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(54) **THIAZOLIDINEDIONE ANALOGUES**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to thiazolidinedione analogues
that are useful for treating metabolic inflammation mediated
diseases such as diabetes.

FIGURE 1

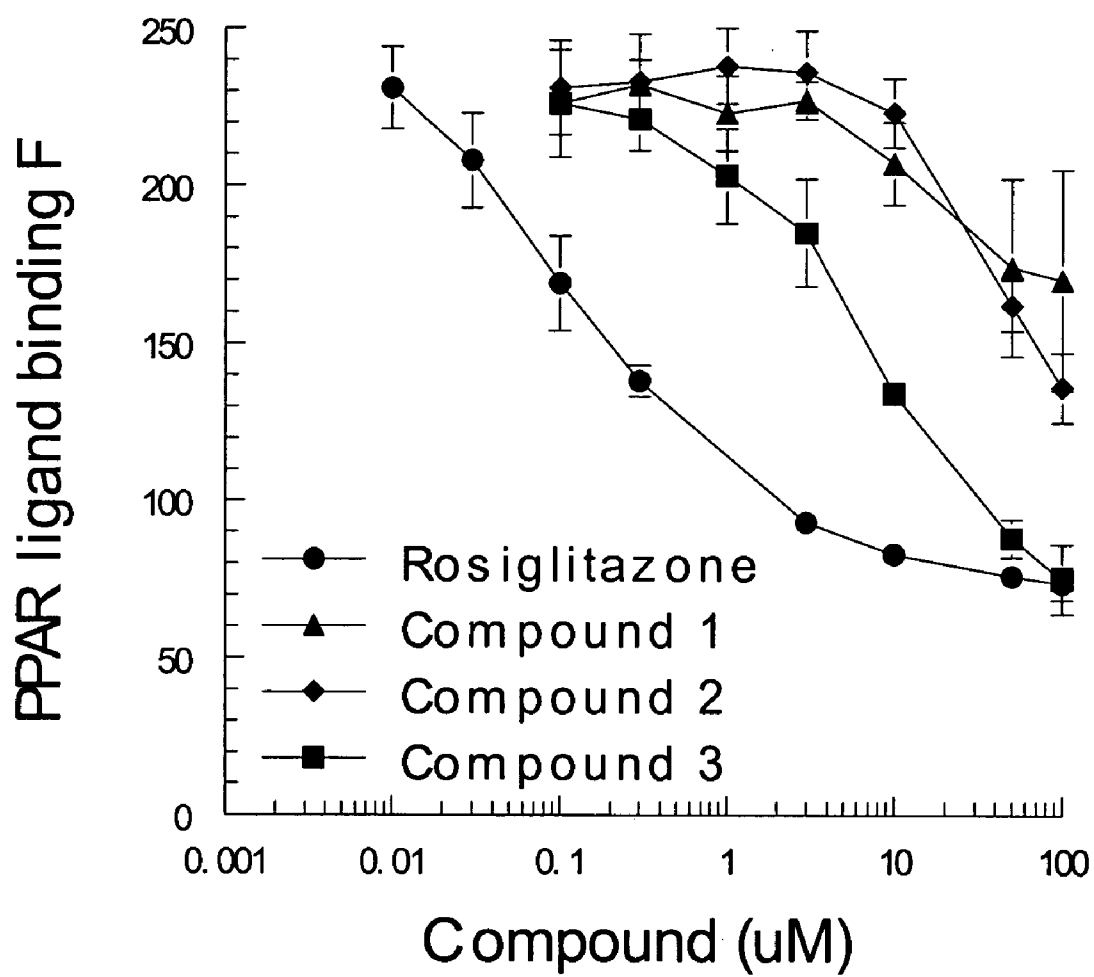
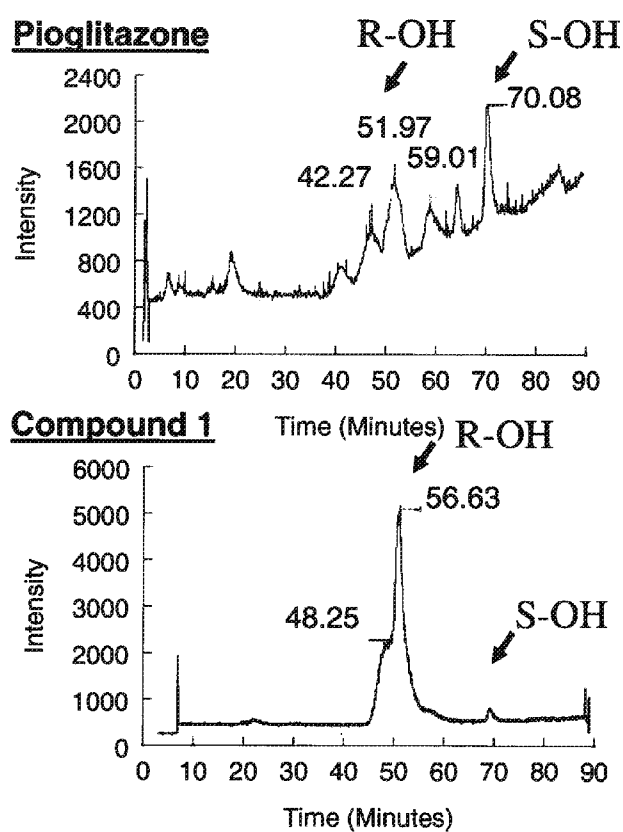
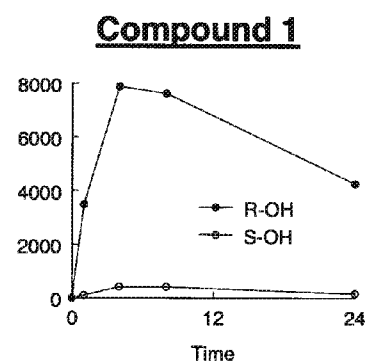
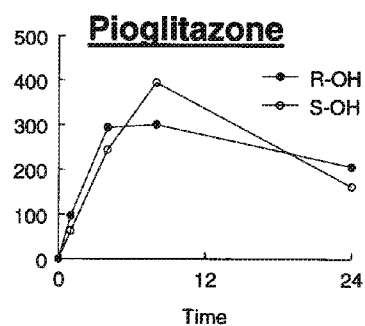


FIGURE 2"



Hours post oral dosing in rats



**Dosing with compound 1
produces compound 2**

THIAZOLIDINEDIONE ANALOGUES

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of PCT application No. PCT/US2007/006321, filed Mar. 14, 2007, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional application No. 60/782,894, filed on Mar. 16, 2006, each of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition that includes selective thiazolidinedione analogs for use in treating metabolic inflammation mediated diseases.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Over the past several decades, scientists have postulated that PPAR γ is the generally accepted site of action for insulin sensitizing thiazolidinedione compounds.

[0004] Peroxisomes Proliferator Activated Receptors (PPARs) are members of the nuclear hormone receptor super family, which are ligand-activated transcription factors regulating gene expression. PPARs have been implicated in autoimmune diseases and other diseases, i.e. diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal disease, and Alzheimer's disease.

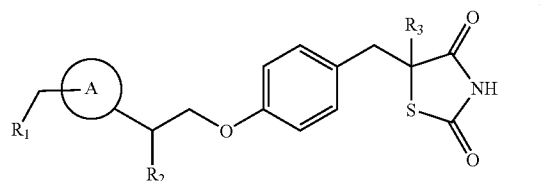
[0005] PPAR γ is a key regulator of adipocyte differentiation and lipid metabolism. PPAR γ is also found in other cell types including fibroblasts, myocytes, breast cells, human bone-marrow precursors, and macrophages/monocytes. In addition, PPAR γ has been shown in macrophage foam cells in atherosclerotic plaques.

[0006] Thiazolidinediones, developed originally for the treatment of type-2 diabetes, generally exhibit high-affinity as PPAR γ ligands. The finding that thiazolidinediones might mediate their therapeutic effects through direct interactions with PPAR γ helped to establish the concept that PPAR γ is a key regulator of glucose and lipid homeostasis. However, compounds that involve the activation of PPAR γ also trigger sodium reabsorption and other unpleasant side effects.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] In general, the invention relates to insulin sensitizers that have reduced binding and activation of the nuclear transcription factor PPAR γ . Traditional insulin sensitizers activate PPAR γ and stimulate the transcription of genes that favor sodium re-absorption. The insulin sensitizers of this invention have reduced binding and activation of the nuclear transcription factor PPAR γ and therefore produce reduced sodium re-absorption and fewer dose-limiting side effects. Thus, these compounds are substantially more effective to treat and prevent diabetes and other metabolic inflammation mediated diseases including all aspects of insulin resistance associated with metabolic syndrome including dyslipidemia, and central obesity. These compounds are also useful for treating other inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, myasthenia gravis, vasculitis, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), and inflammatory bowel disease as well as neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and multiple sclerosis.

[0008] In one aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition useful for treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease, such as diabetes, comprising a compound of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, and ring A are described below. Other aspects of this invention provide methods of treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease by administering to a patient a compound of formula I.

[0009] Another aspect of the present invention provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound of formula I, and metformin; dipeptidyl peptidase IV, i.e., DPP-4, inhibitors, e.g., sitagliptin, vildagliptin, or the like; statins, i.e., HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, e.g., atorvastatin, cerivastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, mevastatin, simvastatin, rosuvastatin, pravastatin, or any pharmaceutically acceptable combination thereof; GLP-1 and -2 agonists; or combinations thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

[0010] Another aspect of the present invention provides methods of treating rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, myasthenia, gravis, vasculitis, COPD, inflammatory bowel disease, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), acute allergic reactions, transplant rejections, central obesity, dyslipidemia, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, muscular sclerosis, or combinations thereof by contacting a patient with a compound of formula I.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0011] FIG. 1 is a graphical representation of the data in Table B. This graph illustrates the affinity of exemplary compounds 1-3 to bind to PPAR γ .

[0012] FIG. 2 is a graphical representation of the concentration of pioglitazone and compound 1 over time; and a mass spectrograph that illustrates the in vivo metabolism of both compounds in rats.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0013] As used herein, the following definitions shall apply unless otherwise indicated.

I. DEFINITIONS

[0014] For purposes of this invention, the chemical elements are identified in accordance with the Periodic Table of the Elements, CAS version, Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 75th Ed. Additionally, general principles of organic chemistry are described in "Organic Chemistry", Thomas Sorrell, University Science Books, Sausalito: 1999, and "March's Advanced Organic Chemistry", 5th Ed., Ed.: Smith, M. B. and March, J., John Wiley & Sons, New York: 2001, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0015] As described herein, compounds of the invention may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents, such as are illustrated generally above, or as exemplified by particular classes, subclasses, and species of the invention.

[0016] As used herein the term “aliphatic” encompasses the terms alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, each of which being optionally substituted as set forth below.

[0017] As used herein, an “alkyl” group refers to a saturated aliphatic hydrocarbon group containing 1-12 (e.g., 1-8, 1-6, or 1-4) carbon atoms. An alkyl group can be straight or branched. Examples of alkyl groups include, but are not limited to, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, n-heptyl, or 2-ethylhexyl. An alkyl group can be substituted (i.e., optionally substituted) with one or more substituents such as halo, phospho, cycloaliphatic [e.g., cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl], heterocycloaliphatic [e.g., heterocycloalkyl or heterocycloalkenyl], aryl, heteroaryl, heteroalkyl, heteroaroyl, acyl [e.g., (aliphatic)carbonyl, (cycloaliphatic)carbonyl, or (heterocycloaliphatic)carbonyl], nitro, cyano, amido [e.g., (cycloalkylalkyl)carbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, aralkylcarbonylamino, (heterocycloalkyl)carbonylamino, (heterocycloalkylalkyl)carbonylamino, heteroarylcarbonylamino, heteroaralkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, cycloalkylaminocarbonyl, heterocycloalkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, or heteroarylaminocarbonyl], amino [e.g., aliphaticamino, cycloaliphaticamino, or heterocycloaliphaticamino], sulfonyl [e.g., aliphatic-SO₂—], sulfinyl, sulfanyl, sulfoxy, urea, thiourea, sulfamoyl, sulfamide, oxo, carboxy, carbamoyl, cycloaliphaticoxy, heterocycloaliphaticoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, aralkyloxy, heteroarylalkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, or hydroxy. Without limitation, some examples of substituted alkyls include carboxyalkyl (such as HOOC-alkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, and alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl), cyanoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, acylalkyl, aralkyl, (alkoxyaryl)alkyl, (sulfonylamino)alkyl (such as (alkyl-SO₂-amino)alkyl), aminoalkyl, amidoalkyl, (cycloaliphatic)alkyl, or haloalkyl.

[0018] As used herein, an “alkenyl” group refers to an aliphatic carbon group that contains 2-8 (e.g., 2-12, 2-6, or 2-4) carbon atoms and at least one double bond. Like an alkyl group, an alkenyl group can be straight or branched. Examples of an alkenyl group include, but are not limited to, allyl, isoprenyl, 2-butenyl, and 2-hexenyl. An alkenyl group can be optionally substituted with one or more substituents such as halo, phospho, cycloaliphatic [e.g., cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl], heterocycloaliphatic [e.g., heterocycloalkyl or heterocycloalkenyl], aryl, heteroaryl, alkoxy, aroyl, heteroaroyl, acyl [e.g., (aliphatic)carbonyl, (cycloaliphatic)carbonyl, or (heterocycloaliphatic)carbonyl], nitro, cyano, amido [e.g., (cycloalkylalkyl)carbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, aralkylcarbonylamino, (heterocycloalkyl)carbonylamino, (heterocycloalkylalkyl)carbonylamino, heteroarylcarbonylamino, heteroaralkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, cycloalkylaminocarbonyl, heterocycloalkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, or heteroarylaminocarbonyl], amino [e.g., aliphaticamino, cycloaliphaticamino, heterocycloaliphaticamino, or aliphatic-sulfonylamino], sulfonyl [e.g., alkyl-SO₂—, cycloaliphatic-SO₂—, or aryl-SO₂—], sulfinyl, sulfanyl, sulfoxy, urea, thiourea, sulfamoyl, sulfamide, oxo, carboxy, carbamoyl, cycloaliphaticoxy, heterocycloaliphaticoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, aralkyloxy, heteroaralkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, or hydroxy. Without limitation, some

examples of substituted alkenyls include cyanoalkenyl, alkoxyalkenyl, acylalkenyl, hydroxyalkenyl, aralkenyl, (alkoxyaryl)alkenyl, (sulfonylamino)alkenyl (such as (alkyl-SO₂-amino)alkenyl), aminoalkenyl, amidoalkenyl, (cycloaliphatic)alkenyl, or haloalkenyl.

