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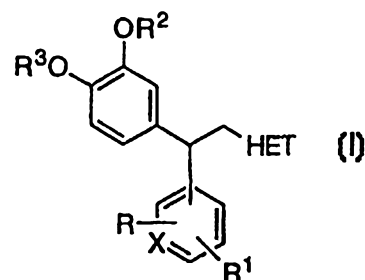
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(54) Title: TRI-ARYL ETHANE DERIVATIVES AS PDE IV INHIBITORS

(57) Abstract

The invention encompasses the novel compound of formula (I), useful in the treatment of diseases, including asthma, by raising the level of cyclic adenosine-3',5'-monophosphate (cAMP) through the inhibition of phosphodiesterase IV (PDE IV). The invention also encompasses certain pharmaceutical compositions and methods for treatment of diseases by inhibition of PDE IV, resulting in an elevation of cAMP, comprising the use of compounds of Formula (I).



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TITLE OF THE INVENTIONTRI-ARYL ETHANE DERIVATIVES AS *PDE IV* INHIBITORSBACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 This invention relates to compounds and pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment of diseases by raising the level of cyclic adenosine-3',5'-monophosphate (cAMP) through the inhibition of phosphodiesterase IV (PDE IV).

10 Many hormones and neurotransmitters modulate tissue function by elevating intra-cellular levels of 3', 5'-cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP). The cellular levels of cAMP are regulated by mechanisms which control synthesis and breakdown. The synthesis of cAMP is controlled by adenylyl cyclase which may be directly activated by agents such as forskolin or indirectly activated by the binding of
15 specific agonists to cell surface receptors which are coupled to adenylyl cyclase. The breakdown of cAMP is controlled by a family of phosphodiesterase (PDE) isoenzymes, which also control the breakdown of guanosine 3',5'-cyclic monophosphate (cGMP). To date, seven members of the family have been described (PDE I-VII) the distribution
20 of which varies from tissue to tissue. This suggests that specific inhibitors of PDE isoenzymes could achieve differential elevation of cAMP in different tissues, [for reviews of PDE distribution, structure, function and regulation, see Beavo & Reifsnyder (1990) TIPS, 11: 150-155 and Nicholson et al (1991) TIPS, 12: 19-27].

25 The availability of PDE isotype selective inhibitors has enabled the role of PDEs in a variety of cell types to be investigated. In particular it has been established that PDE IV controls the breakdown of cAMP in many inflammatory cells, for example, basophils (Peachell P.T. *et al.*, (1992) *J. Immunol.* 148 2503-2510) and eosinophils (Dent
30 G. *et al.*, (1991) *Br. J. Pharmacol.* 103 1339-1346) and that inhibition of this isotype is associated with the inhibition of cell activation. Furthermore, elevation of cAMP in airway smooth muscle has a spasmolytic effect. Consequently PDE IV inhibitors are currently being developed as potential anti-inflammatory drugs particularly for the

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prophylaxis and treatment of asthma, by achieving both anti-inflammatory and bronchodilator effects.

The application of molecular cloning to the study of PDEs has revealed that for each isotype there may be one or more isoforms.

- 5 For PDE IV, it has been shown that there are four isoforms (A, B, C and D) each coded for by a separate gene in both rodents (Swinnen J.V. *et al.*, (1989) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86 5325-5329) and man (Bolger G. *et al.*, (1993) *Mol. Cell Biol.* 13 6558-6571).

- 10 The existence of multiple PDE IVs raises the prospect of obtaining inhibitors that are selective for individual isoforms, thus increasing the specificity of action of such inhibitors. This assumes that the different PDE IV isoforms are functionally distinct. Indirect evidence in support of this comes from the selective distribution of these isoforms in different tissues (Swinnen *et al.*, 1989; Bolger *et al.*, 1993; 15 Obernolte R. *et al.*, (1993) *Gene* 129 239-247, *ibid*) and the high degree of sequence conservation amongst isoforms of different species.

- To date full length cDNAs for human PDE IVA, B and D (Bolger *et al.*, 1993 *ibid*; Obernolte *et al.*, 1993 *ibid*; McLaughlin M. *et al.*, (1993) *J. Biol. Chem.* 268 6470-6476) and rat PDE IVA, B and D 20 (Davis R. *et al.*, (1989) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86 3604-3608; Swinnen J.V. *et al.*, (1991) *J. Biol. Chem.* 266 18370-18377), have been reported, enabling functional recombinant enzymes to be produced by expression of the cDNAs in an appropriate host cell. These cDNAs have been isolated by conventional hybridisation methods. However using 25 this approach, only partial cDNAs for both human and rat PDE IVC have been obtained. (Bolger *et al.*, *ibid.* 1993 and Swinnen *et al.*, *ibid.* 1989 and International Patent Specification No. WO 91/16457.)

- 30 The design of PDE IV inhibitors for the treatment of inflammatory diseases such as asthma, has met with limited success to date. Many of the PDE IV inhibitors which have been synthesised have lacked potency and/or inhibit more than one type of PDE isoenzyme in a non-selective manner. PDE IV inhibitors that are relatively potent and selective for PDE IV, are reported to be emetic as well. Indeed this side effect has been so universal that experts have expressed their belief that

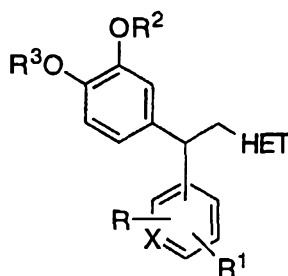
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the emesis experienced upon administration of a PDE IV inhibitor, may be mechanism based.

We have now found a novel series of tri-substituted phenyl derivatives, members of which compared to known structurally similar compounds are potent inhibitors of PDE IV at concentrations at which they have little or no inhibitory action on other PDE isoenzymes. These compounds inhibit the human recombinant PDE IV enzyme and also elevate cAMP in isolated leukocytes. Certain compounds prevent inflammation in the lungs induced by carrageenan, platelet-activating factor (PAF), interleukin-5 (IL-5) or antigen challenge. These compounds also suppress the hyperresponsiveness of airway smooth muscle seen in inflamed lungs. Advantageously, compounds according to the invention have good oral activity and at orally effective doses exhibit little or none of the side-effects associated with known PDE IV inhibitors, such as rolipram. The compounds of the invention are therefore of use in medicine, especially in the prophylaxis and treatment of asthma and other inflammatory conditions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention encompasses novel compounds of Formula I useful in the treatment of disease by inhibition of PDE IV, resulting in an elevation of cAMP.



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I

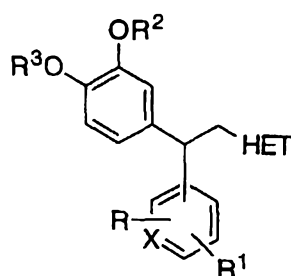
The invention also encompasses certain pharmaceutical compositions and methods for treatment of diseases by inhibition of

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PDE IV, resulting in an elevation of cAMP, comprising the use of compounds of Formula I.

5 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention encompasses the novel compound of Formula I useful in the treatment of disease by inhibition of PDE IV, resulting in an elevation of cAMP,



10

I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein:

R is selected from

- 15 (a) hydrogen,
(b) C₁-6alkyl,
(c) halo and
(d) CF₃;

20 R¹ is selected from

- (CH₂)_m-CO-N(R⁴)-S(O)₂-R⁵, wherein m is 0, 1 or 2,
-(CH₂)_m-CO-N(R⁴)-S(O)₂-NR⁶R⁷,
-(CH₂)_m-S(O)₂-N(R⁴)-CO-R⁴,
-(CH₂)_m-S(O)₂-N(R⁴)-CO-NR⁶R⁷,
25 -C(OH)(C₁-6haloalkyl)₂,

R² and R³ are independently selected from

- (a) C₁-7alkyl,

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- (b) substituted C1-7 alkyl, wherein the substituent is F, Cl, Br or I,
- (c) 2-phenethyl or 2-indanyl, optionally mono or di-substituted, wherein the substituents on the benzene ring are independently selected from the group consisting of
- 5 (1) halo,
- (2) C1-6alkoxy,
- (3) C1-6alkylthio,
- (4) CN,
- 10 (5) CF₃,
- (6) C1-6alkyl,
- (7) N₃,
- (8) -CO₂H,
- 15 R⁴ is selected from
- (a) hydrogen,
- (b) C1-6alkyl,
- (c) phenyl, benzyl or 2-phenethyl, optionally mono or di-substituted, wherein the substituents on the benzene ring are independently selected from the group consisting of
- 20 (1) halo,
- (2) C1-6alkoxy,
- (3) C1-6alkylthio,
- (4) CN,
- 25 (5) CF₃,
- (6) C1-6alkyl,
- (7) N₃,
- (8) -CO₂H,
- 30 R⁵, R⁸ and R¹¹ are each independently selected from
- (a) -CF₃,
- (b) C1-6alkyl,

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(c) phenyl, benzyl or 2-phenethyl, optionally mono or di-substituted, wherein the substituents on the benzene ring are independently selected from the group consisting of

- 5 (1) halo,
(2) C₁-6alkoxy,
(3) C₁-6alkylthio,
(4) CN,
(5) CF₃,
10 (6) C₁-6alkyl,
(7) N₃,
(8) -CO₂H,

R⁶, R⁷, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently selected from

- 15 (a) hydrogen, and
(b) C₁-6alkyl, or

R⁶ and R⁷ may be joined to form a saturated 5, 6 or 7 membered heterocycle, said heterocycle containing a heteroatom which is nitrogen and optionally containing an additional hetero atom which is an O or an S atom or NR⁴, and optionally containing a carbonyl group;

20

HET is selected from

pyridyl and imidazolyl, optionally mono-, or disubstituted, wherein the substituents are independently selected from halo, C₁-6alkyl, C₁-6alkoxy, C₁-6alkylthio, benzyl, 2-phenethyl, NHCOR⁸, NR⁹R¹⁰,

- 25 NHS(O)₂R¹¹, OH, CN, or CF₃, and the N-oxides thereof; and
X is selected from N, N→O or CH.

Within this embodiment there is a genus of compounds

wherein

- 30 R² is cyclopentyl, and
R³ is methyl,

Within this genus there is a class of compounds wherein

R is selected from

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- (a) hydrogen,
- (b) C₁-4alkyl,
- (c) halo and
- (d) CF₃;

5 R¹ is selected from

- (CH₂)_m-CO-N(R⁴)-S(O)₂-R⁵, wherein m is 0, 1 or 2,
- (CH₂)_m-CO-N(R⁴)-S(O)₂-NR⁶R⁷,
- (CH₂)_m-S(O)₂-N(R⁴)-CO-R⁴,
- (CH₂)_m-S(O)₂-N(R⁴)-CO-NR⁶R⁷,
- 10 -C(OH)(C₁-6haloalkyl)₂,

R² is cyclopentyl,

R³ is methyl,

R⁴ is selected from

- 15 (a) hydrogen,
- (b) C₁-6alkyl,
- (c) phenyl, benzyl or 2-phenethyl, optionally mono or di-substituted, wherein the substituents on the benzene ring are independently selected from the group consisting of
- 20 (1) halo,
- (2) C₁-6alkoxy,
- (3) C₁-6alkylthio,
- (4) CN,
- (5) CF₃,
- (6) C₁-6alkyl,
- 25 (7) N₃,
- (8) -CO₂H,

R⁵, R⁸ and R¹¹ are each independently selected from

- (a) -CF₃,
- (b) C₁-6alkyl,
- 30 (c) phenyl, benzyl or 2-phenethyl, optionally mono or di-substituted, wherein the substituents on the benzene ring are independently selected from the group consisting of
- (1) halo,
- (2) C₁-6alkoxy,

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- (3) C₁-6alkylthio,
 (4) CN,
 (5) CF₃,
 (6) C₁-6alkyl,
 5 (7) N₃,
 (8) -CO₂H,
 R⁶, R⁷, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently selected from
 (a) hydrogen, and
 (b) C₁-6alkyl, or
 10 R⁶ and R⁷ may be joined to form a saturated 5, 6 or 7 membered heterocycle, said heterocycle containing a heteroatom which is nitrogen and optionally containing an additional hetero atom which is an O or an S atom or NR⁴, and optionally containing a carbonyl group;
 15 HET is selected from pyridyl and imidazolyl, optionally mono-, or disubstituted, wherein the substituents are independently selected from halo, C₁-6alkyl, C₁-6alkoxy, C₁-6alkylthio, benzyl, 2-phenethyl, NHCOR⁸, NR⁹R¹⁰, NHS(O)₂R¹¹, OH, CN, or CF₃, and the N-oxides thereof; and
 20 X is selected from N, N→O or CH.

Within this class there is a sub-class of compounds wherein R is selected from

- (a) hydrogen,
 25 (b) C₁-3alkyl,
 (c) halo, and
 (d) CF₃; and is ortho to R¹;

R¹ is selected from

- (CH₂)_m-CO-N(R⁴)-S(O)₂-R⁵, wherein m is 0, 1 or 2,
 30 -(CH₂)_m-CO-N(R⁴)-S(O)₂-NR⁶R⁷,
 -(CH₂)_m-S(O)₂-N(R⁴)-CO-R⁴,
 -(CH₂)_m-S(O)₂-N(R⁴)-CO-NR⁶R⁷,
 -C(OH)(C₁-6haloalkyl)₂,

R² is cyclopentyl,

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R³ is methyl,

R⁴ is selected from

(a) hydrogen,

(b) C₁-6alkyl,

5 R⁵, R⁸ and R¹¹ are each independently selected from

(a) -CF₃,

(b) C₁-6alkyl,

R⁶, R⁷, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently selected from

(a) hydrogen, and

10 (b) C₁-6alkyl, or

R⁶ and R⁷ may be joined to form a saturated 5, 6 or 7 membered heterocycle, said heterocycle containing a heteroatom which is nitrogen and optionally containing an additional hetero atom which is an O or an S atom or NR⁴, and optionally containing a carbonyl group;

15

HET is selected from

pyridyl, optionally mono-, or disubstituted, wherein the substituents are independently selected from halo, C₁-6alkyl, C₁-6alkoxy, C₁-6alkylthio, benzyl, 2-phenethyl, NHCOR⁸, NR⁹R¹⁰, NHS(O)₂R¹¹, OH,

20 CN, or CF₃, and the N-oxides thereof; and

X is CH.

