

Abstract
Of
The Thesis Entitled
**“Design, Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Novel PI3K δ
Inhibitors for the Treatment of Leukemia and Inflammatory
Diseases”**

To be submitted to The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

For the Degree

Of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY



In Chemistry

By

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Under guidance of

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For the degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

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Title of the Thesis: “*Design, Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Novel PI3K δ Inhibitors for the Treatment of Leukemia and Inflammatory Diseases*”

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CHAPTER I

1. Introduction

1.1. Inflammation

Inflammation is derived from the Latin word *inflammare* which means "to set on fire with passion". Inflammation is a part of body's defence mechanism through which the immune system recognizes and removes harmful foreign particle. It also initiates the healing process. Key symptoms of inflammation are redness (*rubor*), swelling (*tumor*), heat (*calor*), pain (*dolor*) and loss of tissue function. Unresolved acute inflammation conditions generally lead to chronic inflammatory condition, which result into many inflammatory diseases.

1.1.1. Pathophysiology of inflammation

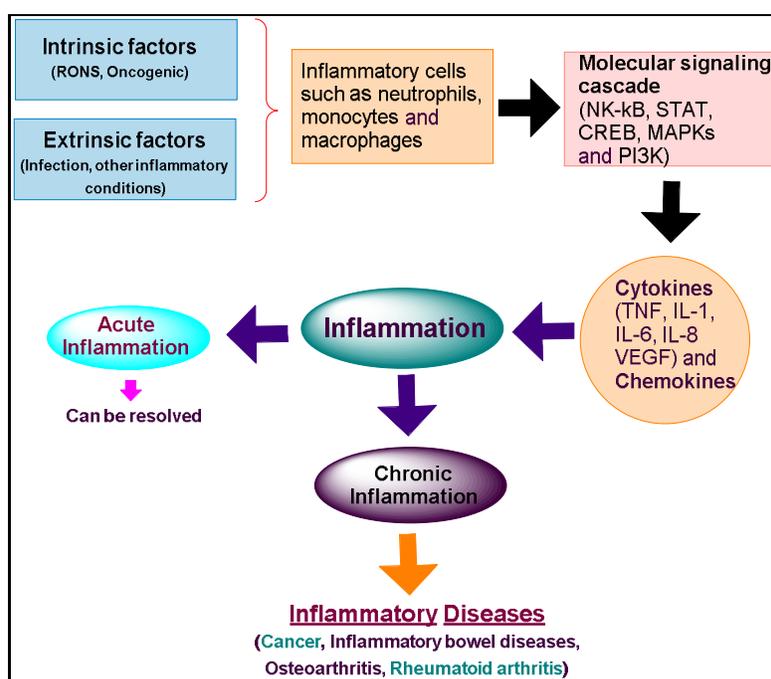


Figure 1: Pathophysiology of inflammation

Inflammation is a protective mechanism initiated in response to tissue damage caused by infection, trauma and chemical exposure [Figure 1]. As the process of inflammation proceeds, various other players of inflammation such as lymphocytes and macrophages are stimulated and recruited to the site of inflammation. When inflammatory responses become chronic, cell mutation and proliferation can result, often creating an environment that is conducive to the development of cancer or can trigger the development of various types of inflammatory diseases such as Cardio vascular diseases (CVD), Neurological Disease, Autoimmune Disease (AD), Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and Cancer.

1.1.2. Current Pharmacologic Therapies for the treatment of RA

Medication for RA mainly divided into two categories; Traditional therapies include Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), Corticosteroids (Steroids), Diseases modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs). Other category is targeted therapies such as Biological agents (proteins) and Kinase inhibitors (small molecules). There are many kinase inhibitors approved for RA such as Tofacitinib, Baricitinib (JAK inhibitors), Fostamatinib (SYK inhibitors) and some are under late stage (Phase 3) of clinical development such as Leniolisib, Nemiralisib and Seletalisib (PI3K δ inhibitors).

1.1.3. Current Pharmacologic Therapies for the treatment of cancer

There are many therapies available for the treatment of cancer. Cancer therapies are divided in to two main types traditional and targeted. Traditional therapy includes Surgery, Chemotherapy, Radiation and Bone marrow transplant, whereas target therapy includes Immunotherapy (biological therapy) and small molecule inhibitors.

All traditional therapeutics were developed using a practical approach without detailed understanding of their mode of action and therapeutic target. Similarly, biological agents have many drawbacks such as high cost, cold storage condition, stability, logistic and immunological adverse effects. Idelalisib (PI3K δ inhibitor) is currently approved for chronic lymphatic leukemia (CLL), follicular lymphoma (FL). Due to adverse side effect associated with liver, lungs and immune system, Idelalisib is not approved for treatment of inflammatory diseases.

In this regards, as a part of our ongoing research, we found development of PI3K δ inhibitor could be an attractive targeted based therapy for safe and effective treatment of RA and cancer. We decided to develop selective, potent and orally bioavailable PI3K δ inhibitor.

1.2. Kinase

Kinases are enzyme which catalyzed the phosphorylation of substrate (Protein, Carbohydrate and Lipid) via transfer of phosphate from high energy ATP molecule to give phosphoanhydride and ADP, **Figure 2**. These phosphorylated substrate act as a messenger in signal transduction pathway to activate various cellular function such as cell growth, cell division, metabolism, protein regulation etc. which are important for normal cell physiology.

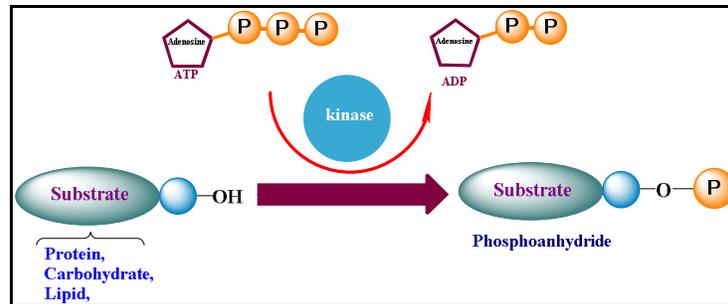


Figure 2: Kinases; catalyzed the phosphorylation of substrate

Depending upon substrate type, kinases are classified in the three main types: Protein kinase, Carbohydrate kinase and Lipid kinase. In protein kinase substrate is amino acid. In carbohydrate kinase substrate is sugar whereas in lipid kinase the substrate is lipid of plasma and cell membrane. **Phosphatidylinositol-3-kinase (PI3K)** belongs to lipid kinase family.

1.2.1. Classification of PI3K

PI3Ks has been classified into three classes (I, II and III) based on substrate specificity, sequencing homology and types of regulatory subunits, **Table 1**. The class I PI3Ks consists of four kinases (PI3K- α , β , δ and γ) and further grouped into two sub-classes: class IA and class IB. The PI3K α and β are expressed in a wide variety of tissues and organs. PI3K γ is found mainly in leukocytes, while expression pattern of PI3K δ is restricted to spleen, thymus, hematopoietic cells and peripheral blood leukocytes. PI3K γ and PI3K δ are mainly expressed in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) synovium, which regulate innate and adaptive immune responses.

Table 1: PI3K enzyme classification

Class	Structural features of catalytic subunits	Subunits	
		Catalytic	Regulatory (Adaptor)
IA		p110 α , β and δ	p85 α , p85 β and p55 γ
IB		p110 γ	p101
II		PI3K-C2 α , β and δ	C2 domain at C-terminal
III		Vps34p analogues	p150

Class I PI3Ks are heterodimers composed of catalytic subunit (p110) and a regulatory (adaptor) subunit (p85). It is further subdivided into class IA and IB on the basis of regulatory

sub units. Class IA PI3K has three isoforms namely PI3K α , PI3K β and PI3K δ , with the respective p110 catalytic subunit bound to the p85 regulatory subunit. Class II PI3K has a single catalytic subunit (adaptor subunit is absent) with C2 domain at C-terminal and has three PI3K isoforms; PI3KC2 α , PI3KC2 β and PI3KC2 γ . Class III PI3K consists of a single catalytic Vps34 subunit and regulatory subunit p150.

1.2.2. Biochemistry of Phosphatidylinositol-3-kinase

In the cell, the main biochemical role of PI3Ks is to phosphorylate 3'-OH position of the inositol ring of PIP₂ (Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate) to give PIP₃ (Phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-trisphosphate) which work as secondary messenger to activate other pathways [Figure 3]. It is negatively regulated through dephosphorylating by phosphatase and tensin homolog (PTEN) gene.