[0019] As used herein, an “alkynyl” group refers to an aliphatic carbon group that contains 2-8 (e.g., 2-12, 2-6, or 2-4) carbon atoms and has at least one triple bond. An alkynyl group can be straight or branched. Examples of an alkynyl group include, but are not limited to, propargyl and butynyl. An alkynyl group can be optionally substituted with one or more substituents such as aroyl, heteroaroyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyloxy, heterocycloalkyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, aralkyloxy, nitro, carboxy, cyano, halo, hydroxy, sulfo, mercapto, sulfanyl [e.g., aliphatic-sulfanyl or cycloaliphatic-sulfanyl], sulfinyl [e.g., aliphatic-sulfinyl or cycloaliphatic-sulfinyl], sulfonyl [e.g., aliphatic-SO₂—, aliphaticamino-SO₂—, or cycloaliphatic-SO₂—], amido [e.g., aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, cycloalkylaminocarbonyl, heterocycloalkylaminocarbonyl, cycloalkylcarbonylamino, arylaminocarbonyl, arylcarbonylamino, aralkylcarbonylamino, (heterocycloalkyl)carbonylamino, (cycloalkylalkyl)carbonylamino, heteroaralkylcarbonylamino, heteroarylcarbonylamino or heteroarylaminocarbonyl], urea, thiourea, sulfamoyl, sulfamide, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, cycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl [e.g., (cycloaliphatic)carbonyl or (heterocycloaliphatic)carbonyl], amino [e.g., aliphaticamino], sulfoxy, oxo, carboxy, carbamoyl, (cycloaliphatic)oxy, (heterocycloaliphatic)oxy, or (heteroaryl)alkoxy.

[0020] As used herein, an “amido” encompasses both “aminocarbonyl” and “carbonylamino”. These terms when used alone or in connection with another group refer to an amido group such as —N(R^x)—C(O)—R^y or —C(O)—N(R^x)₂, when used terminally, and —C(O)—N(R^x)— or —N(R^x)—C(O)—when used internally, wherein R^x and R^y are defined below. Examples of amido groups include alkylamido (such as alkylcarbonylamino or alkylaminocarbonyl), (heterocycloaliphatic)amido, (heteroaralkyl)amido, (heteroaryl)amido, (heterocycloalkyl)alkylamido, arylamido, aralkylamido, (cycloalkyl)alkylamido, or cycloalkylamido.

[0021] As used herein, an “amino” group refers to —NR^xR^y wherein each of R^x and R^y is independently hydrogen, aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, (cycloaliphatic)aliphatic, aryl, araliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, (heterocycloaliphatic)aliphatic, heteroaryl, carboxy, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, (aliphatic)carbonyl, (cycloaliphatic)carbonyl, ((cycloaliphatic)aliphatic)carbonyl, arylcarbonyl, (araliphatic)carbonyl, (heterocycloaliphatic)carbonyl, ((heterocycloaliphatic)aliphatic)carbonyl, (heteroaryl)carbonyl, or (heteroaraliphatic)carbonyl, each of which being defined herein and being optionally substituted. Examples of amino groups include alkylamino, dialkylamino, or arylamino. When the term “amino” is not the terminal group (e.g., alkylcarbonylamino), it is represented by —NR^x—. R^x has the same meaning as defined above.

[0022] As used herein, an “aryl” group used alone or as part of a larger moiety as in “aralkyl”, “aralkoxy”, or “aryloxy-alkyl” refers to monocyclic (e.g., phenyl); bicyclic (e.g., indenyl, naphthalenyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, tetrahydroindanyl); and tricyclic (e.g., fluorenyl tetrahydrofluorenyl, or tetrahydroanthracenyl, anthracenyl) ring systems in which the monocyclic ring system is aromatic or at least one of the rings in a bicyclic or tricyclic ring system is aromatic. The bicyclic

and tricyclic groups include benzofused 2-3 membered carbocyclic rings. For example, a benzofused group includes phenyl fused with two or more C_{4-8} carbocyclic moieties. An aryl is optionally substituted with one or more substituents including aliphatic [e.g., alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl]; cycloaliphatic; (cycloaliphatic)aliphatic; heterocycloaliphatic; (heterocycloaliphatic)aliphatic; aryl; heteroaryl; alkoxy; (cycloaliphatic)oxy; (heterocycloaliphatic)oxy; aryloxy; heteroaryloxy; (araliphatic)oxy; (heteroaraliphatic)oxy; aroyl; heteroaroyl; amino; oxo (on a non-aromatic carbocyclic ring of a benzofused bicyclic or tricyclic aryl); nitro; carboxy; amido; acyl [e.g., (aliphatic)carbonyl; (cycloaliphatic)carbonyl; ((cycloaliphatic)aliphatic)carbonyl; (araliphatic)carbonyl; (heterocycloaliphatic)carbonyl; ((heterocycloaliphatic)aliphatic)carbonyl; or (heteroaraliphatic)carbonyl]; sulfonyl [e.g., aliphatic-SO₂— or amino-SO₂—]; sulfinyl [e.g., aliphatic-S(O)— or cycloaliphatic-S(O)—]; sulfanyl [e.g., aliphatic-S—]; cyano; halo; hydroxy; mercapto; sulfoxy; urea; thiourea; sulfamoyl; sulfamide; or carbamoyl. Alternatively, an aryl can be unsubstituted.

[0023] Non-limiting examples of substituted aryls include haloaryl [e.g., mono-, di (such as p,m-dihaloaryl), and (trihalo)aryl]; (carboxy)aryl [e.g., (alkoxycarbonyl)aryl, ((aralkyl)carbonyloxy)aryl, and (alkoxycarbonyl)aryl]; (amido)aryl [e.g., (aminocarbonyl)aryl, (((alkylamino)alkyl)aminocarbonyl)aryl, (alkylcarbonyl)aminoaryl, (arylaminocarbonyl)aryl, and (((heteroaryl)amino)carbonyl)aryl]; aminoaryl [e.g., ((alkylsulfonyl)amino)aryl or ((dialkyl)amino)aryl]; (cyanoalkyl)aryl; (alkoxy)aryl; (sulfamoyl)aryl [e.g., (aminosulfonyl)aryl]; (alkylsulfonyl)aryl; (cyano)aryl; (hydroxyalkyl)aryl; ((alkoxyalkyl)aryl); (hydroxy)aryl, ((carboxy)alkyl)aryl; (((dialkyl)amino)alkyl)aryl; (nitroalkyl)aryl; (((alkylsulfonyl)amino)alkyl)aryl; ((heterocycloaliphatic)carbonyl)aryl; ((alkylsulfonyl)alkyl)aryl; (cyanoalkyl)aryl; (hydroxyalkyl)aryl; (alkylcarbonyl)aryl; alkylaryl; (trihaloalkyl)aryl; p-amino-m-alkoxycarbonylaryl; p-amino-m-cyanoaryl; p-halo-m-aminoaryl; or (m-(heterocycloaliphatic)-o-(alkyl)aryl).

[0024] As used herein, an “araliphatic” such as an “aralkyl” group refers to an aliphatic group (e.g., a C_{1-4} alkyl group) that is substituted with an aryl group. “Aliphatic,” “alkyl,” and “aryl” are defined herein. An example of an araliphatic such as an aralkyl group is benzyl.

[0025] As used herein, an “aralkyl” group refers to an alkyl group (e.g., a C_{1-4} alkyl group) that is substituted with an aryl group. Both “alkyl” and “aryl” have been defined above. An example of an aralkyl group is benzyl. An aralkyl is optionally substituted with one or more substituents such as aliphatic [e.g., alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, including carboxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or haloalkyl such as trifluoromethyl], cycloaliphatic [e.g., cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl], (cycloalkyl)alkyl, heterocycloalkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkoxy, cycloalkyloxy, heterocycloalkyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, aralkyloxy, heteroaralkyloxy, aroyl, heteroaroyl, nitro, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, amido [e.g., aminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, cycloalkylcarbonylamino, (cycloalkylalkyl)carbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylcarbonylamino, (heterocycloalkyl)carbonylamino, (heterocycloalkylalkyl)carbonylamino, heteroarylcarbonylamino, or heteroaralkylcarbonylamino], cyano, halo, hydroxy, acyl, mercapto, alkylsulfanyl, sulfoxy, urea, thiourea, sulfamoyl, sulfamide, oxo, or carbamoyl.

[0026] As used herein, a “bicyclic ring system” includes 8-12 (e.g., 9, 10, or 11) membered structures that form two rings, wherein the two rings have at least one atom in common (e.g., 2 atoms in common). Bicyclic ring systems include bicycloaliphatics (e.g., bicycloalkyl or bicycloalkenyl), bicycloheteroaliphatics, bicyclic aryls, and bicyclic heteroaryls.

[0027] As used herein, a “cycloaliphatic” group encompasses a “cycloalkyl” group and a “cycloalkenyl” group, each of which being optionally substituted as set forth below.

[0028] As used herein, a “cycloalkyl” group refers to a saturated carbocyclic mono- or bicyclic (fused or bridged) ring of 3-10 (e.g., 5-10) carbon atoms. Examples of cycloalkyl groups include cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, adamantyl, norbornyl, cubyl, octahydro-indenyl, decahydro-naphthyl, bicyclo[3.2.1]octyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]octyl, bicyclo[3.3.1]nonyl, bicyclo[3.3.2]decyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]octyl, adamantyl, or ((aminocarbonyl)cycloalkyl)cycloalkyl.

[0029] A “cycloalkenyl” group, as used herein, refers to a non-aromatic carbocyclic ring of 3-10 (e.g., 4-8) carbon atoms having one or more double bonds. Examples of cycloalkenyl groups include cyclopentenyl, 1,4-cyclohexadienyl, cycloheptenyl, cyclooctenyl, hexahydro-indenyl, octahydro-naphthyl, cyclohexenyl, cyclopentenyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]octenyl, or bicyclo[3.3.1]nonenyl.

[0030] A cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl group can be optionally substituted with one or more substituents such as phosphor, aliphatic [e.g., alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl], cycloaliphatic, (cycloaliphatic) aliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, (heterocycloaliphatic) aliphatic, aryl, heteroaryl, alkoxy, (cycloaliphatic)oxy, (heterocycloaliphatic)oxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, (araliphatic)oxy, (heteroaraliphatic)oxy, aroyl, heteroaroyl, amino, amido [e.g., (aliphatic)carbonylamino, (cycloaliphatic)carbonylamino, ((cycloaliphatic)aliphatic)carbonylamino, (aryl)carbonylamino, (araliphatic)carbonylamino, (heterocycloaliphatic)carbonylamino, ((heterocycloaliphatic)aliphatic)carbonylamino, (heteroaryl)carbonylamino, or (heteroaraliphatic)carbonylamino], nitro, carboxy [e.g., HOOC—, alkoxycarbonyl, or alkylcarbonyloxy], acyl [e.g., (cycloaliphatic)carbonyl, ((cycloaliphatic) aliphatic)carbonyl, (araliphatic)carbonyl, (heterocycloaliphatic)carbonyl, ((heterocycloaliphatic)aliphatic)carbonyl, or (heteroaraliphatic)carbonyl], cyano, halo, hydroxy, mercapto, sulfonyl [e.g., alkyl-SO₂— and aryl-SO₂—], sulfinyl [e.g., alkyl-S(O)—], sulfanyl [e.g., alkyl-S—], sulfoxy, urea, thiourea, sulfamoyl, sulfamide, oxo, or carbamoyl.

[0031] As used herein, the term “heterocycloaliphatic” encompasses a heterocycloalkyl group and a heterocycloalkenyl group, each of which being optionally substituted as set forth below.

[0032] As used herein, a “heterocycloalkyl” group refers to a 3-10 membered mono- or bicyclic (fused or bridged) (e.g., 5- to 10-membered mono- or bicyclic) saturated ring structure, in which one or more of the ring atoms is a heteroatom (e.g., N, O, S, or combinations thereof). Examples of a heterocycloalkyl group include piperidyl, piperazyl, tetrahydropyran, tetrahydrofuryl, 1,4-dioxolanyl, 1,4-dithianyl, 1,3-dioxolanyl, oxazolidyl, isoxazolidyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, octahydrobenzofuryl, octahydrochromenyl, octahydrothiochromenyl, octahydroindolyl, octahydroindolyl, decahydroquinolinyl, octahydrobenzo[b]thiophenyl, 2-oxa-bicyclo[2.2.2]octyl, 1-aza-bicyclo[2.2.2]octyl, 3-aza-bicyclo[3.2.1]octyl, and 2,6-dioxa-tricyclo[3.3.

1,0^{3,7}]nonyl. A monocyclic heterocycloalkyl group can be fused with a phenyl moiety to form structures, such as tetrahydroisoquinoline, which would be categorized as heteroaryls.

[0033] A “heterocycloalkenyl” group, as used herein, refers to a mono- or bicyclic (e.g., 5- to 10-membered mono- or bicyclic) non-aromatic ring structure having one or more double bonds, and wherein one or more of the ring atoms is a heteroatom (e.g., N, O, or S). Monocyclic and bicyclic heterocycloaliphatics are numbered according to standard chemical nomenclature.

[0034] A heterocycloalkyl or heterocycloalkenyl group can be optionally substituted with one or more substituents such as phosphor, aliphatic [e.g., alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl], cycloaliphatic, (cycloaliphatic)aliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, (heterocycloaliphatic)aliphatic, aryl, heteroaryl, alkoxy, (cycloaliphatic)oxy, (heterocycloaliphatic)oxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, (araliphatic)oxy, (heteroaraliphatic)oxy, aroyl, heteroaroyl, amino, amido [e.g., (aliphatic)carbonylamino, (cycloaliphatic)carbonylamino, ((cycloaliphatic)aliphatic)carbonylamino, (aryl)carbonylamino, (araliphatic)carbonylamino, (heterocycloaliphatic)carbonylamino, ((heterocycloaliphatic)aliphatic)carbonylamino, (heteroaraliphatic)carbonylamino, or (heteroaraliphatic)carbonylamino], nitro, carboxy [e.g., HOOC—, alkoxycarbonyl, or alkylcarbonyloxy], acyl [e.g., (cycloaliphatic)carbonyl, ((cycloaliphatic)aliphatic)carbonyl, (araliphatic)carbonyl, (heterocycloaliphatic)carbonyl, ((heterocycloaliphatic)aliphatic)carbonyl, or (heteroaraliphatic)carbonyl], nitro, cyano, halo, hydroxy, mercapto, sulfonyl [e.g., alkylsulfonyl or arylsulfonyl], sulfinyl [e.g., alkylsulfinyl], sulfanyl [e.g., alkylsulfanyl], sulfoxy, urea, thiourea, sulfamoyl, sulfamide, oxo, or carbamoyl.