As appreciated by those of skill in the art, Halo is intended to include F, Cl, Br, and I.

25

For purposes of this specification alkyl is defined to include linear, branched, and cyclic structures, with C₁-6alkyl including including methyl, ethyl, propyl, 2-propyl, s- and t-butyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl, 1,1-dimethylethyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl. Similarly, C₁-6alkoxy is intended to include alkoxy groups of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms of a straight, branched, or cyclic configuration. Examples of alkoxy groups include methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, cyclopropyloxy, cyclohexyloxy, and the like. Likewise, C₁-6alkylthio is intended to include alkylthio groups of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms of a straight, branched or cyclic configuration.

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Examples of alkylthio groups include methylthio, propylthio, isopropylthio, cycloheptylthio, etc. By way of illustration, the propylthio group signifies -SCH₂CH₂CH₃. C₁-6haloalkyl means an alkyl group in which two or more hydrogen atoms have been replaced
5 by halogen atoms.

Exemplifying the invention are:

- (a) *N*-{(R)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzoyl}methanesulfonamide,
10 (b) *N*-{(R)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzoyl}benzenesulfonamide,
(c) *N*-{(R)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzoyl}trifluoromethanesulfonamide,
(d) *N*-{(R)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzoyl}*o*-toluenesulfonamide,
15 (e) *N*-{(R)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]phenylacetyl}benzenesulfonamide,
(f) *N*-{(R)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]phenylacetyl}trifluoromethanesulfonamide,
(g) (R)-4-{2-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-[4-(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine, and
20 (h) *N*-(*o*-Toluoyl)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzenesulfonamide.

25

Some of the compounds described herein contain one or more asymmetric centers and may thus give rise to diastereomers and optical isomers. The present invention is meant to comprehend such possible diastereomers as well as their racemic and resolved,
30 enantiomerically pure forms and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Some of the compounds described herein contain olefinic double bonds, and unless specified otherwise, are meant to include both E and Z geometric isomers.

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In a second embodiment, the invention encompasses pharmaceutical compositions for treatment of disease by inhibition of PDE IV, as disclosed herein comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a non-toxic therapeutically effective amount of compound of formula I as described above.

Within this embodiment the invention encompasses pharmaceutical compositions for treatment of disease by inhibition of PDE IV, resulting in an elevation of cAMP, as disclosed herein comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a non-toxic therapeutically effective amount of compound of formula I as described above.

For purposes of this specification a compound is said to selectively inhibit PDE IV in preference to other PDE's if the ratio of the IC₅₀ concentration for all other PDE inhibition to PDE IV inhibition is 100 or greater.

The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention comprise a compound of Formula I as an active ingredient or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, thereof, and may also contain a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and optionally other therapeutic ingredients. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" refers to salts prepared from pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic bases including inorganic bases and organic bases. Salts derived from inorganic bases include aluminum, ammonium, calcium, copper, ferric, ferrous, lithium, magnesium, manganic salts, manganous, potassium, sodium, zinc, and the like. 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, substituted amines including naturally occurring substituted amines, cyclic amines, and basic ion exchange resins, such as 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,

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piperazine, piperidine, polyamine resins, procaine, purines, theobromine, triethylamine, trimethylamine, tripropylamine, tromethamine, and the like.

5 It will be understood that in the discussion of methods of treatment which follows, references to the compounds of Formula I are meant to also include the pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

Compounds according to the invention are selective and potent inhibitors of PDE IV. The ability of the compounds to act in this way may be simply determined by the tests described in the Examples
10 hereinafter.

The compounds according to the invention are thus of particular use in the prophylaxis and treatment of human diseases where an unwanted inflammatory response or muscular spasm (for example bladder or alimentary smooth muscle spasm) is present and where the
15 elevation of cAMP levels may be expected to prevent or alleviate the inflammation and relax muscle.

Particular uses to which the compounds of the invention may be put include the prophylaxis and treatment of asthma, especially inflamed lung associated with asthma, cystic fibrosis, or in the treatment
20 of inflammatory airway disease, chronic bronchitis, eosinophilic granuloma, psoriasis and other benign and malignant proliferative skin diseases, endotoxic shock, septic shock, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, reperfusion injury of the myocardium and brain, inflammatory arthritis, chronic glomerulonephritis, atopic dermatitis, urticaria, adult
25 respiratory distress syndrome, diabetes insipidus, allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, vernal conjunctivitis, arterial restenosis and arteriosclerosis.

Compounds of the invention also suppress neurogenic inflammation through elevation of cAMP in sensory neurones. They
30 are, therefore, analgesic, anti-tussive and anti-hyperalgesic in inflammatory diseases associated with irritation and pain. Compounds according to the invention may also elevate cAMP in lymphocytes and thereby suppress unwanted lymphocyte activation in

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immune-based diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, transplant rejection and graft versus host disease.

Compounds according to the invention have also been found to reduce gastric acid secretion and therefore can be used to treat
5 conditions associated with hypersecretion of gastric acid.

Compounds of the invention suppress cytokine synthesis by inflammatory cells in response to immune or infectious stimulation. They are, therefore, useful in the treatment of bacterial, fungal or viral induced sepsis and septic shock in which cytokines such as tumour
10 necrosis factor (TNF) are key mediators. Also compounds of the invention suppress inflammation and pyrexia due to cytokines and are, therefore, useful in the treatment of inflammation and cytokine-mediated chronic tissue degeneration which occurs in diseases such as rheumatoid or osteo-arthritis.

Over-production of cytokines such as TNF in bacterial, fungal or viral infections or in diseases such as cancer, leads to cachexia and muscle wasting. Compounds of the invention ameliorate these
15 symptoms with a consequent enhancement of quality of life.

Compounds of the invention also elevate cAMP in certain
20 areas of the brain and thereby counteract depression and memory impairment.

Compounds of the invention suppress cell proliferation in certain tumour cells and can be used, therefore, to prevent tumour growth and invasion of normal tissues.

For the prophylaxis or treatment of disease the compounds according to the invention may be administered as pharmaceutical compositions, and according to a further aspect of the invention we provide a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of
25 formula (1) together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.

For the treatment of any of these, compounds of formula I may be administered orally, topically, parenterally, by inhalation spray or rectally in dosage unit formulations containing conventional non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, adjuvants and vehicles. The

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term parenteral as used herein includes subcutaneous injections, intravenous, intramuscular, intrasternal injection or infusion techniques. In addition to the treatment of warm-blooded animals such as mice, rats, horses, cattle sheep, dogs, cats, etc., the compound of the invention is
5 effective in the treatment of humans.

The pharmaceutical compositions containing the active ingredient may be in a form suitable for oral use, for example, as tablets, troches, lozenges, aqueous or oily suspensions, dispersible
10 powders or granules, emulsions, hard or soft capsules, or syrups or elixirs. Compositions intended for oral use may be prepared according to any method known to the art for the manufacture of pharmaceutical compositions and such compositions may contain one or more agents selected from the group consisting of sweetening agents, flavoring
15 agents, coloring agents and preserving agents in order to provide pharmaceutically elegant and palatable preparations. Tablets contain the active ingredient in admixture with non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable excipients which are suitable for the manufacture of tablets. These excipients may be for example, inert diluents, such as calcium carbonate, sodium carbonate, lactose, calcium phosphate or sodium
20 phosphate; granulating and disintegrating agents, for example, corn starch, or alginic acid; binding agents, for example starch, gelatin or acacia, and lubricating agents, for example, magnesium stearate, stearic acid or talc. The tablets may be uncoated or they may be coated by known techniques to delay disintegration and absorption in the
25 gastrointestinal tract and thereby provide a sustained action over a longer period. For example, a time delay material such as glyceryl monostearate or glyceryl distearate may be employed. They may also be coated by the technique described in the U.S. Patent 4,256,108; 4,166,452; and 4,265,874 to form osmotic therapeutic tablets for
30 control release.

Formulations for oral use may also be presented as hard gelatin capsules wherein the active ingredient is mixed with an inert solid diluent, for example, calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate or kaolin, or as soft gelatin capsules wherein the active ingredients is mixed

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with water or an oil medium, for example peanut oil, liquid paraffin, or olive oil.

Aqueous suspensions contain the active material in admixture with excipients suitable for the manufacture of aqueous suspensions. Such excipients are suspending agents, for example sodium carboxymethyl-cellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxy-
5 propylmethycellulose, sodium alginate, polyvinyl-pyrrolidone, gum tragacanth and gum acacia; dispersing or wetting agents may be a naturally-occurring phosphatide, for example lecithin, or condensation
10 products of an alkylene oxide with fatty acids, for example polyoxyethylene stearate, or condensation products of ethylene oxide with long chain aliphatic alcohols, for example heptadecaethylene-oxycetanol, or condensation products of ethylene oxide with partial
15 esters derived from fatty acids and a hexitol such as polyoxyethylene sorbitol monooleate, or condensation products of ethylene oxide with partial esters derived from fatty acids and hexitol anhydrides, for example polyethylene sorbitan monooleate. The aqueous suspensions may also contain one or more preservatives, for example ethyl, or n-propyl, p-hydroxybenzoate, one or more coloring agents, one or more
20 flavoring agents, and one or more sweetening agents, such as sucrose, saccharin or aspartame.

Oily suspensions may be formulated by suspending the active ingredient in a vegetable oil, for example arachis oil, olive oil, sesame oil or coconut oil, or in mineral oil such as liquid paraffin. The
25 oily suspensions may contain a thickening agent, for example beeswax, hard paraffin or cetyl alcohol. Sweetening agents such as those set forth above, and flavoring agents may be added to provide a palatable oral preparation. These compositions may be preserved by the addition of an anti-oxidant such as ascorbic acid.

30 Dispersible powders and granules suitable for preparation of an aqueous suspension by the addition of water provide the active ingredient in admixture with a dispersing or wetting agent, suspending agent and one or more preservatives. Suitable dispersing or wetting agents and suspending agents are exemplified by those already

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mentioned above. Additional excipients, for example sweetening, flavoring and coloring agents, may also be present.

The pharmaceutical compositions of the invention may also be in the form of an oil-in-water emulsions. The oily phase may be a vegetable oil, for example olive oil or arachis oil, or a mineral oil, for example liquid paraffin or mixtures of these. Suitable emulsifying agents may be naturally-occurring phosphatides, for example soy bean, lecithin, and esters or partial esters derived from fatty acids and hexitol anhydrides, for example sorbitan monooleate, and condensation products of the said partial esters with ethylene oxide, for example polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate. The emulsions may also contain sweetening and flavouring agents.

Syrups and elixirs may be formulated with sweetening agents, for example glycerol, propylene glycol, sorbitol or sucrose. Such formulations may also contain a demulcent, a preservative and flavoring and coloring agents. The pharmaceutical compositions may be in the form of a sterile injectable aqueous or oleagenous suspension. This suspension may be formulated according to the known art using those suitable dispersing or wetting agents and suspending agents which have been mentioned above. The sterile injectable preparation may also be a sterile injectable solution or suspension in a non-toxic parenterally-acceptable diluent or solvent, for example as a solution in 1,3-butane diol. Among the acceptable vehicles and solvents that may be employed are water, Ringer's solution and isotonic sodium chloride solution. In addition, sterile, fixed oils are conventionally employed as a solvent or suspending medium. For this purpose any bland fixed oil may be employed including synthetic mono- or diglycerides. In addition, fatty acids such as oleic acid find use in the preparation of injectables.

Compounds of formula I may also be administered in the form of a suppositories for rectal administration of the drug. These compositions can be prepared by mixing the drug with a suitable non-irritating excipient which is solid at ordinary temperatures but liquid at the rectal temperature and will therefore melt in the rectum to release the drug. Such materials are cocoa butter and polyethylene glycols.

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For topical use, creams, ointments, jellies, solutions or suspensions, etc., containing the compound of Formula I are employed. (For purposes of this application, topical application shall include mouth washes and gargles.)

5 Dosage levels of the order of from about 0.01 mg to about 140 mg/kg of body weight per day are useful in the treatment of the above-indicated conditions, or alternatively about 0.5 mg to about 7 g per patient per day. For example, inflammation may be effectively treated by the administration of from about 0.01 to 50 mg of the
10 compound per kilogram of body weight per day, or alternatively about 0.5 mg to about 3.5 g per patient per day.

The amount of active ingredient that may be combined with the carrier materials to produce a single dosage form will vary depending upon the host treated and the particular mode of
15 administration. For example, a formulation intended for the oral administration of humans may contain from 0.5 mg to 5 g 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. Dosage unit forms will generally contain between
20 from about 1 mg to about 500 mg of an active ingredient, typically 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg, 200 mg, 300 mg, 400 mg, 500 mg, 600 mg, 800 mg, or 1000 mg.

It will be understood, however, that the specific dose level for any particular patient will depend upon a variety of factors
25 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.

