TITLE PAGE

TITLE:

In silico Screening for Inhibitors of P-Glycoprotein that Target the Nucleotide Binding Domains*

AUTHORS:

Frances K. Brewer, Courtney A. Follit, Pia D. Vogel and John G. Wise

LABORATORY OF ORIGIN:

From the Department of Biological Sciences, the Center for Drug Discovery, Design and Delivery, and the Center for Scientific Computing, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, USA 75275-0376

MOL #95414

a) Running title:

Identification of targeted P-glycoprotein inhibitors

b) Corresponding author:

John G. Wise, Department of Biological Sciences, Center for Drug Discovery, Design and Delivery, and

the Center for Scientific Computing, Southern Methodist University, 6501 Airline Road, Dallas, TX,

USA 75275-0376; Tel.:214-768-3426; Fax: 214-768-3955; Email: jwise@smu.edu

c) Number of text pages: 40

Number of tables: 2

Number of figures: 5

Number of references: 54

Number of words in Abstract: 222

Number of words in Introduction: 741

Number of words in Discussion: 1831

d) Nonstandard Abbreviations

AMPPNP: 5'-adenylyl-β,γ-imidodiphosphate; Compound 19: methyl 4-[bis(2-hydroxy-4-oxochromen-3-

yl)methyl]benzoate (ZINC 09973259, CID 4694077); Compound 29: 2-[(5-cyclopropyl-1H-1,2,4-triazol-

3-yl)sulfanyl]-N-[2-phenyl-5-(2,4,5-trimethylphenyl)pyrazol-3-yl]acetamide (ZINC 08767731, CID

Compound 34: 2-[1-[4-(4-methoxyphenyl)piperazin-1-yl]-1-oxobutan-2-yl]-4-methyl-17555821):

[1]benzothiolo[2,3-d]pyridazin-1-one (ZINC 09252021, CID 22514118); Compound 45: ethyl 1-(1,3-

benzodioxole-5-carbonyl)-3-(3-phenylpropyl)piperidine-3-carboxylate (ZINC 15078148, ZINC

15078146, CID 26410703, CID 45252040); Cys-less P-gp, a form of P-glycoprotein in which all

cysteines were replaced by alanine; DBD, the transmembrane domains of P-gp that bind transport

substrates; DDM, dodecyl maltoside; DMSO: dimethylsulfoxide; ESR, electron spin resonance

2

spectroscopy; NBD, nucleotide binding domain; P-gp: P-glycoprotein; SL-ATP, 2',3'-(2,2,5,5,-1) tetramethyl-3-pyrroline-1-oxyl-3-carboxylic acid ester) ATP, 2',3' indicates a rapid equilibrium of the ester bond between the 2' and 3' hydroxyl groups of ATP; SL-ANP, 2',3'-(2,2,5,5,-1) tetramethyl-3-pyrroline-1-oxyl-3-carboxylic acid ester) -ATP or -ADP, the actual bound form of SL-ATP is either in the SL-ADP, SL-ADP + P_i or SL-ATP form, but the degree of phosphorylation is unknown.

ABSTRACT

Multidrug resistances and the failure of chemotherapies are often caused by the expression or overexpression of ABC-transporter proteins like the MDR1 P-glycoprotein (P-gp). P-gp is expressed in the plasma membrane of many cell types and protects cells from accumulation of toxins. P-gp uses ATP hydrolysis to catalyze the transport of a broad range of mostly hydrophobic compounds across the plasma membrane and out of the cell. During cancer chemotherapy, the administration of therapeutics often selects for cells which overexpress P-gp, thereby creating populations of cancer cells resistant to a variety of chemically unrelated chemotherapeutics. The present study describes extremely high throughput, massively parallel in silico ligand docking studies aimed at identifying reversible inhibitors of ATP hydrolysis that target the nucleotide binding domains of P-gp. We used a structural model of human P-gp that we obtained from molecular dynamics experiments as the protein target for ligand docking. We employed a novel approach of subtractive docking experiments that identified ligands that bound predominantly to the nucleotide binding domains but not the drug binding domains of P-gp. Four compounds were found that inhibit ATP hydrolysis by P-gp. Using Electron Spin Resonance spectroscopy, we showed that at least 3 of these compounds affected nucleotide binding to the transporter. These studies represent a successful proof-of-principle demonstrating to potential of targeted approaches to identifying specific inhibitors of P-gp.

INTRODUCTION

One long-standing problem of significant medical consequence in the chemotherapeutic treatment of cancer is multidrug resistance (MDR), which appears as either an acquired or inherent resistance to chemically diverse pharmaceuticals (Ford and Hait, 1990; Harris and Hochhauser, 1992; Kartner and Ling, 1989). Although MDR can be caused by a number of different mechanisms (Binkhathlan and Lavasanifar, 2013), it is often linked to the overexpression of P-glycoprotein, P-gp (Gottesman and Pastan, 1993; Gros et al., 1986; Roninson et al., 1986).

P-glycoprotein in humans is expressed from the MDR1 gene. As a member of the ABC transporter family (subclass ABCB1) it exists as a plasma membrane protein of 1280 residues (Binkhathlan and Lavasanifar, 2013; Gottesman and Pastan, 1993; Persidis, 1999). Three dimensional structures of homologs of human P-gp from several bacterial species are known (Dawson and Locher, 2006; Dawson and Locher, 2007; Ward et al., 2007), as well as eukaryotic transporters from Caenorhabditis elegans (Jin et al., 2012) and Mus musculus (Aller et al., 2009). Most eukaryotic P-gps are monomeric and composed of two relatively symmetrical halves connected by a linker polypeptide. Each half is homologous to the homodimeric bacterial ABCB1 transporters (Chen et al., 1986) and possesses an N-terminal domain containing 6 transmembrane (TM) helices followed by a C-terminal nucleotide binding domain (NBD). Transport substrates appear to bind to multiple binding sites within the TM domains (Dev et al., 1997; Loo et al., 2003; Loo et al., 2009; Lugo and Sharom, 2005; Shapiro and Ling, 1997). The nucleotide binding and the TM domains of P-gp and other ABC transporters appear to undergo very large conformational changes during the catalytic cycle (Aller et al., 2009; Hollenstein et al., 2007; Lee et al., 2008; Li et al., 2014; Verhalen et al., 2012; Verhalen and Wilkens, 2011; Zoghbi and Altenberg, 2013; Zoghbi and Altenberg, 2014). Some of the structural models show tightly integrated, closed NBD dimers with nucleotides bound at each site while the TM domains are opened to the exterior of the cell (Dawson and Locher, 2006; Dawson and Locher, 2007; Stoehr et al., 2014; Ward et al., 2007). In nucleotide-free

structures, the TM domains are opened to the interior of the cell with NBD domains disengaged and sometimes widely separated (Aller et al., 2009; Jin et al., 2012; Ward et al., 2007). Molecular dynamics simulations of the MalK maltose transporter indicate that opening of the NBD dimer is a direct result of ATP hydrolysis at either nucleotide binding site (Wen and Tajkhorshid, 2008). Targeted molecular dynamics studies of human P-glycoprotein based on crystal structures of homologs in various conformations visualized the large, concerted conformational changes required for a catalytic transport cycle (Wise, 2012).

P-glycoprotein has been actively investigated as a pharmacological target in multidrug resistant cancers for several decades. P-gp inhibitors have been classified into three generations of compounds (Binkhathlan and Lavasanifar, 2013). Generation 1 included compounds already approved as therapeutics for other indications, including verapamil, quinine, quinidine and cyclosporine A. These agents failed at clinically reversing MDR because the high concentrations required to inhibit P-gp resulted in unacceptable side effects (Palmeira et al., 2012). The second generation compounds were more effective, but many of these compounds like first generation compounds were transport substrates for P-gp, requiring relatively high concentrations. Some also affected cytochrome P450 CYP3A isozymes, altering the pharmacokinetics of other drugs (Binkhathlan and Lavasanifar, 2013). The best of the third generation P-gp inhibitors appears to be tariquidar (Stewart et al., 2000; Walker et al., 2004). However, ongoing clinical trials of tariquidar and other inhibitors have reported only limited successes in reversing MDR (Binkhathlan and Lavasanifar, 2013).