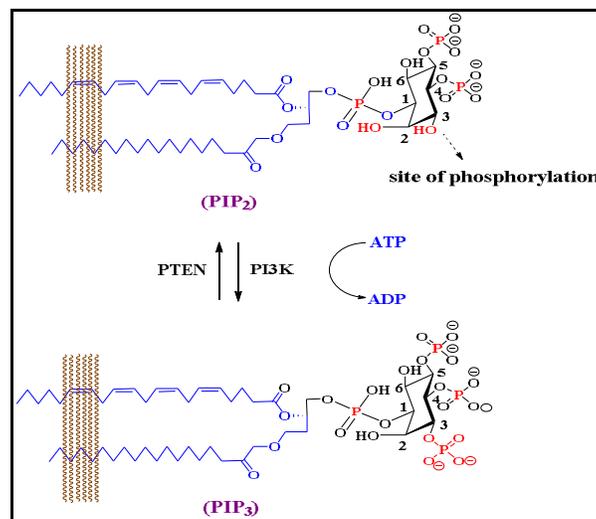


Figure 3: Phosphorylation with PI3K enzyme in cell

1.2.3. PI3K Signal transduction pathways

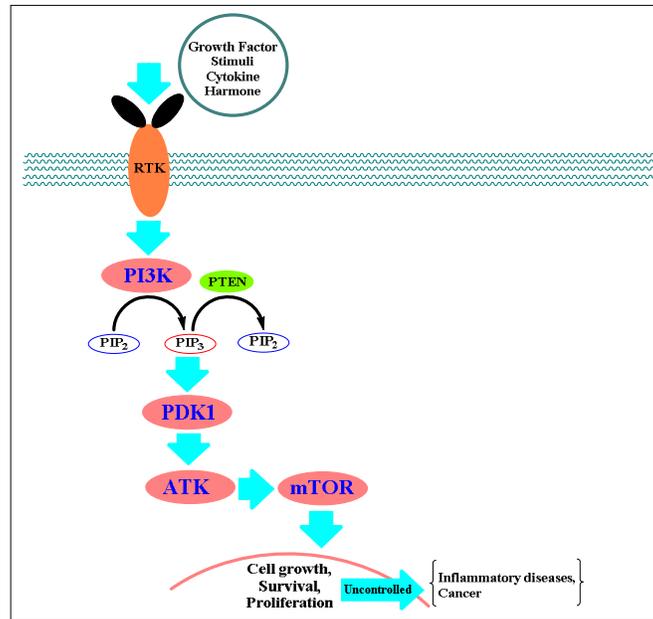


Figure 4: PI3K activation pathway

Initially RTK (Receptor tyrosine kinase) is normally activated by extracellular stimuli, growth factors, cytokines or hormones, leading to dimerization to release specific protein to activate PI3K [Figure 4]. Upon activation, PI3K catalyzes the phosphorylation of PIP₂ to produce PIP₃, which trigger many other signaling pathways such as PDK₁ (3-phosphoinositide-dependent protein kinase-1), ATK or PKB (Protein kinase B) and m-TOR (Mammalian target of rapamycin) pathway. Above signal transduction is important to control many cellular functions such as cell growth, cell survival, cell proliferation, apoptosis etc. Uncontrolled activation of any enzyme (PI3K, RTK, PDK₁, ATK and m-TOR) in this pathway leads to many inflammatory diseases ultimately ending with cancer. PTEN prevents activation of above mention downstream kinases.

1.2.4. Clinical Significance for targeting PI3K δ isoform

PI3K is believed to be one of the key therapeutic targets for inflammatory diseases and cancer treatment because it is observed that hyperactivity of PI3K signaling is significantly correlated in autoimmune disorder and tumor progression. The p110 δ isoforms of PI3K have gained more attraction as pharmacological targets in the treatment of RA and hematological malignancies because of its known effects on a variety of immune cells. Selectively inhibition of PI3K δ isoform with suitable inhibitor is already documented in the literature. It is also supported through *in vivo* studies (PI3K gene knock out/deletion) where in PI3K δ gene deleted mice showed depressed immunological response. Recently, more efforts are directed towards the development of isoform selective inhibitors, particularly PI3K δ selective

inhibitors, for the safe and effective treatment of hematological malignancy and inflammatory disorders. There are many clinically approved PI3K δ inhibitors, some are under clinical development.

1.2.5. PI3K Inhibitors

PI3Kinhibitors are listed in below table 2, some of them are launched and some are in clinical trials.

Table 2: PI3K Inhibitors in clinical development

Sr. No.	Selectivity	Generic Name	Development Phase	Indication	Originator
1	PI3K (δ)	Idelalisib Zydelig TM	Approved (July 2014)	Chronic lymphocytic leukemia, Small lymphocytic lymphoma	Gilead Science
2	PI3K (δ)	Leniolisib	Late III	Activated PI3K δ syndrome COPD, Asthma	Novartis
3	PI3K (δ)/ CK1 ϵ	Umbralisib Ukoniq	Approved (February 2021)	Marginal zone lymphoma, Follicular lymphoma	TG Therapeutic
4	PI3K (δ)	-	II	Rheumatoid arthritis	Amgen
5	PI3K (δ)	Parsaclisib	II	Hematological malignancies, Solid tumors	Incyte Corporation
6	PI3K (α/δ)	Copanlisib Aliqopa TM	Approved (September 2017)	Hematological and solid malignancies	Bayer
7	PI3K(δ/γ)	Duvelisib Copiktra TM	Approved (September 2018)	Chronic lymphocytic leukemia, inflammatory Diseases	Infinity/ Verastem
8	PI3K (δ/γ)	Tenalisib	II	Relapsed/Refractory Indolent Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	Rhizen
9	PI3K α	Alpelisib Piqray TM	Approved (May 2019)	Advanced or Metastatic breast cancer	Novartis
10	PI3K α	Taselisib	Late III	Metastatic breast cancer	Roche
11	PI3K α	Serabelisib	II	Breast cancer, Endometrial cancer Renal cell carcinoma	Takeda
12	PI3K/mT OR	Gedatolisib	III	Solid Tumor, Brest Cancer	Pfizer

13	PI3K/mT OR	Dactolisib	III	Advance solid tumor	Novartis
14	PI3K/mT OR	Samotolisib	II	Neoplasm	Eli Lilly and Co.
15	PI3K/mT OR	Bimiralisib	II	Solid Tumor, Brest Cancer	Piqur Therapeutic
16	PI3K/mT OR	Omipalisib	II	Advance Solid Tumor	GSK
17	PI3K/mT OR	Apitolisib	II	Breast cancer, Endometrial cancer	Genentech
18	Pan PI3K	Pictilisib	Terminated	Solid Tumor, Brest Cancer	Roche
19	Pan PI3K	Buparlisib	III	Breast Neoplasm	Novartis
20	Pan PI3K	Pilaralisib	II	Endometrial Neoplasm	Sanofi

Idelalisib (GS-1101/CAL-101/ZydeligTM) is the only PI3K δ selective inhibitor launched till now (July 2014) for Chronic lymphocytic leukemia, Small lymphocytic lymphoma. The most common side effects of Idelalisib are decreased in neutrophil count, hypertriglyceridemia, hyperglycemia, hepatotoxicity, ALT (alanine aminotransferase) increased and fever. Leniolisib (CDZ173) is an oral and selective inhibitor of the PI3K δ isoform develop by Novartis. It is under clinical trial for activated PI3K δ syndrome (APDS). Umbralisib (TGR-1202/ Ukoniq) is an oral, selective PI3K δ / CK-1 ϵ inhibitor approved (February 2021) for marginal zone lymphoma and follicular lymphoma. Common side effects are low blood cell counts, decreased blood platelets, abdominal pain, pneumonia, urinary tract infection (UTI) and fever.

Duvelisib (IPI-145/CopiktraTM) is an approved (September 2018), oral dual inhibitor of PI3K- δ/γ . The most common side effect associated with Duvelisib are diarrhea, nausea, low blood cell counts, bone pain, muscle pain, fever, cough, tiredness or cold symptoms such as stuffy nose, sneezing, sore throat. Copanlisib (BAY 80–6946/AliqopaTM) is approved in September 2017. Copanlisib has many side effects such as burning, crawling, itching, numbness, prickling, cracked lips, diarrhea, difficulty in swallowing, lack or loss of strength swelling or inflammation of the mouth etc.

Dactolisib (NVP BEZ235) is an oral dual PI3K/mTOR inhibitor; it is in phase II clinical trials. Dactolisib has severe side effects such as elevated blood glucose level, ALT elevation,

diarrhoea, hair loss, mucosal inflammation and skin rash. Apitolisib (GDC-0980/RG7422) and Gedatolisib (PF-05212384/PKI-587) are orally bioavailable dual inhibitor of PI3K and mTOR kinase, currently in phase II and phase III clinical development. Buparlisib (NVP-BKM120), Picalisib (XL-147) and Pictilisib (GDC-0941) are orally pan-class I, reversible inhibitors of PI3K.

