

## Anticancer evaluation of novel 1,3,4-trisubstituted pyrazole candidates bearing different nitrogenous heterocyclic Moieties.

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### Abstract

With the goal of developing novel and potent anticancer therapies, a new set of 1,3,4-trisubstituted pyrazole derivatives linked to different heteroaryl systems at C-4 position were prepared and estimated for their anticancer effects at NCI, USA employing a two stage procedure using 60 various human tumor cell lines. Anticancer evaluation disclosed that, compound 4c displayed super fat potency towards most human tumor cell lines with GI50 (0.52-5.15  $\mu$ M), particularly against colon SW-620 cell line with GI50 (0.52  $\mu$ M). At the same time, 4c was also selective against A498 and RXF 393 cell lines of renal cancer with GI50 0.58 and 0.86  $\mu$ M respectively.

**Keywords:** Anticancer evaluation, 1,3,4-trisubstituted pyrazoles, Synthesis.

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### Introduction

Cancer is a main health issue expressible as a leading reason of doom [1] and the current therapies for cancers handling are unsatisfactory due to the comparatively significant side effects [2]. So, the development of new anticancer therapies with higher specificity and depress poisoning is of great interest [3]. In deal for best antitumor therapy, great sets of pyrazoles were obtained and screened from long years. The pyrazole scaffold performs a substantial class in many pharmaceutical active compounds and estimated in Phase I considerations as an antitumor factor in human being. Even in daily reduced dosages it demonstrated likewise venomous for human employ because of evolution of signals of hepato-toxicity [4]. In trying to defeat this passive signs, an integration of pyrazole rings with several heteroaryl systems was notified to display considerable anticancer properties [5-10]. Furthermore, literature scanning disclosed that several pyrazole compounds have been performed as antiproliferative, antitumor and antileukemic. Also, these products are eligible to extend marked anti-cancer properties through suppression of various kinds of enzymes and proteins which afford crucial functions in cell segmentation [11]. In addition, substituted pyrazoles are also examined for their antiproliferative properties in vitro and antitumor action in vivo, with hopeful command compounds [12-14]. In the same direction, and as a part of our outstanding research agenda in developing new cytotoxic products [15-17], we prepared novel polysubstituted pyrazole compounds

bearing various nitrogenous heterocyclic rings and their anticancer activities were estimated.

### Experimental

Melting degrees were established using open capillary tubes with Griffin device and are uncorrected. Elemental microanalyses were set in the agreeable ends of the elaborated rates. IR spectra ( $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) using KBr discs were listed by Shimadzu 435 IR Spectrophotometer. NMR spectra (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$ , ppm) were measured using Varian Gemini 500 MHz and Bruker 500 MHz Spectrophotometer with (TMS) as interior criterion device. Mass Spectra (EI, 70 eV) were recorded on Hewlett Packard 5988 device. TLC-analysis was carried out on silica gel aluminum slabs, 60 F254 for reactions progress.

#### **2-((1-(*m*-Chlorophenyl)-3-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methylene)malononitrile (2)**

A mix of pyrazole-4-carboxaldehyde 1 (0.01 mol), malononitrile (0.01 mol) and drops of piperidine in ethanol (40 mL) was heated at 70°C for 1 h and then poured onto water. The resulting solid precipitate was filtered and purified from EtOH to give compound 2 in 86% yield, mp 140-143°C; IR,  $\nu$ : 3133 (CH-Ar), 2224 (2C $\equiv$ N); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR:  $\delta$  3.88 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.08-8.14 (m, 9H, ArH + CH), 9.23 (s, 1H, CH); MS: m/z (%): 362 (3.45), 360 (9.29), 80 (100); Anal. Calcd for

$C_{20}H_{13}ClN_4O$ : C, 66.58; H, 3.63; N, 15.53; Found: C, 66.61; H, 3.59; N, 15.55.

