

Design, synthesis, *in vitro* and computational analyses of anticancer nicotinamide derivatives

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The search for ideal treatment continues for many health problems such as cancer and infection. In this context, new synthesis compounds have been promising and the nicotinamide derivative compounds, which is an important heterocyclic derivative, has attracted the attention of many researchers. Nowadays, anticancer, antifungal, antimicrobial, antibacterial and antibiofilm effects of some nicotinamide derivatives have been demonstrated. In this study, nine new nicotinamide derivative compounds have been designed and synthesized. The characterization of these synthesized compounds have been done by *in silico* methods. The anticancer effects of the compounds have been investigated in four different cancer types and compared with their effects on healthy fibroblast cells. N4 has been found to have a cytotoxic effect on MCF-7 human breast cancer, and the IC50 value has been calculated as 12.1 μ M. In addition, antibacterial, antifungal and antibiofilm activities were investigated by *in vitro* methods and they have been shown to be effective. As a result, it is observed that N4, one of the newly synthesized nicotinamide derivative compounds, has a serious cytotoxic effect in MCF-7 human breast cancer cells compared to healthy fibroblast cells. Pharmacophore map and ADME analyses of studied compound are performed in detail.

Keywords: Nicotinamide, Synthesis, DFT, *In silico*, Anticancer

Nicotinamide and its derivatives are a significant class of heterocyclic derivatives¹. These compounds have attracted the attention of many researchers and have been shown to have a broad application range until today¹⁻¹². Considering the application area of the compounds, it is seen that they are frequently tried especially in health and agriculture. Some properties which are antifungal, antimicrobial, antibacterial, antibiofilm have been explored. Additionally, nicotinamide class compounds have anti-dandruff, anti-itching, hair growth-promoting, grey hair preventing properties and they increase hair elasticity and treat acne, fine lines as well as age spots. Especially, nicotinamide has anticancer properties. Especially, these compounds are reported as tyrosine kinase (TKI) and histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitors. For instance, N-(4-(1-cyanocyclopentyl) phenyl)-2-((pyridin-4-ylmethyl)amino)nicotinamide (A) known as “apatinib” and N-(4-(2-(4-methylbenzylidene) hydrazine-1-carbonyl)phenyl) nicotinamide (B),

which are represented in Fig. 1, are TKI and HDAC inhibitors, respectively¹³.

In this study, nine nicotinamide derivatives which are represented in Scheme 1 are focused. These compounds are initially synthesized and characterized using spectral techniques (IR, ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR and LC-QTOF-MS). Then, they are fully-optimized at B3LYP/6-31+G(d) level in water with the C-PCM solvent method. Electronic properties of these compounds are examined using contour plots of frontier molecular orbital and molecular electrostatic potential (MEP) map of them.

Furthermore, biological activity which are anticancer, antibacterial and antibiofilm are investigated in detail. For this aim, anticancer properties of these compounds are examined against breast cancer (MCF-7), colon cancer (HT-29) and gastric cancer (SNU-1 and SNU-16). The best candidate is found as N4. Antibacterial and antifungal activity of studied compounds are investigated against *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 29213), Methicillin-

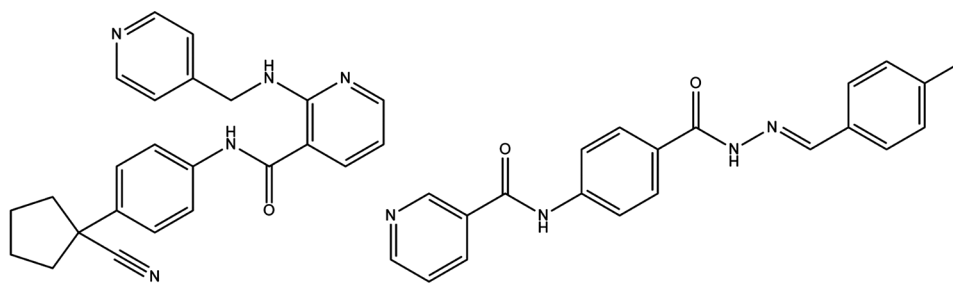
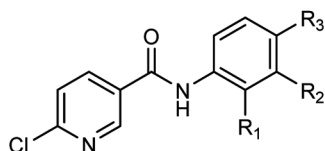


Fig. 1 — Structure of nicotinamide derivative



Assignment	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃
N1	H	H	H
N2	Cl	H	CF ₃
N3	H	CF ₃	Cl
N4	H	H	CF ₃
N6	H	H	SCH ₃
N7	H	SCH ₃	H
N8	Cl	H	H
N9	H	Cl	H

Scheme 1 — Schematic structure of studied compounds

resistant *S. aureus* (ATCC 43300), *Enterococcus faecalis* (ATCC 29212), *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25922), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 27853), *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (ATCC 700603), *Candida albicans* (ATCC10231). **N2 and N3** exhibit the best antibacterial activity.

Experimental Section

Reagents

6-chloronicotinoyl chloride, 2-chloroaniline, 3-chloroaniline, 4-chloroaniline, 2-bromoaniline, triethylamine and solvents which are dichloromethane (DCM), 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCE), chloroform, petroleum ether, diethyl ether, DMSO was purchased from Merck kGaA.

Instrumentation

IR spectra (4000–400 cm⁻¹) were obtained using IR spectra (ATR) and recorded on a Bruker Tensor II FT-IR spectrometer. Melting points were measured on an Electrothermal IA9100 apparatus. ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL (400MHz) JNM-ECZ400S/L1 NMR instrument in

DMSO-d₆ at room temperature; δ in ppm relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS), with J in hertz (Hz). Agilent Technology Inc. of 1260 Infinity HPLC System was coupled with 6530 Q-TOF LC/MS detector and ZORBAX SB-C18 (2.1×50mm, 1.8 μm) column. ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, and Q-TOF LC/MS analyses of the compounds were carried out at the Advanced Technology Application and Research Center (CUTAM) of Sivas Cumhuriyet University.

Synthesis of nicotinamide derivatives

Related nicotinamide derivatives were synthesized according to Fig. 2. Related aniline derivatives are added to the solution of 6-chloronicotinoyl chloride in DCM:1,2-DCE (1:1) with trimethylamine. The mixture were refluxed nearly 3h and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ three times. The organic part was dried Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. The residue was crystallized in ethanol/CHCl₃ (8:2). This synthesis route has been used by Sayin et al. 2022¹⁴.

