The orotomides were discovered by screening a 370,000 compound small molecule library for antifungal activity against Aspergillus fumigatus. The series was developed by standard SAR-driven iterative medicinal chemistry and antifungal susceptibility screening. Initially unknown, the mechanism of action was investigated in various ways:

Genetic screen ±An A. nidulans genomic library carried on the AMA1 plasmid
(2)