[0035] A “heteroaryl” group, as used herein, refers to a monocyclic, bicyclic, or tricyclic ring system having 4 to 15 ring atoms wherein one or more of the ring atoms is a heteroatom (e.g., N, O, S, or combinations thereof) and in which the monocyclic ring system is aromatic or at least one of the rings in the bicyclic or tricyclic ring systems is aromatic. A heteroaryl group includes a benzofused ring system having 2 to 3 rings. For example, a benzofused group includes benzo fused with one or two to 8 membered heterocycloaliphatic moieties (e.g., indolizyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, 3H-indolyl, indolinyl, benzo[b]furyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, quinolinyl, or isoquinolinyl). Some examples of heteroaryl are azetidyl, pyridyl, 1H-indazolyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, tetrazolyl, benzofuryl, isoquinolinyl, benzthiazolyl, xanthene, thioxanthene, phenothiazine, dihydroindole, benzo[1,3]dioxole, benzo[b]furyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzthiazolyl, puryl, cinnolyl, quinolyl, quinazolyl, cinnolyl, phthalazyl, quinazolyl, quinoxalyl, isoquinolyl, 4H-quinolizyl, benzo-1,2,5-thiadiazolyl, or 1,8-naphthyridyl.

[0036] Without limitation, monocyclic heteroaryls include furyl, thiophenyl, 2H-pyrrolyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, 2H-pyranlyl, 4-H-pranyl, pyridyl, pyridazyl, pyrimidyl, pyrazolyl, pyrazyl, or 1,3,5-triazyl. Monocyclic heteroaryls are numbered according to standard chemical nomenclature.

[0037] Without limitation, bicyclic heteroaryls include indolizyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, 3H-indolyl, indolinyl, benzo[b]furyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, indolizyl, isoindolyl, indolyl, benzo[b]furyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzthiazolyl, purinyl,

4H-quinolizyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, cinnolyl, phthalazyl, quinazolyl, quinoxalyl, 1,8-naphthyridyl, or pteridyl. Bicyclic heteroaryls are numbered according to standard chemical nomenclature.

[0038] A heteroaryl is optionally substituted with one or more substituents such as aliphatic [e.g., alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl]; cycloaliphatic; (cycloaliphatic)aliphatic; heterocycloaliphatic; (heterocycloaliphatic)aliphatic; aryl; heteroaryl; alkoxy; (cycloaliphatic)oxy; (heterocycloaliphatic)oxy; aryloxy; heteroaryloxy; (araliphatic)oxy; (heteroaraliphatic)oxy; aroyl; heteroaroyl; amino; oxo (on a non-aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring of a bicyclic or tricyclic heteroaryl); carboxy; amido; acyl [e.g., aliphaticcarbonyl; (cycloaliphatic)carbonyl; ((cycloaliphatic)aliphatic)carbonyl; (araliphatic)carbonyl; (heterocycloaliphatic)carbonyl; ((heterocycloaliphatic)aliphatic)carbonyl; or (heteroaraliphatic)carbonyl]; sulfonyl [e.g., aliphaticsulfonyl or aminosulfonyl]; sulfinyl [e.g., aliphaticsulfinyl]; sulfanyl [e.g., aliphaticsulfinyl]; nitro; cyano; halo; hydroxy; mercapto; sulfoxy; urea; thiourea; sulfamoyl; sulfamide; or carbamoyl. Alternatively, a heteroaryl can be unsubstituted.

[0039] Non-limiting examples of substituted heteroaryls include (halo)heteroaryl [e.g., mono- and di-(halo)heteroaryl]; (carboxy)heteroaryl [e.g., (alkoxycarbonyl)heteroaryl]; cyanoheteroaryl; aminoheteroaryl [e.g., ((alkylsulfonyl)amino)heteroaryl and ((dialkyl)amino)heteroaryl]; (amido)heteroaryl [e.g., aminocarbonylheteroaryl, ((alkylcarbonyl)amino)heteroaryl, (((alkyl)amino)alkyl)aminocarbonylheteroaryl, (((heteroaryl)amino)carbonyl)heteroaryl, ((heterocycloaliphatic)carbonyl)heteroaryl, and ((alkylcarbonyl)amino)heteroaryl]; (cyanoalkyl)heteroaryl; (alkoxy)heteroaryl; (sulfamoyl)heteroaryl [e.g., (aminosulfonyl)heteroaryl]; (sulfonyl)heteroaryl [e.g., (alkylsulfonyl)heteroaryl]; (hydroxyalkyl)heteroaryl; (alkoxyalkyl)heteroaryl; (hydroxy)heteroaryl; ((carboxy)alkyl)heteroaryl; (((dialkyl)amino)alkyl)heteroaryl; (heterocycloaliphatic)heteroaryl; (cycloaliphatic)heteroaryl; (nitroalkyl)heteroaryl; (((alkylsulfonyl)amino)alkyl)heteroaryl; ((alkylsulfonyl)alkyl)heteroaryl; (cyanoalkyl)heteroaryl; (acyl)heteroaryl [e.g., (alkylcarbonyl)heteroaryl]; (alkyl)heteroaryl, and (haloalkyl)heteroaryl [e.g., trihaloalkylheteroaryl].

[0040] A “heteroaraliphatic (such as a heteroaralkyl group) as used herein, refers to an aliphatic group (e.g., a C₁₋₄ alkyl group) that is substituted with a heteroaryl group. “Aliphatic,” “alkyl,” and “heteroaryl” have been defined above.

[0041] A “heteroaralkyl” group, as used herein, refers to an alkyl group (e.g., a C₁₋₄ alkyl group) that is substituted with a heteroaryl group. Both “alkyl” and “heteroaryl” have been defined above. A heteroaralkyl is optionally substituted with one or more substituents such as alkyl (including carboxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, and haloalkyl such as trifluoromethyl), alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, heterocycloalkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkoxy, cycloalkyloxy, heterocycloalkyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, aralkyloxy, heteroaralkyloxy, aroyl, heteroaroyl, nitro, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, cycloalkylcarbonylamino, (cycloalkylalkyl)carbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, aralkylcarbonylamino, (heterocycloalkyl)carbonylamino, (heterocycloalkylalkyl)carbonylamino, heteroarylcarbonylamino, heteroaralkylcarbonylamino, cyano, halo, hydroxy, acyl, mercapto, alkylsulfanyl, sulfoxy, urea, thiourea, sulfamoyl, sulfamide, oxo, or carbamoyl.

[0042] As used herein, “cyclic moiety” and “cyclic group” refer to mono-, bi-, and tri-cyclic ring systems including cycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, aryl, or heteroaryl, each of which has been previously defined.

[0043] As used herein, a “bridged bicyclic ring system” refers to a bicyclic heterocycloaliphatic ring system or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system in which the rings are bridged. Examples of bridged bicyclic ring systems include, but are not limited to, adamantanyl, norbornanyl, bicyclo[3.2.1]octyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]octyl, bicyclo[3.3.1]nonyl, bicyclo[3.2.3]nonyl, 2-oxabicyclo[2.2.2]octyl, 1-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octyl, 3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octyl, and 2,6-dioxo-tricyclo[3.3.1.0^{3,7}]nonyl. A bridged bicyclic ring system can be optionally substituted with one or more substituents such as alkyl (including carboxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, and haloalkyl such as trifluoromethyl), alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, heterocycloalkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkoxy, cycloalkoxy, heterocycloalkoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, aralkyloxy, heteroaralkyloxy, aroyl, heteroaroyl, nitro, carboxy, alkoxy-carbonyl, alkyl-carbonyloxy, aminocarbonyl, alkyl-carbonylamino, cycloalkyl-carbonylamino, (cycloalkylalkyl)carbonylamino, aryl-carbonylamino, aralkyl-carbonylamino, (heterocycloalkyl)carbonylamino, (heterocycloalkylalkyl)carbonylamino, heteroaryl-carbonylamino, heteroaralkyl-carbonylamino, cyano, halo, hydroxy, acyl, mercapto, alkylsulfanyl, sulfoxy, urea, thiourea, sulfamoyl, sulfamide, oxo, or carbamoyl.

[0044] As used herein, an “acyl” group refers to a formyl group or R^x-C(O)— (such as alkyl-C(O)—, also referred to as “alkylcarbonyl”) where R^x and “alkyl” have been defined previously. Acetyl and pivaloyl are examples of acyl groups.

[0045] As used herein, an “aroyl” or “heteroaroyl” refers to an aryl-C(O)— or a heteroaryl-C(O)—. The aryl and heteroaryl portion of the aroyl or heteroaroyl is optionally substituted as previously defined.

[0046] As used herein, an “alkoxy” group refers to an alkyl-O— group where “alkyl” has been defined previously.

[0047] As used herein, a “carbamoyl” group refers to a group having the structure —O—CO—NR^xR^y or —NR^x—CO—O—R^z, wherein R^x and R^y have been defined above and R^z can be aliphatic, aryl, araliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, heteroaryl, or heteroaraliphatic.

[0048] As used herein, a “carboxy” group refers to —COOH, —COOR^x, —OC(O)H, —OC(O)R^x, when used as a terminal group; or —OC(O)— or —C(O)O— when used as an internal group.

[0049] As used herein, a “haloaliphatic” group refers to an aliphatic group substituted with 1-3 halogen. For instance, the term haloalkyl includes the group —CF₃.

[0050] As used herein, a “mercapto” group refers to —SH.

[0051] As used herein, a “sulfo” group refers to —SO₃H or —SO₃R^x when used terminally or —S(O)₃— when used internally.

[0052] As used herein, a “sulfamide” group refers to the structure —NR^x—S(O)₂—NR^yR^z when used terminally and —NR^x—S(O)₂—NR^y— when used internally, wherein R^x, R^y, and R^z have been defined above.

[0053] As used herein, a “sulfonamide” group refers to the structure —S(O)₂—NR^xR^y or —NR^x—S(O)₂—R^z when used terminally; or —S(O)₂—NR^x— or —NR^x—S(O)₂— when used internally, wherein R^x, R^y, and R^z are defined above.

[0054] As used herein a “sulfanyl” group refers to —S-Rx when used terminally and —S— when used internally,

wherein Rx has been defined above. Examples of sulfanyl groups include aliphatic-S—, cycloaliphatic-S—, aryl-S—, or the like.

[0055] As used herein a “sulfinyl” group refers to —S(O)—Rx when used terminally and —S(O)— when used internally, wherein Rx has been defined above. Exemplary sulfinyl groups include aliphatic-S(O)—, aryl-S(O)—, (cycloaliphatic(aliphatic))-S(O)—, cycloalkyl-S(O)—, heterocycloaliphatic-S(O)—, heteroaryl-S(O)—, or the like.

[0056] As used herein, a “sulfonyl” group refers to —S(O)₂—R^x when used terminally and —S(O)₂— when used internally, wherein Rx has been defined above. Exemplary sulfonyl groups include aliphatic-S(O)₂—, aryl-S(O)₂—, (cycloaliphatic(aliphatic))-S(O)₂—, cycloaliphatic-S(O)₂—, heterocycloaliphatic-S(O)₂—, heteroaryl-S(O)₂—, (cycloaliphatic(amido(aliphatic)))-S(O)₂— or the like.

[0057] As used herein, a “sulfoxy” group refers to —O—SO—R^x or —SO—O—R^x, when used terminally and —O—S(O)— or —S(O)—O— when used internally, where R^x has been defined above.

[0058] As used herein, a “halogen” or “halo” group refers to fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine.

[0059] As used herein, an “alkoxy-carbonyl,” which is encompassed by the term carboxy, used alone or in connection with another group refers to a group such as alkyl-O—C(O)—.

[0060] As used herein, an “alkoxyalkyl” refers to an alkyl group such as alkyl-O-alkyl-, wherein alkyl has been defined above.

[0061] As used herein, a “carbonyl” refer to —C(O)—.

[0062] As used herein, an “oxo” refers to =O.

[0063] As used herein, the term “phospho” refers to phosphinates and phosphonates. Examples of phosphinates and phosphonates include —P(O)(R^p)₂, wherein R^p is aliphatic, alkoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, (cycloaliphatic)oxy, (heterocycloaliphatic)oxy aryl, heteroaryl, cycloaliphatic or amino.

[0064] As used herein, an “aminoalkyl” refers to the structure (R^x)₂N-alkyl-.

[0065] As used herein, a “cyanoalkyl” refers to the structure (NC)-alkyl-.

[0066] As used herein, a “urea” group refers to the structure —NR^x—CO—NR^yR^z and a “thiourea” group refers to the structure —NR^x—CS—NR^yR^z when used terminally and —NR^x—CO—NR^y— or —NR^x—CS—NR^y— when used internally, wherein R^x, R^y, and R^z have been defined above.

[0067] As used herein, a “guanidine” group refers to the structure —N=C(N(R^xR^y))N(R^xR^y) or —NR^x—C(=NR^x)NR^xR^y wherein R^x and R^y have been defined above.

[0068] As used herein, the term “amidino” group refers to the structure —C(=NR^x)N(R^xR^y) wherein R^x and R^y have been defined above.

[0069] In general, the term “vicinal” refers to the placement of substituents on a group that includes two or more carbon atoms, wherein the substituents are attached to adjacent carbon atoms.

[0070] In general, the term “geminal” refers to the placement of substituents on a group that includes two or more carbon atoms, wherein the substituents are attached to the same carbon atom.

[0071] The terms “terminally” and “internally” refer to the location of a group within a substituent. A group is terminal

when the group is present at the end of the substituent not further bonded to the rest of the chemical structure. Carboxy-alkyl, i.e., $R^xO(O)C$ -alkyl is an example of a carboxy group used terminally. A group is internal when the group is present in the middle of a substituent of the chemical structure. Alkylcarboxy (e.g., alkyl- $C(O)O$ — or alkyl- $OC(O)$ —) and alkylcarboxyaryl (e.g., alkyl- $C(O)O$ -aryl- or alkyl- $O(CO)$ -aryl-) are examples of carboxy groups used internally.

[0072] As used herein, an “aliphatic chain” refers to a branched or straight aliphatic group (e.g., alkyl groups, alkenyl groups, or alkynyl groups). A straight aliphatic chain has the structure $—[CH_2]_v—$, where v is 1-12. A branched aliphatic chain is a straight aliphatic chain that is substituted with one or more aliphatic groups. A branched aliphatic chain has the structure $—[CQQ]_v—$ where Q is independently a hydrogen or an aliphatic group; however, Q shall be an aliphatic group in at least one instance. The term aliphatic chain includes alkyl chains, alkenyl chains, and alkynyl chains, where alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl are defined above.

