

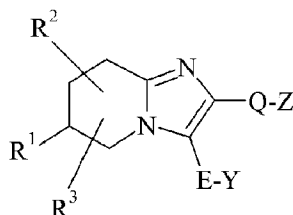


(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 2014/12/08
(87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 2015/06/18
(45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2022/03/08
(85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 2016/05/10
(86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: EP 2014/076834
(87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 2015/086498
(30) Priorité/Priority: 2013/12/09 (GB1321743.5)

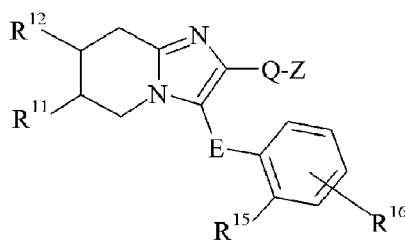
(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *C07D 471/04* (2006.01),
A61K 31/425 (2006.01)
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(54) Titre : DERIVES DE TETRAHYDROIMIDAZOPYRIDINE SUBSTITUES COMME MODULATEURS DE L'ACTIVITE DU
TNF

(54) Title: TETRAHYDROIMIDAZOPYRIDINE DERIVATIVES AS MODULATORS OF TNF ACTIVITY



(I)



(IIA)

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

Compounds of formula (I):

(see formula I)

and including a compound of formula (IIA) :

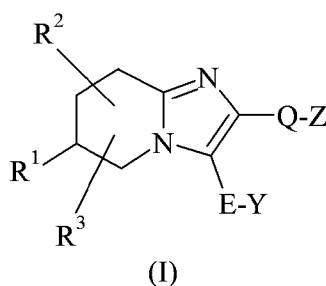
(see formula IIA)

or an N-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, being potent modulators of human TNF α activity, and accordingly of benefit in the treatment and/or prevention of various human ailments, including autoimmune and inflammatory disorders; neurological and neurodegenerative disorders; pain and nociceptive disorders; cardiovascular disorders; metabolic disorders; ocular disorders; and oncological disorders.

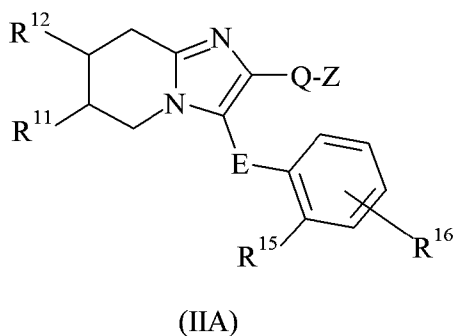


ABSTRACT

Compounds of formula (I):



and including a compound of formula (IIA) :



or an N-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, being potent modulators of human TNF α activity, and accordingly of benefit in the treatment and/or prevention of various human ailments, including autoimmune and inflammatory disorders; neurological and neurodegenerative disorders; pain and nociceptive disorders; cardiovascular disorders; metabolic disorders; ocular disorders; and oncological disorders.

TETRAHYDROIMIDAZOPYRIDINE DERIVATIVES AS **MODULATORS OF TNF ACTIVITY**

The present invention relates to a class of fused imidazole derivatives, and to their
5 use in therapy. More particularly, this invention is concerned with pharmacologically
active substituted 5,6,7,8-tetrahydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine derivatives. These compounds
are modulators of the signalling of TNF α , and are accordingly of benefit as pharmaceutical
agents, especially in the treatment of adverse inflammatory and autoimmune disorders,
neurological and neurodegenerative disorders, pain and nociceptive disorders,
10 cardiovascular disorders, metabolic disorders, ocular disorders, and oncological disorders.

TNF α is the prototypical member of the Tumour Necrosis Factor (TNF)
superfamily of proteins that share a primary function of regulating cell survival and cell
death. One structural feature common to all known members of the TNF superfamily is
the formation of trimeric complexes that bind to, and activate, specific TNF superfamily
15 receptors. By way of example, TNF α exists in soluble and transmembrane forms and
signals through two receptors, known as TNFR1 and TNFR2, with distinct functional
endpoints.

Various products capable of modulating TNF α activity are already commercially
available. All are approved for the treatment of inflammatory and autoimmune disorders
20 such as rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn's disease. All currently approved products are
macromolecular and act by inhibiting the binding of human TNF α to its receptor. Typical
macromolecular TNF α inhibitors include anti-TNF α antibodies; and soluble TNF α
receptor fusion proteins. Examples of commercially available anti-TNF α antibodies
include fully human antibodies such as adalimumab (Humira®) and golimumab
25 (Simponi®), chimeric antibodies such as infliximab (Remicade®), and pegylated Fab'
fragments such as certolizumab pegol (Cimzia®). An example of a commercially
available soluble TNF α receptor fusion protein is etanercept (Enbrel®).

TNF superfamily members, including TNF α itself, are implicated in a variety of
physiological and pathological functions that are believed to play a part in a range of
30 conditions of significant medical importance (see, for example, M.G. Tansey & D.E.
Szymkowski, *Drug Discovery Today*, 2009, **14**, 1082-1088; and F.S. Carneiro *et al.*, *J.*
Sexual Medicine, 2010, **7**, 3823-3834).

The compounds in accordance with the present invention, being potent modulators of human TNF α activity, are therefore beneficial in the treatment and/or prevention of various human ailments. These include autoimmune and inflammatory disorders; neurological and neurodegenerative disorders; pain and nociceptive disorders; cardiovascular disorders; metabolic disorders; ocular disorders; and oncological disorders.

In addition, the compounds in accordance with the present invention may be beneficial as pharmacological standards for use in the development of new biological tests and in the search for new pharmacological agents. Thus, in one embodiment, the compounds of this invention may be useful as radioligands in assays for detecting pharmacologically active compounds. In an alternative embodiment, certain compounds of this invention may be useful for coupling to a fluorophore to provide fluorescent conjugates that can be utilised in assays (e.g. a fluorescence polarisation assay) for detecting pharmacologically active compounds.

Co-pending international patent applications WO 2013/186229 (published 19 December 2013), WO 2014/009295 (published 16 January 2014) and WO 2014/009296 (also published 16 January 2014) describe fused imidazole derivatives which are modulators of human TNF α activity.

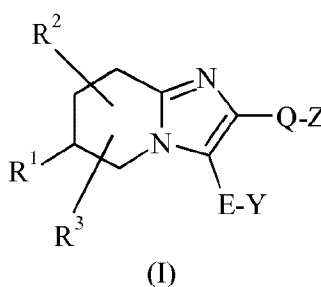
None of the prior art available to date, however, discloses or suggests the precise structural class of 5,6,7,8-tetrahydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine derivatives as provided by the present invention.

The compounds in accordance with the present invention potentially inhibit the binding of a fluorescence conjugate to TNF α when tested in the fluorescence polarisation assay described herein. Indeed, when tested in that assay, the compounds of the present invention exhibit an IC₅₀ value of 50 μ M or less, generally of 20 μ M or less, usually of 5 μ M or less, typically of 1 μ M or less, suitably of 500 nM or less, ideally of 100 nM or less, and preferably of 20 nM or less (the skilled person will appreciate that a *lower* IC₅₀ figure denotes a *more active* compound).

Certain compounds in accordance with the present invention potentially neutralise the activity of TNF α in a commercially available HEK-293 derived reporter cell line known as HEK-Blue™ CD40L. This is a stable HEK-293 transfected cell line expressing SEAP (secreted embryonic alkaline phosphatase) under the control of the IFN β minimal promoter fused to five NF- κ B binding sites. Secretion of SEAP by these cells is stimulated in a concentration-dependent manner by TNF α . When tested in the HEK-293

bioassay, also referred to herein as the reporter gene assay, certain compounds of the present invention exhibit an IC_{50} value of 50 μM or less, generally of 20 μM or less, usually of 5 μM or less, typically of 1 μM or less, suitably of 500 nM or less, ideally of 100 nM or less, and preferably of 20 nM or less (as before, the skilled person will appreciate that a *lower* IC_{50} figure denotes a *more active* compound).

The present invention provides a compound of formula (I) or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, or a glucuronide derivative thereof, or a co-crystal thereof:



wherein

E represents a covalent bond; or E represents -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂- or -N(R⁴)-; or E represents an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₄ alkylene chain;

Q represents a covalent bond; or Q represents -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -S(O)(NR⁵)-, -N(R⁵)-, -C(O)N(R⁵)-, -N(R⁵)C(O)-, -S(O)₂N(R⁵)- or -N(R⁵)S(O)₂-; or Q represents an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkylene chain optionally comprising one, two or three heteroatom-containing linkages independently selected from -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -S(O)(NR⁵)-, -N(R⁵)-, -C(O)N(R⁵)-, -N(R⁵)C(O)-, -S(O)₂N(R⁵)- and -N(R⁵)S(O)₂-;

Y represents C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, aryl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents;

Z represents hydrogen, halogen or trifluoromethyl; or Z represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, aryl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkenyl or heteroaryl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents; or Z represents -Z¹-Z² or -Z¹-C(O)-Z², either of which moieties may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents;

Z¹ represents a divalent radical derived from an aryl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl group;

Z^2 represents aryl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkenyl or heteroaryl;

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 independently represent hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $-OR^a$, $-SR^a$, $-SOR^a$, $-SO_2R^a$, $-SF_5$, $-NR^bR^c$, $-NR^cCOR^d$, $-NR^cCO_2R^d$, $-NHCONR^bR^c$, $-NR^cSO_2R^e$, $-N(SO_2R^e)_2$, $-NHSO_2NR^bR^c$, $-COR^d$, $-CO_2R^d$,
 5 $-CONR^bR^c$, $-CON(OR^a)R^b$, $-SO_2NR^bR^c$ or $-SO(NR^b)R^d$; or C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{4-7} cycloalkenyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkenyl, C_{4-9} heterobicycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})heterocycloalkyl(C_{1-6})alkyl-aryl-, heteroaryl(C_{3-7})heterocycloalkyl-, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-
 10 (C_{1-6})alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C_{4-7})cycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C_{4-9})bicycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C_{3-7})heterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C_{3-7})heterocycloalkyl(C_{1-6})alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C_{3-7})heterocycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C_{4-9})heterobicycloalkyl-heteroaryl- or (C_{4-9})spiroheterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents;

15 R^4 and R^5 independently represent hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^a represents C_{1-6} alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents;

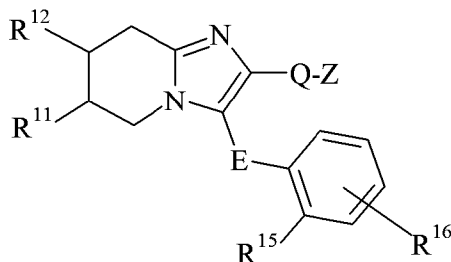
R^b and R^c independently represent hydrogen or trifluoromethyl; or C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, any of which groups may
 20 be optionally substituted by one or more substituents; or

R^b and R^c , when taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are both attached, represent azetidin-1-yl, pyrrolidin-1-yl, oxazolidin-3-yl, isoxazolidin-2-yl, thiazolidin-3-yl, isothiazolidin-2-yl, piperidin-1-yl, morpholin-4-yl, thiomorpholin-4-yl,
 25 piperazin-1-yl, homopiperidin-1-yl, homomorpholin-4-yl or homopiperazin-1-yl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents;

R^d represents hydrogen; or C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, aryl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents; and

30 R^e represents C_{1-6} alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

In some embodiments, the present invention also provides a compound of formula (IIA) or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof:



(IIA)

5

wherein

E represents -CH₂-;

Q represents -CH₂O-;

Z represents (oxo)oxazolidinylphenyl;

10 R¹¹ represents hydrogen;

R¹² represents hydrogen or halogen;

R¹⁵ represents difluoromethoxy; and

R¹⁶ represents hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, cyano, methyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethoxy or amino.

The present invention also provides a compound of formula (I) as defined above or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, or a glucuronide derivative thereof, or a co-crystal thereof, for use in therapy.

5 The present invention also provides a compound of formula (I) as defined above or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, or a glucuronide derivative thereof, or a co-crystal thereof, for use in the treatment and/or prevention of disorders for which the administration of a modulator of TNF α function is indicated.

10 In another aspect, the present invention provides a compound of formula (I) as defined above or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, or a glucuronide derivative thereof, or a co-crystal thereof, for use in the treatment and/or prevention of an inflammatory or autoimmune disorder, a neurological or neurodegenerative disorder, pain or a nociceptive disorder, a cardiovascular disorder, a metabolic disorder, an ocular disorder, or an oncological disorder.

15 The present invention also provides a method for the treatment and/or prevention of disorders for which the administration of a modulator of TNF α function is indicated which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined above or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, or a glucuronide derivative thereof, or a co-crystal thereof.

20 In another aspect, the present invention provides a method for the treatment and/or prevention of an inflammatory or autoimmune disorder, a neurological or neurodegenerative disorder, pain or a nociceptive disorder, a cardiovascular disorder, a metabolic disorder, an ocular disorder, or an oncological disorder, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined above or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, or a glucuronide derivative thereof, or a co-crystal thereof.

25 Where any of the groups in the compounds of formula (I) above is stated to be optionally substituted, this group may be unsubstituted, or substituted by one or more substituents. Typically, such groups will be unsubstituted, or substituted by one or two substituents.

For use in medicine, the salts of the compounds of formula (I) will be pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Other salts may, however, be useful in the preparation

of the compounds of use in the invention or of their pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Standard principles underlying the selection and preparation of pharmaceutically acceptable salts are described, for example, in *Handbook of Pharmaceutical Salts: Properties, Selection and Use*, ed. P.H. Stahl & C.G. Wermuth, Wiley-VCH, 2002.

- 5 Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of use in this invention include acid addition salts which may, for example, be formed by mixing a solution of the compound of use in the invention with a solution of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid such as hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, methanesulphonic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, succinic acid, acetic acid, benzoic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid or phosphoric acid.
- 10 Furthermore, where the compounds of use in the invention carry an acidic moiety, e.g. carboxy, suitable pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof may include alkali metal salts, e.g. sodium or potassium salts; alkaline earth metal salts, e.g. calcium or magnesium salts; ammonium salts; and salts formed with suitable organic ligands, e.g. quaternary ammonium salts, and meglumine salts.
- 15 The present invention includes within its scope solvates of the compounds of formula (I) above. Such solvates may be formed with common organic solvents, e.g. hydrocarbon solvents such as benzene or toluene; chlorinated solvents such as chloroform or dichloromethane; alcoholic solvents such as methanol, ethanol or isopropanol; ethereal solvents such as diethyl ether or tetrahydrofuran; or ester solvents such as ethyl acetate.
- 20 Alternatively, the solvates of the compounds of formula (I) may be formed with water, in which case they will be hydrates.

- The present invention also includes co-crystals within its scope. The technical term “co-crystal” is used to describe the situation where neutral molecular components are present within a crystalline compound in a definite stoichiometric ratio. The preparation
- 25 of pharmaceutical co-crystals enables modifications to be made to the crystalline form of an active pharmaceutical ingredient, which in turn can alter its physicochemical properties without compromising its intended biological activity (see *Pharmaceutical Salts and Co-crystals*, ed. J. Wouters & L. Quere, RSC Publishing, 2012). Typical examples of co-crystal formers, which may be present in the co-crystal alongside the active
- 30 pharmaceutical ingredient, include *L*-ascorbic acid, citric acid, glutaric acid, urea and nicotinamide.

The present invention includes within its scope prodrugs of the compounds of formula (I) above. In general, such prodrugs will be functional derivatives of the

compounds of formula (I) which are readily convertible *in vivo* into the required compound of formula (I). Conventional procedures for the selection and preparation of suitable prodrug derivatives are described, for example, in *Design of Prodrugs*, ed. H. Bundgaard, Elsevier, 1985.

- 5 Suitable alkyl groups which may be present on the compounds of use in the invention include straight-chained and branched C₁₋₆ alkyl groups, for example C₁₋₄ alkyl groups. Typical examples include methyl and ethyl groups, and straight-chained or branched propyl, butyl and pentyl groups. Particular alkyl groups include methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, isopropyl, *n*-butyl, *sec*-butyl, isobutyl, *tert*-butyl, 2,2-dimethylpropyl and 3-methylbutyl. Derived expressions such as “C₁₋₆ alkoxy”, “C₁₋₆ alkylthio”, “C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl” and “C₁₋₆ alkylamino” are to be construed accordingly.

The expression “C₁₋₄ alkylene chain” refers to a divalent straight or branched alkylene chain containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms. Typical examples include methylene, ethylene, methylenemethylene, ethylenemethylene and dimethylenemethylene.

- 15 Suitable C₂₋₆ alkenyl groups include vinyl and allyl.

Suitable C₂₋₆ alkynyl groups include ethynyl, propargyl and butynyl.

- The term “C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl” as used herein refers to monovalent groups of 3 to 7 carbon atoms derived from a saturated monocyclic hydrocarbon, and may comprise benzo-fused analogues thereof. Suitable C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl groups include cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, 20 benzocyclobutenyl, cyclopentyl, indanyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl.

The term “C₄₋₇ cycloalkenyl” as used herein refers to monovalent groups of 4 to 7 carbon atoms derived from a partially unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon. Suitable C₄₋₇ cycloalkenyl groups include cyclobutenyl, cyclopentenyl, cyclohexenyl and cycloheptenyl.

- The term “C₄₋₉ bicycloalkyl” as used herein refers to monovalent groups of 4 to 9 carbon atoms derived from a saturated bicyclic hydrocarbon. Typical bicycloalkyl groups include bicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, bicyclo[4.1.0]heptanyl and bicyclo[2.2.2]octanyl.

The term “aryl” as used herein refers to monovalent carbocyclic aromatic groups derived from a single aromatic ring or multiple condensed aromatic rings. Suitable aryl groups include phenyl and naphthyl, preferably phenyl.

- 30 Suitable aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl groups include benzyl, phenylethyl, phenylpropyl and naphthylmethyl.

The term “C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl” as used herein refers to saturated monocyclic rings containing 3 to 7 carbon atoms and at least one heteroatom selected from oxygen,

sulphur and nitrogen, and may comprise benzo-fused analogues thereof. Suitable heterocycloalkyl groups include oxetanyl, azetidiny, tetrahydrofuranyl, dihydrobenzofuranyl, dihydrobenzothienyl, pyrrolidiny, indoliny, isoindoliny, oxazolidiny, thiazolidiny, isothiazolidiny, imidazolidiny, tetrahydropyranyl, chromanyl, tetrahydrothiopyranyl, piperidiny, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoliny, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoliny, 5 piperaziny, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaliny, hexahydro-[1,2,5]thiadiazolo[2,3-*a*]pyraziny, homopiperaziny, morpholiny, benzoxaziny, thiomorpholiny, azepany, oxazepany, diazepany, thiadiazepany and azocany.

The term “C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkenyl” as used herein refers to monounsaturated or polyunsaturated monocyclic rings containing 3 to 7 carbon atoms and at least one 10 heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen, and may comprise benzo-fused analogues thereof. Suitable heterocycloalkenyl groups include thiazoliny, isothiazoliny, imidazoliny, dihydropyranyl, dihydrothiopyranyl and 1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridiny.

The term “C₄₋₉ heterobicycloalkyl” as used herein corresponds to C₄₋₉ bicycloalkyl 15 wherein one or more of the carbon atoms have been replaced by one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen. Typical heterobicycloalkyl groups include 3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexany, 2-oxa-5-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptany, 6-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptany, 3-azabicyclo[3.1.1]heptany, 3-azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptany, 2-oxabicyclo[2.2.2]octany, quinuclidiny, 2-oxa-5-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octany, 3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octany, 8-azabicyclo- 20 [3.2.1]octany, 3-oxa-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octany, 3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octany, 3,6-diazabicyclo[3.2.2]nonany, 3-oxa-7-azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonany and 3,9-diazabicyclo-[4.2.1]nonany.

The term “C₄₋₉ spiroheterocycloalkyl” as used herein refers to saturated bicyclic ring systems containing 4 to 9 carbon atoms and at least one heteroatom selected from 25 oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen, in which the two rings are linked by a common atom. Suitable spiroheterocycloalkyl groups include 5-azaspiro[2.3]hexany, 5-azaspiro[2.4]heptany, 2-azaspiro[3.3]heptany, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.3]heptany, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.4]octany, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.5]nonany, 7-oxa-2-azaspiro[3.5]nonany, 2-oxa-7-azaspiro[3.5]nonany and 2,4,8-triazaspiro[4.5]decany.

30 The term “heteroaryl” as used herein refers to monovalent aromatic groups containing at least 5 atoms derived from a single ring or multiple condensed rings, wherein one or more carbon atoms have been replaced by one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen. Suitable heteroaryl groups include furyl, benzofuryl,

dibenzofuryl, thienyl, benzothienyl, thieno[2,3-*c*]pyrazolyl, thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]dioxinyl, dibenzothienyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridinyl, pyrrolo[3,2-*c*]pyridinyl, pyrrolo[3,4-*b*]pyridinyl, pyrazolyl, pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridinyl, pyrazolo[3,4-*d*]pyrimidinyl, indazolyl, 4,5,6,7-tetrahydroindazolyl, oxazolyl, benzoxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, 5 benzothiazolyl, isothiazolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazolyl, imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridinyl, imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridinyl, purinyl, imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyrimidinyl, imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyrazinyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl, [1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-*a*]-pyrimidinyl, benzotriazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, naphthyridinyl, pyridazinyl, cinnolinyl, phthalazinyl, pyrimidinyl, quinazolinyl, pyrazinyl, quinoxalinyl, 10 pteridinyl, triazinyl and chromenyl groups.

The term “halogen” as used herein is intended to include fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine atoms, typically fluorine, chlorine or bromine.

Where the compounds of formula (I) have one or more asymmetric centres, they may accordingly exist as enantiomers. Where the compounds of use in the invention 15 possess two or more asymmetric centres, they may additionally exist as diastereomers. The invention is to be understood to extend to the use of all such enantiomers and diastereomers, and to mixtures thereof in any proportion, including racemates. Formula (I) and the formulae depicted hereinafter are intended to represent all individual stereoisomers and all possible mixtures thereof, unless stated or shown otherwise. In addition, 20 compounds of formula (I) may exist as tautomers, for example keto ($\text{CH}_2\text{C}=\text{O}$) $\leftrightarrow$ enol ($\text{CH}=\text{CHOH}$) tautomers or amide ($\text{NHC}=\text{O}$) $\leftrightarrow$ hydroxyimine ($\text{N}=\text{COH}$) tautomers. Formula (I) and the formulae depicted hereinafter are intended to represent all individual tautomers and all possible mixtures thereof, unless stated or shown otherwise.

It is to be understood that each individual atom present in formula (I), or in the 25 formulae depicted hereinafter, may in fact be present in the form of any of its naturally occurring isotopes, with the most abundant isotope(s) being preferred. Thus, by way of example, each individual hydrogen atom present in formula (I), or in the formulae depicted hereinafter, may be present as a ^1H , ^2H (deuterium) or ^3H (tritium) atom, preferably ^1H . Similarly, by way of example, each individual carbon atom present in formula (I), or in the 30 formulae depicted hereinafter, may be present as a ^{12}C , ^{13}C or ^{14}C atom, preferably ^{12}C .

In one aspect, the present invention provides a compound of formula (I) as depicted above or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, or a glucuronide derivative thereof, or a co-crystal thereof, wherein

Q represents -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -S(O)(NR⁵)-, -N(R⁵)-, -C(O)N(R⁵)-, -N(R⁵)C(O)-, -S(O)₂N(R⁵)- or -N(R⁵)S(O)₂-; or Q represents an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkylene chain optionally comprising one, two or three heteroatom-containing linkages independently selected from -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -S(O)(NR⁵)-, -N(R⁵)-, -C(O)N(R⁵)-, -N(R⁵)C(O)-, -S(O)₂N(R⁵)- and -N(R⁵)S(O)₂-;

Z represents C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, aryl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkenyl or heteroaryl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents; or Z represents -Z¹-Z² or -Z¹-C(O)-Z², either of which moieties may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents; and

E, Y, R¹, R², R³, R⁵, Z¹ and Z² are as defined above.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a compound of formula (I) as depicted above or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, or a glucuronide derivative thereof, or a co-crystal thereof, wherein

R¹ represents halogen or cyano; or C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₄₋₇ cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkenyl, C₄₋₉ heterobicycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-aryl-, heteroaryl(C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₇)cycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₉)bicycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₉)heterobicycloalkyl-heteroaryl- or (C₄₋₉)spiroheterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents; and

E, Q, Y, Z, R² and R³ are as defined above.

Where the compounds in accordance with the invention comprise an optionally substituted straight or branched alkylene chain, typical values thereof include methylene (-CH₂-), (methyl)methylene, ethylene (-CH₂CH₂-), (ethyl)methylene, (dimethyl)methylene, (methyl)ethylene, propylene (-CH₂CH₂CH₂-), (propyl)methylene and (dimethyl)ethylene, any of which chains may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents. Suitably, such chains are unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted. Typically, such chains are unsubstituted or monosubstituted. In one embodiment, such chains are unsubstituted. In another embodiment, such chains are monosubstituted. In a further embodiment, such chains are disubstituted.

Examples of typical substituents on the alkylene chain which may be present in a compound in accordance with the invention include halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, oxo, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, carboxy(C₁₋₆)alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, carboxy, benzyloxycarbonyl, tetrazolyl, aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl and di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonyl.

Specific examples of suitable substituents on the alkylene chain which may be present in a compound in accordance with the invention include fluoro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, carboxymethoxy, amino, acetylamino, carboxy, benzyloxycarbonyl and tetrazolyl.

10 In a first embodiment, E represents a covalent bond, whereby the integer Y is attached directly to the imidazole ring.

In a second embodiment, E represents -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂- or -N(R⁴)-. In a first aspect of that embodiment, E represents -O-. In a second aspect of that embodiment, E represents -S-. In a third aspect of that embodiment, E represents -S(O)-. In a fourth aspect of that embodiment, E represents -S(O)₂-. In a fifth aspect of that embodiment, E represents -N(R⁴)-.

In a third embodiment, E represents an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₄ alkylene chain. In a first aspect of that embodiment, E represents an optionally substituted methylene (-CH₂-) linkage. In a second aspect of that embodiment, E represents an optionally substituted (methyl)methylene linkage. In a third aspect of that embodiment, E represents an optionally substituted (ethyl)methylene linkage.

Generally, E represents a covalent bond; or E represents -N(R⁴)-; or E represents an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₄ alkylene chain.

Typically, E represents -N(R⁴)-; or E represents an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₄ alkylene chain.

Suitably, E represents a covalent bond; or E represents -N(R⁴)-; or E represents methylene (-CH₂-), (methyl)methylene or (ethyl)methylene, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Generally, E represents -N(R⁴)-; or E represents methylene (-CH₂-) or (ethyl)methylene, either of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Appositely, E represents -N(R⁴)-, or optionally substituted methylene.

Selected examples of typical substituents on the linkage represented by E include halogen, trifluoromethyl, oxo, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, carboxy(C₁₋₆)alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, carboxy, benzyloxycarbonyl and tetrazolyl.

5 Specific examples of typical substituents on the linkage represented by E include fluoro, trifluoromethyl, oxo, hydroxy, methoxy, carboxymethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, amino, methylamino, dimethylamino, acetylamino, carboxy, benzyloxycarbonyl and tetrazolyl.

Particular examples of typical substituents on E include oxo and hydroxy.

10 Typical values of E include -N(R⁴)-, -CH₂-, -C(O)-, -CH(OH)-, -CH(OCH₃)-, -CH(OCH₂CO₂H)-, -CH(NH₂)-, -CH(NHCOCH₃)-, -CH(CO₂H)-, -CH(CO₂benzyl)-, -CH(CH₃)-, -C(CH₃)(OH)- and -CH(CH₂CH₃)-; or E may represent a covalent bond.

Illustrative values of E include -CH₂- and -CH(OH)-.

Suitable values of E include -N(R⁴)-, -CH₂- and -CH(OH)-. In one embodiment, 15 E represents -N(R⁴)-. In another embodiment, E represents -CH₂-. In a further embodiment, E represents -CH(OH)-.

In another embodiment, E represents -C(O)-.

In another embodiment, E represents -CH(OCH₃)-.

In another embodiment, E represents -CH(NH₂)-.

20 In an additional embodiment, E represents -CH(CH₃)-. In a particular aspect of that embodiment, the -CH(CH₃)- linkage represented by E is in the (*S*) stereochemical configuration.

In a further embodiment, E represents -C(CH₃)(OH)-.

