

Research Article

In-vitro Cytotoxicity Assay of Quinoxalines

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ABSTRACT

Major objective of work is in-vitro cytotoxicity assay of newly synthesized compounds and estimated deaths due to the cancer in human beings in US. Current manuscript also provides the chemotherapy of cancer with highly active and safe anti-cancer synthesized quinoxaline compounds and their *in-vitro* assay at National Cancer Institute (NCI). A series of new quinoxaline derivatives 3 (a-h) has been prepared. The newly synthesized compounds were further evaluated in the National Cancer Institute for their *in-vitro* cytotoxicity assay. Among them compound 3h has been show highest activity against Leukemia RPMI-8226 cell lines (GI₅₀: 1.11 μM) as compared to other tested compounds. It is to be noted that compound 3e has been show significant activity against cancer cell lines. (GI₅₀: 1.11 μM). We conclude that the ongoing studies of targeted agents in conjunction with chemotherapy will show whether there are alternative option for new and safer medicine for cancer in future as well as opens the new doors in era of cancer research.

KEYWORDS

Quinoxaline, Cytotoxicity, NCI, *In-vitro* assay, DTP.

1. INTRODUCTION

Cancer is a major public health problem in the United States and many other parts of the world. Currently, one in four deaths in the United States is due to the cancer. In given manuscript, we provides the expected numbers of new cancer cases and deaths in 2011, as well as an overview of some new synthetic quinoxaline compounds and its anticancer activity. Table 1 has been show the expected number of deaths from cancer projected for 2011 for men, women, and both sexes combined. It is estimated that about 571,950 Americans will die from cancer, corresponding to more than 1500 deaths per day. Cancers of the lung, bronchus, prostate, colorectum in men and cancers of the lung, bronchus, breast and colorectum in womens continue to be the most common causes of death (Siegel, Ward, Brawley, Jemal, 2006). So it's a moral responsibility of every budding researcher's to go for a development of a new and safer anticancer drugs which can be save the life of maximum in future. On the behalf of a social benefit we provides the expected numbers of new synthesized quinoxaline compounds as well as their glamorous anticancer activity against 60 cell line panel under the Developmental Therapeutic Programme (DTP) at National Cancer Institute (NCI, USA), by keeping in mind that the medicinal importance of quinoxaline moiety and its contribution to this era of research give a ray of hope to the patients suffering from cancer worldwide.

Table1. Estimated New Cancer Cases and Deaths by Sex, United States, 2011

Sites	ESTIMATED NEW CASES			ESTIMATED DEATHS		
	BOTH SEXES	MALE	FEMALE	BOTH SEXES	MALE	FEMALE
Leukemia	44600	25320	19280	21780	12740	9040
Acute lymphocytic leukemia	5730	3320	2410	1420	780	640
Chronic lymphocytic leukemia	14570	8520	6050	4380	2660	1720
Acute myeloid leukemia	12950	6830	6120	9050	5440	3610
Chronic myeloid leukemia	5150	3000	2150	270	100	170
Lung & bronchus Cancer	221130	115060	106070	156940	85600	71340
Colon Cancer	101340	48940	52400	49380	25250	24130

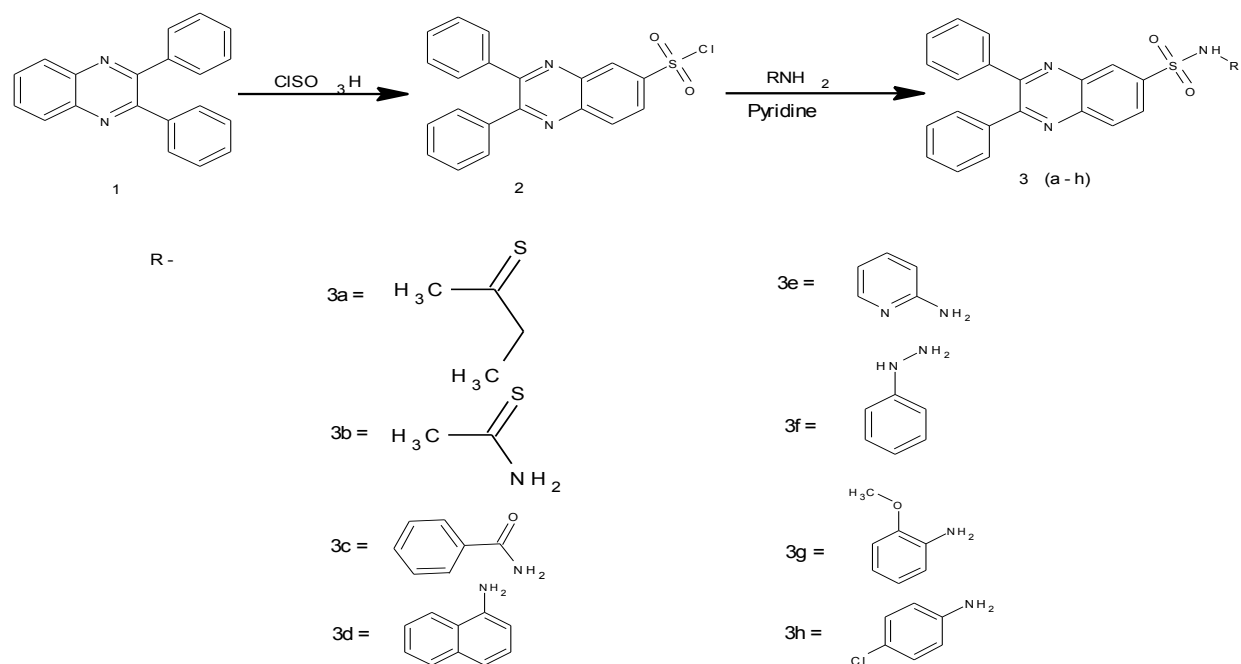
CNS Cancer	22340	12260	10080	13110	7440	5670
Melanoma- skin	70230	40010	30220	8,790	5,750	3,040
Ovarian Cancer	21990	-	21990	15460	-	15460
Kidney & renal pelvis Cancer	60,920	37,120	23,800	13,120	8,270	4,850
Prostate Cancer	240,890	240,890	-	33,720	33,720	-
Breast Cancer	232620	2,140	230,480	39,970	450	39,520