Here we report efforts aimed at identifying novel inhibitors of P-glycoprotein that might be useful as lead compounds for reversing multidrug resistances in cancers. We employed very high throughput, massively parallel computational screens of a very large database of drug-like structures (Irwin and Shoichet, 2005; Irwin et al., 2012) to one hypothetically critical conformation of P-gp, the partially opened outward structure described previously (Wise, 2012). The present study aimed to identify

MOL #95414

potential inhibitors that specifically target the nucleotide binding domains of P-gp with limited interactions at the drug binding sites. We hypothesized that compounds that strongly bind to the power transducing structures of P-gp but not well to the drug pumping structures would potentially inhibit P-gp catalyzed transport without being transported out of the cell. Drug-like compounds with these attributes may make good co-therapeutic leads to be developed against multidrug resistances in cancer chemotherapies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In silico screening - A database of commercially available compounds that includes molecules with "clean" drug-like characteristics was obtained from the ZINC website (http://zinc.docking.org/) (Irwin and Shoichet, 2005; Irwin et al., 2012) and about half of these compounds (5,277,160) were used in in silico docking experiments with a human P-glycoprotein structural conformation as described earlier (Wise, 2012). The modeled protein conformation represents a conformation of P-gp where the nucleotide binding domains (NBD) are fully engaged similar to those of the Sav1866 crystal structure (Dawson and Locher, 2006). Nucleotides were removed from the protein before docking studies were performed. Ligand docking used the Autodock 4.2 program (Goodsell et al., 1996; Morris et al., 1996; Osterberg et al., 2002) and the high performance computational facilities of the Center for Scientific Computing at Southern Methodist University. Ligands were converted to pdbqt file format using the AutoDockTools Python scripts (Morris et al., 2009). Autodock parameters included 100 Lamarckian genetic algorithm runs per ligand with mutation rates of 0.02, crossover set at 0.8, a population size of 300 with 3,000,000 evaluations and 27,000 generations per tested ligand. Roughly 5 million of these docking studies against the P-gp nucleotide binding domains were analyzed in the first round of the in silico screening experiments. As a second part to the experiment, docking against the drug binding domains (DBD) of the same P-gp structure was performed. This experiment used two overlapping grid maps that encompassed the entire P-gp molecule minus the nucleotide binding domains. Two grids were required because of the size of the desired zone. A subset of ligands that was found to dock to P-gp with estimated binding affinities of less than 500nM at the NBD was used in the secondary docking experiments to the drug binding domains. Only ligands predicted to bind the NBD at least 100-fold more tightly than the DBD were considered for further analysis.

ATP hydrolysis assays - A well-established activity assay for ATP hydrolyzing enzymes (Delannoy et al., 2005; Hoffman et al., 2010) was used that couples the hydrolysis of ATP by P-glycoprotein to the

oxidation of NADH to NAD⁺ through the reactions of pyruvate kinase and lactate dehydrogenase (Vogel and Steinhart, 1976). These reactions were adapted to medium throughput conditions on 96 well plates. To test the effects of the *in silico* identified potential inhibitors, a total volume of 5μL of various concentrations of experimental compounds dissolved in DMSO was added to wells in a 96-well plate containing 45μL equilibration buffer (20% glycerol, 50mM Tris-Cl, pH 7.5). To each of these wells, 50μL of a solution containing 80-100μg/mL lipid-activated, concentrated P-gp (see below) in equilibration buffer in the absence or presence of 300μM verapamil (dissolved in water) was added. After incubating the plate for 30 minutes at 37 °C, 100μL coupled enzyme assay cocktail (50mM Tris-Cl pH 7.5, 24mM MgSO₄, 20mM KCl, 2mM PEP, 0.014mg/ml pyruvate kinase, 0.0288 mg/ml lactate dehydrogenase, 1.13 mM NADH and 4mM ATP), pre-warmed to 37°C, was added to each well. Immediately after this addition, ATPase activity was assayed for 20-30 minutes. ATP hydrolysis was recorded as the absorbance decrease at 340nm using a BioTek Eon plate reader. An extinction coefficient for NADH of 6300M⁻¹cm⁻¹ was used. All assays were in duplicate or triplicate and were repeated at least two times using different P-gp preparations. Control experiments were performed that showed that none of the identified inhibitors affected the other enzymes in the coupling assays.

Dose response curves and inhibitor concentration values (IC20, IC50 and IC80 values) were calculated from the data as described by Copeland (Copeland, 2000; Copeland, 2013) using a four parameter logistic fit.

Lipid activation: In order to stabilize the protein for the ATP hydrolysis assays, lipid activation of the purified P-gp was performed. Lipid stocks were prepared from L-α-phosphatidyl-choline from soybean (~40%) (Sigma) by adding lipid stock buffer (50mM Tris-Cl, pH 7.5, 0.1 mM EGTA) to solid lipid in glass test tubes. Lipid stock concentrations were 25mg/mL or 100mg lipid/mL buffer. The suspension was flushed with argon and subsequently sonicated in a bath sonicator at room temperature for 15–30 minutes until the mixture clarified. The lipid suspension was supplemented with 2mM DTT and stored at

4°C under argon until use. To activate P-gp, lipid stock was pre-warmed to 37°C, mixed with concentrated protein (see below) at a ratio of 2:1 (w/w) and then diluted with equilibration buffer at 37°C to a final concentration of typically 100μg P-gp per mL activated P-gp mix. This mixture was incubated at room temperature for 30 minutes to 1 hour before use in the coupled enzyme assays.

Preparation of isolated P-glycoprotein - The P-glycoprotein used in these assays was a close relative of the human P-gp that is found in *Mus musculus* (MDR3 − 87% identical to human P-gp). A mutant form of the mouse P-glycoprotein where all intrinsic cysteine amino acids had been replaced by alanine residues was recombinantly expressed in the yeast *Pichia pastoris* (Lerner-Marmarosh et al., 1999; Tombline et al., 2006). This cysteine-less mouse P-gp was used for assaying the potential inhibitor compounds. Purification of the protein was performed essentially as described (Delannoy et al., 2005) with small modifications resulting in highly enriched P-gp in mixed micelles containing dodecyl maltoside (DDM) and lysophosphatidyl choline. To obtain concentrated P-gp, the elution fraction of the Ni-NTA column was concentrated 70 to 100 fold using Amicon™ Ultra centrifugal filters with a Mw cutoff of 100,000 Da. This procedure enriches both protein and micelles and assures retained solubilization of the membrane protein.

ESR measurements- All ESR measurements were performed using a Bruker EMX 6/1 ESR spectrophotometer operating in X-band mode and equipped with a high sensitivity cavity as described previously (Delannoy et al., 2005). Briefly, a total of 30-40 μL of sample was pipetted into 50 μL glass capillaries. The top of the capillary was closed and inserted into a quartz cuvette. ESR spectra were acquired at a microwave frequency of 9.33GHz, microwave power of 12.63mW, 100kHz modulation frequency and a resolution of 1024 points. The centerfield of the scan was at 3325 G and an area of 100G was scanned with a peak to peak modulation amplitude of 1G. The time constant was set to 10.240ms and the conversion time to 163.84ms, resulting in a total time sweep of 167.772s. The signal gain was adjusted for the SL-ATP concentrations in the different experiments.