Currently available PI3K inhibitors, especially PI3K δ inhibitors have significantly improved the clinical situation, but exhibits adverse effects such as neutropenia, hypertriglyceridemia, hyperglycemia, diarrhea/colitis, skin rashes, pyrexia, or liver enzyme elevation with severe organ toxicity. Therefore due to undesired toxic parameter most of the PI3K δ inhibitors are not targeted for RA treatment. So there is need to explore a new pharmacophore and strategies to design potent, selective and safe PI3K δ inhibitor to overcome the side effects associated with existing inhibitors for the safe and effective treatment of RA treatment and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).

1.3. Objectives

Our objective is to design a novel, orally active, PI3K δ selective inhibitor as anti-inflammatory agent for the treatment of RA and anti-cancer agent to treat B-cell CLL. Literature survey reveals that, PI3K isoform selectivity (particularly PI3K δ) can be achieved by modulating pharmacophore structure or substituent on it. As a part of ongoing research activity, in the current investigation, we decided to optimize two standards compounds (Dactolisib and INK-654/666), wherein we mainly adopted bioisosteric replacement strategy to develop novel PI3K δ inhibitors. In each section we have described:

- a) Design of imidazo-quinoline derivative, benzofuran based pyrazolo-pyrimidine derivatives and 2,4-disubstitued quinoline pyrazolo-pyrimidine derivatives as PI3K δ selective inhibitors.
- b) Synthesis and characterization of designed PI3K δ inhibitor
- c) *In vitro* PI3K δ inhibitory activity study
- d) Isoform selectivity ($\alpha/\beta/\gamma/\delta$)
- e) Pharmacokinetic study
- f) *In vivo* study
- g) Profiling study
- h) Safety pharmacology study
- i) Molecular modelling study

1.4. Design strategy

As discussed in the earlier section, knowing the potential side effects associated with the PI3K isoforms inhibitors. Recently, more efforts are directed towards the development of isoform selective inhibitors, particularly PI3K δ selective inhibitors, for the effective treatment of autoimmune, inflammatory diseases, such as RA and CLL.

Berndt et al. reported PI3K δ crystal structure in complex with IC-87114. PI3K δ enzyme structure shows have four regions in the binding site; a) hinge region (ATP-adenine binding site), b) specificity pocket, c) affinity pocket and d) hydrophobic region [Figure 5]. Thus for potent PI3K δ selective inhibition, compound must interact with the key amino acid residues in all four region. Thus, to achieve all the key interactions, molecule adopts “propeller shaped” orientation. Most of the PI3K δ selective inhibitors either approved or in clinical development possess “propeller shaped” orientation.

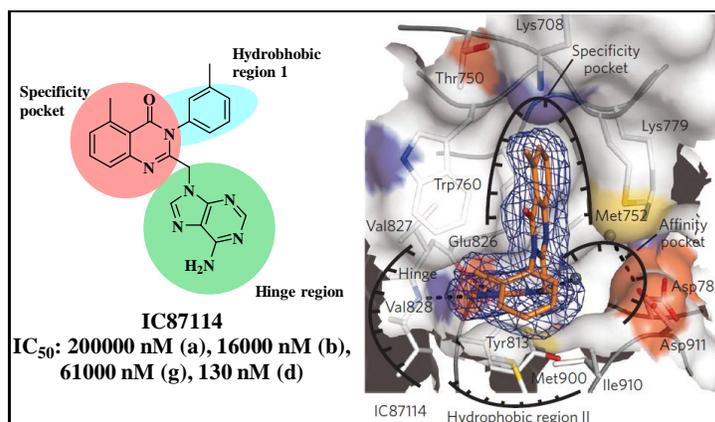


Figure 5. PI3K δ crystal structure complexed with IC-87114

We aim to design, novel, potent and orally bioavailable PI3K δ selective inhibitor mainly by favoring the suitable interaction of the designed molecule with PI3K δ ATP binding pockets targeting hinge region, specificity pocket, affinity region and hydrophobic region.

In Chapter 2, we synthesized imidazo-quinoline based PI3K δ inhibitor by introducing spacer in Dactolisib, so that newly designed compounds can fit in the ATP binding site of PI3K δ protein [Figure 6]. Initially, *in silico* modelling study of Dactolisib and new design compounds were done in PI3K δ enzyme, which showed promising result. New designed compounds showed favorable interaction (hydrogen bonds) in hinge region, specificity pocket, hydrophobic region and affinity pocket. Hence, we expect that these newly designed, compounds with spacer would be novel, potent and orally bioavailable PI3K δ

selective inhibitors by retaining the key interactions of inhibitors, in the PI3K δ ATP binding pocket.

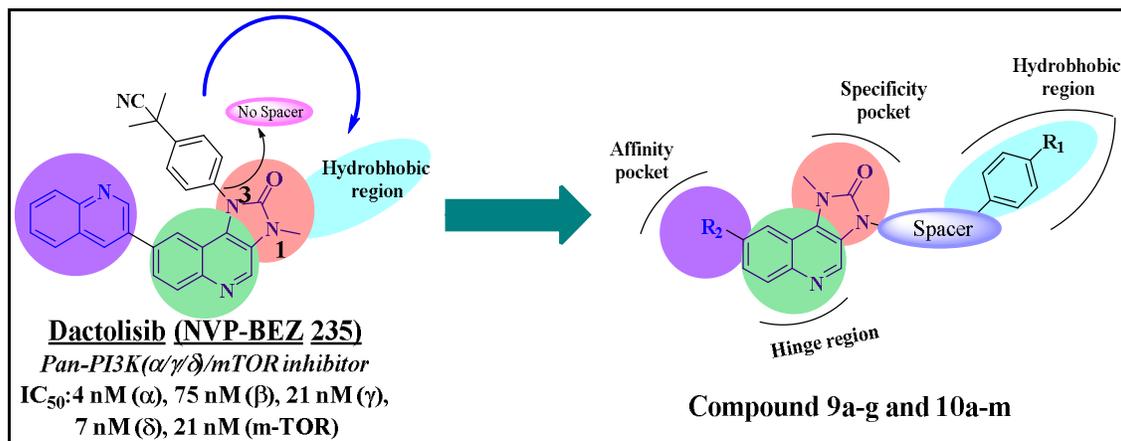


Figure 6: Imidazo-quinoline derivatives

We designed two new scaffolds as PI3K δ inhibitor by bioisosteric replacement of quinoline ring in INK-666 with benzofuran and 2,4-disubstituted quinoline ring.

Chapter 3 contains new scaffold, where 2,3-disubstituted quinoline ring of INK-666/INK-654 was bioisosterically replaced with benzofuran ring to get novel, potent and selective PI3K δ inhibitors with benzofuran analogue [Figure 7].

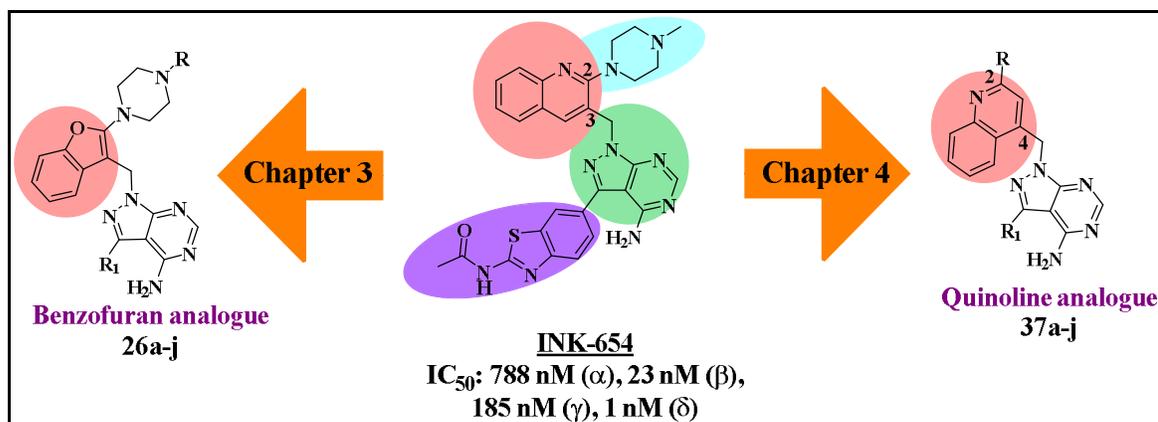


Figure 7: Benzofuran and 2,4-disubstituted quinoline derivatives as PI3K δ inhibitor

Literature around Intellikine scaffold (INK-666/INK-654) showed that the SAR is well established for 2,3-disubstituted quinoline ring whereas its 2,4-disubstituted quinoline derivative are not discovered. Hence, in Chapter 4, we synthesized 2,4-disubstituted quinoline based PI3K δ inhibitor to explain SAR [Figure 7].

