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## Structure-Activity Relationship Study of Subtype-Selective Positive Modulators of K<sub>Ca</sub>2 Channels

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## Abstract

A series of modified *N*-cyclohexyl-2-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methylpyrimidin-4-amine (CyPPA) analogs were synthesized by replacing the cyclohexane moiety with different 4-substituted cyclohexane rings, tyrosine analogs, or mono- and dihalophenyl rings, and were subsequently studied for their potentiation of  $K_{Ca}^2$  channel activity. Among the *N*-benzene-*N*-[2-(3,5-dimethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methyl-4-pyrimidinamine derivatives, halogen decoration at positions 2 and 5 of benzene-substituted 4-pyrimidineamine in compound **2q** conferred ~10-fold higher potency, while halogen substitution at positions 3 and 4 of benzene-substituted 4-pyrimidineamine in compound **20** conferred ~7-fold higher potency on potentiating  $K_{Ca}^2$ .2a

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Author Contributions

N.S.E. undertook chemical synthesis. Y.W.N. and G.Y. undertook molecular biology and cell culture studies. Y.W.N., R.O., M.A.R, and M.Z. undertook *in vitro* electrophysiology studies of  $K_{Ca}2.x/K_{Ca}3.1$  channels. H.M.N. and H.W. undertook *in vitro* electrophysiology studies of  $K_{Ca}1.1$  and  $Na_v1.2$  channels. P.A.E. undertook *ex vivo* electrophysiology studies. K.P. supervised the synthesis and structure-activity relationship studies. M.Z., N.S., I.B. and K.P. wrote the manuscript. All authors contributed to the Figures. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Supporting Information

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and representative HPLC profiles of the compounds are provided. Molecular Formula Strings are included. Supporting information is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

channels, compared to the parent template CyPPA. Both compounds retained the  $K_{Ca}2.2a/K_{Ca}2.3$  subtype selectivity. Based on the initial evaluation, compounds **20** and **2q** were selected for testing in an electrophysiological model of spinocerebellar ataxia type 2 (SCA2). Both compounds were able to normalize abnormal firing of Purkinje cells in cerebellar slices from SCA2 mice, suggesting the potential therapeutic usefulness of these compounds for treating symptoms of ataxia.

## **Graphical Abstract**



#### **Keywords**

chemical synthesis; ion channel; patch-clamp; positive modulator; cerebellum; ataxia

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Small-conductance  $Ca^{2+}$ -activated K<sup>+</sup> (K<sub>Ca</sub>2 or SK) channels have emerged as one of the principal ion channels involved in the pacemaking of cerebellar Purkinje cells (PCs)<sup>1</sup>. Cerebellar PCs are the primary locus of the pathology of spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA)<sup>2, 3</sup>. There are four mammalian genes identified in the *KCNN* family, including *KCNN1* encoding K<sub>Ca</sub>2.1 (SK1), *KCNN2* encoding K<sub>Ca</sub>2.2 (SK2), *KCNN3* encoding K<sub>Ca</sub>2.3 (SK3), and *KCNN4* encoding K<sub>Ca</sub>3.1 (SK4, IK) channels, respectively<sup>4</sup>. Among the K<sub>Ca</sub>2.x/K<sub>Ca</sub>3.1 channel subtypes, K<sub>Ca</sub>2.2 is the predominant subtype that is expressed in the cerebellum<sup>5–7</sup>. Loss-of-function mutations that diminish K<sub>Ca</sub>2.2 channel activity have been linked with tremor and ataxia symptoms in rodents<sup>8</sup> and humans <sup>9, 10</sup>.

For decades, significant efforts have been devoted to the development of subtype-selective positive modulators of  $K_{Ca}^2$  channels. The prototype subtype-selective positive modulator CyPPA has been previously reported to potentiate the  $K_{Ca}^2.2$  and  $K_{Ca}^2.3$ , but not the  $K_{Ca}^2.1$  and  $K_{Ca}^3.1$  channel subtypes<sup>11</sup>. The low potency of CyPPA in the micromolar range makes it unfit for clinical use. Recently, the structure of human  $K_{Ca}^3.1$  channels has been determined by cryogenic-electron microscopy (cryo-EM)<sup>12</sup>. These full-length structures, including the transmembrane domains are better tools for structure-aided drug discovery than the crystal structure of the cytoplasmic domain<sup>13</sup>.

We generated a homology model of the  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channel using the  $K_{Ca}3.1$  channel cryo-EM structure in the presence of  $Ca^{2+}$  (PDB: 6cnn)<sup>14</sup>. The  $K_{Ca}2$  channels can form homotetramers in complex with four of the  $Ca^{2+}$ -binding protein calmodulin (CaM). The

C-lobe of CaM is associated with the channel alpha subunits at the HA/HB helices. With combined computational, site-directed mutagenesis and electrophysiology approaches, we identified a pocket for CyPPA between the HA/HB helices and the C-lobe of  $CaM^{15}$ .

After elucidating the CyPPA-channel interactions from the perspective of the drug target, here we discuss the synthesis and evaluation of a new series of CyPPA analogs. Considering the largely hydrophobic nature of the pocket between the CaM C-lobe and the HA/HB helices <sup>15</sup>, we evaluated the impact of replacing the cyclohexane moiety in CyPPA with different 4-substitued cyclohexyl rings, tyrosine analogs, mono and dihalogen and other substituted phenyl rings. Changing the position of the attached pyrazole and replacing it with an oxazolyl or imidazolyl ring, as well as substitutions of the pyrimidine ring with a pyridazine ring were also studied. A number of newly developed compounds demonstrated the ability to potentiate activity of  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels while retaining the  $K_{Ca}2.2a/K_{Ca}2.3$  subtype selectivity, and to normalize firing of cerebellar PCs in the model of spinocerebellar ataxia type 2 (SCA2).

## 2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 2.1. Chemistry

The chemical structure of the template, CyPPA is shown in Table 1. Scheme 1 depicts the synthesis of 4-aminosubstituted analogs of 2-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1yl)-6-methylpyrimidine (**2a-f**) using 4-substituted cyclohexan-1-amine and 4-chloro-2-(3,5dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methylpyrimidine (**1a**). Compound **1a** underwent a nucleophilic substitution reaction via its reaction with the corresponding 4-substituted cyclohexan-1-amine in anhydrous *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) in the presence of *N*,*N*diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA) at room temperature to afford **2a-f** in 77-84% yield.

The reaction of **1a** with 2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethan-1-amine and tyrosine analogues under a similar condition afforded compounds **2g-j** in 72-75% yield (Scheme 1).

Scheme 2 shows the synthesis of 4-aniline substituted analogs of 2-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methylpyrimidine (**2k-v**) (47-83%) through the reaction of **1a** with different aniline derivatives in the presence of DIPEA and refluxing at 95 °C in DMF. Compound **2w** was also synthesized under the same conditions described for the synthesis of compounds **2k-v** by the reaction of **1a** and 5,6-dimethoxy-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine.

Furthermore, the impact of changing the position of the 3,5-dimethylpyrazole ring and replacing the methyl group with an amino group on the pyrimidine was investigated by replacing (**1a**) with 4-chloro-6-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)pyrimidin-2-amine (**1b**) and its coupling with different halogen-substituted aniline derivatives affording compounds **3a-g.** In the same context, the 4-amino analog of 6-chloro-2-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)pyrimidine-4-amine (**1c**) reacted with 3-chloro-4-fluoroaniline, yielding compound **4**. Likewise, compounds **5a-b**, **6a-b**, and **7** were synthesized as described in Scheme 3 from the reaction of appropriate anilino-substituted analogs of 4-chloro-6-methyl-2-(4-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)pyrimidine (**1d**), 4-(4-chloro-6-methylpyrimidin-2-yl)-2-methyloxazole (**1e**), in which the pyrazole moiety was replaced by imidazolyl (**1d**) and oxazolyl (**1e**) moieties,

or replacing the pyrimidine ring with pyridazine ring as in 3-chloro-6-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-4-methylpyridazine (**1f**).

#### 2.2. Structure-Activity Relationship

The activity of the compounds on potentiating rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels is summarized in Tables 1–5. Most of the compounds fall into five different classes. In addition to modification of the cyclohexyl moiety of CyPPA, changing the position of the pyrazole attachment and replacing it with an oxazolyl or imidazolyl ring generated significantly different compounds from a previous NeuroSearch patent <sup>16</sup>. Some of these compounds, such as **5a** and **6b** with the imidazole and oxazole ring, respectively, showed comparable potency to CyPPA. Furthermore, compound **4**, having an amino group instead of the methyl group on the pyrimidine, exhibited a potency similar to CyPPA. We also modified the central backbone of the compound, replacing the pyrimidine ring with a pyridazine ring in compound **7** that displayed comparable potency to CyPPA. The most potent compounds **20 and 2q** resulted from increasing the hydrophobicity by replacing the cyclohexyl moiety of CyPPA with a substituted phenyl moiety. Compounds **20 and 2q** with a CLogP value of 4.74 are more hydrophobic than CyPPA (CLogP = 4.07). As such, we evaluated the correlation between a number of functional group modifications and potency, as a structure-activity relationship study complementary to the previous patent<sup>16</sup>.

**2.2.1.** Optimization of the cyclohexane/phenyl moiety—We first explored the impact of adding one substituent group at C4 of the cyclohexane moiety of CyPPA with OH (2a), NH<sub>2</sub> (2b), CH<sub>2</sub>OH (2c), OCH<sub>3</sub> (2d), F (2e), and NO<sub>2</sub> (2f). The potency of the newly synthesized compounds compared to the template CyPPA was measured via inside-out patch clamp electrophysiology recordings with rat K<sub>Ca</sub>2.2a channels heterologously expressed in HEK293 cells (Figure 1A). Among these compounds, only compound 2d with the methoxy group was able to potentiate the  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channel with a drastically larger  $EC_{50}$  value of  $49.72 \pm 11.3 \ \mu\text{M}$  (n = 9), compared with the EC<sub>50</sub> value of  $7.48 \pm 1.58 \ \mu\text{M}$  for CyPPA (Figure 1B and Table 1). All other compounds were inactive on the K<sub>Ca</sub>2.2a channel. The responses induced by 10  $\mu$ M Ca<sup>2+</sup> are considered the maximal currents of the K<sub>Ca</sub>2.x channels <sup>11</sup>. To evaluate the efficacy ( $E_{max}$ ) of compounds on rat  $K_{Ca}$ 2.2a channels, the current amplitudes at -90 mV in response to a series of concentrations of compounds were normalized to that obtained at 10 µM Ca<sup>2+</sup> (I / I<sub>max</sub> (%), Figure 1C). Non-linear regression curve fitting yielded an  $E_{max}$  of 94.59  $\pm$  17.17 % (n = 9) on rat  $K_{Ca}$ 2.2a channels for compound 2d, which is comparable to the  $E_{max}$  of 85.60 ± 11.22 % (n = 8) of CyPPA (Figure 1D).

Recently, we identified the binding pocket for CyPPA between CaM C-lobe and the HA/HB helices in rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels <sup>15</sup>. The binding interface between CaM and its substrates are largely hydrophobic. As such, we replaced the cyclohexane moiety with more hydrophobic monosubstituted and disubstituted phenyl groups and decorated it with one or more electron withdrawing groups, such as trifluoromethane, nitro, carboxylic or hydrogen sulfide groups. Compounds **2k** and **2l** with a thiol or nitro substitution on the phenyl ring, respectively, were inactive (Table 4). Compound **2v**, which has carboxylic acid and fluoro substituents, did

not seem to have achieved its maximal response on rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels due to its limited solubility (Figure 2A). As such, we could not accurately calculate its  $EC_{50}$  and  $E_{max}$  values.

A single 4-trifluoromethane substituent (**2s**) did not significantly change the potency compared with CyPPA, with an EC<sub>50</sub> value of  $3.45 \pm 1.00 \ \mu\text{M}$  (n = 6) (Figures 2A and 2B). The potency of dihalogen substituted phenyl derivatives (**2n-r** and **2t**) was significantly increased compared with CyPPA (Figures 2A and 2B). Among them, compound (**2q**) potentiated rat K<sub>Ca</sub>2.2a channels with an EC<sub>50</sub> value of  $0.64 \pm 0.12 \ \mu\text{M}$  (n = 6), which is ~10-fold more potent than CyPPA. The EC<sub>50</sub> value of (**2o**) is  $0.99 \pm 0.19 \ \mu\text{M}$  (n = 6), which is ~7-fold more potent than CyPPA (Table 4). All of these compounds exhibited similar efficacy (E<sub>max</sub>) on K<sub>Ca</sub>2.2a channels as CyPPA, except for **2v** (Figure 2C and Figure 2D). Thus, improvement of potency was achieved through halogen substitutions on the phenyl ring; dihalogen substitutions at the positions 2 and 5 or 3 and 4 of the phenyl ring especially induced ~10- and ~7-fold increases in potency, respectively.

