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SPECIALTY SECTION

This article was submitted to Pharmacology of Anti-Cancer Drugs, a section of the journal Frontiers in Pharmacology

RECEIVED 23 June 2022

ACCEPTED 08 August 2022

PUBLISHED 28 September 2022

CITATION

Chen L, Zhang X, Ou Y, Liu M, Yu D, Song Z, Niu L, Zhang L and Shi J (2022), Advances in RIPK1 kinase inhibitors. *Front. Pharmacol.* 13:976435. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2022.976435

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Advances in RIPK1 kinase inhibitors

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Programmed necrosis is a new modulated cell death mode with necrotizing morphological characteristics. Receptor interacting protein 1 (RIPK1) is a critical mediator of the programmed necrosis pathway that is involved in stroke, myocardial infarction, fatal systemic inflammatory response syndrome, Alzheimer's disease, and malignancy. At present, the reported inhibitors are divided into four categories. The first category is the type I ATP-competitive kinase inhibitors that targets the area occupied by the ATP adenylate ring; The second category is type II ATP competitive kinase inhibitors targeting the DLG-out conformation of RIPK1; The third category is type III kinase inhibitors that compete for binding to allosteric sites near ATP pockets; The last category is others. This paper reviews the structure, biological function, and recent research progress of receptor interaction protein-1 kinase inhibitors.

KEYWORDS

inhibitor, receptor interacting protein 1 (RIP1), programmed necrosis, necrosis, RIP1 (RIPK1)

1 Introduction

Unlike apoptosis, cell necrosis is an unregulated form of cell death brought about by external physical and chemical stress (Linkermann et al., 2012; Weinlich et al., 2016). However, in recent years, studies have found some distinct signal transduction pathways that are programmed to regulate cell necrosis, such as programmed necrosis, pyrolysis, and iron death. Programmed necrosis is a new type of cell death that can be regulated and characterized by necrotizing morphology (Maria, 2011; Morrice et al., 2017). In the regulation of programmed necrosis, a class of proteins occupies an important position in the signaling pathway, namely receptor-interacting protein 1 (RIPK1) (Christofferson et al., 2012; Vasilikos et al., 2017). RIPK1 is an intracellular adaptor that regulates inflammation, apoptosis, and necrosis

processes by transmitting signals from receptors, and exerts kinase-independent protective functions under specific conditions (Ofengeim and Yuan, 2013; Chen et al., 2019; Ueta et al., 2019). Existing articles have reviewed the structure of previous RIPK1 inhibitors (Fang et al., 2021), kinase binding patterns (Martens et al., 2020) and the relationship between RIPK1 and disease (Zhuang and Chen, 2020). In this paper, the molecular structure and function of RIP1, the relationship between RIP1 and disease, the existing RIP1 kinase inhibitors and their structure and structure-activity relationship were summarized and analyzed, and some views on the future development of these RIP1 kinase inhibitors were put forward.

2 Molecular structure and function of RIPK1

2.1 Molecular structure of RIPK1

RIP is a serine/threonine protein kinase. It was known that there were seven members of the RIP family, among which RIPK1 and RIPK3 are the most widely studied in necrosis (Berghe et al., 2014; Boris, 2016). They have a homologous N-terminal kinase domain but different recruitment domains in their structure (Wim, 2009) (Figure 1). The molecular structure of RIPK1 consists of N-terminal kinase domain, an intermediate domain, and a carboxyl-terminal death domain (Lei et al., 2018). The N-terminal kinase domain can catalyze the autophosphorylation of RIPK1 of the serine/threonine residue site, which has N-lobe, a C-lobe, and an intervening activation loop (also known as the T-loop) (Xie et al., 2013). Similar to other protein kinases, the N-lobe comprises an antiparallel, five-stranded β sheet and an activation helix (commonly known as the alpha C-helix); the C-lobe contains six α -helices and a pair of β strands; the ATP hydrolysis binding region is highly conserved and consists of a catalytic triplet composed of Lys45-Glu63-ASP156, a P-loop composed of amino acid residues at positions 24–31, and a catalytic loop region composed of amino acid residues at positions 136–143 (McQuade et al., 2013). The C-terminal death domain interacts with tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-related apoptosis-inducing ligand receptor (TNF related apoptosis inducing ligand receptor, TRAILR)-1, TNF receptor (TNFR)-1 and TRAILR2, as well as with Fas-related death domain (FADD), TNF receptor-related death domain (TRADD) and other molecules containing death domain. The RIP homotypic interaction motif (RHIM) is a segment of the intermediate domain. RHIM, composed of about 35 amino acids, mediates homologous interaction between RIPK1 and RIPK3 to activate the downstream signaling pathway (Lukens et al., 2013; Pasparakis and Vandenabeele, 2015).

2.2 Biological function of RIPK1

TNF- α and TNFR1 first form a trimer, and then recruit proteins containing the death domain (DD) to form complex I (Hsu et al., 1995; Micheau and Tschopp, 2003; Rangamani and Sirovich, 2010) (Figure 2). These proteins are composed of TNFR1-associated death domain protein (TRADD), RIPK1, and the E3 ubiquitin ligases TNF-receptor-associated factor 2 (TRAF2), the cellular inhibitors of apoptosis (cIAP1 or cIAP2), and the linear ubiquitin chain assembly complex (LUBAC) (Pasparakis and Vandenabeele, 2015). C-IAP1/2 promote ubiquitination of themselves and RIPK1 through K63, K48, and K11 chains (Witt and Vucic, 2017). Polyubiquitin chains conjugated by c-IAP1/2 allow the recruitment of linear ubiquitin assembly complex (LUBAC) (Gerlach et al., 2011). LUBAC generates exclusively linear ubiquitin chains on several molecules including RIPK1, TNFR1, TRADD, and NEMO (Tokunaga and Iwai, 2012; Witt and Vucic, 2017). Ubiquitination of the Lys63 domain of RIPK1 promotes the recruitment of Ikappa B kinase (Ikappa B kinase, IKK) and transforming growth factor kinase (TGF β -activated kinase, TAK) into IKK complexes (IKK α and IKK β) and β activated kinase (TAK) complexes [TAK1 and TAK1 binding protein (TAB) one and 2], thereby activating the nuclear factor-kappa B (NF- κ B) pathway (Xiao et al., 2015; Chen et al., 2019). In complex I, IKK α /IKK β can also directly phosphorylate RIPK1 and inactivate it, resulting in a decrease in the ability of RIPK1 to bind to FADD/caspase-8 and induce apoptosis (Dondelinger et al., 2015). Linear ubiquitination of RIPK1 and other TNFR1-related proteins further enhances TNF-stimulated NF- κ B and mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPK) signaling (Christofferson and Yuan, 2010; Zarrin et al., 2021). Complex I mediates NF- κ B and MAPK signaling, contributing to cell survival or other non-death functions (Chen et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2019).

Deubiquitin enzymes A20 and Cyldromatosis (CYLD) can decompose the polyubiquitin chains of RIPK1 and other ubiquitin components of complex I (Kelly, 2012; Moquin et al., 2013; Emmerich et al., 2016), leading to the formation of complex II to prompt cell apoptosis and necroptosis. According to the different protein composition, complex II has two different forms, namely complex IIa and complex IIb. After dissociating from TNFR1, TRAdd recruits Fas-associated protein with death domain (FADD) and further promotes the recruitment and activation of caspase-8 to form the complex IIa (Wang L. et al., 2018). Complex IIa contains FADD, TRAdd, and pro-caspase-8. When the activity of CIAPs, TAK1, NF- κ B essential modulator (NEMO) is inhibited or the expression is knocked down, RIPK1 is released from complex I by TNF induction and forms complex IIb with RIPK3, FADD, and pro-caspase-8 to promote RIPK1 and caspase-8 dependent apoptosis (Benetatos et al., 2014). First, caspase-8 is recruited into FADD in the form of pro-caspase-8 and more pro-caspase-8

molecules are recruited to form homodimer (Newton et al., 2014). Then two pro-caspase-8 proteins are cleaved with aspartic acid, leading to the maturation of pro-caspase-8 into caspase-8 (Newton et al., 2014). Subsequently, caspase-8 activate caspase-3/7 leading to apoptosis (Newton et al., 2014). Although RIPK1 participates in the apoptosis pathway, it is not an essential factor in the process of apoptosis.

However, when caspase-8 is inhibited, such as by the caspase-8 inhibitor z-VAD, the cells will go to the necrotic pathway. RIPK1 is activated by autophosphorylation, which leads to the recruitment and phosphorylation of RIPK3 and mixed lineage kinase domain-like protein (MLKL), and finally forms a complex called “necrosome” (Newton et al., 2014; Shen et al., 2017). The autophosphorylation of RIPK1 is the key to the recruitment of RIPK3. RIPK1 is phosphorylated by RIPK3 after they are bound by RHIM. Finally, the autophosphorylation and dephosphorylation of RIPK1/RIPK3 promote the recruitment of MLKL (Newton, 2015). The kinase activity of RIPK1 is required for the interaction of RIPK1 with RIPK3, which may be because the conformational changes caused by RIPK1 autophosphorylation expose the interaction between RHIM and DD at the c-terminal of RIPK1 (McQuade et al., 2013; Newton, 2015). After being phosphorylated, MLKL is oligomerized and transferred to the cell membrane, permeabilizing the cell membrane, destroying the integrity of the membrane, and ultimately leading to programmed cell death (Grootjans et al., 2017). It can be seen that RIPK1 simultaneously transmits signals that promote cell survival, cell apoptosis, and programmed cell death (Saddoughi et al., 2013). These different cellular functions are mediated by different modifications of RIPK1.

3 RIPK1 and diseases

RIPK1 plays an important role in the pathogenesis and evolution of many diseases, so it is a major target for drug development at present. RIPK1 was overexpressed in tissues of patients with ischemic stroke, atherosclerosis, and aortic aneurysm (Linkermann et al., 2012; Dannappel et al., 2014). And in mouse models, inhibition of RIPK1 reduced the severity of the disease (Takahashi et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2017). It has been found that many diseases are related to RIPK1/programmed necrotic pathway (Cao and Mu, 2021).

3.1 RIP1 with inflammatory disease

Genetic loss of RIPK1 kinase activity relieved the symptoms of hypothermia. RIPK1 kinase activity completely saved the inflammation of cpdm mice, indicating that RIPK1 kinase had a pro-inflammatory effect in addition to driver-induced necrosis

(Berger et al., 2014). The study highlighted the clinical relevance of RIPK1 kinase inhibition in sepsis and revealed the possibility of targeting RIPK1 in the programmed necrosis pathway as a potential therapeutic target for SIRS and sepsis (Gupta et al., 2018). Inhibition of RIP1 by Nec-1 reduced the expression of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotide Phosphate Oxidase 4 (NoX-4), improved hbX-induced oxidative stress, inhibited the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines interleukin-6 (IL-6), interleukin-8 (IL-8), CXCL2 and secretion of high Mobility Group Protein B1 (HMGB1) (Xie and Huang, 2019). These results suggested that RIP1 was involved in hbX-induced cytotoxicity and inflammatory responses in normal human liver cells. GNE684 could effectively block Sharpin mutant mice (Cpdm; Chronic proliferative dermatitis) showed skin inflammation and liver immune cell infiltration, suggesting that inhibition of RIP1 can treat skin inflammatory diseases. However, in wild-type, RIP1 KD, and RIP3 KO mice, vaccinia virus or murine herpes virus MHV68 infection also resulted in similar viral clearance, suggesting that RIPK1 was not associated with certain viral infections (Webster et al., 2020). Nec-1 significantly decreased the levels of interleukin 1 β , IL-6 and TNF- α in RIPK1, RIPK3, MLKL, phosphorylated (P)-RIPK3, and P-MLKL as well as periventricular regions, but did not reduce ependymal cilium damage or brain water content. These results suggested that Nec-1 could prevent local inflammation and microglial activation induced by IVH, but could not greatly improve the prognosis (Liu et al., 2022). Nec-1 inhibited RIPK1 activity, caspase-1 cleavage induced by er stress and IL-1 β secretion in bone marrow derived macrophages (BMDMs) and J774A were significantly reduced. Mitochondrial fission factor dynamic related protein 1 (DRP1) and ROS may be downstream effectors of RIPK1, mediating the activation of inflammasomes (Tao et al., 2018). This result demonstrated that RIPK1 played a key role in er stress-induced inflammatory responses and served as a potential drug target for the treatment of er stress-induced inflammatory diseases.

3.2 RIP1 with ischemic injury

Necrotic apoptosis mediated by RIPK1/RIPK3/MLKL signaling is a key process in the development of acute ischemic stroke. Insoluble RIPK1, RIPK3 and MLKL were detected in the infarct area of acute ischemic stroke mice, suggesting that necrotic apoptosis is associated with ischemic stroke. In RIP1 kinase death mutant mice, middle cerebral artery occlusion/reperfusion (MCAO/R) reduced infarct size and improved neurological function, and the mice also showed less inflammatory response in the infarct area, suggesting that necrotizing apoptosis and its concomitant inflammatory response can lead to acute injury after ischemic stroke (Zhang et al., 2020). RIPK1 knockdown or necrostatin-1 therapy reduced

infarct volume, improved neurological deficits, increased levels of microtubule-associated protein 2 (MAP2) and glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP), and attenuated neuronal or astrocyte ischemic cortical necrotic cell death (Ni et al., 2018). RIPK1 participated in astrocyte hyperplasia and formation of glial scar by damaging the normal response of astrocytes and enhancing the VEGF-D/VEGFR-3 signaling pathway of astrocytes. Therefore, inhibition of RIPK1 partially promoted the recovery of brain function by inhibiting astrocyte hyperplasia and formation of glial scar (Zhu et al., 2021). RIPK1 KD rats were protected from a range of behavioral, imaging, and histopathological endpoints in a rat model with RIPK1 (D138N) mutant knock-in, and the accumulation of inflammatory and neuronal damage biomarkers was reduced in RIP1 KD rats (Stark et al., 2021). Inhibition of RIPK1 inhibited programmed necrosis after myocardial ischemia-reperfusion, reduced myocardial infarction size, reduced inflammatory response, reduced the production of ROS, and then improved the function of cardiac remodeling in the infarcted area (Oerlemans et al., 2012). In the rat model of intestinal ischemia/reperfusion (I/R) injury, the expressions of RIP1/3 and p-MLKL were significantly increased in tissues, suggesting necrosis and acute distal liver function damage (Wen et al., 2020). Inhibition of the necrosis pathway ameliorated acute liver injury caused by hepatocyte necrosis. In mice with retinal degeneration RD1 and acute retinal nerve injury, necrotic microglia released various pro-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines to contribute to retinal inflammation. Blocking necrotic apoptosis with Nec-1 inhibited microglia-mediated inflammation (Huang et al., 2018).

