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High Throughput Screening for Inhibitors of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* **H37Rv**

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SUMMARY

There is an urgent need for the discovery and development of new antitubercular agents that target new biochemical pathways and treat drug resistant forms of the disease. One approach to addressing this need is through high throughput screening of medicinally relevant libraries against the whole bacterium in order to discover a variety of new, active scaffolds that will stimulate new biological research and drug discovery. Through the Tuberculosis Antimicrobial Acquisition and Coordinating Facility (www.taacf.org), a large, medicinally relevant chemical library was screened against *M. tuberculosis* strain H37Rv. The screening methods and a medicinal chemistry analysis of the results are reported herein.

Keywords

TAACF; antitubercular; high throughput screening methods; medicinal chemistry analysis; medicinally relevant chemical library

> The Tuberculosis Antimicrobial Acquisition and Coordinating Facility (TAACF) Program was established through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in 1994 to allow researchers access to high quality screening services in order to encourage tuberculosis drug discovery research. Unique to that program was the required involvement of trained medicinal chemists from the outset in order to recruit high quality, medicinally relevant samples into the screening program. Furthermore, the medicinal expertise is available to researchers, biologists, and synthetic chemists that supply compounds to the program. More recently, the purchase of libraries such as the ChemBridge library described herein has been a TAACF function with the goal of making a large volume of new screening data against tuberculosis publicly accessible to the tuberculosis research community. This library and the functions of the TAACF program are described in a recent publication.1

TAACF medicinal chemists have begun the process of reviewing the screening data from the ChemBridge library. Compounds are prioritized for further analysis and pursuit. The initial analysis of the data from the screening of the ChemBridge library of compounds against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* is described on the following pages, and the full analysis will be made publicly available at www.taacf.org and [http://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/.](http://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/)

Tuberculosis (TB) represents one of the top public health concerns worldwide. One-third of the world's population is infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the etiological agent of TB causing 9.2 million new cases and 1.7 million deaths in 2006.2 The multi-drug regimen for treating TB established since the 1970s and still recommended today by the WHO has not been sufficient to eliminate TB due to the advent of HIV/AIDS, failure of treatment programs and enhanced transmission in hospitals and prisons.3 The recommended combination therapy for TB is lengthy and cumbersome since it can involve up to four drugs and requires daily medication for 6 to 12 months. Limited health care system resources often lead to treatment interruption or failure, exacerbating drug resistance problems.4

Multidrug resistant TB (MDR-TB), defined as resistance to at least the first-line drugs isoniazid and rifampicin, and extensively drug–resistant TB (XDR-TB), defined as resistance to rifampin, isoniazid, fluoroquinolones and to at least one of the injectable second-line drugs, have contributed to the resurgence of TB.5-6 Estimates for the global burden of drug resistant TB (including XDR-TB estimated at 40,000 XDR-TB cases per year) are likely a lower limit of the real case burden.7 Forty-nine countries have now reported XDR-TB infections as of June 2008 according to the WHO Stop TB Department [\(http://www.who.int/entity/tb/challenges/xdr/xdr_map_june08.pdf](http://www.who.int/entity/tb/challenges/xdr/xdr_map_june08.pdf)). Mathematical modeling reveals that if TB treatment does not improve globally, XDR-TB could represent 70% of the MDR-TB cases within 60-70 years.8 At present we know very little about how to reproducibly cure XDR-TB. Several reports attempted to validate treatment outcomes for XDR-TB, but in many cases the exact clinical history and specific use of antitubercular drugs is not fully known.9-19 Equally inadequate is the treatment available for the latent TB infection present in at least two billion individuals, which represents an enormous human reservoir of the infecting organism.20

The need for novel, more effective drugs to improve TB control is evident. Treatment of active disease needs to be shortened, simplified, and should not interfere with the administration of antiretroviral agents. It is especially desirable to identify new types of TB drugs acting on novel drug targets with no cross-resistance to existing drugs. Modern highthroughput screening (HTS) systems provide an immensely powerful strategy to identify new lead compounds in a relatively short amount of time. Many of the current *in vitro* assays for drug testing against *M. tuberculosis* are not well adapted for HTS.21 In this study we have adapted the microdilution Alamar blue assay22 to 384-well plate format and used it to screen a 100,997 compound library for antitubercular activity on a BSL3-contained HTS platform.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bacterial strain, growth conditions and media

M. tuberculosis H37Rv (ATCC 27294) was obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (Manassas, VA). To prepare permanent frozen stocks, H37Rv was grown as five mL subcultures (50 mL conical tubes, 36-37°C) in Middlebrook 7H9 broth (Becton Dickinson) supplemented with 0.2% glycerol (Becton Dickinson), 0.05% Tween 80 (Becton Dickinson), and 10% ADC enrichment (albumin, dextrose, catalase; Becton Dickinson). The subculture was mixed periodically and used to inoculate (5% inoculum) a second subculture (30 mL in 250 mL screw cap flask) when the turbidity reached a density similar to a #1 McFarland turbidity standard ($A_{600 \text{ nm}}$ ~0.2). The subcultures were incubated with periodic mixing for 18-21 days until the turbidity reached a #3-#4 McFarland turbidity standard $(A_{600nm} \sim 0.6$ -0.8, 4 -8 × 10⁷ CFU/mL). The caps on both the conical tubes and flasks were loosened and wrapped in parafilm to allow for adequate gas exchange and to prevent evaporation during incubation. Prior to harvest, samples from all cultures were spotted onto Trypticase Soy Agar (TSA) plates and incubated for 3-4 days to check for contamination. *M. tuberculosis* grows poorly on TSA which supports the growth of most potential contaminating microorganisms. Each culture was then transferred to a 50 mL tube and allowed to settle at ambient temperature for one hour. The upper half of each culture was aspirated and pooled in a flask. Aliquots of one mL were then transferred to two mL cryovials and frozen at −80 °C. At least three frozen stocks were thawed and used to determine the viable count by plating dilutions, prepared in supplemented 7H9 broth, onto Middlebrook 7H11 Agar followed by incubation for up to 21 days. A contamination check on the thawed cultures was also performed as described above.