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Methods of Synthesis

The compounds of the present invention can be prepared according to WO94/14742, published on 7 July 1994, or according to WO 95/17386, published on 29 June 1995, which are hereby incorporated by
5 reference or by the methods described below. It will be apparent to one skilled in the art that similar methodology could be used to prepare the enantiomers or the racemates of the illustrated compounds.

10 CHEMISTRY

Scheme 1

Carboxylic acid derivatives were prepared by the method
15 presented in Scheme 1. The diastereoselective addition of Grignard reagents derived from suitable bromoaryl-1,3-dioxolanes to acylsultam Michael acceptor **II** afforded triarylpropanoylsultam intermediates. Removal of the chiral auxiliary, subsequent decarboxylation and
20 aldehyde deprotection were then performed in a one-pot fashion by successive treatment with a suitable lithium thiolate followed by a saponification with aqueous hydroxide and then by an aqueous acidic treatment. In this way, carboxaldehyde intermediates were obtained. Oxidation of those by sodium chlorite gave access to carboxylic acid
25 intermediates **1** and **2**. Acylsulfonamides were prepared by treating acids **1** and **2** with sulfonamides in the presence of a suitable carbodiimide and 4-dimethylaminopyridine.

Scheme 2

30 The preparation of (1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)arene derivatives is shown in Scheme 2. Monolithiation of suitable dihaloarenes followed by the addition of hexafluoroacetone gave access to the corresponding bis(trifluoromethyl)carbinol intermediates which were subsequently

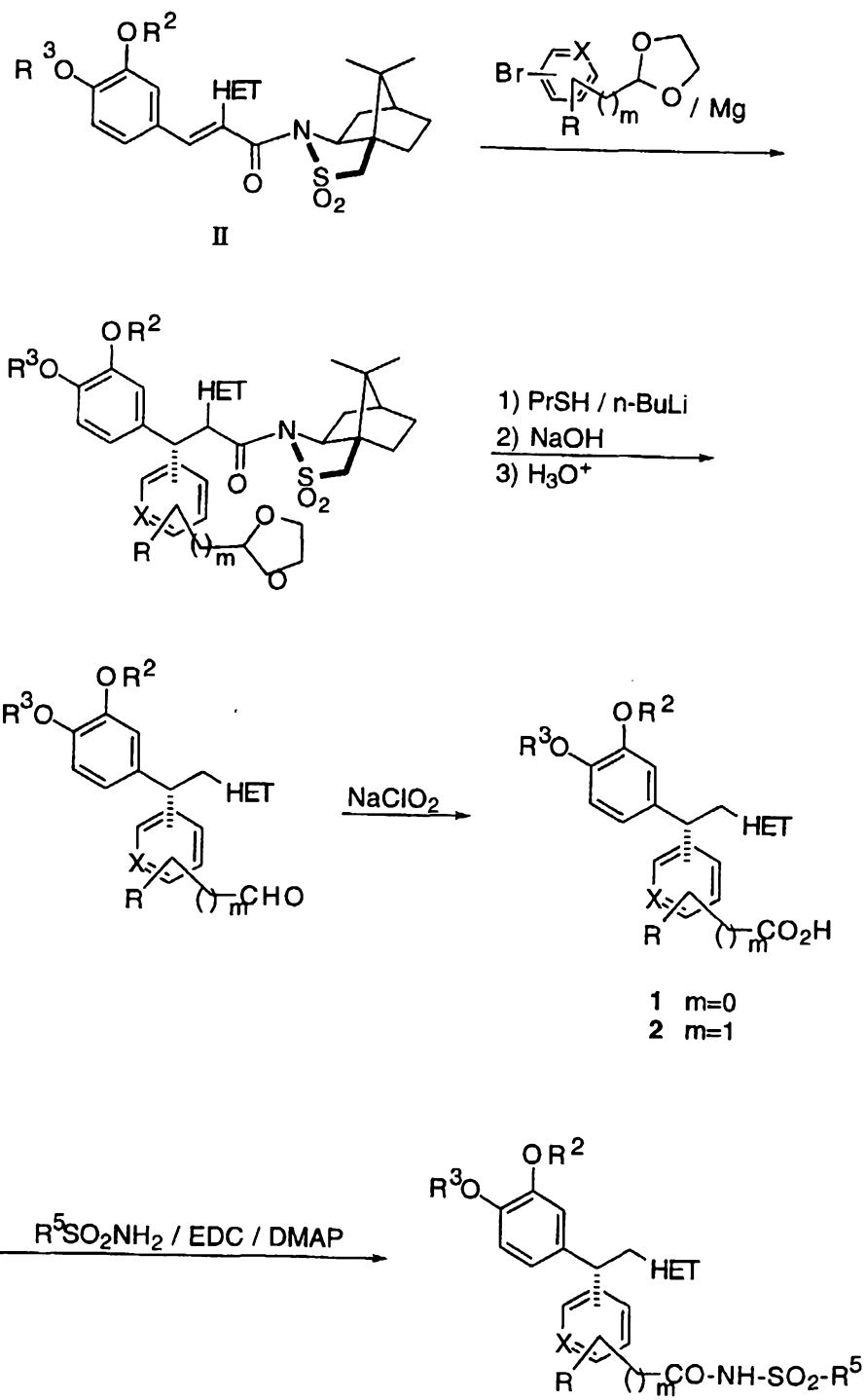
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protected as their trimethylsilylethoxymethyl ethers. The diastereoselective addition of Grignard reagents derived from the latter intermediates to acylsultam Michael acceptor **II** afforded triarylpropanoylsultam intermediates. Removal of the chiral auxiliary and subsequent decarboxylation were then performed in a one-pot fashion by successive treatment with a suitable lithium thiolate followed by a saponification with aqueous hydroxide and then by an aqueous acidic treatment. Deprotection of the tertiary alcohol by treatment with tetrabutylammonium fluoride finally afforded the desired (1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)arene derivatives.

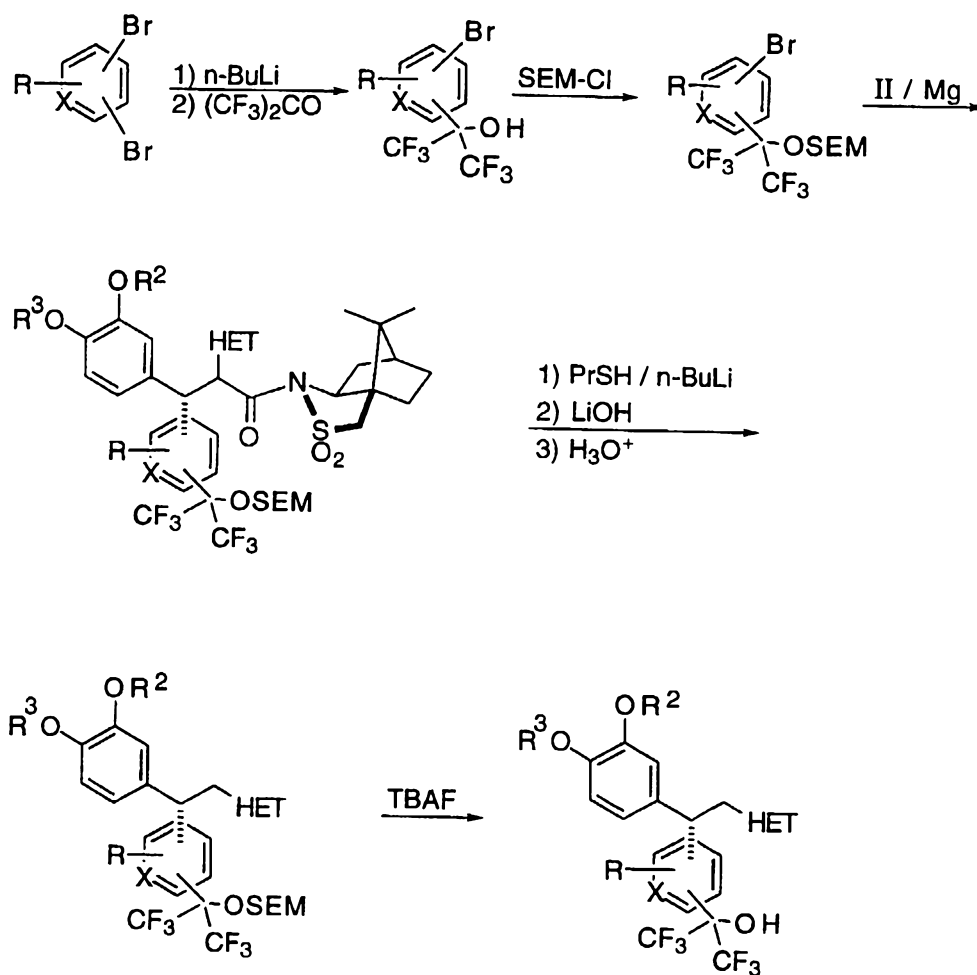
Scheme 3

Arenesulfonamide derivatives were prepared by the method presented in Scheme 3. Condensation of a suitable arenecarboxaldehyde with diphenyl 1-chloro-1-(heteroaryl)methanephosphonate (*J. Org. Chem.*, **1992**, *57*, 1622) afforded the corresponding diarylalkynes. Acid catalyzed addition of hydrogen iodide followed by palladium catalyzed stannylation gave access to vinyltin intermediates. These were submitted to palladium catalyzed coupling with *N,N*-bis-(*p*-methoxybenzyl)-4-bromobenzenesulfonamide to yield the corresponding triarylethylene derivatives. Reduction of the double bond was performed by reaction with sodium borohydride and nickel(II) chloride hexahydrate and the sulfonamide moiety was subsequently deprotected by treatment with trifluoroacetic acid to afford the benzenesulfonamide intermediates. Reaction of these with carboxylic acids in the presence of a suitable carbodiimide and 4-dimethylaminopyridine gave access to acylbenzenesulfonamide derivatives.

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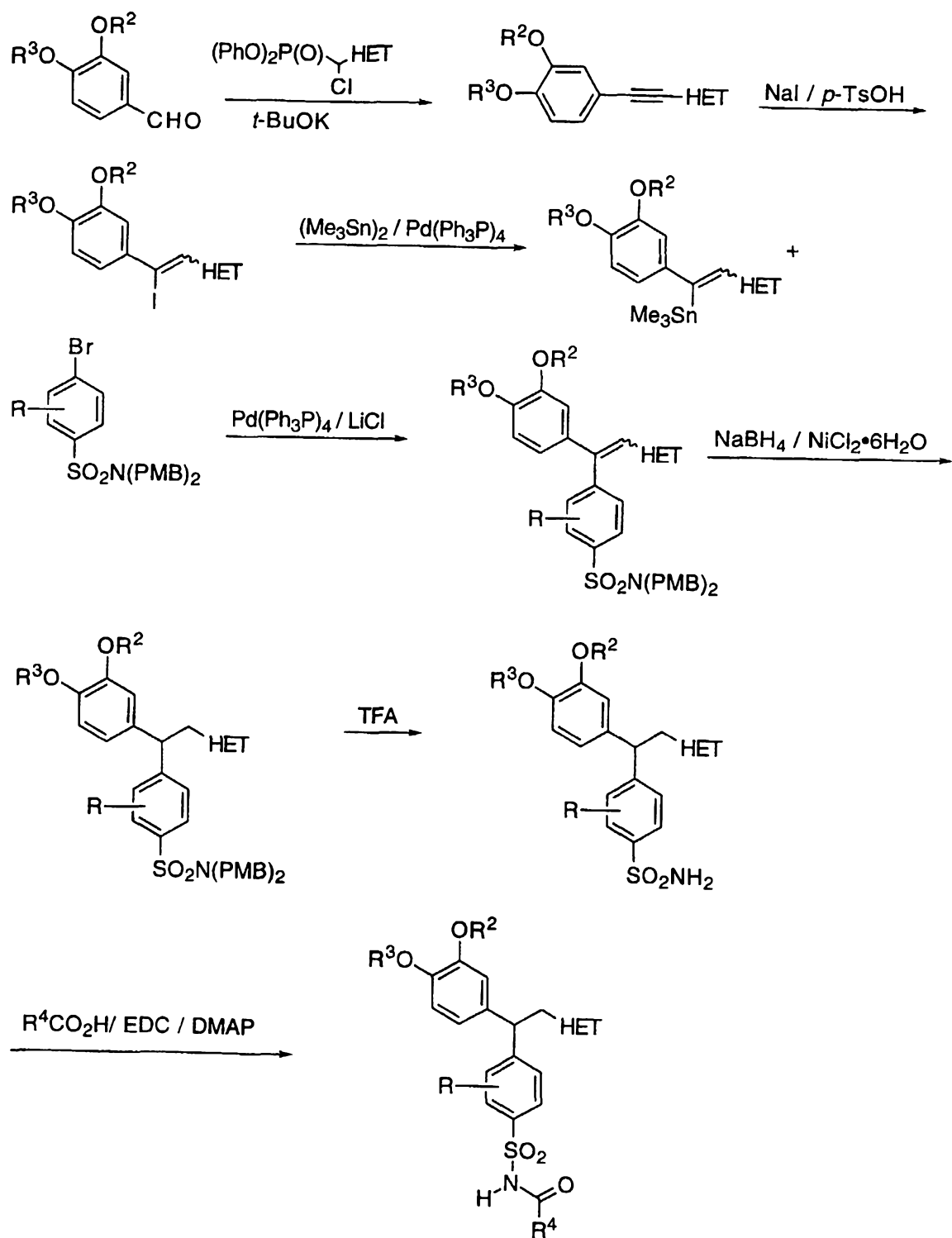
Scheme 1

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Scheme 2

- 22 -

Scheme 3



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Compounds of Schemes 4 to 6 were prepared as racemic mixtures, as described below.