Quinoxalines are attractive chemical candidates in medicinal chemistry due to their ability to generate biological responses in their interaction with several biological targets. They have been shown to have antiviral (Rong, Chow, Yan, Larson, Hong, Wu, 2007), herbicidal (Li, Wu, Cui, Xiang, Bai, Yang, 2006) and anti-inflammatory action (Burguete, Pontiki, Hadjipavlou-Litina, 2007). Recent investigations reveal the pharmacological potential of quinoxalines as anticancer agents (Levitzki, 2003).

2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A series of new quinoxaline derivatives 3 (a-h) has been prepared. The newly synthesized compounds 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g and 3h were further evaluated in the National Cancer Institute for *in-vitro* cytotoxicity assay. Among them compound 3e has shown the highest activity against Leukemia RPMI-8226 cell lines (GI_{50} : 1.11 μ M) as compared to other tested compounds. It is to be noted that compound 3h has shown significant activity against cancer cell lines. (GI_{50} : 1.11 μ M)

The synthesis of compounds 3 (a-h) is given in Scheme-1. The derivatives were characterized by spectral studies and confirmed to the structures.



Scheme 1. Reaction scheme for the synthesis of target compounds 3(a-h).

The *in vitro* anticancer screening at NCI is a two-stage process, beginning with the evaluation of all compounds against the 60 cell lines at a single dose of 10 μM . The output from the single dose screen is reported as a mean graph and is available for analysis by the COMPARE programme. Compounds which exhibit significant growth inhibition are evaluated against the 60 cell panel at five concentration levels as shown in table 2. The human tumor cell lines of the cancer screening panel are grown in RPMI 1640 medium containing 5 % fetal bovine serum and 2 mM L-glutamine. For a typical screening experiment, cells are inoculated into 96 well microtiter plates in 100 μL at plating densities ranging from 5,000 to 40,000 cells/well depending on

the doubling time of individual cell lines. After cell inoculation, the microtiter plates are incubated at 37 $^\circ\text{C}$, 5% CO_2 , 95 % air and 100% relative humidity for 24 h prior to addition of experimental drugs.

After 24 h, two plates of each cell line are fixed *in situ* with TCA, to represent a measurement of the cell population for each cell line at the time of drug addition (T_z). Experimental drugs are solubilized in dimethyl sulfoxide at 400 fold the desired final maximum test concentration and stored frozen prior to use. At the time of drug addition, an aliquot of frozen concentrate is thawed and diluted to twice the desired final maximum test concentration with complete medium containing 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ gentamycin. Additional four, 10-fold or $\frac{1}{2}$ log serial dilutions are made to provide a total of five drug concentrations plus control. Aliquots of 100 μl of these different drug dilutions are added to the appropriate microtiter wells already containing 100 μl of medium, resulting in the required final drug concentrations.

