Discovery of a Selective, Substrate-Competitive Inhibitor of the Lysine Methyltransferase SETD8

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The lysine methyltransferase SETD8 is the only known methyltransferase that catalyzes monomethylation of histone H4 lysine 20 (H4K20). Monomethylation of H4K20 has been implicated in regulating diverse biological processes including the DNA damage response. In addition to H4K20, SETD8 monomethylates non-histone substrates including proliferating cell nuclear antigen (PCNA) and promotes carcinogenesis by deregulating PCNA expression. However, selective inhibitors of SETD8 are scarce. The only known selective inhibitor of SETD8 to date is nahuoic acid A, a marine natural product, which is competitive with the cofactor. Here, we report the discovery of the first substrate-competitive inhibitor of SETD8, UNC0379 (1). This small-molecule inhibitor is active in multiple biochemical assays. Its affinity to SETD8 was confirmed by ITC (isothermal titration calorimetry) and SPR (surface plasmon resonance) studies. Importantly, compound 1 is selective for SETD8 over 15 other methyltransferases. We also describe structure–activity relationships (SAR) of this series.

INTRODUCTION

Protein lysine methyltransferases (PKMTs, also known as histone lysine methyltransferases (HKMTs)) catalyze the transfer of the methyl group from the cofactor S-adenosyl-L-methionine (SAM) to lysine residues of histone and non-histone substrates, leading to lysine mono-, di-, and/or trimethylation.1–3 Histone lysine methylation has been increasingly recognized as a major epigenetic gene regulation mechanism in eukaryotic cells.4–6 Therefore, PKMTs as a class of potential drug targets have received considerable attention from the medicinal chemistry and chemical biology community. With the exception of DOT1L, PKMTs contain an evolutionarily conserved SET (Su(var), E(z), and Trithorax) domain.7 This catalytic domain consists of a substrate binding groove and a cofactor binding site.8 A number of selective small-molecule inhibitors of PKMTs including G9a/GLP, EZH2, SMYD2, DOT1L, and SETD2 have been discovered.9–35 These inhibitors are competitive with either the peptide substrate or the cofactor SAM. In addition, a number of selective inhibitors of protein arginine methyltransferases (PRMTs), another class of protein methyltransferases, have been reported.36–38 Some of these inhibitors have subsequently been utilized as valuable tools for investigating the role of the corresponding methyltransferases in various human diseases.

SETD8 (also known as SET8, PR-SET7, or KMT5A (lysine methyltransferase 5A)) is the sole methyltransferase that catalyzes monomethylation of histone H4 lysine 20 (H4K20).43–45 SETD8 and H4K20me (H4K20 monomethylation) have been implicated in regulating a diverse set of biological processes including the DNA damage response, DNA replication, and mitotic condensation.46 A recent study has shown that (1) SETD8 is physically associated with TWIST, a master regulator of EMT (epithelial–mesenchymal transition), (2) SETD8 and TWIST are functionally interdependent on promoting EMT, (3) SETD8 acts on the promoters of the TWIST target genes such as N-cadherin via exertion of its H4K20 monomethylation activity, and (4) SETD8 expression is positively correlated with metastasis and the expression of TWIST and N-cadherin in breast cancer cells.46 In addition to H4K20, SETD8 methylates many non-histone substrates including the tumor suppressor p53 and proliferating cell nuclear antigen (PCNA).37,48 The monomethylation of p53 at lysine 382 (p53K382me1) catalyzed by SETD8 suppresses p53-
mediated transcription activation of highly responsive target genes.\textsuperscript{47} SETD8 and PCNA are coexpressed in lung cancer tissues.\textsuperscript{48} The monomethylation of PCNA at lysine 248 (PCNAK248me1) catalyzed by SETD8 stabilizes PCNA protein, enhances the interaction between PCNA and the flap endonuclease FEN1, and promotes the proliferation of cancer cells.\textsuperscript{48}

However, selective inhibitors of SETD8 are scarce. To date, nahuoic acid A, a marine natural product, is the only known selective inhibitor of SETD8 (Figure 1).\textsuperscript{25} This inhibitor is competitive with the cofactor SAM and noncompetitive with the peptide substrate. Here we report the discovery of UNC0379 (1), the first substrate-competitive inhibitor of SETD8. Compound 1 is a synthetic small-molecule inhibitor that displays inhibitory activity in multiple biochemical assays and is selective for SETD8 over 15 other methyltransferases. The binding affinity of compound 1 to SETD8 was determined using biophysical assays such as ITC (isothermal titration calorimetry) and SPR (surface plasmon resonance) and is largely consistent with its potency in biochemical assays. We describe hit identification, analogue synthesis, structure–activity relationship (SAR), and comprehensive characterization of compound 1 in a number of biochemical and biophysical assays including mechanism of action and selectivity studies.