Positive modulators potentiate the activity of  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels through enhacing their apparent  $Ca^{2+}$  sensitivity<sup>11</sup>. We tested the effects of compound **20** and **2q** on the concentration-dependent activation of  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels by  $Ca^{2+}$  (Figure 2E). In the presence of compound **20** (10 µM) or **2q** (10 µM),  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels were more sensitive to  $Ca^{2+}$ , with  $EC_{50}$  values to  $Ca^{2+}$  of  $0.11 \pm 0.023 \mu$ M (n = 7) and  $0.091 \pm 0.016 \mu$ M (n = 6), respectively, compared with an  $EC_{50}$  value to  $Ca^{2+}$  of  $0.35 \pm 0.035 \mu$ M (n = 5) in the absence of positive modulators (Figure 2F).

**2.2.2. Optimization of the linker between pyrimidine and phenyl**—Compared with compounds **2a-f**, the cyclohexane was replaced with a substituted phenyl group and the amino linker between pyrimidine and phenyl moieties was extended by an ethylene in the structure of compound **2g.** Replacing a hydrogen atom in the ethylene linker of compound **2g** with an  $\alpha$ -carboxylic group, together with replacing with different substituted phenyl group afforded compound **2h-j**. Compound **2g-j** lost activity on the rat K<sub>Ca</sub>2.2a channel (Tables 2 and 3).

**2.2.3. Optimization of the pyrimidine moiety**—Since **20** achieved ~7-fold better potency than CyPPA, we used **20** as a template for further optimization of the pyrimidine moiety. First, changing the position at which the dimethyl pyrazole moiety is attached from C2 to C6 and replacing the methyl group with an amino group as in compound **1b**, resulted in a loss of activity for compounds **3a-g** on the rat K<sub>Ca</sub>2.2 channel (Table 5). Meanwhile, replacing the methyl group at C6 of the pyrimidine moiety with an amine afforded compound **4**. The replacement of pyrimidine ring with a pyridazine ring generated compound **7**. Both compounds **4** and **7** exhibited reduced potency with EC<sub>50</sub> values of  $6.59 \pm 1.55 \mu$ M and  $4.32 \pm 0.85 \mu$ M (Figures 3A and 3B), compared to compound **20**, respectively, while retaining their efficacy (Figures 3C and 3D).

**2.2.4. Optimization of the pyrazole moiety**—Compounds **20** and **2q** were used as templates for further structure optimization of the pyrazole moiety. We investigated the effect of replacing the pyrazole moiety with other five membered heterocyclic ring systems to determine whether the pyrazole ring is required for the potentiation of rat

 $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels by CyPPA. When the pyrazole ring was replaced by an imidazole ring, the resulting compounds were **5a** and **5b**. The replacement of the pyrazole ring with an oxazole afforded compounds **6a** and **6b**. Compounds **6a** exhibited lower potency than **2q** on potentiating rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels, whereas the potency of **5b** was drastically reduced compared with **2o** (Figures 4A and 4B). Compounds **5a**, **6a**, and **6b** retained their efficacy, while the  $E_{max}$  value of **5b** was decreased compared with **2o** (Figures 4C and 4D).

**2.2.5.** Channel subtype selectivity of the new compounds—As described above, 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl and 5-chloro-2-fluorophenyl disubstituted 4-aniline substituted analogs of 2-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methylpyrimidine (**2o** and **2q**) were the most potent CyPPA analogs. CyPPA selectively potentiates  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  and  $K_{Ca}2.3$ , but not  $K_{Ca}2.1$  or  $K_{Ca}3.1$  channel subtypes <sup>11</sup>. We tested whether the two newly synthesized compounds, **2o** and **2q**, retained their subtype-selectivity. Neither **2o** (Figure 5A) nor **2q** (Figure 5B) elicited significant responses from the human  $K_{Ca}2.1$  channel expressed in HEK293 cells. When compared with the responses from  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels to these two compounds, the differences became even more obvious (Figure 5C), with the  $E_{max}$  values on  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels were at ~0% (Figure 5D). Similarly, the human  $K_{Ca}3.1$  channel expressed in HEK293 cells was mostly insensitive to the two newly synthesized compounds (Figure 6A). The  $E_{max}$  value of **2o** on  $K_{Ca}3.1$  channels was 28.33 ± 17.87 % (n = 5), whereas the  $E_{max}$  values of **2q** on  $K_{Ca}3.1$  channels was  $2.02 \pm 3.16$  % (n = 10) (Figure 6B).

CyPPA has a slightly but significantly higher potency on  $K_{Ca}2.3$  channels than  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels<sup>11</sup>. We examined the effects of the two newly synthesized compounds on human  $K_{Ca}2.3$  channels (Figure 7A). Compound **20** potentiated human  $K_{Ca}2.3$  channels with an  $EC_{50}$  value of  $0.19 \pm 0.071 \ \mu$ M (n = 10), which was significantly smaller than its  $EC_{50}$  value of  $0.99 \pm 0.19 \ \mu$ M (n = 6) on the rat  $K_{Ca}2.3$  channel subtype. On the other hand, **2q** exhibited similar potency on the  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  and  $K_{Ca}2.3$  channel subtypes, with  $EC_{50}$  values of  $0.64 \pm 0.12 \ \mu$ M (n = 6) and  $0.60 \pm 0.10 \ \mu$ M (n = 9), respectively (Figure 7B). The  $E_{max}$  values of **20** and **2q** were similar between the  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  and  $K_{Ca}2.3$  channel subtypes (Figures 7C and 7D).

CyPPA inhibits the  $K_{Ca}1.1$  and  $Na_v1.2$  channels with  $IC_{50}$  values in the micromolar range <sup>11</sup>. In contrast, compounds **20** and **2q** at 100  $\mu$ M did not affect the human  $K_{Ca}1.1$ channel current expressed in HEK293 cells (Figures 8A and 8B). Compounds **20** and **2q** at 100  $\mu$ M inhibited the  $Na_v1.2$  sodium current by ~50% in N1E-115 neuroblastoma cells (expressing the mouse  $Na_v1.2$  channel) (Figures 8C and 8D). Neither **20** nor **2q** seem to have achieved the maximal response on  $Na_v1.2$  channels even at 100  $\mu$ M, in the partial concentration-response curves limited by solubility (Figures 8E). Collectively, these results suggest improved selectivity of compounds **20** and **2q** for  $K_{Ca}2.2a/K_{Ca}2.3$  over other channels.

# 2.3. Normalization of cerebellar PC firing from SCA2-58Q transgenic mice by the new compounds

The accurate firing of cerebellar Purkinje cells (PCs) is crucial for proper cerebellar functioning. In our mouse model of SCA2, aging SCA2-58Q transgenic mice, we previously observed a gradually increasing portion of PCs with highly irregular bursting activity<sup>17, 18</sup>. Consistent with our preceding results, in the current study we also observed that most PCs from 7-8 months old WT mice (97 ± 4%, n = 56 PCs) were firing tonically (examples of tonic patterns: Figures 9B *right* and 10B *right*), whereas far fewer PCs from SCA2 mice of the same age exhibited stable firing rates (75 ± 13%, n = 119 PCs, \*\**p* < 0.01). Thus, every fourth SCA2-58Q PCs exhibited bursting activity reflects the consequences of the ionic imbalance observed in SCA2 PCs,<sup>19</sup> leading to the motor decline in SCA2 mice <sup>17, 18, 20</sup>. Thus, compounds that can convert bursting activity back into the tonic mode may have the potential therapeutic effects for SCA2 and other ataxias <sup>21</sup>.

To investigate if positive allosteric modulators of  $K_{Ca}^2$  channels can rescue the abnormal firing of SCA2-58Q PCs, we performed a series of experiments with acute cerebellar slices from 7-8-month-old SCA2-58Q mice in the presence of the non-selective  $K_{Ca}^2.x/K_{Ca}^3.1$  channel modulator CHZ (chlorzoxazone as a positive control) and the subtype-selective modulators **20** and **2q**. Application of 50  $\mu$ M CHZ converted bursting SCA2-58Q PC to tonic firing pattern, and also significantly decreased the firing frequency of the cell and improved the regularity of PC activity (data not shown).

In our previously published study <sup>17</sup>, CyPPA was able to normalize activity of SCA2-58Q PCs in approximately 50% of experiments with cerebellar slices. In the present study, all the tested bursting PCs responded to the exposure to compounds **20 and 2q** (n = 8 for **20** and n = 9 for **2q**). Application of 10  $\mu$ M **20** converted bursting SCA2-58Q PC to a tonic firing pattern in 7 out of 8 experiments (Figures 9A and 9B). In 1 out of 8 experiments the high-frequency bursts were converted into a low-frequency activity with gaps. Compound **20** significantly decreased the firing frequency (Figure 9C). The average firing frequency before the exposure to compound **20** was 182.8 ± 37.0 Hz, and 10 minutes after the exposure it was 74.4 ± 47.7 Hz (n = 8 PCs, \*\*\*p < 0.001). Here we also analyzed the interspike interval (ISI) distribution before and after **20** application, obtained from 10-s fragments of the recording (Figure 9C). The ISI distribution before the exposure to **20** shows two peaks, whereas the ISI distribution after **20** application trends to the normal distribution. The coefficient of variation (CV) of ISI before the exposure to compound **20** was 1.30 ± 0.39, and 10 minutes after the exposure it was 0.17 ± 0.26 (n = 8 PCs, \*\*\*p < 0.0001).

Figure 10A shows a representative recording trace of a bursting PC before and after the exposure to compound **2q**. The fragments that were analyzed for firing frequency and CV ISI values are indicated by arrows in the bottom of Figure 10A. The representative 390-ms fragments of PC activity recordings before the exposure to **2q** and 7 min after the exposure are shown in Figure 10B. The firing frequency inside the bursts before the exposure to compound **2q** was 134.3 Hz, and the firing frequency after the exposure during the tonic mode was 55.9 Hz (Figure 10C). The CV of ISI before the exposure to compound **2q** 

was 1.83, and 7 minutes after the exposure it was 0.21 (Figure 10C). The application of  $10 \,\mu\text{M}$  compound **2q** converted the bursting activity patterns into tonic mode in 9 out of 9 experiments. In 2 out of these 9 experiments, the PCs remained in tonic mode after 2q application. In the other 7 experiments, the PCs were converted into tonic mode, before stopping firing completely within  $15 \pm 7$  minutes after 2q application (Figures 10A and 10B). It also significantly decreased the firing frequency and improved the regularity of firing (Figure 10C). The average firing frequency before the exposure to compound 2q was  $180.3 \pm 30.4$  Hz, and 7-10 minutes after the exposure but before the tonic mode went to the silent mode it was  $62.7 \pm 54.3$  Hz (n = 9 PCs, \*\*\*\*p < 0.0001). Here we also analyzed the ISI distribution before and after 2q application, obtained from 10-s fragments of the recording (Figure 10C). The ISI distribution before the exposure to 2q shows a few peaks, whereas the ISI distribution after 2q application trends to the normal distribution (Figure 10C). The CV of ISI before the exposure to compound 2q was  $1.24 \pm 0.50$ , and 7-10 minutes after the exposure but before the tonic mode went to the silent mode it was 0.17 $\pm$  0.21 (n = 9 PCs, \*\*\*\* p < 0.0001). Overall, these results are consistent with the higher potency of 2q compared to 2o.

Interestingly, the application of compounds **20** and **2q** had little effect on tonic SCA2-58Q PCs. The average firing frequency before the exposure to compound **20** was  $62.0 \pm 28.7$  Hz, and 10 minutes after the exposure it was  $58.3 \pm 25.3$  Hz (n = 7 PCs, ns). The application of compound **20** did not affect the CV of ISI of tonic PCs. The CV of ISI before the exposure to compound **20** was  $0.05 \pm 0.01$ , and 10 minutes after the exposure to compound **2q** was  $74.8 \pm 39.8$  Hz, and 10 minutes after the exposure it was  $80.7 \pm 50.4$  Hz (n = 7 PCs, ns). The application of compound **2q** did not affect the CV of ISI of tonic PCs. The CV of ISI before the exposure to compound **2q** was  $74.8 \pm 39.8$  Hz, and 10 minutes after the exposure it was  $80.7 \pm 50.4$  Hz (n = 7 PCs, ns). The application of compound **2q** was  $0.06 \pm 0.03$ , and 10 minutes after the exposure it was  $0.06 \pm 0.04$  (n = 7 PCs, ns).