Following the drug addition, the plates are incubated for an additional 48 h at 37 $^\circ\text{C}$, 5% CO_2 , 95% air, and 100% relative humidity. For adherent cells, the assay is terminated by the addition of cold TCA. Cells are fixed *in situ* by the gentle addition of 50 μl of cold 50% (w/v) TCA (final

concentration, 10% TCA) and incubated for 60 minutes at 4 °C. The supernatant is discarded, and the plates are washed five times with tap water and air dried. Sulforhodamine B (SRB) solution (100 µl) at 0.4% (w/v) in 1% acetic acid is added to each well, and plates are incubated for 10 minutes at room temperature. After staining, unbound dye is removed by washing five times with 1% acetic acid and the plates are air dried. Bound stain is subsequently solubilized with 10 mM trizma base, and the absorbance is read on an automated plate reader at a wavelength of 515 nm. For suspension cells, the methodology is the same except that the assay is terminated by fixing settled cells at the bottom of the wells by gently adding 50 µl of 80% TCA (final concentration, 16% TCA). Using the seven absorbance measurements [time zero, (Tz), control growth, (C), and test growth in the presence of drug at the five concentration levels (Ti)], the percentage growth is calculated at each of the drug concentrations levels. Percentage growth inhibition is calculated as:

$$[(Ti-Tz)/(C-Tz)] \times 100 \text{ for concentrations for which } Ti \geq Tz$$

$$[(Ti-Tz)/Tz] \times 100 \text{ for concentrations for which } Ti < Tz.$$

Three dose response parameters are calculated for each experimental agent. Growth inhibition of 50% (GI₅₀) is calculated from $[(Ti-Tz)/(C-Tz)] \times 100 = 50$, which is the drug concentration resulting in a 50% reduction in the net protein increase (as measured by SRB staining) in control cells during the drug incubation. The drug concentration resulting in total growth inhibition (TGI) is calculated from $Ti = Tz$. The LC₅₀ (concentration of drug resulting in a 50% reduction in the measured protein at the end of the drug treatment as compared to that at the beginning) indicating a net loss of cells following treatment is calculated from $[(Ti-Tz)/Tz] \times 100 = -50$. Values are calculated for each of these three parameters if the level of activity is reached; however, if the effect is not reached or is exceeded, the value for that parameter is expressed as greater or less than the maximum or minimum concentration tested. (Alley, Scudierom, Monks, Hursey, Czerwinski, Fine, Abbott, Mayo, Shoemaker, Boyd, 1998), (Grever, Schepartz, Chabner, 1992), (Boyd and Paull, 1995)

Table 2: Percentage growth inhibition (GI %) of in vitro subpanel tumor cell lines at 10₋₅ mM (Single Dose Assay).

Compound Code →	NSC:763437	NSC:763438	NSC:763442	NSC:763441	NSC:763440	NSC:763439	NSC:763435	NSC :763 436
Cancer Line ↓	Cell							
Leukemia								
CCRF-CEM	41.34	58.32	61.94	49.84	32.64	70.73	35.83	24.82
HL-60(TB)	49.43	70.98	66.73	60.73	39.92	80.72	40.63	35.26
K-562	45.75	49.56	55.63	45.52	34.92	64.42	34.82	26.83
MOLT-4	44.86	47.78	60.82	56.93	35.52	86.83	28.12	20.54
RPMI-8226	58.54	44.34	86.04	65.72	47.78	89.93	46.37	39.62
SR	71.12	81.12	88.12	81.92	53.78	-3.25	49.98	40.95
Non-Small Cell Lung								

