Electronic Supplementary Information

Development of dichloroacetamide pyrimidines as pyruvate dehydrogenases kinase inhibitors to reduce cancer cell growth: Synthesis and biological evaluation

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1. Lactate formation was decreased by the treatment with compounds 1b and 40

Fig S1 Lactate formation was decreased by the treatment with compounds **1b** and **40** for 24 h, * P < 0.05, versus blank group.

2. General methods

All the building blocks were bought from sigma, JK chemical, Wako, and Acros and were used as received. Solvents were purchased from Anaqua Chemicals Supply (ACS grade). Dimethyl sulfoxide- d_6 was bought from CIL, USA. All new compounds were characterized by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and HRMS. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV-400 instrument. All ¹H NMR spectra are reported in ppm downfield from DMSO (2.50 ppm), and ¹³C NMR spectra are reported in ppm relative to residual DMSO (39.6 ppm). Coupling constants are reported in Hz with multiplicities denoted as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), and m (multiplet). Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) carried out on commercial silica gel plates (GF254) using UV light as a visualizing agent. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a Xevo G2-XS QTof spectrometer.

2.1 Synthesis of compounds 1a, 1b, and 3-5

Compounds 1a, 1b, and 3–5 were prepared according to the literatures procedures [1, 2, 3].

2.2 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4-chloro-6-(cyclopropylamino)pyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (6)

A mixture of compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol) and triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) in dimethyl sulfoxide (15 mL) was stirred under room temperature. Then cyclopropanamine (0.085 g, 1.5 mmol) in dimethyl sulfoxide (5 mL) was added dropwise. Upon completion of the reaction, the resulting mixture was extracted with dichlormethane (3×20 mL), then the combined organic phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and subsequently the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent, ethyl acetate / dichlormethane, 1/2, V/V) to give the compound **6** (0.22 g) as light yellow solid. Yield: 75.1 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.98 (s, 1H), 8.30 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 2.80–2.74 (m, 1H), 0.7–0.78 (m, 2H), 0.50–0.52 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 162.58, 161.40, 156.59, 155.48, 111.77, 79.28, 67.26, 24.10, 6.49; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₉H₁₀Cl₃N₄O [M+H]⁺, 294.9920; found, 294.9911.

2.3 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4-chloro-6-(cyclobutylamino)pyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (7)

Compound **7** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and cyclobutanamine (0.1 g, 1.41 mmol). The desired compound **7** (0.24 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 77.9%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.99 (s, 1H), 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 4.54–4.44 (m, 1H), 2.29–2.22 (m, 2H), 2.06–1.96 (m, 2H), 1.72–1.64 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 162.55, 159.12, 156.49, 155.70, 111.36, 67.25, 45.93, 30.17, 14.74; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₀H₁₂Cl₃N₄O [M+H]⁺, 309.0077; found, 309.0069.

2.4 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4-chloro-6-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (8)

Compound **8** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and pyrrolidine (0.1 g, 1.41 mmol). The desired compound **8** (0.26 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 83.9 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 10.41 (s,

1H), 8.26 (s, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 3.67 (t, J = 10 Hz, 2H), 3.43 (t, J = 10 Hz, 2H), 1.89–1.84 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 163.36, 158.51, 158.37, 155.91, 110.58, 66.60, 48.74, 24.86; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₀H₁₂Cl₃N₄O [M+H]⁺, 309.0077; found, 309.0083.

2.5 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4-chloro-6-(piperidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (9)

Compound **9** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and piperidine (0.12 g, 1.5 mmol). The desired compound **9** (0.25 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 76.8 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.46 (s, 1H), 8.30 (s, 1H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 3.63 (t, *J* = 10 Hz, 4H), 1.62–1.58 (m, 2H), 1.55–1.49 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 162.41, 160.32, 159.29, 155.53, 112.16, 66.57, 47.70, 25.83, 23.99; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₁H₁₄Cl₃N₄O [M+H]⁺, 323.0233; found, 323.0233.

