

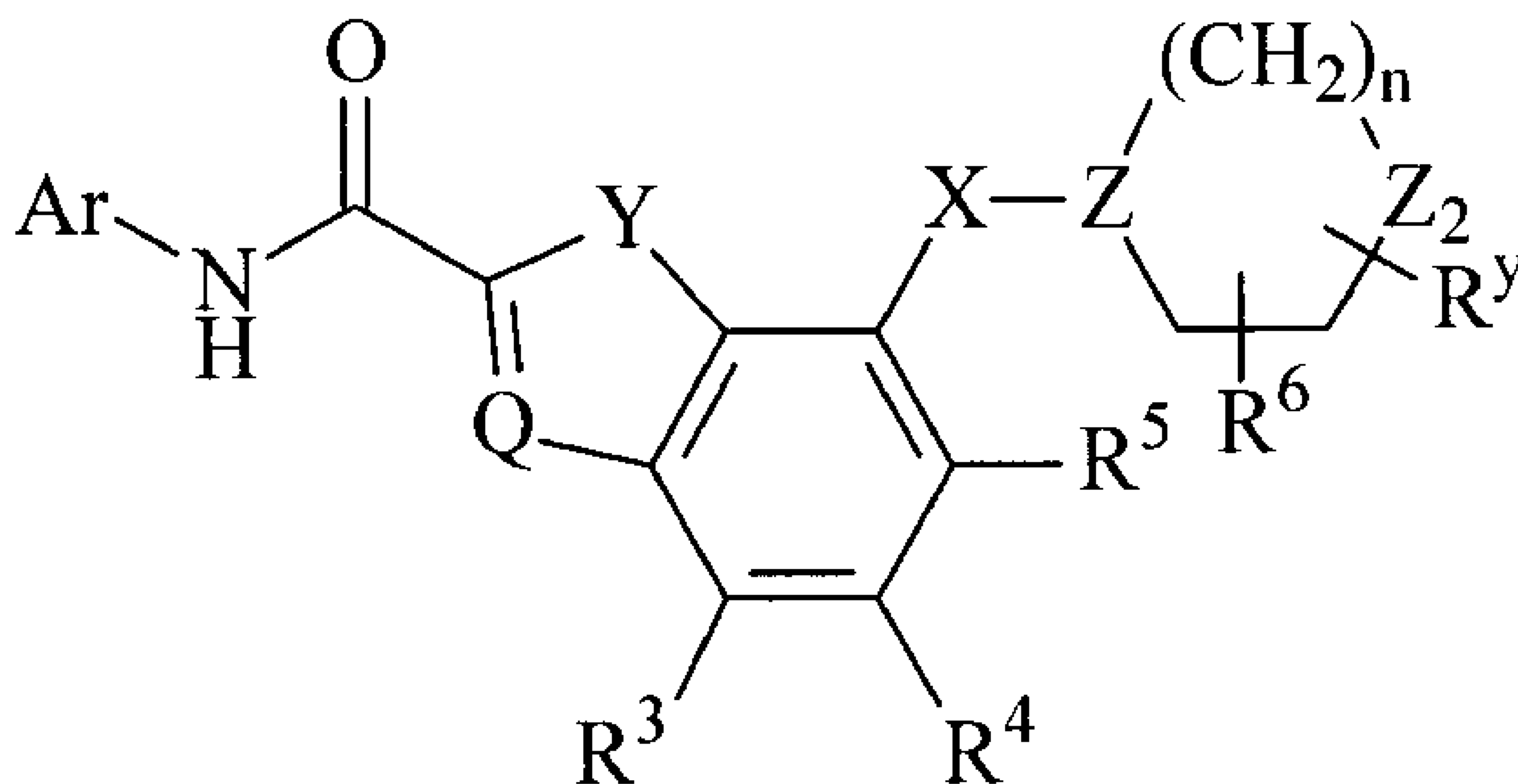


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(54) Titre : 2-ARYLCARBAMOYLINDOLES EN TANT QU'INHIBITEURS DE LA CYTOKINE
(54) Title: 2-ARYLCARBAMOYL-INDOLES AS CYTOKINE INHIBITORS



(I)

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

Disclosed are compounds of formula (I) which inhibit production of cytokines involved in inflammatory processes and are thus useful for treating diseases and pathological conditions involving inflammation such as chronic inflammatory disease. Also disclosed are processes for preparing these compounds and pharmaceutical compositions comprising these compounds.



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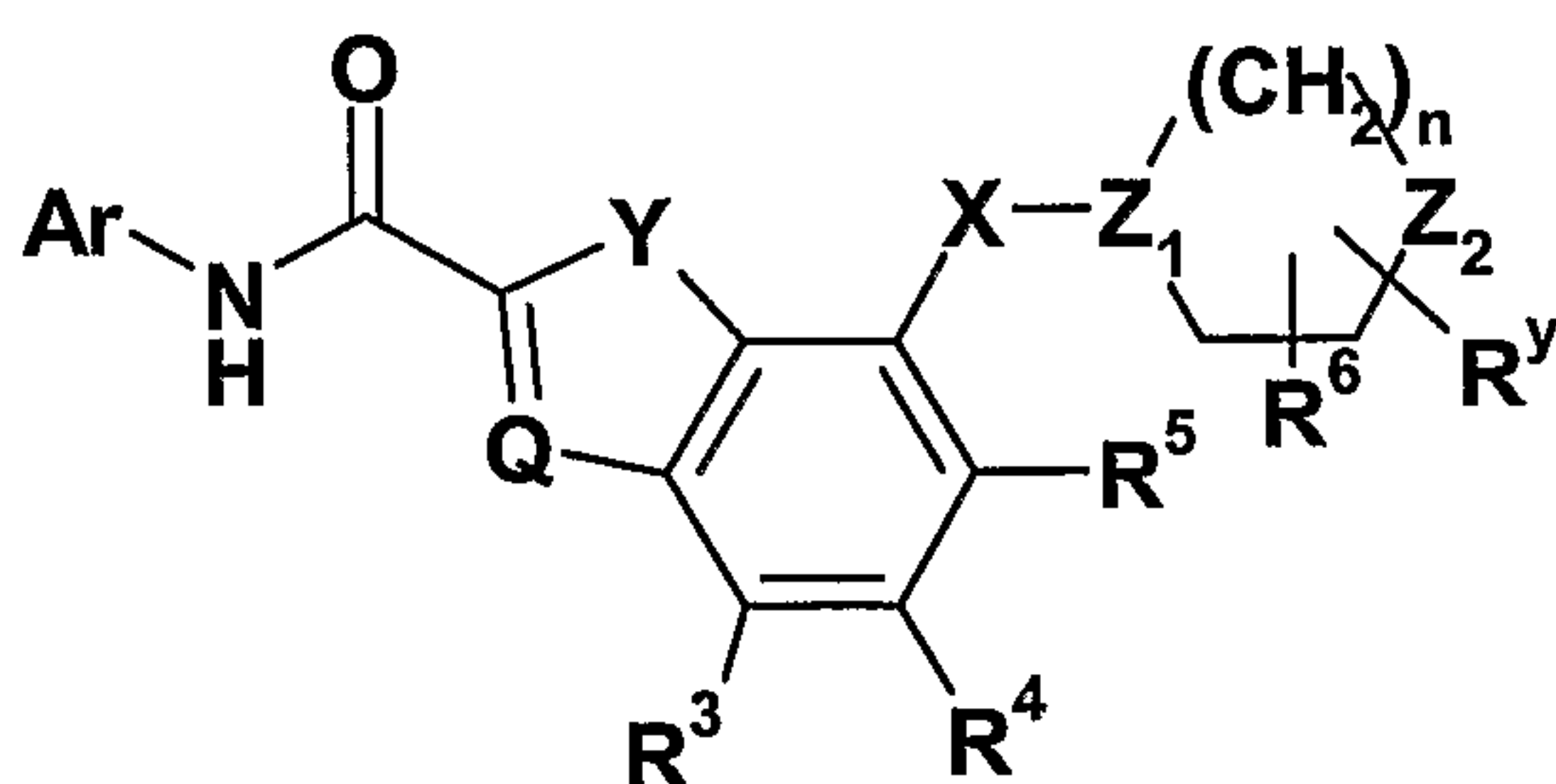
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(54) Title: CYTOKINE INHIBITORS



(I)

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formula (I) which inhibit production of cytokines
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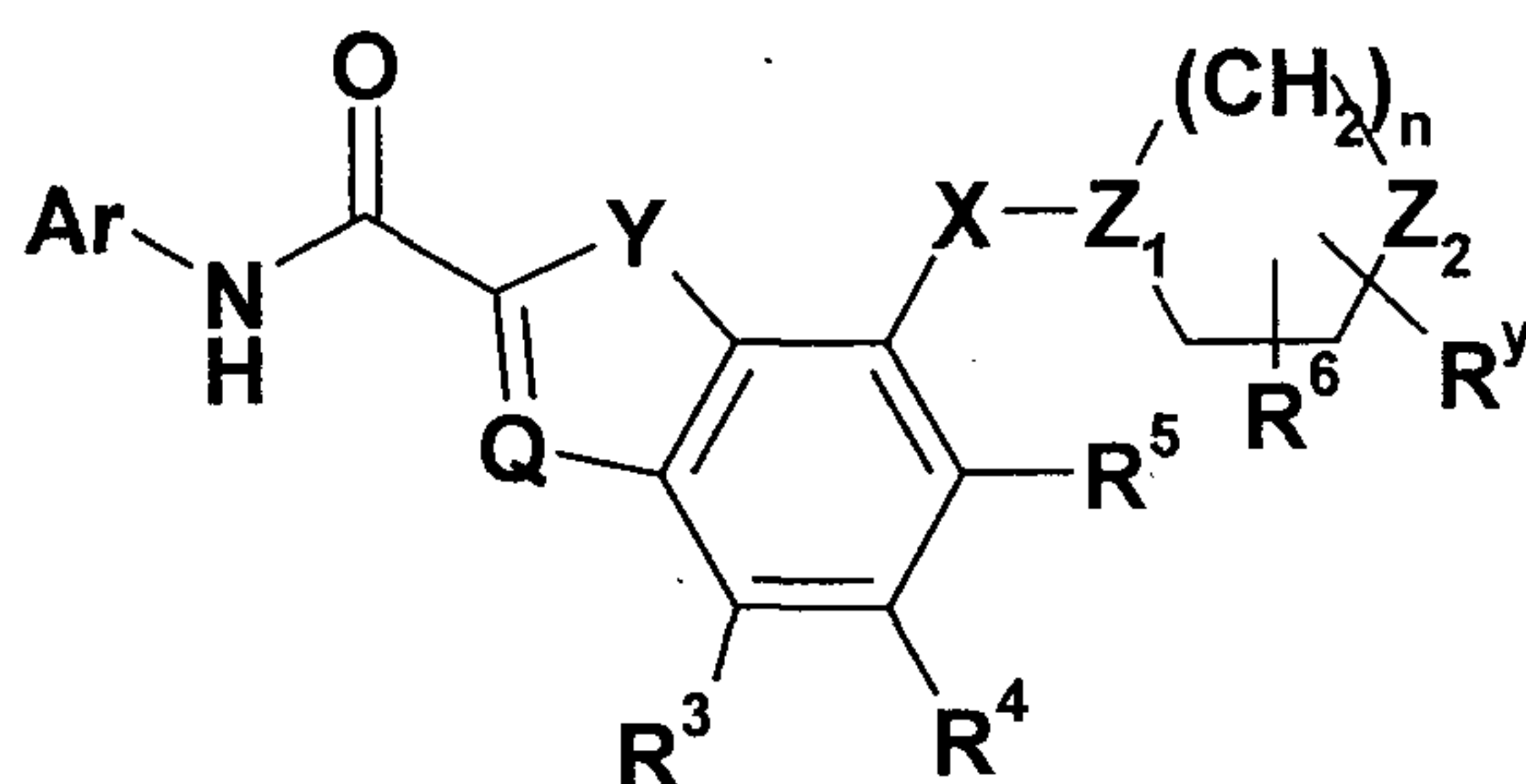
2-ARYLCARBAMOYL-INDOLES AS CYTOKINE INHIBITORS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5

1. TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to compounds of formula (I)



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The compounds of the invention inhibit production of cytokines involved in inflammatory processes and are thus useful for treating diseases and pathological conditions involving inflammation such as chronic inflammatory disease. This invention also relates to processes for preparing these compounds and to pharmaceutical compositions comprising these compounds.

15

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tumor necrosis factor (TNF) and interleukin-1 (IL-1) are important biological entities collectively referred to as proinflammatory cytokines which play a role in cytokine mediated diseases. These, along with several other related molecules, mediate the

20

inflammatory response associated with the immunological recognition of infectious agents. The inflammatory response plays an important role in limiting and controlling pathogenic infections.

5 Elevated levels of proinflammatory cytokines are also associated with a number of diseases of autoimmunity such as toxic shock syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, diabetes and inflammatory bowel disease (Dinarello, C.A., *et al.*, 1984, *Rev. Infect. Disease* 6:51). In these diseases, chronic elevation of inflammation exacerbates or causes much of the pathophysiology observed. For example, rheumatoid
10 synovial tissue becomes invaded with inflammatory cells that result in destruction to cartilage and bone (Koch, A.E., *et al.*, 1995, *J. Invest. Med.* 43: 28-38). Studies suggest that inflammatory changes mediated by cytokines may be involved in endothelial cell pathogenesis including restenosis after percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) (Tashiro, H., *et al.*, 2001 Mar, *Coron Artery Dis* 12(2):107-13). An important
15 and accepted therapeutic approach for potential drug intervention in these diseases is the reduction of proinflammatory cytokines such as TNF (also referred to in its secreted cell-free form as TNF α) and IL-1 β . A number of anti-cytokine therapies are currently in clinical trials. Efficacy has been demonstrated with a monoclonal antibody directed against TNF α in a number of autoimmune diseases (Heath, P., "CDP571: An Engineered
20 Human IgG4 Anti-TNF α Antibody" IBC Meeting on Cytokine Antagonists, Philadelphia, PA, April 24-5, 1997). These include the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis (Rankin, E.C.C., *et al.*, 1997, *British J. Rheum.* 35: 334-342 and Stack, W.A., *et al.*, 1997, *Lancet* 349: 521-524). The monoclonal antibody is thought to function by binding to both soluble TNF α and to membrane bound TNF.

25

A soluble TNF α receptor has been engineered that interacts with TNF α . The approach is similar to that described above for the monoclonal antibodies directed against TNF α ; both agents bind to soluble TNF α , thus reducing its concentration. One version of this construct, called Enbrel (Immunex, Seattle, WA) recently demonstrated efficacy in a
30 Phase III clinical trial for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (Brower *et al.*, 1997, *Nature Biotechnology* 15: 1240). Another version of the TNF α receptor, Ro 45-2081

(Hoffman-LaRoche Inc., Nutley, NJ) has demonstrated efficacy in various animal models of allergic lung inflammation and acute lung injury. Ro 45-2081 is a recombinant chimeric molecule constructed from the soluble 55 kDa human TNF receptor fused to the hinge region of the heavy chain IgG1 gene and expressed in eukaryotic cells (Renzetti, *et al.*, 1997, *Inflamm. Res.* 46: S143).

IL-1 has been implicated as an immunological effector molecule in a large number of disease processes. IL-1 receptor antagonist (IL-1ra) had been examined in human clinical trials. Efficacy has been demonstrated for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (Anril, Amgen). In a phase III human clinical trial IL-1ra reduced the mortality rate in patients with septic shock syndrome (Dinarello, 1995, *Nutrition* 11, 492). Osteoarthritis is a slow progressive disease characterized by destruction of the articular cartilage. IL-1 is detected in synovial fluid and in the cartilage matrix of osteoarthritic joints.

Antagonists of IL-1 have been shown to diminish the degradation of cartilage matrix components in a variety of experimental models of arthritis (Chevalier, 1997, *Biomed Pharmacother.* 51, 58). Nitric oxide (NO) is a mediator of cardiovascular homeostasis, neurotransmission and immune function; recently it has been shown to have important effects in the modulation of bone remodeling. Cytokines such as IL-1 and TNF are potent stimulators of NO production. NO is an important regulatory molecule in bone with effects on cells of the osteoblast and osteoclast lineage (Evans, *et al.*, 1996, *J Bone Miner Res.* 11, 300). The promotion of beta-cell destruction leading to insulin dependent diabetes mellitus shows dependence on IL-1. Some of this damage may be mediated through other effectors such as prostaglandins and thromboxanes. IL-1 can effect this process by controlling the level of both cyclooxygenase II and inducible nitric oxide synthetase expression (McDaniel *et al.*, 1996, *Proc Soc Exp Biol Med.* 211, 24).

Inhibitors of cytokine production are expected to block inducible cyclooxygenase (COX-2) expression. COX-2 expression has been shown to be increased by cytokines and it is believed to be the isoform of cyclooxygenase responsible for inflammation (M.K. O'Banion *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, 1992, 89, 4888.) Accordingly, inhibitors of cytokines such as IL-1 would be expected to exhibit efficacy against those disorders

currently treated with COX inhibitors such as the familiar NSAIDs. These disorders include acute and chronic pain as well as symptoms of inflammation and cardiovascular disease.

- 5 Elevation of several cytokines has been demonstrated during active inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). A mucosal imbalance of intestinal IL-1 and IL-1ra is present in patients with IBD. Insufficient production of endogenous IL-1ra may contribute to the pathogenesis of IBD (Cominelli, *et al.*, 1996, *Aliment Pharmacol Ther.* 10, 49).
- Alzheimer disease is characterized by the presence of beta-amyloid protein deposits,
10 neurofibrillary tangles and cholinergic dysfunction throughout the hippocampal region. The structural and metabolic damage found in Alzheimer disease is possibly due to a sustained elevation of IL-1 (Holden, *et al.*, 1995, *Med Hypotheses*, 45, 559). A role for IL-1 in the pathogenesis of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) has been identified. IL-1ra showed a clear relationship to acute inflammatory events as well as to the different
15 disease stages in the pathophysiology of HIV infection (Kreuzer, *et al.*, 1997, *Clin Exp Immunol.* 109, 54). IL-1 and TNF are both involved in periodontal disease. The destructive process associated with periodontal disease may be due to a dysregulation of both IL-1 and TNF (Howells, 1995, *Oral Dis.* 1, 266).
- 20 Proinflammatory cytokines such as TNF α and IL-1 β are also important mediators of septic shock and associated cardiopulmonary dysfunction, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and multiple organ failure. In a study of patients presenting at a hospital with sepsis, a correlation was found between TNF α and IL-6 levels and septic complications (Terregino *et al.*, 2000, *Ann. Emerg. Med.*, 35, 26). TNF α has also been
25 implicated in cachexia and muscle degradation, associated with HIV infection (Lahdiverta *et al.*, 1988, *Amer. J. Med.*, 85, 289). Obesity is associated with an increase incidence of infection, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Abnormalities in TNF α expression have been noted for each of the above conditions (Loffreda, *et al.*, 1998, *FASEB J.* 12, 57). It has been proposed that elevated levels of TNF α are involved in
30 other eating related disorders such as anorexia and bulimia nervosa. Pathophysiological parallels are drawn between anorexia nervosa and cancer cachexia (Holden, *et al.*, 1996,

Med Hypotheses 47, 423). An inhibitor of TNF α production, HU-211, was shown to improve the outcome of closed brain injury in an experimental model (Shohami, *et al.*, 1997, *J Neuroimmunol.* 72, 169). Atherosclerosis is known to have an inflammatory component and cytokines such as IL-1 and TNF have been suggested to promote the disease. In an animal model an IL-1 receptor antagonist was shown to inhibit fatty streak formation (Elhage *et al.*, 1998, *Circulation*, 97, 242).

TNF α levels are elevated in airways of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and it may contribute to the pathogenesis of this disease (M.A. Higham *et al.*, 2000, *Eur. Respiratory J.*, 15, 281). Circulating TNF α may also contribute to weight loss associated with this disease (N. Takabatake *et al.*, 2000, *Amer. J. Resp. & Crit. Care Med.*, 161 (4 Pt 1), 1179). Elevated TNF α levels have also been found to be associated with congestive heart failure and the level has been correlated with severity of the disease (A.M. Feldman *et al.*, 2000, *J. Amer. College of Cardiology*, 35, 537). In addition, TNF α has been implicated in reperfusion injury in lung (Borjesson *et al.*, 2000, *Amer. J. Physiol.*, 278, L3-12), kidney (Lemay *et al.*, 2000, *Transplantation*, 69, 959), and the nervous system (Mitsui *et al.*, 1999, *Brain Res.*, 844, 192).

TNF α is also a potent osteoclastogenic agent and is involved in bone resorption and diseases involving bone resorption (Abu-Amer *et al.*, 2000, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 275, 27307). It has also been found highly expressed in chondrocytes of patients with traumatic arthritis (Melchiorri *et al.*, 2000, *Arthritis and Rheumatism*, 41, 2165). TNF α has also been shown to play a key role in the development of glomerulonephritis (Le Hir *et al.*, 1998, *Laboratory Investigation*, 78, 1625).

The abnormal expression of inducible nitric oxide synthetase (iNOS) has been associated with hypertension in the spontaneously hypertensive rat (Chou *et al.*, 1998, *Hypertension*, 31, 643). IL-1 has a role in the expression of iNOS and therefore may also have a role in the pathogenesis of hypertension (Singh *et al.*, 1996, *Amer. J. Hypertension*, 9, 867).

IL-1 has also been shown to induce uveitis in rats which could be inhibited with IL-1 blockers. (Xuan et al., 1998, *J. Ocular Pharmacol. and Ther.*, 14, 31). Cytokines including IL-1, TNF and GM-CSF have been shown to stimulate proliferation of acute myelogenous leukemia blasts (Bruserud, 1996, *Leukemia Res.* 20, 65). IL-1 was shown
5 to be essential for the development of both irritant and allergic contact dermatitis. Epicutaneous sensitization can be prevented by the administration of an anti- IL-1 monoclonal antibody before epicutaneous application of an allergen (Muller, *et al.*, 1996, *Am J Contact Dermat.* 7, 177). Data obtained from IL-1 knock out mice indicates the critical involvement in fever for this cytokine (Kluger *et al.*, 1998, *Clin Exp Pharmacol*
10 *Physiol.* 25, 141). A variety of cytokines including TNF, IL-1, IL-6 and IL-8 initiate the acute-phase reaction which is stereotyped in fever, malaise, myalgia, headaches, cellular hypermetabolism and multiple endocrine and enzyme responses (Beisel, 1995, *Am J Clin Nutr.* 62, 813). The production of these inflammatory cytokines rapidly follows trauma or pathogenic organism invasion.

15

Other proinflammatory cytokines have been correlated with a variety of disease states. IL-8 correlates with influx of neutrophils into sites of inflammation or injury. Blocking antibodies against IL-8 have demonstrated a role for IL-8 in the neutrophil associated tissue injury in acute inflammation (Harada *et al.*, 1996, *Molecular Medicine Today* 2,
20 482). Therefore, an inhibitor of IL-8 production may be useful in the treatment of diseases mediated predominantly by neutrophils such as stroke and myocardial infarction, alone or following thrombolytic therapy, thermal injury, adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), multiple organ injury secondary to trauma, acute glomerulonephritis, dermatoses with acute inflammatory components, acute purulent meningitis or other
25 central nervous system disorders, hemodialysis, leukopheresis, granulocyte transfusion associated syndromes, and necrotizing enterocolitis.

Rhinovirus triggers the production of various proinflammatory cytokines, predominantly IL-8, which results in symptomatic illnesses such as acute rhinitis (Winther *et al.*, 1998,
30 *Am J Rhinol.* 12, 17).

Other diseases that are effected by IL-8 include myocardial ischemia and reperfusion, inflammatory bowel disease and many others.

The proinflammatory cytokine IL-6 has been implicated with the acute phase response.

5 IL-6 is a growth factor in a number in oncological diseases including multiple myeloma and related plasma cell dyscrasias (Treon, *et al.*, 1998, *Current Opinion in Hematology* 5: 42). It has also been shown to be an important mediator of inflammation within the central nervous system. Elevated levels of IL-6 are found in several neurological disorders including AIDS dementia complex, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, 10 systemic lupus erythematosus, CNS trauma and viral and bacterial meningitis (Gruol, *et al.*, 1997, *Molecular Neurobiology* 15: 307). IL-6 also plays a significant role in osteoporosis. In murine models it has been shown to effect bone resorption and to induce osteoclast activity (Ershler *et al.*, 1997, *Development and Comparative Immunol.* 21: 487). Marked cytokine differences, such as IL-6 levels, exist in vivo between osteoclasts 15 of normal bone and bone from patients with Paget's disease (Mills, *et al.*, 1997, *Calcif Tissue Int.* 61, 16). A number of cytokines have been shown to be involved in cancer cachexia. The severity of key parameters of cachexia can be reduced by treatment with anti IL-6 antibodies or with IL-6 receptor antagonists (Strassmann, *et al.*, 1995, *Cytokines Mol Ther.* 1, 107). Several infectious diseases, such as influenza, indicate IL-6 and IFN 20 alpha as key factors in both symptom formation and in host defense (Hayden, *et al.*, 1998, *J Clin Invest.* 101, 643). Overexpression of IL-6 has been implicated in the pathology of a number of diseases including multiple myeloma, rheumatoid arthritis, Castleman's disease, psoriasis and post-menopausal osteoporosis (Simpson, *et al.*, 1997, *Protein Sci.* 6, 929). Compounds that interfered with the production of cytokines 25 including IL-6, and TNF were effective in blocking a passive cutaneous anaphylaxis in mice (Scholz *et al.*, 1998, *J. Med. Chem.*, 41, 1050).

GM-CSF is another proinflammatory cytokine with relevance to a number of therapeutic diseases. It influences not only proliferation and differentiation of stem cells but also 30 regulates several other cells involved in acute and chronic inflammation. Treatment with GM-CSF has been attempted in a number of disease states including burn-wound healing,

skin-graft resolution as well as cytostatic and radiotherapy induced mucositis (Masucci, 1996, *Medical Oncology* 13: 149). GM-CSF also appears to play a role in the replication of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in cells of macrophage lineage with relevance to AIDS therapy (Crowe *et al.*, 1997, *Journal of Leukocyte Biology* 62, 41). Bronchial
5 asthma is characterised by an inflammatory process in lungs. Involved cytokines include GM-CSF amongst others (Lee, 1998, *J R Coll Physicians Lond* 32, 56).

Interferon γ (IFN γ) has been implicated in a number of diseases. It has been associated with increased collagen deposition that is a central histopathological feature of graft-
10 versus-host disease (Parkman, 1998, *Curr Opin Hematol.* 5, 22). Following kidney transplantation, a patient was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia. Retrospective analysis of peripheral blood cytokines revealed elevated levels of GM-CSF and IFN γ . These elevated levels coincided with a rise in peripheral blood white cell count (Burke, *et al.*, 1995, *Leuk Lymphoma.* 19, 173). The development of insulin-
15 dependent diabetes (Type 1) can be correlated with the accumulation in pancreatic islet cells of T-cells producing IFN γ (Ablumunits, *et al.*, 1998, *J Autoimmun.* 11, 73). IFN γ along with TNF, IL-2 and IL-6 lead to the activation of most peripheral T-cells prior to the development of lesions in the central nervous system for diseases such as multiple sclerosis (MS) and AIDS dementia complex (Martino *et al.*, 1998, *Ann Neurol.* 43, 340).
20 Atherosclerotic lesions result in arterial disease that can lead to cardiac and cerebral infarction. Many activated immune cells are present in these lesions, mainly T-cells and macrophages. These cells produce large amounts of proinflammatory cytokines such as TNF, IL-1 and IFN γ . These cytokines are thought to be involved in promoting apoptosis or programmed cell death of the surrounding vascular smooth muscle cells resulting in
25 the atherosclerotic lesions (Geng, 1997, *Heart Vessels Suppl* 12, 76). Allergic subjects produce mRNA specific for IFN γ following challenge with *Vespula* venom (Bonay, *et al.*, 1997, *Clin Exp Immunol.* 109, 342). The expression of a number of cytokines, including IFN γ has been shown to increase following a delayed type hypersensitivity reaction thus indicating a role for IFN γ in atopic dermatitis (Szepietowski, *et al.*, 1997,
30 *Br J Dermatol.* 137, 195). Histopathologic and immunohistologic studies were performed in cases of fatal cerebral malaria. Evidence for elevated IFN γ amongst other

cytokines was observed indicating a role in this disease (Udomsangpetch *et al.*, 1997, *Am J Trop Med Hyg.* 57, 501). The importance of free radical species in the pathogenesis of various infectious diseases has been established. The nitric oxide synthesis pathway is activated in response to infection with certain viruses via the induction of

5 proinflammatory cytokines such as IFN γ (Akaike, *et al.*, 1998, *Proc Soc Exp Biol Med.* 217, 64). Patients, chronically infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV) can develop cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. Viral gene expression and replication in HBV transgenic mice can be suppressed by a post-transcriptional mechanism mediated by IFN γ , TNF and IL-2 (Chisari, *et al.*, 1995, *Springer Semin Immunopathol.* 17, 261). IFN γ

10 can selectively inhibit cytokine induced bone resorption. It appears to do this via the intermediacy of nitric oxide (NO) which is an important regulatory molecule in bone remodeling. NO may be involved as a mediator of bone disease for such diseases as: rheumatoid arthritis, tumor associated osteolysis and postmenopausal osteoporosis (Evans, *et al.*, 1996, *J Bone Miner Res.* 11, 300). Studies with gene deficient mice have

15 demonstrated that the IL-12 dependent production of IFN γ is critical in the control of early parasitic growth. Although this process is independent of nitric oxide the control of chronic infection does appear to be NO dependent (Alexander *et al.*, 1997, *Philos Trans R Soc Lond B Biol Sci* 352, 1355). NO is an important vasodilator and convincing evidence exists for its role in cardiovascular shock (Kilbourn, *et al.*, 1997, *Dis Mon.* 43,

20 277). IFN γ is required for progression of chronic intestinal inflammation in such diseases as Crohn's disease and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) presumably through the intermediacy of CD4⁺ lymphocytes probably of the TH1 phenotype (Sartor 1996, *Aliment Pharmacol Ther.* 10 Suppl 2, 43). An elevated level of serum IgE is associated with various atopic diseases such as bronchial asthma and atopic dermatitis. The level of

25 IFN γ was negatively correlated with serum IgE suggesting a role for IFN γ in atopic patients (Teramoto *et al.*, 1998, *Clin Exp Allergy* 28, 74).

WO 01/01986 discloses particular compounds alleged to having the ability to inhibit TNF-alpha. Certain compounds disclosed in WO 01/01986 are indicated to be effective in

30 treating the following diseases: dementia associated with HIV infection, glaucoma, optic-neuropathy, optic neuritis, retinal ischemia, laser induced optic damage, surgery or

trauma-induced proliferative vitreoretinopathy, cerebral ischemia, hypoxia-ischemia, hypoglycemia, domoic acid poisoning, anoxia, carbon monoxide or manganese or cyanide poisoning, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, meningitis, multiple sclerosis and other demyelinating diseases, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, head and spinal cord trauma, seizures, convulsions, olivopontocerebellar atrophy, neuropathic pain syndromes, diabetic neuropathy, HIV-related neuropathy, MERRF and MELAS syndromes, Leber's disease, Wernicke's encephalopathy, Rett syndrome, homocysteinuria, hyperprolinemia, hyperhomocysteinemia, nonketotic hyperglycinemia, hydroxybutyric aminoaciduria, sulfite oxidase deficiency, combined systems disease, lead encephalopathy, Tourett's syndrome, hepatic encephalopathy, drug addiction, drug tolerance, drug dependency, depression, anxiety and schizophrenia. WO 02/32862 discloses that inhibitors of pro-inflammatory cytokines including TNF α are allegedly useful for treating acute and chronic inflammation in the lung caused by inhalation of smoke such as cigarette smoke. TNF α anatagonists are apparently also useful for the treatment of endometriosis, see EP 1022027 A1. Infliximab, in clinical trials for RA, has also been indicated to be useful for treating various inflammatory diseases including Behcet's disease, uveitis and ankylosing spondylitis. Pancreatitis may also be regulated by inflammatory mediator production, see J Surg Res 2000 May 15 90(2)95-101; Shock 1998 Sep. 10(3):160-75. p38MAP kinase pathway plays an role in B.burgdorferi-elicited infammation and may be useful in treating inflammation induced by the Lyme disease agent. Anguita, J. et. al., *The Journal of Immunology*, 2002,168:6352-6357.

Compounds which modulate release of one or more of the aforementioned inflammatory cytokines can be useful in treating diseases associated with release of these cytokines. For example, WO 98/52558 discloses heteroaryl urea compounds which are indicated to be useful in treating cytokine mediated diseases. WO 99/23091 discloses another class of urea compounds which are useful as anti-inflammatory agents. WO 99/32463 relates to aryl ureas amd their use in treating cytokine diseases and proteolytic enzyme mediated disease. WO 00/41698 discloses aryl ureas said to be useful in treating p38 MAP kinase diseases.

Compounds active against p38 MAP kinase can also be useful for treating various types of cancers as described in WO 03/068223.

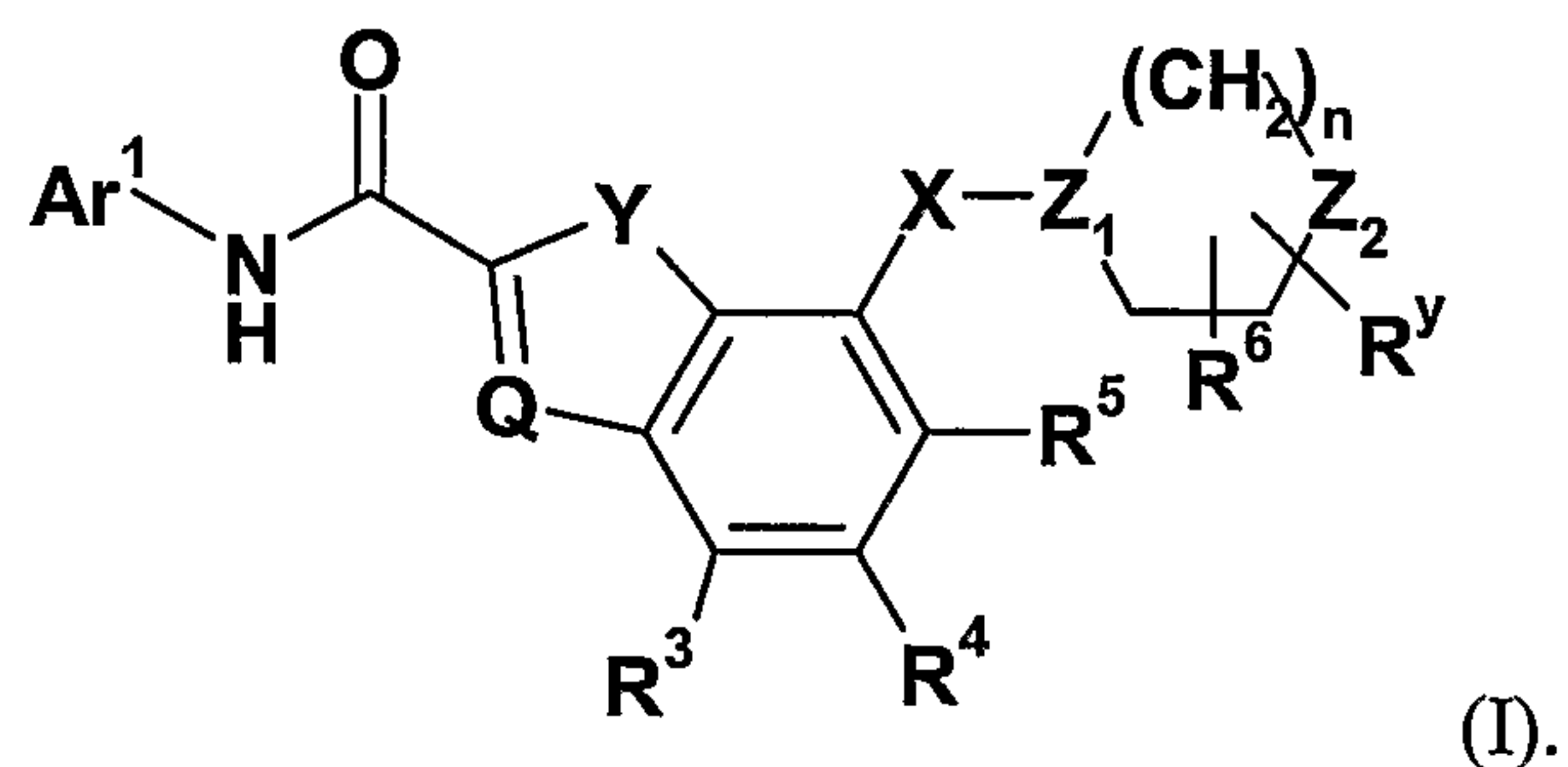
5 U.S. Pat. No. 5,162,360 discloses N-substituted aryl-N'-heterocyclic substituted urea compounds which are described as being useful for treating hypercholesterolemia and atherosclerosis. Di-substituted aryl and heteroaryl compounds are also disclosed in US Pat. Nos. 6,080,763; 6,319,921; 6,297,381 and 6,358,945. The compounds in the patents
10 are alleged to possess anti-cytokine activity and are therefore useful in treating diseases associated with inflammation.

The work cited above supports the principle that inhibition of cytokine production will be beneficial in the treatment of cytokine mediated diseases. Therefore a need exists for small molecule inhibitors for treating these diseases with optimized efficacy,
15 pharmacokinetic and safety profiles.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 The work cited above supports the principle that inhibition of cytokine production with small molecule compounds will be beneficial in the treatment of various disease states.

It is therefore an object of the invention to provide compounds of formula (I)

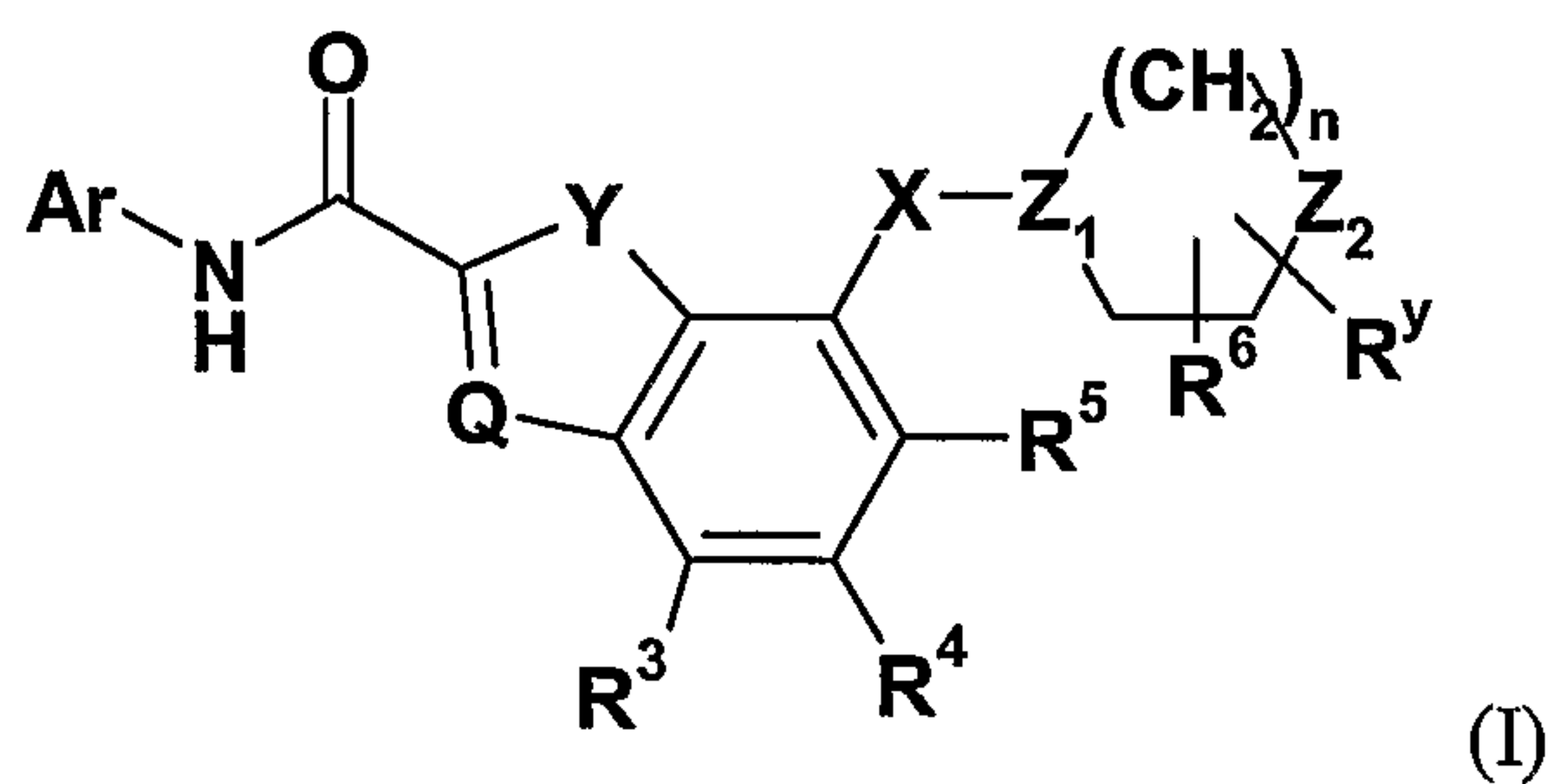


It is a further object of the invention to provide methods for treating cytokine mediated diseases and pathological conditions involving inflammation such as chronic inflammatory disease, using the novel compounds of the invention.

It is yet a further object of the invention to provide pharmaceutical compositions and processes of preparation of the above-mentioned novel compounds.

10 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

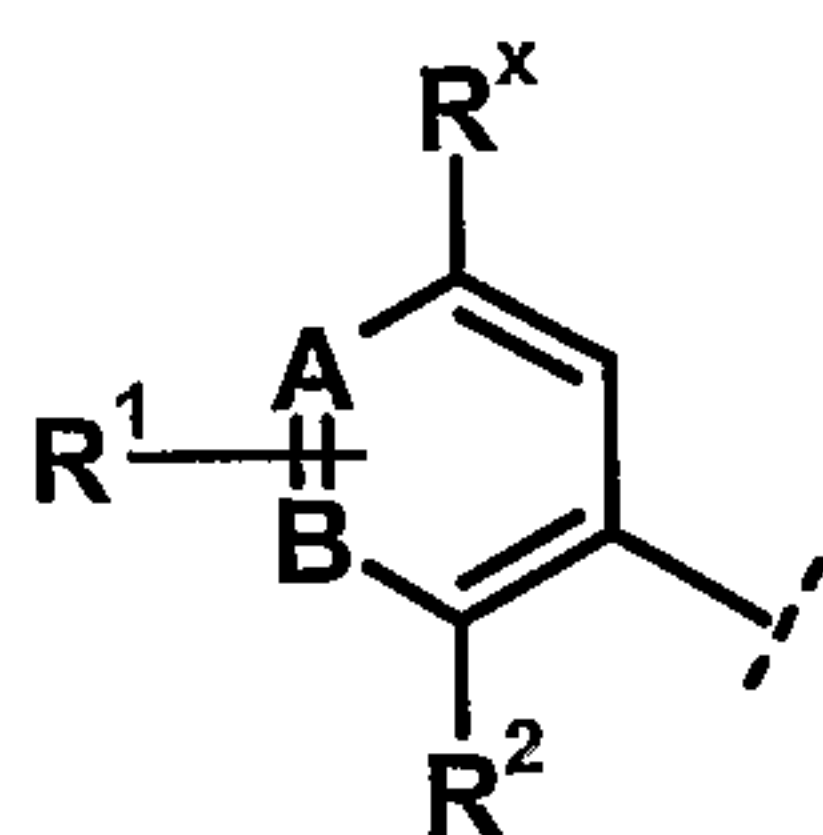
In a broad generic aspect of the invention there is provided a compound of the formula (I)



15 wherein:

n is 1, 2 or 3;

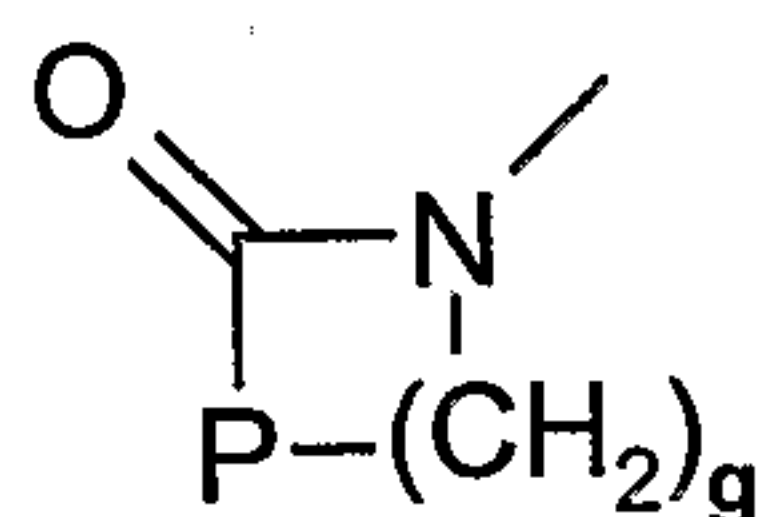
Ar is chosen from rings (i), (ii) (iii) and (iv) below:



(i)

wherein one of A or B is nitrogen and the other is carbon, R^1 is covalently attached to either A or B, and when nitrogen is N- R^1 the double bond between A and B is not present;

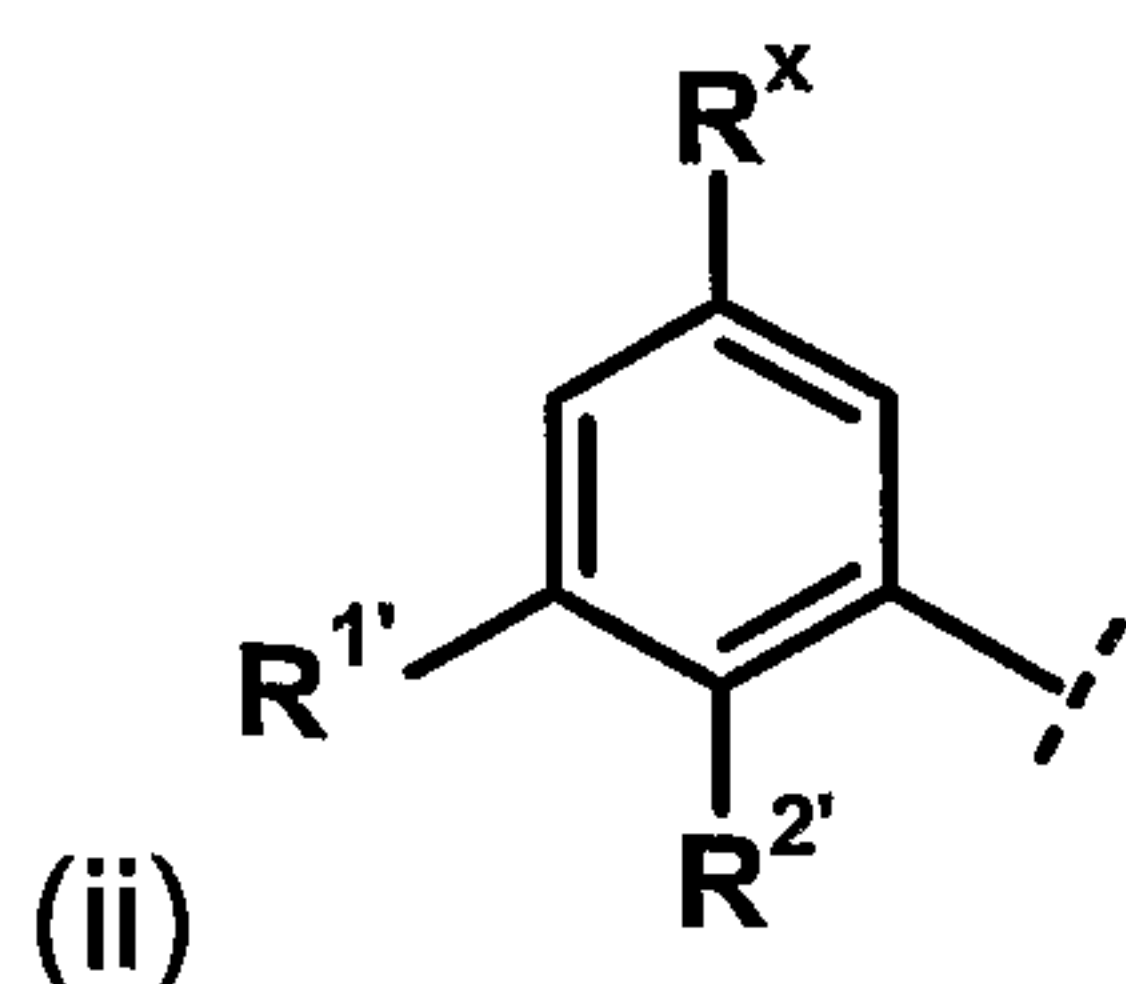
- 10 R^1 is chosen from hydrogen, NO_2 , $-N(R^c)_2$, $J-C(O)-N(R^c)-$, $J-S(O)_m-N(R^c)-$,
 or R^1 is chosen from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cylcoalkyl, C_{1-5} alkoxy or C_{3-7} cycloalkoxy,
 C_{1-5} alkylthiol or C_{3-7} cycloalkylthiol, C_{1-5} acyl, C_{1-5} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-5} acyloxy,
 C_{1-5} acylamino, C_{2-5} alkenyl, C_{2-5} alkynyl, heterocycle, heteroaryl and nitrile,
 15 each of the aforementioned where possible are optionally partially or fully
 halogenated or are optionally further substituted with alkylsulfonylamino,
 alkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, hydroxyl, oxo, nitro or nitrile;
 or R^1 is, where P can be O, $>CR^9$ or $>NR^9$



- 20 wherein g is 1 to 4, preferably 1 to 2,
 R^9 is chosen from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cylcoalkyl, C_{1-5} alkoxy or C_{3-7} cycloalkoxy,
 C_{1-5} alkylthiol or C_{3-7} cycloalkylthiol, C_{1-5} acyl, C_{1-5} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-5} acyloxy,
 C_{1-5} acylamino, C_{2-5} alkenyl, C_{2-5} alkynyl, heterocycle, heteroaryl and nitrile,
 each of the aforementioned where possible are optionally partially or fully
 25 halogenated or are optionally further substituted with alkylsulfonylamino,
 alkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, hydroxyl, oxo, nitro or nitrile;

R^2 is chosen from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-5} alkyl, C_{1-5} alkoxy, C_{1-5} alkyl C_{1-5} alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy C_{1-5} alkyl, oxo, C_{1-5} alkyl $S(O)_m$ - and amino optionally mono- or di-substituted by C_{1-5} alkyl, aryl or aryl C_{1-5} alkyl;

5



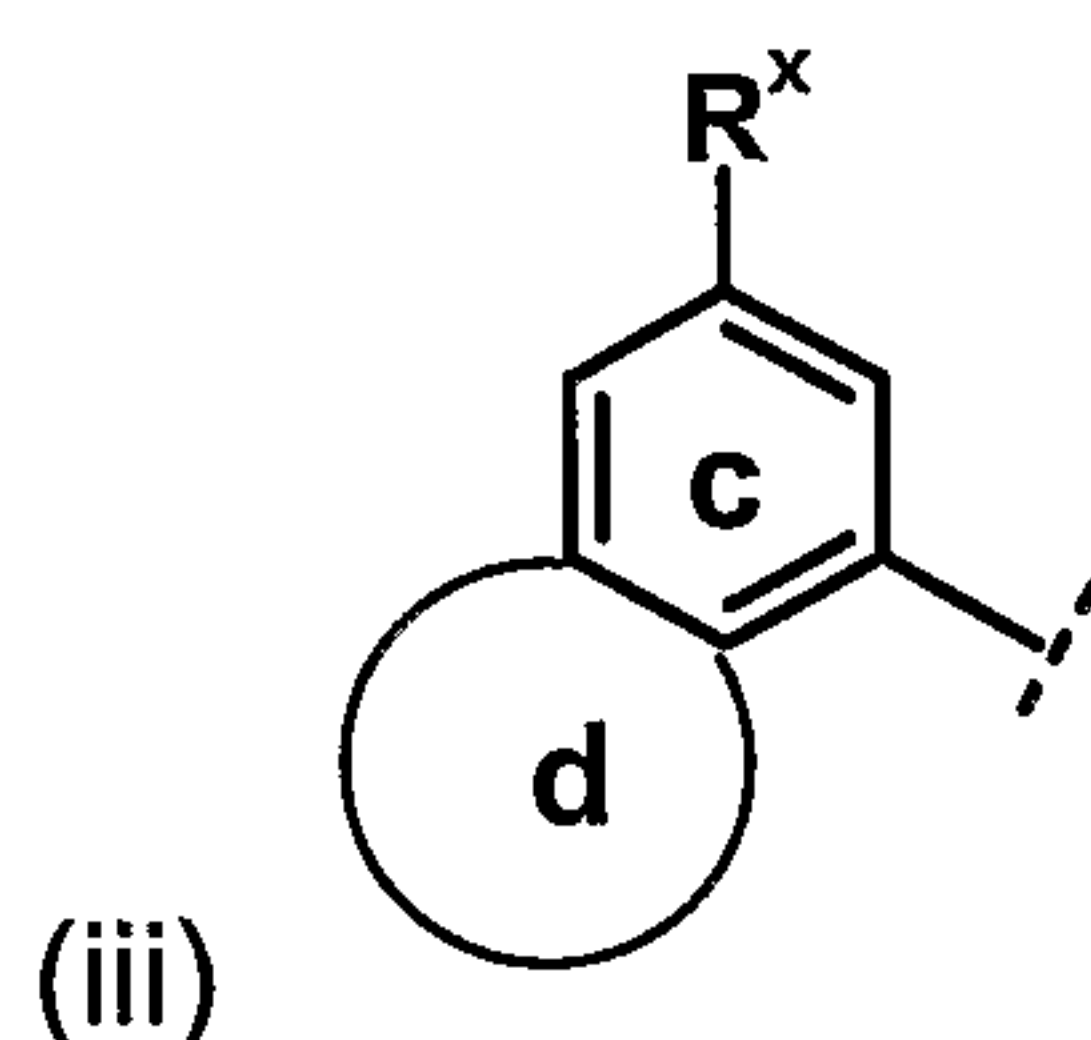
10

wherein

$R^{1'}$ is chosen from hydrogen, $J-S(O)_m$ -, $J-S(O)_m$ -NH-, $J-NHS(O)_m$ -, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{1-5} alkoxy or C_{3-7} cycloalkoxy, C_{1-5} acyl, C_{1-5} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-5} acyloxy, C_{2-5} alkenyl, C_{2-5} alkynyl, heterocycle, heterocycle C_{1-6} alkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl C_{1-6} alkyl and nitrile, each of the aforementioned where possible are optionally partially or fully halogenated or are optionally further substituted with alkylsulfonylamino, alkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, hydroxyl, oxo, nitro or nitrile;

$R^{2'}$ is chosen from nitrile, $J-S(O)_m$ -, $J-O-C(O)-O$ -, $NH_2-C(O)-(CH_2)_w$ -, H, halogen, C_{1-5} alkyl, C_{1-5} alkoxy, C_{1-5} alkyl C_{1-5} alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy C_{1-5} alkyl and amino optionally mono- or di-substituted by C_{1-5} alkyl, aryl or aryl C_{1-5} alkyl;

25



wherein **c** is a benzo ring fused to ring **d** which is a 5-7 membered heterocyclic ring;

30

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(iv) a 5 membered nitrogen containing heteroaryl or heterocyclic ring optionally substituted by R^1 or R^x ;

each R^x is chosen from C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl each being optionally substituted by C_{1-3} alkyl and optionally partially or fully halogenated, C_{1-4} acyl, aroyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, which may optionally be partially or fully halogenated, halogen, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, carbocyclesulfonyl and $-SO_2-CF_3$;

each J is independently chosen from C_{1-10} alkyl and carbocycle each optionally substituted by R^b ;

R^b is chosen from hydrogen, C_{1-5} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-5} alkyl, C_{2-5} alkenyl, C_{2-5} alkynyl, carbocycle, heterocycle, heteroaryl, C_{1-5} alkoxy, C_{1-5} alkylthio, amino, C_{1-5} alkylamino, C_{1-5} dialkylamino, C_{1-5} acyl, C_{1-5} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-5} acyloxy, C_{1-5} acylamino, each of the aforementioned are optionally partially or fully halogenated, or R^b is chosen from C_{1-5} alkylsulfonylamino, hydroxy, oxo, halogen, nitro and nitrile;

Q is a N or CR^p (e.g., CR^p);

Y is $>CR^pR^v$, $-CR^p=C(R^v)-$, $-O-$, $-N(R^c)-$ or $>S(O)_m$ (e.g., $-N(R^c)-$);

each R^c , R^p , R^v and R^y are each independently hydrogen or C_{1-5} alkyl;

X is $>C=O$, $-CH_2-$, $-N(R^c)-$, $-O-$ or $-S-$;

Z_1 is $-N-$ or $>CH$;

Z_2 is $-N(R^c)-$, $-O-$ or $>CH_2$;

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R^y and R^6 may combine to form a bridged group from the ring atoms to which they are attached;

each m independently 0,1 or 2;

5

w is 1-4;

each R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently chosen from hydrogen, C1-6 alkyl and halogen;

10 R^6 is chosen from

O-J, -C(O)-J, -C(O)-O-J, J-S(O)_m-NR⁷R⁸-, J-S(O)_m-, -C(O)H, -O-heterocycle as defined hereinbelow, -C(O)-NR⁷R⁸, -C(O)-C(O)-NR⁷R⁸-, -NR⁷R⁸, C₁₋₅ alkyl branched or unbranched, C₂₋₅ alkenyl, C₁₋₃ acyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl(OH), oxo, heterocycle selected from morpholinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl and tetrahydrofuranyl, heteroaryl
15 selected from pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thienyl, furyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl and isothiazolyl or aryl each alkyl, alkenyl, acyl, heterocycle, heteroaryl and aryl are optionally substituted by one to three hydroxy, oxo, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, C₁₋₅ alkoxycarbonyl, -NR⁷R⁸ or NR⁷R⁸-C(O)-;

20

each R^7 and R^8 are independently hydrogen, phenylC₀₋₃alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C₁₋₃ alkyl or diC₁₋₅ alkyl amino, or R^7 and R^8 are C₁₋₂ acyl, benzoyl or C₁₋₅ branched or unbranched alkyl optionally substituted by C₁₋₄ alkoxy, hydroxy or mono or diC₁₋₃ alkyl amino;

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- and wherein heterocycle may be a stable nonaromatic 4-8 membered monocyclic or nonaromatic 8-11 membered bicyclic heterocycle radical which may be either saturated or unsaturated, and wherein each heterocycle consists of carbon atoms and one or more heteroatoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur; heteroaryl may be an aromatic 5-8
- 5 membered monocyclic or 8-11 membered bicyclic ring containing 1-4 heteroatoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur; and aryl may be, phenyl, indanyl, indenyl, benzocyclobutanyl, dihydronaphthyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, naphthyl, benzocycloheptanyl or benzocycloheptenyl;
- or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and/or isomers thereof.
- 10 In another embodiment there is provided a compound of the invention as described immediately above and wherein:

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Y is -O-, -S-, -NH-, -N(CH₂CH₃)- or -N(CH₃)- (e.g., -NH-, -N(CH₂CH₃)- or -N(CH₃)-);

if **Ar** is (i) then:

R¹ is chosen from hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₅ alkoxy and nitrile, each of
 5 the aforementioned where possible are optionally partially or fully halogenated or are
 optionally further substituted with alkylsulfonylamino, alkoxy, amino, alkylamino,
 dialkylamino, hydroxyl, oxo, nitro or nitrile;

R² is chosen from hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₅ alkyl, C₁₋₅ alkoxy, C₁₋₅ alkylC₁₋₅ alkoxy,
 10 hydroxy, hydroxy C₁₋₅ alkyl, oxo, C₁₋₅ alkylS(O)_m- and amino optionally mono- or di-
 substituted by C₁₋₅ alkyl, phenyl or phenyl C₁₋₅ alkyl;

if **Ar** is (ii) then:

15 **R**^{1'} is chosen from H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, J-S(O)_m-, J-S(O)_m-NH-, J-NHS(O)_m-, C₁₋₅ alkoxy,
 C₁₋₅ acyloxy, NH₂-C(O)-(CH₂)_w-, heterocycle, heterocycleC₁₋₆ alkyl, heteroaryl and
 nitrile, each of the aforementioned where possible are optionally partially or fully
 halogenated or are optionally further substituted with alkylsulfonylamino, alkoxy,
 amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, hydroxyl, oxo, nitro and nitrile;

20

R^{2'} is chosen from C₁₋₅ alkylS(O)_m-, J-O-C(O)-O-, C₁₋₅ alkyl and C₁₋₅ alkoxy;

or if **Ar** is (iii) then:

25 ring **d** is a 5-6 membered heterocyclic ring.

In another embodiment, there are provided compounds of the formula (I) as described
 30 immediately above and wherein

Y is -N(CH₃)-;

X is $>\text{C}=\text{O}$, $-\text{CH}_2-$ or $-\text{O}-$;

Q is CH ;

5 if **Ar** is (i) then:

R¹ is chosen from hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or nitrile;

R² is chosen from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-5} alkyl, C_{1-5} alkoxy, oxo or C_{1-5} alkyl $\text{S}(\text{O})_m$;

10 if **Ar** is (ii) then:

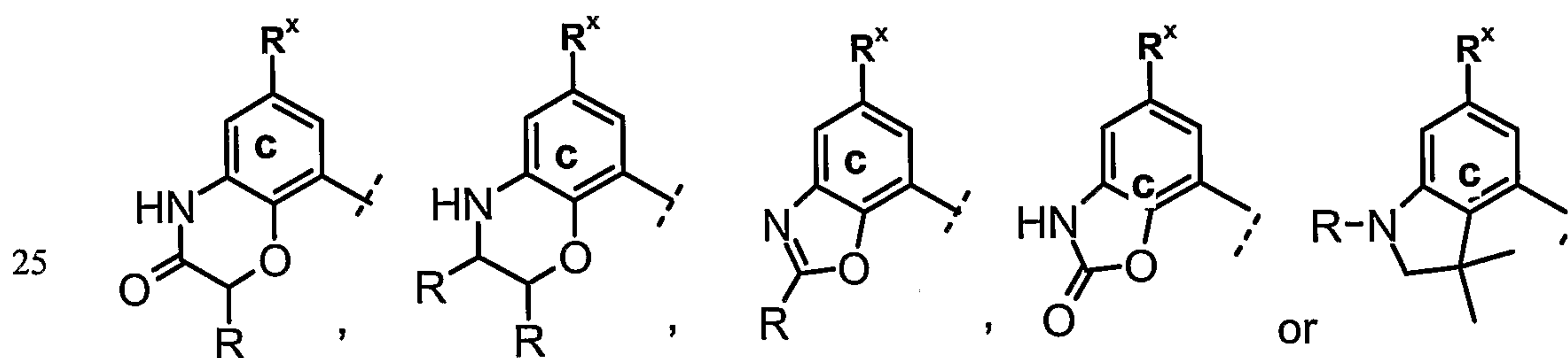
R^{1'} is chosen from hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-5} alkyl $\text{S}(\text{O})_m$ -, C_{1-5} alkyl $\text{S}(\text{O})_m$ -NH-, C_{1-5} alkoxy, $(\text{C}_{1-5} \text{ alkyl})\text{NH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$, $\text{NH}_2-\text{C}(\text{O})-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ -, morpholino C_{1-6} alkyl, heteroaryl chosen from pyrazole, triazole, imidazole and tetrazole, and nitrile;

15

R^{2'} is chosen from C_{1-5} alkyl $\text{S}(\text{O})_m$ -, $\text{J}-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$, C_{1-5} alkyl and C_{1-5} alkoxy;

or if **Ar** is (iii) then:

20 ring **d** is a 5-6 membered heterocyclic ring such that rings **c** and **d** fuse to form the following:



where each **R** is independently H or C_{1-3} alkyl;

30

In yet another embodiment, there are provided compounds of the formula (I) as described in any of the embodiments shown above and wherein

J is chosen from C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, aryl and C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl each optionally substituted by **R^b**;

R^x is independently chosen from C₁₋₆ alkyl which may optionally be partially or fully
 5 halogenated, acetyl, aroyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, which may optionally be partially or fully
 halogenated, halogen, methoxycarbonyl, phenylsulfonyl and -SO₂-CF₃;

R^b is chosen from hydrogen, C₁₋₅ alkyl, C₂₋₅ alkenyl, C₂₋₅ alkynyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, C₀₋₂
 10 alkyl, aryl, C₁₋₅ alkoxy, C₁₋₅ alkylthio, amino, C₁₋₅ alkylamino, C₁₋₅ dialkylamino, C₁₋₅
 acyl, C₁₋₅ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₅ acyloxy, C₁₋₅ acylamino, C₁₋₅ sulfonylamino, hydroxy,
 halogen, trifluoromethyl, nitro, nitrile,
 or **R^b** is chosen from heterocycle chosen from pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolinyl, morpholinyl,
 thiomorpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl sulfoxide, thiomorpholinyl sulfone, dioxalanyl,
 15 piperidinyl, piperazinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, 1,3-
 dioxolanone, 1,3-dioxanone, 1,4-dioxanyl, piperidinonyl, tetrahydropyrimidinyl,
 pentamethylene sulfide, pentamethylene sulfoxide, pentamethylene sulfone,
 tetramethylene sulfide, tetramethylene sulfoxide and tetramethylene sulfone
 and heteroaryl chosen from aziridinyl, thienyl, furanyl, isoxazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl,
 20 thiadiazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl,
 pyridazinyl, pyranyl, quinoxalinyl, indolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzoxazolyl,
 benzothiazolyl, benzothienyl, quinolinyl, quinazolinyl, naphthyridinyl, indazolyl,
 triazolyl, pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyrimidinyl, purinyl, pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridinyl, pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]
 pyridinyl, tubercidinyl, oxazo[4,5-*b*]pyridinyl and imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridinyl;
 25 and

R⁷ is hydrogen.

In another embodiment, there are provided compounds of the formula (I) as described
 30 immediately above and wherein

J is chosen from C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, phenyl, naphthyl and C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl each optionally substituted by **R^b**;

each **R³**, **R⁴** and **R⁵** are hydrogen.

5

In yet another embodiment, there are provided compounds of the formula (I) as described immediately above and wherein

10 **R⁶** is present, and is chosen from

O-**J**, -C(O)-**J**, -C(O)-O-**J**, **J**-S(O)_m-NR⁷R⁸-, J-S(O)_m-, -C(O)H, -O-heterocycle as defined hereinbelow, -C(O)-NR⁷R⁸, -C(O)-C(O)-NR⁷R⁸, -NR⁷R⁸, C₁₋₅ alkyl branched or unbranched, C₂₋₅ alkenyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl(OH), oxo, heterocycle selected from morpholinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl and tetrahydrofuranyl, and aryl chosen from phenyl
15 and naphthyl, each alkyl, alkenyl, heterocycle and aryl are optionally substituted by one to three hydroxy, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, mono or diC₁₋₃ alkyl amino, amino or C₁₋₅ alkoxycarbonyl;

20 each **R⁷** and **R⁸** are independently hydrogen, phenylC₀₋₃alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C₁₋₃ alkyl or diC₁₋₅ alkyl amino, or **R⁷** and **R⁸** are C₁₋₂ acyl, benzoyl or C₁₋₅ branched or unbranched alkyl optionally substituted by C₁₋₄ alkoxy, hydroxy or mono or diC₁₋₃ alkyl amino.

25 In yet another embodiment, there are provided compounds of the formula (I) as described immediately above and wherein

R⁶ is chosen from

O-**J**, -C(O)-**J**, -C(O)-O-**J**, **J**-S(O)_m-NR⁷R⁸-, J-S(O)_m-, -C(O)H, -O-heterocycle as
30 defined hereinbelow, -C(O)-NR⁷R⁸, -C(O)-C(O)-NR⁷R⁸, -NR⁷R⁸, C₁₋₅ alkyl branched or unbranched, C₂₋₅ alkenyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl(OH), oxo, heterocycle selected from morpholinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, tetrahydropyranyl and pyrrolidinyl, and phenyl, each alkyl,

alkenyl, heterocycle and phenyl are optionally substituted by one to three hydroxy, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, mono or diC₁₋₃ alkyl amino, amino or C₁₋₅ alkoxycarbonyl;

each **R**⁷ and **R**⁸ are independently hydrogen, phenylC₀₋₂alkyl optionally substituted by
 5 halogen, C₁₋₃ alkyl or diC₁₋₅ alkyl amino, or **R**⁷ and **R**⁸ are C₁₋₅ branched or unbranched alkyl optionally substituted by C₁₋₄ alkoxy, hydroxy or mono or diC₁₋₃ alkyl amino.

In yet still another embodiment, there are provided compounds of the formula (I) as described immediately above and wherein

10

R⁶ is chosen from

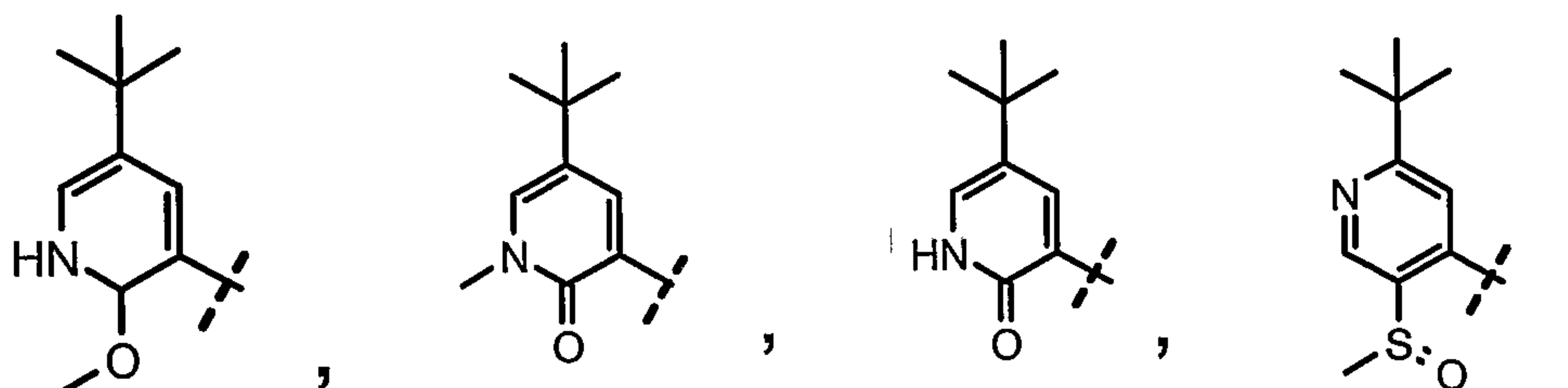
O-**J**, -C(O)-**J**, -C(O)-O-**J**, **J**-S(O)_m-NR⁷R⁸-, J-S(O)_m-, -C(O)H, -O-heterocycle as defined hereinbelow, -C(O)-NR⁷R⁸-, -C(O)-C(O)-NR⁷R⁸-, -NR⁷R⁸-, C₁₋₅ alkyl branched or unbranched, C₂₋₅ alkenyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl(OH), oxo, heterocycle selected from morpholinyl,
 15 piperazinyl, piperidinyl, tetrahydropyranyl and pyrrolidinyl, and phenyl, each alkyl, alkenyl, heterocycle and phenyl are optionally substituted by one to three hydroxy, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, mono or diC₁₋₃ alkyl amino, amino or C₁₋₅ alkoxycarbonyl.

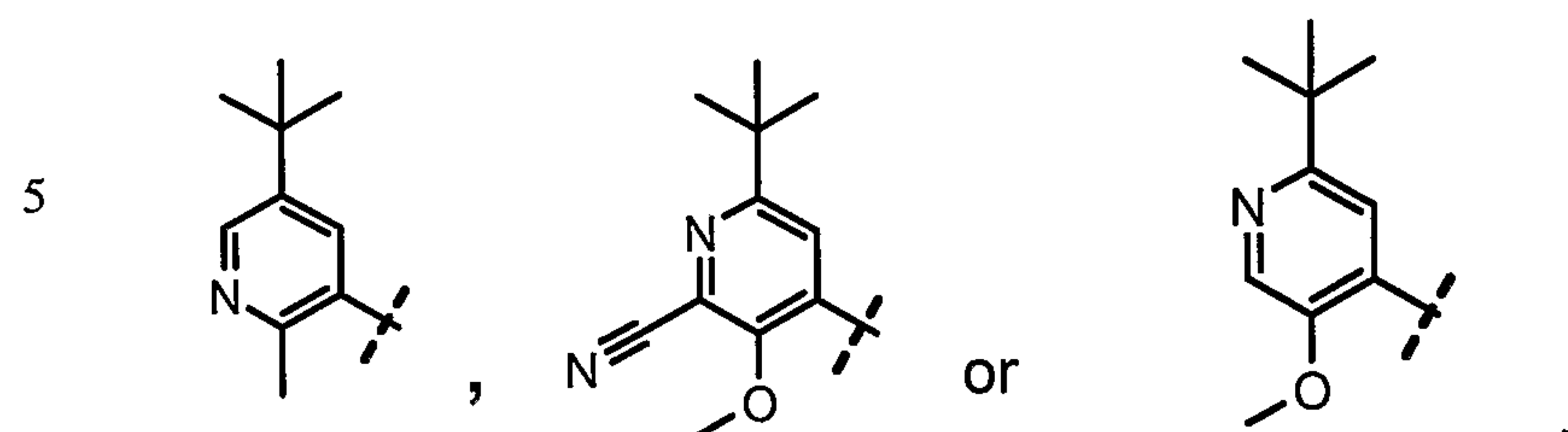
In yet another embodiment, there are provided compounds of the formula (I) as described
 20 immediately above and wherein

R^y and **R**⁶ optionally form a methylene bridged group from the ring atoms to which they are attached.

