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(71) **Demandeur/Applicant:**
AUSPHERIX LIMITED, GB

(72) **Inventeurs/Inventors:**
HOLMES, IAN, GB;
NAYLOR, ALAN, GB;
NEGOITA-GIRAS, GABRIEL, GB;
POWELL, JONATHAN, GB;
CHARLES, IAN, GB;
ALBER, DAGMAR, GB

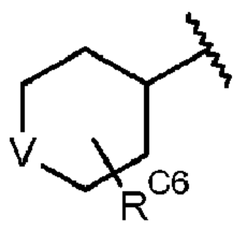
(74) **Agent:** BENOIT & COTE INC.

(54) **Titre : COMPOSES OR (I)-PHOSPHINE UTILISES COMME AGENTS ANTI-BACTERIENS**
(54) **Title: GOLD (I)-PHOSPHINE COMPOUNDS AS ANTI-BACTERIAL AGENTS**

(a)

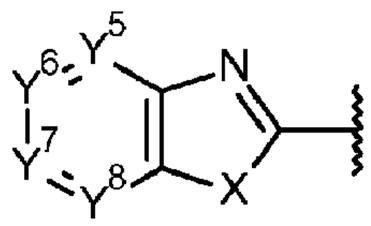
(A1)

(b)



(A2)

(c)



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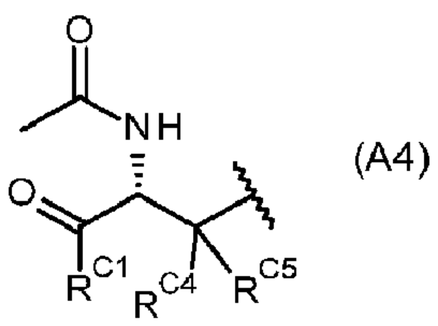

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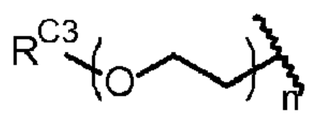

(A5)

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**
A compound of formula (I): for use in the prevention or treatment of a bacterial infection wherein: A is either S or Se; RA is selected from: wherein: each of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 is independently selected from CH or N, wherein at least three of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9

(21) **2 950 385**

(13) **A1**

(57) **Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):**
is CH; V is selected from O, CH-OR^{01}, N-CO_2-R^{C2} or N-R^{N2}; one of Y^5, Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 is selected from CH and N, and the others are CH; X is selected from NH, S or O; R^{C1} is selected from O-R^{O2} or NHR^{N1}; R^{O1} is selected from H and C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl; R^{O2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl; R^{N1} is selected from H and C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl; R^{N2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl; R^{C2} is either C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl or C_{3-4} branched alkyl; R^{C3} is selected from C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl and $C_2H_4CO_2H$; R^{C4} is either H or Me; R^{C5} is either H or Me; R^{C6} represents one or two optional methyl substituents; and n is an integer from 2 to 8.

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(71) **Applicant**: **AUSPHERIX LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst, Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 2FX (GB).

(72) **Inventors**: **HOLMES, Ian**; Auspherix Limited, Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst, Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 2FX (GB). **NAYLOR, Alan**; 1 Limekiln Close, Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9XP (GB). **NEGOITA-GIRAS, Gabriel**; Domainex Ltd, 162 Cambridge Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB4 0GH (GB). **POWELL, Jonathan**; Domainex Ltd, 162 Cambridge Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB4 0GH (GB). **CHARLES, Ian**; Institute of Food Research, Norwich Research Park, Norwich Norfolk NR4 7UA (GB). **ALBER, Dagmar**; Auspherix Limited, Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst, Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 2FX (GB).

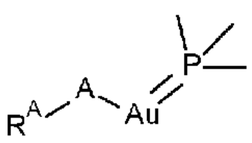
(74) **Agents**: **WATSON, Robert** et al.; Mewburn Ellis LLP, City Tower, 40 Basinghall Street, London Greater London EC2V 5DE (GB).

(81) **Designated States** *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC,

[Continued on next page]

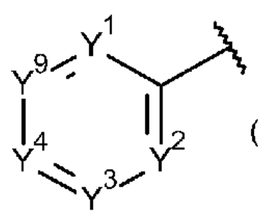
(54) **Title**: GOLD (I)-PHOSPHINE COMPOUNDS AS ANTI-BACTERIAL AGENTS

(57) **Abstract**: A compound of formula (I): for use in the prevention or treatment of a bacterial infection wherein: A is either S or Se; RA is selected from: wherein: each of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 is independently selected from CH or N, wherein at least three of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 is CH; V is selected from O, CH-OR^{01}, N-CO_2-R^{C2} or N-R^{N2}; one of Y^5, Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 is selected from CH and N, and the others are CH; X is selected from NH, S or O; R^{C1} is selected from O-R^{O2} or NHR^{N1}; R^{O1} is selected from H and C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl; R^{O2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl; R^{N1} is selected from H and C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl; R^{N2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl; R^{C2} is either C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl or C_{3-4} branched alkyl; R^{C3} is selected from C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl and $C_2H_4CO_2H$; R^{C4} is either H or Me; R^{C5} is either H or Me; R^{C6} represents one or two optional methyl substituents; and n is an integer from 2 to 8.



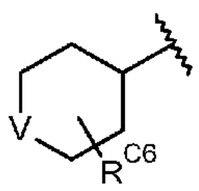
(I)

(a)



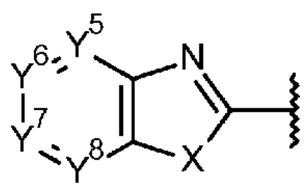
(A1)

(b)



(A2)

(c)



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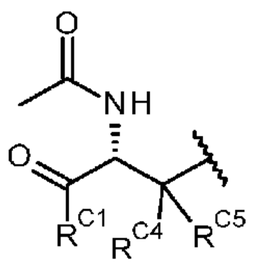
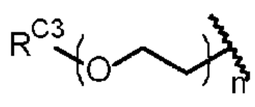
(d)



(A4)

(e)



(A5)

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SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

Published:

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

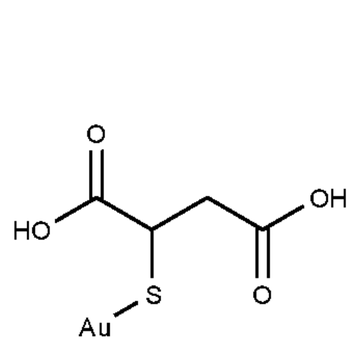
GOLD (I)-PHOSPHINE COMPOUNDS AS ANTI-BACTERIAL AGENTS

The present invention relates to gold (I)-phosphine compounds, and their use as inhibitors of growth of Gram-positive and/or Gram-negative bacteria. The present invention also relates to using such compounds for the prevention and/or treatment of bacterial infection.

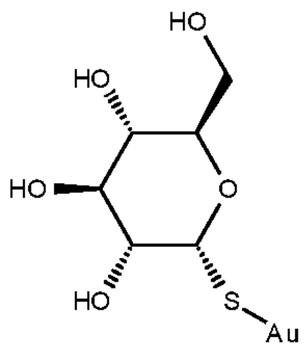
The global rise of bacteria and other microorganisms resistant to antibiotics and antimicrobials in general, poses a major threat. Deployment of massive quantities of antimicrobial agents into the human ecosphere during the past 60 years has introduced a powerful selective pressure for the emergence and spread of antimicrobial-resistant bacterial pathogens. The World Health Organization has highlighted antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as an issue of global concern in 2014. AMR is now present in all parts of the world with the incidence of antibiotic resistance (ABR) in bacteria that cause common infections (e.g. pneumonia, bloodstream infections and urinary tract infections) rendering many historically efficacious antibiotics ineffective. Of particular concern are hospital-acquired infections caused by highly resistant bacteria such as the ESKAPE pathogens (*Enterococcus faecium*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Enterobacter* species), *Escherichia coli*, *Coagulase-negative staphylococci* and *Clostridium difficile*. Additionally, failure of last resort third-generation cephalosporins for the treatment of gonorrhea has now been reported in 10 countries raising the possibility that gonorrhea may soon become untreatable in the absence of new antibacterial agents.

The biological activity of gold(I) and gold(III) complexes has been studied historically and salts of both have been demonstrated to possess antimicrobial activity against a range of pathogens (Glišić, B.D. & Djuran M.I., *Dalton Trans.*, 2014, 43, 5950-5969).

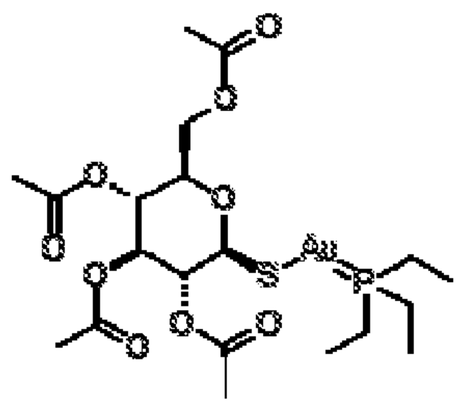
Gold(I) is a soft Lewis acid and preferentially complexes with soft donor atoms such as sulfur, selenium and phosphorous. Examples of such complexes used clinically include gold thiomalate, aurothioglucose and auranofin:



Gold Thiomalate



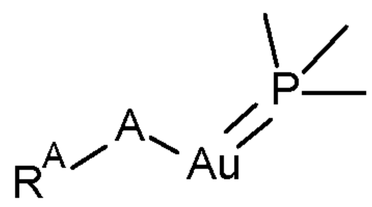
Aurothioglucose



Auranofin

Auranofin, a second generation orally bioavailable gold(I) based treatment for rheumatoid arthritis (RA), has been identified as inhibiting the *in vitro* growth of *S. aureus* (Oxford strain) with an MIC of 0.6-0.9 µg/mL and *V. cholerae* with an MIC of 2.5 µg/mL. These observations reinforce multiple literature reports of the antimicrobial activity of auranofin and other gold(I) compounds against a range of bacterial pathogens (Madeira, JM., *Inflammopharmacology*, 2012, 20, 297-306; Jackson-Rosario, S, *J. Biol. Inorg. Chem.*, 2009, 14(4), 507-519; Novelli, F., *Farmaco*, 1999, 54, 232–236; Shaw, CF, *Chem Rev.*, 1999, 99(9), 2589-2600; Rhodes, MD, *J. Inorg. Biochem.*, 1992, 46, 129-142 and Fricker, SP, *Transition Met. Chem.*, 1996, 21, 377-383).

A first aspect of the present invention provides a compound of formula (I):



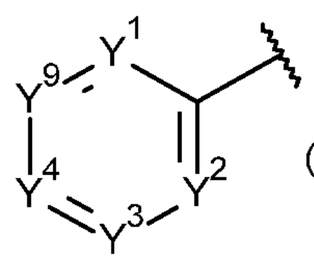
(I)

for use in the prevention or treatment of a bacterial infection wherein:

A is either S or Se;

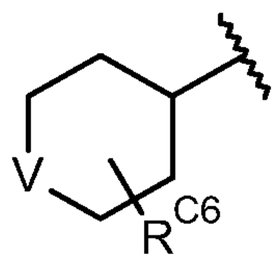
R^A is selected from:

(a)



(A1)

(b)



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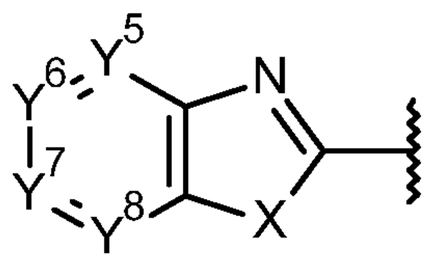
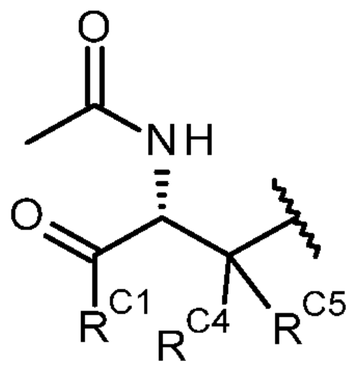
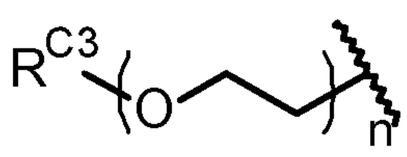
(c)  (A3)

(d)  (A4)

(e)  (A5)

wherein:

each of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 is independently selected from CH or N, wherein at least three of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 are CH;

V is selected from O, CH-OR^{O1}, N-CO_2-R^{C2} or N-R^{N2};

one of Y^5, Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 is selected from CH and N, and the others are CH;

X is selected from NH, S or O;

R^{C1} is selected from O-R^{O2} or NHR^{N1};

R^{O1} is selected from H and C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl;

R^{O2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl;

R^{N1} is selected from H and C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl;

R^{N2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl;

R^{C2} is either C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl or C_{3-4} branched alkyl;

R^{C3} is selected from C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl and $C_2H_4CO_2H$;

R^{C4} is either H or Me;

R^{C5} is either H or Me;

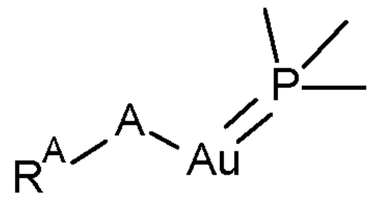
R^{C6} represents one or two optional methyl substituents; and

n is an integer from 2 to 8.

The first aspect of the invention also provides the use of a compound of formula (I) in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prevention of a bacterial infection. The first aspect of the invention further provides the treatment of a human or animal patient afflicted with a bacterial infection, comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of formula (I).

In the first aspect, the bacterial infection prevented and/or treated may be infection by one or more Gram-positive bacteria. The bacterial infection prevented and/or treated may be infection by one or more Gram-negative bacteria.

A second aspect of the present invention provides a compound of formula (I):

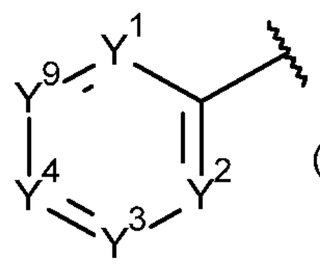

(I)

wherein:

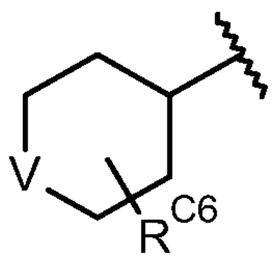
A is either S or Se;

R^A is selected from:

(a)


(A1)

(b)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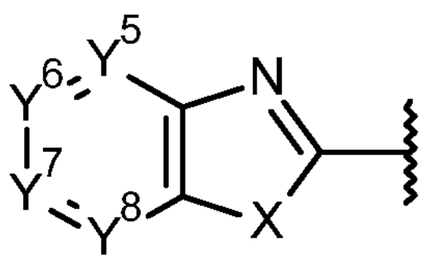
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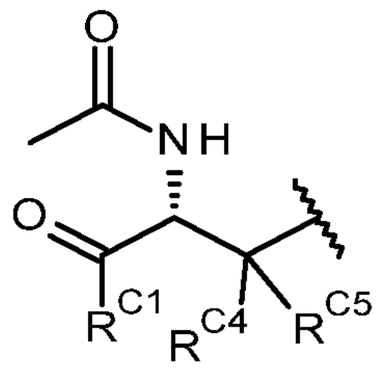
(d)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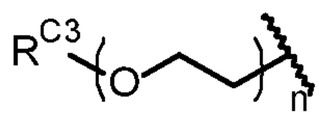

(A5)

wherein:

each of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 is independently selected from CH or N, wherein at least one of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 is N, and at least three of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 is CH;

V is selected from O, CH-OR^{O1}, N-CO_2-R^{C2} or N-R^{N2};

one of Y^5, Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 is selected from CH and N, and the others are CH;

X is selected from NH, S or O;

R^{C1} is selected from O-R^{O2} or NHR^{N1};

R^{O1} is selected from H and unbranched C_{1-3} alkyl;

R^{O2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl;

R^{N1} is selected from H and C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl;

R^{N2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl;

R^{C2} is either C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl or C_{3-4} branched alkyl;

R^{C3} is selected from C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl and $C_2H_4CO_2H$;

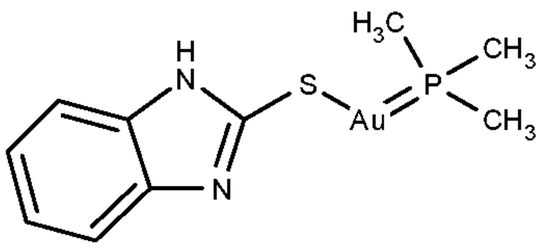
R^{C4} is either H or Me;

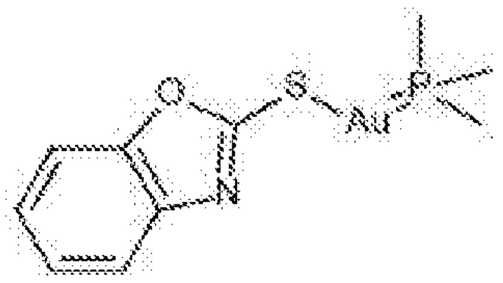
R^{C5} is either H or Me;

R^{C6} represents one or two optional methyl substituents;

n is an integer from 2 to 8;

with the proviso that the compound is not:



or 

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In some embodiments of the second aspect, if A is S, R^A is (A3), and X is NH, then one of Y^5, Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 is N. In some embodiments of the second aspect, if A is S, R^A is (A3), and X is O, then one of Y^5, Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 is N.

In some embodiments of the second aspect, if A is S, R^A is (A1), then Y^1 and Y^2 are CH and Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 are independently selected from N and CH.

A third aspect of the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the second aspect of the invention. The pharmaceutical composition may also comprise a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or excipient. The third aspect of the present invention also provides the use of a compound of the second aspect of the invention in a method of therapy.

Further aspects of the invention relate generally to the use of the compounds of the present invention to inhibit microbial growth, sensitize the inhibition of microbial growth, inhibit biofilm formation or development, disrupt existing biofilms, reduce the biomass of a biofilm, and sensitize a biofilm and microorganisms within the biofilm to an antimicrobial agent.

