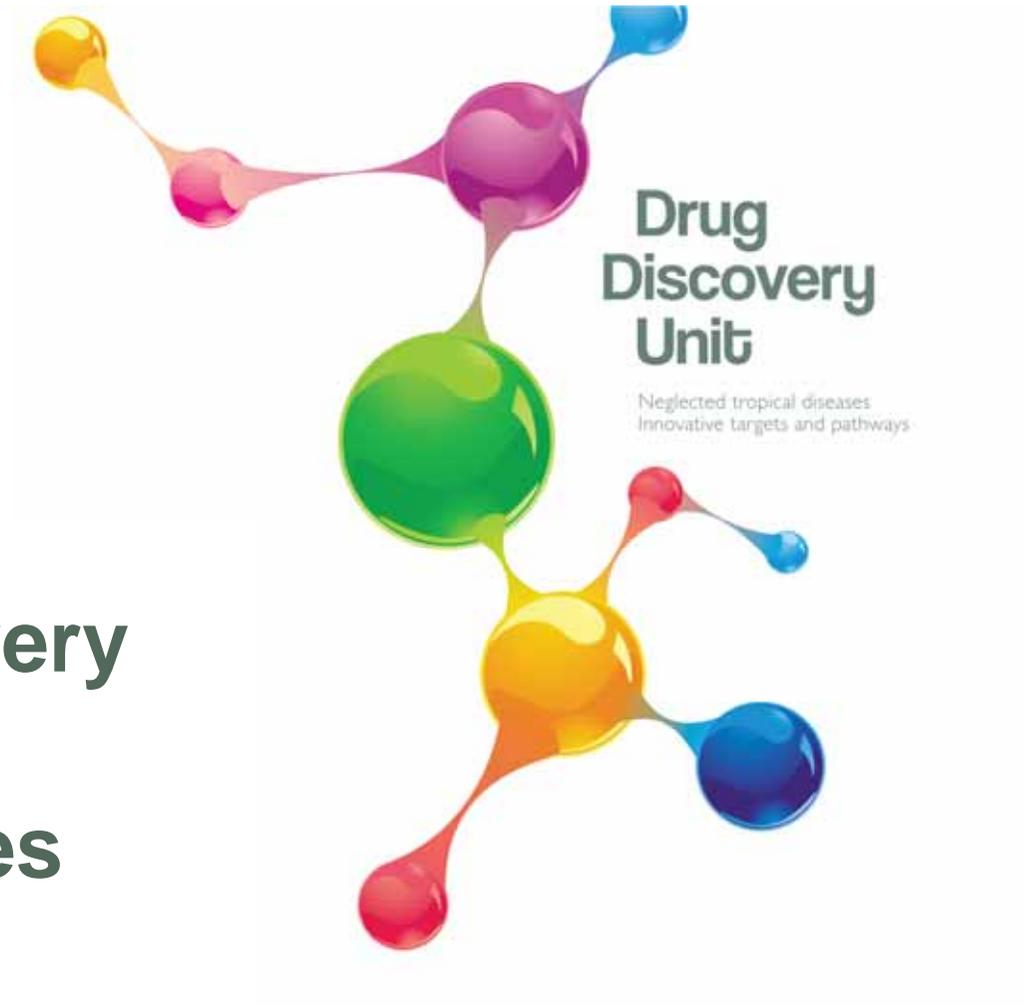


# Kinase drug discovery for the neglected diseases



# Drug discovery in Dundee

- >90 people
  - >600 years experience in Industry
  - >300 years academic experience
  - Involved in delivering 59 clinical candidates
  - 8 marketed drugs



# Drug Discovery Capabilities



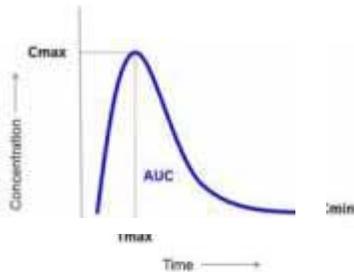
## Target Selection

Validation  
Druggability  
Assay Feasibility  
Toxicity  
Resistance potential  
Structural Information

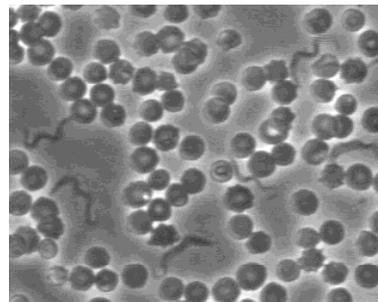


384 MTS/HTS Robotics

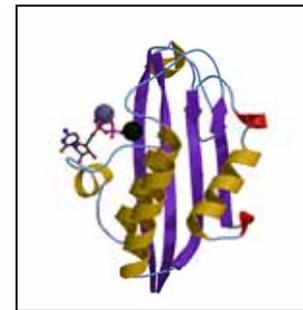
Compound Sets



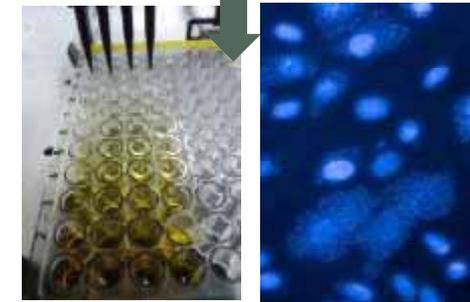
DMPK



*in vitro* models



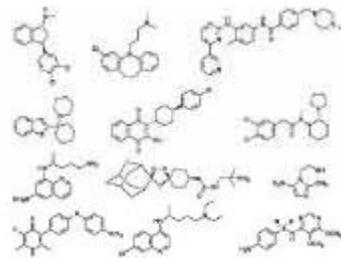
Structural Biology



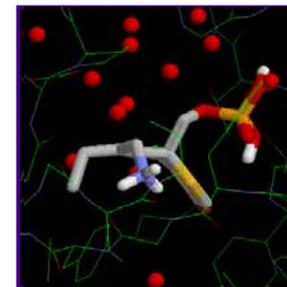
Target or cell screen



*in vivo* models



Medicinal & Computational Chemistry



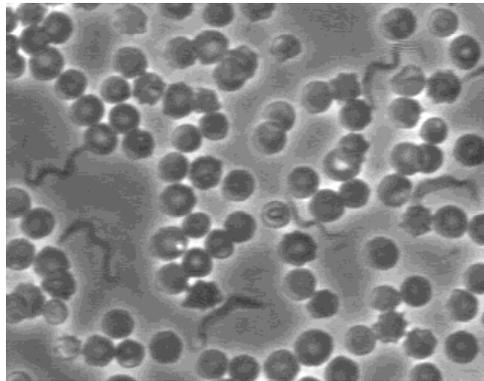
Data Management



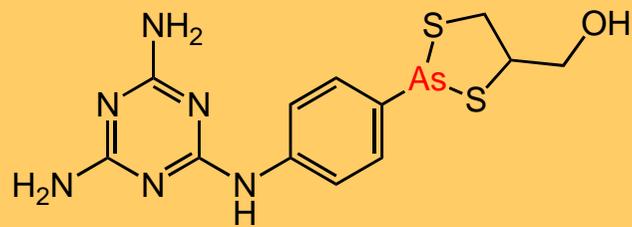
# Human African Trypanosomiasis



- Caused by protozoan parasite *Trypanosoma brucei* which lives in the blood stream
- Invades CNS



