.526 0.533	1.211 1.259 0.964 1.122 1.539 1.792 1.077	1.259 1.264 0.948 1.081 1.576 1.763 1.083	1.262 1.323 0.903 1.161 1.598 1.700 1.097	0.959 1.027 0.807 0.993 1.409 1.028 1.026	0.817 0.861 0.720 0.908 1.162 0.800 0.790	0.757 0.977 0.837 0.989 0.913 1.109 0.824	107 101 97 93 103 98 101	108 108 89 106 105 93 104	63 72 71 79 89 40 91	42 52 55 65 67 22 47	33 66 77 78 45 46 54	4.16E-6 > 1.00E-4 > 1.00E-4 > 1.00E-4 5.79E-5 6.39E-7	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4	<ul> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> </ul>
Renal Cancer 786-0 A498 ACHN CAKI-1 RXF 393 SN12C TK-10 UO-31	0.720 1.180 0.380 0.789 0.515 0.506 0.466 0.697	2.127 1.702 1.350 2.003 1.091 1.519 1.034 1.380	2.089 1.573 1.323 1.914 1.057 1.398 1.058 1.312	2.084 1.534 1.396 1.797 1.005 1.374 1.003 1.363	1.866 1.455 1.197 1.264 0.815 1.166 0.931 1.194	1.514 1.172 0.955 1.121 0.668 0.873 0.871 1.032	1.567 1.494 0.853 1.305 0.654 1.031 0.877 1.245	97 75 97 93 94 88 104 90	97 68 105 83 85 86 94 97	81 53 84 39 52 65 82 73	56 -1 59 27 27 36 71 49	60 60 49 42 24 52 72 80	<ul> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> <li>7.66E-5</li> <li>5.64E-7</li> <li>1.20E-6</li> <li>&gt; 1.00E-4</li> </ul>	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4	<pre>&gt; 1.00E-4 &gt; 1.00E-4</pre>
Prostate Cancer PC-3 DU-145 Broast Cassor	0.461 0.442	1.583 1.539	1.605 1.579	1.514 1.556	1.227 1.469	1.016 1.261	1.094 1.159	102 104	94 102	68 94	49 75	56 65	> 1.00E-4	> >	1.00E-4 1.00E-4	> 1.00E-4 > 1.00E-4
MCF7 MDA-MB-231/ATCC HS 578T BT-549 T-47D MDA-MB-468	0.393 0.571 0.810 0.736 0.591 0.513	1.815 1.116 1.762 1.489 1.381 1.323	1.671 1.036 1.684 1.471 1.333 1.229	1.704 1.031 1.642 1.480 1.346 1.175	1.142 0.772 1.418 1.209 1.186 0.680	0.659 0.692 1.193 1.086 1.069 0.588	1.051 0.535 1.065 1.283 0.957 0.735	90 85 92 98 94 88	92 84 87 99 96 82	53 37 64 63 75 21	19 22 40 46 60 9	46 -6 27 73 46 27	1.20E-6 5.28E-7 3.84E-6 5.48E-5 3.30E-7	~ ~ ~ ~ ~	1.00E-4 5.98E-5 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4 1.00E-4	<pre>&gt; 1.00E-4 &gt; 1.00E-4 &gt; 1.00E-4 &gt; 1.00E-4 &gt; 1.00E-4 &gt; 1.00E-4 &gt; 1.00E-4</pre>

ligands using OPLS 2005 force field. The low energy conformation of the ligands was selected and was docked into the grid generated from protein structures using standard precision (SP) docking mode. The final evaluation is done with glide score (docking score) and single best pose is generated as the output for particular ligand.

#### 7. Results and discussion

#### 7.1. Pharmacophore modeling

The pharmacophore mapping was carried out to map the chemical features or functional groups present in the synthesized compounds which are essential for anticancer activity. We generated different pharmacophore pattern based on a set of synthesized aligned molecules. Selected pharmacophore shows five chemical features which were present in all the synthesized molecules (indicated by 100%) as shown in Fig. 5. The information shows that the five features used were two AroC feature (Aromatic), AliC feature (Aliphatic) one HDr (Hydrogen bond donor) features. The average RMSD of the pharmacophore alignment of each two molecule is 0.010511 Å. These five chemical features were found in all the synthesized molecules. The larger tessellated spheres are indicative of the common pharmacophore identified in the molecule. The smaller solid features are of the individual molecules. The common

pharmacophore having four larger orange color tessellated sphere shows aromatic and aliphatic carbon. Magneta color larger tessellated sphere shows the hydrogen bond donor as shown in Fig. 5. The distance among the various chemical features are as follows;