In a first embodiment, Q represents a covalent bond, whereby the integer Z is 25 attached directly to the imidazole ring.

In a second embodiment, Q represents -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -S(O)(NR⁵)-, -N(R⁵)-, -C(O)N(R⁵)-, -N(R⁵)C(O)-, -S(O)₂N(R⁵)- or -N(R⁵)S(O)₂-. In a first aspect of that embodiment, Q represents -O-. In a second aspect of that embodiment, Q represents -S-. In a third aspect of that embodiment, Q represents -S(O)-. In a fourth aspect of that 30 embodiment, Q represents -S(O)₂-. In a fifth aspect of that embodiment, Q represents -S(O)(NR⁵)-. In a sixth aspect of that embodiment, Q represents -N(R⁵)-. In a seventh aspect of that embodiment, Q represents -C(O)N(R⁵)-. In an eighth aspect of that embodiment, Q represents -N(R⁵)C(O)-. In a ninth aspect of that embodiment, Q

represents $-S(O)_2N(R^5)-$. In a tenth aspect of that embodiment, Q represents $-N(R^5)S(O)_2-$.

In a third embodiment, Q represents an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkylene chain optionally comprising one, two or three heteroatom-containing linkages independently selected from $-O-$, $-S-$, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, $-S(O)(NR^5)-$, $-N(R^5)-$, $-C(O)N(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)C(O)-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^5)-$ and $-N(R^5)S(O)_2-$. In a first aspect of that embodiment, Q represents an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkylene chain. In a second aspect of that embodiment, Q represents an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkylene chain comprising one heteroatom-containing linkage independently selected from $-O-$, $-S-$, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, $-S(O)(NR^5)-$, $-N(R^5)-$, $-C(O)N(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)C(O)-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^5)-$ and $-N(R^5)S(O)_2-$. In a third aspect of that embodiment, Q represents an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkylene chain comprising two heteroatom-containing linkages independently selected from $-O-$, $-S-$, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, $-S(O)(NR^5)-$, $-N(R^5)-$, $-C(O)N(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)C(O)-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^5)-$ and $-N(R^5)S(O)_2-$. In a fourth aspect of that embodiment, Q represents an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkylene chain comprising three heteroatom-containing linkages independently selected from $-O-$, $-S-$, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, $-S(O)(NR^5)-$, $-N(R^5)-$, $-C(O)N(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)C(O)-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^5)-$ and $-N(R^5)S(O)_2-$. In a fifth aspect of that embodiment, Q represents an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkylene chain comprising one, two or three heteroatom-containing linkages independently selected from $-O-$, $-S-$, $-N(R^5)-$, $-C(O)N(R^5)-$ and $-N(R^5)C(O)-$.

Typically, Q represents a covalent bond; or Q represents $-S(O)-$ or $-S(O)_2-$; or Q represents an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkylene chain optionally comprising one or two heteroatom-containing linkages selected from $-O-$, $-S-$, $-N(R^5)-$, $-C(O)N(R^5)-$, and $-N(R^5)C(O)-$.

Selected examples of typical substituents on the linkage represented by Q include halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy and amino.

Specific examples of typical substituents on the linkage represented by Q include fluoro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy and amino.

Suitably, Q represents a covalent bond; or Q represents $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$ or $-N(R^5)-$; or Q represents $-CH_2-$, $-CH(F)-$, $-CF_2-$, $-CH(CN)-$, $-CH(CH_3)-$, $-CH(OH)-$, $-CH(CH_2OH)-$, $-CH(OCH_3)-$, $-CH(NH_2)-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH(OH)CH_2-$, $-CH(OH)CF_2-$, $-CH(OCH_3)CH_2-$, $-CH_2O-$, $-CH(CH_3)O-$, $-C(CH_3)_2O-$, $-CH(CH_2CH_3)O-$, $-CH(CF_3)O-$, $-CH_2S-$, $-CH_2S(O)-$,

-CH₂S(O)₂-, -CH₂N(R⁵)-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH(OH)CH₂CH₂-, -CH(OCH₃)CH₂CH₂-,
 -CH₂CH₂O-, -CH₂OCH₂-, -CH₂OCH(F)-, -CH₂OCF₂-, -CH₂OCH(CH₃)-,
 -CH(CH₃)OCH₂-, -CH₂OC(CH₃)₂-, -C(CH₃)₂OCH₂-, -CH₂SCH₂-, -CH₂S(O)CH₂-,
 -CH₂S(O)₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂N(R⁵)-, -CH₂N(R⁵)CH₂-, -CH₂N(R⁵)C(O)-, -CH₂CH₂OCH₂-,
 5 -CH₂CH₂N(R⁵)C(O)-, -CH₂OCH₂CH₂-, -CH₂OCH₂CF₂-, -CH₂OCH₂CH(CH₃)-,
 -CH₂OCH(CH₃)CH₂-, -CH₂OC(CH₃)₂CH₂-, -CH₂OCH₂CH(CH₃)CH₂-,
 -CH₂OCH₂CH₂O-, -CH₂OCH₂C(O)N(R⁵)- or -CH₂OCH₂CH₂OCH₂-.

Appositely, Q represents a covalent bond; or Q represents -CH₂-, -CH(CN)-,
 -CH(OH)-, -CH(OCH₃)-, -CH₂O-, -CH₂N(R⁵)- or -CH₂OCH₂-.

10 Illustratively, Q represents a covalent bond; or Q represents -CH₂- or -CH₂O-.

Particular values of Q include -CH₂-, -CH(OH)-, -CH₂O-, -CH₂S- and
 -CH₂OCH₂-. In a first embodiment, Q represents -CH₂-. In a second embodiment, Q
 represents -CH(OH)-. In a third embodiment, Q represents -CH₂O-. In a fourth
 embodiment, Q represents -CH₂S-. In a fifth embodiment, Q represents -CH₂OCH₂-.

15 Generally, Y represents C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, any of which groups
 may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Typically, Y represents aryl or heteroaryl, either of which groups may be
 optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

In a first embodiment, Y represents optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl. In one
 20 aspect of that embodiment, Y represents unsubstituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl. In another aspect
 of that embodiment, Y represents monosubstituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl. In a further aspect of
 that embodiment, Y represents disubstituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl.

In a second embodiment, Y represents optionally substituted aryl. In one aspect of
 that embodiment, Y represents unsubstituted aryl. In another aspect of that embodiment,
 25 Y represents monosubstituted aryl. In a further aspect of that embodiment, Y represents
 disubstituted aryl.

In a third embodiment, Y represents optionally substituted C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl.
 In one aspect of that embodiment, Y represents unsubstituted C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl. In
 another aspect of that embodiment, Y represents monosubstituted C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl.
 30 In a further aspect of that embodiment, Y represents disubstituted C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl.

In a fourth embodiment, Y represents optionally substituted heteroaryl. In one
 aspect of that embodiment, Y represents unsubstituted heteroaryl. In another aspect of

that embodiment, Y represents monosubstituted heteroaryl. In a further aspect of that embodiment, Y represents disubstituted heteroaryl.

Suitably, Y represents benzocyclobutenyl, phenyl, thienyl, thiazolyl or pyridinyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

5 Appropriately, Y represents phenyl, thienyl or thiazolyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Appositely, Y represents phenyl, which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Examples of optional substituents which may be present on the moiety Y include
 10 one, two or three substituents independently selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, C₁₋₆ alkyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulfonyloxy, amino, C₁₋₆ alkyl-amino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, arylamino, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonylamino, formyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkylcarbonyl, C₃₋₆ heterocycloalkylcarbonyl,
 15 carboxy, C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminosulfonyl and di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminosulfonyl.

Typical examples of optional substituents on the moiety Y include C₁₋₆ alkyl and difluoromethoxy.

Examples of particular substituents on the moiety Y include fluoro, chloro, bromo,
 20 cyano, nitro, methyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, methylthio, methylsulfinyl, methylsulfonyl, methylsulfonyloxy, amino, methylamino, *tert*-butylamino, dimethylamino, phenylamino, acetylamino, methylsulfonylamino, formyl, acetyl, cyclopropylcarbonyl, azetidiny carbonyl, pyrrolidinylcarbonyl, piperidinylcarbonyl, piperazinylcarbonyl, morpholinylcarbonyl, carboxy,
 25 methoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, methylaminocarbonyl, dimethylaminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, methylaminosulfonyl and dimethylaminosulfonyl.

Typical examples of particular substituents on the moiety Y include methyl and difluoromethoxy.

Typical values of Y include benzocyclobutenyl, phenyl, fluorophenyl (including
 30 2-fluorophenyl, 3-fluorophenyl and 4-fluorophenyl), chlorophenyl (including 2-chlorophenyl, 3-chlorophenyl and 4-chlorophenyl), difluorophenyl (including 2,6-difluorophenyl), (chloro)(fluoro)phenyl (including 5-chloro-2-fluorophenyl and 2-chloro-5-fluorophenyl), dichlorophenyl (including 2,5-dichlorophenyl and 2,6-dichlorophenyl),

methylphenyl (including 4-methylphenyl), dimethylphenyl (including 2,5-dimethylphenyl and 2,6-dimethylphenyl), (trifluoromethyl)phenyl [including 2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl], (chloro)(trifluoromethyl)phenyl [including 5-chloro-2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl], (methyl)-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl [including 2-methyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl], bis(trifluoro-

5 methyl)phenyl [including 2,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl], methoxyphenyl (including 2-methoxyphenyl), (difluoromethoxy)phenyl [including 2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl and 3-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl], (difluoromethoxy)(fluoro)phenyl [including 2-(difluoro-

methoxy)-5-fluorophenyl and 2-(difluoromethoxy)-6-fluorophenyl], (chloro)(difluoro-

methoxy)phenyl [including 5-chloro-2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl and 6-chloro-2-

10 (difluoromethoxy)phenyl], (cyano)(difluoromethoxy)phenyl [including 6-cyano-2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl], (trifluoromethoxy)phenyl [including 2-(trifluoromethoxy)-

phenyl], methylsulfonyloxyphenyl, (amino)(chloro)phenyl (including 5-amino-2-chloro-

phenyl), methylthienyl (including 3-methylthien-2-yl), methylthiazolyl (including 2-

methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl), (chloro)(methyl)thiazolyl (including 5-chloro-2-methyl-1,3-

15 thiazol-4-yl), dimethylthiazolyl (including 2,4-dimethyl-1,3-thiazol-5-yl) and pyridinyl

(including pyridin-3-yl and pyridin-4-yl).

Selected values of Y include dichlorophenyl, dimethylphenyl, (difluoromethoxy)-phenyl, (difluoromethoxy)(fluoro)phenyl, methylsulfonyloxyphenyl, methylthienyl and dimethylthiazolyl.

20 Illustrative values of Y include dimethylphenyl and (difluoromethoxy)phenyl.

In one embodiment, Y represents 2,5-dichlorophenyl.

In another embodiment, Y represents 2,5-dimethylphenyl.

In a particular embodiment, Y represents 2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl.

In another embodiment, Y represents (difluoromethoxy)(fluoro)phenyl.

25 In another embodiment, Y represents 3-methylthien-2-yl.

In another embodiment, Y represents 2,4-dimethyl-1,3-thiazol-5-yl.

In one embodiment, Z represents hydrogen.

In another embodiment, Z is other than hydrogen.

In a selected embodiment, Z represents hydrogen; or Z represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₇

30 cycloalkyl, aryl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkenyl or heteroaryl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents; or Z represents -Z¹-Z² or -Z¹-C(O)-Z², either of which moieties may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

In a further embodiment, Z represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, aryl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkenyl or heteroaryl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents; or Z represents -Z¹-Z² or -Z¹-C(O)-Z², either of which moieties may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

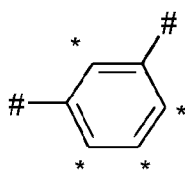
5 Suitably, Z represents hydrogen; or Z represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents; or Z represents -Z¹-Z², which moiety may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

10 Illustratively, Z represents hydrogen; or Z represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, which group may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents; or Z represents -Z¹-Z², which moiety may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

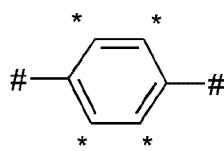
Typically, Z represents hydrogen, fluoro or trifluoromethyl; or Z represents methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, isopropyl, *n*-butyl, *sec*-butyl, isobutyl, *tert*-butyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, pyrrolidinyl, indolinyl, 15 tetrahydropyranyl, piperidinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, morpholinyl, azocanyl, thiazolinyl, furyl, thienyl, pyrazolyl, 4,5,6,7-tetrahydroindazolyl, benzoxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, [1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-*a*]-pyrimidinyl, tetrazolyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, phthalazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyrazinyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents; 20 or Z represents -Z¹-Z² or -Z¹-C(O)-Z², either of which moieties may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Appositely, Z represents hydrogen; or Z represents methyl, which group may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents; or Z represents -Z¹-Z², which moiety may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

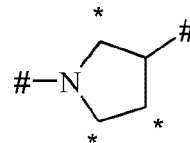
25 The moiety Z¹ represents a divalent radical derived from an aryl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl group, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents. Typically, the moiety Z¹ represents a divalent radical derived from a phenyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl or pyridinyl group, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents. 30 Typical values of the moiety Z¹ include the groups of formula (Za), (Zb), (Zc), (Zd), (Ze), (Zf), (Zg), (Zh), (Zj) and (Zk):



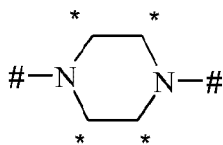
(Za)



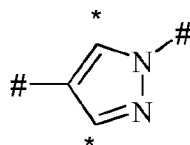
(Zb)



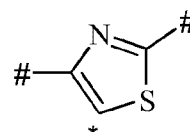
(Zc)



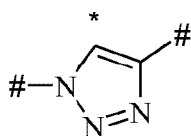
(Zd)



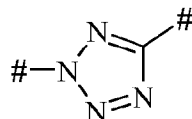
(Ze)



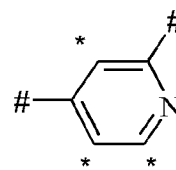
(Zf)



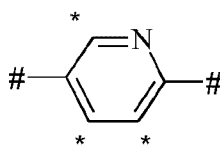
(Zg)



(Zh)



(Zj)



(Zk)

5

wherein

the symbols # represent the points of attachment of the moiety Z^1 to the remainder of the molecule; and

the asterisks (*) represent the site of attachment of optional substituents.

10 Particular values of the moiety Z^1 include the groups of formula (Za), (Zc), (Ze), (Zf), (Zg), (Zh) and (Zj) as depicted above.

The moiety Z^2 represents aryl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkenyl or heteroaryl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents. Typically, Z^2 represents phenyl, pyrrolidinyl, oxazolidinyl, imidazolidinyl, 15 morpholinyl, imidazolynyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, tetrazolyl or pyridinyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents. Appositely, Z^2 represents oxazolidinyl, which group may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

- Examples of optional substituents which may be present on the moiety Z, Z¹ or Z² include one, two or three substituents independently selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, C₁₋₆ alkyl, trifluoromethyl, oxo, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, C₁₋₃ alkylenedioxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonylamino, formyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, carboxy, C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino-carbonyl, aminosulfonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminosulfonyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminosulfonyl, aminocarbonylamino and hydrazinocarbonyl.
- Typical examples of optional substituents on the moiety Z, Z¹ or Z² include oxo.
- Examples of particular substituents on the moiety Z, Z¹ or Z² include fluoro, chloro, bromo, cyano, nitro, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl, oxo, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, methoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, methylenedioxy, methylthio, methylsulfinyl, methylsulfonyl, amino, methylamino, *tert*-butylamino, dimethylamino, dimethylaminomethyl, dimethylaminooctyl, acetyl amino, methylsulfonyl-amino, formyl, acetyl, carboxy, methoxycarbonyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, methylaminocarbonyl, dimethylaminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, methylaminosulfonyl, dimethylaminosulfonyl, aminocarbonylamino and hydrazinocarbonyl.
- Typical examples of particular substituents on the moiety Z, Z¹ or Z² include oxo.
- Typical values of Z² include phenyl, hydroxyphenyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, dioxo-pyrrolidinyl, (hydroxy)(oxo)pyrrolidinyl, (amino)(oxo)pyrrolidinyl, (oxo)oxazolidinyl, oxoimidazolidinyl, morpholinyl, imidazolyl, methylthiazolyl, formylthiazolyl, imidazolyl, tetrazolyl and pyridinyl.
- Selected values of Z² include oxopyrrolidinyl and (oxo)oxazolidinyl. In one embodiment, Z² represents oxopyrrolidinyl. In another embodiment, Z² represents (oxo)oxazolidinyl.
- Typical values of Z include hydrogen, fluoro, trifluoromethyl, methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, *tert*-butyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, oxo-cyclohexyl, phenyl, bromophenyl, cyanophenyl, nitrophenyl, methoxyphenyl, difluoromethoxyphenyl, trifluoromethoxyphenyl, methylenedioxyphenyl, methylsulfonylphenyl, dimethylaminophenyl, acetylaminophenyl, methylsulfonylaminophenyl, carboxyphenyl, aminocarbonylphenyl, methylaminocarbonylphenyl, dimethylaminocarbonylphenyl, aminocarbonylaminophenyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, dimethylamino-

pyrrolidinyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonylpyrrolidinyl, indolinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, piperidinyl, ethylpiperidinyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonylpiperidinyl, aminocarbonylpiperidinyl, 2-oxo-3,4-dihydroquinolinyl, morpholinyl, azocanyl, oxothiazolinyl, furyl, hydroxymethylfuryl, thienyl, methylpyrazolyl, dimethylpyrazolyl, 4,5,6,7-tetrahydroindazolyl, benzoxazolyl, methylisoxazolyl, dimethylisoxazolyl, methylthiazolyl, aminothiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, methylbenzothiazolyl, aminobenzothiazolyl, imidazolyl, methylimidazolyl, methylbenzimidazolyl, dimethyl[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidinyl, dimethylaminoethyltetrazolyl, pyridinyl, fluoropyridinyl, chloropyridinyl, cyanopyridinyl, methylpyridinyl, (cyano)-(methyl)pyridinyl, trifluoromethylpyridinyl, oxopyridinyl, methoxypyridinyl, methylsulfonylpyridinyl, dimethylaminomethylpyridinyl, acetylaminopyridinyl, carboxypyridinyl, methoxycarbonylpyridinyl, aminocarbonylpyridinyl, (aminocarbonyl)(fluoro)pyridinyl, methylaminocarbonylpyridinyl, dimethylaminocarbonylpyridinyl, hydrazinocarbonylpyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, (methyl)(oxo)phthalazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, oxopyrrolidinylphenyl, dioxopyrrolidinylphenyl, (hydroxy)(oxo)pyrrolidinylphenyl, (amino)(oxo)pyrrolidinylphenyl, (oxo)oxazolidinylphenyl, oxoimidazolidinylphenyl, imidazolinylphenyl, methylthiazolylphenyl, formylthiazolylphenyl, imidazolylphenyl, tetrazolylphenyl, phenylpyrrolidinyl, hydroxyphenylpiperazinyl, (methyl)-(phenyl)pyrazolyl, oxoimidazolidinylthiazolyl, hydroxyphenyltriazolyl, morpholinyltetrazolyl, oxopyrrolidinylpyridinyl, (oxo)oxazolidinylpyridinyl, oxoimidazolidinylpyridinyl, pyridinylthiazolyl, pyridinyltetrazolyl and morpholinylcarbonylphenyl.

Particular values of Z include hydrogen, methyl, methylsulfonylphenyl, pyridinyl, methylsulfonylpyridinyl, oxopyrrolidinylphenyl, (hydroxy)(oxo)pyrrolidinylphenyl and (oxo)oxazolidinylphenyl.

Suitable values of Z include hydrogen, methyl and (oxo)oxazolidinylphenyl.

In a first embodiment, Z represents hydrogen. In a second embodiment, Z represents methyl. In a third embodiment, Z represents methylsulfonylphenyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, Z represents 3-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl. In another aspect of that embodiment, Z represents 4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl. In a fourth embodiment, Z represents pyridinyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, Z represents pyridin-4-yl. In a fifth embodiment, Z represents oxopyrrolidinylphenyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, Z represents 3-(2-oxopyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl. In a sixth embodiment, Z represents (hydroxy)(oxo)pyrrolidinylphenyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, Z represents 3-(3-hydroxy-2-oxopyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl. In another aspect of that embodiment, Z represents

3-(4-hydroxy-2-oxopyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl. In a seventh embodiment, Z represents (oxo)oxazolidinylphenyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, Z represents 3-(2-oxo-oxazolidinyl-3-yl)phenyl. In an eighth embodiment, Z represents methylsulfonylpyridinyl.

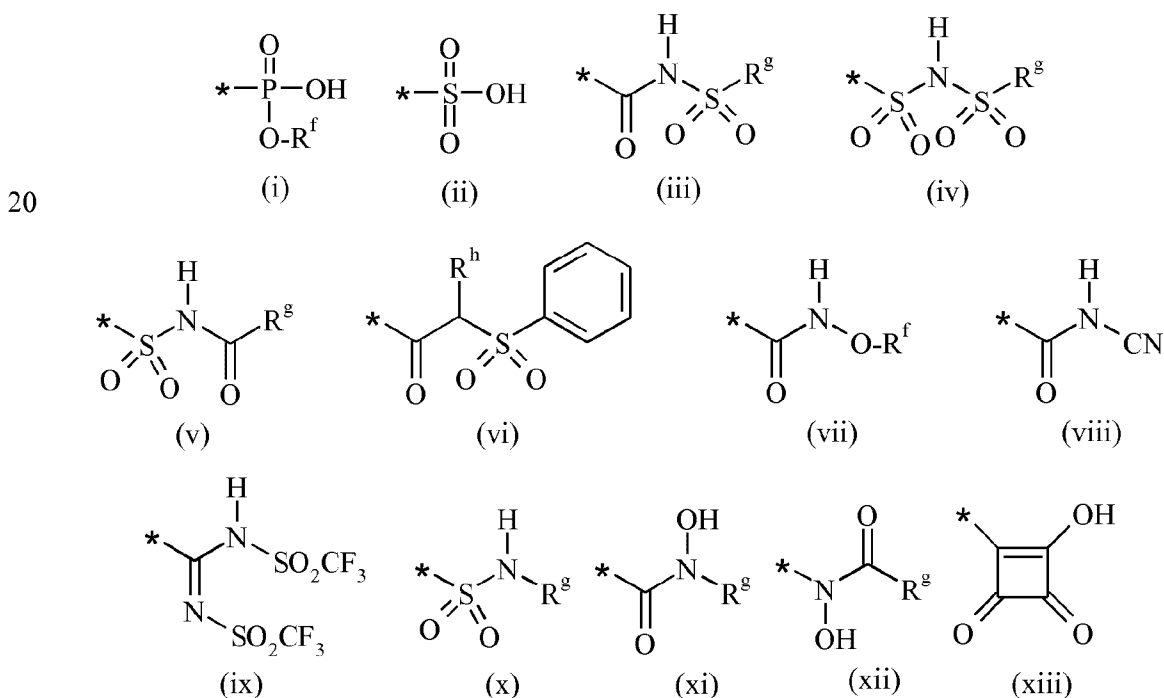
- 5 Suitably, R¹, R² or R³ independently represent hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl or -CO₂R^d; or C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, aryl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkenyl, heteroaryl, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-aryl-, heteroaryl-(C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₇)cycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₉)bicycloalkyl-heteroaryl-,
 10 (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₉)heterobicycloalkyl-heteroaryl- or (C₄₋₉)spiroheterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

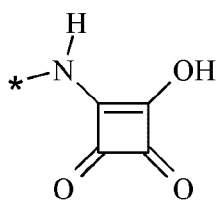
- Examples of optional substituents which may be present on R¹, R² or R³ include
 15 one, two or three substituents independently selected from halogen, halo(C₁₋₆)alkyl, cyano, cyano(C₁₋₆)alkyl, nitro, nitro(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoroethyl, trifluoroethyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroethoxy, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyloxy, C₁₋₃ alkylenedioxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphinyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl-
 20 sulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, oxo, amino, amino(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₁₋₆ alkoxyamino, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl-amino, [(C₁₋₆)alkoxy](hydroxy)(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, [(C₁₋₆)alkylthio](hydroxy)(C₁₋₆)alkyl-amino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, *N*-[di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl-
 25 (C₃₋₇)cycloalkylamino, (hydroxy)[(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, oxo(C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, (C₁₋₆)alkylheteroaryl-amino, heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, (C₁₋₆)alkylheteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-amino, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[(C₂₋₆)alkylcarbonyl]amino, (C₂₋₆)alkyl-carbonylamino(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₆ alkenylcarbonylamino, bis[(C₃₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl]amino, *N*-
 30 [(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[(C₃₋₇)cycloalkylcarbonyl]amino, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonylamino, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl-amino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl]amino, bis[(C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl]amino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[carboxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkylamino, carboxy-

(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, formyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkylcarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkylcarbonyloxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, carboxy, carboxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, morpholinyl(C₁₋₆)alkoxy carbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonylmethylidenyl, a carboxylic acid isostere or prodrug moiety Ω ,

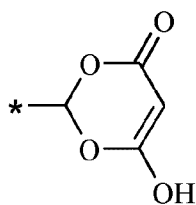
- 5 -(C₁₋₆)alkyl- Ω , aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkylamino-carbonyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonyl, aminocarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aminosulphonyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminosulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphoximinyl and [(C₁₋₆)alkyl][N-(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-sulphoximinyl.

