



NIH PUBLIC ACCESS

Author Manuscript

J Biomol Screen. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2013 April 01.

Published in final edited form as:

J Biomol Screen. 2013 April ; 18(4): 481–489. doi:10.1177/1087057112468613.

High throughput screen identifies cyclic nucleotide analogs that inhibit Prostatic acid phosphatase

Eric S. McCoy^{1,*}, Wendy A. Lea^{2,*}, Bryan T. Mott², David J. Maloney², Ajit Jadhav², Anton Simeonov^{2,3}, and Mark J. Zylka^{1,3}

¹Department of Cell and Molecular Physiology, UNC Neuroscience Center, University of North Carolina, CB #7545, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599

²NIH Chemical Genomics Center, National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

Abstract

The secretory and transmembrane isoforms of Prostatic acid phosphatase (PAP) can dephosphorylate extracellular adenosine 5'-monophosphate (AMP) to adenosine, classifying PAP as an ectonucleotidase. Currently, there are no compounds that inhibit PAP in living cells. To identify small molecule modulators of PAP, we used a 1,536-well based quantitative high-throughput fluorogenic assay to screen the Library of Pharmacologically Active Compounds (LOPAC¹²⁸⁰) arrayed as eight-concentration dilution series. This fluorogenic assay used difluoro-4-methylumbelliferyl phosphate (DiFMUP) as substrate and collected data in kinetic mode. Candidate hits were subsequently tested in an orthogonal absorbance-based biochemical assay that used AMP as substrate. From these initial screens, three inhibitors of secretory human (h) and mouse (m)PAP were identified: 8-(4-chlorophenylthio) cAMP (pCPT-cAMP), calmidazolium chloride and nalidixic acid. These compounds did not inhibit recombinant alkaline phosphatase. Of these compounds, only pCPT-cAMP and a related cyclic nucleotide analog [8-(4-chlorophenylthio) cGMP; pCPT-cGMP] inhibited the ectonucleotidase activity of transmembrane PAP in a cell-based assay. These cyclic nucleotides are structurally similar to AMP but cannot be hydrolyzed by PAP. In summary, we identified two cyclic nucleotide analogs that inhibit secretory and transmembrane PAP *in vitro* and in live cells.

Keywords

ectonucleotidase; prostatic acid phosphatase; ACP; pain; nociception

Introduction

Prostatic acid phosphatase (PAP, also known as ACP) has been used for over 50 years as a prostate cancer biomarker.¹ Recently, we found that the transmembrane isoform of PAP was expressed in nociceptive (pain-sensing) dorsal root ganglia neurons.² In addition, we found that the secretory and transmembrane isoforms of PAP have ectonucleotidase activity, as demonstrated by the ability of each isoform to dephosphorylate extracellular AMP to adenosine. In mice, intrathecal injection of the secretory isoform of PAP has antinociceptive effects in chronic inflammatory and neuropathic pain models that persist for three days.²

³Address correspondences to: Mark J. Zylka: Dept. of Cell & Molecular Physiology, UNC Neuroscience Center, 5109D NRB, CB #7545, 115 Mason Farm Road, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7545, Tel: 919-966-2540, zylka@med.unc.edu. Anton Simeonov: NIH Chemical Genomics Center, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892-3370, asimeono@mail.nih.gov, Tel: 301-217-5721, Fax: 301-217-5736.

*Co-first authors

These antinociceptive effects were entirely dependent on adenosine A₁ receptor activation, suggesting PAP generates adenosine *in vivo*.

Intrathecal injections are routinely performed in humans but they are invasive. Moreover, it is impractical to deliver PAP protein orally because, like all proteins, PAP is susceptible to proteolysis in the digestive tract. In contrast, small molecule activators of PAP could enhance the activity of endogenously expressed PAP and be made orally bioavailable. At present, there are no known small molecule activators of PAP.

Conversely, it would be advantageous to have small molecules that selectively and acutely inhibit PAP for physiological studies. L-(+)-tartrate is the most commonly used inhibitor of PAP but must be used at high (mM) concentrations. Also, L-(+)-tartrate inhibits other acid phosphatases.³ α -Benzylaminobenzylphosphonic acid (BABPA), a derivative of benzylphosphonic acid, was found to inhibit PAP in the low nanomolar range.⁴ While potent, this inhibitor is not routinely used because it is difficult to obtain (not commercially available and must be synthesized). It is unknown if BABPA inhibits other phosphatases. Discovering selective PAP inhibitors would provide a way to examine the acute biological effects of PAP inhibition and could complement studies with *Pap*^{-/-} mice where enzyme activity is eliminated throughout life.²

We previously identified several structurally diverse inhibitors of hPAP using a high-throughput 384-well single point fluorogenic screen.⁵ Here, we modified this single-point assay so that we could perform a quantitative (multi-concentration) high-throughput screen in 1,536 well plates with secretory hPAP and DiFMUP as substrate. Quantitative HTS has several advantages over traditional single point screens, including fewer false negatives and generation of dose-response curves as part of the screen.⁶ We screened the Library of Pharmacologically Active Compounds (LOPAC¹²⁸⁰) as an eight-point dilution series and identified several potential hPAP inhibitors. Three of these compounds also inhibited hPAP and recombinant mPAP in an orthogonal biochemical assay. This orthogonal assay used AMP, a physiologically-relevant PAP substrate. Of these compounds, pCPT-cAMP and a related analog (pCPT-cGMP) were the only compounds that inhibited PAP in a real-time cell-based calcium mobilization assay. These cyclic nucleotide analogs are the first known compounds that inhibit PAP *in vitro* as well as in living cells.