- 1. AroS (Benzothiazole) to AroC (Aniline) = 4.872 Å
- 2. AroS (Benzothiazole) to AliC (1st methyl of aniline) = 4.202 Å
- 3. AroS (Benzothiazole) to HDr (-NH-) = 5.392 Å
- 4. AroC (Aniline) to HDr (-NH-) = 5.351 Å
- 5. AroC (Aniline) to AliC (1st methyl of aniline) = 3.275 Å
- 6. HDr (-NH-) to AliC (1st methyl of aniline) = 3.621 Å
- 7. HDr (-NH-) to AliC (6th methyl of aniline) = 4.872 Å

Hypothesis generation was performed using low energy conformers of the molecules. All adapted models showed that the donor atoms of the NH fragments (magenta color larger tessellated) as hydrophilic element and the aryl moieties as hydrophobic element were well superimposed within the set distance tolerance. This confirms the important role of the hydrophilic and hydrophobic moieties for recognition and binding to receptor sites.

According to the pharmacophore generated by Molsign the minimal structural requirements for antitumor activity consist of an aromatic ring (hydrophobic region) attached to NH fragment (H-bonding donor region), and a hydrophobic region represented



Fig. 10. Five dose assay graph of compound 4a (NSC: 105624/759789) against nine panel cancer cell line at NCI.

by benzothiazole core. This pharmacophoric assumption was in consistence with biological data.

## 7.2. Docking study

Docking study was carried out for the target compounds into EGFR using GLIDE (Schordinger Inc., USA) (2006). The crystal structure of the enzyme with lapatinib (1XKK) was obtained from protein data bank PDB [40]. Since it was found that gefitinib mimic ATP and bind to the ATP binding region of the kinase active site. Our compounds were modeled by positioning them in the lapatinib binding site in accordance with the published crystal structures of quinazoline derivatives bound to kinase [42]. The entire complex was then subjected to alternate cycles of minimization and dynamics. The intent was to get a satisfactory structure for the complex that was consistent with the published crystal structure [43,44]. From the comparative docking study of our compounds with many structurally related lead compounds such as lapatinib and gefitinib we could observe how our compounds might bind to the kinase binding site, based on the knowledge of the structure of similar active sites. We redocked lapatinib into the active site of the enzyme and then we replaced with our compounds in order to compare the binding mode of both ligand and the test compound. These docking studies have revealed that the benzothiazole ring binds to a narrow hydrophobic pocket in the N-terminal domain of EGFR TK where N- of the benzothiazole ring interacts with the backbone NH of Met-793 via a hydrogen bond. These interactions underscore the importance of both nitrogen atoms for binding and the subsequent inhibitory capacity. The aniline moiety at C-2 of benzothiazole lies in a deep and hydrophobic pocket similar to the 3'-chloro-4'-(3-fluorobenzyl)oxy moiety of lapatinib. The results of this virtual screening could support the postulation that our active compounds may act on the same enzyme target where EGFR inhibitor acts.

Developmental Thera	apeutics Progran	n NS	<b>C:</b> D-759790/1	Test Date: Jun 20, 2011								
One Dose Mea	an Graph	Exp	eriment ID: 1106	Report Date: Nov 29, 2011								
Panel/Cell Line	Growth Percent		Mean Growth Percent - Growth Percent									
Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer	Г											
A549/ATCC	0.55											
EKVX	-7.99											
HOP-62	-38.18											
NCI-H220	-40.75											
NCI-H322M	9.80											
NCI-H460	-57.88											
NCI-H522	-64.04											
Colon Cancer												
COLO 205	-89.95											
HCC-2998	-26.14											
HCT-15	-07.11											
HT29	-67.64											
KM12	-68.45											
SW-620	-84.86											
CNS Cancer	00.05											
SF-268	-33.85											
SF-295	-47.53											
SNB-19	13.80		. ⊨									
SNB-75	-26.90		1 1									
Melanoma												
	-88.26											
MDA-MB-435	-55.86											
SK-MEL-2	-52.70											
SK-MEL-28	-48.11											
SK-MEL-5	-71.35											
UACC-257	-33.26											
Ovarian Cancer	-02.09											
IGROV1	3.69		•									
OVCAR-3	-61.40											
OVCAR-4	6.72											
OVCAR-5	1.07											
NCI/ADR-RES	-37.34											
SK-OV-3	6.87		-									
Renal Cancer												
786-0	-59.73											
	-53.64											
CAKI-1	-10.58											
SN12C	-71.54											
TK-10	-35.66			•								
UO-31	-55.12											
Prostate Cancer	4 10											
DU-145	-7.04											
Breast Cancer												
MCF7	-14.73											
MDA-MB-231/ATCC	-66.85											
BT-549	-11.41											
T-47D	-4.90											
MDA-MB-468	-25.55											
	07.05											
Nieań Delta	-37.65											
Range	103.75		🛏									
			1									
	150	1	00 50	0 -50	) -100 -150							