Scheme 4

5

Coupling of 3,4-dihydroxy benzaldehyde with chlorodifluoromethane in the presence of potassium carbonate, using DMF as solvent at 85°C, afforded 3,4-bis-(difluoromethoxy) benzaldehyde X. This was condensed with the lithium anion of the protected 4-bromohenyl bis-trifluoromethyl carbinol Xa from Example 7, to afford tertiary alcohol XI which was converted to the corresponding chloride XII using thionyl chloride in the presence of Hunig's base in toluene solution. The chloride XII was condensed with the α -anion of ethyl 4-pyridyl acetate, affording the intermediate ester derivative XIII, which on hydrolysis with lithium hydroxide in a THF-methanol-water medium, followed by acidification with aqueous ammonium chloride afforded the decarboxylated intermediate XIV. Removal of the SEM protecting group was effected using TBAF in THF, leading to the final compound XV.

20

Scheme 5

The compound XV was oxidized with m-chloroperoxy benzoic acid to afford the N-oxide XVI.

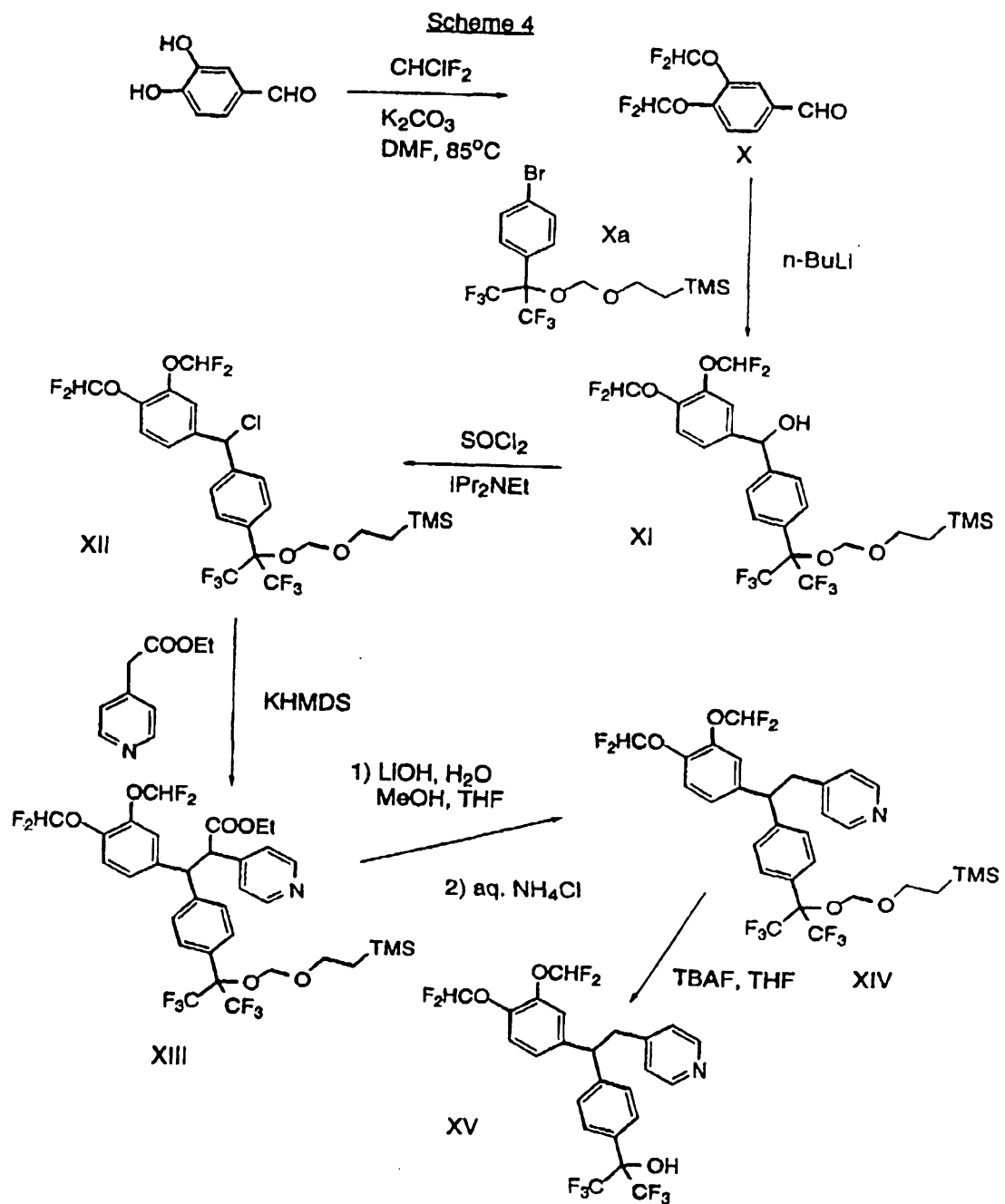
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Scheme 6

The 3,4-dichloropyridine analog XVIII was elaborated as follows: the chloride XII was condensed with the lithium anion of 3,4-dichloro-picoline, generated using LDA, affording the intermediate XVII; removal of the SEM protecting group was effected using TBAF in THF solution, to yield the final product XVIII.

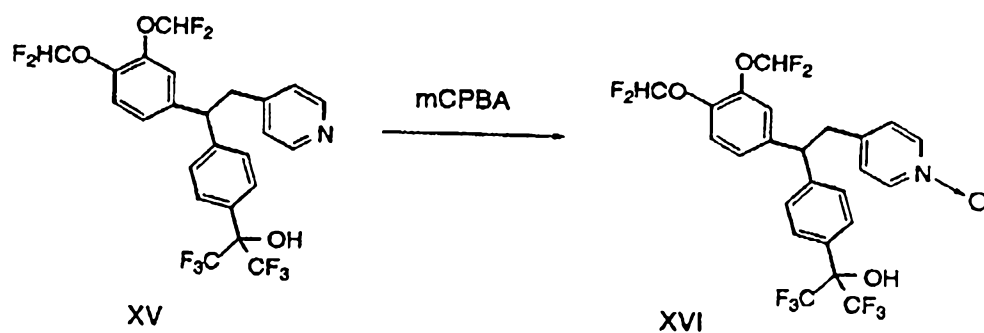
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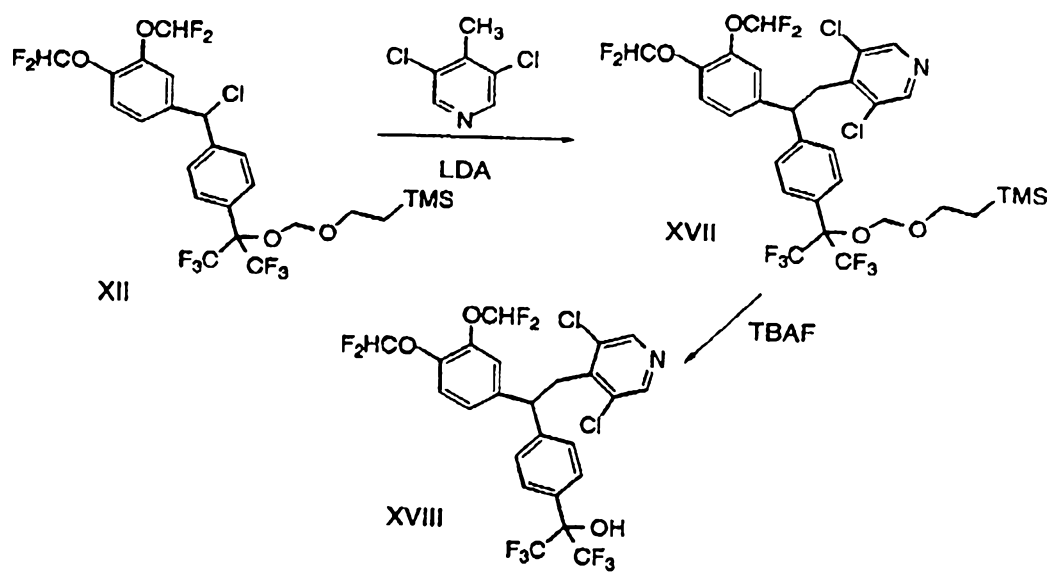


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Scheme 5

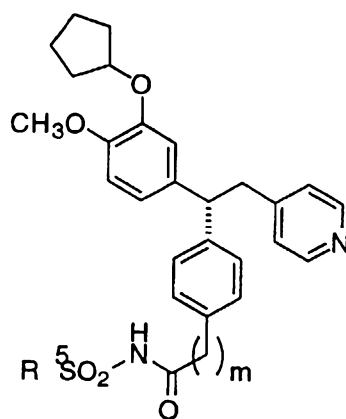


Scheme 6

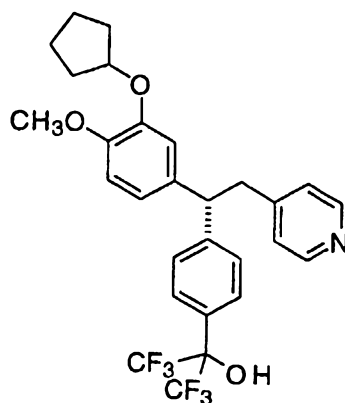


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Representative compounds are shown in Tables 1 to 3

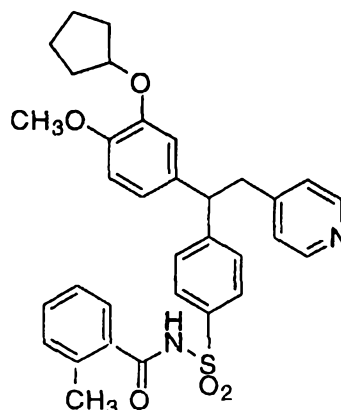
Table 1

EX.	m	R ⁵
1	0	CH ₃
2	0	Ph
3	0	CF ₃
4	0	o-Tol
5	1	Ph
6	1	CF ₃

Table 2

EX. 7

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Table 3

Ex. 8

Table 4. *In Vitro* Potency of PDE IV inhibitors.

EX.	IC ₅₀ (nM)
	GST-Met 248 PDE IVa
1	4
2	0.5
3	1
4	0.4
5	1.5
6	0.8
7	0.2
8	0.7

5 Assays for Determining Biological Activity

Establishment of CHO-K1 cell lines stably expressing PDE IVa enzyme

- 10 CHO-K1 cells stably expressing the prostacyclin receptor and grown under G418 selection as described previously (Y. Boie, *et al*, J. Biol. Chem.: **269**, 12173-12178, 1994) were plated at a density of 1.75×10^6 cells/175cm² in a T-175 flask (Gibco, Burlington, VT) containing alpha

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MEM media; 10% heat inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS); 1% (v/v) penicillin/streptomycin; 25 mM Hepes, pH 7.4; and 500 µg/ml G418 (complete media). The cells were placed in an incubator for 24 hr at 37°C and 5% CO₂. The cells were then washed with warmed sterile
5 phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and incubated with 2µg/ml DNA, and 9 µg/ml lipofectamine reagent in Opti-MEM for 7 hr. At 37°C and 5% CO₂. The incubation solution was diluted 1:2 with Opti-MEM containing 20% FBS and incubated overnight. Following the overnight
10 incubation, the media was replaced by complete media containing 500 µg/ml hygromycin B. Colonies were identified and grown in T-175 flasks for further characterization.

Measurement of whole-cell cAMP content

15 CHO-K1 cells were plated at a density of 10⁶ cells/175 cm² containing complete media with 500 µg/ml hygromycin. The flasks were maintained in an incubator at 37°C with 5.0% CO₂ for 72 hr. The media was changed and the cells were allowed to grow overnight. The cells were washed and dissociated from the plate with PBS containing
20 0.5 mM EDTA. Cellular cAMP content was measured by centrifuging the cell suspension at 150 g x 10 min. And resuspending the cells in a Hanks buffered salt solution at a density of 0.2 x 10⁶ cells/ml. The cells were preincubated at room temperature for 15 min. and then incubated with 10 µM prostaglandin I₂ (PGI₂) and the indicated compound for an
25 additional 10 min. Basal cAMP levels were determined by incubating the cells in 0.1% DMSO. The incubations were terminated by the addition of HCl (0.1 N final) and the cells measured for cAMP as described below.

30 Determinations of whole-cell cAMP content were performed by incubating 100 µl reconstituted rabbit anti-succinyl cAMP serum with 100 µl of the whole-cell reaction or known cAMP standard and 30 pmol of ¹²⁵I-cAMP TME in a ScintiStrip™ well (300 µl final volume) at room temperature for 18 h. Total cpm (B₀) was determined in the absence of

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sample of cAMP standard. The reaction mixture was then aspirated out of the well, and the individual wells were counted in a Beckman LS 6000SC with the window open from 10-999 for 1 min. The data were expressed as $\%B/B_0 = [(standard\ or\ sample\ cpm - non-specific\ cpm) / (B_0\ cpm - non-specific\ cpm)] \times 100$. Non-specific cpm were determined by incubating only the ^{125}I -cAMP TME with assay buffer (50 nM acetate; pH 5.8) in the ScintiStripTM well. All determinations were performed in triplicate.

10

Phosphodiesterase Scintillation Proximity Assay

CHO-K1 cells were lysed by sonication for 10 secs at a power setting of 50% (Braunsonic Model 2000) in an ice cold solution containing 50 mM Tris, pH 7.5; 1mM EDTA; and 200 μ M β -mercaptoethanol. The soluble and particulate fractions of the cell were obtained by centrifuging the sonicate for 90 min. at 100,000 x g at 4°C. PDE activity was measured in a solution containing 50 mM Tris, pH 7.5; 10mM $MgCl_2$; 1 mM EDTA; and 100 nM (or indicated) 3H -cAMP (100 μ l final volume) in the presence of varying concentrations of inhibitor. The reaction mixture containing enzyme was incubated for 10 min. at 30°C in 96-well View Plates (Packard), and terminated by the addition of 50 μ l Phosphodiesterase Scintillation Proximity Assay (SPA) Beads (Amersham) containing 18 mM $ZnSO_4$. The amount of 3H -cAMP hydrolysis was determined by counting the plates in a Wallac 1450 μ Beta LSC counter.