2.6 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4-chloro-6-thiomorpholinopyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (10)

Compound **10** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and piperidine (0.15 g, 1.5 mmol). The desired compound **10** (0.28 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 81.2 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.51 (s, 1H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 3.92 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 4H), 2.65 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 162.68, 160.54, 159.71, 155.66, 112.84, 66.55, 49.50, 26.58; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₀H₁₂Cl₃N₄O [M+H]⁺, 340.9797; found, 340.9789.

2.7 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4-chloro-6-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)pyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (11)

Compound **11** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and morpholine (0.13 g, 1.5 mmol). The desired compound **11** (0.25 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 78.5 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 10.51 (s, 1H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 3.63 (s, 8H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 162.40, 160.39, 159.37, 155.63, 112.77, 66.54, 66.15, 46.96; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₀H₁₂Cl₃N₄O₂ [M+H]⁺, 325.0026; found, 325.0015.

2.8 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4-chloro-6-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)pyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (12)

Compound **12** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and 1-methylpiperazine (0.15 g, 1.5 mmol). The desired compound **12** (0.27 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 79.4 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.49 (s, 1H), 8.34 (s, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 3.65 (s, 4H), 2.36–2.33 (m, 4H), 2.17 (s, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 162.40, 160.38, 159.37, 155.59, 112.65, 66.60, 54.60, 46.39, 45.65; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₁H₁₅Cl₃N₅O [M+H]⁺, 338.0342; found, 338.0345.

2.9 Tert-butyl 4-(6-chloro-5-(2,2-dichloroacetamido)pyrimidin-4-yl)piperazine-1-carboxylate (13)

Compound **13** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and tert-butyl piperazine-1-carboxylate (0.28 g, 1.5 mmol). The desired compound **13** (0.36 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 84.1 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.52 (s, 1H), 8.38 (s, 1H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 3.66 (t, *J* = 10 Hz, 4H), 3.40 (t, *J* = 10 Hz, 4H), 1.40 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 162.51, 160.49, 159.43, 155.63, 153.92, 112.77, 79.37, 66.60, 46.12, 43.56, 42.60, 28.13; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₅H₂₁Cl₃N₅O₃ [M+H]⁺, 424.0710; found, 424.0667.

2.10 4-(6-Chloro-5-(2,2-dichloroacetamido)pyrimidin-4-yl)piperazin-1-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (14)

Compound **13** (0.21 g, 0.5 mmol) was stirred in dichloromethane, then trifluoroacetic acid (0.22 g, 2 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) was added dropwise. Upon completion of the reaction, the resulting mixture was concentrated, the residues was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent, methanol / dichlormethane, 1/10, V/V) to give the compound **14** (0.21 g) as light yellow solid. Yield: 96.2 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.91 (s, 1H), 9.34 (s, 2H), 8.43 (s, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 3.90 (m, 4H), 2.51 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 162.72, 160.52, 159.66, 155.75, 113.85, 66.64, 43.68, 42.81; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₀H₁₃Cl₃N₅O [M+H-CF₃COO⁻]⁺, 324.0186; found, 324.0189.

2.11 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4-chloro-6-(cyclopropylamino)-2-methylpyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (15)

Compound **15** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and cyclopropanamine (0.085 g, 1.41 mmol). The desired compound **15** (0.27 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 86.4 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.86 (s, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 2.83–2.77 (m, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 0.77–0.72 (m, 2H), 0.51–0.47 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 165.79, 162.59, 161.15, 155.14, 109.03, 67.22, 25.52, 24.03, 6.41; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₀H₁₂Cl₃N₄O [M+H]⁺, 309.0077; found, 309.0068.

2.12 2,2-dichloro-N-(4-chloro-6-(cyclobutylamino)-2-methylpyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (16)

Compound **16** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and cyclobutanamine (0.11 g, 1.5 mmol). The desired compound **16** (0.26 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 83.1 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.88 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 4.56–4.46 (m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.24–2.21 (m, 2H), 2.05–1.95 (m, 2H), 1.71–1.63 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 165.71, 162.62, 158.93, 155.44, 108.64, 67.26, 45.67, 30.31, 25.48, 14.64; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₁H₁₄Cl₃N₄O [M+H]⁺, 323.0233; found, 323.0225.