The synthesized compounds were characterized by spectral characterization techniques, IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and LC-QTOF-MS. The related spectrum

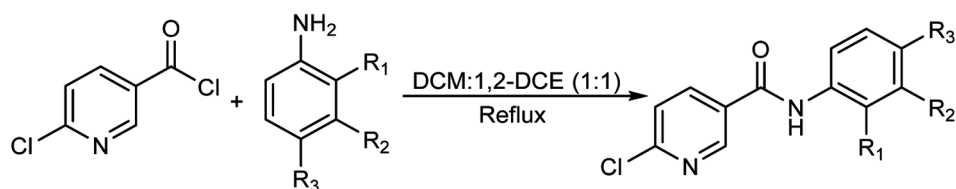


Fig. 2 — Synthesis scheme

are given in Supp. Material. The obtained results are given as follows for each compound.

2-Chloro-N-(2-chlorophenyl)nicotinamide (N1): Yield: 63%. White crystal. IR (cm⁻¹): 3307, 3138, 3045, 2117, 2085, 1990, 1874, 1647, 1605, 1579, 1532, 1495, 1436, 1366, 1327, 1268, 1247, 1184, 1140, 1100, 1077, 1017, 939, 905, 884, 844, 735, 683, 657, 590, 536, 500, 477, 410. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ 10.44, 8.89 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.10 – 7.05 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ 163.42, 153.27, 149.85, 139.60, 139.16, 130.49, 129.26 (2C), 124.66 (2C), 120.88 (2C). HPLC-TOF/MS: 231.0335 ([M-H]⁻, C₁₂H₉ClN₂O⁻; calc. 231.0331).

2-Chloro-N-(2-chlorophenyl)nicotinamide (N2): Yield: 68%. Off-white crystal. IR (cm⁻¹): 3319, 3078, 1667, 1586, 1526, 1458, 1398, 1314, 1271, 1244, 1172, 1108, 1078, 1021, 890, 842, 755, 703, 643, 610, 544, 450. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ 10.55, 8.92 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.86, 7.84, 7.73 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ 163.78, 153.86, 150.03, 139.73, 138.93, 129.89, 129.24, 128.85, 128.15 (q, *J* = 32.8 Hz), 127.88, 127.30 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 127.25, 125.13 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 124.82, 122.46. HPLC-TOF/MS: 332.9821 ([M-H]⁻, C₁₃H₇Cl₂F₃N₂O⁻; calc. 332.9815).

2-Chloro-N-(2-chlorophenyl)nicotinamide (N3): Yield: 71%. Cream crystal. IR (cm⁻¹): 3334, 3131, 3079, 1686, 1592, 1535, 1477, 1412, 1320, 1251, 1104, 1027, 898, 826, 754, 663, 533, 450. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ 10.77, 8.89 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 4.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ 163.87, 153.72, 149.93, 139.60, 138.68, 132.65, 129.78, 127.22 (q, *J* = 30.8 Hz), 125.49, 125.31, 124.77, 124.58, 121.86, 119.47 (q, *J* = 5.6 Hz), 119.14, 40.62, 40.41, 40.20, 39.99, 39.78, 39.57, 39.36. HPLC-TOF/MS: 332.981 ([M-H]⁻, C₁₃H₇Cl₂F₃N₂O⁻; calc. 332.9815).

2-Chloro-N-(2-chlorophenyl)nicotinamide (N4): Yield: 51%. Cream crystal. IR (cm⁻¹): 3314, 3056, 1653, 1584, 1522, 1462, 1407, 1319, 1249, 1160, 1106, 1063, 1017, 905, 833, 761, 654, 409. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ 10.74, 8.91 – 8.90 (m, 1H), 8.30 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.94, 7.91, 7.68, 7.67 – 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.64. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ 163.96, 153.59, 149.97, 142.80, 139.70, 130.08, 126.53 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 120.71, 40.61, 40.40, 40.19, 39.98, 39.77, 39.56, 39.36. HPLC-TOF/MS: 299.0204 ([M-H]⁻, C₁₃H₈ClF₃N₂O⁻; calc. 299.0204).

2-Chloro-N-(2-chlorophenyl)nicotinamide (N5): Yield: 79%. Yellow crystal. IR (cm⁻¹): 3271, 3043, 1644, 1583, 1526, 1492, 1457, 1394, 1329, 1145, 1105, 1016, 903, 807, 671, 503, 409. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ 10.43, 8.88 (dd, *J* = 2.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.61 (m, 1H), 7.25 – 7.20 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ 163.26, 153.28, 149.82, 139.54, 136.52, 133.53, 130.39, 127.25, 124.65, 121.53, 15.78. HPLC-TOF/MS: 277.0208 ([M-H]⁻, C₁₃H₁₁ClN₂OS⁻; calc. 277.0208).

2-Chloro-N-(2-chlorophenyl)nicotinamide (N6): Yield: 64%. Dark green crystal. IR (cm⁻¹): 3304, 3065, 2117, 1863, 1667, 1595, 1585, 1538, 1469, 1394, 1366, 1327, 1294, 1241, 1101, 968, 851, 778, 757, 682, 637, 531, 409. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ 10.43, 8.89 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 1.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.42. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ 163.51, 153.37, 149.85, 139.73, 139.58, 139.17, 130.36, 129.77, 124.68, 121.94, 117.81, 117.27, 15.11. HPLC-TOF/MS: 277.0204 ([M-H]⁻, C₁₃H₁₁ClN₂OS⁻; calc. 277.0208).

2-Chloro-N-(2-chlorophenyl)nicotinamide (N7): Yield: 54%. Cream crystal. IR (cm⁻¹): 3280, 3060, 2116, 1903, 1642, 1585, 1528, 1469, 1435, 1365, 1312, 1269, 1137, 1098, 1053, 1015, 901, 838, 737, 631, 535. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ 10.35, 8.93 – 8.92 (m, 1H), 8.32 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (td, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (td, *J*

= 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- D_6) δ 163.57, 153.63, 149.88, 139.59, 134.95, 130.20, 130.13, 129.54, 129.14, 128.48, 128.12, 124.84. HPLC-TOF/MS: 264.9937 ($[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_8\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}^-$; calc. 264.9941).

2-Chloro-N-(2-chlorophenyl)nicotinamide (N8): Yield: 57%. Cream crystal. IR (cm^{-1}): 3281, 3069, 2108, 1863, 1647, 1580, 1540, 1462, 1400, 1324, 1099, 1018, 875, 795, 731, 675, 535, 415. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- D_6) δ 10.58, 8.89 – 8.88 (m, 1H), 8.29 (dd, $J = 8.3, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.88 (t, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.62 (ddd, $J = 8.2, 2.0, 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.14 (ddd, $J = 8.0, 2.0, 0.8$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- D_6) δ 163.69, 153.52, 149.89, 140.64, 139.61, 133.55, 130.96, 130.12, 124.71, 124.34, 120.31, 119.20. HPLC-TOF/MS: 264.9947 ($[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_8\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}^-$; calc. 264.9941).