\section*{RESULTS AND DISCUSSION}

\subsection*{Discovery of Compound 1 as a SETD8 Inhibitor.}

We previously reported that 2,4-diaminoquinazolines are selective, substrate-competitive inhibitors of the lysine methyltransferases G9a and GLP.\textsuperscript{10,12,14,30} To identify a substrate-competitive inhibitor of SETD8, we cross-screened our quinazoline-based inhibitor set, which consists of >150 compounds, against SETD8. From this study, we discovered compound 1 as an inhibitor of SETD8 (Figure 2). Interestingly, compound 1 was originally prepared for targeting L3MBTL1, a histidine lysine reader protein,\textsuperscript{49} but showed no appreciable activity for L3MBTL1. On the other hand, compound 1 displayed inhibitory activity with an IC\textsubscript{50} of 7.3 ± 1.0 μM (n = 2) in a radioactive biochemical assay that measures the transfer of the tritiated methyl group from 3\textsuperscript{H}-SAM to a peptide substrate catalyzed by SETD8 (Figure 2). The inhibitory activity of compound 1 was confirmed in an orthogonal biochemical assay, microfluidic capillary electrophoresis (MCE) assay. This SETD8 MCE assay was developed analogously to the previously reported G9a MCE assay.\textsuperscript{50} Compound 1 exhibited an IC\textsubscript{50} of 9.0 μM in the SETD8 MCE assay.

\subsection*{Analogue Synthesis.}

To determine SAR for this promising hit, we designed and synthesized a number of analogues that contain various 2- and 4-substituents at the quinazoline core. We synthesized compounds 2–24 from commercially available 2,4-dichloro-6,7-dimethoxyquinazoline and corresponding amines in good yields (Scheme 1 and Tables 1 and 2). Using the methods developed previously,\textsuperscript{10} we displaced the 4-chloro group with the first set of amines at room temperature and the 2-chloro group with the second set of amines under microwave heating conditions to yield the desired 2,4-diamino-6,7-dimethoxyquinazolines.

\subsection*{SAR in SETD8 Biochemical Assay.}

The synthesized compounds were then evaluated in the SETD8 radioactive methyl transfer assay. IC\textsubscript{50} values of these compounds in this biochemical assay are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. We first explored the 4-amino group of the quinazoline scaffold (Table 1). Reducing the length of the alkyl linker between the two amino groups resulted in the decrease of the potency (compound 1 versus compounds 2–4). The distal amino group can be changed from the pyrrolidinyl to piperidinyl or dimethylamino without any potency loss (compound 1 versus compounds 5 and 6). Interestingly, the diethylamino analogue (compound 7) was somewhat less potent than compounds 1, 5, and 6. We also attempted to...
replace the piperidinyl group with a piperazinyl or N-substituted piperazinyl group (compound 1 versus compounds 8−12). However, these structural modifications led to a potency loss, suggesting that an additional basic amino group (compounds 9−12) or a large substituent (compound 8) is detrimental to inhibiting SETD8. In addition, we found that the basicity of the pyrrolidinyl group in compound 1 was an important contributor to its SETD8 inhibitory activity, as the corresponding amide analogue (compound 13) was about 8-fold less potent than compound 1. We also explored whether the NH group in compound 1 was potentially engaged in a hydrogen bond interaction and found that the N-methyl analogue (compound 14) was drastically less potent than compound 1, suggesting that the hydrogen of the secondary amine likely serves as a hydrogen bond donor.

Table 1. SAR of the 4-Amino Group

| Compound | R¹ Group | SETD8 IC₅₀ (µM)ᵃ |
|----------|----------|------------------|
| 1        | HN − HN − N | 7.3 ± 1.0 |
| 2        | HN − HN − N | 67 ± 12 |
| 3        | HN − HN − N | 36 ± 9.1 |
| 4        | HN − HN − N | 43 ± 13 |
| 5        | HN − HN − N | 7.9 ± 0.8 |
| 6        | HN − HN − N | 7.9 ± 1.4 |
| 7        | HN − HN − N | 21 ± 1.7 |
| 8        | HN − HN − NBoc | 35 ± 4.8 |
| 9        | HN − HN − NH | 32 ± 8.2 |
| 10       | HN − HN − N | 29 ± 6.3 |
| 11       | HN − HN − N | 25 ± 7.9 |
| 12       | HN − HN − N | 34 ± 5.5 |
| 13       | HN − HN − O | 58 ± 0.31 |
| 14       | N − N | >250 |

ᵃIC₅₀ determination experiments were performed in duplicate.