In one aspect the invention relates to a method for inhibiting biofilm formation, comprising exposing a biofilm-forming microorganism to an effective amount of a compound of the invention. In some embodiments a compound of the invention is coated, impregnated or otherwise contacted with a surface or interface susceptible to biofilm formation. In some embodiments, the surface is a surface of a medical device such as: medical or surgical equipment, an implantable medical device or prosthesis (for example, venous catheters, drainage catheters (e.g. urinary catheters), stents, pacemakers, contact lenses, hearing-aids, percutaneous glucose sensors, dialysis equipment, drug-pump related delivery cannula, prostheses such as artificial joints, implants such as breast implants, heart valves, medical fixation devices such as rods, screws, pins, plates, or devices for wound repair such as sutures, and wound dressings such as bandages). In particular embodiments, the biofilm or biofilm-forming microorganism is on a bodily surface of a subject and exposure of the biofilm or biofilm-forming microorganism to a compound of the invention is by administration of the compound of the invention to the subject. In such instances, the biofilm or biofilm-forming microorganism may be associated with an infection, disease or disorder suffered by the subject or to which the subject is susceptible. In a related aspect of the invention, a medical device (such as those exemplified above) coated or impregnated with a compound of the invention is provided.

In another aspect the invention relates to a method for reducing the biomass of a biofilm and/or promoting the dispersal of microorganisms from a biofilm, comprising exposing the biofilm to an effective amount of a compound of the invention.

In yet another aspect the invention relates to a method for dispersing or removing, removing, or eliminating a biofilm, comprising exposing the biofilm to an effective amount of a compound of the invention. In some embodiments the biofilm is an existing, preformed or established biofilm.

In a further aspect the invention relates to a method for killing microorganisms within a biofilm, comprising exposing the biofilm to an effective amount of a compound of the invention. In some embodiments the biofilm is an existing, preformed or established biofilm.

In a yet further aspect the invention relates to a method of sensitizing a microorganism in a biofilm to an antimicrobial agent by exposing the biofilm to an effective amount of a compound of the invention. In some embodiments the antimicrobial agent is an antibiotic

(e.g. rifampicin, gentamicin, erythromycin, lincomycin, linezolid or vancomycin) or an antifungal agent.

In one aspect the invention relates to a compound of the invention for use in a method of dispersing, removing or eliminating an existing biofilm, inhibiting biofilm formation, reducing the biomass of a biofilm, promoting the dispersal of microorganisms from a biofilm, killing microorganisms within a biofilm, sensitizing a microorganism in a biofilm to an antimicrobial agent, treating or preventing an infection, disease or disorder caused by a biofilm, inhibiting the growth of a microbial persister cell, killing a microbial persister cell, or treating or preventing an infection, disease or disorder caused by or associated with a microbial persister cell.

In another aspect the invention relates to a compound of the invention for use in a method of treating or preventing an infection, disease or disorder treatable by dispersing, removing or eliminating an existing biofilm, inhibiting biofilm formation, reducing the biomass of a biofilm, promoting the dispersal of microorganisms from a biofilm, killing microorganisms within a biofilm, sensitizing a microorganism in a biofilm to an antimicrobial agent, inhibiting the growth of a microbial persister cell, killing a microbial persister cell, or treating or preventing an infection, disease or disorder caused by or associated with a microbial persister cell.

In some aspects, the biofilm comprises bacteria, such as, for example, multi-drug resistant bacteria. In some aspects the bacteria are Gram positive bacteria. In some aspects the bacteria are Gram negative bacteria. In particular examples, the biofilm comprises, consists essentially of, or consists of *S. aureus*. In some aspects, the S. aureus is methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA). In some embodiments, the biofilm comprises, consists essentially of, or consists of *A. baumannii*. In other embodiments, the biofilm comprises, consists essentially of, or consists of *K. pneumoniae*. In other embodiments, the biofilm comprises, consists essentially of, or consists of one or more of the bacteria listed in Table 1 herein. In further embodiments, the biofilms comprise bacterial species, including but not limited to, *Staphylococcus spp., Streptococcus spp., Enterococcus spp., Listeria spp. and Clostridium spp., Klebsiella spp., Acinetobacter spp., Pseudomonas spp., Burkholderia spp., Erwinia spp., Haemophilus spp., Neisseria spp., Escherichia spp, Enterobacter spp., Vibrio spp.* and/or *Actinobacillus spp.*

In some aspects, biofilm comprises lower eukaryotes, such as yeast, fungi, and filamentous fungi, including, but not limited to Candida spp., Pneumocystis spp., Coccidioides spp., Aspergillus spp., Zygomycetes spp., Blastoschizomyces spp., Saccharomyces spp., Malassezia spp., Trichosporon spp. and Cryptococcus spp. Example species include *C. albicans, C. glabrata, C. parapsilosis, C. dubliniensis, C. krusei, C. tropicalis, A. fumigatus,* and *C. neoforms.*

The biofilm may comprise one species of microorganism, or comprise two or more species of microorganism, i.e. be a mixed species biofilm. The mixed species biofilms may include two or more species of bacteria, two or more species of lower eukaryote (e.g. two or more fungal species, such as unicellular fungi, filamentous fungi and/or yeast), and/or both bacteria and lower eukaryotes, such as one or more species of bacteria and one or more species of lower eukaryotes. For example, the methods, uses and compositions provided herein are applicable to biofilms comprising one or more species of bacteria and one or more species of fungi, such as a yeast, unicellular fungi and/or filamentous fungi. The mixed species biofilm may thus comprise 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20 or more species of microorganism, and the microorganisms within the biofilm may be bacteria and/or lower eukaryotes, such as unicellular fungi, filamentous fungi and/or yeast.

In one aspect the invention relates to a method for killing persister cells or inhibiting the growth of a microbial persister cell, comprising exposing the persister cell to an effective amount of a compound of the invention

In another aspect the invention relates to a method for reducing the number, density or proportion of persister cells in a microbial population, comprising exposing the persister cell to an effective amount of a compound of the invention. In some embodiments the number, density or proportion of persister cells in a microbial population is reduced by at least 10% compared to an otherwise identical population not exposed to a compound of the invention; for example, at least 20%, at least 30%, at least 40%, at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98%, at least 99%, at least 99.9%, or at least 99.99%.

In a further aspect the invention relates to a method of preventing the formation of microbial persister cells in a microbial population, the method comprising exposing the population to an effective amount of a compound of the invention.

In some aspects the persister cell is a bacterial or fungal persister cell. In some examples, the persister cell is a Gram negative bacterium. In some examples, the persister cell is a Gram positive bacterium. In some examples, the persister cell is a small colony variant. In particular embodiments, the persister cells are *Staphylococcus* spp. (including Staphylococcal SCVs), such as *S. aureus* (including methicillin resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA)), *S. epidermidis*, and *S. capitis*. In further embodiments, the persister cells are *Pseudomonas* spp. such as *P. aeruginosa*; *Burkholderia* spp. such as *B. cepacia* and *B. pseudomallei*; *Salmonella* serovars, including *Salmonella* Typhi; *Vibrio* spp. such as *V. cholerae*; *Shigella* spp.; *Brucella* spp. such as *B. melitensis*; *Escherichia* spp. such as *E. coli*; *Lactobacillus* spp. such as *L. acidophilus*; *Serratia* spp. such as *S. marcescens*; *Neisseria* spp. such as *N. gonorrhoeae*, or *Candida* spp., such as *C. albicans*.

The compounds of the invention can act together with other antimicrobial agents, allowing for increased efficacy of anti-microbial action. Accordingly, for any aspect described herein comprising exposing a biofilm, biofilm-forming microorganism, or a microbial persister cell to a compound of the invention, the present invention provides a corresponding further aspect comprising exposing the biofilm or biofilm-forming microorganism to a combination of compounds of the invention and at least one additional antimicrobial agent, such as, for example, an antibiotic or an anti-fungal agent. In particular examples, the antibiotic is selected from rifampicin, gentamicin, erythromycin, lincomycin and vancomycin.

The methods described herein may be performed, for example, *in vivo, ex vivo, or in vitro*.

Definitions

C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl: The term "C_{1-3} unbrached alkyl" as used herein, pertains to a monovalent moiety obtained by removing a hydrogen atom from a C_{1-3} unbranched saturated hydrocarbon compound having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms. Thus, the term comprises the groups methyl, ethyl and *n*-propyl.

C_{3-4} branched alkyl: The term "C_{3-4} branched alkyl" as used herein, pertains to a monovalent moiety obtained by removing a hydrogen atom from a C_{3-4} branched saturated hydrocarbon compound having from 3 to 4 carbon atoms. Thus, the term comprises the groups *iso*-propyl, *iso*-butyl, *sec*-butyl and *tert*-butyl.

Microbe / Microorganism: The terms “microbe / microorganism” as used herein pertain to bacteria and lower eukaryotes, such as fungi, including yeasts, unicellular fungi and filamentous fungi.

Antimicrobial agent: The term "antimicrobial agent" as used herein pertains to any agent that, alone or in combination with another agent, is capable of killing or inhibiting the growth of one or more species of microorganism. Antimicrobial agents include, but are not limited to, antibiotics, antifungals, detergents, surfactants, agents that induce oxidative stress, bacteriocins and antimicrobial enzymes (e.g. lipases, proteinases, pronases and lyases) and various other proteolytic enzymes and nucleases, peptides and phage. Reference to an antimicrobial agent includes reference to both natural and synthetic antimicrobial agents. Examples of antimicrobial agents include fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides, glycopeptides, lincosamides, cephalosporins and related beta-lactams, macrolides, nitroimidazoles, penicillins, polymyxins, tetracyclines, and any combination thereof. For example, the methods of the present invention can employ acedapsone; acetosulfone sodium; alamecin; alexidine; amdinocillin; amdinocillin pivoxil; amicycline; amifloxacin; amifloxacin mesylate; amikacin; amikacin sulfate; aminosalicylic acid; aminosalicylate sodium; amoxicillin; amphomycin; ampicillin; ampicillin sodium; apalcillin sodium; apramycin; aspartocin; astromicin sulfate; avilamycin; avoparcin; azithromycin; azlocillin; azlocillin sodium; bacampicillin hydrochloride; bacitracin; bacitracin methylene disalicylate; bacitracin zinc; bambermycins; benzoylpas calcium; berythromycin; betamicin sulfate; biapenem; biniramycin; biphenamine hydrochloride; bispyrithione magsulfex; butikacin; butirosin sulfate; capreomycin sulfate; carbadox; carbenicillin disodium; carbenicillin indanyl sodium; carbenicillin phenyl sodium; carbenicillin potassium; carumonam sodium; cefaclor; cefadroxil; cefamandole; cefamandole nafate; cefamandole sodium; cefaparole; cefatrizine; cefazaflur sodium; cefazolin; cefazolin sodium; cefbuperazone; cefdinir; cefepime; cefepime hydrochloride; cefetecol; cefixime; cefmenoxime hydrochloride; cefmetazole; cefmetazole sodium; cefonicid monosodium; cefonicid sodium; cefoperazone sodium; ceforanide; cefotaxime sodium; cefotetan; cefotetan disodium; cefotiam hydrochloride; cefoxitin; cefoxitin sodium; cefpimizole; cefpimizole sodium; cefpiramide; cefpiramide sodium; cefpirome sulfate; cefpodoxime proxetil; cefprozil; cefroxadine; cefsulodin sodium; ceftazidime; ceftibuten; ceftizoxime sodium; ceftriaxone sodium; cefuroxime; cefuroxime axetil; cefuroxime pivoxetil; cefuroxime sodium; cephacetrile sodium; cephalexin; cephalexin hydrochloride; cephaloglycin; cephaloridine; cephalothin sodium; cephapirin sodium; cephradine; cetocycline hydrochloride; cetophenicol; chloramphenicol; chloramphenicol palmitate;

chloramphenicol pantothenate complex; chloramphenicol sodium succinate; chlorhexidine phosphanilate; chloroxylenol; chlortetracycline bisulfate; chlortetracycline hydrochloride; cinoxacin; ciprofloxacin; ciprofloxacin hydrochloride; cirolemycin; clarithromycin; clinafloxacin hydrochloride; clindamycin; clindamycin hydrochloride; clindamycin palmitate hydrochloride; clindamycin phosphate; clofazimine; cloxacillin benzathine; cloxacillin sodium; chlorhexidine, cloxyquin; colistimethate sodium; colistin sulfate; coumermycin; coumermycin sodium; cyclacillin; cycloserine; dalfopristin; dapsone; daptomycin; demeclocycline; demeclocycline hydrochloride; demecycline; denofungin; diaveridine; dicloxacillin; dicloxacillin sodium; dihydrostreptomycin sulfate; dipyrithione; dirithromycin; doxycycline; doxycycline calcium; doxycycline fosfatex; doxycycline hyclate; droxacin sodium; enoxacin; epicillin; epitetracycline hydrochloride; erythromycin; erythromycin acistrate; erythromycin estolate; erythromycin ethylsuccinate; erythromycin gluceptate; erythromycin lactobionate; erythromycin propionate; erythromycin stearate; ethambutol hydrochloride; ethionamide; fleroxacin; floxacillin; fludalanine; flumequine; fosfomycin; fosfomycin tromethamine; fumoxicillin; furazolium chloride; furazolium tartrate; fusidate sodium; fusidic acid; ganciclovir and ganciclovir sodium; gentamicin sulfate; gloximonam; gramicidin; haloprogin; hetacillin; hetacillin potassium; hexedine; ibafloxacin; imipenem; isoconazole; isepamicin; isoniazid; josamycin; kanamycin sulfate; kitasamycin; levofuraltadone; levopropylcillin potassium; lexithromycin; lincomycin; lincomycin hydrochloride; lomefloxacin; lomefloxacin hydrochloride; lomefloxacin mesylate; loracarbef; mafenide; meclocycline; meclocycline sulfosalicylate; megalomicin potassium phosphate; mequidox; meropenem; methacycline; methacycline hydrochloride; methenamine; methenamine hippurate; methenamine mandelate; methicillin sodium; metioprim; metronidazole hydrochloride; metronidazole phosphate; mezlocillin; mezlocillin sodium; minocycline; minocycline hydrochloride; mirincamycin hydrochloride; monensin; monensin sodiumr; nafcillin sodium; nalidixate sodium; nalidixic acid; natainycin; nebramycin; neomycin palmitate; neomycin sulfate; neomycin undecylenate; netilmicin sulfate; neutramycin; nifuiradene; nifuraldezone; nifuratel; nifuratrone; nifurdazil; nifurimide; nifiupirinol; nifurquinazol; nifurthiazole; nitrocycline; nitrofurantoin; nitromide; norfloxacin; novobiocin sodium; ofloxacin; onnetoprim; oxacillin and oxacillin sodium; oximonam; oximonam sodium; oxolinic acid; oxytetracycline; oxytetracycline calcium; oxytetracycline hydrochloride; paldimycin; parachlorophenol; paulomycin; pefloxacin; pefloxacin mesylate; penamecillin; penicillins such as penicillin G benzathine, penicillin G potassium, penicillin G procaine, penicillin G sodium, penicillin V, penicillin V benzathine, penicillin V hydrabamine, and penicillin V potassium; pentizidone sodium; phenyl aminosalicylate; piperacillin sodium; pirbenicillin sodium; piridicillin sodium; pirlimycin

hydrochloride; pivampicillin hydrochloride; pivampicillin pamoate; pivampicillin probenate; polymyxin b sulfate; porfiromycin; propikacin; pyrazinamide; pyrithione zinc; quindecamine acetate; quinupristin; racephenicol; ramoplanin; ranimycin; relomycin; repromicin; rifabutin; rifametane; rifamexil; rifamide; rifampin; rifapentine; rifaximin; rolitetracycline; rolitetracycline nitrate; rosaramicin; rosaramicin butyrate; rosaramicin propionate; rosaramicin sodium phosphate; rosaramicin stearate; rosoxacin; roxarsone; roxithromycin; sancycline; sanfetrinem sodium; sarmoxicillin; sarpicillin; scopafungin; sisomicin; sisomicin sulfate; sparfloxacin; spectinomycin hydrochloride; spiramycin; stallimycin hydrochloride; steffimycin; streptomycin sulfate; streptonicozid; sulfabenz; sulfabenzamide; sulfacetamide; sulfacetamide sodium; sulfacytine; sulfadiazine; sulfadiazine sodium; sulfadoxine; sulfalene; sulfamerazine; sulfameter; sulfamethazine; sulfamethizole; sulfamethoxazole; sulfamonomethoxine; sulfamoxole; sulfanilate zinc; sulfanitran; sulfasalazine; sulfasomizole; sulfathiazole; sulfazamet; sulfisoxazole; sulfisoxazole acetyl; sulfisboxazole diolamine; sulfomyxin; sulopenem; sultamricillin; suncillin sodium; talampicillin hydrochloride; teicoplanin; temafloxacin hydrochloride; temocillin; tetracycline; tetracycline hydrochloride; tetracycline phosphate complex; tetroxoprim; thiamphenicol; thiphencillin potassium; ticarcillin cresyl sodium; ticarcillin disodium; ticarcillin monosodium; ticlatone; tiodonium chloride; tobramycin; tobramycin sulfate; tosufloxacin; trimethoprim; trimethoprim sulfate; trisulfapyrimidines; troleandomycin; trospectomycin sulfate; tyrothricin; vancomycin; vancomycin hydrochloride; virginiamycin; zorbamycin; bifonazolem; butoconazole; clotrimazole; econazole; fenticonazole; isoconazole; ketoconazole; miconazolel omoconazolel oxiconazolel sertaconazolel sulconazolel tioconazolel; albaconazole; fluconazole; isavuconazole; itraconazole; posaconazole; ravuconazole; terconazole; voriconazole;. abafungin; amorolfin; butenafine; naftifine; terbinafine; anidulafungin; caspofungin; and micafungin.

