

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
29 June 2006 (29.06.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/067532 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

C07D 471/04 (2006.01) A61K 31/4375 (2006.01)
A61K 31/4353 (2006.01) A61P 3/10 (2006.01)
A61K 31/4365 (2006.01) A61P 3/04 (2006.01)

Prosidion Ltd, Windrush Court Watlington Rd, Oxford
Oxon OX4 6LT (GB). SHAH, Vilasben, Kanji [GB/GB];
Prosidion Ltd, Windrush Court Watlington Rd, Oxford
Oxon OX4 6LT (GB).

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/GB2005/050265

(74) Agent: BLAKEY, Alison; Prosidion Limited, Windrush
Court, Watlington Road, Oxford OX4 6LT (GB).

(22) International Filing Date:

23 December 2005 (23.12.2005)

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV,
LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI,
NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG,
SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US,
UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

0428221.6 24 December 2004 (24.12.2004) GB
0513256.8 30 June 2005 (30.06.2005) GB

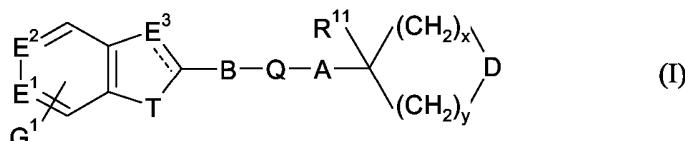
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT,
RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: G-PROTEIN COUPLED RECEPTOR AGONISTS



(57) Abstract: Compounds of Formula (I) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or *N*-oxides thereof, are agonists of GPR116 and are useful for the treatment of obesity, and for the treatment of diabetes.

WO 2006/067532 A1

G-PROTEIN COUPLED RECEPTOR AGONISTS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to G-protein coupled receptor (GPCR) agonists. In particular, the present invention is directed to agonists of GPR116 that are useful for the treatment of obesity, e.g. as regulators of satiety, and for the treatment of diabetes.

Obesity is characterized by an excessive adipose tissue mass relative to body size. Clinically, body fat mass is estimated by the body mass index (BMI; weight(kg)/height(m)²), or waist circumference. Individuals are considered obese when the BMI is greater than 30 and there are established medical consequences of being overweight. It has been an accepted medical view for some time that an increased body weight, especially as a result of abdominal body fat, is associated with an increased risk for diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and numerous other health complications, such as arthritis, stroke, gallbladder disease, muscular and respiratory problems, back pain and even certain cancers.

Pharmacological approaches to the treatment of obesity have been mainly concerned with reducing fat mass by altering the balance between energy intake and expenditure. Many studies have clearly established the link between adiposity and the brain circuitry involved in the regulation of energy homeostasis. Direct and indirect evidence suggest that serotonergic, dopaminergic, adrenergic, cholinergic, endocannabinoid, opioid, and histaminergic pathways in addition to many neuropeptide pathways (e.g. neuropeptide Y and melanocortins) are implicated in the central control of energy intake and expenditure. Hypothalamic centres are also able to sense peripheral hormones involved in the maintenance of body weight and degree of adiposity, such as insulin and leptin, and fat tissue derived peptides.

Drugs aimed at the pathophysiology associated with insulin dependent Type I diabetes and non-insulin dependent Type II diabetes have many potential side effects and do not adequately address the dyslipidaemia and hyperglycaemia in a high proportion of patients. Treatment is often focused at individual patient needs using diet, exercise, hypoglycaemic agents and insulin, but there is a continuing need for novel antidiabetic agents, particularly ones that may be better tolerated with fewer adverse effects.

Similarly, metabolic syndrome (syndrome X) which is characterized by hypertension and its associated pathologies including atherosclerosis, lipidemia, hyperlipidemia and hypercholesterolemia have been associated with decreased insulin sensitivity which can lead to abnormal blood sugar levels when challenged. Myocardial ischemia and microvascular disease is an established morbidity associated with untreated or poorly controlled metabolic syndrome.

There is a continuing need for novel antiobesity and antidiabetic agents, particularly ones that are well tolerated with few adverse effects.

GPR116 is a GPCR identified as SNORF25 in WO00/50562 which discloses both the human and rat receptors, US 6,468,756 also discloses the mouse receptor (accession numbers: AAN95194 (human), AAN95195 (rat) and ANN95196 (mouse)).

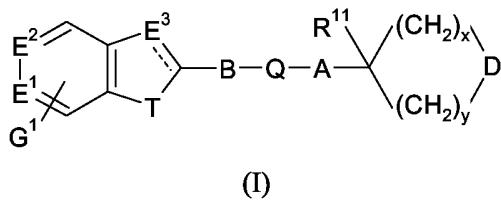
In humans, GPR116 is expressed in the pancreas, small intestine, colon and adipose tissue. The expression profile of the human GPR116 receptor indicates its potential utility as a target for the treatment of obesity and diabetes.

International patent application WO2005/061489 (published after the priority date of the present application) discloses heterocyclic derivatives as GPR116 receptor agonists.

The present invention relates to agonists of GPR116 which are useful for the treatment of obesity, e.g. as regulators of satiety, and for the treatment of diabetes.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

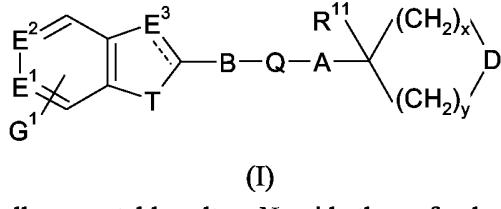
Compounds of formula (I):



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or *N*-oxides thereof, are agonists of GPR116 and are useful for the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of obesity, and for the treatment of diabetes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a compound of formula (I):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *N*-oxide thereof, wherein:

one of E¹ and E² is N and the other is N or C—G²;

the dashed line together with the solid line forms an optional double bond;

when the dashed line together with the solid line forms a double bond E³ is CR⁸ or N, and when it is a single bond E³ is CHR⁸, O or NR²;

T is O, S, NR², (CH₂)₂, or E⁴=E⁵, where E⁴ and E⁵ are independently CH or N;

B is a bond, -CH₂=CH₂- or (CH₂)_j;

j is 1, 2 or 3;

Q is a bond, C(O)S, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring;

A is (CH₂)_n, where one CH₂ group may be replaced by O, S, C(O), CH(OH) CH(Hal) CH(NR²R³), S(O), S(O)₂ or NR³; two CH₂ groups may be replaced by CH=CH, C(O)O, C(O)S, SC(O), C(O)NR² or OC(O); or three CH₂ groups may be replaced by C(O)CH₂S, C(O)CH₂C(OH) or C(O)CH₂C(O);

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6;

G¹ and G² are independently hydrogen, halogen, CF₃, C₁₋₄alkoxy, NR⁴R⁴⁴, SO₂C₁₋₄alkyl, SOC₁₋₄alkyl, SC₁₋₄alkyl or cyano; or C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄alkenyl, or C₂₋₄alkynyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy, NR⁴R⁴⁴, oxo or C₁₋₄alkoxy;

D represents CHR⁹ or NR¹;

R¹ is C(O)OR⁵, C(O)R⁵, S(O)₂R⁵, C(O)NR⁵R¹⁰, C(O)NR⁵R⁵⁵, C₁₋₄alkylene-C(O)OR⁵, C(O)C(O)OR⁵, S(O)₂R⁵, C(O)R⁵ or P(O)(O-Ph)₂; or heterocyclyl or heteroaryl, either of which may optionally be substituted by one or two groups selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkyl-OH, halogen, C₁₋₄fluoroalkyl, heterocyclyl, C(O)OC₁₋₄alkyl;

R² and R³ are independently hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl;

R^4 and R^{44} are independently hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, or aryl, which may optionally be substituted with 1 or 2 substituents selected from halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, CF_3 , C_{1-4} alkoxy, cyano, and $S(O)_2Me$; or, taken together, R^4 and R^{44} may form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring;

R^5 and R^{55} are independently C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl or C_{2-8} alkynyl, any of which may be optionally substituted by one or more halo atoms, NR^6R^{66} , OR^6 , $C(O)OR^6$, $OC(O)R^6$ or cyano, and may contain a CH_2 group that is replaced by O or S; or a C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, C_{1-4} alkylene C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{1-4} alkylenearyl, C_{1-4} alkyleneheterocyclyl or C_{1-4} alkyleneheteroaryl, any of which may be substituted with one or more substituents selected from halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} fluoroalkyl, OR^7 , CN , NR^7R^{77} , SO_2Me , NO_2 or $C(O)OR^7$;

R^6 , R^{66} , R^7 , and R^{77} each independently are hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl; or, taken together, R^6 and R^{66} or R^7 and R^{77} may form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring;

R^8 is hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy or benzyloxy;

R^9 is C_{3-6} alkyl;

R^{10} hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;

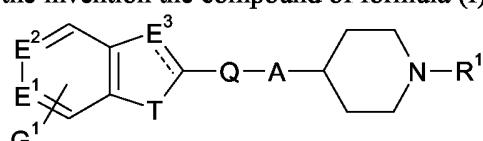
R^{11} hydrogen or hydroxy;

x is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

y is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

with the proviso that $x + y$ is 2, 3, 4 or 5.

In one embodiment of the invention the compound of formula (I) is of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or N -oxide thereof, wherein:

one of E^1 and E^2 is N and the other is N or $C-G^2$;

the dashed line together with the solid line forms an optional double bond;

when the dashed line together with the solid line forms a double bond E^3 is CH or N, and when it is a single bond E^3 is CH_2 or NR^2 ;

T is O, S, NR^2 , $(CH_2)_2$, or $E^4=E^5$, where E^4 and E^5 are independently CH or N;

Q is a bond, $C(O)S$, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring;

A is $(CH_2)_n$, where one CH_2 group may be replaced by O, $C(O)$, or NR^3 , or two CH_2 groups may be replaced by $CH=CH$;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6;

G^1 and G^2 are independently hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, CF_3 , C_{1-4} alkoxy, NR^4R^{44} , or cyano;

R^1 is $C(O)OR^5$, $C(O)R^5$, $S(O)_2R^5$, $C(O)NR^5R^{55}$, or a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaryl group;

R^2 and R^3 are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^4 and R^{44} are independently hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, or aryl, which may optionally be substituted with 1 or 2 substituents selected from halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, CF_3 , C_{1-4} alkoxy, cyano, and $S(O)_2Me$; or, taken together, R^4 and R^{44} may form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring;

R^5 and R^{55} are independently C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, any of which may optionally be substituted by cyano, $CHal_pH_{3-p}$, OR^6 or NR^6R^{66} , or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl or 4- to 7-membered heterocyclyl either of which may optionally be substituted with C_{1-4} alkyl, or aryl or heteroaryl either of which may optionally be substituted with 1 or 2 substituents selected from halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, CF_3 , OR^7 , $COOR^7$, cyano, $S(O)_2Me$, NR^7R^{77} , and nitro;

R^6 , R^{66} , R^7 , and R^{77} each independently are hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl; or, taken together, R^6 and R^{66} or R^7 and R^{77} may independently form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring;

Hal is fluoro or chloro; and

p is 1, 2, or 3.

The molecular weight of the compounds of formula (I) is preferably less than 800, more preferably less than 600, even more preferably less than 500.

B preferably represents a bond.

In one embodiment of the invention A is $(CH_2)_n$, where one CH_2 group may be replaced by O, $C(O)$, or NR^3 , or two CH_2 groups may be replaced by $CH=CH$. n is preferably 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4.

Exemplary A groups include a bond, $-CH_2-$, $-(CH_2)_2-$, $-(CH_2)_3-$, $-CH_2-O-$, $-(CH)_2-O-$, $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-O-(CH_2)_2-$, $-CH_2-O-(CH_2)_3-$, $-CH_2-O-(CH_2)_4-$, $-C(O)-CH_2-$, $-C(Cl)-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-NH-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-NH-$, $-CH_2-N(CH_3)-$, $-CH_2-N(CH_2CH_3)-$ and $-CH_2-N(CH_2CH_2CH_3)-$.

When Q represents a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring, n is preferably 0, 1 or 2 (especially 1 or 2) and A is preferably CH_2 , CH_2O or CH_2NR^3 . When Q represents a bond, n is preferably 2, 3 or 4, especially 2.

In one embodiment of the invention E^3 is CH or N. E^3 is preferably CH.

T is preferably O, S, NR^2 (for example -NH), or $E^4=E^5$ (for example $-N=CH-$), more preferably O. When T represents O, E^1 preferably represents $C-G^2$ and E^2 represents N.

Q is preferably a bond or a heteroaromatic ring containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S. In one embodiment of the invention Q is a bond.

Q is preferably a 5-membered heteroaromatic ring containing up to three heteroatoms selected from O, N and S of the formula:



wherein W , X and Y represent the positions of the heteroatom(s) or otherwise represent CH .

Particular heteroaromatic rings which Q may represent include oxadiazole, oxazole, isoxazole, thiadiazole, thiazole and pyrazole.

Preferably two of W , X and Y are N, and the other is O.

W is preferably N.

The heteroaromatic ring described by Q is preferably oxadiazolyl, more preferably [1,2,4]oxadiazolyl.

D preferably represents NR^1 .

In one embodiment of the invention G^1 is hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, CF_3 , C_{1-4} alkoxy, NR^4R^{44} , or cyano (for example hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, CF_3 , C_{1-4} alkoxy or cyano). Exemplary G^1 groups include hydrogen, halogen (for example chlorine), cyano, methyl, hydroxymethyl, methoxymethyl,

dimethylaminomethyl, -CH(O), pyrrolidin-1-ylmethyl. G¹ is preferably hydrogen, halogen, C₁-alkyl, or cyano, more preferably hydrogen or cyano. Another preferred G¹ group is methyl.

In one embodiment of the invention G² is hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄alkenyl, C₂₋₄alkynyl, CF₃, C₁₋₄alkoxy, NR⁴R⁴⁴, or cyano. Exemplary G² groups include hydrogen and halogen (for example Cl). G² is preferably hydrogen, halogen, or cyano, more preferably hydrogen. Another preferred G² group is C₁₋₄alkyl, especially methyl. Other preferred G² groups are hydrogen, methyl and cyano.

In one embodiment of the invention R¹ is preferably C(O)OR⁵, C(O)R⁵, C(O)NR⁵R⁵⁵, or a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaryl group, more preferably C(O)OR⁵. In a second embodiment of the invention R¹ is preferably C(O)OR⁵, C(O)NR⁵R¹⁰, C₁₋₄alkylene-C(O)OR⁵, C(O)C(O)OR⁵, heterocycl, heteroaryl, S(O)₂R⁵, C(O)R⁵ or P(O)(O-Ph)₂; especially C(O)OR⁵, C(O)NR⁵R¹⁰, C₁₋₄alkyl-C(O)OR⁵, heteroaryl, S(O)₂R⁵ or C(O)R⁵; in particular C(O)OR⁵, C(O)NR⁵R¹⁰, heteroaryl, S(O)₂R⁵ or C(O)R⁵. More preferably, R¹ is C(O)OR⁵, C(O)NR⁵R¹⁰ or heteroaryl. R¹ is most preferably COOR⁵. When R¹ is heteroaryl the heteroaryl ring is preferably pyrimidinyl, especially pyrimidin-2-yl.

When R¹ is optionally substituted heterocycl or heteroaryl, it is preferably substituted by C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy or halogen.

Exemplary R² groups include hydrogen and methyl.

Exemplary R³ groups include hydrogen, methyl, ethyl and propyl. R³ is preferably C₁₋₄alkyl, especially methyl or ethyl.

Exemplary R⁴ groups include methyl.

In one embodiment of the invention R⁵ and R⁵⁵ are independently C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, any of which may optionally be substituted by cyano, CHal_pH_{3-p}, OR⁶ or NR⁶R⁶⁶, or C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl or 4- to 7-membered heterocycl either of which may optionally be substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, or aryl or heteroaryl either of which may optionally be substituted with 1 or 2 substituents selected from halo, C₁₋₄alkyl, CF₃, OR⁷, COOR⁷, cyano, S(O)₂Me, NR⁷R⁷⁷, and nitro, where Hal represents fluoro or chloro and p is 1, 2, or 3. Preferably R⁵ represents C₁₋₈alkyl, C₂₋₈alkenyl or C₂₋₈alkynyl optionally substituted by one or more halo atoms or cyano, and may contain a CH₂ group that may be replaced by O or S; or a C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, aryl or C₁₋₄alkylC₃₋₇cycloalkyl, any of which may be substituted with one or more substituents selected from halo, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄fluoroalkyl, OR⁷, CN, NR⁷R⁷⁷, NO₂ or C(O)OC₁₋₄alkyl. More preferably R⁵ represents C₁₋₈alkyl, C₂₋₈alkenyl or C₂₋₈alkynyl optionally substituted by one or more halo atoms or cyano, and may contain a CH₂ group that may be replaced by O or S; or a C₃₋₇cycloalkyl or aryl, either of which may be substituted with one or more substituents selected from halo, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄fluoroalkyl, OR⁷, CN, NR⁷R⁷⁷, NO₂ or C(O)OC₁₋₄alkyl. Most preferred R⁵ groups are C₃₋₅alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more halo atoms or cyano, and may contain a CH₂ group that is replaced by O or S) or C₃₋₅cycloalkyl (optionally substituted by C₁₋₄alkyl). In one embodiment of the invention the group represented by R⁵ is unsubstituted.

In one embodiment of the invention x + y is 2, 3, or 4. In a preferred embodiment of the invention x and y each represent 1. In a more preferred embodiment of the invention x and y each represent 2.

Suitably n + j equals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.

Preferably R¹¹ represents H.

When B and Q both represent a bond, suitably the group A does not represent NR³.

When B-Q-A represents -NHC₁₋₄alkyl- and D represents NR¹, suitably the group R⁵ represents C₁₋₈alkyl, C₂₋₈alkenyl or C₂₋₈alkynyl, any of which may be optionally substituted by one or more halo atoms, NR⁶R⁶⁶, OR⁶, C(O)OR⁶, OC(O)R⁶ or cyano, and may contain a CH₂ group that is replaced by O or S; or a C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, C₁₋₄alkyleneC₃₋₇cycloalkyl or C₁₋₄alkyleneheterocyclyl, any of which may be substituted with one or more substituents selected from halo, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄fluoroalkyl, OR⁷, CN, NR⁷R⁷⁷, SO₂Me, NO₂ or C(O)OR⁷.

While the preferred groups for each variable have generally been listed above separately for each variable, preferred compounds of this invention include those in which several or each variable in formula (I) is selected from the preferred, more preferred or particularly listed groups for each variable. Therefore, this invention is intended to include all combinations of preferred, more preferred and particularly listed groups.

Specific compounds of the invention which may be mentioned are those included in the Examples and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

As used herein, unless stated otherwise, "alkyl" as well as other groups having the prefix "alk" such as, for example, alkenyl, alkynyl, and the like, means carbon chains which may be linear or branched or combinations thereof. Examples of alkyl groups include methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, *sec*- and *tert*-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl and the like. "Alkenyl", "alkynyl" and other like terms include carbon chains having at least one unsaturated carbon-carbon bond.

The term "fluoroalkyl" includes alkyl groups substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, e.g. CH₂F, CHF₂ and CF₃.