[0073] The phrase “optionally substituted” is used interchangeably with the phrase “substituted or unsubstituted.” As described herein, compounds of the invention can optionally be substituted with one or more substituents, such as are illustrated generally above, or as exemplified by particular classes, subclasses, and species of the invention. As described herein, the variables R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 , and other variables contained in formulae described herein encompass specific groups, such as alkyl and aryl. Unless otherwise noted, each of the specific groups for the variables R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 , and other variables contained therein can be optionally substituted with one or more substituents described herein. Each substituent of a specific group is further optionally substituted with one to three of halo, cyano, oxo, alkoxy, hydroxy, amino, nitro, aryl, cycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, heteroaryl, haloalkyl, and alkyl. For instance, an alkyl group can be substituted with alkylsulfanyl and the alkylsulfanyl can be optionally substituted with one to three of halo, cyano, oxo, alkoxy, hydroxy, amino, nitro, aryl, haloalkyl, and alkyl. As an additional example, the cycloalkyl portion of a (cycloalkyl)carbonylamino can be optionally substituted with one to three of halo, cyano, alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, haloalkyl, and alkyl. When two alkoxy groups are bound to the same atom or adjacent atoms, the two alkoxy groups can form a ring together with the atom(s) to which they are bound.

[0074] In general, the term “substituted,” whether preceded by the term “optionally” or not, refers to the replacement of hydrogen radicals in a given structure with the radical of a specified substituent. Specific substituents are described above in the definitions and below in the description of compounds and examples thereof. Unless otherwise indicated, an optionally substituted group can have a substituent at each substitutable position of the group, and when more than one position in any given structure can be substituted with more than one substituent selected from a specified group, the substituent can be either the same or different at every position. A ring substituent, such as a heterocycloalkyl, can be bound to another ring, such as a cycloalkyl, to form a spiro-bicyclic ring system, e.g., both rings share one common atom. As one of ordinary skill in the art will recognize, combinations of substituents envisioned by this invention are those combinations that result in the formation of stable or chemically feasible compounds.

[0075] The phrase “stable or chemically feasible,” as used herein, refers to compounds that are not substantially altered

when subjected to conditions to allow for their production, detection, and preferably their recovery, purification, and use for one or more of the purposes disclosed herein. In some embodiments, a stable compound or chemically feasible compound is one that is not substantially altered when kept at a temperature of 40° C. or less, in the absence of moisture or other chemically reactive conditions, for at least a week.

[0076] As used herein, an “effective amount” is defined as the amount required to confer a therapeutic effect on the treated patient, and is typically determined based on age, surface area, weight, and condition of the patient. The inter-relationship of dosages for animals and humans (based on milligrams per meter squared of body surface) is described by Freireich et al., *Cancer Chemother. Rep.*, 50: 219 (1966). Body surface area may be approximately determined from height and weight of the patient. See, e.g., *Scientific Tables*, Geigy Pharmaceuticals, Ardsley, N.Y., 537 (1970). As used herein, “patient” refers to a mammal, including a human.

[0077] Unless otherwise stated, structures depicted herein are also meant to include all isomeric (e.g., enantiomeric, diastereomeric, and geometric (or conformational)) forms of the structure; for example, the R and S configurations for each asymmetric center, (Z) and (E) double bond isomers, and (Z) and (E) conformational isomers. Therefore, single stereochemical isomers as well as enantiomeric, diastereomeric, and geometric (or conformational) mixtures of the present compounds are within the scope of the invention. Unless otherwise stated, all tautomeric forms of the compounds of the invention are within the scope of the invention. Additionally, unless otherwise stated, structures depicted herein are also meant to include compounds that differ only in the presence of one or more isotopically enriched atoms. For example, compounds having the present structures except for the replacement of hydrogen by deuterium or tritium, or the replacement of a carbon by a ^{13}C — or ^{14}C -enriched carbon are within the scope of this invention. Such compounds are useful, for example, as analytical tools or probes in biological assays, or as therapeutic agents.

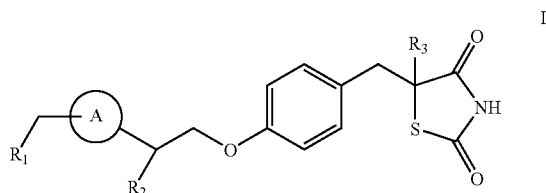
II. PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

[0078] It is commonly believed that efficacious insulin sensitizing compounds must have high PPAR γ activity, and conversely, that compounds having reduced PPAR γ activity would yield reduced insulin sensitizing activity. Contrary to this traditional belief, thiazolidinedione analogues of the present invention are uniquely effective in treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease (e.g., diabetes, central obesity, dyslipidemia, or the like) or other disorders described herein and possess a reduced interaction with PPAR γ .

[0079] Without wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that the therapeutic effects of thiazolidinedione analogues of the present invention stem from their selective prevention of inflammation produced at the level of the mitochondria as opposed to traditional compounds that have selective direct activation of a nuclear transcription factor. Because the thiazolidinedione analogues of the present invention function via a mitochondrial mechanism, they are useful in treating or preventing all of the disease states wherein metabolic inflammation is the basis of the pathology.

[0080] A. Generic Compositions

[0081] The present invention provides pharmaceutical compositions that are useful for treating a metabolic mediated disease comprising a compound of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

[0082] R_1 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted aliphatic.

[0083] R_2 is hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, oxo, or optionally substituted aliphatic.

[0084] R_3 is hydrogen, halo, or optionally substituted aliphatic.

[0085] Ring A is a phenyl or a monocyclic heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O, or S, either of which is substituted with $-\text{CH}_2-\text{R}^1$ at any chemically feasible position on ring A.

[0086] In several embodiments, R_1 is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic. For example, R_1 is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl, an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{2-6} alkenyl, or an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{2-6} alkynyl. In several other examples, R_1 is a methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, or hexyl, each of which is unsubstituted. In several embodiments, R_1 is hydrogen.

[0087] In several embodiments, R_2 is hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, oxo, or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic. For example, R_2 is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl, an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{2-6} alkenyl, or an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{2-6} alkynyl. In other examples, R_2 is a C_{1-6} aliphatic optionally substituted with 1-2 hydroxy or halo. In other examples, R_2 is a C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with hydroxy. In several other examples, R_2 is a methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, or hexyl, each of which is optionally substituted with hydroxy. In several additional examples, R_2 is methyl or ethyl, each of which is substituted with hydroxy.

[0088] In several embodiments, R_3 is hydrogen, halo, or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic. For example, R_3 is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl, an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{2-6} alkenyl, or an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{2-6} alkynyl. In several other examples, R_3 is a methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, or hexyl, each of which is unsubstituted.

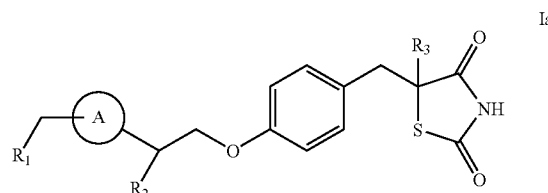
[0089] In several embodiments, ring A is a phenyl or a monocyclic heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O, and S. For example, ring A is a monocyclic 5-6 membered heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O, or S that is substituted with $-\text{CH}_2-\text{R}^1$ at any chemically feasible position on ring A. In other examples, ring A is a furan-yl, thiophene-yl, pyrrole-yl, pyridine-yl, pyrazole-yl, 1,3,4-thiadiazole-yl, 1,3,5-triazine-yl, pyrazine-yl, pyrimidine-yl, pyridazine-yl, isoxazole-yl, or isothiazole-yl, each of which is substituted with $-\text{CH}_2-\text{R}^1$ at any chemically feasible

position. In several examples, ring A is a pyridine-yl that is substituted with $-\text{CH}_2-\text{R}^1$ at any chemically feasible position.

[0090] In several other examples, ring A is bound to the carbon atom adjacent to R_2 at any chemically feasible position. For example, ring A is a pyridine-2-yl, pyridine-3-yl, or pyridine-4-yl, each of which is substituted with $-\text{CH}_2-\text{R}^1$ at any chemically feasible position.

[0091] In several embodiments, the composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

[0092] The present invention provides pharmaceutical compositions that are useful for treating a metabolic mediated disease comprising a compound of formula Ia:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

[0093] R_1 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted aliphatic.

[0094] R_2 is hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, oxo, or optionally substituted aliphatic.

[0095] R_3 is hydrogen, halo, or optionally substituted aliphatic.

[0096] Ring A is a monocyclic heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O, or S that is substituted with $-\text{CH}_2-\text{R}^1$ at any chemically feasible position on ring A.

[0097] In several embodiments, R_1 is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic. For example, R_1 is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl, an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{2-6} alkenyl, or an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{2-6} alkynyl. In several other examples, R_1 is a methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, or hexyl, each of which is unsubstituted. In several embodiments, R_1 is hydrogen.

[0098] In several embodiments, R_2 is hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, oxo, or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic. For example, R_2 is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl, an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{2-6} alkenyl, or an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{2-6} alkynyl. In other examples, R_2 is a C_{1-6} aliphatic optionally substituted with 1-2 hydroxy or halo. In other examples, R_2 is a C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with hydroxy. In several other examples, R_2 is a methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, or hexyl, each of which is optionally substituted with hydroxy. In several additional examples, R_2 is methyl or ethyl, each of which is substituted with hydroxy.

[0099] In several embodiments, R_3 is hydrogen, halo, or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic. For example, R_3 is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl, an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{2-6} alkenyl, or an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{2-6} alkynyl. In several other examples, R_3 is a methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, or hexyl, each of which is unsubstituted.

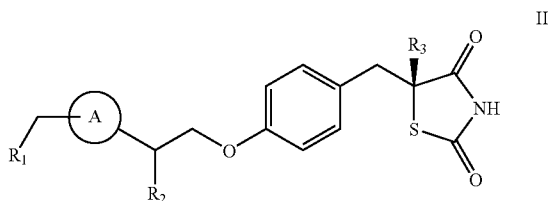
[0100] In several embodiments, ring A is a monocyclic heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O, and S.

For example, ring A is a monocyclic 5-6 membered heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O, or S that is substituted with $-\text{CH}_2-\text{R}^1$ at any chemically feasible position on ring A. In other examples, ring A is a furan-yl, thiophene-yl, pyrrole-yl, pyridine-yl, pyrazole-yl, 1,3,4-thiadiazole-yl, 1,3,5-triazine-yl, pyrazine-yl, pyrimidine-yl, pyridazine-yl, isoxazole-yl, or isothiazole-yl, each of which is substituted with $-\text{CH}_2-\text{R}^1$ at any chemically feasible position. In several examples, ring A is a pyridine-yl that is substituted with $-\text{CH}_2-\text{R}^1$ at any chemically feasible position.

[0101] In several other examples, ring A is bound to the carbon atom adjacent to R_2 at any chemically feasible position. For example, ring A is a pyridine-2-yl, pyridine-3-yl, or pyridine-4-yl, each of which is substituted with $-\text{CH}_2-\text{R}^1$ at any chemically feasible position.

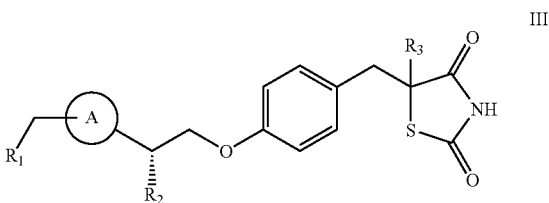
[0102] In several embodiments, the composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

[0103] Another aspect of the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition that is useful for treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease comprising a compound of formula II:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and ring A are defined above in formula Ia.

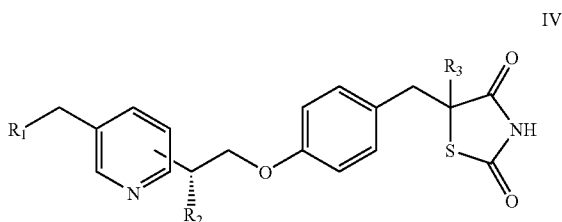
[0104] Another aspect of the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition that is useful for treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease comprising a compound of formula III:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R_1 , R_3 , and ring A are defined above in formula Ia.

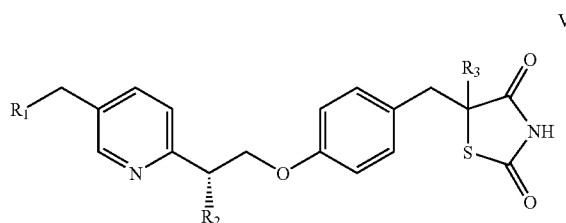
[0105] R_2 is hydrogen, hydroxy or aliphatic optionally substituted with hydroxy.

[0106] Another aspect of the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition that is useful for treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease comprising a compound of formula IV:



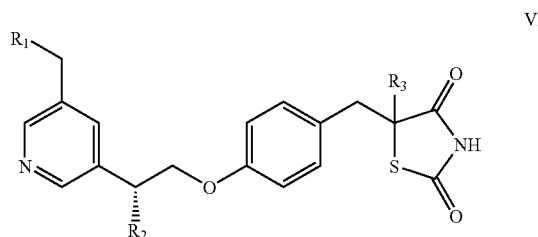
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are defined above in formula III.

[0107] Another aspect of the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition that is useful for treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease comprising a compound of formula V:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are defined above in formula III.

[0108] Another aspect of the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition that is useful for treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease comprising a compound of formula VI:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are defined above in formula III.

[0109] In other aspects, the phenyl shown in the generic formulae I, Ia, II, III, IV, V, or VI can be replaced with any monocyclic heteroaryl such as pyridine, thiophene, furan, pyrazine, or the like.

[0110] Exemplary compositions according to the present invention includes a single unit dosage form having about 1 mg to about 200 mg of a compound of formulae I, Ia, II, III, IV, V, or VI, e.g., between about 10 mg to about 120 mg, between about 10 mg to about 100 mg, or about 15 mg to about 60 mg.

[0111] Several exemplary compounds of formulae I, Ia, II, III, IV, V, or VI are displayed in Table A, below.

TABLE A

Exemplary compounds.

Compound No. 1

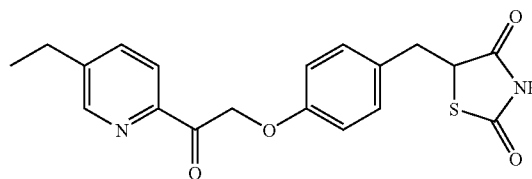
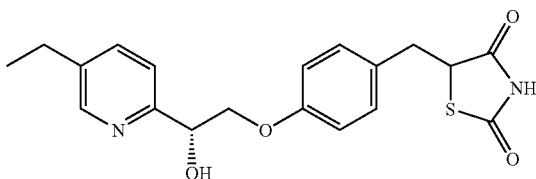


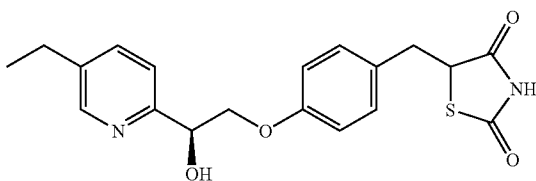
TABLE A-continued

Exemplary compounds.