Materials and Methods

Reagents

Most reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO), including HEPES, DMSO, sodium citrate, malachite green oxalate, sodium molybdate, sodium L-(+)-tartrate, sodium orthovanadate, sodium fluoride, EDTA, HCl, AMP, Triton X-100, Tween-20, purified human PAP (hPAP; #P1774), recombinant bovine alkaline phosphatase (ALP; #P8361) and human Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase-1B (PTP; #P6244). DiFMUP was obtained from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA), and potato acid phosphatase (pAP) was obtained from Roche Applied Science (Indianapolis, IN). Recombinant mouse PAP (mPAP) was generated as described previously.⁷ Medium binding black solid-bottom 1,536-well plates were obtained from Greiner Bio One (Monroe, NC) and were used for the LOPAC screen. Black clear-bottom 96-well plates that were used to measure hydrolysis of AMP were purchased from Corning Incorporated (Corning, NY). The buffer used for hPAP and mPAP fluorogenic assays was 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.0, 1 mM EDTA and 0.01% Tween-20. A buffer consisting of 50 mM sodium acetate, pH 5.3, 0.01% Tween-20 was used for the pAP fluorogenic assay, while ALP was assayed in 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 0.01% Tween-20.

The LOPAC¹²⁸⁰ library and dry powder versions of the selected hit compounds identified from the LOPAC¹²⁸⁰ screen were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. The LOPAC¹²⁸⁰ library compounds were arrayed as inter-plate dilution series starting from 10 mM stock in DMSO as described elsewhere.⁸ 6-hydroxy-5-nitro-2-[(E)-2-(2-propoxy-naphthalen-1-yl)-vinyl]-3H-pyrimidin-4-one (Asinex 49) was purchased from Asinex Corporation (BAS 08865249; Moscow, Russia).

BABPA was synthesized based on a published procedure.⁴ Briefly, to a stirring solution of E-N-benzylidene-1-phenylmethanamine (0.5 g, 2.56 mmol) at 0°C was added triethyl phosphite (0.448 g, 2.56 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated to 70°C for 12 h, upon which time any excess triethyl phosphite was removed under reduced pressure. The remaining residue was purified directly on silica. Gradient elution (40–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) afforded the desired product as a colorless, viscous oil: yield (554 mg, 1.66 mmol, 65%).

To a stirring solution of diethyl (benzylaminophenyl) methyl phosphonate (0.13 g, 0.39 mmol) in water was added hydrochloric acid (1 mL, 10 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated to 50°C for 4 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was carefully neutralized with sat. aq. sodium bicarbonate. The solution was filtered and purified directly by reverse phase chromatography. Gradient elution (10–60% acetonitrile in water) and subsequent lyophilization of the appropriate fractions afforded the desired product as a colorless, powdery solid: yield (0.027 g, 0.098 mmol, 25%).

Quantitative HTS assay protocol and HTS data analysis

To conduct the primary screen against the LOPAC library, three μL of enzyme (final concentration: 2 nM for hPAP) in columns 1, 2, 5–48 and three μL of the assay buffer in columns 3, 4 were dispensed into 1,536-well Greiner black assay plates. Compounds (23 nL) were transferred via Kalypsys pintool equipped with 1,536-pin array (10 nL slotted pins, V&P Scientific, San Diego, CA), with the LOPAC compounds pin-transferred into columns 5–48 and the control compound, BABPA, pin-transferred into column 2. The plates were incubated for 15 min at room temperature before the addition of 1 μL fluorogenic substrate DiFMUP (final concentration 100 μM). Throughout the screen, all reagent bottles were kept at 4°C to minimize degradation. Immediately following substrate addition, fluorescence data were collected on a ViewLux high-throughput imager (PerkinElmer, Waltham, MA) every min for 3 min using standard UV excitation filter (340 nm, bandwidth 60 nm) and the umbelliferone emission filter of 450 nm (bandwidth 20 nm); the change in fluorescence, measured for every sample over the three-minute initial reaction time course, was used to calculate the Z' statistical parameter using the formula in Zhang et al.,⁹ as well as for calculation of normalized responses. Data were normalized against no-enzyme wells (columns 3, 4) and enzyme-containing wells (column 1) and were further fitted using a four-parameter Hill equation through publicly-available curve-fitting algorithms (<http://ncgc.nih.gov/pub/openhts/>), as described in detail elsewhere.^{6, 8}

For follow-up fluorogenic assays against mPAP and additional phosphatases, the protocols were the same as described above with the exception that the compounds were arrayed as 12-point dose responses within each plate. Final concentrations of the phosphatases used in the profiling were as follows: 1.8 nM for mPAP, 1.5 nM for pAP and 5 pM for ALP. The data were normalized against enzyme-containing and no-enzyme controls, and data were fitted using a sigmoidal dose-response regression algorithm in GraphPad Prism (La Jolla, CA).