2.13 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4-chloro-2-methyl-6-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (17)

Compound 17 was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound 6, starting from

compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and pyrrolidine (0.11 g, 1.5 mmol). The desired compound **17** (0.24 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 74.4 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.23 (s, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 3.65 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 3.42 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.87–1.81 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 165.05, 163.39, 158.25, 108.04, 66.63, 48.61, 25.34, 24.88; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₁H₁₄Cl₃N₄O [M+H]⁺, 323.0233; found, 323.0233.

2.14 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4-chloro-2-methyl-6-(piperidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (18)

Compound **18** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and piperidine (0.13 g, 1.5 mmol). The desired compound **18** (0.23 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 69.2 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.34 (s, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 3.61 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 4H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.60–1.57 (m, 2H), 1.52–1.48 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 164.79, 162.48, 160.20, 159.06, 109.59, 66.60, 47.59, 25.82, 25.32, 24.02; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₂H₁₆Cl₃N₄O [M+H]⁺, 337.0390; found, 337.0394.

2.15 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4-chloro-2-methyl-6-thiomorpholinopyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (19)

Compound **19** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and thiomorpholine (0.15 g, 1.5 mmol). The desired compound **19** (0.25 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 72.1 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.38 (s, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 3.90 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 4H), 2.64 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 4H), 2.40 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 164.97, 162.70, 160.39, 159.44, 110.26, 66.56, 49.39, 26.57, 25.31; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₁H₁₄Cl₃N₄OS [M+H]⁺, 354.9954; found, 354.9951.

2.16 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4-chloro-2-methyl-6-morpholinopyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (20)

Compound **20** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and thiomorpholine (0.13 g, 1.5 mmol). The desired compound **20** (0.25 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 73.5 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 10.40 (s, 1H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 3.62 (s, 8H), 2.60 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 164.96, 162.44, 160.22, 159.14, 110.18, 66.56, 66.15, 46.87, 25.29; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₁H₁₄Cl₃N₄O₂ [M+H]⁺, 339.0182; found, 339.0178.

2.17 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4-chloro-2-methyl-6-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)pyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (21)

Compound **21** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and thiomorpholine (0.15 g, 1.5 mmol). The desired compound **21** (0.27 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 77.4 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.38 (s, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 3.63 (s, 4H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.35–2.32 (m, 4H), 2.17 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 164.87, 162.42, 160.21, 159.14, 110.02, 66.59, 54.60, 46.27, 45.63, 25.30; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₂H₁₇Cl₃N₅O

[M+H]⁺, 352.0499; found, 352.0481.

2.18 Tert-butyl 4-(6-chloro-5-(2,2-dichloroacetamido)-2-methylpyrimidin-4-yl)piperazine-1-carboxylate (22)

Compound **22** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and tert-butyl piperazine-1-carboxylate (0.27 g, 1.5 mmol). The desired compound **22** (0.28 g) was obtained as slight yellow solid. Yield: 64.1 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.39 (s, 1H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 3.63 (t, *J* = 10 Hz, 4H), 3.37 (t, *J* = 10 Hz, 4H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 164.93, 162.53, 160.31, 159.17, 153.88, 110.22, 79.30, 66.62, 46.03, 28.14, 28.10, 25.28; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₆H₂₃Cl₃N₅O₃ [M+H]⁺, 438.0866; found, 438.0857.