Fig. 11. Single dose assay of compound 4i (NSC: 105628/759390).

Figs. 6 and 7 demonstrate binding mode of lapatinib and benzothiazoles (**4i**) in the ATP binding site. Lapatinib forms hydrogen bonding with MET-793 via N-1 of quinazoline and similar hydrogen bonding interaction is also shown by N-3 of benzothiazoles (**4i**) with MET-793 and in case of compound **4e** and **4j**, we noticed additional H bond between N of nitro group and H atom of amino acid backbone of ASP-855. Residues within 5 Å areas of lapatinib and benzothiazoles (**4i**) are shown in Fig. 7. Some

National Cancer Institute Developmental Therapeutics Program In-Vitro Testing Results																
NSC : D - 759	790 / 1				Experiment ID : 1107NS88							Test	Туре : 08	Units : Molar		
Report Date : I	Novemb	oer 29, 2	011		Tes	t Date	: July 2	5, 2011				QNS	:	MC :		
COMI : 105628	8				Stai	n Reag	gent : S	RB Dual	Pass F	Related	I	SSPL	: 0XXS			
						Lo	og10 Con	centration						•		
Panel/Cell Line	Time Zero	Ctrl	-8.0	Mean -7.0	Optical	Densiti -5.0	es -4.0	-8.0	Pe -7.0	ercent G -6.0	-5.0	-4.0	GI50	TGI	LC50	
Leukemia CCRF-CEM HL-60(TB) MOLT-4 RPMI-8226 SR	0.549 0.902 0.646 0.767 0.562	1.929 2.580 1.880 1.819 1.793	1.869 2.652 1.966 1.848 1.793	1.839 2.637 1.986 1.786 1.802	1.399 1.964 1.285 1.249 1.193	0.364 0.479 0.398 0.619 0.286	0.483 0.390 0.495 0.667 0.383	96 104 107 103 100	93 103 109 97 101	62 63 52 46 51	-34 -47 -38 -19 -49	-12 -57 -23 -13 -32	1.32E-6 1.32E-6 1.05E-6 8.29E-7 1.03E-6	4.43E-6 3.75E-6 3.75E-6 5.05E-6 3.24E-6	> 1.00E-4 2.06E-5 > 1.00E-4 > 1.00E-4 > 1.00E-4	
Non-Small Cell Lung A549/ATCC EKVX HOP-62 HOP-92 NCI-H226 NCI-H226 NCI-H222M NCI-H460 NCI-H522	Cancer 0.305 0.801 0.358 1.089 0.638 0.823 0.212 0.371	1.509 1.646 1.114 1.388 1.842 1.619 1.965 1.154	1.539 1.612 1.141 1.329 1.779 1.559 2.001 1.063	1.497 1.490 1.087 1.224 1.639 1.635 1.887 1.042	0.970 0.931 0.863 0.995 1.352 1.432 1.390 0.770	0.106 0.092 0.025 0.187 0.188 0.138 0.054 0.107	0.137 0.215 0.091 0.307 0.266 0.043 0.130 0.189	103 96 104 80 95 92 102 88	99 82 96 45 83 102 96 86	55 15 67 -9 59 76 67 51	-65 -89 -93 -83 -71 -83 -75 -71	-55 -73 -75 -72 -58 -95 -39 -49	1.11E-6 2.99E-7 1.27E-6 7.18E-8 1.18E-8 1.48E-6 1.46E-6 1.32E-6 1.02E-6	2.87E-6 1.40E-6 2.62E-6 6.90E-7 2.86E-6 3.01E-6 2.97E-6 2.61E-6	7.47E-6 4.26E-6 5.38E-6 3.61E-6 6.95E-6 6.19E-6	