**1,6-Diamino-4-[1-(*m*-chlorophenyl)-3-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl]-2-oxopyridine-3,5-dicarbonitrile (3)**

A mix of freshly prepared 2-cyanohydrazide (0.02 mol) and compound 2 (0.01 mol) in ethyl alcohol containing piperidine (25 mL) was refluxed for 1 h. The precipitate formed was collected, filtered, washed with ethanol and purified from MeOH to give compound 3 in 75% yield, mp 263-265 °C; IR,  $\nu$ : 3133 (CH-Ar), 3391, 3276 (2NH<sub>2</sub>), 2210 (2C≡N), 1750 (CO); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR:  $\delta$  3.80 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.68 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub> commutable), 7.01-8.08 (m, 8H, ArH), 8.49 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub> commutable), 9.06 (s, 1H, CH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR:  $\delta$  55.08, 75.61, 114.17, 115.33, 116.26, 116.79, 118.00, 124.12, 126.67, 128.28, 129.84, 131.55, 134.28, 139.99, 149.91, 151.74, 156.62, 159.25, 159.62, 168.00; MS: *m/z* (%): 459 (37.99), 457 (100); Anal. Calcd for  $C_{23}H_{16}ClN_7O_2$  (457.5): C, 60.33; H, 3.52; N, 21.41; Found: C, 60.37; H, 3.48; N, 21.36.

**7-(1-(*m*-Chlorophenyl)-3-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)-2-substituted-5-oxo-triazolo- [1,5-*a*]pyridine-6,8-dicarbonitriles (4a-e)**

An equimolar mix of 3 (0.01 mol) and various aldehydic compounds namely, 5-methylfuran-2-carboxaldehyde, benzaldehyde, 4-tolylaldehyde, 4-dimethylamino benzaldehyde or 4-methoxybenzaldehyde (0.01 mol) in absolute ethyl alcohol containing piperidine (50 mL) were refluxed for 6-8 h. the solid formed was filtered off, dried and purified from AcOH to give compounds 4a-e.

**7-(1-(*m*-Chlorophenyl)-3-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)-2-(5-methyl furan-2-yl)-5-oxo-triazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-6,8-dicarbonitrile (4a)**

Yield 69%; mp 205-207°C; IR,  $\nu$ : 3424, 3305 (2 NH), 2215 (2C≡N), 1667 (CO); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR:  $\delta$  2.49 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.81 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.50 (d, 1H, CH), 6.95-8.10 (m, 10H, ArH), 8.40 (br, 2H, 2NH, commutable), 9.10 (s, 1H, CH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR:  $\delta$  13.74, 55.09, 78.22, 85.43, 109.94, 114.20, 116.78, 117.20, 117.99, 120.95, 123.86, 124.22, 126.65, 127.62, 128.29, 129.85, 131.52, 134.21, 141.45, 150.36, 155.48, 159.34, 161.67, 173.00; MS: *m/z* (%): 551 (1.98), 549 (3.77), 53 (100); Anal. Calcd for  $C_{29}H_{20}ClN_7O_3$  (549.5): C, 63.33; H, 3.67; N, 17.83; Found: C, 63.60; H, 3.28; N, 17.83.

**7-(1-(*m*-Chlorophenyl)-3-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)-5-oxo-2-phenyltriazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-6,8-dicarbonitrile (4b)**

Yield 65%; mp 246-248°C; IR,  $\nu$ : 3418, 3366 (2 NH), 2216 (2C≡N), 1674 (CO); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR:  $\delta$  3.81 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.02 (d, 1H, CH), 7.49-8.12 (m, 13H, ArH), 8.52 (br, 2H, 2NH, commutable), 9.09 (s, 1H, CH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR:  $\delta$  55.08, 75.89, 88.50, 114.28, 115.13, 116.13, 116.87, 118.07, 124.04, 126.72,

128.40, 128.89, 129.23, 129.86, 131.57, 131.78, 133.35, 134.28, 139.99, 149.98, 151.99, 154.03, 156.30, 159.63, 172.83; MS: *m/z* (%): 547 (1.94), 545 (4.89), 103 (100); Anal. Calcd for  $C_{30}H_{20}ClN_7O_2$ : C, 66.00; H, 3.69; N, 17.96; Found: C, 66.27; H, 3.40; N, 18.09.