By the expression “carboxylic acid isostere or prodrug moiety” is meant any
 10 functional group, structurally distinct from a carboxylic acid moiety, that will be recognised by a biological system as being similar to, and thus capable of mimicking, a carboxylic acid moiety, or will be readily convertible by a biological system *in vivo* into a carboxylic acid moiety. A synopsis of some common carboxylic acid isosteres is presented by N.A. Meanwell in *J. Med. Chem.*, 2011, **54**, 2529-2591 (cf. in particular
 15 Figures 25 and 26). An alternative carboxylic acid isostere is described by N Pemberton *et al.* in *ACS Med. Chem. Lett.*, 2012, **3**, 574-578. Typical examples of suitable carboxylic acid isostere or prodrug moieties represented by Ω include the functional groups of formula (i) to (xliii):

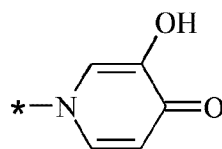




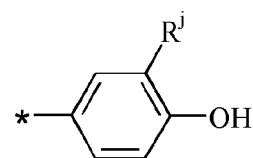
(xiv)



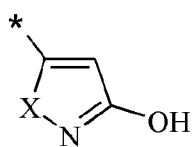
(xv)



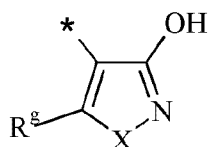
(xvi)



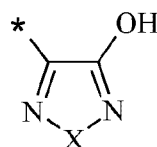
(xvii)



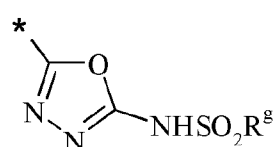
(xviii)



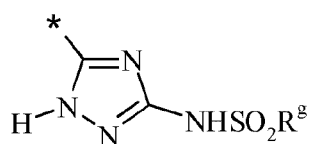
(xix)



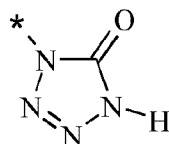
(xx)



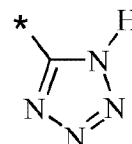
(xxi)



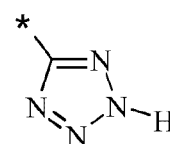
(xxii)



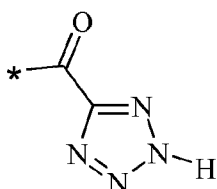
(xxiii)



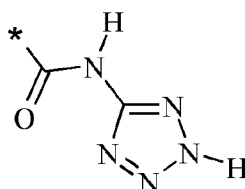
(xxiv)



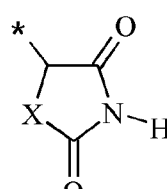
(xxv)



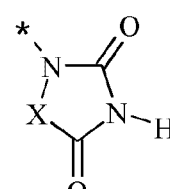
(xxvi)



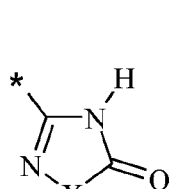
(xxvii)



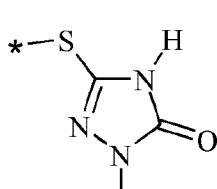
(xxviii)



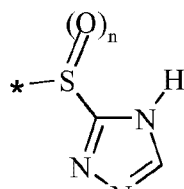
(xxix)



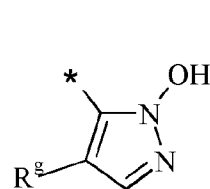
(xxx)



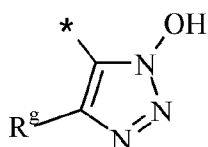
(xxxi)



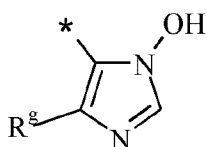
(xxxii)



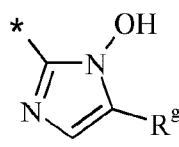
(xxxiii)



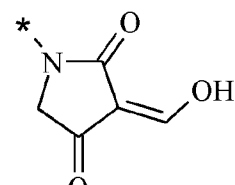
(xxxiv)



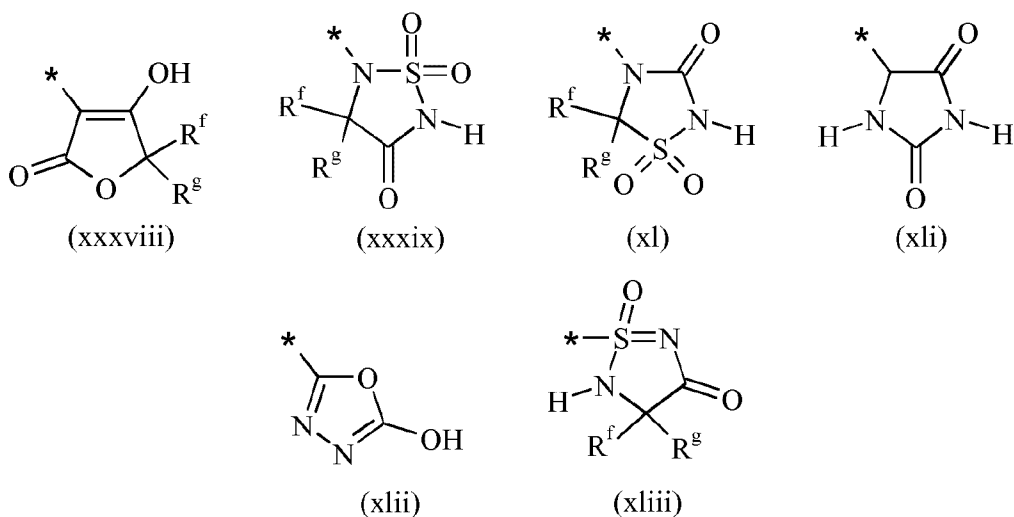
(xxxv)



(xxxvi)



(xxxvii)



wherein

- 5 the asterisk (*) represents the site of attachment to the remainder of the molecule;
 n is zero, 1 or 2;
 X represents oxygen or sulphur;
 R^f represents hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$;
 R^g represents C_{1-6} alkyl, trifluoromethyl, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{F}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CHF}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_3$ or
 10 $-\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_3$;
 R^h represents hydrogen, cyano or $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^d$, in which R^d is as defined above; and
 R^j represents hydrogen or halogen.
 In one embodiment, n is zero. In another embodiment, n is 1. In a further
 embodiment, n is 2.
- 15 In one embodiment, X represents oxygen. In another embodiment, X represents
 sulphur.
 In one embodiment, R^f represents hydrogen. In another embodiment, R^f represents
 C_{1-6} alkyl, especially methyl. In a further embodiment, R^f is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$.
 In one embodiment, R^g represents C_{1-6} alkyl, especially methyl. In another
 20 embodiment, R^g represents trifluoromethyl, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{F}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CHF}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_3$ or $-\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_3$.
 In a first aspect of that embodiment, R^g represents trifluoromethyl. In a second aspect of
 that embodiment, R^g represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{F}$. In a third aspect of that embodiment, R^g
 represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CHF}_2$. In a fourth aspect of that embodiment, R^g represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_3$. In a
 fifth aspect of that embodiment, R^g represents $-\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_3$.

In one embodiment, R^h is hydrogen. In another embodiment, R^h represents cyano. In a further embodiment, R^h represents $-CO_2R^d$, especially methoxycarbonyl.

In one embodiment, R^j represents hydrogen. In another embodiment, R^j represents halogen, especially chloro.

5 In a selected embodiment, Ω represents tetrazolyl, especially a C-linked tetrazolyl moiety of formula (xxiv) or (xxv) as depicted above, in particular a group of formula (xxiv) as depicted above.

In another embodiment, Ω represents C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylaminocarbonyl, i.e. a moiety of formula (iii) as depicted above wherein R^g represents C_{1-6} alkyl.

10 In another embodiment, Ω represents C_{1-6} alkylaminosulphonyl, i.e. a moiety of formula (x) as depicted above wherein R^g represents C_{1-6} alkyl.

In a further embodiment, Ω represents (C_{1-6}) alkylcarbonylaminosulphonyl, i.e. a moiety of formula (v) as depicted above wherein R^g represents C_{1-6} alkyl.

15 Typical examples of optional substituents which may be present on R^1 , R^2 or R^3 include one, two or three substituents independently selected from C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl.

Examples of particular substituents on R^1 , R^2 or R^3 include fluoro, chloro, bromo, fluoromethyl, fluoroisopropyl, cyano, cyanoethyl, nitro, nitromethyl, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, *tert*-butyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoroethyl, trifluoro-
 20 ethyl, ethenyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, hydroxyisopropyl, methoxy, isopropoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroethoxy, carboxycyclobutyl, methylene-dioxy, ethylenedioxy, methoxymethyl, methoxyethyl, methylthio, methylsulphinyl, methylsulphonyl, methylsulphonyl ethyl, oxo, amino, aminomethyl, aminoisopropyl, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, hydroxyethylamino, hydroxypropylamino,
 25 (hydroxy)(methyl)propylamino, methoxyamino, methoxyethylamino, (hydroxy)-(methoxy)(methyl)propylamino, (hydroxy)(methylthio)butylamino, *N*-(hydroxyethyl)-*N*-(methyl)amino, dimethylaminoethylamino, (dimethylamino)(methyl)propylamino, *N*-(dimethylaminoethyl)-*N*-(hydroxyethyl)amino, hydroxymethylcyclopentylamino, hydroxycyclobutylmethylamino, (cyclopropyl)(hydroxy)propylamino, morpholinylethyl-
 30 amino, oxopyrrolidinylmethylamino, ethyloxadiazolylamino, methylthiadiazolylamino, thiazolylmethylamino, thiazolylethylamino, pyrimidinylmethylamino, methylpyrazolylmethylamino, acetylaminomethyl, ethenylcarbonylamino, bis(ethenylcarbonyl)amino, *N*-

cyclopropylcarbonyl-*N*-methylamino, methoxycarbonylamino, ethoxycarbonylamino, *tert*-butoxycarbonylamino, methoxycarbonylethylamino, ethylaminocarbonylamino, butylaminocarbonylamino, methylsulphonylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-(methylsulphonyl)amino, bis(methylsulphonyl)amino, *N*-(carboxymethyl)-*N*-methylamino, *N*-(carboxyethyl)-*N*-methylamino, carboxycyclopentylamino, carboxycyclopropylmethylamino, formyl, acetyl, isopropylcarbonyl, cyclobutylcarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl, acetoxyisopropyl, carboxy, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *n*-butoxycarbonyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonyl, methoxycarbonylmethyl, ethoxycarbonylmethyl, ethoxycarbonylethyl, morpholinylethoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonylmethylidenyl, methylsulphonylamino-carbonyl, acetylaminosulphonyl, methoxyaminocarbonyl, tetrazolyl, tetrazolylmethyl, hydroxyoxadiazolyl, aminocarbonyl, methylaminocarbonyl, hydroxyethylaminocarbonyl, dimethylaminocarbonyl, aminocarbonylmethyl, aminosulphonyl, methylaminosulphonyl, dimethylaminosulphonyl, methylsulphoximinyl and (methyl)(*N*-methyl)sulphoximinyl.

Typical examples of particular substituents on R¹, R² or R³ include methyl and methoxycarbonyl.

Typically, R¹ represents hydrogen, halogen, cyano or -CO₂R^d; or C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, aryl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkenyl, heteroaryl, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-aryl-, heteroaryl(C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₇)cycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₉)bicycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₉)heterobicycloalkyl-heteroaryl- or (C₄₋₉)spiroheterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Suitably, R¹ represents halogen, cyano or -CO₂R^d; or C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, aryl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkenyl, heteroaryl, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-aryl-, heteroaryl(C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₇)cycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₉)bicycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₉)heterobicycloalkyl-heteroaryl- or (C₄₋₉)spiroheterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Generally, R¹ represents halogen or cyano; or C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, aryl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkenyl, heteroaryl, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-

aryl-, heteroaryl(C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₇)cycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₉)bicycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₉)heterobicycloalkyl-heteroaryl- or
 5 (C₄₋₉)spiroheterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

More generally, R¹ represents hydrogen; or R¹ represents C₁₋₆ alkyl or heteroaryl, either of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

In a first embodiment, R¹ represents hydrogen.

10 In a second embodiment, R¹ represents halogen. In one aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents bromo. In another aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents chloro.

In a third embodiment, R¹ represents cyano.

In a fourth embodiment, R¹ represents -CO₂R^d.

15 In a fifth embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted ethyl.

In a sixth embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkynyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted butynyl.

In a seventh embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted aryl. In one aspect
 20 of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted phenyl.

In an eighth embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl.

In a ninth embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkenyl.

25 In a tenth embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted heteroaryl. In selected aspects of that embodiment, R¹ represents benzofuryl, thienyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, indazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyrazinyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

30 In an eleventh embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)-heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-aryl-. In a first aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted pyrrolidinylmethylphenyl-. In a second aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted piperazinylmethylphenyl-.

In a twelfth embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted heteroaryl(C₃₋₇)-heterocycloalkyl-. In one aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted pyridinylpiperazinyl-.

In a thirteenth embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-heteroaryl-. In a first aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted cyclohexylpyrazolyl-. In a second aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted cyclohexylpyridinyl-. In a third aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted cyclopropylpyrimidinyl-. In a fourth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted cyclobutylpyrimidinyl-. In a fifth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted cyclopentylpyrimidinyl-. In a sixth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted cyclohexylpyrimidinyl-. In a seventh aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted cyclohexylpyrazinyl-.

In a fourteenth embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted (C₄₋₇)cycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-.

In a fifteenth embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-. In a first aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted pyrrolidinylpyridinyl-. In a second aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted tetrahydropyranylpyridinyl-. In a third aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted piperidinylpyridinyl-. In a fourth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted piperazinylpyridinyl-. In a fifth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted morpholinylpyridinyl-. In a sixth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted thiomorpholinylpyridinyl-. In a seventh aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted diazepanylpyridinyl-. In an eighth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted oxetanylpyrimidinyl-. In a ninth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted azetidiny pyrimidinyl-. In a tenth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted tetrahydrofuranylpyrimidinyl-. In an eleventh aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted pyrrolidinylpyrimidinyl-. In a twelfth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted tetrahydropyranylpyrimidinyl-. In a thirteenth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted piperidinylpyrimidinyl-. In a fourteenth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted piperazinylpyrimidinyl-. In a fifteenth aspect of that

embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted morpholinylpyrimidinyl-. In a sixteenth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted thiomorpholinylpyrimidinyl-. In a seventeenth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted azepanylpyrimidinyl-. In an eighteenth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted oxazepanylpyrimidinyl-. In a nineteenth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted diazepanylpyrimidinyl-. In a twentieth aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted thiadiazepanylpyrimidinyl-. In a twenty-first aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted oxetanylpiprazinyl-. In a twenty-second aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted piperidinylpyrazinyl-.

In a sixteenth embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)-heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-. In a first aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted morpholinylmethylthienyl-. In a second aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted morpholinylethylpyrazolyl-.

In a seventeenth embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)-heterocycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-.

In an eighteenth embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted (C₄₋₉)-heterobicycloalkyl-heteroaryl-.

In a nineteenth embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted (C₄₋₉)-spiroheterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-.

In a twentieth embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-. In one aspect of that embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted cyclohexylmethylpyrimidinyl-.

In a twenty-first embodiment, R¹ represents optionally substituted (C₄₋₉)-bicycloalkyl-heteroaryl-.

Appositely, R¹ represents hydrogen, chloro, bromo, cyano or -CO₂R^d; or ethyl, butynyl, phenyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridinyl, benzofuryl, thienyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, indazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyridinyl, quinolynyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrrolidinylmethylphenyl, piperazinylmethylphenyl, pyridinylpiperazinyl, cyclohexylpyrazolyl, cyclohexylpyridinyl, cyclopropylpyrimidinyl, cyclobutylpyrimidinyl, cyclopentylpyrimidinyl, cyclohexylpyrimidinyl, cyclohexylpyrazinyl, cyclohexylmethylpyrimidinyl, cyclohexenylpyridinyl, cyclohexenylpyrimidinyl, bicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl-

pyridinyl, bicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyrimidinyl, bicyclo[4.1.0]heptanylpyrimidinyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]octanylpyrimidinyl, pyrrolidinylpyridinyl, tetrahydropyranylpyridinyl, piperidinylpyridinyl, piperazinylpyridinyl, morpholinylpyridinyl, thiomorpholinylpyridinyl, diazepanylpyridinyl, oxetanylpyrimidinyl, azetidiny pyrimidinyl, tetrahydrofuranylpyrimidinyl, pyrrolidinylpyrimidinyl, tetrahydropyranylpyrimidinyl, piperidinylpyrimidinyl, piperazinylpyrimidinyl, hexahydro-[1,2,5]thiadiazolo[2,3-*a*]-pyrazinylpyrimidinyl, morpholinylpyrimidinyl, thiomorpholinylpyrimidinyl, azepanylpyrimidinyl, oxazepanylpyrimidinyl, diazepanylpyrimidinyl, thiadiazepanylpyrimidinyl, oxetanylpyrazinyl, piperidinylpyrazinyl, morpholinylmethylthienyl, morpholinylethylpyrazolyl, 3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyridinyl, 3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyridazinyl, 3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-5-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptanylpyrimidinyl, 3-azabicyclo[3.1.1]heptanylpyrimidinyl, 3-azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanylpyridinyl, 3-azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxabicyclo[2.2.2]octanylpyrimidinyl, 3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanylpyrimidinyl, 8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanylpyrimidinyl, 3-oxa-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanylpyrimidinyl, 3,6-diazabicyclo[3.2.2]nonanylpyrimidinyl, 3-oxa-7-azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonanylpyrimidinyl, 5-azaspiro[2.3]hexanylpyrimidinyl, 5-azaspiro[2.4]heptanylpyrimidinyl, 2-azaspiro[3.3]heptanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.3]heptanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.4]octanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.5]nonanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-7-azaspiro[3.5]nonanylpyrimidinyl or 2,4,8-triazaspiro[4.5]decanylpyrimidinyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Illustratively, R¹ represents hydrogen; or R¹ represents ethyl or pyrazolyl, either of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Typical examples of optional substituents on R¹ include one, two or three substituents independently selected from halogen, halo(C₁₋₆)alkyl, cyano, cyano(C₁₋₆)alkyl, nitro(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroethyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, trifluoroethoxy, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyloxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, oxo, amino, amino-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, (C₂₋₆)alkylcarbonylamino(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonylamino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl]amino, bis[(C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl]amino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[carboxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkylamino, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, formyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkyl-

carbonyloxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, carboxy, carboxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, morpholinyl(C₁₋₆)alkoxy carbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl-methylidenyl, a carboxylic acid isostere or prodrug moiety Ω as defined herein, -(C₁₋₆)alkyl- Ω , aminocarbonyl, aminosulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphoximinyl and
 5 [(C₁₋₆)alkyl][N-(C₁₋₆)alkyl]sulphoximinyl.

Suitable examples of optional substituents on R¹ include one, two or three substituents independently selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl and C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl.

Typical examples of particular substituents on R¹ include one, two or three substituents independently selected from fluoro, chloro, fluoromethyl, fluoroisopropyl,
 10 cyano, cyanoethyl, nitromethyl, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroethyl, ethenyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, hydroxyisopropyl, methoxy, isopropoxy, trifluoroethoxy, carboxycyclobutyl, methylthio, methylsulphonyl, methylsulphonylethyl, oxo, amino, aminomethyl, aminoisopropyl, methylamino, dimethylamino, methoxyethylamino, N-(hydroxyethyl)-N-(methyl)amino, acetylaminomethyl, methylsulphonylamino, N-
 15 methyl-N-(methylsulphonyl)amino, bis(methylsulphonyl)amino, N-(carboxyethyl)-N-(methyl)amino, carboxycyclopentylamino, carboxycyclopropylmethylamino, formyl, acetyl, acetoxisopropyl, carboxy, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, n-butoxycarbonyl, tert-butoxycarbonyl, methoxycarbonylmethyl, ethoxycarbonylmethyl, ethoxycarbonylethyl, morpholinylethoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl-
 20 methylidenyl, methylsulphonylaminocarbonyl, acetylaminosulphonyl, methoxyaminocarbonyl, tetrazolyl, tetrazolylmethyl, hydroxyoxadiazolyl, aminocarbonyl, aminosulphonyl, methylsulphoximinyl and (methyl)(N-methyl)sulphoximinyl.

Suitable examples of particular substituents on R¹ include one, two or three substituents independently selected from methyl and methoxycarbonyl.

25 In a particular embodiment, R¹ is substituted by hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R¹ is substituted by hydroxyisopropyl, especially 2-hydroxyprop-2-yl.

Selected values of R¹ include hydrogen, chloro, bromo, cyano, -CO₂R^d, methoxycarbonylethyl, ethoxycarbonylethyl, hydroxybutynyl, chlorophenyl, hydroxyphenyl, methylsulphonylphenyl, aminomethylphenyl, aminoisopropylphenyl,
 30 acetylaminomethylphenyl, acetylphenyl, methoxycarbonylphenyl, aminocarbonylphenyl, aminosulphonylphenyl, acetylaminosulphonylphenyl, (methoxycarbonyl)(methyl)-pyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidinyl, ethoxycarbonylpiperidinyl, methylsulphonylpiperazinyl, morpholinyl, methylsulphonyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridinyl, acetyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-

pyridinyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridinyl, methoxycarbonylmethyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridinyl, benzofuryl, thienyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, methylpyrazolyl, dimethylpyrazolyl, (methyl)[*N*-methyl-*N*-(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrazolyl, methylindazolyl, dimethylisoxazolyl, hydroxyisopropylthiazolyl, methylimidazolyl, 5 dimethylimidazolyl, pyridinyl, fluoropyridinyl, cyanopyridinyl, methylpyridinyl, (cyano)(methyl)pyridinyl, dimethylpyridinyl, trifluoromethylpyridinyl, ethenylpyridinyl, hydroxyisopropylpyridinyl, methoxypyridinyl, (methoxy)(methyl)pyridinyl, isopropoxy-pyridinyl, trifluoroethoxypyridinyl, (methyl)(trifluoroethoxy)pyridinyl, methylsulphonyl-pyridinyl, oxopyridinyl, (methyl)(oxo)pyridinyl, (dimethyl)(oxo)pyridinyl, amino-10 pyridinyl, methylaminopyridinyl, dimethylaminopyridinyl, methoxyethylaminopyridinyl, *N*-(hydroxyethyl)-*N*-(methyl)aminopyridinyl, methylsulphonylaminopyridinyl, [bis(methylsulphonyl)amino]pyridinyl, carboxypyridinyl, quinolinyl, hydroxypyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, fluoroisopropylpyrimidinyl, hydroxyisopropylpyrimidinyl, methoxy-pyrimidinyl, carboxycyclobutyloxypyrimidinyl, methylthiopyrimidinyl, methylsulphonyl-15 pyrimidinyl, oxopyrimidinyl, aminopyrimidinyl, dimethylaminopyrimidinyl, methoxyethylaminopyrimidinyl, *N*-(carboxyethyl)-*N*-(methyl)aminopyrimidinyl, carboxycyclopentylaminopyrimidinyl, carboxycyclopropylmethylaminopyrimidinyl, acetoxisopropylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonylethylpyrimidinyl, hydroxypyrazinyl, hydroxyisopropylpyrazinyl, pyrrolidinylmethylphenyl, piperazinylmethylphenyl, 20 pyridinylpiperazinyl, carboxycyclohexylpyrazolyl, carboxycyclohexylpyridinyl, fluoromethylcyclopropylpyrimidinyl, acetylaminomethylcyclopropylpyrimidinyl, hydroxycyclobutylpyrimidinyl, carboxycyclopentylpyrimidinyl, carboxycyclohexyl-pyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)cyclohexylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(hydroxy)cyclohexyl-pyrimidinyl, carboxymethylcyclohexylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonylcyclohexyl-25 pyrimidinyl, (methoxycarbonyl)(methyl)cyclohexylpyrimidinyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)-(methyl)cyclohexylpyrimidinyl, carboxycyclohexylpyrazinyl, carboxycyclohexylmethyl-pyrimidinyl, carboxycyclohexenylpyridinyl, carboxycyclohexenylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonylcyclohexenylpyrimidinyl, carboxybicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyridinyl, carboxybicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonylbicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl-30 pyrimidinyl, carboxybicyclo[4.1.0]heptanylpyrimidinyl, carboxybicyclo[2.2.2]octanyl-pyrimidinyl, pyrrolidinylpyridinyl, hydroxypyrrolidinylpyridinyl, hydroxytetrahydropyranylpyridinyl, piperidinylpyridinyl, acetyl piperidinylpyridinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)piperidinylpyridinyl, [(carboxy)(methyl)piperidinyl](fluoro)pyridinyl,

[(carboxy)(methyl)piperidinyl](chloro)pyridinyl, piperazinylpyridinyl, (methyl)-
 (piperazinyl)pyridinyl, cyanoethylpiperazinylpyridinyl, trifluoroethylpiperazinylpyridinyl,
 methylsulphonylpiperazinylpyridinyl, methylsulphonylethylpiperazinylpyridinyl,
 oxopiperazinylpyridinyl, acetyl piperazinylpyridinyl, (*tert*-butoxycarbonylpiperazinyl)-
 5 (methyl)pyridinyl, carboxymethylpiperazinylpyridinyl, carboxyethylpiperazinylpyridinyl,
 ethoxycarbonylmethylpiperazinylpyridinyl, ethoxycarbonylethylpiperazinylpyridinyl,
 morpholinylpyridinyl, thiomorpholinylpyridinyl, oxothiomorpholinylpyridinyl,
 dioxothiomorpholinylpyridinyl, oxodiazepanylpyridinyl, fluoroxyetanylpyrimidinyl,
 hydroxyoxetanylpyrimidinyl, hydroxyazetidiny pyrimidinyl, (hydroxy)(methyl)-
 10 azetidiny pyrimidinyl, carboxyazetidiny pyrimidinyl, (*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)(hydroxy)-
 azetidiny pyrimidinyl, tetrazolylazetidiny pyrimidinyl, hydroxytetrahydrofuranyl-
 pyrimidinyl, hydroxypyrrolidinylpyrimidinyl, carboxypyrrolidinylpyrimidinyl,
 (carboxy)(methyl)pyrrolidinylpyrimidinyl, carboxymethylpyrrolidinylpyrimidinyl,
 ethoxycarbonylpyrrolidinylpyrimidinyl, fluorotetrahydropyranylpyrimidinyl,
 15 hydroxytetrahydropyranylpyrimidinyl, difluoropiperidinylpyrimidinyl, (cyano)(methyl)-
 piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (hydroxy)(nitromethyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (hydroxy)-
 (methyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (hydroxy)(trifluoromethyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl,
 (hydroxymethyl)(methyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, methylsulphonylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl,
 oxopiperidinylpyrimidinyl, (formyl)(methyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, carboxypiperidinyl-
 20 pyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(fluoro)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)piperidinyl-
 pyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(ethyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(trifluoromethyl)-
 piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(hydroxy)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)-
 (hydroxymethyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(methoxy)piperidinylpyrimidinyl,
 (amino)(carboxy)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, carboxymethylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl,
 25 methoxycarbonylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl,
 (ethoxycarbonyl)(fluoro)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (methoxycarbonyl)(methyl)piperidinyl-
 pyrimidinyl, (ethyl)(methoxycarbonyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (isopropyl)-
 (methoxycarbonyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)(methyl)piperidinyl-
 pyrimidinyl, (*n*-butoxycarbonyl)(methyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)-
 30 (trifluoromethyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)(hydroxymethyl)piperidinyl-
 pyrimidinyl, (methoxy)(methoxycarbonyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)-
 (methoxycarbonyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (methyl)(morpholinylethoxycarbonyl)-
 piperidinylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonylmethylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl, methylsulphonyl-

aminocarbonylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl, acetylaminosulphonylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl,
 methoxyaminocarbonylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl, tetrazolylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl,
 hydroxyoxadiazolylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl, aminosulphonylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl,
 piperazinylpyrimidinyl, methylsulphonylpiperazinylpyrimidinyl, oxopiperazinyl-
 5 pyrimidinyl, carboxypiperazinylpyrimidinyl, carboxyethylpiperazinylpyrimidinyl, *tert*-
 butoxycarbonylpiperazinylpyrimidinyl, tetrazolylmethylpiperazinylpyrimidinyl,
 trioxohexahydro-[1,2,5]thiadiazolo[2,3-*a*]pyrazinylpyrimidinyl, morpholinylpyrimidinyl,
 dimethylmorpholinylpyrimidinyl, hydroxymethylmorpholinylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-
 morpholinylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)morpholinylpyrimidinyl, carboxymethyl-
 10 morpholinylpyrimidinyl, thiomorpholinylpyrimidinyl, dioxothiomorpholinylpyrimidinyl,
 carboxyazepanylpyrimidinyl, carboxyoxazepanylpyrimidinyl, oxodiazepanylpyrimidinyl,
 (oxodiazepanyl)(trifluoromethyl)pyrimidinyl, (oxodiazepanyl)(methoxy)pyrimidinyl,
 (methyl)(oxo)diazepanylpyrimidinyl, dioxothiadiazepanylpyrimidinyl, hydroxyoxetanyl-
 pyrazinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)piperidinylpyrazinyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)(methyl)piperidinyl-
 15 pyrazinyl, morpholinylmethylthienyl, morpholinylmethylpyrazolyl, carboxy-3-azabicyclo-
 [3.1.0]hexanylpyridinyl, carboxy-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyridazinyl, carboxy-3-
 azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl-
 pyrimidinyl, methoxycarbonyl-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonyl-3-
 azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-5-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptanylpyrimidinyl,
 20 carboxy-2-oxa-5-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptanylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-3-azabicyclo[3.1.1]-
 heptanylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-3-azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanylpyridinyl, carboxy-3-
 azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanylpyrimidinyl, methoxycarbonyl-3-azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanyl-
 pyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonyl-3-azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanylpyrimidinyl, (hydroxy)(methyl)-
 (oxo)-2-oxabicyclo[2.2.2]octanylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl-
 25 pyrimidinyl, methoxycarbonyl-3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanylpyrimidinyl, oxo-8-azabicyclo-
 [3.2.1]octanylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonylmethylidenyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl-
 pyrimidinyl, 3-oxa-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanylpyrimidinyl, oxo-3,6-diazabicyclo[3.2.2]-
 nonanylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-3-oxa-7-azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonanylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-5-
 azaspiro[2.3]hexanylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)-5-azaspiro[2.3]hexanylpyrimidinyl,
 30 carboxy-5-azaspiro[2.4]heptanylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-2-azaspiro[3.3]heptanyl-
 pyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.3]heptanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.4]octanyl-
 pyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.5]nonanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-7-azaspiro[3.5]nonanyl-
 pyrimidinyl and (dioxo)(methyl)-2,4,8-triazaspiro[4.5]decanylpyrimidinyl.

Illustrative values of R^1 include hydrogen, methoxycarbonylethyl and methylpyrazolyl.

Typically, R^2 represents hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl or $-OR^a$; or R^2 represents optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl.

5 Appositely, R^2 represents hydrogen or halogen.

Typical examples of optional substituents on R^2 include C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl.

Typical examples of particular substituents on R^2 include ethoxycarbonyl.

In a first embodiment, R^2 represents hydrogen. In a second embodiment, R^2 represents halogen. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^2 represents fluoro. In another aspect of that embodiment, R^2 represents chloro. In a third embodiment, R^2 represents trifluoromethyl. In a fourth embodiment, R^2 represents $-OR^a$. In a fifth embodiment, R^2 represents optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^2 represents unsubstituted methyl. In another aspect of that embodiment, R^2 represents unsubstituted ethyl. In a further aspect of that embodiment, R^2 represents monosubstituted methyl or monosubstituted ethyl.