Colon Cancer COLO 205 HCC-2998 HCT-116 HCT-15 HT29 KM12 SW-620	0.248 0.544 0.189 0.286 0.157 0.468 0.188	0.916 1.577 1.443 1.656 1.089 2.131 1.305	0.951 1.495 1.494 1.564 1.088 2.123 1.273	0.875 1.445 1.436 1.644 1.056 2.145 1.202	0.741 1.271 0.825 1.101 0.762 1.504 0.955	0.024 0.064 0.004 0.042 0.045 0.021 0.027	0.119 0.195 0.051 0.075 0.070 0.010 0.034	105 92 104 93 100 99 97	94 87 99 99 96 101 91	74 70 51 59 65 62 69	-91 -88 -98 -85 -71 -96 -86	-52 -64 -73 -74 -56 -98 -82	1.40E-6 1.34E-6 1.01E-6 1.16E-6 1.29E-6 1.20E-6 1.32E-6	2.81E-6 2.78E-6 2.19E-6 2.57E-6 2.99E-6 2.48E-6 2.78E-6	5.67E-6 5.74E-6 4.75E-6 5.69E-6 6.97E-6 5.15E-6 5.86E-6	
CNS Cancer SF-268 SF-295 SF-339 SNB-19 SNB-75 U251	0.476 0.712 0.698 0.542 0.962 0.313	1.579 2.094 1.845 1.498 1.883 1.332	1.561 1.997 1.814 1.413 1.720 1.373	1.545 1.851 1.843 1.399 1.747 1.316	1.158 1.174 1.582 1.191 1.386 1.004	0.064 0.096 0.136 0.139 0.654 0.050	0.211 0.348 0.303 0.201 0.996 0.158	98 93 97 91 82 104	97 82 100 90 85 98	62 33 77 68 46 68	-87 -87 -81 -74 -32 -84	-56 -51 -57 -63 4 -50	1.20E-6 4.59E-7 1.48E-6 1.34E-6 7.91E-7 1.31E-6	2.61E-6 1.90E-6 3.08E-6 3.00E-6 2.79E-6	5.66E-6 4.96E-6 6.40E-6 6.74E-6 > 1.00E-4	
Melanoma LOX IMVI MALME-3M M14 MDA-MB-435 SK-MEL-2 SK-MEL-2 SK-MEL-28 SK-MEL-5 UACC-257 UACC-62	0.281 0.616 0.386 0.455 0.471 0.493 0.383 0.909 0.782	1.976 1.033 1.293 1.935 0.953 1.299 2.102 1.865 2.492	1.881 1.035 1.324 1.874 0.941 1.243 2.004 1.881 2.381	1.783 0.991 1.298 1.744 0.893 1.253 1.930 1.873 2.246	1.221 0.832 1.048 1.141 0.814 1.111 1.247 1.563 1.651	0.047 0.098 0.123 0.105 0.169 0.070 0.021 0.266 0.120	0.222 0.098 0.169 0.149 0.265 0.155 0.092 0.298 0.051	94 101 103 96 98 93 94 102 94	89 90 101 87 88 94 90 101 86	55 52 73 46 71 77 50 68 51	-83 -84 -68 -77 -64 -86 -95 -71 -85	-21 -84 -56 -67 -44 -69 -76 -67 -94	1.09E-6 1.03E-6 1.46E-6 8.13E-7 1.43E-6 1.46E-6 1.06E-6 1.35E-6 1.01E-6	2.51E-6 2.40E-6 3.29E-6 2.38E-6 3.35E-6 2.96E-6 2.22E-6 3.10E-6 2.37E-6	5.60E-6 7.44E-6 6.05E-6 4.93E-6 7.09E-6 5.55E-6	