**7-(1-(*m*-Chlorophenyl)-3-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)-5-oxo-2-*p*-tolyltriazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-6,8-dicarbonitrile (4c)**

Yield 63%; mp 242-244 °C; IR,  $\nu$ : 3417, 3361 (2 NH), 2215 (2C≡N), 1674 (CO)  $cm^{-1}$ ; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR:  $\delta$  2.43 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.81 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.03 (d, 1H, CH), 7.39-8.11 (m, 12H, ArH), 8.49 (br, 2H, 2NH, commutable), 9.09 (s, 1H, CH) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C-NMR:  $\delta$  21.34, 55.15, 75.86, 88.52, 114.28, 115.04, 116.15, 116.79, 118.06, 124.05, 126.8, 127.02, 128.39, 129.27, 129.90, 131.57, 134.28, 139.99, 143.81, 149.97, 151.90, 153.08, 154.03, 156.37, 159.62, 172.62 ppm; MS: *m/z* (%): 561 (0.63), 559 (9.89), 444 (22.97), 442 (100); Anal. Calcd for  $C_{31}H_{22}ClN_7O_2$ : C, 66.49; H, 3.96; N, 17.51; Found: C, 66.68; H, 3.66; N, 17.64.

**7-(1-(*m*-Chlorophenyl)-3-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)-2-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)- 5-oxo-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-6,8-dicarbonitrile (4d)**

Yield 66%; mp 272-274°C; IR,  $\nu$ : 3356, 3273 (2 NH), 2216 (2C≡N), 1669 (CO); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR:  $\delta$  3.06 (s, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.81 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.83 (d, 1H, CH), 7.03- 8.11 (m, 12H, ArH), 8.37 (br, 2H, 2NH, commutable), 9.08 (s, 1H, CH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR:  $\delta$  39.54, 55.14, 75.73, 88.56, 111.22, 114.28, 115.13, 116.27, 116.83, 118.04, 118.47, 124.07, 126.68, 128.35, 129.85, 131.56, 131.68, 134.27, 140.00, 149.94, 152.00, 153.57, 154.04, 156.72, 159.61, 171.85; Anal. Calcd for  $C_{32}H_{25}ClN_8O_2$ : C, 65.25; H, 4.28; N, 19.02; Found: C, 65.51; H, 4.01; N, 19.12.

**7-(1-(*m*-Chlorophenyl)-3-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-oxo-triazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-6,8-dicarbonitrile (4e)**

Yield 62%; mp 244-246 °C; IR,  $\nu$ : 3429, 3304 (2 NH), 2216 (2C≡N), 1673 (CO); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR:  $\delta$  3.81, 3.88 (2s, 6H, 2 OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.03 (d, 1H, CH), 7.14-8.11 (m, 12H, ArH), 8.47 (br, 2H, 2NH, commutable), 9.09 (s, 1H, CH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR:  $\delta$  55.15, 55.66, 75.83, 88.50, 114.29, 114.38, 115.07, 116.18, 116.85, 118.06, 124.05, 124.32, 126.72, 128.38, 129.90, 131.58, 131.98, 134.28, 139.99, 149.97, 151.78, 154.03, 156.45, 159.62, 163.41, 172.02; MS: *m/z* (%): 575 (1.34), 133 (100); Anal. Calcd for  $C_{31}H_{22}ClN_7O_3$ : C, 64.64; H, 3.85; N, 17.02; Found: C, 64.82; H, 3.54; N, 17.14.

**2-Amino-4-(1-(*m*-chlorophenyl)-3-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1-pyrazol-4-yl)quinoline-3-carbonitrile (5) and 2-Amino-4-(1-(*m*-**

**chlorophenyl)-3-(p-methoxyphenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-5-oxo-5H-indeno[1,2-b]pyridine-3-carbonitrile (6)**

A mixture of 2 (0.01 mol), cyclohexanone or 1,3-indanedione (0.01 mol) and  $\text{CH}_3\text{COONH}_4$  (0.01 mol) in absolute ethyl alcohol (40 mL) was heated to reflux for 3-5 h. the residue created was clarified and purified from EtOH to output the designate products 5 and 6, respectively.

**2-Amino-4-(1-(m-chlorophenyl)-3-(p-methoxyphenyl)-1-pyrazol-4-yl)quinoline-3-carbonitrile (5)**

Yield 72%; mp 202-205°C; IR, v: 3321 ( $\text{NH}_2$ ), 2217 ( $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$ );  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ :  $\delta$  1.50-2.68 (m, 8H, 4 $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.81 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 4.87 (s, 2H,  $\text{NH}_2$   $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  commutable), 6.65-8.78 (m, 8H, ArH), 8.88 (s, 1H, CH); MS: m/z (%): 457 (36.74), 455 (100); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{22}\text{ClN}_5\text{O}$ : C, 68.49; H, 4.86; N, 15.36; Found: C, 68.44; H, 4.89; N, 15.32.