CHAPTER II

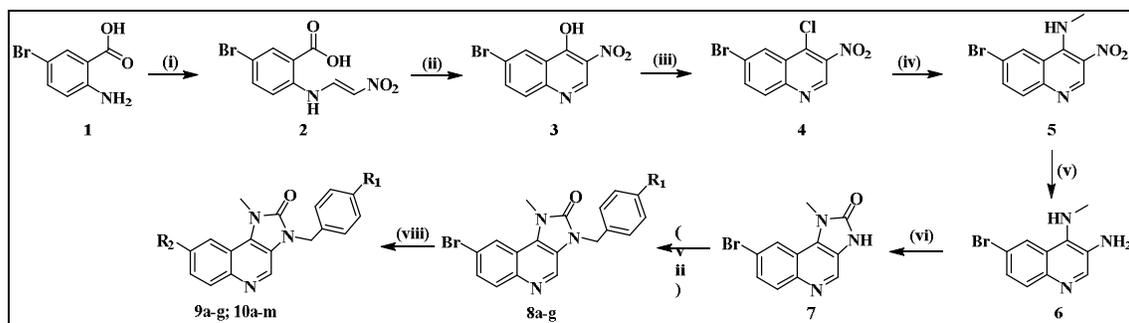
2. Designing, synthesis and biological evaluation of imidazo-quinoline derivatives as PI3K δ selective inhibitors.

Chapter 2 is divided into two parts, In Part 1 synthesis of title compounds **9a-g** and **10a-l** using scheme 1 and boronate intermediates using scheme 2 is described. All the compounds were characterized by using different spectral techniques like ^1H , ^{13}C NMR, ESI-MS and UPLC analysis. In Part 2, *In vitro* PI3K δ inhibitory activity, PI3K Isoform selectivity study, *In vivo* efficacy study, Anti-proliferative activity, CYP (Cytochrome) inhibition study, hERG inhibition study, Safety pharmacology study and Molecular modelling study of imidazo-quinoline derivatives is reported.

2.1. Synthesis of imidazo-quinoline based compounds **9a-g** and **10a-l**

Synthesis of imidazo-quinoline derivatives (**9a-g** and **10a-l**) was carried out as depicted in Scheme 1 following the modified literature procedure.

Scheme 1: Synthesis of compounds **9a-g** and **10a-l**.



Reagents and conditions: i) conc. HCl, water, 26 °C, 6h, then nitro methane, NaOH, water, conc. HCl, 26 °C, 16h; ii) KOAc, acetic anhydride, 120-125 °C, 4h; iii) POCl₃, 120 °C, 4h; iv) Me-NH₂, TEA, DCM, 26 °C, 12h; v) SnCl₂·2(H₂O), EtOAc, 26°C; vi) Phosgene (20% in toluene), TEA, DCM, 0-26°C; vii) R₁-Ar-CH₂-X (Cl or Br), NaH, THF, 0-26 °C; viii) R₂-B(OH)₂, PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂, KHCO₃, DMF, H₂O, 90-95 °C, 1.5 h.

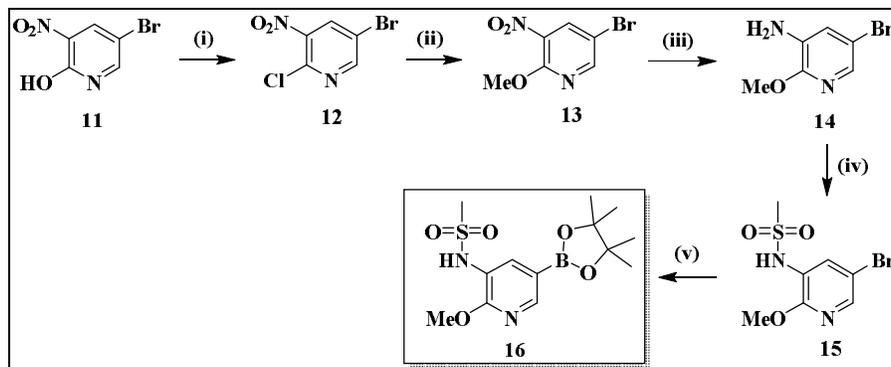
List of imidazo-quinoline derivatives **9a-g** and **10a-l**.

Compound	R ₁	Compound	R ₁	R ₂	Compound	R ₁	R ₂	
8a	-C(CH ₃) ₂ CN	9a	-C(CH ₃) ₂ CN		10a	OCH ₃		
8b	-CH(CH ₃) ₂	9b	-CH(CH ₃) ₂		10b			
8c	OCH ₃	9c	OCH ₃					
8d	CH ₃	9d	CH ₃					
8e	NO ₂	9e	NO ₂					
8f	F	9f	F					
8g	H	9g	H					
Compound	R ₁	R ₂	Compound	R ₁	R ₂	Compound	R ₁	R ₂
10c	OCH ₃		10e	OCH ₃		10g	OCH ₃	
10d			10f			10h		
Compound	R ₁	R ₂	<p style="text-align: center;">10k</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10m</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">10l</p>			
10i	OCH ₃						10j	

2.1.1. Synthesis of 2-Methoxy-3-pyridyl boronate ester intermediate (16)

2-Methoxy-3-pyridyl boronate ester intermediate **16** was prepared using scheme 2 as shown below.

Scheme 2: Synthesis of 2-Methoxy-3-pyridyl boronate ester



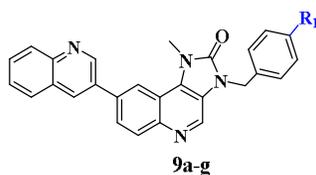
Reagents and conditions:(i) POCl_3 , DIPEA, 80-85 °C, 4h; (ii) NaOMe, MeOH, 0-26 °C, 4 h; (iii) Fe, Conc. HCl, EtOH, 26 °C, 16h; (iv) Mesityl-Chloride, Pyridine, 26 °C, 24h; (v) Bis(pinacolato)diboron, $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{dppf})$, (1,4)-Dioxane, Reflux, 24h.

In imidazo-quinoline series 1, total 20 compounds were prepared (**9a-g** and **10a-m**) as PI3K δ inhibitors. All the title compounds were prepared in good yield and characterized by various spectroscopic techniques. Assigned structures were found to be confirmed with spectral data.

2.2. *In vitro* PI3K δ inhibitory activity, selectivity and structure activity relationship (SAR)

In vitro screening of compounds **9a-g** and **10a-m** was carried out using PI3K kinase activity assay kit (from Millipore) and the IC_{50} values are mentioned below.

Table 3: *In vitro* PI3K δ inhibitory activity data of Imidazo-quinoline derivatives with modification R_1 position (Set-1)



Comp.	R_1	PI3K δ inhibition (%) ^{a, b}	PI3K δ IC_{50} (nM) ^c
9a		56	ND
9b		73	28.3

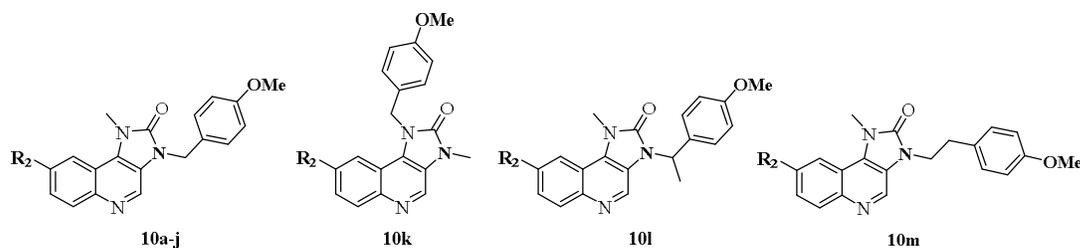
9c		98	9.5
9d	-CH ₃	80	18.4
9e	-NO ₂	62	ND
9f	-F	51	ND
9g	-H	22	ND
Dactolisib	-	92	8
Idelalisib	-	96	2.1

^aAll the data are shown as the mean for at least two experiments. ^bPI3K δ inhibition at the concentration of 100 nM using PI3K Kinase Activity/Inhibitor assay Kit from Millipore. ^cThe IC₅₀ values for PI3K δ inhibition. ND: not detected

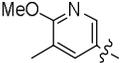
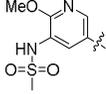
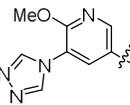
- Compound **9c** was most potent as compared to other compounds (**9c**, IC₅₀: 9.5 nM).

Further to improve PI3K δ isoform selectivity, modelling studies were carried out, considering compound **9c** as primary lead. Based on these encouraging results of modelling study, 10 compounds (**10a-m**) were designed in Set-2 [Table 4] and subjected for *in vitro* screening and their respective results are as follows.