Biofilm: The term “biofilm” as used herein pertains to any three-dimensional, matrix-encased microbial community displaying multicellular characteristics. Accordingly, the term biofilm includes surface-associated biofilms as well as biofilms in suspension, such as flocs and granules. Biofilms may comprise a single microbial species or may be mixed species complexes, and may include bacteria as well as fungi, algae, protozoa, or other microorganisms.

Reducing the biomass of a biofilm: The term “reducing the biomass of a biofilm” is used herein to mean reducing the biomass of an area of a biofilm exposed to an effective

amount of a compound of the invention as compared to the biofilm biomass of the area immediately before exposure to a compound of the invention. In some embodiments the "biomass" is the mass of cells present in the area of biofilm in addition to the extracellular polymeric substance (EPS) of the biofilm matrix. In some embodiments the "biomass" is only the mass of cells present in the area of biofilm (that is, the mass of the EPS is not counted as "biomass"). In some embodiments the biomass of the area of a biofilm exposed to an effective amount of a compound of the invention is at least 10% less than the biofilm biomass of the area immediately before exposure to a compound of the invention, the mass of the otherwise identical area of a biofilm which has not been exposed to a compound of the invention, for example, at least 20%, at least 30%, at least 40%, at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98%, or at least 99% less than the biofilm biomass of the area immediately before exposure to a compound of the invention. In some embodiments the area of biofilm compared is 10^{-6} m^2; in other embodiments the area of biofilm compared is 10^{-5} m^2, 10^{-4} m^2, or 10^{-3} m^2. In some embodiments a biofilm whose biomass has been reduced by at least 95% is deemed to have been "eliminated", "dispersed" or "removed". In some embodiments a biofilm whose biomass has been reduced by at least 99% is deemed to have been "eliminated", "dispersed" or "removed". In some embodiments a biofilm whose biomass has been reduced by at least 99.9% is deemed to have been "eliminated", "dispersed" or "removed". In some embodiments the change in biofilm biomass is assessed by a method comprising the steps of: i) washing the area of biofilm to remove non-adherent (planktonic) microorganisms, ii) assessing the area of biofilm biomass (i.e. the biomass "immediately before exposure to a compound of the invention"), iii) exposing the area of biofilm (or an otherwise identical area) to an effective amount of a compound of the invention for a period of time (for example, 24 hours), iv) washing the biofilm to remove non-adherent (planktonic) microorganisms, and v) assessing the area of biofilm biomass to obtain the 'post-exposure' biomass.

Promoting the dispersal of microorganisms from a biofilm: The term "promoting the dispersal of microorganisms from a biofilm" is used herein to mean reducing the number of microorganisms present in an area of a biofilm exposed to an effective amount of a compound of the invention as compared to the number of microorganisms present in the area immediately before exposure to a compound of the invention. In some embodiments the number of microorganisms in the area of a biofilm exposed to an effective amount of a compound of the invention is at least 10% less than the number of microorganisms present in the area immediately before exposure to a compound of the invention, for

example, at least 20%, at least 30%, at least 40%, at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98%, or at least 99% less than the number of microorganisms present in the area immediately before exposure to a compound of the invention. In some embodiments the change in number of microorganisms in an area of biofilm is assessed by a method comprising the steps of: i) washing the biofilm to remove non-adherent (planktonic) microorganisms, ii) counting the remaining microorganisms to obtain a 'pre-exposure' microorganism count (i.e. the count "immediately before exposure to a compound of the invention"), iii) exposing the biofilm to an effective amount of a compound of the invention for a period of time (for example, 24 hours), iv) washing the biofilm to remove non-adherent (planktonic) microorganisms, and v) counting the remaining microorganisms to obtain the 'post-exposure' microorganism count. In some embodiments a biofilm where number of microorganisms in an area has been reduced by at least 95% is deemed to have been "eliminated", "dispersed" or "removed". In some embodiments a biofilm where number of microorganisms in an area has been reduced by at least 99% is deemed to have been "eliminated", "dispersed" or "removed". In some embodiments a biofilm where number of microorganisms in an area has been reduced by at least 99.9% is deemed to have been "eliminated", "dispersed" or "removed".

Killing microorganisms within a biofilm: The term "killing microorganisms within a biofilm" is used herein to mean reducing the number of live microorganisms present in an area of a biofilm exposed to an effective amount of a compound of the invention as compared to the number of live microorganisms present in the area immediately before exposure to a compound of the invention. In some embodiments the biofilm is an existing, preformed or established biofilm. In some embodiments the number of live microorganisms in the area of a biofilm exposed to an effective amount of a compound of the invention is at least 10% less than the number of live microorganisms present in the area immediately before exposure to a compound of the invention, for example, at least 20%, at least 30%, at least 40%, at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98%, or at least 99% less than the number of live microorganisms present in the area immediately before exposure to a compound of the invention. In some embodiments the change in number of microorganisms in an area of biofilm is assessed by a method comprising the steps of: i) washing the area biofilm to remove non-adherent (planktonic) microorganisms, ii) manually disperse the biofilm into solution (using, for example, scraping, sonication, and vortexing), iii) prepare serial dilutions, plat, and culture to estimate the number of colony forming unit (cfu) in the area of biofilm, iv) provide an

otherwise identical area of biofilm and expose it to an effective amount of a compound of the invention for a period of time (for example, 24 hours), v) manually disperse the biofilm and estimate cfu as described above to obtain the 'post-exposure' microorganism count.

Dispersal: The term "dispersal" as used herein pertains to any to a biofilm and microorganisms making up a biofilm means the process of detachment and separation of cells and a return to a planktonic phenotype or behaviour of the dispersing cells.

Exposing; The term "exposing" as used herein means generally bringing into contact with. Exposure of a biofilm or biofilm-forming microorganism to an agent (e.g. a compound of the invention) includes administration of the agent to a subject harbouring the microorganism or biofilm, or otherwise bringing the microorganism or biofilm into contact with the agent itself, such as by contacting a surface on which the biofilm or biofilm-forming microorganism are present with the agent. In some embodiments, the biofilm or biofilm-forming microorganisms are exposed to a compound of the invention by coating, impregnating or otherwise contacting a surface or interface susceptible to biofilm formation to an effective amount of the compound. Surfaces that may be exposed, coated, or impregnated with a compound of the invention include those present in a range of industrial and domestic settings, including but not limited to, domestic, medical or industrial settings (*e.g.* medical and surgical devices, and surfaces within hospitals, processing plants and manufacturing plants), as well as internal and external surfaces of the body of a subject. In the present disclosure the terms "exposing", "administering" and "contacting" and variations thereof may, in some contexts, be used interchangeably.

Inhibiting: The term "inhibiting" and variations thereof such as "inhibition" and "inhibits" as used herein in relation to microbial growth refers to any microbiocidal or microbiostatic activity of an agent (e.g. a compound of the invention) or composition. Such inhibition may be in magnitude and/or be temporal or spatial in nature. Inhibition of the growth of a microorganism by an agent can be assessed by measuring growth of the microorganism in the presence and absence of the agent. The growth can be inhibited by the agent by at least or about 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95% or more compared to the growth of the same microorganism that is not exposed to the agent.

The term "inhibiting" and variations thereof such as "inhibition" and "inhibits" as used herein in relation to biofilms means complete or partial inhibition of biofilm formation

and/or development and also includes within its scope the reversal of biofilm development or processes associated with biofilm formation and/or development. Further, inhibition may be permanent or temporary. The inhibition may be to an extent (in magnitude and/or spatially), and/or for a time, sufficient to produce the desired effect. Inhibition may be prevention, retardation, reduction or otherwise hindrance of biofilm formation or development. Such inhibition may be in magnitude and/or be temporal or spatial in nature. Inhibition of the formation or development of a biofilm by a compound of the invention can be assessed by measuring biofilm mass or microbial growth in the presence and absence of a compound of the invention. The formation or development of a biofilm can be inhibited by a compound of the invention by at least about 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95% or more compared to the formation or development of a biofilm that is not exposed to a compound of the invention.

Sensitize: The terms "sensitize" or "sensitizing" as used herein mean making a biofilm or microorganisms within a biofilm more susceptible to an antimicrobial agent. The sensitizing effect of a compound of the invention, on a biofilm or microorganisms within the biofilm can be measured as the difference in the susceptibility of the biofilm or microorganisms (as measured by, for example, microbial growth or biomass of the biofilm) to a second antimicrobial agent with and without administration of the compound. The sensitivity of a sensitized biofilm or microorganism (i.e. for example, a biofilm or microorganism exposed to an agent such as a compound of the invention) to a antimicrobial agent can be increased by at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 100%, 150%, 200%, 250%, 300%, 350%, 400%, 450%, 500% or more compared to the sensitivity of an unsensitized biofilm or microorganism (i.e. a biofilm or microorganism not exposed to the agent). In some embodiments sensitizing effect of a compound of the invention on a biofilm or microorganisms within the biofilm can be measured by the difference in Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) of a second antimicrobial administered either in combination with a compound of the invention, or alone. For example, in some embodiments the MIC of a combination of a compound of the invention and the second antimicrobial is at least 10% lower than the MIC of the second antimicrobial administered alone; such as at least 20% lower, at least 30% lower, at least 40% lower, at least 50% lower, at least 60% lower, at least 70% lower, at least 80% lower, at least 90% lower, at least 95% lower, at least 99% lower, or at least 99.9% lower than the MIC of the second antimicrobial administered alone. The sensitization of a microorganism may also occur outside of a biolfim.

Surface: The term "surface" as used herein includes both biological surfaces and non-biological surfaces. Biological surfaces typically include surfaces both internal (such as organs, tissues, cells, bones and membranes) and external (such as skin, hair, epidermal appendages, seeds, plant foliage) to an organism. Biological surfaces also include other natural surfaces such as wood or fibre. A non-biological surface may be any artificial surface of any composition that supports the establishment and development of a biofilm. Such surfaces may be present in industrial plants and equipment, and include medical and surgical equipment and medical devices, both implantable and non-implantable. Further, for the purposes of the present disclosure, a surface may be porous (such as a membrane) or non-porous, and may be rigid or flexible.

Infection, disease or disorder caused by a biofilm / Infection, disease or disorder caused by or associated with a microbial persister cell: The term "Infection, disease or disorder caused by a biofilm" as used herein is used to describe conditions, diseases and disorders associated with, characterised by, or caused by biofilms and biofilm-forming microorganisms. Similarly, The term "Infection, disease or disorder caused by or associated with a microbial persister cell" as used herein is used to describe conditions, diseases and disorders associated with, characterised by, or caused by microbial persister cells. For example, a variety of microbial infections are known to be associated with biofilm formation and/or persister cells, such as cellulitis, impetigo, mastitis, otitis media, bacterial endocarditis, sepsis, toxic shock syndrome, urinary tract infections, pulmonary infections (including pulmonary infection in patients with cystic fibrosis), pneumonia, dental plaque, dental caries, periodontitis, bacterial prostatitis and infections associated with surgical procedures or burns. For example, *S. aureus* and *S. epidermidis* cause or are associated with cellulitis, impetigo, mastitis, otitis media, bacterial endocarditis, sepsis, toxic shock syndrome, urinary tract infections, pulmonary infections (including pulmonary infection in patients with cystic fibrosis), pneumonia, dental plaque, dental caries and infections associated with surgical procedures or burns. In other examples, *K. pneumoniae* can cause or be associated with pneumonia, sepsis, community-acquired pyogenic liver abscess (PLA), urinary tract infection, and infections associated with surgical procedures or burns. In further examples, *A. baumannii* can cause or be associated with bacteremia, pneumonia, meningitis, urinary tract infection, and. and infections associated with wounds. In still further examples, *P. aeruginosa* can cause or be associated with respiratory tract infections (including pneumonia), skin infections, urinary tract infections, bacteremia, infection of the ear (including otitis media,

otitis externa and otitis interna), endocarditis and bone and joint infections such as osteomyelitis. *Candida* spp. such as *C. albicans*, *Cryptococcus* spp. such as *C. neoformans*, as well as other fungi such as *Trichosporon* spp., *Malassezia* spp., *Blastoschizomyces* spp., *Coccidioides* spp. and *Saccharomyces* spp. (e.g. *S. cerevisiae*) may cause or be associated with infections related to the implantation or use of medical or surgical devices, such as catheterization or implantation of heart valves.

Persister cell(s): The term "persister cell(s)" as used herein pertains to metabolic variants of wild type microbial cells that are phenotypically characterized by their slow growth rate, which is typically 30%, 25%, 20%, 15%, 10%, 5% or less of the growth rate of the wild-type counterpart. In some embodiments, the persister cells are dormant and have, for example, no detectable cell division in a 24 hour period. Further, persister cells typically form colonies that are approximately 30%, 25%, 20%, 15%, 10%, 5% or less of the size of the colonies formed by their wild-type counterparts. Reference to persister cells includes reference to persister cells of any microbial genera or species, including, but not limited to, bacterial and lower eukaryotic, such as fungal, including yeast, persister cells. In some examples, the persister cell is a Gram negative bacterium. In some examples, the persister cell is a Gram positive bacterium. Exemplary persister cells include, but are not limited to, those of *Staphylococcus* spp., such as *S. aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, and *S. capitis*; *Pseudomonas* spp. such as *P. aeruginosa*; *Burkholderia* spp. such as *B. cepacia* and *B. pseudomallei*; *Salmonella* serovars, including *Salmonella* Typhi; *Vibrio* spp. such as *V. cholerae*; *Shigella* spp.; *Brucella* spp. such as *B. melitensis*; *Escherichia* spp. such as *E. coli*; *Lactobacillus* spp. such as *L. acidophilus*; *Serratia* spp. such as *S. marcescens*; *Neisseria* spp. such as *N. gonorrhoeae*, as well as *Candida* spp., such as *C. albicans*.

Further embodiments

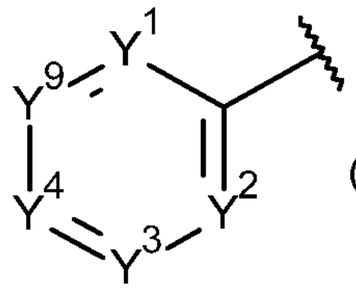
A

In some embodiments, A is S.

In some embodiments, A is Se.

R^A

In some embodiments, R^A is A1:

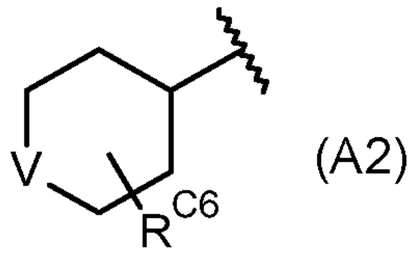

(A1)

In some embodiments, one of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 is N. In some of these embodiments, Y^1 is N and Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 are CH. In others of these embodiments, Y^3 is N and Y^1, Y^2, Y^4 and Y^9 are CH. In others of these embodiments, Y^4 is N and Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^9 are CH. In these embodiments, A1 is pyridyl.

In some embodiments, two of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 are N. In some of these embodiments, Y^1, Y^4 and Y^9 are CH and Y^2 and Y^3 are N. In others of these embodiments, Y^2, Y^4 and Y^9 are CH and Y^1 and Y^3 are N. In others of these embodiments, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 are CH and Y^1 and Y^2 are N. In some of these embodiments, Y^1 and Y^4 are N and Y^2, Y^3 and Y^9 are CH. In others of these embodiments, Y^2 and Y^4 is N and Y^1, Y^3, and Y^9 are CH. In others of these embodiments, Y^3 and Y^4 are N and Y^1, Y^2 and Y^9 are CH. In others of these embodiments, Y^3 and Y^9 are N and Y^1, Y^2 and Y^4 are CH. In these embodiments, A1 is selected from pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl and pyrazinyl.

In some embodiments, all of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 are CH, i.e. A1 is phenyl.

In some embodiments, R^A is A2:


(A2)

In some of these embodiments, V is O.

In other of these embodiments, V is CH-OR^{O1}, where R^{O1} is selected from H and C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl. In some of these embodiments, R^{O1} is H. In others of these embodiments, R^{O1} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl, e.g. methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl.

In other of these embodiments, V is N-CO_2-R^{C2}, where R^{C2} is either C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl or C_{3-4} branched alkyl. In some of these embodiments, R^{C2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl, i.e.

methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl. In others of these embodiments, R^{C2} is C_{3-4} branched alkyl, i.e. *iso*-propyl, *iso*-butyl, *sec*-butyl and *tert*-butyl.

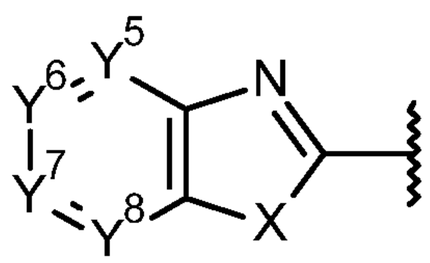
In other of these embodiments, V is N-R^{N2}, where R^{N2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl, i.e. methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl. In some embodiments, R^{N2} is methyl.

In some of these embodiment, there are no optional methyl substituents (represented by R^{C6}).

In other of these embodiments, there is a single methyl substituent represented by R^{C6}.

In other of these embodiments, there are two methyl substituents represented by R^{C6}.

In some embodiments, R^A is A3:

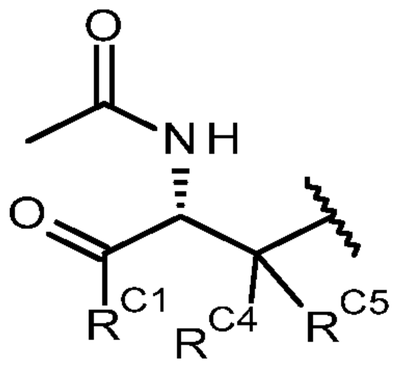


(A3)

In some of these embodiments, X is NH. In others of these embodiments, X is O.

In some of these embodiments, all of Y^5, Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 are CH. In others of these embodiments, one of Y^5, Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 is N. In some of these embodiments, Y^5 may be N. In some of these embodiments Y^6 may be N. In some of these embodiments Y^7 may be N. In some of these embodiments Y^8 may be N.