2.19 4-(6-Chloro-5-(2,2-dichloroacetamido)-2-methylpyrimidin-4-yl)piperazin-1-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (23)

Compound **22** (0.22 g, 0.5 mmol) was stirred in dichloromethane, then trifluoroacetic acid (0.22 g, 2 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) was added dropwise. Upon completion of the reaction, the resulting mixture was concentrated, the residues was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent, methanol / dichlormethane, 1/10, V/V) to give the compound **23** (0.21 g) as light yellow solid. Yield: 93.2 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.72 (s, 1H), 9.26 (s, 2H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 4H), 3.15 (s, 4H), 2.42 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 165.04, 162.57, 160.12, 159.22, 111.02, 66.50, 43.40, 42.62, 25.23; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₁H₁₅Cl₃N₅O₃ [M + H - CF₃COO⁻]⁺, 338.0342; found, 338.0347.

2.20 N-(4,6-Bis(cyclobutylamino)pyrimidin-5-yl)-2,2-dichloroacetamide (24)

A mixture of compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol) and triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) in dimethyl sulfoxide (15 mL) was stirred under room temperature. Then cyclobutanamine (0.15 g, 2.5 mmol) in dimethyl sulfoxide (5 mL) was added dropwise, then the reaction temperature was increased to 60 °C. Upon completion of the reaction, the resulting mixture was extracted with dichlormethane (3×20 mL), then the combined organic phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and subsequently the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent, ethyl acetate / dichlormethane, 1/5, V/V) to give the compound **24** (0.3 g) as white solid. Yield: 87.9 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.94 (s, 1H), 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 4.56–4.43 (m, 2H), 2.31–2.24 (m, 4H), 2.11–1.98 (m, 4H), 1.75–1.68 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 162.57, 159.25, 155.54, 111.58, 45.95, 30.18, 14.75; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₄H₂₀Cl₂N₅O [M+H]⁺, 344.1045; found, 344.1047.

2.21 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4,6-di(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (25)

Compound **25** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and pyrrolidine (0.15 g, 2.5 mmol). The desired compound **25** (0.25 g) was obtained as white solid. Yield: 73.5 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 9.77 (s, 1H),

7.92 (s, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 3.52–3.48 (m, 4H), 3.43–3.90 (m, 4H), 1.87–1.83 (m, 4H), 1.76–1.71 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 162.58, 159.26, 154.81, 94.51, 66.91, 48.81, 25.09; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₄H₂₀Cl₂N₅O [M+H]⁺, 344.1045; found, 344.1051.

2.22 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4,6-di(piperidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (26)

Compound **26** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and pyrrolidine (0.21 g, 2.5 mmol). The desired compound **25** (0.28 g) was obtained as white solid. Yield: 74.9 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.68 (s, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 3.37–3.40 (m, 8H), 1.54–1.50 (m, 12H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 163.51, 161.16, 155.09, 101.32, 66.89, 48.76, 25.83, 24.23; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₆H₂₄Cl₂N₅O [M+H]⁺, 372.1358; found, 372.1360.

2.23 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4,6-dithiomorpholinopyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (27)

Compound **27** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and thiomorpholine (0.25 g, 2.5 mmol). The desired compound **27** (0.28 g) was obtained as white solid. Yield: 69.2 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.82 (s, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 3.67 (t, *J* = 10 Hz, 8H), 2.61–2.56 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 163.58, 161.43, 154.94, 102.22, 66.83, 50.42, 26.75; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₄H₂₀Cl₂N₅OS₂ [M+H]⁺, 408.0486; found, 408.0486.

2.24 2,2-Dichloro-N-(4,6-dimorpholinopyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (28)

Compound **28** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and morpholine (0.22 g, 2.5 mmol). The desired compound **28** (0.32 g) was obtained as white solid. Yield: 84.3 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.78 (s, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 3.60 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 8H), 3.41 (m, 8H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 163.14, 161.33, 155.24, 102.19, 66.91, 66.30, 48.09; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₄H₂₀Cl₂N₅O₃ [M+H]⁺, 376.0943; found, 376.0941.