Control Drugs and Compound Libraries

A chemical diversity library containing 100,997 compounds was purchased from ChemBridge Corporation ([http://www.chembridge.com/\)](http://www.chembridge.com/). This library compounds was selected for diversity and drug-likeness using the Lipinski23 criteria for drug-like compounds. A majority of this library of compounds, for example, had molecular weights ranging from 250–450 ($>80\%$), CLogP value ~ 3.5, number of rotatable bonds ~ 4, topological polar surface area (tPSA)24 ~ 60 Å², hydrogen bond donors < 3, and hydrogen bond acceptors < 5. TAACF medicinal chemists worked further with ChemBridge to make sure that this library of compounds did not include any compounds containing reactive functional groups such as oxiranes, aziridines, thiiranes, aliphatic aldehydes, isonitriles, diazenes, crown ethers, sulfamates and thiosulfates. The selected library contained a variety of heterocyclic compounds such as: pyrroles, furans, thiophenes, indoles and their benzo analogs, isoindolines, imidazoles, pyrazoles, triazoles, isoxazoles, thiazoles, oxadiazoles, thiadiazoles, pyridines, quinolines, pyridazines, pyrimidines, pyrazines, quinazolines, quinoxalines, pyrrolidines, piperazines and morpholines. The compounds were used as supplied and no structure/purity characterization was done beyond that carried out by ChemBridge. In general, we recommend that chemical structure and purity be confirmed before embarking on any development program. From this set of 100,997 compounds, a diversity subset of 13,440 compounds was selected using the dissimilarity selection (dbdiss) method as implemented in the Selector module of Sybyl. A smaller diverse and representative subset of 3,200 compounds was selected from the 13,440 compounds set using the OptiSim (dbdiverse) algorithm. This 3,200 compound set as well as the Prestwick Chemical Library ([http://www.prestwickchemical.fr/index.php?pa=26\)](http://www.prestwickchemical.fr/index.php?pa=26) consisting of 1,120 compounds were used for initial assay validation experiments. Amikacin sulfate (Sigma) and ethambutol (Sigma), used in the assay as positive control drugs, were solubilized at 10.24 mg/mL in sterile water and DMSO respectively, aliquoted and frozen at −80 °C. Aliquots were made from one common drug stock, and a previously unthawed aliquot was used for each experiment and discarded afterwards.

The ChemBridge library was screened initially in a single dose of 10 μg/mL and a final DMSO concentration of 1%. Identified hits were picked and screened in a dose-response assay using a stacked-plate method wherein each compound dilution is interplate rather than intraplate. In this method, all of the compounds on a plate are at a single concentration. This design is driven by the efficiency of liquid handling, making it quick to generate simultaneous concentration curves for up to 1,280 compounds. Compounds screened in dose-response were tested in 10 two-fold dilutions from 50 μg/mL to 0.098 μg/mL.

M. tuberculosis Assay

The *M. tuberculosis* HTS assay was modified from that described by Collins and Franzblau22 using black, clear-bottom, 384-well microtiter plates and 7H12 broth. Compounds stocks of 1.0 mg/mL in 100% DMSO were diluted in assay media and 25 μL of these diluted compounds were transferred to 384-well plates. Amikacin was included in the positive control wells in every assay plate in two concentrations, 0.13 and 2.5 μg/mL. The low concentration is the approximate MIC and is an indicator of proper assay performance of each plate. The high concentration completely inhibits growth and is used in lieu of uninoculated medium (background) to calculate percent inhibition by the test compounds for each plate. Plates containing test compounds (320 compounds/plate) and positive control compounds were transferred into the BSL3 facility for bacteria addition and incubation. The bacterial stock was diluted to $1-2 \times 10^5$ CFU/mL in the assay medium, Middlebrook 7H12 broth (7H9 broth supplemented with 0.1% casitone, 5.6 μg/mL palmitate, 0.5% bovine serum albumin and 4 μg/mL catalase) and 25 μL was plated over the compounds. Positive and negative control wells were included in each plate. Amikacin was included in one of the

compound wells as an internal control in dose-response runs. Plates were placed in stacks of two inside double low density polyethylene bags and incubated for 7 days at 37°C with approximately 90% humidity. After 7 days of incubation, end point reagent (two parts Alamar blue (Trek Diagnostics) + 1.5 parts 18.2% Tween 80 (Difco) diluted in milli Q water) was added to all wells in a volume of 9 μL per well. The plates were returned to the incubator for an additional 18-20 hours. Plates were sealed and bottom read for fluorescence using a Perkin Elmer Envision plate reader at 535 nm excitation and 590 nm emission.

Each assay run contained one plate of uninoculated medium (sterility control), another plate containing inoculated medium (growth control), and a 96-well plate with ethambutol at the approximate MIC (0.5 μ g/mL) and 20 times the MIC (10 μ g/mL). In addition to fluorometric reads, these plates were read at an absorbance of 615 nm (the approximate peak wavelength for oxidized dye) and were used to monitor the quality of the Alamar blue as well as adequate growth of the organism. Expected absorbance readings were about 0.8 and 0.2 for a good dye reagent (medium only) and growth control wells, respectively. The ethambutol plate was used to help confirm that a contaminating organism was not present after incubation since mycobacteria are generally susceptible while other genera are resistant.

Cell Cytotoxicity Assay

The Vero cell line (ATCC CCL-81) was obtained from the ATCC (Manassas, VA) to assess compound toxicity. The cell line was cultured in ATCC-formulated Eagle's Minimum Essential Medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 100 IU/mL penicillin and 100 μg/mL Streptomycin and incubated at 37° C, 5% CO₂ and high humidity. Vero cell stocks were frozen in culture media supplemented with 5% DMSO at a density of 6×10^6 cells/mL. For freezing, 2 mL aliquots were dispensed to Nunc vials. For use in the assay, cells were thawed in a 37 °C water bath, mixed in the vial by light vortexing, and diluted with an equal volume of culture media. Cells were then centrifuged, media removed, resuspended in culture media, counted, and diluted to 125,000 cells per mL. Twenty (20) μL of cells were added to all wells of the assay plate containing 5 μL of compounds or controls, which had been preplated. Plates were then incubated for 72 h at 37 °C, with 5% $CO₂$ in a humidified incubator. Cell viability was assessed using CellTiter-Glo reagent (Promega) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Luminescence was recorded using an integration time of 0.1 sec per well. Columns one and two in the assay plates contained media $+0.3\%$ DMSO for a negative control, and columns 23 and 24 contained media in 0.3% DMSO and 100 μM hyamine as a positive control. A stacked-plate dose-response method was used and the final test concentrations for the compounds ranged from 15 μ g/mL to 0.029 μ g/mL in two-fold dilutions with a final DMSO concentration of 0.3%.

Raw Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using IDBS Activity Base. Results of the single-dose screen were expressed as percent inhibition (% Inhibition) which was calculated as: 100*((Median Cell Ctrl – High Dose Ctrl Drug) – (Test well-High Dose Ctrl Drug))/(Median Cell Ctrl – High Dose Ctrl Drug). Any compound with an inhibition of ≥90% was designated to be active (hit) in the single-dose primary screen. The dose-response data was analyzed using a four parameter logistic fit (Excel Fit equation 205) with the maximum and minimum locked at 100 and 0. From these curves, TB IC90 and TB IC50 values were calculated for *M. tuberculosis* and CC₅₀ values calculated for Vero cell cytotoxicity. The Selectivity Index is defined as the CC_{50}/TB IC₉₀.

RESULTS

Assay Validation

The assay for H37Rv22 was miniaturized to 384-well format. Initially, experiments were run in 96- and 384-well formats to ensure that the conversion to 384-well plates yielded similar results. CV% for media only, *M. tuberculosis*, and *M. tuberculosis* plus either 10 μg/ mL ethambutol or 2.5 μg/mL amikacin were <10%. Z-values calculated for either *M. tuberculosis* alone or *M. tuberculosis* plus either 10 μg/mL ethambutol or 2.5 μg/mL amikacin were usually >0.7 and were equivalent in either 96- or 384-well format.

HTS validation of the 384-well format single-dose assay was accomplished by running a 3,000-compound diversity set on two different days and comparing the results of the two runs. For the two 3,000-compound runs the Pearson correlation, a statistical measure of the agreement of the two sets of data, was 0.768.