AMP hydrolysis enzyme assay

Enzyme assays were performed as previously described.⁷ Briefly, enzyme (1 U hPAP, 1 U mPAP or 100 U ALP) was added to reaction mixture (50 μ L total volume) in a 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tube containing 400 μ M, 1 mM, or 100 μ M AMP corresponding to the K_M of hPAP, mPAP and ALP for AMP, respectively, 50 mM HEPES buffer pH 7.0 and test compound (10^{-4} to 10^{-7} M). Compounds were pre-incubated with enzyme for 3 min at 37°C prior to the addition of 950 μ L malachite green color reagent (0.03% (w/v) malachite green oxalate, 0.2% (w/v) sodium molybdate, 0.05% (v/v) Triton X-100 in 0.7 M HCl). Reactions were incubated at room temperature for 30 min, and the colorimetric reaction was quenched with 22.4 μ L of 38% sodium citrate. The samples (100 μ L) were transferred to a 96-well black, clear-bottom plate (Corning), and inorganic phosphate release was quantified at 650 nm on a SpectraMax Plus plate reader (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA). Negative controls contained AMP, buffer and no enzyme. For each compound tested, negative controls also contained the same concentration of compound as being tested. The absorbance measurements in the no enzyme control were subtracted from the absorbance measurements for each test sample. The raw absorbance data was converted to nmol of phosphate released per minute using an inorganic phosphate standard curve (KH_2PO_4). Data were analyzed using EXCEL, and the dose response data were fit by non-linear regression equation using GraphPad Prism 5.

Calcium Mobilization Assay

Calcium imaging was performed as described previously.¹⁰ Briefly, HEK293 cells were plated at 2×10^6 per glass bottom MatTek dish (MatTek, Ashland, MA). Prior to plating, each dish was coated with 0.1 μ g/mL poly-D-lysine (Sigma). After 24 h, cells were transfected using lipofectamine (Invitrogen) per manufacturer's instructions. Control experiments contained pcDNA3.1/chimeric $\text{G}\alpha_{q-s5}$ protein/pcDNA3.1/Venus (0.3/0.3/0.3/0.1 μ g DNA ratio). Experimental conditions utilized A_{2B} /chimeric $\text{G}\alpha_{q-s5}$ protein/pcDNA3.1 or transmembrane PAP/Venus. The following day, cells were washed 3 \times with HBSS (Gibco) loaded with 2 μ M Fura-2AM (Invitrogen) in HBSS for 1 h at room temperature in the dark and were washed 3 \times with HBSS and incubated for 30 min prior to imaging. Cells were preincubated with each compound in HBSS for 1 h and for 5 min with 10 μ M $\alpha\beta$ -methylene ADP in HBSS to inhibit endogenous ecto-5'-nucleotidase. A 30 s baseline was obtained followed by 2 min of agonist in the presence of 10 μ M $\alpha\beta$ -methylene ADP. Cells were imaged on a Nikon Ti-E (Nikon; Melville, NY) and analyzed using NIS Elements Imaging software. Data were exported to EXCEL to create graphs and GraphPad Prism 5 to analyze area under curve. Area under curve was obtained for 1 min post agonist.

Results and Discussion

BABPA inhibits mouse and human secretory PAP

BABPA inhibits PAP with nanomolar efficacy.⁴ As a positive control, we confirmed that BABPA inhibited hPAP ($\text{IC}_{50} = 4.97$ nM) in our fluorogenic assay (Fig 1A). In addition, BABPA inhibited mPAP ($\text{IC}_{50} = 20.6$ nM) but not pAP or ALP (Fig 1A). Taken together, these data indicate BABPA is relatively selective for mammalian PAP.

Quantitative high-throughput screening of the LOPAC¹²⁸⁰ Library

We next used quantitative high-throughput screening to identify candidate PAP inhibitors in the LOPAC¹²⁸⁰ library.⁶ This entailed testing the library compounds in a dose-response format, with eight concentrations ranging from 0.3 nM to 115 μ M. The mean Z' value⁹ was ~ 0.9 across all plates, indicating a stable assay performance. After screening the library, the compounds were categorized into four groups: inactive, false positives, potential inhibitors, and potential activators (Fig 1B). The groups were based on the shape and quality of the

dose-response curves obtained (IC_{50} , presence of two asymptotes, partial versus complete curve). Autofluorescent hits were excluded when the starting fluorescence intensity in the kinetic fluorogenic assay was greater than that of the uninhibited enzyme control. Based on these results, a set of 13 compounds, comprised of 8 potential inhibitors (Fig 1C–J, Table 1) and 5 potential activators, was selected for confirmatory testing and selectivity profiling against mammalian and non-mammalian phosphatases.

Of the eight potential inhibitors, pCPT-cAMP, calmidazolium chloride and nalidixic acid also inhibited mPAP but not pPAP or ALP using the fluorogenic substrate (Table 1). While all five activators enhanced the activity of hPAP in our initial screen and in confirmatory fluorogenic assays, none activated hPAP in our orthogonal AMP hydrolysis assay (described below) and hence were not studied further.