2-Chloro-N-(2-chlorophenyl)nicotinamide (N9): Yield: 78%. Cream crystal. IR (cm^{-1}): 3279, 3042, 2111, 1992, 1870, 1644, 1592, 1523, 1487, 1456, 1394, 1322, 1144, 1091, 1014, 816, 755, 653, 502. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- D_6) δ 10.54, 8.88 (dd, $J = 2.5, 0.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.28 (dd, $J = 8.3, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.76 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.64 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.32 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- D_6) δ 163.51, 153.42, 149.86, 139.58, 138.14, 130.24, 129.17 (2C), 128.28, 124.67, 122.40 (2C). HPLC-TOF/MS: 264.9943 ($[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_8\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}^-$; calc. 264.9941).

Computational Chemistry

Gaussian software was used in the computational investigations^{15,16}. The synthesized compounds were fully-optimized at the B3LYP method with 6-31+G(d) basis set in water. In this stage, conductor like polarizable continuum model (C-PCM) was used as solvent model to consider solute-solvent interactions. At the results of calculations, no imaginary frequency was observed. IR and NMR spectrum were calculated at the same level of theory. Additionally, electronic properties of these compounds are examined using contour plots of frontier molecular orbitals and molecular electrostatic potential (MEP) map. Some utilities such as ChemDraw software was used as utility in this study¹⁷.

Cell Culture Studies

MCF7 (human breast cancer), HT29 (colon cancer), SNU1 (stomach cancer), SNU16 (stomach

cancer), and L929 (Healthy fibroblast) obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Manassas, VA, USA) cell lines were used. Cells were cultured in 25 cm^2 flasks containing RPMI containing 10% Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS), 1% penicillin/streptomycin, and 1% L-glutamine. Cells were maintained at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO_2 . Cells reaching 80% density were passaged. Cells were seeded on a 96-well plate with the number of cells in each well of 1×10^4 cells. The new synthesis compounds were dissolved in DMSO and diluted in culture medium before processing with a final DMSO content of 5%.

Cell Viability Assay

MCF7, HT29, SNU1 and SNU16 cell lines were used to evaluate the anticancer activity of nine newly synthesized compounds. The XTT colorimetric method (2,3-bis-(2-methoxy-4-nitro-5-sulphophenyl)-5-[(phenylamino)carbonyl]-2H-tetrazolium hydroxide) (Biological Industries) was used to assess cell viability. MCF7, HT29, SNU1 and SNU16 cells in growth phase were seeded at a density of 1×10^4 cells per well in 96-well microplates prepared in RPMI 1640 culture medium (100- μL).

Processing was started after 24 hours of incubation. Synthesis compounds were administered to all cell lines individually at a dose of 40 μM . Cells were classified as control group and drug group. No drug was administered to the control group. The prepared 96-well plate was kept in the incubator and removed after 24 hours. Wells were washed with phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Then, 100 μL of phenol red-free DMEM and 50 μL of XTT solution were added to all wells and the plates were kept at 37 °C for 4 hours. Absorbance values were determined at 450 nm using an ELISA microplate reader (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Altrincham, UK). This procedure was repeated three times. Cell viability was accepted as 100% in the control group. Cell viability was calculated using the formula (% Cell viability = (Concentration O.D./Control O.D.) x 100). It was observed that **N4**, one of the nine compounds, had a cytotoxic effect on MCF-7 at the desired level (below 60%) in 24-hour application. Different doses (40, 20, 10, 5, 2.5 μM) of **N4** compound were applied to MCF-7 to determine the IC50 value of the **N4** compound, which has a sufficient cytotoxic effect on MCF-7 at a dose of 40 μM . The IC50 value (drug concentration causing 50% reduction in proliferation)

was calculated using Graph Prism 7 software (GraphPad). Next, the possible cytotoxic effect on the healthy connective tissue cell line L929 was investigated to investigate the selectivity of the N4 synthesis compound to tumor cells. The N4 compound was administered to the L929 cell line at a dose of 40 μ M. The cytotoxic effects of newly synthesized N4 on MCF-7 and L929 were compared.

Antibacterial and antifungal activity, and Determination of MICs

The antimicrobial activity of the synthesized complexes was examined against the microorganism; Gram-positive bacteria [*Enterococcus faecalis* (ATCC 29212), *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 29213) Methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (ATCC 43300)]; Gram-negative bacteria [*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 27853), *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (ATCC 700603), *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25922)], and fungus [*Candida albicans* (ATCC 10231)]. Complexes stock solutions were dispensed at a concentration of 2 mg/ml in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). The micro-broth dilution method was used to test the Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) values of compounds¹⁸. The concentrations of compounds were prepared by serial dilution in Mueller Hinton Broth (MHB). For positive control; ciprofloxacin (to bacteria), and fluconazole (to fungus) were used as antimicrobials. The microplates were incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. All experiments were repeated 3-times.

Biofilm inhibition concentration (BIC) assay

A 96-well microtiter plate method was used to test the biofilm inhibition potential of the synthesized compounds¹⁹. The microorganisms used in the assay were cultured overnight in Tryptic Soy Broth (TSB) (supplemented with 2% glucose). Test compounds were prepared at Minimum Inhibition Concentration (MIC) values ranging from 500 to 1000 μ g/ml. The initial inoculum was mixed with bacterial suspensions with a concentration of 5×10^5 CFU/mL. 100 μ L of compound solution and 100 μ L of McFarland 0.5 (10^8 CFU/ml) turbid bacteria suspension were added to microplates (96-well, U-bottom). Only 200 μ L of bacterial suspension was added to the wells as a positive control. The microplates were then incubated at 37 °C for 48 hours. After this time, the wells of the microplate were washed 3 times with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). Thus, non-adherent bacteria were removed. The biofilm structure in the wells was

fixed with 95% methyl alcohol for 15 minutes. The microplates were dried at room temperature. Next, 200 μ l of 0.1% crystal violet was added to the wells and left for 30 min. The wells were washed 3-times with distilled water to remove excess dye, and the microplates were dried. 33% acetic acid solution was added to dissolve the attached dye in the wells. After 20 minutes, biofilm inhibition was measured at 570 nm with a UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Bio-Tek, Winooski, USA). The biofilm inhibition rate was calculated according to the formula given below. All experiments were repeated 3 times.

$$\% \text{ Inhibition} = 100 - \left(\frac{OD_{570} \text{ sample}}{OD_{570} \text{ control}} \times 100 \right)$$

Results and Discussion

Optimized Structures

The synthesized compounds are optimized at B3LYP/6-31+G(d) level in the water. The ground state structure of these compounds are showed in Fig. 3. In addition, selected geometric parameters which are bond length (\AA), bond angle (deg.) and dihedral angle (deg.) are given in Table 1.