The first proof-of-concept for the stacked-plate dose-response assay was an experiment in which the compound source plate contained amikacin in each compound well. This experiment resulted in 320 10-point dose-response curves for amikacin, *i.e.* equal to the number of wells reserved for compounds in the 384-well plate format. The IC_{50} value for these 320 dose-response curves was 0.072 ± 0.009 μg/mL. A second HTS validation of the stacked-plate dose-response procedure was performed using the Prestwick Chemical Library of 1,120 compounds on two different days and comparing the results of the two runs. The distribution and reproducibility of the hits for this validation experiment is shown in Fig. 1. In this validation assay, the Prestwick library was run in ten-point dose-response format with concentrations ranging from 20 – 0.04 μg/mL in duplicate. The Minimum Significant Ratio (MSR) for the assay was calculated and is useful in determining if one compound is really more active than another. 166 compounds had IC_{50} values in both runs; from these data the MSR for the assay was calculated as 2.05. This value means that compounds with IC_{50} values between 0.5 and 2.0 are actually equivalent in potency in this assay (a two-fold range centered on an IC $_{50}$ of 1.0). As an internal control, amikacin was added to an empty well for each dose-response experiment during the screening campaign. The MSR for amikacin during the campaign was <2. Both of these MSRs indicate that the H37Rv HTS assay is extremely reproducible. Further validation of the stability of the assay was obtained when amikacin was run over the course of a five month period, giving IC_{50} values of 0.09 ± 0.02 μg/mL.

High Throughput Screening Campaign

The 100,997 compound library was screened in single-dose format against H37Rv at 10 μg/ mL. The screen was successful with Z'-values > 0.7 for all plates (0.85 \pm 0.04; Fig. 2). Compounds with ≥90% inhibition were classified as hits. Based on this criterion, 1,782 compounds were so classified from the screen. The 1,782 hits were cherry-picked from the library and screened in dose-response format. 1,593 compounds confirmed as actives in dose-response, giving a confirmation rate of 90%. A number of issues can contribute to compounds not confirming their activity in the dose response screen including liquid handling problems such as a blocked pipette tip. However, a 90% confirmation rate is quite good for a high throughput campaign. One of the compounds first identified as a hit was determined later to be autofluorescent and therefore excluded from the actives.

A determination of compound cytotoxicity in a mammalian cell line is a useful parameter for determining which compounds to pursue as antitubercular leads, since compounds showing toxicity against mammalian cells would not generally be useful. Hits from the TB screen were tested for cytotoxicity using the Vero cell-based cytotoxicity assay described above. Forty-four (44) compounds had CC_{50} values <7.5 μ g/mL and were considered toxic

to mammalian cells. None of these compounds had a Selectivity Index (SI: CC_{50}/TB IC_{90}) greater than 9.

The 1,549 non-cytotoxic *M. tuberculosis* active compounds can be grouped into three categories based on their SI (Table 1). The highest activity group of 293 agents has an SI ≥10 and contains some extremely potent compounds that completely inhibited *M. tuberculosis* growth at all test concentrations. The medium activity group contains compounds that, despite moderate activity in the *M. tuberculosis* screen, possess an SI that may have been underestimated because the highest test concentration in the cell cytotoxicity assay was 15 μ g/mL; if the actual Vero cell CC₅₀ values could have been determined, the differential between the activity in the bacterial and mammalian cells might have been observed to be greater. The top test concentration was limited to 15 μ g/mL by the DMSO sensitivity of the cells.

DISCUSSION

In an effort to identify specific classes of compounds that show significant antitubercular activity, a structure based clustering analysis was performed on the set of compounds that was considered active with TB IC₉₀ value of less than 10 μ g/mL. The clustering analysis was performed using a hierarchical clustering method as implemented in LeadScope (LeadScope, Inc.) to identify common structural elements among this diverse set of structures. Clusters were separated using the 'Complete Linkage (Furthest Neighbor)' method with a cluster threshold distance of 0.7. Each identified cluster had a common core structure and a group of hits that share that common scaffold. Core structures were then prioritized through an enrichment analysis that compares the frequency of occurrence of a given scaffold in the active compounds set with its occurrence in the entire screening library. The enrichment was computed as the ratio of percentage of compounds containing a given core structure within the active set with percentage of compounds within the entire library of 100,997 compounds. In the following section, we have highlighted the activity profiles of selected high enrichment scaffolds as well as a few other scaffolds of interest, and we also discuss other relevant known biological activities of the chosen scaffolds. The identified scaffolds and clusters of active compounds appear to be novel classes of compounds that display significant antitubercular activity, and these may serve as leads for new antitubercular drug discovery and development.

2-Aminothiazoles

The structure-activity relationship analysis revealed that compounds possessing the 2 amino-4-(2-pyridyl)thiazoles with an aryl or arylalkyl substituent on the amino group at the 2-position represent a particularly interesting scaffold. The entire database of screened compounds contained 18 compounds possessing the substructure **1**. Of these 18 compounds, 15 compounds displayed >90% inhibition of growth of *M. tuberculosis* in the initial singledose screen at 10 μg/mL (Table 2). In dose-response experiments, 13 of these 15 compounds displayed sub μg/mL TB IC90 values against *M. tuberculosis* and two compounds displayed TB IC₉₀ values of 1.87 and 2.27 μ g/mL, respectively. Most of these compounds (12 out of 15) also displayed selectivity ratios >10, indicating that compounds in this class are potent and selective. Most of these compounds, (13 of the 15) possess a substituted phenyl or pyridyl group on the 2-thiazolamine nitrogen. Two compounds, however, possess an arylalkyl substituent such as the 2-phenylethyl and a 3,4-dimethoxy-2-phenylethyl groups on the thiazolamine nitrogen. It appears that there are no literature reports on this class of compounds as antimicrobial agents and thus, the 4-(2-pyridyl)-2-thiazolamines represent a novel class of antituberculosis agents.

The pyridyl substituent at the 4-position of the thiazole ring system, particularly a 2-pyridyl substituent, appears to be a key structural requirement for potent antitubercular activity. Within the evaluated library of compounds, several equivalent pairs of 2-pyridyl and 4 pyridyl isomers are present. A comparison of the activity data on these pairs of compounds reveals that while the 2-pyridyl isomers (**1b–e**) are highly active the corresponding 4-pyridyl isomers are either inactive or weakly active. The 3-pyridyl isomer of **1a** is also present as a member of the evaluated library of compounds. This 3-pyridyl isomer, however, was found to be inactive (0% inhibition) at 10 μg/mL. The deaza analog of **1a** (i.e., 4-phenyl-[2-(6 methyl-2-pyridyl)amino]thiazole) was also found to be only weakly active (22% inhibition at $10 \mu g/mL$).