Confirmation of PAP inhibitors using an orthogonal 5'-AMP hydrolysis assay

To independently validate hits and determine if any were false positives (i.e., non-specific compound interactions with the DiFMUP substrate or quenching), we employed an orthogonal non-fluorescence-based enzyme assay that utilized AMP, an endogenous PAP substrate.⁷ For each reaction, hydrolysis of AMP by hPAP was measured in the presence of the eight inhibitors described above (at increasing doses), while the substrate concentration was held constant at a value close to the reported K_M for each enzyme [hPAP – 400 μ M AMP (K_M = 0.3–2 mM), mPAP – 1 mM AMP (K_M = 0.9–1.6 mM), ALP – 100 μ M AMP (K_M = 0.018–15.4 mM)].^{11, 12} Of these eight compounds, calmidazolium chloride, pCPT-cAMP, nalidixic acid and lonidamine inhibited hPAP and mPAP in the low micromolar range (Table 1; Fig 2A–D; calculated IC_{50} values and structures are inset).

In addition, we tested “Compound 49” [6-hydroxy-5-nitro-2-[(E)-2-(2-propoxy-naphthalen-1-yl)-vinyl]-3H-pyrimidin-4-one], a low micromolar hPAP inhibitor previously identified in a fluorogenic-based screen.⁵ Compound 49 inhibited AMP hydrolysis by hPAP and mPAP with an IC_{50} of 2.90 μ M for hPAP and 42.9 μ M for mPAP (Fig 2E) but did not inhibit ALP (Fig 2F). As a second inhibitor control, we used L-(+)-tartrate (10 mM), which has a low affinity for PAP and must be used at high concentrations to inhibit PAP enzymatic activity.³ L-(+)-tartrate inhibited hPAP and mPAP in our 5'-AMP hydrolysis assay but did not inhibit ALP (Fig 2F).

Transmembrane PAP ectonucleotidase activity was inhibited in a real-time cell-based assay

We recently developed a real-time, cell-based calcium mobilization assay to study the hydrolysis of AMP to adenosine by transmembrane PAP.¹⁰ This assay is based on our observation that the A_{2B} adenosine receptor can be activated by adenosine but not AMP. HEK293 cells were transiently transfected with the A_{2B} adenosine receptor and the chimeric G protein subunit (G_{q-s5}), which couples the A_{2B} adenosine receptor to calcium mobilization (visualized with Fura-2AM). Transmembrane PAP was also transfected in some conditions (Fig 3). Hydrolysis of AMP to adenosine was measured \pm inhibitors, as read out by an increase in calcium mobilization. A dose response was generated for BABPA (Fig 3A) and pCPT-cAMP (Fig 3B). BABPA (5 μ M) and pCPT-cAMP (100 μ M) did not block activation of the A_{2B} receptor (using adenosine as ligand) but dose-dependently inhibited hydrolysis of AMP to adenosine by transmembrane PAP (Fig 3A,B). In contrast, nalidixic acid blocked A_{2B} receptor activation by adenosine (data not shown), which precluded us from studying nalidixic acid in this cell-based assay. Additionally, we were unable to study calmidazolium chloride and lonidamine in this cell-based assay because both compounds killed the cells.

Given that pCPT-cAMP was the only compound that inhibited human and mouse PAP *in vitro* and in cells, we next tested a related cyclic nucleotide analog, 8-(4-chlorophenylthio) cGMP (pCPT-cGMP). We found that pCPT-cGMP also inhibited transmembrane PAP in the cell-based calcium mobilization assay (Fig 3C). In addition, pCPT-cGMP inhibited human and mouse secretory PAP *in vitro* using AMP as substrate (Fig 3D) and using the fluorogenic substrate ($IC_{50}=31.1 \mu\text{M}$, $IC_{50}=49.7 \mu\text{M}$, respectively). Neither pCPT-cAMP nor pCPT-cGMP inhibited pAP, ALP or PTP using the fluorogenic substrate (data not shown).

In this study, we used a fluorogenic assay that was capable of identifying small molecule activators and inhibitors of PAP. PAP functions as an ectonucleotidase in nociceptive neurons.² Small molecule activators and inhibitors could be used to study the acute effects of modulating PAP activity on nucleotide levels and adenosine production. After screening 1,280 small molecules contained within the LOPAC¹²⁸⁰ collection, we identified 8 candidate inhibitors and 5 candidate activators. None of the activators identified from the primary screen enhanced PAP in an orthogonal AMP hydrolysis assay, suggesting these activators were false positives. We were similarly unable to identify hPAP activators in an end-point screen of 28,800 small molecules.⁵ These results suggest that the odds of identifying hPAP activators are extremely low. In contrast, three of the candidate inhibitors (pCPT-cAMP, calmidazolium chloride, and nalidixic acid) identified in our present screen selectively inhibited hPAP and mPAP (but not pAP or ALP) in an orthogonal AMP hydrolysis assay. Of these three inhibitors, pCPT-cAMP was the only compound that inhibited PAP in live cells.