According to Table 1, geometric parameters are close to each other. However, the structures of studied compounds are not planar. Almost, the benzene rings in the studied compounds stand perpendicular to each other.

Experimental and Computational IR Spectra

The IR spectrum is a fundamental technique for determining the functional group and is essential for the characterization of chemicals. The vibrational frequencies of the studied compounds were obtained both experimentally and computationally. Experimental results are given in the below sections. In this section, assignments are made by comparing computational and experimental results with each other. The IR results are given in Table 2 for studied compounds.

According to Table 2, some numerical differences are there in calculated and experimental frequencies. The main reason for this difference is that the calculated frequencies are harmonic values. However, regression coefficient is calculated at nearly 0.997 for each data set. Labeling of experimental results along with computational IR results is performed. In addition, it is observed that the results obtained are compatible with the IR datasets.

NMR Spectra

Dimethyl sulfoxide-d₆ are used as the deuterated solvent for the synthesized compounds. In the ¹H-

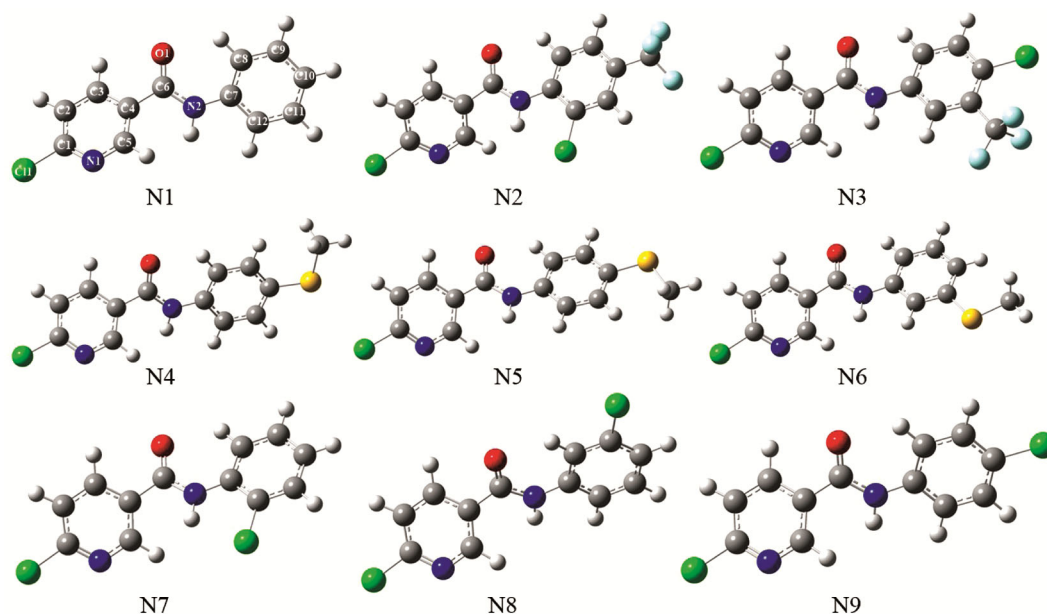


Fig. 3 — The optimized structure of examined nicotinamide derivatives

Table 1 — The geometric parameters of synthesized compounds at B3LYP/6-31+G(d) level.

Assignments	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9
Bond Lengths (Å)									
C1-C2	1.398	1.398	1.398	1.398	1.398	1.398	1.398	1.398	1.398
C1-C11	1.762	1.761	1.761	1.763	1.763	1.762	1.762	1.762	1.762
C1-N1	1.322	1.322	1.322	1.321	1.322	1.322	1.322	1.322	1.322
N1-C5	1.342	1.342	1.342	1.342	1.342	1.342	1.342	1.342	1.342
C4-C6	1.403	1.500	1.500	1.502	1.502	1.502	1.501	1.501	1.502
C6-O1	1.235	1.230	1.232	1.236	1.236	1.234	1.233	1.234	1.234
C6-N2	1.367	1.376	1.371	1.366	1.366	1.368	1.371	1.369	1.368
N2-C7	1.415	1.400	1.408	1.415	1.414	1.414	1.407	1.411	1.412
Bond Angle (deg.)									
C11-C1-C2	118.8	118.8	118.8	118.8	118.8	118.8	118.8	118.8	118.8
C1-C2-C3	117.0	117.0	117.0	117.0	117.0	117.0	117.0	117.0	117.0
C11-C1-N1	116.3	116.2	116.3	116.3	116.3	116.3	116.3	116.3	116.3
C3-C4-C6	118.6	118.5	118.6	118.6	118.6	118.7	118.6	118.5	118.5
C4-C6-N2	115.4	115.2	115.3	115.5	115.4	115.2	115.2	115.4	115.4
C4-C6-O1	120.4	120.9	120.8	120.5	120.5	120.5	120.6	120.6	120.6
O1-C6-N2	124.1	123.8	123.7	123.9	124.0	124.1	124.1	123.8	123.9
C6-N2-C7	129.2	128.7	128.6	129.0	129.1	129.0	128.8	129.1	129.0
Dihedral Angle (deg.)									
C11-C1-C2-C3	-179.8	179.8	179.8	-179.8	179.8	179.8	179.8	-179.8	-179.8
C11-C1-N1-C5	179.4	-179.3	-179.3	179.4	-179.3	-179.3	-179.4	179.3	179.3
C1-N1-C5-C4	0.0	-0.10	-0.12	0.06	-0.06	-0.12	-0.10	0.08	0.09
C4-C6-N2-C7	-177.6	176.1	177.1	-177.6	177.6	177.4	176.7	-177.4	-177.6
C5-C4-C6-O1	-147.9	148.8	148.4	-147.9	148.3	147.8	148.4	-149.2	-148.4
C6-N2-C7-C12	-174.1	173.9	174.7	-173.4	173.4	171.1	172.5	-175.6	-175.2

NMR spectra of the synthesized compounds, the proton of amide group give a singlet in the range of 10.35 – 10.77 ppm. Calculated chemical shift value of proton of amide group is obtained in the range of 9.2

– 10.7 ppm at same level of theory. In the ^{13}C -NMR spectra, the carbonyl group are resonated in the range of 163.2 – 163.9 ppm. Chemical shift value of this atom is calculated in the range of 159.4 – 160.5 ppm.