Substituted Benzopyran-2-ones and Benzopyran-4-ones

Within the active compounds, three identified groups are all derived from a benzopyran core with several different substitution patterns. For two of these groups, the core is actually a 2*H*-1-benzopyran-2-one, commonly known as a coumarin, while for the other group, the core is a 4*H*-1-benzopyran-4-one. Below, each of these compound series is examined in terms of the structure activity relationships that exist, followed by summary comments. In examining the literature, there are very few reports on benzopyran-2-one and benzopyran-4 one moieties being evaluated for anti-tuberculosis activity. A few reports exist on coumarin derivatives that were evaluated against *M. tuberculosis*, including some natural products and analogs of natural products. The natural products calanolide A and B show some anti-TB activity,25,26 and in addition calanolide A shows activity against drug resistant strains of *M. tuberculosis* ($H_{37}Rv$). A series of 4-methylumbelliferone derivatives was prepared that also show anti-TB activity against $H_{37}Rv.27$ Finally, a series of coumarinyl thioureas was prepared with some activity against $H_{37}Rv.28$

In the first of the two coumarin groups, the standard feature present in all of the compounds is a variously substituted acetic acid ester moiety attached through an oxygen to the 7 position of the coumarin core, as shown in the generic structure **2** in Table 3. The esters are variously methyl, ethyl, 2-propyl, cyclohexyl and benzyl groups. The series contains 87 compounds, of which 27 (31%) have a percent inhibition of greater than 90% in the initial assay. Additionally, a total of 50 compounds (57%) have an inhibition greater than 50%. As with the other series, compounds that were at 90% or greater percent inhibition in the initial evaluation were examined in the dose-response assay. The activity of 24 of these compounds was confirmed in the dose-response assay, though potencies varied and a few of them had only very weak activity. The most potent compounds all tended to have substitutions at C-4 along with the C-7 acetic acid moiety, and some in addition have substitutions at C-3, C-6 and/or C-8. Of the 24 compounds, 8 have TB IC_{90} values between 0.2 and 2.0 μg/mL, and another 12 have potencies between 2.0 and 10 μg/mL.

Compounds with good activity within this group contain a variety of different esters, and those with significant activity in the dose response assay are presented in Table 3. It is possible that the esters are cleaved during the assay, and that the compounds are actually prodrugs of the corresponding carboxylic acids. A consideration in that regard, however, is the different cleavage rates of the variety of ester groups in the most active compounds. In some cases the acetic acid moiety has a group attached at the α-carbon. When that group is small, for example methyl, it has little effect on the activity. When the group is phenyl, however, it generally has the property of reducing the activity as compared to hydrogen or methyl as seen with **2l**. Thirteen compounds have the α-phenyl substituent, and all of them have little or no activity.

Most compounds in this group have an alkyl or aryl group at either or both of the C-3 and C-4 positions. Additionally, other compounds have alkyl, aryl or chlorine groups at C-6 and

C-8. Compounds vary from disubstituted up to tetrasubstituted, and activity can be seen in all of these variations. Some examples of various substitution patterns are provided in Table 3.

The compounds in this group have a rather narrow range of structures, but it is clear that there is a strong pattern of activity within the series. The opportunity for extensive SAR research exists using the core structure, and that research could move in many different directions.

The other compound group with a coumarin core structure is embodied by the generic structure **3** (Table 4), which has a distinctive substitution pattern as compared to **2**. This group has only one substitution on the coumarin ring, a carboxamide at C-3. The carboxamide is variously substituted at the nitrogen with a series of different groups, all of which contain a thiophen-2-yl ring substituted with an ester and/or an amide group. The group at R_3 is generally either an ester or an amide, while substitutions at R_4 and/or R_5 are typically alkyl or aryl groups, with one example containing at ester group at R5.

The group is comprised of 25 compounds, of which 7 demonstrate 90% or greater inhibition and a total of 14 compounds show 50% or greater inhibition in the primary assay. In the dose-response assay, 5 of the 7 compounds demonstrated activity, and data on them are presented in Table 4. Of the other two compounds, one compound (**3f**) shows only very weak activity and the other one is inactive in the dose-response assay. Some compounds with no substituent at C-5 of the thiophene ring such as **3h** have reasonable activity in the percent inhibition assay, but were not evaluated for dose response.

Though this group is again very narrowly defined, there is a clear pattern of activity. The potential for useful new SAR is quite high, given that all compounds have only thiophene rings attached to the amide, and that no compounds in this class that have substituents on the coumarin ring were in the library.

The other benzopyran group, comprised of a series of benzopyran-4-ones (**4**, Table 5), has two key features. First, it again has an acetic acid ester moiety attached through an oxygen to the 7-position of the benzopyran-4-one core. The esters again are comprised variously of methyl, ethyl, cyclohexyl, and benzyl, and all are present in compounds that have a >90% inhibition in the initial single dose assay. In some compounds the acetic acid moiety has a methyl group attached to the α carbon, and that attachment has little or no effect on the activity.

The second key feature is an aromatic group attached to C-3 of the benzopyranone ring in one of three ways. The attachment is either directly to C-3, through an oxygen atom to C-3, or through a pyrazole ring and an oxygen atom to C-3. Variously substituted benzenes have been examined and many different substitution patterns have been found to have high inhibition percentages.

Additionally, some of the compounds in this series have small alkyl groups, including methyl, trifluoromethyl, ethyl and butyl, variously at C-2, C-6 and C-8. Compounds are most commonly disubstituted, but are also tri- and tetra-substituted on the benzopyran-4-one ring, and again activity can be seen in all these variations.

The group is comprised of 68 compounds, of which 35 (51%) showed 90% or greater inhibition in the primary assay, and 53 (78%) showed greater than 50% inhibition. Of the compounds examined in the dose-response assay, 6 have TB IC₉₀ value between 0.3-2.0 μ g/ mL, and another 12 have values between 2.0-10 μg/mL (Table 5). Compounds with the highest potency have of course the C-3 and C-7 substitutions noted above, and could also

have almost any of the other substituents. In general, though, an aromatic moiety directly attached to C-3 is more potent than an aryloxy moiety at C-3. Compounds with a 2-CF₃ group have either modest activity or no activity at all, whereas compounds with a 2 -CH₃ group are among the more potent compounds in the group. It should be noted that only two compounds out of the 68 total have C-5 substitutions, one a methyl and one a hydroxyl group, and both exhibit some percent inhibition. The hydroxyl-substituted compound, which produced 94% inhibition, when examined in dose-response demonstrated only weak activity. The structure-activity interpretations in this group need to be examined with care because the data for closely related compounds in some cases shows significant differences in TB IC_{90} values.

This series of compounds is again very narrowly defined, but has a very high percentage of active compounds within it. The potential for extended SAR exists, and could again proceed in many directions.

Oxadiazolylthio, Thiadiazolylthio and Triazolylthio Derivatives

Compounds possessing the thiazole, oxadiazole, and triazole are ring systems, due to their ready synthetic accessiblity, are frequently explored in the search for new antibacterial, antiparasitic, and antifungal agents. Recent literature also contains numerous examples of thiazoles, oxadiazoles, and triazoles being investigated as antimycobacterial agents.29-33 The library of compounds that we evaluated also contained a large number of thioether derivatives of 2-mercapto-1,3,4-oxadiazoles, 2-mercapto-1,3,4-thiadiazoles and 3 mercapto-1,2,4-triazoles. However, only 25 compounds possessing a thioacetic ester or amide function displayed significant activity against *M. tuberculosis*. Of these 25 compounds, 17 compounds that displayed TB IC₉₀ values $<$ 5.0 μ g/mL are listed in Table 6. These results show that compounds belonging to this heterocyclic group are indeed endowed with promising antimycobacterial activity.