Ovarian Cancer IGROV1 OVCAR-3 OVCAR-4 OVCAR-5 OVCAR-8 NCI/ADR-RES SK-OV-3	0.531 0.426 0.417 0.507 0.404 0.526 0.533	1.260 1.328 0.999 1.116 1.649 1.674 1.132	1.362 1.305 0.964 1.128 1.664 1.664 1.135	1.279 1.299 0.899 1.068 1.659 1.524 1.129	0.936 0.874 0.675 0.991 1.126 0.939 1.046	0.238 0.019 0.043 0.034 0.119 0.146 0.057	0.242 0.101 0.053 0.018 0.264 0.239 -0.036	114 98 94 102 101 99 101	103 97 83 92 101 87 99	55 50 44 79 58 36 86	-55 -96 -90 -93 -71 -72 -89	-55 -76 -87 -96 -35 -55 -100	1.12E-6 9.83E-7 7.08E-7 1.48E-6 1.15E-6 5.31E-7 1.60E-6	3.17E-6 2.20E-6 2.14E-6 2.88E-6 2.83E-6 2.15E-6 3.08E-6	8.96E-6 4.86E-6 5.05E-6 5.61E-6 6.23E-6 5.95E-6	
Renal Cancer 786-0 A498 ACHN CAKI-1 RXF 393 SN12C TK-10 UO-31	0.720 1.180 0.380 0.789 0.515 0.506 0.466 0.697	2.175 1.789 1.318 2.006 1.140 1.550 1.079 1.424	2.265 1.697 1.305 1.910 1.102 1.452 1.064 1.337	2.081 1.589 1.296 1.672 0.973 1.389 1.042 1.106	1.475 1.337 0.939 1.008 0.798 0.983 0.831 0.886	0.048 0.040 0.005 0.075 0.137 0.031 0.067 0.061	0.074 0.092 -0.024 0.199 0.311 0.081 0.155 0.268	106 85 99 92 94 91 98 88	94 67 98 73 73 85 94 56	52 26 60 18 45 46 59 26	-93 -97 -99 -90 -73 -94 -86 -91	-90 -92 -100 -75 -40 -84 -67 -62	1.03E-6 2.60E-7 1.15E-6 2.59E-7 6.76E-7 7.72E-7 1.16E-6 1.61E-7	2.28E-6 1.62E-6 2.38E-6 1.46E-6 2.41E-6 2.12E-6 2.57E-6 1.67E-6	5.03E-6 4.16E-6 4.92E-6 4.23E-6 4.85E-6 5.67E-6 4.44E-6	
Prostate Cancer PC-3 DU-145	0.461 0.442	1.568 1.591	1.524 1.657	1.353 1.613	0.884 1.309	0.149 0.018	0.121 0.066	96 106	81 102	38 75	-68 -96	-74 -85	5.26E-7 1.41E-6	2.30E-6 2.75E-6	6.81E-6 5.39E-6	
MDA-MB-231/ATCC MDA-MB-231/ATCC HS 578T BT-549 T-47D MDA-MB-468	0.393 0.571 0.810 0.736 0.591 0.513	1.798 1.154 1.913 1.476 1.401 1.289	1.661 1.109 1.774 1.493 1.364 1.201	1.609 1.045 1.705 1.487 1.413 1.142	1.044 0.668 1.352 1.323 0.962 0.691	0.057 0.042 0.475 0.100 0.060 0.140	0.178 0.171 0.669 0.380 0.215 0.212	90 92 87 102 95 89	87 81 101 102 81	46 17 49 79 46 23	-86 -93 -41 -86 -90 -73	-55 -70 -17 -48 -64 -59	8.11E-7 3.04E-7 9.38E-7 1.50E-6 8.41E-7 3.43E-7	2.24E-6 1.42E-6 3.49E-6 3.01E-6 2.18E-6 1.74E-6	5.37E-6 4.06E-6 > 1.00E-4 5.08E-6 5.79E-6	

