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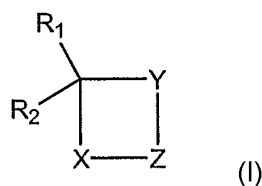
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(54) Title: THE PREPARATION AND USE OF COMPOUNDS AS PROTEASE INHIBITORS



muscarinic antagonist.

(57) Abstract: ABSTRACT Disclosed are compounds of the formula (I) or a stereoisomer, tautomer, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein, X is $-C(R^3R^4)-$; Y is $-N(R^5)-$; Z is $-C(=N-R^5)-$; and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are as defined in the specification; and pharmaceutical compositions comprising the compounds of formula I. Also disclosed is the method of inhibiting aspartyl protease, and in particular, the methods of treating cardiovascular diseases, cognitive and neurodegenerative diseases, and the methods of inhibiting of Human Immunodeficiency Virus, plasmepsins, cathepsin D and protozoal enzymes. Also disclosed are methods of treating cognitive or neurodegenerative diseases using the compounds of formula I in combination with a cholinesterase inhibitor or a

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THE PREPARATION AND USE OF COMPOUNDS
AS PROTEASE INHIBITORS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 This invention relates to heterocyclic compounds, which function as aspartyl protease inhibitors, their preparation, pharmaceutical compositions comprising said compounds, their use in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, cognitive and neurodegenerative diseases, and their use as inhibitors of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, plasmepsins, cathepsin D and protozoal enzymes.

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BACKGROUND

 There are a number of aspartic proteases known to date, including pepsin A and C, renin, BACE, BACE 2, Napsin A, and cathepsin D, which have been implicated in pathological conditions.

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 The role of renin-angiotensin system (RAS) in regulation of blood pressure and fluid electrolyte has been well established (Oparil, S, etal. N Engl J Med 1974; 291:381-401/446-57). The octapeptide Angiotensin-II, a potent vasoconstrictor and stimulator for release of adrenal aldosterone, was processed from the precursor decapeptide Angiotensin-I, which in turn was processed from angiotensinogen by the

20 renin enzyme. Angiotensin-II was also found to play roles in vascular smooth muscle cell growth, inflammation, reactive oxygen species generation and thrombosis, influence atherogenesis and vascular damage. Clinically, the benefit of interruption of the generation of angiotensin-II through antagonism of conversion of angiotensin-I has been well known and there are a number of ACE inhibitor drugs on the market.

25

 The blockade of the earlier conversion of angiotensinogen to angiotensin-I, i.e., the inhibition of renin enzyme, is expected to have similar but not identical effects. Since renin is an aspartyl protease whose only natural substrate is angiotensinogen, it is believed that there would be less frequent adverse effect for controlling high blood pressure and related symptoms regulated by angiotensin-II through its inhibition.

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 Another protease, Cathespin-D, is involved in lysosomal biogenesis and protein targeting, and may also be involved in antigen processing and presentation of peptide fragments. It has been linked to numerous diseases including, Alzheimer's, disease, connective tissue disease, muscular dystrophy and breast cancer.

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that is ultimately fatal. Disease progression is associated with gradual loss of cognitive function related to memory, reasoning, orientation and judgment. Behavioral changes including confusion, depression and aggression also manifest as the disease progresses. The cognitive and behavioral dysfunction is believed to result from altered neuronal function and neuronal loss in the hippocampus and cerebral cortex. The currently available AD treatments are palliative, and while they ameliorate the cognitive and behavioral disorders, they do not prevent disease progression. Therefore there is an unmet medical need for AD treatments that halt disease progression.

Pathological hallmarks of AD are the deposition of extracellular β -amyloid ($A\beta$) plaques and intracellular neurofibrillary tangles comprised of abnormally phosphorylated protein tau. Individuals with AD exhibit characteristic $A\beta$ deposits, in brain regions known to be important for memory and cognition. It is believed that $A\beta$ is the fundamental causative agent of neuronal cell loss and dysfunction which is associated with cognitive and behavioral decline. Amyloid plaques consist predominantly of $A\beta$ peptides comprised of 40 – 42 amino acid residues, which are derived from processing of amyloid precursor protein (APP). APP is processed by multiple distinct protease activities. $A\beta$ peptides result from the cleavage of APP by β -secretase at the position corresponding to the N-terminus of $A\beta$, and at the C-terminus by γ -secretase activity. APP is also cleaved by α -secretase activity resulting in the secreted, non-amyloidogenic fragment known as soluble APP.

An aspartyl protease known as BACE-1 has been identified as the β -secretase activity responsible for cleavage of APP at the position corresponding to the N-terminus of $A\beta$ peptides.

Accumulated biochemical and genetic evidence supports a central role of $A\beta$ in the etiology of AD. For example, $A\beta$ has been shown to be toxic to neuronal cells in vitro and when injected into rodent brains. Furthermore inherited forms of early-onset AD are known in which well-defined mutations of APP or the presenilins are present. These mutations enhance the production of $A\beta$ and are considered causative of AD.

Since $A\beta$ peptides are formed as a result β -secretase activity, inhibition of BACE-1 should inhibit formation of $A\beta$ peptides. Thus inhibition of BACE-1 is a

therapeutic approach to the treatment of AD and other cognitive and neurodegenerative diseases caused by A β plaque deposition.

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), is the causative agent of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Traditionally, a major target for researchers has been HIV-1 protease, an aspartyl protease related to renin. It has been clinically demonstrated that compounds such as indinavir, ritonavir and saquinavir which are inhibitors of the HIV aspartyl protease result in lowering of viral load. As such, the compounds described herein would be expected to be useful for the treatment of AIDS.

In addition, Human T-cell leukemia virus type I (HTLV-I) is a human retrovirus that has been clinically associated with adult T-cell leukemia and other chronic diseases. Like other retroviruses, HTLV-I requires an aspartyl protease to process viral precursor proteins, which produce mature virions. This makes the protease an attractive target for inhibitor design. (Moore, et al. Purification of HTLV-I Protease and Synthesis of Inhibitors for the treatment of HTLV-I Infection 55th Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Atlanta, GA, US November 16-19, 2003 (2003), 1073. CODEN; 69EUCH Conference, AN 2004:137641 CAPLUS.)

Plasmepsins are essential aspartyl protease enzymes of the malarial parasite. Compounds for the inhibition of aspartyl proteases plasmepsins, particularly I, II, IV and HAP, are in development for the treatment of malaria. (Freire, et al. WO 2002074719. Na Byoung-Kuk, et al. Aspartic proteases of Plasmodium vivax are highly conserved in wild isolates Korean Journal of Parasitology (2004 June), 42(2) 61-6. Journal code: 9435800.) Furthermore, compounds used to target aspartyl proteases plasmepsins (e.g. I, II, IV and HAP), have been used to kill malarial parasites, thus treating patients thus afflicted. Certain compounds also exhibited inhibitory activity against Cathespin D.

Compounds that act as aspartyl protease inhibitors are described, for example, in application USSN 11/010,772, filed on December 13, 2004, herein incorporated by reference.

WO/9304047, herein incorporated by reference, describes compounds having a quinazolin-2-(thi)one nucleus. The document alleges that the compounds described therein are inhibitors of HIV reverse transcriptase.

US Publication No. US 2005/0282826 A1, herein incorporated by reference, describes diphenylimidazopyrimidine or -imidazole amines, which are said to be

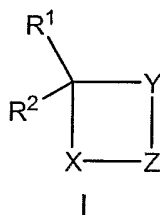
useful for the therapeutic treatment, prevention or amelioration of a disease or disorder characterized by elevated β -amyloid deposits or β -amyloid levels in a patient. Disease states mentioned in the publication include Alzheimer's disease, mild cognitive impairment, Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis of the Dutch type, cerebral amyloid angiopathy and degenerative dementia.

US Publication No. US 2005/0282825 A1, herein incorporated by reference, describes amino-5,5-diphenylimidazolones, which are said to be useful for the therapeutic treatment, prevention or amelioration of a disease or disorder characterized by elevated β -amyloid deposits or β -amyloid levels in a patient. Disease states mentioned in the publication include Alzheimer's disease, mild cognitive impairment, Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis of the Dutch type, cerebral amyloid angiopathy and degenerative dementia.

Other publications that disclosed compounds that are useful for treating Alzheimer's disease include WO 2006/044492, which discloses spiroperidine compounds that are said to be inhibitors of β -secretase, and WO 2006/041404, which discloses substituted amino compounds that are said to be useful for the treatment or prophylaxis of $A\beta$ related pathologies. Both these publications are incorporated by reference.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to compounds having the structural formula I



or a stereoisomer, tautomer, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein,

X is $-C(R^3R^4)-$;

Y is $-N(R^5)-$;

Z is $-C(=N-R^5)-$;

and optionally:

(i) R^5 and R^1 may be joined together to form a 3- to 7-membered heterocycyl, heterocyclenyl, or heteroaryl ring having 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S, N and $-N(R)-$, wherein said rings are optionally substituted with 1 to 5 independently selected R^{14} moieties and/or by oxo when said rings are heterocycyl, or heterocyclenyl; or

(ii) R^2 and R^3 may be joined together to form a 3- to 7-membered cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycyl, heterocyclalkenyl, aryl, or heteroaryl ring having 0 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S, N, or $-N(R)-$ wherein said ring are optionally substituted with 1 to 5 independently selected R^{14} moieties and/or by oxo when said rings are cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycyl, or heterocyclenyl; or

where

R is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, arylcycloalkyl, $-OR^{15}$, $-C(O)R^8$, $-C(O)OR^9$, $-S(O)R^{10}$, $-S(O)_2R^{10}$, $-C(O)N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-S(O)N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, or $-S(O)_2N(R^{11})(R^{12})$;

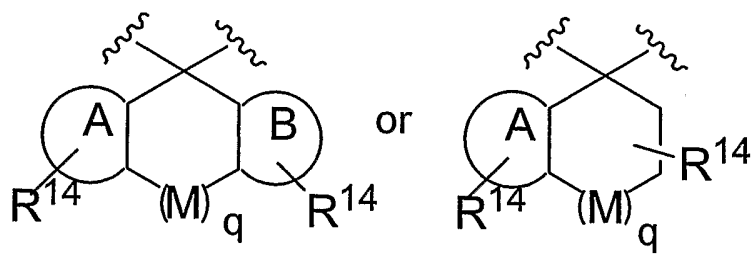
R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, arylcycloalkylalkyl, heteroarylalkylalkyl, arylheterocycloalkylalkyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkyl, arylcycloalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, arylheterocycloalkyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkyl, alkenyl, arylalkenyl, cycloalkenyl, arylcycloalkenyl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, arylheterocycloalkenyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkenyl, alkynyl, arylalkynyl, aryl, cycloalkylaryl, heterocycloalkylaryl, heterocycloalkenylaryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkylheteroaryl, heterocycloalkylheteroaryl, cycloalkenylaryl, heterocycloalkenylaryl, $-OR^{15}$, $-CN$, $-C(O)R^8$, $-C(O)OR^9$, $-S(O)R^{10}$, $-S(O)_2R^{10}$, $-C(O)N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-S(O)N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-NO_2$, $-N=C(R^8)_2$ and $-N(R^8)_2$ provided that are not both selected from the group consisting of $-NO_2$, $-N=C(R^8)_2$ and $-N(R^8)_2$;

or optionally R^1 and R^2 together form a 3- to 7-membered cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycyl, or heterocyclenyl ring having 0 to 4, preferably 0-2, heteroatoms independently selected from O, S, N and $-N(R)-$ wherein said ring is optionally substituted with 1 to 5 independently selected R^{14} moieties and/or by oxo;

F is cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocyclyl or heterocyclenyl

provided that there are no adjacent oxygen and/or sulfur atoms present in the ring system; preferably R³ and R⁴, together with the carbon to which they are attached form one of the following multicyclic groups:

5



wherein

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M is -CH₂-, -S-, -N(R¹⁹)-, -O-, -CH₂-CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -CH₂-S-, -CH₂-O-, -O-CH₂-, -S-CH₂-, -CH₂-N(R¹⁹)- or -N(R¹⁹)-CH₂-

A and B are independently aryl or heteroaryl,

q is 0 or 1,;

R⁸ is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl,

15

alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, -OR¹⁵, -N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶), -N(R¹⁵)C(O)R¹⁶, -N(R¹⁵)S(O)R¹⁶, -N(R¹⁵)S(O)₂R¹⁶, -N(R¹⁵)S(O)₂N(R¹⁶)(R¹⁷), -N(R¹⁵)S(O)N(R¹⁶)(R¹⁷), -N(R¹⁵)C(O)N(R¹⁶)(R¹⁷) and -N(R¹⁵)C(O)OR¹⁶;

R⁹ is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl,

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alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylalkyl;

R¹⁰ is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl,

alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl and -N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶);

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R¹¹, R¹² and R¹³ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, -C(O)R⁸, -C(O)OR⁹, -S(O)R¹⁰, -S(O)₂R¹⁰, -C(O)N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶), -S(O)N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶), -S(O)₂N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶) and -CN;