Phenoxyalkylimidazoles and Related Compounds

The screening set contains many examples of 1-(ω-phenoxyalkyl)-1-*H*-imidazoles (**6**, Table 7), a number of which possess very good (1-2 μg/mL) antitubercular activity. Though there is at present no evidence regarding mechanism of action, one can speculate from the simple, linear structures of these compounds, along with their potential amphiphilic nature, that membrane disruption is a possibility. Nonetheless, many of them show sufficient selectivity to warrant further investigation. Such compounds have been previously reported to inhibit nitric oxide synthase34 and thromboxane synthetase,35 as well as to possess anticonvulsant36 and metamorphosis-inducing37 activities; we have not found any reports of antimicrobial activities of this class.

There were 88 compounds containing this motif in the library, of which 27 compounds (30.7%) showed \geq 90% inhibition during the single-dose screen, and 40 (45.5%) showing \geq 50% inhibition. Table 7 illustrates the biological data of several examples from the class. As frequently happens during HTS, the SAR analysis is fragmentary because the structural clusters within the screening library were incomplete with respect to substitution pattern. Several trends do emerge from the data, however. For example, without exception among identically substituted aryl groups, potency increases with increasing alkyl chain length (*cf*. **6a**, **6b**, **6c**; **6f**, **6g**, **6h**). Whether this pattern continues beyond a four-carbon chain cannot be definitively determined, since the only example of a five-carbon analog in the screening set (**6r**) is not an exact analog of any shorter chain compound, and there are no examples of a six-carbon chain analog. It is noteworthy that the activity of **6r** drops relative to that of its nearest four-carbon counterparts (*cf*. **6a**, **6q**). The trend of poorer activity with decreasing chain length, though discernable from analysis of exact congeners, is not reflected in the

overall statistics: as the carbon chain length decreases, the overall fraction of those class members with single-dose inhibition $\geq 50\%$ is essentially constant (n=4, 10 out of 22 compounds; n=3, 15 of 35 ; n=2, 14 of 30).

Also noteworthy is the size and variety of permissible aryl substituents. As one example, the *ortho-tert*-butyl substituted compounds form an interesting subclass, containing 15 active agents. Other active compounds contain as their aryloxy component substituted and unsubstituted α- and β-naphthyl groups, and a *para*-benzyloxyphenyl moiety (not depicted). Additional structural modifications that can retain activity include replacement of the oxygen by sulfur (**7**, TB IC90 3.16; Chart 1), substitution of the alkyl chain (**8a** (TB IC⁹⁰ 1.69) vs. **8b** (TB IC₉₀ 5.96)), and substitution of the imidazole (*e.g.*, **9**, TB IC₉₀ 0.96, the most active member of the series). More generally, activity can be retained when the imidazole is replaced with alternative basic moieties ($10a$, TB IC₉₀ 7.09; $10b$, TB IC₉₀ 4.16), though activity trends in this case are less well developed.

8-Hydroxyquinolines

There are over two hundred examples of this class in the screening set with an activity range (TB IC₉₀) of less than 0.1 up to greater than 50 μ g/mL. A small number of the highly active samples show selectivity for growth inhibition against *M. tuberculosis* versus eukaryotic Vero cells of greater than one hundred. Table 8 gives a representative set of ten highly active (TB IC $_{90}$ < 1.0 μ g/mL) and selective examples in this class. This cluster of actives contains 8-OH and 8-OR $(R = \alpha y \log y)$ and alkoxy) substituted quinolines; the acyloxy, ester blocked 8-OH compounds are likely to be labile in vitro and in vivo and should generate the 8-OH forms over time depending on the lability of the ester linkage and ability to act as substrates for non-specific esterases. The alkoxy linkages should be relatively biologically stable. Interestingly, the majority of active examples from the screen are either the free 8-OH or a labile, ester blocked 8-OH that may speak to the issue of metal chelation discussed later.

The 8-hydroxyquinolines are known for their antimicrobial properties, among other activities.38-40 The activity of this class is broadly attributed to the ability of 8 hydroxyquinolines to act as bidentate metal chelators.41-43 This ability can be used to deliver toxic metals to target cells, scavenge essential trace metals within cells, or nonselectively bind within active sites of metal requiring enzymes.41 These activities are all considered to be nonselective, and the 8-hydroxyquinolones are primarily used topically for antimicrobial, anticaries activity.44 Other known drugs that potently bind metals include ethambutol, isonicotinic acid hydrazide, phenytoin, tetracycline, disulfuram, and $_D$ penicillamine,41 suggesting that non-selective metal binding compounds can be appropriately modified to develop better, more selective drugs. While most activities of the class are attributed to metal chelation, substituted 8-hydroxyquinolines are known that potently inhibit brain catechol *O*-methyl transferase, and this inhibition did not appear to relate to metal chelating ability of the analogs.45 Others have attempted to synthesize selective inhibitors of HIF-1 α -prolyl hydroxylase using the chelating function as a scaffold and building block for structure-based selectivity enhancement of enzyme binding.46 This approach has also been used to develop selective inhibitors of the HIV-1 integrase.47 A series of 8-hydroxyquinolines was investigated for its ability to affect cell wall synthesis in *E. coli* via inhibition of MurF, and a pharmacophore model of the scaffold was developed in order to search for analogs lacking the metal chelation properties of the starting scaffold.48 Although the perception exists that these agents are non-selective antibacterial agents for topical use only, the fact that the chelating core has been utilized as a building block to prepare selective enzyme inhibitors and the fact that several compounds (**11a-e**, Table 8) show potent and reasonably selective antitubercular activity suggest that certain of these active compounds may be worth further pursuit in terms of their selective activity and potential mechanism of action.

4-Aminoquinolines

The activity data from the library screen are slightly enriched in moderately active 4 aminoquinolines; ten active compounds resulted from a total set of seventy six analogs. The complete list of active compounds is shown in Table 9 and Figure 3.

A variety of 4-substituted quinolines show antimycobacterial activity. These include mefloquine, 4-quinolone carboxylic acids, and 4-alkylquinolines.49-58 Mefloquine was first reported to show activity against *M. avium*, and genetic approaches were used to identify two potential targets.49 Screening through the TAACF suggested that mefloquine also was active against *M. tuberculosis*, and certain stereoisomers of the parent drug had superior activity.50,51 Chemical modification of the parent drug led to the identification of 4 hydrazone analogs of mefloquine with significant activity.51 Independently, a supplier to the TAACF program has pursued analogs similar to those identified through these screens; several examples showed good antitubercular activity.52-58 Overall, the analogs identified through the current screen are comparable in activity to previously reported antimycobacterial quinolines. It is notable that chloroquine, an antimalarial quinoline that is similar in structure to these and reported active quinolines, is a known inhibitor of autophagy.59 Autophagy appears to play an important role in macrophage processing of intracellular tubercle bacilli as part of their response to clear organisms that evade lysosomal processing.60 As such, it may be important to determine the effect of any similar quinolone on autophagy as part of assessing the role that these quinolines might play in antitubercular treatment.