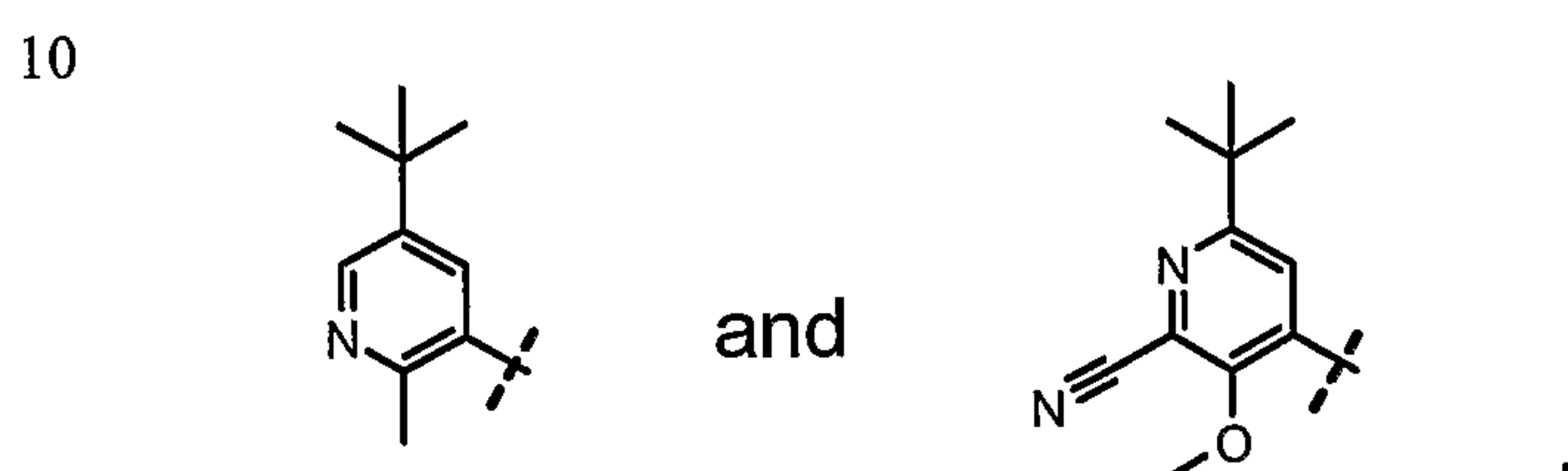
For any of the above described embodiments, preferred embodiments where **Ar** is (i)
 25 include:

30



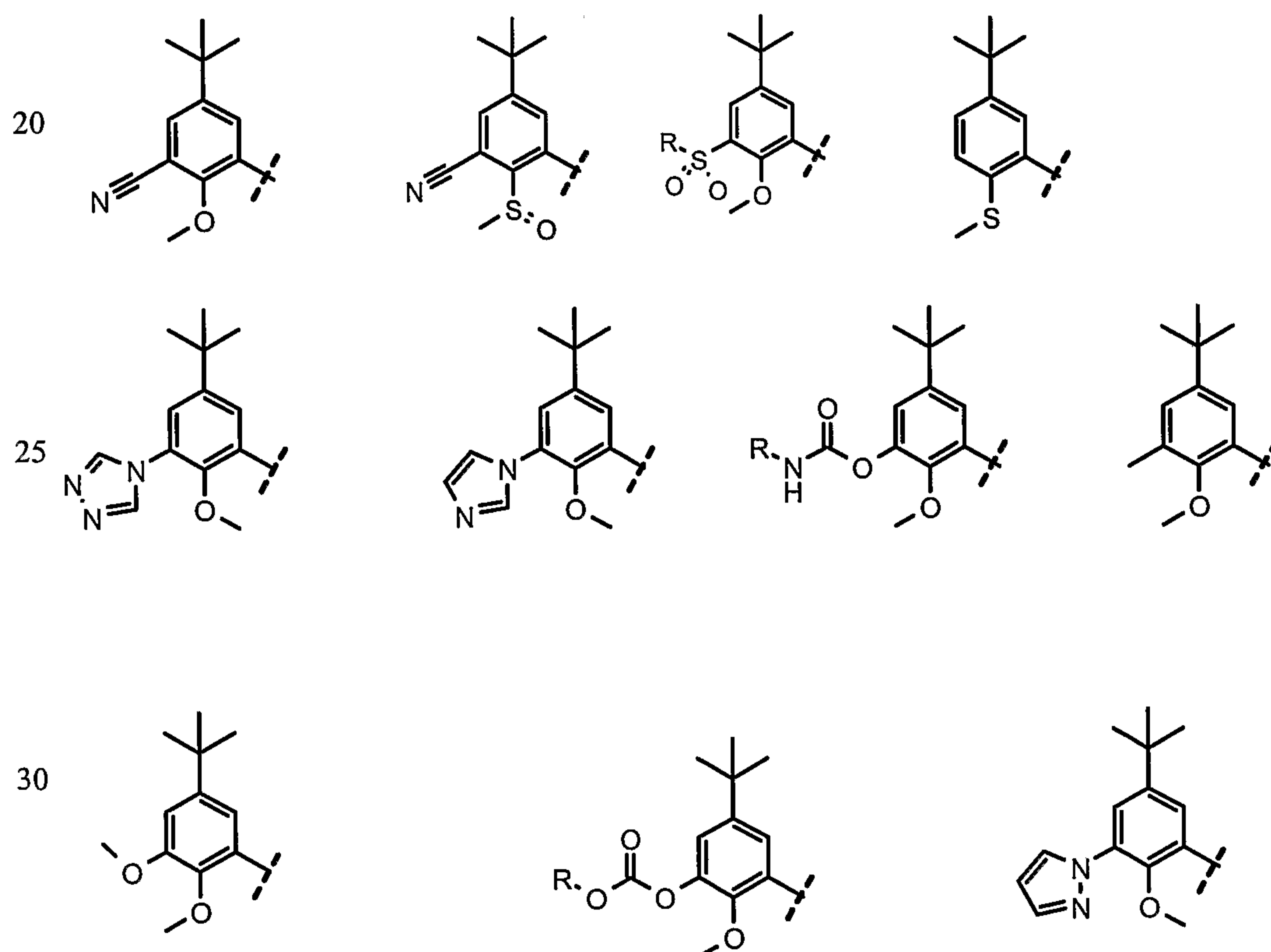


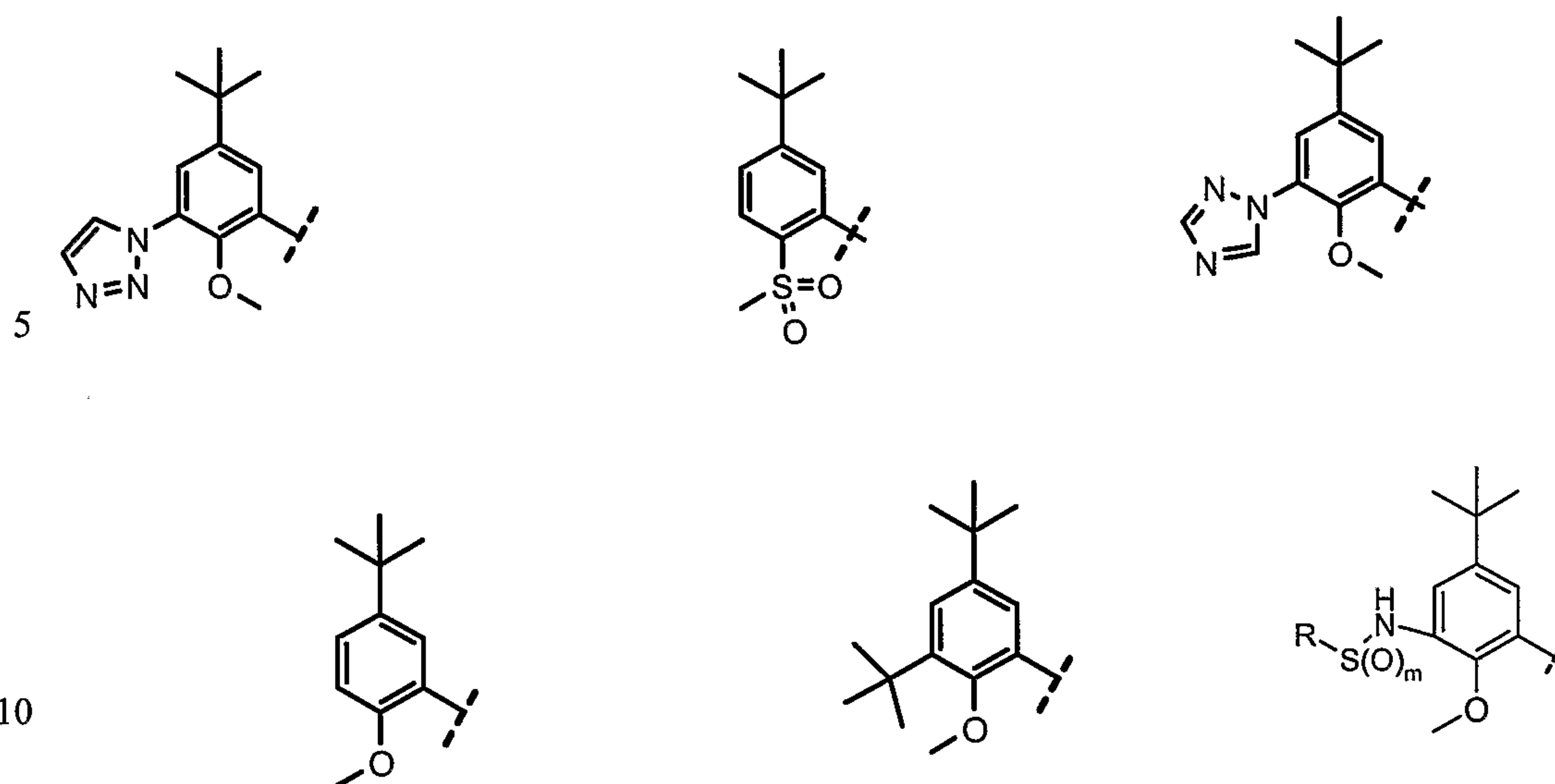
More preferred are :



15

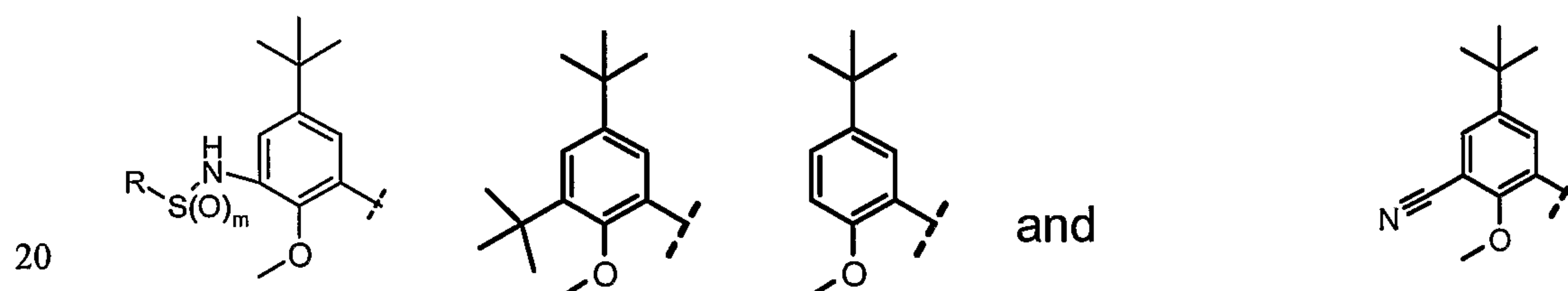
For any of the above described embodiments, preferred embodiments where **Ar** is (ii) include:





, where R in these structures is C₁₋₅alkyl;

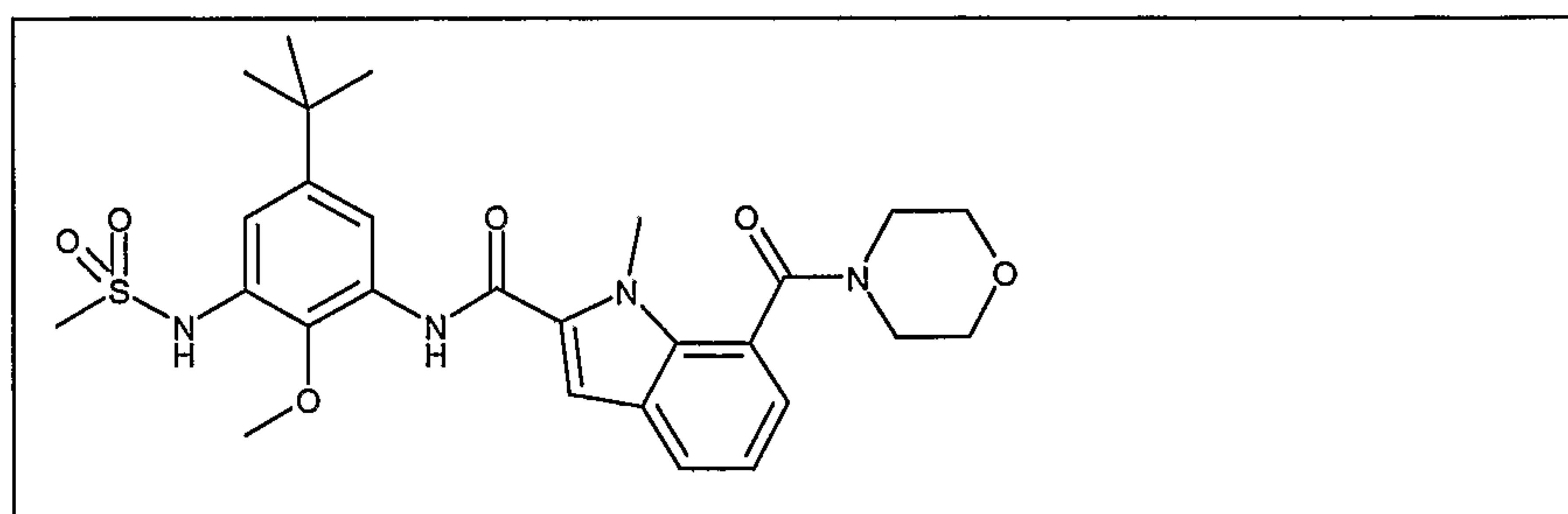
15 more preferred are

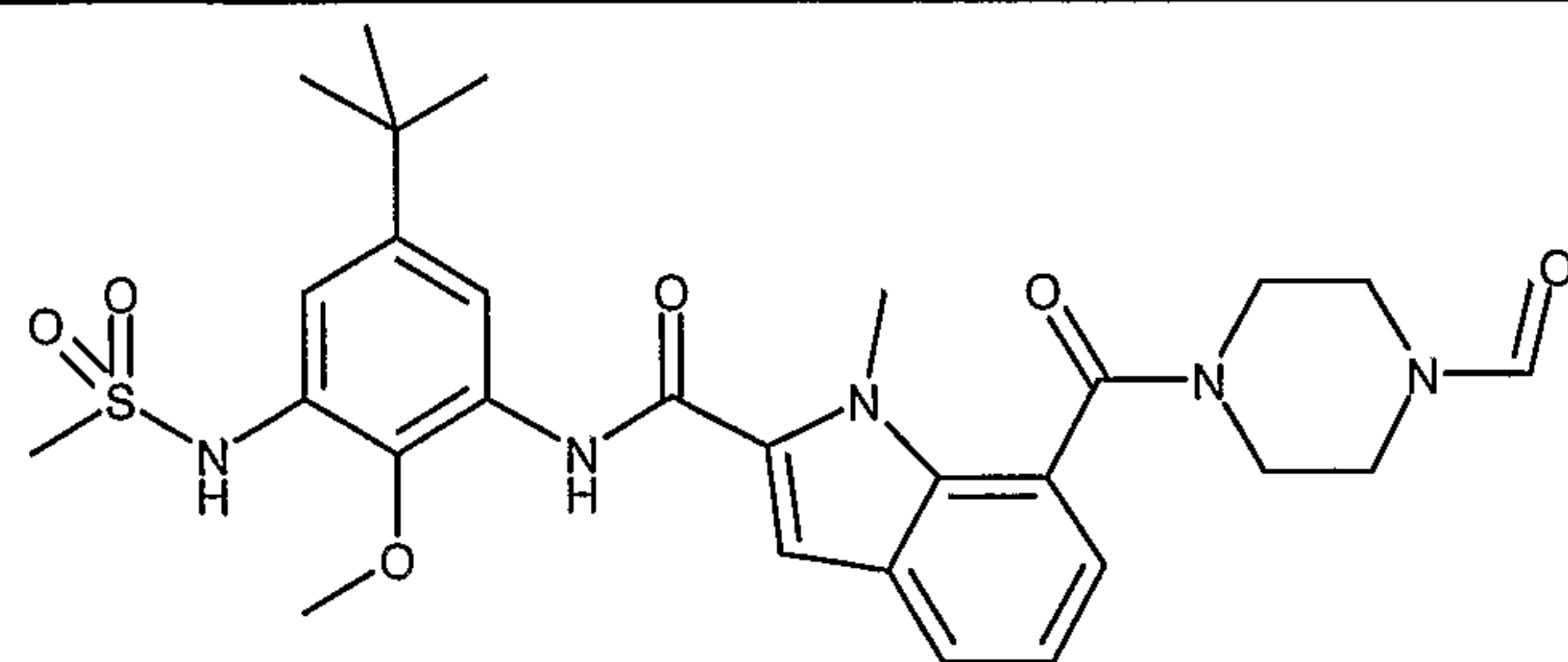
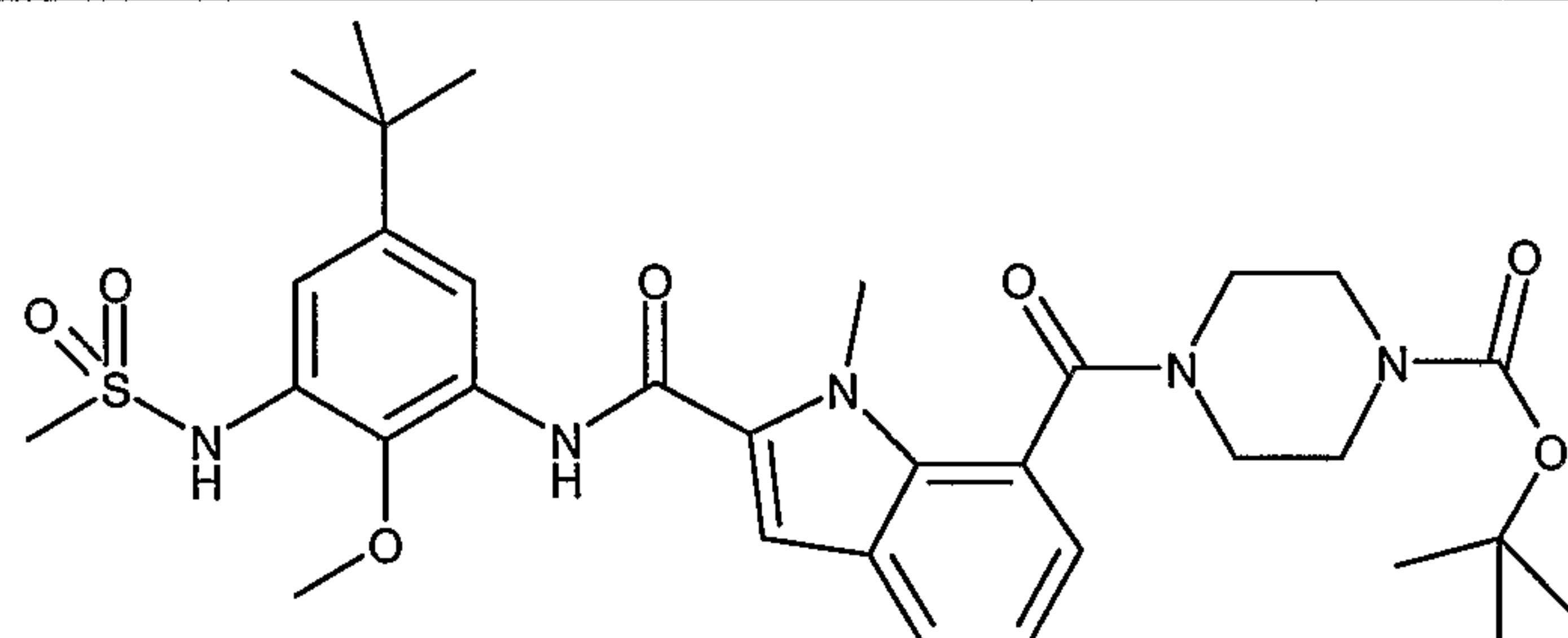
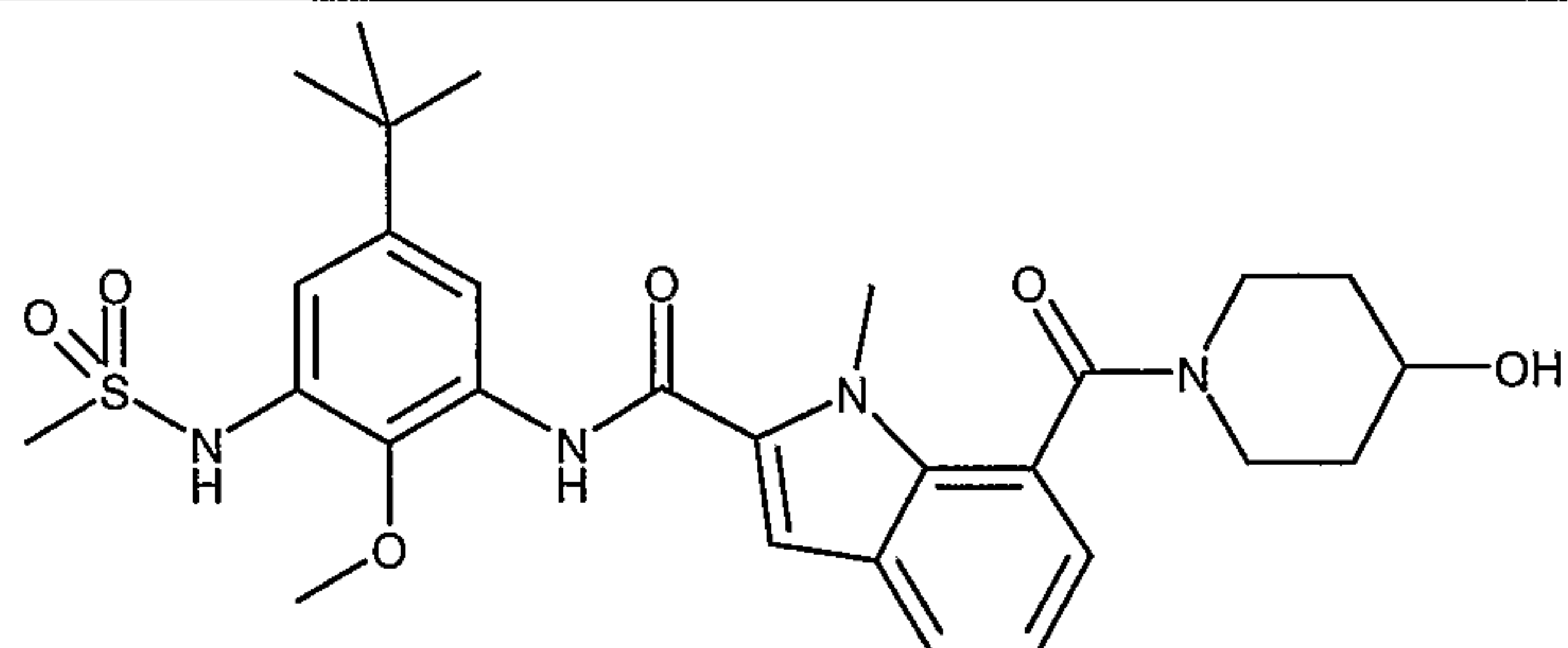
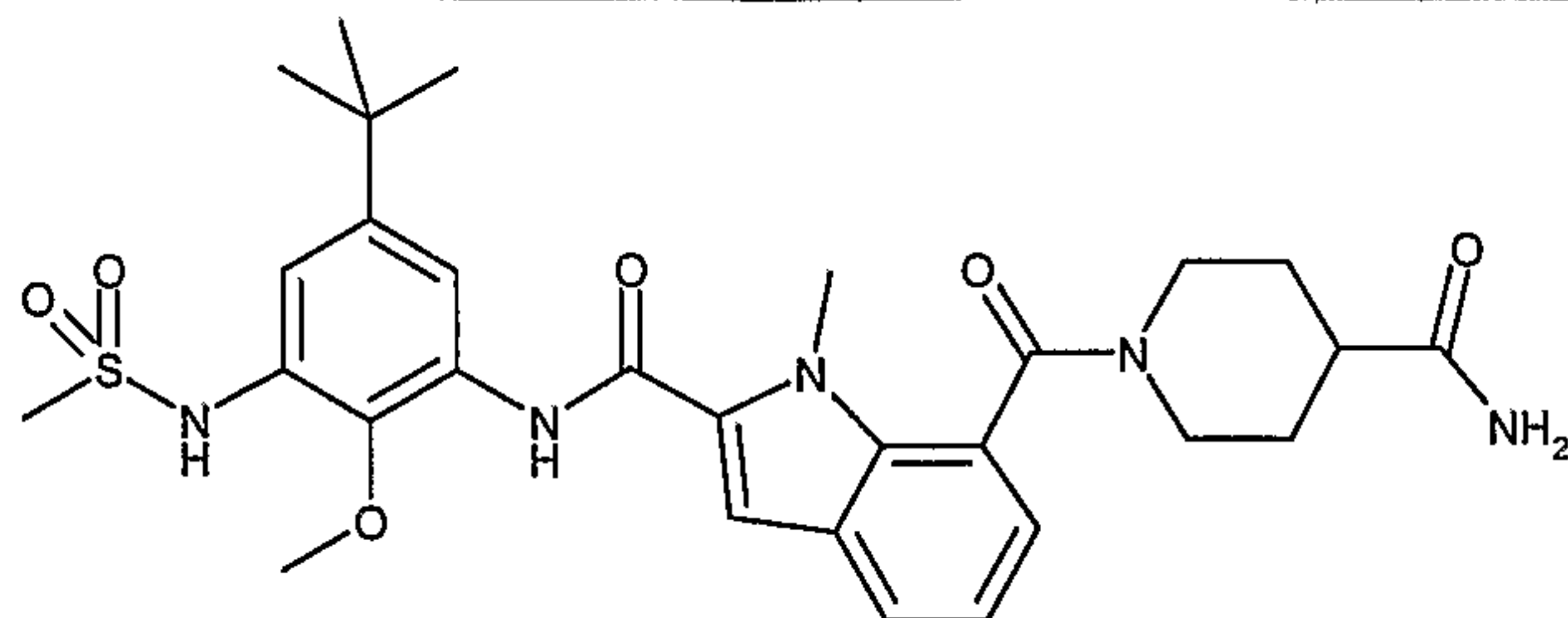
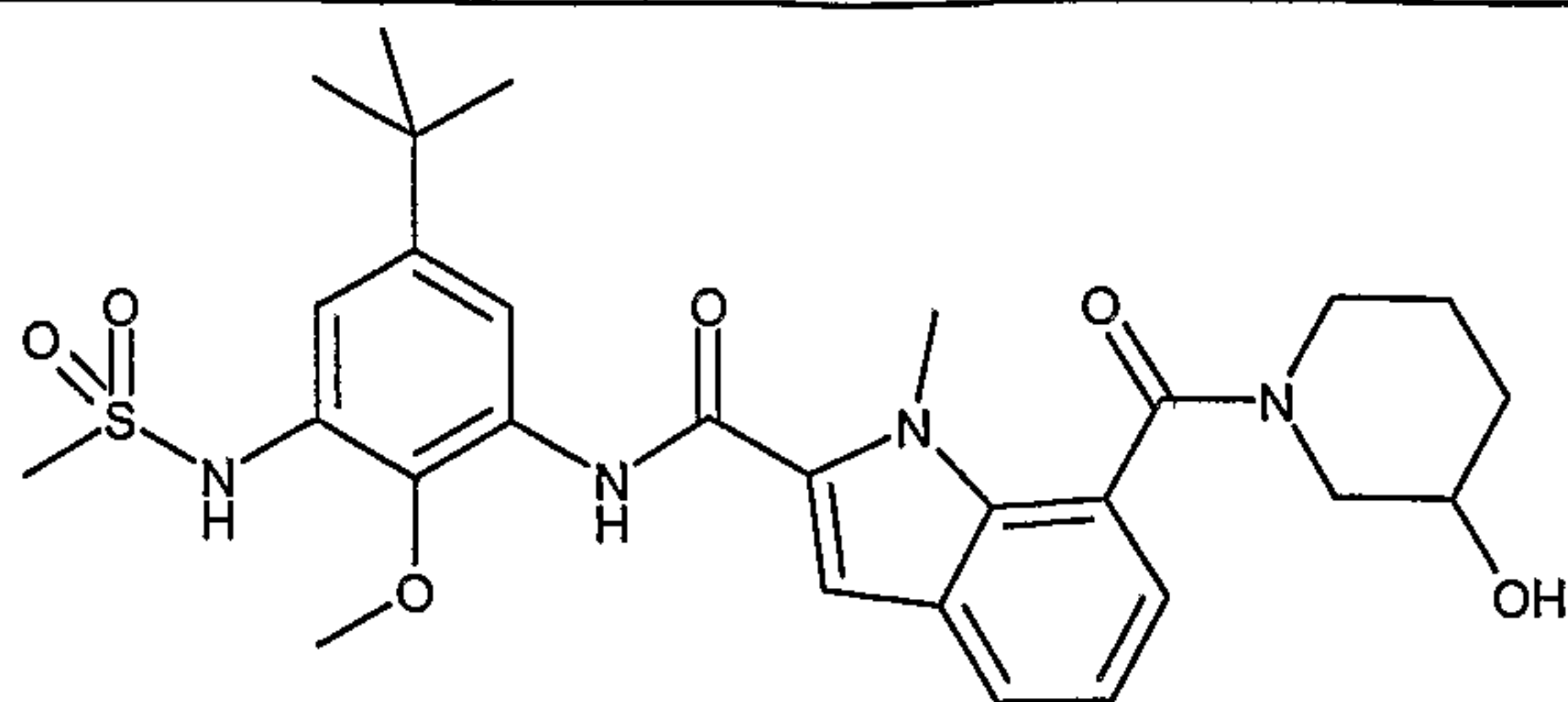


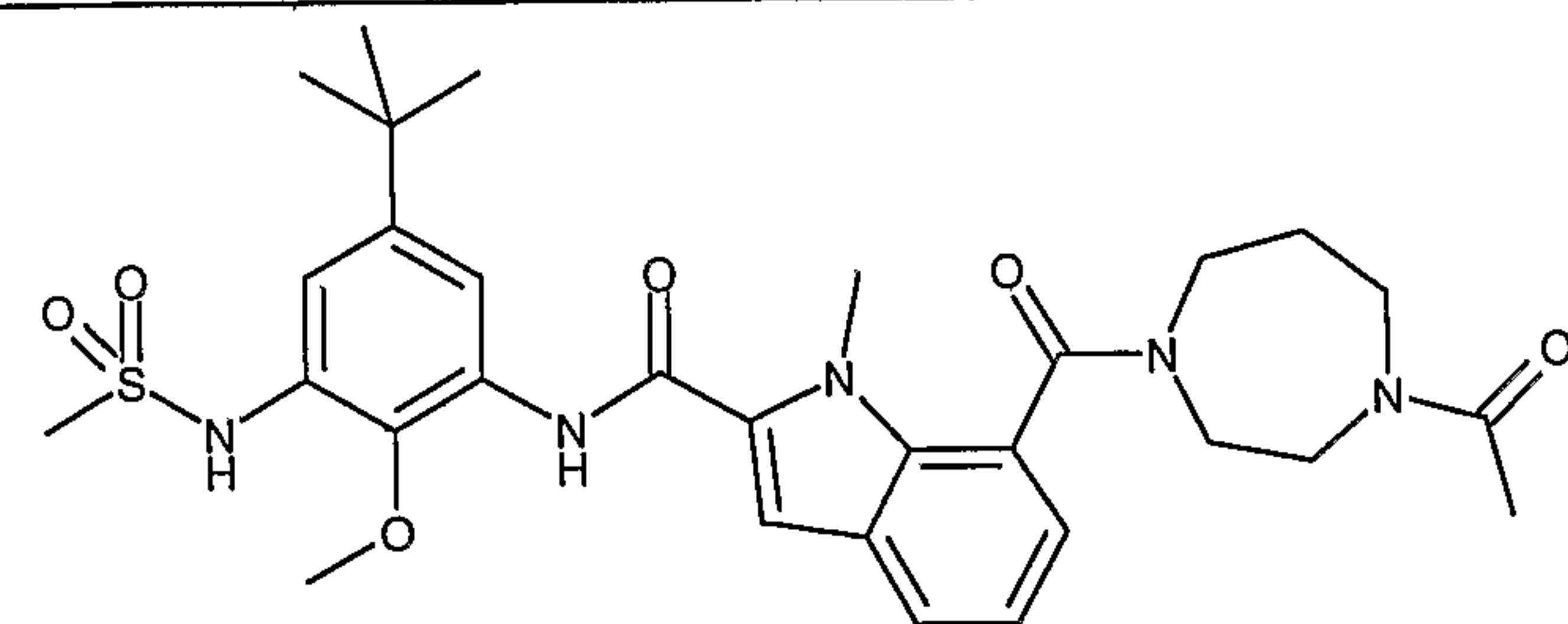
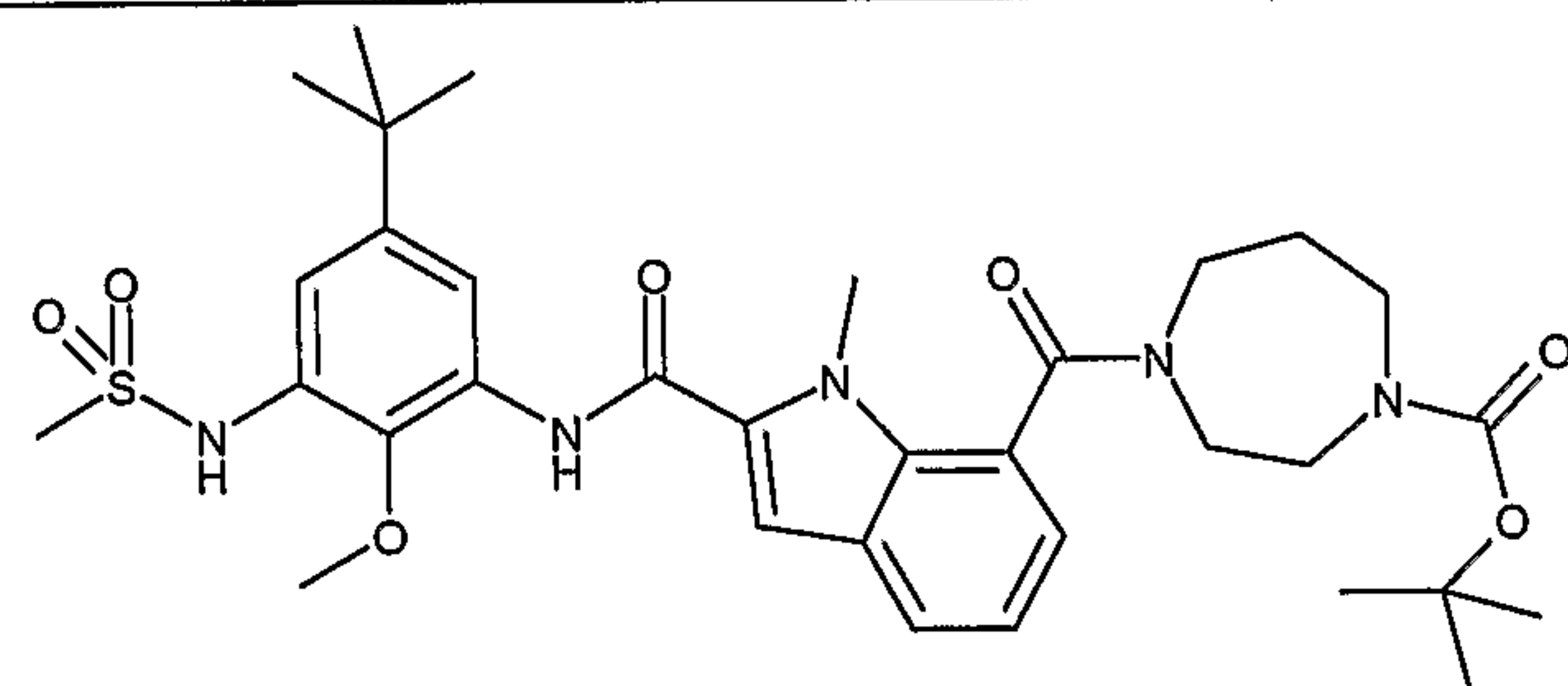
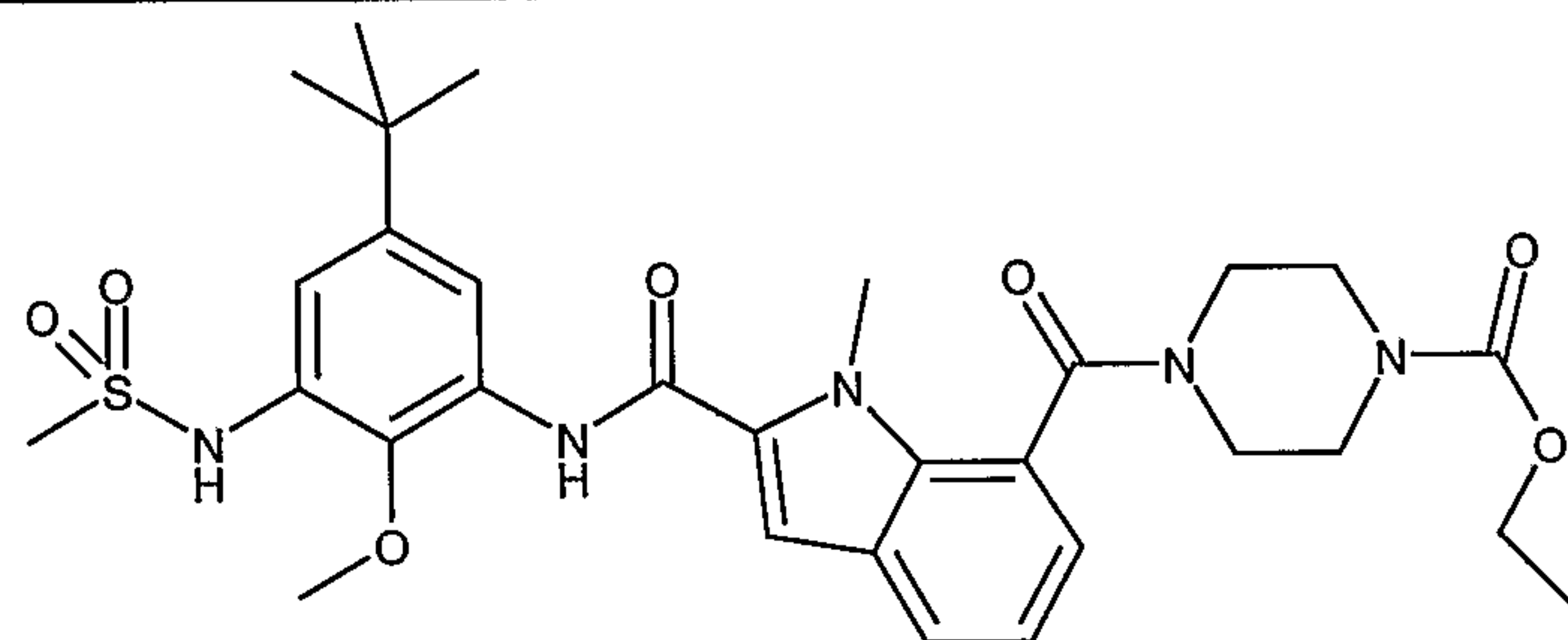
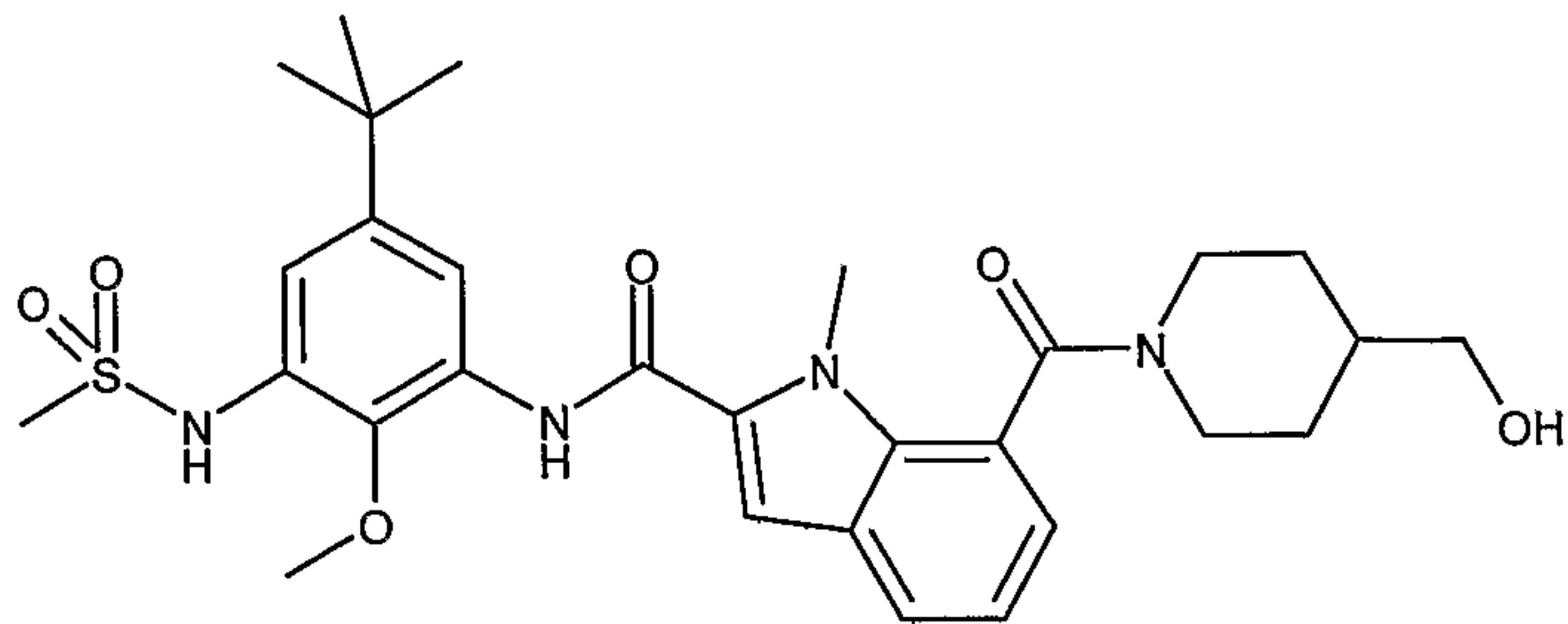
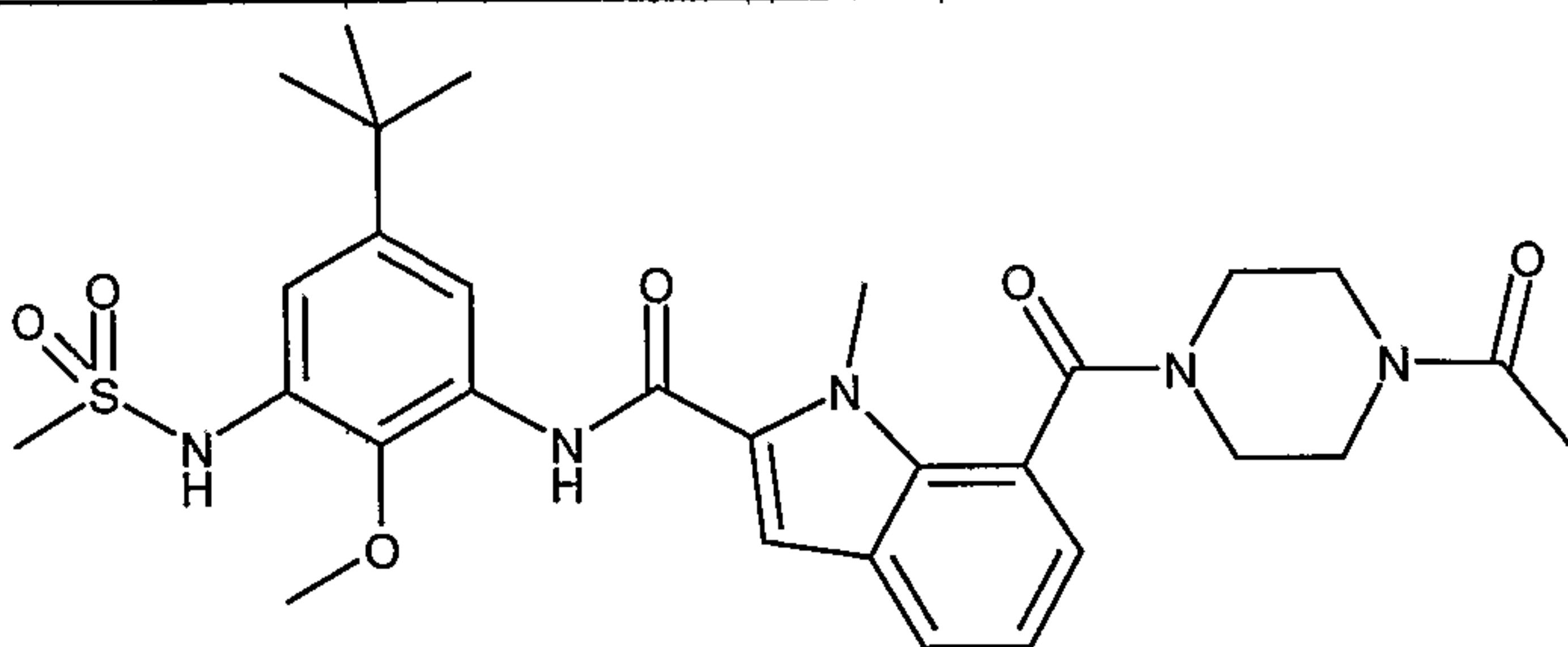
The following are representative compounds of the invention:

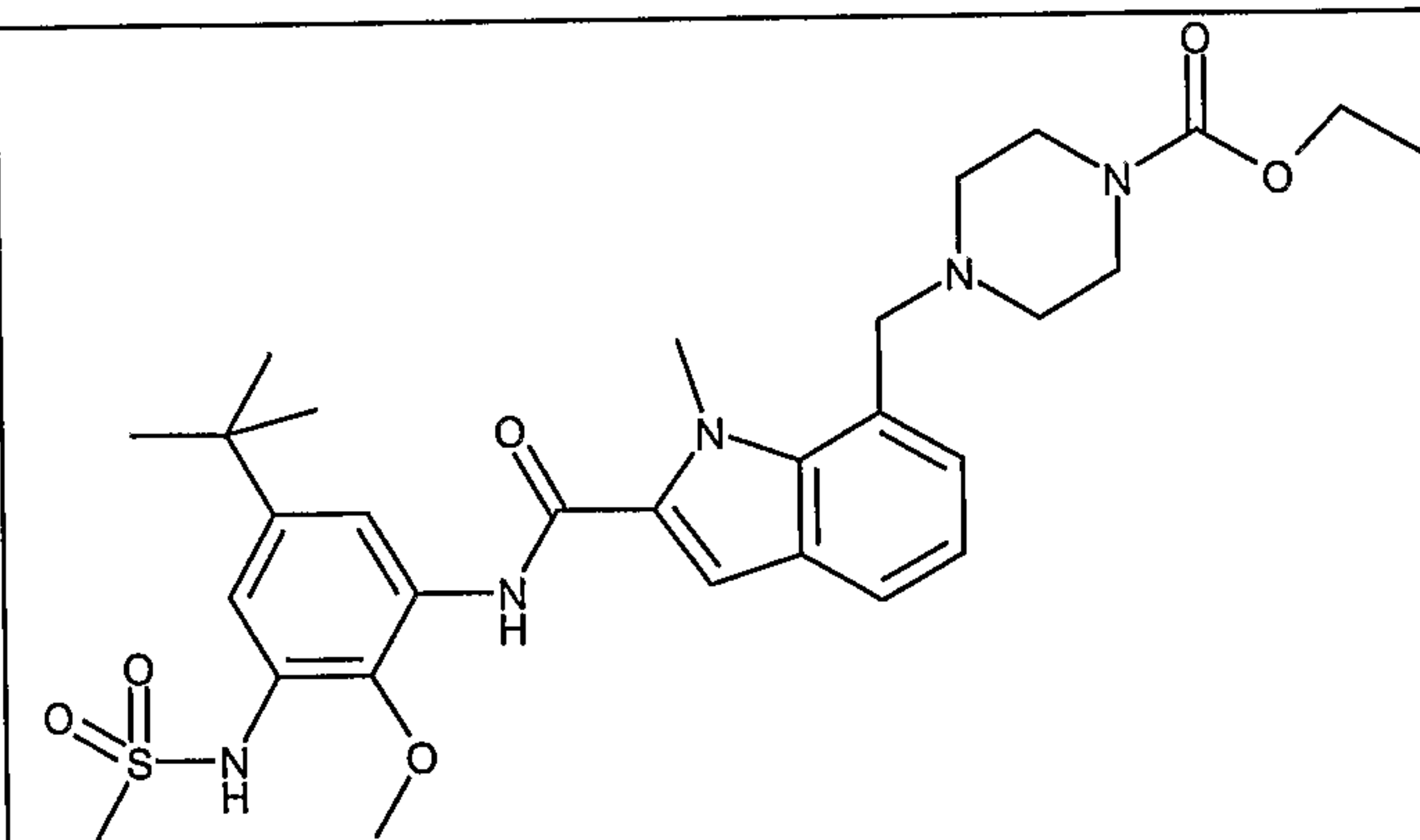
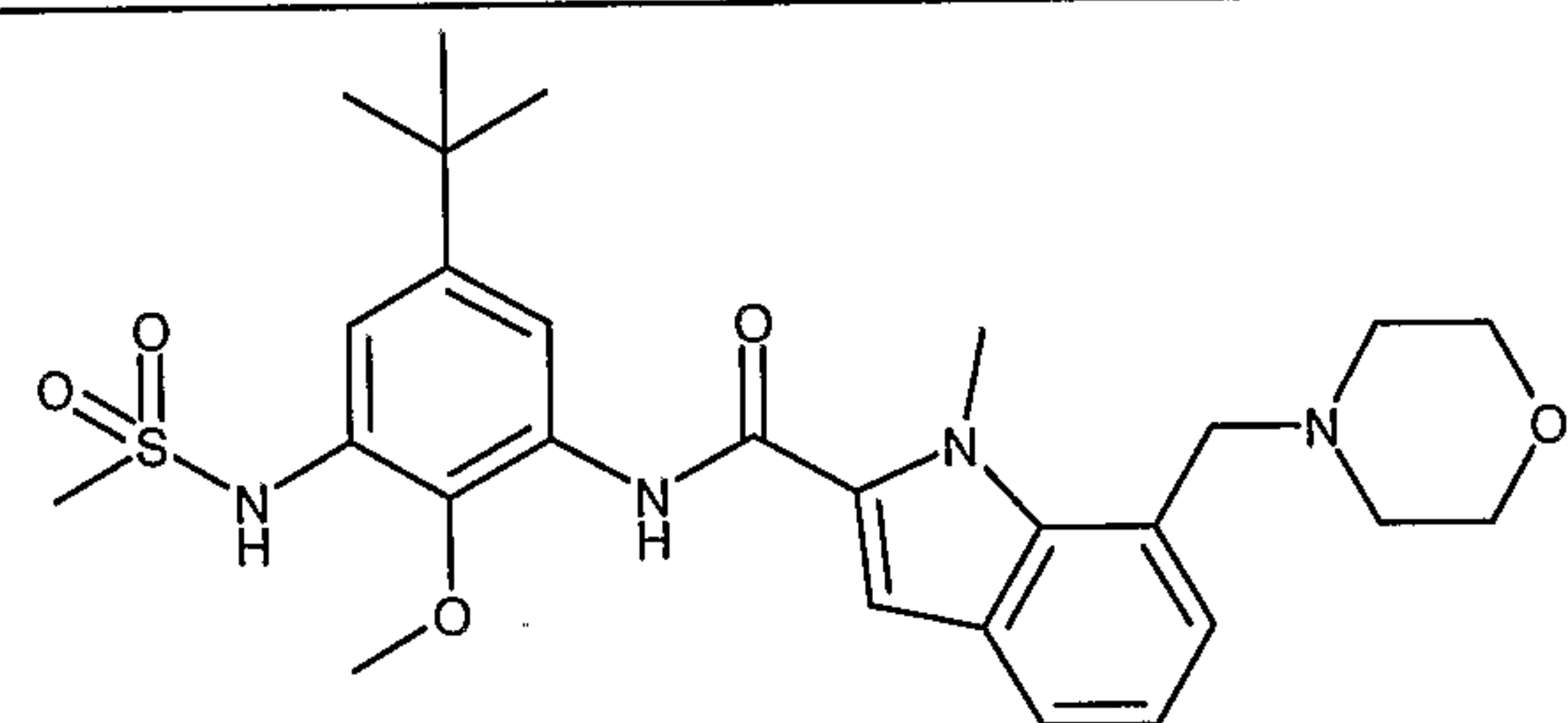
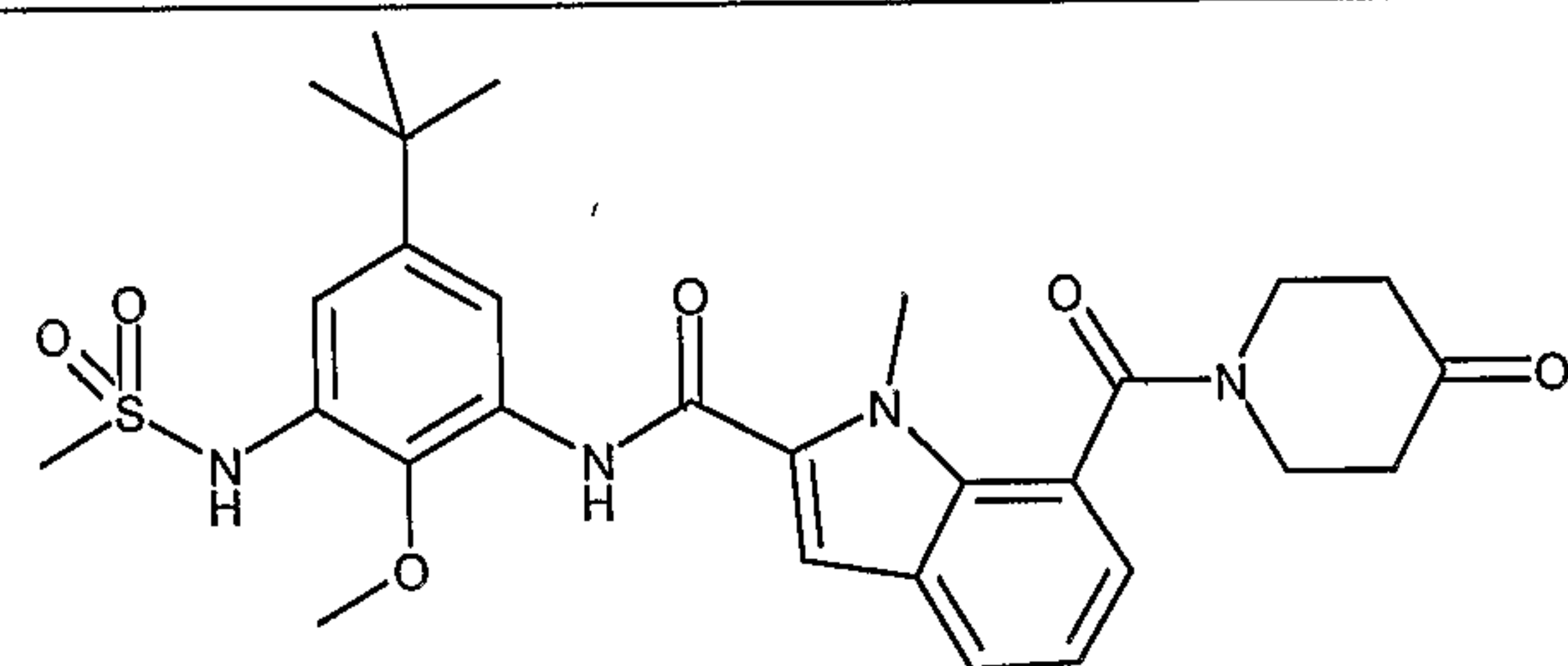
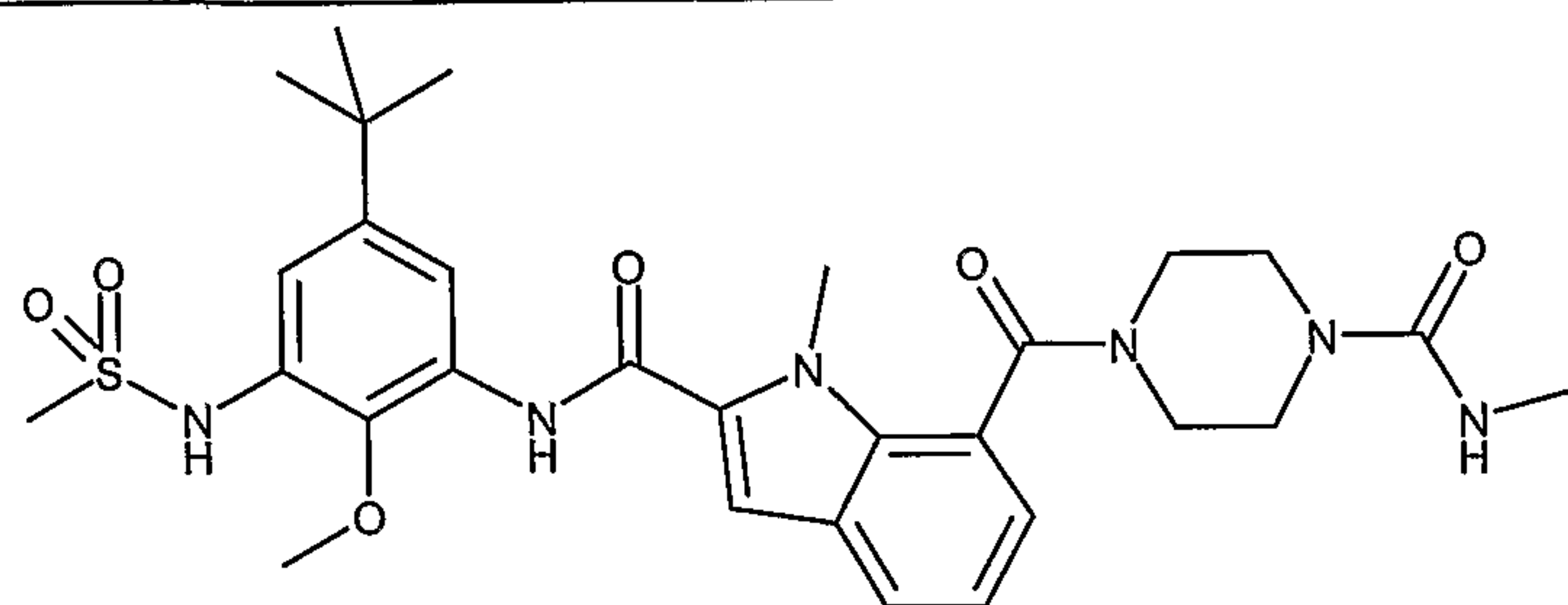
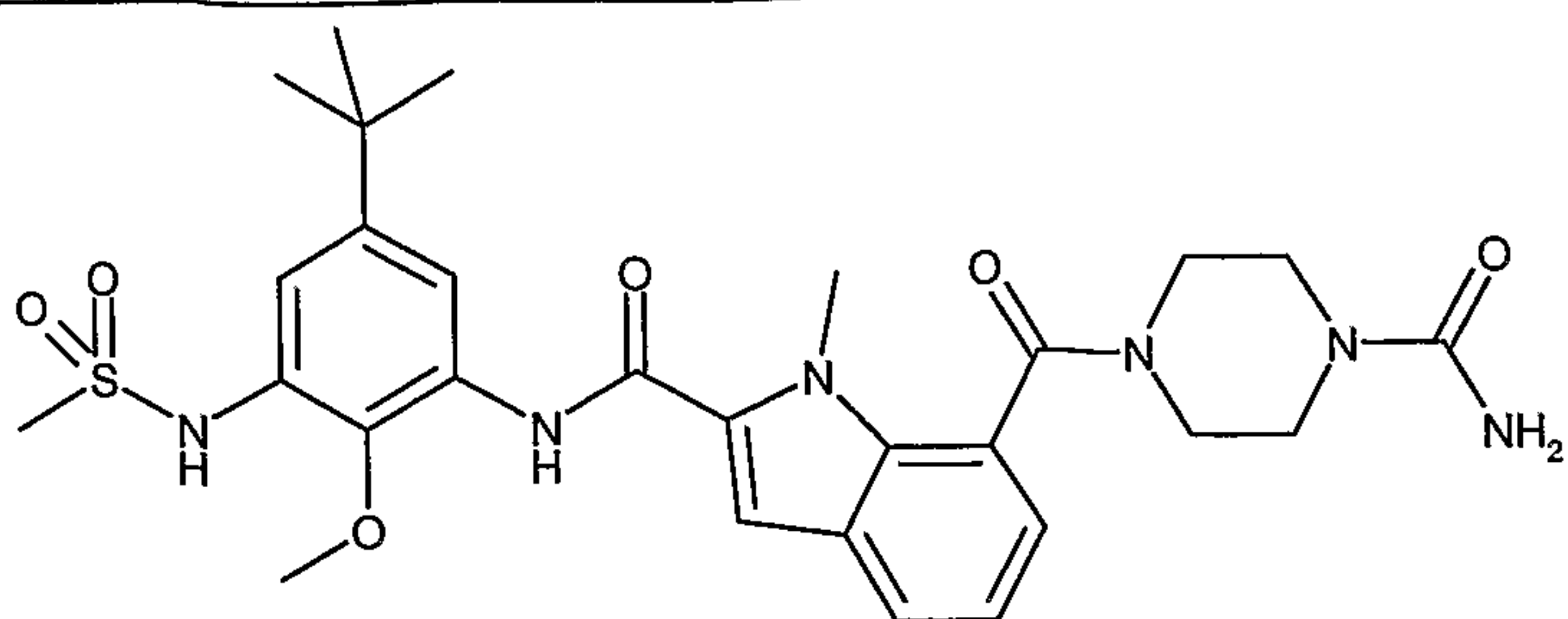
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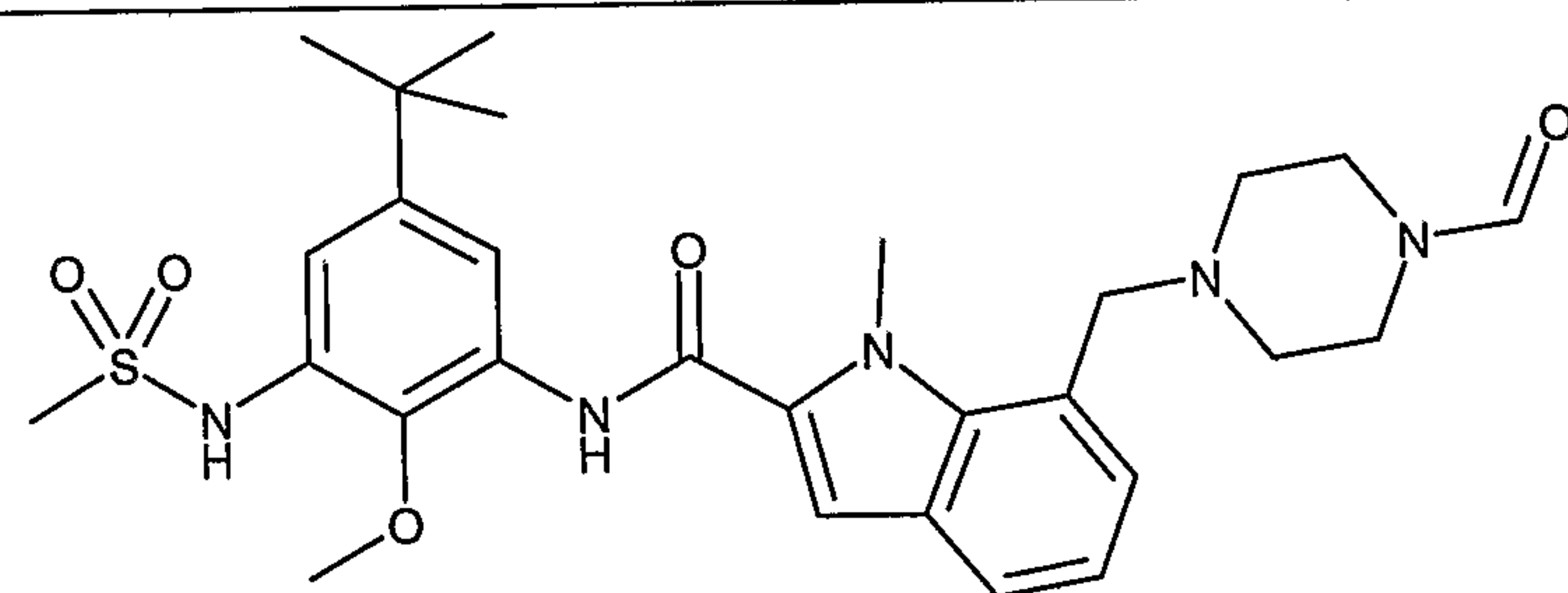
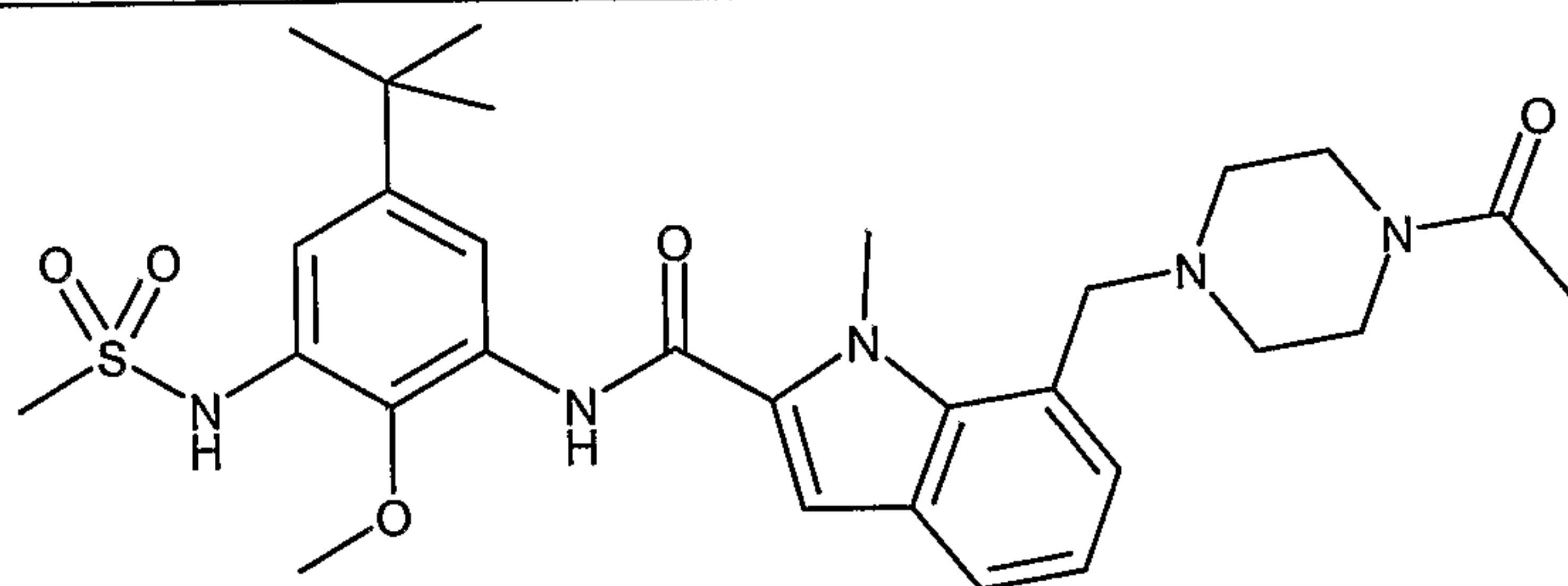
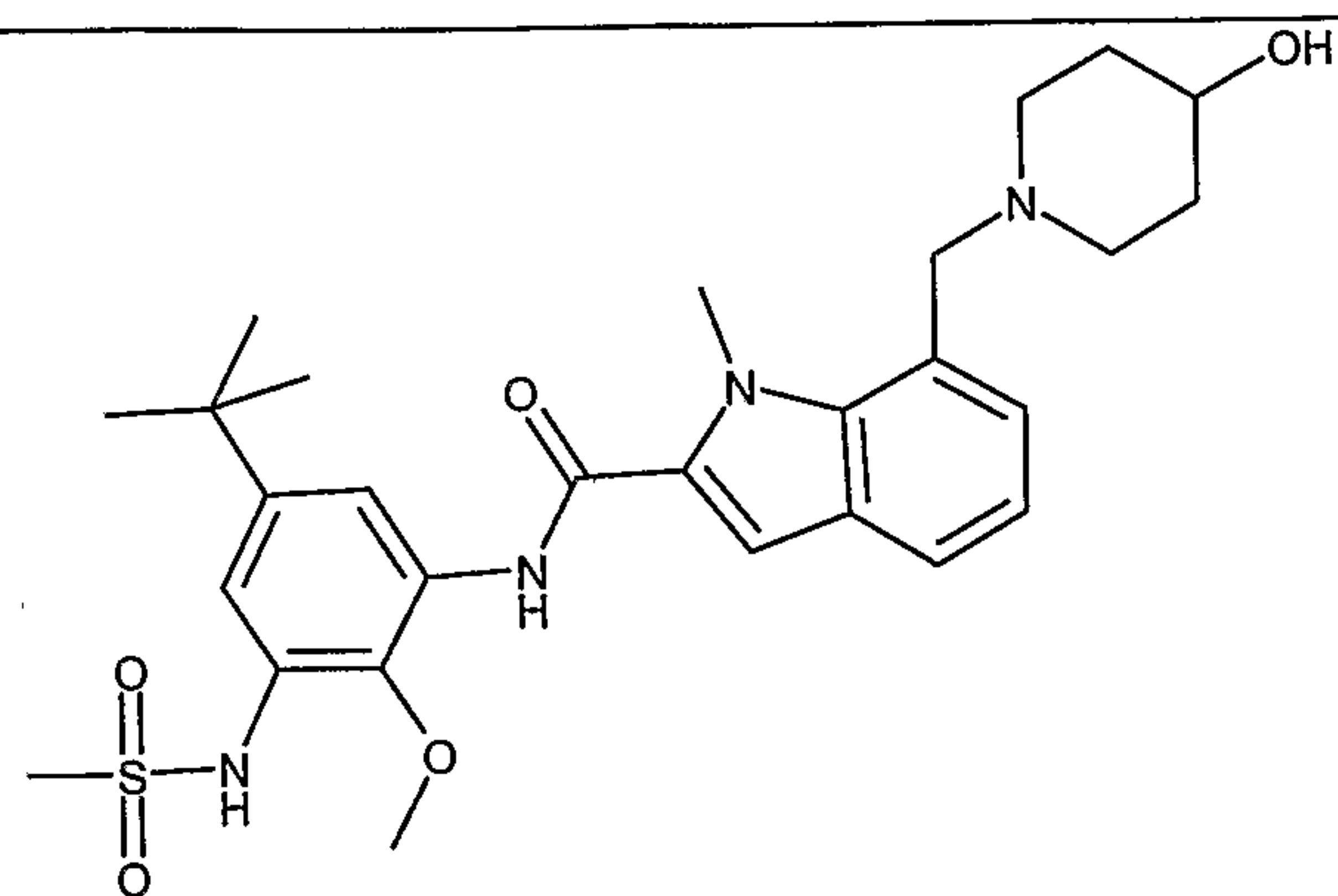
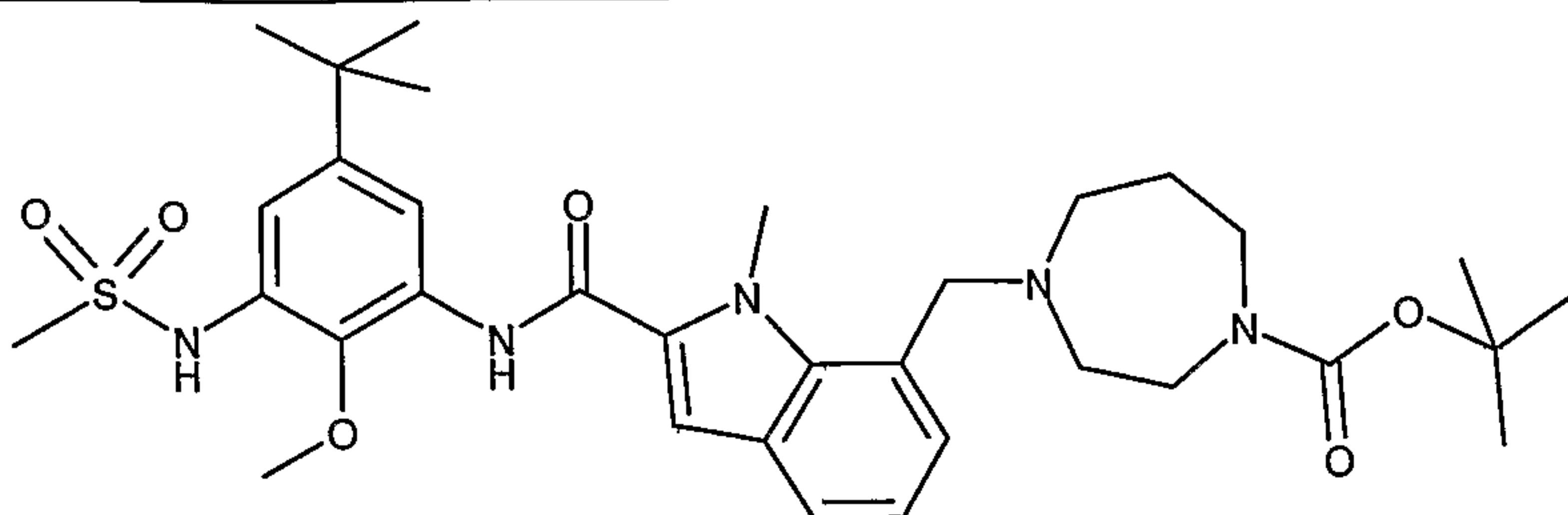
TABLE I

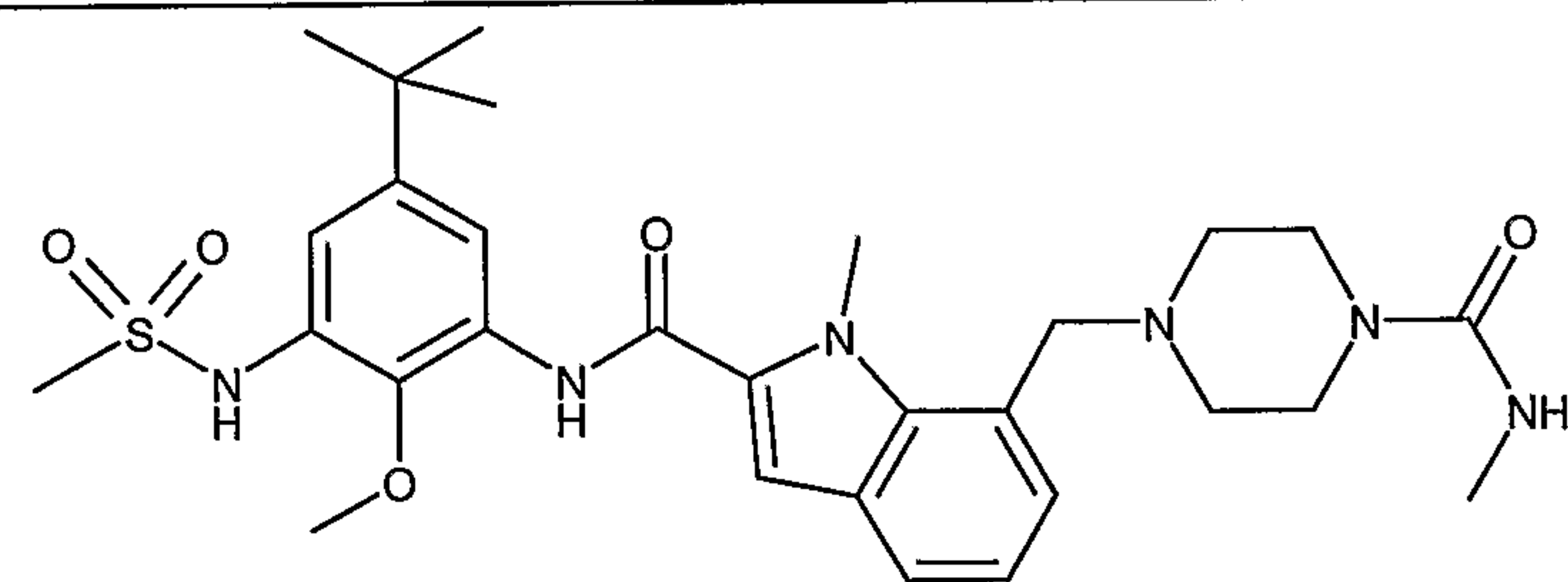
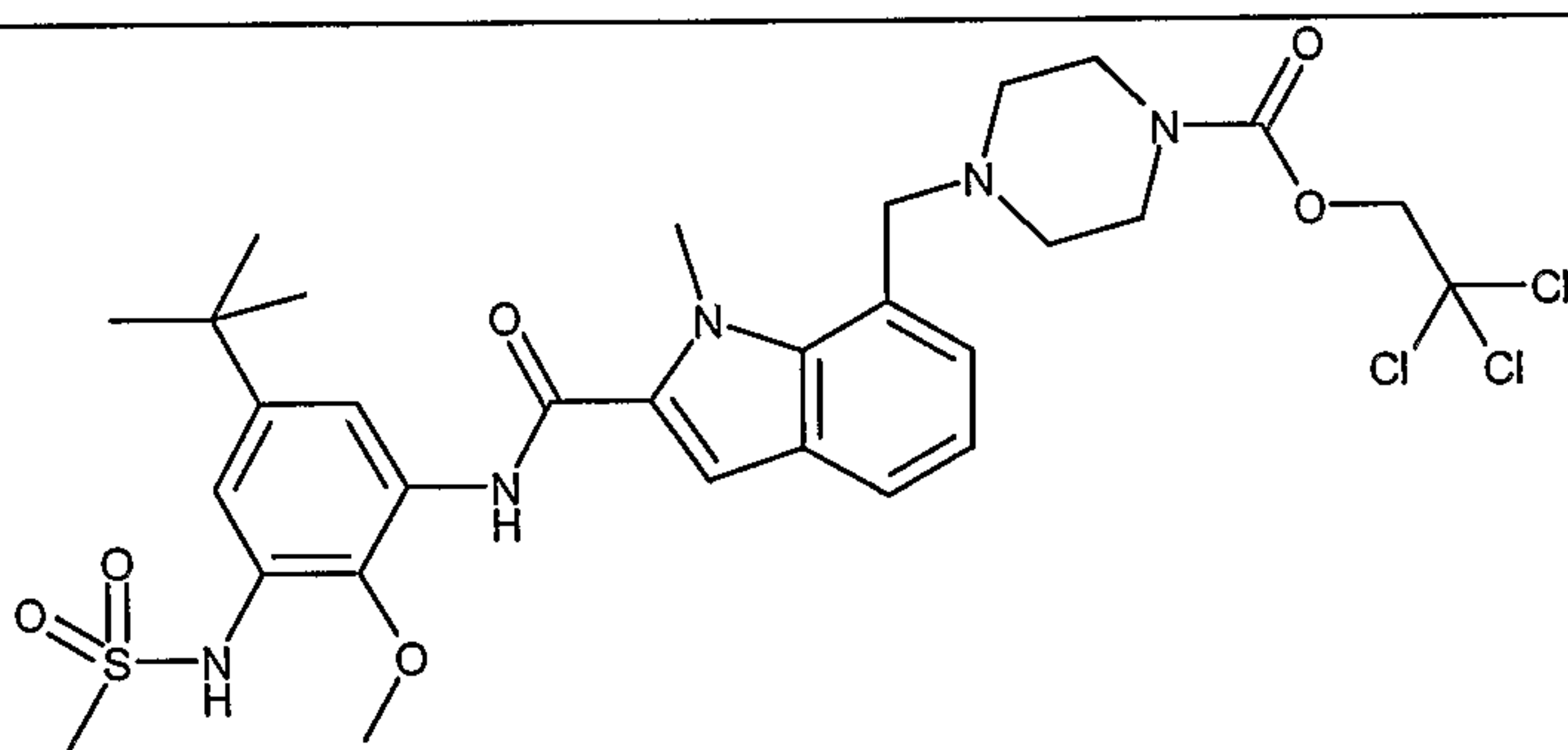
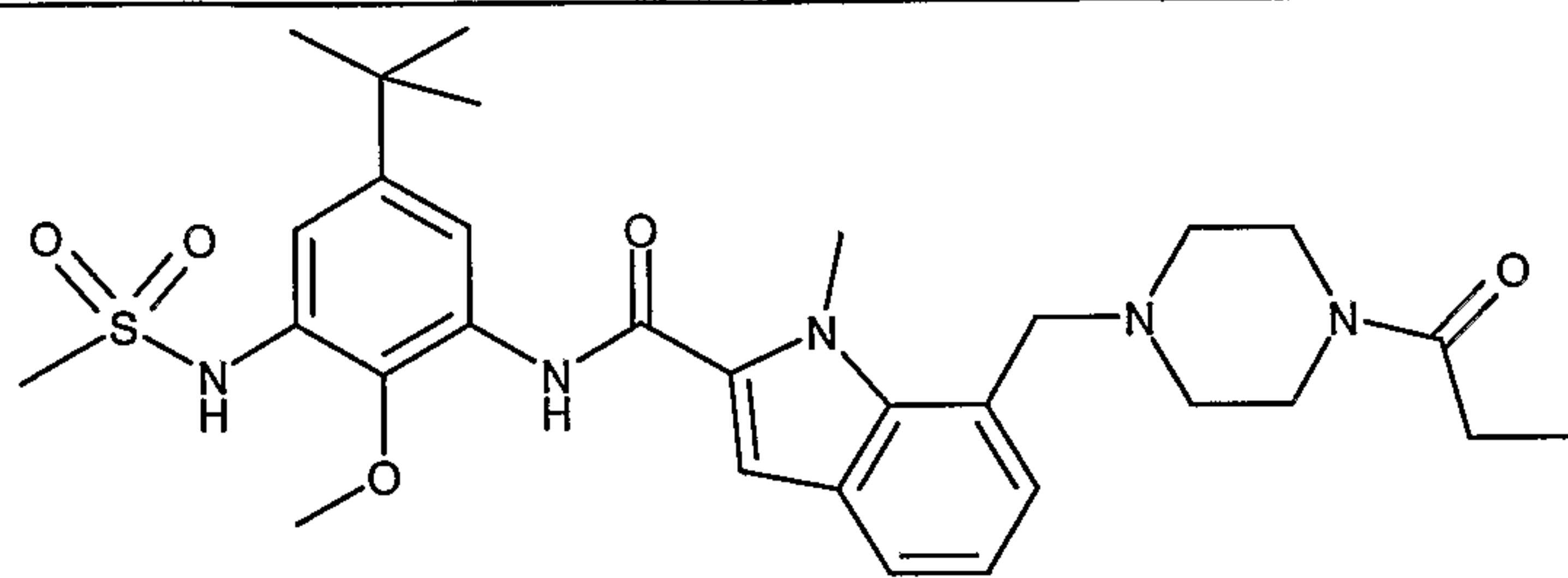
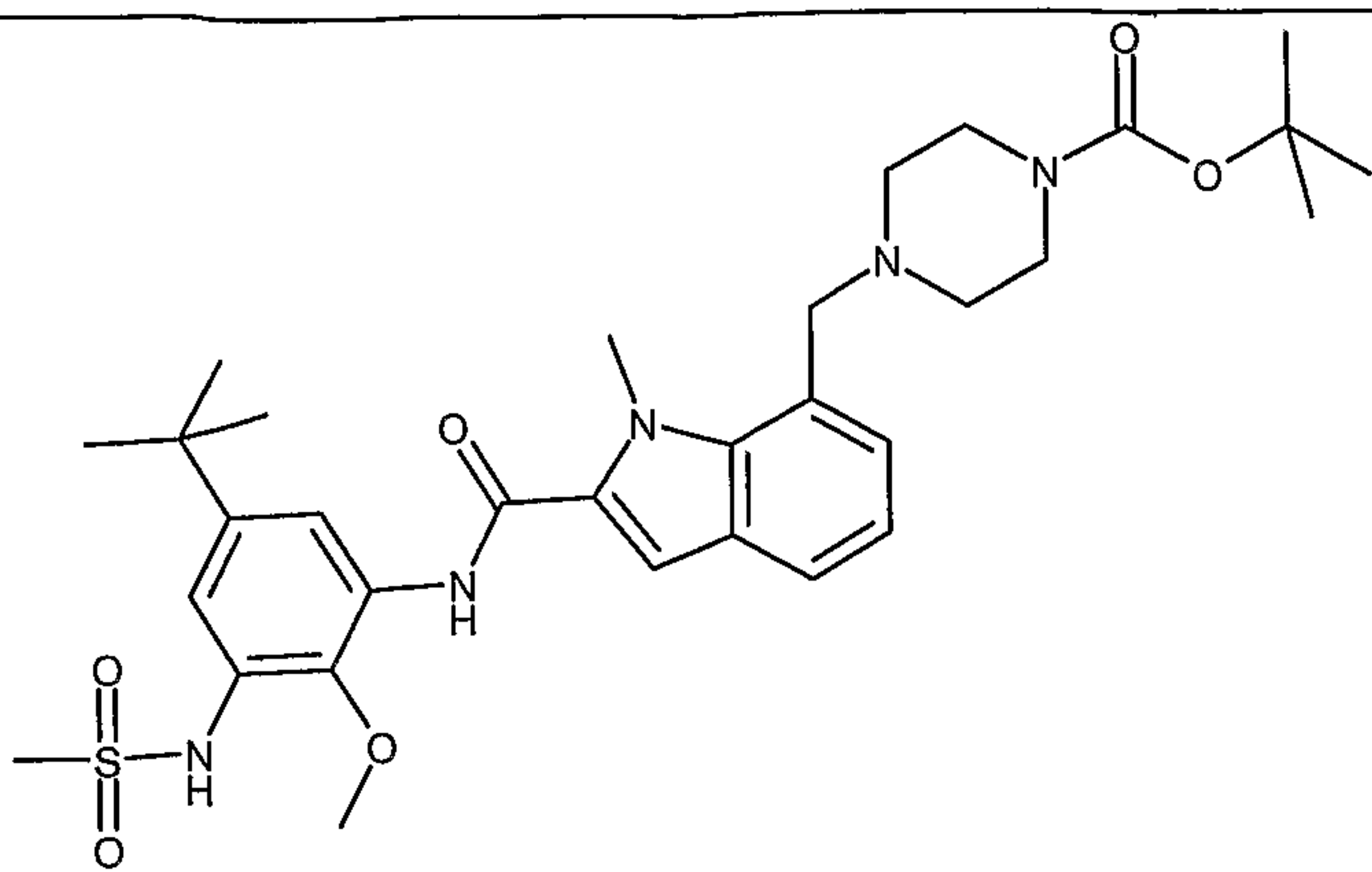