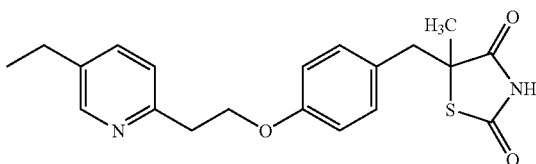
Compound No. 2



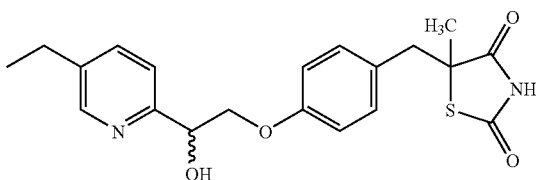
Compound No. 3



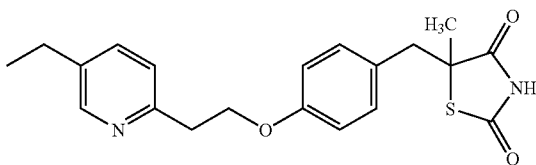
Compound No. 4



Compound No. 5

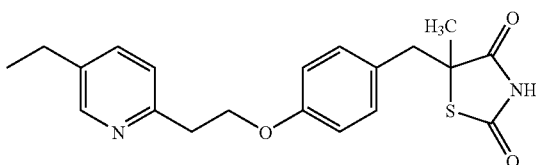


Compound No. 6



(+) -enantiomer

Compound No. 7

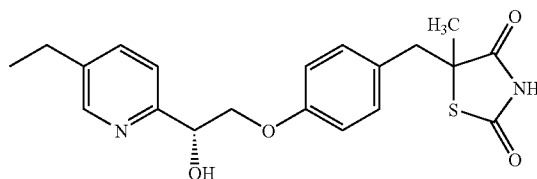


(-) -enantiomer

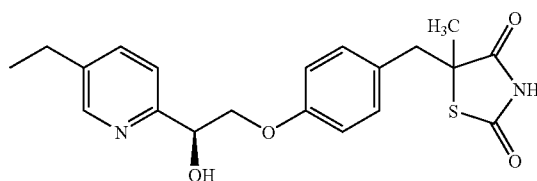
TABLE A-continued

Exemplary compounds.

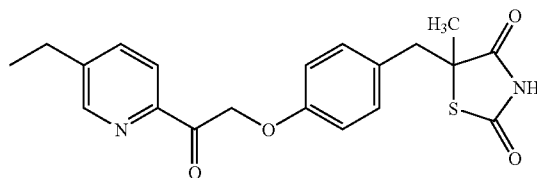
Compound No. 8



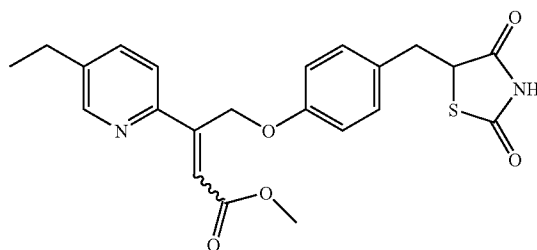
Compound No. 9



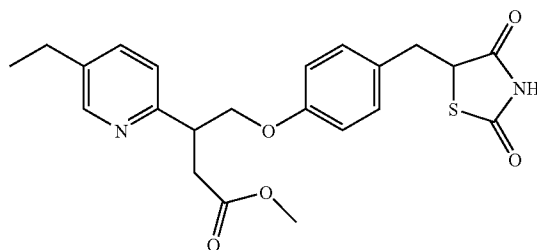
Compound No. 10



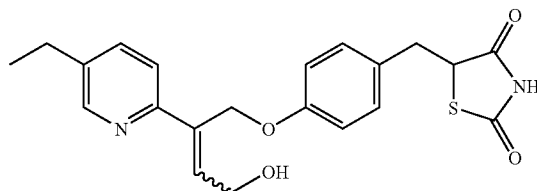
Compound No. 11



Compound No. 12



Compound No. 13



[0112] Another aspect of the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formulae I, Ia, II, III, IV, V, or VI, wherein the compound has a PPAR γ activity of 50% or less relative to the activity of rosiglitazone when dosed to produce circulating levels greater than 3 μ M or having a PPAR γ activity of 10 times less than pioglitazone at the same dosage.

[0113] Another aspect of the present invention provides a method of treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formulae III, IV, V, or VI wherein said compound has a purity of about 70 e.e. % or more. For example, the method treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formulae III, IV, V, or VI wherein the compound has a purity of about 80% e.e. or more (e.g., 90% e.e. or more, 95% e.e. or more, 97% e.e. or more, or 99% e.e. or more).

[0114] Another aspect of the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition useful for treating metabolic mediated disease comprising a compound of formulae I, Ia, II, III, IV, V, or VI and one or more agents having antidiabetic activity, for example metformin, DPP-4 inhibitors, or combinations thereof. In some embodiments, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition useful for treating metabolic mediated disease comprising a compound of formulae I, Ia, II, III, IV, V, or VI and metformin.

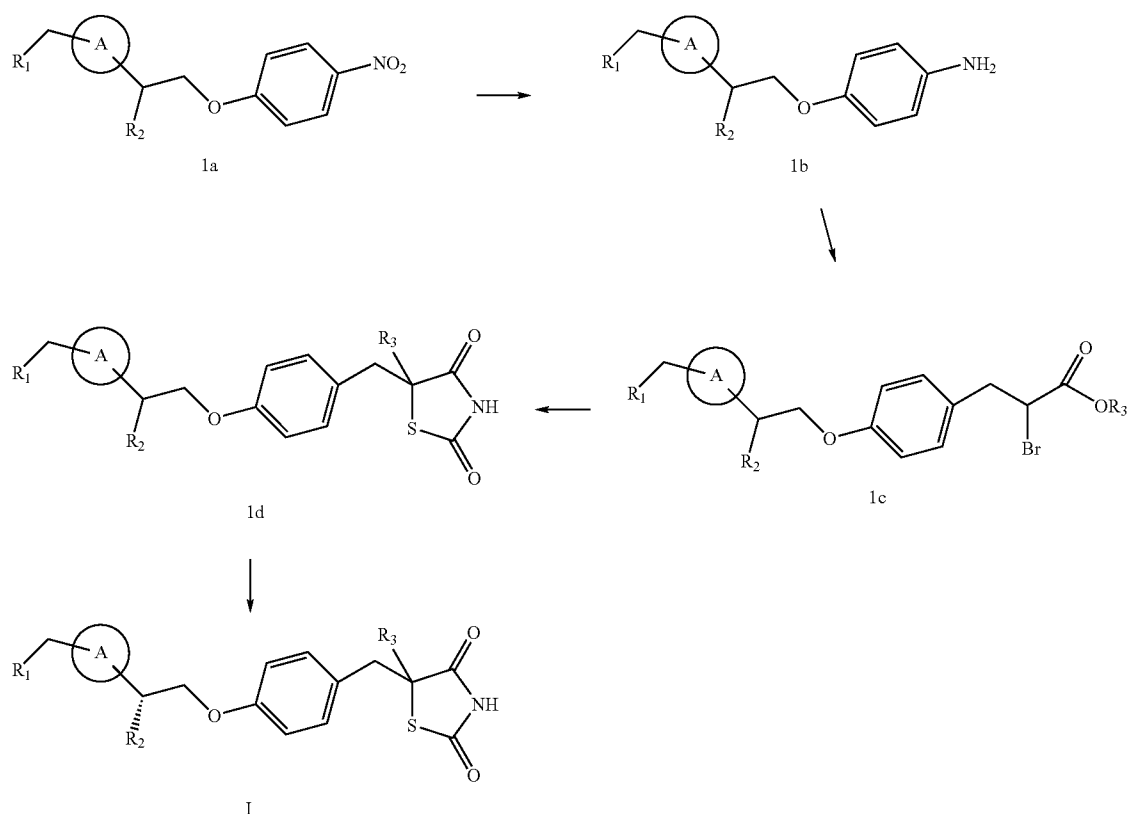
[0115] Another aspect of the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition useful for treating metabolic mediated disease comprising a compound of formulae I, Ia, II, III, IV, V, or VI and metformin; dipeptidyl peptidase IV, i.e., DPP-4, inhibitors, e.g., sitagliptin, vildagliptin, or the like; statins, i.e., HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, e.g., atorvastatin, cerivastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, mevastatin, simvastatin, rosuvastatin, pravastatin, or any pharmaceutically acceptable combination thereof, GLP-1 and -2 agonists; or combinations thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

[0116] Another aspect of the present invention provides methods of treating rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, myasthenia, gravis, vasculitis, COPD, inflammatory bowel disease, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), acute allergic reactions, transplant rejections, central obesity, dyslipidemia, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, muscular sclerosis, or combinations thereof by contacting a patient with a compound of formulae I, Ia, II, III, IV, V, or VI.

IV. GENERAL SYNTHETIC SCHEMES

[0117] The compounds of formulae I, Ia, II, III, IV, V, or VI may be readily synthesized from commercially available or known starting materials by known methods. Exemplary synthetic routes to produce compounds of formulae I, Ia, II, III, IV, V, or VI are provided below in Schemes 1 and 2 below.

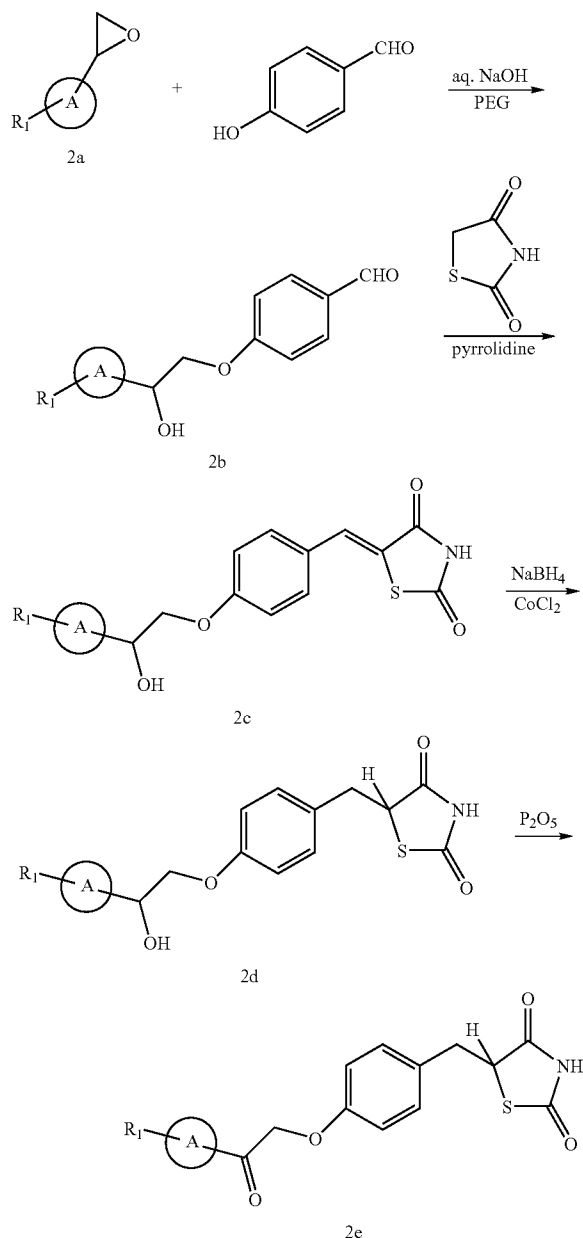
Scheme 1:



[0118] Referring to Scheme 1, the starting material 1a is reduced to form the aniline 1b. The aniline 1b is diazotized in the presence of hydrobromic acid, acrylic acid ester, and a catalyst such as cuprous oxide to produce the alpha-bromo acid ester 1c. The alpha-bromo acid ester 1c is cyclized with thiourea to produce racemic thiazolidinedione 1d. Compounds of formula I can be separated from the racemic mixture using any suitable process such as HPLC.

[0119] In Scheme 2 below, R_2 is an oxo group and R_3 is hydrogen.

Scheme 2:



[0120] Referring to Scheme 2, the starting material 2a is reacted with 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde under basic conditions (e.g., aq. NaOH) to give a mixture of regioisomeric alcohols 2b that

were separated by chromatography. The regioisomeric alcohols 2b is reacted with 2,4-thiazolidine dione using pyrrolidine as base to give compound 2c. Cobalt catalyzed reduction with sodium borohydride affords compound 2d, which is oxidized, for example, with phosphorus pentoxide, to give the ketone 2e.

V. USES, FORMULATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATION

[0121] As discussed above, the present invention provides compounds that are useful as treatments for a metabolic mediated disease, such as diabetes.

[0122] Accordingly, in another aspect of the present invention, pharmaceutically acceptable compositions are provided, wherein these compositions comprise any of the compounds as described herein, and optionally comprise a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle. In certain embodiments, these compositions optionally further comprise one or more additional therapeutic agents.

[0123] It will also be appreciated that certain of the compounds of present invention can exist in free form for treatment, or where appropriate, as a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or a prodrug thereof. According to the present invention, a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or a prodrug includes, but is not limited to, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, salts of such esters, or any other adduct or derivative which upon administration to a patient in need is capable of providing, directly or indirectly, a compound as otherwise described herein, or a metabolite or residue thereof.

[0124] As used herein, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable salt" refers to those salts which are, within the scope of sound medical judgment, suitable for use in contact with the tissues of humans and lower animals without undue toxicity, irritation, allergic response and the like, and are commensurate with a reasonable benefit/risk ratio. A "pharmaceutically acceptable salt" means any non-toxic salt or salt of an ester of a compound of this invention that, upon administration to a recipient, is capable of providing, either directly or indirectly, a compound of this invention or an inhibitorily active metabolite or residue thereof.