2.25 N-(4,6-bis(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)pyrimidin-5-yl)-2,2-dichloroacetamide (29)

Compound **29** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and 1-methylpiperazine (0.25 g, 2.5 mmol). The desired compound **29** (0.33 g) was obtained as white solid. Yield: 82.7 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.85 (s, 1H), 8.12 (s, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 3.41 (s, 8H), 2.33 (s, 8H), 2.17 (s, 6H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 163.16, 161.25, 155.09, 101.68, 66.90, 54.77, 47.38, 45.78; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₆H₂₆Cl₂N₇O [M+H]⁺, 402.1576; found, 402.1534.

2.26 Di-tert-butyl 4,4'-(5-(2,2-dichloroacetamido)pyrimidine-4,6-diyl)bis(piperazine-1-carboxylate) (30)

Compound **30** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1a** (0.27 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and tert-butyl piperazine-1-carboxylate (0.49 g, 2.5 mmol). The desired compound **30** (0.35 g) was obtained as white solid. Yield: 61.5 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.81 (s, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 3.40 (s, 16H), 1.40 (s, 18H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 163.19, 161.38, 155.16, 153.97, 102.20, 79.20, 66.94, 47.31, 28.13; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₄H₃₈Cl₂N₇O₅ [M+H]⁺, 574.2311; found, 574.2289.

2.27 N-(4,6-Bis(cyclobutylamino)-2-methylpyrimidin-5-yl)-2,2-dichloroacetamide (31)

A mixture of compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol) and triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) in dimethyl sulfoxide (15 mL) was stirred under room temperature. Then cyclobutanamine (0.15 g, 2.5 mmol) in dimethyl sulfoxide (5 mL) was added dropwise, then the reaction temperature was increased to 60 °C. Upon completion of the reaction, the resulting mixture was extracted with dichlormethane (3×20 mL), then the combined organic phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and subsequently the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent, ethyl acetate / dichlormethane, 1/5, V/V) to give the compound **31** (0.22 g) as white solid. Yield: 60.7 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.89 (s, 1H), 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 4.57–4.50 (m, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.25–2.22 (m, 4H), 2.02–1.98 (m, 4H), 1.70–1.67 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 165.78, 162.81, 158.91, 108.64, 67.29, 45.84, 30.32, 25.51, 14.71; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₅H₂₂Cl₂N₅O [M+H]⁺, 358.1201; found, 358.1207.

2.28 2,2-Dichloro-N-(2-methyl-4,6-di(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (32)

Compound **32** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and pyrrolidine (0.17 g, 2.5 mmol). The desired compound **32** (0.26 g) was obtained as white solid. Yield: 72.4 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.68 (s, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 3.49–3.45 (m, 4H), 3.42–3.38 (m, 4H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.85–1.79 (m, 4H), 1.76–1.65 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 162.88, 162.56, 159.40, 92.61, 66.94, 48.75, 25.93, 25.10; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₅H₂₂Cl₂N₅O [M+H]⁺, 358.1201; found, 358.1195.

2.29 2,2-Dichloro-N-(2-methyl-4,6-di(piperidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (33)

Compound **33** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and piperidine (0.21 g, 2.5 mmol). The desired compound **33** (0.3 g) was obtained as white solid. Yield: 79.1 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.57 (s, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 3.35–3.31 (m, 8H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.51–1.49 (m, 12H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 163.62, 163.57, 161.27, 99.22, 66.93, 48.79, 25.95, 25.88, 24.31; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₇H₂₆Cl₂N₅O [M+H]⁺, 386.1514; found, 386.1523.

2.30 2,2-Dichloro-N-(2-methyl-4,6-dithiomorpholinopyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (34)

Compound **34** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and thiomorpholine (0.25 g, 2.5 mmol). The desired compound **34** (0.32 g) was obtained as white solid. Yield: 76.2 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.67 (s, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 3.62 (s, 8H), 2.60 (s, 8H), 2.30 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 163.85, 163.82, 161.43, 100.18, 66.89, 50.41, 26.80, 25.86; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₅H₂₂Cl₂N₅OS₂ [M+H]⁺, 422.0643; found, 422.0651.