All samples in the ESR experiments were dissolved in buffer containing 50mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 50mM NaCl, 20% glycerol, 0.1% DDM, 0.01% lyso-phophatidylcholine, 300mM imidazole with or without the experimental inhibitor compounds present. All ESR measurements were at room temperature. Titration experiments were performed using increasing concentrations of 2'3'-SL-ATP (SL-ATP), essentially as described in (Delannoy et al., 2005). SL-ATP is a substrate of P-gp and is hydrolyzed to the corresponding SL-ADP by the enzyme (Delannoy et al., 2005). Due to this fact, the phosphorylation state of the spin-labeled nucleotide is not known throughout the course of an experiment. Spin-labeled nucleotide is therefore referred to as SL-ANP. The amount of protein-bound SL-ANP was determined as the difference between the known total concentration of SL-ATP added and the free spin-labeled nucleotide observed in the experiment. The latter was measured by comparing the amplitude of the high field ESR signal of SL-ANP at each point to a standard curve of SL-ATP generated in the absence of protein. The amplitudes of the high-field signals were determined using WINEPR (Bruker) software for each concentration of SL-ATP used. Moles of SL-ANP bound per mol of P-gp were plotted over the free SL-ANP concentration and non-linear, hyperbolic curve fitting of the results was performed using OriginTM 8.5.1 to determine maximum binding and apparent affinity for the spin-labeled nucleotide. The equation used for fitting the curves was y = P1*x/(P2 + x), where P1 corresponds to the maximum binding of SL-ANP (moles of SL-ANP bound per mole P-gp), and P2 equals the apparent dissociation constant for SL-ANP. The P-gp concentrations in titration experiments ranged from 20-100µM in the presence of 2mM MgSO₄, 150µM verapamil, and 0, 25, 50, or 100µM of experimental compound dissolved in DMSO. For the experiments shown in Figure 4, the starting concentration of P-gp was 50µM and the concentration of inhibitor was as given in the figure legend. The final volume of the assay was 40µL. Between 3 and 5 individual titration experiments were performed for each compound and concentration using at least two different enzyme preparations. The concentration of SL-ATP ranged from 25 to 500μM.

MOL #95414

Materials- Potential inhibitors of P-gp identified through *in silico* screening were purchased in small quantities through SIA MolPort. Dodecyl maltoside was purchased from Inalco Pharmaceuticals. Lyso phosphatidyl choline was a generous gift from Lipoid GmbH, Germany.

RESULTS

Targeted IN SILICO screening for inhibitors of human P-glycoprotein using a large database of druglike small molecules - The goal of this study was to identify inhibitors of P-gp that interrupt ATP-binding to or hydrolysis by P-gp by interacting at the nucleotide binding domains of P-gp. Using targeted molecular dynamics techniques, we previously visualized structural changes in human P-glycoprotein as the transporter transitions from one conformational state to another during a catalytic transport cycle (Wise, 2012). In the present study, we chose one conformation of P-gp for docking analysis that corresponded to a structural conformation of P-gp where the nucleotide binding domains are fully engaged and the drug binding domains are partially opened outward. This P-gp conformation, which is similar to that observed in the crystal structural model of the bacterial Sav1866 ABC transporter (Dawson and Locher, 2006), was used as the protein target since it possesses fully formed adenine nucleotide binding sites. We hypothesized that compounds that interfere with nucleotide binding to P-gp or that disrupt the nucleotide binding sites might make good inhibitors of ATP binding or hydrolysis and therefore be inhibitors of drug transport. Irwin and Shoichet have made publically available a computational resource containing the 3-dimensional coordinates of over 20 million commercially obtainable compounds, including subsets that possess the chemical characteristics often found in approved medicinal drugs (see the ZINC database at http://zinc.docking.org/) (Irwin and Shoichet, 2005; Irwin et al., 2012). In the first round of docking, about 5.3 million out of about 11 million of these druglike molecules (subset 13 of the ZINC database) were individually tested for binding interactions at the nucleotide binding domains of human P-glycoprotein using the AutoDock4.2 program (Morris et al., 2009) as described in Methods. The results of these calculations were subsequently analyzed for the estimated binding affinity of the ligands to P-gp. Compounds were identified that were predicted to have potentially strong binding interactions at the P-gp nucleotide binding domain structures. We disregarded any compounds for further study that had predicted estimated K_d values that were more than 200nM.

This first set of 180,142 putative P-gp ligands that possessed predicted affinities to the NBDs of P-gp of at least 200nM ("subset 1") was further analyzed for possible interaction at the drug binding domains of P-gp in a second round of docking experiments that targeted the transport drug binding sites of P-gp. Ultimately, compounds that interacted strongly at NBDs, but weakly at the DBDs of P-gp were sought. The docking results for "subset 1" compounds at either of two target grids at the drug binding domain of P-gp (see Methods) were therefore analyzed for predicted binding affinities at the drug binding sites. The calculated affinities at the NBDs and the DBDs of P-gp were then compared for each compound in "subset 1". Those molecules with estimated K_d values at the DBD of P-gp that were greater than or equal to 100 times that of the projected K_d at the NBDs ("subset 2") were considered to be potential inhibitor candidates for P-gp that specifically target the NBDs of P-gp. "Subset 2" consisted of approximately 250 molecules. Of these initial computational leads, 35 compounds were purchased from commercial sources (numbered 11-45) and used in *in vitro* biochemical assays to determine their effectiveness in inhibiting ATP-hydrolysis by isolated P-glycoprotein. These 35 compounds were representative of the various binding clusters observed in silico both within and outside the nucleotide binding sites on P-gp.

Screening for ATP hydrolysis inhibition by IN SILICO identified putative P-gp inhibitors-The ability of the molecules identified using *in silico* methods to function as potential inhibitors of P-glycoprotein was tested by assessing their capability to inhibit ATP hydrolysis using purified P-glycoprotein. ATP hydrolysis by P-glycoprotein is stimulated by transport substrates like the calcium channel blocker, verapamil. Verapamil was found to inhibit P-gp catalyzed transport by competing for transport cycles (Sapay and Tieleman, 2011). Depending on whether a transport substrate like verapamil is present in the assay, purified P-gp preparations exhibit ATP hydrolysis rates that vary over a range from about 50 nmol min⁻¹ mg⁻¹ (basal activity) to about 750 to 1000 nmol min⁻¹ mg⁻¹ (stimulated activity). In our initial screening of the *in silico* generated hits of "subset 2", we tested the effect on basal ATP hydrolysis activity (inhibition and or stimulation) of the commercially available compounds chosen from "subset 2"

in assays not containing verapamil. Compounds that stimulated the basal activity of P-gp in the absence of verapamil were assumed to achieve the stimulation by binding to the drug binding sites of P-gp similar to transport substrates like verapamil and would therefore not support our premise of finding compounds that specifically interact with the NBDs and not the DBDs. Several of the compounds tested did indeed stimulate basal rates of hydrolysis by P-gp a factor of 1.5 or more (data not shown) and were not further pursued in this work. Only compounds that in addition to stimulating basal activity also showed strong inhibition of stimulated activity were further pursued in this study.

In order to test the ability of the selected "subset 2" compounds to inhibit verapamil-stimulated ATP hydrolysis activities of P-gp, verapamil was added at 150µM final concentration to assays containing purified P-glycoprotein. ATP hydrolysis was determined at near physiological ATP concentrations (2 mM ATP). Figure 1A shows the relative ATP-hydrolysis activities of P-gp in the presence of 25µM of a subset of compounds tested. Compounds that in separate experiments induced strong stimulation of basal activity are not shown. Four of the 35 compounds tested, 19, 29, 34 and 45, were observed to inhibit verapamil-stimulated ATPase activities by P-gp (Figure 1A). Compounds that did not show significant inhibition of ATP hydrolysis in these assays were not further considered. A side-by-side comparison of verapamil-stimulated and basal ATP hydrolysis assays in the presence of the four confirmed inhibitors of P-gp is presented in Figure 1B. The figure shows that under the conditions used, i.e. in the presence of 2 mM ATP, all compounds inhibited both basal (Figure 1B, gray bars) and stimulated (Figure 1B, black bars) ATPase activities. In all cases, the stimulated ATP hydrolysis rate was more strongly affected by the compounds.

The structures of the four targeted inhibitors of P-glycoprotein ATP hydrolysis activity are shown in Figure 2. It should be noted that both compounds 34 and 45 were used as racemic mixtures of the respective enantiomeric compounds. IUPAC names for the compounds are provided in the Abbreviation section of this paper and in the legend to Figure 2.