Table 4: Influence of modification at **R₂** position of quinoline moiety on PI3K δ inhibitory activity and isoform selectivity (Set-2)



Comp.	R ₂	PI3K δ inhibition (%) ^{a,b}	PI3K δ IC ₅₀ (nM) ^c	Comp.	R ₂	PI3K δ inhibition (%) ^{a,b}	PI3K δ IC ₅₀ (nM) ^c
10a		52	ND	10h		99	1.9
10b		58	ND	10i		91	6.2
10c		72	29.4	10j		93	5.9
10d		81	20	10k		98	4.1
10e		87	11.4	10l		60	ND

10f		88	11.1	10m		56	ND
10g		62	ND	Idelalisib		96	2.1

^aAll the data are shown as the mean for at least two experiments. ^bPI3K δ inhibition at the concentration of 100 nM using PI3K Kinase Activity/Inhibitor assay Kit from Millipore. ^cThe IC₅₀ values for PI3K δ inhibition. ND: not detected.

- Compound **10h** with m-methanesulfonamide substitution was found to be the most potent (IC₅₀: 1.9 nM).
- Interchanging the substitution in **10h** on imidazole ring (methyl at N³ and para-methoxy benzyl at N¹, **10k**), found to be two fold less active compared to **10h**.

2.2.1. Isoform selectivity study of **9c**, **10h** and **10k**

Based on the preliminary PI3K δ inhibitory activity results, most potent compounds (**9c**, **10h** and **10k**) were evaluated for their selectivity against PI3K isoforms (α , β and γ) and mTOR. Results are shown in below table 5.

Table 5: Isoform selectivity of compounds against PI3K (α , β , γ and δ) and mTOR activities

Comp.	Biochemical IC ₅₀ [nM] ^a				
	PI3K α ^b	PI3K β ^b	PI3K γ ^b	PI3K δ ^b	mTOR ^b (p70S6K)
9c	421	342	38	9.5	676
10h	891	589	112	1.9	>1000
10k	289	241	42	4.1	580
Dactolisib	5	79	6	8	14
Idelalisib	831	571	92	2.1	>1000

^aThe IC₅₀ values are shown as the mean for at least two experiments. ^bPI3K inhibitory activity assay Kit (Millipore) was used to screen the test compounds.

- Compound **10h** (IC₅₀: 1.9 nM) demonstrated 469, 310, 59 and >500 fold selectivity over PI3K α , β , γ and m-TOR respectively.

2.2.2. Anti-proliferative activities, CYP (Cytochrome) inhibition and hERG (human ether-a-go-go-related gene) liabilities for Compound **10h**

- Compound **10h** was tested for its anti-proliferative activities against TMD-8 cell lines with Idelalisib as a reference compound. In anti-proliferative *in vitro* assay, **10h** and

Idelalisib exhibited potent anti-proliferative activity with an IC₅₀ value of 340 and 795 nM respectively.

- Additional profiling studies of compound **10h** was carried out and it was found to be devoid of CYP (<10% CYP inhibition at 10 µM concentration, for CYP1A2, CYP2C8, CYP2C9, CYP2D6, CYP2C19 and CYP3A4) and hERG liabilities (IC₅₀: > 30 µM).
- Highly potent and selective PI3Kδ inhibitor (**10h**) was selected for *in vitro* kinase profiling study at 1 µM concentration, against 140 kinases and percent inhibition was found to <20% at 1 µM concentration, with **10h** across 140 kinase profiling panel.

2.2.3. *In vivo* pharmacokinetic (PK) and Pharmacodynamics (PD) studies of compound **10h**

A comparative single dose PK profile of compounds **9h**, **10h** and Dactolisib was evaluated in male C57BL/6J mice and the various PK parameters were recorded [Table 6].

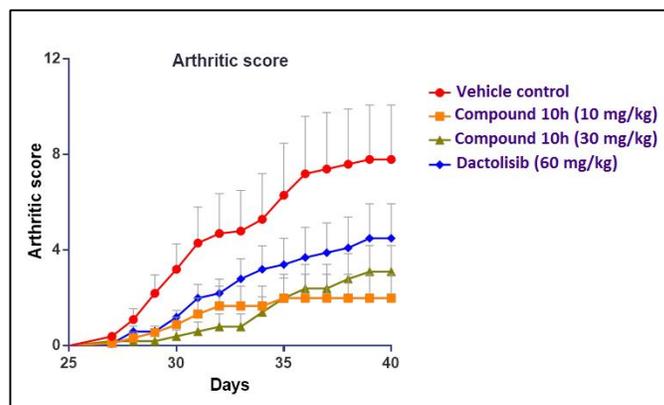
Table 6: Pharmacokinetic study parameters of **9c**, **10h** and **Dactolisib** in C57 mice

Comp	Tmax (h)	Cmax (µg/ml)	t _{1/2} (h)	Cl (ml/min/kg), iv	AUC (0-α) h µg/ml	%F*
9c	0.38	127.61	2.31	22.9	329.08	14.77
10h	0.25	1278.49	3.48	8.24	3831.48	68.91
Dactolisib	0.21	273.83	1.88	72.5	243.64	37.82

^aIn male C57BL/6J mice (n=6), compounds were administered orally (p.o) at 3 mg/kg dose and plasma concentration was analysed by LC-MS, values indicate Mean ± SD.* Oral bioavailability (%F) was calculate wrt to iv AUC. Compounds **9c**, **10h** and Dactolisib administered at 1 mg/kg dose, iv AUC: 742.56, 1852.95 and 215.14 respectively.

In vivo anti-inflammatory activity of **10h** was checked in Collagen Induced Arthritis (CIA) mice model as shown in **Figure 8**.

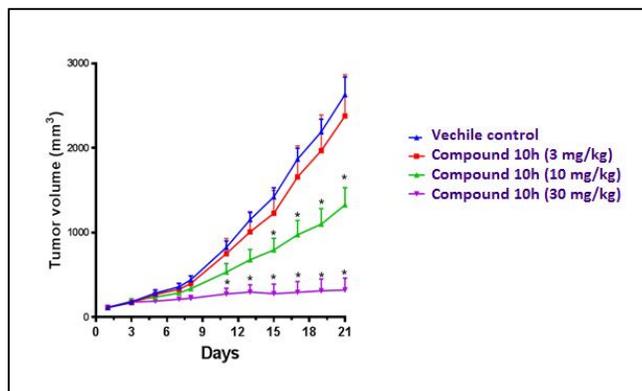
Figure 8: Effect of Compound **10h** and **Dactolisib** in CIA mice model



- As shown in the **Figure 8**, standard and **10h** showed significant reduction in the arthritic score, compared to vehicle control (untreated group).
- Body weights of the animals were also recorded 3 times a week as a measure of treatment related side effect and **10h** showed no significant reduction in the body weight.

In vivo anti-tumor activity of **10h** was checked in male SCID mice xenograft model (inoculated with TMD-8 cells) as shown in **Figure 9**.

Figure 9: *In vivo* anti-tumor activity of Compound **10h** in SCID mice xenograft model



- **10h** showed complete inhibition of tumor volume compared to vehicle control.
- **10h** showed no significant reduction in the body weight, even at 30 mg/kg dose.

2.2.4. Safety pharmacology study compound 10h

Daily oral administration of compounds **10h**, at 100 mg/kg over a period of 2 weeks did not affect the survival of Wistar rats, with no adverse effect related to gross pathology, clinical signs, body weight and food consumption were noticed as compared to the control group.

Compound **10h** treated groups showed no changes in the other key organs (brain, heart, kidney, spleen and liver) weights, **Table 7**.

Table 7: Relative organ weights (%) after 14 days repeat dose treatment with compound **10h**

Organs	Compounds	
	Control (Vehicle)	10h ^a (100 mg kg ⁻¹ , po, bid)
Brain	0.680±0.025	0.665±0.02
Kidney	0.790±0.034	0.805±0.02
Heart	0.340±0.008	0.350±0.007
Spleen	0.260±0.006	0.255±0.01
Liver	3.580±0.15	3.610±0.078

^a Values expressed as mean ± SD: n=9, Male WR, dose 100 mg kg⁻¹, po (bid), 14 days repeated dose toxicity study.

To assure hematological parameter and serum biochemistry, rats were anesthetized 24 h post treatment with compound **10h** and blood samples were collected. The whole blood was centrifuged at 3000 rpm, using a centrifuge at 37 °C for 15 mins and serum alanine transaminase (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) were assayed, using a diagnostic kit (Boehringer Mannheim). Total bilirubin (TBILI) was also analysed to check hepatotoxicity parameters.