Table 2 — Vibrational frequencies (cm⁻¹) of some functional groups in studied compounds

Assignments	N1		N2		N3		N4	
	Exp.	Calc.	Exp.	Calc.	Exp.	Calc.	Exp.	Calc.
ν_{NH}	3307	3601	3319	3580	3334	3598	3314	3601
ν_{CH}	3045	3197	3078	3199	3079	3196	3056	3198
$\nu_{\text{C=O}}$	1647	1697	1667	1715	1686	1706	1653	1693
$\nu_{\text{C-N}}$	1495	1576	1458	1562	1477	1566	1522	1561
$\nu_{\text{C=C}}$	1366	1316	1398	1318	1320	1317	1319	1316
$\nu_{\text{C-Cl}}$	683	758	703	749	754	738	761	763
		N5		N6		N7		N8
	Exp.	Calc.	Exp.	Calc.	Exp.	Calc.	Exp.	Calc.
ν_{NH}	3271	3604	3304	3597	3280	3583	3281	3603
ν_{CH}	3043	3197	3065	3196	3060	3198	3069	3199
$\nu_{\text{C=O}}$	1644	1693	1667	1700	1642	1705	1647	1702
$\nu_{\text{C-N}}$	1583	1564	1585	1572	1585	1566	1580	1570
$\nu_{\text{C=C}}$	1329	1316	1327	1316	1312	1316	1324	1322
$\nu_{\text{C-Cl}}$	807	763	778	771	737	764	795	762
		N9						
	Exp.	Calc.						
ν_{NH}	3279	3605						
ν_{CH}	3042	3197						
$\nu_{\text{C=O}}$	1644	1700						
$\nu_{\text{C-N}}$	1592	1568						
$\nu_{\text{C=C}}$	1322	1316						
$\nu_{\text{C-Cl}}$	755	762						

Electronic Properties

Determination of electronic properties is essential for compounds. Computationally, the field of application of the studied compounds can be easily determined using contour plots of the boundary molecular orbital and molecular electrostatic potential (MEP). In this study, contour plots of boundary molecular orbitals, which are HOMO and LUMO, are calculated and shown in Fig. 4.

According to Fig. 4, HOMO electrons are delocalized mainly on the benzene ring in the structure of the studied compound. At this point, it is observed that π electrons play an important role. In the LUMO graph, the electrons are mainly localized over the entire structure of the molecule. The MEP map can be used to determine the electronic properties of compounds. The contour plot of the boundary molecular orbitals shows the specific area that can be active, while the MEP maps show the regions that can interact on the surface of the compound. MEP maps of the investigated compounds were calculated and shown in Fig. 5.

To predict reactive sites of electrophilic or nucleophilic attack for the mentioned molecules, the MEP at the B3LYP/6-31+G(d) optimized geometry was calculated. The negative (red and yellow) regions of the MEP are related to nucleophilic activity as

environment of oxygen atoms in carboxyl groups and the positive (blue) regions to electrophilic activity, as shown in Fig. 5.

Anticancer Activities

In the scope of the study, human breast cancer (MCF-7), human colon cancer (HT-29) and human gastric cancer (SNU1, SNU16) cell lines were used in *in vitro* studies to evaluate the anticancer activities of 9 newly synthesized compounds. In the first step, all compounds were applied to all 4 cell lines at a constant concentration of 40 μM . Cell viability percentages were calculated by XTT colorimetric method 24 hours after the application. The study was repeated 3 times and the averages of the results were calculated. Results below 60% were considered significant. As a result of the examinations, it was determined that other compounds, except **N4**, did not show the desired cytotoxic effect. However, it was determined that **N4** provided 55.11% viability on the breast cancer cell line MCF7 and showed cytotoxic effect at the desired level. Based on all these results, **N4** was chosen for further studies (Table 3).

In the next step of the study, the IC₅₀ value of the **N4** compound, which was effective in the MCF-7 cell line, was determined. **N4** compound was applied to the MCF-7 cell line at doses of 2.5 μM , 5 μM , 10 μM ,

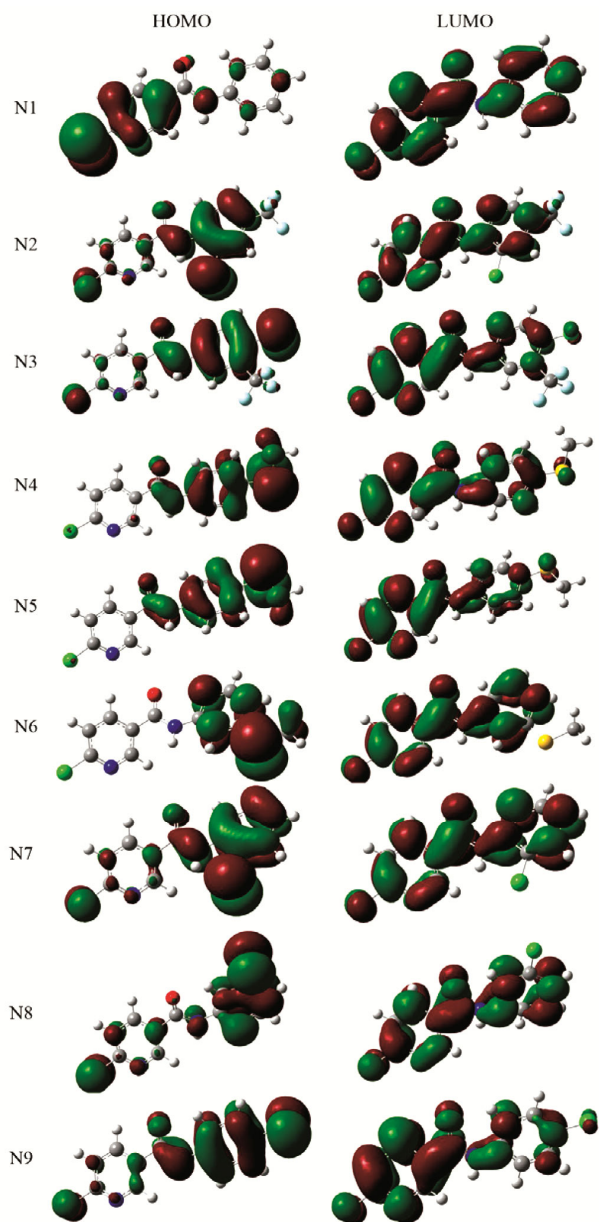


Fig. 4 — Contour diagram of frontier molecular orbitals

20 μM and 40 μM . Cell viability was determined by XTT after 24 hours of administration. The mean cell viability rates obtained after three replicates were calculated and the IC₅₀ value was found to be 12.1 μM (Table 4).