All together, these experiments suggested that activation of  $K_{Ca}^2$  channels restored tonic firing of PCs in aging SCA2 mice and compound **2q** was somewhat more potent than compound **2o** in this assay. Based on these results, we concluded that application of positive allosteric modulators of  $K_{Ca}^2$  channels results in a reliable increase in regularity of SCA2-58Q PC firing pattern and hereby may have potential therapeutic effects for SCA treatment.

## 3. CONCLUSIONS

The present study suggests that CyPPA is a viable template for subtype-selective positive modulation of  $K_{Ca}2.2a/K_{Ca}2.3$  channels. Replacing the cyclohexane ring with more hydrophobic disubstituted phenyl groups improved the potency of the compounds on potentiating the  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channel, while retaining their subtype-selectivity. Newly developed compounds were able to normalize abnormal firing of PCs in cerebellar slices from SCA2 mouse model, suggesting the therapeutic potential of these compounds for treating symptoms of ataxia.

## 4. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

#### 4.1. Materials

Cis-4-aminocyclohexanol (97%, Chem Block), cis-4-nitrocyclohexan-1-amine hydrochloride salt (95%, Chem Space), cis-4-methoxy-cyclohexaylamine (97%, J&W Pharmlab), cis-4-nitroaniline (95%, aa Blocks), cis-4-aminothiophenol (97%, Aldrich), cis-4-fluorocyclohexan-1-amine hydrochloride (>97%, Pharma Block Sciences), 4aminocyclohexyl methanol (95%, Enamine), cis-1,4-diaminocyclohexane (>98%, aa block), (L)-2-amino-3-(4-cyanophenyl)propanoic acid, (L)-tyrosine, (L)-2-amino-3-(3,4difluorophenyl)propanoic acid (97%, Sigma Aldrich), 4-chloro-2-fluoroaniline (99%, Acros organic), 3-chloro-4-fluoroaniline (95%), 2-chloro-5-fluoroaniline (95%), 5-chloro-2fluoroaniline (95%), 4-trifluoromethyl)aniline, 3-chloro-4-trifluoromethyl)aniline (95%), 5-chloro-4-trifluoromethyl)aniline (95%), 3-chloroaniline (95%), 2,3-difluoroaniline, 2,5-difluoroaniline (95%) (aa block and Aldrich), 4-chloro-6-methyl-2-(2-methyl-1,3oxazol-4-yl)pyrimidine (95%, Chem Space), 4-chloro-2-(3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-6methylpyrimidine (95%, Chem Space), 3-chloro-6-hydrazinyl-4-methylpyridazine (95%, Ambeed), 4-chloro-6-(3,5-dimethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl) (95%, Alalab), anhydrous N,Ndimethylformamide (DMF) (99.8%, Sigma-Aldrich), dichloromethane (DCM), ethyl acetate (Fischer Chemical), and acetonitrile HPLC grade (Fisher Chemical) were purchased from the respective commercial vendors. CyPPA was purchased from Alomone Labs, Jerusalem, Israel. CyPPA was dissolved in DMSO to make stock solution of 100 mM. The stock solution was then diluted in bath solution to the final concentrations for patch-clamp recordings. All prepared compounds were purified using flash chromatography followed by reverse phase HPLC purification using Gemini 10 mm C18 110A, LC column phenomenex,  $250 \times 21.2$  mm, at flow rate 7 mL/min. All compounds were >95% pure by HPLC analysis.

The chemical structures of final products were characterized by nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometry (1D) measured on a Bruker NMR spectrometer (400 MHz). The chemical shifts were reported in parts per millions (ppm). The compounds' molecular weight was confirmed by a high-resolution mass spectroscopy time-of-flight electrospray mass spectrometer (Q-TOF, Compass Hystar 4.1, Bruker, USA).

### 4.2. Chemistry

**General procedures for the synthesis of compounds 2a-j.**—4-Chloro-2-(3,5dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methylpyrimidine (**1a**, 0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) was dissolved in 2 mL of anhydrous *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) and *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA) (3 mmol, 348  $\mu$ L) was added to the solution. Then, the proper amine (0.25 mmol, 1.09 Equiv.) was dissolved in a few mL of DMF and added dropwise over 20 min to the solution containing compound **1a**, with stirring at room temperature for 36-48 h. The progress of the reactions was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reactions, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the crude products were purified by flash chromatography using dichloromethane (DCM), and ethyl acetate at gradient 2-50%.

(Cis)-4-((2-(3,5-Dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methylpyrimidin-4yl)amino)cyclohexan-1-ol (2a).—Compound 2a was

prepared by the reaction of compound

**1a** with (cis)-4-aminocyclohexan-1-ol (0.25 mmol, 28.8 mg) as described in general procedure. Yield 82%, as white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) & 1.11-1.37 and 1.77-1.96 (m, 8H, 4  $CH_2$ 's of cyclohexane ring), 2.15 (s, 3H, 3- $CH_3$  of pyrazole ring), 2.20 (s, 3H, 6- $CH_3$  of the pyrimidine ring), 2.64-2.72 (m, 1H, CHNH of cyclohexane ring), 3.18 (s, 3H, 5- $CH_3$  of pyrazole ring), 3.64-3.83 (m, 1H, CHOH), 4.56 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H, OH), 6.02 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.15 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.38 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) & 164.21, 162.69, 156.59, 148.00, 141.02, 108.66, 101.17 (aromatic carbons of the pyrimidine and pyrazole rings), 68.18, 48.55, 33.99, 30.23 (carbons for the cyclohexyl ring), 23.40, 14.40, 13.43 (three methyl (5- $CH_3$  and 3- $CH_3$  of pyrazole and 6- $CH_3$  of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O]: calcd 301.1903, found 302.76100 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 324.5613 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>.

## (Cis)-*N*<sup>1</sup>-(2-(3,5-Dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methylpyrimidin-4yl)cyclohexane-1,4-diamine (2b).—Compound 2b was

prepared by reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and (cis)-cyclohexane-1,4diamine (0.25 mmol, 28.5 mg) Yield 64%, white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 -MHz, DMSO $d_{o}$ ) &: 1.36-1.45 (m, 4H of the cyclohexyl ring), 1.91-2.10 (m, 4Hof the cyclohexyl ring), 2.26 (s, 3H, 3-C $H_3$  of pyrazole ring), 2.36 (s, 3H, 6-C $H_3$  of the pyrimidine ring), 2.60-2.72 (m, 2H, 1-*H* and H-4 of the cyclohexyl ring), 3.17 (s, 3H, 5-C $H_3$  of pyrazole ring), 3.72-3.91 (br, 2H, N $H_2$ ), 6.28 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.33 (s, 1H, H-5 of pyrimidine ring), 7.96-8.01 (br, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- $d_o$ ) &: 167.586, 162.04, 158.01, 151.49, 143.03, 111.40, 101.27 (aromatic carbons of the pyrimidine and pyrazole rings), 49.21, 48.29, 29.39, 28.9 (carbons for the cyclohexyl ring), 20.41, 14.53, 13.42 (three methyl (5- $CH_3$  and 3- $CH_3$  of pyrazole and 6- $CH_3$  of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESIqTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>6</sub>]: calcd 300.2062, found, 301.94 30 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 323.7408 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>.

#### ((Cis)-4-((2-(3,5-Dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methylpyrimidin-4-

**yl)amino)cyclohexyl)methanol (2c).**—Compound **2c** was prepared by reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and (cis)-4-aminocyclohexyl)methanol (0.25 mmol, 32.3 mg), as described in the general procedure. Yield 79%, white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) &: 1.27-1.44 (m, 5H of cyclohexane ring), 1.71-1.83 (m, 4H of the cyclohexane ring), 2.15 (s, 3H, 3-C $H_3$  of pyrazole ring), 2.21 (s, 3H, 6-C $H_3$  of the pyrimidine ring), 2.60-2.73 (m, 1H, CHNH of cyclohexane ring), 3.06 (s, 3H, 5-C $H_3$  of pyrazole ring), 3.52 (d, 2H, J = 6 Hz, C $H_2$ OH), 4.42 (t, 1H, J = 5.2, OH), 6.02 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.15 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.41 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz, N $H_{j.}$  <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) & 164.59, 160.47, 157.05, 148.44, 141.46, 109.07, 101.59 (aromatic carbons of the pyrimidine and pyrazole rings), 66.66, 49.88, 42.26, 32.39, 24.59 (CH<sub>2</sub>OH and carbons for the cyclohexyl ring), 23.83, 14.85, 13.88 (three methyl (5-CH<sub>3</sub> and 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O]: calcd 315.2059, found 316.6403 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

**2-(3,5-Dimethyl-1***H***-pyrazol-1-yl)-***N***-(cis)-4-methoxycyclohexyl)-6methylpyrimidin-4-amine (2d).—Compound 2d was prepared by the reaction of compound 1a (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and** 

(cis)-4-methoxycyclohexan-1-amine (0.25 mmol, 32.3 mg). Yield (81%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_{6}$ ) &: 1.25-1.38, and 2.10-2.18 (m, 8H of the cyclohexane ring), 2.21 (s, 3H, 3- $CH_3$  of pyrazole ring), 2.29 (s, 1H, 6- $CH_3$  of the pyrimidine ring), 2.59-2.71 (m,1H, CHNH), 3.02 (s, 3H, 5- $CH_3$  of pyrazole ring), 3.16-3.23 (m, 1H, CHOCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.34 (s, 3H, OC $H_3$ ), 6.06 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.19 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring) 7.40 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) &: 162.62, 160.03, 156.60, 148.00, 141.01, 108.64, 101.15 (aromatic carbons of the pyrimidine and pyrazole rings), 80.02, 66.22, 54.90, 31.95, 28.21, 23.41, 14.41, 13.43 (OCH<sub>3</sub>, carbons for the cyclohexyl ring, three methyl (5- $CH_3$  and 3- $CH_3$  of pyrazole and 6- $CH_3$  of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O]: calcd 315.2059, found 316.3240 [M + H].

## 2-(3,5-Dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-*N*-(cis)-4-fluorocyclohexyl)-6methylpyrimidin-4-amine (2e).—Compound 2e was

prepared by the reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and (cis)-4fluorocyclohexan-1-amine (0.25 mmol, 29.3 mg). Yield (77%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) &: 1.48-1.58 and 1.66-1.77, 1.92-2.01 (m, 8H of the cyclohexane ring), 2.19 (s, 3H, 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.34 (s, 3H, 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.61-2.71 (m, 1H, CHNH), 3.10 (s, 3H, 5-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 3.16-3.17 (m, 1H, CH-F), 6.08 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.28 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.55 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) & 167.22, 160.07, 156.64, 148.04, 141.05, 108.67, 101.19 (aromatic carbons of the pyrazole and pyrimidine rings), 90.13 (d, C4-F, <sup>1</sup> $J_{CF}$  = 176.1 Hz), 54.67, (C-1 of the cyclohexyl ring), 32.12 (d, C-3 and C-5 of the cyclohexyl ring, <sup>2</sup> $J_{CF}$  = 28.3 Hz), 28.29 (d, C-2 and C-6 of the cyclohexyl ring, <sup>3</sup> $J_{CF}$  =7.0 Hz), 23.45, 14.45, 13.47 (three methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 6-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C1<sub>6</sub>H<sub>22</sub>FN<sub>5</sub>]: calcd 303.1859, found 304.3240 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

## 2-(3,5-Dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methyl-N-(cis)-4-

nitrocyclohexyl)pyrimidin-4-amine (2f).—Compound

**2f** was prepared by the reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and (cis)-4-nitrocyclohexan-1-amine (0.25 mmol, 36.0 mg). Yield (77%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) &: 1.37-1.47 and 1.95-2.05, 2.14-2.18 (m, 8H of the cyclohexane ring), 2.24 (s, 3H, 3-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.56 (s, 3H, 6-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.70-2.79 (m, 1H, C*H*NH), 3.17 (s, 3H, 5-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 3.78-3.86 (m, 1H, C*H*-NO<sub>2</sub> of cyclohexane ring), 5.95 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.56 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.74 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H, N*H*). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) & 170.35, 161.92, 155.91, 148.38, 141.06, 108.35, 99.89 (aromatic carbons of the pyrazole and pyrimidine rings), 87.85, 54.69, 29.65, 24.15, 23.79, 13.52, 13.30 (carbons of the cyclohexyl ring and three methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 6-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]: calcd, 330.1804, found 331.3850 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