[0125] Pharmaceutically acceptable salts are well known in the art. For example, S. M. Berge, et al. describe pharmaceutically acceptable salts in detail in J. Pharmaceutical Sciences, 1977, 66, 1-19, incorporated herein by reference. Pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of this invention include those derived from suitable inorganic and organic acids and bases. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable, nontoxic acid addition salts are salts of an amino group formed with inorganic acids such as hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid and perchloric acid or with organic acids such as acetic acid, oxalic acid, maleic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, succinic acid or malonic acid or by using other methods used in the art such as ion exchange. Other pharmaceutically acceptable salts include adipate, alginate, ascorbate, aspartate, benzenesulfonate, benzoate, bisulfate, borate, butyrate, camphorate, camphorsulfonate, citrate, cyclopentanepropionate, digluconate, dodecylsulfate, ethanesulfonate, formate, fumarate, glucoheptonate, glycerophosphate, gluconate, hemisulfate, heptanoate, hexanoate, hydroiodide, 2-hydroxy-ethanesulfonate, lactobionate, lactate, laurate, lauryl sulfate, malate, maleate, malonate, methanesulfonate, 2-naphthalenesulfonate, nicotinate, nitrate, oleate, oxalate, palmitate, pamoate, pectinate, persulfate, 3-phenylpropionate, phosphate, picrate, pivalate,

propionate, stearate, succinate, sulfate, tartrate, thiocyanate, p-toluenesulfonate, undecanoate, valerate salts, and the like. Salts derived from appropriate bases include alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, ammonium and $N^+(C_{1-4}alkyl)_4$ salts. This invention also envisions the quaternization of any basic nitrogen-containing groups of the compounds disclosed herein. Water or oil-soluble or dispersible products may be obtained by such quaternization. Representative alkali or alkaline earth metal salts include sodium, lithium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and the like. Further pharmaceutically acceptable salts include, when appropriate, nontoxic ammonium, quaternary ammonium, and amine cations formed using counterions such as halide, hydroxide, carboxylate, sulfate, phosphate, nitrate, lower alkyl sulfonate and aryl sulfonate.

[0126] As described above, the pharmaceutically acceptable compositions of the present invention additionally comprise a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant, or vehicle, which, as used herein, includes any and all solvents, diluents, or other liquid vehicle, dispersion or suspension aids, surface active agents, isotonic agents, thickening or emulsifying agents, preservatives, solid binders, lubricants and the like, as suited to the particular dosage form desired. Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Sixteenth Edition, E. W. Martin (Mack Publishing Co., Easton, Pa., 1980) discloses various carriers used in formulating pharmaceutically acceptable compositions and known techniques for the preparation thereof. Except insofar as any conventional carrier medium is incompatible with the compounds of the invention, such as by producing any undesirable biological effect or otherwise interacting in a deleterious manner with any other component (s) of the pharmaceutically acceptable composition, its use is contemplated to be within the scope of this invention. Some examples of materials which can serve as pharmaceutically acceptable carriers include, but are not limited to, ion exchangers, alumina, aluminum stearate, lecithin, serum proteins, such as human serum albumin, buffer substances such as phosphates, glycine, sorbic acid, or potassium sorbate, partial glyceride mixtures of saturated vegetable fatty acids, water, salts or electrolytes, such as protamine sulfate, disodium hydrogen phosphate, potassium hydrogen phosphate, sodium chloride, zinc salts, colloidal silica, magnesium trisilicate, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyacrylates, waxes, polyethylene-polyoxypropylene-block polymers, wool fat, sugars such as lactose, glucose and sucrose; starches such as corn starch and potato starch; cellulose and its derivatives such as sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose and cellulose acetate; powdered tragacanth; malt; gelatin; talc; excipients such as cocoa butter and suppository waxes; oils such as peanut oil, cottonseed oil; safflower oil; sesame oil; olive oil; corn oil and soybean oil; glycols; such as propylene glycol or polyethylene glycol; esters such as ethyl oleate and ethyl laurate; agar; buffering agents such as magnesium hydroxide and aluminum hydroxide; alginic acid; pyrogen-free water; isotonic saline; Ringer's solution; ethyl alcohol, and phosphate buffer solutions, as well as other non-toxic compatible lubricants such as sodium lauryl sulfate and magnesium stearate, as well as coloring agents, releasing agents, coating agents, sweetening, flavoring and perfuming agents, preservatives and antioxidants can also be present in the composition, according to the judgment of the formulator.

[0127] In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition

comprising a compound of formulae I, Ia, II, III, IV, V, or VI, preferably a mammal, in need thereof.

[0128] According to the invention an "effective amount" of the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable composition is that amount effective for treating or lessening the severity of a metabolic inflammation mediated disease.

[0129] The pharmaceutical compositions, according to the method of the present invention, may be administered using any amount and any route of administration effective for treating or lessening the severity of a metabolic inflammation mediated disease.

[0130] The exact amount required will vary from subject to subject, depending on the species, age, and general condition of the subject, the severity of the infection, the particular agent, its mode of administration, and the like. The compounds of the invention are preferably formulated in dosage unit form for ease of administration and uniformity of dosage. The expression "dosage unit form" as used herein refers to a physically discrete unit of agent appropriate for the patient to be treated. It will be understood, however, that the total daily usage of the compounds and compositions of the present invention will be decided by the attending physician within the scope of sound medical judgment. The specific effective dose level for any particular patient or organism will depend upon a variety of factors including the disorder being treated and the severity of the disorder; the activity of the specific compound employed; the specific composition employed; the age, body weight, general health, sex and diet of the patient; the time of administration, route of administration, and rate of excretion of the specific compound employed; the duration of the treatment; drugs used in combination or coincidental with the specific compound employed, and like factors known in the medical arts. The term "patient", as used herein, means an animal, for example, a mammal, and more specifically a human.

[0131] The pharmaceutically acceptable compositions of this invention can be administered to humans and other animals orally, rectally, parenterally, intracisternally, intravaginally, intraperitoneally, topically (as by powders, ointments, or drops), buccally, as an oral or nasal spray, or the like, depending on the severity of the infection being treated. In certain embodiments, the compounds of the invention may be administered orally or parenterally at dosage levels of about 0.01 mg/kg to about 50 mg/kg and preferably from about 1 mg/kg to about 25 mg/kg, of subject body weight per day, one or more times a day, to obtain the desired therapeutic effect.

[0132] Liquid dosage forms for oral administration include, but are not limited to, pharmaceutically acceptable emulsions, microemulsions, solutions, suspensions, syrups and elixirs. In addition to the active compounds, the liquid dosage forms may contain inert diluents commonly used in the art such as, for example, water or other solvents, solubilizing agents and emulsifiers such as ethyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, ethyl carbonate, ethyl acetate, benzyl alcohol, benzyl benzoate, propylene glycol, 1,3-butylene glycol, dimethylformamide, oils (in particular, cottonseed, groundnut, corn, germ, olive, castor, and sesame oils), glycerol, tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, polyethylene glycols and fatty acid esters of sorbitan, and mixtures thereof. Besides inert diluents, the oral compositions can also include adjuvants such as wetting agents, emulsifying and suspending agents, sweetening, flavoring, and perfuming agents.

[0133] Injectable preparations, for example, sterile injectable aqueous or oleaginous suspensions may be formulated

according to the known art using suitable dispersing or wetting agents and suspending agents. The sterile injectable preparation may also be a sterile injectable solution, suspension or emulsion in a nontoxic parenterally acceptable diluent or solvent, for example, as a solution in 1,3-butanediol. Among the acceptable vehicles and solvents that may be employed are water, Ringer's solution, U.S.P. and isotonic sodium chloride solution. In addition, sterile, fixed oils are conventionally employed as a solvent or suspending medium. For this purpose any bland fixed oil can be employed including synthetic mono- or diglycerides. In addition, fatty acids such as oleic acid are used in the preparation of injectables.

[0134] The injectable formulations can be sterilized, for example, by filtration through a bacterial-retaining filter, or by incorporating sterilizing agents in the form of sterile solid compositions which can be dissolved or dispersed in sterile water or other sterile injectable medium prior to use.

[0135] In order to prolong the effect of a compound of the present invention, it is often desirable to slow the absorption of the compound from subcutaneous or intramuscular injection. This may be accomplished by the use of a liquid suspension of crystalline or amorphous material with poor water solubility. The rate of absorption of the compound then depends upon its rate of dissolution that, in turn, may depend upon crystal size and crystalline form. Alternatively, delayed absorption of a parenterally administered compound form is accomplished by dissolving or suspending the compound in an oil vehicle. Injectable depot forms are made by forming microencapsulated matrices of the compound in biodegradable polymers such as polylactide-polyglycolide. Depending upon the ratio of compound to polymer and the nature of the particular polymer employed, the rate of compound release can be controlled. Examples of other biodegradable polymers include poly(orthoesters) and poly(anhydrides). Depot injectable formulations are also prepared by entrapping the compound in liposomes or microemulsions that are compatible with body tissues.

[0136] Compositions for rectal or vaginal administration are preferably suppositories which can be prepared by mixing the compounds of this invention with suitable non-irritating excipients or carriers such as cocoa butter, polyethylene glycol or a suppository wax which are solid at ambient temperature but liquid at body temperature and therefore melt in the rectum or vaginal cavity and release the active compound.

[0137] Solid dosage forms for oral administration include capsules, tablets, pills, powders, and granules. In such solid dosage forms, the active compound is mixed with at least one inert, pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier such as sodium citrate or dicalcium phosphate and/or a) fillers or extenders such as starches, lactose, sucrose, glucose, mannitol, and silicic acid, b) binders such as, for example, carboxymethylcellulose, alginates, gelatin, polyvinylpyrrolidone, sucrose, and acacia, c) humectants such as glycerol, d) disintegrating agents such as agar-agar, calcium carbonate, potato or tapioca starch, alginic acid, certain silicates, and sodium carbonate, e) solution retarding agents such as paraffin, f) absorption accelerators such as quaternary ammonium compounds, g) wetting agents such as, for example, cetyl alcohol and glycerol monostearate, h) absorbents such as kaolin and bentonite clay, and i) lubricants such as talc, calcium stearate, magnesium stearate, solid polyethylene glycols, sodium lauryl sulfate, and mixtures thereof. In the case of capsules, tablets and pills, the dosage form may also comprise buffering agents.

[0138] Solid compositions of a similar type may also be employed as fillers in soft and hard-filled gelatin capsules using such excipients as lactose or milk sugar as well as high molecular weight polyethylene glycols and the like. The solid dosage forms of tablets, dragees, capsules, pills, and granules can be prepared with coatings and shells such as enteric coatings and other coatings well known in the pharmaceutical formulating art. They may optionally contain opacifying agents and can also be of a composition that they release the active ingredient(s) only, or preferentially, in a certain part of the intestinal tract, optionally, in a delayed manner. Examples of embedding compositions that can be used include polymeric substances and waxes. Solid compositions of a similar type may also be employed as fillers in soft and hard-filled gelatin capsules using such excipients as lactose or milk sugar as well as high molecular weight polyethylene glycols and the like.

[0139] The active compounds can also be in microencapsulated form with one or more excipients as noted above. The solid dosage forms of tablets, dragees, capsules, pills, and granules can be prepared with coatings and shells such as enteric coatings, release controlling coatings and other coatings well known in the pharmaceutical formulating art. In such solid dosage forms the active compound may be admixed with at least one inert diluent such as sucrose, lactose or starch. Such dosage forms may also comprise, as is normal practice, additional substances other than inert diluents, e.g., tableting lubricants and other tableting aids such as magnesium stearate and microcrystalline cellulose. In the case of capsules, tablets and pills, the dosage forms may also comprise buffering agents. They may optionally contain opacifying agents and can also be of a composition that they release the active ingredient(s) only, or preferentially, in a certain part of the intestinal tract, optionally, in a delayed manner. Examples of embedding compositions that can be used include polymeric substances and waxes.

[0140] Dosage forms for topical or transdermal administration of a compound of this invention include ointments, pastes, creams, lotions, gels, powders, solutions, sprays, inhalants or patches. The active component is admixed under sterile conditions with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and any needed preservatives or buffers as may be required. Ophthalmic formulation, eardrops, and eye drops are also contemplated as being within the scope of this invention. Additionally, the present invention contemplates the use of transdermal patches, which have the added advantage of providing controlled delivery of a compound to the body. Such dosage forms are prepared by dissolving or dispensing the compound in the proper medium. Absorption enhancers can also be used to increase the flux of the compound across the skin. The rate can be controlled by either providing a rate controlling membrane or by dispersing the compound in a polymer matrix or gel.

[0141] As described generally above, the compounds of the invention are useful as treatments for a metabolic inflammation mediated disease.

[0142] The activity, or more importantly, reduced PPAR γ activity of a compound utilized in this invention as a treatment of metabolic inflammation mediated diseases may be assayed according to methods described generally in the art and in the examples herein.

[0143] It will also be appreciated that the compounds and pharmaceutically acceptable compositions of the present invention can be employed in combination therapies, that is,

the compounds and pharmaceutically acceptable compositions can be administered concurrently with, prior to, or subsequent to, one or more other desired therapeutics or medical procedures. The particular combination of therapies (therapeutics or procedures) to employ in a combination regimen will take into account compatibility of the desired therapeutics and/or procedures and the desired therapeutic effect to be achieved. It will also be appreciated that the therapies employed may achieve a desired effect for the same disorder (for example, an inventive compound may be administered concurrently with another agent used to treat the same disorder), or they may achieve different effects (e.g., control of any adverse effects). As used herein, additional therapeutic agents that are normally administered to treat or prevent a particular disease, or condition, are known as "appropriate for the disease, or condition, being treated".

[0144] The amount of additional therapeutic agent present in the compositions of this invention will be no more than the amount that would normally be administered in a composition comprising that therapeutic agent as the only active agent. Preferably the amount of additional therapeutic agent in the presently disclosed compositions will range from about 50% to 100% of the amount normally present in a composition comprising that agent as the only therapeutically active agent.

[0145] The compounds of this invention or pharmaceutically acceptable compositions thereof may also be incorporated into compositions for coating an implantable medical device, such as prostheses, artificial valves, vascular grafts, stents and catheters. Accordingly, the present invention, in another aspect, includes a composition for coating an implantable device comprising a compound of the present invention as described generally above, and in classes and subclasses herein, and a carrier suitable for coating said implantable device. In still another aspect, the present invention includes an implantable device coated with a composition comprising a compound of the present invention as described generally above, and in classes and subclasses herein, and a carrier suitable for coating said implantable device. Suitable coatings and the general preparation of coated implantable devices are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,099,562; 5,886,026; and 5,304,121. The coatings are typically biocompatible polymeric materials such as a hydrogel polymer, polymethyldisiloxane, polycaprolactone, polyethylene glycol, polylactic acid, ethylene vinyl acetate, and mixtures thereof. The coatings may optionally be further covered by a suitable topcoat of fluorosilicone, polysaccharides, polyethylene glycol, phospholipids or combinations thereof to impart controlled release characteristics in the composition.

[0146] According to yet another embodiment, the present invention provides a method of treating or reducing the severity of metabolic inflammation mediated diseases, such as diabetes.