Table 2. SAR of the 2-Amino Group

| Compound | R² Group | SETD8 IC₅₀ (µM)ᵃ |
|----------|----------|------------------|
| 1        | N        | 7.3 ± 1.0 |
| 15       | N        | 94 ± 18 |
| 16       | N        | >250 |
| 17       | N        | 9.2 ± 1.2 |
| 18       | N        | >250 |
| 19       | N        | >250 |
| 20       | N        | 37 ± 9.3 |
| 21       | N        | 37 ± 5.9 |
| 22       | N        | >250 |
| 23       | N        | >250 |
| 24       | Cl       | >250 |

ᵃIC₅₀ determination experiments were performed in duplicate.
We next explored the 2-amino group of the quinazoline scaffold (Table 2). The replacement of the pyrrolidinyl group with either the piperidinyl or azepanyl group resulted in a significant loss of the potency (compound 1 versus compounds 15 and 16), suggesting a large group is disfavored. On the other hand, the dimethylamino group (compound 17) did not lead to any significant potency loss. The introduction of an additional basic amino group (compound 15 versus the unsubstituted piperazinyl analogue 18 and the N-methylpiperazinyl analogue 19) resulted in a complete loss of the potency. We also explored other amino groups such as N-methyl-N-cyclopentylamine (compound 20) and N-methyl-N-cyclohexylamine (compound 21). Compared with compound 1, compounds 20 and 21 were about 4-fold less potent. Interestingly, removing the methyl group from either compound 20 or 21 led to the complete loss of inhibitory activity (compounds 22 and 23), suggesting that tertiary amino groups are preferred compared with secondary amino groups. In addition, the chloro analogue (compound 24) was inactive. Taken together, these results suggest that SETD8 inhibitory activity is very sensitive to the 2-substituent.

**ITC and SPR Studies.** We next characterized compound 1 in biophysical assays. In ITC studies, compound 1 bound SETD8 with a $K_D$ of 18.3 ± 3.2 μM (n = 3) (Figure 3). In SPR

![Graph](image)

Figure 3. Compound 1 binds SETD8 with a $K_D$ of 18.3 ± 3.2 μM (n = 3) in ITC studies.

studies, compound 1 behaved as a classic reversible inhibitor with a fast on rate ($k_o = 2.18 ± 0.36 × 10^4$ 1/Ms) and a fast off rate ($k_f = 7.82 ± 0.87 × 10^{-1}$ 1/s) (Figure 4). The $K_D$ of compound 1 was determined to be 36.0 ± 2.3 μM (n = 3). The binding affinity of compound 1 to SETD8 determined by ITC and SPR is largely consistent with its potency in the biochemical assays.

**MOA Studies.** We next studied the MOA (mechanism of action) of the SETD8 inhibition by compound 1 via varying concentrations of the H4 peptide substrate or the cofactor SAM. As illustrated in Figure 5A, IC$_{50}$ values of compound 1 increased linearly with H4 peptide concentrations. On the other hand, IC$_{50}$ values of compound 1 remained constant in the presence of increasing concentrations of SAM (Figure 5B). These results indicate that compound 1 is competitive with the peptide substrate and noncompetitive with the cofactor SAM.

**Peptide Displacement Assay.** To confirm the findings from the MOA studies, we tested compound 1 and an inactive control (compound 14) in a peptide displacement assay using fluorescence polarization (FP), which measures effects of inhibitors on displacing the H4K20me (1−24) peptide with N-terminus labeled by fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC). As illustrated in Figure 6, compound 1 effectively displaced the FITC-labeled peptide binding to SETD8 with an IC$_{50}$ of 37.7 ± 7.2 μM (n = 2). On the other hand, our negative control (compound 14) did not displace the peptide in this FP assay. These results further support that compound 1 is competitive with the peptide substrate.

**Selectivity.** We next determined the selectivity of inhibitor 1 for SETD8 over 15 other methyltransferases (Figure 7). With the exception of PRC2 (polycomb repressive complex 2), the IC$_{50}$ values of compound 1 for 14 other methyltransferases including G9a and GLP were all above 100 μM. For PRC2, compound 1 was active only at the two highest concentrations (50 and 100 μM) with an estimated IC$_{50}$ value greater than 50 μM. Therefore, inhibitor 1 is a selective inhibitor of SETD8.

**CONCLUSIONS**

We discovered the first selective, substrate competitive inhibitor of SETD8 by cross-screening our quinazoline-based epigenetic library. Our SAR studies of this series reveal that while the 4-amino moiety can be modified without a significant loss of potency, modifications to the 2-amino moiety are not well tolerated. We characterized compound 1 in a battery of biochemical, biophysical, MOA, and selectivity assays and found that the SETD8 inhibitory activity of this compound in biochemical assays was largely consistent with its binding affinity to SETD8 determined by ITC and SPR. Our MOA studies indicate that this inhibitor is competitive with the peptide substrate and noncompetitive with the cofactor SAM. This MOA was further supported by our finding that compound 1 effectively displaced the FITC-labeled H4 peptide in a FP assay. Importantly, this inhibitor is selective for SETD8 over 15 other methyltransferases including G9a and GLP, the two PKMTs that are known for being potently inhibited by quinazolines. These results provide the first evidence that 2,4-diaminoquinazolines can be modified to yield selective, substrate competitive inhibitors of PKMTs other than G9a and GLP.