25

The Elevation of cAMP in Leukocytes

The effect of compounds of the invention on intracellular cAMP was investigated using human neutrophils or guinea pig eosinophils. Human neutrophils were separated from peripheral blood, incubated with dihydrocytochalasin B and the test compound for 10 min and then stimulated with FMLP. Guinea pig eosinophils were harvested by peritoneal lavage of animals previously treated with intra-peritoneal injections of human serum. Eosinophils were

30

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5 separated from the peritoneal exudate and incubated with isoprenaline and test compound. With both cell types, suspensions were centrifuged at the end of the incubation, the cell pellets were resuspended in buffer and boiled for 10 min prior to measurement of cAMP by specific radioimmunoassay (DuPont).

10 The most potent compounds according to the Examples induced a concentration -dependent elevation of cAMP in neutrophils and/or eosinophils at concentrations of 0.1nM to 1µM.

Suppression of Leukocyte Function

15 Compounds of the invention were investigated for their effects on superoxide generation, chemotaxis and adhesion of neutrophils and eosinophils. Isolated leukocytes were incubated with dihydrocytochalasin B for superoxide generation only and test compound prior to stimulation with FMLP. The most potent compounds of the Examples caused a concentration-dependent inhibition of superoxide generation, chemotaxis and adhesion at concentrations of 0.1nM to 1µM.

20 Lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced synthesis of tumour necrosis factor (TNF) by human peripheral blood monocytes (PBM) is inhibited by compounds of the Examples at concentrations of 0.01nM to 10µM.

25 **Relaxation of Constricted Airway Smooth Muscle in vitro**
The effects of compounds of the invention on guinea-pig isolated tracheal smooth muscle were investigated. Isolated tracheal rings were suspended in organ baths and immersed in oxygenated Krebs' solution. The smooth muscle was contracted with sub-maximal concentrations of histamine or carbachol prior to the addition of increasing concentrations of test compound to the organ baths. The most potent compounds of the Examples caused a concentration-dependent reversal of both histamine and carbachol-induced

30

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contractions at concentrations of 1nM to 100μM. The compounds were generally more potent in reversing histamine-induced tone than carbachol-induced tone.

5 **Effects on Cardiac Muscle in vitro**

Compounds of the invention have been tested for their effects on isolated cardiac muscle. Right atrial and papillary muscles were dissected out from the hearts of guinea pigs and suspended in organ baths for measuring the rate (chronotropic) of spontaneously
10 beating atria and force (inotropic) of the electrically stimulated papillary muscle. In these preparations, selective PDE IV inhibitors such as rolipram do not have any direct effects whereas selective PDE III inhibitors such as milrinone have positive chronotropic and inotropic effects. The non-specific PDE inhibitor
15 theophylline, which is used in asthma as a bronchodilator, also causes significant cardiovascular changes such as tachycardia. Selective PDE IV inhibitors have advantage over theophylline, therefore, through reduced cardiovascular side effects. The most
20 potent and selective compounds of the Examples had no direct effects on the atrial and papillary muscles in vitro at concentrations up to 10μM but in combination with PDE III inhibitors, these inhibitors showed an enhancement of chronotropic and inotropic activity, typical of selective type IV inhibitors.

25 **Anti-inflammatory Activity in vivo**

Interleukin-5 (IL-5)-induced pleural eosinophilia in the rat (*Lisle, et al.*, 1993, *Br.J. Pharmacol.* 108, 230p) is inhibited by compounds of the Examples given orally at doses of 0.0001 to 10.0mg/kg. The most potent compounds cause a dose-dependent reduction in
30 migrating eosinophils with ED₅₀s of 0.003 to 0.03mg/kg p.o.

Compounds of the invention also reduce the inflammatory responses induced in rats by platelet activating factor (PAF).

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Anti-allergic Activity in vivo

Compounds of the invention have been tested for effects on an IgE-mediated allergic pulmonary inflammation induced by inhalation of antigen by sensitised guinea pigs. Guinea pigs were initially sensitised to ovalbumin under mild cyclophosphamide-induced immunosuppression, by intraperitoneal injection of antigen in combinations with aluminium hydroxide and pertussis vaccine. Booster doses of antigen were given two and four weeks later and at six weeks, animals were challenged with aerosolised ovalbumin whilst under cover of an intraperitoneally administered anti-histamine agent (mepyramine). After a further 48h, bronchial alveolar lavages (BAL) were performed and the numbers of eosinophils and other leukocytes in the BAL fluids were counted. The lungs were also removed for histological examination for inflammatory damage. Administration of compounds of the Examples (0.001-10mg/kg i.p. or p.o.), up to three times during the 48h following antigen challenge, lead to a significant reduction in the eosinophilia and the accumulation of other inflammatory leukocytes. There was also less inflammatory damage in the lungs of animals treated with compounds of the Examples.

Effects on Pulmonary Dynamics

Compounds of the invention (0.001-10mg/kg by oral or other route of administration) reduce the allergic bronchoconstriction caused by antigen in sensitized guinea pigs.

Compounds of the invention have been tested for their effects on ozone-induced hyperreactivity of the airways of guinea pigs. Following the inhalation of ozone, guinea pigs become very much more sensitive to the bronchoconstrictor effects of inhaled histamine than naive animals (*Yeadon et al.*, 1992, *Pulmonary Pharm.*, 5, 39). There is a pronounced shift to the left (10-30 fold) of the dose response curve to histamine and a highly significant increase in the maximum increase in pulmonary resistance.

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Compounds of the Examples administered 1h prior to ozone by the intraperitoneal or oral (0.001-10mg/kg) route caused a dose-dependent inhibition of ozone-induced hyperreactivity.

5 **Adverse Effects**

Compounds of the invention are free from adverse effects following repeated overdosage to rats or dogs. For example, over administration of 125mg/kg/day of active compounds of the Examples to rats for 30 days is not associated with adverse toxicity.

10

The most potent compounds of the invention are 20-30 times less active than rolipram in inducing behavioural changes, sedation or emesis in rats, ferrets or dogs.

15 **SPA based PDE activity assay protocol**

Compounds which inhibit the hydrolysis of cAMP to AMP by the type-IV cAMP-specific phosphodiesterases were screened in 96-well plate format as follows:

20

In a 96 well-plate at 30 °C was added the test compound (dissolved in 2 ul DMSO), 188 ml of substrate buffer containing [2,8-³H] adenosine 3',5'-cyclic phosphate (cAMP, 100 nM to 50 µM), 10 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM EDTA, 50 mM Tris, pH 7.5. The reaction was initiated by the addition of 10 ml of human recombinant PDE-IV (the amount was controlled so that ~ 10% product was formed in 10 min. at 30 °C). The reaction was stopped after 10 min. by the addition of 1 mg of PDE-SPA beads (Amersham). The product AMP generated was quantified on a Microbeta 96-well plate counter. The signal in the absence of enzyme was defined as the background. 100% activity was defined as the signal detected in the presence of enzyme and DMSO with the background subtracted. Percentage of inhibition was calculated accordingly. IC₅₀ value was approximated with a non-linear regression fit of the standard

25

30

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4-parameter/multiple binding sites equation from a ten point titration.

5 IC₅₀ values shown in Table 4 were determined with 100 nM cAMP using the purified GST fusion protein of the human recombinant phosphodiesterase IVa (met-248) produced from a baculovirus/Sf-9 expression system.

10 The invention will now be illustrated by the following non-limiting examples in which, unless stated otherwise:

(i) all operations were carried out at room or ambient temperature, that is, at a temperature in the range 18-25°C; evaporation of solvent was carried out using a rotary evaporator under reduced
15 pressure (600-4000 pascals: 4.5-30 mm. Hg) with a bath temperature of up to 60°C; the course of reactions was followed by thin layer chromatography (TLC) and reaction times are given for illustration only; melting points are uncorrected and 'd' indicates decomposition; the melting points given are those obtained for the materials prepared as
20 described; polymorphism may result in isolation of materials with different melting points in some preparations; the structure and purity of all final products were assured by at least one of the following techniques: TLC, mass spectrometry, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometry or microanalytical data; yields are given for
25 illustration only; when given, NMR data is in the form of delta (δ) values for major diagnostic protons, given in parts per million (ppm) relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard, determined at 300 MHz or 400 MHz using the indicated solvent; conventional abbreviations used for signal shape are: s. singlet; d. doublet; t. triplet;
30 m. multiplet; br. broad; etc.: in addition "Ar" signifies an aromatic signal; chemical symbols have their usual meanings; the following abbreviations have also been used v (volume), w (weight), b.p. (boiling point), m.p. (melting point), L (liter(s)), mL (milliliters), g (gram(s)), mg (milligrams(s)), mol (moles), mmol (millimoles), eq (equivalent(s)).

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The following abbreviations have the indicated meanings:

Ac	=	acetyl
Bn	=	benzyl
cAMP		cyclic adenosine-3',5'-monophosphate
DBU	=	1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene
DIBAL	=	diisobutylaluminum hydride
DMAP	=	4-(dimethylamino)pyridine
DMF	=	N,N-dimethylformamide
Et ₃ N	=	triethylamine
GST		glutathione transferase
LDA	=	lithium diisopropylamide
m-CPBA	=	metachloroperbenzoic acid
MMPP	=	monoperoxyphthalic acid
MPPM	=	monoperoxyphthalic acid, magnesium salt 6H ₂ O
Ms	=	methanesulfonyl = mesyl = SO ₂ Me
MsO	=	methanesulfonate = mesylate
NSAID	=	non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
o-Tol	=	ortho-tolyl
OXONE®	=	2KHSO ₅ •KHSO ₄ •K ₂ SO ₄
PCC	=	pyridinium chlorochromate
PDC	=	pyridinium dichromate
PDE		phosphodiesterase
Ph	=	phenyl
Phe	=	benzenediyl
PMB	=	para-methoxybenzyl
Pye	=	pyridinediyl
r.t.	=	room temperature
rac.	=	racemic
SAM	=	aminosulfonyl or sulfonamide or SO ₂ NH ₂
SEM		2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxymethoxy
SPA		scintillation proximity assay
TBAF	=	tetra-n-butylammonium fluoride

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Th	=	2- or 3-thienyl
TFA	=	trifluoroacetic acid
TFAA	=	trifluoroacetic acid anhydride
THF	=	tetrahydrofuran
Thi	=	thiophenediyl
TLC	=	thin layer chromatography
TMS-CN	=	trimethylsilyl cyanide
Tz	=	1H (or 2H)-tetrazol-5-yl
C ₃ H ₅	=	allyl

Alkyl Group Abbreviations

Me	=	methyl
Et	=	ethyl
n-Pr	=	normal propyl
i-Pr	=	isopropyl
n-Bu	=	normal butyl
i-Bu	=	isobutyl
s-Bu	=	secondary butyl
t-Bu	=	tertiary butyl
c-Pr	=	cyclopropyl
c-Bu	=	cyclobutyl
c-Pen	=	cyclopentyl
c-Hex	=	cyclohexyl

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EXAMPLE 1

N-[(R)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzoyl]methanesulfonamide

5

A solution of carboxylic acid intermediate 1 (100 mg, 0.24 mmol), methanesulfonamide (27 mg, 0.29 mmol), 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (92 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (35 mg, 0.29 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 19 h. Glacial acetic acid (0.2 mL) was then added and, after 10 min, CH₂Cl₂ was added. The organic phase was washed by 25% aqueous NH₄OAc, water and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 92:8) to afford the title compound as a white solid (63 mg, 53%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆): δ 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.75 (m, 6H), 2.95 (bs, 3H), 3.40 (d, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 4.40 (t, 1H), 4.75 (m, 1H), 6.80 (m, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 7.15 (d, 2H), 7.35 (d, 2H), 7.95 (d, 2H), 8.35 (d, 2H).

20

EXAMPLE 2

N-[(R)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzoyl]benzenesulfonamide

25

Following the procedure described in Example 1 but substituting benzenesulfonamide for methanesulfonamide, the title compound was obtained as a white solid (79%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆): δ 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.70 (m, 6H), 3.40 (d, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 4.40 (t, 1H), 4.75 (m, 1H), 6.80 (s, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 7.15 (d, 2H), 7.25-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.95 (m, 4H), 8.35 (d, 2H).

30

EXAMPLE 3

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N-{(*R*)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzoyl}trifluoromethanesulfonamide

Following the procedure described in Example 1 but substituting trifluoromethane-sulfonamide for methanesulfonamide, the title compound was obtained as a white solid (68%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆): δ 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.70 (m, 6H), 3.40 (d, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 4.40 (t, 1H), 4.75 (m, 1H), 6.80 (s, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 7.15 (d, 2H), 7.35 (d, 2H), 8.00 (d, 2H), 8.35 (d, 2H).

EXAMPLE 4

N-{(*R*)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzoyl}*o*-toluenesulfonamide

Following the procedure described in Example 1 but substituting *o*-toluenesulfonamide for methanesulfonamide, the title compound was obtained as a white solid (83%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 1.50-1.70 (m, 6H), 1.80 (m, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 3.40 (d, 2H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 4.40 (t, 1H), 4.70 (m, 1H), 6.80 (s, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 7.20 (d, 2H), 7.30-7.45 (m, 4H), 7.55 (t, 1H), 7.75 (d, 2H), 8.00 (d, 1H), 8.35 (d, 2H).