3.3 RIP1 with neurodegenerative disease

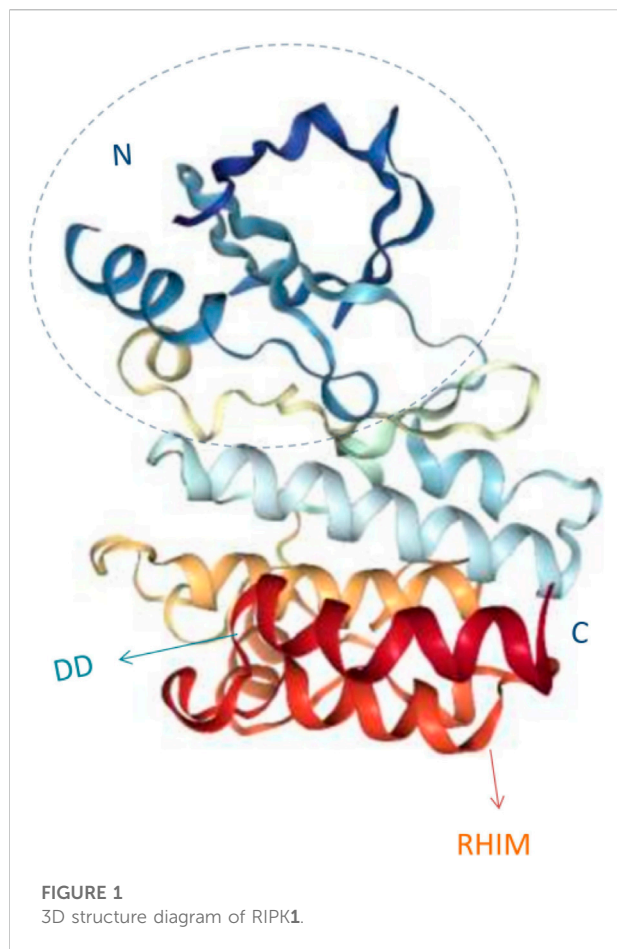
In the cortex and hippocampus of APP/PS1 double transgenic mice, RIPK1 inhibitors dropped out the levels of β -amyloid plaque, oligomer, and hyperphosphorylated tau protein, but did not affect the production of β -amyloid protein and changed the level of apoptosis marker protein (Strilic et al., 2016; Yang et al., 2017). RIPK1 was highly expressed in microglia in Alzheimer's disease (AD). Inhibition of RIPK1 by amyloid precursor protein (APP)/premature aging protein 1 (PS1) transgenic mouse models reduced amyloid burden, inflammatory cytokine levels, and memory deficits, and also promoted microglial degradation of A β *in vitro* (Ofengeim et al., 2017). These data suggested that RIPK1 mediated a key checkpoint during the transition to disease-associated microglia (DAM) state (Ofengeim et al., 2017). Sod1-tgs mice with genetically inactivated RIPK1 kinase activity did not improve muscle strength or nerve function, motor neuron degeneration or neuroinflammation, and there was no accumulation of phosphorylated RIPK1 in the spinal cord of ALS patients. In a toxic model of dopaminergic neurodegeneration, genetic

inactivation of RIPK1 kinase activity ameliorates loss of the neurotransmitter dopamine (Dominguez et al., 2021). These results suggested that RIPK1 kinase activity was unnecessary for the pathogenesis of SOD1-TG mice, while inhibition of kinase activity may be beneficial for acute injury models (Liang et al., 2019).

3.4 RIP1 with oncology

The expression of key regulators of the necrotic apoptosis pathway was generally down-regulated in cancer cells, suggesting that cancer cells may survive by avoiding necrotic apoptosis (Gong et al., 2019). However, in some types of cancer, expression levels of key mediators are elevated (Gong et al., 2019). Necrotic apoptosis could induce a strong adaptive immune response and prevent tumor progression. However, inflammatory responses to recruitment also promoted tumorigenesis and cancer metastasis, and necrotizing apoptosis created an immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment (Gong et al., 2019). Studies had shown that RIPK1 expression was significantly reduced in colon cancer tissues compared with adjacent normal colon tissues, thus impounding the cancer cell response to programmed necrosis (Moriwaki et al., 2015). Wang et al. reported that RIPK1 inhibitors reduced tumor burden and prolonged survival in orthotopic PDA tumor cells derived from KPC mice, and also prevented tumor metastasis (Wang W. et al., 2018). But Patel et al. found that in two different pancreatic duct adenocarcinoma models (pancreatic tumor models driven by mutant Kras and B16 melanoma model), RIPK1 inhibitors did not slow tumor growth, and RIPK1 inactivation did not lead to macrophage reprogramming and/or STAT1 activation (Patel et al., 2020). The inconsistency between the results of the two studies is due to different RIPK1 inhibitions selected and different animal models. The study of the relationship between RIPK1 and disease, especially the relationship between tumor growth, requires highly specific RIPK1 inhibitions and animal models. To date, clinical trials of RIPK1 inhibitors for the treatment of solid tumors have not succeeded, which creates doubt over the use of RIPK1 inhibitors as anticancer treatments (Martens et al., 2020). It was found that shikonin induced RIPK1 expression in glioma cells, thereby depleting glutathione (GSH), promoting hydrogen peroxide production and inhibiting glycolysis (Lu et al., 2018). Rubraca inhibited the proliferation of ovarian cancer SKOV3 and A2780 cells by upregulating the expression of RIPK1 and RIPK3 proteins to activate necrotic apoptosis (Wang et al., 2020).

Based on these studies, the development of therapeutic drugs targeting RIPK1 is a new strategy to block cell death in the process of ischemic cardio-cerebrovascular diseases,



inflammation, neurodegenerative diseases, and so on (Manguso et al., 2017). However, the role of RIPK1 kinase in various diseases is not consistent. It is still controversial whether RIPK1 should be used as a therapeutic target for cancer. Therefore, studying the pathological mechanism of RIPK1's participation in various diseases is the focus of researches. In addition, RIPK1 prevented embryonic and postnatal death by cutting off two different cell death pathways, FADD/Caspase-8-mediated apoptosis and RIPK3-mediated necroptosis (He et al., 2009). Therefore, the role of RIPK1 in various diseases remains to be further explored. The specific role of RIPK1 in the occurrence and development of diseases requires a detailed study of RIPK1's role in the necrosis process, that is, under what conditions RIPK1 is involved in apoptosis, necrosis, and cell survival.

4 Advances in RIPK1 kinase inhibitors

4.1 Type I ATP enzyme inhibitors

Hofmans et al. found that Tozasertib, the type I Aurora A/B/C kinase inhibitor, had a very high affinity for RIPK1, with a K_d

value of 20 nM (Divert, 2018). Tozasertib was originally an Aurora kinase (AurK) inhibitor. AurK was key to the process of cell division (Harrington et al., 2004). Thus, inhibition of AurK by Tozasertib led to cellular abnormalities. Compound 71 (Figure 3) and Compound 72 (Figure 3) were obtained through structural modification to modify the kinase inhibition spectrum, which could inhibit RIPK1 in enzymatic experiments with IC_{50} (ADP-Glo) values of 0.167 μ M and 0.178 μ M, respectively. Compound 71 and Compound 72 had good inhibitory effects on TNF-induced necrosis, with IC_{50} (L929) values of 0.43 μ M and 0.64 μ M, respectively. Their inhibitory effect on AURK was significantly reduced, and they performed better than Tozasertib in the TNF-induced Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS) mouse model (Divert, 2018).

Structure-activity relationship analysis showed that the linkage of cyclopropyl and cyclohexyl substituents in the amide portion had a good inhibitory effect on TNF-induced necrosis. The 4-position hydrogen and methyl substitution on the pyrazole ring were well tolerated, and hydrogen substitution was more effective than methyl substitution. It was most effective to connect N-methyl piperazine, morpholine ring, or piperidine ring at the 6-position of the pyrimidine ring. The connecting atoms between the benzene ring and pyrimidine ring had different conjugation with the aromatic ring due to different electronic properties, thus changing the rigidity of the general structure of the aromatic ring system and affecting the conformational preference of the system. Therefore, the selection of connecting atoms could reduce the cellular effects related to the inhibition of AURK. The nitrogen bond was more strongly conjugated to the aromatic ring system, which increased the rigidity of the general structure of the system, so that the nitrogen bond compound could not be cooperated with AURK in the same conformation. In the Tozasertib: AURK A: TPX2 cocrystal structure, there was a 98° twist angle in the crystal structure of tozasertib (Divert, 2018). The two aromatic rings connected by sulfur atoms were approximately perpendicular to each other and bound to AURK (Divert, 2018). Compared with the sulfur bond system, the most stable conformation of the nitrogen bond system was the complete planar conformation, which can not be combined with AURK.

Molecular simulation studies showed that due to conformational changes, nitrogenous compounds could not bind to AURK in the same conformation as Tozasertib. For compound 71 and compound 72, the connecting atoms between the two six-membered aromatic rings were changed from sulfur to nitrogen. This makes them less selective for AURK. The binding mode of Tozasertib is similar to that observed in the eutectic structure of Tozasertib and AURKA, that is, the three hydrogen bonds to the hinge motif are conservative and the phenyl ring interacts with the G-loop (Divert, 2018).

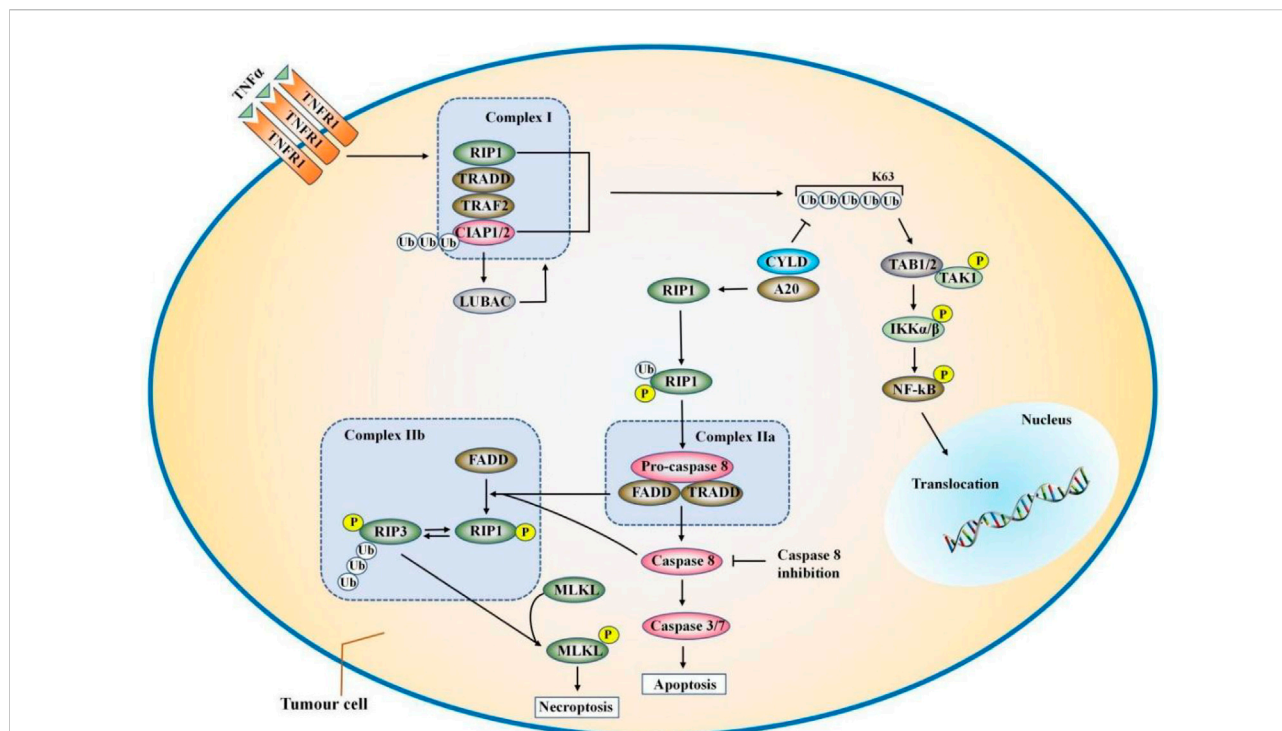


FIGURE 2

The combination of TNF α and TNFR1 can trigger a variety of signaling pathways, including NF- κ B, apoptosis and necrosis. TNF α induces the formation of complex I, which is composed of RIPK1, TRADD, TRAF2/5, LUBAC, and cIAP1/2. In complex I, cIAP1/2, and LUBAC induce ubiquitination of RIPK1. The ubiquitination of the Lys63 domain of RIPK1 further promotes the formation of IKK and TAK complexes, which ultimately lead to the activation of the NF- κ B pathway and cell survival. CYLD or A20 deubiquitinates RIPK1 and induced the separation of TRADD and RIPK1 from TNFR1, thereby forming complex IIa or complex IIb. FADD and pro-caspase-8 are called into TRADD and RIPK1 to form complex IIa, which activates caspase-8 through oligomerization and cleavage. When the activity of CIAPs, TAK1, NEMO is inhibited or the expression is knocked down, complex IIb is formed and caspase-8 is activated. Complex IIb contains TRADD, RIPK1, FADD, and pro-caspase-8. Then, caspase-8 induces apoptosis. When the activity of caspase-8 is blocked, such as cFLIP or the pan-caspase inhibitor zVAD-fmk, the cell will go to the necrotic pathway.

4.2 Type II ATP enzyme inhibitors

Type II enzyme inhibitors occupy a hydrophobic pocket close to the ATP binding pocket (Alexander et al., 2015). The phenylalanine movement of the DFG motif (Asp-Phe-Gly) in the A-loop produces a unique DFG-out conformation, which is an inactive Kinase status (Zhang et al., 2016). This rearrangement creates a new hydrophobic pocket, also called an allosteric site. In RIPK1, the DFG (Asp-Phe-Gly) motif on A-loop is Asp-Leu-Gly (DLG). These inhibitors generally have a heterocycle that forms a hydrogen bond with the hinge residues of the kinase, a hydrophobic group that occupies a new allosteric site, and urea or amide groups in the middle that have additional hydrogen bonding interactions with the highly conserved glutamic acid side chains of the Asp backbone NH and α -C helix.

4.2.1 1-Aminoisoquinolines

These compounds had 1-aminoisoquinoline ring as hinge binder. The *m*-trifluoromethylphenyl substituent [IC_{50}

(U937) = 0.63 μ M], as a hydrophobic aryl group, targeted the conserved hydrophobic pocket on the kinase allosteric site. Except for the *m*-substituent of trifluoromethyl, the other substituents on the benzene ring will lead to a decrease in activity, substituting fluorine at site 2 causes most of the activity to disappear, and the chlorine substitution at 6 positions will also lead to a significant decrease in titer. However, the substitution of tert-butyl isoxazole had the same activity as *m*-trifluoromethyl phenyl [IC_{50} (U937) = 0.63 μ M]. The mode of action of these inhibitors was similar. The 1-aminoisoquinoline heterocycles were two-point hinge binder and formed hydrogen bonds with the main chain N and CO of residue Met 95, the urea group formed a hydrogen bond with the side chain of Glu63, and the carbonyl oxygen on the urea group formed a hydrogen bond with the amide on the main chain of Asp156 of the DLG motif (Harris et al., 2013), seen in Figure 4B. Compounds 1 and 8 (Figure 4A) showed high activity *in vitro*, but their activity in cells generally did not support the advancement of the series to *in vivo* models.