Fatal unless treated:  
recorded deaths/ year ~50,000



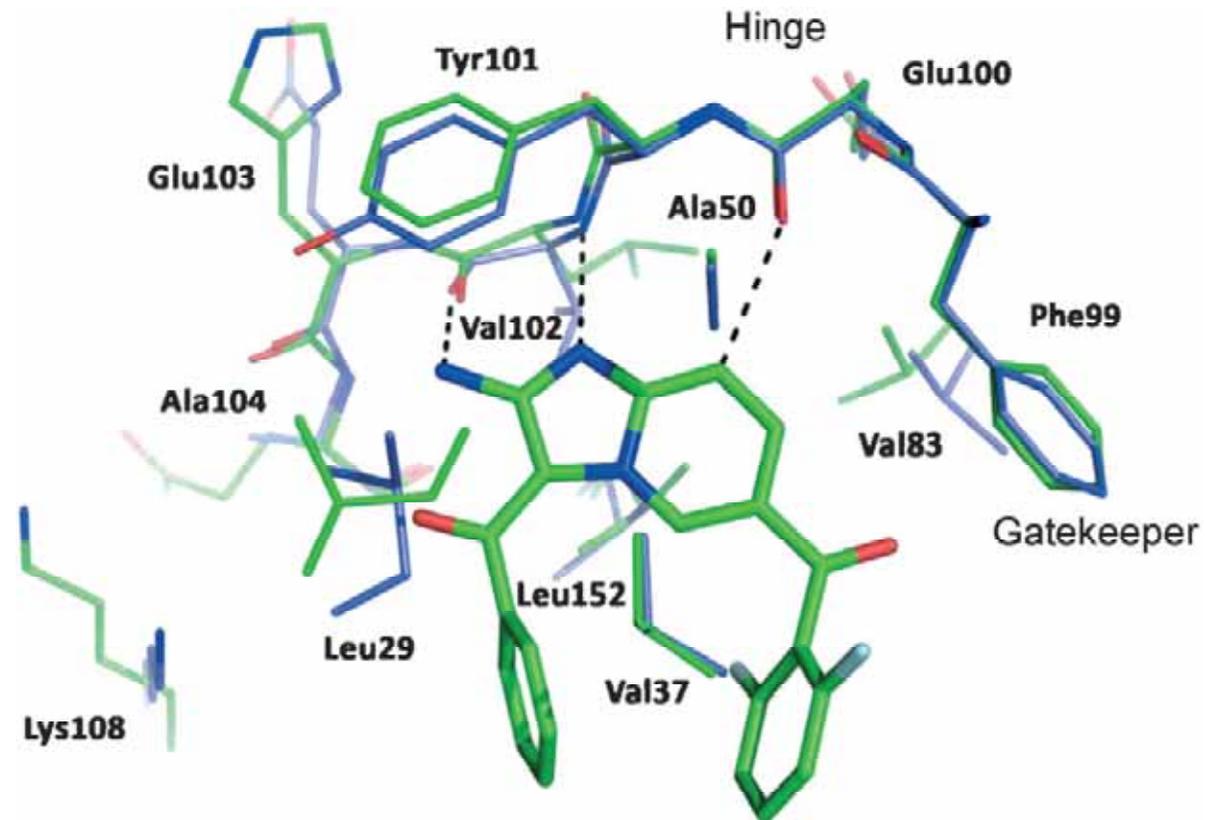
melarsoprol

# Protein Kinases



- Kinases known to be druggable
- ~190 orthologous protein kinases in each organism
  - Relative expansion of cell cycle and stress response lineage
  - Absence of dedicated tyrosine kinases
  - >15% unique to trypanosomatids
- Strategy
  - ~7000 kinase focused set, covering >150 scaffolds
  - Reverse genetic approach with genetically validated targets
    - CRK3, PK50, PK53, GSK-3 $\beta$ , PIK (CK1; Auk1; vsp34)
  - Phenotypic approach

# L. Mexicana CRK3 overlaid with human CDK2

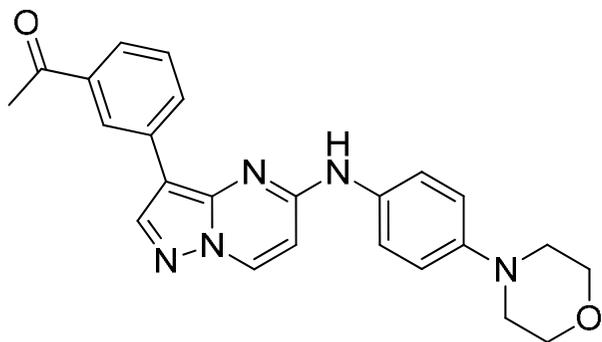


- Leishmania CRK3 homology model (blue carbon atoms)
- Crystal structure of HsCDK2 (green carbon atoms, PDB code 1PYE[19]) in complex with a ligand (bright-green carbon atoms)
- Phe82, Leu 83, His 84, and Gln 85 in CDK2, replaced with Tyr, Val, Glu, and Ala for Leishmania CRK3

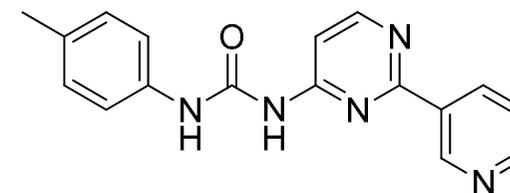
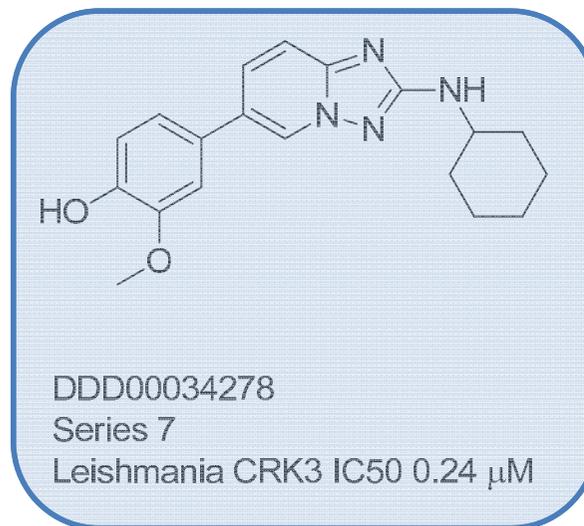
# Lm-CRK3



- Screened Kinase set
  - 43 hit compounds suitable for progression
  - 8 compound series
  - 3 progressed