R¹⁴ is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl,

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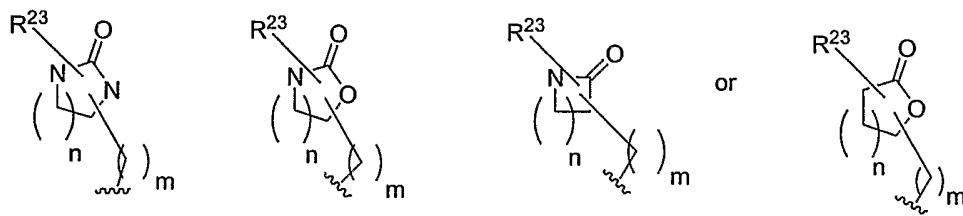
alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, halo, -CN, -OR¹⁵, -C(O)R¹⁵, -C(O)OR¹⁵, -

C(O)N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶), -SR¹⁵, -S(O)N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶), -S(O)₂N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶), -C(=NOR¹⁵)R¹⁶, -P(O)(OR¹⁵)(OR¹⁶), -N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶), -N(R¹⁵)C(O)R¹⁶, -N(R¹⁵)S(O)R¹⁶, -N(R¹⁵)S(O)₂R¹⁶, -N(R¹⁵)S(O)₂N(R¹⁶)(R¹⁷), -N(R¹⁵)S(O)N(R¹⁶)(R¹⁷), -N(R¹⁵)C(O)N(R¹⁶)(R¹⁷) and -N(R¹⁵)C(O)OR¹⁶;

5 R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, arylcycloalkyl, arylheterocycloalkyl, R¹⁸-alkyl, R¹⁸-cycloalkyl, R¹⁸-cycloalkylalkyl, R¹⁸-heterocycloalkyl, R¹⁸-heterocycloalkylalkyl, R¹⁸-aryl, R¹⁸-arylalkyl, R¹⁸-heteroaryl and R¹⁸-

10 heteroarylalkyl; or

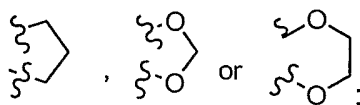
R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ are



wherein R²³ numbers 0 to 5 substituents, m is 0 to 6 and n is 1 to 5;

R¹⁸ is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of
 15 alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, -NO₂, halo, heteroaryl, HO-alkoxyalkyl, -CF₃, -CN, alkyl-CN, -C(O)R¹⁹, -C(O)OH, -C(O)OR¹⁹, -C(O)NHR²⁰, -C(O)NH₂, -C(O)NH₂-C(O)N(alkyl)₂, -C(O)N(alkyl)(aryl), -C(O)N(alkyl)(heteroaryl), -SR¹⁹, -S(O)₂R²⁰, -S(O)NH₂, -S(O)NH(alkyl), -S(O)N(alkyl)(alkyl), -S(O)NH(aryl), -S(O)₂NH₂, -S(O)₂NHR¹⁹, -S(O)₂NH(heterocycloalkyl), -S(O)₂N(alkyl)₂,
 20 -S(O)₂N(alkyl)(aryl), -OCF₃, -OH, -OR²⁰, -O-heterocycloalkyl, -O-cycloalkylalkyl, -O-heterocycloalkylalkyl, -NH₂, -NHR²⁰, -N(alkyl)₂, -N(arylalkyl)₂, -N(arylalkyl)-(heteroarylalkyl), -NHC(O)R²⁰, -NHC(O)NH₂, -NHC(O)NH(alkyl), -NHC(O)N(alkyl)(alkyl), -N(alkyl)C(O)NH(alkyl), -N(alkyl)C(O)N(alkyl)(alkyl), -NHS(O)₂R²⁰, -NHS(O)₂NH(alkyl), -NHS(O)₂N(alkyl)(alkyl), -N(alkyl)S(O)₂NH(alkyl)
 25 and -N(alkyl)S(O)₂N(alkyl)(alkyl);

or two R¹⁸ moieties on adjacent carbons can be linked together to form



R¹⁹ is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl or heteroarylalkyl;

R²⁰ is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, halo substituted aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl;

and wherein:

- 5 i) each of the alkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, arylcycloalkylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, arylheterocycloalkylalkyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkyl, arylcycloalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, arylheterocycloalkyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkyl, alkenyl, arylalkenyl, cycloalkenyl, arylcycloalkenyl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, arylheterocycloalkenyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkenyl, alkynyl, arylalkynyl, aryl, cycloalkylaryl, heterocycloalkylaryl, heterocycloalkenylaryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkylheteroaryl, heterocycloalkylheteroaryl, cycloalkenylaryl, heterocycloalkenylaryl, in R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ and
- 10
- 15 ii) each of the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, arylcycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups in R, R⁵, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³ and R¹⁴

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are independently unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 5 R²¹ groups independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, arylcycloalkylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, arylheterocycloalkylalkyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkyl, arylcycloalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, arylheterocycloalkyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkyl, alkenyl, arylalkenyl, cycloalkenyl, arylcycloalkenyl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, arylheterocycloalkenyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkenyl, alkynyl, arylalkynyl, aryl, cycloalkylaryl, heterocycloalkylaryl, heterocycloalkenylaryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkylheteroaryl, heterocycloalkylheteroaryl, cycloalkenylaryl, heterocycloalkenylaryl, halo, -CN, -OR¹⁵, -C(O)R¹⁵, -C(O)OR¹⁵, -C(O)N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶), -SR¹⁵, -S(O)N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶), -CH(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶), -S(O)₂N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶), -C(=NOR¹⁵)R¹⁶, -P(O)(OR¹⁵)(OR¹⁶), -N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶), -alkyl-N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶), -N(R¹⁵)C(O)R¹⁶, -CH₂-N(R¹⁵)C(O)R¹⁶, -CH₂-N(R¹⁵)C(O)N(R¹⁶)(R¹⁷), -CH₂-R¹⁵, -CH₂N(R¹⁵)(R¹⁶), -N(R¹⁵)S(O)R¹⁶, -N(R¹⁵)S(O)₂R¹⁶, -CH₂-N(R¹⁵)S(O)₂R¹⁶, -N(R¹⁵)S(O)₂N(R¹⁶)(R¹⁷), -

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$N(R^{15})S(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)OR^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)OR^{16}$, $-S(O)R^{15}$, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$ and $-S(O)_2R^{15}$; and wherein each of the alkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl,

5 heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups in R^{21} are independently unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 5 R^{22} groups independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halo, $-CF_3$, $-CN$,

$-OR^{15}$, $-C(O)R^{15}$, $-C(O)OR^{15}$, $-alkyl-C(O)OR^{15}$, $C(O)N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-SR^{15}$,

$-S(O)N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-C(=NOR^{15})R^{16}$, $-P(O)(OR^{15})(OR^{16})$,

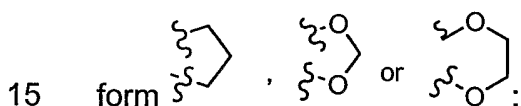
10 $-N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-alkyl-N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)R^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)R^{16}$,

$-N(R^{15})S(O)_2R^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})S(O)_2R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)_2N(R^{16})(R^{17})$,

$-N(R^{15})S(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$,

$-N(R^{15})C(O)OR^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)OR^{16}$, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-S(O)R^{15}$ and $-S(O)_2R^{15}$;

or two R^{21} or two R^{22} moieties on adjacent carbons can be linked together to



and when R^{21} or R^{22} are selected from the group consisting of

$-C(=NOR^{15})R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)R^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)R^{16}$,

$-N(R^{15})S(O)_2R^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})S(O)_2R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)_2N(R^{16})(R^{17})$,

$-N(R^{15})S(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$,

20 $-N(R^{15})C(O)OR^{16}$ and $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)OR^{16}$, R^{15} and R^{16} together can be a C_2 to C_4 chain wherein, optionally, one, two or three ring carbons can be replaced by $-C(O)-$ or $-N(H)-$ and R^{15} and R^{16} , together with the atoms to which they are attached, form a 5 to 7 membered ring, optionally substituted by R^{23} ;

25 R^{23} is 1 to 5 groups independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, halo, $-CN$, $-OR^{24}$,

$-C(O)R^{24}$, $-C(O)OR^{24}$, $-C(O)N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-SR^{24}$, $-S(O)N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{24})(R^{25})$,

$-C(=NOR^{24})R^{25}$, $-P(O)(OR^{24})(OR^{25})$, $-N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-alkyl-N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-N(R^{24})C(O)R^{25}$,

$-CH_2-N(R^{24})C(O)R^{25}$, $-N(R^{24})S(O)R^{25}$, $-N(R^{24})S(O)_2R^{25}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{24})S(O)_2R^{25}$,

30 $-N(R^{24})S(O)_2N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, $-N(R^{24})S(O)N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, $-N(R^{24})C(O)N(R^{25})(R^{26})$,

$-CH_2-N(R^{24})C(O)N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, $-N(R^{24})C(O)OR^{25}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{24})C(O)OR^{25}$, $-S(O)R^{24}$ and

$-S(O)_2R^{24}$; and wherein each of the alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl,

heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups in R^{23} are independently unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 5 R^{27} groups independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halo, $-CF_3$, $-CN$, $-OR^{24}$, $-C(O)R^{24}$, $-C(O)OR^{24}$, alkyl- $C(O)OR^{24}$,
 5 $C(O)N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-SR^{24}$, $-S(O)N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-C(=NOR^{24})R^{25}$, $-P(O)(OR^{24})(OR^{25})$, $-N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-alkyl-N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-N(R^{24})C(O)R^{25}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{24})C(O)R^{25}$, $-N(R^{24})S(O)R^{25}$, $-N(R^{24})S(O)_2R^{25}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{24})S(O)_2R^{25}$, $-N(R^{24})S(O)_2N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, $-N(R^{24})S(O)N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, $-N(R^{24})C(O)N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, $-CH_2-N(R^{24})C(O)N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, $-N(R^{24})C(O)OR^{25}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{24})C(O)OR^{25}$, $-S(O)R^{24}$ and $-S(O)_2R^{24}$;

R^{24} , R^{25} and R^{26} are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, arylcycloalkyl, R^{27} -alkyl, R^{27} -cycloalkyl, R^{27} -cycloalkylalkyl, R^{27} -heterocycloalkyl, R^{27} -

15 heterocycloalkylalkyl, R^{27} -aryl, R^{27} -arylalkyl, R^{27} -heteroaryl and R^{27} -heteroarylalkyl;

R^{27} is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, $-NO_2$, halo, $-CF_3$, $-CN$, alkyl- CN , $-C(O)R^{28}$, $-C(O)OH$, $-C(O)OR^{28}$, $-C(O)NHR^{29}$, $-C(O)N(alkyl)_2$, $-C(O)N(alkyl)(aryl)$, $-C(O)N(alkyl)(heteroaryl)$, $-SR^{28}$, $-S(O)_2R^{29}$, $-S(O)NH_2$, $-S(O)NH(alkyl)$, $-S(O)N(alkyl)(alkyl)$, $-S(O)NH(aryl)$, $-S(O)_2NH_2$, $-S(O)_2NHR^{28}$, $-S(O)_2NH(aryl)$, $-S(O)_2NH(heterocycloalkyl)$, $-S(O)_2N(alkyl)_2$, $-S(O)_2N(alkyl)(aryl)$, $-OH$, $-OR^{29}$, $-O-heterocycloalkyl$, $-O-cycloalkylalkyl$, $-O-heterocycloalkylalkyl$, $-NH_2$, $-NHR^{29}$, $-N(alkyl)_2$, $-N(arylalkyl)_2$, $-N(arylalkyl)(heteroarylalkyl)$, $-NHC(O)R^{29}$, $-NHC(O)NH_2$, $-NHC(O)NH(alkyl)$,
 20 $-NHC(O)N(alkyl)(alkyl)$, $-N(alkyl)C(O)NH(alkyl)$, $-N(alkyl)C(O)N(alkyl)(alkyl)$, $-NHS(O)_2R^{29}$, $-NHS(O)_2NH(alkyl)$, $-NHS(O)_2N(alkyl)(alkyl)$, $-N(alkyl)S(O)_2NH(alkyl)$ and $-N(alkyl)S(O)_2N(alkyl)(alkyl)$;

R^{28} is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl or heteroarylalkyl; and

R^{29} is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl or
 30 heteroarylalkyl.

In another aspect, the invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula I and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In another aspect, the invention comprises the method of inhibiting aspartyl protease comprising administering at least one compound of formula I to a patient in need of such treatment.

5 More specifically, the invention comprises: the method of treating a cardiovascular disease such as hypertension, renal failure, or a disease modulated by renin inhibition; the method of treating Human Immunodeficiency Virus; the method of treating a cognitive or neurodegenerative disease such as Alzheimer's Disease; the method of inhibiting plasmepsins I and II for treatment of malaria; the method of inhibiting Cathepsin D for the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease, breast cancer, and
10 ovarian cancer; and the method of inhibiting protozoal enzymes, for example inhibition of plasmodium falciparum, for the treatment of fungal infections. Said method of treatment comprise administering at least one compound of formula I to a patient in need of such treatment. In particular, the invention comprises the method of treating Alzheimer's disease comprising administering at least one compound of formula I to a
15 patient in need of such treatment.