The term "cycloalkyl" means carbocycles containing no heteroatoms, and includes monocyclic and bicyclic saturated and partially saturated carbocycles. Examples of cycloalkyl include cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl. Examples of partially saturated cycloalkyl groups include cyclohexene and indane. Cycloalkyl groups will typically contain 3 to 10 ring carbon atoms in total (e.g. 3 to 6, or 8 to 10).

The term "halo" includes fluorine, chlorine, bromine, and iodine atoms.

The term "aryl" includes phenyl and naphthyl, in particular phenyl.

Unless otherwise indicated the term "heterocyclyl" and "heterocyclic ring" includes 4- to 10-membered monocyclic and bicyclic saturated rings, e.g. 4- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated rings, containing up to three heteroatoms selected from N, O and S. Examples of heterocyclic rings include oxetane, tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydropyran, oxepane, oxocane, thietane, tetrahydrothiophene, tetrahydrothiopyran, thiepane, thiocane, azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, azepane, azocane, [1,3]dioxane, oxazolidine, piperazine, and the like. Other examples of heterocyclic rings include the oxidised forms of the sulfur-containing rings. Thus, tetrahydrothiophene 1-oxide, tetrahydrothiophene 1,1-dioxide, tetrahydrothiopyran 1-oxide, and tetrahydrothiopyran 1,1-dioxide are also considered to be heterocyclic rings.

Unless otherwise stated, the term "heteroaryl" includes mono- and bicyclic 5- to 10-membered, e.g. monocyclic 5- or 6-membered, heteroaryl rings containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S. Examples of such heteroaryl rings are furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, triazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl and triazinyl. Bicyclic heteroaryl groups include bicyclic heteroaromatic groups where a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl

ring is fused to a phenyl or another heteroaromatic group. Examples of such bicyclic heteroaromatic rings are benzofuran, benzothiophene, indole, benzoxazole, benzothiazole, indazole, benzimidazole, benzotriazole, quinoline, isoquinoline, quinazoline, quinoxaline and purine.

Compounds described herein may contain one or more asymmetric centers and may thus give rise to diastereomers and optical isomers. The present invention includes all such possible diastereomers as well as their racemic mixtures, their substantially pure resolved enantiomers, all possible geometric isomers, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. The above formula (I) is shown without a definitive stereochemistry at certain positions. The present invention includes all stereoisomers of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. Further, mixtures of stereoisomers as well as isolated specific stereoisomers are also included. During the course of the synthetic procedures used to prepare such compounds, or in using racemization or epimerization procedures known to those skilled in the art, the products of such procedures can be a mixture of stereoisomers.

When a tautomer of the compound of formula (I) exists, the present invention includes any possible tautomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and mixtures thereof, except where specifically drawn or stated otherwise.

When the compound of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof exist in the form of solvates or polymorphic forms, the present invention includes any possible solvates and polymorphic forms. A type of a solvent that forms the solvate is not particularly limited so long as the solvent is pharmacologically acceptable. For example, water, ethanol, propanol, acetone or the like can be used.

The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" refers to salts prepared from pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic bases or acids. When the compound of the present invention is acidic, its corresponding salt can be conveniently prepared from pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic bases, including inorganic bases and organic bases. Salts derived from such inorganic bases include aluminum, ammonium, calcium, copper (ic and ous), ferric, ferrous, lithium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, zinc and the like salts. Particularly preferred are the ammonium, calcium, magnesium, potassium and sodium salts. Salts derived from pharmaceutically acceptable organic non-toxic bases include salts of primary, secondary, and tertiary amines, as well as cyclic amines and substituted amines such as naturally occurring and synthesized substituted amines. Other pharmaceutically acceptable organic non-toxic bases from which salts can be formed include arginine, betaine, caffeine, choline, *N,N'*-dibenzylethylenediamine, diethylamine, 2-diethylaminoethanol, 2-dimethylaminoethanol, ethanolamine, ethylenediamine, *N*-ethylmorpholine, *N*-ethylpiperidine, glucamine, glucosamine, histidine, hydrabamine, isopropylamine, lysine, methylglucamine, morpholine, piperazine, piperidine, polyamine resins, procaine, purines, theobromine, triethylamine, trimethylamine, tripropylamine, tromethamine and the like.

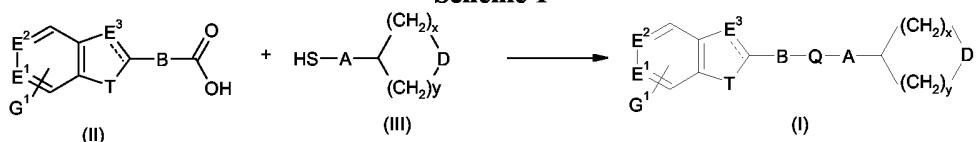
When the compound of the present invention is basic, its corresponding salt can be conveniently prepared from pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic acids, including inorganic and organic acids. Such acids include, for example, acetic, benzenesulfonic, benzoic, camphorsulfonic, citric, ethanesulfonic, fumaric, gluconic, glutamic, hydrobromic, hydrochloric, isethionic, lactic, maleic, malic, mandelic, methanesulfonic, mucic, nitric, pamoic, pantothenic, phosphoric, succinic, sulfuric, tartaric, p-toluenesulfonic acid and the like.

Since the compounds of formula (I) are intended for pharmaceutical use they are preferably provided in substantially pure form, for example at least 60% pure, more suitably at least 75% pure, especially at least 98% pure (% are on a weight for weight basis).

The compounds of formula (I) can be prepared as described below, in which E¹, E², E³, T, G¹, B, Q, A, x, y and D are as defined above and which are illustrated in the schemes below for compounds where R¹¹ is hydrogen.

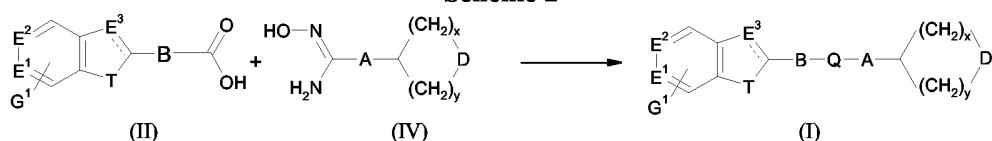
Compounds of formula (I) in which Q is C(O)S can be prepared by condensing the appropriate acid (II) with a suitable thiol (III), as shown in Scheme 1, using a typical reagent for such a condensation reaction, e.g. EDCI (Pottorf, R. S.; Szeto, P. In *Handbook of Reagents for Organic Synthesis: Activating Agents and Protecting Groups*; Pearson, A. J., Roush, W. R., Eds.; Wiley: Chichester, 1999; pp 186–188). The acids (II) and thiols (III) are either commercially available or are prepared easily using known techniques.

Scheme 1

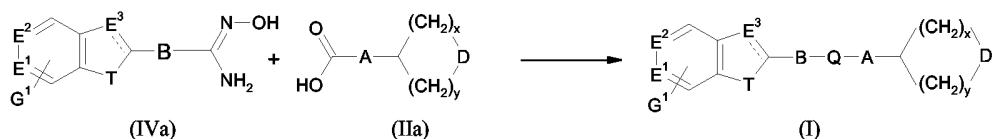


Compounds of formula (I) in which Q is a heteroaromatic ring can be made via a suitable heteroaromatic ring-forming reaction. For instance, where Q is a [1,2,4]oxadiazole ring, the compounds of formula (I) may be prepared according to the method illustrated in Scheme 2 (Hemming, K. *J. Chem. Res., Synop.* **2001**, 209–216 & 601–620) wherein amidoximes of formula (IV) are condensed with acids of formula (II). The acids (II) and amidoximes (IV) are either commercially available or are prepared using known techniques. The condensation initially entails activation of compounds of formula (II) by, for example, formation of the mixed anhydride, in which the acid is treated with a chloroformate, such as isobutylchloroformate, in the presence of a suitable base, such as triethylamine, in a suitable solvent, such as THF or toluene, followed by addition of compounds of formula (IV). Alternatively, compounds of formula (II) may be activated by conversion to the acid halide, generated by treatment of the acid with, for example, oxalyl chloride, in a suitable solvent, such as CH₂Cl₂–DMF. The intermediates arising from the condensation of amidoximes of formula (IV) and acids of formula (II) are dissolved in an appropriate solvent, such as toluene or xylene, and heated under reflux, with concomitant removal of water by a Dean–Stark apparatus or by molecular sieves, to form oxadiazoles of formula (I). The corresponding “reversed” [1,2,4]oxadiazole may be prepared by condensing amidoxime (IVa) with an acid of formula (IIa), as illustrated in Scheme 3.

Scheme 2

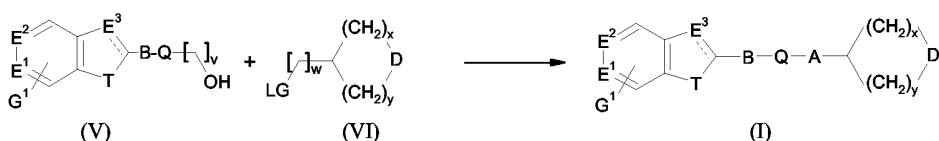


Scheme 3

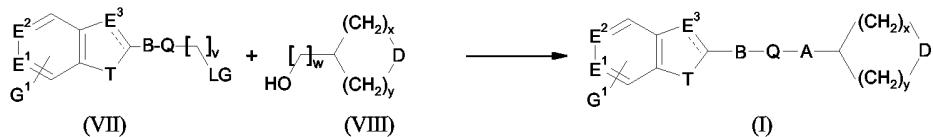


Compounds of formula (I) in which one of the CH₂ groups in A is replaced with O can be prepared by alkylating the appropriate alcohol (V) with the appropriate alkyl halide or sulfonate ester (VI), as shown in Scheme 4 where LG is chloro, bromo, iodo, alkanesulfonate, or arenesulfonate, and v and w are independently 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 with the proviso that v + w ≤ 5. The reaction is typically carried out using a base, e.g., potassium *tert*-butoxide (Hall, S. E., et al. *J. Med. Chem.* 1989, 32, 974–984). The alcohols (V), as well as the alkyl halides or sulfonates (VI), are either commercially available or are made easily using known techniques. Alternatively, the alcohol and LG functionalities can be exchanged between the bicyclic and D-containing reactants, as shown in Scheme 5 where LG, v, and w are as described above.

Scheme 4

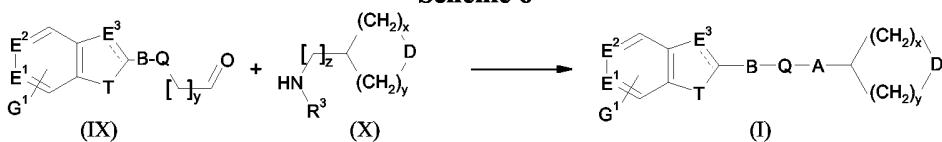


Scheme 5

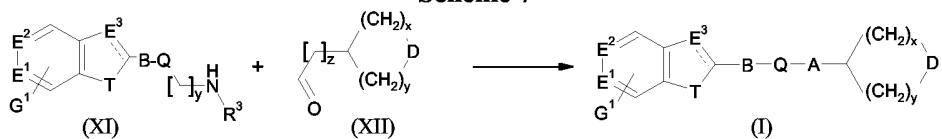


Compounds of formula (I) in which one of the CH₂ groups in A is replaced with NR³ can be prepared by reductive alkylation of the appropriate amine (X) with the appropriate aldehyde (IX), as shown in Scheme 6 where y and z are independently 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4 with the proviso that y + z ≤ 4. The reaction is typically carried out using a suitable reductant, e.g. sodium triacetoxyborohydride (Abdel-Magid, A. F., et al., *J. Org. Chem.* 1996, 61, 3849–3862). The aldehydes (IX), as well as the amines (X), are either commercially available or are made easily using known techniques. Alternatively, the amine and aldehyde functionalities can be exchanged between the bicyclic and D-containing reactants, as shown in Scheme 7 where y and z are as described above.

Scheme 6

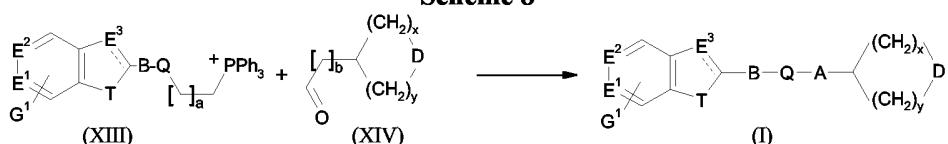


Scheme 7



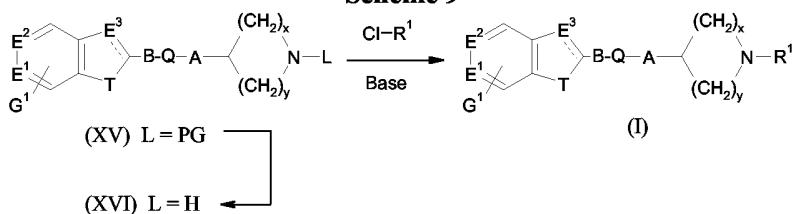
Compounds of formula (I) in which two of the CH_2 groups in A are replaced with $\text{CH}=\text{CH}$ can be prepared by a Wittig reaction between the appropriate phosphonium salt (XIII) and the appropriate aldehyde (XIV), as indicated in Scheme 8 where a and b are independently 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4 with the proviso that $a + b \leq 4$. The reactions are carried out in the presence of a suitable base, e.g. NaOMe or LiHMDS (March, *J. Advanced Organic Chemistry*, 4th edn.; Wiley: New York, 1992; pp 956–963). The phosphonium salt (XIII), as well as the aldehyde (XIV), are either commercially available or are made easily using known techniques. The compounds of formula (I) where A is $(\text{CH}_2)_n$ where n is 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 can easily be synthesized from the abovementioned compounds of formula (I) containing a $\text{CH}=\text{CH}$ unit by a hydrogenation reaction using, for example, palladium on charcoal as a catalyst.

Scheme 8



Compounds of formula (I) in which R^1 is $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^5$, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^5$, $\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{R}^5$, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^5\text{R}^{55}$, or heteroaryl may be prepared by the route shown in Scheme 9. Compounds of formula (XV), in which PG represents a suitable protecting group, for example *tert*-butoxycarbonyl (Boc), may be synthesised as outlined in Schemes 1–8 above. The protecting group is firstly removed under suitable conditions to afford compounds of formula (XVI). In the case of the Boc group this can be achieved by treatment of compounds of formula (XV) with a suitable acid, such as trifluoroacetic acid (Fyfe, M. C. T. et al. International Patent Publication WO 04/72031), in an appropriate solvent, such as CH_2Cl_2 . Treatment of compounds of formula (XVI) with chloroformates $\text{Cl}-\text{R}^1$, which are generally commercially available or can be readily synthesised, in a suitable solvent, such as CH_2Cl_2 , in the presence of a suitable base, such as triethylamine (Picard, F., et al. *J. Med. Chem.* 2002, 45, 3406–3417), affords compounds of formula (I) where R^1 is $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^5$. Similarly, compounds of formula (XVI) may be reacted with sulfonyl chlorides, carboxylic acid chlorides, and carbamyl chlorides $\text{Cl}-\text{R}^1$, which are generally commercially available or can readily be synthesised, in a suitable solvent, such as CH_2Cl_2 , in the presence of a suitable base, such as triethylamine, to afford compounds of formula (I) where R^1 is $\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{R}^5$, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^5$, and $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^5\text{R}^{55}$, respectively. Furthermore, compounds of formula (I) in which R^1 is heteroaryl may be prepared by reacting the amine (XVI) with the appropriate heteroaryl chloride or bromide under $\text{Pd}(0)$ catalysis in the presence of a suitable ligand and base (Urgaonkar, S.; Hu, J.-H.; Verkade, J. G. *J. Org. Chem.* 2003, 68, 8416–8423). Alternatively, compounds of the formula (I) where R^1 is heteroaryl may be prepared by condensation of amine (XVI) with a heteroaryl chloride in the presence of base (Barillari, C. et al. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2001, 4737–4741; Birch, A. M. et al. *J. Med. Chem.* 1999, 42, 3342–3355). Compounds of formula (I) in which R^{55} is hydrogen may be prepared by reacting a compound of formula (XVI) with an isocyanate of formula $\text{O}=\text{C}=\text{N}-\text{R}^5$.

Scheme 9



Compounds of the formula (I) where G^1 is CN can be prepared from the corresponding unsubstituted azine by the Reissert reaction (Fife, W. K. *J. Org. Chem.* 1983, **48**, 1375–1377). Similar reactions can be used to prepare the compounds where G^1 is a halogen (Walters, M. A.; Shay, J. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1995, **36**, 7575–7578). The compounds where G^1 is halogen can be transformed into the corresponding compounds where G^1 is C_{1-4} alkyl by transition metal-catalysed cross-coupling reactions (Fürstner, A., et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2002, **124**, 13856–13863). Alternatively, compounds where G^1 is methyl can be prepared by reacting the appropriate *N*-alkoxypyridinium species, prepared by alkylating the *N*-oxide of the corresponding unsubstituted azine, with methylmagnesium halide (Bosch, J. et al. *An. Quim.* 1975, **71**, 835–837).

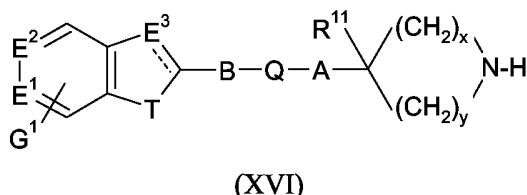
Other compounds of formula (I) may be prepared by methods analogous to those described above or by methods known *per se*.

Further details for the preparation of the compounds of formula (I) are found in the examples.

The compounds of formula (I) may be prepared singly or as compound libraries comprising at least 2, for example 5 to 1,000, compounds and more preferably 10 to 100 compounds of formula (I). Compound libraries may be prepared by a combinatorial “split and mix” approach or by multiple parallel synthesis using either solution or solid phase chemistry, using procedures known to those skilled in the art.

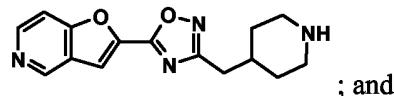
During the synthesis of the compounds of formula (I), labile functional groups in the intermediate compounds, e.g. hydroxy, carboxy and amino groups, may be protected. The protecting groups may be removed at any stage in the synthesis of the compounds of formula (I) or may be present on the final compound of formula (I). A comprehensive discussion of the ways in which various labile functional groups may be protected and methods for cleaving the resulting protected derivatives is given in, for example, *Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry*, T.W. Greene and P.G.M. Wuts, (1991) Wiley-Interscience, New York, 2nd edition.

Any novel intermediates, such as those defined above, may be of use in the synthesis of compounds of formula (I) and are therefore also included within the scope of the invention, for example compounds of formula (XVI):



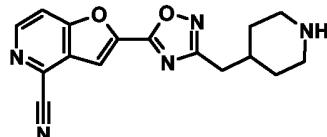
wherein the groups E¹, E², E³, T, G¹, R¹¹, B, Q, A, x and y are as defined above for compounds of formula (I). Specific examples of compounds falling within the formula (XVI) include:

2-(3-Piperidin-4-ylmethyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine



; and

2-(3-Piperidin-4-ylmethyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine-4-carbonitrile



A further embodiment of the invention encompasses compounds of formula (XVI) wherein the groups E¹, E², E³, T, G¹, Q and A are as defined above for compounds of formula (Ia), R¹¹ represents hydrogen, B represents a bond, x and y each represent 2.