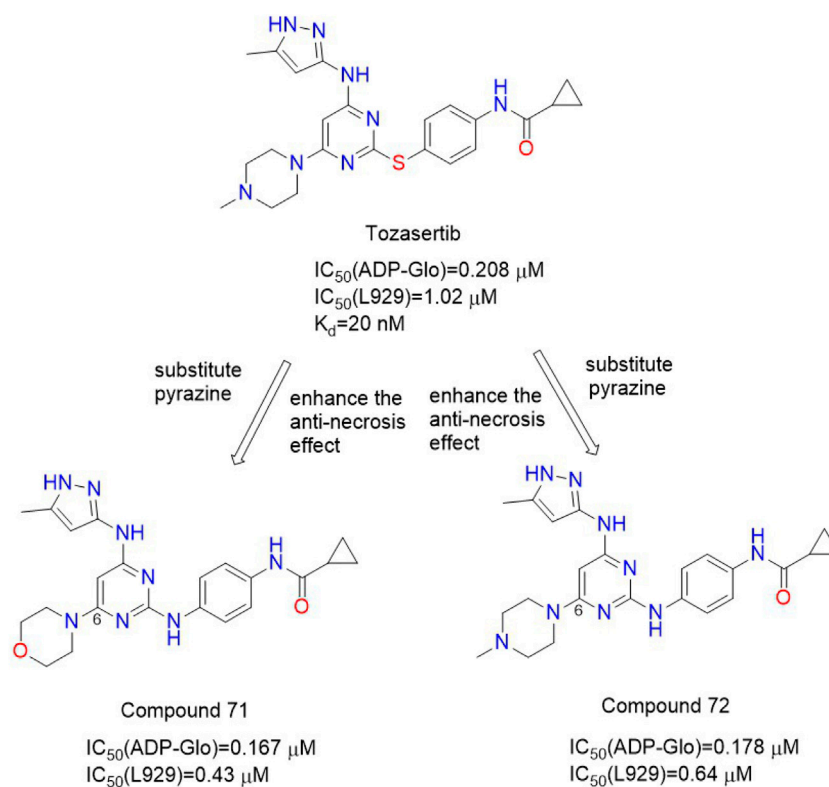


FIGURE 3
Structures of Compound 71 Compound 72 and their bioactivities.

4.2.2 Pyrrole [2,3-b]pyridines

These compounds used 5-phenylpyrrole [2-Phenylpyrrole] pyridine heterocycle as a hinge binder. The activity is greatly increased by small volume substituents attached to urea on the benzene ring. These small substituted groups existed in the lipophilic subbag of the DLG-out pocket, in which 3-trifluoromethyl substitution was the best [IC_{50} (FP binding) = 0.032 μM , IC_{50} (ADP-Glo) = 0.032 μM , IC_{50} (U937) = 0.079 μM], while cyclopentylurea substitution activity was weak. Compound **18** (Figure 5), in which the meta-pyridine group was substituted for the aromatic ring at the fifth position of the pyrrole [2,3-b]pyridine heterocyclic ring, exhibited good activity [IC_{50} (FP binding) = 0.0079 μM , IC_{50} (ADP-Glo) = 0.004 μM , IC_{50} (U937) = 0.0063 μM]. Although these compounds have good activity *in vitro*, the pharmacokinetic parameters are not good and are not suitable for *in vivo* models.

4.2.3 Furo [2,3-d]pyrimidines

The structure-activity relationship of this type of compound was similar to the previous two types. The structure-activity relationship around the urea group showed that the small group at the meta position had better substitution activity. The

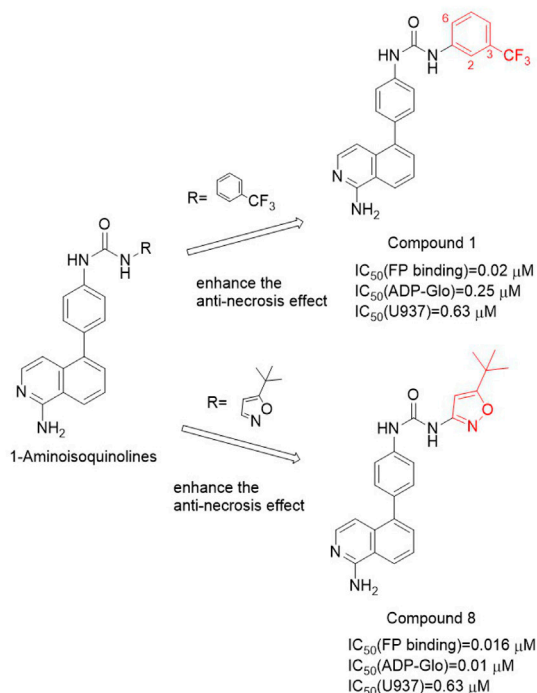
antinecrosis activity was decreased by replacing 2 or 6 positions of benzene ring substituents with fluorine atoms or chlorine atoms, and tert-butoxazole ring and 5-fluoro-3-(trifluoromethyl) phenyl groups were better. Due to the better pharmacokinetic performance of these inhibitors, the first type II ATP enzyme inhibitor compound **27** [IC_{50} (FP-binding) = 0.063 μM] was obtained (Figure 6) and used in the mouse model of lethal shock induced by TNF- α . This compound had good oral exposure in mice [AUC = 14 \pm 7 $\mu\text{g/h/ml}$ and C_{max} = 1,100 ng/ml, Male C57BL/6 mice were given compound **27** orally (2.0 mg/kg)] and plays a good role in hypothermia protection (Orozco et al., 2014).

In 2013, Harris et al. (Harris et al., 2013) identified three type II RIPK1 kinase inhibitors, 1-aminoisoquinolines, pyrrole [2,3-b] pyridines, and furan [2,3-d]pyrimidines. All of them had good activity *in vitro*. However, the poor pharmacokinetics properties and off-target activity of these compounds limited their further research.

4.2.4 PK6 and its derivatives

PK6 (Figure 7) effectively inhibited TNF-induced necrosis of mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEF) and mouse fibroblast L929 cells with EC_{50} (L929) values of 0.95 μM and 0.76 μM ,

A Structures of Compound 1 and Compound 8



B The binding mode of 1-Aminoisoquinolines (PDB code: 4NEU) with the RIPK1 kinase

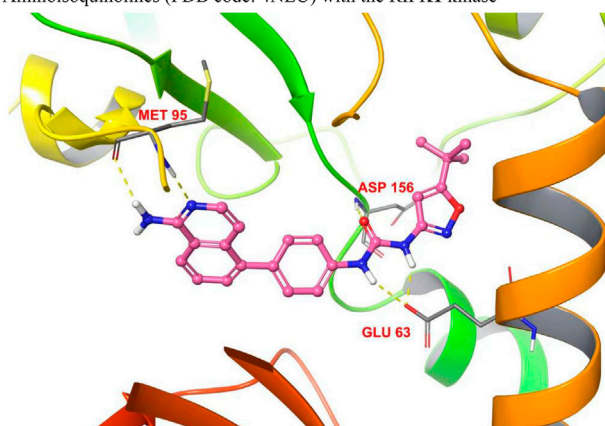


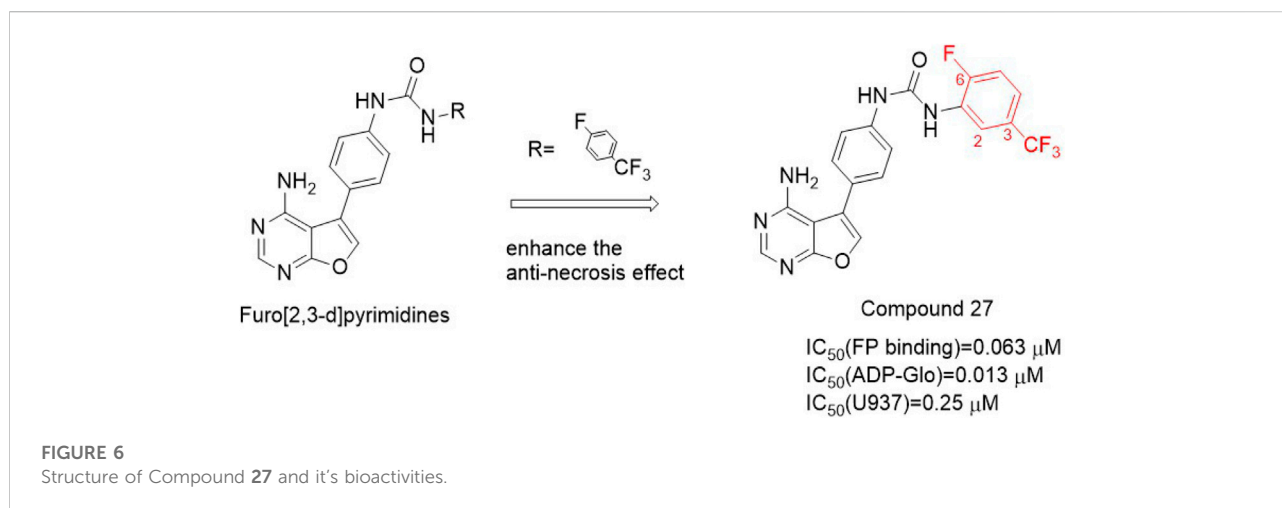
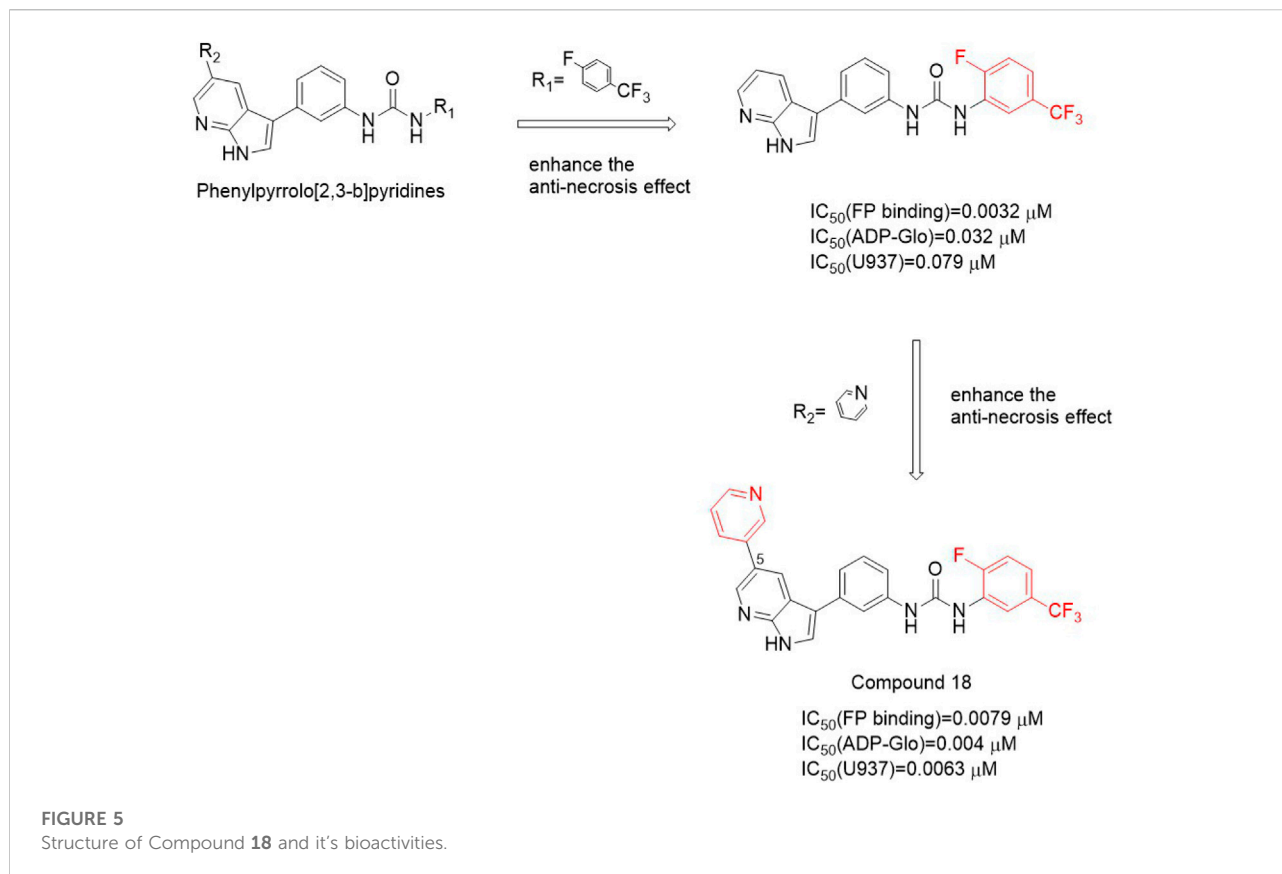
FIGURE 4

Structures of Compound 1 and Compound 8 and their bioactivities and the binding mode of 1-Aminoisoquinolines (PDB code: 4NEU) with the RIPK1 kinase. (A). Structures of Compound 1 and Compound 8. (B). The binding mode of 1-Aminoisoquinolines (PDB code: 4NEU) with the RIPK1 kinase

respectively. And PK6 inhibited TNF-induced necrosis of human leukemia U937 cells [EC_{50} (U937) = 1.33 μM] (Hou et al., 2019). Compared with PK6 [IC_{50} (RIPK1 Kinase activity) = 0.20 μM], the inhibitory activity of PK68 (Figure 7) on RIPK1 kinase was significantly enhanced, and its IC_{50} value was 90 nM, which was consistent with its anti-necrotic cell activity. At the same time, PK6 and PK68 did not affect the activity of RIPK3 kinase. PK68 has reasonable selectivity and good pharmacokinetic properties for the inhibition of RIPK1 kinase activity and has

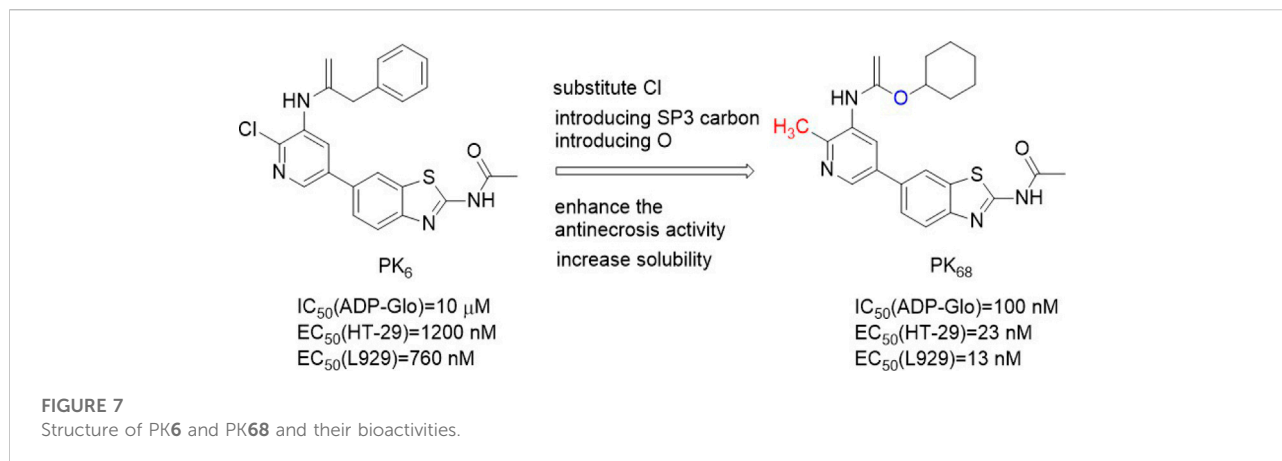
a strong protective effect on TNF-induced fatal shock *in vivo*. In addition, PK68 has also been observed to inhibit tumor metastasis in mouse cancer models of melanoma and lung cancer (Hou et al., 2019). As an effective and selective RIPK1 inhibitor, PK68 had great potential in the treatment of inflammatory diseases and cancer metastasis.