Dose response testing of identified P-glycoprotein inhibitors - The four identified P-glycoprotein inhibitors were investigated further in ATP hydrolysis dose response inhibition curves. Figure 3 shows the verapamil-stimulated ATP hydrolysis activities of P-gp preparations in the presence of varying concentrations of inhibitor compounds after normalizing to verapamil-stimulated P-glycoprotein activity measured in the absence of inhibitor. The IC20, IC50 and IC80 inhibition values were calculated as described in Methods for the inhibitors in these assays and the results of these calculations are presented in Table 1. IC50 values in the range of 10⁻⁵ M were observed for all four P-gp inhibitors in these experiments.

Probing inhibition mechanisms of identified P-gp inhibitors using ESR spectroscopy and spin-labeled ATP - The possible mechanism of inhibition of ATP hydrolysis by the identified P-gp inhibitors was investigated as in (Delannoy et al., 2005) by measuring the maximal binding stoichiometry and binding affinity of an analog of ATP, SL-ATP, to P-gp both in the presence and absence of the identified inhibitors. These methods allowed us to directly follow binding of SL-nucleotide to P-gp under equilibrium binding conditions. Since SL-ATP is a substrate for P-gp ATP hydrolysis (Delannoy et al., 2005), both SL-ATP and SL-ADP can potentially bind to P-gp. We therefore refer to the spin-labeled nucleotide in these experiments as SL-ANP.

ESR spectra were acquired for known concentrations of SL-ATP and compared to spectra acquired in the presence of known concentrations of P-gp, verapamil and the different inhibitor molecules. Free, not enzyme bound SL-ANP, results in ESR spectra with three relatively sharp, equidistant signals, see Figure 4A. The high-field signal of the free SL-ANP can be seen as the sharp signal on the right. The relatively broad signals of the enzyme-bound spin-labeled nucleotide can be seen to the left (low field) and right (high field) of the three signals resulting from the free SL-ANP. The signal gain was increased for better visualization of SL-ANP bound to P-gp. The high-field signal of the freely mobile, unbound SL-ANP was used to calculate the amount of free SL-ANP-analog in the binding assays with P-gp (Materials and

Methods, Figure 4A). The amount of P-glycoprotein-bound SL-nucleotide was then calculated as the difference between the known amount of total SL-ATP added and the measured free SL-ANP, using a standard curve of increasing amounts of SL-ATP as a reference, see Materials and Methods and (Delannoy et al., 2005). The results of SL-ANP binding experiments to P-gp in the absence or presence of P-gp inhibitors are presented in Figures 4B-F.

In the absence of drug, but in the presence of 5 % (v/v) drug vehicle, DMSO, maximum binding to P-gp was found to extrapolate to 2.2 ± 0.2 mol SL-ANP bound per mol of P-gp with an apparent K_d of 88 \pm 21.6µM, Figure 4B. SL-ATP titrations in the presence of experimental drug-like compounds were all compared to standard curves generated in the presence of 5% DMSO and the experimental compound to control for potential compound - SL-ATP interactions. In an initial set of titrations, stoichiometric amounts of about 50µM P-gp and 50µM experimental compounds were mixed and increasing amounts of SL-ATP were added, Figure 4 C-F. Compounds 19 and 45 significantly decreased the stoichiometry of SL-nucleotide binding under these conditions to approximately 1 or 0.6 mol/mol respectively, see Figure 4C and F. These compounds also caused a decrease of the apparent K_d of P-gp for SL-ANP binding to about 20 µM. Compounds 29 and 34 did not show an obvious change in maximal nucleotide binding or the apparent dissociation constants for SL-ANP when incubated with P-g at 50µM (Figure 4D and E).

When titrations were performed in the presence of 100μM of compound 34, however, maximum binding of SL-ANP to P-gp was decreased to 0.8mol/mol, while the dissociation constant for SL-ANP binding did not change significantly, Figure 4E, insert. Titrations in the presence of 100μM of compound 45 were not significantly different from those in the presence of 50μM of compound 45 (not shown). However, when the concentration of compound 45 was decreased to 25μM while P-gp remained at 50μM, maximal binding of about 1.3 moles SL-ANP/mol of P-gp was observed, Figure 4F, insert, again with decreased apparent K_d. Compound 29 did not significantly affect SL-nucleotide binding at either 50 or 100μM concentration.

Comparing success rates to other methods: Schmidt and co-workers reported in two studies that a series of dioxalan-derivatized piperazines and several phenothiazines and related compounds re-sensitized drug-resistant colon cancer or porcine kidney epithelial cells to vincristine (Schmidt et al., 2008; Schmidt et al., 2007). The cell lines used in these studies were shown to stably express P-gp at moderately high expression levels. We took ten of the best compounds identified in (Schmidt et al., 2008; Schmidt et al., 2007) and assayed them for their effect on ATP hydrolysis by P-gp as if they had passed our docking criteria, although none of them actually did pass these computational criteria (not shown). One of the ten compounds was observed to moderately inhibit ATPase activity of P-gp, but ESR titrations as described above did not indicate any interaction of the compound with the nucleotide binding domain (not shown), indicating that inhibition of P-gp ATP hydrolysis was not caused by binding to or close to the nucleotide binding sites. The hit rate for this QSAR / cell culture re-sensitization selection method (1 in 10) compares favorably with our computational hit rate (4 in 35) of ATP hydrolysis inhibitors, where 3 of the 4 identified inhibitors adversely affected SL-nucleotide binding to P-gp.

This comparison shows that the computational selection method used in this work was at least as good as the QSAR – cell culturing system in identifying inhibitors of ATPase by P-gp and was arguably better at targeting these inhibitors to the NBDs of P-gp.

DISCUSSION

Screening for inhibitors targeted to the nucleotide binding domains of P-gp - Our goal was to identify inhibitors of P-gp that interrupt ATP-binding or hydrolysis by interacting at the nucleotide binding domains of P-gp. We employed a structural homology model of a conformation of human P-glycoprotein that possesses fully formed nucleotide binding sites that are similar to those observed in the crystal structure of the bacterial SAV1866 ABC transporter (Dawson and Locher, 2006). In this conformation, the SAV1866 transporter bound both ADP and AMPPNP (Dawson and Locher, 2006; Dawson and Locher, 2007). In order to identify drug-like molecules that interact strongly at the NBDs of P-glycoprotein, we targeted the entire composite of the N-terminal and C-terminal NBDs of P-gp in massively parallel in silico docking experiments. A large set of drug-like molecules (~11 million compounds) was obtained from the ZINC chemical database and about half of these were employed in docking calculations. A subset of ~180,000 molecules was identified that was predicted to interact with the NDBs of P-gp with estimated affinities less than 500nM. It should be noted that the ATP binding sites in the protein structure were left unoccupied and freely available for docking in these experiments. In a secondary screen, this "subset 1" of identified molecules was docked to the drug binding domains of P-gp using the same programs. A much smaller subset of about 250 compounds was identified that was predicted to bind weakly at the DBDs but have high affinity interactions at the NBDs. These criteria were deemed prognostic of putative P-gp inhibitor molecules that may interfere with ATP utilization by P-gp while not being transport substrates of the pump.

Screening in silico hits using ATP hydrolysis assays- From the approximately 250 compounds that were predicted to bind tightly at the NBDs and significantly less strongly at the DBDs of P-gp, 35 were analyzed in biochemical assays using isolated P-gp for effects on basal or transport substrate stimulated rates of ATP hydrolysis. We expected that compounds that interacted with the DBDs of P-gp despite AutoDock predictions to the contrary might stimulate the basal ATP hydrolysis rates similar to other

transport substrates. Compounds that did stimulate basal rates over 1.5-fold were therefore not considered further.