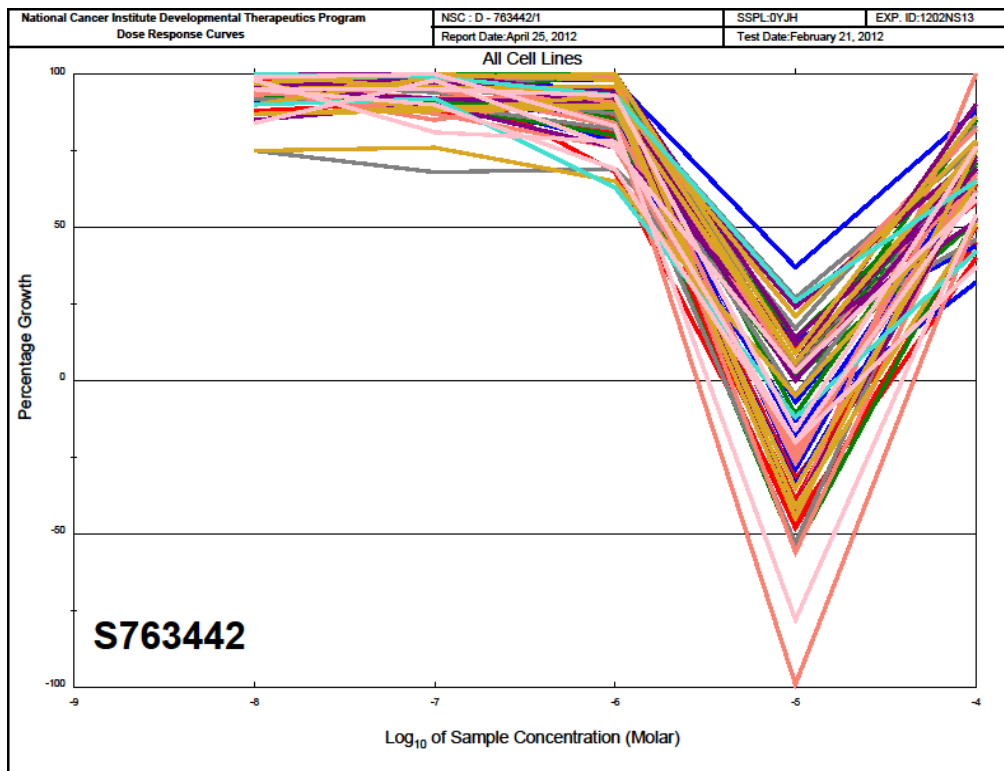
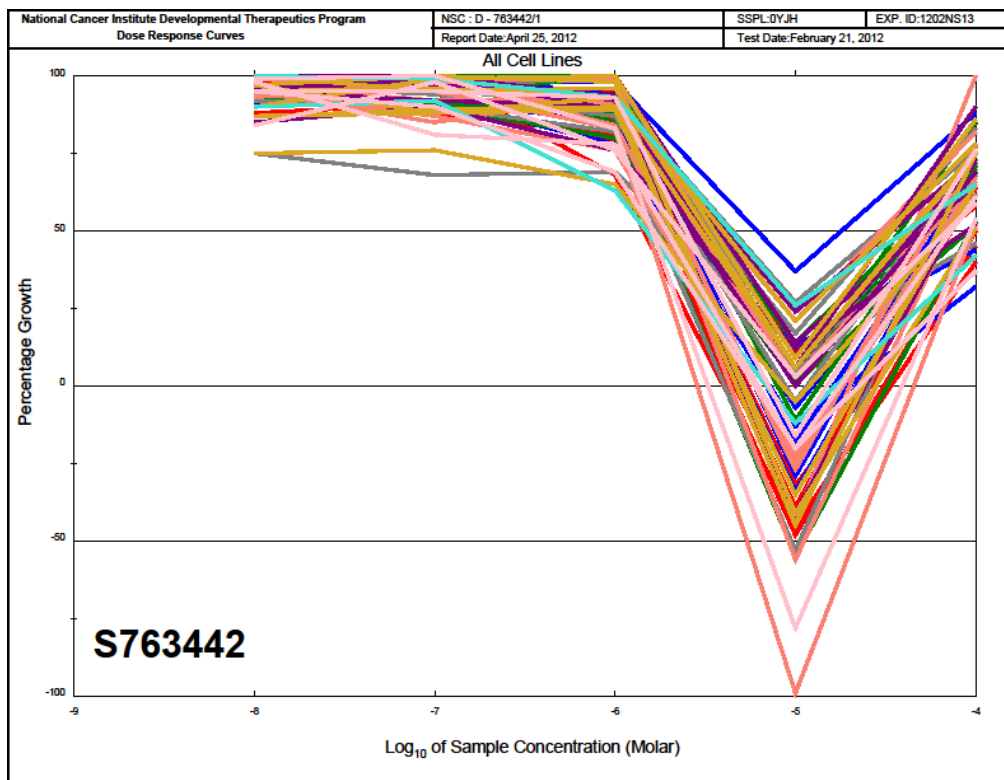
Cancer								
A549/ATCC	21.12	15.34	41.93	36.45	17.57	54.67	34.72	7.74
EKVX	26.54	71.23	57.83	48.82	30.57	80.82	23.72	8.53
HOP-62	2.87	2.24	12.83	2.12	2.52	22.76	38.73	2.84
NCI-H226	61.97	43.97	-2.45	69.93	59.84	-1.38	52.93	53.64
NCI-H23	19.56	21.34	26.64	23.03	16.56	46.52	11.62	11.67
NCI-H322M	20.87	22.23	32.82	23.23	10.77	59.42	2.92	17.83
NCI-H460	31.97	23.56	47.12	45.54	26.63	63.42	15.63	8.63
NCI-H522	23.54	47.82	50.83	28.82	18.67	65.63	13.74	3.73
Colon Cancer								
COLO 205	19.54	27.87	26.64	28.94	12.67	54.23	4.83	4.64
HCC-2998	15.32	4.56	37.92	19.92	1.83	60.63	8.92	6.23
HCT-116	36.67	49.87	59.62	55.72	36.56	72.12	17.83	14.53
HCT-15	44.94	34.34	44.72	44.72	32.53	62.43	29.92	26.21
HT 29	48.43	82.45	70.43	63.92	39.61	81.72	30.82	21.46
KM 12	20.98	29.92	38.74	8.62	6.93	61.52	15.92	16.75
SW-620	17.43	26.78	30.32	21.54	13.56	47.92	3.72	3.84
CNS Cancer								
SF-268	6.89	2.78	14.12	23.82	1.63	27.63	2.92	1.86
SF-295	20.98	3.88	40.73	15.92	14.52	76.83	8.92	5.83
SF-539	3.89	5.57	25.93	24.72	7.76	61.92	21.72	3.29
SNB-19	21.98	9.78	31.93	41.92	16.52	43.63	14.82	2.12
SNB-75	34.67	39.88	45.12	31.93	29.64	61.82	25.63	26.85
U251	21.56	7.23	39.45	ND	15.62	56.53	26.82	10.32
Melanoma								
LOX IMVI	20.54	32.87	38.42	23.34	15.34	63.32	11.23	12.23
MALME-3M	7.67	9.98	6.64	1.87	2.94	32.85	2.94	2.85
M14	2.45	2.23	30.96	25.98	4.84	62.84	4.23	2.85
MDA-MB-435	12.89	20.45	35.63	22.53	7.72	54.24	11.13	4.73
SK-MEL-2	15.84	14.87	23.93	24.97	2.94	39.29	7.94	8.53
SK-MEL-28	7.63	5.98	14.64	12.67	4.26	30.29	6.93	1.73
SK-MEL-5	48.93	48.56	73.95	61.42	42.28	-6.25	39.13	28.93
UACC-257	15.24	21.66	17.85	18.87	1.94	42.45	8.83	2.23
UACC-62	19.65	28.86	30.56	23.42	30.23	41.13	24.34	20.72
Ovarian Cancer								
IGROV1	16.54	1.78	20.83	11.78	1.84	31.82	8.83	14.84
OVCAR-3	19.25	30.88	28.84	13.46	2.86	48.92	1.84	1.94
OVCAR-4	16.53	31.23	30.28	29.98	17.25	40.12	16.54	13.43
OVCAR-5	8.43	2.98	18.28	12.73	5.94	24.34	4.85	2.84
OVCAR-8	8.02	20.56	34.84	24.12	4.27	52.75	5.83	3.93
NCI/ADR-RES	27.53	22.62	55.21	40.98	13.26	73.20	11.88	8.63
SK-OV-3	12.83	5.86	18.48	18.63	2.37	44.93	5.98	4.85
Renal Cancer								
786-0	16.54	4.34	66.93	41.54	25.74	99.23	2.34	2.83
A-498	42.22	31.85	44.29	42.83	33.38	70.23	26.75	22.73
ACHN	11.84	21.89	23.93	13.12	7.63	34.34	01.83	16.62
CAKI-1	7.22	3.34	33.93	23.87	3.23	54.12	2.94	5.83
RXF-393	39.12	48.64	98.83	70.66	30.27	-40.38	29.24	14.53
SN 12C	17.43	8.87	26.93	32.65	10.45	38.49	6.98	2.83
TK-10	2.54	6.34	2.84	1.26	1.25	30.23	2.74	6.93
UO-31	15.23	17.86	29.25	22.84	2.23	45.23	13.73	10.63
Prostate Cancer								
PC-3	41.85	41.76	60.03	52.82	34.43	72.19	34.64	33.93
DU-145	6.85	10.87	24.38	18.85	3.74	37.43	2.73	2.63