In some embodiments, R^A is A4:



(A4)

In some of these embodiments, R^{C1} is O-R^{O2}. R^{O2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl, i.e. methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl.

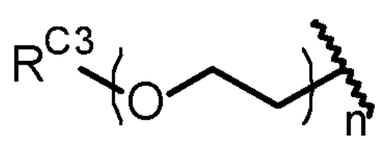
In others of these embodiments, R^{C1} is NHR^{N1}. In some of these embodiments, R^{N1} is H. In others of these embodiments, R^{N1} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl, i.e. methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl.

In some of these embodiments, R^{C4} and R^{C5} are both H.

In other of these embodiments, R^{C4} is H and R^{C5} is Me.

In other of these embodiments, R^{C4} and R^{C5} are both Me.

In some embodiments, R^A is A5:



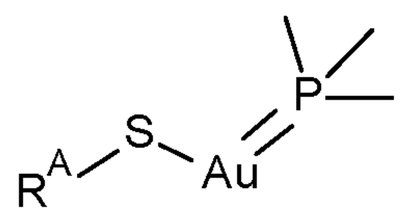
(A5)

In some of these embodiments, R^{C3} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl, i.e. methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl.

In others of these embodiments R^{C3} is $C_2H_4CO_2H$.

In some of these embodiments n is an integer from 4 to 8. In some of these embodiments, n is 7 or 8.

In some embodiments of the present invention, the compound is of formula (Ia):

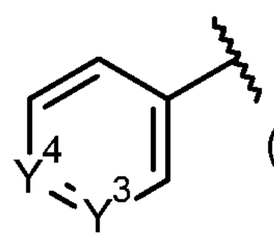


(Ia)

wherein:

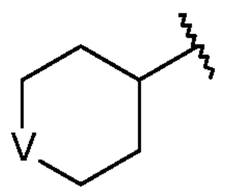
R^A is selected from:

(a)



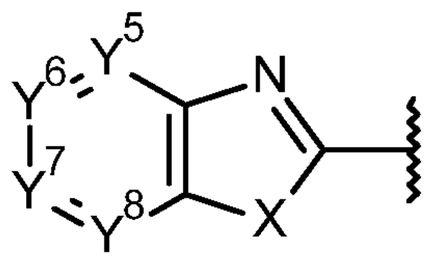
(A1a)

(b)



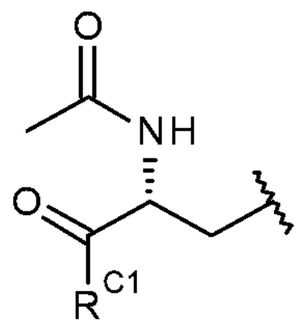
(A2)

(c)



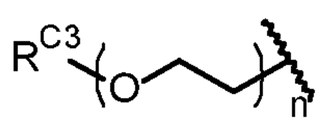
(A3)

(d)



(A4)

(e)



(A5)

wherein:

Y^3 and Y^4 are independently selected from N and CH, where at least one is N;

V is selected from O, CH-OR^{O1} or N-CO_2-R^{C2};

X is selected from NH or O;

one of Y^5, Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 is N, and the others are CH;

R^{C1} is selected from O-R^{O2} or NHR^{N1};

R^{O1} is selected from H and unbranched C_{1-3} alkyl;

R^{O2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl;

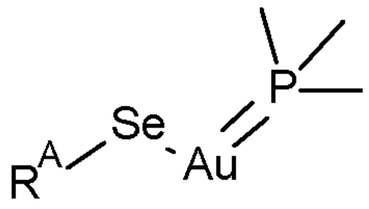
R^{N1} is selected from H and C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl;

R^{C2} is either C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl or C_{3-4} branched alkyl;

R^{C3} is selected from C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl and $C_2H_4CO_2H$; and

n is an integer from 2 to 8.

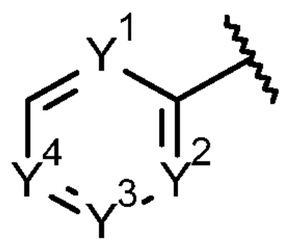
In some embodiments of the present invention, the compound is of formula (Ib):


(Ib)

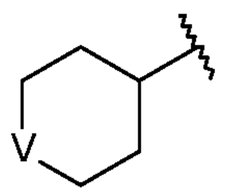
wherein:

R^A is selected from:

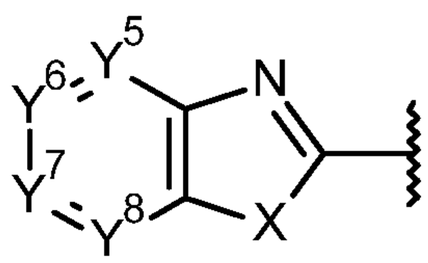
(a)


(A1)

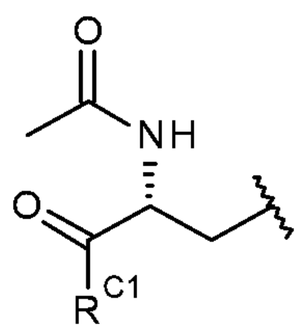
(b)

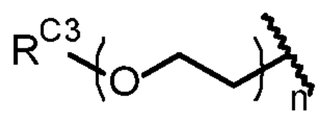

(A2)

(c)


(A3)

(d)


(A4)

(e)  (A5)

wherein:

each of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 is independently selected from CH or N, wherein at least one of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 is N, and at least two of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 is CH;

V is selected from O, CH-OR^{O1} or N-CO_2-R^{C2};

one of Y^5, Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 is selected from CH and N, and the others are CH;

X is selected from NH or O;

R^{C1} is selected from O-R^{O2} or NHR^{N1};

R^{O1} is selected from H and unbranched C_{1-3} alkyl;

R^{O2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl;

R^{N1} is selected from H and C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl;

R^{C2} is either C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl or C_{3-4} branched alkyl;

R^{C3} is selected from C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl and $C_2H_4CO_2H$; and

n is an integer from 2 to 8.

Particular embodiments of the invention are shown in the examples.

Bacterial infections

Bacteria that cause infection of humans include, but are not limited to, those set out below in Table 1.

Genus	Important species	Gram negative/positive
Bordetella	*Bordetella pertussis*	Gram-negative
Borrelia	*Borrelia burgdorferi*	Gram-negative
Brucella	*Brucella abortus* *Brucella canis* *Brucella melitensis* *Brucella suis*	Gram-negative
Burkholderia	*Burkholderia cepacia*	Gram-negative
Campylobacter	*Campylobacter jejuni*	Gram-negative
Chlamydia and *Chlamydophila*	*Chlamydia pneumoniae* *Chlamydia trachomatis* *Chlamydophila psittaci*	(not Gram-stained)

Clostridium	*Clostridium botulinum* *Clostridium difficile* *Clostridium perfringens* *Clostridium tetani*	Gram-positive
Corynebacterium	*Corynebacterium diphtheriae*	Gram-positive
Enterobacter	*Enterobacter cloacae*	Gram-negative
Enterococcus	*Enterococcus faecalis* *Enterococcus faecium*	Gram-positive
Escherichia	*Escherichia coli*	Gram-negative
Francisella	*Francisella tularensis*	Gram-negative
Haemophilus	*Haemophilus influenzae*	Gram-negative
Helicobacter	*Helicobacter pylori*	Gram-negative
Klebsiella	*Klebsiella oxytoca* *Klebsiella pneumoniae*	Gram-negative
Legionella	*Legionella pneumophila*	Gram-negative
Leptospira	*Leptospira interrogans*	Gram-negative
Listeria	*Listeria monocytogenes*	Gram-positive
Moraxella	*Moraxella catarrhalis*	Gram-negative
Neisseria	*Neisseria gonorrhoeae* *Neisseria meningitidis*	Gram-negative
Proteus	*Proteus vulgaris*	Gram-negative
Pseudomonas	*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*	Gram-negative
Rickettsia	*Rickettsia rickettsii*	Gram-negative
Salmonella	*Salmonella typhi* *Salmonella typhimurium*	Gram-negative
Shigella	*Shigella sonnei*	Gram-negative
Staphylococcus	*Staphylococcus aureus* *Staphylococcus epidermidis* *Staphylococcus saprophyticus*	Gram-positive
Streptococcus	*Streptococcus agalactiae* *Streptococcus pneumoniae* *Streptococcus pyogenes*	Gram-positive
Treponema	*Treponema pallidum*	Gram-negative
Vibrio	*Vibrio cholerae*	Gram-negative
Yersinia	*Yersinia pestis* *Yersinia enterocolitica* *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis*	Gram-negative

Table 1

The bacterial infection prevented and/or treated by compounds of the present invention may be infection by one or more Gram-positive bacteria. Furthermore, the compounds of

the present invention may be selective for one or more Gram-positive bacteria over Gram-negative bacteria. Thus, compounds of the present invention may show no significant inhibition of growth of Gram-negative bacteria.

The bacterial infection prevented and/or treated by compounds of the present invention may be infection by one or more Gram-negative bacteria. Furthermore, the compounds of the present invention may be selective for one or more Gram-negative bacteria over Gram-positive bacteria. Thus, compounds of the present invention may show no significant inhibition of growth of Gram-positive bacteria.

Furthermore, the compounds of the present invention may inhibit the growth of both Gram-positive bacteria and Gram-negative bacteria.

Therapeutic index is the ratio of the dose that produces growth inhibition in 50% of CHO or HEPg2 cells divided by the dose where 50% of *S.aureus* growth is inhibited. In some embodiments, compounds have a therapeutic index of greater than 1. In other embodiments, compounds have a therapeutic index of greater than 4. In other embodiments, compounds have a therapeutic index of greater than 8.

Representative examples of gram-positive bacteria include *Staphylococci* (e.g. *S. aureus*, *S. epidermis*), *Enterococci* (e.g. *E. faecium*, *E. faecalis*), *Clostridia* (e.g. *C. difficile*), *Propionibacteria* (e.g. *P. acnes*) and *Streptococci*.

Representative examples of gram-negative bacteria include *Vibrio cholerae*, *K. pneumonia and Escherichia coli*.

Bacterial infections in animals are, for example, described in “Pathogenesis of Bacterial Infections in Animals”, edited by Carlton L. Gyles, John F. Prescott, J. Glenn Songer, and Charles O. Thoen, published by Wiley-Blackwell (Fourth edition, 2010 - ISBN 978-0-8138-1237-3), which is hereby incorporated by reference. Many are the same as listed above for humans.

Combinations

Treatments as described herein may be in combination with one or more know antibiotics, examples of which are described below:

(a) Aminoglyosides: Amikacin, Gentamicin, Kanamycin, Neomycin, Netilmicin, Tobramycin, Paromomycin, Streptomycin; Spectinomycin;

(b) Ansamycins: Geldanamycin, Herbimycin, Rifaximin;

(c) Carbacephem:Loracarbef;

(d) Cabapenems: Ertapenem, Doripenem, Imipenem/Cilastatin, Meropenem;

(e)1st generation Cephlasporins: Cefadroxil, Cefazolin, Cefalotin or Cefalothin, Cefalexin;

(f) 2nd generation Cephlasporins: Cefaclor, Cefamandole, Cefoxitin, Cefprozil, Cefuroxime;

(g) 3rd generation Cephlasporins: Cefixime, Cefdinir, Cefditoren, Cefoperazone, Cefotaxime, Cefpodoxime, Ceftazidime, Ceftibuten, Ceftizoxime, Ceftriaxone;

(h) 4th generation Cephlasporins: Cefepime;

(i) 5th generation Cephlasporins: Ceftaroline fosamil, Ceftobiprole;

(j) Glycopeptides: Teicoplanin, Vancomycin, Telavancin;

(k) Lincosamides: Clindamycin, Lincomycin

(l) Lipopeptide: Daptomycin

(m) Macrolides: Azithromycin, Clarithromycin, Dirithromycin, Erythromycin, Roxithromycin, Troleandomycin, Telithromycin, Spiramycin;

(n) Monobactams: Aztreonam;

(o) Nitrofurans: Furazolidone, Nitrofurantoin;

(p) Oxazolidonones: Linezolid, Posizolid, Radezolid, Torezolid;

(q) Penicillins: Amoxicillin, Ampicillin, Azlocillin, Carbenicillin, Cloxacillin, Dicloxacillin, Flucloxacillin, Mezlocillin, Methicillin, Nafcillin, Oxacillin, Penicillin G, Penicillin V, Piperacillin, Temocillin, Ticarcillin;

(r) Polypeptides: Bacitracin, Colistin, Polymyxin B;

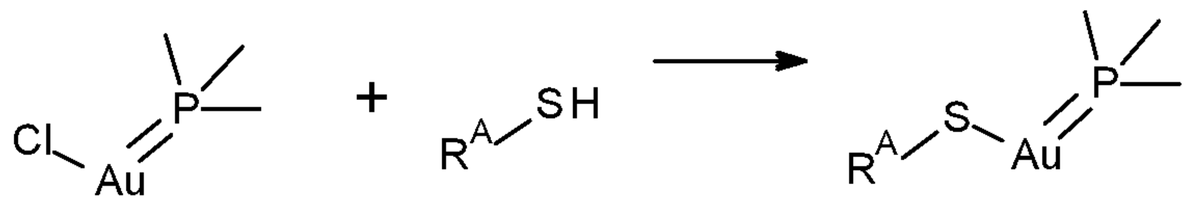
(s) Quinolones: Ciprofloxacin, Enoxacin, Gatifloxacin, Gemifloxacin, Levofloxacin, Lomefloxacin, Moxifloxacin, Nalidixic acid, Norfloxacin, Ofloxacin, Trovafloxacin, Grepafloxacin, Sparfloxacin, Temafloxacin;

(t) Sulfonamides: Mafenide, Sulfacetamide, Sulfadiazine, Silver sulfadiazine, Sulfadimethoxine, Sulfamethizole, Sulfamethoxazole, Sulfanilimide, Sulfasalazine, Sulfisoxazole, Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole, Sulfonamidochrysoidine; and

(u) Tetracylines: Demeclocycline, Doxycycline, Minocycline, Oxytetracycline, Tetracycline.

General Experimental

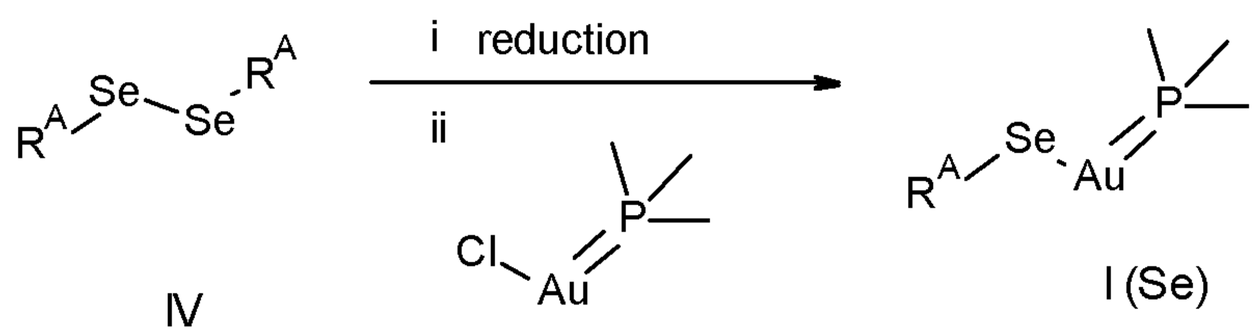
Compounds of the formula **I**, where A is S and M is Au, may be synthesised *via* the coupling of chloro (trimethylphosphine) gold (I) complex with a thiol of formula **III**:



III I(S)

The reaction may take place in an appropriate solvent, such as ethanol, and in the presence of a base, such as K_2CO_3. Heating may be applied, or the reaction may be carried out at room temperature or lower, e.g. 0°C.

Compounds of the formula **I**, where A is Se and M is Au, may be synthesised via a two step procedure comprising reduction of a diselenide of formula **IV**, and then coupling *in situ* chloro (trimethylphosphine) gold (I) complex:



IV I (Se)

The reduction may take place in an appropriate solvent, such as ethanol, using a reducing agent, such as sodium borohydride. The coupling may take place in the same solvent, and in the presence of a base, such as K_2CO_3. Heating may be applied, or the reaction may be carried out at room temperature or lower, e.g. 0°C.

Isomers, Salts and Solvates

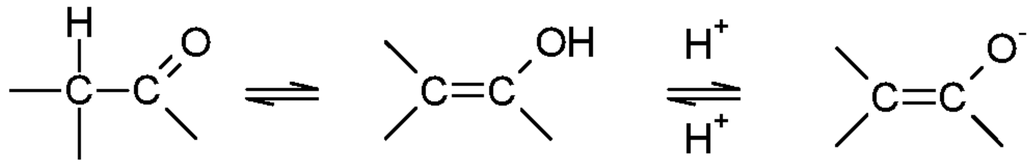
Isomers

Certain compounds may exist in one or more particular geometric, optical, enantiomeric, diasteriomeric, epimeric, atropic, stereoisomeric, tautomeric, conformational, or anomeric forms, including but not limited to, cis- and trans-forms; E- and Z-forms; c-, t-, and r-forms; endo- and exo-forms; R-, S-, and meso-forms; D- and L-forms; d- and l-forms; (+) and (-) forms; keto-, enol-, and enolate-forms; syn- and anti-forms; synclinal- and anticlinal-forms; α- and β-forms; axial and equatorial forms; boat-, chair-, twist-, envelope-, and halfchair-forms; and combinations thereof, hereinafter collectively referred to as “isomers” (or “isomeric forms”).

Note that, except as discussed below for tautomeric forms, specifically excluded from the term “isomers”, as used herein, are structural (or constitutional) isomers (i.e. isomers which differ in the connections between atoms rather than merely by the position of atoms

in space). For example, a reference to a methoxy group, $-OCH_3$, is not to be construed as a reference to its structural isomer, a hydroxymethyl group, $-CH_2OH$. Similarly, a reference to ortho-chlorophenyl is not to be construed as a reference to its structural isomer, meta-chlorophenyl. However, a reference to a class of structures may well include structurally isomeric forms falling within that class (e.g., C_{1-7}alkyl includes n-propyl and iso-propyl; butyl includes n-, iso-, sec-, and tert-butyl; methoxyphenyl includes ortho-, meta-, and para-methoxyphenyl).