Table 8: Hematological parameters and serum chemistry of compound **10h**

Parameters	Compound	
	Control	10h ^a
RBC (10 ⁶ µl ⁻¹)	7.15 ± 0.10	7.35 ± 0.28
WBC (10 ³ µl ⁻¹)	9.21 ± 0.35	9.01 ± 0.28
TBILI (mg dL ⁻¹)	0.14 ± 0.10	0.15 ± 0.15
ALT (U L ⁻¹)	20.10 ± 0.80	21.05 ± 1.25
ALP (U L ⁻¹)	134.10 ± 6.10	122.10 ± 10.40
AST (U L ⁻¹)	145.10 ± 10.60	138 ± 1.20

^a Values expressed as mean ± SD: n=9, Male WR dose 100 mg kg⁻¹, po (bid), 14 days repeated dose toxicity study

As shown in above table, **Table 8**, the hematological parameters white blood cell (WBC) and red blood cell (RBC) of compounds **10h** were found to be comparable to that of control animals. Similarly, compound 10h showed no significant changes in ALP, AST, ALT and TBILI as compared to the control group. Whereas Idelalisib has unscheduled death, hepatotoxicity, increased ALT, AST and ALP.

2.2.5. Molecular modelling study

The PI3K δ crystal structure was retrieved from the RCSB Protein Data Bank (PDB: **4XE0**) was used to rationalised the potent and selective PI3K δ inhibitory activity of **9c**, **10h**, **10k** and Dactolisib, **Figure 10**.

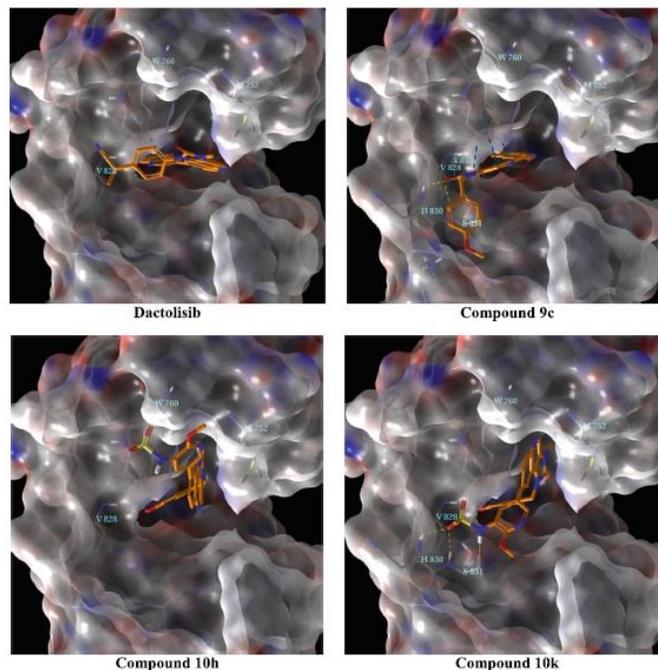


Figure 11: The Glide docking studies of Compounds **9c**, **10h**, **10k** and Dactolisib into site of PI3K δ (PDB ID:**4XE0**). Compounds are shown as sticks. Hydrogen bonds are shown as yellow dash lines.

- As shown in the **Figure 10**, all the three **9c**, **10h** and **10k** compounds showed favourable interactions with the PI3K δ ATP-binding pockets, imidazo-quinoline ring served as the hinge binder and it forms key hydrogen bonds with Val₈₂₈ and Glu₈₂₆.
- Propeller-shaped conformation of **10h** favours to accommodate methanesulfonamide pyridyl ring of **10h**, in the affinity pocket which strongly interacts with Asp₉₁₁.
- Additional hydrogen bonding of **10h** with Trp₇₆₀ and propeller shape orientation contributes towards improved PI3K δ selectivity and inhibitory activity.

2.3. Conclusion

In conclusion, we have synthesized and evaluated two sets of novel series of 1,3-dihydro-2*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-2-one derivatives as selective PI3K δ inhibitors. In first set, appropriate modifications were carried out in the imidazo-quinoline based pharmacophore, which led to an identification of a single digit nM potent PI3K δ inhibitor (**9c**), with moderate isoform selectivity.

In set 2, further structure-activity relationship (SAR) studies on the 8th position of **9c** resulted in to the discovery of *N*-(2-methoxy-5-(3-(4-methoxybenzyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-8-yl)pyridin-3-yl)methanesulfonamide (**10h**) that showed improved isoform selectivity, PK profile and good efficacy in a CIA and xenograft animal models.

In the repeat dose acute toxicity study, compound **10h** showed no adverse changes related to gross pathology, clinical signs and liver toxicity, hepatotoxicity, increased ALT, AST and ALP. The molecular docking study of compound **10h** indicated key hydrogen bonding interactions, which justifies its selective PI3K δ inhibitory activity.

CHAPTER III

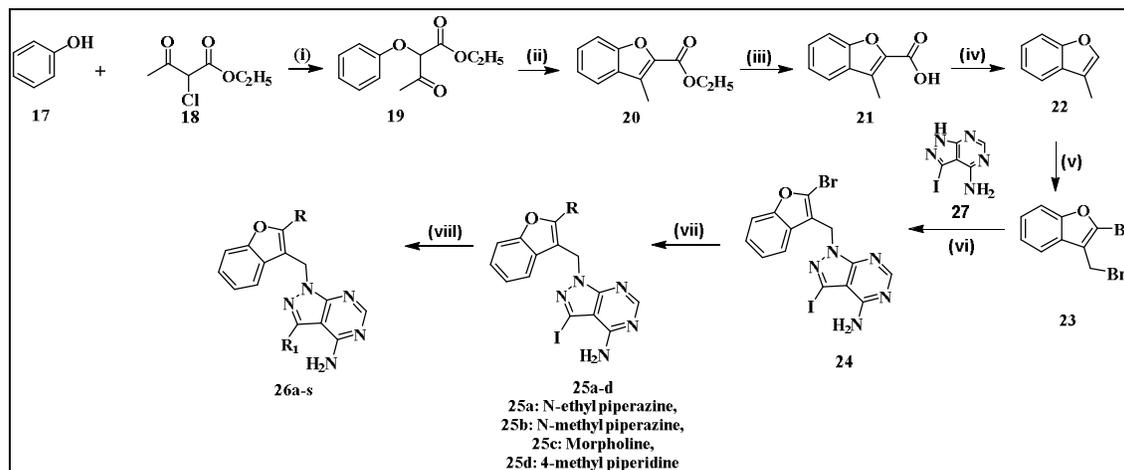
3. Design, synthesis and biological evaluation of benzofuran based pyrazolo -pyrimidine derivatives as PI3K δ selective inhibitors.

Chapter 3 is divided into two parts, In Part 1 synthesis of title compounds **26a-s** using scheme 3 is described. All the compounds were characterized by using different spectral techniques like ¹H, ¹³C NMR, ESI-MS and UPLC analysis. In Part 2, *In vitro* PI3K δ inhibitory activity, PI3K Isoform selectivity study, CYP (Cytochrome) inhibition study, hERG inhibition study and Molecular modelling study of imidazo-quinoline derivatives are reported.

3.1. General procedure for the synthesis of benzofuran based compounds 26a-s

Synthesis of imidazo-quinoline derivatives (**26a-s**) was carried out as depicted in Scheme 1 following the modified literature procedure.

Scheme 3: Synthesis of Benzofuran pyrazolo pyrimidine compounds **26a-s**.



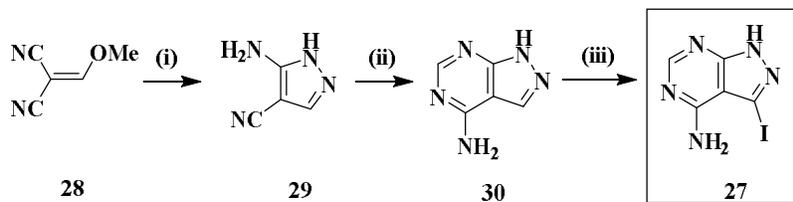
Reagents and conditions:(i) K₂CO₃, Acetone, Reflux, 5h; (ii) Conc.H₂SO₄, 0-5 °C, 4h; (iii) 10% KOH, 26 °C, 2h; (iv) 280 °C, 2h; (v) NBS, CCl₄, Reflux, 5h; (vi) t-BuOK, DMF, 26 °C, 15h; (vii) **R** (Secondary amine), (1,4)-Dioxane, Reflux, 12h; (viii) Aryl boronic acid (**R**₁), PdCl₂ (PPh₃)₂, KHCO₃, DMF: H₂O, 90 °C, 2h.

List of benzofuran pyrazolo pyrimidine compounds **26a-s**.