In another aspect, the invention comprises the method of treating Alzheimer's disease comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a combination of at least one compound of formula I and a cholinesterase inhibitor or a modulator of muscarinic receptors, such as, but not limited to, a muscarinic m2
20 antagonist or an m1 muscarinic agonist.

Another aspect of this invention is pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 and at least one second pharmaceutical agent selected from the group consisting of beta secretase inhibitors; gamma secretase inhibitors; HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors; non-steroidal anti-inflammatory
25 agents; N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor antagonists; anti-amyloid antibodies; vitamin E; nicotinic acetylcholine receptor agonists; CB1 receptor inverse agonists or CB1 receptor antagonists; an antibiotic; growth hormone secretagogues; histamine H3 antagonists; AMPA agonists; PDE4 inhibitors; GABA_A inverse agonists; inhibitors of amyloid aggregation; glycogen synthase kinase beta inhibitors; and promoters of
30 alpha secretase activity and methods of treating the disease states associated with this compounds.

In a final aspect, the invention relates to a kit comprising in separate containers in a single package pharmaceutical compositions for use in combination, in which one container comprises a compound of formula I in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier

and a second container comprises a cholinesterase inhibitor or a muscarinic antagonist in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, the combined quantities being an effective amount to treat a cognitive disease or neurodegenerative disease such as Alzheimer's disease.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The terms used herein have their ordinary meaning and the meaning of such terms is independent at each occurrence thereof. That notwithstanding and except where stated otherwise, the following definitions apply throughout the specification and claims, Chemical names, common names and chemical structures may be used interchangeably to describe that same structure, These definitions apply regardless of whether a term is used by itself or in combination with other terms, unless otherwise indicated. Hence the definition of "alkyl" applies to "alkyl" as well as the "alkyl" portion of "hydroxyalkyl", "haloalkyl", "alkoxy" etc.

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15 As used above, and throughout the specification, the following terms, unless otherwise indicated, shall be understood to have the following meanings:

"Patient" includes both human and animals.

"Mammal" means humans and other mammalian animals.

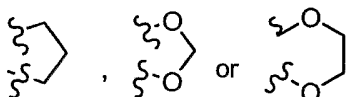
"Alkyl" means an aliphatic hydrocarbon group which may be straight or branched and comprising about 1 to about 20 carbon atoms in the chain. Preferred alkyl groups contain about 1 to about 12 carbon atoms in the chain. More preferred alkyl groups contain about 1 to about 6 carbon atoms in the chain. Branched means that one or more lower alkyl groups such as methyl, ethyl or propyl, are attached to a linear alkyl chain. "Lower alkyl" means a group having about 1 to about 6 carbon atoms in the chain which may be straight or branched. Non-limiting examples of suitable alkyl groups include methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, t-butyl, n-pentyl, heptyl, nonyl and decyl. R³²-substituted alkyl groups include fluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl and cyclopropylmethyl .

"Alkenyl" means an aliphatic hydrocarbon group containing at least one carbon-carbon double bond and which may be straight or branched and comprising about 2 to about 15 carbon atoms in the chain. Preferred alkenyl groups have about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms in the chain; and more preferably about 2 to about 6 carbon atoms in the chain. Branched means that one or more lower alkyl groups such as methyl, ethyl or propyl, are attached to a linear alkenyl chain. "Lower alkenyl" means

about 2 to about 6 carbon atoms in the chain which may be straight or branched. Non-limiting examples of suitable alkenyl groups include ethenyl, propenyl, n-butenyl, 3-methylbut-2-enyl, n-pentenyl, octenyl and decenyl.

"Alkynyl" means an aliphatic hydrocarbon group containing at least one
 5 carbon-carbon triple bond and which may be straight or branched and comprising about 2 to about 15 carbon atoms in the chain. Preferred alkynyl groups have about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms in the chain; and more preferably about 2 to about 4 carbon atoms in the chain. Branched means that one or more lower alkyl groups such as methyl, ethyl or propyl, are attached to a linear alkynyl chain. "Lower alkynyl"
 10 means about 2 to about 6 carbon atoms in the chain which may be straight or branched. Non-limiting examples of suitable alkynyl groups include ethynyl, propynyl, 2-butylnyl, 3-methylbutynyl, n-pentynyl, and decynyl.

"Aryl" means an aromatic monocyclic or multicyclic ring system comprising about 6 to about 14 carbon atoms, preferably about 6 to about 10 carbon atoms. The
 15 aryl group can be optionally substituted with one or more substituents (e.g., R¹⁸, R²¹, R²², etc.) which may be the same or different, and are as defined herein or two substituents on adjacent carbons can be linked together to form

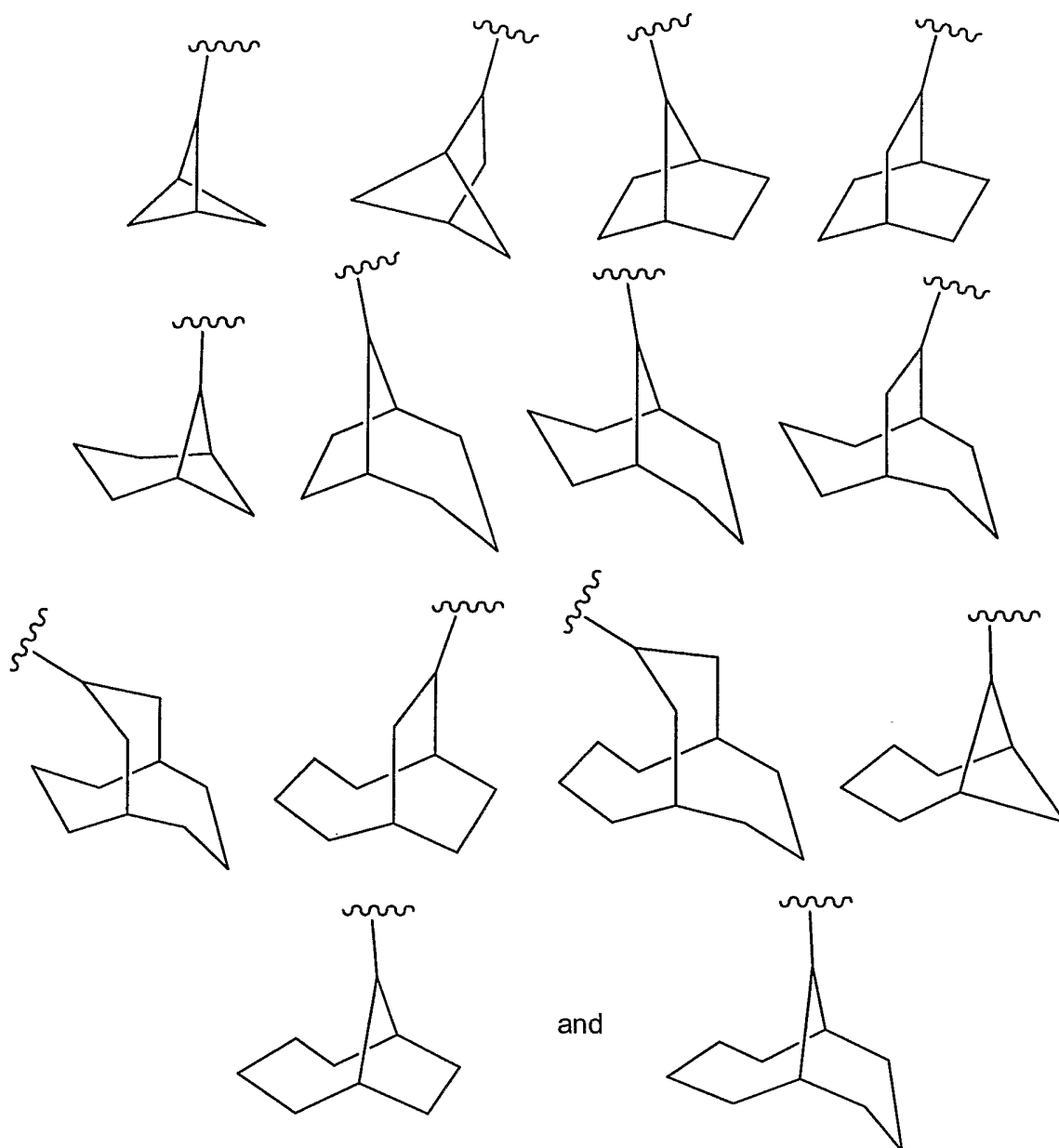


Non-limiting examples of suitable aryl groups include phenyl and naphthyl.

20 "Heteroaryl" means an aromatic monocyclic or multicyclic ring system comprising about 5 to about 14 ring atoms, preferably about 5 to about 10 ring atoms, in which one to four of the ring atoms is an element other than carbon, for example nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, alone or in combination. Preferred heteroaryls contain about 5 to about 6 ring atoms. The "heteroaryl" can be optionally substituted by one
 25 or more R²¹ substituents which may be the same or different, and are as defined herein. The prefix aza, oxa or thia before the heteroaryl root name means that at least a nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom respectively, is present as a ring atom. A nitrogen atom of a heteroaryl can be optionally oxidized to the corresponding N-oxide. Non-limiting examples of suitable heteroaryls include pyridyl, pyrazinyl, furanyl, thienyl,
 30 pyrimidinyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, furazanyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, quinoxalanyl, phthalazinyl, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridinyl, imidazo[2,1-b]thiazolyl, benzofurazanyl, indolyl, azaindolyl,

benzimidazolyl, benzothienyl, quinolinyl, imidazolyl, thienopyridyl, quinazolinyl, thienopyrimidyl, pyrrolopyridyl, imidazopyridyl, isoquinolinyl, benzoazaindolyl, 1,2,4-triazinyl, benzothiazolyl and the like.

"Cycloalkyl" means a non-aromatic mono- or multicyclic ring system comprising about 3 to about 10 carbon atoms, preferably about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms. Preferred cycloalkyl rings contain about 5 to about 7 ring atoms. The cycloalkyl can be optionally substituted with one or more R^{21} substituents which may be the same or different, and are as defined above. Non-limiting examples of suitable monocyclic cycloalkyls include cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl and the like. Non-limiting examples of suitable multicyclic cycloalkyls include 1-decalin, norbornyl, adamantyl and the like. Further non-limiting examples of cycloalkyl include the following



"Cycloalkylether" means a non-aromatic ring of 3 to 7 members comprising an oxygen atom and 2 to 7 carbon atoms. Ring carbon atoms can be substituted, provided that substituents adjacent to the ring oxygen do not include halo or substituents joined to the ring through an oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atom.

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"Cycloalkenyl" means a non-aromatic mono or multicyclic ring system comprising about 3 to about 10 carbon atoms, preferably about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms which contains at least one carbon-carbon double bond. The cycloalkenyl ring can be optionally substituted with one or more R^{21} substituents which may be the same or different, and are as defined above. Preferred cycloalkenyl rings contain about 5 to about 7 ring atoms. Non-limiting examples of suitable monocyclic

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cycloalkenyls include cyclopentenyl, cyclohexenyl, cycloheptenyl, and the like. Non-limiting example of a suitable multicyclic cycloalkenyl is norbornenyl.

"Heterocyclenyl" (or "heterocycloalkeneyl") means a non-aromatic monocyclic or multicyclic ring system comprising about 3 to about 10 ring atoms, preferably about 5 to about 10 ring atoms, in which one or more of the atoms in the ring system is an element other than carbon, for example nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom, alone or in combination, and which contains at least one carbon-carbon double bond or carbon-nitrogen double bond. There are no adjacent oxygen and/or sulfur atoms present in the ring system. Preferred heterocyclenyl rings contain about 5 to about 6 ring atoms. The prefix aza, oxa or thia before the heterocyclenyl root name means that at least a nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom respectively is present as a ring atom. The heterocyclenyl can be optionally substituted by one or more ring system substituents, wherein "ring system substituent" is as defined above. The nitrogen or sulfur atom of the heterocyclenyl can be optionally oxidized to the corresponding N-oxide, S-oxide or S,S-dioxide. Non-limiting examples of suitable monocyclic azaheterocyclenyl groups include 1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyridyl, 1,2-dihydropyridyl, 1,4-dihydropyridyl, 1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridyl, 1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyrimidyl, 2-pyrrolinyl, 3-pyrrolinyl, 2-imidazoliny, 2-pyrazoliny, and the like. Non-limiting examples of suitable oxaheterocyclenyl groups include 3,4-dihydro-2H-pyran, dihydrofuran, fluorodihydrofuran, and the like. Non-limiting example of a suitable multicyclic oxaheterocyclenyl group is 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptenyl. Non-limiting examples of suitable monocyclic thiaheterocyclenyl rings include dihydrothiophenyl, dihydrothiopyran, and the like.

"Halo" means fluoro, chloro, bromo, or iodo groups. Preferred are fluoro, chloro or bromo, and more preferred are fluoro and chloro.

"Haloalkyl" means an alkyl as defined above wherein one or more hydrogen atoms on the alkyl is replaced by a halo group defined above.