Typical values of R^2 include hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethyl, $-OR^a$, methyl and ethoxycarbonylethyl.

Apposite values of R^2 include hydrogen and fluoro.

In a particular embodiment, R^3 represents hydrogen.

20 Suitably, R^4 represents hydrogen or methyl.

In a first embodiment, R^4 represents hydrogen. In a second embodiment, R^4 represents C_{1-6} alkyl, especially methyl.

Suitably, R^5 represents hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

In a first embodiment, R^5 represents hydrogen. In a second embodiment, R^5 represents C_{1-6} alkyl, especially methyl or ethyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^5 represents methyl. In another aspect of that embodiment, R^5 represents ethyl.

Typical examples of suitable substituents on R^a , R^b , R^c , R^d or R^e , or on the heterocyclic moiety $-NR^bR^c$, include halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylthio, C_{1-6} alkylsulphinyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl, hydroxy, hydroxy(C_{1-6})alkyl, amino(C_{1-6})alkyl, cyano, trifluoromethyl, oxo, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonyl, carboxy, C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonyloxy, amino, C_{1-6} alkylamino, di(C_{1-6})alkylamino, phenylamino, pyridinylamino, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonylamino,

C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonylamino, aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl and di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonyl.

Typical examples of specific substituents on R^a, R^b, R^c, R^d or R^e, or on the heterocyclic moiety -NR^bR^c, include fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, methoxy, isopropoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, methoxymethyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, methylsulphonyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, hydroxyethyl, aminomethyl, cyano, trifluoromethyl, oxo, acetyl, carboxy, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonyl, acetoxyl, amino, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, phenylamino, pyridinylamino, acetylaminomethyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonylamino, acetylaminomethyl, methylsulphonylamino, aminocarbonyl, methylaminocarbonyl and dimethylaminocarbonyl.

Suitably, R^a represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl or heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Selected values of R^a include methyl, ethyl, benzyl and isoindolylpropyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Selected examples of suitable substituents on R^a include C₁₋₆ alkoxy and oxo.

Selected examples of specific substituents on R^a include methoxy and oxo.

In one embodiment, R^a represents optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^a ideally represents unsubstituted C₁₋₆ alkyl, especially methyl. In another aspect of that embodiment, R^a ideally represents substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl, e.g. methoxyethyl. In another embodiment, R^a represents optionally substituted aryl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^a represents unsubstituted aryl, especially phenyl. In another aspect of that embodiment, R^a represents monosubstituted aryl, especially methylphenyl. In another embodiment, R^a represents optionally substituted aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, ideally unsubstituted aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, especially benzyl. In a further embodiment, R^a represents optionally substituted heteroaryl. In a further embodiment, R^a represents optionally substituted heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, e.g. dioxoisindolylpropyl.

Specific values of R^a include methyl, methoxyethyl, benzyl and dioxoisindolylpropyl.

In a particular aspect, R^b represents hydrogen or trifluoromethyl; or C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Selected values of R^b include hydrogen; or C₁₋₆ alkyl, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl or C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Typical values of R^b include hydrogen and C₁₋₆ alkyl.

5 Illustratively, R^b represents hydrogen or trifluoromethyl; or methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, isopropyl, *n*-butyl, 2-methylpropyl, *tert*-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutylmethyl, cyclopentylmethyl, cyclohexylmethyl, phenyl, benzyl, phenylethyl, azetidiny, tetrahydrofuryl, tetrahydrothienyl, pyrrolidiny, piperidiny, homopiperidiny, morpholiny,
 10 azetidinylmethyl, tetrahydrofurylmethyl, pyrrolidinylmethyl, pyrrolidinyethyl, pyrrolidinylpropyl, thiazolidinylmethyl, imidazolidinyethyl, piperidinylmethyl, piperidinyethyl, tetrahydroquinolinylmethyl, piperazinylpropyl, morpholinylmethyl, morpholinylethyl, morpholinylpropyl, pyridiny, indolylmethyl, pyrazolylmethyl, pyrazolyethyl, imidazolylmethyl, imidazolyethyl, benzimidazolylmethyl, triazolylmethyl,
 15 pyridinylmethyl or pyridinyethyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Representative values of R^b include hydrogen; or methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, benzyl, pyrrolidiny or morpholinylpropyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

20 Selected examples of suitable substituents on R^b include C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl, hydroxy, cyano, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, di-(C₁₋₆)alkylamino and C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonylamino.

Selected examples of specific substituents on R^b include methoxy, methylthio, methylsulphinyl, methylsulphonyl, hydroxy, cyano, *tert*-butoxycarbonyl, dimethylamino
 25 and *tert*-butoxycarbonylamino.

Specific values of R^b include hydrogen, methyl, methoxyethyl, methylthioethyl, methylsulphinylethyl, methylsulphonyethyl, hydroxyethyl, cyanoethyl, dimethylaminoethyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonylaminoethyl, dihydroxypropyl, benzyl, pyrrolidiny, *tert*-butoxycarbonylpyrrolidiny and morpholinylpropyl.

30 In one embodiment, R^b represents hydrogen. In another embodiment, R^b represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, especially methyl.

Selected values of R^c include hydrogen; or C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl or C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

In a particular aspect, R^c represents hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl.

5 Representative values of R^c include hydrogen; or methyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, tetrahydropyranyl and piperidinyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Selected examples of suitable substituents on R^c include C_{2-6} alkylcarbonyl and C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl.

10 Selected examples of specific substituents on R^c include acetyl and *tert*-butoxycarbonyl.

Specific values of R^c include hydrogen, methyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, tetrahydropyranyl, acetylpiperidinyl and *tert*-butoxycarbonylpiperidinyl,

Suitably, R^c represents hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl. In one embodiment, R^c is hydrogen.

15 In another embodiment, R^c represents C_{1-6} alkyl, especially methyl or ethyl, particularly methyl. In a further embodiment, R^c represents C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, e.g. cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl.

Alternatively, the moiety $-NR^bR^c$ may suitably represent azetidin-1-yl, pyrrolidin-1-yl, oxazolidin-3-yl, isoxazolidin-2-yl, thiazolidin-3-yl, isothiazolidin-2-yl, piperidin-1-yl, morpholin-4-yl, thiomorpholin-4-yl, piperazin-1-yl, homopiperidin-1-yl, homomorpholin-4-yl or homopiperazin-1-yl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

25 Selected examples of suitable substituents on the heterocyclic moiety $-NR^bR^c$ include C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl, hydroxy, hydroxy(C_{1-6})alkyl, amino(C_{1-6})alkyl, cyano, oxo, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonyl, carboxy, C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl, amino, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonyl-amino, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonylamino(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonylamino, C_{1-6} alkyl-sulphonylamino and aminocarbonyl.

30 Selected examples of specific substituents on the heterocyclic moiety $-NR^bR^c$ include methyl, methylsulphonyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, aminomethyl, cyano, oxo, acetyl, carboxy, ethoxycarbonyl, amino, acetylamino, acetylaminomethyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonylamino, methylsulphonylamino and aminocarbonyl.

Specific values of the moiety $-NR^bR^c$ include azetidin-1-yl, hydroxyazetidin-1-yl, hydroxymethylazetidin-1-yl, (hydroxy)(hydroxymethyl)azetidin-1-yl, aminomethyl-

azetidin-1-yl, cyanoazetidin-1-yl, carboxyazetidin-1-yl, aminoazetidin-1-yl, aminocarbonylazetidin-1-yl, pyrrolidin-1-yl, aminomethylpyrrolidin-1-yl, oxopyrrolidin-1-yl, acetylaminoethylpyrrolidin-1-yl, *tert*-butoxycarbonylaminopyrrolidin-1-yl, oxo-oxazolidin-3-yl, hydroxyisoxazolidin-2-yl, thiazolidin-3-yl, oxothiazolidin-3-yl, dioxo-
 5 isothiazolidin-2-yl, piperidin-1-yl, hydroxypiperidin-1-yl, hydroxymethylpiperidin-1-yl, aminopiperidin-1-yl, acetylaminoethylpiperidin-1-yl, *tert*-butoxycarbonylaminopiperidin-1-yl, methylsulphonylaminopiperidin-1-yl, morpholin-4-yl, piperazin-1-yl, methylpiperazin-1-yl, methylsulphonylpiperazin-1-yl, oxopiperazin-1-yl, acetylpiperazin-1-yl, ethoxycarbonylpiperazin-1-yl and oxohomopiperazin-1-yl.

10 Suitably, R^d represents hydrogen; or C₁₋₆ alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Selected examples of suitable values for R^d include hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, 2-methylpropyl, *tert*-butyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, phenyl, thiazolidinyl, thienyl, imidazolyl and thiazolyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by
 15 one or more substituents.

Selected examples of suitable substituents on R^d include halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, oxo, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyloxy and di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino.

Selected examples of particular substituents on R^d include fluoro, methyl, methoxy, oxo, acetoxy and dimethylamino.

20 In one embodiment, R^d represents hydrogen. In another embodiment, R^d represents optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^d ideally represents unsubstituted C₁₋₆ alkyl, e.g. methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, 2-methylpropyl or *tert*-butyl, especially methyl. In another aspect of that embodiment, R^d ideally represents substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl, e.g. substituted methyl or substituted ethyl, including
 25 acetoxymethyl, dimethylaminomethyl and trifluoroethyl. In another embodiment, R^d represents optionally substituted aryl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^d represents unsubstituted aryl, especially phenyl. In another aspect of that embodiment, R^d represents monosubstituted aryl, especially methylphenyl. In a further aspect of that embodiment, R^d represents disubstituted aryl, e.g. dimethoxyphenyl. In a further embodiment, R^d
 30 represents optionally substituted heteroaryl, e.g. thienyl, chlorothienyl, methylthienyl, methylimidazolyl or thiazolyl. In another embodiment, R^d represents optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, e.g. cyclopropyl or cyclobutyl. In a further embodiment, R^d

represents optionally substituted C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, e.g. thiazolidinyl or oxo-thiazolidinyl.

Selected examples of specific values for R^d include hydrogen, methyl, acetoxy-methyl, dimethylaminomethyl, ethyl, trifluoroethyl, isopropyl, 2-methylpropyl, *tert*-butyl,
 5 cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, phenyl, dimethoxyphenyl, thiazolidinyl, oxothiazolidinyl, thienyl, chlorothienyl, methylthienyl, methylimidazolyl and thiazolyl.

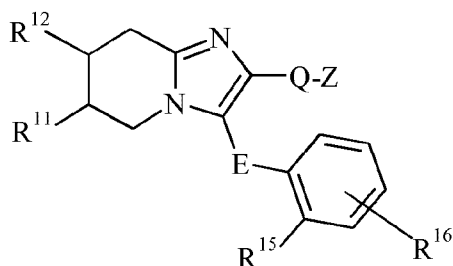
Suitably, R^e represents C₁₋₆ alkyl or aryl, either of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Selected examples of suitable substituents on R^e include C₁₋₆ alkyl, especially
 10 methyl.

In one embodiment, R^e represents optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl, ideally unsubstituted C₁₋₆ alkyl, e.g. methyl or propyl, especially methyl. In another embodiment, R^e represents optionally substituted aryl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^e represents unsubstituted aryl, especially phenyl. In another aspect of that embodiment, R^e represents
 15 monosubstituted aryl, especially methylphenyl. In a further embodiment, R^e represents optionally substituted heteroaryl.

Selected values of R^e include methyl, propyl and methylphenyl.

One sub-class of compounds according to the invention is represented by the compounds of formula (IIA) and *N*-oxides thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts
 20 and solvates thereof, and glucuronide derivatives thereof, and co-crystals thereof:



(IIA)

wherein

25 R¹¹ represents hydrogen or halogen; or R¹¹ represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, aryl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkenyl, heteroaryl, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-aryl-, heteroaryl(C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₇)cycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₉)bicycloalkyl-

heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₉)heterobicycloalkyl-heteroaryl- or (C₄₋₉)spiroheterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents;

5 R¹² represents represents hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl or optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl;

R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ independently represent hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, C₁₋₆ alkyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, 10 arylamino, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonylamino, formyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkylcarbonyl, C₃₋₆ heterocycloalkylcarbonyl, carboxy, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminosulfonyl or di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminosulfonyl; and

E, Q and Z are as defined above.

15 Examples of optional substituents which may be present on R¹¹ include one, two or three substituents independently selected from halogen, halo(C₁₋₆)alkyl, cyano, cyano(C₁₋₆)alkyl, nitro, nitro(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoroethyl, trifluoroethyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroethoxy, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyloxy, C₁₋₃ 20 alkylenedioxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, oxo, amino, amino(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₁₋₆ alkoxyamino, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, [(C₁₋₆)alkoxy](hydroxy)(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, [(C₁₋₆)alkylthio](hydroxy)(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, 25 *N*-[di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkylamino, (hydroxy)[(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, oxo(C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, (C₁₋₆)alkylheteroaryl-amino, heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, (C₁₋₆)alkylheteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[(C₂₋₆)alkylcarbonyl]amino, (C₂₋₆)alkylcarbonylamino(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₆ alkenylcarbonylamino, bis[(C₃₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl]amino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[(C₃₋₇)cycloalkylcarbonyl]amino, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonylamino, C₂₋₆ 30 alkoxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl-amino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl]amino, bis[(C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl]amino, *N*-

- [(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[carboxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkylamino, carboxy-
 (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, formyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkylcarbonyl,
 phenylcarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkylcarbonyloxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, carboxy, carboxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆
 alkoxycarbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, morpholinyl(C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, C₂₋₆
 alkoxycarbonylmethylidenyl, a carboxylic acid isostere or prodrug moiety Ω as defined
 5 herein, -(C₁₋₆)alkyl- Ω , aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkylamino-
 carbonyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonyl, aminocarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aminosulphonyl,
 di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminosulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphoximinyl and [(C₁₋₆)alkyl][*N*-(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-
 sulphoximinyl.
- 10 Examples of particular substituents on R¹¹ include fluoro, chloro, bromo,
 fluoromethyl, fluoroisopropyl, cyano, cyanoethyl, nitro, nitromethyl, methyl, ethyl,
 isopropyl, isobutyl, *tert*-butyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoroethyl, trifluoro-
 ethyl, ethenyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, hydroxyisopropyl, methoxy, isopropoxy,
 difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroethoxy, carboxycyclobutylloxy, methylene-
 15 dioxy, ethylenedioxy, methoxymethyl, methoxyethyl, methylthio, methylsulphinyl,
 methylsulphonyl, methylsulphonylethyl, oxo, amino, aminomethyl, aminoisopropyl,
 methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, hydroxyethylamino, hydroxypropylamino,
 (hydroxy)(methyl)propylamino, methoxyamino, methoxyethylamino, (hydroxy)-
 (methoxy)(methyl)propylamino, (hydroxy)(methylthio)butylamino, *N*-(hydroxyethyl)-*N*-
 20 (methyl)amino, dimethylaminoethylamino, (dimethylamino)(methyl)propylamino, *N*-
 (dimethylaminoethyl)-*N*-(hydroxyethyl)amino, hydroxymethylcyclopentylamino,
 hydroxycyclobutylmethylamino, (cyclopropyl)(hydroxy)propylamino, morpholinylethyl-
 amino, oxopyrrolidinylmethylamino, ethyloxadiazolylamino, methylthiadiazolylamino,
 thiazolylmethylamino, thiazolylethylamino, pyrimidinylmethylamino, methylpyrazolyl-
 25 methylamino, acetylaminomethyl, ethenylcarbonylamino, bis(ethenylcarbonyl)amino, *N*-
 cyclopropylcarbonyl-*N*-methylamino, methoxycarbonylamino, ethoxycarbonylamino, *tert*-
 butoxycarbonylamino, methoxycarbonylethylamino, ethylaminocarbonylamino,
 butylaminocarbonylamino, methylsulphonylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-(methylsulphonyl)amino,
 30 bis(methylsulphonyl)amino, *N*-(carboxymethyl)-*N*-methylamino, *N*-(carboxyethyl)-*N*-
 methylamino, carboxycyclopentylamino, carboxycyclopropylmethylamino, formyl, acetyl,
 isopropylcarbonyl, cyclobutylcarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl, acetoxymethyl, carboxy,
 carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *n*-butoxycarbonyl, *tert*-

butoxycarbonyl, methoxycarbonylmethyl, ethoxycarbonylmethyl, ethoxycarbonylethyl, morpholinylethoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonylmethylidenyl, methylsulphonylamino-carbonyl, acetylaminosulphonyl, methoxyaminocarbonyl, tetrazolyl, tetrazolylmethyl, hydroxyoxadiazolyl, aminocarbonyl, methylaminocarbonyl, hydroxyethylaminocarbonyl, 5 dimethylaminocarbonyl, aminocarbonylmethyl, aminosulphonyl, methylaminosulphonyl, dimethylaminosulphonyl, methylsulphoximinyl and (methyl)(*N*-methyl)sulphoximinyl.

Generally, R¹¹ represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, aryl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkenyl, heteroaryl, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-aryl-, heteroaryl-(C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl- 10 heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₇)cycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₉) bicycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-, (C₄₋₉)heterobicycloalkyl-heteroaryl- or (C₄₋₉)spiroheterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

15 More generally, R¹¹ represents hydrogen; or R¹¹ represents C₁₋₆ alkyl or heteroaryl, either of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

In a first embodiment, R¹¹ represents hydrogen.

In a second embodiment, R¹¹ represents halogen. In one aspect of that 20 embodiment, R¹¹ represents bromo. In another aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents chloro.

In a third embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted ethyl.

In a fourth embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkynyl. In one 25 aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted butynyl.

In a fifth embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted aryl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted phenyl.

In a sixth embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl.

In a seventh embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted C₃₋₇ 30 heterocycloalkenyl.

In an eighth embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted heteroaryl. In selected aspects of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents benzofuryl, thienyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, indazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, pyridazinyl,

pyrimidinyl or pyrazinyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

In a ninth embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)-heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-aryl-. In a first aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted pyrrolidinylmethylphenyl-. In a second aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted piperazinylmethylphenyl-.

In a tenth embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted heteroaryl(C₃₋₇)-heterocycloalkyl-. In one aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted pyridinylpiperazinyl-.

In an eleventh embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-heteroaryl-. In a first aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted cyclohexylpyrazolyl-. In a second aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted cyclohexylpyridinyl-. In a third aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted cyclopropylpyrimidinyl-. In a fourth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted cyclobutylpyrimidinyl-. In a fifth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted cyclopentylpyrimidinyl-. In a sixth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted cyclohexylpyrimidinyl-. In a seventh aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted cyclohexylpyrazinyl-.

In a twelfth embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted (C₄₋₇)cycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-.

In a thirteenth embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)-heterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-. In a first aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted pyrrolidinylpyridinyl-. In a second aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted tetrahydropyranylpyridinyl-. In a third aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted piperidinylpyridinyl-. In a fourth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted piperazinylpyridinyl-. In a fifth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted morpholinylpyridinyl-. In a sixth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted thiomorpholinylpyridinyl-. In a seventh aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted diazepanylpyridinyl-. In an eighth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted oxetanylpyrimidinyl-. In a ninth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted azetidylpyrimidinyl-. In a tenth

aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted tetrahydrofuranyl-pyrimidinyl-. In an eleventh aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted pyrrolidinylpyrimidinyl-. In a twelfth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted tetrahydropyranylpyrimidinyl-. In a thirteenth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted piperidinylpyrimidinyl-. In a
 5 fourteenth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted piperazinyl-pyrimidinyl-. In a fifteenth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted morpholinylpyrimidinyl-. In a sixteenth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted thiomorpholinylpyrimidinyl-. In a seventeenth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted azepanylpyrimidinyl-. In an
 10 eighteenth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted oxazepanyl-pyrimidinyl-. In a nineteenth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted diazepanylpyrimidinyl-. In a twentieth aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted thiadiazepanylpyrimidinyl-. In a twenty-first aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted oxetanylpyrazinyl-. In a twenty-
 15 second aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted piperidinyl-pyrazinyl-.

In a fourteenth embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)-heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-. In a first aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹
 20 represents optionally substituted morpholinylmethylthienyl-. In a second aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted morpholinylethylpyrazolyl-.

In a fifteenth embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)-heterocycloalkenyl-heteroaryl-.

In a sixteenth embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted (C₄₋₉)-
 25 heterobicycloalkyl-heteroaryl-.

In a seventeenth embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted (C₄₋₉)-spiroheterocycloalkyl-heteroaryl-.

In an eighteenth embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)-cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-heteroaryl-. In one aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ represents
 30 optionally substituted cyclohexylmethylpyrimidinyl-.

In a nineteenth embodiment, R¹¹ represents optionally substituted (C₄₋₉)-bicycloalkyl-heteroaryl-.

Appositely, R¹¹ represents hydrogen, chloro or bromo; or R¹¹ represents ethyl, butynyl, phenyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-pyridinyl, benzofuryl, thienyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, indazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrrolidinylmethyl-phenyl, piperazinylmethylphenyl, pyridinylpiperazinyl, cyclohexylpyrazolyl, cyclohexyl-pyridinyl, cyclopropylpyrimidinyl, cyclobutylpyrimidinyl, cyclopentylpyrimidinyl, cyclohexylpyrimidinyl, cyclohexylpyrazinyl, cyclohexylmethylpyrimidinyl, cyclohexenylpyridinyl, cyclohexenylpyrimidinyl, bicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyridinyl, bicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyrimidinyl, bicyclo[4.1.0]heptanylpyrimidinyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]-octanylpyrimidinyl, pyrrolidinylpyridinyl, tetrahydropyranylpyridinyl, piperidinyl-pyridinyl, piperazinylpyridinyl, morpholinylpyridinyl, thiomorpholinylpyridinyl, diazepanylpyridinyl, oxetanylpyrimidinyl, azetidylpyrimidinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl-pyrimidinyl, pyrrolidinylpyrimidinyl, tetrahydropyranylpyrimidinyl, piperidinyl-pyrimidinyl, piperazinylpyrimidinyl, hexahydro-[1,2,5]thiadiazolo[2,3-*a*]pyrazinyl-pyrimidinyl, morpholinylpyrimidinyl, thiomorpholinylpyrimidinyl, azepanylpyrimidinyl, oxazepanylpyrimidinyl, diazepanylpyrimidinyl, thiadiazepanylpyrimidinyl, oxetanyl-pyrazinyl, piperidinylpyrazinyl, morpholinylmethylthienyl, morpholinylethylpyrazolyl, 3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyridinyl, 3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyridazinyl, 3-azabicyclo-[3.1.0]hexanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-5-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptanylpyrimidinyl, 3-azabicyclo-[3.1.1]heptanylpyrimidinyl, 3-azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanylpyridinyl, 3-azabicyclo[4.1.0]-heptanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxabicyclo[2.2.2]octanylpyrimidinyl, 3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl-pyrimidinyl, 8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanylpyrimidinyl, 3-oxa-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl-pyrimidinyl, 3,6-diazabicyclo[3.2.2]nonanylpyrimidinyl, 3-oxa-7-azabicyclo[3.3.1]-nonanylpyrimidinyl, 5-azaspiro[2.3]hexanylpyrimidinyl, 5-azaspiro[2.4]heptanyl-pyrimidinyl, 2-azaspiro[3.3]heptanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.3]heptanyl-pyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.4]octanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.5]nonanyl-pyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-7-azaspiro[3.5]nonanylpyrimidinyl or 2,4,8-triazaspiro[4.5]decanyl-pyrimidinyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Illustratively, R¹¹ represents hydrogen; or R¹¹ represents ethyl or pyrazolyl, either of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Typical examples of optional substituents on R¹¹ include one, two or three substituents independently selected from halogen, halo(C₁₋₆)alkyl, cyano, cyano(C₁₋₆)alkyl,

- nitro(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroethyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, trifluoroethoxy, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyloxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, oxo, amino, amino-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkylamino,
- 5 *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, (C₂₋₆)alkylcarbonylamino(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonylamino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl]amino, bis[(C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl]amino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[carboxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkylamino, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, formyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkylcarbonyloxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, carboxy, carboxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₂₋₆
- 10 alkoxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, morpholinyl(C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonylmethylidenyl, a carboxylic acid isostere or prodrug moiety Ω as defined herein, -(C₁₋₆)alkyl- Ω , aminocarbonyl, aminosulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphoximinyl and [(C₁₋₆)alkyl][*N*-(C₁₋₆)alkyl]sulphoximinyl.

- Suitable examples of optional substituents on R¹¹ include one, two or three
- 15 substituents independently selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl and C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl.

- Typical examples of particular substituents on R¹¹ include one, two or three substituents independently selected from fluoro, chloro, fluoromethyl, fluoroisopropyl, cyano, cyanoethyl, nitromethyl, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroethyl, ethenyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, hydroxyisopropyl, methoxy, isopropoxy, trifluoro-
- 20 ethoxy, carboxycyclobutyloxy, methylthio, methylsulphonyl, methylsulphonylethyl, oxo, amino, aminomethyl, aminoisopropyl, methylamino, dimethylamino, methoxyethylamino, *N*-(hydroxyethyl)-*N*-(methyl)amino, acetylaminomethyl, methylsulphonylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-(methylsulphonyl)amino, bis(methylsulphonyl)amino, *N*-(carboxyethyl)-*N*-(methyl)amino, carboxycyclopentylamino, carboxycyclopropylmethylamino, formyl,
- 25 acetyl, acetoxisopropyl, carboxy, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *n*-butoxycarbonyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonyl, methoxycarbonylmethyl, ethoxycarbonylmethyl, ethoxycarbonylethyl, morpholinylethoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonylmethylidenyl, methylsulphonylaminocarbonyl, acetylaminosulphonyl, methoxyaminocarbonyl, tetrazolyl, tetrazolylmethyl, hydroxyoxadiazolyl, aminocarbonyl, amino-
- 30 sulphonyl, methylsulphoximinyl and (methyl)(*N*-methyl)sulphoximinyl.

Suitable examples of particular substituents on R¹¹ include one, two or three substituents independently selected from methyl and methoxycarbonyl.

In a particular embodiment, R¹¹ is substituted by hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R¹¹ is substituted by hydroxyisopropyl, especially 2-hydroxyprop-2-yl.