Compound	R	R ₁	Compound	R	R ₁
26a			26f		
26b			26g		
26c			26h		
26d			26i		
26e			26j		
Compound	R	R ₁	Compound	R	R ₁
26k			26p		
26l			26q		
26m			26r		
26n			26s		
26o					

3.1.1. General procedure for the synthesis of 3-iodo-1H-pyrazolo [3, 4-d] pyrimidin-4-amine (**27**)

Scheme 4: Synthetic scheme of 3-iodo-1H-pyrazolo [3, 4-d] pyrimidin-4-amine (**27**).



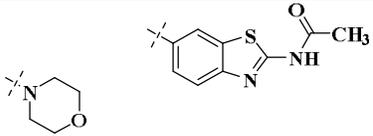
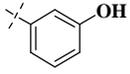
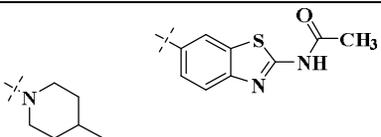
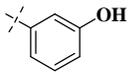
Reagents and conditions:(i) NH₂-NH₂, 80-85 °C, 5h; (ii) Formamide, 180-185 °C, 4h; (iii) NIS, DMF, 80-85 °C, 16 h.

In Series-1, total **19** compounds were prepared (**26a-s**) as PI3K δ inhibitors. All the title compounds were prepared in good yield and characterized by various spectroscopic techniques. Assigned structures were found to be confirmed with spectral data.

3.2. *In vitro* PI3K δ inhibitory activity

Table 9: *In vitro* PI3K δ inhibitory activity data Benzofuran pyrazolo pyrimidine derivatives:

Sr. No.	R	R ₁	PI3K δ inhibition (%) ^{a,b}	PI3K δ IC ₅₀ (nM) ^c
26a			108	0.60
26b			112	0.58
26c			99	0.90
26d			79	ND
26e			68	ND
26f				102
26g			100	0.60
26h			99	0.95
26i			78	10.1
26j			53	ND
26k			52	ND
26l			55	ND
26m			60	8.50
26n			50	ND

26o		45	ND
26p		65	7.20
26q		60	7.10
26r		60	6.62
26s		62	6.90
INK-666		110	0.50

^aAll the data are shown as the mean for at least two experiments. ^bPI3K δ inhibition at the concentration of 100 nM using PI3K Kinase Activity assay kit from Millipore. ^cThe IC₅₀ values for PI3K δ inhibition. ND: not detected.

- Compound **26a**, **26b** and **26c** showed excellent inhibitory activity with an IC₅₀: 0.60 nM, 0.58 nM and 0.90 nM respectively.
- Compound **26f**, **26g** and **26h** were found to be most potent with IC₅₀: 0.68 nM, 0.60 and 0.95 nM respectively.

3.2.1. Isoform selectivity study of selected compounds

Based on the above preliminary PI3K δ inhibitory activity results, most potent compounds **26a**, **26b**, **26c**, **26f**, **26g** and **26h** were evaluated for their selectivity against PI3K isoforms (α , β and γ) and mTOR.

Table 10: Isoform selectivity of compounds against PI3K (α , β , γ and δ) and mTOR activities:

Comp.	Biochemical IC ₅₀ [nM] ^a				
	PI3K α ^b	PI3K β ^b	PI3K γ ^b	PI3K δ ^b	mTOR ^b (p70S6K)
26a	320	10	90	0.60	>1000
26b	154	11	4	0.58	>1000
26c	350	28	43	0.90	>1000
26f	310	12	92	0.68	>1000
26g	150	10	4	0.60	>1000
26h	350	28	45	0.95	>1000
INK-666	137	9	4	0.50	>1000

Umbralisib	>10000	1116	1065	22	>1000
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^aThe IC₅₀ values are shown as the mean for at least two experiments. ^bPI3K inhibitory activity assay Kit (Millipore) was used to screen the test compounds.

- Compound **26c** and **26h** showed exceptional selectivity for PI3K δ isoform against all other PI3K isoforms and m-TOR (>1000), 389, 31, 48 and 368, 29, 47 fold for PI3K α , β , γ isoform respectively.

3.2.2. CYP (Cytochrome) inhibition and hERG (human ether-a-go-go-related gene) liabilities for Compound 26c and 26h

- Additional profiling studies of compound **26c** and **26h** was carried out and it was found to be devoid of CYP (<10% CYP inhibition at 10 μ M concentration, for CYP1A2, CYP2C8, CYP2C9, CYP2D6, CYP2C19 and CYP3A4) and hERG liabilities (IC₅₀: > 30 μ M).

3.2.3. Molecular modelling study

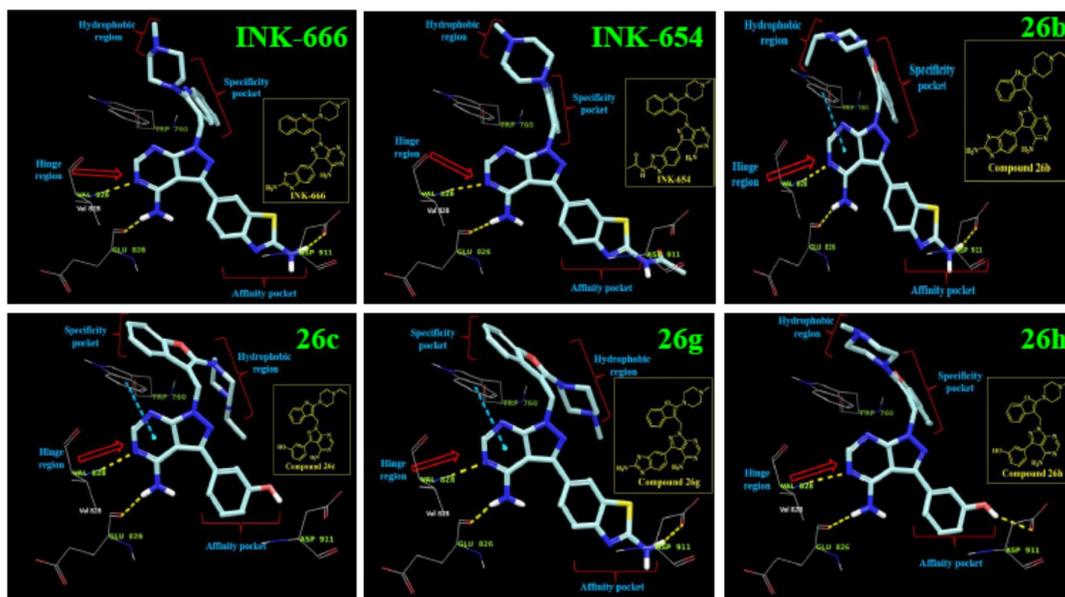


Figure 11: Docking of INK-666, INK-654, Compound **26b**, **26c**, **26g** and **26h**

3.3. Conclusion

- Compound **26c** and **26h** were found to be potent and selective PI3K δ inhibitors over mTOR. *In vitro* results validate our hypothesis of designing benzofuran based novel, potent and selective PI3K δ inhibitors as a bioisosteric replacement of quinoline ring of INK-666/654 with benzofuran ring system.

- Additional profiling studies of compound **26c** and **26h** was carried out and it was found to be devoid of CYP22 (<10% CYP inhibition at 10 μ M concentration, for CYP1A2, CYP2C8, CYP2C9, CYP2D6, CYP2C19 and CYP3A4) and showed no hERG liabilities (IC₅₀:>30 μ M), while INK 666 showed moderate CYP3A4 inhibition.
- Docking results of **26b**, **26c**, **26g** and **26 h** correlates with its potent *in vitro* PI3K δ activity.