EXAMPLE 5

N-{(*R*)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]phenylacetyl}benzenesulfonamide

Following the procedure described in Example 1 but substituting carboxylic acid intermediate 2 for intermediate 1 and benzenesulfonamide for methanesulfonamide, the title compound was obtained as a white solid (43%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆): δ 1.50-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.63-1.87 (m, 6H), 3.37 (d, 2H), 3.57 (s, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 4.31 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (m, 1H), 6.78 (m, 2H), 6.88 (s, 1H),

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7.07 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, $J = 6$ Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.94 (d, $J = 7$ Hz, 2H), 8.33 (d, $J = 6$ Hz, 2H).

5

EXAMPLE 6

N-{(*R*)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]phenylacetyl}trifluoromethanesulfonamide

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Following the procedure described in Example 1 but substituting carboxylic acid intermediate 2 for intermediate 1 and trifluoromethanesulfonamide for methanesulfonamide, the title compound was obtained as a white solid (80%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ 1.51-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.64-1.90 (m, 6H), 3.39 (m, 4H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 4.30 (t, 1H), 4.76 (m, 1H), 6.79 (m, 2H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 7.15 (m, 4H), 7.25 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 8.33 (m, 2H).

15

EXAMPLE 7

20 *(R)*-4-{2-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-[4-(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine

Step 1: 2-(4-Bromophenyl)-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol

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n-Butyllithium (2.4 M solution in hexane; 92.7 mL, 0.222 mol) was added dropwise (20 min) to a solution of *p*-dibromobenzene (50.0 g, 0.212 mol) in Et₂O (1.2 L) at -60 °C. After completion of the addition, the reaction was left at -50 °C for 30 min and hexafluoroacetone (42.2 g, 0.254 mol) was bubbled through the heterogeneous mixture, at the same temperature. The resulting solution was allowed to warm to -30 °C over 30 min before saturated aqueous NH₄Cl was added. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2x) and the combined organic extracts were successively washed with 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer, water and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and

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- 40 -

concentrated. The residue was distilled under reduced pressure (bp 85-90 °C/12 mmHg) to afford the title compound as colorless crystals (53.5 g, 78%).

5 Step 2: 2-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-[2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxymethoxy]-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropane

 A solution of 2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxymethyl chloride (25.9 g, 0.155 mol) in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of
10 2-(4-bromophenyl)-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol from Step 1 (38.6 g, 0.120 mol) in the same solvent (500 mL) at 0 °C. After completion of the addition, the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, and stirred for 3 h before it was diluted with CHCl₃ (500 mL). The resulting solution was washed successively with 1 N HCl (2x),
15 saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, water and brine, dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The residue was distilled under reduced pressure (bp 128 °C/0.9 mmHg) to afford the title compound as a colorless liquid (50.0 g, 92%).

20 Step 3: (1*R*, 5*S*)-*N*-{(3*R*)-3-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(2-(2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxymethoxy)-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-yl)phenyl]-2-(4-pyridyl)propanoyl}-10,10-dimethyl-3-thia-4-azatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{1,5}]decane-3,3-dioxide

25 A solution of 2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-[2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxymethoxy]-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropane from Step 2 (30.4 g, 67.1 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was added to magnesium turnings (1.71 g, 70.4 mmol) in THF (40 mL). A few crystals of iodine were added and the mixture was stirred at reflux temperature for 1 h
30 before it was added dropwise to a solution of acyl sultam **Iaa** (12.0 g, 22.4 mmol) in THF (200 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h and quenched by the addition of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl. The organic layer was concentrated and diluted with EtOAc, and the aqueous phase extracted with EtOAc (2x). The

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- combined organics were washed successively with 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer, water and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated. The residue was recrystallized in EtOH and further purified by column chromatography on silica (acetone/CHCl₃ 5:95) to afford a first crop of the title compound as a white solid. The EtOH filtrate was concentrated and purified successively by column chromatography (as above) and recrystallization (EtOH) to give a second crop for a total mass of 9.48 g (46%).
- 5 the title compound as a white solid. The EtOH filtrate was concentrated and purified successively by column chromatography (as above) and recrystallization (EtOH) to give a second crop for a total mass of 9.48 g (46%).
- 10 Step 4: (*R*)-4-{2-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-[4-(2-(2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxymethoxy)-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine
- 15 *n*-Butyllithium (2.4 M solution in hexane; 7.76 mL, 18.6 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 1-propanethiol (2.06 mL, 22.8 mmol) in THF (100 mL) at 0 °C. After 1.5 h, a solution of (1*R*, 5*S*)-*N*-{(3*R*)-3-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(2-(2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxymethoxy)-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-yl)phenyl]-2-(4-pyridyl)propanoyl}-10,10-dimethyl-3-thia-4-
- 20 azatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{1,5}]decane-3,3-dioxide from Step 3 (9.43 g, 10.4 mmol) in THF (25 mL) was added dropwise, at 0 °C, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction was then quenched by the addition of 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2x), and the combined organics were
- 25 washed successively with 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. The residue was dissolved in EtOH (170 mL) and water (57 mL), lithium hydroxide monohydrate (2.20 g, 52.0 mmol) was added and the mixture heated to reflux for 2.5 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature before the addition of
- 30 AcOH (3.56 mL, 62.1 mmol). After 30 min., 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer was added and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc (2x). The combined organics were washed successively with 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica

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(EtOAc/hexane 1:1) to afford the title compound as a colorless gum (4.08 g, 58%).

Step 5: (*R*)-4-{2-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-[4-(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine

Tetrabutylammonium fluoride (1.0 M in THF; 30.4 mL, 30.4 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of (*R*)-4-{2-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-[4-(2-(2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxymethoxy)-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine from Step 4 (4.08 g, 6.09 mmol) in THF (50 mL) at room temperature, and the resulting solution was heated to the reflux temperature for 2.5 h, allowed to cool, and 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer was added. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3x), and the combined organics were washed successively with 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer, water and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica (EtOAc/hexane 1:1) to afford a white solid subsequently triturated in 1:4 Et₂O/hexane to give the title compound (2.87 g, 87%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*₆) δ 1.50-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.63-1.88 (m, 6H), 3.44 (m, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 4.43 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (m, 1H), 6.81 (m, 2H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 8.33 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H).

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EXAMPLE 8

N-(*o*-Toluoyl)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzenesulfonamide

Step 1: (3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)(4-pyridyl)acetylene

To a suspension of 3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxybenzaldehyde (6.07 g, 27.6 mmol) and diphenyl 1-chloro-1-(4-pyridyl)methanephosphonate (*J. Org. Chem.*, **1992**, *57*, 1622) (9.03g,

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52.1 mmol) in dioxane (150 mL) there was added in portions potassium *tert*-butoxide (7.03g, 62.8 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h and then refluxed. After 3.5 h, there was added another 7 g of potassium *tert*-butoxide and refluxing was continued for 18 h. After cooling, the mixture was diluted with water (1 L) and extracted 3 times with EtOAc. The extracts were washed 3 times with water, dried and evaporated and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel (EtOAc/hexane 1:2) to afford the title acetylene (4.72g, 64%) as a cream-colored solid.

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Step 2: 1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-1-iodo-2-(4-pyridyl)ethylene

To a solution of acetylene from step 1 (8.79g, 30 mmol) in dichloromethane (600 mL) at room temperature there was added a solid mixture of sodium iodide (18g, 120 mmol) and *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (11.4 g, 60 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. The mixture was diluted with aqueous 1 N NaOH (600 mL) and stirred vigorously for 15 min. The organic phase was collected and washed 3 times with water, dried and evaporated to a residue which was stirred in a 2:1 mixture of hexane and ether (100mL) for 2 h and filtered to afford the desired vinyl iodide (8.46g, 67%) as a beige solid, assayed by NMR to be a 4:1 mixture of Z and E isomers.

25 Step 3: 1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)-1-(trimethylstannyl)ethylene

A mixture of vinyl iodide from step 2 (1.9 g, 4.5 mmol) and hexamethylditin (2.15g, 6.6 mmol) in toluene (25 mL) was placed under N₂ atmosphere. There was added tetrakis (triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (180 mg, 0.12 mmol) and the mixture was heated at 90°C for 18 h. After cooling, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc and washed 3 times with water, dried and evaporated. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 1:1) to yield

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the title vinyl stannane (1.28g, 62%) as a thick syrup, assayed by NMR to be a 10:1 mixture of Z and E isomers.

Step 4: *N,N*-Bis-(*p*-methoxybenzyl)-4-[1-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethenyl]benzenesulfonamide

A solution of the vinyltin intermediate from Step 3 (2.03 g, 4.4 mmol), *N,N*-bis-(*p*-methoxybenzyl)-4-bromobenzenesulfonamide (1.30 g, 2.7 mmol), tetrakis(triphenyl-phosphine)palladium(0) (0.26 g, 0.22 mmol) and lithium chloride (0.8 g, 19 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (15 mL) was refluxed for 5 days. EtOAc was then added and the organic phase was washed successively with 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer, water and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash-chromatography (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc 65:35 to 40:60) to afford the title compound as a yellow solid (0.81 g, 43%).

Step 5: *N,N*-Bis-(*p*-methoxybenzyl)-4-[1-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzenesulfonamide

Sodium borohydride (80 mg, 2.1 mmol) was added portionwise to a 0°C solution of alkene from step 4 (452 mg, 0.65 mmol) and nickel(II) chloride hexahydrate (30 mg, 0.13 mmol) in MeOH (4 mL) and THF (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 70 min before it was cooled to 0°C and a second portion of nickel(II) chloride hexahydrate (75 mg, 0.32 mmol) and sodium borohydride (60 mg, 1.6 mmol) was added. After 18 h at room temperature, more sodium borohydride (5 X 50 mg, 6.6 mmol) was added on a period of 6 h to achieve complete transformation of the starting material. The reaction mixture was then filtered over celite, the cake was washed with MeOH and the filtrate were evaporated. The residue was dissolved in EtOAc and the organic phase was washed successively with 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer, water and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash-

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chromatography (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc 40:60 to 25:75) to afford the title compound as a colorless gum (236 mg, 52%).

5 Step 6: 4-[1-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzenesulfonamide

Trifluoroacetic acid (0.5 mL) was added to a 0°C solution of protected sulfonamide from Step 5 (98 mg, 0.14 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. EtOAc was then added and the organic phase was washed successively with 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer, water and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash-chromatography (silica gel, EtOAc) to afford the title compound as an off-white solid (46 mg, 72%).

15 Step 7: *N*-(*o*-Toluoyl)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzenesulfonamide

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EXAMPLE 9

4-{2-(3,4-Difluoromethoxy)phenyl-2-[4-(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine

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Step 1 3,4-Bis(difluoromethoxy)benzaldehyde

A suspension of 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde (6.9 g, 50 mmol) and powdered potassium carbonate (13.8 g, 100 mmol) in N,N-dimethylformamide (400 mL) was cooled to -45°C.

- 10 Chlorodifluoromethane was bubbled into the mixture until 19 g had been dissolved (219 mmol). A dry ice condenser was installed and the temperature was raised gradually to 85°C, and kept at that temperature for 16 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was carefully diluted with water (600 mL) and extracted 4 times with ether,
- 15 the extracts were washed 3 times with brine, dried and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel, eluting with a 1:3 mixture of ethyl acetate and hexane, to afford the desired product as a colorless liquid (4.7 g, 39.5%)

- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆) δ 7.13 (t, large J, 1H); 7.20 (t, large J, 1H); 7.58 (d, 1H); 7.87 (s, 1H); 7.93 (d, 1H); 10.04 (s, 1H).
- 20

Step 2 [3,4-Bis(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-{4-[2-(2-trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methoxy]-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-yl phenyl} methanol

- 25 To a solution of 2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-[2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxy methoxy]-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro propane from Example 7, Step 2 (2.44 g, 5.4 mmol) in THF (15 mL) at -78°C was added n-butyllithium in hexanes (1.25 M, 4 mL, 5 mmol), and the resulting solution was kept at -78°C for 20 minutes. This solution was added via
- 30 canula, to a solution of 3,4-bis(difluoromethoxy) benzaldehyde from step 1 (1.31 g, 5.5 mmol) in THF (10 mL). The resulting yellow solution was stirred at -78°C for 1 hour, then quenched with sat'd aq. ammonium chloride, allowed to warm up and partitioned between ether and water. The crude organic product was chromatographed on silica

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gel, eluting with a 1:19 mixture of ethyl acetate and toluene, to afford the desired secondary alcohol (1.86 g, 55%) as a colorless syrup.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆) δ 0.05 (s, 9H), 0.98 (t, 2H); 3.86 (t, 2H); 4.93 (s, 2H); 5.28 (d, 1H, OH); 5.95 (d, 1H); 6.92 (t, large J, 1H);
5 6.96 (t, large J, 1H); 7.30 (d, 1H); 7.36 (d, 1H); 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.64 (s, 4H).

Step 3 [3,4-Bis(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-{4-[2-(2-trimethylsilyl
ethoxy)methoxy]-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro propan-2-yl
10 phenyl}chloromethane

To a solution of secondary alcohol from Step 2 (918 mg, 1.5 mmol) and N,N-diisopropylethylamine (275 mg, 1.65 mmol) in toluene (15 mL) was added thionyl chloride (357 mg, 3 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour, concentrated and
15 chromatographed as such on silica gel, eluting with a 1:5 mixture of ethyl acetate and hexane, to afford the desired chloride (762 mg, 81%) as a colorless syrup.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆) δ 0.05 (s, 9H); 0.98 (t, 2H); 3.86 (t, 2H); 4.94 (s, 2H); 6.55 (s, 1H); 7.02 (t, large J, 2H); 7.39 (d, 1H); 7.48
20 (d, 1H); 7.55 (s, 1H); 7.72 (s, 4H).