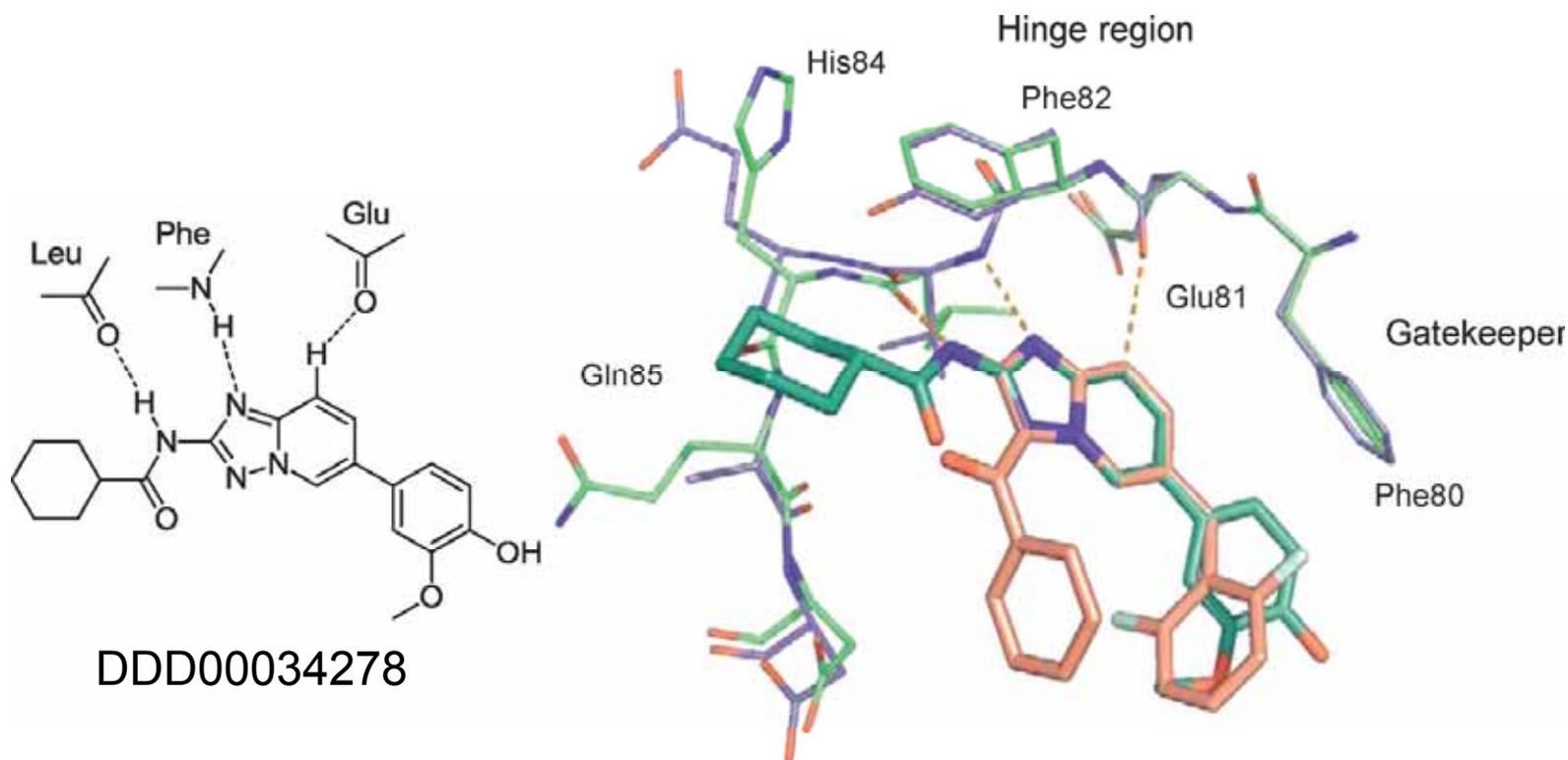


Series 3  
Leishmania CRK3 IC<sub>50</sub> 0.26 μM



Series 8  
Leishmania CRK3 IC<sub>50</sub> 1.5 μM

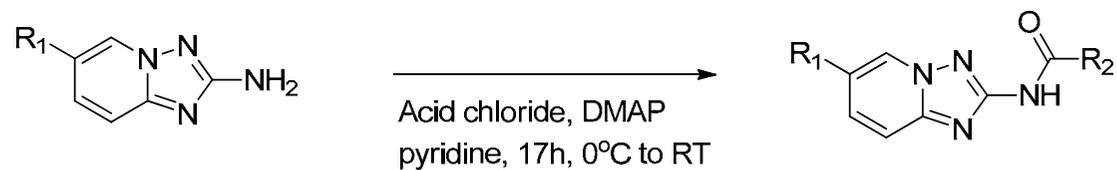
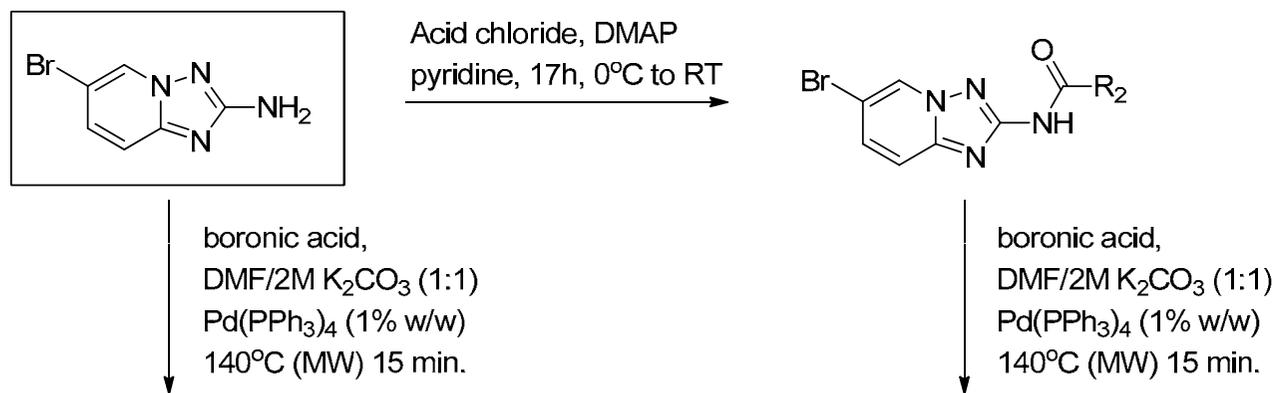
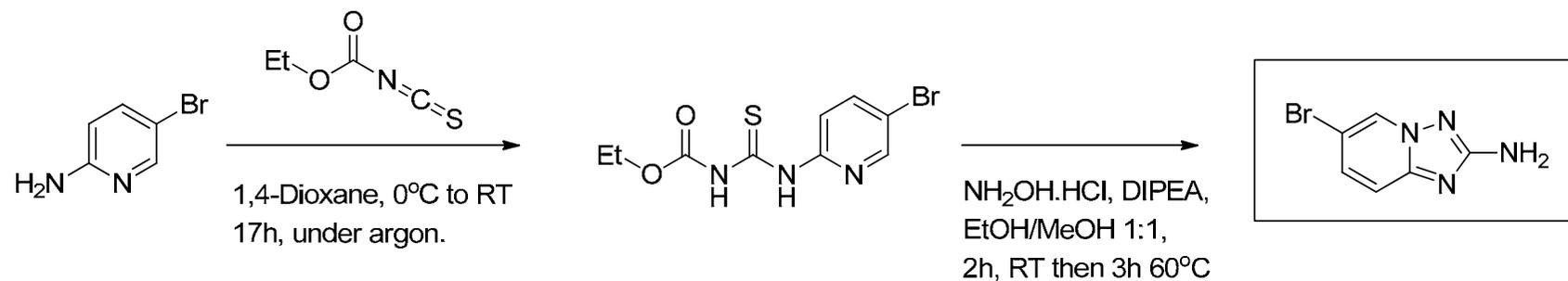
# Modelling



- Overlap of the 5,6 bicyclic core of the known aminoimidazo[1,2-a]pyridine HsCDK2 inhibitor (pink) with hit 1 (cyan). Dashed lines represent the proposed hydrogen bond interaction with the hinge region.