Breast Cancer								
MCF7	22.94	22.97	47.74	31.84	18.75	65.94	18.93	11.84
MDA-MB-231/ATCC	28.54	38.66	54.28	48.28	30.54	80.12	17.63	14.78
HS 578T	16.97	23.97	37.54	33.23	27.23	76.34	6.63	20.84
BT -549	7.67	32.56	77.75	55.13	35.65	80.25	1.83	2.74
T-47D	57.45	49.43	72.13	63.94	50.93	81.12	42.62	40.64
MDA-MB-468	40.23	54.87	76.75	56.83	35.13	-4.67	30.83	23.66

2.1. *In-vitro* 5 dose full NCI 60 cell panel assay

All the cell lines (about 60), representing nine tumor subpanels, were incubated at five different concentrations (0.01, 0.1, 1, 10 & 100 μ M). The outcomes were used to create log concentration Vs % growth inhibition curves and three response parameters (GI_{50} , TGI and LC_{50}) were calculated for each cell line. The GI_{50} value (growth inhibitory activity) corresponds to the concentration of the compound causing 50% decrease in net cell growth, the TGI value (cytostatic activity) is the concentration of the compound resulting in total growth inhibition and LC_{50} value (cytotoxic activity) is the concentration of the compound causing net 50% loss of initial cells at the end of the incubation period of 48 h.