**EXPERIMENTAL SECTION**

**Chemistry General Procedures.** HPLC spectra for all compounds were acquired using an Agilent 6100 series system with UV detector set to 254 nm. Samples were injected (5 μL) onto an Agilent Eclipse Plus 4.6 mm × 50 mm, 1.8 μm C18 column at room temperature. A linear gradient from 10% to 100% B (MeOH + 0.1% acetic acid) in 5.0 min was followed by pumping 100% B for another 2 min with A being H$_2$O + 0.1% acetic acid. The flow rate was 1.0 mL/min. Mass spectra data were acquired in positive ion mode using an Agilent 6100 single quadrupole mass spectrometer with an electro-
Spray ionization (ESI) source. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded at Varian Mercury spectrometer with 400 MHz for proton (1H NMR) and 100 MHz for carbon (13C NMR). Chemical shifts are reported in ppm (δ). Preparative HPLC was performed on Agilent Prep 1200 series with UV detector set to 254 nm. Samples were injected onto a Phenomenex Luna 75 mm × 30 mm, 5 μm C18 column at room temperature. The flow rate was 30 mL/min. A linear gradient was used with 10% (or 50%) of MeOH (A) in 0.1% TFA in H2O (B) to 100% of MeOH (A). HPLC was used to establish the purity of target compounds. All compounds had >95% purity using the HPLC methods described above. High-resolution (positive ion) mass spectrometry (HRMS) for compound 1 was performed using a Thermo LTQ FT mass spectrometer under FT control at 100 000 resolution.

6,7-Dimethoxy-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-N-(5-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pentyl)quinazolin-4-amine (1). To a solution of 2-chloro-6,7-dimethoxy-N-(5-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pentyl)quinazolin-4-amine (24, 84 mg, 0.17 mmol) and n-butanol (1.5 mL) were added pyrrolidine (commercially available, 56 μL, 0.68 mmol) and N,N-diisopropylethyl-

Figure 4. Compound 1 exhibits rapid on and off rates in SPR studies.

Figure 5. MOA studies of compound 1. (A) Compound 1 is competitive with the peptide substrate, as its IC50 values increased linearly with H4 peptide concentrations. (B) Compound 1 is noncompetitive with the cofactor SAM, as its IC50 values remained constant in the presence of increasing concentrations of SAM.

Figure 6. Peptide displacement assay. Compound 1 effectively displaced the FITC-labeled H4K20me (1−14) peptide, while an inactive control (compound 14) did not.

Figure 7. Selectivity of inhibitor 1 versus 15 other methyltransferases.
1-aminocarbons). HPLC purity: >95%; δ 1H = 3.32 min. MS (ESI): 414 [M + H]+. HRMS calc. for C42H38N4O3H+; 414.2869; found, 414.2862 [M + H]+.

6,7-Dimethoxy-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-N-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-ethyl)quinazolin-4-amine (2). 2-Chloro-6,7-dimethoxy-N-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-ethyl)quinazolin-4-amine was prepared according to the procedure for making 24 from 2,4-dichloro-6,7-dimethoxyquinazoline, 1-(2-aminocarbons)pyrrolidine (commercially available), N,N-diisopropylethylamine, and THF. To a solution of 2-chloro-6,7-dimethoxy-N-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-ethyl)quinazolin-4-amine (72 mg, 0.13 mmol) and isopropanol (0.7 mL) were added pyrrolidine (21 μL, 0.26 mmol) and HCl in dioxiane (4.0 mL, 63 μL, 0.26 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred inside a microwave at 160 °C for 20 min. After the mixture was cooled, TLC indicated the completion of the reaction. After removal of the solvent by rotary evaporation, the residue was redissolved in CH2Cl2 and washed with brine. The organic layer was dried, concentrated, and purified by HPLC to give the title compound as a TFA salt, white solid (70% yield 64%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.78–3.57 (m, 8H), 3.22–3.16 (m, 2H), 3.10–3.01 (m, 2H), 2.19–1.97 (m, 8H), 1.86–1.73 (m, 4H), 1.55–1.47 (m, 2H). 13C NMR (100 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 160.40, 157.17, 151.72, 148.80, 136.95, 105.04, 103.62, 99.62, 56.93, 56.79, 56.11, 55.08 (four carbons), 42.48, 29.31, 26.87, 25.20, 23.95 (four carbons). HPLC purity: >95%; δ 1H = 3.32 min. MS (ESI): 414 [M + H]+.