Compound	LmCRK3 pXC <sub>50</sub>	HsCDK2 pXC <sub>50</sub>	Calc. LogD	TPSA	MW
34278	6.6	6.4	3.4	94	366

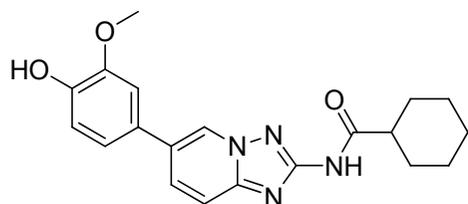
# Synthesis



# CRK3 - SAR

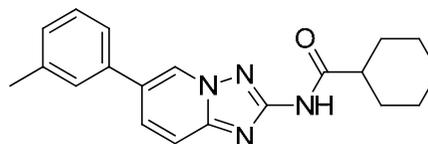


## Un-selective hit



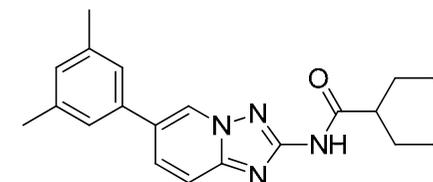
DDD00034278  
pXC<sub>50</sub> (LmCRK3) 6.6  
pXC<sub>50</sub> (HsCDK2) 6.4

## 3-Methyl phenyl

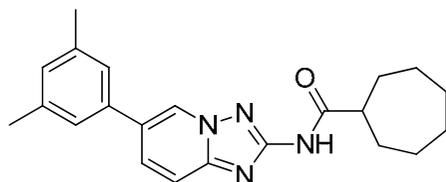


DDD00067048  
pXC<sub>50</sub> (LmCRK3) 7.1  
pXC<sub>50</sub> (HsCDK2) <4.0

## 3,5-Dimethyl phenyl

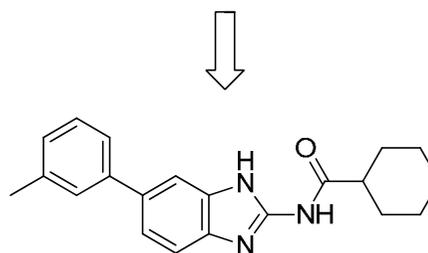


DDD00071584  
pXC<sub>50</sub> (LmCRK3) 7.7  
pXC<sub>50</sub> (HsCDK2) <4.0



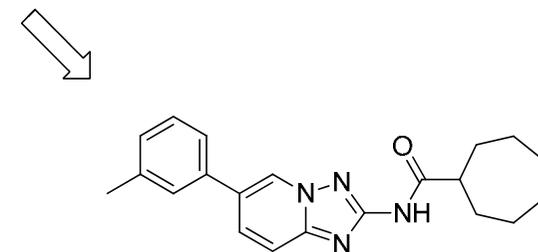
DDD00073284  
pXC<sub>50</sub> (LmCRK3) >8.3  
pXC<sub>50</sub> (HsCDK2) <4.0

**Low nM**  
**>10000 fold selective**



DDD00073244  
pXC<sub>50</sub> (LmCRK3) 7.1  
pXC<sub>50</sub> (HsCDK2) 5.1

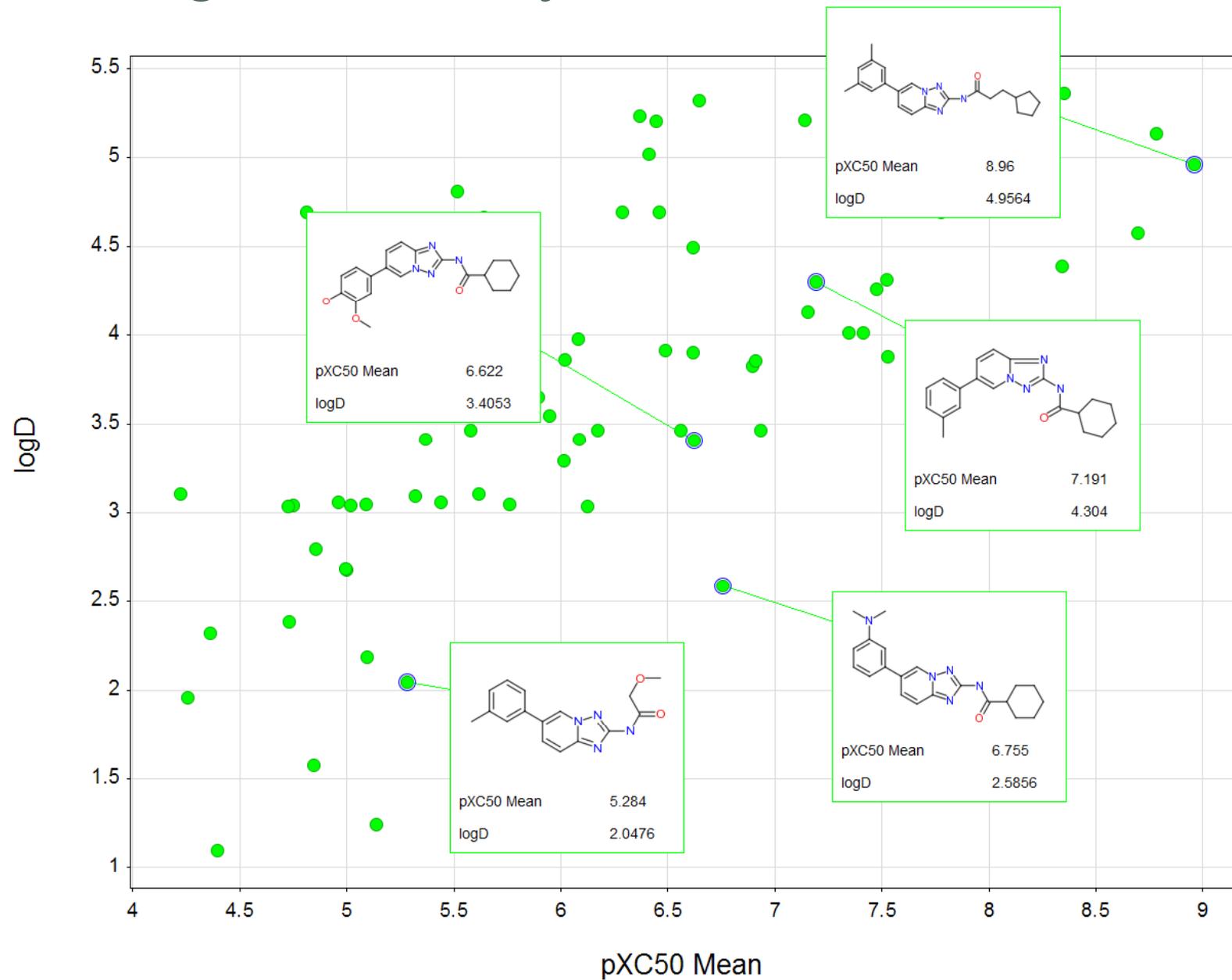
**Heterocyclic core**



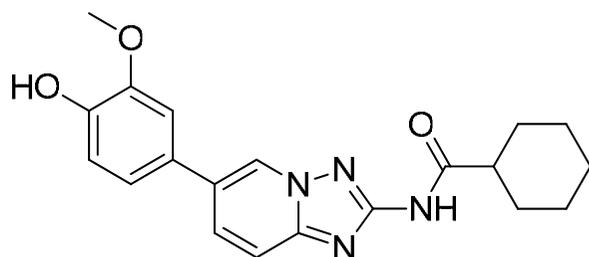
DDD00072725  
pXC<sub>50</sub> (LmCRK3) 8.1  
pXC<sub>50</sub> (HsCDK2) <4.0

**Increase ring size**

# Plot logP vs activity series 7A

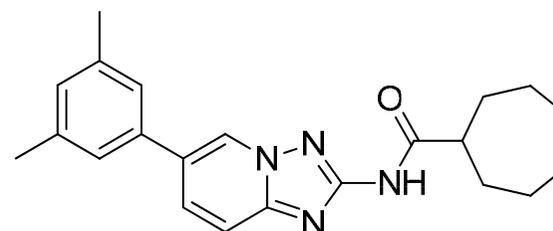
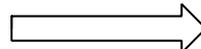