The above exclusion does not pertain to tautomeric forms, for example, keto-, enol-, and enolate-forms, as in, for example, the following tautomeric pairs: keto/enol (illustrated below), imine/enamine, amide/imino alcohol, amidine/amidine, nitroso/oxime, thioketone/enethiol, N-nitroso/hydroxyazo, and nitro/aci-nitro.



keto enol enolate

Note that specifically included in the term "isomer" are compounds with one or more isotopic substitutions. For example, H may be in any isotopic form, including ^{1}H, ^{2}H (D), and ^{3}H (T); C may be in any isotopic form, including ^{12}C, ^{13}C, and ^{14}C; O may be in any isotopic form, including ^{16}O and ^{18}O; Au may be in any isotopic forms, including ^{197}Au and ^{195}Au; S may be in any isotopic forms, including ^{32}S, ^{33}S, ^{34}S and ^{36}S; P may be in any isotopic forms, including ^{31}P, ^{33}P and ^{32}P; and the like.

Unless otherwise specified, a reference to a particular compound includes all such isomeric forms, including (wholly or partially) racemic and other mixtures thereof. Methods for the preparation (e.g. asymmetric synthesis) and separation (e.g. fractional crystallisation and chromatographic means) of such isomeric forms are either known in the art or are readily obtained by adapting the methods taught herein, or known methods, in a known manner.

Salts

It may be convenient or desirable to prepare, purify, and/or handle a corresponding salt of the active compound, for example, a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable salts are discussed in Berge, *et al.*, *J. Pharm. Sci.*, **66**, 1-19 (1977).

For example, if the compound is anionic, or has a functional group which may be anionic (e.g., -COOH may be $-COO^-$), then a salt may be formed with a suitable cation. Examples of suitable inorganic cations include, but are not limited to, alkali metal ions such as Na^+ and K^+, alkaline earth cations such as Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+}, and other cations such as Al^{+3}. Examples of suitable organic cations include, but are not limited to, ammonium ion (i.e., NH_4^+) and substituted ammonium ions (e.g., NH_3R^+, $NH_2R_2^+$, NHR_3^+, NR_4^+). Examples of some suitable substituted ammonium ions are those derived from: ethylamine, diethylamine, dicyclohexylamine, triethylamine, butylamine, ethylenediamine, ethanolamine, diethanolamine, piperazine, benzylamine, phenylbenzylamine, choline, meglumine, and tromethamine, as well as amino acids, such as lysine and arginine. An example of a common quaternary ammonium ion is $N(CH_3)_4^+$.

If the compound is cationic, or has a functional group which may be cationic (e.g., $-NH_2$ may be $-NH_3^+$), then a salt may be formed with a suitable anion. Examples of suitable inorganic anions include, but are not limited to, those derived from the following inorganic acids: hydrochloric, hydrobromic, hydroiodic, sulfuric, sulfurous, nitric, nitrous, phosphoric, and phosphorous.

Examples of suitable organic anions include, but are not limited to, those derived from the following organic acids: 2-acetyoxybenzoic, acetic, ascorbic, aspartic, benzoic, camphorsulfonic, cinnamic, citric, edetic, ethanedisulfonic, ethanesulfonic, fumaric, glucheptonic, gluconic, glutamic, glycolic, hydroxymaleic, hydroxynaphthalene carboxylic, isethionic, lactic, lactobionic, lauric, maleic, malic, methanesulfonic, mucic, oleic, oxalic, palmitic, pamoic, pantothenic, phenylacetic, phenylsulfonic, propionic, pyruvic, salicylic, stearic, succinic, sulfanilic, tartaric, toluenesulfonic, and valeric. Examples of suitable polymeric organic anions include, but are not limited to, those derived from the following polymeric acids: tannic acid, carboxymethyl cellulose.

Unless otherwise specified, a reference to a particular compound also include salt forms thereof.

Solvates

It may be convenient or desirable to prepare, purify, and/or handle a corresponding solvate of the active compound. The term "solvate" is used herein in the conventional sense to refer to a complex of solute (e.g., active compound, salt of active compound)

and solvent. If the solvent is water, the solvate may be conveniently referred to as a hydrate, for example, a mono-hydrate, a di-hydrate, a tri-hydrate, etc.

Unless otherwise specified, a reference to a particular compound also include solvate forms thereof.

The Subject/Patient

The subject/patient may be an animal, mammal, a placental mammal, a marsupial (e.g., kangaroo, wombat), a monotreme (e.g., duckbilled platypus), a rodent (e.g., a guinea pig, a hamster, a rat, a mouse), murine (e.g., a mouse), a lagomorph (e.g., a rabbit), avian (e.g., a bird), canine (e.g., a dog), feline (e.g., a cat), equine (e.g., a horse), porcine (e.g., a pig), ovine (e.g., a sheep), bovine (e.g., a cow), a primate, simian (e.g., a monkey or ape), a monkey (e.g., marmoset, baboon), an ape (e.g., gorilla, chimpanzee, orangutang, gibbon), or a human.

Furthermore, the subject/patient may be any of its forms of development, for example, a foetus. In one preferred embodiment, the subject/patient is a human.

Dosage and Formulation

The dosage administered to a patient will normally be determined by the prescribing physician and will generally vary according to the age, weight and response of the individual patient, as well as the severity of the patient's symptoms and the proposed route of administration. However, in most instances, an effective therapeutic daily dosage will be in the range of from about 0.05 mg/kg to about 100 mg/kg of body weight and, preferably, of from 0.05 mg/kg to about 5 mg/kg of body weight administered in single or divided doses. In some cases, however, it may be necessary to use dosages outside these limits.

While it is possible for an active ingredient to be administered alone as the raw chemical, it is preferable to present it as a pharmaceutical formulation. The formulations, both for veterinary and for human medical use, of the present invention comprise a compound of formula (I) in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor and optionally other therapeutic ingredient(s). The carrier(s) must be 'acceptable' in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the formulation and not deleterious to the recipient thereof.

Conveniently, unit doses of a formulation contain between 0.1 mg and 1 g of the active ingredient. Preferably, the formulation is suitable for administration from one to six, such as two to four, times per day. For topical administration, the active ingredient preferably comprises from 1% to 2% by weight of the formulation but the active ingredient may comprise as much as 10% w/w. Formulations suitable for nasal or buccal administration, such as the self-propelling powder-dispensing formulations described hereinafter, may comprise 0.1 to 20% w/w, for example about 2% w/w of active ingredient.

The formulations include those in a form suitable for oral, ophthalmic, rectal, parenteral (including subcutaneous, vaginal, intraperitoneal, intramuscular and intravenous), intra-articular, topical, nasal or buccal administration. The toxicity of certain of the compounds in accordance with the present invention will preclude their administration by systemic routes, and in those, and other, cases opthalmic, topical or buccal administration, and in particular topical administration, is preferred for the treatment of local infection.

Formulations of the present invention suitable for oral administration may be in the form of discrete units such as capsules, cachets, tablets or lozenges, each containing a predetermined amount of the active ingredient; in the form of a powder or granules; in the form of a solution or a suspension in an aqueous liquid or non-aqueous liquid; or in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion or a water-in-oil emulsion. The active ingredient may also be in the form of a bolus, electuary or paste. For such formulations, a range of dilutions of the active ingredient in the vehicle is suitable, such as from 1% to 99%, preferably 5% to 50% and more preferably 10% to 25% dilution.

Formulations for rectal administration may be in the form of a suppository incorporating the active ingredient and a carrier such as cocoa butter, or in the form of an enema.

Formulations suitable for parenteral administration comprise a solution, suspension or emulsion, as described above, conveniently a sterile aqueous preparation of the active ingredient that is preferably isotonic with the blood of the recipient.

Formulations suitable for intra-articular administration may be in the form of a sterile aqueous preparation of the active ingredient, which may be in a microcrystalline form, for example, in the form of an aqueous microcrystalline suspension or as a micellar dispersion or suspension. Liposomal formulations or biodegradable polymer systems

may also be used to present the active ingredient particularly for both intra-articular and ophthalmic administration.

Formulations suitable for topical administration include liquid or semi-liquid preparations such as liniments, lotions or applications; oil-in-water or water-in-oil emulsions such as creams, ointments or pastes; or solutions or suspensions such as drops. For example, for ophthalmic administration, the active ingredient may be presented in the form of aqueous eye drops, as for example, a 0.1-1.0% solution.

Drops according to the present invention may comprise sterile aqueous or oily solutions. Preservatives, bactericidal and fungicidal agents suitable for inclusion in the drops are phenylmercuric salts (0.002%), benzalkonium chloride (0.01%) and chlorhexidine acetate (0.01%). Suitable solvents for the preparation of an oily solution include glycerol, diluted alcohol and propylene glycol.

Lotions according to the present invention include those suitable for application to the eye. An eye lotion may comprise a sterile aqueous solution optionally containing a bactericide or preservative prepared by methods similar to those for the preparation of drops. Lotions or liniments for application to the skin may also include an agent to hasten drying and to cool the skin, such as an alcohol, or a softener or moisturiser such as glycerol or an oil such as castor oil or arachis oil.

Creams, ointments or pastes according to the present invention are semi-solid formulations of the active ingredient in a base for external application. The base may comprise one or more of a hard, soft or liquid paraffin, glycerol, beeswax, a metallic soap; a mucilage; an oil such as a vegetable oil, *eg* almond, corn, arachis, castor or olive oil; wool fat or its derivatives; or a fatty acid ester of a fatty acid together with an alcohol such as propylene glycol or macrogols. The formulation may also comprise a suitable surface-active agent, such as an anionic, cationic or non-ionic surfactant such as a glycol or polyoxyethylene derivatives thereof. Suspending agents such as natural gums may be incorporated, optionally with other inorganic materials, such as silicaceous silicas, and other ingredients such as lanolin.

Formulations suitable for administration to the nose or buccal cavity include those suitable for inhalation or insufflation, and include powder, self-propelling and spray formulations

such as aerosols and atomisers. The formulations, when dispersed, preferably have a particle size in the range of 10 to 200µ.

Such formulations may be in the form of a finely comminuted powder for pulmonary administration from a powder inhalation device or self-propelling powder-dispensing formulations, where the active ingredient, as a finely comminuted powder, may comprise up to 99.9% w/w of the formulation.

Self-propelling powder-dispensing formulations preferably comprise dispersed particles of solid active ingredient, and a liquid propellant having a boiling point of below 18ºC at atmospheric pressure. Generally, the propellant constitutes 50 to 99.9% w/w of the formulation whilst the active ingredient constitutes 0.1 to 20% w/w. for example, about 2% w/w, of the formulation.

The pharmaceutically acceptable carrier in such self-propelling formulations may include other constituents in addition to the propellant, in particular a surfactant or a solid diluent or both. Especially valuable are liquid non-ionic surfactants and solid anionic surfactants or mixtures thereof. The liquid non-ionic surfactant may constitute from 0.01 up to 20% w/w of the formulation, though preferably it constitutes below 1% w/w of the formulation. The solid anionic surfactants may constitute from 0.01 up to 20% w/w of the formulation, though preferably below 1% w/w of the composition.

Formulations of the present invention may also be in the form of a self-propelling formulation wherein the active ingredient is present in solution. Such self-propelling formulations may comprise the active ingredient, propellant and co-solvent, and advantageously an antioxidant stabiliser. Suitable co-solvents are lower alkyl alcohols and mixtures thereof. The co-solvent may constitute 5 to 40% w/w of the formulation, though preferably less than 20% w/w of the formulation. Antioxidant stabilisers may be incorporated in such solution-formulations to inhibit deterioration of the active ingredient and are conveniently alkali metal ascorbates or bisulphites. They are preferably present in an amount of up to 0.25% w/w of the formulation.

Formulations of the present invention may also be in the form of an aqueous or dilute alcoholic solution, optionally a sterile solution, of the active ingredient for use in a nebuliser or atomiser, wherein an accelerated air stream is used to produce a fine mist consisting of small droplets of the solution.

In addition to the aforementioned ingredients, the formulations of this invention may include one or more additional ingredients such as diluents, buffers, flavouring agents, binders, surface active agents, thickeners, lubricants, preservatives *eg* methylhydroxybenzoate (including anti-oxidants), emulsifying agents and the like. A particularly preferred carrier or diluent for use in the formulations of this invention is a lower alkyl ester of a C_{18} to C_{24} mono-unsaturated fatty acid, such as oleic acid, for example ethyl oleate. Other suitable carriers or diluents include capric or caprylic esters or triglycerides, or mixtures thereof, such as those caprylic/capric triglycerides sold under the trade name Miglyol, *eg* Miglyol 810.

Embodiments of the invention will now be described by way of example only.

Examples

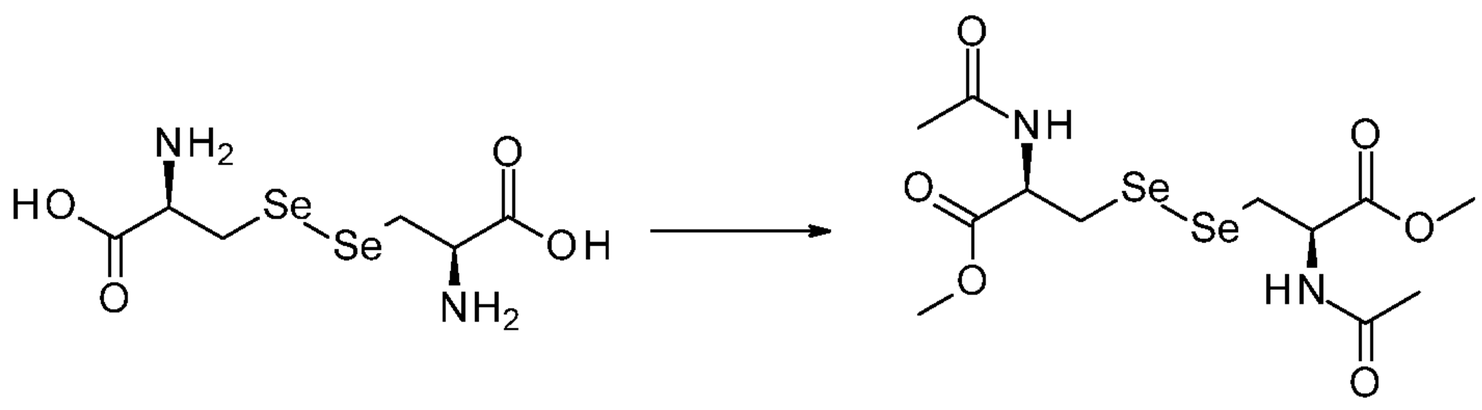
Analytical Methods

MeCN-FA Method: Phenomenex Luna C18(2) 3µm, 4.6 x 50mm; H_2O + 0.1% formic acid; B = MeCN + 0.1% formic acid; 45 °C; 0 min 5%, 1 min 37.5%, 3 min 95%, 3.5 min 95%, 3.51 min 5%, 4.5 min 5%; 2.2 - 2.3 mL/min.

MeOH-Bicarbonate Method: Phenomenex Luna C18(2) 3µm, 4.6 x 50mm; H_2O + 10 mmol ammonium bicarbonate; B = MeOH; 45 °C; 0 min 5%, 1 min 37.5%, 3 min 95%, 3.5 min 95%, 3.51 min 5%, 4.5 min 5%; 2.2 - 2.3 mL/min.

Synthesis of Key Intermediates

(R)-2-Acetylamino-3-((R)-2-acetylamino-2-methoxycarbonyl-ethyldiselenyl)-propionic acid methyl ester (I1)(used during synthesis of 9)

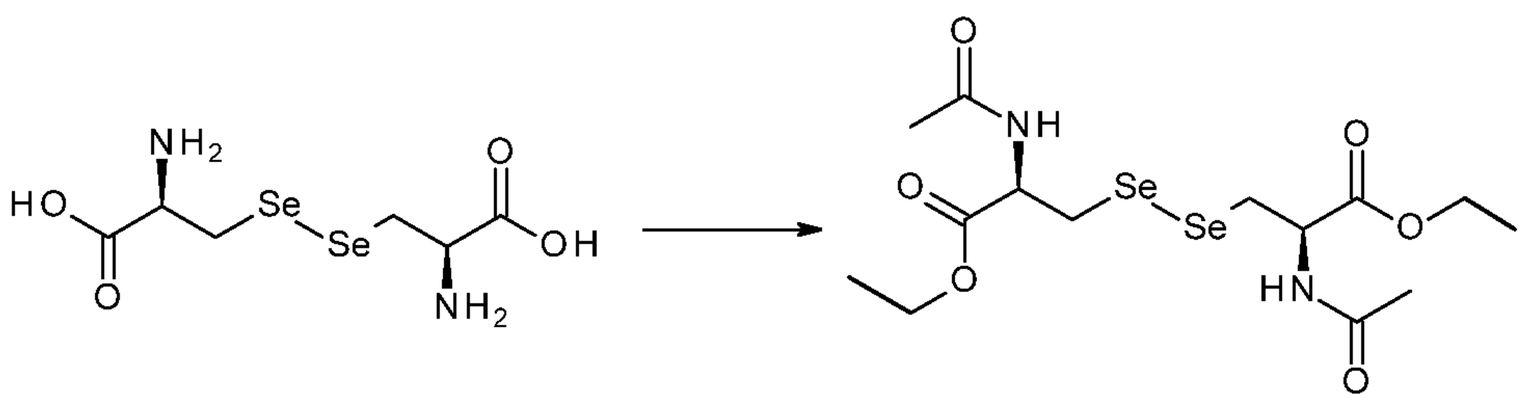


(I1)

Anhydrous MeOH (15 mL) was cooled to 0°C and acetyl chloride (1.6 mL, 22.5 mmol) added dropwise over the course of 5 minutes. The colourless solution was stirred at 0°C for 10 minutes whereupon L-selenocysteine (500 mg, 1.5 mmol) was added in one

portion. The resultant yellow reaction mixture was warmed to rt and stirred at this temperature for 24 h before concentrating *in vacuo* to give the crude di-selenide ester hydrochloride as a yellow solid. The crude material was re-suspended in DCM (15 mL) and cooled to 0°C at which point Et_3N (1 mL, 7.5 mmol) was added followed by acetyl chloride (0.3 mL, 4.5 mmol). The reaction was stirred at rt for 4 h (reaction complete by LC-MS) before DCM (30 mL) and H_2O (30 mL) were added. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase extracted with DCM (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were passed through a phase separator cartridge and the solvent removed *in vacuo* to give the crude product as a yellow oil which was purified by column chromatography (Biotage Isolera 4) eluting with neat EtOAc to provide the title compound as a colourless oil (270 mg, 0.6 mmol, 41%).