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6,7-Dimethoxy-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-N-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-ethyl)quinazolin-4-amine (2). 2-Chloro-6,7-dimethoxy-N-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-ethyl)quinazolin-4-amine was prepared according to the procedure for making 24 from 2,4-dichloro-6,7-dimethoxyquinazoline, 1-(2-aminocarbons)pyrrolidine (commercially available), N,N-diisopropylethylamine, and THF. To a solution of 2-chloro-6,7-dimethoxy-N-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-ethyl)quinazolin-4-amine (72 mg, 0.13 mmol) and isopropanol (0.7 mL) were added pyrrolidine (21 μL, 0.26 mmol) and HCl in dioxiane (4.0 mL, 63 μL, 0.26 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred inside a microwave at 160 °C for 20 min. After the mixture was cooled, TLC indicated the completion of the reaction. After removal of the solvent by rotary evaporation, the residue was redissolved in CH2Cl2 and washed with brine. The organic layer was dried, concentrated, and purified by HPLC to give the title compound as a TFA salt, white solid (70% yield 64%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.78–3.57 (m, 8H), 3.22–3.16 (m, 2H), 3.10–3.01 (m, 2H), 2.19–1.97 (m, 8H), 1.86–1.73 (m, 4H), 1.55–1.47 (m, 2H). 13C NMR (100 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 160.40, 157.17, 151.72, 148.81, 136.96, 105.05, 103.62, 99.62, 58.12, 56.93, 56.79, 54.27 (four carbons), 42.50, 29.32, 25.29, 24.92, 24.24 (four carbons), 22.72. HPLC purity: >95%; δ 1H = 3.32 min. MS (ESI): 428 [M + H]+.
room temperature and stirred overnight at 50 °C. LC–MS indicated the completion of the reaction. After removal of the solvent by rotary evaporation, the residue was purified by HPLC to give 14 mg of the title compound 9 as a TFA salt, white solid (14 mg, yield 80%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.82−3.49 (m, 14H), 3.23−3.17 (m, 2H), 2.21−2.02 (m, 4H), 1.87−1.78 (m, 4H). 1H NMR (300 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.82−3.48 (m, 14H), 1.56−1.47 (m, 2H). HPLC purity: 96.6%; tR = 3.83 min. MS (ESI): 248 [M + H]+.

6,7-Dimethoxy-N-(5-(4-Methylpiperazin-1-yl)pentyl)-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)quinazolin-4-amine (10). To the solution of 6,7-dimethoxy-N-(5-(piperazin-1-yl)pentyl)-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)quinazolin-4-amine (9, 80 mg, 0.12 mmol) in MeOH (1.0 mL) were added formaldehyde (commercially available, 39 µL, 1.4 mmol), acetic acid (80 µL, 1.4 mmol), and sodium cyanoborohydride (44 mg, 0.7 mmol). After removal of the solvent by rotary evaporation, the residue was redissolved in CH2Cl2, washed with brine. The organic layer was dried, concentrated, and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (300 mg, 30% EtOAc in hexanes). The title compound 5-amino-1-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pentan-1-one obtained was used for the next step without further purification.

5-(Dioxane (4.0 M, 95 °C), 24, 70 mg, 0.19 mmol), dimethylamine (commercially available, 37 µL, 0.38 mmol), HCl in dioxane (4.0 M, 95 µL, 0.38 mmol), and isopropyl alcohol (1.0 mL). The title compound 15 was obtained as a TFA salt, light yellow solid (101 mg, yield 83%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.88−3.82 (m, 4H), 3.69−3.61 (m, 4H), 3.22−3.16 (m, 2H), 3.10−3.01 (m, 2H), 2.20−2.08 (m, 2H), 2.07−1.96 (m, 2H), 1.85−1.69 (m, 10H), 1.55−1.46 (m, 2H). 13C NMR (100 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 160.25, 157.21, 152.43, 149.01, 137.00, 108.73, 100.34, 79.47, 61.79, 61.65, 61.32 (two carbons, 56.02 (two carbons), 47.16 (two carbons), 42.56, 29.29, 26.87, 26.69 (two carbons), 25.19, 25.13, 23.95 (two carbons). HPLC purity: >95%; tR = 3.22 min. MS (ESI): 428 [M + H]+.

6,7-Dimethoxy-N-(5-(4-Methylpiperazin-1-yl)pentyl)-2-pyrrolidin-1-yl)quinazolin-4-amine (16). Compound 16 was prepared according to the procedure for making 2 from 2-chloro-6,7-dimethoxy-N-(5-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pentyl)quinazolin-4-amine (24, 70 mg, 0.19 mmol), pipericine (commercially available, 37 µL, 0.38 mmol), HCl in dioxane (4.0 M, 95 µL, 0.38 mmol), and isopropyl alcohol (1.0 mL). The title compound 15 was obtained as a TFA salt, light yellow solid (101 mg, yield 83%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.88−3.82 (m, 4H), 3.69−3.61 (m, 4H), 3.22−3.16 (m, 2H), 3.10−3.01 (m, 2H), 2.20−2.08 (m, 2H), 2.07−1.96 (m, 2H), 1.85−1.69 (m, 10H), 1.55−1.46 (m, 2H). 13C NMR (100 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 160.55, 157.21, 152.43, 149.01, 137.00, 108.73, 100.34, 79.47, 61.79, 61.65, 61.32 (two carbons, 56.02 (two carbons), 47.16 (two carbons), 42.56, 29.29, 26.87, 26.69 (two carbons), 25.19, 25.13, 23.95 (two carbons). HPLC purity: >95%; tR = 3.22 min. MS (ESI): 428 [M + H]+.

5-(6,7-Dimethoxy-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)quinazolin-4-yl-1-amo)-1-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pentan-1-one (13). 5-(1-(tert-Butoxy carbonyl)amino)pentanoic acid (commercially available, 0.93 g, 4.33 mmol) and pyrrolidine (238 µL, 2.9 mmol) were dissolved in 23 mL of DMF. To this solution were added N,N-diisopropylethylamine (2.5 mL, 14.5 mmol) and HATU (2.18 g, 5.8 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at 50 °C for 3 h. After the mixture was cooled, TLC indicated the completion of the reaction. After removal of the solvent by rotary evaporation, the residue was redissolved in CH2Cl2, washed with brine. The organic layer was dried, concentrated, and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (700 mg, 30% EtOAc in hexanes). The title compound 5-(6,7-Dimethoxy-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)quinazolin-4-yl-1-amo)-1-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pentan-1-one (13) was obtained as a TFA salt, white solid (46 mg, 0.10 mmol), dimethylamine hydrochloride (commercially available, 10 mg, 0.12 mmol), and Cs2CO3 (73 mg, 0.24 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred inside...
a microwave at 140 °C for 30 min. After the mixture was cooled, TLC indicated the completion of the reaction. After removal of the solvent by rotary evaporation, the residue was redissolved in CH2Cl2, washed with brine. The organic layer was dried, concentrated, and purified by HPLC to give 7.0 mg of the title compound 17 as a TFA salt, white solid (yield 55%, two steps). 1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 4.39–4.41 (m, 4H), 3.61 (t, 2H), 2.20–2.09 (m, 2H), 1.97–1.89 (m, 2H), 1.68–1.75 (m, 6H), 1.71–1.60 (m, 2H), 1.56–1.42 (m, 4H), 1.40–1.17 (m, 2H); 13C NMR (100 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 160.35, 157.24, 153.14, 149.07, 137.59, 135.54, 134.07, 130.45, 104.90, 103.75, 99.90, 57.59, 56.91, 56.80, 56.08, 55.09 (three carbons), 42.68, 30.85 (two carbons), 30.09, 29.40, 26.93 (two carbons), 26.38, 25.34, 23.95 (two carbons). HPLC purity: >95%; tR = 3.54 min. MS (ESI): 456 [M + H]+.

N2-Cyclopentyl-6,7-dimethoxy-N4-(5-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-pentyl)quinazoline-2,4-diamine (22). Compound 22 was prepared according to the procedure for making 1 from 2-chloro-6,7-dimethoxy-N4-(5-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-pentyl)quinazoline-4-amine (24, 56 mg, 0.11 mmol), cyclopentylamine (commercially available, 44 µL, 0.44 mmol), N,N-diisopropylpropylamine (57 µL, 0.33 mmol), and n-butanol (0.7 mL). The title compound 22 was obtained as a TFA salt, light yellow solid (41 mg, yield 57%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 7.52 (s, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 4.41–4.28 (m, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.73–3.60 (m, 4H), 3.23–3.16 (m, 2H), 3.10–2.99 (m, 2H), 2.19–2.18 (m, 6H), 1.88–1.75 (m, 6H), 1.73–1.60 (m, 4H), 1.56–1.46 (m, 2H). HPLC purity: >95%; tR = 3.58 min. MS (ESI): 428 [M + H]+.

N2-Cyclohexyl-6,7-dimethoxy-N4-(5-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-pentyl)quinazoline-2,4-diamine (23). Compound 23 was prepared according to the procedure for making 1 from 2-chloro-6,7-dimethoxy-N4-(5-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-pentyl)quinazoline-4-amine (24, 56 mg, 0.11 mmol), cyclohexylamine (commercially available, 50 µL, 0.44 mmol), N,N-diisopropylpropylamine (57 µL, 0.33 mmol), and n-butanol (0.7 mL). The title compound 23 was obtained as a TFA salt, brown semisolid (45 mg, yield 61%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 7.50 (s, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 4.00–3.85 (m, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.70–3.66 (m, 4H), 3.23–3.15 (m, 2H), 3.10–3.01 (m, 2H), 2.19–2.10 (m, 2H), 2.06–1.99 (m, 1H), 1.88–1.75 (m, 7H), 1.54–1.28 (m, 8H). HPLC purity: >95%; tR = 3.69 min. MS (ESI): 442 [M + H]+.

2-Chloro-6,7-dimethoxy-N4-(5-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-pentyl)quinazoline-4-amine (24). To the solution of 2,4-dichloro-6,7-dimethoxyquinazoline (commercially available, 1.00 g, 3.86 mmol) in THF (9.5 mL) was added 5-(2-chloro-1-pentyl)-1-pentan-1-amine (commercially available, 1.33 g, 8.49 mmol), followed by the addition of N,N-diisopropylpropylamine (612 µL, 3.51 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h until TLC showed that the starting material had disappeared. Water was added to the reaction mixture, and the resulting solution was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried, and concentrated to give the crude product, which was purified on ISCO using 24 g silica gel column, eluting with hexane–ethyl acetate to give 754 mg of the title compound 24 as a yellow semisolid (yield 52%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 7.61 (s, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.73 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.69–3.61 (m, 2H), 3.24–3.16 (m, 2H), 3.11–3.01 (m, 2H), 2.20–2.09 (m, 2H), 2.07–1.96 (m, 2H), 1.87–1.76 (m, 4H), 1.57–1.47 (m, 2H); 13C NMR (100 MHz, MeOH-d4) δ 161.38, 157.90, 152.68, 151.65, 141.15, 107.16, 103.64, 102.16, 57.02, 56.91, 56.08, 55.12 (two carbons), 42.73, 29.27, 26.64, 24.82, 23.95 (two carbons). HPLC purity: >95%; tR = 3.60 min. MS (ESI): 379 [M + H]+.