pCPT-cAMP is commonly used as a membrane-permeant activator of cAMP- and cGMP-dependent protein kinases and EPAC proteins, a class of cytoplasmic cAMP-dependent guanine-nucleotide-exchange factors. pCPT-cAMP is structurally similar to AMP, a physiologically-relevant substrate of PAP. While pCPT-cAMP is reportedly used to modulate intracellular signaling, our findings suggest pCPT-cAMP acts extracellularly to inhibit adenosine production in cells and tissues that express PAP. In fact, pCPT-cAMP is charged at physiological pH, raising the issue of how this compound enters cells. Our cell-based experiment indicates that pCPT-cAMP inhibits an extracellularly active enzyme (which is coupled to extracellular activation of a cell surface receptor), strongly arguing for an extracellular site of action. Additionally, Waidmann and colleagues found that pCPT-cAMP blocked equilibrative nucleoside transporter 1 (ENT1).¹³ Inhibition of this adenosine transporter elevated extracellular adenosine and activated adenosine A_{2A} receptors in PC12 cells.¹³

While pCPT-cAMP effectively inhibited PAP, cAMP did not inhibit hPAP in the fluorogenic assay (data not shown). One explanation for why pCPT-cAMP but not cAMP inhibited PAP could be associated with the structural modification at the C8 position of the purine ring (chlorophenylthio group). Similarly, the related cyclic nucleotide analog pCPT-cGMP, which also contains the chlorophenylthio group at the C8 position, inhibited PAP *in vitro* and extracellularly in cells. Thus, the C8 modification may be necessary to inhibit PAP function. Intriguingly, these cyclic nucleotide analogs are structurally similar to AMP, the natural substrate of PAP,² but cannot be hydrolyzed to inorganic phosphate by PAP (Fig 2B, 3D).

Nalidixic acid, calmidazolium chloride and lonidamine inhibited PAP in biochemical assays; however, we were unable to assess the inhibitory activity of these compounds in cells because of off-target effects (nalidixic acid inhibited A_{2B} while lonidamine and calmidazolium chloride killed cells). These compounds are thus not likely to be useful for inhibiting PAP in a more physiologically relevant setting, such as in live cells or in animals.

Lastly, high throughput screens were used to identify inhibitors for tissue nonspecific alkaline phosphatase.¹⁴ Alkaline phosphatases and PAP have ectonucleotidase activity and utilize AMP as a substrate.¹⁵ Given that pCPT-cAMP inhibited PAP but not ALP, pCPT-cAMP may prove useful for selectively inhibiting PAP in future physiological studies.

Acknowledgments

This research was supported by a grant to A.S. from the Molecular Libraries Initiative of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research [U54MH084681], the Intramural Research Program of NHGRI, NIH and by a grant to M.J.Z. from NINDS [R01NS067688].

References

1. Quintero IB, Araujo CL, Pulkka AE, Wirkkala RS, Herrala AM, Eskelinen EL, Jokitalo E, Hellstrom PA, Tuominen HJ, Hirvikoski PP, Vihko PT. Prostatic acid phosphatase is not a prostate specific target. *Cancer Res.* 2007; 67:6549–6554. [PubMed: 17638863]
2. Zylka MJ, Sowa NA, Taylor-Blake B, Twomey MA, Herrala A, Voikar V, Vihko P. Prostatic acid phosphatase is an ectonucleotidase and suppresses pain by generating adenosine. *Neuron.* 2008; 60:111–122. [PubMed: 18940592]
3. Ostrowski WS, Kuciel R. Human prostatic acid phosphatase: selected properties and practical applications. *Clin Chim Acta.* 1994; 226:121–129. [PubMed: 7923807]
4. Beers SA, Schwender CF, Loughney DA, Malloy E, Demarest K, Jordan J. Benzylaminophosphonic acids as potent inhibitors of human prostatic acid phosphatase. *Bioorg Med Chem.* 1996; 4:1693–1701. [PubMed: 8931939]
5. Larsen RS, Zylka MJ, Scott JE. A high throughput assay to identify small molecule modulators of prostatic acid phosphatase. *Curr Chem Genomics.* 2009; 3:42–49. [PubMed: 20161835]
6. Inglese J, Auld DS, Jadhav A, Johnson RL, Simeonov A, Yasgar A, Zheng W, Austin CP. Quantitative high-throughput screening: a titration-based approach that efficiently identifies biological activities in large chemical libraries. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2006; 103:11473–11478. [PubMed: 16864780]
7. Sowa NA, Vadakkan KI, Zylka MJ. Recombinant mouse PAP has pH-dependent ectonucleotidase activity and acts through A(1)-adenosine receptors to mediate antinociception. *PLoS ONE.* 2009; 4:e4248. [PubMed: 19158948]
8. Michael S, Auld D, Klumpp C, Jadhav A, Zheng W, Thorne N, Austin CP, Inglese J, Simeonov A. A robotic platform for quantitative high-throughput screening. *Assay Drug Dev Technol.* 2008; 6:637–658. [PubMed: 19035846]
9. Zhang JH, Chung TD, Oldenburg KR. A simple statistical parameter for use in evaluation and validation of high throughput screening assays. *J Biomol Screen.* 1999; 4:67–73. [PubMed: 10838414]
10. Rittiner JE, Korboukh I, Hull-Ryde EA, Jin J, Janzen WP, Frye SV, Zylka MJ. AMP is an adenosine A(1) receptor agonist. *J Biol Chem.* 2012; 287:5301–5309. [PubMed: 22215671]
11. Dai X, Snow LD. Differential theophylline inhibition of alkaline phosphatase and 5'-ectonucleotidase of bovine milk fat globule membranes. *Int J Biochem.* 1991; 23:743–747. [PubMed: 1864447]
12. Dziembor-Gryszkiewicz E, Fikus M, Kazimierzczuk Z, Ostrowski W. Activity of human prostatic acid phosphatase toward purine 5'-phosphonucleotides. *Bull Acad Pol Sci Biol.* 1978; 26:815–821. [PubMed: 752405]
13. Waidmann O, Pleli T, Dvorak K, Baehr C, Mondorf U, Plotz G, Biondi RM, Zeuzem S, Piiper A. Inhibition of equilibrative nucleoside transporter 1 and activation of A2A adenosine receptors by 8-(4-chlorophenylthio)-modified cAMP analogs and their hydrolytic products. *J Biol Chem.* 2009; 284:32256–32263. [PubMed: 19801629]
14. Sergienko E, Su Y, Chan X, Brown B, Hurder A, Narisawa S, Millan JL. Identification and characterization of novel tissue-nonspecific alkaline phosphatase inhibitors with diverse modes of action. *J Biomol Screen.* 2009; 14:824–837. [PubMed: 19556612]