2.31 2,2-Dichloro-N-(2-methyl-4,6-dimorpholinopyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (35)

Compound **35** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and morpholine (0.21 g, 2.5 mmol). The desired compound **35** (0.31 g) was obtained as white solid. Yield: 80.6 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.68 (s, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 3.59 (d, J = 4 Hz, 8H), 3.36 (s, 8H), 2.30 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 163.90, 163.19, 161.41, 100.00, 66.94, 66.36, 48.12, 25.87; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₅H₂₂Cl₂N₅O₃ [M+H]⁺, 390.1100; found, 390.1095.

2.32 2,2-dichloro-N-(2-methyl-4,6-bis(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)pyrimidin-5-yl)acetamide (36)

Compound **36** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and 1-methylpiperazine (0.25 g, 2.5 mmol). The desired compound **36** (0.31 g) was obtained as white solid. Yield: 73.8 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.72 (s, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 3.59 (d, J = 4 Hz, 8H), 3.41 (s, 8H), 2.32 (s, 8H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 6H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 163.69, 163.19, 161.33, 99.48, 66.94, 54.81, 47.35, 45.78, 25.89; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₇H₂₈Cl₂N₇O [M+H]⁺, 416.1732; found, 416.1721.

2.33 Di-tert-butyl 4,4'-(5-(2,2-dichloroacetamido)-2-methylpyrimidine-4,6-diyl)bis(piperazine-1-carboxylate) (37)

Compound **37** was prepared according to the experimental procedure described for compound **6**, starting from compound **1b** (0.29 g, 1 mmol), triethylamine (0.12 g, 1.2 mmol) and tert-butyl piperazine-1-carboxylate (0.47 g, 2.5 mmol). The desired compound **37** (0.41 g) was obtained as white solid. Yield: 69.5 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.70 (s, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 3.29 (s, 8H), 2.35 (s, 8H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.38 (s, 18H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 163.84, 163.24, 161.44, 154.00, 100.08, 79.17, 66.97, 47.33, 28.14, 25.85; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₅H₄₀Cl₂N₇O₅ [M+H]⁺, 588.2468; found, 588.2477.

2.34 4,4'-(5-(2,2-Dichloroacetamido)-2-methylpyrimidine-4,6-diyl)bis(piperazin-1-ium) 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (38)

Compound **37** (0.29 g, 0.5 mmol) was stirred in dichloromethane, then trifluoroacetic acid (0.22 g, 2 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) was added dropwise. Upon completion of the reaction, the resulting mixture was concentrated, the residues was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent, methanol / dichlormethane, 1/10, V/V) to give the compound **38** (0.27 g) as light yellow solid. Yield: 89.4 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.08 (s, 1H), 9.01 (s, 4H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 3.60 (s, 8H), 3.12-3.09 (m, 8H), 2.35 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆):

δ 164.15, 162.75, 161.64, 101.38, 66.94, 44.58, 42.93, 25.81; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₅H₂₄F₃Cl₂N₇O [M+H-2CF₃COO⁻]⁺, 388.1419; found, 388.1432.

2.35 N-(4,6-Bis(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)piperazin-1-yl)-2-methylpyrimidin-5-yl)-2,2-dichloroacetamide (39)

Compound **38** (0.31 g, 0.5 mmol) and anhydrous potassium carbonate (0.28 g, 2 mmol) were stirred in acetonitrile for 0.5 h. Then 2-bromoethan-1-ol (0.15 g, 1.2 mmol) was added dropwise at room temperature. After completion of the reaction, the resulting mixture was concentrated, the residues was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent, methanol / dichlormethane, 1/15, V/V) to give the compound **39** (0.15 g) as white solid. Yield: 64.7 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.65 (s, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 3.94 (m, 4H), 3.68 (m, 4H), 3.31 (m, 8H), 3.25 (s, 1H), 2.34 (m, 8H), 2.27 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 163.89, 163.25, 161.52, 101.62, 66.94, 61.45, 54.97, 47.45, 45.95, 25.83; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁9H₃₂Cl₂N₇O₃ [M+H]⁺, 476.1944; found, 476.1916.