The 2-position chlorine atom on the pyridine ring of PK6 was an active leaving group that caused toxicity. And PK6's solubility was poor due to the number of sp² carbon in PK6.



PK68 with higher anti-necrosis activity and better solubility was obtained by replacing chlorine atom with methyl and introducing SP3 carbon into the C ring, and at the same time introducing an oxygen atom into the top region of the scaffold. PK68 had EC_{50} (HT-29) values of 23 nM and EC_{50} (L929) values of 13 nM in human and mouse cells, respectively.

PK68 molecular docking with the RIPK1 showed that PK68 was II type of RIPK1 kinase inhibitors (Hou et al., 2019). PK68 interacted with RIPK1 protein motif of DLG, its N-acetamide and Met95 residues of the main chain CO formed hydrogen bonding, benzothiazole part formed hydrogen bonds with Ile43 residue, carbonyl oxygen of carbamic acid in PK68



backbone formed hydrogen bonds with Asp156 residue of DLG motif, cyclohexane group buried deep in a hydrophobic allosteric bag (Hou et al., 2019). The bag contained RIPK1 DLG-out conformation of residue Met66, Met67, Leu70, Val75, Leu129, Val134, and Leu159 (Hou et al., 2019).

The structure-activity relationship of PK₆₈ showed that the activity of the compound was negatively correlated with lipophilic activity. Removal or replacement of the acetyl group results in a decrease or loss of activity, possibly due to hydrogen-bonded interactions between N acetamide and Met 95. The R2 sites of pyridine and benzo [d]thiazole rings are exposed to solvents and can tolerate more structural diversity. Substitution of cyclopropyl at the R2 site significantly increased activity [EC₅₀ (HT-29) = 1.6 nM, EC₅₀ (L929)=2.9 nM)] (Li et al., 2022). There was an additional hydrogen bond between the amino acid nitrogen of Compound 58 and the Met92 residue of RIPK1, which significantly enhanced the effect of Compound 58 (Figure 8). However, Compound 58's clogP (5.22) was higher and Compound 58 had poor metabolic stability in human liver microsomes (Li et al., 2022). In order to reduce cLogP, cyclohexyl was replaced with a smaller aliphatic ring, resulting in a significant decrease in cLogP but also a decrease in anti-necrotic activity. By introducing oxygen atom into c-4 site of cyclohexane, Compound 70 (Figure 8) was obtained, which showed high binding affinity with RIPK1 and significantly improved its metabolic stability in human liver microsomes (K_d = 9.2 ± 0.4 nM).

4.2.5 GSK'074

This type of new inhibitor represented by GSK2593074A (GSK'074) (Figure 9) is a dual inhibitor of RIPK1 and RIPK3, which bound to RIPK1 and RIPK3 to inhibit the kinase activity of the two kinases. Meanwhile, GSK'074 inhibited rip3-dependent necrosis and inflammation but RIPK1-independent. It could completely block the necrosis of human cells and mouse cells at 10 nM. The inhibition of RIPK1 kinase activity by GSK'074 at the concentration of 20 nmol/L was the same as that by 1 μM/L Nes-1s (Zhou et al., 2019).

The structure-activity relationship of GSK'074 has not been reported. The molecular docking model showed that GSK'074 bound well to DLG-out homology model of RIPK1 and locked the kinase in an inactive conformation, suggesting that it was likely to be a type II kinase inhibitor. GSK'074 formed hydrogen bonds with the Glu93 and Met95 hinged backbone atoms in RIP2, while the pyrazole ring was oriented towards the solvent exposed region. In the DLG-out conformation, the benzyl part of GSK'074 was connected to the hydrophobic pockets formed by Leu70, Val75, and Leu129 (Zhou et al., 2019).

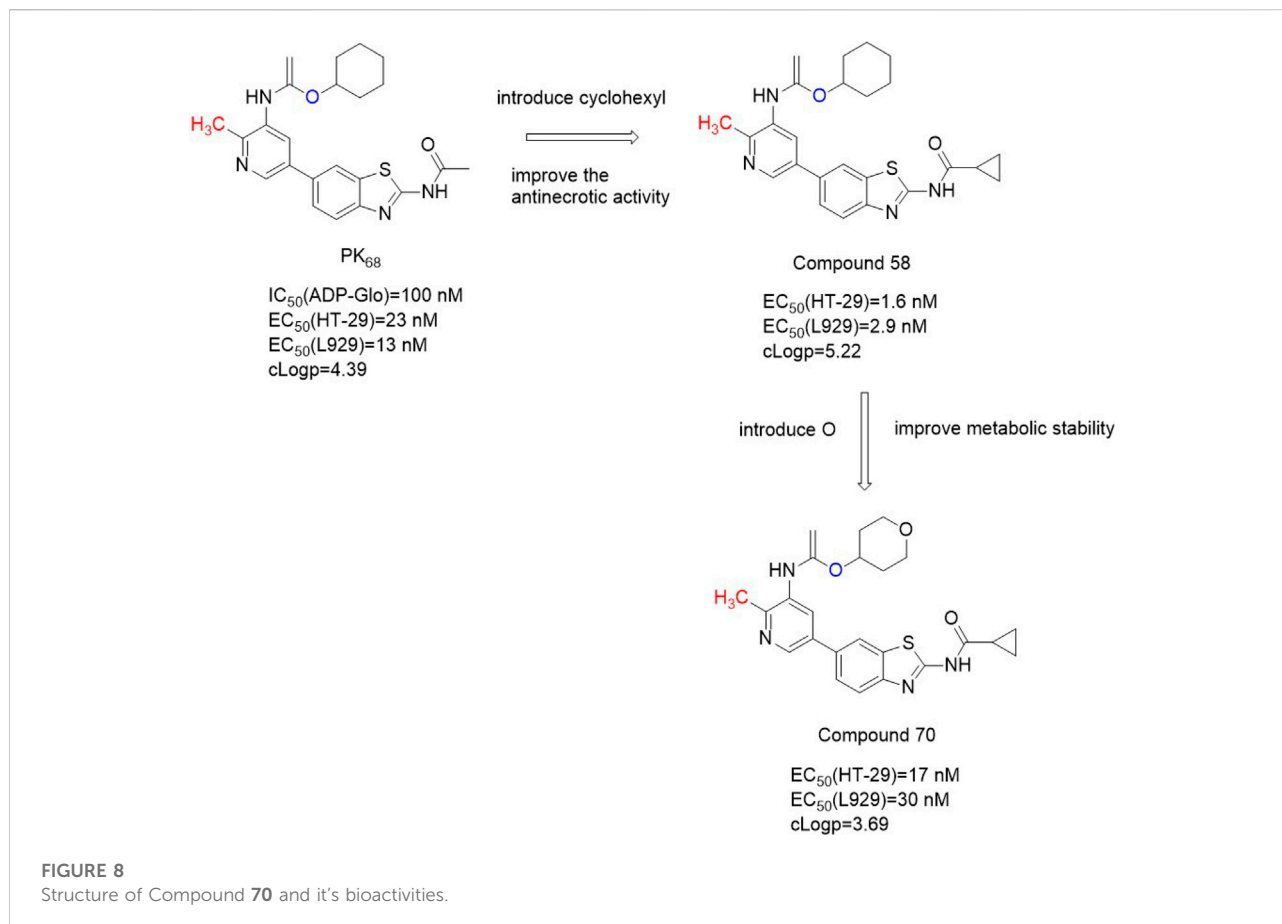
4.2.6 GEN684

GEN684 (Figure 10A) i had a strong inhibitory effect on human RIPK1 *in vitro* and a slightly weaker effect on mouse and rat RIPK1. The Ki values of RIPK1 in humans, mice, and rats were 21 nM, 189 nM, and 691 nM, respectively. In three inflammatory disease models (TNF-driven SIRS, colitis caused by NEMO deficiency in inflammatory bowel disease, and collagen antibody-induced arthritis), GNE684 played a protective role, suggesting that targeting RIPK1 was effective in treating inflammatory diseases. However, in the PDAC model of KPP or KPR, GNE684 did not affect on overall survival or tumor growth.

Structure-activity relationship of GNE684 was unclear. The molecular docking model showed that GNE684 bound to the inactive conformation of RIPK1, Asp156, and PHE162 of the DLG motif were in the "out" conformation, and the αC-helix was far from the ATP-binding fissure, Glu63 which catalyzed Lys45 and αC-helix lacked a typical ion pair (Patel et al., 2020).

4.3 Type III kinase inhibitors

Unlike type II kinase inhibitors, type III kinase inhibitors have no hinge binding interaction and occupy an allosteric lipophilic pocket on the back of the ATP binding site, so the kinase selectivity is higher than that of type II kinase inhibitors.



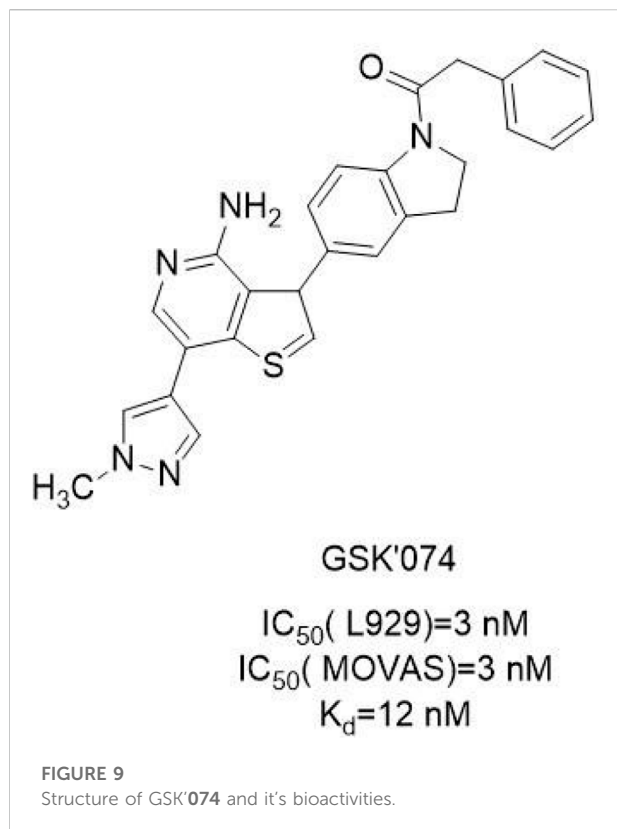
4.3.1 Indole hydantoin

Degterev et al. screened the first RIPK1 kinase inhibitor Nec-1 [EC_{50} (Jurkat) = 494 nM] (Figure 11A) that blocked the programmed necrosis of human monocyte U937 cells induced by TNF- α and zVAD.fmk from a chemical library containing 15,000 compounds. Nec-1 improved the neurological function of mice after cerebral hemorrhage and reduced cerebral edema (Degterev et al., 2008). However, Nec-1 was not a specific inhibitor of RIPK1 because its chemical scaffold was similar to methyl-thiohydantoin-tryptophan (MTH-Trp) (Takahashi et al., 2012). Structure-activity relationship analysis found that removing the methyl group on the hydantoin would eliminate its anti-necrotic activity. Nec-1 has poor metabolic stability *in vivo* and targeted indoleamine-2,3-dioxygenase (IDO). Adding chlorine (7-Cl-NEC-1) to the benzene ring of Nec-1, the activity increased about 2.7 times [EC_{50} (Jurkat) = 182 nM]. Then the sulfur in the hydantoin was replaced with oxygen to obtain Nec-1s [7-Cl-O-Nec-1; EC_{50} (Jurkat) = 206 nM] (Figure 11A), the anti-necrotic activity was not affected and it was more stable in metabolism.

By introducing fluorine atoms into the A ring of NEC-1, F-Nec was obtained. F-Nec showed high anti-necrosis activity,

and the inhibitory activity of F-Nec was more than 8 times that of NEC-1. In animal experiments, F-Nec can effectively improve the activation of necrotizing ptosis induced by endotoxin/galactose in mice, and reduce liver injury and inflammation (Li et al., 2021). F-Nec may be a candidate compound for the development of inflammatory diseases caused by necrotizing ptosis.

The crystal structure analysis of Nec-1s and RIPK1 showed that Nec-1s was buried in a L-shaped hydrophobic bag between the N-terminal and C-terminal. The indole ring interacted with six amino acids Met67, Leu70, Val75, Leu129, Val134, and His136 through van der Waals force, while the five-membered ring was encompassed by hydrophobic amino acids Val76, Leu78, Leu90, Met92, Leu157, Leu159, and Phe162 (Xie et al., 2013). These hydrophobic interactions were the main driving force for the binding. In addition to the hydrophobic interaction, hydrogen bonds were formed between the nitrogen atoms on the indole ring and the hydroxyl oxygen of Ser161 on A-Loop, and the five-membered ring formed hydrogen bonds with the carbonyl oxygen of Val76 and amide nitrogen of Asp156 (Xie et al., 2013) (Figure 11B). These three hydrogen bonds lock the orientation of Nec-1s into the oil cavity of RIPK1. Considering the



potency and selectivity of these inhibitors to inhibit RIPK1 kinase, they could serve as a useful probe for RIPK1 kinase activity *in vitro* and *in vivo* (Degterev et al., 2008).

Sibiriline (Figure 12) was a novel pyridine derivative based on pyrrole [2,3-b]pyridine screened from a small molecule compound library. Sibiriline inhibited TNF-induced RIPK1-dependent necrosis [EC_{50} (FADD) = 1.2 μM] in FADD-deficient Jurkat cells, had a high affinity for RIPK1 (K_d = 218 nM), and effectively inhibited the phosphorylation level of phosphorylated myelin basic protein (MBP) [IC_{50} (ADP-Glo) = 1.03 μM]. Sibiriline had a protective effect on immune-mediated acute hepatitis in mice by significantly reducing the level of aspartate aminotransferase (AST)/alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and liver injury. However, sibiriline is only moderately specific, as 104 interactions have been identified.

Sibiriline has a similar chemical structure to Pyrrole [2,3-b]pyridine, but its binding pattern is the same as Nec-1. Sibiriline is bound to the DLG motif and gatekeeper in the “back” pocket of RIPK1 (Najjar et al., 2015; Fabienne, 2017). RIPK1 was locked in the kinase in the DLG-out conformation by generating hydrogen bonds with Asp156 of the DLG motif and adjacent Ser161, and interacted with α -C helix, but did not interact with the hinge region (Fabienne, 2017).