#### 2-(3,5-Dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methyl-N-(4-nitrophenethyl)pyrimidin-4-

**amine (2g).**—Compound **2g** was prepared by the reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and 2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethan-1-amine (0.25 mmol, 41.5 mg). Yield (72%), yellowish powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d6*) &: 2.16 (s, 3H, 3-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.26 (s, 1H, 6-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the

pyrimidine ring), 2.90 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, NHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.09 (s, 3H, 5-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 3.37 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz, NHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.00 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.51 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.46 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz, H-2 and H-6 of the phenyl group), 7.60-7.71 (br. s, 1H, NH), 8.09 (d, 2H, J = 8.00 Hz H-3 and H-5 of the phenyl group). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-D6)  $\delta$  <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- *d6*)  $\delta$  167.62, 160.22, 156.65, 149.12, 145.90, 145.39, 141.07, 130.47, 124.81, 108.71, 101.22 (aromatic carbons of the pyrazole, pyrimidine and phenyl), 45.90, 34.05 (Ph-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-NH), 24.52, 15.28, 13.49 (three methyl (5-CH<sub>3</sub> and 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]: calcd, 352.1648, found 353.3240 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

## (S)-3-(4-Cyanophenyl)-2-((2-(3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-

**methylpyrimidin-4-yl)amino)propanoic acid (2h).**—Compound **2h** was prepared by the reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and (*L*)-2-amino-3-(4cyanophenyl)propanoic acid (0.25 mmol, 47.5 mg). Yield (54%), yellowish powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 2.32 (s, 3H, 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.47 (s, 1H, 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 3.11 (s, 3H, 5-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 3.17 (dd, J = 4.4 and 4.4 Hz, 1H, β-CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.43 (dd, 1H, J = 4.0 and 5.2 Hz, β-CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.91 (t, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H, α-CH), 6.07 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.46 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.06 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz, H-2 and H-6 of the phenyl group), 7.43 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz, H-3 and H-5 of the phenyl group), 7.70 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz, NH), 11.19 (br. s, 1H, COOH). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]: calcd, 376.1648, found 377.1682 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

#### ((2-(3,5-Dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methylpyrimidin-4-yl)-L-tyrosine (2i).-

Compound **2i** was prepared by the reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and (*L*)-tyrosine (0.25 mmol, 49.3 mg, 1.09 Equiv.). Yield (54%), yellowish powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) &: 2.18 (s, 3H, 3-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.34 (s, 1H, 6-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 3.05 (s, 3H, 5-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 3.16 (dd, *J* = 4.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H,  $\beta$ -C*H*<sub>2</sub>), 3.42 (dd, 1H, *J* = 4.4, 4.4 Hz,  $\beta$ -C*H*<sub>2</sub>), 3.91 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H,  $\alpha$ -C*H*), 6.09 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.50 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 6.67 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz, H-2, and H-6 of the phenyl group), 7.06 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz, H-3, and H-5 of the phenyl group), 7.92 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz, N*H*), 11.10 (br. s, 1H, COO*H*). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>]: calcd 367.1644, found 368.1678 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

## (S)-3-(3,4-Difluorophenyl)-2-((2-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-6methylpyrimidin-4-yl)amino)propanoic acid (2j).—Compound

2j was prepared by the reaction of

compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and (*L*)-2-amino-3-(3,4-difluorophenyl)propanoic acid (0.23 mmol, 49.9 mg). Yield (32%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.25 (s, 3H, 3-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.44 (s, 1H, 6-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 3.05 (s, 3H, 5-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 3.16 (dd, *J* = 4.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H,  $\beta$ -C*H*<sub>2</sub>), 3.50 (dd, 1H, *J* = 4.4 and 4.4 Hz,  $\beta$ -C*H*<sub>2</sub>), 3.93 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz,  $\alpha$ -C*H*), 5.98 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.55 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.00-7.08 (m, 2H, aromatic protons of phenyl group), 7.08 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.4, 2.4 Hz, aromatic proton of phenyl group), 7.66 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.4, 2.4 Hz, aromatic proton of phenyl group), 7.96 (br, s, 1H, *NH*). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]: calcd 387.1507, found 388.1540 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

General procedures for the synthesis of compounds 2k-w, 3a-3g, 4, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, and 7.—Compound 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, or 1e (0.23 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL of anhydrous *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (DMF), *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA) (3 mmol, 348  $\mu$ L) was added to the solution. Then, 0.25 mmol of the proper aniline or heterocyclic amine dissolved in 3 mL of DMF was added dropwise over 20 min. with stirring under reflux at 95 °C for 36-48 h. The progress of the reactions was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reactions, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the crude products were purified by flash chromatography using DCM, and ethyl acetate at gradient 0-50%.

#### 4-((2-(3,5-Dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methylpyrimidin-4-yl)amino)-

benzenethiol (2k).-Compound 2k was prepared by

the reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol,

51.0 mg) and 4-aminobenzenethiol (0.25 mmol, 31.3 mg). Yield (68%), yellow powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_{6}$ ):  $\delta$  2.17 (s, 3H, 3-C $H_{3}$  of pyrazole ring), 2.27 (s, 3H, 6-C $H_{3}$ of the pyrimidine ring), 2.31 (s, 3H, 5-C $H_{3}$  of the pyrazole ring), 5.23 (s, 1H, SH), 5.88 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.43 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 6.66 (d, 2H, J= 8.4 Hz, H-2 & H-6 of the phenyl ring), 7.27 (d, 2H, J= 8.8 Hz, H-3 and H-5 of the phenyl ring). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- $d_{6}$ )  $\delta$  174.97, 167.60, 155.73, 151.06, 149.45, 142.00, 137.15, 114.92, 112.25, 109.54, 109.50 (aromatic carbons of the pyrazole and pyrimidine), 23.69, 14.26, 13.41 (three methyl (5-CH<sub>3</sub> and 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>5</sub>S] calcd 311.1205, found 312.1303 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

#### 2-(3,5-Dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methyl-N-(4-nitrophenyl)pyrimidin-4-amine

(21).—Compound 2I was prepared by the reaction of compound 1a (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and 4-nitroaniline (0.25 mmol, 32.3 mg at 130 °C. Yield (66%), yellow powder).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.23 (s, 3H, 3-*CH*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.42 (s, 3H, 6-*CH*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.56 (s, 3H, 5-*CH*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 6.13 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.70 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 8.03 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.2 Hz, H-2 and H-6 of the phenyl ring), 8.23 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.2 Hz, H-3 and H-5 of the phenyl ring), 10.38-10.47 (br. s, 1H, N*H*). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  167.00, 160.66, 156.03, 149.11, 146.34, 141.57, 141.10, 125.08, 118.86, 109.28, 103.65 (aromatic carbons of the pyrazole and pyrimidine), 23.66, 14.45, 13.54 (three methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 6-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]: calcd 324.1335, found 348.3758 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>.

N-(2,3-Difluorophenyl)-2-(3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methyl-pyrimidin-4-

**amine (2m).**—Compound **2m** was prepared by the reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and 2,3-difluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 32.3 mg). Yield (47%), as a white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.38 (s, 3H, 3-*CH*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.47 (s, 3H, 6-*CH*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.57 (s, 3H, 5-*CH*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 6.04 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.55 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.00 (dd, 1H, *J*= 8.0 and 3.2 Hz, H-4 of the phenyl ring), 7.08 (dd, 1H, *J*= 8.4 and 3.2 Hz, H-6 of the phenyl ring), 7.41 (m, 1H, H-5 of the phenyl ring), 8.03 (s, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 168.16, 162.65, 160.10, 154.47, 143.20 (aromatic carbons of the pyrazole and pyrimidine),

151.22 (dd, C-2 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{1}J_{CF} = 218.4$  Hz,  ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 23.2$  Hz), 151.46 (dd, C-3 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{1}J_{CF} = 238.6$  Hz,  ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 18.3$  Hz)), 130.22 (dd, C-1 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 22.2$  Hz,  ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 8.8$  Hz), 126.45 (d, C-5 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 8.8$  Hz), 118.50 (d, C-6 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 3.0$  Hz), 108.77 (dd, C-4 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 12.12$  Hz,  ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 6.2$  Hz), 111.58, 101.56 (C-5 and C-3 the pyrazole and pyrimidine), 22.62, 15.12, 13.29 (three methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 6-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>5</sub>]: calcd 315.1296, found 316.139984 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

#### N-(2,5-Difluorophenyl)-2-(3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methylpyrimidin-4-

**amine (2n).**—Compound **2n** was prepared by reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and 2,5-difluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 32.3 mg). Yield (55%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.32 (s, 3H, 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.47 (s, 3H, 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.56 (s, 3H, 5-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 6.03 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.54 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 6.84 (dt, 1H, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, H-4 of the phenyl ring), 7.09 (dt, 1H, *J* = 9.6, 4.0 Hz, H-3 of the phenyl ring), 7.52-7.62 (br. m, 1H, H-6 of the phenyl ring), 8.07-8.19 (br. s, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.13, 160.73, 158.70 (C-4, C-6, C-2 aromatic carbons of pyrimidine), 158.73 (d, C-F, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 237.4 Hz), 149.69 (d, C-F, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 238.26 Hz), 149.91, 147.54 (C-3 and C-5 of aromatic carbons of the pyrazole), 129.06 (dd, C-1 of the phenyl ring, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 23.2 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 11.1 Hz), 128.07 (dd, C-3 of the phenyl ring, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 24.2, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 12.1 Hz), 115.76 (d, C-4 of the phenyl ring, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 22.2 Hz) 109.75 (dd, C-6 of the phenyl ring, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 13.1 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 6.1 Hz), 108.07, 98.15 (C-6 of the pyrazole ring, and C-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 23.91, 17.02, 14.27 (three methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 6-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>5</sub>]: calcd 315.1296, found 316.4337 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

#### N-(3-Chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-2-(3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methyl-

pyrimidin-4-amine (20).—Compound 20 was prepared by

the reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and 3-chloro-4-fluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 36.4 mg). Yield (83%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 2.31 (s, 3H, 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.39 (s, 3H, 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.59 (s, 3H, 5-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 5.99 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.31 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.14 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz, H-6 of the phenyl ring), 7.15 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz, H-5 of the phenyl ring), 7.24 (s, 1H, NH), 7.47 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.0, 2.4 Hz, H-2 of the phenyl ring). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 168.01, 162.20, 156.99 (C-4, C-6, and C-2 of the pyrimidine ring), 155.66 (d, C4-F, <sup>*1*</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 248.5 Hz), 151.03, 142.90 (C-5 and C-3 of the pyrazole), 134.79 (d, C-6 of the phenyl group, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 3.0 Hz), 125.60 (C-1 of the phenyl ring), 123.13 (d, C-2 of the phenyl group, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 7.1 Hz), 121.71 (d, C-3 of the phenyl group, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> =19.2 Hz), 117.25 (d, C-5 of the phenyl ring), 24.32, 15.45, 13.98 (three methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 6-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>CIFN<sub>5</sub>]: calcd 331.1000, found 332.104126 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

*N*-(4-Chloro-2-fluorophenyl)-2-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methylpyrimidin-4-amine (2p).—Compound 2p was prepared by the reaction of compound 1a (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and 4-chloro-2-fluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 36.4 mg).