In the final phase of the *in vitro* part of the study, the effect of the potential cytotoxicity of N4 on the healthy fibroblast cell line L929 was examined at a high dose of 40 μM . As a result, with the application of the newly synthesized N4 compound at a dose of 40 μM for 24 hours, it caused 55.11% cell viability in the breast cancer cell line MCF-7, but 89.7% cell

viability in the healthy fibroblast cell line L929. In the light of all these results, it was determined that N4 had a more specific cytotoxic effect on MCF7 than on healthy cells.

Antibacterial, Antifungal and Antibiofilm Activities

Biofilms are defined as clumps of microorganisms in which bacteria adhere to each other and/or a surface and are embedded in a matrix of polymeric substances that they produce from their organisms and secrete out of the cell. By means of this structure, microorganisms are thousands of times more resistant to antibiotics and other antimicrobials than planktonic (free-living) organisms²⁰.

Biofilm-associated infections are severe and recurrent diseases that are difficult to treat. Therefore, there is need for new strategies for the prevention and treatment of the proliferation of bacterial biofilms urgently. The antibacterial and antibiofilm activity of studied compounds are tested *in vitro* against six standard bacterial strains and one fungus.

When Table 5 was examined according to the results of the research, it was determined that the most effective compounds on microorganisms were N2 and N3, and the weakest one is N1. Other compounds also had moderate to strong (in varying levels) antimicrobial activity. *E. faecalis* (ATCC 29212) strain was determined as the most sensitive microorganism to the compounds.

Due to the antimicrobial properties of vitamin B3 (nicotinamide and nicotinic acid) and vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) derivatives, it attracts the attention of experts in the treatment of common and life-threatening microbial infections that are tolerant or resistant to current drugs²¹. Adamiec et al. examined the antibacterial activity of the 1-methyl-N'-(hydroxymethyl)nicotinamide chloride (MNAF+) compound against *E. faecalis*, *S. aureus*, *E. coli*, and *P. aeruginosa* bacteria, and it was determined that it was significantly effective. At the same time, in parallel with the results of this study, they reported that the most sensitive bacteria to the compounds was *E. faecalis*²². In another study, it was determined that pyridoxin and nicotinium dithiophosphate compounds had a strong antibacterial activity; (10–20 μM) against *Staphylococci* bacteria; and at increasing concentrations (MIC \geq 320 μM) against *P. aeruginosa* and *K. Pneumonia*. Venkatasubramanian et al. reported that new nicotinamide-thiazole derivatives

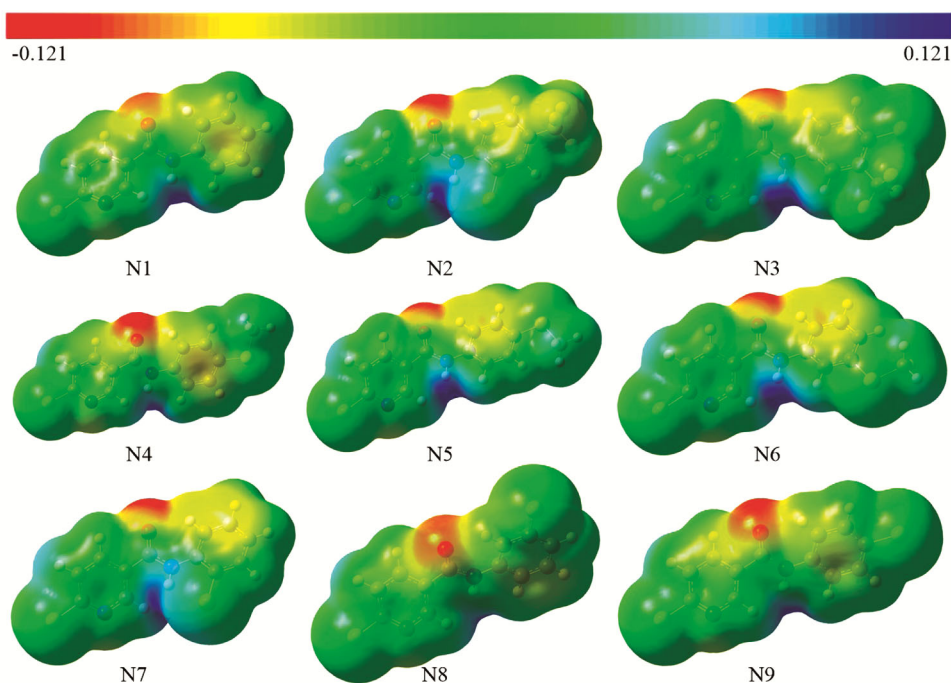


Fig. 5 — MEP maps of the studied compounds

Table 3 — XTT results obtained after 24 hours application of studied compounds at 40 μM dose to four different cell lines

Cell Line	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9
MCF-7	101.18	80.79	60.47	55.11*	92.66	77.49	100.59	74.78	98.38
HT-29	96.73	87.72	92.80	71.32	97.83	90.35	88.61	94.66	89.54
SNU1	97.15	104.55	97.47	106.30	115.74	107.22	105.98	107.01	99.19
SNU16	104.16	97.12	101.02	61.89	105.17	106.08	104.82	90.27	87.91

* Significant result below 60%.

MCF-7: Breast cancer cell line, HT-29: Colon cancer cell line, SNU1: Gastric cancer cell line, SNU16: Gastric cancer cell line.

showed potent antimicrobial activity against the microbial pathogens tested²³.

In this study, studied compounds are determined to have moderate and strong antibiofilm activities. When Table 6 was examined, the antibiofilm activity against all tested pathogenic microorganisms was found to be 3.2% to 78.3% at $\frac{1}{2}$ MIC concentrations of the synthesized compounds. The microorganisms with the strongest inhibition value against biofilm formation of the tested compounds; *Mrsa* (69.6-78.3%), and *C. albicans* (54.1-72.7%). The microorganism with the lowest activity of the compounds was determined as *K. pneumoniae* (3.2-17.1%).

Sihih *et al.* reported that the nicotinamide destroyed the biofilm structure of *Cutibacterium acnes* bacteria and prevented biofilm formation²⁴. In another study, it was reported that pyridine nicotinamide derivatives caused destabilization in EPS produced by *Micrococcus luteus* and *S. aureus* species, destroying the biofilm structure and causing the bacteria to

Table 4 — Effect of N4 synthesis compound at 5 μM , 10 μM , 20 μM , 40 μM , 80 μM doses in MCF-7 cell line and determination of IC50 value.