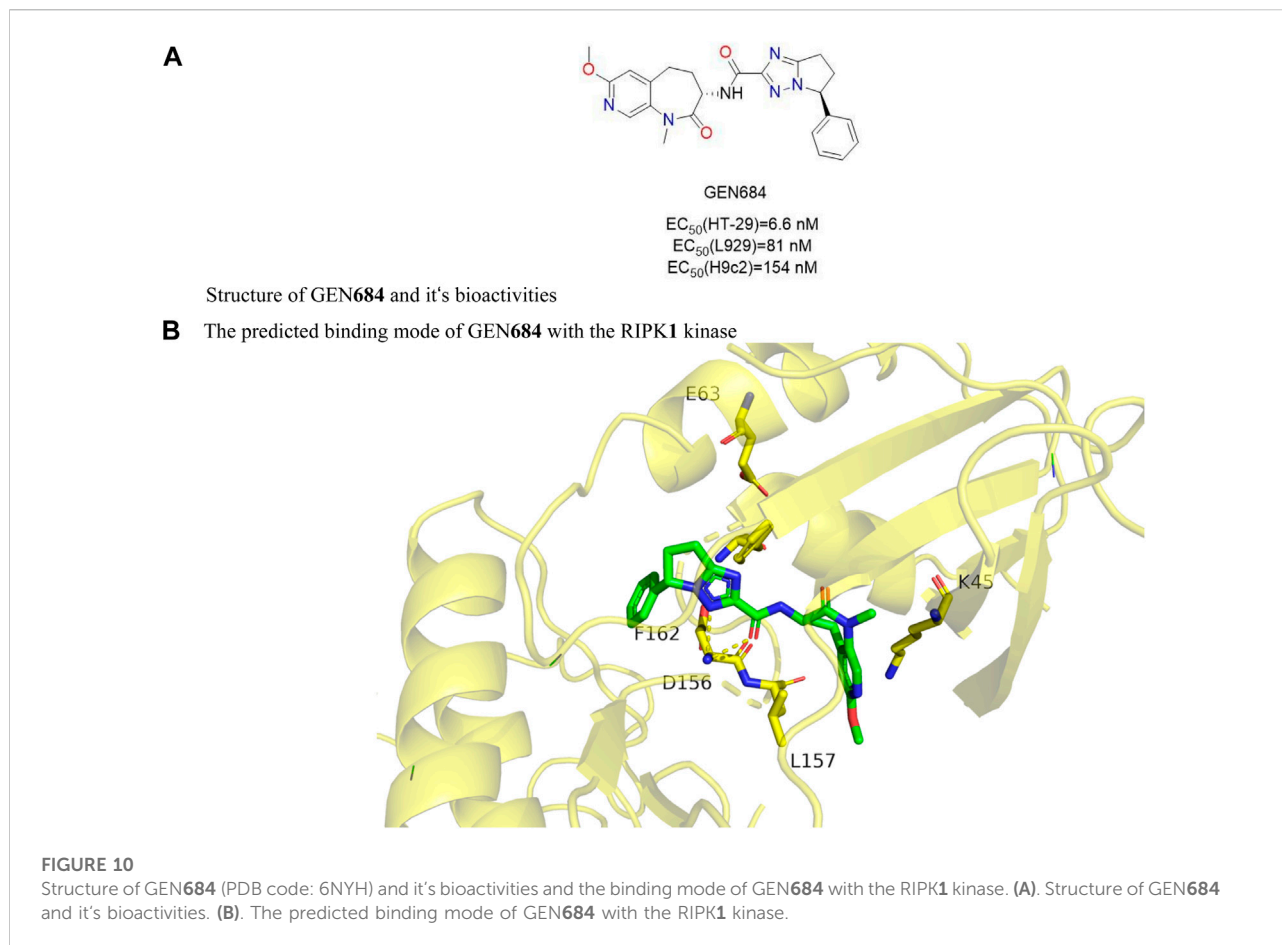
4.3.2 Phenylbutyramides

Yan Ren et al. screened a new class of amide-containing lead compounds from the chemical library of 200,000 compounds by TSZ-induced HT-29 cell necrosis test and obtained RIPA-56 through reasonable structure-activity relationship optimization. RIPA-56 (Figure 13) was similar to the molecular docking model of Nec-1s by inhibiting RIPK1 kinase in its inactive form. The activity of RIPK1 kinase was effectively inhibited by RIPA-56, and its IC_{50} value was 13 nM. And RIPA-56 had no inhibitory effect on the activity of RIPK3 kinase. RIPA-56 also showed a protective effect on mouse L929 cells from TZS-induced necrosis [EC_{50} (L929) = 27 nM].

The molecular docking model between RIPA-56 crystal and RIPK1 showed that the carbonyl oxygen on the benzene ring of RIPA-56 formed a hydrogen bond with the main chain NH on Asp156 of RIPK1, and 2,2-dimethylbutanamide formed a hydrogen bond with Val76 of RIPK1, so that RIPA-56 tightly bound to the L-shaped hydrophobic pocket of RIPK1 (Ren et al., 2017). The benzene ring occupied the left hydrophobic pocket formed by Leu70, Leu129, Val134, His136, Ile154, and Ser161. The narrow space of this pocket did not tolerate benzene rings or polar aromatic heterocycles with larger substituents. The introduction of fluorine atoms into the benzene ring increased the anti-necrotic activity, while the introduction of larger groups such as bromine or chlorine led to the loss of anti-necrotic activity. The titer of 2,3, 5-trifluoro substituents was higher and the antinecrotic activity of 2,4, 6-trifluoro substituents was significantly decreased. In addition, the introduction of methyl on the nitrogen atom of the amide could increase the potency by about 10–40 times, and the introduction of a larger ethyl group would completely lose the potency due to steric hindrance. So the smaller hydroxyl group was introduced. The hydrophobic pocket on the right was sensitive to the size and polarity of the substituted acyl group. Adding one carbon and the lack of one carbon significantly reduced the effectiveness. It was found that only 2, 2-dimethylbutanamide groups could effectively occupy this hydrophobic pocket space.

4.3.3 Benzoxazepines

Harris et al. (Harris et al., 2016) found that benzoxazepines had strong biochemical activity through DNA encoding small molecule libraries. Firstly, it was discovered that GSK'481 (Figure 14A) has an IC_{50} (RIPK1 FP) value of 10 nM, which inhibited the phosphorylation of Ser166 in wild-type human RIPK1 [IC_{50} (Human WT) = 2.8 nM]. However, GSK'481 had high lipophilicity and sub-optimal pharmacokinetic properties (Harris et al., 2017). Then the group optimized GSK'481 to obtain GSK2982772 (Figure 14A). The IC_{50} (RIPK1 FP) against RIPK1 was 1.0 nM *in vitro*. The compound had good activity and pharmacokinetic properties and significantly avoided hypothermia in mice in the inflammatory response model induced by TNF- α . Further optimization found that



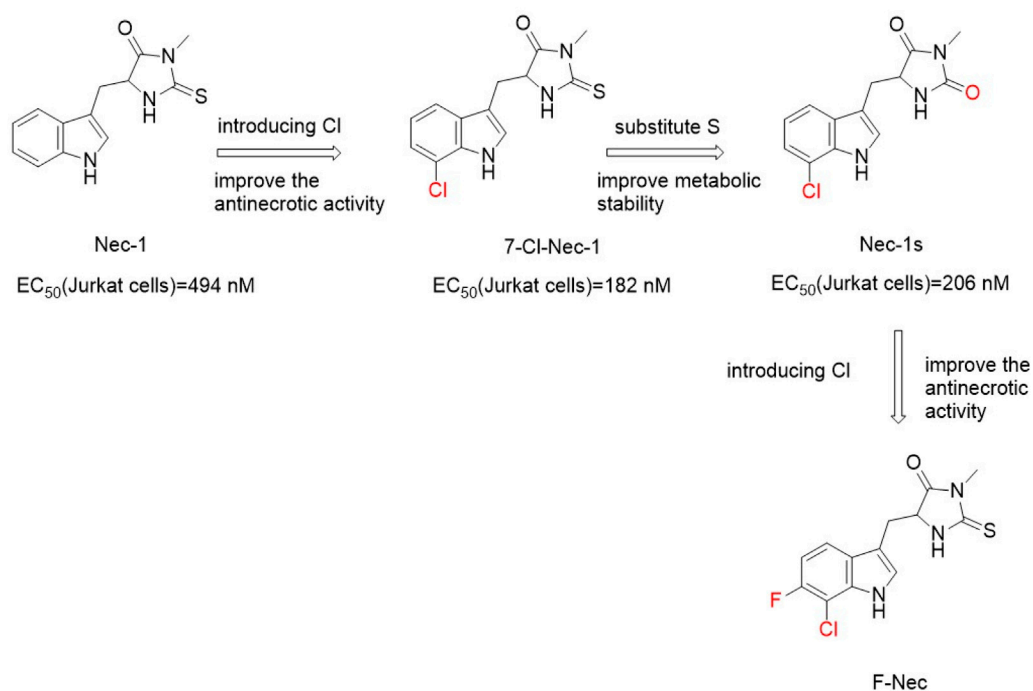
GSK3145095 (Figure 14A) had an *in vitro* IC_{50} (ADP-Glo) value of 6.3 nM for RIPK1. Benzoxazepines had good selectivity to RIPK1 and unique species selectivity to primate and non-primate RIPK1. In addition, Yoshikawa et al. found Cpd22 (Figure 14A), an oral cerebral transbenzoxazepine RIPK1 kinase inhibitor with good pharmacokinetic activity, significantly inhibited programmed necrosis in human colon cancer cells HT-29 [IC_{50} (HT-29) = 2.0 nM] and mouse fibroblasts L929 [IC_{50} (L929) = 15 nM] in response to the low brain tissue distribution of the inhibitor GSK298277259 (Yoshikawa et al., 2018).

The eutectic structure of GSK2982772 and RIPK1 showed that the benzoxazepine ring was deeply buried in the pocket between the N-terminal and C-terminal domain, and the triazole ring and benzyl groups occupied the allosteric lipophilic pocket on the back of the ATP binding site, so that the inhibitor was located deeper in the ATP binding pocket (Harris et al., 2017). The amide carbonyl group of the triazole ring interacted with the main chain amide NH of Asp156, and triazole formed a hydrogen bond with the carbonyl oxygen of Met67 and Val76 (Harris et al., 2017). The binding mode of GSK3145095 and RIPK1 was similar to GSK2982772, excepted

that there was a hydrogen bond between the lactam nitrogen of GSK2982772 and the main chain carbonyl group of Leu90, and the fluorine at the 9-position of the benzoxazepine ring was located between Met92 and Ile43 (Harris et al., 2019a) (Figure 14B).

The benzoxazepine ring was located in a narrow pocket by the formation of two β sheets Leu90-Val91-Met92 and Ile43-Met44-Lys45. Increasing the size of the lactam nitrogen or chiral center or changing the conformation of the 7-membered ring could reduce the effectiveness. The 7 and 8-position substitutions on the aromatic ring are well tolerated because they are oriented towards the solvent-exposed region. Only the titer of fluorine substitution at 6 and nine sites was better. Although the methylation of lactam increased the effectiveness of RIPK1 by 10 times, it also increased the liver metabolic rate of the compound. Keeping the original lactam group NH had better exposure *in vivo*. Replacing the isoxazole ring with a triazole ring did not change the efficacy of RIPK1 and significantly reduces lipophilicity. The heterocyclic “unbridged” nitrogen ortho with the amide carbonyl group had the best potency due to the electron lone pair repulsion separating the negatively charged nitrogen from the amide oxygen atom. This nitrogen atom near

A Structure of indole hydantoin and their bioactivities



B The binding mode of Nec-1s (PDB code: 4ITH) with the RIPK1 kinase

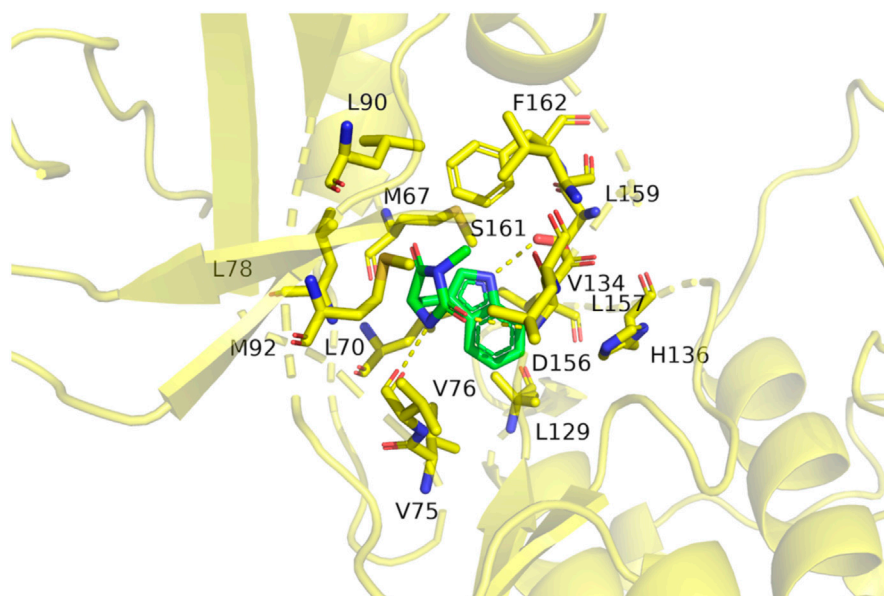
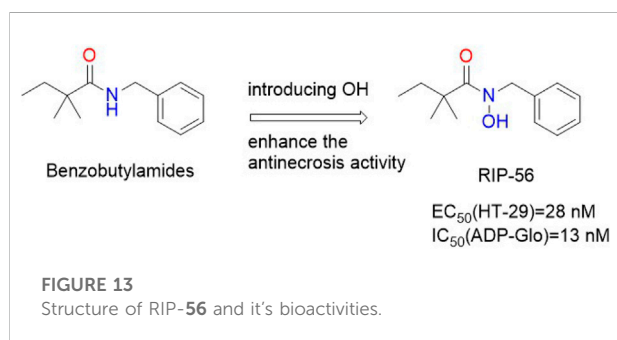
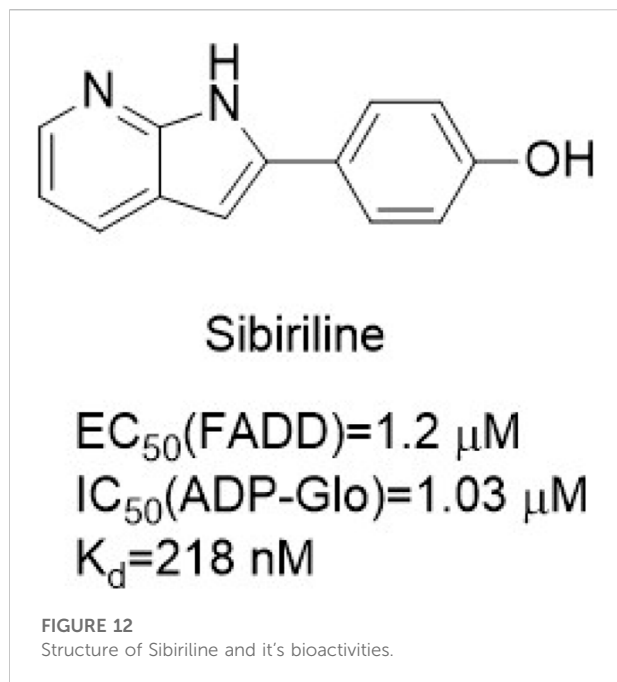


FIGURE 11

Structure of indole hydantoin and their bioactivities and the binding mode of Nec-1s (PDB code: 4ITH) with the RIPK1 kinase. (A). Structure of indole hydantoin and their bioactivities. (B). The binding mode of Nec-1s (PDB code: 4ITH) with the RIPK1 kinase.



the carbonyl group gave a favorable trans orientation, thus allowing the benzyl group to be optimally located in the narrow back pocket. The 7, 9-difluorine substitution on the benzoazapine rim of GSK3145095 increased its potency due to the fact that the electron-withdrawing fluorine atom reduced the pKa of nitrogen on the lactam, thereby enhancing its hydrogen bonding with the Leu90 mainchain.