15. Zimmermann H. Prostatic acid phosphatase and a neglected ectonucleotidase. *Purinergic Signal.* 2009; 5:273–275. [PubMed: 19322680]

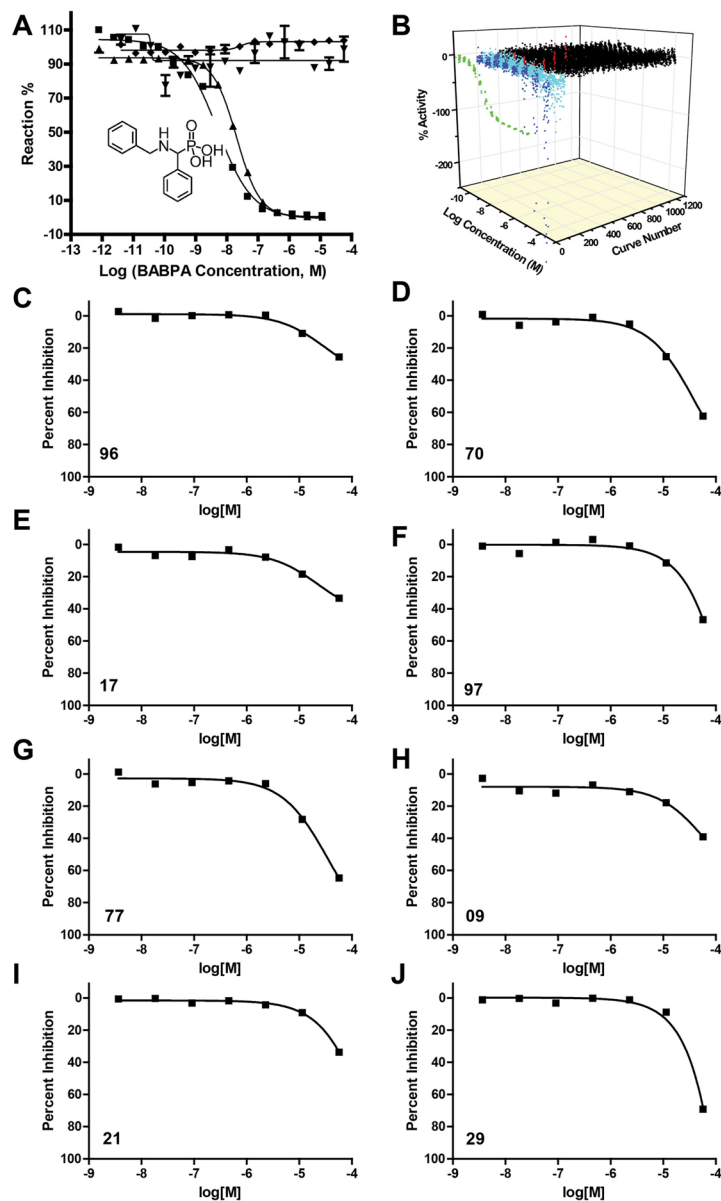


Figure 1. Primary screen to identify PAP inhibitors

(A) BABPA inhibits mouse and human secretory PAP. Dose response curves were generated for BABPA (see inset for structure) with hPAP (square), mPAP (triangle), pAP (inverted triangle), and ALP (diamond) using the miniaturized fluorogenic assay. BABPA inhibited hPAP ($IC_{50} = 4.97$ nM) and mPAP ($IC_{50} = 20.6$ nM). (B) Cumulative results of the screen: compounds were categorized as autofluorescent false inhibitor compounds (blue), potential inhibitors (cyan), potential activators (red), and inactives (black). BABPA control (green) was added as a dilution series within each screening plate. Dose response curves are shown for the 8 inhibitors detected in the primary screen: (C) 96, (D) 70, (E) 17, (F) 97, (G) 77, (H) 9, (I) 21, and (J) 29.