**2-Amino-4-(1-(m-chlorophenyl)-3-(p-methoxyphenyl)-1-pyrazol-4-yl)-5-oxo-5H-indeno[1,2-b]pyridine-3-carbonitrile (6)**

Yield 76%; mp 220-222°C; IR, v: 3429, 3283 ( $\text{NH}_2$ ), 2216 ( $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$ ), 1605 ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ );  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ :  $\delta$  3.84 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 6.65-8.82 (m, 12H, ArH), 9.14 (s, 1H, CH), 9.96 (s, 2H,  $\text{NH}_2$  commutable); MS: m/z (%): 505 (2.04), 503 (2.95), 382(100); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClN}_5\text{O}_2$ : C, 69.12; H, 3.60; N, 13.90; Found: C, 69.08; H, (3.57; N, 13.86.

**7-Amino-5-(1-(m-chlorophenyl)-3-(p-methoxyphenyl)-1-pyrazol-4-yl)-4-oxo-2-thioxo-1H-pyran[2,3-d]pyrimidine-6-carbonitriles (7a,b)**

A mixture of 2 (0.01 mol) and barbituric acid or thiobarbituric acid (0.01 mol) in absolute ethyl alcohol with drops of piperidine (40 mL) was refluxed for 1-2 h. The residue was refined and purified from ethanol to get the designed products 7a,b.

**7-Amino-5-(1-(m-chlorophenyl)-3-(p-methoxyphenyl)-1-pyrazol-4-yl)-2,4-dioxo-1H-pyran[2,3-d]pyrimidine-6-carbonitriles (7a)**

Yield 65%; mp 190-193°C; IR, v: 3468, 3348, 3227( $\text{NH}_2$ , 2NH), 2222 ( $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$ ), 1701, 1631 (2CO);  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ :  $\delta$  3.82 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 4.15 (s, 1H, CH), 6.33 (s, 2H,  $\text{NH}_2$  commutable), 6.95-7.91 (m, 8H, ArH), 9.74 (s, 1H, CH), 11.16, 11.30 (2s, 2H, 2NH commutable); MS: m/z (%): 490 (0.14), 488 (0.14), 299 (33.27), 297 (100); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClN}_6\text{O}_4$ : C, 58.96; H, 3.50; N, 17.19; Found: C, 59.02; H, 3.43; N, 17.22.

**7-Amino-5-(1-(m-chlorophenyl)-3-(p-methoxyphenyl)-1-pyrazol-4-yl)-4-oxo-2-thioxo-1H-pyran[2,3-d]pyrimidine-6-carbonitriles (7b)**

Yield 67%; mp 110-112°C; IR, v: 3415, 3348, 3121 ( $\text{NH}_2$ , 2NH), 2220 ( $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$ ), 1718 ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ );  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ :  $\delta$  3.34 (s, 2H,  $\text{NH}_2$

commutable), 3.38 (s, 1H, NH, commutable), 3.76 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 4.16 (s, 1H, CH), 6.97- 7.84 (m, 8H, ArH), 7.97 (s, 1H, NH  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  commutable), 8.57 (s, 1H, CH); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClN}_6\text{O}_3\text{S}$ : C, 57.09; H, 3.39; N, 16.64; Found: C, 57.13; H, 3.34; N, 16.62.

**Biological assay:**

The protocol for NCI-60 anticancer screening has been adopted according to reported standard procedure [18-20].

**Results and Discussion**

Synthesis of the required pyrazoles based on reaction of the starting material pyrazole-4-carboxaldehyde derivative 1 with malononitrile to afford the corresponding key intermediate pyrazole-4-methylene malononitrile 2. Reaction of 2 with freshly prepared 2-cyanohydrazide yielded 2-oxopyridine dicarbonitrile derivative 3. Treatment of 2 with diverse aldehydes in absolute ethyl alcohol with piperidine yielded triazolo [1,5-a] pyridine dicarbonitrile derivatives 4a-e. Reaction of the arylidene malononitrile 2 with cyclohexanone or 1,3-indandione in presence of ammonium acetate gave tetrahydroquinoline 5 and indeno[1,2-b]pyridine 6 derivatives, respectively. Pyrano [2,3-d] pyrimidines derivatives 7a,b, were prepared on reaction of compound 2 with barbituric or thiobarbituric (Scheme 1).