In order to increase the brain permeability, on the basis of GSK2982772, the 6,5 bicyclic core structure was replaced by 4-oxy-6, 7-dihydro-1H-imidazole [4, 5-c] pyridine ring, which led to a significant decrease in p-glycoprotein-mediated efflux and an enhancement of binding affinity. The introduction of lipophilic group and polar group into pyrazole ring significantly enhanced the binding affinity, and the introduction of chlorine atom was the best, which could significantly prolong the half-life. The benzene ring on the benzoxazine ring had metabolic instability because of its high electron density. If the electron-

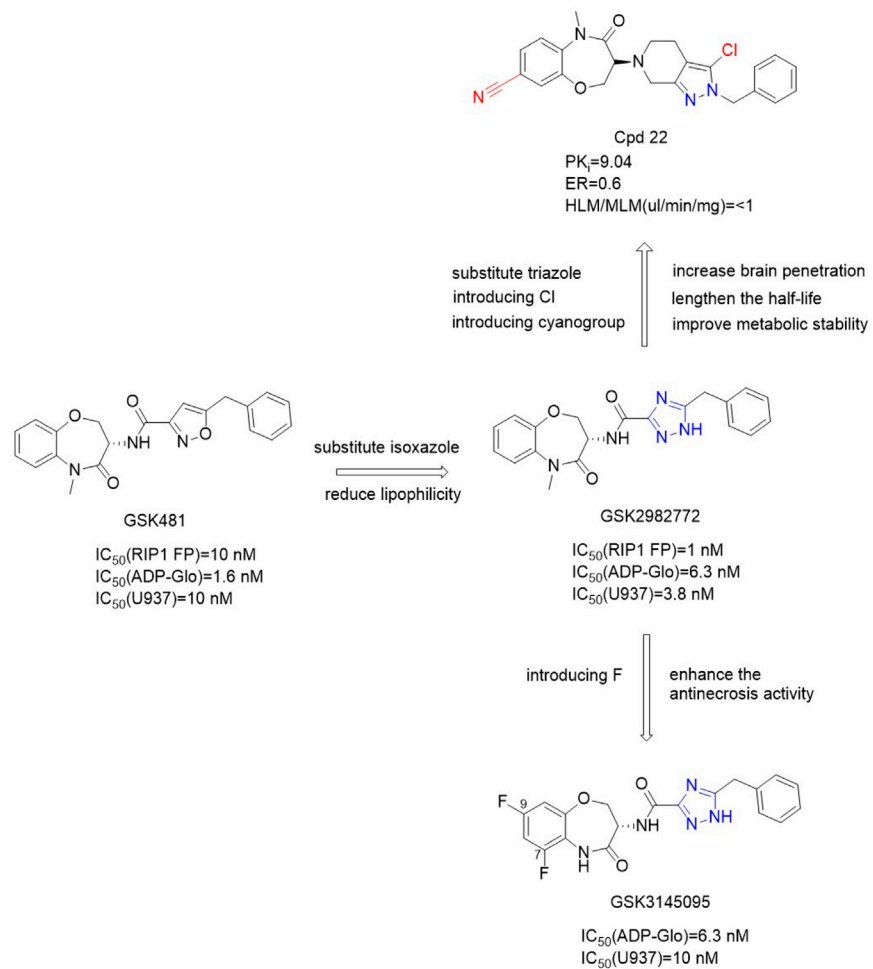
absorbing substituted cyano group was introduced at positions seven and eight of the benzoxazine, exposure of the cyano group to the solvent accessible region could reduce the electron density of benzoxazinone and improve the metabolic ability. The obtained Cpd22 inhibited the death and phosphorylation of necrotic cells in HT-29 and L929 cells. And *in vivo* studies have shown that Cpd22 can delay the disease progression of autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) model mice (Yoshikawa et al., 2018). These inhibitors can be used as central nervous system tool compounds for the study of RIPK1 kinase.

Because the benzene ring is not attached to the hinge region, this position can be replaced by a heterocyclic ring by a bioisosterism. When benzene ring is replaced by different pyridine, the anti-necrosis activity decreases. The anti-necrosis activity of S configuration compounds with a methyl group added to the pyridine ring was improved [EC_{50} (HT-29) = 243 nM] (Xia et al., 2021). Chiral benzoxazacyclic ketones exhibit distinct configurational activity. GSK2982772 with S configuration has more than 70 times more anti-necrotizing droop activity than compound 2 (Figure 15) with R configuration. Since the carbonyl group of benzo azone fragment does not have any hydrogen bonding with surrounding residues, it can be used as a structural modification site. Thio-benzoxazacyclic ketones are obtained by replacing the oxygen atom on the carbonyl group with a sulfur atom. Since longer C=S bond lengths than C=O lead to greater steric hindrance, compounds containing C=O are more flexible and have higher bond angles than confined C=S compounds (Xia et al., 2021). This results in Compound 11 (Figure 15) and 12 (Figure 15) exhibiting similar conformations, resulting in less difference in their activity. Compounds 11 and 12 maintained high anti-necrosis activity in s-type necrosis model of human HT-29 cells. Based on this, thiobenzoxazacyclic ketones may be the lead compounds to discover more inhibitors for the further development of necrotizing ptosis related diseases.

4.3.4 GSK'547

GSK'547 (Figure 16) was an analog of GSK'963. Compared with GSK'963, GSK'547 showed a 400-fold improvement in oral pharmacokinetic in mice. The structure-activity relationship of GSK'547 has not been reported yet. The co-crystallization of GSK'547 in the kinase structure fragment of RIPK1 indicated that RIPK1 binds in the allosteric pocket between the N-terminal and C-terminal domains behind the ATP binding site (Wang L. et al., 2018). In mouse models of pancreatic cancer tumors, GSK'547 reduced tumor size and activated immune cell responses. And the drug molecule could be combined with PD-1 inhibitors for the treatment of pancreatic cancer. Although GSK'547 was an excellent tool for exploring RIPK1 inhibition in mouse tumor models, its high turnover rate in human hepatocytes did not possess the necessary characteristics as a clinical lead compound. Although GSK'547 is used to

A Structure of Benzozozoapines and their bioactivities



B The binding mode of GSK2982772 (PDB code: 5TX5) with the RIPK1 kinase

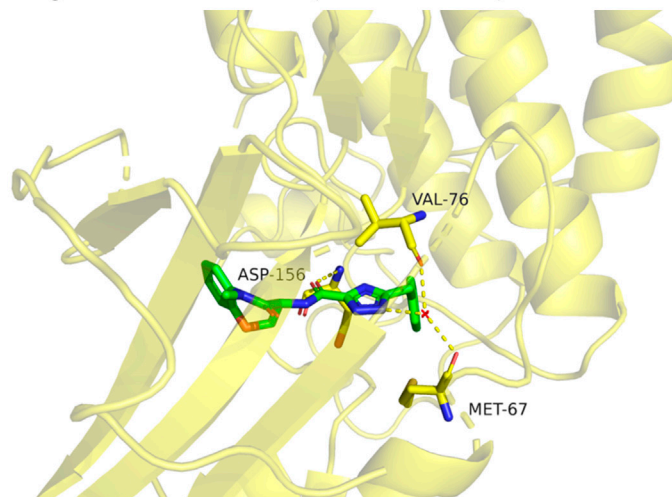
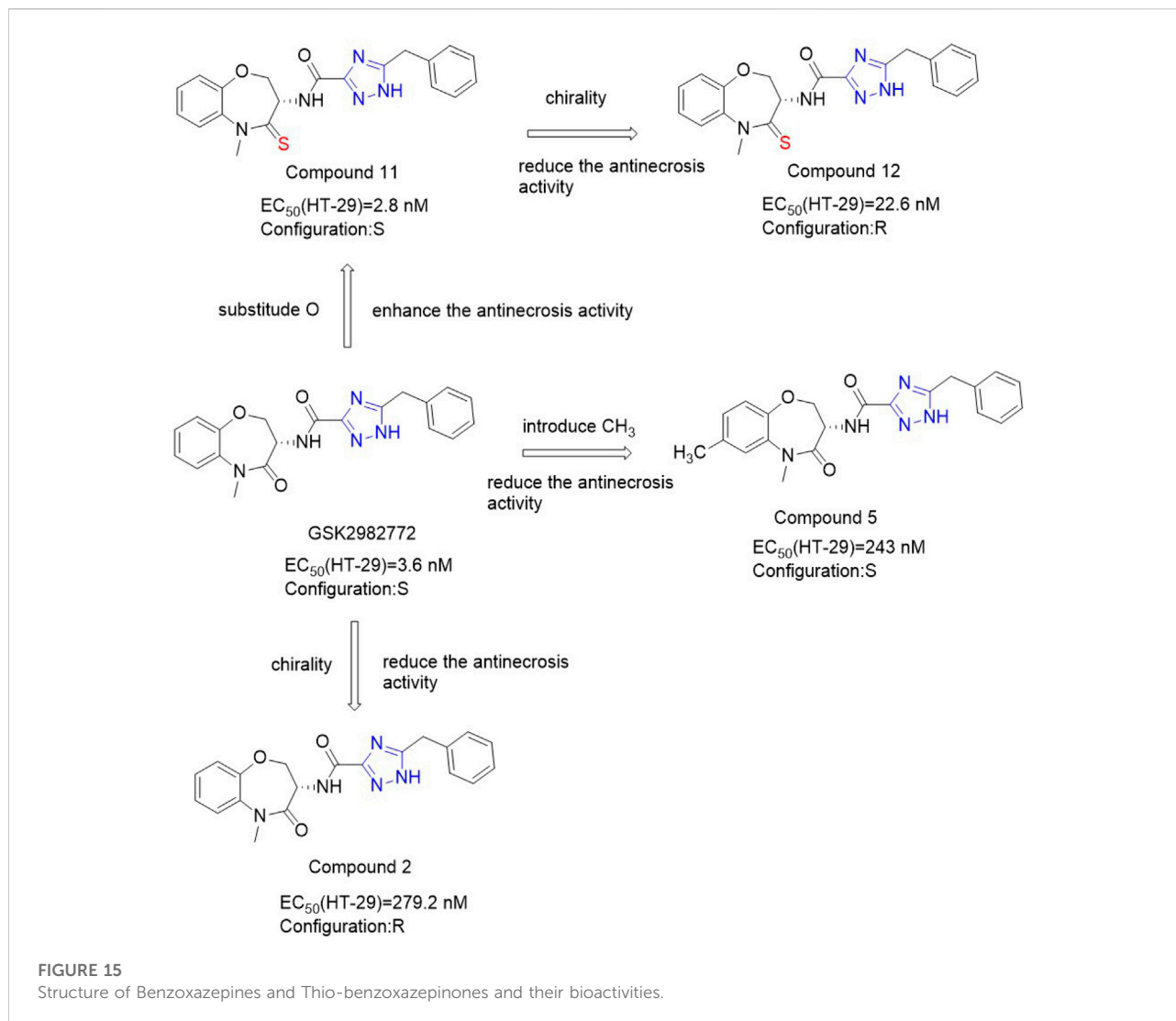


FIGURE 14

Structure of Benzozozoapines and their bioactivities and the binding mode of GSK2982772 (PDB code: 5TX5) with the RIPK1 kinase. **(A)** Structure of Benzozozoapines and their bioactivities. **(B)** The binding mode of GSK2982772 (PDB code: 5TX5) with the RIPK1 kinase.

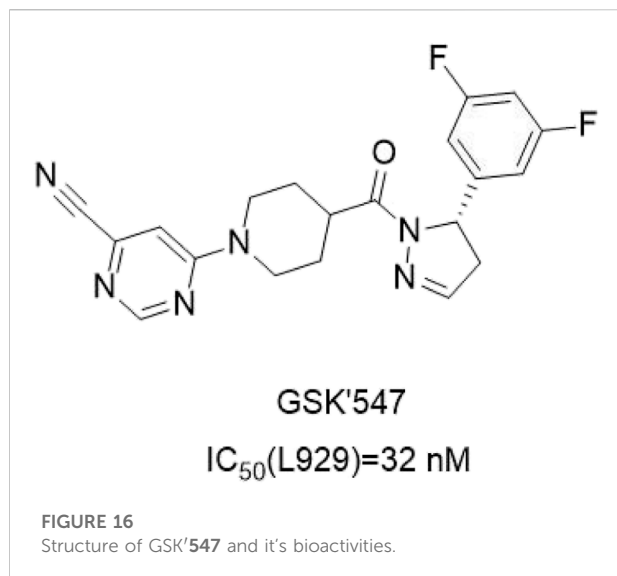


investigate the inhibitory effect of RIPK1 in mouse tumor models, its high conversion rate in human liver cells prevents it from being used as a clinical lead compound.

4.3.5 Dihydropyrazoles

Such compounds were obtained by high-throughput screening of the GSK compound library. DHP76 (Figure 17A) performed well in the RIPK1 FP/ADP-Glo binding experiment with an IC_{50} (ADP-Glo) value of 1.0 nM, which inhibited TNF-induced necrosis in L929 cells, with an IC_{50} (L929) value of 4.0 nM (Harris et al., 2019b). DHP77 (Figure 17A) had good pharmacokinetic characteristics in a variety of species. Meanwhile, DHP77 had good pharmacokinetic stability in rat and human hepatocytes and well predicted the pharmacokinetic parameters in humans. DHP76 was effective in chronic mouse models of multiple sclerosis (EAE) and retinitis pigmentosa (Rd10).

Adding methyl to the dihydropyrazole heterocyclic ring or turning it into a benzene ring led to a decrease in activity. Replacing the dihydropyrazole heterocyclic ring with a six-membered ring or a thiazoline ring also significantly decreases the activity. This was due to changes in the central ring leading to conformational changes in the aryl and amide groups, which were not conducive to inhibitor binding. The benzene ring around the dihydropyrazole heterocycle tolerated smaller lipophilic groups, but larger substituents such as tert-butyl or larger polar groups were disadvantageous to the efficacy. The potency of U937 cell activity was moderately increased by adding 3,5-difluoro substitute to the benzene ring, because the fluorine atom provided additional van der Waals force at the aryl ring binding at the back of the allosteric pocket. Reducing the lipophilicity of these compounds lowered their clearance rate in the particles. Since the N-acetylpiperidol group points to the opening of the allosteric binding pocket, reducing its size or



adding heteroatoms reduces potency, but adding substituents to the N-acetyl piperidol ring improves stability in rat and human liver microsomes. The substitution of nitrogen atoms in piperidine ring with cyano-containing heterocyclic ring had excellent cell activity but poor stability, while the substitution of stable 5-methyl-1,3, 4-oxadiazole ring could improve cell potency and stability.

DHP77 is bound to the allosteric region behind the ATP pocket. Although DHP77 and the adenine ring of ATP did not occupy the same space, the piperidine oxadiazole part occupied the space where ATP phosphate was located, and DHP77 exhibited a competitive inhibitory effect on ATP (Harris et al., 2019a). The pyrazole carbonyl of DHP77 received hydrogen bonds from the nitrogen of the main chain of Asp156 (Harris et al., 2019b). The chair conformation of the piperidine ring showed a complementary shape to the pocket geometry and provided a carrier for the oxadiazole ring to enter the solvation front at the pocket entrance of the active site between Lys45 and Leu157 (Harris et al., 2019a) (Figure 17B).