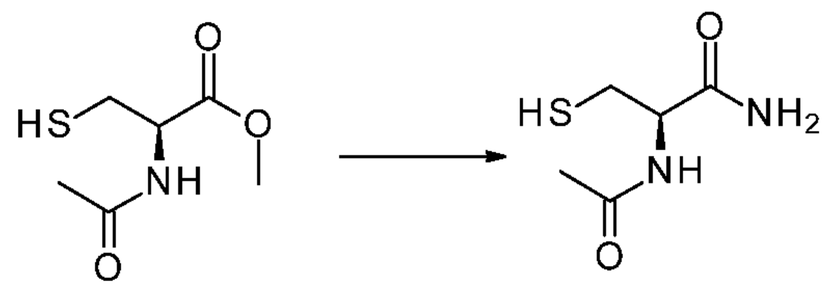
(R)-2-Acetylamino-3-((R)-2-acetylamino-2-methoxycarbonyl-ethyldiselenyl)-propionic acid ethyl ester (I4) (used during synthesis of 18)



(I4)

Procedure as described for *(R)*-2-Acetylamino-3-(*(R)*-2-acetylamino-2-methoxycarbonyl-ethyldiselenyl)-propionic acid methyl ester I1, except that anhydrous EtOH was used instead of MeOH. The method provided the title compound as a clear oil (412 mg, 0.87 mmol, 58%).

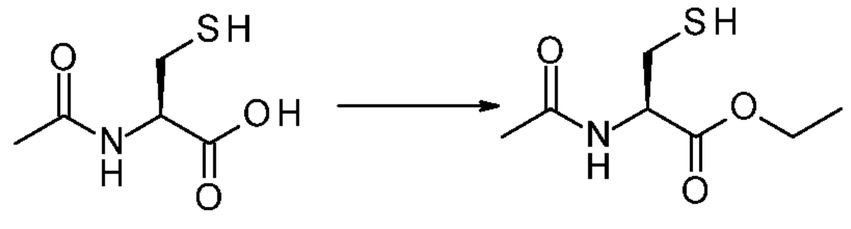
(R)-2-Acetylamino-3-mercapto-propionamide (I2)(used during synthesis of 4)



(I2)

(R)-2-Acetylamino-3-mercapto-propionic acid methyl ester (177 mg, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in NH_4OH (28% aq., 5mL) and the reaction mixture stirred at rt for 7 days. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* to give a white solid (150mg, 0.93 mmol, 93%).

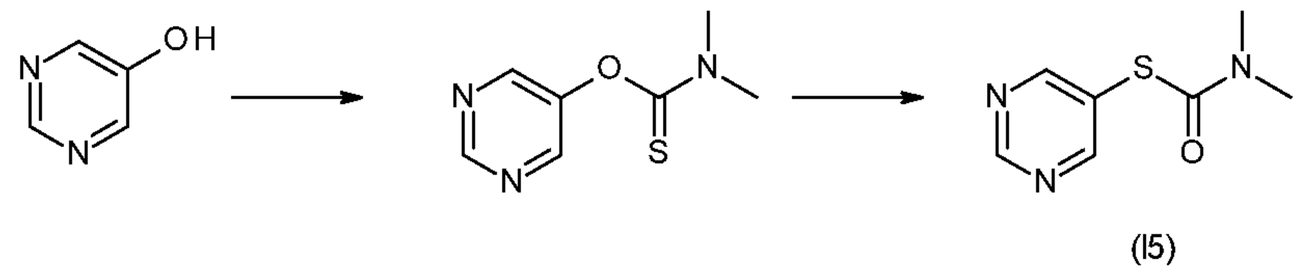
(R)-2-Acetylamino-3-mercapto-propionic acid ethyl ester (I3)(used during synthesis of 8)



(I3)

N-Acetyl-L-cysteine (4.7 g, 28.8 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (140 mL) and the reaction mixture degassed and flushed with N_2 before cooling to 0°C. $SOCl_2$ (2.4 mL) was then added drop wise before allowing the reaction to warm to rt and stir at this temperature for 4 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a yellow oil which was then diluted with water and EtOAc. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase extracted with EtOAc (3x). The combined organic extracts were dried over $MgSO_4$ and evaporated to dryness before purifying by flash column chromatography (Biotage Isolera Four, 100g KPSil column, EtOAc) to afford the desired product as a pale yellow oil which crystallised to give a white solid (2.59g, 13.5 mmol, 47%).

S-pyrimidin-5-yl N,N-dimethylcarbamothioate I5 (used during synthesis of 20)



(I5)

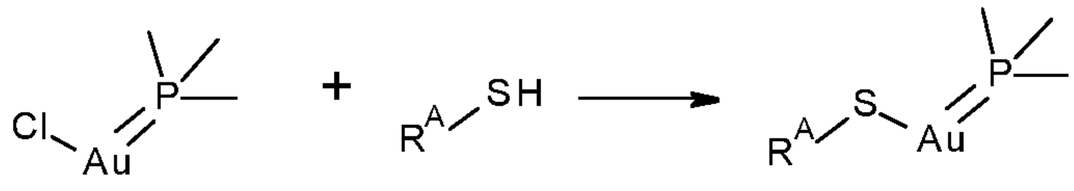
(a) Dimethyl-thiocarbamic acid pyrimidin-5-yl ester

NaH (60% dispersion, 450 mg, 11.25 mmol) was added to 5-hydroxypyrimidine (1.03 g, 10.72 mmol) in dry DMF (10 mL) at rt. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min, then N,N-dimethylthiocarbamoyl chloride (1.39 g, 11.25 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was heated to 90 ˚C for 1 h, then stirred at rt for 18 h. The reaction mixture was poured into brine (40 mL) and was extracted with DCM (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were passed through a phase separator cartridge and the solvent removed *in vacuo* to give the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography (Biotage Isolera 4) eluting with neat iso-hexane to 50% EtOAc / iso-hexane to give the title compound as a yellow solid (212 mg, 1.16 mmol, 11%).

(b) S-pyrimidin-5-yl N,N-dimethylcarbamothioate I5

Dimethyl-thiocarbamic acid pyrimidin-5-yl ester (120 mg, 0.66 mmol) was dissolved in DMSO. The reaction mixture was heated to 200 ˚C for 3 h in a microwave reactor. Purification was achieved by preparative HPLC (MeOH-H_2O, pH2) to afford the product as an orange solid (37 mg, 0.21 mmol, 31%).

Example 1



Method A: To a stirred suspension of the chloro (trimethylphosphine) gold (I) compound (125mg, 0.41 mmol) in EtOH (1 mL) at 0 °C, was slowly added the appropriate thiol (0.41 mmol) as a solution in 10% K_2CO_3 (aq., 1 mL) and EtOH (1 mL). The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 1 hour before warming to rt and allowing to stir at this temperature for 3 h. Once the reaction had gone to completion (by TLC) the reaction was diluted with H_2O (5 mL) and the solution extracted with DCM (3 x 15 mL). The combined organic extracts were passed through a phase separator cartridge and the solvent evaporated to provide the title compound.

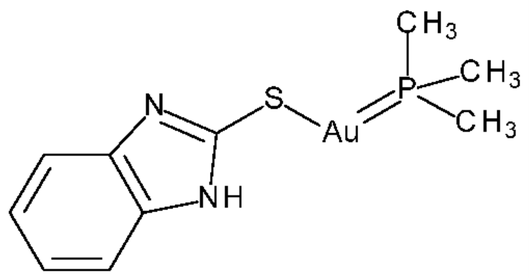
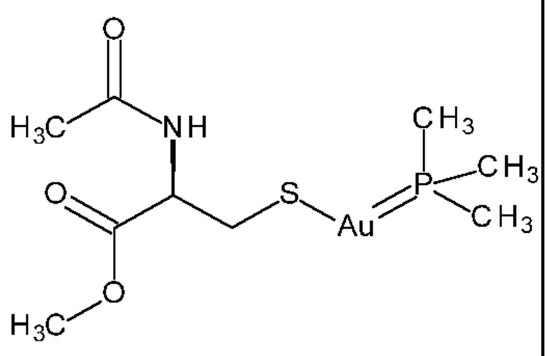
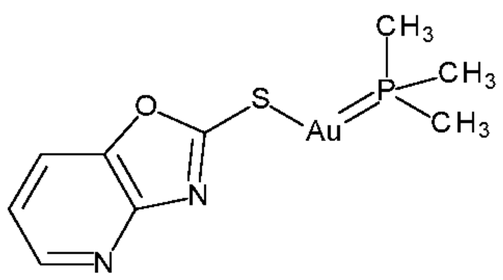
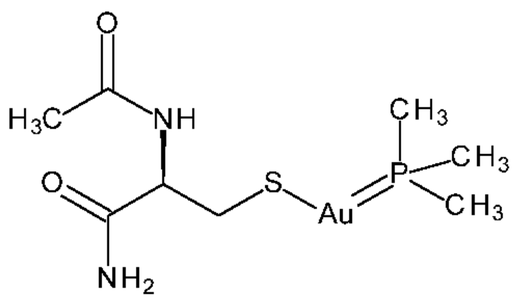
Method B: As Method A, except after stirring at 0 °C the reaction was heated at 50 °C for 16 h whereupon a thick white ppt had formed. The solid was collected by filtration, washed with EtOH (1 mL) and H_2O (2 mL) before drying under high vacuum for 24 h to give the title compound.

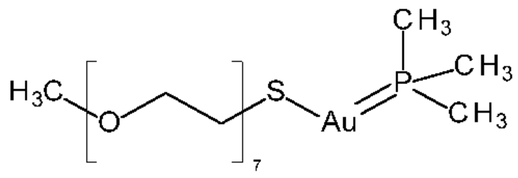
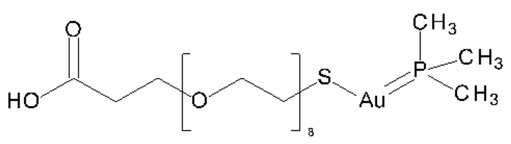
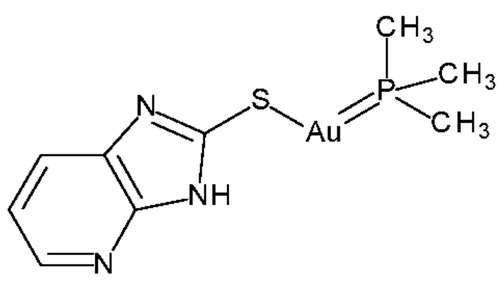
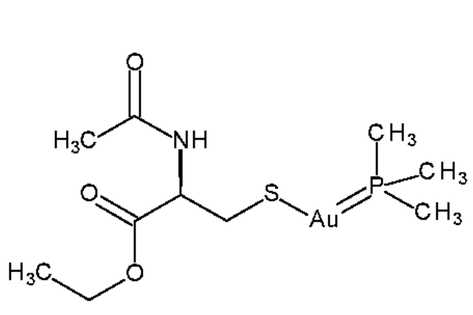
Method C: As Method A, except the reaction is stirred at 0°C for 1 hour only

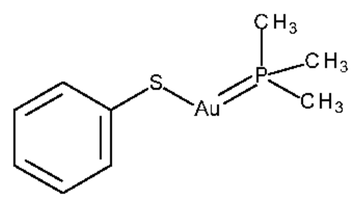
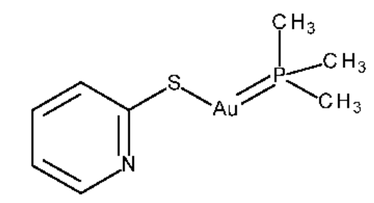
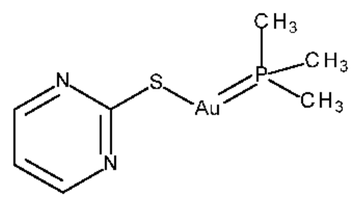
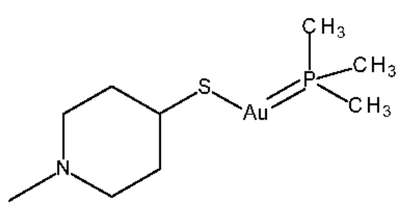
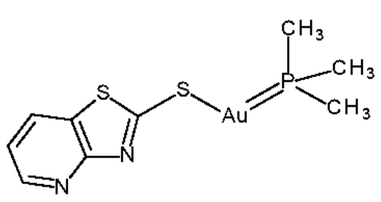
Method D: As Method C, except the reaction mixture is acidified with aq. 1M $KHSO_4$ to pH= 3-4 before extraction.

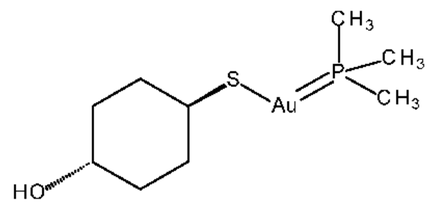
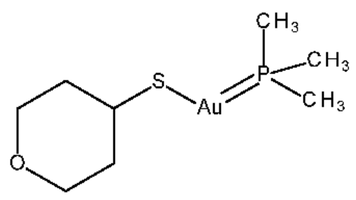
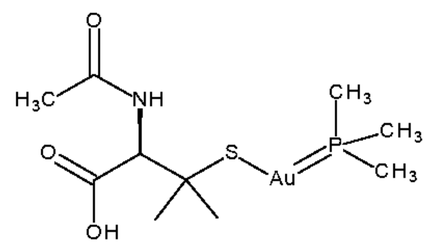
The following compounds were made using these methods:

Table 2

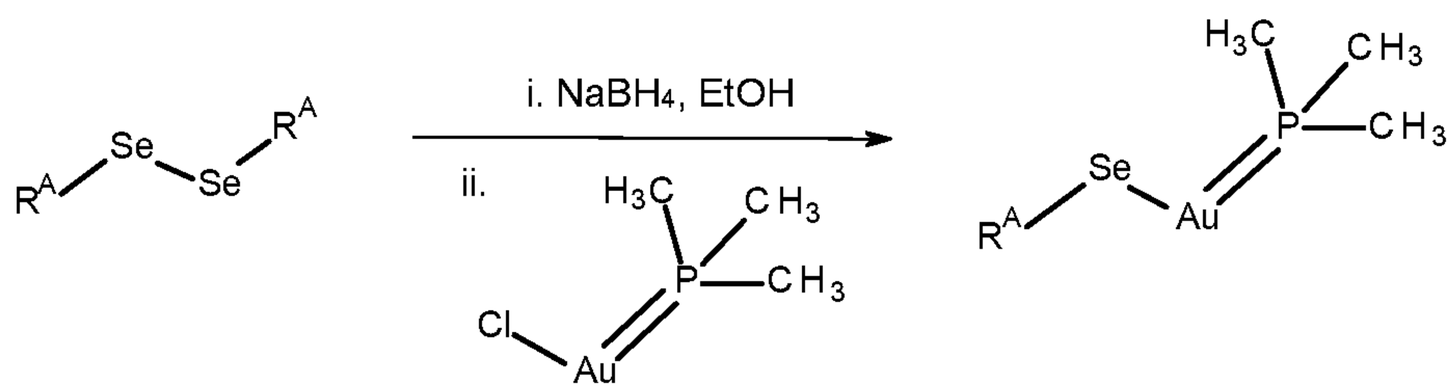
Structure	Compound Number	Method	Analytical Data
	1	B	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm 1.58 (d, 9H, *J* = 11.4 Hz), 6.97 (m, 2H), 7.24 (br s, 2H), 12.16 (br s, 1H). ^{13}C-NMR (100 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm 14.68 (d, *J* = 37.3 Hz), 120.22 (s). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm -0.02 (s).
			White solid, 133 mg, 78%
	2	C	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm 1.55 (d, 9H, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 2.05 (s, 3H), 3.31 (dd, 1H, *J*= 13.1, 4.5 Hz), 3.43 (dd, 1H, *J*= 13.1, 4.5 Hz), 3.74 (s, 3H), 4.78 (dt, 1H, *J*= 7.8, 4.5 Hz), 6.70 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz). ^{13}C-NMR (100 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm 15.99 (d, *J* = 36.6 Hz), 23.36 (s), 30.29 (s), 52.35 (s), 54.75 (s), 169.82 (s), 171.69 (s). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm -1.76 (s).
			White solid; 144 mg, 79%
	3	C	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm 1.68 (d, 9H, *J* = 11.6 Hz), 7.17 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.1, 5.1 Hz), 7.84 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.1, 1.5 Hz), 8.27 (dd, 1H, *J* = 5.1, 1.5 Hz). ^{13}C-NMR (100 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm 14.55 (d, *J* = 38.8 Hz), 116.20 (s), 118.12 (s), 143.57 (s), 144.64 (s), 156.80 (s), 174.45 (s). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm -0.09 (s).
			Pale brown solid; 115 mg, 83%
	4	C	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm 1.59 (d, 9H, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 2.05 (s, 3H), 3.08 (dd, 1H, *J*= 12.9, 7.8 Hz), 3.44 (dd, 1H, *J*= 12.9, 4.5 Hz), 4.50 (m, 1H), 5.45 (br s, 1H), 6.85 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 7.10 (bs, 1H). ^{13}C-NMR (100 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm 15.98 (d, *J* = 35.0 Hz), 23.46 (s), 30.71 (s), 57.19 (s), 170.25 (s), 173.56 (s). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm -3.12 (s)