Compound **3h** (NSC: 763442) exhibited high activity against Leukemia HL-60 (GI_{50} : 2.09 μ M) and RPMI-8226 cell lines (GI_{50} : 1.43 μ M); Non Small Cell Lung Cancer HOP-62 (GI_{50} : 3.95 μ M) and HOP-92 cell line (GI_{50} : 2.03 μ M); CNS Cancer SNB-75 cell line (GI_{50} : 2.12 μ M); Prostate Cancer PC-3 cell line (GI_{50} : 1.47 μ M) and Breast T-47D Cancer cell line (GI_{50} : 1.62 μ M) as shown in Fig. 1, 2 and 3. Similarly compound under investigation **3e** (NSC: 763439) exhibited significant anticancer activity against most of the tested cell lines representing nine different subpanels with GI_{50} values between 1.11 – 4.54 μ M and found to be potential candidate of the series as shown in Fig. 4, 5 and 6. With regards to the sensitivity against some individual cell lines the compound **3h** shown highest activity against Leukemia RPMI-8226 cell lines (GI_{50} : 1.11 μ M) and least against Non Small Cell Lung Cancer HOP-62 cell line (GI_{50} : 4.54 μ M). It is to be noted that compound **3h** shows significant activity (GI_{50} : 1.11 μ M) as compared to the High Throughput Screening (HTS) hit identified by Porter and Collaborator with IC_{50} = 1.3 Mm [23]. Toxicity is measured in terms of lethality; both compounds are not lethal and safe in nature as it is obvious by examining the LC_{50} value as shown in Fig. 1 and 4.



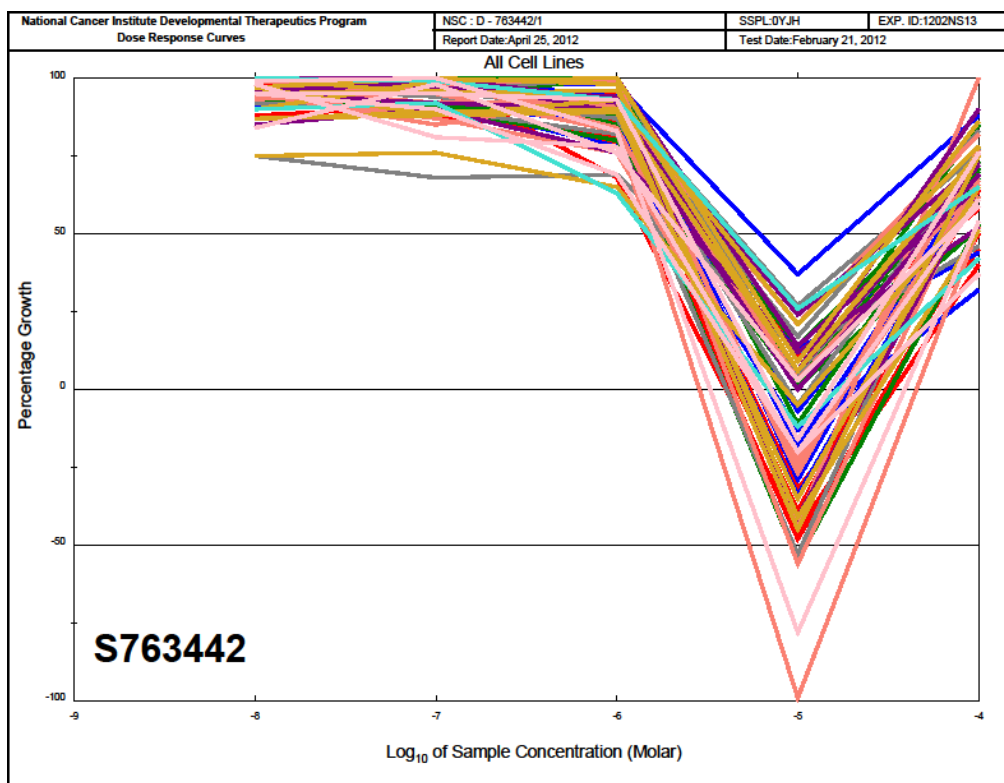


Figure 2. Dose response curves of compound **3f** (NSC: 763442) against all cancer cell lines at five dose assay level.

