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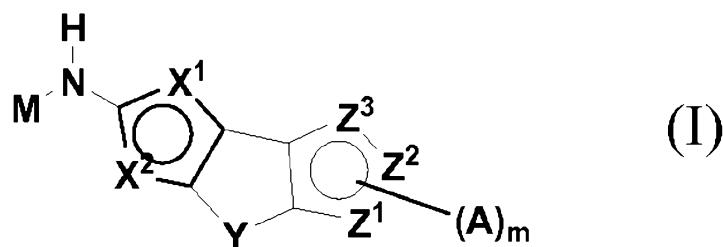
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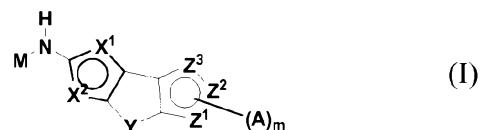
(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to novel compounds of Formula (I), wherein wherein X<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>2</sup>, Y, Z<sup>1</sup>, Z<sup>2</sup>, Z<sup>3</sup>, M and (A)<sub>m</sub> are defined as in Formula (I); invention compounds are modulators of metabotropic glutamate receptors - subtype 4 ("mGluR4") which are useful for the treatment or prevention of central nervous system disorders as well as other disorders modulated by mGluR4 receptors. The invention is also directed to pharmaceutical compositions and the use of such compounds in the manufacture of medicaments, as well as to the use of such compounds for the prevention and treatment of such diseases in which mGluR4 is involved.

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HETEROTRICYCLIC COMPOUNDS AS POSITIVE ALLOSTERIC  
MODULATORS OF METABOTROPIC GLUTAMATE RECEPTORS

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION



The present invention relates to novel compounds of Formula (I), wherein X<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>2</sup>, Y, Z<sup>1</sup>, Z<sup>2</sup>, Z<sup>3</sup>, M and (A)<sub>m</sub> are defined as in Formula (I); invention compounds are modulators of metabotropic glutamate receptors – subtype 4 (“mGluR4”) which are 10 useful for the treatment or prevention of central nervous system disorders as well as other disorders modulated by mGluR4 receptors. The invention is also directed to pharmaceutical compositions and the use of such compounds in the manufacture of medicaments, as well as to the use of such compounds for the prevention and treatment of such diseases in which mGluR4 is involved.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Glutamate is the major amino-acid transmitter in the mammalian central nervous system (CNS). Glutamate plays a major role in numerous physiological functions, such 20 as learning and memory but also sensory perception, development of synaptic plasticity, motor control, respiration and regulation of cardiovascular function. Furthermore, glutamate is at the center of several different neurological and psychiatric diseases, where there is an imbalance in glutamatergic neurotransmission.

Glutamate mediates synaptic neurotransmission through the activation of ionotropic glutamate receptor channels (iGluRs), namely the NMDA, AMPA and kainate receptors which are responsible for fast excitatory transmission (Nakanishi et al., (1998) *Brain Res. Rev.*, 26:230-235).

5

In addition, glutamate activates metabotropic glutamate receptors (mGluRs) which have a more modulatory role that contributes to the fine-tuning of synaptic efficacy.

The mGluRs are G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) with seven-transmembrane spanning domains and belong to GPCR family 3 along with the calcium-sensing,

10 GABA<sub>B</sub> and pheromone receptors.

The mGluR family is composed of eight members. They are classified into three groups (group I comprising mGluR1 and mGluR5; group II comprising mGluR2 and mGluR3; group III comprising mGluR4, mGluR6, mGluR7 and mGluR8) according to sequence 15 homology, pharmacological profile and nature of intracellular signalling cascades activated (Schoepp et al., (1999) *Neuropharmacology*, 38:1431-1476).

Glutamate activates the mGluRs through binding to the large extracellular amino-terminal domain of the receptor, herein called the orthosteric binding site. This 20 activation induces a conformational change of the receptor which results in the activation of the G-protein and intracellular signalling pathways.

In the central nervous system, mGluR4 receptors are expressed most intensely in the cerebellar cortex, basal ganglia, sensory relay nuclei of the thalamus and hippocampus 25 (Bradley et al., (1999) *Journal of Comparative Neurology*, 407:33-46; Corti et al., (2002) *Neuroscience*, 110:403-420). The mGluR4 subtype is negatively coupled to adenylate cyclase via activation of the G<sub>o/i/o</sub> protein, is expressed primarily on presynaptic terminals, functioning as an autoreceptor or heteroreceptor and activation of mGluR4 leads to decreases in transmitter release from presynaptic terminals (Corti et 30 al., (2002) *Neuroscience*, 110:403-420; Millan et al., (2002) *Journal of Biological*

Chemistry, 277:47796-47803; Valenti et al., (2003) Journal of Neuroscience, 23:7218-7226).

Orthosteric agonists of mGluR4 are not selective and activate the other Group III mGluRs (Schoepp et al., (1999) Neuropharmacology, 38:1431-1476). The Group III orthosteric agonist L-AP4 was able to reduce motor deficits in animal models of Parkinson's disease (Valenti et al., (2003) J. Neurosci., 23:7218-7226) and decrease excitotoxicity (Bruno et al., (2000) J. Neurosci., 20;6413-6420) and these effects appear to be mediated through mGluR4 (Marino et al., (2005) Curr. Topics Med. 10 Chem., 5:885-895). In addition to LAP-4, ACPT-1, another selective group III mGluR agonist has been shown to caused a dose-and-structure dependant decrease in haloperidol-induced catalepsy and attenuated haloperidol-increased Proenkephalin mRNA expression in the striatum (Konieczny et al., (2007) Neuroscience, 145:611-620). Furthemore, Lopez et al. (2007, J. Neuroscience, 27:6701-6711) have shown that 15 bilateral infusions of ACPT-I or LAP-4 into the globus pallidus fully reversed the severe akinetic deficits produced by 6-hydroxydopamine lesions of nigrostriatal dopamine neurons in a reaction-time task without affecting the performance of controls. In addition, the reversal of haloperidol-induced catalepsy by intrapallidal ACPT-1 was prevented by concomitant administration of a selective group III receptor 20 antagonist (RS)-alpha-cyclopropyl-4-phosphonophenylglycine. The opposite effects produced by group III mGluR activation in the SNr strongly suggest a role of mGluR4 rather than others mGluR receptor sub-types in normalizing basal ganglia activity (Lopez et al. 2007).

25 These results suggest that, among mGluRs subtypes, mGluR4 is believed to be the most interesting novel drug target for the treatment of Parkinson's disease (for a review see Conn et al., (2005) Nature Review Neuroscience, 6:787-798).

30 Symptoms of Parkinson's disease appear to be due to an imbalance in the direct and indirect output pathways of the basal ganglia and reduction of transmission at the

inhibitory GABAergic striato-pallidal synapse in the indirect pathway may result in alleviation of these symptoms (Marino et al., (2002) *Amino Acids*, 23:185-191).

mGluR4 is more abundant in striato-pallidal synapses than in striato-nigral synapses, 5 and its localization suggests function as a presynaptic heteroreceptor on GABAergic neurons (Bradley et al., (1999) *Journal of Comparative Neurology*, 407:33-46) suggesting that selective activation or positive modulation of mGluR4 would decrease GABA release in this synapse thereby decreasing output of the indirect pathway and reducing or eliminating the Parkinson's disease symptoms. Classical treatment of 10 Parkinsonism typically involves the use of levodopa combined with carbidopa (SINEMET<sup>TM</sup>) or benserazide (MADOPAR<sup>TM</sup>). Dopamine agonists such as bromocriptine (PARLODEL<sup>TM</sup>), lisuride and pergolide (CELANCE<sup>TM</sup>) act directly on dopamine receptors and are also used for the treatment of Parkinsonism. These molecules have the same side-effect profile as levodopa.

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A new avenue for developing selective compounds acting at mGluRs is to identify molecules that act through allosteric mechanisms, modulating the receptor by binding to a site different from the highly conserved orthosteric binding site.

20 Positive allosteric modulators of mGluRs have emerged recently as novel pharmacological entities offering this attractive alternative. This type of molecule has been discovered for mGluR1, mGluR2, mGluR4, mGluR5, mGluR7 and mGluR8 (Knoflach F. et al. (2001) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 98:13402-13407; Johnson M.P. et al., (2002) *Neuropharmacology*, 43:799-808; O'Brien J.A. et al., (2003) *Mol. Pharmacol.*, 64:731-740; Johnson M.P. et al., (2003) *J. Med. Chem.*, 46:3189-3192; 25 Marino M.J. et al., (2003) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 100:13668-13673; Mitsukawa K. et al., (2005) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 102(51):18712-18717; Wilson J. et al., (2005) *Neuropharmacology*, 49:278; for a review see Mutel V., (2002) *Expert Opin. Ther. Patents*, 12:1-8; Kew J.N., (2004) *Pharmacol. Ther.*, 104(3):233-244; Johnson 30 M.P. et al., (2004) *Biochem. Soc. Trans.*, 32:881-887; recently Ritzen A., Mathiesen, J.M. and Thomsen C., (2005) *Basic Clin. Pharmacol. Toxicol.*, 97:202-213).

In particular molecules have been described as mGluR4 positive allosteric modulators (Maj et al., (2003) *Neuropharmacology*, 45:895-906; Mathiesen et al., (2003) *British Journal of Pharmacology*, 138:1026-1030). It has been demonstrated that such molecules have been characterized in in vitro systems as well as in rat brain slices 5 where they potentiated the effect of LAP-4 in inhibiting transmission at the striatopallidal synapse. These compounds do not activate the receptor by themselves (Marino et al., (2003) *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA*, 100:13668-13673). Rather, they enable the receptor to produce a maximal response to a concentration of glutamate or the Group III orthosteric agonist L-AP4 which by itself induces a minimal response.

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PHCCC, a positive allosteric modulator of mGluR4 not active on other mGluRs (Maj et al., (2003) *Neuropharmacology*, 45:895-906), has been shown to be efficacious in animal models of Parkinson's disease thus representing a potential novel therapeutic approach for Parkinson's disease as well as for other motor disorders and disturbances 15 (Marino et al., (2003) *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA*, 100:13668-13673), neurodegeneration in Parkinson's disease (Marino et al., (2005) *Curr. Topics Med. Chem.*, 5:885-895; Valenti et al., (2005) *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.*, 313:1296-1304; Vernon et al., (2005) *Eur. J. Neurosci.*, 22:1799-1806, Battaglia et al., (2006) *J. Neurosci.*, 26:7222-7229), and neurodegeneration in Alzheimer's disease or due to 20 ischemic or traumatic insult (Maj et al., (2003) *Neuropharmacology*, 45:895-906).