Yield (79%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.23 (s, 3H, 3-*CH*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.45 (s, 3H, 6-*CH*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.47 (s, 3H, 5-*CH*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 6.03 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.68 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.05 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, H-3 of the phenyl ring), 7.23 (td, 1H, *J* = 6.0 and 2.4 Hz, H-5 of the phenyl ring), 7.60 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.4 and 2.4 Hz, H-6 of the phenyl ring), 10.14-10.57 (br, s, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  161.98, 158.77 (C-4, and C-6 of the pyrimidine ring), 155.83 (d, C2-F, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 249.5 Hz), 153.45, 151.61, 143.95 (C-2 of the pyrimidine ring, C-5 and C-3 of the pyrazole ring), 133.74 (d, C-4 of the phenyl group, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 3.0 Hz), 125.35 (C-5 of the phenyl ring), 123.13 (d, C-6 of the phenyl group, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 22.2 Hz), 112.39, 102.45 (C-4 of the pyrazole ring, and C-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 20.81, 15.23, 13.44((three methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 6-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClFN<sub>5</sub>]: calcd 331.1000, found 332.108978 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

## *N*-(5-Chloro-2-fluorophenyl)-2-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-6methylpyrimidin-4-amine (2q).—Compound 2q was

prepared by the reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and 5-chloro-2-fluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 36.4 mg). Yield (72%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) &: 2.32 (s, 3H, 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.48 (s, 3H, 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.54 (s, 3H, 5-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 6.05 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.65 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.10 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H, H-3 of the phenyl ring), 7.13 (td, 1H, J = 8.8 and 2.4 Hz, 1H, H-4 of the phenyl ring), 7.73 (dd, 1H, J = 6.8 and 2.4 Hz, H-6 of the phenyl ring), 9.02-9.21 (br, s, 1H, NH).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 164.90, 161.81, 154.93 (C-4, C-6, and C-2 of the pyrimidine ring), 153.50 (d, C2-F,  $^{1}J_{CF}$  = 207.1 Hz), 151.94, 143.62 (C-5 and C-3 of the pyrazole ring), 129.54 (d, C-6 of the phenyl ring,  $^{3}J_{CF}$  = 4.0 Hz), 126.97 (d, C-1 of the phenyl ring,  $^{2}J_{CF}$  = 21.2 Hz), 125.94 (d, C-4 of the phenyl group,  $^{3}J_{CF}$  = 8.1 Hz), 124.69 (C-5 of the phenyl ring), 116.99 (d, C-3 of the phenyl ring), 23.03, 15.13, 13.59 ((three methyl (5-CH<sub>3</sub> and 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>CIFN<sub>5</sub>]: calcd 331.1000, found 332.112122 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

#### N-(2-Chloro-5-fluorophenyl)-2-(3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-

#### methylpyrimidin-4-amine (2r).—Compound 2r was prepared

by the reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and 2-chloro-5-fluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 36.4 mg). Yield (79%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) &: 2.29 (s, 3H, 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.45 (s, 3H, 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.54 (s, 3H, 5-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 6.00 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.50 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 6.85 (td, 1H, *J* = 8.0, 2.8 Hz, H-6 of the phenyl ring), 7.40 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8 and 3.2 Hz, H-4 of the phenyl ring), 7.85 (dd, 1H, *J* = 10.4, and 2.8 Hz, H-3 of the phenyl ring), 8.01-8.09 (br. s, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 170.50 (C-4 of the pyrimidine ring), 166.61 (C5-F, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 245.4 Hz), 165.421, 160.49, 155.57, 147.82 (C-6, C-2 of the pyrimidine ring, C-5 and C-3 of the pyrazole ring), 142.09 (d, C-6 of the phenyl ring), 2*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 12.1 Hz), 135.79 (d, C-1 of the phenyl ring, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 6.1 Hz), 125.92 (C-2 of the phenyl ring), 117.17 (C-4 of the phenyl ring, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 24.2 Hz), 115.15 (C-3 of the phenyl ring, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 8.1 Hz), 107.75, 99.87 (C-4 of the pyrazole ring, and C-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 22.85, 15.20,

13.78 (three methyl (5- $CH_3$  and 3- $CH_3$  of pyrazole and 6- $CH_3$  of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClFN<sub>5</sub>]: calcd 331.1000. found 332.110931 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

## 2-(3,5-Dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methyl-N-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyrimidin-4-amine (2s).—Compound 2s was

prepared by the reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol,

51.0 mg) and 4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (0.25 mmol, 40.3 mg). Yield (74%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  2.33 (s, 3H, 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.47 (s, 3H, 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.59 (s, 3H, 5-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 6.13 (s, IH, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.84 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.56-7.65 (m, 4H, H-2, H-3, H-5, and H-6 of the phenyl ring), 10.18-10.50 (br. s, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  164.68, 162.38, 156.55, 152.83, 144.84 (C-4, C-6, and C-2 of the pyrimidine ring, C-5 of the pyrazole ring, and C-3 of the pyrazole ring), 141.42 (*C*-NH of the phenyl group), 126.90 (d, C-3 and C-5 of the phenyl ring,<sup>3</sup>J<sub>CF</sub> = 3.0 Hz), 126.37 (d, C-4 of the phenyl ring, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CF</sub> = 18.2 Hz), 123.64 (d, CF<sub>3</sub>, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CF</sub> = 224.2Hz), 122.65 (C-2 and C-6 of the phenyl ring), 112.08, 102.71 (C-4 of the pyrazole ring, and C-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 22.56, 15.58, and 13.46 (three methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 6-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>5</sub>]: calcd 347.1358, found 348.3704 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

#### N-(3-Chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-2-(3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-

**methyl-pyrimidin-4-amine (2t).**—Compound **2t** was prepared by the reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and 3-chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (0.25 mmol, 48.9 mg). Yield (77%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.24 (s, 3H, 3-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.40 (s, 3H, 6-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.56 (s, 3H, 5-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 6.05 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.64 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.44 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, H-6 of the phenyl ring), 7.55 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, H-2 of the phenyl ring), 7.84 (s, 1H, C5-*H* of the phenyl ring), 8.11-8.56 (br s, 1H, N*H*). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>5</sub>]: calcd 381.0968, found 382.1094 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

*N*-(3-Chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-2-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-6methylpyrimidin-4-amine (2u).—Compound 2u was prepared by the reaction of compound 1a (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and 3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (0.25 mmol, 48.9 mg). Yield (75%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) & 2.25 (s, 3H, 3-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.51 (s, 6H, 6-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring and 5-*CH*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 6.10 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.80 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.42 (s, 1H, H-2 of the phenyl ring). 7.69 (s, 1H, H-6 of the phenyl ring), 7.75 (s, 1H, H-4 of the phenyl ring), 10.00-10.39 (br. s, 1H, N*H*). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 162.58, 158.77, 154.58, 151.40, 144.89, (C-4, C-6, & C-2 of the pyrimidine ring C-5 and C-3 of the pyrazole ring), 139.48 (*C*-NH of the phenyl group), 135.79 (C-3 of the phenyl group), 132.89 (d, C-5 of the phenyl ring, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 33.3 Hz), 125.63 (CF<sub>3</sub>, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 134.33 Hz), 122.82 (d, C-4, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 3.0 Hz), 122.25 (C-2 of the phenyl ring), 118.13 (d, C-6, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 3.0), 113.28, 103.83 (C-6 of the pyrimidine ring and C-4 of the pyrazole ring), 20.84, 15.44, 13.52 (three methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 6-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring))). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>5</sub>]: calcd 381.0968, found 382.106476 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

## 3-((2-(3,5-Dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methylpyrimidin-4-yl)amino)-4fluorobenzoic acid (2v).—Compound 2v was prepared

by the reaction of compound **1a** (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and 3-amino-4fluorobenzoic acid (0.25 mmol, 38.8 mg). Yield (79%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) &: 2.28 (s, 3H, 3-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.32 (s, 3H, 6-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.54 (s, 3H, 5-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 6.17 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.66 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.38 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, H-5 of the phenyl ring), 8.0-8.04 (m, 1H, H-6 of the phenyl ring), 8.30 (dd, *J* = 2.0 and 2.0 Hz, H-2 of the phenyl ring). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) &: 167.95, 164.66 (C-4 of the pyrimidine ring, COOH), 160.55 (d, C4-F, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 256.54 Hz), 160.13 and 155.31 (C-6 and C-2 of the phenyl ring), 152.47, 145.91 (C-5 and C-3 of the pyrazole ring), 131.37 (d, C-2 of the phenyl ring, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 9.1 Hz), 130.33 (C-1 of the phenyl ring), 128.97 (d, C-6 of the phenyl ring, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 20.2 Hz), 113.46 and 102.97 (C-6 of the pyrimidine ring and C-4 of the pyrazole ring), 23.75, 15.07 and 13.60 (three methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 6-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [[C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>FN<sub>5</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]: calcd 341.1288. found 342.1322 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

*N*-(2-(3,5-Dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-6-methylpyrimidin-4-yl)-5,6-dimethoxy-1*H*benzo[d]imidazol-2-amine (2w).—Compound 2w was prepared by the reaction of compound 1a (0.23 mmol, 51.0 mg) and 5,6-dimethoxy-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-amine (0.25 mmol, 48.3 mg). Yield (75%), brown powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.30 (s, 3H, 3-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.39 (s, 3H, 6-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.59 (s, 3H, 5-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 3.85 (s, 6H, 2 OC*H*<sub>3</sub>), 5.95 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.52 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.15 (d, 2H, H-2 and H-6 of the benzoimidazole ring), 7.85 (t, 2H, H-3 and H-4 of the benzoimidazole ring), 8.17 (s, 1H, N*H*), 11.24 (s, 1H, N*H* of the benzoimidazole ring). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]: calcd 379.1757, found 380.1990 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

#### N<sup>4</sup>-(3-Chlorophenyl)-6-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)pyrimidine-2,4-diamine

(3a).—Compound 3a was prepared by the reaction of compound 1b (4-chloro-6-(3,5dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)pyrimidin-2-amine, 0.23 mmol, 51.2 mg) with 3-chloroaniline (0.25 mmol, 31.9 mg). Yield (45%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) & 2.18 (s, 3H, 3-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.50 (s, 3H, 5-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 6.13 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 6.33 (s, 1H, *H*-4 of the pyrazole ring), 7.08 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.0 and 1.2 Hz, *H*-4 of phenyl ring), 7.26 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, *H*-5 of phenyl ring), 7.44 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.0 and 1.2 Hz, H-6 of the phenyl ring), 7.74 (s, 1H, H-2 of the phenyl ring). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) & 171.78, 161.83, 160.06, 153.81, 141.03 (C-4, C-6, and C-2 of the pyrimidine ring, C-5 and C-3 of the pyrazole ring), 135.77, 131.49, 124.92, 122.80, 121.01, 119.06 (6 carbons of the phenyl ring), 112.81, 85.89 (C-4 of the pyrazole ring and C-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 14.54, 13.58 (two methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClN<sub>6</sub>]: calcd 314.1047, found 315.113220 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

*N*<sup>4</sup>-(3-Chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-6-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)pyrimidine-2,4diamine (3b).—Compound 3b was prepared by the reaction of compound 1b (0.23 mmol, 51.2 mg) and 3-chloro-4-fluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 36.4 mg).

Yield (65%) as a white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  2.26 (s, 3H, 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.57 (s, 3H, 5-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 6.21 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 6.38 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 7.24 (t, 1H, J= 8.8 Hz, H-5 of phenyl ring), 7.53 (dt, 1H, J= 2.0, 4.0, and 9.2 Hz, H-6 of phenyl ring), 7.91 (dd, 1H, J= 6.8, 2.8 Hz, H-2 of phenyl ring). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  163.47, 159.07 (C-6, and C-4 of the pyrimidine ring), 156.39 (d, C4-F,  ${}^{I}J_{CF}$  = 246.4 Hz), 153.77, 152.41, 144.27 (C-2 of the pyrimidine ring, C-5 and C-3 of the pyrazole ring), 136.67 (d, C-6 of the phenyl group,  ${}^{3}J_{CF}$  = 4.0 Hz), 124.93 (C-NH of the phenyl ring), 123.07 (d, C-2 of the phenyl group,  ${}^{3}J_{CF}$  = 7.1 Hz), 122.07 (d, C-3 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{2}J_{CF}$  = 20.2 Hz), 117.92 (d, C-5 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{2}J_{CF}$  = 22.2 Hz), 112.75, 85.66 (C-4 of the pyrazole ring and C-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 14.47, 13.58 (two methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>CIFN<sub>6</sub>]: calcd 332.0953, found 333.104126 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

## N<sup>4</sup>-(5-Chloro-2-fluorophenyl)-6-(3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)pyrimidine-2,4-

**diamine (3c).**—Compound **3c** was prepared by the reaction of compound **1b** (0.23 mmol, 51.2 mg) and 5-chloro-2-fluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 36.4 mg). Yield (72%) as a white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  2.16 (s, 3H, 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.58 (s, 3H, 5-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 5.98 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 6.48 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.85 (t, 1H, J= 8.8 Hz, H-3 of phenyl ring), 7.38 (td, 1H, J= 8.4 and 2.8 Hz, H-4 of phenyl ring), 7.84 (dd, J=6.4 and 2.4 Hz, 1H, H-6 of phenyl ring). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClFN<sub>6</sub>]: calcd 332.0953 found 333.1150 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

#### N<sup>4</sup>-(4-Chloro-2-fluorophenyl)-6-(3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)pyrimidine-2,4-

**diamine (3d).**—Compound **3d** was prepared by the reaction of compound **1b** (0.23 mmol, 51.2 mg) and 4-chloro-2-fluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 36.4 mg). Yield (54%) as a white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) & 2.23 (s, 3H, 3-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.57 (s, 3H, 5-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 6.16 (s, 1H, *H*-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 6.47 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 7.22 (td, 1H, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, *H*-5 of phenyl ring), 7.29 (dd, 1H, *J* = 10.8, 2.4 Hz, H-6 of phenyl ring), 7.98 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, *H*-3 of phenyl ring). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) & 163.76, 159.32 (C-4 and C-6 of the pyrimidine ring), 158.52 (d, C2-F, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 237.4 Hz), 155.23, 153.70, 144.42 (C-2 of the pyrimidine ring, C-5 and C-3 of the pyrazole ring), 132.10 (d, C-4 of the phenyl group, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 9.1 Hz), 127.86 (C-5 of the phenyl ring), 126.14 (C-1 of the phenyl group, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 11.1 Hz), 125.91 (d, C-6 of the phenyl group, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 4.0 Hz), 117.60 (d, C-3 of the phenyl ring), 14.67, 13.39 (two methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>CIFN<sub>6</sub>]: calcd 332.0952, found 334.1166 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