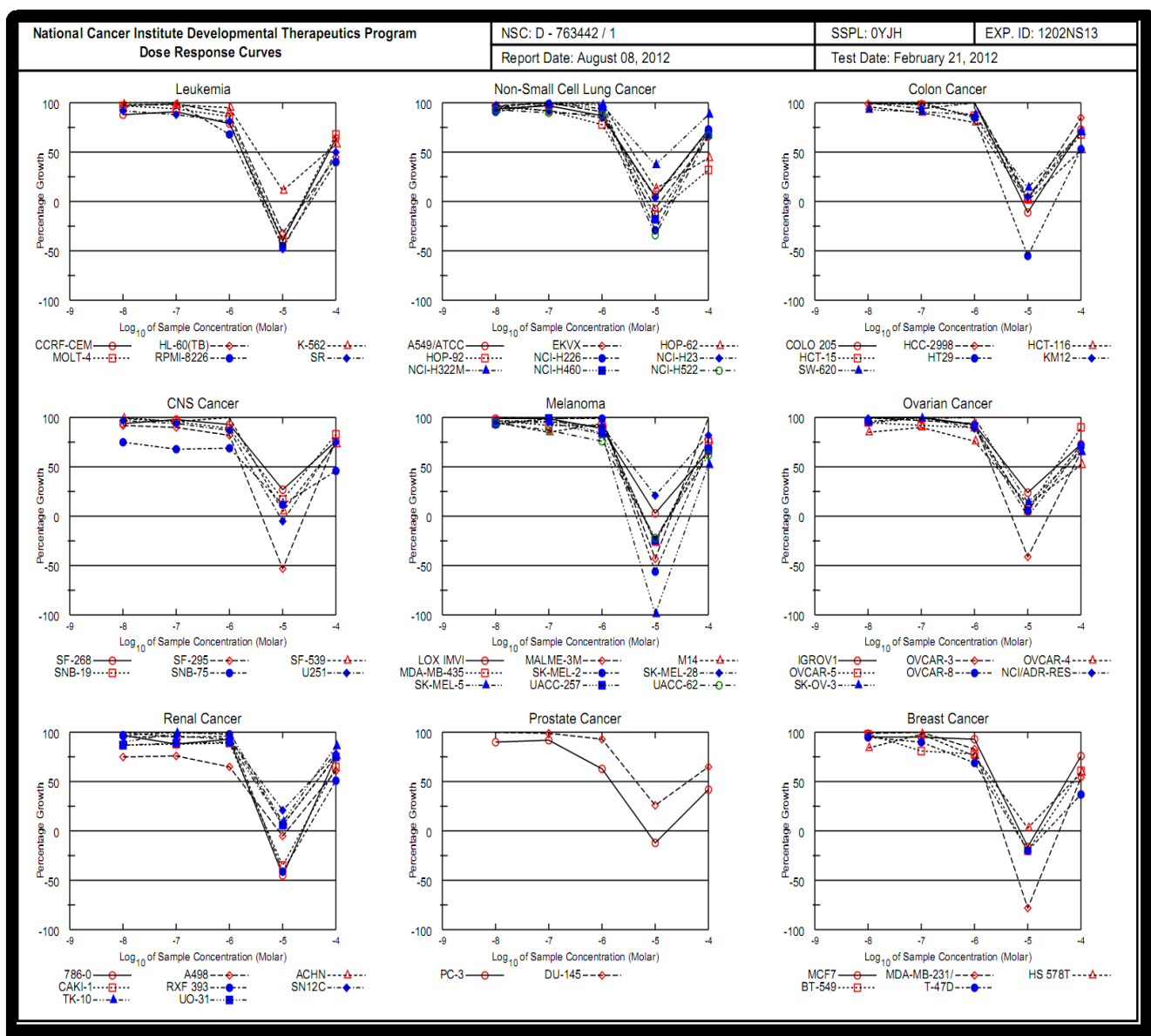


Figure 3. Five dose assay graph of compound 3f (NSC: 763442) against nine panel cancer cell