Selected values of R¹¹ include hydrogen, chloro, bromo, methoxycarbonylethyl, ethoxycarbonylethyl, hydroxybutynyl, chlorophenyl, hydroxyphenyl, methylsulphonylphenyl, aminomethylphenyl, aminoisopropylphenyl, acetylaminoethylphenyl, acetylphenyl, methoxycarbonylphenyl, aminocarbonylphenyl, aminosulphonylphenyl, acetylaminosulphonylphenyl, (methoxycarbonyl)(methyl)pyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidinyl, ethoxycarbonylpiperidinyl, methylsulphonylpiperazinyl, morpholinyl, methylsulphonyl-
 1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridinyl, acetyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridinyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonyl-
 1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridinyl, methoxycarbonylmethyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridinyl, benzofuryl, thienyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, methylpyrazolyl, dimethylpyrazolyl, (methyl)[*N*-methyl-*N*-(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrazolyl, methylindazolyl, dimethylisoxazolyl, hydroxyisopropylthiazolyl, methylimidazolyl, dimethylimidazolyl, pyridinyl, fluoro-
 pyridinyl, cyanopyridinyl, methylpyridinyl, (cyano)(methyl)pyridinyl, dimethylpyridinyl, trifluoromethylpyridinyl, ethenylpyridinyl, hydroxyisopropylpyridinyl, methoxypyridinyl, (methoxy)(methyl)pyridinyl, isopropoxypyridinyl, trifluoroethoxypyridinyl, (methyl)-(trifluoroethoxy)pyridinyl, methylsulphonylpyridinyl, oxopyridinyl, (methyl)(oxo)-pyridinyl, (dimethyl)(oxo)pyridinyl, aminopyridinyl, methylaminopyridinyl, dimethylaminopyridinyl, methoxyethylaminopyridinyl, *N*-(hydroxyethyl)-*N*-(methyl)aminopyridinyl, methylsulphonylaminopyridinyl, [bis(methylsulphonyl)amino]pyridinyl, carboxypyridinyl, quinolinyl, hydroxypyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, fluoroisopropylpyrimidinyl, hydroxyisopropylpyrimidinyl, methoxypyrimidinyl, carboxycyclobutylloxypyrimidinyl, methylthiopyrimidinyl, methylsulphonylpyrimidinyl, oxopyrimidinyl, aminopyrimidinyl, dimethylaminopyrimidinyl, methoxyethylaminopyrimidinyl, *N*-(carboxyethyl)-*N*-(methyl)aminopyrimidinyl, carboxycyclopentylaminopyrimidinyl, carboxycyclopropylmethylaminopyrimidinyl, acetoxymethylaminopyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonylethylpyrimidinyl, hydroxypyrazinyl, hydroxyisopropylpyrazinyl, pyrrolidinylmethylphenyl, piperazinylmethylphenyl, pyridinylpiperazinyl, carboxycyclohexylpyrazolyl, carboxycyclohexylpyridinyl, fluoromethylcyclopropylpyrimidinyl, acetylaminoethylcyclopropylpyrimidinyl, hydroxycyclobutylpyrimidinyl, carboxycyclopentylpyrimidinyl, carboxycyclohexylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)cyclohexylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(hydroxy)cyclohexylpyrimidinyl, carboxymethylcyclohexyl-

pyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonylcyclohexylpyrimidinyl, (methoxycarbonyl)(methyl)-
 cyclohexylpyrimidinyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)(methyl)cyclohexylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-
 cyclohexylpyrazinyl, carboxycyclohexylmethylpyrimidinyl, carboxycyclohexenyl-
 pyridinyl, carboxycyclohexenylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonylcyclohexenylpyrimidinyl,
 5 carboxybicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyridinyl, carboxybicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyrimidinyl,
 ethoxycarbonylbicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyrimidinyl, carboxybicyclo[4.1.0]heptanyl-
 pyrimidinyl, carboxybicyclo[2.2.2]octanylpyrimidinyl, pyrrolidinylpyridinyl,
 hydroxypyrrolidinylpyridinyl, hydroxytetrahydropyranylpyridinyl, piperidinylpyridinyl,
 acetylpiperidinylpyridinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)piperidinylpyridinyl, [(carboxy)(methyl)-
 10 piperidinyl](fluoro)pyridinyl, [(carboxy)(methyl)piperidinyl](chloro)pyridinyl,
 piperazinylpyridinyl, (methyl)(piperazinyl)pyridinyl, cyanoethylpiperazinylpyridinyl,
 trifluoroethylpiperazinylpyridinyl, methylsulphonylpiperazinylpyridinyl, methyl-
 sulphonylethylpiperazinylpyridinyl, oxopiperazinylpyridinyl, acetylpiperazinylpyridinyl,
 (tert-butoxycarbonylpiperazinyl)(methyl)pyridinyl, carboxymethylpiperazinylpyridinyl,
 15 carboxyethylpiperazinylpyridinyl, ethoxycarbonylmethylpiperazinylpyridinyl,
 ethoxycarbonylethylpiperazinylpyridinyl, morpholinylpyridinyl, thiomorpholinyl-
 pyridinyl, oxothiomorpholinylpyridinyl, dioxothiomorpholinylpyridinyl, oxodiazepanyl-
 pyridinyl, fluoroacetanilpyrimidinyl, hydroxyacetanilpyrimidinyl, hydroxyazetidiny-
 pyrimidinyl, (hydroxy)(methyl)azetidinympyrimidinyl, carboxyazetidinympyrimidinyl,
 20 (tert-butoxycarbonyl)(hydroxy)azetidinympyrimidinyl, tetrazolylazetidinympyrimidinyl,
 hydroxytetrahydrofuranylpyrimidinyl, hydroxypyrrolidinylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-
 pyrrolidinylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)pyrrolidinylpyrimidinyl, carboxymethyl-
 pyrrolidinylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonylpyrrolidinylpyrimidinyl, fluoro-
 tetrahydropyranylpyrimidinyl, hydroxytetrahydropyranylpyrimidinyl, difluoropiperidinyl-
 25 pyrimidinyl, (cyano)(methyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (hydroxy)(nitromethyl)piperidinyl-
 pyrimidinyl, (hydroxy)(methyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (hydroxy)(trifluoromethyl)-
 piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (hydroxymethyl)(methyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, methyl-
 sulphonylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl, oxopiperidinylpyrimidinyl, (formyl)(methyl)-
 piperidinylpyrimidinyl, carboxypiperidinylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(fluoro)piperidinyl-
 30 pyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(ethyl)piperidinyl-
 pyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(trifluoromethyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(hydroxy)-
 piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(hydroxymethyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)-
 (methoxy)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (amino)(carboxy)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-

methylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl, methoxycarbonylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonyl-
 piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)(fluoro)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (methoxy-
 carbonyl)(methyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (ethyl)(methoxycarbonyl)piperidinyl-
 pyrimidinyl, (isopropyl)(methoxycarbonyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)-
 5 (methyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (*n*-butoxycarbonyl)(methyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl,
 (ethoxycarbonyl)(trifluoromethyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)-
 (hydroxymethyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (methoxy)(methoxycarbonyl)piperidinyl-
 pyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(methoxycarbonyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, (methyl)-
 (morpholinylethoxycarbonyl)piperidinylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonylmethylpiperidinyl-
 10 pyrimidinyl, methylsulphonylaminocarbonylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl, acetylamino-
 sulphonylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl, methoxyaminocarbonylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl,
 tetrazolylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl, hydroxyoxadiazolylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl, amino-
 sulphonylpiperidinylpyrimidinyl, piperazinylpyrimidinyl, methylsulphonylpiperazinyl-
 pyrimidinyl, oxopiperazinylpyrimidinyl, carboxypiperazinylpyrimidinyl, carboxyethyl-
 15 piperazinylpyrimidinyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonylpiperazinylpyrimidinyl, tetrazolylmethyl-
 piperazinylpyrimidinyl, trioxohexahydro-[1,2,5]thiadiazolo[2,3-*a*]pyrazinylpyrimidinyl,
 morpholinylpyrimidinyl, dimethylmorpholinylpyrimidinyl, hydroxymethylmorpholinyl-
 pyrimidinyl, carboxymorpholinylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)morpholinylpyrimidinyl,
 carboxymethylmorpholinylpyrimidinyl, thiomorpholinylpyrimidinyl, dioxo-
 20 thiomorpholinylpyrimidinyl, carboxyazepanylpyrimidinyl, carboxyoxazepanyl-
 pyrimidinyl, oxodiazepanylpyrimidinyl, (oxodiazepanyl)(trifluoromethyl)pyrimidinyl,
 (oxodiazepanyl)(methoxy)pyrimidinyl, (methyl)(oxo)diazepanylpyrimidinyl, dioxo-
 thiadiazepanylpyrimidinyl, hydroxyoxetanylpyrazinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)piperidinyl-
 pyrazinyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)(methyl)piperidinylpyrazinyl, morpholinylmethylthienyl,
 25 morpholinylethylpyrazolyl, carboxy-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyridinyl, carboxy-3-
 azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyridazinyl, carboxy-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyrimidinyl,
 (carboxy)(methyl)-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyrimidinyl, methoxycarbonyl-3-
 azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonyl-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl-
 pyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-5-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptanylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-2-oxa-5-azabicyclo-
 30 [2.2.1]heptanylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-3-azabicyclo[3.1.1]heptanylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-3-
 azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanylpyridinyl, carboxy-3-azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanylpyrimidinyl,
 methoxycarbonyl-3-azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonyl-3-azabicyclo-
 [4.1.0]heptanylpyrimidinyl, (hydroxy)(methyl)(oxo)-2-oxabicyclo[2.2.2]octanyl-

pyrimidinyl, carboxy-3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanylpyrimidinyl, methoxycarbonyl-3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanylpyrimidinyl, oxo-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanylpyrimidinyl, ethoxycarbonylmethylidenyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanylpyrimidinyl, 3-oxa-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanylpyrimidinyl, oxo-3,6-diazabicyclo[3.2.2]nonanylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-3-oxa-7-azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonanylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-5-azaspiro[2.3]hexanylpyrimidinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)-5-azaspiro[2.3]hexanylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-5-azaspiro[2.4]heptanylpyrimidinyl, carboxy-2-azaspiro[3.3]heptanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.3]heptanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.4]octanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.5]nonanylpyrimidinyl, 2-oxa-7-azaspiro[3.5]nonanylpyrimidinyl and (dioxo)(methyl)-2,4,8-triazaspiro[4.5]decanylpyrimidinyl.

Illustrative values of R¹¹ include hydrogen, methoxycarbonylethyl and methylpyrazolyl.

Typically, R¹² represents hydrogen or halogen.

Typical examples of optional substituents on R¹² include C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl.

Typical examples of particular substituents on R¹² include ethoxycarbonyl.

In a first embodiment, R¹² represents hydrogen. In a second embodiment, R¹² represents halogen. In one aspect of that embodiment, R¹² represents fluoro. In another aspect of that embodiment, R¹² represents chloro. In a third embodiment, R¹² represents trifluoromethyl. In a fourth embodiment, R¹² represents optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R¹² represents unsubstituted methyl. In another aspect of that embodiment, R¹² represents unsubstituted ethyl. In a further aspect of that embodiment, R¹² represents monosubstituted methyl or monosubstituted ethyl.

Typical values of R¹² include hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethyl, methyl and ethoxycarbonylethyl.

Suitable values of R¹² include hydrogen and fluoro.

Typically, R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ may independently represent hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, cyano, nitro, methyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, methylthio, methylsulfinyl, methylsulfonyl, amino, methylamino, *tert*-butylamino, dimethylamino, phenylamino, acetylamino, methylsulfonylamino, formyl, acetyl, cyclopropylcarbonyl, azetidylcarbonyl, pyrrolidinylcarbonyl, piperidinylcarbonyl, piperazinylcarbonyl, morpholinylcarbonyl, carboxy, methoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, methylaminocarbonyl, dimethylaminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, methylaminosulfonyl and dimethylaminosulfonyl.

Typical values of R^{15} include hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, difluoromethoxy and trifluoromethoxy.

Illustrative values of R^{15} include C_{1-6} alkyl and difluoromethoxy.

In a first embodiment, R^{15} represents hydrogen. In a second embodiment, R^{15} represents halogen. In a first aspect of that embodiment, R^{15} represents fluoro. In a second aspect of that embodiment, R^{15} represents chloro. In a third embodiment, R^{15} represents C_{1-6} alkyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^{15} represents methyl. In a fourth embodiment, R^{15} represents trifluoromethyl. In a fifth embodiment, R^{15} represents C_{1-6} alkoxy. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^{15} represents methoxy. In a sixth embodiment, R^{15} represents difluoromethoxy. In a seventh embodiment, R^{15} represents trifluoromethoxy.

Selected values of R^{15} include hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy, difluoromethoxy and trifluoromethoxy.

Particular values of R^{15} include methyl and difluoromethoxy.

Typical values of R^{16} include hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C_{1-6} alkyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethoxy and amino.

Illustrative values of R^{16} include hydrogen and C_{1-6} alkyl.

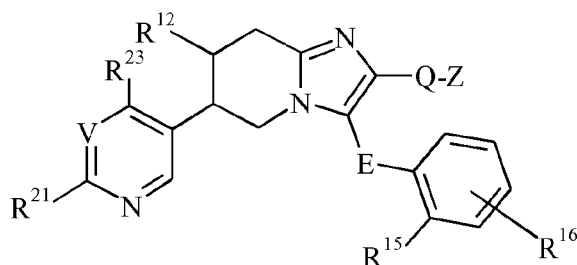
In a first embodiment, R^{16} represents hydrogen. In a second embodiment, R^{16} represents halogen. In a first aspect of that embodiment, R^{16} represents fluoro. In a second aspect of that embodiment, R^{16} represents chloro. In a third embodiment, R^{16} represents cyano. In a fourth embodiment, R^{16} represents C_{1-6} alkyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^{16} represents methyl. In a fifth embodiment, R^{16} represents trifluoromethyl. In a sixth embodiment, R^{16} represents difluoromethoxy. In a seventh embodiment, R^{16} represents amino.

Selected values of R^{16} include hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, cyano, methyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethoxy and amino.

Particular values of R^{16} include hydrogen and methyl.

In a particular embodiment, R^{16} is attached at the *para*-position of the phenyl ring relative to the integer R^{15} .

A particular sub-group of the compounds of formula (IIA) above is represented by the compounds of formula (IIB) and *N*-oxides thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, and glucuronide derivatives thereof, and co-crystals thereof:



(IIB)

wherein

V represents C-R²² or N;

- 5 R²¹ represents hydrogen, halogen, halo(C₁₋₆)alkyl, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, trifluoromethyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroethoxy, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyloxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, amino, amino-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, (C₂₋₆)alkylcarbonylamino-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonylamino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[carboxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkylamino, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonylamino(C₁₋₆)alkyl, formyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkylcarbonyloxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, carboxy, carboxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, morpholinyl(C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonylmethylidenyl, aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonyl, aminosulphonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminosulphonyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminosulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphoximinyl or [(C₁₋₆)alkyl][*N*-(C₁₋₆)alkyl]sulphoximinyl; or R²¹ represents (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₄₋₇)cycloalkenyl, (C₄₋₉)bicycloalkyl, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkenyl, (C₄₋₉)heterobicycloalkyl or (C₄₋₉)spiroheterocycloalkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents;

R²² represents hydrogen, halogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

R²³ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, trifluoromethyl or C₁₋₆ alkoxy; and

- 25 E, Q, Z, R¹², R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are as defined above.

In one embodiment, V represents C-R²². In another embodiment, V represents N.

Typically, R²¹ represents hydrogen, halogen, halo(C₁₋₆)alkyl, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, trifluoromethyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, trifluoroethoxy,

carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyloxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl, amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-amino, *N*-[(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-*N*-[carboxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkylamino, carboxy(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonylamino, (C₂₋₆)alkylcarbonyl-
 5 oxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, carboxy, morpholinyl(C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl or C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonylmethylidenyl; or R²¹ represents (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₄₋₇)cycloalkenyl, (C₄₋₉)bicycloalkyl, (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl, (C₄₋₉)heterobicycloalkyl or (C₄₋₉)spiroheterocycloalkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

10 Where R²¹ represents an optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl group, typical values include cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Where R²¹ represents an optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl group, a typical value is cyclohexylmethyl, which group may be optionally substituted by one or
 15 more substituents.

Where R²¹ represents an optionally substituted (C₄₋₇)cycloalkenyl group, typical values include cyclobutenyl, cyclopentenyl, cyclohexenyl and cycloheptenyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Where R²¹ represents an optionally substituted (C₄₋₉)bicycloalkyl group, typical
 20 values include bicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, bicyclo[4.1.0]heptanyl and bicyclo[2.2.2]octanyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Where R²¹ represents an optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl group, typical values include oxetanyl, azetidiny, tetrahydrofuranyl, pyrrolidinyl, tetrahydro-
 25 morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, azepanyl, oxazepanyl, diazepanyl and thiadiazepanyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Where R²¹ represents an optionally substituted (C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkenyl group, a typical value is optionally substituted 1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridinyl.

Where R²¹ represents an optionally substituted (C₄₋₉)heterobicycloalkyl group,
 30 typical values include 3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, 2-oxa-5-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptanyl, 3-azabicyclo[3.1.1]heptanyl, 3-azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanyl, 2-oxabicyclo[2.2.2]octanyl, quinuclidinyl, 2-oxa-5-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octanyl, 3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl, 8-azabicyclo-[3.2.1]octanyl, 3-oxa-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl, 3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl, 3,6-

diazabicyclo[3.2.2]nonanyl, 3-oxa-7-azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonanyl and 3,9-diazabicyclo[4.2.1]nonanyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Where R²¹ represents an optionally substituted (C₄₋₉)spiroheterocycloalkyl group, typical values include 5-azaspiro[2.3]hexanyl, 5-azaspiro[2.4]heptanyl, 2-azaspiro[3.3]-heptanyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.3]heptanyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.4]octanyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.5]nonanyl, 2-oxa-7-azaspiro[3.5]nonanyl and 2,4,8-triazaspiro[4.5]-decanyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Illustratively, R²¹ represents hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, methoxy, carboxy-cyclobutyloxy, methylthio, methylsulphonyl, methylamino, *N*-[carboxyethyl]-*N*-methyl-amino, carboxycyclopentylamino, carboxycyclopropylmethylamino or ethoxycarbonyl-ethyl; or R²¹ represents cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexyl-methyl, cyclohexenyl, bicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, bicyclo[4.1.0]heptanyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]-octanyl, oxetanyl, azetidiny, tetrahydrofuranyl, pyrrolidinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, hexahydro-[1,2,5]thiadiazolo[2,3-*a*]pyrazinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, azepanyl, oxazepanyl, diazepanyl, thiadiazepanyl, 3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]-hexanyl, 2-oxa-5-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptanyl, 3-azabicyclo[3.1.1]heptanyl, 3-azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanyl, 2-oxabicyclo[2.2.2]octanyl, 3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl, 8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl, 3-oxa-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl, 3,6-diazabicyclo[3.2.2]nonanyl, 3-oxa-7-azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonanyl, 5-azaspiro[2.3]hexanyl, 5-azaspiro[2.4]heptanyl or 2-azaspiro[3.3]heptanyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents.

Examples of optional substituents which may be present on R²¹ include one, two or three substituents independently selected from halogen, halo(C₁₋₆)alkyl, cyano, cyano-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, nitro, nitro(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroethyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroethoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, oxo, amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, (C₂₋₆)alkylcarbonylamino-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonylamino, formyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, carboxy, carboxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, morpholinyl-(C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonylmethylidenyl, a carboxylic acid isostere or prodrug moiety Ω as defined herein, -(C₁₋₆)alkyl- Ω , amino-carbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonyl, aminosulphonyl,

di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminosulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphoximinyl and [(C₁₋₆)alkyl][N-(C₁₋₆)alkyl]-sulphoximinyl.

Suitable examples of optional substituents on R²¹ include one, two or three substituents independently selected from fluoro, fluoromethyl, chloro, bromo, cyano, cyanomethyl, cyanoethyl, nitro, nitromethyl, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroethyl, ethenyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroethoxy, methylthio, methylsulphonyl, methylsulphonylmethyl, methylsulphonylethyl, oxo, amino, methylamino, dimethylamino, acetylamino, acetylaminomethyl, methoxycarbonylamino, ethoxycarbonylamino, *tert*-butoxycarbonylamino, methylsulphonylamino, formyl, acetyl, carboxy, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *n*-butoxycarbonyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonyl, morpholinylethoxycarbonyl, methoxycarbonylmethyl, ethoxycarbonylmethyl, ethoxycarbonylethyl, ethoxycarbonylmethylidenyl, acetylaminosulphonyl, methoxyaminocarbonyl, tetrazolyl, tetrazolylmethyl, hydroxyoxadiazolyl, aminocarbonyl, methylaminocarbonyl, dimethylaminocarbonyl, methylsulphonylaminocarbonyl, aminosulphonyl, methylaminosulphonyl, dimethylaminosulphonyl, methylsulphoximinyl and (methyl)(*N*-methyl)sulphoximinyl.

Typically, R²¹ represents hydrogen, fluoro, fluoroisopropyl, cyano, methyl, trifluoromethyl, ethenyl, hydroxy, hydroxyisopropyl, methoxy, isopropoxy, trifluoroethoxy, carboxycyclobutyloxy, methylthio, methylsulphonyl, amino, methylamino, dimethylamino, methoxyethylamino, *N*-(hydroxyethyl)-*N*-(methyl)amino, *N*-[carboxyethyl]-*N*-methylamino, carboxycyclopentylamino, carboxycyclopropylmethylamino, methylsulphonylamino, acetoxisopropyl, carboxy, ethoxycarbonylethyl, fluoromethylcyclopropyl, acetylaminomethylcyclopropyl, hydroxycyclobutyl, carboxycyclopentyl, carboxycyclohexyl, (carboxy)(methyl)cyclohexyl, (carboxy)(hydroxy)cyclohexyl, carboxymethylcyclohexyl, ethoxycarbonylcyclohexyl, (methoxycarbonyl)(methyl)cyclohexyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)(methyl)cyclohexyl, carboxycyclohexylmethyl, carboxycyclohexenyl, ethoxycarbonylcyclohexenyl, carboxybicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, ethoxycarbonylbicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, carboxybicyclo[4.1.0]heptanyl, carboxybicyclo[2.2.2]octanyl, fluoroacetanyl, hydroxyacetanyl, hydroxyazetidiny, (hydroxy)(methyl)azetidiny, carboxyazetidiny, (*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)(hydroxy)azetidiny, tetrazolylazetidiny, hydroxytetrahydrofuranyl, pyrrolidiny, hydroxypyrrolidiny, carboxypyrrolidiny, (carboxy)(methyl)pyrrolidiny, carboxymethylpyrrolidiny, ethoxycarbonylpyrrolidiny, fluorotetrahydropyranyl, hydroxytetrahydropyranyl, piperidiny, difluoro-

piperidinyl, (cyano)(methyl)piperidinyl, (hydroxy)(nitromethyl)piperidinyl, (hydroxy)-
 (methyl)piperidinyl, (hydroxy)(trifluoromethyl)piperidinyl, (hydroxymethyl)(methyl)-
 piperidinyl, methylsulphonylpiperidinyl, oxopiperidinyl, (formyl)(methyl)piperidinyl,
 acetylpiperidinyl, carboxypiperidinyl, (carboxy)(fluoro)piperidinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)-
 5 piperidinyl, (carboxy)(ethyl)piperidinyl, (carboxy)(trifluoromethyl)piperidinyl, (carboxy)-
 (hydroxy)piperidinyl, (carboxy)(hydroxymethyl)piperidinyl, (carboxy)(methoxy)-
 piperidinyl, (amino)(carboxy)piperidinyl, carboxymethylpiperidinyl, methoxycarbonyl-
 piperidinyl, (methoxycarbonyl)(methyl)piperidinyl, (ethyl)(methoxycarbonyl)piperidinyl,
 (isopropyl)(methoxycarbonyl)piperidinyl, (methoxy)(methoxycarbonyl)piperidinyl,
 10 (carboxy)(methoxycarbonyl)piperidinyl, ethoxycarbonylpiperidinyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)-
 (fluoro)piperidinyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)(methyl)piperidinyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)(trifluoro-
 methyl)piperidinyl, (ethoxycarbonyl)(hydroxymethyl)piperidinyl, (*n*-butoxycarbonyl)-
 (methyl)piperidinyl, (methyl)(morpholinylethoxycarbonyl)piperidinyl, ethoxycarbonyl-
 methylpiperidinyl, methylsulphonylaminocarbonylpiperidinyl, acetylaminosulphonyl-
 15 piperidinyl, methoxyaminocarbonylpiperidinyl, tetrazolypiperidinyl, hydroxyoxadiazolyl-
 piperidinyl, aminosulphonylpiperidinyl, piperazinyl, cyanoethylpiperazinyl, trifluoroethyl-
 piperazinyl, methylsulphonylpiperazinyl, methylsulphonylethylpiperazinyl,
 oxopiperazinyl, acetylpiperazinyl, carboxypiperazinyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonylpiperazinyl,
 carboxymethylpiperazinyl, carboxyethylpiperazinyl, ethoxycarbonylmethylpiperazinyl,
 20 ethoxycarbonylethylpiperazinyl, tetrazolylmethylpiperazinyl, trioxohexahydro-
 [1,2,5]thiadiazolo[2,3-*a*]pyrazinyl, morpholinyl, dimethylmorpholinyl, hydroxymethyl-
 morpholinyl, carboxymorpholinyl, (carboxy)(methyl)morpholinyl, carboxymethyl-
 morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, oxothiomorpholinyl, dioxothiomorpholinyl, carboxy-
 azepanyl, carboxyoxazepanyl, oxodiazepanyl, (methyl)(oxo)diazepanyl, dioxo-
 25 thiadiazepanyl, carboxy-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, (carboxy)(methyl)-3-azabicyclo-
 [3.1.0]hexanyl, methoxycarbonyl-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, ethoxycarbonyl-3-
 azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexanyl, 2-oxa-5-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptanyl, carboxy-2-oxa-5-
 azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptanyl, carboxy-3-azabicyclo[3.1.1]heptanyl, carboxy-3-azabicyclo-
 [4.1.0]heptanyl, methoxycarbonyl-3-azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanyl, ethoxycarbonyl-3-
 30 azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanyl, (hydroxy)(methyl)(oxo)-2-oxabicyclo[2.2.2]octanyl, carboxy-
 3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl, methoxycarbonyl-3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl, oxo-8-
 azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl, ethoxycarbonylmethylidenyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl, 3-oxa-
 8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl, oxo-3,6-diazabicyclo[3.2.2]nonanyl, carboxy-3-oxa-7-

azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonanyl, carboxy-5-azaspiro[2.3]hexanyl, (carboxy)(methyl)-5-azaspiro[2.3]hexanyl, carboxy-5-azaspiro[2.4]heptanyl, carboxy-2-azaspiro[3.3]heptanyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.3]heptanyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.4]octanyl, 2-oxa-6-azaspiro[3.5]nonanyl, 2-oxa-7-azaspiro[3.5]nonanyl or (dioxo)(methyl)-2,4,8-triazaspiro[4.5]decanyl.

5 In a particular embodiment, R^{21} represents hydroxy(C_{1-6})alkyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^{21} represents hydroxyisopropyl, especially 2-hydroxyprop-2-yl.

Generally, R^{22} represents hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.

Suitably, R^{22} represents hydrogen, chloro or methyl.

Typically, R^{22} represents hydrogen or methyl.

10 In one embodiment, R^{22} represents hydrogen. In another embodiment, R^{22} represents C_{1-6} alkyl, especially methyl. In a further embodiment, R^{22} represents halogen. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^{22} represents fluoro. In another aspect of that embodiment, R^{22} represents chloro.

Generally, R^{23} represents hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.

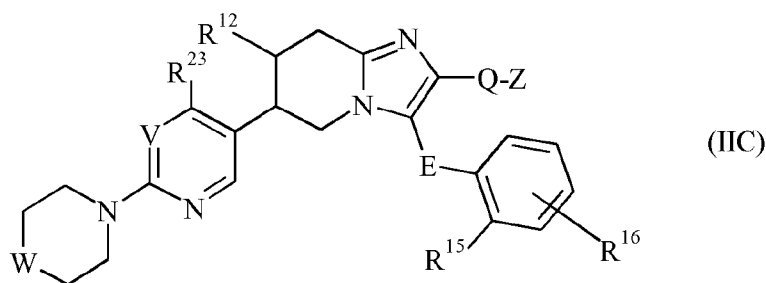
15 Suitably, R^{23} represents hydrogen, methyl, trifluoromethyl or methoxy.

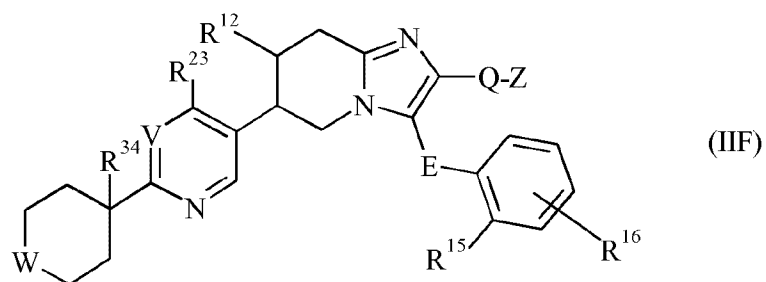
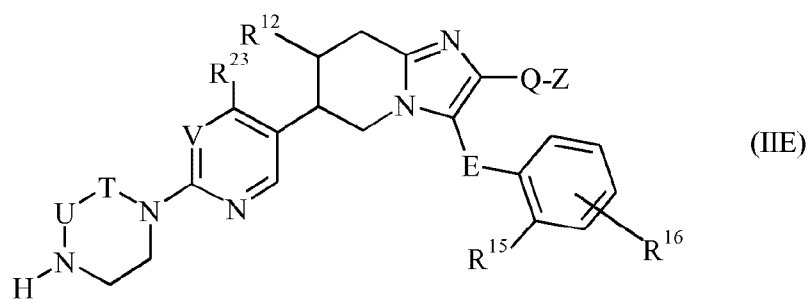
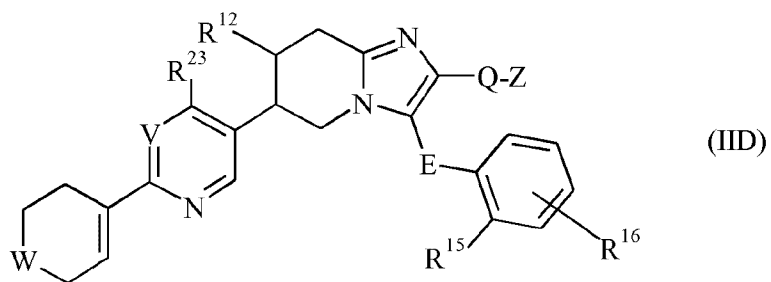
Typically, R^{23} represents hydrogen or methyl.