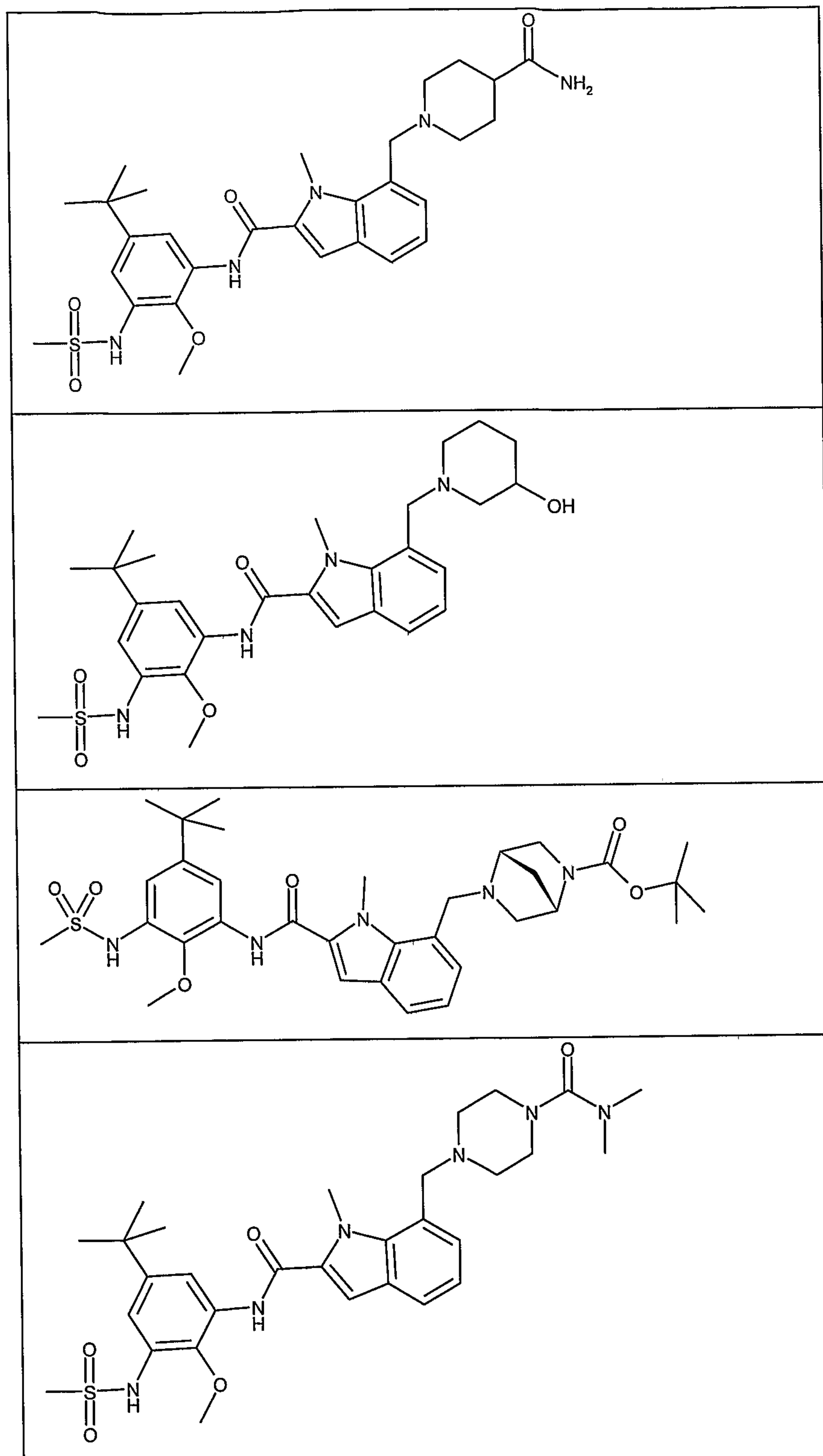


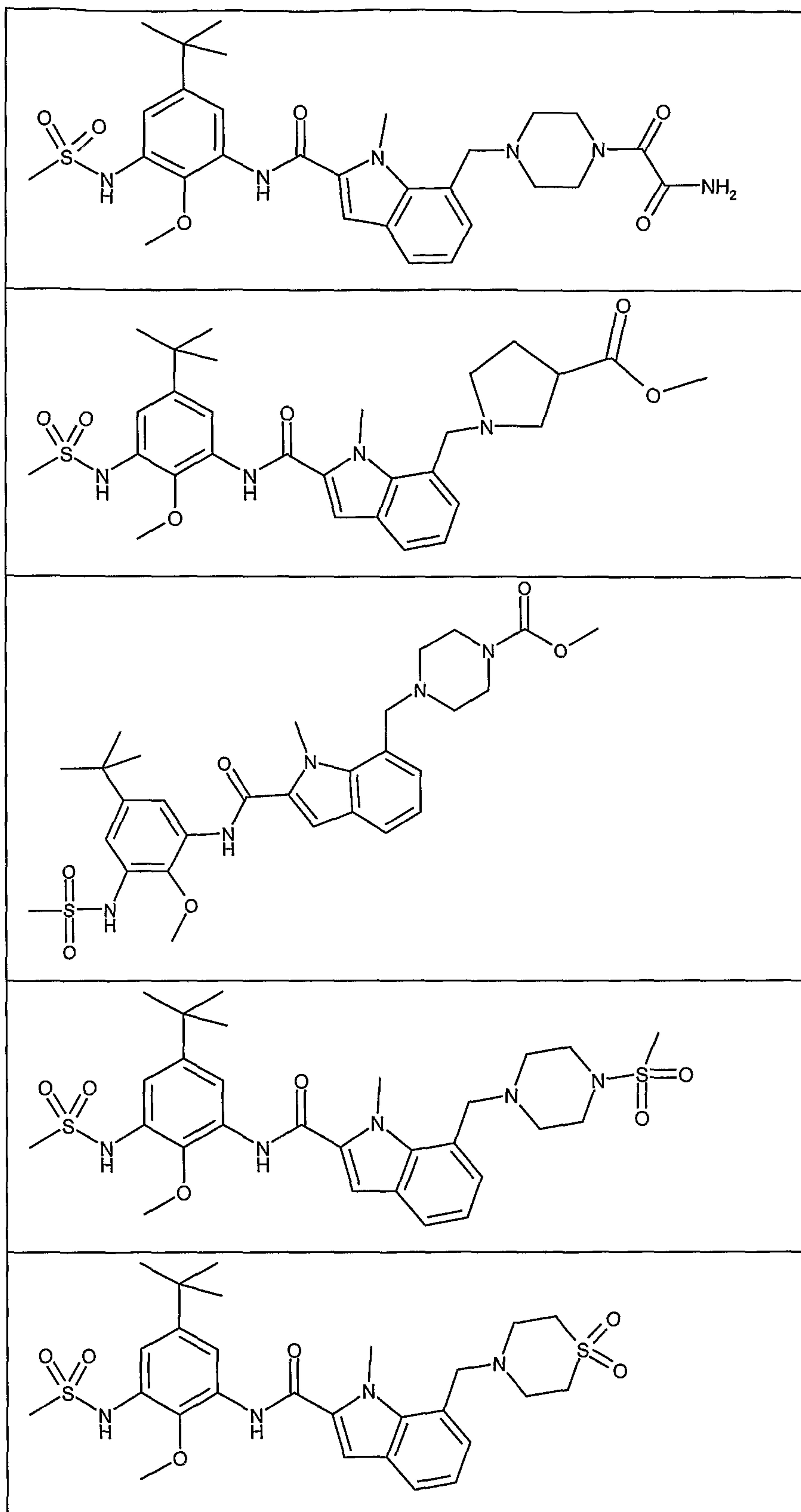


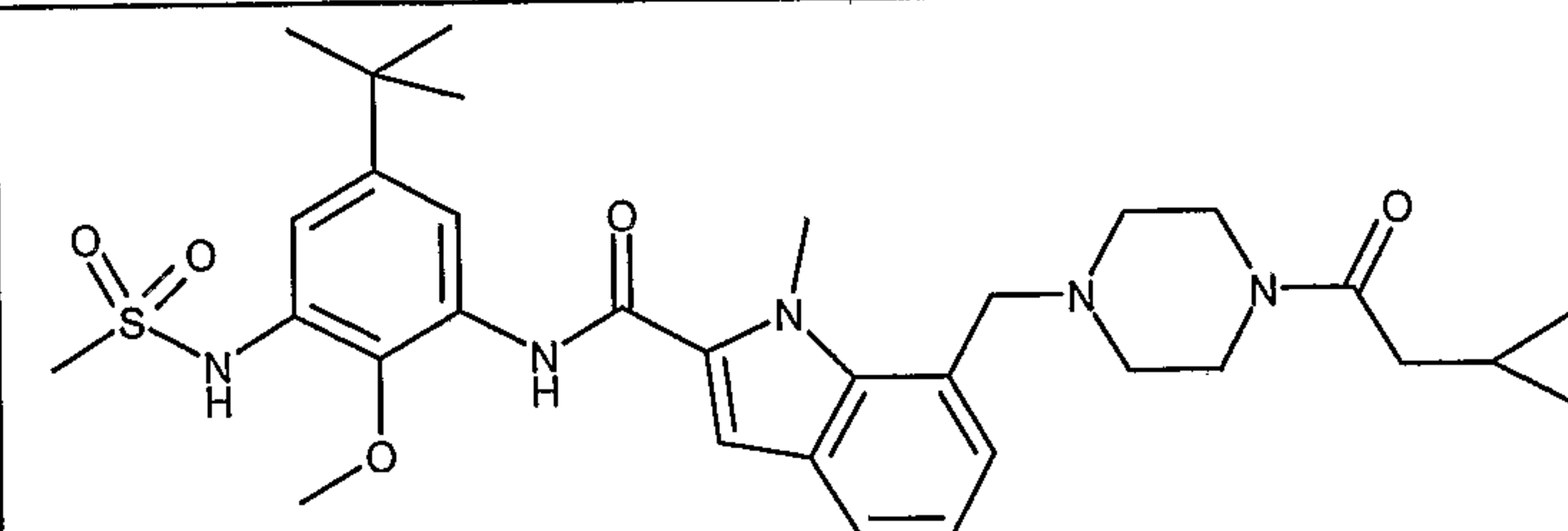
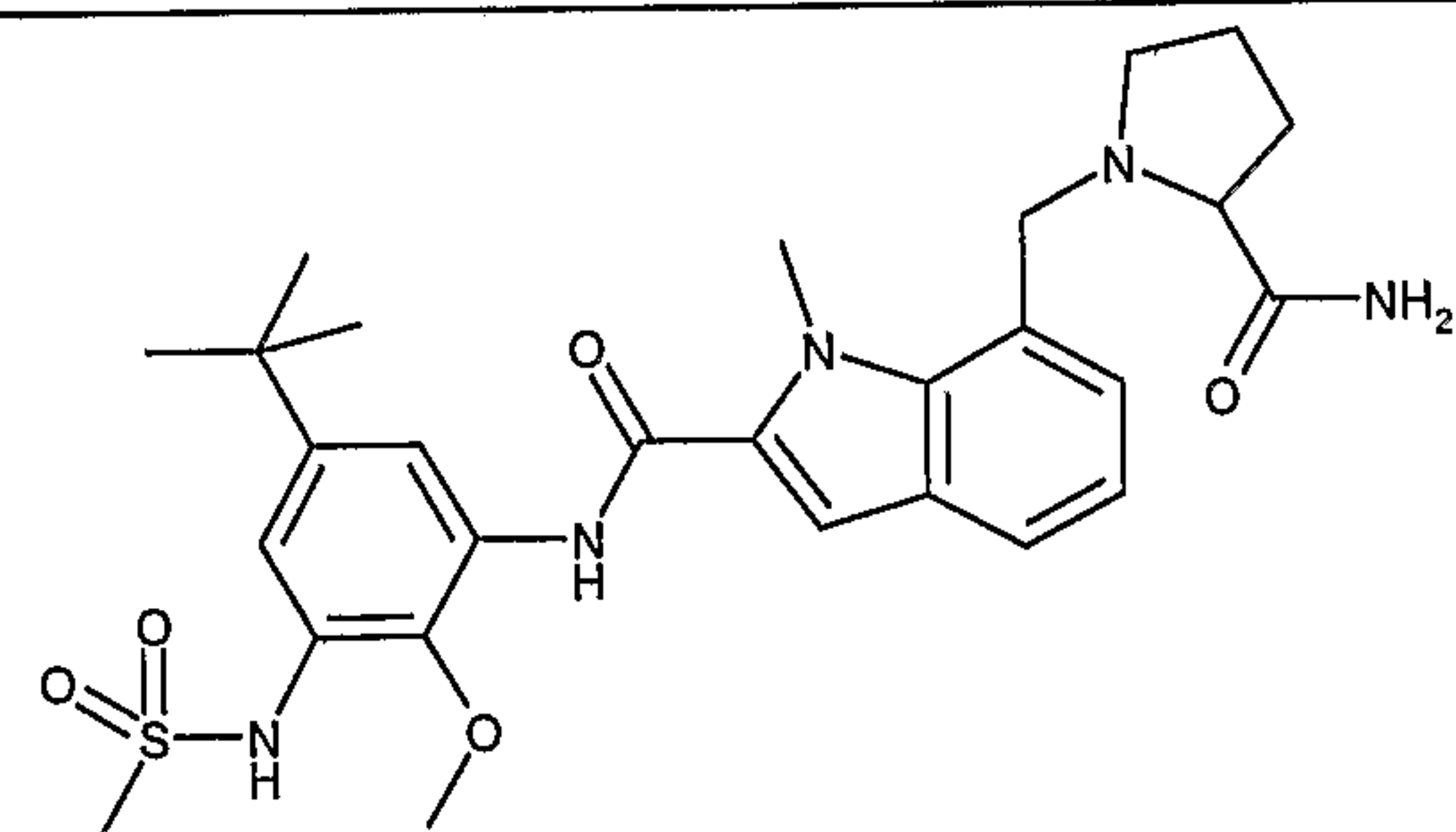
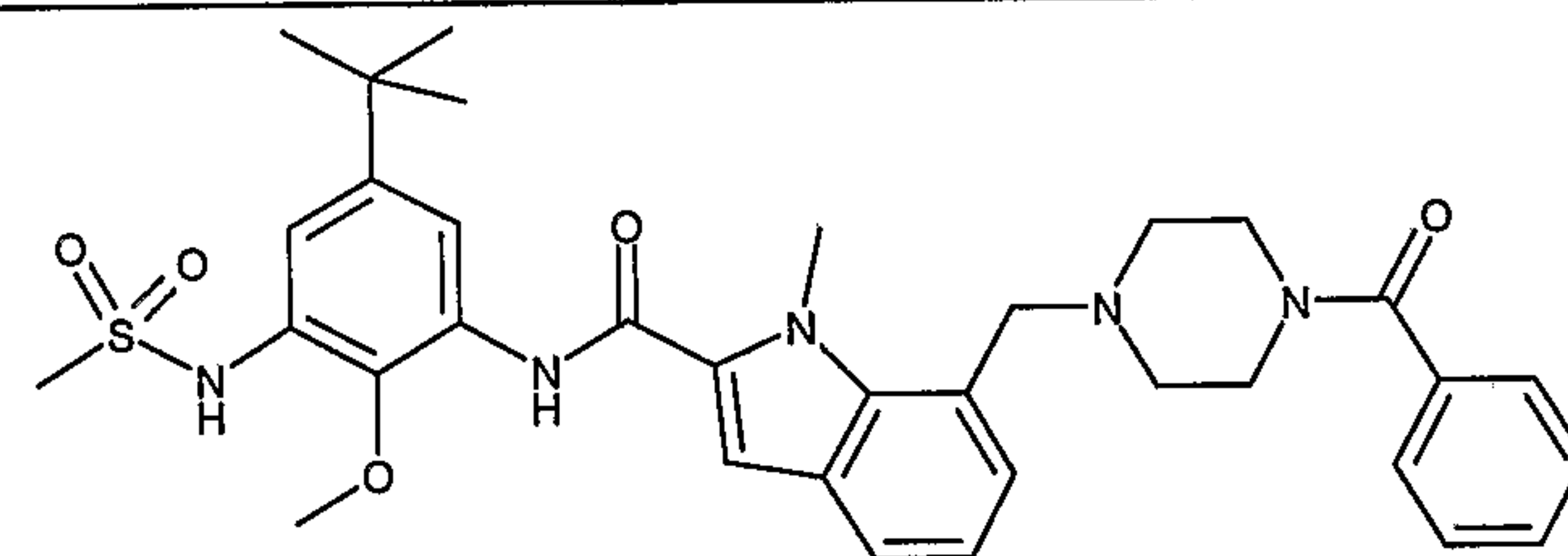
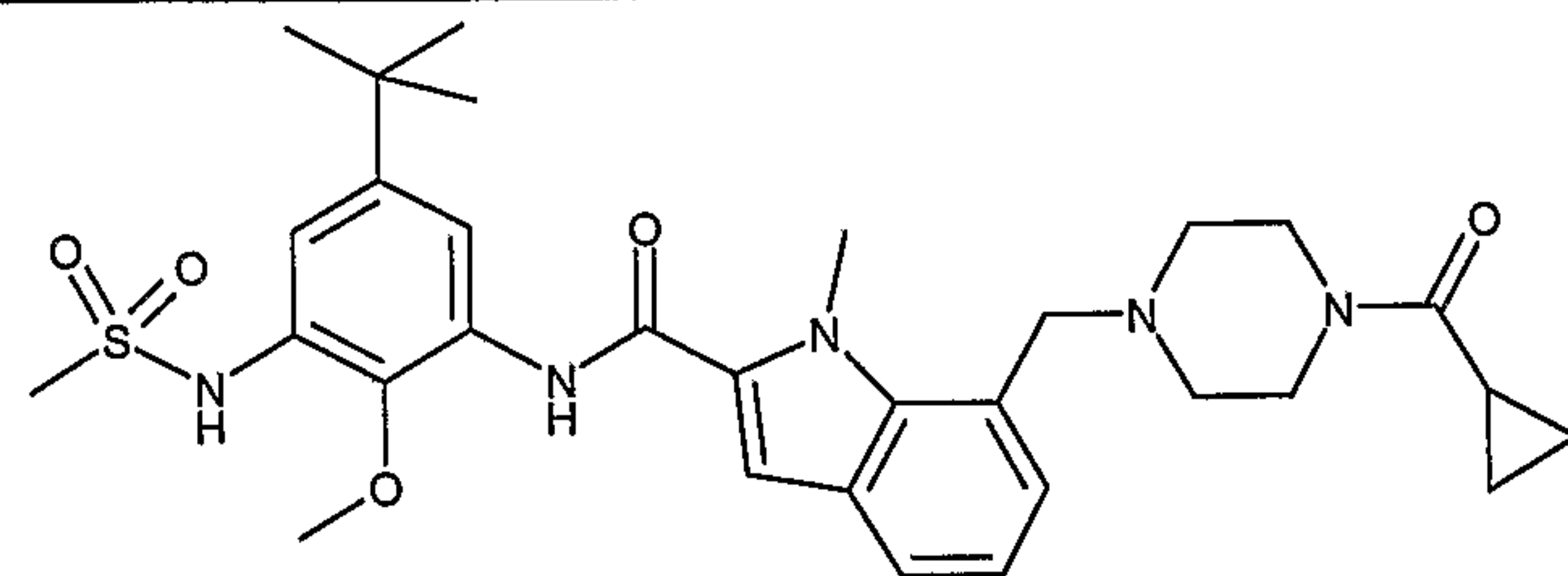
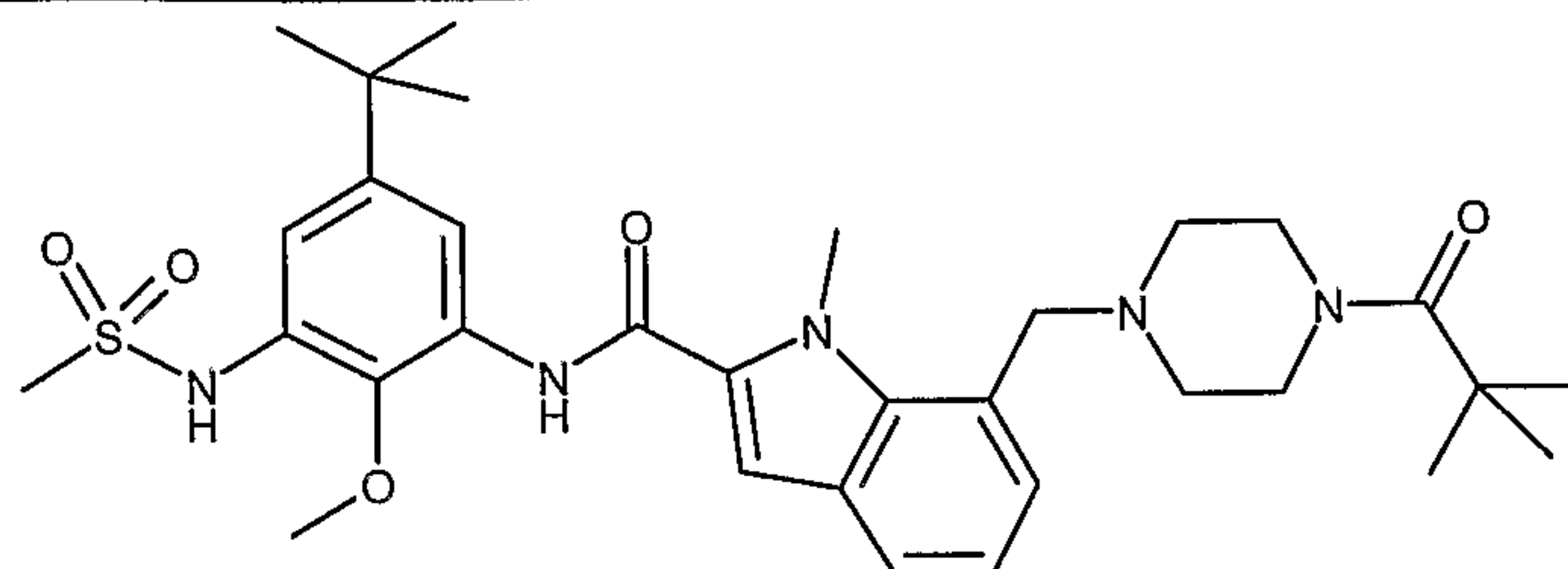
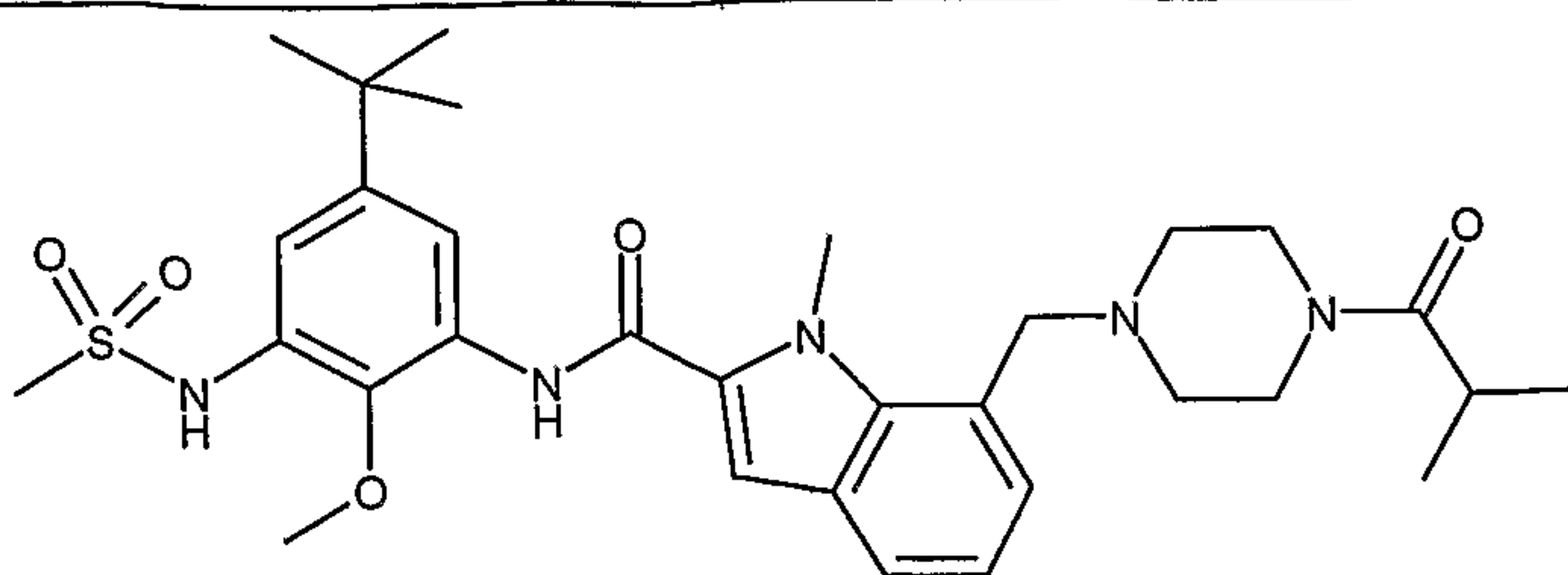


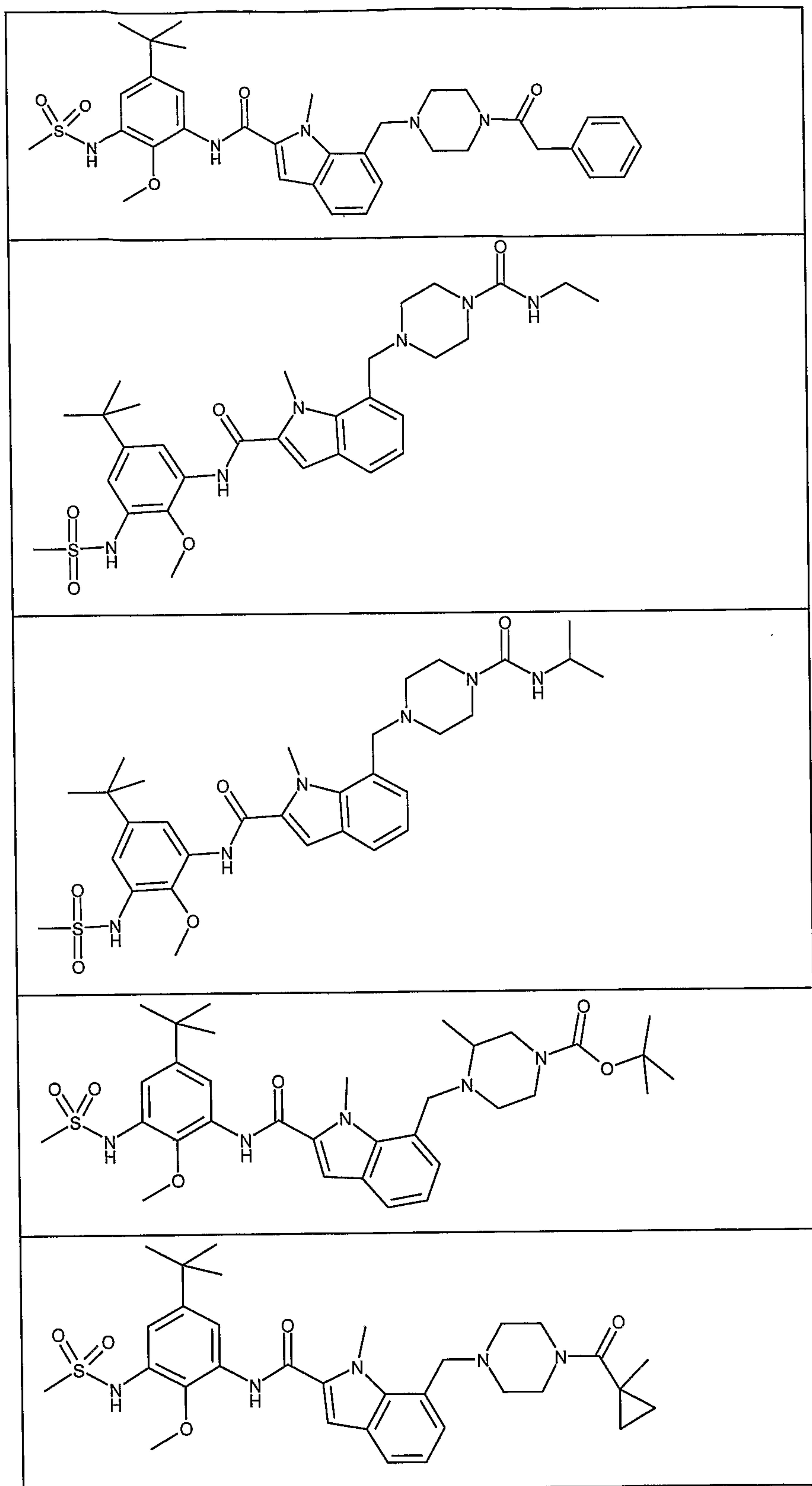


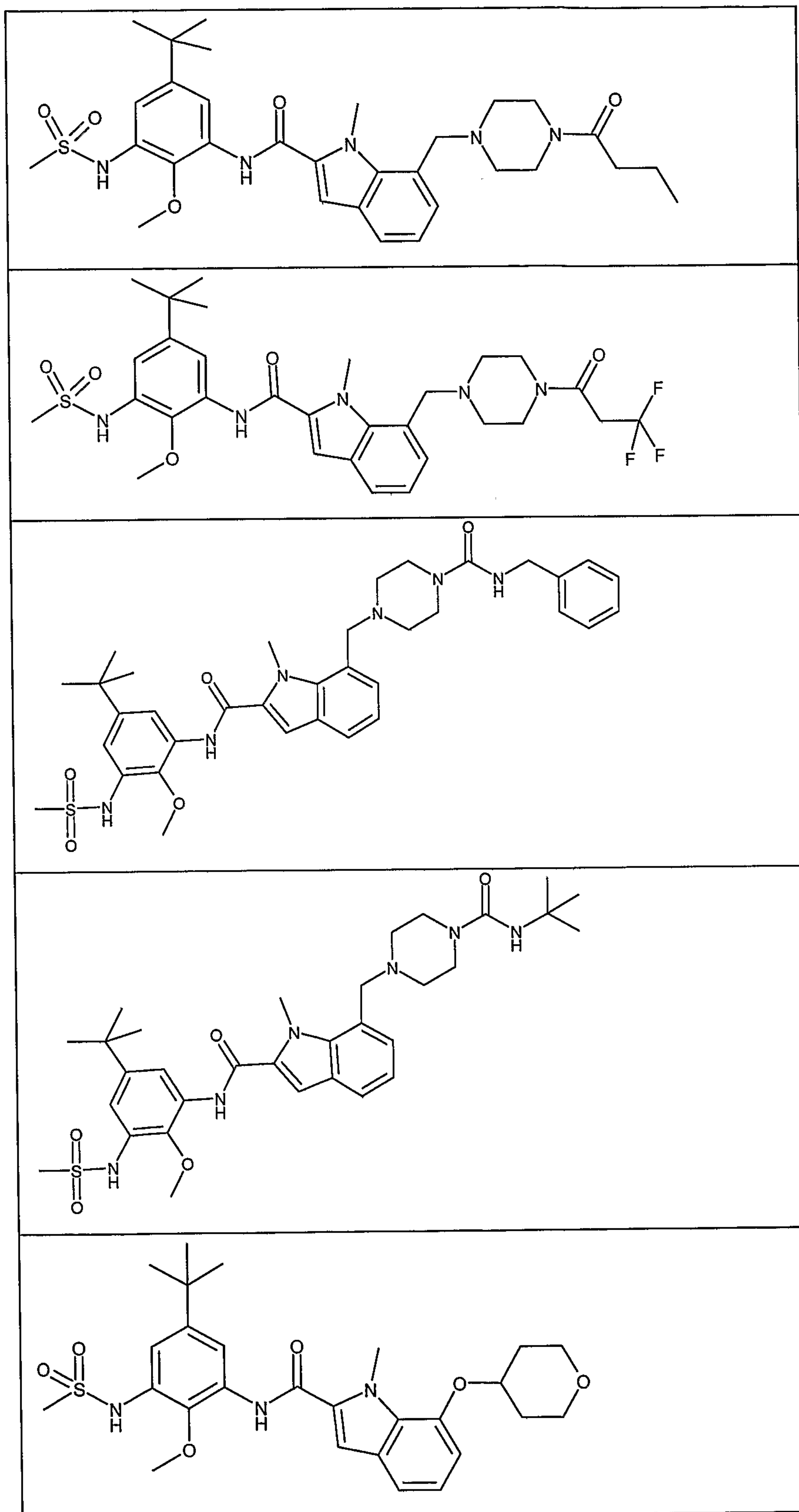


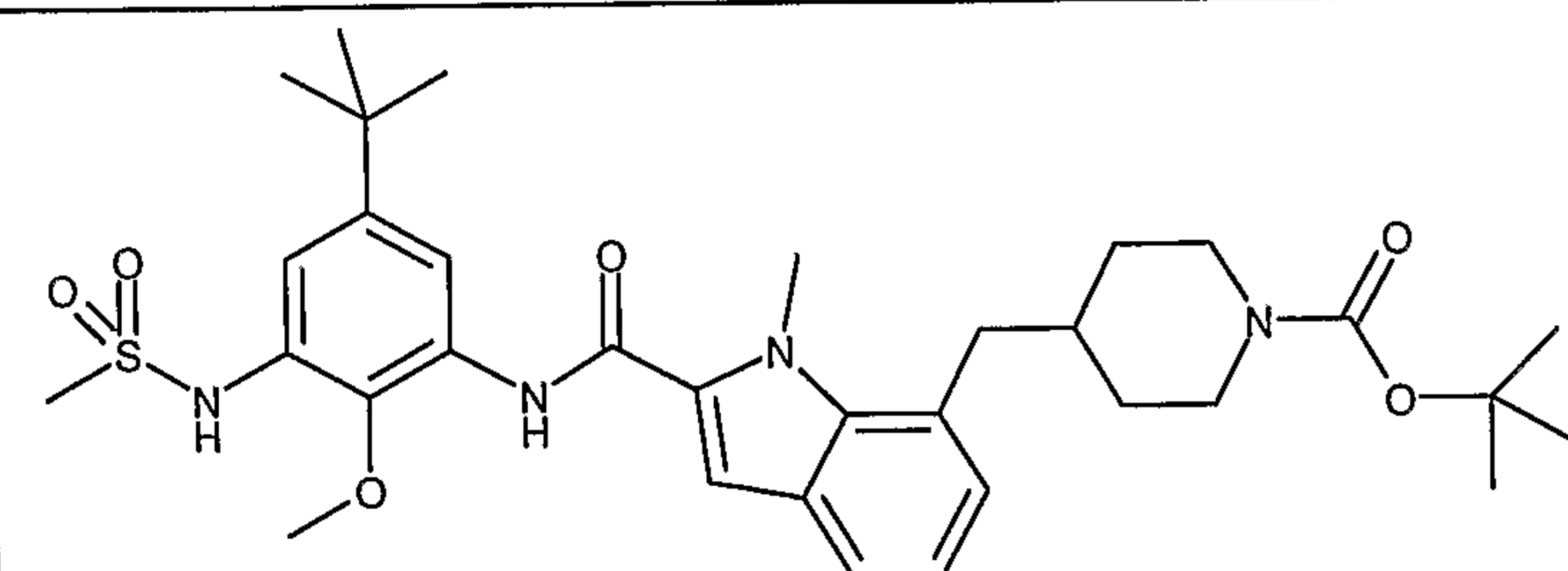
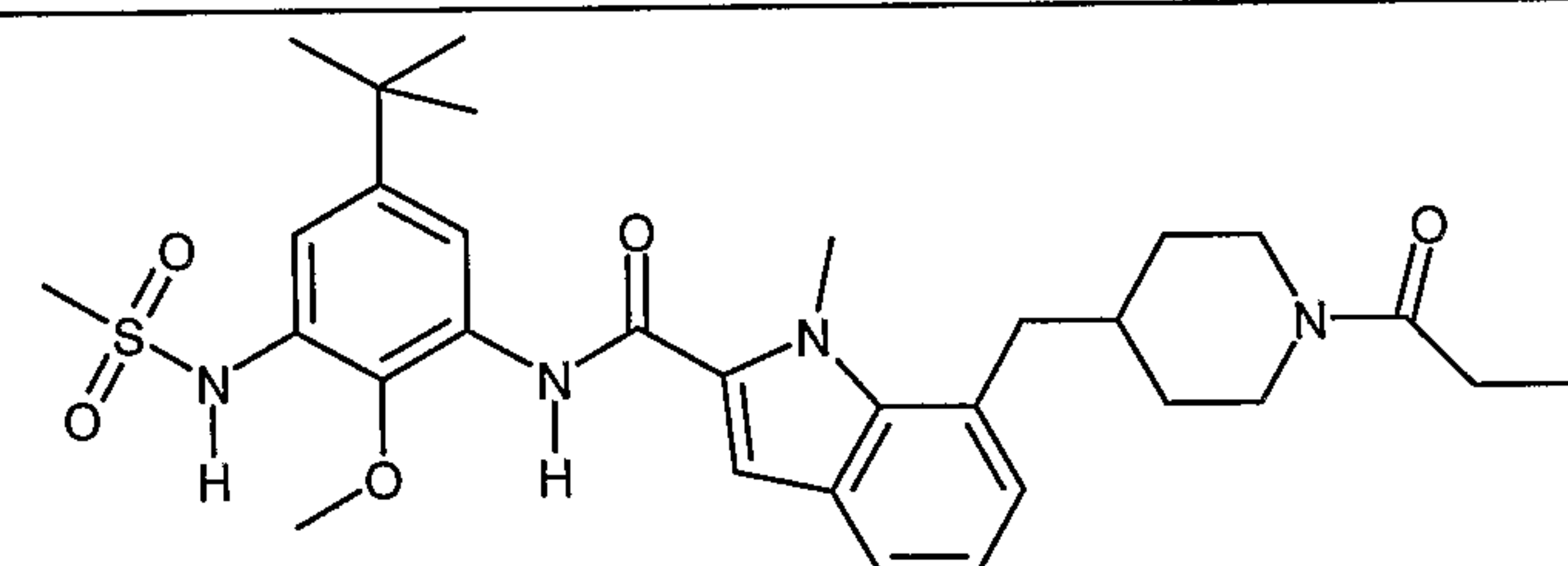
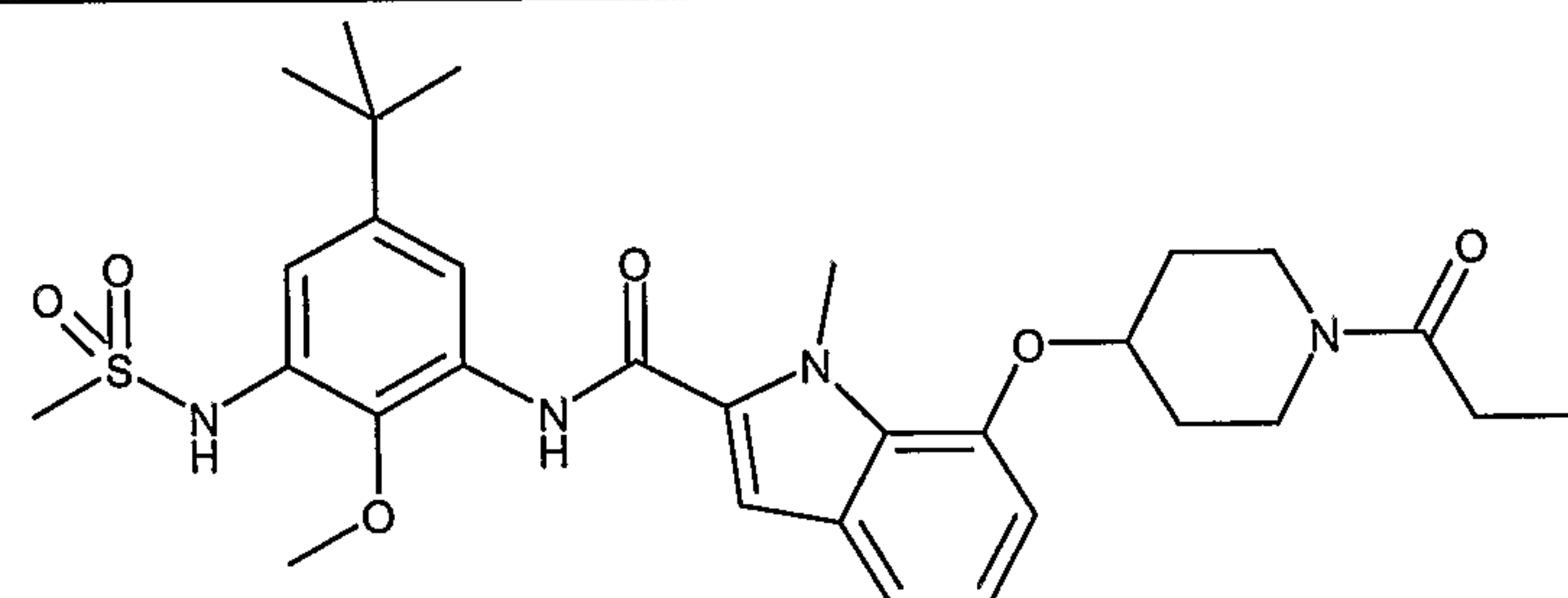
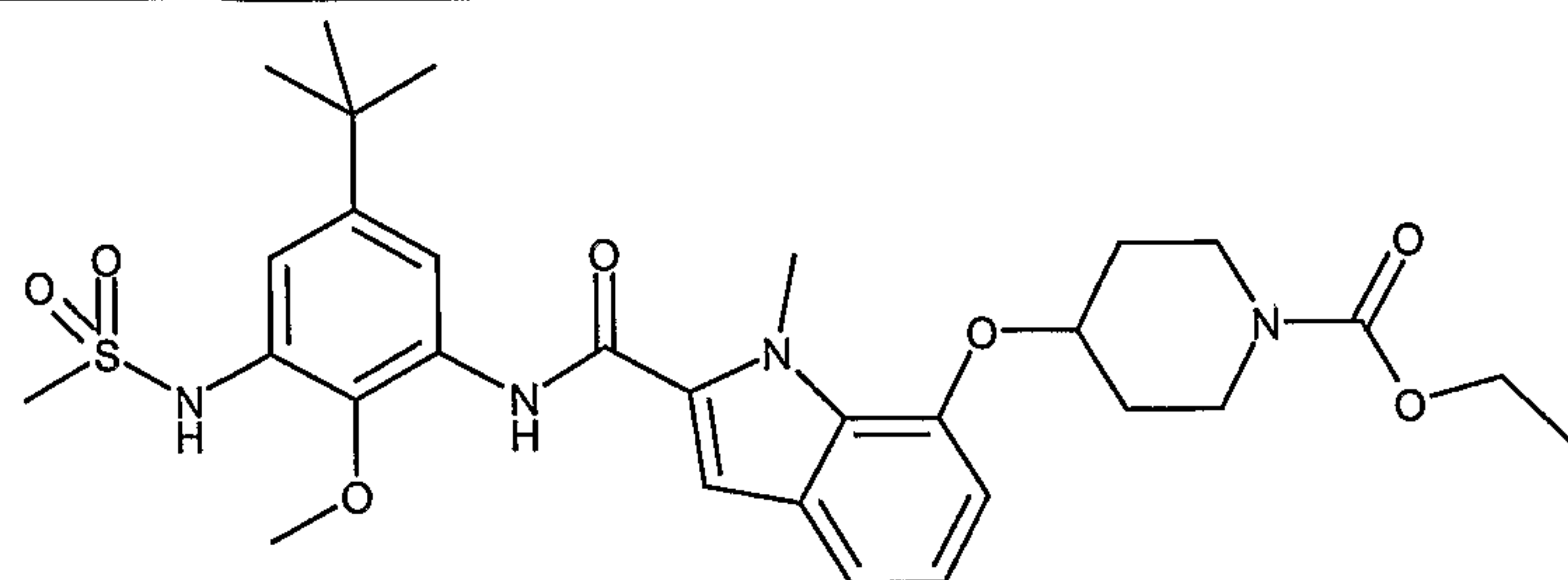
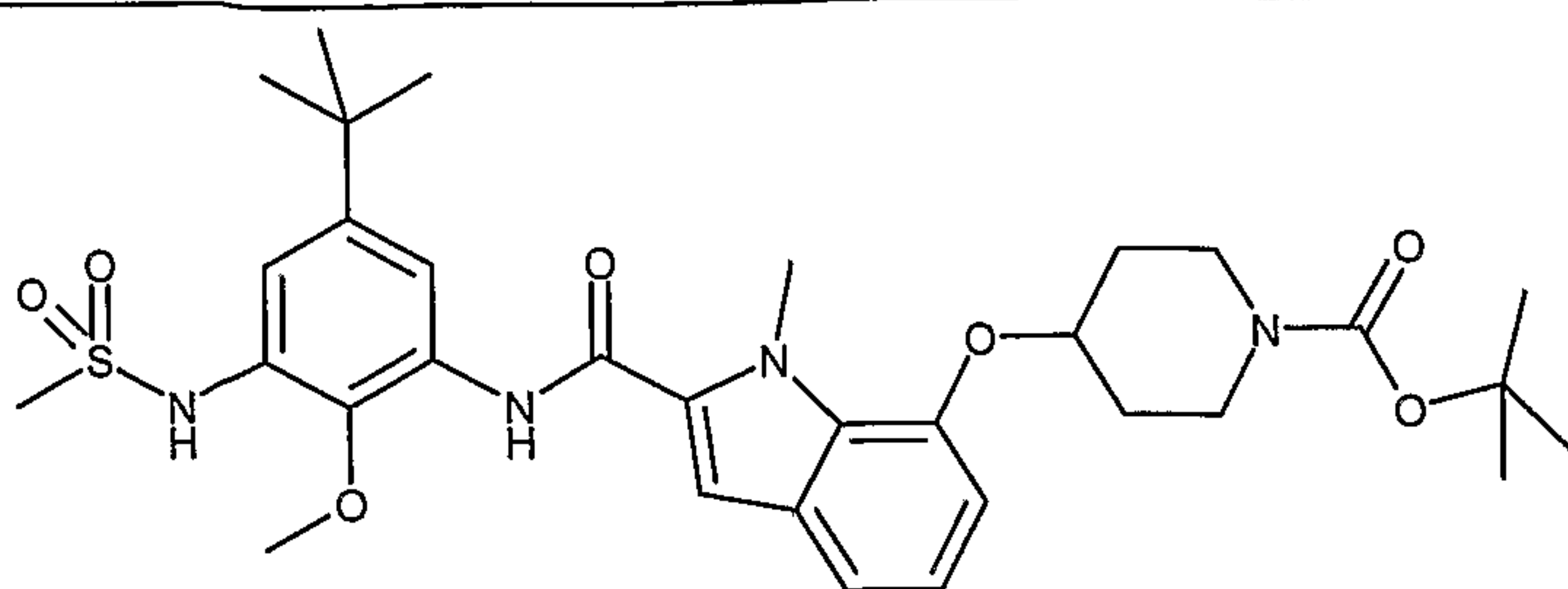


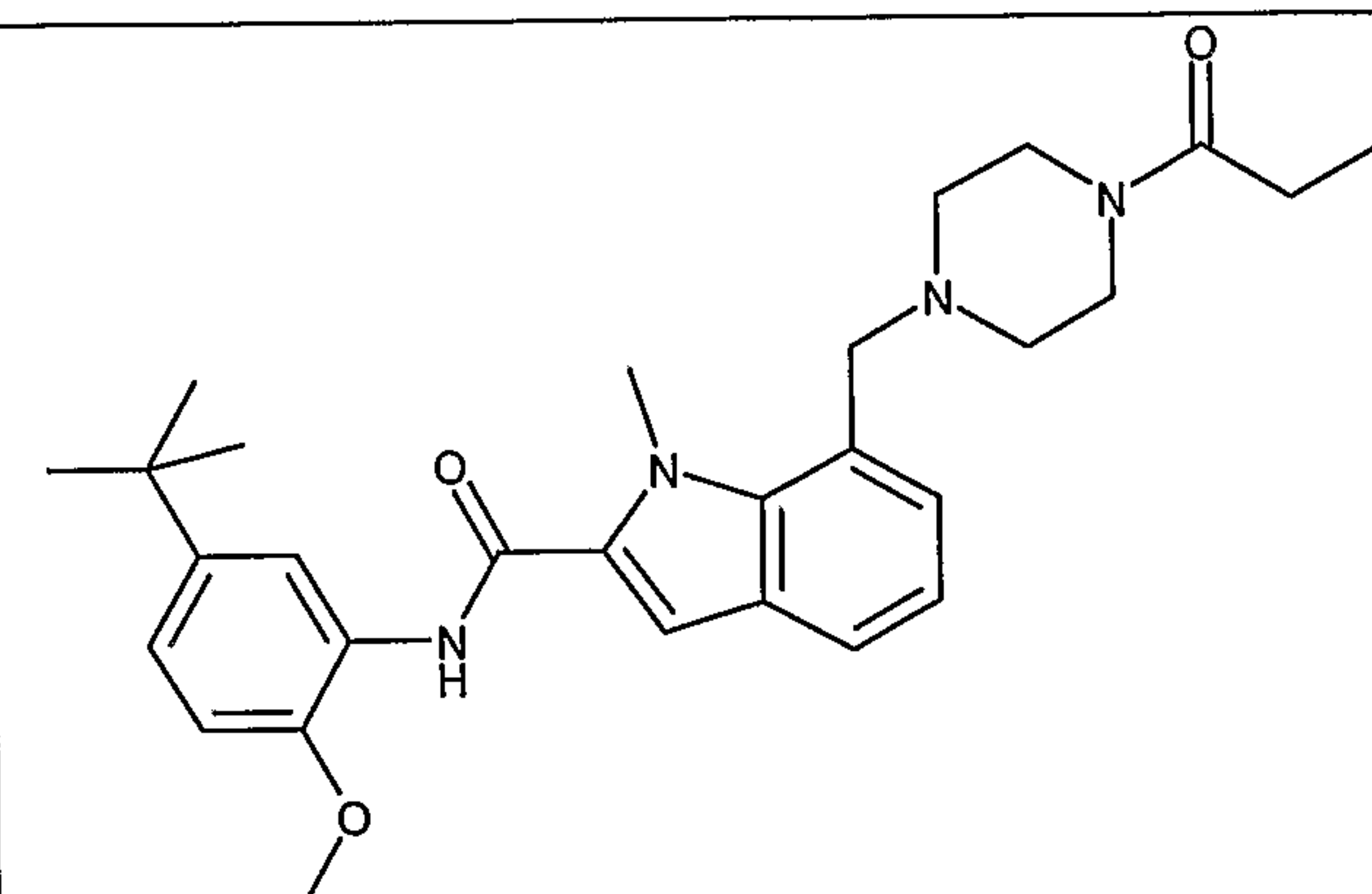
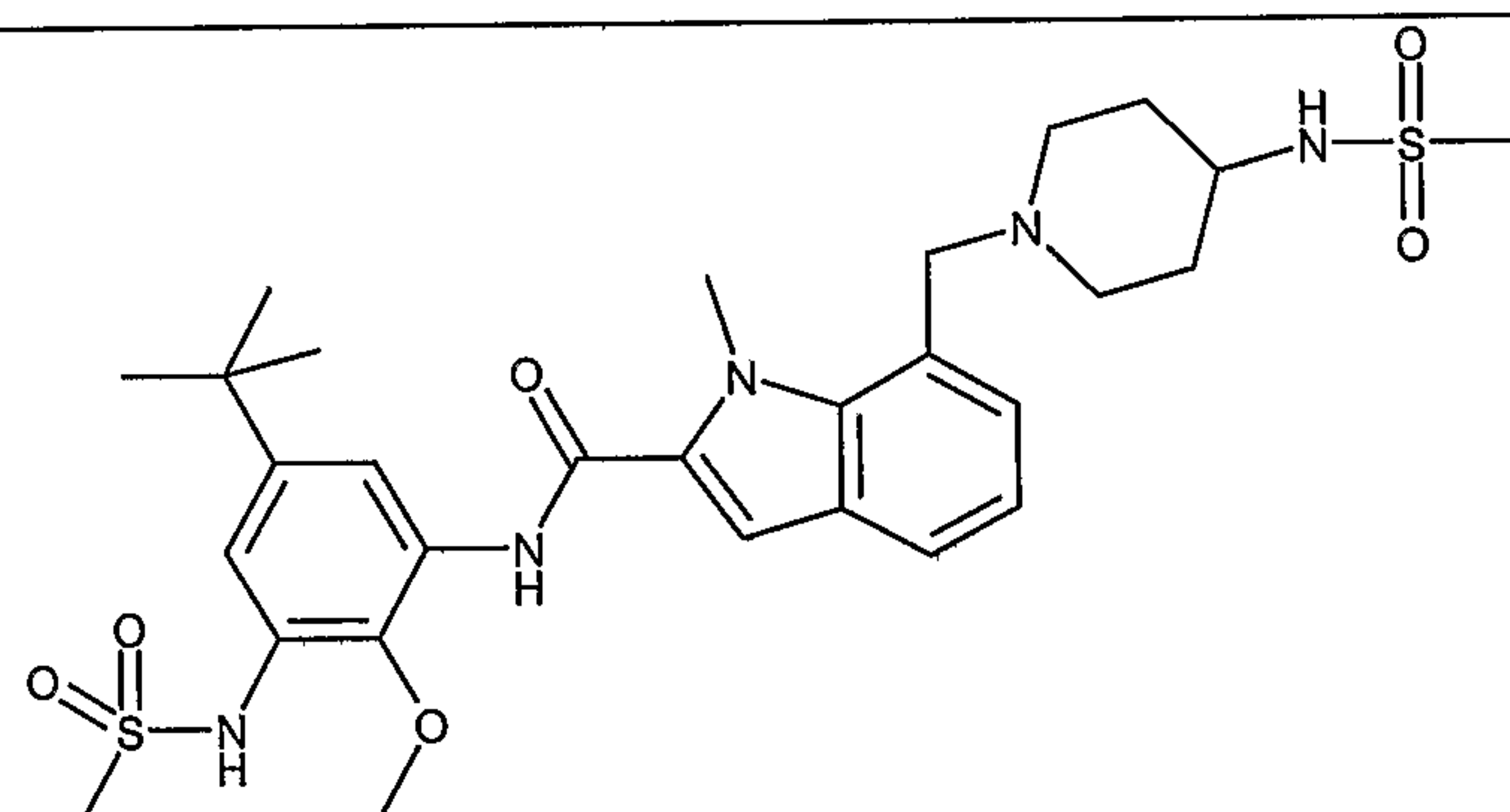
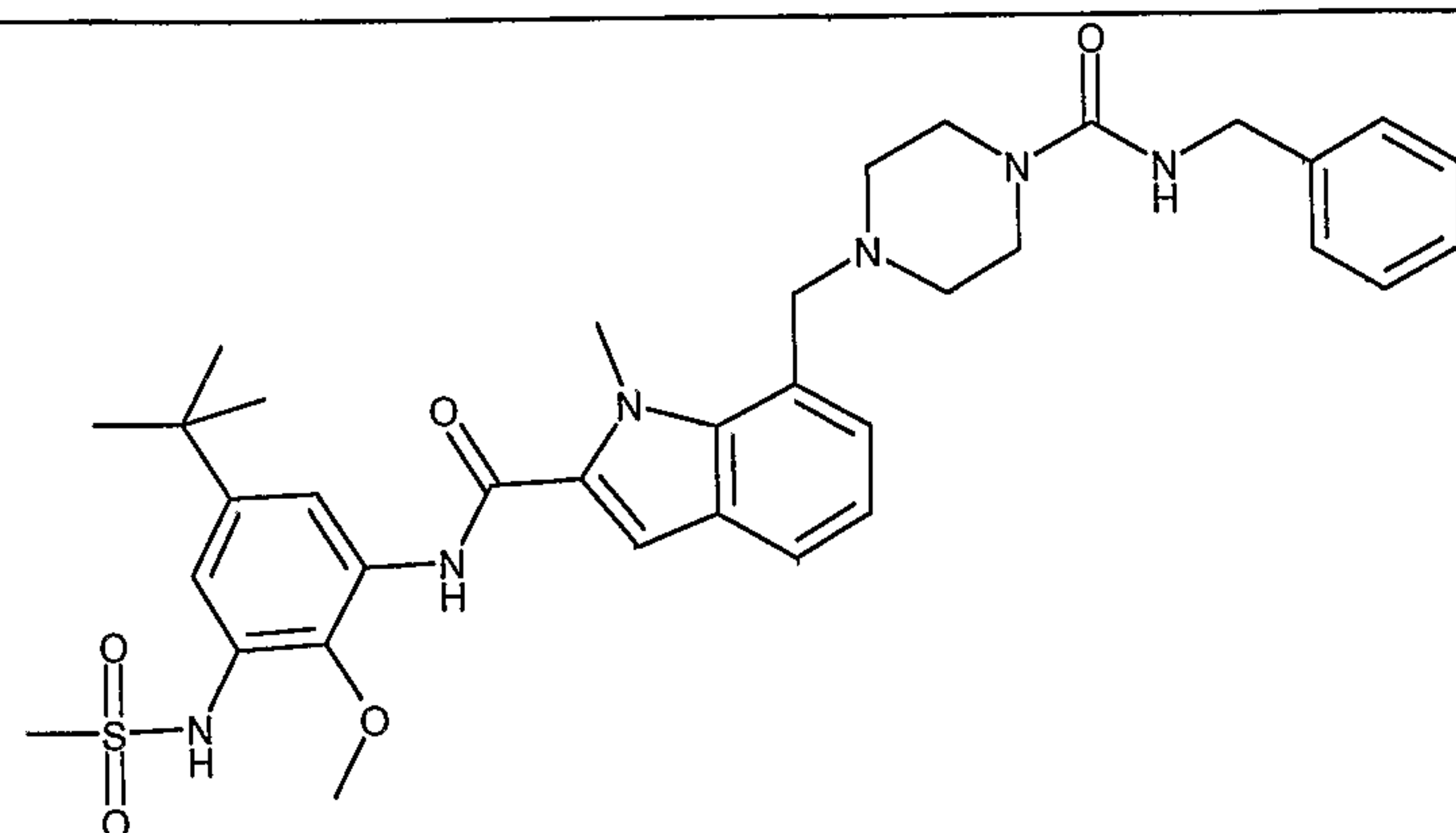
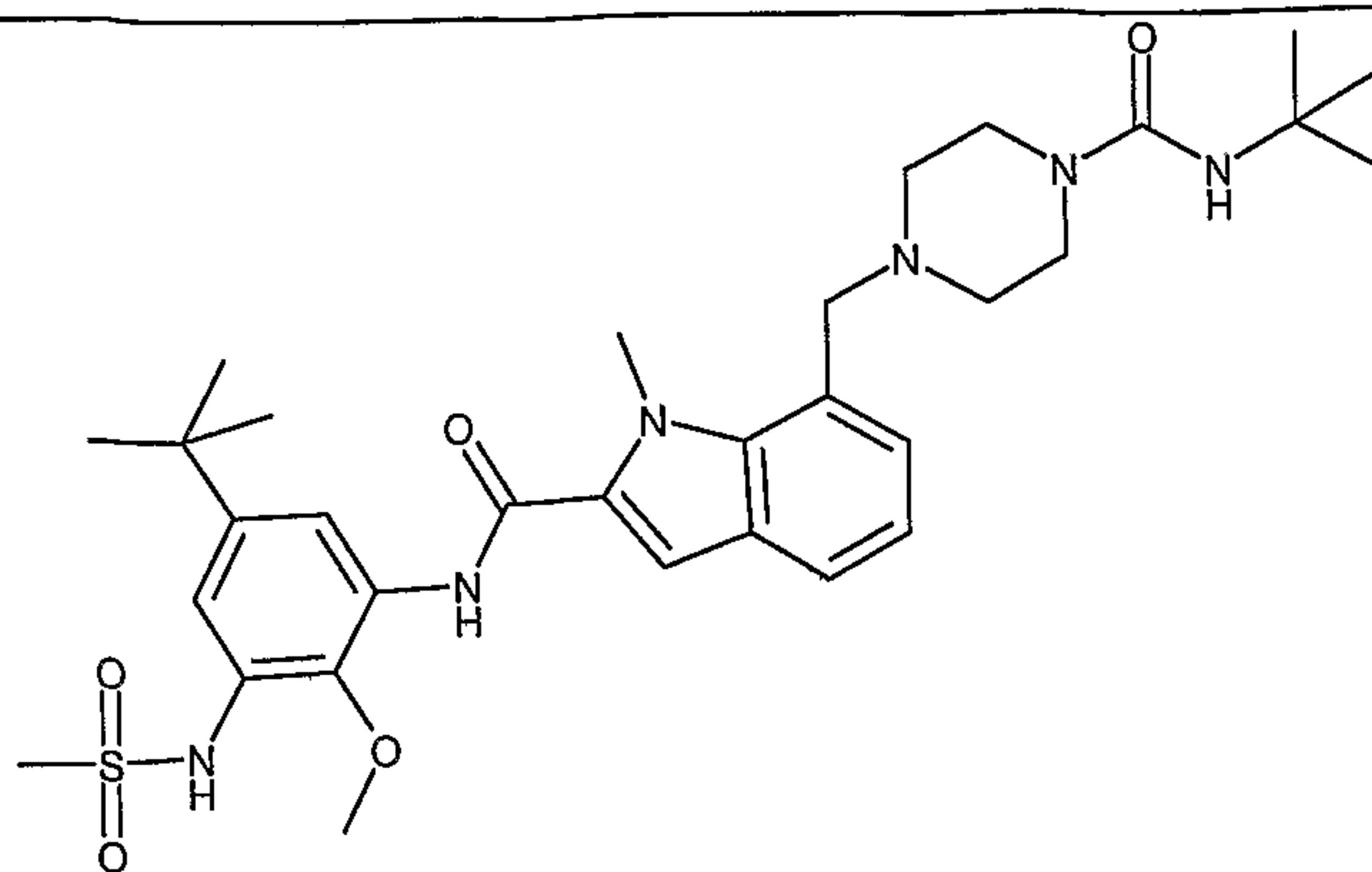


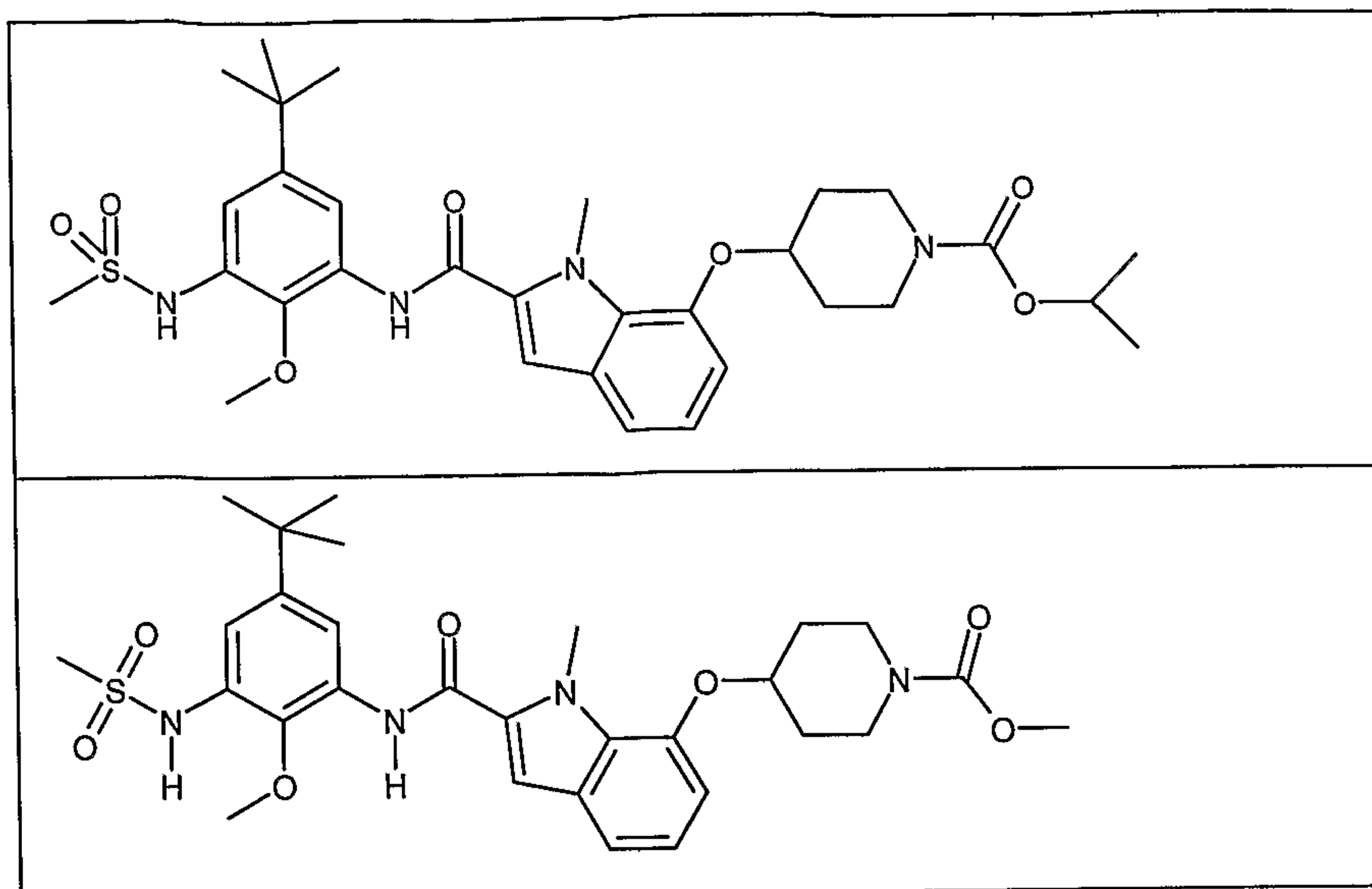










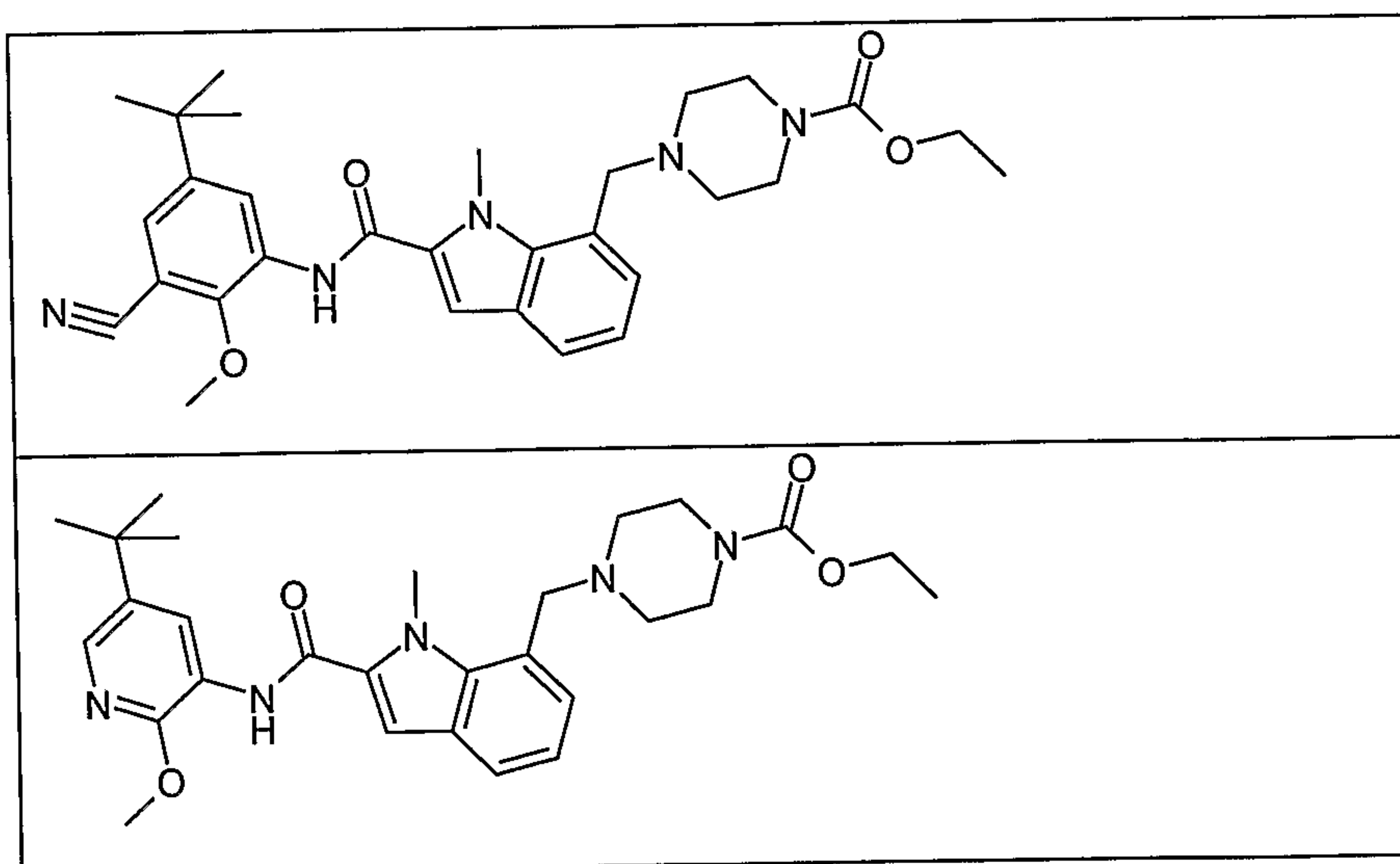


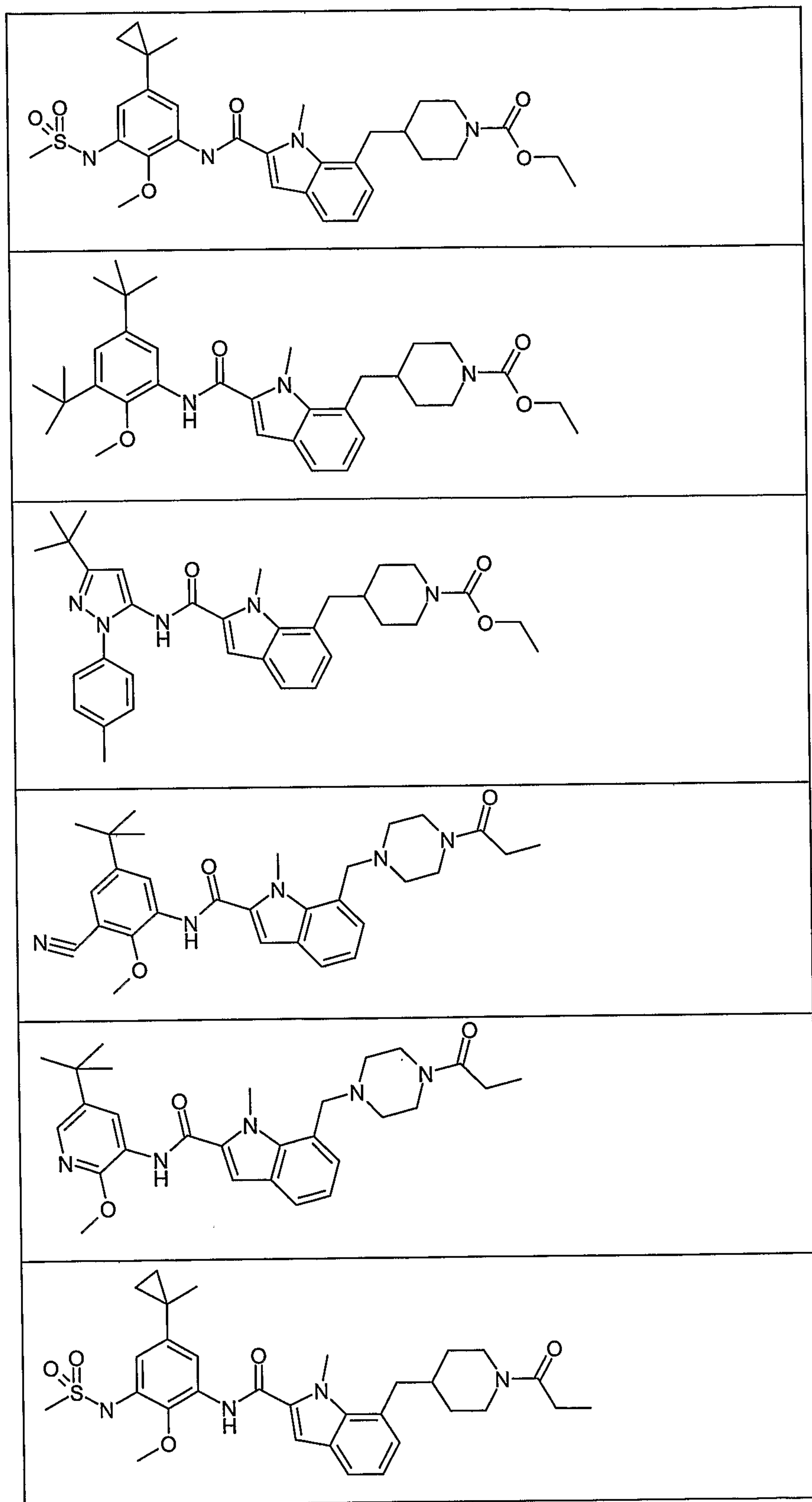
or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and/or isomers thereof.