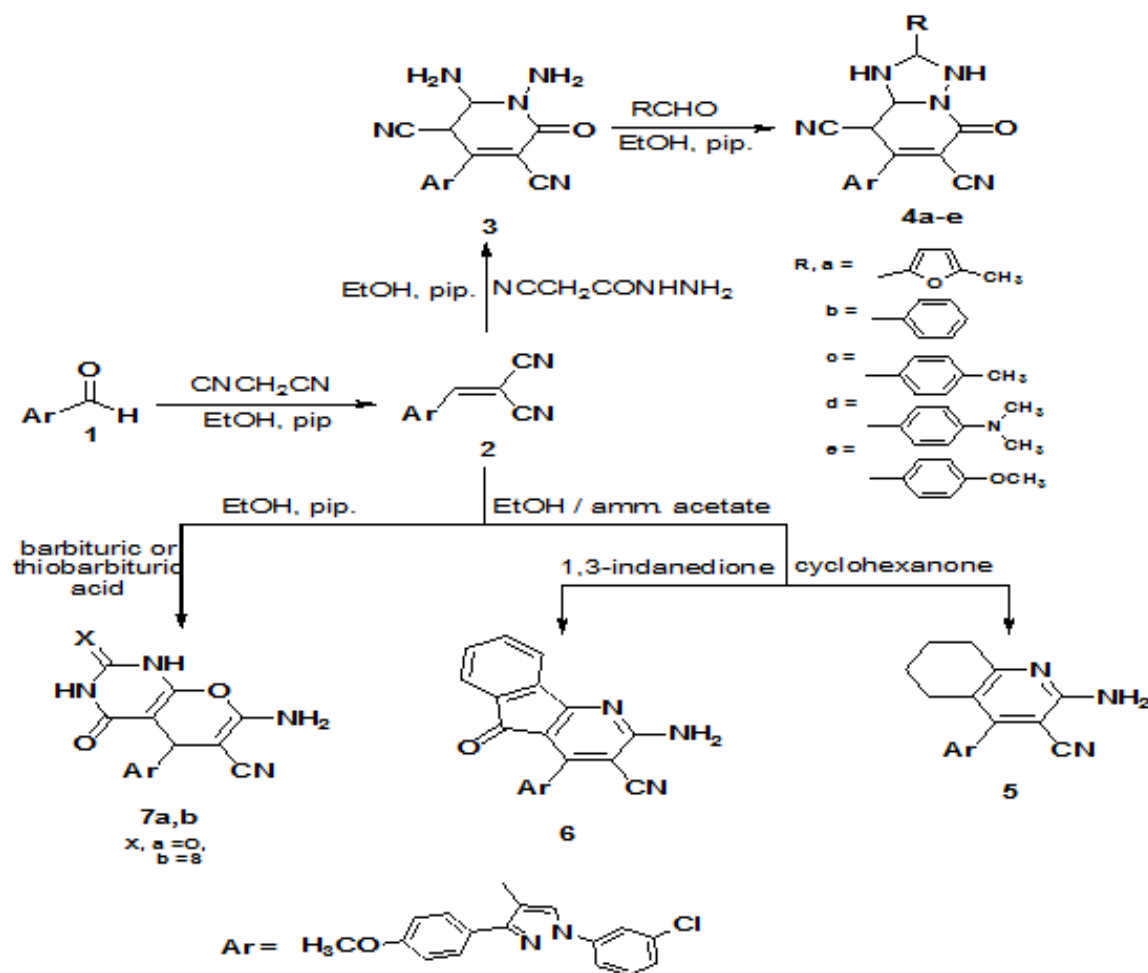
**In vitro anticancer activity**

The target compounds were selected by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), USA, for anticancer activity. The screening is a two-stage process, beginning with the evaluation at a single dose (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and the compounds which display significant growth inhibition are evaluated at five concentration levels. In the first screening, the selected compounds were evaluated at a single dose (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and the culture was incubated for 48 h, utilizes 60 different human tumor cell lines. The one dose mean graphs of the selected compounds disclosed, compounds 2, 4a and 4c showed increase potency against most human cancer cell lines. So these compounds overrun to 5 dose scales (0.01–100  $\mu\text{M}$ ). The results are presented in tables 1-3.