In one embodiment, R^{23} represents hydrogen. In another embodiment, R^{23} represents C_{1-6} alkyl, especially methyl. In a further embodiment, R^{23} represents trifluoromethyl. In an additional embodiment, R^{23} represents C_{1-6} alkoxy, especially
20 methoxy.

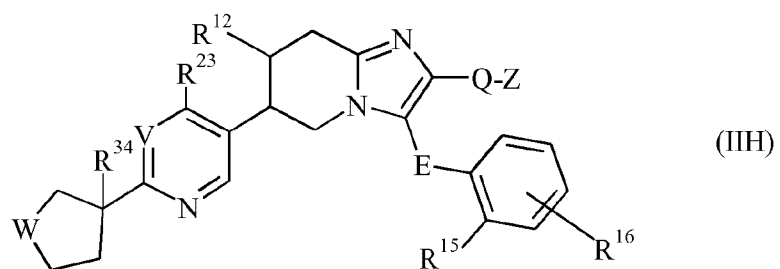
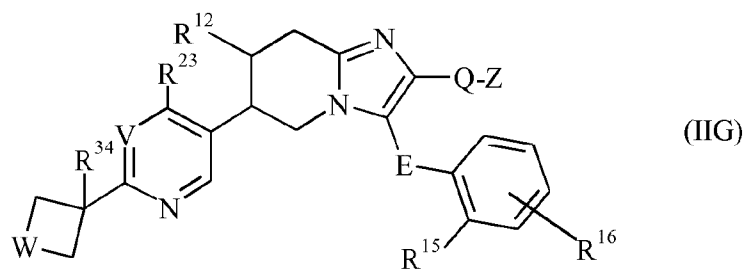
Particular sub-groups of the compounds of formula (IIB) above are represented by the compounds of formula (IIC), (IID), (IIE), (IIF), (IIG), (IIH), (IIJ), (IIK) and (IIL), and *N*-oxides thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, and glucuronide derivatives thereof, and co-crystals thereof:

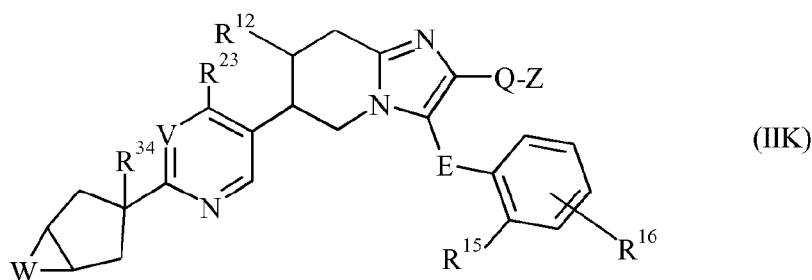
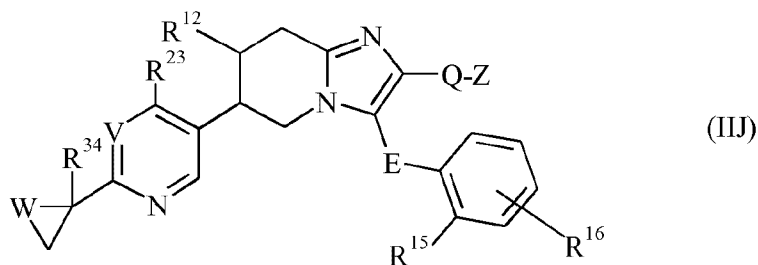
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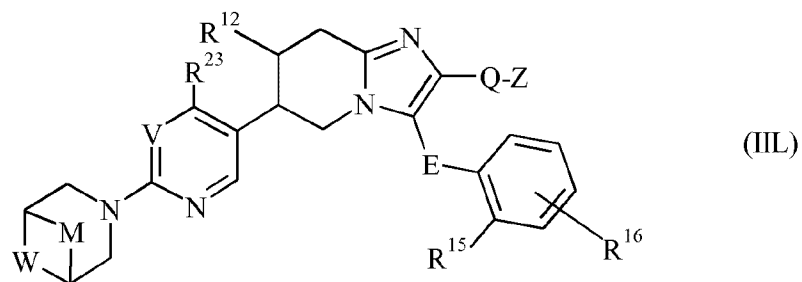


5





5



wherein

T represents $-\text{CH}_2-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$;

10 U represents $\text{C}(\text{O})$ or $\text{S}(\text{O})_2$;

W represents O, S, $\text{S}(\text{O})$, $\text{S}(\text{O})_2$, $\text{S}(\text{O})(\text{NR}^5)$, $\text{N}(\text{R}^{31})$ or $\text{C}(\text{R}^{32})(\text{R}^{33})$;

-M- represents $-\text{CH}_2-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$;

R^{31} represents hydrogen, cyano(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroethyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl, (C_{1-6})alkylsulphonyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, formyl, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonyl, 15 carboxy, carboxy(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl, C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, a carboxylic acid isostere or prodrug moiety Ω , $-(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}-\Omega$, aminocarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C_{1-6})alkylaminocarbonyl, aminosulphonyl or di(C_{1-6})alkylamino-sulphonyl;

R^{32} represents hydrogen, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, hydroxy(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl, formyl, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonyl, carboxy, carboxy(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl, C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, aminosulphonyl, (C_{1-6})alkylsulphoximinyl, [(C_{1-6})alkyl][N -(C_{1-6})alkyl]sulphoximinyl, a carboxylic acid isostere or
 5 prodrug moiety Ω , or -(C_{1-6})alkyl- Ω ;

R^{33} represents hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, amino or carboxy;

R^{34} represents hydrogen, halogen, halo(C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, C_{1-6} alkylsulphinyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl, amino, C_{1-6} alkylamino, di(C_{1-6})alkyl-
 10 amino, (C_{2-6})alkylcarbonylamino, (C_{2-6})alkylcarbonylamino(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{1-6})alkylsulphonylamino or (C_{1-6})alkylsulphonylamino(C_{1-6})alkyl; and

V, E, Q, Z, R^5 , R^{12} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{23} and Ω are as defined above.

In a first embodiment, T represents $-CH_2-$. In a second embodiment, T represents $-CH_2CH_2-$.

15 In a first embodiment, U represents C(O). In a second embodiment, U represents S(O)₂.

Generally, W represents O, S(O)₂, N(R^{31}) or C(R^{32})(R^{33}).

Typically, W represents O, N(R^{31}) or C(R^{32})(R^{33}).

In a first embodiment, W represents O. In a second embodiment, W represents S.

20 In a third embodiment, W represents S(O). In a fourth embodiment, W represents S(O)₂. In a fifth embodiment, W represents S(O)(NR^5). In a sixth embodiment, W represents N(R^{31}). In a seventh embodiment, W represents C(R^{32})(R^{33}).

In one embodiment, -M- represents $-CH_2-$. In another embodiment, -M- represents $-CH_2CH_2-$.

25 Typically, R^{31} represents hydrogen, cyano(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroethyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl, (C_{1-6})alkylsulphonyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, formyl, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonyl, carboxy, carboxy(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl, C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl, tetrazolyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, aminocarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C_{1-6})alkylaminocarbonyl, aminosulphonyl, C_{1-6} alkylaminosulphonyl or di(C_{1-6})alkylamino-
 30 sulphonyl.

Typical values of R^{31} include hydrogen, cyanoethyl, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoroethyl, methylsulphonyl, methylsulphonyl ethyl, formyl, acetyl, carboxy, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *tert*-butoxy-

carbonyl, ethoxycarbonylmethyl, ethoxycarbonylethyl, tetrazolylmethyl, aminocarbonyl, methylamino-carbonyl, dimethylaminocarbonyl, aminosulphonyl, methylaminosulphonyl and dimethylaminosulphonyl.

Generally, R^{32} represents halogen, carboxy, carboxy(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl, C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, a carboxylic acid isostere or prodrug moiety Ω , or $-(C_{1-6})$ alkyl- Ω .

Typically, R^{32} represents hydrogen, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, hydroxy(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl, formyl, carboxy, carboxy(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl, C_{2-6} alkoxy carbonyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, aminosulphonyl, (C_{1-6})alkylsulphoximinyl, [(C_{1-6})alkyl][N -(C_{1-6})alkyl]sulphoximinyl, (C_{1-6})alkylsulphonylaminocarbonyl, (C_{2-6})alkylcarbonylamino-sulphonyl, (C_{1-6})alkoxyaminocarbonyl, tetrazolyl or hydroxyoxadiazolyl.

Typical values of R^{32} include hydrogen, fluoro, cyano, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, methylsulphonyl, formyl, carboxy, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *tert*-butoxycarbonyl, methoxycarbonylmethyl, methoxycarbonylethyl, ethoxycarbonylmethyl, ethoxycarbonylethyl, aminosulphonyl, methylsulphoximinyl, (methyl)(N -methyl)sulphoximinyl, methylsulphonylaminocarbonyl, acetylaminosulphonyl, methoxyaminocarbonyl, tetrazolyl and hydroxyoxadiazolyl.

In a selected embodiment, R^{32} represents carboxy.

Generally, R^{33} represents hydrogen, halogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.

Suitably, R^{33} represents hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.

Apposite values of R^{33} include hydrogen, fluoro, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, methoxy, amino and carboxy.

Selected values of R^{33} include hydrogen and methyl.

In a first embodiment, R^{33} represents hydrogen. In a second embodiment, R^{33} represents halogen. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^{33} represents fluoro. In a third embodiment, R^{33} represents C_{1-6} alkyl. In a first aspect of that embodiment, R^{33} represents methyl. In a second aspect of that embodiment, R^{33} represents ethyl. In a third aspect of that embodiment, R^{33} represents isopropyl. In a fourth embodiment, R^{33} represents trifluoromethyl. In a fifth embodiment, R^{33} represents hydroxy. In a sixth embodiment, R^{33} represents hydroxy(C_{1-6})alkyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^{33} represents hydroxymethyl. In a seventh embodiment, R^{33} represents C_{1-6} alkoxy. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^{33} represents methoxy. In an eighth embodiment, R^{33} represents amino. In a ninth embodiment, R^{33} represents carboxy.

In a first embodiment, R^{34} represents hydrogen. In a second embodiment, R^{34} represents halogen. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^{34} represents fluoro. In a third embodiment, R^{34} represents halo(C_{1-6})alkyl. In one aspect of that embodiment, R^{34} represents fluoromethyl. In a fourth embodiment, R^{34} represents hydroxy. In a fifth embodiment, R^{34} represents C_{1-6} alkoxy, especially methoxy. In a sixth embodiment, R^{34} represents C_{1-6} alkylthio, especially methylthio. In a seventh embodiment, R^{34} represents C_{1-6} alkylsulphinyl, especially methylsulphinyl. In an eighth embodiment, R^{34} represents C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl, especially methylsulphonyl. In a ninth embodiment, R^{34} represents amino. In a tenth embodiment, R^{34} represents C_{1-6} alkylamino, especially methylamino. In an eleventh embodiment, R^{34} represents di(C_{1-6})alkylamino, especially dimethylamino. In a twelfth embodiment, R^{34} represents (C_{2-6})alkylcarbonylamino, especially acetylamino. In a thirteenth embodiment, R^{34} represents (C_{2-6})alkylcarbonylamino(C_{1-6})alkyl, especially acetylaminomethyl. In a fourteenth embodiment, R^{34} represents (C_{1-6})alkylsulphonylamino, especially methylsulphonylamino. In a fifteenth embodiment, R^{34} represents (C_{1-6})alkylsulphonylamino(C_{1-6})alkyl, especially methylsulphonylamino.

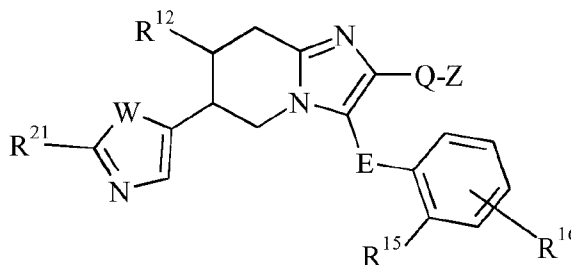
Typically, R^{34} represents hydrogen, halogen, halo(C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy or (C_{2-6})alkylcarbonylamino(C_{1-6})alkyl.

Selected values of R^{34} include hydrogen, fluoro, fluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, methylthio, methylsulphinyl, methylsulphonyl, amino, methylamino, dimethylamino and acetylaminomethyl.

Particular values of R^{34} include hydrogen, fluoro, fluoromethyl, hydroxy and acetylaminomethyl.

Suitably, R^{34} represents hydrogen or hydroxy.

An alternative sub-class of compounds according to the invention is represented by the compounds of formula (IIM) and *N*-oxides thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, and glucuronide derivatives thereof, and co-crystals thereof:



(IIM)

wherein

E, Q, Z, W, R¹², R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and R²¹ are as defined above.

With specific reference to formula (IIM), the integer W is suitably O, S or N-R³¹,
 5 especially S or N-R³¹.

Specific novel compounds in accordance with the present invention include each of the compounds whose preparation is described in the accompanying Examples, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, and co-crystals thereof.

The compounds in accordance with the present invention are beneficial in the
 10 treatment and/or prevention of various human ailments. These include autoimmune and inflammatory disorders; neurological and neurodegenerative disorders; pain and nociceptive disorders; cardiovascular disorders; metabolic disorders; ocular disorders; and oncological disorders.

Inflammatory and autoimmune disorders include systemic autoimmune disorders,
 15 autoimmune endocrine disorders and organ-specific autoimmune disorders. Systemic autoimmune disorders include systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), psoriasis, psoriatic arthropathy, vasculitis, polymyositis, scleroderma, multiple sclerosis, systemic sclerosis, ankylosing spondylitis, rheumatoid arthritis, non-specific inflammatory arthritis, juvenile inflammatory arthritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis (including oligoarticular and
 20 polyarticular forms thereof), anaemia of chronic disease (ACD), Still's disease (juvenile and/or adult onset), Behçet's disease and Sjögren's syndrome. Autoimmune endocrine disorders include thyroiditis. Organ-specific autoimmune disorders include Addison's disease, haemolytic or pernicious anaemia, acute kidney injury (AKI; including cisplatin-induced AKI), diabetic nephropathy (DN), obstructive uropathy (including cisplatin-
 25 induced obstructive uropathy), glomerulonephritis (including Goodpasture's syndrome, immune complex-mediated glomerulonephritis and antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA)-associated glomerulonephritis), lupus nephritis (LN), minimal change disease, Graves' disease, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, inflammatory bowel disease (including Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, indeterminate colitis and pouchitis),
 30 pemphigus, atopic dermatitis, autoimmune hepatitis, primary biliary cirrhosis, autoimmune pneumonitis, autoimmune carditis, myasthenia gravis, spontaneous infertility, osteoporosis, osteopenia, erosive bone disease, chondritis, cartilage degeneration and/or destruction, fibrosing disorders (including various forms of hepatic and pulmonary

fibrosis), asthma, rhinitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), respiratory distress syndrome, sepsis, fever, muscular dystrophy (including Duchenne muscular dystrophy) and organ transplant rejection (including kidney allograft rejection).

Neurological and neurodegenerative disorders include Alzheimer's disease,
 5 Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, ischaemia, stroke, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, spinal cord injury, head trauma, seizures and epilepsy.

Cardiovascular disorders include thrombosis, cardiac hypertrophy, hypertension, irregular contractility of the heart (e.g. during heart failure), and sexual disorders (including erectile dysfunction and female sexual dysfunction). Modulators of TNF α
 10 function may also be of use in the treatment and/or prevention of myocardial infarction (see J.J. Wu *et al.*, *JAMA*, 2013, **309**, 2043-2044).

Metabolic disorders include diabetes (including insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus and juvenile diabetes), dyslipidemia and metabolic syndrome.

Ocular disorders include retinopathy (including diabetic retinopathy, proliferative
 15 retinopathy, non-proliferative retinopathy and retinopathy of prematurity), macular oedema (including diabetic macular oedema), age-related macular degeneration (ARMD), vascularisation (including corneal vascularisation and neovascularisation), retinal vein occlusion, and various forms of uveitis and keratitis.

Oncological disorders, which may be acute or chronic, include proliferative
 20 disorders, especially cancer, and cancer-associated complications (including skeletal complications, cachexia and anaemia). Particular categories of cancer include haematological malignancy (including leukaemia and lymphoma) and non-haematological malignancy (including solid tumour cancer, sarcoma, meningioma, glioblastoma multiforme, neuroblastoma, melanoma, gastric carcinoma and renal cell carcinoma).
 25 Chronic leukaemia may be myeloid or lymphoid. Varieties of leukaemia include lymphoblastic T cell leukaemia, chronic myelogenous leukaemia (CML), chronic lymphocytic/lymphoid leukaemia (CLL), hairy-cell leukaemia, acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL), acute myelogenous leukaemia (AML), myelodysplastic syndrome, chronic neutrophilic leukaemia, acute lymphoblastic T cell leukaemia, plasmacytoma,
 30 immunoblastic large cell leukaemia, mantle cell leukaemia, multiple myeloma, acute megakaryoblastic leukaemia, acute megakaryocytic leukaemia, promyelocytic leukaemia and erythroleukaemia. Varieties of lymphoma include malignant lymphoma, Hodgkin's lymphoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, lymphoblastic T cell lymphoma, Burkitt's

lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, MALT1 lymphoma and marginal zone lymphoma.

Varieties of non-haematological malignancy include cancer of the prostate, lung, breast, rectum, colon, lymph node, bladder, kidney, pancreas, liver, ovary, uterus, cervix, brain, skin, bone, stomach and muscle. Modulators of TNF α function may also be used to

- 5 increase the safety of the potent anticancer effect of TNF (see F.V. Hauwermeiren *et al.*, *J. Clin. Invest.*, 2013, **123**, 2590-2603).

The present invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound in accordance with the invention as described above, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, in association with one or more

- 10 pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

Pharmaceutical compositions according to the invention may take a form suitable for oral, buccal, parenteral, nasal, topical, ophthalmic or rectal administration, or a form suitable for administration by inhalation or insufflation.

- For oral administration, the pharmaceutical compositions may take the form of, for
15 example, tablets, lozenges or capsules prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients such as binding agents (e.g. pregelatinised maize starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone or hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose); fillers (e.g. lactose, microcrystalline cellulose or calcium hydrogenphosphate); lubricants (e.g. magnesium stearate, talc or silica); disintegrants (e.g. potato starch or sodium glycollate); or wetting
20 agents (e.g. sodium lauryl sulphate). The tablets may be coated by methods well known in the art. Liquid preparations for oral administration may take the form of, for example, solutions, syrups or suspensions, or they may be presented as a dry product for constitution with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid preparations may be prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable additives such as suspending
25 agents, emulsifying agents, non-aqueous vehicles or preservatives. The preparations may also contain buffer salts, flavouring agents, colouring agents or sweetening agents, as appropriate.

Preparations for oral administration may be suitably formulated to give controlled release of the active compound.

- 30 For buccal administration, the compositions may take the form of tablets or lozenges formulated in conventional manner.

The compounds of formula (I) may be formulated for parenteral administration by injection, e.g. by bolus injection or infusion. Formulations for injection may be presented

in unit dosage form, e.g. in glass ampoules or multi-dose containers, e.g. glass vials. The compositions for injection may take such forms as suspensions, solutions or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, and may contain formulatory agents such as suspending, stabilising, preserving and/or dispersing agents. Alternatively, the active ingredient may be in powder form for constitution with a suitable vehicle, e.g. sterile pyrogen-free water, before use.

In addition to the formulations described above, the compounds of formula (I) may also be formulated as a depot preparation. Such long-acting formulations may be administered by implantation or by intramuscular injection.

For nasal administration or administration by inhalation, the compounds according to the present invention may be conveniently delivered in the form of an aerosol spray presentation for pressurised packs or a nebuliser, with the use of a suitable propellant, e.g. dichlorodifluoromethane, fluorotrichloromethane, dichlorotetrafluoroethane, carbon dioxide or other suitable gas or mixture of gases.

The compositions may, if desired, be presented in a pack or dispenser device which may contain one or more unit dosage forms containing the active ingredient. The pack or dispensing device may be accompanied by instructions for administration.

For topical administration the compounds of use in the present invention may be conveniently formulated in a suitable ointment containing the active component suspended or dissolved in one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. Particular carriers include, for example, mineral oil, liquid petroleum, propylene glycol, polyoxyethylene, polyoxypropylene, emulsifying wax and water. Alternatively, the compounds of use in the present invention may be formulated in a suitable lotion containing the active component suspended or dissolved in one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. Particular carriers include, for example, mineral oil, sorbitan monostearate, polysorbate 60, cetyl esters wax, cetearyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol, 2-octyldodecanol and water.

For ophthalmic administration the compounds of use in the present invention may be conveniently formulated as micronized suspensions in isotonic, pH-adjusted sterile saline, either with or without a preservative such as a bactericidal or fungicidal agent, for example phenylmercuric nitrate, benzylalkonium chloride or chlorhexidine acetate. Alternatively, for ophthalmic administration compounds may be formulated in an ointment such as petrolatum.

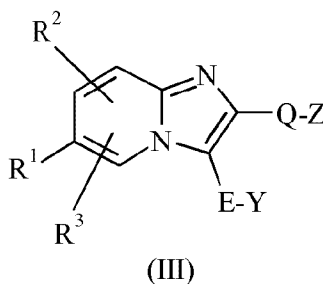
For rectal administration the compounds of use in the present invention may be conveniently formulated as suppositories. These can be prepared by mixing the active component with a suitable non-irritating excipient which is solid at room temperature but liquid at rectal temperature and so will melt in the rectum to release the active component.

5 Such materials include, for example, cocoa butter, beeswax and polyethylene glycols.

The quantity of a compound of use in the invention required for the prophylaxis or treatment of a particular condition will vary depending on the compound chosen and the condition of the patient to be treated. In general, however, daily dosages may range from around 10 ng/kg to 1000 mg/kg, typically from 100 ng/kg to 100 mg/kg, e.g. around 0.01
10 mg/kg to 40 mg/kg body weight, for oral or buccal administration, from around 10 ng/kg to 50 mg/kg body weight for parenteral administration, and from around 0.05 mg to around 1000 mg, e.g. from around 0.5 mg to around 1000 mg, for nasal administration or administration by inhalation or insufflation.

If desired, a compound in accordance with the present invention may be co-
15 administered with another pharmaceutically active agent, e.g. an anti-inflammatory molecule such as methotrexate or prednisolone.

The compounds of formula (I) above may be prepared by a process which comprises reducing a compound of formula (III):

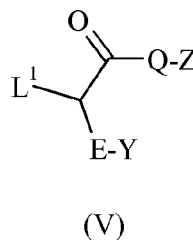
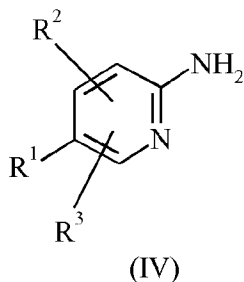


20

wherein E, Q, Y, Z, R¹, R² and R³ are as defined above.

The reduction of compound (III) is suitably effected by catalytic hydrogenation, which generally comprises treating compound (III) with a hydrogenation catalyst, e.g.
25 palladium on charcoal, under an atmosphere of hydrogen gas. The reaction is conveniently carried out in a suitable solvent, e.g. a C₁₋₄ alkanol such as methanol or ethanol, optionally in the presence of an acid, e.g. an organic acid such as acetic acid.

The compounds of formula (III) above may be prepared by reacting a compound of formula (IV) with a compound of formula (V):

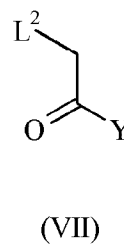
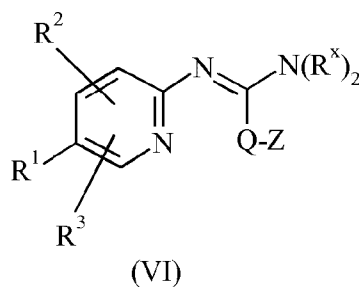


wherein E, Q, Y, Z, R¹, R² and R³ are as defined above, and L¹ represents a suitable
5 leaving group.

The leaving group L¹ is typically a halogen atom, e.g. bromo.

The reaction is conveniently effected at an elevated temperature in a suitable solvent, e.g. a C₁₋₄ alkanol such as ethanol, or a cyclic ether such as 1,4-dioxane.

The compounds of formula (III) above wherein E represents -C(O)- may be
10 prepared by reacting a compound of formula (VI) with a compound of formula (VII):

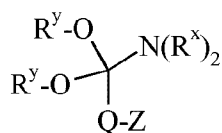


wherein Q, Y, Z, R¹, R² and R³ are as defined above, R^x represents a C₁₋₄ alkyl group, e.g.
15 methyl, and L² represents a suitable leaving group.

The leaving group L² is typically a halogen atom, e.g. bromo.

The reaction is conveniently effected at ambient or elevated temperature in a suitable solvent, e.g. a dipolar aprotic solvent such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide, a hydrocarbon solvent such as toluene, or a C₁₋₄ alkanol such as ethanol.

The intermediates of formula (VI) above may be prepared by reacting a compound
20 of formula (IV) as defined above with a compound of formula (VIII):



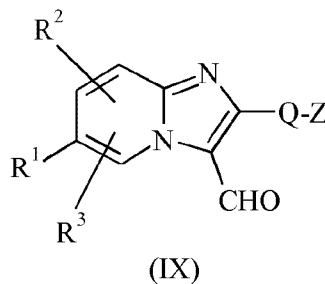
(VIII)

wherein Q, Z and R^x are as defined above, and R^y represents a C_{1-4} alkyl group, e.g. methyl.

- 5 The reaction is conveniently effected at an elevated temperature in a suitable solvent, e.g. a hydrocarbon solvent such as toluene, or a C_{1-4} alkanol such as methanol.

The compounds of formula (III) above wherein E represents $-\text{CH}(\text{OH})-$ may be prepared by a process which comprises reacting a compound of formula Y-MgHal with a compound of formula (IX):

10



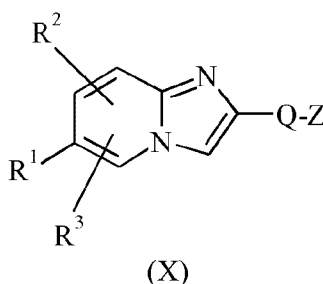
(IX)

wherein Q, Y, Z, R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined above, and Hal represents a halogen atom.

The halogen atom Hal is typically bromo.

- 15 The reaction is conveniently effected at ambient temperature in a suitable solvent, e.g. a cyclic ether such as tetrahydrofuran.

The intermediates of formula (IX) above may be prepared by treating a compound of formula (X):

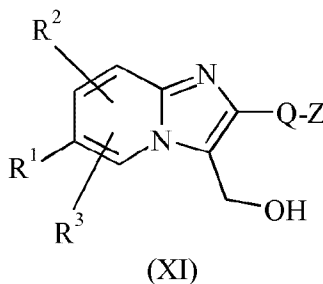


wherein Q, Z, R¹, R² and R³ are as defined above; with (chloromethylene)dimethyliminium chloride (Vilsmeier reagent).

- 5 The reaction is conveniently effected at an elevated temperature in a suitable solvent, e.g. a dipolar aprotic solvent such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide.

Alternatively, the intermediates of formula (IX) above may be prepared by treating a compound of formula (X) as defined above with phosphorus oxychloride and *N,N*-dimethylformamide.

- 10 The compounds of formula (III) above wherein E represents -CH₂- and Y represents optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl may be prepared by reacting a compound of formula Y¹-H with a compound of formula (XI):



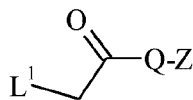
- 15 wherein Q, Z, R¹, R² and R³ are as defined above, and Y¹ represents aryl or heteroaryl, either of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents; in the presence of a sulfonic acid derivative.

- 20 The sulfonic acid derivative of use in the foregoing reaction is suitably an organic sulfonic acid derivative such as methanesulfonic acid. The reaction is conveniently effected at an elevated temperature, optionally in a suitable solvent, e.g. water.

The intermediates of formula (XI) above may be prepared by treating a compound of formula (IX) as defined above with a reducing agent such as sodium borohydride. The reaction is conveniently effected in a suitable solvent, e.g. a C₁₋₄ alkanol such as methanol.