Fig. 12. Five dose assay of compound 4i (NSC: 105628/759390).

common residues involved in this type of interaction within 5 Å area are ALA-743, ARG-841, ASP-855, CYS-797, LEU-718, LEU-777, LEU-788, LYS-745, MET-766, THR-790 and THR-854 as shown in Table 2.

# 7.3. Primary single high dose $(10^{-5} \text{ M})$ full NCI 60 cell panel in vitro assay

The tumor growth inhibition properties of the two compounds **4a** and **4i** with the NCI codes 105624/759789 and 105628/759390 selected among **4(a–j)** by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), USA, were screened on human tumor cell lines at single high dose  $(10^{-5} \text{ M})$  and five dose level at the NIH, Bethesda, Maryland, USA, under the drug discovery program of the NCI.

With regard to sensitivity against individual cell lines at primary single high dose ( $10^{-5}$  M). Compound **4a** showed remarkably lowest cell growth promotion against CNS cancer SNB-75 cell line and Melanoma MDA-MB-435 cancer cell line with cell growth promotion of -15.50 and -23.68 respectively as shown in Fig. 8. On the other hand compound **4i** was found to be broad spectrum against all nine panel of cancer cell line at primary single high dose ( $10^{-5}$  M) as shown in Fig. 11.

## 7.4. In vitro 5 dose full NCI 60 cell panel assay

All the cell lines (about 60), representing nine tumor subpanels, were incubated at five different concentrations (0.01, 0.1, 1, 10 & 100  $\mu$ M). The outcomes were used to create log concentration Vs % growth inhibition curves and three response parameters (GI<sub>50</sub>, TGI and LC<sub>50</sub>) were calculated for each cell line. The GI<sub>50</sub> value (growth inhibitory activity) corresponds to the concentration of the compound causing 50% decrease in net cell growth, the TGI value (cytostatic activity) is the concentration of the compound resulting in total growth inhibition and LC<sub>50</sub> value (cytotoxic activity) is the concentration of the concentration of the compound causing state causing net 50% loss of initial cells at the end of the incubation period of 48 h [34–36].

Compound under investigation **4a** exhibited remarkable anticancer activity against most of the tested cell lines representing nine different subpanels with GI<sub>50</sub> value 4.12 × 10<sup>-7</sup> M against Leukemia SR cell line, 5.52 × 10<sup>-7</sup> M against Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer NCI-H5222 cell line, 9.20 × 10<sup>-7</sup> M, 6.29 × 10<sup>-7</sup> M, 9.47 × 10<sup>-7</sup> M against Colon Cancer HCT-116, HCT-15and SW-620 cancer cell line respectively, 7.25 × 10<sup>-7</sup> M against CNS cancer SF-295 cancer cell line,  $2.42 \times 10^{-7}$  M against Melanoma MDA-MB-435 cancer cell line,  $6.39 \times 10^{-7}$  M against Ovarian NCI/ADR-RES cancer cell line,  $5.64 \times 10^{-7}$  M against Renal Cancer CAKI-1



Fig. 13. Five dose assay graph of compound 4i (NSC: 105628/759390) against nine panel of cancer cell line at NCI.

cancer cell line,  $5.28 \times 10^{-7}$  M and  $3.30 \times 10^{-7}$  M against Breast MDA-MB-231/ATCC and MDA-MB-468 cancer cell line. A sign of ">" is used as prefix to the concentration for those cell lines which were found to be insensitive at the highest tested concentration i.e. 100  $\mu$ M as shown in Figs. 9 and 10.

With regard to the sensitivity against some individual cell lines the compound **4i** showed highest activity against Non-Small Cell HOP-92 Lung cancer cell line with GI<sub>50</sub> value of 7.18 × 10<sup>-8</sup> M. Obtained data revealed an obvious broad spectrum sensitivity profile of **4i** toward all 9 subpanel of cancer cell line with GI<sub>50</sub> value ranging from 1.60 × 10<sup>-6</sup> M to 7.18 × 10<sup>-8</sup> M, least for Non-Small Cell HOP-92 Lung cancer and maximum for OVCAR-SK-OV-3 cell line as shown in Figs. 12 and 13.

On the basis of results obtained it was found that compound **4i** (NSC: 105628/759390) was most active compound of the series. Based on close examination on substitutions, it may be concluded that the role of electron withdrawing groups (–Cl) has great influence on anticancer activity, it is also proved by the docking study where compound **4a** is having dock score of –7.85 kcal/mol and **4i** is having –9.95 kcal/mol. Finally it is conceivable that further derivatization of such compounds will be of interest with the hope to get more selective anticancer agents.

#### 8. Conclusion

Compounds 7-chloro-N-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)benzo[d]thiazol-2-amine (**4a**) with GI<sub>50</sub> values of 7.18  $\times$  10<sup>-8</sup> M against Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer HOP-92 cancer cell line proved to be the most active members in this study. This benzothiazole analog could be considered as useful templates for future development to obtain more potent antitumor agent(s). Flexible alignment was conducted on the basis of experimental data from which five featured pharmacophore model was developed. This pharmacophore model could be very useful for the virtual screening in the development of new antitumor agents. According to the pharmacophore generated by Molsign the minimal structural requirements for antitumor activity consist of an aromatic ring (hydrophobic region) attached to NH fragment (H-bonding donor region), and a hydrophobic region represented by benzothiazole core. Molecular docking studies further supports our assumption that the synthesized compounds have analogous binding mode to the EGFR inhibitors and demonstrates the various interactions between the ligands and enzyme active sites and thereby help to design novel potent inhibitors. The overall outcome of this model revealed that: (i) the benzothiazole ring is a satisfactory backbone for antitumor activity, (ii) the presence of substituted aniline moiety at the C-2 amino position is necessary for the activity as hydrophobic region, (iii) the presence of electron withdrawing group on benzothiazole ring and on substituted aniline at 2nd position enhances the anticancer activity. (iv) secondary amino group at 2nd position of benzothiazoles is acting as conformational lock and extending substituted aniline portion into the hydrophobic pockets of EGFR-tyrosine kinase, making predominantly hydrophobic interactions with the protein mimicking the 3'-chloro-4'-[(3-fluorobenzyl)oxy] aniline group of lapatinib. These preliminary encouraging results of biological screening of the tested compounds could offer an excellent framework in this field that may lead to discovery of potent antitumor agent.