## N<sup>4</sup>-(2-Chloro-5-fluorophenyl)-6-(3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)pyrimidine-2,4-

**diamine (3e).**—Compound **3e** was prepared by the reaction of compound **1b** (0.23 mmol, 51.2 mg) and 2-chloro-5-fluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 36.4 mg). Yield (51%) as a white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  2.15 (s, 3H, 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.50 (s, 3H, 5-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 6.03 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 6.43 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.83 (td, 1H, J= 9.2 and 3.2 Hz, H-6 of phenyl ring), 7.37 (td, 1H, J= 9.2 and 3.2 Hz,

*H*-4 of phenyl ring), 7.82 (dd, 1H, J = 10.4 and 2.8 Hz, *H*-3 of phenyl ring). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) & 162.80 (d, C5-F, <sup>1</sup> $J_{CF} = 245.4$  Hz), 163.00, 162.47, 152.97, 145.08, 144.15 (C-4, C-6, and C-2 of the pyrimidine ring, C-5 and C-3 of the pyrazole ring), 138.1 (d, C-6 of the phenyl group, <sup>2</sup> $J_{CF} = 12.12$  Hz), 131.89 (d, C-1 of the phenyl group, <sup>3</sup> $J_{CF} = 10.1$  Hz), 122.97 (C-2 of the phenyl group), 113.62 (d, C-4 of the phenyl group, <sup>2</sup> $J_{CF} = 24.2$  Hz), 110.75 (C-3 of the phenyl group, <sup>3</sup> $J_{CF} = 8.08$  Hz), 99. 47, 86.23 (C-4 of the pyrazole ring and C-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 14.86, 13.59 (two methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>CIFN<sub>6</sub>]: calcd 332.0953, found 334.1166 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

## N<sup>4</sup>-(2,5-Difluorophenyl)-6-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)pyrimidine-2,4-

#### diamine(3f).—Compound 3f was prepared by the reaction

of compound **1b** (0.23 mmol, 51.2 mg) and 2,5-difluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 32.3 mg). Yield (53%) as a white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  2.25 (s, 3H, 3-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.58 (s, 3H, 5-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 6.20 (s, 1H, *H*-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 6.57 (s, 1H, *H*-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.88-6.94 (m, 1H, *H*-4 of phenyl ring), 7.17-7.23 (m, 1H, *H*-3 of phenyl ring), 8.03-8.08 (m, 1H, *H*-6 of phenyl ring). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  163.97, 159.60 159.02 (C-4, C-6, and C-2 of the pyrimidine ring), 159.94 (d, C-F, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 241.4 Hz), 153.72, 144.36 (C-5 and C-3 of the pyrazole ring), 153.26, 150.86 (d, C-F, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 242.4 Hz), 128.63 (d, C-1 of the phenyl ring, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 22.2 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 9.0 Hz), 117.25 (two d, C-3 and C-4 of the phenyl ring, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 8.1 Hz), 112.47, 85.94 (C-4 of the pyrazole ring and C-6 of the pyrimidine ring), 14.61, 13.58 (two methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>6</sub>]: calcd 316.1248, found, 318.1814 [M + 2H]<sup>+</sup>.

## N<sup>4</sup>-(3-Chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-6-(3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-

yl)pyrimidine-2,4-diamine (3g).-Compound 3g was prepared

by the reaction of compound 1b (0.23 mmol,

51.2 mg) and 3-chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (0.25 mmol, 48.9 mg. Yield (55%) as a white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) & 2.25 (s, 3H, 3-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.58 (s, 3H, 5-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 6.16 (s, 1H, *H*-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 6.43 (s, 1H, *H*-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.88 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, *H*-5 of phenyl ring), 7.76 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8, 1.2 Hz, *H*-6 of phenyl ring), 8.09 (s, 1H, *H*-2 of phenyl ring). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) & 163.93, 160.50, 154.24, 153.28 145.03, 144.11 (C-4, C-6, & C-2 of the pyrimidine ring, C-5 andC-3 of the pyrazole ring, C-NH of the phenyl ring), 133.54 (d, C-3 of the phenyl ring, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 1.7 Hz), 129.18 (C-5 of the phenyl ring, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 5.0 Hz), 128.60, 125.91 (C-6 of the phenyl ring and C-2 of the phenyl ring), 121.88 (d, CF<sub>3</sub>, <sup>*I*</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 265.0 Hz), 119.08 (d, C-4 of the phenyl ring), 14.50 and 13.48 (two methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>6</sub>]: calcd 382.0921, found 384.113861 [M + 2H]<sup>+</sup>.

N<sup>4</sup>-(3-Chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-2-(3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)pyrimidine-4,6-

**diamine (4).**—Compound **4** was prepared by the reaction of compound **1c** (4-chloro-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)pyrimidine-6-amine, 0.23 mmol, 51.2 mg) and 3-chloro-4-fluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 36.4 mg). Yield (73%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  2.27 (s, 3H, 3-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring),

2.55 (s, 3H, 5-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 5.74 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 6.17 (s, 1H, H-4 of the pyrazole ring), 7.23-7.31 (m, 2H, H-5 and H-6 of phenyl ring), 7.63 (dd, 1H, J = 6.4, 2.4 Hz, H-2 of the phenyl ring). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) & 163.05, 160.78 (C-4, and C-6 of the pyrimidine ring), 156.69 (d, C4-F, <sup>1</sup> $J_{CF}$  = 247.4 Hz), 153.88, 152.22, 145.31 (C-2 of the pyrimidine ring, C-5 and C-5 of the pyrazole ring), 136.74 (d, C-6 of the phenyl group, <sup>3</sup> $J_{CF}$  = 3.0 Hz), 126.64 (C-NH of the phenyl ring), 124.52 (d, C-2 of the phenyl group, <sup>3</sup> $J_{CF}$  = 7.1 Hz), 122.48 (C-3 of the phenyl group, <sup>2</sup> $J_{CF}$  =19.2 Hz), 118.56 (C-5 of the phenyl ring, <sup>2</sup> $J_{CF}$  = 22.2 Hz), 112.59 (C-4 of the pyrazole ring), 80.89 (C-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 15.42 and 13.71 (two methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>CIFN<sub>6</sub>]: calcd 332.0953, found 333.0991 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

N-(5-Chloro-2-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-2-(4-methyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)pyrimidin-4amine (5a).-Compound 5a was prepared by reaction of compound 1d (4-chloro-6methyl-2-(4-methyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)pyrimidine, 0.24 mmol, 50.0 mg) and 5-chloro-2fluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 36.4 mg). Yield (71%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ: 2.37 (s, 3H, 4-CH<sub>3</sub> of imidazole ring), 2.43 (s, 3H, 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 6.70 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.19-7.25 (m, 2H, H-3 and H-4 of the phenyl ring), 7.84 (s, 1H, H-2 of imidazole ring), 7.95 (dd, 1H, J= 6.8, 2.0 Hz, H-6 of the phenyl ring), 9.25 (s, 1H, H-5 of the imidazole ring).  $^{13}$ C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  169.38, 163.65 (C-4 and C-6 of the pyrimidine ring), 155.13 (d, C2-F,  ${}^{1}J_{CF} = 244.4$  Hz), 153.57, 135.05, 133.99 (C-2 of the pyrimidine ring, C-2 and C-4 of the imidazole ring), 130.21 (d, C-6 of the phenyl group,  ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 3.0 \text{ Hz}$ ), 128.71 (d, C-1 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 13.1 \text{ Hz}$ ), 126.58 (d, C-4 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 8.1$  Hz), 125.74 (C-5 of the phenyl ring), 118.12 (d, C-3 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 22.2$  Hz), 116.11, 105.76 (C-5 of the imidazole ring and C-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 23.74, 10.61 (two methyl (4-CH<sub>3</sub> of imidazole and and 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ClFN<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>]: calcd 317.0844, found 318.0922 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

*N*-(3-Chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-2-(4-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)pyrimidin-4amine (5b).—Compound 5b was prepared by reaction of compound 1d (0.24 mmol, 50.0 mg) and 3-chloro-4-fluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 36.4 mg). Yield (76%), as white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 2.37 (s, 3H, 4-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of imidazole ring), 2.41 (s, 3H, 6-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 6.59 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.25 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.8 *Hz*, H-5 of the phenyl ring), 7.53-7.56 (m, 1H, H-6 of the phenyl ring), 7.72 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.8, 2.4 Hz, H-2 of the phenyl ring), 7.90 (s, 1H, H-2 of imidazole ring), 9.29 (s, 1H, H-5 of the

H2, H-2 of the phenyl Hng), 7.90 (s, 1H, H-2 of initialization Hng), 9.29 (s, 1H, H-5 of the imidazole ring).  ${}^{13}$ C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  168.78, 163.34 (d, C-4 and C-6 of the pyrimidine ring), 156.75 (d, C4-F,  ${}^{1}J_{CF} = 245.4$  Hz), 153.65 (C-2 of the pyrimidine ring), 137.11 (d, C-6 of the phenyl group,  ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 4.0$  Hz), 135.20 (C-2 and C-4 of the imidazole ring), 124.02 (C-NH of the phenyl ring), 122.31 (d, C-2 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 6.1$  Hz), 121.67 (d, C-3 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 19.2$  Hz), 117.88 (C-5 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 22.2$  Hz), 116.16 105.67 (C-5 of the imidazole ring C-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 23.69 and 10.68 (two methyl (4-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of imidazole and 6-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>CIFN<sub>5</sub>]: calcd 317.0843; found, 318.0832.

N-(5-Chloro-2-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-2-(2-methyloxazol-4-yl)pyrimidin-4-amine (6a).—Compound 6a was prepared by reaction of compound 1e (4-(4-chloro-6methylpyrimidin-2-yl)-2-methyloxazole, 0.24 mmol, 50.3 mg) and 2-chloro-5-fluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 36.4 mg),. Yield (74%), as a white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ 2.39 (s, 3H, 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.50 (s, 3H, 2-CH<sub>3</sub> of oxazole ring), 6.60 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.03-7.07 (m, 1H, H-4 of the phenyl ring), 7.13 (dd, 1H, J = 8.8, 2.0 Hz, H-3 of the phenyl ring), 8.24 (s, 1H, H-5 of the oxazole ring), 8.37 (dd, 1H, J = 6.8, 2.4 Hz, H-6 of the phenyl ring). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 167.37, 164.10, 162.33 (C-4 and C-2 of the pyrimidine ring, and C-2 of the oxazole ring), 155.46 (d, C5-F,  ${}^{1}J_{CF}$  = 245.4 Hz), 159.30, 141.53, 141.49 (C-6 of the pyrimidine ring, C-5 and C-4 of the oxazole ring), 130.15 (d, C-6 of the phenyl group,  ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 4.0$  Hz), 129.95 (d, C-1 of the phenyl group,  ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 12.1$  Hz), 124.49 (d, C-4 of the phenyl group,  ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 8.1$  Hz), 124.27 (C-5 of the phenyl group), 117.44 (C-3 of the phenyl group,  ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 22.2$  Hz), 105.25 (C-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 23.63, 13.66 (two methyl (2-CH<sub>3</sub> of oxazole and 6-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring))HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C15H12CIFN4O]: calcd 318.06837, found 319.07254 [M + H]+.