PHCCC also has been shown to be active in animal model of anxiety (Stachowicz et al., (2004) *Eur. J. Pharmacol.*, 498:153-156). Previously, ACPT-1 has been showed to produce a dose-dependent anti-conflict effect after intrahippocampal administration and 25 anti-depressant-like effects in rats after intracerebroventricular administration (Tatarczynska et al., (2002) *Pol. J. Pharmacol.*, 54(6):707-710).

Activation of mGluR4 receptors which are expressed in  $\alpha$ - and F-cells in the islets of Langerhans inhibits glucagon secretion. Molecules which activate or potentiate agonist

activity of these receptors may be an effective treatment for hyperglycemia, one of the symptoms of type 2 diabetes (Uehara et al., (2004) *Diabetes*, 53:998-1006).

The  $\beta$ -chemokine RANTES is importantly involved in neuronal inflammation and has  
5 been implicated in the pathophysiology of multiple sclerosis. Activation of Group III mGluRs with L-AP4 reduced the synthesis and release RANTES in wild-type cultured astrocytes, whereas the ability of L-AP4 to inhibit RANTES was greatly decreased in astrocyte cultures from mGluR4 knockout mice (Besong et al., (2002) *Journal of Neuroscience*, 22:5403-5411). These data suggest that positive allosteric modulators of  
10 mGluR4 may be an effective treatment for neuroinflammatory disorders of the central nervous system, including multiple sclerosis and related disorders.

Two different variants of the mGluR4 receptor are expressed in taste tissues and may function as receptors for the umami taste sensation (Monastyrskaya et al., (1999) *Br. J Pharmacol.*, 128:1027-1034; Toyono et al., (2002) *Arch. Histol. Cytol.*, 65:91-96). Thus positive allosteric modulators of mGluR4 may be useful as taste agents, flavour agents, flavour enhancing agents or food additives.

There are anatomical evidence that the majority of vagal afferents innervating gastric  
20 muscle express group III mGluRs (mGluR4, mGluR6, mGluR7 and mGluR8) and actively transport receptors to their peripheral endings (Page et al., (2005) *Gastroenterology*, 128:402-10). Recently, it was shown that the activation of peripheral group III mGluRs inhibited vagal afferents mechanosensitivity in vitro which translates into reduced triggering of transient lower oesophageal sphincter relaxations and  
25 gastroesophageal reflux in vivo (Young et al., (2008) *Neuropharmacol.*, 54:965-975). Labelling for mGluR4 and mGluR8 was abundant in gastric vagal afferents in the nodose ganglion, at their termination sites in the nucleus tractus solitarius and in gastric vagal motoneurons. These data suggest that positive allosteric modulators of mGluR4 may be an effective treatment for gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD) and lower  
30 esophageal disorders and gastro-intestinal disorders.

International patent publication WO2005/007096 describes mGluR4 receptor positive allosteric modulator useful, alone or in combination with a neuroleptic agent, for treating or preventing movement disorders. However, none of the specifically disclosed compounds are structurally related to the compounds of the invention.

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More recently, new mGluR4 receptor positive allosteric modulators have been described: pyrazolo[3,4-*d*]pyrimidine derivatives (Niswender et al., (2008) Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters, 18(20):5626-5630), functionalized benzylidene hydrazinyl-3-methylquinazoline and *bis*-2,3-dihydroquinazolin-4(1*H*)-one (Williams et 10 al., (2009) Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters, 19:962-966) and heterobiaryl amides (Engers et al., (2009) Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, 52 (14), 4115-4118). Niswender et al., described  $(\pm)$ -*cis*-2-(3,5-dichlorophenylcarbamoyl)cyclohexane carboxylic acid ((2008) Molecular Pharmacology, 74(5):1345-1358), as a positive allosteric modulator of mGluR4 also 15 having agonist activity. This moderately active molecule has demonstrated evidence of efficacy following icv injection in rat models of Parkinson's disease. International patent publications WO2009/070871 and WO2009/010455 have mentioned amido derivatives and novel heteroaromatic derivatives, respectively, as positive allosteric modulators of metabotropic glutamate receptors.

20

International patent publication WO2006/040279 describes (3-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-(1-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazolo[3',4':3,4]benzo[1,2-*d*]thiazol-7-yl)-amine, known to be a PI3 kinase modulator. This prior art compound is not included within the scope of the present invention, by virtue of the definition of X<sup>2</sup> in the claims (X<sup>2</sup> 25 cannot be N).

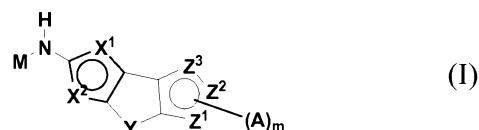
The present inventors have discovered novel thiazole compounds of general Formula (I) which surprisingly show potent activity and selectivity on mGluR4 receptor. The compounds of the invention demonstrate advantageous properties over compounds of 30 the prior art. Improvements have been observed in one or more of the following characteristics of the compounds of the invention: the potency on the target, the

selectivity for the target, the bioavailability, the brain penetration, and the activity in behavioural models.

The present invention relates to a method of treating or preventing a condition in a 5 mammal, including a human, the treatment or prevention of which is affected or facilitated by the neuromodulatory effect of mGluR4 modulators. In the case of the treatment of movement disorders such as Parkinson's disease, the compounds of the invention can be used alone or in combination with an agent selected from the group consisting of: levodopa, levodopa with a selective extracerebral decarboxylase 10 inhibitor, carbidopa, entacapone, a COMT inhibitor or a dopamine agonist.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to compounds having metabotropic glutamate receptor 4 15 modulator activity. In its most general compound aspect, the present invention provides a compound according to Formula (I),



a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, a stereochemically isomeric form thereof and an *N*-oxide form thereof, wherein:

20 M is selected from an optionally substituted 3 to 10 membered ring selected from the group of aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic and cycloalkyl;

X<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group of N, NR<sup>1</sup> and CR<sup>1</sup>;

X<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group of S and R<sup>2</sup>C=C R<sup>3</sup>;

Y is selected from the group of -CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>-, -CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>-CR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>-, -C=O-CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-

25 CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>-, -O-CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-, -O-CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>-, -NR<sup>4</sup>-CR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>-, -NR<sup>4</sup>-CR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>-CR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>-, -S-

$\text{CR}^4\text{R}^5$ -,  $-\text{S}-\text{CR}^4\text{R}^5-\text{CR}^6\text{R}^7$ -,  $-\text{SO}-\text{CR}^4\text{R}^5$ -,  $-\text{SO}-\text{CR}^4\text{R}^5-\text{CR}^6\text{R}^7$ -,  $-\text{SO}_2-\text{CR}^4\text{R}^5$ - and  $-\text{SO}_2-\text{CR}^4\text{R}^5-\text{CR}^6\text{R}^7$ ;

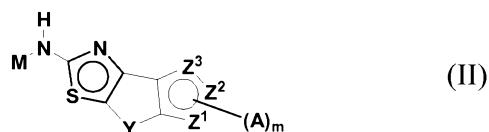
$\text{Z}^1$ ,  $\text{Z}^2$  and  $\text{Z}^3$  are each independently selected from the group of N and C representing a 5 membered heteroaryl ring with a maximum of 2 N which may further be substituted  
5 by 1 to 2 radicals  $(\text{A})_m$ ;

$m$  is an integer ranging from 1 to 2;

$(\text{A})_m$  radicals are each independently selected from the group of hydrogen, halogen, -CN, -OH, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -SH, -NH<sub>2</sub> and an optionally substituted radical selected from the group of -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)haloalkyl, -(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl, -(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkenyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)cyanoalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-heteroaryl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-aryl, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-OR<sup>10</sup>, -O-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-OR<sup>10</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-OR<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)haloalkyl-OR<sup>10</sup>, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)haloalkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-OR<sup>10</sup>, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-  
10 NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-OR<sup>10</sup>, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-S-R<sup>10</sup>, -O-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S-R<sup>10</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S-R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-S(=O)-R<sup>10</sup>, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S(=O)-R<sup>10</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S(=O)-R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>10</sup>, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>10</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -O-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-  
15 S(=O)<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup>, -O-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-NR<sup>10</sup>-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-NR<sup>11</sup>-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>12</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-C(=O)-NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-C(=O)-NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-C(=O)-NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>C(=O)-R<sup>11</sup>, -O-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-NR<sup>10</sup>C(=O)-R<sup>11</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-  
20 NR<sup>11</sup>C(=O)-R<sup>12</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-OC(=O)-R<sup>10</sup>, -O-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-OC(=O)-R<sup>10</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-OC(=O)-R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-C(=O)-OR<sup>10</sup>, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-C(=O)-OR<sup>10</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-C(=O)-OR<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-C(=O)-R<sup>10</sup>, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-C(=O)-R<sup>10</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-C(=O)-R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>-C(=O)-OR<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-O-C(=O)-NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>-C(=NR<sup>11</sup>)-NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>-C(=O)-NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, -O-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-NR<sup>10</sup>-C(=O)-NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-NR<sup>11</sup>-C(=O)-NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> and -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>-C(=S)-NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>;

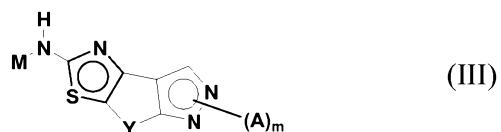
$R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$  are each independently selected from the group of hydrogen or an optionally substituted radical selected from the group of  $-(C_1-C_6)$ haloalkyl,  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $-(C_1-C_6)$ cyanooalkyl,  $-(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl,  $-(C_4-C_{10})$ alkylene-cycloalkyl, heteroaryl,  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkylene-heteroaryl, aryl, heterocycle and  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkylene-aryl.

In a more preferred aspect of Formula (I), the invention provides a compound according to Formula (II):



a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, a stereochemically 10 isomeric form thereof and an *N*-oxide form thereof.

In a more preferred aspect of Formula (I), the invention provides a compound according to Formula (III):



a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, a stereochemically 15 isomeric form thereof and an *N*-oxide form thereof.

In a preferred aspect, in any of Formulae (I), (II) and (III):

$M$  is selected from an optionally substituted 3 to 10 membered ring selected from the group of aryl, heteroaryl and cycloalkyl;

20  $Y$  is selected from the group of  $-CR^4R^5- CR^6R^7-$  and  $-CR^4R^5- CR^6R^7- CR^8R^9-$ ;

$m$  is 1;

(A)<sub>m</sub> radicals are each independently selected from the group of hydrogen and an optionally substituted radical selected from the group of -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl and -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-C(=O)-R<sup>10</sup>;

R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> are each independently selected from the group of hydrogen or an optionally substituted radical selected from the group of -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)haloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)cyanoalkyl, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)alkylene-cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-heteroaryl, aryl, heterocycle and -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-aryl.