"Heterocyclyl" (or heterocycloalkyl) means a non-aromatic saturated monocyclic or multicyclic ring system comprising about 3 to about 10 ring atoms, preferably about 5 to about 10 ring atoms, in which 1-3, preferably 1 or 2 of the atoms in the ring system is an element other than carbon, for example nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, alone or in combination. There are no adjacent oxygen and/or sulfur atoms present in the ring system. Preferred heterocyclyls contain about 5 to about 6 ring atoms. The prefix aza, oxa or thia before the heterocyclyl root name means that at least a nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom respectively is present as a ring atom. The

heterocyclyl can be optionally substituted by one or more R^{21} substituents which may be the same or different, and are as defined herein. The nitrogen or sulfur atom of the heterocyclyl can be optionally oxidized to the corresponding N-oxide, S-oxide or S,S-dioxide. Non-limiting examples of suitable monocyclic heterocyclyl rings include

5 piperidyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, thiazolidinyl, 1,3-dioxolanyl, 1,4-dioxanyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydrothiophenyl, tetrahydrothiopyranyl, and the like.

“Arylalkyl” means an aryl-alkyl- group in which the aryl and alkyl are as previously described. Preferred aralkyls comprise a lower alkyl group. Non-limiting

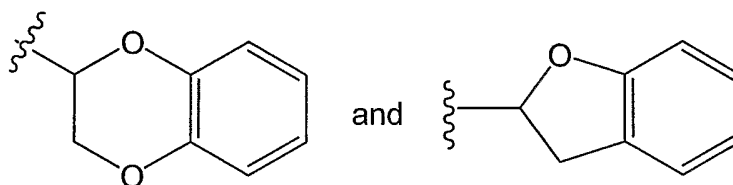
10 examples of suitable aralkyl groups include benzyl, 2-phenethyl and naphthalenylmethyl. The bond to the parent moiety is through the alkyl.

“Arylcycloalkyl” means a group derived from a fused aryl and cycloalkyl as defined herein. Preferred arylcycloalkyls are those wherein aryl is phenyl and cycloalkyl consists of about 5 to about 6 ring atoms. The arylcycloalkyl can be

15 optionally substituted by 1-5 R^{21} substituents. Non-limiting examples of suitable arylcycloalkyls include indanyl and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthyl and the like. The bond to the parent moiety is through a non-aromatic carbon atom.

“Arylheterocycloalkyl” means a group derived from a fused aryl and heterocycloalkyl as defined herein. Preferred arylcycloalkyls are those wherein aryl is phenyl and heterocycloalkyl consists of about 5 to about 6 ring atoms. The

20 arylheterocycloalkyl can be optionally substituted by 1-5 R^{21} substituents. Non-limiting examples of suitable arylheterocycloalkyls include



The bond to the parent moiety is through a non-aromatic carbon atom.

25 Similarly, “heteroarylalkyl”, “cycloalkylalkyl” and “heterocycloalkylalkyl” mean a heteroaryl-, cycloalkyl- or heterocycloalkyl-alkyl- group in which the heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl and alkyl are as previously described. It is also understood that the terms “arylcycloalkylalkyl”, “heteroarylcycloalkylalkyl”, “arylheterocycloalkylalkyl”, “heteroarylheterocycloalkylalkyl”, “heteroarylcycloalkyl”,

30 “heteroarylheterocycloalkyl”, “arylcycloalkenyl”, “heteroarylcycloalkenyl”, “heterocycloalkenyl”, “arylheterocycloalkenyl”, “heteroarylheterocycloalkenyl”,

"cycloalkylaryl", "heterocycloalkylaryl", "heterocycloalkenylaryl", "heterocycloalkylheteroaryl", "cycloalkenylaryl" and "heterocycloalkenylaryl" similarly represented by the combination of the groups aryl-, cycloalkyl-, alkyl-, heteroaryl-, heterocycloalkyl-, cycloalkenyl- and heterocycloalkenyl- as previously described.

5 Preferred groups contain a lower alkyl group. The bond to the parent moiety is through the alkyl.

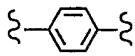
"Acyl" means an H-C(O)-, alkyl-C(O)-, alkenyl-C(O)-, alkynyl-C(O)-, aryl-C(O)- or cycloalkyl-C(O)- group in which the various groups are as previously described. The bond to the parent moiety is through the carbonyl. Preferred acyls contain a lower
10 alkyl. Non-limiting examples of suitable acyl groups include formyl, acetyl, propanoyl, 2-methylpropanoyl, butanoyl and cyclohexanoyl.

"Alkoxy" means an alkyl-O- group in which the alkyl group is as previously described. Non-limiting examples of suitable alkoxy groups include methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, isopropoxy, n-butoxy and heptoxy. The bond to the parent moiety is
15 through the ether oxygen.

"Alkoxyalkyl" means a group derived from an alkoxy and alkyl as defined herein. The bond to the parent moiety is through the alkyl.

"Arylalkenyl" means a group derived from an aryl and alkenyl as defined herein. Preferred arylalkenyls are those wherein aryl is phenyl and the alkenyl
20 consists of about 3 to about 6 atoms. The arylalkenyl can be optionally substituted by one or more R²⁷ substituents. The bond to the parent moiety is through a non-aromatic carbon atom.

"Arylalkynyl" means a group derived from a aryl and alkenyl as defined herein. Preferred arylalkynyls are those wherein aryl is phenyl and the alkynyl consists of
25 about 3 to about 6 atoms. The arylalkynyl can be optionally substituted by one or more R²⁷ substituents. The bond to the parent moiety is through a non-aromatic carbon atom.

The suffix "ene" on alkyl, aryl, heterocycloalkyl, etc. indicates a divalent moiety, e.g., -CH₂CH₂- is ethylene, and  is para-phenylene.


30 The term "optionally substituted" means optional substitution with the specified groups, radicals or moieties, in available position or positions.

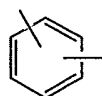
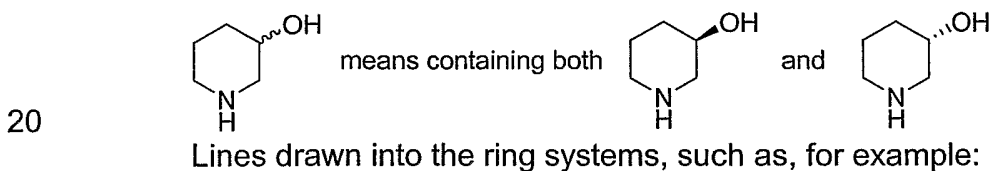
Substitution on a cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, arylalkyl, or heteroarylalkyl moiety includes substitution on the ring portion and/or on the alkyl portion of the group.

When a variable appears more than once in a group, e.g., R^8 in $-N(R^8)_2$, or a variable appears more than once in the structure of formula I, e.g., R^{15} may appear in both R^1 and R^3 , the variables can be the same or different.

With reference to the number of moieties (e.g., substituents, groups or rings) in a compound, unless otherwise defined, the phrases "one or more" and "at least one" mean that there can be as many moieties as chemically permitted, and the determination of the maximum number of such moieties is well within the knowledge of those skilled in the art. With respect to the compositions and methods comprising the use of "at least one compound of formula I," one to three compounds of formula I can be administered at the same time, preferably one.

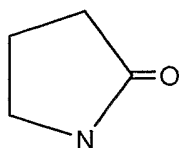
As used herein, the term "composition" is intended to encompass a product comprising the specified ingredients in the specified amounts, as well as any product which results, directly or indirectly, from combination of the specified ingredients in the specified amounts.

The wavy line  as a bond generally indicates a mixture of, or either of, the possible isomers, e.g., containing (R)- and (S)- stereochemistry. For example,



indicate that the indicated line (bond) may be attached to any of the substitutable ring carbon atoms.

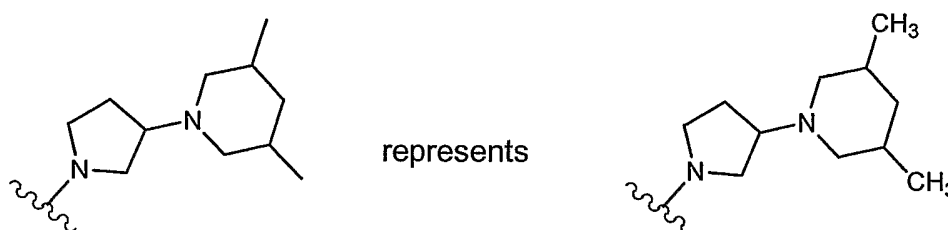
25 "Oxo" is defined as a oxygen atom that is double bonded to a ring carbon in a cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocyclyl, or heterocyclenyl ring, e.g.,



In this specification, where there are multiple oxygen and/or sulfur atoms in a ring system, there cannot be any adjacent oxygen and/or sulfur present in said ring system.

It is noted that the carbon atoms for formula I may be replaced with 1 to 3 silicon atoms so long as all valency requirements are satisfied.

As well known in the art, a bond drawn from a particular atom wherein no moiety is depicted at the terminal end of the bond indicates a methyl group bound through that bond to the atom, unless stated otherwise. For example:



It should also be noted that any heteroatom with unsatisfied valences in the text, schemes, examples, structural formulae, and any Tables herein is assumed to have the hydrogen atom or atoms to satisfy the valences.

Those skilled in the art will recognize that certain compounds of formula I are tautomeric, and all such tautomeric forms are contemplated herein as part of the present invention.

When R^{21} and R^{22} , are, for example, $-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$ and R^{15} and R^{16}

form a ring, the moiety formed, is, for example,

Prodrugs and solvates of the compounds of the invention are also contemplated herein. The term "prodrug", as employed herein, denotes a compound that is a drug precursor which, upon administration to a subject, undergoes chemical conversion by metabolic or chemical processes to yield a compound of formula I or a salt and/or solvate thereof. A discussion of prodrugs is provided in T. Higuchi and V. Stella, *Pro-drugs as Novel Delivery Systems* (1987) Volume 14 of the A.C.S. Symposium Series, and in *Bioreversible Carriers in Drug Design*, (1987) Edward B. Roche, ed., American Pharmaceutical Association and Pergamon Press, both of which are incorporated herein by reference thereto.

For example, if a compound of Formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate or solvate of the compound contains a carboxylic acid functional group, a prodrug can comprise an ester formed by the replacement of the hydrogen atom of the acid group with a group such as, for example, (C₁-C₈)alkyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkanoyloxymethyl, 1-(alkanoyloxy)ethyl having from 4 to 9 carbon atoms, 1-methyl-1-(alkanoyloxy)-ethyl having from 5 to 10 carbon atoms, alkoxy-carbonyloxymethyl having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms, 1-(alkoxy-carbonyloxy)ethyl having from 4 to 7 carbon atoms, 1-methyl-1-(alkoxy-carbonyloxy)ethyl having from 5 to 8 carbon atoms, N-(alkoxy-carbonyl)aminomethyl having from 3 to 9 carbon atoms, 1-(N-(alkoxy-carbonyl)amino)ethyl having from 4 to 10 carbon atoms, 3-phthalidyl, 4-crotonolactonyl, gamma-butyrolacton-4-yl, di-N,N-(C₁-C₂)alkylamino(C₂-C₃)alkyl (such as β -dimethylaminoethyl), carbamoyl-(C₁-C₂)alkyl, N,N-di (C₁-C₂)alkylcarbamoyl-(C₁-C₂)alkyl and piperidino-, pyrrolidino- or morpholino(C₂-C₃)alkyl, and the like.

Similarly, if a compound of Formula (I) contains an alcohol functional group, a prodrug can be formed by the replacement of the hydrogen atom of the alcohol group with a group such as, for example, (C₁-C₆)alkanoyloxymethyl, 1-((C₁-C₆)alkanoyloxy)ethyl, 1-methyl-1-((C₁-C₆)alkanoyloxy)ethyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy-carbonyloxymethyl, N-(C₁-C₆)alkoxy-carbonylaminomethyl, succinoyl, (C₁-C₆)alkanoyl, α -amino(C₁-C₄)alkanyl, arylacyl and α -aminoacyl, or α -aminoacyl- α -aminoacyl, where each α -aminoacyl group is independently selected from the naturally occurring L-amino acids, P(O)(OH)₂, -P(O)(O(C₁-C₆)alkyl)₂ or glycosyl (the radical resulting from the removal of a hydroxyl group of the hemiacetal form of a carbohydrate), and the like.

If a compound of Formula (I) incorporates an amine functional group, a prodrug can be formed by the replacement of a hydrogen atom in the amine group with a group such as, for example, R-carbonyl, RO-carbonyl, NRR'-carbonyl where R and R' are each independently (C₁-C₁₀)alkyl, (C₃-C₇) cycloalkyl, benzyl, or R-carbonyl is a natural α -aminoacyl or natural α -aminoacyl, —C(OH)C(O)OY¹ wherein Y¹ is H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl or benzyl, —C(OY²)Y³ wherein Y² is (C₁-C₄) alkyl and Y³ is (C₁-C₆)alkyl, carboxy (C₁-C₆)alkyl, amino(C₁-C₄)alkyl or mono-N— or di-N,N-(C₁-C₆)alkylaminoalkyl, —C(Y⁴)Y⁵ wherein Y⁴ is H or methyl and Y⁵ is mono-N— or di-N,N-(C₁-C₆)alkylamino morpholino, piperidin-1-yl or pyrrolidin-1-yl, and the like.