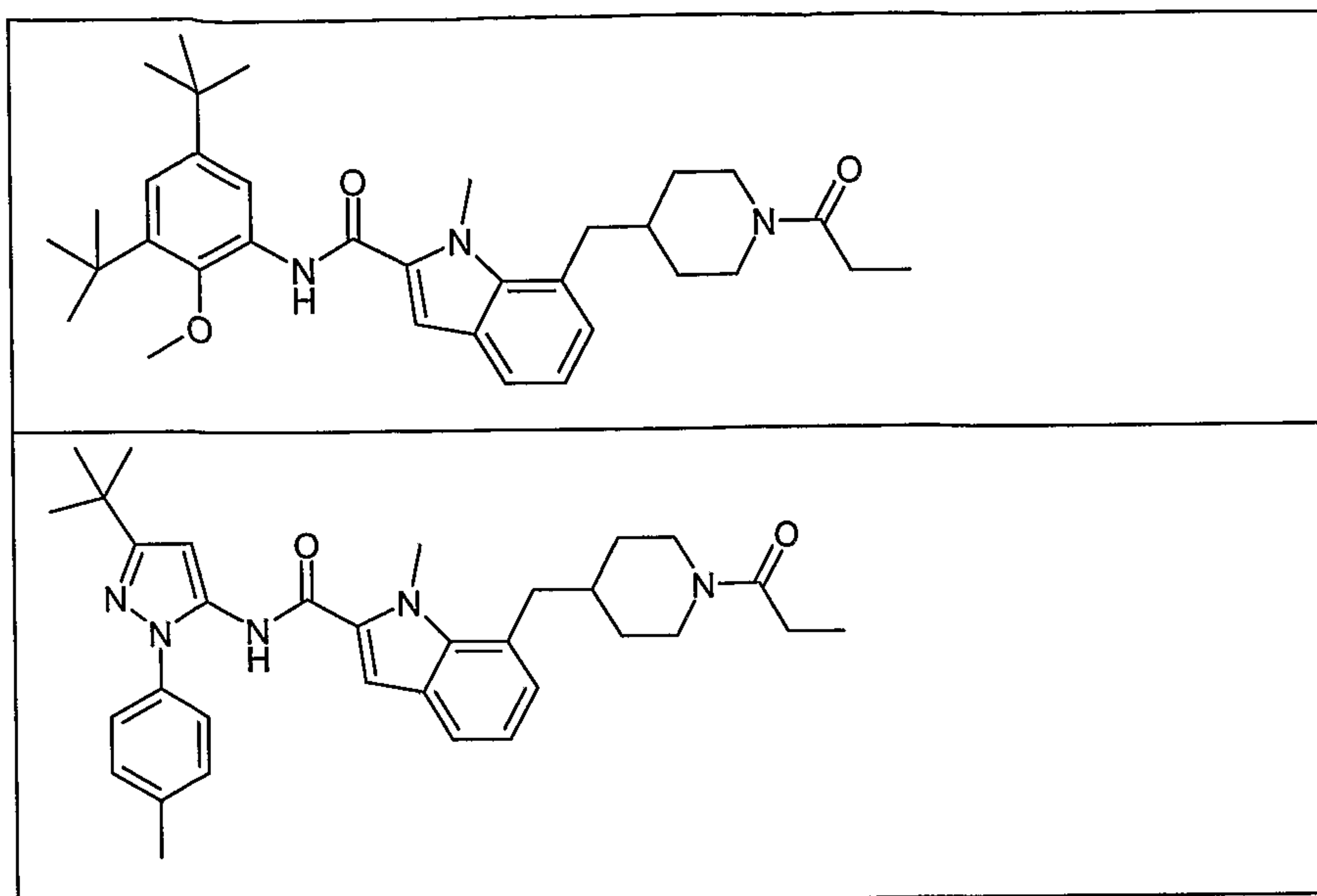
The following are representative compounds of the invention which can be made from the general schemes and examples, and methods known in the art:

5

TABLE II







or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and/or isomers thereof.

In all the compounds disclosed hereinabove in this application, in the event the nomenclature is in conflict with the structure, it shall be understood that the compound is defined by the structure.

Of particular importance according to the invention are compounds of formula (I), for use as pharmaceutical compositions with an anti-cytokine activity.

The invention also relates to the use of a compound of formula (I), for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and/or prevention of a cytokine mediated disease or condition.

The invention also relates to pharmaceutical preparations, containing as active substance one or more compounds of formula (I), or the pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof, optionally combined with conventional excipients and/or carriers.

Compounds of the invention also include their isotopically-labelled forms. An isotopically-labelled form of an active agent of a combination of the present invention is identical to said active agent but for the fact that one or more atoms of said active agent

have been replaced by an atom or atoms having an atomic mass or mass number different from the atomic mass or mass number of said atom which is usually found in nature.

Examples of isotopes which are readily available commercially and which can be incorporated into an active agent of a combination of the present invention in accordance with well established procedures, include isotopes of hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorous, fluorine and chlorine, *e.g.*, ^2H , ^3H , ^{13}C , ^{14}C , ^{15}N , ^{18}O , ^{17}O , ^{31}P , ^{32}P , ^{35}S , ^{18}F , and ^{36}Cl , respectively. An active agent of a combination of the present invention, a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of either which contains one or more of the above-mentioned isotopes and/or other isotopes of other atoms is contemplated to be within the scope of the present invention.

The invention includes the use of any compounds of described above containing one or more asymmetric carbon atoms may occur as racemates and racemic mixtures, single enantiomers, diastereomeric mixtures and individual diastereomers. Isomers shall be defined as being enantiomers and diastereomers. All such isomeric forms of these compounds are expressly included in the present invention. Each stereogenic carbon may be in the R or S configuration, or a combination of configurations.

Some of the compounds of formula (I) can exist in more than one tautomeric form. The invention includes methods using all such tautomers.

All terms as used herein in this specification, unless otherwise stated, shall be understood in their ordinary meaning as known in the art. For example, "C₁₋₄alkoxy" is a C₁₋₄alkyl with a terminal oxygen, such as methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy. All alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups shall be understood as being branched or unbranched where structurally possible and unless otherwise specified. Other more specific definitions are as follows:

Carbocycles include hydrocarbon rings containing from three to twelve carbon atoms. These carbocycles may be either aromatic or non-aromatic ring systems. The non-aromatic ring systems may be mono- or polyunsaturated. Preferred carbocycles include but are not limited to cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclopentenyl, cyclohexyl,

cyclohexenyl, cycloheptanyl, cycloheptenyl, phenyl, indanyl, indenyl, benzocyclobutanyl, dihydronaphthyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, naphthyl, decahydronaphthyl, benzocycloheptanyl and benzocycloheptenyl. Certain terms for cycloalkyl such as cyclobutanyl and cyclobutyl shall be used interchangeably.

5

The term "heterocycle" refers to a stable nonaromatic 4-8 membered (but preferably, 5 or 6 membered) monocyclic or nonaromatic 8-11 membered bicyclic heterocycle radical which may be either saturated or unsaturated. Each heterocycle consists of carbon atoms and one or more, preferably from 1 to 4 heteroatoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur. The heterocycle may be attached by any atom of the cycle, which results in the creation of a stable structure. Unless otherwise stated, heterocycles include but are not limited to, for example pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl sulfoxide, thiomorpholinyl sulfone, dioxalanyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, 1,3-dioxolanone, 1,3-dioxanone, 1,4-dioxanyl, piperidinonyl, tetrahydropyrimidinyl, pentamethylene sulfide, pentamethylene sulfoxide, pentamethylene sulfone, tetramethylene sulfide, tetramethylene sulfoxide and tetramethylene sulfone.

The term "heteroaryl" shall be understood to mean an aromatic 5-8 membered monocyclic or 8-11 membered bicyclic ring containing 1-4 heteroatoms such as N, O and S. Unless otherwise stated, such heteroaryls include aziridinyl, thienyl, furanyl, isoxazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyranal, quinoxalinyl, indolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzothienyl, quinolinyl, quinazolinyl, naphthyridinyl, indazolyl, triazolyl, pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyrimidinyl, purinyl, pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridinyl, pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridinyl, tubercidinyl, oxazo[4,5-*b*]pyridinyl and imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridinyl.

The term "heteroatom" as used herein shall be understood to mean atoms other than carbon such as O, N, S and P.

In all alkyl groups or carbon chains one or more carbon atoms can be optionally replaced by heteroatoms: O, S or N, it shall be understood that if N is not substituted then it is NH, it shall also be understood that the heteroatoms may replace either terminal carbon atoms or internal carbon atoms within a branched or unbranched carbon chain. Such groups can
5 be substituted as herein above described by groups such as oxo to result in definitions such as but not limited to: alkoxycarbonyl, acyl, amido and thioxo.

The term "aryl" as used herein shall be understood to mean aromatic carbocycle or heteroaryl as defined herein. Each aryl or heteroaryl unless otherwise specified includes
10 it's partially or fully hydrogenated derivative. For example, quinolinyl may include decahydroquinolinyl and tetrahydroquinolinyl, naphthyl may include it's hydrogenated derivatives such as tetrahydronaphthyl. Other partially or fully hydrogenated derivatives of the aryl and heteroaryl compounds described herein will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art.

15 As used herein, "nitrogen" and "sulfur" include any oxidized form of nitrogen and sulfur and the quaternized form of any basic nitrogen. . For example, for an -S-C₁₋₆ alkyl radical, unless otherwise specified, this shall be understood to include -S(O)-C₁₋₆ alkyl and -S(O)₂-C₁₋₆ alkyl.

20 The term "halogen" as used in the present specification shall be understood to mean bromine, chlorine, fluorine or iodine, preferably fluorine. The definitions "partially or fully halogenated"; partially or fully fluorinated; "substituted by one or more halogen atoms", includes for example, mono, di or tri halo derivatives on one or more carbon
25 atoms. For alkyl, a non-limiting example would be -CH₂CHF₂, -CF₃ etc.

The compounds of the invention are only those which are contemplated to be 'chemically stable' as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art. For example, a compound which would have a 'dangling valency', or a 'carbanion' are not compounds contemplated by
30 the inventive methods disclosed herein.

The invention includes pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives of compounds of formula (I). A "pharmaceutically acceptable derivative" refers to any pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester, or any other compound which, upon administration to a patient, is capable of providing (directly or indirectly) a compound useful for the invention, or a pharmacologically active metabolite or pharmacologically active residue thereof. A pharmacologically active metabolite shall be understood to mean any compound of the invention capable of being metabolized enzymatically or chemically. This includes, for example, hydroxylated or oxidized derivative compounds of the formula (I).

Pharmaceutically acceptable salts include those derived from pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic and organic acids and bases. Examples of suitable acids include hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric, nitric, perchloric, fumaric, maleic, phosphoric, glycolic, lactic, salicylic, succinic, toluene-p-sulfuric, tartaric, acetic, citric, methanesulfonic, formic, benzoic, malonic, naphthalene-2-sulfuric and benzenesulfonic acids. Other acids, such as oxalic acid, while not themselves pharmaceutically acceptable, may be employed in the preparation of salts useful as intermediates in obtaining the compounds and their pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts. Salts derived from appropriate bases include alkali metal (*e.g.*, sodium), alkaline earth metal (*e.g.*, magnesium), ammonium and N-(C₁-C₄ alkyl)₄⁺ salts.

20

In addition, within the scope of the invention is use of prodrugs of compounds of the formula (I). Prodrugs include those compounds that, upon simple chemical transformation, are modified to produce compounds of the invention. Simple chemical transformations include hydrolysis, oxidation and reduction. Specifically, when a prodrug is administered to a patient, the prodrug may be transformed into a compound disclosed hereinabove, thereby imparting the desired pharmacological effect.

25

GENERAL SYNTHETIC METHODS

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The invention additionally provides for methods of making the compounds of the formula (I). The compounds of the invention may be prepared by the general methods and

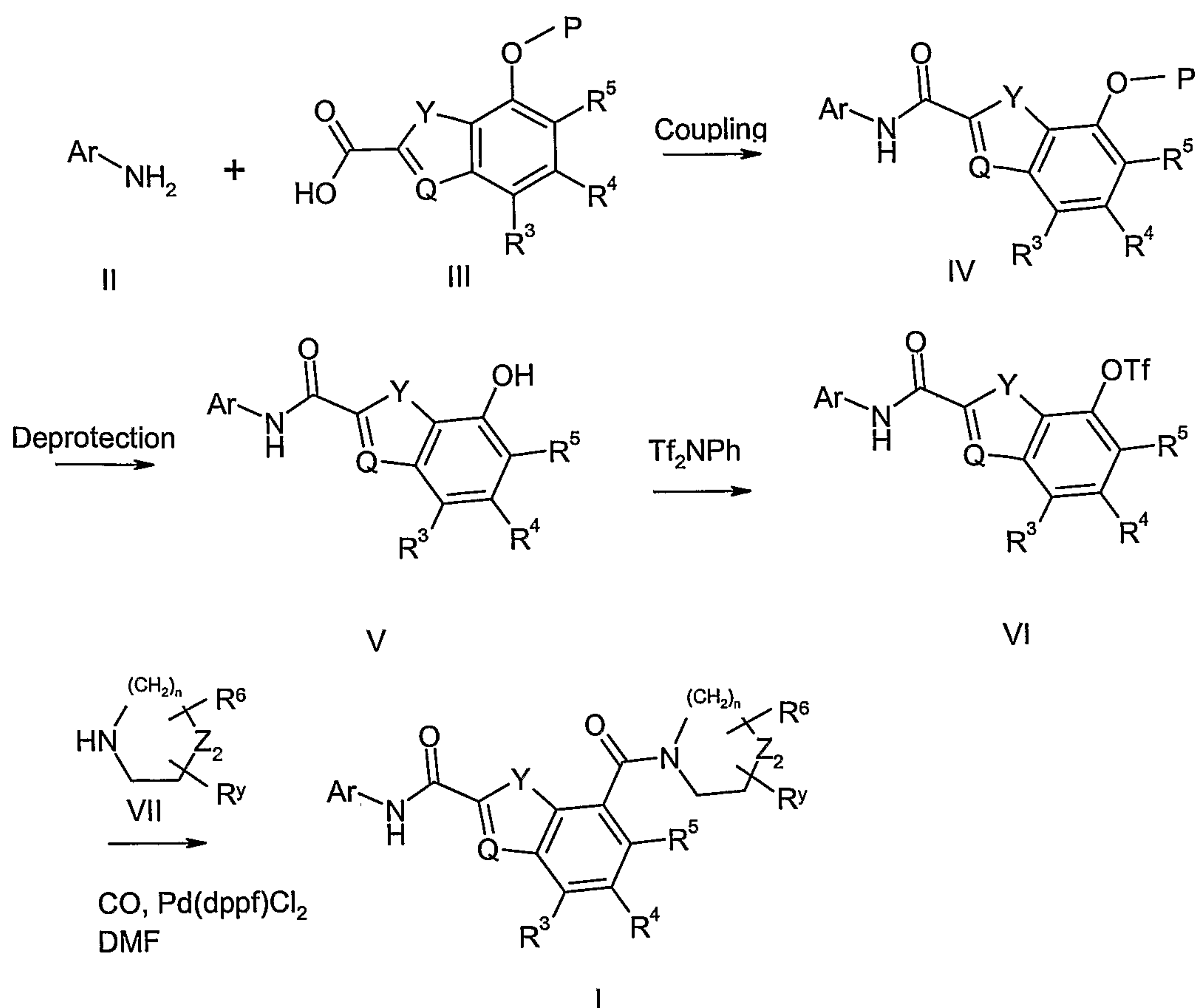
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examples presented below, and methods known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Further reference in this regard may be made to U.S. patent nos. 6,358,945, 6,492,393, 6,608,052, 6,765,009, and 6,743,788, US publication no. US 2003-0008868 A1. U.S. patent no. 6,703,525 teaches additional methods for preparation of sulfonamide
5 intermediates.

In all schemes, unless otherwise specified, Ar, Q, X, Y, Z₁, Z₂, n, R³-R⁶ and R^y in the formulas shown below shall have the meanings defined for these groups in the definition of the formula (I) of the invention, described hereinabove. Intermediates used in the
10 syntheses below are either commercially available or easily prepared by methods known to those skilled in the art. Reaction progress may be monitored by conventional methods such as thin layer chromatography (TLC). Intermediates and products may be purified by methods known in the art, including column chromatography, HPLC or recrystallization.

15 Compounds of the invention where X is a carbonyl group and Z₁ = N may be prepared as described in Scheme I.

Scheme I



As illustrated in Scheme I an amine bearing Ar is coupled with carboxylic acid III, where P is a protecting group, using standard coupling conditions known in the art (see for example M. Bodanszky, 1984, The Practice of Peptide Synthesis, Springer-Verlag). For example, one may couple III and II by treating with 1-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC) followed by 1-hydroxybenzotriazole hydrate (HOBT) in a suitable solvent such as DMF. Removal of the protecting group P to provide V may be achieved by standard procedures known in the art. For example, if P is a benzyl group, it may be removed by treatment of IV with hydrogen gas in the presence of a catalyst such as palladium on carbon in a suitable solvent such as EtOH.

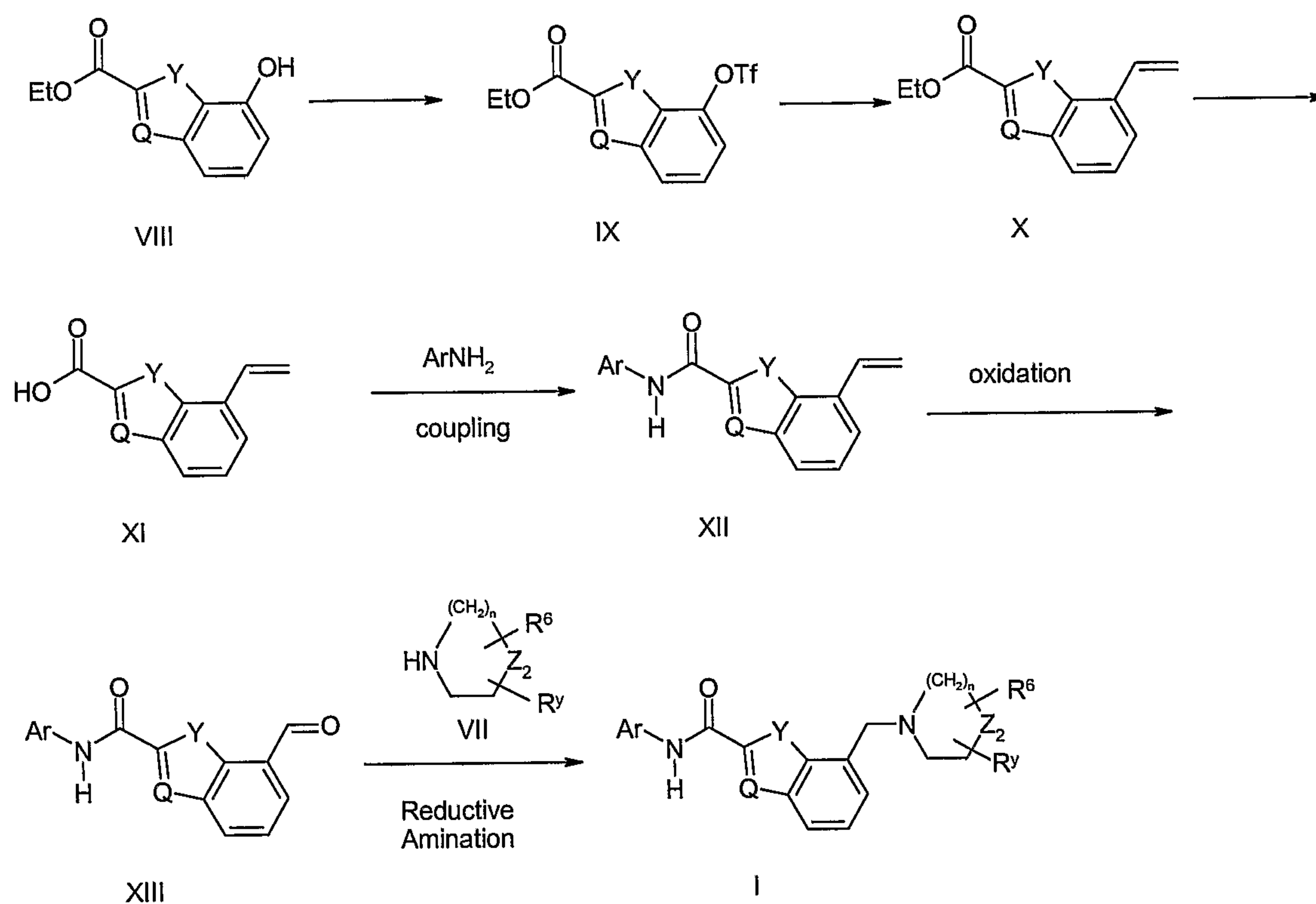
Conversion of V to a trifluoromethanesulfonate ester, for example by treatment with N-phenyl-bis-(trifluoromethanesulfonimide) provides VI. This may then be reacted with the desired heterocycle VII ($Z_1 = \text{NH}$) in the presence of carbon monoxide and a palladium catalyst such as Pd(dppf)Cl_2 in a suitable solvent such as DMF to provide the

desired compound of formula I ($X = \text{a carbonyl group}$, $Z_1 = \text{N}$), or a precursor which may be modified by methods known in the art to provide the desired compound of formula I.

Compounds of formula I having $X = \text{CH}_2$ and $Z_1 = \text{N}$ may be prepared as illustrated in

5 Scheme II.

Scheme II



10

As illustrated above, intermediate VIII is converted to the triflate ester IX as described for the conversion of V to VI in Scheme I. A Stille reaction of IX with tributyl(vinyl)tin in the presence of a palladium catalyst such as bis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(II) chloride provides the olefin intermediate X. The ester is then hydrolyzed to provide carboxylic acid XI and coupled with ArNH_2 , as described in the first step of Scheme I, to provide amide intermediate XII. Oxidation of the terminal olefin, for example by treatment with osmium tetroxide in the presence of 4-methylmorpholine-N-oxide, followed by further oxidation of the intermediate diol with NaIO_4 , provides aldehyde

15

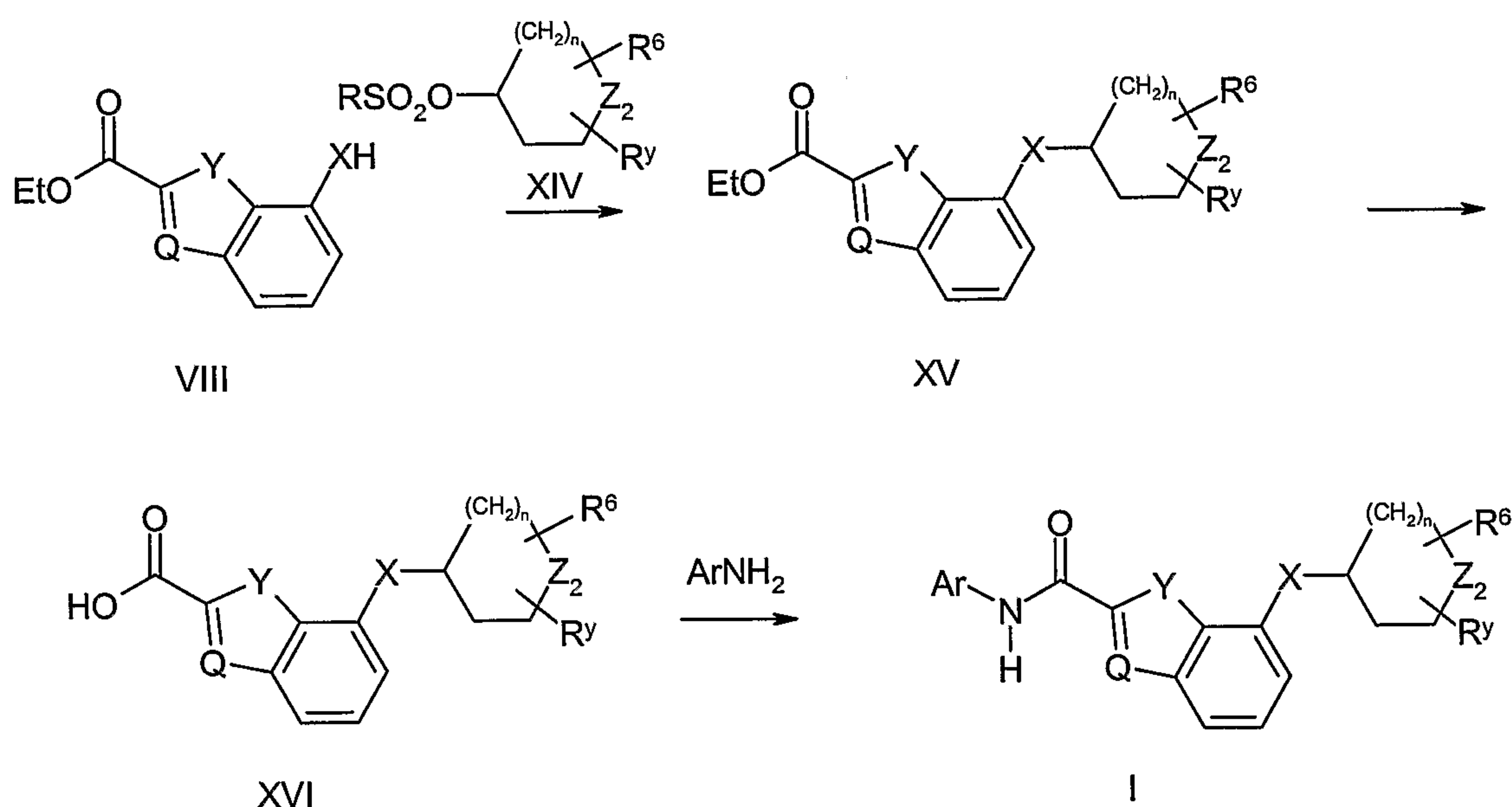
XIII. Reductive amination of XIII by treatment with amine heterocycle VII under reducing conditions, for example by treatment with $\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$ in acetic acid, provides the desired compound of formula I ($\text{X} = \text{CH}_2$, $\text{Z}_1 = \text{N}$) or a precursor which could be further modified to obtain the desired compound of formula I.

5

Compounds of formula I having $\text{X} = -\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, or $-\text{N}(\text{R}_c)-$ and $\text{Z}_1 = \text{CH}$ may be prepared as illustrated in Scheme III

Scheme III

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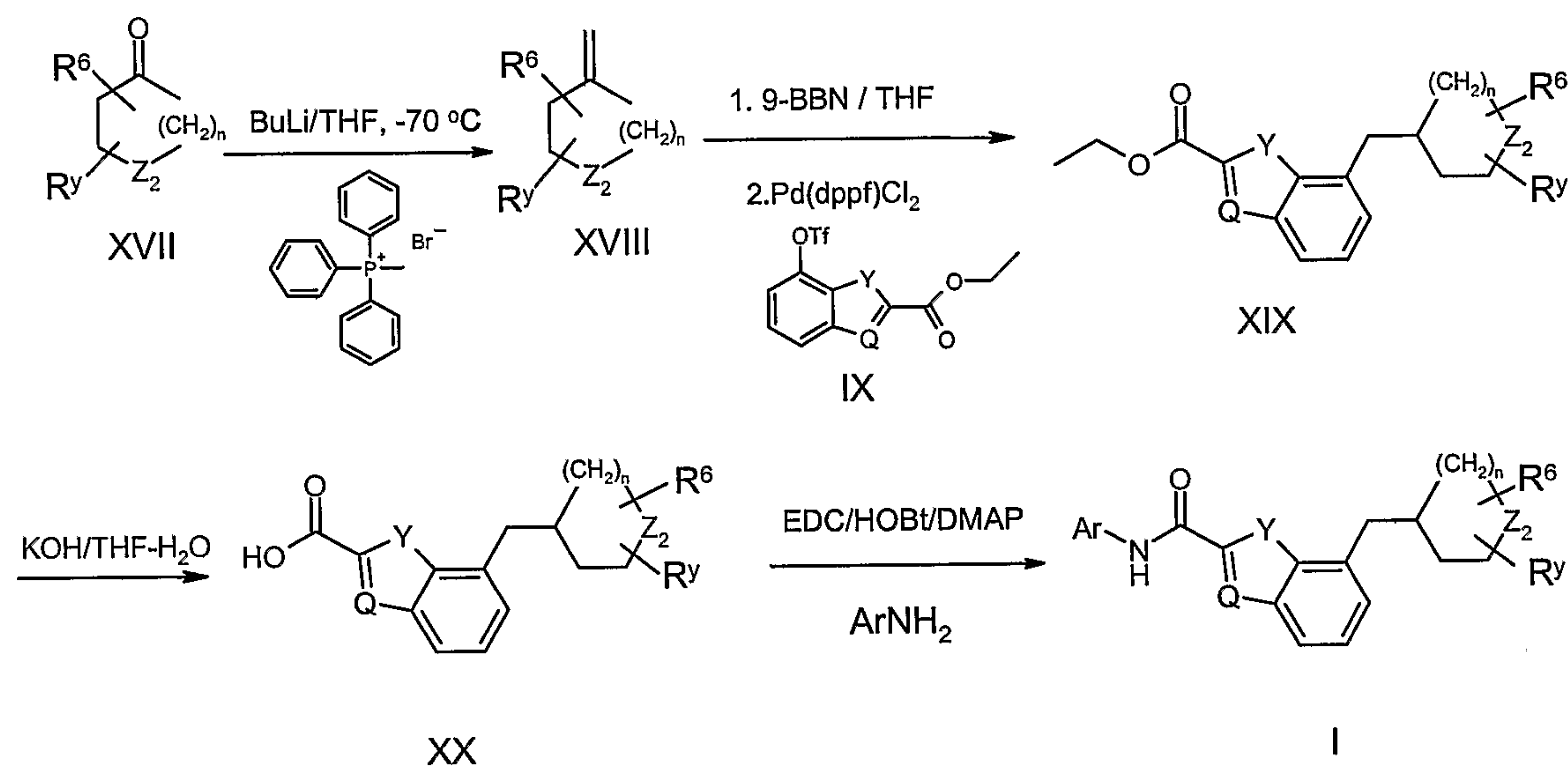


As illustrated above, intermediate VIII is reacted with a heterocycle bearing a sulfonic acid ester leaving group XIV, where R may be for example a *p*-tolyl, 4-bromophenyl or trifluoromethyl group, to provide the ether intermediate XV. Hydrolysis of the ester provides carboxylic acid intermediate XVI which may be coupled with ArNH_2 as described in Schemes I and II to provide the desired compound of formula I ($\text{Z}_1 = \text{CH}$) or a precursor which could be further modified to obtain the desired compound of formula I.

Scheme IV illustrates the preparation of compounds having $\text{X} = \text{CH}_2$ and $\text{Z}_1 = \text{CH}$. Wittig reaction of a heterocyclic ketone XVII with methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide in the presence of a strong base such as butyl lithium provides olefin XVIII. Reaction of

XVIII with triflate intermediate IX in the presence of a palladium catalyst such as Pd(dppf)Cl₂ and a reducing agent such as 9-borabicyclo[3.3.1]nonyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (9-BBN) provides intermediate XIX. Hydrolysis of the ester to the carboxylic acid XX and coupling with ArNH₂ as in the schemes above provides the
 5 desired compound of formula I (X = CH₂, Z₁ = CH) or a precursor which could be further modified to obtain the desired compound of formula I.

Scheme IV



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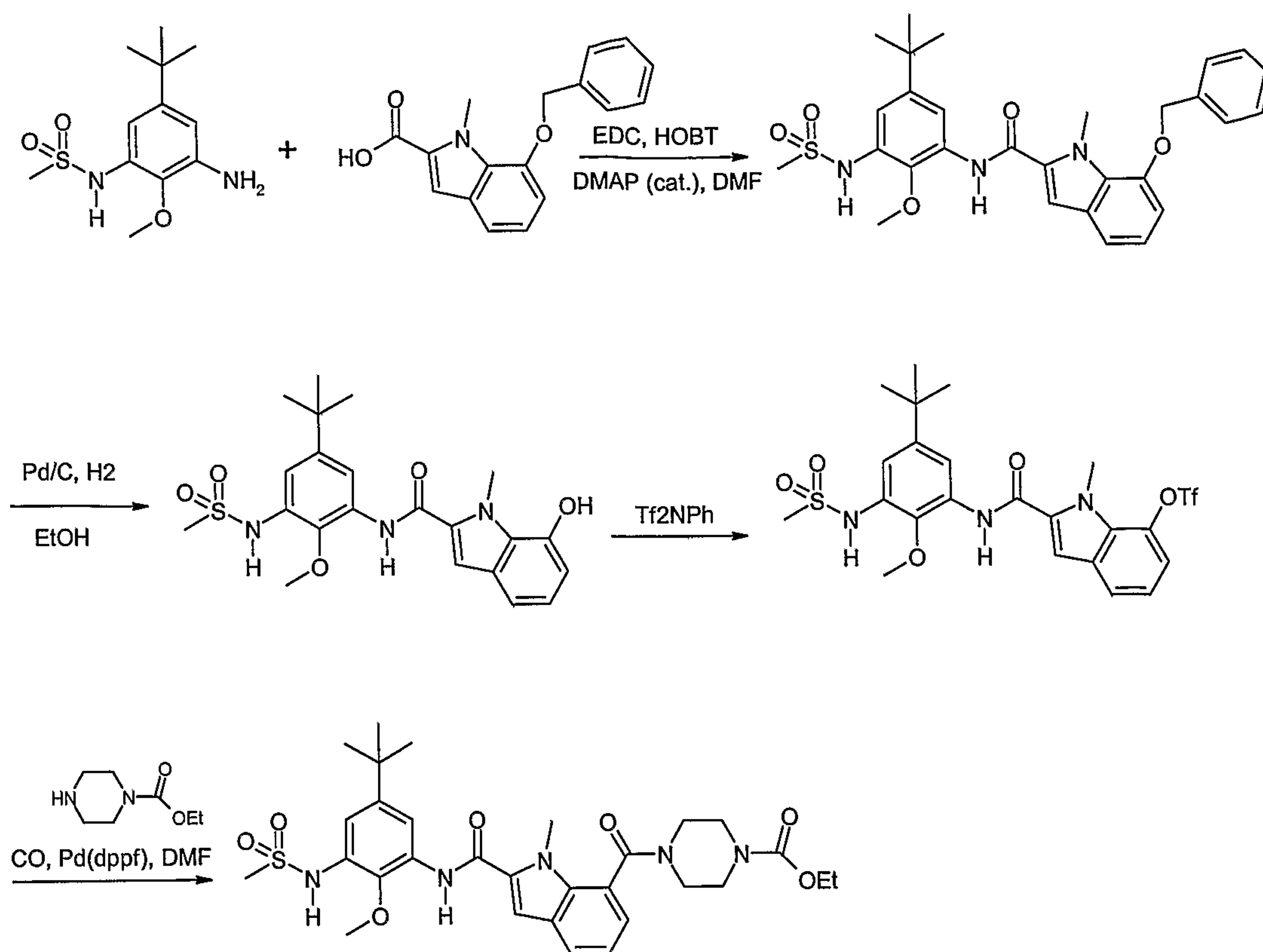
Several examples employing the methods found in Schemes I-IV are described in the Synthetic Examples section below.

15

SYNTHETIC EXAMPLES

Example 1: Synthesis of 4-[2-(5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenylcarbamoyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-7-carbonyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid ethyl ester
 (BI00601447)

20



1

(100222-056)

- To a solution of *N*-(3-amino-5-*tert*-butyl-2-methoxyphenyl)-methanesulfonamide (760 mg, 2.65 mmol), 7-benzyloxy-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylic acid (760 mg, 2.65 mmol), and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBT, 376 mg, 2.65 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) was added 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC, 517 mg, 2.65 mmol), followed by 4-(*N,N*-dimethylamino)pyridine (DMAP, 27 mg, 0.22 mmol). The mixture was stirred under nitrogen for 3 days. Water was added. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated.
- Purification by silica gel chromatography using 10-50% (gradient) EtOAc-hexane gave 850 mg (72%) of the desired amide.

(100222-076)

- A mixture of the above amide (850 mg, 1.59 mmol) and 10% Pd on carbon in EtOH (10 mL) and EtOAc (10 mL) was stirred under a H₂ filled balloon at room temperature for 24 h. The mixture was then filtered through diatomaceous earth and concentrated.

Purification by silica gel chromatography provided 700 mg (99%) of the desired hydroxyindole.

(100222-090)

- 5 A solution of the above hydroxyindole (700 mg, 1.57 mmol) and N-phenyl-bis-(trifluoromethanesulfonimide) (567 mg, 1.57 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (10 mL) was heated at 70 °C overnight. Additional N-phenyl-bis-(trifluoromethanesulfonimide) (500 mg) was added and the mixture was heated for an additional 4 h. TLC showed the reaction was complete. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and concentrated.
- 10 Purification by silica gel chromatography provided 790 mg (87%) of the desired triflate ester.

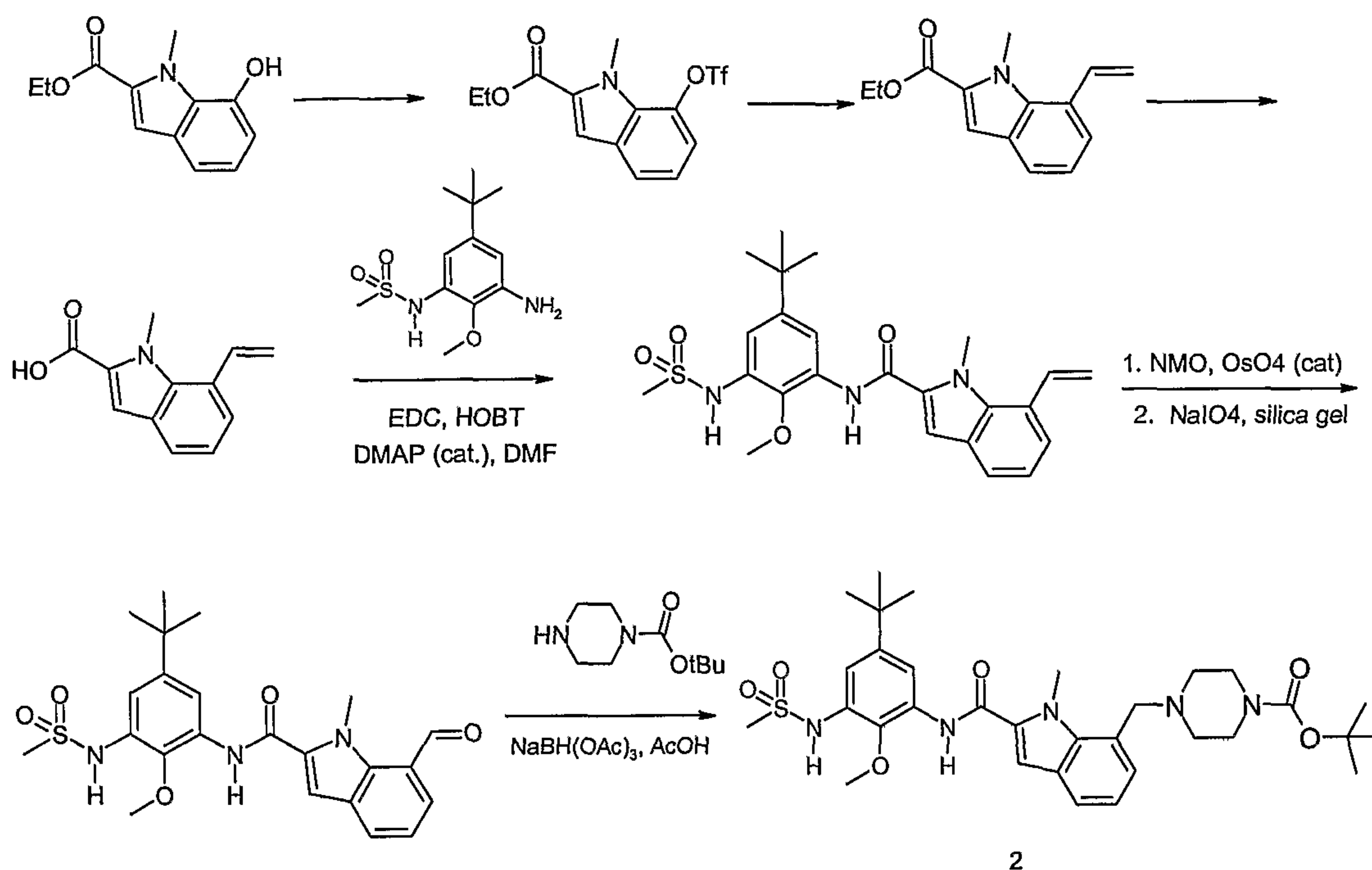
(100285-008)

- 15 A solution of the above triflate ester (37 mg, 0.064 mmol), ethyl N-piperazinocarboxylate (30 mg, 0.192 mmol) and Pd(dppf)Cl₂.CH₂Cl₂ (10 mg, 0.009 mmol) in DMF (degassed, 2 mL) was heated at 80 °C under CO (1atm) overnight. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature and concentrated. Purification by silica gel chromatography provided 19 mg (48%) of the title compound as a white solid. ESI MS *m/z* 614.36 [M+H]⁺.

20

Example 2: Synthesis of 4-[2-(5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenylcarbamoyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-7-ylmethyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester

(BI00601800)



(100388-016, 100386-009)

To a solution of 7-hydroxy-1-methyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (3.5 g, 16.0 mmol) and N-phenyltrifluoromethanesulfonimide (7.47 g, 20.7 mmol) in anhydrous 1,4-dioxane (50 mL) was added N,N-diisopropylethylamine (5.56 mL, 32 mmol). The resulting mixture was heated under nitrogen at 70°C for 24 h. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography to give compound the desired triflate ester (3.14 g, 56%) as a white solid.

(100386-010)

To a suspension of lithium chloride (dried, 1.58 g, 37.3 mmol) in dry DMF (50 mL), under Ar, was added the above triflate ester (3.17 g, 9.02 mmol), tributyl(vinyl)tin (2.7 mL, 9.02 mmol), 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol (237.6 mg, 1.06 mmol) and bis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (II) chloride (191.6 mg, 0.280 mmol). The flask was evacuated and back-filled with argon 3 times. The reaction mixture was heated at 90 °C for 4 h and cooled to room temperature. Water was added. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel

chromatography to give a mixture of the desired ethenylindole and tin impurities, total (3.39 g).

(100386-011)

- 5 The crude product obtained from above was dissolved in THF (30 mL). A solution of NaOH (1N, 15 mL, 15 mmol) was added. The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. Water (40 mL) added and the bulk of organics were removed under vacuum. The aqueous layer was washed with Et₂O and acidified to pH about 2. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 40 mL). The organic extracts were combined and
10 washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated to give the desired carboxylic acid as a white solid (1.3 g, 6.46 mmol, yield 72.0% for two steps).

(100306-090, 093)

- To a solution of the above carboxylic acid (1.6g, 8.2 mmol) in DMF (80 mL) was added
15 *N*-(3-amino-5-*tert*-butyl-2-methoxy-phenyl)-methanesulfonamide (2.21 g, 8.14 mmol), O-(7-azobenzotriazol-1-yl)-*N,N,N',N'*-tetrauroniumhexafluorophosphate (HATU, 3.15g, 8.260mmol), 2.56 mL of triethylamine (2.56 mL, 18.4 mmol), and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (HOAT, 307.4 mg, 2.240 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was then diluted with EtOAc,
20 washed with water, dried with sodium sulfate and concentrated. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography to afford 2.12 g (56.8%) of the desired ethenylindole amide.

(100386-095)

- 25 To a solution of the above ethenylindole amide (2.3 g, 5.06 mmol) in acetone (90 mL) and water (30 mL) was added osmium tetroxide (2.5 wt % in *t*-BuOH, 690 μ L, 0.230 mmol) and 4-methylmorpholine *N*-oxide (2.99 g, 25.5 mmol). The resulting yellowish mixture was stirred for 2 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of Na₂SO₃ (4.6 g) in water (35 mL). The mixture was then extracted with dichloromethane, washed with
30 brine, dried with sodium sulfate and concentrated to afford (2.34 g, 94.6%) of the desired diol intermediate, which was directly used in the next reaction.

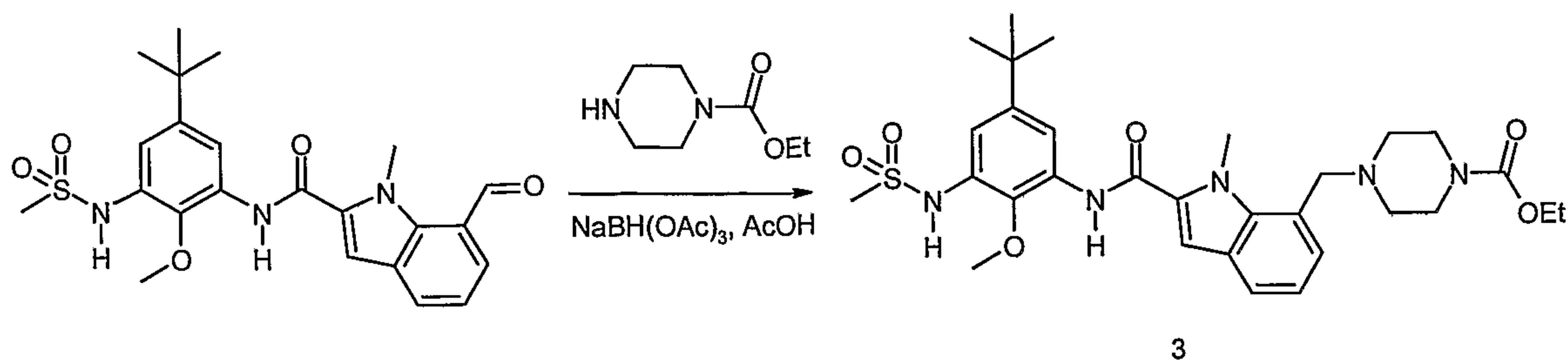
(100373-018)

To a suspension of silica gel (7.5 g) in dichloromethane (45 mL) was added a solution of NaIO₄ (525 mg, 2.455 mmol) in H₂O (4 mL) dropwise with vigorously stirring. A
5 solution of the diol intermediate from above (550 mg, 1.123 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 2 h when TLC indicated that the reaction was complete. The reaction mixture was then filtered and the silica gel was washed with several portions of dichloromethane. The combined filtrates were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to give the desired aldehyde (455 mg, 87.6 %) as a
10 yellowish foam.

(100373-010)

To a solution of the above aldehyde (600 mg, 1.31 mmol) and tert-butyl N-piperazinocarboxylate (2.44 g, 13.1 mmol) in dichloroethane (48 mL) was added acetic
15 acid (1.5 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. To this mixture was then added sodium triacetoxyborohydride (1.11 g, 5.24 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight and quenched with saturated NaHCO₃. The mixture was then extracted with dichloromethane, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography to give 495 mg (60%) of the title
20 compound. ESI MS *m/z* 628.69 [M+H]⁺.

**Example 3: Synthesis of 4-[2-(5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenylcarbamoyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-7-ylmethyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid
25 ethyl ester**
(BI00601716)



(100373-010)

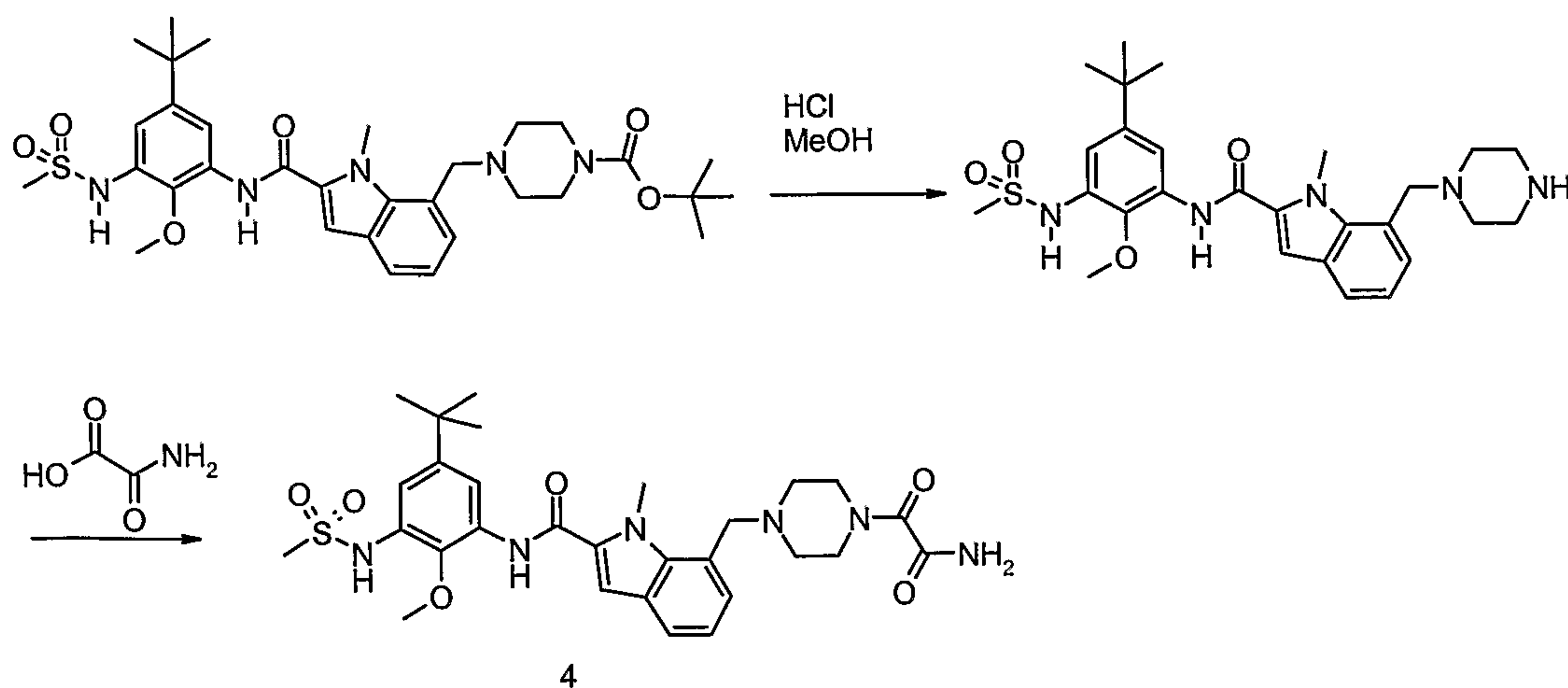
To a solution of 7-formyl-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylic acid (5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenyl)-amide (see Example 2, 30 mg, 0.066 mmol) and ethyl N-piperazinecarboxylate (104 mg, 0.66 mmol) in dichloroethane (2 mL) was added acetic acid (0.1 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. Sodium triacetoxyborohydride (35 mg, 0.156 mmol) was then added to the reaction mixture. The reaction was stirred overnight at room temperature and then quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ solution. The mixture was then extracted with EtOAc and dichloromethane in sequence, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by preparative-TLC, eluting with EtOAc-hexane, 1:1, providing 15 mg (38%) of the title compound. ESI MS *m/z* 600.37 [M+H]⁺.

15

Example 4: Synthesis of 7-(4-aminooxalyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylic acid (5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenyl)-amide

(BI00601813)

20



(100373-010)

To a solution of 4-[2-(5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenylcarbamoyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-7-ylmethyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (87 mg, 0.139 mmol) in MeOH (1 mL) was added concentrated HCl (50 μ L). The mixture heated to reflux for 2 h, cooled to room temperature and basified with NaHCO₃ (sat.) to pH~9. The mixture was then extracted with EtOAc several times. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to give the desired deprotected piperazine as a white foam (87mg). The product was characterized by ¹H NMR and mass spectroscopy.

(100372-018)

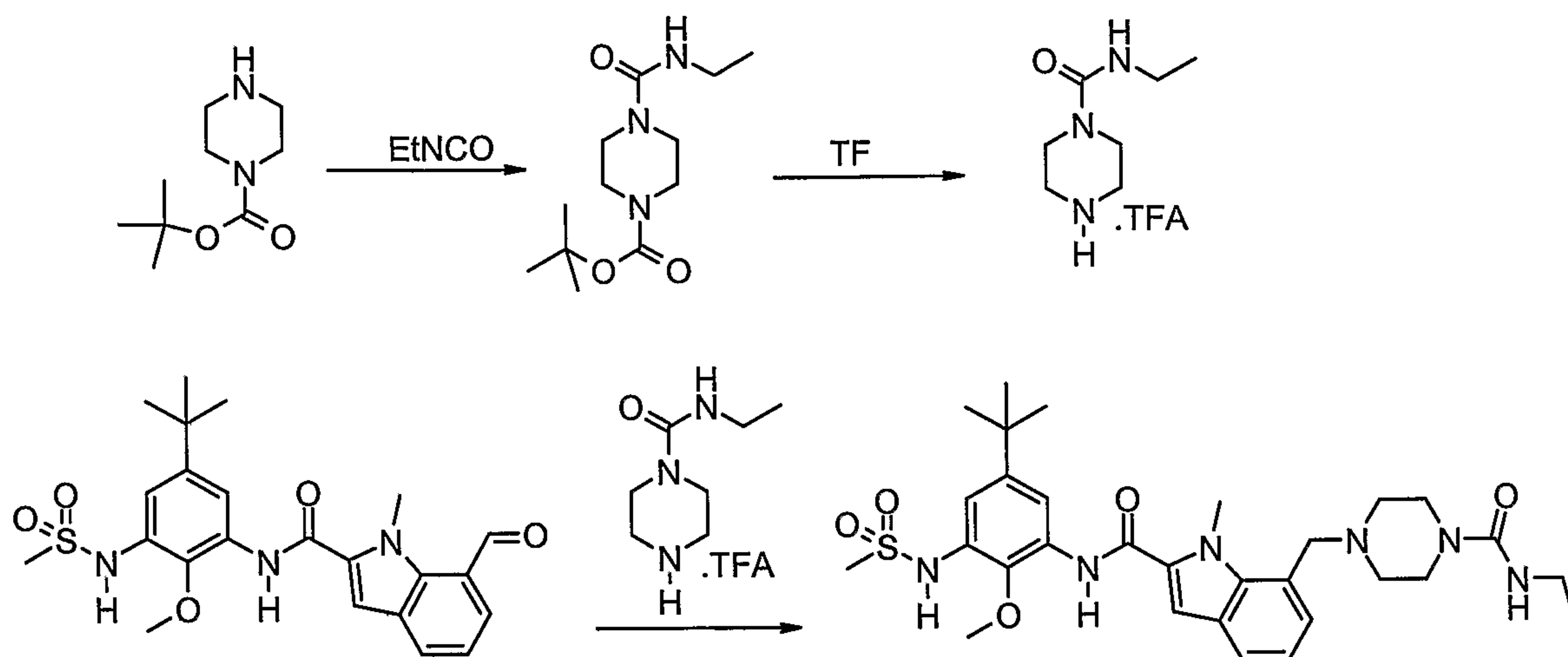
To a solution of oxamic acid (10.24 mg, 0.115 mmol) in DMF (1 mL) was added HATU (43.7 mg, 0.115 mmol), HOAT (7.83 mg, 0.058mmol) and diisopropylethylamine (40 μ L, 0.230 mmol). After 10 min, the above deprotected piperazine (13 mg, 0.025 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 days. The reaction mixture was then diluted with EtOAc, washed with NaHCO₃ (sat.) and brine in sequence. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography to give 13 mg of the title compound as a white foam, yield 87%.

ESI MS m/z 599.65 [M+H]⁺.

Example 5: Synthesis of 7-(4-ethylcarbamoyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylic acid (5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenyl)-amide

BI00601851

5



5

(100372-032)

- 10 To a solution of *tert*-butyl piperazinocarboxylate (1 g, 5.4 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL), ethyl isocyanate (763 mg, 10.7 mmol) was added dropwise at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 30 min and concentrated to remove solvent and excess ethyl isocyanate, providing 1.4 g (100%) of the desired urea as a white solid.

15 (100372-042)

To a solution of the above urea (170 mg, 0.66 mmol) in dichloromethane (2 mL) was added trifluoroacetic acid (0.5 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h and concentrated to give the TFA salt of the desired piperazine urea (226 mg) as a colorless oil. The product was characterized by ¹H NMR and used as such in later

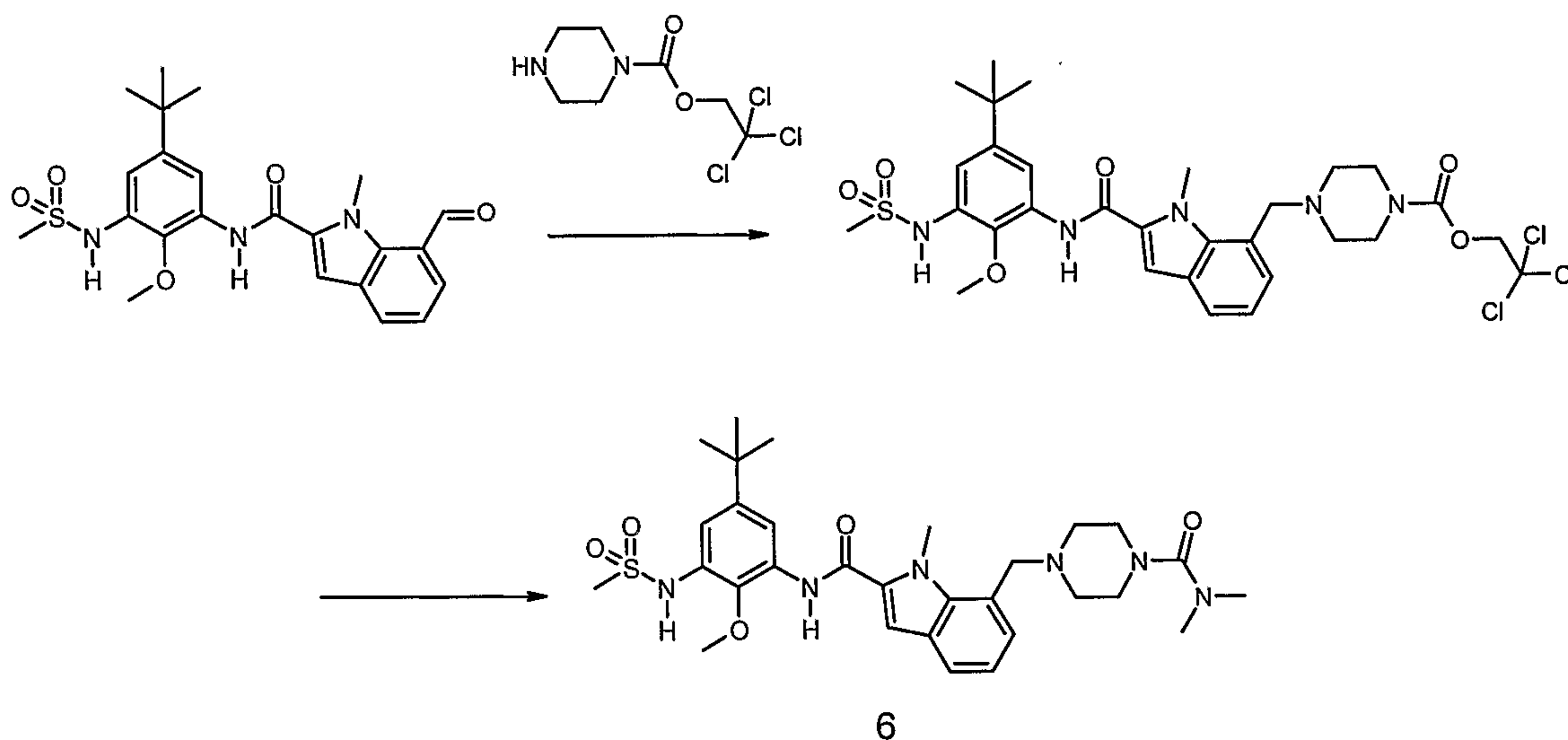
20 reactions.

The title compound was prepared from the above piperazine urea salt and 7-formyl-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylic acid (5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenyl)-amide by (100372-013)

using the same reductive amination procedure described in Example 2, yield 67.5%. ESI
5 MS m/z 598.76 $[M+H]^+$.

Example 6: Synthesis of 7-(4-dimethylcarbamoyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylic acid (5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenyl)-amide

10 (100372-016, BI00601811)



Piperazine-1-carboxylic acid 2,2,2-trichloro-ethyl ester and 7-formyl-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylic acid (5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenyl)-amide were reacted under the reductive amination conditions described in Example 2 to
15 provide the desired 4-[2-(5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenylcarbamoyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-7-ylmethyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid 2,2,2-trichloro-ethyl ester.

20 (100372-016)

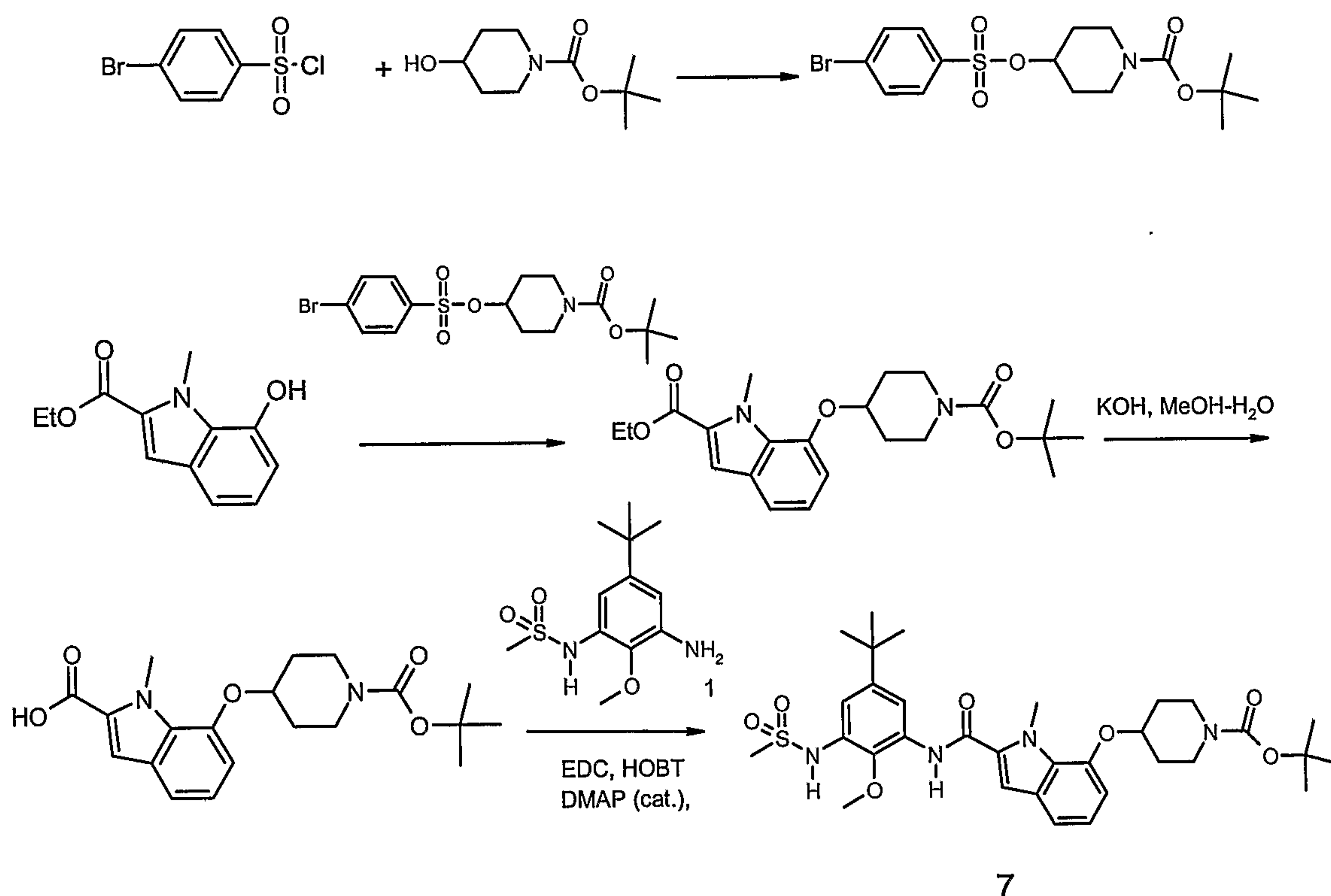
To a solution of the above ester (25 mg, 0.036 mmol) in DMSO (1 mL) was added 2M Me₂NH-THF (1 mL) and the mixture was heated in a pressure tube at 100 °C for 3 days.

The mixture was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with water, and extracted several times with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with saturated NaCl, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. Purification by silica gel chromatography provided 9 mg of the title compound, yield 42%. ESI MS *m/z* 599.63 [M+H]⁺.

5

Example 7: Synthesis of 4-[2-(5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenylcarbamoyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-7-yloxy]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester

10 (BI00601847)



7

(100373-014)

To a solution of 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (1.65 g, 14.7 mmol) and *tert*-butyl 4-hydroxypiperidinecarboxylate (2.46 g, 12.24 mmol) in dry toluene (10 mL) was added a solution of 4-bromobenzenesulfonyl chloride (3.13 g, 12.24 mmol) in toluene (10 mL), dropwise at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 2 h, during which white precipitate formed. The mixture was then diluted with EtOAc (100 mL) and filtered. The filtrate was washed

with water, 10% citric acid and saturated NaCl solution in sequence and dried with Na₂SO₄. Removal of solvent gave 4.88g (95%) of 4-(4-bromo-benzenesulfonyloxy)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester as a white solid.

5 (100373-015)

To a solution of 7-hydroxy-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (515 mg, 2.3 mmol) in DMF (15 mL) was added Cs₂CO₃ (1.3 g, 3.99 mmol) followed by the above *tert*-butyl ester (1.1 g, 2.6 mmol). The mixture was heated under nitrogen at 60 °C for 2 h. After the mixture was cooled to room temperature, the bulk of DMF was
10 removed. Water (10 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Purification by silica gel chromatography gave 550 mg (53%) of desired ether as a white solid.

(100373-017)

15 To a solution of the above ether (885 mg, 2.2 mmol) in MeOH (10 mL) was added 10% KOH solution in 9:1 MeOH-H₂O (1.5 mL). The mixture was heated at 70 °C for 6 h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and concentrated. The residue was re-dissolved in water (5 mL) and acidified to about pH 4 with 10% citric acid. The precipitate was collected by filtration and dried under vacuum to give 760 mg (92%) of
20 the desired indole carboxylic acid.

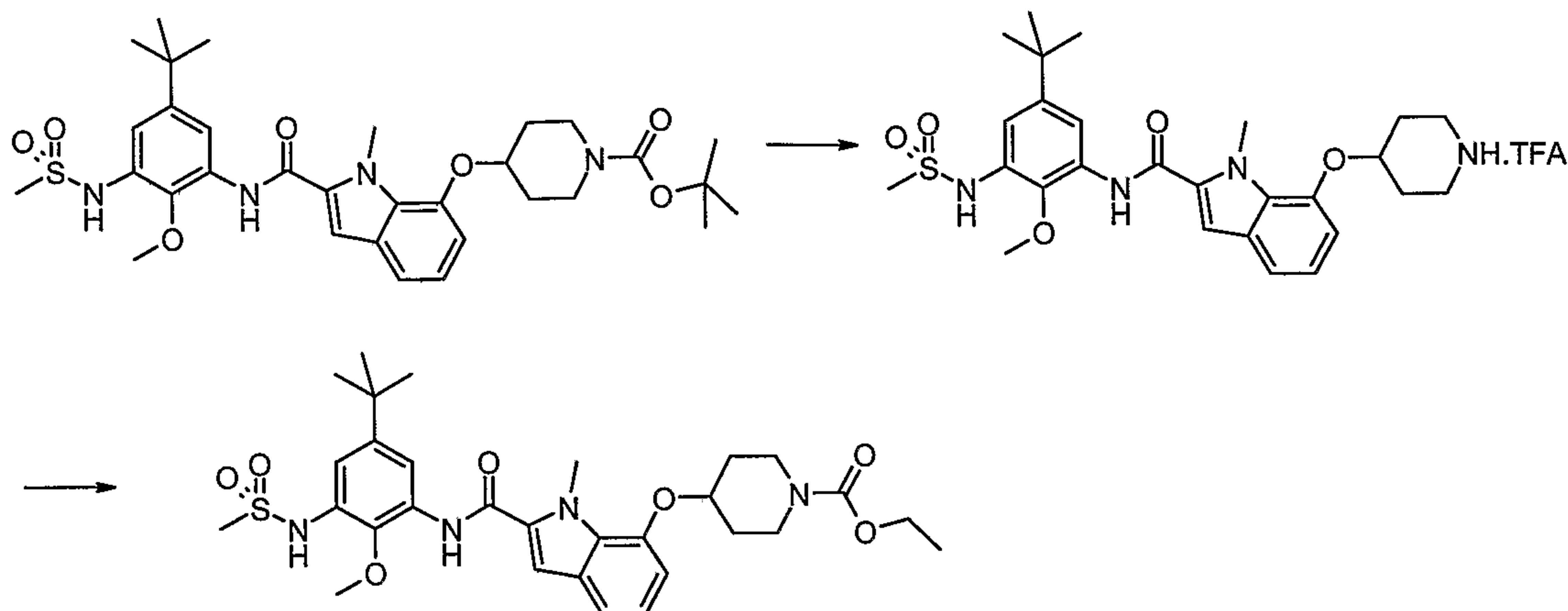
(100373-020)

To a solution of the above carboxylic acid (380 mg, 1.02 mmol), *N*-(3-amino-5-*tert*-butyl-2-methoxy-phenyl)-methanesulfonamide (350 mg, 1.29 mmol), HOBt (190 mg, 1.34 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) was added EDC (250 mg, 1.28 mmol), followed by DMAP
25 (20 mg, 0.16 mmol). The mixture was stirred under nitrogen for three days. After the bulk of DMF was removed, water (10 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel chromatography provided 415 mg (65%) the title compound. ESI MS *m/z* 629.70 [M+H]⁺.

30

Example 8: Synthesis of 4-[2-(5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenylcarbamoyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-7-yloxy]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid ethyl ester

(BI00601857)



5

8

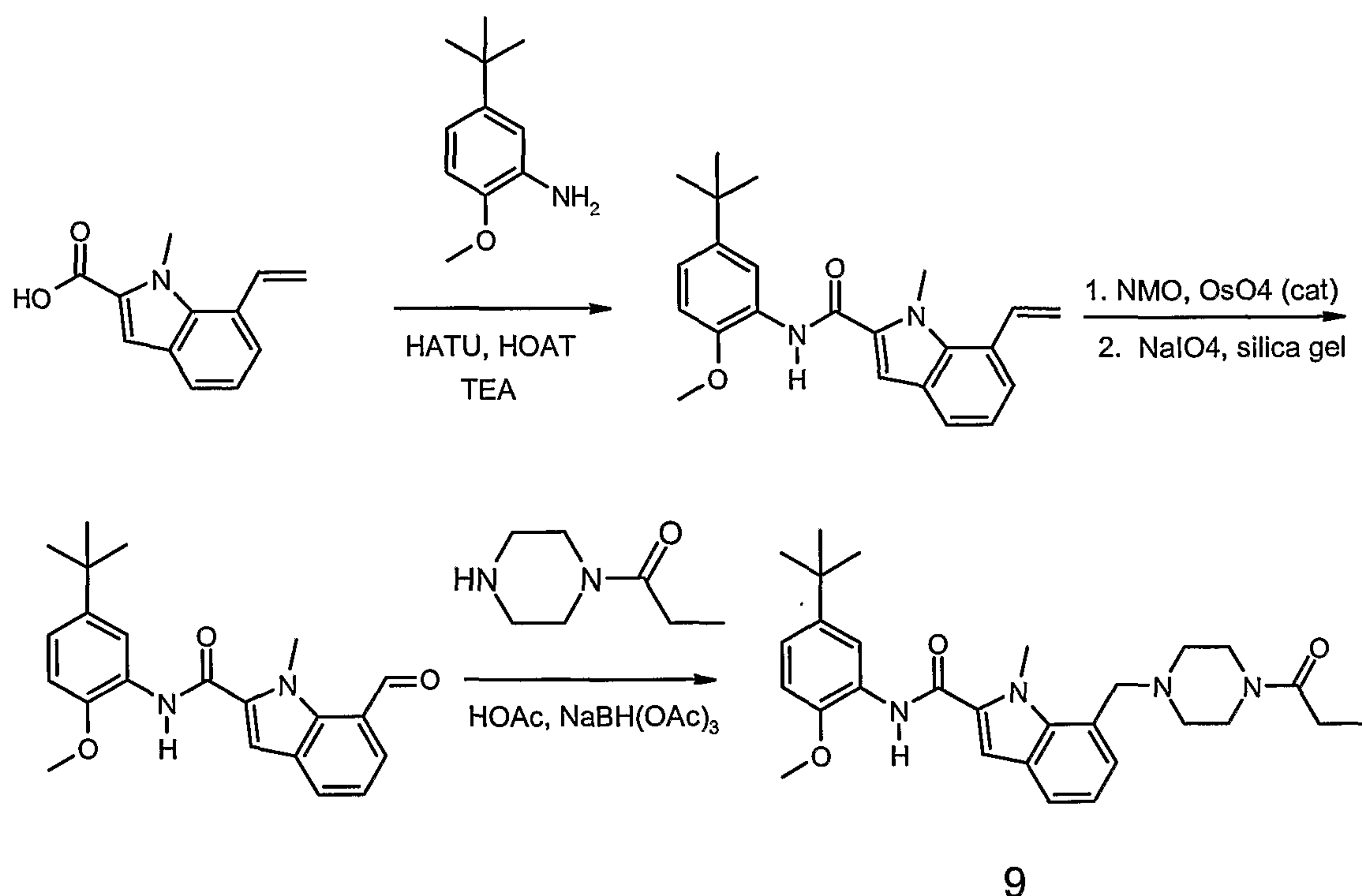
To a solution of 4-[2-(5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenylcarbamoyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-7-yloxy]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (160 mg, 0.254 mmol) (Example 7) in dichloromethane (1 mL) was added trifluoroacetic acid (0.2 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight and concentrated. The crude piperidine intermediate thus obtained was dried under vacuum and directly used in later reactions.

10

To a solution of the above piperidine intermediate (34 mg, 0.064 mmol) and triethylamine (0.1 mL, 1.0 mmol) in dichloromethane (1 mL) was added ethyl chloroformate (10 μ L, 0.092 mmol) at 0 $^{\circ}$ C. The mixture was stirred at 0 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 h and concentrated. Purification by preparative TLC gave 25 mg (65%) of the title compound. ESI MS m/z 601.42 $[M+H]^+$.

20

Example 9: Synthesis of 1-methyl-7-(4-propionyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylic acid (5-*tert*-butyl-2-methoxy-phenyl)-amide
(BI00601880)



(100386-003)

To a solution of 1-methyl-7-vinyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylic acid (53mg, 0.26 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added 5-tert-butyl-*o*-anisidine (47 mg, 0.26 mmol), O-(7-
 5 azobenzotriazol-1-yl)-N,N,N',N'-tetrauroniumhexafluorophosphate (HATU, 100 mg, 0.26mmol), triethylamine (80 μ L, 0.82 mmol), and 1-hydroxybenzotriazol (HOAT, 10 mg, 0.07 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was then diluted with EtOAc, washed with water, dried with sodium sulfate and concentrated. The crude product was purified Prep-TLC to afford 53 mg
 10 (56%) of the desired amide intermediate.

(100386-004)

To a solution of the above amide intermediate (53 mg, 0.15 mmol) in acetone (2 mL) and water (0.1 mL) was added osmium tetroxide (2.5 wt% in *t*-BuOH, 16 μ L, 0.01 mmol)
 15 and 4-methylmorpholine N-oxide (68 mg, 0.58 mmol). The resulting yellowish mixture was stirred for 2 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of Na₂SO₃ (100 mg) in water (0.5 mL). The mixture was then extracted with dichloromethane, washed with brine,

dried with sodium sulfate and concentrated. The residue was purified by preparative TLC using 5% MeOH-dichloromethane to afford 49 mg (82%) of the diol intermediate.

(100386-005)

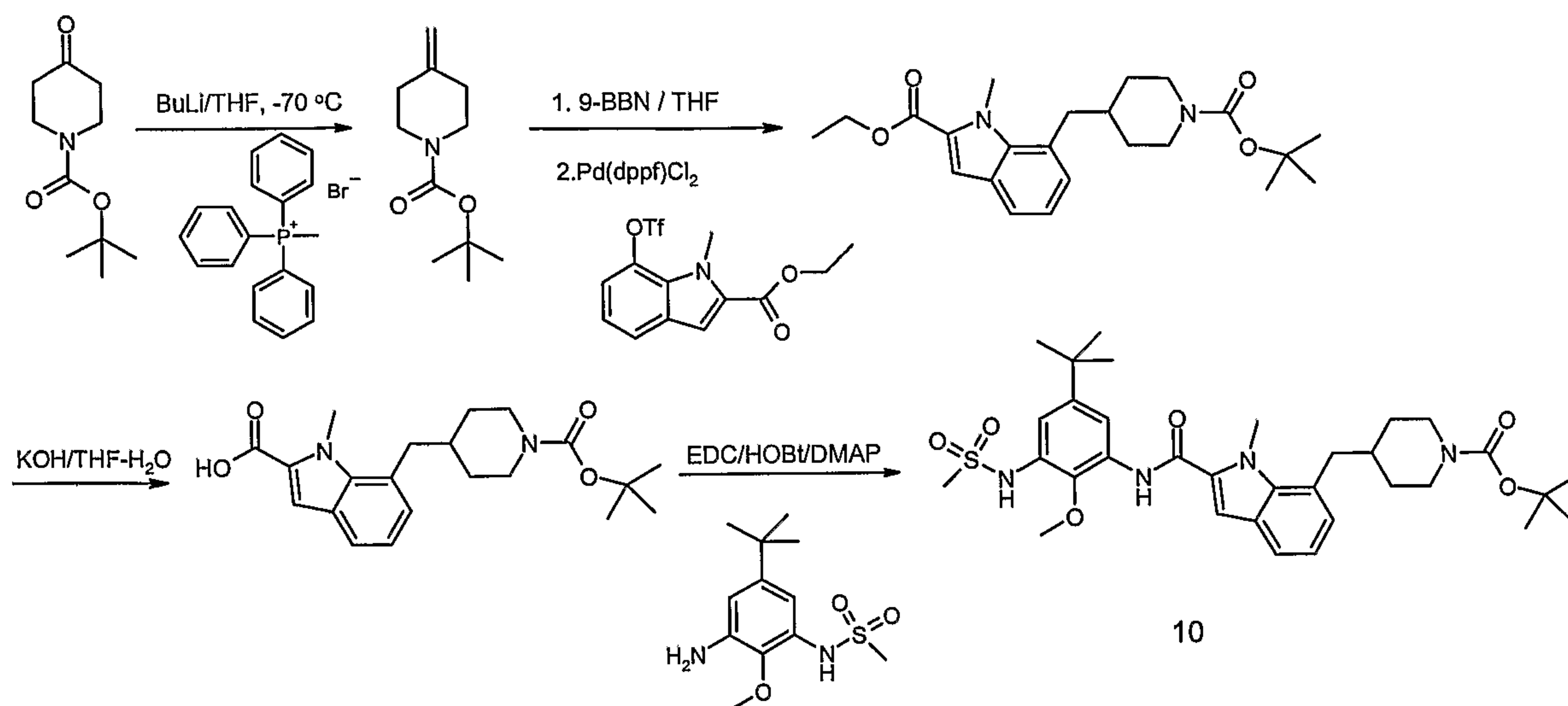
- 5 To a suspension of silica gel (0.75g) in dichloromethane (5 mL) was added a solution of NaIO₄ (62 mg, 0.29 mmol) in H₂O (0.4 mL) dropwise with vigorously stirring. A solution of the diol intermediate from above (49 mg, 0.12 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.5 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 2 h when TLC indicated that the reaction was complete. The reaction mixture was then filtered and the silica gel was
- 10 washed with dichloromethane (15 mL). The combined filtrates were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to give the desired aldehyde intermediate (35 mg, 80 %) as a yellowish foam.