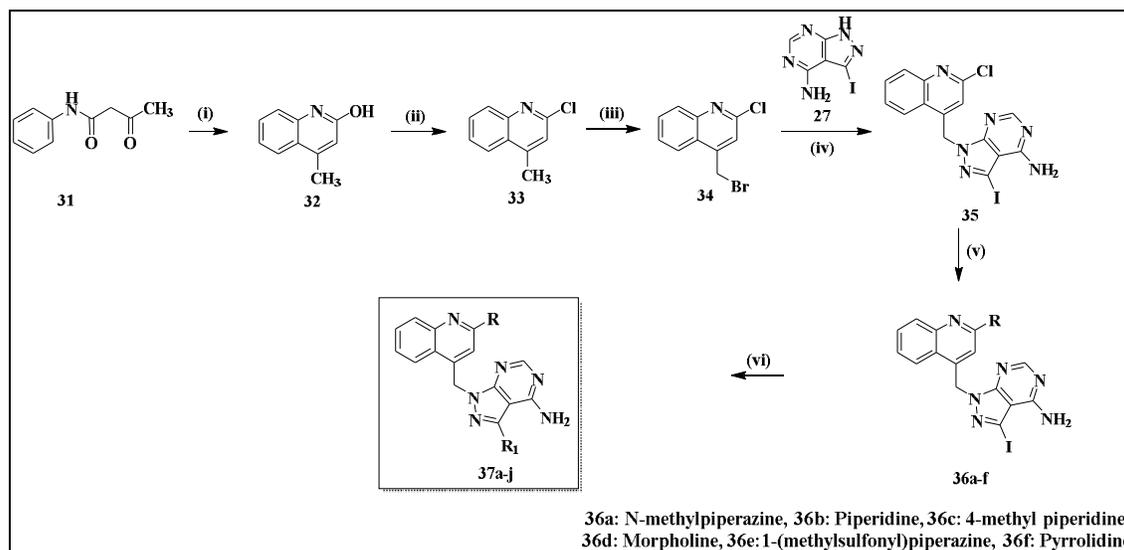
CHAPTER IV

4. Design, synthesis and biological evaluation of 2,4-disubstitued quinoline pyrazolo-pyrimidine derivatives as PI3K δ selective inhibitors.

Chapter 4 is divided into two parts, In Part 1 synthesis of title compounds **37a-j** using scheme 5 is described. All the compounds were characterized by using different spectral techniques like ¹H, ¹³C NMR, ESI-MS and UPLC analysis. In Part 2, *In vitro* PI3K δ inhibitory activity, CYP (Cytochrome) inhibition study, hERG inhibition study and Molecular modelling study of imidazo-quinoline derivatives are reported.

4.1. General procedure of the synthesis of 2,4-disubstitued quinoline based compounds **37a-j**

Scheme 5: Synthesis of 2,4- disubstitued quinoline derivatives **37a-j**.



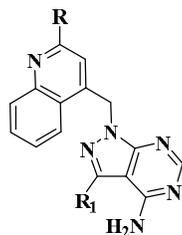
List of 2,4- disubstituted quinoline derivatives **37a-j**.

Compound	R	R ₁	Compound	R	R ₁	Compound	R	R ₁	
37a			37d			37h			
37b			37e					37i	
37c			37f					37j	
		37g							

4.2. In vitro PI3K δ inhibitory activity

All the synthesized compounds were assessed for their PI3K δ inhibitory activity; INK-666 was employed as the positive control [Table 11]. It was found that the majority of 2,4-disubstituted quinoline (**37a-j**) analogues displayed varying degree of PI3K δ inhibitory activity at 100 nM concentration.

Table 11: *In vitro* PI3K δ inhibitory activity data 2,4-disubstituted quinoline pyrazolo pyrimidine derivatives



Sr. No.	R	R ₁	PI3K δ inhibition (%) ^{a, b}	PI3K δ IC ₅₀ (nM) ^c
37a			110	0.60
37b			105	0.52
37c			94	0.82
37d			60	ND
37e			52	ND

37f		70	9.85
37g		70	10.1
37h		108	0.65
37i		105	0.60
37j		98	0.85
INK-666		110	0.50

^aAll the data are shown as the mean for at least two experiments. ^bPI3K δ inhibition at the concentration of 100 nM using PI3K Kinase Activity/Inhibitor assay Kit from Millipore. ^cThe IC₅₀ values for PI3K δ inhibition. ND: not detected.

- Compound **37a**, **37b** and **37c** showed excellent inhibitory activity with an IC₅₀: 0.60 nM, 0.52 nM and 0.82 nM respectively. Compound **37d**, **37e** and **37f** were found to be less potent as compared to N-methyl piperazine derivative. Compound **37h**, **37i** and **37j** were most potent, showed IC₅₀ of 0.65 nM, 0.60 and 0.85 nM respectively.

4.2.1. CYP (Cytochrome) inhibition and hERG (human ether-a-go-go-related gene) liabilities for Compound 37a-j

- Additional profiling studies of compound **37a**, **37b**, **37c**, **37h**, **37i** and **37j** was carried out and it was found to be devoid of CYP (<10% CYP inhibition at 10 μ M concentration, for CYP1A2, CYP2C8, CYP2C9, CYP2D6, CYP2C19 and CYP3A4) and hERG liabilities (IC₅₀: > 30 μ M).

4.2.2. Molecular modelling study

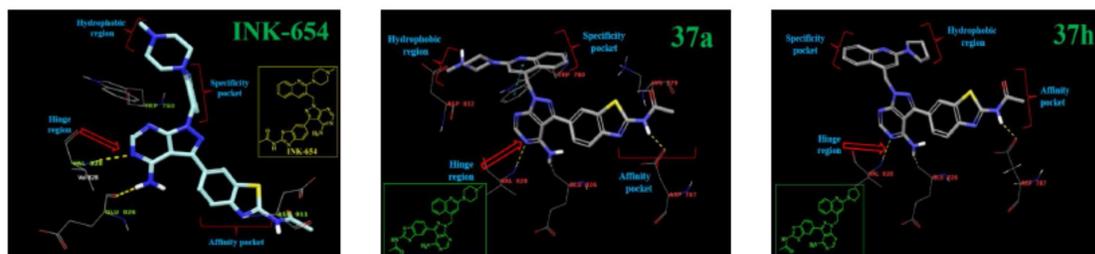


Figure 12: Docking image of INK-654, **37a** and **37h**

4.3. Conclusion

- Based on *in vitro* results, we can summarize that among twenty novel compounds tested for PI3K δ activities, compound **37a**, **37b**, **37c**, **37h**, **37i** and **37j** were found to be potent PI3K δ inhibitors. *In vitro* results validate our hypothesis of designing 2,4-disubstituted quinoline based novel and potent PI3K δ inhibitors.
- Additional profiling studies of selected compounds was carried out and it was found to be devoid of CYP22 (<10% CYP inhibition at 10 μ M concentration, for CYP1A2, CYP2C8, CYP2C9, CYP2D6, CYP2C19 and CYP3A4) and showed no hERG liabilities (IC₅₀ > 30 μ M), while INK 666 showed moderate CYP3A4 inhibition.
- Docking results of **37a** and **37h** correlates with its potent *in vitro* PI3K δ activity.

CHAPTER V

5. Overall summary

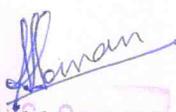
In the present investigation altogether three series of PI3K δ inhibitors were designed, synthesised and biologically evaluate. In the first series, imidazo-quinoline based PI3K δ inhibitors, in the second series, benzofuran based PI3K δ inhibitor and in the third series, 2,4-disubstituted quinoline based PI3K δ inhibitors were prepared. Altogether, 49 compounds were synthesized, purified, characterized and subjected for *in vitro* PI3K δ inhibitory activity. Most potent PI3K δ inhibitors from each series were further subjected for the *in vitro* selectivity over other PI3K isoforms.

In the first series (imidazo-quinoline based PI3K δ inhibitor) compound **9c** (IC₅₀: 9.5 nM) was identified as primary lead compound. Modification at 8th position on compound **9c** resulted in to the discovery of compound **10h** (IC₅₀: 1.9 nM), with improved PI3K δ inhibitory activity and isoform selectivity. **10h** showed no CYP inhibition up to 100 μ M concentration and hERG liabilities (IC₅₀: > 30 μ M).

In benzofuran based series, compounds **26a**, **26b**, **26c**, **26f**, **26g** and **26h** showed excellent PI3K δ inhibitory activity and were found to be comparable with standard compound (INK-666). Compound **26c** and **26h** were more selective towards PI3K δ isoform as compared to INK-666. Further, **26c** and **26h** showed no CYP inhibition up to 10 μ M concentration and hERG liabilities (IC₅₀: > 30 μ M).

In 2,4-disubstituted quinoline based series, compound **37a** (IC₅₀: 0.60 nM), **37b** (IC₅₀: 0.52 nM) and **37c** (IC₅₀: 0.82) nM showed excellent PI3k δ inhibitory activity. In second set, compound, **37h** (IC₅₀: 0.65 nM), **37i** (IC₅₀: 0.60 nM) and **37j** (IC₅₀: 0.85) nM were equally potent as compared to N-methyl piperazine derivative and reference compound INK-666.

Compounds **37a**, **37b**, **37c**, **37h**, **37i** and **37j** showed no CYP inhibition up to 10 μM concentration and hERG liabilities (IC_{50} : > 30 μM).

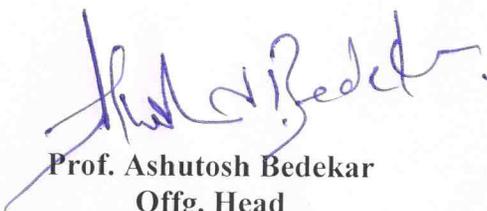


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