			White solid; 65 mg, 52%
	5	A	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm 1.55 (d, 9H, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 3.09 (m, 2H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 3.54 (m, 2H), 3.61-3.66 (m, 24H). ^{13}C-NMR (100 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm 16.17 (d, *J* = 35.9 Hz), 26.88 (s), 29.71 (s), 59.06 (s), 69.95 (s), 70.51 (s), 70.56 (s), 70.59 (s), 71.92 (s), 76.44 (s). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm -1.77 (s)
			Clear gum; 35 mg, 56%
	6	A	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm 1.56 (d, 9H, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 2.61 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 3.1 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 3.60-3.66 (m, 30H), 3.76 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.1 Hz). ^{13}C-NMR (100 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm 16.03 (d, *J* = 36.6 Hz), 29.70 (s), 35.14 (s), 66.68 (s), 69.98 (s), 70.17 (s), 70.26 (s), 70.45 (s), 70.50 (s), 70.53 (s), 70.58 (s), 174.17 (s). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm -1.52 (s)
			Clear gum; 42 mg, 57%
	7	C	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm 1.64 (d, 9H, *J* = 11.4 Hz), 7.00 (m, 1H), 7.57 (bs, 1H), 8.06 (bs, 1H), 12.50 (br s, 1H). ^{13}C-NMR (100 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm 16.67 (d, *J* = 38.1 Hz). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm -0.17 (bs)
			Brown solid; 152 mg, 89%
	8	C	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm 1.31(t, 3H, *J* =7.3 Hz), 1.58 (d, 9H, *J* = 10.1 Hz), 2.07 (s, 3H), 3.34 (dd, 1H, *J*= 13.4, 4.5 Hz), 3.44 (dd, 1H, *J*= 13.4, 4.5 Hz), 4.21 (m, 2H), 4.77 (dt, 1H, *J*= 7.5, 4.5 Hz), 6.73 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz). ^{13}C-NMR (100 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm 14.34 (s), 16.01 (d, *J* = 36.6 Hz), 23.38 (s), 30.29 (s), 54.73 (s), 61.26 (s), 169.81 (s), 171.18 (s). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm -2.38 (s)
			Clear gum; 443 mg, 89%

	10	C	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm 1.58 (d, 9H, *J* =10.6 Hz), 6.97 (tt, 1H, *J* =7.3, 1.3 Hz), 7.06-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.55 (m, 2H). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm -1.94 (s)
			White solid; 121 mg, 97%
	11	C	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm 1.54(d, 9H, *J* = 10.6 Hz), 6.77 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 7.4, 5.0, 0.8 Hz), 7.23 (td, 1H, *J* 7.4, 2.0 Hz), 7.39 (br d, 1H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 8.18 (dd, *J* 5.0, 2.0 Hz). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm -2.37 (s)
			Pale yellow solid; 122mg, 98%
	12	C	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm 1.61 (d, 9H, *J* =10.6 Hz), 6.80 (t, 1H, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 8.33 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.8 Hz). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm -2.35 (s)
			Off white solid; 118 mg, 95%
	13	C	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm 1.56 (d, 9H, *J* =10.1 Hz), 1.70-1.85 (m, 2H), 1.90-2.05 (m, 2H, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 2.11 (br d, 2H, *J* = 12.9 Hz), 2.24 (s, 3H), 2.85 (br d, 2H, *J* = 12.1 Hz), 3.18 (br t, 1H, *J* = 9.6 Hz). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm -2.05 (s)
			White solid; 49 mg, 38%
	14	C	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm 1.66 (d, 9H, *J* =10.9 Hz), 7.05 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.8, 4.8 Hz), 7.87 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.8, 1.8 Hz), 8.47 (dd, 1H, *J* = 4.8, 1.8 Hz). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm -2.36 (s)
			Off-white solid; 113 mg, 79%

	15	C	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm 1.09-1.22 (m, 2H), 1.28-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.55 (d, 9H, *J* = 10.6 Hz), 1.76 (br d, 2H, *J* = 12.6 Hz), 1.95 (br d, 2H, *J* = 12.8 Hz), 2.96 (tt, 1H, *J* = 11.4, 3.8 Hz), 3.31 (m, 1H), 4.43 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.3 Hz). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm 1.85 (s) White solid; 50 mg, 38%
	16	C	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm 1.55 (d, 9H, *J* =10.4 Hz), 1.74 (ddd, 2H, *J* = 15.9, 11.6, 4.3 Hz), 2.04 (br d, 2H, *J* = 13.1 Hz), 3.32-3.42 (m, 3H), 3.95 (br d, 2H, *J* = 13.1 Hz). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm 0.47 (s) White solid; 150 mg, 86%
	17	D	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm 1.30(s, 3H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.60 (d, 9H, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 2.07 (s, 3H), 4.95 (br s, 1H), 6.63 (br s, 1.0 Hz) ^{13}C-NMR (100 MHz, *CDCl3*): δ ppm 14.34 (s), 16.01 (d, *J* = 36.6 Hz), 23.38 (s), 30.29 (s), 54.73 (s), 61.26 (s), 169.81 (s), 171.18 (s). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm -0.42 (s) White solid; 81 mg, 54%

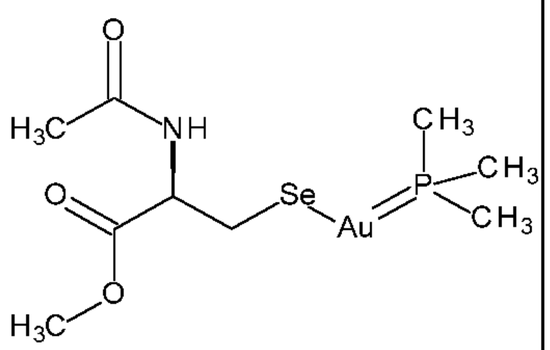
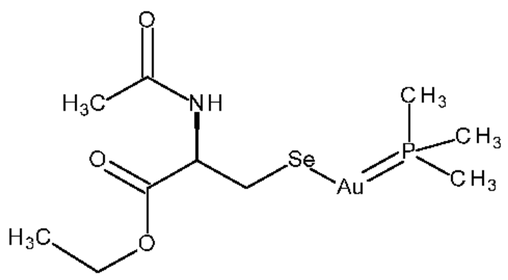
Example 2



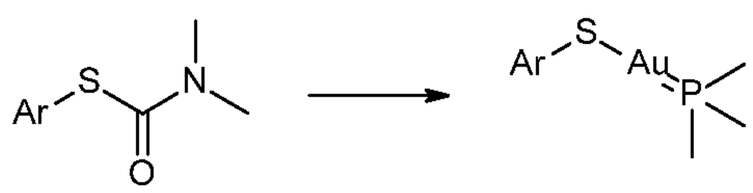
The appropriate diselenide (0.085 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (1 mL) and the reaction cooled to 0°C. $NaBH_4$ (7 mg, 0.17 mmol) was added in one portion and the pale yellow solution stirred at 0°C for 20 minutes. Chloro(trimethyl phosphine) gold (I) (53 mg, 0.0.17 mmol) was then added in one portion and the reaction warmed to rt and stirred at this temperature for 3 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with DCM (30 mL) and subsequently washed with saturated NH_4Cl (aq., 20 mL), saturated $NaHCO_3$ (aq., 20 mL)

and finally water (20 mL). The organic phase was passed through a phase separator cartridge and the solvent removed *in vacuo* to give a brown oil which was purified by column chromatography (Biotage Isolera 4) eluting with neat EtOAc to 1:1 EtOAc-WIPE 129 to provide the title compound.

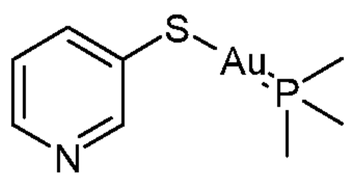
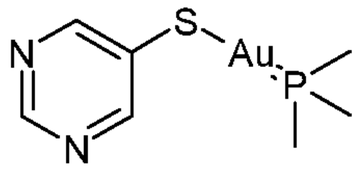
The following compounds were made using this method:

Structure	Compound Number	Analytical Data
		Yield / Physical appearance
	9	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm 1.55 (d, 9H, *J* = 11.1 Hz), 1.86 (s, 3H), 2.85 (dd, 1H, *J*= 11.9, 7.8 Hz), 2.98 (dd, 1H, *J*= 11.9, 5.8 Hz), 3.62 (s, 3H), 4.37 (dt, 1H, *J* = 7.6, 5.8 Hz), 8.1 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz). ^{13}C-NMR (100 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm 14.80 (d, *J* = 35.1 Hz), 18.09 (s), 21.73 (s), 22.41 (s), 51.78 (s), 169.08 (s), 171.64 (s). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm 3.05 (s)
		Colourless gum (58 mg, 0.12 mmol, 69%).
	18	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm 1.19 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 1.54 (d, 9H, *J* = 10.9 Hz), 1.86 (s, 3H), 2.84 (dd, 1H, *J*= 11.9, 7.6 Hz), 2.98 (dd, 1H, *J*= 11.9, 5.6 Hz), 4.07 (dq, 2H, *J* = 7.1, 1.5 Hz), 4.33 (dt, 1H, *J* = 7.6, 5.6 Hz), 8.04 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz). ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *DMSO-d6*): δ ppm -2.84 (s)
		Orange solid; 71mg, 67%

Example 3



The appropriate sulfanyl formamide (0.329 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of MeOH (1 mL) and 10% aq NaOH (0.3 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 100 °C for 1 hour in a microwave reactor, cooled to 0 °C and chloro(trimethylphosphine)gold(I) (101 mg, 0.33 mmol) added in one portion. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h, then poured into H_2O (10 mL) and extracted with DCM (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were passed through a phase separator cartridge and the solvent removed *in vacuo* to give the title compound.

Structure	**Number**	**Analytical Data**
		Yield / Physical appearance
	19	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm 1.60(d, 9H, *J* = 10.6 Hz), 7.00 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 5.6, 4.8, 0.8 Hz), 7.75 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 8.1, 4.6, 0.8 Hz), 7.75 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 8.1, 2.5, 1.5 Hz), 8.16 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.2 Hz), 8.81 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 0.8 Hz) ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm -1.04 (s)
		Off-white solid; 116 mg, 92%
	20	^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm 1.62 (d, 9H, *J* = 10.6 Hz), 8.75 (s, 1H), 8.81 (s, 1H) ^{31}P-NMR (162 MHz, *CDCl$_3$*): δ ppm -1.95 (s)
		Off-white solid; 67 mg, 91%

Example 4

Growth Media

Tryptic Soy Broth

Formula / Litre	
Pancreatic Digest of Casein	17.0 g
Enzymatic Digest of Soybean	3.0 g
Sodium Chloride	5.0 g
Di-potassium hydrogen Phosphate	2.5 g

Glucose	2.5 g

Directions for use: Dissolve 30 g of the medium in one litre of purified water, mix thoroughly, and then autoclave at 121°C for 15 minutes.

Luria Broth

Formula / Litre	
Tryptone	10.0 g
Yeast Extract	5.0 g
NaCl	5.0g

Directions for use: Dissolve components in 1 litre of distilled or deionized water and sterilize by autoclaving at 121°C for 15 minutes.

Mueller Hinton II Broth (Cation-Adjusted)

Formula / Litre	
Beef Extract	3.0 g
Acid Hydrolysate of Casein	17.5 g
Starch	1.5 g
*Adjusted and/or supplemented as required with appropriate salts to provide 20–25 mg/L of calcium and 10–12.5 mg/L of magnesium and as additionally required to meet performance criteria.	

Directions for use: Dissolve components in 1 litre of distilled or deionized water andand sterilize by autoclaving at 121°C for 15 minutes.

Brain Heart Infusion Broth

Formula / Litre	
Brain Heart Infusion solids	12.5 g
Beef heart infusion solids	5 g
Proteose peptone	10g
Glucose	2 g
Sodium Chloride	5 g
Di-sodium Phosphate	2.5 g

Directions for use: Dissolve components in 1 litre of purified water. Heat the mixture with frequent agitation to completely dissolve the medium, and sterilize by autoclaving at 121°C for 15 minutes.

Growth assay for S.aureus. (NCTC8325)

Stock solution of the test compounds (20mg/ml) in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) were serially diluted in DMSO and each diluted compound added in duplicate to a 96-well plate to a final DMSO concentration of 2% (v/v). An overnight culture of *S. aureus* (Oxford strain) grown in tryptic soy broth (TSB) was diluted to approximately $5x10^7$cfu/ml and 150µl of this sample was added to each well of the 96-well plates. Control wells included an 'untreated' control with bacteria in TSB in the presence of 2% DMSO and a negative sample (containing 150µl TSB growth media in the presence of 2% DMSO). Plates were incubated in a shaking incubator at 37°C for 22 h and bacterial growth assessed by absorbance at a wavelength of 595nm. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) was defined as the lowest concentration of compound that inhibited growth compared to the no-treatment control.

Variation of growth assays for:

Klebsiella pneumoniae (NCTC 13443), *Vibrio cholerae,* E.coli (ATCC 25922), *Acinetobacter baumannii* (ATCC BAA-747), *Klebsiella oxytoca, Proteus vulgaris (ATCC 6380* or *Enterobacter cloacae*: use of 1/100 overnight dilution to set up assay, medium used: Luria broth (LB); incubation without shaking.

P.aeruginosa (ATCC 27853): use of 1/100 overnight dilution to set up assay, medium used: Cation adjusted Mueller Hinton broth (CaMHB); incubation without shaking.

Enterococcus feacalis (ATCC29212): use of 1/100 overnight dilution to set up assay, medium used: brain heart infusion broth containing 0.5% yeast extract; incubation without shaking.

Compound	*S. aureus* MIC (µg/mL)	*E.faecalis* MIC (µg/mL)	*K. pneumoniae* MIC (µg/mL)	*A. baumannii* MIC (µg/mL)	*E.coli* MIC (µg/mL)
1	0.8-1.6	1.6-3.1	3.1		1.6
2	0.2-0.7	2	6.3-12.5	3.1	3.1
3	0.8-1.6	1.6	3.1-6.3	1.6	1.6
4	1.6		12.5	3.1	6.3-12.5
5	3.1		25		6.3
6	3.1		50		6.3-12.5

7	1.3				2.5
8	0.8-1.6		6.3	3.1	6.3-12.5
9	1.6				3.1-6.3
10	0.8		1.6	0.8	1.6
11	0.8		1.6	0.8-1.6	1.6
12	0.8		1.6-3.1	0.8-1.6	1.6-3.1
13	1.6-3.1		6.3	6.3	6.3
14	≤0.8		1.6		1.6
15	≤0.8		3.1	1.6-3.1	3.1-6.3
16	1.6		6.3	1.6	3.1-6.3
17	1.6		25	6.3	6.3
18	>100		>100		>100
19	≤0.8		3.1		3.1
20	3.1		3.1		3.1

Compound	*P. aeruginosa* MIC (μg/mL)	*V. cholerae* MIC (μg/mL)	*K. oxytoca* MIC (μg/mL)	*P. vulgaris* MIC (μg/mL)	*E. cloacae* MIC (μg/mL)
1	12.5	0.8			
2	12.5	0.8	3.1-6.3	3.1-6.3	3.1-6.3
3	12.5	0.8-1.6	1.6	0.8-1.6	3.1-6.3
4	12.5	1.6	3.1	3.1	6.3
8	6.3-12.5	0.8-1.6	3.1	3.1	3.1-6.3
10	3.1				
11	3.1				
12	3.1				
13	6.3				
14	3.1				
16	6.3				
19	3.1				
20	3.1				

CHO toxicity assay

Cell counting kit-8 (Sigma, CCK-8) assays were performed to assess the effect of compounds on cell viability. The assay is based on the reduction of a water-soluble

tetrazolium salt (WST-8) by cellular dehydrogenases to a formazan dye which can be detected spectroscopically. 96-well plates were seeded with chinese hamster ovary cells (CHO) cells at 7×10^3 cells per well in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium nutrient mixture F-12 Ham (containing 15mM HEPES, $NaHCO_3$, pyridoxine and L-glutamine) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS). The following day serial dilutions of compounds (dissolved and diluted in DMSO) were added to the cells in duplicates. Control included an 'untreated' control where cells were grown in the presence of 1% DMSO and a medium only control (plus 1% DMSO). After 24 hours CCK-8 reagent (10µl) was added to each well and cell viability was assessed by measuring the absorbance at a wavelength of 450nm after 2.5-3 hours. Only living cells can reduce the tetrazolium salts into coloured formazan products. Results were expressed as 50% growth inhibition (TD_{50}) values compared to 'untreated' control.

The therapeutic index was calculated as the ratio of the dose that produces growth inhibition in 50% of CHO cells divided by the dose where 50% of *S.aureus* growth is inhibited.

Compound	CHO cell TD_{50} (µg/mL)	Therapeutic Index (CHO)
1	3.2	9.4
2	6.4	26
3	5.0	9.4

HepG2 cell inhibition assay

Cell counting kit-8 (Sigma, CCK-8) assays were performed to assess the effect of compounds on cell viability. The assay is based on the reduction of a water-soluble tetrazolium salt (WST-8) by cellular dehydrogenases to a formazan dye which can be detected spectroscopically. 96-well plates were seeded with the human hepatocyte cell line (HepG2) at approximately 8×10^3 cells per well in Minimum Essential Medium Eagle (EMEM) with Earle's salts and sodium bicarbonate supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated foetal bovine serum 2mM glutamine and 1% non-essential amino acids (NEAA). The following day serial dilutions of compounds (dissolved and diluted in DMSO) were added to the cells in duplicates. Control included an 'untreated' control where cells were grown in the presence of 1% DMSO and a medium only control (plus 1% DMSO). After 24 hours CCK-8 reagent (10µl) was added to each well and cell viability was assessed by measuring the absorbance at a wavelength of 450nm after 2-3h hours. Only

living cells can reduce the tetrazolium salts into coloured formazan products. Results were expressed as 50% growth inhibition (TD_{50}) values compared to 'untreated' control. The therapeutic index was calculated as the ratio of the dose that produces growth inhibition in 50% of HepG2 cells divided by the dose where 50% of *S.aureus* or *E.coli* growth is inhibited.