(100386-008)

- 15 To a solution of the above aldehyde intermediate (35 mg, 0.1 mmol) and 1-propionylpiperazine (142 mg, 1.0 mmol) in dichloroethane (0.7 mL) was added acetic acid (0.15 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1.5 hr. To this mixture was then added sodium triacetoxyborohydride (106 mg, 0.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight and quenched with sat NaHCO₃. The mixture was
- 20 then extracted with dichloromethane, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography to give 45 mg (92%) of the title compound. ESI MS *m/z* 490.65 [M+H]⁺.

- 25 **Example 10: Synthesis of 4-[2-(5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenylcarbamoyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-7-ylmethyl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester**

(BI00601893)



5 To a mixture of methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (14.3 g, 40 mmol) and anhydrous THF (50 ml) at -78°C was added dropwise *tert*-butyllithium (9.6 mL of a 2.5 M solution in hexane, 24 mmol). After 10 min of stirring, a solution of 4-oxo-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (4 g, 20 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was added. The mixture was allowed to warm slowly to -20°C . The reaction was quenched by addition of

10 saturated NH_4Cl solution. The product was extracted with ethyl ether three times. The organics were combined and washed with water and brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (10% EtOAc/hexane) to yield 3 g (76% yield) of the desired olefin intermediate.

15 To a sample of the above olefin intermediate (168 mg, 0.85 mmol) was added 9-BBN (1.7 mL of 0.5 M solution in THF). The resulting solution was refluxed for 1 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solution was added to a mixture of the triflate (300 mg, 0.85 mmol), Pd(dppf)Cl_2 (complex with dichloromethane, 21 mg, 0.026 mmol), DMF (4 mL), water (0.4 mL), and K_2CO_3 (950 mg). The resulting mixture was heated at 60°C

20 for 4 h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature, poured into water and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were combined, washed with brine, dried with Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated to give a crude oil which was purified by a short plug of silica

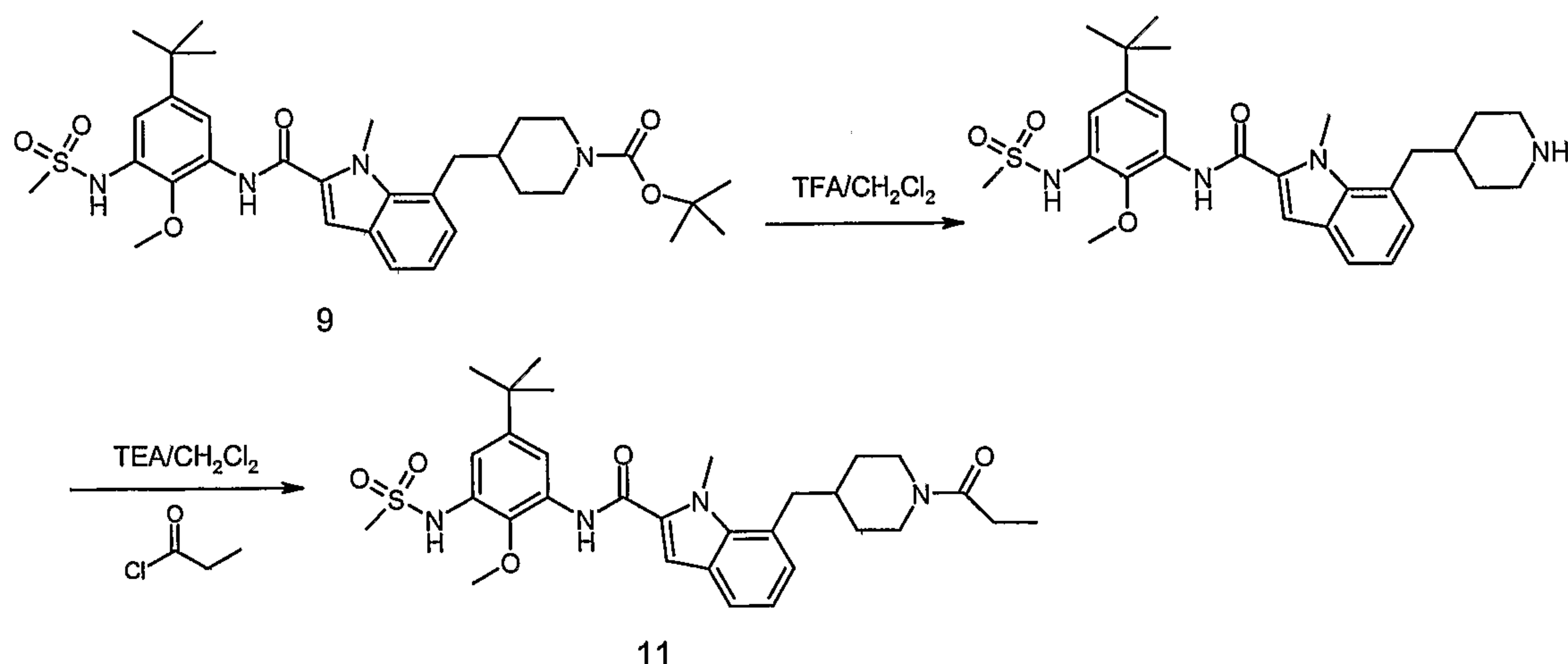
gel to afford 0.34 g of 7-(1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

The above indole-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester intermediate was dissolved in THF/MeOH/H₂O (3:1:1) and 1 mL of 1N KOH solution. The mixture was heated at 60 °C for 4 h. The mixture was then cooled to 0°C. and acidified with 10% citric acid to about pH 4. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried and concentrated to afford 0.32 g of the indole-2-carboxylic acid intermediate.

- To a solution of the above indole carboxylic acid intermediate (168 mg, 0.45 mmol), *N*-(3-amino-5-*tert*-butyl-2-methoxy-phenyl)-methanesulfonamide (315 mg, 1.2 mmol) and HOBt (157 mg, 1.16 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) was added EDC (222 mg, 1.16 mmol), followed by DMAP (18 mg, 0.16 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The bulk of the solvent was removed, and residue was suspended in water. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel chromatography to afford 170 mg (60% yield) of the title compound as a white foam. ESI MS *m/z* 627.34 [M+H]⁺.

Example 11: Synthesis of 1-Methyl-7-(1-propionyl-piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylic acid (5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenyl)-amide

(BI00601898)

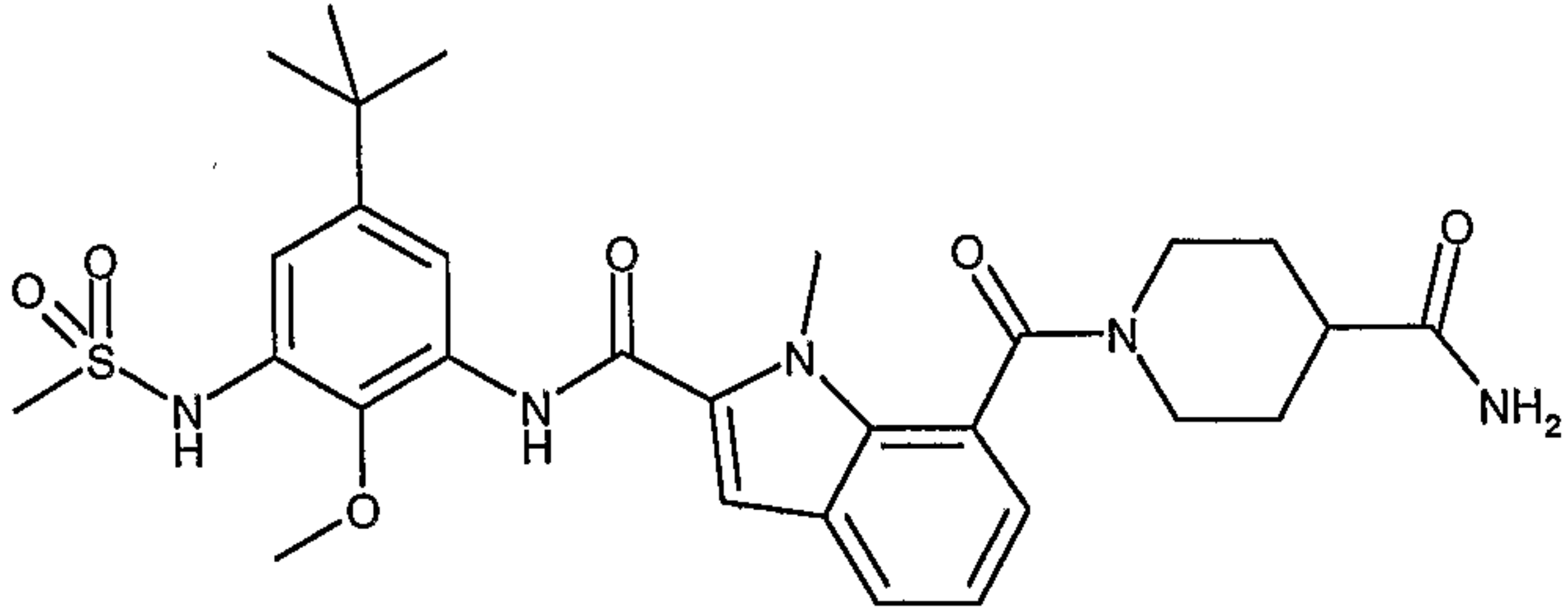


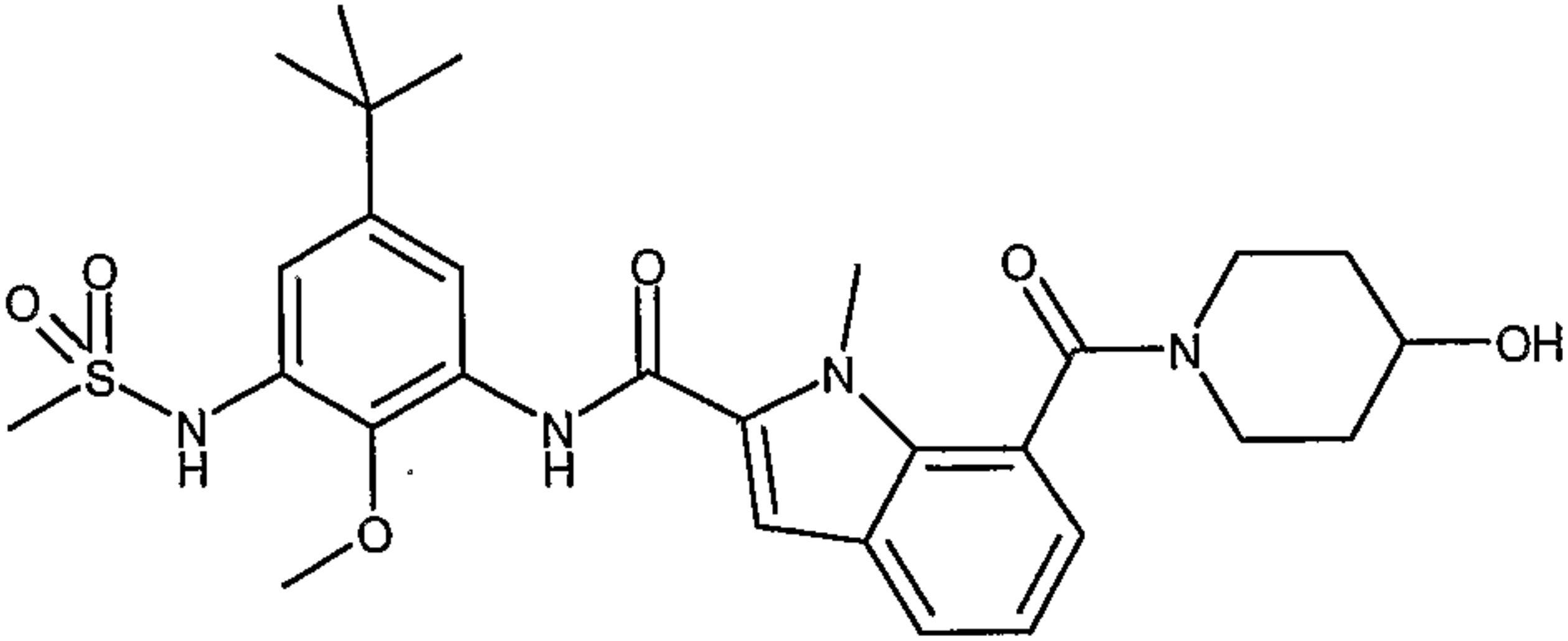
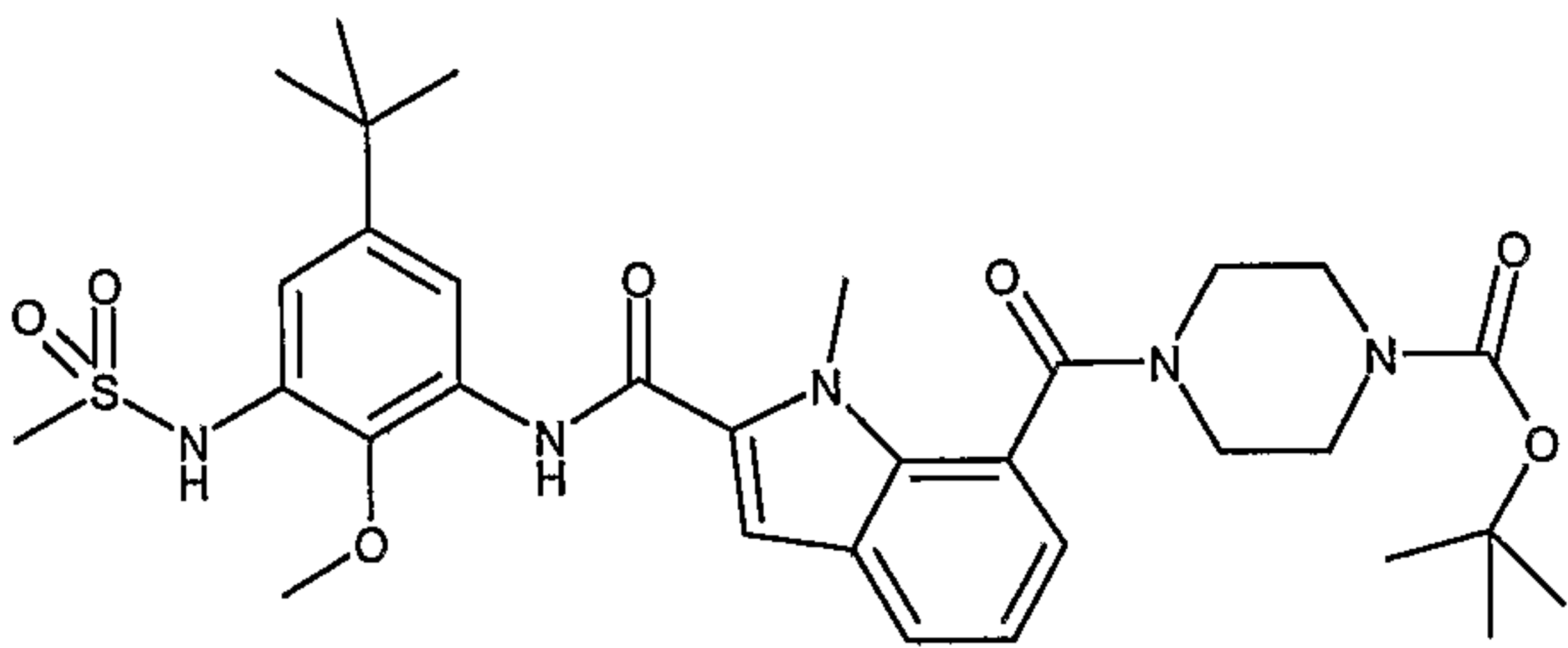
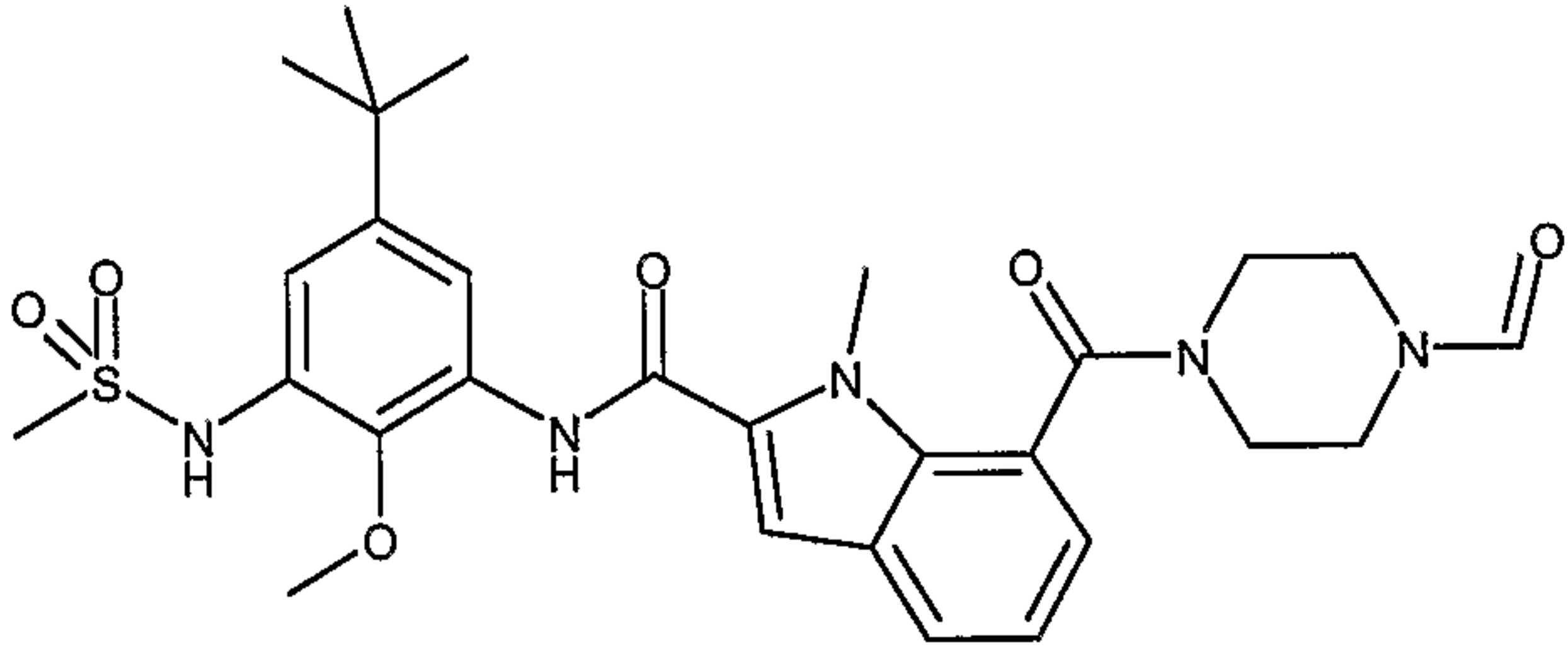
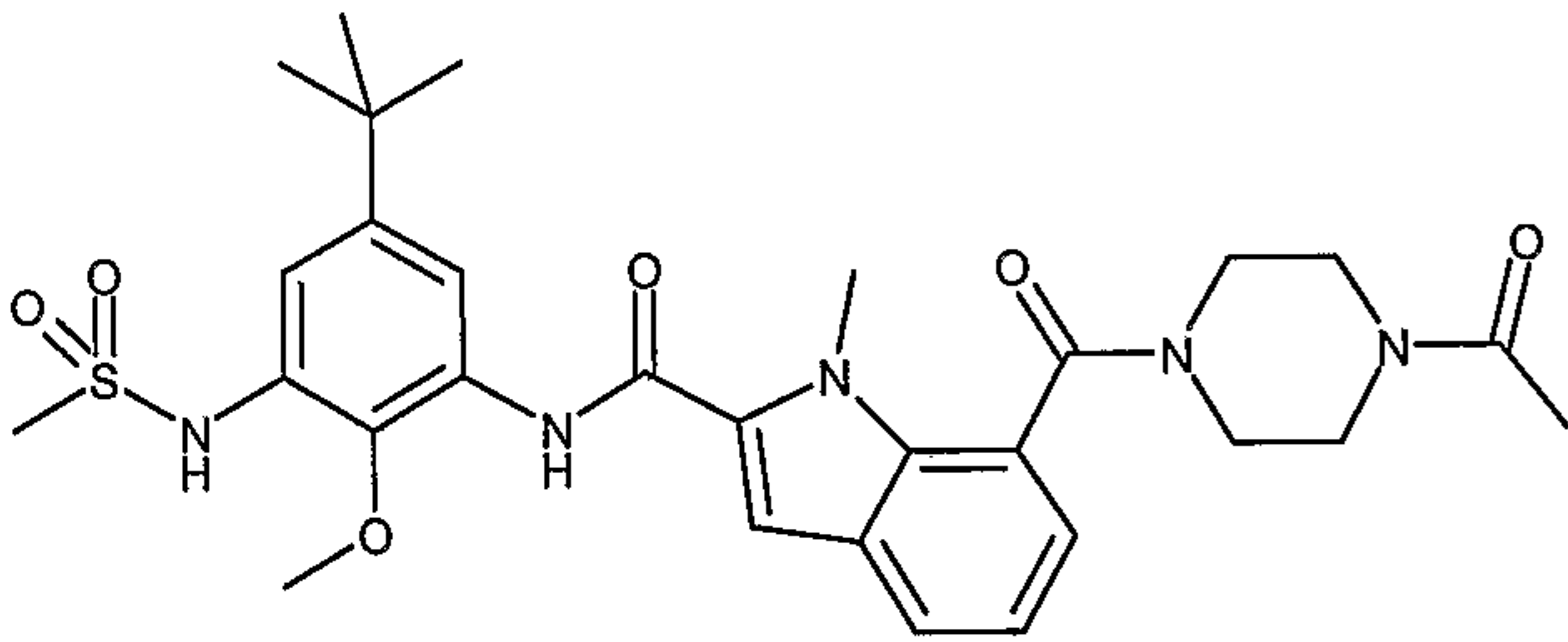
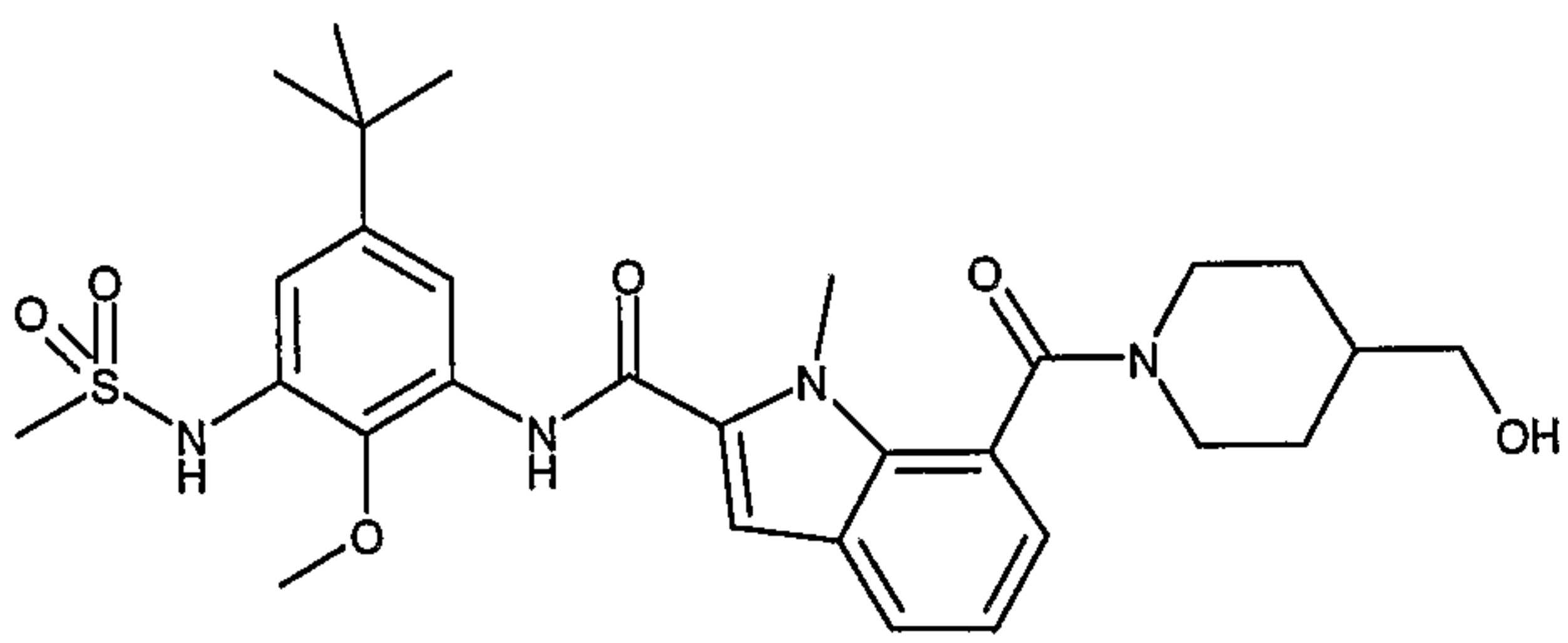
To a solution of 4-[2-(5-*tert*-butyl-3-methanesulfonylamino-2-methoxy-phenylcarbamoyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-7-ylmethyl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (Example 9) (50 mg, 0.08 mmol) in 1 mL CH₂Cl₂ at 0 °C was added TFA(0.05 mL). The solution was stirred at 0 °C to room temperature for 4 h. The mixture was then concentrated. The crude unprotected piperidine intermediate was used directly used in later reactions.

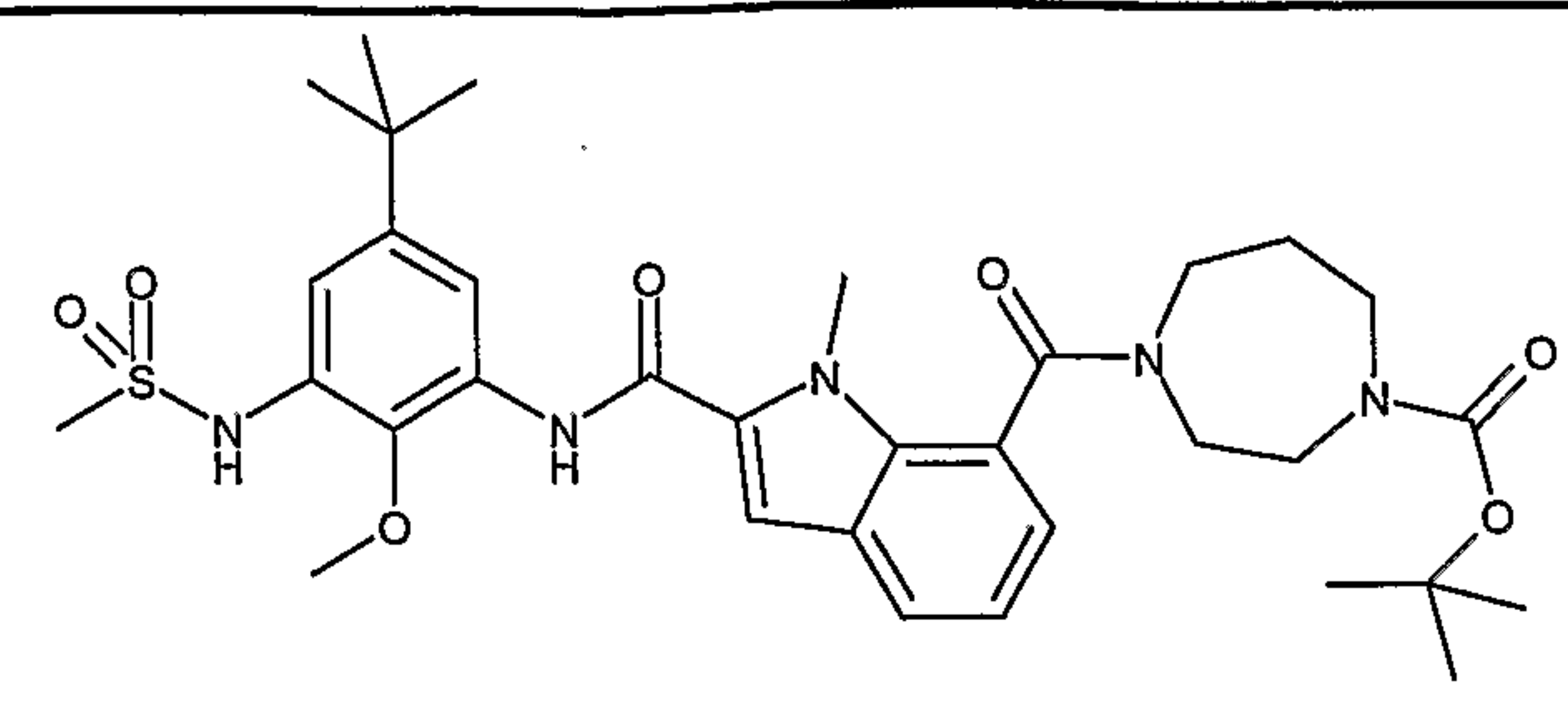
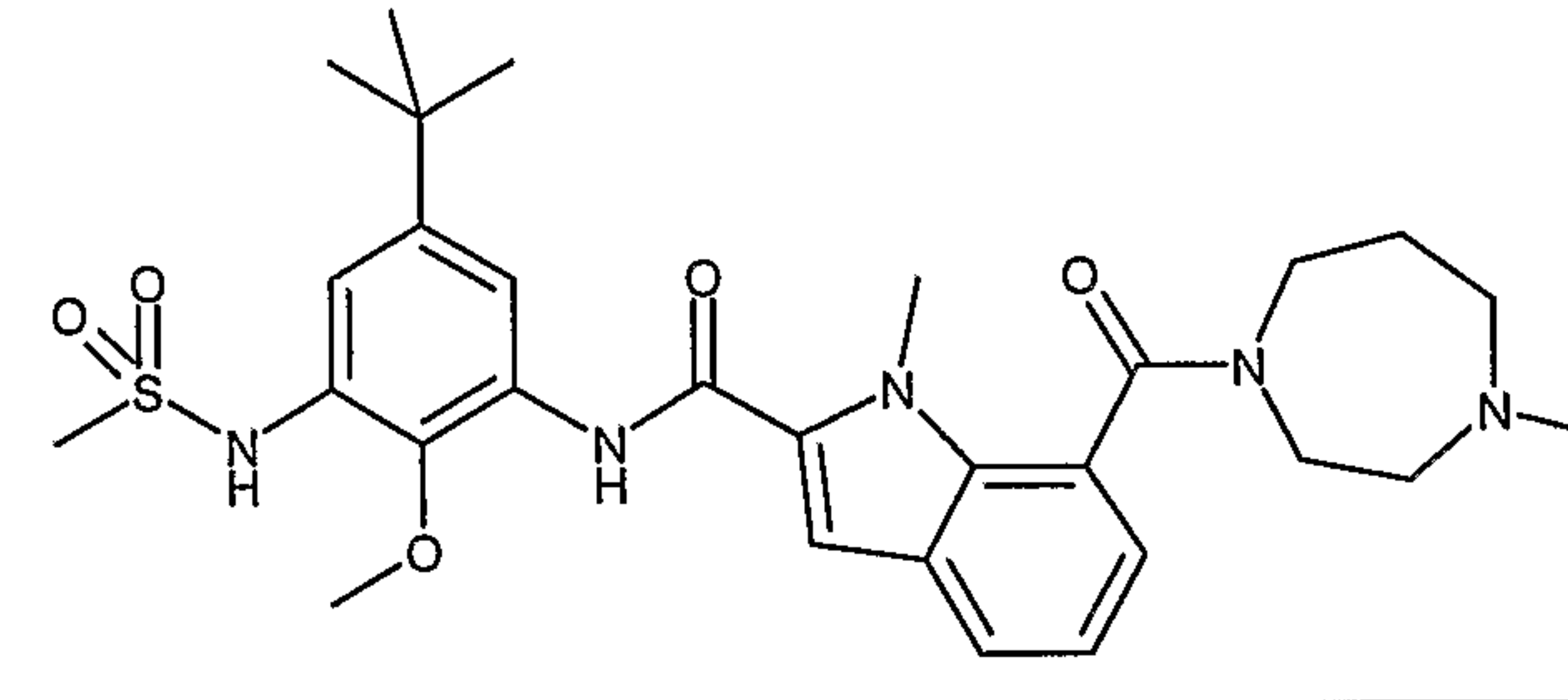
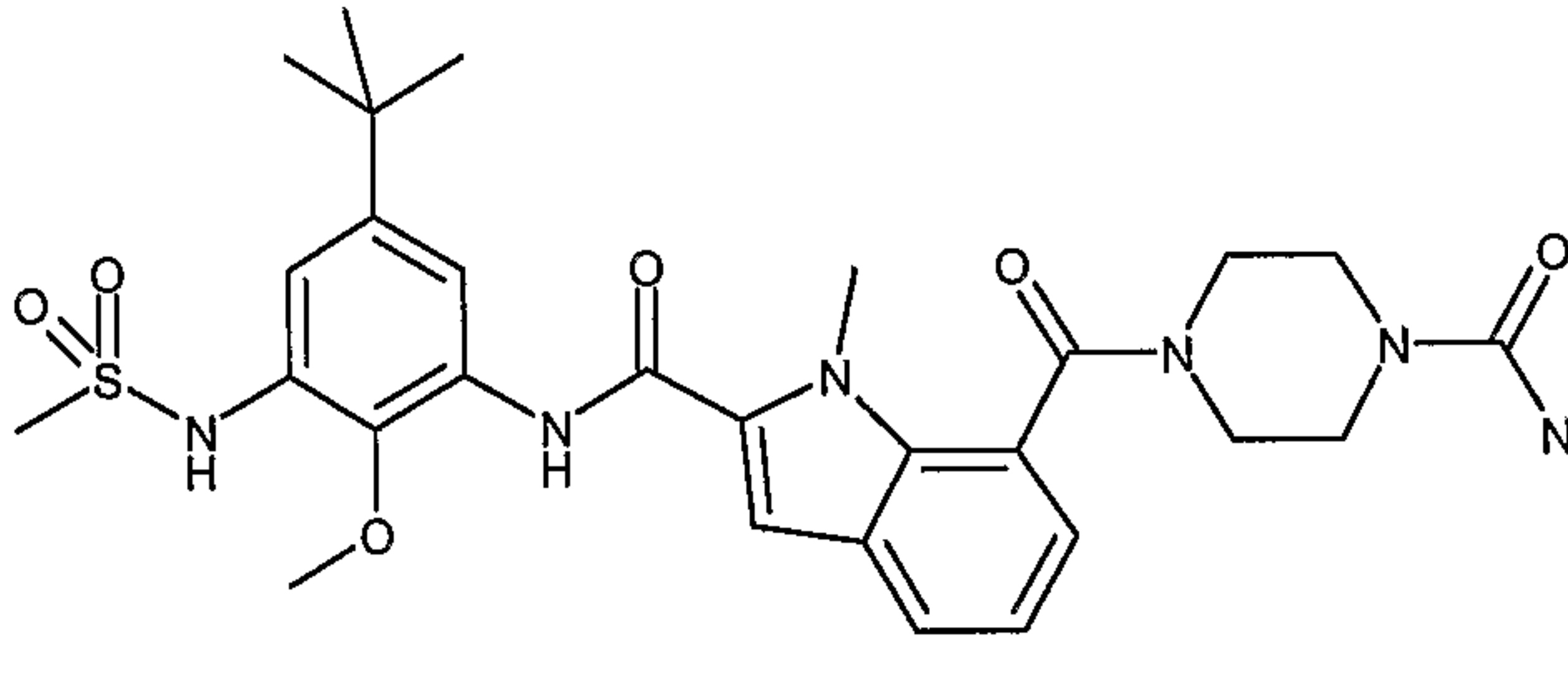
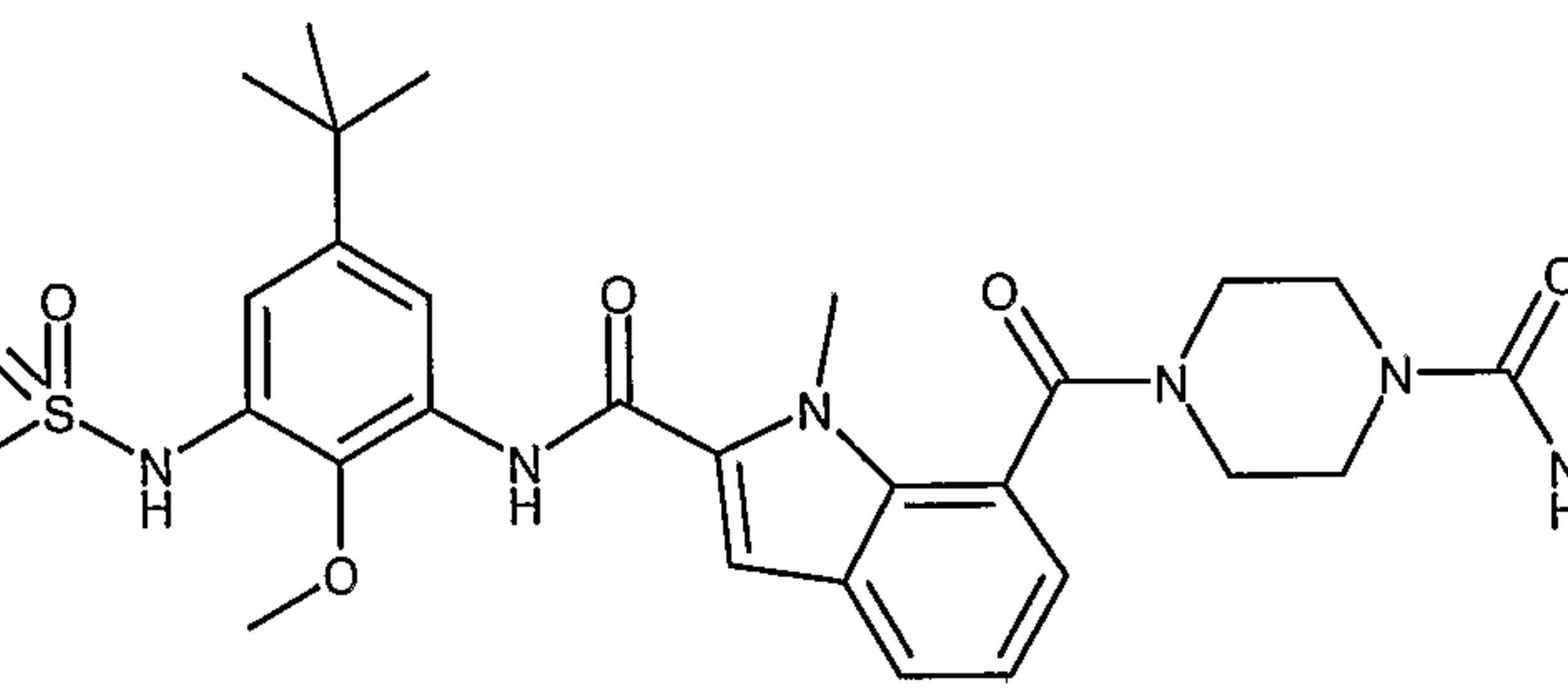
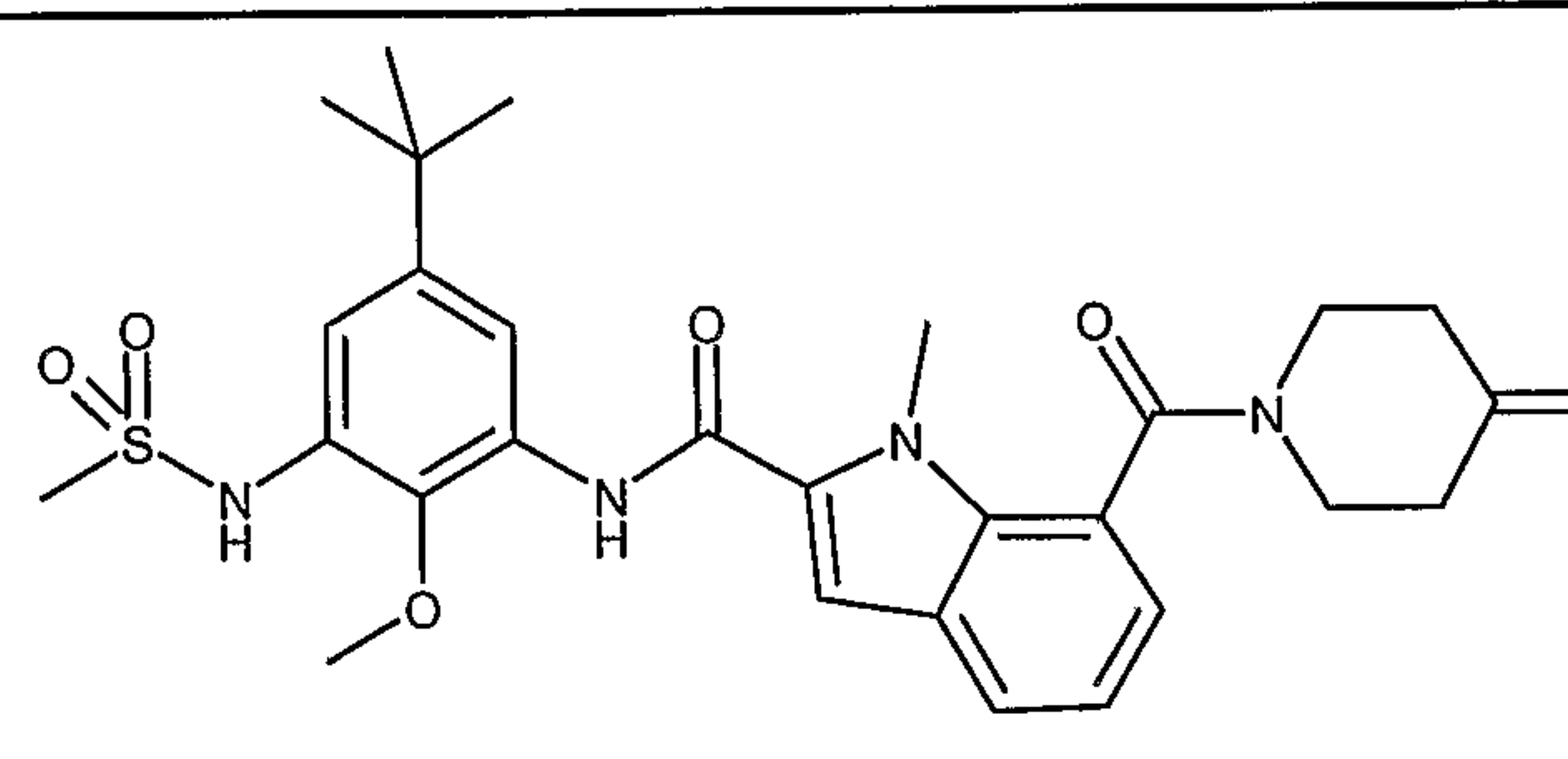
At 0 °C, under N₂, triethylamine (0.12 mL, 1.14 mmol) was added to a solution of the above piperidine intermediate (0.08 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL). Propionyl chloride (10 µL, 0.11 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h, quenched with MeOH (1 mL) and concentrated. The residue was purified by preparative TLC to afford 20 mg (60% yield) of the title compound as a white foam. ESI MS *m/z* 583.37 [M+H]⁺.

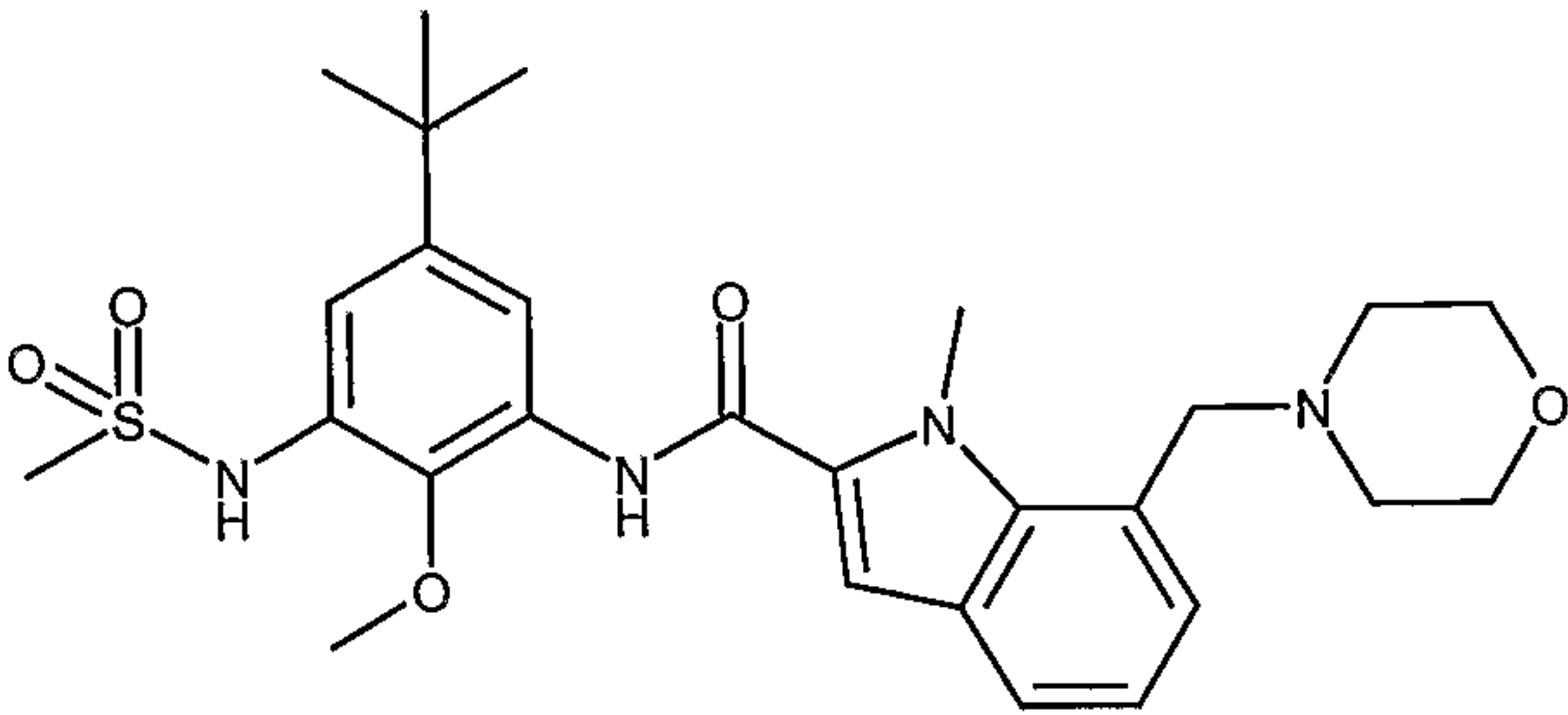
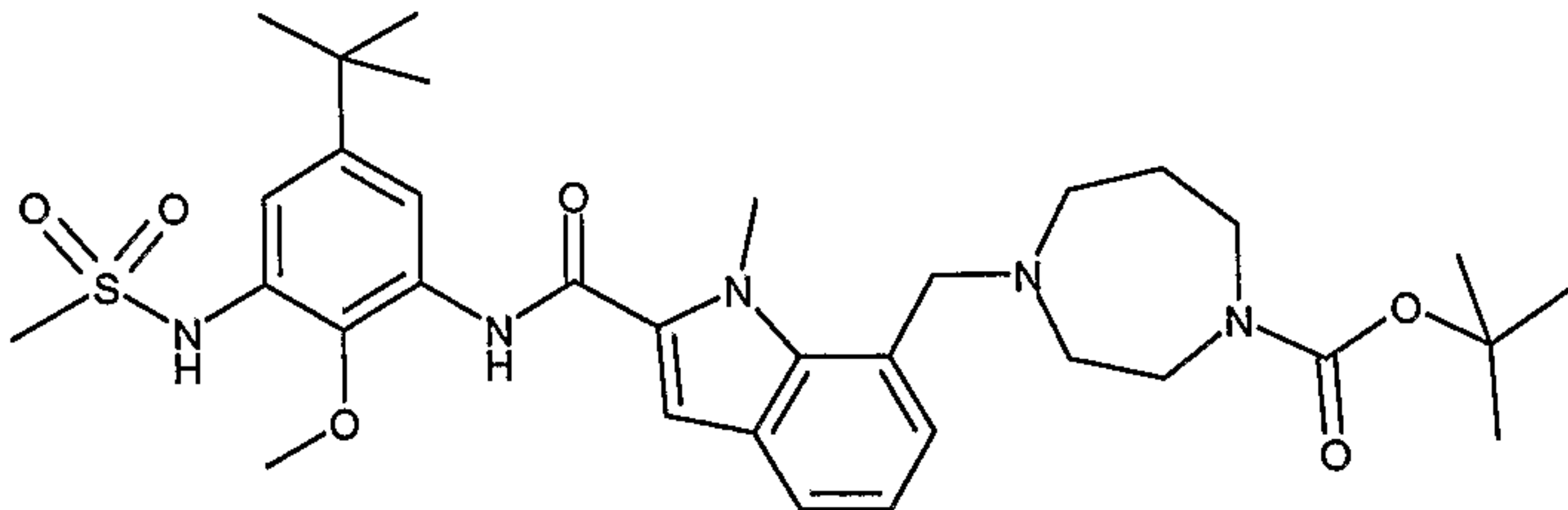
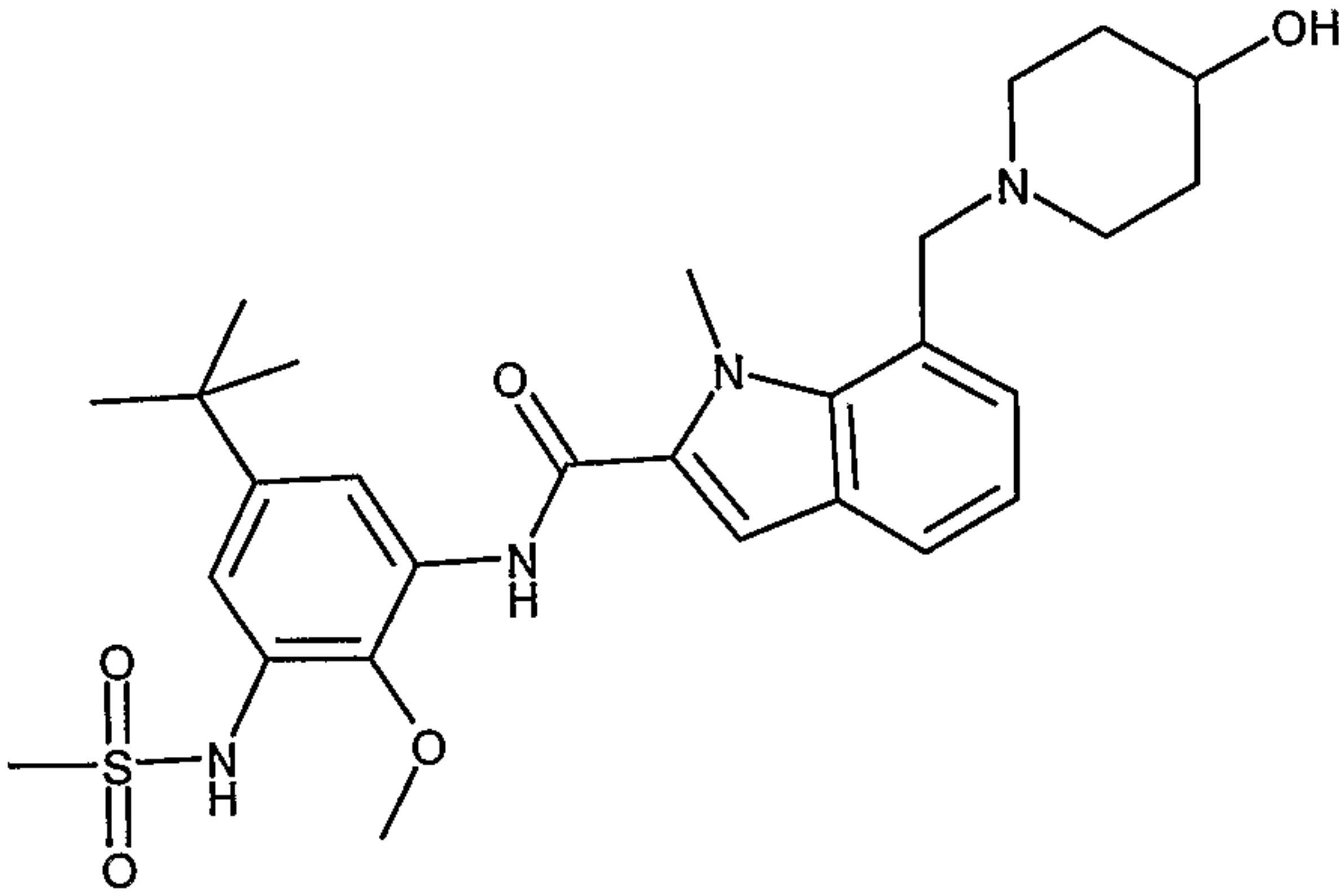
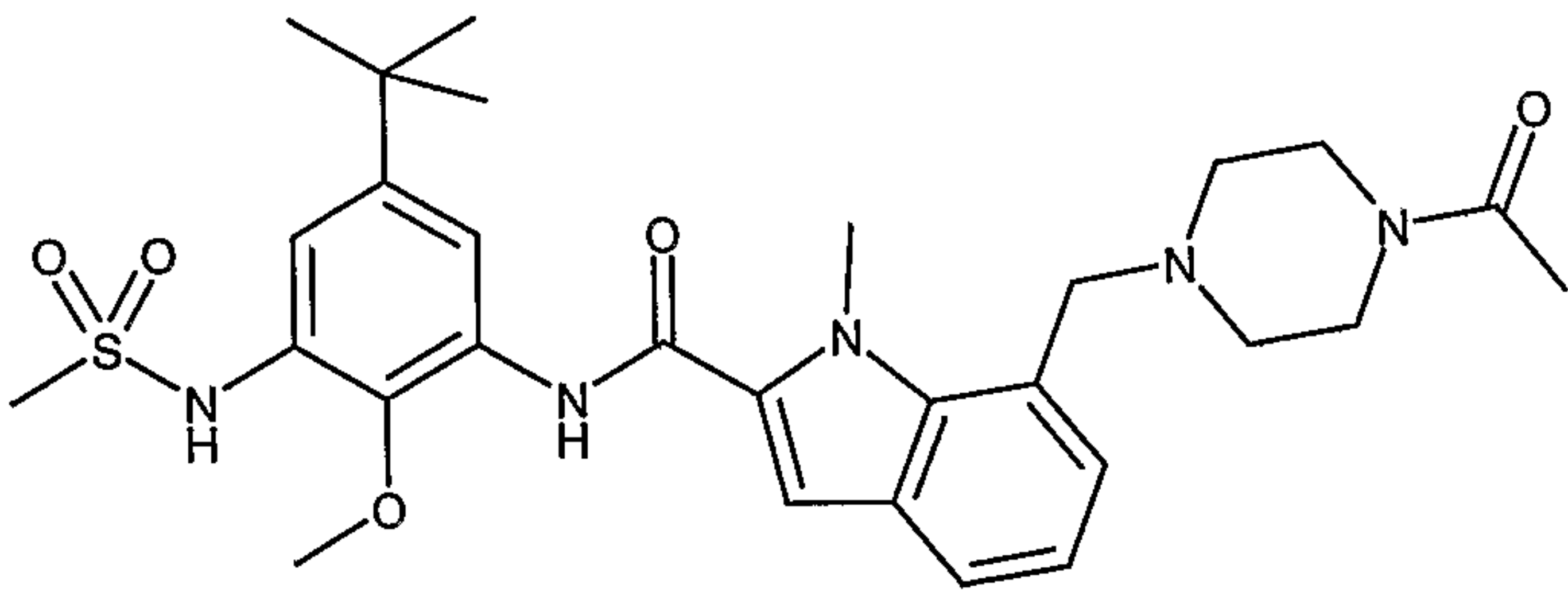
Table 3 illustrates additional compounds of the invention which can be made by methods analogous to those described above.