2.36 N-(4,6-Bis(4-(2-hydroxyacetyl)piperazin-1-yl)-2-methylpyrimidin-5-yl)-2,2-dichloroacetamide (40)

Compound **38** (0.31 g, 0.5 mmol) and triethylamine (0.73 mL, 5 mmol) were stirred in dichloromethane for 0.5 h. Then glycolic acid (0.16 g, 2 mmol) and two drops of DMF were dissolved in dichloromethane, oxalyl chloride (0.2 mL, 2.4 mmol) was added. After 2 h, mix the two reactants in room temperature. After completion of the reaction, the resulting mixture was concentrated, the residues was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent, methanol / dichlormethane, 1/15, V/V) to give the compound **40** (65 mg) as white solid. Yield: 24.7 %. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 9.66 (s, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 4.31 (s, 4H), 3.32 (m, 8H), 2.66 (m, 8H), 2.27 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 174.2, 163.84, 163.33, 161.51, 101.63, 66.94, 54.94, 47.44, 25.83; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₉H₂₈Cl₂N₇O₅ [M+H]⁺, 504.1529; found, 504.1533.

3. Biological evaluation

3.1 Cell culture

SF188, RKO, and MCF-7 cancer cells were cultured in DMEM medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum and 1% penicillin/streptomycin in 5% CO₂ at 37 °C. Cells at exponentially growing stage were used for all the experiments.

3.2 Cell viability assay

Cancer cells viability upon treatment was assessed by Alamar Blue assay. A suspension of cancer cells (2000/well for MCF-7, 3000/well for SF188 and RKO) were seeded in 96-well plates and cultured overnight. Working compound solution (400 μ M) were prepared by diluting the 40 mM compounds stock solutions in PBS buffer containing 1% DMSO. The working solutions were added to the corresponding plates (10 μ L/well), in which cells were incubated for 72 h. Then, 10 μ L of Alamar Blue solution (10 ×) was added to each well. After 4 h of incubation at 37 °C, the solvent was mixed with gentle shaking. Fluorescence of the solution was recorded around 590 nm with an excitation wavelength at 530 nm on a SpectraMax M5 Microplate Reader. After the potent compounds (**1b**, **37** and **40**) were identified, dose-response studies were undertaken to determine the exact IC₅₀ values of these compounds. Eight different concentrations of **1b**, **37** and **40** were added into the 96-well plate. The fluorescence intensity were read, and the results were expressed as IC₅₀ values, which were the mean values derived from three independent experiments.

3.3 IncuCyte Zoom live cells image for the growth of the cancer cells

The growth of the cancer cells after treating with compound **1b** and **40** was monitored in an IncuCyte Zoom system (Essen BioScience Company). The SF188 (3000/well) was seeded into each well of a 96-well plate for 24 h, then compound **40** at 40 μ M were added into each well, followed by another 24, 48, and 72 h incubation. Cell images were recorded every three hours, and cells without adding others drugs were served as control.

3.4 Apoptosis detection by flow cytometry

SF188 cells were seeded at a density of 2×10^5 cells/mL on each well of a six-well plate and were allowed to grow overnight. Then cells were treated with compound **1b** (40 µM), and compound **40** (10, 20, and 40 µM) for 24 h at 37 °C. Cells were trypsinized, repeatedly washed with cold PBS for three times, and centrifuged at 800 rpm for 5 min, and the supernatants were discarded. Cells were resuspended in 1× Annexin binding buffer to ~5 × 10⁵ cells/mL, preparing a sufficient volume to have 100 µL per assay. To 100 µL of cell suspension, 10 µL of Annexin V and 5 µL of PI were added and incubated for 15 min at room temperature. After incubation, 400 µL of PBS was added to each sample and was gently mixed and analyzed immediately on a BD AccuriTM C6 Plus flow cytometer.

