Small Molecule Highlights



Snapshots from Recent Literature in Target-oriented Drug Design



Target: Relaxin family peptide receptor 1 (RXFP1)

Indication: Heart failure

Inhibitor design: SAR optimization from known small molecule agonist. Activity: cAMP pEC50 = 9.4 (cellular); RXFP1 selectivity >5000-fold (Eurofins selectivity panel)

ADME/PK: CLHep(mL/min/106 cells) = 23 in rat; F(%) = 11 in rat; TI/2(h) = 2.9 in rat. In vivo: Increased heart rate and mean blood pressure in anesthetized rats (1.5 + 9 mg/kg, i.v.).

J. Med. Chem.

AstraZeneca and the Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma , Sweden/Japan



CURE-PRO 55+63 (Oncology)

Target: Bromodomain-containing protein 4 (BRD4)

Indication: Oncology

Inhibitor design: Combinatorial screening.

Activity: BRD4 EC50 = 358 nM (cellular); Real-time kinetic degradation observed in HiBiT-BRD4 KI HEK293 (LgBiT) cells.

ADME/PK: Microsome stability Tl/2 >60 min/29 min for 63/55 in mouse liver microsomes; TI/2 >60 for 63 & 55 in human liver microsomes; In vivo TI/2 = 6.3 h for 63 & 55 (mouse, 10 mg/kg, i.p.), Tmax = 0.5 h for 63 & 55 (mouse, 10 mg/kg, i.p.), AUClast = 2340/1890 h*ng/mL for 55/63, respectively.

In vivo: BRD4 degradation was demonstrated in an MV4-11 mouse xenograft model. Time-course results were in line with in vitro results.

J. Med. Chem. Cornell University, USA



РКа

Compound 20 (Cardiovascular)

Target: Plasma kallikrein (PKa)

Indication: Hereditary angioedema (HAE)

Inhibitor design: Structure-based drug design and SAR. Activity: PKa IC50 = 66/6.9/0.3/0.07 nM @ 1/10/60/1440 min (biochemical); Selectivity >1000-fold against FXIa, thrombin, trypsin, and Plasmin (biochemical); No dissociation observed in a jump dilution assay (biochemical).

Med. Chem. Lett

KalVista Pharmaceuticals and the University of Nottingham , USA



RXFP1 AZD5462 (Heart)

Target: Relaxin family peptide receptor 1 (RXFP1) Indication: Heart failure

Inhibitor design: SAR, lead optimization.

Activity: cAMP pEC50 = 7.8 (cellular); cGMP pEC50 = 7.3 (cellular); ERK pEC50 = 8.2 (cellular).

ADME/PK: CLHep(mL/min/106 cells) = 11 in rat; F(%) = 47 in rat; T1/2(h) = 4.6 in rat. In vivo: Increased heart rate and mean blood pressure in anesthetized rats (11 + 45 mg/kg, i.v.). Sustained increase in left ventricle ejection fraction in a monkey model of heart failure (1 mg/kg, s.c., b.i.d.; 10 mg/kg, s.c., b.i.d.)

J. Med. Chem.

AstraZeneca and the Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma , Sweden/Japan





Target: Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 2B (eIF2B) Indication: Vanishing white matter (VWM) disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

Inhibitor design: Structure-based drug design, HTS screening, and SAR.

Activity: ATF4 IC50 = 9.8 nM (cellular); stress granule IC50 = 13 nM (cellular). ADME/PK: F(%) = 65/>99/>99 in rat/dog/monkey; In vivo T1/2(h)= 12.5/7.4/7.6 in rat/dog/monkey; Bu/Pu Ratio = 0.8/0.9 in rat/monkey.

In vivo: Observed decrease in ISR transcript markers in the brain 4-7 hours post after last dose in Eif2b5 R191H homozygous mice (50 mg/kg, q.d., 2-day study)

J. Med. Chem. Denali Therapeutics, USA

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