2,4-Diaminoquinazolines

The activity data from the library screen are slightly enriched in moderately active 2,4 diaminoquinazolines of two basic, and similar, types – see Tables 10 and 11 for active samples.

Substituted quinazolines are reported to show a variety of antibacterial activities including antimycobacterial activity. The general scaffold includes quinazoline analogs of the fluoroquinolone DNA gyrase inhibitors.61,62 Substituted 3-hydroxyquinazoline-2,4-diones also show good antibacterial activity.63 Derivatives of 2-aryl-3-aminoquinazoline-4(3H) ones show good antibacterial and antitubercular activity.64-67 There are reports of quinazolines that are similar to the hits found in our screen (see Figure 4, structure **18**68 **19,**69 and **20**70).

There is no indication from the literature reports as to a potential target for these compounds, and the small number of actives in each set impacts the ability to define a structure –activity profile. The good activity, however, of these drug-like small molecule scaffolds suggests that further work to identify a mode of action and prepare analogs to develop a clear SAR would be worthwhile.

Thieno[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-amines

In the library of compounds evaluated, there were 303 compounds possessing the thieno[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-4-amine core structure **21**. Of these 303 compounds, only 15 displayed >90% inhibition of growth of *M. tuberculosis* in the single-dose assay at 10 μg/ mL. In dose-response experiments, only one compound (**22a**) displayed activity with TB IC90 value of 4.6 μg/mL and two other compounds (**22b** and **22c**) were weakly active with TB IC90 values of 24 μg/mL and 28 μg/mL, respectively (Table 12).

Thieno[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-ones

In the library of compounds evaluated, there were a large number of compounds possessing the 4-oxothienopyrimidine core structure **23**. Of the 1,043 compounds possessing this core structure, only a small set of eight compounds emerged as active or moderately active against *M. tuberculosis*. Structurally, all of these contained an α-methylacetic acid ester as the alkyl substituent on the pyrimidinone nitrogen at the 3-position. There were a total of 46 compounds possessing this substructure in the library. Of these, nine compound displayed >90% inhibition of growth of *M. tuberculosis* in the single-dose assay at 10 μg/mL. Of the nine, eight compounds displayed confirmatory activity in the dose-response experiments. Six of these eight compounds displayed TB IC₉₀ values in the range of 1.0–6.6 μ g/mL while the two other analogs displayed weak activity with TB IC₉₀ values of 12.4 μ g/mL and 12.7 μg/mL, respectively (Table 13). From the available data set it is difficult to arrive at any firm SAR conclusions regarding the effect of substituents (alkyl or aryl) on the thiophene ring or of the ester substituents (alky or benzyl) on the activity of this group of compounds.

Benzothiophene 1,1-dioxides, Dihydrothiophene 1,1-dioxides and Related compounds

In the library of compounds evaluated, there was a relatively small group of compounds possessing the benzo(*b*)thiophene 1,1-dioxide structure. Of the 14 compounds, one compound contained a pyrrolidine as the substituent at the 3-position, four compounds contained a chlorine or bromine, two compounds contained an aryl ether function and the remaining seven compounds contained a thioether function. Of these 14 compounds, only five compounds, all possessing a heteroarylthio group at the 3-position displayed potent (>90%) inhibition of growth of *M. tuberculosis* in the single-dose assay at 10 μg/mL. Three of these compounds (**24a–c**) emerged as potent inhibitors in the dose-response experiment (Table 14). The 5-(4-methylphenyl) analog **24d**, however, was found to display only weak activity with an IC_{50} value of 16.4 μ g/mL.

In the library of compounds evaluated, there were forty 3-substituted-2,3 dihydrothiophene-1,1-dioxides possessing the generic structure **25**. None of these 40 compounds, however, displayed any significant inhibitory activity in the single-dose experiment at 10 μg/mL. Interestingly, there were three bicyclic dihydrothienoisoxazole 4,4 dioxides **26a–c** in the library all of which displayed potent (>99%) inhibition of the growth of *M. tuberculosis* in the single-dose assay at 10 μg/mL. In dose-response experiments, these three compounds displayed activity with IC_{50} values of 1.4, 3.4, and 12.0 μ g/mL, respectively (Table 15).

Pyrazolopyrimidinones

Of the 24 compounds in this cluster, 6 had percent inhibitions of greater than 90% in the single dose assay at 10 μg/mL. As shown in Table 16, there were two single dose active compounds (**27a** and **27b**) with percent inhibitions of 99. The percent inhibitions of the other single dose assay actives ranged from 98 to 92. When five of these single dose assay actives were further tested in the dose response assay, compound **27b** was found to be the most active, with TB IC90 of 0.4 μg/mL and an SI of 37. Compounds **27f**, **27d**, and **27c** were marginally active, while **27a** was essentially inactive.

A search of the literature for biological activity for 3-phenylpyrazolo[1,5 a]pyrimidin-7(4H)-ones showed that related compounds inhibit xanthine oxidase and that similar compounds act as antischistosomals. No reported antibacterial or antitubercular activity was found.

1,4-Naphthoquinones

A small cluster of 1,4-naphthoquinones that was highly enriched in moderately active samples resulted from the library screen. The complete set is represented in Table 17. Such a small set does not allow development of a clear SAR, but some substitution is tolerated at both R groups. A large biphenyl (**28d**), however, does not appear to be tolerated. Other samples in this class are available commercially, and they should be investigated in order to further probe SAR.

The 1,4-naphthoquinone scaffold is represented in numerous natural products that are known for a variety of activities including antiparasitic, anticancer, antibacterial and antifungal.71 The natural product, 7-methyljugalone, a substituted 1,4-naphthoquinone, shows activity against *M. tuberculosis*, and it may act as a subversive substrate for mycothiol disulfide reductase.72 The combination of 7-methyljugalone with other antitubercular agents suggests synergistic activity, and thus active naphthoquinones may fit well into current antitubercular regimens.73

Numerous synthetic analogs have been prepared to investigate the various medicinal activities of 1,4-naphthoquinones.74 Among the synthetic agents, atovaquone is a clinically used drug for the treatment of *Plasmodium falciparum*.75 Atovaquone (see Figure 5), a substituted 2-hydroxy naphthoquinone, is considered an analog of ubiquinone (Figure 5, coenzyme $Q - CoQ$), a critical component of the respiratory chain and synthesis of ATP.76 The cidal activity of this drug is thought to involve the competitive and irreversible inhibition of cytochrome b in the $bc₁$ complex within the inner mitochondrial membrane.77 CoQ moves electrons from complex I and complex II to complex III, and inhibition of this process disrupts electron transport in the mitochondrial membrane, thereby altering the transmembrane proton gradient, oxidative phophorylation, and ATP synthesis. As such, atovaquone alters fundamental energy production in the malaria parasite. It is used to treat other eukaryotic pathogens as well. Many of these functions are recapitulated in bacteria including *M. tuberculosis*, distant relatives of eukaryotic mitochondria, although menaquinone (Figure 5) is the primary electron carrier.78 ATP synthesis in *M. tuberculosis* is considered a new target that is receiving considerable attention in the research community.79 Although speculative at this point, the structural similarity of these active naphthoquinones with menaquinone and atovaquone, as well as the known role of atovaquone in inhibiting the parasitic respiratory chain, suggest a hypothetical target in *M. tuberculosis* that might be explored further. Atovaquone had modest activity against *M. tuberculosis* in support of this hypothesis.80 It is notable that structure **28d** in Table 17 is comparable to atovaquone (biphenyl versus trans-cyclohexylphenyl) suggesting that, while large steric groups may be tolerated at this position of the naphthoquinone, a specific orientation of the moiety appears to be favored.