10 Particular preferred compounds of the invention are compounds as mentioned in the following list (List of Particular Preferred Compounds), as well as a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, a stereochemically isomeric form thereof and an *N*-oxide form thereof:

*N*-(Pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
2-Methyl-1-(2-(pyridin-2-ylamino)-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-6(5*H*)-yl)propan-1-one  
*N*-(6-Methylpyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
*N*-(6-Chloropyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
*N*-(2,5-Difluorophenyl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
*N*-(6-Fluoropyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
4-Methyl-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
Pyridin-2-yl-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
4-Ethyl-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
*N*-(3-Fluoropyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
(5-Fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
(3-Fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
(6-Methoxy-pyridin-2-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
*N*-(5-Fluoropyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
(6-Chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
*N*-(Pyrazin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
*N*-Cyclopentyl-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
8-Methyl-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine

*N*-Cyclobutyl-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
(6-Fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
Cyclopropyl-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
Cyclobutyl-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
Cyclopentyl-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
Pyrimidin-2-yl-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
*N*-(Pyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
(1-Methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
*N*-(1-Methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
*N*-(4-Methylpyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
(4-Methyl-pyrimidin-2-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine.  
4,4-Dimethyl-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
4,4-Dimethyl-*N*-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
4-Methyl-*N*-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine and  
5,5-Dimethyl-*N*-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine.

#### DEFINITION OF TERMS

5 Listed below are definitions of various terms used in the specification and claims to  
describe the present invention.

10 For the avoidance of doubt it is to be understood that in this specification “(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)” means a carbon radical having 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 carbon atoms. “(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)” means a carbon radical having 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 carbon atoms. In this specification “C” means a carbon atom, “N” means a nitrogen atom, “O” means an oxygen atom and “S” means a sulphur atom.

15 In the case where a subscript is the integer 0 (zero) the radical to which the subscript refers, indicates that the radical is absent, i.e. there is a direct bond between the radicals.

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term “bond” refers to a saturated covalent bond. When two or more bonds are adjacent to one another, they are assumed to be equal to one bond. For example, a radical -A-B-, wherein both A and B may be a bond, the radical is depicting a single bond.

5

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term “alkyl” includes both straight and branched chain alkyl radicals and may be methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl, *i*-butyl, *s*-butyl, *t*-butyl, *n*-pentyl, *i*-pentyl, *t*-pentyl, *neo*-pentyl, *n*-hexyl, *i*-hexyl or *t*-hexyl. The term “(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>)alkyl” refers to an alkyl radical having 0, 1, 2 or 3 carbon atoms and may be methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl and *i*-propyl.

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term “alkylene” includes both straight and branched difunctional saturated hydrocarbon radicals and may be methylene, ethylene, *n*-propylene, *i*-propylene, *n*-butylene, *i*-butylene, *s*-butylene, *t*-butylene, *n*-pentylene, *i*-pentylene, *t*-pentylene, *neo*-pentylene, *n*-hexylene, *i*-hexylene or *t*-hexylene.

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term “cycloalkyl” refers to an optionally substituted carbocycle containing no heteroatoms, including mono-, bi-, and tricyclic saturated carbocycles, as well as fused ring systems. Such fused ring systems can include one ring that is partially or fully unsaturated such as a benzene ring to form fused ring systems such as benzo- fused carbocycles. Cycloalkyl includes such fused ring systems as spirofused ring systems. Examples of cycloalkyl include cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, decahydronaphthalene, adamantine, indanyl, fluorenyl and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene and the like. The term “(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl” may be cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl and the like.

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term “alkenyl” includes both straight and branched chain alkenyl radicals. The term “(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl” refers to an alkenyl radical having 2 to 6 carbon atoms and one or two double bonds, and may be, but is not

limited to vinyl, allyl, propenyl, i-propenyl, butenyl, i-butenyl, crotyl, pentenyl, i-pentenyl and hexenyl.

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term “alkynyl” includes both straight 5 and branched chain alkynyl radicals. The term (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl having 2 to 6 carbon atoms and one or two triple bonds, and may be, but is not limited to ethynyl, propargyl, butynyl, i-butynyl, pentynyl, i-pentynyl and hexynyl.

The term “aryl” refers to an optionally substituted monocyclic or bicyclic hydrocarbon 10 ring system containing at least one unsaturated aromatic ring. Examples and suitable values of the term “aryl” are phenyl, naphthyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthyl, indyl, indenyl and the like.

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term “heteroaryl” refers to an 15 optionally substituted monocyclic or bicyclic unsaturated, aromatic ring system containing at least one heteroatom selected independently from N, O or S. Examples of “heteroaryl” may be, but are not limited to thienyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, triazolyl, imidazolyl, oxadiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolonyl, oxazolonyl, thiazolonyl, tetrazolyl, thiadiazolyl, benzoimidazolyl, 20 benzooxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, tetrahydrotriazolopyridyl, tetrahydrotriazolopyrimidinyl, benzofuryl, benzothiophenyl, thionaphthyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, pyridonyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, quinolyl, phtalazinyl, naphthyridinyl, quinoxalinyl, quinazolyl, imidazopyridyl, oxazolopyridyl, thiazolopyridyl, imidazopyridazinyl, oxazolopyridazinyl, thiazolopyridazinyl, cynnolyl, pteridinyl, furazanyl, benzotriazolyl, 25 pyrazolopyridinyl and purinyl.

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term “alkylene-aryl”, “alkylene- 30 heteroaryl” and “alkylene-cycloalkyl” refers respectively to a substituent that is attached via the alkyl radical to an aryl, heteroaryl or cycloalkyl radical, respectively. The term “(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-aryl” includes aryl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl radicals such as benzyl, 1-

phenylethyl, 2-phenylethyl, 1-phenylpropyl, 2-phenylpropyl, 3-phenylpropyl, 1-naphthylmethyl and 2-naphthylmethyl. The term “(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-heteroaryl” includes heteroaryl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl radicals, wherein examples of heteroaryl are the same as those illustrated in the above definition, such as 2-furylmethyl, 3-furylmethyl, 2-thienylmethyl, 3-thienylmethyl, 1-imidazolylmethyl, 2-imidazolylmethyl, 3-imidazolylmethyl, 2-oxazolylmethyl, 3-oxazolylmethyl, 2-thiazolylmethyl, 3-thiazolylmethyl, 2-pyridylmethyl, 3-pyridylmethyl, 4-pyridylmethyl, 1-quinolylmethyl or the like.

10 In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term “heterocycle” refers to an optionally substituted, monocyclic or bicyclic saturated, partially saturated or unsaturated ring system containing at least one heteroatom selected independently from N, O and S.

15 In this specification, unless stated otherwise, a 5- or 6-membered ring containing one or more atoms independently selected from C, N, O and S, includes aromatic and heteroaromatic rings as well as carbocyclic and heterocyclic rings which may be saturated or unsaturated. Examples of such rings may be, but are not limited to, furyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl, 20 pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, imidazolidinyl, imidazolinyl, triazolyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, piperidyl, piperidonyl, pyrazolidinyl, pyrazolinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrothiopyranyl, oxazolidinonyl, thiomorpholinyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, tetrazolyl, phenyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexenyl and cyclopentenyl.

25

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, a 3- to 10-membered ring containing one or more atoms independently selected from C, N, O and S, includes aromatic and heteroaromatic rings as well as carbocyclic and heterocyclic rings which may be saturated or unsaturated. Examples of such rings may be, but are not limited to 30 imidazolidinyl, imidazolinyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, piperidyl, piperidonyl, pyrazolidinyl, pyrazolinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolinyl, tetrahydropyranyl,

thiomorpholinyl, tetrahydrothiopyranyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, oxazolidinonyl, pyrazinyl, pyrazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, phenyl, cyclopropyl, aziridinyl, cyclobutyl, azetidinyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, tetrazolyl, cyclopentyl, cyclopentenyl, 5 cyclohexyl, cyclohexenyl, cycloheptyl, cycloheptenyl, cyclooctyl and cyclooctenyl.

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term “halo” or “halogen” may be fluoro, chloro, bromo or iodo.

10 In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term “haloalkyl” means an alkyl radical as defined above, substituted with one or more halo radicals. The term “(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)haloalkyl” may include, but is not limited to, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoroethyl and difluoroethyl. The term “O-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-haloalkyl” may include, but is not limited to, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy and 15 fluoroethoxy.

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term “haloalkylene” means an alkylene radical as defined above, substituted with one or more halo radicals. The term “(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)haloalkylene” may include, but is not limited to, fluoromethylene, 20 difluoromethylene, fluoroethylene and difluoroethylene. The term “O-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-haloalkylene” may include, but is not limited to, fluoromethylenoxy, difluoromethylenoxy and fluoroethylenoxy.

25 In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term “cyanoalkyl” means an alkyl radical as defined above, substituted with one or more cyano.

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term “cyanoalkylene” means an alkylene radical as defined above, substituted with one or more cyano.

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term "optionally substituted" refers to radicals further bearing one or more substituents which may be, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-oxy, mercapto, aryl, heterocycle, halogen, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, cyano, cyanomethyl, nitro, amino, amido, amidinyl, carboxyl, 5 carboxamide, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-oxycarbonyl, carbamate, sulfonamide, ester and sulfonyl.

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term "solvate" refers to a complex of variable stoichiometry formed by a solute (e.g. a compound of Formula (I)) and a 10 solvent. The solvent is a pharmaceutically acceptable solvent as preferably water; such solvent may not interfere with the biological activity of the solute.

In this specification, unless stated otherwise, the term "positive allosteric modulator of mGluR4" or "allosteric modulator of mGluR4" refers also to a pharmaceutically 15 acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, a stereochemically isomeric form thereof and an *N*-oxide form thereof.

In one embodiment, the term "compound" also embraces or includes pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salts thereof, and/or stereochemically isomeric forms 20 thereof and/or *N*-oxide forms thereof.

### PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

Allosteric modulators of mGluR4 described herein, and the pharmaceutically 25 acceptable salts, solvates and hydrates thereof can be used in pharmaceutical preparations in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers include inert solid fillers or diluents and sterile aqueous or organic solutions. The allosteric modulators of mGluR4 will be present in such pharmaceutical compositions in amounts sufficient to provide the 30 desired dosage amount in the range described herein. Techniques for formulation and

administration of the compounds of the instant invention can be found in *Remington: the Science and Practice of Pharmacy*, 19<sup>th</sup> edition, Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA (1995).

5 The amount of allosteric modulators of mGluR4, administered to the subject will depend on the type and severity of the disease or condition and on the characteristics of the subject, such as general health, age, sex, body weight and tolerance to drugs. The skilled artisan will be able to determine appropriate dosages depending on these and other factors. Effective dosages for commonly used CNS drugs are well known to the  
10 skilled person. The total daily dose usually ranges from about 0.05 – 2000 mg.

The present invention relates to pharmaceutical compositions which provide from about 0.01 to 1000 mg of the active ingredient per unit dose. The compositions may be administered by any suitable route. For example orally in the form of capsules and the  
15 like, parenterally in the form of solutions for injection, topically in the form of ointments or lotions, ocularly in the form of eye-drops, rectally in the form of suppositories, intranasally or transcutaneously in the form of delivery system like patches.