[0147] Another aspect of the invention relates to treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease in a biological sample or a patient (e.g., in vitro or in vivo), which method comprises administering to the patient, or contacting said biological sample with a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formulae I, Ia, II, III, IV, V, or VI. The term "biological sample", as used herein, includes, without limitation, cell cultures or extracts thereof; biopsied material obtained from a mammal or extracts thereof; and blood, saliva, urine, feces, semen, tears, or other body fluids or extracts thereof.

[0148] In order that the invention described herein may be more fully understood, the following examples are set forth. It should be understood that these examples are for illustrative purposes only and are not to be construed as limiting this invention in any manner.

VI. EXAMPLES

Example 1

Formulation of Pharmaceutical Compositions

[0149] A pharmaceutical composition including a compound of formulae I, Ia, II, III, IV, V, or VI can be produced, for example, by tableting

[0150] a. between about 1 mg to about 200 mg of a compound of formulae I, Ia, II, III, IV, V, or VI, e.g., between about 10 mg to about 100 mg, or between about 15 mg to about 60 mg;

[0151] b. carboxymethylcellulose or carmellose;

[0152] c. magnesium stearate,

[0153] d. hydroxypropyl cellulose; and

[0154] e. lactose monohydrate.

Example 2a

Assays for Measuring Reduced PPAR γ Receptor Activation

[0155] Whereas activation of the PPAR γ receptor is generally believed to be a selection criteria to select for molecules that may have anti-diabetic and insulin sensitizing pharmacology, this invention finds that activation of this receptor should be a negative selection criterion. Molecules will be chosen from this chemical space because they have reduced, not just selective, activation of PPAR γ . The optimal compounds will have at least a 10-fold reduced potency as compared to pioglitazone and less than 50% of the full activation produced by rosiglitazone in assays conducted in vitro for transactivation of the PPAR γ receptor. These assays will be conducted by first evaluation of the direct interactions of the molecules with the ligand binding domain of PPAR γ . This will be performed with a commercial interaction kit that measures the direct interaction by fluorescence using rosiglitazone as a positive control. Further assays will be conducted in a manner similar to that described by Lehmann et al. [Lehmann J M, Moore L B, Smith-Oliver T A: An Antidiabetic Thiazolidinedione is a High Affinity Ligand for Peroxisome Proliferator-activated Receptor (PPAR) J. Biol. Chem. (1995) 270: 12953] but will use luciferase as a reporter as in Vosper et al. [Vosper, H., Khoudoli, G A, Palmer, C N (2003) The peroxisome proliferators activated receptor δ is required for the differentiation of THP-1 monocytic cells by phorbol ester. Nuclear Receptor 1:9]. Compound stocks will be dissolved in DMSO and added to the cell cultures at final concentrations of 0.1 to 100 μ M and the relative activation will be calculated as induction of the reporter gene (luciferase) as corrected for by the expression of the control plasmid (coding for galactosidase). Pioglitazone and rosiglitazone will be used as reference compounds as described above.

[0156] In addition to showing the reduced activation of the PPAR γ receptor in vitro, the compounds will not produce significant activation of the receptor in animals. Compounds dosed to full effect for insulin sensitizing actions in vivo (see below) will not increase activation of PPAR γ in the liver as measured by the expression of a P2, a biomarker for ectopic adipogenesis in the liver [Matsusue K, Haluzik M, Lambert G,

Yim S-H, Oksana Gavrilova O, Ward J M, Brewer B, Reitman M L, Gonzalez F J. (2003) Liver-specific disruption of PPAR in leptin-deficient mice improves fatty liver but aggravates diabetic phenotypes. *J. Clin. Invest.*; 111: 737] in contrast to pioglitazone and rosiglitazone, which do increase a P2 expression under these conditions.

each concentration of tested compound. The data are mean and SEM of the values obtained from the three experiments. Rosiglitazone was used as the positive control in each experiment. Compounds were added at the concentrations shown, which range from 0.1-100 micromolar. In Table B, “—” indicates that no data is available.

TABLE B

	Activation of PPAR γ								
	Compound								
	(μ M)								
	.01 μ M	.03 μ M	.1 μ M	.3 μ M	1 μ M	3 μ M	10 μ M	50 μ M	100 μ M
Rosiglitazone	230 (13)	208 (15)	169 (15)	138 (5)	—	93 (2)	83 (2)	76 (4)	74 (5)
Compound 1	—	—	227 (1)	232 (8)	223 (12)	228 (6)	207 (13)	174 (28)	170 (35)
Compound 2	—	—	231 (15)	233 (15)	238 (12)	236 (13)	223 (11)	162 (8)	136 (11)
Compound 3	—	—	226 (17)	221 (10)	203 (15)	185 (17)	134 (1)	88 (6)	77 (7)
Compound 4	—	—	236 (13)	230 (14)	234 (11)	224 (15)	200 (8)	122 (21)	91 (11)
Compound 5	—	—	235 (8)	230 (10)	228 (9)	226 (8)	212 (11)	132 (12)	106 (7)
Compound 6	—	—	246 (7)	246 (9)	233 (11)	223 (7)	198 (10)	126 (17)	99 (12)
Compound 7	—	—	249 (9)	246 (5)	248 (13)	237 (7)	210 (9)	144 (15)	105 (10)
Compound 8	—	—	237 (6)	243 (5)	239 (5)	241 (10)	233 (7)	199 (15)	186 (16)
Compound 9	—	—	237 (5)	237 (4)	239 (13)	233 (9)	234 (12)	189 (19)	164 (20)
Compound 10	—	—	245 (2)	239 (2)	240 (2)	234 (3)	219 (5)	126 (3)	93 (3)
Compound 11	—	—	230 (12)	227 (9)	232 (12)	229 (10)	165 (10)	128 (30)	78 (3)
Compound 12	—	—	243 (3)	222 (4)	198 (6)	155 (8)	112 (12)	80 (2)	85 (3)
Compound 13	—	—	244 (9)	243 (10)	229 (20)	230 (13)	204 (12)	148 (23)	108 (5)

[0157] The insulin sensitizing and antidiabetic pharmacology are measured in the KKA^y mice as previously reported [Hofmann, C., Lomez, K., and Colca, J. R. (1991). Glucose transport deficiency corrected by treatment with the oral antihyperglycemic agent Pioglitazone. *Endocrinology*, 129: 1915-1925.] Compounds are formulated in 1% sodium carboxy methylcellulose, and 0.01% tween 20 and dosed daily by oral gavage. After 4 days of once daily treatment, treatment blood samples are taken from the retro-orbital sinus and analyzed for glucose, triglycerides, and insulin as described in Hofmann et al. Doses of compounds that produce at least 80% of the maximum lowering of glucose, triglycerides, and insulin will not significantly increase the expression of a P2 in the liver of these mice.

Example 2b

Measuring PPAR γ Receptor Activation

[0158] The ability of several exemplary compounds of the present invention, shown in Table A, to bind to PPAR γ was measured using a commercial binding assay (Invitrogen Corporation, Carlsbad, Calif.) that measures the test compounds ability to bind with PPAR-LBD/Fluormone PPAR Green complex. These assays were performed on three occasions with each assay using four separate wells (quadruplicate) at

[0159] Referring to FIG. 1 and Table B, compounds 1 and 2 were particularly poor binders to PPAR γ . Stereochemical specificity for PPAR γ activation was also observed in the disparity between PPAR γ binding of stereoisomers, compound 2 and compound 3, as shown in Table B, above. Note that the stereoisomers 2 and 3 differ greatly in their ability to bind the ligand binding domain of PPAR γ .

Example 3a

Glucose, Insulin, and Triglyceride in Diabetic KKA^y Mice Treated with Exemplary Compounds of the Present Invention

[0160] The insulin sensitizing and antidiabetic pharmacology are measured in the KKA^y mice as previously reported [Hofmann, C., Lomez, K., and Colca, J. R. (1991). Glucose transport deficiency corrected by treatment with the oral antihyperglycemic agent Pioglitazone. *Endocrinology*, 129: 1915-1925.]. Compounds are formulated in 1% sodium carboxy methylcellulose, and 0.01% tween 20 and dosed daily by oral gavage. After 4 days of once daily treatment, blood samples are taken from the retro-orbital sinus and analyzed for glucose, triglycerides, and insulin as described in Hofmann et al. Doses of compounds that produce at least 80% of

the maximum lowering of glucose, triglycerides, and insulin will not significantly increase the expression of a P2 in the liver of these mice.

Example 3b

Glucose, Insulin, and Triglyceride in Diabetic KK_{AY} Mice Treated with Exemplary Compounds of the Present Invention

[0161] Compounds were formulated by suspension and orally dosed to KK_{AY} mice at 93 mg/kg for 4 days. The compounds were first dissolved in DMSO and then placed into aqueous suspension containing 7-10% DMSO, 1% sodium methylcarboxycellulose, and 0.01% Tween 20. On the fifth day, the mice were fasted and blood samples were obtained approximately 18 hours after the last dose. The parameters were measured by standard assay methods. Data are mean and SEM N=6-12 mice.

TABLE C

Glucose, Insulin, and Triglyceride in Diabetic KK _{AY} Mice Treated with Exemplary Compounds of the Present Invention.			
Compound	Glucose (mg/dl)	Insulin (ng/ml)	Triglycerides (mg/dl)
Vehicle	696 +/- 19	13.5 +/- 2.3	344 +/- 29
1	402 +/- 25*	7.6 +/- 1.9*	115 +/- 18*
2	428 +/- 17*	5.7 +/- 1.6*	187 +/- 29*
3	388 +/- 38*	7.2 +/- 1.9*	148 +/- 23*
6	694 +/- 63	11.1 +/- 1.6	298 +/- 49
7	631 +/- 7	16.3 +/- 1.2	374 +/- 15
8	756 +/- 31	12.8 +/- 2.6	465 +/- 64
9	740 +/- 37	14.8 +/- 2.5	354 +/- 43
11	662 +/- 40	18.9 +/- 1.6	476 +/- 106

[0162] Referring to Table C above, it is noted that while compounds 6 and 7 are better PPAR γ binding compounds, they are not as effective as compounds 1 and 2 at lowering glucose, insulin, and triglyceride levels.

[0163] A key observation regarding stereochemistry is that, contrary to literature claims, the R₂ group is more critical to reducing PPAR γ activity than the R₃ group of formula I. Moreover, contrary to the prediction by current dogma in the field, binding to the PPAR γ ligand-binding domain is not a prerequisite for antidiabetic activity. Thus, while the stereoisomer compounds 2 and 3 differ greatly in their ability to bind PPAR γ (see Tables B and C), they have equivalent antidiabetic activity (see Table C).

[0164] Thus, the PPAR γ -sparing compounds will be more effective for the treatment of diseases caused by metabolic inflammation such as diabetes and metabolic syndrome by limiting the side effects attributable to direct and partial activation of nuclear transcription factors.

Example 3c

Glucose, Insulin, and aP2 in Diabetic KK_{AY} Mice Treated with Compound 1 or Rosiglitazone

[0165] KK_{AY} mice were dosed for 7 days with 20 mg rosiglitazone (positive control) and 100 mg/kg of compound 1 in suspension (1% sodium methyl carboxymethyl cellulose/0.01% Tween 80). On the 8th day, fasting, glucose, and insulin were measured, see Table D. The liver was isolated was used to measure hepatic mRNA for aP2, a biomarker for PPAR γ activation in vivo. Consistent with the poor binding of compound 1 and compound 2, which is a metabolite of com-

pound 1, there was little activation of PPAR γ as compared to the positive control. Data are mean and (SEM) for 8 mice/group.

TABLE D

Glucose, insulin, and aP2 in diabetic KK _{AY} mice treated with compound 1 or rosiglitazone.			
	Control	Rosiglitazone	Compound 1
Glucose (mg/dl)	409 (85)	320 (98)	291 (69)
Insulin (ng/ml)	21.5 (6.7)	3.4 (1.6)	1.9 (0.6)
aP2 (relative expression in liver)	1.1 (0.1)	21.9 (5.4)	5.7 (1.8)

[0166] Because the compounds of the present invention causes reduced PPAR γ activation, it is anticipated that these compounds are suitable for use in combination with other compounds having antidiabetic activity, such as metformin, DDP-4 inhibitors, or other antidiabetic agents that function by differing mechanisms to augment the actions or secretions of GLP1 or insulin. Specifically because of the reduced PPAR γ interaction, these compounds will also be useful for treating dyslipidemia associated with metabolic inflammatory diseases combining particularly well with lipid lowering statins such as atorvastatin or the like. It is also anticipated that the combination of a compound of formula I and other antidiabetic compounds will be more effective in treating diabetes than combinations with PPAR-activating compounds as they will avoid side effects associated with PPAR γ activation that may include volume expansion, edema, and bone loss.

Example 4

Metabolism of Compound 1 in Rats

[0167] Referring to FIG. 2, dosing of compound 1 generates, in vivo, a primary metabolite that is compound 2 in Table A. Compound 1 and pioglitazone hydrochloride were given to normal Sprague Dawley rats and HPLC/mass spectroscopy was used to evaluate the alcohol metabolites. Whereas pioglitazone was metabolized to both stereoisomers (compounds 2 and 3), compound 1 was metabolized selectively to compound 2 (see FIG. 2), also a PPAR γ -sparing compound (Table B). Metabolites were measured by chiral HPLC/MS.

Example 5

Physical Data for Exemplary Compounds

[0168] Physical data of several compounds of Table A were measured using mass spectroscopy and HPLC and recorded in Table E. HPLC conditions: Agilent 1100 C18; Solvent A=water (0.1% TFA); Solvent B Acetonitrile (0.07% TFA); Gradient 10 minutes 95% A to 95% B; 5 min hold then recycle; UV detection at 214 and 250 nm.