# Lm-CRK3



DDD00034278

**Unselective hit**

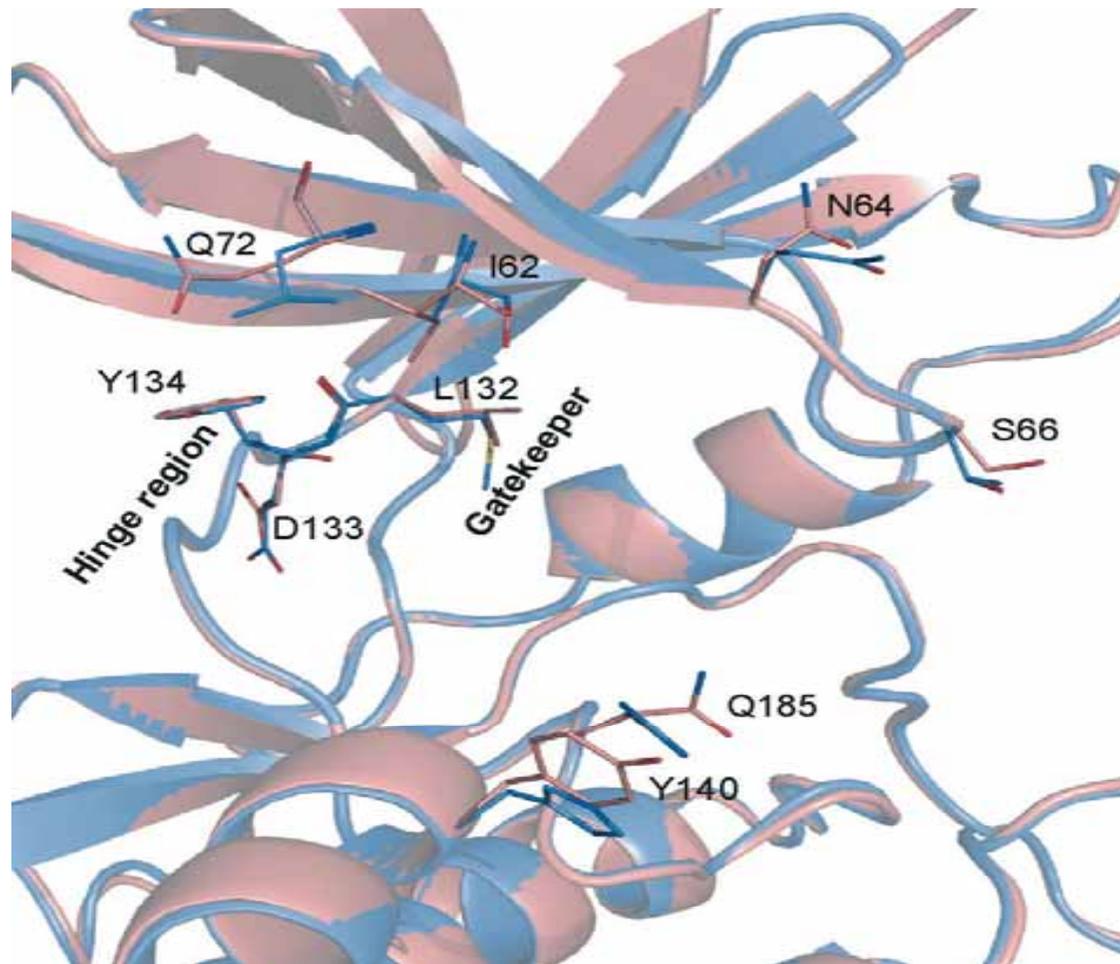


DDD00073284

**Selective, low nanomolar inhibitors**

DDD00073284						
MW	LogP	TPSA	LmCRK3 (pXC <sub>50</sub> )	HsCDK2 (pXC <sub>50</sub> )	L. donovani (pXC <sub>50</sub> )	T. brucei (pXC <sub>50</sub> )
362	5.4	64	>8.5	<4.0	<4.3	<4.3

# TbGSK3 Homology model

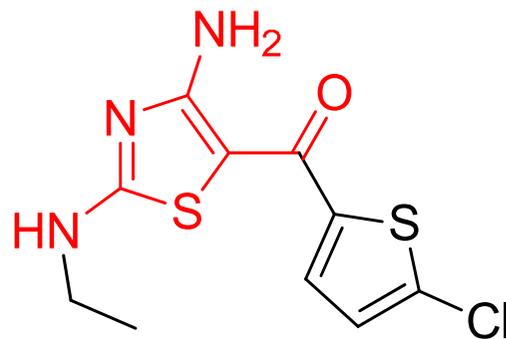


- Pink: HsGSK3b crystal structure (PDB code 1R0E)
- Homology model of TbGSK3 in blue.
- Binding pocket residues of TbGSK3 that differ from those of HsGSK3b are represented as sticks.

# TbGSK-3: Series 1



- TbGSK3 $\beta$ : active protein and HTS assay from UoW
- 13% hit rate
- 8 hit series