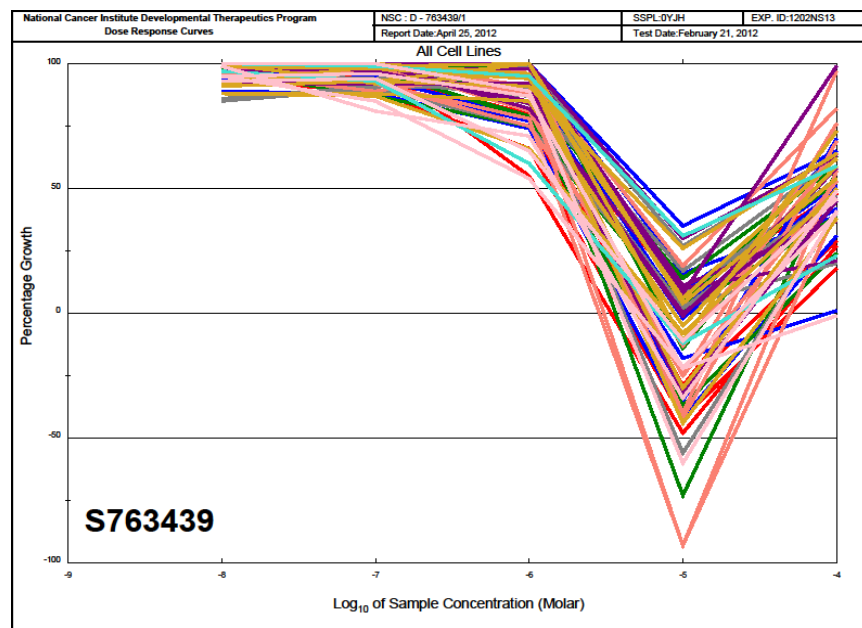


Figure 5. Dose response curves of compound 31 (NSC: 763439) against all cancer cell lines at five dose assay level

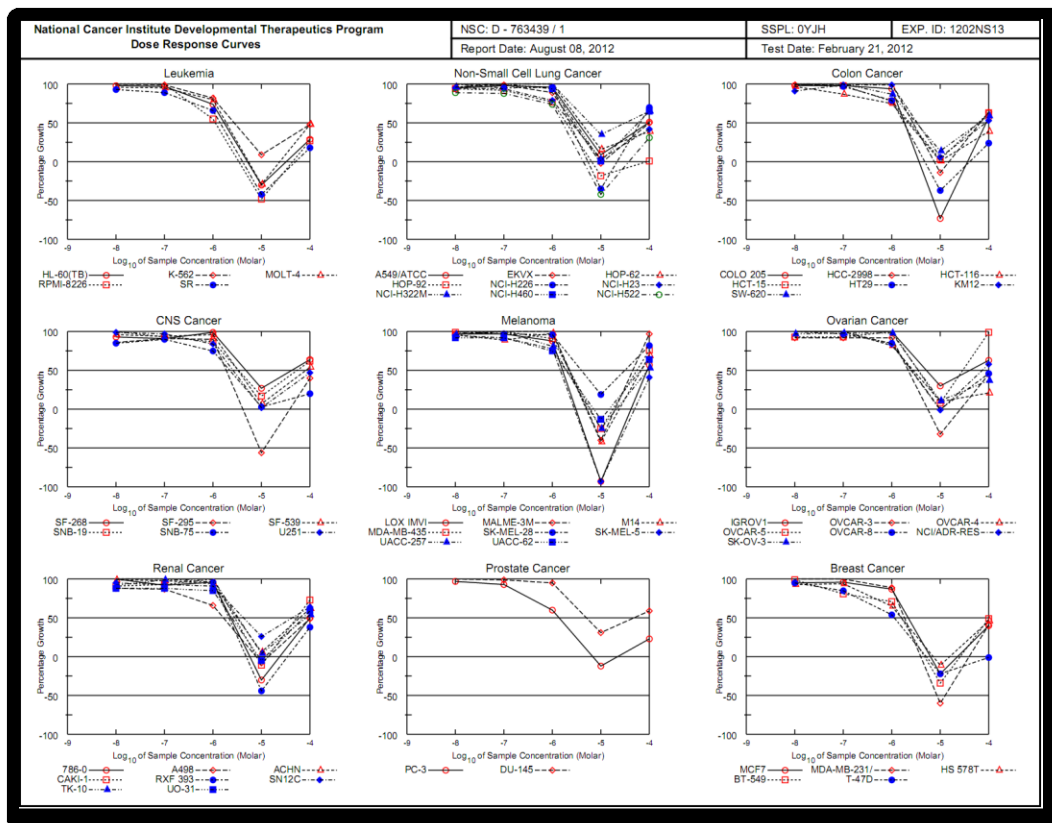


Figure 6. Five dose assay graph of compound 31 (NSC: 763439) against nine panel cancer cell line at NCI.

3. CONCLUSION

A new series of sulphonamido-quinoxalines **3** (**a-h**) were synthesized. All of these derivatives, compounds **3a** (NSC:763435), **3b**(NSC:763436), **3c** (NSC: 763437), **3d** (NSC:763438), **3e** (NSC:763439), **3f** (NSC:763440), **3g** (NSC:763441) and **3h** (NSC:763442) were tested at a single dose of 10^{-5} M concentration at the NCI over 60 cell line panel, and compounds **3e** and **3h** were subsequently tested in 5-dose testing mode. These encouraging results of biological screening of the tested compounds could offer an excellent framework in this field that may lead to discovery of potent antitumor agent.

We conclude that the ongoing studies of targeted agents in conjunction with chemotherapy will show whether there are alternative option for new and safer medicine for cancer in future which may decline the ongoing incidence of deaths due to the cancer.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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