For oral administration, the allosteric modulators of mGluR4 thereof can be combined  
20 with a suitable solid or liquid carrier or diluent to form capsules, tablets, pills, powders, syrups, solutions, suspensions and the like.

The tablets, pills, capsules, and the like contain from about 0.01 to about 99 weight percent of the active ingredient and a binder such as gum tragacanth, acacias, corn  
25 starch or gelatin; excipients such as dicalcium phosphate; a disintegrating agent such as corn starch, potato starch, alginic acid, a lubricant such as magnesium stearate; and a sweetening agent such as sucrose, lactose or saccharin. When a dosage unit form is a capsule, it may contain, in addition to materials of the above type, a liquid carrier such as a fatty oil.

Various other materials may be present as coatings or to modify the physical form of the dosage unit. For instance, tablets may be coated with shellac, sugar or both. A syrup or elixir may contain, in addition to the active ingredient, sucrose as a sweetening agent, methyl and propylparabens as preservatives, a dye and a flavoring such as cherry or orange flavor.

For parenteral administration the disclosed allosteric modulators of mGluR4 can be combined with sterile aqueous or organic media to form injectable solutions or suspensions. For example, solutions in sesame or peanut oil, aqueous propylene glycol 10 and the like can be used, as well as aqueous solutions of water-soluble pharmaceutically-acceptable salts of the compounds. Dispersions can also be prepared in glycerol, liquid polyethylene glycols and mixtures thereof in oils. Under ordinary conditions of storage and use, these preparations contain a preservative to prevent the growth of microorganisms.

15

In addition, to the formulations described previously, the compounds may also be formulated as a depot preparation. Such long acting formulations may be administered by implantation, for example, subcutaneously or intramuscularly or by intramuscular injection. Thus, for example, as an emulsion in an acceptable oil, or ion exchange 20 resins, or as sparingly soluble derivatives, for example, as sparingly soluble salts.

Preferably disclosed allosteric modulators of mGluR4 or pharmaceutical formulations containing these compounds are in unit dosage form for administration to a mammal. The unit dosage form can be any unit dosage form known in the art including, for 25 example, a capsule, an IV bag, a tablet, or a vial. The quantity of active ingredient in a unit dose of composition is an effective amount and may be varied according to the particular treatment involved. It may be appreciated that it may be necessary to make routine variations to the dosage depending on the age and condition of the patient. The dosage will also depend on the route of administration which may be by a variety of 30 routes including oral, aerosol, rectal, transdermal, subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal and intranasal.

Classical treatment of Parkinsonism typically involves the use of levodopa combined with carbidopa (SINemet<sup>TM</sup>) or benserazide (MADOPAR<sup>TM</sup>). Dopamine agonists such as bromocriptine (PARLODEL<sup>TM</sup>), lisuride and pergolide (CELANCE<sup>TM</sup>) act 5 directly on dopamine receptors and are also used for the treatment of Parkinsonism.

### METHODS OF SYNTHESIS

The compounds according to the invention, in particular the compounds according to 10 the Formula (I) to (III), may be prepared by methods known in the art of organic synthesis as set forth in part by the following synthesis schemes. In all of the schemes described below, it is well understood that protecting groups for sensitive or reactive groups are employed where necessary in accordance with general principles of chemistry. Protecting groups are manipulated according to standard methods of organic 15 synthesis (Green T.W. and Wuts P.G.M., (1991) *Protecting Groups in Organic Synthesis*, John Wiley & Sons). These groups are removed at a convenient stage of the compound synthesis using methods that are readily apparent to those skilled in the art. The selection of process as well as the reaction conditions and order of their execution shall be consistent with the preparation of compounds of Formula (I) to (III).

20

The compounds according to the invention may be represented as a mixture of enantiomers, which may be resolved into the individual pure *R*- or *S*-enantiomers. If for instance, a particular enantiomer is required, it may be prepared by asymmetric synthesis or by derivation with a chiral auxiliary, where the resulting diastereomeric 25 mixture is separated and the auxiliary group cleaved to provide the pure desired enantiomers. Alternatively, where the molecule contains a basic functional group such as an amino or an acidic functional group such as carboxyl, this resolution may be conveniently performed by fractional crystallization from various solvents as the salts of an optical active acid or by other methods known in the literature (e.g. chiral column 30 chromatography).

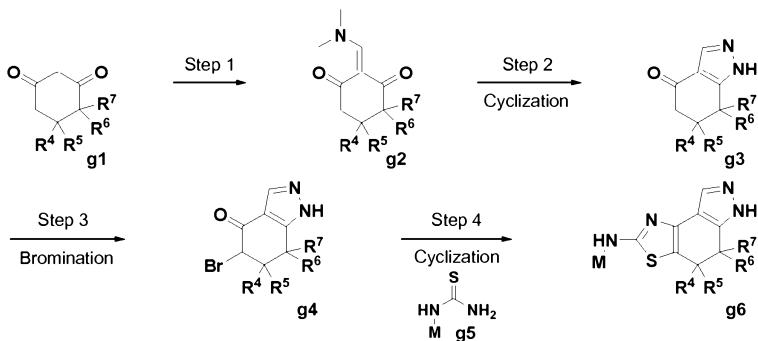
Resolution of the final product, an intermediate or a starting material may be performed by any suitable method known in the art (Eliel E.L., Wilen S.H. and Mander L.N., (1984) *Stereochemistry of Organic Compounds*, Wiley-Interscience).

Many of the heterocyclic compounds of the invention can be prepared using synthetic routes well known in the art (Katzky A.R. and Rees C.W., (1984) *Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry*, Pergamon Press).

The product from the reaction can be isolated and purified employing standard techniques, such as extraction, chromatography, crystallization and distillation.

10 The compounds of the invention may be prepared by general route of synthesis as disclosed in the following methods.

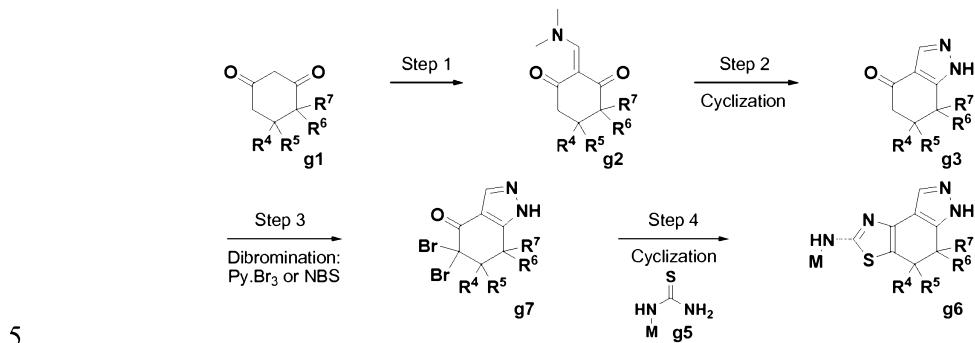
In one embodiment of the present invention compounds of Formula (III) may be prepared according to the synthetic sequences illustrated in Scheme 1. Pyrazole **g3** can 15 be synthesized from cyclohexane-1,3-dione **g1** which is condensed with 1,1-dimethoxy-*N,N*-dimethylmethanamine followed by cyclization in the presence of hydrazine. Then compound **g3**, in the presence of pyridinium tribromide, can be transformed into bromoketone **g4** which undergoes cyclization with thiourea **g5** to yield aminothiazole **g6**.



**Scheme 1**

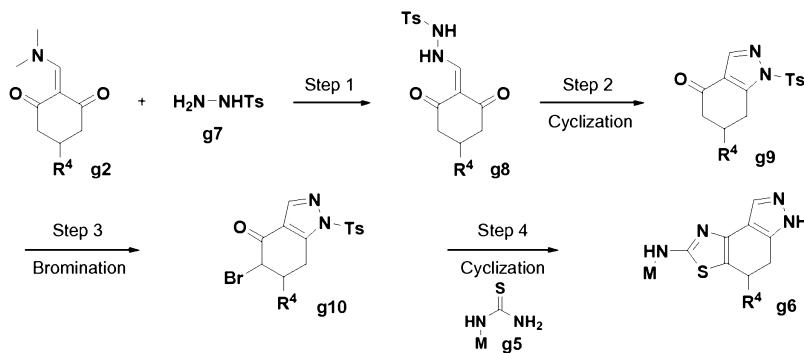
In one embodiment of the present invention compounds of Formula (III) may be prepared according to the synthetic sequences illustrated in Scheme 2. Pyrazole **g3** can be prepared from cyclohexane-1,3-dione **g1** which is condensed with 1,1-dimethoxy-

*N,N*-dimethylmethanamine followed by cyclization, under acidic conditions, in the presence of hydrazine. Then compound **g3**, in the presence of pyridinium tribromide, can be transformed into dibromoketone **g7** which undergoes cyclization with thiourea **g5** to yield aminothiazole **g6**.



Scheme 2

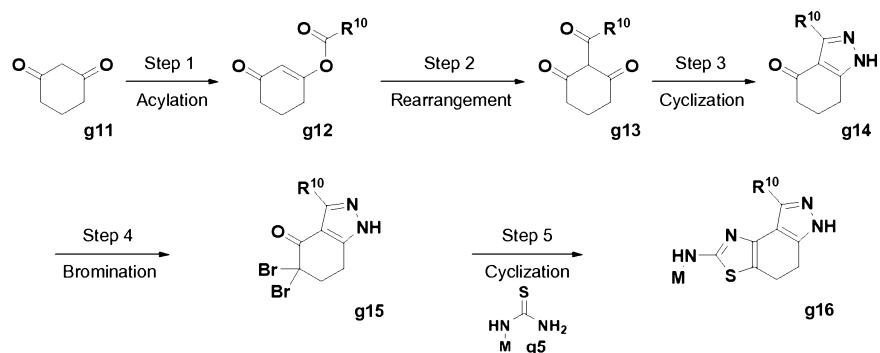
In one embodiment of the present invention compounds of Formula (III) may be prepared according to the synthetic sequences illustrated in Scheme 3. Pyrazole **g9** can be synthesized from enamine **g2** which is transformed into tosylhydrazide and cyclized. 10 Then compound **g9**, in the presence of *N*-bromosuccinimide, can be transformed into bromoketone **g10** which undergoes at the same time cyclization with thiourea **g5** and deprotection to yield aminothiazole **g6**.



Scheme 3

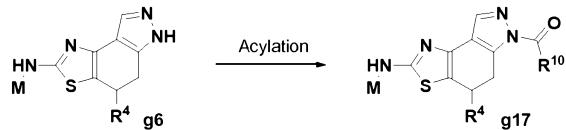
15 In one embodiment of the present invention compounds of Formula (III) may be prepared according to the synthetic sequences illustrated in Scheme 4. Cyclohexane-1,3-dione **g11** is monoacylated under classical conditions and is rearranged into ketone **g13**. Then, in the presence of hydrazine, compound **g13** can be cyclized into pyrazole

**g14.** Double bromination of ketone **g14**, in the presence of bromine, allows cyclization with thiourea **g5** into aminothiazole **g16**.