TABLE E

Physical data of several compounds of the present invention.		
Compound No.	Retention time* (minutes)	Mass Spectrum
1	7.63	ES + 371.1 m/z (M + 1) ES - 369.1 (M - 1)

TABLE E-continued

Physical data of several compounds of the present invention.		
Compound No.	Retention time* (minutes)	Mass Spectrum
2	5.13	ES + 373.1 m/z (M + 1) ES - 371.1 (M - 1)
3	5.14	ES + 373.0 m/z (M + 1) ES - 371.1 (M - 1)
4	5.84	ES + 371.2 m/z (M + 1) ES - 369.2 (M - 1)
5	5.51	ES + 387.3 m/z (M + 1) ES - 385.3 (M - 1)
6	5.77	ES + 371.2 m/z (M + 1) ES - 369.2 (M - 1)
7	5.82	ES + 371.2 m/z (M + 1) ES - 369.2 (M - 1)
8	5.52	ES + 387.3 m/z (M + 1) ES - 385.3 (M - 1)
9	5.52	ES + 387.2 m/z (M + 1) ES - 385.2 (M - 1)
10	8.02	ES + 385.1 m/z (M + 1) ES - 383.1 (M - 1)
11	6.015	ES + 427.0 m/z (M + 1) ES - 425.1 (M - 1)
12	5.77	ES + 429.1 m/z (M + 1) ES - 427.1 (M - 1)
13	5.29	ES + 399.1 m/z (M + 1) ES - 397.1 (M - 1)

[0169] Another aspect of the present invention provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound of formula I, and metformin; dipeptidyl peptidase IV, i.e., DPP-4, inhibitors, e.g., sitagliptin, vildagliptin, or the like; statins, i.e., HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, e.g., atorvastatin, cerivastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, mevastatin, simvastatin, rosuvastatin, pravastatin, or any pharmaceutically acceptable combination thereof; GLP-1 agonists; or combinations thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

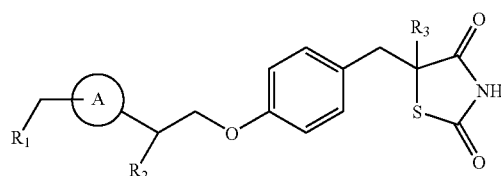
[0170] Another aspect of the present invention provides methods of treating rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, myasthenia, gravis, vasculitis, COPD, inflammatory bowel disease, acute allergic reactions, transplant rejections, central obesity, dyslipidemia, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, muscular sclerosis, or combinations thereof by contacting a patient with a compound of formula I.

Other Embodiments

[0171] It is to be understood that while the invention has been described in conjunction with the detailed description thereof, the foregoing description is intended to illustrate and not limit the scope of the invention, which is defined by the scope of the appended claims. Other aspects, advantages, and modifications are within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutical composition including a compound of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

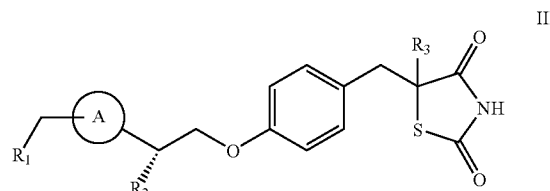
R₁ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted aliphatic;

R₂ is hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, oxo, or optionally substituted aliphatic;

R₃ is hydrogen, halo, or optionally substituted aliphatic; and

Ring A is a phenyl or a monocyclic heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O, or S, either of which is substituted with —CH₂—R¹ at any chemically feasible position on ring A.

2. A method of treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutical composition including a compound of formula III:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

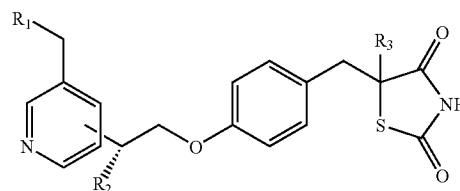
R₁ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted aliphatic;

R₂ is hydrogen, hydroxyl, or aliphatic optionally substituted with hydroxy;

R₃ is hydrogen, halo, or optionally substituted aliphatic; and

Ring A is a monocyclic heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O, or S that is substituted with —CH₂—R¹ at any chemically feasible position on ring A.

3. A method of treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutical composition including a compound of formula IV:



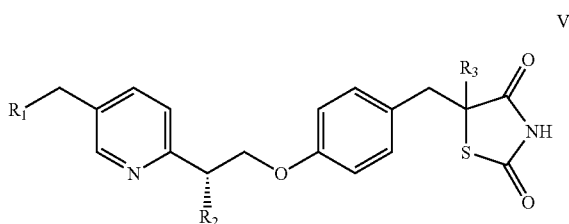
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R₁ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted aliphatic;

R₂ is hydrogen, hydroxyl, or aliphatic optionally substituted with hydroxy; and

R₃ is hydrogen, halo, or optionally substituted aliphatic.

4. A method of treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutical composition including a compound of formula V:



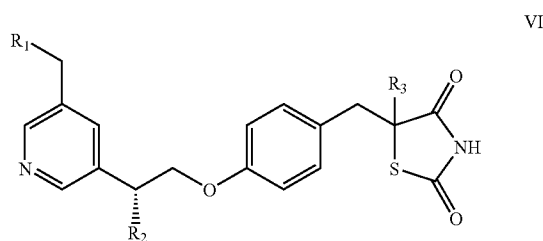
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R₁ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted aliphatic;

R₂ is hydrogen, hydroxyl, or aliphatic optionally substituted with hydroxy; and

R₃ is hydrogen, halo, or optionally substituted aliphatic.

5. A method of treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutical composition including a compound of formula VI:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R₁ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted aliphatic;

R₂ is hydrogen, hydroxyl, or aliphatic optionally substituted with hydroxy; and

R₃ is hydrogen, halo, or optionally substituted aliphatic.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein R₁ is an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkyl, an optionally substituted straight or branched C₂₋₆ alkenyl, or an optionally substituted straight or branched C₂₋₆ alkynyl.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein R₁ is a methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, or hexyl, each of which is unsubstituted.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein R₁ is a hydrogen or a halo.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein R₂ is hydrogen, hydroxy, or oxo.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein R₂ is an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ aliphatic.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein R₂ is an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkyl, an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkenyl, or an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkynyl.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein R₂ is a methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, or hexyl, each of which is optionally substituted with hydroxy.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein R₂ is methyl or ethyl, each of which is substituted with hydroxy.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein R₃ is hydrogen or halo.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein R₃ is an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ aliphatic.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein R₃ is an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkyl, an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkenyl, or an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkynyl.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein R₃ is a methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, or hexyl, each of which is unsubstituted.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein ring A is a monocyclic 5-6 membered heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O, or S.

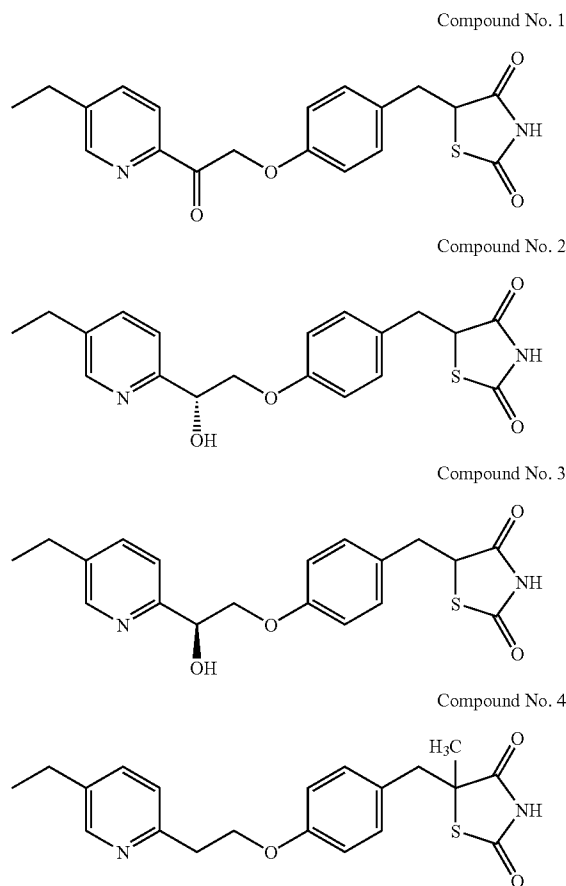
19. The method of claim 1, wherein In other examples, ring A is a furan-yl, thiophene-yl, pyrrole-yl, pyridine-yl, pyrazole-yl, 1,3,4-thiadiazole-yl, 1,3,5-triazine-yl, pyrazine-yl, pyrimidine-yl, pyridazine-yl, isoxazole-yl, or isothiazole-yl.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein ring A is a pyridine-yl.

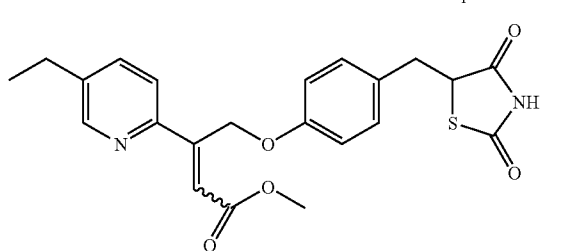
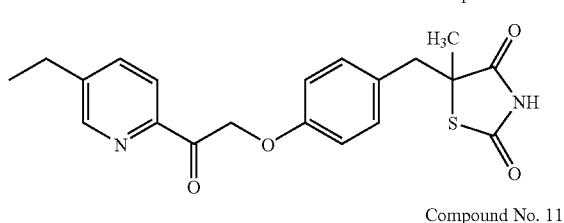
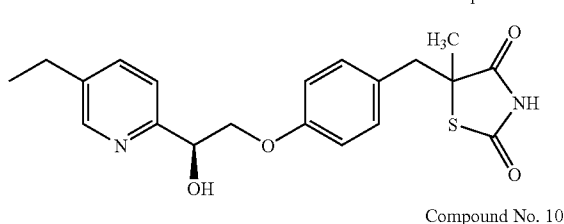
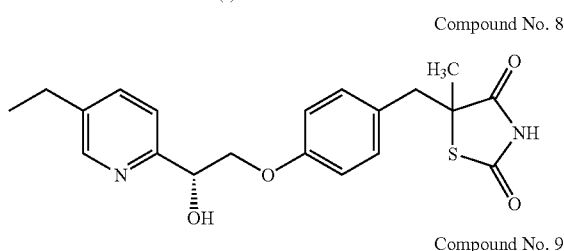
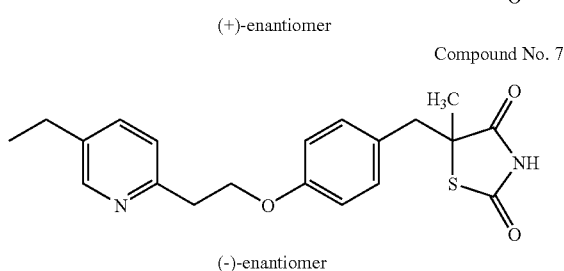
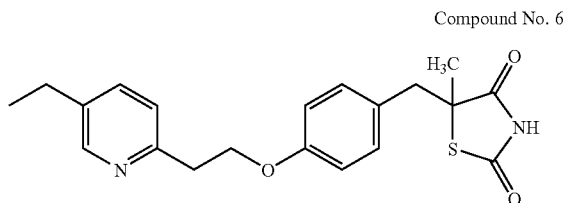
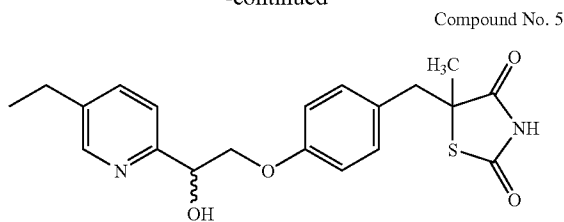
21. The method of claim 1, wherein ring A is a pyridine-2-yl, pyridine-3-yl, or pyridine-4-yl.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein ring A is a pyridine-2-yl or pyridine-3-yl.

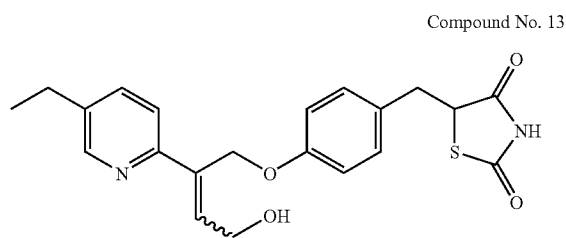
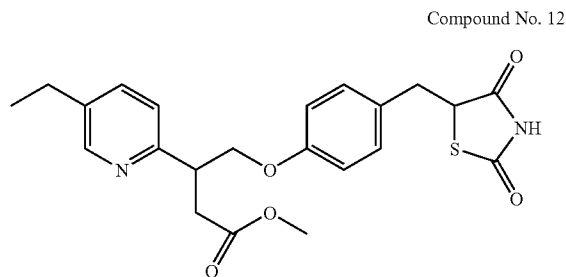
23. A method of treating a metabolic inflammation mediated disease comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutical composition including a compound selected from



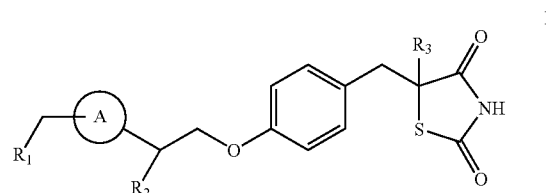
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24. A method of treating or reducing the severity of inflammatory disease comprising administering metformin and a compound of formula I



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

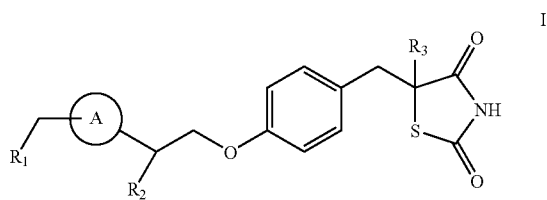
R_1 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted aliphatic;

R_2 is hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, oxo, or optionally substituted aliphatic;

R_3 is hydrogen, halo, or optionally substituted aliphatic; and

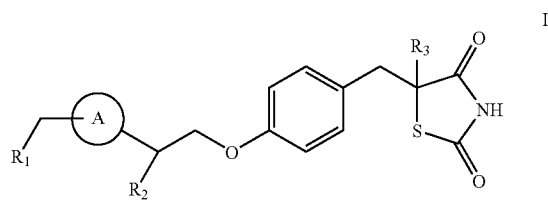
Ring A is a phenyl or a monocyclic heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O, or S, either of which is substituted with $-\text{CH}_2-\text{R}^1$ at any chemically feasible position on ring A.

25. A method of treating or reducing the severity of a disease in a patient, wherein said disease is selected from dyslipidemia, central obesity, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, myasthenia gravis, vasculitis, multiple sclerosis, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), inflammatory bowel disease, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), acute allergic reactions, transplant rejection, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and multiple sclerosis, wherein said method comprises the step of contacting said patient with a compound of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:
 R_1 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted aliphatic;
 R_2 is hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, oxo, or optionally substituted aliphatic;
 R_3 is hydrogen, halo, or optionally substituted aliphatic;
 and
 Ring A is a phenyl or a monocyclic heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O, or S, either of which is substituted with $-\text{CH}_2-\text{R}^1$ at any chemically feasible position on ring A.

26. A pharmaceutical composition useful for treating metabolic mediated disease comprising metformin and a compound of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:
 R_1 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted aliphatic;
 R_2 is hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, oxo, or optionally substituted aliphatic;
 R_3 is hydrogen, halo, or optionally substituted aliphatic;
 and
 Ring A is a phenyl or a monocyclic heteroaryl having 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O, or S, either of which is substituted with $-\text{CH}_2-\text{R}^1$ at any chemically feasible position on ring A.

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