Piperidinamines

Of the 14 compounds in this group, 4 had percent inhibitions of greater than 90%, ranging from 92% to 100% in our single dose assay at 10 μg/mL (Table 18). Only one other had a percent inhibition of greater than 50% ; R = 2-pyridylmethyl, percent inhibition = 82%. All of these actives were 1-N-arylmethyl substituted compounds, and the most active compound of these in the single dose assay was compound **29a**, which showed a percent inhibition of 100%. When the four single dose assay actives were further tested in the dose-response assay, the most active was found to be **29d** with TB IC₉₀ of 1.6 μ g/mL and a selectivity index of 9.6. There do not appear to be any literature reports relating to antibacterial activity of this general structure.

Thioamides, Ureas and Thioureas

The discussion of these classes is being combined due to similarities in structures and the likely required activation of thione-containing compounds for antitubercular activity. It must be clearly stated, however, that the unified discussion does not imply similar targets or modes of action. The first set of three samples in Table 19 (**30a-c**) are closely related to the known, second line antitubercular drug, ethionamide (2-ethylthioisonicotinamide).81-83 Interestingly, ethionamide is relatively inactive (TB $IC_{90} > 100 \mu g/mL$) in the TAACF screens, and the increased activity of two of these analogs may be due to higher lipophilicity and/or an alternative mechanism of action. It is highly likely that these analogs are prodrugs of an activated form of the compounds as is the case with ethionamide.84-86 Thioamidecontaining tuberculosis drugs are known to be activated within *M. tuberculosis*, and drug resistant strains are available that lack these activation mechanisms.87-89 The activity of these samples (**30a-b**) may warrant investigation as alternative ethionamide drugs, although they should be screened versus ethionamide-resistant *M. tuberculosis* strains.

There are approximately fifty examples of ureas that were screened in the overall library and activity (TB IC₉₀) ranged from less than 0.10 to greater than 50 μ g/mL; 35 of these samples gave TB IC₉₀ of less than 10 μ g/mL. Overall, this set of compounds is highly enriched in active analogs, and several of the compounds appear to be relatively nontoxic as indicated by the selectivity index. Table 19 gives a representative set of six highly active (TB IC_{90} < 0.5 μg/mL) and selective examples in this class (**31a-f**). As a broad class, the substituted ureas were reported to have antibacterial,87-89 and, specifically, antimycobacterial activity. 90 Targets have been suggested, but the exact mechanism of action is currently unclear. Among these mechanisms, the potential to target the bacterial enzyme inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH) is an area that is actively being pursued.91 Although a purely speculative connection, substituted ureas are known to compete into ATP binding sites of human kinases,92-94 and bacterial signaling kinases and ATP binding proteins are receiving increased attention as new drug targets against tuberculosis.95-98

As a class, the thioureas have been known for some time to have antitubercular activity.99 For example, isoxyl (4,4′-diisoamyloxydiphenylthiourea), is an approved antitubercular drug in Europe. A variety of analogs were reported, and a mechanism of action that includes proactivation of the thione group has been discussed.100-102 It is notable that thiourea analogs act as histamine receptor antagonists,103 and antihistamines have antitubercular activity (see Prestwick Library screening data at [www.taacf.org\)](http://www.taacf.org).104 The current screening set includes fifty seven thiourea analogs ranging in activity (TB IC_{90}) of less than 0.4 to greater than 50 μg/mL – see Table 19 for examples (**32a-f**). Approximately 35 have TB IC⁹⁰ of less than or equal to 10 μg/mL. Several compounds from this set show comparable activity relative to isoxyl and reported analogs.

The current screening data contains a large number of acylthioureas (seventy eight samples), and fifty of these samples show activity in the range of greater than 0.10 to 10 μg/mL. Twenty-three of these relatively active samples give selectivity indices of less than or equal to ten, suggesting that the class may be a rich source for new active drugs. Table 19 gives a representative set of active acylthioureas (**33a-f**). On the other hand, it is highly likely that the thione group may undergo further modification to an active intermediate within the tubercle bacillus as do other thione containing antitubercular drugs, and a profile of these active compounds against drug resistant strains (isoniazid, ethionamide, isoxyl, and thiacetazone) should be assessed. As a class, the acylthioureas show a variety of activities, 105-107 but there are no reports regarding antibacterial, especially antitubercular, activity.

Adamantyl Amides and Amines

A small group of 1-adamantyl amines and amides, 1-exo-norbornyl amides, and corresponding urea (see earlier section) analogs show good to potent antitubercular activity. Table 20 lists a representative set of these analogs (**34a-e**). Over 200 examples of this class are in the screening set with an activity range (TB IC_{90}) of less than 0.1 up to greater than 50 μg/mL. A small number of the highly active samples show selectivity for growth inhibition against *M. tuberculosis* versus eukaryotic Vero cells of greater than 100. Table 20 gives a representative set of ten highly active (TB IC_{90} < 1.0 μ g/mL) and selective examples in this class.

Other related actives are exemplified by **36** and **37** shown in Chart 2.

Adamantane-containing antiviral drugs have been known for some time.108,109 More recently, the adamantyl moiety has been used as a large, spherically symmetrical and hydrophobic group to occupy appropriate lipid-requiring drug binding sites. These include multidrug resistant transporters,110 11-ß-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase,111 human isoprenylcysteine carboxyl methyltransferase,112 epoxide hydrolase,113 and lysosomal glucocerbrosidase.114 Adamantyl analogs have been shown to bind in substrate binding sites in ATPases and kinases such as sphingosine kinase.115-116 Furthermore, adamantylsubstituted aglycones of vancomycin and quinoline carboxamides show antibacterial and antimycobacterial activity.117-118 It is not clear at this time, however, just how the adamantyl-containing actives reported herein are acting. The similarity of the actives in Table 20 with reported adamantyl-containing sphingosine kinase inhibitors is intriguing as lipid kinases may play an important role in the life cycle and pathogenesis of *M. tuberculosis*.119

The diaryl amides (**35a-j**) are in many respects similar to the adamantyl amides and diaryl ureas previously discussed. These are relatively simple to more complex structures, and examples of the class are presented in Table 20. These types of compounds show various activities that include antiviral, anticancer and analgesic activity.109,120,121 As well, similar structures have been reported to inhibit the enoyl acyl carrier protein InhA in *M. tuberculosis*.122,123 As with many of the other actives seen in these phenotypic, whole cell assays, it is not clear by what mechanism they are acting, but the potent antitubercular activity in combination with the relatively low toxicity would suggest that these analogs may be worthy of further pursuit as leads for antitubercular drug discovery.