The compounds of formula I may exist in unsolvated as well as solvated forms. "Solvate" means a physical association of a compound of this invention with one or more solvent molecules. This physical association involves varying degrees of ionic and covalent bonding, including hydrogen bonding. In certain instances the solvate will be capable of isolation, for example when one or more solvent molecules are incorporated in the crystal lattice of the crystalline solid. "Solvate" encompasses both solution-phase and isolatable solvates. Non-limiting examples of suitable solvates include ethanulates, methanulates, and the like. "Hydrate" is a solvate wherein the solvent molecule is H₂O.

"Effective amount" or "therapeutically effective amount" is meant to describe an amount of compound or a composition of the present invention effective in inhibiting aspartyl protease and/or inhibiting BACE-1 and thus producing the desired therapeutic effect in a suitable patient.

The compounds of formula I form salts which are also within the scope of this invention. Reference to a compound of formula I herein is understood to include reference to salts thereof, unless otherwise indicated. The term "salt(s)", as employed herein, denotes acidic salts formed with inorganic and/or organic acids, as well as basic salts formed with inorganic and/or organic bases. In addition, when a compound of formula I contains both a basic moiety, such as, but not limited to a pyridine or imidazole, and an acidic moiety, such as, but not limited to a carboxylic acid, zwitterions ("inner salts") may be formed and are included within the term "salt(s)" as used herein. Pharmaceutically acceptable (i.e., non-toxic, physiologically acceptable) salts are preferred, although other salts are also useful. Salts of the compounds of the formula I may be formed, for example, by reacting a compound of formula I with an amount of acid or base, such as an equivalent amount, in a medium such as one in which the salt precipitates or in an aqueous medium followed by lyophilization. Acids (and bases) which are generally considered suitable for the formation of pharmaceutically useful salts from basic (or acidic) pharmaceutical compounds are discussed, for example, by S. Berge *et al*, *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* (1977) 66(1) 1-19; P. Gould, *International J. of Pharmaceutics* (1986) 33 201-217; Anderson *et al*, *The Practice of Medicinal Chemistry* (1996), Academic Press, New York; in *The Orange Book* (Food & Drug Administration, Washington, D.C. on their website); and P. Heinrich Stahl, Camille G. Wermuth (Eds.), *Handbook of Pharmaceutical Salts:*

Properties, Selection, and Use, (2002) Int'l. Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, pp. 330-331. These disclosures are incorporated herein by reference thereto.

Exemplary acid addition salts include acetates, adipates, alginates, ascorbates, aspartates, benzoates, benzenesulfonates, bisulfates, borates, butyrates, citrates, camphorates, camphorsulfonates, cyclopentanepropionates, digluconates, dodecylsulfates, ethanesulfonates, fumarates, glucoheptanoates, glycerophosphates, hemisulfates, heptanoates, hexanoates, hydrochlorides, hydrobromides, hydroiodides, 2-hydroxyethanesulfonates, lactates, maleates, methanesulfonates, methyl sulfates, 2-naphthalenesulfonates, nicotines, nitrates, oxalates, pamoates, pectinates, persulfates, 3-phenylpropionates, phosphates, picrates, pivalates, propionates, salicylates, succinates, sulfates, sulfonates (such as those mentioned herein), tartarates, thiocyanates, toluenesulfonates (also known as tosylates,) undecanoates, and the like.

Exemplary basic salts include ammonium salts, alkali metal salts such as sodium, lithium, and potassium salts, alkaline earth metal salts such as calcium and magnesium salts, aluminum salts, zinc salts, salts with organic bases (for example, organic amines) such as benzathines, diethylamine, dicyclohexylamines, hydrabamines (formed with N,N-bis(dehydroabietyl)ethylenediamine), N-methyl-D-glucamines, N-methyl-D-glucamides, t-butyl amines, piperazine, phenylcyclohexylamine, choline, tromethamine, and salts with amino acids such as arginine, lysine and the like. Basic nitrogen-containing groups may be quarternized with agents such as lower alkyl halides (e.g. methyl, ethyl, propyl, and butyl chlorides, bromides and iodides), dialkyl sulfates (e.g. dimethyl, diethyl, dibutyl, and diamyl sulfates), long chain halides (e.g. decyl, lauryl, myristyl and stearyl chlorides, bromides and iodides), aralkyl halides (e.g. benzyl and phenethyl bromides), and others.

All such acid salts and base salts are intended to be pharmaceutically acceptable salts within the scope of the invention and all acid and base salts are considered equivalent to the free forms of the corresponding compounds for purposes of the invention.

All stereoisomers (for example, geometric isomers, optical isomers and the like) of the present compounds (including those of the salts, solvates and prodrugs of the compounds as well as the salts and solvates of the prodrugs), such as those which may exist due to asymmetric carbons on various substituents, including

enantiomeric forms (which may exist even in the absence of asymmetric carbons), rotameric forms, atropisomers, and diastereomeric forms, are contemplated within the scope of this invention. For example, if a compound of Formula (I) incorporates a double bond or a fused ring, both the cis- and trans-forms, as well as mixtures, are embraced within the scope of the invention. Individual stereoisomers of the compounds of the invention may, for example, be substantially free of other isomers, or may be admixed, for example, as racemates or with all other, or other selected, stereoisomers. The chiral centers of the present invention can have the S or R configuration as defined by the *IUPAC* 1974 Recommendations. The use of the terms "salt", "solvate" "prodrug" and the like, is intended to equally apply to the salt, solvate and prodrug of enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates or prodrugs of the inventive compounds.

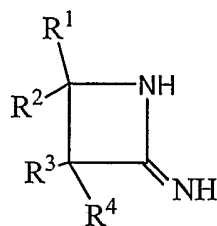
Diastereomeric mixtures can be separated into their individual diastereomers on the basis of their physical chemical differences by methods well known to those skilled in the art, such as, for example, by chromatography and/or fractional crystallization. Enantiomers can be separated by converting the enantiomeric mixture into a diastereomeric mixture by reaction with an appropriate optically active compound (e.g., chiral auxiliary such as a chiral alcohol or Mosher's acid chloride), separating the diastereomers and converting (e.g., hydrolyzing) the individual diastereomers to the corresponding pure enantiomers. Also, some of the compounds of Formula (I) may be atropisomers (e.g., substituted biaryls) and are considered as part of this invention. Enantiomers can also be separated by use of chiral HPLC column.

Polymorphic forms of the compounds of formula I, and of the salts, solvates and prodrugs of the compounds of formula I, are intended to be included in the present invention

The present invention also embraces isotopically-labelled compounds of the present invention which are identical to those recited herein, but for the fact that one or more atoms are replaced by an atom having an atomic mass or mass number different from the atomic mass or mass number usually found in nature. Examples of isotopes that can be incorporated into compounds of the invention include isotopes of hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, fluorine and chlorine, such as ^2H , ^3H , ^{13}C , ^{14}C , ^{15}N , ^{18}O , ^{17}O , ^{31}P , ^{32}P , ^{35}S , ^{18}F , and ^{36}Cl , respectively.

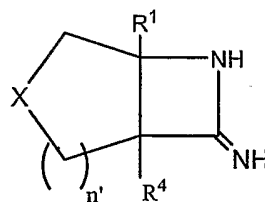
Certain isotopically-labelled compounds of Formula (I) (e.g., those labeled with ^3H and ^{14}C) are useful in compound and/or substrate tissue distribution assays.

27



IB

Another preferred embodiment is a compound of formula:



IC

5

where

X is $-N(R^{14})-$ or $-CH(R^{14})-$,

n' is 1 or 2

and the remaining variable are defined above.

10

Preferred groups for R^5 are H or $-OH$.

Compounds of formula I can be made using procedures known in the art.

Preparative methods for preparing starting materials and compounds of formula I are show below as general reaction schemes, but those skilled in the art will recognize that other procedures can also be suitable. In the Schemes below, the following

15

abbreviations are used:

methyl: Me; ethyl: Et; propyl: Pr; butyl: Bu; benzyl: Bn; tertiary butyloxycarbonyl:

Boc or BOC

(diethylamino)sulfur trifluoride: DAST

2,4-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3,2,4-dithiadiphosphetane-

20

2,4-disulfide: Lawesson's reagent.

1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride: EDCI

benzyloxycarbonyl: CBZ

lithium diisopropylamide: LDA

triethyl amine: Et_3N

25

n-butyllithium: n-BuLi;

tetrabutylammonium fluoride: TBAF

protecting group: PG

All NMR data is collected on 400 MHz NMR spectrometers unless otherwise indicated. LC-Electrospray-Mass spectroscopy with a C-18 column and 5% to 95%
5 MeCN in water as the mobile phase is used to determine the molecular mass and retention time.

For the synthesis of any particular compound, one skilled in the art will recognize that the use of protection groups may be required. A description of suitable protecting groups may be found in "Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis", 3rd Ed.,
10 John Wiley and Sons, New York (1999) by T.W. Greene

In general, the compounds in the invention may be produced by processes known to those skilled in the art and by known processes analogous thereto. The following reaction schemes serve as examples of these processes. The reaction schemes described below to prepare specific embodiments. One
15 skilled in the art will recognize that reagents and solvents actually used may be selected from several reagents and solvents well known in the art to be effective equivalents. Hence, when a specific solvent or reagent is mentioned, it is meant to be an illustrative example of the conditions desirable for that particular reaction scheme and in the preparations and examples described below.

20

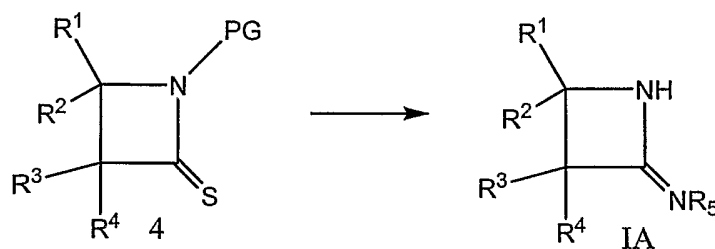
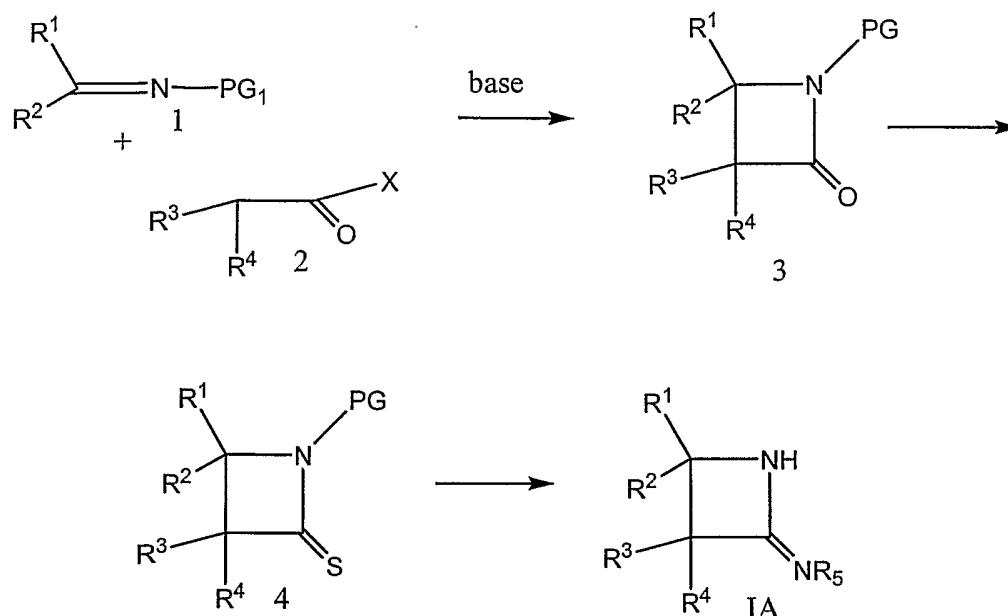
General Methods of Preparing Compounds of Formula I

In the following reaction scheme, each variable may be any moiety within that variable's definition.

The compounds of formula IA may be prepared according to Reaction Scheme
25 I. Compound 1, where PG₁ is an imine protecting group is reacted with compound 2, where X is a leaving group such as -OCH₃ or a halide, such as chloride, in the presence of base, such as LDA or Et₃N to give a compound of formula 3. Reacting compounds of formula 3 with Lawesson's reagent or P₂S₅ provides thioamide 4, which can be converted into compounds of formula IA by reacting 4 with H₂O₂/R⁵NH₂
30 or by reacting 4 with methyl iodide followed by oxidation (H₂O₂) and reaction with an amine R⁵NH₂ (see *J. Chem Soc. Chem. Comm.*, 15, 818-19 (1983)).