#### 9. Experimental

All chemicals and solvents were supplied by Merck, S.D. Fine Chemical Limited, Mumbai. All the solvents were distilled and dried before use. The reactions were monitored with the help of thinlayer chromatography using pre-coated aluminum sheets with GF<sub>254</sub> silica gel, 0.2 mm layer thickness (E. Merck). Melting points of the synthesized compounds were recorded on the Veego (VMP-MP) melting point apparatus. IR spectrum was acquired on a Shimadzu Infra Red Spectrometer, (model FTIR-8400S). Both <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO) spectra of the synthesized compounds were performed with Bruker Avance-II 400 NMR Spectrometer operating at 400 MHz in SAIF, Punjab University (Chandigarh). Chemical shifts were measured relative to internal standard TMS ( $\delta$ :0). Chemical shifts are reported in  $\delta$  scale (ppm). Mass spectra of the synthesized compounds were recorded at MAT 120 in SAIF, Punjab University.

#### 9.1. Synthesis of substituted isothiocyanates 2(a-e) [33]

#### 9.1.1. Synthesis of substituted thioureas 3(a-j) [25]

9.1.1.1. General procedure for the synthesis of substituted 2-amino benzothiazoles 4(a-j). Substituted thioureas **3** (a-j) (0.01 mol) were dissolved in chloroform (15 ml), the reaction mixture was cooled in an ice bath and then bromine: chloroform (1:9) mixture was added drop wise. The reaction was monitored by TLC and after an hour, was poured on to crushed ice. The solid that separated was filtered, dried in each case and then purified by column chromatography using silica gel. It was eluted with CHCl<sub>3</sub>: EtOAc (7:3) and the eluents on evaporation and crystallization yielded pure solid substituted 2-amino benzothiazoles.

9.1.1.1. *N*-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-6-methylbenzo[d]thiazol-2-amine (**4a**). This compound was prepared and purified as per the above mentioned procedure; IR (KBr)  $\upsilon_{max}$  3301 (NH-strech), 3039 (Arom. CH strech), 2937 (Aliph. CH strech), 1602 (NH-bend) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 7.46–8.33 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 4.54 (s, 1H, NH), 2.32 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.46 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 172.3, 154.3, 138.7, 134.2, 130.7, 124.2, 120.6, 21.6 (benzothiazole), 140.2, 138.2, 131.3, 124.6, 20.2 (2,6-dimethyl aniline); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S: 268.1034; found: 268.1038.

9.1.1.1.2. 6-bromo-N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)benzo[d]thiazol-2-amine (**4b**). This compound was prepared and purified as per the above mentioned procedure; IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$  3256 (NH-strech), 3049 (Arom. CH strech), 2919 (Aliph. CH strech), 1563 (NH-bend), 623 (C–Br) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 6.76–7.35 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 4.26 (s, 1H, NH), 1.99 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 173.1, 156.2, 134.2, 130.1, 126.3, 120.8, 118.6 (benzothiazole), 141.8, 138.6, 130.3, 125.5, 21.3 (2,6-dimethyl aniline); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>S: 331.9983; found: 331.9981.

9.1.1.1.3. *N*-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-6-nitrobenzo[d]thiazol-2-amine (**4c**). This compound was prepared and purified as per the above mentioned procedure; IR (KBr)  $\upsilon_{max}$  3379 (NH-strech), 3118 (Arom. CH strech), 2952 (Aliph. CH strech), 1583 (NH-bend),1552,1349 (NO<sub>2</sub>) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 6.98–7.85 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 4.54 (s, 1H, NH), 2.23 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 174.8, 162.3, 149.2, 134.4, 126.4, 122.2, 119.2 (benzothiazole), 139.6, 136.2, 130.2, 126.2, 20.4 (2,6-dimethyl aniline); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: 299.0728; found: 299.0732.