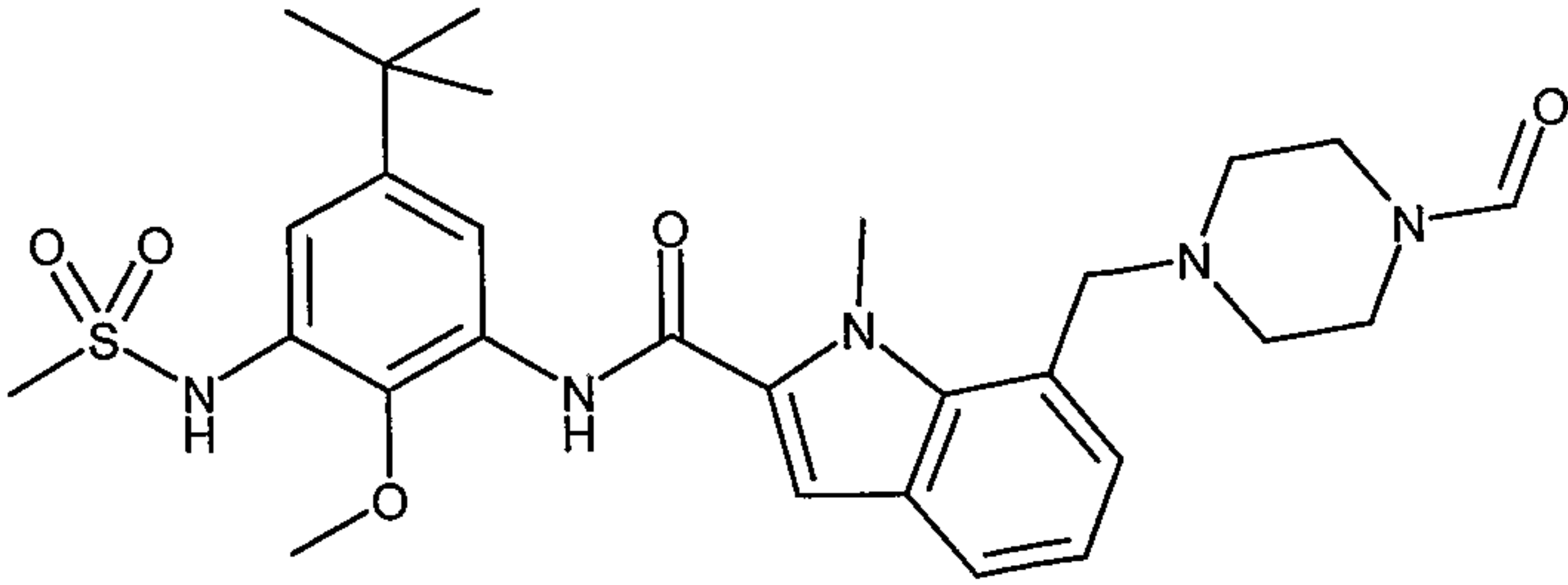
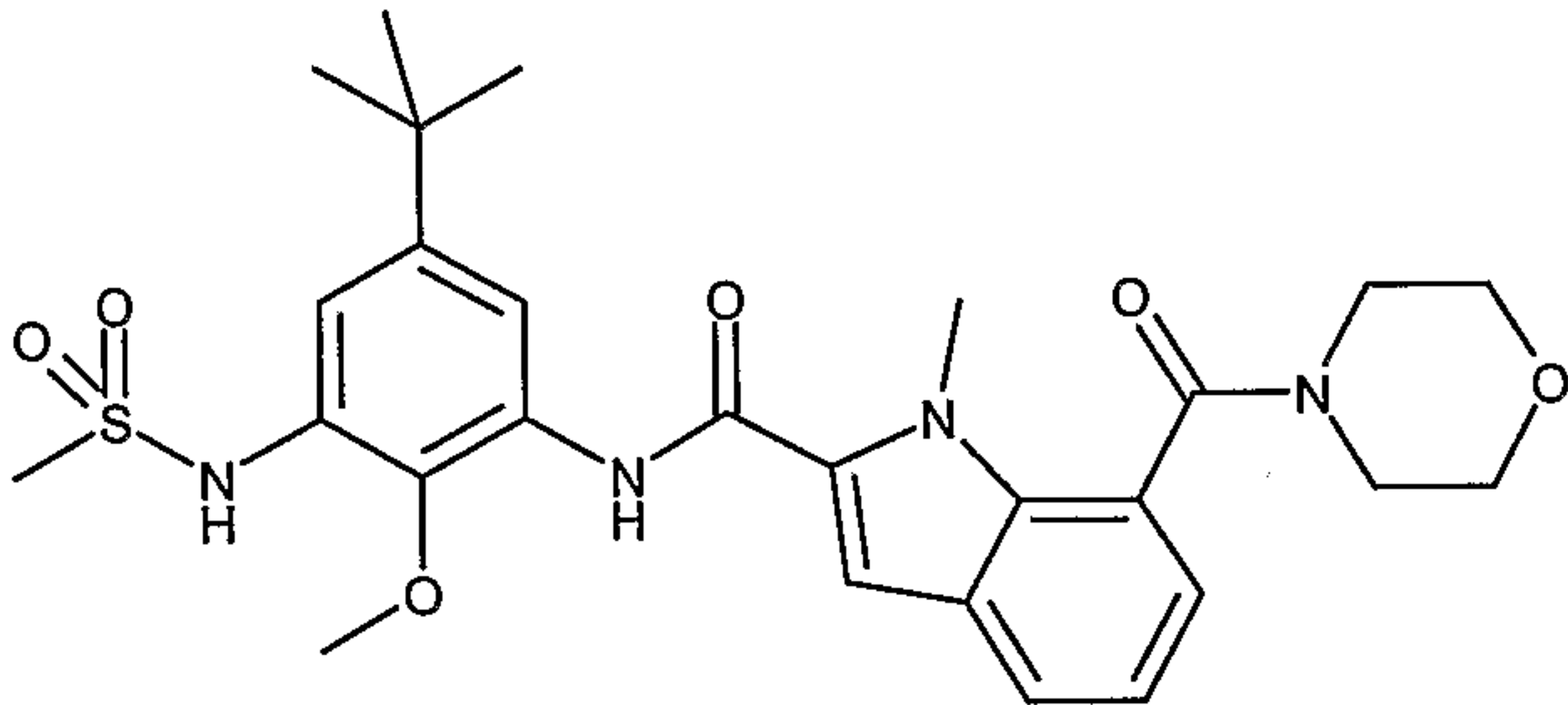
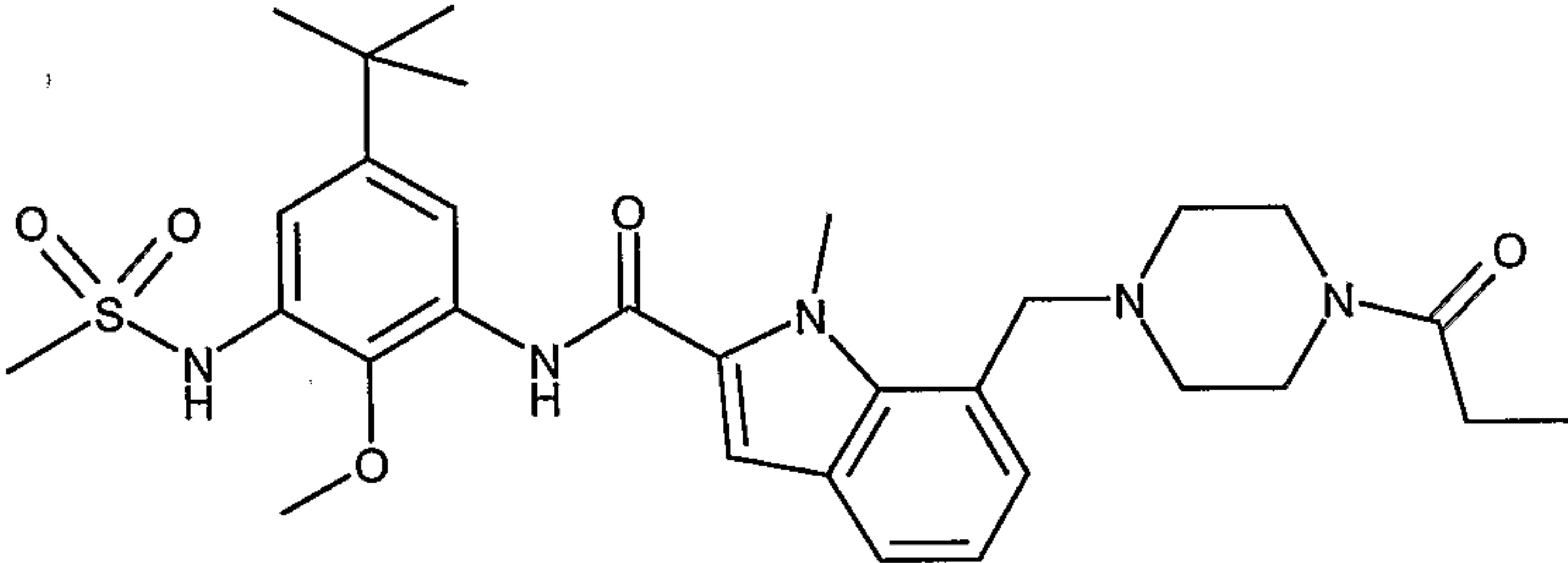
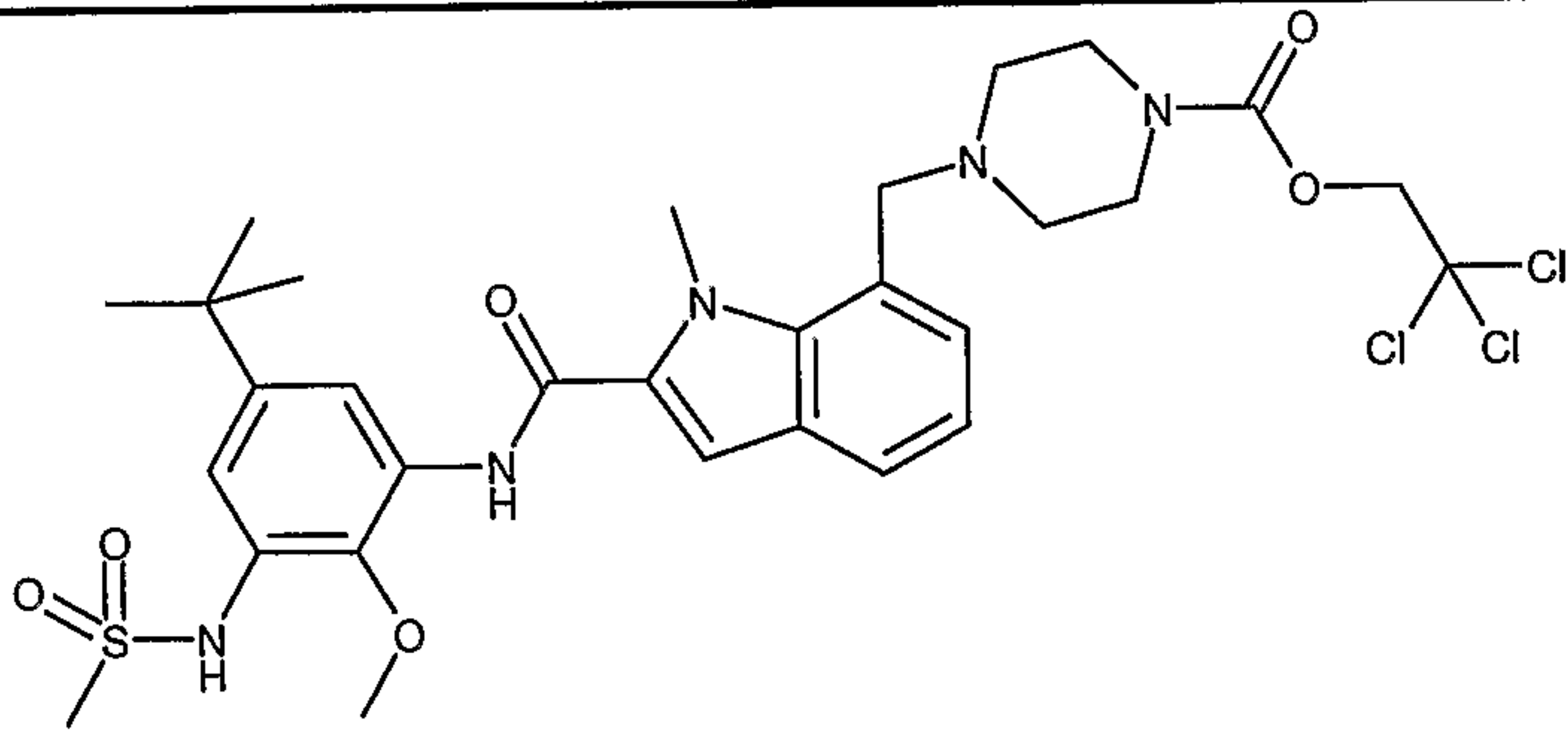
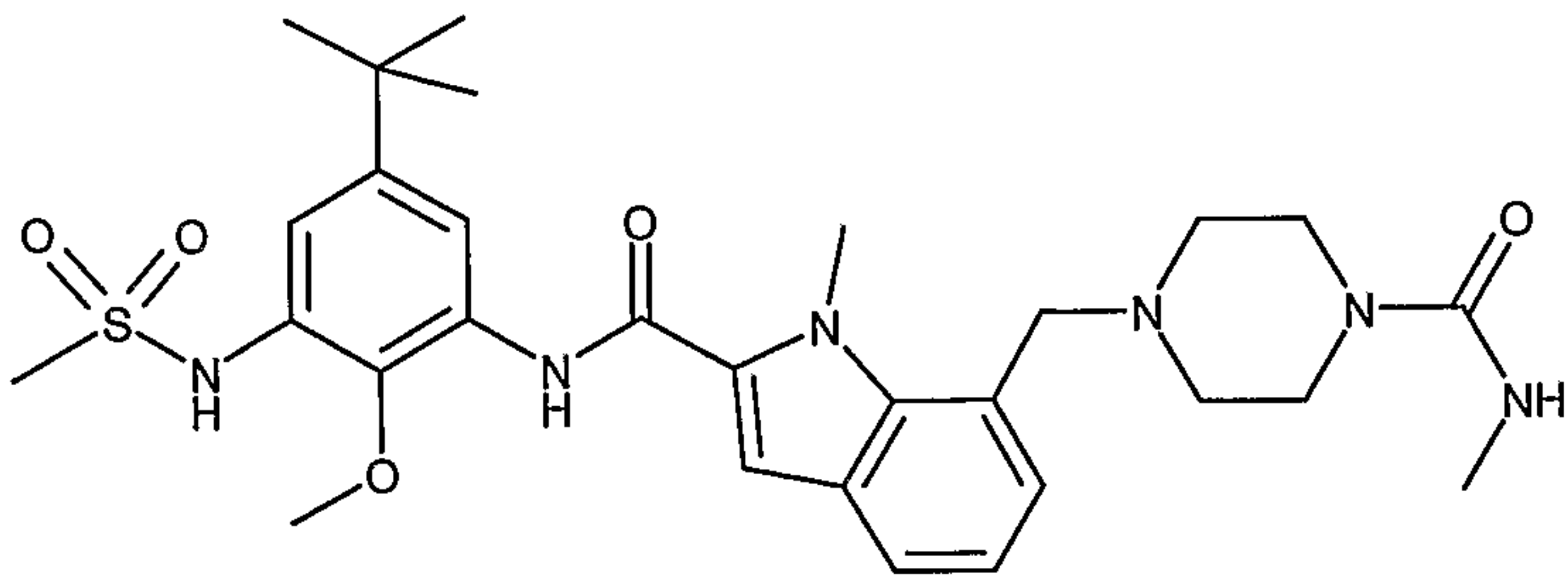
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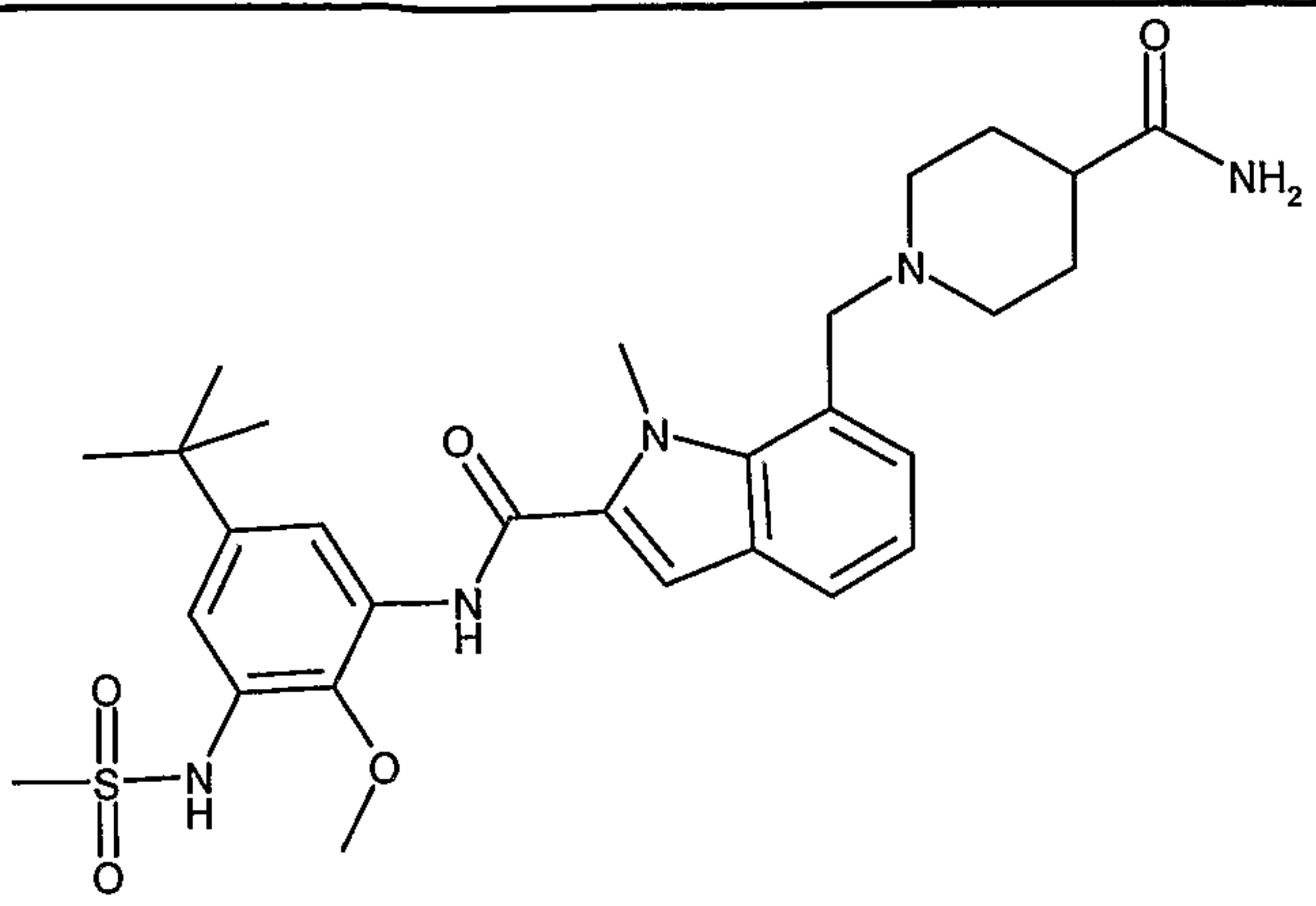
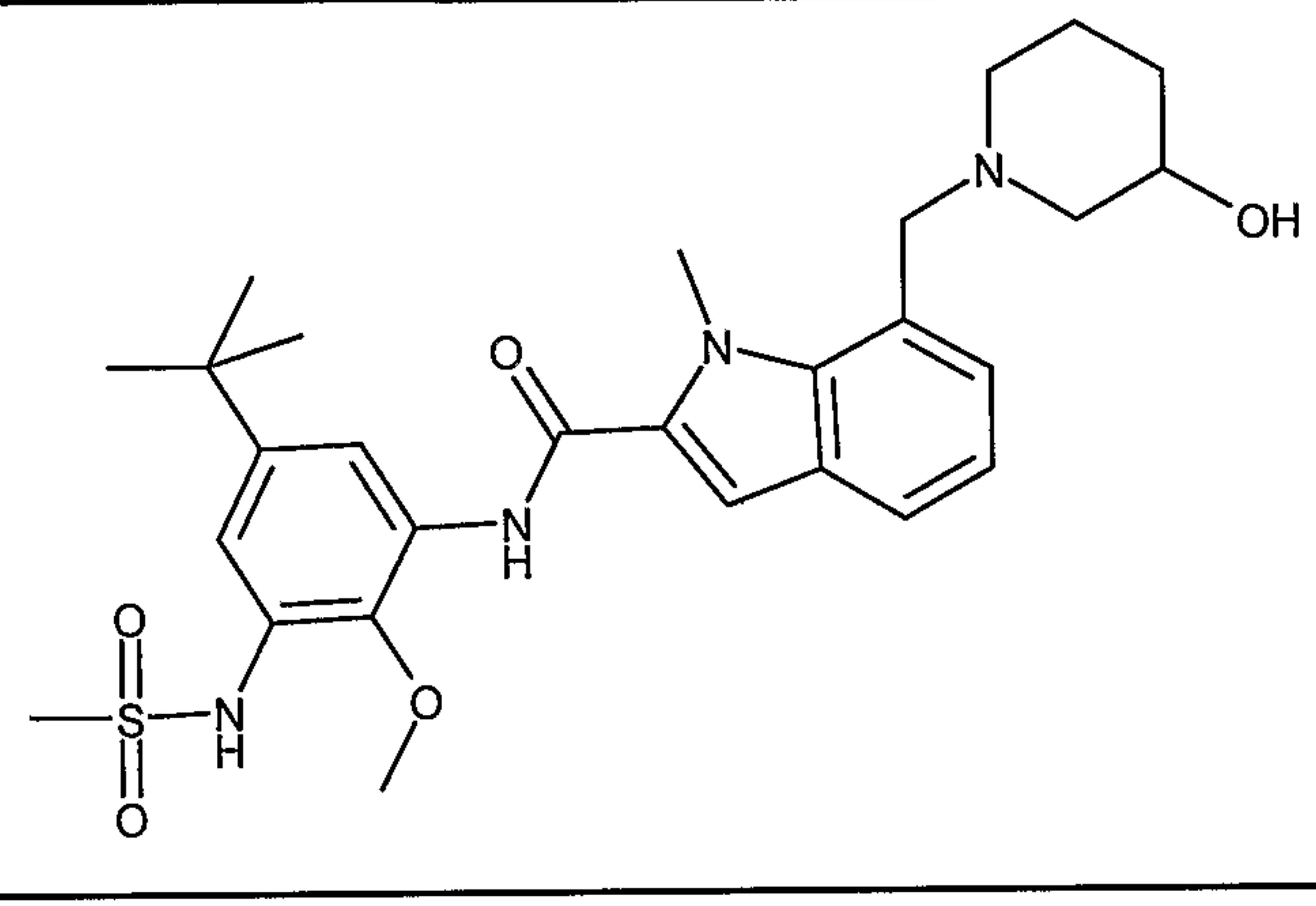
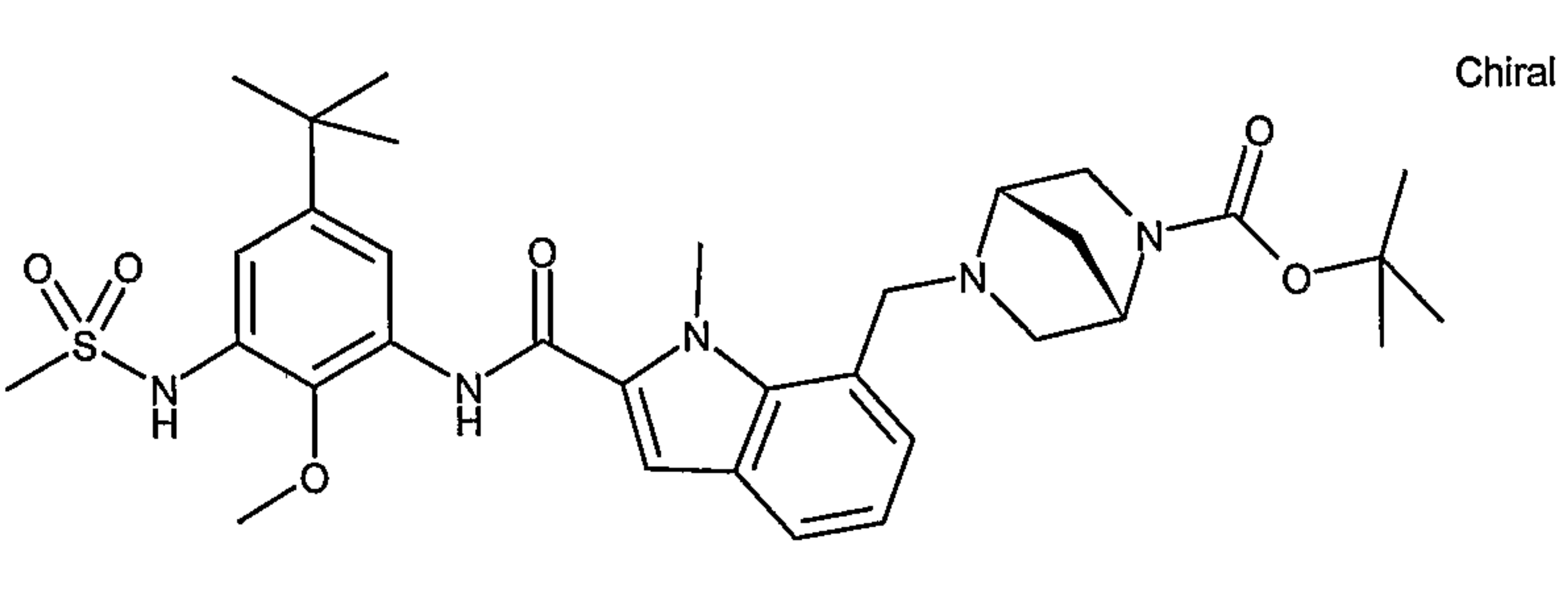
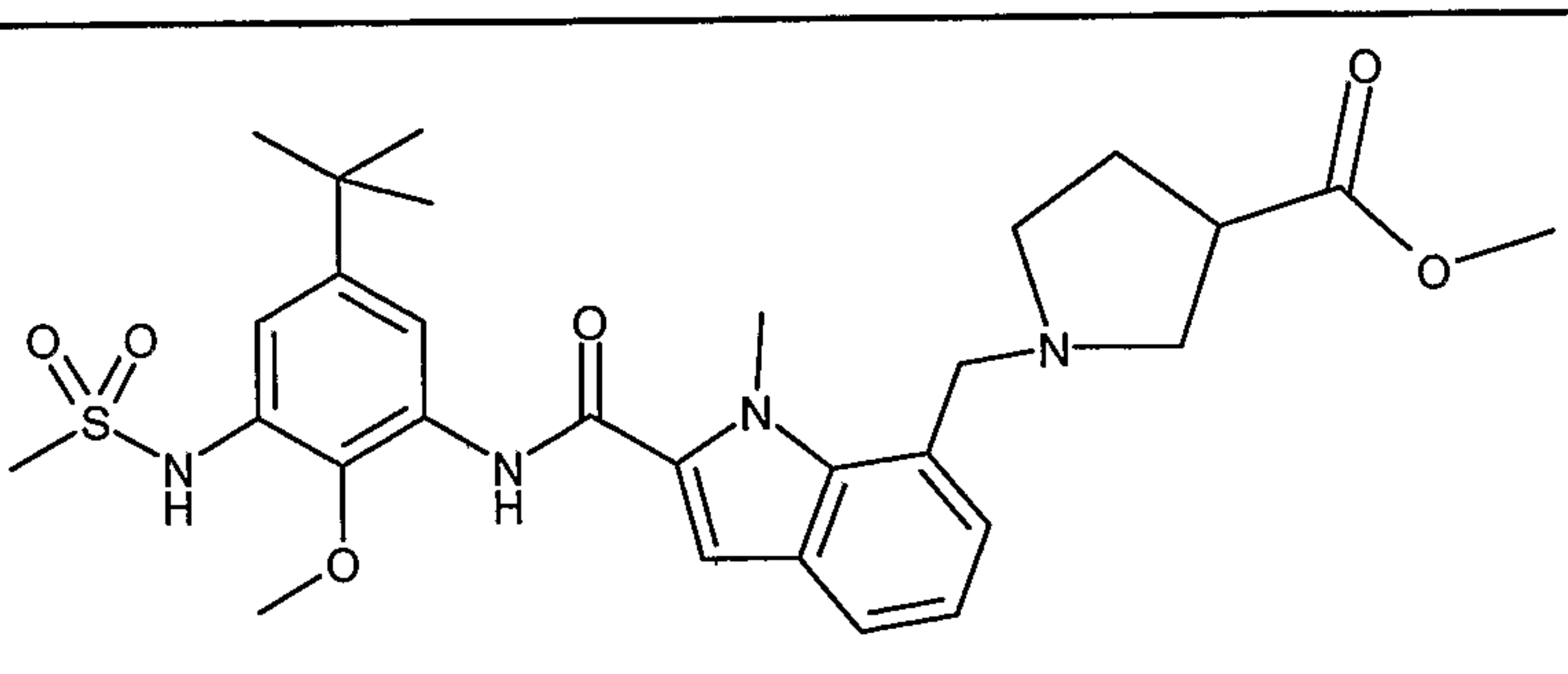
C o l u m n	Example Number	Structures
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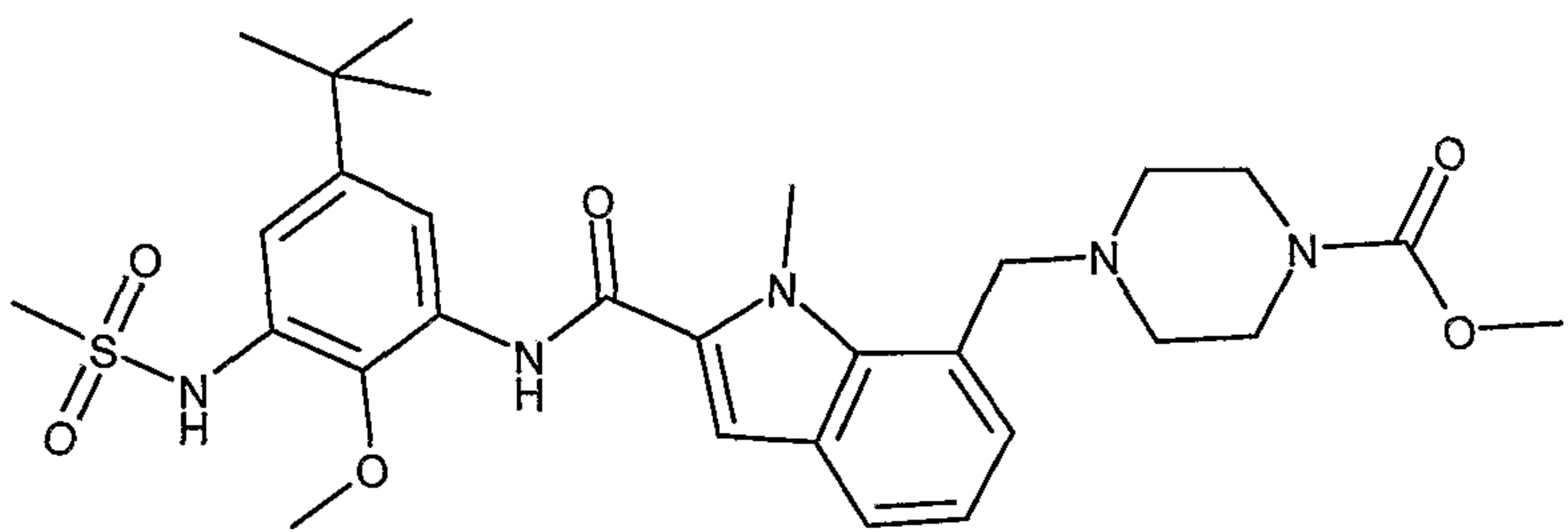
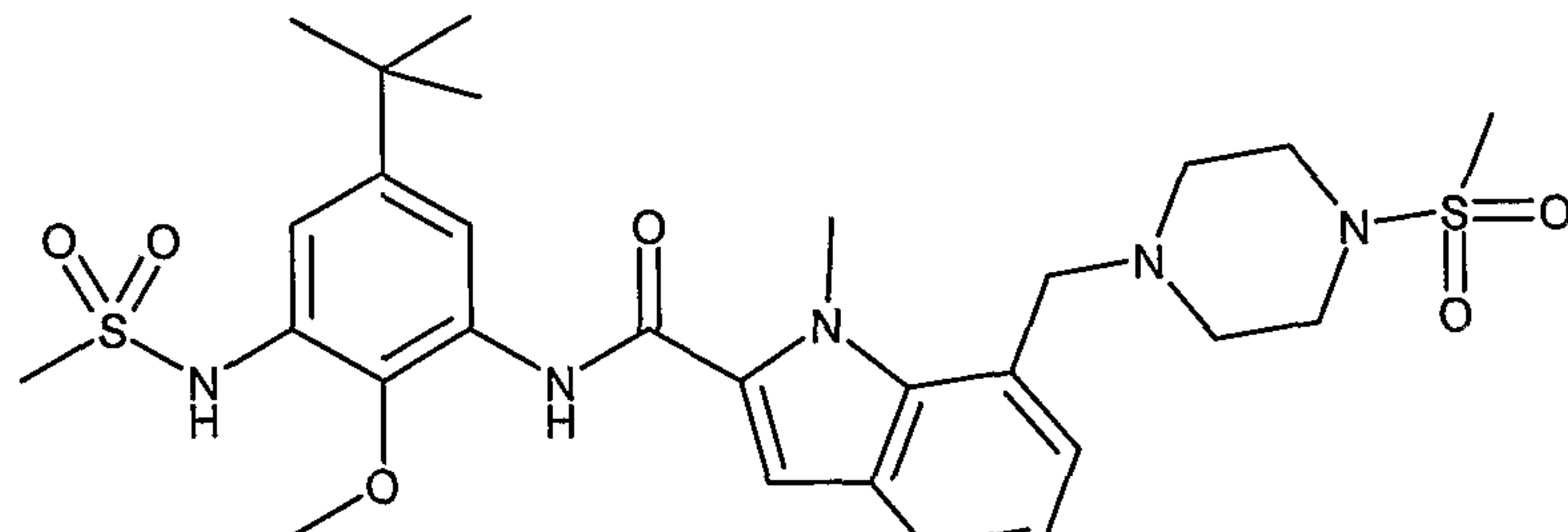
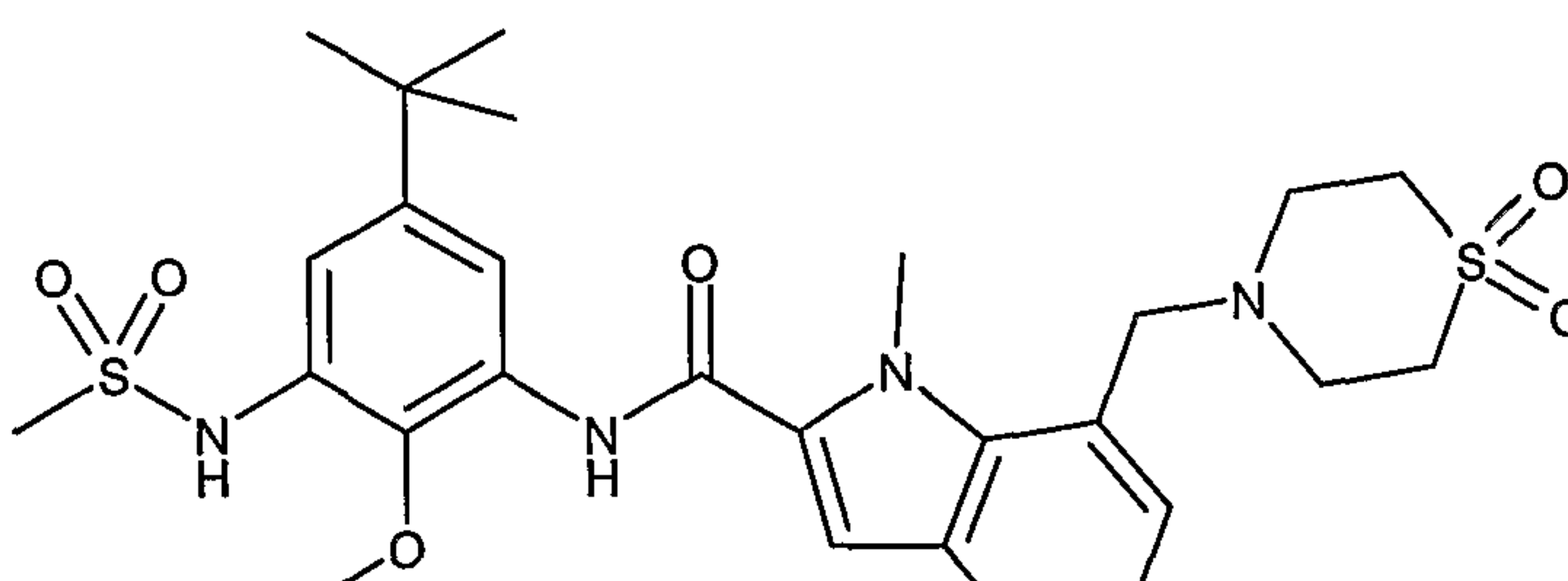
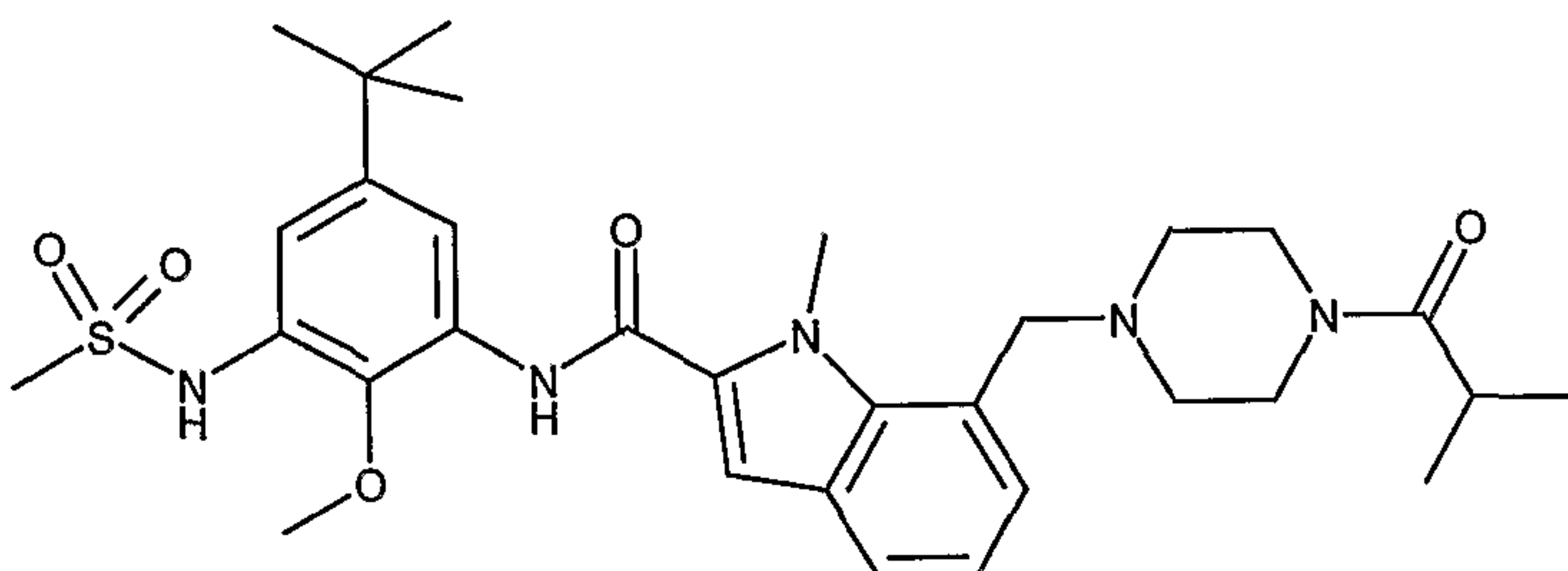
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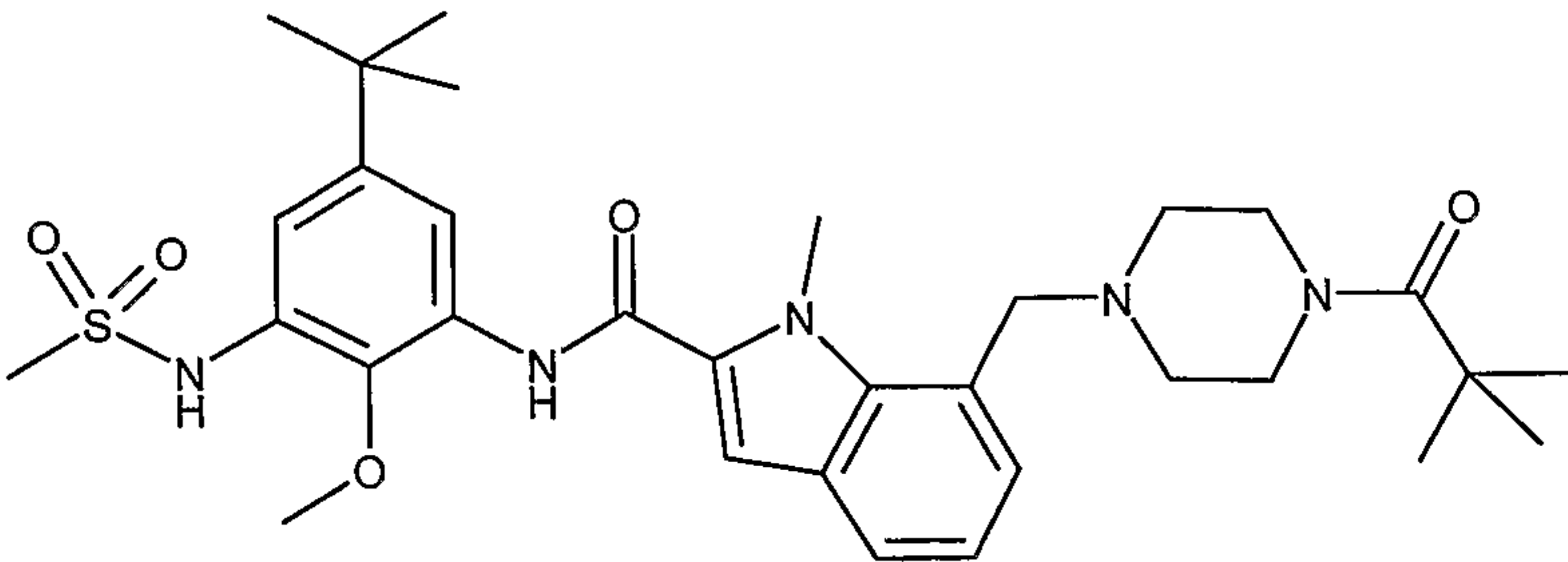
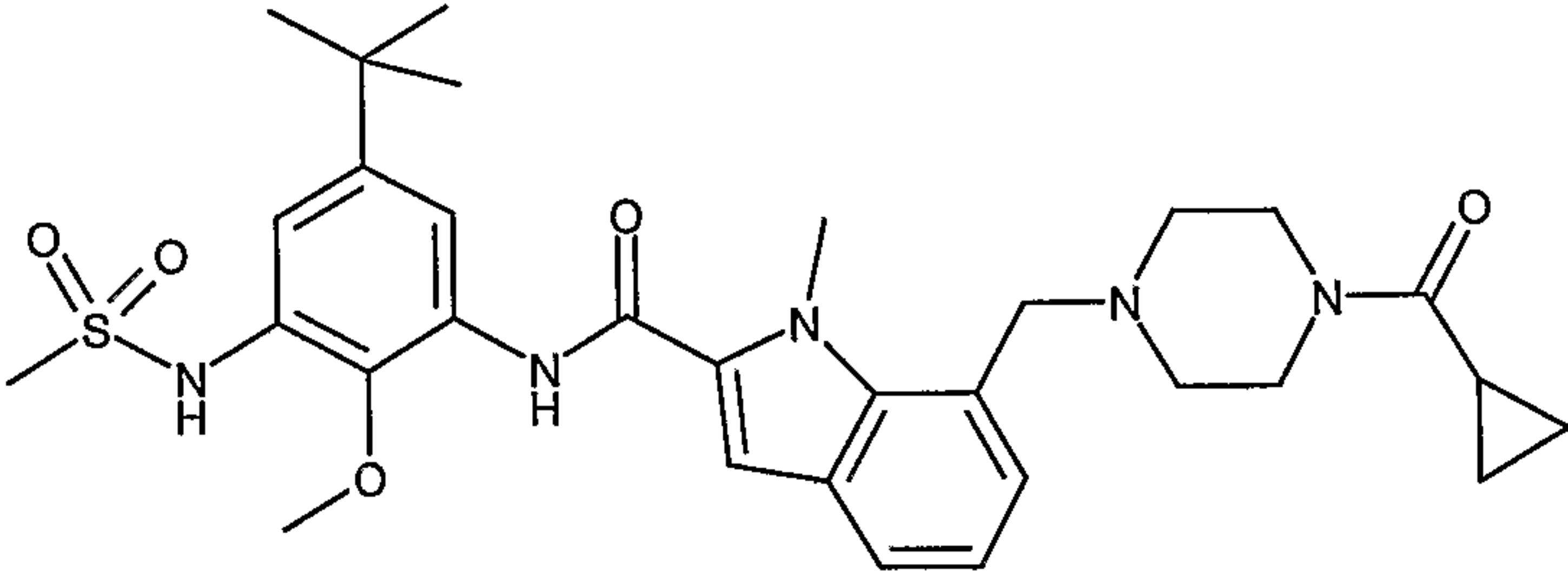
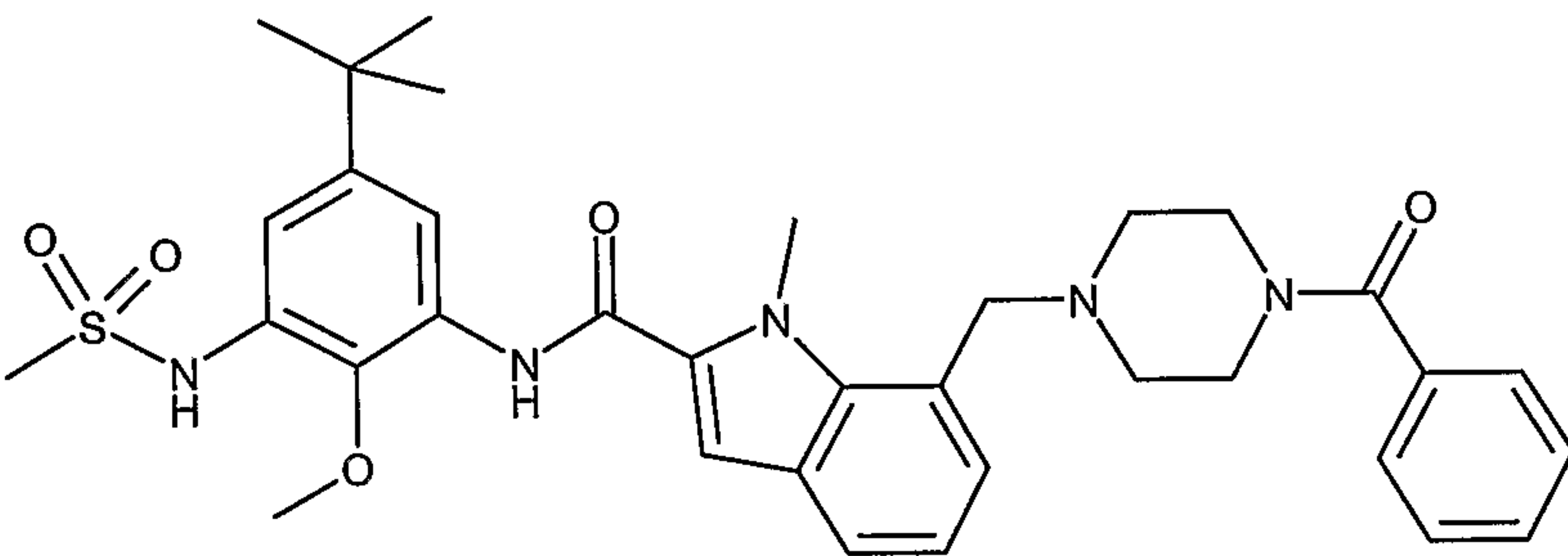
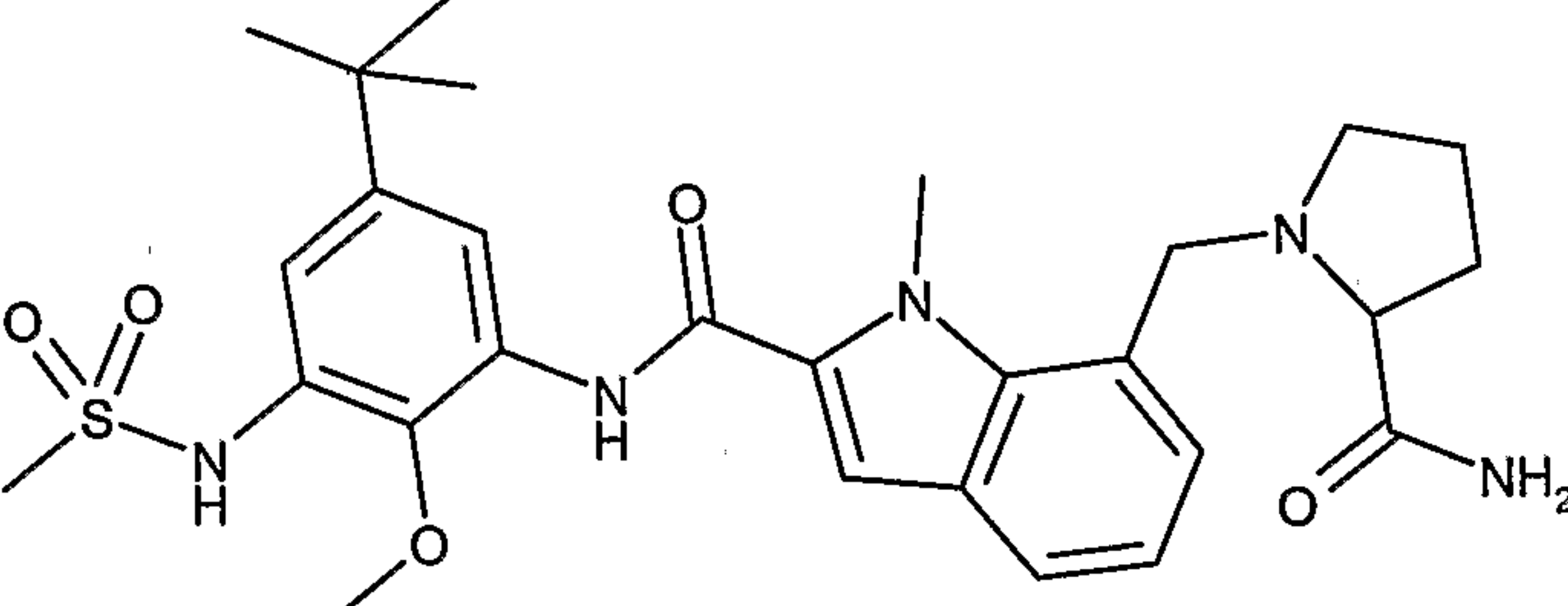
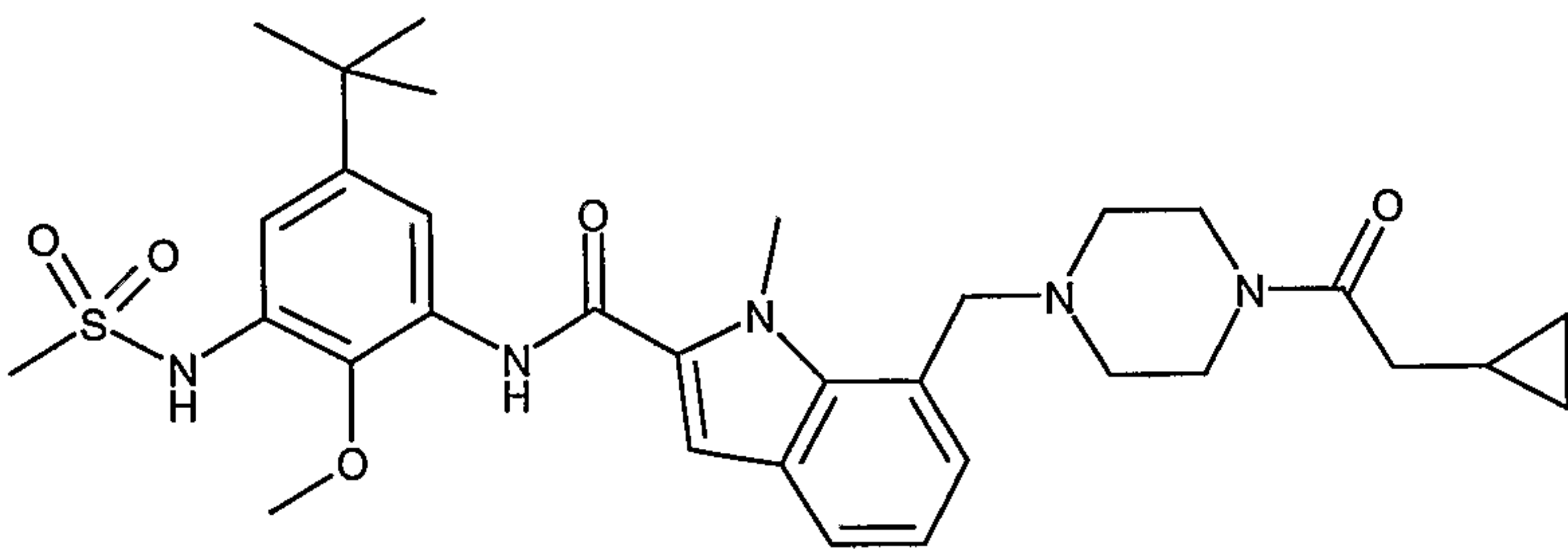
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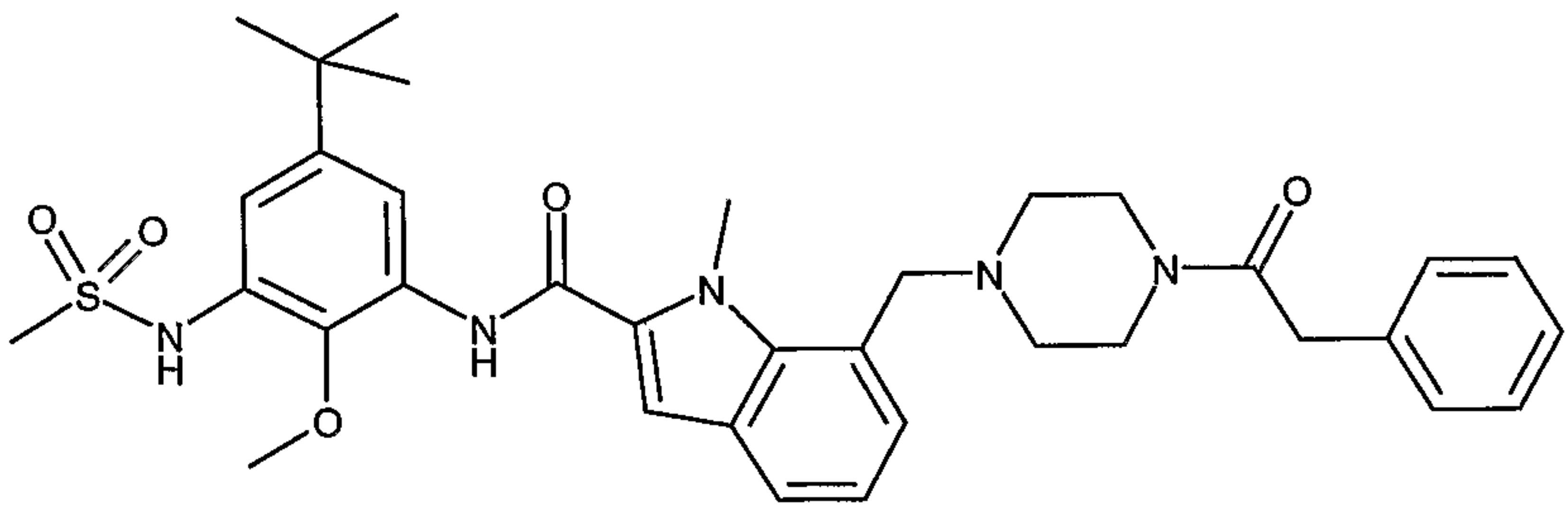
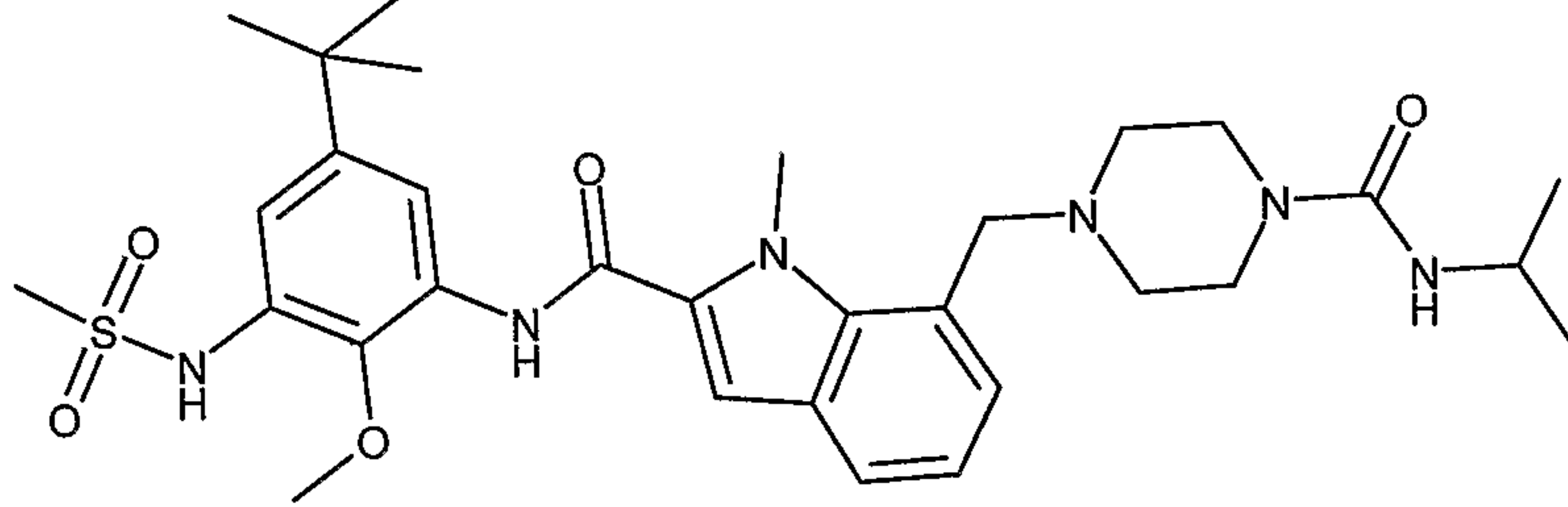
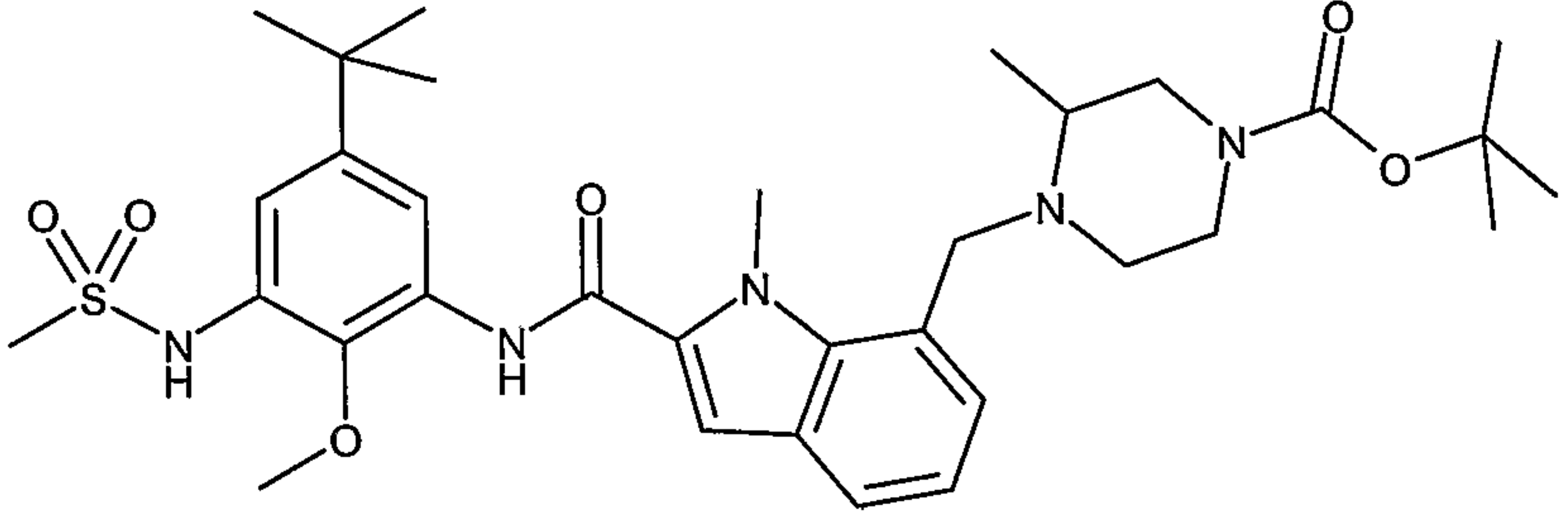
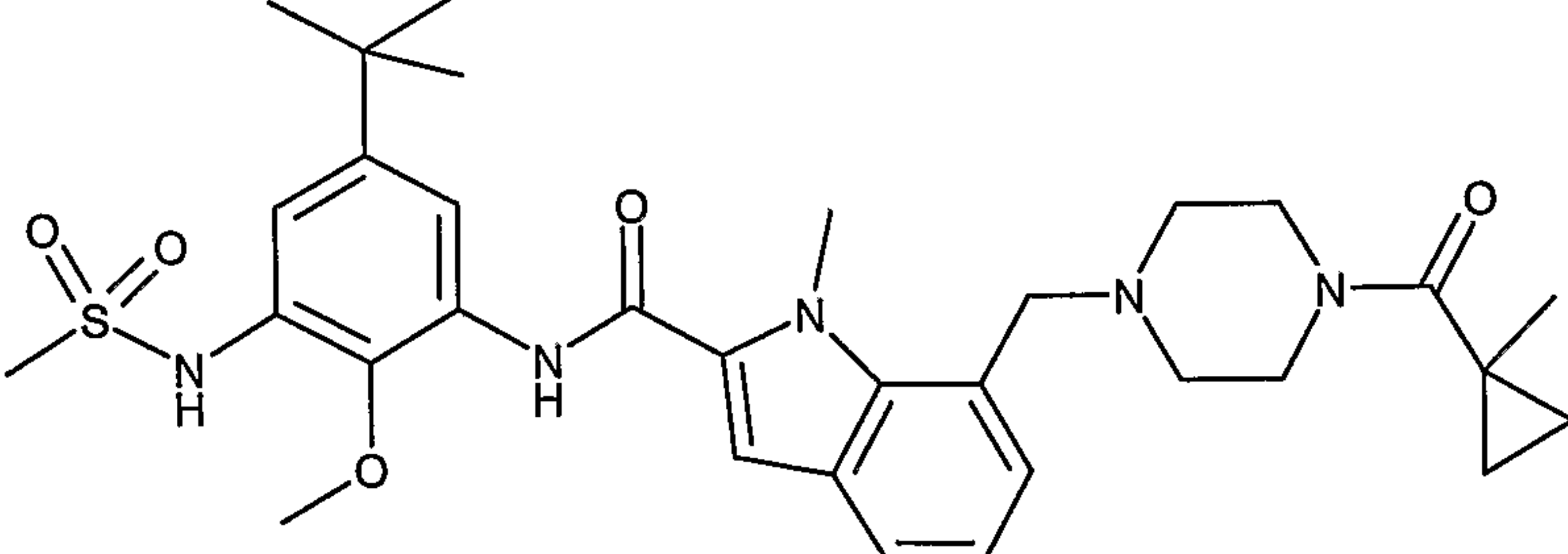
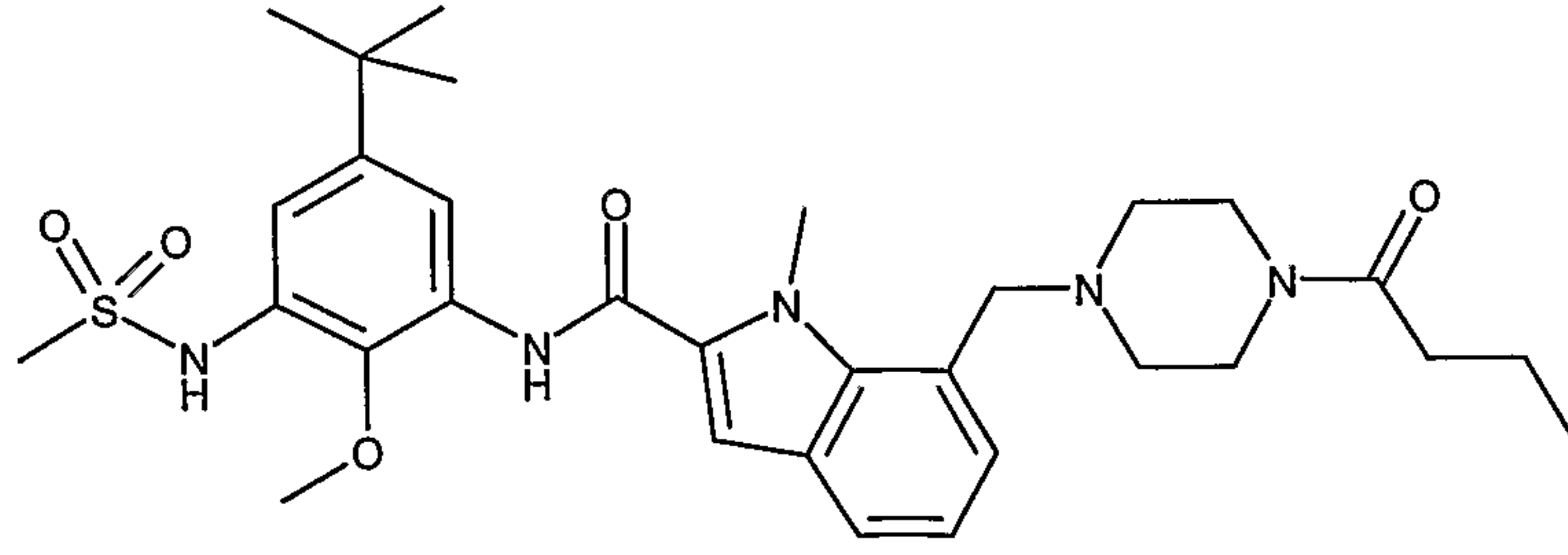
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O 6 O B	24	
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I O O 6 O 1	26	

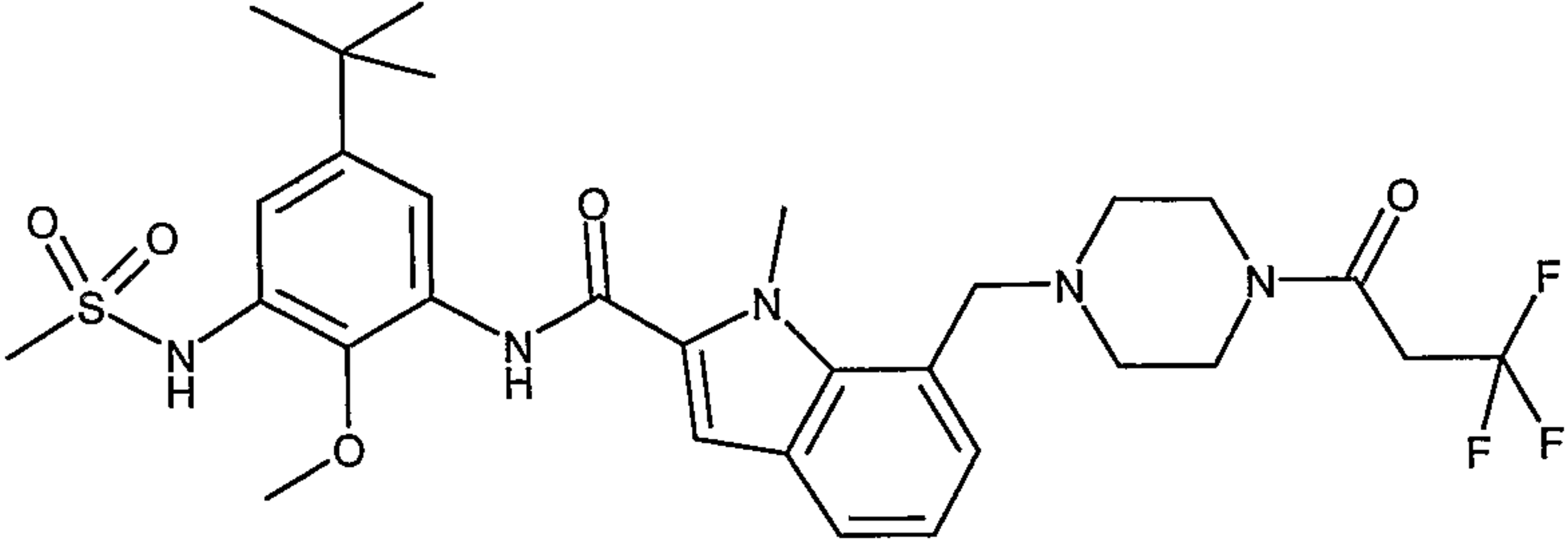
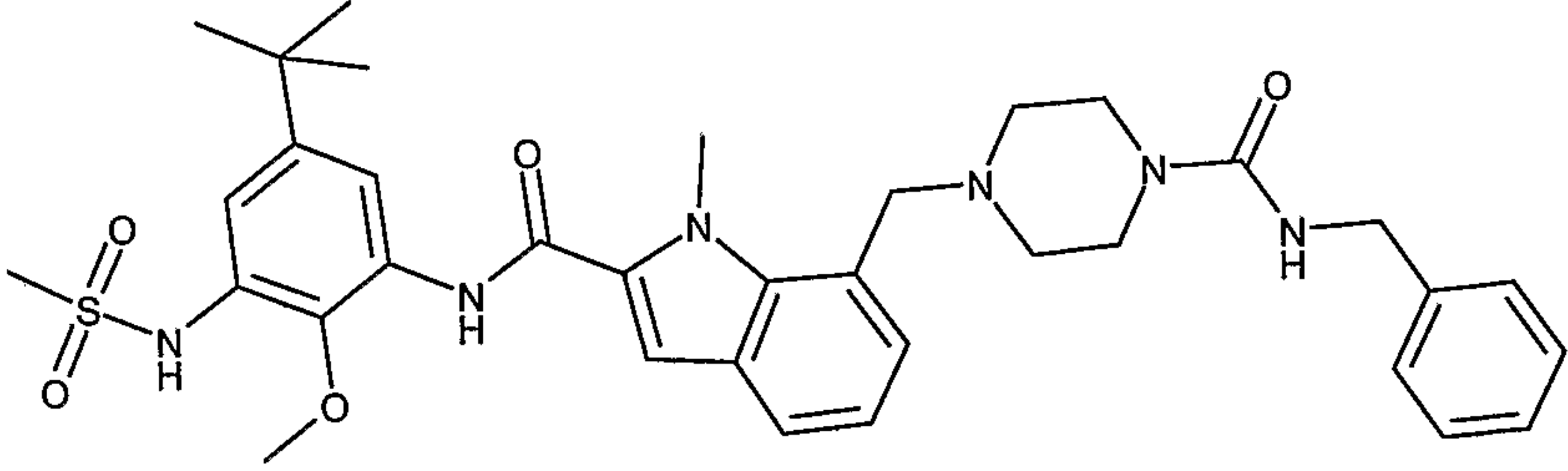
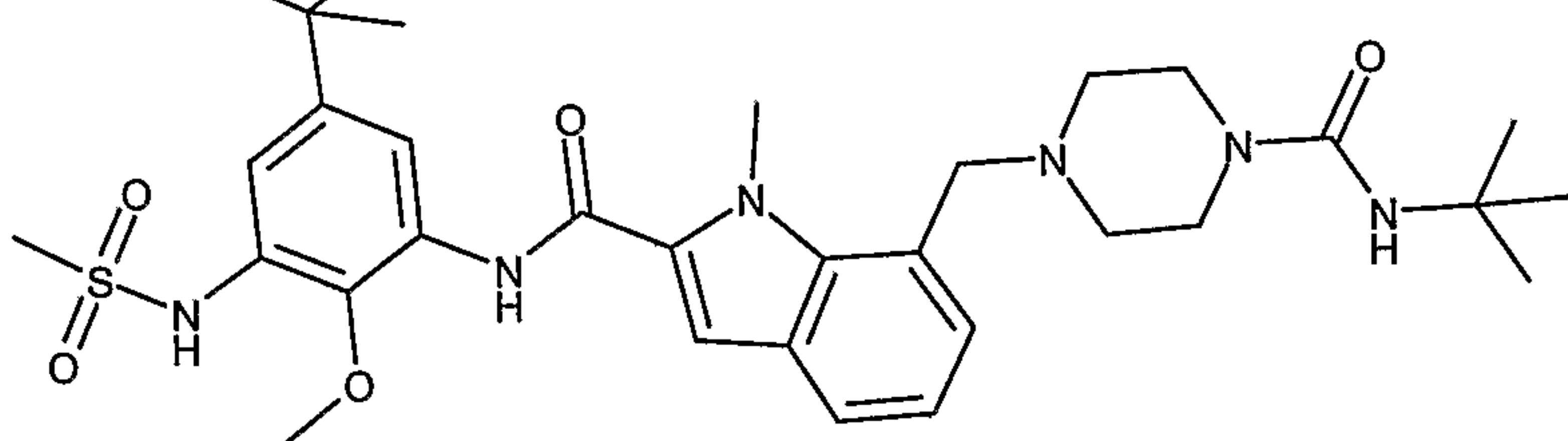
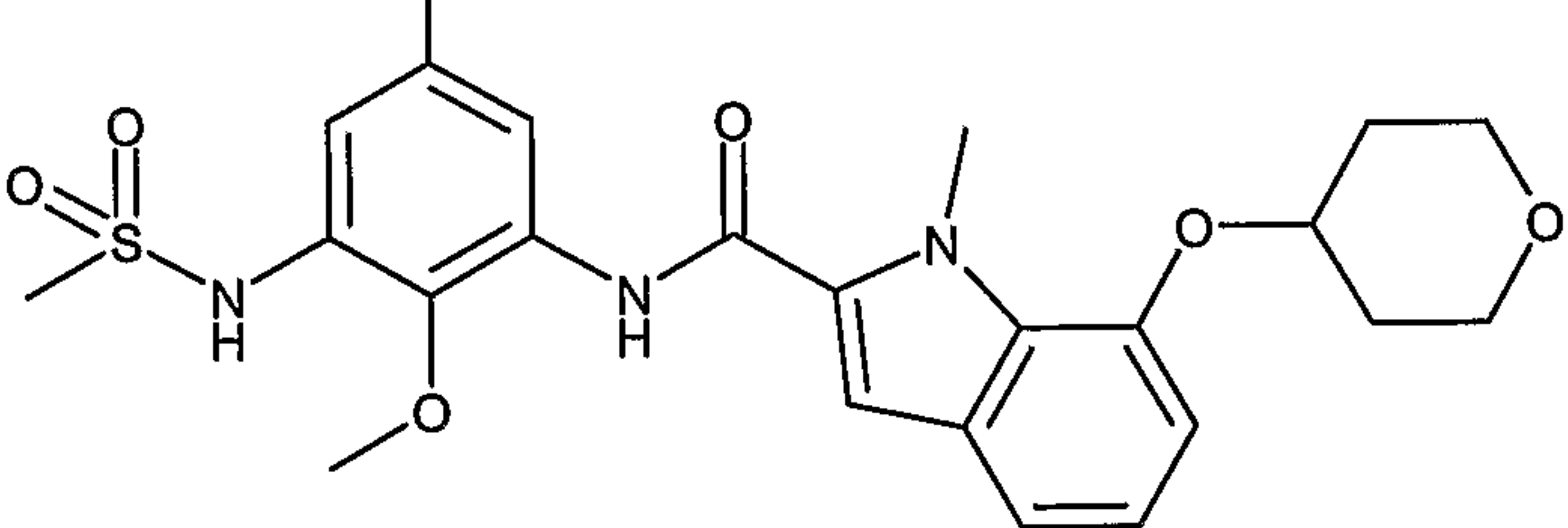
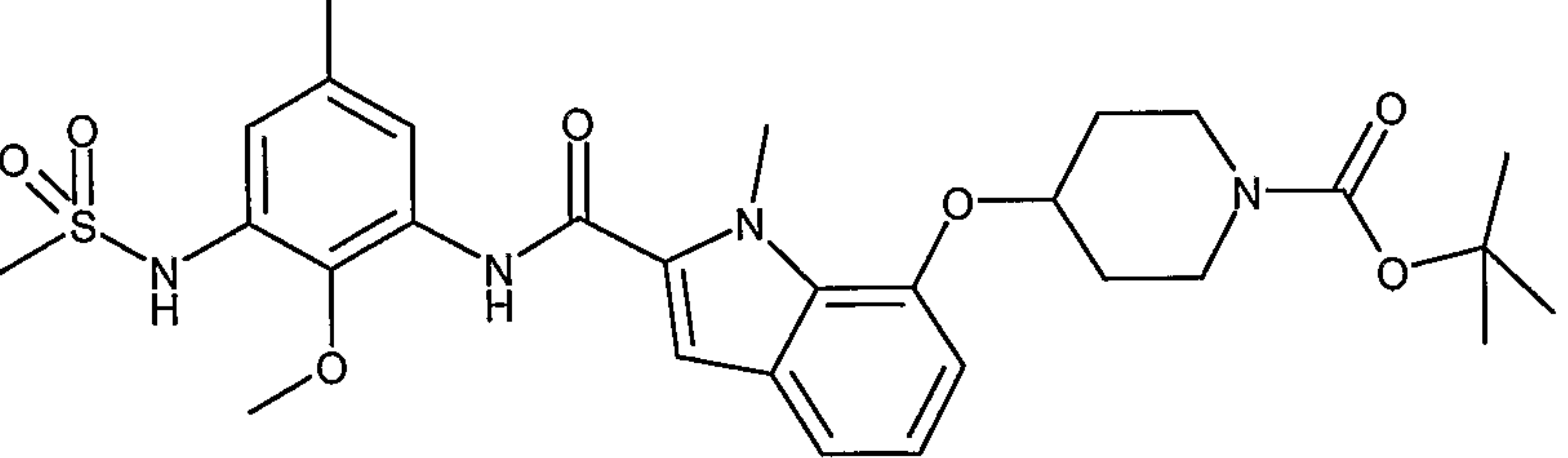
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B I O O 6 O B	30	
B I O O 6 O B	31	