As indicated above the compounds of formula (I) are useful as GPR116 agonists, e.g. for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of obesity and diabetes. For such use the compounds of formula (I) will generally be administered in the form of a pharmaceutical composition.

The invention also provides a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a pharmaceutical.

The invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I), in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Preferably the composition is comprised of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a non-toxic therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Moreover, the invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of disease by modulating GPR116, resulting in the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of obesity, e.g. by regulating satiety, or for the treatment of diabetes, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a non-toxic therapeutically effective amount of compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

The pharmaceutical compositions may optionally comprise other therapeutic ingredients or adjuvants. The compositions include compositions suitable for oral, rectal, topical, and parenteral (including subcutaneous, intramuscular, and intravenous) administration, although the most suitable route in any given case will depend on the particular host, and nature and severity of the conditions for which the active ingredient is being administered. The pharmaceutical compositions may be conveniently presented in unit dosage form and prepared by any of the methods well known in the art of pharmacy.

In practice, the compounds of formula (I), or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, can be combined as the active ingredient in intimate admixture with a pharmaceutical carrier according to conventional pharmaceutical compounding techniques. The carrier may take a wide variety of forms depending on the form of preparation desired for administration, e.g. oral or parenteral (including intravenous).

Thus, the pharmaceutical compositions can be presented as discrete units suitable for oral administration such as capsules, cachets or tablets each containing a predetermined amount of the active ingredient. Further, the compositions can be presented as a powder, as granules, as

a solution, as a suspension in an aqueous liquid, as a non-aqueous liquid, as an oil-in-water emulsion, or as a water-in-oil liquid emulsion. In addition to the common dosage forms set out above, the compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, may also be administered by controlled release means and/or delivery devices. The compositions may be prepared by any of the methods of pharmacy. In general, such methods include a step of bringing into association the active ingredient with the carrier that constitutes one or more necessary ingredients. In general, the compositions are prepared by uniformly and intimately admixing the active ingredient with liquid carriers or finely divided solid carriers or both. The product can then be conveniently shaped into the desired presentation.

The compounds of formula (I), or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, can also be included in pharmaceutical compositions in combination with one or more other therapeutically active compounds.

The pharmaceutical carrier employed can be, for example, a solid, liquid, or gas. Examples of solid carriers include lactose, terra alba, sucrose, talc, gelatin, agar, pectin, acacia, magnesium stearate, and stearic acid. Examples of liquid carriers are sugar syrup, peanut oil, olive oil, and water. Examples of gaseous carriers include carbon dioxide and nitrogen.

In preparing the compositions for oral dosage form, any convenient pharmaceutical media may be employed. For example, water, glycols, oils, alcohols, flavoring agents, preservatives, coloring agents, and the like may be used to form oral liquid preparations such as suspensions, elixirs and solutions; while carriers such as starches, sugars, microcrystalline cellulose, diluents, granulating agents, lubricants, binders, disintegrating agents, and the like may be used to form oral solid preparations such as powders, capsules and tablets. Because of their ease of administration, tablets and capsules are the preferred oral dosage units whereby solid pharmaceutical carriers are employed. Optionally, tablets may be coated by standard aqueous or nonaqueous techniques.

A tablet containing the composition of this invention may be prepared by compression or molding, optionally with one or more accessory ingredients or adjuvants. Compressed tablets may be prepared by compressing, in a suitable machine, the active ingredient in a free-flowing form such as powder or granules, optionally mixed with a binder, lubricant, inert diluent, surface active or dispersing agent. Molded tablets may be made by molding in a suitable machine, a mixture of the powdered compound moistened with an inert liquid diluent. Each tablet preferably contains from about 0.05mg to about 5g of the active ingredient and each cachet or capsule preferably containing from about 0.05mg to about 5g of the active ingredient.

For example, a formulation intended for the oral administration to humans may contain from about 0.5mg to about 5g of active agent, compounded with an appropriate and convenient amount of carrier material which may vary from about 5 to about 95 percent of the total composition. Unit dosage forms will generally contain between from about 1mg to about 2g of the active ingredient, typically 25mg, 50mg, 100mg, 200mg, 300mg, 400mg, 500mg, 600mg, 800mg, or 1000mg.

Pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention suitable for parenteral administration may be prepared as solutions or suspensions of the active compounds in water. A suitable surfactant can be included such as, for example, hydroxypropylcellulose. Dispersions can also be prepared in glycerol, liquid polyethylene glycols, and mixtures thereof in oils. Further, a preservative can be included to prevent the detrimental growth of microorganisms.

Pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention suitable for injectable use include sterile aqueous solutions or dispersions. Furthermore, the compositions can be in the form of sterile powders for the extemporaneous preparation of such sterile injectable solutions or dispersions. In all cases, the final injectable form must be sterile and must be effectively fluid for easy syringability. The pharmaceutical compositions must be stable under the conditions of manufacture and storage; thus, preferably should be preserved against the contaminating action of microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi. The carrier can be a solvent or dispersion medium containing, for example, water, ethanol, polyol (e.g. glycerol, propylene glycol and liquid polyethylene glycol), vegetable oils, and suitable mixtures thereof.

Pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can be in a form suitable for topical use such as, for example, an aerosol, cream, ointment, lotion, dusting powder, or the like. Further, the compositions can be in a form suitable for use in transdermal devices. These formulations may be prepared, using a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, via conventional processing methods. As an example, a cream or ointment is prepared by admixing hydrophilic material and water, together with about 5wt% to about 10wt% of the compound, to produce a cream or ointment having a desired consistency.

Pharmaceutical compositions of this invention can be in a form suitable for rectal administration wherein the carrier is a solid. It is preferable that the mixture forms unit dose suppositories. Suitable carriers include cocoa butter and other materials commonly used in the art. The suppositories may be conveniently formed by first admixing the composition with the softened or melted carrier(s) followed by chilling and shaping in molds.

In addition to the aforementioned carrier ingredients, the pharmaceutical formulations described above may include, as appropriate, one or more additional carrier ingredients such as diluents, buffers, flavoring agents, binders, surface-active agents, thickeners, lubricants, preservatives (including anti-oxidants) and the like. Furthermore, other adjuvants can be included to render the formulation isotonic with the blood of the intended recipient. Compositions containing a compound of formula (I), or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, may also be prepared in powder or liquid concentrate form.

Generally, dosage levels on the order of 0.01mg/kg to about 150mg/kg of body weight per day are useful in the treatment of the above-indicated conditions, or alternatively about 0.5mg to about 7g per patient per day. For example, obesity may be effectively treated by the administration of from about 0.01 to 50mg of the compound per kilogram of body weight per day, or alternatively about 0.5mg to about 3.5g per patient per day.

It is understood, however, that the specific dose level for any particular patient will depend upon a variety of factors including the age, body weight, general health, sex, diet, time of administration, route of administration, rate of excretion, drug combination and the severity of the particular disease undergoing therapy.

The compounds of formula (I) may be used in the treatment of diseases or conditions in which GPR116 plays a role.

Thus the invention also provides a method for the treatment of a disease or condition in which GPR116 plays a role comprising a step of administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. Diseases or conditions in which GPR116 plays a role include obesity and diabetes. In the context of the present application the treatment of obesity is intended to encompass the

treatment of diseases or conditions such as obesity and other eating disorders associated with excessive food intake e.g. by reduction of appetite and body weight, maintenance of weight reduction and prevention of rebound and diabetes (including Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, impaired glucose tolerance, insulin resistance and diabetic complications such as neuropathy, nephropathy, retinopathy, cataracts, cardiovascular complications and dyslipidaemia). And the treatment of patients who have an abnormal sensitivity to ingested fats leading to functional dyspepsia. The compounds of the invention may also be used for treating metabolic diseases such as metabolic syndrome (syndrome X), impaired glucose tolerance, hyperlipidemia, hypertriglyceridemia, hypercholesterolemia, low HDL levels and hypertension.

The invention also provides a method for the regulation of satiety comprising a step of administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

The invention also provides a method for the treatment of obesity comprising a step of administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

The invention also provides a method for the treatment of diabetes, including Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, particularly type 2 diabetes, comprising a step of administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

The invention also provides a method for the treatment of metabolic syndrome (syndrome X), impaired glucose tolerance, hyperlipidemia, hypertriglyceridemia, hypercholesterolemia, low HDL levels or hypertension comprising a step of administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

The invention also provides a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of a condition as defined above.

The invention also provides the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition as defined above.

In the methods of the invention the term "treatment" includes both therapeutic and prophylactic treatment.

The compounds of formula (I), or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, may be administered alone or in combination with one or more other therapeutically active compounds. The other therapeutically active compounds may be for the treatment of the same disease or condition as the compounds of formula (I) or a different disease or condition. The therapeutically active compounds may be administered simultaneously, sequentially or separately.

The compounds of formula (I) may be administered with other active compounds for the treatment of obesity and/or diabetes, for example insulin and insulin analogs, gastric lipase inhibitors, pancreatic lipase inhibitors, sulfonyl ureas and analogs, biguanides, α 2 agonists, glitazones, PPAR- γ agonists, mixed PPAR- α/γ agonists, RXR agonists, fatty acid oxidation inhibitors, α -glucosidase inhibitors, β -agonists, phosphodiesterase inhibitors, lipid lowering agents, glycogen phosphorylase inhibitors, antiobesity agents e.g. pancreatic lipase inhibitors, MCH-1 antagonists and CB-1 antagonists (or inverse agonists), amylin antagonists,

lipoxygenase inhibitors, somostatin analogs, glucokinase activators, glucagon antagonists, insulin signalling agonists, PTP1B inhibitors, gluconeogenesis inhibitors, antilypolitic agents, GSK inhibitors, galanin receptor agonists, anorectic agents, CCK receptor agonists, leptin, serotonergic/dopaminergic antiobesity drugs, reuptake inhibitors e.g. sibutramine, CRF antagonists, CRF binding proteins, thyromimetic compounds, aldose reductase inhibitors, glucocorticoid receptor antagonists, NHE-1 inhibitors or sorbitol dehydrogenase inhibitors.

Combination therapy comprising the administration of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one other antiobesity agent represents a further aspect of the invention.

The present invention also provides a method for the treatment of obesity in a mammal, such as a human, which method comprises administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and another antiobesity agent, to a mammal in need thereof.

The invention also provides the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and another antiobesity agent for the treatment of obesity.

The invention also provides the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in combination with another antiobesity agent, for the treatment of obesity.

The compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and the other antiobesity agent(s) may be co-administered or administered sequentially or separately.

Co-administration includes administration of a formulation which includes both the compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and the other antiobesity agent(s), or the simultaneous or separate administration of different formulations of each agent. Where the pharmacological profiles of the compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and the other antiobesity agent(s) allow it, coadministration of the two agents may be preferred.

The invention also provides the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and another antiobesity agent in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of obesity.

The invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and another antiobesity agent, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The invention also encompasses the use of such compositions in the methods described above.

GPR116 agonists are of particular use in combination with centrally acting antobesity agents.

The other antiobesity agent for use in the combination therapies according to this aspect of the invention is preferably a CB-1 modulator, e.g. a CB-1 antagonist or inverse agonist. Examples of CB-1 modulators include SR141716 (rimonabant) and SLV-319 ((4S)-(-)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-N-methyl-N-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazole-1-carboxamide); as well as those compounds disclosed in EP576357, EP656354, WO 03/018060, WO 03/020217, WO 03/020314, WO 03/026647, WO 03/026648, WO 03/027076, WO 03/040105, WO 03/051850, WO 03/051851, WO 03/053431, WO 03/063781, WO 03/075660, WO 03/077847, WO 03/078413, WO 03/082190, WO 03/082191, WO 03/082833, WO 03/084930, WO 03/084943, WO 03/086288, WO 03/087037, WO 03/088968, WO 04/012671,

WO 04/013120, WO 04/026301, WO 04/029204, WO 04/034968, WO 04/035566, WO 04/037823 WO 04/052864, WO 04/058145, WO 04/058255, WO 04/060870, WO 04/060888, WO 04/069837, WO 04/069837, WO 04/072076, WO 04/072077, WO 04/078261 and WO 04/108728, and the references disclosed therein.

Other diseases or conditions in which GPR116 has been suggested to play a role include those described in WO 00/50562 and US 6,468,756, for example cardiovascular disorders, hypertension, respiratory disorders, gestational abnormalities, gastrointestinal disorders, immune disorders, musculoskeletal disorders, depression, phobias, anxiety, mood disorders and Alzheimer's disease.

All publications, including, but not limited to, patents and patent application cited in this specification, are herein incorporated by reference as if each individual publication were specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference herein as fully set forth.

The invention will now be described by reference to the following examples which are for illustrative purposes and are not to be construed as a limitation of the scope of the present invention.

EXAMPLES

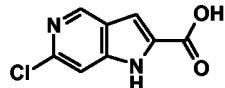
Materials and methods

Column chromatography was carried out on SiO_2 (40–63 mesh) unless specified otherwise. LCMS data for all Preparations and Examples 1–124 were obtained as follows: Atlantis $3\mu\text{ C}_{18}$ column (3.0×20.0 mm, flow rate = 0.85 mL/min) eluting with a $\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ solution, containing 0.1% HCO_2H , over 6 min with UV detection at 220 nm. Gradient information: 0.0 – 0.3 min 100% H_2O ; 0.3 – 4.25 min: Ramp up to 10% H_2O – 90% CH_3CN ; 4.25 – 4.4 min: Ramp up to 100% CH_3CN ; 4.4 – 4.9 min: Hold at 100% CH_3CN ; 4.9 – 6.0 min: Return to 100% H_2O . The mass spectra were obtained using an electrospray ionisation source in either the positive (ES^+) or negative (ES^-) ion modes. LCMS data for Examples 125–149 were obtained as follows: Waters Xterra MS C18, $5\mu\text{m}$ (19×50 mm, flow rate 25 mL/min) eluting with a $\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{MeCN}$ gradient containing 0.1% v/v NH_3 over 10 min with UV detection at 215 and 254 nm. Gradient information: 0.0 – 0.5 min Hold at 95% H_2O – 5% MeCN ; 0.5 – 7.5 min: Ramp from 95% H_2O – 5% MeCN to 5% H_2O – 95% MeCN ; 7.5 – 8.4 min: Hold at 5% H_2O – 95% MeCN ; 8.4 – 8.5 min: Return to 95% H_2O – 5% MeCN ; 8.5 – 10.0 min: Hold at 95% H_2O – 5% MeCN . Mass spectra were obtained using an electrospray ionisation source in either the positive (ES^+) or negative (ES^-) ion modes. An LC-packings Acurate flow splitter was used to split the column eluent 1000:1, make-up flow comprised MeCN containing 0.1% formic acid at 1 mL/min.

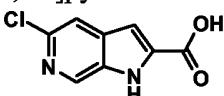
Abbreviations and acronyms: Ac: Acetyl; *t*BDMS: *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl; Bn: Benzyl; *t*-Bu: *tert*-Butyl; Bz: Benzoyl; 18C6: [18]Crown-6; DABCO: Bicyclo(2,2,2)-1,4-diazaoctane; DBU: 1,8-Diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene; DIPEA: *N,N*-Diisopropylethylamine; DMAP: 4-Dimethylaminopyridine; DMF: *N,N*-Dimethylformamide; DMSO: Dimethylsulfoxide; EDCI: 1-(3-Dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride; Et: Ethyl; *i*-Bu: Isobutyl; IH: Isohexane; *i*-Pr: Isopropyl; LiHMDS: Lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide; *m*CPBA: 3-Chloroperoxybenzoic acid; Me: Methyl; Ms: Methanesulfonyl; Ph: Phenyl; *n*-Pr: *n*-Propyl; RP-HPLC: Reverse phase-high performance liquid chromatography; RT: Retention time; TFA: Trifluoroacetic acid; THF: Tetrahydrofuran; TMS: Trimethylsilyl. The syntheses of the following compounds have been described elsewhere: (1-*tert*-Butoxycarbonylpiperidin-4-

ylmethyl)triphenylphosphonium iodide: Hale, J. J., et al. US Patent Application 20020094989; 4-Carboxymethoxypiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester: Brewster, A. G., et al. US Patent 5,981,531; (3*R*)-3-Carboxymethoxy-pyrrolidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester: Alig, L., et al. EP656348; 7,8-Dihydro-6-isoquinolinecarboxylic acid: Chan, L., et al. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2000**, *10*, 1477–1480; Furo[2,3-*c*]pyridine-2-carbaldehyde, Furo[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2-carbaldehyde, Furo[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2-carbonitrile, Furo[2,3-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid, and Furo[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid: Morita, H.; Shiotani, S. *J. Heterocycl. Chem.* **1987**, *24*, 373–376; (*N*-Hydroxycarbamimidoylmethyl)carbamic acid *tert*-butyl ester: WO03/082861; 4-(*N*-Hydroxycarbamimidoylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester and 4-(*N*-Hydroxycarbamimidoyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester: Sørensen, J. L.; Andersen, K. E.; Petterson, I. WO 04/054973; 3-Hydroxy-furo[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester: Shiotani, S., et al. *J. Heterocycl. Chem.* **1988**, *25*, 1205–1213; 7-Iodo-furo[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2-carbaldehyde: Tata, J. R., et al. WO 01/038332; 4-Mercaptopiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester: Bru-Magniez, N., et al. US Patent 5,317,025; 4-(2-Methanesulfonyloxyethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester: Cain, G. A., et al. US Patent 5,252,586; 1-Methyl-1-cyclopropanol: Kulinkovich, O. G., et al. *Synthesis* **1991**, 234; [1,7]Naphthyridine-3-carboxylic acid: Chan, L., et al. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **1999**, *9*, 2583–2586; Oxazolo[4,5-*c*]pyridine: Katner, A. S.; Brown, R. F. *J. Heterocycl. Chem.* **1990**, *27*, 563–566; 1*H*-Pyrrolo[2,3-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid and 1*H*-Pyrrolo[2,3-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester: Fisher, M. H.; Matzuk, A. R. *J. Heterocycl. Chem.* **1969**, *6*, 775–776; Thieno[2,3-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid and Thieno[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid: Walker, D. P., et al. WO 03/029252. All other starting materials were available from commercial sources.

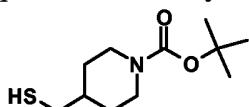
Preparation 1: 6-Chloro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid



AgSO_4 (7.1 g, 22.8 mmol) and 4-amino-2-chloropyridine (4.1 g, 31.6 mmol) were added to a solution of I_2 (5.7 g, 22.3 mmol) in EtOH (100 mL), then the mixture was stirred at 20°C for 72 h. The bright yellow suspension was filtered, washed with MeOH, and the combined filtrates concentrated in vacuo. The residue was partitioned between saturated aqueous Na_2CO_3 (200 mL) and EtOAc (200 mL). The organic layer was washed with 25% aqueous $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ (50 mL) and brine (50 mL), before being dried (MgSO_4). Filtration, solvent evaporation, and purification by column chromatography (1*H*-EtOAc, 3:1 to 2.5:1) provided 2-chloro-5-iodopyridin-4-ylamine: δ_{H} (CDCl_3): 4.81 (brs, 2H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 8.38 (s, 1H). Pyruvic acid (0.86 mL, 12.4 mmol) was added to a solution of this compound (1.05 g, 4.1 mmol), $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (56 mg, 0.25 mmol) and DABCO (1.39 g, 12.4 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (30 mL). The reaction mixture was degassed with Ar for 20 min, before being heated to 145°C for 2 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo, then the residue was taken up in water (200 mL). The pH was adjusted to 9–10 with 1 M NaOH, then the mixture was filtered through Celite. The filtrate was washed with EtOAc (50 mL) and Et_2O (50 mL), then the pH was adjusted to 3 with 1 M HCl. Extraction with EtOAc (5 × 50 mL), drying of the combined extracts (MgSO_4), filtration, and concentration gave the title compound: δ_{H} ($(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$): 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 8.80 (s, 1H).