**Scheme 4**

5 In one embodiment of the present invention compounds of Formula (III) may be prepared according to Scheme 5. **g6** as described above, may be acylated by acetyl chloride to yield pyrazole **g17**.



**Scheme 5**

10

EXPERIMENTAL

Unless otherwise noted, all starting materials were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification.

15

Specifically, the following abbreviations may be used in the examples and throughout the specification.

20

AlCl <sub>3</sub> (Aluminum trichloride)	mmol (Millimoles)
AcOEt (Ethyl acetate)	M.p. (Melting point)
CHCl <sub>3</sub> (Chloroform)	NBS (N-Bromosuccinimide)
DCM (Dichloromethane)	NaCl (Sodium chloride)
EtOH (Ethanol)	NaHCO <sub>3</sub> (Sodium hydrogenocarbonate)
Et <sub>2</sub> O (Diethyl ether)	NaOH (Sodium hydroxide)
HCl (Hydrochloric acid)	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (Sodium carbonate)
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (Sulfuric acid)	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (Sodium sulphate)
LC-MS (Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrum)	Na <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (Sodium sulfite)
M (Molar)	RT (Retention Time)
MeOH (Methanol)	TLC (Thin layer chromatography)
mg (Milligrams)	THF (Tetrahydrofuran)
MgSO <sub>4</sub> (Magnesium sulphate)	UPLC-MS (Ultra Performance Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrum)
mL (Milliliters)	

5 All references to brine refer to a saturated aqueous solution of NaCl. Unless otherwise indicated, all temperatures are expressed in °C (degrees Centigrade). All reactions are conducted not under an inert atmosphere at room temperature unless otherwise noted.

10 Most of the reaction were monitored by thin-layer chromatography on 0.25mm Merck silica gel plates (60F-254), visualized with UV light. Flash column chromatography was performed on prepacked silica gel cartridges (15-40 µM, Merck).

Melting point determination was performed on a Buchi B-540 apparatus.

## EXAMPLES

15 **EXAMPLE 1: *N*-(Pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine (Final Compound 1-1)**

2-((Dimethylamino)methylene)cyclohexane-1,3-dione

According to Scheme 1 Step 1: A solution of cyclohexane-1,3-dione (89 mmol, 10 g) and of 1,1-dimethoxy-*N,N*-dimethylmethanamine (263 mmol, 35.0 mL) was stirred under reflux for 2 hours. After evaporation, 14.8 g (88.5 mmol, 99%) of 2-((dimethylamino)methylene)cyclohexane-1,3-dione were obtained as a yellow solid.

5 UPLC-MS: RT = 0.31 min; MS *m/z* ES<sup>+</sup> = 168.

*6,7-Dihydro-1H-indazol-4(5H)-one*

According to Scheme 1 Step 2: A solution of hydrazine hydrochloride (41.9 mmol, 2.87 g), NaOH (6 M, 42 mmol, 7.0 mL) in MeOH (100 mL) was added, at 0°C, to a 10 solution of 2-((dimethylamino)methylene)cyclohexane-1,3-dione (41.9 mmol, 7.00 g) and the reaction mixture was stirred under reflux for 3 hours. After evaporation, water was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with AcOEt at 50°C. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, was filtered and was concentrated under reduced pressure to yield 6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one (36.7 mmol, 5.00 g, 88%) as a 15 yellow powder.

LC-MS: RT = 1.37 min; MS *m/z* ES<sup>+</sup> = 137.

*5-Bromo-6,7-dihydro-1H-indazol-4(5H)-one*

According to Scheme 1 Step 3: Pyridinium tribromide (25.7 mmol, 8.22 g) was added 20 to a solution of 6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one (25.7 mmol, 3.50 g) in acetic acid (60 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred under reflux for 2 hours. After evaporation of the solvent, the crude residue was partitioned between DCM and a saturated solution of Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. The organic phase was washed with a saturated solution 25 of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and with water, was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to yield 5-bromo-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one (23.3 mmol, 5.00 g, 90%).

UPLC-MS: RT = 0.48 min; MS *m/z* ES<sup>+</sup> = 216.

*N-(Pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine*

According to Scheme 1 Step 4: A solution of 5-bromo-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one (23.3 mmol, 5.00 g) and of 1-(pyridin-2-yl)thiourea (20.9 mmol, 3.21 g) in acetone 30

(60 mL) was stirred at 60°C for 5 hours. The precipitate formed was filtered and partitioned between AcOEt and a saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. The aqueous phase was extracted with AcOEt. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to yield a grey solid. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography over 5 silica gel using DCM/MeOH (95:5) as eluent and by two recrystallizations with AcOEt/MeOH (50:50) to yield *N*-(pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine (11.9 mmol, 3.20 g, 51%) as a white solid.

M.p.: 297-299°C;

UPLC-MS: RT = 0.60 min; MS *m/z* ES<sup>+</sup> = 270.

10

**EXAMPLE 2: 4,4-Dimethyl-*N*-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine (Final Compound 1-32)**

*2-((Dimethylamino)methylene)-5,5-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione*

According to Scheme 2 Step 1: A solution of 5,5-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (428 15 mmol, 60 g) and of 1,1-dimethoxy-*N,N*-dimethylmethanamine (514 mmol, 68.2 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. After evaporation and trituration in cyclohexane, 38.5 g (197 mmol, 46%) of 2-((dimethylamino)methylene)-5,5-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione were obtained as a pale yellow solid.

UPLC-MS: RT = 0.47 min; MS *m/z* ES<sup>+</sup> = 196.

20

*6,6-Dimethyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one*

According to Scheme 2 Step 2: At 0°C, acetic acid (8.55 mL) followed by hydrazine monohydrate (197 mmol, 11.3 mL), were added slowly to a solution of 2-((dimethylamino)methylene)-5,5-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (197 mmol, 38.5 g) in 25 butanol (400 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux for 16 hours. After evaporation of the filtrate, the crude residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel cyclohexane/AcOEt (100:0 to 50:50) and then over C<sub>18</sub> gel using water/MeOH (100:0 to 50:50) as eluent to yield 6,6-dimethyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one (76.7 mmol, 12.6 g, 39%) as a pale yellow solid.

LC-MS: RT = 0.53 min; MS  $m/z$  ES<sup>+</sup> = 165.

*5,5-Dibromo-6,6-dimethyl-6,7-dihydro-1H-indazol-4(5H)-one*

According to Scheme 2 Step 3: Pyridinium tribromide (15.2 mmol, 4.87 g) was added 5 to a solution of 6,6-dimethyl-6,7-dihydro-1H-indazol-4(5H)-one (6.09 mmol, 1.00 g) in acetic acid (9 mL) and the reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 3 hours. After evaporation of the solvent, the crude residue was partitioned between DCM and a saturated solution of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The organic phase was washed with water, was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to yield 5,5-dibromo-6,6-dimethyl-6,7-dihydro-1H- 10 indazol-4(5H)-one (6.09 mmol, 1.96 g, 100%).

UPLC-MS: RT = 0.81 min; MS  $m/z$  ES<sup>+</sup> = 323.

*4,4-Dimethyl-N-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-thiazolo[4,5-e]indazol-2-amine*

According to Scheme 2 Step 4: A solution of 5,5-dibromo-6,6-dimethyl-6,7-dihydro- 15 1H-indazol-4(5H)-one (6.09 mmol, 1.96 g) and of 1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)thiourea (7.31 mmol, 1.13 g) in ethanol (15 mL) was microwaved at 150°C for 90 minutes and then at 140°C for 40 minutes. After filtration, the reaction mixture was concentrated to dryness. The crude residue was partitioned between DCM and a saturated solution of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM. The organic phase was dried 20 over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel using DCM/MeOH (98:2 to 90:10) as eluent to yield 4,4-dimethyl-N-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-thiazolo[4,5-e]indazol-2-amine (0.10 mmol, 31 mg) as a brown solid.

UPLC-MS: RT = 0.74 min; MS  $m/z$  ES<sup>+</sup> = 299.

25

**EXAMPLE 3: 5,5-Dimethyl-N-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-thiazolo[4,5-e]indazol-2-amine (Final Compound 1-34)**

*2-((Dimethylamino)methylene)-4,4-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione*

According to Scheme 2 Step 1: A solution of 4,4-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (157 30 mmol, 22 g) and of 1,1-dimethoxy-*N,N*-dimethylmethanamine (235 mmol, 31.3 mL)

was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. After evaporation and trituration in petroleum ether, 29.2 g (150 mmol, 95%) of 2-((dimethylamino)methylene)-4,4-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione were obtained as a pale orange solid.

UPLC-MS: RT = 0.50 min; MS  $m/z$  ES<sup>+</sup> = 196.

5

*7,7-Dimethyl-6,7-dihydro-1H-indazol-4(5H)-one*

According to Scheme 2 Step 2: At 0°C, acetic acid (8.55 mL) followed by hydrazine monohydrate (150 mmol, 7.25 mL), were added slowly to a solution of 2-((dimethylamino)methylene)-4,4-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (150 mmol, 29.2 g) in 10 butanol (400 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux for 16 hours. After evaporation of the filtrate, the crude residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel cyclohexane/AcOEt (100:0 to 50:50) and then over C<sub>18</sub> gel using water/MeOH (100:0 to 50:50) as eluent to yield 7,7-dimethyl-6,7-dihydro-1H-indazol-4(5H)-one (76.7 mmol, 12.6 g, 51%) as a pale yellow solid.

15 LC-MS: RT = 0.53 min; MS  $m/z$  ES<sup>+</sup> = 165.

*5,5-Dibromo-7,7-dimethyl-6,7-dihydro-1H-indazol-4(5H)-one*

According to Scheme 2 Step 3: NBS (3.65 mmol, 650 mg) was added to a solution of 7,7-dimethyl-6,7-dihydro-1H-indazol-4(5H)-one (1.83 mmol, 300 mg) in chloroform (4 20 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 70°C for 3 hours. As there was still some starting material, some NBS (3.65 mmol, 650 mg) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 12 hours. To complete the conversion of the monobrominated compound into the dibrominated one, some NBS (1.85 mmol, 330 mg) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 4 hours under reflux. After cooling to room 25 temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with DCM and a saturated solution of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was added. The organic phase was washed with water, was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to yield 5,5-dibromo-7,7-dimethyl-6,7-dihydro-1H-indazol-4(5H)-one and 5-bromo-7,7-dimethyl-6,7-dihydro-1H-indazol-4(5H)-one (727 mg).

UPLC-MS: RT = 0.80 min; MS  $m/z$  ES<sup>+</sup> = 323.