Series 1

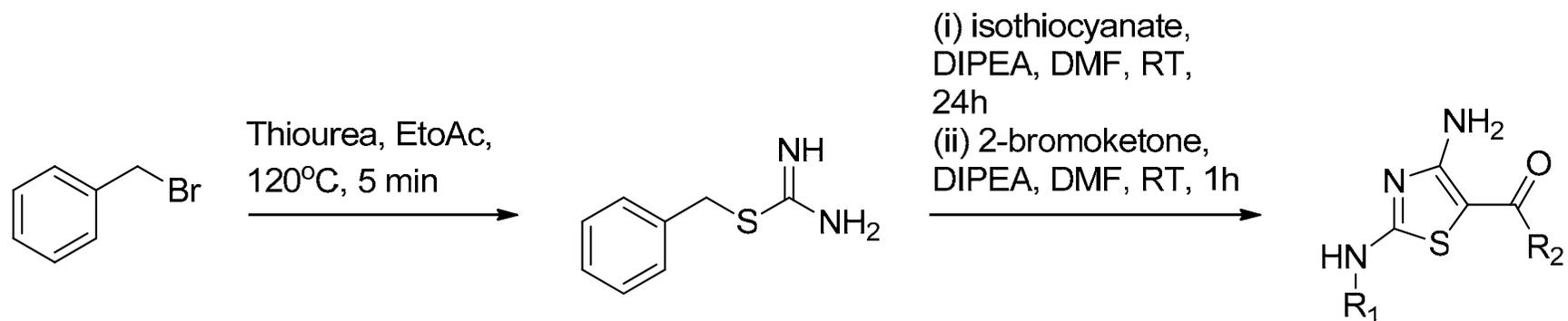
DDD00065658

2,4-diaminothiazol-5-carbaldehyde

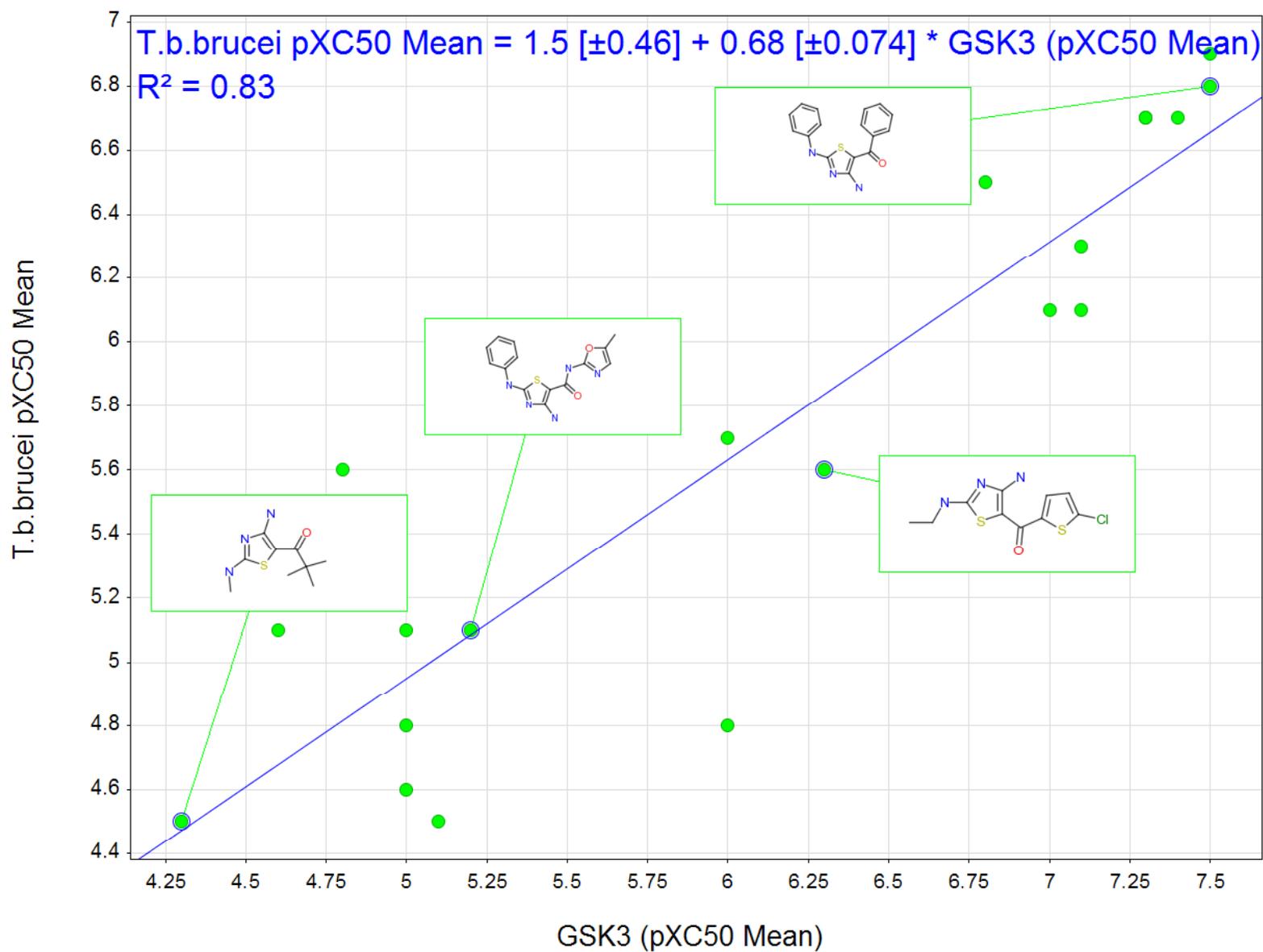
TbGSK3 IC<sub>50</sub> 0.4  $\mu$ M

Ligand efficiency 0.52

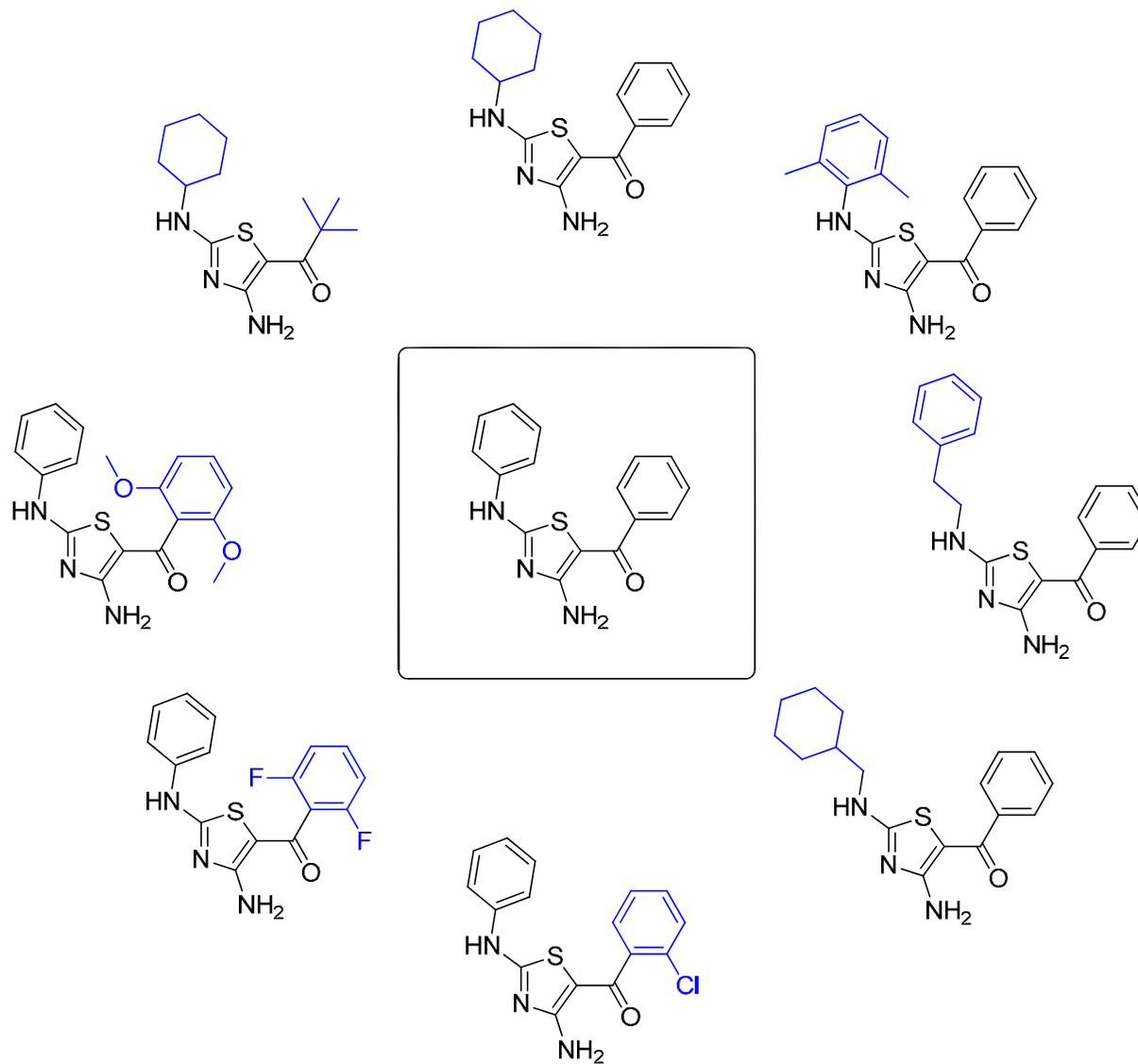
# A convenient 2 pot synthesis



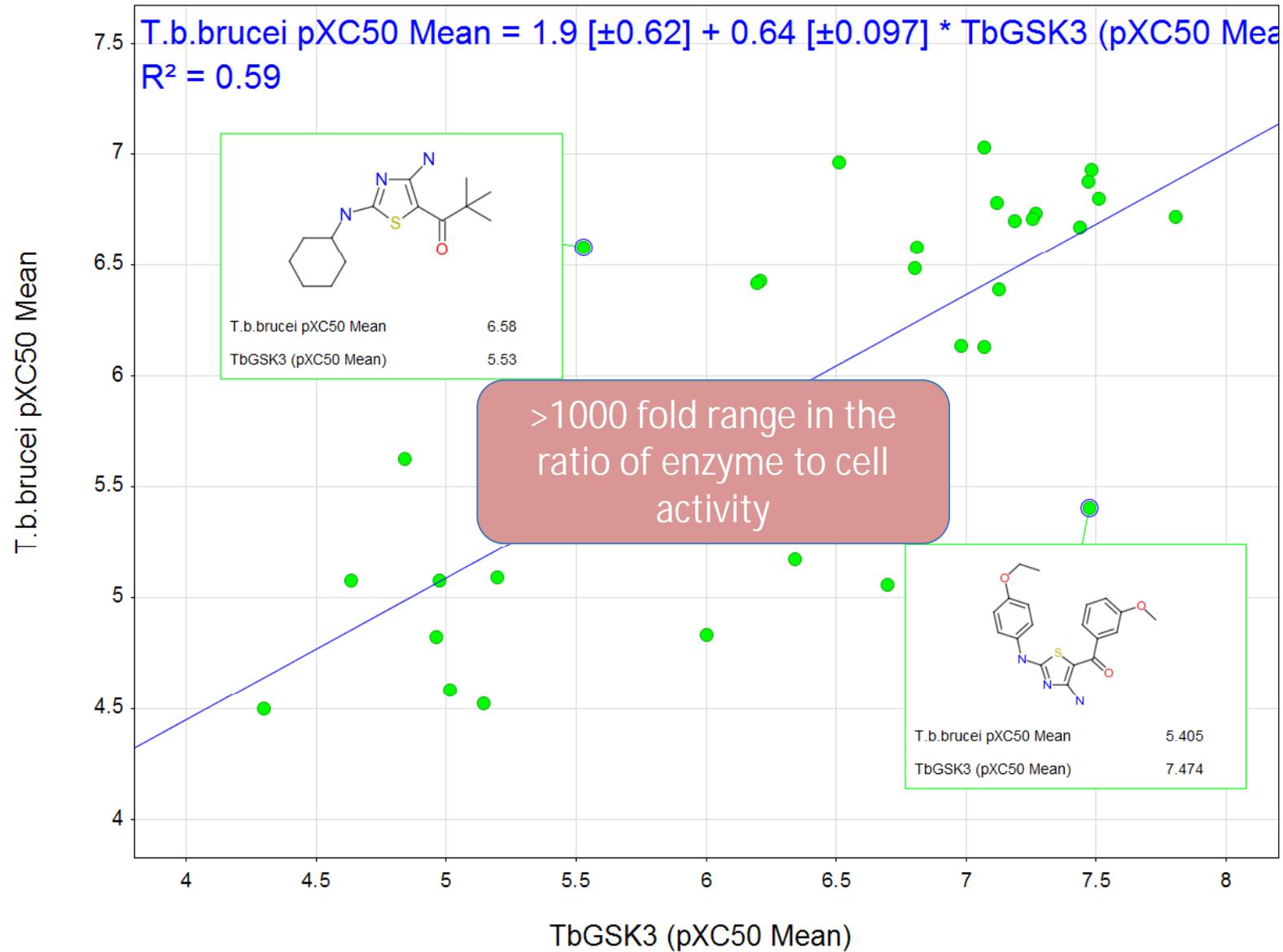
# GSK3 Early SAR



# Exploring steric tolerance



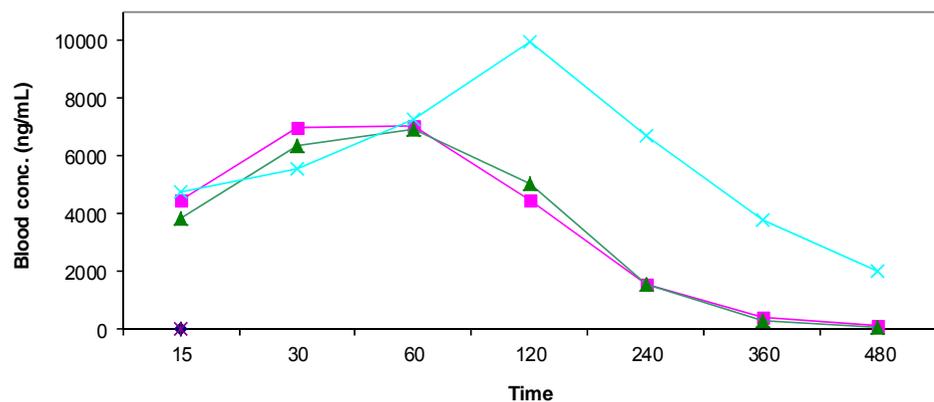