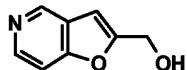
Preparation 2: 5-Chloro-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid

A solution of KOEt (1.5 g, 17.4 mmol) in Et₂O (80 mL) and EtOH (10 mL) under Ar was treated with (CO₂Et)₂ (2.4 mL, 17.4 mmol), then the mixture was stirred at 20°C for 0.5 h. A solution of 2-chloro-4-methyl-5-nitropyridine (3.0 g, 17.4 mmol) in Et₂O (20 mL) was added, then the mixture was stirred at 20°C for 15 h. On cooling to 0°C, the dark green solid produced was collected and washed with cold Et₂O. This solid was dissolved in H₂O (200 mL), then the solution was acidified to pH 4 with AcOH to afford an orange precipitate, which was collected by filtration and dried to give 3-(2-chloro-5-nitropyridin-4-yl)-2-oxopropionic acid ethyl ester: m/z (ES⁺) = 273 [M + H]⁺. This compound (3.0 g, 11.0 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (100 mL) and THF (50 mL). Fe powder (3.7 g, 66.0 mmol) and saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (50 mL) were added, then the mixture was heated under reflux for 2 h. The mixture was cooled, filtered through celite, and extracted several times with EtOAc. The organic layers were combined, washed with brine (100 mL), dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated in vacuo to give 5-chloro-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester: δ_H (CD₃OD): 1.42 (t, 3H), 4.44 (q, 2H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 8.59 (s, 1H). A solution of this ester (1.8 g, 7.9 mmol) in EtOH (70 mL) was treated with 2 M NaOH (5.2 mL, 10.4 mmol), then the mixture was heated under reflux for 2 h. The solvents were removed in vacuo and the residual solid dissolved in H₂O (150 mL). The solution was acidified to pH 4 with AcOH to give the title compound as a brown solid that was isolated by filtration: δ_H (CD₃OD): 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 8.58 (s, 1H).

Preparation 3: 4-Mercaptomethylpiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester

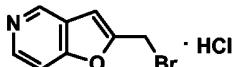
A stirred solution of *N*-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-4-(4-toluenesulfonyloxy)methyl)piperidine (240 mg, 0.65 mmol) and thiourea (99 mg, 1.30 mmol) in EtOH (1 mL) was heated under gentle reflux for 16h. The solvent was evaporated off under reduced pressure to furnish the tosylate salt of 4-carbamimidoylsulfanyl methylpiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester: m/z (ES⁺) = 274.0 [M + H]⁺. A solution of this salt (250 mg, 0.56 mmol) in H₂O (1 mL) and concentrated aqueous NH₃ (2 mL) was heated to 100°C with stirring for 20 min. On cooling, the mixture was partitioned between Et₂O (30 mL) and H₂O (10 mL), the pH of the aqueous phase being adjusted to 7 using 2 M HCl and saturated aqueous NaHCO₃. The organic phase was extracted with 1 M NaOH (15 mL), then the aqueous extracts were neutralised to pH 7 with 2 M HCl. The cloudy mixture was extracted with Et₂O (50 mL), then the organic extracts were washed with brine (10 mL) and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and solvent evaporation furnished the title compound: δ_H (CDCl₃): 1.05–1.20 (m, 2H), 1.35 (t, 1H), 1.48 (s, 9H), 1.50–1.60 (m, 1H), 1.80–1.90 (m, 2H), 2.40–2.50 (m, 2H), 2.60–2.80 (m, 2H), 4.05–4.25 (m, 2H).

Preparation 4: Furo[3,2-*c*]pyridin-2-ylmethanol



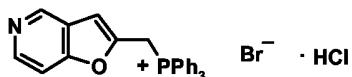
NaBH_4 (0.26 g, 6.8 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carbaldehyde (2.00 g, 13.6 mmol) in anhydrous MeOH (25 mL) at 0°C. After 1.5 h, the reaction was quenched with H_2O (20 mL), before being extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3×30 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO_4), filtered, and concentrated to provide the title compound: m/z (ES^+) = 150.0 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

Preparation 5: 2-Bromomethylfuro[3,2-c]pyridine hydrochloride



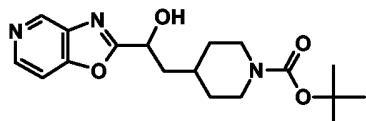
A stirred suspension of furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylmethanol (**Preparation 4**, 1.47 g, 9.9 mmol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (60 mL) was treated with CBr_4 (4.90 g, 14.8 mmol). The mixture was cooled down to 0°C, before being treated with PPh_3 (3.88 g, 14.8 mmol). After 2 h at 20°C, the reaction was filtered, then the filtrate was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL), before being washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 (2×50 mL) and H_2O (50 mL). The CH_2Cl_2 solution was extracted with 2 M HCl (3×50 mL), then the combined HCl extracts were evaporated to furnish the title compound: m/z (ES^+) = 211.9, 213.9 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

Preparation 6: Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylmethyltriphenylphosphonium bromide hydrochloride



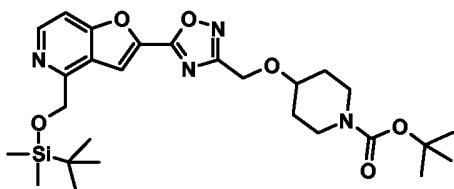
A solution of 2-bromomethylfuro[3,2-c]pyridine hydrochloride (**Preparation 5**, 2.12 g, 8.5 mmol) and PPh_3 (2.24 g, 8.5 mmol) in anhydrous $\text{THF}-\text{EtOH}$ (1:1, 80 mL) was heated under reflux for 3 d. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure, then the residual solid was triturated with hot THF to furnish the title compound: RT = 2.32 min.

Preparation 7: 4-(2-Hydroxy-2-oxazolo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-ylethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



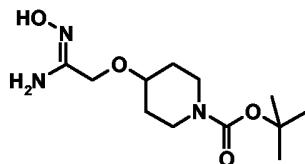
i-PrMgCl (0.44 mL of a 2 mmol/mL solution in THF , 0.88 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of oxazolo[4,5-c]pyridine (105 mg, 0.87 mmol) in anhydrous THF (3 mL) at 0 °C. After 1 h, a solution of 4-(2-oxo-ethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (198 mg, 0.87 mmol) in anhydrous THF (2 mL) was added, then the mixture was allowed to warm to 20°C over 16 h, before being quenched with saturated aqueous NH_4Cl (10 mL). The layers were separated, then the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3×15 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO_4), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. Flash chromatography (EtOAc) of the residue furnished the title compound: m/z (ES^+) = 348.1 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

Preparation 8: 4-{5-[4-(*tert*-Butyl-methylsilyloxy)methyl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-yl}-[1,2,4]oxadiazole-3-ylmethoxy}piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



(COCl)₂ (2.5 mL) was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (1.64 g, 10.1 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL). After effervescence had ceased, the mixture was concentrated. Further CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) was added, followed by NEt₃ (4 mL) and MeOH (20 mL). After 1 h stirring, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc (50 mL) and washed with H₂O, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and brine. The CH₂Cl₂ solution was dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated to afford furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester: δ_H (CDCl₃): 3.96 (s, 3H), 7.48 (d, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 8.59 (d, 1H), 9.00 (s, 1H). A solution of this compound (1.10 g, 6.2 mmol) in MeOH was treated with TFA (0.5 mL). The flask was purged with argon, Bz₂O₂ (1.50 g, 6.2 mmol) added, and the mixture heated to reflux for 8 h. The mixture was cooled, adsorbed onto silica and purified *via* column chromatography to furnish 4-hydroxymethylfuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester: *m/z* (ES⁺) = 208.0 [M + H]⁺. A solution of this alcohol (0.50 g, 2.4 mmol), *t*BDMS-Cl (0.47 g, 3.1 mmol), NEt₃ (0.5 mL, 3.6 mmol) and DMAP (catalytic) was stirred in THF overnight. The solution was diluted with EtOAc and washed with H₂O and brine, before being dried and concentrated. Purification *via* chromatography afforded 4-(*tert*-butylmethylsilyloxy)methyl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester: δ_H (CDCl₃) 0.01 (s, 6H), 0.82 (s, 9H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 4.99 (s, 2H), 7.28 (d, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 8.38 (d, 1H). To a solution of 4-(*N*-hydroxycarbamimidoylmethoxy)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Preparation 9**, 93 mg, 340 μmol) in THF was added NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 14 mg, 350 μmol). After effervescence had ceased, 4-(*tert*-butylmethylsilyloxy)methyl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester (100 mg, 311 μmol) was added. After 3 h at 20 °C, the reaction was heated to reflux for 50 min. The mixture was cooled, diluted with EtOAc, washed with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl, and brine, before being dried and concentrated. Purification *via* column chromatography afforded the title compound: *m/z* (ES⁺) = 545.1 [M + H]⁺.

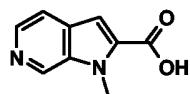
Preparation 9: 4-(*N*-Hydroxycarbamimidoylmethoxy)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



A solution of 4-carboxymethoxypiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (14.13 g, 54.7 mmol) and NEt₃ (7.7 mL, 65.6 mmol) in anhydrous THF (250 mL) was cooled to 0°C, before being treated dropwise with isobutyl chloroformate (8.5 mL, 65.6 mmol). After stirring at 0°C for 30 min, the reaction mixture was cooled to -20°C, before being added rapidly, via cannula, to a solution of NH₃ in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (0.7 M, 250 mL, 175 mmol) at -70°C. The reaction was allowed to warm to 20°C, before being stirred for 1 h. The mixture was diluted

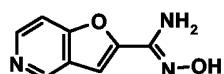
with CH_2Cl_2 (250 mL), before being washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 (200 mL), 0.5 M HCl (200 mL), and brine (200 mL). After drying (MgSO_4), the solution was filtered and the solvent evaporated to give a residue that was purified by flash chromatography (IH–THF, 3:7) to afford 4-carbamoylmethoxypiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester: δ_{H} (CDCl_3): 1.49 (s, 9H), 1.53–1.60 (m, 2H), 1.85–1.92 (m, 2H), 3.11 (m, 2H), 3.58 (m, 1H), 3.76–3.83 (m, 2H), 3.98 (s, 2H), 6.19 (brs, 1H), 6.56 (brs, 1H). A solution of this compound (235 mg, 0.91 mmol) and NEt_3 (140 μL , 1.00 mmol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL) was cooled to 0°C, then a solution of trichloroacetyl chloride (174 mg, 0.96 mmol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at 20°C for 1 h, then the solvent was removed and the residue purified by flash chromatography (IH–EtOAc, 1:1) to furnish 4-cyanomethoxypiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester: δ_{H} (CDCl_3): 1.50 (s, 9H), 1.58–1.65 (m, 2H), 1.89–1.95 (m, 2H), 3.20 (m, 2H), 3.74–3.79 (m, 3H), 4.33 (s, 2H). A solution of K_2CO_3 (119 mg, 0.86 mmol) and $\text{NH}_2\text{OH}\cdot\text{HCl}$ (119 mg, 1.71 mmol) in H_2O (0.5 mL) was added to the above nitrile (206 mg, 0.86 mmol) in EtOH (2 mL). The mixture was heated at 75°C for 45 min, before being cooled to ambient temperature. The solvents were evaporated, then the residue was diluted with EtOAc (50 mL), before being washed with H_2O (2×10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The EtOAc solution was dried (MgSO_4), filtered, and concentrated to afford the title compound: m/z (ES^+) = 274.0 [$M + \text{H}]^+$.

Preparation 10: 1-Methyl-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid



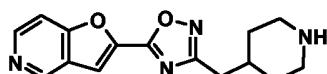
NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 51 mg, 1.26 mmol) was added to a solution of 1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (200 mg, 1.05 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (10 mL) at 0°C. The mixture was stirred for 1 h, before being treated with MeI (79 μL , 1.26 mmol) and allowed to warm to 20°C. After 16 h, saturated aqueous NH_4Cl (10 mL) was added, then the suspension was stirred vigorously for 1 h. The mixture was partitioned between H_2O (10 mL) and EtOAc (30 mL), then the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3×20 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (20 mL), dried (MgSO_4), filtered, and concentrated, then the residue was purified by flash chromatography (IH–EtOAc, 1:1) to provide 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester: δ_{H} (CDCl_3): 1.45 (t, 3H), 4.20 (s, 3H), 4.42 (q, 2H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.58 (d, 1H), 8.36 (d, 1H), 8.95 (s, 1H). A solution of this ester (36 mg, 180 μmol) in EtOH (3 mL) was treated with 2 M NaOH (270 μL , 540 μmol), then the mixture was stirred at 60°C for 4 h. On cooling to ambient temperature, the mixture was treated dropwise with dilute AcOH to adjust the pH to 4. The resulting suspension was allowed to stand at ambient temperature for 7 d, then the precipitated solid was collected, washed with H_2O , and dried to furnish the title compound: δ_{H} (CD_3OD): 4.23 (s, 3H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, 1H), 8.17 (d, 1H), 9.12 (s, 1H).

Preparation 11: *N*-Hydroxyfuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxamidine



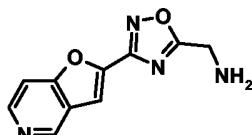
A solution of NH₂OH·HCl (1.22 g, 17.5 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (1.21 g, 8.75 mmol) in H₂O (3 mL) was added to a stirred solution of furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carbonitrile (1.26 g, 8.75 mmol) in EtOH (6 mL). The reaction was heated to 70°C for 2 h, before being concentrated in vacuo. The remainder was partitioned between EtOAc and H₂O. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (8×), then the combined organic extracts were washed with brine, back-extracting with EtOAc (4×). The combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated to give the title compound: *m/z* (ES⁺) = 178.0 [M + H]⁺.

Preparation 12: 2-(3-Piperidin-4-ylmethyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine



TFA (10 mL) was added to a stirred solution of 4-(5-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Example 44**, 1.76 g, 4.56 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL). After 1 h, the solvents were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was taken up in CH₂Cl₂–MeOH (9:1, 100 mL), before being washed with 2M NaOH (100 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂–MeOH (9:1, 2 × 100 mL), then the organic extracts were combined, dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated to furnish the title compound: *m/z* (ES⁺) = 285.0 [M + H]⁺.

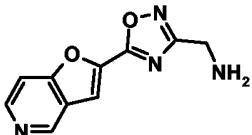
Preparation 13: *C*-(3-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)methylamine



NEt₃ (0.38 mL, 2.71 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of *N*-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl glycine (475 mg, 2.71 mmol) in anhydrous THF (30 mL). The mixture was cooled to 0°C, before being treated with *i*-BuOCOCl (0.35 mL, 2.71 mmol). After 5 min, the reaction was allowed to warm to ambient temperature, before being stirred for 45 min and then treated with *N*-hydroxyfuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxamidine (**Preparation 11**, 400 mg, 2.26 mmol). After 3 h, the mixture was treated with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, H₂O, and Et₂O. The organic phase was washed with brine, before being dried (MgSO₄). Filtration, solvent evaporation, and column chromatography (MeOH–CH₂Cl₂, 1:49 to 3:47) furnished the acylated amidoxime: *m/z* (ES⁺) = 335.1 [M + H]⁺. A solution of this compound (420 mg, 0.82 mmol) in PhMe (70 mL) was heated under reflux with stirring for 16 h. The solvents were then removed in vacuo, and the residue was purified by column chromatography (MeOH–CH₂Cl₂, 1:49) to yield (3-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-ylmethyl)carbamic acid *tert*-butyl ester: *m/z* (ES⁺) = 317.1 [M + H]⁺. TFA (2.6 mL) and H₂O (11 μL) was added to a stirred mixture of this carbamate ester (195 mg, 0.62 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL). After 1 h, the solvents were removed in vacuo, then excess TFA was removed by azeotroping with PhMe (2×). The remainder was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂–MeOH (9:1) and 2 M NaOH. The aqueous phase was further extracted with CH₂Cl₂–MeOH (9:1, 10×), then the combined organic extracts were washed with

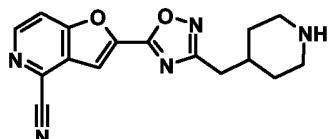
brine, before being dried (MgSO_4). Filtration and solvent evaporation furnished the title compound: m/z (ES^+) = 217.0 [$M + \text{H}$]⁺.

Preparation 14: *C*-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)methylamine



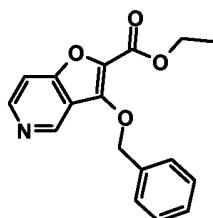
(COCl)₂ (2.5 mL, 24.5 mmol) was added to a stirred suspension of furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2.00 g, 12.2 mmol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL). The mixture was treated with one drop of anhydrous DMF, before being heated under reflux for 4 h. On cooling, the solvent was evaporated to furnish the crude acid chloride, which was dissolved in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL). The stirred solution was cooled down to 0°C, before being treated with NEt_3 (3 mL). After 5 min, (*N*-hydroxycarbamimidoylmethyl)carbamic acid *tert*-butyl ester (2.29 g, 12.2 mmol) was added, then the mixture was stirred at 20°C overnight. The solvent was removed in vacuo, then the residue was dissolved in PhMe, before being heated under reflux for 16 h. Column chromatography yielded (5-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)-carbamic acid *tert*-butyl ester: m/z (ES^+) = 317.1 [$M + \text{H}$]⁺. TFA (15 mL) was added to a stirred solution of this compound (1.13 g, 3.5 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL) at 0°C. After 3 h, PhMe was added, and the solvent was evaporated off under reduced pressure. The remainder was partitioned between CH_2Cl_2 and saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 , then the CH_2Cl_2 extracts were dried (MgSO_4) and evaporated to furnish the title compound.

Preparation 15: 2-(3-Piperidin-4-ylmethyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine-4-carbonitrile



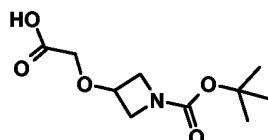
A stirred solution 4-[5-(4-cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Example 82**, 134 mg, 328 μmol) in anhydrous CHCl_3 (7 mL) was treated with TMS-I (140 μL , 983 μmol). After 1 h, the reaction was treated with MeOH (3.4 mL), then solid $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ was added slowly to remove the yellow colour. The reaction mixture was filtered and the excess $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ collected was washed with MeOH (3 \times 1 mL). The combined filtrates were allowed to stand for 1 h, before being purified by column chromatography (MeOH- CH_2Cl_2 , 1:9) to yield the title compound: RT = 2.44 min; m/z (ES^+) = 310.1 [$M + \text{H}$]⁺.