30

*5,5-Dimethyl-N-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-thiazolo[4,5-e]indazol-2-amine*

According to Scheme 2 Step 4: A solution of 5,5-dibromo-7,7-dimethyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one (6.09 mmol, 1.96 g) and of 1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)thiourea (6.09 mmol, 939 mg) in ethanol (18 mL) was microwaved at 150°C for 90 minutes and then 5 at 140°C for 40 minutes. After filtration, the reaction mixture was concentrated to dryness. The crude residue was partitioned between DCM and a saturated solution of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel using DCM/MeOH (98:2 to 90:10) as eluent to yield 10 5,5-dimethyl-N-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-e]indazol-2-amine (90 μmol, 27 mg) as a brown solid.

UPLC-MS: RT = 0.76 min; MS *m/z* ES<sup>+</sup> = 299.

15 **EXAMPLE 4: *N*-(6-Methylpyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-e]indazol-2-amine (Final Compound 1-3)**

*N'*-(2,6-Dioxocyclohexylidene)methyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonohydrazide

According to Scheme 3 Step 1: 4-Methylbenzenesulfonohydrazide (44.6 mmol, 8.31 g) was added to a solution of 2-((dimethylamino)methylene)cyclohexane-1,3-dione (44.6 mmol, 7.46 g) in EtOH (50 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room 20 temperature for 5 minutes. After evaporation, 13.8 g (44.6 mmol, 100%) of *N*'-(2,6-dioxocyclohexylidene)methyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonohydrazide were obtained as an orange oil.

LC-MS: RT = 2.16 min; MS *m/z* ES<sup>+</sup> = 309.

25 *1-Tosyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one*

According to Scheme 3 Step 2: A solution of *N*'-(2,6-dioxocyclohexylidene)methyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonohydrazide (32.4 mmol, 10.0 g) in EtOH (10 mL) was stirred at 80°C for 15 hours. After evaporation, water was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, was filtered and was 30 concentrated. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel

using DCM as eluent to yield 1-tosyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one (6.89 mmol, 2.00 g, 21%) as an orange solid.

LC-MS: RT = 2.19 min; MS *m/z* ES<sup>+</sup> = 291.

5 *5-Bromo-1-tosyl-6,7-dihydro-1H-indazol-4(5H)-one*

According to Scheme 3 Step 3: *N*-Bromosuccinimide (3.44 mmol, 613 mg) was added to a solution of 1-tosyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one (3.44 mmol, 1.00 g) in DCM (10 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 hours. A solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> was added to the reaction mixture and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to yield 5-bromo-1-tosyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one (2.44 mmol, 900 mg, 42%) as an orange oil.

LC-MS: RT = 2.60 min; MS *m/z* ES<sup>+</sup> = 371.

15 *N-(6-Methylpyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine*

According to Scheme 3 Step 4: A solution of 5-bromo-1-tosyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one (0.90 mmol, 331 mg) and of 1-(6-methylpyridin-2-yl)thiourea (0.90 mmol, 150 mg) in EtOH (10 mL) and HCl (35%, 1 mL) was stirred at 80°C for 5 hours. The reaction was quenched with the addition of a saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> at room temperature until pH=8. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The crude residue was washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O and dried to yield *N*-(6-methylpyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine (0.78 mmol, 220 mg, 87%) as a white solid.

M.p.: 280°C;

25 LC-MS: RT = 1.71 min; MS *m/z* ES<sup>+</sup> = 284.

**EXAMPLE 5: 8-Methyl-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine (Final Compound 1-19)**

*3-Oxocyclohex-1-enyl acetate*

According to Scheme 4 Step 1: Acetyl chloride (19.6 mmol, 1.39 mL) was added to a solution of cyclohexane-1,3-dione (17.8 mmol, 2.00 g) and pyridine (17.8 mmol, 1.28 mL) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (60 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The reaction was quenched with the addition of water and the organic phase was 5 washed with a solution of  $\text{HCl}$  (0.1 M, 30 mL), a saturated solution of  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (30 mL) and water (30 mL). The organic phase was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated to yield 3-oxocyclohex-1-enyl acetate (13.2 mmol, 2.04 g, 74%) as a yellow oil.

UPLC-MS: RT = 0.60 min; MS  $m/z$  ES $^+$  = 155.

10 *2-Acetylcyclohexane-1,3-dione*

According to Scheme 4 Step 2:  $\text{AlCl}_3$  (26.5 mmol, 3.53 g) was added to a solution of 3-oxocyclohex-1-enyl acetate (13.2 mmol, 2.04 g) in dichloroethane (10 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was poured onto a solution of  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  in ice. The aqueous phase was extracted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  15 (50 mL). The organic phase was washed with water, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , was filtered and was concentrated to yield 2-acetylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (7.78 mmol, 1.20 g, 59%) as a yellow oil.

UPLC-MS: RT = 0.69 min; MS  $m/z$  ES $^+$  = 155.

20 *3-Methyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one*

According to Scheme 4 Step 3: Hydrazine monohydrate (7.59 mmol, 0.37 mL) was added to a solution of 2-acetylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (7.59 mmol, 1.17 g) in  $\text{EtOH}$  (19 mL) at 0°C and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. After evaporation, the crude residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel 25 using DCM/AcOEt (70:30 to 50:50) as eluent to yield 3-methyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one (1.76 mmol, 265 mg, 23%) as a yellow solid.

UPLC-MS: RT = 0.46 min; MS  $m/z$  ES $^+$  = 151.

*5,5-Dibromo-3-methyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one*

According to Scheme 4 Step 4: Bromine (1.00 mmol, 51  $\mu$ L) was added to a solution of 3-methyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one (0.67 mmol, 100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.3 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 hours. Bromine (1.00 mmol, 51  $\mu$ L) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 hours (Mixture of mono and dibrominated compounds). The reaction mixture was quenched with the addition of a solution of Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM. The organic phase was washed with a saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to yield a mixture of 5,5-dibromo-3-methyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one and of 5-bromo-3-methyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one (37.5:62.5, 173 mg) as a brown oil.

UPLC-MS: RT = 0.83 min; MS *m/z* ES<sup>+</sup> = 309.

*8-Methyl-N-(pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine*

According to Scheme 4 Step 5: A solution of a mixture of 5,5-dibromo-3-methyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one, 5-bromo-3-methyl-6,7-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-4(5*H*)-one (37.5:62.5, 173 mg) and of 1-(pyridin-2-yl)thiourea (0.67 mmol, 102 mg) in EtOH (2.4 mL) was stirred under reflux for 3 hours. The precipitate formed was filtered, was washed with a saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, water, EtOH and Et<sub>2</sub>O and was dried to yield 8-methyl-N-(pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine (46  $\mu$ mol, 13 mg) as a white solid.

UPLC-MS: RT = 0.70 min; MS *m/z* ES<sup>+</sup> = 284.

**EXAMPLE 6: 2-Methyl-1-(2-(pyridin-2-ylamino)-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-6(5*H*)-yl)propan-1-one (Final Compound 1-2)**

According to Scheme 5: Isobutyryl chloride (0.37 mmol, 39  $\mu$ L) was added dropwise to a solution of *N*-(pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine (0.37 mmol, 100 mg) in THF (2 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 4 hours at room temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched with a saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, was filtered and was concentrated. The resulting crude product was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel using DCM as eluent to yield after evaporation

2-methyl-1-(2-(pyridin-2-ylamino)-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-6(5*H*)-yl)propan-1-one (88  $\mu$ mol, 30 mg, 23%) as a pale pink solid.

M.p.: 167-168°C;

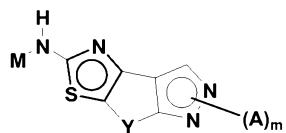
LC-MS: RT = 2.75 min; MS *m/z* ES<sup>+</sup> = 340.

5

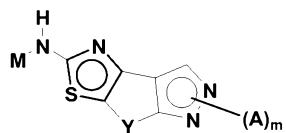
The compounds in the following Tables have been synthesised according to the same methods as previous examples 1 to 6, as denoted in the column denoted as "Exp. nr". The compounds denoted with the asterisk have been exemplified in the Examples.

10 **Table 1: Compounds prepared according to the Examples.**

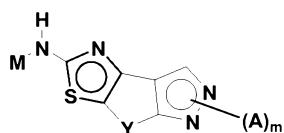
Co.nr.	Exp nr.	M	Y	
1-1*	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-2*	6		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-3*	4		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-4	4		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-5	4		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-6	4		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	



Co.nr.	Exp nr.	M	Y	
1-7	1		-CH(CH <sub>3</sub> )CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-8	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-9	1		-CH(CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-10	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-11	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-12	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-13	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-14	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-15	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-16	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-17	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-18	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-19*	5		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	



Co.nr.	Exp nr.	M	Y	
1-20	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-21	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-22	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-23	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-24	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-25	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-26	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-27	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-28	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-29	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-30	1		-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-31	1		-C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-32*	2		-C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	



Co.nr.	Exp nr.	M	Y	
1-33	1		-CH(CH <sub>3</sub> )CH <sub>2</sub> -	
1-34*	3		-CH <sub>2</sub> C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	

LC-MS and UPLC-MS methods:

Method 1

LC-MS were recorded on Waters Micromass ZQ 2996 system with the following conditions: Reversed phase HPLC was carried out on Zorbax SB-C18 cartridge (1.8 µm, 4.6 x 30 mm) from Agilent, with a flow rate of 1.5 mL/min. The gradient conditions used are: 90 % A (water + 0.1 % of formic acid), 10% B (acetonitrile + 0.1 % of formic acid) to 100 % B at 3.5 minutes, kept till 3.7 minutes and equilibrated to initial conditions at 3.8 minutes until 4.5 minutes. Injection volume 5-20 µL. ES MS detector was used, acquiring both in positive and negative ionization modes. Cone voltage was 30 V for both positive and negative ionization modes.

Method 2

UPLC-MS were recorded on Waters ACQUITY UPLC with the following conditions: Reversed phase HPLC was carried out on BEH-C18 cartridge (1.7 µm, 2.1 x 50 mm) from Waters, with a flow rate of 0.8 mL/min. The gradient conditions used are: 90 % A (water + 0.1 % of formic acid), 10% B (acetonitrile + 0.1 % of formic acid) to 100 % B at 1.3 minutes, kept till 1.6 minutes and equilibrated to initial conditions at 1.7 minutes until 2.0 minutes. Injection volume 5 µL. ES MS detector was used, acquiring both in positive and negative ionization modes.