5-Nitrofuran-2-carboxamides

Lee first reported on a series of 5-nitrofuran-2-carboxamides as antitubercular agents.124 A recent review125 of the data showed that aromatic amides were more potent than aliphatic amides, a phenyl ring was favored over a heteroaromatic ring, the nitro functionality was required, and secondary amides were favored over tertiary amides. Secondary aminesubstituted amides were also examined by Lee to allow for salt formation to increase solubility and absorption.

Of a total 52 nitrofuranyl compounds in the library 30 were nitrofuranylamides and among these 16 were found active (90% or greater inhibition in the primary screen). The MIC for these 16 active compounds ranged from < 0.1 to 12.4 μ g/mL and SI values ranged from 0.37 to > 150. The active compounds are listed in Table 21.

Data on additional nitrofurans will be submitted to PubChem, however, two other potent compounds of interest with SI values of 10 or greater are as **39** and **40**.

Miscellaneous compounds

One group of structurally interesting leads from the non-clustered active compounds is the 2-benzamido-3,4-diphenyloxazoles such as **41** and **42.** Excellent activities were seen for these compounds (TB IC₉₀ values of <0.1 and 0.21 μ g/mL and SIs of 150 and 72, respectively). Interestingly, the structurally similar 2-thio-substituted **43** was essentially inactive (TB IC₉₀ of 13.8 μ g/mL), suggesting that the benzamide (and especially one with an electron withdrawing substituent) is important for the activity of this group.

Purines that are substituted by various groups at the 2, 6, and 9-positions have been identified through past TAACF screening.1,126-128 Notably, a single, similar purine analog (44) was present in the ChemBridge library and showed significant activity (MIC $< 0.1 \mu g$ / mL) and selectivity (SI > 150) against *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv. Currently, a mechanism of action for these types of inhibitors is unknown, although potential targets have been proposed.126,127

Conclusions

The discovery of new lead compounds active against *M. tuberculosis* is only the initial step in the development of a new antitubercular drug. Analysis of cytotoxicity is a rudimentary measure of potential toxicity, but can serve to prioritize compounds for further study. Additional *in vitro* evaluations that would provide useful information are 1) the evaluation of activity against other non-mycobacterial bacterial pathogens for identification of TBspecific drugs; 2) evaluation of bactericidal activity; 3) testing on strains with target-specific reporter such as the *iniBAC* promoter fusion that responds to cell wall inhibitors;123 4) evaluation of activity against non-replicating bacteria adapted to low oxygen;129 5) classification based on gene expression studies using microarrays; 6) testing against purified enzyme targets, for example see 130-137 (also see the www.taacf.org for additional enzyme targets amenable to screening); and 7) bioinformatic analysis for target identification and development of predictive algorithms for drug engineering. Additional *in vivo* evaluations that could be used to rapidly evaluate compounds include: 1) efficacy in the γ-interferon knockout mice;138 and 2) rapid pharmacological analysis in mice.21 Hopefully medicinal chemistry programs centered on one or more of the scaffolds identified will lead to the development of new antitubercular drugs.

Over the last decade several new TB-focused research entities and product development partnerships have evolved with the goal of contributing new candidate tuberculosis drugs to the antimicrobial armamentarium. Among these are the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development (TB Alliance), the Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases, New Medicines for Tuberculosis, Institute for Tuberculosis Research, Astrazeneca India, Sequella, Inc., the Lilly TB Drug Discovery Initiative, GSK's Diseases of the Developing World Drug Discovery Center, the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Tuberculosis Trials Consortium, and the Vertex Global TB Research Network. For the first time in over 40 years, new chemical entities for TB are in human clinical trials cosponsored by large pharmaceutical companies or partnerships involving Bayer, Otsuka, Lupin, Sanofi-Aventis, and Tibotec. However, the existing pipeline is not sufficient to ensure the success and approval of 1-3 new drugs for TB. Investigators in these enterprises and at universities and research foundations engaged in TB drug discovery research throughout the world are likely to find the data described here and in the complete dataset of positive and negative results useful to identify new leads or metabolic probes for chemical biology initiatives. Phenotypic screening campaigns using commercially available compounds may contribute to new research avenues for medicinal chemistry exploration. It is the authors' hope that screening centers throughout the world may join forces in sharing

experiences and making more results publicly available to further accelerate development of new medicines to shorten therapy for TB and to treat resistant forms of this deadly disease.

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TB RV PW DR Potency Ratio vs. Geometric Mean Plot

Figure 2.

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Figure 3.

Figure 4.

Figure 5.

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10a, R₁=R₃=Cl, R₂=H, Base=n-butylamino
10b, R₁=R₂=CH₃, R₃=Cl, Base=3-methylpiperidin-1-yl

Figure 6.

phodolo

Figure 7.

Table 1

Distribution of 1,549 Non-Cytotoxic *M. tuberculosis* Actives

Activity Category	TB IC ₉₀ $(\mu g/ml)$ H37Rv	CC_{50} (µg/ml) Vero	SІ (CC ₅₀ /IC ₉₀)	Number of Compounds
High	$< 0.1 - 1.6$	$8 - 15$	$10 - 150$	293
Medium	$0.9 - 10.3$	$7.5 - 15$	$1.5 - 9.4$	787
Low.	$6.3 - 50$	$7.8 - 15$	$0.2 - 1.4$	469

Table 2

Antitubercular activities of representative thiazolamines

Table 3

Antitubercular Activities of Substituted Benzopyran-2-ones

Antitubercular Activities of Substituted Benzopyran-2-ones

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 $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|}\hline \times & \times \\\hline \end{array}$

58% Inhibition in our initial single dose assay, not evaluated in the dose response assay. 58% Inhibition in our initial single dose assay, not evaluated in the dose response assay.

Table 4

3-carboxamides Antitubercular Activity of Certain Benzopyran-2-one-3-carboxamides -one- $\mathbf{\hat{c}}$ Antitubercular Activity of Certain Benzonyran-

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Table 6

Antitubercular activities of Oxadiazolylthio, Thiadiazolylthio and Triazolylthio Derivatives Antitubercular activities of Oxadiazolylthio, Thiadiazolylthio and Triazolylthio Derivatives

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Table 9

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Table 11

Antitubercular Activities of 2,4-Diaminoquinazolines

Table 12

Antitubercular activities of representative thienopyrimidinamines

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Table 13

Table 14

Antitubercular activities of representative benzothiophene 1,1-dioxides

Table 15

Antitubercular activities of representative thienoisoxazole 4,4-dioxides

Table 16

Antitubercular activities of 3-Phenylpyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7(4H)-ones *α*]pyrimidin-7(4H)-ones Antitubercular activities of 3-Phenylpyrazolo[1,5-

ND = not determined.

Table 17

Antitubercular Activities of 1,4-Naphthoquinones

Table 18

Antitubercular activities of 1-N-Aryl-4-N-(2-phenylethyl)-N-(phenylmethyl)-piperidinamines

Table 19

Antitubercular Activities of Various Thioamides, Ureas and Thioureas

Table 20

Antitubercular Activities of Various 1-Adamantyl Amides

 $1-Ad = 1$ -adamantyl

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5-Nitrofuran-2-carboxamides