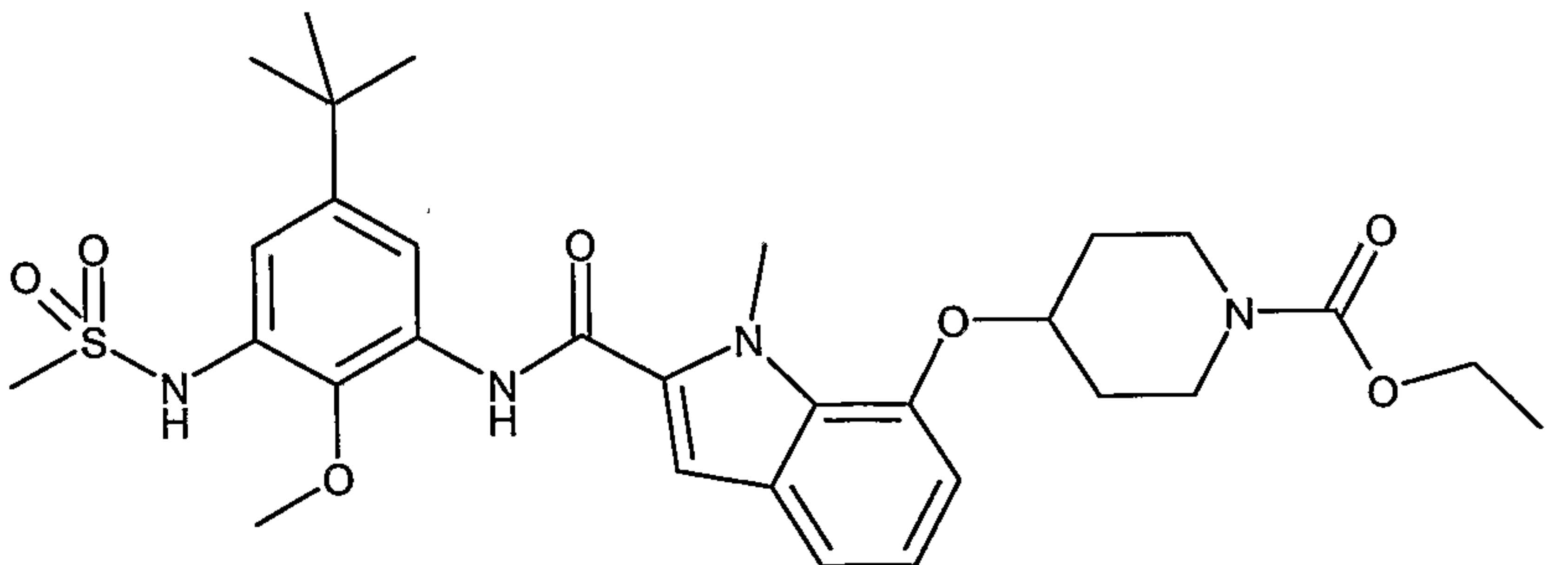
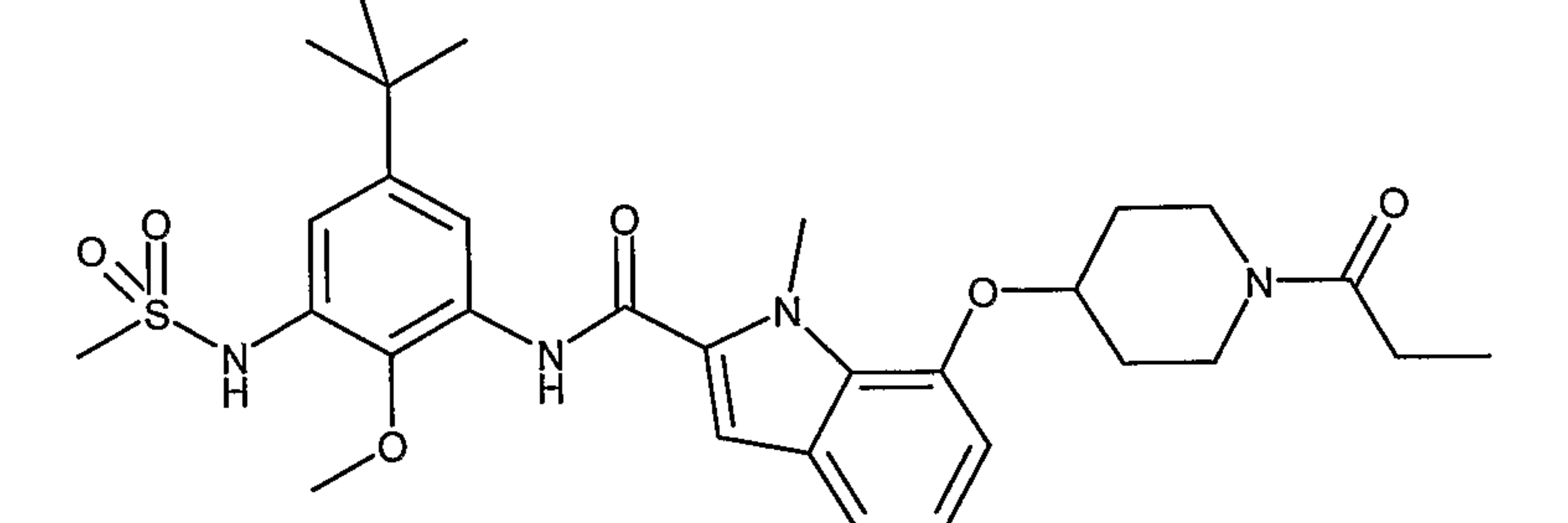
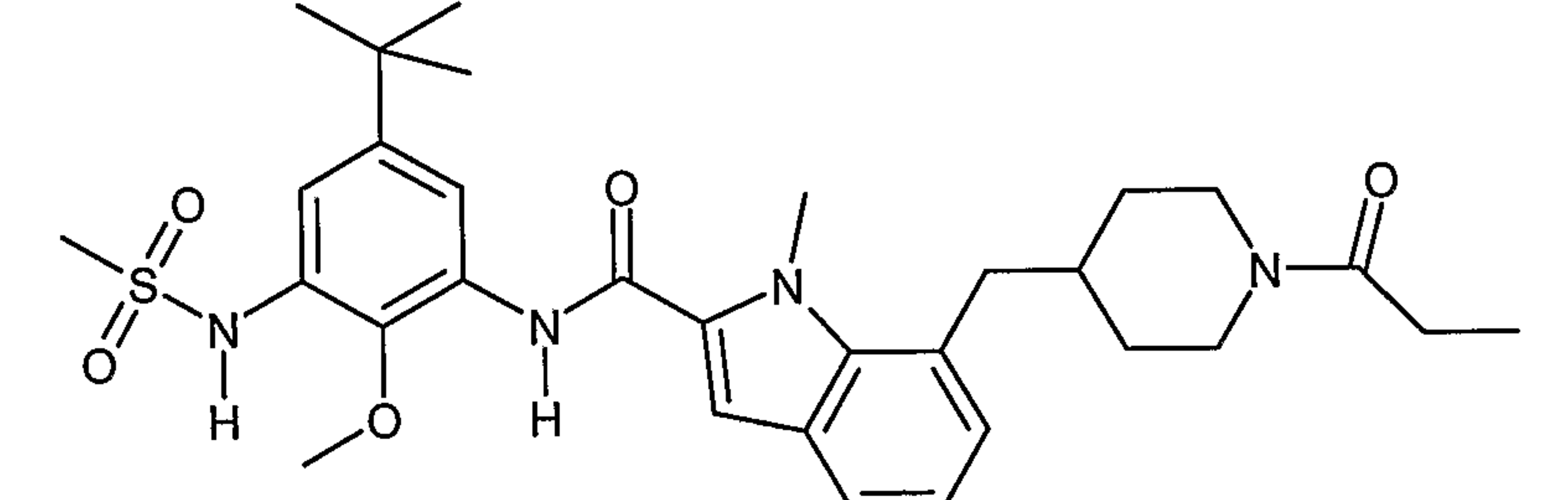
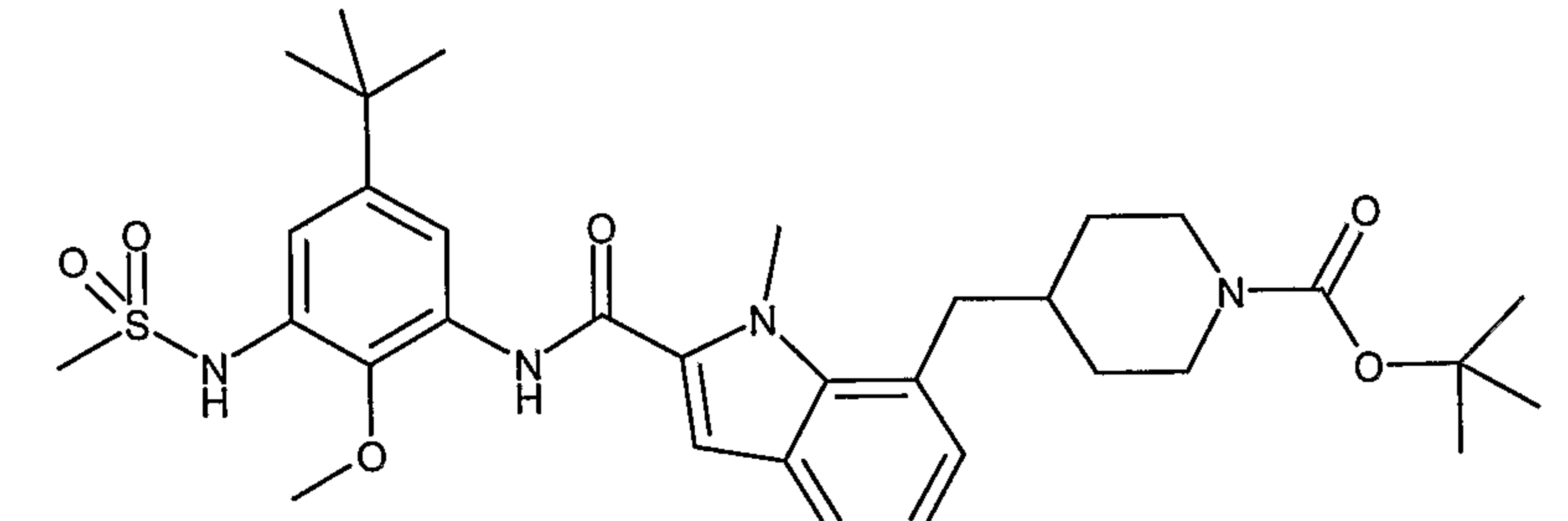
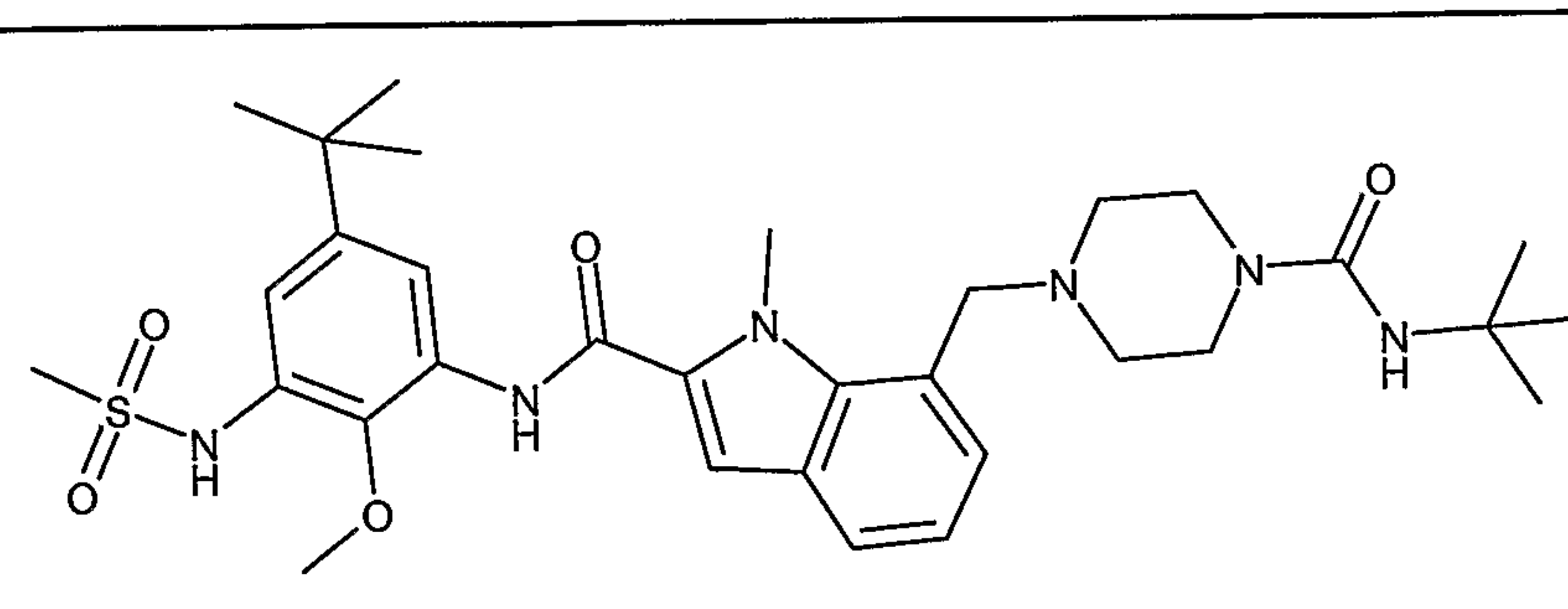
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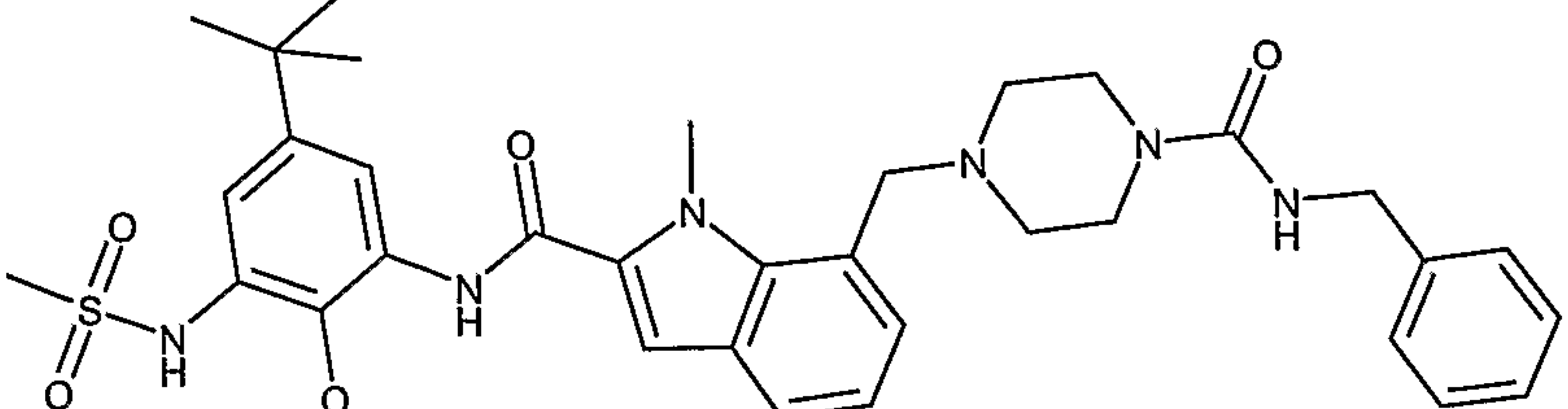
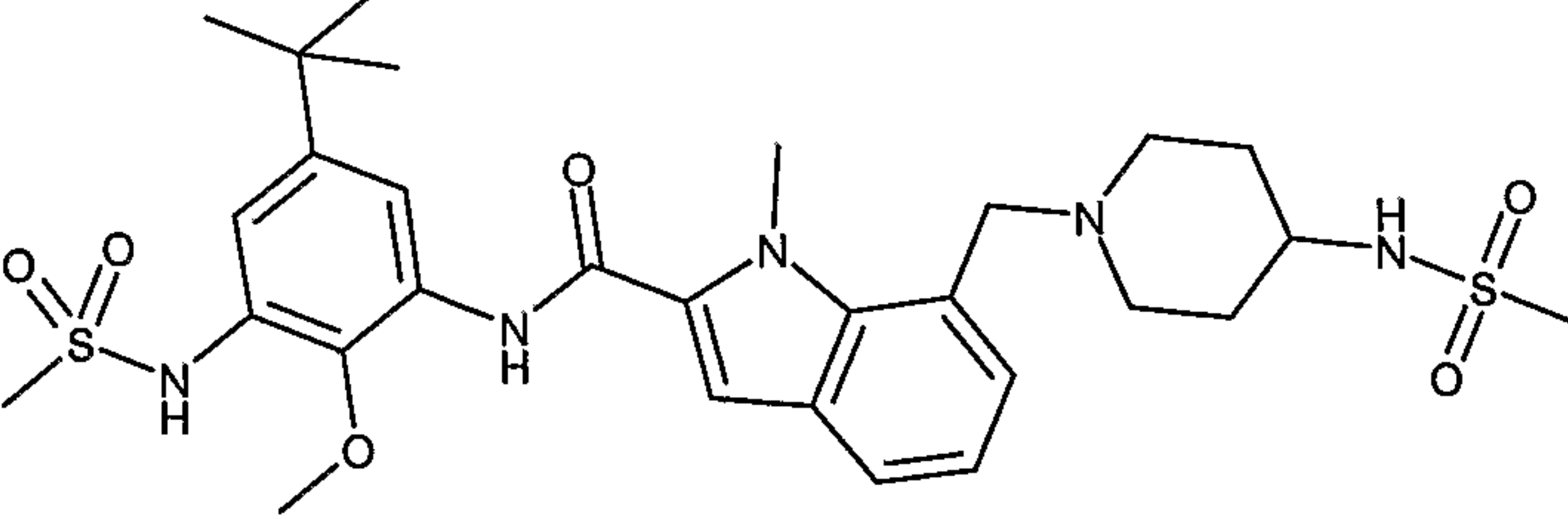
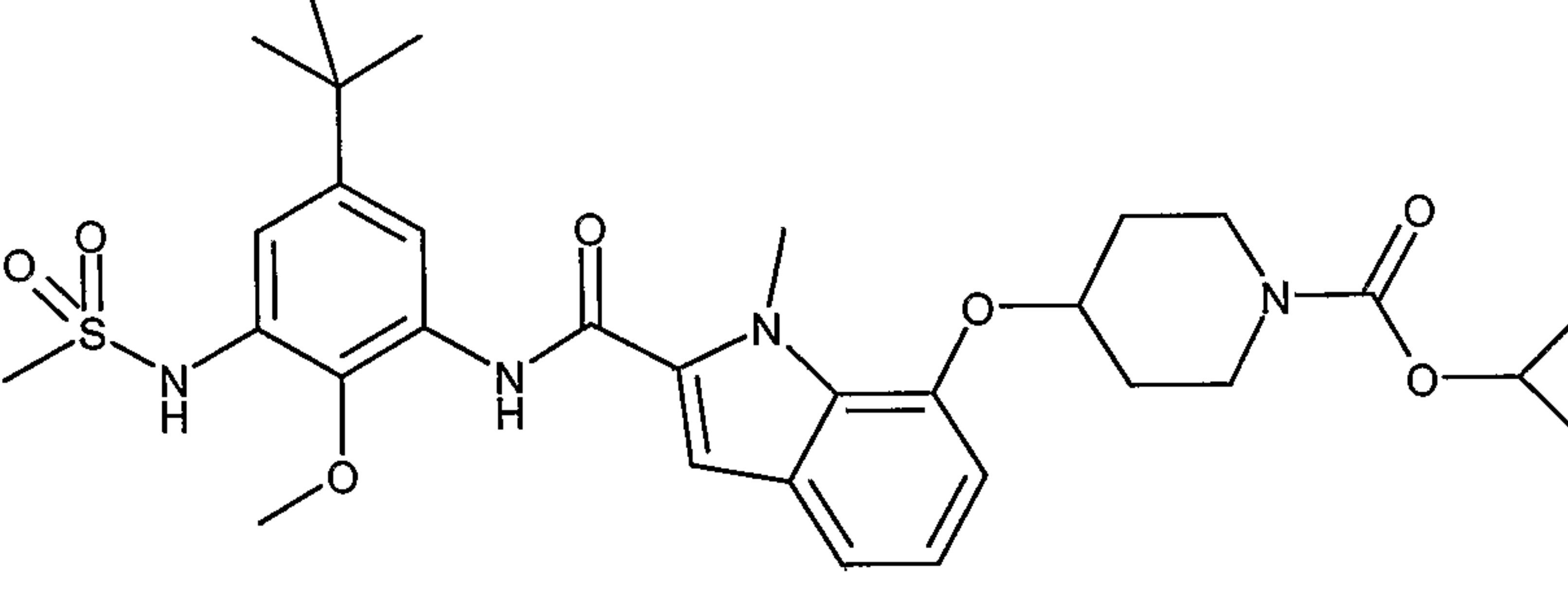
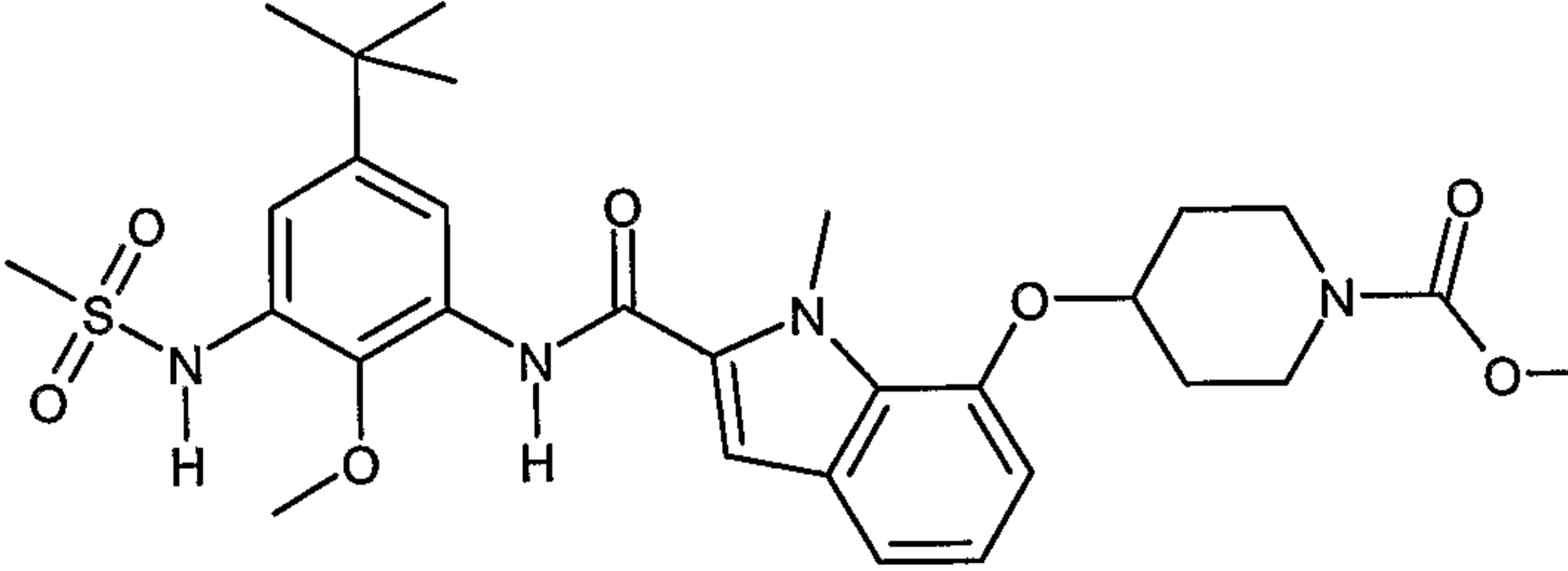
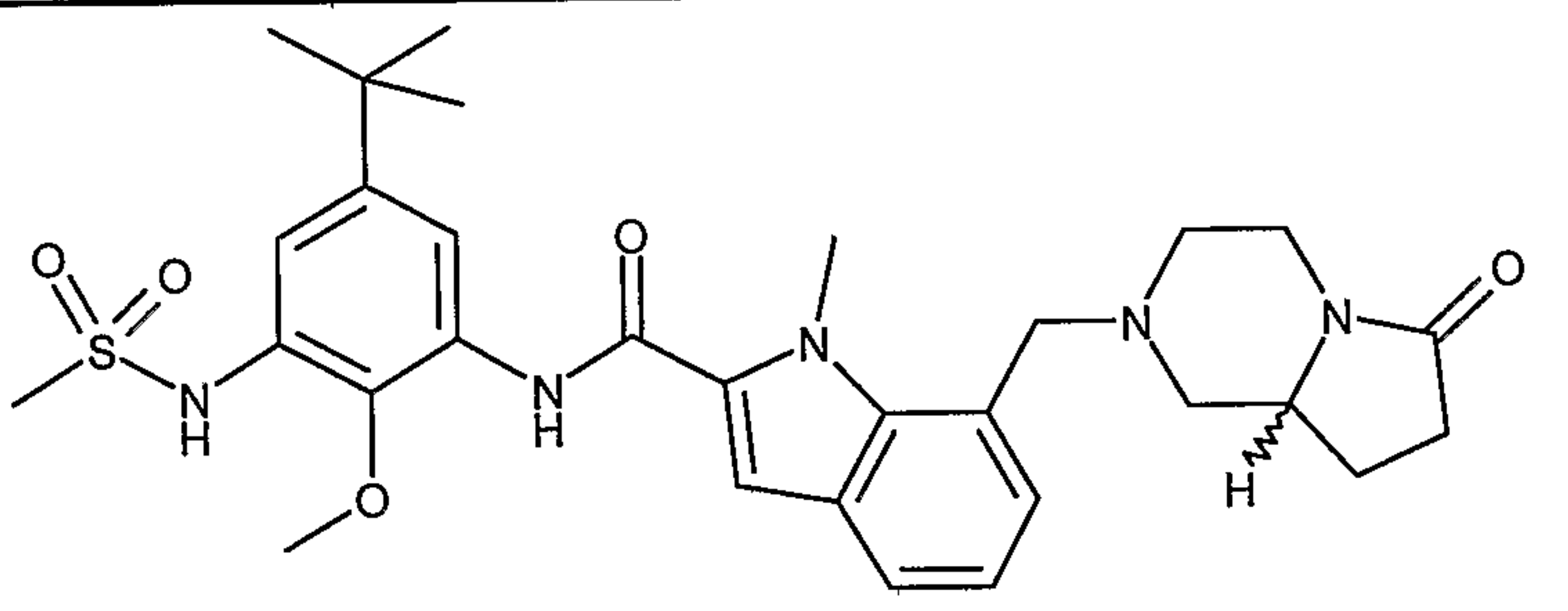
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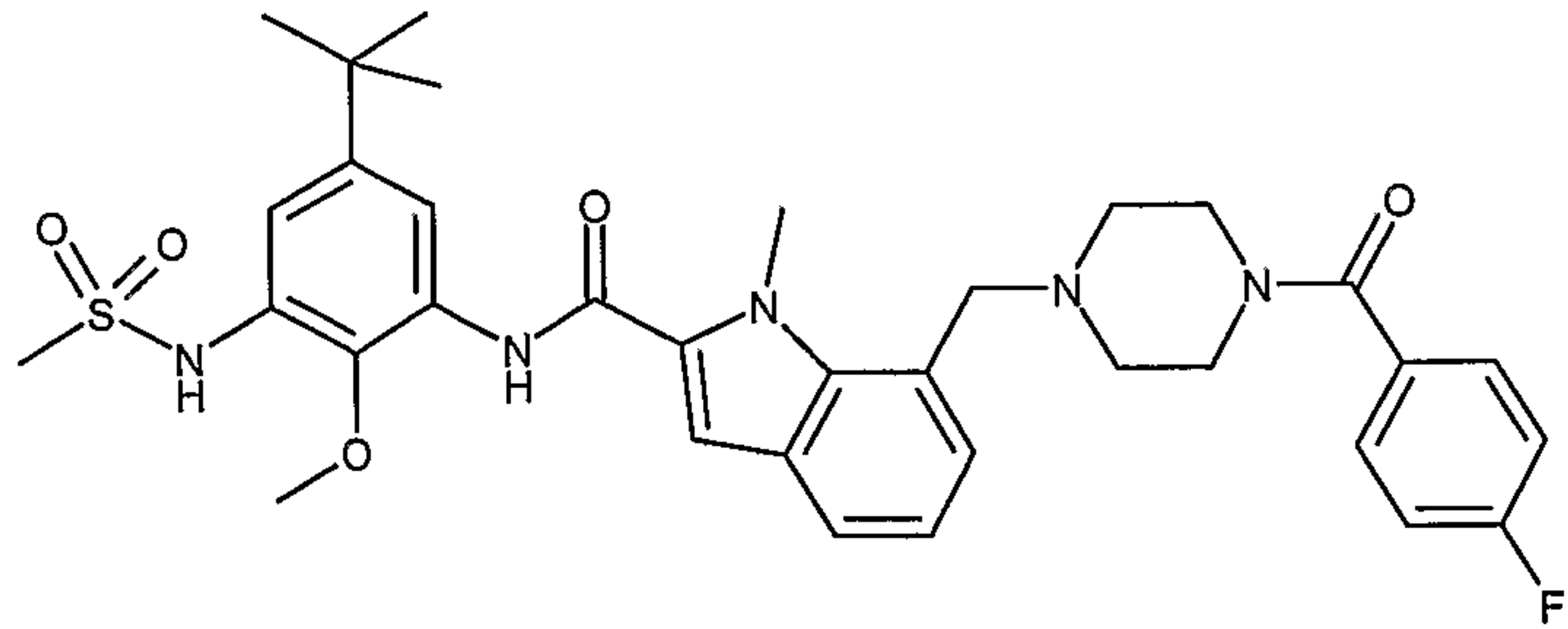
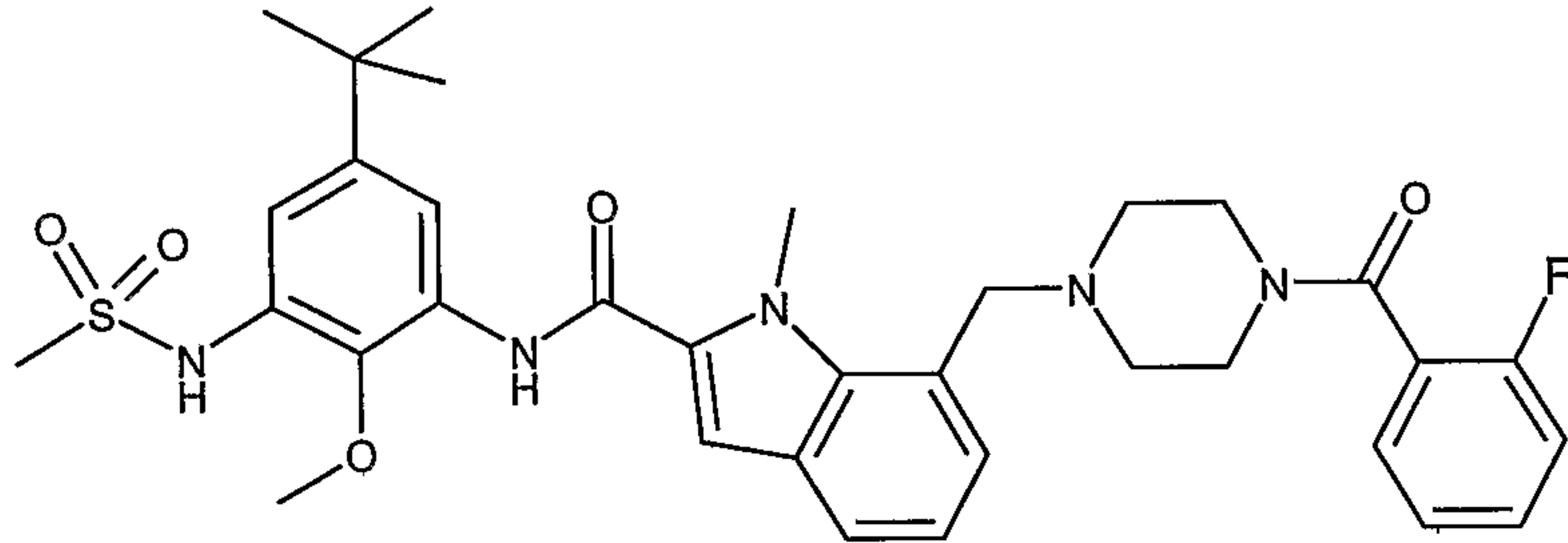
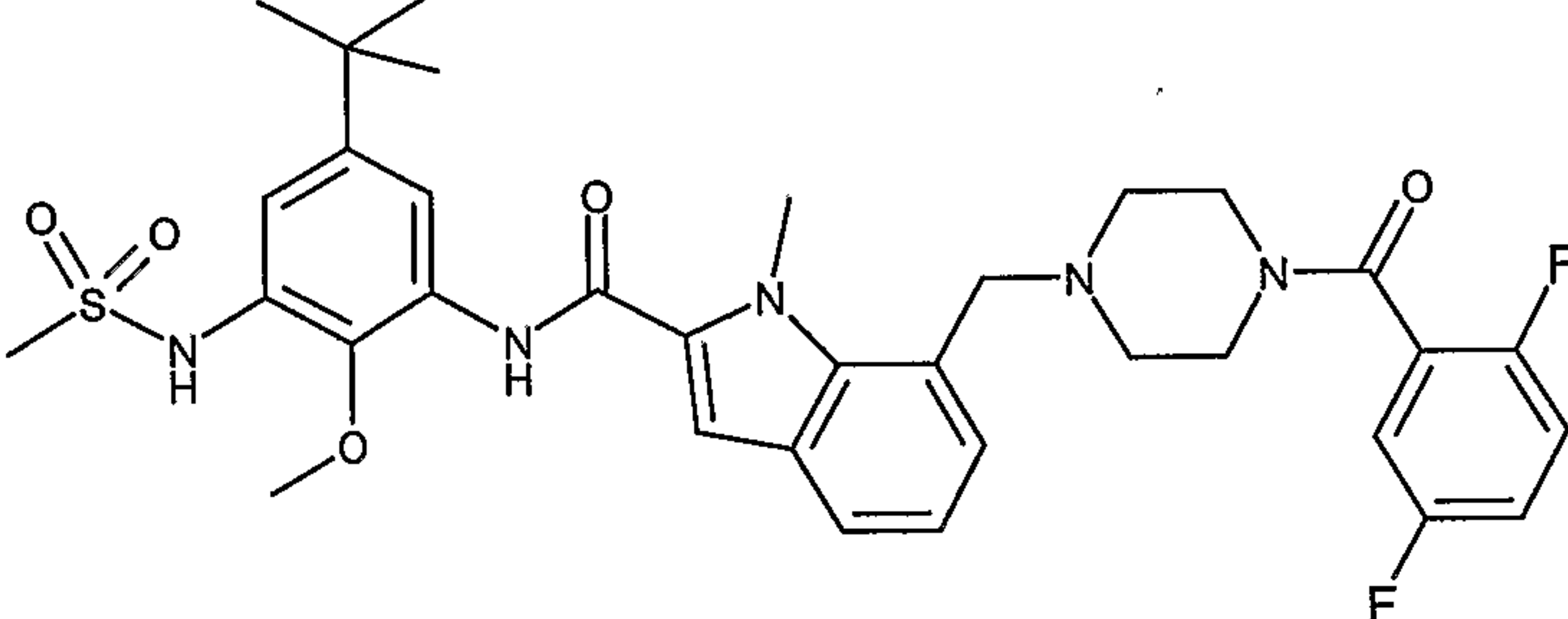
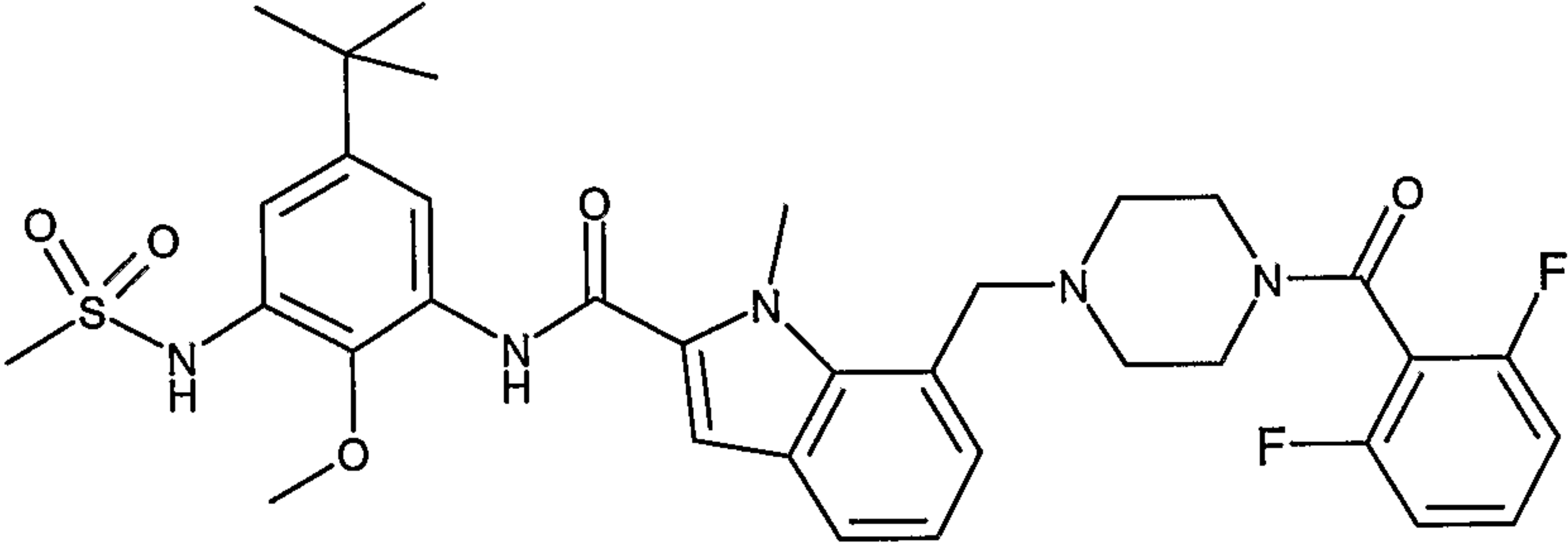
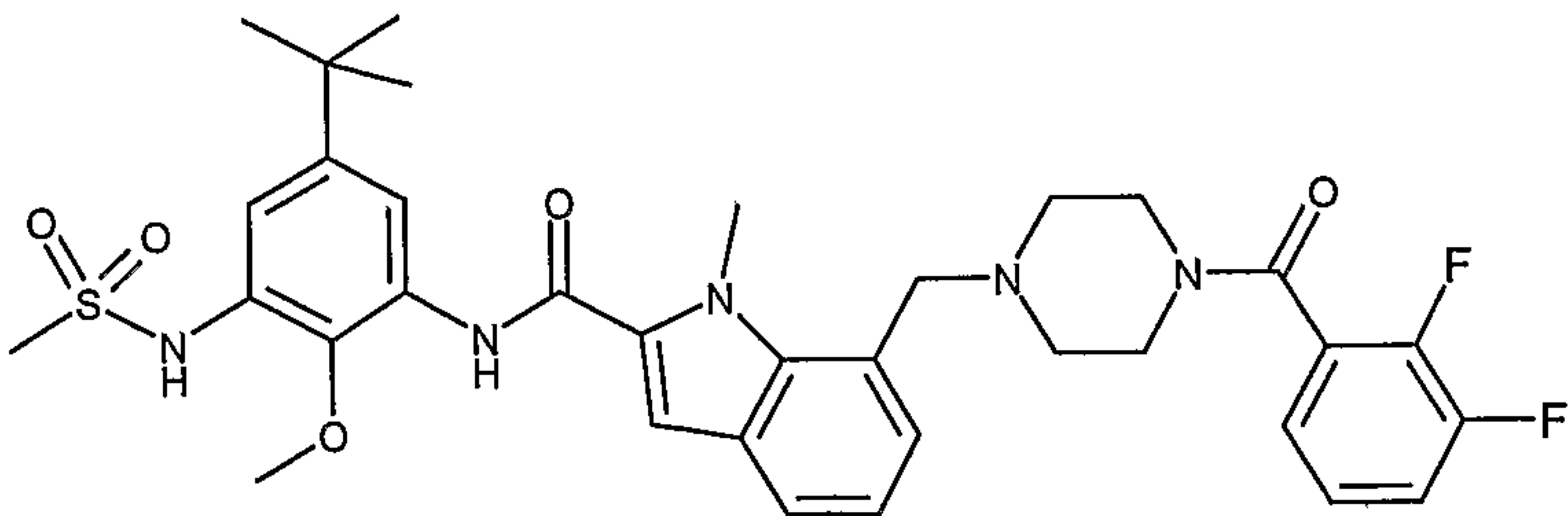
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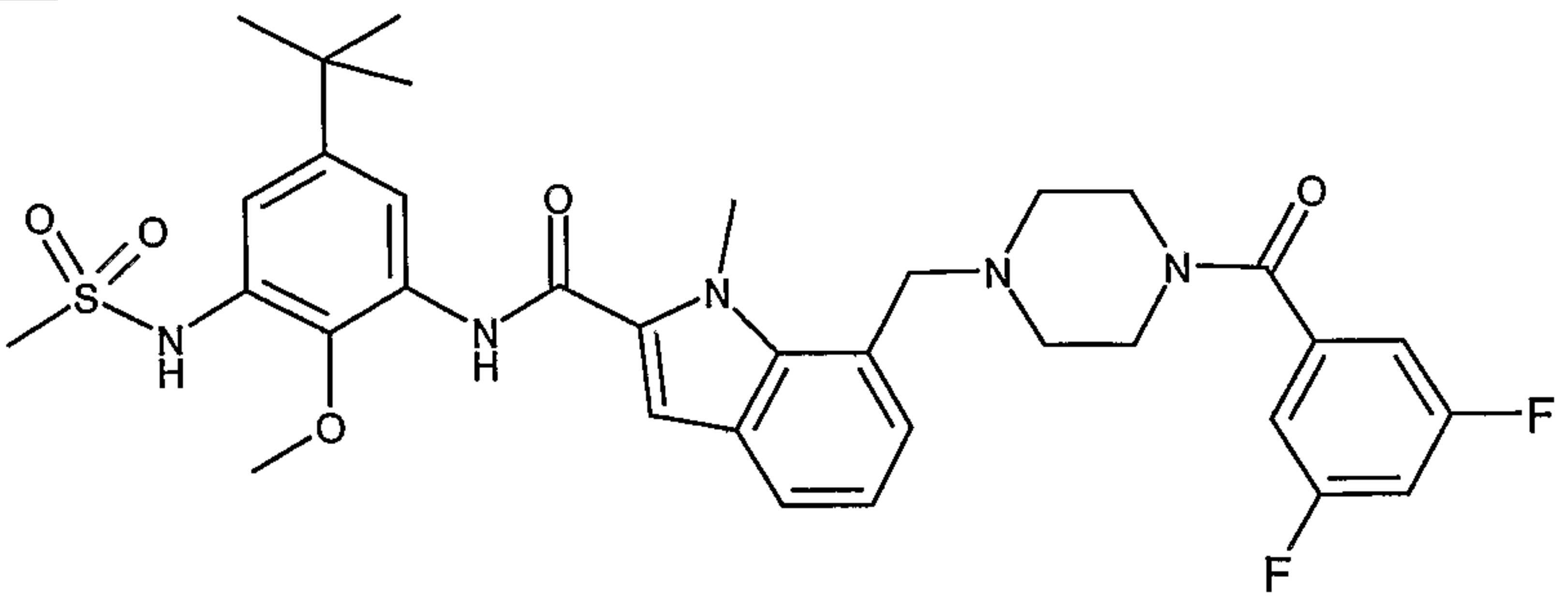
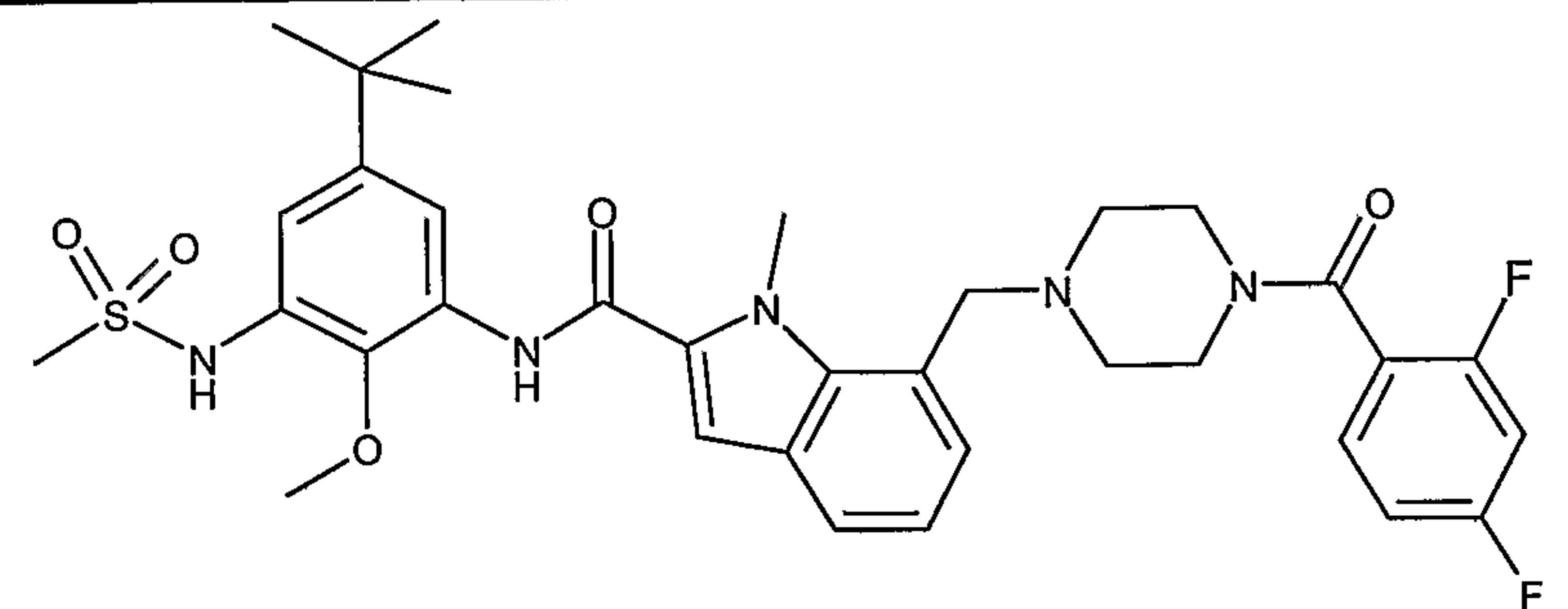
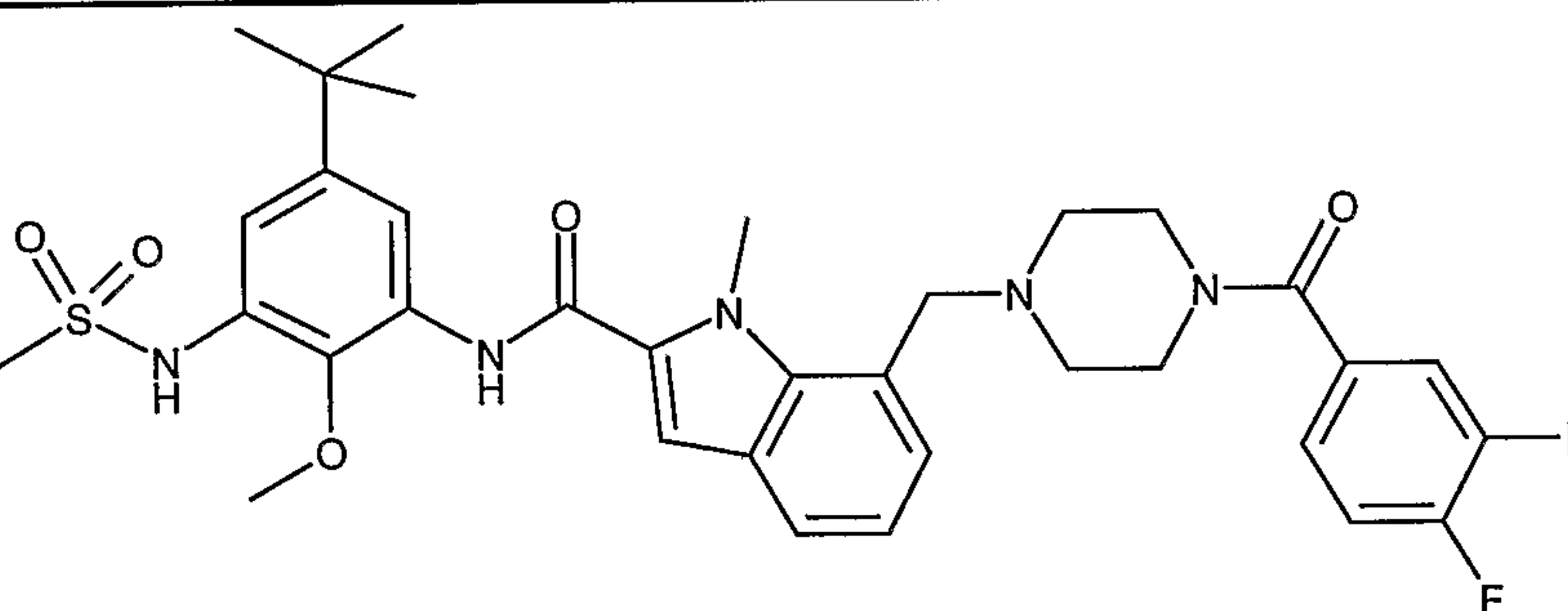
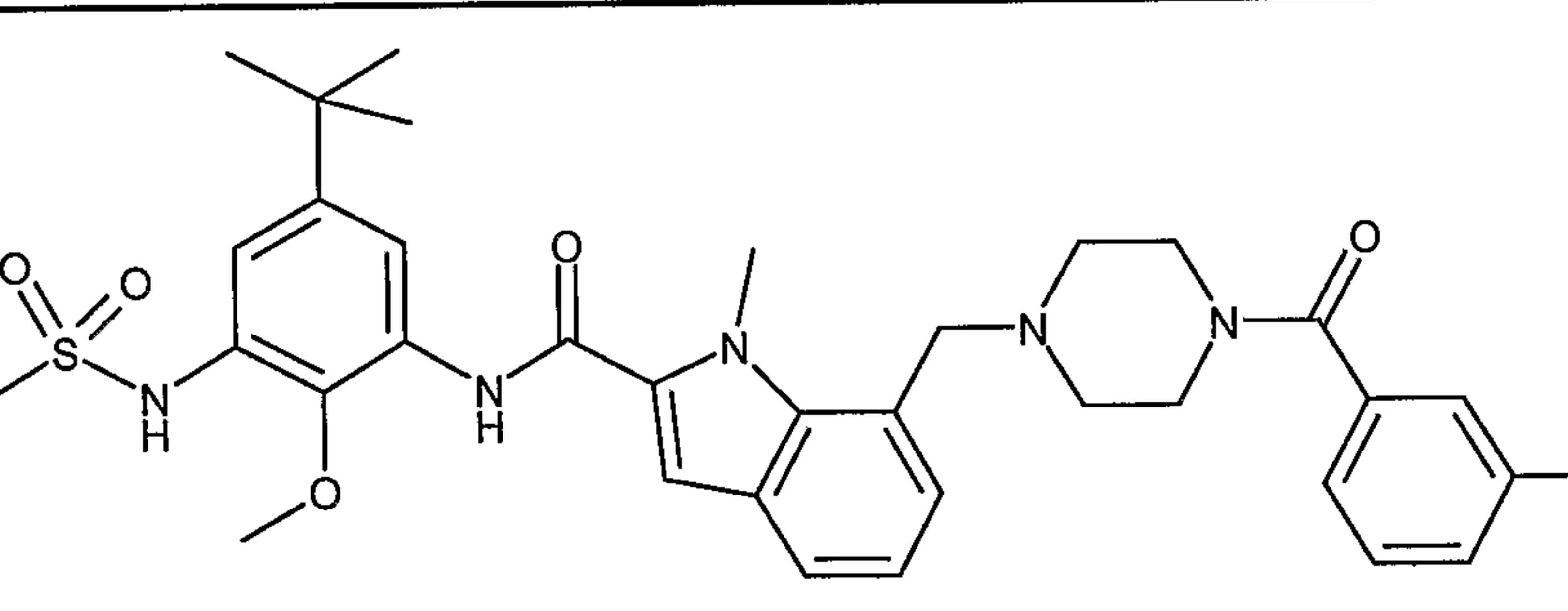
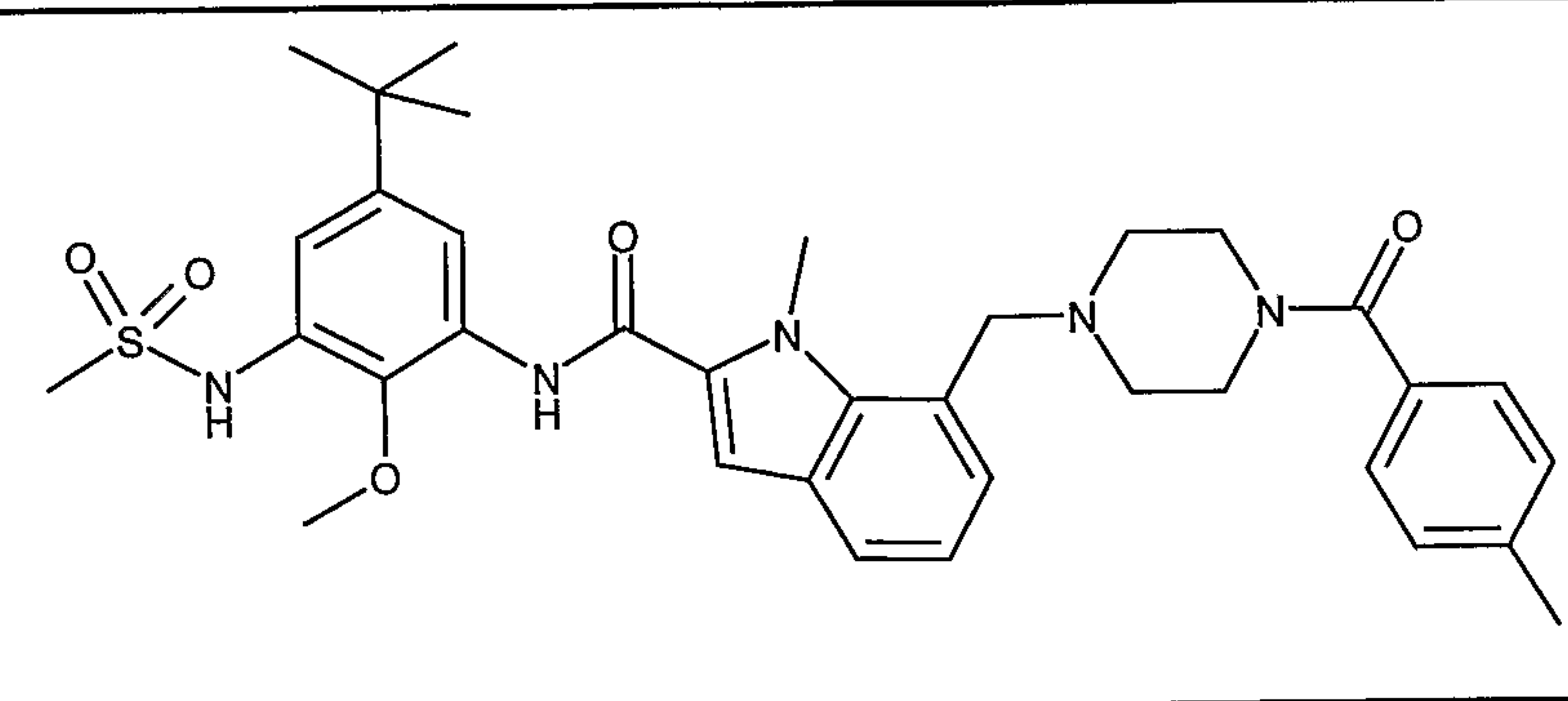
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B I O O 6 B	47	
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B I O O 6	49	

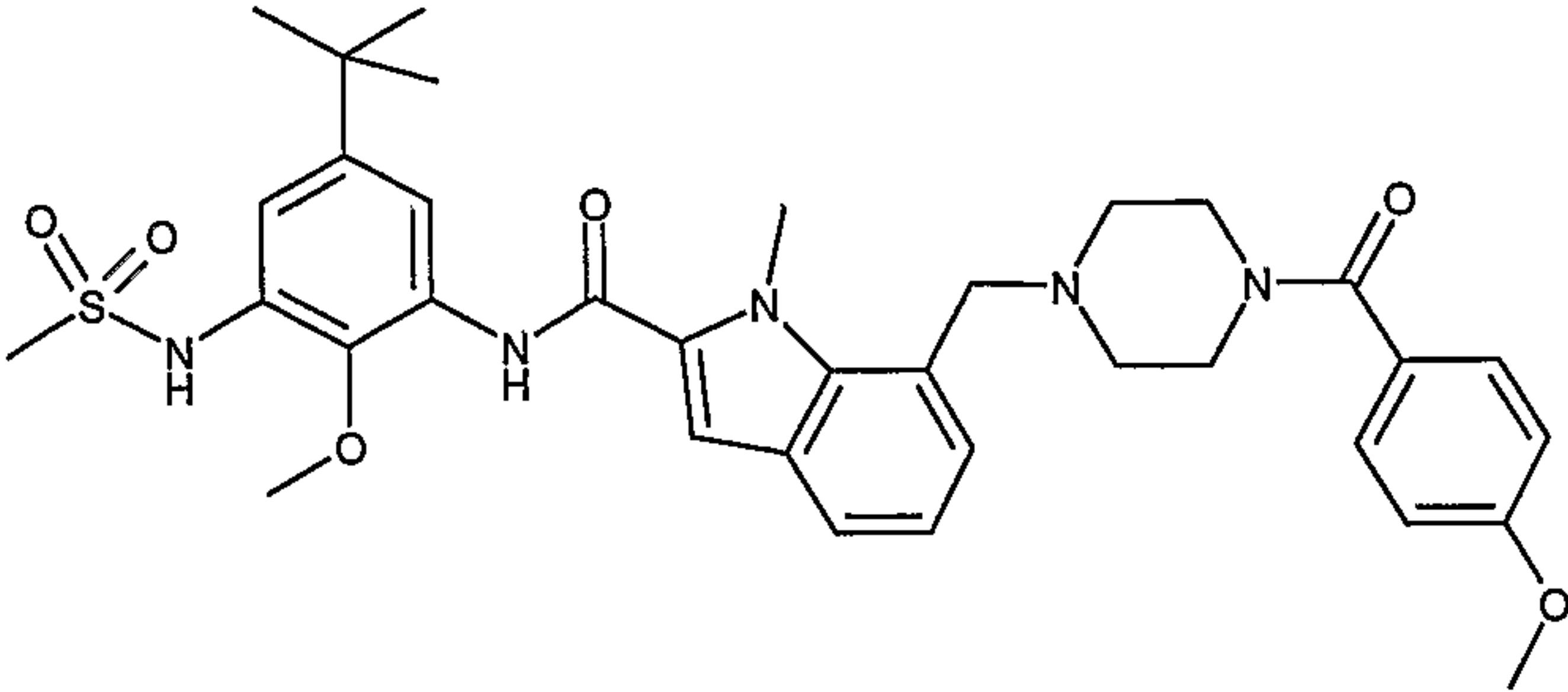
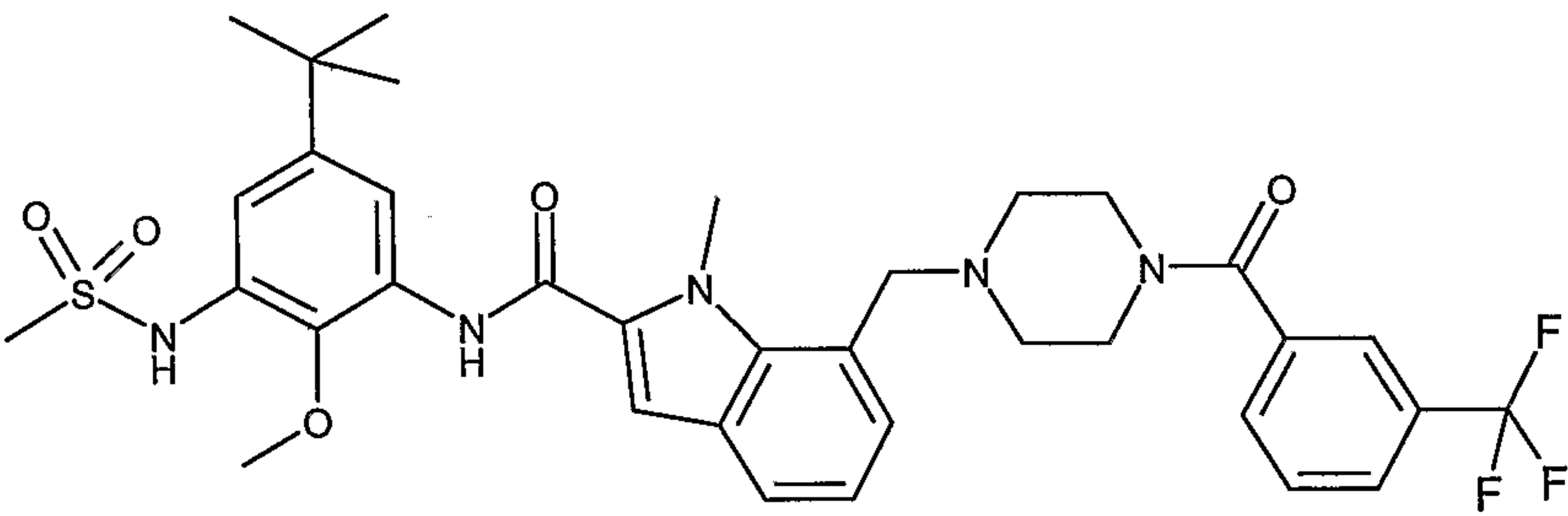
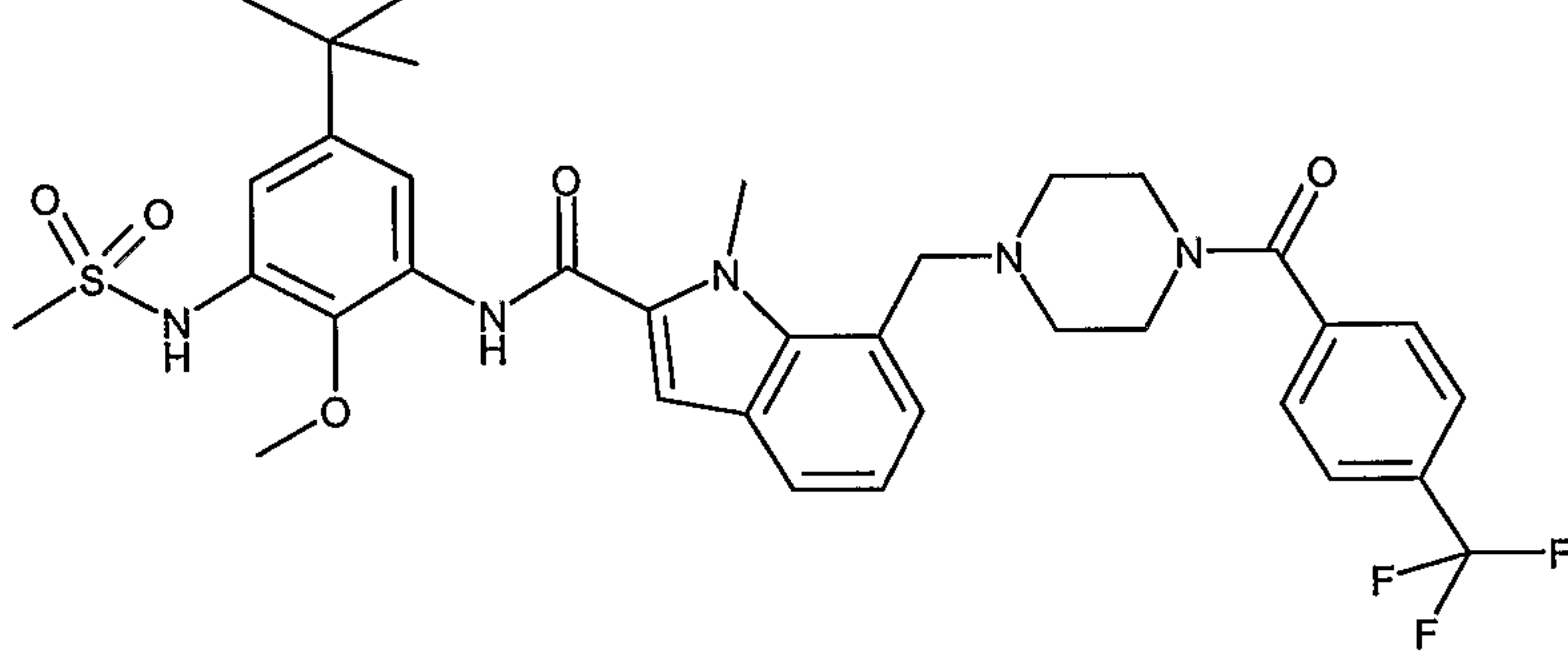
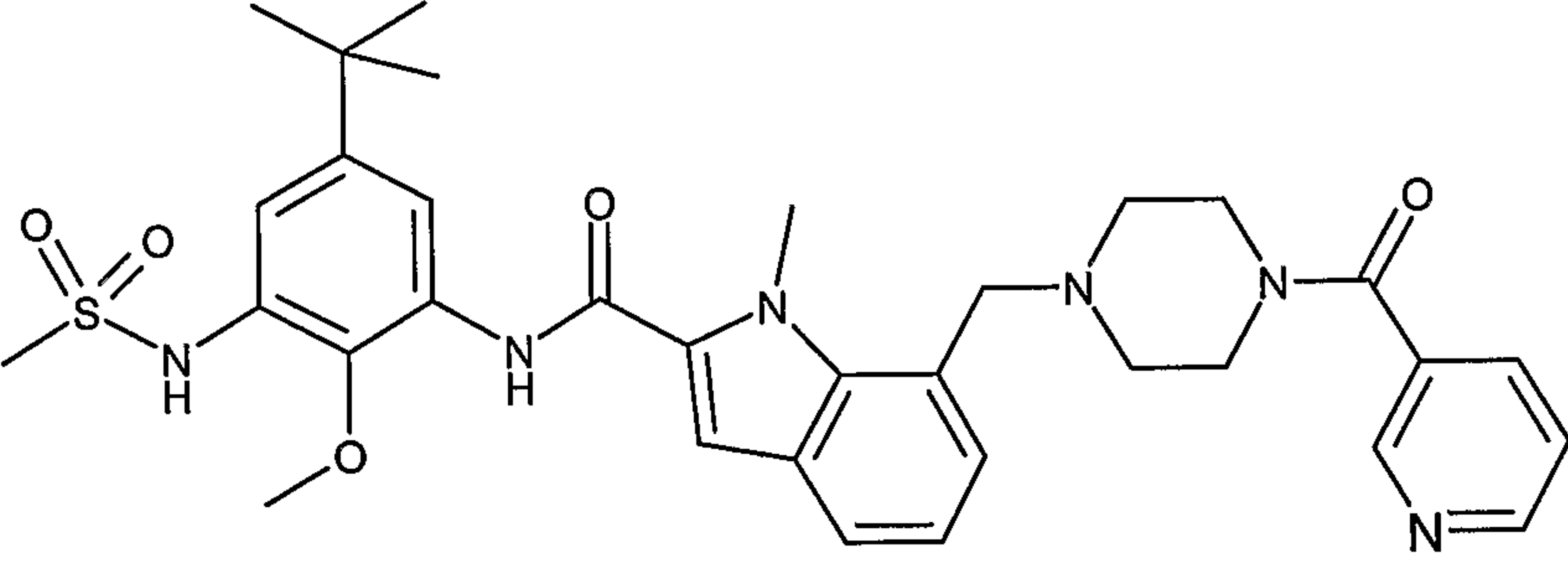
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B I O O 6 O B	54	

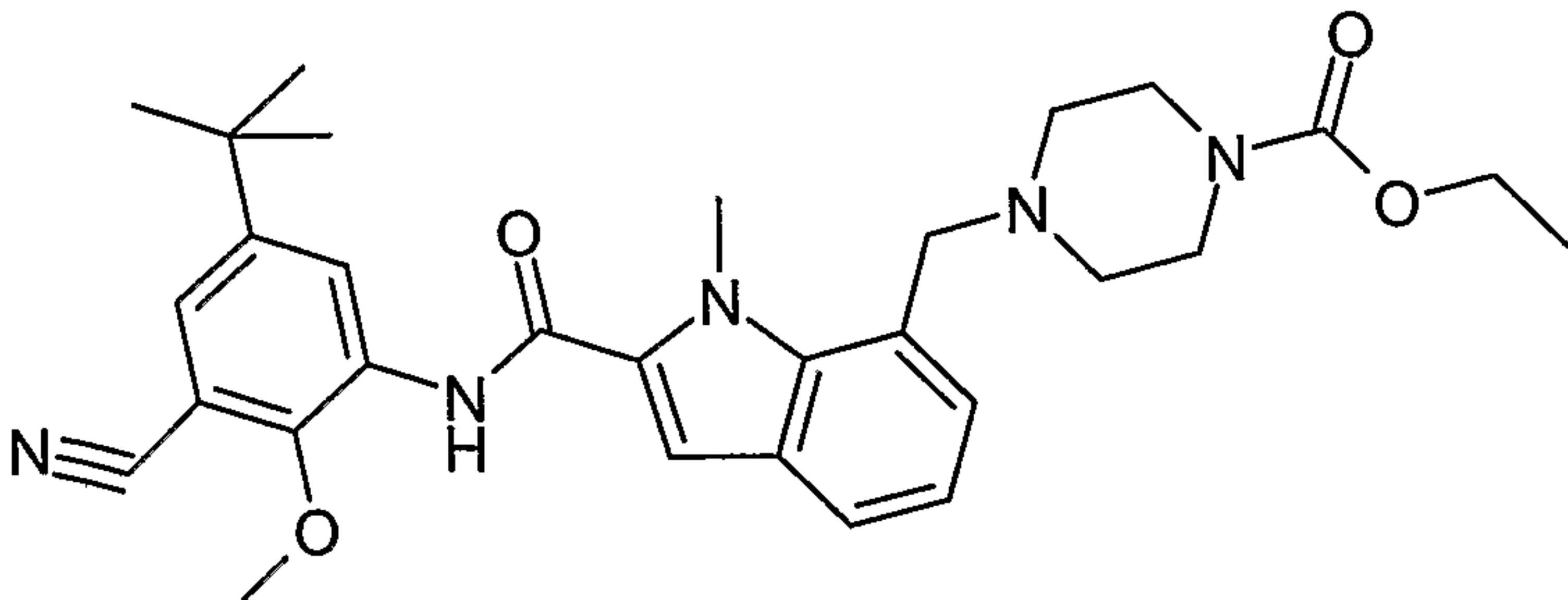
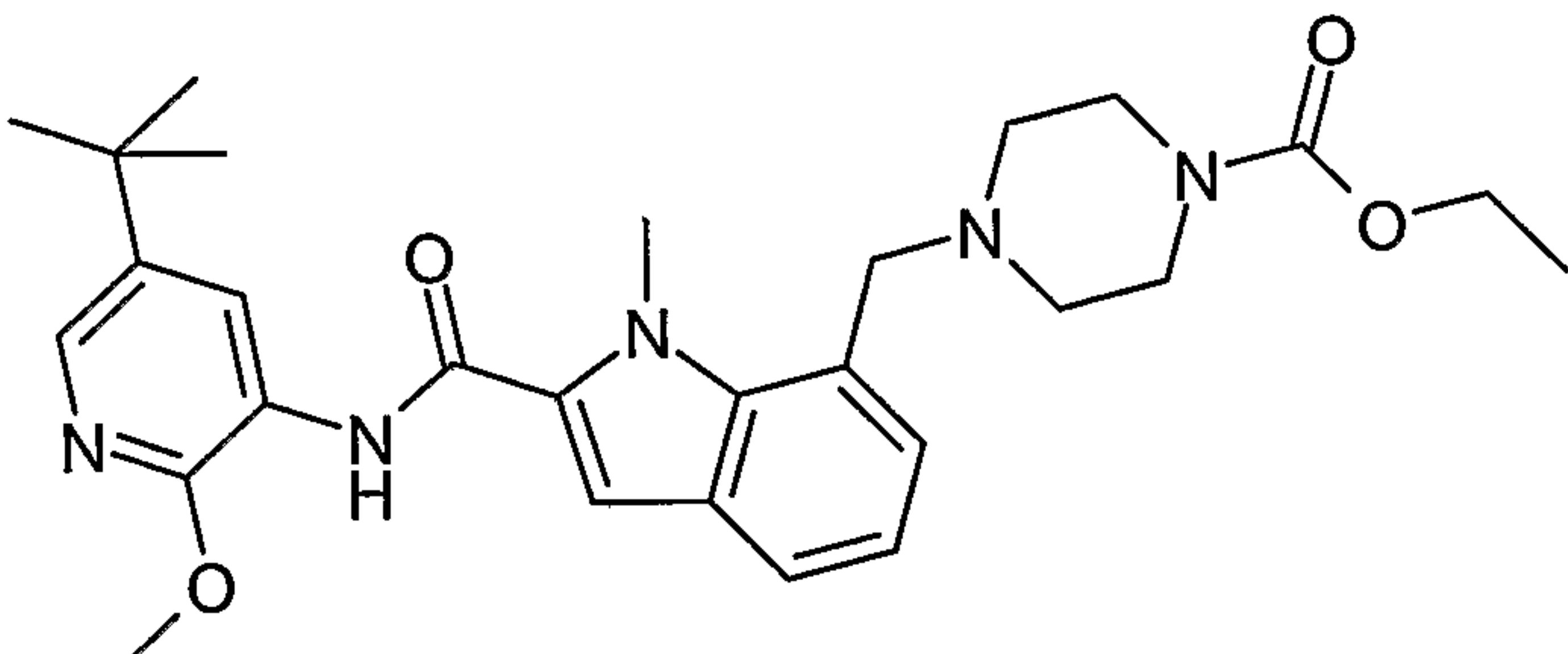
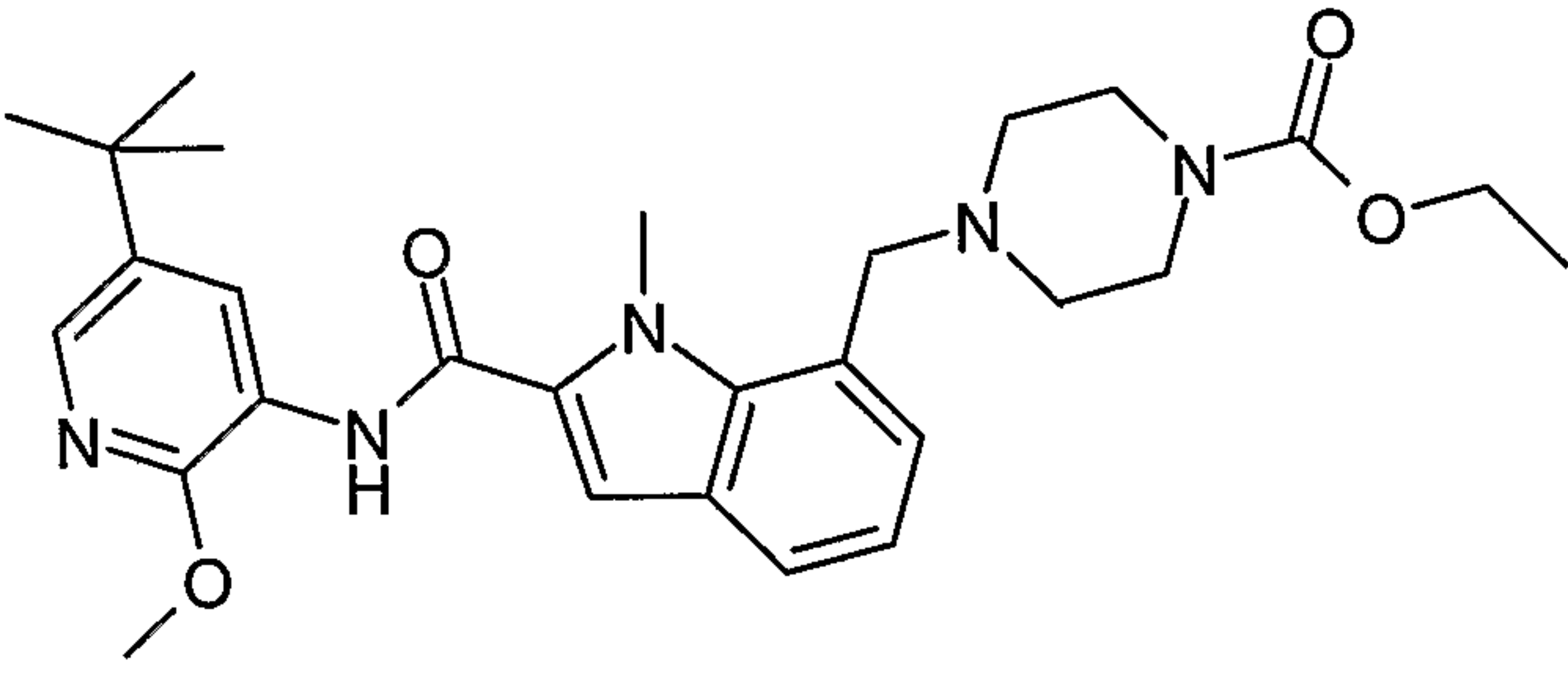
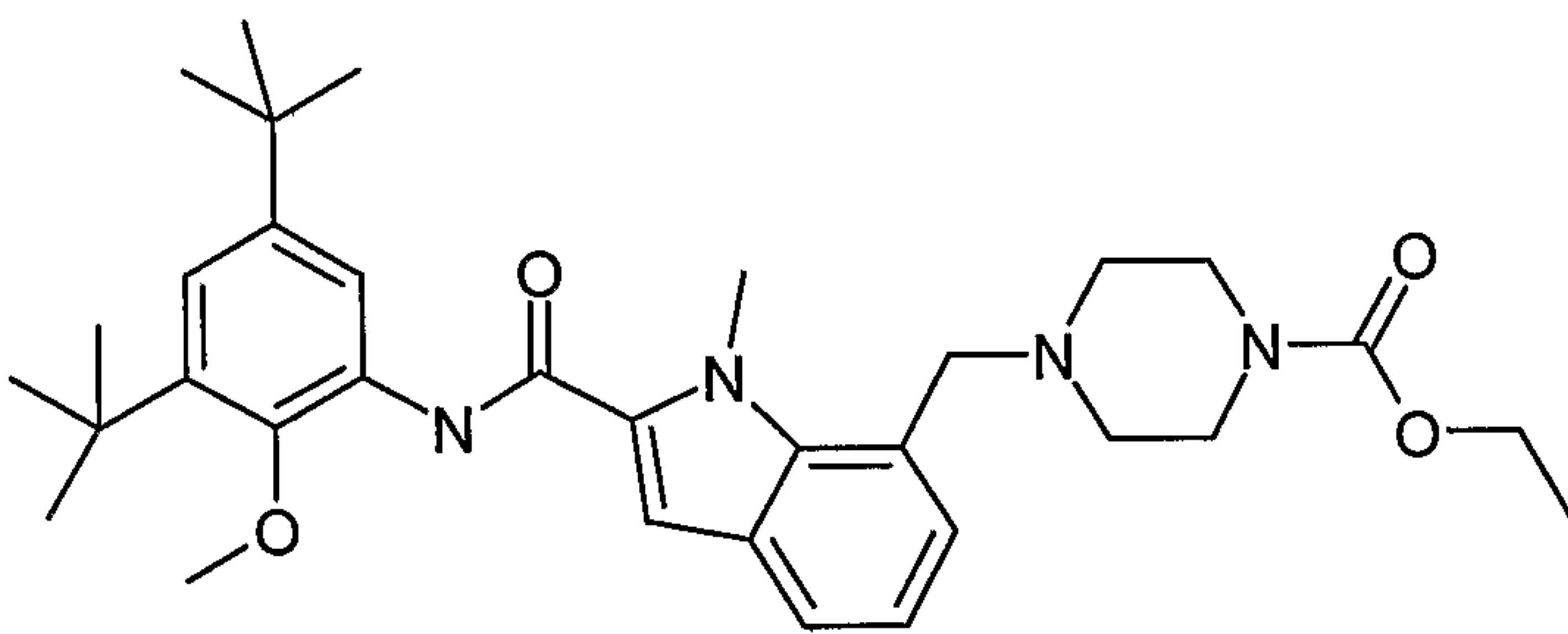
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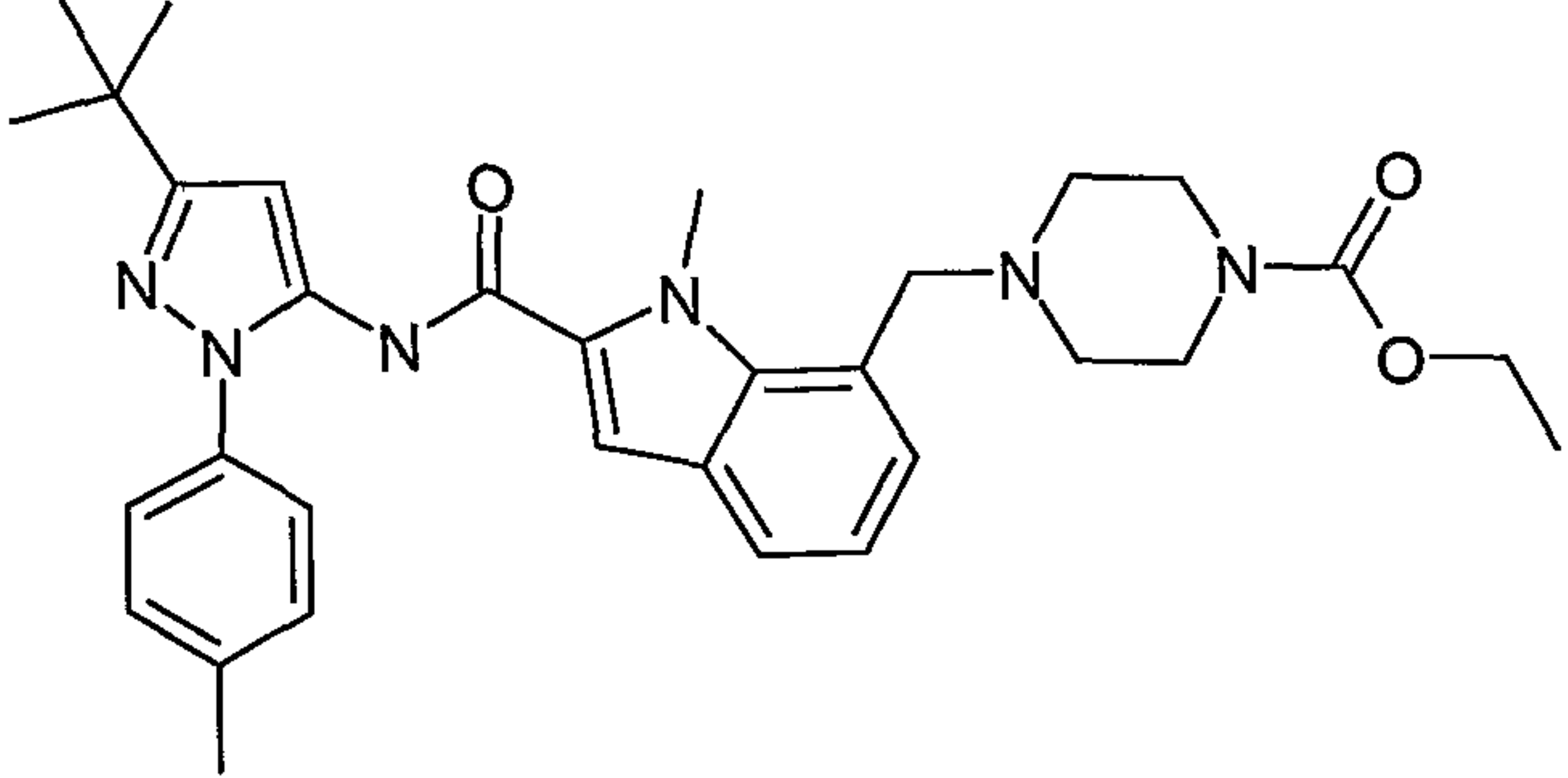
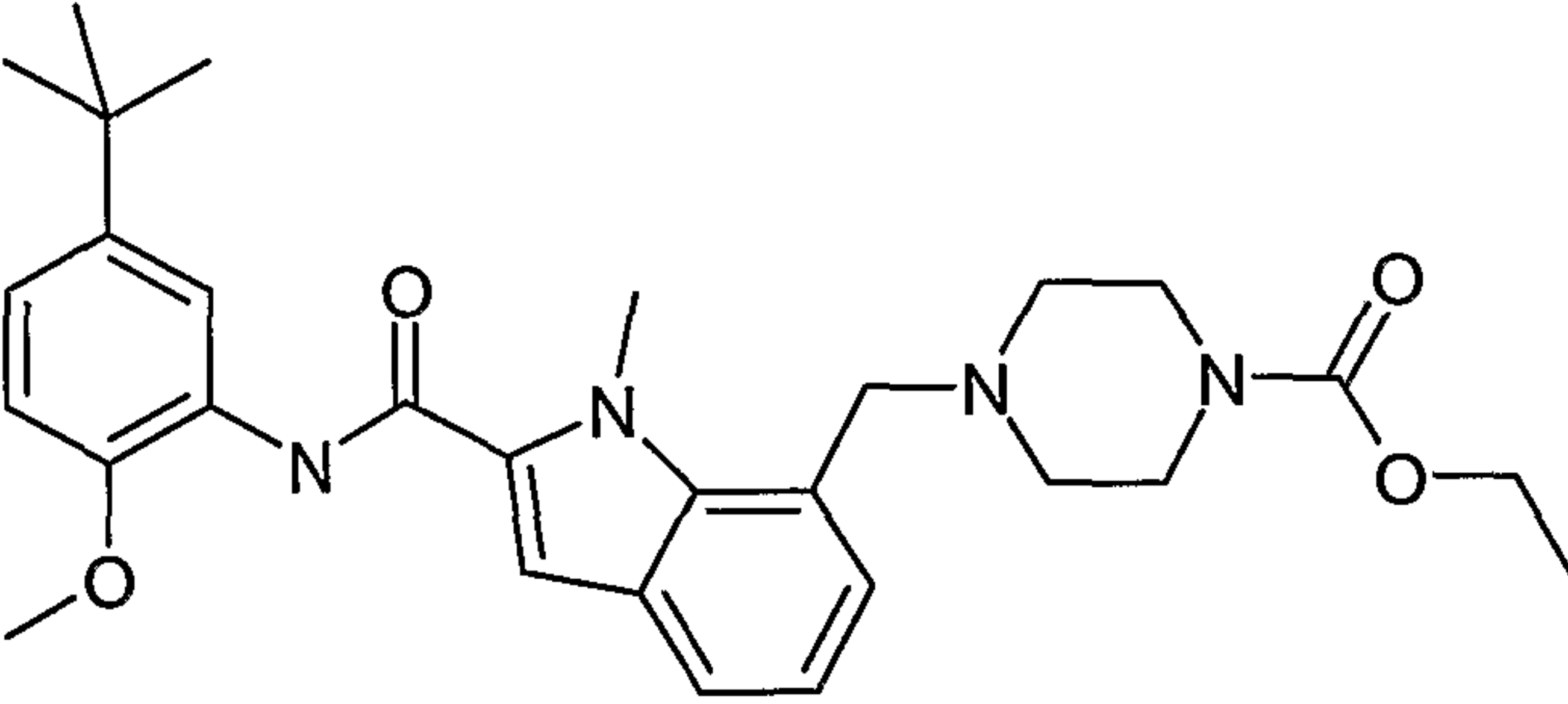
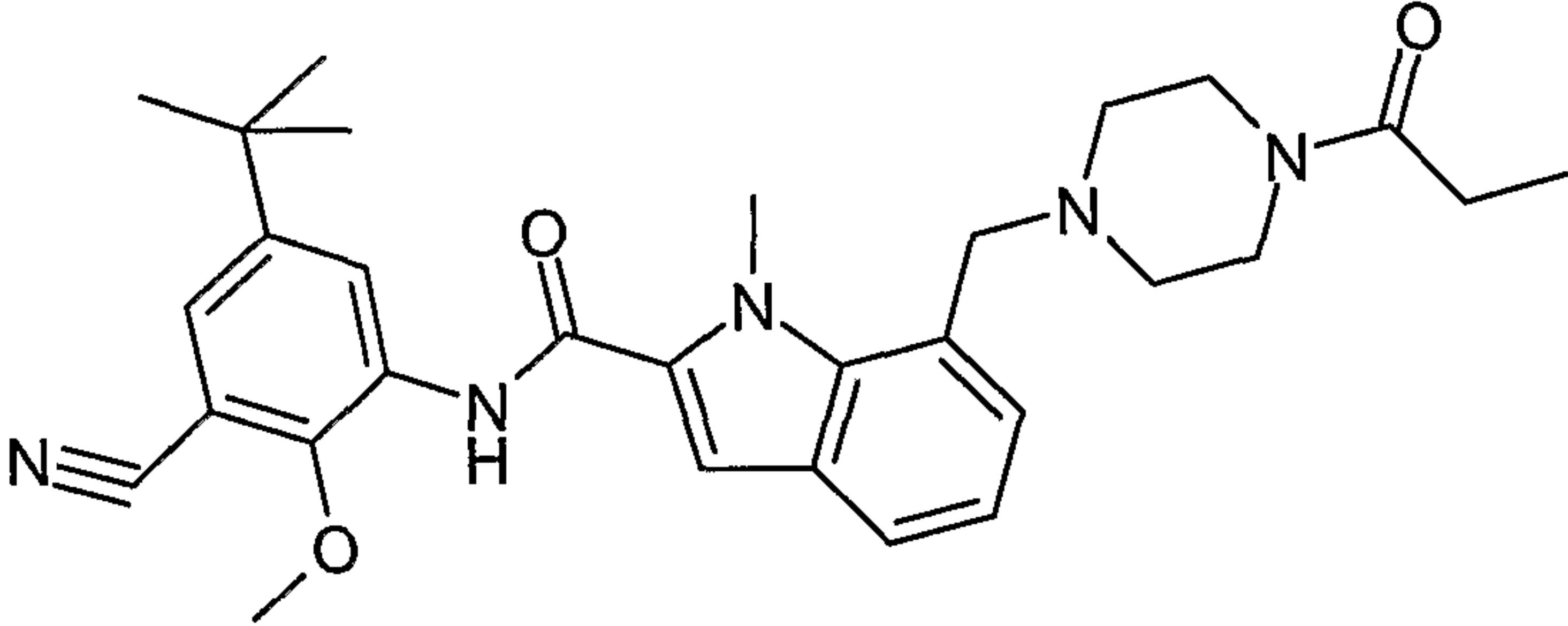
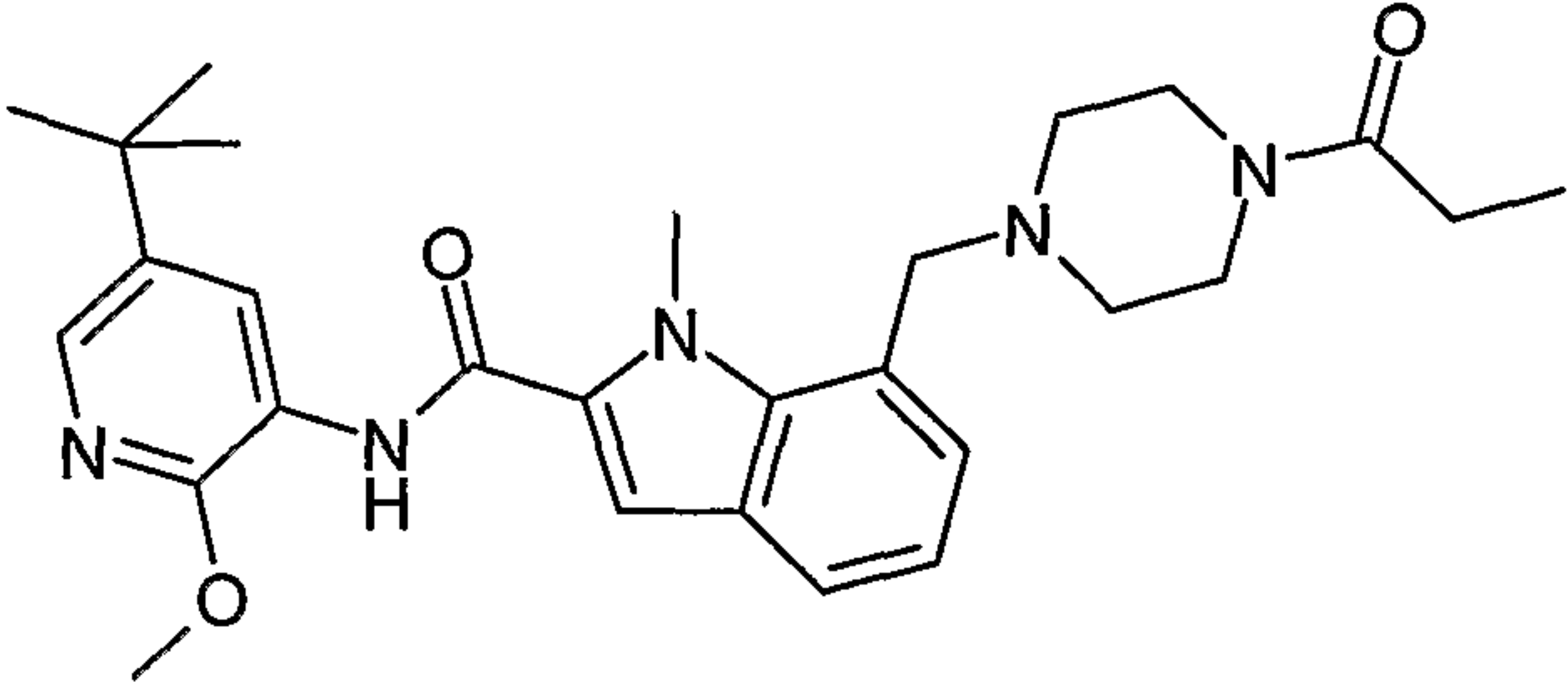
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B I O O 6	63	
B I O O 6 O	64	