#### N-(3-Chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-2-(2-methyloxazol-4-yl)pyrimidin-4-amine

(**6b**).—Compound **6b** was prepared by reaction of compound **1e** (3-chloro-6-(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)-4-methylpyridazine, 0.24 mmol, 50.3 mg) and 3-chloro-4-fluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 36.4 mg). Yield (81%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) & 2.53 (s, 3H, 6-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring), 2.57 (s, 3H, 2-C*H*<sub>3</sub> of oxazole ring), 6.68 (s, 1H, *H*-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 7.32 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, H-5 of the phenyl ring), 7.53-7.57 (m, 1H, H-6 of the phenyl ring), 7.79 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.4, 2.4 Hz, H-2 of the phenyl ring), 8.61 (s, 1H, *H*-5 of the oxazole ring), 9.29 (s, 1 H, N*H*). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) & 165.1 (d, C4-F, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 207.1 Hz), 162.54, 158.78, 155.17 155.09, 145.20, 135.83 (C-4, C-2, C-6 of the pyrimidine ring, C-5 and C-4, and C-2 of the oxazole ring), 135.43 (d, C-6 of the phenyl group, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 3.0 *Hz*), 125.67 (C-NH of the phenyl ring), 123.92 (d, C-2 of the phenyl ring, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 23.2 *Hz*), 105.42 (C-5 of the pyrimidine ring), 19.51 and 13.60 (two methyl (2-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of oxazole and 6-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of the pyrimidine ring)). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>CIFN<sub>4</sub>O]: calcd 318.0683, found 319.0725 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

## N-(3-Chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-6-(3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-4-

#### methylpyridazin-3-amine (7).—Compound 7 was prepared

by the reaction of compound **1f** (0.23 mmol, 51.2 mg) and 3-chloro-4-fluoroaniline (0.25 mmol, 36.4 mg). Yield (65%), white powder. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) &: 2.33 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub> 3-CH<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole ring), 2.48 (s, 3H, 4-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyridazine ring), 2.58 (s, 3H, 5-CH<sub>3</sub> of the pyrazole ring), 6.07 (s, 1H, *H*-4 of the pyrazole ring), 6.67 (s, 1H, H-5 of the pyridazine ring), 7.13 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, H-5 of the phenyl ring), 7.26-7.29 (m, 1H, H-6 of the phenyl ring), 7.60 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.4, 2.0 Hz, H-2 of the phenyl ring), 9.84-10.10 (br s, 1H, N*H*). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 161.99, 161.74 (C-3 and C-6 of the pyridazine ring), 153.55 (d, C4-F, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 202.0 Hz), 157.02, 153.27, 143.75 (C-3 of the pyridazine ring, C-5 and C-3 of the pyrazole ring), 123.13 (d, C-2 of the phenyl ring, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 7.1 Hz), 121.32 (d, C-3 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 19.2 Hz$ ), 117.03 (d, C-5 of the phenyl ring,  ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 22.2 Hz$ ), 111.65,101.72 (C-5 of the pyridazine ring and C-4 of the pyrazole ring), 22.16, 15.31, 13.58 (three methyl (5-*C*H<sub>3</sub> and 3-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of pyrazole and 4-*C*H<sub>3</sub> of the pyridazine ring). HR-MS (ESI-qTOF) (m/z) [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClFN<sub>5</sub>]: calcd 331.1000, found 332.103271 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>.

#### 4.3. Electrophysiology

The effect of newly synthesized compounds on K<sub>Ca</sub>2.x/K<sub>Ca</sub>3.1 channels was investigated as previously described <sup>14, 22</sup>. Briefly, the rat  $K_{Ca}$ 2.2a, human  $K_{Ca}$ 2.1, human  $K_{Ca}$ 2.3 or human K<sub>Ca</sub>3.1 channel cDNA constructs were either generated in-house or through molecular cloning services (Genscript, Piscataway, NJ, USA). The channel cDNAs, along with CaM and GFP, at a ratio of 7:4:2 (ORF ratios), were transfected into HEK293 cells by the calcium-phosphate method. K<sub>Ca</sub> currents were recorded 1-2 days after transfection, with an Axon200B amplifier (Molecular Devices, San Jose, CA, USA) at room temperature. The resistance of the patch electrodes ranged from  $3-5 \text{ M}\Omega$ . The pipette solution contained (in mM): 140 KCl, 10 Hepes (pH 7.4), 1 MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The bath solution containing (in mM): 140 KCl, 10 Hepes (pH 7.2), 1 EGTA, 0.1 Dibromo-BAPTA, and 1 HEDTA was mixed with  $Ca^{2+}$  to obtain the desired free  $Ca^{2+}$  concentrations, calculated using the software by Chris Patton of Stanford University (https://somapp.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/pharmacology/bers/ maxchelator/webmaxc/webmaxcS.htm). The  $Ca^{2+}$  concentrations were verified using a  $Ca^{2+}$ calibration buffer kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Briefly, a standard curve was generated using the Ca<sup>2+</sup> buffers from the kit and a fluorescence Ca<sup>2+</sup> indicator. Then, the Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations of the bath solution were determined through interpolation on the standard curve.

High resistance seals (> 1 G $\Omega$ ) were formed before inside-out patches were obtained. The seal resistance of inside-out patches was > 1 G $\Omega$ , when the intracellular face was initially exposed to a zero-Ca<sup>2+</sup> bath solution. Currents were recorded by repetitive 1-s-voltage ramps from – 100 mV to + 100 mV from a holding potential of 0 mV. The currents were filtered at 2 kHz and digitized at a sampling frequency of 10 kHz. At the end of experiment, the integrity of the patch was examined by switching the bath solution back to the zero-Ca<sup>2+</sup> buffer. Data from patches, which maintained the seal resistance (> 1 G $\Omega$ ) after solution changes, were used for further analysis.

To measure the effect of CyPPA (Alomone Labs, Jerusalem, Israel) and newly synthesized compounds, the intracellular face was exposed to bath solutions with 0.15  $\mu$ M Ca<sup>2+</sup>. One minute after switching of bath solutions, ten sweeps with a 1-s interval were recorded at a series of concentrations of compound in the presence of 0.15  $\mu$ M Ca<sup>2+</sup>. The maximal K<sub>Ca</sub>2.x/K<sub>Ca</sub>3.1 current in response to 10  $\mu$ M Ca<sup>2+</sup> was then recorded.

For the  $K_{Ca}1.1$  and  $Na_v1.2$  channels, experiments were conducted using an EPC-10 amplifier (HEKA, Lambrecht/Pfalz, Germany). Cells were trypsinized and plated onto poly-L-lysine–coated coverslips. All recordings were done using normal Ringer solution as external bath solution. Patch pipettes were pulled from soda lime glass (micro-hematocrit tubes, Kimble Chase, Rochester, NY) and had resistances of 2-3 M $\Omega$ .

N1E-115 neuroblastoma cells (expressing mouse Na<sub>v</sub>1.2 channels) were obtained from ATCC and cultured in complete DMEM. N1E-115 neuroplastoma cells were recorded with pipettes filled with internal solution consisted of (in mM) 10 NaF, 110 CsF, 20 CsCl, 10 HEPES, 2 EGTA, pH of 7.4 adjusted with CsOH, and osmolarity to 290-310 mOsm. Cells were pulsed for 200 msec at -120 mV from holding potential of -90 mV, then stepped up to either -10 mV or 0 mV for 50 msec to elicit inward currents, then back to -120 mV for 50 msec. Pulse interval was 0.1 Hz.

HEK-293 human  $K_{Ca}1.1$  (BK) cells (gifted by Dr. Andrew Tinker, University College London) were recorded with internal pipette solution containing (in mM) 160 K<sup>+</sup> aspartate, 2.31 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 10 HEPES, 10 EGTA, and 5.96 CaCl<sub>2</sub> (250 nM free Ca<sup>2+</sup>), pH 7.2, 290–310 mOsm. Cells were held at -80 mV and pulsed by a step protocols from -80 mV to 80 mV, in 20 mV increments.

#### 4.4. Data and statistical analysis

Patch-clamp recordings were analysed using Clampfit 10.5 (Molecular Devices LLC, San Jose, CA, USA) and concentration-response curves were analyzed in GraphPad Prism 9.0.2 (GraphPad Software Inc., La Jolla, CA, USA). To construct the concentration-dependent potentiation of channel activities by compound, the current amplitudes at – 90 mV in response to various concentrations of the compound were normalized to that obtained at a maximal concentration of compound. The normalized currents were plotted as a function of the concentrations of the compound. EC<sub>50</sub> values and Hill coefficients were determined by fitting the data points to a standard concentration–response curve ( $Y = 100/(1 + (X/EC50)^{-1} - Hill)$ ). To assess the efficacy of compound, the current amplitudes obtained at the maximal concentration of the compound were normalized to the maximal K<sub>Ca</sub>2.x/K<sub>Ca</sub>3.1 current in response to 10  $\mu$ M Ca<sup>2+</sup>. Concentration-response curves were acquired from multiple patches for each data set. Each curve was fitted individually, which yielded the EC<sub>50</sub> value for that curve. EC<sub>50</sub> values are shown as mean ± SD obtained from multiple patches, and the number of patches is indicated by n.

The Student's *t*-test was used for data comparison if there were only two groups. One-way ANOVA and Tukey's post hoc tests were used for data comparison of three or more groups. Post hoc tests were carried out only if F was significant and there was no variance in homogeneity.

#### 4.5 Mice breeding and genotyping

Transgenic SCA2-58Q mice and their wild type (WT) littermates were used in these experiments. SCA2-58Q mice <sup>23</sup> were kindly provided to us by Dr. Stefan Pulst (University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA) and were crossed to the FVB background strain. The breeding and genotyping of these mice were previously described <sup>20, 24, 25</sup>. Briefly, hemizygous male SCA2-58Q mice were crossed with the WT female mice to generate mixed litters. The genotyping was done via PCR for *ATXN2* transgene as previously described <sup>20, 24, 25</sup>. The volume of one PCR sample was 25 µl. The PCR mix per one sample contained: 2.5 µl 10 × buffer for Taq polymerase, 0.5 µl 10 mM dNTP, 1.5 µl 25 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.125 ul 20 µM primers (forward and reverse), 0.25 µl Taq

polymerase, 2  $\mu$ l DNA, and 18  $\mu$ l dH<sub>2</sub>O. The sequence of the forward primer is: 5'-GCGAACACAAAGAGAAGGACCTGGA-3'. The sequence of the reverse primer is: 5'-GCCCTTGCTTCCCGTTTTAA-3'. The PCR product has 232 bp. Mice were housed in groups of two to six in one cage in the vivarium. The temperature was kept 22-24 °C including 12 daylight hours. The animals had access to standard food and water *ad libitum*. All procedures were approved by the Bioethics Committee of the Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University at St. Petersburg, Russia, and followed the principles of the European convention (Strasbourg, 1986) and the Declaration of International medical association about humane treatment of animals (Helsinki, 1996).

#### 4.6 Cerebellar slice recordings of spontaneous PC activity in SCA2-58Q mice

Recordings of spontaneous PC activity from WT and SCA2-58Q mice at 7-8 months of age were performed as previously described <sup>17, 18, 26</sup>. Briefly, the mice were anesthetized with 2,000 mg/kg urethane and transcardially perfused with ice-cold aCSF containing (mM) 85 NaCl, 24 NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 25 glucose, 2.5 KCl, 0.5 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 4 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 75 sucrose. Solutions were equilibrated with carbogen (95% O<sub>2</sub>/5% CO<sub>2</sub>). Next, the cerebellum was dissected and 300 µm thick sagittal slices were cut with a VT1200S vibratome (Leica). Slices were recovering in aCSF containing (in mM) 119 NaCl, 26 NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 11 glucose, 2.5 KCl, 2.5 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.3 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> at 35 °C for 30-40 min and then transferred to the room temperature before recordings started. The external bath solution used for the recording was the same as the recovery aCSF, but also contained 100  $\mu$ M picrotoxin (PTX) and 10 µM 6,7-dinitroquinoxaline-2,3-dione (DNQX), equilibrated with carbogen. All recordings were made within 5-6 hours after cerebellum was dissected. The recording chamber was heated to 35 °C using TC-324C automatic temperature controller (Warner Instruments, Hamden, CT). Loose-patch recordings were made as described previously <sup>17, 18</sup> to evaluate the spontaneous activity of cerebellar PCs. Briefly,  $1-3 M\Omega$  glass pipettes were filled with the internal solution containing 140 mM NaCl buffered with 10 mM HEPES pH 7.3 and held at 0 mV. A loose patch (<100 M $\Omega$ ) configuration was established at the PC soma at the axon hillock area. Spontaneous action potential currents were recorded for 5–60 min from each cell using Axon Multiclamp 700B amplifier (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA). The 10 min recordings were analyzed for tonic or burst firing as we previously described <sup>17, 18, 20</sup>. Cells were characterized as firing tonically if they fired repetitive nonhalting spike trains for 10 min. A cell was characterized as bursting if it had more than 5% of the interspike intervals that fell outside of 3 SD from the mean of all interspike intervals in that cell. The analysis of PC firing was performed using Clampfit 10.2 (Molecular Devices). Data was plotted as the instantaneous firing rate every 100 ms for the entire recording duration. Once a bursting activity was established during the first 15-20 min of recordings, the bath solution was switched to the aCSF containing 50 µM CHZ, 10 µM 20 or 10  $\mu$ M 2q for at least 20 min to determine the effect of the compound on the firing pattern of that PC.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CaM	calmodulin
СуРРА	<i>N</i> -cyclohexyl-2-(3,5-dimethyl-1 <i>H</i> -pyrazol-1-yl)-6- methylpyrimidin-4-amine
DCM	dichloromethane
DIPEA	N,N-diisopropylethylamine
DMF	<i>N</i> , <i>N</i> -dimethylformamide
K <sub>Ca</sub> 2.1 channels	small-conductance $Ca^{2+}$ -activated potassium subtype 1 channels
K <sub>Ca</sub> 2.2 channels	small-conductance $Ca^{2+}$ -activated potassium subtype 2 channels
K <sub>Ca</sub> 2.3 channels	small-conductance $Ca^{2+}$ -activated potassium subtype 3 channels
K <sub>Ca</sub> 3.1 channels	intermediate-conductance Ca <sup>2+</sup> -activated potassium channels
PCs	Purkinje cells
SCA	spinocerebellar ataxia

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# FIGURE 1. Modification of cyclohexane moiety in compound 2d did not improve potency on $K_{\mbox{Ca}}2.2a$ channels.