Step 4 4-{1-Carbethoxy-2-(3,4-bis(difluoromethoxy)phenyl)-2-[4-
(2-(2-trimethylsilyl)ethoxymethoxy)-1,1,1,3,3,3-
25 hexafluoropropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine

To a solution of ethyl 4-pyridyl acetate (236 mg, 1.43 mmol) and hexamethylphosphoramide (256 mg, 1.43 mmol) in THF (8 mL) at -78°C was added potassium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide 0.85 M in THF (1.56 mL, 1.33 mmol). The resulting red-orange solution was stirred at -78°C for 1 hour, then was added, with canula, to a cold (-
30 78°C) solution of chloride from Step 3 (600 mg, 0.95 mmol) in THF (8 mL). The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred overnight. After quenching with sat'd aq. ammonium chloride the mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The crude organic product was used as such in the next step.

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Step 5 4-{2-[3,4-Bis(difluoromethoxy)-2-[4-(2-(2-trimethylsilyl)ethoxymethoxy)-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-yl]phenyl]ethyl}pyridine

5 The crude product from Step 4 was refluxed in a mixture of methanol (10 mL), THF (10 mL) and water (5 mL) containing lithium hydroxide hydrate (168 mg, 4 mmol) for 1.5 hours. After cooling, sat'd aq. ammonium chloride (25 mL) was added and heating was resumed for 20 minutes. The cooled mixture was partitioned
10 between ethyl acetate and water, and the crude organic product was chromatographed on silica gel, eluting with a 2:1 mixture of ethyl acetate and hexane affording the desired compound (327 mg, 50%) as a colorless syrup.

15 ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆) δ 0.05 (s, 9H); 0.97 (t, 2H); 3.50 (m, 2H); 3.85 (t, 2H); 4.62 (t, 1H); 4.89 (s, 2H); 6.91 (t, large J, 2H); 7.16 (d, 2H); 7.25 (d, 1H); 7.33 (d, 1H); 7.40 (s, 1H); 7.55-7.65 (m, 4H); 8.36 (d, 2H).

20 Step 6 4-{2-(3,4-Difluoromethoxy)phenyl-2-[4-(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine

 The procedure for the removal of the SEM protecting group described in Example 7, Step 5 was applied using the product of Step 5 above as starting material. The title compound was purified by
25 chromatography, eluting with a 3:2 mixture of ethyl acetate and hexane, and was obtained in 82% yield as a thick colorless syrup. Upon trituration with ether and hexane, the title compound was obtained as a white solid, mp 138-140°C.

30 ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆) δ 3.50 (d, 2H); 4.61 (t, 1H); 6.92 (t, large J, 2H); 7.18 (d, 2H); 7.24 (d, 1H); 7.32 (d, 1H); 7.39 (s, 1H); 7.51 (s, 1H, OH); 7.55 (d, 2H); 7.70 (d, 2H); 8.35 (d, 2H).

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EXAMPLE 10

4-{2-(3,4-Difluoromethoxy)phenyl-2-[4-(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine-N-oxide

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To a solution of 4-{2-(3,4-difluoromethoxy)phenyl-2-[4-(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine (132 mg) in dichloro methane (15 mL) was added m-chloroperoxybenzoic acid 80-85% (65 mg) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature. After 2 hours, a further 40 mg of oxidizing agent was added. One hour later, calcium hydroxide (1 gram) was added, the mixture was stirred for 5 minutes, then filtered through a bed of celite. The filtrate was evaporated to a residue which was chromatographed on silica gel, eluting with a 1:9 mixture of methanol and dichloromethane, affording the title compound (83 mg) as a white foamy solid.

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¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆) δ 3.45-3.57 (m, 2H); 4.59 (t, 1H); 6.91 (t, large J, 1H); 6.94 (t, large J, 1H); 7.18 (d, 2H); 7.30 (d, 1H); 7.33 (d, 1H); 7.40 (s, 1H); 7.55 (d, 2H); 7.57 (s, 1H, OH); 7.71 (d, 2H); 7.92 (d, 1H).

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EXAMPLE 11

3,5-Dichloro-4-{2-(3,4-Difluoromethoxy)phenyl-2-[4-(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine

25

Step 1 3,5-Dichloro-4-{2-[3,4-bis(difluoromethoxy)-2-[4-(2-(2-trimethylsilyl)ethoxymethoxy)-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-yl]phenyl]ethyl}pyridine

30

To freshly prepared lithium diisopropylamide in THF (0.3 M, 5 mL, 1.5 mmol), at -78°C was added a solution of 3,5-dichloro-4-picoline (295 mg, 1.82 mmol) in THF (5 mL). The dark yellow solution was stirred at -78°C for 30 minutes, and was then added, via canula, to a cold solution (-78°C) of chloride from Example A, Step 3

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(760 mg, 1.21 mmol) in THF (10 mL). The resulting mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 2 days. After quenching with sat'd aq. ammonium chloride, the mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The organic residue was chromatographed on silica gel, eluting with a 1:5 mixture of ethyl acetate and hexane, to afford the desired product (32 mg) as a colorless syrup.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆) δ 0.05 (s, 9H); 0.98 (t, 2H); 3.73 (m, 2H); 3.85 (t, 2H); 4.62 (t, 1H); 4.90 (s, 2H); 6.93 (t, large J, 1H); 6.95 (t, large J, 1H); 7.24-7.30 (m, 2H); 7.36 (s, 1H); 7.51 (d, 2H); 7.61 (d, 2H); 8.43 (s, 2H).

A 60% recovery of starting chloride was also obtained.

Step 2 3,5-Dichloro-4-{2-(3,4-Difluoromethoxy)phenyl-2-[4-(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine

To a solution of product from Step 1 (32 mg, 0.054 mmol) in THF (0.8 mL) was added tetrabutylammonium fluoride 1M in THF (0.27 mL) and the mixture was refluxed for 2 hours. After cooling, the mixture was quenched with sat'd aq. ammonium chloride and partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The crude organic product was chromatographed on silica gel, eluting with a 1:3 mixture of ethyl acetate and hexane, to afford the title compound (11 mg) as a thick colorless syrup.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆) δ 3.68 - 3.85 (m, 2H); 4.63 (t, 1H); 6.93 (t, large J, 1H); 6.96 (t, large J, 1H); 7.28 (s, 2H); 7.33 (s, 1H); 7.43 (s, 1H, OH); 7.51 (d, 2H); 7.72 (d, 2H); 8.43 (s, 2H).

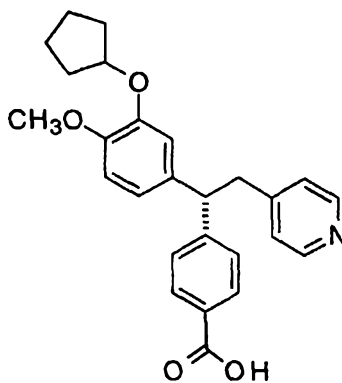
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Following the procedure described in Example 1 but substituting *o*-toluic acid for carboxylic acid intermediate 1 and 4-[1-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl] benzenesulfonamide from Step 6 for methanesulfonamide, the title compound was obtained as a white solid (63%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆): δ 1.5-1.6 (m, 2H), 1.65-1.85 (m, 6H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 3.40 (m, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 4.45 (t, 1H), 4.75 (m, 1H), 6.81 (s, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 7.10-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.30 (t, 1H), 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.95 (d, 2H), 8.30 (d, 2H).

PREPARATION OF INTERMEDIATES

Intermediate 1:

(*R*)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzoic acid



Step 1: 2-(4-Bromophenyl)-1,3-dioxolane

A solution of 4-bromobenzaldehyde (66.5 g, 359 mmol), ethylene glycol (22 mL, 395 mmol) and p-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (120 mg) in benzene (400 mL) was refluxed for 3 hours with concomitant Dean-Stark water trapping. The organic phase was then washed successively with 5% aqueous NaHCO₃, water and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated. The residue was distilled under reduced pressure (bp: 112°C/0.4 mmHg) to afford the title compound as a colorless liquid (79.8 g, 97%).

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Step 2: (1*R*, 5*S*)-*N*-{(3*R*)-3-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)phenyl]-2-(4-pyridyl)propanoyl}-10,10-dimethyl-3-thia-4-azatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{1,5}]decane-3,3-dioxide

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- A solution of 2-(4-bromophenyl)-1,3-dioxolane from Step 1 (55.3 g, 241 mmol) in THF (40 mL) was added to magnesium turnings (6.16 g, 254 mmol) in THF (140 mL) containing 1,2-dibromoethane (0.1 mL) at a sufficient rate to maintain a gentle reflux.
- 10 The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours before the solution was added dropwise to a 0°C solution of acyl sultam II (Celltech, World Patent Application 95/17386, 29 June 1995)(43.2 g, 80.5 mmol) in THF (700 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 hours before 10% aqueous NH₄Cl was added.
- 15 The mixture was extracted with EtOAc and the organic phase was washed with water and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated. The residue was recrystallized twice in EtOH to afford the title compound as an off-white solid (25.6 g, 46%).
- 20 Step 3:(*R*)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzaldehyde

- n-Butyllithium (2.4 M solution in hexane; 10.6 mL, 25 mmol) was added dropwise to a 0°C solution of propanethiol (4.6 mL, 51 mmol) in THF (150 mL). After 15 minutes, (1*R*, 5*S*)-*N*-{(3*R*)-3-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)phenyl]-2-(4-pyridyl)propanoyl}-10,10-dimethyl-3-thia-4-
- 25 azatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{1,5}]decane-3,3-dioxide from Step 2 (9.7 g, 14.1 mmol) was added as a solid and the reaction mixture was stirred at
- 30 room temperature for 3 days. The volatiles were then evaporated and the resulting residue was dissolved in EtOH (80 mL) and water (40 mL). Sodium hydroxide (4.5 g, 113 mmol) was added and the mixture heated to reflux for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and treated with HCl 6 N to pH 4.5 then heated to reflux

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for 1 hour. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and treated with NaOH 1 N to pH 14 then extracted twice with EtOAc. The organic phase was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash-chromatography (silica gel, ether) to afford the title compound as a white foam (2.3 g, 41%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.75 (m, 6H), 3.30 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 4.20 (t, 1H), 4.60 (m, 1H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 6.65 (d, 1H), 6.75 (d, 1H), 6.90 (d, 2H), 7.35 (d, 2H), 7.75 (d, 2H), 8.40 (d, 2H), 9.95 (s, 1H).

Step 4: (*R*)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzoic acid

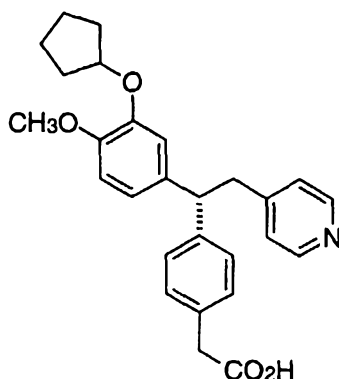
A solution of NaClO₂ (149 mg, 1.64 mmol) and NaH₂PO₄•H₂O (227 mg, 1.64 mmol) in water (1 mL) was added to a solution of aldehyde from Step 3 (508 mg, 1.27 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-butene (0.94 mL, 8.9 mmol) in t-BuOH (6 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 19 hours before 25% aqueous NH₄OAc was added. The mixture was then extracted twice with EtOAc. The organic phase was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated to afford the title compound as a white solid (540 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.75 (m, 6H), 3.35 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 4.20 (t, 1H), 4.60 (m, 1H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 6.65 (d, 1H), 6.75 (d, 1H), 7.00 (d, 2H), 7.25 (d, 2H), 8.00 (d, 2H), 8.45 (d, 2H).

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Intermediate 2:

(*R*)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]phenylacetic acid

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Step 1: 4-Bromophenylacetaldehyde

- 5 A solution of 4-bromostyrene (50.0 g, 0.273 mol) in CH_2Cl_2 (550 mL) was added dropwise (1 h) to a solution of lead tetraacetate (127 g, 0.273 mol) in trifluoroacetic acid (275 mL) at 10 °C. After completion of the addition, the reaction was left at room temperature for 30 min and slowly poured into water (2 L). The
- 10 resulting mixture was stirred for 15 min and filtered through celite. The aqueous layer was extracted with CHCl_3 (2x) and the combined organic extracts were successively washed with water (3x) and saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 , dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated. The crude yellow liquid
- 15 was purified by column chromatography on silica (EtOAc /hexane 1:9) to afford the title compound as a pale yellow liquid (44.8g, 82%).

Step 2: 2-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-1,3-dioxolane

- 20 A solution of 4-bromophenylacetaldehyde from Step 1 (44.5 g, 224 mmol), ethylene glycol (13.7 mL, 246 mmol) and *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (85 mg, 0.45 mmol) in toluene (300 mL) was refluxed for 3 h with concomitant Dean-Stark water trapping. The reaction mixture was then washed successively with 5% aqueous NaHCO_3 (2x), water and brine, dried (MgSO_4) and concentrated. The
- 25 residue was distilled under reduced pressure (bp 110-115 °C/0.5 mmHg) to afford the title compound as a colorless liquid (30.0 g, 55%).