9.1.1.1.4. 7-chloro-N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)benzo[d]thiazol-2-amine (**4d**). This compound was prepared and purified as per the above mentioned procedure; IR (KBr)  $\upsilon_{max}$  3391 (NH-strech), 3134 (Arom. CH strech), 2817 (Aliph. CH strech), 1584 (NH-bend), 727 (C–Cl) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 6.85–8.17 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 5.47 (s, 1H, NH), 2.20 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 171.3, 154.2, 136.3, 134.2, 132.1, 130.6, 118.2 (benzothiazole), 141.2, 139.4, 131.3, 125.1, 20.3 (2,6-dimethyl aniline); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>S: 288.0488; found: 288.0492.

9.1.1.1.5. N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-7-nitrobenzo[d]thiazol-2-amine (**4e**) [45]. This compound was prepared and purified as per the above mentioned procedure; IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$  3291 (NH-strech), 3051 (Arom. CH strech), 2962 (Aliph. CH strech), 1574 (NH-bend),

1548,1354 (NO<sub>2</sub>) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 6.76–8.14 (m, 6H, Ar-H), 4.23 (s, 1H, NH), 2.28 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 171.3, 152.3, 146.2, 132.8, 131.4, 128.4, 122.3 (benzothiazole), 140.2, 136.4, 132.6, 124.9, 20.8 (2,6-dimethyl aniline); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: 299.0728; found: 299.0724.

9.1.1.1.6. N-(2.6-dichlorophenvl)-6-methylbenzoldlthiazol-2-amine (4f). This compound was prepared and purified as per the above mentioned procedure; IR (KBr) umax 3312 (NH-strech), 3061 (Arom. CH strech), 2923 (Aliph. CH strech), 1589 (NH-bend), 684 (C-Cl) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 6.81–8.10 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 4.21 (s, 1H, NH), 2.21 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 173.4, 152.4, 136.5, 132.6, 128.4, 124.4, 118.4, 21.3 (benzothiazole), 140.2, 137.2, 130.3, 122.6 (2,6-dichloro aniline); HRMS (EI) m/z calcd forC14H10C12N2S: 307.9942; found: 307.9945.

9.1.1.1.7. 6-bromo-N-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)benzo[d]thiazol-2-amine (4g). This compound was prepared and purified as per the above mentioned procedure; IR (KBr)  $\upsilon_{max}$  3331 (NH-strech), 3012 (CH strech), 1591 (NH-bend), 711 (C-Cl), 623 (C-Br) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 6.76–7.33 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 4.36 (s, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 171.3, 156.2, 134.8, 130.2, 125.1, 122.6, 118.3 (benzothiazole), 139.2, 138.6, 129.8, 124.6 (2,6-dichloro aniline); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>7</sub>BrCl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S: 371.8890; found: 371.8895.

9.1.1.1.8. N-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-6-nitrobenzo[d]thiazol-2-amine (4h). This compound was prepared and purified as per the above mentioned procedure; IR (KBr)  $\upsilon_{max}$  3308 (NH-strech), 3008 (CH strech), 1594 (NH-bend), 1552,1346 (NO<sub>2</sub>), 725 (C–Cl) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 6.88–8.23 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 4.01 (s, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 170.3, 162.9, 146.4, 134.8, 124.6, 120.2, 118.5 (benzothiazole), 141.3, 138.5, 129.8, 121.3 (2,6-dichloro aniline); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>7</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: 338.9636; found: 338.9641.

9.1.1.1.9. 7-chloro-N-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)benzo[d]thiazol-2-amine (4i). This compound was prepared and purified as per the above mentioned procedure; IR (KBr) umax 3256 (NH-strech), 3112 (CH strech), 1576 (NH-bend), 761 (C-Cl), cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 6.72–8.10 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 4.51 (s, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 172.4, 152.4, 132.4, 130.2, 128.4, 125.4, 121.3 (benzothiazole), 140.7, 138.4, 128.2, 120.6 (2,6-dichloro aniline); HRMS (EI) m/z calcd forC<sub>13</sub>H<sub>7</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S: 327.9396; found: 327.9391.

9.1.1.1.10. N-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-7-nitrobenzo[d]thiazol-2-amine (4j). This compound was prepared and purified as per the above mentioned procedure; IR (KBr) vmax 3323 (NH-strech), 3075 (CH strech), 1584 (NH-bend),1555, 1351 (NO<sub>2</sub>) 703 (C-Cl) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 7.12–7.94 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 4.52 (s, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: 173.5, 152.3, 146.2, 136.2, 135.8, 125.6, 120.3 (benzothiazole), 142.3, 139.5, 131.6, 121.7 (2,6-dichloro aniline); HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>7</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: 338.9636; found: 338.9632.

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