# Breakdown in correlation



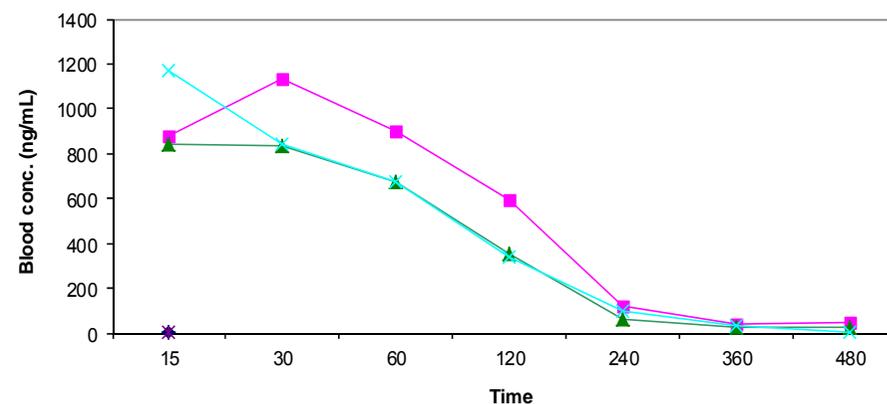
# Compound X Mouse Pharmacokinetics



The pharmacokinetics of Compound X following single IP administration at 50 mg free base/kg to the female NMRI mice.



The pharmacokinetics of Compound X following single oral administration at 10 mg free base/kg to the female NMRI mice.