Radioactive Assay (Also Known as Scintillation Proximity Assay). SETD8 catalytic domain was expressed in E. coli and purified as reported.52 Radioactive assay was used to screen our chemical library for small molecule inhibitors. Methylation (10 µL) reagents were carried out in a buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 10 mM GSH, 0.1% Triton X-100, at room temperature using 50 nM SETD8, 1.5 µM tritium labeled SAM (catalog no. NET1552V5UC, PerkinElmer), and 5 µM biotinylated H4 (1–24) peptide substrate (SQRGGKGGKGLGKGGKRRVKLDrscheinetinis was in 384-well plates in the presence of 50 mM compounds. The reactions were then quenched by addition of equal volume of 7.5 M guanidine hydrochloride after a 1 h incubation. Then 40 µL of buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0) was added into the quenched samples, and all samples were then transferred into a streptavidin/scintillant-coated microplate (catalog no. SMP410, PerkinElmer). The amount of
methylated peptide was quantified by tracing the radioactivity (counts per minute) as measured after 1 h using a TopCount plate reader (PerkinElmer). For IC_{50} values determination, the compounds were serially diluted 2-fold in DMSO for a total of 11 concentrations, beginning at 0.25 mM and tested in the same condition.

**Microfluidic Capillary Electrophoresis Assay.** Inhibition of SETD8 methyltransferase activity was analyzed by monitoring decrease in methylation of the fluorescent labeled peptide, TW21 (NH_{2}-LGGKKGAKHRKVLRDNIQGTKK(5'Fam)-OH), essentially as described previously.\(^{30}\)

The test compounds were solubilized in 100% DMSO to 10 mM and then plated in Greiner 384-well polystyrene plates using 3-fold dilution scheme over 10 points spanning the concentration range from 3 mM to 0.15 μM using TECAN Genesis liquid handler. Then 1 μL of the serial dilution was transferred into compound dilution plate using Nanoscreen MultiMek liquid handling robot. Prior to performing the assay the compounds were diluted 10-fold in 1x assay buffer (20 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 25 mM NaCl, 2 mM DTT, and 0.05% Tween-20), and an amount of 2.5 μL of the resulting dilution was transferred into assay plate by Nanoscreen MultiMek liquid handling robot. To this plate 20 μL of 50 nM SETD8 and 2 μM TW21 peptide cocktail in 1x assay buffer were added using multichannel liquid dispenser. Following a 10 min incubation of the compounds with the enzyme/peptide mix, the reaction was initiated by adding 2.5 μL of 150 μM SAM in 1x buffer. For 100% inhibition controls 1x buffer was added instead of SAM. The reaction was allowed to proceed at room temperature for 120 min, and then the reaction was terminated by adding 35 μL of 0.08 ng/μL Endo-LysoC protease solution. Following an additional 1 h incubation the plate was read on a Caliper Life Sciences EZ reader II model. supplied by the manufacturer and Screenable Solutions software.

**Isothermal Titration Calorimetry.** All ITC measurements were performed at 25 °C using an AutoITC200 microcalorimeter (MicroCal/GE Healthcare). The calorimeter cell (volume 200 μL) was loaded with SETD8 protein in the full salt dialysis buffer (150 mM NaCl) at a concentration of 100 μM. The syringe was loaded with compound 1 (dissolved in the same buffer) at a concentration of 1 mM. A typical injection protocol included a single 0.2 μL first injection followed by 26 1.5 μL injections of the compound into the calorimeter cell. The spacing between injections was kept at 180 s and the first injection was 180 s, the downstream power at 8 μcal/s. A control experiment was performed by titrating compound 1 into buffer under identical settings to determine the heat signals that arose from compound dilution; these were subtracted from the heat signals of protein—compound interaction. The data were analyzed using Origin for ITC, version 7.0, software supplied by the manufacturer and fitted well to a one-site binding model.