N4 Dose	MCF-7(Brest cancer)	
	n	Mean
Control	3	100
2.5 μM	3	134.83
5 μM	3	113.75
10 μM	3	105.68
20 μM	3	85.73
40 μM	3	55.09

IC50: 12.1 μM

MCF-7: Breast cancer cell line, N4: New synthesis compound, IC50: Drug concentration causing 50% reduction in proliferation

become planktonic, and thus these compounds acted as an antibiofilm agent²⁵.

Our results indicate that the newly synthesized and characterized compounds have remarkable antibacterial and antifungal activity. It was determined that the most effective antimicrobial compounds were N2 and N3, and

the lowest antimicrobial compound was **N1**. Furthermore, these compounds prevented biofilm formation at moderate to high levels. Based on these results, these compounds are thought to encourage the development of novel antibiofilm agents.

In silico Analyses

Pharmacophore Model

Pharmacophore is related with the description of the molecular properties in the recognition of molecule as ligand. Generally, pharmacophore models may contain

hydrophobic centroids, aromatic rings, hydrogen bond acceptors or donors, cations, and anions [Wermuth CG, Ganellin CR, Lindberg P, Mitscher LA (1998). "Glossary of terms used in medicinal chemistry (IUPAC Recommendations 1998)". Pure and Applied Chemistry. 70 (5): 1129–1143. doi:10.1351/pac199870051129.]. Pharmacophore analyses of the studied compounds are performed using Maestro 12.2 software and totally twenty pharmacophore models are derived. The best one is represented in the Fig. 6.

Table 5 — Antimicrobial screening data of the compounds (MIC in μM)

Compd*	Antibacterial activity						Antifungal activity
	Sa	Mrsa	Ec	Kp	Pa	Ef	Ca
N1	85,9	85,9	85,9	85,9	85,9	42,9	85,9
N2	59,6	59,6	59,6	59,6	59,6	29,8	59,6
N3	59,6	59,6	59,6	59,6	59,6	29,8	59,6
N4	66,5	66,5	66,5	66,5	66,5	66,5	66,5
N5	71,7	71,7	71,7	71,7	71,7	71,7	71,7
N6	71,7	71,7	71,7	71,7	71,7	71,7	71,7
N7	74,8	74,8	74,8	74,8	74,8	37,4	74,8
N8	74,8	74,8	74,8	74,8	74,8	37,4	74,8
N9	74,8	74,8	74,8	74,8	74,8	37,4	74,8
Ciprofloxacin	0.5	1.0	2.0	0.25	0.5	1.0	
Flucanazole							5

Sa; *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 29213), Mrsa; Methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (ATCC 43300), Ef; *Enterococcus faecalis* (ATCC 29212), Ec; *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25922), Pa; *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 27853), Kp; *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (ATCC 700603), Ca; *Candida albicans* (ATCC10231)

Table 6 — Biofilm inhibition assay of synthesized compounds (MIC/2 in μM)

Compd*	Antibiofilm inhibition (%)						
	Sa	Mrsa	Ec	Kp	Pa	Ef	Ca
N1	25.0±0.11	69.8±0.05	6.4±0.12	3.2±0.24	25.0±0.19	36.9± 0.45	67.4±0.05
N2	24.4±0.08	73.8±0.27	5.3±0.21	5.7±0.09	31.8±0.04	29.4± 0.01	67.3± 0.07
N3	20.3±0.48	73.6±0.35	7.6±0.14	15.6±0.63	8.5±0.54	32.8± 0.33	71.6± 0.15
N4	24.1±0.07	69.6±0.09	14.1±0.06	10.0±0.18	16.6±0.33	36.1± 0.24	72.7± 0.14
N5	21.7±0.14	70.1±0.11	8.3±0.06	3.4±0.17	29.7±0.09	32.7± 0.03	68.5± 0.06
N6	23.7±0.05	70.6±0.08	7.9±0.07	4.6±0.3	32.1±0.08	26.8±0.24	67.0± 0.04
N7	21.2±0.14	70.1±0.11	12.9±0.53	13.7±0.32	5.6±0.62	30.6±0.18	68.1± 0.4
N8	43.0±0.38	78.3±0.34	34.1±0.4	3.7±0	31.0± 0.83	48.1± 0.12	64.9± 0.23
N9	31.0±0.42	78.0±0.4	22.4±0.3	12.8±0.65	33.8± 0.82	46.8± 0.54	54.1± 0.2

Sa; *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 29213), Mrsa; Methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (ATCC 43300), Ef; *Enterococcus faecalis* (ATCC 29212), Ec; *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25922), Pa; *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 27853), Kp; *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (ATCC 700603), Ca; *Candida albicans* (ATCC10231)

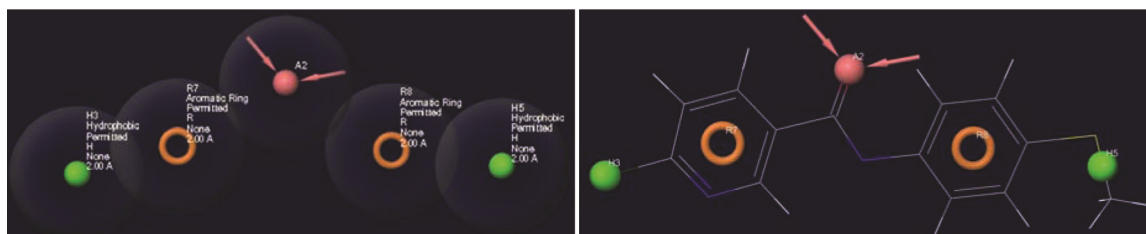


Fig. 6 — The pharmacophore model

Table 7 — The docking calculations results

Compd	DS ^a	E _{vdW} ^a	E _{Coul} ^a	E _{Total} ^a
For 6VGH				
N1	-6.446	-25.740	-1.490	-27.230
N2	-4.933	-28.867	-2.403	-31.270
N3	-5.863	-28.669	-1.978	-30.647
N4	-8.104	-31.054	-1.112	-32.166
N5	-5.128	-27.801	-1.860	-29.661
N6	-6.188	-29.655	-0.761	-30.415
N7	-6.246	-33.148	-3.243	-36.391
N8	-4.493	-31.424	-1.179	-32.603
N9	-6.932	-26.838	-0.787	-27.625
For 3DWW				
N1	-2.393	-30.270	-2.397	-32.667
N2	-1.985	-33.741	-3.410	-37.151
N3	-2.574	-30.786	-2.619	-33.405
N4	-1.781	-29.941	-3.971	-33.913
N5	-0.058	-30.057	-2.009	-32.066
N6	-3.531	-26.301	-5.487	-31.787
N7	-2.535	-30.870	-2.109	-32.980
N8	-1.920	-25.440	-2.903	-28.343
N9	-2.101	-25.938	-3.829	-29.767

^a in kcal/mol

The biological activity of studied compounds against are determined by molecular docking calculations. These calculations are performed and docking score (DS), van der Walls interaction energy (E_{vdW}), the Coulomb interaction energy (E_{Coul}) and total interaction energy (E_{Total}) are given in Table 7.