Four compounds, 19, 29, 34 and 45, showed significant inhibition of verapamil-stimulated ATP hydrolysis activities when assayed at 25µM both at high ATP (10 mM, not shown) and near physiological ATP concentration (2 mM ATP, Figure 1A and B). The structural formulas for these four compounds are shown in Figure 2. Compounds 29 and 34 cause slight activations of basal ATPase activity rates of P-gp when assayed at 10 mM ATP (not shown), indicating that these compounds may interact with the DBDs of P-gp to some degree. Compounds 19 and 45 did not stimulate basal hydrolysis rates at either ATP concentration, suggesting that these compounds do not productively interact with the drug binding domains or that the net effect of interaction at these or other sites is to inhibit P-gp catalyzed ATP hydrolysis. It is interesting to note that transport stimulated ATP hydrolysis was much more affected by the four inhibitor compounds than basal activity, see Figure 1B. One possible explanation for this observation may be that the compounds tested were selected for binding to nucleotide binding domains in their closed conformation which corresponds to the formation of complete nucleotide binding sites (Dawson and Locher, 2006; Dawson and Locher, 2007). It seems feasible, that in a transport drug stimulated state, more of the enzyme adopts the closed NBD conformation and is therefore more susceptible to binding of and being inhibited by the inhibitor candidates than enzyme performing only basal level hydrolysis. In addition, previous results from our group showed that binding of transport substrate indeed altered the conformation of the nucleotide binding sites (Delannoy, 2006 and Hoffman and Vogel, unpublished). This again may cause better binding of the inhibitor molecules to the nucleotide binding domains.

Dose Response Curves- In further tests using isolated P-gp preparations, the inhibitor concentrations in verapamil-stimulated ATP hydrolysis assays were varied and residual activities were monitored. Figure 3 shows the results of these assays for the four inhibitor compounds. Affinities as expressed through IC

50 values ranged from 9 to 27μM for the four inhibitors (Table 1). These values are high, but were deemed appropriate for initial screening hits. Lead optimization studies are in progress to lower these IC50 values to a more useful pharmacological range.

Mechanisms of inhibition by the four identified inhibitors- In a series of experiments designed to elucidate whether the four inhibitors indeed interacted with the nucleotide binding domains of P-gp, spin-labeled analogs of ATP were used in equilibrium binding studies to determine whether the compounds affected ATP binding to P-gp. These studies take advantage of the fact that protein-bound SL-ANP and free SL-ANP have different, well resolved ESR spectra that enable the assessment of binding of the analog under equilibrium conditions. The measured maximum binding was in good agreement with values previously reported by us (Delannoy et al., 2005) and others (Qu et al., 2003). The difference between the previously reported K_d of P-gp for SL-ANP in the presence of verapamil of 180μM (Delannoy et al., 2005) and the K_d reported in this paper may be due to the presence of DMSO and/or the somewhat improved purity of the protein.

Inclusion of compounds 19 or 45 at concentrations equimolar to protein (about 50μM) resulted in maximum binding of about 1 mol/mol SL-ANP in the presence of compound 19 and of about 0.5 mol/mol in the presence of the same concentration of compound 45. The apparent K_d was decreased to about 20μM in the presence of either compound. Lowering of the number of accessible nucleotide binding sites in addition to lowering of the dissociation constant for nucleotide binding strongly suggests that these two inhibitors are directly affecting the ATP binding sites of P-gp. Earlier studies have shown that it is possible to inhibit ATP hydrolysis by P-gp by abolishing function at a single NBD (for examples see (Urbatsch et al., 1998; Urbatsch et al., 2003)). Such "half-site reactivity" might be expected from agents that interact strongly at one of the nucleotide binding sites of P-gp. In earlier experiments we observed that SL-ANP binding to vanadate-inhibited P-gp was reduced to about 1 mol/mol and also exhibited a decreased K_d for SL-ANP binding (Delannoy, unpublished). The fact that binding of SL-ANP was

reduced to less than one mol/mol in the presence of equimolar concentration of compound 45 may be explained by strong interaction of 45 with P-gp that affects binding to both nucleotide binding sites. Since the K_d for SL-ANP and compound 45 are within the same overall range, we speculate that in equilibrium a subset of the protein molecules has no inhibitor bound and is therefore able to bind the nucleotide. The number of accessible nucleotide binding sites did not further decrease when the concentration of compound 45 was increased to $100\mu M$, but about doubled when 45 concentration was reduced to $25\mu M$. Since compound 45 was obtained as a racemic mixture of the two enantiomers, these results suggest that both enantiomers actively interact with the P-gp nucleotide binding domains

At equimolar inhibitor and transporter concentrations, no effect on the stoichiometry of nucleotide binding was observed with inhibitor 34. When the concentration of 34 was doubled to 100µM, however, reduced binding of about one mol/mol SL-ANP was observed. This may indicate that two molecules of compound 34 are needed to interact with each molecule of P-gp to exert its inhibitory effect. Alternatively, since compound 34 was also obtained as a racemic mixture, this result may be explained with only one of the stereoisomers binding to the protein and affecting nucleotide accessibility of the nucleotide binding sites.

Compound 29 did not affect the binding stoichiometry in these tests nor did it significantly affect the K_d for SL-ANP at any concentration tested, suggesting that compound 29 did not directly interact with the P-gp nucleotide binding sites but may cause inhibition of ATP-hydrolysis by blocking crucial conformational transitions of the enzyme.

Correlation of the best docking pose of the inhibitors with effects on nucleotide binding - It is remarkable that the highest affinity docking pose shown for each of the four identified P-gp inhibitors correlates very well with the effect these inhibitors have on SL-ANP binding to P-gp. Compounds 19, 34 and 45 reduced SL-ANP binding by at least one mol/mol and the best docks for these inhibitors are directly at the nucleotide binding sites (Figure 5). The fact that compound 34 needed to be in two-fold

excess over protein to affect nucleotide binding may be due to the fact that a racemic mixture of the compound was used. Conversely, compound 29 neither affected the stoichiometry nor the affinity of P-gp for SL-ANP and its best dock is found between the two NBDs of P-gp and not directly within the nucleotide binding sites (Figure 5). This direct correlation of the best docking modes of the inhibitors to the possible mechanism of inhibition by the inhibitors was unanticipated.

Other groups have shown that flavonoids are strong modulators of P-gp activity and that they interact with the nucleotide binding domains of the enzyme (Di Pietro et al., 2002). It is of interest to point out that one of the inhibitors identified here, compound 19, contains both the A and C rings of flavinols with a modification of the B ring (Figure 3). Compound 19 may therefore be considered a flavonol analog. Comparison of the binding modality of 19 with those of flavonoids reported in (Badhan and Penny, 2006) shows that the modified B ring of 19 is in close contact with the tyrosine of the A-loop (Y401 in this present study, Y1044 in the Badhan & Penny study), very similar to the B-rings of flavonoids studied by Badham & Penny. Conclusions - The present study demonstrates that high throughput in silico docking studies can be used to generate inhibitor leads that target specific areas within ABC transporters responsible for multidrug resistances in cancer chemotherapies. The novel "subtractive" screening methods employed here that target one section of the protein and deemphasize binding at a different section of the protein may be generalizable. Although exploratory in nature, the presented study yielded productive leads for both catalytic sites and an allosteric site inhibitors. These inhibitor binding sites are now being investigated more thoroughly in current experiments. We are also expanding the docking selections to other conformations of P-gp from the targeted molecular dynamics trajectories. This approach, pioneered by McCammon and colleagues (Amaro et al., 2008), adds a protein dynamic component to docking studies such as presented here.

It is easy to foresee the use of similar subtractive screening methods applied to other difficult drug discovery projects that may generate sets of drug leads that discriminate between desired drug targets and

MOL #95414

other proteins that should be excluded from interactions with the leads. Optimization studies to increase the affinities of the P-gp inhibitors identified in these studies are currently in progress.

MOL #95414

Downloaded from molpharm.aspetjournals.org at ASPET Journals on April 19, 2022

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors wish to thank Isolina Rossi, Stephen Christopher Wheelis, Mindy McClean and Collette Marchesseault for assistance in the growth of *Pichia pastoris* and the preparation of P-glycoprotein. The authors wish to thank the Hamilton family, Dallas, TX, for their sustained support of SMU undergraduate research through the Hamilton Undergraduate Research Scholars Program, as well as the SMU Undergraduate Research Assistantship Program for support of the undergraduate researchers. Computational resources were provided by the SMU Center for Scientific Computing. A special thanks to Joe Gargiula and Amit Kumar of the SMU Office of Information Technology for their assistance with this work and to Dr. Jürgen Zirkel, Lipoid GmbH, Germany, for the generous gift of lyso-phosphatidyl choline. The authors also thank Dr. Ina Urbatsch, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, for initially providing cultured recombinant *Pichia pastoris* cells for some of the experiments described and to Matthias Schmidt, Martin-Luther-University, Halle, Geremany for generous gifts of MDR modulator compounds.

AUTHORSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

Participated in research design: Brewer, Follit, Vogel, Wise.

Conducted experiments: Brewer, Follit, Wise.

Performed data analysis: Brewer, Follit, Vogel, Wise.

Wrote or contributed to the writing of the manuscript: Brewer, Follit, Vogel, Wise

REFERENCES

- Aller SG, Yu J, Ward A, Weng Y, Chittaboina S, Zhuo R, Harrell PM, Trinh YT, Zhang Q, Urbatsch IL and Chang G (2009) Structure of P-glycoprotein reveals a molecular basis for poly-specific drug binding. *Science* **323**(5922): 1718-1722.
- Amaro RE, Schnaufer A, Interthal H, Hol W, Stuart KD and McCammon JA (2008) Discovery of drug-like inhibitors of an essential RNA-editing ligase in Trypanosoma brucei. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **105**(45): 17278-17283.
- Badhan R and Penny J (2006) In silico modelling of the interaction of flavonoids with human P-glycoprotein nucleotide-binding domain. *Eur J Med Chem* **41**(3): 285-295.
- Binkhathlan Z and Lavasanifar A (2013) P-glycoprotein inhibition as a therapeutic approach for overcoming multidrug resistance in cancer: current status and future perspectives.

 Current cancer drug targets 13(3): 326-346.
- Chen CJ, Chin JE, Ueda K, Clark DP, Pastan I, Gottesman MM and Roninson IB (1986) Internal duplication and homology with bacterial transport proteins in the mdr1 (P-glycoprotein) gene from multidrug-resistant human cells. *Cell* **47**(3): 381-389.
- Copeland RA (2000) Enzymes: a practical introduction to structure, mechanism, and data analysis. 2nd ed. Wiley, New York.
- Copeland RA (2013) Evaluation of enzyme inhibitors in drug discovery: a guide for medicinal chemists and pharmacologists. 2nd ed. Wiley, Hoboken, N.J.
- Dawson RJP and Locher KP (2006) Structure of a bacterial multidrug ABC transporter. *Nature* **443**(7108): 180-185.

- Dawson RJP and Locher KP (2007) Structure of the multidrug ABC transporter Sav1866 from Staphylococcus aureus in complex with AMP-PNP. *FEBS Lett* **581**(5): 935-938.
- Delannoy S, Urbatsch IL, Tombline G, Senior AE and Vogel PD (2005) Nucleotide binding to the multidrug resistance P-glycoprotein as studied by ESR spectroscopy. *Biochemistry* **44**(42): 14010-14019.
- Dey S, Ramachandra M, Pastan I, Gottesman MM and Ambudkar SV (1997) Evidence for two nonidentical drug-interaction sites in the human P-glycoprotein. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **94**(20): 10594-10599.
- Di Pietro A, Conseil G, Perez-Victoria JM, Dayan G, Baubichon-Cortay H, Trompier D, Steinfels E, Jault JM, de Wet H, Maitrejean M, Comte G, Boumendjel A, Mariotte AM, Dumontet C, McIntosh DB, Goffeau A, Castanys S, Gamarro F and Barron D (2002) Modulation by flavonoids of cell multidrug resistance mediated by P-glycoprotein and related ABC transporters. *Cell Mol Life Sci* **59**(2): 307-322.
- Ford JM and Hait WN (1990) Pharmacology of drugs that alter multidrug resistance in cancer.

 *Pharmacol Rev 42(3): 155-199.
- Goodsell DS, Morris GM and Olson AJ (1996) Automated docking of flexible ligands: applications of AutoDock. *J Mol Recognit* **9**(1): 1-5.
- Gottesman MM and Pastan I (1993) Biochemistry of multidrug resistance mediated by the multidrug transporter. *Annu Rev Biochem* **62**: 385-427.
- Gros P, Ben Neriah YB, Croop JM and Housman DE (1986) Isolation and expression of a complementary DNA that confers multidrug resistance. *Nature* **323**(6090): 728-731.

- Harris AL and Hochhauser D (1992) Mechanisms of multidrug resistance in cancer treatment.

 *Acta oncologica 31(2): 205-213.
- Hoffman AD, Urbatsch IL and Vogel PD (2010) Nucleotide binding to the human multidrug resistance protein 3, MRP3. *Protein J* **29**(5): 373-379.
- Hollenstein K, Dawson RJP and Locher KP (2007) Structure and mechanism of ABC transporter proteins. *Curr Opin Struct Biol* **17**(4): 412-418.
- Irwin JJ and Shoichet BK (2005) ZINC--a free database of commercially available compounds for virtual screening. *J Chem Inf Model* **45**(1): 177-182.
- Irwin JJ, Sterling T, Mysinger MM, Bolstad ES and Coleman RG (2012) ZINC: A Free Tool to Discover Chemistry for Biology. *J Chem Inf Model* **52**(7): 1757-1768.
- Jin MS, Oldham ML, Zhang Q and Chen J (2012) Crystal structure of the multidrug transporter P-glycoprotein from Caenorhabditis elegans. *Nature* **490**(7421): 566-569.
- Kartner N and Ling V (1989) Multidrug resistance in cancer. Scientific American 260(3): 44-51.
- Lee J-Y, Urbatsch IL, Senior AE and Wilkens S (2008) Nucleotide-induced structural changes in P-glycoprotein observed by electron microscopy. *J Biol Chem* **283**(9): 5769-5779.
- Lerner-Marmarosh N, Gimi K, Urbatsch IL, Gros P and Senior AE (1999) Large scale purification of detergent-soluble P-glycoprotein from Pichia pastoris cells and characterization of nucleotide binding properties of wild-type, Walker A, and Walker B mutant proteins. *J Biol Chem* **274**(49): 34711-34718.
- Li J, Jaimes KF and Aller SG (2014) Refined structures of mouse P-glycoprotein. *Protein Sci* **23**(1): 34-46.

- Loo TW, Bartlett MC and Clarke DM (2003) Simultaneous binding of two different drugs in the binding pocket of the human multidrug resistance P-glycoprotein. *J Biol Chem* **278**(41): 39706-39710.
- Loo TW, Bartlett MC and Clarke DM (2009) Identification of residues in the drug translocation pathway of the human multidrug resistance P-glycoprotein by arginine mutagenesis. *J Biol Chem* **284**(36): 24074-24087.
- Lugo MR and Sharom FJ (2005) Interaction of LDS-751 and rhodamine 123 with P-glycoprotein: evidence for simultaneous binding of both drugs. *Biochemistry* **44**(42): 14020-14029.
- Morris GM, Goodsell DS, Huey R and Olson AJ (1996) Distributed automated docking of flexible ligands to proteins: parallel applications of AutoDock 2.4. *J Comput Aided Mol Des* **10**(4): 293-304.
- Morris GM, Huey R, Lindstrom W, Sanner MF, Belew RK, Goodsell DS and Olson AJ (2009)

 AutoDock4 and AutoDockTools4: Automated docking with selective receptor flexibility. *J Comput Chem* **30**(16): 2785-2791.
- Osterberg F, Morris GM, Sanner MF, Olson AJ and Goodsell DS (2002) Automated docking to multiple target structures: incorporation of protein mobility and structural water heterogeneity in AutoDock. *Proteins* **46**(1): 34-40.
- Palmeira A, Sousa E, Vasconcelos MH and Pinto MM (2012) Three decades of P-gp inhibitors: skimming through several generations and scaffolds. *Curr Med Chem* **19**(13): 1946-2025. Persidis A (1999) Cancer multidrug resistance. *Nature biotechnology* **17**(1): 94-95.