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Step 3: (1*R*, 5*S*)-*N*-{(3*R*)-3-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(1,3-dioxolan-2-ylmethyl)phenyl]-2-(4-pyridyl)propanoyl}-10,10-dimethyl-3-thia-4-azatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{1,5}]decane-3,3-dioxide

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A solution of 2-[(4-bromophenyl)methyl]-1,3-dioxolane from Step 2 (27.2 g, 112 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added to magnesium turnings (2.85 g, 117 mmol) in THF (70 mL) at a sufficient rate to maintain a gentle reflux (a few crystals of iodine and heat were necessary to initiate the reaction). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h before it was added dropwise to a solution of acyl sultam II (20.0 g, 37.3 mmol) in THF (350 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h and quenched by the addition of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl. The organic layer was concentrated and diluted with EtOAc, and the aqueous phase extracted with EtOAc (2x). The combined organics were washed successively with 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer, water and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated. The residue was recrystallized in EtOH (a minimum of CHCl₃ was necessary to insure dissolution) to afford the title compound as a white solid (12.2 g, 46%).

Step 4: (*R*)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]phenylacetaldehyde diethyl acetal

n-Butyllithium (2.4 M solution in hexane; 13.2 mL, 31.3 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 1-propanethiol (3.47 mL, 38.3 mmol) in THF (160 mL) at 0 °C. After 30 min, (1*R*, 5*S*)-*N*-{(3*R*)-3-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(1,3-dioxolan-2-ylmethyl)phenyl]-2-(4-pyridyl)propanoyl}-10,10-dimethyl-3-thia-4-azatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{1,5}] decane-3,3-dioxide from Step 3 (12.2 g, 17.4 mmol) was added as a solid and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2.5 h. The volatiles were then evaporated and the resulting residue was dissolved in EtOH (100 mL) and water (50 mL). Sodium hydroxide (5.57 g, 139 mmol) was added and the mixture

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heated to reflux for 2.5 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and treated with 6 N HCl to pH 4.5 then heated to reflux for 2 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and treated with 1 N NaOH to pH 14, then extracted with EtOAc (3x). The combined organics were washed successively with 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer, water and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica (acetone/ether 1:9→1:4→1:3) to afford the title compound as an off-white gum (1.17 g, 14%).

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Step 5: (*R*)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]phenylacetaldehyde

A solution of (*R*)-4-[1-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]-phenylacetaldehyde diethyl acetal from Step 4 (1.14 g, 2.33 mmol), pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (0.761 g, 3.03 mmol) in acetone (30 mL) and water (1.3 mL) was heated to reflux for 20 h. It was then allowed to cool to room temperature, diluted with EtOAc, successively washed with 5% aqueous NaHCO₃ (2x) and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica (EtOAc/hexane 3:2→7:3→4:1→1:0) to afford the title compound as a white foam (0.381 g, 39%).

25 Step 6: (*R*)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]phenylacetic acid

A solution of sodium chlorite (80%; 131 mg, 1.16 mmol) and sodium phosphate monobasic monohydrate (160 mg, 1.16 mmol) in water (1.1 mL) was added to a solution of (*R*)-4-[1-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]phenylacetaldehyde from Step 5 (371 mg, 0.893 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-butene (665 μ L, 6.25 mmol) in *t*-BuOH (8 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1.5 h before 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer was added (a few drops

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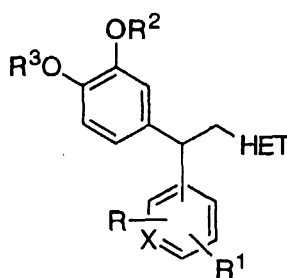
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of acetic acid were necessary to bring the pH at 7). The mixture was then extracted with EtOAc (2x), and the combined organics were washed successively with 25% aqueous NH₄OAc buffer, water and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by
5 column chromatography on silica (EtOAc containing 0.5% AcOH). Residual AcOH was co-evaporated with toluene (2x) to afford the title compound as a white foam (319 mg, 83%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆): δ 1.50-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.63-1.88 (m, 6H), 3.40 (d, 2H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 4.34 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (m, 1H), 6.78 (m,
10 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 8.33 (d, *J* = 5 Hz, 2H).

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula I



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein:

R is selected from

- 10 (a) hydrogen,
 (b) C₁-6alkyl,
 (c) halo and
 (d) CF₃;

15 R¹ is selected from

- (CH₂)_m-CO-N(R⁴)-S(O)₂-R⁵, wherein m is 0, 1 or 2,
 -(CH₂)_m-CO-N(R⁴)-S(O)₂-NR⁶R⁷,
 -(CH₂)_m-S(O)₂-N(R⁴)-CO-R⁴,
 -(CH₂)_m-S(O)₂-N(R⁴)-CO-NR⁶R⁷,
 20 -C(OH)(C₁-6haloalkyl)₂,

R² and R³ are independently selected from

- (a) C₁-7alkyl,
 (b) substituted C₁-7 alkyl, wherein the substituent is F, Cl,
 25 Br or I,
 (c) 2-phenethyl or 2-indanyl, optionally mono or di-
 substituted, wherein the substituents on the benzene ring are
 independently selected from the group consisting of

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- 5
- (1) halo,
 - (2) C₁-6alkoxy,
 - (3) C₁-6alkylthio,
 - (4) CN,
 - (5) CF₃,
 - (6) C₁-6alkyl,
 - (7) N₃,
 - (8) -CO₂H,

10 R⁴ is selected from

- 15
- (a) hydrogen,
 - (b) C₁-6alkyl,
 - (c) phenyl, benzyl or 2-phenethyl, optionally mono or di-substituted, wherein the substituents on the benzene ring are independently selected from the group consisting of
- 20
- (1) halo,
 - (2) C₁-6alkoxy,
 - (3) C₁-6alkylthio,
 - (4) CN,
 - (5) CF₃,
 - (6) C₁-6alkyl,
 - (7) N₃,
 - (8) -CO₂H,

25 R⁵, R⁸ and R¹¹ are each independently selected from

- 30
- (a) -CF₃,
 - (b) C₁-6alkyl,
 - (c) phenyl, benzyl or 2-phenethyl, optionally mono or di-substituted, wherein the substituents on the benzene ring are independently selected from the group consisting of
- (1) halo,
 - (2) C₁-6alkoxy,
 - (3) C₁-6alkylthio,
 - (4) CN,

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- (5) CF₃,
- (6) C₁-6alkyl,
- (7) N₃,
- (8) -CO₂H,

5

R⁶, R⁷, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently selected from

- (a) hydrogen, and
- (b) C₁-6alkyl, or

10 R⁶ and R⁷ may be joined to form a saturated 5, 6 or 7 membered heterocycle, said heterocycle containing a heteroatom which is nitrogen and optionally containing an additional hetero atom which is an O or an S atom or NR⁴, and optionally containing a carbonyl group;

HET is selected from

15 pyridyl and imidazolyl, optionally mono-, or disubstituted, wherein the substituents are independently selected from halo, C₁-6alkyl, C₁-6alkoxy, C₁-6alkylthio, benzyl, 2-phenethyl, NHCOR⁸, NR⁹R¹⁰, NHS(O)₂R¹¹, OH, CN, or CF₃, and the N-oxides thereof; and X is selected from N, N→O or CH.

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2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein:

R² is cyclopentyl, and
R³ is methyl,

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3. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein:

R is selected from

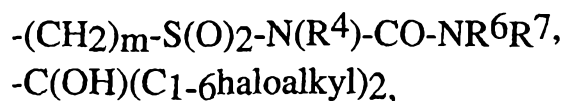
- (a) hydrogen,
- (b) C₁-4alkyl,
- (c) halo and
- (d) CF₃;

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R¹ is selected from

- (CH₂)_m-CO-N(R⁴)-S(O)₂-R⁵, wherein m is 0, 1 or 2,
- (CH₂)_m-CO-N(R⁴)-S(O)₂-NR⁶R⁷,
- (CH₂)_m-S(O)₂-N(R⁴)-CO-R⁴,

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R^2 is cyclopentyl,

R^3 is methyl,

5 R^4 is selected from

(a) hydrogen,

(b) C_{1-6} alkyl,

(c) phenyl, benzyl or 2-phenethyl, optionally mono or di-substituted, wherein the substituents on the benzene ring are
10 independently selected from the group consisting of

(1) halo,

(2) C_{1-6} alkoxy,

(3) C_{1-6} alkylthio,

(4) CN,

15 (5) CF_3 ,

(6) C_{1-6} alkyl,

(7) N_3 ,

(8) $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$,

R^5 , R^8 and R^{11} are each independently selected from

20 (a) $-\text{CF}_3$,

(b) C_{1-6} alkyl,

(c) phenyl, benzyl or 2-phenethyl, optionally mono or di-substituted, wherein the substituents on the benzene ring are
independently selected from the group consisting of

25 (1) halo,

(2) C_{1-6} alkoxy,

(3) C_{1-6} alkylthio,

(4) CN,

(5) CF_3 ,

30 (6) C_{1-6} alkyl,

(7) N_3 ,

(8) $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$,

R^6 , R^7 , R^9 and R^{10} are each independently selected from

(a) hydrogen, and

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- (b) C₁-6alkyl, or
R⁶ and R⁷ may be joined to form a saturated 5, 6 or 7 membered heterocycle, said heterocycle containing a heteroatom which is nitrogen and optionally containing an additional hetero atom which is an O or an S atom or NR⁴, and optionally containing a carbonyl group;

HET is selected from pyridyl and imidazolyl, optionally mono-, or disubstituted, wherein the substituents are independently selected from halo, C₁-6alkyl, C₁-6alkoxy, C₁-6alkylthio, benzyl, 2-phenethyl, NHCOR⁸, NR⁹R¹⁰, NHS(O)₂R¹¹, OH, CN, or CF₃, and the N-oxides thereof; and X is selected from N, N→O or CH.

4. A compound according to Claim 3 wherein:
- 15 R is selected from
- (a) hydrogen,
 - (b) C₁-3alkyl,
 - (c) halo and
 - (d) CF₃; and is ortho to R₁;
- 20 R¹ is selected from
- (CH₂)_m-CO-N(R⁴)-S(O)₂-R⁵, wherein m is 0, 1 or 2,
 - (CH₂)_m-CO-N(R⁴)-S(O)₂-NR⁶R⁷,
 - (CH₂)_m-S(O)₂-N(R⁴)-CO-R⁴,
 - (CH₂)_m-S(O)₂-N(R⁴)-CO-NR⁶R⁷,
 - 25 -C(OH)(C₁-6haloalkyl)₂,
- R² is cyclopentyl,
R³ is methyl,
R⁴ is selected from
- (a) hydrogen,
 - (b) C₁-6alkyl,
- 30 R⁵, R⁸ and R¹¹ are each independently selected from
- (a) -CF₃,
 - (b) C₁-6alkyl,
- R⁶, R⁷, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently selected from

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(a) hydrogen, and

(b) C₁-6alkyl, or

R⁶ and R⁷ may be joined to form a saturated 5, 6 or 7 membered heterocycle, said heterocycle containing a heteroatom which is nitrogen and optionally containing an additional hetero atom which is an O or an S atom or NR⁴, and optionally containing a carbonyl group;

HET is selected from

pyridyl, optionally mono-, or disubstituted, wherein the substituents are independently selected from halo, C₁-6alkyl, C₁-6alkoxy, C₁-6alkylthio, benzyl, 2-phenethyl, NHCOR⁸, NR⁹R¹⁰, NHS(O)₂R¹¹, OH, CN, or CF₃, and the N-oxides thereof; and X is CH.

5. A compound according to Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of

- (a) *N*-{(R)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzoyl}methanesulfonamide,
- (b) *N*-{(R)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzoyl}benzenesulfonamide,
- (c) *N*-{(R)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzoyl}trifluoromethanesulfonamide,
- (d) *N*-{(R)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzoyl}*o*-toluenesulfonamide,
- (e) *N*-{(R)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]phenylacetyl}benzenesulfonamide,
- (f) *N*-{(R)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]phenylacetyl}trifluoromethanesulfonamide,
- (g) (R)-4-{2-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-[4-(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine,
- (h) *N*-(*o*-Toluoyl)-4-[1-(3-Cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl]benzenesulfonamide,

(i) 4-{2-(3,4-Difluoromethoxy)phenyl-2-[4-(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine,

(j) 4-{2-(3,4-Difluoromethoxy)phenyl-2-[4-(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine-N-oxide, and

5 (k) 3,5-Dichloro-4-{2-(3,4-Difluoromethoxy)phenyl-2-[4-(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)phenyl]ethyl}pyridine.

6. A triarylethane PDE IV inhibitor, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to a title compound of any one of Examples 1 to 11.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

10 a non-toxic therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. A method of treating asthma, comprising:

administration to a patient of a non-toxic therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or of a composition according
15 to claim 7.

9. A method of treating disease by inhibiting PDE-IV, comprising:

administration to a patient of a non-toxic therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or of a composition according
to claim 7.

20 10. A compound of formula (I), according to any one of claims 1 to 6, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a composition according to claim 7 when used in treating asthma.

11. A compound of formula (I), according to any one of claims 1 to 6, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a composition according to claim 7 when used in treating disease by increasing the cellular level of cyclic adenosine-3'-5'-monophosphate.

25 12. Use of a compound of formula (I), according to any one of claims 1 to 6, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of asthma.

13. Use of a compound of formula (I), according to any one of claims 1 to 6, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for raising the level of
30 cyclic adenosine-3'-5'-monophosphate through inhibition of phosphodiesterase.

14. Use of a compound of formula (I), according to any one of claims 1 to 6, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament as a cyclic adenosine-3'-5'-monophosphate inhibitor.

Dated 10 May, 1999

Merck Frosst Canada, Inc.

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