4.3.6 2-Aminobenzimidazoles

This series of compounds was based on 2-aminobenzimidazole as the backbone (Harris et al., 2019b). 2-Aminobenzimidazole AV123 (Figure 18) and 2-aminobenzothiazole MBM105 (Figure 18) significantly blocked TNF- α -induced necrotic cell death in human FADD-deficient Jurkat cells, with EC₅₀ (FADD) values of 1.7 μ M and 4.7 μ M, respectively. Among them, MBM105 had the best inhibitory effect on RIPK1, with an IC₅₀ (ADP-Glo) value of 2.89 μ M AV123 and MBM105 effectively inhibited the phosphorylation of MBP by RIPK1, with IC₅₀ (ADP-Glo) values of 12.12 and 2.89 μ M, respectively, in a dose-dependent manner. These compounds also had good selectivity for 12 disease-related protein kinases. *In vitro* studies on human

RPE1 retinal cells and Jurkat wild-type lymphocytes confirmed that it can prevent necrotic cell death, but not apoptotic cell death.

The structure-activity relationship showed that the R1, R2, R3 and R4 positions of the benzimidazole nucleus only tolerated a small amount of modification. The amino group in AV123 had the best activity of n-butyl substitution. In addition, replacing the 2-aminobenzimidazole ring with the 2-aminobenzothiazole ring was conducive to the anti-ciliary activity, resulting in MBM105.

AV123 formed hydrogen bonds with Asp156 main chain NH through N-3, the NH-nBu substituents formed hydrophobic pouples with the side chains of residues Leu70, Val75, Ile154, Leu129, Val134, PHE162, Ser161, His136, and Asp156 to form hydrophobic interaction (Harris et al., 2019a). The hydrophobic interaction controlled the overall orientation of AV123 at the binding site and located the nitrogroup between Leu90 and Met92 (Benchekroun et al., 2020). The same binding pattern was observed in MBM105 (Benchekroun et al., 2020).

4.4 Others

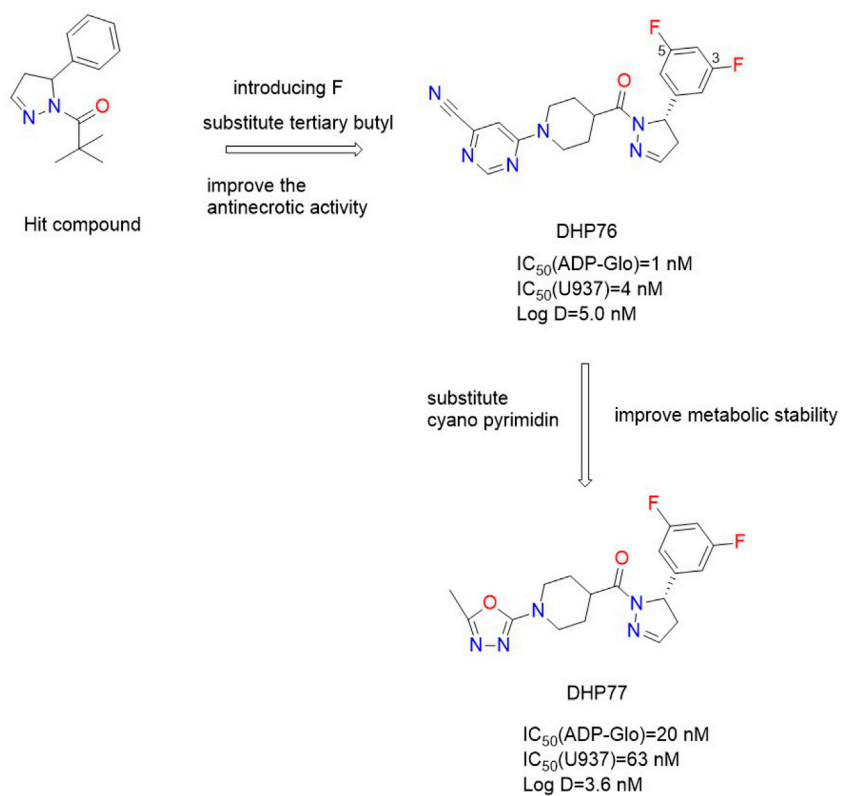
4.4.1 ZB-R-55

ZB-R-55 (Figure 19A) is a novel dual mode RIPK1 inhibitor targeting both allosteric and ATP-binding pockets. Benzodiazepine introduced alkynyl groups could be inserted into the ATP-binding pocket, and aromatic or aliphatic substitutions introduced into the alkynyl groups could bind to key residues in the pocket for additional hydrophobic or electrostatic interactions. Benzyl was installed in allosteric pockets and hydrophobic with the side chains of M67, L70, L129, S161 and H136 (Yang et al., 2022). Triazoles form hydrogen bonds with main chains M67, V76 and L78 (Yang et al., 2022). In addition, the amide carbonyl group and triazole form hydrogen bonds with the amide main chain NH of D156, and the benzoxazine part forms hydrophobic interactions with the side chains of M92 and L157 (Yang et al., 2022). Cypropyl acetylene is introduced on the alkyne group of 21 into the ATP binding pocket and produces additional hydrophobicity with S25, V31, G98 and L157. *In vivo* pharmacokinetics, ZB-R-55 showed good pharmacokinetic characteristics [AUC = 15.018 μ g/h/ml and C_{max} = 3,423 ng/ml, mice were given ZB-R-55 orally (3.0 mg/kg)]. ZB-R-55 has good *in vitro* anti-necrotizing droop and pharmacokinetic properties, which can be used to evaluate the efficacy of systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) model and lipopolysaccharide-induced sepsis model *in vivo*. Moreover, ZB-R-55 showed similar efficacy to glucocorticoid dexamethason in inhibiting cytokine storm (Yang et al., 2022).

4.4.2 Hybrid-type RIPK1 kinase inhibitor

In 2015, Najjar et al. obtained a "hybrid" RIPK1 inhibitor PN10 (Figure 19B) by combining the anticancer drug ponatinib as a skeleton and covalently combining Nec-1s. The IC₅₀ value of

A Structure of DHP76 and DHP77 and their bioactivities



B The binding mode of DHP77 (PDB code: 6R5F) with the RIPK1 kinase

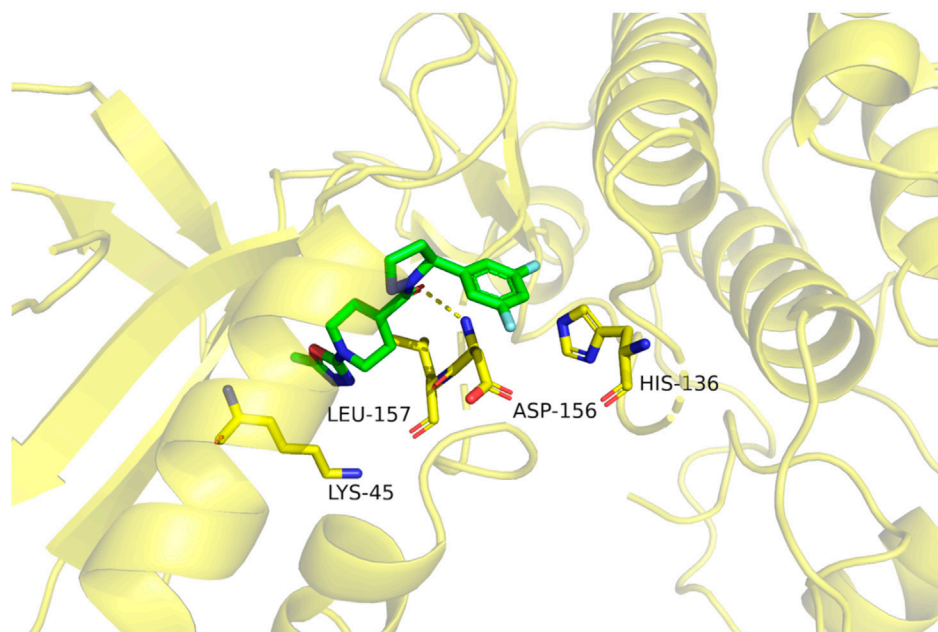
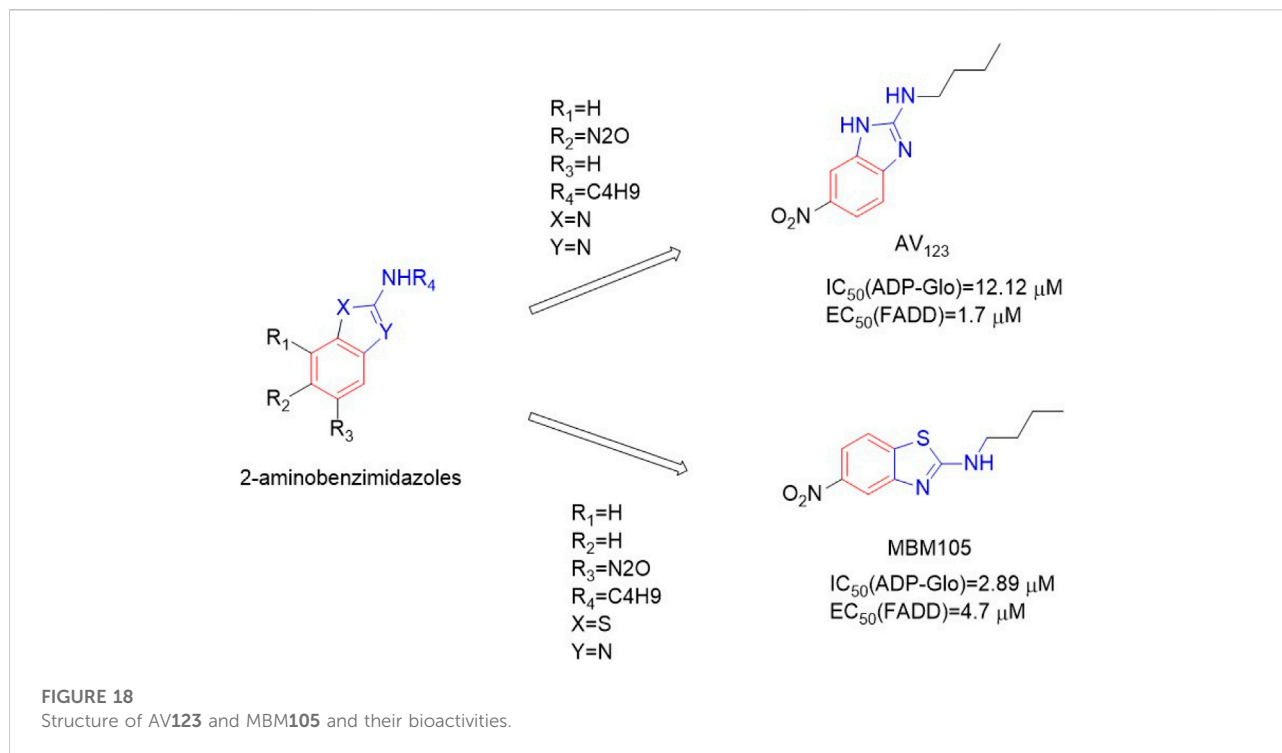


FIGURE 17

Structure of DHP76 and DHP77 and their bioactivities and the binding mode of DHP77 (PDB code: 6R5F) with the RIPK1 kinase. (A). Structure of DHP76 and DHP77 and their bioactivities. (B). The binding mode of DHP77 (PDB code: 6R5F) with the RIPK1 kinase.



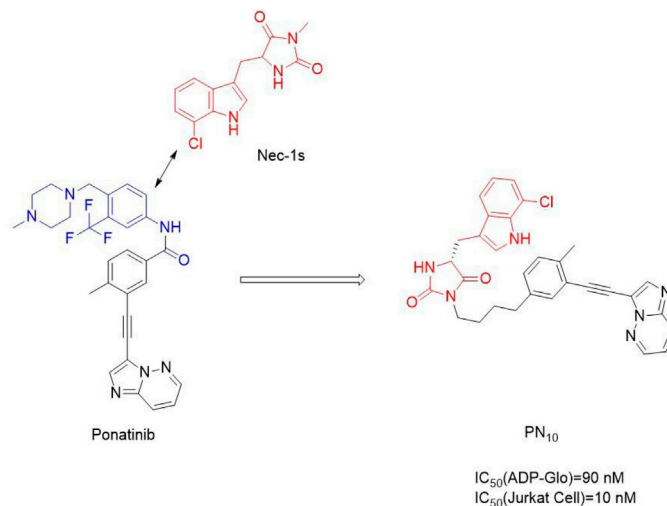
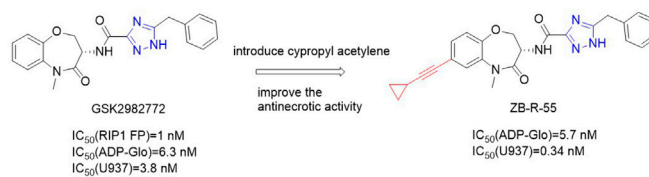
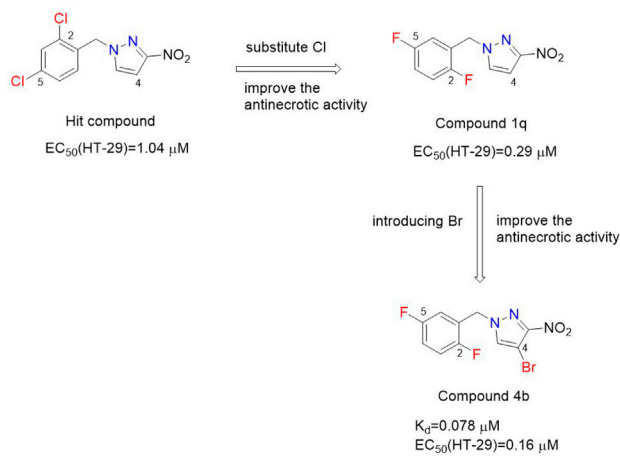
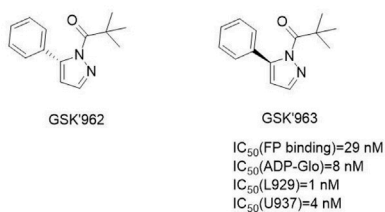
RIPK1 *in vitro* was 108.0 nM (Najjar et al., 2015). The study on the efficacy of PN10 *in vivo* showed that PN10 can effectively block the injury induced by TNF- α . Compared with Nec-1s, these hybrids improved the activity of RIPK1 and maintained higher kinase selectivity, but the higher molecular weight made these inhibitors not conducive to the optimization of lead compounds.