- Qu Q, Russell PL and Sharom FJ (2003) Stoichiometry and affinity of nucleotide binding to P-glycoprotein during the catalytic cycle. *Biochemistry* **42**(4): 1170-1177.
- Roninson IB, Chin JE, Choi KG, Gros P, Housman DE, Fojo A, Shen DW, Gottesman MM and Pastan I (1986) Isolation of human mdr DNA sequences amplified in multidrug-resistant KB carcinoma cells. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **83**(12): 4538-4542.
- Sapay N and Tieleman DP (2011) Combination of the CHARMM27 force field with united-atom lipid force fields. *J Comput Chem* **32**(7): 1400-1410.
- Schmidt M, Teitge M, Castillo ME, Brandt T, Dobner B and Langner A (2008) Synthesis and Biochemical Characterization of New Phenothiazines and Related Drugs as MDR Reversal Agents. *Arch Pharm* **341**(10): 624-638.
- Schmidt M, Ungvári J, Glöde J, Dobner B and Langner A (2007) New 1,3-dioxolane and 1,3-dioxane derivatives as effective modulators to overcome multidrug resistance. *Bioorg Med Chem* **15**(6): 2283-2297.
- Shapiro AB and Ling V (1997) Positively cooperative sites for drug transport by P-glycoprotein with distinct drug specificities. *Eur J Biochem* **250**(1): 130-137.
- Stewart A, Steiner J, Mellows G, Laguda B, Norris D and Bevan P (2000) Phase I trial of XR9576 in healthy volunteers demonstrates modulation of P-glycoprotein in CD56+ lymphocytes after oral and intravenous administration. *Clin Cancer Res* **6**(11): 4186-4191.
- Stoehr M, Mozet C, Boehm A, Aigner A, Dietz A and Wichmann G (2014) Simvastatin suppresses head and neck squamous cell carcinoma ex vivo and enhances the cytostatic effects of chemotherapeutics. *Cancer Chemother Pharmacol* **73**(4): 827-837.

- Tombline G, Urbatsch IL, Virk N, Muharemagic A, White LB and Senior AE (2006) Expression, purification, and characterization of cysteine-free mouse P-glycoprotein. *Arch Biochem Biophys* **445**(1): 124-128.
- Urbatsch IL, Beaudet L, Carrier I and Gros P (1998) Mutations in either nucleotide-binding site of P-glycoprotein (Mdr3) prevent vanadate trapping of nucleotide at both sites.

 *Biochemistry 37(13): 4592-4602.
- Urbatsch IL, Tyndall GA, Tombline G and Senior AE (2003) P-glycoprotein catalytic mechanism: studies of the ADP-vanadate inhibited state. *J Biol Chem* **278**(25): 23171-23179.
- Verhalen B, Ernst S, Borsch M and Wilkens S (2012) Dynamic ligand-induced conformational rearrangements in P-glycoprotein as probed by fluorescence resonance energy transfer spectroscopy. *J Biol Chem* **287**(2): 1112-1127.
- Verhalen B and Wilkens S (2011) P-glycoprotein retains drug-stimulated ATPase activity upon covalent linkage of the two nucleotide binding domains at their C-terminal ends. *J Biol Chem* **286**(12): 10476-10482.
- Vogel G and Steinhart R (1976) ATPase of Escherichia coli: purification, dissociation, and reconstitution of the active complex from the isolated subunits. *Biochemistry* **15**(1): 208-216.
- Walker J, Martin C and Callaghan R (2004) Inhibition of P-glycoprotein function by XR9576 in a solid tumour model can restore anticancer drug efficacy. *European journal of cancer* **40**(4): 594-605.

- Ward A, Reyes CL, Yu J, Roth CB and Chang G (2007) Flexibility in the ABC transporter

 MsbA: Alternating access with a twist. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **104**(48): 19005-19010.
- Wen PC and Tajkhorshid E (2008) Dimer opening of the nucleotide binding domains of ABC transporters after ATP hydrolysis. *Biophys J* **95**(11): 5100-5110.
- Wise JG (2012) Catalytic transitions in the human MDR1 P-glycoprotein drug binding sites.

 *Biochemistry 51(25): 5125-5141.
- Zoghbi ME and Altenberg GA (2013) Hydrolysis at one of the two nucleotide-binding sites drives the dissociation of ATP-binding cassette nucleotide-binding domain dimers. *J Biol Chem* **288**(47): 34259-34265.
- Zoghbi ME and Altenberg GA (2014) ATP binding to two sites is necessary for dimerization of nucleotide-binding domains of ABC proteins. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* **443**(1): 97-102.

FOOTNOTES

*This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health Institute of General Medical Sciences [grant 1R15GM094771 - 01A1] to Pia D. Vogel and John G. Wise, and by the SMU University Research Council, the SMU Dedman College Dean's Research Council, the Dedman College Center for Drug Discovery, Design and Delivery, and the Communities Foundations of Texas, Dallas. The content of this article is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences or the National Institutes of Health.

Reprint requests should be sent to John G. Wise, Department of Biological Sciences, Southern Methodist University, 6501 Airline Road, Dallas, TX, USA jwise@smu.edu.

FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Effects of Putative Inhibitors of P-glycoprotein on ATP Hydrolysis Activities. **Panel A**: ATP hydrolysis activities of highly enriched P-glycoprotein preparations were assayed at final concentrations of 2mM Mg ATP, 150μM verapamil and 25μM of the indicated compound. The figure presents only the results of those compounds that did not significantly stimulate basal ATPase activity by P-gp. Results were normalized to uninhibited control samples that exhibited specific verapamil-stimulated activities ranging between 750 and 1000nmol min⁻¹ mg⁻¹. **Panel B:** A side by side comparison of basal (gray bars) and verapamil-stimulated (black bars) ATPase activities of P-gp in the presence of 25μM of the indicated inhibitor. The data were normalized to uninhibited control samples that exhibited specific basal ATP hydrolysis activities between 50 and 75 nmol min⁻¹ mg⁻¹ and specific verapamil-stimulated activities ranging between 750 and 1000nmol min⁻¹ mg⁻¹. All data represent averages of at least three experiments in duplicate using at least two different enzyme preparations. The error bars given represent standard error of the mean.

Figure 2. Chemical Structures of Four Inhibitors of P-glycoprotein Catalyzed ATP Hydrolysis Identified Through IN SILICO Screening Methods. **Top row:** Chemical structures of compounds "19" and "29"; **bottom row:** Chemical structures of compounds "34" and "45" (as indicated). The inhibitors are defined as: "19": methyl 4-[bis(2-hydroxy-4-oxochromen-3-yl)methyl]benzoate (ZINC 09973259, CID 4694077); "29": 2-[(5-cyclopropyl-1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)sulfanyl]-N-[2-phenyl-5-(2,4,5-trimethylphenyl)pyrazol-3-yl]acetamide (ZINC 08767731, CID 17555821); "34": 2-[1-[4-(4-methoxyphenyl)piperazin-1-yl]-1-oxobutan-2-yl]-4-methyl-[1]benzothiolo[2,3-d]pyridazin-1-one (ZINC 09252021, ZINC 09252022, CID 22514118); and "45": ethyl 1-(1,3-benzodioxole-5-carbonyl)-3-(3-phenylpropyl)piperidine-3-carboxylate (ZINC 15078148, ZINC 15078146, CID 26410703, CID 45252040).

Figure 3. Dose Response Curves for the Identified Inhibitors of P-glycoprotein. Concentration dependence of inhibition of the four identified inhibitor compounds (abbreviated 19, 29, 34 and 45). Panels A through D correspond to compounds 19, 29, 34 and 45, respectively. Each plot represents the composite results of 3 to 5 individual experiments performed on at least three independently isolated P-gp preparations. ATPase activity was determined at 2 mM MgATP as described in Materials and Methods. The curves shown were calculated as described in Methods using a four parameter logistic fit as described in (Copeland, 2000; Copeland, 2013).