Alternatively, the intermediates of formula (XI) above may be prepared by treating a compound of formula (X) as defined above with formaldehyde. The reaction is conveniently effected at an elevated temperature in a suitable solvent, e.g. water.

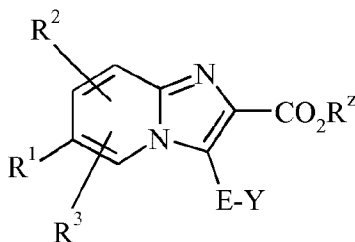
The intermediates of formula (X) above may be prepared by reacting a compound
5 of formula (IV) as defined above with a compound of formula (XII):



(XII)

wherein Q, Z and L¹ are as defined above; under conditions analogous to those described
10 above for the reaction between compounds (IV) and (V).

The compounds of formula (III) above wherein -Q-Z represents -CH₂OH may be prepared by a process which comprises treating a compound of formula (XIII):



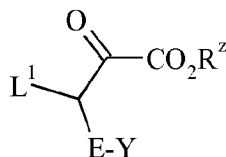
(XIII)

wherein E, Y, R¹, R² and R³ are as defined above, and R^z represents a C₁₋₄ alkyl group, e.g. methyl; with a reducing agent.

The reducing agent of use in the foregoing reaction is suitably an alkali metal borohydride such as lithium borohydride. The reaction is conveniently effected at ambient
20 temperature in a suitable solvent, e.g. a cyclic ether such as tetrahydrofuran, or a C₁₋₄ alkanol such as methanol, or a mixture thereof.

Alternatively, the reducing agent of use in the foregoing reaction may suitably be diisobutylaluminium hydride. The reaction is conveniently effected at a temperature in the region of 0°C in a suitable solvent, e.g. a cyclic ether such as tetrahydrofuran.

The intermediates of formula (XIII) above may be prepared by reacting a
25 compound of formula (IV) as defined above with a compound of formula (XIV):



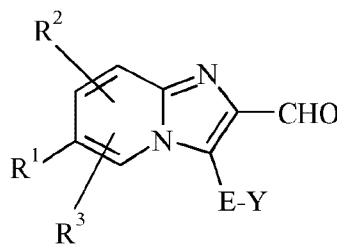
(XIV)

wherein E, Y, R^Z and L¹ are as defined above; under conditions analogous to those
 5 described above for the reaction between compounds (IV) and (V).

The compounds of formula (III) above wherein E represents -N(H)- may be prepared by a process which comprises reacting a compound of formula (IV) as defined above with an isocyanide derivative of formula Y-NC and an aldehyde derivative of formula OHC-Q-Z; in the presence of a transition metal catalyst.

10 The transition metal catalyst of use in the foregoing reaction is suitably a zirconium derivative, e.g. a zirconium halide such as zirconium(IV) chloride. The reaction is conveniently effected at an elevated temperature in a suitable solvent, e.g. a C₁₋₄ alkanol such as *n*-butanol.

The compounds of formula (III) above wherein Q represents -CH₂N(H)- may be
 15 prepared by reacting a compound of formula Z-NH₂ with a compound of formula (XV):



(XV)

wherein E, Y, R¹, R² and R³ are as defined above; in the presence of a reducing agent.

20 The reducing agent of use in the above reaction is suitably sodium borohydride.

The intermediates of formula (XV) may be prepared from the corresponding compound of formula (III) wherein Q-Z represents -CH₂OH by treatment with an oxidising agent such as Dess-Martin periodinane.

Where they are not commercially available, the starting materials of formula (IV),
 25 (V), (VII), (VIII), (XII) and (XIV) may be prepared by methods analogous to those

described in the accompanying Examples, or by standard methods well known from the art.

It will be understood that any compound of formula (I) initially obtained from any of the above processes may, where appropriate, subsequently be elaborated into a further compound of formula (I) by techniques known from the art. By way of example, a
5 compound wherein E represents -C(O)- may be converted into the corresponding compound wherein E represents -CH(OH)- by treatment with a reducing agent such as sodium borohydride.

A compound of formula (I) wherein E represents -CH(OH)- may be converted into
10 the corresponding compound wherein E represents -CH₂- by heating with elemental iodine and phosphinic acid in acetic acid; or by treating with triethylsilane and an acid, e.g. an organic acid such as trifluoroacetic acid, or a Lewis acid such as boron trifluoride diethyl etherate; or by treating with chlorotrimethylsilane and sodium iodide; or by a two-step procedure which comprises: (i) treatment with thionyl bromide; and (ii) treatment of the
15 product thereby obtained with a transition metal catalyst, e.g. (2,2'-bipyridine)dichlororuthenium(II) hydrate, in the presence of diethyl 1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridine-dicarboxylate (Hantzsch ester) and a base, e.g. an organic base such as *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine.

A compound of formula (I) wherein E represents -CH₂- may be converted into the
20 corresponding compound wherein E represents -CH(CH₃)- by treatment with a methyl halide, e.g. methyl iodide, in the presence of a base such as lithium hexamethyldisilazide.

A compound of formula (I) which contains a hydroxy group may be alkylated by treatment with the appropriate alkyl halide in the presence of a base, e.g. sodium hydride, or silver oxide. A compound of formula (I) wherein -Q-Z represents -CH₂OH may be
25 arylated in a two-step procedure which comprises: (i) treatment with thionyl chloride; and (ii) treatment of the chloro derivative thereby obtained with the appropriate aryl or heteroaryl hydroxide. A compound of formula (I) wherein -Q-Z represents -CH₂OH may be converted into the corresponding compound of formula (I) wherein -Q-Z represents -CH₂S-Z via a two-step procedure which comprises: (i) treatment with thionyl chloride;
30 and (ii) treatment of the chloro derivative thereby obtained with a compound of formula Z-SH, typically in the presence of a base, e.g. an inorganic base such as potassium carbonate. A compound of formula (I) wherein -Q-Z represents -CH₂OH may be converted into the corresponding compound of formula (I) wherein -Q-Z represents

-CH₂CN via a two-step procedure which comprises: (i) treatment with thionyl chloride; and (ii) treatment of the chloro derivative thereby obtained with a cyanide salt such as sodium cyanide. A compound of formula (I) which contains hydroxy may be converted into the corresponding fluoro-substituted compound by treatment with diethylaminosulfur trifluoride (DAST) or bis(2-methoxyethyl)aminosulfur trifluoride (BAST). A compound of formula (I) which contains hydroxy may be converted into the corresponding difluoro-substituted compound via a two-step procedure which comprises: (i) treatment with an oxidising agent, e.g. manganese dioxide; and (ii) treatment of the carbonyl-containing compound thereby obtained with DAST.

- 10 A compound of formula (I) which contains an N-H moiety may be alkylated by treatment with the appropriate alkyl halide, typically at an elevated temperature in an organic solvent such as acetonitrile; or at ambient temperature in the presence of a base, e.g. an alkali metal carbonate such as potassium carbonate or cesium carbonate, in a suitable solvent, e.g. a dipolar aprotic solvent such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide.
- 15 Alternatively, a compound of formula (I) which contains an N-H moiety may be alkylated by treatment with the appropriate alkyl tosylate in the presence of a base, e.g. an inorganic base such as sodium hydride, or an organic base such as 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU).

- 20 A compound of formula (I) which contains an N-H moiety may be methylated by treatment with formaldehyde in the presence of a reducing agent, e.g. sodium triacetoxyborohydride.

- 25 A compound of formula (I) which contains an N-H moiety may be acylated by treatment with the appropriate acid chloride, e.g. acetyl chloride, or with the appropriate carboxylic acid anhydride, e.g. acetic anhydride, typically at ambient temperature in the presence of a base, e.g. an organic base such as triethylamine.

- 30 A compound of formula (I) which contains an N-H moiety may be converted into the corresponding compound wherein the nitrogen atom is substituted by C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl, e.g. methylsulphonyl, by treatment with the appropriate C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl chloride, e.g. methanesulphonyl chloride, or with the appropriate C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonic acid anhydride, e.g. methanesulphonic anhydride, typically at ambient temperature in the presence of a base, e.g. an organic base such as triethylamine or *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine.

A compound of formula (I) substituted by amino (-NH₂) may be converted into the corresponding compound substituted by C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonylamino, e.g. methylsulphonylamino, or bis[(C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl]amino, e.g. bis(methylsulphonyl)amino, by treatment with the appropriate C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl halide, e.g. a C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl chloride such as
 5 methanesulphonyl chloride. Similarly, a compound of formula (I) substituted by hydroxy (-OH) may be converted into the corresponding compound substituted by C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyloxy, e.g. methylsulphonyloxy, by treatment with the appropriate C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl halide, e.g. a C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl chloride such as methanesulphonyl chloride.

A compound of formula (I) containing the moiety -S- may be converted into the
 10 corresponding compound containing the moiety -S(O)- by treatment with 3-chloroperoxybenzoic acid. Likewise, a compound of formula (I) containing the moiety -S(O)- may be converted into the corresponding compound containing the moiety -S(O)₂- by treatment with 3-chloroperoxybenzoic acid. Alternatively, a compound of formula (I) containing the moiety -S- may be converted into the corresponding compound containing the moiety
 15 -S(O)₂- by treatment with Oxone® (potassium peroxymonosulfate).

A compound of formula (I) containing an aromatic nitrogen atom may be converted into the corresponding *N*-oxide derivative by treatment with 3-chloroperoxybenzoic acid.

A bromophenyl derivative of formula (I) may be converted into the corresponding
 20 optionally substituted 2-oxopyrrolidin-1-ylphenyl or 2-oxooxazolidin-3-ylphenyl derivative by treatment with pyrrolidin-2-one or oxazolidin-2-one, or an appropriately substituted analogue thereof. The reaction is conveniently effected at an elevated temperature in the presence of copper(I) iodide, *trans*-*N,N'*-dimethylcyclohexane-1,2-diamine and an inorganic base such as potassium carbonate.

25 A compound wherein R¹ represents halogen, e.g. bromo, may be converted into the corresponding compound wherein R¹ represents an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl moiety by treatment with the appropriately substituted aryl or heteroaryl boronic acid or a cyclic ester thereof formed with an organic diol, e.g. pinacol, 1,3-propanediol or neopentyl glycol. The reaction is typically effected in the presence of a
 30 transition metal catalyst, e.g. [1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene]dichloropalladium(II), dichloro[1,1'-bis(di-*tert*-butylphosphino)ferrocene]palladium(II), tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0), or bis[3-(diphenylphosphanyl)cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-yl]iron-

dichloropalladium-dichloromethane complex, and a base, e.g. an inorganic base such as sodium carbonate or potassium carbonate, or potassium phosphate.

A compound wherein R¹ represents halogen, e.g. bromo, may be converted into the corresponding compound wherein R¹ represents an optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl
5 or heterocycloalkenyl moiety via a two-step procedure which comprises: (i) reaction with bis(pinacolato)diboron or bis(neopentyl glycolato)diboron; and (ii) reaction of the compound thereby obtained with an appropriately functionalised halo- or tosyloxy-substituted aryl, heteroaryl or heterocycloalkenyl derivative. Step (i) is conveniently effected in the presence of a transition metal catalyst such as [1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)-
10 ferrocene]dichloropalladium(II), or bis[3-(diphenylphosphanyl)-cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-yl]iron-dichloropalladium-dichloromethane complex. Step (ii) is conveniently effected in the presence of a transition metal catalyst such as tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)-palladium(0), or bis[3-(diphenylphosphanyl)cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-yl]iron-dichloropalladium-dichloromethane complex, and a base, e.g. an inorganic base such as
15 sodium carbonate or potassium carbonate.

A compound wherein R¹ represents halogen, e.g. bromo, may be converted into the corresponding compound wherein R¹ represents an optionally substituted C₂₋₆ alkynyl moiety by treatment with an appropriately substituted alkyne derivative, e.g. 2-hydroxybut-3-yne. The reaction is conveniently accomplished with the assistance of a
20 transition metal catalyst, e.g. tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0), typically in the presence of copper(I) iodide and a base, e.g. an organic base such as triethylamine.

A compound wherein R¹ represents halogen, e.g. bromo, may be converted into the corresponding compound wherein R¹ represents an optionally substituted imidazol-1-yl moiety by treatment with the appropriately substituted imidazole derivative, typically in
25 the presence of copper(II) acetate and an organic base such as *N,N,N',N'*-tetramethylethylenediamine (TMEDA).

A compound wherein R¹ represents halogen, e.g. bromo, may be converted into the corresponding compound wherein R¹ represents 2-(methoxycarbonyl)ethyl via a two-step procedure which comprises: (i) reaction with methyl acrylate; and (ii) catalytic
30 hydrogenation of the alkenyl derivative thereby obtained, typically by treatment with a hydrogenation catalyst, e.g. palladium on charcoal, under an atmosphere of hydrogen gas. Step (i) is typically effected in the presence of a transition metal catalyst, e.g. palladium(II)

acetate or bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0), and a reagent such as tri(*ortho*-tolyl)-phosphine.

In general, a compound of formula (I) containing a -C=C- functionality may be converted into the corresponding compound containing a -CH-CH- functionality by
5 catalytic hydrogenation, typically by treatment with a hydrogenation catalyst, e.g. palladium on charcoal, under an atmosphere of hydrogen gas, optionally in the presence of a base, e.g. an alkali metal hydroxide such as sodium hydroxide.

A compound of formula (I) wherein R¹ represents 6-methoxypyridin-3-yl may be converted into the corresponding compound wherein R¹ represents 2-oxo-1,2-dihydro-
10 pyridin-5-yl by treatment with pyridine hydrochloride; or by heating with a mineral acid such as hydrochloric acid. By utilising similar methodology, a compound of formula (I) wherein R¹ represents 6-methoxy-4-methylpyridin-3-yl may be converted into the corresponding compound wherein R¹ represents 4-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridin-5-yl; and a compound of formula (I) wherein R¹ represents 6-methoxy-5-methylpyridin-3-yl
15 may be converted into the corresponding compound wherein R¹ represents 3-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridin-5-yl.

A compound of formula (I) wherein R¹ represents 2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridin-5-yl may be converted into the corresponding compound wherein R¹ represents 2-oxopiperidin-5-yl by catalytic hydrogenation, typically by treatment with gaseous hydrogen in the
20 presence of a hydrogenation catalyst such as platinum(IV) oxide.

A compound of formula (I) containing an ester moiety, e.g. a C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl group such as methoxycarbonyl or ethoxycarbonyl, may be converted into the corresponding compound containing a carboxy (-CO₂H) moiety by treatment with an acid, e.g. a mineral acid such as hydrochloric acid.

25 A compound of formula (I) containing an *N*-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl) moiety may be converted into the corresponding compound containing an N-H moiety by treatment with an acid, e.g. a mineral acid such as hydrochloric acid, or an organic acid such as trifluoroacetic acid.

A compound of formula (I) containing an ester moiety, e.g. a C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl
30 group such as methoxycarbonyl or ethoxycarbonyl, may alternatively be converted into the corresponding compound containing a carboxy (-CO₂H) moiety by treatment with a base, e.g. an alkali metal hydroxide selected from lithium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide; or an organic base such as sodium methoxide or sodium ethoxide.

A compound of formula (I) containing a carboxy (-CO₂H) moiety may be converted into the corresponding compound containing an amide moiety by treatment with the appropriate amine in the presence of a condensing agent such as 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide.

- 5 A compound of formula (I) containing a carbonyl (C=O) moiety may be converted into the corresponding compound containing a -C(CH₃)(OH)- moiety by treatment with methylmagnesium bromide. Similarly, a compound of formula (I) containing a carbonyl (C=O) moiety may be converted into the corresponding compound containing a -C(CF₃)(OH)- moiety by treatment with (trifluoromethyl)trimethylsilane and cesium
10 fluoride. A compound of formula (I) containing a carbonyl (C=O) moiety may be converted into the corresponding compound containing a -C(CH₂NO₂)(OH)- moiety by treatment with nitromethane.

- A compound of formula (I) containing a hydroxymethyl moiety may be converted into the corresponding compound containing a formyl (-CHO) moiety by treatment with
15 an oxidising agent such as Dess-Martin periodinane. A compound of formula (I) containing a hydroxymethyl moiety may be converted into the corresponding compound containing a carboxy moiety by treatment with an oxidising agent such as tetrapropylammonium perruthenate.

- A compound wherein R¹ represents a substituent containing at least one nitrogen
20 atom, which substituent is linked to the remainder of the molecule via a nitrogen atom, may be prepared by reacting a compound wherein R¹ represents halogen, e.g. bromo, with the appropriate compound of formula R¹-H [e.g. 1-(pyridin-3-yl)piperazine or morpholine]. The reaction is conveniently effected with the assistance of a transition metal catalyst, e.g. tris(dibenzylideneacetone)dipalladium(0), in the presence of an
25 amination ligand such as 2-dicyclohexylphosphino-2',4',6'-triisopropylbiphenyl (XPhos) or 2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1'-binaphthalene (BINAP) and a base, e.g. an inorganic base such as sodium *tert*-butoxide. Alternatively, the reaction may be effected using palladium diacetate, in the presence of a reagent such as [2',6'-bis(propan-2-yloxy)-biphenyl-2-yl](dicyclohexyl)phosphane and a base, e.g. an inorganic base such as cesium
30 carbonate.

A compound of formula (I) containing an oxo moiety can be converted into the corresponding compound containing an ethoxycarbonylmethylidene moiety by treatment with triethyl phosphonoacetate in the presence of a base such as sodium hydride.

A compound of formula (IIB) wherein R^{21} represents ethenyl may be prepared by reacting a compound of formula (IIB) wherein R^{21} represents halogen, e.g. chloro, with potassium vinyl trifluoroborate. The reaction is typically effected in the presence of a transition metal catalyst, e.g. [1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene]dichloropalladium(II),
 5 and a base, e.g. an organic base such as triethylamine.

A compound of formula (IIB) wherein R^{21} represents halogen, e.g. chloro, may be converted into the corresponding compound wherein R^{21} represents an optionally substituted C_{4-7} cycloalkenyl moiety by treatment with the appropriately substituted cycloalkenyl boronic acid or a cyclic ester thereof formed with an organic diol, e.g.
 10 pinacol, 1,3-propanediol or neopentyl glycol. The reaction is typically effected in the presence of a transition metal catalyst, e.g. bis[3-(diphenylphosphanyl)cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-yl]iron-dichloropalladium-dichloromethane complex, and a base, e.g. an inorganic base such as potassium carbonate.

A compound of formula (IIB) wherein R^{21} represents a substituent containing at
 15 least one nitrogen atom, which substituent is linked to the remainder of the molecule via a nitrogen atom, may be prepared by reacting a compound of formula (IIB) wherein R^{21} represents halogen, e.g. chloro, with the appropriate compound of formula R^{21} -H [e.g. 2-methoxyethylamine, *N*-methyl-*L*-alanine, 2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid, 3-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid, 1-(aminomethyl)cyclopropanecarboxylic acid, methyl
 20 azetidine-3-carboxylate, pyrrolidin-3-ol, pyrrolidine-3-carboxylic acid, piperidine-2-carboxylic acid, piperidine-3-carboxylic acid, 4-(1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)piperidine, piperazine, 1-(methylsulfonyl)piperazine, piperazin-2-one, 2-(piperazin-1-yl)propanoic acid, morpholine, morpholine-2-carboxylic acid, thiomorpholine, thiomorpholine 1,1-dioxide, 1,4-diazepan-5-one, 2-oxa-5-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane or an appropriately substituted
 25 azaspiroalkane], optionally in the presence of a base, e.g. an organic base such as triethylamine or *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine and/or 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, or pyridine, or an inorganic base such as potassium carbonate.

Where a mixture of products is obtained from any of the processes described above for the preparation of compounds according to the invention, the desired product can be
 30 separated therefrom at an appropriate stage by conventional methods such as preparative HPLC; or column chromatography utilising, for example, silica and/or alumina in conjunction with an appropriate solvent system.

Where the above-described processes for the preparation of the compounds according to the invention give rise to mixtures of stereoisomers, these isomers may be separated by conventional techniques. In particular, where it is desired to obtain a particular enantiomer of a compound of formula (I) this may be produced from a
5 corresponding mixture of enantiomers using any suitable conventional procedure for resolving enantiomers. Thus, for example, diastereomeric derivatives, e.g. salts, may be produced by reaction of a mixture of enantiomers of formula (I), e.g. a racemate, and an appropriate chiral compound, e.g. a chiral base. The diastereomers may then be separated by any convenient means, for example by crystallisation, and the desired enantiomer
10 recovered, e.g. by treatment with an acid in the instance where the diastereomer is a salt. In another resolution process a racemate of formula (I) may be separated using chiral HPLC. Moreover, if desired, a particular enantiomer may be obtained by using an appropriate chiral intermediate in one of the processes described above. Alternatively, a particular enantiomer may be obtained by performing an enantiomer-specific enzymatic
15 biotransformation, c.g. an ester hydrolysis using an esterase, and then purifying only the enantiomerically pure hydrolysed acid from the unreacted ester antipode. Chromatography, recrystallisation and other conventional separation procedures may also be used with intermediates or final products where it is desired to obtain a particular geometric isomer of the invention.

20 During any of the above synthetic sequences it may be necessary and/or desirable to protect sensitive or reactive groups on any of the molecules concerned. This may be achieved by means of conventional protecting groups, such as those described in *Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry*, ed. J.F.W. McOmie, Plenum Press, 1973; and T.W. Greene & P.G.M. Wuts, *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis*, John Wiley &
25 Sons, 3rd edition, 1999. The protecting groups may be removed at any convenient subsequent stage utilising methods known from the art.

The following Examples illustrate the preparation of compounds according to the invention.

30 The compounds in accordance with this invention potentially inhibit the binding of a fluorescence conjugate to TNF α when tested in the fluorescence polarisation assay described below. Moreover, certain compounds in accordance with this invention potentially inhibit TNF α -induced NF- κ B activation in the reporter gene assay described below.

Fluorescence Polarisation Assay

Preparation of Compound (A)

1-(2,5-Dimethylbenzyl)-6-[4-(piperazin-1-ylmethyl)phenyl]-2-(pyridin-4-yl-methyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole – hereinafter referred to as “*Compound (A)*” – can be prepared by the procedure described in Example 499 of WO 2013/186229 (published 19 December 2013); or by a procedure analogous thereto.

Preparation of fluorescence conjugate

Compound (A) (27.02 mg, 0.0538 mmol) was dissolved in DMSO (2 mL). 5 (-6) Carboxy-fluorescein succinimyl ester (24.16 mg, 0.0510 mmol) (Invitrogen catalogue number: C1311) was dissolved in DMSO (1 mL) to give a bright yellow solution. The two solutions were mixed at room temperature, the mixture turning red in colour. The mixture was stirred at room temperature. Shortly after mixing a 20 μ L aliquot was removed and diluted in a 80:20 mixture of AcOH:H₂O for LC-MS analysis on the 1200RR-6140 LC-MS system. The chromatogram showed two closely eluting peaks at retention times of 1.42 and 1.50 minutes, both with mass $(M+H)^+ = 860.8$ amu, corresponding to the two products formed with the 5- and 6-substituted carboxyfluorescein group. A further peak at retention time 2.21 minutes had a mass of $(M+H)^+ = 502.8$ amu, corresponding to *Compound (A)*. No peak was observed for unreacted 5(-6) carboxyfluorescein succinimyl ester. The peak areas were 22.0%, 39.6% and 31.4% for the three signals, indicating a 61.6% conversion to the two isomers of the desired fluorescence conjugate at that time-point. Further 20 μ L aliquots were extracted after several hours and then after overnight stirring, diluted as before and subjected to LC-MS analysis. The percentage conversion was determined as 79.8% and 88.6% respectively at these time-points. The mixture was purified on a UV-directed preparative HPLC system. The pooled purified fractions were freeze-dried to remove excess solvent. After freeze-drying, an orange solid (23.3 mg) was recovered, equivalent to 0.027 mmol of fluorescence conjugate, corresponding to an overall yield of 53% for the reaction and preparative HPLC purification.

Inhibition of binding of fluorescence conjugate to TNF α

Compounds were tested at 10 concentrations starting from 25 μ M in a final assay concentration of 5% DMSO, by pre-incubation with TNF α for 60 minutes at ambient temperature in 20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 0.05% TweenTM 20, before addition of the fluorescence conjugate and a further incubation for 20 hours at ambient temperature. The final concentrations of TNF α and the fluorescence conjugate were 10 nM and 10 nM respectively in a total assay volume of 25 μ L. Plates were read on a plate reader capable of detecting fluorescence polarisation (e.g. an Analyst HT plate reader; or an Envision plate reader). An IC₅₀ value was calculated using XLfitTM (4 parameter logistic model) in ActivityBase.

When tested in the fluorescence polarisation assay, the compounds of the accompanying Examples were all found to exhibit IC₅₀ values of 50 μ M or better.

Reporter Gene Assay*15 Inhibition of TNF α -induced NF- κ B activation*

Stimulation of HEK-293 cells by TNF α leads to activation of the NF- κ B pathway. The reporter cell line used to determine TNF α activity was purchased from InvivoGen. IIEK-BlueTM CD40L is a stable IIEK-293 transfected cell line expressing SEAP (secreted embryonic alkaline phosphatase) under the control of the IFN β minimal promoter fused to five NF- κ B binding sites. Secretion of SEAP by these cells is stimulated in a dose-dependent manner by TNF α , with an EC₅₀ of 0.5 ng/mL for human TNF α . Compounds were diluted from 10 mM DMSO stocks (final assay concentration 0.3% DMSO) to generate a 10-point 3-fold serial dilution curve (e.g. 30,000 nM to 2 nM final concentration). Diluted compound was preincubated with TNF α for 60 minutes prior to addition to a 384-well microtitre plate and incubated for 18 h. The final TNF α concentration in the assay plate was 0.5 ng/mL. SEAP activity was determined in the supernatant using a colorimetric substrate, e.g. QUANTI-BlueTM or HEK-BlueTM Detection media (InvivoGen). Percentage inhibitions for compound dilutions were calculated between a DMSO control and maximum inhibition (by excess control compound) and an IC₅₀ value calculated using XLfitTM (4 parameter logistic model) in ActivityBase.

When tested in the reporter gene assay, certain compounds of the accompanying Examples were found to exhibit IC₅₀ values of 50 μ M or better.

EXAMPLES**Abbreviations**

- 5 DCM: dichloromethane EtOAc: ethyl acetate
 MeOH: methanol DMSO: dimethylsulfoxide
 EtOH: ethanol DMF: *N,N*-dimethylformamide
 THF: tetrahydrofuran TFA: trifluoroacetic acid
 NBS: *N*-bromosuccinimide
- 10 Xantphos: 4,5-bis(diphenylphosphino)-9,9-dimethylxanthene
 Pd(PPh₃)₄: tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0)
 h: hour M: mass
 HPLC: High Performance Liquid Chromatography
 LCMS: Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry
- 15 ES+: Electrospray Positive Ionisation RT: retention time

Nomenclature

Compounds were named with the aid of ACD/Name Batch (Network) version 11.01, and/or Accelrys Draw 4.0.

20

Analytical Conditions***Analytical HPLC******Method A***

- Column: Waters Atlantis dC18 (2.1 x 100 mm, 3 µm column)
- 25 Flow rate: 0.6 mL/minute
 Solvent A: 0.1% formic acid/water
 Solvent B: 0.1% formic acid/acetonitrile
 Injection volume: 3 µL
 Column temperature: 40°C
- 30 UV detection wavelength: 215 nm
 Eluent: 0.00-5.00 minutes, constant gradient from 95% solvent A + 5% solvent B
 to 100% solvent B; 5.00-5.40 minutes, 100% solvent B; 5.40-5.42 minutes,

constant gradient from 100% solvent B to 95% solvent A + 5% solvent B;
5.42-7.00 minutes, 95% solvent A + 5% solvent B.

Method B

- 5 Column: Waters Atlantis dC18 (2.1 x 50 mm, 3 µm column)
Flow rate: 1.0 mL/minute
Solvent A: 0.1% formic acid/water
Solvent B: 0.1% formic acid/acetonitrile
Injection volume: 3 µL
- 10 UV detection wavelength: 215 nm
Eluent: 0.00-2.50 minutes, constant gradient from 95% solvent A + 5% solvent B
to 100% solvent B; 2.50-2.70 minutes, 100% solvent B; 2.71-3.00 minutes,
95% solvent A + 5% solvent B.