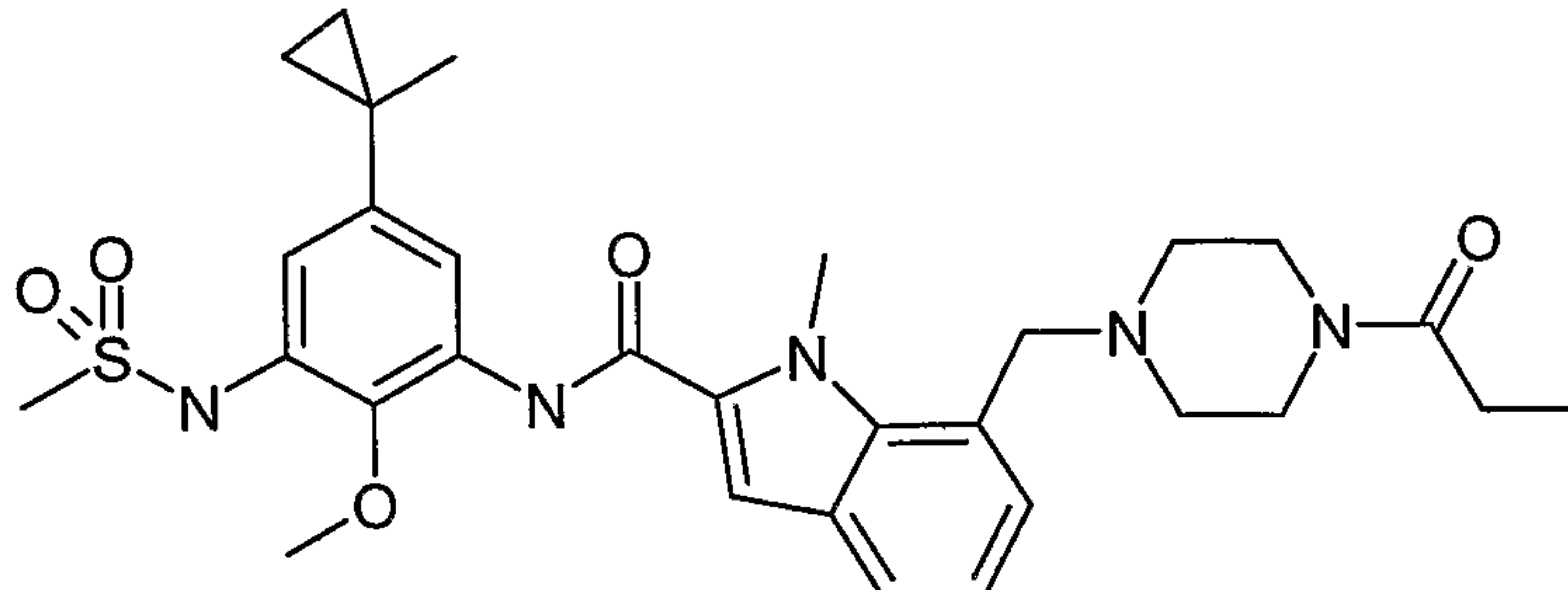
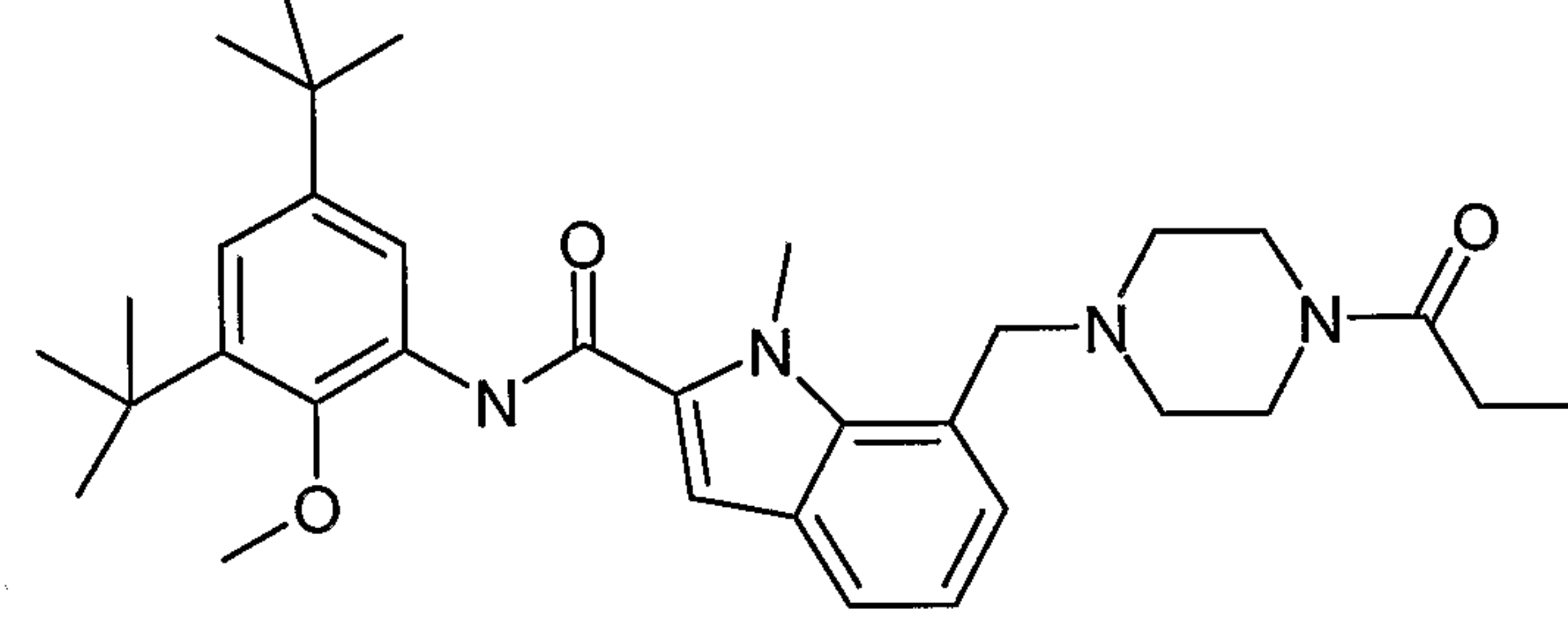
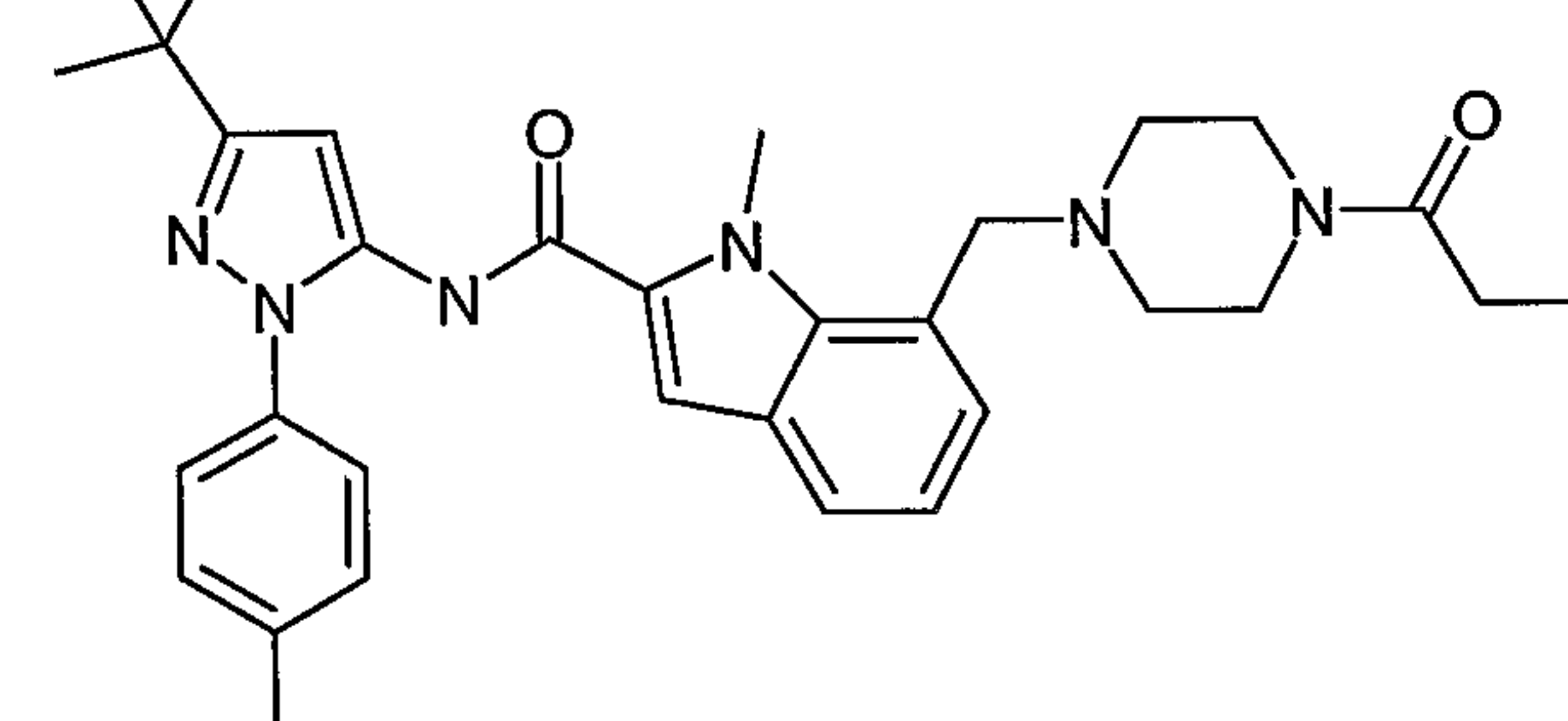
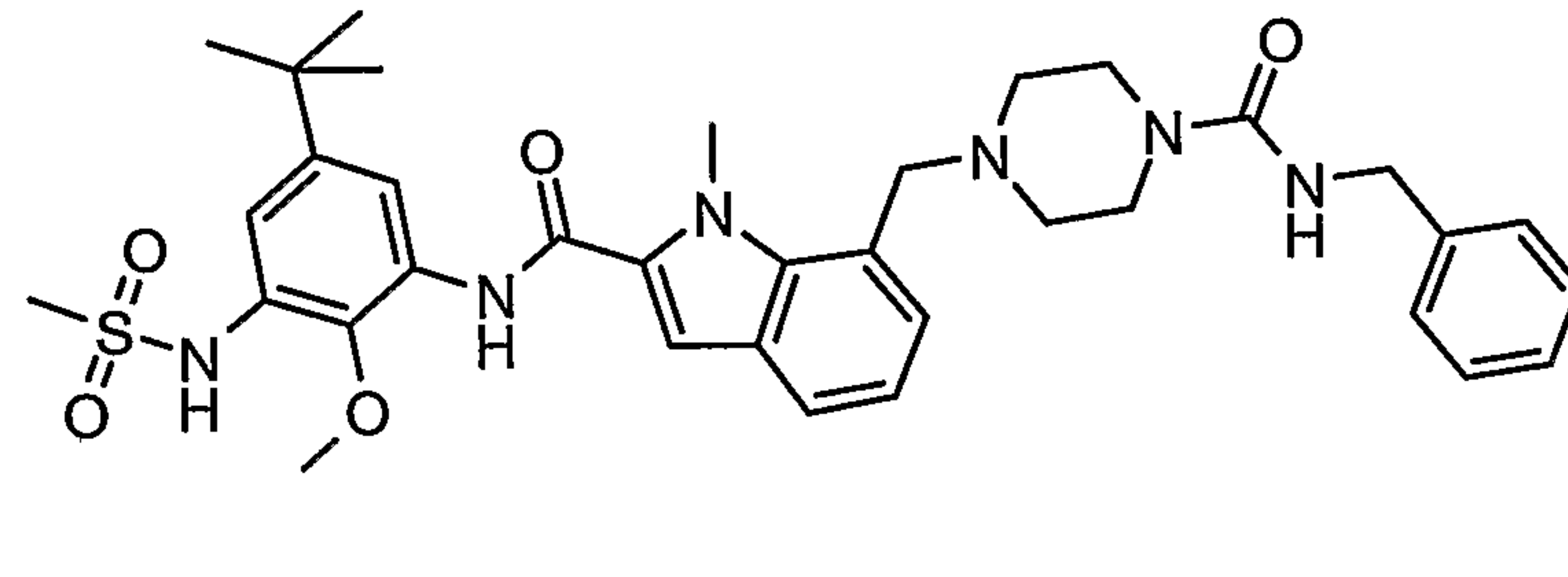
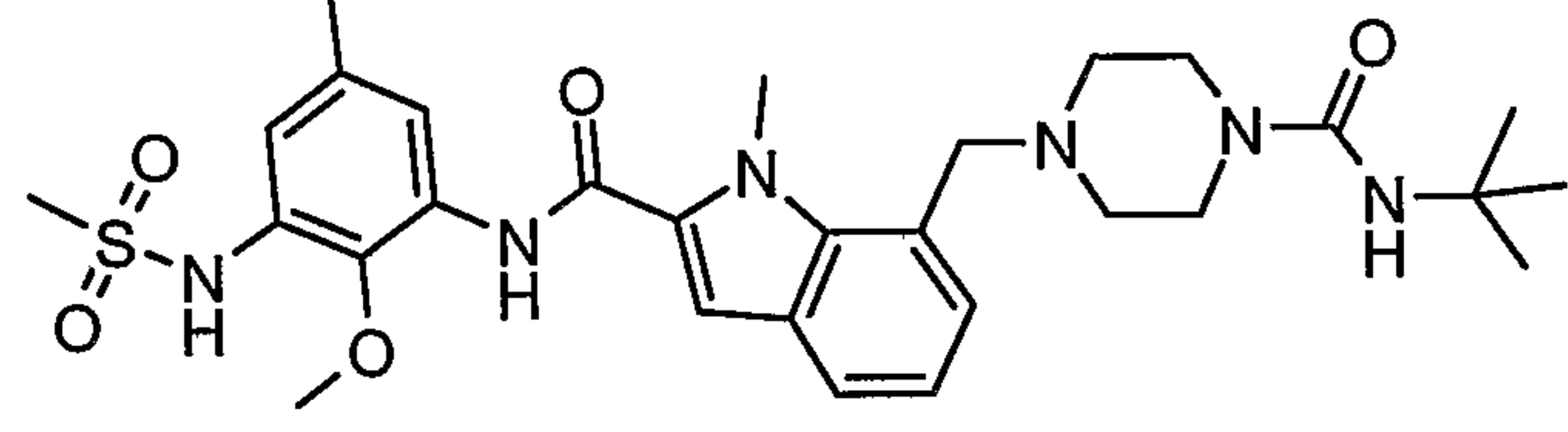
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B I O O B	69	

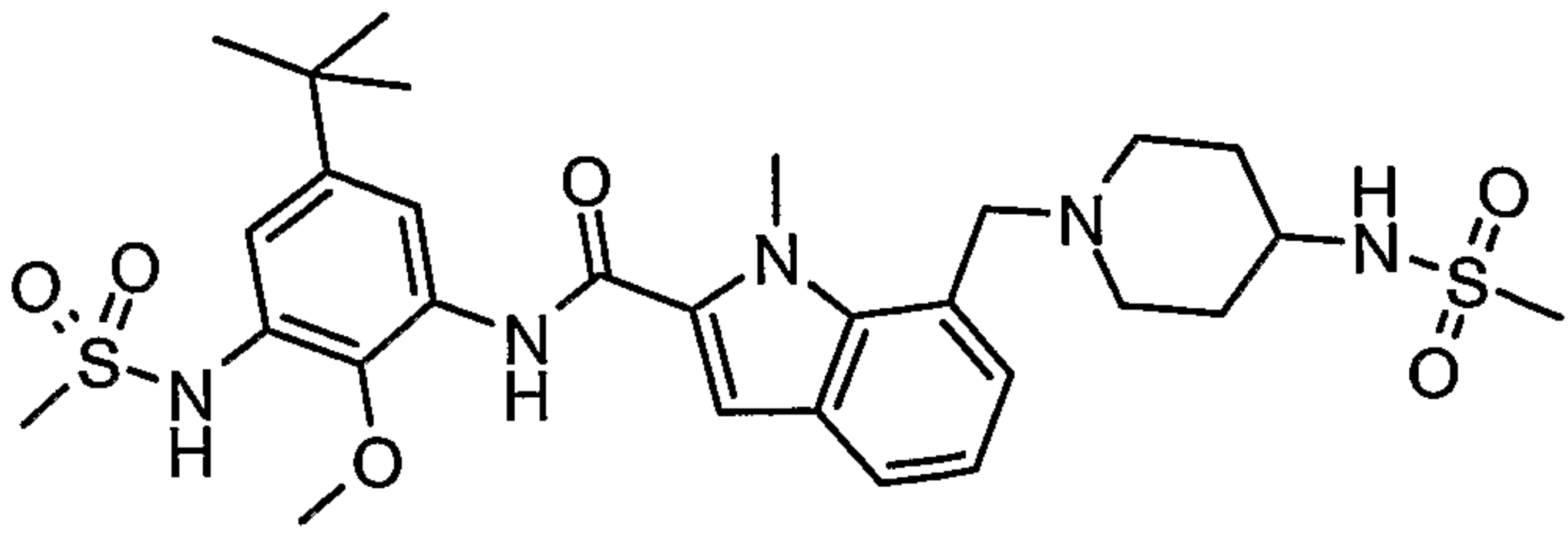
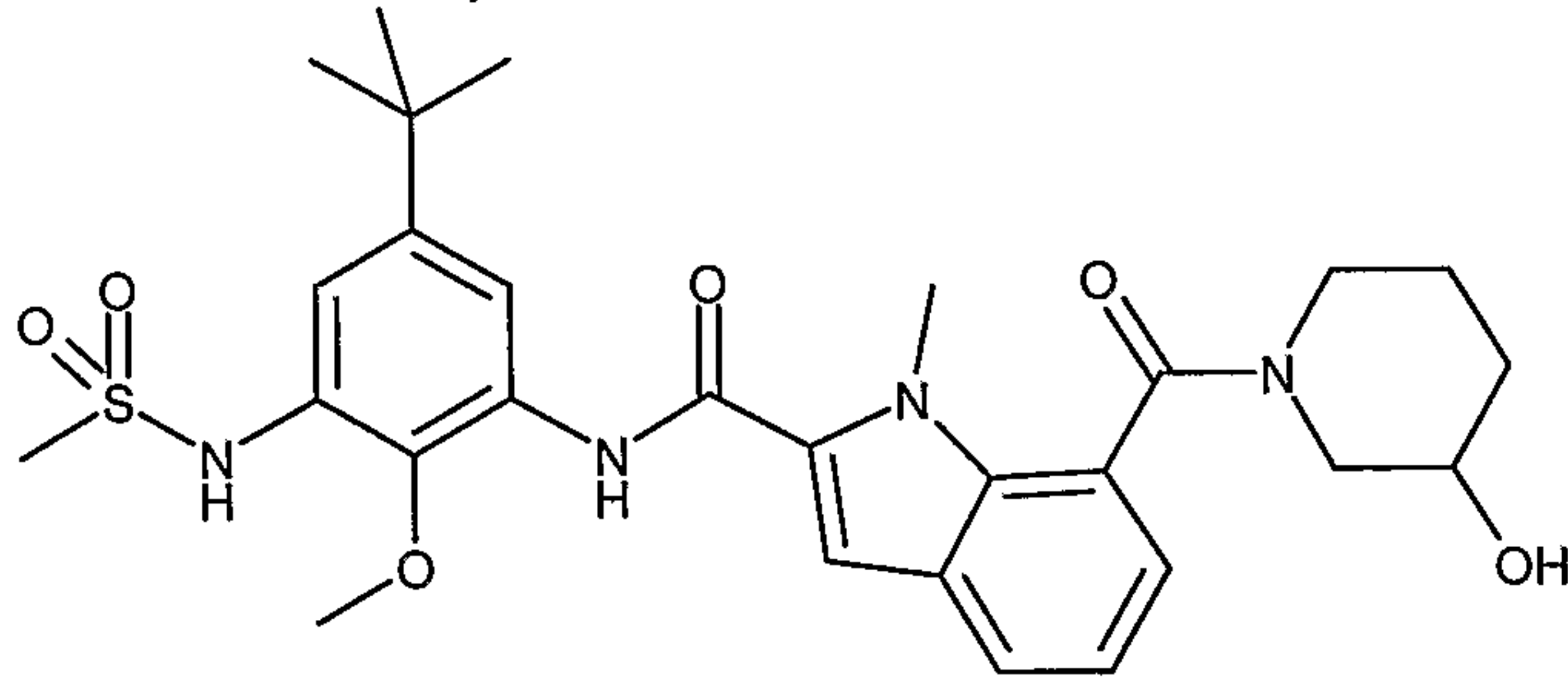
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B I O O 6 0	73	
B I O O 6 0 1	74	

B I O O 6 O B	75	
I O O 6 O 1 B	76	
I O O 6 O 1 B	77	
I O O 6 O 1	78	

x x x x	79	
x x x x	80	
x x x x	81	
x x x x	82	

X X X X	83 
X X X X	84 
X X X X	85 
X X X X	86 

X X X X	87	
X X X X	88	
X X X X	89	
B I 0 0 6 0	90	
B I 0 0 6	91	

B I O O 6 B	92 
I O O 6 O	93 

5

METHODS OF USE

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In accordance with the invention, there are provided novel methods of using the compounds of the formula (I). The compounds disclosed therein effectively block inflammatory cytokine production from cells. The inhibition of cytokine production is an attractive means for preventing and treating a variety of cytokine mediated diseases or conditions associated with excess cytokine production, *e.g.*, diseases and pathological conditions involving inflammation. Thus, the compounds are useful for the treatment of diseases and conditions as described in the Background section, including the following conditions and diseases:

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osteoarthritis, atherosclerosis, contact dermatitis, bone resorption diseases, reperfusion injury, asthma, multiple sclerosis, Guillain-Barre syndrome, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, psoriasis, graft versus host disease, systemic lupus erythematosus and insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, rheumatoid arthritis, toxic shock syndrome, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, inflammatory bowel diseases, acute and chronic pain as well as

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symptoms of inflammation and cardiovascular disease, stroke, myocardial infarction, alone or following thrombolytic therapy, thermal injury, adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), multiple organ injury secondary to trauma, acute glomerulonephritis, dermatoses with acute inflammatory components, acute purulent meningitis or other
5 central nervous system disorders, syndromes associated with hemodialysis, leukopherisis, granulocyte transfusion associated syndromes, and necrotizing enterocolitis, complications including restenosis following percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, traumatic arthritis, sepsis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and congestive heart failure. The compounds of the invention may also be useful for
10 anticoagulant or fibrinolytic therapy (and the diseases or conditions related to such therapy) as described in US publication no. US 2004-0033222 A1.

The compounds of the invention are also p38 Map kinase inhibitors, and therefore will be useful for treating oncological diseases and other cytokine mediated diseases and
15 conditions related to p38 Map kinase as known in the art. Methods of assaying for p38 Map kinase activity can be performed by known methods. See for example Branger, J. et al, *The Journal of Immunology*, (2002), 168: 4070-4077, and the 46 references cited therein. Oncological diseases include but are not limited to solid tumors, such as cancers of the breast, respiratory tract, brain, reproductive organs, digestive tract, urinary tract,
20 eye, liver, skin, head and neck, thyroid, parathyroid and their distant metastases. Those disorders also include lymphomas, sarcomas, and leukemias.

Examples of breast cancer include, but are not limited to invasive ductal carcinoma, invasive lobular carcinoma, ductal carcinoma in situ, and lobular carcinoma in situ.

25

Examples of cancers of the respiratory tract include, but are not limited to small-cell and non-small-cell lung carcinoma, as well as bronchial adenoma and pleuropulmonary blastoma and mesothelioma.

Examples of brain cancers include, but are not limited to brain stem, optic and hypophthalmic glioma, cerebella and cerebral astrocytoma, medulloblastoma, ependymoma, as well as pituitary, neuroectodermal and pineal tumor.

5 Examples of peripheral nervous system tumors include, but are not limited to neuroblastoma, ganglioneuroblastoma, and peripheral nerve sheath tumors.

Examples of tumors of the endocrine and exocrine system include, but are not limited to thyroid carcinoma, adrenocortical carcinoma, pheochromocytoma, and carcinoid tumors.

Tumors of the male reproductive organs include, but are not limited to prostate and testicular cancer.

10 Tumors of the female reproductive organs include, but are not limited to endometrial, cervical, ovarian, vaginal, and vulvar cancer, as well as sarcoma of the uterus.

Tumors of the digestive tract include, but are not limited to anal, colon, colorectal, esophageal, gallbladder, gastric, pancreatic, rectal, small-intestine, and salivary gland cancers.

15 Tumors of the urinary tract include, but are not limited to bladder, penile, kidney, renal pelvis, ureter, and urethral cancers.

Eye cancers include, but are not limited to intraocular melanoma and retinoblastoma.

20 Examples of liver cancers include, but are not limited to hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cell carcinomas with or without fibrolamellar variant), hepatoblastoma, cholangiocarcinoma (intrahepatic bile duct carcinoma), and mixed hepatocellular cholangiocarcinoma.

Skin cancers include, but are not limited to squamous cell carcinoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, malignant melanoma, Merkel cell skin cancer, and non-melanoma skin cancer.

Head-and-neck cancers include, but are not limited to laryngeal/
hypopharyngeal/nasopharyngeal/oropharyngeal cancer, and lip and oral cavity cancer.

Lymphomas include, but are not limited to AIDS-related lymphoma, non- Hodgkin's
lymphoma, Hodgkins lymphoma, cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, and lymphoma of the
5 central nervous system.

Sarcomas include, but are not limited to sarcoma of the soft tissue, osteosarcoma, Ewings
sarcoma, malignant fibrous histiocytoma, lymphosarcoma, angiosarcoma, and
rhabdomyosarcoma. Leukemias include, but are not limited to acute myeloid leukemia,
acute lymphoblastic leukemia, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, chronic myelogenous
10 leukemia, and hairy cell leukemia.

Plasma cell dyscrasias include, but are not limited to multiple myeloma, and
Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia.

These disorders have been well characterized in man, but also exist with a similar
etiology in other mammals, and can be treated by pharmaceutical compositions of the
15 present invention.

For therapeutic use, the compounds may be administered in any conventional dosage
form in any conventional manner. Routes of administration include, but are not limited
to, intravenously, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, intrasynovially, by infusion,
sublingually, transdermally, orally, topically or by inhalation. The preferred modes of
20 administration are oral and intravenous.

The compounds may be administered alone or in combination with adjuvants that
enhance stability of the inhibitors, facilitate administration of pharmaceutic compositions
containing them in certain embodiments, provide increased dissolution or dispersion,
25 increase inhibitory activity, provide adjunct therapy, and the like, including other active
ingredients. Advantageously, such combination therapies utilize lower dosages of the
conventional therapeutics, thus avoiding possible toxicity and adverse side effects
incurred when those agents are used as monotherapies. The above described compounds

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may be physically combined with the conventional therapeutics or other adjuvants into a single pharmaceutical composition. Reference in this regard may be made to Cappola et al.: US patent no. 6,565,880 and US application publication no. 2003/006840.

Advantageously, the compounds may then be administered together in a single dosage form. In some embodiments, the pharmaceutical compositions comprising such combinations of compounds contain at least about 5%, but more preferably at least about 20%, of a compound of formula (I) (w/w) or a combination thereof. The optimum percentage (w/w) of a compound of the invention may vary and is within the purview of those skilled in the art. Alternatively, the compounds may be administered separately (either serially or in parallel). Separate dosing allows for greater flexibility in the dosing regime.

As mentioned above, dosage forms of the compounds described herein include pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and adjuvants known to those of ordinary skill in the art. These carriers and adjuvants include, for example, ion exchangers, alumina, aluminum stearate, lecithin, serum proteins, buffer substances, water, salts or electrolytes and cellulose-based substances. Preferred dosage forms include, tablet, capsule, caplet, liquid, solution, suspension, emulsion, lozenges, syrup, reconstitutable powder, granule, suppository and transdermal patch. Methods for preparing such dosage forms are known (see, for example, H.C. Ansel and N.G. Popovich, *Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms and Drug Delivery Systems*, 5th ed., Lea and Febiger (1990)). Dosage levels and requirements are well-recognized in the art and may be selected by those of ordinary skill in the art from available methods and techniques suitable for a particular patient. In some embodiments, dosage levels range from about 1-1000 mg/dose for a 70 kg patient. Although one dose per day may be sufficient, up to 5 doses per day may be given. For oral doses, up to 2000 mg/day may be required. Reference in this regard may also be made to US publication no. US 2003-0118575 A1. As the skilled artisan will appreciate, lower or higher doses may be required depending on particular factors. For instance, specific dosage and treatment regimens will depend on factors such as the patient's general health profile, the severity and course of the patient's disorder or disposition thereto, and the judgment of the treating physician.

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BIOLOGICAL ASSAYS

Inhibition of TNF Production in THP Cells

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The inhibition of cytokine production can be observed by measuring inhibition of TNF α in lipopolysaccharide stimulated THP cells (for example, see W. Prichett *et al.*, 1995, *J. Inflammation*, 45, 97). All cells and reagents were diluted in RPMI 1640 with phenol red and L-glutamine, supplemented with additional L-glutamine (total: 4 mM), penicillin and streptomycin (50 units/ml each) and fetal bovine serum (FBS, 3%) (GIBCO™, all conc. final). Assay was performed under sterile conditions; only test compound preparation was nonsterile. Initial stock solutions were made in DMSO followed by dilution into RPMI 1640 2-fold higher than the desired final assay concentration. Confluent THP.1 cells (2x10⁶ cells/ml, final conc.; American Type Culture Company, Rockville, MD) were added to 96 well polypropylene round bottomed culture plates (Costar™ 3790; sterile) containing 125 μ l test compound (2 fold concentrated) or DMSO vehicle (controls, blanks). DMSO concentration did not exceed 0.2% final. Cell mixture was allowed to preincubate for 30 min, 37°C, 5% CO₂ prior to stimulation with lipopolysaccharide (LPS; 1 μ g/ml final; Siga L-2630, from E.coli serotype 0111.B4; stored as 1 mg/ml stock in endotoxin screened distilled H₂O at -80°C). Blanks (unstimulated) received H₂O vehicle; final incubation volume was 250 μ l. Overnight incubation (18 - 24 h) proceeded as described above. Assay was terminated by centrifuging plates 5 min, room temperature, 1600 rpm (400 x g); supernatants were transferred to clean 96 well plates and stored - 80°C until analyzed for human TNF α by a commercially available ELISA kit (Biosource #KHC3015, Camarillo, CA). Data was analyzed by non-linear regression (Hill equation) to generate a dose response curve using SAS Software System (SAS institute, Inc., Cary, NC). The calculated IC₅₀ value is the concentration of the test compound that caused a 50% decrease in the maximal TNF α production.

30 Preferred compounds have an IC₅₀ < 1 μ M in this assay.

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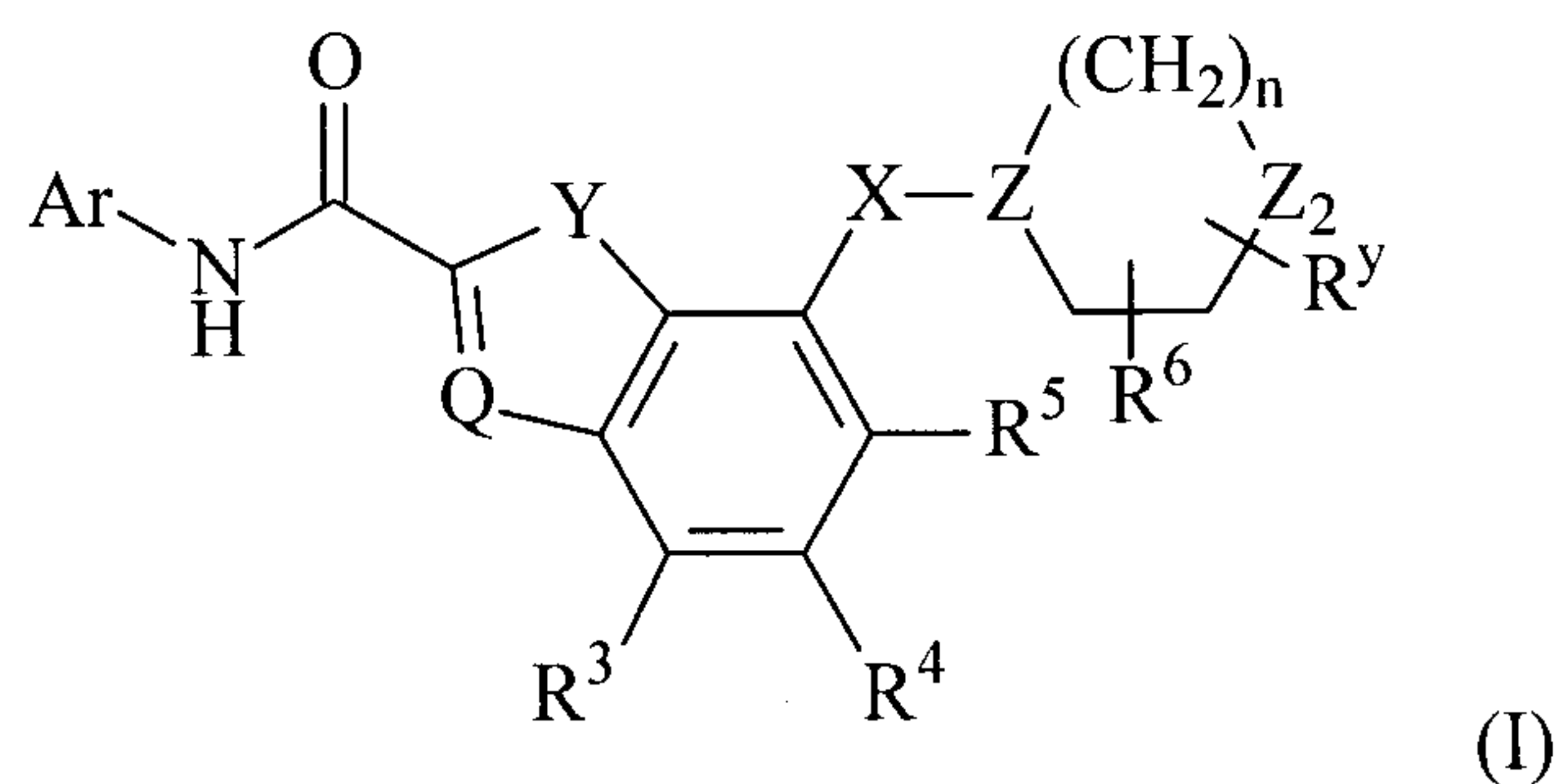
Inhibition of other cytokines

By similar methods using peripheral blood monocytic cells, appropriate stimuli, and
5 commercially available ELISA kits (or other method of detection such as
radioimmunoassay), for a particular cytokine, inhibition of IL-1beta, GM-CSF, IL-6 and
IL-8 can be demonstrated for preferred compounds (for example, see J.C. Lee *et al.*,
1988, *Int. J. Immunopharmacol.*, 10, 835).

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CLAIMS:

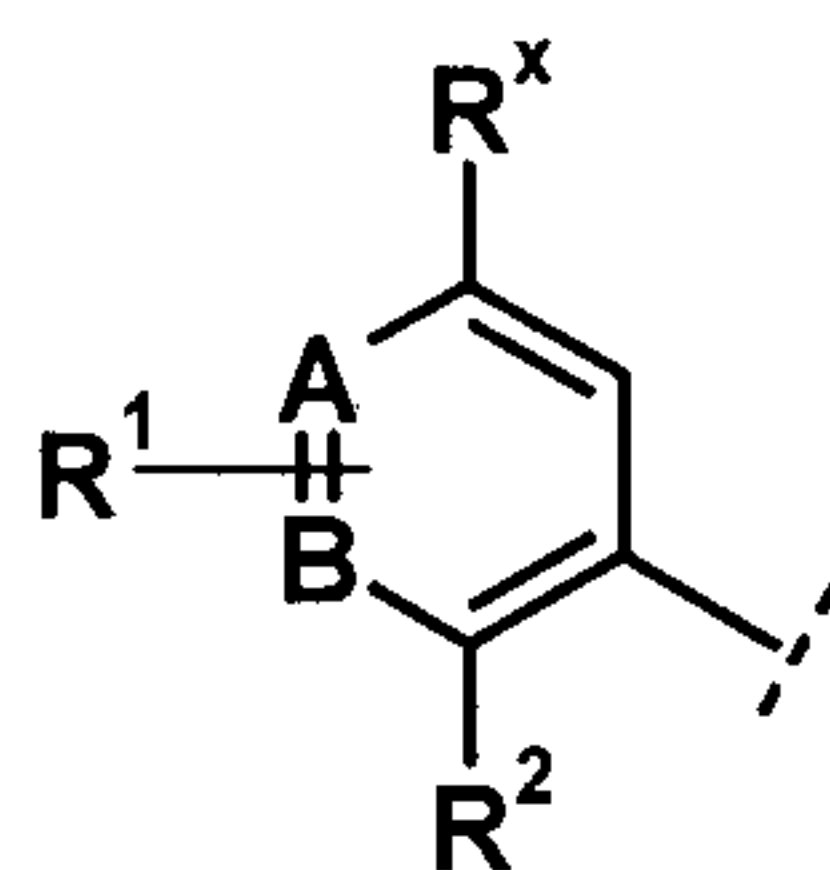
1. A compound of the formula (I)



wherein:

- 5 n is 1, 2 or 3;

Ar is chosen from rings (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) below:



(i)

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wherein one of A or B is nitrogen and the other is carbon, R¹ is covalently attached to either A or B, and when nitrogen is N-R¹ the double bond between A and B is not present;

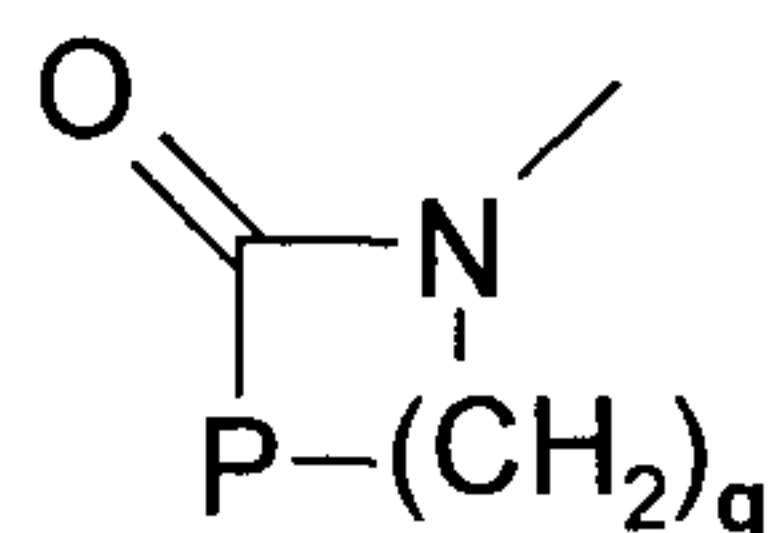
R¹ is chosen from hydrogen, NO₂, -N(R^c)₂, J-C(O)-N(R^c)-, J-S(O)_m-N(R^c)-, or R¹ is chosen from C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₅ alkoxy or C₃₋₇ cycloalkoxy, C₁₋₅ alkylthiol or C₃₋₇

- 15 cycloalkylthiol, C₁₋₅ acyl, C₁₋₅ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₅ acyloxy, C₁₋₅ acylamino, C₂₋₅ alkenyl, C₂₋₅ alkynyl, heterocycle, heteroaryl and nitrile, each of the aforementioned where possible are

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optionally partially or fully halogenated or are optionally further substituted with alkylsulfonylamino, alkoxyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, hydroxyl, oxo, nitro or nitrile;

or R^1 is, where P can be O, $>CR^9$ or $>NR^9$



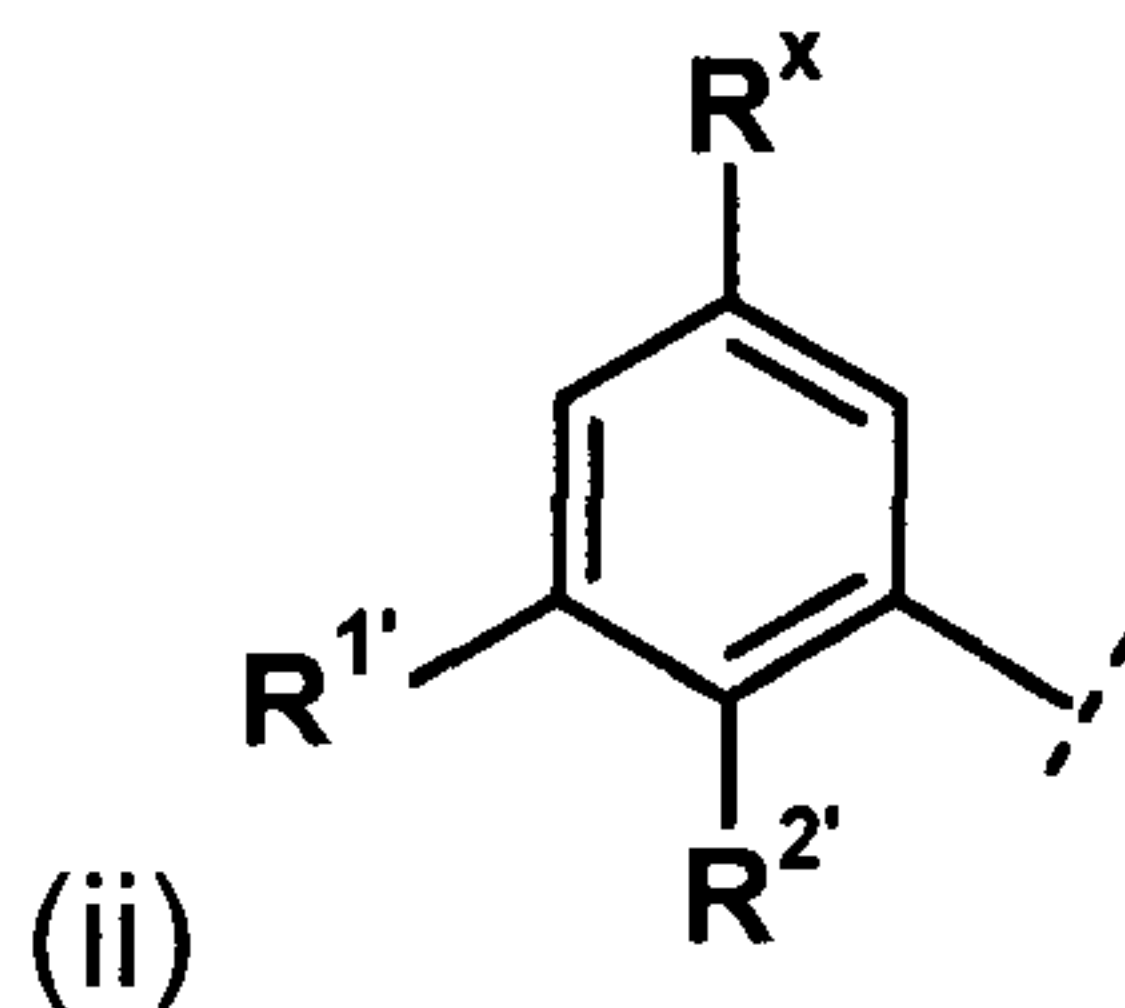
5 wherein g is 1 to 4,

R^9 is chosen from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cylcoalkyl, C_{1-5} alkoxyl or C_{3-7} cycloalkoxyl, C_{1-5} alkylthiol or C_{3-7} cycloalkylthiol, C_{1-5} acyl, C_{1-5} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-5} acyloxy, C_{1-5} acylamino, C_{2-5} alkenyl, C_{2-5} alkynyl, heterocycle, heteroaryl and nitrile, each of the aforementioned where possible are optionally partially or fully halogenated or are optionally further substituted with

10 alkylsulfonylamino, alkoxyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, hydroxyl, oxo, nitro or nitrile;

R^2 is chosen from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-5} alkyl, C_{1-5} alkoxy, C_{1-5} alkyl C_{1-5} alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy C_{1-5} alkyl, oxo, C_{1-5} alkyl $S(O)_m$ - and amino optionally mono- or di-substituted by C_{1-5} alkyl, aryl or aryl C_{1-5} alkyl;

15



wherein

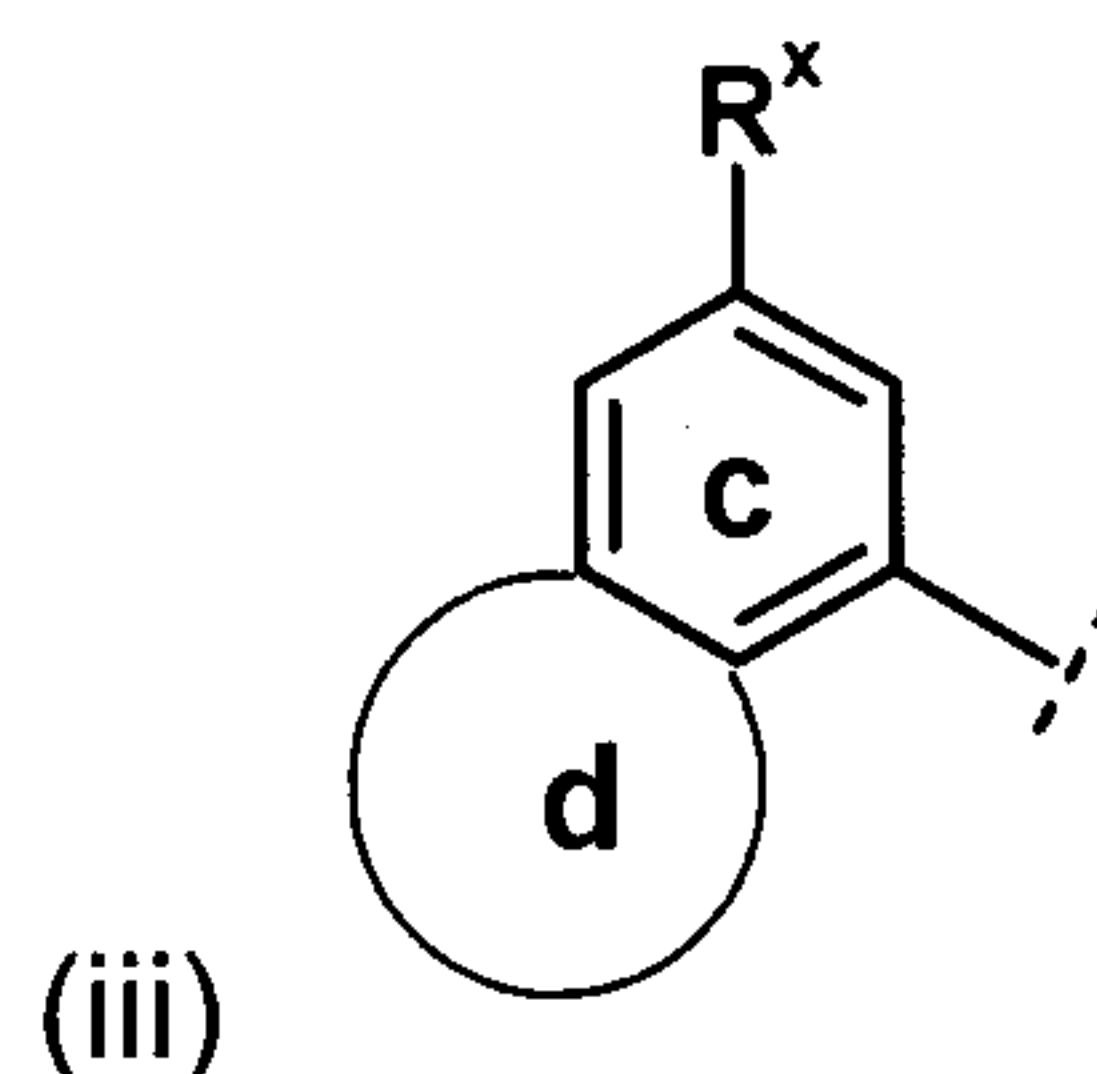
$R^{1'}$ is chosen from hydrogen, $J-S(O)_m$ -, $J-S(O)_m-NH$ -, $J-NHS(O)_m$ -, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cylcoalkyl, C_{1-5} alkoxyl or C_{3-7} cycloalkoxyl, C_{1-5} acyl, C_{1-5} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-5} acyloxy, C_{2-5} alkenyl, C_{2-5} alkynyl, heterocycle, heterocycle C_{1-6} alkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl C_{1-6} alkyl and nitrile, each of the aforementioned where possible are optionally partially or fully halogenated or are

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optionally further substituted with alkylsulfonylamino, alkoxyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, hydroxyl, oxo, nitro or nitrile;

R^2 , is chosen from nitrile, $J-S(O)_m-$, $J-O-C(O)-O-$, $NH_2-C(O)-(CH_2)_w-$, H, halogen, C_{1-5} alkyl, C_{1-5} alkoxy, C_{1-5} alkyl C_{1-5} alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy C_{1-5} alkyl and amino optionally mono- or

5 di-substituted by C_{1-5} alkyl, aryl or aryl C_{1-5} alkyl;



10 wherein c is a benzo ring fused to ring d which is a 5-7 membered heterocyclic ring;

(iv) a 5 membered nitrogen containing heteroaryl or heterocyclic ring optionally substituted by R^1 or R^x ;

each R^x is chosen from C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl each being optionally substituted by C_{1-3} alkyl and optionally partially or fully halogenated, C_{1-4} acyl, aroyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, which may

15 optionally be partially or fully halogenated, halogen, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, carbocyclesulfonyl and $-SO_2-CF_3$;

each J is independently chosen from C_{1-10} alkyl and carbocycle each optionally substituted by R^b ;

R^b is chosen from hydrogen, C_{1-5} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-5} alkyl, C_{2-5} alkenyl, C_{2-5} alkynyl,

20 carbocycle, heterocycle, heteroaryl, C_{1-5} alkoxy, C_{1-5} alkylthio, amino, C_{1-5} alkylamino, C_{1-5} dialkylamino, C_{1-5} acyl, C_{1-5} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-5} acyloxy, C_{1-5} acylamino, each of the aforementioned are optionally partially or fully halogenated, or R^b is chosen from C_{1-5} alkylsulfonylamino, hydroxy, oxo, halogen, nitro and nitrile;

Q is CR^p ;

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Y is -N(R^c)-

each R^c, R^p, R^v and R^y are each independently hydrogen or C₁₋₅ alkyl;

X is >C=O, -CH₂-, -N(R^c)-, -O- or -S-;

Z₁ is -N- or >CH;

5 Z₂ is -N(R^c)-, -O- or >CH₂;

R^y and R⁶ may combine to form a bridged group from the ring atoms to which they are attached;

each m independently 0, 1 or 2;

w is 1-4;

10 each R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are independently chosen from hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl and halogen;

R⁶ is chosen from O-J, -C(O)-J, -C(O)-O-J, J-S(O)_m-NR⁷R⁸-, J-S(O)_m-, -C(O)H, -O-heterocycle as defined hereinbelow, -C(O)-NR⁷R⁸, -C(O)-C(O)-NR⁷R⁸, -NR⁷R⁸, C₁₋₅ alkyl branched or unbranched, C₂₋₅ alkenyl, C₁₋₃ aryl, C₁₋₃ alkyl(OH), oxo, heterocycle selected from morpholinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl and tetrahydrofuranyl, heteroaryl
 15 selected from pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thienyl, furyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl and isothiazolyl or aryl each alkyl, alkenyl, acyl, heterocycle, heteroaryl and aryl are optionally substituted by one to three hydroxy, oxo, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, C₁₋₅ alkoxy carbonyl, -NR⁷R⁸ or NR⁷R⁸-C(O)-;

each R⁷ and R⁸ are independently hydrogen, phenylC₀₋₃alkyl optionally substituted by

20 halogen, C₁₋₃ alkyl or diC₁₋₅ alkyl amino, or R⁷ and R⁸ are C₁₋₂ acyl, benzoyl or C₁₋₅ branched or unbranched alkyl optionally substituted by C₁₋₄ alkoxy, hydroxy or mono or diC₁₋₃ alkyl amino; and

wherein heterocycle as used anywhere above unless otherwise specified is a stable nonaromatic 4-8 membered monocyclic or nonaromatic 8-11 membered bicyclic heterocycle

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radical which may be either saturated or unsaturated, and wherein each heterocycle consists of carbon atoms and one or more, heteroatoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

heteroaryl as used anywhere above unless otherwise specified is an aromatic 5-8 membered monocyclic or 8-11 membered bicyclic ring containing 1-4 heteroatoms chosen from nitrogen,

5 oxygen and sulfur; and aryl as used anywhere above unless otherwise specified is phenyl, indanyl, indenyl, benzocyclobutanyl, dihydronaphthyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, naphthyl, benzocycloheptanyl or benzocycloheptenyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt
10 thereof, wherein:

Y is -NH-, -N(CH₂CH₃)- or -N(CH₃)-;

if Ar is (i) then:

R¹ is chosen from hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₅ alkoxy and nitrile, each of the
aforementioned where possible are optionally partially or fully halogenated or are optionally
15 further substituted with alkylsulfonylamino, alkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino,
hydroxyl, oxo, nitro or nitrile;

R² is chosen from hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₅ alkyl, C₁₋₅ alkoxy, C₁₋₅ alkylC₁₋₅ alkoxy, hydroxy,
hydroxy C₁₋₅ alkyl, oxo, C₁₋₅ alkylS(O)_m- and amino optionally mono- or di-substituted by
C₁₋₅ alkyl, phenyl or phenyl C₁₋₅ alkyl;

20 if Ar is (ii) then:

R^{1'} is chosen from H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, J-S(O)_m-, J-S(O)_m-NH-, J-NHS(O)_m-, C₁₋₅ alkoxy, C₁₋₅
acyloxy, NH₂-C(O)-(CH₂)_w-, heterocycle, heterocycleC₁₋₆ alkyl, heteroaryl and nitrile, each of
the aforementioned where possible are optionally partially or fully halogenated or are
optionally further substituted with alkylsulfonylamino, alkoxy, amino, alkylamino,
25 dialkylamino, hydroxyl, oxo, nitro and nitrile;

R^{2'} is chosen from C₁₋₅ alkylS(O)_m-, J-O-C(O)-O-, C₁₋₅ alkyl and C₁₋₅ alkoxy;

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or if Ar is (iii) then:

ring d is a 5-6 membered heterocyclic ring.

3. The compound according to claim 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

5 Y is $-N(CH_3)-$;

X is $>C=O$, $-CH_2-$ or $-O-$;

Q is CH ;

if Ar is (i) then:

R^1 is chosen from hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or nitrile;

10 R^2 is chosen from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-5} alkyl, C_{1-5} alkoxy, oxo or C_{1-5} alkylS(O) $_m$;

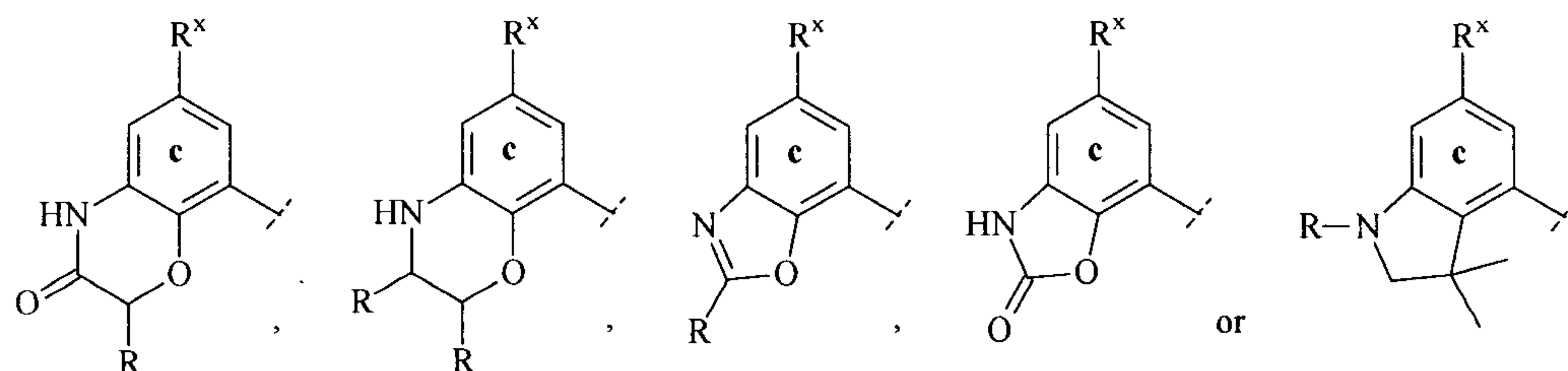
if Ar is (ii) then:

$R^{1'}$ is chosen from hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-5} alkylS(O) $_m$ -, C_{1-5} alkylS(O) $_m$ -NH-, C_{1-5} alkoxy, $(C_{1-5}$ alkyl)NH-C(O)-O-, NH_2 -C(O)-(CH $_2$) $_n$ -, morpholino C_{1-6} alkyl, heteroaryl chosen from pyrazole, triazole, imidazole and tetrazole, and nitrile;

15 $R^{2'}$ is chosen from C_{1-5} alkylS(O) $_m$ -, J-O-C(O)-O-, C_{1-5} alkyl and C_{1-5} alkoxy;

or if Ar is (iii) then:

ring d is a 5-6 membered heterocyclic ring such that rings c and d fuse to form the following:



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where each R is independently H or C₁₋₃ alkyl.

4. The compound according to claim 3, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

J is chosen from C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, aryl and C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl each optionally substituted by R^b;

5 R^x is independently chosen from C₁₋₆ alkyl which may optionally be partially or fully halogenated, acetyl, aroyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, which may optionally be partially or fully halogenated, halogen, methoxycarbonyl, phenylsulfonyl and -SO₂-CF₃;

R^b is chosen from hydrogen, C₁₋₅ alkyl, C₂₋₅ alkenyl, C₂₋₅ alkynyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, C₀₋₂ alkyl, aryl, C₁₋₅ alkoxy, C₁₋₅ alkylthio, amino, C₁₋₅ alkylamino, C₁₋₅ dialkylamino, C₁₋₅ acyl, C₁₋₅ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₅ acyloxy, C₁₋₅ acylamino, C₁₋₅ sulfonylamino, hydroxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl, nitro, nitrile,

or R^b is chosen from heterocycle chosen from pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl sulfoxide, thiomorpholinyl sulfone, dioxalanyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, 1,3-dioxolanone, 1,3-dioxanone, 1,4-dioxanyl, piperidinonyl, tetrahydropyrimidinyl, pentamethylene sulfide, pentamethylene sulfoxide, pentamethylene sulfone, tetramethylene sulfide, tetramethylene sulfoxide and tetramethylene sulfone and heteroaryl chosen from aziridinyl, thienyl, furanyl, isoxazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyranyl, quinoxalinyl, indolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzothienyl, quinolinyl, quinazolinyl, naphthyridinyl, indazolyl, triazolyl, pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyrimidinyl, purinyl, pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridinyl, pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridinyl, tubercidinyl, oxazo[4,5-*b*]pyridinyl and imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridinyl; and

R⁷ is hydrogen.

25 5. The compound according to claim 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

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J is chosen from C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, phenyl, naphthyl and C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl each optionally substituted by R^b;

each R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are hydrogen.

6. The compound according to claim 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R⁶ is present, and is chosen from O-J, -C(O)-J, -C(O)-O-J, J-S(O)_m-NR⁷R⁸-, J-S(O)_m-, -C(O)H, -O-heterocycle as defined hereinbelow, -C(O)-NR⁷R⁸-, -C(O)-C(O)-NR⁷R⁸-, -NR⁷R⁸-, C₁₋₅ alkyl branched or unbranched, C₂₋₅ alkenyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl(OH), oxo, heterocycle selected from morpholinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl and tetrahydrofuranyl, and aryl chosen from phenyl and naphthyl, each alkyl, alkenyl, heterocycle and aryl are optionally substituted by one to three hydroxy, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, mono or diC₁₋₃ alkyl amino, amino or C₁₋₅ alkoxycarbonyl;

each R⁷ and R⁸ are independently hydrogen, phenylC₀₋₃alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C₁₋₃ alkyl or diC₁₋₅ alkyl amino, or R⁷ and R⁸ are C₁₋₂ acyl, benzoyl or C₁₋₅ branched or unbranched alkyl optionally substituted by C₁₋₄ alkoxy, hydroxy or mono or diC₁₋₃ alkyl amino.

7. The compound according to claim 6, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R⁶ is chosen from O-J, -C(O)-J, -C(O)-O-J, J-S(O)_m-NR⁷R⁸-, J-S(O)_m-, -C(O)H, -O-heterocycle as defined hereinbelow, -C(O)-NR⁷R⁸-, -C(O)-C(O)-NR⁷R⁸-, -NR⁷R⁸-, C₁₋₅ alkyl branched or unbranched, C₂₋₅ alkenyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl(OH), oxo, heterocycle selected from morpholinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, tetrahydropyranyl and pyrrolidinyl, and phenyl, each alkyl, alkenyl, heterocycle and phenyl are optionally substituted by one to three hydroxy, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, mono or diC₁₋₃ alkyl amino, amino or C₁₋₅ alkoxycarbonyl;

each R⁷ and R⁸ are independently hydrogen, phenylC₀₋₂alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C₁₋₃ alkyl or diC₁₋₅ alkyl amino, or R⁷ and R⁸ are C₁₋₅ branched or unbranched alkyl optionally substituted by C₁₋₄ alkoxy, hydroxy or mono or diC₁₋₃ alkyl amino.

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8. The compound according to claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

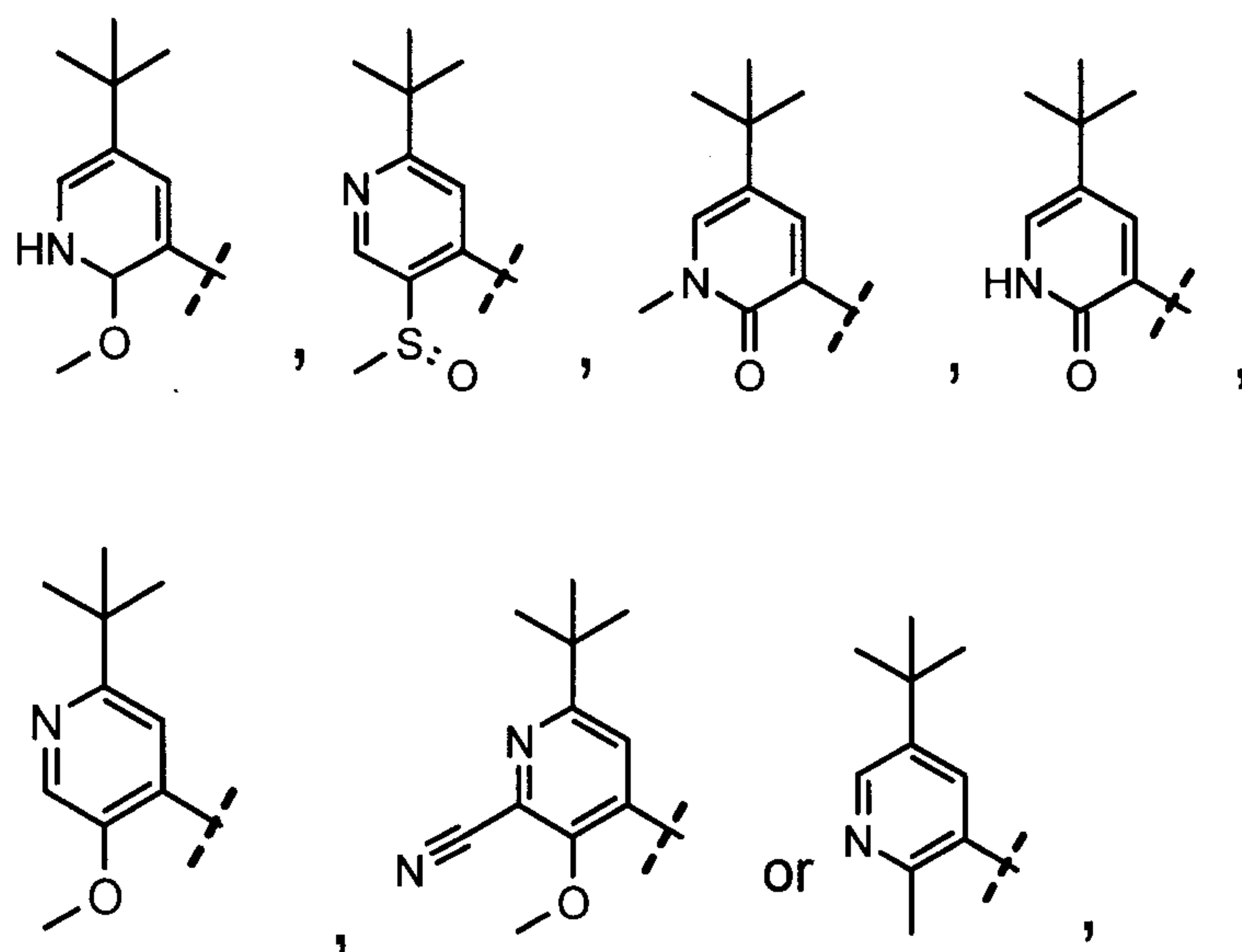
R^6 is chosen from O-J, -C(O)-J, -C(O)-O-J, J-S(O)_m-NR⁷R⁸-, J-S(O)_m-, -C(O)H, -O-heterocycle as defined hereinbelow, -C(O)-NR⁷R⁸, -C(O)-C(O)-NR⁷R⁸, -NR⁷R⁸, C₁₋₅ alkyl branched or unbranched, C₂₋₅ alkenyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl(OH), oxo, heterocycle selected from morpholinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, tetrahydropyranyl and pyrrolidinyl, and phenyl, each alkyl, alkenyl, heterocycle and phenyl are optionally substituted by one to three hydroxy, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, mono or diC₁₋₃ alkyl amino, amino or C₁₋₅ alkoxycarbonyl.

9. The compound according to claim 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^y and R⁶ optionally form a methylene bridged group from the ring atoms to which they are attached.

10. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Ar is:

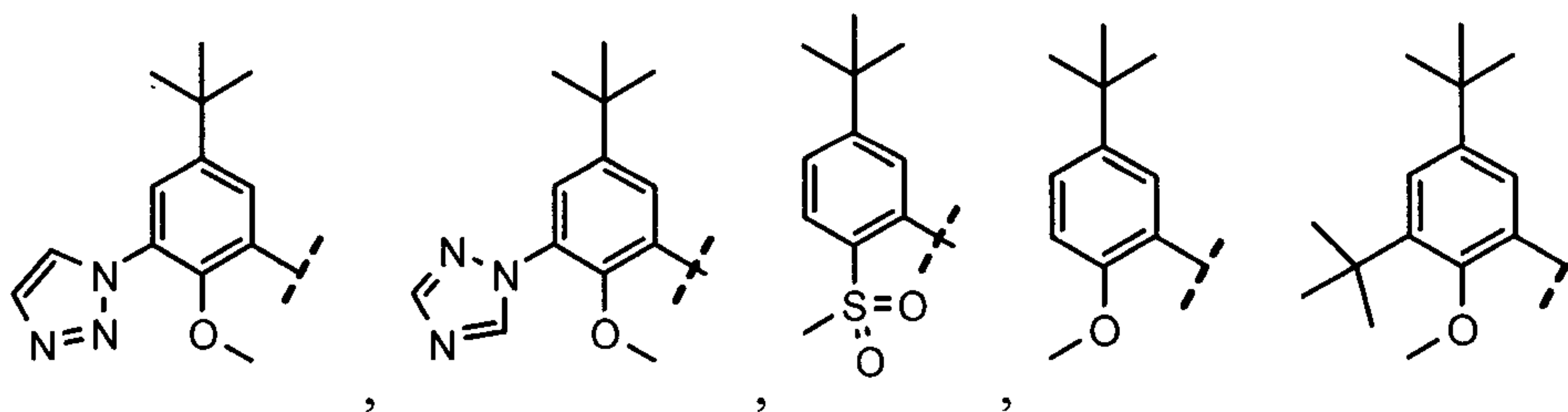
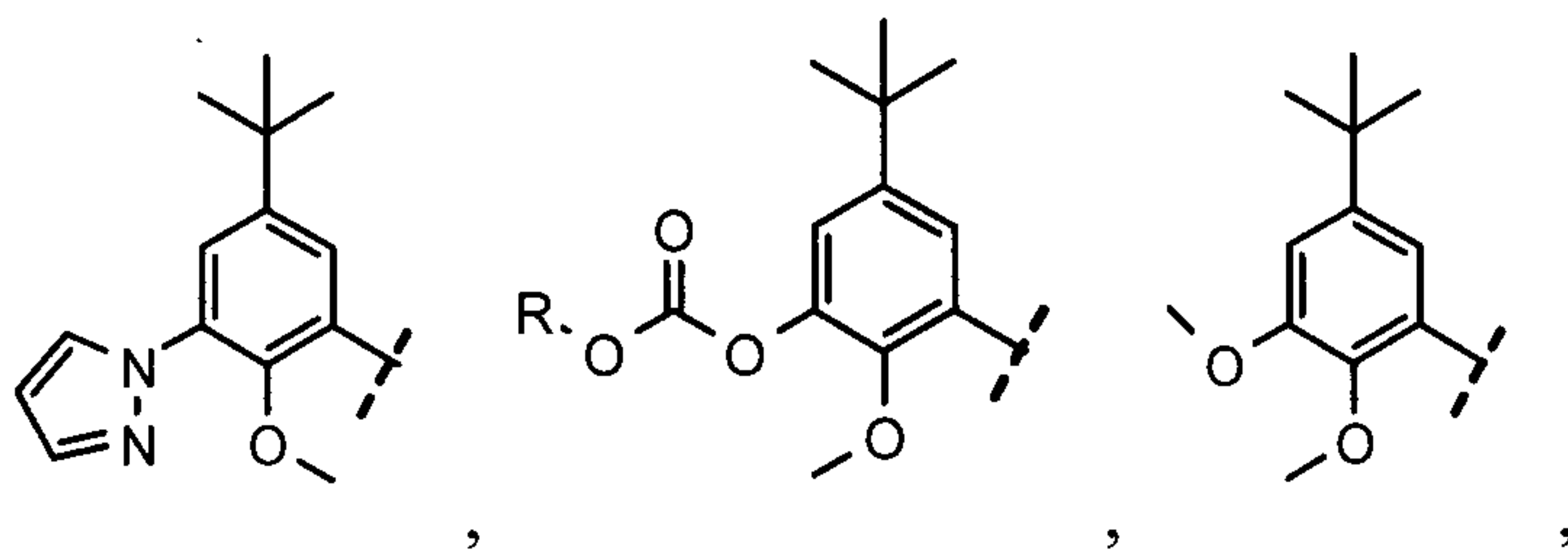
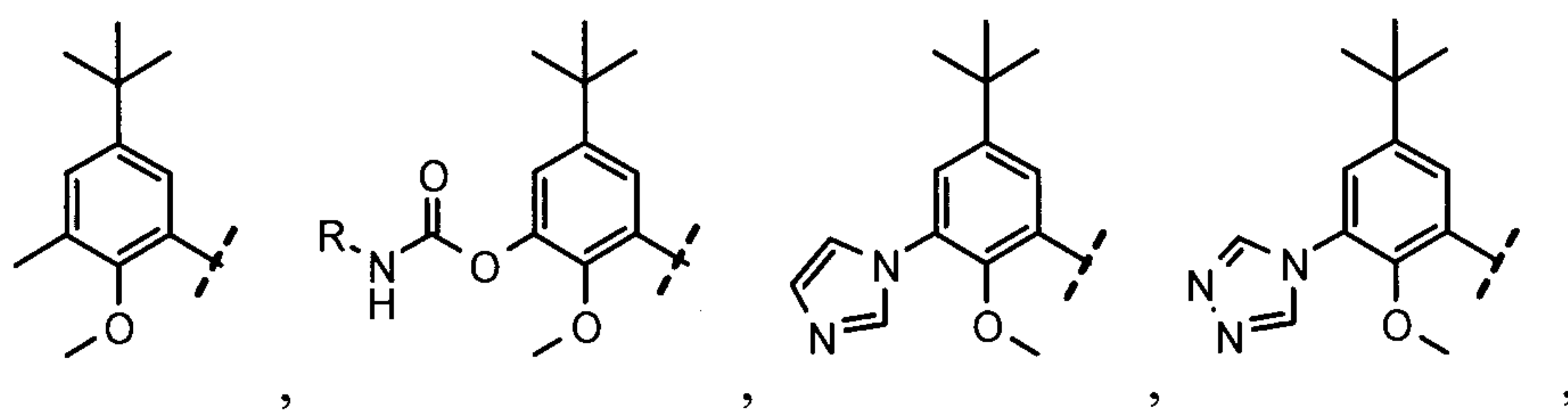
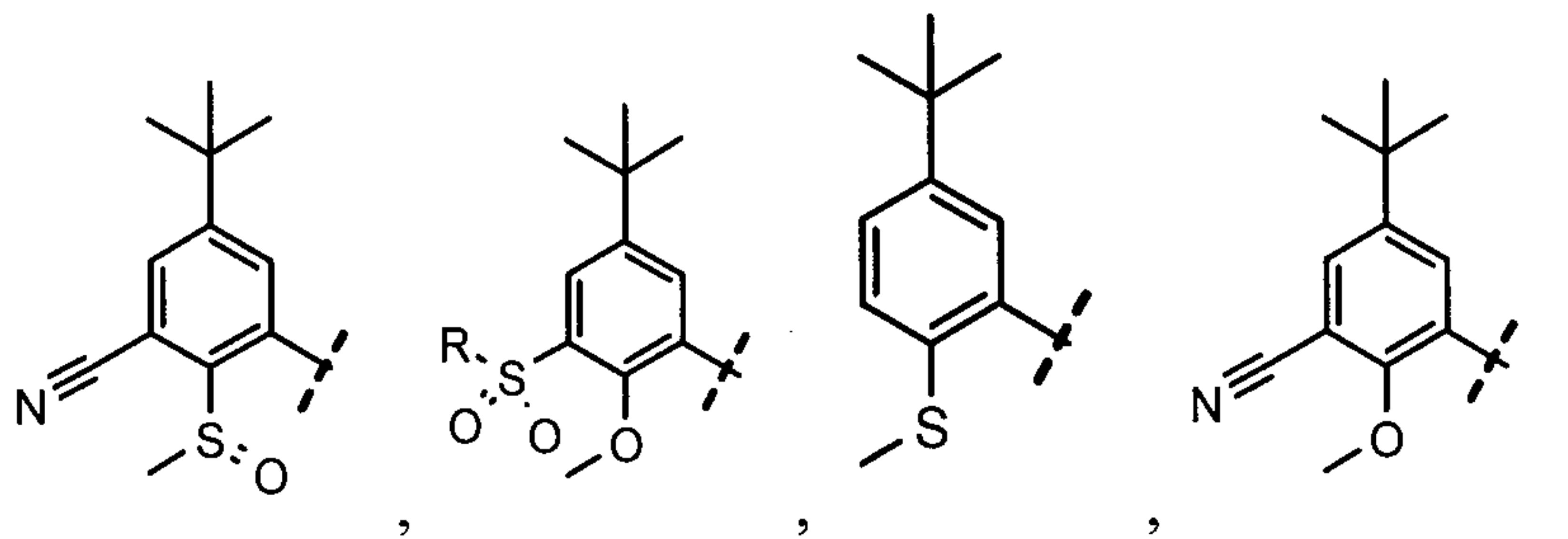
15 (i)



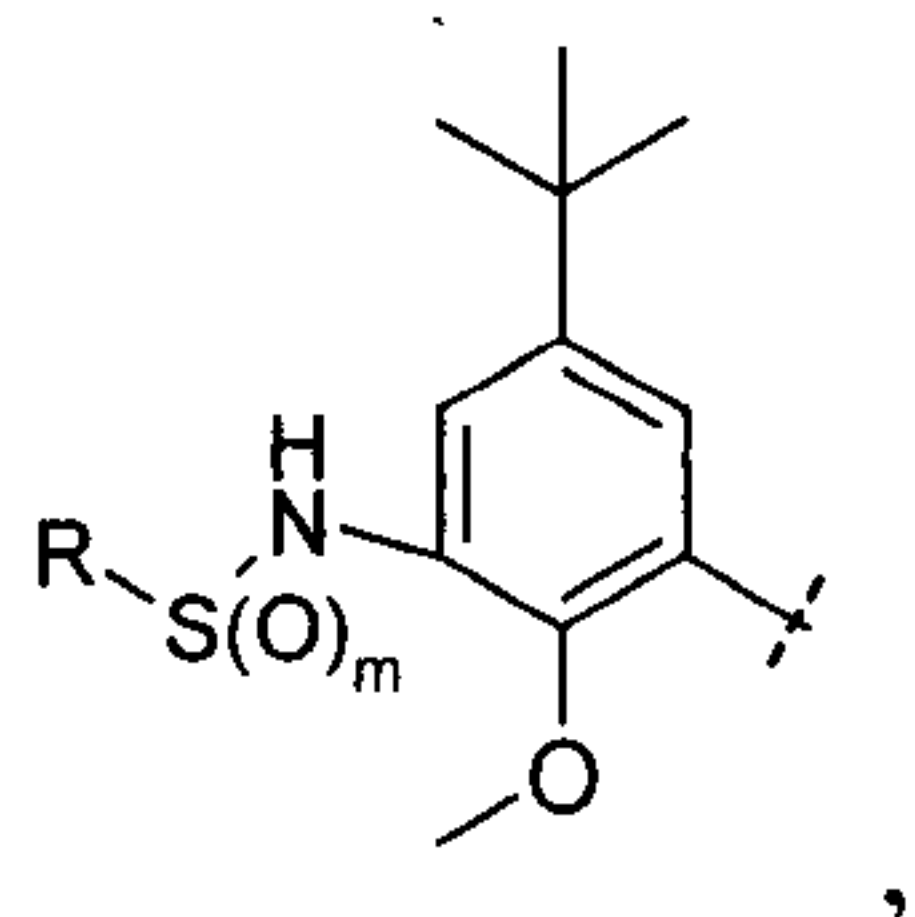
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or

(ii)



or

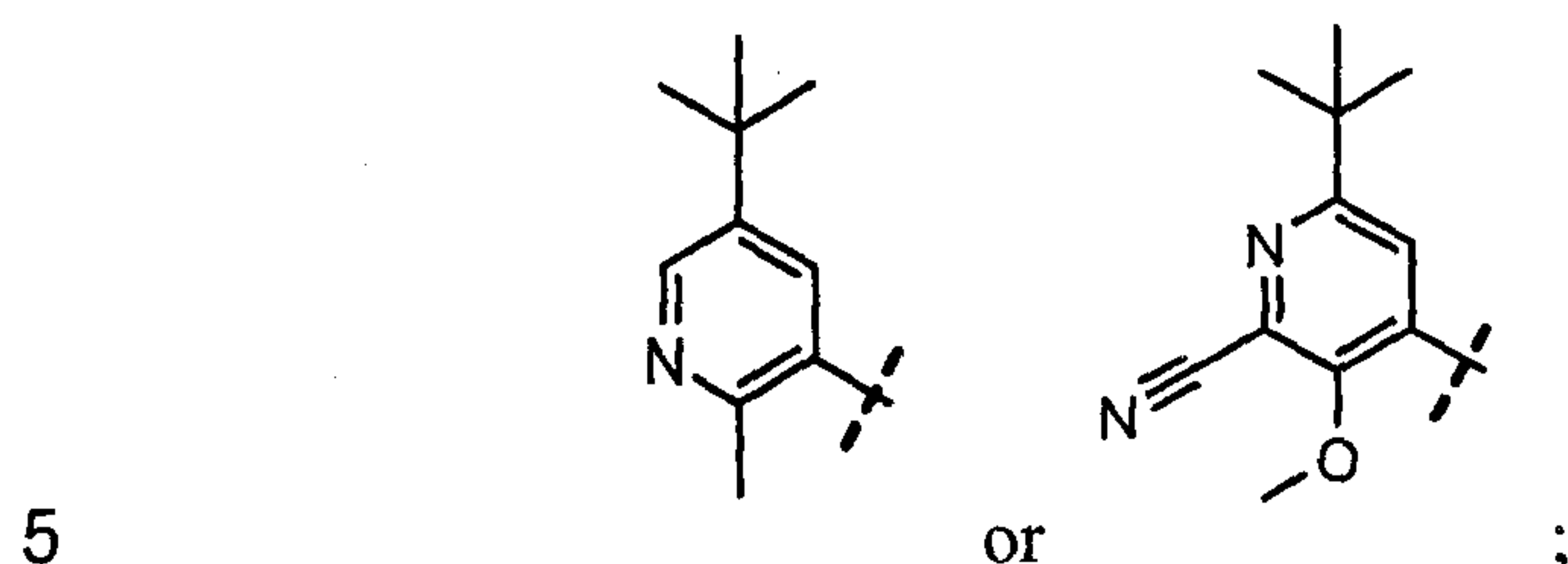


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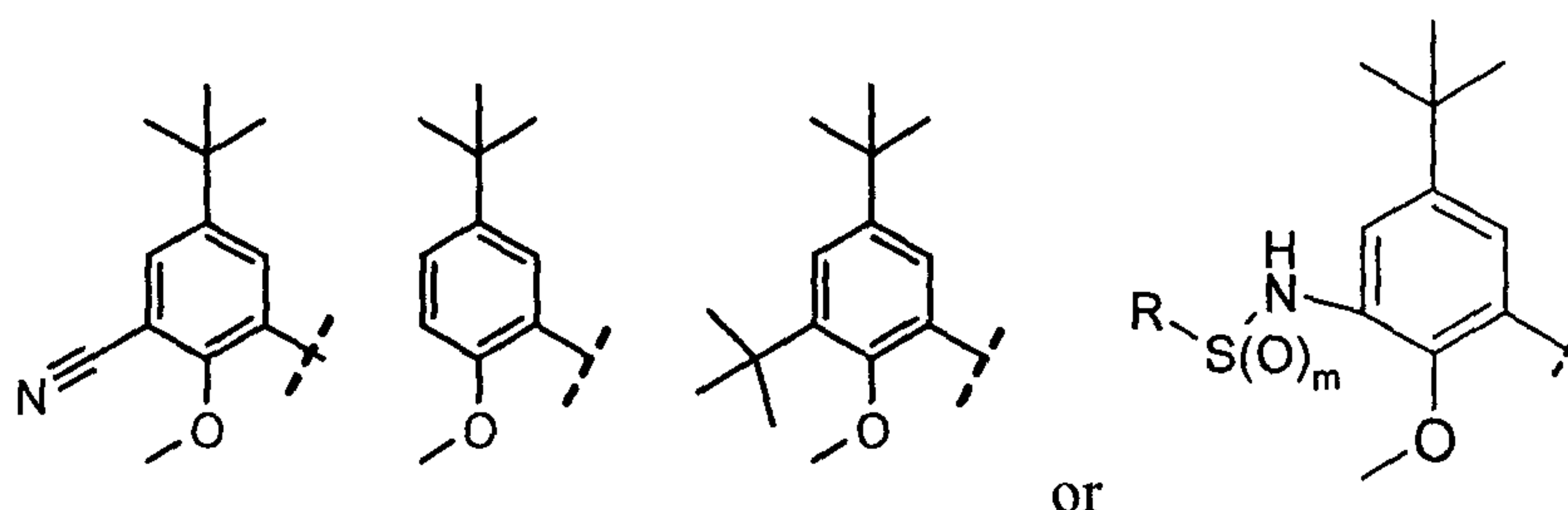
where R in these structures is C₁₋₅alkyl.

11. The compound according to claim 10, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Ar is:

(i)



(ii)



12. A pharmaceutical composition containing a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or adjuvants.

10

13. Use of the pharmaceutical composition defined in claim 12 for making a medicament for treating an oncological disease.

14. Use of the pharmaceutical composition defined in claim 12 for making a medicament for treating a disease or condition chosen from osteoarthritis, atherosclerosis, contact dermatitis, bone resorption diseases, reperfusion injury, asthma, multiple sclerosis, Guillain-Barre syndrome, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, psoriasis, graft versus host disease, systemic lupus erythematosus, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, rheumatoid arthritis, toxic shock syndrome, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, inflammatory bowel diseases,

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- acute and chronic pain, stroke, myocardial infarction alone or following thrombolytic therapy, thermal injury, adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), multiple organ injury secondary to trauma, acute glomerulonephritis, dermatoses with acute inflammatory components, acute purulent meningitis, syndromes associated with hemodialysis, leukopheresis, granulocyte
- 5 transfusion associated syndromes, necrotizing enterocolitis, restenosis following percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, traumatic arthritis, sepsis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and congestive heart failure.