Figure 4. Spin-labeled Nucleotide Binding (SL-ANP) in the Presence of Inhibitors to P-glycoprotein. Between 30 and 50µM Pgp were incubated at no inhibitor or at 25, 50 or 100µM inhibitor compound with increasing concentrations of SL-ATP. The ESR signal of the free, not protein-bound SL-ATP in the presence of P-gp with or without inhibitor was compared to a standard curve obtained in the absence of Pgp. (A) Freely tumbling, not enzyme bound SL-ANP results in ESR spectra consisting of three relatively sharp, equidistant signals. The signal amplitude of the high field signal of the free SL-ANP was used to determine the amount of free spin-labeled nucleotide. For comparison, the ESR signals of increasing amounts of protein-bound SL-ANP are pointed out at the left (low field) and the right (high field) of the signal of the free SL-nucleotide. The parts of the ESR spectra shown have been re-recorded at increased signal gain and a modulation amplitude of 2 for better visualization. (B-F) The moles of SL-ANP bound per moles of P-glycoprotein were determined as described in Materials and Methods and were plotted against free spin-labeled nucleotide. (B) Binding of SL-ANP to P-glycoprotein in the absence of P-gp inhibitor but in the presence of 150µM verapamil. Non-linear regression as described in Materials and Methods extrapolated to maximal binding of 2.2 ± 0.2 moles/mol and an apparent K_d of $88 \pm 22\mu M$. (C), (D), (E) and (F), SL-ANP binding to P-gp as in (B), except for the inclusion of 50µM of inhibitor compounds 19, 29, 34 and 45, respectively. Maximum binding and apparent K_d were determined to be

(C), 1.1 ± 0.1 mol/mol and $18\pm6\mu\text{M}$ in the presence of $50\mu\text{M}$ compound 19; (D), 1.9 ± 0.1 mol/mol and $71\pm12\mu\text{M}$ in the presence of $50\mu\text{M}$ compound 29; (E), 2.1 ± 0.2 mol/mol and $101\pm31\mu\text{M}$ in the presence of $50\mu\text{M}$ compound 34 and (F), 0.6 ± 0.02 mol/mol and $20\pm5\mu\text{M}$ in the presence of $50\mu\text{M}$ compound 45. (E insert) SL-ANP binding to P-gp in the presence of $100\mu\text{M}$ of inhibitor compound 34 results in maximum binding of 0.80 ± 0.09 mol/mol and an apparent dissociation constant of $121\pm33\mu\text{M}$. (F insert) In the presence of $25\mu\text{M}$ of compound 45, maximum binding of SL-ANP to P-gp extrapolates to 1.3 ± 0.04 with an apparent Kd of $9.1\pm1.5\mu\text{M}$.

Figure 5. Location of docked inhibitors in the human P glycoprotein model. The protein is shown in cartoon representation in silver-gray. Only the cytoplasmic portion of P-gp has been shown with the two nucleotide binding domains oriented horizontally. P-gp inhibitors and nucleotides (ADP or ATP) are shown in van der Waal's spheres color coded to atom types (O in red, N in blue, P in orange, C in turquoise, Mg in pink, S in yellow). Nonpolar hydrogens have been left out for clarity. Ligands have been labeled in the figure with arrows. Left: The location of nucleotide bound to the human P-gp model used for docking is shown. Note that nucleotides were removed from the model before docking was performed. For orientation, the catalytic glutamate residues, E556 and E1201, are located on the right and left sides of the representation, respectively. Right: The approximate locations of the highest affinity interaction predicted by docking studies for the four identified inhibitors of P-gp are shown relative to the protein structure. Both compounds 34 and 45 bound to the E556 binding site and are superposed in the representation. The figure shows that three of the four identified inhibitors (19, 34 and 45) are bound in the nucleotides binding sites. These are the same compounds that altered ATP binding in the ESR titration experiments described. Compound 29 was predicted to bind outside the nucleotide binding sites in the docking experiments. This compound did not alter the binding characteristics of SL-ATP at the

MOL #95414

concentrations used for the experiments reported here. Residues within 5 $\hbox{\AA}$ of the putative docking clusters of the inhibitor molecules are presented in Table 2.

TABLES

Table 1 – Inhibition constant values calculated from dose response curves for the inhibition of verapamil-stimulated ATPase activities of P-gp. ATP assays were performed as described in Methods in the presence of $150\mu M$ verapamil with the indicated concentrations of inhibitors. The DMSO vehicle did not exceed 5% (v/v). MgATP concentration was at 2 mM. Values are given with standard error of the mean.

| Inhibitor Compound | IC20 | IC50 | IC80 |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Compound 19 | $4\pm0.7\mu M$ | $18 \pm 1.5 \mu M$ | $77 \pm 8.1 \mu M$ |
| Compound 29 | 7 ± 1.6μM | $27 \pm 6.8 \mu M$ | $108 \pm 47.0 \mu M$ |
| Compound 34 | $3 \pm 0.7 \mu M$ | $9 \pm 1.4 \mu M$ | $24 \pm 6.0 \mu M$ |
| Compound 45 | $10 \pm 1.5 \mu M$ | $18 \pm 1.5 \mu M$ | $32 \pm 4.6 \mu M$ |

Table 2. Identification of protein residues in P-glycoprotein that were within 5.0 $\hbox{Å}$ of docked inhibitors.

| Compound | Compound 19 | Compound 29 | Compound 34 | Compound 45 |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Comments | ATP binding | Allosteric | ADP binding | ATP binding |
| Comments | site | binding site | site | site |
| | ILE 160 | THR 422 | ARG 262 | ILE 160 |
| | GLY 161 | VAL 423 | THR 483 | GLY 161 |
| | ASP 164 | ALA 424 | LEU 516 | ASP 164 |
| | PHE 399 | LEU 552 | PRO 517 | PHE 399 |
| Residues | TYR 401 | LEU 554 | HIS 518 | TYR 401 |
| | PRO 402 | THR 563 | ASP 521 | PRO 402 |
| within 5.0 Å of | ILE 409 | GLU 566 | THR 522 | ILE 409 |
| | ASN 428 | ALA 567 | LEU 523 | LEU 410 |
| docked | SER 429 | VAL 569 | VAL 524 | ASN 428 |
| | GLY 430 | GLN 570 | GLY 525 | SER 429 |
| inhibitors | CYS 431 | VAL 571 | GLU 526 | GLY 430 |
| | GLY 432 | LEU 573 | ALA 529 | CYS 431 |
| | LYS 433 | ASP 574 | GLN 530 | GLY 432 |
| | SER 434 | ARG 577 | LEU 531 | LYS 433 |
| | THR 435 | THR 582 | VAL 801 | SER 434 |
| | GLN 438 | ILE 583 | SER 802 | THR 435 |
| | LEU 443 | VAL 584 | TRP 803 | THR 436 |
| | TYR 444 | ARG 588 | PHE 804 | GLN 438 |
| | GLN 475 | SER 590 | ASP 805 | TYR 444 |
| | GLU 556 | THR 591 | ASN 809 | GLN 475 |
| | ILE 585 | VAL 592 | ASN 1043 | GLU 556 |
| | HIS 587 | ARG 593 | TYR 1044 | ILE 585 |
| | PHE 601 | ASN 594 | PRO 1045 | HIS 587 |
| | ARG 905 | ALA 595 | ARG 1047 | ARG 905 |
| | ILE 1127 | ASP 596 | VAL 1052 | ILE 1127 |
| | PHE 1157 | VAL 1273 | SER 1077 | PHE 1157 |
| | ILE 1158 | GLN 1274 | THR 1078 | ILE 1158 |
| | LEU 1161 | GLY 1276 | GLN 1081 | LEU 1161 |
| | PRO 1162 | THR 1277 | TYR 1087 | PRO 1162 |
| | ASN 1163 | LYS 1278 | GLN 1118 | ASN 1163 |
| | THR 1167 | ARG 1279 | | LYS 1164 |
| | VAL 1169 | GLN 1280 | | THR 1167 |
| | THR 1174 | | | THR 1174 |
| | GLN 1175 | | | GLN 1175 |
| | LEU 1176 | | | LEU 1176 |

Downloaded from molpharm.aspetjournals.org at ASPET Journals on April 19, 2024

MOL #95414

| SER 1177 | SER 1177 |
|----------|----------|
| GLY 1178 | GLY 1178 |
| GLY 1179 | GLY 1179 |
| GLN 1180 | GLN 1180 |
| | |