**Table 2 : Physico-chemical data for some compounds (nd = not determined).**

Co.Nr	Melting point (°C)	MW (theor)	[MH <sup>+</sup> ]	RT (min)	LCMS Method	Physical form
<b>1-1</b>	297-299	269.32	270	0.60	Method 2	White solid
<b>1-2</b>	167-168	339.41	340	2.75	Method 1	Pale pink solid
<b>1-3</b>	280 (dec)	283.35	284	1.71	Method 1	White solid
<b>1-4</b>	>300	303.77	304	2.12	Method 1	Pale pink solid
<b>1-5</b>	270 (dec)	304.32	305	2.17	Method 1	Beige solid
<b>1-6</b>	>300	287.32	288	1.96	Method 1	White solid
<b>1-7</b>	nd	283.35	284	0.67	Method 2	Green solid
<b>1-8</b>	279 (dec)	283.35	284	0.63	Method 2	White solid
<b>1-9</b>	317-319	297.38	298	0.74	Method 2	Beige solid
<b>1-10</b>	300 (dec)	287.32	288	0.75	Method 2	Brown solid
<b>1-11</b>	312 (dec)	297.38	298	0.65	Method 2	Beige solid
<b>1-12</b>	314 (dec)	301.34	302	0.82	Method 2	Beige solid
<b>1-13</b>	300 (dec)	301.34	302	0.89	Method 2	Brown solid
<b>1-14</b>	300 (dec)	313.38	314	0.91	Method 2	Brown solid
<b>1-15</b>	315 (dec)	287.31	288	0.82	Method 2	Yellow solid
<b>1-16</b>	314 (dec)	317.80	318	0.91	Method 2	Brown solid
<b>1-17</b>	>330	270.31	271	0.73	Method 2	Beige solid
<b>1-18</b>	166-168	260.36	261	0.67	Method 2	Beige solid
<b>1-19</b>	nd	283.35	284	0.70	Method 2	White solid
<b>1-20</b>	144-146	246.33	247	0.65	Method 2	Yellow solid
<b>1-21</b>	314 (dec)	301.34	302	0.95	Method 2	Beige solid
<b>1-22</b>	178-182	246.33	247	0.65	Method 2	White solid
<b>1-23</b>	198-221	260.36	261	0.71	Method 2	White solid
<b>1-24</b>	248 (dec)	274.38	275	0.79	Method 2	White solid

Co.Nr	Melting point (°C)	MW (theor)	[MH <sup>+</sup> ]	RT (min)	LCMS Method	Physical form
<b>1-25</b>	310 (dec)	284.34	285	0.72	Method 2	White solid
<b>1-26</b>	281-282	270.31	271	0.64	Method 2	White solid
<b>1-27</b>	288-293	286.36	287	0.62	Method 2	Pink solid
<b>1-28</b>	nd	272.33	273	0.56	Method 2	Brown solid
<b>1-29</b>	283 (dec)	284.34	285	1.79	Method 1	Brown solid
<b>1-30</b>	297 (dec)	298.37	299	0.71	Method 2	Brown solid
<b>1-31</b>	nd	297.38	298	0.74	Method 2	Yellow solid
<b>1-32</b>	298-306	298.37	299	0.75	Method 2	Yellow solid
<b>1-33</b>	> 373	284.34	285	0.71	Method 2	Yellow solid
<b>1-34</b>	nd	298.37	299	0.75	Method 2	Yellow solid

## PHARMACOLOGY

The compounds provided in the present invention are positive allosteric modulators of mGluR4. As such, these compounds do not appear to bind to the orthosteric glutamate recognition site, and do not activate the mGluR4 by themselves. Instead, the response of mGluR4 to a concentration of glutamate or mGluR4 agonist is increased when compounds of Formula I to III are present. Compounds of Formula I to III are expected to have their effect at mGluR4 by virtue of their ability to enhance the function of the receptor.

### mGluR4 assay on HEK-expressing human mGluR4

The compounds of the present invention are positive allosteric modulators of mGluR4 receptor. Their activity was examined on recombinant human mGluR4a receptors by detecting changes in intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration, using the fluorescent Ca<sup>2+</sup>-sensitive dye Fluo4-(AM) and a Fluorometric Imaging Plate Reader (FLIPR, Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA).

**Transfection and Cell culture**

The cDNA encoding the human metabotropic glutamate receptor (hmGluR4), (accession number NM\_000841.1, NCBI Nucleotide database browser), was subcloned 5 into an expression vector containing also the hygromycin resistance gene. In parallel, the cDNA encoding a G protein allowing redirection of the activation signal to intracellular calcium flux was subcloned into a different expression vector containing also the puromycin resistance gene. Transfection of both these vectors into HEK293 cells with PolyFect reagent (Qiagen) according to supplier's protocol, and hygromycin 10 and puromycin treatment allowed selection of antibiotic resistant cells which had integrated stably one or more copies of the plasmids. Positive cellular clones expressing hmGluR4 were identified in a functional assay measuring changes in calcium fluxes in response to glutamate or selective known mGluR4 orthosteric agonists and antagonists.

HEK-293 cells expressing hmGluR4 were maintained in media containing DMEM, 15 dialyzed Fetal Calf Serum (10 %), Glutamax<sup>TM</sup> (2 mM), Penicillin (100 units/mL), Streptomycin (100 µg/mL), Geneticin (100 µg/mL) and Hygromycin-B (40 µg/mL) and puromycin (1 µg/mL) at 37°C/5%CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Fluorescent cell based- Ca<sup>2+</sup> mobilization assay**

20 Human mGluR4 HEK-293 cells were plated out 24 hours prior to FLIPR<sup>384</sup> assay in black-walled, clear-bottomed, poly-L-ornithine-coated 384-well plates at a density of 25,000 cells/well in a glutamine/glutamate free DMEM medium containing foetal bovine serum (10 %), penicillin (100 units/mL) and streptomycin (100 µg/mL) at 37°C/5 %CO<sub>2</sub>.

25

On the day of the assay, the medium was aspirated and the cells were loaded with a 3 µM solution of Fluo4-AM (LuBioScience, Lucerne, Switzerland) in 0.03 % pluronic acid. After 1 hour at 37°C/ 5% CO<sub>2</sub>, the non incorporated dye was removed by washing cell plate with the assay buffer and the cells were left in the dark at room temperature 30 for six hours before testing. All assays were performed in a pH 7.4 buffered-solution

containing 20 mM HEPES, 143 mM NaCl, 6 mM KCl, 1 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 1 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.125 mM sulfapyrazone and 0.1 % glucose.

After 10 s of basal fluorescence recording, various concentrations of the compounds of the invention were added to the cells. Changes in fluorescence levels were first monitored for 180 s in order to detect any agonist activity of the compounds. Then the cells were stimulated by an EC<sub>25</sub> glutamate concentration for an additional 110 s in order to measure enhancing activities of the compounds of the invention. EC<sub>25</sub> glutamate concentration is the concentration giving 25% of the maximal glutamate response.

The concentration-response curves of representative compounds of the present invention were generated using the Prism GraphPad software (Graph Pad Inc, San Diego, USA). The curves were fitted to a four-parameter logistic equation:

$$15 \quad (Y = \text{Bottom} + (\text{Top} - \text{Bottom}) / (1 + 10^{((\text{LogEC}_{50}) - X) * \text{Hill Slope}}))$$

allowing the determination of EC<sub>50</sub> values.

The Table 3 below represents the mean EC<sub>50</sub> obtained from at least three independent experiments of selected molecules performed in duplicate.

20

**Table 3: Activity data for selected compounds**

Compound no.	Ca <sup>2+</sup> Flux*
1-1	+++
1-3	++
1-5	++
1-6	++
1-8	+++
1-13	+++
1-14	+

**\*Table legend:**

(+): 1 μM < EC<sub>50</sub> < 10 μM

25 (++): 100 nM < EC<sub>50</sub> < 1 μM

(+++): EC<sub>50</sub> < 100 nM

The results shown in Table 3 demonstrate that the compounds described in the present invention are positive allosteric modulators of human mGluR4 receptors. These 5 compounds do not have activity by themselves but they rather increase the functional activity and/or maximal efficacy of glutamate or mGluR4 agonist.

Thus, the positive allosteric modulators provided in the present invention are expected to increase the effectiveness of glutamate or mGluR4 agonists at mGluR4 receptor.

10 Therefore, these positive allosteric modulators are expected to be useful for treatment of various neurological and psychiatric disorders associated with glutamate dysfunction described to be treated herein and others that can be treated by such positive allosteric modulators.

15 The compounds of the invention can be administered either alone, or in combination with other pharmaceutical agents effective in the treatment of conditions mentioned above.

#### FORMULATION EXAMPLES

20

Typical examples of recipes for the formulation of the invention are as follows:

##### 1. Tablets

Active ingredient	5 to 50 mg
Di-calcium phosphate	20 mg
25 Lactose	30 mg
Talcum	10 mg
Magnesium stearate	5 mg
Potato starch	ad 200 mg

In this Example, active ingredient can be replaced by the same amount of any of the compounds according to the present invention, in particular by the same amount of any of the exemplified compounds.

5    2. Suspension

An aqueous suspension is prepared for oral administration so that each 1 milliliter contains 1 to 5 mg of one of the active compounds, 50 mg of sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, 1 mg of sodium benzoate, 500 mg of sorbitol and water ad 1 mL.

3. Injectable

10    A parenteral composition is prepared by stirring 1.5 % by weight of active ingredient of the invention in 10% by volume propylene glycol and water.

4. Ointment

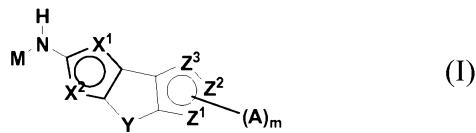
Active ingredient	5 to 1000 mg
15    Stearyl alcohol	3 g
Lanoline	5 g
White petroleum	15 g
Water	ad 100 g

20    In this Example, active ingredient can be replaced with the same amount of any of the compounds according to the present invention, in particular by the same amount of any of the exemplified compounds.

Reasonable variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the scope of the  
25    invention. It will be obvious that the thus described invention may be varied in many ways by those skilled in the art.