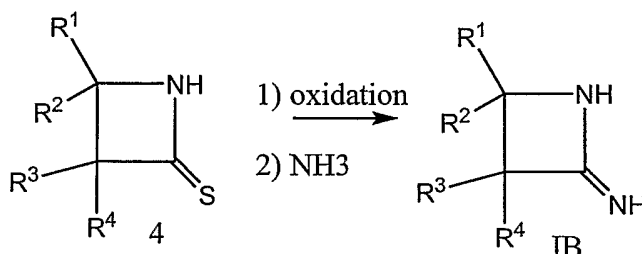
Reaction Scheme 1

29



Compounds of formula IB can be prepared by Reaction Scheme 2 by treating
 5 compound 4 with an oxidant such as H₂O₂ and treatment with an amine such as ammonia.

Reaction Scheme 2

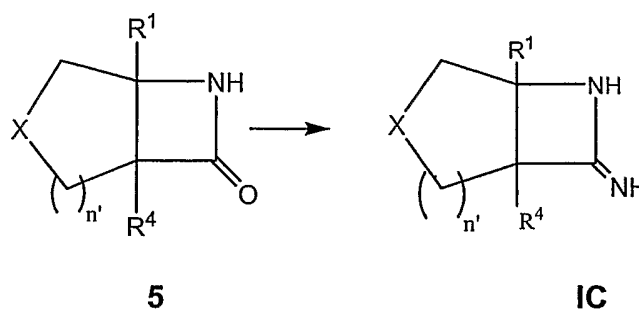


10

The compounds of formula IC may be prepared according to Reaction Scheme
 3/ Compound 5, may be prepared by modifying the procedures described in the
Journal of Organic Chemistry (2003), 68(4), 1207-1215) Compound 5 can be
 15 converted into compounds 1C using the procedures described above to prepare
 compounds 1A and 1B.

Reaction Scheme 3

30



where,

X is $-N(R^{14})-$ or $-CH(R^{14})-$,

5 n' is 1 or 2

and the remaining variable are defined above.

The following assays may be used to evaluate the biological properties of the inventive compounds.

Human Cathepsin D FRET assay.

10 The substrate discussed below below is described (Y.Yasuda et al., J. Biochem. , 125, 1137 (1999)). Substrate and enzyme are commercially available. A Km of 4 μ M was determined for the substrate below under the assay conditions described and is consistent with Yasuda et al.

15 The assay is run in a 30ul final volume using a 384 well Nunc black plate. 8 concentrations of compound are pre-incubated with enzyme for 30mins at 37C followed by addition of substrate with continued incubation at 37C for 45 mins. The rate of increase in fluorescence is linear for over 1h and is measured at the end of the incubation period using a Molecular Devices FLEX station plate reader. Kis are interpolated from the IC50s using a Km value of 4 μ M and the substrate concentration of 2.5 μ M.

20

Reagents

Na-Acetate pH 5

1% Brij-35 from 10% stock (Calbiochem)

DMSO

25 Purified (>95%) human liver Cathepsin D (Athens Research & Technology Cat# 16-12-030104)

Peptide substrate(Km=4 μ M) Bachem Cat # M-2455

Pepstatin is used as a control inhibitor (Ki~0.5nM) and is available from Sigma.

Nunc 384 well black plates

Final Assay buffer conditions

30 100mM Na Acetate pH 5.0

0.02% Brij-35

1% DMSO

Compound is diluted to 3x final concentration in assay buffer containing 3% DMSO.
5 10ul of compound is added to 10ul of 2.25nM enzyme(3x) diluted in assay buffer without DMSO, mixed briefly, spun, and incubated at 37C for 30mins. 3x substrate (7.5uM) is prepared in 1x assay buffer without DMSO. 10ul of substrate is added to each well mixed and spun briefly to initiate the reaction. Assay plates are incubated at 37 C for 45mins and read on 384 compatible fluorescence plate reader using a
10 328nm Ex and 393nm Em.

BACE-1 Cloning, Protein Expression and Purification.

A predicted soluble form of human BACE1 (sBACE1, corresponding to amino acids 1-454) is generated from the full length BACE1 cDNA (full length human BACE1 cDNA in pCDNA4/mycHisA construct; University of Toronto) by PCR using the
15 advantage-GC cDNA PCR kit (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA). A HindIII/PmeI fragment from pCDNA4-sBACE1myc/His is blunt ended using Klenow and subcloned into the Stu I site of pFASTBACI(A) (Invitrogen). A sBACE1mycHis recombinant bacmid is generated by transposition in DH10Bac cells(GIBCO/BRL). Subsequently, the sBACE1mycHis bacmid construct is transfected into sf9 cells using CellFectin
20 (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA) in order to generate recombinant baculovirus. Sf9 cells are grown in SF 900-II medium (Invitrogen) supplemented with 3% heat inactivated FBS and 0.5X penicillin/streptomycin solution (Invitrogen). Five milliliters of high titer plaque purified sBACEmyc/His virus is used to infect 1L of logarithmically growing sf9 cells for 72 hours. Intact cells are pelleted by centrifugation at 3000xg for 15 minutes.
25 The supernatant, containing secreted sBACE1, is collected and diluted 50% v/v with 100 mM HEPES, pH 8.0. The diluted medium is loaded onto a Q-sepharose column. The Q-sepharose column is washed with Buffer A (20 mM HEPES, pH 8.0, 50 mM NaCl).

Proteins are eluted from the Q-sepharose column with Buffer B (20 mM
30 HEPES, pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl). The protein peaks from the Q-sepharose column are pooled and loaded onto a Ni-NTA agarose column. The Ni-NTA column is then washed with Buffer C (20 mM HEPES, pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl). Bound proteins are then eluted with Buffer D (Buffer C+250 mM imidazole). Peak protein fractions as determined by the Bradford Assay (Biorad, CA) are concentrated using a Centricon

30 concentrator (Millipore). sBACE1 purity is estimated to be ~90% as assessed by SDS-PAGE and Commassie Blue staining. N-terminal sequencing indicated that greater than 90% of the purified sBACE1 contained the prodomain; hence this protein is referred to as sproBACE1.

5

Peptide Hydrolysis Assay.

The inhibitor, 25 nM EuK-biotin labeled APP_{sw} substrate (EuK-KTEEISEVNLDAEFRHDKC-biotin; CIS-Bio International, France), 5 μM unlabeled APP_{sw} peptide (KTEEISEVNLDAEFRHDK; American Peptide Company, Sunnyvale, CA), 7 nM sproBACE1, 20 mM PIPES pH 5.0, 0.1%Brij-35 (protein grade,
10 Calbiochem, San Diego, CA), and 10% glycerol are preincubated for 30 min at 30°C. Reactions are initiated by addition of substrate in a 5 μl aliquot resulting in a total volume of 25 μl. After 3 hr at 30° C reactions are terminated by addition of an equal volume of 2x stop buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 0.5 M KF, 0.001% Brij-35,
15 20 μg/ml SA-XL665 (cross-linked allophycocyanin protein coupled to streptavidin; CIS-Bio International, France) (0.5 μg/well). Plates are shaken briefly and spun at 1200xg for 10 seconds to pellet all liquid to the bottom of the plate before the incubation. HTRF measurements are made on a Packard Discovery® HTRF plate reader using 337 nm laser light to excite the sample followed by a 50 μs delay and simultaneous measurements of both 620 nm and 665 nm emissions for 400 μs.

20

IC₅₀ determinations for inhibitors, (*I*), are determined by measuring the percent change of the relative fluorescence at 665 nm divided by the relative fluorescence at 620 nm, (665/620 ratio), in the presence of varying concentrations of *I* and a fixed concentration of enzyme and substrate. Nonlinear regression analysis of these data is performed using GraphPad Prism 3.0 software selecting four parameter logistic
25 equation, that allows for a variable slope. $Y = \text{Bottom} + (\text{Top} - \text{Bottom}) / (1 + 10^{((\text{LogEC}_{50} - X) * \text{Hill Slope}))}$; X is the logarithm of concentration of *I*, Y is the percent change in ratio and Y starts at bottom and goes to top with a sigmoid shape.

Human mature Renin enzyme assay:

Human Renin is cloned from a human kidney cDNA library and C-terminally epitope-tagged with the V5-6His sequence into pCDNA3.1. pCND3.1-Renin-V5-6His is
30 stably expressed in HEK293 cells and purified to >80% using standard Ni-Affinity chromatography. The prodomain of the recombinant human renin-V5-6His is removed by limited proteolysis using immobilized TPCK-trypsin to give mature-human

renin. Renin enzymatic activity is monitored using a commercially available fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) peptide substrate, RS-1 (Molecular Probes, Eugene, OR) in 50mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 100mM NaCl, 0.1%Brij-35 and 5% DMSO buffer for 40mins at 30 degrees celsius in the presence or absence of different concentrations of test compounds. Mature human Renin is present at approximately 200nM. Inhibitory activity is defined as the percent decrease in renin induced fluorescence at the end of the 40min incubation compared to vehicle controls and samples lacking enzyme.

In the aspect of the invention relating to a combination of a compound of formula I with a cholinesterase inhibitor, acetyl- and/or butyrylcholinesterase inhibitors can be used. Examples of cholinesterase inhibitors are tacrine, donepezil, rivastigmine, galantamine, pyridostigmine and neostigmine, with tacrine, donepezil, rivastigmine and galantamine being preferred.

In the aspect of the invention relating to a combination of a compound of formula I with a muscarinic antagonist, m_1 or m_2 antagonists can be used. Examples of m_1 antagonists are known in the art. Examples of m_2 antagonists are also known in the art; in particular, m_2 antagonists are disclosed in US patents 5,883,096; 6,037,352; 5,889,006; 6,043,255; 5,952,349; 5,935,958; 6,066,636; 5,977,138; 6,294,554; 6,043,255; and 6,458,812; and in WO 03/031412, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Other example of pharmaceutical agents include beta secretase inhibitors; HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, such as atorvastatin, lovastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, fluvastatin and rosuvastatin; non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, such as ibuprofen, N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor antagonists, such as memantine, anti-amyloid antibodies including humanized monoclonal antibodies; vitamin E; nicotinic acetylcholine receptor agonists; CB1 receptor inverse agonists or CB1 receptor antagonists; antibiotics, e.g., docycycline; growth hormone secretagogues; histamine H3 antagonists; AMPA agonists; PDE4 inhibitors; GABA_A inverse agonists; inhibitors of amyloid aggregation; glycogen synthase kinase beta inhibitors; promoters of alpha secretase activity, and cholesterol absorption inhibitors, e.g., bile sequestrants azetidiones, such as ezetimibe (ZETIA).

For preparing pharmaceutical compositions from the compounds described by this invention, inert, pharmaceutically acceptable carriers can be either solid or liquid. Solid form preparations include powders, tablets, dispersible granules, capsules,

cachets and suppositories. The powders and tablets may be comprised of from about 5 to about 95 percent active ingredient. Suitable solid carriers are known in the art, e.g. magnesium carbonate, magnesium stearate, talc, sugar or lactose. Tablets, powders, cachets and capsules can be used as solid dosage forms suitable for oral administration. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and methods of manufacture for various compositions may be found in A. Gennaro (ed.), Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th Edition, (1990), Mack Publishing Co., Easton, Pennsylvania.

Liquid form preparations include solutions, suspensions and emulsions. As an example may be mentioned water or water-propylene glycol solutions for parenteral injection or addition of sweeteners and opacifiers for oral solutions, suspensions and emulsions. Liquid form preparations may also include solutions for intranasal administration.

Aerosol preparations suitable for inhalation may include solutions and solids in powder form, which may be in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, such as an inert compressed gas, e.g. nitrogen.

Also included are solid form preparations which are intended to be converted, shortly before use, to liquid form preparations for either oral or parenteral administration. Such liquid forms include solutions, suspensions and emulsions.

The compounds of the invention may also be deliverable transdermally. The transdermal compositions can take the form of creams, lotions, aerosols and/or emulsions and can be included in a transdermal patch of the matrix or reservoir type as are conventional in the art for this purpose.

Preferably the compound is administered orally.

Preferably, the pharmaceutical preparation is in a unit dosage form. In such form, the preparation is subdivided into suitably sized unit doses containing appropriate quantities of the active component, e.g., an effective amount to achieve the desired purpose.

The quantity of active compound in a unit dose of preparation may be varied or adjusted from about 1 mg to about 100 mg, preferably from about 1 mg to about 50 mg, more preferably from about 1 mg to about 25 mg, according to the particular application.

The actual dosage employed may be varied depending upon the requirements of the patient and the severity of the condition being treated. Determination of the

proper dosage regimen for a particular situation is within the skill of the art. For convenience, the total daily dosage may be divided and administered in portions during the day as required.

5 The amount and frequency of administration of the compounds of the invention and/or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof will be regulated according to the judgment of the attending clinician considering such factors as age, condition and size of the patient as well as severity of the symptoms being treated. A typical recommended daily dosage regimen for oral administration can range from about 1 mg/day to about 300 mg/day, preferably 1 mg/day to 50 mg/day, in two to four divided
10 doses.

Some useful terms are described below:

Capsule - refers to a special container or enclosure made of methyl cellulose, polyvinyl alcohols, or denatured gelatins or starch for holding or containing compositions comprising the active ingredients. Hard shell capsules are typically
15 made of blends of relatively high gel strength bone and pork skin gelatins. The capsule itself may contain small amounts of dyes, opaquing agents, plasticizers and preservatives.