According to Table 7, studied compounds exhibited better results in estrogen receptor than that of prostaglandin. For prostaglandin protein, obtained results cannot be accepted as good results. The inhibition efficiency of studied compounds seems bad. However, the related compounds have good inhibition properties in estrogen receptor. The best results are obtained in N4 compound. The docking score of this compound is calculated as - 8.104 kcal/mol. This result implies that there is well key-lock harmony between ligand and receptor. Furthermore, the total interaction energy of related compounds are similar to each other and it is observed that there is no any significant difference. Finally, it can be said that inhibition properties of studied compounds are good in estrogen receptor that those of prostaglandin and N4 is found as the best inhibitor candidate for the estrogen receptor.

Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism and Excretion (ADME) Analysis

ADME analysis gives essential clues about pharmacokinetics and pharmacology properties of pharmaceutical compound within an organism. The whole criteria affect drug levels and drug exposure kinetics to tissues and so affect the performance and pharmacological activity of the drug candidates. ADME calculations are performed using Maestro 12.8 software and QikProp descriptors of studied compounds are calculated. Selected some QikProp parameters are given in Table 8.

According to Table 8, calculated parameters are generally in good agreement with the recommended value for each parameter. These parameters reveal the drug-likeness properties of the investigated compounds. Especially, these compounds have skin permeability, MDCK cell permeability, Caco-2 cell permeability, brain/blood permeability. Additionally, some compounds can take part in metabolic reactions which is undesirable. In this stage, only compound N5 is out of point and it can be taken out of study. On the other hand, if it will be in the study, the dose of the drugs taken into the body should be adjusted. As a result, all results seems good in ADME analysis.

Table 8 — Calculated QikProp parameters of studied compounds

Parameters ^a	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	RV ^b
Stars	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0-5
Amine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0-1
rtvFG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0-2
SASA	462.85	533.39	531.83	529.13	529.50	530.64	484.84	487.47	487.00	300.0-1000.0
FOSA	0.00	0.66	0.57	89.05	89.04	87.46	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.0-750.0
FISA	69.76	68.42	69.88	69.82	69.82	67.38	72.96	69.82	69.76	7.0-330.0
PISA	319.05	215.09	222.16	254.75	255.11	260.23	278.33	272.13	271.69	0.0-450.0
WPSA	74.03	249.21	239.21	115.51	115.51	115.56	133.54	145.51	145.54	0.0-175.0
donorHB	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.0-6.0
AcceptHB	3.5	3.5	3.5	4	4	4	3.5	3.5	3.5	2.0-20.0
QPPolrz	25.69	30.26	30.15	29.41	29.42	29.55	27.07	27.03	27.00	13.0-70.0
QPPCaco	2159.49	2223.36	2153.68	2156.73	2156.70	2274.63	2013.57	2156.51	2159.35	<25 poor >500 great
QPlogBB	0.001	0.407	0.368	0.001	0.001	0.023	0.108	0.159	0.161	-3.0- 1.2
QPPMDCK	2892.62	10000	10000	4874.48	4874.52	5166.73	5681.23	7115.50	7128.56	<25 poor >500 great
QPlogKp	-1.48	-1.83	-1.83	-1.62	-1.62	-1.55	-1.69	-1.65	-1.65	-8.0- -1.0
metab	2	1	2	1	0	2	2	2	1	1-8
QPlogKhsa	-0.07	0.28	0.27	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.03	0.03	0.03	-1.5- 1.5
Percent Human-Oral Absorption	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	>80% is high <25% is poor
PSA	48.00	48.41	48.01	47.96	47.96	48.01	46.91	48.04	48.00	7.0- 200.0
RuleOfFive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Max is 4
RuleOfThree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Max is 3

^a**Stars**: Number of property or descriptor values that fall outside the 95% range of similar values for known drugs; **Amine**: Number of non-conjugated amine groups; **rtvFG**: Number of reactive functional groups; **SASA**: Total solvent accessible surface area; **FOSA**: Hydrophobic component of the SASA; **FISA**: Hydrophilic component of the SASA; **PISA**: π (carbon and attached hydrogen) component of the SASA; **WPSA**: Weakly polar component of the SASA; **donorHB**: Estimated number of hydrogen bonds that would be donated; **AcceptHB**: Estimated number of hydrogen bonds that would be accepted; **QPPolrz**: Predicted polarizability in cubic angstroms; **QPPCaco**: Predicted apparent Caco-2 cell permeability in nm/sec; **QPlogBB**: Predicted brain/blood partition coefficient; **QPPMDCK**: Predicted apparent MDCK cell permeability in nm/sec; **QPlogKp**: Predicted skin permeability; **metab**: Number of likely metabolic reactions; **QPlogKhsa**: Prediction of binding to human serum albumin; **PercentHuman-OralAbsorption**: Predicted human oral absorption on 0 to 100% scale; **PSA**: Van der Waals surface area of polar nitrogen and oxygen atoms; **RuleOfFive**: Number of violations of Lipinski's rule of five; **RuleOfThree**: Number of violations of Jorgensen's rule of three.

^bRV: Recommended Value

Conclusions

In our study, nine new nicotinamide derivative compounds were synthesized. Characterization of synthesized compounds was done by *in silico* analysis. The anticancer activity of nine compounds was investigated in four different cancer types (MCF-7, HT-29, SNU1 and SNU16) and healthy fibroblast cell line (L929). It was determined that N4, one of the new synthesis compounds, has the desired cytotoxic effect on the human breast cancer cell line MCF-7. The IC50 value was calculated. It was observed that the N4 compound at the dose effective against MCF-7 did not have a serious cytotoxic effect on healthy fibroblast cells (L929). In another phase of the study, its antibacterial effect in six bacterial species, its

antifungal effect in one fungal species and its antibiofilm effect were investigated. It was determined that they have remarkable Antibacterial, Antifungal and Antibiofilm activities, especially N2 and N3 compounds. In the light of all these analyzes, it has been seen that N4, one of the newly synthesized nicotinamide derivative compounds, is promising in the treatment of breast cancer. However, these results, which are the first in the literature and revealed by *in silico* and *in vitro* methods, need to be supported by *in vivo* and clinical studies.

Supplementary Information

Supplementary information is available in the website <http://nopr.niscpr.res.in/handle/123456789/58776>.

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