Touching sensitivity against individual cell lines, compound 4c showed potent anticancer activity against all human cancer cell lines with GI50 range from 0.52 to 5.15  $\mu\text{M}$ . It had the highest selectivity against the cell line (SW-620) of colon cancer with GI50 0.52  $\mu\text{M}$ , and against the two cell lines (HOP-92) and (HOP-62) belonging to non-small lung cancer with GI50 0.72 and 0.88  $\mu\text{M}$  respectively. At the same time it showed highest activity against the two cell lines (U251) and (SNB-75) belonging to CNS cancer with GI50 0.80 and 0.83  $\mu\text{M}$  respectively, and against the cell line (RXF 393) of renal cancer with GI50 0.86  $\mu\text{M}$ . Compound 4a showed the highest activity against the cell line (HOP-92) belonging to non-small lung cancer with GI50 0.46  $\mu\text{M}$ . The remnant of the prepared compounds offers the lowest mean percentage growth against the full 60-cell line panel. All structural modifications of ligand were performed at positions 1, 3 and 4 concerning SAR study

of the target compounds via structure modifications at 4-position of 1,3,4-trisubstituted pyrazole scaffold revealed that: introduction of methylene malononitrile in 4-position of 1,3,4-trisubstituted pyrazole moiety in compound 2 proved to boost the strength towards most cancer cell lines. It has GI<sub>50</sub> MG-MID=2.38  $\mu$ M against all subpanel tumor cell lines,

comparable to that of sorafenib (GI<sub>50</sub> MG-MID=1.90  $\mu$ M). Introduction of bicyclic triazolopyridine at C-4 position in it is worth mentioning that compounds 4a and 4c bearing bicyclic triazolopyridine moieties 4-position compounds 4a and 4c resulted in an improved potent anticancer activity.



Scheme 1. Synthetic route for trisubstituted pyrazole derivatives

Table 1. GI<sub>50</sub>( $\mu$ M) of five-dose screening results of 2, 4a and 4c.

	Subpanel cell lines		
	GI <sub>50</sub>		
	2	4a	4c
<b>Leukemia</b>			
CCRF-CEM	1.43	2.45	1.23
HL-60(TB)	2.39	4.88	8.34
K-562	2.01	4.09	1.43
MOLT-4	2.12	3.23	0.75
RPMI-8226	2.30	5.68	4.57
SR	1.54	4.22	1.43

#### Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

A549/ATCC	2.30	4.57	1.85
EKVX	2.39	1.54	1.62
HOP-62	2.59	14.10	0.88
HOP-92	1.26	0.46	0.72
NCI-H226	2.74	7.35	2.39
NCI-H23	2.68	8.09	3.18
NCI-H460	2.05	6.38	1.85
NCI-H522	2.21	4.96	
NCI-H322M			
<b>Colon Cancer</b>			

*Anticancer Evaluation of Novel 1,3,4-Trisubstituted Pyrazole Candidates bearing different Nitrogenous Heterocyclic Moieties*