Tablet- refers to a compressed or molded solid dosage form containing the active ingredients with suitable diluents. The tablet can be prepared by compression
20 of mixtures or granulations obtained by wet granulation, dry granulation or by compaction.

Oral gels- refers to the active ingredients dispersed or solubilized in a hydrophillic semi-solid matrix.

Powders for constitution - refers to powder blends containing the active
25 ingredients and suitable diluents which can be suspended in water or juices.

Diluent - refers to substances that usually make up the major portion of the composition or dosage form. Suitable diluents include sugars such as lactose, sucrose, mannitol and sorbitol; starches derived from wheat, corn, rice and potato; and celluloses such as microcrystalline cellulose. The amount of diluent in the
30 composition can range from about 10 to about 90% by weight of the total composition, preferably from about 25 to about 75%, more preferably from about 30 to about 60% by weight, even more preferably from about 12 to about 60%.

Disintegrants - refers to materials added to the composition to help it break apart (disintegrate) and release the medicaments. Suitable disintegrants include

starches; "cold water soluble" modified starches such as sodium carboxymethyl starch; natural and synthetic gums such as locust bean, karaya, guar, tragacanth and agar; cellulose derivatives such as methylcellulose and sodium carboxymethylcellulose; microcrystalline celluloses and cross-linked microcrystalline celluloses such as sodium croscarmellose; alginates such as alginic acid and sodium alginate; clays such as bentonites; and effervescent mixtures. The amount of disintegrant in the composition can range from about 2 to about 15% by weight of the composition, more preferably from about 4 to about 10% by weight.

Binders - refers to substances that bind or "glue" powders together and make them cohesive by forming granules, thus serving as the "adhesive" in the formulation. Binders add cohesive strength already available in the diluent or bulking agent. Suitable binders include sugars such as sucrose; starches derived from wheat, corn rice and potato; natural gums such as acacia, gelatin and tragacanth; derivatives of seaweed such as alginic acid, sodium alginate and ammonium calcium alginate; cellulosic materials such as methylcellulose and sodium carboxymethylcellulose and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose; polyvinylpyrrolidone; and inorganics such as magnesium aluminum silicate. The amount of binder in the composition can range from about 2 to about 20% by weight of the composition, more preferably from about 3 to about 10% by weight, even more preferably from about 3 to about 6% by weight.

Lubricant - refers to a substance added to the dosage form to enable the tablet, granules, etc. after it has been compressed, to release from the mold or die by reducing friction or wear. Suitable lubricants include metallic stearates such as magnesium stearate, calcium stearate or potassium stearate; stearic acid; high melting point waxes; and water soluble lubricants such as sodium chloride, sodium benzoate, sodium acetate, sodium oleate, polyethylene glycols and d'l-leucine. Lubricants are usually added at the very last step before compression, since they must be present on the surfaces of the granules and in between them and the parts of the tablet press. The amount of lubricant in the composition can range from about 0.2 to about 5% by weight of the composition, preferably from about 0.5 to about 2%, more preferably from about 0.3 to about 1.5% by weight.

Glidants - materials that prevent caking and improve the flow characteristics of granulations, so that flow is smooth and uniform. Suitable glidants include silicon dioxide and talc. The amount of glident in the composition can range from about

0.1% to about 5% by weight of the total composition, preferably from about 0.5 to about 2% by weight.

Coloring agents - excipients that provide coloration to the composition or the dosage form. Such excipients can include food grade dyes and food grade dyes adsorbed onto a suitable adsorbent such as clay or aluminum oxide. The amount of the coloring agent can vary from about 0.1 to about 5% by weight of the composition, preferably from about 0.1 to about 1%.

Bioavailability - refers to the rate and extent to which the active drug ingredient or therapeutic moiety is absorbed into the systemic circulation from an administered dosage form as compared to a standard or control. Conventional methods for preparing tablets are known. Such methods include dry methods such as direct compression and compression of granulation produced by compaction, or wet methods or other special procedures. Conventional methods for making other forms for administration such as, for example, capsules, suppositories and the like are also well known.

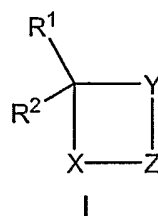
When a compound of formula I is used in combination with a cholinesterase inhibitor to treat cognitive disorders, these two active components may be co-administered simultaneously or sequentially, or a single pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I and a cholinesterase inhibitor in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier can be administered. The components of the combination can be administered individually or together in any conventional oral or parenteral dosage form such as capsule, tablet, powder, cachet, suspension, solution, suppository, nasal spray, etc. The dosage of the cholinesterase inhibitor can be determined from published material, and may range from 0.001 to 100 mg/kg body weight.

When separate pharmaceutical compositions of a compound of formula I and a cholinesterase inhibitor are to be administered, they can be provided in a kit comprising in a single package, one container comprising a compound of formula I in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and a separate container comprising a cholinesterase inhibitor in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, with the compound of formula I and the cholinesterase inhibitor being present in amounts such that the combination is therapeutically effective. A kit is advantageous for administering a combination when, for example, the components must be administered at different time intervals or when they are in different dosage forms.

While the present invention has been described in conjunction with the specific embodiments set forth above, many alternatives, modifications and variations thereof will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. All such alternatives, modifications and variations are intended to fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention.

We claim:

1. A compound having the structural formula
structural formula I



or a stereoisomer, tautomer, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof,
wherein,

X is $-C(R^3R^4)-$;

10 Y is $-N(R^5)-$;

Z is $-C(=N-R^5)-$;

and optionally:

15 (i) R^5 and R^1 may be joined together to form a 3- to 7-
membered heterocycl, heterocyclenyl, or heteroaryl ring having 1 to 4
heteroatoms independently selected from O, S, N and $-N(R)-$, wherein
said rings are optionally substituted with 1 to 5 independently selected
 R^{14} moieties and/or by oxo when said rings are heterocycl, or
heterocyclenyl; or

20 (ii) R^2 and R^3 may be joined together to form a 3- to 7-
membered cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycl, heterocyclalkenyl, aryl,
or heteroaryl ring having 0 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected
from O, S, N, or $-N(R)-$ wherein said ring are optionally substituted with 1
to 5 independently selected R^{14} moieties and/or by oxo when said rings
are cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycl, or heterocyclenyl; or

25 where

R is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl,
arylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl,
heteroarylalkyl, arylcycloalkyl, $-OR^{15}$, $-C(O)R^8$, $-C(O)OR^9$, $-S(O)R^{10}$, $-$
 $S(O)_2R^{10}$, $-C(O)N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-S(O)N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, or $-S(O)_2N(R^{11})(R^{12})$;

30 R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl,
arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, arylcycloalkylalkyl,

heteroarylcycloalkylalkyl, arylheterocycloalkylalkyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkyl, arylcycloalkyl, heteroarylcycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, arylheterocycloalkyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkyl, alkenyl, arylalkenyl, cycloalkenyl, arylcycloalkenyl, heteroarylcycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkenyl, arylheterocycloalkenyl,

5 heteroarylheterocycloalkenyl, alkynyl, arylalkynyl, aryl, cycloalkylaryl, heterocycloalkylaryl, heterocycloalkenylaryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkylheteroaryl, heterocycloalkylheteroaryl, cycloalkenylaryl, heterocycloalkenylaryl, $-OR^{15}$, $-CN$, $-C(O)R^8$, $-C(O)OR^9$, $-S(O)R^{10}$, $-S(O)_2R^{10}$, $-C(O)N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-S(O)N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-NO_2$, $-N=C(R^8)_2$ and $-N(R^8)_2$ provided that are not both selected
10 from the group consisting of $-NO_2$, $-N=C(R^8)_2$ and $-N(R^8)_2$;

or optionally R^1 and R^2 together form a 3- to 7-membered cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycyl, or heterocyclenyl ring having 0 to 4, preferably 0-2, heteroatoms independently selected from O, S, N and $-N(R)$ - wherein said ring is optionally substituted with 1 to 5 independently selected R^{14} moieties and/or
15 by oxo;

R^5 and R^5 are independently in each occurrence is selected from the group consisting of H, OH, $-NHR^1$, $-O$ -alkyl, alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl or $-CN$;

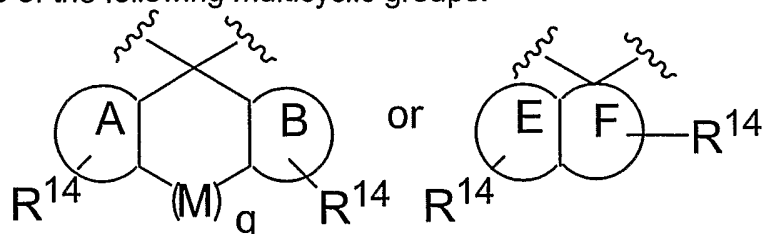
R^3 , and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, arylcycloalkylalkyl,
20 heteroarylcycloalkylalkyl, arylheterocycloalkylalkyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkyl, arylcycloalkyl, heteroarylcycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, arylheterocycloalkyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkyl, alkenyl, arylalkenyl, cycloalkenyl, arylcycloalkenyl, heteroarylcycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkenyl, arylheterocycloalkenyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkenyl, alkynyl, arylalkynyl, aryl, cycloalkylaryl,
25 heterocycloalkylaryl, heterocycloalkenylaryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkylheteroaryl, heterocycloalkylheteroaryl, cycloalkenylaryl, heterocycloalkenylaryl, heterocycloalkenylheteroaryl, halo, $-CH_2-O-Si(R^9)(R^{10})(R^{19})$, $-SH$, $-CN$, $-OR^9$, $-C(O)R^8$, $-C(O)OR^9$, $-C(O)N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-SR^{19}$, $-S(O)N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-N(R^{11})C(O)R^8$, $-N(R^{11})S(O)R^{10}$, $-N(R^{11})C(O)N(R^{12})(R^{13})$, $-N(R^{11})C(O)OR^9$ and $-C(=NOH)R^8$;
30

or optionally,

(i) R^3 and R^4 , together with the carbon to which they are attached, form: a) a 3 to 7 membered cycloalkyl ring optionally substituted by 1 to 5 R^{14}

moieties or (b) a 3 to 7 membered cycloalkylether group having one oxygen atom optionally substituted by 1 to 5 R^{14} moieties; or

(ii) R^3 and R^4 , together with the carbon to which they are attached, form one of the following multicyclic groups:



wherein:

M is independently $-(CH_2)-$, $-S-$, $-N(R^{19})-$, $-O-$, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, or $-C(O)-$;

q is 0, 1, or 2;

A and B are independently aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocyclyl;

E is aryl or heteroaryl; and

F is cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocyclyl or heterocyclenyl

provided that there are no adjacent oxygen and/or sulfur atoms present in the ring system;

R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, $-OR^{15}$, $-N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)_2R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)_2N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$ and $-N(R^{15})C(O)OR^{16}$;

R^9 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylalkyl;

R^{10} is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl and $-N(R^{15})(R^{16})$;

R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl,

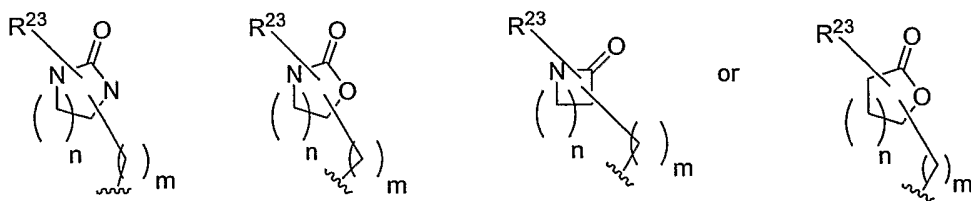
heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, $-C(O)R^8$, $-C(O)OR^9$, $-S(O)R^{10}$, $-S(O)_2R^{10}$, $-C(O)N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-S(O)N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{15})(R^{16})$ and $-CN$;

R^{14} is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl,
 5 aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, halo, $-CN$, $-OR^{15}$, $-C(O)R^{15}$, $-C(O)OR^{15}$, $-C(O)N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-SR^{15}$, $-S(O)N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-C(=NOR^{15})R^{16}$, $-P(O)(OR^{15})(OR^{16})$, $-N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)_2R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)_2N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$ and $-N(R^{15})C(O)OR^{16}$;

10 R^{15} , R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, arylcycloalkyl, arylheterocycloalkyl, R^{18} -alkyl, R^{18} -cycloalkyl, R^{18} -cycloalkylalkyl, R^{18} -heterocycloalkyl, R^{18} -heterocycloalkylalkyl, R^{18} -aryl, R^{18} -arylalkyl, R^{18} -heteroaryl and R^{18} -

15 heteroarylalkyl; or

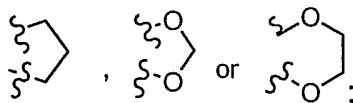
R^{15} , R^{16} and R^{17} are



wherein R^{23} numbers 0 to 5 substituents, m is 0 to 6 and n is 1 to 5;