Preparation 16: 3-Benzylxyfuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester



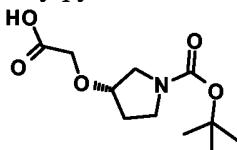
K_2CO_3 (2.34 g, 17.0 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 3-hydroxyfuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (1.76 g, 8.5 mmol) in DMF (40 mL). After 5 min, BnBr (1.25 mL, 10.6 mmol) was added, then the mixture was stirred for 16 h, before being poured into H_2O and extracted with EtOAc (3 \times). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, before being dried (MgSO_4). Filtration, solvent evaporation, and column chromatography (EtOAc) yielded the title compound: m/z (ES^+) = 298.0 [$M + \text{H}]^+$.

Preparation 17: 3-Carboxymethoxyazetidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



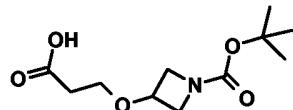
Anhydrous DMF (5 mL) was added slowly to a stirred mixture of 3-hydroxyazetidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (350 mg, 2.0 mmol) and NaH (121 mg of a 60% dispersion in mineral oil, 3.0 mmol) at 0°C. After 15 min, $\text{ICH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{Na}$ (630 mg, 3.0 mmol) was added, then stirring was continued at 20°C for 65 h. The solvent was removed in *vacuo*, then the residue was partitioned between H_2O (15 mL) and EtOAc (10 mL). The organic phase was extracted with saturated aqueous Na_2CO_3 (2 \times 10 mL), then the combined aqueous extracts were acidified to pH 2 with 2 M HCl , before being extracted with EtOAc (2 \times 50 mL). The EtOAc extracts were washed with brine, before being dried (MgSO_4). Filtration, solvent evaporation, and column chromatography (1H-EtOAc, 1:1) furnished the title compound: δ_{H} (CDCl_3): 1.45 (s, 9H), 3.90–4.00 (m, 2H), 4.10–4.19 (m, 4H), 4.36–4.42 (m, 1H), 10.10–10.30 (br s, 1H).

Preparation 18: (3*S*)-3-Carboxymethoxy-pyrrolidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



Employing procedures analogous to those described in **Preparation 17**, the title compound was prepared from (3*S*)-3-hydroxypyrrolidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester: δ_{H} (CDCl_3): 1.40 (s, 9H), 1.85–2.05 (m, 2H), 3.30–3.55 (m, 4H), 4.05 (s, 2H), 4.12–4.17 (m, 1H).

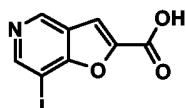
Preparation 19: 3-(2-Carboxyethoxy)azetidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



A mixture of 3-hydroxyazetidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (350 mg, 2.0 mmol) and NaH (6 mg of a 60% dispersion in mineral oil, 0.15 mmol) was warmed until effervescence

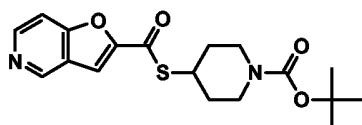
had ceased. The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 15 min, then methyl acrylate (940 μ L, 10.5 mmol) was added. After 3 h, the reaction was diluted with Et_2O (50 mL), before being washed with H_2O (10 mL) and brine (10 mL) then dried (MgSO_4). The Et_2O solution was filtered and evaporated, then EtOAc (15 mL) was added. The solvents were removed, then more EtOAc (15 mL) was added, before being evaporated off again to ensure that no methyl acrylate remained. The residue was dissolved in MeOH (3 mL), before being treated with 2 M NaOH (2.0 mL). After 1 h, the MeOH was removed, then H_2O (12 mL) and Et_2O (10 mL) were added. The Et_2O layer was extracted further with H_2O (8 mL), then the combined aqueous extracts were acidified to pH 2 with 2 M HCl and the resulting mixture extracted with EtOAc (50 + 40 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine and dried (MgSO_4). Filtration, solvent evaporation and column chromatography (IH-EtOAc, 1:1) gave the title compound: δ_{C} (CDCl_3): 28.1, 34.8, 56.3, 63.9, 68.0, 79.9, 156.4, 176.2.

Preparation 20: 7-Iodofuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid



A solution of KH_2PO_4 (81 mg, 0.59 mmol) in H_2O (3 mL) was added to a solution of 7-iodofuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carbaldehyde (578 mg, 2.12 mmol) in DMSO (16 mL). The stirred mixture was treated carefully with a solution of NaClO_2 (335 mg, 2.96 mmol) in H_2O (5 mL). After 16 h, more KH_2PO_4 (81 mg, 0.59 mmol) in H_2O (3 mL) and NaClO_2 (335 mg, 2.96 mmol) in H_2O (5 mL) were added, then stirring was continued for a further 48 h. The precipitated solid was collected, washed with DMSO , H_2O , $i\text{-PrOH}$, and EtOAc , and vacuum-dried to furnish the title compound: m/z (ES^+) = 289.9 [$M + \text{H}]^+$.

Example 1: 4-(Furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carbonylsulfanyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



A solution of EDCI (66 mg, 0.35 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (2 mL) was added to a stirred solution of furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (45 mg, 0.28 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (1 mL). After 1 h, the mixture was treated with a solution of DMAP (6 mg, 0.05 mmol) and 4-mercaptopiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (50 mg, 0.23 mmol), before being stirred for an additional 16 h. The DMF was removed under reduced pressure, then the residue was purified by flash chromatography (IH-EtOAc, 1:1 to 3:7) to furnish the title compound: RT = 3.34 min; m/z (ES^+) = 363.1 [$M + \text{H}]^+$.

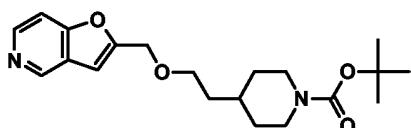
The thioesters shown in Table 1 were prepared by condensation of the appropriate thiol with the appropriate acid employing protocols similar to those described in **Example 1**.

Table 1

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	<i>m/z</i> (ES ⁺)
2		4-((1,6)naphthyridine-2-carbonylsulfanyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.69	374.1 [M + H] ⁺
3		4-((1,7)naphthyridine-3-carbonylsulfanyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.90	374.1 [M + H] ⁺
4		4-(6-Chloro-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carbonylsulfanyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.79	396.0 [M + H] ⁺
5		4-(1H-Pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine-2-carbonylsulfanyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.04	362.1 [M + H] ⁺
6		4-(5-Chloro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine-2-carbonylsulfanyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.89	396.1 [M + H] ⁺
7		4-((1,6)naphthyridine-2-carbonylsulfanylmethyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	4.14	388.1 [M + H] ⁺
8		4-(1H-Pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine-2-carbonylsulfanylmethyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.95	376.1 [M + H] ⁺
9		4-(Furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carbonylsulfanylmethyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.44	377.1 [M + H] ⁺
10		4-(6-Chloro-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carbonylsulfanylmethyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.92	410.1 [M + H] ⁺

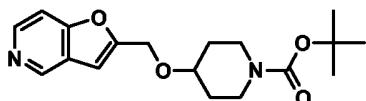
Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
11		4-(5-Chloro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine-2-carbonylsulfanyl methyl) piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	4.05	410.1 [M + H] ⁺
12		4-([1,7]Naphthyridine-3-carbonylsulfanyl methyl) piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.84	388.1 [M + H] ⁺

Example 13: 4-[2-(Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)ethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



t-BuOK (45 mg, 401 μ mol) and 4-(2-methanesulfonyloxyethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (134 mg, 436 μ mol) were added to a stirred solution of furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylmethanol (**Preparation 4**, 50 mg, 336 μ mol) in anhydrous THF (5 mL). The reaction was heated under reflux for 6 h, before being cooled to 20°C and quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl. The mixture was extracted twice with EtOAc, then the combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc–MeOH, 1:0 to 50:1) to furnish the title compound: RT = 2.86 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 361.3 [M + H]⁺.

Example 14: 4-(Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester

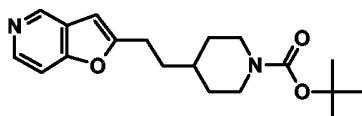


NaH (4.4 mg of a 60% dispersion in mineral oil, 110 μ mol) was added to a stirred solution of 4-hydroxypiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (20.2 mg, 100 μ mol) in anhydrous THF (1 mL). After 1 h, the mixture was added to a stirred solution of 2-bromomethylfuro[3,2-c]pyridine hydrochloride (**Preparation 5**, 25.0 mg, 100 μ mol) in anhydrous THF (2 mL) which had been pretreated with NaH (4.4 mg of a 60% dispersion in mineral oil, 110 μ mol). The mixture was stirred for 16 h at 20°C, before being treated with Bu₄NI (3.7 mg, 10 μ mol) and heated at 60°C for 4 h. On cooling, the reaction mixture was quenched with H₂O (5 mL), before being extracted with EtOAc (2 \times 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO₄), filtered, concentrated, and purified by flash chromatography (IH–EtOAc, 2:3) to yield the title compound: RT = 2.64 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 333.3 [M + H]⁺.

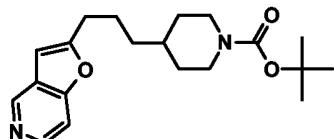
The ethers shown in Table 2 were synthesised via the reaction of the appropriate alcohol with 2-bromomethylfuro[3,2-c]pyridine hydrochloride (**Preparation 5**) employing protocols similar to those described in **Example 14**.

Table 2

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	<i>m/z</i> (ES ⁺)
15		4-(Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylmethoxymethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.74	347.3 [M + H] ⁺
16		4-[3-(Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)propyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.01	375.4 [M + H] ⁺
17		4-[4-(Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)butyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.22	389.4 [M + H] ⁺

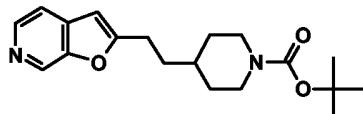
Example 18: 4-(2-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester

LiHMDS (5.9 mL of a 1.0 M solution in THF, 5.90 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylmethylitriphenylphosphonium bromide hydrochloride (**Preparation 6**, 1.50 g, 2.94 mmol) in anhydrous THF (25 mL) at 0°C. After 45 min, the mixture was treated with 4-formylpiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (0.63 g, 2.94 mmol), before being stirred at 20°C for 16 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (300 mL), before being washed with H₂O (2 × 100 mL) and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration, solvent evaporation, and flash chromatography (1H-EtOAc, 1:1) furnished 4-(2-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylvinyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester: *m/z* (ES⁺) = 329.1 [M + H]⁺. This alkene (830 mg, 2.53 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (15 mL), then Pd (10% on C, 83 mg, 0.08 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred under a H₂ atmosphere for 16 h, before being filtered through celite. The celite was washed with MeOH, then the combined solutions were concentrated to provide the title compound: RT = 2.86 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 331.2 [M + H]⁺.

Example 19: 4-(3-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylpropyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester

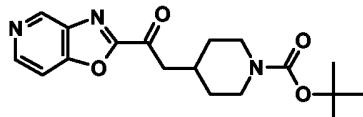
Employing protocols similar to those described in **Example 18**, Wittig reaction of furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylmethyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (**Preparation 6**) with 4-(2-oxoethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester, followed by reduction of the alkene produced, furnished the title compound: RT = 2.99 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 345.2 [M + H]⁺.

Example 20: 4-(2-Furo[2,3-c]pyridin-2-ylethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



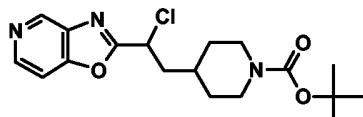
K₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.88 mmol) and 18C6 (catalytic amount) were added to a stirred solution of (1-*tert*-butoxycarbonylpiperidin-4-ylmethyl)triphenylphosphonium iodide (491 mg, 0.88 mmol) and furo[2,3-c]pyridine-2-carbaldehyde (65 mg, 0.44 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL). After 64 h, the reaction mixture was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) and H₂O (20 mL). The aqueous phase was further extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 20 mL), then the combined organic extracts were washed with H₂O (20 mL) and brine (20 mL), before being dried (MgSO₄). Filtration, solvent evaporation, and flash chromatography (IH-EtOAc, 7:3) afforded 4-(2-furo[2,3-c]pyridin-2-ylvinyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester: *m/z* (ES⁺) = 329.2 [M + H]⁺. This alkene (30 mg, 91 μmol) was hydrogenated, as described above in **Example 18**, to yield the title compound: RT = 2.86 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 331.2 [M + H]⁺.

Example 21: 4-(2-Oxazolo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-yl-2-oxo-ethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



The Dess–Martin periodinane (23.7 mg, 60 μmol) was added to a stirred solution of 4-(2-hydroxy-2-oxazolo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-yl-ethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Preparation 7**, 19.4 mg, 60 μmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL). After 16 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL), before being washed with a saturated aqueous Na₂S₂O₃–saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (7:1, 3 × 5 mL). The CH₂Cl₂ layer was dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated. Flash chromatography (IH-EtOAc, 1:9) provided the title compound: RT = 3.39 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 346.1 [M + H]⁺.

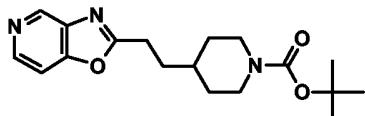
Example 22: 4-(2-Chloro-2-oxazolo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-ylethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



MsCl (29 μL, 0.38 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 4-(2-hydroxy-2-oxazolo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-yl-ethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Preparation 7**, 110 mg, 0.32 mmol) in anhydrous pyridine (5 mL) at 0 °C. After 1 h, more MsCl (29 μL, 0.38 mmol) was added, then the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for an additional 1 h, before being heated under reflux for 1 h. The reaction was concentrated under reduced pressure, then the

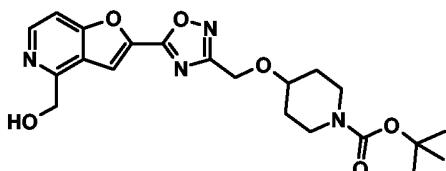
residue was purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc–IH, 7:3) to furnish the title compound: RT = 3.57 min; m/z (ES $^+$) = 310.0 [$M + 2H - t\text{-Bu}]^+$.

Example 23: 4-(2-Oxazolo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-yl-ethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



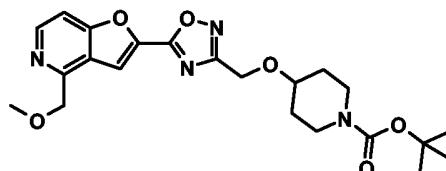
NaI (2 mg) was added to a solution of 4-(2-chloro-2-oxazolo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-ylethyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Example 22**, 18 mg, 49 μmol) in anhydrous pyridine (1 mL). The mixture was heated under microwave irradiation for 10 min at 150 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, before being concentrated in vacuo. The residue was taken up in EtOAc (20 mL), then the EtOAc solution was washed with a mixture of saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and saturated aqueous Na₂S₂O₃ (1:1, 2 \times 8 mL), before being dried (MgSO₄). Filtration, solvent evaporation, and flash chromatography (EtOAc–IH, 17:3) yielded 4-(2-oxazolo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-ylvinyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester as a 1:1 mixture of (*E*)- and (*Z*)-isomers: m/z (ES $^+$) = 330.1 [$M + \text{H}]^+$. A solution of this compound (10 mg, 30 μmol) in EtOH (1 mL) was stirred with Pd (10% on C, 1 mg) under a H₂ atmosphere for 4 h. The mixture was filtered through celite, washing with MeOH. The combined filtrates were concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the title compound: RT = 2.89 min; m/z (ES $^+$) = 332.2 [$M + \text{H}]^+$.

Example 24: 4-[5-(4-Hydroxymethylfuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethoxy]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



To a solution of 4-[5-(4-(*tert*-butylmethylsilyloxy)methyl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-yl]-[1,2,4]oxadiazole-3-ylmethoxy)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Preparation 8**, 54 mg, 99 μmol) in THF was added TBAF (0.25 mL of a 1.0M solution in THF, 250 μmol). After 10 min, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc, washed with H₂O and brine, before being dried and concentrated. Purification *via* column chromatography afforded the title compound: RT = 2.92 min; m/z (ES $^+$) = 431.1 [$M + \text{H}]^+$.

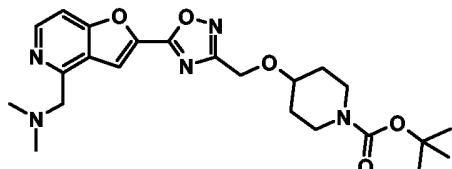
Example 25: 4-[5-(4-Methoxymethylfuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazole-3-ylmethoxy]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



To a stirred solution of 4-[5-(4-hydroxymethylfuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazole-3-ylmethoxy]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Example 24**, 50 mg, 116 μmol) in THF was added sodium hydride (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 6 mg,

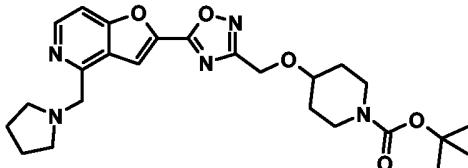
150 μmol). After effervescence had ceased, MeI (10 μL , 161 μmol) was added. After 90 min, the mixture was poured into H_2O and extracted with EtOAc . The organic layer was separated, washed with brine, dried and concentrated. Purification *via* column chromatography afforded the title compound: $\text{RT} = 3.54$ min; m/z (ES^+) = 445.1 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

Example 26: 4-[5-(4-Dimethylaminomethylfuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazole-3-ylmethoxy]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



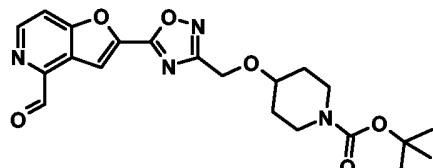
To a solution of 4-[5-(4-hydroxymethylfuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazole-3-ylmethoxy]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Example 24**, 50 mg, 116 μmol) in THF was added NEt_3 (50 μL , 361 μmol), followed by MsCl (15 μL , 194 μmol). After 5 min, of Me_2NH (0.3 mL of a 2M solution in THF , 600 μmol) was added and stirring continued for a further 2 h. The mixture was adsorbed onto SiO_2 and purified *via* column chromatography to give the title compound: $\text{RT} = 1.82$ min; m/z (ES^+) = 458.1 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

Example 27: 4-[5-(4-Pyrrolidin-1-ylmethylfuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazole-3-ylmethoxy]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



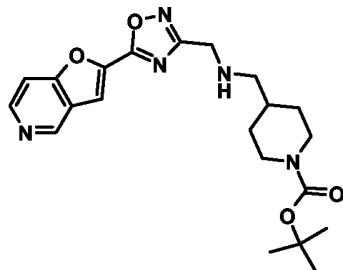
This compound was obtained from 4-[5-(4-hydroxymethylfuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazole-3-ylmethoxy]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Example 24**) employing a procedure similar to that outlined in **Example 26**: $\text{RT} = 2.64$ min; m/z (ES^+) = 484.1 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

Example 28: 4-[5-(4-Formylfuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazole-3-ylmethoxy]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



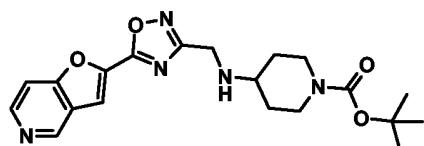
To a solution of 4-[5-(4-hydroxymethylfuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazole-3-ylmethoxy]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Example 24**, 25 mg, 58 μmol) in CH_2Cl_2 was added Dess–Martin periodinane (32 mg, 75 μmol). After 3 h at 20 $^\circ\text{C}$, the mixture was diluted with MeOH , adsorbed onto SiO_2 and purified by column chromatography to furnish the title compound: $\text{RT} = 3.27$ min; m/z (ES^+) = 429.1 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

Example 29: 4-{{(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)amino)methyl}-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



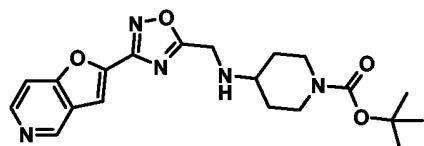
A solution of *C*-(5-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)methylamine (**Preparation 14**, 50 mg, 0.23 mmol) and 4-formylpiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (59 mg, 0.27 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) was stirred for 45 min. Na(AcO)₃BH (78 mg, 0.37 mmol) was added, then the mixture was stirred for 3 d. Standard aqueous work-up, followed by column chromatography (EtOAc), gave the title compound: RT = 2.18 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 414.1 [M + H]⁺.