## CLAIMS

1. A compound having the Formula (I) wherein:



5 M is selected from an optionally substituted 3 to 10 membered ring selected from the group of aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic and cycloalkyl;

X<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group of N, NR<sup>1</sup> and CR<sup>1</sup>;

X<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group of S and R<sup>2</sup>C=C R<sup>3</sup>;

10

Y is selected from the group of -CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>-, -CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>-CR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>-, -C=O-CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>-, -O-CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-, -O-CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>-, -NR<sup>4</sup>-CR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>-, -NR<sup>4</sup>-CR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>-CR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>-, -S-CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-, -S-CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>-, -SO-CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-, -SO-CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>- and -SO<sub>2</sub>-CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>-CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>;

15

Z<sup>1</sup>, Z<sup>2</sup> and Z<sup>3</sup> are each independently selected from the group of N and C representing a 5 membered heteroaryl ring with a maximum of 2 N which may further be substituted by 1 to 2 radicals (A)<sub>m</sub>;

20

m is an integer ranging from 1 to 2;

(A)<sub>m</sub> radicals are each independently selected from the group of hydrogen, halogen, -CN, -OH, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -SH, -NH<sub>2</sub> and an optionally substituted radical selected from the group of -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)haloalkyl, -(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl, -(C<sub>2</sub>-

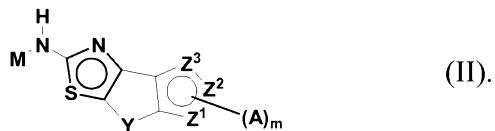
C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkenyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)cyanoalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-heteroaryl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-aryl, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycle, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-OR<sup>10</sup>, -O-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-OR<sup>10</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-OR<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)haloalkyl-OR<sup>10</sup>, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)haloalkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-OR<sup>10</sup>, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl-NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-OR<sup>10</sup>, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl-NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-S-R<sup>10</sup>, -O-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S-R<sup>10</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S-R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-S(=O)-R<sup>10</sup>, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S(=O)-R<sup>10</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S(=O)-R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>10</sup>, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -O-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup>, -O-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-NR<sup>10</sup>-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-NR<sup>11</sup>-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>12</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-C(=O)-NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-C(=O)-NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-C(=O)-NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>C(=O)-R<sup>11</sup>, -O-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-NR<sup>10</sup>C(=O)-R<sup>11</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-NR<sup>11</sup>C(=O)-R<sup>12</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-OC(=O)-R<sup>10</sup>, -O-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-OC(=O)-R<sup>10</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-C(=O)-OR<sup>10</sup>, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-C(=O)-OR<sup>10</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-C(=O)-OR<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-C(=O)-R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>-C(=O)-OR<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-O-C(=O)-NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>-C(=NR<sup>11</sup>)-NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup>, -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>-C(=O)-NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, -O-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-NR<sup>10</sup>-C(=O)-NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-NR<sup>11</sup>-C(=O)-NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> and -(C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NR<sup>10</sup>-C(=S)-NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>;

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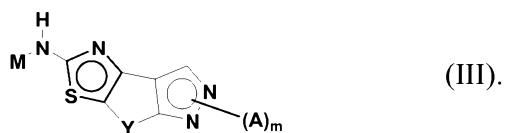
R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> are each independently selected from the group of hydrogen or an optionally substituted radical selected from the group of -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)haloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)cyanoalkyl, -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)alkylene-cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-heteroaryl, aryl, heterocycle and -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene-aryl.

30

2. A compound according to claim 1 having the Formula (II):



3. A compound according to claim 2 having the Formula (III):



5 4. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein:

M is selected from an optionally substituted 3 to 10 membered ring selected from the group of aryl, heteroaryl and cycloalkyl;

Y is selected from the group of  $-\text{CR}^4\text{R}^5-\text{CR}^6\text{R}^7-$  and  $-\text{CR}^4\text{R}^5-\text{CR}^6\text{R}^7-\text{CR}^8\text{R}^9-$ ;

10

m is 1;

15 (A)<sub>m</sub> radicals are each independently selected from the group of hydrogen and an optionally substituted radical selected from the group of  $-(\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6)\text{alkyl}$  and  $-(\text{C}_0\text{-}\text{C}_6)\text{alkyl-C}(=\text{O})\text{-R}^{10}$ ;

20 R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> are each independently selected from the group of hydrogen or an optionally substituted radical selected from the group of  $-(\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6)\text{haloalkyl}$ ,  $-(\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6)\text{alkyl}$ ,  $-(\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6)\text{cyanoalkyl}$ ,  $-(\text{C}_3\text{-}\text{C}_7)\text{cycloalkyl}$ ,  $-(\text{C}_4\text{-}\text{C}_{10})\text{alkylene-cycloalkyl}$ , heteroaryl,  $-(\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6)\text{alkylene-heteroaryl}$ , aryl, heterocycle and  $-(\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6)\text{alkylene-aryl}$ .

5. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 4, which can exist as optical isomers, wherein said compound is either the racemic mixture or one or both of the individual optical isomers.

5

6. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein said compound is selected from:

*N*-(Pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
2-Methyl-1-(2-(pyridin-2-ylamino)-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-6(5*H*)-yl)propan-1-one  
*N*-(6-Methylpyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
*N*-(6-Chloropyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
*N*-(2,5-Difluorophenyl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
*N*-(6-Fluoropyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
4-Methyl-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
Pyridin-2-yl-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
4-Ethyl-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
*N*-(3-Fluoropyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
(5-Fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
(3-Fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
(6-Methoxy-pyridin-2-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
*N*-(5-Fluoropyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
(6-Chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
*N*-(Pyrazin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
*N*-Cyclopentyl-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
8-Methyl-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
*N*-Cyclobutyl-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
(6-Fluoro-pyridin-2-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
Cyclopropyl-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
Cyclobutyl-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
Cyclopentyl-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
Pyrimidin-2-yl-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine

*N*-(Pyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
(1-Methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine  
*N*-(1-Methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
*N*-(4-Methylpyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
(4-Methyl-pyrimidin-2-yl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3-thia-1,7,8-triaza-cyclopenta[*e*]azulen-2-yl)-amine

and a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, a stereochemically isomeric form thereof and an *N*-oxide form thereof.

7. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein said compound is  
5 selected from:

4,4-Dimethyl-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
4,4-Dimethyl-*N*-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
4-Methyl-*N*-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine  
5,5-Dimethyl-*N*-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4*H*-thiazolo[4,5-*e*]indazol-2-amine

and a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, a stereochemically isomeric form thereof and an *N*-oxide form thereof.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a  
10 compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof or an *N*-oxide form thereof, according to any claims 1 to 7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or excipient.

9. A method of treating or preventing a condition in a mammal, including a human,  
15 the treatment or prevention of which is affected or facilitated by the neuromodulatory effect of mGluR4 allosteric modulators, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.

20 10. A method of treating or preventing a condition in a mammal, including a human, the treatment or prevention of which is affected or facilitated by the

neuromodulatory effect of mGluR4 positive allosteric modulators, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.

- 5 11. A method useful for treating or preventing central nervous system disorders selected from the group consisting of: addiction, tolerance or dependence; affective disorders, such as depression and anxiety; psychiatric disease such as psychotic disorders, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder or bipolar disorder; Parkinson's disease, memory impairment, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, delirium tremens, other forms of neurodegeneration, neurotoxicity, or ischemia, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.
  
- 15 12. A method useful for treating or preventing central nervous system disorders selected from the group consisting of: Parkinson's disease or movement disorders such as bradykinesia, rigidity, dystonia, drug-induced parkinsonism, dyskinesia, tardive dyskinesia, L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia, dopamine agonist-induced dyskinesia, hyperkinetic movement disorders, Gilles de la Tourette syndrome, resting tremor, action tremor, akinesia, akinetic-rigid syndrome, akathisia, athetosis, asterixis, tics, postural instability, postencephalitic parkinsonism, muscle rigidity, chorea and choreaform movements, spasticity, myoclonus, hemiballismus, progressive supranuclear palsy, restless legs syndrome, or periodic limb movement disorder, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.
  
- 25 13. A method of claim 12 comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8 in combination with an agent selected from the group consisting of: levodopa, or levodopa with a selective extracerebral

decarboxylase inhibitor, or carbidopa, or entacapone, or a COMT inhibitor or a dopamine agonist.

14. A method useful for treating or preventing central nervous system disorders selected from the group consisting of: cognitive disorders such as delirium, substance-induced persisting delirium, dementia, dementia due to HIV disease, dementia due to Huntington's disease, dementia due to Parkinson's disease, Parkinsonian-ALS demential complex, dementia of the Alzheimer's type, substance-induced persisting dementia, or mild cognitive impairment, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.
15. A method useful for treating affective disorders selected from the group consisting of: anxiety, Agoraphobia, Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD), Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Panic Disorder, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Social Phobia, Other Phobias, Substance-Induced Anxiety Disorder, or acute stress disorder, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.
16. A method useful for treating or preventing central nervous system disorders selected from the group consisting of: mood disorders, Bipolar Disorders (I & II), Cyclothymic Disorder, Depression, Dysthymic Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, or Substance-Induced Mood Disorder, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.
17. A method useful for treating or preventing neurological disorders selected from the group consisting of: neurodegeneration, neurotoxicity or ischemia such as stroke, spinal cord injury, cerebral hypoxia, intracranial hematoma, Parkinson's disease, memory impairment, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or delirium

tremens, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.

5 18. A method useful for treating or preventing inflammatory central nervous system disorders selected from the group consisting of: multiple sclerosis forms such as benign multiple sclerosis, relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis, secondary progressive multiple sclerosis, primary progressive multiple sclerosis, or progressive-relapsing multiple sclerosis, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount 10 of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.

15 19. A method useful for treating or preventing migraine, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.

20 20. A method useful for treating or preventing epilepsy or tremor, temporal lobe epilepsy, epilepsy secondary to another disease or injury such as chronic encephalitis, traumatic brain injury, stroke or ischemia, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.

25 21. A method useful for treating or preventing inflammation and/or neurodegeneration resulting from traumatic brain injury, stroke, ischemia, spinal cord injury, cerebral hypoxia or intracranial hematoma, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.

30 22. A method useful for treating or preventing sensory, motor or cognitive symptoms resulting from traumatic brain injury, stroke, ischemia, spinal cord injury, cerebral hypoxia or intracranial hematoma, comprising administering to a mammalian

patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.

23. A method useful for treating medulloblastomas, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.  
5
24. A method useful for treating or preventing inflammatory or neuropathic pain, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.  
10
25. A method useful for treating, preventing, ameliorating, controlling or reducing the risk of various metabolic disorders associated with glutamate dysfunction, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment, prevention, amelioration or control of the risk, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.  
15
26. A method useful for treating or preventing type 2 diabetes, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.  
20
27. A method useful for treating or preventing diseases or disorders of the retina, retinal degeneration or macular degeneration, comprising administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.  
25
28. A method useful for treating or preventing diseases or disorders of the gastrointestinal tract including gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD), lower esophageal sphincter diseases or disorders, diseases of gastrointestinal motility, colitis, Crohn's disease or irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), comprising  
30

administering to a mammalian patient in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound/composition according to any of claims 1 to 8.

29. Use of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 7 for the manufacture of a  
5 medicament for a use as defined in any of claims 9 to 28.
30. Use of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 7 to prepare a tracer for  
imaging a metabotropic glutamate receptor.
- 10 31. Use of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 7 as a taste agent, flavour  
agent, flavour enhancing agent or a food or beverage additive.
- 15 32. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 7 or a composition according to  
claim 8 for use in the treatment or prevention as defined in any of claims 9 to 14,  
16 to 22, 24 or 26 to 28.
33. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 7 or a composition according to  
claim 8 for a use as defined in claim 25.
- 20 34. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 7 or a composition according to  
claim 8 for a use in a treatment as defined in any of claims 15 or 23.