3.5 Lactate measurement

A suspension of SF188 cells (2×10^5 / well) were seeded in 6-well plates and cultured overnight. Then compound **1b** (40 μ M), and compound **40** (5, 10, 20 μ M) were added to the corresponding wells, and the plates were incubated for

24 h. Then, the medium was transfered to microcentrifuge, which were centrifuged for 5 min (6000 r/min). At last 1 mL medium was collected, the lactate production was evaluated by Nova Bioprofile Flex analyzer. (Nova Biomedical).

3.6 PDK1 expression and purification

Recombinant human PDK1 (aa29-436) was prepared as we described in our previous work [1].

3.7 ITC Analysis

The concentration of PDK1 proteins were determined by measuring sample absorbance at 280 nm and diluted to 20 μ M in the buffer solution containing 50 mM KH₂PO₄/K₂HPO₄, pH 7.4, 250 mM KCl, and 2 mM MgCl₂. Stock solution of the compound **40** was dissolved in DMSO (30 mM). Then the stock solution was diluted by buffer solution (50 mM KH₂PO₄/K₂HPO₄, pH 7.4, 250 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl₂) into the 300 μ M containing 1% DMSO. Then the corresponding solution was delivered into the titration syringe. ITC experiments were accomplished using a Microcal iTC200 microcalorimeter (GE Healthcare). The reaction cell contained 300 μ L PDK1. Titrations were performed with the injection of 2.5 μ L titrant(s) for every increment into the reaction cell which was maintained at 25 °C. All of the ITC data were initially analyzed and the baseline was automatically determined by the Origin 7, then followed by curve fitting to one-site model to obtain *K*_d value.

3.8 PDK kinase activity assay

PDK1 kinase activity was measured by the Kinase-Glo® Luminescent Kinase Assays (Promega). Reagents were used in this assay: PDK1 250 μ M (in 50 mM K₃PO₄, 250 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl₂, pH = 7.4); Assay buffer (10 X, 250 mM Tris-HCl, 10 mM EDTA, 5 mM EGTA, 10 mM DTT, 50 mM MgCl₂), peptide 10 mM (amino acid sequences: RYHGHSMSDP, which is a fragment around S293 of PDC E1 subunit), ATP 10 mM. Firstly, 25 μ L of dd water and 5 μ L assay buffer (10 x) were added to 96-well plate, and marked the wells as well 1#, 2#, 3#, 4#, 5# and 6#. Then 5 μ L of 1% DMSO PBS buffer was added to wells 1# and 6#, and 5 μ L of compound **1b** (400 μ M), 5 μ L of compound **40** (400 μ M), 5 μ L of compound **40** (200 μ M), 5 μ L of compound **40** (100 μ M) were added to wells 2#, 3#, 4#, and 5#. Subsequently, 5 μ L ATP (20 μ M) and 5 μ L peptide (50 μ M) were added to wells 1#, 2#, 3#, 4#, 5# and 6#, then 5 μ L PDK1 (20 μ M) was added to wells 1#, 2#, 3#, 4# and 5#, and 5 μ L protein buffer to well 6#. At last, mix the plate and incubate at 37 °C for 30 minutes. Then to each wells 50 μ L of the appropriate kinase-Glo reagent were added. The plate was shake gently, and incubated for another 10 min at room temperature. Then the luminescence was recorded in the microplate reader.

3.9 Molecule docking

The crystal structure of PDK2 (PDB ID: 2BU2) was downloaded from the Protein Data Bank (<u>http://www.pdb.org/</u>), the protein was prepared in Protein Preparation Workflow of Sybyl-X 2.1 software package. Protocol of the preparation of the protein includes: Water molecules removing, side-chain reparation, termini treatment, hydrogens addition, *etc.* The structures of compound **40** were drawn using the structure drawing tool available in Sybyl-X 2.1

package and the energy of molecule was minimized using a tripos force field and charges were computed using a Gasteiger–Huckel method. The lowest binding energy conformer was searched out of 20 conformers for each docking simulation and the resultant one was used for further analysis.

References

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4. NMR spectra



































































5. HRMS spectra

























































