Example 30: 4-[(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)amino]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



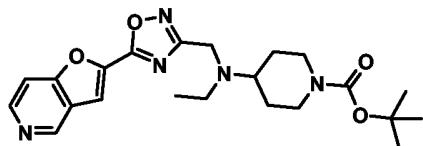
A solution of *C*-(5-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)methylamine (**Preparation 14**, 350 mg, 1.62 mmol) and 4-oxo-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (322 mg, 1.62 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) was stirred for 10 min. Na(AcO)₃BH (412 mg, 1.94 mmol) was added, then the mixture was stirred for 3 d. Standard aqueous work-up, followed by column chromatography (EtOAc–IH, 1:1) gave the title compound: *m/z* (ES⁺) = 400.0 [M + H]⁺.

Example 31: 4-[(3-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-ylmethyl)amino]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



Reductive alkylation of *C*-(3-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)-methylamine (**Preparation 13**) with 4-oxo-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester, utilising a procedure similar to that described in **Example 30**, afforded the title compound: RT = 2.15 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 400.1 [M + H]⁺.

Example 32: 4-[Ethyl(5-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)amino]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



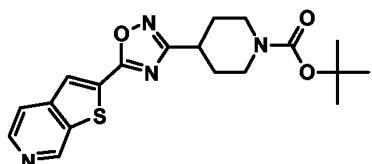
A solution of 4-[(5-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)amino]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Example 30**, 50 mg, 120 μ mol), MeCHO (6 μ L, 120 μ mol), and NaBH(OAc)₃ (36 mg, 168 μ mol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) was stirred for 3 d at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was washed with water, before being dried (MgSO₄) and purified by column chromatography to furnish the title compound: RT = 2.40 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 428.2 [M + H]⁺.

The Examples catalogued in Table 3 were synthesised employing procedures similar to those outlined in **Example 32**.

Table 3

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	<i>m/z</i> (ES ⁺)
33		4-[(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)propylamino]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.43	442.1 [M + H] ⁺
34		4-[(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)methylamino]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.07	414.1 [M + H] ⁺
35		4-[(3-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-ylmethyl)methylamino]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.32	414.1 [M + H] ⁺
36		4-[Ethyl(3-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-ylmethyl)amino]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.36	428.2 [M + H] ⁺

Example 37: 4-(5-Thieno[2,3-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



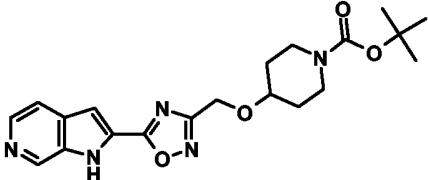
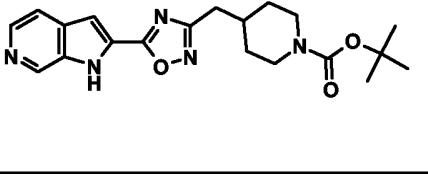
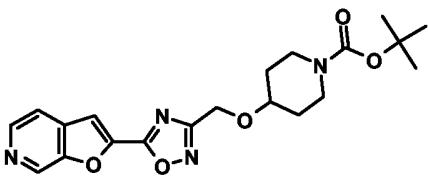
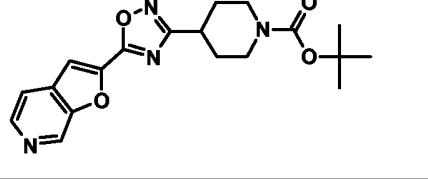
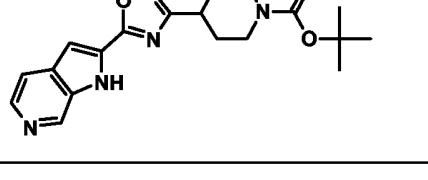
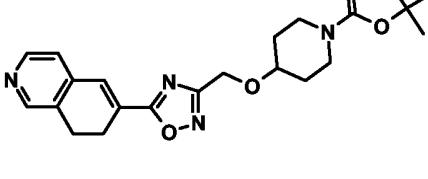
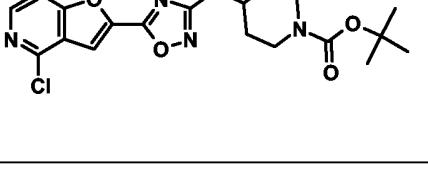
EDCI (96 mg, 0.50 mmol) and DMAP (8 mg, 0.07 mmol) were added to a stirred suspension of thieno[2,3-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (60 mg, 0.33 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (4 mL). The clear solution that resulted was stirred for 10 min, then 4-(*N*-hydroxycarbamimidoyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (81 mg, 0.33 mmol) was added. After 16 h, the DMF was removed in vacuo, then the residue was purified by flash chromatography to provide the desired *O*-acylamidoxime: *m/z* (ES⁺) = 405.2 [M + H]⁺. This compound (55 mg, 0.13 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous dioxane (4 mL), then dried, powdered 4 Å molecular sieves (210 mg) were added. The mixture was heated under reflux for 16 h, before being cooled, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (IH-EtOAc, 3:7) followed by RP-HPLC afforded the title compound: RT = 3.79 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 387.1 [M + H]⁺.

The [1,2,4]oxadiazoles listed in Table 4 were prepared by condensation of the appropriate amidoxime with the appropriate acid to furnish an *O*-acylamidoxime that was cyclised by heating with 4 Å molecular sieves, employing procedures similar to those delineated in **Example 37**.

Table 4

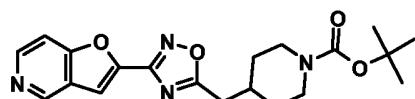
Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	<i>m/z</i> (ES ⁺)
38		4-(5-Thieno[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethoxy)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.52	417.2 [M + H] ⁺
39		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.36	371.2 [M + H] ⁺
40		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethoxy)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.31	401.2 [M + H] ⁺
41		4-(5-Thieno[2,3-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethoxy)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.61	417.1 [M + H] ⁺

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
42		4-(5-Thieno[2,3-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.87	401.1 [M + H] ⁺
43		4-(5-Thieno[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.74	401.1 [M + H] ⁺
44		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.47	385.2 [M + H] ⁺
45		4-(5-Thieno[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.65	387.1 [M + H] ⁺
46		4-(5-[1,7]Naphthyridin-3-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethoxy)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.70	412.2 [M + H] ⁺
47		4-(5-[1,7]Naphthyridin-3-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.86	382.2 [M + H] ⁺
48		4-(5-[1,7]Naphthyridin-3-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.89	396.2 [M + H] ⁺
49		4-[5-(1-Methyl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.97	398.2 [M + H] ⁺

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	<i>m/z</i> (ES ⁺)
50		4-[5-(1 <i>H</i> -Pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethoxy]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.89	400.2 [M + H] ⁺
51		4-[5-(1 <i>H</i> -Pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.95	384.2 [M + H] ⁺
52		4-(5-Furo[2,3-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethoxy)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.51	401.2 [M + H] ⁺
53		4-(5-Furo[2,3-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.59	371.2 [M + H] ⁺
54		4-[5-(1 <i>H</i> -Pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.94	370.2 [M + H] ⁺
55		4-[5-(7,8-Dihydroisoquinolin-6-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethoxy]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.97	413.3 [M + H] ⁺
56		4-[5-(4-Chlorofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	4.07	419.1 [M + H] ⁺

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
57		4-[5-(4-Chlorofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethoxy]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.81	435.2 [M + H] ⁺

Example 58: 4-(3-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



A stirred solution of 4-carboxymethylpiperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (132 mg, 542 µmol) in anhydrous THF (6 mL) was treated with NEt₃ (76 µL, 542 µmol), before being cooled down to 0°C. *i*-BuOCOCl (542 µL of a 1 µmol/µL solution, 542 µmol) was added, then the reaction mixture was warmed to ambient temperature. After 40 min, *N*-hydroxy-furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxamidine (Preparation 11, 80 mg, 452 µmol) was added, then the reaction was stirred for 16 h, before being purified by column chromatography (EtOAc then EtOAc–MeOH, 24:1) to furnish the acylated amidoxime intermediate: m/z (ES⁺) = 403.2 [M + H]⁺. A solution of this compound (98 mg) in PhMe (15 mL) was heated under reflux for 40 h. The solvents were removed in vacuo, then the residue was purified by two separate column chromatographic separations ([1]: CH₂Cl₂–MeOH, 49:1; [2] EtOAc) to give the title compound: RT = 3.11 min; m/z (ES⁺) = 385.1 [M + H]⁺.

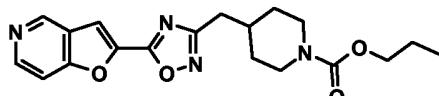
The [1,2,4]oxadiazoles listed in Table 5 were prepared employing procedures similar to those outlined in **Example 58**.

Table 5

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
59		4-(3-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-ylmethoxy)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.90	401.1 [M + H] ⁺
60		(3S)-3-(3-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-ylmethoxy)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.76	387.0 [M + H] ⁺

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
61		(3R)-3-(3-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-ylmethoxy)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.74	387.1 [M + H] ⁺
62		3-(3-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-ylmethoxy)azetidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.70	373.1 [M + H] ⁺
63		3-[2-(3-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)-ethoxy]azetidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	2.79	387.1 [M + H] ⁺

Example 64: 4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid propyl ester



A solution of 2-(3-piperidin-4-ylmethyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine (**Preparation 12**, 0.65 g, 2.3 mmol) and pyridine (0.37 mL, 4.6 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL) was added via cannula to a stirred solution of *n*-PrOCOCl (0.51 mL, 4.6 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (35 mL). After 16 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (200 mL), before being washed with H₂O (100 mL), saturated aqueous Na₂CO₃ (100 mL), and H₂O (100 mL). The organic phase was dried, filtered and concentrated. Flash chromatographic purification (EtOAc) of the residue furnished the title compound: RT = 3.11 min; m/z (ES⁺) = 371.1 [M + H]⁺.

The carbamates shown in Table 6 were prepared by reacting 2-(3-piperidin-4-ylmethyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine (**Preparation 12**) with the appropriate chloroformate employing procedures similar to those delineated in **Example 64**.

Table 6

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
65		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid isopropyl ester	3.07	371.1 [M + H] ⁺

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
66		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid ethyl ester	2.84	357.1 [M + H] ⁺
67		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid isobutyl ester	3.34	385.1 [M + H] ⁺
68		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid cyclopropylmethyl ester	3.16	383.1 [M + H] ⁺

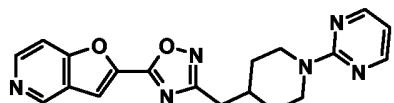
The carbamates catalogued in Table 7 were prepared by reaction of 2-(3-piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine (**Preparation 12**) with the appropriate alcohol and triphosgene employing procedures similar to those delineated in **Example 92**.

Table 7

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
69		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 2-methoxycarbonyl-2-methylpropyl ester	3.11	443.1 [M + H] ⁺
70		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (S)-sec-butyl ester	3.26	385.1 [M + H] ⁺
71		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid cyclobutyl ester	3.15	383.1 [M + H] ⁺

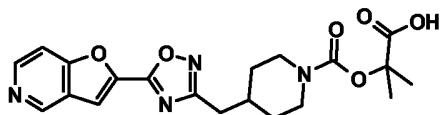
Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
72		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 1-methoxycarbonyl-1-methylethyl ester	3.02	429.1 [M + H] ⁺
73		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 1-methylcyclobutyl ester	3.36	397.1 [M + H] ⁺
74		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (R)-tetrahydrofuran-2-ylmethyl ester	2.77	413.1 [M + H] ⁺
75		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 2-ethoxyethyl ester	2.77	401.1 [M + H] ⁺
76		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 1-methylcyclopropyl ester	3.01	383.1 [M + H] ⁺

Example 77: 2-[3-(1-Pyrimidin-2-ylpiperidin-4-ylmethyl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl]furo[3,2-c]pyridine



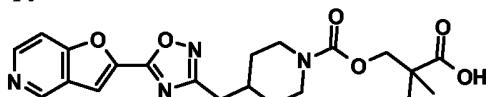
DBU (53 μ L, 352 μ mol) was added to a stirred solution of 2-(3-piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine (**Preparation 12**, 50 mg, 176 μ mol) and 2-bromopyrimidine (31 mg, 193 μ mol) in dioxane (1 mL) at 20 °C. After 2 d, the solvent was removed in vacuo, then the residue was purified by chromatography (MeOH–CH₂Cl₂, 1:19) to yield the title compound: RT = 2.64 min; m/z (ES⁺) = 363.1 [M + H]⁺.

Example 78: 4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 1-carboxy-1-methylethyl ester



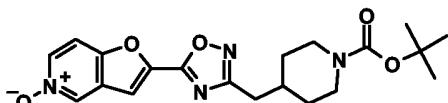
A stirred solution of 4-(5-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 1-methoxycarbonyl-1-methylethyl ester (**Example 72**, 43 mg, 100 μ mol) in THF–H₂O (3:1, 2 mL) was treated with LiOH·H₂O (9 mg, 220 μ mol). After 16 h, the THF was evaporated in vacuo, then the remainder was diluted with H₂O (2 mL), before being washed with EtOAc (2 \times 5 mL). The aqueous phase was neutralised with 1 M HCl, then the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 10 mL). The combined EtOAc extracts were dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated to furnish the title compound: RT = 2.74 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 415.1 [M + H]⁺.

Example 79: 4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 2-carboxy-2-methylpropyl ester



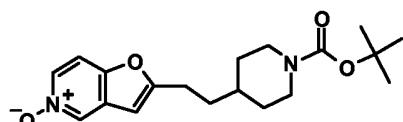
Saponification of 4-(5-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 2-methoxycarbonyl-2-methylpropyl ester (**Example 69**) by the protocol outlined in **Example 78** yielded the title compound: RT = 2.74 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 429.1 [M + H]⁺.

Example 80: 4-[5-(5-Oxyfuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



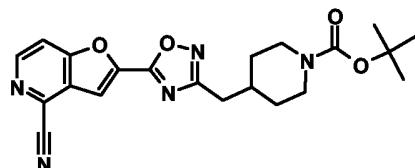
A stirred solution of 4-(5-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Example 44**, 70 mg, 180 μ mol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) was treated with *m*CPBA (54 mg, 70% pure, 220 μ mol). After 1 h, more *m*CPBA (5 mg, 70% pure, 20 μ mol) was added, then stirring was continued for 16 h at 20°C. The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, then the residue was purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc then CH₂Cl₂–MeOH, 19:1) to afford the title compound: RT = 2.51 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 401.4 [M + H]⁺.

Example 81: 4-[2-(5-Oxyfuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)ethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



4-(2-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Example 18**) was oxidised with *m*CPBA, employing a procedure similar to that outlined in **Example 80**, to furnish the title compound: RT = 2.64 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 347.4 [M + H]⁺.

Example 82: 4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



A stirred solution of 4-[5-(5-oxyfuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (Example 80, 50 mg, 130 μ mol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (3 mL) was treated with TMS-CN (22 μ L, 160 μ mol) and $\text{Me}_2\text{NC(O)Cl}$ (dropwise, 15 μ L, 160 μ mol). After 16 h, the reaction was treated with H_2O (15 mL), before being extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 \times 20 mL). The CH_2Cl_2 extracts were combined, dried (MgSO_4), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography ($\text{EtOAc}-\text{IH}$, 2:3) to yield the title compound: RT = 3.35 min; m/z (ES $^+$) = 354.3 [$M + 2\text{H} - t\text{-Bu}$] $^+$.

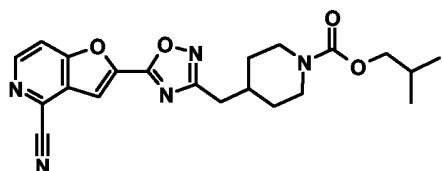
The nitriles listed in Table 8 were prepared from the appropriate starting material employing procedures similar to those described in Examples 80 and 82.

Table 8

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES $^+$)
83		4-[2-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)ethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.90	386.3 [$M + \text{H}$] $^+$
84		4-[2-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)ethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.49	300.3 [$M + 2\text{H} - t\text{-Bu}$]
85		4-[5-(7-Cyanofuro[2,3-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethoxy]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.87	426.2 [$M + \text{H}$] $^+$
86		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethoxy]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.81	426.2 [$M + \text{H}$] $^+$

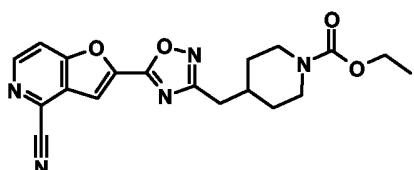
Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	<i>m/z</i> (ES ⁺)
87		4-[5-(4-Cyanothieno[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethoxy]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid <i>tert</i> -butyl ester	3.97	442.1 [M + H] ⁺
88		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid propyl ester	3.74	396.1 [M + H] ⁺
89		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid isopropyl ester	3.65	396.1 [M + H] ⁺

Example 90: 4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid isobutyl ester



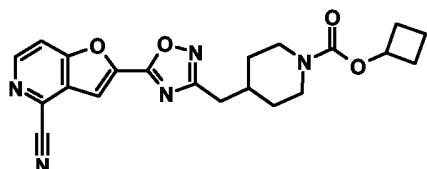
i-BuOCOCl (19 μ L, 146 μ mol) and NEt₃ (15 μ L, 107 μ mol) were added to a stirred solution of 2-(3-piperidin-4-ylmethyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine-4-carbonitrile (**Preparation 15**, 30 mg, 97 μ mol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (1.5 mL). After 30 min, the reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (10 mL) and H₂O (2 mL). The organic layer was washed with saturated aqueous Na₂CO₃ (2 mL), H₂O (2 mL), and brine (2 mL), before being dried (MgSO₄). Filtration, solvent evaporation, and column chromatography (EtOAc) furnished the title compound: RT = 3.95 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 410.1 [M + H]⁺.

Example 91: 4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid ethyl ester



EtOCOCl was reacted with 2-(3-piperidin-4-ylmethyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine-4-carbonitrile (**Preparation 15**, 30 mg, 97 μ mol), by the protocol described for **Example 90**, to furnish the title compound: RT = 3.56 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 382.1 [M + H]⁺.