Ponatinib had good activity against both RIPK1 and RIP3 kinases. The substitution of methyl on the A ring weakened the inhibition of all three RIPs and Abl due to its hydrophobic effect in the lipophilic pocket. With the introduction of larger substituents in the A ring, the selectivity to RIPK1 kinase increased, while the inhibitory activity decreased. This is because, on the one hand, the DLG pocket of RIPK1 was more flexible and accommodated large substituted groups connected to ponatinib's A ring; on the other hand, Met92 Gatekeeper restricted the activities of the binding pocket to reduce the inhibitory effect on RIPK1. Therefore, based on the size difference of the kinase binding pocket, the selectivity and inhibitory activity of the compound to could be predicted. Compared with Abl, RIP2, and RIP3, RIPK1 contained a smaller hydrophobic pocket and accommodated the methyl group of the A ring. Therefore, RIPK1 and RIP2/Abl had potential differences in the binding sites around the benzene ring of ponatinib. The scaffold structure with a high affinity for RIPKs was retained and modified to enhance its selectivity to RIPK1. The eutectic structure of RIPK1/Nec-1 showed that Nec-1 had a "kink" conformation in DLG-out pocket, with several specific binding points in the pocket, but this contact was excluded by the narrower Glu-in conformation in

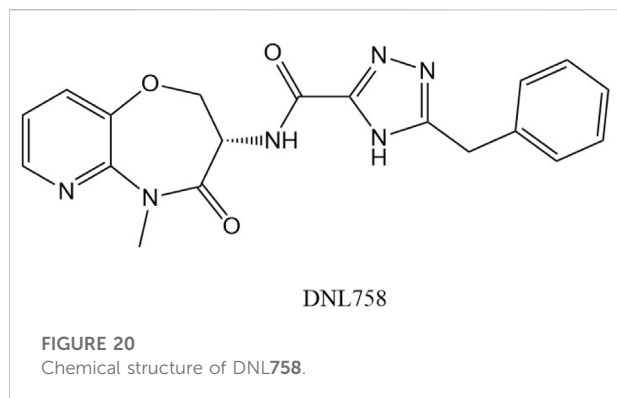
the RIPK1/ponatinib docking model. The flat hydrophobic part in ponatinib coincided well with the narrower conformation of Glu-in/DXG-out, so the component of ponatinib connected to the conformation of Glu-in/DXG-out was retained. The low selective component of ponatinib binding to DLG pocket was replaced with the more selective component of Nec-1 (Najjar et al., 2015). The binding mode of these inhibitors to RIPK1 had not been reported. However, it was speculated that PN10 was unlikely to bind to the conformation of DLG-out, because this might lead to spatial conflict between the Met67 residue in RIPK1 α -C-helix and the hydantoin of Nec-1.

4.4.3 Benzyl-1h-pyrazoles

Zou et al. obtained RIPK1 kinase inhibitor 38 containing 1-benzyl-1H-pyrazole through compound library screening (Zou et al., 2016). Compound 4b was obtained by optimizing the structure of the lead compound 1a (Figure 19C). The EC₅₀(HT-29) value of compound 4b in programmed necrosis inhibition test of HT-29 cells was 0.160 μ M, and the K_d value of compound 4b to RIPK1 kinase was 0.078 μ M. In the mouse model of L-arginine-induced pancreatitis, compound 4b had a significant protective effect on the pancreas. Substituents on the benzene ring were very important for anti-necrotic activity, and the number and position of halogen atoms on the benzene ring affected the biological activity of these compounds. Substitution of a benzene ring with a benzene heterocyclic or biphenyl leads to a decrease in biological activity, with pure benzyl (without any substituents) leading to a decrease in activity. The activity of compounds containing a substituted ortho-,

A Structure of ZB-R-55 and its bioactivities**B** Structure of PN10 and its bioactivities**C** Structure of Compound 4b and its bioactivities**D** Chemical structures of GSK'962 and GSK'963**FIGURE 19**

Structure of others and their bioactivities. **(A)** Structure of ZB-R-55 and its bioactivities. **(B)** Structure of PN10 and its bioactivities. **(C)** Structure of Compound 4b and its bioactivities. **(D)** Chemical structures of GSK'962 and GSK'963.



meta- or parachloride was also 1–3 times lower than that of 1A. When the p-chlorine atom is replaced by the more polar methoxyl, amino, or trifluoromethyl groups, the biological activity is further reduced. Compounds containing a substituted p-bromine and o-methyl also show reduced biological activity. The compound **1q** with two fluorine substituents at positions 2 and five of the benzene ring had the strongest activity [EC_{50} (HT-29) = 0.290 μ M]. The introduction of chlorine or bromine atoms into the C-4 position of the pyrazole ring of compound **1q** improved the biological activity slightly, and finally compound **4b** was confirmed.

The binding mode of compound **4b** showed that compound **4b** properly occupied the allosteric pocket of RIPK1 kinase, forming two hydrogen bonds between 4-bromo-3-nitro-1h-pyrazole part and RIPK1 kinase residue Asp156, and 2,5-

difluorobenzene ring was located in a hydrophobic bag composed of hydrophobic residues such as Leu157, Ala155, Val76, Ile154 and Met92 (Zou et al., 2016). Although these inhibitors have a relatively new skeleton, the eutectic structure of these inhibitors and RIPK1 has not been further reported.

4.4.4 GSK'963

Berger et al. obtained chiral small molecule inhibitor GSK'963 (Figure 19D) through high-throughput screening, which effectively blocked the programmed necrosis of mouse L929 cells and human U937 cells with IC_{50} values of 1.0 nM and 4.0 nM, respectively (Berger et al., 2015). GSK'963 was isolated from an identified racemic compound, and its enantiomeric GSK'962 (Figure 23) had no pharmacological activity. GSK'963 effectively inhibited hypothermia in the TNF-induced shock model and avoided the effect of hypothermia on mice. Although the activity and selectivity were high, the oral exposure of these inhibitors to rodents was very low, which limited the development of these inhibitors as tool compounds. Similarly, the protein binding patterns of these inhibitors have not been reported.

5 RIPK1 kinase inhibitors on the market and in preclinical and clinical stages

Many RIPK1 inhibitors are commercially available. Should be there are no clinically approved RIPK1

TABLE 1 RIPK1 inhibitors in clinical trial.

Inhibitor	Company	Disease type	Clinical research	ClinicalTrials.gov identifier
GSK2982772	GlaxoSmithKline	Psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis and ulcerative colitis	Phase I/II	NCT04316585 ¹ NCT02903966 ² NCT03590613 ³ NCT03305419 ⁴ NCT02776033 ⁵
GSK3145095	GlaxoSmithKline	Single drug for the treatment of advanced or metastatic pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma; combined with pembrolizumab (K or other anticancer drugs for the treatment of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma, non-small cell lung cancer, triple negative breast cancer, melanoma and other solid tumors	Phase II(terminated)	NCT03681951 ⁶
DNL747	Denali Therapeutics	Alzheimer's Disease	discontinue	NCT03757325 ⁷
DNL758	Denali Therapeutics	Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus	Phase II	Undisclosed
R552	Rigel	Central Nervous System Diseases	Phase I	Undisclosed

¹ClinicalTrials.gov. Study Record Detail. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04316585?cond=GSK2982772&draw=2&rank=1> (accessed 18 July 2022). Reference to a dataset [dataset], 2022, (accessed 18 July 2022).²ClinicalTrials.gov. Study Record Detail. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02903966?cond=GSK2982772&draw=2&rank=2> (accessed 18 July 2022). Reference to a dataset [dataset], 2022, (accessed 18 July 2022).³ClinicalTrials.gov. Study Record Detail. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03590613?cond=GSK2982772&draw=2&rank=3> (accessed 18 July 2022). Reference to a dataset [dataset], 2022, (accessed 18 July 2022).⁴ ClinicalTrials.gov. Study Record Detail. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03305419?cond=GSK2982772&draw=2&rank=4> (accessed 18 July 2022). Reference to a dataset [dataset], 2022, (accessed 18 July 2022).⁵ClinicalTrials.gov. Study Record Detail. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02776033?cond=GSK2982772&draw=2&rank=5> (accessed 18 July 2022). Reference to a dataset [dataset], 2022, (accessed 18 July 2022).⁶ ClinicalTrials.gov. Study Record Detail. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03681951?cond=GSK3145095&draw=2&rank=1>(accessed 18 July 2022). Reference to a dataset [dataset], 2022, (accessed 18 July 2022).⁷ClinicalTrials.gov. Study Record Detail. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03757325?cond=DNL747&draw=2&rank=1>(accessed 18 July 2022).

inhibitors on the market so far. Currently in the clinical stage of RIPK1 kinase inhibitors included GSK2982772, GSK3145095, and DNL747.

5.1 GSK2982772

GSK2982772 was an effective ATP competitive RIPK1 kinase inhibitor with oral activity, and the IC₅₀ value of its inhibitory effect on human RIPK1 was 1 nM. GSK2982772 was mainly distributed in the colon, liver, kidney and heart, and the tissue concentration was similar to that in blood, and the permeability of the GSK2982772 cell membrane was good, but it was low in rat brain (Berger et al., 2015). Because of its good physical and chemical properties, pharmacokinetic, and high efficiency to RIPK1, GSK2982772 was given orally at a low dose. At present, the **compound** is in phase II clinical study, and the indications are plaque psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, and ulcerative colitis. In addition, the inhibitor has completed phase I clinical studies of inflammatory bowel disease.

5.2 GSK3145095

GSK3145095 was a benzoxazepine drug further optimized and developed by GlaxoSmithKline Company according to the structure of GSK2982772. It had good metabolic stability *in vitro* and was removed from the body by hydroxylation and glucosylation *in vivo*. It had high bioavailability, low clearance rate, and a half-life of about 3.3 h (Harris et al., 2019b). The clinical trial of GSK3145095 was terminated following an internal review of the company's current research and development portfolio.

5.3 DNL747 ↗

DNL747 is able to penetrate the blood-brain barrier. DNL747 was discontinued in Phase I in July 2020 due to long toxicity. In addition to DNL47, another RIPK1 inhibitor, DNL758, is undergoing early clinical evaluation (Dannappel et al., 2014). DNL758 has no blood-brain barrier penetration and is used in Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus.

6 Conclusion and prospect

Most previous studies has shown that RIPK1 kinase activity can gather a variety of signal inputs, induce regulated cell death, and thus mediate tissue injury and inflammation (Linkermann and Green, 2014). Besides RIPK1, RIP3 was also an essential factor leading to programmed necrosis (Vanlangenakker et al., 2012; Newton et al., 2014). RIP3 activated the necrotic pathway in the absence of RIPK1, this suggested that RIP3 was essential

for programmed necrosis, whereas RIPK1 was not. The new study found that RIP3 oligomerization was sufficient to induce necrosis in the absence of TNF stimulation and RIPK1 activity (Orozco et al., 2014). Therefore, RIP3 was the key to regulate necrosis. As mentioned above, the interaction between RIPK1 and RIP3 led to autophosphorylation and dephosphorylation within RIPK1/RIP3. Then phosphorylated RIP3 was recruited and phosphorylated MLKL. However, the dominant function of RIPK1 did not always promote RIP3, and it was also involved in cell protection (Liu et al., 2019). Jaco et al. reported MK2 phosphorylated RIPK1 at Ser321 to block TNF-induced cell death (Jaco et al., 2017). In recent years, a variety of molecules and mechanisms related to programmed necrosis has been found. In addition, since the function of RIPK1 cells is regulated by kinases such as TAK1, IKK, MK2 and TBK1, drugs affecting these kinases may also lead to changes in ripK1-mediated necrosis pathways. Studies have found that RIPK1 directly receives oxidative regulation by ROS, thus enhancing kinase activity and resulting in autophosphorylation of Ser161 (S161). ROS production depends on the function of RIPK3 in the necrosome, so ROS mediates positive feedback regulation in the programmed necrosis pathway (Zhang et al., 2017). Due to the lack of in-depth biological research, the regulatory mechanism of RIPK1-related programmed necrosis signal pathway in various diseases and the changes of downstream regulatory molecules of RIPK1 need to be further studied. In addition to programmed necrosis, RIPK1 was also involved in TNF-induced apoptosis when NF-κB signal pathway was inhibited. Caspase8 inhibited the activation of RIPK1. But it is not clear how RIPK1 kinase activity regulates the activation of caspase (Zarrin et al., 2021).

Nec-1 is a commonly used kinase inhibitor tool in the field of necrosis research, but the medium potency of Nec-1 and its targeting activity to IDO make it not the best kinase inhibitor tool. The immune tolerance pathway is activated in cancer tissues, and IDO activity is related to tumor immune tolerance. Nec-1 targeting IDO has mixed activity. Nec-1s is a relatively potent and specific inhibitor of RIPK1 kinase that was used in the study. GNE684 has a strong effect on human RIPK1 with high specificity and is a good research tool. The multi-targeted kinase inhibitor Ponatinib, as an antitumor agent, can also prevent necrotic ptosis by targeting RIPK1, but its lack of specificity and severe long-term adverse reactions have limited its development for the treatment of inflammatory diseases associated with RIPK1. In addition, in the study of kinase inhibitors, real-time activation or necrosis markers of RIPK1 need to be tracked *in vivo*. Therefore, the selectivity of RIPK1 kinase inhibitions must be considered in the study of RIPK1 kinase inhibitions, especially the selectivity of AURK kinase and other kinases in RIPK family. The ideal kinase inhibitor needs to have strong selectivity and minimal off-target kinase activity. Type III kinase inhibitions have no hinge binding interaction and occupy an allosteric lipophilic

pocket on the back of the ATP binding site. Therefore, type III kinase inhibitions are ideal. The research of RIPK1 kinase inhibitions has made important progress, but there are still many problems to be solved, such as poor pharmacokinetic properties, metabolic instability, and low oral bioavailability. Further structural modifications can be made on the basis of existing compounds to improve their pharmacokinetic properties and make them more suitable for clinical use. The development of RIPK1 inhibitions with better activity, selectivity, and pharmacokinetic properties is the focus of future research. With the in-depth development of programmed necrosis pathway research, it is expected that more and more new RIPK1 kinase inhibitors with good biological activity and small side effects will be found in the programmed necrosis pathway as therapeutic drugs.

Author contributions

LC: Conceptualization, Project administration; XZ: Writing-Review; Editing, YO: Conceptualization, Writing-Original Draft; ML: Visualization; DY: Writing-Review; Editing; ZS: Writing-Review; Editing; LN: Visualization; LZ: Writing-Review; Editing; JS: Conceptualization, Writing - Review; Editing, Supervision.

Funding

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 82073311), National Key Research and Development Program of China (2020YFC2005500), Key

Research and Development Program of Science and Technology Department of Sichuan Province (2019YFS0514), Clinical Research and Transformation Fund of Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital (2021LZ03), the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (JDZX2015210), Sichuan Provincial hospital foundation for clinical research and translational research 2021LY02 and the Open Research Fund of Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine Key Laboratory of Systematic Research of Distinctive Chinese Medicine Resources in Southwest China (2018GZZ2011005), Natural Science Foundation of Sichuan Province (No.2022JDTD0025, 2022). Open Fund of State Key Laboratory of Traditional Chinese Medicine Resources with Southwest Characteristics (2021HX026).

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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Glossary

TNF Tumor necrosis factor

TRAILR TNF related apoptosis inducing ligand receptor

TNFR TNF receptor

FADD Fas-associated death domain

TRADD TNF receptor-associated death domain

RHIM RIP homotypic interaction motif

TRAF2 TNF receptor-associated Factor 2

cIAP1 cellular inhibitors of apoptosis 1

cIAP2 cellular inhibitors of apoptosis 2

LUBAC linear ubiquitin assembly complex

IKK I κ B kinase

TAK TGF β -activated kinase

TAB TAK1, and TAK1 binding protein

NF- κ B nuclear factor-kappa B

CYLD Cyldromatosis

NEMO NF κ B essential modulator

MLKL mixed lineage kinase domain-like protein

NoX-4 Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotide Phosphate Oxidase 4

IL-6 Interleukin-6

IL-8 Interleukin-8

HMGB1 High Mobility Group Protein B1

IL-1 β Interleukin-1 β

DRP1 dynamic related protein 1dynamic related protein 1

BMDMs bone marrow derived macrophages

DRP1 dynamic related protein 1dynamic related protein 1

MCAO/R middle cerebral artery occlusion/reperfusion

MAP2 microtubule-associated protein 2

GFAP glial fibrillary acidic protein

I/R ischemia/reperfusion

APP amyloid precursor protein

PS1 premature aging protein 1

DAM disease-associated microglia

AD Alzheimer's disease

AurK Aurora kinase

SIRS Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome.