**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** 





# Discovery of new 2,4-diaminopyrimidines derivatives as EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors: a structure-based approach with DFT calculation, drug-likeness, ADME-toxicity properties evaluation and MD simulation

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#### Abstract

Cancer of the lung is known to be the principal cause of tumour-linked mortality worldwide. Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the most common and lethal type of lung cancer with close to 2.0 million reported cases and a survival rate of not less than 20% at all stages in every 5 years of diagnosis. Despite the progress made in the treatment processes, there was no significant improvement in patients with NSCLC. As such, this research aims to design (utilizing a structure-based approach) potential EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors with their DFT calculations, Drug-likeness, ADME-Toxicity properties evaluation and MD simulation. A structure-based approach was employed to design potential EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors. The DFT calculations, Drug-likeness and ADME-Toxicity properties of the newly designed potential EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors were evaluated. MD simulation of the best newly designed compound was further studied. The virtual screening performed on the investigated EGFRT790M Kinase inhibitors has identified compound 8 with the highest mole dock score of -136.377 kcal/mol as the best hit. The structure-based strategy was adopted to design six new compounds with better affinity (between - 138.255 to - 140.552 kcal/mol) towards the EGFRT790M Kinase enzyme (3IKA). The newly designed EGFR mutant inhibitors were seen to possess better mole dock scores than AZD9291 (- 118.872 kcal/mol). Based on the predicted drug-likeness and ADMET properties, the newly designed compounds are orally bioavailable with a bioavailability score of 0.55, can be synthesized easily in the wet lab (based on their synthetic accessibility score) and possess good pharmacokinetic profiles. The MD simulation performed at 150 ns provides insight into the stability of the S2D3 compound in the binding pocket of the 3IKA target protein. The total binding free energy calculation of the studied S2D3-3IKA complex suggested that van der Waals interactions and electrostatic interactions provided the general powerful force for the binding process. The designed compound S2D3 being stable with higher affinity and best pharmacokinetic properties is therefore recommended to be synthesized in the wet lab as potential NSCLC agents.

Keywords Chemoinformatic  $\cdot$  DFT  $\cdot$  Pharmacokinetic  $\cdot$  EGFRT790M kinase

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# **1** Introduction

Lung cancer is known to be the principal source of tumourlinked mortality worldwide. NSCLC and SCLC (Small cell lung cancer) are the two major classifications of cancer of the lung, respectively [1]. The ordinary and fatal kind of Lung cancer that has close to 2.10 million reported issues with an average of 22% rate of survival after diagnosis each 5 years at all stages was NSCLC [2, 3]. Close to 85% to 90% of the reported lung cases were NSCLC, and the remaining were SCLC [4]. The most widely used modalities for the mediation and treatment of the NSCLC reported were chemo, radio and targeted therapies, respectively. In spite of the progress made in the treatment processes, there was no significant improvement in patients with NSCLC [4].

In 1956, epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) was first uncovered by a scientist called Stanley Cohen while working in the USA at the University of Vanderbilt [5]. It is a member of the family of tyrosine kinase receptors that plays an important role in the management of cellular processes. Too much EGFR expression has been linked to many cancers, as such it was recognized as the key target for the fighting of cancer-associated ailments like NSCLC [6, 7]. Thus, designing new EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors is also among the research hotspots for the management of cancerassociated ailments most especially NSCLC [8, 9].

EGFR Tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) shared four (4) specific essential pharmacophoric features (these pharmacophoric features are: Flat hetero aromatic ring, a terminal hydrophobic head, an amino (NH-spacer) group and a hydrophobic tail, respectively) which are very important for correct binding with the active/binding site of the EGFRT790M kinase [10]. The mentioned groups are essential to occupy the adenine binding pocket, the hydrophobic region I, the space between the adenine binding region and the hydrophobic region I, and the hydrophobic region II, respectively [10]. EGFR inhibitors targeting the NSCLC, such as Erlotinib and Gefitinib, were initially designed to inhibit the growth of tumors at the EGFR ATP-binding site. Moreover, these small molecules were used as the initial choice in the management of NSCLC for the three (3) classes of EGFR mutations (the activated, classical and gatekeeper mutations) [11, 12]. Erlotinib as well as Gefitinib provide significant therapeutic aid in the management of NSCLC by protecting the EGFR tumors (in exon 19 and 21)[13]. Besides, affected persons with activating (L858R) EGFR tumors, generally recovered when treated with gefitinib and erlotinib the so-called first-generation EGFR-TKIs. Though, the period for their efficiency was actually inadequate as a result of the establishment of resistance by the gatekeeper EGFRT790M mutation that was experienced in almost half or 50% of EGFRT790M mutation patients[14]. Dacomitinib and Afatinib were subsequently established to fixed the resistance caused by the EGFRT790M mutation to the Erlotinib and Gefitinib [13, 15]. Regrettably, the efficacy of Dacomitinib and Afatinib was inadequate as a result of severe side effects which include rashes of the skin and gastrointestinal toxicity [15, 16]. In order to also fix and resolve the resistance by EGFRT790M mutation while actuality is more discriminating to the EGFR<sup>WT</sup> and experienced toxicity to the Dacomitinib and Afatinib. Osimertinib (AZD9291) and Rociletinib (CO-1686) were further designed and established. But Osimertinib and Rociletinib could not accomplish the specified role owing the immergence of resistance by the EGFR-C797S mutation [15, 17, 18].

Heterocyclic compounds as a foremost group of organic compounds are extensively used for numerous pharmacological and industrial applications. They are recognized for their biological and pharmacological futures including antiinflammatory, antimicrobial, anticancer, antitumor, and antiviral activities. The potential therapeutic properties of these heterocycles have encouraged medicinal chemists to synthesize a large number of novel chemotherapeutic agents [19]. Pyrimidines in general are nitrogen-containing heterocyclic organic compounds identified for anticancer, anti-HIV, antifungal, and antibacterial activities. Pyrimidines, compounds bearing this heterocycle, are common in many medicinal drugs [20]. 2,4-diaminopyrimidines derivatives are class of pyrimidines that possess diverse biological activities which include anticancer activities [21-23], antitumor [24], antibacteria activities (Bacillus anthracis) [25-27], anti-filarial activities [28], Anti-Tubercular Activities [29], antioxidants [30] and antidiabetics [30], anti-malaria activities [31], antiangiogenesis activities [32]. The synthetic process to produce these compounds are reported in numerous literatures, respectively [21, 22, 32, 33]

The research aims to design (utilizing a structure-based approach) potential EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors with their DFT calculations, Drug-likeness, ADME-Toxicity properties evaluation and MD simulation.

# 2 Methods

# 2.1 Sourcing of the 2,4-diaminopyrimidines derivatives

Twenty-seven (27) set of 2,4-diaminopyrimidines derivatives as NSCLC agents were sourced from the work of Cheng and co-workers [17] for the purpose of this work. The structures and names of the 27 set of 2,4-diaminopyrimidines derivatives under study were presented in Supplementary Table 1.

#### 2.2 2D-structures sketching, optimum conformational search and compounds preparations

The 2D-conformations/structures of the obtained dataset were sketched with the help of a software established by the Cambridge University (famously known as Chemdraw) [34]. The optimum conformational search for all the 27 set of 2,4-diaminopyrimidines derivatives in this study were achieved at the MMFF with DFT at B3LYP/6-311G\* theory level, respectively [15, 35].

The twenty seven (27) set of geometry optimized 2,4-diaminopyrimidines derivatives were prepared using molegro virtual docker (MVD) utilizing the default settings

by choosing "if missing" to the set of parameters used by the software for compound/ligand preparation [36, 37].

#### 2.3 EGFRT790M kinase protein and active site identification

The RCSB protein database (https://www.rcsb.org/) served as the source where the target protein (EGFRT790M kinase protein with entry code: 3IKA) in complex with WZ4002 (the co-crystalized) was retrieved from [38]. Furthermore, the active/binding sites/poses of the EGFRT790M kinase was determined/identified by visualizing the retrieved cocrystalized structure of the EGFRT790M kinase in complex with WZ4002 with discovery studio visualizer version 16.1.0.15350, respectively. The EGFRT790M kinase was further prepared before ligand-receptor docking respectively. Figure 1 depicts the 2D views of the EGFRT790M kinase in complex with WZ4002.

#### 2.4 Molecular docking virtual screening execution and validation

The implementation of the molecular docking procedure was accomplished by picking mole dock value as the scoring function and plant value as the docking algorithm. Twenty-four Armstrong unit (24Å) was set as the size of the grid box to define the binding cavities present at the binding poses of the protein. Subsequently, default settings were preserved and maintained for all other computations in the processes [39]. The validation of docking-based virtual screening method was achieved by re-docking the best hit compound with the EGFRT790M kinase as well as computing the root means square deviation (RMSD) value of the re-docked compound in the binding pose of the EGFRT790M kinase, respectively.

# LEU A.344 A.743 MET A.790 LEU A.718 VAL A.726

Fig.1 The co-crystalized ligand (WZ4002) in complex with EGFRT790M kinase in 2D view

#### 2.5 Structure-based designed strategy

The strategy employed in this study is structure-based design. Structure-based design is identified as direct method of drug design which is performed when there is little or verst knowledge of the receptor target of interest. And it is simply carried out by employing either molecular docking virtual screening or fragment-based virtual screening to identify a best hit among the library of the compounds under investigation. After a successful molecular docking virtual screening, the compound noted as the hit will be reserved as template compound that will be altered/modified to come up with new compounds with better affinity towards the EGFRT790M kinase than the previous ones.

#### 2.6 DFT computations

Density functional theory (DFT) computations at the theory level of B3LYP, using 6-31G\* basis set of some of the investigated compounds were executed to have an understanding on the electronics and energy states for the some of the investigated compounds. This was achieved by calculating their lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) and highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) [40–42]. The global reactivity descriptors (also known as quantum chemical descriptors) were also not left behind but also determined from the HOMO and LUMO energies respectively[43].

#### 2.7 Pharmacokinetics feature evaluation

The modelling and evaluation of the pharmacokinetics (ADME-Toxic and drug-likeness) properties/features of the studied and investigated molecules were assessed using (http://structure.bioc.cam.ac.uk/pkcsm) and (http://www.swissadme.ch/index.php) web servers, respectively [34, 44, 45].

#### 2.8 MD simulation approach

Gromacs 2019 was employed to conduct molecular dynamics (MD) simulations and estimate the binding free energies of the complex ligand-receptor [46, 47]. Parameters for both the ligand and protein were generated using the CHARMM force field. The system was built within a dodecahedron box, and a basic water model (SPC) was employed for solvation [47]. Electrical neutrality of the system was achieved by adding Na+ or Cl- counterions. Temperature coupling was maintained using the Berendsen thermostat, followed by global equilibration under limited particle number, volume, and temperature (NVT) conditions, which lasted for 20 ps at 300 K [48]. Subsequently, a constant number of particles, pressure, and temperature (NPT) was achieved by balancing the system for 1 ns. Pressure coupling at 1 atm was achieved

S/N	Mole dock value	Re-rank value
1	- 107.197	- 86.2897
2	- 119.455	- 100.082
3	- 112.727	- 96.1733
4	- 111.08	- 88.274
5	- 113.228	- 95.4913
6	- 111.335	- 92.2684
7	- 96.1521	- 80.0782
8	- 136.377	- 108.222
9	- 103.454	- 85.4531
10	- 106.083	- 83.3802
11	- 105.45	- 83.3093
12	- 116.307	- 93.9828
13	- 93.0417	- 79.1626
14	- 97.4057	- 83.6189
15	- 115.166	- 93.6917
16	- 108.816	- 90.7525
17	- 100.398	- 84.619
18	- 97.8765	- 81.8091
19	- 107.033	- 88.3871
20	- 111.647	- 92.8498
21	- 122.51	- 99.216
22	- 119.436	- 97.443
23	- 113.229	- 94.083
24	- 124.632	- 94.6348
25	- 113.67	- 94.645
26	- 113.929	- 90.6534
27	- 114.63	- 87.9635

Table 1 The mole dock and re-rank values of the investigated com-

pounds

Bold values indicate the lead compounds with the highest moledock score

using the Parrinello-Rahman barostat [49]. The dynamic simulation was carried out for a duration of 150 ns. The binding free energies of the compounds complexed with the target proteins were predicted using the MM-PBSA method with the gmmpbsa program [50, 51].

#### **3 Results**

#### 3.1 Virtual screening implementation using molecular docking-based approach

The results of the virtual screening of the compounds under investigation are shown in Table 1 and Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, accordingly.



Fig. 2 2D interactions between compound 8 and EGFRT790M kinase



Fig. 3 2D interactions between compound 24 and EGFRT790M kinase



Fig. 4 2D interactions between compound 21 and EGFRT790M kinase

#### 3.2 DFT computations

The result of the single-point DFT calculations is respectively shown in Table 2, and Figs. 8, 9.



Fig. 5 2D interactions between compound 2 and EGFRT790M kinase



Fig.6 2D Interactions between compound 22 and EGFRT790M kinase



**Fig.7** The 2D superimposed interactions of compound 8 (original and re-docked) in complex with EGFRT790M kinase to validate the docking procedure

#### 3.3 Pharmacokinetics (ADME-toxic and drug-likeness) modelling and evaluation

The results of the Pharmacokinetics (ADME-Toxic and drug-likeness) modelling on the compounds under investigation are presented in Tables 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, accordingly.

#### 3.4 Structure-based design

The results of the structure-based design on the investigated compounds are presented in Tables 8, 9, 10, Figs. 10, 11, 12, 13 14 and 15 accordingly.

#### 3.5 MD simulation

The results of the MD simulation for the best designed compounds are presented on Figs. 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 and Table 11.

# 4 Discussions

# 4.1 Virtual screening implementation using molecular docking-based approach

The examination of the ligand-protein interactions of the twenty-seven (27) set of 2,4-diaminopyrimidines derivatives and EGFRT790M kinase with 3IKA pdb entry code was achieved via molecular docking-based approach, respectively. The EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors under investigation were ranked according their mole dock values. The mole dock values of the studied compounds were in the range of - 93.0417 to - 136.377 kcal/mol as shown in Table 2. The docking-based virtual screening executed has identified molecule 8 with a mole dock score of - 136.377 kcal/mol as the top ranked or hit among the studied compounds, then molecule 24 with a mole dock score of - 124.632 kcal/mol as the second ranked, then molecule 21 with a mole dock score of - 122.51 kcal/mol as the third ranked, then molecule 2 with a mole dock score of -119.455 kcal/mol as the forth ranked and lastly molecule 22 with a mole dock score of - 119.436 kcal/mol as the fifth ranked also presented in Table 1.

There were four different categories of interactions observed between molecule 8, the top ranked compound

Table 2LUMO, HOMO,energy gap and global reactivityparameters for the best hit

Identity	LUMO (eV)	HOMO (eV)	Energy gap (eV)	η	δ	χ	μ
Compound 8	- 1.47	- 4.7	3.23	1.615	0.61919	- 1.615	1.615
Compound 2	- 0.68	- 4.84	4.16	2.08	0.48077	- 2.08	2.08
Compound 21	- 1.05	- 5.24	4.19	2.095	0.47733	- 2.095	2.095
Compound 22	- 1.04	- 5.25	4.21	2.105	0.47506	- 2.105	2.105
Compound 24	- 1.07	- 5.32	4.25	2.125	0.47059	- 2.125	2.125



**Fig. 8** The FMO (HOMO and LUMO) energy diagram of compound 8



Fig. 9 The transparent view of MEP surface map for compound 8

**Table 3**The drug-likeness ofthe top hit utilizing the RO5

filtering criteria

among the EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors under investigation and the active site of the EGFRT790M kinase. Among the observed interactions were: non-classical carbon hydrogen bonds between the hinge residues MET793 and PRO794 amino acids with the 4-methylpiperazin-1-yl moiety of the hydrophobic head of compound 8, hydrophobic-Pi-alkyl, Pi-Pi stacked, amide-Pi stacked and alkyl interactions between LEU718, LEU844, LEU792, PHE723 and VAL726 amino acids with the central hetero aromatic system, hydrophobic head and hydrophobic tail part of molecule 8 (1H-indol-5-yl, 1H-pyrazolo[3,4d] pyrimidin-6-yl and pyrimidine-2,4-diamine moieties), and electrostatic-Pi-anion interaction between ASP855 amino acid residue with the central hetero aromatic system (1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d] pyrimidin-6-yl moiety) of the compound, respectively (Fig. 2).

For molecule 24 in the active site of the EGFRT790M kinase (the second-best compound among the EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors under investigation), the interactions were via: 2 non-classical carbon hydrogen bonds between ASP855 amino acid and the 2 hydrogen atoms attached to the 2-dimethylamino ethyl moiety (at the hydrophobic tail), and also 1 non-classical carbon hydrogen between GLY719 amino acid and oxygen of the acrylamide group at the hydrophobic tail part of the molecule. Halogen bond interaction was also observed between GLN791 amino acid residue and the bromine on the pyrimidine ring at the central hetero aromatic system. Electrostatic (Pi-sulfur) interaction with MET790 amino acid residue was also visible between the pyrimidine ring

S/No.	MW	No. H-bond donors	No. H-bond acceptors	MLOGP	Lipinski RO5 violations	Bioavail- ability Score
2	467.49	3	6	3.19	0	0.55
8	517.59	4	6	1.73	1	0.55
21	577.48	4	5	2.25	1	0.55
22	561.48	3	4	2.75	1	0.55
24	550.49	3	4	3.4	1	0.55

5.61

3.77

4.14

4.14

5.15

2

8

21

22

24

 Table 4
 The drug-likeness of the best hit compounds using Veber's filtering criteria

Table 5	The	drug-likeness	of	the	top	hit	utilizing	the	Egan's	filtering
criteria										

S/No.	No. of Rotatable bonds	TPSA	Veber viola- tions	Bioavail- ability Score
2	6	72.11	0	0.55
8	6	126.57	0	0.55
21	9	110.44	0	0.55
22	8	90.35	0	0.55
24	11	85.42	1	0.55

S/No.	WLOGP	TPSA	Egan viola-	Bioavail-
			tions	ability
				Score

0

0

0

0

0

0.55

0.55

0.55

0.55

0.55

72.11

126.57

110.44

90.35

3.4

 
 Table 6
 The drug-likeness
 of the top hit utilizing the

S/No.	MW	XLOGP3	TPSA	No. H-bond donors	No. H-bond acceptors	Rotatable bonds	Muegge violations	Bioavail- ability Score
2	467.49	4.9	72.11	3	6	6	0	0.55
8	517.59	3.92	126.57	4	6	6	0	0.55
21	577.48	4.44	110.44	4	5	9	0	0.55
22	561.48	4.42	90.35	3	4	8	0	0.55
24	550.49	5.41	3.4	3	4	11	1	0.55

#### Table 7 The ADME-Toxic properties of the top hit

Meta	Vletabolism											
	Absorption	Distribution		CYP Substrate				CYP Inhibitors			Excretion	Toxicity
	Intestinal absorption	BBB permeability	CNS permeability	2D6	3A4	1A2	2C19	2C9	2D6	3A4	Total Clearance	AMES toxicity
2	87.509	- 1.076	- 1.951	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	0.523	No
8	77.32	- 1.656	- 2.885	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	0.772	No
21	85.808	- 1.447	- 2.487	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	0.788	No
22	87.892	- 1.261	- 2.368	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	0.53	Yes
24	86.53	- 1.137	- 2.393	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	0.828	No

Table 8LUMO, HOMO,energy gap and global reactivity	Number	LUMO (eV)	HOMO (eV)	Energy gap(eV)	η	δ	χ	μ
parameters for the designed	S2D2	- 0.94	- 7.92	- 6.98	3.49	0.28653	- 3.49	3.49
compounds	S2D3	- 0.99	- 8.57	- 7.58	3.79	0.26385	- 3.79	3.79
	S2D6	- 1.01	- 7.93	- 6.92	3.46	0.28902	- 3.46	3.46
	S2D7	- 1.09	- 8.58	- 7.49	3.745	0.26702	- 3.745	3.745
	S2D9	- 1.09	- 8.41	- 7.32	3.66	0.27322	- 3.66	3.66
	S2D10	- 1.09	- 8.37	- 7.28	3.64	0.27473	- 3.64	3.64

Table 9         The drug-likeness of           the designed compounds         Image: Compounds	S/No.	Lipinski viola- tions	Veber viola- tions	Egan viola- tions	Muegge viola- tions	Bioavailability Score	Synthetic Accessibil- ity
	S2D2	1	1	1	1	0.55	4.71
	S2D3	1	0	0	0	0.55	4.02
	S2D6	1	2	1	2	0.55	4.99
	S2D7	1	0	1	0	0.55	4.3
	S2D9	1	1	1	0	0.55	4.41
	S2D10	1	1	1	1	0.55	4.57

(central hetero aromatic system) and the N-H space linker of the molecule. Furthermore, hydrophobic-Alkyl and Pialkyl interactions between MET790, MET793, LEU844, LEU718, VAL726, LYS745, LEU792 and ALA743 amino acid residues with the central hetero aromatic system, hydrophobic head and hydrophobic tail parts of the molecule were as well noticed as depicted by Fig. 3.

The interaction of the third-best compound 21 with the active site of EGFRT790M kinase were observed to be through classical and non-classical carbon hydrogen bonds between ASP855, LEU718 residues and the 1H-indol-6-yl (at the hydrophobic head) and the phenyl ring at the hydrophobic tail part of the molecule, hydrophobic-Pi-Sigma, Pi-Pi T-shaped, alkyl and Pi-alkyl interactions between

Met	Aetabolism CYP											
	Absorption	Distribution		Substrate				Inhib	itors		Excretion	Toxicity
	Intestinal absorption	BBB permeability	CNS permeability	2D6	3A4	1A2	2C19	2C9	2D6	3A4	Total Clearance	AMES toxicity
2	63.5	- 2.146	- 3.436	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	0.642	No
3	78.678	- 1.824	- 2.774	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	0.67	No
6	58.711	- 2.22	- 4.509	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	0.708	No
7	73.479	- 2.309	- 4.154	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	0.6	No
9	71.473	- 2.33	- 4.336	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	0.651	No
10	72.23	- 2.381	- 4.324	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	0.694	No

Table 10 The ADME-Toxic properties of the designed compounds



Fig. 10 2D Interaction of S2D7 with EGFRT790M kinase



Fig. 11 2D Interaction of S2D3 with EGFRT790M kinase.

LEU718, PHE723, ALA743, MET790, LEU844, VAL726 and LYS745 residues and 5-bromopyrimidin-2-yl (the central hetero aromatic system ) and the 1H-indol-6-yl (at the hydrophobic head part) moieties of the molecule, electrostatic-pi-cation interactions between LYS745 residue and 1H-indol-6-yl (at the hydrophobic head part) and also halogen interaction with GLN791 residue and the bromine on the pyrimidine ring (the central hetero aromatic system) of the molecule, respectively (Fig. 4).



Fig. 12 2D Interaction of S2D2 with EGFRT790M kinase



Fig. 13 2D Interactions between AZD9291 and EGFRT790M kinase

In-line with molecule 2 (mole dock value of -119.455 kcal/mol and re-rank value of -100.082), among the types of interactions seen were 2 conventional carbon hydrogen bonds between 2 fluorides (F1 and F3) of the trifluorome-thyl-pyrimidine moiety the central hetero aromatic system and the hinge residue MET793, 1 carbon hydrogen bonds between 1 of the fluorides (F3) of the trifluoromethyl-pyrimidine moiety the central hetero aromatic system and



Fig. 14 The FMO (HOMO and LUMO) energy diagram of molecule  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{S2D6}}$ 



Fig. 15 The transparent view of MEP surface map for molecule S2D6



Fig. 17 The Root Mean Square Fluctuation (RMSF) of S2D3-protein complex



Fig. 18 Radius of gyration of S2D3-protein complex



Fig. 16 The Root Mean Square Deviation (RMSD) of S2D3-protein complex



Fig. 19 Number of hydrogen Binding of S2D3-protein complex



Fig. 20 Solvent accessible surface areas of S2D3-protein complex

LEU792 residues, halogen bond between the 3 fluorides of the trifluoromethyl-pyrimidine moiety the central hetero aromatic system and GLN791 residue, electrostatic (Pi-sulfur) interaction between pyrimidine ring and MET790 residues and hydrophobic (Pi-sigma, alkyl and Pi-alkyl) interactions between the central hetero aromatic system, hydrophobic head and hydrophobic tail parts of compound 2 with ALA743, LEU844, PHE723, LEU718, LEU792, VAL726 and LYS745 acid residues, respectively (Fig. 5).

Among the types of interactions observed between compound 22 (with a mole dock score of – 119.436 kcal/mol) and the EGFRT790M kinase were both conventional and carbon hydrogen bonds between oxygen on the acrylamide moiety at the hydrophobic tail and LYS745 residue. Pi-anion and Pi-sulfur electrostatic interactions between 1-methyl-1H-indol-6-yl at the hydrophobic head part and pyrimidine ring at the central hetero aromatic system with ASP855 and MET790 residues were also observed. Furthermore, hydrophobic (Pi-Pi stacked, alkyl and Pi-alkyl) interactions between the central hetero aromatic system, hydrophobic head and hydrophobic tail parts of the compound and PHE723, LEU844, ALA743, and LEU792 acid residues were respectively noticed (Fig. 6).

Looking at the binding mode (pattern) of the reported compounds, it can be understood that all the reported compounds were seen to have similar pattern of hydrophobic interaction (that is all the central hetero aromatic system, hydrophobic head and hydrophobic tail parts participated in the hydrophobic interaction) but differ in terms of their hydrogen bonding interaction (that is only the hydrophobic head and hydrophobic tail parts of the compounds participated in the hydrogen bonding interaction with the exception of compound 2 which the central hetero aromatic system showed hydrogen bonding) and electrostatic interactions (all the compounds were seen to have formed electrostatic interaction with their central hetero aromatic system and hydrophobic head with the exception of compound 22 which formed the interaction with all the central hetero aromatic system, hydrophobic head and hydrophobic tail parts, respectively).

In order to effectively authenticate and validate the docking-based procedure, the best hit molecule 8 (co-crystallized ligand) was re-docked with the EGFRT790M kinase and 1.63Å was gotten as the root means square deviation (RMSD) value for the validation process which further validate the accuracy of the molecular docking procedure employed in this study to be reproducible and reliable. The 2D superimposed interactions of the validation process is shown in Fig. 7.

#### 4.2 DFT computations

The DFT single point energy computations on the best hit compounds were achieved at B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory. The frontier molecular orbital energies (HOMO and LUMO energies) of a compound that postulates how important features of that compound in terms of interactions associated with transfer of charge with other species (most especially at the active site of protein/enzymes) and aids to comprehend its stability. while the energy band gap ( $\Delta E$ ) of a compound can be used to determine its electronic and optical properties (which demonstrates its reactivity), respectively [52, 53]. The HOMO serves as the electron-rich center (which has the potential to give electrons), while the

 Table 11
 Binding free energy calculations of the complex

e	65	1			
Ligand-Protein ID	ΔEMM (Kj /mol)		ΔGsol (Kj/ mol)		Binding energy $(\Delta G_{bind})$ (Kj/mol)
	Van der Waal energy Average	Electrostatic energy Average	Polar solvation energy Average	SASA energy	Average
				Average	
S2D3-3IKA complex	$-54.2145 \pm 11.816$	$-18.3245 \pm 13.388$	37.245± 51.279	$-3.214 \pm 2.727$	$-26.627 \pm 9.2457$

LUMO serves as electron deficient center (which has the potential to accept electrons). The existence of the negative values in the energy gap ( $\Delta E = LUMO-HOMO$ ) for the best hit compounds indicate better stability that is crucial in the formation of a highly stable complex. Furthermore, the energy gap serves as a means for the identification of the most active compounds among the best hit. Moreso, a smaller energy gap between the HOMO and LUMO energies of molecules has a significant influence on their intermolecular charge transfer from HOMO to LUMO and as well their bioactivities thereby causing higher strong affinity of the molecules against their target enzyme. Whereas, a bigger energy gap between the HOMO and LUMO energies of the best hit has a negative influence on their intermolecular charge transfer from HOMO to LUMO and as well their bioactivities thereby causing weak affinity of the molecules against its target enzyme, respectively [52, 53].

Compound 8 (which is the top hit) has the lowest and smallest band/energy gap ( $\Delta E$ ) of 3.23 eV (Table 2), respectively. As such, it is identified as the utmost reactive compound among the reported ones (that might be the reason why it has the highest affinity toward the 3IKA-EGFR enzyme, as it possesses smaller band gap). The lower band gap is a sign of good stability for the formation of complex. Furthermore, the reactivity of a compound rises/increases with a decline/decrease in the band gap between HOMO and LUMO energies. The trend in the reactivity of the top hit in increasing order is according to: Compound 8 (3.23eV) > Compound 2 (4.16eV) > Compound 21 (4.19eV) > Compound 22 (4.21eV) > Compound 24 (4.25eV), respectively.

The HOMO and LUMO energies of the molecule were as well used to determine the quantum chemical parameters ( $\eta$ ,  $\delta$ ,  $\chi$  and  $\mu$ ) in order to further confirm the reactivity, stability and optical properties of molecule 8 (Table 2). Chemical hardness parameter ( $\eta$ ) is associated to molecular stability and reactivity. If a molecule is hard, it means it has bigger band gap, which shows that the molecule is going to be less reactive. Whereas, in the opposite side, a soft molecule has smaller band gap, respectively [54, 55]. The frontier molecular orbital (FMO) (or HOMO and LUMO) energy diagrams of the best hit is presented in Fig. 8.

The MEP surface distribution map of compound 8 based on the polar surface areas based on quantum chemical parameters computed defines the charge circulation and dispersal for the molecule that provides well understanding of that molecule will interact with other molecules most especially it targets enzyme (protein) in a ligand-protein interactions. MEPS maps of the best hit compound 8 is depicted in Fig. 9. The colors describe the pictural behavior and magnitude of MEP surface for molecule 8. When observed from the MEPS map, red color shows negative potential zone/ region and the blue color denotes the positive potential zone/ region, respectively. For molecule 8, the blue region which is the positive potential zone was mostly observed/seen on their amino groups. Whereas, there were partially red colors which are the negative potential zone on the nitrogen and oxygen atoms of the compound 8.Furthermore, the greenish color which portrayed the region/zone of zero potential was dominantly distributed around the carbon atom, respectively [15, 56].

## 4.3 Pharmacokinetics (ADME-toxic and drug-likeness) modelling and evaluation

The web server belonging to SwissADME was used to model and evaluate the drug-likeness of the best, top ranked hit compounds identified by using the notable RO5 (MW  $\leq$  500, Number of HBD  $\leq$  5, Number of NBA  $\leq$  10, Calculated MLog p  $\leq$  5), Veber's rule (Rotatable bond  $\leq$ 10 and TPSA  $\leq$ 140 Å), Egan's rule (WLOGP  $\leq$  5.88 and TPSA  $\leq$  131.6 Å) and Muegge's rule (200 $\leq$  MW  $\leq$  500,  $-2 \leq$  XLOGP3  $\leq$  5, TPSA  $\leq$ 150 Å, Rotatable bond  $\leq$  15 Number of HBD  $\leq$  5, Number of HBA  $\leq$  10, Calculated MLog p  $\leq$  5) filtering criteria [45, 57] (Tables 3, 4, 5 and 6).

The Lipinski's rule of five filters was first adopted in the filtering of the drug-likeness of the best, top ranked hit compounds identified. The evaluated drug-likeness for the best, top ranked hit compounds identified showed only one (1) failure/violation for the Lipinski's rule of five filters (MW>500) except for compound 2 which has zero failure/ violation (Table 3). They were subsequently filtered using the Veber's rule, they all have zero violation except for compound 24 which has one violation (that is it has more than 10 number of rotatable bonds) (Table 4). Table 10 presents the drug-likeness of the best, top ranked hit compounds identified following the Egan's rule, none of the compounds was found to have violated the rule (Table 5). Furthermore, the best, top ranked hit compounds identified were further filtered utilizing the Muegge's rule, none of the compounds have violated this filtering criteria except compound 24 which has one (1) failure/violation (that is XLOGP3 more than 5) (Table 6). Following this evaluation, the best, top ranked hit compounds identified are concluded to be druglike compounds and orally safe by having oral bioavailability score of 0.55, respectively [58, 59].

The ADME-Toxic properties predicted for the best top ranked hit compounds identified are presented in Table 7. The human intestinal absorption (HIA) of the best, top ranked hit compounds identified was found to be within the range of 77.32 to 87.892 percent, respectively. The value of their HIA was observed to be better than the threshold accepted value of 30 percent, which clearly showed the feasibility of their absorbance in the HI. The BBB penetrability for these small molecules were observed to be < -1which simply mean that the hits can pass via the blood brain barrier, respectively. For their central nervous system penetration, it is > -2 and < -3 for the best, top ranked hit compounds except for compound 2(-1.951) thus, indicating that they can pass via the central nervous system, respectively. The enzyme responsible for the drug metabolism in the cell of most organisms is the cytochrome which comprises a big family of some enzymes. It is therefore, very essential to look at the metabolic pathways of these drugs in the human system (body). The most important class of cytochromes (CYP) that is saddled with the responsibility of the breaking down drugs in the body is CYP3A4. Therefore, for a drug to be good it has to inhibitor and substrate of this class of CYP3A4. For the studied compounds they were recognized as inhibitors as well as substrate of CYP3A4. This further clearly showed that they can be broken down in the human system (body). After breaking down of these compounds (drugs) in the human system (body), it is very necessary to examine how they can also be removed/excreted from the body. This brings about the evaluation of the rate at which they can be removed and their concentration in the body. They showed high value of rate of removal/excretion/ total clearance but within the acknowledged threshold limit of a small molecule in the body. According to the toxicity assessment, the compounds investigated are all detected to be non-toxic with the exception of compound 22. Lastly, the overall ADME-Toxic properties of these compounds investigated showed their excellent pharmacokinetic profiles (Table 7) [60, 61].

# 4.4 Structure-based design of new EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors

After the DBVS (docking-based virtual screening) executed between the 27 set of 2,4-diaminopyrimidines derivatives and the EGFRT790M kinase, compound 8 with a mole dock score of -136.377 kcal/mol was identified to be the best, top ranked hit among the investigated compounds and is therefore retained as template compound. The design strategy adopted on compound 8 was that it is divided into two main parts ( $R_1$  and  $R_2$ ).  $R_1$  is the part of 1-methyl-1H-indole, where hydrogen or fatty primary alcohol with long chain are introduced to replace the methyl on the nitrogen atom of the indole moiety, which is expected to show the possible action sites with the residues of the mutated EGFR kinase. While  $R_2$  is the part where sidechains of diverse dimensions were introduced to discover the utmost fit set which can have effect on the inhibitory activity of the mutated EGFR kinase. Based on this strategy, six new compounds with better affinity towards the EGFRT790M kinase were designed (Supplementary Table 2S).

# 4.5 Molecular docking of the newly designed EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors

Molecular docking was also performed between the newly designed EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors and the target (EGFRT790M kinase) to have insight in their ligand-protein interactions. The mole dock values of the newly designed EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors were observed within the range of -138.255 to -140.552 kcal/mol, as shown in Table 8. Compound S2D7 has the highest mole dock value of -140.552 kcal/mol among the designed compounds followed by S2D3 with -140.061 kcal/mol, then by S2D2 with a mole dock value of -139.627 kcal/mol, then by S2D6 with a mole dock value of -139.044 kcal/mol, then by S2D10 with a mole dock value of -138.255 kcal/mol, respectively.

The 4-methylpiperrizin-1-yl (hydrophobic tail parts) and pyrimidin-4-yl (central hetero aromatic system) moieties of compound S2D7 (with the highest affinity toward 3IKA EGFR enzyme) formed hydrogen binding force with LYS745 (1.97 Å), GLN791 (3.01 Å) and GLN791 (3.07 Å) group of amino acid residues. The central hetero aromatic system, hydrophobic head and hydrophobic tail parts of the compound interacted via hydrophobic binding interaction with VAL726 (2), PHE723, GLY857, LEU858 (2), ALA743, LEU844 & LYS875 (3) group of amino acid residues, respectively. The pyrimidin-4-yl moiety at the central hetero aromatic system of the compound formed other interaction with ASP855 amino acid at the ATP-binding site of the receptor as shown in Fig. 10.

The 1H-indol-5-yl (at the hydrophobic head parts), 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d] pyrimidin-6-yl, 4-methylpiperazin-1-yl (at the hydrophobic tail parts) and the pyrimidine-2,4-diamine (at the central hetero aromatic system) moieties of the second-best designed compound S2D3 formed hydrogen binding force with ARG841 (2.39 Å), GLY796 (2.21 Å), ASP855 (3.09, 2.27, 2.97 Å), MET793 (2.56 Å), CYS797 (3.32 Å) group of amino acids, respectively. Then hydrophobic binding interaction with LYS745, PHE723, CYS797, ARG841, LEU718, ALA743, LEU792 (2), LEU844, VAL726 & LEU718 (2) acid residues and the central hetero aromatic system, hydrophobic head and hydrophobic tail parts of the compound was also observed. The hinge residue MET790 amino acid at the ATP-binding site of the receptor also formed other binding interaction with the phenyl ring attached to the hydrophobic tail parts of the compound as presented in Fig. 11.

The hydrogen of the amine group (N-H spacer) linking the pyrimidine ring (the central hetero aromatic system) to the indole ring (hydrophobic head), phenyl ring (at the hydrophobic tail parts) and the hydrogen of the ethyl moiety (at the hydrophobic tail parts) of the third-best compound S2D2 formed hydrogen binding force with MET793 (2.38 Å), ASP800 (2.37 Å), CYS797 (3.49 Å) amino acid groups, respectively. Hydrophobic binding interaction with these group of residues LEU799, ARG841 (2), LEU792 (2), VAL726, ALA743 (2), LYS728, LEU844 (2), LEU718 (2) and the central hetero aromatic system, hydrophobic head and hydrophobic tail parts of the compound was also observed. Other binding forces with MET790, MET793 acid residues and the indole ring of the compound were also among the noticed interactions as seen in Fig. 12.

Osimertinib (AZD9291) an approved FDA small molecule (drug) was also docked into the binding pose of the EGFRT790M kinase in order to compare the reference drug (Osimertinib/AZD9291) with the newly designed EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors. Osimertinib /AZD9291 with a mole dock value of – 118.872 kcal/mol interacted with the following amino acid residues ALA743, LEU718, LEU844, GLN791, VAL726, LYS745 and PHE723 via hydrogen bonding force, hydrophobic and electrostatic binding forces as depicted by Fig. 13. All the newly designed EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors were observed to possess better mole dock values than Osimertinib/AZD9291 (the reference drug).

#### 4.6 DFT computations for the designed compounds

The single point energy DFT computation on the EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors newly designed was achieved at B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory to determine their stabilities and reactivities, respectively. Compound S2D6 which is among the best EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors newly designed has the lowest and smallest energy gap ( $\Delta E$ ) of 6.92 eV as shown on Table 8. The reactivity trend of EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors newly designed in increasing order is according to: S2D6 (6.92eV) > S2D2 (6.98eV)> S2D10 (7.28eV) > S2D19 (7.32eV) > S2D9 (7.49eV) > S2D3 (7.58eV), respectively. These claim (reactivity) of the newly designed EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors was further confirmed by computing their quantum chemical parameters  $(\eta, \delta, \chi \text{ and } \mu)$  values from the HOMO and LUMO energies as respectively shown on Table 8 [52, 53]. The FMO energy (HOMO and LUMO energies) diagram of the most reactive (S2D6) among the newly designed EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors are presented in Fig. 14.

The MEP surface distribution map of compound S2D6 based on the polar surface areas for the quantum chemical parameters computed defines the charge circulation and dispersal for the molecule that provides well understanding of that molecule and will interact with other molecules most especially its target enzyme (protein) in a ligand-protein interactions. MEPS maps of the compound S2D6 is depicted in Fig. 15. The colors describe the pictural behavior

and magnitude of MEP surface for molecule S2D6. When observed from the MEPS map, red color shows negative potential zone/region and the blue color denotes the positive potential zone/region, respectively. On the most reactive molecule (S2D6) among the newly designed ones, the blue region which is the positive potential zone was mostly observed/seen on their amino groups. Whereas, there were partially red colors which are the negative potential zone on the nitrogen and oxygen atoms of the molecule (S2D6). Furthermore, the greenish color which portrayed the region/ zone of zero potential was dominantly distributed around the carbon atom, respectively [54, 55].

## 4.7 ADME-toxic and drug-likeness modelling and evaluation of the newly designed compounds

The web server belonging to SwissADME was also used in modelling and evaluating the drug-likeness of the newly designed EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors by adopting the Lipinski's rule of five, Veber's rule, Egan's rule and Muegge's rule filtering criteria (Table 9) [45]. The drug-likeness of these newly designed EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors were initially screened adopting the Lipinski's filters, the modelled and evaluated drug-likeness of the newly designed EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors showed only one (1) failure for all the compounds. They were subsequently filtered using the Veber's rule, they all have one violation except for compound S2D3, S2D7 with zero violation and S2D6 with 2 violations. Furthermore, the drug-like features of the designed compounds following the Egan's rule has shown that all have one violation with the exception of S2D3 which has zero violation. Moreover, the Muegge's rule showed one violation for S2D2 and S2D10, two violations for S2D6 and zero violation for S2D3, S2D7 and S2D9, respectively. According to the used drug-like filtering criteria, the newly designed EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors were established to be drug-like compounds and orally bioavailable with bioavailability score of 0.55. Furthermore, based on the values of the synthetic accessibility they can all be synthesized easily in the wet lab [58, 59].