Example 92: 4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid cyclobutyl ester



A mixture of cyclobutyl alcohol (32.6 mg, 452 μ mol), triphosgene (44.7 mg, 151 μ mol), anhydrous THF (4 mL), and NEt_3 (91.6 mg, 905 μ mol) was stirred for 30 min. This mixture was added to a stirred solution of 2-(3-piperidin-4-ylmethyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine-4-carbonitrile (**Preparation 15**, 35 mg, 113 μ mol) in anhydrous THF (2 mL). After 30 min, the reaction mixture was treated with CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) and H_2O (10 mL), then, after thorough mixing, the organic layer was separated using a fritted hydrophobic filter. The aqueous phase was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL), the CH_2Cl_2 layer being isolated by means of a fritted hydrophobic filter. The combined CH_2Cl_2 solutions were evaporated, then the residue was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc–IH, 1:1) to furnish the title compound: RT = 3.84 min; m/z (ES^+) = 408.1 $[M + \text{H}]^+$.

The carbamate esters listed in Table 9 were prepared from the appropriate amine and alcohol employing the procedure described in **Example 92**.

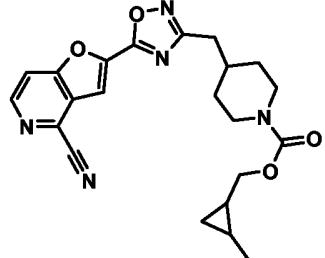
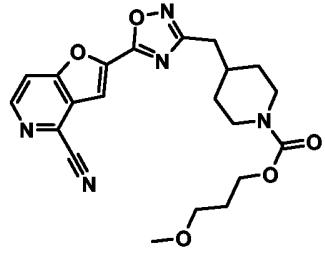
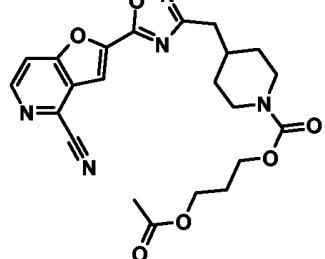
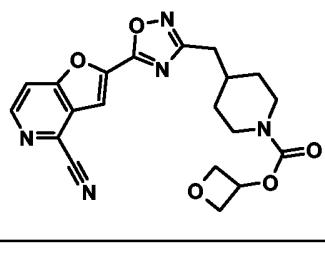
Table 9

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES^+)
93		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tetrahydropyran-4-yl ester	3.52	438.1 $[M + \text{H}]^+$
94		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (R)-sec-butyl ester	3.94	410.1 $[M + \text{H}]^+$
95		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tetrahydrofuran-2-ylmethyl ester	3.45	438.1 $[M + \text{H}]^+$

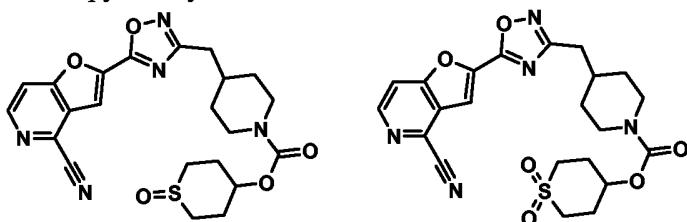
Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
96		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (R)-tetrahydrofuran-2-ylmethyl ester	3.47	438.1 [M + H] ⁺
97		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (R)-tetrahydrofuran-3-yl ester	3.36	424.1 [M + H] ⁺
98		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tetrahydrothiopyran-4-yl ester	3.79	454.1 [M + H] ⁺
99		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 1-methoxycarbonyl-1-methylethyl ester	3.74	454.1 [M + H] ⁺
100		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid methoxycarbonylmethyl ester	3.40	426.1 [M + H] ⁺
101		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid cyclopropylmethyl ester	3.84	408.1 [M + H] ⁺

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	<i>m/z</i> (ES ⁺)
102		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 3-ethoxypropyl ester	3.49	440.1 [M + H] ⁺
103		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (S)-sec-butyl ester	3.92	410.1 [M + H] ⁺
104		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 3-methyloxetan-3-ylmethyl ester	3.34	438.1 [M + H] ⁺
105		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 2-ethoxyethyl ester	3.44	426.1 [M + H] ⁺
106		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 2-methoxy-1-methylethyl ester	3.51	426.1 [M + H] ⁺
107		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tetrahydrofuran-3-ylmethyl ester	3.49	438.1 [M + H] ⁺

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
108		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (S)-tetrahydrofuran-3-yl ester	3.30	424.1 [M + H] ⁺
109		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tetrahydropyran-2-ylmethyl ester	3.70	452.1 [M + H] ⁺
110		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 1-methylcyclopropyl ester	3.76	408.1 [M + H] ⁺
111		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 1-methylcyclobutyl ester	3.87	422.1 [M + H] ⁺
112		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 1-cyclopropylethyl ester	3.87	422.1 [M + H] ⁺
113		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 1-methylcyclopropylmethyl ester	3.82	422.1 [M + H] ⁺

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
114		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 2-methylcyclopropylmethyl ester	3.86	422.1 [M + H] ⁺
115		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 3-methoxypropyl ester	3.51	426.1 [M + H] ⁺
116		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 3-acetoxypropyl ester	3.45	454.1 [M + H] ⁺
117		4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid oxetan-3-yl ester	3.36	410.1 [M + H] ⁺

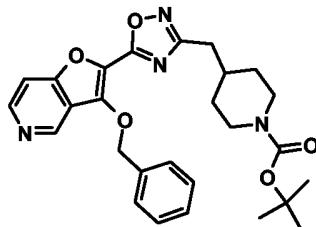
Examples 118 and 119: 4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 1-oxo-hexahydro-1λ⁴-thiopyran-4-yl ester and 4-[5-(4-Cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid 1,1-dioxo-hexahydro-1λ⁶-thiopyran-4-yl ester



mCPBA (22 mg, 77% pure, 99 μmol) was added to a stirred solution of 4-[5-(4-cyanofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tetrahydro-thiopyran-4-yl ester (Example 98, 30 mg, 66 μmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL). After 16 h, the reaction mixture was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (1 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL), then the combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO₄) and filtered before being loaded onto a SiO₂ column. Elution of the column with EtOAc and further purification by

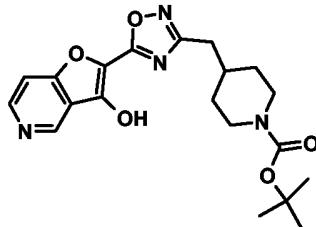
RP-HPLC furnished the title sulfoxide: RT = 3.11 min; m/z (ES $^+$) = 470.1 $[M + H]^+$. Subsequent elution of the SiO₂ column with THF yielded the title sulfone: RT = 3.27 min; m/z (ES $^+$) = 486.1 $[M + H]^+$.

Example 120: 4-[5-(3-Benzylxoyfuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



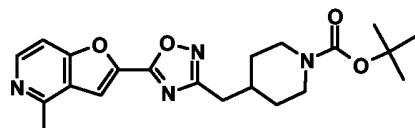
NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 75 mg, 1.88 mmol) was added to a solution of 3-benzylxoyfuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (**Preparation 16**, 510 mg, 1.71 mmol) and 4-(*N*-hydroxycarbamimidoylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (485 mg, 1.88 mmol) in anhydrous THF. The mixture was heated under reflux for 90 min, before being cooled down to ambient temperature and poured into H₂O. The mixture was extracted twice with EtOAc, then the combined organic extracts were washed with brine, before being dried (MgSO₄). Filtration, solvent evaporation, and column chromatography (EtOAc) furnished the title compound: RT = 4.12 min; m/z (ES $^+$) = 491.1 $[M + H]^+$.

Example 121: 4-[5-(3-Hydroxyfuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



A solution of 4-[5-(3-benzylxoyfuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Example 120**, 200 mg, 500 μ mol) and Pd (10% on C, 10 mg) in EtOH (10 mL) was stirred under a H₂ atmosphere for 2.5 h. The mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂, to solubilise the product, before being filtered through celite. The filtrate was concentrated to furnish the title compound: RT = 2.87 min; m/z (ES $^+$) = 401.1 $[M + H]^+$.

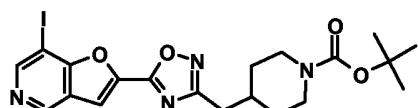
Example 122: 4-[5-(4-Methylfuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



A stirred solution of 4-[5-(5-oxyfuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Example 80**, 240 mg, 0.60 mmol) in anhydrous DMF-CH₂Cl₂ (5:4, 9 mL) was treated with EtI (53 μ L, 0.66 mmol) at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, before being stirred for 16 h. More EtI

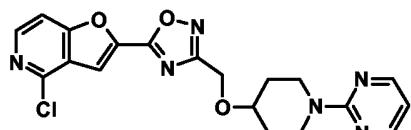
(106 μ L, 1.32 mmol) was added, then the mixture was stirred for 3 d. The reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo, then the residue was dissolved in anhydrous DMF (5 mL), before being treated with EtI (106 μ L, 1.32 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 16 h, then more EtI (53 μ L, 0.66 mmol) was added. After 24 h, the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo, then the residue was purified by flash chromatography (CH₂Cl₂–MeOH, 92:8) to furnish 2-[3-(1-*tert*-butoxycarbonylpiperidin-4-ylmethyl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl]-5-ethoxy-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-5-ium iodide: *m/z* (ES⁺) = 429.1 [M]⁺. A stirred solution of this compound (100 mg, 0.18 mmol) in anhydrous THF–Et₂O (1:1, 4 mL) was treated with MeMgI (66 μ L of a 3 M solution in Et₂O, 0.20 mmol). After 4 h, more MeMgI (66 μ L of a 3 M solution in Et₂O, 0.20 mmol) was added, then stirring was continued for 16 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (20 mL), before being washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (10 mL) and brine (10 mL). After drying (MgSO₄), the solution was filtered and concentrated, then the residue was purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc) then RP-HPLC to yield the title compound: RT = 2.99 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 399.1 [M + H]⁺.

Example 123: 4-[5-(7-Iodofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



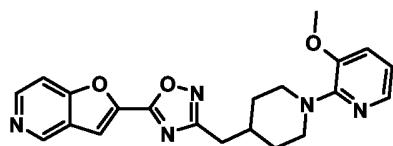
Condensation of 7-iodofuro[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (**Preparation 20**, 423 mg, 1.46 mmol) with 4-(*N*-hydroxycarbamimidoylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (414 mg, 1.61 mmol), employing a procedure similar to that outlined in **Preparation 14**, afforded the title compound: RT = 3.99 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 511.0 [M + H]⁺.

Example 124: 4-Chloro-2-[3-(1-pyrimidin-2-ylpiperidin-4-yloxymethyl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl]furo[3,2-c]pyridine



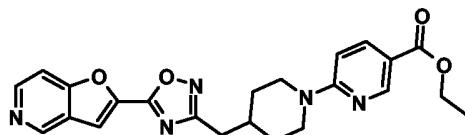
A stirred solution of 4-[5-(4-chlorofuro[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethoxy]piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**Example 57**, 150 mg, 346 μ mol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) was treated with H₂O (6 μ L) and TFA (1.5 mL). After 1 h, the reaction was concentrated in vacuo, then the excess TFA was removed through azeotropic distillation with PhMe under reduced pressure. The remainder was partitioned between EtOAc and 2M NaOH. The aqueous phase was extracted further with EtOAc, then the combined EtOAc extracts were washed with brine and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and solvent evaporation furnished 4-chloro-2-[3-(piperidin-4-yloxymethyl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl]furo[3,2-c]pyridine: *m/z* (ES⁺) = 335.1 [M + H]⁺. A mixture of this amine (105 mg, 315 μ mol), 2-bromopyrimidine (55 mg, 346 μ mol) and DBU (95 μ L, 630 μ mol) in dioxane (2 mL) was stirred at ambient temperature for 16 h. The reaction was concentrated and the residue purified by column chromatography (EtOAc–IH, 3:7) to yield the title compound: RT = 3.40 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 413.1 [M + H]⁺.

Example 125: 2-(3-((1-(3-Methoxypyridin-2-yl)piperidin-4-yl)methyl)-[1,2,4]-oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine



2-(3-Piperidin-4-ylmethyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine (**Preparation 12**, 50 mg, 0.176 mmol) and 3-methoxy-2-nitropyridine (41 mg, 0.264 mmol) were shaken in DMSO (1 mL) at 100°C for 20 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, before being acidified with AcOH. Purification by RP-HPLC yielded the title compound: RT = 4.99 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 392.4 [M + H]⁺.

Example 126: Ethyl 6-((4-((5-(furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]-oxadiazol-3-yl)methyl)piperidin-1-yl)nicotinate



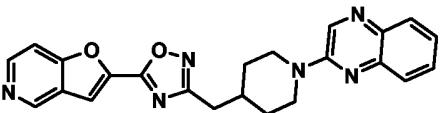
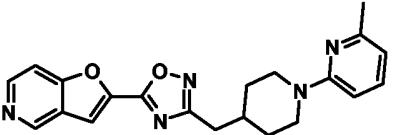
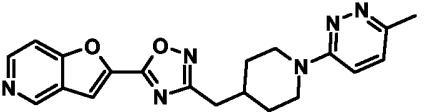
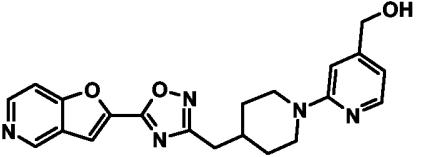
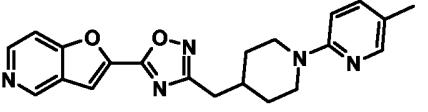
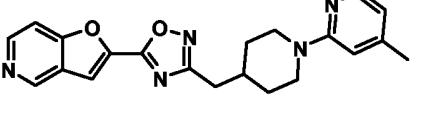
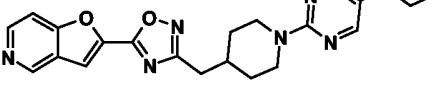
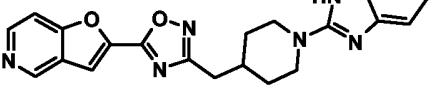
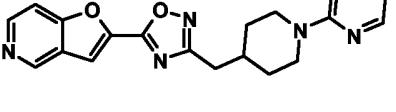
2-(3-Piperidin-4-ylmethyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine (**Preparation 12**, 50 mg, 0.176 mmol), ethyl 6-chloronicotinate (49 mg, 0.264 mmol) and DBU (40 mg, 0.264 mmol) were shaken in DMSO (1 mL) at 100 °C for 20 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, before being acidified with AcOH. Purification by RP-HPLC yielded the title compound: RT = 5.74 min; *m/z* (ES⁺) = 434.4 [M + H]⁺.

The compounds listed in Table 10 were prepared using the procedure described in **Example 126** at temperatures of 60–150 °C.

Table 10

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	<i>m/z</i> (ES ⁺)
127		2-((3-((1-(4,6-dimethylpyrimidin-2-yl)piperidin-4-yl)methyl)-[1,2,4]-oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine	5.84	391.1 [M + H] ⁺
128		4-((5-(furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl)-[1,2,4]-oxadiazol-3-yl)methyl)-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-3'-carboxylic acid ethyl ester	5.49	434.1 [M + H] ⁺

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
129		2-[4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidin-1-yl]-quinoline	6.15	412.1 [M + H] ⁺
130		1-[4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidin-1-yl]-isoquinoline	5.97	412.1 [M + H] ⁺
131		2-[3-(1-Pyrazin-2-yl-piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl]-furo[3,2-c]pyridine	4.49	363.2 [M + H] ⁺
132		2-{3-[1-(4-Methoxy-pyrimidin-2-yl)-piperidin-4-ylmethyl]-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl}-furo[3,2-c]pyridine	5.47	393.1 [M + H] ⁺
133		[4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-5'-yl]-methanol	4.09	392.1 [M + H] ⁺
134		2-{3-[1-(5-Ethyl-pyrimidin-2-yl)-piperidin-4-ylmethyl]-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl}-furo[3,2-c]pyridine	5.65	391.1 [M + H] ⁺
135		2'-Chloro-4-(5-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,4']bipyridinyl	5.02	396.1 [M + H] ⁺
136		4'-Chloro-4-(5-furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl	5.97	396.1 [M + H] ⁺

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
137		2-[4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)piperidin-1-yl]-quinoxaline	5.50	413.1 [M + H] ⁺
138		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)-6'-methyl-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl	5.82	376.3 [M + H] ⁺
139		2-{3-[1-(6-Methyl-pyridazin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ylmethyl]-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl}-furo[3,2-c]pyridine	4.18	377.4 [M + H] ⁺
140		[4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4'-yl]-methanol	4.10	392.4 [M + H] ⁺
141		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)-5'-methyl-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl	5.45	376.4 [M + H] ⁺
142		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)-4'-methyl-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl	5.40	376.4 [M + H] ⁺
143		2-{3-[1-(5-Propyl-pyrimidin-2-yl)-piperidin-4-ylmethyl]-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl}-furo[3,2-c]pyridine	6.15	405.4 [M + H] ⁺
144		2-{3-[1-(1H-Benzimidazol-2-yl)-piperidin-4-ylmethyl]-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl}-furo[3,2-c]pyridine	4.30	401.4 [M + H] ⁺
145		4-(5-Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl	5.10	362.3 [M + H] ⁺

Eg	Structure	Name	RT (min)	m/z (ES ⁺)
146		2-[3-[1-(Furo[3,2-c]pyridin-4-yl)piperidin-4-ylmethyl]-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl]-furo[3,2-c]pyridine	5.35	402.3 [M + H] ⁺
147		2-[3-[1-(2-Chloropyrimidin-4-yl)piperidin-4-ylmethyl]-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl]-furo[3,2-c]pyridine	4.84	397.3 [M + H] ⁺
148		2-[3-[1-(4-Morpholin-4-ylpyrimidin-2-yl)piperidin-4-ylmethyl]-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl]-furo[3,2-c]pyridine	4.93	448.4 [M + H] ⁺
149		2-[3-[1-(4-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)piperidin-4-ylmethyl]-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl]-furo[3,2-c]pyridine	6.72	429.3 [M + H] ⁺

The biological activity of representative compounds of the invention was tested in the following assay systems:

Yeast Reporter Assay

The yeast cell-based reporter assays have previously been described in the literature (e.g. see Miret J. J. et al, 2002, J. Biol. Chem., 277:6881-6887; Campbell R.M. et al, 1999, Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett., 9:2413-2418; King K. et al, 1990, Science, 250:121-123); WO 99/14344; WO 00/12704; and US 6,100,042). Briefly, yeast cells have been engineered such that the endogenous yeast G-alpha (GPA1) has been deleted and replaced with G-protein chimeras constructed using multiple techniques. Additionally, the endogenous yeast alpha-cell GPCR, Ste3 has been deleted to allow for a homologous expression of a mammalian GPCR of choice. In the yeast, elements of the pheromone signaling transduction pathway, which are conserved in eukaryotic cells (for example, the mitogen-activated protein kinase pathway), drive the expression of Fus1. By placing β -galactosidase (LacZ) under the control of the Fus1 promoter (Fus1p), a system has been developed whereby receptor activation leads to an enzymatic read-out.