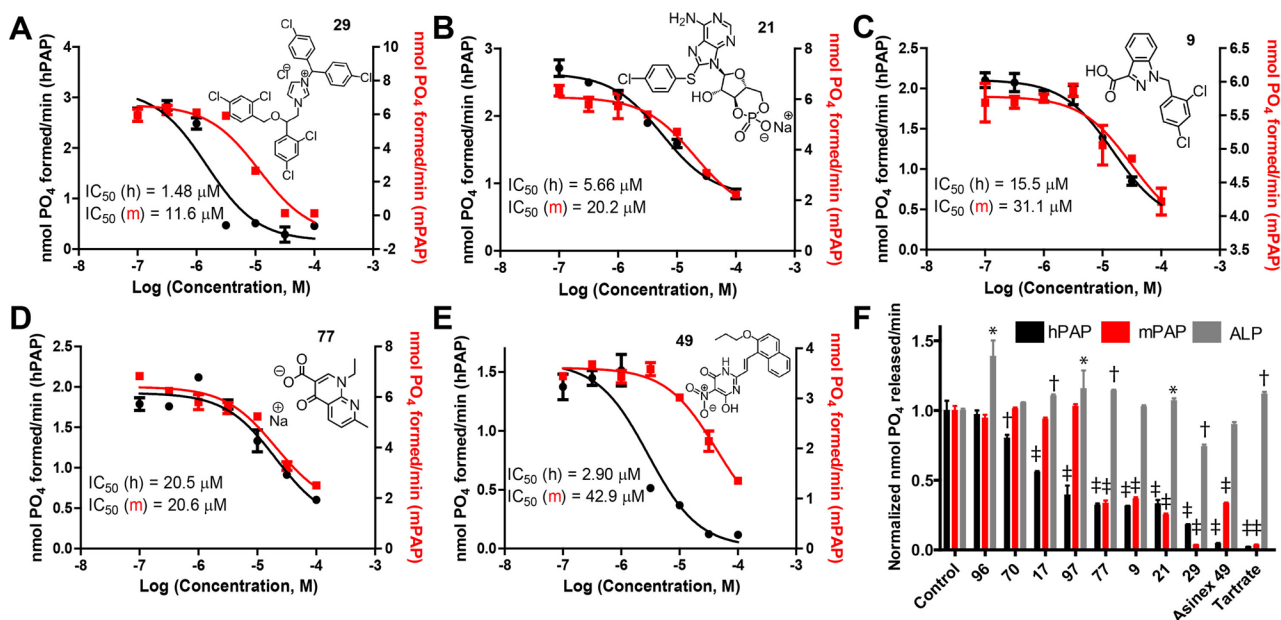


Figure 2. Dose response curves for screen-identified inhibitors in an orthogonal 5'-AMP hydrolysis assay

(A) Calmidazolium chloride [29], (B) pCPT-cAMP [21], (C) lonidamine [9], (D) nalidixic acid [77], and (E) Asinex 49 dose-dependently inhibit 5'-AMP (0.4 mM and 1 mM) hydrolysis by hPAP (black) and mPAP (red), respectively, at pH 7.0. Inorganic phosphate was detected using malachite green. The structure and IC₅₀ of each compound is shown (insets). (F) Normalized inhibition observed for each compound at 100 μM towards hPAP, mPAP and ALP with the exception of L-(+)-tartrate, which was used at 10 mM. CP-55940 [96], quercetin [70], 1-(4-chlorobenzyl)-5-methoxy-2-methylindole-3-acetic acid [17], and myricetin [97] did not inhibit mPAP. Data were normalized to enzyme control minus inhibitor and analyzed using Student's t-test *p<0.05; †p<0.01; ‡p<0.001.