The ADMET features predicted for the designed molecules are presented in Table 10. The HIA of the EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors newly designed were all observed within the range of 63.5 to 78.678 %, respectively. Their HIA values were found to be greater than the threshold accepted value which is 30% set for the assessment of this feature. The blood brain barrier penetration of these newly designed EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors were detected to be < -2 except for S2D3 which was < -1 simply mean they can poorly pass via the blood brain barrier with the exception of S2D3, respectively. Their central nervous system penetration value was > -3. And for this reason,

they can poorly pass through the central nervous system with the exception of S2D3 which was found to be > -2but < -3 (-2.774). This clearly showed that it can better pass through the central nervous system, respectively. The enzyme responsible for the drug metabolism in the cell of most organisms is the cytochrome which comprises a big family of some enzymes. It is therefore, very essential to look at the metabolic pathways of these drugs in the body. The most important class of cytochromes (CYP) that is saddled with the responsibility of the breaking down drugs in the body is CYP3A4. Therefore, for a drug to be good it has to inhibitor and substrate of this class of CYP3A4. For the studied compounds they were recognized as inhibitors as well as substrate of CYP3A4. This further clearly showed that they can be broken down in the body. After breaking down of these EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors newly designed (drugs) in the human system (body), therefore, it is very essential to examine how they can also be removed/ excreted from the body. This brings about the evaluation of the rate at which they can be removed and their concentration in the body. They all displayed average value of excretion/total clearance but within the acknowledged threshold limit of a small molecule in the body. These EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors newly designed are noticed to be non-toxic as ascertained by the toxicity test performed. In conclusion, the overall ADME-Toxic properties of these EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors newly designed portrayed their good pharmacokinetic profiles most especially S2D3 which was found to be better than others [60, 61].

#### 4.8 MD simulation

To support the results of the molecular docking performed, the best design compound (S2D3) with the higher affinity towards the protein (3IKA) was subjected to molecular dynamics simulations to clarify the dynamic behavior of the interactions involved between the ligand-receptor complex for 150 ns.

The root means square deviation (RMSD) serves as a measurable/quantitative future/parameter used to evaluate and interpret the stability of the movement of the receptor's atoms chain when the ligand is present. The RMSD plots for the S2D3-3IKA protein complex are presented in Fig. 16.

The RSMD fluctuations of the S2D3-3IKA protein complex were in a range between 0.13 and 0.38Å. It is observed from the plot that the S2D3 ligand shows stability during the simulation trajectory after 20 ns around the least weak RMSD value of approximately 0.3Å, indicating that the compound S2D3 is very stable in the 3IKA protein binding site, respectively.

Figure 17 depicts the root means square fluctuation (RMSF) analysis of the S2D3-3IKA target protein complex to evaluate the protein stability and comprehend the

flexibility of the 3IKA target receptor, the average fluctuation per 3IKA receptor backbone residue. It is observed from the figure that there was less conformational flexibility for the S2D3 bound system. The residue fluctuations of the 3IKA target protein are very low (around  $0.05\text{\AA}$ ) in the S2D3 bound system suggesting its stability in the interactions formed.

The radius of gyration (Rg) shows the capability and form of S2D3-3IKA target protein complex structures throughout the simulation time. It is an additional indicator of ligand stability as shown by the Rg plot. The S2D3-3IKA target protein complex showed Rg of 21.34 Å at the beginning of the first 20 ns before it stabilizes at the rest of the time at Rg of 21.36Å, respectively. The radius of the gyration plot is presented in Fig. 18.

The hydrogen bonding was further estimated in the 3IKA target protein in the presence of the S2D3 ligand investigated. The maximum number of H bonds observed throughout the simulation time was found to be three (3) for the 3IKA target protein as depicted in Fig. 19.

Solvent-accessible surface (SASA) was further investigated to measure fluctuations in hydrophilic and hydrophobic residues in the 3IKA target protein. Remarkably, the 3IKA target protein displayed good stability with the S2D3 ligand. The 3IKA target protein in the presence of an S2D3 ligand disclosed stable SASA values between 1.70 to  $1.76\text{\AA}^2$  throughout the simulation time as depicted in Fig. 20, respectively.

The binding free energy of the S2D3-3IKA target protein complex was predicted by the utilization of the molecular mechanics Poisson-Boltzmann surface analysis (MMPBSA) method. The MMPBSA investigation was examined over the entire 150 ns trajectory. The total binding energies of the S2D3-3IKA target protein complex are presented in Table 11. As presented in Table 11, S2D3 was observed to have a negative binding free energy value of - 26.627 kJ/ mol. Moreover, van der Waals and electrostatic interactions and SASA (nonpolar solvation) energy offered a negative contribution to the total free binding energy, whereas polar solvation energy displayed a positive contribution to the total free binding energy. In relation to the negative contribution, the van der Waals energy contributed much more than the electrostatic actions and the SASA energies for the 3IKA target protein, this result shows that the hydrophobic interaction played a vital role in the stability of the S2D3 ligand in the 3IKA target protein. Normally, the prediction of the binding free energy using the MM/PBSA method showed that the SASA (nonpolar solvation) energy, van der Waals and electrostatic energies contributed to the stability of the simulated S2D3-3IKA target protein complex [62-64].

# 5 Conclusion

The molecular docking-based virtual screening carried out has identified compound 8 with the highest mole dock scores of - 136.377 kcal/mol as the top ranked hit compound and retained as template scaffold to design new EGFRT790M kinase. Six new EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors were designed utilizing structure-based design strategy with mole dock values within the range of -138.255 to -140.552kcal/mol, respectively. All the newly designed EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors were then compared with Osimertinib/ AZD9291 (the reference drug) with a mole dock value of - 118.872 kcal/mol and found to have better mole dock values. The DFT computations performed identified compound S2D6 as the most reactive compound among the designed compounds with the smallest energy gap ( $\Delta E$ ) of -6.92 eV. The modelled drug-likeness and ADME-Toxic properties of the newly designed EGFRT790M kinase inhibitors showed their good pharmacokinetic profiles with bioavailability score of 0.55 and synthetic accessibility score between the range of 4.02 to 4.99, respectively. Compound S2D3 was further subjected to MD simulation and binding free energy calculation by MM-GBSA method and justifies the stability of the S2D3-3IKA target protein complex system and confirms the molecular docking result. Compound S2D3 is therefore recommended to be synthesize in the wet lab as potential non-small cell lung cancer therapeutic drug.

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Author contributions MTI and SA formulated, conceptualized, and designed the research. MTI did the program using software, organized the data, and analyzed the result. MTI wrote the final drafts of the paper. KT performed MD simulation. AST, AM and AMD reviewed and edited the language of the draft. All authors accepted the final draft and are responsible for the manuscript's content and similarity index.

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**Data availability** The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

## Declarations

**Conflict of interest** The authors have no conflict of interest to declare

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