Compound	HepG2 cell TD_{50} (µg/mL)	Therapeutic Index (HepG2)/ *S.aureus*	Therapeutic Index (HepG2)/ *E.coli*
1	4	10	4
2	11	31	2.5
3	9	10	8
4	22	24	5
5	6.6	6	1
6	22		
7	12.5	18	5
8	9.5	32	2
10	2	>2.5	2
11	4.5	>6	5.5
12	4.5	>6	3
13	15	>19	4
14	7	>9	10
15	4.5	>6	5
16	4.5	>6	2
18	>50		
19	3	>4	4

Efficacy studies in the Galleria mellonella model

G. mellonella larvae at 5th or 6th instar stage were purchased from a commercial supplier and used within 3 days. Prior to infection larvae were kept at room temperature. Larvae were infected with bacteria (various Gram positive and negative bacteria, including *S.aureus, K.pneumoniae, E.coli* and *P.aeruginosa*) using a sterile Hamilton syringe. Bacteria cultures were grown overnight, washed x3 in PBS and resuspended in PBS. Larvae were wiped with 70% ethanol and 10µl of bacteria solution (to cause 80% death within 3- 4 days) was injected into the bottom right proleg of the larvae. Larvae injected with 10µl of PBS were used as negative controls. Larvae were then placed in petri dishes

(1 dish per condition) containing filter paper at the bottom of the dish at 37°C. After various time points post infection (1-6h), larvae were taken from the incubator wiped again with 70% ethanol and injected with 10µl of various concentrations of compound, dissolved in either 5% dimethyl sulfoxide, 5% ethanol or 5% 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone into a proleg on the left hand-side. Control larvae received 10µl of 5% solvent. Ten larvae were injected for each condition. To assess the toxicity of the compound, larvae were injected with various concentrations of compound alone. Larvae were returned to a 37°C incubator and checked daily. Larvae were considered dead when no movement occurred when touched with a blunt pair of forceps. Black or discoloured larvae which still showed movement were considered to be alive. Numbers of dead larvae were recorded each day.

Survival proportions following dosing with 10µl of compound 8 solutions of varying strengths

mg/kg	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
0	100	100	100	100
3.75	100	100	100	100
7.5	100	100	100	100
15	100	100	100	100
30	100	90	90	90
60	100	80	60	50

Survival proportions following infection with 10µl of a 5x10^{7}cfu/ml S.aureus suspension and treated 4 hours later with 10µl of compound 8 corresponding to concentrations of 2mg/kg and 4mg/kg

mg/kg	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
0	90	10	0	0
2	90	60	40	20
4	90	50	40	40

Compound 8 significantly increased mean survival rates at both 2mg/kg ($p=0.02$) and 4mg/kg ($p=0.04$).

Biofilm prevention assay

The effect of a test compound on the formation of a *S. aureus* biofilm may be assessed using a biofilm prevention assay as described by Merritt *et al.* Current Protocols in Microbiology, 2011, 1B.1.1-1B1.18 with slight modifications. Briefly, *S. aureus* NCTC 8325, MRSA (RPAH18) and MRSA (MW2) are grown overnight in Tryptic soy broth (TSB) and diluted to between 1/50 and 1/100 before 150 µL is added to the wells of a flat bottomed 96-well plate. Three microliters of auranofin at the appropriate dilution in DMSO are added to the wells in duplicate. Controls included a serial dilution of lincomycin in ethanol (to assess plate to plate variation), a positive control with bacteria alone in TSB with 2% DMSO and a negative (no bacteria) control with 150 µL TSB containing 2% DMSO. Plates are sealed with AeraSeal™ and incubated at 37 °C for 24 hours. The plates are then washed three times with PBS, dried at 60 °C for 1 hour and stained with crystal violet for 1 hour. The plates are again washed three times with water, dried and scanned prior to the addition of 33% acetic acid to re-solubilize the crystal violet stain bound to the adherent cells. Absorbance is then measured at 595 nm and expressed as a percentage of the bacteria only control.

The effect of a test compound on preformed *S. aureus* biofilms can also be assessed. Briefly *S.aureus* NCTC 8325 is plated in 96-well plates as described in above and incubated 37 °C for 24 hours. Biofilms are then washed 3 times with TSB and 150 µL of fresh TSB and 3 µL of auranofin at the appropriate dilution in DMSO was added to the wells in duplicate. Plates are again sealed with AeraSeal™ and reincubated 37 °C for 24 hours. Biofilm is then detected as described above. Compounds 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15 all disrupted the biolfilm.

Persister cell assay

To determine whether *S. aureus* persister cells are susceptible to treatment with a test compound, a persister cell (or SCV) isolate *hemB* mutant of NCTC 8325-4 may be used (Von Eiff *et al.*, (1997) J Bacteriol 179:4706-4712). This persister cell variant displays varying resistance to erythromycin and the aminoglycosides gentamicin and kanamycin. Growth assays are performed essentially as described above with the bacteria being grown in TSB. Disc assays were also performed by plating bacteria on TSB agar. Discs impregnated with an amount of test compound were placed on top of the agar. The plates were incubated overnight at 37 °C and any zone of bacterial inhibition was observed.

Abbreviations

aq.	Aqueous
br	Broad
d	Doublet
DCM	Dichloromethane
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
Et	Ethyl
EtOAc	Ethyl acetate
EtOH	Ethanol
FA	Formic acid
g	Gram
h	Hours
J	Coupling constant
LC-MS	Liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry
Me	Methyl
MeCN	Acetonitrile
MeOH	Methanol
mg	Milligram
min	Minutes
mL	Millilitre
mmol	Millimole
ppm	Parts per million
ppt	Precipitate
q	Quartet
rt	Room temperature
s	Singlet
TLC	Thin layer chromatography
t	Triplet
WIPE	Water / isopropanol / Ethyl acetate (1:2:9)

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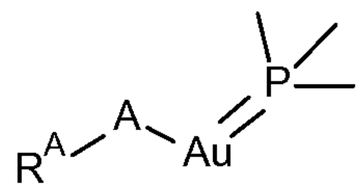
Claims

1. A compound of formula (I):



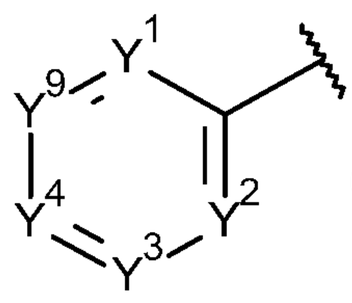
(I)

for use in the prevention or treatment of a bacterial infection wherein:

A is S;

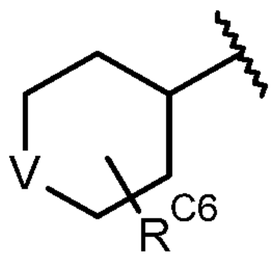
R^A is selected from:

(a)



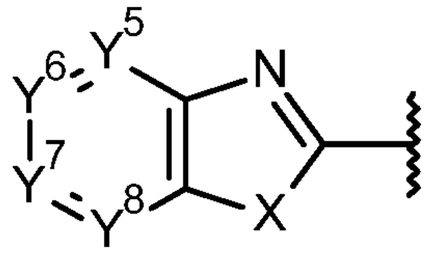
(A1)

(b)



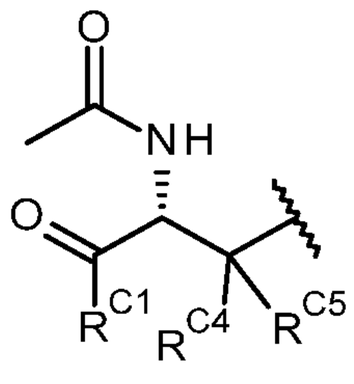
(A2)

(c)



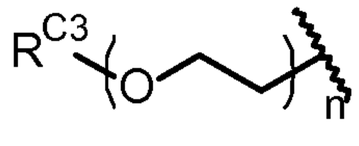
(A3)

(d)



(A4)

(e)



(A5)

wherein:

each of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 is independently selected from CH or N, wherein at least three of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 is CH;

V is selected from O, CH-OR^{O1}, N-CO_2-R^{C2} or N-R^{N2};

one of Y^5, Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 is selected from CH and N, and the others are CH;

X is selected from NH, S or O;

R^{C1} is selected from O-R^{O2} or NHR^{N1};

R^{O1} is selected from H and C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl;

R^{O2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl;

R^{N1} is selected from H and C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl;

R^{N2} is C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl; R^{C2} is either C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl or C_{3-4} branched alkyl;

R^{C3} is selected from C_{1-3} unbranched alkyl and $C_2H_4CO_2H$;

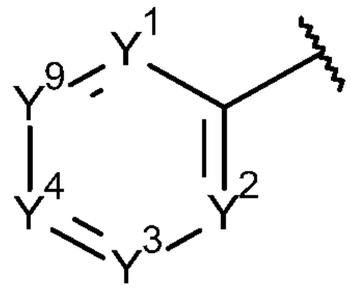
R^{C4} is either H or Me;

R^{C5} is either H or Me;

R^{C6} represents one or two optional methyl substituents; and

n is an integer from 2 to 8.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^A is A1:



(A1)

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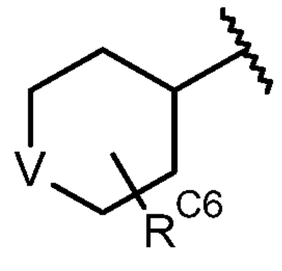
3. A compound according to claim 2, wherein one of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 is N.

4. A compound according to claim 2, wherein two of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 are N.

5. A compound according to claim 2, wherein R^A is phenyl.

6. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^A is A2:



(A2)

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7. A compound according to claim 6, wherein V is O.

9. A compound according to claim 6, wherein V is CH-OR^{O1}.

9. A compound according to claim 8, wherein R^{O1} is H.

10. A compound according to claim 6, wherein V is N-CO_2-R^{C2}.

11. A compound according to claim 10, wherein R^{C2} is *tert*-butyl.

12. A compound according to claim 6, wherein V is N-R^{N2}.

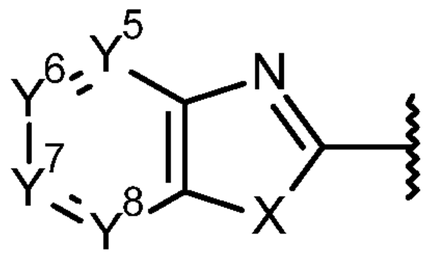
13. A compound according to claim 12, wherein R^{N2} is methyl.

14. A compound according to any one of claims 6 to 13, wherein there are no optional methyl substituents.

15. A compound according to any one of claims 6 to 13, wherein there is a single methyl substituent represented by R^{C6}.

16. A compound according to any one of claims 6 to 13, wherein there are two methyl substituents represented by R^{C6}.

17. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^A is A3:



(A3)

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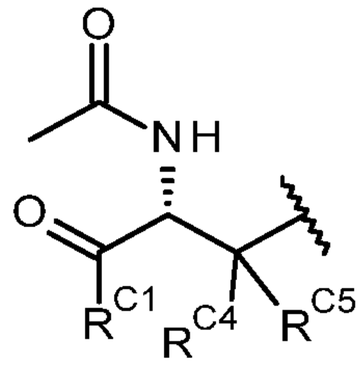
18. A compound according to claim 17, wherein X is O and one of Y^5, Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 is N.

19. A compound according to claim 17, wherein X is NH and Y^5, Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 are CH.

20. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^A is R^A is A4:



(A4)

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21. A compound according to claim 20, wherein R^{C1} is O-R^{O2} where R^{O2} is methyl.

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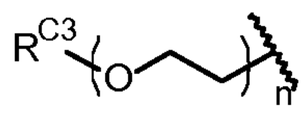
22. A compound according to claim 20, wherein R^{C1} is NHR^{N1}, and R^{N1} is H.

23. A compound according to any one of claims 20 to 22, wherein R^{C4} and R^{C5} are both H.

24. A compound according to any one of claims 20 to 22, wherein R^{C4} is H and R^{C5} is Me.

25. A compound according to any one of claims 20 to 22, wherein R^{C4} and R^{C5} are both Me.

26. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^{A} is A5:



(A5)

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27. A compound according to claim 26, wherein R^{C3} is methyl.

28. A compound according to claim 26, wherein R^{C3} is $C_2H_4CO_2H$.

29. A compound according to any one of claims 26 to 28, wherein n is an integer from 4 to 8.

30. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 29, wherein the bacterial infection prevented and/or treated is infection by one or more Gram-positive bacteria.

31. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 29, wherein the bacterial infection prevented and/or treated is infection by one or more Gram-negative bacteria.

32. A method for reducing the biomass of a biofilm, the method comprising exposing the biofilm to an effective amount of a compound as described in any one of claims 1 to 29.

33. A method for promoting the dispersal of microorganisms from a biofilm, the method comprising exposing the biofilm to an effective amount of a compound as described in any one of claims 1 to 29.

34. A method for killing a microorganism within a biofilm, comprising exposing the biofilm to an effective amount of a compound as described in any one of claims 1 to 29.

35. A method of sensitizing a microorganism in a biofilm to an antimicrobial agent by exposing the biofilm to an effective amount of a compound as described in any one of claims 1 to 29.

36. The method according to any one of claims 32 to 35, wherein the biofilm is an established biofilm.

37. A method for inhibiting the formation of a biofilm, the method comprising exposing the biofilm to an effective amount of a compound as described in any one of claims 1 to 29.

38. The method according to claim 37 wherein the compound as described in any one of claims 1 to 29 is coated, impregnated or otherwise contacted with a surface or interface susceptible to biofilm formation.

39. The method according to claim 38, wherein the surface is a surface of medical or surgical equipment, an implantable medical device, implant, or prosthesis

40. A method of removing or eliminating an existing biofilm, inhibiting biofilm formation, reducing the biomass of a biofilm, promoting the dispersal of microorganisms from a biofilm, sensitizing a microorganism in a biofilm to an antimicrobial agent, killing a microorganism within a biofilm, treating or preventing an infection, disease or disorder caused by a biofilm, inhibiting the growth of a microbial persister cell, killing a microbial persister cell, or treating or preventing an infection, disease or disorder caused by or associated with a microbial persister cell; the method comprising exposing the biofilm to an effective amount of a compound as described in any one of claims 1 to 29.

41. A method for killing microbial persister cells, or inhibiting the growth of microbial persister cells, comprising exposing the persister cell to an effective amount of a compound as described in any one of claims 1 to 29.

42. Use of a compound of a compound as described in any one of claims 1 to 29 to remove or eliminate an existing biofilm, inhibit biofilm formation, reduce the biomass of a biofilm, promote the dispersal of microorganisms from a biofilm, sensitize a microorganism in a biofilm to an antimicrobial agent, kill a microorganism within a biofilm, treat or prevent an infection, disease or disorder caused by a biofilm, inhibit the growth of a microbial persister cell, kill a microbial persister cell, or treat or prevent an infection, disease or disorder caused by or associated with a microbial persister cell.

43. The method according to any one of claims 32 to 41, the use according to claim 42, wherein the biofilm comprises bacteria, or the microbial persister cells are bacteria.

44. The method according to any one of claims 32 to 41, the use according to claim 42, wherein the bacteria are Gram positive bacteria.

45. The method according to any one of claims 32 to 41, the use according to claim 42, wherein the bacteria are *Staphylococcus spp*.

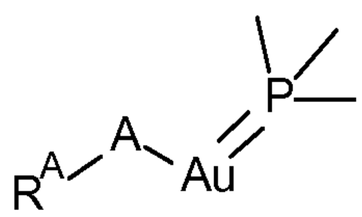
46. The method according to any one of claims 32 to 41, the use according to claim 42, wherein the bacteria are multi-drug resistant bacteria.

47. The method according to any one of claims 32 to 41, the use according to claim 42, wherein the bacteria are small colony variants.

48. The method according to any one of claims 32 to 41, the use according to claim 42, comprising further administering at least one additional antimicrobial agent.

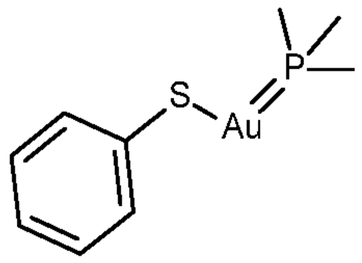
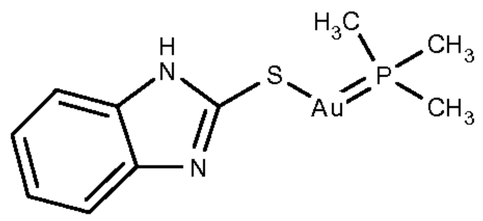
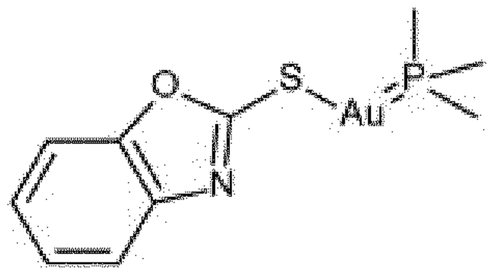
49. A medical device coated or impregnated with a compound as described in any one of claims 1 to 29.

50. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein A and R^A are as defined in any one of claims 1 to 29, with the proviso that the compound is not:


, 
or 
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51. A compound according to claim 50, wherein if A is S, R^A is (A3), then one of Y^5, Y^6, Y^7 and Y^8 is N.

52. A compound according to claim 50, wherein if A is S, R^A is (A1), then Y^1 and Y^2 are CH and Y^3, Y^4 and Y^9 are independently selected from N and CH.

53. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 50 to 52.

54. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 53, which also comprises a pharmaceutical acceptable diluent or excipient.

55. A compound according to any one of claims 50 to 52 for use in a method of therapy.