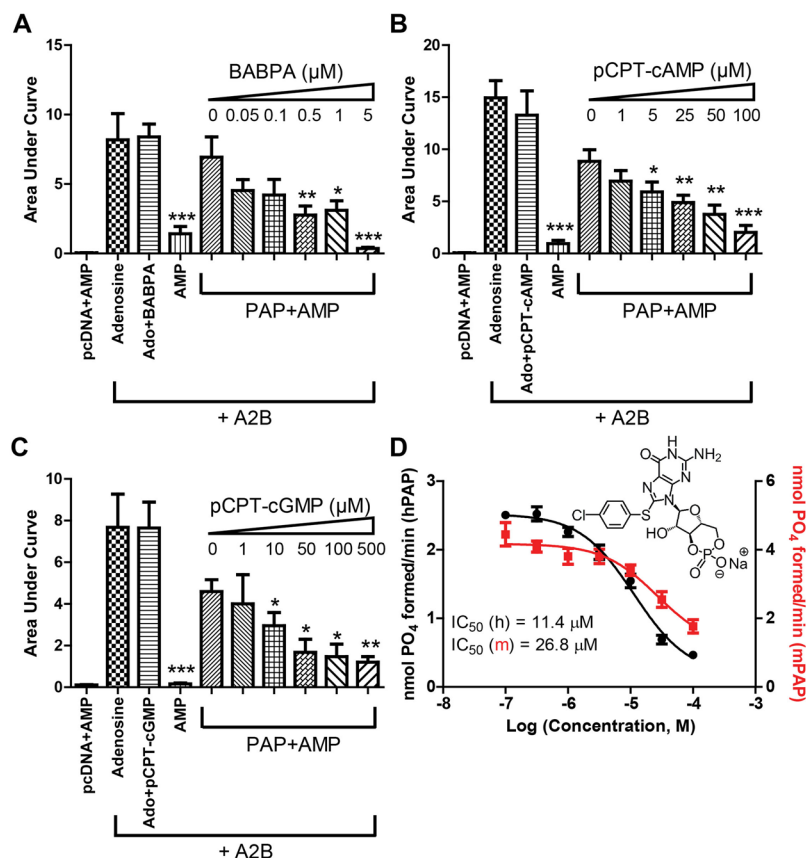

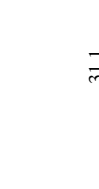


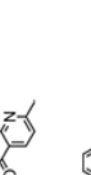



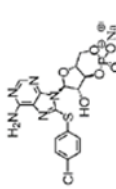
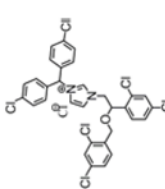
Figure 3. Dose responses for BABPA, pCPT-cAMP and pCPT-cGMP in a cell-based calcium mobilization assay

(A) BABPA, (B) pCPT-cAMP [21], and (C) pCPT-cGMP dose-dependently inhibited transmembrane PAP-mediated hydrolysis of 5'-AMP in a calcium mobilization assay. Calcium mobilization in HEK293 cells expressing hA_{2B} + Gα_{q-s5} ± transmembrane PAP and stimulated with either 1 mM adenosine or 1 mM AMP. Cells were pre-incubated with 10 μM αβ-met-ADP for 3 min, which was maintained throughout the experiment. Adenosine (1 mM) response was assessed in the presence of 100 μM pCPT-cAMP, 5 μM BABPA, or 500 μM pCPT-cGMP. AUC measurements were obtained for 1 min from agonist addition. All experiments were performed in triplicate. (D) pCPT-cGMP dose-dependently inhibited 5'-AMP hydrolysis by secretory hPAP (black) and mPAP (red), respectively, at pH 7.0. Inorganic phosphate was detected using malachite green. The structure and IC₅₀ values are shown (insets). All experiments were performed in triplicate. n=22–77 cells per condition. All data are presented as mean ± s.e.m.

Table 1

IC₅₀ and max response for eight candidate inhibitors against hPAP, mPAP, pPAP and ALP in the fluorogenic and 5'-AMP hydrolysis assays (all *in vitro*).

NCGC ID/Chemical Name	Compound	hPAP			mPAP			ALP			pPAP
		Fluorogenic Assay IC ₅₀ (μM)	5'-AMP Hydrolysis IC ₅₀ (μM)	Fluorogenic Assay IC ₅₀ (μM)	Fluorogenic Assay IC ₅₀ (μM)	5'-AMP Hydrolysis IC ₅₀ (μM)	Fluorogenic Assay IC ₅₀ (μM)	5'-AMP Hydrolysis IC ₅₀ (μM)	Fluorogenic Assay IC ₅₀ (μM)		
NCGC00024896-04 CP-55940 [96]		31.6	Inactive	15.8	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	39.8	
NCGC00015870-16 Quercetin [70]		31.6	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	
NCGC00015217-04 1-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-5-methoxy-2-methylindole-3-acetic acid [17]		39.8	46.3	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	
NCGC00015697-10 Myricetin [97]		44.7	26.5	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	
NCGC00016177-03 Nalidixic acid sodium [77]		28.2	20.5	2.8	20.6	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	
NCGC00015609-05 Lonidamine [9]		50.1	15.5	Inactive	31.1	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	

NCGC ID/Chemical Name	Compound	hPAP		mPAP		ALP		pAP	
		Fluorogenic Assay IC ₅₀ (μM)	5'-AMP Hydrolysis IC ₅₀ (μM)	Fluorogenic Assay IC ₅₀ (μM)	5'-AMP Hydrolysis IC ₅₀ (μM)	Fluorogenic Assay IC ₅₀ (μM)	5'-AMP Hydrolysis IC ₅₀ (μM)	Fluorogenic Assay IC ₅₀ (μM)	5'-AMP Hydrolysis IC ₅₀ (μM)
NCGC00093721-02 8-(4-Chlorophenyl thio)-cAMP sodium [21]		39.8	5.66	35.5	20.2	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive
NCGC00093729-02 Calmidazolium chloride [29]		44.7	1.48	39.8	11.6	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive

Inactive compounds have IC₅₀ > 100 μM.