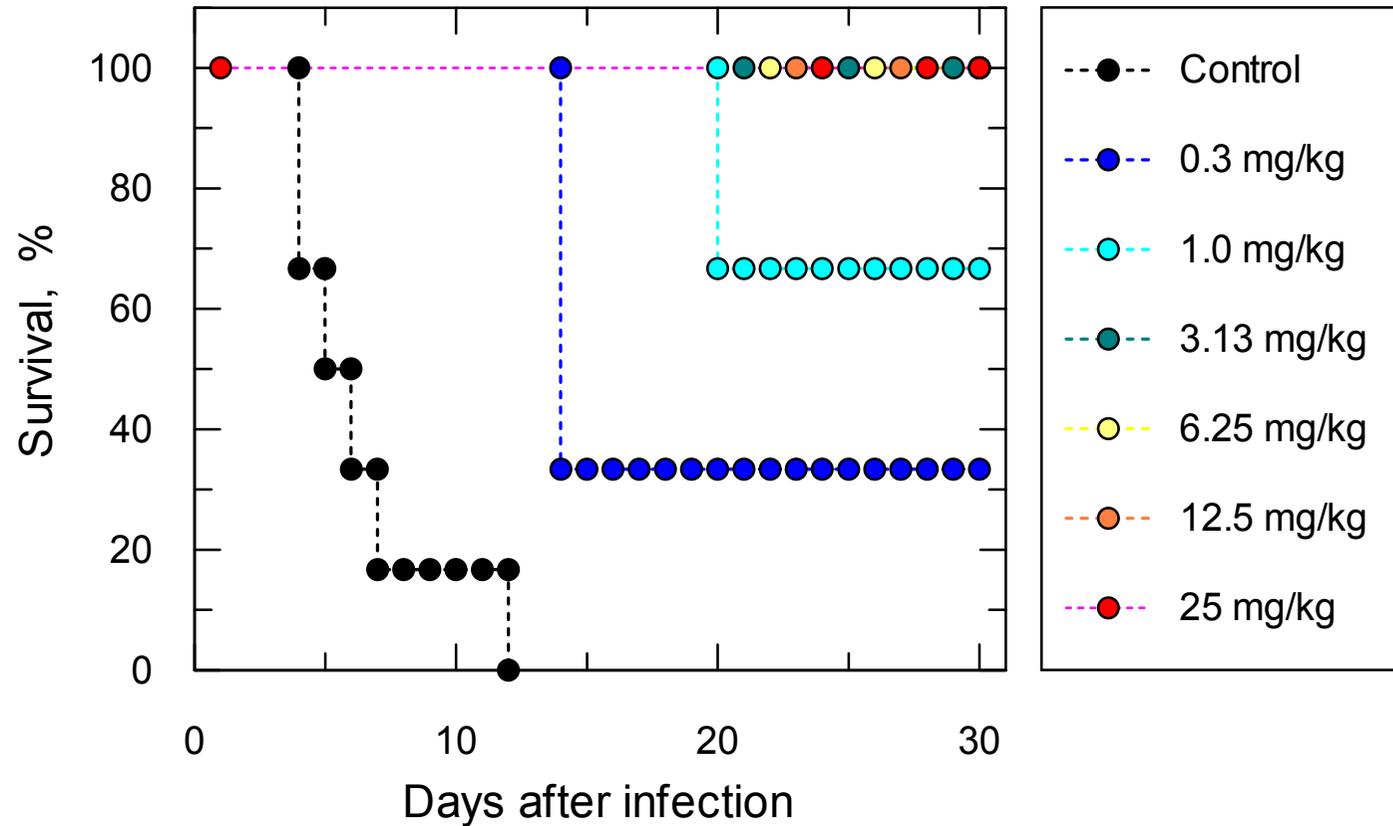


*T. Brucei*  $EC_{50}$  0.001  $\mu$ M  
MRC-5  $EC_{50}$  1.4  $\mu$ M  
 $Cl_{int}$  (mouse) = 6.3 mL/min/g  
Mouse plasma FU = 11 %

$EC_{50}$  = 0.5 ng/mL  
 $EC_{99}$  = ~1 ng/mL (Hill slope 5.8)

Based on IP and oral PK profiles, considering need to maintain free  $EC_{99}$  levels, Compound X should be active at 1mg/kg IP bid and 10mg/kg bid PO

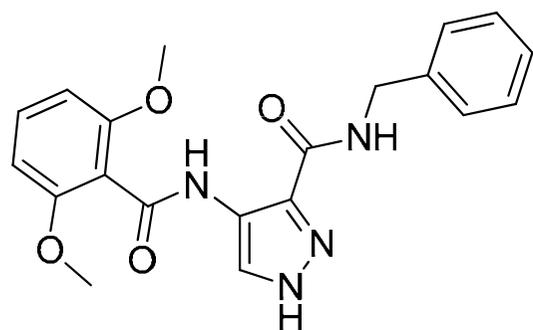
# Survival of mice after *T. b. brucei* (S427) infection and twice daily i.p. treatment with Compound X



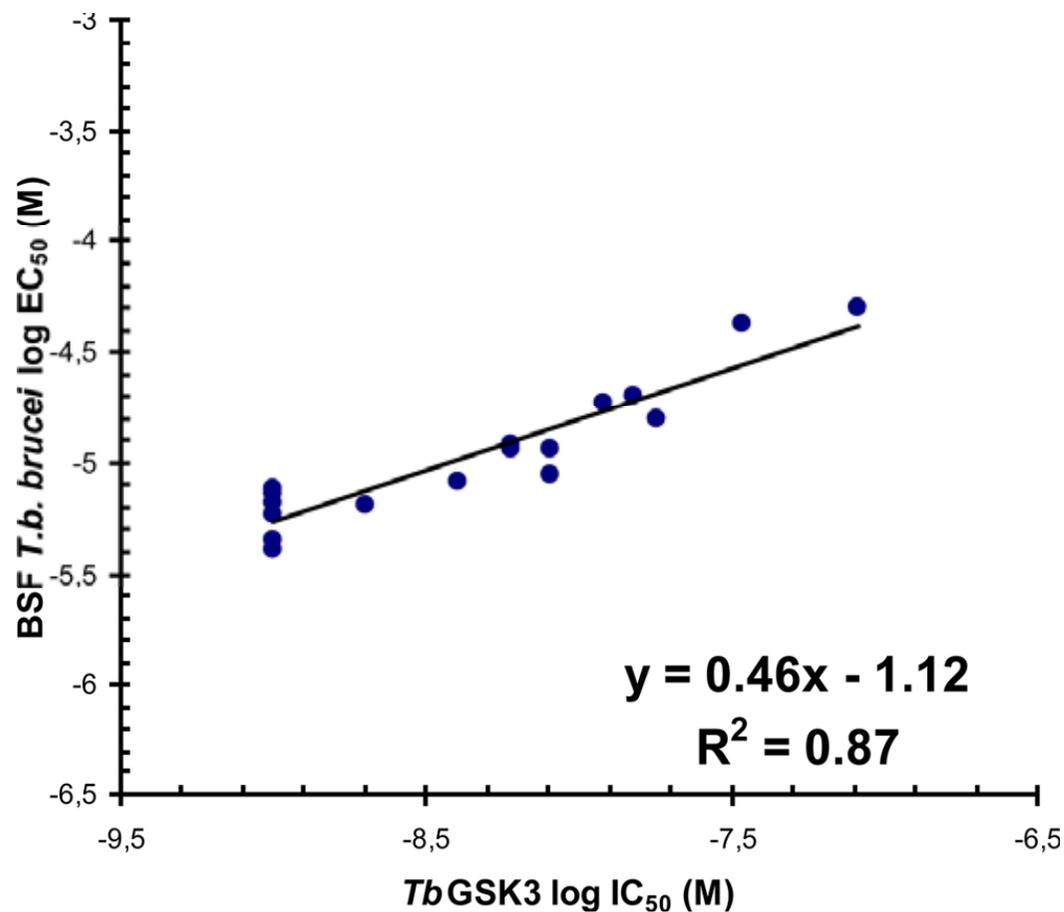
MED: 3 mg/kg bid IP for 4 days (Oral: 10 mg/kg)

MTD: 50 mg/kg bid for 4 days

# TbGSK3 selective series



TbGSK3 (IC<sub>50</sub>) = 1 nM  
HsGSK3 (IC<sub>50</sub>) = 330 nM  
T.b.brucei EC<sub>50</sub> = 6 μM  
MRC5 EC<sub>50</sub> >50 μM



J. Med. Chem. 2014, 57, 7536–754. Robert Urich et. al.

# “Merck Serono and MMV Sign Agreement to Develop Potential Antimalarial Therapy”



- Merck Serono, the biopharmaceutical business of Merck, and MMV announced today that an agreement has been signed for Merck Serono to obtain the rights to the investigational antimalarial compound DDD107498
- DDD107498 originated from ... the University of Dundee Drug Discovery Unit, led by Prof. Ian Gilbert and Dr. Kevin Read.
- <http://www.mmv.org/newsroom/press-releases/merck-serono-and-mmv-sign-agreement-develop-potential-antimalarial-therapy>

# Conclusions



- Possible to develop potent & selective inhibitors of parasite protein kinases.
- Potent inhibitors of genetically validated protein kinases do not always give potent anti-trypanocidal compounds.
- Phenotypic screening is a productive strategy in neglected disease drug discovery

# Acknowledgements



**Management team** Paul Wyatt, Julie Frearson, Ruth Brenk, Alan Fairlamb, Mike Ferguson, Ian Gilbert, Kevin Read

## Chemistry

Steve Thompson  
Laura Cleghorn  
Dan Spinks  
Lee Mitchell  
Gavin Wood  
Neil Norcross

## Comp Chemistry

Torsten Luksch  
Ngai Mok

## Data Management

Daniel James  
Alastair Pate

## Biology

Iain Collie  
Irene Hallyburton  
Rafaella Grimaldi  
Leah Torrie  
Ondrej Smid  
Emma Shanks  
David Blair  
Stuart McElroy  
Lorna Campbell  
James Robert

## Structural Biology

David Robinson

## DMPK

Suzanne Norval  
Laste Stojanovski  
Robert Kime  
Fred Simeons  
Jennifer Riley

**All of our  
Collaborators!**