COLO 205	4.04	5.47	2.32	
HCC-2998	3.67	7.43	5.04	
HCT-116	1.73	2.53	1.24	
HCT-15	3.24	1.66	9.95	
HT29	2.48	7.21	1.49	
KM12	2.83	3.54	3.39	
SW-620	1.90	9.21	0.52	
<b>CNS Cancer</b>				
SF-268	2.50	5.23	1.62	2.50
SF-295	2.31	3.46	1.20	2.31
SF-539	2.30	5.66	1.28	2.30
SNB-19	2.63	8.63	2.17	2.63
SNB-75	1.81	1.56	0.83	1.81
U251	1.59	4.71	0.80	1.59
<b>Melanoma</b>				
LOX IMVI	2.08	3.92	2.44	
MALME-3M	2.66	7.88	2.16	
M14	2.39	5.49	1.66	
MDA-MB-435	1.63	4.44	1.48	
SK-MEL-2	2.37	6.57	1.41	
SK-MEL-28	2.35	5.51	6.55	
SK-MEL-5	2.28	5.64	6.06	
UACC-257	1.82	8.45	6.68	
UACC-62	2.39	6.46	2.54	
<b>Ovarian Cancer</b>				
IGROV1	2.85	2.60	3.51	
<b>OVOCAR-3</b>				
OVOCAR-3	2.20	5.68	6.52	
OVOCAR-4	2.29	6.59	1.09	
OVOCAR-5	3.68	13.60	4.5	
OVOCAR-8	2.20	5.91	0.82	
NCI/ADR-RES	2.49	>50	9.43	
SK-OV-3	2.66	11.70	3.3	
<b>Renal Cancer</b>				
786-0	2.25	9.42	1.39	
A498	1.23	1.55	0.58	
ACHN	2.64	7.61	2.41	
CAKI-1	2.04	6.80	2.46	
RXF 393	1.85	4.11	0.86	
SN12C	3.35	5.30	4.52	
TK-10	2.60	1.24	2.01	
UO-31	2.21	1.80	3.39	
<b>Prostate Cancer</b>				
PC-3	2.36	2.25	1.70	
DU-145	3.55	19.10	2.74	
<b>Breast Cancer</b>				
MCF7	2.35	1.75	3.22	
MDA-MB-231/ATCC	2.03	4.70	1.16	
HS 578T	1.57	2.95	1.23	
BT-549	1.55	4.18	3.79	
T-47D	3.34	2.77	5.15	
MDA-MB-468	1.67	1.34	1.05	

**Table 2.** Median growth inhibitory concentrations ( $GI_{50}$ ,  $\mu M$ ) of in vitro subpanel tumor cell lines and  $GI_{50}$  ( $\mu M$ ) full panel mean-graph mid-points (MG-MID) of compounds **2**, **4a** and **4c** in comparison with sorafenib.

Subpanel tumor cell lines										
Cpd. No.	Leukemia	Lung	Colon	CNS	Melanoma	Ovarian	Renal	Prostate	Breast	$GI_{50}$ MG-MID <sup>a</sup>
2	1.97	2.28	2.84	2.19	2.22	2.62	2.27	2.96	2.09	2.38
4a	4.09	5.93	5.29	4.88	6.04	7.68	4.73	10.68	2.95	5.81
4c	2.96	1.74	3.42	1.32	3.44	4.17	2.2	2.22	2.6	2.67
Sora-fenib										1.9

a) $GI_{50}$  full panel mean-graph midpoint ( $\mu M$ ).

4-Tolyl-triazolopyridine **4c** ( $GI_{50}$  MG-MID=2.67  $\mu M$ ) showed almost equipotent  $GI_{50}$  value to that expressed by methylene malonitrile derivative **2**. 2-Furyl triazolopyridine **4a** displayed two-fold decrease in anticancer activity ( $GI_{50}$  MG-

MID=5.81  $\mu M$ ) than its 4-tolyl counterpart **4c**. In addition, 2-Furyl triazolopyridine **4a** displayed two-fold reduction in anticancer activity ( $GI_{50}$  MG-MID = 5.81  $\mu M$ ) than its 4-tolyl

counterpart **4c**. In particular, compound **6** bearing a tricyclic indenopyridine did not show marked anticancer activity.

**Table 3.** Selectivity ratios for compounds **2**, **4a** and **4c** towards the nine tumor cell lines.

Subpanel tumor cell lines									
	Leukemia	Lung	Colon	CNS	Melanoma	Ovarian	Renal	Prostate	Breast
<b>2</b>	1.21	1.05	0.84	1.09	1.07	0.9	1.05	0.81	1.14
<b>4a</b>	1.42	0.98	1.1	1.19	0.96	0.76	1.23	0.54	1.97
<b>4c</b>	0.9	1.53	0.78	2.03	0.78	0.64	1.21	1.2	1.03

## Conclusions

The objective of the present study was to evaluate the potential anticancer activities of some pyrazole compounds attached to bicyclic and tricyclic ring systems. The bicyclic derivative **4c** showed potent anticancer activity against majority human tumor cell lines with GI<sub>50</sub> 0.52-5.15  $\mu$ M, and could be considered as promising selective anticancer lead for further development of more potent anticancer agents.

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