Yeast cells were transformed by an adaptation of the lithium acetate method described by Agatep et al, (Agatep, R. et al, 1998, Transformation of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* by the lithium acetate/single-stranded carrier DNA/polyethylene glycol (LiAc/ss-DNA/PEG) protocol. Technical Tips Online, Trends Journals, Elsevier). Briefly, yeast cells were grown overnight on yeast tryptone plates (YT). Carrier single-stranded DNA (10 μ g), 2 μ g of each of two Fus1p-LacZ reporter plasmids (one with URA selection marker and one with TRP), 2 μ g of GPR116 (human or mouse receptor) in yeast expression vector (2 μ g origin of replication) and a lithium

acetate/ polyethylene glycol/ TE buffer was pipetted into an Eppendorf tube. The yeast expression plasmid containing the receptor/ no receptor control has a LEU marker. Yeast cells were inoculated into this mixture and the reaction proceeds at 30°C for 60min. The yeast cells were then heat-shocked at 42°C for 15min. The cells were then washed and spread on selection plates. The selection plates are synthetic defined yeast media minus LEU, URA and TRP (SD-LUT). After incubating at 30°C for 2-3 days, colonies that grow on the selection plates were then tested in the LacZ assay.

In order to perform fluorimetric enzyme assays for β -galactosidase, yeast cells carrying the human or mouse GPR116 receptor were grown overnight in liquid SD-LUT medium to an unsaturated concentration (i.e. the cells were still dividing and had not yet reached stationary phase). They were diluted in fresh medium to an optimal assay concentration and 90 μ l of yeast cells are added to 96-well black polystyrene plates (Costar). Compounds, dissolved in DMSO and diluted in a 10% DMSO solution to 10X concentration, were added to the plates and the plates placed at 30°C for 4h. After 4h, the substrate for the β -galactosidase was added to each well. In these experiments, Fluorescein di (β -D-galactopyranoside) was used (FDG), a substrate for the enzyme that releases fluorescein, allowing a fluorimetric read-out. 20 μ l per well of 500 μ M FDG/2.5% Triton X100 was added (the detergent was necessary to render the cells permeable). After incubation of the cells with the substrate for 60min, 20 μ l per well of 1M sodium carbonate was added to terminate the reaction and enhance the fluorescent signal. The plates were then read in a fluorimeter at 485/535nm.

The compounds of the invention give an increase in fluorescent signal of at least \sim 1.5-fold that of the background signal (i.e. the signal obtained in the presence of 1% DMSO without compound). Compounds of the invention which give an increase of at least 5-fold may be preferred.

cAMP Assay

A stable cell line expressing recombinant human GPR116 was established and this cell line was used to investigate the effect of compounds of the invention on intracellular levels of cyclic AMP (cAMP). The cells monolayers were washed with phosphate buffered saline and stimulated at 37°C for 30min with various concentrations of compound in stimulation buffer plus 1% DMSO. Cells were then lysed and cAMP content determined using the Perkin Elmer AlphaScreen™ (Amplified Luminescent Proximity Homogeneous Assay) cAMP kit. Buffers and assay conditions were as described in the manufacturer's protocol. Compounds of the invention showed a concentration-dependant increase in intracellular cAMP level.

Compounds of the invention showed a concentration-dependant increase in intracellular cAMP level and generally had an EC₅₀ of $<10\mu$ M. Compounds showing an EC₅₀ of less than 1 μ M in the cAMP assay may be preferred.

In vivo feeding study

The effect of compounds of the invention on body weight and food and water intake may be examined in freely-feeding male Sprague-Dawley rats maintained on reverse-phase lighting. Test compounds and reference compounds are dosed by appropriate routes of administration (e.g. intraperitoneally or orally) and measurements made over the following 24 h. Rats are individually housed in polypropylene cages with metal grid floors at a temperature of 21 \pm 4°C and 55 \pm 20%

humidity. Polypropylene trays with cage pads are placed beneath each cage to detect any food spillage. Animals are maintained on a reverse phase light-dark cycle (lights off for 8 h from 09.30-17.30 h) during which time the room was illuminated by red light. Animals have free access to a standard powdered rat diet and tap water during a two week acclimatization period. The diet is contained in glass feeding jars with aluminum lids. Each lid has a 3-4 cm hole in it to allow access to the food. Animals, feeding jars and water bottles are weighed (to the nearest 0.1 g) at the onset of the dark period. The feeding jars and water bottles are subsequently measured 1, 2, 4, 6 and 24 h after animals are dosed with a compound of the invention and any significant differences between the treatment groups at baseline compared to vehicle-treated controls.

Selected compounds of the invention showed a statistically significant hypophagic effect at one or more time points at a dose of $\leq 100\text{mg/kg}$.

Anti-diabetic effects of compounds of the invention in an in-vitro model of pancreatic beta cells (HIT-T15)

Cell Culture

HIT-T15 cells (passage 60) were obtained from ATCC, and were cultured in RPMI1640 medium supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum and 30nM sodium selenite. All experiments were done with cells at less than passage 70, in accordance with the literature, which describes altered properties of this cell line at passage numbers above 81 (Zhang HJ, Walseth TF, Robertson RP. Insulin secretion and cAMP metabolism in HIT cells. Reciprocal and serial passage-dependent relationships. *Diabetes*. 1989 Jan;38(1):44-8).

cAMP assay

HIT-T15 cells were plated in standard culture medium in 96-well plates at 100,000 cells/ 0.1ml/ well and cultured for 24 hr and the medium was then discarded. Cells were incubated for 15min at room temperature with 100 μl stimulation buffer (Hanks buffered salt solution, 5mM HEPES, 0.5mM IBMX, 0.1% BSA, pH 7.4). This was discarded and replaced with compound dilutions over the range 0.001, 0.003, 0.01, 0.03, 0.1, 0.3, 1, 3, 10, 30 μM in stimulation buffer in the presence of 0.5% DMSO. Cells were incubated at room temperature for 30min. Then 75 μl lysis buffer (5mM HEPES, 0.3% Tween-20, 0.1% BSA, pH 7.4) was added per well and the plate was shaken at 900 rpm for 20 min. Particulate matter was removed by centrifugation at 3000rpm for 5min, then the samples were transferred in duplicate to 384-well plates, and processed following the Perkin Elmer AlphaScreen cAMP assay kit instructions. Briefly 25 μl reactions were set up containing 8 μl sample, 5 μl acceptor bead mix and 12 μl detection mix, such that the concentration of the final reaction components is the same as stated in the kit instructions. Reactions were incubated at room temperature for 150min, and the plate was read using a Packard Fusion instrument. Measurements for cAMP were compared to a standard curve of known cAMP amounts (0.01, 0.03, 0.1, 0.3, 1, 3, 10, 30, 100, 300, 1000 nM) to convert the readings to absolute cAMP amounts. Data was analysed using XLfit 3 software.

Representative compounds of the invention were found to increase cAMP at an EC₅₀ of less than 10 μM . Compounds showing an EC₅₀ of less than 1 μM in the cAMP assay may be preferred.

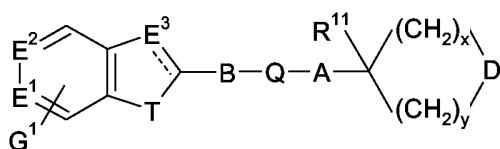
Insulin secretion assay

HIT-T15 cells were plated in standard culture medium in 12-well plates at 106 cells/ 1 ml/ well and cultured for 3 days and the medium was then discarded. Cells were washed x 2 with supplemented Krebs-Ringer buffer (KRB) containing 119 mM NaCl, 4.74 mM KCl, 2.54 mM CaCl₂, 1.19 mM MgSO₄, 1.19 mM KH₂PO₄, 25 mM NaHCO₃, 10mM HEPES at pH 7.4 and 0.1% bovine serum albumin. Cells were incubated with 1ml KRB at 37°C for 30 min which was then discarded. This was followed by a second incubation with KRB for 30 min, which was collected and used to measure basal insulin secretion levels for each well. Compound dilutions (0, 0.1, 0.3, 1, 3, 10 uM) were then added to duplicate wells in 1ml KRB, supplemented with 5.6 mM glucose. After 30 min incubation at 37°C samples were removed for determination of insulin levels. Measurement of insulin was done using the Mercodia Rat insulin ELISA kit, following the manufacturers instructions, with a standard curve of known insulin concentrations. For each well insulin levels were subtracted by the basal secretion level from the pre-incubation in the absence of glucose. Data was analysed using XLfit 3 software.

Representative compounds of the invention were found to increase insulin secretion at an EC₅₀ of less than 10 μ M. Compounds showing an EC₅₀ of less than 1 μ M in the insulin secretion assay may be preferred.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *N*-oxide thereof, wherein:one of E¹ and E² is N and the other is N or C—G²;

the dashed line together with the solid line forms an optional double bond;

when the dashed line together with the solid line forms a double bond E³ is CR⁸ or N, and when it is a single bond E³ is CHR⁸, O or NR²;T is O, S, NR², (CH₂)₂, or E⁴=E⁵, where E⁴ and E⁵ are independently CH or N;B is a bond, -CH₂=CH₂- or (CH₂)_j;

j is 1, 2 or 3;

Q is a bond, C(O)S, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring;

A is (CH₂)_n, where one CH₂ group may be replaced by O, S, C(O), CH(OH) CH(Hal) CH(NR²R³), S(O), S(O)₂ or NR³; two CH₂ groups may be replaced by CH=CH, C(O)O, C(O)S, SC(O), C(O)NR² or OC(O); or three CH₂ groups may be replaced by C(O)CH₂S, C(O)CH₂C(OH) or C(O)CH₂C(O);

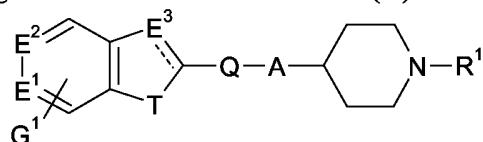
n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6;

G¹ and G² are independently hydrogen, halogen, CF₃, C₁₋₄alkoxy, NR⁴R⁴⁴, SO₂C₁₋₄alkyl, SOC₁₋₄alkyl, SC₁₋₄alkyl or cyano; or C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄alkenyl, or C₂₋₄alkynyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy, NR⁴R⁴⁴, oxo or C₁₋₄alkoxy;D represents CHR⁹ or NR¹;R¹ is C(O)OR⁵, C(O)R⁵, S(O)₂R⁵, C(O)NR⁵R¹⁰, C(O)NR⁵R⁵⁵, C₁₋₄alkylene-C(O)OR⁵, C(O)C(O)OR⁵, S(O)₂R⁵, C(O)R⁵ or P(O)(O-Ph)₂; or heterocyclyl or heteroaryl, either of which may optionally be substituted by one or two groups selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkyl-OH, halogen, C₁₋₄fluoroalkyl, heterocyclyl, C(O)OC₁₋₄alkyl;R² and R³ are independently hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl;R⁴ and R⁴⁴ are independently hydrogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, or aryl, which may optionally be substituted with 1 or 2 substituents selected from halo, C₁₋₄alkyl, CF₃, C₁₋₄alkoxy, cyano, and S(O)₂Me; or, taken together, R⁴ and R⁴⁴ may form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring;R⁵ and R⁵⁵ are independently C₁₋₈alkyl, C₂₋₈alkenyl or C₂₋₈alkynyl, any of which may be optionally substituted by one or more halo atoms, NR⁶R⁶⁶, OR⁶, C(O)OR⁶, OC(O)R⁶ or cyano, and may contain a CH₂ group that is replaced by O or S; or a C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, C₁₋₄alkyleneC₃₋₇cycloalkyl, C₁₋₄alkylenearyl, C₁₋₄alkyleneheterocyclyl or C₁₋₄alkyleneheteroaryl, any of which may be substituted with one or more substituents selected from halo, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄fluoroalkyl, OR⁷, CN, NR⁷R⁷⁷, SO₂Me, NO₂ or C(O)OR⁷;R⁶, R⁶⁶, R⁷, and R⁷⁷ each independently are hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl; or, taken together, R⁶ and R⁶⁶ or R⁷ and R⁷⁷ may form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring;

R^8 is hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy or benzyloxy;
 R^9 is C_{3-6} alkyl;
 R^{10} hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;
 R^{11} hydrogen or hydroxy;
 x is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and
 y is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;
with the proviso that $x + y$ is 2, 3, 4 or 5.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein E^3 is CH .
3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein T is O , S , NR^2 , or $E^4=E^5$.
4. A compound according to claim 3 wherein T is O .
5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein Q is a bond or a heteroaromatic ring containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N , O and S .
6. A compound according to claim 5 wherein when Q is a heteroaromatic ring it is oxadiazolyl.
7. A compound according to claim 6 wherein when Q is [1,2,4]oxadiazolyl.
8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4.
9. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein G^1 is hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, or cyano.
10. A compound according to claim 9 wherein G^1 is hydrogen, methyl or cyano.
11. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein G^2 is hydrogen, methyl or cyano.
12. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein D represents NR^1 .
13. A compound according to claim 12 wherein R^1 is $C(O)OR^5$, $C(O)R^5$, $C(O)NR^5R^{55}$, or a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaryl group.
14. A compound according to claim 12 wherein R^1 is $C(O)OR^5$, $C(O)NR^5R^{10}$, heteroaryl, $S(O)_2R^5$ or $C(O)R^5$.
15. A compound according to claim 14 wherein R^1 is $C(O)OR^5$, $C(O)NR^5R^{10}$ or heteroaryl.
16. A compound according to claim 13 or 15 wherein R^1 is $C(O)OR^5$.

17. A compound according to claim 1 which is of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *N*-oxide thereof, wherein:

one of E¹ and E² is N and the other is N or C—G²;

the dashed line together with the solid line forms an optional double bond;

when the dashed line together with the solid line forms a double bond E³ is CH or N, and when it is a single bond E³ is CH₂ or NR²;

T is O, S, NR², (CH₂)₂, or E⁴=E⁵, where E⁴ and E⁵ are independently CH or N;

Q is a covalent bond, C(O)S, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring;

A is (CH₂)_n, where one CH₂ group may be replaced by O, C(O), or NR³, or two CH₂ groups may be replaced by CH=CH;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6;

G¹ and G² are independently hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄alkenyl, C₂₋₄alkynyl, CF₃, C₁₋₄alkoxy, NR⁴R⁴⁴, or cyano;

R¹ is C(O)OR⁵, C(O)R⁵, S(O)₂R⁵, C(O)NR⁵R⁵⁵, or a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaryl group;

R² and R³ are independently hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl;

R⁴ and R⁴⁴ are independently hydrogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, or aryl, which may optionally be substituted with 1 or 2 substituents selected from halo, C₁₋₄alkyl, CF₃, C₁₋₄alkoxy, cyano, and S(O)₂Me; or, taken together, R⁴ and R⁴⁴ may form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring;

R⁵ and R⁵⁵ are independently C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, any of which may optionally be substituted by cyano, CHal_pH_{3-p}, OR⁶ or NR⁶R⁶⁶, or C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl or 4- to 7-membered heterocyclyl either of which may optionally be substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, or aryl or heteroaryl either of which may optionally be substituted with 1 or 2 substituents selected from halo, C₁₋₄alkyl, CF₃, OR⁷, COOR⁷, cyano, S(O)₂Me, NR⁷R⁷⁷, and nitro;

R⁶, R⁶⁶, R⁷, and R⁷⁷ each independently are hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl; or, taken together, R⁶ and R⁶⁶ or R⁷ and R⁷⁷ may independently form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring;

Hal is fluoro or chloro; and

p is 1, 2, or 3.

18. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Examples 1 to 149, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *N*-oxide thereof.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 18, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *N*-oxide thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. A method for the treatment of a disease or condition in which GPR116 plays a role comprising a step of administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a

compound according to any one of claims 1 to 18, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *N*-oxide thereof.

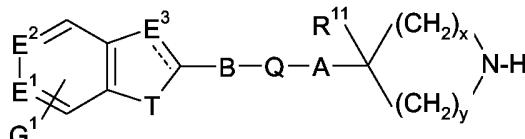
21. A method for the regulation of satiety comprising a step of administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 18, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *N*-oxide thereof.

22. A method for the treatment of obesity comprising a step of administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 18, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *N*-oxide thereof.

23. A method for the treatment of diabetes comprising a step of administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 18, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *N*-oxide thereof.

24. A method for the treatment of metabolic syndrome (syndrome X), impaired glucose tolerance, hyperlipidemia, hypertriglyceridemia, hypercholesterolemia, low HDL levels or hypertension comprising a step of administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 18, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *N*-oxide thereof.

25. A compound of formula (XVI):



(XVI)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *N*-oxide thereof, wherein:

one of E¹ and E² is N and the other is N or C—G²;

the dashed line together with the solid line forms an optional double bond;

when the dashed line together with the solid line forms a double bond E³ is CR⁸ or N, and when it is a single bond E³ is CHR⁸, O or NR²;

T is O, S, NR², (CH₂)₂, or E⁴=E⁵, where E⁴ and E⁵ are independently CH or N;

B is a bond, -CH₂=CH₂- or (CH₂)_j;

j is 1, 2 or 3;

Q is a bond, C(O)S, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring;

A is (CH₂)_n, where one CH₂ group may be replaced by O, S, C(O), CH(OH) CH(Hal) CH(NR²R³), S(O), S(O)₂ or NR³; two CH₂ groups may be replaced by CH=CH, C(O)O, C(O)S, SC(O), C(O)NR² or OC(O); or three CH₂ groups may be replaced by C(O)CH₂S, C(O)CH₂C(OH) or C(O)CH₂C(O);

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6;

G^1 and G^2 are independently hydrogen, halogen, CF_3 , C_{1-4} alkoxy, NR^4R^{44} , SO_2C_{1-4} alkyl, SOC_{1-4} alkyl, SC_{1-4} alkyl or cyano; or C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, or C_{2-4} alkynyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy, NR^4R^{44} , oxo or C_{1-4} alkoxy;

R^2 and R^3 are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^4 and R^{44} are independently hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, or aryl, which may optionally be substituted with 1 or 2 substituents selected from halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, CF_3 , C_{1-4} alkoxy, cyano, and $S(O)_2Me$; or, taken together, R^4 and R^{44} may form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring;

R^8 is hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy or benzyloxy;

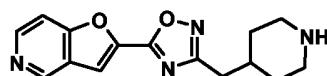
R^{11} is hydrogen or hydroxy;

x is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

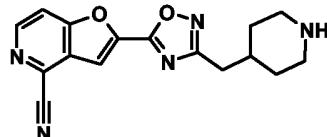
y is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5; and

with the proviso that $x + y$ is 2, 3, 4 or 5.

26. A compound according to claim 25 which is 2-(3-piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine



27. A compound according to claim 25 which is 2-(3-piperidin-4-ylmethyl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)furo[3,2-c]pyridine-4-carbonitrile



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/GB2005/050265

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. C07D471/04 A61K31/4353 A61K31/4365 A61K31/4375 A61P3/10
A61P3/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
C07D A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, BEILSTEIN Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 97/46556 A (MERCK & CO., INC; BIFTU, TESFAYE; FENG, DANQING, DENNIS; FISHER, MICHA) 11 December 1997 (1997-12-11) claims 1,24	1-24
P, A	WO 2005/061489 A (PROSIDION LIMITED; FYFE, MATTHEW; GARDNER, LISA; KING-UNDERWOOD, JOHN;) 7 July 2005 (2005-07-07) cited in the application the examples and page 1, first paragraph	1-24



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
6 April 2006	24/04/2006
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Bakboord, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2005/050265

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 20-24 because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

Although claims 20-24 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound.
2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB2005/050265

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9746556	A 11-12-1997	AU	712057 B2	28-10-1999
		AU	3374897 A	05-01-1998
		CA	2257206 A1	11-12-1997
		EP	0906310 A1	07-04-1999
		JP	2000511903 T	12-09-2000
WO 2005061489	A 07-07-2005	NONE		