(A) Representative current traces of concentration-dependent potentiation by CyPPA of rat K<sub>Ca</sub>2.2a channels. (B) Concentration-dependent potentiation by **2d** and CyPPA of rat K<sub>Ca</sub>2.2a channels. (C) Responses to **2d** and CyPPA of rat K<sub>Ca</sub>2.2a channels were normalized to the maximal currents induced by 10  $\mu$ M Ca<sup>2+</sup>. (D) E<sub>max</sub> to **2d** and CyPPA of rat K<sub>Ca</sub>2.2a channels.

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(A) Potentiation by compouds with decorated phenyl moiety and CyPPA of rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels. (B)  $EC_{50}$  values for potentiation by compounds with decorated phenyl moiety and CyPPA. (C) Responses to compounds of rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels. The responses were normalized to the maximal currents induced by 10  $\mu$ M Ca<sup>2+</sup>. (D)  $E_{max}$  to compounds. \* P < 0.05, \*\*\* P < 0.001. No asterisk means no statistical significance compared with CyPPA. (E) Effects of compounds **20** (10  $\mu$ M) and **2q** (10  $\mu$ M) on the Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration-dependent activation of rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels. (F) Increased apparent Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensitivity of rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels by compounds **20** (10  $\mu$ M) and **2q** (10  $\mu$ M).

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# FIGURE 3. Modification of pyrimidine moiety in compounds 4 and 7 did not improve potency on $K_{Ca}$ 2.2a channels.

(A) Potentiation by compounds with modified pyrimidine moiety of rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels. (B) EC<sub>50</sub> values for potentiation by compounds with modified pyrimidine moiety. (C) Responses to compounds of rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels. The responses were normalized to the maximal currents induced by 10  $\mu$ M Ca<sup>2+</sup>. (D) E<sub>max</sub> to compounds. \*\*\* P < 0.001. No asterisk means no statistical significance.

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# FIGURE 4. Modification of pyrazole moiety in compounds 5a-b and 6a-b did not improve potency on $K_{Ca}$ 2.2a channels.

(A) Potentiation by compounds with modified pyrazole moiety of rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels. (B)  $EC_{50}$  values for potentiation by compounds with modified pyrazole moiety. (C) Responses to compounds of rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels. The responses were normalized to the maximal currents induced by 10  $\mu$ M Ca<sup>2+</sup>. (D)  $E_{max}$  to compounds. \* P < 0.05, \*\*\* P < 0.001. No asterisk means no statistical significance compared with its respective template.

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#### FIGURE 5. Subtype-selectivity towards $K_{Ca}2.2a$ over $K_{Ca}2.1$ channels.

(A) Lack of response to **20** of human  $K_{Ca}2.1$  channels. (B) Lack of response to **2q** of human  $K_{Ca}2.1$  channels. (C) Responses to **20** and **2q** of rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  and human  $K_{Ca}2.1$  channels. The responses were normalized to the maximal currents induced by 10  $\mu$ M Ca<sup>2+</sup>. (D)  $E_{max}$  to **20** and **2q** of rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  and human  $K_{Ca}2.1$  channels. \*\*\* P < 0.001.

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## FIGURE 6. Subtype-selectivity towards $K_{\mbox{Ca}}2.2a$ over $K_{\mbox{Ca}}3.1$ channels.

(A) Responses to **20** and **2q** of rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  and human  $K_{Ca}3.1$  channels. The responses were normalized to the maximal currents induced by 10  $\mu$ M Ca<sup>2+</sup>. (B)  $E_{max}$  to **20** and **2q** of rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  and human  $K_{Ca}3.1$  channels. \*\*\* P < 0.001.

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#### FIGURE 7. Activity on K<sub>Ca</sub>2.3 channels.

(A) Potentiation by **20** and **2q** of human  $K_{Ca}2.3$  channels compared to rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels. (B) EC<sub>50</sub> values for potentiation by **20** and **2q** of human  $K_{Ca}2.3$  channels compared to rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels. (C) Responses to **20** and **2q** of human  $K_{Ca}2.3$  channels compared to rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels. The responses were normalized to the maximal currents induced by 10  $\mu$ M Ca<sup>2+</sup>. (D) E<sub>max</sub> to **20** and **2q** of human  $K_{Ca}2.3$  channels compared to rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels. \*\*\* P < 0.001. No asterisk means no statistical significance compared with rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channel subtype.

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#### FIGURE 8. Effects of compounds 20 and 2q on $K_{\mbox{Ca}}1.1$ and $Na_v1.2$ channels.

(A) Representative human  $K_{Ca}1.1$  currents in the absence or presence of **20** (100 µM, left) and bar graph showing quantified current response by the +80 mV step (right). (B) Human  $K_{Ca}1.1$  currents in the absence or presence of **2q** (100 µM). (C) Representative N1E-115 neuroblastoma mouse Na<sub>v</sub>1.2 currents in the absence or presence of **20** (100 µM). (D) Representative N1E-115 neuroblastoma mouse Na<sub>v</sub>1.2 currents in the absence or presence of **2q** (100 µM). (E) Concentration-dependent inhibition of mouse Na<sub>v</sub>1.2 currents by compounds **20** (n = 5) and **2q** (n = 5).

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10 µM 20



FIGURE 9. Subtype-selective  $K_{Ca}2.2a/K_{Ca}2.3$  channel positive allosteric modulator 20 converts bursting patterns into tonic activity of PC in acute cerebellar slices from 8-month-old SCA2-58Q mouse.

(A) Continuous 40-min recording of PC activity. The time of 10  $\mu$ M **20** application is indicated by a horizontal bar above the recording. A plot of the running average of firing frequency is shown below the recording. (B) 390-ms fragments of PC activity recordings before the exposure to **20** and 12 min after the exposure are shown on the expanded timescale. (C) The distributions of interspike intervals (ISI) before (left) and after (right) the exposure to **20** were calculated from 10-s fragments of the recording shown in A. Average firing frequency (FF) for the analyzed fragment before **20** application was 157.2 Hz, and the

CV of ISI in the analyzed fragment was 1.39. Average FF for the analyzed fragment after **20** exposure was 84.6 Hz, and the CV of ISI was 0.07.

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FIGURE 10. Subtype-selective  $K_{\rm Ca}2.2a/K_{\rm Ca}2.3$  channel positive allosteric modulator 2q converts bursting patterns into tonic activity of PC and then into a silent mode in acute cerebellar slices from 8-month-old SCA2-58Q mouse.

(A) Continuous 40-min recording of PC activity. The time of 10  $\mu$ M **2q** application is indicated by a horizontal bar above the recording. A plot of the running average of firing frequency is shown below the recording. (B) 390-ms fragments of PC activity recordings before the exposure to **2q** and 7 min after the exposure are shown on the expanded timescale. (C) The distributions of interspike intervals (ISI) before (left) and after (right) the exposure to **2q** were calculated from 10-s fragments of the recording shown in A. Average firing frequency (FF) for the analyzed fragment before **2q** application inside the bursts was

134.3 Hz, and the CV of ISI in the analyzed fragment was 1.83. Average FF for the analyzed fragment after **2q** exposure was 55.9 Hz, and the CV of ISI was 0.21.

![](_page_40_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Figure_2.jpeg)

Scheme 2. Synthesis of CyPPA analogs **2k-w**.

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![](_page_42_Figure_6.jpeg)

Scheme 3. Synthesis of CyPPA analogs (3-7).

## Table 1.

The potency of compounds **2a-f** on potentiating rat  $K_{Ca}$ 2.2a channels compared to the parent template, CyPPA.

![](_page_43_Figure_4.jpeg)

Compound	Х	EC <sub>50</sub> (µM)		
2a	OH	> 100		
2b	NH <sub>2</sub>	> 100		
2c	CH <sub>2</sub> OH	> 100		
2d	OCH <sub>3</sub>	$49.72 \pm 11.3$		
2e	F	> 100		
2f	NO <sub>2</sub>	> 100		
СуРРА	Н	$7.48 \pm 1.58$		

#### Table 2.

The potency of compounds 2g and 2w on potentiating rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels compared to the parent template, CyPPA.

![](_page_44_Figure_4.jpeg)

## Table 3.

The potency of compounds  $2h\mathchar`-j$  on potentiating rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels compared to the parent template, CyPPA.

![](_page_45_Figure_4.jpeg)

Compound	X	Y	EC <sub>50</sub> (µM)
2h	CN	Н	> 100
2i	OH	Н	> 100
2j	F	F	> 100
СуРРА			$7.48 \pm 1.58$

#### Table 4.

The potency of compounds **2k-v**, **4**, **5a-b**, and **6a-b** on potentiating rat  $K_{Ca}$ 2.2a channels compared to the parent template, CyPPA.

![](_page_46_Figure_4.jpeg)

Compound	<b>X</b> <sub>1</sub>	<b>X</b> <sub>2</sub>	<b>X</b> <sub>3</sub>	X <sub>4</sub>	<b>X</b> 5	Y	Z	$EC_{50}\left(\mu M\right)$
2k	Н	Н	SH	Н	Н	a	$CH_3$	> 100
21	Н	Н	$NO_2$	Н	Н	а	$CH_3$	> 100
2m	F	F	Н	Н	Н	а	$CH_3$	$5.03 \pm 1.06$
2n	F	Н	Н	F	Н	a	CH <sub>3</sub>	$1.89\pm0.44$
20	Н	Cl	F	Н	Н	a	CH <sub>3</sub>	$0.99\pm0.19$
2p	F	Н	Cl	Н	Н	a	CH <sub>3</sub>	$1.99 \pm 0.31$
2q	F	Н	Н	Cl	Н	а	$CH_3$	$0.64\pm0.12$
2r	Cl	Н	Н	F	Н	a	CH <sub>3</sub>	$2.97\pm0.67$
2s	Н	Н	CF <sub>3</sub>	Н	Н	а	$CH_3$	$3.45 \pm 1.00$
2t	Н	Cl	CF <sub>3</sub>	Н	Н	а	$CH_3$	$3.27\pm0.79$
2u	Н	Cl	Н	CF <sub>3</sub>	Н	а	$CH_3$	> 100
2v	F	Н	Н	$\rm CO_2 H$	Н	a	CH <sub>3</sub>	> 30
4	Н	Cl	F	Н	Н	а	$\mathrm{NH}_2$	$6.59 \pm 1.55$
5a	F	Н	Н	Cl	Н	b	$CH_3$	$4.51 \pm 1.08$
5b	Н	Cl	F	Н	Н	b	$CH_3$	$38.81 \pm 9.87$
6a	F	Н	Н	Cl	Н	c	$CH_3$	$13.77\pm4.10$
6b	Н	Cl	F	Н	Н	с	$CH_3$	$3.59\pm0.87$
CyPPA								$7.48 \pm 1.58$

## Table 5.

The potency of compounds **3a-g** on potentiating rat  $K_{Ca}2.2a$  channels compared to the parent template, CyPPA.

![](_page_47_Figure_4.jpeg)

Compound	X <sub>1</sub>	<b>X</b> <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>3</sub>	X <sub>4</sub>	<b>X</b> <sub>5</sub>	EC <sub>50</sub> (µM)
3a	Н	Cl	Н	Н	Н	> 100
3b	Н	Cl	F	Н	Н	> 100
3c	F	Н	Н	Cl	Н	> 100
3d	F	Н	Cl	Н	Н	> 100
3e	Cl	Н	Н	F	Н	> 100
3f	F	Н	Н	F	Н	> 100
3g	Н	Cl	CF <sub>3</sub>	Н	Н	> 100
CyPPA						$7.48 \pm 1.58$