R^{18} is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of
 20 alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, $-NO_2$, halo, heteroaryl, HO-alkoxyalkyl, $-CF_3$, $-CN$, alkyl-CN, $-C(O)R^{19}$, $-C(O)OH$, $-C(O)OR^{19}$, $-C(O)NHR^{20}$, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(O)NH_2-C(O)N(alkyl)_2$, $-C(O)N(alkyl)(aryl)$, $-C(O)N(alkyl)(heteroaryl)$, $-SR^{19}$, $-S(O)_2R^{20}$, $-S(O)NH_2$, $-S(O)NH(alkyl)$, $-S(O)N(alkyl)(alkyl)$, $-S(O)NH(aryl)$, $-S(O)_2NH_2$, $-S(O)_2NHR^{19}$, $-S(O)_2NH(heterocycloalkyl)$, $-S(O)_2N(alkyl)_2$,
 25 $-S(O)_2N(alkyl)(aryl)$, $-OCF_3$, $-OH$, $-OR^{20}$, $-O$ -heterocycloalkyl, $-O$ -cycloalkylalkyl, $-O$ -heterocycloalkylalkyl, $-NH_2$, $-NHR^{20}$, $-N(alkyl)_2$, $-N(arylalkyl)_2$, $-N(arylalkyl)$ -
 (heteroarylalkyl), $-NHC(O)R^{20}$, $-NHC(O)NH_2$, $-NHC(O)NH(alkyl)$,
 $-NHC(O)N(alkyl)(alkyl)$, $-N(alkyl)C(O)NH(alkyl)$, $-N(alkyl)C(O)N(alkyl)(alkyl)$,
 $-NHS(O)_2R^{20}$, $-NHS(O)_2NH(alkyl)$, $-NHS(O)_2N(alkyl)(alkyl)$, $-N(alkyl)S(O)_2NH(alkyl)$
 30 and $-N(alkyl)S(O)_2N(alkyl)(alkyl)$;

or two R¹⁸ moieties on adjacent carbons can be linked together to form



R¹⁹ is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl or heteroarylalkyl;

R²⁰ is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, halo substituted aryl, arylalkyl,

5 heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl;

and wherein:

i) each of the alkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl,
 heterocycloalkylalkyl, arylcycloalkylalkyl, heteroarylalkylalkyl,
 arylheterocycloalkylalkyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkyl,
 10 arylcycloalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl,
 arylheterocycloalkyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkyl, alkenyl, arylalkenyl,
 cycloalkenyl, arylcycloalkenyl, heteroarylalkylalkenyl,
 heterocycloalkenyl, arylheterocycloalkenyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkenyl,
 alkynyl, arylalkynyl, aryl, cycloalkylaryl, heterocycloalkylaryl,
 15 heterocycloalkenylaryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkylheteroaryl,
 heterocycloalkylheteroaryl, cycloalkenylaryl, heterocycloalkenylaryl, in
 R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ and

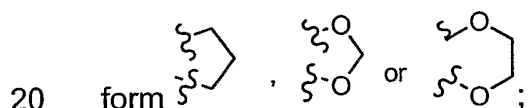
ii) each of the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl,
 20 cycloalkenyl, arylcycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl,
 arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups in R, R⁵,
 R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³ and R¹⁴

are independently unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 5 R²¹ groups independently

25 selected from the group consisting of alkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl,
 heterocycloalkylalkyl, arylcycloalkylalkyl, heteroarylalkylalkyl,
 arylheterocycloalkylalkyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkyl, arylcycloalkyl,
 heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, arylheterocycloalkyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkyl,
 alkenyl, arylalkenyl, cycloalkenyl, arylcycloalkenyl, heteroarylalkylalkenyl,
 30 heterocycloalkenyl, arylheterocycloalkenyl, heteroarylheterocycloalkenyl, alkynyl,
 arylalkynyl, aryl, cycloalkylaryl, heterocycloalkylaryl, heterocycloalkenylaryl, heteroaryl,
 cycloalkylheteroaryl, heterocycloalkylheteroaryl, cycloalkenylaryl,

heterocycloalkenylaryl, halo, $-CN$, $-OR^{15}$, $-C(O)R^{15}$, $-C(O)OR^{15}$, $-C(O)N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-SR^{15}$, $-S(O)N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-CH(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-C(=NOR^{15})R^{16}$, $-P(O)(OR^{15})(OR^{16})$, $-N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-alkyl-N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)R^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)R^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-CH_2-R^{15}$; $-CH_2N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)_2R^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})S(O)_2R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)_2N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)OR^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)OR^{16}$, $-S(O)R^{15}$, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$ and $-S(O)_2R^{15}$; and wherein each of the alkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups in R^{21} are independently unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 5 R^{22} groups independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halo, $-CF_3$, $-CN$, $-OR^{15}$, $-C(O)R^{15}$, $-C(O)OR^{15}$, $-alkyl-C(O)OR^{15}$, $C(O)N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-SR^{15}$, $-S(O)N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-C(=NOR^{15})R^{16}$, $-P(O)(OR^{15})(OR^{16})$, $-N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-alkyl-N(R^{15})(R^{16})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)R^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)_2R^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})S(O)_2R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)_2N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)OR^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)OR^{16}$, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-S(O)R^{15}$ and $-S(O)_2R^{15}$;

or two R^{21} or two R^{22} moieties on adjacent carbons can be linked together to



and when R^{21} or R^{22} are selected from the group consisting of $-C(=NOR^{15})R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)R^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)_2R^{16}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})S(O)_2R^{16}$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)_2N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})S(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)N(R^{16})(R^{17})$, $-N(R^{15})C(O)OR^{16}$ and $-CH_2-N(R^{15})C(O)OR^{16}$, R^{15} and R^{16} together can be a C_2 to C_4 chain wherein, optionally, one, two or three ring carbons can be replaced by $-C(O)-$ or $-N(H)-$ and R^{15} and R^{16} , together with the atoms to which they are attached, form a 5 to 7 membered ring, optionally substituted by R^{23} ;

R^{23} is 1 to 5 groups independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, halo, $-CN$, $-OR^{24}$, $-C(O)R^{24}$, $-C(O)OR^{24}$, $-C(O)N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-SR^{24}$, $-S(O)N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{24})(R^{25})$,

$-C(=NOR^{24})R^{25}$, $-P(O)(OR^{24})(OR^{25})$, $-N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-alkyl-N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-N(R^{24})C(O)R^{25}$,
 $-CH_2-N(R^{24})C(O)R^{25}$, $-N(R^{24})S(O)R^{25}$, $-N(R^{24})S(O)_2R^{25}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{24})S(O)_2R^{25}$,
 $-N(R^{24})S(O)_2N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, $-N(R^{24})S(O)N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, $-N(R^{24})C(O)N(R^{25})(R^{26})$,
 $-CH_2-N(R^{24})C(O)N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, $-N(R^{24})C(O)OR^{25}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{24})C(O)OR^{25}$, $-S(O)R^{24}$ and
5 $-S(O)_2R^{24}$; and wherein each of the alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl,
heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl
groups in R^{23} are independently unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 5 R^{27} groups
independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl,
aryl, heteroaryl, halo, $-CF_3$, $-CN$, $-OR^{24}$, $-C(O)R^{24}$, $-C(O)OR^{24}$, $alkyl-C(O)OR^{24}$,
10 $C(O)N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-SR^{24}$, $-S(O)N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-C(=NOR^{24})R^{25}$, $-$
 $P(O)(OR^{24})(OR^{25})$, $-N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-alkyl-N(R^{24})(R^{25})$, $-N(R^{24})C(O)R^{25}$, $-CH_2-$
 $N(R^{24})C(O)R^{25}$, $-N(R^{24})S(O)R^{25}$, $-N(R^{24})S(O)_2R^{25}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{24})S(O)_2R^{25}$, $-$
 $N(R^{24})S(O)_2N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, $-N(R^{24})S(O)N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, $-N(R^{24})C(O)N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, $-CH_2-$
 $N(R^{24})C(O)N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, $-N(R^{24})C(O)OR^{25}$, $-CH_2-N(R^{24})C(O)OR^{25}$, $-S(O)R^{24}$ and $-$
15 $S(O)_2R^{24}$;

R^{24} , R^{25} and R^{26} are independently selected from the group consisting of H,
alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl,
heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, arylcycloalkyl, $R^{27}-$
alkyl, R^{27} -cycloalkyl, R^{27} -cycloalkylalkyl, R^{27} -heterocycloalkyl, $R^{27}-$
20 heterocycloalkylalkyl, R^{27} -aryl, R^{27} -arylalkyl, R^{27} -heteroaryl and R^{27} -heteroarylalkyl;

R^{27} is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of
alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, $-NO_2$, halo, $-CF_3$, $-CN$, $alkyl-CN$, $-C(O)R^{28}$, $-$
 $C(O)OH$, $-C(O)OR^{28}$, $-C(O)NHR^{29}$, $-C(O)N(alkyl)_2$, $-C(O)N(alkyl)(aryl)$, $-$
 $C(O)N(alkyl)(heteroaryl)$, $-SR^{28}$, $-S(O)_2R^{29}$, $-S(O)NH_2$, $-S(O)NH(alkyl)$, $-$
25 $S(O)N(alkyl)(alkyl)$, $-S(O)NH(aryl)$, $-S(O)_2NH_2$, $-S(O)_2NHR^{28}$, $-S(O)_2NH(aryl)$, $-$
 $S(O)_2NH(heterocycloalkyl)$, $-S(O)_2N(alkyl)_2$,
 $-S(O)_2N(alkyl)(aryl)$, $-OH$, $-OR^{29}$, $-O-heterocycloalkyl$, $-O-cycloalkylalkyl$,
 $-O-heterocycloalkylalkyl$, $-NH_2$, $-NHR^{29}$, $-N(alkyl)_2$, $-N(arylalkyl)_2$,
 $-N(arylalkyl)(heteroarylalkyl)$, $-NHC(O)R^{29}$, $-NHC(O)NH_2$, $-NHC(O)NH(alkyl)$,
30 $-NHC(O)N(alkyl)(alkyl)$, $-N(alkyl)C(O)NH(alkyl)$, $-N(alkyl)C(O)N(alkyl)(alkyl)$,
 $-NHS(O)_2R^{29}$, $-NHS(O)_2NH(alkyl)$, $-NHS(O)_2N(alkyl)(alkyl)$, $-N(alkyl)S(O)_2NH(alkyl)$
and $-N(alkyl)S(O)_2N(alkyl)(alkyl)$;

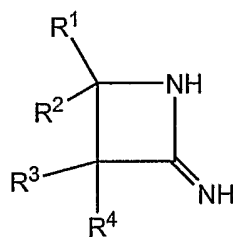
R^{28} is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl or heteroarylalkyl; and

46

R^{29} is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl.

2. A compound of claim 1 having one of the following formulae:

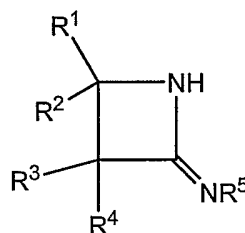
5



1B

3. A compound of claim 1 having the following structure:

10

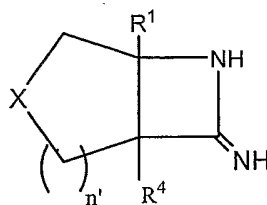


1A

wherein R^1 and R^4 are independently aryl and arylalkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 R^{14} groups.

15 4. A compound of claim 1 of the formula:

formula:



1C

where

20 X is $-N(R^{14})-$ or $-CH(R^{14})-$

n' is 1 or 2.

5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically effective carrier.
6. A method of inhibiting aspartyl protease comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the aspartyl protease is BACE.
8. A method of treating cardiovascular diseases, cognitive and neurodegenerative diseases in a patient in need thereof, which comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.
9. A method for inhibiting Human Immunodeficiency Virus, plasmepsins, cathepsin D renin and protozoal enzymes in a mammal, which comprises administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.
10. The method of claim 8 wherein a cognitive or neurodegenerative disease is treated.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein Alzheimer's disease is treated.
12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of claim 1, and an effective amount of a cholinesterase inhibitor, a muscarinic m_2 antagonist or a muscarinic m_1 agonist in a pharmaceutically effective carrier.
13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 and at least one secondA pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 and at least one second pharmaceutical agent selected from the group consisting of beta secretase inhibitors; gamma secretase inhibitors; HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors; non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents; N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor antagonists; anti-amyloid antibodies; vitamin E; nicotinic acetylcholine receptor agonists; CB1 receptor inverse agonists or CB1 receptor antagonists; an antibiotic; growth hormone secretagogues; histamine H3 antagonists; AMPA agonists; PDE4 inhibitors; GABA_A inverse agonists; inhibitors of

amyloid aggregation; glycogen synthase kinase beta inhibitors; promoters of alpha secretase activity or a cholesterol absorption inhibitor.

14. A method of treating a cognitive or neurodegenerative disease comprising
5 administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a
compound of claim 1 in combination with an effective amount of a cholinesterase
inhibitor.

15. A method of treating a cognitive or neurodegenerative disease comprising
10 administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a
compound of claim 1 in combination with an effective amount of a gamma-secretase
inhibitor.