15 *Method C*

- Column: Waters Atlantis dC18 (2.1 x 30 mm, 3 µm column)
Flow rate: 1.0 mL/minute
Solvent A: 0.1% formic acid/water
Solvent B: 0.1% formic acid/acetonitrile
- 20 Injection volume: 3 µL
UV detection wavelength: 215 nm
Eluent: 0.00-1.50 minutes, constant gradient from 95% solvent A + 5% solvent B
to 100% solvent B; 1.50-1.60 minutes, 100% solvent B; 1.60-1.61 minutes,
constant gradient from 100% solvent B to 95% solvent A + 5% solvent B;
- 25 1.61-2.00 minutes, 95% solvent A + 5% solvent B.
MS detection using Waters LCT or LCT Premier, or ZQ or ZMD.
UV detection using Waters 2996 photodiode array or Waters 2787 UV or Waters 2788
UV.

30 *Method D (high pH)*

- Column: Phenomenex, Gemini C18 (2.0 mm x 100 mm, 3 µm column)
Flow rate: 0.5 mL/minute
Solvent A: 2 nM ammonium hydrogencarbonate in water

Solvent B: acetonitrile

Injection volume: 3 μ L

Column temperature: 50°C

UV detection wavelength: 215 nm

- 5 Eluent: 0.00-5.50 minutes, constant gradient from 95% solvent A + 5% solvent B to 100% solvent B; 5.50-5.90 minutes, 100% solvent B.

MS detection using Waters LCT or LCT Premier, or ZQ or ZMD.

UV detection using Waters 2996 photodiode array or Waters 2787 UV or Waters 2788 UV.

10

INTERMEDIATE 1

1-[2-(Difluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethan-1-one

- Potassium hydroxide (105 g, 1872 mmol) was suspended in a mixture of
15 acetonitrile (200 mL) and water (200 mL) and cooled to approximately -20°C. 1-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)ethanone (11.28 mL, 93.7 mmol) was added dropwise, followed by diethyl [bromo(difluoro)methyl]phosphonate (33.27 mL, 187.3 mmol) over 15 minutes. The mixture was then allowed to warm to room temperature over 1 h. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 200 mL), then the combined organic layers were washed
20 with brine (50 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated under vacuum. The mixture was purified by flash chromatography to afford the *title compound* (16.0 g, 92%) as a colourless oil. Method B HPLC-MS: MH⁺ *m/z* 187, RT 1.77 minutes.

INTERMEDIATE 2

25

N'-(5-Bromopyridin-2-yl)-N,N-dimethylethenimidamide

- 2-Amino-5-bromopyridine (10 g, 57.8 mmol) was suspended in methanol (100 mL) and N,N-dimethylacetamide dimethyl acetal (25.5 mL, 174.4 mmol) was added. The mixture was heated to reflux at 80°C for 16 h. The mixture was concentrated under
30 vacuum and ethyl acetate (80 mL) was added. The resulting material was washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (50 mL) followed by water (3 x 50 mL) and then brine (50 mL). The organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated under vacuum to afford the *title compound* (13.72 g, 98%) as a dark red oil.

δ_{H} (500 MHz, CDCl_3) 8.34 (d, J 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (br s, 1H), 3.08 (s, 6H), 2.01 (s, 3H).

INTERMEDIATE 3

5

2-Bromo-1-[2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethan-1-one

A solution of bromine (1.25 mL, 24.44 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (20 mL) was added dropwise over 60 minutes to a stirring solution of *Intermediate 1* (4.6 g, 24.4 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (20 mL) in the dark. When the addition was complete the reaction was diluted with DCM (200 mL) and washed with water (200 mL). The aqueous layer was then extracted with DCM (50 mL). To the combined organic layers was added saturated aqueous sodium carbonate solution (100 mL), and further solid sodium carbonate was added portionwise with vigorous stirring until the mixture was neutralised. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (50 mL), dried over sodium sulphate, filtered and concentrated under vacuum to afford the *title compound* (6.48 g, 82%) as a light yellow oil. δ_{H} (500 MHz, CDCl_3) 7.83 (m, 1H), 7.58 (td, J 8.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.20 (d, J 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (t, J 72.9 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (s, 2H). Method C HPLC-MS: MH^+ m/z 265/267, RT 1.32 minutes (80%).

20

INTERMEDIATE 4

6-Bromo-3-([2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]carbonyl)-2-methylimidazo[1,2-a]pyridine

Intermediate 2 (9.94 g, 41.1 mmol) and *Intermediate 3* (10.9 g, 41.1 mmol) were combined in toluene (120 mL) and heated at 140°C for 10 minutes. The mixture was then allowed to cool gradually in the heating block for 1 h, before being cooled to room temperature. The volatiles were removed under vacuum and the residue was taken up in ethyl acetate (300 mL) and methanol (30 mL). The organic phase was washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (150 mL) and the organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate, filtered and concentrated under vacuum to afford a red oil (~15 g). The residue was purified by flash chromatography, eluting with a gradient of 0-100% ethyl acetate in heptane, to afford the *title compound* (9.94 g, 63.5%) as a pink solid. δ_{H}

30

(500 MHz, CDCl₃) 9.96 (s, 1H), 7.58 (m, 3H), 7.38 (m, 3H), 6.52 (t, *J* 73.5 Hz, 1H), 2.03 (s, 3H).

INTERMEDIATE 5

5

(6-Bromo-2-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)[2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]methanol

Intermediate 4 (9.94 g, 26.1 mmol) was suspended in methanol (200 mL). The mixture was then cooled to 0°C in an ice bath and sodium borohydride (1.03 g, 27.4 mmol) was added. After 10 minutes the mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 1 h, after which time a light-coloured precipitate had formed. The mixture was reduced in volume *in vacuo* by approximately two-thirds and then diluted with ethyl acetate (400 mL). The organic phase was washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (200 mL), dried over sodium sulphate and filtered, then concentrated *in vacuo*, to afford the *title compound* (9.8 g, 98%) as a cream-coloured solid. δ_{H} (500 MHz, CD₃OD) 8.54 (s, 1H), 7.94 (m, 1H), 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.12 (m, 1H), 6.54 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H).

INTERMEDIATE 6

20 6-Bromo-3-[2-(difluoromethoxy)benzyl]-2-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine

Intermediate 5 (9.6 g, 25.1 mmol) was suspended in DCM (200 mL). Boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (7.5 mL, 60.8 mmol) and triethylsilane (8 mL, 50.1 mmol) were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h, before being left to stand at room temperature over the weekend. LCMS analysis indicated incomplete conversion, so further boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (3 mL, 24.3 mmol) and triethylsilane (2 mL, 12.5 mmol) were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. The mixture was diluted with methanol (30 mL) to dissolve a small amount of precipitate, then the mixture was washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (100 mL). The organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated under vacuum to afford an orange gum. DCM (50 mL) was added, which caused a white precipitate to form. This was filtered off and washed further with DCM (100 mL) and methanol (20 mL) to afford the *title compound* (5.58 g, 54%) as a white solid. The filtrate was concentrated under vacuum and purified by flash chromatography,

eluting with a gradient of 30-100% ethyl acetate in heptane, to afford a further quantity of the *title compound* (1.18 g, 12%) as a pale orange solid. Method C HPLC-MS: MH⁺ *m/z* 367/369, RT 1.01 minutes (90%).

5

INTERMEDIATE 7

Methyl (2*E*)-3-{3-[2-(difluoromethoxy)benzyl]-2-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-6-yl}prop-2-enoate

Methyl prop-2-enoate (63.3 mg, 0.74 mmol) was added to a stirred suspension of
 10 *Intermediate 6* (200 mg, 0.49 mmol), tris(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (28 mg, 0.05 mmol), tris(2-methylphenyl)phosphine (27 mg, 0.09 mmol) and triethylamine (74 mg, 0.74 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was thoroughly degassed under a stream of nitrogen and was then sealed and heated at 120°C for 18 h. The reaction mixture was cooled, diluted with DCM (5 mL), washed with
 15 saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (2 x 5 mL) and dried over sodium sulfate. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the resulting brown oil (220 mg) was purified by column chromatography, eluting with 25-100% EtOAc in heptanes, to afford the *title compound* (136 mg, 63%) as a pale brown oil. δ_{H} (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.57-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.35 (dd, *J* 9.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, *J* 8.2 Hz, 1H),
 20 7.09-7.03 (m, 1H), 6.85-6.46 (m, 2H), 6.34 (d, *J* 15.9 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (s, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H).

INTERMEDIATE 8

25 (*E*)-Ethyl 4-[2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-2-oxobut-3-enoate

A suspension of 2-(difluoromethoxy)benzaldehyde (295 g, 1714 mmol) and ethyl (triphenylphosphoranylidene)pyruvate (279.1 g, 742 mmol) was heated at 100°C. The dark red aldehyde immediately decolorized, and a yellow suspension was obtained, which slowly changed to a dark brown solution. 2-(Difluoromethoxy)benzaldehyde (52.5 g, 305
 30 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture. Residual aldehyde was separated from the reaction mixture by distillation. The resulting mixture was stirred in heptane (500 mL) and diethyl ether (500 mL). The brown solid precipitate was filtered off, and washed with a 1:1 mixture of heptane and diethyl ether (3 x 250 mL). The filtrate was concentrated,

yielding a brown oil (218.5 g). Purification by flash column chromatography (1.5 kg silica, 2-20% EtOAc in heptane, 125 mL/minute) gave the *title compound* (91 g) as a yellow oil. δ_{H} (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) 1.42 (t, *J* 7.1 Hz, 3H), 4.40 (q, *J* 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.59 (t, *J* 72.9 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, *J* 7.3, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (br t, *J* 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* 16.3 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dt, *J* 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (dt, *J* 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* 16.3 Hz, 1H). MS [ES+] *m/z* 271 [M+H]⁺.

INTERMEDIATE 9

Ethyl 4-[2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-2-[(triethylsilyl)oxy]but-2-enoate

To a nitrogen-flushed solution of *Intermediate 8* (50 g, 185 mmol) in dichloromethane (500 mL) were added rhodium(II) acetate dimer (0.818 g, 1.85 mmol) and triethylsilane (35.5 mL, 25.8 g, 222 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at reflux. Additional triethylsilane (10 mL, 7.28 g, 62.6 mmol) and rhodium(II) acetate dimer (0.2 g, 0.453 mmol) were added after 4 h. Heating at reflux was continued for 16 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered over a tight pad of kieselguhr. The resulting material was rinsed with DCM and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield the *title compound* (61 g) as a clear yellow oil that was employed in subsequent steps with no further purification.

INTERMEDIATE 10

Ethyl 3-bromo-4-[2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-2-oxobutanoate

To a stirred solution of *Intermediate 9* (69 g, 179 mmol) in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (700 mL) at room temperature was added NBS (35.0 g, 196 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at reflux for 2 h before being cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was concentrated to approximately one-third of its original volume. DCM (500 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (700 mL), then extracted with DCM (250 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*, to yield a crude yellow oil (97 g). After storage overnight at room temperature under nitrogen, the product had partly solidified. The resulting material was triturated in diisopropyl ether (300 mL) for 1 h at room temperature. The precipitate was removed by filtration. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* yielding a clear yellow-

brown oil (88 g). Purification by flash column chromatography (1.5 kg silica, 2-20% EtOAc in heptane) afforded the *title compound* (58.3 g) as a light brown oil. δ_{H} (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) 1.38 (t, J 7.1 Hz, 3H), 3.32 (dd, J 14.5, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (dd, J 14.5, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (q, J 7.1 Hz, 2H), 5.37 (dd, J 7.8, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (t, J 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.33 (m, 2H). MS [ES⁺] m/z 271 [M-Br]⁺.

INTERMEDIATE 11

tert-Butyl 4-fluoropyridin-2-ylcarbamate

10 Palladium (II) acetate (1.69 g, 7.53 mmol) and Xantphos (8.71 g, 15.05 mmol) were dissolved/suspended in degassed 1,4-dioxane (1200 mL) in a nitrogen atmosphere. 2-Chloro-4-fluoropyridine (99 g, 753 mmol) and *tert*-butyl carbamate (97 g, 828 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (550 mL) were added, followed by sodium hydroxide (45.2 g, 1.12 mol) and water (20 mL). The resulting mixture was heated at 100°C for 2 h. The mixture was
15 cooled to ambient temperature and filtered over Celite[™]. The residue was washed with 1,4-dioxane and the filtrate was concentrated to afford a yellow solid (206 g). The crude material was recrystallized from 2-propanol (400 mL) and dried to afford the *title compound* (120.8 g) as a white solid. Method B HPLC-MS m/z 213 [M+H]⁺, RT 1.96 minutes.

20

INTERMEDIATE 12

4-Fluoropyridin-2-amine

Intermediate 11 (120 g, 565 mmol) was dissolved in DCM (1250 mL) and cooled
25 with an ice bath. Trifluoroacetic acid (250 mL) was added dropwise. The resulting mixture was stirred overnight at ambient temperature. The mixture was concentrated and partitioned between saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution and EtOAc. The aqueous layer was extracted twice with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried with sodium sulphate, filtered and concentrated, to afford the
30 *title compound* (65.5 g) as a yellow solid. Method B HPLC-MS m/z 113 [M+H]⁺, RT 0.17 minutes.

INTERMEDIATE 13**5-Bromo-4-fluoropyridin-2-amine**

In an aluminium foil-covered flask, *Intermediate 12* (62.3 g, 506 mmol) was dissolved in acetonitrile (1500 mL), and NBS (86 g, 481 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 2 h. The mixture was concentrated to afford a yellow solid. The crude material was dissolved in EtOAc (1000 mL), washed twice with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution, then with brine, dried with sodium sulphate, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*, to afford a light brown solid (71.2 g). The crude material was crystallized from EtOAc (300 mL) and heptane (300 mL) to give the *title compound* (34.3 g) as brown crystals. Method B HPLC-MS m/z 191(^{79}Br)/193(^{81}Br) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, RT 0.79 minutes.

INTERMEDIATE 14**Ethyl 6-bromo-3-[2-(difluoromethoxy)benzyl]-7-fluoroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine-2-carboxylate**

A solution of *Intermediate 10* (5.07 g, 14.4 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (30 mL) was treated with magnesium sulphate (5.1 g, 42 mmol), followed by *Intermediate 13* (5.6 g, 29 mmol). The resulting suspension was heated at reflux under a nitrogen atmosphere for 24 h. The mixture was cooled and filtered, and the solid was washed with 1,4-dioxane (30 mL) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was partitioned between EtOAc (150 mL) and 10% aqueous Na_2CO_3 solution (150 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with further EtOAc (150 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with brine (100 mL), dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with EtOAc in DCM (0% to 10%), to give the *title compound* (3.84 g, 62%) as a yellow solid. δ_{H} (DMSO- d_6) 8.81 (d, 1H), 7.76 (d, 1H), 7.29 (t, 1H), 7.26 (t, 1H), 7.19 (d, 1H), 7.08 (t, 1H), 6.81 (d, 1H), 4.67 (s, 2H), 4.25 (q, 2H), 1.23 (t, 3H). Method B HPLC-MS m/z 445 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, RT 1.14 minutes.

INTERMEDIATE 15

{6-Bromo-3-[2-(difluoromethoxy)benzyl]-7-fluoroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-2-yl}methanol

A solution of *Intermediate 14* (3.7 g, 8.3 mmol) in THF (50 mL) was cooled to
 5 0°C under a nitrogen atmosphere and treated with diisobutylaluminum hydride (1.0
 mol/L in DCM, 33 mL, 33 mmol), added slowly via a syringe. The reaction mixture was
 stirred at 0°C for 20 minutes. The reaction mixture was quenched by the addition of
 MeOH (3 mL) and allowed to warm to ambient temperature, then 2M HCl solution (50
 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with DCM (2 x 100 mL). The combined
 10 organic layers were washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (200 mL) and brine
 (150 mL), then dried over MgSO₄. Filtration and concentration *in vacuo* gave the *title*
compound (2.3 g, 69%) as a yellow powder, containing approximately 10% starting
 material. δ_{H} (DMSO-*d*₆) 8.71 (d, 1H), 7.75 (d, 1H), 7.42 (d, 1H), 7.40 (t, 1H), 7.33 (d,
 1H), 7.24 (t, 1H), 7.07 (d, 1H), 4.69 (s, 2H), 4.54 (s, 2H). Method B HPLC-MS *m/z* 403
 15 (M+H)⁺, RT 0.99 minutes.

INTERMEDIATE 16

6-Bromo-2-(chloromethyl)-3-{[2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]methyl}-7-fluoroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine

Intermediate 15 (1.0 g, 2.5 mmol) was cooled (iced bath) and thionyl chloride (10
 mL, 137 mmol) was added with stirring. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h. The
 volatiles were removed *in vacuo* and the residue was separated between DCM and sodium
 bicarbonate solution. The organic layer was passed through a phase separator, then
 25 evaporated *in vacuo*, to give the *title compound* (1.0 g, 96%) as an off white solid.
 Method B HPLC-MS *m/z* 421 (M+H)⁺, RT 2.50 minutes.

INTERMEDIATE 17

3-{3-[(6-Bromo-3-{[2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]methyl}-7-fluoroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-
 2-yl)methoxy]phenyl}oxazolidin-2-one

Intermediate 16 (300 mg, 0.72 mmol), potassium carbonate (148 mg, 1.07 mmol)
 and 3-(3-hydroxyphenyl)oxazolidin-2-one (141 mg, 0.79 mmol) were stirred together in

DMF (5 mL) for 2 h. Further potassium carbonate (148 mg, 1.07 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred for a further 4 h. The reaction mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, 10 to 100% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to give the *title compound* (100 mg, 24%) as a white powder. δ_{H} (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆) 8.67 (d, 1H, *J* 6.7 Hz), 7.70 (d, 1H, *J* 9.6 Hz), 7.22 (m, 6H), 7.07 (td, 1H, *J* 7.5, 1.2 Hz), 6.93 (dd, 1H, *J* 7.7, 1.5 Hz), 6.75 (m, 1H), 5.14 (s, 2H), 4.42 (m, 4H), 4.01 (m, 2H). Method B HPLC-MS *m/z* 564 (M+H)⁺, RT 2.50 minutes.

10

INTERMEDIATE 18

6-Bromo-2-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine

2-Amino-5-bromopyridine (6.2 g) was dissolved in ethanol (60 mL) and chloroacetone (5.7 mL) was added. The mixture was heated to reflux at 90°C for 16 h with stirring. The cooled reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum and the residue was purified on silica (Biotage, 100 g), eluting with a gradient of 2-15% methanol in DCM, to afford the *title compound* (6.1 g, 80.6%) as a yellow solid. δ_{H} (500 MHz, CD₃OD) 9.03 (s, 1H), 8.02 (m, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* 9.4 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (d, *J* 1.0 Hz, 3H).

20

INTERMEDIATE 19

6-Bromo-2-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine-3-carbaldehyde

N,N-Dimethylformamide (15 mL) was cooled to 0°C and phosphoric trichloride (3.7 g, 24.31 mmol) was added dropwise with stirring. After 5 minutes, *Intermediate 18* (2.7 g, 12.15 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature, then heated with stirring at 50°C for 6 h. The reaction mixture was cooled and allowed to stir at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was quenched with a mixture of ice and saturated aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate solution, then extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with water (50 mL) and brine (50 mL), then dried over magnesium sulfate. The crude residue was purified on silica (Biotage, 340 g), eluting with a gradient of 0 to 10% methanol in dichloromethane,

30

to afford the *title compound* (2.6 g, 53.7%) at 60 % purity. δ_{H} (CD_3OD) 10.03 (s, 1H), 9.67 (d, J 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.74 (m, 1H), 7.65-7.57 (m, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H).

INTERMEDIATE 20

5

(6-Bromo-2-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)methanol

Intermediate 19 (1.60 g, 4.01 mmol) was suspended in methanol (20 mL) and cooled to 0°C in an ice-water bath. Sodium borohydride (228 mg, 6.02 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 minutes, then warmed to room temperature and stirred for 1 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was diluted with water (50 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 100 mL), then further extracted using ethyl acetate (2 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried, concentrated *in vacuo* and purified on silica (Biotage), eluting with 0 to 10% MeOH in DCM, to afford the *title compound* (620 mg 63.4%) as a white solid. δ_{H} (CD_3OD) 8.60 (s, 1H), 7.43 (s, 2H), 4.94 (s, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H).

15

INTERMEDIATE 21

6-Bromo-3-[(2,5-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-2-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine

To a solution of *Intermediate 20* (150 mg, 0.5 mmol) in *p*-xylene (10 mL) was added methanesulfonic acid (0.2 mL, 3 mmol) and the reaction mixture was heated at 100°C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was cooled, then treated with saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 solution (20 mL) and extracted with DCM (20 mL). The organic layers were washed with brine (20 mL), dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*, yielding the *title compound* (230 mg, 100%). δ_{H} (CDCl_3) 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.05 (m, 1H), 6.88 (m, 1H), 6.38 (m, 1H), 4.02 (m, 2H), 2.33 (m, 3H), 2.26 (m, 3H), 2.07 (m, 3H). LCMS (ES^+) 376.9 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺.

25

INTERMEDIATE 22

3-[(2,5-Dimethylphenyl)methyl]-2-methyl-6-(1-methylpyrazol-4-yl)imidazo[1,2-*a*]-pyridine

- 5 To *Intermediate 21* (0.23 g, 0.61 mmol) and 1-methyl-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)pyrazole (0.16 g, 0.8 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane/water (10:1, 6 mL) was added potassium carbonate (0.25 g, 1.84 mmol). The reaction mixture was degassed for 10 minutes, then Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.07 g, 0.01 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was heated at 100°C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with DCM (10 mL), and
- 10 washed with water (10 mL) and brine (10 mL), then the organic layer was separated, dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (eluent: 100% DCM to 95% DCM/5% methanolic ammonia) to yield the *title compound* (0.18 g, 89%). δ_{H} (CDCl₃) 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.29 (m), 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.13 (m, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J*
- 15 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (m, 1H), 4.17 (m, 2H), 3.93 (m, 3H), 2.47 (m, 3H), 2.37 (m, 3H), 2.19 (m, 3H). LCMS (ES⁺) 331.1 (M+H)⁺.

EXAMPLE 1

- 20 Methyl 3-(3-{[2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]methyl}-2-methyl-5*H*,6*H*,7*H*,8*H*-imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-6-yl)propanoate

- Intermediate 7* (86 mg, 0.11 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (2 mL) and Pd/C (21 mg, 0.19 mmol) was added. The suspension was degassed using 3 cycles of vacuum/nitrogen and regassed with 3 cycles of vacuum/hydrogen. The reaction mixture was
- 25 stirred at room temperature and pressure for 18 h. The reaction mixture was then degassed using vacuum/nitrogen and filtered through a plug of celite, washing with MeOH (5 mL). The solvent was removed *in vacuo*, and the crude residue was purified using HPLC, to afford the *title compound* (21 mg, 28.2%) as a colourless oil. δ_{H} (CD₃OD) 7.31-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.12 (m, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (t, *J* 74.2 Hz,
- 30 1H), 3.96 (s, 2H), 3.82 (dd, *J* 12.2, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.17 (dd, *J* 12.0, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (ddd, *J* 16.9, 5.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (ddd, *J* 16.9, 10.9, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (q, *J* 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 2.07-1.88 (m, 2H), 1.71-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.51 (ddd, *J* 11.0, 5.6, 2.2 Hz, 1H). Method D HPLC-MS: MH⁺ *m/z* 379, RT 1.90 minutes.

EXAMPLE 2

5 3-{3-[(3-{[2-(Difluoromethoxy)phenyl]methyl}-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroimidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-yl)methoxy]phenyl}oxazolidin-2-one

To a degassed, nitrogen flushed solution of *Intermediate 17* (200 mg, 0.35 mmol) in ethanol (20 mL) was added palladium on carbon (10%; 50 mg, 0.46 mmol). A hydrogen balloon was attached and the reaction mixture was left over the weekend at room temperature. The reaction mixture was filtered through celite and the filtrate was
10 evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by preparative HPLC to obtain the *title compound* (71 mg, 43%) as a lyophilised white powder. δ_{H} (DMSO- d_6) 7.48-7.09 (m, 7H), 7.00 (m, 1H), 6.75 (m, 1H), 4.88 (s, 2H), 4.42 (m, 2H), 4.02 (m, 4H), 3.59 (m, 2H), 2.71 (m, 2H), 1.79 (m, 4H). Method A HPLC-MS: MH+ m/z 470, RT 2.27 minutes.

15

EXAMPLE 3

3-{3-[(3-{[2-(Difluoromethoxy)phenyl]methyl}-7-fluoro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroimidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-yl)methoxy]phenyl}oxazolidin-2-one

Also obtained from *Example 2* to give the *title compound* (15 mg, 9%) as a
20 lyophilised white powder. δ_{H} (DMSO- d_6) 7.20 (m, 8H), 6.76 (m, 1H), 5.26 (m, 1H), 4.89 (s, 2H), 4.42 (m, 2H), 4.03 (m, 4H), 3.69 (m, 3H), 3.10 (m, 2H), 2.15 (m, 2H). Method A HPLC-MS: MH+ m/z 488, RT 2.00 minutes.

EXAMPLE 4

25

3-[(2,5-Dimethylphenyl)methyl]-2-methyl-6-(1-methylpyrazol-4-yl)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroimidazo[1,2-a]pyridine

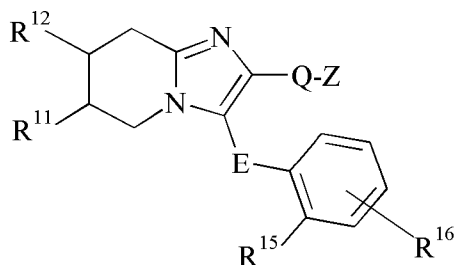
Intermediate 22 (170 mg, 0.51 mmol) was dissolved in an acetic acid/MeOH mixture (1:1, 8 mL). The solution was passed through an H-Cube® continuous-flow
30 hydrogenation reactor (temperature: 60°C; pressure: 50 bar; H₂ flow: 1mL/minute). After concentration, the residue was purified by preparative HPLC (acetonitrile/H₂O/TFA), followed by preparative TLC (eluent: 90% DCM/10% methanolic ammonia), yielding the *title compound* (72 mg, 47%). δ_{H} (CDCl₃) 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.11 (m, 1H), 7.02

(m, 1H), 6.55 (m, 1H), 4.01 (m, 1H), 3.87 (m, 5H), 3.59 (m, 1H), 3.28 (m, 2H), 3.12 (m, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.02 (m, 1H). LCMS (ES^+) 335.1 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺.

CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula (IIA) or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof:

5

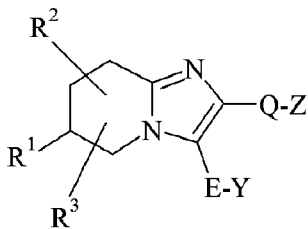


(IIA)

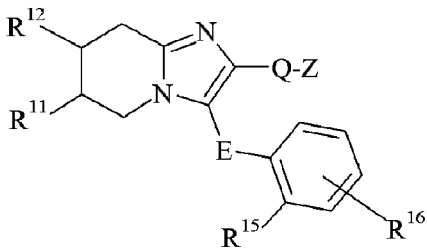
wherein

- E represents -CH₂-;
- 10 Q represents -CH₂O-;
- Z represents (oxo)oxazolidinylphenyl;
- R¹¹ represents hydrogen;
- R¹² represents hydrogen or halogen;
- R¹⁵ represents difluoromethoxy; and
- 15 R¹⁶ represents hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, cyano, methyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethoxy or amino.
2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R¹² represents hydrogen or fluoro.
- 20 3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 selected from the following:
- 3-{3-[(3-{[2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]methyl}-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-2-yl)methoxy]phenyl}oxazolidin-2-one; and
- 3-{3-[(3-{[2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]methyl}-7-fluoro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-2-yl)methoxy]phenyl}oxazolidin-2-one.
- 25 4. Use of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3 or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, for the treatment or prevention of disorders for which the administration of a modulator of TNF α function is indicated.

5. Use of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3 or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, for the treatment or prevention of an inflammatory disorder, autoimmune disorder, a neurological disorder, a neurodegenerative disorder, pain, a nociceptive disorder, a cardiovascular disorder, a metabolic disorder, an ocular disorder, or an oncological disorder.
6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3 or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
7. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 6 further comprising an additional pharmaceutically active ingredient.
8. The use of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3 or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of disorders for which the administration of a modulator of TNF α function is indicated.
9. The use of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3 or an *N*-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of an inflammatory disorder, autoimmune disorder, a neurological disorder, a neurodegenerative disorder, pain, a nociceptive disorder, a cardiovascular disorder, a metabolic disorder, an ocular disorder, or an oncological disorder.



(I)



(IIA)