**Surface Plasmon Resonance.** The interaction between compound 1 and protein SETD8 was further explored using a ProteOn XPR36 biosensor (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.) at 25 °C. PBS buffer (phosphate buffered saline, pH 7.4) supplemented with 0.005% Tween-20 was used as the running buffer. A GLH (catalog no. 176-5013, Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.) sensor chip was first activated by flowing a mixture of 20 mM sulfo-NHS and 20 mM EDC over the chip surface for 5 min at a flow rate of 30 μL/min. SETD8 was then diluted to 20 and 10 μg/mL in 5 mM NaOAc, pH 5.0, and immobilized onto two ligand channels (30 μL/min for 2 min). The surface was then deactivated by flowing 1 M ethanolamine for 5 min at a flow rate 60 μL/min. A blank injection of the running buffer was made, after which four concentrations of the compound in the running buffer (100, 33.3, 11.1, and 3.7 μM) and a running buffer were injected simultaneously at a flow rate of 50 μL/min for 60 s. The sensorgrams obtained at the four concentrations of the compound were fit simultaneously after subtracting a ligand reference (inner spot) and a double compound reference (buffer) using a Langmuir model to obtain on (k_{on}) and off (k_{off}) rates. The kinetic k_{D} was calculated based on the on and off rates for three replicates. An equilibrium analysis of the data was also performed to calculate the K_{D}.

**MOA Studies.** IC_{50} values were determined for compound 1 at varying concentrations of SAM, 50 nM SETD8, 200 μM peptide H4 (1–24) or at varying concentrations of substrate H4 (1–24) peptide, 50 nM of SETD8, 250 μM SAM. The reaction mixtures were incubated 15 min at 23 °C. To stop the enzymatic reactions, an equal volume of 7.5 M guanidine hydrochloride was added and mixed. Then 10 μL of mixture was spotted onto a square of SAM\(^{2}\) biotin capture membrane (catalog no. V2861, Promega), allowed absorption for 5 min at room temperature, washed with 2 M of NaCl solution several times followed by two deionized water wash, and dried, and scintillation liquid was added and CPM (counts per minute) were read using the scintillation counter.

**Peptide Displacement Assay,** H4K20me (1–24) peptide (SGRGGKGGKGLGLGAKHRKme1VLRD) with N-terminus labelled by FITC was ordered from Tufts University Core Services (Boston, MA). The sample was prepared in a buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 10 mM GSH, 0.01% Triton X-100. 50 nM peptide was incubated with 20 μM SETD8 protein, 1 mM S-adenosyl-l-homocysteine (SAH), and different concentrations of compounds. The final volume was 10 μL with less than 5% DMSO. The FP measurement was performed in black, 384-well PCR plate (catalog no. 47744-828, VWR), and signal was read with a Synergy H4 microplate reader (BioTek). The polarization values in millipolarization units were measured at an excitation wavelength of 485 nm and an emission wavelength of 528 nm.

**Selectivity Assay.** Selectivity of compound 1 against a panel of methyltransferases was assessed as previously reported.\(^{24,26,53}\) In brief, the effect of compound 1 on activity of G9a, SETDB1, GLP, SUV39H2, SETD7, PRMT3, PRMT5-MEF50 complex, PRMT1, SUV420H1, SUV420H2, SMYD2, DNMT1, PRC2 complex, ML1 complex, and DOT1L was assessed by monitoring the incorporation of tritium-labeled methyl group to lysine or arginine residues of peptide substrates using radioactive assay. Assays were performed in a 20 μL reaction mixture containing 1H-SAM (catalog no. NET15V520UC, PerkinElmer) at substrate concentrations close to K_{m} values for each enzyme. Compound concentrations from 100 nM to 100 μM were used in all selectivity assays. To stop the enzymatic reactions, 7.5 M guanidine hydrochloride was added, followed by 180 μL of buffer (20 mM Tris, pH 8.0), mixed, and then transferred to a 96-well FlashPlate (catalog no. SMP103, PerkinElmer). After mixing, the reaction mixtures in FlashPlates were incubated for 1 h and the CPM were measured using TopCount plate reader (PerkinElmer). The CPM in the absence of compound for each data set were defined as 100% activity. In the absence of the enzyme, the CPM in each data set were defined as background (0%). Data were plotted using SigmaPlot software. For DNMT1 the dsDNA substrate was prepared by annealing two complementary strands (biotinylated forward strand B-GAGCCCGTAAAGCCCGTTCAGGTGTG and reverse strand CGACCTGAAAAGGCTTACGGGGCTC), synthesized by Eurofins MWG Operon. For DOT1L, a filter-based assay was used. In this assay, 20 μL of reaction mixtures was incubated at room temperature for 1 h, 100 μL of 10% trichloroacetic acid (TCA) was added, mixed, and transferred to filter plates (catalog no. MSFBN6B10, Millipore). Plates were centrifuged at 2000 rpm (Allegra X-15R; Beckman Coulter, Inc.) for 2 min followed by two additional 10% TCA washes and one ethanol wash (180 μL) followed by centrifugation. Plates were dried, and 100 μL of MicroScint-O (catalog no. 6013611, PerkinElmer) was added to each well, centrifuged, and removed. Then 70 μL of MicroScint-O was added again, and CPM were measured using TopCount plate reader.

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**ASSOCIATED CONTENT**

1H and 13C NMR spectra of compound 1. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.
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